Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Fanellan Hub 400 kV Substation and Converter Station Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume 4 | Technical Appendices

Appendix 11.3 – Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

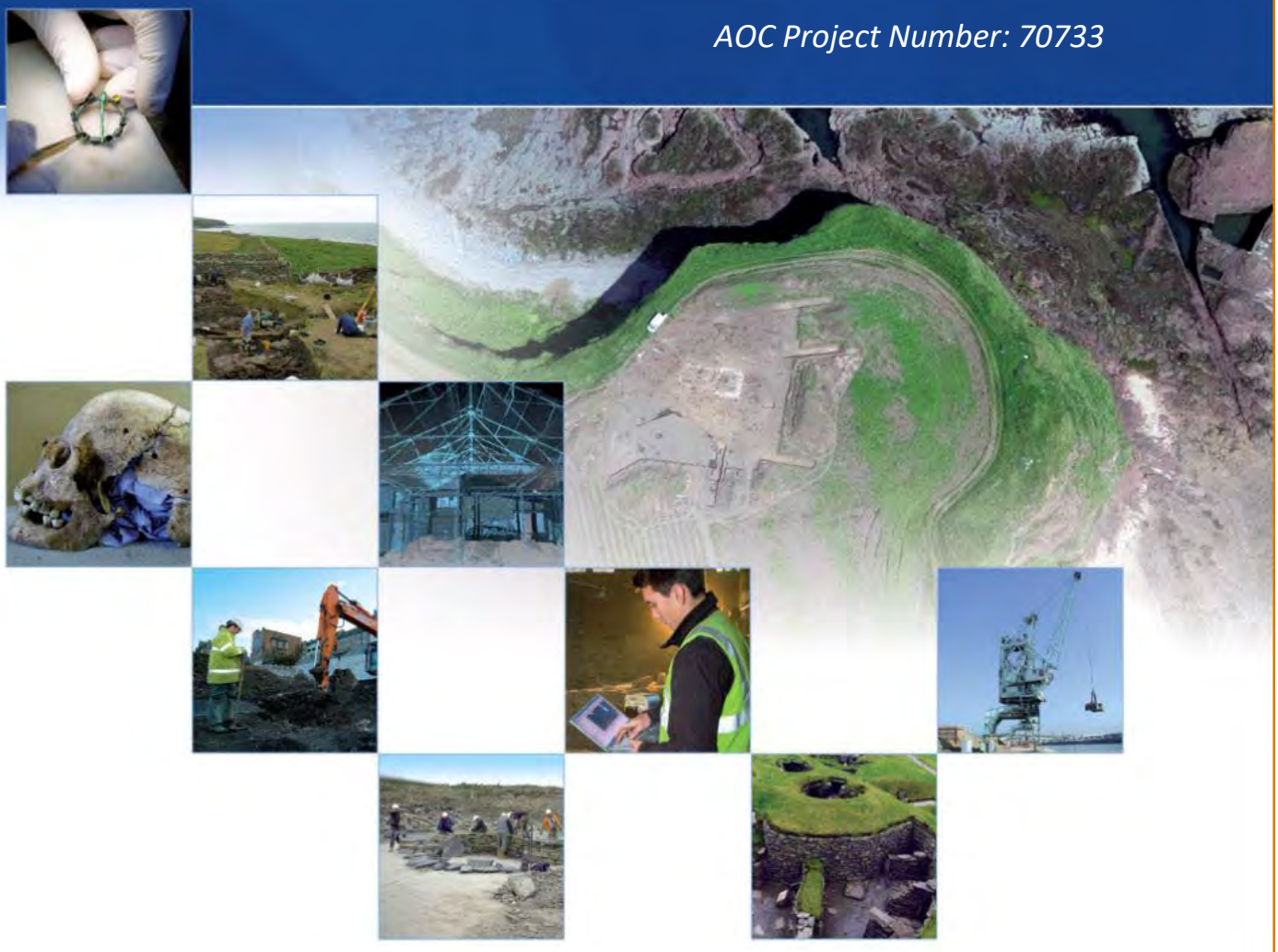
February 2025

Beauly Area 400 kV Substation
GI Monitoring, Fanellan, Beauly

Archaeological Watching Brief
Data Structure Report

September 2023

AOC Project Number: 70733



AOC Archaeology Group

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Beauly Area 400 kV Substation GI Monitoring, Fanellan, Beauly

Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	**WSP UK LIMITED** **WSP House** **70 Chancery Lane** **London, WC2A 1AF**
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Date of Fieldwork:	**21st August – 18th September 2023**
Date of Report:	**28th September 2023**

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report details the findings of an archaeological watching brief carried out for WSP UK Limited on behalf of Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission) with regards to geotechnical investigations to inform site selection and future design for the Beauly Area 400 kV Substation and Western Isles HVDC Converter located at Fanellan, Beauly, near Inverness, Scotland (NGR: 248479 842930).

Archaeological monitoring work was carried out from 21st August 2023 to 18th September 2023. During this time a total of 75 proposed test pits were monitored, 13 of which were relocated due to either archaeological features or geotechnical reasons. As a result, a final total of 88 locations were archaeologically monitored.

Test Pits 24, 28.1, 43, 47 and 59 all contained archaeological features, this included four possible postholes, a pit, and a linear feature of unknown function. All features were recorded in situ and remained un-excavated as it was not necessary to do so as the test pit locations were moved in response.

Due to the presence of archaeological features, it is recommended that any future grounding-breaking works within the development area are subject to archaeological monitoring. Final decisions on further mitigation works rests with the planning authority.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by WSP UK Limited on behalf of Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission) with regards to geotechnical investigations to inform site selection and future design for the Beauly Area 400 kV Substation and Western Isles HVDC Converter located at Fanellan, Beauly, near Inverness, Scotland (NGR: 248479 842930) hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

1.2 The Site lies within the administrative area of Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Kirsty Cameron of Highland Council's Historic Environment Team (HET). A watching brief of the works had been recommended in keeping with the policies outlined in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) (2023) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the investigation area. The Site has the potential for archaeological remains to be present, particularly from the prehistoric period.

1.3 The objectives for the fieldwork had previously been set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) (WSP 2023).

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Site is located 4 km southwest of Beauly, near Inverness, Scotland (NGR: 248479 842930) (**Figure 1**). The proposed development involves construction of a new 400 kV substation, a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station and associated infrastructure.

2.2 There are several prehistoric assets identified in the wider landscape, many of which are identified as burial cairns. One of these is a scheduled monument dating to the Neolithic period, the Culburnie Ring Cairn and Stone Circle (SM2425) (approximately 900 m southeast of the Site). Culburnie ring cairn and stone circle (SM2425) status as a scheduled monument is likely due to its preservation - a virtually complete ring of stones encircling the cairn and the inclusion of cup-marked stones.

2.3 There are two prehistoric assets located within the boundary of the Site: a scatter of pits and a possible structure (Canmore ID 993096) and a circular structure with associated posthole, hearth, and pits (Canmore ID 993083). These assets were identified in 2012 during a watching brief for the Beauly to Denny 400kv Overhead Line and Western Isles Converter Station project and were partially excavated and sampled as a result (WSP 2023).

2.3 Kiltarlity Old Parish Church (SM5570) is a medieval heritage asset located approximately 1.2 km northeast of the Site. Kiltarlity Old Parish Church (SM5570) stands as a 16th century building and, in religious tradition, had likely succeeded an earlier church in the same place. Into the 20th century, Beauly Quarry (Canmore ID 358358) (located approximately 1.2 km northeast of the Site) was developed as a result of the gradual quarrying of the area.

