

**Bubney Solar Farm
Whitchurch
Shropshire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Pegasus Group

on behalf of:
European Energy

CA Project: CR1110
CA Report: CR1110_1

July 2022



Bubney Solar Farm Whitchurch Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Bubney Solar Farm
Location:	Whitchurch, Shropshire
NGR:	351382 342084
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	13–21 June 2022
Planning reference:	21/01661/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Shropshire Museums
Accession Number:	E.01147
Site Code:	BUBF 21

In June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Bubney Farm, Whitchurch, Shropshire. A total of 21 trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a small number of archaeological features, including ditches, historic land drains, postholes and quarry pits within the site. A charcoal-rich stony deposit, possibly representing the ploughed out remains of a prehistoric burnt mound, was also identified in a trench excavated in the north-eastern part of the site. A number of localised natural hollows containing peat-like deposits were also identified in trenches excavated in the eastern part of the site.

The majority of the ditches and land drains identified correlate closely with anomalies identified by a preceding geophysical survey and to former field boundaries depicted by historic mapping.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Bubney Farm, Whitchurch, Shropshire (centred at NGR: 351382 342084; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Pegasus Group, who were acting on behalf of European Energy.
- 1.2. Shropshire Council (SC) has granted planning permission for the construction, operation and maintenance of a ground-mounted solar farm, including the installation of ancillary infrastructure (SC planning ref: 21/01661/FUL). Condition 3 of this planning permission required the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Shropshire Council Historic Environment Archaeology Service (SCHEAS), the archaeological advisor to Shropshire Council, in correspondence with Pegasus Group. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed WSI prepared by CA (2022) and approved by SCHEAS.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The development site comprises an area of approximately 67ha of agricultural land located c. 1.3km to the north-west of the town of Whitchurch. The land generally slopes in a southerly and westerly direction, from c. 90m AOD at the northern boundary to c. 84m AOD at the southern boundary, and from c. 90m AOD at the eastern boundary to c. 80m AOD at the western boundary. The land beyond the western boundary drops sharply towards the Red Brook, which lies between 50m and 100m to the west.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Wilkesley Halite Member - Halite-stone and Mudstone, which formed in the Triassic era. This is overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton, formed in the Quaternary period, in the east and centre and glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel in the west and in discrete pockets

in the east (PG 2021). The natural substrate, comprising compact mid-red sandy clay, was encountered in all of the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The site has been subject to desk-based assessment (PG 2021) and geophysical survey (HA 2021). The desk-based assessment was informed by a review of historic environment information gathered for a 1km-radius study area measured from the boundaries of the site. What follows is a summary of the findings of both pieces of work.

Prehistoric and Romano-British Period

2.2. The findspot of a Bronze Age axe, discovered within Iscoyd Park in 1855, is the only prehistoric 'monument' recorded within the study area. However just beyond the western edge of the study area, on the upper slopes of high ground to the north of Hall Green and to the north of Whitewell, are several probable Bronze Age 'round barrow' burial mounds (PG 2021).

2.3. The Weald Moors, located to the north of Telford, has yielded considerable evidence for prehistoric activity dating from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age. Iron Age hillforts, such as Haughmond Hill and Ebury Hill, which overlook the Shropshire Plain, are recorded to the east and south of Shrewsbury (ibid).

2.4. The A41 through Grindley Brook is thought to be the approximate route of the Roman road from Chester to Wroxeter. However, no archaeological evidence of the road surface or associated features has been recorded for the section at Grindley Brook. Metal detecting finds of two brooches, a pin and a coin from the fields between Wolvesacre Hall and Wolvesacre Mill, c. 300m north-west of the site (ibid), have been dated to the Roman Period (ibid).

Medieval Period

2.5. Whitchurch, located c. 1.3km to the south-east of the site, was listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and had a recorded population of 41 households. Pan Castle, located to the south-west of Whitchurch, is recorded as a motte and bailey castle that dates from the 11th to 13th centuries (ibid).

2.6. The earthwork remains of a moat that may have surrounded a medieval manor house is recorded c. 300m to the west of the site. The farmhouse of Wolvesacre Hall

(recently demolished) was built to its north by the 18th century; and a medieval deer park may have preceded the 18th-century Iscoyd Park, located c. 300m to the south of the site (ibid).

- 2.7. During the medieval period it seems likely that the site comprised moorland and/or farmland (ibid).

Post-medieval and Modern Periods

- 2.8. Iscoyd Park is of early 18th century origin with 19th-century additions and alterations (ibid).

- 2.9. Ellesmere Canal is located c. 330m to the east of the site. Construction began in the late 18th century and was completed in the early 19th century. No features associated with the canal have been recorded within the site. Bubney Farm, c. 430m north-east of the site, dates from at least the early 19th century (ibid).

- 2.10. The earliest available mapping of the site is the 1837 tithe map for Whitchurch. The site is depicted as sub-divided into a series of fields, with two plantations in the southern central part and the eastern boundary; and one building at the north-eastern end of the site. Those buildings are described in the tithe apportionment as two cottages with gardens (ibid).

- 2.11. The 1890 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map documents the consolidation of fields within the site. A further earthwork located at the north-western part of the site and two ponds to the south and south-east of Gorse Covert may be interpreted as former extraction pits (ibid).

- 2.12. Little change is documented by the 1929 or 1938 OS maps. However Black Wood and Lily Wood are no longer shown on the 1954 edition of OS mapping. Cranberrymoor Covert, Gorse Covert and the cottages had been removed by the late 1970s and there have been slight changes to the field layout of the site since that time (ibid).

Geophysical Survey Results

- 2.13. The majority of anomalies detected by the geophysical survey were interpreted as being of natural origin, deriving from variation within the on-site superficial geological deposits. Other recorded anomalies were consistent with agricultural and/or modern activity, including former field boundaries and cottages depicted on historic mapping

(see above). No anomalies of a probable or possible archaeological origin were identified.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Shropshire Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021). A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 21 trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on Figure 2. Due to its original location across a public right of way, it was necessary to relocate Trench 7 from that agreed in the WSI, with the approval of SCHEAS.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies of probable or possible archaeological origin.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and four deposits were selected for environmental sampling.

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- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Shropshire Museums, under accession number E.01147, for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. The general stratigraphic sequence recorded throughout the site was broadly uniform. The natural substrate was identified at a depth of between 0.45m and 0.55m below present ground level (bpgl) in all of the excavated trenches. This was overlain by up to 0.3m of sandy silt subsoil, which was in turn sealed by up to 0.25m of clay-silt topsoil.
- 5.3. Trenches 1, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19-21 were devoid of archaeological features or deposits, excepting land drains. A number of localised natural hollows containing organic deposits were also identified in Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6, located in the north-eastern part of the site. All identified features cut the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil, unless noted below.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 5.4. Hollow 206 was identified towards the southern end of the trench and corresponds to a linear anomaly of probable geological origin depicted by the geophysical survey. It measured 9.7m in width and 0.7m deep in depth and contained three distinct deposits, the earliest of which, 205, contained frequent organic matter. This was overlain by

light grey silty sand deposit 204, which measured 0.2m in thickness. An environmental sample recovered from this deposit (Sample 1) produced a small amount of charcoal. Deposit 204 was sealed by deposit 203, from which a small quantity of post-medieval pottery and glass was recovered. An environmental sample from this deposit (Sample 2) contained a number of plant species indicating that it represents a localised bog peat. Deposit 203 was sealed by subsoil.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.5. A shallow hollow, measuring approximately 8.5m in width wide, was identified in the central part of the trench. It contained two deposits, 303 and 304. The earliest of these deposits, 303, comprised grey sandy clay, measuring up to 0.1m in thickness. This was overlain by silty sand deposit 304, which measured up to 0.12m in thickness and contained numerous stone fragments, some of which may have been heat affected. An environmental sample recovered from this deposit (Sample 3) contained abundant charcoal fragments, indicative of a dump of hearth waste.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

- 5.6. Dark grey silty clay deposits 503 and 504, both containing abundant organic matter, were identified within natural hollows at either end of Trench 5. Due to their similarity to other excavated deposits identified elsewhere, neither of these deposits were excavated and both were recorded in plan only. No finds were recovered from the surface of either of these deposits, which were both overlain by subsoil within the trench.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

- 5.7. Dark grey clayey silt deposit 603 was identified at the south-western end of the trench. Due to its similarity to other deposits identified elsewhere during the evaluation it remained unexcavated. No finds were recovered from the surface of this deposit. Deposit 603 was sealed by subsoil 601, which was in turn cut by two large modern intrusions, 604 and 605, both of which contained plastic and brick fragments.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.8. Large, irregular quarry pit 703 (Fig. 5, section BB) was identified cutting the natural substrate in the north-eastern half of the trench. It measured more than 17.3m in length, more than 1.05m in depth and had a moderately sloping irregular northern edge. It contained a series of four undated fills, 704, 705, 706 and 707; the earliest of which, 705, comprised sterile silty clay and measured at least 0.55m in thickness.

Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 5.9. Elongated, oval-shaped, pit 803 (Fig. 6, section CC) was identified towards the south-eastern end of the trench. It measured 1.25m in length, 0.63m in width and 0.2m in depth and contained a single undated, fill 804.
- 5.10. Broadly north/south aligned ditch 805 (Fig. 6, section DD) was identified in the central part of the trench and correlates closely to a linear anomaly identified during the preceding geophysical survey and a field boundary depicted on the 1837 Tithe Map of Whitchurch. It measured 1.25m in width and 0.6m in depth, had an irregular profile and contained two fills, 806 and 807. An iron billhook, of post-medieval/modern date, was recovered from the surface of the latest of these fills, 807. Fill 807 was cut by broadly north/south aligned ditch 808 (Fig. 6, section DD).
- 5.11. Ditch 808 had an asymmetrical profile and a concave base. It measured 1.15m in width and 0.42m in depth and contained a single undated fill, 809, likely to have derived from a process of natural silting.

Trench 9 (Figs 2 & 7)

- 5.12. Two small circular postholes, 903 (Fig. 7, section EE) and 905 (Fig. 7, section FF), were identified in the western half of the trench. Posthole 903 measured 0.15m in diameter and 0.1m in depth. It had almost vertical sides and a flat base and contained a single undated fill, 904. Posthole 905 measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.2m in depth. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and contained a single undated sandy silt fill, 906.

Trench 10 (Figs 2 & 8)

- 5.13. Broadly north/south aligned ditch 1003 (Fig. 8, section GG) was identified in the north-western half of the trench and correlates closely to a linear anomaly identified during the preceding geophysical survey and a field boundary depicted on the 1837 Tithe Map of Whitchurch. It measured 0.7m in width and 0.4m in depth, had a moderately sloping south-eastern side and a flat base and contained a single undated fill, 1004, possibly derived from rapid backfilling with topsoil. Fill 1004 was cut by the construction cut for broadly north-south aligned land drain 1005, which was constructed from horseshoe type ceramic pipes.

Trench 12 (Figs 2 & 9)

- 5.14. North-east/south-west aligned land drain 1203 was identified in the central part of the trench. It was constructed from horseshoe type ceramic pipes and correlates with a

linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey and a field boundary depicted on the 1837 Tithe Map of Whitchurch. No finds were recovered from the sandy silt backfill, 1204, of the construction cut for this land drain.

Trench 14 (Figs 2 & 9)

- 5.15. North-east/south-west aligned land drain 1403 was identified in the south-western half of the trench. It was constructed from circular ceramic pipes and correlates with a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey and a field boundary depicted on the 1837 Tithe Map of Whitchurch. No finds were recovered from the sandy silt backfill, 1405, of the construction cut for this land drain.

Trench 15 (Figs 2 & 10)

- 5.16. Large, irregular quarry pit 1503 was identified in the central part of the trench and was located within a natural depression in the landscape. It corresponded closely to a linear anomaly, depicted by the preceding geophysical survey and measured 15.75m in length and more than 1m in depth. It contained a single exposed grey/black silt fill 1504, which contained a single sherd of modern pottery as well as abundant organic matter and substantial pieces of wood. An environmental sample recovered from this fill (Sample 4) contained a number of rush seeds, indicative of the local environment, as well as a small amount of charcoal.

Trench 18 (Figs 2 & 11)

- 5.17. Broadly east/west aligned ditch 1803 was identified cutting the subsoil in the central part of the trench. It corresponded closely with a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey and a field boundary depicted on the 1837 Tithe Map of Whitchurch. It measured 1.12m in width and 0.28m in depth, had a wide concave-based profile and contained a single fill, 1804, from which a single piece of post-medieval/modern brick and a small quantity of animal bone were recovered.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material, comprising pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), glass and iron was recovered by hand from five deposits. The data was recorded direct to an Excel spreadsheet, from which Appendix B is taken and the material is further described below. The artefacts have been recorded by deposit and sherd count, weight, type and morphological characteristics according to each find category. Pottery codes used for recording and in parenthesis below are defined Appendix B.

The recording undertaken is in accordance with the ClfA finds reporting toolkit (ClfA 2022).

Pottery

- 6.2. A total of six sherds of pottery, weighing 179g, were hand recovered from three deposits, comprising two layers (subsoil 301, identified in Trench 3, and layer 203 identified in a natural hollow observed in Trench 2) and the fill of a quarry pit. Surface survival tends to be good, with minimal abrasion recorded. Fabric codes used for recording are defined below (Appendix B). The pottery sherds recovered are in a post-medieval yellow slipware fabric (YEL) from layer 203, a post-medieval/modern black-glazed earthenware fabric (BGE) from subsoil 301 and a modern refined whiteware (RW) and Late English stoneware fabrics (LES) from layer 203 and fill 1504 of quarry pit 1503.

CBM

- 6.3. A single fragment of brick in a hard, sandy orange fabric was recovered from ditch fill 1804 of ditch 1803. It measures 3½” in width x 2” in thickness. It is unfrogged and hand-moulded and probably dates to the 18th or earlier 19th centuries.

Glass

- 6.4. One sherd of modern natural coloured glass (0.5g) from a vessel was recovered from layer 203.

Iron

- 6.5. Four fragments of a post-medieval/modern billhook, a tool widely used for agricultural and bushcraft related tasks, was recovered from fill 807 of ditch 805.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Plant macrofossils

- 7.1. A single bulk environmental sample (10 litres of soil) and three waterlogged samples (six litres of soil) were processed. The bulk sample was taken from layer 304 in Trench 3 and the waterlogged samples were from layers 203 and 204 in Trench 2, and the fill of pit 1503, identified in Trench. This was undertaken to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The bulk environmental sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2) for the recovery of charred material, and the three waterlogged samples

were processed by wet sieving (250 micron mesh size) (CA Technical Manual No.2) for the recovery of waterlogged material.

- 7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1 for the bulk sample and Table 2 for the waterlogged samples, following nomenclature of Stace (1997). The flot from the bulk sample was large in size with low numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charcoal showed varying levels of preservation, with some of the fragments being comminuted.
- 7.3. Any dates discussed within this report have been obtained through the spot dating of finds (see Sommerville, this report).

Trench 2

- 7.4. Two environmental samples were recovered from Trench 2 from undated deposit 204 (sample 1) and post-medieval deposit 203 (sample 2). Sample 1 contained no plant remains and only a small amount of charcoal. Sample 2 contained a large number of uncharred weed seeds from a layer that was primarily made up of roots. This highly organic layer contained seeds of buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens*), fool's-watercress (*Apium cf. nodiflorum*), bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), common hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis cf. tetrahit*), pondweed (*Potamogeton sp.*), sedge (*Carex sp.*), and bur-reed (*Sparganium sp.*). These species are typical wetland species and are often found in ponds, along river edges, wet grassland and in aquatic environments in ditches. This assemblage contained no remains of reeds or woodland species such as alder, suggesting that this peat layer is most likely to be a bog-like peat.

Trench 3

- 7.5. Bulk environmental sample 3 from undated deposit 304 contained no plant remains but did contain a large number of charcoal fragments, including fragments of oak (*Quercus sp.*) and non-oak wood. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of a dump of hearth waste material, but unfortunately does not provide a potential date for the deposit. There is also nothing within the assemblage to suggest any particular domestic or industrial activity.

Trench 15

- 7.6. Fill 1504 (sample 4) of quarry pit 1503 contained a moderate number of rush (*Juncus sp.*) seeds and no other plant remains. A small amount of charcoal was noted in the assemblage. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of the local environment and does not aid in providing a potential use or function for this feature.

Summary

- 7.7. The charred remains recovered from sample 3 of Trench 3 are indicative of a dump of burnt waste material but does not provide any insight into a possible date for the deposit.
- 7.8. The waterlogged remains noted from undated layer 204 and modern pit 1503 are likely to be indicative of the local environment. The waterlogged remains from post-medieval deposit 203 indicate that this area is likely to have flooded at times, creating conditions for this peaty layer to develop.

Animal bone

- 7.9. Two fragments of animal bone (79g) were recovered from fill 1804 of ditch 1803. Artefactual material dating to the post-medieval to modern period was also recovered from this feature (See Appendix B). The bone was poorly preserved but identified as a fragment of cattle pelvis and a partial metapodial (*Bos taurus*), neither of which displayed any damage suggestive of butchery practice.
- 7.10. Other than a species identification, no useful interpretative information can be gained from such a small assemblage.

8. DISCUSSION

The evaluation identified a small number of archaeological features across the site; including ditches, historic land drains, postholes, quarry pits and a charcoal-rich stony deposit. A number of localised natural hollows containing peat deposits were also identified.

Post-medieval/modern

- 8.1. Ditches 805/808, 1003 and 1803, land drains 1205 and 1403 and modern intrusions 604 and 605, identified in Trenches 8, 10, 18, 12, 14 and 6 respectively correlate closely to linear anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey. The majority of these features also correlate closely to former field boundaries depicted by the 1837 Tithe Map of Whitchurch and by later editions of Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping. Many of the suspected earlier land drains identified (indicated by their construction from horseshoe shaped pipes) are substantial in nature and would have involved the excavation of sizeable construction cuts, hence their ready identification by the geophysical survey.

