

Spencers Wood Solar Farm, Wokingham, Berkshire

*Written Scheme of Investigation for
an Archaeological Evaluation*



for:
Greentech

CA Project: AN1062

October 2025



Spencers Wood Solar Farm, Wokingham, Berkshire

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Figure 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Figure 2 Proposed Trench plan over cropmarks and geophysical data
(1:3,500)

Figure 3 Proposed Trench plan over development plan (1:3,500)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) for an archaeological evaluation (of land) at Spencers Wood, Wokingham Berkshire centred at National Grid Reference (NGR): 472141 166030 (Figure 1). This WSI has been prepared for Greentech (hereafter referred to as ‘the client’).
- 1.2. Wokingham Borough Council has granted outline planning permission for development of a solar farm for a temporary period of 40 years (planning ref: 232653). Condition 16 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved WSI.
- 1.3. An overarching WSI for a multi-phased program of archaeological works was produced by AOC archaeology (2023a). This WSI for the trial trench evaluation phase, the results of which will inform any further mitigation phase.
- 1.4. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Berkshire Archaeology the archaeological advisor to Wokingham Borough Council (hereafter referred to as ‘the curator’). This WSI will be submitted to the curator for review.
- 1.5. This WSI has been guided in its composition by:
- *General Standards for Historic Environment Projects* (Berkshire Archaeology 2021);
 - *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

- 1.6. The proposed development site is approximately 25ha in extent. The site currently comprises agricultural land between the village of Spencers Wood, situated to the north, and Sheepbridge Farm and the B3349 road to the south. The site is level, and lies at around 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

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- 1.7. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as London Clay Formation consisting of clay, silt and sand, which formed between 56 and 47.8 million years ago during the Palaeogene period. This is overlain by sand and gravel river terrace superficial deposits that formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period (BGS 2025).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The following archaeological background has been summarised from an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2023b).

Prehistoric to Roman

- 2.2. Several flint findspots are recorded within the 1km study area. Most of these flint finds have come from an intensive fieldwalking programme (Loddon Valley Survey), 1km to the south of the site in fields to the north of Swallowfield. This includes a flake and scraper, flake and blade, three flint blades and a further flake as well as a flint scatter.
- 2.3. A Neolithic flint hand axe was discovered 1km to the north of the site at Rectory Garden, Shinfield.
- 2.4. Several archaeological evaluations have taken place within 1km of the survey area. This includes an evaluation at Croft Road 0.7km to the north, which identified Iron Age pits and field systems which were dated through both pottery analysis and radiocarbon dating to the mid-late Iron Age. Archaeological evaluations on the cusp of the southern perimeter of the site identified further Late Iron Age/Romano British field systems, these appear to line up with the cropmarks within the survey area. 0.5km to the west of the Site a further Late Iron Age / Romano British settlement was identified at Basingstoke Road.
- 2.5. An Iron Age Gallo-Belgic gold stater was discovered either within or close to the site boundary in 1750.
- 2.6. Aerial photography has revealed several undated cropmarks within and surrounding the site, their form and the fact that other nearby cropmarks of a similar nature have been dated to the Iron Age/Romano British period suggests these features are likely to be of this date.
- 2.7. Late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery was recovered from an evaluation to the south-east of site, and Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/early Romano British

pottery has been recovered within the wider 1km Study Area. A single Roman pottery sherd was recovered from the site during field walking and further sherds were found immediately beyond the site boundary.

Medieval

- 2.8. There is some evidence of Early Medieval activity within the 1km study zone. This includes Early Saxon pottery, a loom weight and a kiln bar being recovered from four linear features, approximately 0.7km to the north of the Site at Peartree Walk.
- 2.9. A further four sherds of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was identified in a flat-bottomed ditch during an archaeological evaluation, approximately 0.5 to the west of the Site at Basingstoke Road.
- 2.10. A Saxon spearhead of unusual type was discovered 1km to the north of the site in a garden off Claresgreen Road.
- 2.11. A Medieval moated site is situated 0.5km to the south of the Site. The sherds recovered from the moat suggest it was constructed in the 13th century, the earthworks were later used in the 18th century to house Sheepbridge Court, a Grade II listed building.
- 2.12. Two Medieval pits were identified 0.3km to the south of the site at Sheepbridge Farm, one of these pits contained a large piece of Medieval pottery which dates from the 12th – 15th century, a significant amount of burning was also found which could relate to minor agricultural activity.
- 2.13. Three medieval pottery sherds were discovered on Spencers Wood Common, although the exact date and type is not specified.

Post-medieval to Modern

- 2.14. Land-use of the site during the post-medieval period is likely to have been as agricultural fields, with field boundaries observed through historical mapping particularly in the later centuries of this period. No recorded heritage assets of this date have been previously recorded within the site; however field boundaries are observed on historic mapping.
- 2.15. The 1887 OS map shows that are only slight changes to the field boundaries within and around the site, with some having been enlarged and others split into multiple fields, from the earlier tithe maps.

