

**Old Wallace Farm  
Dyffryn  
Cardiff**

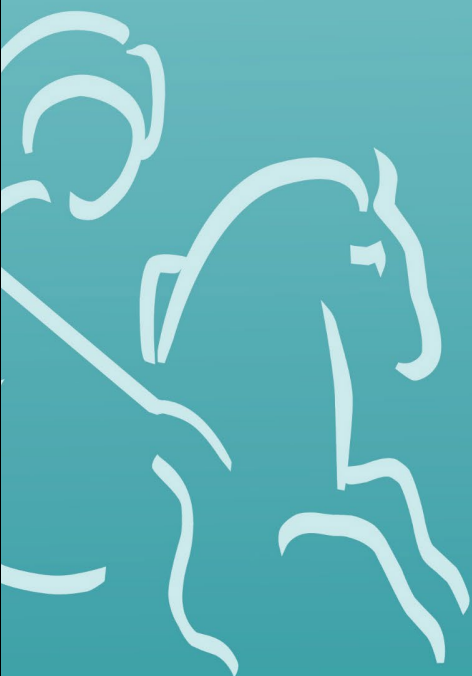
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for:  
Greenfield Energy Developments Ltd

CA Project: CR1779  
CA Report: CR1779\_1

November 2024



# Old Wallace Farm Dyffryn Cardiff

## *Archaeological Evaluation*

CA Project: CR1779  
CA Report: CR1779\_1

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A	1 November 2024	Richard Scurr	Monica Fombellida	External issue	–	Steven Sheldon

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- Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results (1:750)
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## SUMMARY

**Project name:** Old Wallace Farm  
**Location:** Dyffryn, Cardiff  
**NGR:** 309910 170601  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 30 September – 2 October 2024  
**Location of archive:** To be deposited with the National Museum of Wales (Cardiff)

In September and October 2024, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff. A total of 9 trenches were excavated.

Despite the archaeological potential of the site no features or deposits of archaeological origin were recorded and no artefactual material was recovered.

Ym mis Medi a mis Hydref 2024, cynhaliodd Cotswold Archaeology werthusiad archaeolegol yn Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Caerdydd. Cafodd 9 o ffosydd eu cloddio.

Er gwaethaf potensial archaeolegol y safle, ni chofnodwyd unrhyw nodweddion na dyddodion archaeolegol, ac ni ddaethpwyd o hyd i unrhyw ddeunydd arteffactaidd.



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In September and October 2024, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff (centred at NGR: 309910 170601; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Greenfield Energy Developments Ltd.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility including the erection of battery container units, inverters, 132kV substation, 33kV customer switchgear, storage container and welfare container, water tank, new internal access roads, resurfaced compound, installation of perimeter fencing and access gate; associated ground works; and landscaping, which will be made to the Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoGC).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Rob Dunning, Archaeological Planning Officer for Heneb: Glamorgan-Gwent Region during correspondence with Julia Sulikowska, CA Principal Heritage Consultant. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2024a) and approved by Mr Dunning.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with:
  - *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2023);
  - *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2023);
  - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015); and
  - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 2ha in extent and the access route extends for c. 800m northwards towards Old Wallace Farm to join St Lythans Road. It lies on the northern outskirts of the town of Barry. The site currently comprises agricultural fields surrounded by further agricultural land. The north-eastern corner of the site lies at approximately 34m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with the level sloping down to reach c. 29m aOD at the south-western corner of the site.

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- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as St Mary's Well Bay Member Limestone and Mudstone, interbedded, which formed during the Triassic and Jurassic periods. No superficial deposits are recorded within the site (BGS 2024).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has been subject to Heritage Assessment (CA 2024b) and a Geophysical Survey (SUMO 2024). What follows is a brief summary of the results of these assessments.

### Prehistoric and Roman

- 2.2. The closest recorded Bronze Age activity is Wenvoe Round Barrow, located c. 1.3km to the north of the site; and the closest recorded Iron Age activity is a possible Iron Age field system located c. 600m to the west of the site access route, where it joins St Lythans Road (CA 2024b).
- 2.3. The closest recorded Roman settlement is the rural settlement at Whitton Lodge, c. 1km to the west of the access route where it joins St Lythans Road. Within the surrounding landscape Roman lead mining is recorded at Goldsland Wood c. 1.5km to the north-east of the site (CA 2024b).

