EREBUS OFFSHORE TURBINE ONSHORE CONNECTION GEOTECHNICAL TRIAL PITS:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2021





Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services For: ITPEnergised





DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO. 2021-81 EVENT RECORD NO. 126667

July 2021

EREBUS OFFSHORE TURBINE ONSHORE CONNECTION: GEOTECHNICAL TRIAL PITS:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2021

By

Luke Jenkins

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EREBUS OFFSHORE TURBINE ONSHORE CONNECTION GEOTECHNICAL TRIAL PITS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2021

Client	ITPEnergised
Event Record No	121891
Report No	2021-81
Project Code	FS20-064
Report Prepared By	Luke Jenkins
Fieldwork Undertaken By	Luke Jenkins
Illustrated By	Luke Jenkins

Report Approved By

Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
_V1	FINAL DRAFT	IJ	FM	29/10/2021

EREBUS OFFSHORE TURBINE

ONSHORE CONNECTION GEOTECHNICAL TRIAL PITS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2021

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EREBUS OFFSHORE TURBINE

ONSHORE CONNECTION GEOTECHNICAL TRIAL PITS:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of geotechnical trial pits along the proposed route of the Erebus Offshore Turbine Development Onshore Connection scheme.

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief.

CRYNODEB GWEITHEREDOL

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD i ymgymryd â brîff gwylio archeolegol yn ystod y gwaith o gloddio pyllau prawf geodechnegol ar hyd llwybr arfaethedig cynllun Erebus Offshore Turbine Development Onshore Connection.

Ni ddarganfuwyd unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau, nodweddion na dyddodion o arwyddocâd archeolegol.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by ITPEnergised to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the excavation of geotechnical trial pits along the line of the proposed route of the of the Erebus Offshore Turbine Development Onshore Connection.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development area comprises a linear cable route corridor that extends for approximately 10.8km across the Castlemartin peninsula in southern Pembrokeshire. The Milford Haven Waterway runs to the north of the peninsula, the Pembroke River to the east, with the sea to the southwest.
- 1.1.3 Previously the development area has been subject to a historic environment desk-based assessment (DAT Archaeological Services), as well as an Archaeology and Cultural Heritage chapter for an Environmental Impact Assessment (DAT Archaeological Services).
- 1.1.4 Twenty four of the forty geotechnical trial pits were identified as having a higher archaeological potential and were thus excavated under archaeological supervision.
- 1.1.5 The trial pits excavated with archaeological supervision were:
- TP01 to TP11 due to a nearby Iron Age enclosure (PRN 3244), and a former farmstead in the area
- TP24 to TP27 due to an increased potential for prehistoric activity close to Devil's Quoit (PE 020) which lies nearby
- TP30 to TP34 in the area of the former Angle airfield
- TP40 Due to proximity of an early medieval chapel and cemetery (PRN 7595, PE554).
- 1.1.6 The rationale for the watching brief was to monitor the excavation of the trial pits and provide information on the character and significance of any below-ground archaeological remains that may be encountered. This would allow for a programme of further mitigation to be formulated and potentially implemented prior to development.

1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 To comply with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) Standards and Guidance and Code of Conduct, and before the commencement of works, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services and approved by DAT-DM in their capacity as advisors to the local authority. This WSI sets out the methodology by which the watching brief was undertaken and defines the project objectives as:
- To monitor groundworks to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 1.2.2 The overall work can be summarised as: "Archaeological attendance during groundworks associated with the excavation of geotechnical trial pits along the line of the proposed Erebus Offshore Turbine Development Onshore Connection which could expose, damage or even destroy archaeological remains. Appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains will be undertaken if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will be prepared.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the development works along with its archaeological background and provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Monument (SM). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found within the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	<i>c</i> .450,000 – 10,000 BC	Pret
Mesolithic –	<i>c</i> . 10,000 – 4400 BC	Prehistoric
Neolithic –	<i>c</i> .4400 – 2300 BC	ric
Bronze Age –	<i>c</i> .2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	<i>c</i> .700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 - <i>c.</i> AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	<i>c</i> . AD 410 – AD 1086	oric
medieval Period –	1086 - 1536	
post-medieval Period ¹ –	1536 - 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 - 1899	
modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Arc	haeological	and	historical	timeline	for Wales
	nacological	unu	motoricui	unnenne	

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Erebus Offshore Turbine – Trial Pits Archaeological Watching Brief 2021



Figure 1: Location of development area (red), showing the proposed cable route.

