

# **Hinkley Point C Connection Project**

## **Stage 9 of the Authorised Development**

### **Archaeological Method Statement pursuant to Requirement 6(1)(h)**

**Document 9.0\_6H\_B**

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January 2021

<b>Document Control</b>			
<b>Document Properties</b>			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>National Grid</b>		
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<b>Title</b>	<b>Hinkley Point C Connection Project Requirement 6(h) – Archaeological Method Statement</b>		
<b>Document Reference</b>	<b>9.6H B</b>		
<b>Version History</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description/Changes</b>
02/11/20	A	Draft for Pre-app	
21/12/2020	B	Formal submission	Addressed comments from Pre-App Consultation



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## Abbreviations

ACoW	Archaeological Clerk of Works
AMS	Archaeological Method Statement
BGS	British Geological Survey
BSP	Bulk Supply Point
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CSCS	Construction Skills Certification Scheme
CSE	Cable Sealing End
DCO	Development Consent Order
ES	Environmental Statement
ha	Hectares
HE	Historic England
km	Kilometre
kV	Kilovolts
m	Metres
mm	Millimetres
NSC	North Somerset Council
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations
OHL	Overhead lines
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
WPD	Western Power Distribution
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
WW2	World War 2

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 This document

1.1.1 This document comprises the Archaeological Method Statement in relation to Stage 9 of the authorised development<sup>1</sup> at Portishead to be undertaken by Western Power Distribution (WPD) as part of the Hinkley Point C Connection Project ('the Project'). The Archaeological Method Statement is required by Schedule 3 Requirement 6(1)(h) of The National Grid (Hinkley Point C Connection Project) Order 2016 (as amended) ('the DCO').

1.1.2 Schedule 3 Requirement 6(1)(h) of the DCO is as follows:

*“(1) No stage of the authorised development may commence until, for that stage, the following plans, scheme, method statements and strategy, to minimise the impacts of construction works, have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority—*

*(h) Archaeological Method Statements”.*

1.1.3 This document has been submitted for approval to North Somerset Council as the relevant planning authority for Stage 9 of the authorised development and for the discharge of Schedule 3 Requirement 6(1)(h) of the DCO.

1.1.4 This document sets out the works required for a watching brief during construction of Stage 9 of the Project. It also provides a method statement and protocols (Appendix A) should archaeological remains be identified that cannot be investigated and recorded under the archaeological watching brief.

### 1.2 Overview of the Project

1.2.1 National Grid gained development consent from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for the Project on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The DCO provides powers to National Grid for the authorised development, and powers to Western Power Distribution (WPD) for the WPD works. The Project comprises a new 400,000 volt (400kV) electricity transmission connection between Bridgwater, Somerset and Seabank Substation, north of Avonmouth together with associated development.

1.2.2 The Project falls within the administrative boundaries of Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset County Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council.

1.2.3 The Project comprises the following elements:

- Construction of a 57km 400kV electricity transmission connection between Bridgwater in Somerset and Seabank, near Avonmouth, comprising:
  - Installation of a 400kV overhead line.
  - Installation of 400kV underground cables.
- Modifications to existing overhead lines at Hinkley Point, Somerset.

<sup>1</sup>Stage 9 of the authorised development is defined by the Written Scheme of Stages setting out all the stages of the authorised development (Document SW 4 F), pursuant to Requirement 4 (1) of the DCO.

- Construction of three 400kV Cable Sealing End (CSE) compounds along the route of the connection.
- Construction of a 400/132kV substation at Sandford, North Somerset.
- Extension of the existing 400kV substation at Seabank.
- The removal of existing 132kV overhead lines and the construction of replacement 132kV overhead lines and 132kV underground cables.
- Extensions/modifications to existing 132kV substations at Churchill, Portishead, Avonmouth and Seabank.
- Associated works, for example, temporary access roads, highway works temporary construction compounds, scaffolds, work sites and ancillary works.

### 1.3 Stage 9 Overview

- 1.3.1 The Stage 9 works at Portishead will be undertaken by WPD and comprise:
- works relating to Portishead 132kV Substation; and
  - BW Route undergrounding south of the River Avon.
- 1.3.2 Stage 9 will commence in Q2 2021 and will be completed in Q3 2023.
- 1.3.3 Balfour Beatty have been appointed by WPD as the main works contractor for Stage 9 of the Project.
- 1.3.4 The extent of the Stage 9 area is shown on the Scheme Layout Plan in **Appendix A**.

