

Flaxlands Solar Farm

Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey

Ampyr Solar Europe

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Prepared for:

Ampyr Solar Europe

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM (hereafter 'the Consultant') has been commissioned by Ampyr Solar Europe (hereafter 'the Client') to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation comprising geophysical (magnetometer) survey of 82.97 hectares (ha) of land at the site of a proposed solar development north of Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire. The full Site area comprises 87.5ha, although hedged field boundaries and areas of mature trees have been scoped out of the survey area. The proposed geophysical survey is to be undertaken in support of a desk-based assessment of the proposed Flaxlands Solar Farm, located 1.2 km north of the town of Royal Wootton Bassett and 3.2 km west of Swindon, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid reference (NGR) SU 06910 85466 (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.2 It is anticipated that the Proposed Development will comprise the construction 49.9 megawatt (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays and a 49.9 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to allow for the creation, storage and exportation of energy to the National Grid, with associated access, landscaping and other infrastructure works.
- 1.3 A geophysical survey is required to examine the area for potential buried archaeological features. This information will be used to inform the requirement for further work, which may include a trial trench evaluation, or further works as part of an archaeological mitigation strategy, if required, in consultation with the Wiltshire Archaeology Service, the Archaeological Advisor for Wiltshire Council.
- 1.4 This WSI and accompanying figure sets out the methodology required for an archaeological geophysical survey of the Site. The works specified in this document will be carried out by an archaeological geophysical survey team (hereafter 'the Archaeological Contractor').
- 1.5 This WSI has been prepared by the Consultant on behalf of the Client in accordance with guidance provided by the European Archaeological Council (EAC) (Schmidt et al. 2016) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (CIfA) (2022) and Standard and Guidance for Geophysical Survey (CIfA) (2020). The WSI will be submitted to Wiltshire Archaeology Service prior to the start of works.
- 1.6 The geophysical survey works specified within this WSI will contribute to the understanding of the known and potential archaeological resource within the Site. The results of the geophysical survey will inform the design of any further archaeological evaluation and/or a mitigation strategy (which will require their own specific WSIs). The geophysical survey results will also inform the baseline of a Desk-Based assessment (DBA), which will employ a study area of 1 km for both designated and non-designated assets in agreement with Wiltshire Archaeology Service. This study area has therefore also been utilised for the purposes of the summary background within this WSI (Section 3).

2. Site Conditions

Location

- 2.1 The Site is located within the county of Wiltshire, 1.2 km north of the town of Royal Wootton Bassett and 3.2 km west of Swindon (central NGR: SU 06910 85466) (see Figure 1). The Site comprises of two land parcels, a western and eastern land parcel, joined via Flaxlands Lane. The Site covers an area of approximately 87.5 ha and is composed of predominantly greenfield, agricultural land (pasture). The Site is bounded to the west and north-west by woodland, to the north by agricultural land and to the east by agricultural land, woodland, highway, commercial and residential properties associated with the village of Hook. To the south the Site is bounded by agricultural land, woodland and beyond, the M4 motorway.

Topography

- 2.2 The Site is situated in agricultural (pasture) fields and consists of gently sloping ground, with levels ranging from approximately 110 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the Site's south-western extents, to approximately 150 m AOD at the Site's northern edge, adjacent to Frith Copse. The Site's eastern land

parcel slopes gently to the south from this high point, with the south-eastern extents being located at 139 m AOD.

- 2.3 The agricultural fields within the Site are considered by the Consultant as appropriate for geophysical survey. The fields are currently maintained as pasture, with the access for geophysical survey proposed for Autumn 2024.