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2. SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The following information has been extracted from the historic environment desk-based assessment prepared by DAT Archaeological Services (Poucher 2021):
- 24.4.2.2 The proposed development area comprises a largely linear cable route corridor that extends for approximately 10.8km across the Castlemartin peninsula in southern Pembrokeshire. The Milford Haven Waterway runs to the north of the peninsula, the Pembroke River to the east, with the sea to the southwest.
- 24.4.2.3 The landfall site for the onshore cable route will be West Angle Bay (SM 852 032). There are currently two options being considered. One would come ashore across the sandy bay and onto the relatively low-lying agricultural land that backs the bay, before turning southward to cross an area of enclosed farmland comprising medium-sized amalgamated rectangular fields of mixed pasture and arable, enclosed by hedgerows with some stone walling present to the west. The onshore cable corridor would cross the access road to West Angle Bay. The second option would come ashore to the south of the bay, where the coastline is fronted by a rocky sea cliff. The onshore cable corridor would then travel south before turning east, through similar enclosed agricultural land.
- 24.4.2.4 From SM 8560 0225 the onshore cable corridor takes an east to southeasterly route across an area of large straight-sided fields bounded by embankments and post-and-wire fencing (the former RAF Angle airfield), with smaller semi-regular fields bounded by hedgerows and some stone walling to the east. At around SM 8855 0090 the onshore cable corridor crosses the B4319 and B4320 to take a northerly detour around Kilpaison Burrows, an extensive area of vegetation covered sand dunes that back Freshwater West beach. This northerly route runs through an area of regular, straight-sided fenced agricultural enclosures, surrounded by security fencing to enclose an area of oil refineries to the north.
- 24.4.2.5 To the east of the burrows/oil refinery land, the onshore cable corridor runs to the southeast, crossing the local road to Neath Farm, and running south of Wogaston Farm through an area of medium to large irregular fields, enclosed by hedgerows, and around solar farm arrays.
- 24.4.2.6 The onshore cable corridor then turns northeast to Wallaston Cross, a meeting of several local roads, and then continues east towards the coast at the mouth of the Pembroke River, and along the northern side of a small stream valley. The proposed onshore substation is located on the northern side of this small valley, close to Lambeeth Farm. The onshore substation would then connect to Pembroke Power Station which lies approximately 700m to the north.
- 24.4.2.7 The onshore cable corridor climbs gradually to the south of West Angle Bay to approximately 60mOD at which point it turns east to south-easterly and crosses a relatively level landscape with gradual undulations. To the south the ground falls slightly to a rocky sea-cliff edge. To the north the ground falls gradually to the sand, mud and rock foreshore of Angle Bay, cut by small stream channels and valleys. East of Kilpaison Burrows the landscape undulates more

sharply but reaches its highest point of 73mOD at Green Hill Reservoir, immediately north of Wallaston Cross. East of this the land falls away to the mouth of the Pembroke River, which feeds the Milford Haven Waterway to the north, and is flanked by wide tidal mudflats along its western edge. The settlement pattern in the area comprises dispersed farmsteads and dwellings, some in relatively close proximity to one another, linked by a network of local roads, with the B4320 providing the main east - west route across the peninsula. The village of Angle lies on the west side of Angle Bay, laid out in a linear fashion along the road. The small villages, or hamlets, of Rhoscrowther and Pwllcrochan lie to the north of the route, now largely abandoned due to the development of the adjacent oil refineries. The closest nucleated settlements comprise Pembroke, on the Pembroke River 4.5km to the east, Pembroke Dock, on the south side of the Milford Haven 2.5km to the northeast, and Milford Haven itself, on the north banks of the river 4km to the north. The north coast of the peninsula is now dominated by large oil refineries and Pembroke Power Station, and to the southeast lies the Castlemartin Artillery Range.

