

Maes y Deri, Laugharne, Carmarthenshire Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Maurice Thomas / Entrust

December 2012



Maes y Deri, Laugharne, Carmarthenshire Watching Brief

By

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Trysor Project No. 2012/267

For: Mr Maurice Thomas / Entrust

December 2012

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Cover photograph: The topsoil strip of the southeastern turbine base, Area 1

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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER: Trysor 2012/267

DYDDIAD 10^{fed} Rhagfyr 2012

DATE 10th December 2012

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

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Jenny Hall

PAUL SAMBROOK MifA

Paul Sambrook

DYDDIAD

DATE

10/12/2012

Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.

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1. Summary

In October and November 2012, Trysor undertook a watching brief in two fields at Maes y Deri farm, Laugharne, SN 29841215, in advance of erection of two 20kW wind turbines. A posthole 0.56 metres x 0.70 metres and 0.22 metres deep was seen cutting the subsoil in Area 1 and a lens of clay and charcoal/decomposed wood, 0.35 metres wide, in the other. Neither was dateable and their purpose is unknown.

2. Copyright

Trysor hold the copyright of this report and of the paper and digital archive. Further paper copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figure 2, 5 and 6 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

3. Introduction

Mr Maurice Thomas, of Maes-y-Deri, Laugharne, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA33 4QR commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks for two 20kW wind turbines relating to planning application number: W/26897. Both turbines will stand in a field, SN2994412160, to the east of the farm complex at Maes-y-Deri, Laugharne, Carmarthenshire.

4. The development

The development consists of two 20Kw wind turbines within a single field parcel connected by a single cable trench to a point near the Maes-y-Deri farm complex in the field to the west.

5. Conditions on the consent

In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed conditions on the outline consent; one condition specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

The developer shall ensure that a professionally qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The Planning Authority will be informed, in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist.

Reason: to ensure that historic environment interests are met and any disturbed archaeology is recorded.

6. The specification

Trysor prepared a watching brief specification on the work to be undertaken. This was submitted to the LPA and was approved on 5th October 2012, see Appendix A the specification.

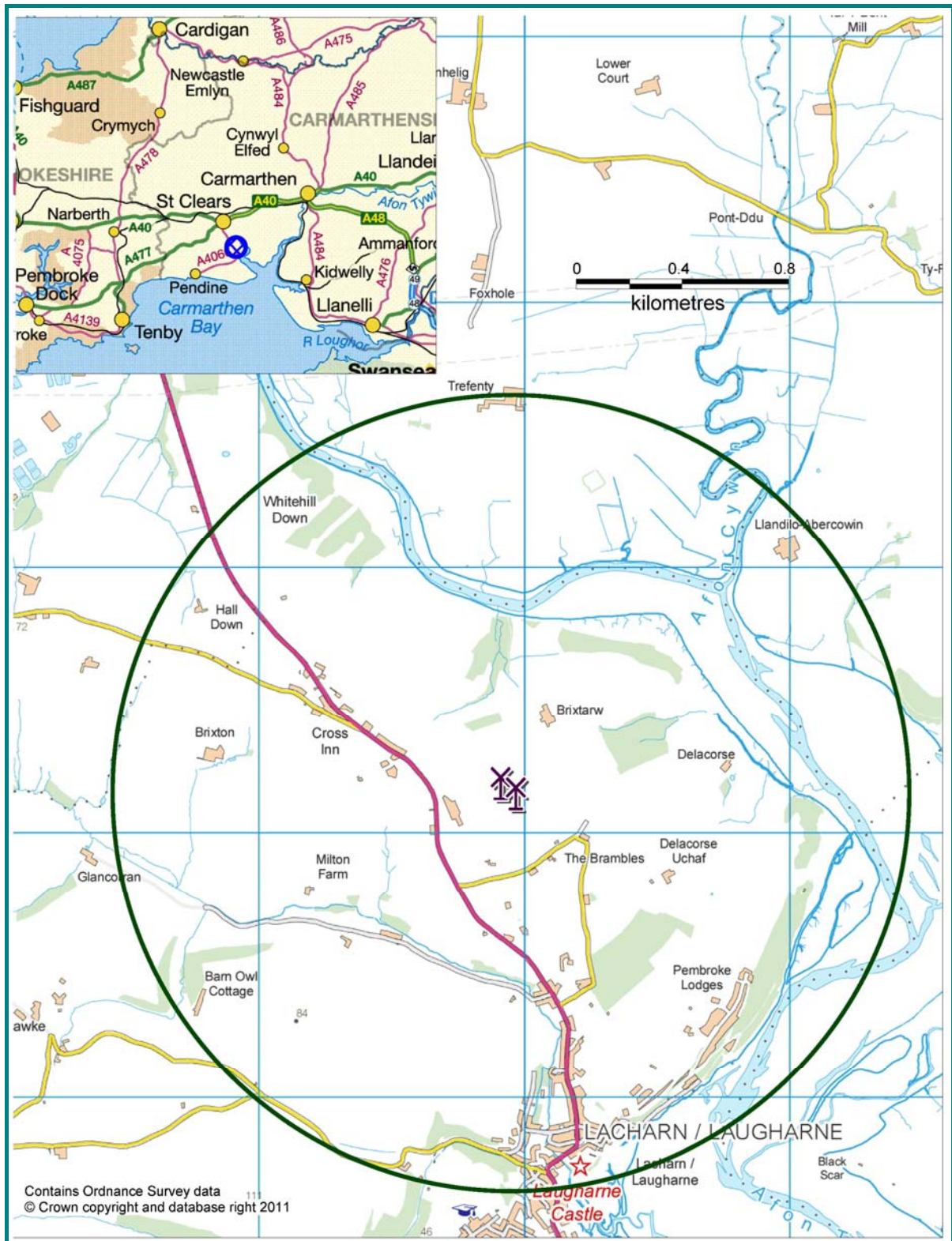


Figure 1: Location of the watching brief.

