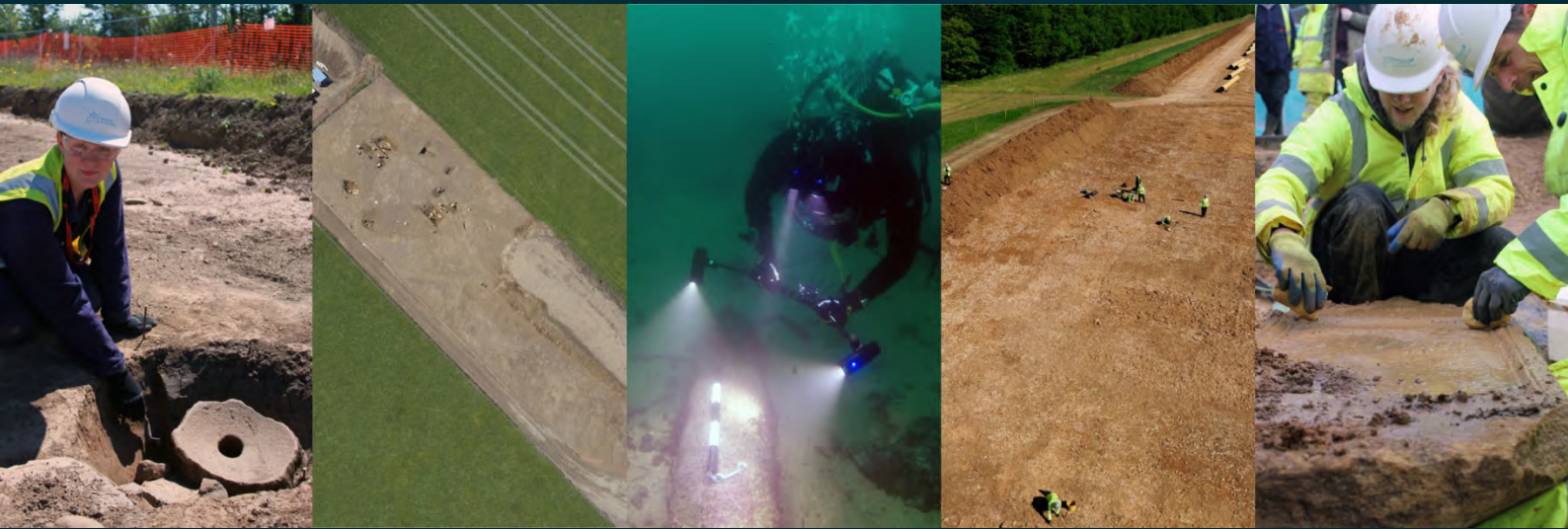


**Granville Road
Donnington
Telford
Shropshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Anesco Ltd

CA Project: 5909
CA Report: 16352

August 2016



Granville Road
Donnington
Telford
Shropshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5909
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Granville Road, Donnington
Location:	Telford, Shropshire
NGR:	SJ 72130 13044
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	31 May, 27 June and 25-27 July 2016
Planning Reference:	TWC/2015/0804
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Shropshire Museum Service
Accession Number:	E.00953
Site Code:	GRD16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May, June and July 2016 during groundworks associated with the development of a solar farm on land off Granville Road, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire.

The watching brief identified a small number of archaeological features in the north part of the site. Two ditches and two pits were recorded. The function of the pits is unclear, but they may date to the Roman period while the ditches remain undated.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May, June and July 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Anesco Ltd at Granville Road, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire (centred on NGR: SJ 72130 13044; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition (no. 11) attached to a planning consent granted by Telford and Wrekin Council (TWC) for a solar farm (Planning ref: TWC/2015/0804).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by CA (2015a) and approved by TWC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 13ha in extent and is located adjacent to Granville Road, west of the village of Donnington, within the suburbs of Telford. The site comprises three moderately sized fields separated by fences, which are under pasture.
- 1.4 The site slopes downwards from approximately 118m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at its southern boundary to approximately 100m AOD at its northern boundary.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Halesowen Formation of the Carboniferous Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016). Natural substrate of yellow and orange sands with patches of blue clay and mudstone bedrock was observed in all trenches except for Trenches 1, 2 and 5.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken in 2015 by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2015b). A geophysical survey of the site has also been undertaken (GSB Prospection Ltd 2015). The results of these assessments are summarised below.

