



Folkestone Warren High Cliff Instrumentation Kent Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Folkestone Warren High Cliff Instrumentation, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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*With contributions from John Cotter and Michael Donnelly,
and illustrations by Charles Rousseaux*

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| List of Figures | iv |
| List of Plates | iv |
| Summary | v |
| Acknowledgements | vi |
| 1 INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| 1.1 Scope of work | 1 |
| 1.2 Location, topography and geology | 1 |
| 1.3 Archaeological and historical background | 1 |
| 2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY..... | 3 |
| 2.1 General aims and objectives | 3 |
| 2.2 Specific aims and objectives..... | 3 |
| 2.3 Methodology | 3 |
| 3 RESULTS | 5 |
| 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results..... | 5 |
| 3.2 General soils and ground conditions | 5 |
| 3.3 Description of archaeological deposits..... | 5 |
| 3.4 Finds summary..... | 5 |
| 3.5 Environmental remains | 6 |
| 4 DISCUSSION | 7 |
| 4.1 Watching brief objectives and results..... | 7 |
| APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY | 8 |
| APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS..... | 9 |
| B.1 Pottery..... | 9 |
| B.2 WORKED FLINT..... | 10 |
| APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY | 12 |
| APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS | 13 |

List of Figures

- Fig.1 Site location
Fig.2 Location of all trenches

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Trench A West facing representative section showing archaeological sequence exposed
Plate 2 Trench A working shot
Plate 3 Trench B working shot
Plate 4 Trench B working shot
Plate 5 North facing section of data logging chamber showing archaeological sequence with modern cut [103] to the right
Plate 6 Cable trench working shot

Summary

In January 2017 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief on trenching work during the installation of underground instrumentation and monitoring equipment on the top of the chalk cliffs at Folkestone Warren, Kent.

A single struck flint was uncovered from a colluvial layer, and is the only evidence for prehistoric activity found during the watching brief. The site is located next to a middle Bronze Age bowl barrow.

A 1.4m deep, NE-SW aligned, vertical-sided cut was identified within the data-logging chamber. The material infilling the trench contained fragments from two government issue mugs, dated 1941 and 1944 respectively. This feature appears to be the infilled remains of a WW2 trench, probably associated with an anti-aircraft battery and observation post which stood near the site, as recorded on wartime aerial photographs.

No other archaeological deposits or structures were discovered during the works.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Costain for commissioning this project.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Sykes. Thanks are also extended to the OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Between 19th and 25th January 2017 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief on trenching work during the installation of underground geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring equipment on the chalk cliffs at Folkestone Warren, Kent (Fig. 1). This report details the results of the fieldwork.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref: DOV/16/00778). Although the Local Planning Authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions with Kent County Council established the scope of work required. Subsequent to this OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which outlined how OA would implement those requirements (OA 2016).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference TR 2590 3850 (Fig. 1). The general location and layout of the excavation works is shown on Fig. 2 (Costain drawing 14574-COT-DRG-EGE-000001).

1.2.2 The site consists of cliff top scrubland, with a slope and cliff edge to the south and the Old Dover Road immediately to the north.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, chalk bedrock overlain by a superficial deposit of clay-with-flints (BGS nd).

1.2.4 Folkestone Warren is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), although the geotechnical monitoring installation trenches lie outside the SSSI boundary to the north.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 As no formal desk-based assessment was requested the following background section is based on published and online sources, primarily the Kent County Council (KCC) Historic Environment Record (HER) and National Monuments Record (NMR), obtained via the Heritage Gateway website (KCC HER nd).

1.3.2 The archaeological record for this area is relatively sparse. Nevertheless a number of important features are recorded on the KCC HER in the immediate vicinity, as summarised below.

Prehistoric – middle Bronze-Age

1.3.3 A middle Bronze Age bowl barrow is situated immediately east of the site (labelled 'tumulus' on Figure 2). An inverted biconical urn was recovered from the top of the mound, whilst a cremation deposit was found at the east end of the southern part of the barrow. No ditch can be seen (Kent HER number TR23 NE2).