24.4.2.8 The underlying geology of the area is largely split between the rocks of the Milford Haven Group to the south, and more mixed rocks to the north. The Milford Haven Group rocks comprise a wide east-west ridge of interbedded sandstone and argillaceous rocks to the south of a line that runs from East Blockhouse at the western end of the peninsula to just south of Wallaston Cross and the edge of the Pembroke River at the eastern end of the peninsula. North of this line lie bands of conglomerate of the Ridgeway Conglomerate Group, sandstone of the Skrinkle Sandstone Formation, interbedded limestone and mudstone of the Avon Group, and limestone of the Black Rock Subgroup and Gully Oolite Formation. An area of blown sand overlies the bedrock around Kilpaison Burrows midway along the route (BGS viewer). The soil is largely described as freely draining slightly acid loamy soil with a band of fertile freely draining slightly acid but base rich soils extending between East and West Angle Bays, and sand dunes soils extending from the north of Kilpaison Burrows (Soilscapes Viewer).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 A detailed assessment of the archaeological potential and historical background of the development site has been produced by DAT Archaeological Services (Poucher 2021). A summary of the archaeological potential of the route is as follows:

• Mesolithic activity. A low to medium potential is highlighted around the coastal areas of West Angle Bay at the west end, and on the approach to Lambeeth at the east end, and around Kilpaison Burrows in the centre. Elsewhere potential appears low.

• Neolithic activity. A low to medium potential is highlighted around the coastal areas of West Angle Bay at the west end, and on the approach to Lambeeth at the east end, rising to a medium potential around Devil's Quoit Chambered Tomb in the centre. Elsewhere potential appears low.

• Bronze Age activity. A low to medium potential is highlighted around the landfall areas, falling to low around the former RAF Angle. Potential increases to medium to high in the Kilpaison Burrows area, particularly around local watercourses, and remains a medium potential to the east.

• Iron Age activity. A low to medium potential is highlighted around the southern landfall option, and a medium to high potential around the substation location. Elsewhere potential appears low.

• Early medieval activity. A medium potential is highlighted around West Angle Bay, across both potential landfall options. Elsewhere potential would appear to be low.

• Medieval activity. A medium potential is highlighted around the medieval settlements of Angle and Newton Farm. Elsewhere a low to medium potential for general agricultural activity is suggested.

• Post-medieval activity. A medium potential for industrial and maritime activity is highlighted around West Angle Bay, and a medium potential for settlement activity around Wallaston Cross, elsewhere a low to medium potential for general agricultural activity is suggested.

• Modern activity. Relating specifically to wartime activity, a low to medium potential is highlighted on the approach to the East Blockhouse (southern landfall option), a medium to high potential as the route passes through the site of the former RAF Angle, and a medium potential around Broomhill Cottage.

4. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken following the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014).
- 4.1.2 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services detailing the proposed archaeological works, which was approved by DAT-DM in their capacity as advisors to the local planning authority.
- 4.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out following the Recording Manual used by DAT Archaeological Services. A written, drawn and a photographic record was maintained throughout this watching brief. All contexts recorded during this watching brief were recorded and assigned a unique context number.
- 4.1.4 This watching brief monitored the groundworks associated with the excavation of geotechnical trial pits. The trial pits were mechanically excavated by a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 4.1.5 Only geotechnical trial pits with a perceived higher archaeological potential established in the desk-based assessment (Poucher 2021) were excavated under archaeological supervision.

4.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

4.2.1 The watching brief took place over 7 days from the 7th to the 15th of June 2021. Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Jenkins and Phillip Poucher.

