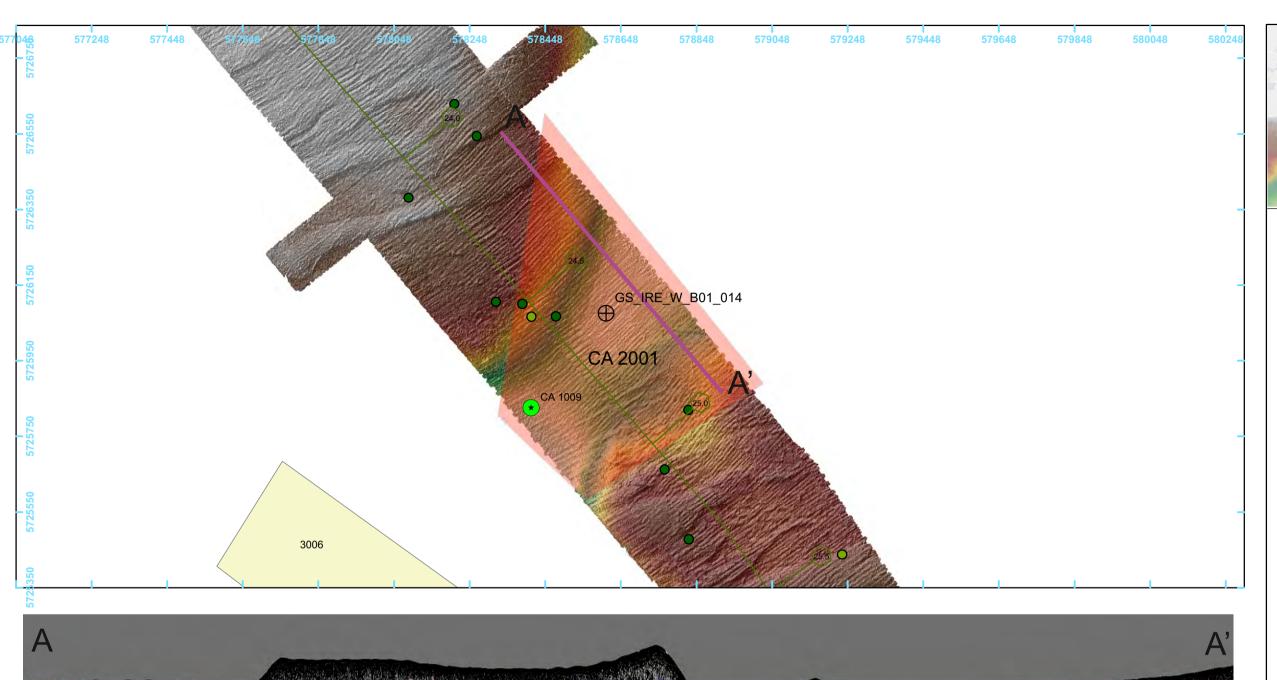
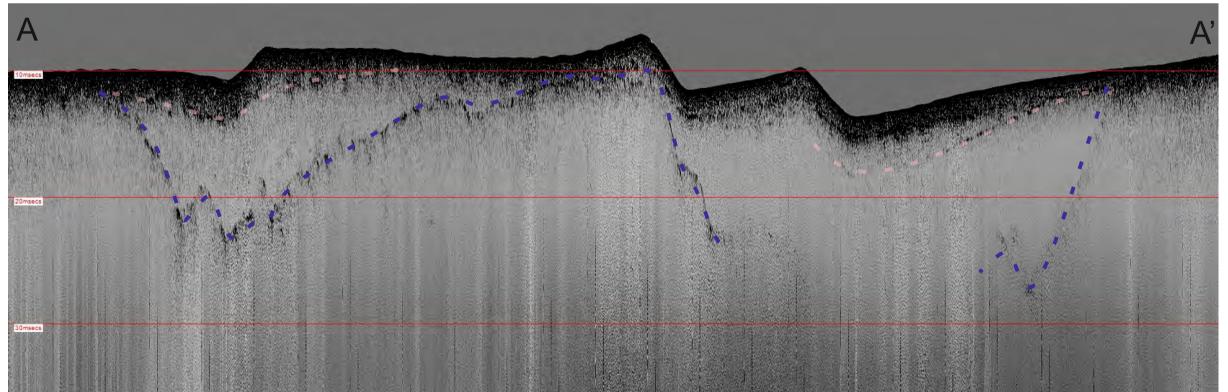


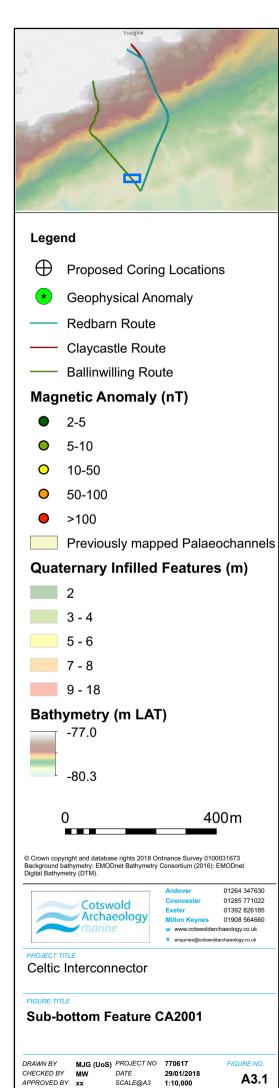


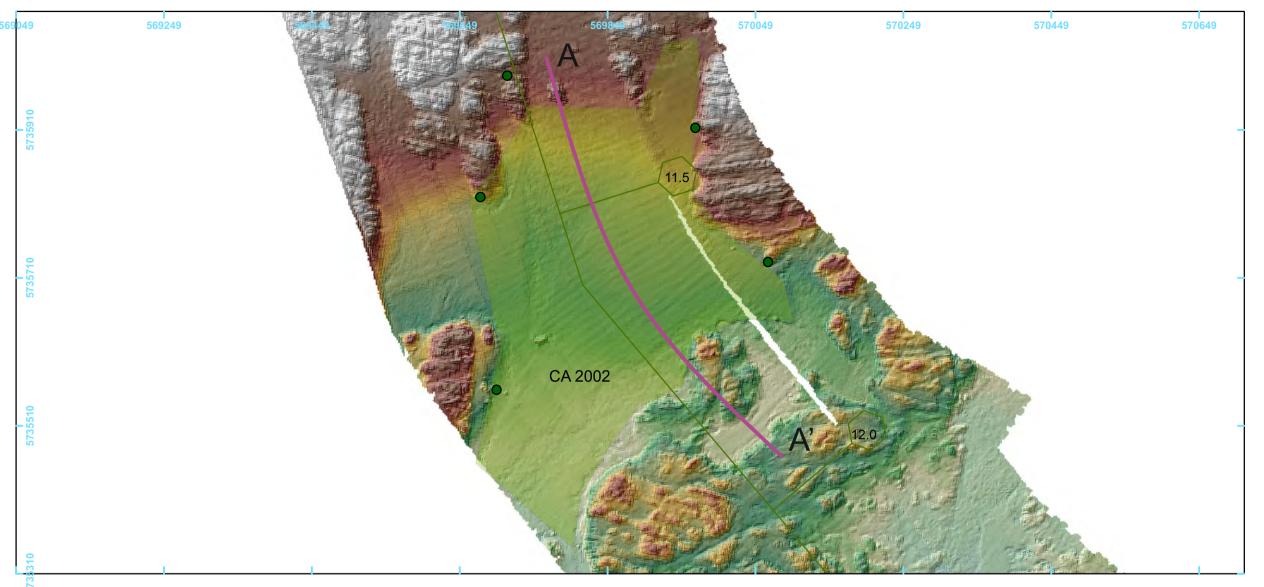
APPENDIX 3: SUB-BOTTOM FEATURES WITHIN THE CSC IN IRISH TERRITORIAL WATERS

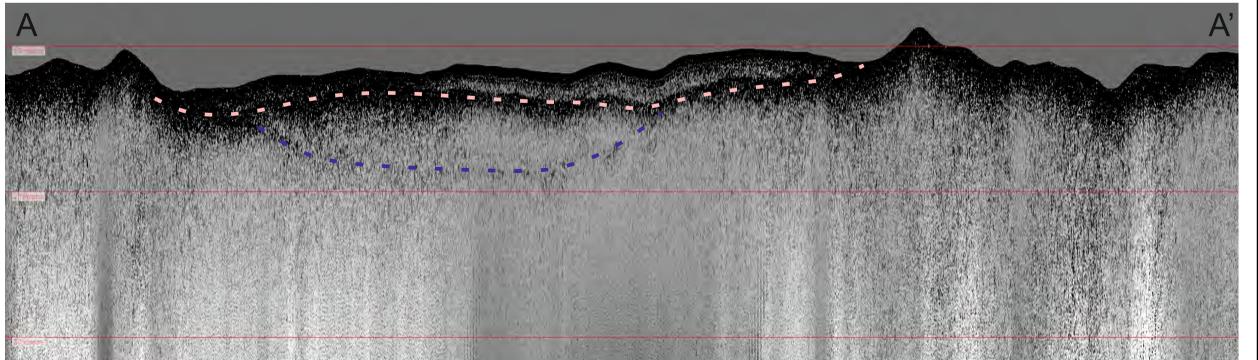




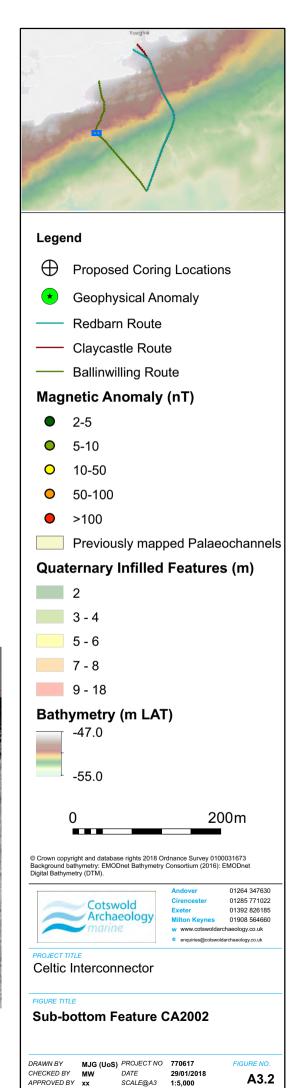
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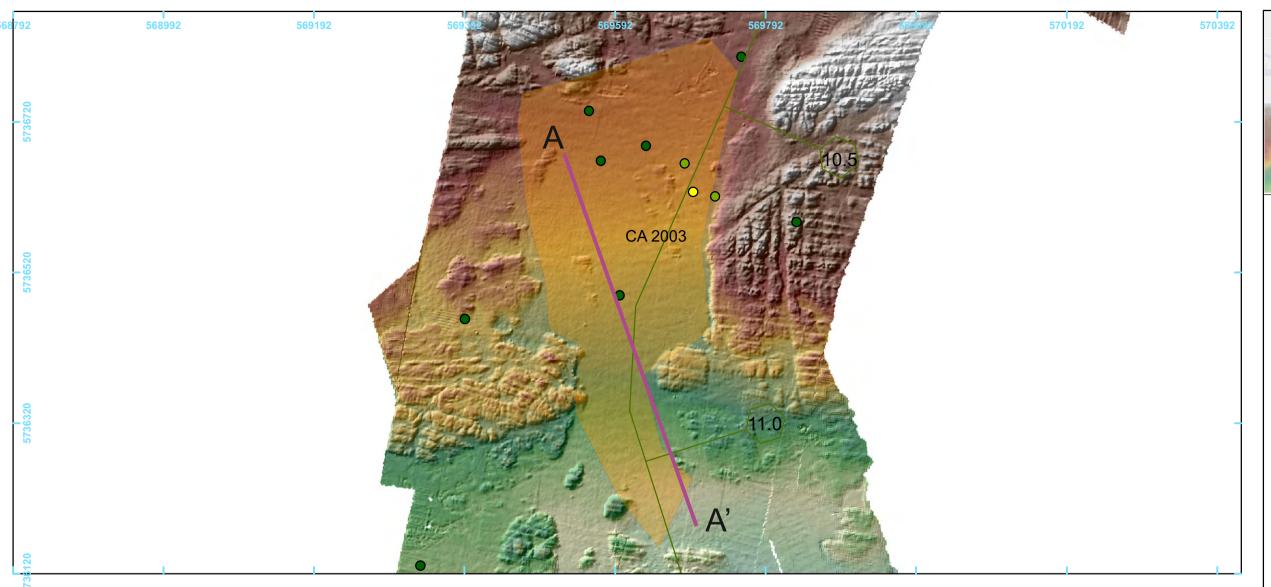


