



**Berwick Solar Park, Wick Street  
Berwick  
East Sussex**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*  
**Susenco Management Limited**


CA Project: 770151

December 2014

Berwick Solar Park, Wick Street  
Berwick  
East Sussex

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 770151

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
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| date        | 05.12.14   |
| approved by | Richard Greatorex, Principal Fieldwork Manager                                       |
| signed      |  |
| date        | 05.12.14   |
| issue       | 01   |

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Berwick Solar Park  
**Location:** Berwick, East Sussex  
**NGR:** 552972 108467  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 27 November 2014  
**Planning Reference:** WD/2013/1664/MEA/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** Lewis Museum  
**Site Code:** BER 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with the development at Berwick Solar Park. The objective was to ensure that array was built to the exact requirements in terms of avoiding known archaeological potential. This had been established prior to the watching brief in terms of agreeing the design; the watching brief remit was to confirm (or otherwise) that the design was implemented as agreed.

Despite the prevailing weather, the wet (and therefore muddy) ground conditions did not deteriorate as seriously as had been feared. Machinery did not sink as deep into the topsoil as had been feared. This may have been as a result of contractors using tracked machinery wherever possible. The array lines were positioned as agreed and pile locations (as test surveyed and photographed) were revised and adapted as necessary (as agreed) to span known archaeological remains.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Susenco Management Limited at Berwick Solar Park (centred on NGR: 552972 108467; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for a brief update/review on the construction of the solar park (Planning ref: WD/2013/1664/MEA/FUL).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by the LPA. The fieldwork also followed the *standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of 20.1 ha, and comprises both arable and pasture. The eastern part of the Site comprises formal planned enclosures, located to the west of the road leading to Lower Claverham Farm which runs along the line of the Arlington Parish boundary. The western part of the Site is characterised by informal enclosures of a probable modern date. (Fig. 2). The Site is situated on relatively level ground, with a slight rise in the centre to c.22m above ordnance datum (aOD), from which the ground falls gradually and gently away to the east to c.15m aOD, and to a lesser extent westward, to c. 20m aOD. Ditches and a probably un-canalised stream in the site, drain to the south-east to join the River Cuckmere.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is varied with sandstones, siltstones and mudstones of the Cretaceous Lower Greensand Group mapped within the north-eastern part of the Site and Mudstones of the Gault Formation recorded in the south-western part of the Site (BGS online). Superficial deposits comprising Quaternary Head of clay, silt, sand and gravel overly a small area of the mudstones in the southern area of the western fields within the Site and the sandstones across the eastern part of the Site.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The archaeological background of the site has been discussed in previous reports reference to these proceeding documents should be made for full details. In summary, some limited potential for the occurrence of re-deposited Palaeolithic and *in situ* Mesolithic artefacts exists. Neolithic, Bronze Age remains are not recorded within the Site and, during the Neolithic period and possibly later, occupation was concentrated on the South Downs chalk some kilometres away. The lines of three Roman roads are recorded within c. 500m of the Site and small rectangular fields aligned along Roman roads are recorded locally. Pottery kilns and two possible Romano-British settlements are known nearby. Little early medieval (Saxon) potential was considered and no deserted medieval villages or sites are known suggesting that agricultural practices aside medieval occupation concentrated in the existing villages. The geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013) and subsequent trial trench evaluation (CA 2014) established a series of rectilinear enclosures towards the northern extent of the site that from dating appear to have been in use from the Middle Iron Age through to the early Romano-British period.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.7 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to to monitor the location of piling groundwork for the installation of solar panel racklegs and confirm that they conform to an agreed design which spans the known archaeology – see specifically pile location 23 on line 119
  - To report on site visits made to monitor the installation groundwork and confirm whether or not the design was implemented as agreed etc.
  - 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***

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present immediately intrusive groundwork/installation associated with the construction of the solar park (Figures 2-4).

- 1.9 Verification of the location of pile locations 22, 23 and 24 were assessed and written, graphic and photographic records compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

