

Great Wilbraham Solar Farm Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

HER Event No: ECB4205

for
Inazin Power Ltd

CA Project: 660285
CA Report: 14267

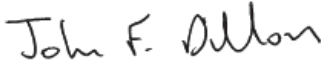
June 2014

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Great Wilbraham Solar Farm
Location:	Cambridgeshire
NGR:	TL 5700 5544
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	2–18 June 2014
Planning Ref:	S/2763/13/FL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Site Code:	GWSF 14
HER Event No:	ECB4205

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2014 at the proposed site of Great Wilbraham Solar Farm, Cambridgeshire. Thirty trenches were excavated.

Two circular cropmarks, interpreted as possible Bronze Age barrows, are visible within the northern end of the site. These features were not sampled by the evaluation, as they will be excluded from the development footprint. Further possible archaeological features, including possible pits, were also visible as cropmarks.

The evaluation recorded a small number of ditches and pits, all of which (with the exception of one modern pit) were undated artefactually. There was no clear evidence for features associated with the possible Bronze Age barrows. The absence of artefactual material suggests that the site was not a focus of activity, either residential or ceremonial.

The ditches and pits at the site were generally too ephemeral and dispersed to be interpreted meaningfully. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1903) shows a chalk pit at the north-eastern corner of the site, and a series of large pits recorded by the evaluation may represent similar post-medieval/modern quarrying activity. It is also possible that some or all of the more minor pits resulted from smaller-scale chalk extraction, although the date of this activity is unknown. It should be noted that a cluster of Neolithic quarry pits was previously discovered some 800m south of the evaluation site.

Correspondence between the evaluation results and the cropmarks was limited. It is likely that the majority of the cropmarks were natural in nature.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2014, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the proposed site of Great Wilbraham Solar Farm, Cambridgeshire (site centred at NGR: TL 5700 5544; Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Inazin Power Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation results will inform a planning application (ref: S/2763/13/FL) for the development of a solar farm at the site. A brief for the evaluation was issued by the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council (HETCCC 2014), the archaeological advisors to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC; the local planning authority). The scope of the evaluation was further defined in discussions with Kasia Gdaniec (Senior Archaeologist, HETCCC).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Kasia Gdaniec. The fieldwork also followed the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec, including site visits on 10 and 16 June.

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development site, which covers an area of approximately 60.8ha, is located some 2.5km south-east of the village of Great Wilbraham and c. 12km east-south-east of Cambridge city centre (Fig. 1). It lies within the parish of Great Wilbraham, the boundary of which runs along the south-eastern and north-eastern boundaries of the site.
- 1.5 The site comprises two arable fields divided by a strip of woodland. It is bounded by the A11 to the north-west, a lane leading to West Wrattling to the north-east, a strip of woodland to the south-west and farmland to the south-east. The ground slopes downwards to the north-west, with the ground level descending from c. 56m aOD to c. 38m aOD. The site offers views down the valley of the Little Wilbraham River, a tributary of the River Cam.

- 1.6 The solid geology of the proposed development site is mapped as chalk bedrock of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation in the north-western half of the site and New Pit Chalk Formation in the south-eastern half of the site (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.7 The site has previously been the subject of a heritage desk-based assessment (DBA; CA 2013). The following section is largely summarised from this document, supplemented by information from the brief (HETCCC 2014).
- 1.8 The Icknield Way was a prehistoric trackway running from the Wash to the River Thames at Goring. The route of this thoroughfare is preserved by the modern A11, which passes along the north-western boundary of the site. It is possible that a Romanised course of the Icknield Way ran alongside the prehistoric route.
- 1.9 A cluster of Neolithic quarry pits was discovered during an archaeological excavation at Wadlow Farm, approximately 800m south of the site.
- 1.10 Two circular cropmarks within the north-eastern end of the site are visible on aerial photographs. Based on their morphology, these cropmarks have been interpreted as possible Bronze Age barrows. These features will be excluded from the development footprint. Similar circular cropmarks have been identified near Wadlow Farm and Lower Heath Farm (approximately 600m north-west of the site). A large complex of cropmarks (square enclosures, field system ditches, ring ditches and trackways) is also visible some 400m to the west of the evaluation site; on morphological grounds, these features are likely to be later prehistoric to Roman in date.
- 1.11 In addition to the pair of circular cropmarks, further possible archaeological features – including possible pits – were also visible as cropmarks.
- 1.12 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1903) shows an “Old Chalk Pit” at the north-eastern corner of the site, indicating that chalk was being quarried in the immediate area of the site in the modern era.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.13 As defined by the brief (HETCCC 2014), the aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the site which are liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The information gathered will enable HDC to identify and assess the significance of the heritage resource within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and avoid or minimise any conflict between heritage resource conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).
- 1.14 The historic environment research framework for this region is set out in Medleycott (2011). As the evaluation site is immediately adjacent to two possible Bronze Age barrows, the evaluation was considered to have the potential to contribute to the following research topic identified by the framework (p. 20):

“Patterns of burial practice need further exploration. This should include the relationship between settlement sites and burial, and the development and use of monuments, including burial mounds as key elements in determining and understanding the landscape.”

Methodology

- 1.15 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 30 trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2. The trenches were between 20m and 70m in length. Each trench was 1.8m in width. The trench plan was designed to:
- sample the areas of ground impact associated with the proposed development;
 - investigate the cropmarks within the site; and
 - provide a sample of the remainder of the site.
- 1.16 The circular cropmarks within the north-eastern end of the site were not evaluated as they will be excluded from the development footprint. Trench 1 was outside of the main body of the site, but was positioned to sample the proposed line of a new power cable associated with the solar farm development.

- 1.17 With the approval of Kasia Gdaniec, there was some variation from the trench plan set out in the WSI (CA 2014). Trenches were broken into segments in order to preserve established agricultural plant tramways through the crops, and at the request of Kasia Gdaniec, Trenches 24, 29 and 30 were widened in order to expose the full widths of certain archaeological features.
- 1.18 Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (2012). All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where potential archaeological deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2013).
- 1.19 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 1.20 Bucket samples of the topsoil and subsoil layers were hand-sorted for artefacts on site. Additionally, the opened trenches, the spoil heaps and the areas around the trenches were scanned with a metal detector. No artefacts pre-dating the late-medieval period were present.
- 1.21 The project archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. CA will make arrangements with the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store for the deposition of the archive. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A. Figure 2 shows the recorded features overlain on aerial photographs of the site, with the cropmarks visible.

- 2.2 The evaluation recorded a small number of ditches and pits. These features were generally fairly insubstantial, although there were four very large possible quarrying pits. With the exception of plastic from modern pit 202 in Trench 2 (T2), no artefactual material was observed at the site.
- 2.3 The following trenches contained no archaeological features: T1, T3, T4, T7, T8, T11, T15, T16, T17, T19, T20, T21, T22, T25, T26 and T28.
- 2.4 Correspondence between the evaluation results and the cropmarks visible on aerial photographs of the site was limited. None of the ditches or smaller pits recorded by the evaluation were visible as cropmarks, and only three of the four large possible quarrying pits corresponded with cropmarks. Conversely, pit-like cropmarks sampled by T25 and T30 were found to have no associated below-ground features. Several trenches (T3, T6, T8, T9, T13, T14, T15 and T17) were positioned to investigate probable modern plough lines visible on aerial photographs. With the possible exceptions of T5 and T6 (see discussion below), there were no archaeological features corresponding to these lines, confirming that there are the product of late post-medieval/modern ploughing.

