Southfield, Bridgehampton
Yeovil
Somerset

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation

The Environmental Dimension Partnership

for
on behalf of
British Solar Renewables Ltd

CA Project: 880037

July 2015
Southfield, Bridgehampton
Yeovil
Somerset

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation

CA Project: 880037

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out details of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) for an archaeological excavation at Southfield, Bridgehampton, Yeovil, Somerset (centred at NGR: ST 5746 2369) at the request of The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) on behalf of British Solar Renewables Ltd.

1.2 Planning permission for a solar park comprising the erection of solar arrays, inverters, transformers, equipment housing, security fencing, internal tracks and ancillary equipment was granted by South Somerset District Council (SSDC) (SSDC ref: no 14/00215/FUL), conditional (no 9) on a programme of archaeological work. The requirements for the archaeological works were confirmed in an email from Steven Memberry, Senior Historic Environment Officer, South West Heritage Trust and archaeological advisor to SSDC dated 8 September 2014. These works are only required in the north-western part of the site (Field 1).

1.3 This WSI has been guided in its composition by the Standard and guidance: Archaeological excavation (CIfA 2014), the Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1991), the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager’s Guide (EH 2006) and any other relevant standards or guidance contained within Appendix B.

The site

1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of 22.74ha, and comprises three fields located c. 570m to the south of West Camel. The site is bounded to the south-west by an unclassified road, to the north-west by Southfield Farm and to the north-east and south-east by agricultural land. The site is divided internally by hedgerow boundaries. The site is also bounded to the south and south-west by the Hornsey Brook and an un-named tributary of the brook runs through the centre of the site. The north-western part of the site lies at approximately 30m AOD and the ground drops downward to the south-east (to c. 23m AOD).

1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Triassic Period. This is overlain by Alluvium in the south-eastern part of the site (adjacent to the Hornsey Brook) (BGS 2015).
2. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 An Archaeological and Heritage Assessment has been prepared (EDP 2013) and the salient points are outlined below:

2.2 No undesignated heritage assets were identified within the site but such assets were identified within the vicinity of the site. The majority of these relate to medieval and post-medieval settlement and/or farming activity.

2.3 No prehistoric features were identified within, or in the vicinity of, the site. A Roman roadside settlement (SAM 1020936) has been identified 1.75km to the north-east of the site and the Roman town of Ilchester is located c. 4km to the west of the site.

2.4 West Camel (c. 255m to the north of the site; HER Ref. 55874) has early medieval origins, as does the deserted medieval settlement of Little Marston (HER Ref. 54636). Cartographic evidence also suggests that a medieval settlement site may also be located 420m to the east of the site.

2.5 Ridge and furrow earthworks survive within the site and these may have enhanced the preservation of archaeological features and deposits. It is also possible that alluvial deposits may have enhanced the preservation of underlying archaeological remains. The existence of ridge and furrow earthworks, together with the evidence for medieval settlement in the vicinity, suggests that the site lay within the agricultural hinterland throughout the medieval period (EDP 2013).

2.6 A geophysical survey was also undertaken (PCG 2013). No potentially significant anomalies were identified in Fields 2 and 3 (the central and south-eastern parts of the site). A number of potentially significant anomalies were identified in Field 1 and these comprised:

Anomaly 1: An enclosure, and associated features of Prehistoric and/or Roman date with an associated ditch (2) extending to the south and possible pit(s) (3).

Anomalies 4 to 5, 14 and 19: Possible pits.
Anomalies 8 to 12 and 16: Possible ditches

Probable field boundary ditches were also identified (Anomalies 6, 7, 17 and 18), together with modern disturbance (Anomalies 15 and 20 to 23). Ridge and furrow earthworks were also identified during the survey.

3. **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation are to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains

3.2 The specific aims of the work are to:

- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy

4. **METHODOLOGY**

**Excavation**

4.1 The archaeological excavation will be undertaken throughout the areas shown on the attached plan; the enclosure (Anomaly 1) and associated features (including the northern part of Anomaly 2) will be subject to archaeological excavation. Excavation areas will be set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica GPS and scanned for live services by trained staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the Cotswold Archaeology Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services. The position and size of excavation areas may be adjusted
on site to account for services and other constraints, with the approval of the Steven Memberry, Senior Historic Environment Officer, South West Heritage Trust. The final ‘as dug’ areas will be recorded with GPS.