Plate 1: General view of Field 1, with northeastern tower

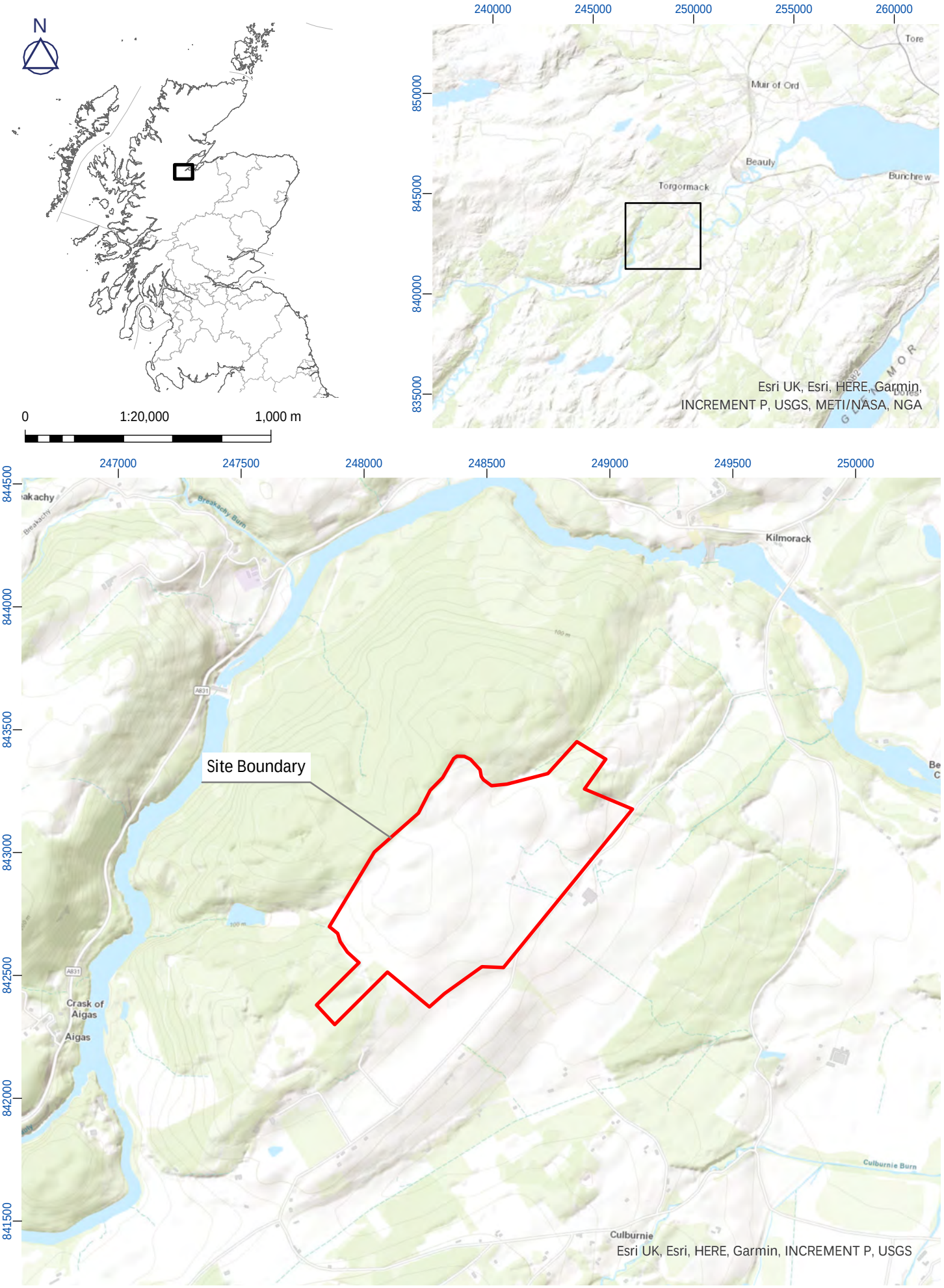

Figure 1: Site location plan

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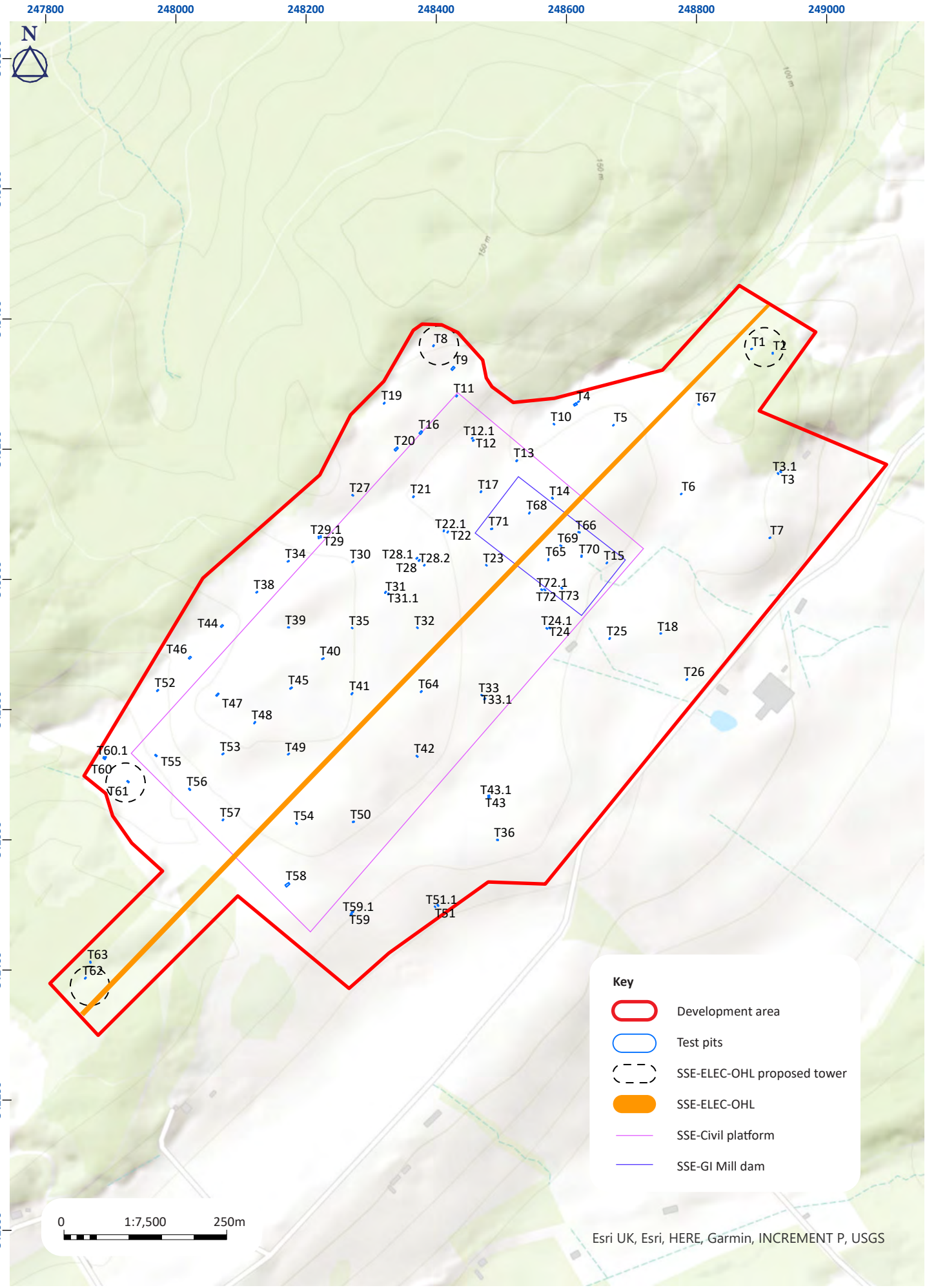

Figure 2: Watching Brief areas

3.0 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) defines an archaeological watching brief as '*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed* (2020).'