General stratigraphy

- 2.5 The natural geological substrate comprised white chalk with large pockets of orange clayey silt containing flint inclusions. It was exposed in all trenches at a depth of 0.27m–0.71m below the present ground level.
- 2.6 The majority of the trenches in the northern field and those in the northern corner of the southern field featured a sandy silt subsoil horizon of 0.09m–0.35m thickness, which sealed the natural substrate. This was covered in turn by 0.15m–0.4m of topsoil. In the remainder of the trenches, the natural substrate was sealed directly by the topsoil.

Undated

- 2.7 Four ditches were recorded at the site. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 901 (T9; Fig. 4) measured 1.5m in width and 0.68m in depth. It contained a sequence of chalk rubble deposits sealed by a dark silty layer. Its profile was a blunted v-shape. There was no clear cropmark feature corresponding with this ditch.

- 2.8 The terminus of ditch 2903 was exposed in T29 (Fig. 10). This north-west/south-east-aligned ditch was 3.35m wide and 0.92m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. The terminus was broad and square, with rounded corners. Its fills comprised an alternating sequence of chalk rubble and darker silty deposits. Ditch 2903 was on the same alignment as two short linear cropmarks passing through T29, although it not correspond in location with either of them.
- 2.9 Shallow curvilinear ditch 503 (T5; Fig. 3) was aligned east/west, turning to the north-east at its eastern end. This ditch was 0.46m wide and 0.16m deep. Its single fill comprised sandy-clay with flint inclusions. North-west/south-east-aligned ditch 603 (T6) was 0.83m wide at its broadest point and 0.22m deep, with a single fill similar to that in ditch 503. It was unclear if this ditch terminated in the trench, or if it had been truncated by ploughing. Both of these ditches were in an area of plough line cropmarks displaying a general north/south linear trend, although a faint north-west/south-east component is also visible.
- 2.10 The evaluation recorded a series of undated pits in the northern field. None of these features were visible as cropmarks. Pit 2308 (T23; Fig. 7) was 1.1m in diameter and 0.22m in depth. Pit 2310 (also T23; Fig. 7) had a diameter of 0.45m and a depth of 0.12m. Pit 2703 (T27; Fig. 9) was 0.9m by 0.7m in plan and 0.12m deep. Each of these three pits contained single silty/chalky fills. Pit 1802 (T18; Fig. 6) was 1.85m wide and 0.36m deep, with a weathered chalk lower fill and a silty upper fill. Pit 1805 (also T18; Fig. 6) was 1.5m wide and 0.42m deep, with a similar sequence of fills.
- 2.11 Features 1002 (T10) and 2410 (T24; Fig. 8) were both partially exposed within their trenches and were unexcavated. It was uncertain if they were pits or the termini of linear features. Feature 1302 (T13) was 1.51m wide and 0.35m deep and was over 2.8m in length. It was uncertain if this feature represented a pit or an area of root disturbance.

Post-medieval – modern

- 2.12 Four large pits were recorded in T12, T24 and T30. In line with the evidence for previous chalk extraction in the area (see *Historic background*, above), these pits were interpreted as post-medieval/modern quarry pits. Pit 1203 (T12; Fig. 5) measured 9.6m in diameter; it was unexcavated. Pit 1205 (T12; Fig. 5) was 12.1m in diameter and 0.65m in depth. Pit 2403 (T24; Fig. 8) was 10.2m long, over 6.8m

wide, and 1.18m deep. Pit 3003 (T30; Fig. 11) measured 13.62m in length, 11.2m in width and 1.85m in depth.

- 2.13 The fills of pits 1205 and 2403 were very similar and comprised a sequence of silty layers containing frequent angular chalk and flint inclusions. These layers had been deposited slowly over time, probably as a result of ongoing upcast from adjacent ploughing.
- 2.14 Pit 3003 contained a basal fill (3009) of broken flint nodules in a silty sand matrix, which was covered by 0.27m of gravelly inwash (3010) and brown sandy material (3008). These layers were sealed by a 0.08m-thick dark silty deposit (3007), which was sealed in turn by a further sequence of silty layers similar to those recorded in pits 1205 and 2403. It is possible that dark silty layer 3007 represented a buried topsoil horizon, which would indicate that the partially-infilled pit earthwork was open long enough for a topsoil layer to build up within it.
- 2.15 Pits 1203 and 1205 corresponded with clear, pit-like cropmarks. Pit 3003 lay within a dark area visible in the cropmarks, but had no relationship with the more obvious pit-like cropmark visible towards the centre of T30 (no feature corresponding to this cropmark was recorded in the trench). There were no clear cropmarks in the area of T24 matching pit 2410.
- 2.16 Rectangular pit 202 (T2) appeared to have been excavated by a mechanical digger with a toothed bucket. Its fill (203) contained pieces of plastic wrapping.

The palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 2.17 This section presents a summary of the palaeoenvironmental evidence from the site. A full palaeoenvironmental report is included as Appendix B.
- 2.18 Samples from the following contexts were processed and analysed:
- Sample 1: fill 2704 within pit 2703 (T27);
 - Sample 2: fill 908 within ditch 901 (T9); and
 - Sample 4: fill 2907 within ditch 2903 (T29).

- 2.19 The samples contained no plant macrofossil material and only a small amount of highly fragmented, unidentifiable charcoal. A moderate number of molluscs was recovered. The paucity of the ecofactual evidence means that no further interpretative information is possible. There was no material suitable for radiocarbon dating.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation recorded a small number of ditches and pits, all of which (with the exception of one modern pit) were undated artefactually. There was no clear evidence for features associated with the possible Bronze Age barrows visible as cropmarks in the northern part of the site. The absence of artefactual material suggests that the site was not a focus of activity, either residential or ceremonial.
- 3.2 The ditches and pits at the site were generally too ephemeral and too dispersed to be interpreted meaningfully. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1903) shows an “Old Chalk Pit” at the north-eastern corner of the site, and it is likely that the large pits recorded in T12, T24 and T30 represent similar post-medieval/modern chalk quarrying activity. It is also possible that some or all of the more minor pits at the site resulted from smaller-scale chalk extraction, although the date of this activity is unknown. It should be noted that a cluster of Neolithic quarry pits was discovered at Wadlow Farm, which lies approximately 800m south of the evaluation site.
- 3.3 Correspondence between the evaluation results and the cropmarks visible on aerial photographs of the site was limited. Few of the features recorded by the evaluation were visible as cropmarks, and some of the clear pit-like cropmarks visible at the site were found to have no associated below-ground features. It is likely that the majority of the cropmarks were natural in nature.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Mordue, assisted by Dan Stone, Caoimhin O Coileain, James Coyne, Emily Evans, Paulo Clemente, Dan Riley, Juan Talens Bou and Dan Wojcik. The report was written by Jeremy Mordue. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans,

and prepared for deposition by Nicola Powell. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 14 May 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Great Wilbraham Solar Farm, Great Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* CA Report No. **13476**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Great Wilbraham Solar Farm, Great Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

HETCCC (Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council) 2014 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Medleycott, M (ed) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England* EAA Occ. Paper No **24**