### Medieval

- 2.4. The deserted medieval settlement at Highlight, located c. 530m to the south of the site, is recorded as comprising six to eight houses with a church, manor, watermill, and possible priest's house, dating to c. 1300 AD. The settlement was held under the lordship of Dinas Pois and was a sub-manor within a larger lordship, held by the de Sumeri family in the early years of Norman settlement (CA 2024b).
- 2.5. The manor house or administrative centre for the de Sumeri family was likely the Scheduled Monument of *Highlight Medieval House Site*. This moated site comprises a large rectangular plateau upon which remains of hall-type houses and ancillary buildings have been recorded. Excavations at the monument have found that construction of the main house began in the 12th-century and ended in the 15th-century, with the earlier occupation possibly not being moated. The manor was replaced in the 15th-century by a new structure located c. 830m to the south of the site at Highlight Farm. A second Scheduled Monument associated with the settlement is the remains of Highlight Church, the surviving foundations of which are located on a low ridge (CA 2024b).

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- 2.6. Two crofts are recorded within the area of settlement: one, located c. 780m to the south of the site, identified as a rectangular bank, and the second, located c. 670m south of the site, comprising a building platform (CA 2024b).

### **Post-medieval and Modern**

- 2.7. The land-use of the site was most likely agricultural from the post-medieval period onwards, as attested by historical mapping, and recorded farmsteads across the wider landscape. Wallace, located along the path of the proposed access route to the site, c. 500m to the north-west of the main part of the site, is the closest recorded farmstead.
- 2.8. Evidence of industrial activity has also been recorded within the wider landscape, including Lidmore Mill, a corn mill within close proximity of the farmstead at Lidmore c. 490m to the south-west of the site. Additionally, two lime kilns have been recorded c. 970m to the east of the site and c. 360m to the north of the site respectively (CA 2024b)
- 2.9. The 1762 map of Wallace-Fawr Farm in the Parish of Wenvoe depict the area of the site as belonging to Old Wallace Farm. No changes are depicted on the 1798 map of the lands of Old Wallace Farm, surveyed by Thomas Morrice. The 1840 Tithe Map of the Parish of Wenvoe continues to show the main site as located within the north-eastern corner of a single field.
- 2.10. The 1885 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows a new division within the field containing the site. The subsequent 1965 OS map depicts a drainage ditch as a field boundary (CA 2024b).

### **Geophysical Survey**

- 2.11. A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken on site in June 2024 (SUMO 2024). The survey identified curving ditch-like (1) and a pit-like anomalies (2) of uncertain origin. It was concluded that these anomalies may represent variation in the underlying geology or result from agricultural processes. However archaeological origins for some of these responses could not be ruled out.

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### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable VoGC to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal, in line with the *Planning Policy Wales* (12th Edition, Welsh Government 2024).
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate the potential archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey (SUMO 2024).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 9 trenches (Fig. 2):
- 8no 30m x 1.8 trenches; and
  - 1no 15m x 1.8m trench.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate.
- 4.4. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*, but no deposits were identified that required sampling. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.6. CA will make arrangements National Museum of Wales (Cardiff) for the deposition of the project archive. The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited

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in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded within all of the excavated trenches. The Natural substrate, comprising compact yellow clay, was identified at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by topsoil, measuring between 0.32m and 0.45m in depth.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. The results of the evaluation showed variable correlation with the results of the preceding geophysical survey (SUMO 2024). In Trenches 3, 4, 7 and 8 no features or deposits were identified that correlated with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. In Trenches 1, 5, 6 and 9 abrupt variations in the underlying natural substrate may explain at least some of the anomalies detected by the geophysical survey.
- 6.2. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were recovered during the course of the evaluation. The available evidence therefore suggests that the current site was in agricultural usage from at least the medieval period onwards (see *Archaeological Background* above).

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Scurr, assisted by Thomas Millington. This report was written by Richard Scurr. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Monica Fombellida.

