

Archaeological Monitoring at Uffington Court Farm, Adisham Road, Adisham, Kent

NGR: 623825 154046

Site Code UCF/WB/12



Report for
Richard Holmwood
Uffington Court Farm

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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NGR: 623825 154046
Site Code UCF/WB/12

Date of report: 14/02/12

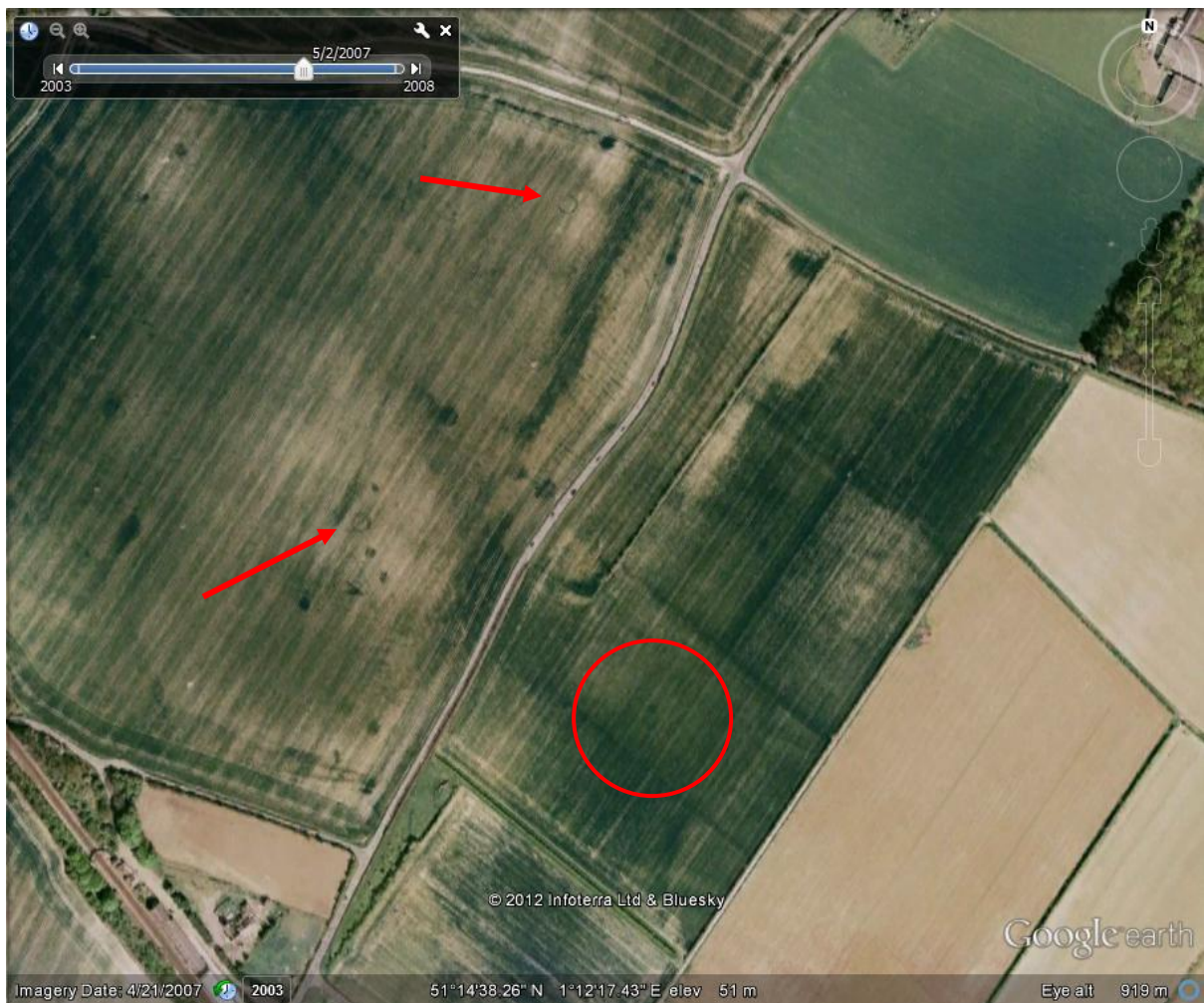


Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site surrounded by crop marks and ring ditches of Bronze Age round barrows (red arrows).

