



# Land at Pasture Farm Allington Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for British Solar Renewables

CA Project: 660513 CA Report: 16022 Site Code: PFA 15 Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 2015.148

March 2016



Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Land at Pasture Farm Allington Lincolnshire

# Archaeological Watching Brief

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#### SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Pasture Farm
Location:	Allington, Lincolnshire
NGR:	SK 8793 3869
Туре:	Watching Brief
Date:	9-27 November 2015
Planning Reference:	S15/0383
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with The Collection Museum, Lincoln
Accession Number:	LCNCC: 2015.148
Site Code:	PFA 15

In November 2015, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar farm on land at Pasture Farm, Allington, Lincolnshire.

Previous archaeological evaluation and geophysical survey of the site and an area to the immediate west recorded a series of small enclosures with associated trackways and ditches. Pottery dating from the middle 1st to early 2nd century AD was recovered from these features.

The watching brief identified two possible ditches. The monitored groundworks were outside of the main concentration of Romano-British features recorded by the previous archaeological investigations. The lack of features exposed during the present works confirms that the previous investigations accurately defined the limits of the archaeological remains at the site.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2015, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at Pasture Farm, Allington, Lincolnshire (centred at NGR: SK 8793 3869; Fig. 1). The watching brief was commissioned by Ove Arup Partners Ltd at the request of British Solar Renewables.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC; the local planning authority) for the installation of a solar farm, with associated equipment and infrastructure (Planning ref: S15/0383).
- 1.3 The scope of this programme of archaeological works was defined during discussions between CA and Jenny Young of *The Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire* (HTL), the archaeological advisor to SKDC.
- 1.4 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Jenny Young. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the relevant sections of the revised version of Lincolnshire County Council's Archaeology Handbook (LCC 2012), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

#### The site

- 1.5 The site is located *c*. 1.8km to the north-west of Great Gonerby and *c*. 2.5km to the south-east of Allington. It measures approximately 11ha in area and comprises parts of two arable fields. It is bounded on its northern, southern and western sides by fields, currently under arable cultivation and on its eastern side by a branch of the Nottingham to Grantham Railway Line (the Grantham Avoiding Line). The site lies at approximately 43m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.6 The bedrock geology for the majority of the site is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation, mudstone and ironstone of the Jurassic period. A narrow band of Loveden Gryphaea Bed, shelly mudstone is recorded within the centre of the eastern field. There are no recorded superficial deposits within the site (BGS 2015).

#### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in a historic environment desk-based assessment (Arup 2014b). A geophysical survey has also been undertaken (Arup 2014a), as well as a trial trench evaluation of the northern part of the site (ULAS 2014). The following section is summarised from these sources (HER numbers in parentheses).

#### Prehistoric

- 2.2 The geophysical survey identified anomalies interpreted as a possible ladder settlement; these enclosures and other linear and discrete features may date from the later prehistoric into the Romano-British period (see below).
- 2.3 Find spots of a sherd of Iron Age pottery and worked flint are recorded west of Gonerby Moor Junction, Great Gonerby, c. 1.5km to the north-east of site (MLI85846 and MLI97605).

#### Romano-British

- 2.4 The geophysical survey recorded two main areas of archaeological activity: one at the northern site boundary, straddling the eastern and western fields (in geophysical survey Area 2; B) and one west of the site centre, in an area now excluded from the scheme (in geophysical survey Area 1; A). The northern anomalies appear to represent a series of small enclosures of potentially Romano-British date. The western group of anomalies comprised ditches forming at least seven conjoined rectilinear enclosures, with associated trackways and ditch and pit features. The form and size of this enclosure complex suggests that it may be Roman in date, possibly representing settlement activity.
- 2.5 Archaeological evaluation of the northern part of the site confirmed the presence of archaeological features. The enclosure ditches encountered measured between 1.5m and 3m wide and were between 0.5m and 1m deep. Pottery dating from the middle 1st to early 2nd century AD was recovered from these features (ULAS 2014).
- 2.6 An evaluation, *c*. 1km to the south of the site, identified Romano-British features. A find spot of a large quantity of Roman pottery was found west of Gonerby Moor

Junction, *c*. 1.5km to the north-east of the site (MLI85845). Further residual Romano-British material was recorded west of Belvoir Gardens, Great Gonnerby (ELI 8713), *c*. 1km to the south-east of site.