3.2 The aims of the archaeological works were (as defined by WSP (2023)):

i) to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the Site;

ii) to ensure that any surviving archaeological remains are preserved in situ through avoidance of groundbreaking works where they are discovered;

iii) to record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains discovered and observed;

iv) to undertake an appropriate level of recording of any significant archaeological remains encountered in accordance with CIfA standards and guidance;

v) on completion of the watching brief, submit a Data Structure Report to the Client for use in support of any future planning applications.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during geotechnical investigations as part of the groundworks for the proposed development (**Figure 2**). The archaeologist directed the mechanical excavator, that was fitted with a straight-edged bucket. Excavations ceased at the required geotechnical investigation level or the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.

4.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4*), PAN 2/2011 *Planning and Archaeology* (2011), and CIfA *Code of Conduct* (2019) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which was present within the development area.

4.3 In the first instance of any archaeological feature being identified the procedure was to stop excavating and offset the proposed trench location so as to not interact with any archaeological remains. This also included modern field drains.

4.4 The watching brief location, including findspots and feature locations, were plotted using a Trimble DGPS capable of centimetre accuracy. The archaeological monitoring was recorded using high resolution digital photography in order to record the process as well as any features or finds of interest.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 The archaeological watching brief was carried out in a single phase. Over a course of 5 weeks from 21st August 2023 to 18th September 2023 a total of 75 proposed test pits (**Figure 2**) were monitored for archaeological features. Of these, 13 needed to be relocated due to archaeological and/or geotechnical constraints (**Plate 2**). As a result of moving test pit locations, a final total of 88 locations were archaeologically monitored (**Appendix 2**).

5.2 Test Pits 24, 28.1, 43, 47 and 59 contained archaeological features (**Figure 3**) (**Appendix 1**). TP24 contained two small pits or postholes and TP28.1 and TP 43 both contained a single posthole. These features were circular in plan and measured approximately 0.75m long by 0.75m wide (**Plates 3 & 4**). They were filled by greyish silty sand with possible ash material, small charcoal and burnt bone flecks. TP47 contained a single pit measuring 0.75m long by 0.65m wide at minimum, though the full shape and size could not be determined as the feature continued beyond the test pit edge. It was filled by friable greyish brown silty sand with frequent angular stones up to 0.15m across (**Plate 5**). A linear feature was identified at the northeastern end of TP59. It measured a minimum of 1.5m by 1.3m, though again the full extent of the feature lay beyond the edge of the test pit. It was filled by friable dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small to large angular and rounded stones. All features were recorded in situ and remained un-excavated as it was not necessary to do so as the test pit locations were moved in response.

5.3 The edge of an old, backfilled mill pond was observed within TP70 with the appearance of a grey silt material rich in decayed organic matter. This material was overlain by a peaty topsoil with frequent boulders that look to have been part of a dam-like structure. The deposits relating to the mill pond were also observed in TP65 and 69.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The watching brief carried out was successful in identifying archaeological features and ensuring the GI works remained uninterrupted. Archaeological features were recorded as they were found and remain unexcavated. Test pits that contained archaeological features were closed and backfilled straight away with new test pits excavated nearby.

6.2 Due to the presence of known heritage assets within the Site, and further archaeological features discovered during the watching brief, it is recommended that further archaeological work be undertaken to fully excavate and record any archaeological remains. These works could take the form of pre-construction excavations or a further watching brief during any future grounding-breaking works. Final decisions on further mitigation works rests with the planning authority.

Plate 2: Example of field drain requiring new Test pit location

Plate 3: Postholes in Test pit 24

Plate 4: Pit in eastern corner of Test pit 28.1

Plate 5: Possible pit in northeast corner of Test pit 47

7.0 REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2020. *Standards and guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2022. *Code of Conduct*

Scottish Government 2011. PAN 2/2011 *Planning and Archaeology.*

Scottish Government 2023. *National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)*

WSP 2023. *Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Beauly Area 400 kV Substation and Western Isles HVDC Converter Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.* Unpublished WSP report.