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- 8.2. Evidence of quarrying was identified by the preceding geophysical survey in the western part of the site and the presence of substantial quarry pits 703 and 1503, identified in Trenches 7 and 15 respectively indicates that this activity extends further east into the site than anticipated. Whilst no dating evidence was recovered from the fills of quarry pit 703, the uppermost fill of quarry pit 1503 contained a single sherd of modern pottery, suggesting that at least some of the quarrying activity is of a relatively recent origin.
- 8.3. A number of probable natural hollows, containing peaty material, were identified in the eastern part of the site (i.e. in Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 10). The processing of an environmental sample from a deposit contained within one of these hollows indicates that they are likely to be highly organic in nature and may represent bog-like peats, typically formed in ponds or similar aquatic or waterlogged environments. The formation of these deposits appears to have continued until relatively recently, as a small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery and glass was recovered from an organic deposit identified in Trench 2.

Undated

- 8.4. The function of undated, charcoal-rich, stony deposit, 304, identified in Trench 3, remains unclear although its composition suggests that it may represent the ploughed out remains of a burnt mound. A number of these features, widely accepted to relate to activities relying on the heating of water by adding stones and often dating to the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age, have been identified elsewhere within the North Shropshire peatlands, including a number within the Weald Moors study area, approximately 19 miles to the south-east (Norton 2013). The environmental evidence from this deposit suggests that it is likely to be indicative of a dump of hearth waste material and although there was nothing within the recovered material to suggest any particular domestic or industrial function burnt mounds are often noted to be almost devoid of artefacts (ibid).
- 8.5. Pit 803 and postholes 903 and 905, identified in Trenches 8 and 9 respectively, remained undated; however, all were sealed by subsoil and would therefore appear to be of some antiquity. The precise function of these features remains unclear due to their relatively isolated nature, although they may attest to some, albeit limited, settlement or small-scale agricultural activity within the eastern part of the site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett, assisted by Beth Frangleton, William Sibley, Kane Starr and Alistair Thomson. This report was written by Mark Brett. The finds, biological evidence and animal bone reports were written by Claire Collier, Emma Aitken and Andrew Clarke, respectively. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Monica Fombellida and Richard Young.

10. REFERENCES

- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *The taking and processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites* Technical Manual No. 2
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2022 *Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch, Shropshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.25	
1	101	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.3	
1	102	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8		
2	200	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.2	
2	201	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.3	
2	202	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
2	203	Deposit	206	Deposit	Brownish grey silty sand; organic deposit	9.7	1.8	0.3	MC19-MC20
2	204	Deposit	206	Deposit	Light grey silty sand	9.7	1.8	0.2	
2	205	Deposit	206	Deposit	Mid orangey brown silty clay	9.7	1.8	0.3	
2	206	Hollow		Hollow	Natural hollow	9.7	1.8	>0.8	
3	300	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.2	
3	301	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.25	C18-C19
3	302	Deposit		Natural	Mid orangey yellow silty sand	30	1.8	n/a	
3	303	Deposit		Deposit	Mid grey sandy clay	8.5	1.8	0.1	
3	304	Deposit		Burnt deposit	Dark grey silty sand	8.5	1.8	0.12	
4	400	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.3	
4	401	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.27	
4	402	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
5	500	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.3	
5	501	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.16	
5	502	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
5	503	Deposit		Modern disturbance	Brownish grey silty sand; organic deposit	0.7	1.8	n/a	
5	504	Deposit		Modern disturbance	Dark grey clayey silt	3	1.8	n/a	
6	600	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.34	
6	601	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.3	
6	602	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
6	603	Deposit		Modern disturbance	Dark grey clayey silt. Not excavated	1.7	1.8	n/a	
6	604	Deposit		Modern disturbance	Dark grey clayey silt. Not excavated. Plastic pipe and CBM observed	2.8	1.8	n/a	
6	605	Deposit		Modern disturbance	Mid grey clayey silt. Not excavated	4.6	1.8	n/a	
7	700	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.26	
7	701	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.28	
7	702	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
7	703	Cut		Quarry pit	Elongated with steep concave sides. Base not exposed	16.3	1.8	>1.05	
7	704	Fill	703	Backfill	Dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional stones	1.24	1.8	0.49	
7	705	Fill	703	Backfill	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	2.1	1.8	0.54	

7	706	Fill	703	Backfill	Brownish grey clay with orange mottling and gravel inclusions	0.9	1.8	0.16	
7	707	Fill	703	Backfill	Brownish red gravelly clay	0.7	1.8	0.15	
8	800	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.3	
8	801	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.25	
8	802	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
8	803	Cut		Pit	Oval pit, with concave/irregular sides and flat base	1.26	0.63	0.19	
8	804	Fill	803	Backfill	Dark greyish brown silty sand	1.26	0.63	0.19	
8	805	Cut		Field boundary ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch, with steep sides and concave base	13	1.2	0.58	
8	806	Fill	805	Silting	Dark grey sandy clay	13	0.54	0.22	
8	807	Fill	805	Backfill	Brownish grey silty sand	13	1.2	0.36	P-med/mod
8	808	Cut		Re-cut of field boundary ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch with concave sides and concave base	13	1.6	0.42	
8	809	Fill	808	Silting	Mid brownish grey sandy silt with patches of orange redeposited natural	13	1.6	0.42	
9	900	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.28	
9	901	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.2	
9	902	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
9	903	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan, with vertical sides and flat base	0.15	0.19	0.1	
9	904	Fill	903	Silting	Dark grey sandy silt	0.15	0.19	0.1	
9	905	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan, with vertical sides and concave base	0.31	0.34	0.19	
9	906	Fill	905	Silting	Dark grey sandy silt	0.31	0.34	0.19	
10	1000	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.3	
10	1001	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.28	
10	1002	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
10	1003	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch, with steep sides and concave base	1.8	0.69	0.39	
10	1004	Fill	1003	Backfill	Dark brownish grey silty clay	1.8	0.69	0.39	
10	1005	Cut		Field drain	NE/SW aligned field drain	1.8	1.1	0.49	
10	1006	Fill	1005	Backfill	Dark grey silty sand	1.8	1.1	0.49	
10	1007	Deposit		Modern disturbance	Mid grey clayey silt. Not excavated	3.9	1.8	n/a	
11	1100	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.23	
11	1101	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.29	
11	1102	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
12	1200	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.25	
12	1201	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.29	
12	1202	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
12	1203	Cut		Field drain	N/S aligned field drain	2.33	1.36	0.44	
12	1204	Fill	1203	Backfill	Dark grey silty sand	2.33	1.36	0.44	
13	1300	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.3	
13	1301	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	

14	1400	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.35	
14	1401	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.2	
14	1402	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
14	1403	Cut		Field drain	NE/SW aligned field drain	> 1	1.6	0.45	
14	1404	Fill	1403	Backfill	Dark brown sandy silt	> 1	1.6	0.45	
15	1500	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.21	
15	1501	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.29	
15	1502	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
15	1503	Cut		Quarry pit	Quarry pit. Sondage excavated with machine to a max. depth of 1m	15.74	1.8	>1	
15	1504	Fill	1503	Backfill	Dark brownish grey silt with organic material	15.74	1.8	>1	MC19-MC20
16	1600	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.46	
16	1601	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, compact	30	1.8	0.72	
16	1602	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
17	7100	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.25	
17	1701	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.43	
17	1702	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
17	1703	Cut		Posthole	Rounded in plan with vertical sides and tapered base	0.19	0.19	0.13	
17	1704	Fill	1703	Backfill	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.19	0.19	0.13	
18	1800	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.25	
18	1801	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, compact	30	1.8	0.19	
18	1802	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
18	1803	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned shallow ditch with concave sides and concave base	1.9	1.12	0.28	
18	1804	Fill	1803	Backfill	Light brownish grey silty sand	1.9	1.12	0.28	P-med/mod
19	1900	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.36	
19	1901	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, compact	30	1.8	0.42	
19	1902	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
20	2000	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.2	
20	2001	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, compact	30	1.8	0.22	
20	2002	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	
21	2100	Deposit		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	30	1.8	0.36	
21	2101	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, compact	30	1.8	0.54	
21	2102	Deposit		Natural	Mid red sandy clay	30	1.8	n/a	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Material	Fabric	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
203	Post-medieval Pottery	YEL	Yellow slipware	1	16	LC17–C18
	Modern Pottery	RW	Refined whiteware	1	2	LC18–C19
	Modern Pottery	LES	Late English stoneware	1	58	MC19–MC20
	Modern Glass		Natural coloured, vessel	1	0.5	Mod.
301	Postmedieval/Modern Pottery	BGE	Black-glazed earthenware	2	54	C18–C19
807	Iron		Billhook	4	1100	PM/Mod.
1504	Modern Pottery	LES	Late English stoneware	1	58	MC19–MC20
1804	Post-medieval CBM		Brick, 3 ½"x2"	1	490	PM/Mod.