### 1.4 Stage 9 Description

- 1.4.5 Portishead 132kV Substation is an existing Bulk Supply Point (BSP) substation located on the eastern side of Portishead, operated by WPD. It occupies an area of approximately 1 hectare.
- 1.4.6 The current arrangement at the Portishead 132kV Substation is that two double circuit 132kV overhead lines (OHL) enter the substation, known as the BW Route from Seabank Substation, and the W Route which supplies Radstock Substation. A separate double circuit 132kV OHL (the G Route – running from Avonmouth Substation to Seabank Substation) crosses the site, but there is no connection to apparatus within the Portishead 132kV Substation.
- 1.4.7 The W Route is to be undergrounded as part of Stage 4 works, which would require the existing Portishead 132kV Substation equipment to be reconfigured to connect the underground cables. This work forms part of Stage 9 and will take place within the existing Portishead 132kV Substation compound, consisting of four new Cable Sealing End (CSE) terminations being installed. The existing BW Route will be undergrounded from a new pylon BW36R to Portishead BSP.

#### Preparatory / Temporary Works

- 1.4.8 **Construction compound:** no new compound will be constructed. To facilitate the works, the existing Stage 4 construction compound, located to the south of

Sheepway (**Appendix A**), will be utilised. The compound will consist of site offices and welfare facilities, storage areas for vehicle parking.

- 1.4.9 **Haul roads:** to enable the cable installation and removal of pylons, haul roads will be constructed from the existing Stage 4 haul road, which is currently located 1km south of Portishead substation extending southwards to Sheepway. Detailed design of the haul roads is still to be completed but it may consist of temporary trackway or stone road. The existing Stage 4 haul road and bellmouths, south of the Stage 9 haul road (**Appendix A**), will also be utilised during Stage 9. Haul roads will be removed at Stage 10.

### Main Works

- 1.4.10 The existing BW Route will be undergrounded from pylon BW36 to Portishead BSP. A new pylon, identified as BW36R, will be constructed with an integrated CSE platform. Approximately 620m of double circuit underground cable will be laid from this new pylon to Portishead Substation, where the cables will terminate on the new CSE structures. These comprise of steel structures 3.5m tall mounted on concrete pad foundations approximately 1m deep. The concrete pad foundations will be raised 0.5m above ground and 0.5m below ground, onto the existing piled foundations that extend 1500mm below ground level.
- 1.4.11 It is anticipated that the full length of the cable will be installed by open cut trenching.
- 1.4.12 Temporary scaffolding will need to be erected around pylon BW36R to enable the cable terminations to be made. Following completion of the termination, the scaffolding will be removed, and the land reinstated to its former condition.
- 1.4.13 The removal of pylons BW36, BW37, BW38 and BW39 will be carried out once this OHL has been disconnected. The conductors will be lowered to the ground, cut into smaller sections and gathered for recycling. The existing pylons will be taken down by crane piece by piece or by cutting two of the four legs and slowly lowering, down to the ground lying on its side, before being cut into pieces and removed. Foundations would be removed to a depth of approximately 1m and subsoil and topsoil reinstated.
- 1.4.14 Six watercourses / ditches will need to be crossed by the route of the temporary haul road and a further two by the cable trench. Detailed design work has yet to be completed but the crossings will be designed in consultation with the appropriate drainage authorities. The temporary haul road and cable trench will also cross a number of hedgerows and any existing land drainage.

### Landscaping/Replacement Planting

- 1.4.15 **Landscaping:** if planting/hedgerow is to be removed as part of Stage 9, it will be replaced followed completion of the works for Stage 9 and 10.

## 1.5 Consultation

- 1.5.1 A scoping consultation submission was made to North Somerset Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020, following a pre-application meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November. The submission set out those Requirements of the DCO which are considered to be applicable to Stage 9 of the Project. This includes only those Requirements where a stage specific submission could be required. The

submission included the response to North Somerset Councils comments during the pre-application meeting. No comments were received in respect of Requirement 6(1)(h).

