

A New Wind Turbine on land East of Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate, West Down, Devon

NGR SS 519 442

Results of an archaeological watching brief

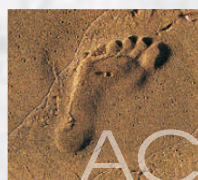
Condition 13 of North Devon Council Planning Reference
56450

Prepared by
William Smith

On behalf of
Pinnacle Architectural Design LTD

Document No: ACD847/2/0

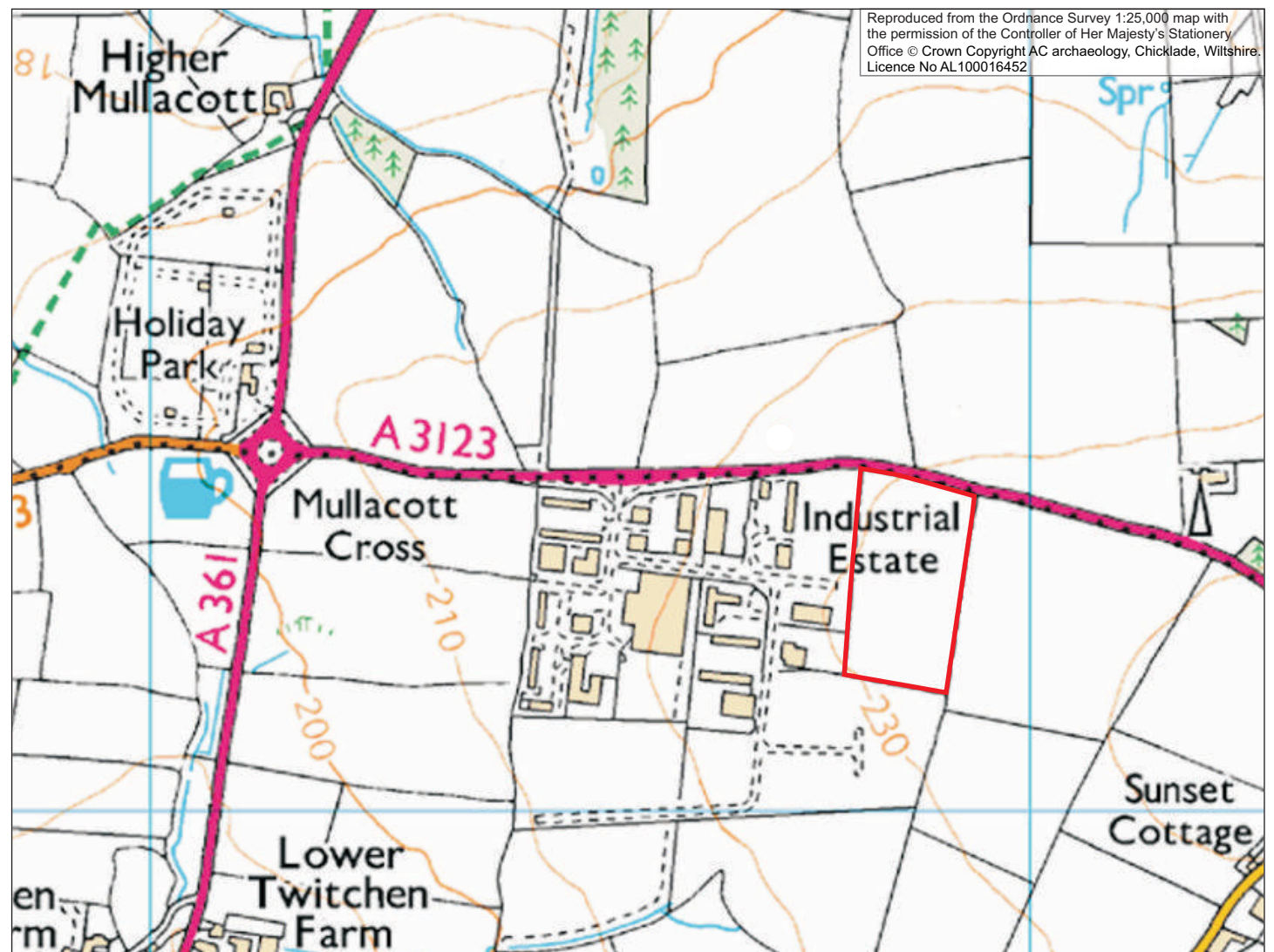
Date: April 2014



archaeology


Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: West Down, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 519 442	Number:
Subject: A New Wind Turbine on land East of Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate, West Down Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 56450	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: 175324	Museum Accession no: NDDMS2014.1	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD847	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 13 March 2014	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during geotechnical test pitting associated with the construction of a new wind turbine on land east of Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate, West Down, Devon (SS 519 442).</p> <p>The proposed new wind turbine is situated within an agricultural field to the east of the industrial estate, which lies at a height of 225m aOD (Fig. 1). The underlying geology is slates of the Morte foundation (BGS website).</p> <p>The development lies within an area where prehistoric burial sites are recorded on the Historic Environment Record (e.g. MDV7337 situated immediately northeast of the industrial estate). The landscape around the industrial estate comprises regularly-shaped 20th-century fields adapted from small, more irregularly-shaped earlier fields, some separated by trackways. More recently the field has been used as a moto-x motorcycle course.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The watching brief was undertaken in conjunction with monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of industrial units within the same plot (North Devon planning reference 56449). Groundworks comprised the machine-excavation of 12 geotechnical test pits across the entire field. Of these, Test Pits 1 to 5 were associated with the location of the new wind turbine, substation, construction platform and temporary access track (Fig. 2, Plate 1). The test pits measured 2.20m long and 0.70m wide and were excavated to depths of between 1m and 1.8m below ground level.</p> <p>Natural subsoil across the site comprised a weathered slate solid geology in a light grey silty clay matrix. In Test Pits 1 and 3 this was overlain by a mixed greyish-brown clay-loam topsoil (Plate 2). For Test Pits 2 and 4 the natural subsoil was overlain by 0.07m to 0.3m of mid yellowish-grey silty-clay subsoil that was overlain by 0.13 to 0.17m of topsoil. Test pit 5 comprised a simple sequence of mid brown clay loam topsoil measuring 0.22m thick overlying the natural subsoil.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were present and no finds were recovered from Test Pits 1 to 5.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Across the majority of the site, disturbance from landscaping associated with its former use as a moto-x motorcycle course was evident. The mixed nature of the soils recorded in Test Pits 1 and 3 indicated that the ground in this area had been disturbed, comprising mixed re-deposition of topsoil and subsoil. Whilst the remaining Test Pits (2, 4, and 5) retained a more complete soil profile, no archaeological features, deposits or finds were present.</p>		
Recorder: William Smith (AC archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 16 April 2014