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1 Assessment of charred remains

Featur	Conte	Sampl	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grai	Chaf	Charred Other	Charred Remains Notes	Charcoal > 4/2 mm	Othe
Trench 3											
Layer	304	3	10	685	5	-	-	-	-	****/****	-

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items

Table 2 Assessment of waterlogged environmental remains

Area		Tr. 2		Tr. 15
Spot Date		-	Post Med-Mod	Modern
Feature Type		Layer	Layer	Pit
Feature		-	-	1503
Context		204	203	1504
Sample		1	2	4
Processed vol (L)		2	2	2
Waterlogged material				
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens</i>	buttercup	-	+	-
<i>Apium cf. nodiflorum</i> L.	fool's-water-cress	-	+	-
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	bogbean	-	++	-
<i>Galeopsis cf. tetrahit</i>	common hemp-nettle	-	+	-
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.	pondweed	-	++	-
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	rush	-	-	+++
<i>Carex</i> sp. L. trigonous	sedge trigonous seed	-	+++	-
<i>Sparganium</i> sp. L.	bur-reed	-	++	-
Woody stems/twigs frags > 4mm		-	-	+
Woody stems/twigs frags > 2mm		-	+	+
Leaf/root frags		+	++++	+
Charred material				
Charcoal 4/2mm		-/+	-	-/+
Other				
Insect remains		-	++	-

Key: + = 1–49 items; ++ = 50–100 items; +++ = >100 items

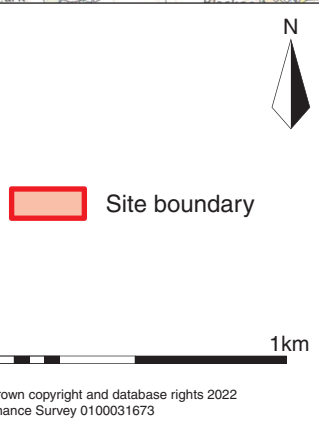
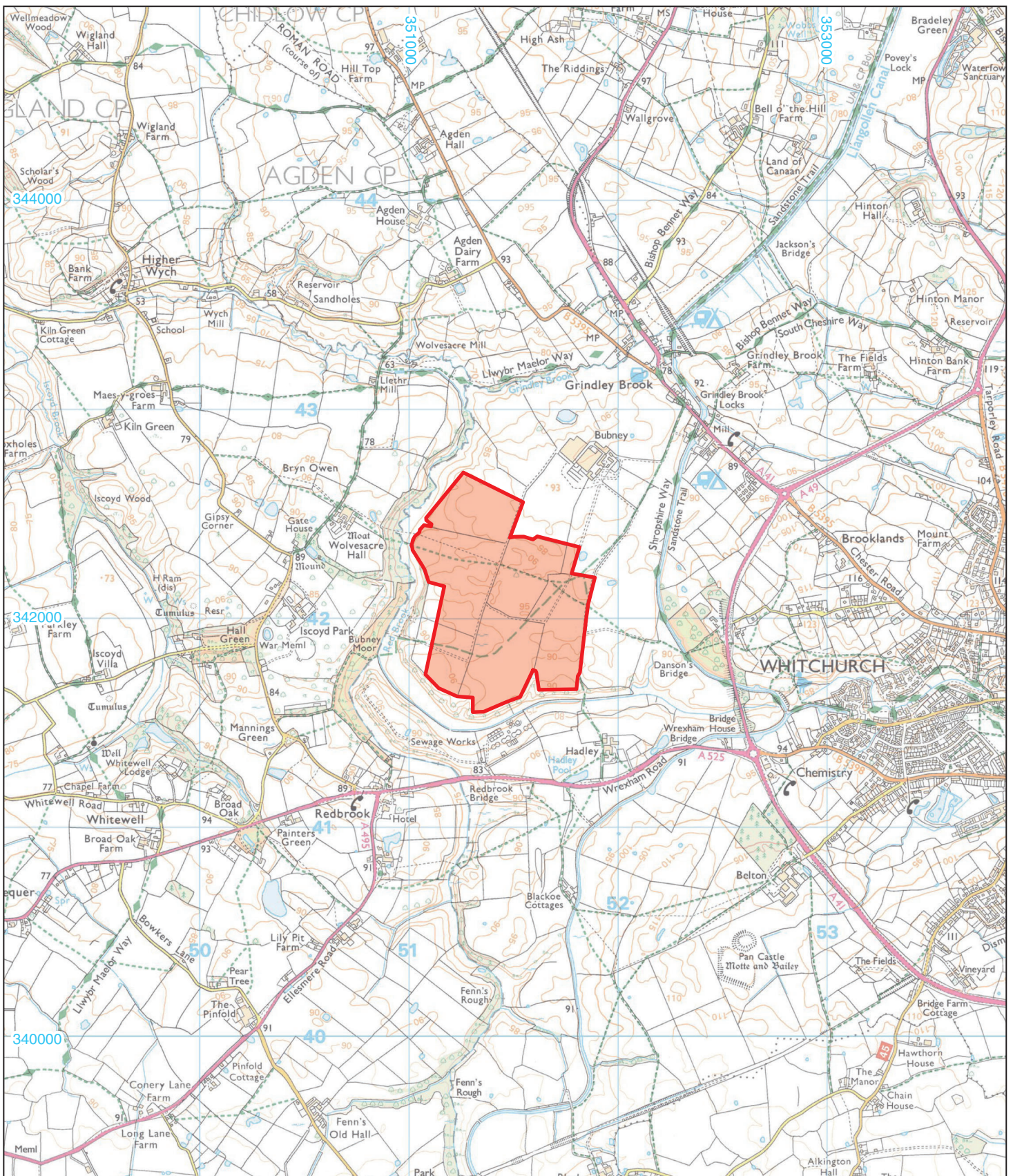
Table 3: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	Total	Weight (g)
1803	1804	2	2	79
Total		2	2	
Weight		79	79	

BOS = cattle

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch, Shropshire	
Short description	<p>In June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Bubney Farm, Whitchurch, Shropshire. A total of 21 trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a small number of archaeological features, including ditches, historic land drains, postholes and quarry pits within the site. A charcoal-rich stony deposit, possibly representing the ploughed out remains of a prehistoric burnt mound, was also identified in a trench excavated in the north-eastern part of the site. A number of localised natural hollows containing peat-like deposits were also identified in trenches excavated in the eastern part of the site.</p> <p>The majority of the ditches and land drains identified correlate closely with anomalies identified by a preceding geophysical survey and to former field boundaries depicted by historic mapping.</p>	
Project dates	13–21 June 2022	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (PG 2021) Geophysical survey (HA 2021)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Bubney Farm, Whitchurch, Shropshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	67ha	
Site co-ordinates	351382 342084	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Monica Fombellida/Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Mark Brett	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Shropshire Museums/E.01147	Ceramics, animal bone, CBM, glass, FE object
Paper	Shropshire Museums/E.01147	Trench recording forms, context sheets, Permatrace drawings, photographic registers, sample register
Digital	Shropshire Museums/E.01147	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch, Shropshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR1110_1		



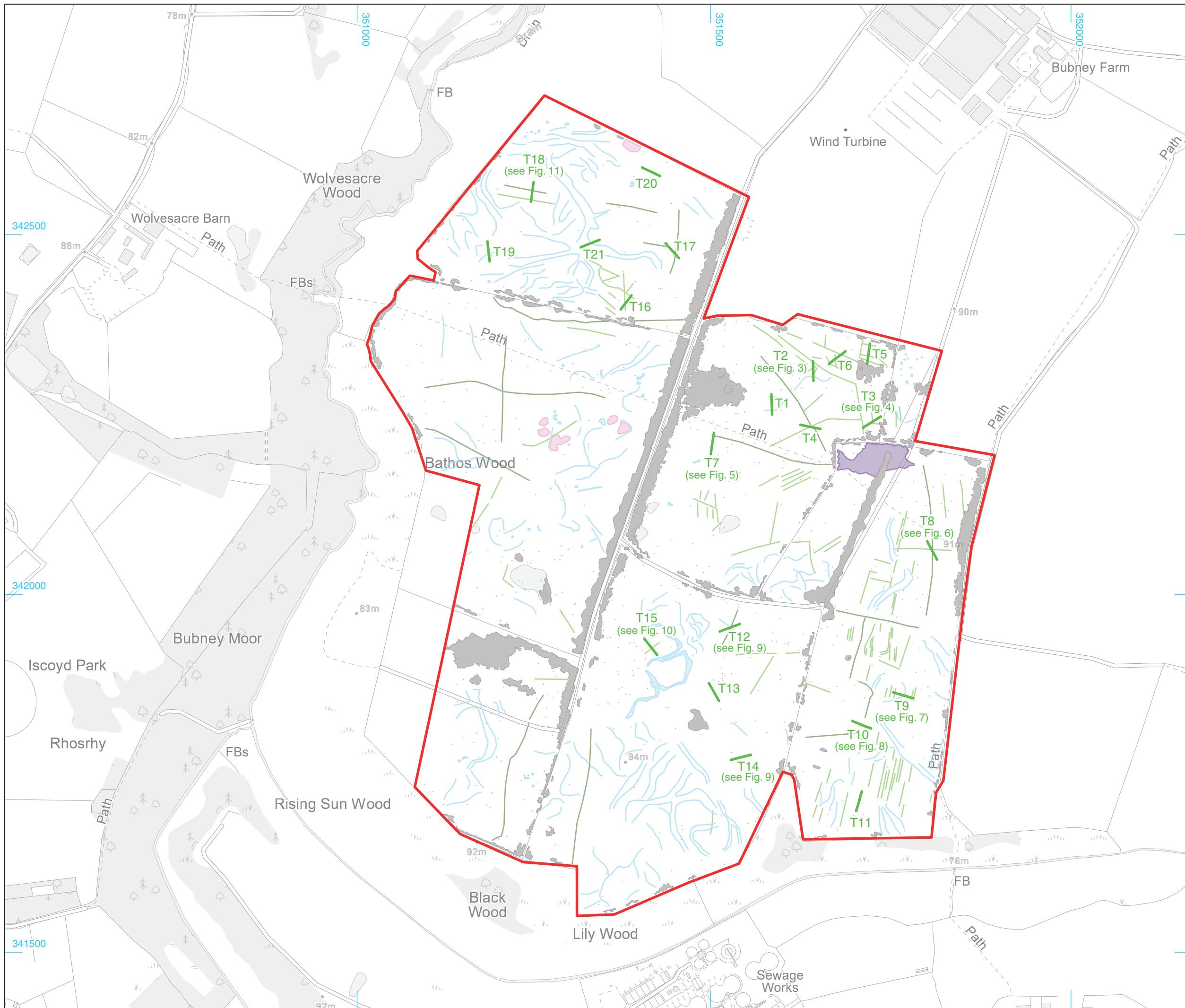
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PROJECT TITLE
 Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch, Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR110	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/07/2022		
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE	A4	1:25,000	