**Evaluation**

4.2 Anomalies 2 to 5, 10-13 and 17-18 will be further investigated by the excavation of six trial trenches, each 30m in length and 2.0m in width.

**General**

4.3 Initially works will comprise the mechanical removal of non-archaeologically significant soils, under constant archaeological supervision, using a toothless ditching bucket. The generated spoil will be monitored in order to recover artefacts. Hand-cleaning of the stripped surface, to better define any identified archaeological deposits/features, will be undertaken where necessary. All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision and will cease when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). All archaeological features will be recorded in plan using Leica GPS.

4.4 Examination of features will concentrate on recovering the plan and any structural sequences. Particular emphasis will be placed upon retrieving a stratigraphic sequence and upon obtaining details of the phasing of the site. All funerary/ritual activity and domestic/industrial deposits will be 100% excavated. All discrete features (post holes, pits) will be sampled by hand excavation (average sample unlikely to exceed 50%) unless their common/repetitious nature suggests they are unlikely to yield significant new information. All linear features (ditches, pathways etc) will be sampled to a maximum of 10%. Bulk horizontal deposits will as a minimum be 10% by area hand excavated, after which a decision may be taken (in conjunction with Steven Memberry) to remove the remainder with machinery. Priority will be attached to features which yield sealed assemblages which can be related to the chronological sequence of the site.

4.5 All archaeological features revealed will be planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1 *Fieldwork Recording Manual*. Each context will be recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits will be recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50, or electronically using Leica GPS or Total Station (TST) as appropriate) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Where detailed feature planning is
undertaken using GPS/TST this will be carried out in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 Survey Manual. Photographs (digital colour) will be taken as appropriate. All finds and samples will be bagged separately and related to the context record. All artefacts will be recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.

4.6 Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. Samples will be taken, processed and assessed for potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2 The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites.

4.7 If human remains are encountered, the client and Steven Membery will be informed immediately. Where excavation of human remains is undertaken, this will be conducted following the provisions of the Coroners Unit in the Ministry of Justice.

4.8 CA will comply fully with the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred to therein.

5. **STAFF AND TIMETABLE**

5.1 This project will be under the management of Laurent Coleman MClfA, Project Manager, CA.

5.2 The staffing structure will be organised thus: the Project Manager will direct the overall conduct of the evaluation as required during the period of fieldwork. Day to day responsibility however will rest with the Project Leader who will be on-site throughout the project.

5.3 The field team will consist of a maximum of 5 staff (eg 1 Project Officer and 4 Archaeologists).

5.4 It is envisaged that the project will require approximately two to three weeks’ fieldwork. Analysis of the results and subsequent reporting will take up to a further three weeks.
5.5 Specialists who will be invited to advise and report on specific aspects of the project as necessary are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Consultant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ceramics</td>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metalwork</td>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flint</td>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Bone</td>
<td>Dr Philip Armitage (freelance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Bone</td>
<td>Dr Annsofie Witkin (freelance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Remains</td>
<td>Sarah Cobain (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Wiltshire Conservation Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoarchaeology</td>
<td>Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.6 Depending upon the nature of the deposits and artefacts encountered it may be necessary to consult other specialists not listed here. A full list of specialists currently used by Cotswold Archaeology is contained within Appendix A.

6. POST-EXCAVATION, ARCHIVING AND REPORTING

6.1 Following completion of fieldwork, all artefacts and environmental samples will be processed, assessed, conserved and packaged in accordance with CA Technical Manuals and the relevant recipient Museum guidelines.

6.2 An illustrated report will be compiled on the results of the fieldwork and assessment of the artefacts, palaeoenvironmental samples etc. Copies of the report (hard and PDF) will be supplied to EDP for onward distribution.

