

Pengwern Isaf, Cenarth, Carmarthenshire Cable Trench Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Mr Dilwyn Thomas

November 2014



Pengwern Isaf, Cenarth, Carmarthenshire Cable Trench Watching Brief

By

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Trysor Project No. 2012/355

For: Mr Dilwyn Thomas

November 2014

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Cover photograph: Cable trench with the two turbines and round barrow with an Ordnance Survey triangulation pillar on top, looking southwest.

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DYDDIAD 10^{fed} Tachwedd 2014

DATE 10th November 2014

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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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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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. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, and watching briefs.

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Contents

1. Summary	1
2. Copyright	1
3. Introduction	1
4. The Development	1
5. Conditions on the consent	1
6. The Specification	1
7. Historical and Archaeological Overview	3
8. Methodology	3
9. Site Stratigraphy	4
10. Photographs	5
11. Conclusion	7
12. Archive	7
13. Sources	7
Appendix A: Watching Brief Specification	8
Appendix B: Photographs	12

1. Summary

1.1 In February 2014, Trysor undertook a watching brief on cable trenches at SN273400 to the northeast of Pengwern Isaf, Cenarth, Carmarthenshire. Trysor observed the routes of the cable trenches. No archaeological features/contexts or artefacts were observed.

2. Copyright

2.1 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 Figures 3, & 4 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

3. Introduction

3.1 Mr Dilwyn Thomas, of Pengwern Isaf, Cenarth, Newcastle Emlyn, SA38 9LD commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on cable trenches for two 55kW wind turbines.

3.2 The location of the turbines and their cable trenches lay in fields to the northeast of the Pengwern Isaf farm complex, Cenarth, Carmarthenshire.

4. The development

4.1 Two 55Kw wind turbines are being installed in two separate fields to the northeast of the Pengwern Isaf farm complex, planning application number: W/26372. A trench is to be excavated to carry a mains cable to an electricity pole c. 300 metres to the east northeast of the turbines.

5. Conditions on the consent

5.1 In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the outline consent; the condition specified 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 protect the historic environment interests whilst enabling development.

6. Specification

6.1 Trysor prepared a specification for the watching brief, see Appendix A.



Figure 1: Location of the watching brief within southwest Wales.

