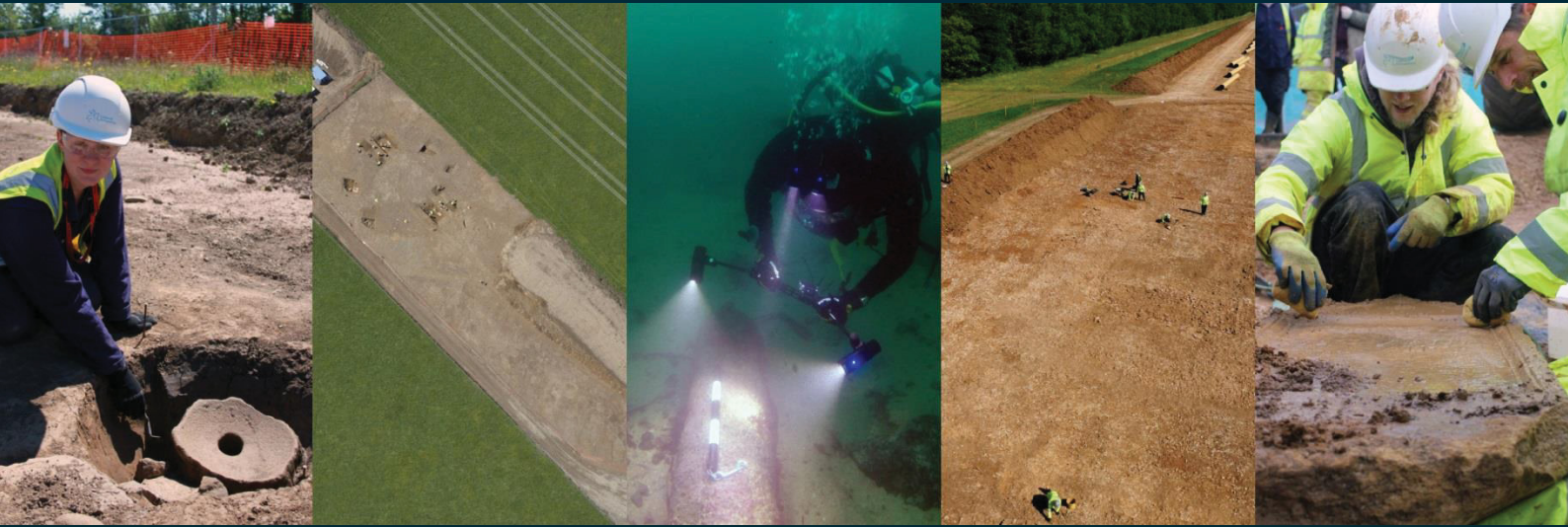


Proposed Wind Turbine East Westacott Ashreigney Devon



for
Constantine Wind
Energy Ltd

CA Project: 880062
CA Report: 16014

January 2016



Proposed Wind Turbine East Westacott Ashreigney Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 880062
CA Report: 16014



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	08/01/2016	George Gandham	Derek Evans	Internal review	N/A	Derek Evans

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Proposed Wind Turbine
Location:	East Westacott, Ashreigney, Devon
NGR:	SS 6042 1340
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	2, 11 and 16 Nov 2015
Planning Reference:	1/0567/2014/FUL
Location of Archive:	Currently held by Cotswold Archaeology (Cirencester Office)
Site Code:	EWA15

In November 2015, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a wind turbine at East Westacott, Ashreigney, Devon.

A previous desk-based assessment of the site had concluded that although there were no known heritage assets within the site boundary, there was some potential for previously unrecorded prehistoric archaeological remains to be present at the site.