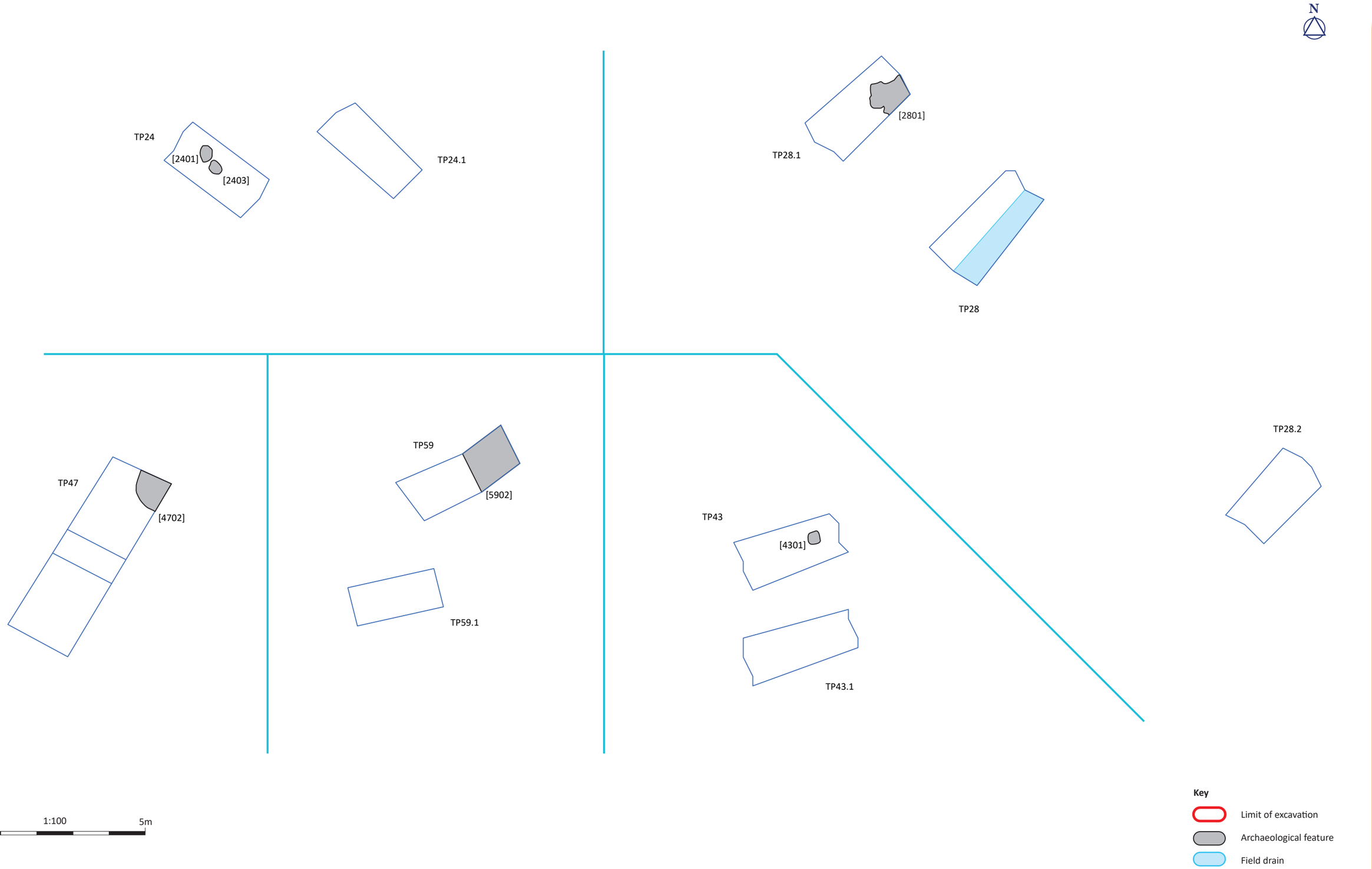

Figure 3: Test pits showing archaeological features

Appendix 1: Context Register

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
2401	TP24	A small pit/posthole.
2403	TP24	A small pit/posthole.
2801	TP28.1	A possible posthole (approximately 0.75m x 0.75m) located within eastern corner of TP28.1. The fill was greyish silty sand with possible ash mixed in. Small charcoal flecks and burnt bone flecks were visible on the surface.
4301	TP43	A possible posthole was found in the eastern end of TP43.
4702	TP47	A possible pit [4702] was identified in the northeastern corner of TP47. It was circular in plan and measured a minimum 0.75m x 0.65m. Its full shape and size remain unknown because the feature continued beyond the test pit edges. It was filled by friable greyish brown silty sand with frequent angular stones up to 0.15m across.
5902	TP59	A linear feature [5902] was identified at the northeastern end of TP59. It measured a minimum 1.5m x 1.3m but extended beyond the test pit sides. The fill was friable dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small to large <22cm angular and rounded stones.

Appendix 2: Test Pit Register

Trench ID	Area	Length (m)	Comments	Trench Depth (m)	Orientation
1	1a	2.5	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural	0.35	N-S
2	1a	2.2	Very shallow topsoil comprising grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange-brown powdery sandy natural	0.25	NE-SW
3	1	2.5	Topsoil was friable, dark greyish brown fine sand, containing frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions. Subsoil was friable, mid yellowish brown medium sand, containing abundant sub-rounded stone inclusions.	0.45	NNW-SSE
3.1	1	2.5	Excavated due to TP3 collapse. Topsoil/subsoil same as TP3.	0.50	N-S
4	2	2.6	Mid brown peaty sandy silt topsoil (0.60m) over a layer of blue grey gravely sand (0.40m) over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural. The blue grey mid layer had no shape and was uniform throughout the trench. That layer seemed sterile and contained no signs of anthropogenic material; no charcoal, burnt bone, etc. Geological Staff on site described this as a phenomenon called "blue sand" which is actually a type of silt.	1.00	NE-SW
4.1	2	5	Same as TP4.	1.00	NE-SW
5	1	2	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural	0.36	NE-SW
6	1	1.9	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural	0.70	N-S
7	1	2.5	Topsoil was friable, mid greyish brown fine sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions. Subsoil was friable, light reddish yellow medium sand, containing abundant rounded stone inclusions.	0.25	NE-SW
8	2	2.8	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small stones <10cm. Subsoil was friable, light greyish yellow sand\gravel with moderate small to large <30cm angular and rounded stones.	0.60	NE-SW
9	2	6	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable light reddish yellow sand/gravel with occasional small <5cm rounded stones.	0.65	NE-SW

Trench ID	Area	Length (m)	Comments	Trench Depth (m)	Orientation
10	2	2.4	Similar makeup to TP4. Mid grey-brown peaty, sandy gravel silt topsoil (0.40m) over blue grey gravely sand which measured nearly 2m in depth. Mottled dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural began at approximately 2.3m - no photos taken at that level - reference photos were taken at 1.1m showing the grey layer and the trench section. No archaeology was present in the grey layer of the natural.	2.3	NW-SE
11	2	3.6	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable light reddish yellow sand/gravel with occasional small <5cm rounded stones.	0.40	NE-SW
12	2	2.5	Topsoil measured 0.40m thick and comprised friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm stones. Two possible hill wash deposits were identified below the topsoil: 0.40m thick friable yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional small <10cm stones, and 0.30m thick friable dark brownish grey silty sand with frequent small to medium sized <20cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable grey sand\gravel with frequent small to medium sized <20cm angular and rounded stones. A single field drain was present.	1.10	NE-SW
12.1	2	3.5	Same as TP12	1.10	NE-SW
13	2	2.5	Topsoil was 0.35m thick and comprised friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <5cm angular and rounded stones. Upper subsoil was 0.30m thick and comprised friable blueish grey sand/gravel with frequent small <10cm angular and rounded stones. Lower subsoil was friable reddish yellow sand/gravel with frequent small <10cm rounded stones. A single field drain was present.	0.65	NE-SW
14	1	2.5	Topsoil was friable, mid brownish grey sandy loam, containing abundant sub-angular stone inclusions. Subsoil was friable, light reddish yellow medium sand, containing abundant sub-rounded stone inclusions.	0.40	N-S
15	1b	2.3	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural	0.25	NE-SW
16	2	5	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable reddish yellow sand/gravel with moderate small <10cm rounded stones.	0.60	NE-SW
17	2	2.5	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable reddish yellow sand/gravel with moderate small <10cm rounded stones.	0.60	NE-SW

Trench ID	Area	Length (m)	Comments	Trench Depth (m)	Orientation
18	1	2	Topsoil was friable, dark greyish brown sandy loam, containing frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions. Subsoil was friable, dark reddish brown fine sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.	0.35	NNW-SSE
19	2	2.7	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm rounded stones. Subsoil was friable greyish yellow sand\gravel with occasional small <10cm stones.	0.33	NE-SW
20	2	5	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable yellowish grey sand/gravel with occasional small to medium sized <20cm angular and rounded stones.	0.90	NE-SW
21	2	2.6	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with frequent small to large sized <50cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable reddish yellow sand/gravel with frequent small to medium sized <20cm angular and rounded stones.	0.85	NE-SW
22	3	2.9	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural. Test pit contained a field drain running ENE-WSW, was backfilled and re-excavated approximately 2m NW. Topsoil contained occasional fragment of modern ceramics. Single field drain present	0.46	NE-SW
22.1	3	2.6	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural.	0.35	N-S
23	4	2.2	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.30	NW-SE
24	4	2.6	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural. Trench contained two possible pit/postholes. Potential archaeology recorded, trench backfilled and moved roughly 2m east of original.	0.30	NW-SE
24.1	4	3	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.33	NW-SE
25	1	2.5	Topsoil was friable, dark greyish brown sandy loam, containing frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions. Subsoil was friable, dark reddish brown fine sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.	0.35	N-S
26	1	2.5	Topsoil was 0.40m deep and comprised friable, dark greyish brown sandy loam, containing frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions. Subsoil was friable, dark reddish brown fine sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.	0.6	ENE-WSW
27	2	2.5	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam over bedrock.	0.20	NW-SE