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown silt-clay, friable, occasional small chalk and flint pebbles.			0.4
1	101	Geology		White chalk bedrock with large patches of mid-orange brown clay silt, small-medium flint nodules.			
2	200	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown silt-clay, friable, occasional small chalk and flint pebbles.			0.3
2	201	Geology		Mid orange brown clay-silt containing moderate small-medium flint nodules; occasional large brashy chalk patches.			
2	202	Pit		Cut of sub-rectangular pit with rounded corners. Appears to be machine excavated. Modern.	1.80	1.58	0.45
2	203	Fill	202	Mixed, mid-brownish grey silt, compact, occasional-moderate small-medium flint pebbles.			0.45
3	300	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown silt-clay, friable, occasional small chalk and flint pebbles.			0.3
3	301	Geology		Mid orange brown clay-silt containing moderate small-medium flint nodules; occasional large brashy chalk patches.			
4	400	Topsoil		Dark brownish grey sandy clay loam, friable, occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional chalk flecks			0.26
4	401	Subsoil		Mid-brown sandy silt, occasional-moderate small sub-angular flint pebbles, moderate small chalk lumps and flecks.			0.28
4	402	Geology		White chalk bedrock with frequent large patches of brownish orange sandy-clay-silt, with small-medium flint nodules and fragments.			
5	500	Topsoil		Dark brownish grey silt-clay, compact, occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional chalk flecks			0.25
5	501	Subsoil		Mid-brown sandy silt, occasional-moderate small sub-angular flint pebbles, moderate small chalk lumps and flecks.			0.18
5	502	Geology		White chalk bedrock, with occasional light brown sandy silt veins and patches.			
5	503	Ditch		Cut of E/W gully. Shallow profile, curving to SW/NE.	>2.5	0.46	0.16
5	504	Fill	503	Mid-orange brown sandy clay, firm, with frequent small sub-angular chalk lumps and occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles.			0.16
6	600	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown sandy clay-loam, friable, occasional small sub-rounded flint pebbles and occasional chalk flecks			0.26
6	601	Subsoil		Mid-brown sandy silt, occasional-moderate small sub-angular flint pebbles, moderate small chalk lumps and flecks.			0.17
6	602	Geology		White chalk bedrock, with occasional light brown sandy silt veins and patches.			
6	603	Ditch		Cut of NW/SE ditch. Terminates.	>2.2	0.4	0.12
6	604	Fill	603	Dark greyish brown clay-loam, friable, with moderate small sub-angular chalk lumps, occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles.			0.12
6	605	Nat Feat.		Geological/glacial feature.	>1.33	0.83	0.22
6	606	Fill	605	Upper fill. Mixed, loose, rooty dark brown clay loam, moderate small sub-angular chalk lumps.			0.19
6	607	Fill	605	Lower fill. Light brown very compact silt with chalky flecks.			0.1
7	700	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown loose sandy silt, with rare small sub-angular chalk pebbles.			0.3
7	701	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
8	800	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown loose silt-sand, with rare small sub-angular chalk pebbles.			0.27
8	801	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
9	900	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-angular stones.			0.3
9	901	Ditch		Cut of NNE/SSW ditch.	>1	1.5	0.68
9	902	Fill	901	Light greyish white coarse chalk rubble, loose. Earliest fill.			0.24
9	903	Fill	901	Light greyish brown fine silt. Occasional small chalk pebbles.			0.15
9	904	Fill	901	Light greyish white coarse chalk gravel.			0.29
9	905	Fill	901	Mid greyish brown fine silt			0.32
9	906	Fill	901	Light greyish white coarse chalk gravel, loose.			0.29
9	907	Fill	901	Light greyish brown fine silt with occasional degraded chalk.			0.31

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
9	908	Fill	901	Mid greyish brown fine silt, abundant sub-rounded chalk pebbles.			0.29
9	909	Geology		White chalk bedrock			
10	1000	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt			0.3
10	1001	Geology		White chalk bedrock			
10	1002	Pit		Cut of pit. Unexcavated.	>1.3	1.8	
10	1003	Fill	1003	Mid brownish grey clay silt with frequent small-medium chalk lumps.			
11	1100	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown friable silt sand with moderate small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks, occasional chalk fragments.			0.33
11	1101	Geology		White chalk bedrock			
12	1200	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown loose silt-sand with rare sub-angular chalk stones.			0.27
12	1201	Subsoil		Mid-greyish brown loose silt sand with abundant small sub-angular chalk stones.			0.15
12	1202	Geology		White chalk bedrock			
12	1203	Pit		Cut of sub-ovoid quarry pit. Unexcavated.	>9.6	>1.8	
12	1204	Fill	1203	Mid greyish brown loose silt sand with rare small chalk pebbles.			
12	1205	Pit		Cut of sub-circular quarry pit.	12.1	>1.8	0.65
12	1206	Fill	1205	Dark brownish grey loose silt-sand with moderate small chalk stones.			0.39
12	1207	Fill	1205	Dark brownish grey silt sand, loose, rare small chalk stones			0.44
12	1208	Fill	1205	Mid-greyish brown silt sand, friable, rare small sub-angular chalk stones.			0.38
13	1300	Topsoil		Mid brownish grey friable silt-sand, occasional small sub-angular chalk gravel and pebbles, occasional flint pebbles.			0.38
13	1301	Geology		White chalk bedrock with patches of weathered bedrock and white-grey silt.			
13	1302	Pit		Cut of possible sub-rectangular pit.	>2.82	1.56	0.35
13	1303	Fill	1302	Light whitish grey silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular chalk stones			0.2
13	1304	Fill	1302	Dark brownish grey sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-rounded/sub-angular stones, coarse sand and chalk gravel.			0.33
13	1305	Treebole		Treebole.	1.84	>0.62	0.18
13	1306	Fill	1305	Dark brownish grey sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular chalk and flint gravel.			0.18
13	1307	Treebole		Treebole.	1.35	>0.82	
13	1308	Fill	1307	Dark brownish grey sand-silt, friable, occasional small sub-angular stones.			
13	1309	Treebole		Treebole.	0.86	0.34	
13	1310	Fill	1309	Dark brownish grey sand-silt, friable, occasional small sub-angular stones.			
14	1400	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown loose silt-sand, with rare sub-angular chalk stones			0.3
14	1401	Geology		White chalk bedrock			
15	1500	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown loose, clay-silt, abundant small chalk pebbles.			0.28
15	1501	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
16	1600	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt sand, loose, frequent chalk pebbles.			0.23
16	1601	Subsoil		Mid-brown silt-sand, loose, frequent chalk pebbles.			0.09
16	1602	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
17	1700	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown silt sand, loose.			0.24
17	1701	Subsoil		Mid greyish brown silt-sand, loose, abundant small chalk stones.			0.08
17	1702	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
18	1800	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular chalk and flint pebbles.			0.29
18	1801	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
18	1802	Pit		Cut of sub-circular pit.	>1.18	2.65	0.36
18	1803	Fill	1802	Mid yellowish grey sandy silt, compact, occasional chalk fragments.			0.35
18	1804	Fill	1802	Mid-orangey brown sandy silt, friable, occasional chalk fragments and sub-angular flint.			0.31

