

# Newnham Farm Plympton Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

for Solstice Renewables Ltd

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CA Project: 5089 CA Report: 14537

November 2014

# NEWNHAM FARM PLYMPTON DEVON

# Archaeological Evaluation

# CA Project: 5089 CA Report: 14537

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#### SUMMARY

Project Name:	Newnham Farm
Location:	Plympton, Devon
NGR:	56055 58625
Туре:	Evaluation
Date:	6th to the 22nd of October
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery
Accession Number:	PLYMG.2014.9
Site Code:	NFP 14

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology from 6 to 22 October 2014 on Land at Newnham Farm, Plympton, Devon. A total of forty five trenches were excavated, Trenches 1 to 38 and Trenches 44 to 50 spread across 10 fields (Fields 2 to 11) of pasture land encompassing c. 35ha. The trenches were targeted on the results of a previously undertaken geophysical survey as well as providing a random sample of the site.

Trenches 1, 4, 5, 7, to 10, 13 to 15, 17, 18 to 27, 29 to 31, and 33 to 38 were blank with no archaeological feature recorded, the remainder of the trenches contained one or more archaeological features. These mostly comprised shallow ditches, most of which were cut from directly below the topsoil layers suggesting a post medieval or modern date. The features may be associated with mining activity both within the site and within its immediate vicinity and may possibly represent leats and run offs.

A pit/post hole was revealed in trench 6 which produced a large quantity (114 sherds) of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker -related ware pottery along with fired clay, burnt stone and animal bone indicative of domestic/settlement activity. Although an isolated feature the pit maybe an indication of associated settlement activity in the immediate vicinity of trench 6.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Solstice Renewables Ltd at Newnham Farm, Plympton, Devon (centred at NGR: SX 56055 58625) (Figure 1).
- 1.2 An archaeological programme of work was carried out in advance of the submission of a planning application for the installation of a solar array at the site. As part of this programme of work, and in order to inform the undertaking of an archaeological evaluation, a desk-based assessment (CA 2014a) and geophysical survey (GSB 2014) of the site was undertaken.
- 1.3 Following consultation with Graham Tait, Archaeologist, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET) acting on behalf of South Hams District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), a programme of archaeological trial trenches targeted on the results of the geophysical survey as well as a random sample of blank areas was carried out.
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014b) and approved by Graham Tait. The fieldwork also followed 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 Graham Tait, including site visits on 14 October 2014.

### The site

- 1.5 The site is located to the north of Plympton, within the South Hams district of South Devon. The site lies at the interface between large scale mining and mineral extraction landscapes to the north, and rural landscapes with wooded areas, agricultural land and scattered settlements to the south.
- 1.6 The proposed development site is formed of two parcels of land, one comprising a roughly linear parcel, oriented approximately north-south, and lying directly to the east of Newnham Park, and the other lying to the north-east, northward of the Bottle

Hill Mine area. The former comprises 25.6ha of land, and the north-eastern parcel 9.8ha of land. The fields are demarcated by embanked mixed-species hedgebanks.

- 1.7 The site lies on an area of sloping land, at between 160m 70m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The highest point of the site lies within the north-eastern corner and the lowest point in the south-western corner, with the western edge of the site generally forming the lowest area, sloping down toward Tory Brook which runs 100 200m to the west of the site. The site lies on the western slope of Bottle Hill, and Crownhill Down lies to the north-east, rising to around 230m AOD. The landscape in which the site lies in undulating, with many hills and valleys in the vicinity.
- 1.8 The solid geology of the proposed development site comprises Upper Devonian Slate of Hornfelsed and Metabasaltic rock, both comprising metamorphic bedrock formed in the Devonian period. No superficial deposits are recorded within the site boundaries.

### Archaeological background

- 1.9 A desk based assessment (CA 2014a) setting out the archaeological and historical background of the site has been undertaken and a brief summary of the results is presented below.
- 1.10 The site lies within an area where prehistoric remains are well attested, in particular relating to Bronze Age funerary activity, although evidence of agricultural and settlement activity is also recorded within the study area. Given the location of the site, occupying land at the interface between moorland, close to Dartmoor, and lowland areas, and with a watercourse (Tory Brook) in close proximity, there is considered to be potential for prehistoric remains within the site.
- 1.11 From the medieval period onward the study area shows evidence of extraction activities, and the site has potential for remains relating to leats, a mine shaft, spoil and other extraction remains to be present, all of which are shown within the site boundary on historic maps. Occupational debris associated with Bude Farm and a house shown on the 1841 Tithe map may extend to within the site. Medieval and post-medieval field systems are also thought to characterise the site.
- 1.12 During the post-medieval period Newnham Park and an associated deer park were constructed (although it has been suggested that the latter may have medieval

origins). The park pale, designated as a Scheduled Monument, runs adjacent to the site boundary. There is some potential for an associated ditch to be present within the site.