Trench ID	Area	Length (m)	Comments	Trench Depth (m)	Orientation
28	3	2.8	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural. Test pit contained a field drain running NE-SW, was backfilled and re-excavated approximately 2m northwest. Single field drain present	0.80	NE-SW
28.1	3	2.1	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural Possible posthole (approximately 0.75x0.75m) located within east corner of TP28.1. Fill is greyish silty sand possible ash mixed in. Small charcoal flakes and tiny burnt bone flakes visible on surface. No excavation performed. No depth taken. Test pit backfilled over archaeology and moved to another location.	0.55	NE-SW
28.2	3	2.5	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural with grey clay areas.	0.60	NE-SW
29	3	2	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil. Trench terminated before reaching natural. TP29.1 dug approximately 2m west of original.	0.25	N-S
29.1	3	3.2	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural. Shallower topsoil with more stones than other test pits.	0.30	N-S
30	3	3.3	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural.	0.40	NE-SW
31	3	1.3	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural.	0.50	NE-SW
31.1	3	3.4	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural.	0.55	NE-SW
32	4	2.6	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.45	NW-SE
33	4	2.2	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <5cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable reddish yellow sand/gravel with frequent small <5cm rounded stones.	0.35	NE-SW
33.1	4	2.8	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.35	NW-SE
34	3	3.1	Dark grey-brown sandy gravely silt directly over rock. Pit completed at 0.40m.	0.40	NE-SW
35	3	2.5	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil directly over stone.	0.25	NW-SE
36	5	2.5	Topsoil = dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional angular and rounded stones Natural = reddish yellow sand with frequent angular and rounded stones	0.50	E-W
38	3	2.9	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand. Southeast end of trench had thin (approximately 3cm) band of darker soil at base of topsoil, no identifiable shape or feature on plan, disappeared with cleaning scrape with hand trowel. Dark band is visible in section photo.	0.65	NE-SW

Trench ID	Area	Length (m)	Comments	Trench Depth (m)	Orientation
39	3	2.9	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.35	E-W
40	7	3.3	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.40	NE-SW
41	7	3.5	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.53	NE-SW
42	7	3	Topsoil was friable yellowish brown sandy loam with rare small <5cm rounded stones. Subsoil was friable light greyish yellow sand with rare small <5cm rounded stones.	0.35	NW-SE
43	5	5.8	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural. Possible posthole found in east end of trench, trench backfilled and moved approximately 2m south. Note: plan and section photos taken of trench. Digger accidentally backfilled before detail photos of posthole taken. It is visible in the plan photo.	0.25	E-W
43.1	5	3	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.31	E-W
44	7	3.2	Topsoil was friable yellowish brown sandy loam with rare small <5cm rounded stones. Subsoil was friable light greyish yellow sand with rare small <5cm rounded stones.	0.35	NE-SW
45	7	3.8	Topsoil was friable greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable yellowish grey sand with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones.	0.50	NE-SW
46	7	1.3	Topsoil was friable yellowish brown sandy loam with rare small <5cm rounded stones. Subsoil was friable grey sand/gravel with frequent small to large sized <30cm angular and rounded stones.	0.50	NE-SW
47	7	3.2	Topsoil was friable greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable yellowish grey sand with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones. A possible pit [4702] was identified in the northeast corner of TP 47. It was possibly circular in plan and measured a minimum 0.75m NW-SE x 0.65m. Its exact shape and size unknown because the feature continued beyond the trial pit edges. It was filled by friable greyish brown silty sand with frequent angular stones up to 0.15m long.	0.50	NE-SW
47.1	7	2.2	Topsoil was friable greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable yellowish grey sand with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones.	0.50	NE-SW
48	7	3.5	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand with large stones.	1.00	NE-SW

Trench ID	Area	Length (m)	Comments	Trench Depth (m)	Orientation
49	7	3.2	Mid grey-brown sandy silt with dark brown-black pockets of degraded peat over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.72	NE-SW
50	6	2.7	Topsoil was friable yellowish brown sandy loam with rare small <5cm stones. Subsoil was friable light greyish yellow sand with rare small <5cm stones.	0.30	NE-SW
51	6	2.9	Topsoil was friable greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable light yellowish grey sand\gravel with occasional small to large <20cm angular and rounded stones.	0.32	NW-SE
51.1	6	2.2	Topsoil was friable greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable light yellowish grey sand\gravel with occasional small to large <20cm angular and rounded stones.	0.25	NW-SE
52	7	3.1	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.35	NE-SW
53	7	3	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.40	NE-SW
54	7	2.9	Topsoil was friable dark yellowish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable greyish yellow sand with occasional small <10cm angular and rounded stones.	0.35	NW-SE
55	7	2.7	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small to large sized stones <25cm. Subsoil was friable light yellowish grey sand with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones.	0.60	N-S
56	7	3	Topsoil was friable greyish brown sandy loam with rare small <5cm stones. Subsoil was friable light greyish yellow sand.	0.40	NW-SE
57	7	2.5	Topsoil was dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional rounded small stones. Natural was mottled reddish yellow sand with frequent angular and rounded stones.	0.30	N-S
58	6	6	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small to medium sized <20cm angular and rounded stones. Subsoil was friable grey sand\gravel with frequent small to large <1.2m angular and rounded stones.	0.45	NE-SW

Trench ID	Area	Length (m)	Comments	Trench Depth (m)	Orientation
59	6	3.6	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam. Subsoil was friable reddish yellow sand\gravel with occasional small <10cm rounded stones. A possible linear feature 5902, possible drainage ditch, was identified at the northeast end of the trench. measured a minimum 1.5m x 1.3m but extended beyond the trial pit sides. Fill 5901 was friable dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small to large <22cm angular and rounded stones.	0.40	NE-SW
59.1	6	3	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam. Subsoil was friable reddish yellow sand\gravel with occasional small <10cm rounded stones.	0.35	NE-SW
60	7	2.7	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small to large sized stones <25cm. Subsoil was friable yellowish grey sand with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones. A single field drain was present.	0.60	NE-SW
60.1	7	4.8	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small to large sized stones <25cm. Subsoil was friable yellowish grey sand with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones.	0.60	NE-SW
61	7	2.5	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small to large sized stones <25cm. Subsoil was friable light yellowish grey sand with occasional small to medium sized <15cm angular and rounded stones.	0.40	NW-SE
62	6a	2.9	Topsoil was friable greyish brown sandy loam with rare small <5cm stones and severely disturbed by tree roots. Subsoil was friable light yellowish grey sand with occasional small <5cm rounded stones.	0.60	NE-SW
63	6a	2.7	Topsoil was friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional small <10cm rounded stones. Subsoil was friable light greyish yellow sand with occasional small <10cm rounded stones.	0.30	NW-SE
64	4	2.9	Mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over dark yellowish brown gravely sand natural.	0.50	NE-SW
65	1b	1.2	Topsoil: organic rich grey-brown silt (0.40m thick) Mid-soil: mid grey silt with occasional orange clay patches (0.40m thick) Natural: orangey -brown gravely sand (beginning at 0.80m) This feature is within the old millpond; the middle layer of clay is likely either man-made or washed in with the water. The trench was extremely wet and boggy with collapse and safety issues. Photos are not great for this reason.	0.80	N-S
66	1b	2.5	Topsoil/subsoil same as TP71	0.50	NW-SE