### Medieval

- 2.7 The site of the abbey and village of Newbo (MLI 130103) are thought to lay *c*. 800m south-west of the site. An associated undated cropmark enclosure (MLI 98806) of probable medieval date was also identified to the south-west.
- 2.8 Areas of ridge and furrow cultivation identified through geophysical survey, were confirmed during trial trenching (ULAS 2014). Areas of extant ridge and furrow are recorded 700m to the west (MLI 98805) and *c*. 1km to the east.

# 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works, as stated in the WSI (CA 2015), were:
  - to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
  - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

# 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, including the excavation of inverters and service trenches (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.3 No finds were recovered from the features or deposits encountered during the watching brief and no deposits were identified which were suitable for environmental sampling.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Following full reporting the archive will be deposited with The Collection Museum, under accession number: LCNCC: 2015.148. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

# 5. RESULTS (FIGS 3-9)

- 5.1 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was encountered across the area of observed groundworks. Within the western part of the site, the geological substrate, consisting of light blue grey clay, was revealed at depths of between 0.4m and 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). In the eastern part of the site, the geological substrate, consisting of light brown grey clay, was identified at depths of between 0.5m and 0.6m bpgl. These were overlain by silty clay subsoil, measuring between 0.13m and 0.3m thick. This was in turn sealed by topsoil up to 0.3m thick.
- 5.2 The only features exposed by the present works were broadly north/south orientated features 604 and 608 (Fig. 6; sections AA and BB), identified within Trench 6. Feature 604 was 0.95m wide and 0.43m deep, with moderately steeply sloping sides and a sloping, tapered base. Feature 608 was 1.48m wide by 0.54m deep, with a shallow concave profile. No artefactual material was recovered from their respective fills. On excavation the features described above had regular ditch-like profiles. However, they had very sterile fills and may be of geological or natural origin.

# 6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified limited archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The watching brief has demonstrated that remains of the Romano-British enclosures and ditches identified through the preceding geophysical survey, either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during subsequent land-use.

- 6.2 Undated ditch-like features 604 and 608 were identified within the central part of Trench 6, which in plan had the appearance of archaeological remains. On excavation they had regular profiles; however, they had very sterile fills and may be of geological or natural origin.
- 6.3 The monitored groundworks were outside of the main concentration of Romano-British features recorded by the geophysical survey (Arup 2014a) and were designed to avoid those features whose presence was confirmed by the subsequent evaluation (ULAS 2014). The lack of features exposed during the present works confirms that the previous investigations accurately defined the limits of the archaeological remains at the site.

# 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Whelan and Sam Dixon. The report was written by Andrew Whelan. The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce.

# 8. **REFERENCES**

- Arup 2014a Land at Pasture Farm, Great Gonerby, Lincolnshire (GGPF 14), Geophysical Survey, APS Report No. **104/14**
- Arup 2014b Grantham Solar Farm, Historic environment desk-based assessment, Job No. 235679-08
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 14/07/2015
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Land at Pasture Farm Allington Lincolnshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief
- LCC (Lincolnshire County Council) 2012 Archaeology Handbook http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/conservation /archaeology/lincolnshire-archaeological-handbook/ Accessed 14/07/2015

ULAS 2014 An Archaeological Evaluation on land south of Pasture Farm, Gonerby Lane, Allington, Lincolnshire, ULAS Report No. 2014-217