1.5.2 Prior to the formal submission of this document for the discharge of Requirement 6(1)(h) for Stage 9, a pre-application consultation was completed with a draft version of the document provided to North Somerset Council for comments on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. Over a period of four weeks, North Somerset Council sought comments on the draft version of the document, with the comments issued back to National Grid on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Comments were also received from Historic England.

1.5.3 All comments received on the draft version of the document, including how these have been taken into consideration in this final document are set out in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Comments received from the relevant planning authority and consultees (Document 9.0\_6H)**

Comments from	Comment	Response
North Somerset Council Archaeologist	1.5 consultation – I was not consulted in November 2019 nor January 2020 on the scope of works.	Early consultation took place with the LPA through the ‘Scoping Consultation document’ to relevant LPA (NSC) for review and this document was high level outlining what requirement documents would be provided to NSC for proper pre-application consultation/approval at the later stage.
	3 – Archaeological and Historical background – relates more to the Somerset Levels (south of the Mendip Hills), not North Somerset.	Chapter 3 has been edited to reflect North Somerset.
	3.2.2 Palaeolithic artefacts have been found within 60m of this scheme, and more within the wider area (referenced later in 3.2.7).	Paragraph 3.2.2 has been amended to reference Palaeolithic artefacts found close to Stage 9.
	3.2.3 Mesolithic occupation/activity recorded 4km to the south at Birdcombe, Wraxall.	Noted and added to paragraph 3.2.3.
	3.2.4 – again, reference to the Somerset Levels. Most Neolithic activity in this area is in the form of flint scatters and findspots of axes on higher ground.	Paragraph 3.2.4 amended to exclude reference to Somerset Levels.
	3.2.5 – BA activity mostly centred around funerary monuments on ridges and hills in North Somerset. Little evidence for metalworking.	Noted. Paragraph 3.2.5 amended to reflect.
	3.2.6 There are hillforts at Portbury and Leigh Woods (and a postulated hillfort at East Wood, Portishead), along the River Avon & Gorge, as well as numerous coastal promontories.	Paragraph 3.2.6 has been amended to include these monuments.
	3.2.8 – late prehistoric fields W of Portbury off Caswell Lane are recorded in the NSHER.	Reference to this field system has been added to paragraph 3.2.8

	3.2.9 The IA tribe in this region was the Dobunni. Again, reference is being made to southern Somerset, not North Somerset. There are hillforts at Portbury and Leigh Woods (and a postulated hillfort at East Wood, Portishead).	Noted and paragraph 3.2.9 amended.
	3.2.10 reference should be made here to North Somerset Levels/The Northmarsh	Noted and paragraph 3.2.10 amended.
	3.2.11 whilst no Roman features may be recorded within the baseline, there are numerous records to the north of this area.	Additional information added to paragraph 3.2.11 to reflect Roman entries recorded by the HER.
	3.2.15 Only 2 known motte and bailey castles in North Somerset. Churches form the main body of upstanding medieval structures. The field pattern in this area is recorded as late medieval enclosed open fields and post medieval (15-17thC) organised enclosure of anciently reclaimed inland moors (Avon Historic Landscape Characterisation, 1999). Deserted farmstead sites are also common in North Somerset, and earthworks and cropmarks may relate to these remains.	Noted and paragraph 3.2.15 updated.
	3.2.21 – reference should be made to North Somerset.	Paragraph 3.2.20 has been updated.
	4. Aims & Objectives • no reference to detailed aims South West Archaeological Research Framework Research Strategy (Grove & Croft, 2008). These should be outlined at this stage. Aims should relate to known and potential archaeological remains. This AMS would not comply with CiFA standards.	Noted and research aims are now presented in Paragraph 4.2.7
	A museum accession number should be acquired and included in the AMS. The collecting museum is the Somerset Museums Service (South West Heritage Trust).	Cotswold Archaeology (CA) Archives department has notified Somerset Museums Service, and this will be obtained prior to commencement of fieldwork in April 2021, included in Paragraph 7.4.1.
	An OASIS record should also be created, and the reference included in the AMS.	Oasis ID is now included in Paragraph 7.1.10
	6.3 – clarification is required re responsibilities / protocol – reporting /monitoring/sign off	Paragraph 6.3.2 has been updated to clarify protocol and responsibilities.
	6.6.3 With current restrictions in place on monitoring visits, there should be a caveat here to ensure remote monitoring is an option. Video meetings with curator and/or HE are a welcome solution on other stages already in progress.	Noted and paragraph 6.6.3 is amended.