Trench ID	Area	Length (m)	Comments	Trench Depth (m)	Orientation
67	1	2.2	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural	0.30	NW-SE
68	1b	2.6	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural	0.42	NE-SW
69	1b	2.5	Topsoil: organic rich grey-brown silt (0.15m thick) Mid-soil: mid grey silt with occasional orange clay patches (0.35m thick) Natural: orangey -brown gravely sand (beginning at 0.50m) This feature is within the old millpond; the middle layer of clay is likely either man-made or washed in with the water.	0.50	NW-SE
70	1b	2.5	Appeared to go through a semi formed peat with a vague layer of large boulders (<1.0m dia.) Circa 0.45m deep. A diagonal line was seen in the section of the GI pit strongly suggestive of the edge of the mill pond - a soft grey silt with stones and rotten tree roots above the undisturbed natural below. Lowest point of grey silt was seen at 3m below surface to south side of TP.	3.1	NE-SW
71	1b	2.5	Topsoil was friable, mid brownish grey sandy loam, containing abundant sub-angular stone inclusions. Subsoil was friable, light reddish yellow medium sand, containing abundant sub-rounded stone inclusions.	0.40	N-S
72	1b	2.1	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural. Test pit contains a field drain which is visible in both plan and section photos. Test pit also contains a blue water service pipe in the northwest corner. This test pit was backfilled, moved, and re-excavated approximately 2m east.	0.45	NW-SE
72.1	1b	2.8	Grey-brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural	0.35	NW-SE
73	1b	2.1	Dark blackish brown sandy silt topsoil over orange -brown sandy gravel natural	0.35	NW-SE

Appendix 3: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description	Facing	Date
1	General site shot of Field 1	E	22/08/2023
2	Pre-excavation of TP71	SW	22/08/2023
3	Pre-excavation of TP71	SW	22/08/2023
4	Post-excavation TP71 - surface of natural	SW	22/08/2023
5	Northwest-facing soil profile of TP71	SE	22/08/2023
6	Record shot of full GI soil profile	S	22/08/2023
7	Pre-excavation of TP14	NW	22/08/2023
8	Post-excavation TP14	NW	22/08/2023
9	GI soil profile	W	22/08/2023
10	Pre-excavation of TP66	W	22/08/2023
11	Post-excavation of TP66	W	22/08/2023
12	General working shot with Tower BF7	N	22/08/2023
13	Post-excavation of TP70	N	23/08/2023
14	West-facing section of TP70	E	23/08/2023
15	West-facing section of TP70 - c. 1m deep	E	23/08/2023
16	West-facing section of TP70 - c. 3m deep - clearly showing possible cut of mill pond	E	23/08/2023
17	Post-excavation of TP25	N	23/08/2023
18	Oblique post-excavation of TP25, indicating location	NW	23/08/2023
19	West-facing section of TP25, showing full soil profile	NE	23/08/2023
20	Post-excavation of TP18	WNW	23/08/2023
21	South-facing section of TP18	N	24/08/2023
22	South-southwest-facing section of TP18 full soil profile	N	23/08/2023
23	General view from site down Beauly Firth	E	23/08/2023
24	Post-excavation of TP26	SW	24/08/2023
25	Southeast-facing section of TP26	NW	24/08/2023
26	Post-excavation of TP7	SW	24/08/2023
27	Southeast-facing section of TP7	NW	24/08/2023
28	General location shot of TP3	NE	25/08/2023
29	Post-excavation of TP3	S	25/08/2023
30	East-facing section of TP3	W	25/08/2023
31	East-facing section of GI pit showing full soil profile	NE	25/08/2023
32	Close up of full GI pit soil profile	WNW	25/08/2023
33	Record of TP3.1 - replacement of TP3 - as found	S	25/08/2023
34	East-facing section of unmonitored pit	WSW	25/08/2023
35	Post-excavation of TP3.1	S	25/08/2023
36	East-facing section of TP3.1	W	25/08/2023
37	Full soil profile of TP3.1	WSW	25/08/2023
38	Post excavation of TP57	N	18/09/2023

Photo No.	Description	Facing	Date
39	West facing section of TP57	E	18/09/2023
40	Post excavation of TP36	W	18/09/2023
41	South facing section of TP36	N	18/09/2023
42	Post-excavation of TP6	NNE	25/08/2023
43	South-southeast-facing section of TP6	NNE	25/08/2023
44	Post-excavation plan of TP67	NW	25/08/2023
45	Northwest-facing section of TP67	SE	25/08/2023
46	Post-excavation of TP1	S	27/08/2023
47	North-facing section of TP1	S	27/08/2023
48	Post-excavation of TP2	NE	27/08/2023
49	Southwest-facing section of TP2	NE	27/08/2023
50	Post-excavation of TP5	SW	27/08/2023
51	Northeast-facing section of TP5	SW	27/08/2023
52	Post-excavation of TP68	SW	27/08/2023
53	Northeast-facing section of TP68	SW	27/08/2023
54	Mid-excavation of TP69 showing topsoil removal and clay layer below	NW	27/08/2023
55	Southeast-facing section of TP69 showing topsoil removal and clay layer below	NW	27/08/2023
56	Post-excavation of TP69. Showing removal of topsoil and clay layers down to natural.	NW	27/08/2023
57	Southeast facing section of TP69. Showing removal of topsoil and clay layers down to natural.	NW	27/08/2023
58	Post-excavation of TP15	SW	27/08/2023
59	Northeast-facing section of TP15	SW	27/08/2023
60	Post-excavation of TP73	NW	27/08/2023
61	Southeast-facing section of TP73	NW	27/08/2023
62	Post-excavation of TP72, including location of field drain and blue water service pipe	SE	27/08/2023
63	Northwest-facing section of TP72, including location of field drain	SE	27/08/2023
64	Post-excavation of TP72.1	NW	27/08/2023
65	Southeast-facing section of TP72.1	NW	27/08/2023
66	Post-excavation of TP31.	NE	28/08/2023
67	Southwest-facing section of TP31.	NE	28/08/2023
68	Post-excavation of TP65 showing topsoil over clay layer	N	28/08/2023
69	South-facing section of TP65 showing topsoil over clay layer	N	28/08/2023
70	Post-excavation of TP31	NE	28/08/2023
71	Southwest-facing section of TP31	NE	28/08/2023
72	Post-excavation of TP28, showing field drain	NE	28/08/2023
73	Southwest-facing section of TP28, showing field drain	NE	28/08/2023
74	Post-excavation of TP28.1, showing possible posthole on east corner	NE	28/08/2023