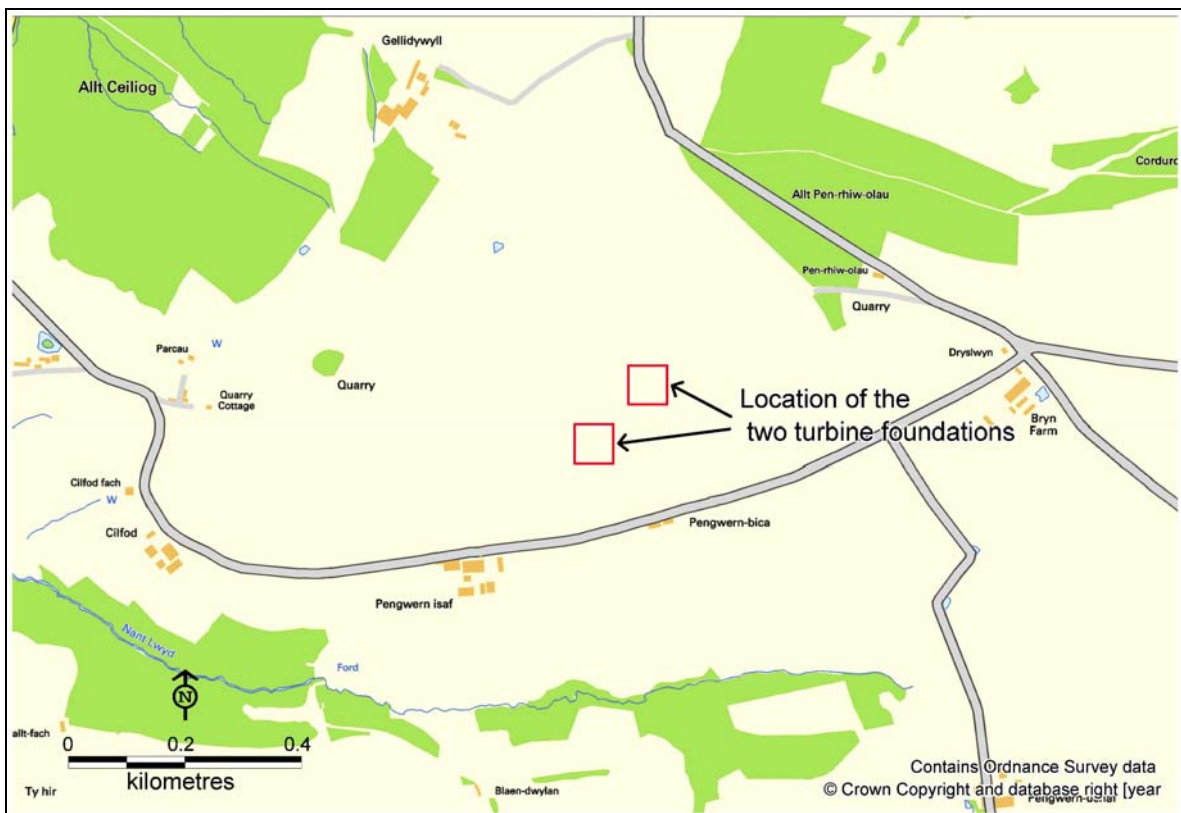


Figure 2: Location of the two turbines, northeast of Pengwern Isaf.

7. Historical and Archaeological Overview

7.1 Dyfed Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological appraisal in May 2012 (Murphy, 2012) which was submitted as part of the planning application. They concluded that the potential for archaeological remains of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Early Medieval, Medieval, and Post Medieval date was low. However a probable Bronze Age round barrow was identified during their field visit, 120 metres from the northernmost turbine. It was therefore thought possible that other Bronze Age features may be found nearby.

7.2 Trysor undertook a watching brief on the excavations for the turbine foundations in July 2013. No archaeological contexts or artefacts were observed and it was noted that the topsoil was very thin, often only 0.10 metres deep.

8. Methodology

8.1 On Monday 24th February 2014, Trysor observed the cable trenches, see Figure 3. The cable trench running east from the main transformer box had already been dug and backfilled. Along its length a 1 metre wide strip had had the topsoil removed to the top of the loose shale bedrock, with spoil piled to the southern side. This had been left open so that Trysor could inspect it. The cable had been inserted into a narrow trench 0.30 metres wide excavated down the centre of the strip and backfilled. The surface of the strip was observed along its length. The cable trench running north from the eastern turbine had been excavated differently. There was no surface strip, just the narrow trench, 0.30 metres wide which had been left open.