4.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 4.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured following specifications in Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 4.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 7th to the 14th of June 2021. Excavation was supervised by Luke Jenkins between the 7th-11th of June and Phillip Poucher on the 14th of June.
- 5.1.2 The trial pits excavated with archaeological supervision due to a perceived higher archaeological potential were:
- TP01 to TP11 due to a nearby Iron Age enclosure (PRN 3244), and a former farmstead in the area.
- TP24 to TP27 due to an increased potential for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the scheduled prehistoric site of Devil's Quoit (PE 020) which lies nearby.
- TP30 to TP34 in the area of the former Angle airfield.
- TP37 to TP40 Due to proximity of an early medieval chapel and cemetery (PRN 7595, PE554).
- 5.1.3 All excavation was undertaken using a 9 tonne 360-degree excavator with a toothless digging bucket. All trenches were minimally invasive measuring approximately 3.0 x 0.60m, the size required to achieve the depth of dig.
- 5.1.4 Initial excavation involved the removal of topsoil and subsoil (where present) to expose the natural ground or any buried archaeological remains. The trench was cleaned, photographed and recorded. After this excavation continued to the required depth of dig of the geotechnical works (circa 3.0m).
- 5.1.5 Broadly speaking, excavation was undertaken from east to west in numeric order. Occasionally, due to landowner considerations excavation was undertaken out of sequence, nonetheless they are described in numeric order here.
- 5.1.6 For convenience, geotechnical pits are considered grouped together in a logical format, unless a notable difference between each pit is recorded.

5.2 Trial Pits TP1-11(Figure 2, Table 2, Photograph 1)

- 5.2.1 Trial pits TP1-11 were located at the eastern end of the cable route. These geotechnical pits were all located in a field to the east of Woolaston Cross on Lambeeth farm at the site of the proposed substation. The pits were spread out in a grid across the field.
- 5.2.2 Archaeological supervision was required during the excavation of these geotechnical pits due to the proximity of Iron Age enclosure (PRN 3244) and a former farmstead (EWF01) in the area (Poucher 2021).
- 5.2.3 Topsoil here, varied from between 0.14m and 0.36m in depth and tended to be deeper in the eastern part of the field likely due to the valley edge immediately to the east. The topsoil comprised reddish-brown loam with occasional angular stones and charcoal flecks.
- 5.2.4 The subsoil measured between 0.10m and 0.14m in depth and was similar to the topsoil above but with less stone or charcoal.
- 5.2.5 The superficial geology visible in the trial pits comprised dark red gravel with an average particulate size of approximately 0.02m, and was visible to a depth of over 2m
- 5.2.6 The bedrock geology appeared to be reddish interbedded sandstone although close inspection was not possible due to the depth of the trial pit
- 5.2.7 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recorded during the excavations.



Photograph 1: Excavation of geotechnical trial pits at location of proposed substation