#### Geophysical Survey

- 1.13 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken (GSB 2014) and identified two main concentrations of archaeological features. The first, comprises a complex of anomalies interpreted as ditches and pits at the centre of the northern half of the site, and would appear to possibly have more than one phase. The second centre of activity is made up of two enclosures on the eastern side of the southernmost field. The two enclosures have very different characters; the northernmost is near square with rounded corners whilst the southern example is more elongated with sharper returns on the ditches. The northernmost has stronger responses recorded within it compared to the neighbouring example, with activity concentrated in and around the northeast.
- 1.14 A number of former field boundaries and linear anomalies with a ditch-like character were also detected. It is assumed that they represent disparate elements of a former field system pre-dating current boundaries as they do not match the alignments of the existing or historically mapped field divisions. The strength of natural anomalies within a central band through the site may well be masking any overlying features. The strength of the natural anomalies introduces a certain ambiguity to some of the more isolated responses recorded across the site, especially those close to the archaeological features. Normally these might be indicative of small scale industrial activity but, owing to the natural background magnetism, could simply be localised outcrops of geology. Evidence of ridge and furrow and more recent ploughing were recorded in all areas, with the latter being particularly pervasive.

#### Archaeological objectives

1.15 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site by targeting the results of the geophysical survey, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation was minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable the LPA to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage

asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

## Methodology

- 1.16 The evaluation comprised of the excavation of forty five trenches targeted on the results of the geophysical survey along with a sample of blank areas (Figures 2 to 4). Trenches 1 to 38 and Trenches 44 to 50 were spread across 10 fields (Fields 2 to 11) of pasture land encompassing c. 35ha. Trenches 39 to 43 at the southern end of the site (Field 1) were not excavated as this area will now be excluded from the development (on landscape and settings issues) along with the southern end of Field 2 within which Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated prior to notification of exclusion. The trenches were 50m long by 1.8m wide, apart from Trenches 14 and 45 which were shortened as a result of on-site restrictions and measured 30m and 25m respectively.
- 1.17 Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS, and scanned for live services by trained Cotswold Archaeology staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the Cotswold Archaeology *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*. The final 'as dug' trench plan will be recorded with GPS.
- 1.18 All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision and ceased when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). Topsoil and subsoil was stored separately adjacent to each trench.
- 1.19 Following machining, all archaeological features revealed were planned and recorded in accordance with Technical Manual 1 *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2013). Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50, or electronically using Leica 1200 series GPS or Total Station (TST) as appropriate) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Where detailed feature planning was undertaken using GPS/TST this was carried out in accordance

with Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (CA 2012). Photographs (digital colour) were taken as appropriate. All finds and samples were bagged separately and related to the context record. All artefacts were recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 1995).

- 1.20 Sample excavation of archaeological deposits was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (CA 2014) and was limited and minimally intrusive, sufficient to achieve the objectives identified in Section 1.15 above.
- 1.21 Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and un-stratified contexts were noted but not retained unless they were of intrinsic interest (e.g. worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). All artefacts were collected from stratified excavated contexts except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material. Such material was noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample was collected and retained.
- 1.23 Due care was taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling was initiated. Samples were taken, processed and assessed for potential in accordance with Technical Manual 2 *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003).
- 1.24 Upon completion of the evaluation and in agreement with the DCCHET all trenches were backfilled by mechanical excavator.

# 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-9)

- 2.1 The evaluation identified archaeological and cut features of likely more recent date within trenches 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, 28, 32, and 44 to 50. Trenches 1, 4, 5, 7, to 10, 13 to 15, 17, 18 to 27, 29 to 31, and 33 to 38 were blank with no features recorded, although several of the trenches contained land drains.
- 2.2 The natural substrate found at an average depth of 0.50 to 0.60m across site was a mix of pale bluish grey bed rock (shillet) in light grey silty clay to light yellowish brown silty clay. The soil sequence across the site consisted of a mid reddish brown

silty clay subsoil 0.20 to 0.30m deep below a light brown clayey silt topsoil up to 0.25 to 0.30m in depth.

# Trench 2 (Figs 2 to 4)

2.3 Trench **2** contained one north-south aligned ditch **203** located in the north-eastern end of the trench which was not identified in the geophysics. It measure 0.89m in width and 0.29m in depth, it had a wide concave shape and did not produce any artefacts.

# Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 & 5)

2.4 Ditch **303** was located in the western end of trench **3** on a north-south alignment and was identified in the geophysics as archaeology. It was concave in shape and measured 1.15m in width and 0.39m in depth. Although it did not contain any archaeological material the ditch was cut through the subsoil suggesting a modern date.