## **2. RESULTS (FIGURES 3-4)**

- 2.1 After locating pile positions 22, 23 and 24 on row 119 (of the Solar Panels) CA surveying archaeologist, Jeremy Clutterbuck, set out a survey baseline from which to check/survey the above (and other) pile/rackleg positions (see Figure 3), and was able to confirm found that the normal span width in this location had been increased in order to avoid a significant Roman enclosure ditch. As can easily be discerned with the naked eye (see photographs provided in Figure 4), the normal span has been lengthened considerably to ensure that any archaeological potential in that area can be sufficiently avoided. In other areas, the normal span (it can be confirmed) has been sufficient to avoid damaging other enclosure remains. The whole array has been successfully designed/positioned to avoid impact on known enclosure ditches.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Photographic evidence collected on site along with survey data indicates that sufficient effort has been made to avoid archaeological features especially those on row 119 of the Berwick Solar Park design. In addition, despite the wet weather conditions, there was less wheel rutting than anticipated and general impact from construction traffic. This may be due to the greater use of tracked machinery by the constructor, than has been recorded on other recently completed schemes. It will, however, be important in future years that should decommission/replacement be considered that care is taken when removing/replacing the array (or sections thereof) and that new/additional impact to the archaeological resource is avoided. Strategies to consider this issue should be planned and reviewed (by the relevant stakeholders), well in advance of implementation.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Clutterbuck. The report was compiled by Jeremy Clutterbuck. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Jeremy Clutterbuck, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex, who also edited this report.

#### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *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 19  
December 2013

Berwick Solar Farm Environmental Statement, Chapter 4 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Berwick Solar Park, Wick Street, Berwick, East Sussex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Berwick Solar Park, Wick Street, Berwick, East Sussex Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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

Hamilton, S 2003 'Sussex not Wessex: A regional perspective on southern Britain c. 1200-200 BC' in *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000* ed. D Rudling

Limbrey, S 1975 *Soil Science and Archaeology*, London, Academic Press

Stratascan 2013 *Geophysical Survey, Berwick Solar Farm*



**APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM**

| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>  |  |                                 |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Project Name  | Berwick Solar Park, Wick Street, Berwick, East Sussex  |                                 |
| Short description (250 words maximum)                           | <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with the development at Berwick Solar Park. The objective was to ensure that array was built to exact requirements in terms of avoiding known archaeological potential. This had been established prior to the watching brief in terms of agreeing the design; the watching brief remit was confirm (or otherwise) that the design was being implemented as agreed.</p> <p>Despite the prevailing weather, the wet and therefore muddy ground conditions did not deteriorate as seriously y as had been feared. Machinery did not sink as deep into the topsoil as had been feared. This may have been as a result of contractors using tracked machinery wherever possible.</p> <p>The array lines were positioned as agreed and pile locations (as test surveyed and photographed) were revised and adapted as necessary (as agreed) to span known archaeological remains.</p> |                                 |
| Project dates   | November 2014  |                                 |
| Project type<br>(e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)         | Watching Brief   |                                 |
| Previous work<br>(reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc) | Proj No. 770151, Site Code BER 14  |                                 |
| Future work   | None until decommission  |                                 |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>   |  |                                 |
| Site Location   | Berwick Solar Park, Wick Street, Berwick, East Sussex  |                                 |
| Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)                                 |  |                                 |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)                        | 552972 108467;   |                                 |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>   |  |                                 |
| Name of organisation  | Cotswold Archaeology   |                                 |
| Project Brief originator  | CA   |                                 |
| Project Design (WSI) originator                                 | CA   |                                 |
| Project Manager   | Richard Greatorex  |                                 |
| Project Supervisor  | Jeremy Clutterbuck   |                                 |
| <b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>  |  |                                 |
| None  |  |                                 |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>  |  |                                 |
| None  |  |                                 |
| <b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>   |  |                                 |
|   | Lewis Museum   | None                            |
| Physical  |  | None                            |
| Paper   |  | Context records/day book/report |
| Digital   |  | Digital photos/Cad survey data  |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>   |  |                                 |
|   |  |                                 |

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *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 19  
December 2013

Berwick Solar Farm Environmental Statement, Chapter 4 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Berwick Solar Park, Wick Street, Berwick, East Sussex:  
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