7. Historical and Archaeological Overview

A more detailed discussion of the previously recorded archaeology is given in Appendix A, section 3, including the findings of an archaeological appraisal undertaken by Trysor in September 2012. The area does lie within the Delacorse Historic Landscape Characterisation area, part of the Tâf and Tywi Estuary Landscape of Historic Interest, defined in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw/ICOMOS/CCW, 1998). There were no previously recorded archaeological features with the field parcel itself.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the Local Planning Authorities archaeological advisors, advised *that the proposed development lies in a potentially rich archaeological area and we consider that an archaeological watching brief during the initial ground disturbance would be appropriate mitigation.* (Hill, C, 2012)

8. Methodology

On Saturday 6th October 2012, the two 5.5m x 5.5m foundation trenches for the wind turbines were stripped of topsoil down to subsoil using a mechanical excavator and a flat bucket. This process was observed by Trysor after discussion on the best way to proceed.

There was a bright low sunlight after a very wet night and this and the nature of the soil and subsoil made distinguishing colours difficult. The underlying subsoil is based on the Old Red Sandstone of the area and gives both soils and subsoils a reddish colour.

On Saturday 3rd November 2012 the cable trenches were observed. These were 0.5 metres wide at the top and had been excavated prior to the observation as agreed between Trysor and the client.

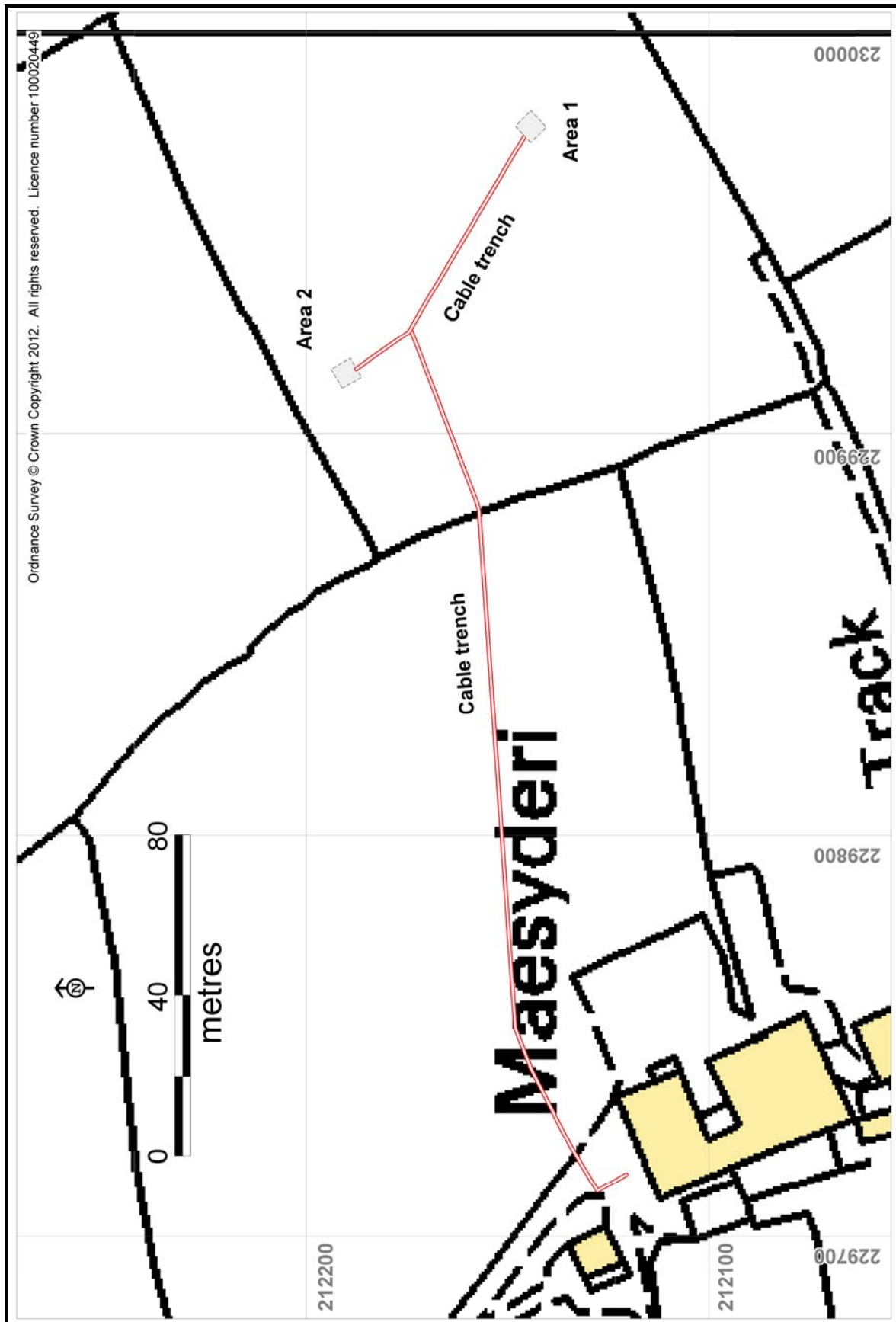


Figure 2: Location of the turbine foundations and cable trenches based on GPS plots and crosschecked with features in the landscape.

9. Site Stratigraphy

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. The mechanical topsoil strip of the turbine foundation trenches was watched by Trysor and the stratigraphy of the site recorded. The cable trenches were mechanically excavated and the results observed by Trysor. Plan of the features is shown Figure 3.

