

**LAND NORTH OF BRILLS FARM, NEWARK ROAD, NORTON DISNEY PARISH,  
NORTH KESTEVEN, LINCOLNSHIRE  
SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

NGR: SK 85371 59643  
Planning Refs.: 13/0377/FUL;  
APP/R2520/A13/2208531  
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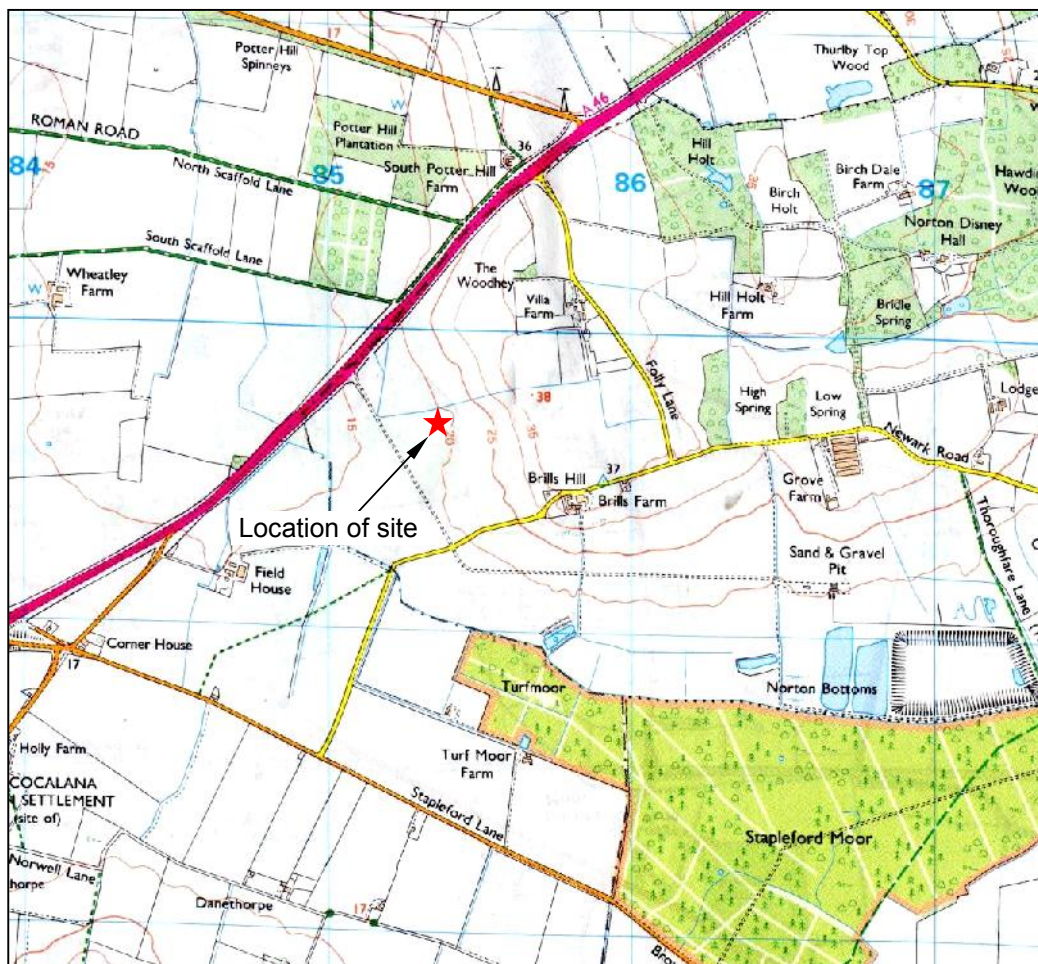
## Summary

A scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording took place during the construction groundworks for a wind turbine on land to the north of Brills Farm in the parish of Norton Disney, Lincolnshire.

Brills Farm lies close to the southern edge of the parish boundary (here contiguous with the Lincolnshire/Nottinghamshire county border), approximately 3km to the west of Norton Disney village, on the south side of the minor Newark Road. The wind turbine is to be sited in a field on the opposite side of Newark Road, to the north-west of the farm.