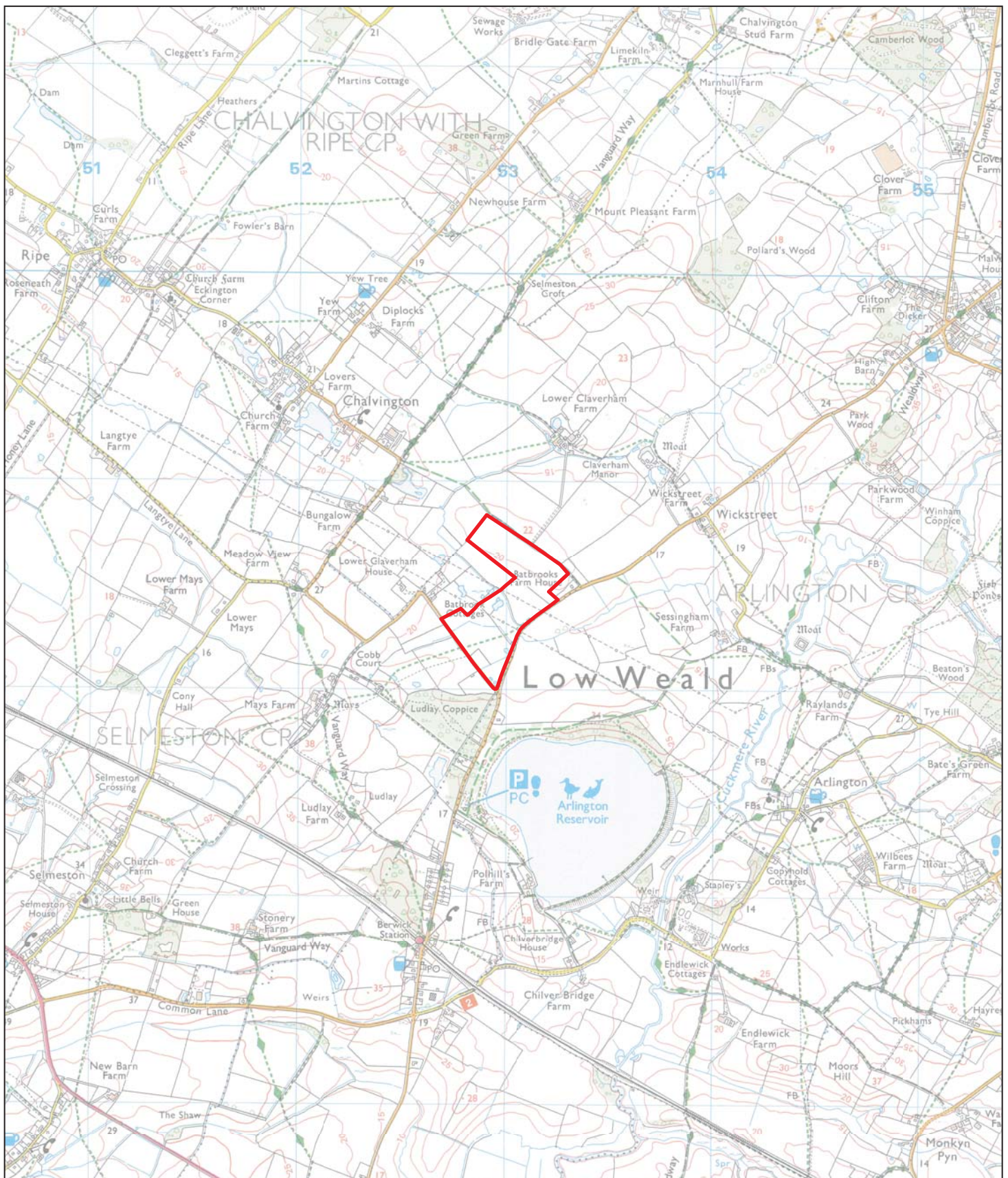
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Berwick Solar Park, Wick Street, Berwick, East Sussex Archaeological  
Evaluation Report*

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

Hamilton, S 2003 'Sussex not Wessex: A regional perspective on southern Britain c. 1200-  
200 BC' in *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000* ed. D Rudling

Limbrey, S 1975 *Soil Science and Archaeology*, London, Academic Press

Stratascan 2013 *Geophysical Survey, Berwick Solar Farm*



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**PROJECT TITLE**

**Berwick Solar Farm, Wick Street, Berwick East Sussex**

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Site location plan**

**DRAWN BY** AO **PROJECT NO.** 770151  
**CHECKED BY** JB **DATE** 12/01/2015  
**APPROVED BY** RG **SCALE@A3** 1:25,000