Geology and Soils

- 2.4 The British Geological Survey (BGS) website indicates that the Site is underlain by 'Oxford Clay Formation' (mudstone), 'Hazelbury Bryan Formation and Kingston Formation' (sandstone, siltstone and mudstone), Stanford Formation (Limestone), Amphill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (Mudstone) and Amphill Clay Formation (Mudstone) (BGS 2024).
- 2.5 The BGS mapping shows that there is no superficial geology recorded beneath the majority of the Proposed Development, however, gravel, sand, silt, and clay is found across the south-east portion of the Site (BGS 2024).
- 2.6 The Coal Authority website shows no records of coal mining in the vicinity of the Site, nor is it located within a Coal Mining Reporting Area (The Coal Authority 2024).
- 2.7 The typical soils at the Site are recorded as freely draining, shallow, loamy, lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone (Cranfield Soilscales 2024).
- 2.8 The mudstone geology of the Site is recorded as producing average responses (with varied results) to magnetometer survey (Historic England 2008). Magnetometer survey can be recommended over any sedimentary geology, although it should be noted that average response to survey can be poor over some Sandstones (*ibid.*). However, due to the rural setting, archaeological remains, if present, are anticipated to be located (notwithstanding cultivation disturbance) just below topsoil and subsoil, between 0.1–0.8 m OD, and as such the technique of magnetometer survey is deemed appropriate for near surface prospection and mapping of potential archaeological remains (*ibid.*).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The following archaeological and historical background summary is a general summary for the purposes of this WSI. It is drawn from National Heritage List for England (NHLE) data supplied by Historic England and Historic Environment Record (HER) data from Wiltshire Council. The bracketed numbers within the text relate to recorded heritage asset numbers from the NHLE and HER. A 1 km study area around the Site boundary has been employed for the purpose of this summary.
- 3.2 There are no World Heritage Sites or Registered Battlefields within 1 km of the Site.
- 3.3 There are no Scheduled Monuments located within 1 km of the Site, the closest being 'Ringsbury Camp hillfort' (NHLE 1018124), a small, multivallate hillfort of Iron Age date. This is located approximately 1.2 km north-east of the Site. The scheduled 'Rabbit warren 800 m east of Woodlane Farm' (NHLE 1019730), the earthwork remains of a medieval or post-medieval warren and warrener's cottage, is located approximately 1.6 km west of the Site.
- 3.4 There are a total of eight listed buildings within 1 km of the Site, all listed at Grade II. The closest listed building to the Site comprises Manor Farmhouse (NHLE 1199833), an 18th century brick building replacing one of earlier construction, located approximately 130 m south-west of the Site's eastern land parcel.
- 3.5 There is one Registered Park and Garden within the 1 km of the Site which is Grade II listed Lydiard Park (NHLE 1001238), located approximately 960 m east of the Site.
- 3.6 There are no Conservation Areas within 1 km of the Site, although two are recorded within 2 km, namely Lydiard Green and Wootton Bassett which are located 1.1 km north-east and 1.7 km south of the Site respectively.

- 3.7 The Wiltshire HER does not record any assets within the Site boundary. There are 94 assets recorded within the 1km study area.
- 3.8 Neolithic and Bronze Age evidence within 1 km of the Site is limited to chance finds including that of a Neolithic Cornish greenstone axe (MWI9250), found at Lydiard Millicent, approximately 760 m to the north-west of the Site and a Bronze Age Arrowhead (MWI9328), recorded 860 m to the south of the Site on the opposing side of the M4.
- 3.9 Developmental works to the south of the M4, notably the evaluation (EWI7465) and subsequent excavation (EWI7899) at Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub in 2014 (AC Archaeology 2014) have provided much of the information concerning the later Prehistoric and Roman periods in proximity to the Site.
- 3.10 The works at the Marsh Farm site (later to become the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub), 350 m to the south of the Site boundary, identified an Iron Age Roundhouse (MWI75178), field boundary (MWI75179) and other structures (MWI75180).
- 3.11 Notable Roman settlement activity identified at the Sports Hub site included a Roman building (MWI74348), pits and quarries (MWI74350), wells (MWI75181) and enclosures (MWI74347). A Romano-British Grave (MWI75182) was also encountered during the 2014 excavation works.
- 3.12 Later works on an adjacent area of the Marsh Farm site by Thames Valley Archaeological Services include a 2015 evaluation (EWI7900) and 2020 excavation (EWI9754), which revealed medieval settlement and agricultural activity including postholes, a field boundary (MWI75186), linear system MWI77358) and enclosure (MWI77360).
- 3.13 Further evidence of medieval settlement is recorded at Ballards Ash (MWI9351), to the south-west of the 1 km study area and at Hook (MWI9352), 190 m to the east of the Site. The location of a medieval deer park (MWI9405), known as Vastern Great Park, is recorded 550 m to the south of the Site.
- 3.14 A post-medieval quarry (MWI75184) and field boundary (MWI75185) were amongst post-medieval landscape features recorded during the works at Marsh Farm by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWI7900; EWI9754), and the post-medieval (19th century) farmstead of Godwin's Farm (MWI67392) is recorded 780 m north-east of the Site.
- 3.15 A concentration of Second World War (WWII) anti-invasion infrastructure is recorded between Ballards Ash, to the south-west of the Site on the opposing side of the M4 Motorway and Hook Street, on the eastern edge of the 1 km study area. A total of 18 assets are recorded in total, largely identified through analysis undertaken by the Pillbox Study Group. These are detailed as follows:
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Godwins Farm (MWI77724);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, East of Greatfield (MWI77742);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Greatfield (MWI77743);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Frith Copse (MWI77744);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Frith Copse (MWI77745);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Frith Copse (MWI77746);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Morris's Copse (MWI77747);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Flaxlands Farm (MWI77748);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Flaxlands Farm (MWI77749);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Flaxlands Farm (MWI77750);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, East of Flaxlands Cottage (MWI77751);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, South of Midgehall Copse (MWI77752);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Ballards Ash (MWI77753);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, South of Ballards Ash (MWI77754);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Southwest of Ballards Ash (MWI77755);

- WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Southwest of Ballards Ash (MWI77756);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Southwest of Ballards Ash (MWI77757); and
 - WWII Anti-Tank Dragon's Teeth at Hook Street (MWI32002)
- 3.16 Although recorded (as points) immediately outside of the Site boundary, the site inspection undertaken to inform this WSI identified that the linear anti-tank ditches (MWI77746; (MWI77747) at Frith Copse and Morris Copse likely survive as low earthworks within the Site's eastern land parcel.
- 3.17 Undated features likely to represent pits (MWI31587) and undated linear features (MWI31586) were amongst those identified by a 2011 geophysical survey (EWI7067) on land south of Hook Street, 300 m to the south-east of the Site.
- 3.18 The Site has no coverage on the Environment Agency 1 m DSM LiDAR dataset, and therefore this data was not reviewed as part of this summary.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 Consultation with Wiltshire Archaeology Service has been undertaken and further consultation will be conducted following the completion of the survey and Desk-based Assessment.
- 4.2 The general objectives of the geophysical survey will be to:
- investigate the archaeological potential of the Site;
 - assess the presence/absence of potential archaeological anomalies;
 - inform the layout of further desktop studies or evaluation fieldwork, or to aid the determination of a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy and programme; and
 - to produce a report on the findings of the works, which should follow the report outline in the standards and guidance listed below and the requirements detailed in Section 9.
- 4.3 The fieldwork should be carried out in accordance with the EAC *Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology* (Schmidt et al. 2016) (which has superseded Historic England's *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008)) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (2020).
- 4.4 The suitability of the area for geophysical survey should be confirmed by the Archaeological Contractor prior to the survey commencing. This will be confirmed either with a preliminary site visit before the works are scheduled to begin, or the first day of the proposed survey.

5. Scope of Works

- 5.1 The area for geophysical survey is shown on Figure 2 within the Site Boundary. The total Site area amounts to approximately 87.5 ha, with approximately 82.97 ha of this, comprising pasture fields across both the east and west land parcels, being suitable for detailed geophysical (magnetometer) survey. Hedged field boundaries, and areas of mature trees have been scoped out of the survey area.
- 5.2 The Consultant has undertaken a preliminary inspection of the survey area as part of the preparation of this document in August 2024. The inspection identified that the Site (and proposed geophysical survey area) is comprised of a total of 22 fields, under pasture at the time of the visit. No previously unrecorded archaeological features were observed, and no physical obstructions other than extant hedged field boundaries, fences and mature trees were noted. The Consultant will notify the Archaeological Contractor of these areas in advance of commencing site survey works. The details of each field within the survey area are shown on Figure 2 and detailed in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Survey area fields and conditions.

Name	Conditions	Area (ha)	Central NGR
Field 1	Pasture	0.72	SU 06246 85658
Field 2	Pasture	1.73	SU 06160 85527
Field 3	Pasture	2.20	SU 06087 85374
Field 4	Pasture	3.68	SU 06049 85170
Field 5	Pasture	3.84	SU 06410 85693
Field 6	Pasture	2.96	SU 06318 85533
Field 7	Pasture	3.36	SU 06272 85376
Field 8	Pasture	2.10	SU 06256 85256
Field 9	Pasture	5.18	SU 06237 85106
Field 10	Pasture	2.70	SU 06235 84963
Field 11	Pasture	9.07	SU 06465 85309
Field 12	Pasture	7.43	SU 06697 85569
Field 13	Pasture	2.00	SU 06853 85654
Field 14	Pasture	3.28	SU 06746 85369
Field 15	Pasture	5.70	SU 07090 85393
Field 16	Pasture	8.53	SU 07288 85121
Field 17	Pasture	4.09	SU 06986 84996
Field 18	Pasture	2.00	SU 07162 84911
Field 19	Pasture	2.14	SU 07091 84773
Field 20	Pasture	4.14	SU 07278 84819
Field 21	Pasture	1.57	SU 07393 84811
Field 22	Pasture	4.55	SU 07500 84806
		TOTAL 82.97 ha	

5.3 Access to undertake the survey has been agreed with the landowner for Autumn 2024. The Client (Ampyr Solar Europe) will be contacted by the Archaeological Contractor prior to the works to schedule and confirm the start of survey.