The watching brief identified a single undated ditch.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2015, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Constantine Wind Energy Ltd at East Westacott, Ashreigney, Devon (centred on NGR: SS 6042 1340; Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Constantine Wind Energy Ltd.
- 1.2 Planning permission for the installation of a single 100kW wind turbine on a 23m tower was granted by Torridge District Council (TDC; the local planning authority), conditional on a programme of archaeological work (planning ref: 1/0567/2014/FUL, Condition 19). The scope of this watching brief was defined subsequently by Ann Marie Dick and Stephen Reed of the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET; the archaeological advisors to TDC).
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by TDC acting on the advice of Stephen Reed. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

The site

- 1.4 The turbine site lies in a rectangular field bounded by hedgebanks. Riddlecombe Moor Road forms the southern boundary of the field and a tributary of the Mully Brook runs along the northern boundary. The field is currently under improved pasture and is surrounded on all sides by similar fields.
- 1.5 The turbine site lies at approximately 157m above Ordnance Datum, on the top of an east/west ridge that forms the watershed between two unnamed tributaries of the Mully Brook. The field containing the turbine site is fairly level, although the northern part of the field slopes down to the watercourse and a slight hollow runs east/west across the field, marking the line of a gas main.
- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as alternating bands of Bude Formation sandstone and Crackington Formation mudstone and siltstone, both of which formed in the Carboniferous Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2015).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following section is summarised from a previous desk-based heritage assessment of the site (CgMs 2014). This concluded that, although there are no known heritage assets within the site boundary, there was some potential for previously unrecorded below-ground archaeological remains to be present at the site.

Prehistoric (pre AD 43)

2.2 The small scale of early prehistoric settlements in this area renders them difficult to identify in the absence of fieldwalking or intrusive fieldwork. It was therefore considered possible that undetected early prehistoric archaeological remains were present at the site.

2.3 Two potential Bronze Age (2400 BC–700 BC) barrows are known at Winkleigh Moor Cross (c. 990m south-west of the proposed turbine site) and two possible Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43) enclosures are recorded at Cowflop Cross (c. 2.5km north-west of the proposed turbine site). The Cowflop Cross enclosures demonstrate that high ground in the area was exploited for settlement during the Iron Age, but the extent of this activity is unknown; it was therefore considered possible that previously undetected Iron Age remains were present within the turbine site, which also lies on high ground.

Roman (AD 43–AD 410) and early medieval (AD 410–1066)

2.4 There is no recorded evidence of Roman or early medieval activity in the area and it seems likely that in these periods the area saw only low intensity activity, such as grazing.

Medieval (1066–1539)

2.5 The area's current settlement and field pattern was largely established in the medieval period, but the turbine site remained unenclosed common land. Many of the settlements in the area were extant at the time of the Conquest or shortly thereafter, including Riddlecombe, Cottwood and Narracott. Westacott is first documented in 1333; by 1637 it was the largest farm in the parish.

Post-medieval and modern (1540–present)

2.6 The turbine site remained unimproved moorland until being enclosed in 1861.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits thus revealed; and
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the project results 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 (Fig. 2), comprising the excavation of an access track and crane pad (Trench 1), the turbine area (Trench 2) and cable trenches (Trenches 3 and 4).

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 evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

5.1 The natural geological substrate comprised a mix of yellow, orange and grey clays with sandstone inclusions, and was revealed within all four trenches at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level. The natural was overlain by a silty sand

subsoil averaging 0.1m in thickness, which was sealed in turn by 0.3m of topsoil (Fig. 4).

- 5.2 The only archaeological feature to be exposed was north-west/south-east-aligned ditch 303 (Trench 3; Fig. 3). This feature cut natural substrate 302 and was overlain by subsoil 301. Ditch 303 was 2.25m wide and 0.55m deep. No artefactual material was recovered from either of its two silty clay fills (304 and 305) and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered from the site.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The watching brief identified a single undated ditch at the site. This either indicates that, despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *Archaeological background*, above), the turbine site did not experience an extensive amount of historical activity, or that the remains of any such activity do not extend as far as (or were not exposed by) the development groundworks.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by George Gandham. This report was written by George Gandham. The report illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 15 October 2015

CgMs 2014 *Heritage Assessment: Proposed Wind Turbine, East Westacott, Ashreigney, Devon*