- 2.2 There is currently no evidence for prehistoric activity recorded within the site or the surrounding area. Whilst there are no Romano-British remains recorded within site, the Scheduled Monument of Uxacona Roman Settlement and the adjacent Roman camp lie approximately 1.6km to the south of the site, along the Roman Road of Watling Street (CA 2015b).
- 2.3 Evidence for medieval activity within the immediate area includes Lilleshall Abbey, a 12th century foundation for the Canons of the Augustinian Order, the remains of which are preserved as a Scheduled Monument (National Monument 568275) approximately 1.4km north-east of site. Further evidence includes the site of a medieval deer park, to the east of the site, and ridge and furrow cultivation, recorded near Muxton, c. 450m to the north (ibid.).
- 2.4 Post-medieval development within the vicinity of the site includes the construction of the Donnington Wood Canal, which marks the north-western boundary of the development area. During the 19th century, the environs of the site were developed as a result of mining activity and many collieries, associated tramways and buildings are recorded adjacent to the site. These included the Muxton Bridge Colliery to the north, with the pumping engine surviving as a Scheduled Monument (National Monument 1481404) and the Waxhill Barracks Colliery immediately to the south-west of the site. The latter included colliery workers accommodation blocks, a Methodist Chapel and other buildings. The colliery buildings were demolished in the 20th century, but the remains of the chapel survive up to c. 0.4m in height within a now wooded area (ibid.).
- 2.5 On 19th-century maps of the area, the site is depicted within farmland, with no industrial and mining activity recorded extending into the development area. Some boundary changes had taken place during the 19th and 20th centuries, including the removal of a diagonal field boundary shown on the historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (ibid.).
- 2.7 A geophysical survey was undertaken in order to locate and characterise any anomalies of potential archaeological interest within the site (GSB Prospection 2015). No geophysical anomalies of archaeological interest were identified, with the numerous responses interpreted as being of agricultural or natural origin. The former diagonal field boundary shown on historic OS maps was 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 2015a). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of two transformer bases, the customer RMU base, one substation base, ground reduction in the site entrance, four trenches for bird box posts, three HV cable trenches and a swale (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). No further intrusive works are planned as all additional cable runs will be supported above ground in cable trays.

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 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Shropshire Museum under accession number E.00953. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.



5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the results of the watching brief; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 The natural substrate, comprising yellow and orange sands with patches of blue clay and mudstone bedrock, was revealed in all the trenches except for Trenches 1, 2 and 5, at approximately 0.3m to 0.59m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by silt-sand subsoil averaging 0.2m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by topsoil.
- 5.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in Trenches 1-7 and Trenches 9-13.
- 5.4 In Trench 8, one of the three cable trenches, two ditches, 804 and 806, and two pits, 807 and 809, were partially exposed.
- 5.5 Narrow ditch 804 was identified running on a north-west/south-east alignment. It measured 0.37m in width and 0.29m in depth, and contained single sandy silt fill 805. Three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) and four fragments of fired clay were recovered from fill 805. A wider ditch (806) was identified to the south of ditch 804 on a similar north-west/south-east alignment. It measured 2.32m wide and 0.2m in depth and contained single undated sandy silt fill 811 (Fig. 3: Section AA, BB; Fig. 4).
- 5.5 Ditch 806 was consistent with a geophysical anomaly that had been interpreted as a watercourse (see Fig. 2).
- 5.6 To the south of the ditches two pits (807 and 809) were partially exposed. Pit 807 was circular in plan and measured 0.81m in length, more than 0.41m in width and 0.31m in depth (Fig. 3: Section CC; Fig. 4). It contained single sandy silt fill 808, from which three sherds of abraded Roman pottery were recovered.
- 5.7 Pit 809 was the southernmost feature within Trench 8. It was oval in plan and measured 1.24m in length, more than 0.5m in width and 0.26m in depth (Fig. 3:

Section DD; Fig. 4). It contained single sandy silt fill 810. One sherd of mid-1st to mid-3rd century Roman pottery was recovered from this fill.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from three deposits: pit and ditch fills. The recovered material dates to the Roman period. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Where possible, fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) are equated to the Wroxeter Baths Basilica type series (Symonds 1997). Where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery

6.2 Pottery of Roman date totals four sherds (47g). The sherds from pit fill 808 are heavily abraded and that from pit fill 810 is in moderately good condition.

6.3 Pit fill 810 produced a bodysherd of Baetican amphora (SV6). This fabric is associated with Dressel 20 amphora types, which were imported from Spain from the mid-first to mid-third centuries (Tyers 1996, 87).

6.4 Three sherds of Severn Valley ware were recorded in pit fill 808. Represented are: an oxidised fabric (R1), which was produced throughout the Romano-British period (Webster 1976, 40–4); and a reduced, charcoal-tempered variant (SVRC), which was manufactured during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.5 Three fragments of ceramic building material (11g) were retrieved from ditch fill 805. All are in poor condition and too fragmentary for dating or further classification.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The watching brief identified a small number of archaeological features within Trench 8 in the northern part of the site.

- 7.2 Due to the limited width of Trench 8 (0.5m), the features identified were only partially exposed therefore the interpretation of these features remains uncertain.
- 7.3 Pit 807 contained three sherds of Romano-British pottery, whilst pit 809 contained one sherd of mid-1st to mid-3rd pottery. This suggests that pits 807 and 809 may date to this period, although the condition of the sherds was poor to moderate and the possibility that this material is residual should not be overlooked.
- 7.4 In addition to the pits, Ditches 804 and 806 were identified. Fill 805 of Ditch 804 did contain small fragments of CBM and fired clay, but due to the limited quantity, as well as poor preservation of the material, a date could not be determined. Ditch 806 likely represents a watercourse (as the geophysical survey report suggested) given its meandering southern section.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund and Sara-Jayne Boughton. The report was written by Sara-Jayne Boughton and Luke Brannlund. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by, and prepared for deposition by, Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

9. REFERENCES

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- British Geological Survey 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology/viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 28 July 2016
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015a *Granville Road, Telford, Shropshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief and Mitigation Works*
- CA 2015b *Granville Road, Telford, Shropshire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*, client report ref. **15325**

GSB Prospection Ltd 2015 *Granville Road, Telford, Shropshire: Geophysical Survey Report*, client report ref. **G15122**

