

Trowle Solar Park Trowbridge Wiltshire

Archaeological Interim Excavation Report



for
Inazin

CA Project: 5483
CA Report: 15583

July 2015



Trowle Solar Park
Trowbridge
Wiltshire

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Summary

Project Name:	Trowle Solar Park
Location:	Trowbridge, Wiltshire
NGR:	ST 83350 58600
Type:	Excavation
Date:	13th July to 16th of July 2015
Planning Reference:	14/05313/PREAPP
Location of Archive:	Wiltshire Museum Service
Accession Number:	TBC
Site Code:	TROW15

A targeted archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2015 on land at Trowle Solar Park Trowbridge Wiltshire. This phase of work followed an earlier evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2015).

Two excavation areas (**Areas 1 and 2**) were targeted on archaeological features that had been recorded by the earlier evaluation, in the hope of further understanding their significance.

The excavation targeted on **Trench 4 (Area 1)** revealed a single isolated post hole **1703** possibly associated with the four other post holes and a pit that were found during the evaluation; the pit identified during the evaluation had contained 506 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery. Gully **402** identified during the evaluation was subsequently proven to be a modern land drain containing ceramic pipe with the worked flint recovered previously proving to be residual.

The second area targeted on **Trench 2 (Area 2)** revealed an undated boundary ditch, **1802** and **1804**. It is possible that the ditch in may have been part of the post-medieval/modern field system as it is on the same alignment as the existing field boundaries. The drip gully feature **202** was suggested to be associated with a possible shepherd's windbreak rather than a drip gully to a hut etc., and excavation has supplied no new evidence to provide an alternative theory. There is evidence within **Field 1** of temporary low level prehistoric and Middle Bronze Age activity.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In July 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological strip map and record on behalf of Inazin on land at Trowle Solar Park, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) ST 83350 58600, hereafter referred to as the Site (see Figure 1).
- 1.2 A request for a pre-application advice was submitted by the client to Wiltshire Council (WC), the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in May 2014. The response issued by the LPA (ref 14/05313/PREAPP) indicated that there was no requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment and that any environmental issues could be addressed through the planning application process. Rachael Foster, archaeological advisor to the LPA, requested that a programme of trial trenching was undertaken prior to the development. This evaluation identified two areas of potential archaeology in trenches **2** and **4**.
- 1.3 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015c) and approved by WC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014); 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 Rachel Foster, including a site visit on 15/7/15.

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development site is situated approximately 200m west of Trowle Common on the north-western outskirts of Trowbridge and c. 1.3km south of Bradford on Avon. The Kennet and Avon Canal is located approximately 1km to the north of the site, with the River Avon c. 1.8km to the north (see Figure 1).
- 1.5 The Site comprises an irregular parcel of land of approximately 13ha and occupies an entire agricultural field to the east and a south-eastern part of another large field to the west. The boundaries of the Site are demarcated by mature hedgerows with trees. Both fields are laid to grass. The Site is bounded to the south by Westwood Road and by farmland to the west, north and east. An electricity substation is

located directly adjacent to the Site, along Westwood Road, with several overhead power lines traversing the Site (see Figure 2).

- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Formation, consisting of mudstone, sandy sedimentary bedrock which was formed 161 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic period. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel (BGS online).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric (pre- AD 43)

- 2.1 There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the Site. The findspots of two flint flakes of unknown date, but likely prehistoric in origin, are recorded c. 600m and 1km to the south-east of the site and a probable Bronze Age barrow, identified as a cropmark on aerial photographs, c. 950m to the west. In the wider landscape, a small number of prehistoric flints, as well as evidence for Bronze Age occupation, have been found in Trowbridge, approximately 1.9km to the southwest of the site (McMahon 2004). Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age finds have also been collected in Bradford on Avon, c. 2.4km to the north of the site, although there is no evidence for settlement in the town until the establishment of the hillfort at Budbury Hill in the Early Iron Age (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service 2004).

Romano-British (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 2.2 During the Romano-British period, the Site fell within the wider rural hinterland of Aquae Sulis (Bath); a Roman town located approximately 9.8km to the north-west. There is limited evidence for Romano-British activity within the vicinity of the site. Fields known as 'blacklands', are recorded on historic maps approximately 80m to the west of the Site (Owen 1841). The name 'blacklands' often indicates an area of former settlement activity, which could be of Romano-British date, however, the review of aerial photographs failed to identify any features which could have been associated with such activity in this area. Nevertheless, there is some evidence for Roman activity within the wider surroundings of the Site. It is indicated by a number of findspots of Roman period pottery and coins, with further finds recorded in

Trowbridge (McMahon 2004). It is possible that these findspots represent a background scatter of Roman artefacts, perhaps associated with contemporaneous agricultural practices. In the wider landscape, a Roman villa site, with associated bath house and burials, is recorded in Bradford to the north of the study area (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service 2004).

Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

- 2.3 There is no archaeological evidence for early medieval activity within the surroundings of the Site. However, a number of settlements within the broader environs of the Site are mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and are therefore likely to have been established in the early medieval period. Trowle, mentioned as Trole, comprised a small landholding which formed a tithing within the manor of Bradford. Bradford is first mentioned in AD 652 and a monastery was founded in the settlement in the early 8th century AD (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service 2004). Trowle was held by Brictric and the name of the settlement derives from a Saxon word *treow* which means 'a tree' (Jones 1907, Pugh et al 1953).
- 2.4 In the medieval period, Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge developed as towns (McMahon 2004, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service 2004), with the rural landscape between these settlements considered to have comprised scattered villages and farmsteads. Widbrook, c. 630m to the north of the Site, is first mentioned in 1279. It is also likely that a series of well-defined earthworks observed at Arnolds Hill c. 720m to the south of the site indicate a deserted medieval village.
- 2.5 The landscape surrounding these settlements is thought to have been utilised for agriculture throughout the medieval period. Many of the field boundaries observed as cropmarks and earthworks on aerial photographs are thought to be of medieval or post-medieval origin. The majority of these assets are located within the wider landscape, but banked and ditched boundaries have also been identified in close proximity to the Site, approximately 65m to the east. The evidence for arable cultivation within the study area during the medieval and post-medieval period is provided by ridge and furrow earthworks, identified on aerial photographs.