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- 2.16. The 1900 and 1911 OS maps show a small increase in the size of Spencers Wood and Shinfield from the earlier 1887 OS map. The post-medieval layout of the field systems in the areas remains more or less intact through to the layout depicted on the 1961 OS map.
- 2.17. Since the 1960's the urban areas around Spencers Wood and Shinfield have increased significantly but without apparently directly affecting the site and its immediate surroundings

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 2.18. Two walkover surveys of the Site were conducted in August and November 2022. No previously unrecorded heritage assets were identified during these works.
- 2.19. Aerial photography from the Swindon Historic England archive, Britain from Above archive, and the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) was consulted, along with publicly available satellite imagery and LiDAR data. A number of cropmarks identified as part of the assessment, some of which have been correlated with previously recorded heritage assets. The densest concentration of these cropmarks occurs in the central area of the Site comprising numerous rectilinear and linear ditch features, as well as circular and penannular features, likely indicating multi-period prehistoric and later settlement and agricultural activity.
- 2.20. LiDAR data revealed linear features correlating with a former field boundary and modern plough furrows. No upstanding remains in relation to the cropmarks mentioned above were identified.

Geophysical survey

- 2.21. Two geophysical surveys were undertaken on the site in August 2022 (AOC 2022). These comprised a magnetic gradiometry survey of the entire site, and an earth resistance survey targeting known cropmarks.
- 2.22. The magnetic gradiometry survey identified three groups of linear anomalies or spreads of material which may be of archaeological interest, taking the form of discontinuous boundaries and trackways or droves. These are only tentatively interpreted as the anomalies in question are weak and not sharply defined. Two of these groups, which run along the southern part of the main survey area occur in the same location as cropmarks recorded in the HER, but none of them exactly match those visible on publicly available images. The third group occurs at the eastern edge

of the survey area which lies immediately adjacent to gravel pits depicted on historic maps. Anomalies associated with historical boundaries have also been identified, as have recent ploughing trends.

- 2.23. The targeted earth resistivity survey was carried out, focused on an area (0.72ha) of known cropmarks. This survey recorded L-shaped linear trends correlating to the cropmark features in the survey area, although these were also observably weak and suggestive of truncation of the features by ploughing activity, particularly those recorded in the north and south extents of the survey area.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation is 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 Wokingham Borough Council 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2025). The evaluation results will inform on the need for further phases of investigation.
- 3.2. A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive (see Section 5).
- 3.3. The specific objective of the evaluation is to investigate the known cropmarks and geophysical anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and earth resistance survey (AOC 2022).
- 3.4. If significant archaeological remains are identified, the evaluation report will make reference to the Solent-Thames Archaeological Research Framework so that the remains can, if possible, be placed within their local and regional contexts.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation will comprise the excavation of 201no. trenches each measuring 30m x 1.8m (locations shown on Figures 2 and 3). The trenches have been located to test known crop marks, geophysical anomalies and to provide a 5% representative

sample of the remainder of the site. A further 1% contingency trenching will be held in reserve to target areas in the case if localised features of interest are identified, in agreement with the curator.

- 4.2. The evaluation will aim to start with the excavation of trenches targeting the crop marks in the centre of site. This will aim to provide insight on the feature survival in this area, along with the opportunity of adjusting surrounding trenches in agreement with the curator, dependent on the results found.
- 4.3. Trenches will be set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. They will be scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and genny equipment, in accordance with the *CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*. The positions of the trenches may be adjusted on site to account for services or other constraints, with the approval of the curator.
- 4.4. Overburden will be stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision and will cease when the first significant archaeological horizon or natural substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately adjacent to each trench.
- 4.5. Following machining, any archaeological features present will be investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*. Each context will be recorded by written and measured description. Records will be entered directly into the CA Digital Recording System (DRS) and/or onto pro-forma site recording sheets. Hand-drawn sections of excavated archaeological features will be prepared (scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate). Features/deposits will be recorded in plan using Leica GPS or Total Station (as appropriate), in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*. Photographs (digital colour) will be taken as appropriate including working, site, trench and feature shots.
- 4.6. Sample excavation of archaeological deposits will be sufficient to achieve the aims and objectives identified in Section 3 (above). At the evaluation stage, there is no requirement to sample all archaeological features encountered. Excavation (where undertaken) will not compromise the integrity of the archaeological record and will be carried out in such a way as to allow for the subsequent protection of remains, either

for conservation or to allow more detailed investigations to be conducted at a later date.

- 4.7. Upon completion of the evaluation, all trenches will be backfilled by a mechanical excavator.

Artefacts

- 4.8. Artefacts will be recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*. Artefacts will be collected and bagged by context. Artefacts from topsoil, subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained unless they are of intrinsic interest. All artefacts from stratified excavated contexts will be collected, except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material. Such material may be noted and not retained or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained.

Environmental remains

- 4.9. The selection, collection and processing of environmental samples will follow the guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.10. Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential and, where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. The sampling strategy will be adapted for the specific circumstances of the site, in close consultation with the CA Environmental Officer and the curator, but will follow the general selection parameters set out in the following paragraphs.
- 4.11. Secure, phased deposits, especially those related to settlement activity and/or structures, will be considered for sampling for the recovery of charred plant remains, charcoal and mineralised remains. Any cremation-related deposits (where excavated; see *Human remains*, below) will be sampled appropriately for the recovery of cremated human bone and charred remains. If any evidence of *in situ* metal working is found, suitable samples will be taken for the recovery of slag and hammerscale.