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench

Geophysical survey results
(Headland Archaeology 2021)

- Agricultural former boundary
- Agricultural drain
- Agricultural
- Former building
- Quarrying
- Geology
- Ferrous/Spike
- Ferrous disturbance

0 1:5000 250m

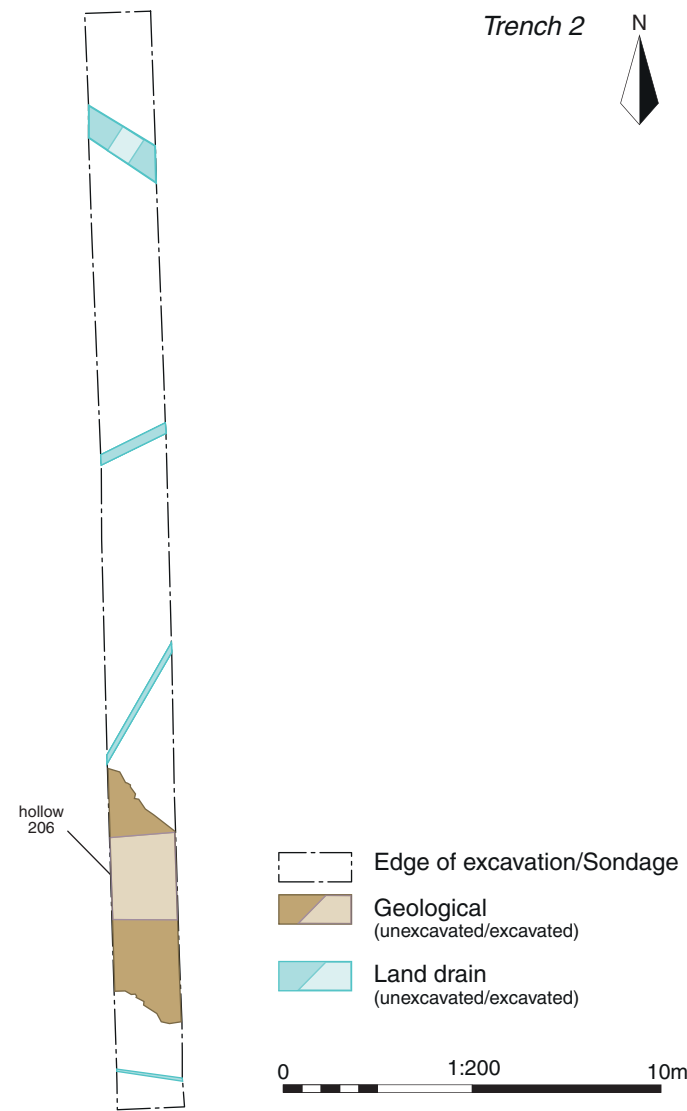
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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing
geophysical anomalies

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR1110	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/07/2022	2
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A3	1:5000	



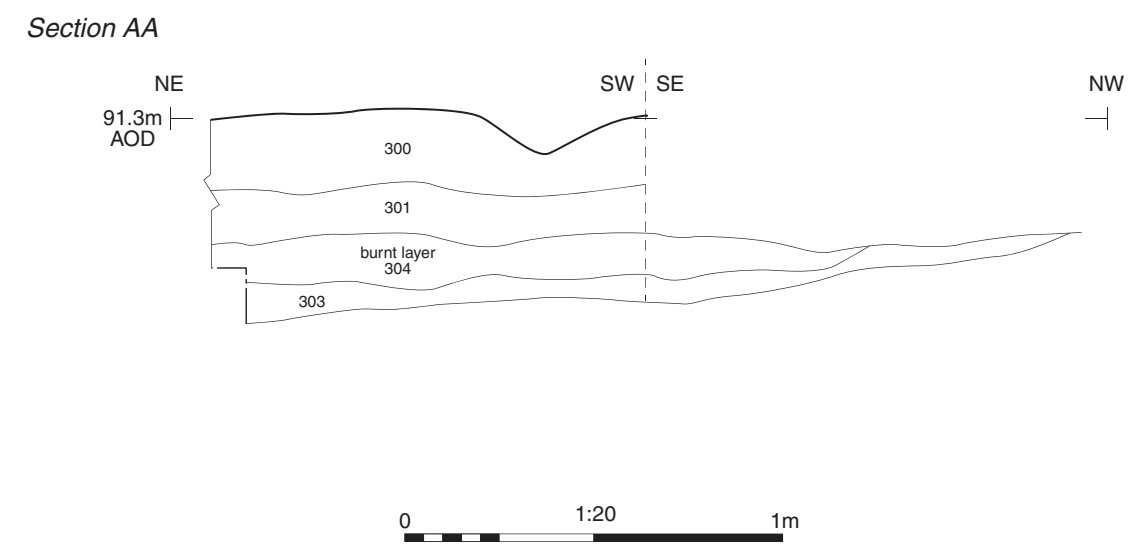
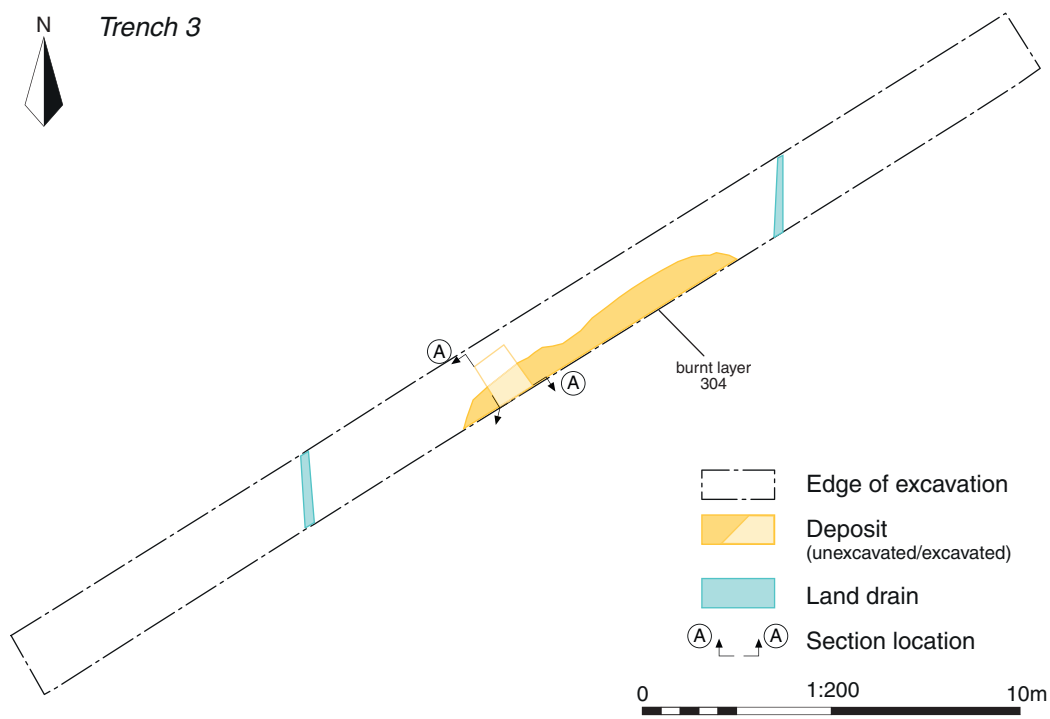
Sondage through hollow 206, looking west (2m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2: plan and photograph

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/07/2022	3
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A3	1:200	



Burnt layer 304, looking south-west (2m scale)



Intervention through layers 303 and 304, looking south-east (1m scale)

