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# Heritage Statement

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North Farm Solar Extension

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## 1.0 Introduction

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### 1.1 Scope

- 1.1.1 This statement sets out the impacts upon the identified heritage assets in relation to a proposed solar farm at North Farm near Spetisbury, North Dorset.
- 1.1.2 The site is currently in use as an active pig farm and lies immediately adjacent to an existing solar farm which was granted planning permission in 2014 under planning reference 2/2014/0825/FUL. As such, these proposals represent an extension to this development and related archaeological issues are broadly comparable.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development is an extension to an existing solar farm comprising ground mounted solar PV panels with a capacity 20MW, including mounting system, battery storage units, inverters, underground cabling, grid connection hub, stock proof fence, CCTV, internal tracks and associated infrastructure, landscaping and environmental enhancements, for a temporary period of 40 years.
- 1.1.4 The solar panels would be mounted on steel frames which would be pile driven into the ground. The ground would not require any re-profiling as the frames can match the existing contours.
- 1.1.5 No concrete foundations would be required for the panels. However, the DNO connection infrastructure would be mounted on concrete footings.
- 1.1.6 Cable trenches would be dug to depths between 600mm and 1400mm between the arrays and connecting to the grid connection infrastructure. The cable route is to be installed via the course of the pre-existing access road and track to the east of the Site
- 1.1.7 Temporary stone access tracks would be created to allow access through the site. Precise construction arrangements would be presented through a construction and environmental management plan (CEMP) and secured via planning condition.

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## 2.0 Identified Historic Assets

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### 2.1 Planning Policy Context

2.1.1 This Heritage Statement provides an appropriate assessment in accordance with Paragraph 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework, which states that:

*“In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.”*

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## 3.0 Identified Historic Assets

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### 3.1 HER Record

3.1.1 A review of the Historic Environment Record (HER) has been undertaken, which reveals no designated or undesignated heritage features within the Site itself. There is an archaeological feature along its eastern boundary and evidence of historic field systems to the east of the site.

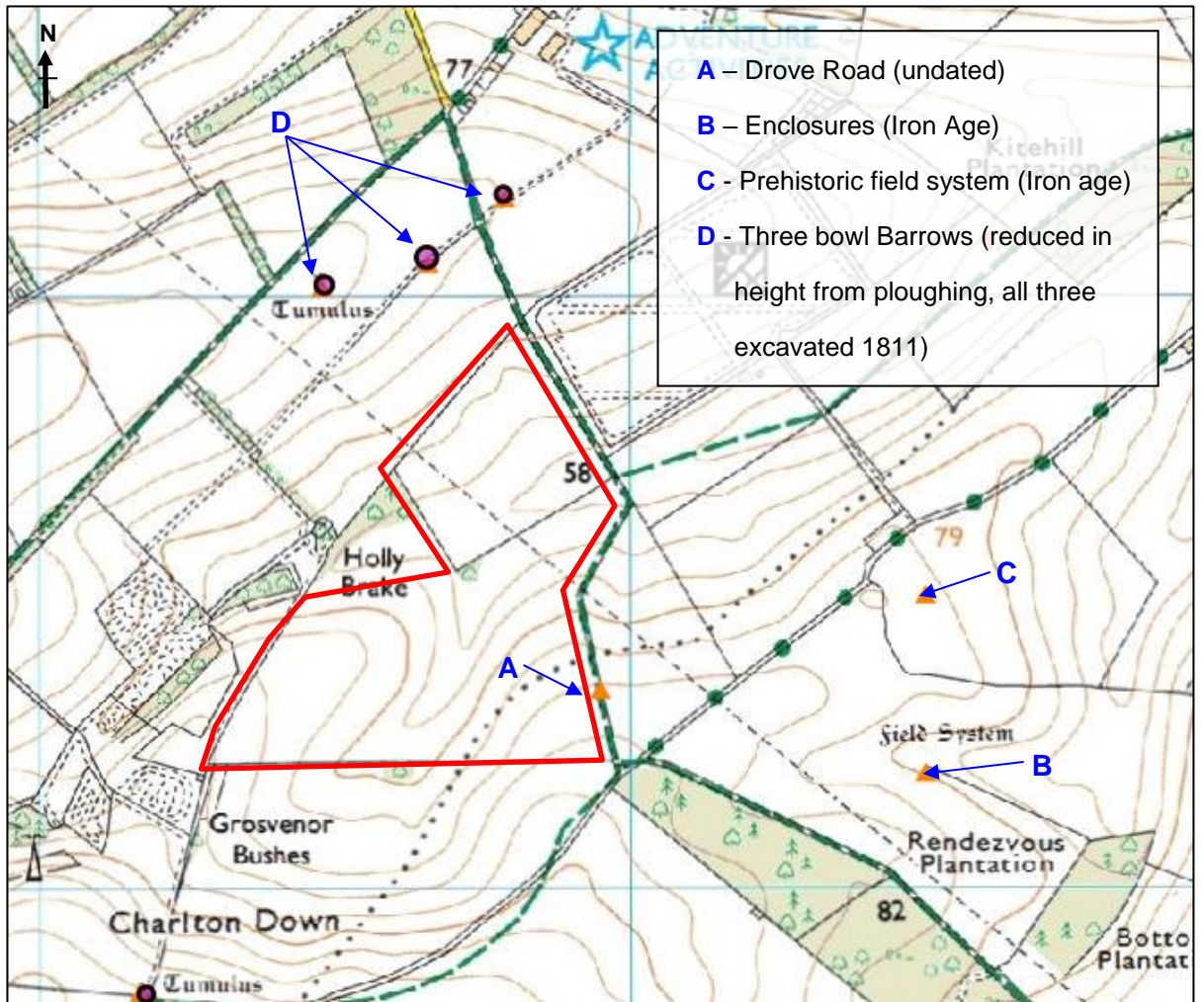
3.1.2 There is also a group of three Scheduled Monuments (HER Refs 1014848, 1014847 and 1014849) are located approx. 200m north of the site (Bowl Barrows) and a long monument stretches within 580m east of the site (Linear Dyke), as well as further Bowl Barrows.