Post-medieval (AD 1539 – 1800) and Modern (AD 1801 - present)

- 2.6 During the post-medieval period, the Site continued to have been located within the rural surroundings of settlements and there is no evidence to indicate settlement activity within the Site during this period. The majority of the recorded heritage assets within the study area are of post-medieval period and these seem to have been associated with agriculture. These assets are scattered within the study area and comprise the remains of field systems, ridge and furrow cultivation, water meadows and a woodland enclosure.
- 2.7 The early editions of Ordnance Survey mapping (1890, and 1901, not reproduced) show that the site and its surroundings were subject to limited changes and development in the late 19th and early 20th century. The maps depict that trees were present along many of the field boundaries, suggesting an enclosed landscape with limited long ranging views, with several tree copses recorded within the western field. The farm track depicted on earlier mapping is no longer shown on the 1890 map.
- 2.8 Subsequent Ordnance Survey maps (1926 and later, not reproduced) and aerial photographs taken between the 1940s and 1990s show that the Site continued to have been used for agriculture and the limited development recorded within the Site include two temporary access tracks and agricultural barns recorded in the 1940s and an additional field boundary to the west of the Site, shown on the 1970s maps. These features had been removed in the second half of the 20th century. The overhead power lines which cross the Site and the electricity substation adjacent to the Site were constructed after the Second World War.
- 2.9 There are a number of heritage assets within the wider vicinity of the Site relating to the Second World War. The anti-invasion stop line of 1940 along the Kennet and Avon Canal falls within the northern part of the study area, approximately 720m to the north of the Site. The structures associated with the stop line include pillboxes, roadblocks, and a military building (CA 2014).

Geophysical Survey Results

- 2.10 A geophysical survey undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics in December 2014 identified only limited evidence for archaeology within the boundaries of the Site. Linear and discrete anomalies recorded at the north-western edge of the Site perhaps display the greatest potential as pits and ditches, although this interpretation is somewhat tempered by their location within two small recently removed plots. A small number of further potential ditches were detected to the south of these, with others in the eastern part of the Site. Linear anomalies in the eastern part of the Site are largely of probable recent agricultural origin, comprising potential former boundaries, land drains and cultivation (predominately ridge and furrow). Stronger responses include those induced by buried services and an electricity sub-station boundary and electricity poles (PCG 2014). Many of the linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey were found during the evaluation to consist of historic field boundaries likely dating to the post-medieval period.

Previous 2015 Evaluation Results

- 2.12 The evaluation revealed correlation between the linear anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and the archaeological features identified within **Trenches 9, 10, 11 and 14** within **Field 2**. Archaeological features revealed within **Trenches 2, 4 and 5** within **Field 1** were not identified during the geophysical survey.
- 2.13 Prehistoric settlement activity was identified within **Trenches 2 and 4**. The evaluation identified a pen-annular drip gully and two postholes within **Trench 2**, which are often considered indicative of a simple roundhouse. However the projected diameter of the drip gully appeared considerably smaller than that for the typical roundhouse and the remains might simply be those of a lean-to or windbreak for farmworkers or shepherds. Within **Trench 4**, a pit, four postholes and a linear ditch/gully were found in close proximity. A large assemblage of Middle Bronze Age domestic pottery was found within the pit and it is possible that the neighbouring ditch/gully and postholes may be associated with it. It is also likely that the undated features identified within **Trench 2** may be of similar date to those found within **Trench 4**. However the features appear to be solely focussed on **Trenches 2 and 4** and it is unclear whether the features identified represent temporary or more permanent activity.

- 2.14 Ditches were found within **Trench 5** within **Field 2** and **Trenches 9, 10, 11** and **14** within **Field 1**. It is likely that these features represent historic field boundaries which can be dated to the post-medieval period based on the modern composition of the ditch fills, their alignment parallel to existing field boundaries and the finds that were recovered from some of them.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the excavation were:

- to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site and to especially identify the nature and date of archaeological features identified during the earlier evaluation.
- to clarify whether any features identified are associated with a concentrated settlement including establishing whether a suspected cremation burial identified in the evaluation was part of a larger cemetery / ritual environment.
- 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.
- to confirm the extent of the activity around **Trenches 2** and **4**.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015c). The location of the two excavation areas were agreed with Rachel Foster (WC), informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation (CA 2015b). Two excavation areas measuring 10m by 10m were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual* (see **Figure 2**). The excavation area was scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.

4.2 Following consultation with Rachel Foster the two areas were extended further:

- **Area 1**, centred on **Trench 4**, was extended around the north east corner. A further 3m x 3m area was excavated centred on post hole **1703**.
- **Area 2**, centred on **Trench 2**, was extended to the north. A further 5m x 5m area was excavated to define and characterise ditch **1802** and **1804**.

- 4.3 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation area by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision.
- 4.4 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and five features considered to have potential for characterising the earlier phases of activity were sampled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.6 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2–8)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results. The results of the Evaluation (CA 2015b) are included for the sake of completeness.
- 5.2 The spot dating evidence of the Evaluation (CA 2015b) indicates that the majority of archaeological activity on site dates to the Middle Bronze Age or Prehistoric periods.