**FIGURE NO.**

**1**



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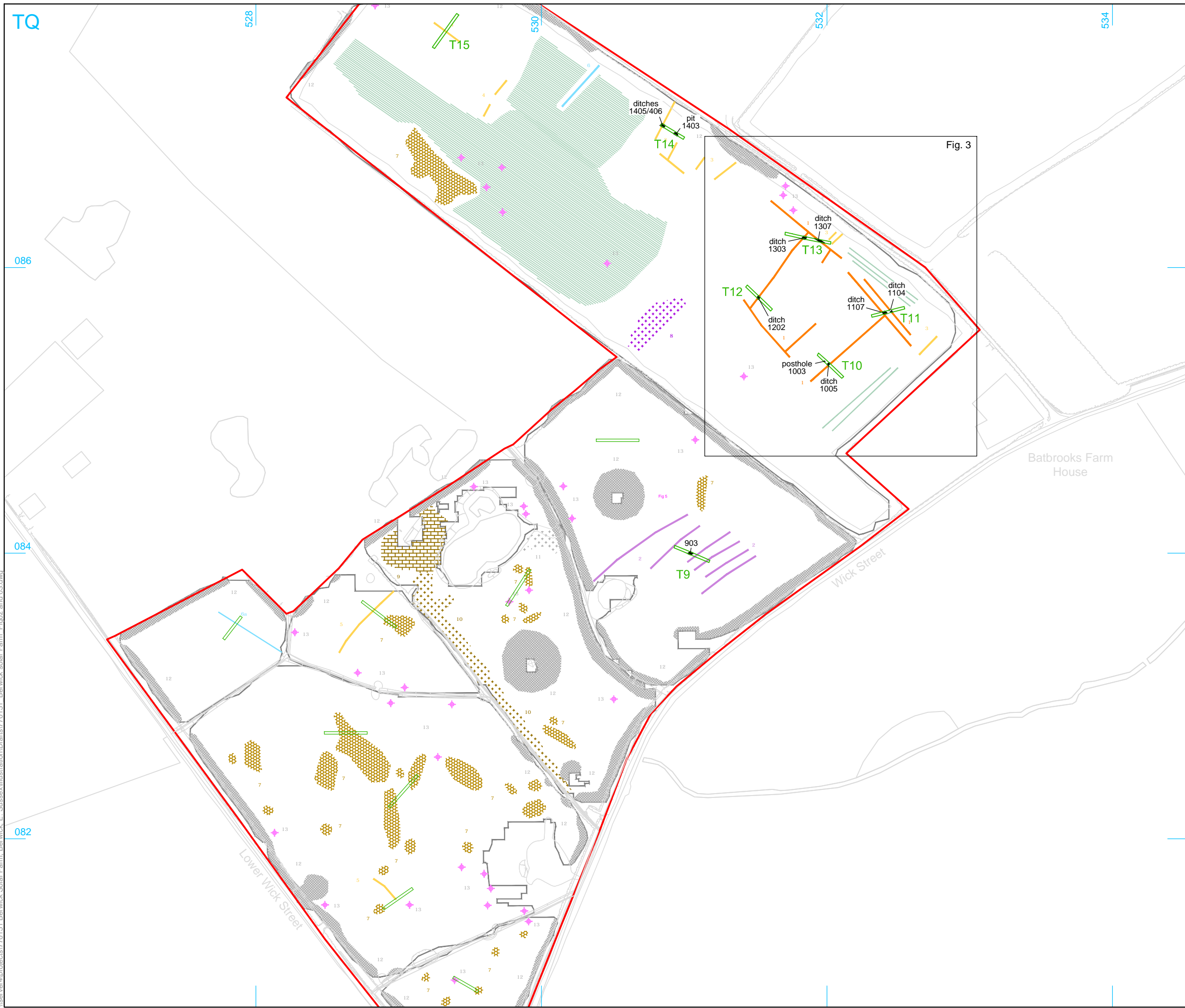
534

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench/excavation area
- archaeological feature

**GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS**

- PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY**
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
  - Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
- POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY**
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
  - Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- OTHER ANOMALIES**
- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
  - Magnetic disturbance related to former buildings present on available mapping until 1961
  - Magnetic disturbance related to a former track way present on available mapping until 1961
  - Linear scattered magnetic debris related to a former field boundary present on available mapping until 1961
  - Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
  - Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
  - Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
  - Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
  - Scattered magnetic debris
  - Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
  - Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object



