

**LAND AT WAYCOCK ROAD,
BARRY,
VALE OF GLAMORGAN.**

NGR: ST 093 694 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

March 2016
Report No. 1115



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Sample Slot in Area 5 showing Gradient

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Quality Assurance

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Author: T Michaels BSc ACIfA

Date: 11th March 2016

Approved: R. King BA MCIfA

QA Checked: D. King BA MCIfA

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between the 7th December 2015 to the 29th January 2016 on land at Waycock Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan (NGR: ST 093 694 (centred)). The archaeological works comprised the monitoring all excavations during the construction of the solar arrays within the five areas identified as areas of archaeological interest. The project was commissioned by SunEdison.

The archaeological watching brief has demonstrated that no archaeological features or deposits were present within the excavated areas. The only artefactual evidence present was of late Post-medieval date and was located within the topsoil in Area 5.

There was no evidence within the excavated footing slots, for the possible archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey.

For the majority of the areas of archaeological interest, the footing slots did not penetrate deeper than 0.30m from the top of the Modern ground level. However, due to the steep gradient in Area 5, a number of the footings needed to be 'terraced' into the side of the slope, for these footings, the eastern end of the slot was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.49m and the western end was excavated to a depth of 0.10m.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

Medieval

Traditionally, the period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500. However, in Wales the Medieval period can encompass the period from the end of the Roman period to the Norman period (AD 410-1066), in which case it is described as the *Early Medieval* period.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period from *c.* AD 1500 onwards.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – *c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – *c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 600 BC; *Iron Age* – *c.* 600 BC to AD 43.

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between the 7th December 2015 to the 29th January 2016 an archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Waycock Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan (NGR: ST 093 694 (centred)). The work was commissioned by SunEdison.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2015). The WSI was produced in accordance with the archaeological heritage conditions attached to planning permission (**2014/00081/FUL**), as well as *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (2008).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (2014/00081/FUL) has been granted by Barry Town Council for the construction of a new photovoltaic scheme on land adjacent to Waycock Road, under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) and the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (1995).
- 2.2 The planning permission contained a condition relating to the archaeological heritage of the site in response to Planning Policy Wales Edition 5 (2012).
- 2.3 The specific wording of the condition was provided as a recommendation by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) in their role as historic environment consultees to Barry Town Council, based on the model condition set out in Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology), which supplements guidance given in Planning Policy Wales.
- 2.4 The site area is located c.1.2km northwest of Barry in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales and occupies an area of approximately 19.8 ha. The site is situated to the east of the River Waycock and northeast of Waycock Road. It is located within a mixed landscape of open fields, most of which are used for pasture, interspersed with tracts of woodland.
- 2.5 The proposed development consists of a new photovoltaic facility with arrays of solar panels, a primary substation and secondary substations in each field. The site will be enclosed by security fencing with pole-mounted CCTV cameras. Consequently, the below ground disturbance was likely to be limited to piles for the PV panels, fencing, excavations for CCTV cameras and substations, access road(s) and associated cable trenches.
- 2.6 The approved scheme permitted the solar panels to be located within areas of archaeological interest only if they were surface mounted. Condition 8

required that an archaeologist must be present during the undertaking of any ground disturbing works in the development area and that excavation for the footings in the Archaeological areas could not penetrate deeper than 300mm below the Modern ground surface.

