

**Land at Langlands Farm  
Uffculme Road, Willand  
Devon**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*

**Ikaros Solar**


CA Project: 4152  
CA Report: 13129

April 2013

Land at Langlands Farm  
Uffculme Road, Willand  
Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4152  
CA Report: 13129

prepared by	Angus Crawford
date	9 April 2013
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	11 April 2013
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	16 April 2013
issue	01

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<b>Cirencester</b> Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	<b>Milton Keynes</b> Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	<b>Andover</b> Office 49 Basepoint Business Centre Caxton Close, Andover Hampshire, SP10 3FG t. 01264 326549
e. <a href="mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>		

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Langlands Farm
<b>Location:</b>	Uffculme Road, Willand
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 0441 1179
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	21 January – 4 March 2013
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	12/00628/MFUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
<b>Accession Number:</b>	RAMM: 13/9
<b>Site Code:</b>	LLF13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar park on land at Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road, Willand, Devon.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks. Four lithic artefacts of prehistoric date, including a scraper of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, were recovered from the topsoil.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January to March 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Ikaros Solar on land at Langlands Farm (centred on NGR: ST 0441 1179; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for construction of a solar park granted by Mid Devon District Council (MDDC; Planning ref: 12/00628/MFUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2012) and approved by MDDC, acting on the advice of Stephen Reed, Archaeologist, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET), the archaeological advisor to MDDC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is located north east of the village of Willand, east of the route of the M5 Motorway and north of the River Culme. The proposed development area is located on a gently sloping south facing valley side, between 81 and 86m AOD, with the development site comprises fields to the north of the Uffculme Road (Fig. 1).
- 1.4 The site covers approximately 5ha and, as identified in the heritage assessment (CgMs 2012), is presently pasture land enclosed in the 18th and 19th century (Fig. 2).
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Aylesbeare Mudstone Group laid down in the Early Triassic Epoch (British Geological Survey 2013). This consists of reddish-brown silty mudstone and clayey siltstone; clayey fine-grained sandstone that occurs locally, and less commonly, clean, fine- to medium-grained sandstone. There is no recorded drift geology and the soil types are generally light, sandy loams. Only the cable trenching (trenches 1-4) exposed the underlying, geology which consisted predominantly of reddish brown clay.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential as identified by a desk-based assessment prepared by CGMS Consulting (2011). Neolithic, Bronze Age and other later prehistoric activity, as well as some evidence for Romano-British settlement activity, was recorded to the West at Four Ways Cross, Willand. A Roman road may also lie close to the site. There is a lack of evidence for medieval activity on site, though agricultural use during the period is likely, with the fields being enclosed during the post-medieval period.
- 1.7 A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012), which identified a possible prehistoric circular ditch feature. Other possible associated features were identified, including infilled ditches related to former field boundaries of post-medieval date.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.8 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
  - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2012). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising a temporary construction compound, vehicle access/maintenance road across site and cable trenching (Fig. 2).



1.10 Where archaeological deposits were encountered, written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

1.11 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

2.1 The excavation of the compound and access road required the stripping of topsoil 100 to a depth of 30cm. There was no intrusion beyond that depth into the underlying deposits. Cable trenching (trenches 2-5; fig 2), exposed the underlying natural clay to a maximum depth of 85cm. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, though scanning of spoil from the compound, produced a small quantity of prehistoric lithic material, including a flint scraper of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date from the compound area (see below)

## 3. THE FINDS

3.1 The finds recovered from the watching brief are summarised in Appendix B. Four pieces of flint were recovered from the topsoil. These consisted of three flint flakes including two in a greensand chert, probably from the Blackdown Hills, all broadly dating to the prehistoric period. A flint extended end scraper, of Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date, was also recovered. It features a slight depression on the distal surface, where the thumb could be placed to exert greater pressure, a feature commonly seen with Early Neolithic scrapers (Butler 2005, 125).

## 4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the possible prehistoric feature identified by the geophysical survey either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that any that did exist may have been removed by modern ploughing.