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## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2024 *BGS Geology Viewer*

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/> Accessed 22 October 2024

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2024a *RPC Cardiff Energy Ltd, Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2024b *Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment.* CA Report: **CR1702\_2.**

SUMO 2024 *RPC Cardiff Energy Ltd.* Survey Report **17546**



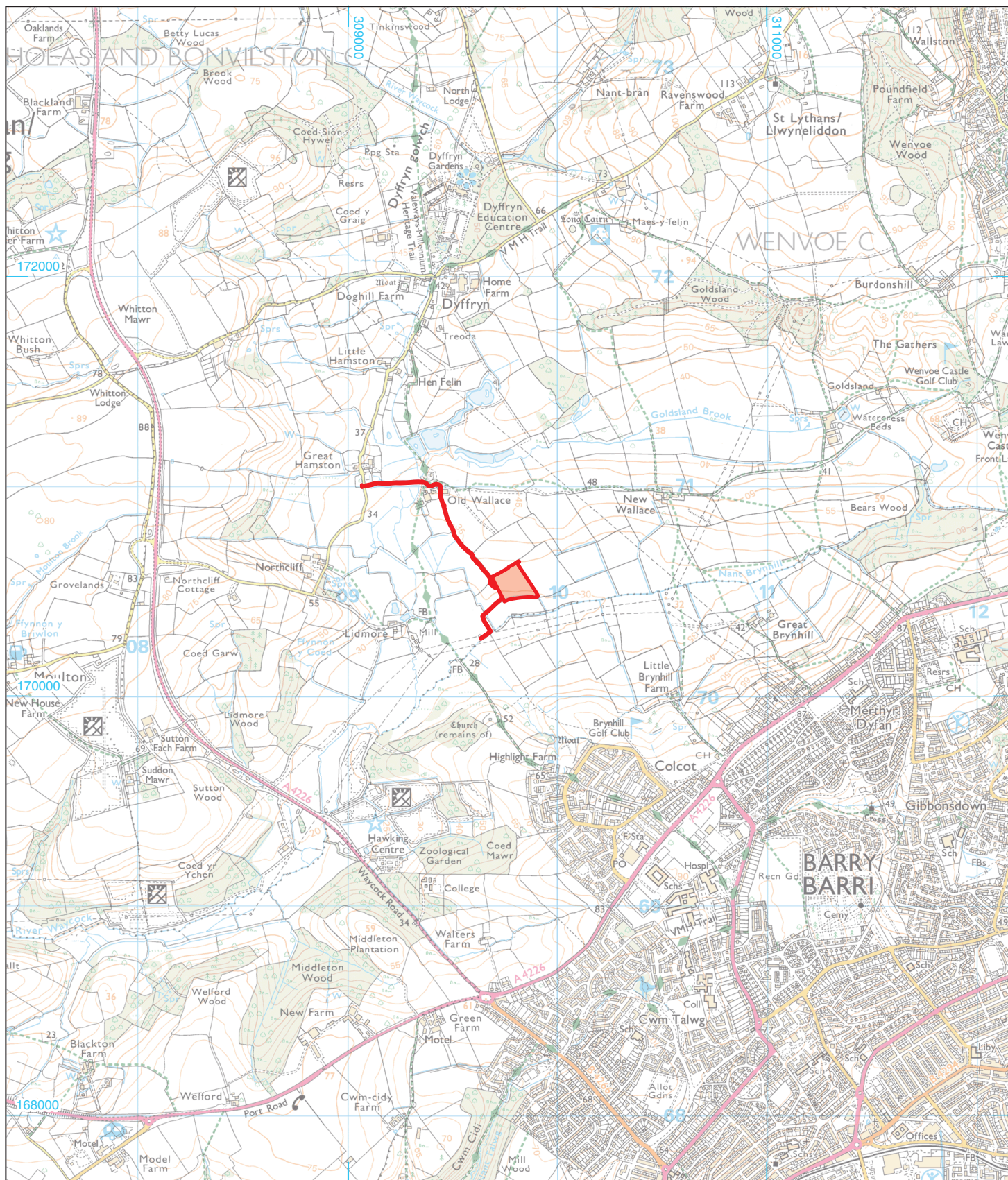
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, humic, with turf on top	>30	>1.8	0.33
1	101	Layer		Natural Substrate	Yellow clay with infrequent large limestone inclusions; mottled with patches of red-brown clay and patches of plated limestone and limestone boulders	>30	>1.8	>0.07
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, humic, with turf on top	>30	>1.8	0.32
2	201	Layer		Natural Substrate	Yellow clay with infrequent large limestone inclusions; mottled with patches of red-brown clay and patches of plated limestone and limestone boulders	>30	>1.8	>0.01
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, humic, with turf on top	>30	>1.8	0.35
3	301	Layer		Natural Substrate	Yellow clay with infrequent large limestone inclusions; mottled with patches of red-brown clay and patches of plated limestone and limestone boulders	>30	>1.8	>0.05
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, humic, with turf on top	>30	>1.8	0.35
4	401	Layer		Natural Substrate	Yellow-brown clay with infrequent large limestone inclusions	>30	>1.8	>0.1
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, humic, with turf on top	>30	>1.8	0.37
5	501	Layer		Natural Substrate	Plated limestone and limestone boulders in a matrix of yellow clay, with patches of yellow-brown clay	>30	>1.8	>0.05
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, humic, with turf on top	>30	>1.8	0.35
6	601	Layer		Natural Substrate	Yellow clay with infrequent large limestone inclusions; mottled with patches of red-brown clay and patches of plated limestone and limestone boulders	>30	>1.8	>0.05
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, humic, with turf on top	>30	>1.8	0.26
7	701	Layer		Natural Substrate	Yellow clay with infrequent large limestone inclusions; mottled with patches of red-brown clay and patches of plated limestone and limestone boulders	>30	>1.8	>0.08
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, humic, with turf on top	>30	>1.8	0.3
8	801	Layer		Natural Substrate	Yellow clay with infrequent large limestone inclusions; mottled with patches of red-brown clay and patches of plated limestone and limestone boulders	>30	>1.8	>0.05
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, humic, with turf on top	>15	>1.8	0.39
9	901	Layer		Natural Substrate	Plated limestone and limestone boulders in a matrix of yellow clay, with patches of yellow-brown clay	>15	>1.8	>0.06