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
18	1805	Pit		Cut of sub-circular pit.	1.5	>0.88	0.42
18	1806	Fill	1805	Mid-greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones.			0.21
18	1807	Fill	1805	Light yellowish grey sandy silt, friable, occasional chalk fragments.			0.34
18	1808	Fill	1805	Mid-orange-brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones and chalk flecks.			0.21
19	1900	Topsoil		Mid grey brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks.			0.38
19	1901	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
20	2000	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt sand, loose, common chalk pebbles.			0.26
20	2001	Subsoil		Mid greyish brown silt-sand, very frequent chalk flecks, loose.			0.09
20	2002	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
20	2003	Nat Feat		Geological/glacial feature.	0.86	0.4	0.13
20	2004	Fill	2003	Dark brown sandy silt, compact, frequent chalk flecks and pebbles.			0.13
20	2005	Nat Feat		Geological/glacial feature.	2	1	0.1
20	2006	Fill	2005	Mid brown sandy silt, hard, frequent angular chalk pebbles			0.1
20	2007	Nat Feat		Geological/glacial feature	3	1.4	0.6
20	2008	Fill	2007	Mid brown sandy silt, hard, occasional small chalk flecks.			0.6
20	2009	Fill	2007	Greyish white hard chalk.			0.35
20	2010	Fill	2007	Light grey white silt/chalk, hard.			0.25
20	2011	Fill	2007	Grey-white hard 'crushed chalk'.			0.23
20	2012	Fill	2007	Mid grey silty crushed chalk, hard.			0.1
20	2013	Fill	2007	Greyish white silty chalk, hard.			0.21
20	2014	Fill	2007	Mid brown sandy silt, hard occasional small sub-angular flint.			0.04
20	2015	Fill	2007	White-grey hard chalk.			0.37
20	2016	Fill	2007	Grey-white hard crushed chalk.			0.45
21	2100	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown sandy silt, moderate small sub-angular stones, chalk fragments.			0.26
21	2101	Geology		White chalk bedrock			
22	2200	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt sand, loose, occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.			0.15
22	2201	Subsoil		Mid-greyish brown silt-sand, friable, frequent chalk flecking.			0.35
22	2202	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
22	2203	Nat feat		Geological/glacial feature.	>0.26	0.40	0.16
22	2204	Fill	2203	Mid orange brown silt sand, friable, with occasional chalk flecking and sub-rounded chalk.			0.16
23	2300	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt-sand, friable, occasional small sub-angular chalk lumps.			0.18
23	2301	Subsoil		Mid orangey brown silt-sand, friable, frequent chalk flecking.			0.14
23	2302	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
23	2303	Nat Feat		Geological/glacial feature.	0.97	0.70	0.21
23	2304	Fill	2303	Light whitish grey sandy chalk, firm, frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded chalk pebbles.			0.19
23	2305	Fill	2303	Mid orange brown silt sand, friable, occasional small chalk flecking, fragments.			0.14
23	2306	Nat Feat		Geological/glacial feature.	>1.0	1.40	0.14
23	2307	Fill	2306	Mid orange brown silt sand, friable, moderate small chalk flecks and lumps.			0.14
23	2308	Pit		Cut of possible sub-ovoid pit.	1.10	>0.40	0.22
23	2309	Fill	2308	Mid orange brown sandy silt, firm, moderate chalk and charcoal flecks.			0.22
23	2310	Pit		Cut of possible small pit.	0.49	0.42	0.12
23	2311	Fill	2310	Mid orange brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones, chalk fragments and charcoal flecks.			0.12
23	2312	Nat Feat		Geological/glacial feature.	0.81	0.41	0.16

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
23	2313	Fill	2312	Mid orange brown sandy silt, friable, moderate chalk and charcoal flecks.			0.16
24	2400	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt sand, friable, with small sub-angular and sub-rounded chalk.			0.26
24	2401	Subsoil		Mid orange brown silt-sand, friable with frequent chalk flecking.			0.07
24	2402	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
24	2403	Pit		Cut of sub-circular quarry pit.	10.2	>6.8	1.18
24	2404	Fill	2403	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks and chalk lumps.			0.35
24	2405	Fill	2403	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks and occasional chalk fragments.			0.38
24	2406	Fill	2403	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks and chalk fragments.			0.37
24	2407	Fill	2403	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks and chalk fragments.			0.19
24	2408	Fill	2403	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks.			0.34
24	2409	Fill	2403	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks and chalk fragments.			0.31
24	2410	Pit		Cut of pit.	>1.9	>1.8	
24	2411	Fill	2410	Mid greyish brown sand silt friable with moderate small sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks and chalk fragments.			
25	2500	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown sand silt, friable, small sub-angular stones, chalk and charcoal flecks.			0.31
25	2501	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
25	2502	Treebole		Treebole.	1.58	0.95	0.4
25	2503	Fill	2502	Mid grey brown sandy silt, compact, with moderate small sub-angular chalk and charcoal flecks.			0.4
26	2600	Topsoil		Dark brown silt sand, loose, occasional small stones.			0.36
26	2601	Subsoil		Mid brown silty sand, loose, common chalk pebbles.			0.35
26	2602	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
27	2700	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt-sand, friable, occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded chalk.			0.19
27	2701	Subsoil		Mid orange-brown silt sand, friable, moderate small chalk pebbles.			0.08
27	2702	Geology		White chalk bedrock with patches of light orange brown.			
27	2703	Pit		Cut of circular pit.	0.9	0.7	0.12
27	2704	Fill	2703	Mid greyish brown, mottled with yellowish brown, silt sand, compact, frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular chalk.			0.12
28	2800	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt sand, friable, occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular chalk.			0.21
28	2801	Subsoil		Mid blackish brown silt-sand, friable, frequent chalk flecking.			0.07
28	2802	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
28	2803	Nat Feat		Geological/glacial feature.	>1.42	>0.72	0.29
28	2804	Fill	2803	Dark greyish brown sandy silt, compact, frequent chalk pebbles.			0.29
29	2900	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt-sand, friable, silt-sand, occasional small sub-angular stones.			0.18
29	2901	Subsoil		Mid orange grey silt-sand, friable, frequent chalk flecking and stones.			0.08
29	2902	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
29	2903	Ditch		Cut of NW/SE ditch.	>15	3.35	0.92
29	2904	Fill	2903	Light yellowish white chalk rubble, compact.			0.35
29	2905	Fill	2903	Light yellowish white chalk rubble, compact.			0.18
29	2906	Fill	2903	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small angular chalk lumps and charcoal flecks.			0.26
29	2907	Fill	2903	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small chalk fragments and charcoal flecks.			0.2
29	2908	Fill	2903	Light yellowish white compact chalk rubble.			0.34
29	2909	Fill	2903	Light yellowish white compact chalk rubble.			0.27
29	2910	Fill	2903	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small chalk fragments.			0.36

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
29	2911	Fill	2903	Light yellowish grey sandy silt, firm, moderate small chalk fragments.			0.86
29	2912	Fill	2903	Mid orange brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small chalk fragments, sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks.			0.7
29	2913	Fill	2903	Dark greyish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks.			0.22
29	2914	Fill	2903	Mid brownish grey silty sand, loose, occasional small chalk gravels and pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks			0.09
29	2915	Fill	2903	Whitish grey silt, friable, frequent small chalk pebbles.			0.12
29	2916	Fill	2903	Mid greyish brown silty sand, loose, occasional small-medium sub-angular chalk gravels.			0.11
30	3000	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silty sand, loose, common chalk pebbles.			0.25
30	3001	Subsoil		Mid-light brown silty sand, loose, frequent small chalk inclusions.			0.13
30	3002	Geology		White chalk bedrock.			
30	3003	Pit		Cut of sub-circular quarry pit.	13.62	11.2	1.85
30	3004	Fill	3003	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, compact, common chalk flecks.			0.24
30	3005	Fill	3003	Dark greyish brown silty sand, compact, frequent chalk pebbles.			0.97
30	3006	Fill	3003	Mid brownish grey silty sand, compact, frequent chalk pebbles.			0.34
30	3007	Fill	3003	Dark brownish grey/black silt sand, loose, common chalk pebbles.			0.08
30	3008	Fill	3003	Mid brown coarse sand, loose.			0.32
30	3009	Fill	3003	Mid brown silt sand, compact, moderate sub-angular flint gravels.			0.29
30	3010	Fill	3003	Mid brown silt sand, compact, moderate small sub-angular flint gravels.			0.14

APPENDIX B: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

By Sarah Cobain, CA

Five environmental samples (a total of 180 litres of soil) were retrieved from five deposits with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. In discussion with Lesley-Ann Mather, it was agreed that 20 litres of each of the following samples would be processed:

- Sample 1: fill 2704 within pit 2703 (T27);
- Sample 2: fill 908 within ditch 901 (T9); and
- Sample 4: fill 2907 within ditch 2903 (T29).

All of these features were undated. Samples were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003).

The samples contained a small number of modern roots. There was no plant macrofossil material and only a small amount of highly fragmented, unidentifiable charcoal. A moderate number of molluscs was recovered from all samples. The paucity of the ecofactual evidence means that no further interpretative information is possible.