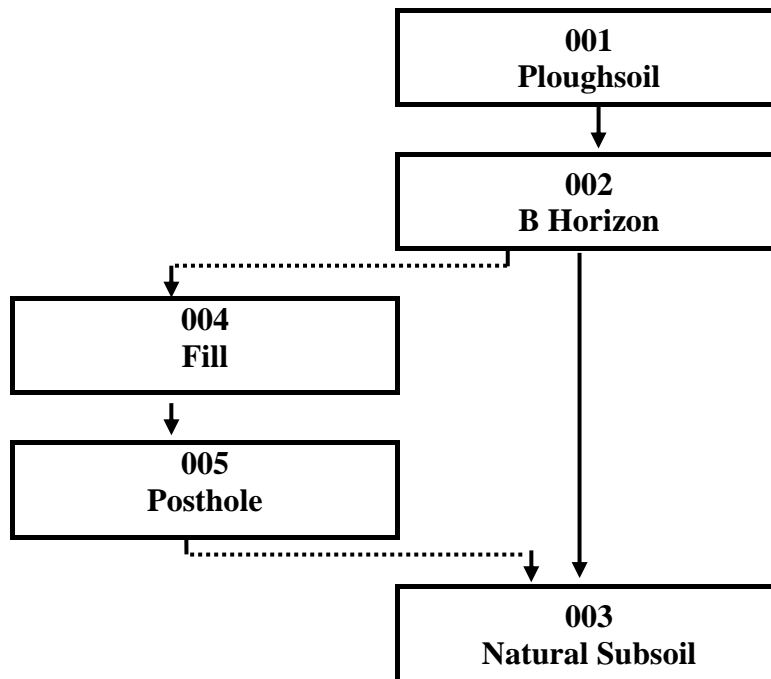
9.1 Context Catalogue

Area 1

Area 1 was centred on SN2997712141, and measured 5.4 metres west southwest by east northeast by 5.6 metres when mechanically excavated to a depth of 1 metre excavated. The ploughsoil, context number 001, overlaid a non-ploughed horizon, context number 002, which was very similar in colour and texture to 001 but contained more stones. The boundary between this layer, 002 and the natural subsoil was very difficult to detect as there was only a slight change in colour and texture.

A posthole, context number 005 was seen cut through 003 and filled by context number 004 at 0.70 metres below ground surface. As 004 was filled with a very similar material to 001 and 002, it might have been cut from higher up but was not distinguishable. No artefacts were found and the feature remains undated.