Trench 2 (Evaluation results)

- 5.3 A drip gully, **202**, was located centrally within **Trench 2** and was not identified during the geophysical survey. The drip gully was sub-circular in plan with a u-shaped profile, faced north-west and contained a single fill, **203**. Two fragments of burnt flint were recovered from fill **203**. A soil sample from the fill also contained a small assemblage of poorly preserved charcoal. This material is indicative of discarded hearth sweepings. It is likely that this feature is associated with a temporary structure, such as a windbreak or lean-to equivalent.
- 5.4 Posthole **208** contained a single fill **209** but was only partially excavated. Posthole **208** was cut by Posthole **204**. Both of these postholes were sub-circular in plan and

consisted of u-shaped profiles with steep sides. In plan the two postholes appeared to resemble a single north-east/south-west orientated linear feature located centrally within the radius of drip gully **202**. Posthole **204** consisted of post-packing (**205**) and a steep post-pipe interface (**206**) with a single fill **207**. Nine fragments of burnt flint were recovered from fill **207** and also a soil sample which contained a large assemblage of poorly preserved oak charcoal. Given the identification of a single species, this fill may represent a post which has been burnt in situ. Alternatively the post may have been removed and backfilled with a dump of hearth debris. No artefact evidence was identified within posthole **208**. It is likely that these features are associated with a farmers/shepherd's windbreak/lean-to. Postholes **204** and **208** were not identified during the geophysical survey.

Trench 4 (Evaluation results)

- 5.6 Gulley **402** was located centrally within **Trench 4** and was not identified during the geophysical survey. The gulley was linear in plan, orientated north-west/south-east, consisted of steep sides and a flat base and contained a single fill, **403**. The gulley terminated to the north-west within the extended trench. A worked flint flake was recovered from ditch fill **403**. It was thought likely that gulley **402** was associated with pit **404** and postholes **408**, **410**, **412** and **414** which were located directly south and west respectively.
- 5.7 Pit **404** was located centrally within **Trench 4** and was not identified during the geophysical survey. The pit was 100% excavated due to the extensive assemblage of pottery found within. The shallow pit was circular in plan, consisted of gradual sides and a flat base and contained a primary basal fill, **405** and secondary fills **406** and **407** respectively. Five hundred and six sherds in a vesicular fabric were recovered from hand-excavation and bulk sampling of fill **406** of Pit **404**. This pottery appears to represent a single, incomplete vessel, possibly barrel-shaped, with thick walls and a flat base. The form, fabric and firing characteristics are suggestive of a Middle Bronze Age date. A soil sample taken from fill **406** also contained a small number of hazelnut shells (*Corylus avellana*), an indeterminate cereal grain and a grass species stem. Charcoal was moderately abundant and moderately well preserved and identified as oak (*Quercus*), hawthorn/rowan/crab apple (*Crataegus monogyna*/Sorbus/*Malus sylvestris*), cherry species (*Prunus*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). This charred material together with other artefactual evidence such as pottery, flint and burnt flint is indicative of a dump of domestic waste. It is

likely that pit **404** is associated with gully **402** and postholes **408**, **410**, **412** and **414** which were located directly north and west respectively.

- 5.8 Posthole **414** was located centrally within **Trench 4** and was not identified during the geophysical survey. The posthole was circular in plan, consisted of gradual sides and contained a primary fill, **415** and secondary fill **416**. A soil sample taken from the secondary fill contained hazelnut shells, oak buds and immature involucre (acom cups) and a cleavers seed. The charcoal was poorly preserved and identified as oak charcoal. It is likely that posthole **414** is associated with postholes **408**, **410** and **412** and gully **402** which were located in close proximity.
- 5.9 Postholes **408**, **410** and **412** were located centrally within **Trench 4** and were not identified during the geophysical survey. The postholes were circular in plan but were not excavated during the evaluation. It is likely that these postholes are associated with posthole **414** and gully **402** which were located in close proximity.

Excavation Area 1 (Focussed on Trench 4) Figure 2

- 5.10 Approximately 8m to the NE of pit **404** was an isolated posthole **1703**. The post hole was circular in plan, consisted of steep concave sides and flat undulating base and contained a two fills **1704** and **170** . A single struck flint was recovered from **1704**.
- 5.11 Gully **402 (Trench 4)** extended further to the south east. Upon re-machining **Trench 4** a section of ceramic land pipe was located in the gully terminus, indicating rather than having a prehistoric date, it is actually modern.

Area 2 (Located on Trench 2) Figure 2

- 5.12 Approximately 3.5m north-west of **208** was a ditch terminus **1804 (Fig 7)**. The ditch, **1804 (Fig 6)** and **1802**, was linear in plan and aligned north east/south west. The ditch had gradual strait sides with a shallow concave base and a single fill, **1805** and **1803** respectively. This was mid brown/grey with orange mottling, silty clay and was very compact and sterile.
- 5.13 A single unrecorded tree throw was surveyed just to the south west of the ditch terminus.
- 5.14 Gully **202** extended 0.4m beyond the western edge of **Trench 2**.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Finds recovered from evaluation **Trenches 2 and 4** include pottery, and worked flint.

Finds recovered from evaluation include pottery, ceramic building material and worked flint.

Pottery: Early Prehistoric

6.2 Five hundred and six sherds in a vesicular fabric, which is likely to have resulted from the leaching of calcareous inclusions, were recovered from hand-excavation and bulk sampling of fill **406** of pit **404**. This pottery appears to represent a single, incomplete vessel, possibly barrel-shaped, with thick walls and a flat base. The form, fabric and firing characteristics are suggestive of a Middle Bronze Age date.