# Trench 6 (Figs 2, 3 & 6)

2.5 Trench **6** contained pit/posthole **603** located centrally within the trench which was not identified in the geophysics and measured 0.42m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.29m in depth. It was oval in shape and had near vertical edges. The pit/posthole was 100% excavated and produced a large quantity (114 sherds) of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker -related ware pottery. The pottery and the material recovered from the environmental bulk sample including fired clay, burnt stone and animal bone is indicative of a dump of domestic waste. This may suggest that pit **603** could be part of possible settlement activity within this part of site. However, it is also possible that this is an isolated event given the lack of further archaeological features identified within this part of the site and across the site as a whole.

# Trench 11 (Figs 2 & 3)

2.5 Located towards the eastern end of trench **11** was modern ditch **1103**; it ran on a northeast-southwest alignment and measured 1.10m in width and 0.76m in depth. It had a steep concave/vertical sides and was cut through the subsoil suggesting that it must be at least of post medieval in date if not modern. It was identified in the geophysics as possible archaeology.

# Trench 12 (Figs 2 & 3)

2.5 Trench **12** contained ditch **1203** positioned at the northern end of the trench on an east-west alignment, it was concave in shape, it measured 0.57m in width and 0.14m in depth and although it did not produce any datable material it was cut below the subsoil. It was not identified in the geophysics.

# Trench 28 (Fig 2)

2.5 Located at the northern end of trench **28** on a northwest-southeast alignment was modern ditch **2803**, it was identified in the geophysics as a modern field boundary and as a result it was left unexcavated.

# Trench 32 (Fig 2)

2.5 Trench **32** contained a north-south aligned modern ditch **3203** located at the western end of the trench and was not identified in the geophysics. It was only visible within the trench sections and although no artefacts were recovered it was seen to be cut from directly below the topsoil.

# Trench 44 (Figs 2, 7 & 8)

2.5 Trench **44** contained modern ditches termini **4403**, **4405** and **4411** located in the northern end of the trench and ditch **4409** located in the southern end of the trench. Ditch termini **4403**, **4405** and **4411** all lay on a north-south alignment. They were all cut through the subsoil and are probably modern in date. Ditch **4403** had vertical sides and measured 1m in width and 0.70m in depth, ditch **4405** measured 1.08m in width and 0.53m in depth and had a concave profile. Ditch **4409** had a concave shape and measured 1.43m in width and 0.49m in depth. Ditch **4409** was identified in the geophysics as a possible boundary ditch, it measured 1.43m in width and 0.49m in depth, it had concave sides with a flat base and did not produce any artefacts.

# Trench 45 (Figs 2 & 7)

2.5 Located in the western end of the trench on a north-south alignment ditch **4503** had a concave shape and measured 0.78m in width and 0.37m depth and because it was cut through the subsoil it is most likely modern in date.

#### Trench 46 (Figs 2 & 7)

2.5 Trench **46** contained tree hollows **4603** and **4605** located centrally within the trench and modern ditch **4607** at the western end of the trench none of which were identified in the geophysics. Both tree hollows were only partially exposed within the trench and only **4603** was excavated. Hollow **4603** had concave sides and an irregular shaped base and measured 1.5m wide and 0.3m in depth. Ditch **4607** was on a north-south alignment, it measured 1.22m in width and 0.3m in depth. Although no dating material was recovered it was cut directly below the topsoil and through the sub soil and is mostly likely modern in date and is probably related to similar features found within this part of the site.

#### Trench 47 (Figs 2 & 7)

- 2.5 Trench **47** contained modern ditches **4703**, **4707**, **4711**, **4713**, **4715** and **4717** located throughout the trench. Ditch **4703** was positioned centrally within the trench on a southwest-northeast alignment, and had moderately sloping concave sides and was cut through the sub soil. It measured 1.35m in width and 0.51m in depth. To the south of **4703** was ditch **4707** which cut the subsoil and was on an east-west alignment. It measured 2.23m in width and 0.64m in depth and had a wide concave shape. Ditch **4711** was the first re-cut of ditch **4707** and measured 1.51m in width and 0.72m in depth and had a rounded concave shape, the second re-cut was ditch **4713** and this was similar in shape to **4711** and measured 0.93m in width and 0.32m in depth.
- 2.5 Ditch **4715** was located to the north of **4703** on an east-west alignment; it had steep concave sides with a flat base and measured 1.19m in width and 0.51m in depth. In the northern end of the trench ditch **4717** was located on a northeast-southwest alignment, and had moderately sloping concave sides and measured 2.5m in width and 0.5m in depth. The geophysics only identified ditches **4703** and **4707** as possible archaeology. Although none of the ditches in this trench produced any datable material they were all cut from above the subsoil which suggests that they are modern in date.

#### Trench 48 (Figs 2, 7 & 9)

2.5 In the northern end of trench 48 on a northwest-southeast alignment was modern ditch 4803 identified in the geophysics as possible archaeology. It had steep concave sides, a concave base and measured 1.32m in width and 0.78m in depth. It

did not produce any datable material but it did cut the subsoil which suggests that it is modern.