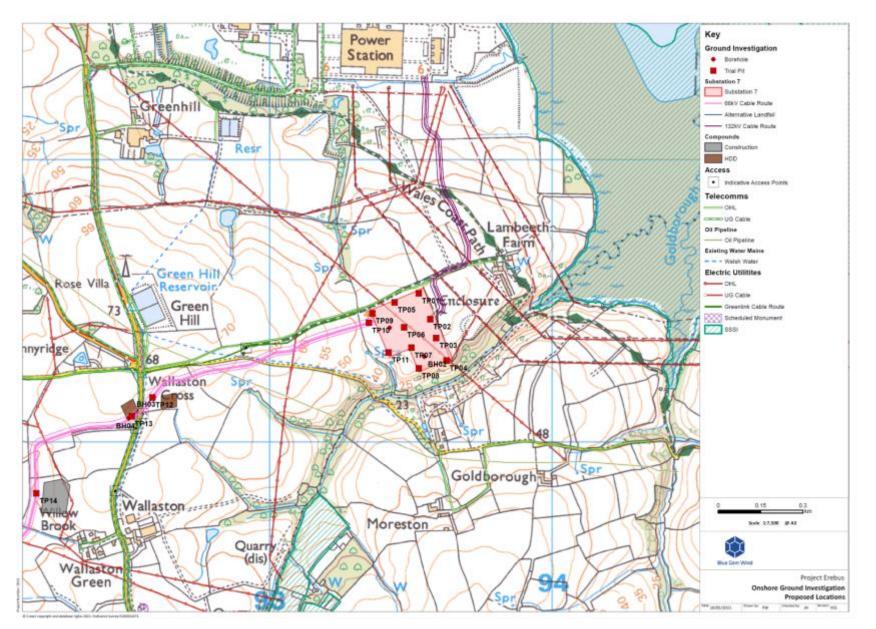
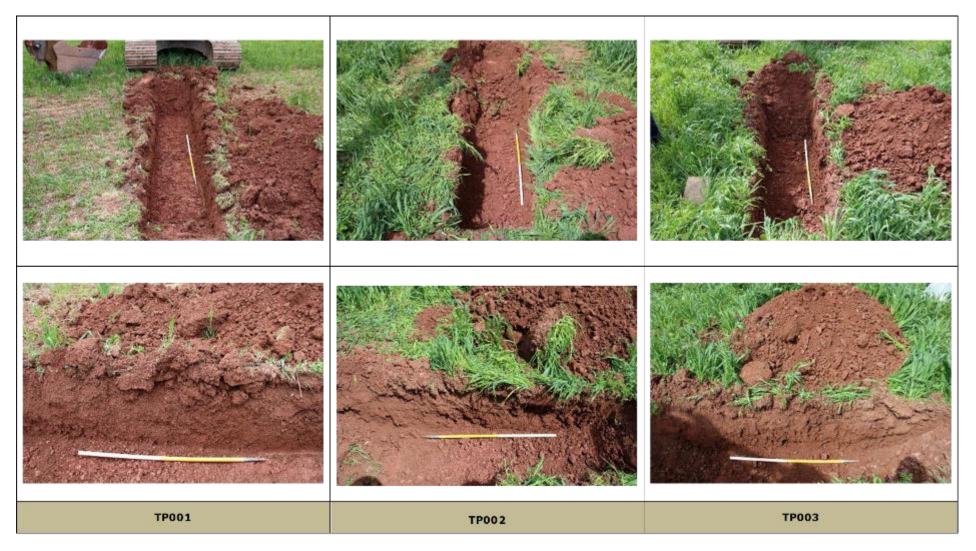
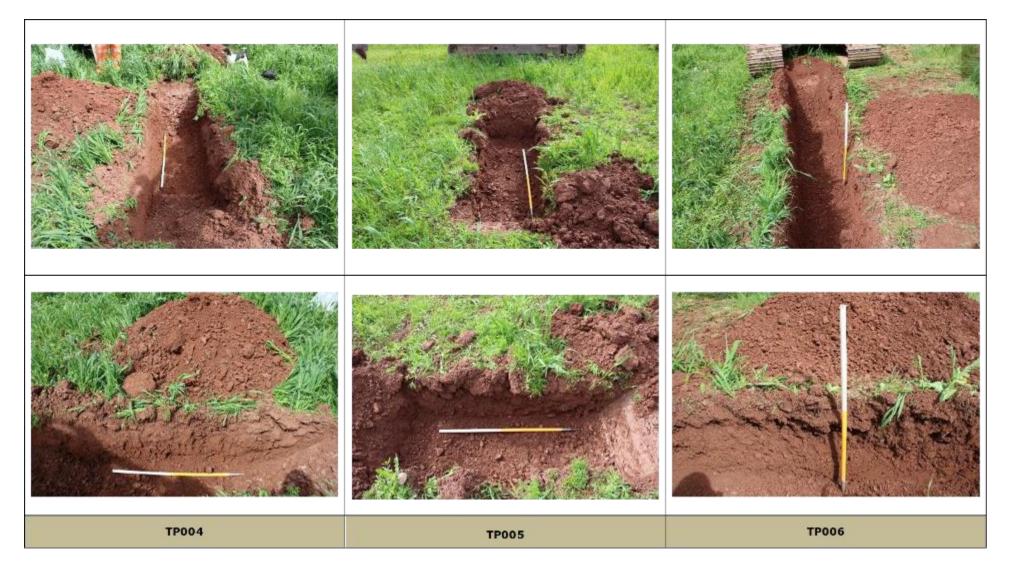