Post-medieval/modern

6.3 Two sherds of transfer-printed refined whiteware, dateable to the late 18th to 19th centuries, were recorded in fill **1404** of ditch **1403**.

Ceramic building material

6.4 Fill **1004** of ditch/hollow way **1003** produced a fragment of ceramic building material of post-medieval date.

Worked flint

6.5 A total of 11 worked flint items was recorded in four deposits (**see Appendix B**), along with 18 pieces of burnt, unworked flint weighing a total of 3g. The worked flints comprise: four flakes, one blade, four chips and two cores. Several of the worked flints had also been burnt, including the two cores, both of which had been used to produce flakes: one was a dual-platform type and the other was multi-platform. The only diagnostic item amongst the worked flints is the well-made blade from topsoil 400. This residual item is likely to be Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date.

7 THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE (EVALUATION)

Plant Macrofossils

7.1 Three environmental samples (70 litres of soil) were retrieved and processed with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures.

Middle Bronze Age (1500 – 1100 BC)

- 7.2 Fill **406** within **Pit 404** (sample **1601**) contained a small number of hazelnut shells (*Corylus avellana*), an indeterminate cereal grain and a grass species stem. Charcoal was moderately abundant and moderately well preserved and identified as oak (*Quercus*), hawthorn/rowan/crab apple (*Crataegus monogyna/Sorbus/Malus sylvestris*), cherry species (*Prunus*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). This charred material together with other artefactual evidence such as pottery, flint and burnt flint is indicative of a dump of domestic waste. Hazelnut shells are a frequent find in the Bronze Age period and are indicative of wild food collection. The indeterminate cereal grain may indicate crop processing or domestic food production in the area, but a larger assemblage would be required to come to a firm conclusion.

Undated

- 7.3 Posthole **414** (sample **1604**) contained no dating evidence, although it may be associated with Middle Bronze Age pit **404**. The posthole contained hazelnut shells, oak buds and immature involucre (acorn cups) and a cleavers seed. The charcoal was poorly preserved and identified as oak charcoal. The presence of a single species does suggest that the post may have been burnt *in-situ*, however the presence of oak buds and immature acorn cups suggests the burning of oak twigs rather than a single large timber. This suggests the post had been removed and posthole backfilled with firing debris. Acorn cups themselves are rarely found in Bronze Age assemblages; although since they appear to have been attached to small twigs suggest they were inadvertently burnt, rather than being deliberately collected for use.
- 7.4 Drip gully **202** (sample **1602**) contained a small assemblage of poorly preserved charcoal. This material is indicative of discarded hearth sweepings, possibly associated with activities within the drip gully. Post-pipe fill **207** (sample **1603**) within Posthole **204** contained a large assemblage of poorly preserved oak charcoal. Given the identification of a single species, this fill may represent a post which has been burnt *in situ*. Alternatively the post may have been removed and backfilled with a dump of hearth debris.
- 7.5 The hazelnut shells and hawthorn/rowan/crab apple, cherry species and blackthorn charcoal would be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Undated

- 7.3 Posthole **414** (sample **1604**) contained no dating evidence, although it may be associated with Middle Bronze Age pit **404**. The posthole contained hazelnut shells, oak buds and immature involucre (acorn cups) and a cleavers seed. The charcoal was poorly preserved and identified as oak charcoal. The presence of a single species does suggest that the post may have been burnt *in-situ*, however the presence of oak buds and immature acorn cups suggests the burning of oak twigs rather than a single large timber. This suggests the post had been removed and posthole backfilled with firing debris. Acorn cups themselves are rarely found in Bronze Age assemblages; although since they appear to have been attached to small twigs suggest they were inadvertently burnt, rather than being deliberately collected for use.
- 7.4 Drip gully **202** (sample **1602**) contained a small assemblage of poorly preserved charcoal. This material is indicative of discarded hearth sweepings, possibly associated with activities within the drip gully. Post-pipe fill **207** (sample **1603**) within Posthole **204** contained a large assemblage of poorly preserved oak charcoal. Given the identification of a single species, this fill may represent a post which has been burnt in situ. Alternatively the post may have been removed and backfilled with a dump of hearth debris.

8. Discussion

- 8.1 The excavation targeted on **Trench 4 (Area 1)** revealed a single additional isolated post hole **1703**, possibly associated with the other post holes and a pit that were recorded during the evaluation (CA 2015b). Gully **402** was proven to be a post-medieval/modern land drain with ceramic pie and not part of a prehistoric field boundary. The four post holes and pit found in **Trench 4** and the fifth post hole in **Area 1** may have been broadly contemporary with each other and possibly temporary in nature.
- 8.2 A full analysis of the pottery found within pit **404** will be undertaken by Ed McSloy and reported on in the final report once the watching brief has been undertaken.
- 8.3 The second area targeted on **Trench 2 (Area 2)** revealed an undated boundary ditch, **1802** and **1804**. The Evaluation (CA 2015b) report suggested that the drip gully **202** may be associated with a possible roundhouse structure, this was proven

not to be the case. Due to the shallow nature of the feature and relative size it is more than likely a temporary shelter or wind break.

- 8.4 It is possible that the ditch in **Area 1 (1802 and 1804)** may have been part of the post-medieval/modern field system as it is on the same alignment as the existing field boundaries.
- 8.5 There is evidence within **Field 1** of temporary low level Prehistoric (Middle Bronze Age) activity of a much dispersed nature. Further works at the site will comprise a watching brief of groundwork for the inverter station and mains service connecting the solar development to the grid in the western half of the development. This will be to ensure that any further dispersed remains can be recorded by record prior to their removal/truncation.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard and Mat Nichol. The report was written by Adam Howard and Mat Nichol. The pottery report was written by Ed McSloy, the worked flint report by Jacky Sommerville, the faunal remains report by Matilda Holmes and the plant microfossils and charcoal report by Sarah Cobain. The illustrations will be prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive will be compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex and the post-excavation was managed by Karen Walker.

10. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 10.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices in Andover whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes, which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project. A summary of information from this project, set out within **Appendix D**, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

11. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 9 June 2015
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015a *Trowle Solar Park, Trowbridge, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015b *Trowle Solar Park, Trowbridge, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation.*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015c *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation.*
- PCG (Pre-Construct Geophysics) 2014 *Archaeological Geophysical Survey, Trowle Solar Farm, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	1701	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	-	-	0-0.3
1	1702	Layer	Natural	Mid yellowish orange silty clay	-	-	0.3+
1	1703	Cut	Posthole	Circular in plan steep concave sides flat undulating base	0.2m diameter		0.3-0.37
1	1704	Fill	Lower fill of 1703	Light yellowish brown silty clay	0.2m diameter		0.04
1	1705	Fill	Upper fill of 1703	Mid brownish grey silty clay frequent charcoal	0.2m diameter		0.03
2	1800	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay			0-0.3
2	1801	Layer	Natural	Mid yellowish orange silty clay			0.3+
2	1802	Cut	Ditch	Linear in plan gradual strait sides shallow concave base ne/sw alignment	1m slot	0.4	0.09
2	1803	Fill	Of 1802	Mixed orangey and brownish grey silty clay	1m slot	0.4	0.09
2	1804	Cut	Ditch Terminus	Linear terminus in plan gradual strait sides shallow irregular concave base ne/sw alignment	0.8m slot	0.4	0.08
2	1805	Fill	Of 1804	Mixed orange and brownish grey silty clay	0.8m slot	0.4	0.08

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
203 <1602>	Burnt flint	2	<1	-
207 <1603>	Burnt flint	9	2	-
400	Worked flint: blade	1	2	-
403	Worked flint: flake	1	2	-
406	Early prehistoric pottery: vesicular fabric	340	1194	MBA
<1601>	Early prehistoric pottery: vesicular fabric	166	14	
<1601>	Slag	1	3	
	Worked flint: flakes, core	3	12	
<1601>	Worked flint: flake, chips	5	1	
<1601>	Burnt flint	7	<1	
500	Worked flint: core	1	14	Prehistoric
1004	Post-medieval ceramic building material	1	5	Post-medieval
1404	Post-medieval/modern pottery: transfer-printed refined whiteware	2	3	LC18-C19

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Plant macrofossil identifications

Context number				406	203	207	416
Feature number				404	202	204	414
Sample number (SS)				1601	1602	1603	1604
Flot volume (ml)				31	3.5	29.5	32.5
Sample volume processed (l)				40	8	18	4
Soil remaining (l)				0	0	0	0
Period				MBA	UD	UD	UD
Plant macrofossil preservation				Moderate	N/A	N/A	Moderate
Habitat Code	Family	Species	Common Name				
HSW	Betulaceae	<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazelnut shells	+			+
HSW	Fagaceae	<i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl./ <i>Quercus robur</i> L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak (buds)				++
HSW	Fagaceae	<i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl./ <i>Quercus robur</i> L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak (involucre)				+
HSW	Fagaceae	<i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl.	Sessile Oak (involucre)				+
P/D	Poaceae	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> (L.) P. Beauv. ex J. & C. Presl	False Oat-grass				
E		Poaceae	Indeterminate cereal grain (whole)	+			
E		Poaceae	Grass sp stem	+			
A/D	Rubiaceae	<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	Cleavers				+

Charcoal identifications

Context number				406	203	207	416
Feature number				404	202	204	414
Sample number (SS)				1601	1602	1603	1604
Flot volume (ml)				31	3.5	29.5	32.5
Sample volume processed (l)				40	8	18	4
Soil remaining (l)				0	0	0	0
Period				MBA	UD	UD	UD
Charcoal quantity				++++	+++	+++++	++++
Charcoal preservation				Moderate	Poor	Poor	Poor
Family	Species	Common Name					
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl./ <i>Quercus robur</i> L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak	6	10	10	10	
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq./ <i>Sorbus</i> L./ <i>Malus</i> <i>sylvestris</i> (L.) Mill.	Hawthorn/Rowans/Crab apple	1				
	<i>Prunus</i> L.	Cherries	2				
	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.	Blackthorn	1				
Total			10	10	10	10	

Key

D = opportunistic species; A = arable weed; P = grassland species; HSW = hedgerow/woodland/scrub species; E = Economic species