## Trench 49 (Figs 2 & 7)

2.5 Trench **49** contained modern ditch **4903** which was located on a northeastsouthwest alignment in the northern end of the trench. It was not identified in the geophysics but it could be clearly seen cutting the subsoil and was not excavated.

# Trench 50 (Figs 2 & 7)

2.5 Trench **50** contained ditch **5005** which was on a northeast-southwest alignment at the eastern end of the trench and measured 1.6m in width and 0.15m in depth. It cut through the subsoil and is probably part of the modern ditch **4717**. It was identified in the geophysics as probable archaeology.

# 3. THE FINDS AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

# Pottery: Early Prehistoric

3.1 A total of 114 sherds of early prehistoric pottery were recovered from the excavation and bulk soil sampling of posthole fill 604. A proportion of the assemblage has been re-fired/overfired, including a warped rimsherd which features decoration in the form of incised diagonal lines. This pottery has been provisionally identified by Henrietta Quinnell as Trevisker-related ware, which is Middle Bronze Age in date. Trevisker ware was manufactured using gabbroic clays from the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall and is commonly found on sites in south-west England dating to this period (Gibson and Woods 1997, 266).

# Post-medieval

- 3.2 Topsoil 300 produced a rimsherd, probably from a bowl, in unglazed earthenware of 16th to 18th century date.
- 3.3 A single bodysherd of Westerwald, which is a German stoneware exported to Britain during the late 17th and 18th centuries, was recorded in topsoil 5000.

# Faunal Remains

3.4 A total of 21 fragments (1g) of burnt animal bone were recovered from the bulk soil sampling of deposit 604. It was not possible to identify any of the fragments to species level.

## Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 3.5 One environmental sample (25 litres of soil) was retrieved from a single deposit with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 3.6 Sample 1 was recovered from posthole fill 604 dating to the Middle Bronze Age. The sample contained a small number of well-preserved barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains together with a single hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell and a number of wild mustard/cabbage (*Brassica/Sinapsis*) seeds. Charcoal was moderately abundant, well-preserved and identified as oak (*Quercus*), alder/hazel (*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana*) and birch (*Betula*). This material together with pot, fired clay, and burnt stone is indicative of a dump of domestic waste. This material suggests barley would have been cultivated nearby and hazelnuts exploited as wild foods. Wild cabbage/mustard is an opportunistic species, indicative of disturbed areas and may represent a plant used as kindling.

### 4. DISCUSSION

4.1 The evaluation revealed for the most part as series of shallow ditches, most of which were cut from directly below the topsoil layers suggesting a post medieval or modern date. These features may be associated with mining activity both within the site and within its immediate vicinity and may possibly represent leats and run offs. Other ditches correspond to former field boundaries indicated on historic mapping which have since been removed. If the features were of an earlier date they would more likely be visible beneath the subsoil or colluvial layers. None of the fills of the ditches produced any dateable evidence. However, several of the ditches had straight cut, vertical sides indicating they had been cut by machine. The recorded features corresponded well with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Most of the ditches were located in Fields 5 and 6. In particular an area within Field 6 (Trenches

44 to 50), which the geophysical survey had indicated to be of good archaeological potential was found to contain features likely to be post-medieval and modern in date as described above and possible relate to previous mining activity.

4.2 The evaluation also revealed evidence of possible Middle Bronze Age settlement activity within Trench 6 at the southern end of the site. The evidence comprised of a single possible pit or post hole containing large amounts of a pottery and domestic waste including animal bone, fired clay and burnt stone. This material suggests that Bronze Age settlement activity maybe occurring within the immediate vicinity of Trench 6. However, it is also possible that this is an isolated event given the lack of further archaeological features identified within this part of the site and across the site as a whole.

# 5. CA PROJECT TEAM

5.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Ellis and Jon Martin assisted by Tom Hackett, Jack Martin Jones, Noel Boothroyd, Dave Wright, Mike Joyce. The report was written by Oliver Good. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Hartley. The archive has been compiled by Adam Howard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The finds were analysed by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke and the environmental analysis by Sarah Cobain. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

# 6. **REFERENCES**

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IfA (Institute for Archaeologists) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* 

GSB Prospection Ltd 2014. Proposed Solar Farm, Newnham Farm, Plympton. Report No: G1465