6.3 Should no further work be required, an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007).

6.4 As the limited scope of this work is likely to restrict its publication value, it is anticipated that a short publication note only will be produced, suitable for inclusion within an appropriate local archaeological journal. A summary of information from
the project will also be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

6.5 An ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007).

6.6 CA will make arrangements with the appropriate for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection.

7. **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

7.1 CA will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation, CA Health and Safety and Environmental policies and the CA Safety, Health and Environmental Management System (SHE), as well as any Principal Contractor's policies or procedures. A site-specific Project Health and Safety Plan (form SHE 017) will be formulated prior to commencement of fieldwork.

8. **INSURANCES**

8.1 CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £5,000,000.

9. **MONITORING**

9.1 Notification of the start of site works will be made to Steven Membery so that there will be opportunities to visit the excavation and check on the quality and progress of the work.

10. **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

10.1 CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field
Archaeology (CIfA 2014). All CA Project Managers and Project Officers hold either full Member or Associate status within the CIfA.

10.2 CA operates an internal quality assurance system in the following manner. Projects are overseen by a Project Manager who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors, and in cases of dispute recourse may be made to the Chairman of the Board.

11. REFERENCES


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PCG (Pre-Construct Geophysics) 2013 Proposed Solar Farm, Land at Southfield Farm, Bridgehampton, Somerset
# APPENDIX A: COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS

## Ceramics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Specialist 1</th>
<th>Specialist 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neolithic/Bronze Age</td>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
<td>Emily Edwards (freelance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Ros Cleal (freelance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Age/Roman</td>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
<td>Gwladys Montell (freelance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Samian)</td>
<td></td>
<td>David Williams (freelance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Amphorae stamps)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anglo-Saxon</td>
<td>Paul Blinkhorn (freelance)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Jane Timby (freelance)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medieval/post-medieval</td>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
<td>Duncan Brown (freelance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Clay pipe)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Blinkhorn (freelance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramic Building Material</td>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
<td>Phil Mills (freelance)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Other Finds

### Small Finds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialist 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
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### Metal Artefacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialist 1</th>
<th>Specialist 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Jörn Schuster (freelance)</td>
<td>Dr Hilary Cool (freelance)</td>
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### Lithics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialist 1</th>
<th>Specialist 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
<td>Jackie Sommerville (CA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Palaeolithic)</td>
<td>Francis Wenban-Smith (University of Southampton)</td>
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### Worked Stone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialist 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Shaffrey (freelance)</td>
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### Inscriptions

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<th>Specialist 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Roger Tomlin (Oxford)</td>
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### Glass

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialist 1</th>
<th>Specialist 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
<td>Dr Hilary Cool (freelance)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr David Dungworth (freelance; English Heritage)</td>
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### Coins

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialist 1</th>
<th>Specialist 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed McSloy (CA)</td>
<td>Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr Richard Reece (freelance)</td>
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### Leather

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quita Mould (freelance)</td>
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### Textiles

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<tr>
<td>Penelope Walton Rogers (freelance)</td>
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### Iron slag/metal technology

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Tim Young (Cardiff University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr David Dungworth (English Heritage)</td>
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## Biological Remains

### Animal bone

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<tr>
<th>Specialist 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philip Armitage (freelance)</td>
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### Human Bone

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<tr>
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<th>Specialist 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Clough (freelance)</td>
<td>Annsofie Witkin (freelance)</td>
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### Environmental sampling

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Specialist 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Cobain (CA)</td>
<td>Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)</td>
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### Pollen

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<tr>
<td>Rob Batchelor (QUEST, University of Reading)</td>
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### Diatoms

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nigel Cameron (UCL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charred Plant Remains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood/Charcoal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insects</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Mollusca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish bones</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geoarchaeology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scientific Dating</strong></td>
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<td>Dendrochronology</td>
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<td>Radiocarbon dating</td>
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<td>Archaeomagnetic dating</td>
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<tr>
<td>TL/OSL Dating</td>
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<td><strong>Conservation</strong></td>
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</table>
APPENDIX B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

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