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- 4.12. Where sealed waterlogged deposits are encountered, samples will be considered for the recovery of waterlogged remains (including insects, molluscs and pollen) and any charred remains. The taking of sequences of samples for the recovery of molluscs and/or waterlogged remains will be considered through any suitable deposits, such as deep enclosure ditches, barrow ditches, palaeochannels, or buried soils. Monolith samples may also be taken from suitable deposits as appropriate to allow soil and sediment description/interpretation, as well as sub-sampling for pollen and other micro/macrofossils such as diatoms, foraminifera and ostracods.
- 4.13. The need for more specialist samples (such as OSL, archaeomagnetic dating and dendrochronology) will be evaluated on site. If required, any such samples will be taken in consultation with the relevant specialists.
- 4.14. Sample processing will be carried out in conjunction with the relevant specialists. Flotation or wet sieve samples will be processed to 0.25mm. More specialist samples, such as those for pollen, will be prepared by the relevant specialists.

Treasure

- 4.15. Upon discovery of treasure, CA will notify the client and the curator immediately. CA will comply fully with the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred to therein. CA will also comply with the Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023. Findings will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.

Human remains

- 4.16. Any human remains (skeletal or cremated) will be treated with due decency and respect at all times.
- 4.17. Small slots will be hand-excavated across any suspected burial features (inhumations or cremated bone deposits) in order to confirm the presence and condition of any human remains. Once confirmed as human, the buried remains will not normally be disturbed through any further investigation at the evaluation stage, and will be left *in situ* where possible.
- 4.18. Where further disturbance is unavoidable, or where full exhumation of the remains is deemed necessary, exhumation will be conducted following the provisions of the Coroner's Unit in the Ministry of Justice. All excavation of human remains and associated post-excavation processes will be in accordance with the standards set out in *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (CIfA

2017), *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project* (Historic England 2018) and *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England 2017).

5. POST-EXCAVATION, REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

Reporting

5.1. An illustrated typescript report will be compiled on the evaluation results. This report will include:

- an abstract preceding the main body of the report, containing the essential elements of the results;
- a summary of the project's background;
- a description and illustration of the site location;
- a methodology of the works undertaken;
- integration of, or cross-reference to, appropriate cartographic and documentary evidence and the results of other research undertaken, where relevant to the interpretation of the evaluation results;
- a description of the evaluation results;
- an interpretation of the evaluation results, including a consideration of the results within their wider local/regional context;
- a site location plan at an appropriate scale on an Ordnance Survey (or equivalent) base-map;
- a plan showing the locations of the trenches in relation to the site boundaries;
- plans of each trench, or part of trench, in which archaeological features were recorded. These plans will be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features to be shown and understood. Plans will show the orientation of trenches in relation to north. Section drawing locations will also be shown on these plans. Archaeologically sterile areas will not normally be illustrated;
- appropriate section drawings of trenches and archaeological features. These drawings will include OD heights and will be at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail being represented. Drawings will show orientation in relation to north/south/east/west;

- photographs showing significant archaeological features and deposits that are referred to in the text. All photographs will contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the photograph captions;
- summary tables of the recorded contexts and recovered artefacts;
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and details of its location;
- specialist assessment or analysis reports (where undertaken). Specialist artefact and palaeoenvironmental assessments will take into account the wider local/regional contexts and will include:
 - specialist aims and objectives;
 - processing methodologies (where relevant);
 - any known biases in recovery, or problems of contamination/residuality;
 - quantities of material; types of material present; distribution of material;
 - for environmental material, a statement on abundance, diversity and preservation;
 - a summary and discussion of the results, to include significance in a local and regional context.

5.2. The draft evaluation report will be distributed to the client and the curator for review prior to finalisation. All copies of the report (draft and final) will be issued in pdf format. Berkshire Archaeology HER will also be sent the report and the shapefiles for trenches and features found.

Academic and public dissemination

5.3. It is anticipated that a short note on the evaluation results will be produced for inclusion within an appropriate local archaeological journal e.g. *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*.

5.4. Subject to any contractual constraints, a summary of information from the project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain. This will include a digital (pdf) copy of the final report, which will also appear on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website once the OASIS record has been verified.

5.5. A digital (pdf) copy of the final report will also be made available for public viewing via CA's *Archaeological Reports Online* web page (<http://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>).

Archive deposition

- 5.6. An ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive will be prepared in accordance with the relevant recipient museum guidelines. The archive will also be prepared in accordance with:
- *Guidelines for essential archive tasks and the preparation of archives* (CA 2024)
 - *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020); and
 - *Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe: EAC Guidelines 1* (Europae Archaeologia Consilium 2019)
- 5.7. All artefacts and environmental samples will be processed, assessed, conserved and packaged in accordance with CA technical manuals and the recipient museum guidelines.
- 5.8. Depending on the nature and scope of any subsequent programme of archaeological works at the site (if required), the evaluation archive may be combined with that for any subsequent works and deposited as a single archive. Confirmation of this will be included in any forthcoming WSI.
- 5.9. CA will make arrangements with the recipient museum for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection.
- 5.10. At time of writing there is currently no receiving museum, the archive will remain in long-term secure storage at a CA office, until this situation has been resolved.