- 2.7 The underlying geology is recorded as *St Mary's Well Bay Member - Limestone And Mudstone*, with superficial deposits of *Alluvial Fan Deposits - Gravel, Sand, Silt And Clay*. (BGS – online viewer).
- 2.8 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was carried out on this site in February 2014 by Foundations Archaeology. This document should be read in conjunction with this report, however, the results of which are summarized below.
- 2.8.1 **Prehistoric:** The site lies within an area of **moderate** potential for the recovery of evidence for Prehistoric activity. No material relating to the Prehistoric period from the search area is recorded in the HER data. However, geophysical survey undertaken within the site has revealed an array of ditches that could be Prehistoric in three of the site's five fields. Moreover, in the wider landscape, features that may be Prehistoric were detected by the geophysical survey at Sutton Mawr Farm and there is a Neolithic chambered cairn and a Prehistoric enclosure, c.3.0 km northeast of the site area. A desk-based assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2013) at Sutton Mawr Farm identified possible Iron Age activity in the form of pottery, enclosures and a possible roundhouse. Consequently, the recovery of Prehistoric finds and features, especially in the Fields 1, 2 and 5 is a distinct possibility, although this needs to be tempered by both the uncertainty about the date of the features detected by the geophysical survey and the fact that the below-ground disturbance is limited to piling for the posts supporting the PV panels and the cable trenches. The significance any material recovered for our understanding of the Prehistoric landscape is likely to be at least **moderate** and will most probably comprise ditches and pits or stray finds.
- 2.8.2 **Roman:** The potential to recover evidence of Roman activity from the site area is **low**. There is no Roman material recorded in the HER data within the search area and while the ditches identified in by the geophysical survey may date to the Roman period, it is more probable that they are Prehistoric as they do not appear to be associated with any buildings or structures that are clearly Roman. The probable kiln identified at Sutton Mwar Farm may date to the Roman period, but this could equally be from a later period. However, there was a substantial Roman villa located 1.8km west of the site area and a desk-based assessment by Cotswold Archaeology (2013) interpreted cropmarks in the vicinity of the villa as possibly dating to the Roman period. Hence, the recovery of agricultural features and stray finds from the Roman period cannot be dismissed altogether. However, the significance of any such material is likely to be **low-moderate**.
- 2.8.3 **Medieval:** The potential to recover evidence for Medieval activity from the site is **moderate**. There is considerable evidence for Medieval activity within 500m of the site and the geophysical survey in Field 5 has detected possible

ridge and furrow, which may relate to the DMV. However, documentary, cartographic and archaeological sources confirm that the locus of settlement during the Medieval period was well established to the west of the site, meaning that any material recovered from the site is likely to be in the form of ditches, pits and ridge and furrow, or stray finds of Medieval material relating to manuring practices. The significance of such finds and features is likely to be **low-moderate**, since little is known about the manorial estate or the agricultural hinterland of the village.

2.8.4 **Post-Medieval:** Documentary and archaeological evidence show that the manor had been abandoned by the end of the 15th century with the village abandoned during the 16th century. Consequently, the possible ridge and furrow detected by the geophysical survey in Field 5 is likely to be Medieval in date. Post-medieval settlement was confined to farmsteads located at some distance from the site and the site itself is documented as being under pasture by the mid-18th century. The potential for the recovery of evidence for Post-medieval activity is therefore **low**. Nevertheless, the recovery of stray finds from the period cannot be discounted entirely, but the significance of any such material is likely to be **low**.

2.9 The main archaeological potential of the site is, therefore, for the presence of evidence relating to the Prehistoric and Medieval periods. This will not prejudice the watching brief against features and finds associated with other periods.

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring and recording were to confirm adherence to Condition 8 of the Planning Permission, to ensure that the depths of ground disturbance did not exceed 300mm from the Modern ground surface and to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits.

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) to ensure, in so far as is possible, that excavations associated with the development were undertaken in accordance with the design submitted to the LPA and did not exceed a maximum of 300mm from the Modern ground surface, in order to ensure that the archaeological resource was properly investigated and recorded, and a report containing the results of the work produced. In the event that excavations failed to comply with the approved design, Foundations Archaeology would require further works to cease and would inform GGAT as the representatives of the LPA.

ii) to mitigate against disturbance or damage to archaeological remains by the groundworks and, where appropriate, to allow for preservation *in situ*.

iii) to record and identify the nature of archaeological deposits and features on site, and date these where possible while avoiding intrusive excavation in so

far as is possible, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.