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#### APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thick ness	Spot-date
								(m)	
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.	>78	>0.62	0.31	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid, grey brown, silty clay, firm with rare1% small rounded stones.	>78	>0.62	0.20	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Light, brown grey with some orange brown mottling, silty clay, firm.	>78	>0.62	>0.38	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.	>67.7	>0.6	0.29	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid, grey brown, silty clay, firm with rare1% small rounded stones.	>67.7	>0.6	0.38	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Dark, black brown, firm clay, high organic content, Loveden Gryphaea Bed,	>67.7	>0.6	>0.16	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.	>96	>0.6	0.30	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Light, yellow brown silty clay, firm with rare small stones 1%.	>96	>0.6	0.13	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Light, brown grey with some orange brown mottling, silty clay, firm.	>96	>0.6	0.43	
3	303	Layer		Natural	Dark, black brown, firm clay, high organic content and fossilised shellfish, Loveden Gryphaea Bed,	>96	>0.6	0.14	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.		>2	0.44	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid, grey brown, silty clay, firm with rare1% small rounded stones.		>2	0.4	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Light, brown grey with some orange brown mottling, silty clay, firm.		>0.5	>0.5	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.	>83.6	>0.6	0.28	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid, grey brown, silty clay, firm with rare1% small rounded stones.	>83.6	>0.6	0.22	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Dark, brown red silty sand, friable with Frequent pea grit sized mudstone and manganese flecks, 20%.	>83.6	>0.6	>0.23	
5	503	Layer		Natural	Light, blue grey with some mid orange yellow mottling, firm clay.	>83.8	>0.6	>0.24	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.	>60	>0.6	0.21	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid, grey brown, silty clay, firm with rare1% small rounded stones.	>60	>0.6	0.2	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Dark, brown red silty sand, friable with Frequent pea grit sized mudstone and manganese flecks, 20%.	>60	>0.6	>0.34	
6	603	Layer		Natural	Light, blue grey with some mid orange yellow mottling, firm clay.	>60	>0.6	>0.21	
6	604	Cut	1	Cut of possible	Linear, gradual top break of	>1	0.95	0.43	