Selection strategy

- 5.11. As noted in para. 4.7, artefacts from topsoil, subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained unless they are of intrinsic interest. All artefacts from stratified excavated contexts will be collected, except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material. Such material may be noted and not retained or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained.
- 5.12. The site-selected material archive returned to the CA offices will be reviewed following analysis. Stakeholders will make selection decisions based on CA Finds Manager/Officer reports and selection recommendations. The selection will take place during archive compilation. After discussion with the relevant museum Curator

and the CA Finds Managers/Officers, it is possible that no material post-dating AD 1800 will be retained for inclusion in the preserved archive.

Digital archive

- 5.13. A digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). This archive will be compiled in accordance with the ADS *Instructions for Depositors* (2022).

Data management

- 5.14. All born-digital and digitally-transferred project data created during fieldwork and post-excavation (other than duplicated files) will be stored by CA. Upon project completion and deposition, the data will be transferred to a secure external server. Data will be selected for inclusion in the final digital archive, as detailed below. It is proposed that data selection will occur following completion of post-excavation work.
- 5.15. Selected digital files will be transferred to the recipient museum with the documentary and material archive and to the ADS, in line with the relevant guidance and standards. In adherence to CA's *Guidelines for essential archive tasks and the preparation of archives*, it is proposed that the selected files will include final versions only. Digital photographs will be selected for inclusion in the archive in line with CA's *Guidelines for essential archive tasks and the preparation of archives* and *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015). Data produced by external specialists or sub-contractors will be granted under license to CA to allow inclusion in the digital archive as required.

6. PROGRAMME

- 6.1. It is anticipated that the project fieldwork will require up to 8 weeks.
- 6.2. It is anticipated that the draft report will be issued within six weeks of the completion of archaeological fieldwork.

7. PROJECT STAFF

- 7.1. This project will be under the management of Niomi Edwards, Project Manager, CA. The Project Manager will direct the overall conduct of the evaluation during the period of fieldwork. Day-to-day responsibility will, however, rest with the Project Leader, who will be on-site throughout the project.

7.2. Specialists who may be invited to advise and report on specific aspects of the project as necessary are listed below and in Appendix A. CA staff might also work with supervised apprentices and/or assistants. Such staff always work with a senior specialist who will take the lead in co-authored reports.

- **Ceramics:** Alejandra Gutiérrez BA (Hons) MA PhD FSA MCIfA (CA), Alistair Barclay BSc PhD FSA MCIfA (CA), Ciar Boyle Gifford BA (Hons) MA (CA), Claire Collier-Jones BA (Hons) MA (CA), Ed McSloy BA (Hons) MCIfA (CA), Grace Jones BA (Hons) MA PhD MCIfA (CA), Jacky Sommerville BSc (Hons) MA ACIfA (CA), Lanah Hewson BA (Hons) MA (CA), Laura Pearson BA (Hons) MA PCIfA (CA), Peter Banks LLB LLM PCIfA (CA), Stephen Benfield BA (CA), and Sue Anderson MPhil PhD FSA MCIfA (freelance).
- **Metalwork:** Alejandra Gutiérrez BA (Hons) MA PhD FSA MCIfA (CA), Alex Bliss BA ACIfA (CA), Claire Collier-Jones BA (Hons) MA (CA), Ed McSloy MCIfA (CA), and Grace Jones BA MA PhD MCIfA (CA).
- **Flint:** Jacky Sommerville BSc (Hons) MA ACIfA (CA), Philippa Bradley BA MPhil Dip Post-Ex MCIfA (CA), Rebecca Devaney BA MA ACIfA (freelance), and Robert Leedham BA (Hons) MRes PhD PCIfA (CA).
- **Animal bone:** Andy Clarke BA (Hons) MA ACIfA (CA), Clare Randall BA (Hons) BSc MSc PhD FSA MCIfA, Morgan Evans BSc MSc (CA), Matilda Holmes BSc (Hons) MSc PhD ACIfA (freelance).
- **Marine shell:** Gemma Whelan (assistant), Tom Brown BA (Hons) MA PCIfA (CA) (assistant).
- **Human remains:** Frankie Wildmun BSc (Hons) MSc PCIfA (CA) and Sharon Clough BA (Hons) MSc MCIfA (CA).
- **Environmental remains:** Anna West BSc (Hons) (CA), Carolyn Smith BA (Hons) MSc PCIfA (CA), Kath Hunter Dowse BA (Hons) (CA), Sarah Wyles BA (Hons) MCIfA (CA); Alex Ellul BA (Hons) MA and Heidi Thorpe-Yon BA (Hons) MSc (assistants).
- **Conservation:** Karen Barker BSc (Hons) (freelance), Norwich Museum and Conservation and Museums Advisory Service, Wiltshire Council
- **Geoarchaeology:** Clare Holloway BA (Hons) (CA), Holly Rodgers BA (Hons) MSc (CA), Keith Wilkinson BSc PhD MCIfA (ARCA)
- **Building recording:** Peter Davenport BA MPhil MCIfA FSA (freelance) and Richard Hardy BA (Hons) MSc (CA).

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- 7.3. Depending on the nature of the deposits and artefacts encountered, it may be necessary to consult other specialists to those listed.

8. HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1. CA will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent health and safety legislation, as well as the CA Health and Safety and Environmental policies and the CA Safety, Health and Environmental Management System (SHE). Any client/developer/Principal Contractor policies and/or procedures will also be followed. A site-specific Construction Phase Plan (form SHE 017) will be formulated prior to commencement of fieldwork.

9. INSURANCES

- 9.1. CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £15,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000.

10. MONITORING

- 10.1. Notification of the start of site works will be made to the curator so that there will be opportunities to visit the evaluation and check on the quality and progress of the work. Regular progress updates will be provided to the curator electronically to allow remote monitoring where appropriate. This would also allow the opportunity to discuss the results over the phone/via email; to be able to sign off trenches, without the need to wait for a site visit.

11. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 11.1. 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: professional ethics in archaeology* (CIfA 2014; updated 2022) and the *Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment* (CIfA 2014; updated 2020). All CA Project Managers hold Member status within the CIfA.
- 11.2. CA operates an internal quality assurance system as follows: 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.

12. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT

- 12.1. It is not anticipated that this evaluation will afford opportunities for public engagement or participation during the course of the fieldwork. However, the evaluation results will be made publicly available on the ADS and CA websites, as set out in Section 5.

13. STAFF TRAINING AND CPD

- 13.1. CA has a fully documented mandatory performance management system for all staff. This system reviews personal performance, identifies areas for improvement, sets targets and ensures the provision of appropriate training within CA's adopted training policy. In addition, CA has developed an award-winning career development programme for its staff. This ensures a consistent and high-quality approach to the development of appropriate skills.
- 13.2. As part of CA's requirement for continuing professional development, all members of staff are required to maintain a personal development plan and an associated log; these are reviewed within the performance management system.

14. REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2022 *Greentech Solar, Spencers Wood, Berkshire County Archaeological Geophysical Survey*

AOC Archaeology 2023a *Spencers Wood Solar Farm, Berkshire, Appendix 7.5, Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation for a Program of Archaeological Works*

AOC Archaeology 2023b *Spencers Wood Solar Farm, Berkshire, Appendix 7.1, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*

British Geological Survey 2025 *BGS Geology Viewer* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/> Accessed October 2025

APPENDIX A: COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY MAIN SPECIALISTS

FINDS: CA

Alejandra Gutiérrez BA (Hons) MA PhD FSA MCIfA (Ceramics and finds)
Alex Bliss BA ACIfA (Metalwork, coins and small finds)
Alistair Barclay BSc (Hons) PhD FSA MCIfA (Ceramics and finds)
Ciar Boyle Gifford BA (Hons) MA (Ceramics and finds)
Claire Collier Jones BA (Hons) MA (Ceramics and finds)
Ed McSloy BA (Hons) MCIfA (Ceramics and finds)
Grace Jones BA (Hons) MA PhD MCIfA (Ceramics and finds)
Jacky Sommerville BSc (Hons) MA ACIfA (Lithics and finds)
Lanah Hewson BA (Hons) MA (Ceramics and finds)
Laura Pearson BA (Hons) MA PCIfA, Apprentice: Archaeological Specialist Level 7 (Ceramics and finds)
Peter Banks LLB LLM PCIfA (Ceramics and finds)
Philippa Bradley BA (Hons) MPhil Dip Post-Ex MCIfA (Lithics and prehistoric small finds)
Robert Leedham BA (Hons) MRes PhD PCIfA (Lithics)
Stephen Knowles BSc (Hons) MSc PCIfA (assistant) (Industrial residues/metal technology)
Steve Benfield BA (Ceramics)

FINDS: External

Andrew Brown PhD (British Museum) (Coins)
David Dungworth BA (Hons) PhD (freelance) (Industrial residues/metal technology)
David Starley BSc (Hons) PhD (Industrial residues/metal technology)
David Williams PhD FSA (freelance) (Amphorae)
Elaine Morris BA (Hons) PhD FSA MCIfA (University of Southampton) (Ceramics)
Eleanor Blakelock BA (Hons) MA PhD (freelance) (Industrial residues/metal technology)
Francis Wenban-Smith BA (Hons) MA PhD (University of Southampton) (Palaeolithic lithics)
Hilary Cool BA (Hons) PhD FSA (freelance) (Glass)
Hugh Wilmott BA (Hons) PhD (University of Sheffield) (Glass)
Ian Riddler PhD (freelance) (Small finds)
Jane Timby BA (Hons) PhD FSA MCIfA (freelance) (Ceramics)
Joe Locke BA (Hons) (freelance) (Ceramic building materials)
John Allan BA (Hons) MPhil FSA (freelance) (Ceramics)
Jörn Schuster MA DPhil FSA MCIfA (freelance) (Metalwork)
Jude Plouviez (freelance) (Coins)
Kamal Badreshany BA PhD (Durham University) (Archaeomaterials analysis)
Karen Barker BSc (Hons) (freelance) (Conservation)
Kevin Hayward BSc MSc PhD FSA (freelance) (Petrology)
Kieron Heard (freelance) (Clay tobacco pipes)
Lynne Keys (freelance) (Industrial residues/metal technology)
Marek Lewcun (freelance) (Clay tobacco pipes)
Martin Henig MA DPhil D.Litt FSA (freelance) (Roman sculpture and small finds)
Michael Bamforth BSc (Hons) MCIfA (freelance) (Worked wood)
Organic Residue Analysis (Bristol University)
Paul Blinkhorn BTech (freelance) (Ceramics)
Peter Davenport BA MPhil MCIfA FSA (freelance) (Architectural stone)
Peter Guest BA (Hons) PhD FSA (Cardiff University) (Coins)
Peter Warry PhD (freelance) (Ceramic building materials)
Peter Webster BA (Hons) MA PhD (freelance) (Samian)
Philip de Jersey PhD (Ashmolean Museum) (Coins)
Quita Mould MA FSA (freelance) (Leather)
Rachel Tyson BA (Hons) PhD (Oxford Archaeology) (Glass)
Richenda Goffin BA (Hons) MCIfA (freelance) (Ceramic building materials, Roman painted wall plaster, clay tobacco pipes)
Roger Tomlin MA DPhil FSA (Oxford University) (Inscriptions)
Rose Broadley BA (Hons) MA PhD (freelance) (Glass)
Ruth Shaffrey BA (Hons) PhD FSA MCIfA (freelance) (Worked stone)
Sarah Paynter PhD (Historic England) (Glass)
Sarah Percival BA (Hons) MA MCIfA (freelance) (Ceramics)
Stephanie Rátkai BA (Hons) (freelance) (Ceramics)
Steve Allen (York Archaeology Conservation Services) (Conservation)
Sue Anderson MPhil PhD FSA MCIfA (freelance) (Ceramics)
Sue Harrington PhD (freelance) (Textiles)
Tim Young MA PhD (Cardiff University) (Industrial residues/metal technology)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOARCHAEOLOGY: CA