Modern

- 1.3.4 Several modern features are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site, which relate to WW1, WW2 and interwar defence installations.
- 1.3.5 A Royal Naval Air Service airship base, dating from 1915, formerly lay to the north-east of the monitoring site. The base included at least four airship hangars and ancillary buildings, of which only a single extant earthwork can now be seen (Kent HER number TR23 NE29). The site is now a caravan park, and some of the roads within the park follow the same line as the original airfield roads.
- 1.3.6 A sound mirror and associated building platform were constructed at Abbot's Cliff in 1928 (Kent HER number TR 23 NE 32). An associated antenna is located 190 metres to the west (NMR number 1534419). This 20ft (6.1m) mirror was built as one of a pair of mirrors to bracket the Acoustic Research Station at Hythe, the second mirror being located at Denge (NMR number 462809).
- 1.3.7 Several WW2 anti-aircraft batteries, near Capel Court Farm, have been recorded from aerial photographs, although no visible sign of them remains (Kent HER numbers MWX51336, 1478066, 1478065, 1478068 and 1477292).
- 1.3.8 A WW2 observation post was recorded near the site from aerial photographs, taken in 1946 (Kent HER number MWX51358). Subsequent aerial photographs from 1966 show that the building were demolished by that date.
- 1.3.9 A WW2 slit trench was recorded immediately north of the Old Dover Road on aerial photographs taken in 1946 (Kent HER number MWX51419), adjoining the site. Aerial photographs taken in 1966 show that the site had been levelled by that date.
- 1.3.10 The Battle of Britain Memorial is located within the Capel Battery, a gun position built in 1941 on the cliff tops of Capel-Le-Ferne between Dover and Folkestone, c 2km WSW from the site.

2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aims and objectives

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the watching brief were to:

- i. determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the site;
- ii. assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed archaeological remains;
- iii. determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- iv. provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed;
- v. disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Kent HER.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were to:

- vi. identify and record any archaeological remains or artefacts that may be revealed within the excavations that could relate to the recorded middle Bronze Age bowl barrow and 20th-century defence installations.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 All archaeological work and the preparation of this report was conducted according to relevant professional standards and guidelines, as detailed in the WSI, in particular the ClfA, 2014.

2.3.2 All spoil from the excavations was scanned visually for artefacts and ecofacts. Artefacts which were clearly modern and irrelevant to the project objectives were noted but not retained.

2.3.3 All revealed deposits and features were cleaned and investigated by hand.

2.3.4 All records and finds were labelled with the Event Site Code (FOLKWN17).

2.3.5 On site recording followed procedures detailed in the OA Fieldwork Manual (Wilkinson 1992) and relevant ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014).

2.3.6 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established OA South practices.

2.3.7 Written descriptions were recorded on proforma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements.

2.3.8 Where stratified deposits were encountered a stratigraphic "Harris matrix" was compiled during the course of the excavation.

2.3.9 A photographic record was taken of all excavations, general settings and archaeological sections.

- 2.3.10 Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 2.3.11 The positions of the trenches was verified by the OA archaeologist through discussion with the contractor, using the design drawings. In this way it was possible to ensure that all interventions or excavation limits, and significant archaeology detail were surveyed 'as dug', before leaving the site.
- 2.3.12 All levels recorded were taken from known points and recorded as metres above Ordnance Datum (mAOD).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the excavations. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits for the content of Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are presented in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated. For example, pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.
- 3.1.3 An archaeologist from OA was present during the machine excavation of:
- two 12m x 1.2m and 1.5m deep trenches (Trenches A and B), for the installation of geotechnical monitoring equipment (Fig. 2, Plates 1 – 4);
 - one 1.2. x 0.7m and 0.7m deep chamber for the installation of data logging and transmission equipment (Fig. 2, Plate 5);
 - one 0.60m deep data/power cable trench linking the two monitoring equipment trenches with the data logging and transmission chamber (Fig. 2, Plate 6).

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 Ground conditions throughout the watching brief permitted good archaeological visibility. The excavations were completed in dry weather conditions.
- 3.2.2 The earliest deposit observed was the clay-with-flints superficial geology, which was present throughout the site to a depth of c 1.8m below present ground level. This deposit was overlain by a c 0.5m thick deposit of mixed greyish brown silty sand (101 - colluvium). The colluvium was in turn covered by a 0.2m thick mid brownish grey clay silt topsoil (100).

3.3 Description of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Within the data logging chamber a NE-SW aligned 1.2m deep vertical-sided cut (103, Plate 5) was observed. This was filled with a modern rubble backfill (104). The material infilling the trench contained fragments from two government issue mugs, dated 1941 and 1944 respectively (see Appendix 2 for details). This feature, which was cut through the colluvium (101), appears to be the infilled remains of a WW2 trench, probably associated with an anti-aircraft battery and observation post which stood near the site, as recorded on wartime aerial photographs.
- 3.3.2 No other archaeological deposits, structures or features were uncovered during the works.