The site lies some 350m to the south-east of the Fosse Way, a major Roman road now followed by the modern course of the A46, and approximately 250m to the east of a probable prehistoric or Roman settlement consisting of enclosures, a hut circle and trackways; observed as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Other prehistoric and Roman settlement sites are known within 1km of the site.

The programme of monitoring and recording was negative, and nothing of archaeological interest was observed.



**Fig. 1:** Site location plan at scale 1:25,000. The location of the wind turbine is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

## 1 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by ADAS UK Ltd. to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the north of Brills Farm, in the parish of Norton Disney. The development will consist of a wind turbine with associated infrastructure.

This document details the results of the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. It follows current best archaeological practice and appropriate national guidance.

## 2 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1 and 2)

The parish of Norton Disney is situated on the south-east side of the A46, on the Lincolnshire side of the Nottinghamshire-Lincolnshire county boundary, approximately 7km to the north-east of Newark-on-Trent.

Brills Farm lies close to the southern edge of the parish boundary (here contiguous with the county boundary) approximately 3km to the west of Norton Disney village, on the south side of the minor Newark Road. The wind turbine is to be sited in a field on the opposite side of Newark Road, to the north-west of the farm.

The field in which the wind turbine is to be sited is bounded to the north-west by the A46, to the south-east by Newark Road, to the north-east by pasture land and to the south-west by a farm track with arable land beyond (Lord, 2013).

National Grid Reference, wind turbine location: SK 85371 59643.

## 3 Geology and Topography

The site is located close to the foot of the eastern side of the Trent Valley, and lies at the base of a shallow, west-facing slope; ground level is approximately 20m OD, and the field containing the site is predominantly level, sloping upwards at its eastern end (*ibid*).

Brills Farm is situated at the southern edge of an 'island' of drift glacial sand and gravel; the site appears also to be at the edge of this 'island', and drift geology may be present. The solid geology is Lower Lias clay and shale with rare limestone (BGS, 1973).

## 4 Planning Background

A planning application for the construction of a wind turbine with internal access road improvements, substation/equipment housing cabinet and temporary plant and equipment compound was granted by North Kesteven District Council after appeal (application numbers 13/0377/FUL; APP/R2520/A13/2208531).

The planning permission was granted subject to conditions. Among these, Condition 15 required that a written scheme of archaeological investigation should be submitted to and approved by the District Planning Authority prior to development, and that appropriate mitigation, in the form of a scheme of archaeological monitoring, should be undertaken during development groundworks. A final report (this document) is to be submitted to the District Planning Authority within 6 months of the completion of development.

## 5 Archaeological and Historical Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site was carried out by ADAS in 2013, and includes a detailed archaeological and historical study.

The site lies approximately 250m to the east of a probable prehistoric or Roman settlement consisting of enclosures, a hut circle and trackways, observed as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The Fosse Way, a major Roman road, runs past the site, forming the north-western border of the field; the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement of *Crococalana* lay on the Fosse Way to the south-west of the site, and finds and features associated with this have been recorded along the A46, although these lie 1km or more from the site itself. A further possible prehistoric/Romano-British settlement and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Norton Disney Roman villa lie close to one another approximately 750m to the north-east of the site.

The ADBA found that there were no records or indications of archaeological remains lying within the site itself; it assessed the site's archaeological potential as low to moderate for remains associated with the probable Iron Age and Roman settlement recorded to the east, moderate for remains deriving from the agricultural use of the site during the Iron Age, the Roman period and the Middle Ages, and high for post-medieval remains, also of agricultural origin (Lord, 2013).

## 6 Methodology

The area that was stripped consisted of the compound site, the access road, crane pad site and the circular wind turbine footprint. A mechanical excavator was used, and the heavy compact nature of the exposed clay substrate occasionally made it necessary to use a toothed bucket; such areas were cleaned using a toothless blade. A trench was dug to the east of the turbine site to cut off the land drains and prevent waterlogging around the turbine.