Agata Kowalska BA MA MSc ACIfA (Geoarchaeology)
Alex Ellul BA (Hons) MA (assistant) (Charred plant remains)
Andrew Clarke BA (Hons) MA ACIfA (Animal bone)
Anna West BSc (Hons) (Environmental sampling, charred plant remains and marine shell)
Carolyn Smith BA (Hons) MSc PCIfA (Environmental sampling and charred plant remains)
Clare Holloway BA (Hons) (Geoarchaeology)

Clare Randall BA (Hons) BSc MSc PhD FSA MCIfA (Animal bone)
Frankie Wildmun BSc (Hons) MSc PCIfA (Human remains)
Gemma Whelan BA (Hons) (assistant) (Marine shell)
Heidi Thorpe-Yon BA (Hons) MSc (assistant) (Charred plant remains)
Holly Rodgers BA (Hons) MSc (Geoarchaeology and environmental sampling)
Kath Hunter Dowse BA (Hons) (Environmental sampling and charred plant remains)
Morgan Evans BSc MSc (assistant) (Animal bone)
Sarah Cobain BSc (Hons) MSc MCIfA (Environmental sampling, charred plant remains and wood/charcoal)
Sarah Wyles BA (Hons) MCIfA (Environmental sampling, charred plant remains, mollusca and marine shell)
Sharon Clough BA (Hons) MSc MCIfA (Human remains)
Tom Brown BA (Hons) MA PCIfA (assistant) (Marine shell)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOARCHAEOLOGY: External