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#### APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Tren ch No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/Th ickness (m)	Spot- date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	50	1.9	0-0.2	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	50	1.9	0.20.4	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Grey brown silty clay	50	1.9	0.4+	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy silt	50	1.9	0-0.2	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50	1.9	0.2-0.4	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey stone with silty clay	50	1.9	0.4+	
2	203	Cut		Ditch	Possible boundary ditch, concave sides with a flat base	2.98	0.89	0.4-0.61	
2	204	Fill	203	Secondary Fill	Mid yellowish brown clay silt	1.79	0.89	0.21	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Very dark brown clay silt	50	1.8	0-0.35	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	50	1.8	0.35-0.55	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Greyish brown stoney brash	50	1.8	0.55+	
3	303	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch cutting subsoil, concave profile	1.9	1.15	0.35-0.74	
3	304	Fill	303	Secondary Fill	Dark reddish brown clay sand	0.6	1.15	0.39	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	50	1.8	0-0.22	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	50	1.8	0.22-0.67	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Light greyish blue mud stone	50	1.8	0.67+	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	49.3	1.85	0-0.25	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Pale brown clay silt	49.3	1.85	0.25-0.45	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Reddish brown clay silt and shillet	49.3	1.85	0.45+	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown clay silt	49	1.85	0-0.26	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown clay	49	1.85	0.26-0.4	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Pale bluish grey with green tinge tabular stone	49	1.85	0.4-0.6	
6	603	Cut		Posthole/Pit	Oval shaped feature with near vertical edges and flat base. Either a small pit or a large posthole.	0.42	0.35	0.4-0.69	
6	604	Fill	603		Light brown with reddish tinge silty clay	0.42	0.35	0.29	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown clay silt	50	1.85	0-0.24	
7	701	Layer		Buried soil	Mid brown clay silt with slight reddish tinge	50	1.85	0.24-0.88	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Pale bluish grey tabular bedrock	50	1.85	0.88+	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	50	1.8	0-0.4	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown orange sandy clay	50	1.8	0.4-0.61	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Light orange and blue grey sandstone	50	1.8	0.61+	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sand clay	50	1.8	0-0.4	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown orange sandy clay	50	1.8	0.4-0.82	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Light orange grey sandstone	50	1.8	0.82+	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sand clay	50	1.8	0-0.49	
10	1001	Layer	1	Subsoil	Light brown orange sandy clay	50	1.8	0.49-0.71	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light orange bluish clay sandstone	50	1.8	0.71+	
11	1100	Layer	1	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy silt	50	1.9	0-0.15	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50	1.9	0.15-0.3	
11	1102	Layer	1	Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.9	0.3+	
11	1103	Cut		Ditch	Possible modern boundary ditch, cutting subsoil. Steep concave/vertical profile with a flat base	1.9	1.1	0.76	

11	1104	Fill		Secondary Fill	Dark reddish brown silty clay	0.60	1.1	0.76	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	50	1.9	0-0.22	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay sand	50	1.9	0.22-0.41	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.9	0.41+	
12	1203	Cut		Ditch	Cut of ditch with concave profile, cut below the subsoil	1.9	0.57	0.41-0.55	
12	1204	Fill		Fill	Mid yellowish brown clay silt	0.60	0.57	0.14	
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay	50	1.8	0-0.32	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid light brown orange silty clay	50	1.8	0.32-0.78	
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.8	0.78+	
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	1.8	0-0.2	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid to light orange brown silt clay	30	1.8	0.2-0.6	
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Light blue orange sandstone	30	1.8	0.6+	
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt	50	1.8	0-0.7	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty sand	50	1.8	0.7-0.95	
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Greenish grey gravelly clay	50	1.8	0.95+	
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt	50	1.8	0-0.32	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown orange clay silt	50	1.8	0.32-0.9	
16	1602	Layer		Natural	Mid light grey orange clay and sandstone	50	1.8	0.9+	
16	1603	Cut		Pit	Modern pit cutting subsoil unexcavated	2.2	1.8	0.32-0.70	
16	1604	Fill	160	Secondary Fill	Unexcavated fill of modern pit	2.2	1.8	0.38	
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	50	1.9	0-0.26	
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay sand	50	1.9	0.26-0.58	
17	1702	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.9	0.58+	
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	50	1.9	0-0.29	
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay sand	50	1.9	0.29-0.61	
18	1802	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.9	0.61+	
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	50	1.9	0-0.27	
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay sand	50	1.9	0.27-0.58	
19	1902	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.9	0.58+	
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt	50	1.8	0-0.3	
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid to light grey orange clay silt	50	1.8	0.3-0.58	
20	2002	Layer		Natural	Mid to light grey orange shale/sandstone	50	1.8	0.58+	
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy silt	50	1.9	0-0.32	
21	2101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay silt	50	1.9	0.32-0.44	
21	2102	Layer		Natural	Mid to light grey orange shale, clay and sandstone	50	1.9	0.44+	
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	50	1.8	0-0.23	
22	2201	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay sand	50	1.8	0.23-0.47	
22	2202	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.8	0.47+	
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	50	1.9	0-0.21	
23	2301	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay sand	50	1.9	0.21-0.43	
23	2302	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.9	0.43+	
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	50	1.8	0-0.2	
24	2401	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay sand	50	1.8	0.2-0.39	
24	2402	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.8	0.39+	
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	50	1.9	0-0.3	