## 5. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork and report was undertaken by Angus Crawford. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett and the find report written by Angus Crawford. The archive has been compiled by Angus Crawford, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young

## 6. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 Geology of Britain Viewer,

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, viewed 31 February 2013

Butler, C. 2005 *'Prehistoric Flintwork'*, Tempus Publishing, Stroud.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land at Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road, Willand, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.*

CgMs Consulting 2011 *Land at Langlands Farm, Hartington, Devon. Heritage Assessment.*  
CgMs Ref: **MD/12361**.

Peller, I. Fisher, R. 2012 *Geophysical survey at Langlands Farm, near Willand, Devon,*  
Northamptonshire Archaeology Report **12/113**.





**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

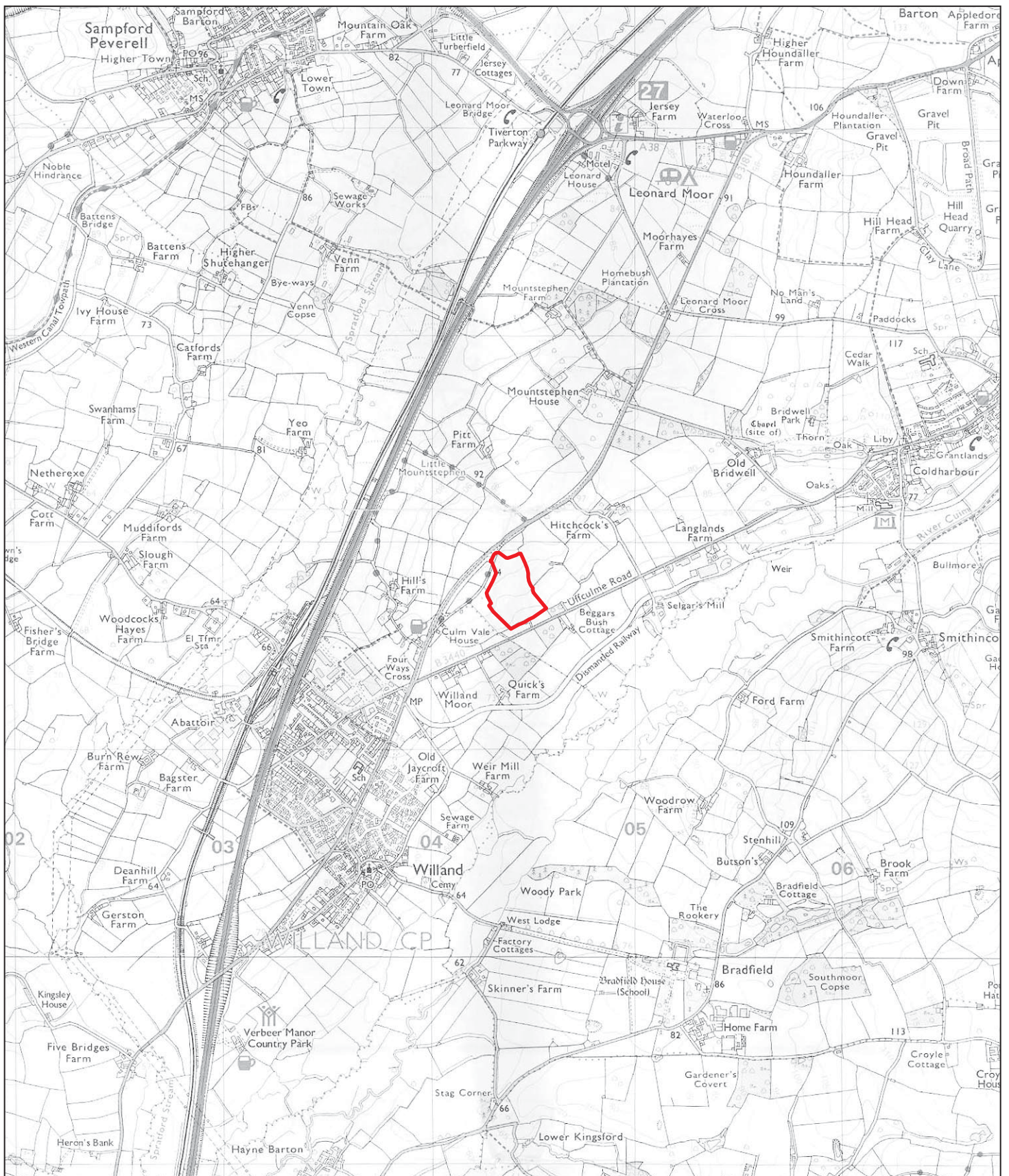