The stripped areas were planned at 1:200, sample sections were drawn at 1:20 and all deposits were recorded on standard PCAS context sheets. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1. A site diary was maintained during the course of the groundworks.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Julian Sleaf between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

## 7 Results (Figs. 3-4, Plates 1-6)

The exposed stratigraphy was straightforward across the monitored areas. The topsoil (001) was a mid-brown fairly stiff clay silt, some 0.28m deep, which sealed a layer of drift deposit (002) consisting of stiff silty clay containing gravel in places. This was between 0.25m and 0.30m thick. The natural substrate (003) was a firm brownish-grey silty clay containing frequent patches of orange silty sand.

Excavations went to a maximum depth of approximately 2.80m in the southern end of the eastern trench (Fig. 4d), revealing 2m of natural clay.

No archaeological features were encountered, and no topsoil finds were recovered.

## **8 Conclusion**

The monitoring proved to be entirely negative; no finds nor features of archaeological interest were encountered during the monitoring and recording, and no surface finds were recovered.

## **9 Effectiveness of Methodology**

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective; determining that there was nothing of archaeological interest within the area of monitored groundworks.

## **10 Acknowledgements**

PCAS Ltd would like to thank ADAS UK Ltd. for this commission.

## **11 Site Archive**

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection') within 6 months of the completion of the groundworks, under the archive accession number LCNCC 2014.177.

## **12 Bibliography**

British Geological Survey, 1973, *Lincoln: England and Wales 1:50,000 Series sheet 114, Solid and Drift Provisional Edition*. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham.

Lord, J., 2013, Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment, Land North of Brills Farm, Newark Road, LN6 9JN. Unpublished client report for ADAS UK Ltd. on behalf of Resolved Renewables.

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

Ordnance Survey, 2010, *Newark-on-Trent, Retford, Southwell & Saxilby*: Explorer series no. 271, 1:25,000 edition. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.



## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** Looking east along the access road prior to stripping

**Plate 2:** The south-west end of the crane pad onto natural clay



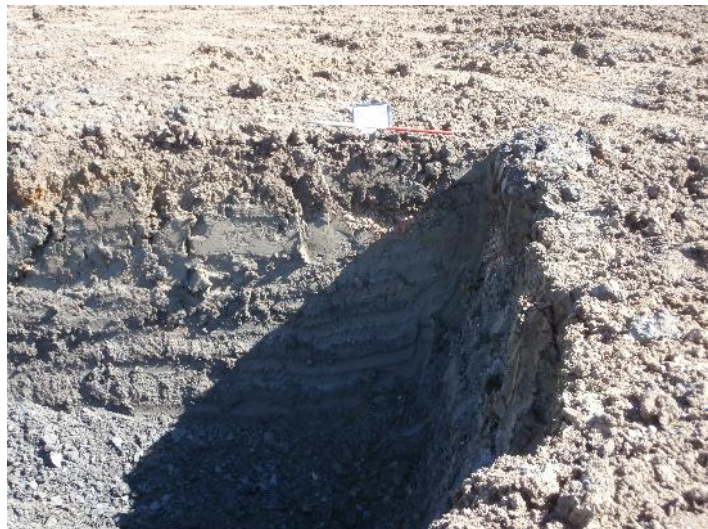
**Plate 3:** South facing section of the test pit showing the natural drift deposit (002)





**Plate 4:** North-west facing section of the crane pad. The gradient of the deposits in this location is clear in the eastern part of this location.

