

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
LAND OFF FOSSE ROAD, FARNDON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 10/01605/FUL
NGR: SK 476719 350952
Site Code: FAFR 12
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-156614



Report prepared for Truelove Property & Construction Limited

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2013115

September 2013



Allenarchaeology



Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site Location and Description	2
3.0 Planning Background	2
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
5.0 Methodology	3
6.0 Results	3
7.0 Discussion and Conclusions	4
8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology	4
9.0 Acknowledgements	4
10.0 References	4
List of Appendices	
Appendix 1: Colour Plates	5
Appendix 2: Worked Flint Report	6
Appendix 3: Context Summary List	7

List of Figures

- Figure 1:** Site location outlined in red
Figure 2: Site location also showing the location of sections in Figure 3
Figure 3: Sections shown on Figure 2

List of Plates

- Plate 1:** East facing section of natural feature [13]. Scale is 1m
Plate 2: General shot of area stripped for turbine base and transformer facing north. Scales are 1m
Plate 3: South east facing section 3.3 – 3.4 of swale. Scales are 1m
Plate 4: General shot of excavated swales looking south
Plate 5: Southeast facing section 3.7 – 3.8 of pipe trench. Scales are 1m
Plate 6: General shot of pipe trench looking west. Scales are 1m

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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Truelove Property & Construction Limited on land off Fosse Road in Farndon, Nottinghamshire, during the groundworks for a wind turbine and associated infrastructure.
- The site lies within an area of known prehistoric activity, with a number of find scatters within 500m of the site, including several Neolithic stone axes and a quantity of Neolithic flint flakes.
- The groundworks uncovered no archaeological features, and only one piece of worked flint of Mesolithic or Neolithic date was recovered from the ploughsoil.
- The groundworks for the turbine have had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource of the area.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Truelove Property & Construction Limited to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a wind turbine and associated infrastructure on land off Fosse Road in Farndon, Nottinghamshire.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008).
- 1.3 No repository exists currently in the local area for storage of the site archive, therefore the archive will be retained at the offices of AAL for the foreseeable future.

2.0 Site Location and Description (Figure 1)

- 2.1 Farndon is situated c.3.1km southwest of Newark, within the administrative district of Newark and Sherwood (Figure 1). The site is 1.19km south-southwest of the core of the village and 0.6km southeast of the Fosse Road. The site centres on NGR SK 476719 350952 and lies at a height of approximately 13m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The site lies on a bedrock geology of Edwalton Member mudstone, with superficial geology of Holme Pierrepont sand and gravel (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been granted for the '*Erection of a wind turbine (maximum height to blade tip 66.7m) and associated infrastructure including access tracks, external compact housing with underground cabling to the wind turbine, turbine foundation, crane hardstanding and floodplain storage area*' (Planning Application 10/01605/FUL). Permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording by a suitably competent archaeologist.
- 3.2 The scheme of works will comprise the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'.
- 3.3 The relevant planning policy which applies to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage is Chapter 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). This superseded Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) in March 2012.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The supporting information for the planning application contained a detailed appraisal of the archaeological and historical landscape and is therefore summarised here (ARCUS 2010). Prehistoric activity is attested by a number of artefact scatters within 500m of the site, including several Neolithic stone axes (National Monuments Record (hereafter NMR)

Reference 322185 and 322241) and a quantity of Neolithic flint flakes (NMR Reference 32269). A Bronze Age round barrow is known c.650m to the north of the site (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter NHER) Reference M8386).

- 4.2 There is little other recorded evidence for further archaeological activity with the exception of a medieval (14th/15th century) coin hoard which was discovered at Corner House Farm (NHER Reference L4150), c.800m to the north-northeast.

5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by one experienced field archaeologist who visited the site on the following days: Tuesday 12th February, Wednesday 13th February, Thursday 21st February, Monday 25th February, Friday 1st March and Tuesday 2nd April 2013. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of excavations at the site entrance, a pipe trench, the access track, the swales, and stripping of areas for the turbine base and the transformer (Figure 2). Machine excavation was carried out with a tracked 360^o excavator fitted with toothless ditching bucket.
- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scales 1:20 or 1:50). Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.
- 5.3 Each layer, cut and fill was allocated a unique two-digit (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2. Numbers within square brackets represent cut features (e.g. ditch [09]).