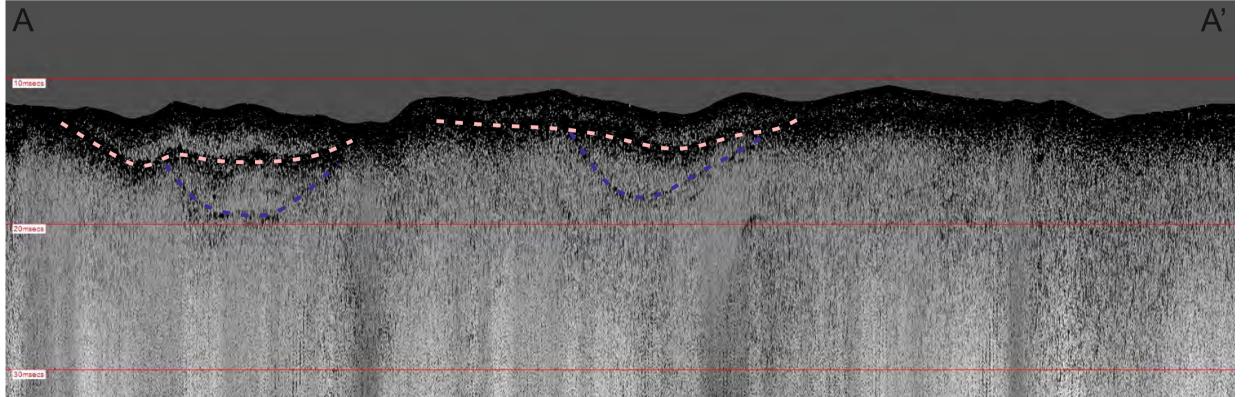




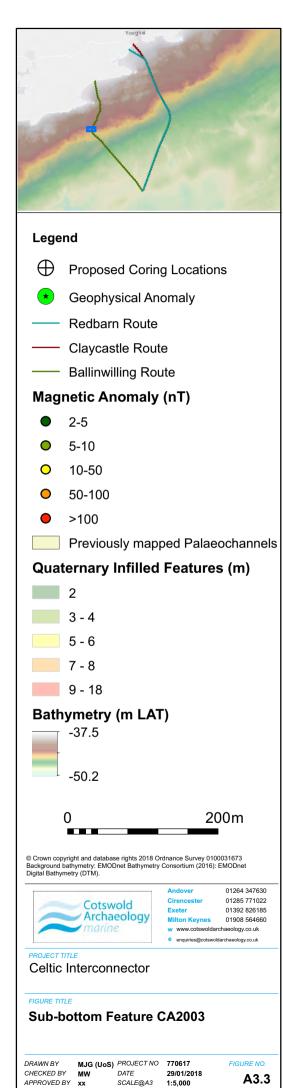
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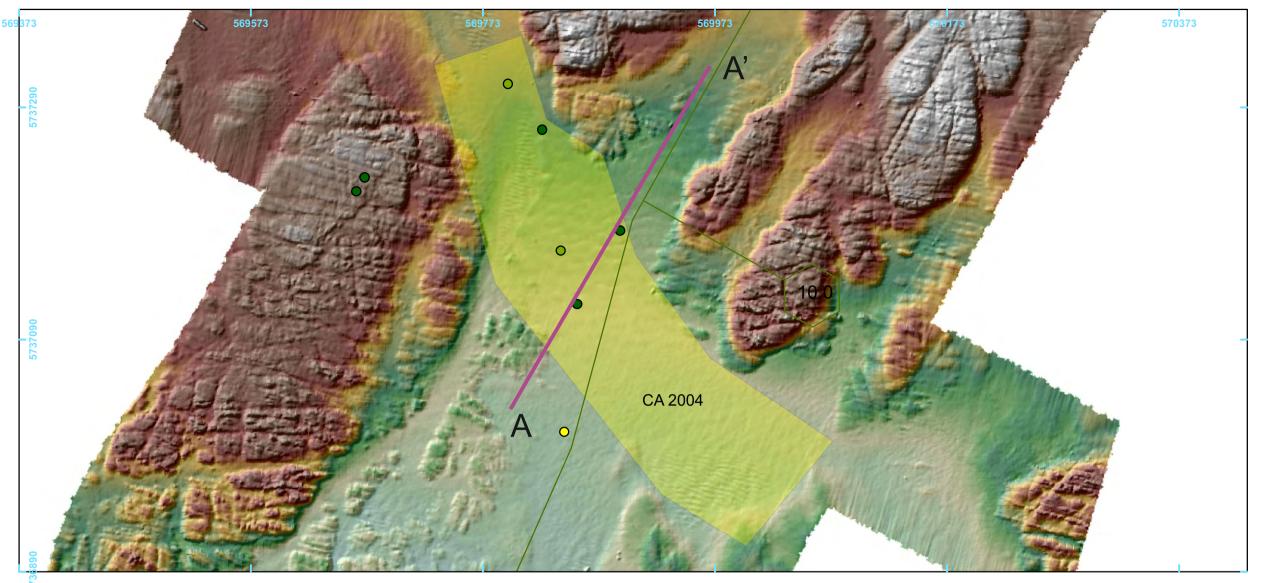


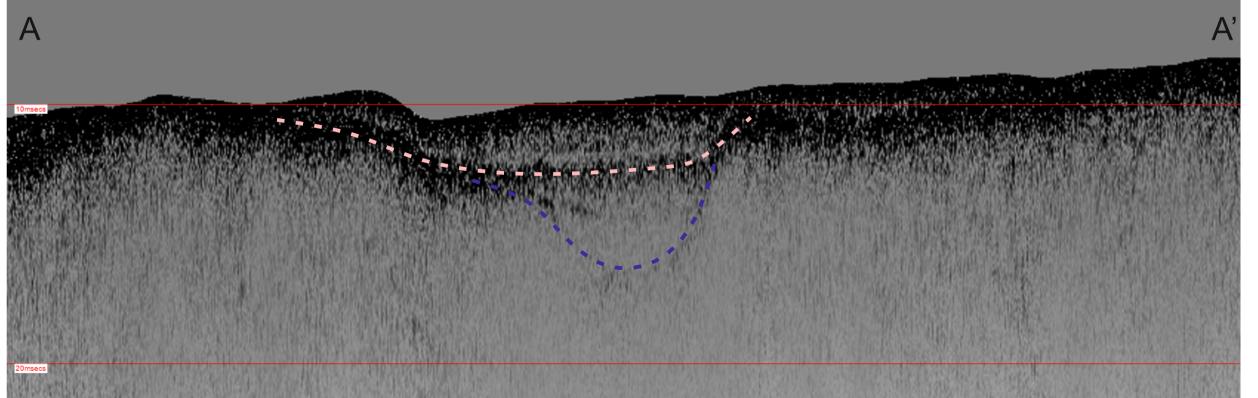




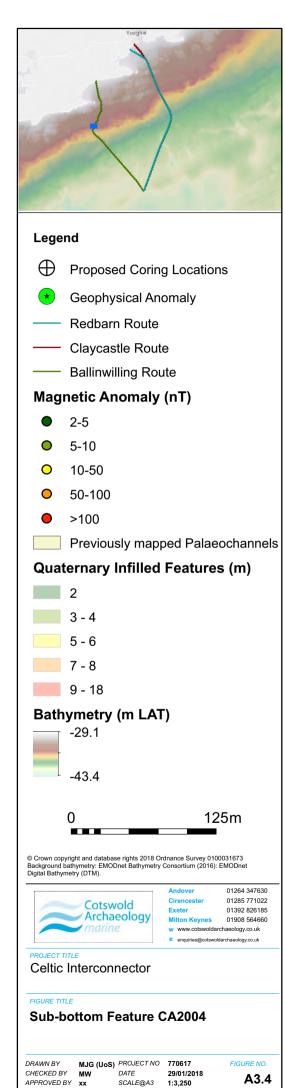
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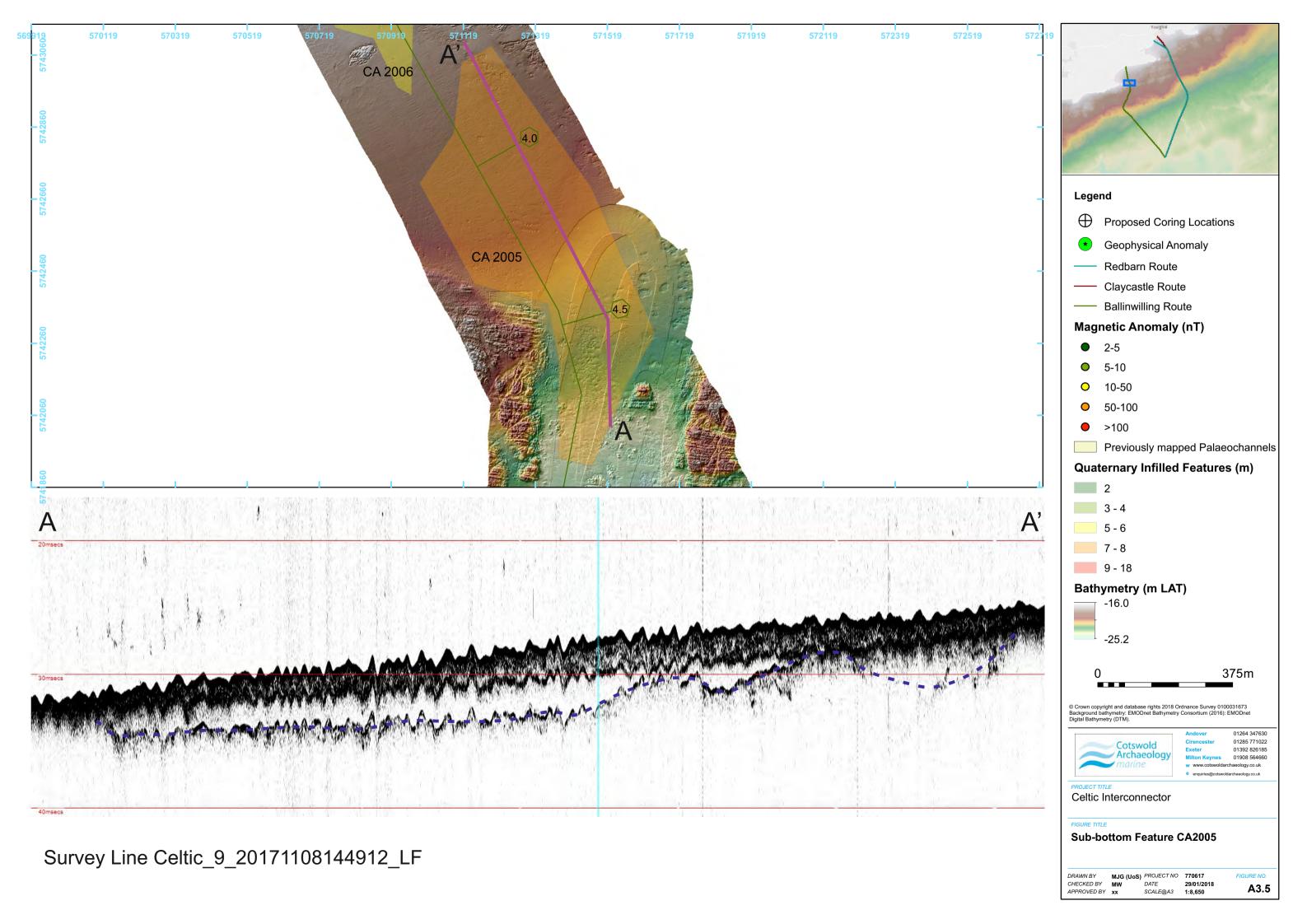