3.4 Finds summary

- 3.4.1 A very small number of finds were recovered during the watching brief, including a single undated struck flint recovered from colluvial layer 101, which could belong to any prehistoric period up to the Bronze Age.

3.4.2 Fragments of two white-glazed handled mugs from the rubble backfill (103) of feature 104. These are dated by maker's marks to WW2.

3.5 Environmental remains

3.5.1 Due to the absence of suitable deposits, no samples were taken for environmental analysis.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Watching brief objectives and results

- 4.1.1 Very slight evidence for prehistoric activity was found in the form of a single worked flint of uncertain date. The watching brief does not shed much useful light on the adjacent middle Bronze Age bowl barrow, other than to suggest that further funerary monuments do not appear to have extended into the watching brief area.
- 4.1.2 The probable infilled WW2 trench is most likely to be associated with an anti-aircraft battery and observation post which is shown on aerial photographs lying close to the site. The Folkestone area was on the front line in the aerial battles of WW1 and WW2, and has a rich legacy of defence features dating from those conflicts and the interwar years. The discovered trench is a minor and poorly preserved element of this unique landscape.
- 4.1.3 No other archaeological deposits, structures or features were uncovered during the works.

APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Context | Type | Depth below ground level (bgl) | Comments | Finds |
|---------|---------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 100 | Deposit | 0.0m-0.3m | Topsoil: Mid brownish grey clay silt, rare sub angular pebbles up to 60mm in diameter, | - |
| 101 | Deposit | 0.3m-0.7m | Sub soil (colluvium): Moderately compact, mixed mid greyish brown with yellowish red patches, silty sand rubble mixed with chalk and flint | Worked flint (undated) |
| 102 | Deposit | 0.7m-1.8m (+) | Clay-with-flints (superficial geology). Firm mid brownish yellow sandy clay, with occasional flint and chalk nodules | - |
| 103 | Cut | Top- 0.2m Base -1.4m | Construction cut of infilled trench: NE-SE aligned linear cut, near vertical sides, concave base | See fill 104 |
| 104 | Deposit | Top- 0.2m Base -1.4m | Backfill of cut 103: Pale grey with blueish black patches; Loose rubble in a silty sand matrix. Modern demolition rubble including fragments of crushed tarmac | Two white ceramic mugs with dated makers marks (1941 and 1944). |

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

B.1.1 The rubble backfill of the WW2 trench found in the data logging and transmission chamber (context 104) produced two almost complete wartime issue tea or coffee mugs in white 'china', both with dated marks. These comprise 7 sherds weighing 709g. No other pottery was recovered.

B.1.2 Fabric codes referred to in this report are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The two mugs (here referred to as Mug 1 and Mug 2) are in a refined white earthenware with transfer-printed marks on the base (Fabric code TPW) but are otherwise undecorated. These have not been separately catalogued but are fully described below.

Mug 1 (dated 1941)

B.1.3 An almost complete cylindrical mug represented by 5 sherds (weight: 385g). One hundred percent of the rim circumference survives and around 80% of the base. Height: 101mm. Rim diameter: 101mm. Base (and body) diameter: 99-100mm. Plain vertical rim. Slightly recessed flat base. Complete solid and robust bracket-like handle made in a separate mould and then applied to the vessel. A light moulded border line defines the outline of the handle and the oval loop-hole for the finger. A faint casting seam is visible down the back of the handle and inside the loop-hole. The vessel body is machine-made rather than wheel-thrown by hand. Fine, very hard, off-white or pale ivory-coloured body with an all over clear glaze with a slightly greyish tint. The underside has an off-centre (lower right) maker's mark in green transfer printing as follows [Nb. The '/' slash symbol indicates separate lines of inscribed text]: "GEO. ASHWORTH/ & BROS. LTD./ W [inside green lozenge]/ 1941". The mark is 24mm wide (max.) and 23mm deep and the layout or design is centred and symmetrical. The ink is greyish-green and the lettering small and slightly fuzzy in places but still legible. The 'W' in the green lozenge probably stands for 'Warranted', or less likely 'Wartime issue'. Some use-wear to the base footring is evident.

B.1.4 The pottery manufacturers George L Ashworth and Brothers were based at the Broad Street Works, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (Staffordshire) between 1861 and 1968 (source: <http://thepotteries.org/allpotters/27.htm> (accessed Feb 2017)).