5.4 Magnetometer survey is the preferred technique for the detailed geophysical survey. Although Historic England's *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008) has been superseded by the *EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology* (Schmidt et al. 2016), Historic England's guidance records average/variable results for magnetometer survey for areas of Mudstone geology, such

as the Site (see section 2.8 for further detail). Survey can also be recommended over any sedimentary geology, although it should be noted that average response to survey can be poor over some Sandstones, which are also present within the Site (Historic England 2008). Both sets of guidelines, however, categorise the technique of magnetometer survey as responding well in many conditions to identifying features such as ditches, pits and gullies (such as those identified during the works at Marsh Farm to the south of the Site). This therefore elicits confidence in the suitability for the chosen survey technique for the Site.

- 5.5 Any alteration to survey technique and methodology will be discussed and agreed with the Consultant and the Wiltshire Archaeology Service, prior to its implementation.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 All survey work will be carried out in accordance with this WSI, and current good practice as specified in *EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology* (Schmidt et al. 2016). It will also be carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Geophysical Survey* prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020); the *CIfA Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2022); and other current and relevant good practice and standards and guidance (see Appendix A).
- 6.2 Prior to the start of the survey, the Archaeological Contractor will supply to the Consultant (and the Wiltshire Archaeology Service, if requested) full details of the survey equipment to be used, including settling period, balancing and calibration methods and any further requirements to necessitate consistent data quality.
- 6.3 The Archaeological Contractor will be required to prepare a method statement to be reviewed by the Consultant and agreed with the Client. The method statement should include sufficient information to detail the field methodology. The following should also be covered:
- summary and introduction;
 - a written statement on the project's overall objectives, strategy and methods;
 - fieldwork methodology;
 - a review of the geology and soil maps to confirm that the areas in question are suitable for detailed magnetometer survey;
 - report preparation and contents;
 - publication and dissemination proposals;
 - timetable to complete the fieldwork and the reporting;
 - staffing and responsibilities (including any sub-contractors and / or specialists);
 - health and safety policy and implementation; and
 - insurance.
- 6.4 The Archaeological Contractor must consult the Wiltshire Archaeology Service to obtain an HER Event number for the work before commencement. These numbers will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.5 The method statement must include the OASIS reference number for the project as well as a copy of the quotation from the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) for the digital archiving of the data generated by the survey. This quotation must be obtained directly from ADS and will be specific to the size (ha) of the area surveyed.
- 6.6 The survey shall be undertaken within a grid, independently re-locatable on the ground by a third party, which is set out by measuring to a permanent feature in the landscape. Both Historic England and EAC recommend a positional accuracy of +/- 10 cm or better for locating geophysical survey grids. This can be achieved using GPS equipment capable of receiving correctional data in real time. The Archaeological

Contractor should be able to demonstrate they can achieve this accuracy, giving detail of the equipment they will be using. If appropriate, the Archaeological Contractor must ensure that any survey stations are tied into permanent landscape features, recorded on the latest Ordnance Survey edition maps, to enable the accurate relocation of archaeological anomalies detected by survey.

- 6.7 The survey will be undertaken by an experienced operator to provide consistent results with regard to pattern recognition and to provide initial screening of noise resulting from recent ferrous disturbance and local magnetic pollution.
- 6.8 The detailed magnetometry should be undertaken using a fluxgate gradiometer, utilising traverses of minimum resolution of 1 m with readings taken at intervals of 0.25 m within a survey grid. If it becomes evident that discrete features such as post-holes exist in some areas, it may be necessary to reduce the traverse width to 0.5 m.
- 6.9 The data should be downloaded at regular intervals on-site into a laptop computer for initial processing and storage. This will ultimately be transferred to a desktop computer for further processing, interpretation and archiving. Geoplot v.3 software (or comparable) will be used to interpolate the data to form an array of regularly spaced values at 0.25 m x 0.25 m intervals. Continuous tone greyscale images of raw data and an x / y trace plot will also be produced. Palette bars relating the greyscale intensities to anomaly values in ohms will be included with the images.
- 6.10 The actual areas of survey, and any features of possible archaeological, palaeoenvironmental and/or geoarchaeological interest, should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded in a written description sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the Site.
- 6.11 During fieldwork, a record should be made of surface and weather conditions and sources of modern geophysical interference that may have a bearing on subsequent interpretation of field data.
- 6.12 The interpretation of survey data must be undertaken by a competent archaeological geophysicist who is knowledgeable of the archaeological and geomorphological conditions prevailing on site.
- 6.13 A clear distinction must always be made between interpretation that is scientifically demonstrable, and interpretation based on informed speculation.