6.0 Results (Figures 2 – 3)

- 6.1 At the site entrance, approximately 1m from the road, a water main, 05, was uncovered running roughly northeast to southwest. Parallel to this, and 5.6m from the edge of the road, a cable trench was excavated revealing a 0.4m thick layer of topsoil/ploughsoil 01 overlying natural deposit 02, which was a light brown clayey silt.
- 6.2 Also running parallel to the road were two sections of an existing roadside ditch [07]/[09], with a break for the field entrance, and containing an undated backfill of dark grey/brown clayey silt.
- 6.3 A spread of compact light yellow/brown sandy gravel with frequent brick rubble, 10, was recorded at the entrance to the field, likely to represent a dumped deposit forming an access in to the field.
- 6.4 The ground reduction for the remainder of the access road to the wind turbine location was no greater than the depth of the ploughsoil; as such no archaeological features were exposed.
- 6.5 Excavations for the swales on the site only revealed ploughsoil 01/11, and natural geology 02, with no archaeological features or deposits identified.

- 6.6 The stripped area for the wind turbine base and transformer revealed a wide shallow feature of probable natural origin, [13] running roughly east – west. This contained a mid brown sandy silt 012.
- 6.7 One piece of unstratified worked flint was recovered from within the ploughsoil. The flint was a blade-like flake and probably dates to the Mesolithic or Neolithic period. The artefact exhibited heavy edge damage indicating that it has been within the ploughsoil for some considerable time.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The excavation for the wind turbine and associated infrastructure has revealed no archaeologically significant features or deposits, with only modern roadside ditches and a natural feature exposed.
- 7.2 The presence of one piece of worked flint ties in with known prehistoric activity near to the site, although is of limited interest as it was recovered from the ploughsoil.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposed development. The investigations have shown that the groundworks for the turbine and associated infrastructure have had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource of the area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Truelove Property & Construction for this commission. Thanks also go to the groundworkers for their co-operation during the watching brief.

10.0 References

Arcus, 2010, *Farndon Wind Turbine Supporting Information*. Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting Ltd, unpublished project document

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Department for Communities and Local Government

IfA, 1994 (revised 2001 and 2008), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of groundworks at site entrance, looking southwest



Plate 2: General view of excavated swales, looking northwest



Plate 3: Stripped area of crane hardstanding, looking north-northwest. Scales are 1m

Appendix 2: Worked Flint Report

By Hugo Anderson-Whymark

Blade-like flake with abrupt retouch along the proximal left hand side. This flint is not intrinsically datable but it probably dates from the Mesolithic or Neolithic. The artefact exhibits heavy edge damage indicating that it is residual. Weight: 6.2g.

Appendix 3: Context Summary List

Context Number	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Compact, light/mid brown silty sand with occasional small rounded/sub-rounded pebbles and angular flint	Ploughsoil. Same as 11
02	Layer	Compact, light brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	Natural geology
03	Void	-	-
04	Fill	Compact mix of topsoil and natural	Fill of water main trench
05	Cut	Linear feature, orientated north-northeast to south-southwest	Cut for water main
06	Fill	Moderately compact, dark grey/brown clayey silt with frequent modern debris	Fill of roadside ditch
07	Cut	Linear feature, orientated north-northeast to south-southwest	Cut of roadside ditch. Same as [09]
08	Fill	Moderately compact, dark grey/brown clayey silt with frequent modern debris	Fill of roadside ditch
09	Cut	Linear feature, orientated north-northeast – south-southwest	Cut of roadside ditch. Same as [07]
10	Layer	Compact, light yellow/brown sandy gravel with very frequent brick rubble and small sub-rounded pebbles	Hardstanding for trackway into field
11	Layer	Compact, light/mid brown silty sand with occasional small rounded/sub-rounded pebbles and angular flint	Ploughsoil. Same as 01
12	Fill	Friable, mid brown sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks	Fill of feature [13]
13	Cut	Sinuus linear, orientated east – west, very shallow with undulating base. Contains 12	Cut of natural feature