3.1.3 It is noted that North farm Farmhouse is Grade II listed building (LB 130522) and lies further east of the site along the public highway.

3.1.4 Figure 1 below shows the features identified above which are in closest proximity to the site.

3.1.5 Site visits and aerial photography have not revealed any further archaeological potential.

3.1.6 Given the proximity of the site to these identified features, it is possible that the site does hold some potential to contain archaeological remains relating to the pre-historic field system (C).



**Figure 1:** Extract from Dorset Explorer showing heritage assets in close proximity to the Site (outlined in red).

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## 4.0 Assessment of impacts

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### 4.1 Assessment

- 4.1.1 Both the Scheduled Monuments to the north of the site and the non-designated features to the east have significantly degraded over time and are well screened by existing vegetation. As such it is not considered that their setting would be significantly altered by the proposed extension to the existing solar farm.
- 4.1.2 Although a degree of archaeological potential is identified on the site itself, it is noted that the landscape has undergone intensive farming, including ploughing and most recently pig farming activities which are likely to have significantly degraded the archaeological potential.
- 4.1.3 It is therefore considered that the site would not have the potential to contain archaeological remains requiring preservation in situ.
- 4.1.4 The Grade II Listed farmhouse is located within the setting of an existing farmyard approximately 1km from the site. Due to intervening topography and vegetation there are no views to the building from the site. Its setting has also been degraded by the addition of more modern buildings in recent years.

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## 5.0 Conclusions

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### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 There are no designated or non-designated heritage assets identified within the site itself. Scheduled Monuments, a listed building and non-designated historic features have been identified within the vicinity and the impacts on these features have been considered through this assessment.
- 5.1.2 The assessment has concluded that the proposed extension to the existing solar farm would not bring about significant direct or indirect impacts upon the identified heritage assets.
- 5.1.3 The archaeological potential of the site is not likely to require preservation in situ.
- 5.1.4 These conclusions accord with the findings in respect of the approved solar development adjacent to

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the site under Planning Reference 2/2014/0825/FUL.







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