

**Flint Hill Farm Wind Turbine  
Yelvertoft  
Northamptonshire**

Archaeological Investigation



*for*  
**SBRice Consulting**


CA Project: 660239  
CA Report: 15116

March 2015

Flint Hill Farm Wind Turbine  
Yelvertoft  
Northamptonshire

Archaeological Investigation

CA Project: 660239  
CA Report: 15116

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date	9 March 2015
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Flint Hill Farm, Yelvertoft
<b>Location:</b>	Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 6037 7394
<b>Type:</b>	Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (Watching Brief)
<b>Date:</b>	19 January 2015
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	Daventry District Council DA/2012/0932
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
<b>Site Code:</b>	FHFY 15

In January 2015, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological investigation at Flint Hill Farm, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire. The work, which was commissioned by SBRice Consulting, was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to planning consent for the construction of a wind turbine on the site.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks within the area of the turbine, and there was no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period in the excavated spoil.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2015, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological investigation at Flint Hill Farm, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire (site centred on NGR: SP 6037 7394; Fig. 1). The work, which was commissioned by SBRice Consulting, was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to planning consent for the construction of a wind turbine on the site (Daventry District Council planning ref: DA/2012/0932, Condition 7).
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation (formally a *Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*) was requested by Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCCAAA), as the site lies within an area of archaeological potential. The requirements of the archaeological investigation were set out in a *Brief* issued by NCCAAA (2014), which was referred to in the preparation of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* by CA (2014).
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation was carried out in accordance with the WSI (CA 2014) and abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014) and the English Heritage (EH) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### **The site**

- 1.4 The site of the turbine is located in the north-east corner of an arable field, approximately 0.7km south-west of Flint Hill Farm and approximately 1.5km south-east of the village of Yelvertoft (Fig. 1). The site is accessed via an existing farm track that crosses the fields from the farm buildings. The turbine is situated on a north-west facing slope, overlooking the Grand Union Canal, at c. 145m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.5 The geology of the site comprises Jurassic rocks of the Dyrham Formation (interbedded siltstone and mudstone), overlain by mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2014).

### **Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.6 The detailed archaeological and historical background to the site has been presented in detail in a heritage desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs (2012). In brief, this concluded that there were no known heritage assets within the site, although evidence for prehistoric activity, in the form of worked flints, has been found at Cracks Hill, to the south-west of the turbine site. Fieldwalking finds and cropmarks to the south of Yelvertoft, approximately 0.4km north-west of the turbine site, indicate probable prehistoric and Romano-British settlement in this area. In the medieval period, the site lay within open fields surrounding the village of Yelvertoft and it has remains in agricultural use.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.7 The objectives of the archaeological investigation, as outlined in the WSI (CA 2014), 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;
  - establish the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation in the development site;
  - establish the relationship of any archaeological remains found at the site to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
  - recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region; and
  - recover palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.
  - 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.
- 1.8 In the absence of any archaeological remains, no site specific research objectives (as set out in Knight *et al.* 2012) can be identified.

### **Methodology**

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks within the area of the

wind turbine (Fig. 2). With the exception of a small length of track at its southern end, the access track followed an existing farm track; this was resurfaced with stone and no intrusive works were necessary. The proposed route of the cable trench has been relocated from the side of the farm track and will now extend north-westwards towards the marina. Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the cable trench will be carried out at a later date and the results added to this report as an addendum.

- 1.10 The archive from the archaeological investigation is currently held by CA at their office in Milton Keynes. When the facility becomes available, this will be deposited with the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain. A short summary of the archaeological investigation, with accompanying photographs, will, if appropriate, be placed on the NCC Planning website.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 The geological substrate (101), comprising mid reddish-brown clay with frequent flint pebbles, was revealed at an average depth of 0.20m below current ground level (Fig. 3). This was overlain by mid brown silty clay ploughsoil (100) with an average thickness of 0.20m (Fig. 4).
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of the spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was noted.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological remains were encountered by the archaeological investigation in the monitored areas and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were noted in the excavated spoil. The absence of archaeological remains suggests that the probable prehistoric and Romano-British activity identified to the north-west and south-west of the turbine site do not extend into this area.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Riley. The report was written by Derek Evans, with illustrations prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Riley and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. 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](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 25 March 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Flint Hill Farm, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation Recording, Analysis and Publication*, unpublished document

CgMs 2012 *Heritage Assessment: Land at Flint Hill Farm, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire*

Knight, D, Vyner, B and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, University of Nottingham/York Archaeological Trust

NCC (Northamptonshire County Council) 2014 *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works at Flint Hill Farm (Yelvertoft Marina), Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire*