7. Monitoring and Progress Reports

- 7.1 To ensure that archaeological work is conducted in accordance with the agreed WSI, fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis may be monitored by the Consultant and / or the Wiltshire Archaeology Service.
- 7.2 Weekly written progress reports will be provided to the Consultant upon request.
- 7.3 The geophysical survey will be subject to monitoring by the Consultant and / or the Wiltshire Archaeology Service, who will have access to the Site (in line with the access granted to the Archaeological Contractor), and unrestricted access to site records or any other information. The work will be inspected to ensure that it is being carried out to the required standards and that it will achieve the stated objectives.
- 7.4 The Archaeological Contractor will only accept instructions from the Consultant, following discussion with the Wiltshire Archaeology Service.

8. Completion of Fieldwork

- 8.1 The Archaeological Contractor shall prepare and submit a Completion Statement at the end of the fieldwork. The Completion Statement shall be submitted to the Consultant within one working day of completion.
- 8.2 The Site will be left in a tidy, professional, and safe condition, and the Archaeological Contractor will ensure that all materials brought onto the Site are removed.

- 8.3 The Archaeological Contractor shall make the minimum of disturbance during the fieldwork and will avoid any unnecessary damage.
- 8.4 An OASIS entry shall be completed within one month of the end of the fieldwork, irrespective of whether a formal report is required (available online at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). If appropriate, the entry should include caveats about conclusions drawn in advance of analysis. The OASIS entry may be updated and re-submitted no later than three months after the completion of the report.

9. Reporting

- 9.1 The final report should provide details on the location, extent and significance of archaeological, palaeoenvironmental and/or geoarchaeological features and / or anomalies recorded as part of the survey. The final report should follow current good practice and guidance, and should, as a minimum, include the following:
 - title page;
 - list of contents, figures, tables, etc;
 - a signed QA (Quality Assurance) sheet detailing as a minimum - title, author, version, date, checked by, approved by (to confirm that the report has been through an in-house technical review);
 - non-technical summary;
 - introduction;
 - 10-figure National Grid Reference;
 - the project's unique Wiltshire County HER event number;
 - archaeological and historical background;
 - aims and objectives;
 - methodology, including:
 - survey methods used;
 - date(s) of fieldwork;
 - grid location;
 - geophysical instruments used;
 - sampling intervals;
 - equipment configurations;
 - method(s) of data capture;
 - method(s) of data processing; and
 - methods of data presentation.
 - results and Interpretation – supported by a survey location plan (minimum scale 1:2500), a plot of the raw data (minimum scale 1:1000, grey-scale format, and X-Y trace format as appropriate), a plot of enhanced data and one or more interpretative plots with reference to known HER data (minimum scale of 1:1000);
 - discussion, with reference to known HER data, aerial photographs/cropmarks, LiDAR and historic mapping where applicable;

- recommendations;
 - conclusion;
 - references to all primary and secondary sources consulted;
 - OASIS reference number;
 - statement of Indemnity; and
 - copy of the approved WSI as an appendix.
- 9.2 The final report on the geophysical survey of the Site shall be presented in Word/PDF format, and any digital images in Tiff or similar format, and should be produced within three weeks of completion of the fieldwork.
- 9.3 A draft report shall be submitted to the Consultant for review. The Consultant will forward the report to the Wiltshire Archaeology Service for comment and review prior to the finalisation of the report.
- 9.4 Copies of the final report should be provided to the following:
- PDF copy for the Consultant;
 - PDF copies for the HER and the Wiltshire Archaeology Service; and
 - OASIS (pdf).
- 9.5 The HER will be supplied with a copy of the geophysical survey data and interpretation layers for inclusion into the HER mapping, to include:
- greyscale images of the processed data plots, georeferenced in ArcGIS, or if this is not possible then unreferenceed images of the data plots; and
 - archaeological interpretation data as ArcGIS shape files or .dwg file format.