There is no material suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Table B1: flot inclusions

Context number	2704	908	2907
Feature number	2703	901	2903
Sample number (SS)	1	2	4
Flot volume (ml)	1	6	5
Period	U/D	U/D	U/D
Flot Inclusions			
Plant macrofossils	0	0	0
Charcoal	+	+	+
Molluscs	++++	++++	++++

Key

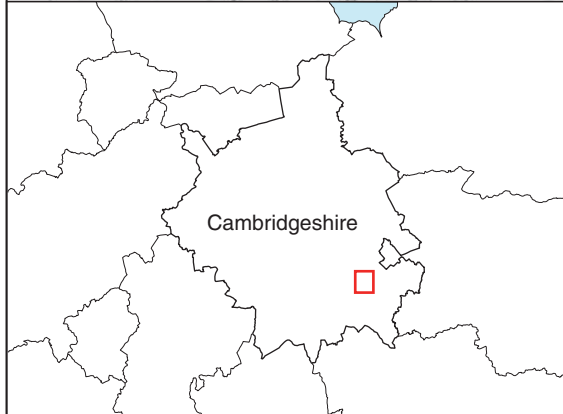
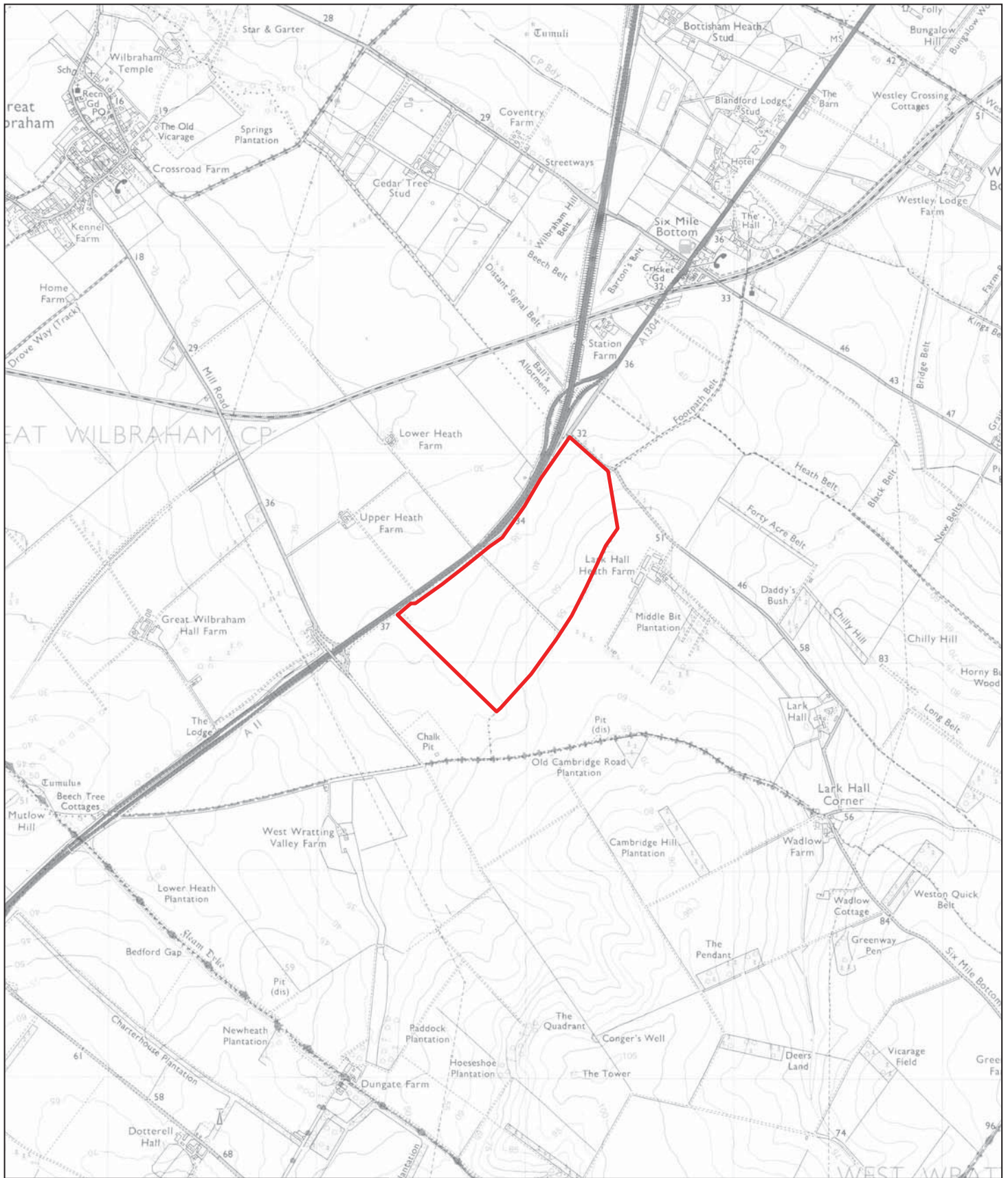
U/D = undated

+ = 1-4 items; ++ = 5-20 items; +++ = 21-39 items; ++++ = >40 items

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Great Wilbraham Solar Farm, Cambridgeshire: archaeological evaluation	
HER Event No.	ECB4205	
Planning Ref.	S/2763/13/FL	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2014 at the proposed site of Great Wilbraham Solar Farm, Cambridgeshire. Thirty trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Two circular cropmarks, interpreted as possible Bronze Age barrows, are visible within the northern end of the site. These features were not sampled by the evaluation, as they will be excluded from the development footprint. Further possible archaeological features, including possible pits, were also visible as cropmarks.</p> <p>The evaluation recorded a small number of ditches and pits, all of which (with the exception of one modern pit) were undated artefactually. There was no clear evidence for features associated with the possible Bronze Age barrows. The absence of artefactual material suggests that the site was not a focus of activity, either residential or ceremonial.</p> <p>The ditches and pits at the site were generally too ephemeral and dispersed to be interpreted meaningfully. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1903) shows a chalk pit at the north-eastern corner of the site, and a series of large pits recorded by the evaluation may represent similar post-medieval/modern quarrying activity. It is also possible that some or all of the more minor pits resulted from smaller-scale chalk extraction, although the date of this activity is unknown. It should be noted that a cluster of Neolithic quarry pits was previously discovered some 800m south of the evaluation site.</p> <p>Correspondence between the evaluation results and the cropmarks was limited. It is likely that the majority of the cropmarks were natural in nature.</p>	
Project dates	2–18 June 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Heritage desk-based assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Great Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	60.8ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	TL 5700 5544	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Mordue	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc.)
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store	Trench sheets, context sheets, registers, etc.