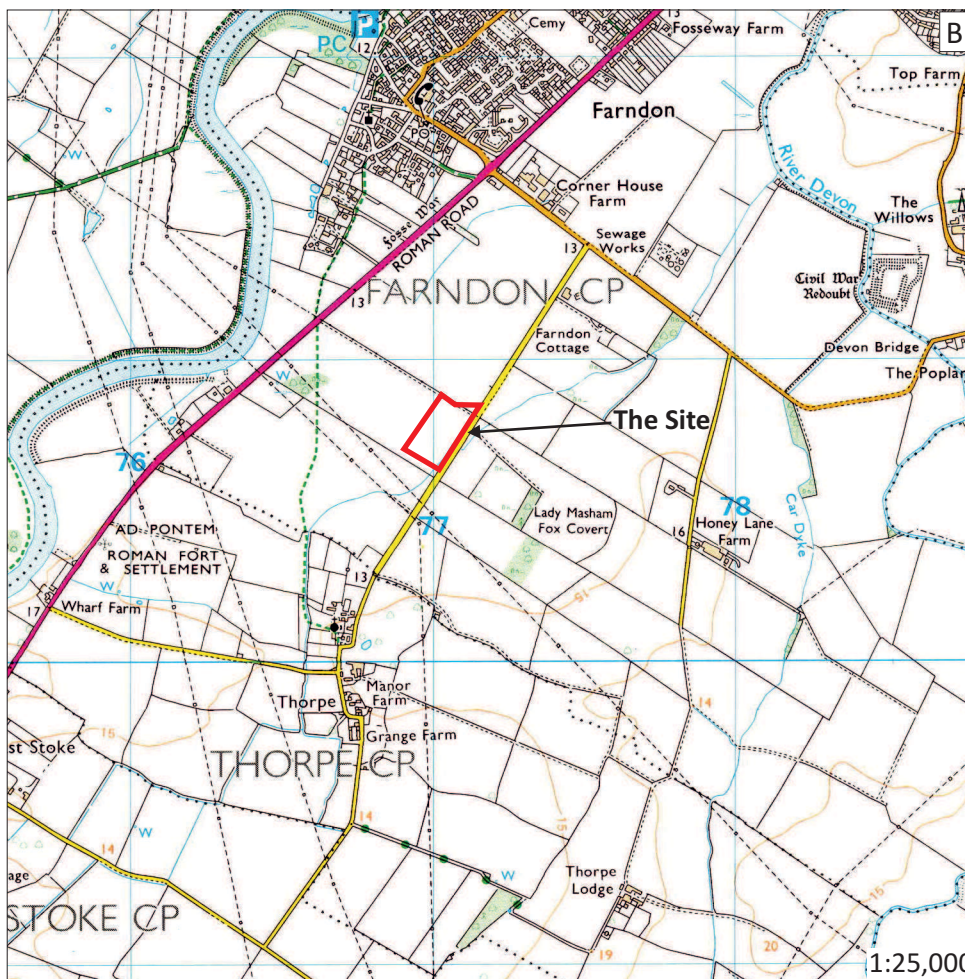