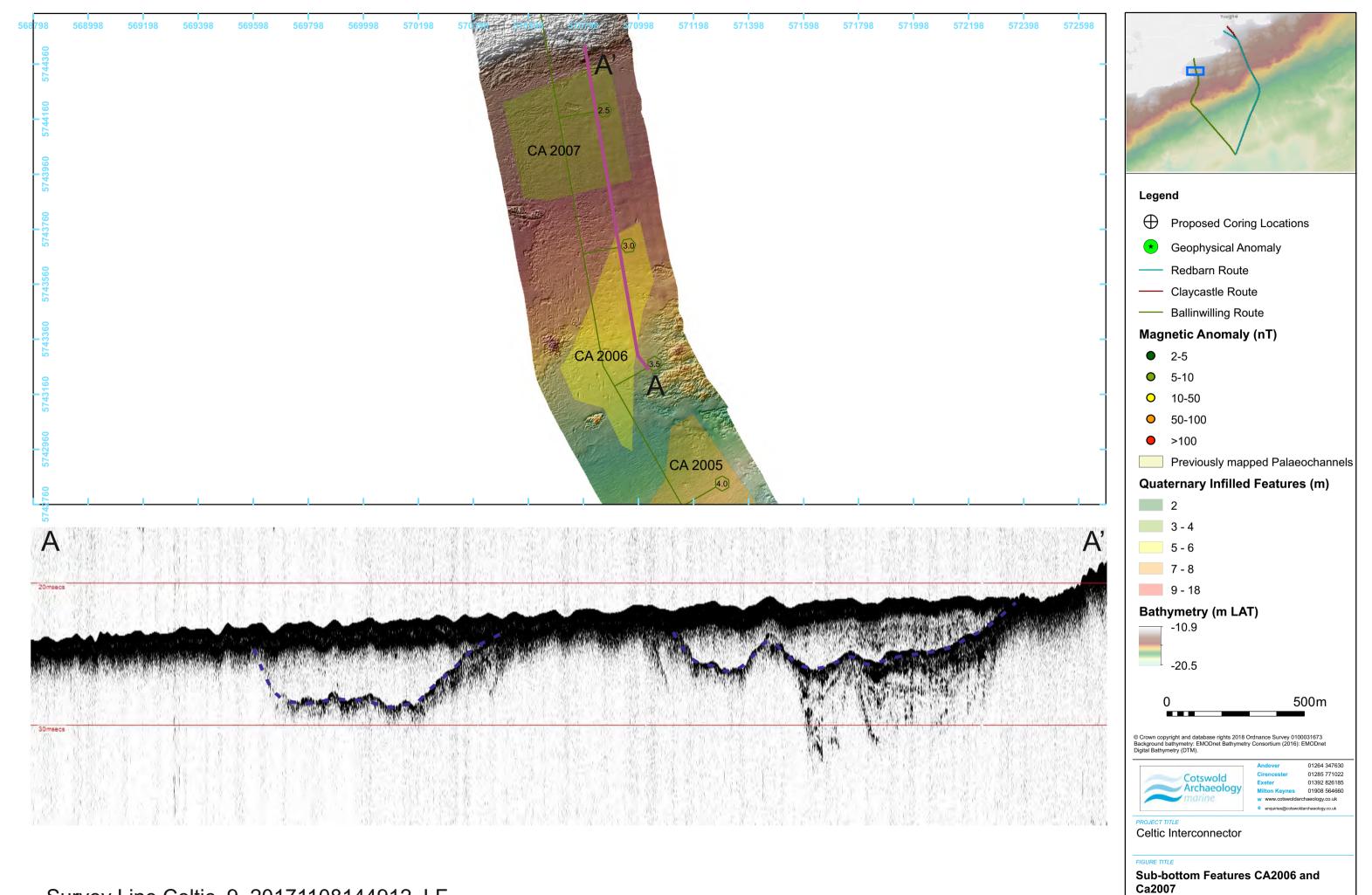


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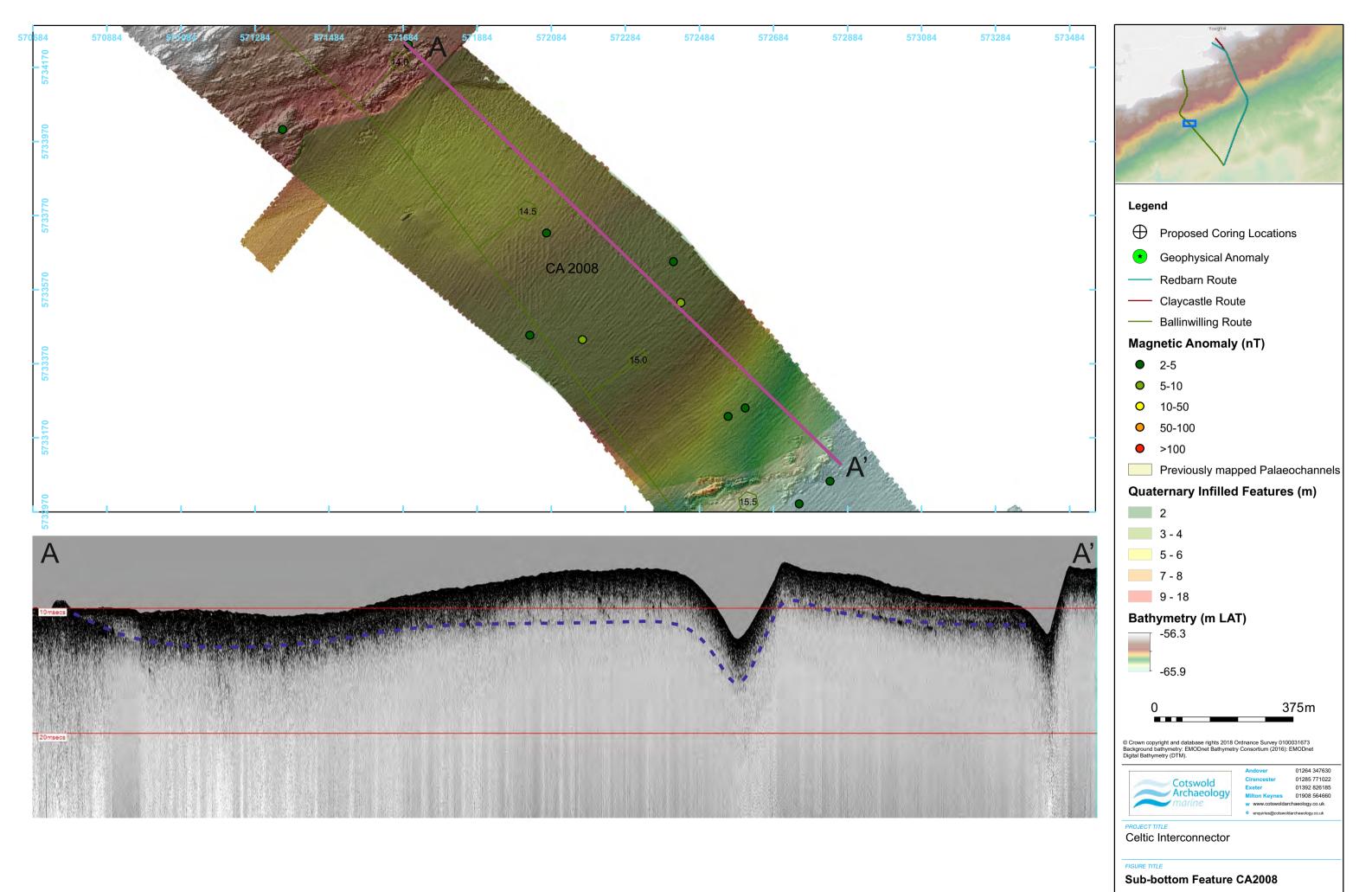
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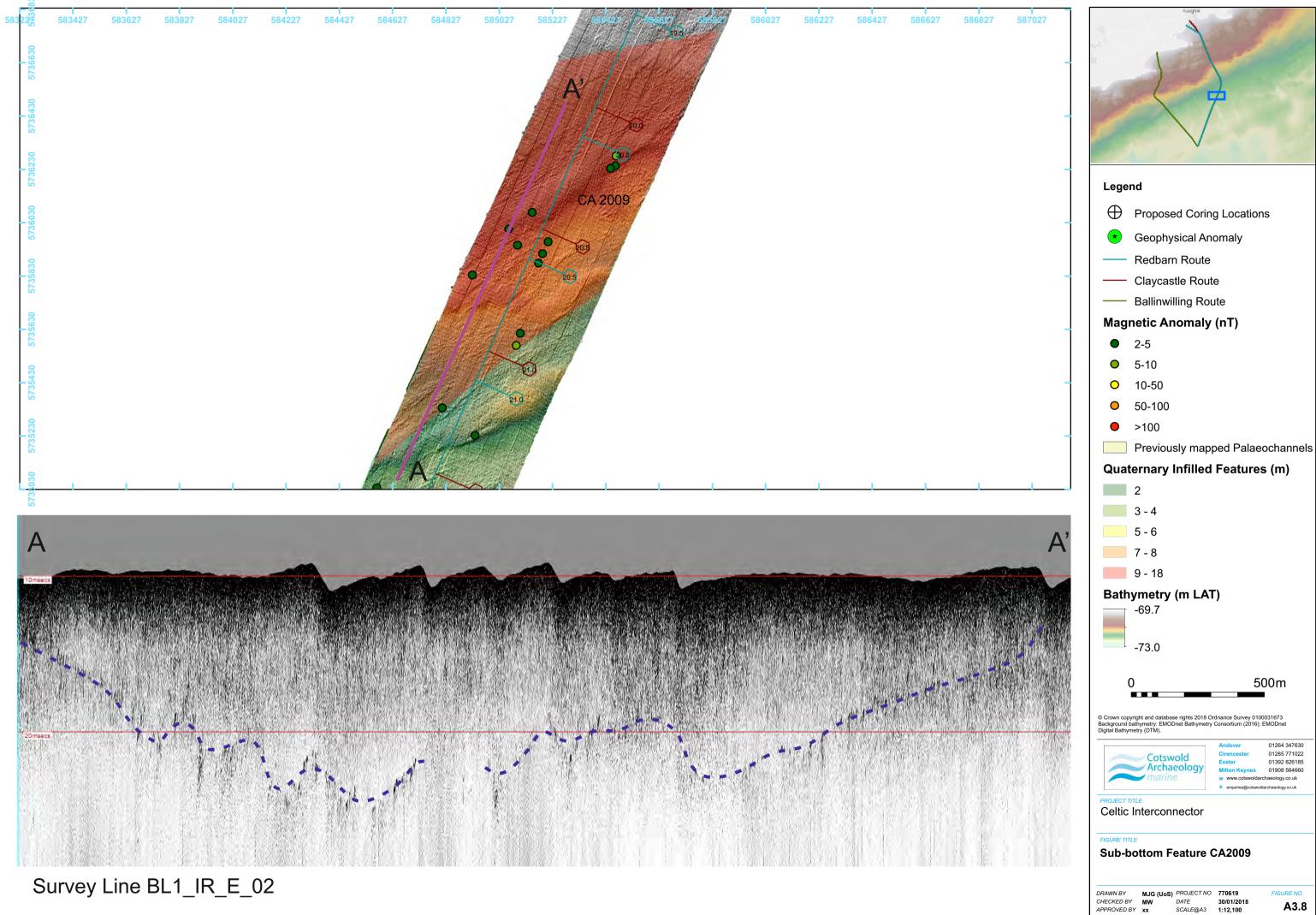