Digital	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store	Database, digital photos etc.
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Cotswold Archaeology 2014 <i>Great Wilbraham Solar Farm, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA Report No. 14267	



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PROJECT TITLE

**Great Wilbraham Solar Farm
 Cambridgeshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

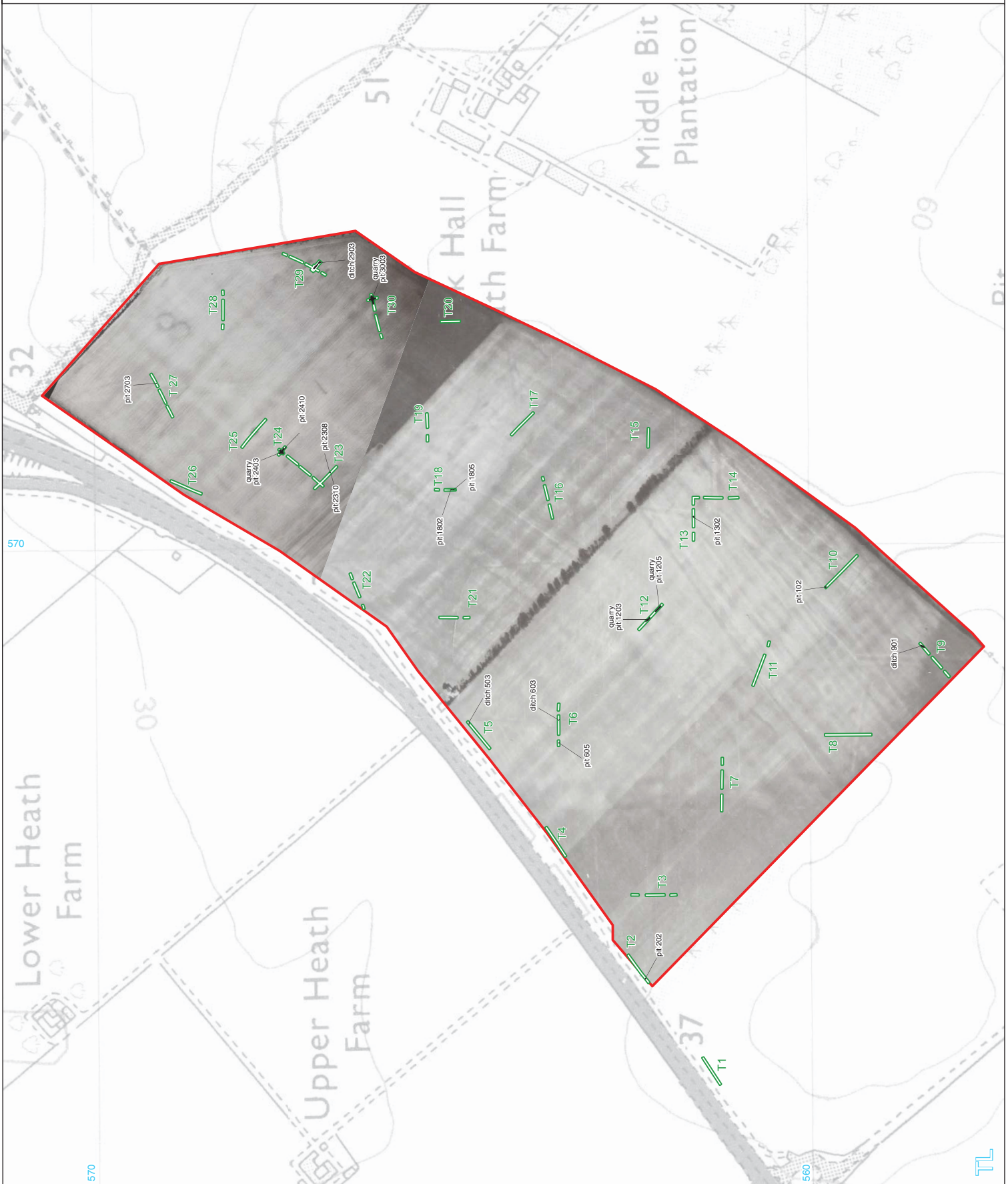


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PROJECT NO. 660285 DATE 20/06/2014
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FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature



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PROJECT TITLE
 Great Wilbraham Solar Farm
 Cambridgeshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 archaeological features, overlain on
 aerial photographs

PROJECT NO	DATE	2006/2014	FIGURE NO
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APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:5,000

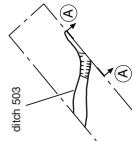
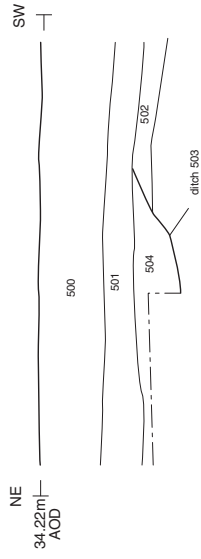
570

560





Section AA



Trench 5 looking south-west along the trench with ditch 503 in the foreground (1m scales)



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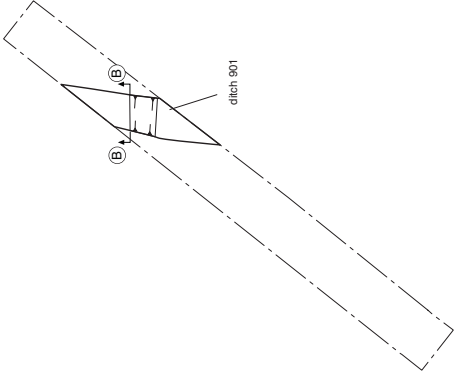
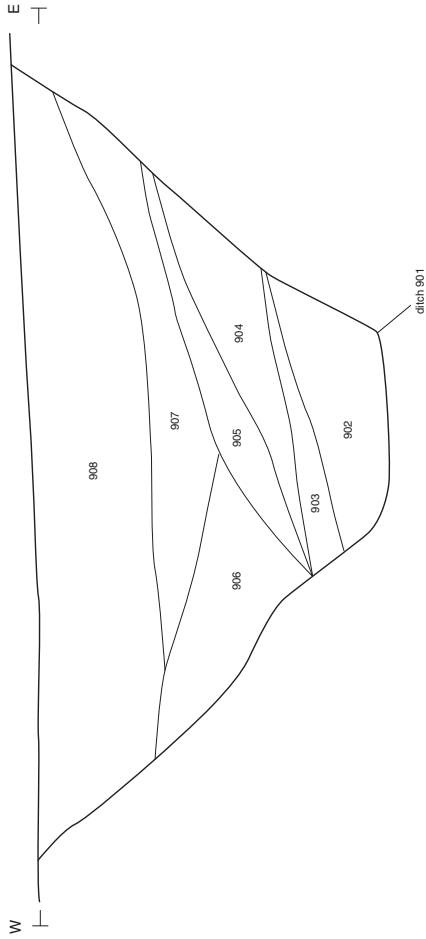
PROJECT TITLE
 Great Wilbraham Solar Farm
 Cambridgeshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 5: plan, section and photograph

PROJECT NO.	DATE	FIGURE NO.
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Section BB



Ditch 901, looking north (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 9: plan, section and photograph

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5 Trench 12 looking north-west showing quarry pits 1203 and 1205



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 12: photograph

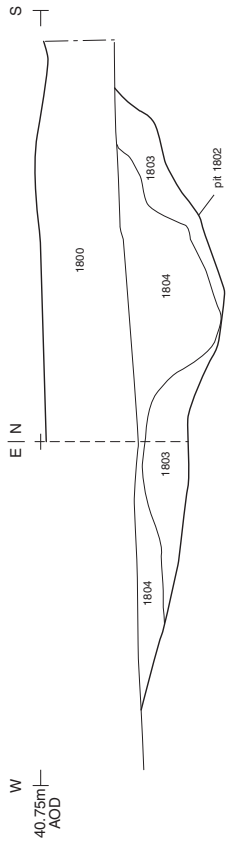
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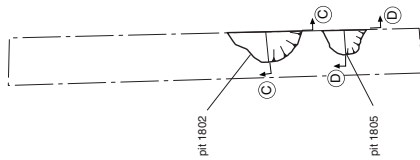
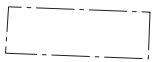
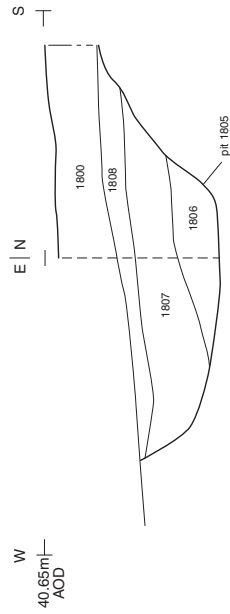
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Section CC