Photo No.	Description	Facing	Date
75	Southwest-facing section of TP28.1, showing possible posthole on east corner	NE	28/08/2023
76	Possible posthole in TP28.1	E	28/08/2023
77	Possible posthole in TP28.1	SSE	28/08/2023
78	Possible posthole in TP28.1	ENE	28/08/2023
79	Post-excavation of TP28.2	NE	28/08/2023
80	Southwest-facing section of TP28.2	NE	28/08/2023
81	Post-excavation of TP22 showing ceramic field drain in southern corner.	NE	29/08/2023
82	Southwest-facing section of TP22	NE	29/08/2023
83	Post-excavation of TP22.1	N	29/08/2023
84	South-facing section of TP22.1	N	29/08/2023
85	Post-excavation of TP30	SW	29/08/2023
86	Northeast-facing section of TP30	SW	29/08/2023
87	Post-excavation of TP29. Trench terminated and moved.	N	29/08/2023
88	South-facing section of TP29. Trench terminated and moved.	N	29/08/2023
89	Post-excavation of TP29.1	N	29/08/2023
90	South-facing section of TP29.1	N	29/08/2023
91	Post-excavation of TP34	SW	30/08/2023
92	Northeast-facing section of TP34	SW	30/08/2023
93	Post-excavation of TP38.	SW	30/08/2023
94	Northeast-facing section of TP38	SW	30/08/2023
95	Post-excavation of TP39	E	30/08/2023
96	West-facing section of TP39	E	30/08/2023
97	Post-excavation of TP35	SE	30/08/2023
98	Northwest-facing section of TP35	SE	30/08/2023
99	Post-excavation of TP64	SW	30/08/2023
100	Northeast-facing section of TP64.	SW	30/08/2023
101	Post-excavation of TP32	SE	30/08/2023
102	Northwest-facing section of TP32	SE	30/08/2023
103	Post-excavation of TP33	SW	30/08/2023
104	Northwest-facing section of TP33	SW	30/08/2023
105	Post-excavation of TP23	SW	31/08/2023
106	Northwest-facing section of TP23	SW	31/08/2023
107	Post-excavation of TP24, showing possible postholes	SW	31/08/2023
108	Northeast-facing section of TP24	SW	31/08/2023
109	Plan photo of possible postholes	NE	31/08/2023
110	Plan photo of possible postholes	WSW	31/08/2023
111	Plan photo of possible postholes	WSW	31/08/2023
112	Post-excavation of TP24.1	SE	31/08/2023
113	Northwest-facing section of TP24.1	SE	31/08/2023

Photo No.	Description	Facing	Date
114	Post-excavation of TP43, showing possible posthole at the east end of the trial pit	E	31/08/2023
115	West-facing section of TP43	E	31/08/2023
116	Post-excavation of TP43.1	E	31/08/2023
117	West-facing section of TP43.1	E	31/08/2023
118	Post-excavation of TP4	NE	01/09/2023
119	Northeast-facing section of TP4	NE	01/09/2023
120	Plan of TP10, taken at approximately 1.1m depth	SE	01/09/2023
121	Northeast-facing section of TP10, taken at approximately 1.1m depth	SE	01/09/2023
122	Post-excavation of TP52	NE	14/09/2023
123	Southwest-facing section of TP52	NE	14/09/2023
124	Post-excavation of TP40	SW	14/09/2023
125	Northeast facing section of TP40	SW	14/09/2023
126	Post-excavation of TP48	SW	14/09/2023
127	Northeast-facing section of TP48	SW	14/09/2023
128	Post-excavation of TP53	NE	14/09/2023
129	Southwest-facing section of TP53	NE	14/09/2023
130	Post-excavation of TP41	NE	15/09/2023
131	Southwest-facing section of TP41	NE	15/09/2023
132	Post-excavation of TP49	NE	15/09/2023
133	Southwest-facing section of TP49	NE	15/09/2023
134	Post-excavation of TP13	SW	07/09/2023
135	Southeast-facing section of TP13	NW	07/09/2023
136	Northwest-facing section of TP13	SE	07/09/2023
137	Post-excavation of TP17	SW	07/09/2023
138	Northwest-facing section of TP17	SE	07/09/2023
139	Post-excavation of TP21	NE	07/09/2023
140	Southeast-facing section of TP21	NW	07/09/2023
141	Post-excavation of TP12a	SW	07/09/2023
142	Southeast-facing section of TP12a	NW	07/09/2023
143	Post-excavation of TP9	SW	08/09/2023
144	Northwest-facing section of TP9	SE	08/09/2023
145	Post-excavation of TP11	SW	08/09/2023
146	Northwest-facing section of TP11	SE	08/09/2023
147	Post-excavation of TP16	NE	08/09/2023
148	Northwest-facing section of TP16	SE	08/09/2023
149	Post-excavation of TP16 extended for plate load test	NE	08/09/2023
150	Northwest-facing section of TP20	SE	08/09/2023
151	Post-excavation of TP20	NE	08/09/2023
152	Post-excavation of TP4b	SW	08/09/2023
153	Southeast-facing section of TP4b	NW	08/09/2023

Photo No.	Description	Facing	Date
154	Post-excavation of TP4b extended for plate load test	SW	08/09/2023
155	Post-excavation of TP33.1	SW	08/09/2023
156	Southeast-facing section of TP33.1	NW	08/09/2023
157	Post-excavation of TP31.1	SW	08/09/2023
158	Southeast-facing section of TP31.1	NW	08/09/2023
159	Post-excavation of TP58	NE	09/09/2023
160	Northwest-facing section TP58	SE	09/09/2023
161	Post-excavation of TP59	NE	09/09/2023
162	Northwest-facing section of TP59	SE	09/09/2023
163	Possible linear feature 5902 in TP59	NE	09/09/2023
164	Possible linear feature 5902 in TP59	SE	09/09/2023
165	Post-excavation of TP59.1	NE	09/09/2023
166	Northwest-facing section of TP59.1	SE	09/09/2023
167	Post-excavation of TP42	SE	09/09/2023
168	Northeast-facing section of TP42	SW	09/09/2023
169	Post-excavation of TP56	NW	09/09/2023
170	Northeast-facing section of TP56	SW	09/09/2023
171	Post-excavation of TP45	NE	09/09/2023
172	Northwest-facing section of TP45	SE	09/09/2023
173	Post-excavation of TP12.1	SW	10/09/2023
174	Southwest-facing section of TP12.1	NW	10/09/2023
175	Post-excavation of TP8	SW	10/09/2023
176	Northwest-facing section of TP8	SE	10/09/2023
177	Post-excavation of TP19	NE	10/09/2023
178	Northwest-facing section of TP19	SE	10/09/2023
179	Post-excavation of TP27	SE	11/09/2023
180	Southwest-facing section of TP27	NE	11/09/2023
181	Post-excavation of TP50	NE	11/09/2023
182	Northwest-facing section of TP50	SE	11/09/2023
183	Post-excavation of TP51	NW	11/09/2023
184	Northeast-facing section of TP51	SW	11/09/2023
185	Post-excavation of TP51.1	NW	11/09/2023
186	Southwest-facing section of TP51.1	NE	11/09/2023
187	Post-excavation of TP60	NE	12/09/2023
188	Northwest-facing section of TP60	SE	12/09/2023
189	Post-excavation of TP60.1	NE	12/09/2023
190	Northwest-facing section of TP60.1	SE	12/09/2023
191	Pre-vegetation clearance of boundary wall	S	12/09/2023
192	Boundary wall after vegetation clearance before machine crossed.	S	12/09/2023
193	Boundary wall after vegetation clearance before machine crossed.	N	12/09/2023