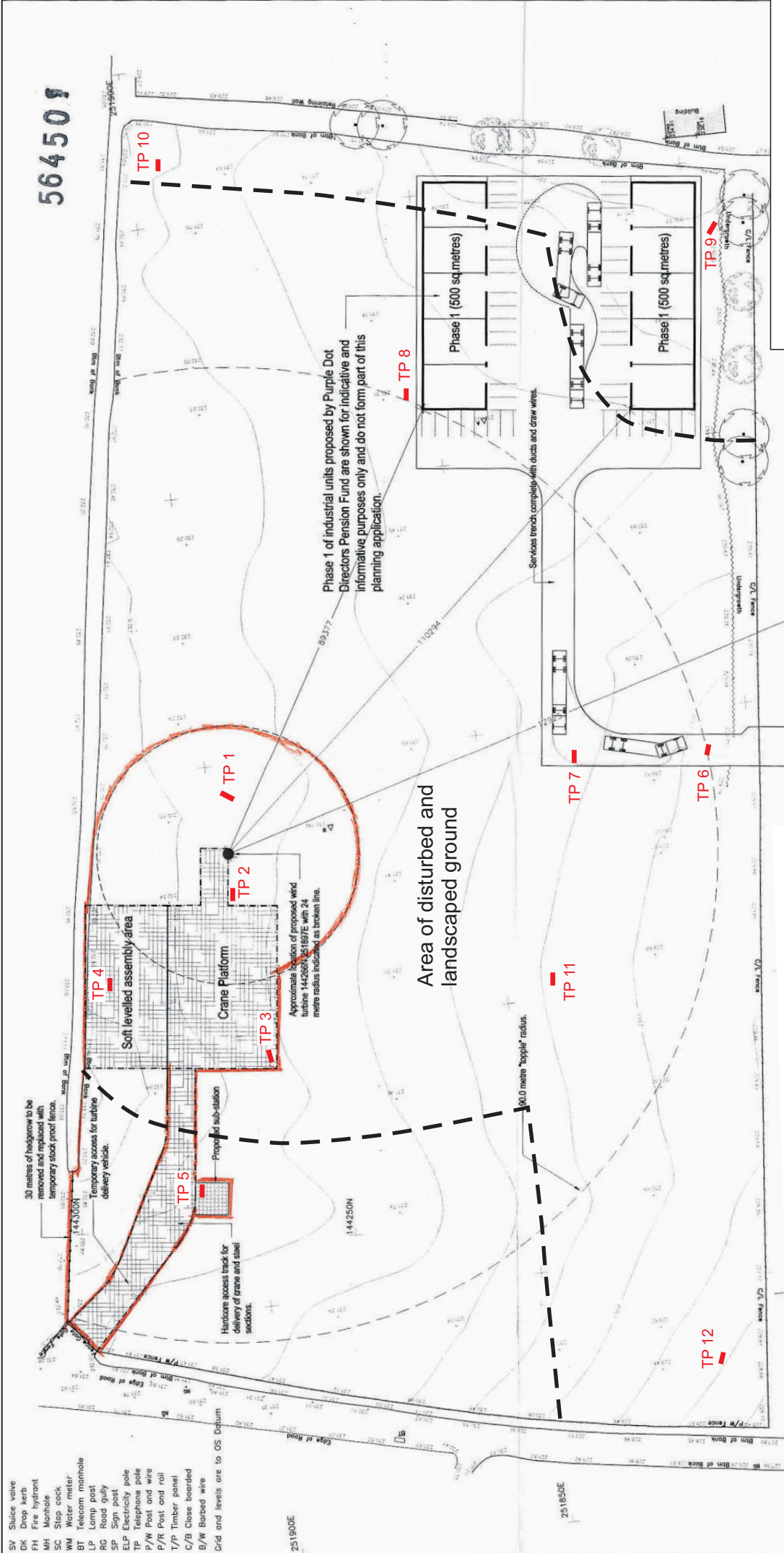
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0 250m
Scale 1:7500@A4

 Location of site

PROJECT
A New Wind Turbine on Land East of Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate, West Down, Devon
TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location

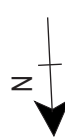


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Fig. 2: Site plan showing location of test pits



AC archaeology



■ Test pits
TP 11

NOTES	DATE	BY
NO DIMENSIONS TO BE SCALED CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS IF IN DOUBT / ASK		
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Plate 1: View across proposed wind turbine location, looking north



Plate 2: North facing section of Test Pit 1, looking south (scale 1m)

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