**Plate 5:** South facing section of the turbine area, where excavations were deeper



**Plate 6:** North-east facing section of the drainage trench, situated east of the turbine. The sandy area is a former land drain



## Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context	Type	Description	Finds/dating
001	Layer	Topsoil. Mid brown stiff-friable clay silt, with occasional small stones. Thickness 0.28m.	Modern
002	Layer	Drift. Mid yellowish brown stiff silt clay with frequent patches of smooth water worn stones and gravel. Thickness 0.25-0.30m.	Natural
003	Layer	Natural. Mid brownish grey stiff silty clay. Frequent pockets of friable orange silty sand (possible underlying natural).	Natural

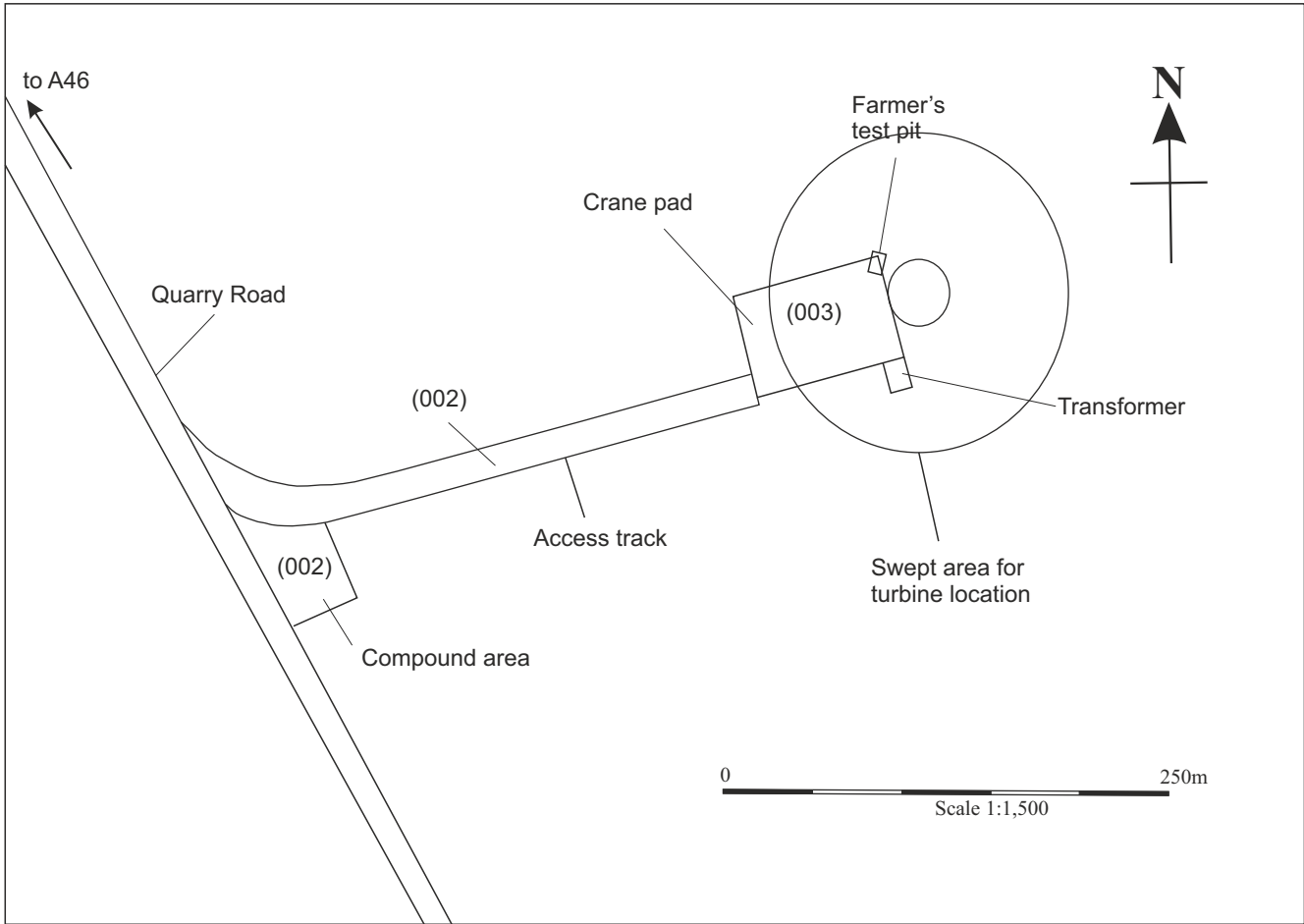


Fig. 2: Location of access trench and turbine site

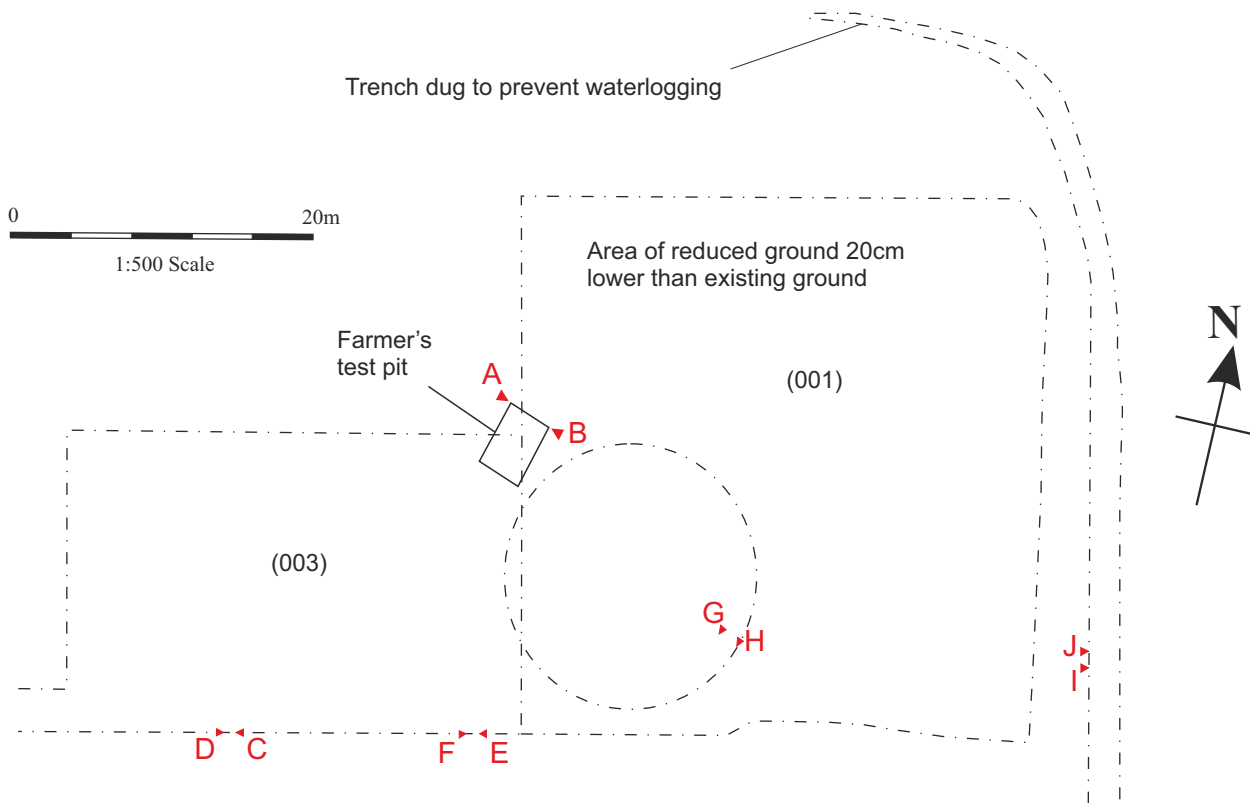
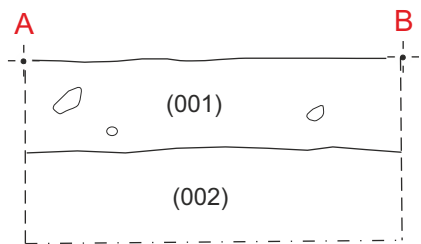
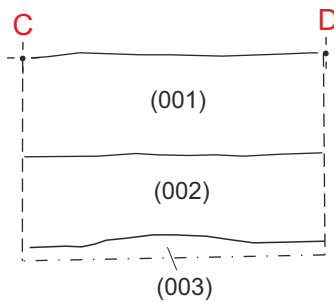