Section DD



Pit 1802, looking east (1m scale)



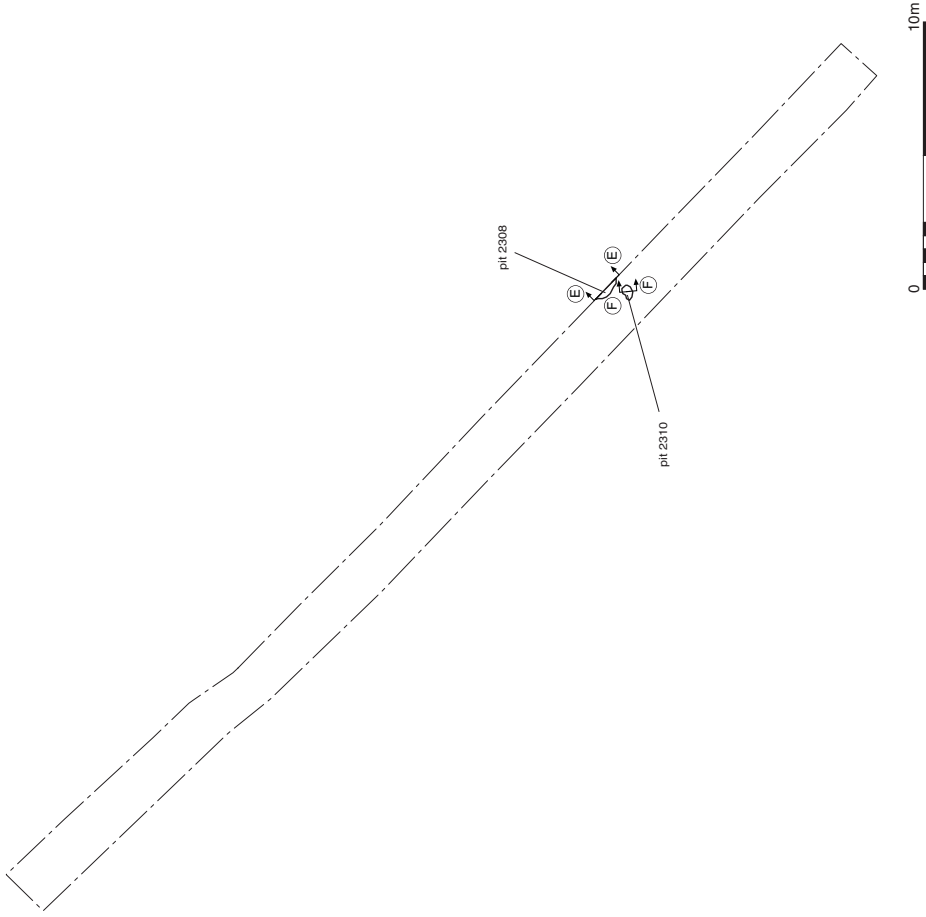
Pit 1805, looking north-east (1m scale)



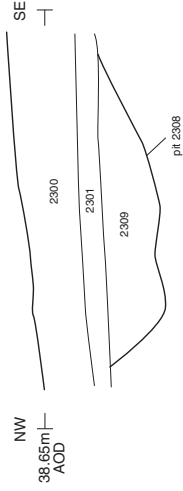
Pit 2308, looking north-east (1m scale)



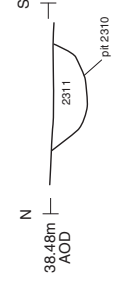
Pit 2310, looking east (0.3m scale)



Section EE



Section FF

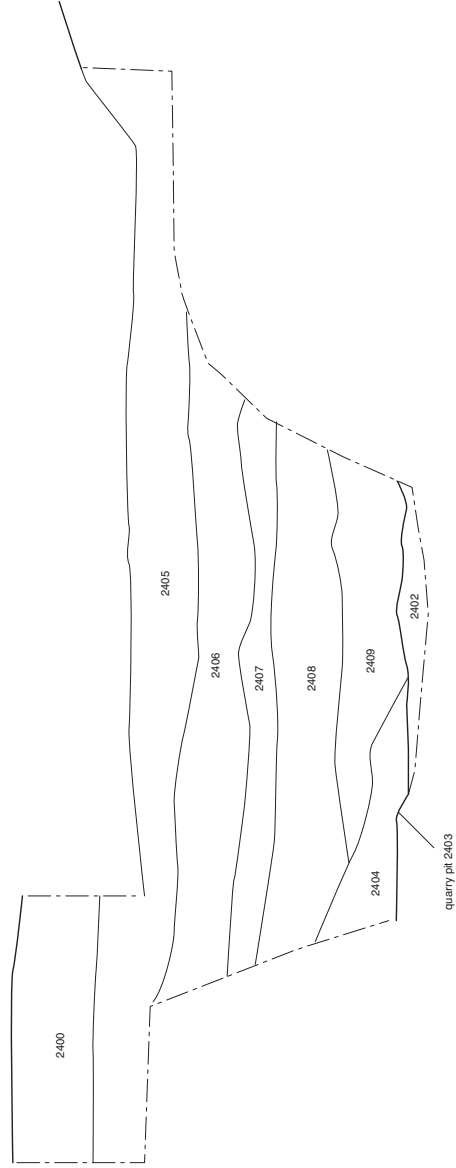
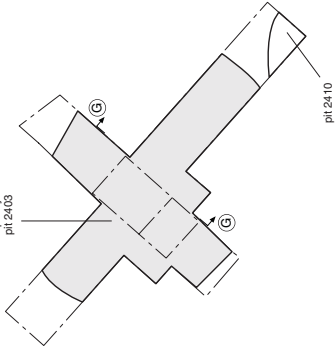




Section GG

NE
27.9m
AOD

SW



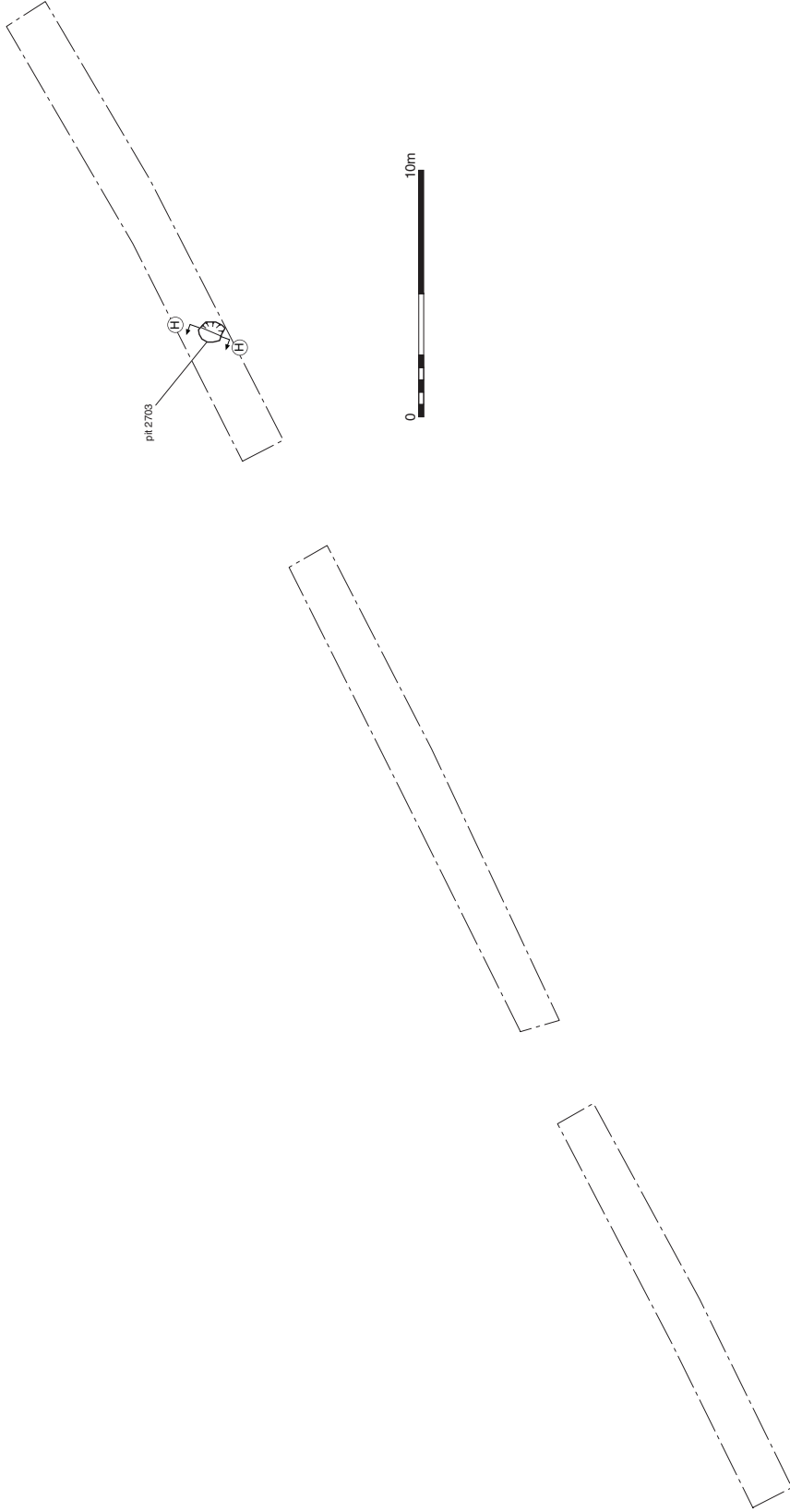
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Quarry pit 2403, looking east (1m scales)