Photo No.	Description	Facing	Date
194	Boundary wall after vegetation clearance before machine crossed.	NW	12/09/2023
195	Boundary wall after vegetation clearance after machine crossed.	S	12/09/2023
196	Boundary wall after vegetation clearance before machine crossed.	N	12/09/2023
197	Post-excavation of TP62	NE	12/09/2023
198	Northwest-facing section of TP62	SE	12/09/2023
199	Post-excavation of TP63	SE	12/09/2023
200	Northeast-facing section of TP63	SE	12/09/2023
201	Record of topsoil ramp formed either side of boundary wall	NE	12/09/2023
202	Post-excavation of TP54	SE	12/09/2023
203	Northeast-facing section of TP54	SW	12/09/2023
204	Record of levelling near entrance to field, natural subsoil not exposed	NE	13/09/2023
205	Post-excavation of TP61	NW	13/09/2023
206	Northeast-facing section of TP61	SW	13/09/2023
207	Post-excavation of TP55	N	13/09/2023
208	East-facing section of TP55	W	13/09/2023
209	Pre-excavation of pit [4702]	E	13/09/2023
210	Pre-excavation of pit [4702]	NE	13/09/2023
211	Post-excavation of TP47	SW	13/09/2023
212	Southeast-facing section of TP47	NW	13/09/2023
213	Post-excavation of TP47.1	SW	13/09/2023
214	Northwest-facing section of TP47.1	SE	13/09/2023
215	Post-excavation of TP44	NE	13/09/2023
216	Northwest-facing section of TP44	SE	13/09/2023
217	Post-excavation of TP46	NE	13/09/2023
218	Southeast-facing section of TP46	NW	13/09/2023

Appendix 4: OASIS Summary

OASIS Summary for aocarcha1-519414

OASIS ID (UID)	aocarcha1-519414
Project Name	Watching Brief at Beauly Area 400 kV Substation GI Monitoring
Sitename	Beauly Area 400 kV Substation GI Monitoring
Sitecode	70733
Activity type	Watching Brief
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	AOC Archaeology Group
Project Dates	21-Aug-2023 - 18-Sep-2023
Location	Beauly Area 400 kV Substation GI Monitoring NGR : NH 48479 42930 LL : 57.451298873755604, -4.526823265279675 12 Fig : 248479,842930
Administrative Areas	Parish : Kiltarlity District : Highland Country : Scotland
Project Methodology	The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during geotechnical investigations as part of the groundworks for the proposed development. The archaeologist directed digging by a mechanical excavator fitted with a straight-edged bucket. In the first instance of any archaeological feature being identified the procedure was to stop excavating and offset the proposed trench location so as to not interact with any archaeological remains. This also included modern field drains.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring work was carried out from 21/08/2023 to 18/09/2023. During this time a total of 75 proposed test pits were monitored, 13 of which were relocated due to either archaeological features or geotechnical reasons. As a result, a final total of 88 locations have been archaeologically monitored. Test pits 24, 28.1, 43, 47 and 59 all contained archaeological features, this included four possible postholes, a pit and a linear feature of unknown function. All features were recorded in situ and remained un-excavated as it was not necessary to do so as the Test pit locations would be moved in response.
Keywords	
Funder	Electricity company Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Transmission
Person Responsible for work	Peta Glew
Archives	
DES description	
NGR	NH 48479 42930
Previous Work	Yes
Future Work	Yes
Caption(s) for illustrations	

Report generated on: 28 Sep 2023, 11:43

Appendix 5: Addenda Plates

Plate 6 Post-excavation of TP1

Plate 7 Post-excavation of TP2

Plate 8 Post-excavation of TP3

Plate 9 Post-excavation of TP3.1

Plate 10 Post-excavation of TP4

Plate 11 Post-excavation of TP4.1 extended for plate load test

Plate 12 Post-excavation of TP5

Plate 13 Post-excavation of TP6

Plate 14 Post-excavation of TP7

Plate 15 Post-excavation of TP8

Plate 16 Post-excavation of TP9

Plate 17 Plan of TP10, taken at approximately 1.1m depth

Plate 18 Post-excavation of TP11

Plate 19 Post-excavation of TP12.1

Plate 20 Post-excavation of TP12

Plate 21 Post-excavation of TP13

Plate 22 Post-excavation TP14

Plate 23 Post-excavation of TP15

Plate 24 Post-excavation of TP16 extended for plate load test

Plate 25 Post-excavation of TP17

Plate 26 Post-excavation of TP18

Plate 27 Post-excavation of TP19

Plate 28 Post-excavation of TP20

Plate 29 Post-excavation of TP21

Plate 30 Post-excavation of TP22 showing ceramic field drain in southern corner.

Plate 31 Post-excavation of TP22.1

Plate 32 Post-excavation of TP23

Plate 33 Post-excavation of TP24, showing possible postholes

Plate 34 Post-excavation of TP24.1

Plate 35 Post-excavation of TP25

Plate 36 Post-excavation of TP26

Plate 37 Post-excavation of TP27

Plate 38 Post-excavation of TP28, showing field drain

Plate 39 Post-excavation of TP28.1, showing possible posthole on east corner

Plate 40 Post-excavation of TP28.2

Plate 41 Post-excavation of TP29. Trench terminated and moved.

Plate 42 Post-excavation of TP29.1

Plate 43 Post-excavation of TP30

Plate 44 Post-excavation of TP31

Plate 45 Post-excavation of TP31.1

Plate 46 Post-excavation of TP32

Plate 47 Post-excavation of TP33

Plate 48 Post-excavation of TP33.1

Plate 49 Post-excavation of TP34

Plate 50 Post-excavation of TP35

Plate 51 Post excavation of TP36

Plate 52 Post-excavation of TP38.

Plate 53 Post-excavation of TP39

Plate 54 Post-excavation of TP40

Plate 55 Post-excavation of TP41

Plate 56 Post-excavation of TP42

Plate 57 Post-excavation of TP43, showing possible posthole at the east end of the trial pit

Plate 58 Post-excavation of TP43.1

Plate 59 Post-excavation of TP44

Plate 60 Post-excavation of TP45

Plate 61 Post-excavation of TP46

Plate 62 Post-excavation of TP47

Plate 63 Post-excavation of TP47.1

Plate 64 Post-excavation of TP48

Plate 65 Post-excavation of TP49

Plate 66 Post-excavation of TP50

Plate 67 Post-excavation of TP51

Plate 68 Post-excavation of TP51.1

Plate 69 Post-excavation of TP52

Plate 70 Post-excavation of TP53

Plate 71 Post-excavation of TP54

Plate 72 Post-excavation of TP55

Plate 73 Post-excavation of TP56

Plate 74 Post excavation of TP57

Plate 75 Post-excavation of TP58

Plate 76 Post-excavation of TP59

Plate 77 Possible linear feature 5902 in TP59

Plate 78 Post-excavation of TP59.1

Plate 79 Post-excavation of TP60

Plate 80 Post-excavation of TP60.1

Plate 81 Post-excavation of TP61

Plate 82 Post-excavation of TP62

Plate 83 Post-excavation of TP63

Plate 84 Post-excavation of TP64

Plate 85 Post-excavation of TP65 showing topsoil over clay layer

Plate 86 Post-excavation of TP66

Plate 87 Post-excavation plan of TP67

Plate 88 Post-excavation of TP68

Plate 89 Post-excavation of TP69. Showing removal of topsoil and clay layers down to natural.

Plate 90 Post-excavation of TP70

Plate 91 West-facing section of TP70 - c. 3m deep - clearly showing possible cut of mill pond

Plate 92 Post-excavation TP71 - surface of natural

Plate 93 Post-excavation of TP72, including location of field drain and blue water service pipe

Plate 94 Post-excavation of TP72.1

Plate 95 Post-excavation of TP73









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