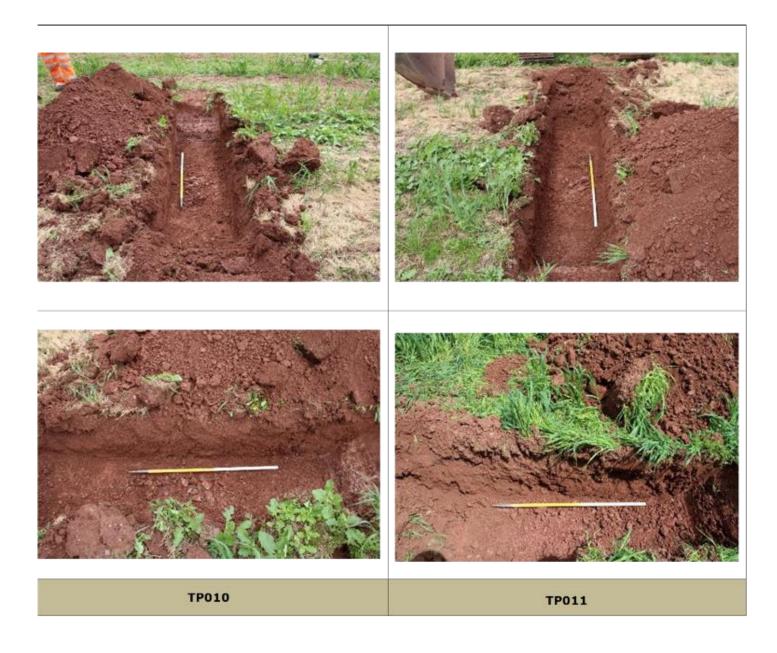
Figure 2: Showing location of geotechnical trial pits TP 1-14. (Provided by client).DAT Archaeological Services12Report No 2021-81

Table 2: Trial pits TP001-TP011. Showing general shot and indicative section of each geotechnical trial pit. 1m scaleFor locations see Figure 2.









5.3 Trial Pits TP 024-027 (Figure 3, Table 3, Photographs 2-4)

- 5.3.1 Trial pits TP 024-27 were located along the mid-part of the cable route. These geotechnical pits were all located within or close to the area known as the Broomhill Burrows known for its deep windblown sand deposits.
- 5.3.2 Archaeological supervision was required during the excavation of these geotechnical pits due to an increased potential for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the scheduled prehistoric site of Devil's Quoit (PE 020) which lies nearby
- 5.3.3 The topsoil varied in depth between 0.26m and 0.15m. It was composed of a reddish-brown loam with occasional gravel like inclusions. As elsewhere, charcoal flecks and modern pottery inclusions were visible at some locations. Subsoil was not demonstrably different to the topsoil.
- 5.3.4 Beneath this layer was a thick layer of windblown sand in some instances measuring several metres thick. Recent excavations have recorded archaeological layers lying below the sand (Poucher 2021). However, the depth of the trial pit and collapsing edges prevented any proper archaeological inspection.
- 5.3.5 Occasionally, evidence of the dune stabilisation was visible in section, visible as thick layers of peaty material (Photographs 3 and 4). No archaeological remains were found within these layers.
- 5.3.6 The bedrock geology was a reddish interbedded sandstone similar to the eastern part of the site although again, close inspection was not possible due to the unsafe depth of the trial pit.
- 5.3.7 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recorded during the excavations.





Photograph 2: Showing excavation around TP 024-027.

Photograph 3: Showing example of peaty layer in situ approximately 1m beneath ground surface.



Photograph 4: Showing peaty layers suggesting stabilization within dune layers.



Figure 3: Showing location of geotechnical trial pits TP024-031 (Provided by client).

Table 3: Trial pits TP024-TP027. Showing general shot and indicative section of each geotechnical trial pit. 1m scaleFor locations see Figure 3. 1m





5.4 Trial Pits TP 030-034 (Figure 4, Table 4, Photograph 5)

- 5.4.1 Trial pits TP 030-34 were located at the mid-western part of the cable of the cable route.
- 5.4.2 Archaeological supervision was required during the excavation of these geotechnical pits because of their proximity to the eastern end of the Angle airfield and associated buildings and infrastructure.
- 5.4.3 Topsoil here varied between 0.32m and 0.14m. It composed greyish silty sand with occasional lenses of finer, more clean yellowish sand. Occasional flecks of charcoal were visible, with infrequent small angular stones in some areas. Subsoil, if present did not differ significantly from the topsoil.
- 5.4.4 The superficial geology was similar to that visible at the eastern part of the cable route (TP 001-011) and consisted of gravel with an average particulate size of approximately 0.02m this time with a greenish brown hue. This was often more than 1m in depth, however, close inspection was not possible due to the unsafe depth of the trial pit.
- 5.4.5 The bedrock geology was again similar to that of the eastern part of the cable route, comprising reddish interbedded sandstone
- 5.4.6 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recorded during the excavations.