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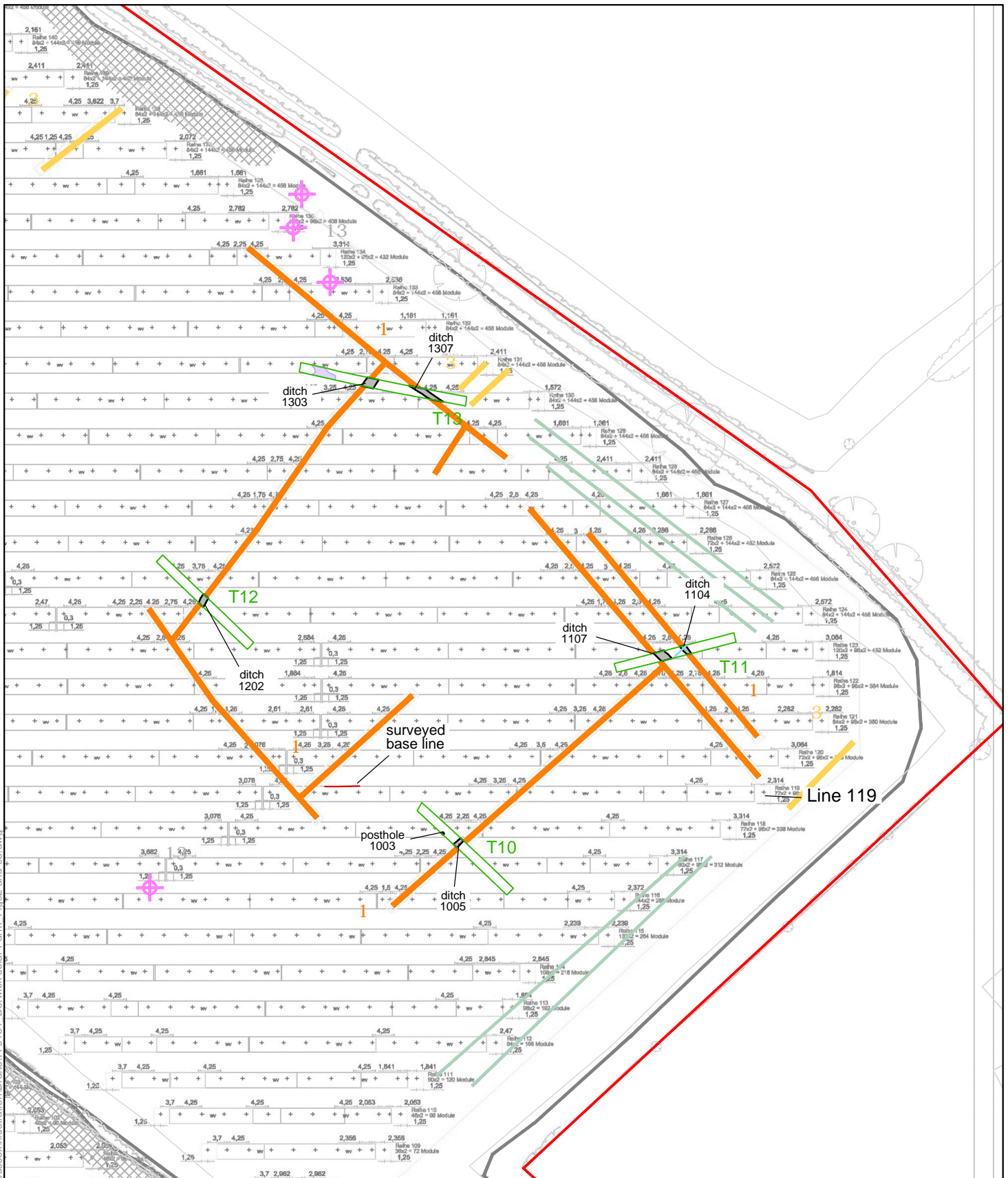
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Berwick Solar Farm, Wick Street, Berwick East Sussex

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

|                       |                           |                   |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>DRAWN BY</b> AO    | <b>PROJECT NO.</b> 770151 | <b>FIGURE NO.</b> |
| <b>CHECKED BY</b> JB  | <b>DATE</b> 12/01/2015    | <b>2</b>          |
| <b>APPROVED BY</b> RG | <b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:2500    |                   |



\\server4\projects\770151\Berwick Solar Farm, Berwick, E. Sussex\Illustration\Drawings\770151\_Berwick solar farm\_Fig02 and 03.dwg

- site boundary
  - evaluation trench
  - archaeological feature
  - geological feature
  - field drain
  - solar panel layout
- see Fig. 2 key for Geophysical Survey results



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Berwick Solar Farm, Wick Street, Berwick East Sussex

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Plan of line 119 in relation to the trenches, showing base line location and caps 23 & 24

**DRAWN BY** AO      **PROJECT NO.** 770151  
**CHECKED BY** JB      **DATE** 12/01/2015  
**APPROVED BY** RG      **SCALE@A3** 1:1000

**FIGURE NO.**

**3**







4



5

4 View of array 119 from the south-east (1m scales)

5 View of array from the south-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Berwick Solar Farm, Wick Street, Berwick East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

|             |    |             |            |            |
|-------------|----|-------------|------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY    | AO | PROJECT NO. | 770151     | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY  | JB | DATE        | 20/01/2015 | 4 & 5      |
| APPROVED BY | RG | SCALE@A4    | NA         |            |