10. Archive Deposition

- 10.1 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition must be agreed with NCC at the outset of the project and details included within the Archaeological Contractor's method statement.
- 10.2 The archive, including a copy of unprocessed 'raw' data, arising from the fieldwork, should be deposited in an appropriate institution, in a format to be agreed with that institution. Arrangements for deposition will be discussed with the ADS Archive following completion of the fieldwork and the HER must be notified of the arrangements made.
- 10.3 Relevant reference numbers will be obtained from the Wiltshire County HER to ensure that the project is recorded in accordance with the requirements of the Local Planning Authority. This project identifier will be cited in the project report and on other project paperwork.
- 10.4 The project will be archived in-house by the Archaeological Contractor in accordance with recent good practice guidelines (http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Geophysics_3). The data will be stored in an indexed archive and migrated to new formats when necessary. Copies of the survey data (or relevant parts thereof) will be supplied to the Client, Consultant and the Wiltshire Archaeology Service, where appropriate.
- 10.5 The Wiltshire County HER is currently participating in the OASIS scheme (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigation Scheme). As part of this the Archaeological Contractor is required to fill in an OASIS data capture form on completion of the project, and on deposition of the final archive. Details of progress, copies of the form and guidelines for its completion can be found at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>. Failing this, the Archaeological Contractor shall contact the ADS directly for further advice.

- 10.6 In line with current good practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

11. General Project Requirements

Resources and Programme

- 11.1 Experienced and qualified archaeologists shall undertake the geophysical survey. All staff will be suitably qualified and experienced professionals and demonstrate they have the skills, knowledge, experience and qualification to undertake the works safely, proof of which is to be provided to the Consultant / Client upon request. Details including the name, relevant qualifications and experience of the Site Director, and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff), will be included within the Method Statement, which must be prepared by the Archaeological Contractor undertaking the programme.
- 11.2 The Archaeological Contractor shall provide the Consultant with staff Curriculum Vitae of the Project Manager, Site Supervisor and summary 'pen portraits' of Site Assistants. All Site Assistants should have an appropriate understanding of fieldwork procedures.
- 11.3 All staff will be fully briefed by the Archaeological Contractor and aware of the work required under this WSI and will understand the objectives of the survey and methodologies to be employed.
- 11.4 The archaeological works will be undertaken in accordance with an approved programme and any subsequent amendments. Amendments to the programme will be agreed with the Consultant and the Client.
- 11.5 The Archaeological Contractor shall provide early warnings for any delays to the agreed works programme. The early warnings will be sent to the Consultant and the Client.
- 11.6 The Consultant will notify the Wiltshire Archaeology Service of the start date of the survey prior to the survey commencing (a minimum of five days prior to commencement).

Access Arrangements and Site Information

- 11.7 Access to the Site is restricted to authorised personnel only.
- 11.8 Access to the Site to carry out archaeological investigations will be arranged / organised by the Archaeological Contractor in liaison with the Client (Ampyr Solar Europe).
- 11.9 The Consultant will liaise with the Client to obtain details regarding approved routes of access / egress and the location of any compound facilities that will be utilised throughout the archaeological works. The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that all personnel conform to the arrangements set by the Client.
- 11.10 The survey shall not extend beyond the specified survey areas, unless agreed with the Consultant. If for any reason it is not feasible for the Archaeological Contractor to carry out the survey within the specified areas, the Consultant will be notified immediately. The Consultant will inform the Client and the Wiltshire Archaeology Service at the earliest opportunity.

Confidentiality and Publicity

- 11.11 The Archaeological Contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of the Client.

Copyright

- 11.12 The Archaeological Contractor shall assign copyright in all reports, documentation and images produced as part of this project to the Client. The Archaeological Contractor shall retain the right to be identified as

the author or originator of the material. This applies to all aspects of the project. It is the responsibility of the Archaeological Contractor to obtain such rights from sub-contracted specialists.

- 11.13 The Archaeological Contractor may apply in writing to use or disseminate any of the project archive or documentation (including images). Such permission will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 11.14 The results of the archaeological works shall be submitted to the Client, the Wiltshire Archaeology Service and will ultimately be made available for public access.
- 11.15 The HER shall be able to use the reports for reference purposes, on the understanding that such licence does not cover commercial use of the material by Wiltshire Archaeology Service or any third party. In all cases the Archaeological Contractor and the commissioning body will retain the right to be identified as the originator of the work.

