

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

*Intpretation, Design & Display*

*Finds/ Environmental Analysis*

*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Historic Building Recording*

*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Geophysical Survey*

## **Ringstead Grange, Northamptonshire. Archaeological Evaluation.**

**Report Number  
1705**

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**Ringstead Grange, Northamptonshire.**

**Archaeological Evaluation.**

**Report No. 1705**

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Fig. 1 Trench location plan

Fig. 2 Trench 5 post-excavation

Fig. 3 Trench 2 post-excavation

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in November 2009 at Ringstead Grange, Northamptonshire (NGR: ) (Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Volkswind (UK) Ltd

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009 for the archaeological evaluation was produced by CFA in accordance with the requirements of the County Archaeological Advisor (CAA).

### **1.2 Background**

1.2.1 A geophysical survey was conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology prior to the evaluation (2009). The results of the geophysical survey indicated two linear anomalies at the locations of Turbine 3 and 5, and the presence of possible ridge and furrow cultivation marks across the development area.

1.2.2 The development area (Fig. 1) covers ploughed fields within Ringstead Grange Farm. The construction of five turbines (1-5) has been proposed by Volkswind (UK) Ltd. It was required by the CAA that, following the geophysical survey, the position of each turbine be evaluated by trial trenching, and further that each trench be T-shaped in order to provide the maximum coverage for each turbine footprint. The trench measurements were 1.8m x 20m = 36m<sup>2</sup>, this evaluated the turbine base and 1.8m x 40m = 72m<sup>2</sup>, this evaluated the crane pad. A total of 540m<sup>2</sup> was thus required. The trenches were excavated according to a trench plan that was agreed to in advance with the CAA for Northamptonshire.

### **1.3 Objectives**

1.3.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area.
- To establish their vulnerability to the proposed development.
- To propose further mitigation measures as appropriate to avoid, reduce or offset any predicted negative impacts on the archaeological resource.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (2002) and relevant Standards and Guidance for all work undertaken.

### **2.2 Archaeological Evaluation**

2.2.1 All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

2.2.2 Removal of topsoil and overburden was carried out using a JCB excavator equipped with a smooth bladed bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Any further work required to fulfil the terms of the brief was carried out by hand.

2.2.3 The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

3.1 Five trenches were excavated (1-5) amounting to 600m<sup>2</sup>, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2.

3.1.2 Topsoil consisted of a mid brown silt, of depth 0.2m-0.3m across the site. This overlay a natural subsoil of dark yellow clay with red sand and gravel patches.

3.1.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the evaluation. The linear anomalies identified in the geophysical survey at the locations of Turbines 3 and 5, and covered by Trenches 3 and 5 respectively, were the probable remnants of stone field drains measuring 0.20m wide by 0.10m deep. The possible ridge and furrow cultivation marks were not identified in any of the trenches, either in section or plan.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 Five T-shaped trenches were excavated at the locations of the proposed turbines at Ringstead Grange. The total area evaluated by trial trenching amounted to 600m<sup>2</sup>. There were no archaeological features discovered.

4.2 The geophysical anomalies at turbine locations 3 and 5 were accounted for by the presence of stone field drains. The apparent ridge and furrow cultivation marks left no observable physical trace within the trenches.

- 4.3 Potential reasons why no archaeological features were identified within the trenches are; there has been no past human activities within the development area; any human activities that may have occurred in antiquity were of a sort that left no archaeological signature; any supposed archaeological features have been destroyed through modern ploughing and other agricultural practices, including sub-soiling operations; the five study areas failed to intersect with any archaeology.
- 4.4 The geophysical results were initially interpreted as including ridge and furrow marks, as no physical evidence of these cultivation marks were seen within the trenches, the interpretation offered here is that these parallel linear features are the result of wheel compression ruts produced by farm machinery and of recent modern ploughing.
- 4.5 As currently there is no archaeological archive depository in Northampton County Council, provision will be made by CFA to retain the project archive until such time as a suitable depository is available and arrangements have been made for the transfer of the archive to the aforementioned depository.
- 4.6 An OASIS England entry will be completed.

## **5. REFERENCES**

Northamptonshire Archaeology 2009. 'Archaeological Geophysical Survey of the Proposed Wind Farm Site, Ringstead, Northamptonshire'.