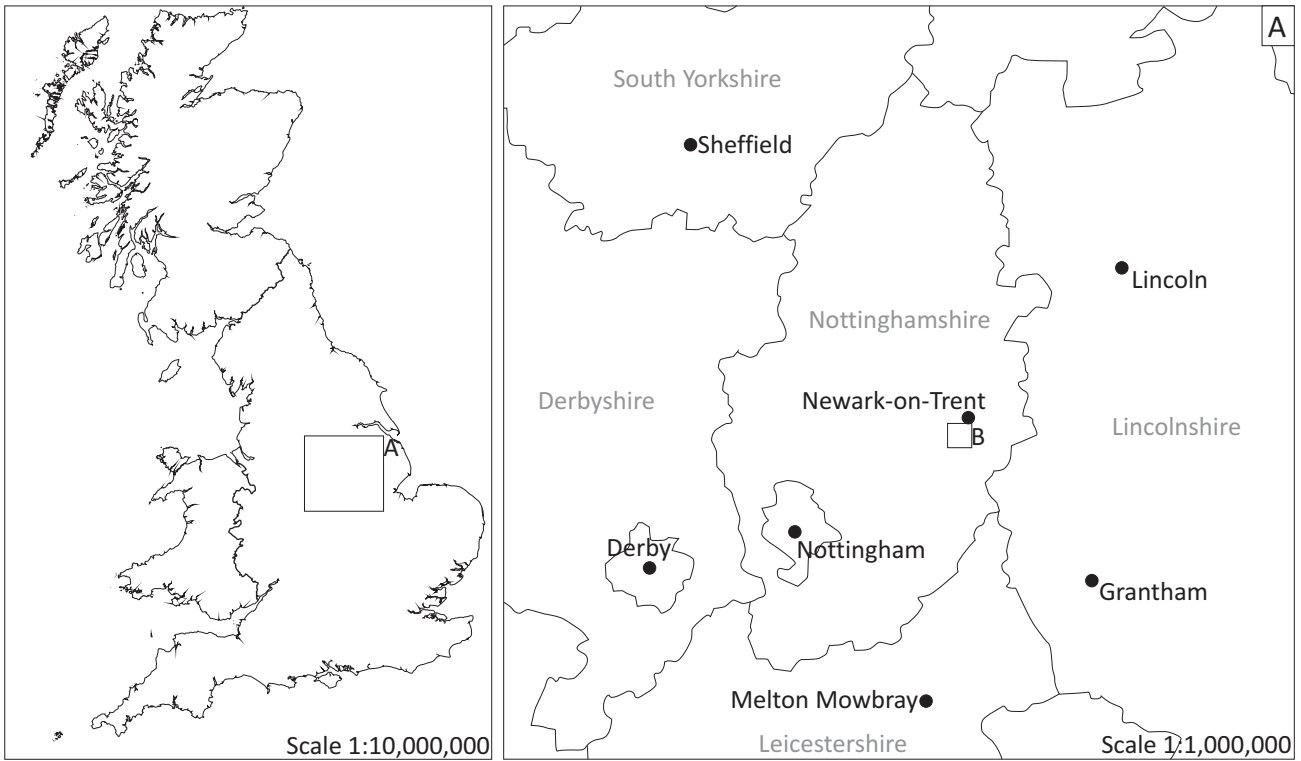