Cotswold Archaeology 2015 *Proposed Wind Turbine, East Westacott, Ashreigney, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid grey-brown silty sand		0.3
1	101	Layer		subsoil	mid brown silty sand		0.1
1	102	Layer		natural	mid yellow, orange and grey clay and sandstone		
2	200	Layer		topsoil	mid grey-brown silty sand		0.3
2	201	Layer		subsoil	mid brown silty sand		0.1
2	202	Layer		natural	mid yellow, orange and grey clay and sandstone		
3	300	Layer		topsoil	mid grey-brown silty sand		0.3
3	301	Layer		subsoil	mid brown silty sand		0.1
3	302	Layer		natural	mid yellow, orange and grey clay and sandstone		
3	303	Cut		ditch	NW/SE-aligned, steep sloping south edge, moderate sloping north edge, concave base	>2.25	0.55
3	304	Fill	303	lower fill of ditch	mid brown silty clay		0.15
3	305	Fill	303	upper fill of ditch	mid yellow-brown silty clay		0.4
4	400	Layer		topsoil	mid grey-brown silty sand		0.3
4	401	Layer		subsoil	mid grey-brown silty sand		0.1
4	402	Layer		natural	Mid yellow orange and grey clay and sandstone		

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Proposed Wind Turbine, East Westacott, Ashreigney, Devon: archaeological watching brief	
Short description	<p>In November 2015, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a wind turbine at East Westacott, Ashreigney, Devon.</p> <p>A previous desk-based assessment of the site had concluded that although there were no known heritage assets within the site boundary, there was some potential for previously unrecorded prehistoric archaeological remains to be present at the site.</p> <p>The watching brief identified a single undated ditch.</p>	
Project dates	2, 11 and 16 November 2015	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Desk-based heritage assessment (CgMs 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	East Westacott, Ashreigney, Devon	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1 ha	
Site co-ordinates	SS 6042 1340	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Devon County Council	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	George Gandham	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	WSI, pro-forma registers, recording forms.
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Digital photographs, digital survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Cotswold Archaeology 2015 <i>Proposed Wind Turbine, East Westacott, Ashreigney, Devon: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 16014	

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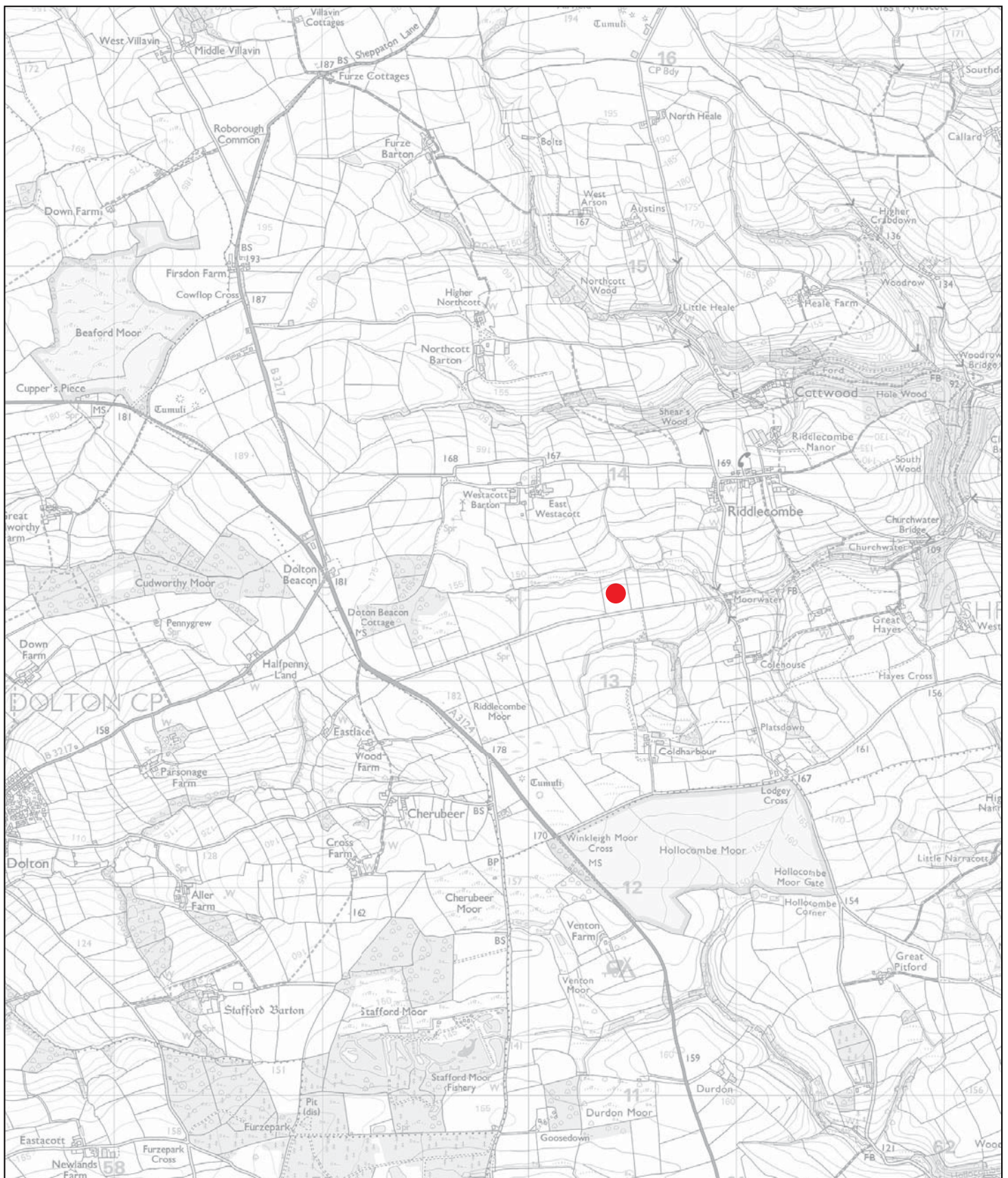
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PROJECT TITLE