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot date
1	101	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	7.4	4.2	0.25	
1	102	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light red-brown silt-sand with pebbles	7.4	4.2		
2	201	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	7.4	4.2	0.25	
2	202	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light red-brown silt-sand with pebbles	7.4	4.2		
3	301	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	4	3	0.2	
3	302	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light red-brown silt-sand with pebbles	4	3	0.1	
3	303	Layer	Natural substrate	Light yellow/orange sands and bedrock	4	3		
4	401	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	0.6	Approx. 250	0.25	
4	402	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light red-brown silt-sand with pebbles	0.6	Approx. 250	0.1	
4	403	Layer	Natural substrate	Light yellow/orange sands and bedrock	0.6	Approx. 250		
5	501	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	3	1	0.2	
5	502	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light red-brown silt-sand with pebbles	3	1	>0.1	
6	601	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	10	<0.75	<0.35	
6	602	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light brown-red silt-sand with stones	10	<0.75	<0.2	
6	603	Layer	Natural substrate	Light yellow/orange sands and bedrock	10	<0.75		
7	701	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	4.5	3.5	<0.38	
7	702	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light brown-red silt-sand With stones	4.5	3.5	<0.2	
7	703	Layer	Natural substrate	Light yellow/orange sands and bedrock	4.5	3.5		
8	801	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt		0.5	0.39	
8	802	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light brown-red silt-sand with stones		0.5	0.2	
8	803	Layer	Natural substrate	Light yellow/orange sands and bedrock with patches of blue clay		0.5		
8	804	Cut	Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Vertically sloping sides, concave base	<0.5	0.37	0.29	
8	805	Fill	Ditch fill	Mid orange-brown sand-silt	>0.5	0.37	0.29	
8	806	Cut	Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Gently sloping sides, flat and uneven base	>0.5	2.32	0.2	
8	807	Cut	Pit	Circular. Vertically sloping sides, concave base.	>0.36 0.81	>0.41	0.31	
8	808	Fill	Pit fill	Mid red-brown sand-silt	>0.36 0.81	>0.41	0.31	RB
8	809	Cut	Pit	Oval. Gently sloping and stepped sides, concave base.	>0.71 1.24	>0.5	0.26	
8	810	Fill	Pit fill	Mid yellow-brown sand-silt	>0.71 1.24	>0.5	0.26	MC1-MC3
8	811	Fill	Ditch fill	Mid-dark yellow-brown sand-silt	>0.5	2.32	0.2	
9	901	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	1.2	1	<0.18	
9	902	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light brown-red silt-sand with stones	1.2	1	<0.16	
9	903	Layer	Natural substrate	Light yellow/orange sands and bedrock	1.2	1		
10	1001	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	1.5	1	<0.29	
10	1002	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light brown-red silt-sand with stones	1.5	1	<0.2	
10	1003	Layer	Natural substrate	Light yellow/orange sands and bedrock	1.5	1		

10	1004	Deposit	Industrial/ Modern	Dark black with grey and yellow stone inclusions	>1.1	>1	0.68	
11	1101	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	1.6	1	<0.21	
11	1102	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light brown-red silt-sand with stones	1.6	1	<0.24	
11	1103	Layer	Natural substrate	Light yellow/orange sands and bedrock	1.6	1		
12	1201	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt	2	1	<0.26	
12	1202	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light brown-red silt-sand with stones	2	1	<2	
12	1203	Layer	Natural substrate	Light yellow sands and bedrock	2	1		
13	1301	Layer	Topsoil	Mid red-brown sand-silt		0.5	>0.25	
13	1302	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-light brown-red silt-sand with stones		0.5		