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.40m	5YR4/3, Reddish brown clay loam	Ploughsoil
002	-	5YR4/3, Stony reddish brown clay loam with small stones 0.05m – 0.15m in length	Soil layer below the ploughsoil grading down into natural subsoil below
003	0.10-0.30m	5YR4/4, reddish brown clay with small stones < 0.02m in size	Natural subsoil
004	0.22m	5YR4/3, reddish brown clay with small stones less than 0.05m in size, flecks of black material probably charcoal. No artefacts	Fill of posthole 005.
005	0.22m	Cut 0.70m north northwest to south southeast by 0.56 west south west to east northeast and maximum of 0.22m deep below the level at which it was first seen, roughly the interface between 002 and 003.	Posthole, filled by 004, seen cutting through 003, but not known from which level it was cut.



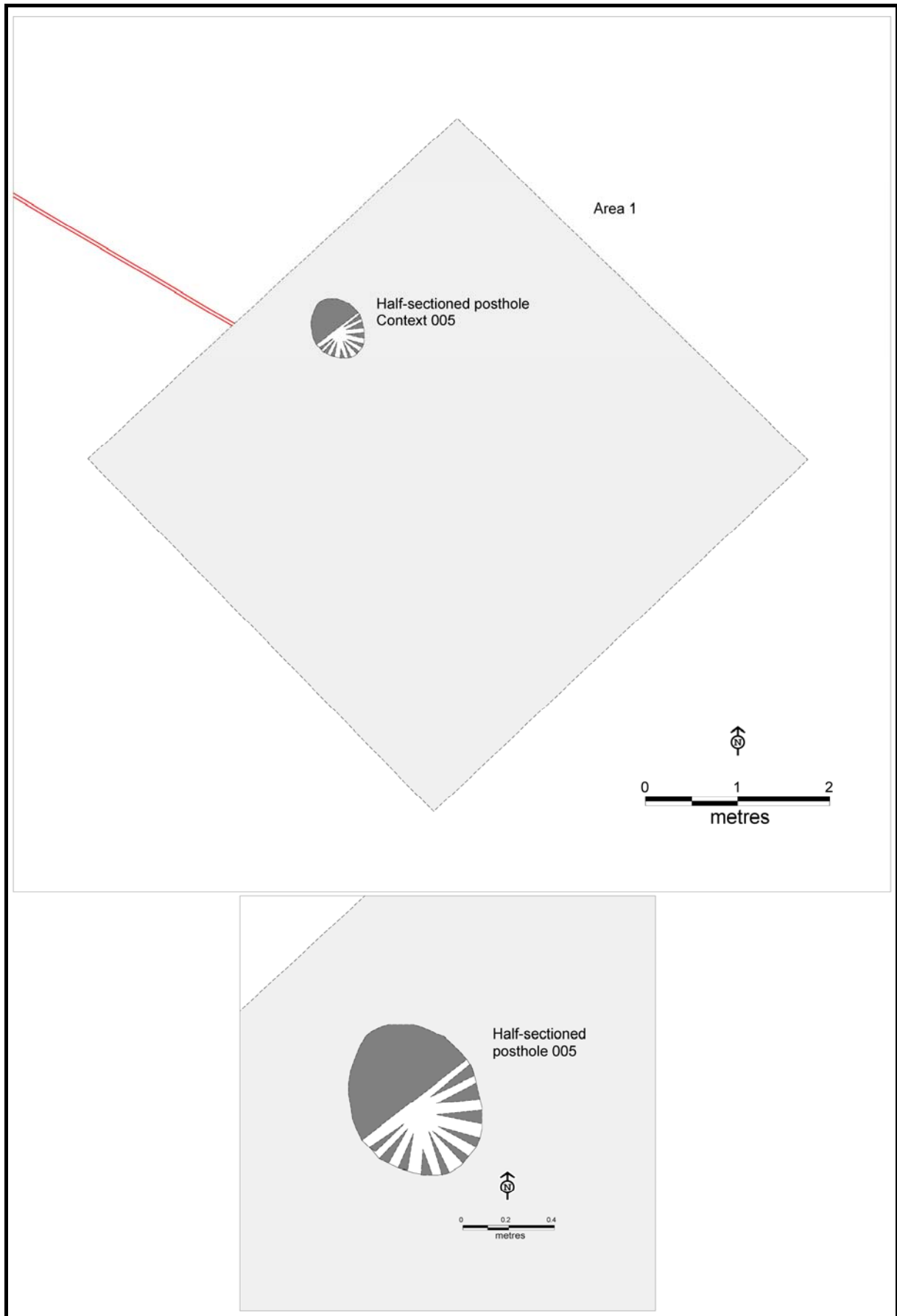
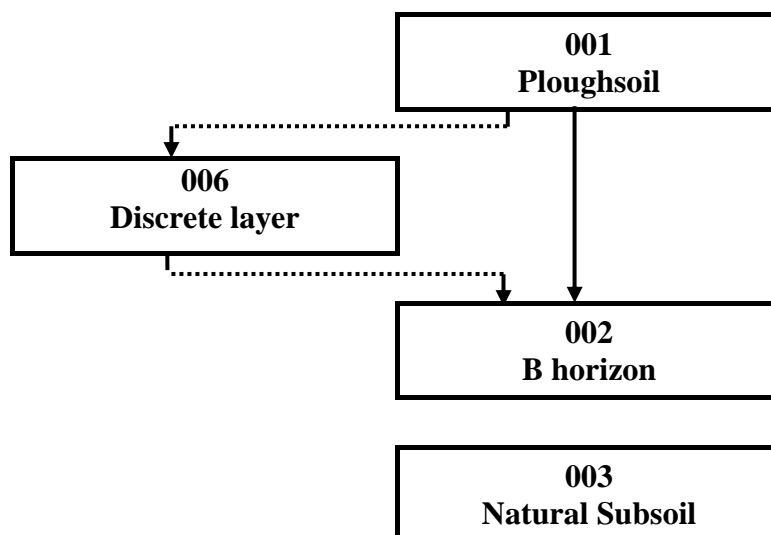