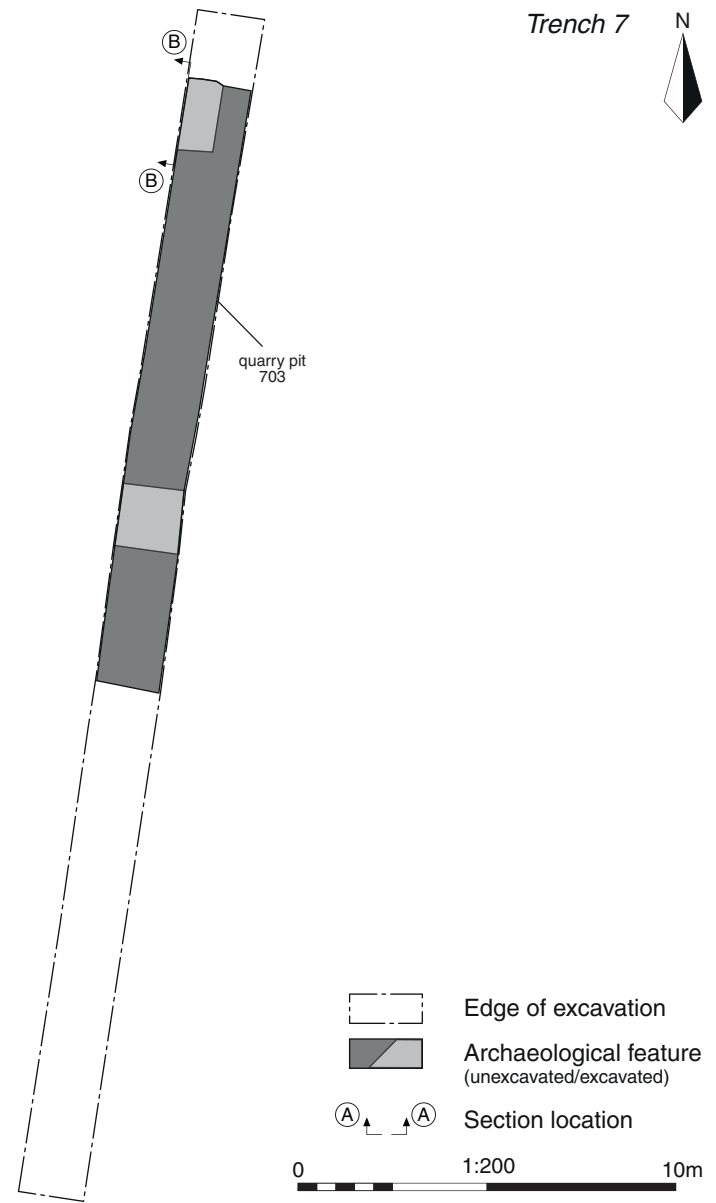
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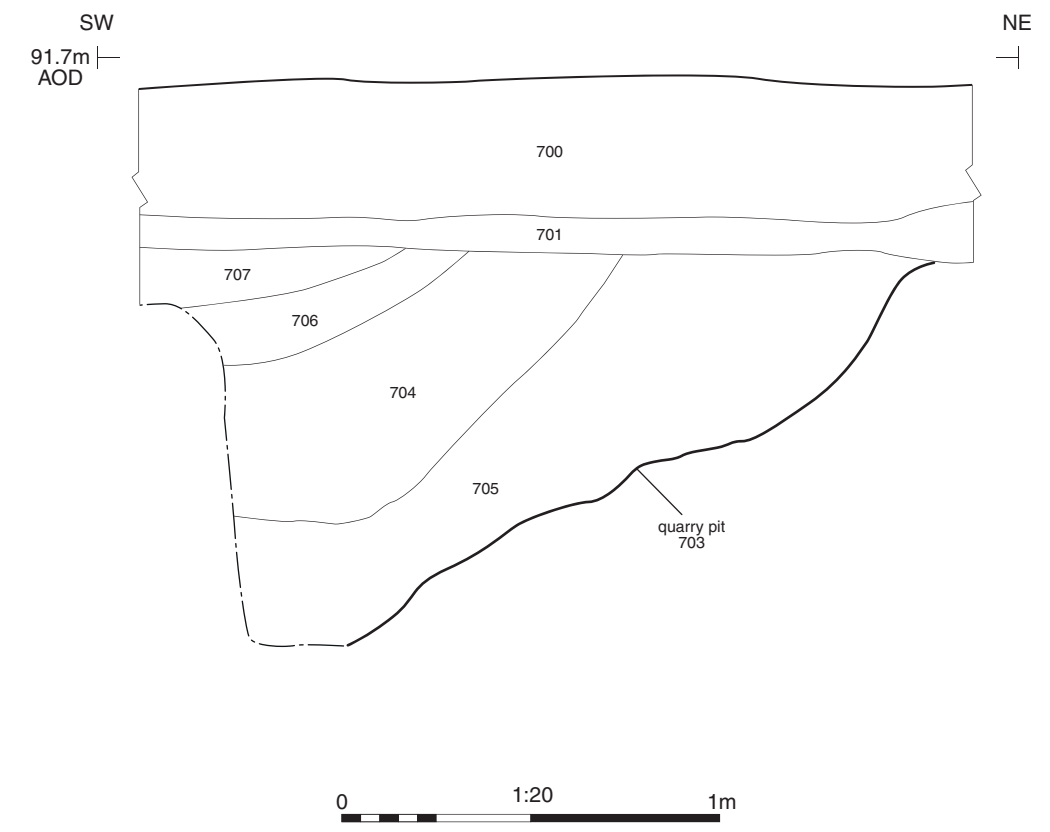
PROJECT TITLE
 Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch,
 Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 3: plan, section and
 photographs

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR1110	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/07/2022	4
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



Section BB



Trench 7, looking south-west (1m scales)



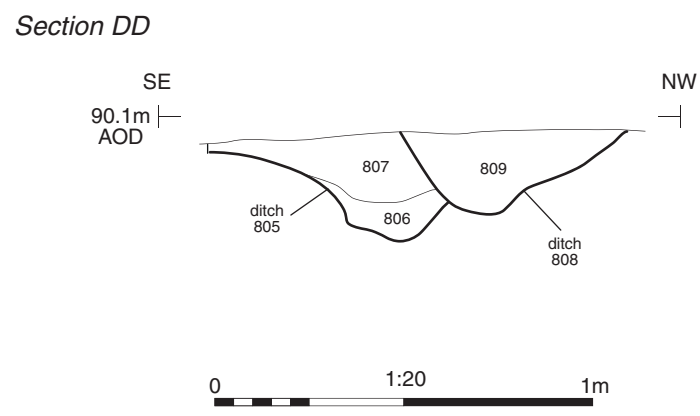
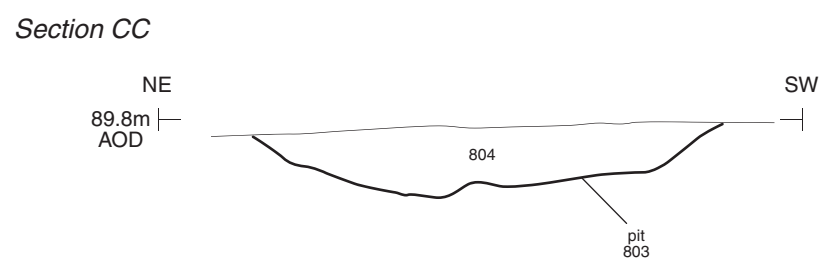
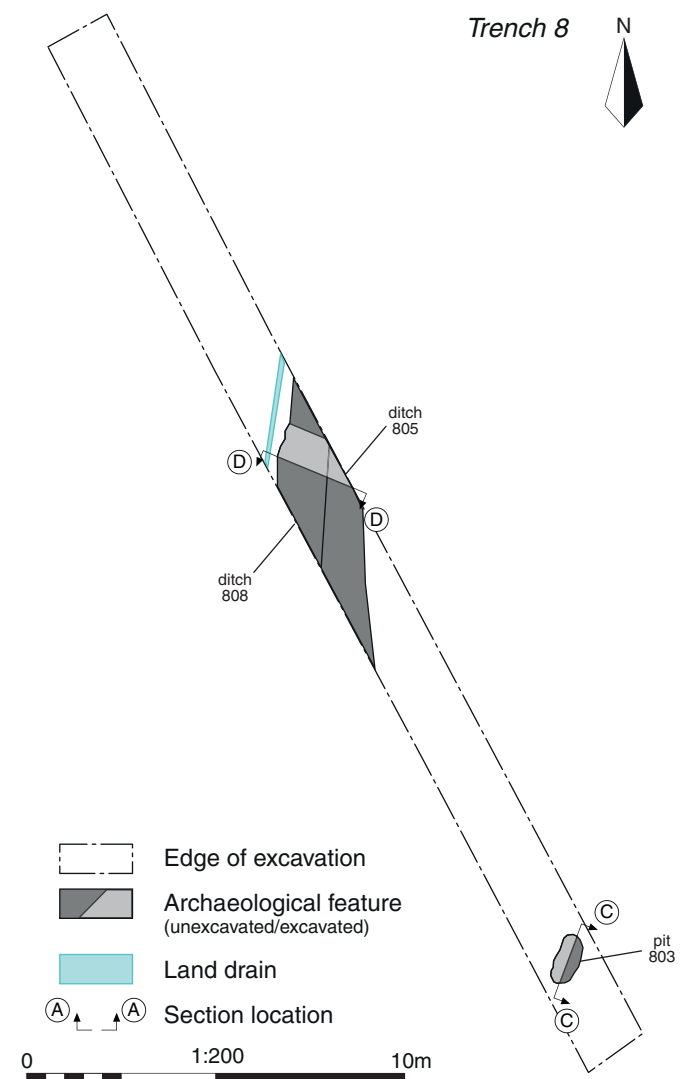
Quarry pit 703, looking west (1m scales)