Mug 2 (dated 1944)

B.1.5 A cylindrical mug profile, about half-complete, represented by 2 sherds (weight: 324g). 24% of the rim circumference survives and 100% of the base. Height: 103mm. Rim diameter: c 100mm. Base (and body) diameter: 97mm. Complete handle. Vessel and handle form details almost exactly as Mug 1 above but the slight variations evident (as well as the markings) point to it being from a different manufacturer. The handle in particular has a more rounded cross-section and is more rounded in side view at the

top than Mug 1. The handle also lacks the casting seam seen above and the border line is only faintly defined - features demonstrating that the handles of these two mugs came out of different moulds. Mug 2 is also more thickly potted than Mug 1 and has a creamy-white fabric and very little greyish tint to the glaze. The footring shows slight use-wear.

- B.1.6 The underside has an off-centre (upper left) maker's mark in black or dark grey transfer printing as follows: "C./ G.vi.R./ NELSON WARE/ 1944/ ENGLAND". The mark is 31mm wide (max.) and 28mm deep and the layout or design is centred and symmetrical. The ink slightly fuzzy in places but still legible. The meaning of the large letter 'C', above the royal monogram of King George VI, is unknown.
- B.1.7 'Nelson ware' was a trade name used from c 1913 by the pottery manufacturer Elijah Cotton of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. The firm had two factories there, one called the Nelson Pottery and the other the Victoria Pottery. The firm was in existence between c 1885 and 1981 (source: <http://www.thepotteries.org/allpotters/320.htm> (accessed Feb 2017)).

Conclusions

- B.1.8 Cylindrical whiteware mugs and smaller teacups with these distinctive solid bracket-like handles (derived from the Art Deco-style) are typical of wartime issue 'canteen ware' from many WW2 contexts up and down the country, such as air-raid shelters and military bases etc. The royal monogram and date identify these as wartime issue pieces beyond any doubt. Although identical vessel forms are known from domestic wartime and peacetime contexts, they do not generally carry the royal monogram and date. Tableware services, such as these, were often commissioned direct from Staffordshire suppliers by large organisations or companies for use anywhere where the organisation had offices or premises. In this case it is almost certain that the tablewares were part of a War Department (or MoD) commission to supply military bases with a standard issue of serviceable pottery.
- B.1.9 Despite their fragmentary condition the wartime vessels here are an interesting find. They provide dating evidence with a degree of accuracy rarely found in pottery assemblages and a useful snapshot, furthermore, of the types of pottery used on military bases etc, as well as the names of manufacturers who supplied them. The range of named Staffordshire manufacturers seems to vary from one part of the country to the other suggesting that different regions were supplied from different depots and via different supply routes. Very little detailed work on this subject has been published so the two mugs here are a useful addition to this subject.

B.2 Worked flint

by Michael Donnelly

- B.2.1 A single flint was recovered during the watching brief. The flint represents a distal trimming flake and is quite regular in form but displays a very pronounced hard-hammer bulb. The pieces is moderately edge damaged and heavily patinated. The flint

was found as a stray find in the topsoil/subsoil and could belong to any prehistoric period.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS nd, British Geological Survey

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

CIfA 2014 Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

KCC HER nd, Kent Historic Environment Record, via Heritage Gateway

(<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway>)

MoLA 2014 Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes:

<http://www.mola.org.uk/resources/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes>

OA 2016 Folkestone Warren, Kent. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief

Wilkinson, D (ed.), 1992 OAU Fieldwork Manual

APPENDIX D**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

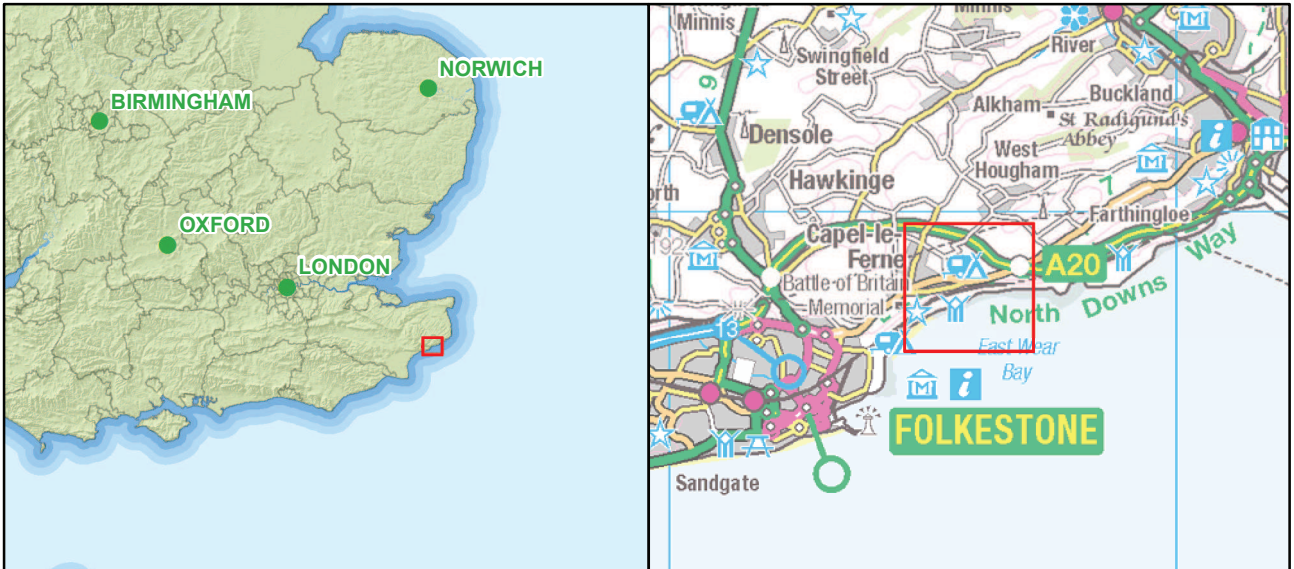
| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Site name: | Folkestone Warren High Cliff Instrumentation |
| Site code: | FOLKWN16 |
| Grid Reference | TR 2590 3850 |
| Type: | Watching brief |
| Date and duration: | 19 – 25 January 2017 (5 days) |
| Summary of Results: | Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief on trenching work during the installation of underground instrumentation and monitoring equipment on the top of the chalk cliffs at Folkestone Warren, Kent. |

A single struck flint, which is not closely datable, was uncovered from a colluvial layer, and is the only evidence for prehistoric activity found during the watching brief. The site is located next to a middle Bronze Age bowl barrow (Kent HER no.TR23 NE29).

A 1.4m deep, NE-SW aligned, vertical sided cut was identified within the data-logging chamber. The material infilling the trench contained fragments from two government issue mugs, dated 1941 and 1944 respectively. This feature appears to be the infilled remains of a WW2 trench, probably associated with an anti-aircraft battery and observation post which stood near the site, as recorded on wartime aerial photographs.

No other archaeological deposits or structures were discovered during the works.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Area of Site | N/A |
| Location of archive: | The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the relevant museum in due course. |



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Figure 1: Site location



PLAN
1:1250 @ A3

NOTES

1. SET OUT OF THE WORKS IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY NETWORK RAIL GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER
2. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE PRIOR TO WORKS BEGINNING
3. GEOTECHNICAL INSTRUMENTATION TO BE INSTALLED IN BOTH TRENCH A & B. COMPRISES 1 No. 12m LENGTH VIBRATING WIRE ROD EXTENSOMETER & 1 No. 12m LENGTH TILT ARRAY HIGH ACCURACY TRIAXIAL SENSOR

| Rev | Date | Description / Revision | Drawn | Check | Appr | Scale |
|-----|-------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| RD | 06/16 | ISSUED FOR PLANNING PERMISSION | | | | |
| Rev | Date | Description / Revision | Drawn | Check | Appr | Scale |



FOLKESTONE WARREN
REAL TIME MONITORING

HORIZONTAL EQUIPMENT
PLAN VIEW

| Designed | Checked | Approved | Scale(s) | Asymetric Reference | Drawing Number |
|------------|-------------|------------|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| D. BUTCHER | D. CHISWELL | D. BUTCHER | AS SHOWN | X10 7/1m 70ch TO 72m 67ch | 145474-COT-DRG-EGE-000001 |
| Drawn | Checked | Approved | Scale(s) | Asymetric Reference | Drawing Number |
| D. BUTCHER | D. CHISWELL | D. BUTCHER | AS SHOWN | X10 7/1m 70ch TO 72m 67ch | 145474-COT-DRG-EGE-000001 |

Figure 2: Location of all trenches



Plate 1: West facing representative section Trench A. Showing archaeological sequence exposed



Plate 2: Trench A working shot



Plate 3: Trench B working shot



Plate 4: Trench B working shot



Plate 5: North facing section of data logging chamber showing archaeological sequence with modern cut [103] to the right



Plate 6: Cable trench working shot



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