## APPENDIX B: NWRW REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Old Wallace Farm BESS	
Site code	n/a	
Short description	<p>In September/October 2024, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff. A total of 9 trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological origin were recorded and no artefactual material was recovered.</p> <p>Ym mis Medi a mis Hydref 2024, cynhaliodd Cotswold Archaeology werthusiad archaeolegol yn Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Caerdydd. Cafodd 9 o ffosydd eu cloddio.</p> <p>Er gwaethaf potensial archaeolegol y safle, ni chofnodwyd unrhyw nodweddion na dyddodion archaeolegol, ac ni ddaethpwyd o hyd i unrhyw ddeunydd arteffactaidd.</p>	
Project dates	30 September to 2 October 2024	
Project type	Evaluation	
Planning reference number	N/A	
Development type	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility and supporting infrastructure	
Previous work	Heritage Assessment (CA 2024) Geophysical Survey (SUMO 2024).	
Future work	Unknown	
Methodology	The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 9 trenches. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	2ha	
Site co-ordinates	309910 170601	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Monica Fombellida	
Project Leader	Richard Scurr	
Funder	Greenfield Energy Developments Ltd	
<b>SCIENTIFIC DATING UNDERTAKEN</b>	No	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING</b>	No	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS</b>	no	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Intended final location of archive:</b>	<b>Content:</b>
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	National Museum of Wales (Cardiff)	Trench sheets, photo registers
Digital	National Museum of Wales (Cardiff)	Digital photographs and site plans
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2024 <i>Old Wallace Farm BESS, Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report <b>CR1779_1</b>		





 Site boundary

0 1:25,000 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY HMM PROJECT NO. CR1779  
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 17/10/2024  
PM MF SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.  
**1**





- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Natural feature

Geophysical survey results  
SUMO (2024)

- Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend /increased response)
- Magnetic disturbance
- Ferrous

0 1:750 25m

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PROJECT TITLE  
Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan, showing  
geophysical survey results**

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY PM	HMM DJB MF	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE@A3	CR1779 17/10/2024 1:750	FIGURE NO. <b>2</b>
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Trench 2, looking west (1m scales)



Trench 4, looking east (1m scales)



Trench 5, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 9, looking south-west (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE  
 Old Wallace Farm, Dyffryn, Cardiff

FIGURE TITLE  
 Photographs

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY PM	HMM DJB MF	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE@A3	CR1779 17/10/2024 NA	FIGURE NO. <b>3</b>
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