Proposed Wind Turbine, East Westcott
Ashreigney, Devon

FIGURE TITLE





Site location plan

0 1km

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CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	17/12/2015	
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



-  monitored groundworks
-  archaeological feature
-  modern
-  section location



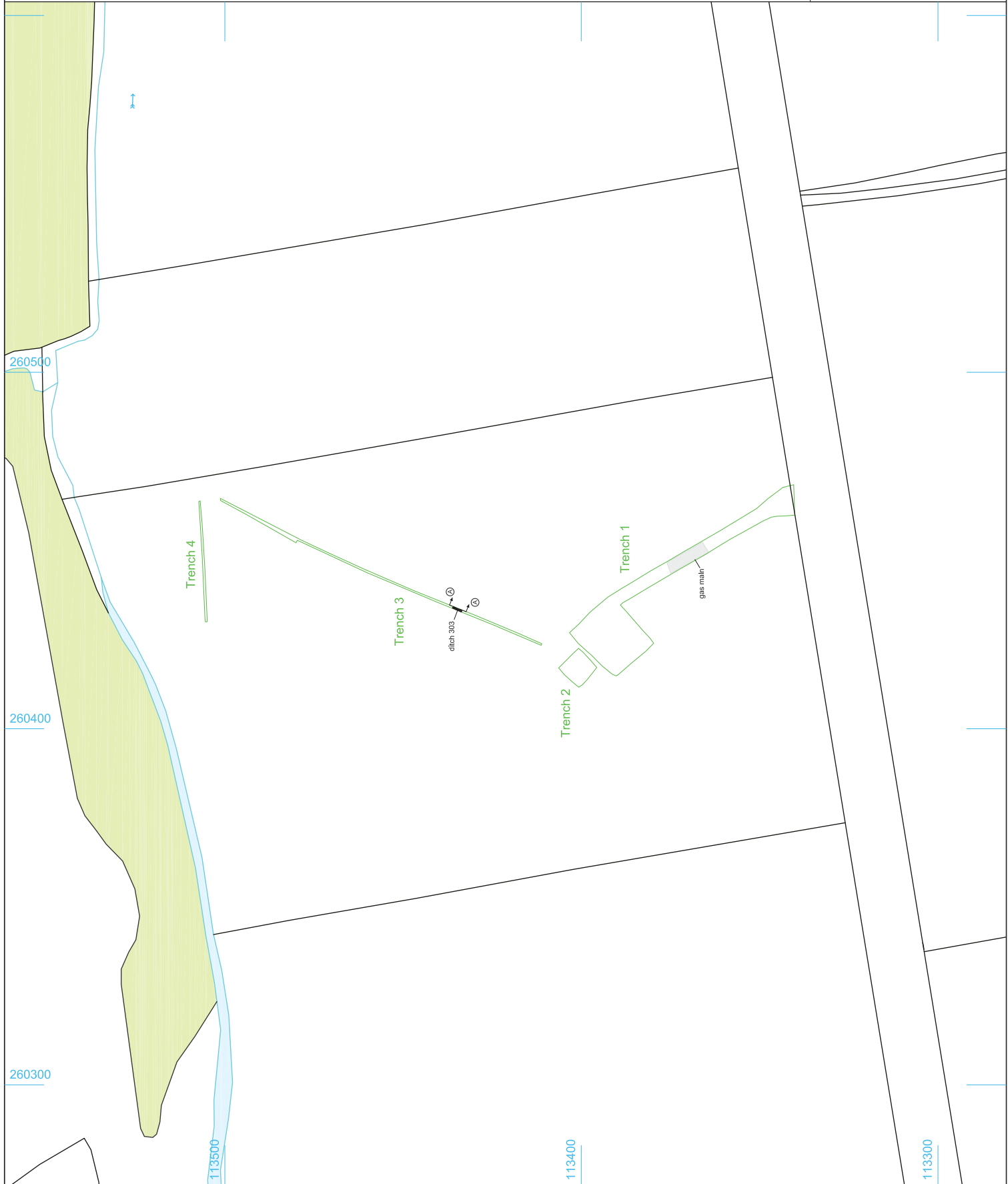
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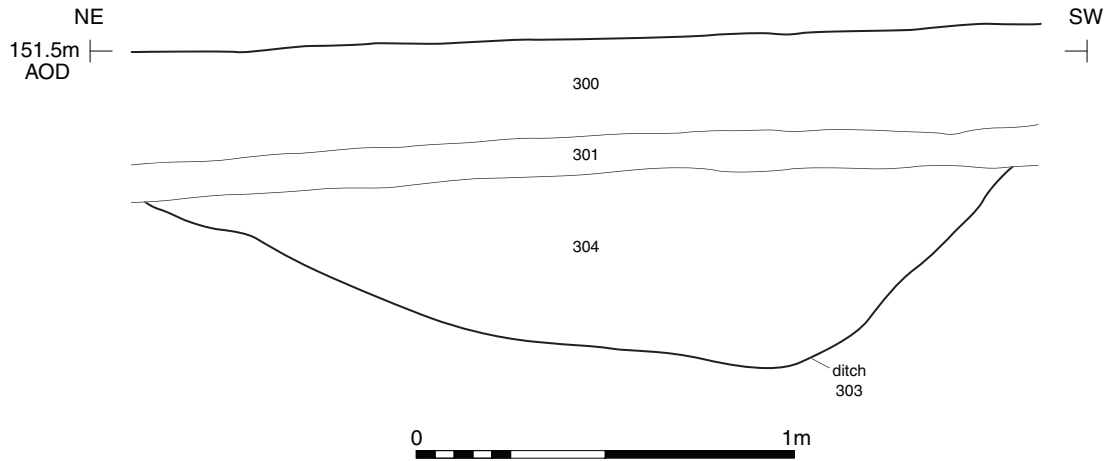
PROJECT TITLE
 Proposed Wind Turbine, East Westacott
 Ashreigney, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing monitored
 groundworks

DRAWN BY	LWL/JH	PROJECT NO.	80062	FIGURE NO.	2
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APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE	A3		



Section AA



North-west facing section of Trench 3



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FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 303, section and photograph

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APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:20	



Stripping of Trench 1, looking north-west



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1, photograph

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