Figure 3: Plan of posthole, context number 005, in Area 1

Area 2:

Area 2 was centred on SN2992012184, and measured 5.5 metres west southwest by east northeast by 5.5 metres when mechanically excavated to a depth of 1 metre excavated. As in Area 1, the ploughsoil, context number 001, overlaid a non-ploughed horizon, context number 002, which was very similar in colour and texture to 001 but contained more stones. It was less obvious than in Area 1, thinner with fewer stones. The boundary between this layer, 002 and the natural subsoil was very difficult to detect as there was only a slight change in colour and texture.

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.40m	5YR4/3, Reddish brown clay loam	Ploughsoil
002	0.10m	5YR4/3, Stony reddish brown clay loam with small stones 0.05m – 0.15m in length	Soil layer below the ploughsoil grading down into natural subsoil below
003	-	5YR4/4, reddish brown clay with small stones < 0.02m in size	Natural subsoil
006		A lens, measuring 0.35m x 0.35m, of 10R4/4 red clay with small stones, which were less than 0.10 metres, and charcoal. It appeared to be within the base of the ploughsoil, 001, 0.35m below ground surface, or possibly at the interface between 001 and 002	Uncertain dating and purpose



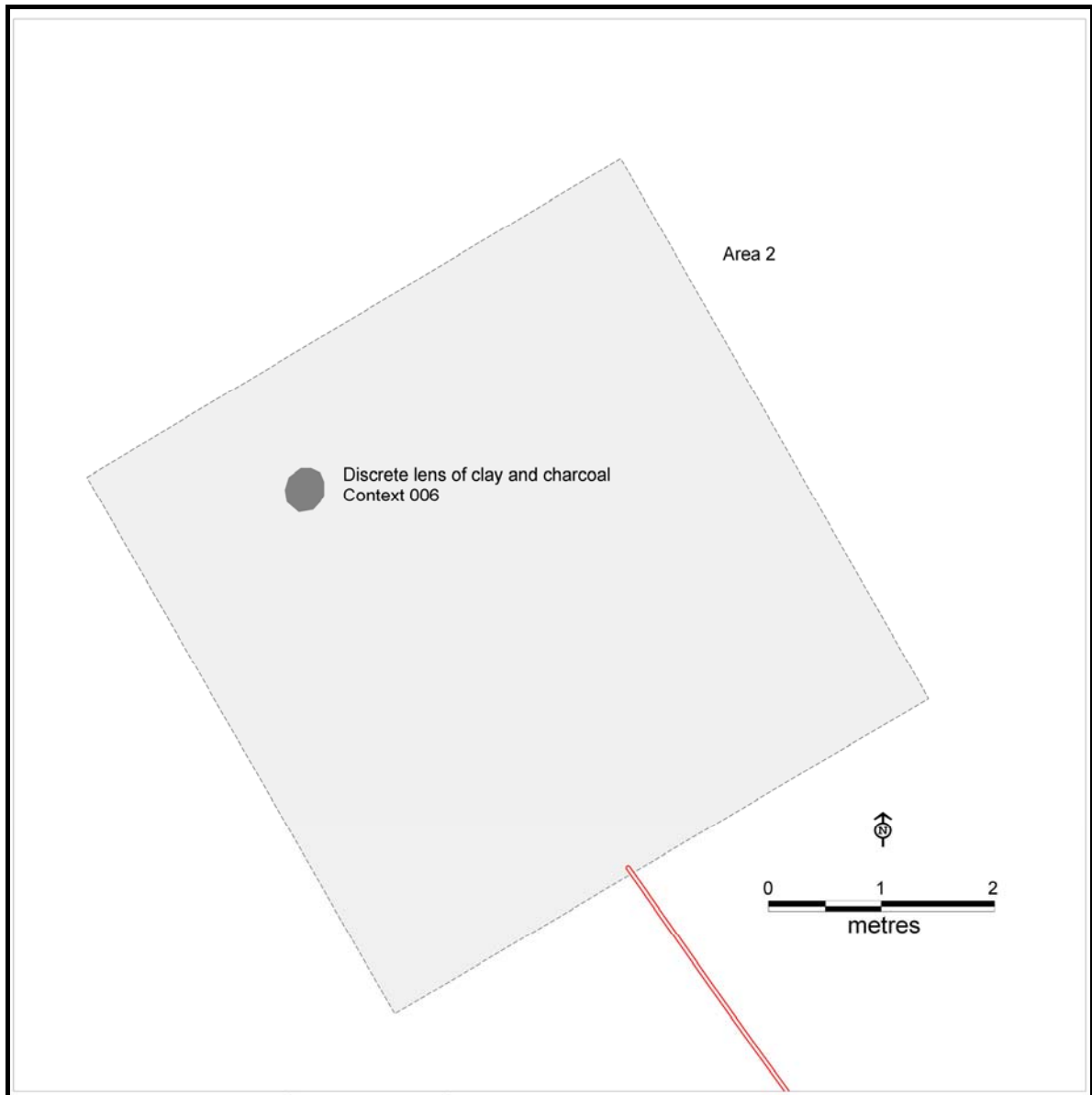
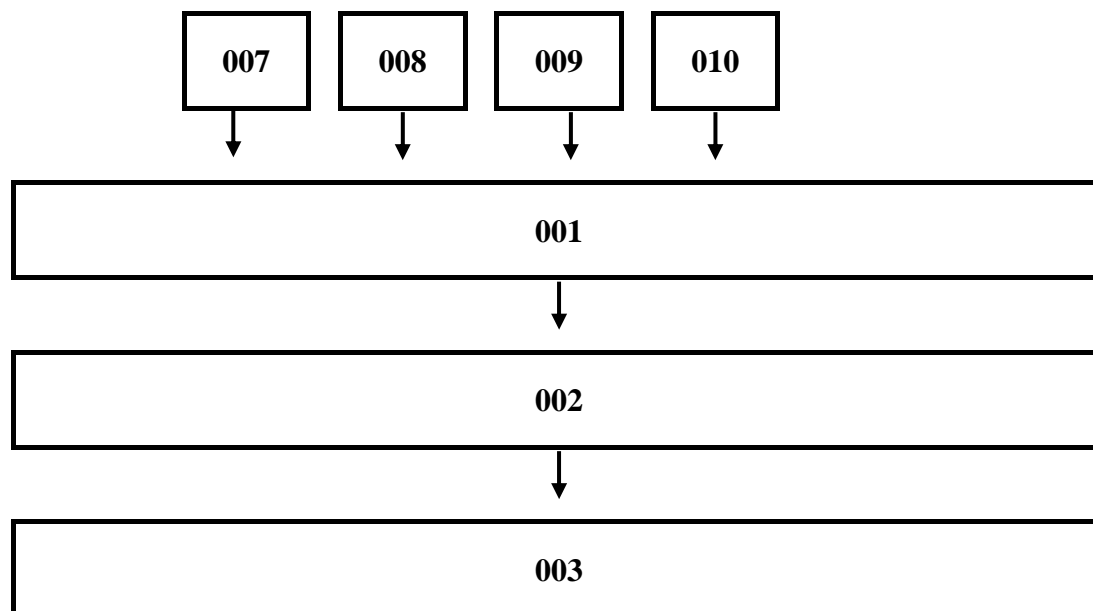


Figure 4: Plan of context 006 in Area 2

Area 3: Cable Trench

Cable trenches ran from each turbine base, Area 1 and Area 2, and joined to run westwards towards the farm buildings. The cable trenches cut through recent deposits put down to improve access and two blue alkathene water pipes.

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.40m	5YR4/3, Reddish brown clay loam	Ploughsoil
002	0.10m	5YR4/3, Stony reddish brown clay loam with small stones 0.05m – 0.15m in length	Soil layer below the ploughsoil grading down into natural subsoil below
003	-	5YR4/4, reddish brown clay with small stones < 0.02m in size	Natural subsoil
007	0.05- 0.10m	Stone band 5 metres wide running parallel to the east side of the hedge, above the ploughsoil	Material dumped to help access
008	-	Alkathene water pipe, within the ploughsoil, no trench visible.	Water supply pipe
009		Alkathene water pipe, within the ploughsoil, no trench visible.	Water supply pipe
010		Gravel, brick, tarmac	Yard surface