Fig. 3: Plan of excavated area for crane pad and turbine

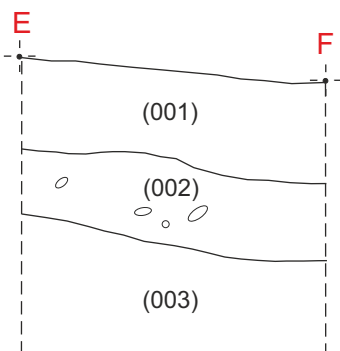
**Fig. 4:** Sections of excavated areas



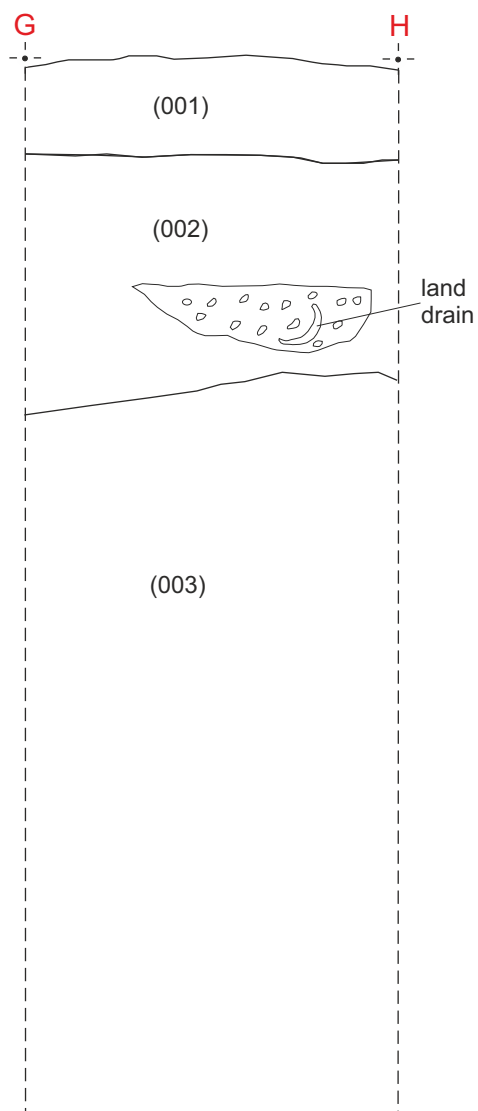
a) South facing section of farmer's test pit



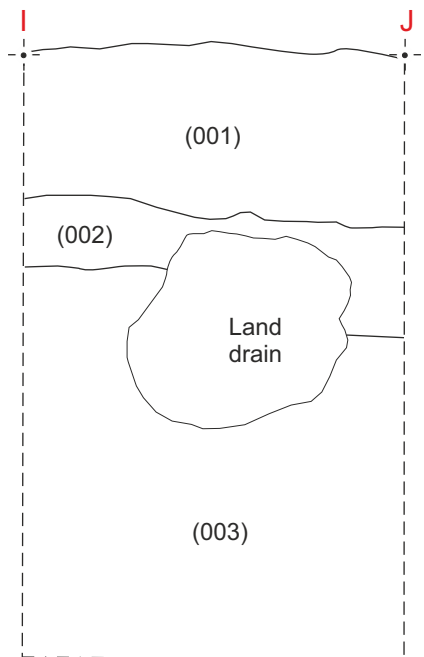
b) North-west facing section of crane pad



c) North-west facing section of crane pad showing gradient of deposits



d) South facing section through turbine location



e) North-east facing section of drainage trench



1:20 Scale

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<a href="#">View 2</a>	2	Alison Lane	<a href="mailto:alison@pre-construct.co.uk">alison@pre-construct.co.uk</a>	16 September 2015

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