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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 7: plan, section and
 photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/07/2022	5
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



Ditches 805 and 808, looking south (1m scale)



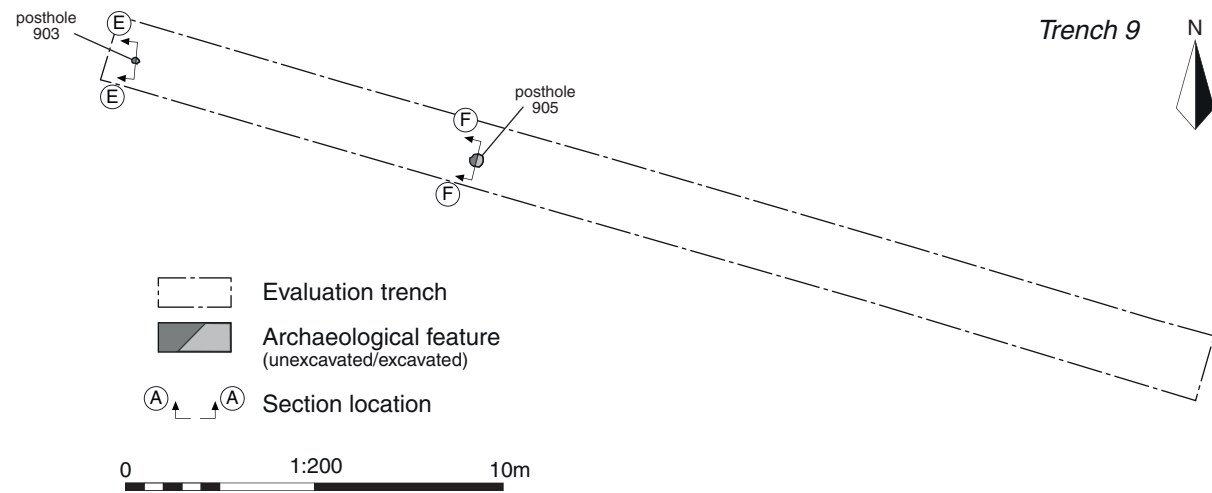
Pit 803, looking east (1m scale)


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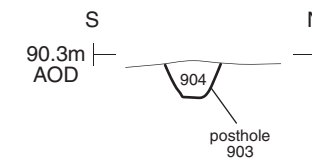
PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 8: plan, sections and photographs

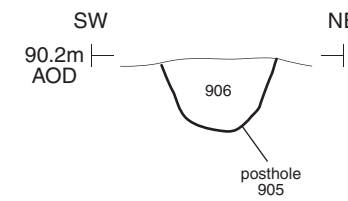
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Section EE



Section FF



Posthole 903, looking west (0.2m scale)



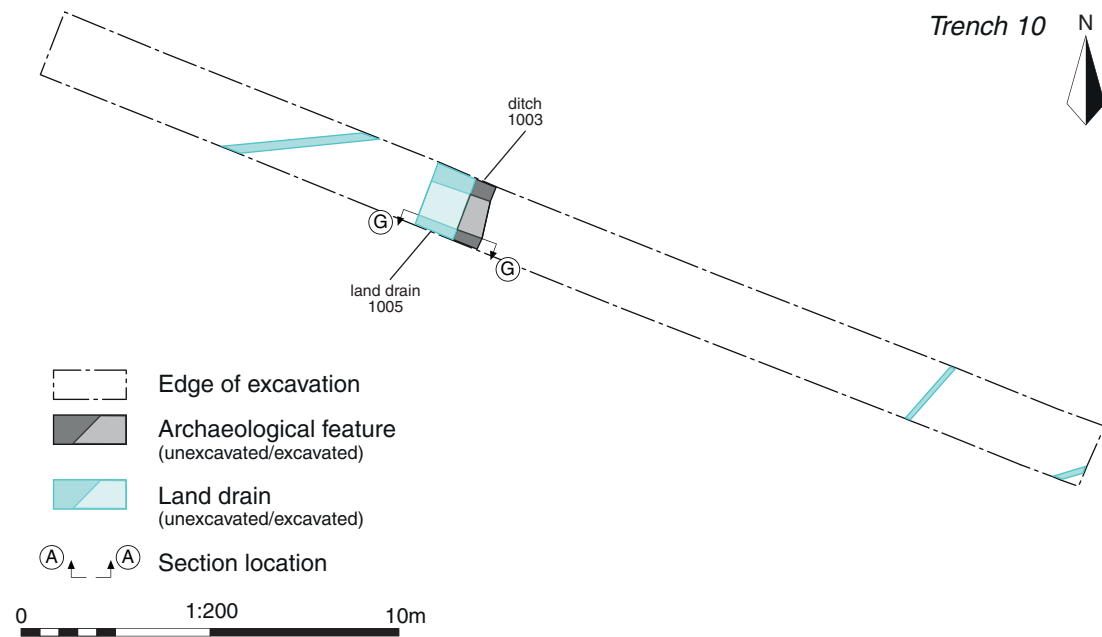
Posthole 905, looking north-west (0.2m scale)


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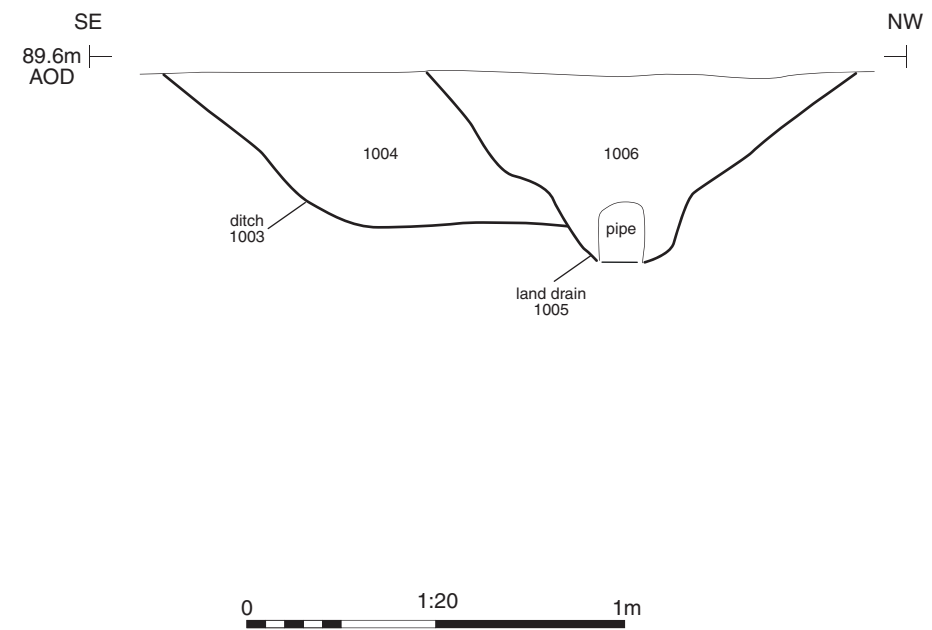
PROJECT TITLE
**Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 9: plan, sections and
 photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/07/2022	7
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



Section GG



Ditch 1003 and land drain 1005, looking south-west (1m scale)