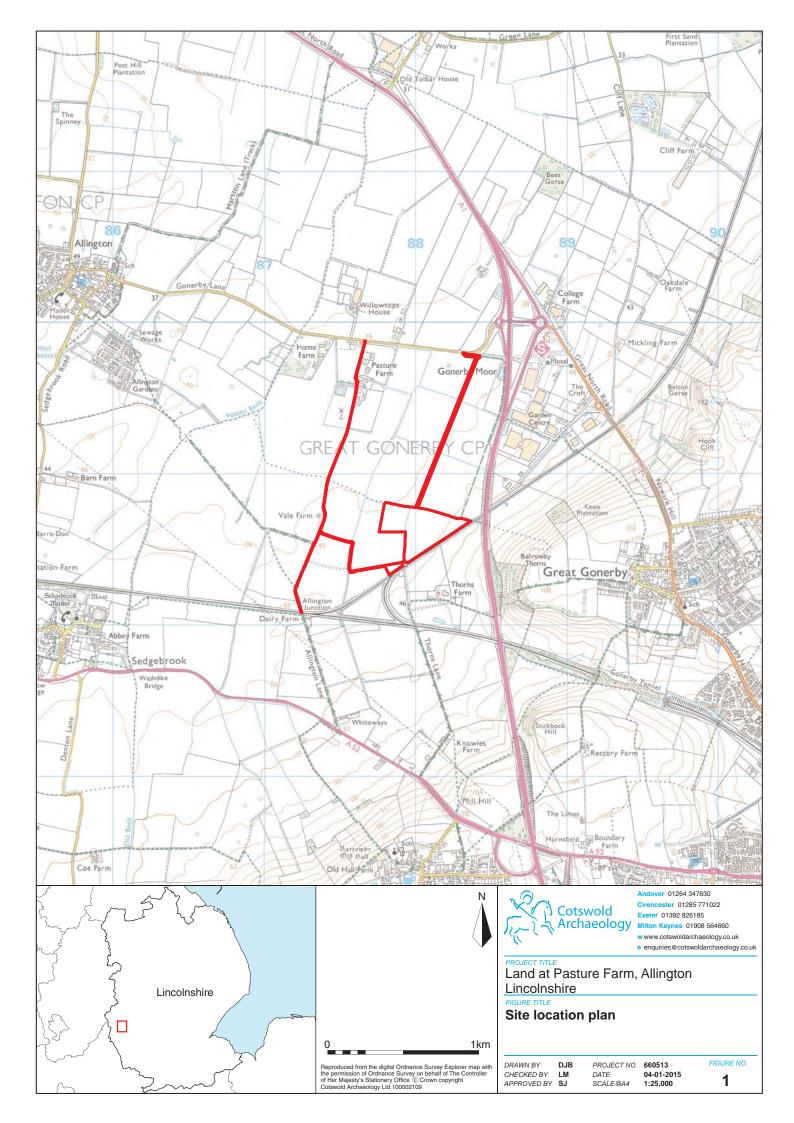
			T			1	-	1 1
				Ditch, only seen in section.	slope with curved sides, a gradual bottom break of slope with curved base, roughly North south orientation.			
6	605	Fill	604	Slump, disuse fill of ditch, formed by natural processes.	Light mottled mix of Grey brown silty sand and blue grey sandy clay, soft with occasional manganese and iron stone pea grits 10%	>1	0.61	0.43
6	606	Fill	604	Lower disuse fill of ditch, formed by natural processes.	Mid orange brown, sandy silt, friable with occasional manganese and mudstone pea grits 5%.	>1	0.46	0.39
6	607	Fill	604	Top disuse fill of ditch, formed by natural processes.	Dark red brown sandy silt, soft with regular pea grit mudstone 10%	>1	0.55	0.31
6	608	Cut		Cut of 'V' shaped Ditch, only seen in section.	Linear, gradual top break of slope with slightly curved sides, a gradual bottom break of slope with sharp curved base, roughly North south orientation.	>1	1.48	0.54
6	609	Fill	608	Bottom disuse fill of ditch, formed by natural processes.	Mid, orange brown sandy silt, friable with occasional pea grit mudstone and manganese 5%.	>1	0.58	0.19
6	610	Fill	608	Top disuse fill of ditch, formed by natural processes.	Dark, red brown sandy silt, soft with frequent mudstone and manganese pea grit 10%	>1	0.48	0.37
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.	>34	>0.6	0.3
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid, grey brown, silty clay, firm with rare1% small rounded stones.	>34	>0.6	0.2
7	702	Layer		Natural	Dark, brown red silty sand, friable with Frequent pea grit sized mudstone and manganese flecks, 20%.	>34	>0.6	0.33
7	703	Layer		Natural	Light, blue grey with some mid orange yellow mottling, firm clay.	>34	>0.6	0.3
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.	>63	>2	0.3
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid, grey brown, silty clay, firm with rare1% small rounded stones.	>63	>2	0.13
8	802	Layer		Natural	Light, blue grey with some mid orange yellow mottling, firm clay.	>63	>2	>0.47
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.			0.19
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid, grey brown, silty clay, firm with rare1% small rounded stones.			0.12
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mottled, light brown yellow with orange brown, silty clay, occasional mudstone.			>0.15
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.			0.35
10	1001	Layer		Natural	Slightly mottled light brown yellow, with orange brown silty clay, occasional mudstone.			>1
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light, blue grey with some mid orange yellow mottling, firm clay.			>0.25
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey brown silty clay, firm with very rare <1% small rounded stones.			0.3