iv) to attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site, while avoiding intrusive excavation in so far as is possible;

v) where possible to recover a well-dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples, while avoiding intrusive excavation in so far as is possible.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Archaeological mitigation was to be required should archaeological deposits be encountered within 300mm of the Modern ground surface, in accordance with the conditions of the planning permission, the planning advice letter provided by GGAT and archaeological best-practice as set out in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (CIfA 2013). In the event that significant remains were discovered, work would cease and the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust would be notified in order that an assessment of the remains and suitable provision for their recording or preservation be made. Due regard would, however, be given to timescales as per para 3.3.13 of the *Standard and Guidance* (ibid) that state “*within the constraints of the nature of the archaeological resource, the archaeologist shall not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors*”
- 4.2 In order to achieve the aims, objectives and methodologies set out above, all intrusive groundworks were monitored and recorded in order to identify archaeological finds and deposits, under the constant observation of the archaeologist. Any archaeological deposits and features present within 300mm of the Modern ground surface, which would unavoidably be impacted upon by the groundworks, were to be subjected to appropriate levels of investigation, as set out in the WSI. Where machine excavation was required, this was used only for the removal of non-significant overburden. Plant was suitable for the task and was equipped with a toothless grading bucket.
- 4.3 All archaeological investigation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the methodologies detailed in the WSI.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 All groundworks within the areas of archaeological interest were carried out under archaeological supervision and are shown on Figure 2. For the majority of the works, the site was waterlogged, however, visibility conditions within the excavated slots was generally good. The excavated footings for the panels were 3.50m by 0.50m and were spaced 1m apart. With the exception of Area

5, all footings were excavated to a depth of no more than 0.30m from the Modern ground surface. However, due to the steep gradient in Area 5, a number of the footings needed to be 'terraced' into the side of the slope, for these footings the eastern end of the slot was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.49m and the western end was excavated to a depth of 0.10m.

- 5.2 The topsoil deposits were consistent throughout all the monitored areas and comprised a dark brown clay silt, with rare to occasional mudstone inclusions, which was present for a depth of between 0.15 and 0.22m. The natural substrates were identified in all the areas of archaeological interest, these consisted of blue/ grey to yellow blue clay, with mudstone outcrops.
- 5.3 In all the watched areas, the natural deposits were directly sealed by the topsoil, with no evidence for any intact subsoils.
- 5.4 Artefactual evidence was restricted to a small quantity of CBM and late Post-medieval glazed redware pottery, this material was only present in topsoil of Area 5.
- 5.5 A series of northwest-southeast orientated land-drains were present in Area 2.
- 5.6 No archaeological features or deposits were present within any of the excavated areas.
- 5.7 There was no evidence for the possible archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey, which appear to have survived only as 'shadowing'.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief has demonstrated that no archaeological features or deposits were present within the excavated areas. The only artefactual evidence present was of late Post-medieval date and was located within the topsoil in Area 5.
- 6.2 There was no evidence within the excavated footing slots, for the possible archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey.
- 6.3 For the majority of the areas of archaeological interest, the footing slots did not penetrate deeper than 0.30m from the top of the Modern ground level. However, due to the steep gradient in Area 5, a number of the footings needed to be 'terraced' into the side of the slope, for these footings, the eastern end of the slot was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.49m and the western end was excavated to a depth of 0.10m.
- 6.4 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the National Museum Wales. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local journal.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1: Site Attendance

Name	Date
Rhys Morgan	7/12/15
Rhys Morgan	8/12/15
Rhys Morgan	9/12/15
Amy Green	10/12/15
Amy Green	11/12/15
Amy Green	14/12/15
Rhys Morgan	11/1/16
Rhys Morgan	12/1/16
Rhys Morgan	13/1/16
Rhys Morgan	14/1/16
Rhys Morgan	15/1/16
Rhys Morgan	18/1/16
Rhys Morgan	19/1/16
Rhys Morgan	20/1/16
Rhys Morgan	21/1/16
Rhys Morgan	22/1/16
Rhys Morgan	23/1/16 (Saturday)
Rhys Morgan	25/1/16
Rhys Morgan	26/1/16
Rhys Morgan	27/1/16
Andrew Hood	28/1/16
Andrew Hood	29/1/16



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Site Code: WRB15

Accession Code:

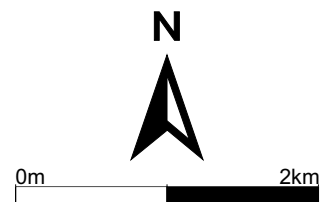


FIGURE 1: Site Location

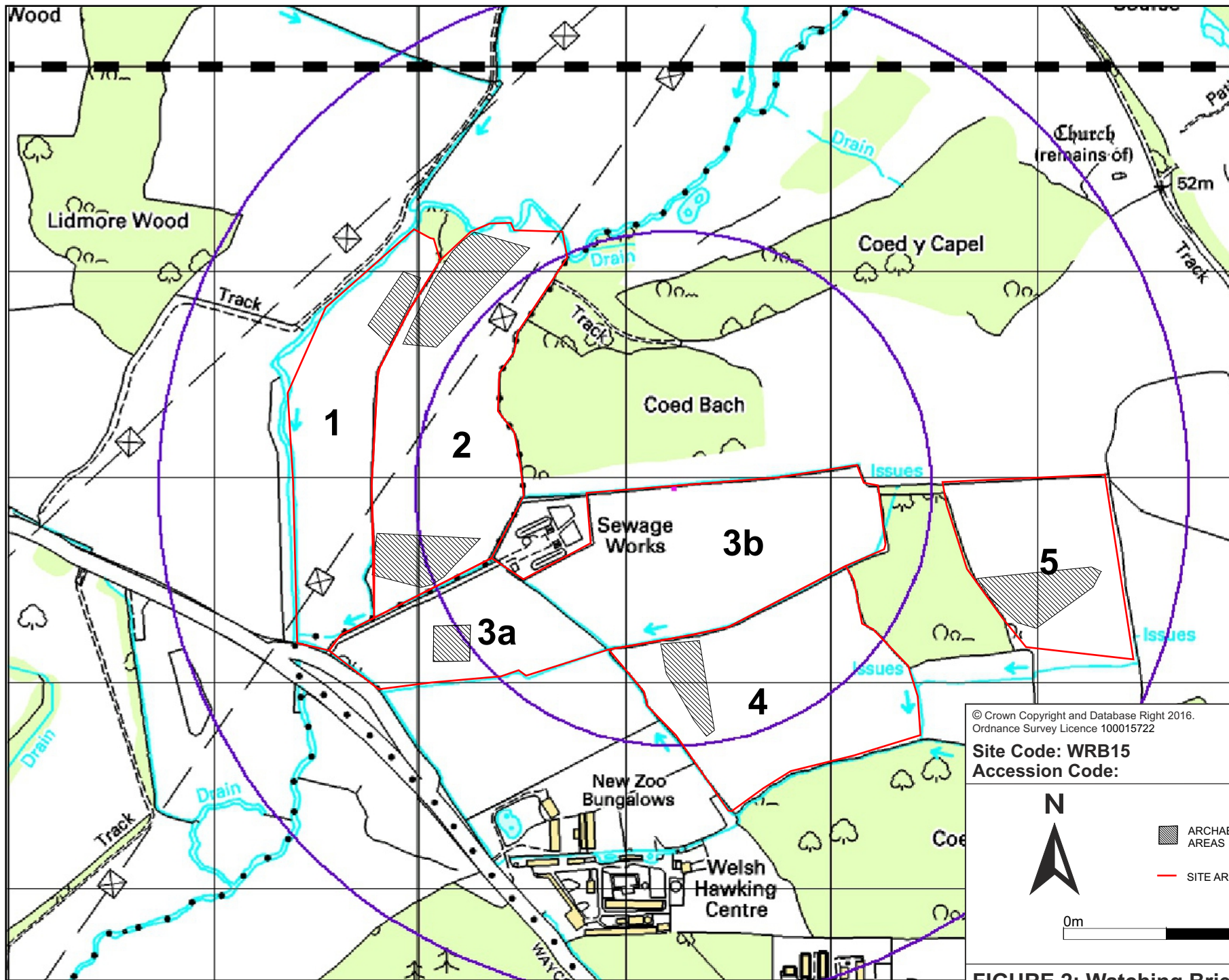