1.0 Summary

1.1. On 18th January 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the foundation for a proposed wind turbine at Uffington Court Farm near Adisham in Kent.

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Laurence Gould Partnership, Buchan House, Carnegie Campus, Dunfirmline KY11 8PL.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during machine digging for new foundations. The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase. Cable runs were undertaken by moling with no excavation to be observed.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any archaeological below ground impact.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: DOV/11/00597.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was medium/high the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application DOV/11/00597 for the erection of a wind turbine was submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

(3.) No development shall take place until the applicant(s), or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological watching brief in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.(South East Plan Policy BE6)

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works on 18th January 2012.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

“Contribute to knowledge of the Adisham district through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works. Particular attention will be paid to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.”

Other aims, if archaeology were to be found are itemised in the Archaeological Specification issued by the Heritage Conservation Group, KCC on December 2011.

4.2. The ground works were to excavate a 10m sq for the concrete foundation base of an 11kw wind turbine with a hub height of 18.3m.

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Upper Chalk of the Margate Chalk Member (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was Head Brickearth.

5.2. The application site is located on undulating down land of the North Downs. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 55m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER. The area surrounding the development site abounds with cropmarks identified from aerial photographs (Plate 1). These cropmarks are evidence for buried past landscapes and include:

Cropmark of a Prehistoric enclosure (TR 25 SW 71)

Cropmarks of ring ditches, possibly Bronze Age (TR 25 SW 22)

Curvilinear enclosure identified by cropmarks (TR 25 SW 64)

The ploughed out remains of Bronze Age burial mounds on the west side of the B2046 Adisham Road (TR 25 SW 304)

Findspots in the vicinity include an early medieval copper alloy brooch.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Ifa: 2008).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in one phase according to the needs of the building contractors on January 18th 2012.

6.4. Excavation of the overlying ground was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing features in plan and section.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with Archaeological Officers, KCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

The site, a 10m sq foundation base for a wind turbine was excavated in spits under archaeological supervision. The subsoil encountered across the site was Head Brickearth overlaid by topsoil with no archaeological features revealed.

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase and no finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

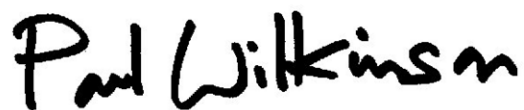
The development is in an area of medium/high potential with numerous cropmarks in the near vicinity of the development site (Plate 1). The archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank James Stone of Laurence Gould Partnership for his help and Richard Holmwood of Uffington Court Farm for commissioning the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Dr Paul Wilkinson FRSA, MIfA.

References

HER data (KCC 2011)

IFA (1999 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site at Uffington Court Farm, Adisham Road, Adisham, Kent

SWAT Site Code: UCF/WB/12

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a wind turbine (DOV/11/00597) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of one site visit which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Adisham **Parish:**

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 623825 154046

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: 18th January 2012

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology is Head Brickearth

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2012) Archaeological Monitoring at Uffington Court Farm, Adisham Road, Adisham, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

See above

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology, Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 14th February 2012



