

Land in Newton Ferrers  
Callington  
Cornwall  
*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
RALOS New Energy UK Ltd

Planning Reference: PA14/04185

CA Project: 5103  
CA Report: 15223

May 2015



Land in Newton Ferrers  
Callington  
Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land in Newton Ferrers
<b>Location:</b>	Callington, Cornwall
<b>NGR:</b>	SX 35778 66374
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	2 February to 6 March
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	PA14/04185
<b>Site Code:</b>	NEF15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with a 30ha solar farm at land Newton Ferrers, Callington, Cornwall.

Despite the archaeological potential of the application area the watching brief identified only one undated ditch. No further archaeological remains were identified within the area of observed groundworks.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February and March 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for RALOS New Energy UK Ltd at land in Newton Ferrers, Callington, Cornwall (centred on NGR: SX 35778 66374; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for a solar farm and associated infrastructure (Planning ref: PA14/04185).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 30ha across four fields and along a c.8km long cable route of mixed arable and pasture in the parish of St. Mellion (Figs 1 and 2). The site lies c. 3km to the west of St Melion and 2.5km to the south of Callington. The site is located to the west of a public highway linking Clapper Bridge and Bramble Wood to the south and Amy Tree and Trewell Farm to the north.
- 1.4 The site lies on a north to south slope falling from 160m above Ordnance Datum in the north to 138m aOD in the south.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Teign Valley Group sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, with no recorded superficial deposits.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to cultural heritage assessment (HEPCC 2014), and the following is a summary of the baseline evidence within that assessment based on the data held by the Cornwall Historic Environment Record (HER) and historic mapping.

- 2.2 The survey area has been part of the Newton Ferrers estate since the 17th century and lies between the medieval settlements of Pillaton to the south-east and Quethioch to the north-west.
- 2.3 The surrounding landscape contains a number of prehistoric monuments, including Castlewich, a Scheduled Late Neolithic henge at Westcott Farm located c.3km to the north-east of the site.
- 2.4 In a field to the east of the site, between Amy Tree and Amy Down, the site of a possible Bronze Age barrow (HER 6820) is recorded. The crop mark is viable as a bulge of darker soil with a maximum height of approx. 0.4m. Within the same field, some flint artefacts were discovered during field walking. The artefacts (HER 6798) consisted of a flint flake, a flint core, a sherd of early pottery found close to the possible barrow. There might also be a barrow or enclosure in a field to the south of the survey area, identified as a sub circular enclosure approximately 50m in diameter (HER 50041).
- 2.5 By late prehistory, settlement had begun to creep up onto the edges of the uplands, reflected by the presence of Iron Age/Romano-British rounds or enclosed farmsteads. Nearby is the substantial Cadson Bury univallate hillfort set in a highly defensive position on the western edge of the River Lynher.
- 2.6 The settlement and manor of Newton Ferrers is located just on the eastern side of the River Lynher and was first documented in the Domesday Book. The original house was in the hands of the Ferrers family until 1314. Today the manor of Newton Ferrers consists of a large house built between 1686 and 1695 for Sir William Coryton.
- 2.7 The immediate area of the site lies within ground characterised as Recently Enclosed Land (REL) of Post-medieval date (Herring 1998). This type of land was enclosed in the 17th to 20th centuries, usually from medieval common ground on Upland Rough Ground. The layout of fields today is broadly that shown on the 1840s Tithe map.

### 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 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks which included the excavation of cable trenches (Figs 3 and 4), inverter and substations, access roads and compounds. In addition to this the monitoring included the excavation of a mains cable route to connect the Solar Farm to the transformer station at Ellbridge to the south east. The route was c.8km long spread across 35 fields and along road verges. It comprised within the fields, the excavation of a c.5m wide easement (Fig 5) to a depth of c.300mm within which a narrow c.500mm wide cable trench (Fig 6) was excavated to a depth of c.1m below ground level for the installation of the mains cable.

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 from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with the appropriate designated museum/archive depository. A summary of information from this project is set out within Appendix A and will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.



## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The soil profile revealed across the site comprised consisting of a mid grey silty clay topsoil (**100**). This overlay the subsoil (**101**) a mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, which in turn sealed the natural geology **102** a mid yellowy brown silty clay with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions.
- 5.2 During the excavation of the mains electricity cable route no archaeological features or deposits were observed and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.
- 5.3 During the monitoring of the excavations within the solar farm area a single ditch (**105**) was observed and recorded (Fig 7). The ditch corresponded to a c. north to south aligned geophysical anomaly (8) (Fig 3). The ditch was c.1.20m wide and 0.30m deep with a gradual sloped eastern side and steeper western side breaking gradually on to a flat base. The ditch contained a primary fill (**106**) and secondary fill (**107**). Both fills were sterile and no artefactual material was recovered.
- 5.4 No further archaeological features or deposits were observed or recorded.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area and the results of the geophysical survey, the watching brief was unable to identify any archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks beyond a single undated ditch within the area of the proposed solar farm. Within the solar farm itself this can be partly explained by the limited nature of the groundworks and possibly due to potential geophysical anomalies not being physically present or observable once excavation had taken place. Within the area of the mains cable route despite the extensive area of excavation, the material excavated tended to be topsoil only and there was only limited scope for observing the natural geology within which it would be anticipated that archaeological features would be observable. However, within the deeper cable trench within which excavation was undertaken to the top of and through the natural geology no archaeological features or artefactual evidence were observed or recorded either. The overall potential for archaeological features and deposits for the site can therefore be classified as very low.



## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Jon Martin. The report was written by Adam Howard. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Adam Howard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

## 8. REFERENCES

Archaeo Physica Ltd 2014. St Mellion, Cornwall Geophysical Survey Report. Project code SMC131

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

CA 2014 Land at Newton Barton Farm Newton Ferrers Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief.

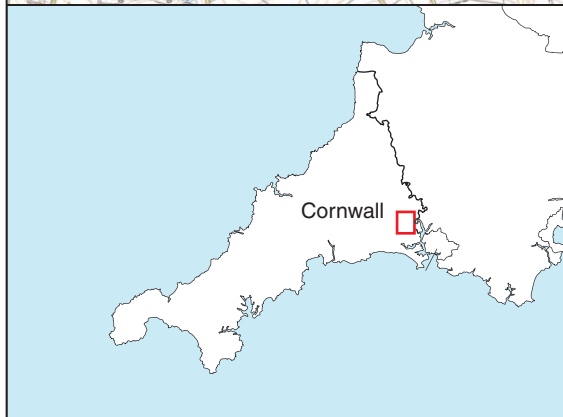
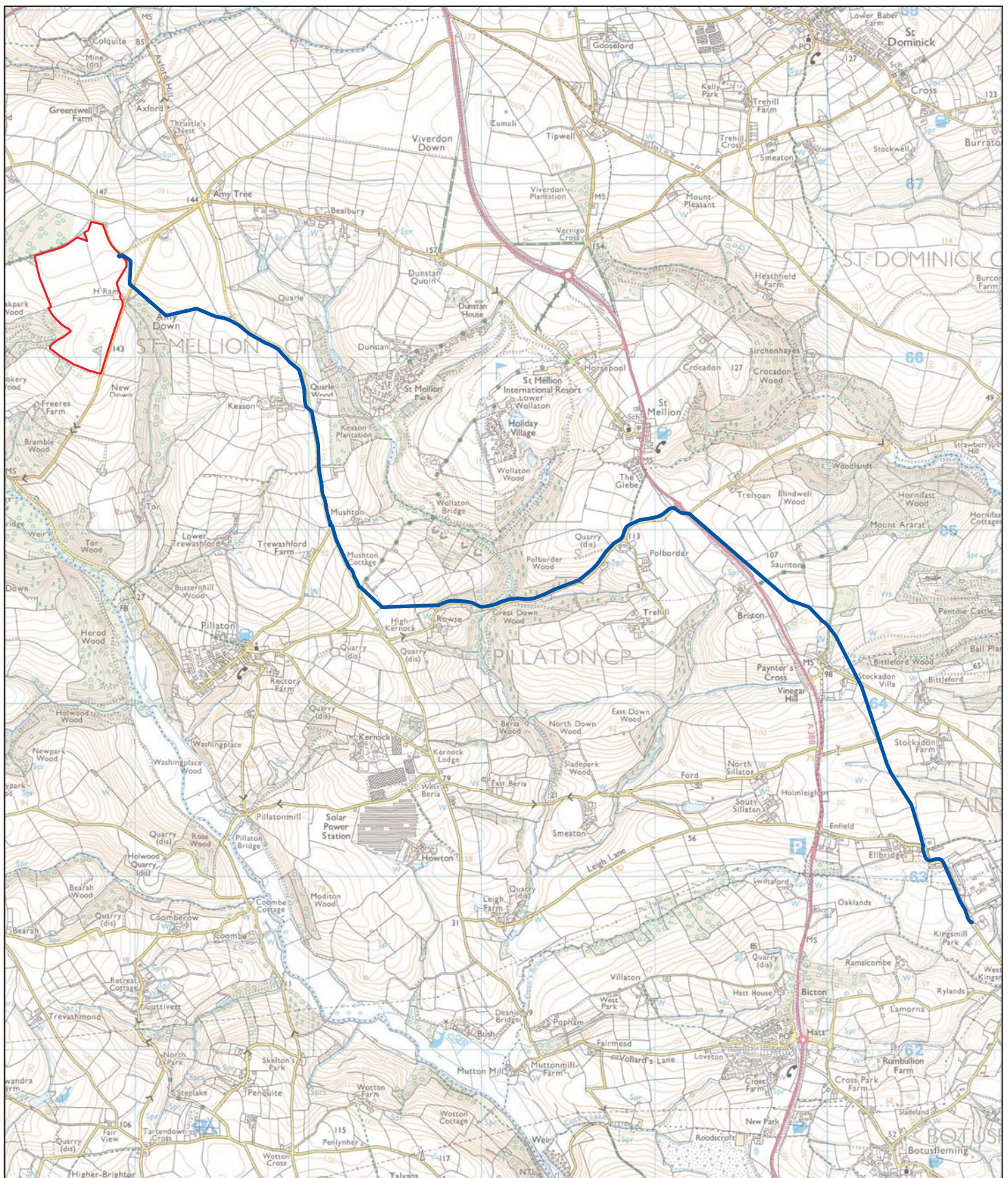
Historic Environment Projects Cornwall Council 2014. Newton Ferrers, St Mellion, Cornwall Archaeological assessment of proposed solar farm 2014. Report Number 2014R013



**APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at Newton Ferrers, Callington, Cornwall: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with a 30ha solar farm at land Newton Ferrers, Callington, Cornwall.  Despite the archaeological potential of the application area the watching brief identified only one undated ditch. No further archaeological remains were identified within the area of observed groundworks.	
Project dates	2 February to 6 March	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	none	
Future work	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Newton Ferrers Callington Cornwall	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SX 35778 66374	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Organisation who wrote the brief	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Jon Martin	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	none	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		none
Paper		Context register photo register day sheets.
Digital		digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Land in Newton Ferrers Callington Cornwall <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 15223.		





- Solar Array site
- Mains electricity cable route



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land in Newton Ferrers, Callington  
 Cornwall

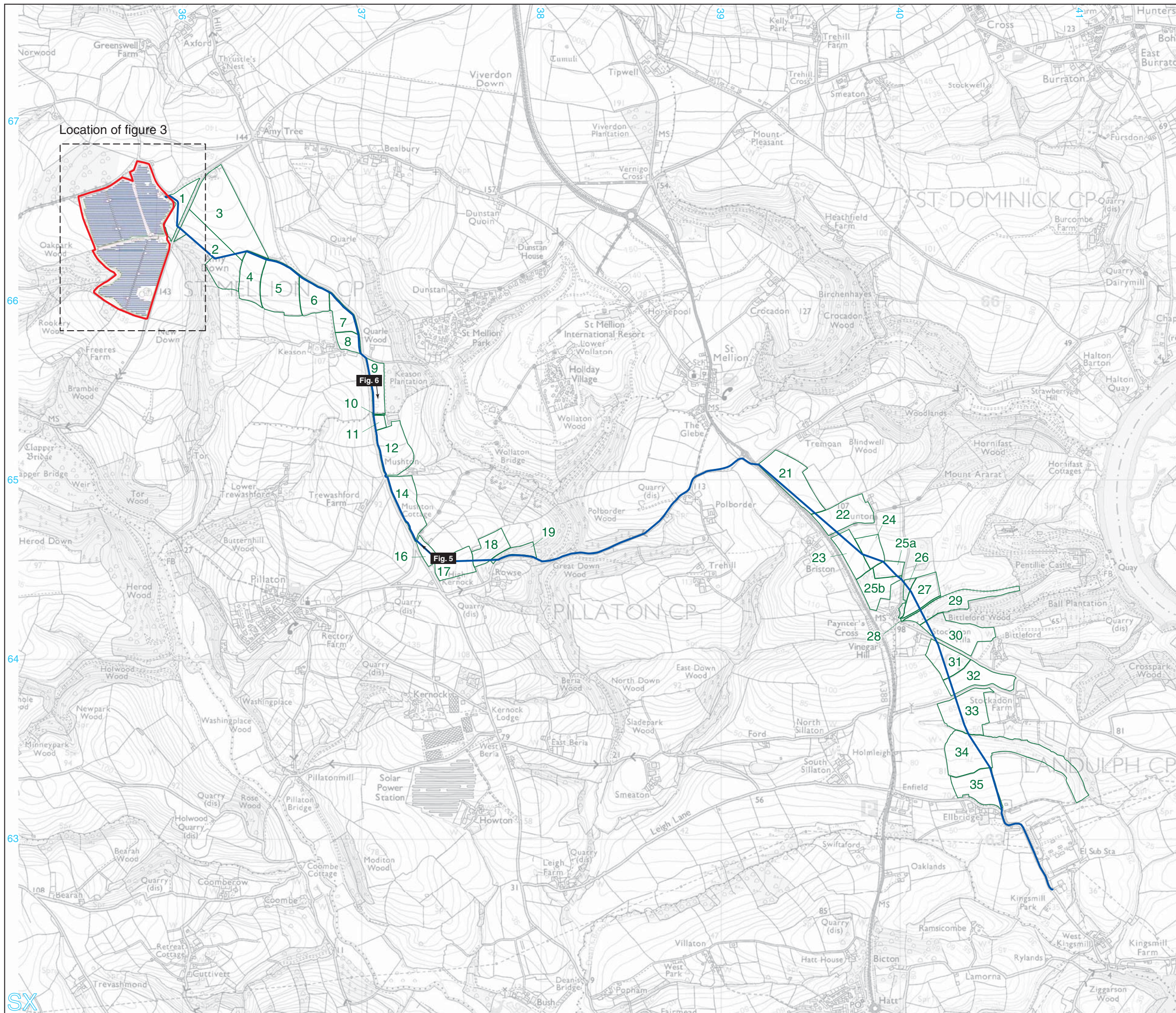
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY L J H PROJECT NO. 5240  
 CHECKED BY J B DATE 12/05/15  
 APPROVED BY D D R SCALE@A4 1:30,000

**FIGURE NO.**  
 1

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- Solar Array site
- mains electricity cable route
- field boundary
- 21 title number
- Fig. 5** direction of photograph