	6.6.6 – does this mean the ACoW will send the reports to the curator? On other stages there have been delays of over 3 weeks on the report being written and submitted to the ACoW and/or curator, and this is too long if decisions are required at short notice – curator needs to be as informed as possible at the earliest stage. See 6.6.3	Paragraph 6.6.6 amended to confirm that the ACoW will send on weekly reports as soon as is practicably possible.
	• 7.1.9 & 10 Bristol HER should be changed to North Somerset HER. PDF/A copies of the report will be required, along with shapefiles of the watching brief area and any archaeological features.	Noted and paragraph 7.1.9 amended.
	7.3.1 This should read North Somerset Council instead of Bristol City Council.	Noted and paragraph 7.3.1 amended.
	7.4 the accession number should be included in the AMS.	Awaiting. Cotswold Archaeology (CA) Archives department has notified Somerset Museums Service and the accession number will be obtained prior to commencement of fieldwork in April 2021.
Historic England	Thank you for requesting pre-application advice on the Archaeological Method Statement (AMS) (Doc 9 6H A) for Stage 9. The AMS in its current form does not in our view fulfil the requirement 6(1) (h) in line with the certified Archaeological WSI (Doc 5.26.4C) of the CEMP for the DCO. We offer the following comments and advice to ensure the document does fulfil the requirement.	Noted.
	2.2 Roles. Historic England is one of the curators of this project and can undertake monitoring alongside the LPA, if required. It needs to be made clear that the Historic England science advisor covers all aspects of archaeological science, not just environment remains.	Noted and HE role clarified in section 2.2.
	3 Background. The archaeological background section appears not to be focused on the area in question. I will leave it to your Senior Archaeological Officer to comment further on this. However, the lack of targeted baseline information means that there is a poor understanding of what archaeology may be found along the route.	Please see notes above. ,the archaeological background has been revised to focus on North Somerset.
	Of particular note is the more recent archaeology of the area. This includes the drainage systems and land reclamation evidence which may date back to the Medieval period or earlier. This is not discussed but will be impacted on by this work.	3.2.15 updated to include this.
	Once the background section has been updated this can then feed into the Aims and Objectives on the potential archaeology that may be found.	Updated see section 4.2.

	4. Aims and Objectives. These need to be better targeted using local and regional frameworks, i.e. South West Archaeological Research Framework.	Noted and research aims are now included in Paragraph 4.2.6.
	6.3 – This section is very confusing to read with the roles and responsibilities not being clearly outlined. The Curators role is especially not clear. The Curator will monitor the works and be responsible for signing off areas once the work has been completed.	Paragraph 6.3.2 has been updated to clarify protocol and responsibilities.
	6.3.7 – This section talks about sampling but does not provide much detail. Then in 6.3.12 – 16 it is explained in greater detail. The reference in 6.3.7 should therefore be removed.	Noted. Paragraph 6.3.7 removed for clarity.
	6.4 – If complex archaeology is found in the course of the watching brief the archaeological contractor should be prepared to produce a short document with more detailed research aims. These should then relate to local research frameworks and theme frameworks, and include a sampling strategy that is designed to deliver those aims.	Noted. Paragraph 6.4.2 has been amended to include for this.
	6.6.3 – Monitoring of archaeological works is currently restricted by the Covid situation. Alternative means to allow the curators to monitor onsite works needs to be agreed. On other Stages this has been done successfully using video calls, for example.	Noted Paragraph 6.6.3 has been amended to reflect
	6.6.6 – Weekly reports. It needs to be clear these will be sent to the Curator once the ACOW has approved them. The full reports are especially important in the current situation where the curator is restricted on monitoring visits. The reports will allow the curator to react quickly to requests for approval of mitigation strategies or backfilling of areas.	Noted, Paragraph 6.6.6 has been amended to reflect.
	7.1.9, 7.1.10 and 7.3.1 – reference to Bristol Council and HER needs to be removed.	Noted. North Somerset HER now included in para 7.1.9, 7.1.10 and 7.3.1.
North Somerset Council	As mentioned above, it is recommended that the AMS makes clear reference to relevant aims of the South West Archaeological Research Framework Research Strategy (Grove & Croft, 2008). This has been required on earlier stages and is necessary.	Noted and research aims added in Paragraph 4.2.6.