25	2501	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay	50	1.9	0.3-0.62
25	2502	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.9	0.62+
26	2600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	50.7	2.01	0-0.32
26	2601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50.7	2.01	0.32-0.5
26	2602	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay	50.7	20.1	0.5+
27	2700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	51.6	1.95	0-0.36
27	2701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown clay silt	51.6	1.95	0.36-0.56
27	2702	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay	51.6	1.95	0.56+
27	2703	Layer		Natural	Mid brown clay silt large amounts of angular bedrock	51.6	1.95	0.56+
28	2800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	50.4	2.05	0-0.32
28	2801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown clay silt	50.4	2.05	0.32-0.49
28	2802	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay	50.4	2.05	0.49+
29	2900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50.5	1.92	0-0.32
29	2901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50.5	1.92	0.33-0.57
29	2902	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay with angular stone lumps	50.5	1.92	0.57+
29	2903	Layer		Natural	Bluish grey tabular stone	50.5	1.92	0.57+
30	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt with reddish tinge	49.9	1.85	0-0.27
30	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	49.9	1.85	0.27-0.48
30	3002	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay with bedrock fragments	49.9	1.85	0.48+
30	3003	Layer		Natural	Light blue grey tabular bedrock	49.9	1.85	0.48+
31	3100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt with reddish tinge	50.1	1.85	0-0.35
31	3101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50.1	1.85	0.35-0.66
31	3102	Layer		Natural	Light blue grey tabular bedrock	50.1	1.85	0.66+
31	3103	Cut		Ditch	Cut of Post Med field boundary	-	-	-
31	3104	Fill	310	Fill	Secondary Fill	-	-	-
32	3200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt with reddish tinge	50.5	1.85	0-0.25
32	3201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50.5	1.85	0.25-0.4
32	3202	Layer		Natural	Light blue grey tabular bedrock	50.5	1.85	0.4+
32	3203	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch with shallow concave profile			0.25-0.48
32	3204	Fill	320	Fill	Fill of 3203			0.23
33	3300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	49.1	1.96	0-0.29
33	3301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown clay silt	49.1	1.96	0.29-0.37
33	3302	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown with patches of whitish grey	49.1	1.96	0.37+
34	3400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	50.7	1.96	0-0.35
34	3401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown clay silt	50.7	1.96	0.35-0.51
34	3402	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown with patches of whitish grey	50.7	1.96	0.51+
35	3500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt with reddish tinge	50.6	1.85	0-0.25
35	3501	Layer		Subsoil	Degraded natural geology	50.6	1.85	0.25-0.31
35	3502	Layer		Natural	Light blue grey tabular bedrock	50.6	1.85	0.31+
36	3600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	50.4	2.01	0-0.37
36	3601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clay silt	50.4	2.01	0.37-0.6
36	3602	Layer		Natural	Mid blueish grey with greenish tint	50.4	2.01	0.6+
36	3603	Layer		Natural	Mild orangey brown silty clay with bedrock fragments	50.4	2.01	U.6+
37	3700	Layer		I opsoil	Mid brown clay silt with reddish tint	50.6	2.05	0-0.28

37	3701	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown clay silt	50.6	2.05	0.28-0.45
37	3702	Layer		Natural	Light bluish grey with slight greenish tint	50.6	2.05	0.45+
38	3800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	50.1	1.92	0-0.24
38	3801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown clay silt	50.1	1.92	0.24-0.38
38	3802	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay	50.1	1.92	0.38+
38	3803	Layer		Natural	Light bluish grey with a greenish tint	50.1	1.92	0.38+
44	4400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay with slight dark reddish tint	50	1.85	0-0.35
44	4401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50	1.85	0.35-0.52
44	4402	Layer		Natural	Light green or bluish green angular blocks of bedrocks	50	1.85	0.52+
44	4403	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	1.85	1	0.35-1.05
44	4404	Fill	440	Fill	Dark brown clay silt	1.85	1	0.70
44	4405	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	1.85	1.08	0.35-0.53
44	4406	Fill	440	Fill	Dark brown grey clay silt	1.29	1.08	0.11
44	4407	Fill	440	Fill	Mid brownish grey clay silt	1.29	1.07	0.18
44	4408	Fill	440	Fill	Light brownish grey clay silt	1.2	1.06	0.29
44	4409	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	1.85	1.43	0.35-0.84
44	4410	Fill	440	Fill	Mid brown with greyish hue silty clay	1	1.42	0.4
44	4411	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	1.85	1.05	0.35-1.37
44	4412	Fill	441	Fill	Mid brown with yellowish brown lenses clay silt	1.45	1.05	1.02
44	4413	Fill	440	Fill	Dark grey with black hue sand	0.99	0.49	0.11
45	4500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	25	1.9	0-0.32
45	4501	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay sand	25	1.9	0.32-0.66
45	4502	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	25	1.9	0.66+
45	4503	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	1.9	0.78	0.32-0.69
45	4504	Fill		Fill	Mid to dark greyish brown clay silt	1.02	0.78	0.37
46	4600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	52.2	1.85	0-0.25
46	4601	Layer		Subsoil	Pale brown clay silt	52.2	1.85	0.25-0.37
46	4602	Layer		Natural	Shillet	52.2	1.85	0.37+
46	4603	Cut		Tree Throw	Tree throw		1.5	0.37-0.67
46	4604	Fill	460	Fill	Pale brown clay silt fill of tree throw		1.5	0.30
46	4605	Cut	400					
46	4606	FIII	460	FIII	Fill of unexcavated tree throw			
46	4607	Cut		Ditch	Concaved shaped modern ditch	1.85	1.22	0.25-0.55
46	4608	Fill		Fill	Very pale bluish grey fine silt		1.22	0.3
47	4700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown fine clay silt	48.5	1.85	0-0.3
47	4701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	48.5	1.85	0.3-0.5
47	4702	Layer		Natural	Pale yellowish brown silty clay with common angular stone	48.5	1.85	0.5+
47	4703	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	1.85	1.35	0.5-1.01
47	4704	Fill	470	Fill	Mid greyish brown clay silt		0.65	0.10
47	4705	Fill	470	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay silt		1.05	0.25
47	4706	Fill	470	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay silt		1.35	0.16
47	4707	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	1.85	2.23	0.5-1.14
47	4708	Fill	470	Fill	Mid greyish brown with dark		1.29	0.63