1

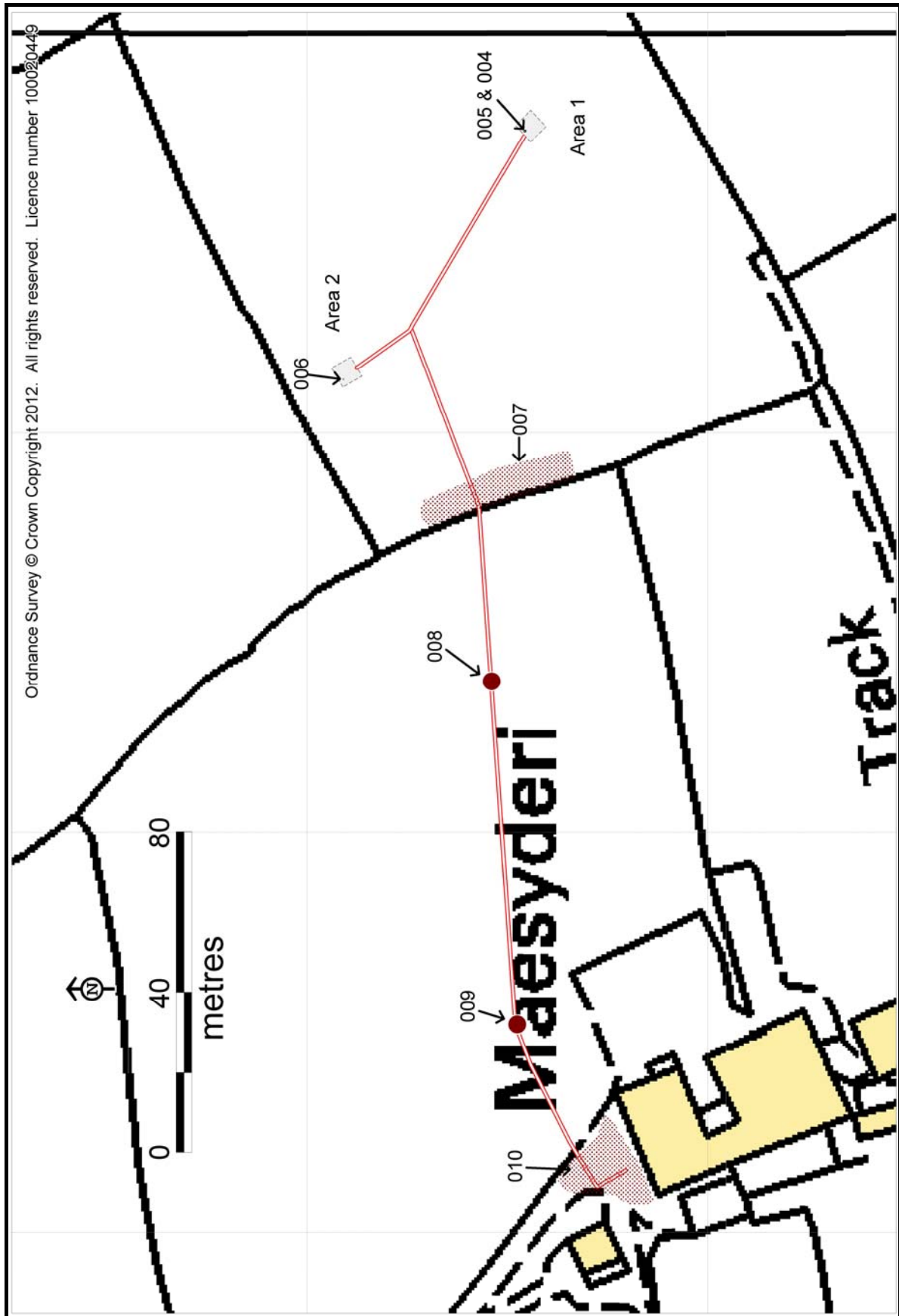


Figure 5: Features recorded in the turbine foundations and cable trenches.

10. Photographs

Colour digital photographs were taken of topsoil stripping using a 14M pixel camera. The following table describes the content of each photograph included in the project archive and their locations are provided in the following map, see Figure 5. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
MYD2012_001	Mechanically stripping turf of Area 1 for the foundation of turbine.	06/10/2012	Looking west southwest
MYD2012_002	Mechanically excavating Area 1 for the foundation of turbine 1.	06/10/2012	Looking southwest
MYD2012_003	Posthole 005, and its fill 004, in Area 1 before half-sectioning.	06/10/2012	Looking west
MYD2012_004	Posthole 005, and its fill 004, in Area 1 after half-sectioning.	06/10/2012	Looking northwest
MYD2012_005	Posthole 005, and its fill 004, in Area 1 after half-sectioning.	06/10/2012	Looking southwest.
MYD2012_006	Trench section in Area 1 showing 001, and the stony horizon 002 below.	06/10/2012	Looking west northwest.
MYD2012_007	Trench section in Area 1 showing 001, and the stony horizon 002 below.	06/10/2012	Looking west northwest.
MYD2012_008	Fully excavated Area 1, looking east southeast.	06/10/2012	Looking east southeast.
MYD2012_009	Beginning the mechanical excavation of Area 2, looking southwest.	06/10/2012	Looking southwest
MYD2012_010	Area 2, after removal of 001, looking northwest.	06/10/2012	Looking northwest
MYD2012_011	Area 2, after filling with concrete. 03/11/2012	03/11/2012	Looking west northwest.
MYD2012_012	Excavated cable trench, running southeast from Area 2.	03/11/2012	Looking southwest.
MYD2012_013	Excavated cable trenches at the junction between the two	03/11/2012	Looking northwest.
MYD2012_014	Excavated cable trench.	03/11/2012	Looking west northwest.
MYD2012_015	Excavated cable trench where it joins Area 1.	03/11/2012	Looking west northwest.
MYD2012_016	Excavated cable trench, where it runs through the hedgebank, cutting through 007.	03/11/2012	Looking west southwest.
MYD2012_017	Excavated cable trench	03/11/2012	Looking west.
MYD2012_018	Excavated cable trench with Maes y Deri farm buildings and house in the background	03/11/2012	Looking west.
MYD2012_019	Excavated cable trench on Maes y Deri yard, showing context 010	03/11/2012	Looking northeast.