	<p>There is however, concern expressed by both the NSC Archaeologist and HE that the responsibilities, monitoring, sign off of works etc is not clear enough in Section 6.3 of the AMS. It is recommended that this is reviewed so that the process for decision making and relationship between the key parties is clear. This will avoid confusion and ensure that the works progress smoothly. Timing is also key here so that there is a clear and agreed timeframe for reporting matters to all parties, notably keeping the curator regularly informed (weekly) so that they have adequate time to undertake site visits (noting concerns expressed about delays on other stages).</p>	<p>Noted. Section 6.3 has been amended to reflect.</p>
	<p>Given the current pandemic and associated restrictions on movement, it is suggested that alternative methods of monitoring be set out in the AMS from the outset to ensure that monitoring can be undertaken in a remote format if necessary. Video meetings to facilitate monitoring has been successfully used on other stages of the project and may be appropriate for Stage 9 also. Inclusion of this fallback to face-to-face meetings would be prudent.</p>	<p>Noted and AMS revised to include see para 6.3.3</p>
	<p>There are some references in this section to the Bristol HER, this is incorrect, reference should be made to the North Somerset HER. The NSC Archaeologist has also requested further electronic copies of final reports in appropriate digital formats to aid with future recording.</p>	<p>Noted and amended as above.</p>
<p>North Somerset County Archaeologist – request for advice on asset AR222 received (1/12/20)</p>	<p>As this feature very likely relates to the AA battery (and may actually possibly be the LAA/searchlight platform recorded in the HER as per Cotswold's response) I would ask that this is avoided and a Level 1 survey carried out to provide a record of the structure.</p>	<p>Added to 4.2.3.</p>

## 2 REQUIREMENT CONTEXT

### 2.1 References to this document within existing DCO documents

2.1.1 Measures to be included within this document are contained within existing DCO documents, which have been certified by Article 44 of the DCO.

2.1.2 Appendix 3 of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) comprises an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document 5.26.4C) which was certified by the Secretary of State in accordance with Article 44 (Certification of plans etc.) of the DCO. The WSI provides the framework for the proposed approach to the mitigation of the predicted effects of the project on heritage assets with archaeological interest. The WSI provides generic guidance which needs to be supplemented by Archaeological Method Statements. Measures included in the WSI on this matter are summarised as follows:

2.1.3 The procedures outlined in the WSI consist of:

- pre-construction phase archaeological field evaluation;
- pre-construction excavation;
- pre-construction identification and safeguarding of assets to be preserved in situ;
- pre-construction archaeologically controlled strip of construction areas;
- construction phase excavation;
- construction phase watching brief;
- construction phase identification and safeguarding of assets to be preserved in situ; and
- post-construction phase assessment, analysis, reporting and publication.

2.1.4 The WSI sets out that as secured by Requirement 6 of the DCO detailed method statements will be provided for a range of activities. In respect of Stage 9 this relates to 'watching brief' and if required, the related stages of assessment, reporting, publication and public outreach activities.

### 2.2 Roles

2.2.1 The roles identified in the Archaeological WSI (Document 5.26.4C, para. 1.17 – 1.22) and that of the Consultant are set out in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Roles**

Role	Definition
The Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW)	Wood Group, appointed by National Grid to oversee the implementation of the Written scheme of investigation and related AMS on their behalf.
The Consultant	Cotswold Archaeology, who have been appointed by Balfour Beatty (the Contractor) to prepare the AMS.