12. Insurances, Health and Safety

- 12.1 The Archaeological Contractor will provide the Client with details of their public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover.
- 12.2 The Archaeological Contractor will have their own Health and Safety policy as required under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. A copy of the Archaeological Contractor's latest HS&E policy will be submitted to the Consultant, who will forward it on to the Client.
- 12.3 In line with the Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2015, the Archaeological Contractor will act as Principal Contractor, though the works are not considered to be notifiable under CDM and as such the Archaeological Contractor will not be required to produce a health and safety plan. The Archaeological Contractor, however, will prepare the necessary Risk Assessment and Method Statement.
- 12.4 The Archaeological Contractor shall prepare a Risk Assessment(s) and Method Statement(s) (RAMS) and submit these to the Consultant and Client for approval prior to starting on Site. The Archaeological Contractor will not be permitted to start on Site until the Client has received confirmation that the RAMS are acceptable for the proposed works. If amendments are required to these reports during the works, the Client must be provided with the revised document at the earliest opportunity.
- 12.5 The Archaeological Contractor shall develop a safe system of work in the form of a written RAMS and communicate this to the workforce in detail to ensure that all works on Site are undertaken to the approved safe system of work. The contents of all RAMS issued will include:
 - scope of works;
 - project specific hazards / risks / environmental factors (the survey area contained livestock at the time of the site inspection, and the RAMS will have to factor in any risks associated with working in proximity to it);
 - reference documents;
 - subcontracted and third party works;
 - areas of work (access and egress);
 - resources;
 - plant and equipment;
 - materials;
 - mandatory Personal Protection Equipment (PPE); and
 - task specific PPE.

- 12.6 Technical briefings, to those individuals involved in the work tasks, will be delivered by the respective Site Manager or the Archaeological Contractor's supervisor prior to works commencing. Site staff are to ask questions on anything that is unclear or requires repeating. At the end of a shift, feedback shall be provided to the work supervisor/Site Manager, on the RAMS performance via the Task Hazard Assessment procedure, with a view to this being incorporated into future revisions of the documents, as necessary.
- 12.7 All staff involved in the archaeological fieldwork should be able to demonstrate they have the skills, knowledge, experience and qualification to undertake the works safely.
- 12.8 All Site personnel will familiarise themselves with the following:
- Site emergency and evacuation procedures;
 - the Site's health and safety co-ordinator;
 - the first aider; and
 - the location of the nearest hospital and doctor's surgery.
- 12.9 All equipment that is used during the fieldwork must be 'fit for purpose' and be maintained in a sound working condition that complies with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and recommendations.
- 12.10 The Archaeological Contractor shall have full regard for the safety of all personnel on Site, including measures to ensure the safety of all.
- 12.11 The Archaeological Contractor shall be responsible for identifying any buried or overhead services and taking the necessary precautions to avoid damage to such services, prior to the fieldwork.
- 12.12 The Archaeological Contractor shall at all times maintain a safe working distance from the overhead services/utilities. In addition, the Archaeological Contractor shall be responsible for any requirements with regard to work in the vicinity of watercourses and roads in current use. The Archaeological Contractor's Risk Assessment(s) shall make reference to relevant guidance and good practice (for example: Health and Safety Executive SEGS6 - Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Lines; PAS 128 – Specification for underground utility detection, verification and location).
- 12.13 All Site personnel will wear PPE as defined by the Archaeological Contractor's risk assessment(s) undertaken in accordance with mandatory requirements. Any visitors to the investigations will require a Site induction in accordance with the Archaeological Contractor's Health and Safety requirements and will have read the Archaeological Contractor's RAMS. Any visitors to the investigations will be equipped with suitable PPE prior to entry to the Site.
- 12.14 Health and Safety considerations will be of paramount importance and will override all other working considerations at all times. This includes all stages of the archaeological works, including Site-based and office-based activities. All anticipated activities should be included in the Archaeological Contractor's RAMS and suitable mitigation measures to reduce the risk of injury be put in place. The Archaeological Contractor's RAMS will be kept under continuous review throughout the works and updated, as necessary.
- 12.15 The Archaeological Contractor's supervisor will maintain a record of Site attendance and complete a daily briefing, including a review of health and safety requirements, at the start of work for each day that there is a team in the field.
- 12.16 Toolbox Talks will be undertaken weekly, or as required following an incident, on relevant subjects and delivered by the Site Manager to all personnel on Site. Following the talk, the opportunity to raise health and safety concerns, improvement suggestions, good practice, etc. will be opened up to all present.
- 12.17 Daily Site Briefings also provide a place for employees to discuss Health and Safety issues and for training to be delivered as part of the delivery of key tasks. These are undertaken prior to any works being commenced on Site each day. The proposed works for the day will be discussed and all controls / work procedures reinforced to ensure that all members of the Site team understand their role. At the end of these briefings the workforce can then discuss the proposed work methods and other issues.