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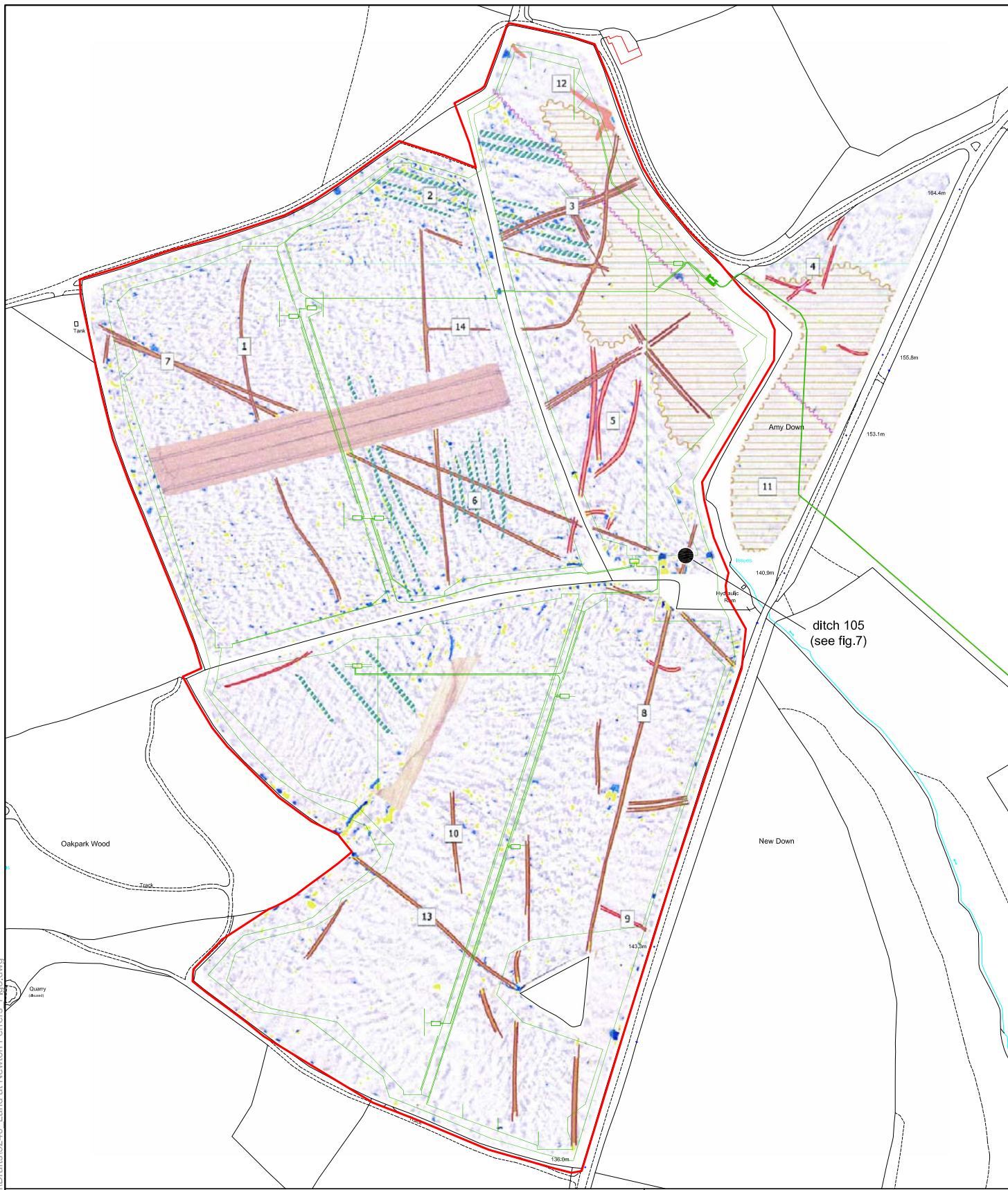
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land in Newton Ferrers, Callington  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location showing solar array site  
 and mains electricity cable route

<b>DRAWN BY</b> LJH	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 5240	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> JB	<b>DATE</b> 12/05/15	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> DDR	<b>SCALE</b> @A3 1:20,000	







- site boundary
- archaeological feature
- observed groundworks

Geophysical survey results (ArchaeoPhysica Ltd 2014)

<p><b>Total magnetic field</b></p> <p>Highpassed 5s / nT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 6</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #000000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 0</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #0000ff; margin-right: 5px;"></span> -6</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #0000ff; margin-right: 5px;"></span> &lt; -50 nT</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #0000ff; margin-right: 5px;"></span> &lt; -20 nT</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #0000ff; margin-right: 5px;"></span> &lt; -10 nT</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffff00; margin-right: 5px;"></span> &gt; 10 nT</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffff00; margin-right: 5px;"></span> &gt; 20 nT</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffff00; margin-right: 5px;"></span> &gt; 50 nT</li> </ul>	<p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 1px dashed black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Approximate lines</li> </ul> <p><b>Cultivation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background: repeating-linear-gradient(45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, black 2px, black 4px); margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ridge or furrow</li> </ul> <p><b>Former field boundaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #808080; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fills</li> </ul> <p><b>Other fills - archaeology?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #808080; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ditches</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Soil zones</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Areas</li> </ul>
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land in Newton Ferrers, Callington Cornwall

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site plan showing geophysical survey results and archaeological feature

<b>DRAWN BY</b> LJH	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 5240	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> JB	<b>REVISION</b> 01	<b>3</b>
<b>DATE</b> 13/05/2015	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:4000	

P:\5240\ Newton Ferrers Solar Farm Cornwall\WB\Illustration\Drafts\5240\_Land at Newton Ferrers\_Fig3.dwg





4



5

4 Cable trench, view looking south-west

5 Mains cable trench easement Field 16, view looking north-west



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

4 & 5





6



7

6 Mains cable trench Field 9, looking south

7 Ditch 105, view looking south (0.5m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

6 & 7

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