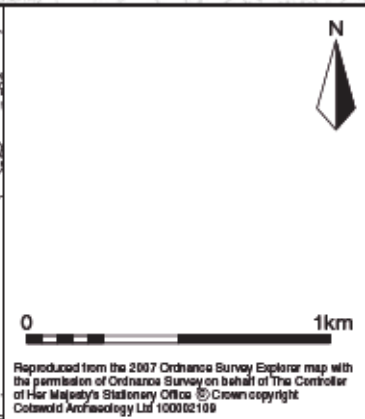
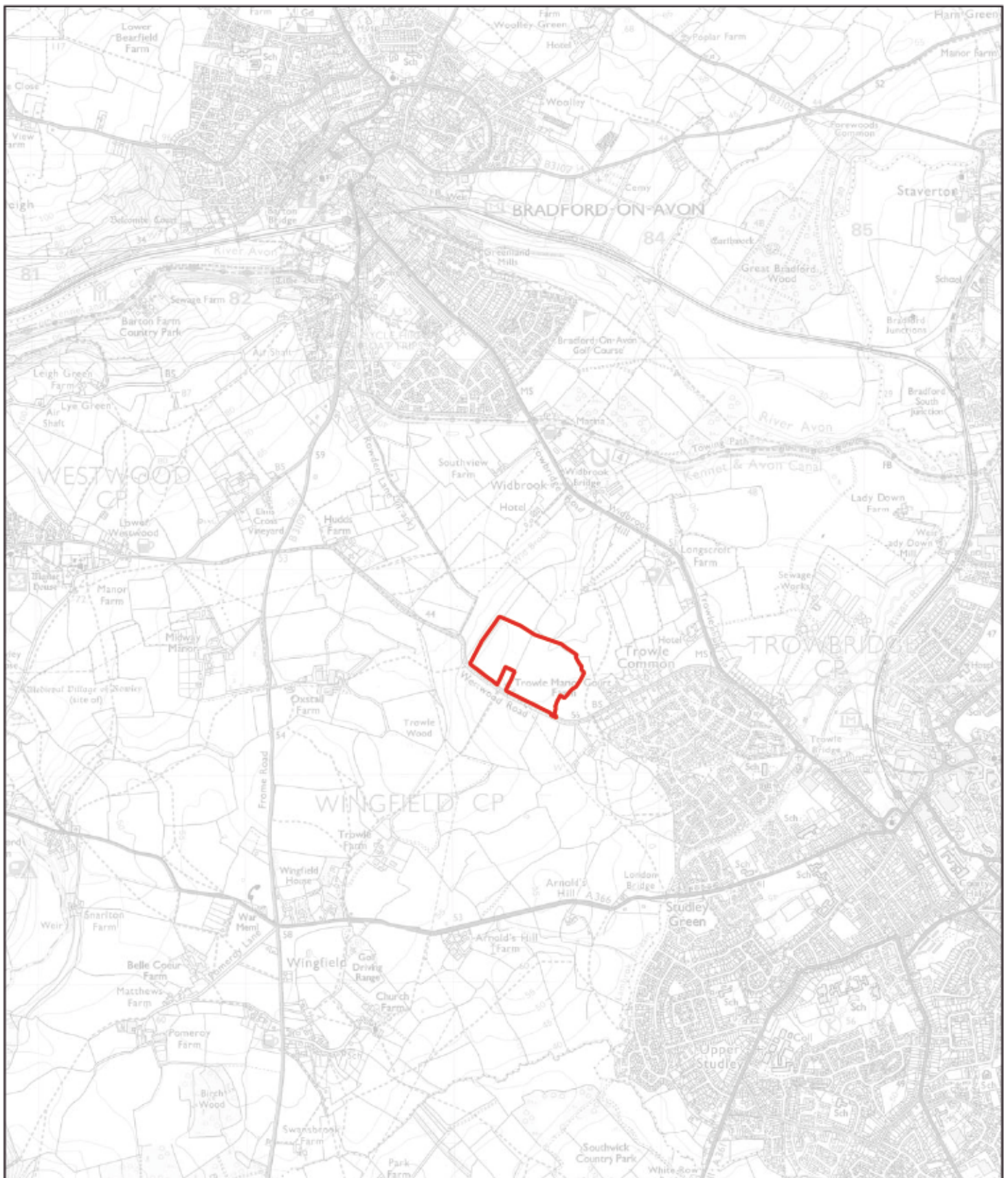
+ = 1–4 fragments; ++ = 4–20 items; +++ = 21–49 items; ++++ = 50–99 items; +++++ = 100–500 items; ++++++ = >500 items


UD = Undated

MBA = Middle Bronze Age

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Trowle Solar Park, Trowbridge, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>Two excavation areas (Areas 1 and 2) were targeted on archaeological features that had been recorded by the earlier evaluation, in the hope of further understanding their significance.</p> <p>The excavation targeted on Trench 4 (Area 1) revealed a single isolated post hole 1703 possibly associated with the four other post holes and a pit that were found within the Evaluation, the pit contained 506 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery. Gully 402 was proven to be a modern land drain containing ceramic pipe.</p> <p>The second area targeted on Trench 2 (Area 2) revealed an undated boundary ditch, 1802 and 1804. It is possible that the ditch in may have been part of the post-medieval/modern field system as it is on the same alignment as the existing field boundaries. The drip gully feature 202 was suggested to be associated with a possible roundhouse structure. This was proven not to be the case. It is more than likely a temporary shelter or wind break. There is evidence within Field 1 of temporary low level prehistoric and Middle Bronze Age activity.</p>	
Project dates	13 July– 16 July 2015	
Project type	Excavation	
Previous work	Evaluation (CA 2015b) Geophysical survey (PCG 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Trowle Solar Park, Trowbridge, Wiltshire	
Study area	234m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 83350 58600	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Matt Nichol	
MONUMENT TYPE	One post hole and a ditch. The roundhouse drip gully identified in the Evaluation was confirmed to be a temporary shelter or windbreak	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	none
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets photographic records
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Trowle Solar Park, Trowbridge Wiltshire: Archaeological Excavation</i> CA typescript report.		



