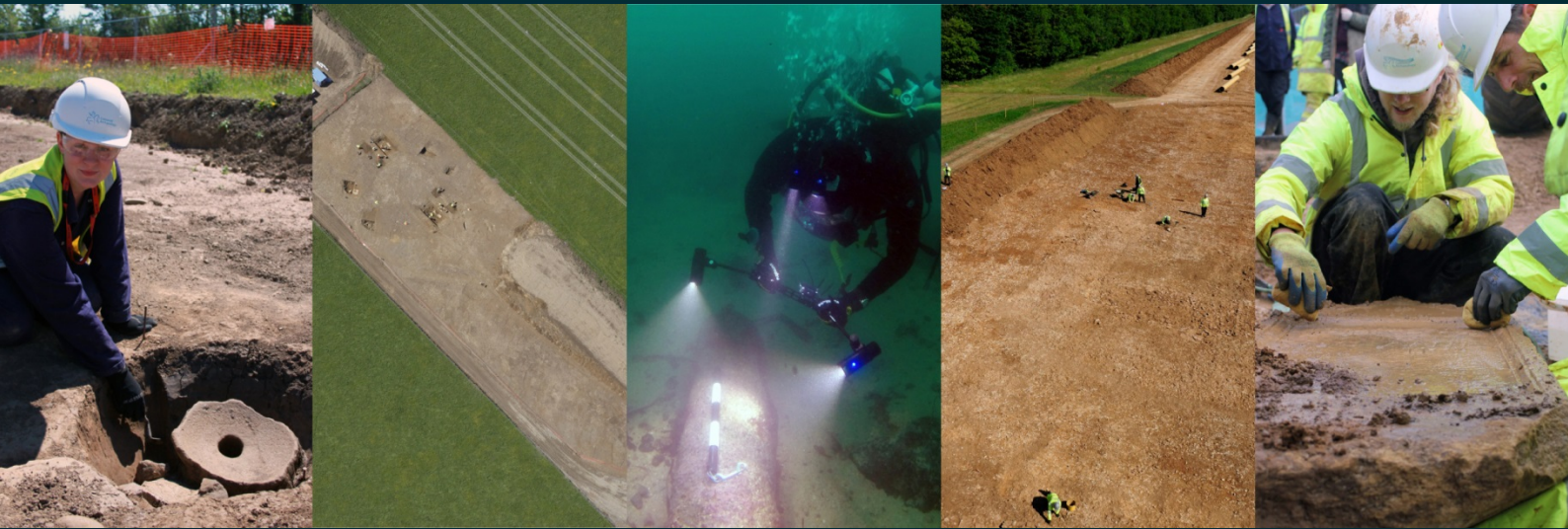


**Mount Farm Solar Park  
Wickhamford,  
Worcestershire**  
*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
INGR Solar Parks 14 Limited

Worcs HER Event No: WSM67370  
OASIS Ref: cotswold2-230017  
CA Project: 5530  
CA Report 15733

November 2015



# Mount Farm Solar Park Wickhamford, Worcestershire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5530  
CA Report: 15733



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	11 November 2015	Peter Busby	Richard Young	Internal review		Ian Barnes

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:10,000)



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Mount Farm Solar Park  
**Location:** Wickhamford, Worcestershire  
**NGR:** SP 0498 3992  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 28-30 September 2015  
**Planning Reference:** Wychavon District Council ref: W/14/01029/PN;  
**Worcestershire HER**  
**Reference:** WSM67370  
**Appeal ref:** APP/H1840/W/14/3001928  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum  
**Site Code:** MOU 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a solar park at Mount Farm, Wickhamford, Worcestershire.