Photograph 5: Showing excavation in the area of TP 030-034.

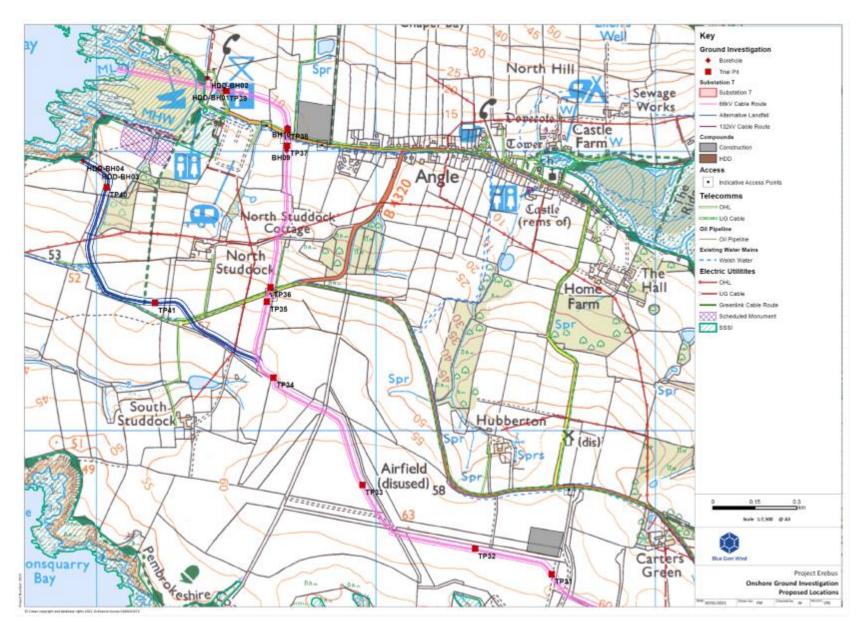
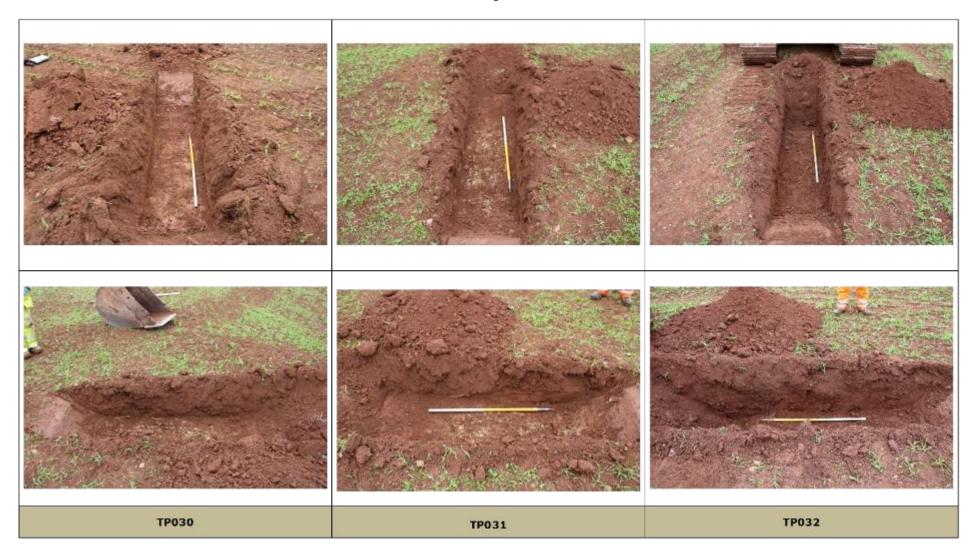
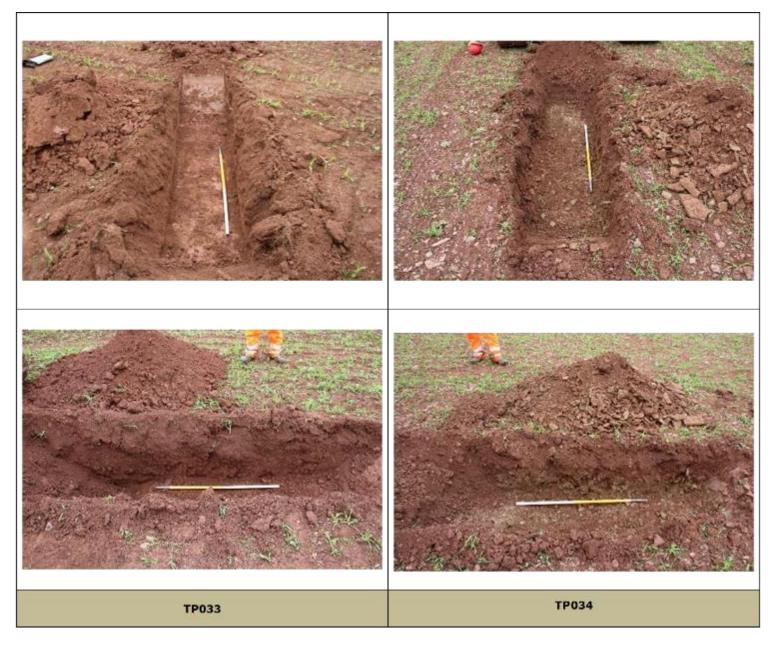