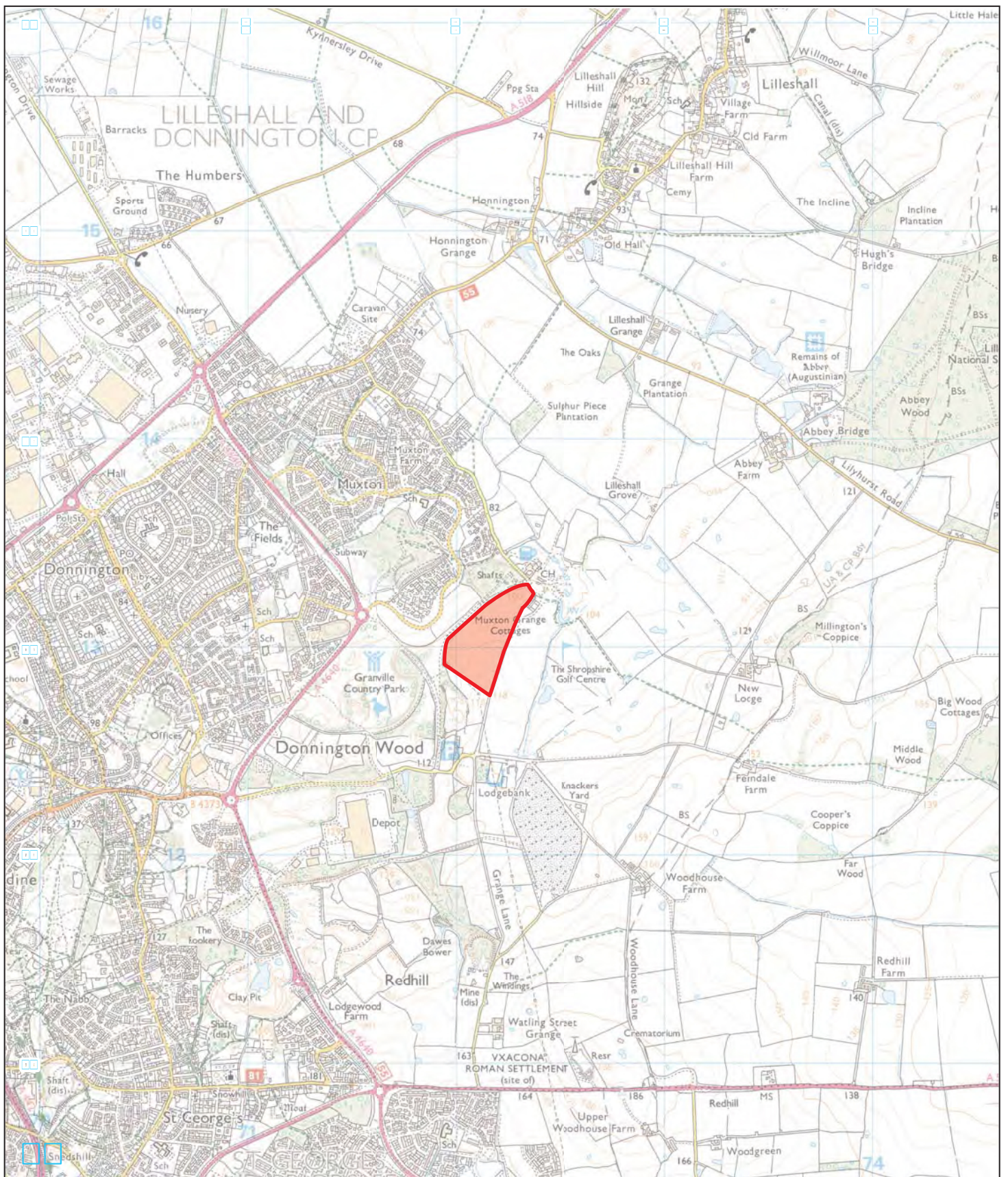
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
805	Ceramic building material Fired clay	Fragment		3	11	-
				4	7	
808	Roman pottery Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	R1/SVW OX2	2	10	RB
		Severn Valley reduced ware (charcoal-tempered variant)	SVRC	1	2	
810	Roman pottery	Baetican amphora	SV6/BAT AM	1	35	MC1-MC3

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Granville Road, Donnington	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May, June and July 2016 during groundworks associated with the development of a solar farm on land off Granville Road, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire. The watching brief identified a small number of archaeological features in the north part of the site. Two ditches and two pits were recorded. The function of the pits is unclear, but they may date to the Roman period while the ditches remain undated.	
Project dates	31 May, 27 June, 25-27 July 2016	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2015b) Geophysical Survey (GSB 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Telford, Shropshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	13ha	
Site co-ordinates	SJ 72130 13044	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund, Sara-Jayne Boughton	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (Content
Physical	Shropshire Museum E.00953	Pottery
Paper	Shropshire Museum E.00953	Trench sheets, Context sheets, drawings, photo register
Digital	Shropshire Museum E.00953	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Granville Road, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 16352		



PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Granville Road, Donnington
 Telford, Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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- site boundary
- observed groundworks
- archaeological feature
- section location