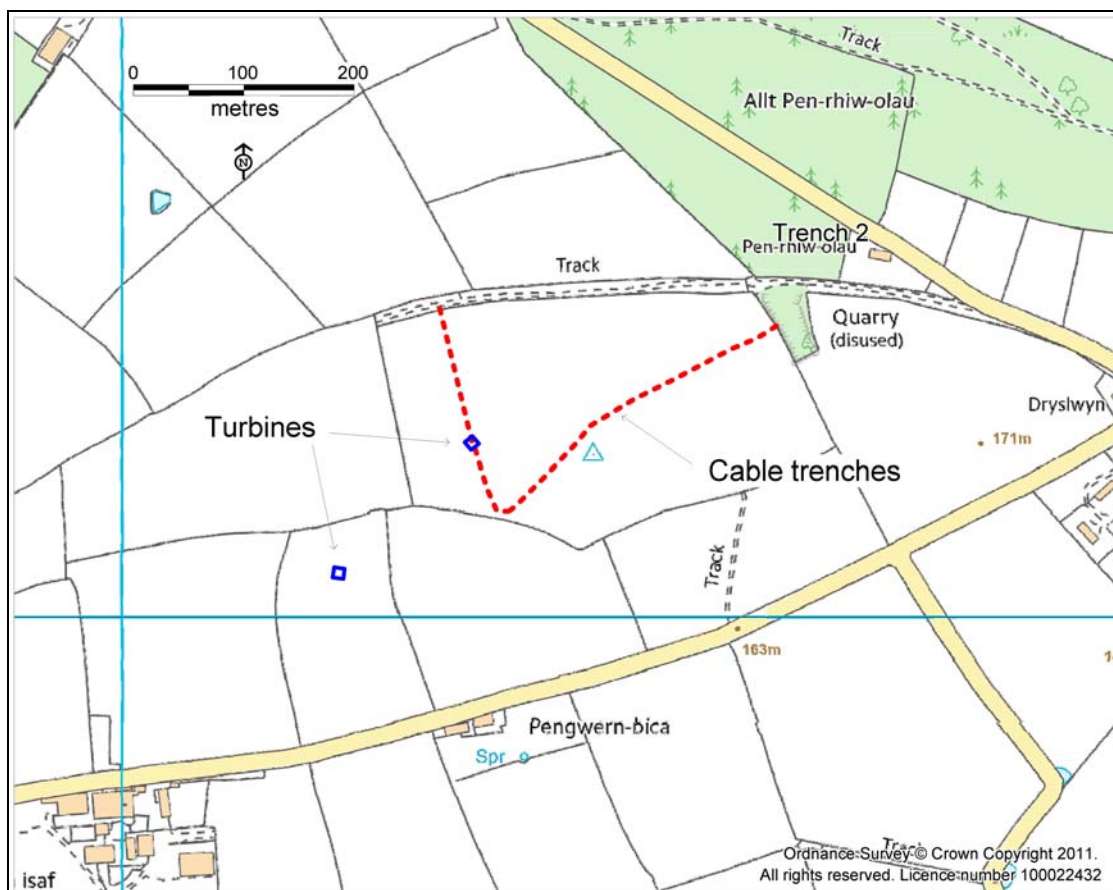


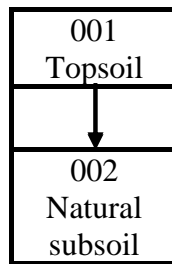
Figure 3: The location of the two foundation trenches for the turbines

9. Site Stratigraphy

9.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008). The excavated cable trenches and exposed subsoil/natural rock was observed watched by Trysor and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

9.2 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.10 to 0.25m	10YR4/2, dry, friable with small stones. The topsoil is shallower on the ridge top and deepens down the northern slope.	Topsoil
002	-	Vertically bedded shale with an undulating surface, some quartz in the eroded surface of the shale, part of a natural quartz vein.	Natural rock



10. Photographs

10.1 Colour digital photographs were taken of topsoil stripping and excavation of trenches using a 16M 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 4. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
PGI2014_101	The southern part of the cable trench running north from the eastern turbine. This part of the cable trench had been re-covered.	24/02/2014	Looking north northwest.
PGI2014_102	The northern part of the cable trench running north from the eastern turbine, looking north northwest. This part of the cable trench was open, but revealed no archaeological contexts or artefacts.	24/02/2014	Looking north northwest.
PGI2014_103	The northern part of the cable trench running north from the eastern turbine, looking south southeast. This part of the cable trench was open, but revealed no archaeological contexts or artefacts.	24/02/2014	Looking south southeast.
PGI2014_104	The eastern cable trench running east from the eastern turbine. The area stripped of topsoil was visible but no archaeological contexts or artefacts were revealed.	24/02/2014	Looking southwest.
PGI2014_105	Round barrow, PRN 100717, with a concrete triangulation pillar on top of it with the cable trench running to the north of it.	24/02/2014	Looking southwest.