East/west orientated ridge and furrow was identified during the watching brief. No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for INGR Solar Parks 14 Limited at Mount Farm Solar Park, Wickhamford, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0498 3992; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition (Condition No. 3) attached to a planning consent for the development of a solar farm granted by Wychavon District Council (WDC) Planning ref: W/14/01029/PN; appeal APP/H1840/W/14/3001928.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by WDC acting on the advice of Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor, archaeological advisor to WDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *the Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief as a Condition of Planning Consent in the County of Worcestershire* (Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service 2014), *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and *the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### **The site**

1.3 The site is 48ha in extent and comprises arable and pastoral fields near to the village of Wickhamford in Worcestershire, approximately 1km south of the town of Evesham. Field boundaries are predominantly hedgerows and ditches. A watercourse, known as Badsey Brook, runs passed the development site to the east, from north-east to south-west, and a tributary of Badsey Brook flows through the site following field boundaries.

1.4 The site occupies a low, flat area in the base of the Vale of Evesham, overlooked by Bredon Hill 6.5km to the west, and the Cotswold Edge escarpment 4km to the south east. The surrounding landscape consists of mixed agricultural land, with a particular emphasis on market gardening, and nucleated settlements, farmsteads and small areas of managed woodland.

1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods, no

superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2015). Natural substrate in the form of light yellow brown clay was observed during the watching brief.

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was produced by Cotswold Archaeology in 2014 which contains a detailed account of the surrounding Heritage Assets. Below is a short summary.
- 2.2 An assemblage of Mesolithic flint recorded within the study area of the DBA suggests there may be limited potential for flint scatters to survive within the topsoil in the site. The possible route of a Roman road runs adjacent to the northern site boundary, along an existing field boundary, and in a narrow parcel of land known as 'Broad Lane'. The presence of a road of this date would increase the potential for associated unrecorded archaeological remains, such as burials or roadside settlement to be present within the site. There is also considered to be some limited potential for Roman settlement within the site due to the proximity of known Romano-British settlement sites in the wider landscape.
- 2.3 A previously unrecorded possible boundary stone was identified during a site visit. It is likely to date from the medieval period at the earliest. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture survive as earthworks in two of the fields proposed for development.
- 2.4 GBS Prospection Ltd (2014) undertook a geophysical survey of the proposed site, although this did not include the area of the substation. A small cluster of anomalies in the south of the survey area had the potential to be of archaeological interest: the responses include probable linear ditches and an enclosure. Extensive evidence relating to medieval or more recent agricultural practices were identified, including ridge and furrow cultivation, headlands, and former boundaries. Anomalies of an uncertain origin were also identified; though these are likely to be either agricultural or natural in origin. Pipes, pylons and modern ferrous debris were also detected.

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works 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 associated with construction of the foundations for the solar farm's substation (Trench 1, Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The site archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum. 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 (FIG. 2)**

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate (107) consisting of light yellow brown clay, was revealed across the whole of Trench 1 at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level. This was cut by two east/west orientated furrows (104 and 106), filled by silt-clay fills 103 and 105 respectively. They were in turn overlain by two modern ploughsoils 101 and 102.
- 5.2 No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.



## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The watching brief identified two undated east/west orientated furrows and no other archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate either they do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during agricultural cultivation.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby and the report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 30 September 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Mount Farm Solar Park: Heritage Desk Based Assessment* Report No. **14007**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Mount Farm, Longdon Hill, Wickhamford, Evesham: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

GSB Prospection Ltd 2014 *Geophysical Survey Mount Solar Farm Evesham* Report No **G1454**.

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service 2014 *Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief as a Condition of Planning Consent in the County of Worcestershire*.