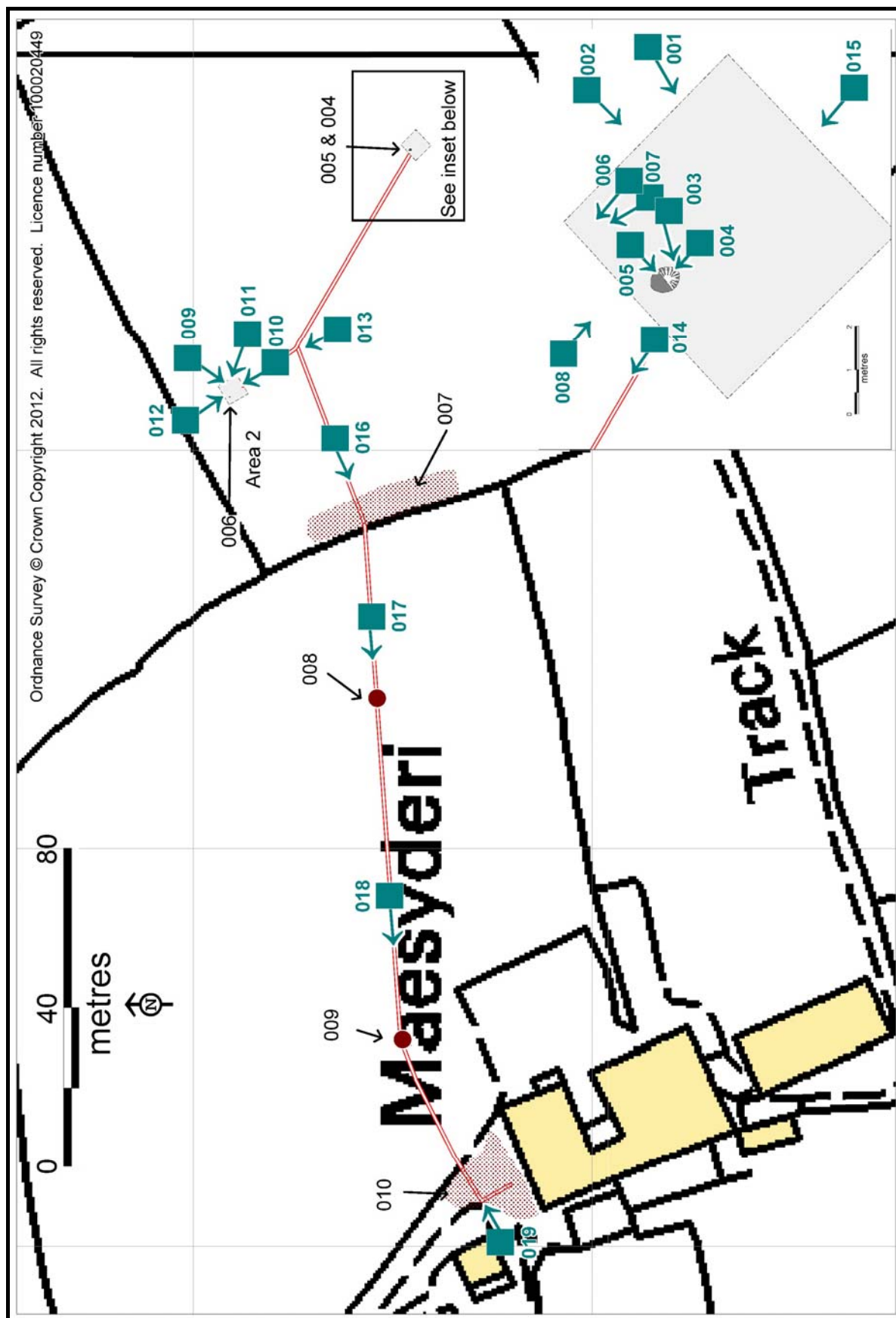


Figure 6: Location of photographs

11. Conclusion

The soils and subsoils in this area are based on the underlying Old Red Sandstone which gives all deposits a reddish colour. This makes the distinction between layers often hard to distinguish. In Area 1 a single posthole was recorded. It was seen at subsoil level but it was not clear where it was originally cut from. No artefacts or dating evidence were found and the date and purpose of the posthole remained unknown. In Area 2 was a small lens of clay and charcoal or decomposed wood. It was at the base of the ploughsoil but again dating was unknown. The cable trenches cut through recent deposits relating to access and two blue alkathene water pipes.

12. Archive

The paper archive and a copy of the report and photographs will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

Further copies of the report have also been supplied to Maurice Thomas, and the Historic Environment Record at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

13. Sources

13.1 Published Sources

Cadw/ICOMOS/CCW, 1998, *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*

13.2 Unpublished sources

Hall, J & Sambrook, P, 2012, *Maes-y-Deri, Laugharne, Archaeological Appraisal*

Hill, C, 2012, Letter to the planning authority 20/09/2012

13.3 IfA Standard and Guidance

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 (revised), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, available online from the IfA website, www.archaeologists.net

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Trysor
December 2012

APPENDIX A – Watching Brief Specification submitted to the LPA and approved on 5th October 2012

**MAES-Y-DERI, LAUGHARNE, CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION**

Planning permission – W/26897

1. Introduction

Mr Maurice Thomas, of Maes-y-Deri, Laugharne, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA33 4QR has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks for two 20kW wind turbines relating to planning application number: W/26897

Both turbines will stand in a field, SN2994412160, to the east of the farm complex at Maes-y-Deri, Laugharne, Carmarthenshire.

2. The development

The development consists of two 20Kw wind turbines within a single field parcel connected by a single cable trench to a point near the Maes-y-Deri farm complex in the field to the west.

3. Nature of the archaeological resource

Trysor undertook an archaeological appraisal in September 2012 (Hall & Sambrook, 2012) which was submitted as part of the planning application.

Maes-y-Deri farm was created on open farmland during the middle 20th century and appears on Ordnance Survey maps for the first time in 1970-1971, but historic Ordnance Survey and tithe maps show that the field pattern on the farmstead was in place by the first half of the 19th century.