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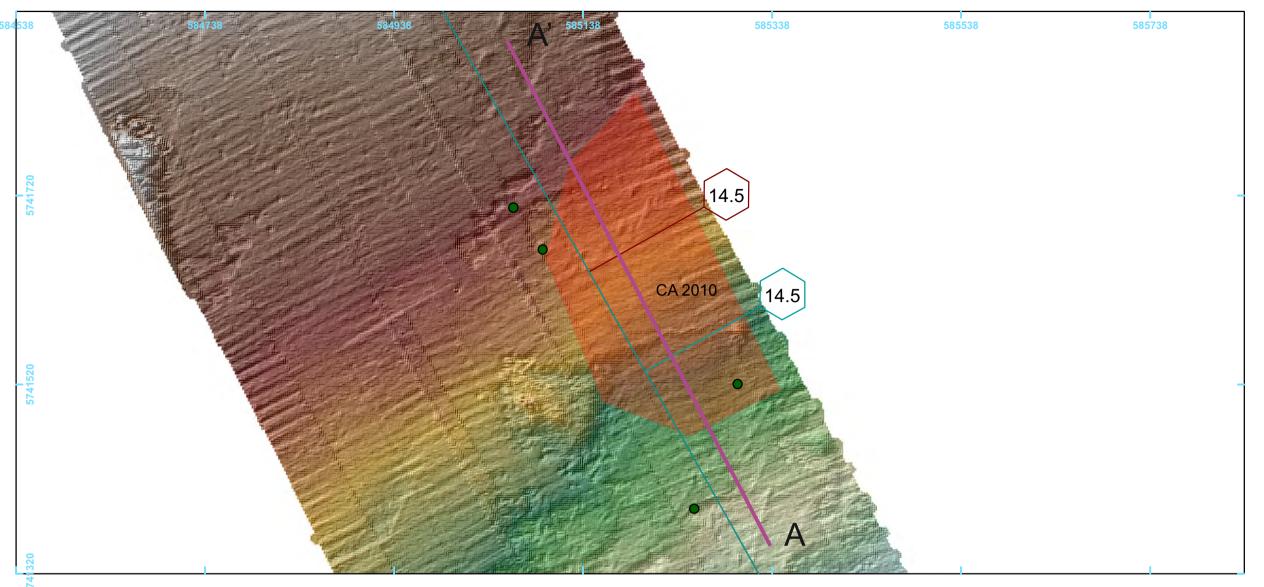
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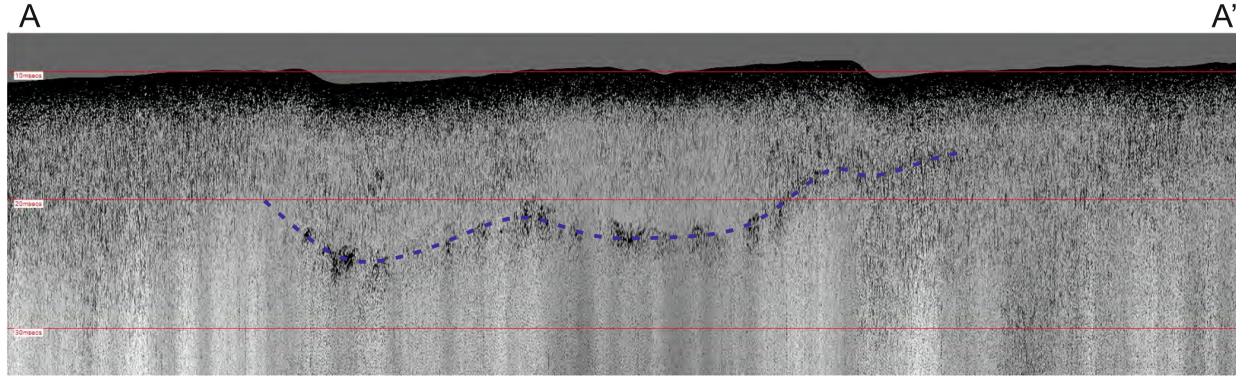
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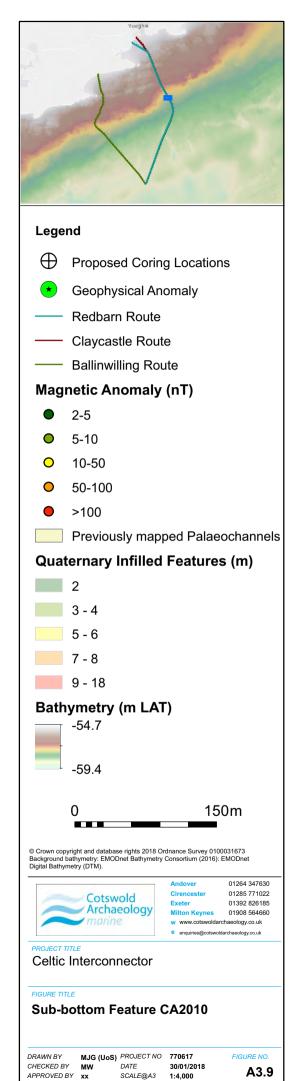
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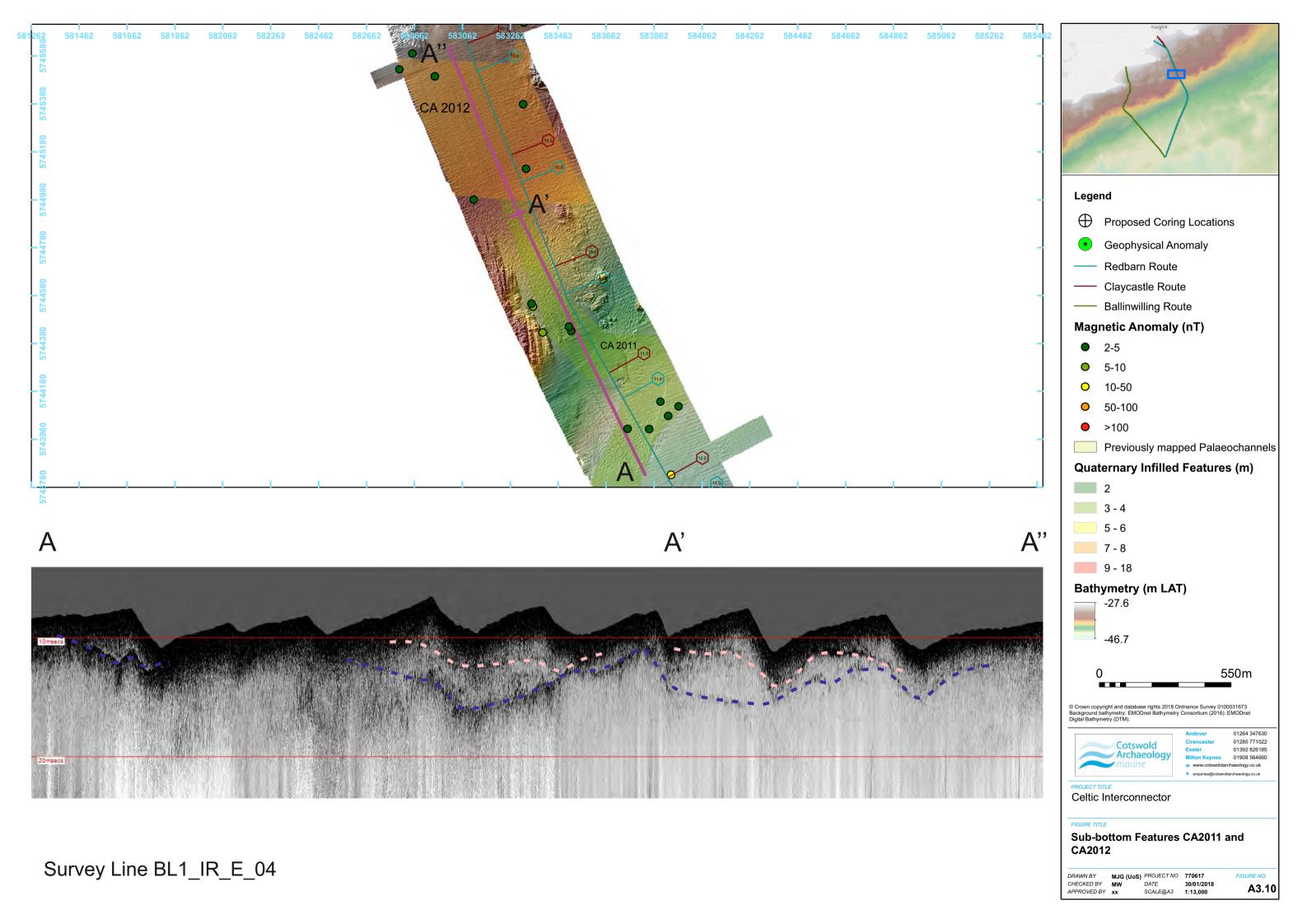
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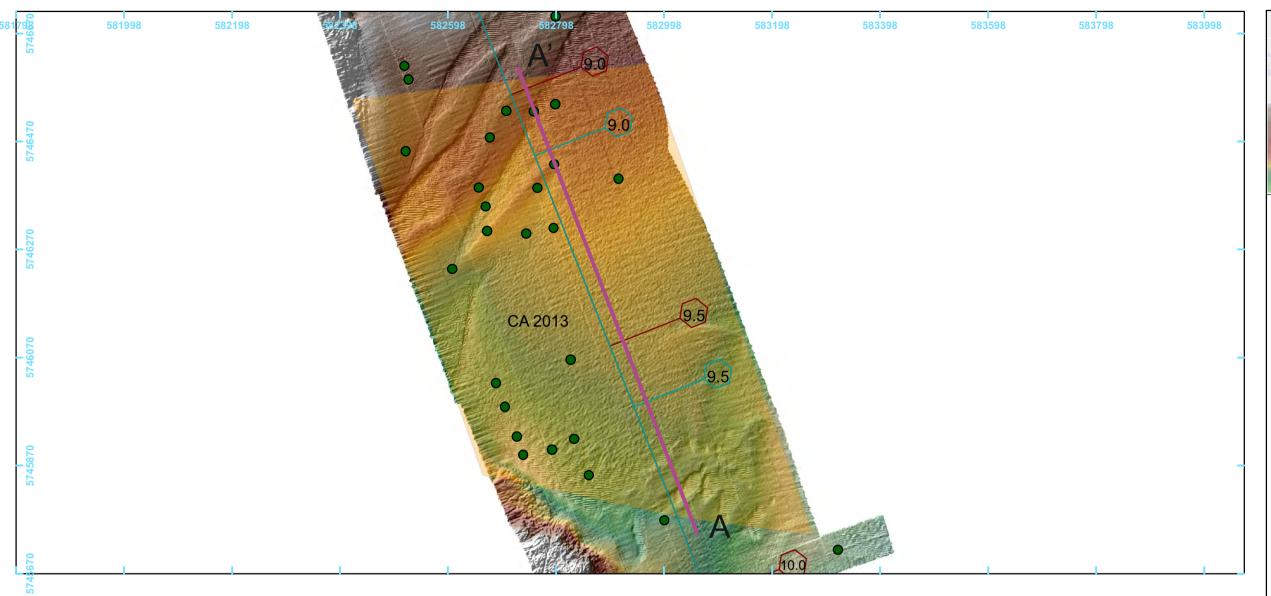


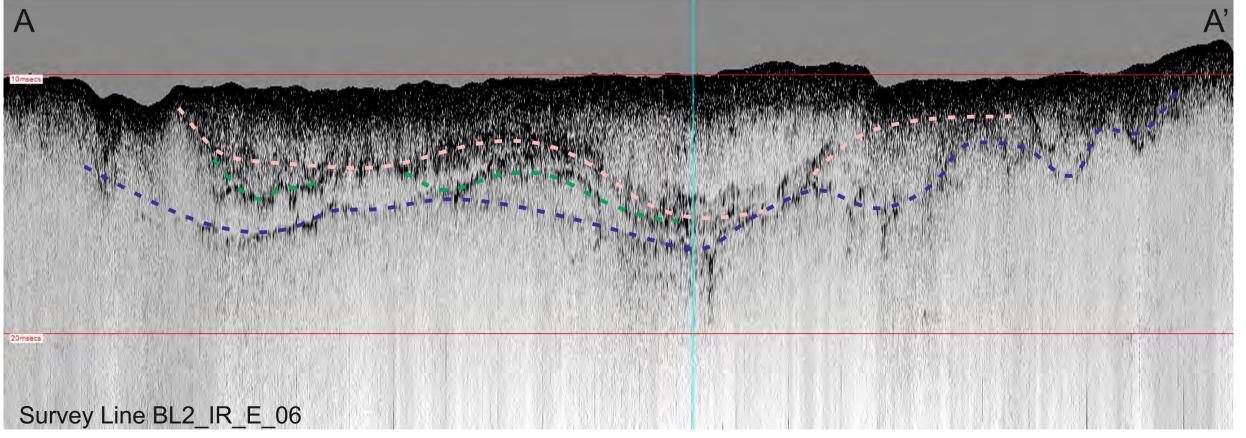


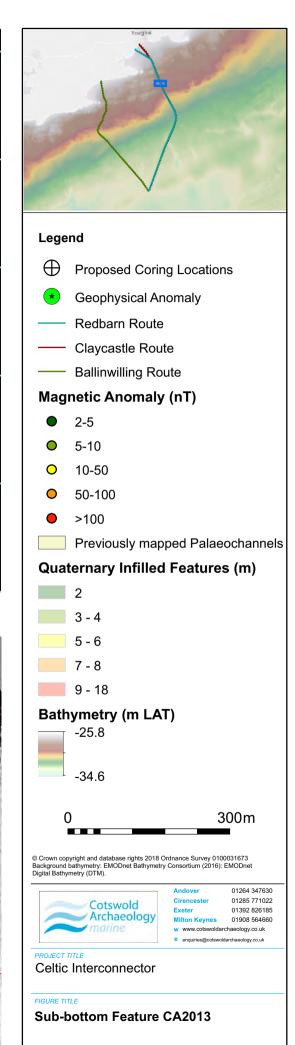
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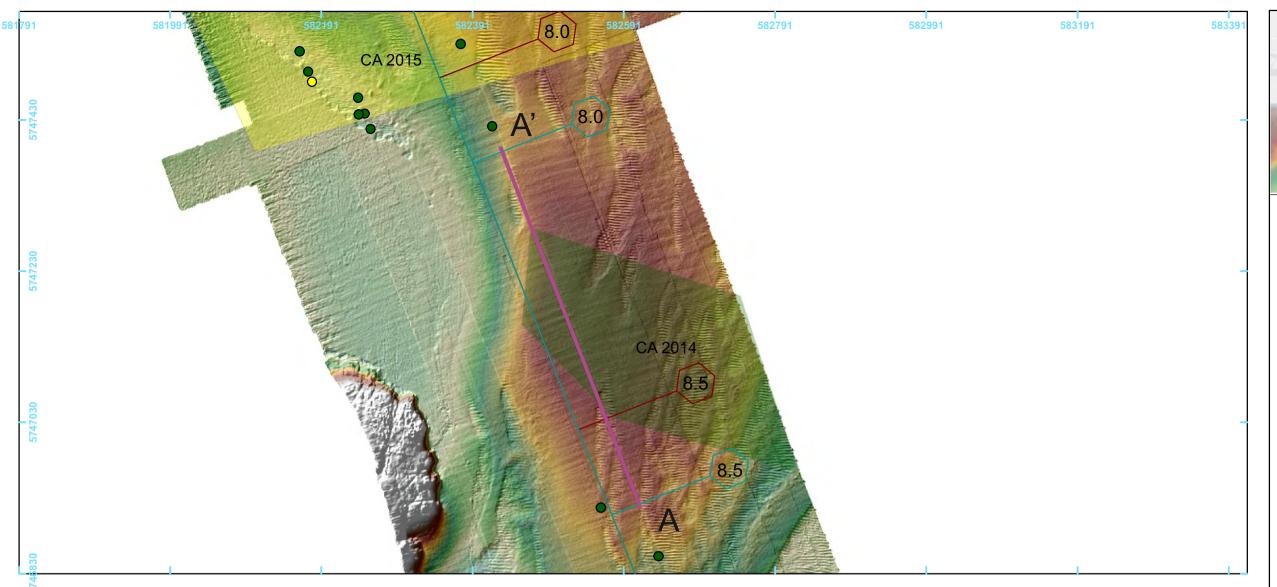