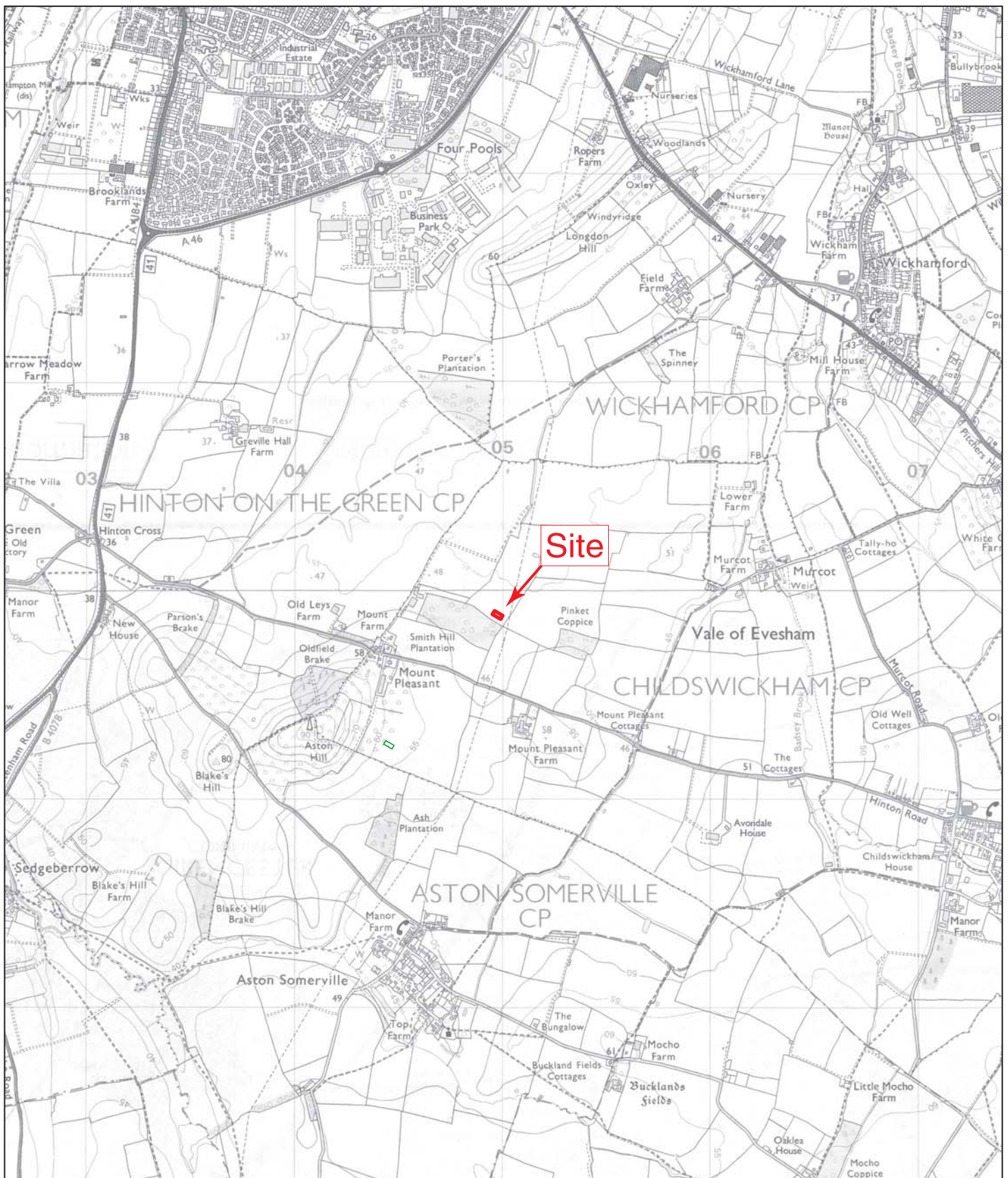


**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	101	Layer		Upper Ploughsoil	Red brown silt clay	>40	>20	0.12
1	102	Layer		Lower Ploughsoil	Light red brown silt clay	>40	>20	0.16
1	103	Fill	104	Furrow fill	Light red brown silt clay	>20	3.1	0.24
1	104	Cut		Furrow	E/W linear with very shallow sides and rounded base	>20	3.1	0.24
1	105	Fill	106	Furrow fill	As 103	>20	>3.8	0.18
1	106	Cut		Furrow	As 104	>20	>3.8	0.18
1	107	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown clay	>40	>20	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Mount Farm, Solar Park	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a solar park at Mount Farm, Wickhamford, Worcestershire.  East/west orientated ridge and furrow was identified during the watching brief. No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed.	
Project dates	28-30 September 2015	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Wickhamford, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	48ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 0498 3992	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	None
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench sheet
Digital	n/a	None
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Mount Farm, Solar Park, Wickhamford, Worcestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>15733</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Mount Farm Solar Park, Wickhamford, Worcestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