The development is proposed for a field which was unnamed on the parish tithe map of 1842, but at that time used as an arable field, and defined by boundaries which approximate to those which can be seen today. At the time of the tithe survey, the land was owned by one Mary Skyrme and farmed by an Elizabeth Howell, who was tenant on several field parcels around the proposed development site (5 in total), but also rented other fields scattered around Laugharne Township parish.

Maes-y-Deri lies at the northwest end of the Delacorse Historic Landscape Characterisation area, part of the Tâf and Tywi Estuary Landscape of Historic Interest, defined in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw/ICOMOS/CCW, 1998). This puts it outside the fossilised medieval strip field system which defines the core identity of the Delacorse HLC Area. The field system around Maes-y-Deri appears to be different character and post medieval in origin. The elongated field strips which are typical of the former open field system are absent here.

4. Conditions on the consent

Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the Local Planning Authorities archaeological advisors, advised *that the proposed development lies in a potentially rich archaeological area and*

we consider that an archaeological watching brief during the initial ground disturbance would be appropriate mitigation. (Hill, C, 2012)

Accordingly, in granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the outline consent; the condition specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

The developer shall ensure that a professionally qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The Planning Authority will be informed, in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist.

Reason: to ensure that historic environment interests are met and any disturbed archaeology is recorded.

5. Field methodology

The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA, 2008a)

A two-person team will watch the mechanical excavation for the turbine foundations and will examine the exposed stratigraphy of the groundworks undertaken in association with the development. All trenches will be examined and features of archaeological interest recorded. Excavation of any features will be limited to that necessary to establish their extent and character, unless their excavation is required to allow the development to proceed.

6. Contingency arrangements if archaeological features are discovered

In the event that archaeological remains are encountered, where appropriate investigation falls outside the scope of this watching brief specification, a meeting between Trysor, the applicant, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management Section and the Local Planning Authority case officer will be convened in order to agree a course of action. The applicant will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary.

7. Health & Safety

Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy.

8. Recording

A plan of the groundworks, and representative sections if appropriate, will be drawn, at an appropriate scale, recording all features of archaeological interest. The plan will be based on the applicants' survey drawings of the development area.

A written record of all activity will be kept in a project specific notebook. If archaeological contexts are encountered they will be recorded following the *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986, using a consecutive numbering system.

Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation*

and research of archaeological materials (IfA, 2008b). Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant.

Should any human remains be encountered, the Coroner and Regional Archaeological Trust will be immediately informed and the remains left *in situ*.

Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 14M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

9. Reporting

A report on the watching brief will be prepared according to the requirements of Annexe 1 of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA, 2008a, p.7) following the completion of the work. Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record.

10. Dissemination

A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*, the annual review of archaeological work in Wales collated by the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales)

11. Archive

The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (IfA, Undated). This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW for Upland Survey (RCAHMW, 2011).

12. Resources to be used

Two members of staff will undertake the watching brief. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits.

Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

13. Qualification of personnel

Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MifA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. Since 2004 she has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MifA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and

watching briefs. Since 2004 he has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

14. Insurance & Professional indemnity

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

15. Project identification

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2012/267

16. Sources

16.1 Maps

Laugharne parish tithe map, 1842 (schedule 1841)

Laugharne Township parish tithe map and schedule, 1842

16.2 Non-published

Central Excavation Unit, 1986, *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986

Hall, J & Sambrook, P, 2012, *Maes-y-Deri, Laugharne, Archaeological Appraisal*

Hill, C, 2012, Letter to the planning authority 20/09/2012

RCAHMW, 2011, *Form AB12: "Notes for Guidance" in the preparation of applications for Uplands Archaeology Initiative projects 2012-13*

16.3 Published

Cadw/ICOMOS/CCW, 1998, *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*

IfA, 2008a, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

IfA, 2008b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

IfA, Undated, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

16.4 Web based materials

Taf & Tywi Estuary Historic Landscape, online description by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
www.dyfedarchaeology.co.uk

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Trysor
October 2012

APPENDIX B



Plate 1: MYD2012_001, Stripping turf in Area 1 for foundation of turbine, looking west southwest.



Plate 2: MYD2012_002, Excavating the foundation of turbine in Area 1, looking southwest.



Plate 3: MYD2012_003, Posthole 005, and its fill 004, before half-sectioning, looking west.



Plate 4: MYD2012_004, Posthole 005, and its fill 004, after half-sectioning, looking northwest.



Plate 5: MYD2012_005 Posthole 005, and its fill 004, in Area 1, after half sectioning, looking southwest.



Plate 6: MYD2012_006, Trench section in Area 1 showing 001 and stony horizon 002 below, looking west northwest.



Plate 7: MYD2012_007, Trench section in Area 1 showing 001 and stony horizon 002 below, looking west northwest.



Plate 8: MYD2012_008, Fully excavated Area 1, looking east southeast.



Plate 9: MYD2012_009 Beginning the mechanical excavation of Area 2, looking southwest.



Plate 10: MYD2012_010, Area 2, after removal of 001, looking northwest.



Plate 11: MYD2012_009, Area 2, after filling with concrete, looking west northwest.



Plate 12: MYD2012_010, Excavated cable trench, running southeast from Area 2, looking southwest.



Plate 13: MYD2012_009, Excavated cable trenches at the junction between the two, looking northwest towards Area 2



Plate 14: MYD2012_010, Excavated cable trench, looking west northwest.



Plate 15: MYD2012_009, Excavated cable trench, where it joins Area 1, looking west northwest.



Plate 16: MYD2012_010 Excavated cable trench, where it runs through the hedgebank, cutting through 007, looking west southwest.



Plate 17: MYD2012_009, Excavated cable trench, looking west.



Plate 18: MYD2012_010, Excavated cable trench, looking north



Plate 19: MYD2012_009 Excavated cable trench on Maes y Deri yard, showing context 010, looking west.