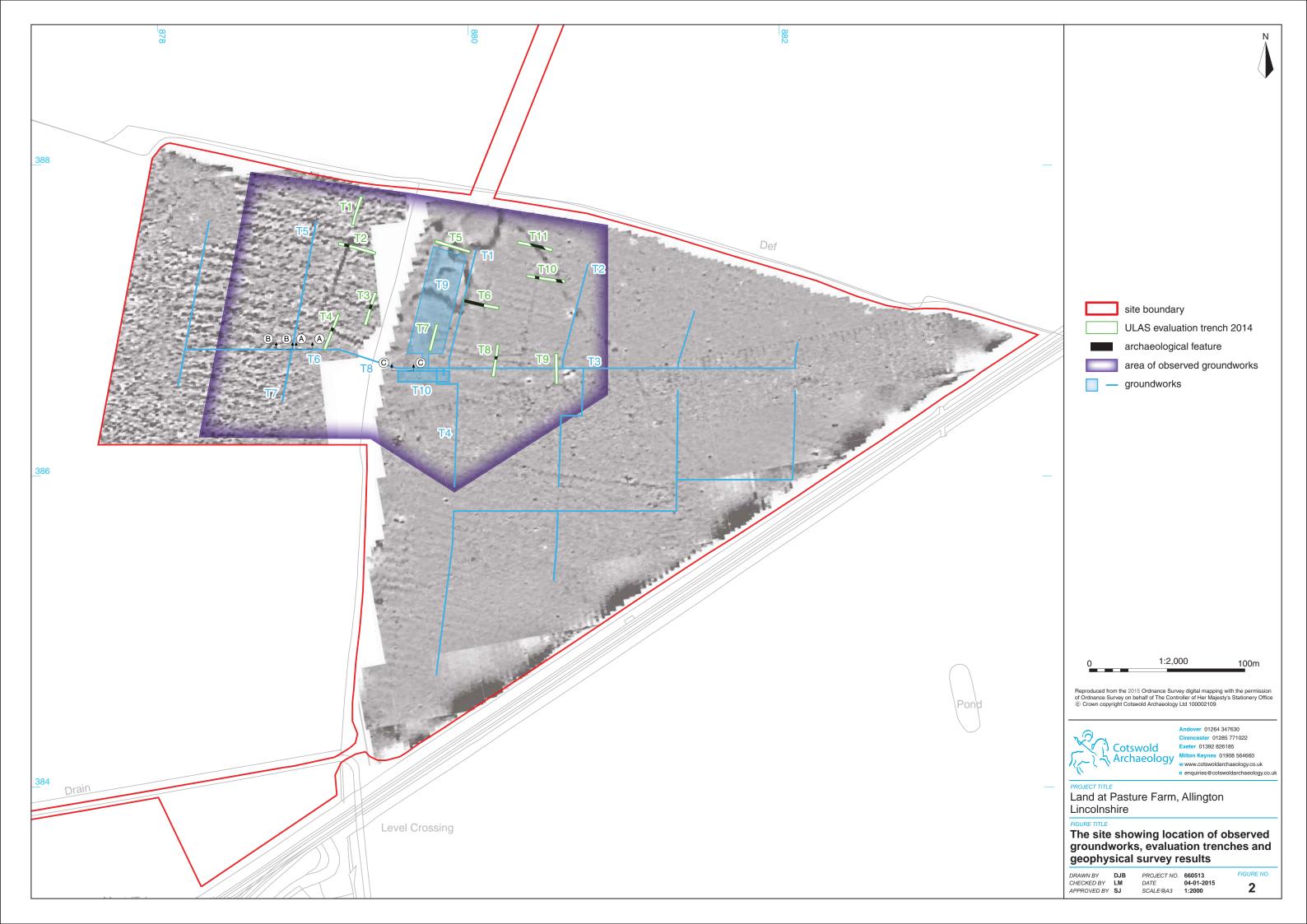
11	1101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid, grey brown, silty clay, firm with rare1% small rounded stones.		0.3	
11	1102	Layer	Natural	Light, brown grey with some orange brown mottling, silty clay, firm.			

# APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Name	Land at Pasture Farm, Allington, Linco	olnshire				
Short description	undertaken by Cotswold Archae	In November 2015, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar farm on land at Pasture Farm, Allington, Lincolnshire. Previous archaeological evaluation and geophysical survey of the site and an area to the immediate west recorded a series of smal enclosures with associated trackways and ditches. Pottery dating from the middle 1st to early 2nd century AD was recovered from these features.				
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The watching brief identified two possible ditches. The moningroundworks were outside of the main concentration of Rom British features recorded by the previous archaeolo investigations. The lack of features exposed during the pr works confirms that the previous investigations accurately de the limits of the archaeological remains at the site.						
Project dates	13-24 November 2015					
Project type	Watching Brief					
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (Arup 2014) Desk-based assessment (Arup 2014) Archaeological Evaluation (ULAS 2014)					
Future work	Not Known					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Land at Pasture Farm, Allington, Linco	olnshire				
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	11ha					
Site co-ordinates	SK 8793 3869					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	n/a					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Stuart Joyce					
Project Supervisor	Andrew Whelan					
MONUMENT TYPE	None					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content				
Physical	N/A	-				
Paper	The Collection Museum	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs				
Digital	The Collection Museum	Digital photographs, digital survey data				
BIBLIOGRAPHY						