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	Reddish brown silty soil	0.25/0.30	modern
	101	layer		subsoil	Orange/Reddish brown clayey silt	Not excavated	undated
2	200	Layer		topsoil	Reddish brown silty soil	0.25/0.30	modern
	201	Layer		subsoil	Orange/Reddish brown clayey silt	0.25/0.30-0.80	undated
	202	Natural			Reddish brown clay	0.45-0.85 (not bottomed)	
3	300	Layer		topsoil	Reddish brown silty soil	0.25/0.30-0.80	modern
	301	Layer		subsoil	Orange/Reddish brown clayey silt	0.25/0.30-0.80	undated
	302	Natural			Reddish brown clay	0.45-0.85 (not bottomed)	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	Reddish brown silty soil	0.25/0.30	modern
	401	Layer		subsoil	Orange/Reddish brown clayey silt	0.25/0.30-0.80	undated
	402	Natural			Reddish brown clay	0.45-0.85 (not bottomed)	
5	500	Layer		topsoil	Reddish brown silty soil	0.20	modern
	501	Layer		subsoil	Orange/Reddish brown clayey silt	0.20-0.45	undated
	502	Natural		Natural	Reddish brown clay	0.45-0.85 (not bottomed)	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
U/S	Flint flake and sandy green flint flakes	3	26	Prehistoric
U/S	Flint scraper with extended end	1	26	Neolithic to Early Bronze Age