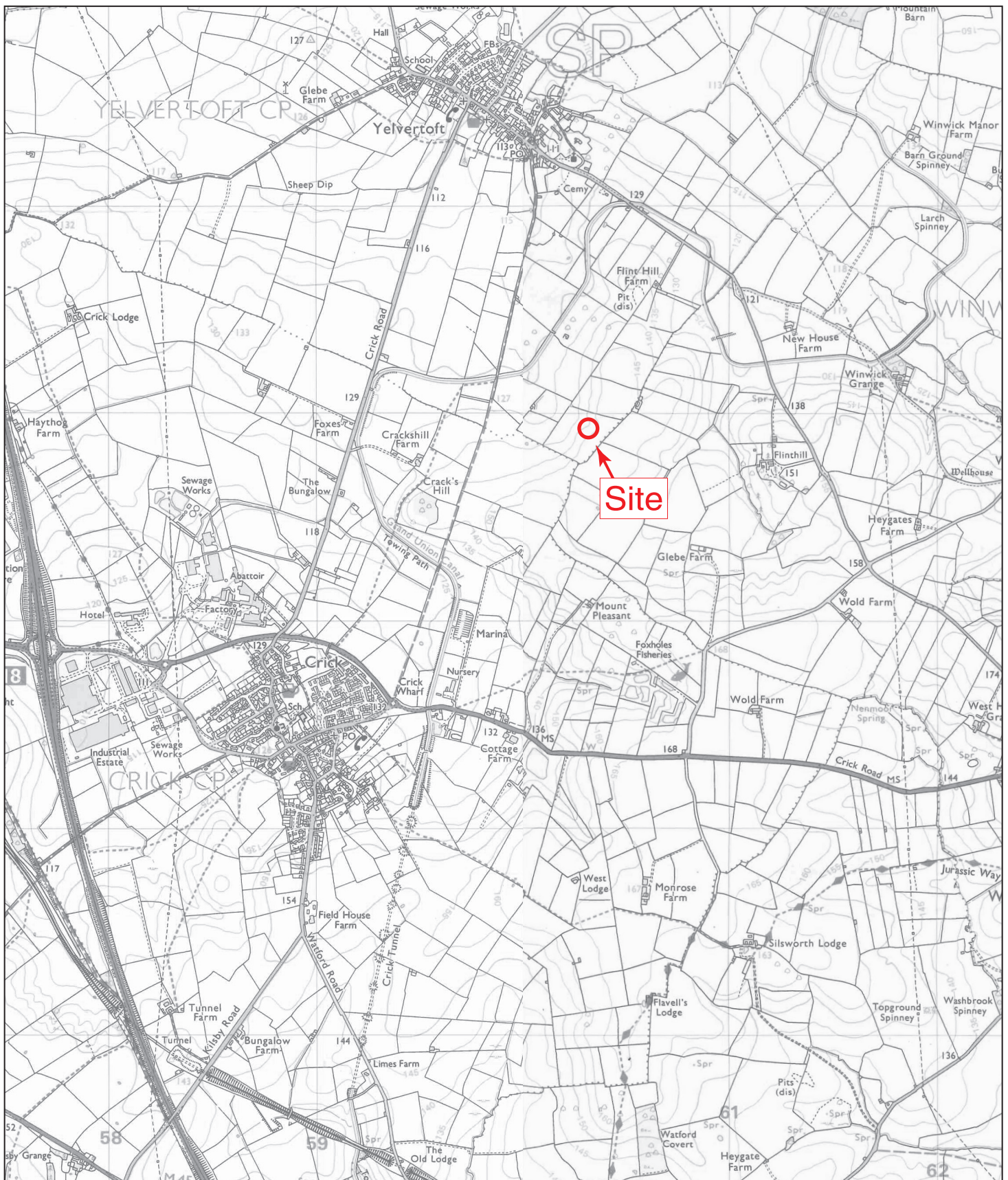
**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**


<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>L (m)</b>	<b>W (m)</b>	<b>D/T (m)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
100	Layer	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay	-	-	0.20	
101	Layer	Geology	Mid reddish-brown clay with frequent flint pebbles	-	-	-	