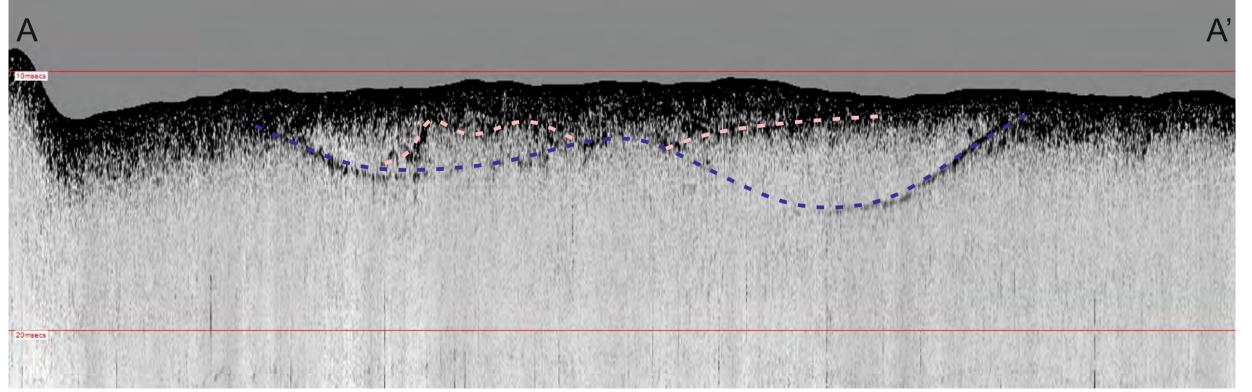


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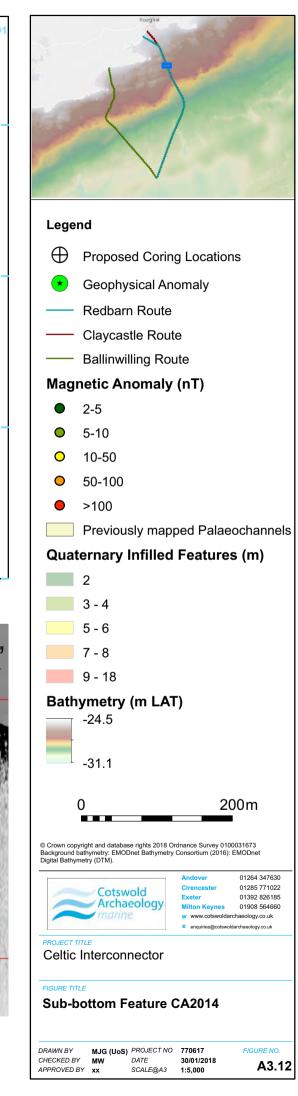
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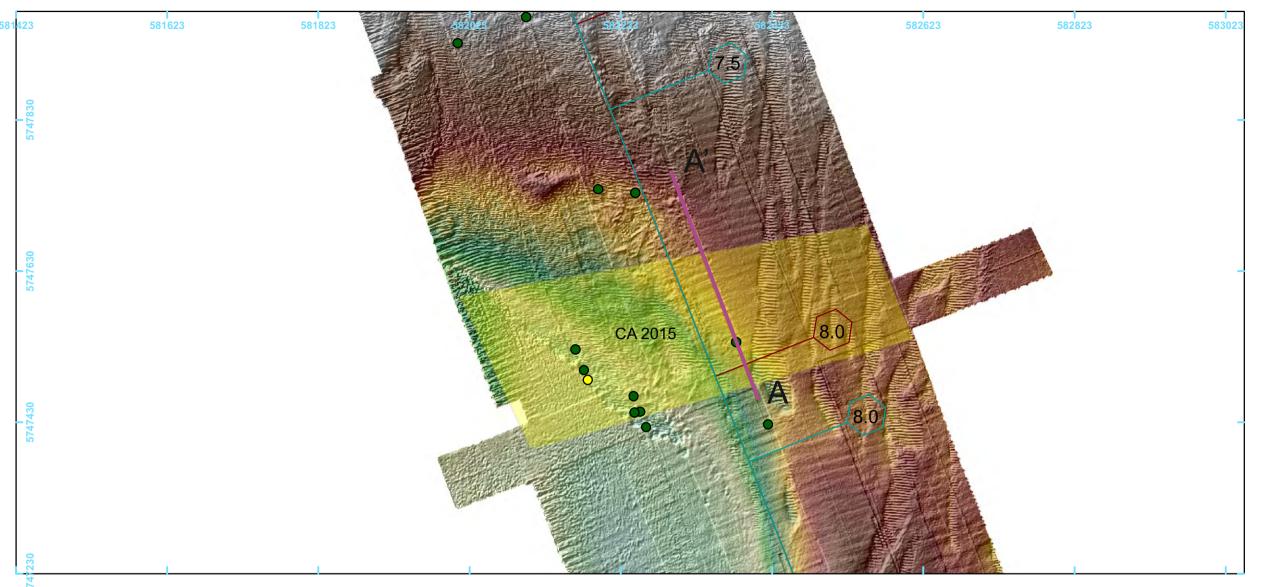
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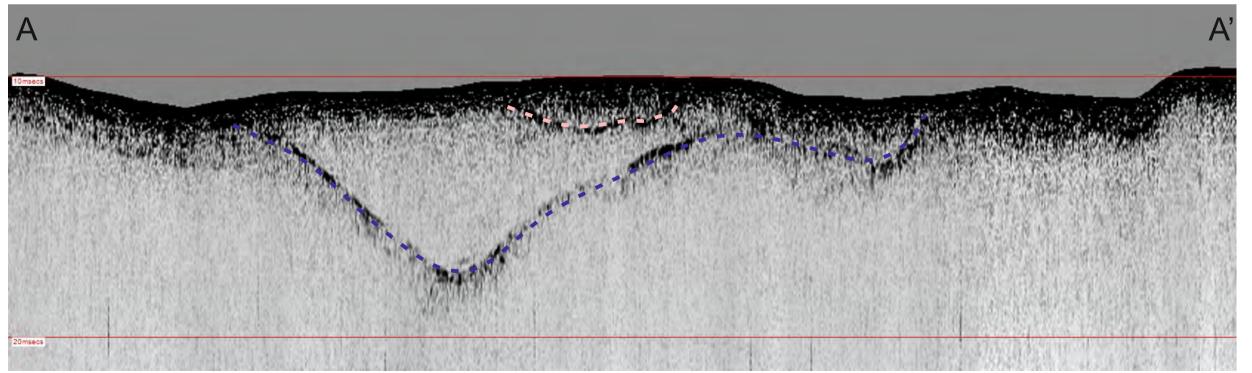




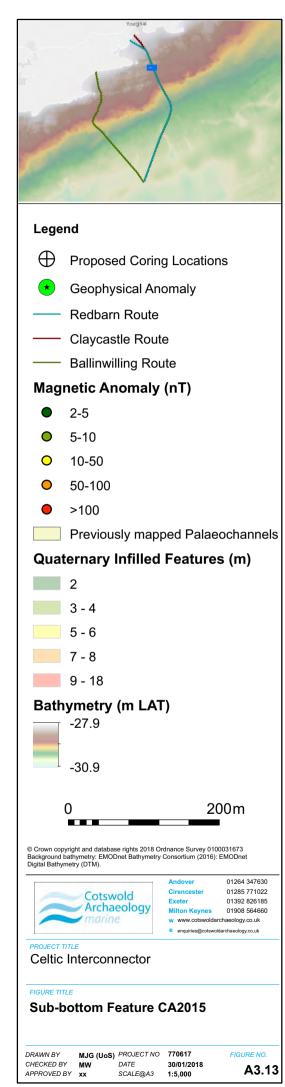
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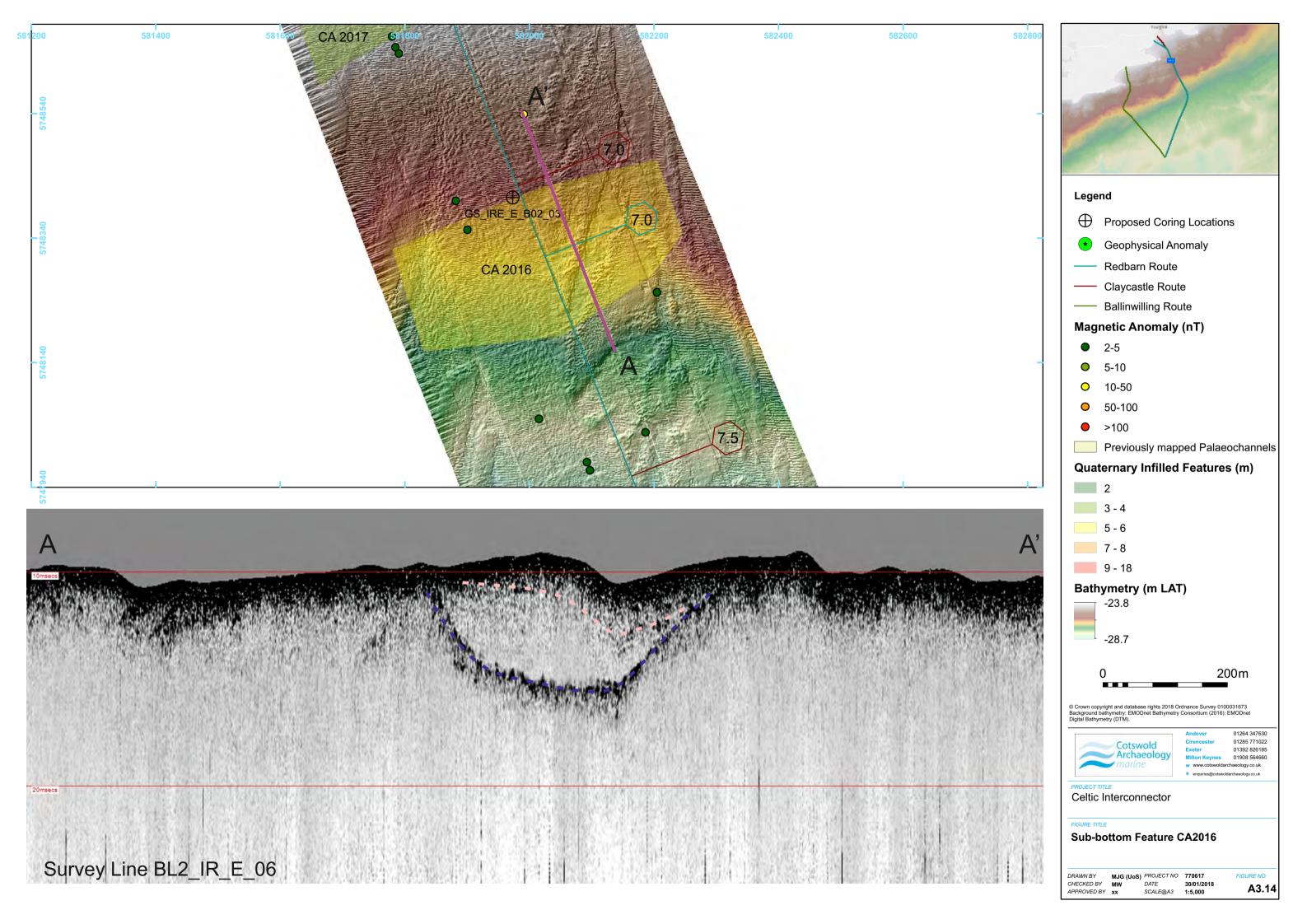