					yellowish hue sandy clay			
47	4709	Fill	470	Fill	Mid greyish brown with mid yellowish hue clay sand		1.28	0.62
47	4710	Fill	470	Fill	Mid greyish brown with light yellowish hue with clay sand		1.25	0.6
47	4711	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	1.85	1.59	0.5-1.22
47	4712	Fill	471	Fill	Dark greyish brown with yellowish hue sandy clay		1.47	0.61
47	4713	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch		0.93	0.5-0.8
47	4714	Fill	471	Fill	Light greyish brown with dark yellowish hue clay sand		0.93	0.3
47	4715	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	2.6	1.19	0.3-81
47	4716	Fill	471	Fill	Dark brown clay silt		1.19	0.51
47	4717	Cut		Ditch	Shallow concave modern ditch	2.5	2.5	0.3-0.8
47	4718	Fill	471	Fill	Mid reddish brown clay silt		2.3	0.5
47	4719	Fill	471	Fill	Very pale bluish white silt		1.7	0.16
47	4720	Fill	471	Fill	Light reddish brown tinge		1.7	0.16
48	4800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown fine clay silt	50	1.8	0.7
48	4801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.7
48	4802	Layer		Natural	Pale yellowish brown silty clay with common angular stone	50	1.8	0.7
48	4803	Cut		Ditch	Steep sided modern ditch	1.8	1.32	0.78
48	4804	Fill	480	Fill	Mid reddish brown clay silt	1.8	1.32	0.78
49	4900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	50	1.9	0-0.22
49	4901	Layer		Subsoil	Light to mid yellowish brown clay sand	50	1.9	0.22-0.51
49	4902	Layer		Natural	Light brown grey silt clay	50	1.9	0.51+
50	5000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid reddish brown clay silt	50.4	1.85	0-0.33
50	5001	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish brown silty clay	50.4	1.85	0.33-0.54
50	5002	Layer		Natural	Bedrock	50.4	1.85	0.36-0.51+
50	5003	Layer		Spread	Bedrock rubble spread found directly below 5000 and above 5001	50.4	1.85	0.33-0.58
50	5004	Deposi		Drain	Bedrock rubble spread, possible part of a modern field drain.	50.4	1.85	0.33-0.84
50	5005	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch	1.85	1.6	0.23-0.38
50	5006	Fill		Fill	Pale bluish white fine silt	1.85	1.6	0.15

#### **APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Conte	t Description Count Weight(g)				Spot-date
300		Pottery	1	10	C16-C18
604		Pottery	53	467	MBA
604	Sample <1>	Pottery	61	113	
604	Sample <1>	Fired clay	33	5	
604	Sample <1>	Industrial waste	1	<1	
604	Sample <1>	Burnt stone	19	16	
604	Sample <1>	Animal bone	21	1	
5000		Pottery	1	6	LC17-C18

#### APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

#### Plant macrofossil identifications

Context number								
Sample numb	Sample number							
Flot volume (ml)								
Sample volume processed (I)								
Soil remaining (I)								
Period								
Plant macrofo	ssil preservatio	on		Good				
Habitat Code	Family	Species	Common Name					
HSW	Betulaceae	Corylus avellana	Hazelnut shell	+				
D	Brassicaceae	Brassica L./Sinapsis L.	Mustard/Cabbage	++++				
E	Poaceae	Hordeum vulgare L.	Barley grain	+				