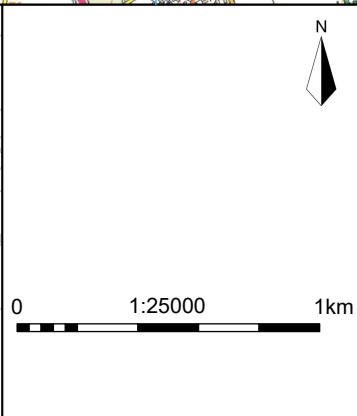
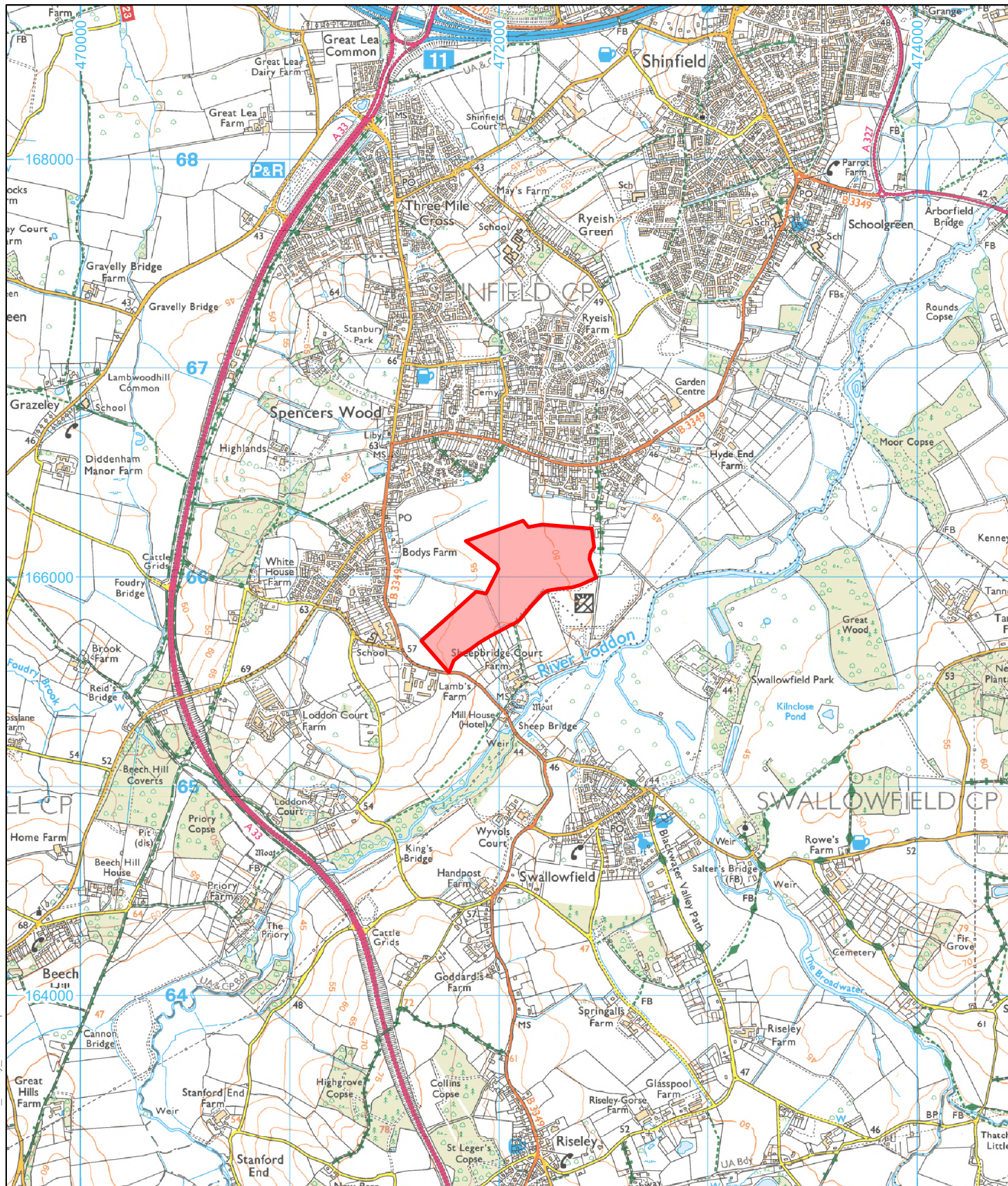
Andy Howard BSc (Hons) PhD (freelance) (Clast size analysis)
Dana Challinor MA (freelance) (Wood/charcoal)
Enid Allison BSc (Hons) DPhil (Canterbury Archaeological Trust) (Insects)
John Whittaker BSc (Hons) PhD (freelance) (Ostracods and foraminifera)
Keith Wilkinson BSc (Hons) PhD MCIfA (ARCA) (Environmental sampling, mollusca, geoarchaeology, ostracods and foraminifera)
Matilda Holmes BSc (Hons) MSc PhD ACIfA (freelance) (Animal bone)
Michael Grant BSc (Hons) MSc PhD (University of Southampton) (Pollen)
Rob Batchelor BSc (Hons) MSc PhD MCIfA (QUEST, University of Reading) (Pollen and soil micromorphology)
Sheila Boardman (freelance) (Wood/charcoal and charred plant remains)
Sue Anderson BA (Hons) MPhil PhD FSA MCIfA (freelance) (Human remains)
Tom Hill BSc (Hons) PhD CPLHE (Diatoms)
Tom White BSc (Hons) PhD (Natural History Museum) (Clast size analysis)

SCIENTIFIC DATING: CA

Alistair Barclay BSc (Hons) PhD FSA MCIfA (Radiocarbon dating and Bayesian chronological modelling)
Sharon Clough BA (Hons) MSc MCIfA (assistant) (Bayesian chronological modelling)

SCIENTIFIC DATING: External

Beta Analytic (Florida, USA) (Radiocarbon dating)
Cathy Batt BSc (Hons) PhD (University of Bradford) (Archaeomagnetic dating)
Derek Hamilton PhD (SUERC) (Bayesian chronological modelling)
Frances Healy PhD (freelance) (Bayesian chronological modelling)
Ian Tyres (freelance) (Dendrochronology)
John Hines (Cardiff University) (Bayesian chronological modelling)
Phil Toms BSc (Hons) PhD (University of Gloucestershire) (TL/OSL dating)
Robert Howard BA (Hons) (NTRDL Nottingham) (Dendrochronology)
Seren Griffiths BA (Hons) MA (Oxon) MSc MCIfA (Manchester University) (Bayesian chronological modelling)
SUERC (East Kilbride, Scotland) (Radiocarbon dating)
14Chrono Centre (Queen's University Belfast) (Radiocarbon dating)