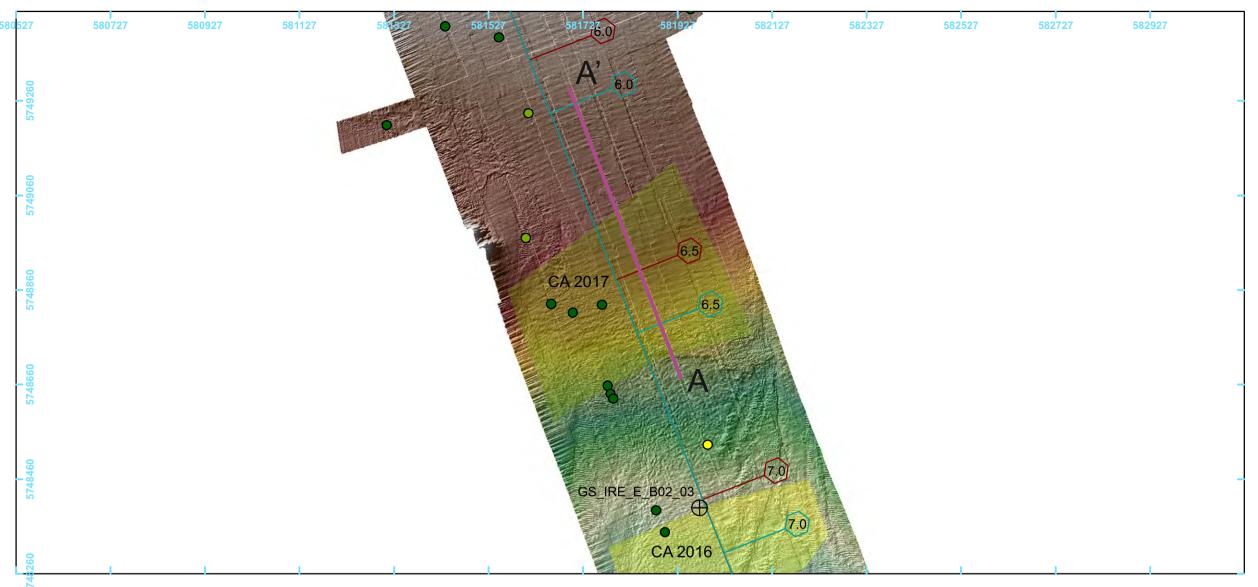


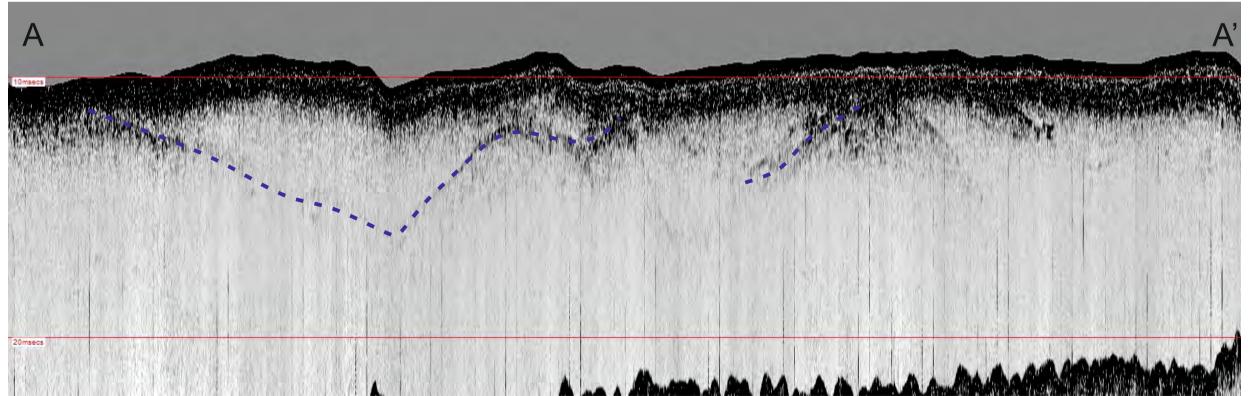


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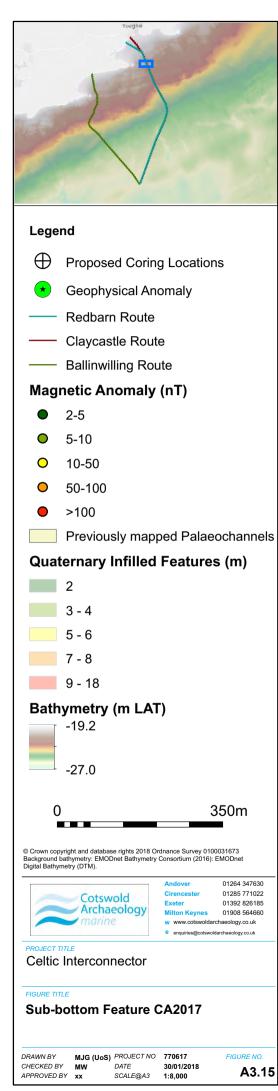


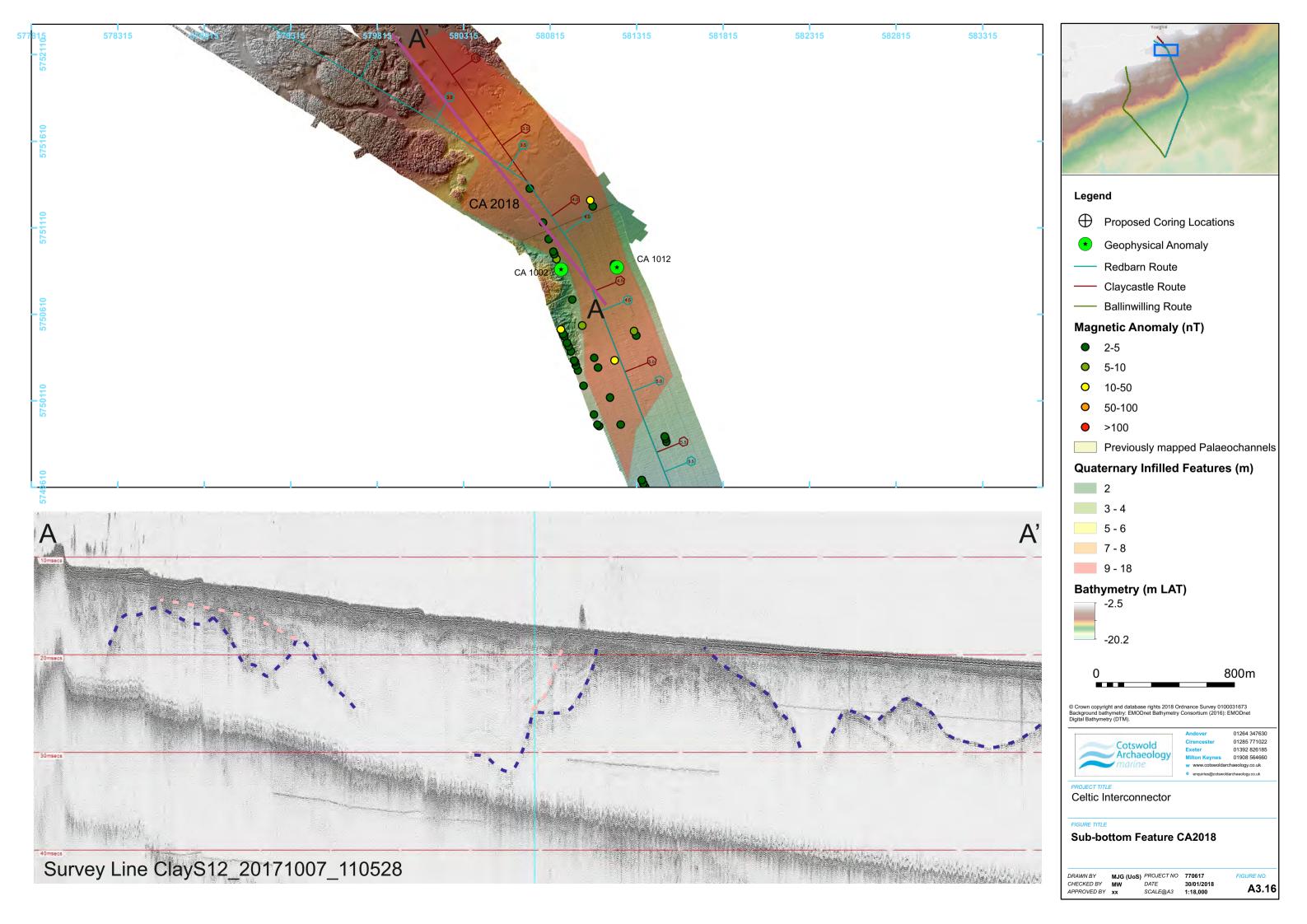


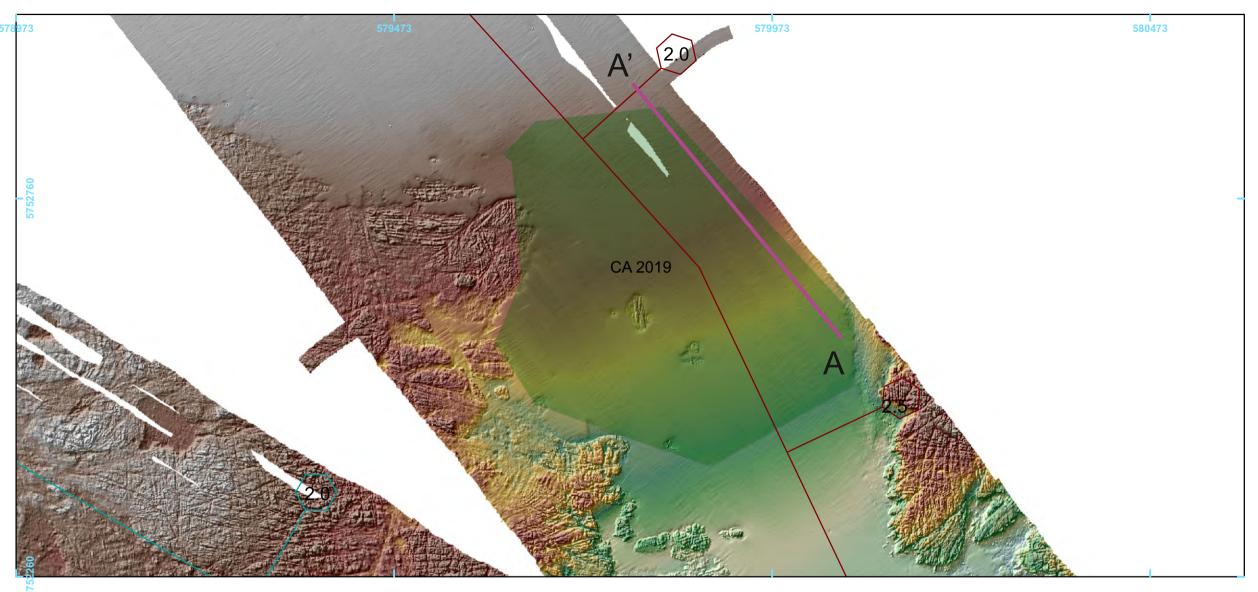


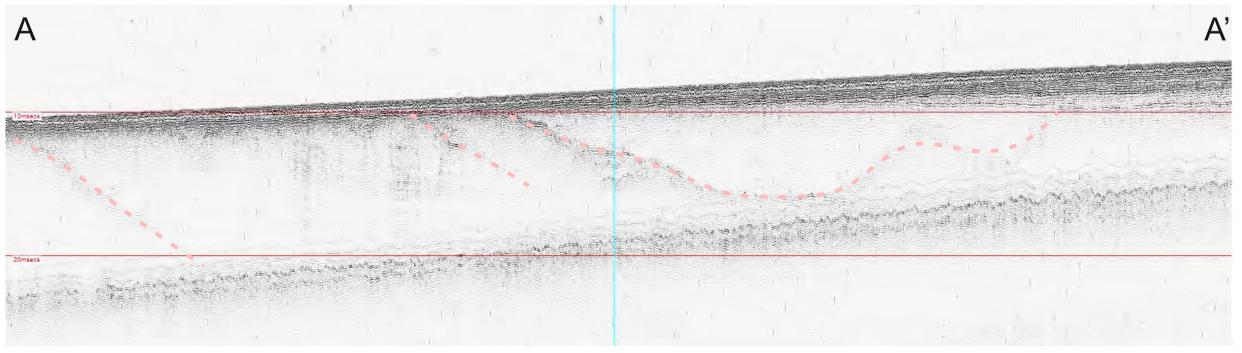


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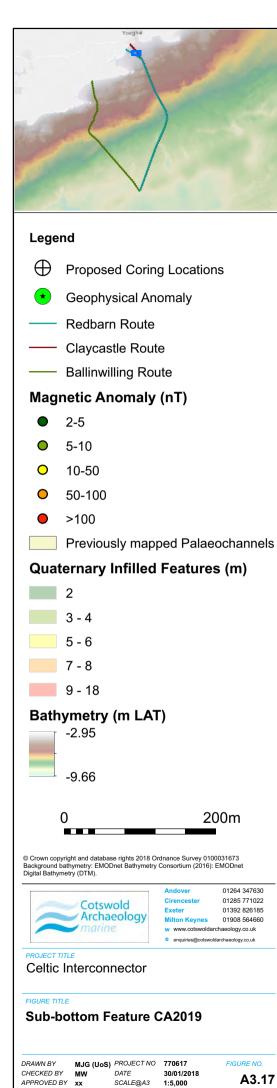