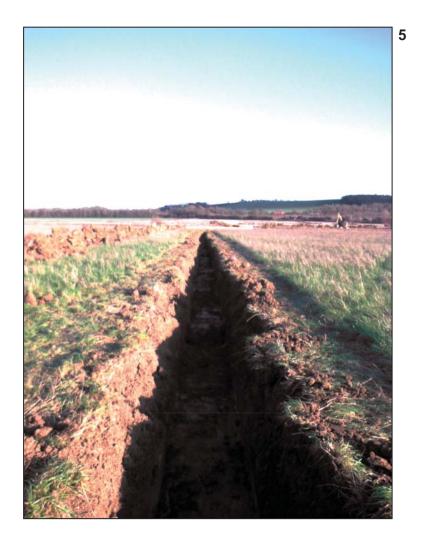
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) CA typescript report **16022** 

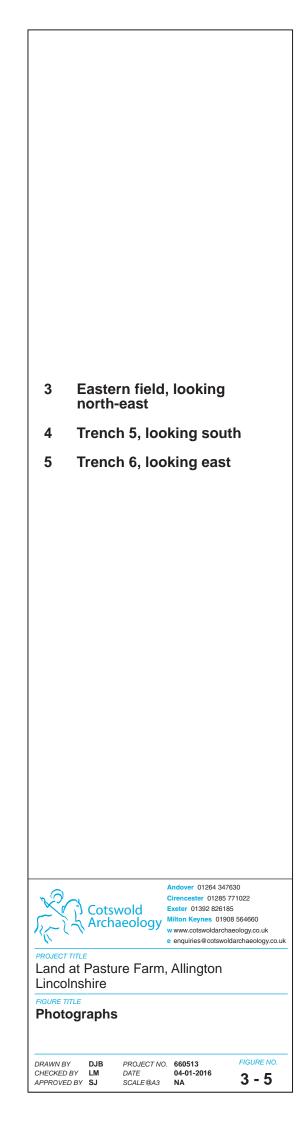


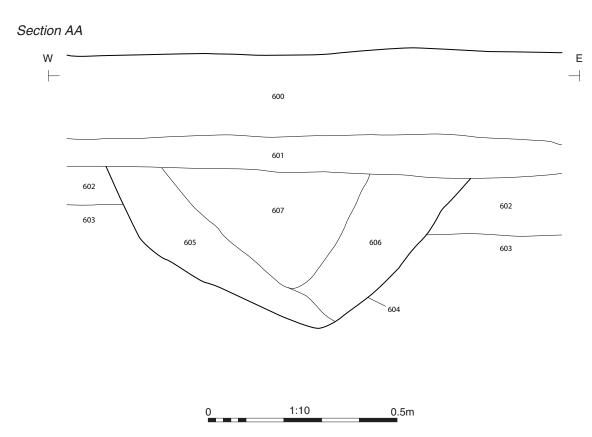


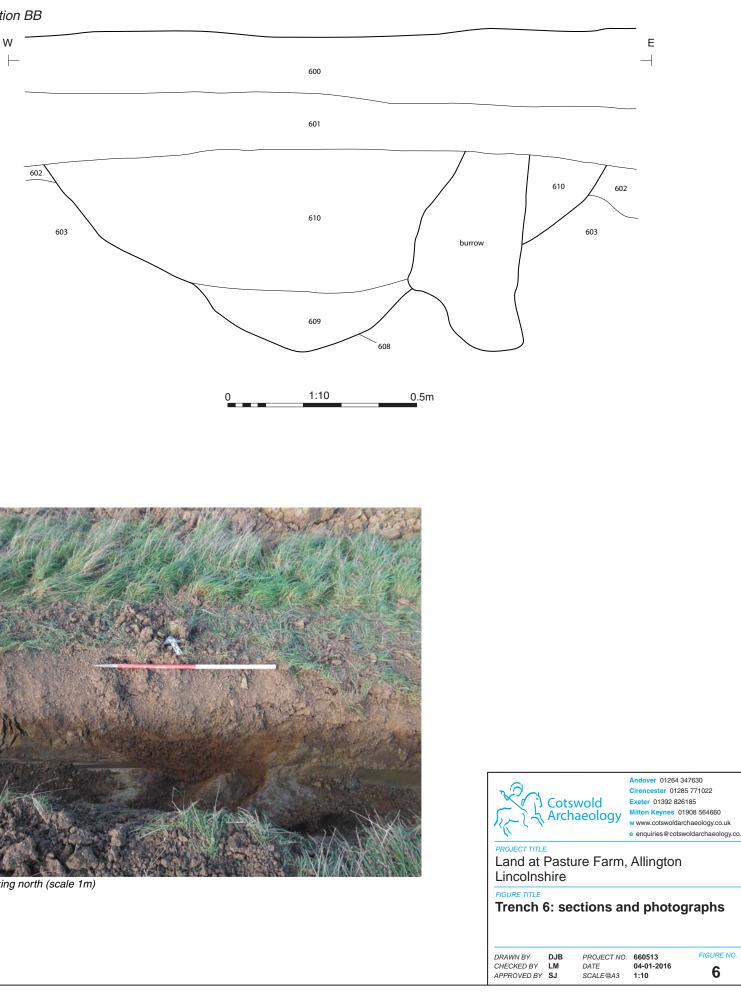




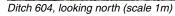


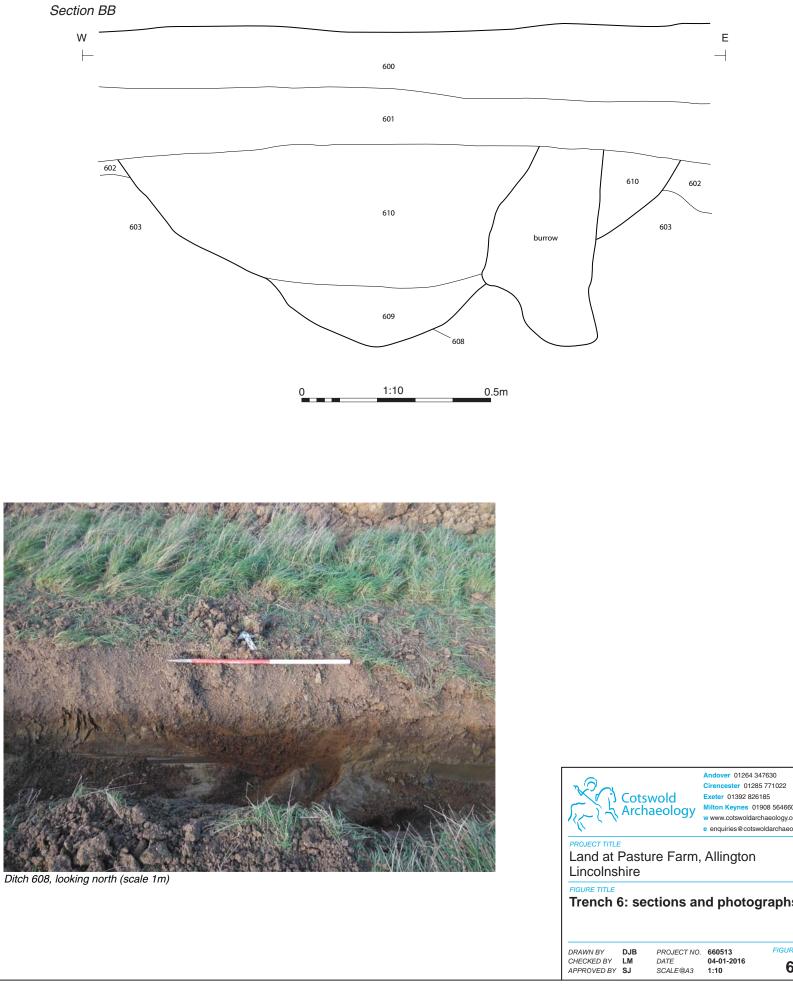














7	Trench 10, looking north (scale 1m)	Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 286185 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
		PROJECT ITLE Land at Pasture Farm, Allington Lincolnshire
		FIGURE TITLE Photograph
		DRAWN BY DJB PROJECT NO. 660513 FIGURE NO. CHECKED BY LM DATE 04-01-2016 7 APPROVED BY SJ SCALE@A4 1:10 7



Trench 2, looking south (scale 1m)





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PROJECT TITLE Land at Pasture Farm, Allington Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE Trench 2: Photographs

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 660513

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FIGURE NO.

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