Figure 4: Showing geotechnical location of geotechnical trial pits TP 030-34 (Provided by client).

Table 4: Trial pits TP030-TP034. Showing general shot and section of each geotechnical trial pit. 1m scale.For locations see Figure 4



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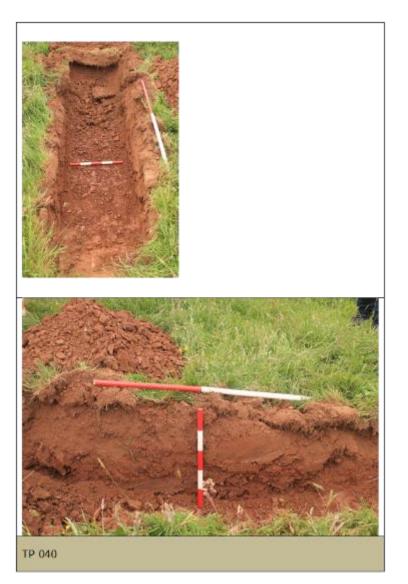
DAT Archaeological Services

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5.5 Trial Pit TP 040 (Figure 4, Table 5)

- 5.5.1 Trial pit TP 040 was located at the western extent of the cable route.
- 5.5.2 Archaeological supervision was required during the excavation of the trial pit due to the proximity of an early medieval chapel and cemetery (PRN 7595, PE554).
- 5.5.3 The topsoil as seen within the pit was 0.41m thick. It comprised brown loam, with infrequent small angular stones. Subsoil, if present did not differ significantly from the topsoil.
- 5.5.4 The superficial geology was similar to that found elsewhere and comprised gravel with an average particulate size of approximately 0.02m this time with a reddish-brown hue.
- 5.5.5 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recorded during excavation

Table 5: Trial pit TP 040. Showing general shot and section of trial pit. 1m scale.For location see Figure 4.



6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by ITPEnergised to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the excavation of geotechnical trial pits along the line of the proposed route of the of the Erebus Offshore Turbine Development Onshore Connection.
- 6.2 Twenty four of the forty geotechnical trial pits were identified as having a higher archaeological potential and were thus excavated under archaeological supervision:
- 6.3 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between the 7th and 15th June 2021 inclusive. Monitoring was carried out by Luke Jenkins between the 7th-11th of June and Phillip Poucher on the 14th and 15th of June.
- 6.4 The trial pits excavated under archaeological supervision due to a perceived higher archaeological potential were:
- **TP01 to TP11** due to a nearby Iron Age enclosure (PRN 3244), and a former farmstead in the area.
- TP24 to TP27 due to an increased potential for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the scheduled prehistoric site of Devil's Quoit (PE 020) which lies nearby.
- **TP30 to TP34** in the area of the former Angle airfield.
- **TP37 to TP40** Due to proximity of an early medieval chapel and cemetery (PRN 7595, PE554).
- 6.5 No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in any trial pit during the watching brief.

7. SOURCES

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