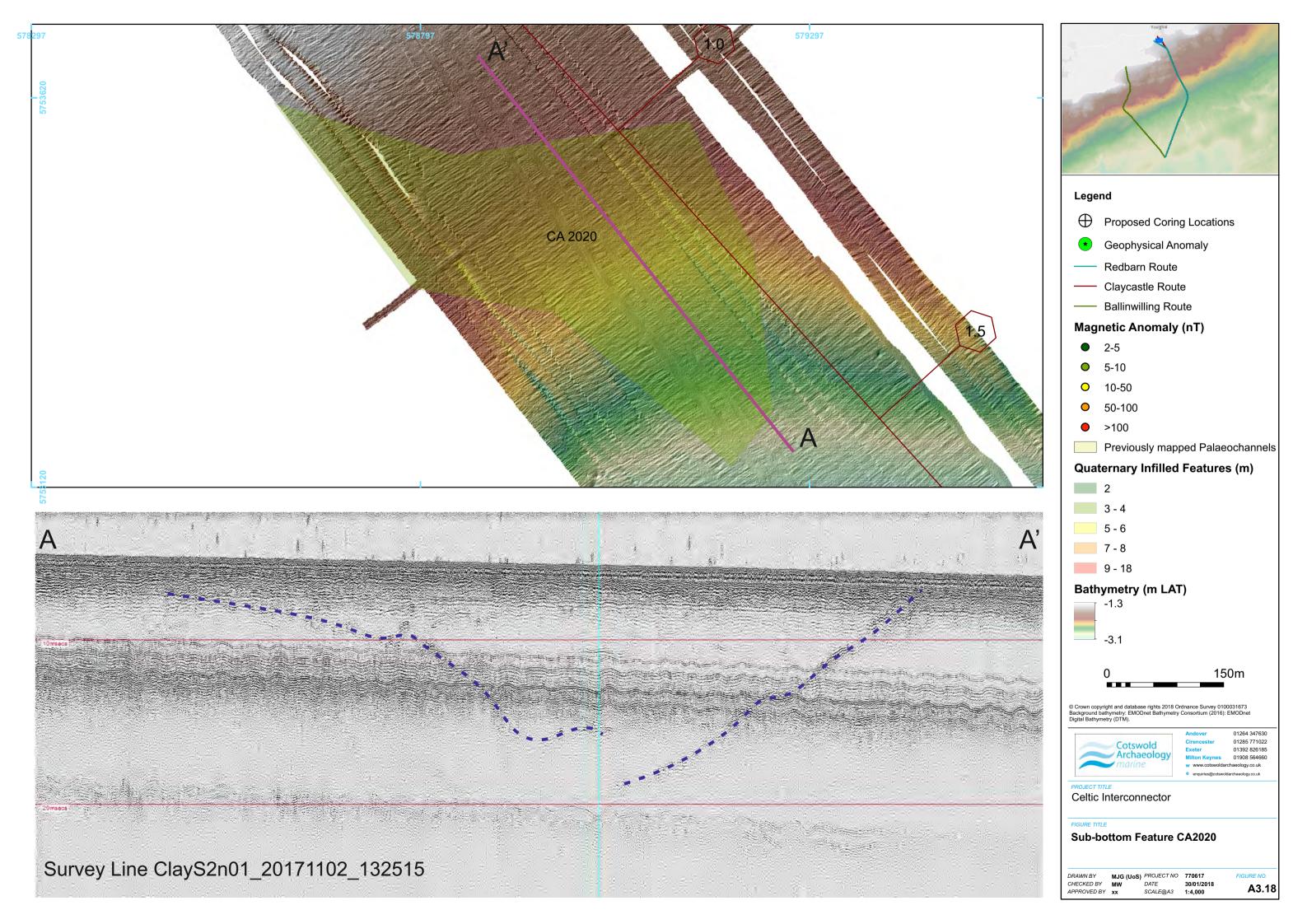


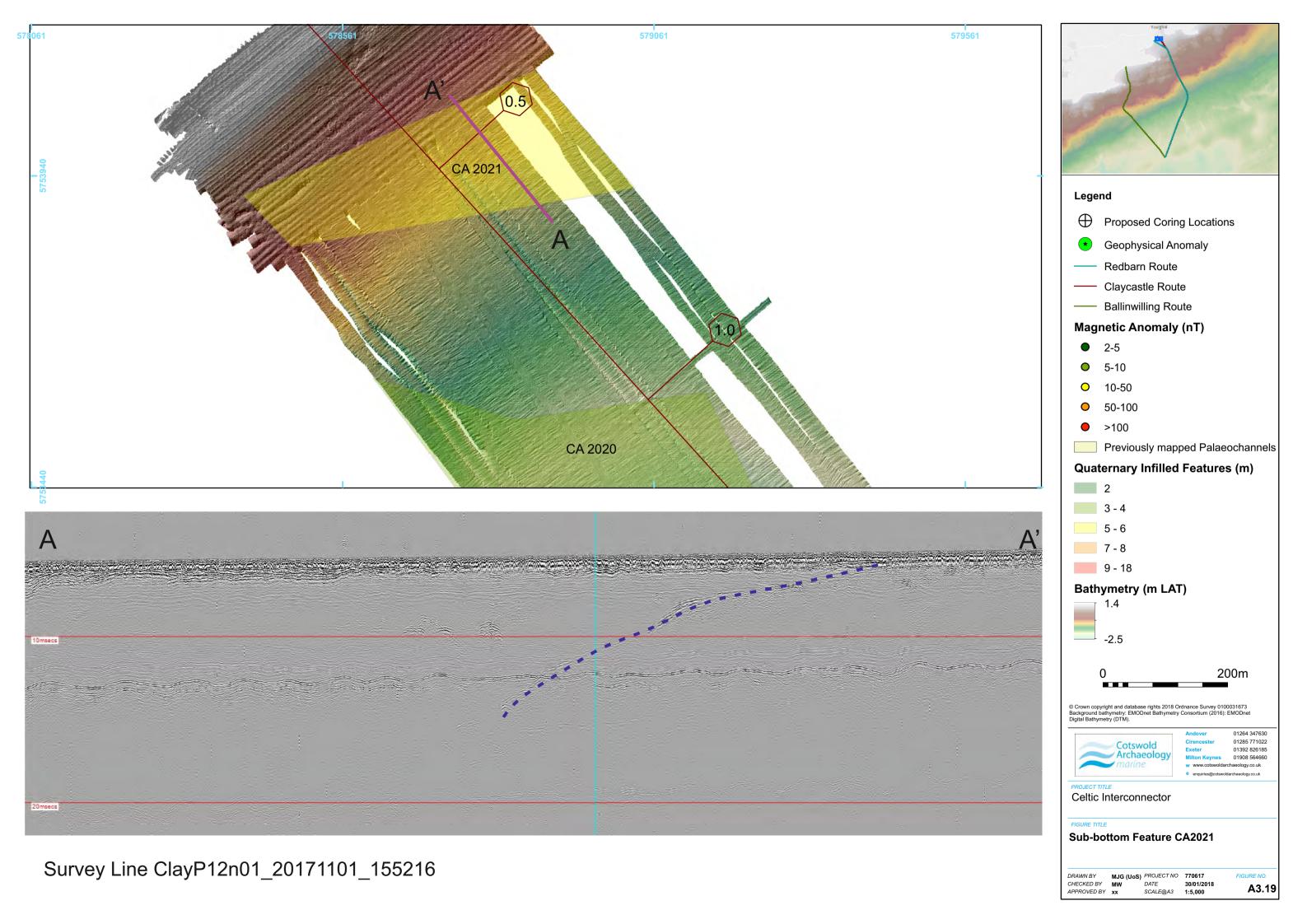




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APPENDIX 4: GEOTECHNICAL CORING LOCATIONS FROM THE IRISH TERRITORIAL LIMIT OUT TO THE IRISH / UK MEDIAN LINE

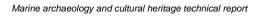
Table A4.1 below presents the locations of the vibrocores from the Irish territorial limit out to the Irish / UK median line. The vibrocore locations from redundant routes in Irish territorial waters has been removed, as they are not considered further.

Table A4.1 Vibrocore locations form the Irish territorial limit out to the Irish / UK median line

Vibrocore ID	Recovery (m)	m LAT	Easting	Northing
VC-018	2.25	-80.3	580507.4	5722983
VC-019	2.1	-82.1	581171.9	5721120
VC-020	0.65	-82.8	581881.2	5719142
VC-020A	0.44	-82.8	581884.3	5719134
VC-021	1.13	-83.4	582559.9	5717237
VC-021A	1.5	-83.4	582557.9	5717242
VC-022	1.4	-82.7	583156.1	5715563
VC-022A	2.5	-82.7	583154.3	5715570
VC-023	1.18	-83.3	583761.9	5713868
VC-023A	2.53	-83.3	583760.7	5713875
VC-024	0.38	-82.1	584332.9	5712267
VC-024A	0.42	-82.1	584331.1	5712274
VC-025	0.6	-80.7	584974.1	5710477
VC-026	0.84	-80.9	585581.1	5708783
VC-027	1.2	-82.5	586185.6	5707085
VC-027A	1.25	-82.4	586187.4	5707079
VC-028	0.44	-83.4	586772.8	5705440
VC-029	0.5	-83.5	587360.1	5703790
VC-030	0.81	-84.5	588001.3	5702003
VC-032	0.4	-84.3	589212.3	5698611
VC-033	1.3	-84.8	589816.6	5696916
VC-034	0.65	-85.4	590424.1	5695219
VC-035	0.1	-85.5	591027.2	5693529
VC-035A	0.58	-85.5	591024.4	5693535
VC-036	0.15	-86.2	591633.9	5691830
VC-036A	0.15	-86.2	591636.5	5691823
VC-037	0.5	-86.9	592239.1	5690136
VC-037A	0.7	-86.9	592242	5690129
VC-038	0.36	-87.2	592846.1	5688440
VC-039	1.91	-88.1	593468.6	5686699
VC-040	0.3	-88.9	594057	5685051
VC-041	1.51	-89.6	594662.1	5683356



Vibrocore ID	Recovery (m)	m LAT	Easting	Northing
VC-041A	1	-89.6	594663.9	5683348
VC-043	1.68	-90.7	595838.4	5680058
VC-043A	1.5	-90.7	595841.1	5680050
VC-044	3	-91	596341.8	5678646
VC-046	1.3	-91.8	596859.7	5675725
VC-047	2.37	-92.4	597160.2	5673805
VC-048	1.95	-92.6	598312.8	5672171
VC-049	1.4	-93	599275.7	5670436
VC-049A	1.04	-93	599278.2	5670429
VC-050	1.72	-93.6	599945.4	5668554
VC-050A	0.59	-93.6	599949.4	5668549
VC-051	0.65	-93.8	600618.3	5666671
VC-051A	0.85	-93.8	600616.7	5666676
VC-052	0.9	-94.2	601222.8	5664976
VC-052A	1.68	-94.2	601221.2	5664981
VC-053	0.8	-95.9	601660.6	5663749
VC-053A	0.46	-95.9	601662.8	5663743
VC-055	0.4	-97.6	602904.5	5660265
VC-055A	0.03	-97.7	602903.2	5660270
VC-056	0.08	-94.8	603443.4	5658759
VC-056A	1.56	-94.8	603445.6	5658754
VC-056B	2.18	-94.7	603447.8	5658748
VC-057	2	-90.6	603983.5	5657251
VC-058	1.38	-97.8	604756.8	5655087
VC-058A	0.81	-97.8	604755	5655094
VC-059	1.38	-95.9	605429.7	5653202
VC-059A	1.87	-95.9	605433.4	5653195
VC-060	1.08	-96.2	606103.6	5651320
VC-060A	2.25	-96.2	606105	5651310
VC-061	0.9	-96.9	606671.9	5649717
VC-061A	1.2	-96.9	606677	5649708
VC-062	0.85	-96.9	607275.4	5648022
VC-062A	0.82	-96.9	607280.9	5648016
VC-063	0.82	-99.3	607785.5	5646608
VC-063A	0.8	-99.4	607786.6	5646602
VC-064	1.54	-100.8	608489.3	5644632
VC-064A	0.24	-100.9	608491.7	5644626
VC-065	0.05	-101.1	609095	5642938
VC-065A	1.08	-101	609096.7	5642934
VC-066	1.75	-102.8	609869.2	5640772
VC-066A	1.95	-102.8	609872.4	5640764
VC-067	0	-101.9	610374	5639359





Vibrocore ID	Recovery (m)	m LAT	Easting	Northing
VC-067A	0	-101.9	610376.1	5639351
VC-067B	0.4	-101.9	610382.5	5639356
VC-068	2	-99.1	610909.3	5637852
VC-069	0	-101.2	611512.4	5636156
VC-069A	0.92	-101.2	611516.7	5636148
VC-071	1.12	-101.5	612759.5	5632672
VC-071A	0.25	-101.5	612762.8	5632664
VC-072	2.85	-101.6	613315.5	5631120
VC-073	0.3	-101.2	613869.8	5629565
VC-073A	0.69	-101.1	613872.1	5629556
VC-074	0.07	-102.4	614508.4	5627775
VC-074A	1.33	-102.5	614510.5	5627770
VC-075	1.4	-101.6	615115.5	5626080
VC-075A	2.72	-101.6	615114	5626071
VC-076	1.15	-103.3	615685.5	5624477
VC-076A	0.67	-103.3	615693.1	5624472
VC-077	1.9	-103.3	616356.9	5622596
VC-077A	1.01	-103.3	616363.5	5622592
VC-079	0.53	-104.6	617534.9	5619300
VC-079A	1.13	-104.6	617532.5	5619308
VC-082	0.96	-104.1	619385.5	5614121
VC-082A	0.36	-104.1	619379.7	5614129
VC-083	0.7	-103.8	619988.8	5612427
VC-083A	1.65	-103.8	619986	5612434
VC-084	1.25	-103.9	620727.7	5610355
VC-084A	0.88	-103.9	620729.7	5610361



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Celtic Interconnector

Volume 3D2 – Appendix 15B Geoarchaeological Assessment

June 2021









Cotswold Archaeology marine

Celtic Interconnector Project

Geoarchaeological Assessment



for EirGrid plc

CA Project: 770617

CA Report: 19017

January 2019





Celtic Interconnector project Geoarchaeological Assessment

CA project: 770617 CA report: 19017

prepared by	Coastal and Offshore Archaeological Research Services, University of Southampton		
	Maritime Archaeologist, Cotswold Archaeology - Marine		
date	January 2019		
checked by	Dr Senior Heritage Consultant - Marine		
date	January 2019		
approved by	Dr Senior Heritage Consultant - Marine		
signed			
date	January 2019		
issue	1.1		

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SUMMARY

Project name: Celtic Interconnector project

Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by EirGrid plc to undertake a geoarchaeological assessment in association with the 2018 Geotechnical Site Investigations for the Celtic Interconnector project.