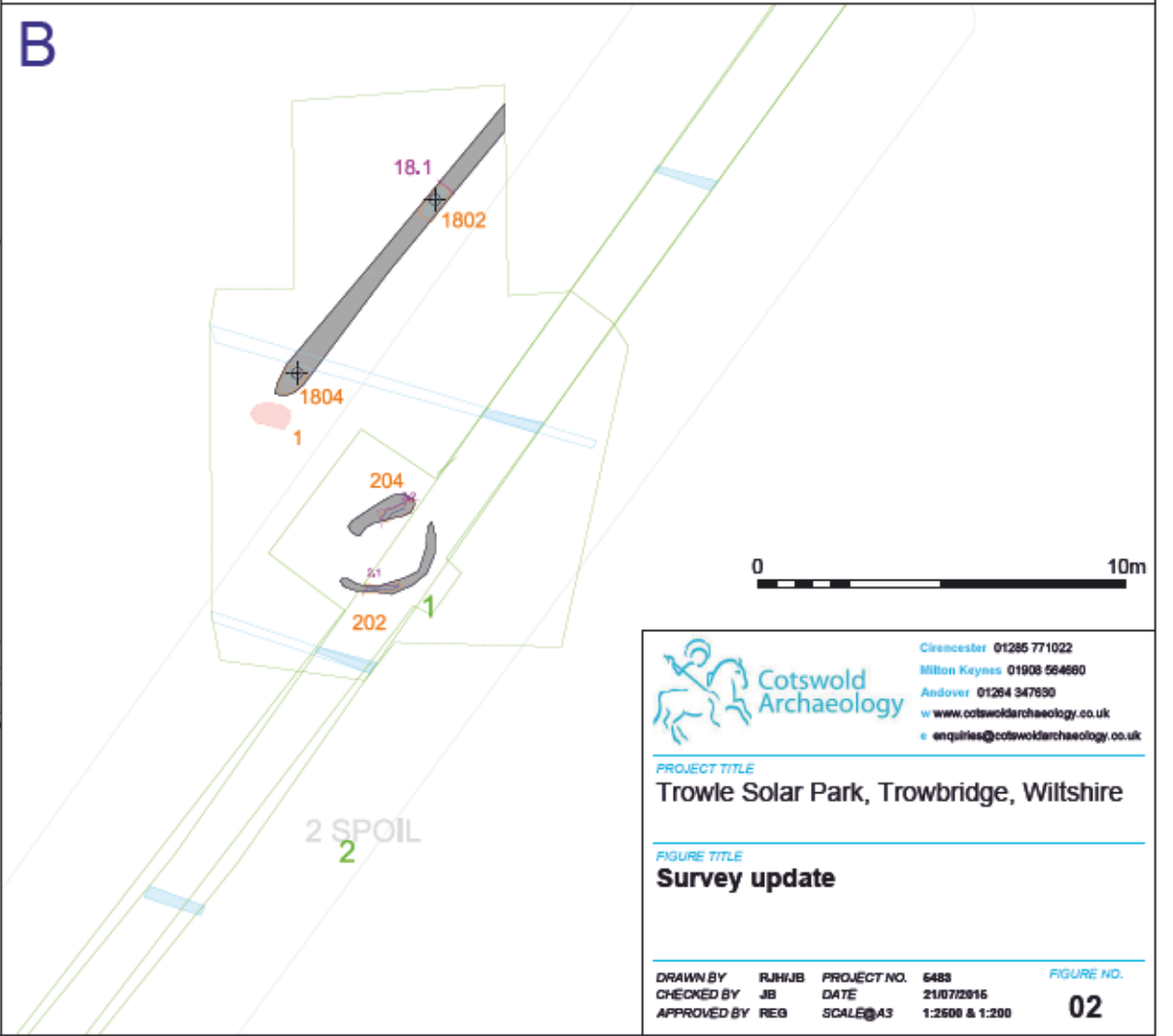
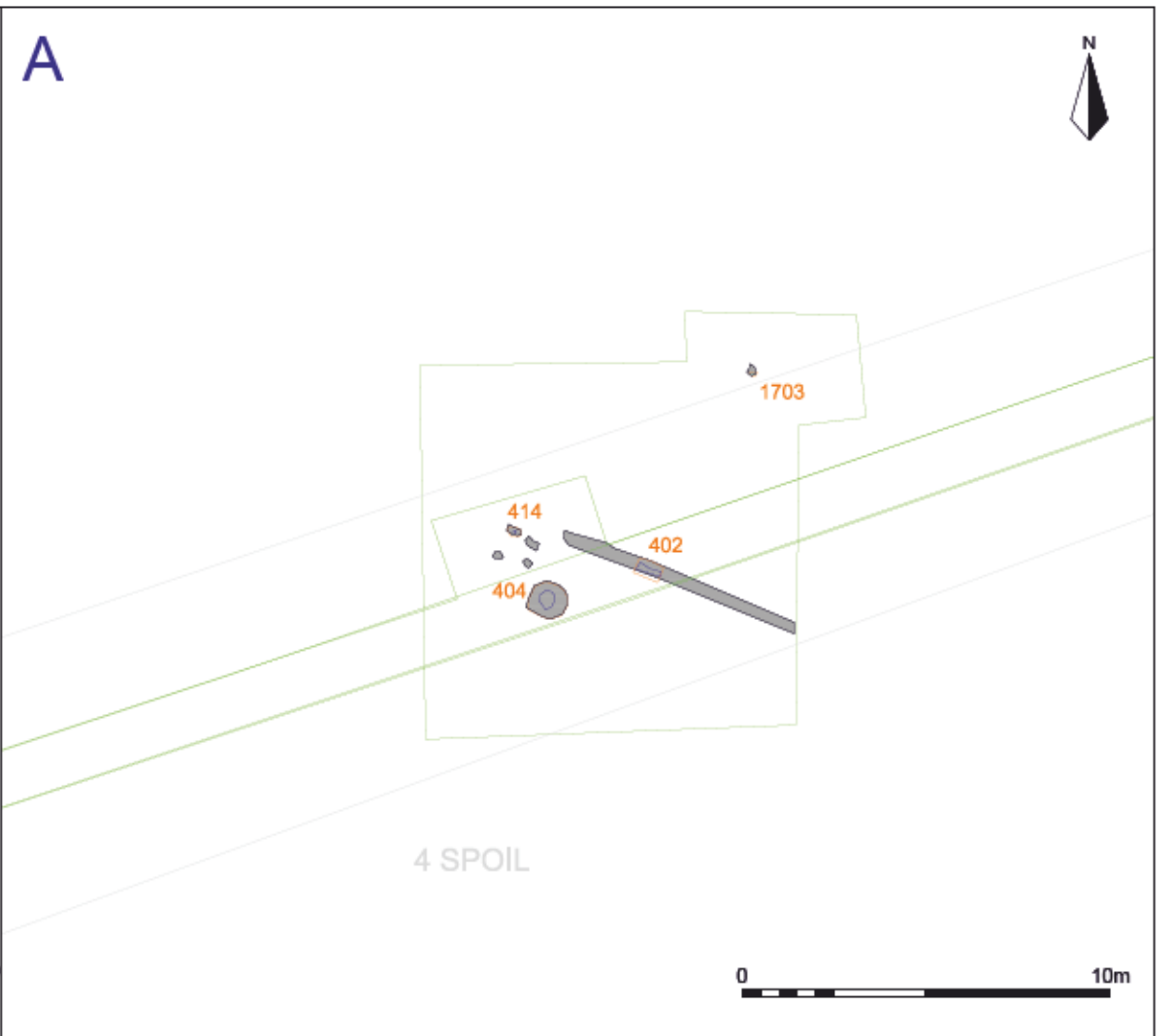
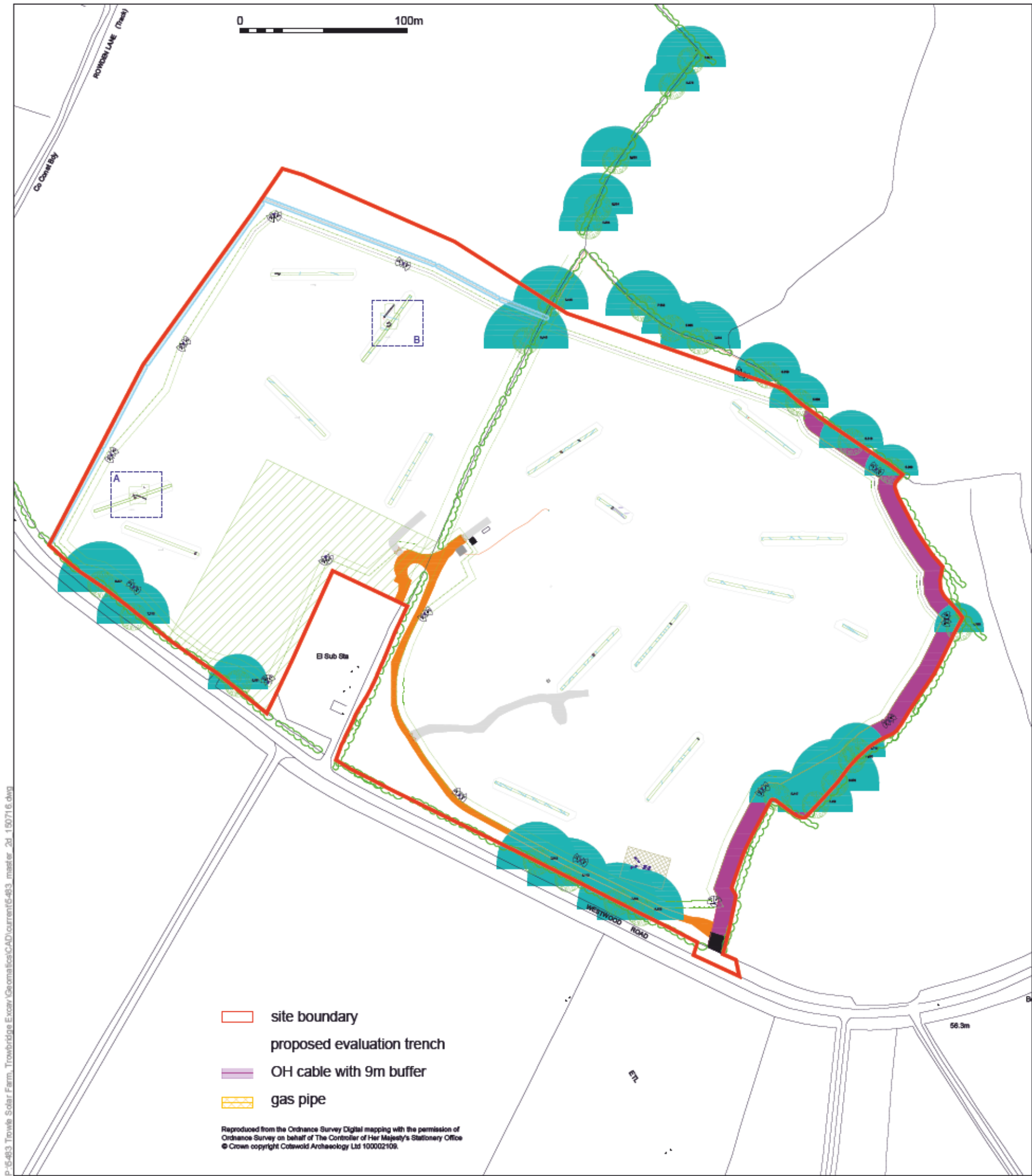

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PROJECT TITLE
 Trowle Solar Park, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5291	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	09/03/15	1
APPROVED BY	REG	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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Figure 3 – Post hole in Area 1



Figure 4: Ditch in Area 2



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