#### Charcoal identifications

Context num	iber		604						
Sample number									
Flot volume (ml)									
Sample volume processed (I)									
Soil remaining (I)									
Period									
Charcoal quantity									
Charcoal pre	eservation		Good						
Family	Species	Common Name							
Betulaceae	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ Corylus avellana L.	Alder/Hazel	4						
	Betula L.	Birches	1						
Fagaceae	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./Quercus robur L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak	5						
		Number of Fragments:	10						

Key

E = economic species; D = opportunistic weed species; HSW = hedgerow/woodland/scrub + = 1\_4 items; ++ = 5\_20 items; +++ = 21\_40 items; ++++ = 40\_99 items; ++++ = 100\_500 items; +++++ = >500 items MBA = Middle Bronze Age

#### APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS				
Project Name	Newnham Farm, Plympton, Devon			
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology from 6 to 22 October 2014 on Land at Newnham Farm, Plympton, Devon. A total of forty five trenches were excavated, on pasture land encompassing c. 35ha. The trenches were targeted on the results of a previously undertaken geophysical survey as well as providing a random sample of the site. Trenches 1, 4, 5, 7, to 10, 13 to 15, 17, 18 to 27, 29 to 31, and 33 to 38 were blank with no archaeological feature recorded, the remainder of the trenches contained one or more archaeological features. These mostly comprised shallow ditches, most of which were cut from directly below the topsoil layers suggesting a post medieval or modern date. The features may be associated with mining activity both within the site and within its immediate vicinity and may possibly represent leats and run offs.			
	A pit/post hole was revealed in trench 6 which produced a large quantity (114 sherds) of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker -related ware pottery along with fired clay, burnt stone and animal bone indicative of domestic/settlement activity. Although an isolated feature the pi maybe an indication of associated settlement activity in the immediate vicinity of trench 6			
Project dates	6 <sup>th</sup> to the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of October			
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation			
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	A desk based assessment setting out the archaeological and historical background of the site was undertaken (CA 2014)			
Future work	Unknown			
PROJECT LOCATION				
Site Location	Newnham Farm, Plympton, Devon			
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)				
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	NGR: SX 56055 58625			
PROJECT CREATORS				
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology			
Project Brief originator	Devon County Council Historic Environm	ent Team		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology			
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa			
Project Supervisor	Chris Ellis			
MONUMENT TYPE	None			
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	I		
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)		
Physical	Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery PLYMG.2014.9	Ceramics, animal bone, fired clay, burnt stone etc		
Paper	Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery PLYMG.2014.9	Context sheets, plans, survey records, day book, notes. Report, WSI		
Digital	ADS	Database, digital photos,		

	report, survey data	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Cotswold Archaeology 2014. Newnham Estate, Sparkwell, Devon. Heritage Desk-Based Assessment. Report 14355. Project 4997	
	Cotswold Archaeology 2014. Newnham Estate, Sparkwell, Devon. Written Scheme of Investigation. CA Project No. 5089	
	Cotswold Archaeology 2014. Newnham Estate, Sparkwell, Dev Archaeological Evaluation. CA Project No. 5089. Rep No. 14537	
	GSB Prospection Ltd 2014. Proposed Solar Farm, Newnham Farm, Plympton. Report No: G1465	













Ditch 303, looking south (1m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology	Cirencester 01285 771022 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 Andover 01264 347630 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
PROJECT TITLE Newnham Farm, Plym	npton, Devon

# FIGURE TITLE Trench 3: section and photograph

PROJECT NO.	5089	DATE	13/11/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LJH	REVISION	00	5
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A4	1:20	







Pit / posthole 603, looking east (0.2m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology	Cirencester 01285 771022 Milton Keynes 01908 5646 Andover 01264 347630 w www.cotswoldarchaeology e enquiries@cotswoldarchae
PROJECT TITLE Newnham Farm, Plym	npton, Devon

tion Keynes 01908 771022 tion Keynes 01908 564660 dover 01264 347630 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

FIGURE TITLE Trench 6: section and photograph

PROJECT NO.	5089	DATE	13/11/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LJH	REVISION	00	6
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A4	1:20	





Ditch 4409, looking south-east (1m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology	Cirencester 01285 771022 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 Andover 01264 347630 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
PROJECT TITLE Newnham Farm, Plym	npton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE Trench 44: section and photograph

PROJECT NO.	5089	DATE	13/11/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LJH	REVISION	00	8
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A4	1:20	



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Cotswold Archaeology	Cirencester 01285 771022 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 Andover 01264 347630 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
PROJECT TITLE	
Newnham Farm, Plym	npton, Devon
FIGURE TITLE	
Trench 48: section a	nd photograph

PROJECT NO.	5089	DATE	13/11/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LJH	REVISION	00	9
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A4	1:20	