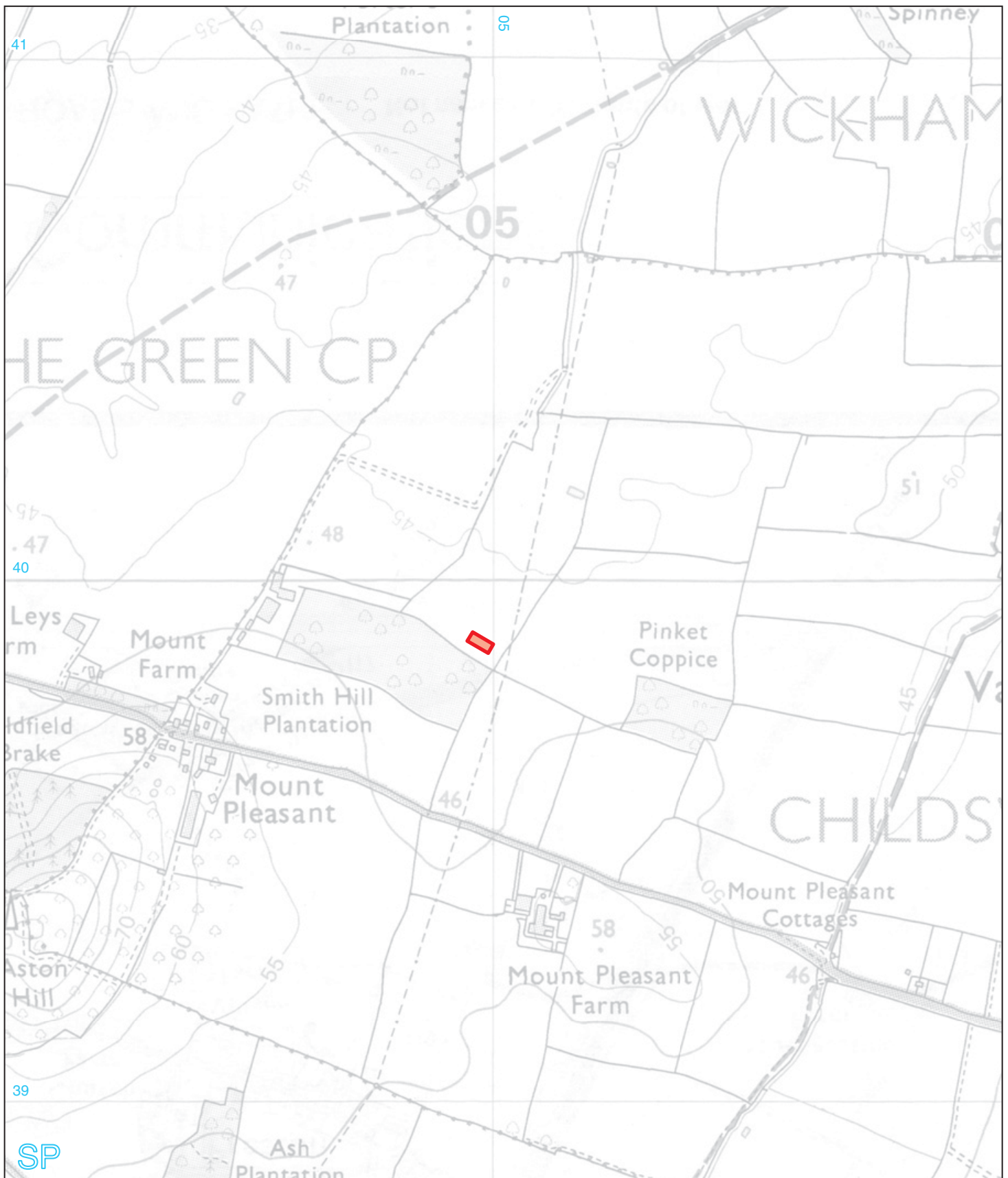


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APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A4	1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Mount Farm Solar Park, Wickhamford, Worcestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**

Trench location plan

-  site boundary
-  Trench 1

0  400m

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FIGURE NO.

2

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