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road, Willand, Devon	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar park on land at Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road, Willand, Devon. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks. Four lithic artefacts of prehistoric date, including a scraper of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, were recovered from the topsoil.	
Project dates	January to March 2013	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Geophysical survey undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Pelling and Fisher, 2012) A desk-based assessment was prepared for the site by CgMs Consulting (2011)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road, Willan, Devon	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 0441 1179	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Devon County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Angus Crawford	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive	
Physical	Royal Albert Memorial Museum RAMM: 13/9	Prehistoric lithics
Paper	Royal Albert Memorial Museum RAMM: 13/9	Context sheets, trench sheets, photo registers etc
Digital	Royal Albert Memorial Museum RAMM: 13/9	Survey data, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 Land at Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road, Willan, Devon: Archaeological watching brief CA typescript report <b>13129</b>		



Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320  
 Andover 01264 326549  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**

Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road, Willand  
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**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan



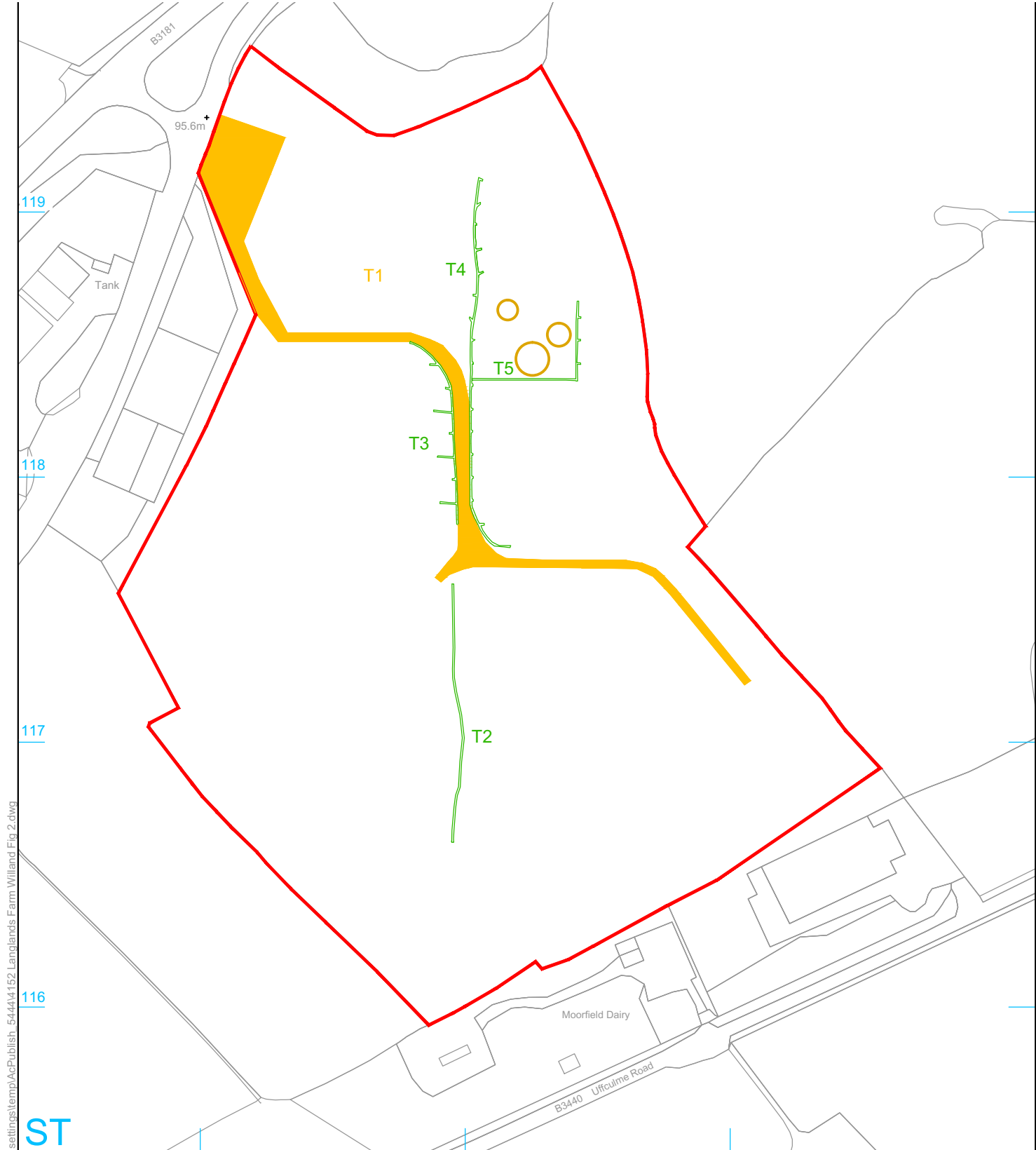
Reproduced from the 1997 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright  
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PROJECT NO. 4152 DATE 05-02-2013  
 DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1





- ▭ site
- ▭ compound and road strip
- ▬ cable trenching
- Location of geophysical anomalies (Ikaros Solar drawing no. G1159/B/C/001)



Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320  
 Andover 01264 326549  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road  
 Willand, Devon

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing location of observed groundworks



PROJECT NO.	4152	DATE	22-04-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
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3

### 3 Topsoil stripping for access road (Trench 1)



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 Milton Keynes 01908 218320  
 Andover 01264 326549  
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[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

*PROJECT TITLE*

Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road  
 Willand, Devon

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

PROJECT NO.	4152	DATE	18-03-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>3</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	N/A	



4

#### 4 Excavation of cable trench



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Andover 01264 326549  
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

*PROJECT TITLE*

Langlands Farm, Uffculme Road  
Willand, Devon

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

PROJECT NO.	4152	DATE	18-03-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	N/A	<b>4</b>