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

### *Colour Slide Film 1*

Shot	Contexts/description	Taken from	Conditions
1-2	Trench 3 post-ex (long arm)	SSE	O/C
3-4	Trench 3 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C
5-6	Trench 5 post-ex (long arm)	NE	O/C
7-8	Trench 5 post-ex (short arm)	SE	O/C
9-10	Trench 1 post-ex (long arm)	NNW	O/C
11-12	Trench 1 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C
13-14	Trench 2 post-ex (long arm)	NNW	O/C
15-16	Trench 2 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C
17-18	Trench 4 post-ex (long arm)	SSE	O/C
19-20	Trench 4 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C

### *Black and White Film 1*

Shot	Contexts/description	Taken from	Conditions
1-2	Trench 3 post-ex (long arm)	SSE	O/C
3-4	Trench 3 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C
5-6	Trench 5 post-ex (long arm)	NE	O/C
7-8	Trench 5 post-ex (short arm)	SE	O/C
9-10	Trench 1 post-ex (long arm)	NNW	O/C
11-12	Trench 1 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C
13-14	Trench 2 post-ex (long arm)	NNW	O/C
15-16	Trench 2 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C
17-18	Trench 4 post-ex (long arm)	SSE	O/C
19-20	Trench 4 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C

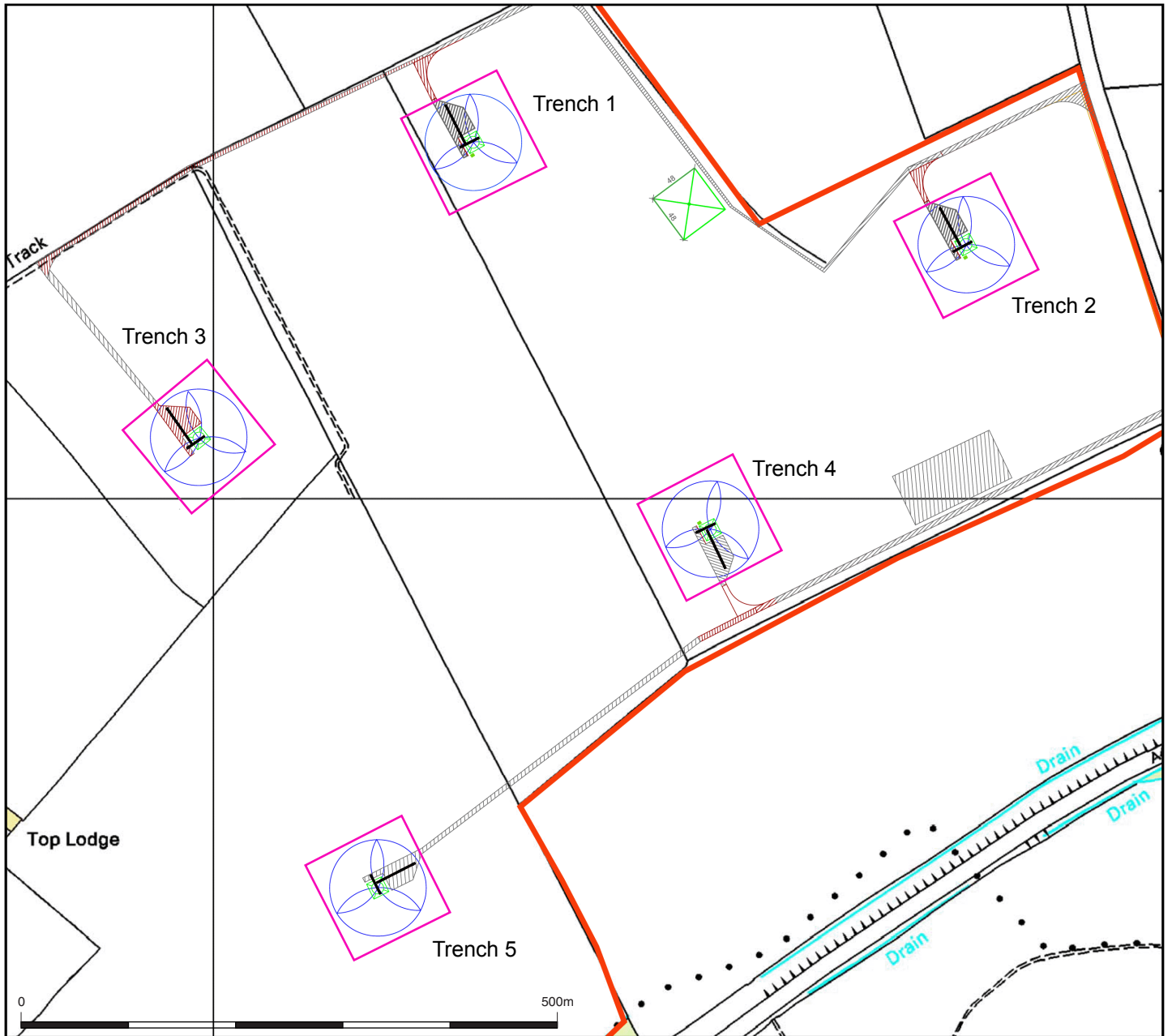
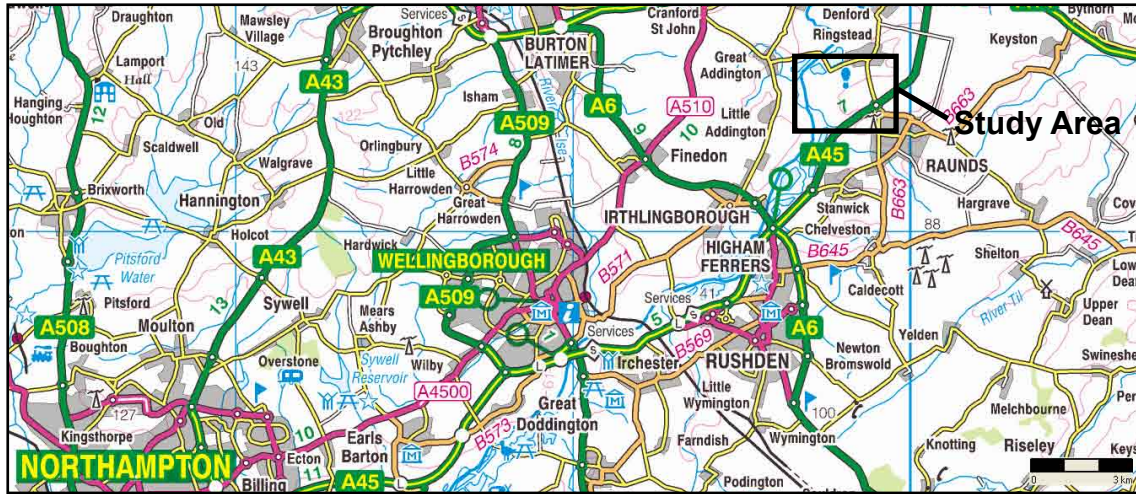
### *Digital*