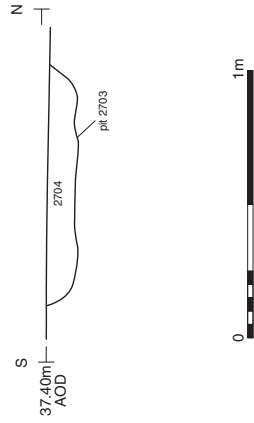


Quarry pit 2403, looking south-west (1m scales)



Pit 2703, looking west (0.5m scale)

Section HH



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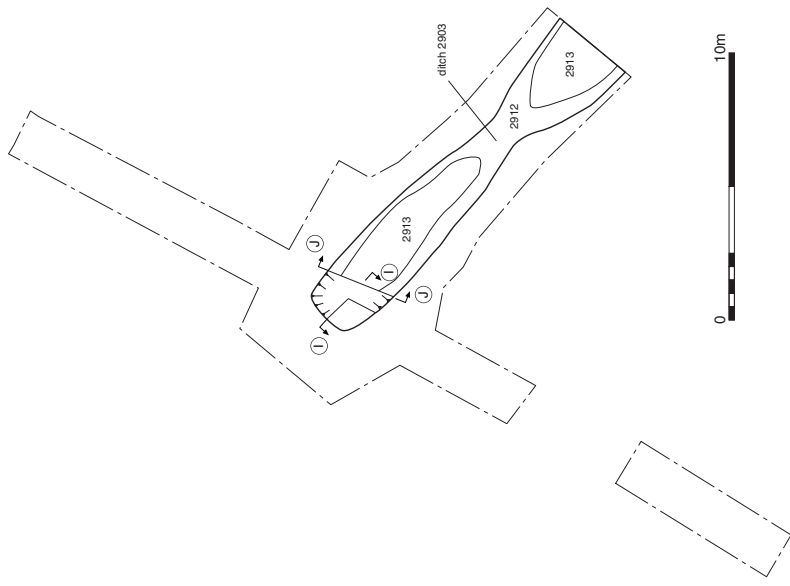
PROJECT TITLE

Great Wilbraham Solar Farm
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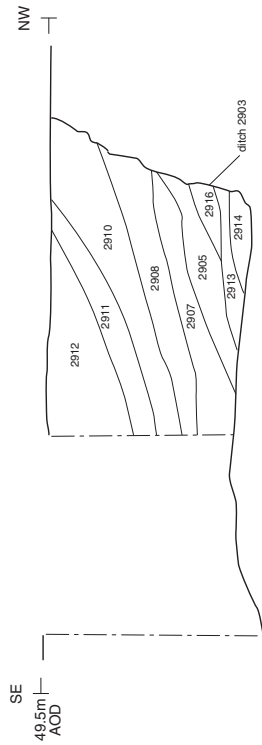
FIGURE TITLE

Trench 27: plan, section and
 photograph

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Section II



Section JU



Trench 29 extension, showing ditch 29003, looking east (1m scales)



North-west facing section of ditch 29003, looking south-east (1m scale)



North-east facing section of ditch terminus 29003, looking south-west (1m scale)


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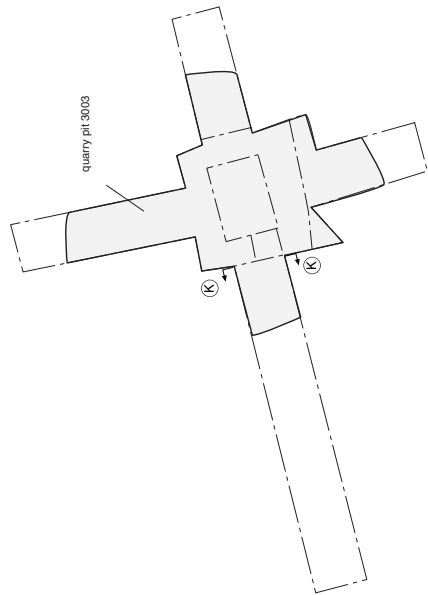
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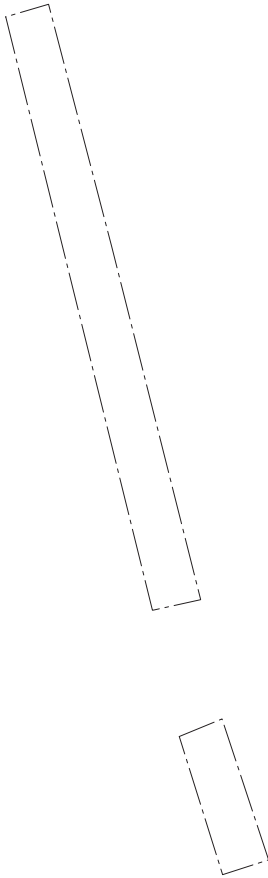
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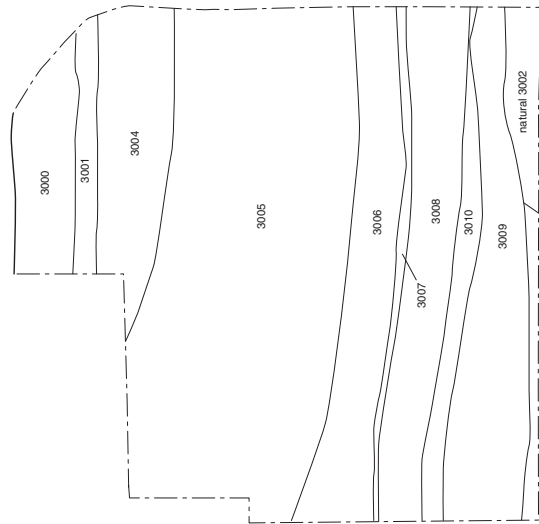
0 10m



Section KK

SE
51.15m
AOD

NW



0 1m



Trench 30 extension, showing quarry pit 3003 looking east (1m scales)