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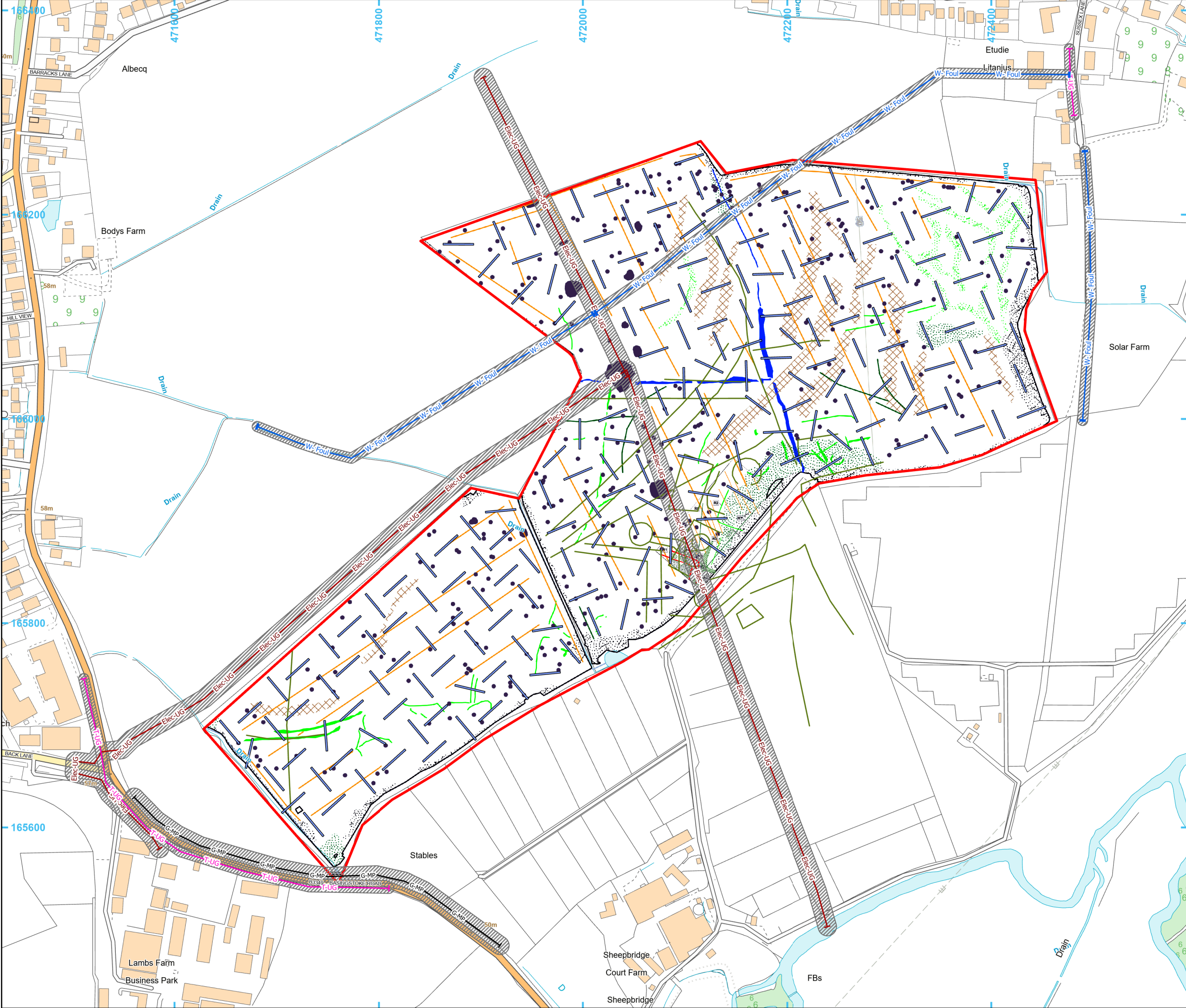
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PROJECT TITLE
 Spencers Wood Solar Farm, Berkshire, Eval

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY CB	PROJECT NO. AN1062	FIGURE NO. 1
CHECKED BY NE	DATE 21/10/2025	
APPROVED BY NE	SCALE @ A4 1:25000	

Document Path: P:\AN1062_SpencersWood_Eval\GIS\ArcGIS Pro\AN1062_survey_master.aprx



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Proposed evaluation trench
- Constraint
- Elec-UG Electric- LV/UG-SSN-9m Buffer
- G-MP Gas-MP/UG-SGN-9m buffer
- T-UG Telecoms- UG- Gigaclear- 5m
- W-Foul Water - Foul sewer - Thames Water- 5m
- W-Foul Water- Foul rising main- Thames Water- 5m
- Cropmarks (Ln)

Magnetometry Interpretations Key

- Geology/Natural
- Linear Trend (Historic Feature)
- Enhanced Magnetism (Modern)
- Linear Trend (Possible Archaeology)
- Enhanced Magnetism (Possible Archaeology)
- Ferrous/Iron Spike
- Enhanced Magnetism (Unclear Origin)
- Linear Trend (Unclear Origin)
- Enhanced Magnetism (Utility)
- Linear Trend (Historic Feature)
- Linear Trend (Ploughing)
- Trend (Possible Archaeology)
- Linear Trend (Utility)
- Trend (Unclear Origin)

Resistivity Interpretations Key

- Low Resistance (Archaeology)
- Low Resistance (Possible Archaeology)
- High Resistance (Unclear origin)
- Low Resistance (Unclear origin)
- Linear Trend (Ploughing)
- Trend (Possible Archaeology)
- Trend (Unclear Origin)

0 1:3500 150m

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PROJECT TITLE
Spencer's Wood, Solar Farm, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
Proposed Trench Plan over cropmarks and geophysical data

DRAWN BY	CB	PROJECT NO	AN1062	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	NE	DATE	21/10/2025	2
APPROVED BY	NE	SCALE@A3	1:3500	

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