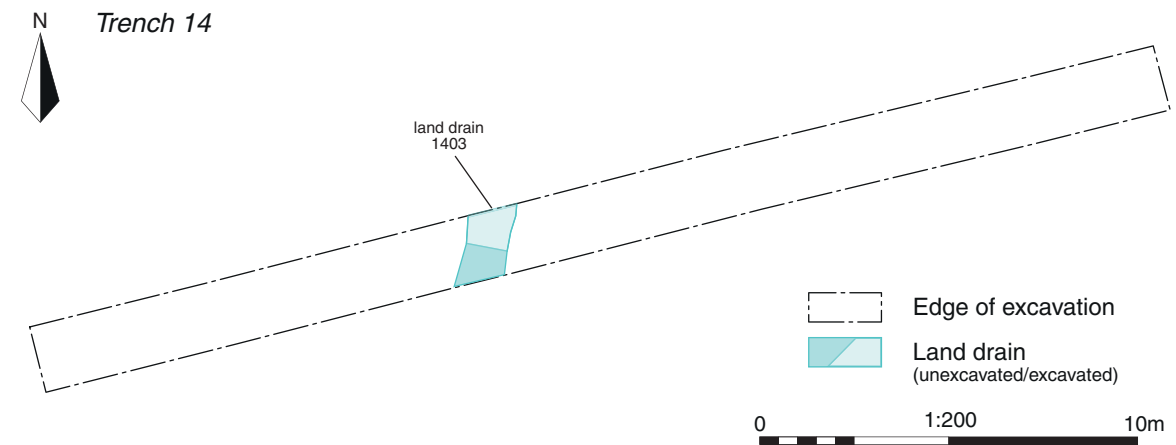
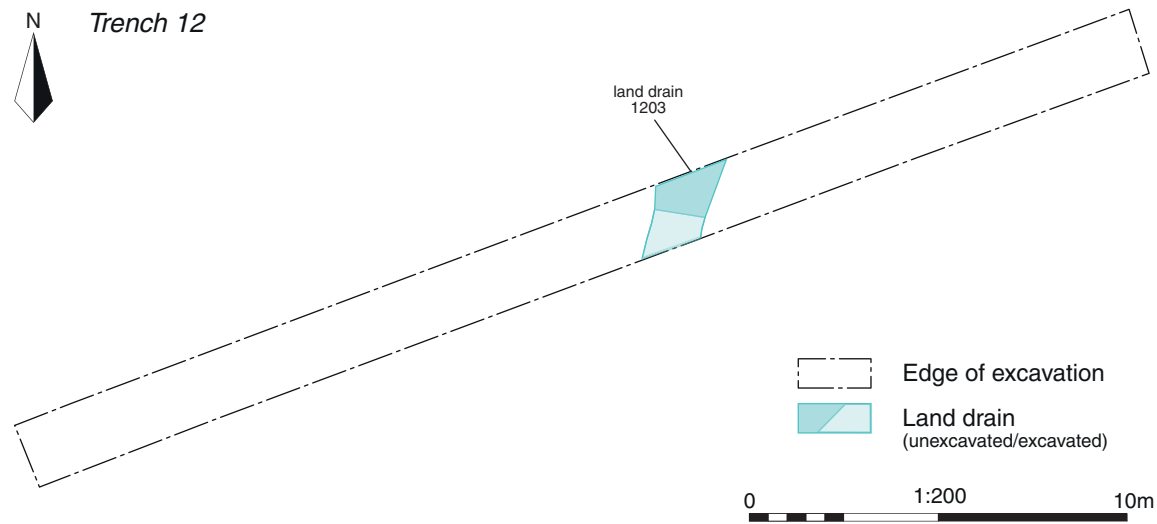
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 10: plan, section and
 photograph

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Land drain 1203, looking north (1m scale)



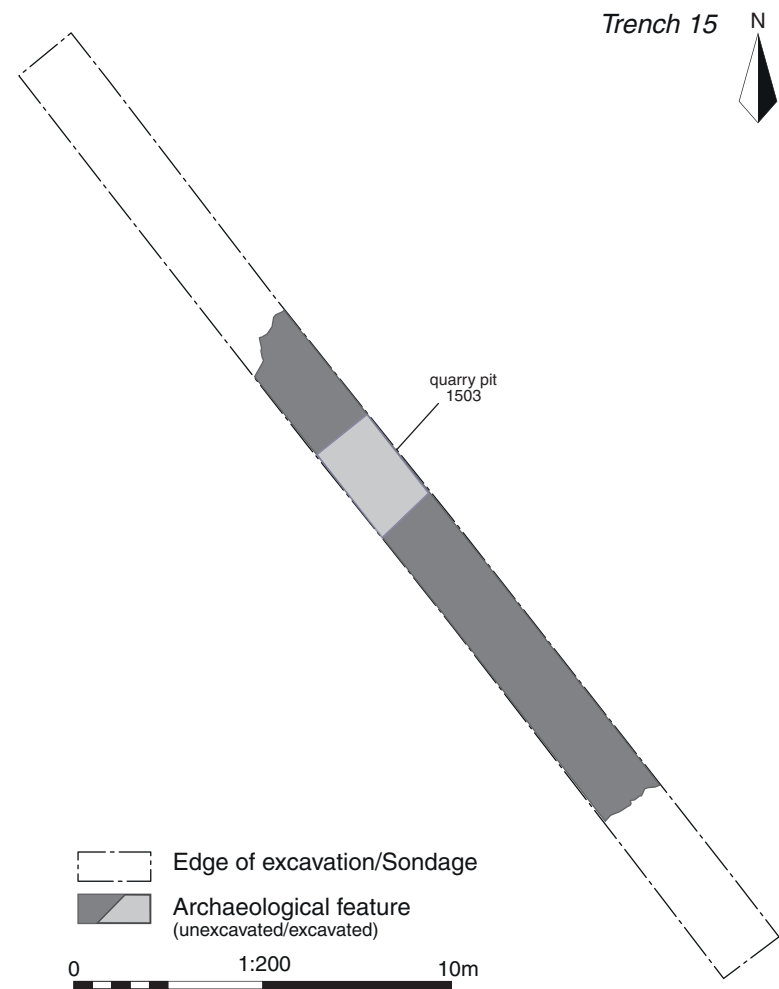
Land drain 1403, looking north (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE
 Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch,
 Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trenches 12 and 14: plans and
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR110	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/07/2022	9
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A3	1:200	



Trench 15, looking north-west (1m scales)



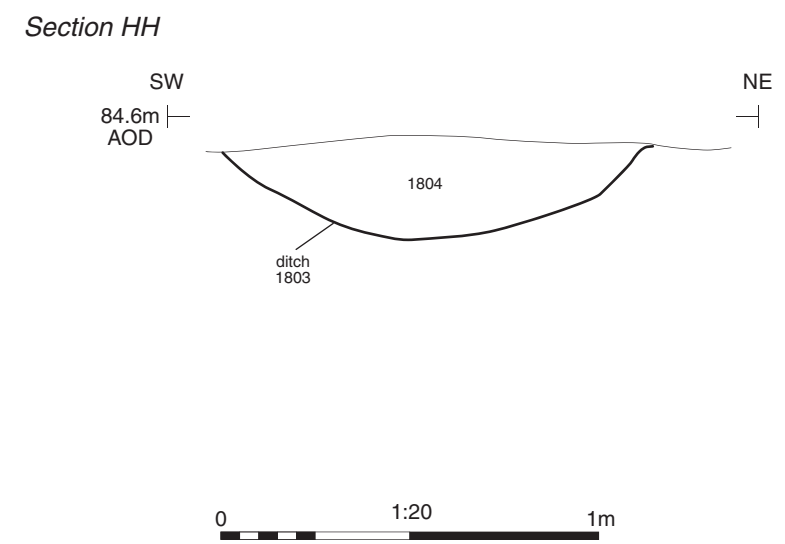
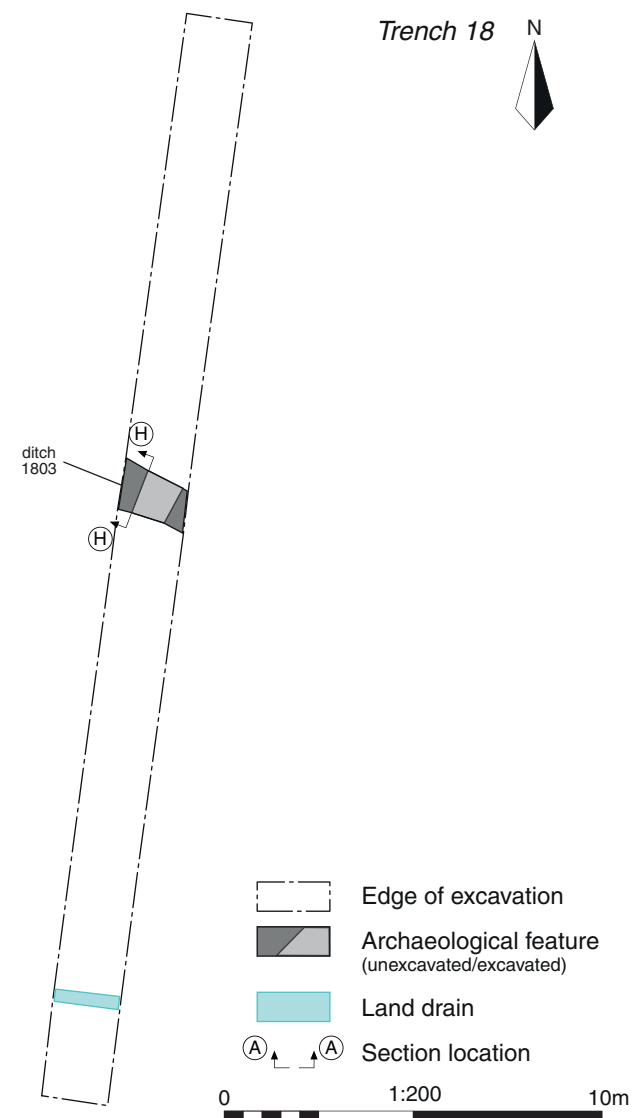
Sondage through quarry pit 1503, looking north-east (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
**Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch,
 Shropshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 15: plan and photographs

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR1110	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/07/2022	10
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A3	1:200	



Ditch 1803, looking west (1m scale)

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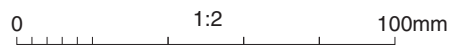
PROJECT TITLE
 Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch,
 Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 18: plan, section and
 photograph

<small>DRAWN BY</small> HMM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR1110	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 04/07/2022	11
<small>APPROVED BY</small> MF	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:20 & 1:200	



Post-medieval/modern billhook recovered from the surface of fill 807 (ditch 805)



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PROJECT TITLE

Bubney Solar Farm, Whitchurch,
Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

DRAWN BY HMM PROJECT NO. CR1110
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 18/07/2022
APPROVED BY MF SCALE@A4 1:2

FIGURE NO.

12

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