FIGURE 2: Watching Brief Locations

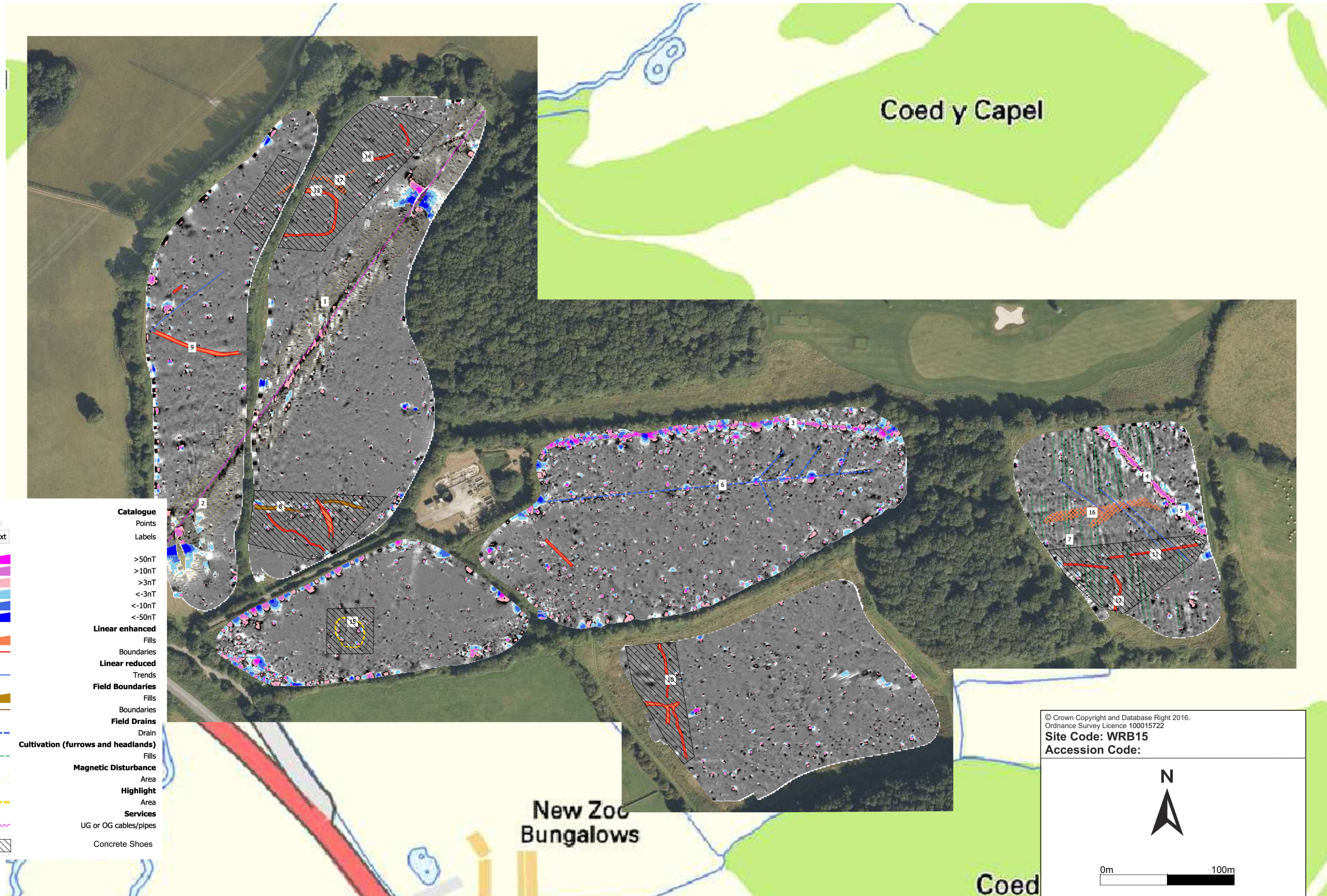


FIGURE 3: Geophysical Survey Details