Shot	Contexts/description	Taken from	Conditions
1	Trench 3 post-ex (long arm)	SSE	O/C
2	Trench 3 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C
3	Trench 5 post-ex (long arm)	NE	O/C
4	Trench 5 post-ex (short arm)	SE	O/C
5	Trench 1 post-ex (long arm)	NNW	O/C
6	Trench 1 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C
7	Trench 2 post-ex (long arm)	NNW	O/C
8	Trench 2 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C
9	Trench 4 post-ex (long arm)	SSE	O/C
10	Trench 4 post-ex (short arm)	WSW	O/C

## APPENDIX 2: Trench Summary Table

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>	<b>Total area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	20 x 2 + 40 x 2	120	0.35	No archaeology
2	20 x 2 + 40 x 2	120	0.3	No archaeology
3	20 x 2 + 40 x 2	120	0.3	No archaeology
4	20 x 2 + 40 x 2	120	0.3	No archaeology
5	20 x 2 + 40 x 2	120	0.2	No archaeology





Key:  
 Trench



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Volkswind (UK) Ltd

Title: Location and Trench Plan

Project: Ringstead Grange, Northamptonshire



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Figure 2 - Trench 5 Post-excitation from SE



Figure 3 - Trench 2 Post-excitation

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Volkswind (UK) Ltd	 <b>CFA</b> ARCHAEOLOGY LTD CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk				
	Title:										
	Project:	Ringstead Grange, Northhamptonshire									
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