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

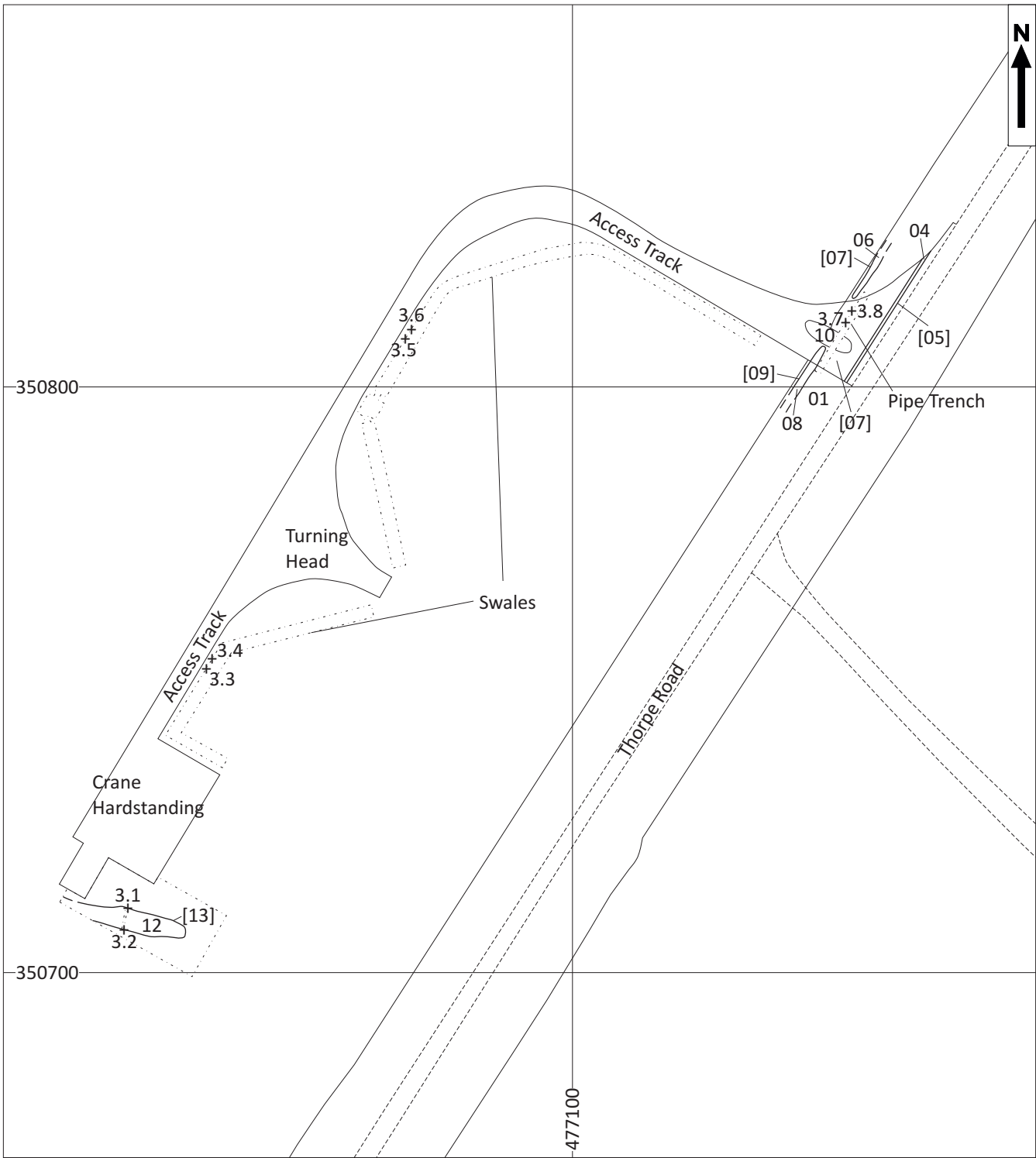
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Site Code	FALM 12
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	30/09/13

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Scale 1:1000

Site Code	FAFR 12
Scale	1:1000 @A4
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
Date	30/09/13

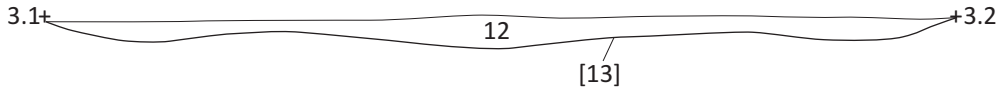
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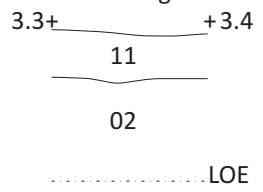
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Figure 2: Site location also showing the location of sections in Figure 3

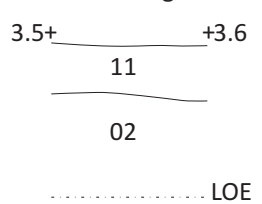
West-Northwest Facing Section



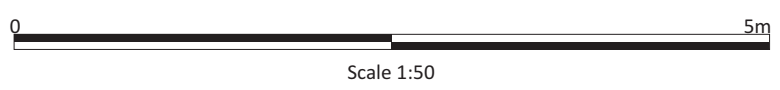
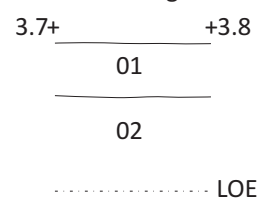
Southeast Facing Section



Southeast Facing Section



Southeast Facing Section



LOE = Limit Of Excavation

Site Code	FAFR 12
Scale	1:50 @A4
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
Date	30/09/13

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Figure 2: Sections from Figure 2



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