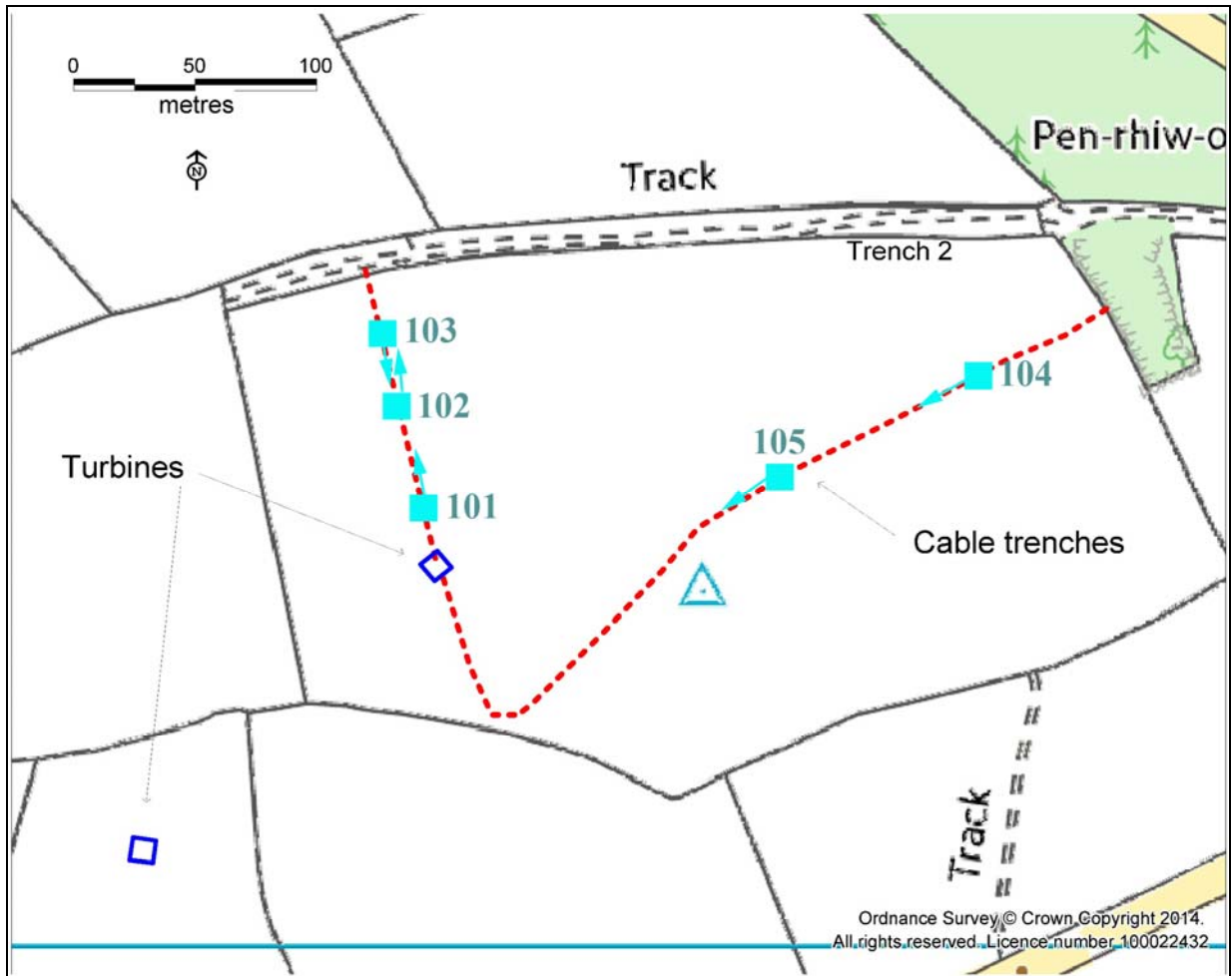


Figure 4: Location and direction of photographs

11. Conclusion

11.1 No archaeological contexts or artefacts were observed during the watching brief.

12. Archive

12.1 The 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.

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

13. Sources

13.1 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

APPENDIX A – Watching Brief Specification

PENGWERN ISAF, CENARTH, CARMARTHENSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON CABLE TRENCH

1. Introduction

Mr Dilwyn Thomas, of Pengwern Isaf, Cenarth, Newcastle Emlyn, SA38 9LD has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the mains cable trench for two wind turbines in fields to the northeast of the Pengwern Isaf farm complex, Cenarth, Carmarthenshire.

2. The development

Two 55Kw wind turbines are being installed in two separate fields to the northeast of the Pengwern Isaf farm complex, planning application number: W/26372. A trench is to be excavated to carry a mains cable to an electricity pole c. 300 metres to the east northeast of the turbines.

Nature of the archaeological resource

Dyfed Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological appraisal in May 2012 (Murphy, 2012) which was submitted as part of the planning application.

They concluded that the potential for archaeological remains of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Early Medieval, Medieval, and Post Medieval date was low. However a possible Bronze Age round barrow, 120 metres from the northernmost turbine, was identified during their field visit. It is therefore possible that other Bronze Age features may be found nearby.

Trysor undertook a watching brief on the groundworks for the two turbine bases. No archaeologically significant layers, features or artefacts were noted. A relatively shallow ploughsoil overlay bedrock in both trenches.

4. Conditions on the consent

In granting approval for the turbine 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 protect the historic environment interests whilst enabling development.

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 examine the exposed stratigraphy in the cable trench and any features recorded will be recorded.

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*.

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.

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14. Insurance & Professional indemnity

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

15. Project identification

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2012/355

16. Sources

16.1 Non-published

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

Hall, J & Sambrook, P, 2013, *Pengwern Isaf, Cenarth, Carmarthenshire Watching Brief*, Trysor Project number 2013/321

Murphy, F, 2012, *Pengwern Isaf, Cenarth, Carmarthenshire: Archaeological Appraisal 2012 - Revised*

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

16.2 Published

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*

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Trysor
January 2014

APPENDIX B



Plate 1: PGI2014_101, the southern part of the cable trench running north from the eastern turbine, looking north northwest. This part of the cable trench had been re-covered.



Plate 2: PGI2014_102, the northern part of the cable trench running north from the eastern turbine, looking north northwest. This part of the cable trench was open, but revealed no archaeological contexts or artefacts.



Plate 3: PGI2014_103, the northern part of the cable trench running north from the eastern turbine, looking south southeast. This part of the cable trench was open, but revealed no archaeological contexts or artefacts.



Plate 4: PGI2014_104, the eastern cable trench running east from the eastern turbine, looking southwest. The area stripped of topsoil was visible but no archaeological contexts or artefacts were revealed.



Plate 5: PGI2014_105, Round barrow, PRN 100717, with a concrete triangulation pillar on top of it with the cable trench running to the north of it.