Recent studies indicate that there is good potential for the presence of submerged landscapes containing archaeological evidence from the early Mesolithic through to the Iron Age, and palaeo-environmentally important deposits in and around Ballinwilling Strand, Redbarn Beach and Claycastle Beach.

In 2018, 85 separate site investigations were undertaken along the three proposed routes, comprising test pits and boreholes on the landfall and nearshore locations, and vibrocores in deeper water. The site investigations confirmed the presence of extensive Late Pleistocene glacial deposits overlain by marine deposits. At the nearshore locations, however, some estuarine deposits were also encountered, including the remains of a submerged forest at Claycastle beach. A preliminary desk-based assessment of the geotechnical survey data identified cores with geoarchaeological potential, with four cores selected for geoarchaeological recording.

An assessment of palaeoenvironmental potential was made, resulting in recommendations for a palaeoenvironmental assessment, including preliminary dating, of estuarine deposits from three cores associated with the Claycastle area.

Recommendations are also made for additional site investigations at Claycastle where the submerged forest deposits are present, should this be the chosen landfall location for the project.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Outline

1.1. Cotswold Archaeology (CA) was appointed by EirGrid plc in July 2017, under the Specialist Public Planning, Ecology and Environmental Services Framework, to prepare a marine cultural heritage assessment for the Celtic Interconnector project (Cotswold Archaeology 2017). This included an assessment of marine and coastal cultural assets, up to mean high water springs (MHWS), potentially affected by this project. The baseline environmental assessment considered previous work done in the areas of the proposed revised cable routes and indicated good palaeoenvironmental potential for understanding the submerged prehistoric landscapes of south-east Ireland, including contributing to studies of past sea level change.

Project background

- 1.2. In 2013, two national electricity transmission system operators, EirGrid plc in Ireland and Réseau de Transport d'Electricité (RTE) in France, signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement was to commission further preliminary studies on the feasibility of installing a submarine electricity interconnector between the south coast of Ireland and the north-west coast of France, a distance of some 600 kilometres. EirGrid and RTE then conducted studies which indicated that an interconnector between Ireland and France could be beneficial for electricity customers in both countries. The project would involve the procurement and installation of a 700+MW High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) interconnector which will include two HVDC converter stations, subsea cabling, and onshore lines/cables as appropriate.
- 1.3. EirGrid holds licences as independent electricity Transmission System Operator (TSO) and Market Operator (MO) in the wholesale trading system in Ireland and is the owner of the System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI Ltd), the licensed TSO and market operator in Northern Ireland. The EirGrid Group includes EirGrid plc, SEMO JV, EirGrid Interconnector Ltd, and EirGrid Telecoms Ltd.
- 1.4. RTE, an independent subsidiary of EDF, is a public service company responsible for operating, maintaining and developing the high and extra high voltage network in France. It guarantees the reliability and proper operation of the power network.
- 1.5. In 2013, EirGrid and RTE undertook the exploratory phase of this interconnector project with initial studies focussed on desktop analysis of the seabed to identify potential route corridors. Between 2014 and 2015 EirGrid completed a feasibility



study of the potential marine routes between Ireland and France, including geophysical and geotechnical / environmental marine surveys along the corridor between East Cork in Ireland and Brittany in France as well as investigations of two potential landfall sites. A desk-based assessment for this stage of the project was produced by Headland Archaeology (2014). An addendum was issued by Cotswold Archaeology (2017) to consider three revised/new potential cable routes within Irish territorial waters as well as three potential landfall locations; one revised and two new locations.

1.6. The revised / new cable routes run between three landfall options in Co. Cork (Ballinwilling Strand, Claycastle beach and Redbarn beach), and converge on the previously chosen route at the boundary of Irish territorial waters at 12 nautical miles (nm) (Figure 1). The revised routes were surveyed by Next Geosolutions in September to November 2017, and the data was passed to Cotswold Archaeology for a desk-based assessment in advance of the planned geotechnical site investigations.

Assessment of 2017 geophysical survey data

- 1.7. The 2018 geotechnical site investigations were planned to assess three potential landfall areas (Ballinwilling Strand, Claycastle beach and Redbarn beach) and the routes approaching them. In January 2018, Cotswold Archaeology commissioned Coastal and Offshore Archaeological Research Services (COARS), University of Southampton, to assess the marine geophysical survey data collected by Next Geosolutions.
- 1.8. The desk-based review of the geophysical data was undertaken to identify, locate and characterise features with possible archaeological potential, and to assess the sub-bottom profile data in order to establish the archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of the sub-surface sediments that may be encountered (Cotswold Archaeology 2018a). Cotswold Archaeology (2018b) undertook an impact assessment of the landfall sites, mapping the submerged forest deposits at Claycastle and highlighting their palaeo-environmental potential, as well as identifying archaeological features at each of the foreshore locations. These reviews were undertaken in advance of site investigations which would use intrusive techniques, such as vibrocores and boreholes.



1.9. The assessment of the marine geophysical data revealed a series of palaeochannels along all three route options. Along the Claycastle route there appears to be a series of deep fills between KP0.5 and KP5.0 where there is high potential for a nearshore submerged channel system. These may contain deposits with archaeological potential, such as submerged peats or estuarine deposits, corresponding with the onshore submerged forest peat deposits found at the Claycastle landfall site. By contrast the nearshore landfalls at Redbarn and Ballinwilling cross exposed bedrock where there is no archaeological potential for palaeo-environmental evidence unless it is located in the small channel seen meandering through the exposed bedrock. Previous coring associated with the offshore palaeo-channels has suggested that the channels may contain glaciomarine deposits at the near-surface, which would have low archaeological potential.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. The geo-archaeological assessment had the following aims:
 - To undertake a desk-based assessment of the geotechnical data to identify samples with geo-archaeological potential;
 - To inspect the core samples visually and describe samples identified as having geoarchaeological potential; and
 - To assess the archaeological potential of the core samples and make recommendations for any further geo-archaeological investigations of these samples.

3. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF GEOTECHNICAL DATA

- 3.1. A total of 85 interventions, ranging in elevation height from 11m to -83m lowest astronomical tide (LAT), were undertaken during the 2018 geotechnical site investigation phase (Fig. 1, Table 1). Onshore archaeological monitoring during the geotechnical investigations at Ballinwilling Strand, Redbarn beach and Claycastle beach was undertaken by IAC Archaeology (2018). This focused on 12 locations consisting of boreholes and test pits (indicated (*) in Table 1).
- 3.2. This assessment will consider the palaeo-environmental importance of the submerged forest deposits present at Claycastle beach that had been previously recorded during by Cotswold Archaeology (2018b; Figure 2).



- 3.3. Geotechnical samples were collected with the purpose of informing the engineering design, with recording and laboratory testing undertaken by Next GeoSolutions. All samples were split longitudinally and photographed prior to recording of the deposits by the geotechnical specialists, prior to sub-sampling with respect to both the stratigraphy encountered and the testing scheduled. The destructive laboratory testing included:
 - Moisture content at least 50g (fine grained soil), 3kg (coarse grained);
 - Atterberg Limits at least 600g passing 425µm sieve;
 - Particle size distribution at least 500g (for samples with grain sizes <10mm),
 35kg (for samples with grain sizes <50mm);
 - Minimum/maximum density at least 6kg (sand), 16kg (gravelly soil);
 - Oedometer undisturbed sample at least 1 x diameter in length;
 - Unconsolidated undrained triaxial undisturbed sample at least 2 x diameter in length; and
 - Consolidated triaxial undisturbed sample at least 2 x diameter in length.
- 3.4. Core sections not subjected to destructive testing were retained by Next GeoSolutions and were made available to Cotswold Archaeology. Core photographs and descriptions were provided to enable Cotswold Archaeology to undertake a desk-based assessment of the geo-archaeological potential of the samples.
- 3.5. The assessment of the offshore vibrocore logs identified the following broad stratigraphic units within the cores:
 - Marine sand with shell;
 - Gravels and sand; and
 - Compacted, probably over-consolidated, glacially-derived deposits including diamictons, clays and sub-glacial/outwash sand horizons.



Table 1 2018 Site investigation locations

Core ID	Easting (UTM29N)	Northing (UTM29N)	Elevation (m LAT)
BW2-BH-1 *	570265	5746647	6.73
BW2-BH-2 *	570282	5746588	-0.37
BW2-BH-3	570308	5746478	0.47
BW2-CPT_VC-1	570565	5745468	-7.67
BW2-CPT _ VC-2	570861	5744335	-15.21
BW2-TP1 *	570276	5746622	0.67
BW2-TP2 *	5701291	5746565	-0.87
BW2-VC-03	571125	5742899	-22
BW2-VC-04	571384	5741478	-30
BW2-VC-04A	571370	5741484	-30
BW2-VC-05	571216	5740019	-37
BW2-VC-05A	571212	5740030	-37
BW2-VC-06	570672	6738649	-43
BW2-VC-07	569960	5737329	-44
BW2-VC-07A	569976	5737337	-45
BW2-VC-08	569690	5736341	-51
BW2-VC-08A	569697	5736346	-51
BW2-VC-09	569934	5735736	-56
BW2-VC-10	571694	5733975	-63
BW2-VC-10A	571696	5733990	-64
BW2-VC-11	572695	5732677	-67
BW2-VC-12	573710	5731495	-72
BW2-VC-12A	573696	5731498	-72
BW2-VC-13	574690	5730363	-76
BW2-VC-14	575680	5729235	-80
BW2-VC-14A	575667	5729236	-79
BW2-VC-15	576671	5728105	-80
BW2-VC-15A	576672	5728122	-81
BW2-VC-16	577661	5726978	-79



Core ID	Easting (UTM29N)	Northing (UTM29N)	Elevation (m LAT)
BW2-VC-16A	577661	5726991	-80
BW2-VC-17	578648	5725853	-80
BW2-VC-18A	579520	5724639	-83
CL-BH-1 *	578387	5754308	3.33
CL-BH-2 *	578432	5754258	0.57
CL-BH-3	578496	5754176	-0.37
CL-CPT _ VC-2	579848	5752527	-6.97
CL-CPT _ VC-3	580198	5752043	-9.99
CL-CPT_VC-1	579150	5753381	-2.41
CL-CPT_VC-1A	549145	5753381	-2.41
CL-TP1 *	578396	5754300	2.19
CL-TP2 *	578440	5754248	0.73
CL-VC-02	579850	5752523	-7
CL-VC-04	581068	5750805	-19
CL-VC-05	581605	5749403	-28
CL-VC-06	582128	5748005	-31
CL-VC-07	582686	5746622	-34
CL-VC-08	583224	5745213	-38
CL-VC-09	583876	5743864	-47
CL-VC-10	584605	5742559	-55
CL-VC-11	585334	5741240	-62
CL-VC-11A	585338	5741252	-62
CL-VC-12	585963	5739899	-70
CL-VC-12A	585985	5739902	-70
CL-VC-13	586010	5738424	-70
CL-VC-13A	586017	5738432	-70
CL-VC-14	585566	5736988	-71
CL-VC-14A	585582	5736997	-71
CL-VC-15	584999	5735629	-74
CL-VC-16	584413	5734225	-77



Core ID	Easting (UTM29N)	Northing (UTM29N)	Elevation (m LAT)
CL-VC-16A	584411	5734234	-77
CL-VC-17	583827	5732859	-75
CL-VC-17A	583849	5732857	-75
CL-VC-18	583306	5731435	-78
CL-VC-18A	583317	5731444	-79
CL-VC-19	582793	5730032	-80
CL-VC-19A	582807	5730041	-80
CL-VC-20	582268	5728624	-80
CL-VC-20A	582280	5728632	-80
CL-VC-21	581747	5727218	-80
CL-VC-21A	581739	5727227	-80
CL-VC-22	581231	5725809	-80
CL-VC-23	580710	5724399	-82
CL-VC-23A	580722	5724409	-82
CL-VC-23B	580709	5724399	-82
CL-VC-24	580359	5723405	-82
CL-VC-24A	580374	5723413	-83
RB-BH-1 *	577557	5753240	4.2
RB-BH-2 *	577621	5753202	-0.05
RB-BH-3	577819	5753080	-0.53
RB-BH-4	577795	5753003	-0.07
RB-CPT_VC-1	578504	5752678	3.1
RB-CPT_VC-2	580009	5751736	11.03
RB-TP1 *	577581	5753228	1.61
RB-TP2 *	577683	5753162	-1.56
RB-VC-02A	580027	5751726	-15

^{*} monitored by IAC Archaeology



- 3.6. No peats or possible palaeosol horizons were identified in either the vibrocores or the core photos and were not alluded to in the sediment logs. The predominance of marine and glacial deposits suggests that these cores have low geo-archaeological potential and would therefore not require any geo-archaeological recording to assess palaeo-environmental potential.
- 3.7. The nearshore / onshore cores were identified as having higher geo-archaeological potential. These demonstrated the presence of similar stratigraphic units as those identified in the offshore cores, along with the presence of:
 - Peat horizons (including the submerged forests identified at Claycastle); and
 - Estuarine clay.
 - 3.8. The following cores were identified as having potential from the three landfall / nearshore sites:
 - BW2-BH3
 - RB-CPT_VC-1
 - CL-BH1
 - CL-BH3
 - CL-CPT_VC-1A