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Other Sources

Satellite imagery (via Google Earth)

LiDAR imagery (Via the Environment Agency Open Government License)

Historic Environment Record monument and events data (via Wiltshire HER)

National Heritage List for England (via Historic England website)

Appendix A Heritage Standards and Guidance

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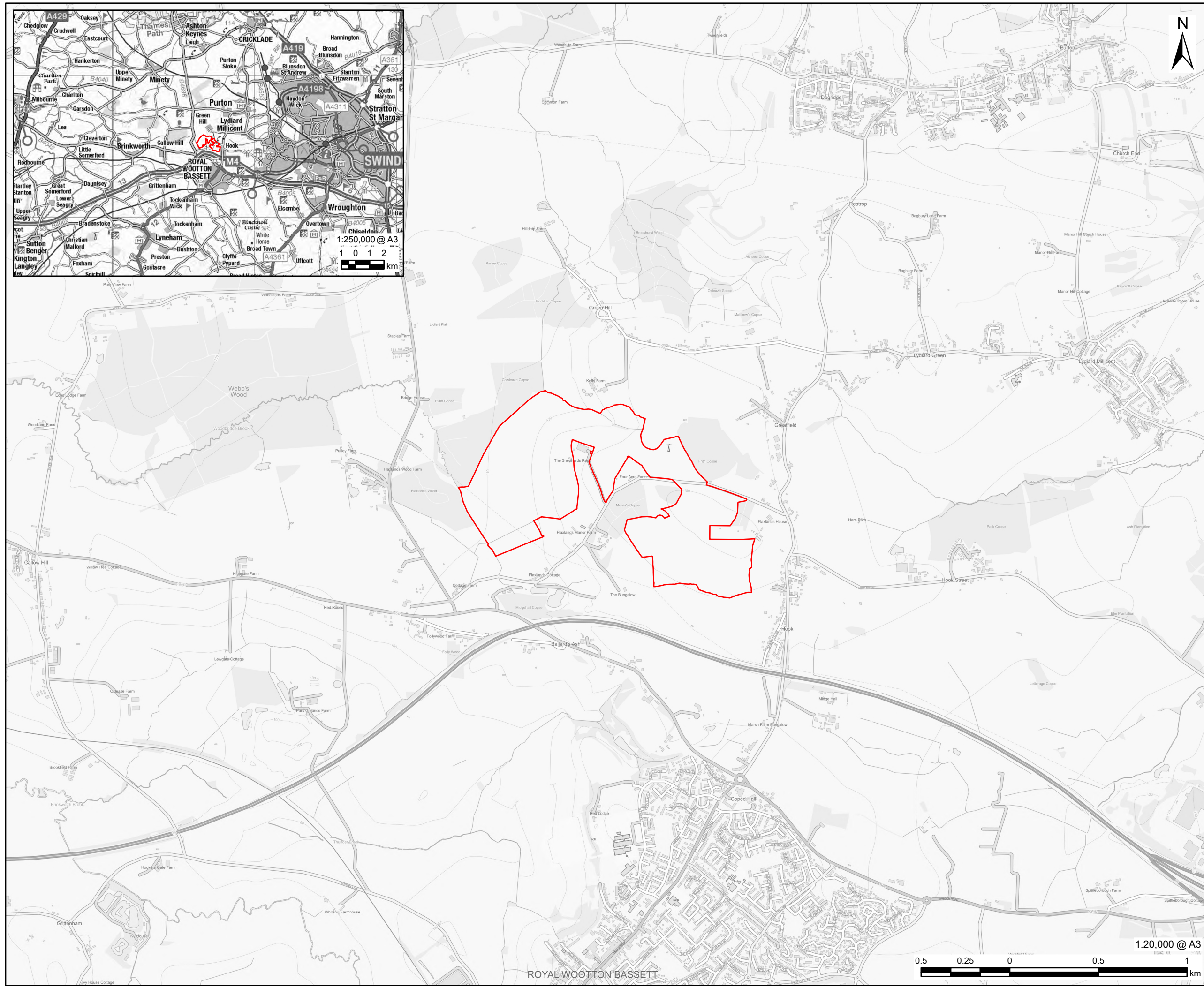
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Appendix B Figures

Figure 1: Site Location



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PROJECT

Flaxlands Solar Farm

CLIENT

Ampyr Solar Europe

CONSULTANT

AECOM Limited
Midpoint, Alençon Link,
Basingstoke
RG21 7PP
www.aecom.com

LEGEND

 Site Boundary

NOTES

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ISSUE PURPOSE

Written Scheme of Investigation

PROJECT NUMBER
60727989

FIGURE TITLE

Site Location Plan

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 1

Figure 2: Geophysical Survey Area



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