**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Flint Hill Farm, Yelvertoft , Northamptonshire	
Short description	No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks within the area of the turbine, and there was no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period in the excavated spoil.	
Project dates	19 January 2015	
Project type	Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (watching brief)	
Previous work	None	
Future work	None	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Flint Hill Farm, Yelvertoft , Northamptonshire	
Study area	0.01ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 6037 7394	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Derek Evans (CA)	
Project Supervisor	Dan Riley (CA)	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		
	Accession no: n/a	Content
Physical	Northamptonshire	None
Paper	Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC)	Site records and photos
Digital	Northamptonshire HER	Report, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Flint Hill Farm, Yelvertoft , Northamptonshire: Archaeological Investigation</i> CA typescript report <b>15116</b>		



 turbine site location



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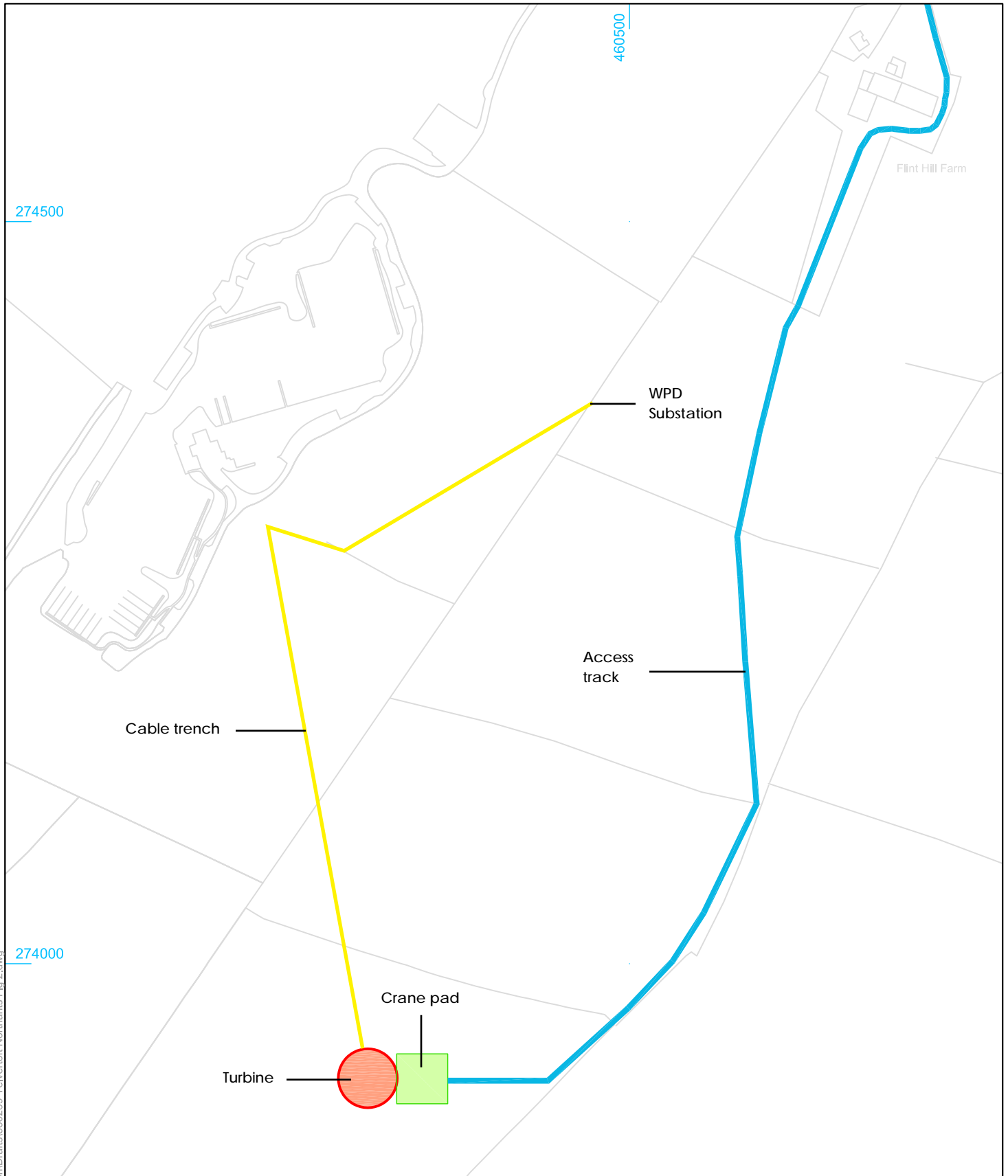
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Yelvertoft, Flint Hill Farm  
 Northamptonshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 660239	<b>DATE</b> 09-03-2015	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>DRAWN BY</b> JB	<b>REVISION</b> 00	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> DE	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	

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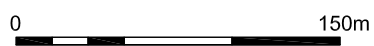
- turbine site location
- crane pad
- cable trench
- access track



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Plan showing the area of observed groundworks



<b>DRAWN BY</b>	660239	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	660239	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	JB	<b>DATE</b>	09/03/2015	<b>2</b>
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**3 View of groundworks in the area of the proposed turbine, looking north**

**4 General soil profile in the area of the crane pad**



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PROJECT TITLE

Yelvertoft, Flint Hill Farm  
 Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photographs**

DRAWN BY	JB	PROJECT NO.	660239	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	09/03/2015	<b>3 &amp; 4</b>
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	NA	