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Granville Road, Donnington
 Telford, Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE
**The site, showing location of
 groundworks**

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APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:2,000 & 1:400	

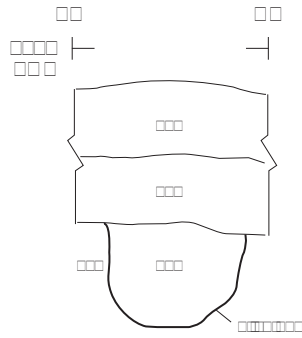
pit 807
 pit 809

ditch 804

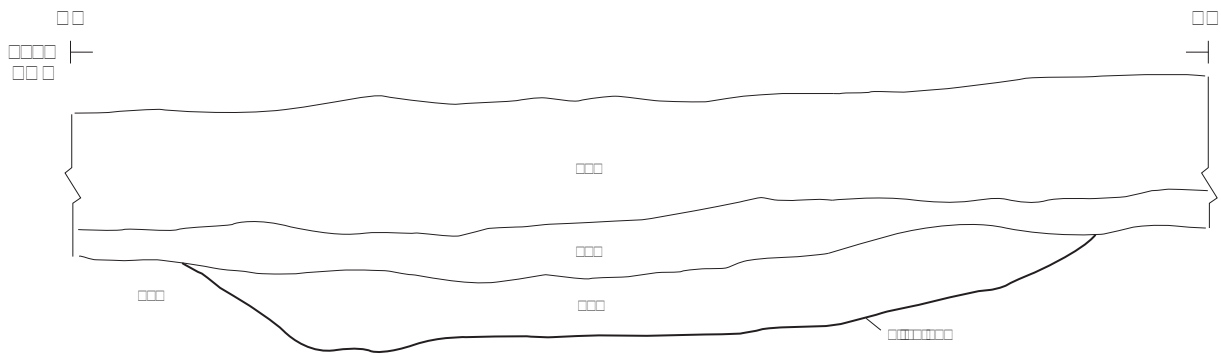
ditch 806



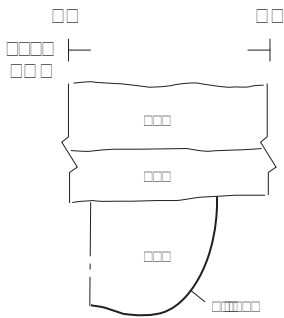
Section AA



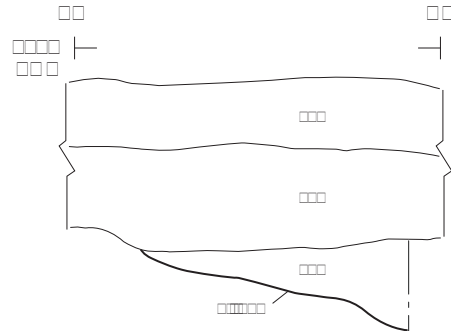
Section BB



Section CC



Section DD



PROJECT TITLE
**Land off Granville Road, Donnington
 Telford, Shropshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Sections

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Ditch 806, looking south-east (scale 1m)





Ditch 804, looking north-west (scale 0.3m)



Pit 807, plan (scale 0.5m)



Pit 809, plan (scale 0.5m)

 Cotswold Archaeology			
<p><i>PROJECT TITLE</i></p> <p>Land off Granville Road, Donnington Telford, Shropshire</p>			
<p><i>FIGURE TITLE</i></p> <p>Photographs</p>			
<p><i>DRAWN BY</i> SO</p> <p><i>CHECKED BY</i> LM</p> <p><i>APPROVED BY</i> REY</p>	<p><i>PROJECT NO.</i> 5909</p> <p><i>DATE</i> 29/07/2016</p> <p><i>SCALE@A4</i> N/A</p>	<p><i>FIGURE NO.</i></p> <p>4</p>	

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