Plate 2. General view of site



Plate 3. Digging the wind turbine foundation

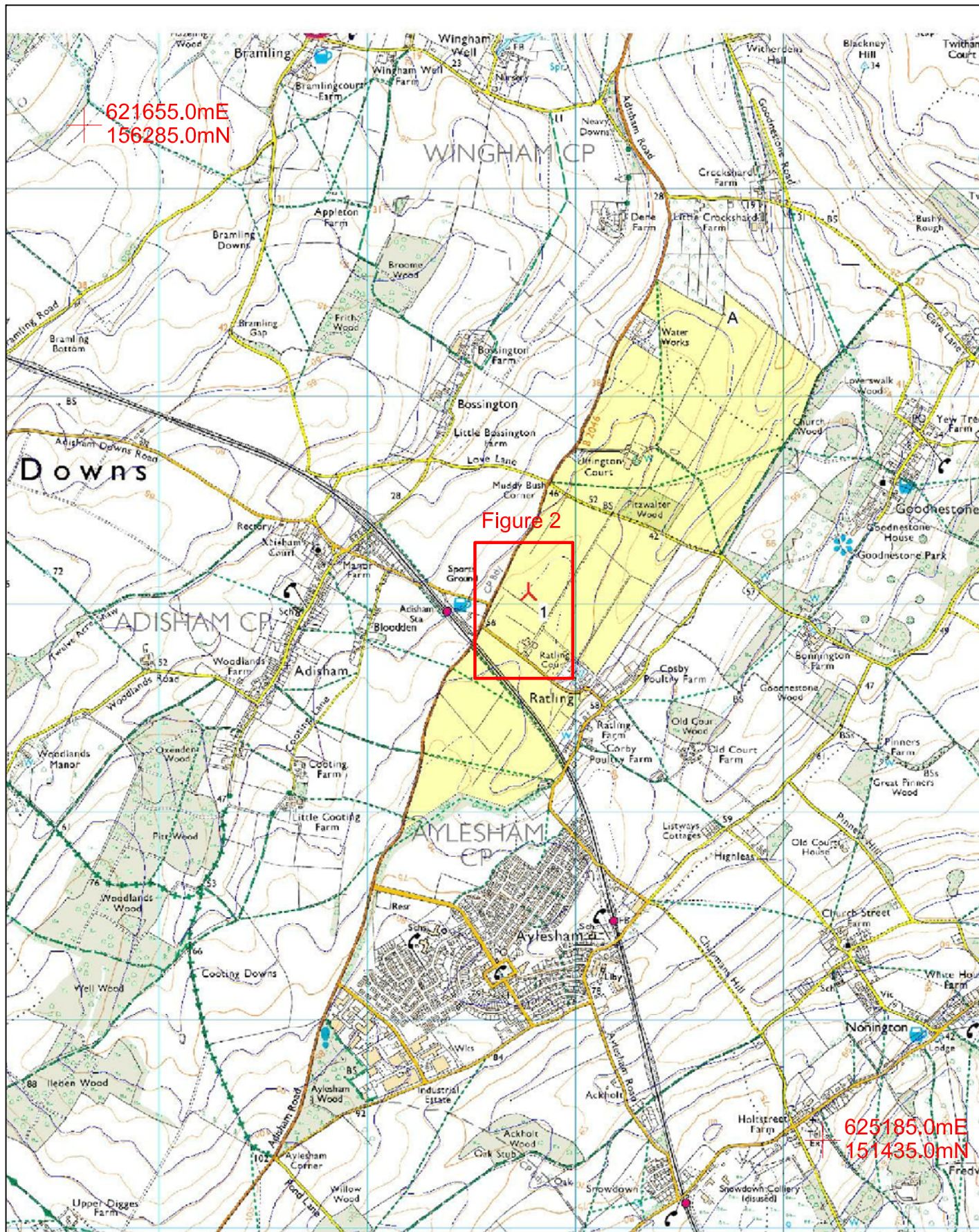


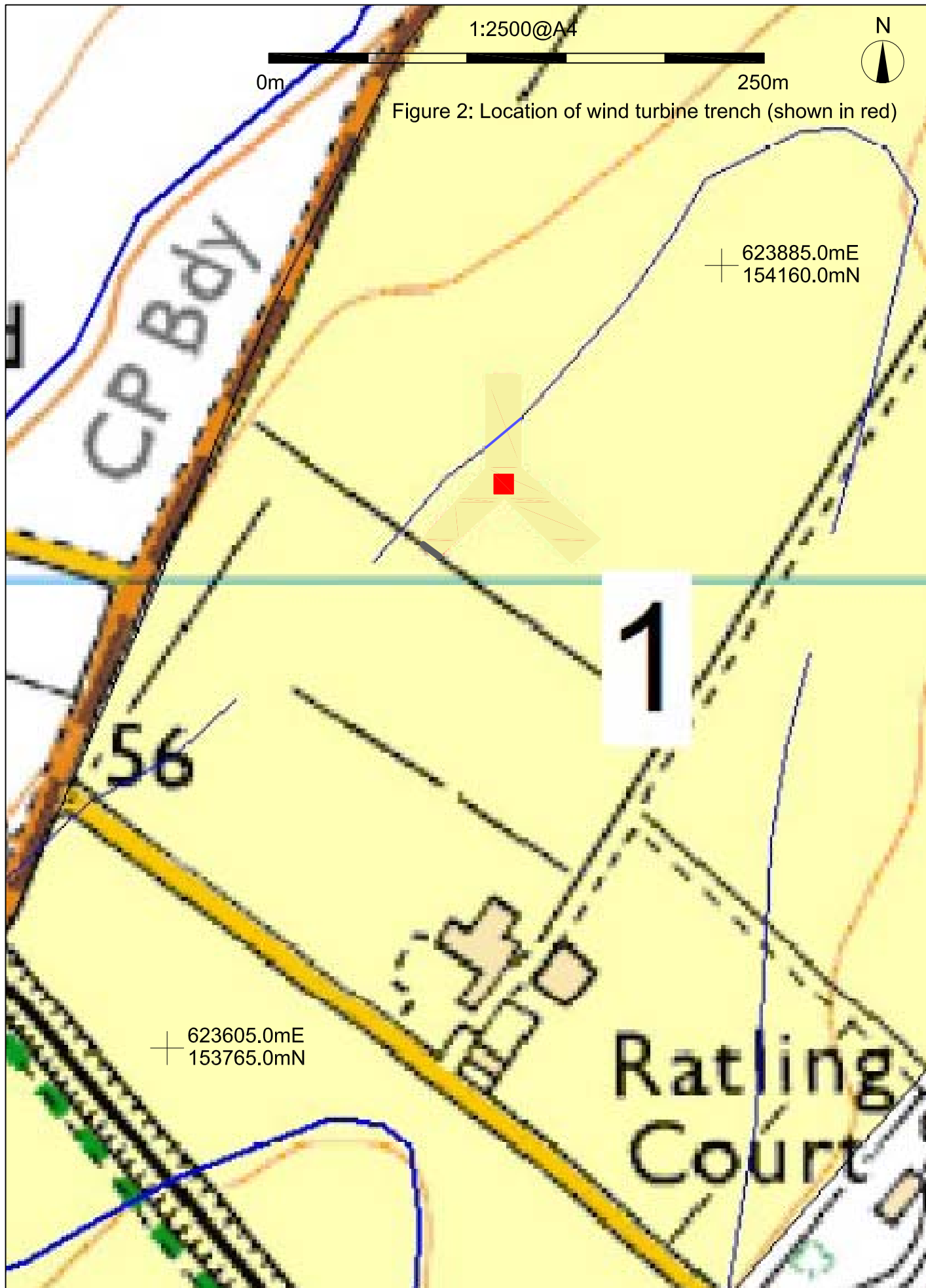
Figure 1: Location of site
of proposed development



1:25000@A4

0km

2km



1:2500@A4

0m

250m



Figure 2: Location of wind turbine trench (shown in red)

623885.0mE
154160.0mN

56

1

623605.0mE
153765.0mN

Ratling
Court