Role	Definition
Archaeological Contractor	Cotswold Archaeology who are an appropriately qualified archaeological contractor appointed by the Contractor to carry out the works described in the Archaeological Method Statement.
Supervising Archaeologist	An archaeological supervisor appointed by the archaeological contractor to supervise the archaeological fieldwork, liaise with the contractor regarding programme and progress and notify the ACoW of any significant finds.
The Curator	The Local Authority Archaeological Advisor(s) (i.e. North Somerset Council Archaeologist). and if the works are in relation to a designated heritage asset or asset of demonstrably equivalent significance, Historic England. Historic England may undertake monitoring, alongside the North Somerset Archaeologist, and also provides the support of its specialist Scientific Advisor in relation to all aspects of archaeological science..
The Contractor	Main Works Contractor, Balfour Beatty, appointed by WPD to carry out the Stage 9 works.
Monitoring Archaeologist	Means the ACoW and Curator who will be invited to monitor fieldwork to review compliance to the WSI and AMS and provide comments and support for the ongoing fieldwork.
Field Archaeologist	Means an appropriately qualified archaeologist appointed by the archaeological contractor to undertake the fieldwork on behalf of the archaeological contractor, in accordance with the Archaeological Method Statement.

## 2.3 Approval of the Archaeological Method Statement

- 2.3.1 As set out in the Archaeological WSI (Document 5.26.4C, Section 1.12) the Curator will represent the relevant planning authority in approving the AMS in accordance with Schedule 3 Requirement 6 of the DCO.

### 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Geological Background

3.1.1 The underlying geology belongs to the Mercia Mudstone Group, comprising red brown siltstones and mudstones. These are overlain by Tidal Flat Deposits (BGS, 2020a), which are typically characterised by a consolidated soft silty clay, with layers of Peat, sand and a basal gravel (BGS, 2020b). The far eastern part of the Stage 9 works area is underlain by Head Deposits (clay, silt, sand and gravel) and River Terrace Deposits (sand and gravel).

#### 3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.2.1 The following briefly summarises the historical background of the project area, and the nature of the known archaeology around Portishead Substation and the Stage 9 baseline. Further details can be found in the Hinkley Point C Connections Desk Based Assessment (DBA) and Baseline (Volume 5.11.2.1 - 5.11.2.4, National Grid, May 2014). All heritage assets identified in the immediate vicinity of the Stage 9 works are shown in **Appendix B** and listed in Table 3.

##### **Prehistoric Period (500,000BCE– AD 43)**

3.2.2 The first hunter-gatherers moved into Somerset c.500,000 years ago, and Palaeolithic flint artefacts have been found at sites such as Westbury and Sheepway Village (see *Paragraph 3.2.7* below). Modern humans began to inhabit the Mendip Hills c.30,000-35,000 years ago. The region appears to have been deserted during the tundra conditions of the last glacial maximum 25,000-15,000 years ago.

3.2.3 Mesolithic hunter-gatherers appear to have occupied the region from approximately 6000BCE, where the Mendip hills were used as burial places. The Somerset levels became flooded during this period, with occupation on dry higher areas such as Glastonbury. Mesolithic occupation/ has been recorded 4km to the south at Birdcombe, Wraxall.

3.2.4 Farming spread to Somerset during the Neolithic period, and there is evidence for agriculture and the clearance of woodland in the region from c.3500BCE. Most of the evidence from the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age in North Somerset comes from flint and pottery scatters recovered from areas of higher ground (Volume 5.11.2.1-5.11.2.4 p. 21).

3.2.5 Sedentary farming practices of the Neolithic continue into the Bronze Age, although there is limited evidence for metallurgy in North Somerset. Bronze Age activity in the region appears to be focused around funerary monuments, situated on ridges and hills. A significant concentration of Bronze Age round barrows and cairns in the Mendip Hills extends north towards Bristol, and a less dense concentration is located on raised ground extending west towards Portishead.

3.2.6 The Iron age saw an increasing level of territoriality, and the building of hillforts in strategic positions around the region. These include Conygar Hill Hillfort (National Monument: 1007918) in Portbury, and Stokeleigh Camp (National Monument: 1008113) in Leigh Woods, c. 1.5km and c. 4km to the south-east of the current scheme respectively. Three tribes are known from Somerset during this period: the Dobunni in the north, the Durotriges in the south, and the

Dumnonii in the west. This period saw the production of coinage and use of iron technology.

- 3.2.7 Early Prehistoric remains are concentrated around the gravel terrace at Sheepway. Lower Palaeolithic hand axes found north of Sheepway Village on Terrace 1 Gravel geology (AR224), 60m to the north of the current scheme. In addition, a Mesolithic microlith was found in Portbury, and a 1km grid square a Neolithic stone axe, was found at a depth of 1.3m in alluvium while clearing a drain at Wharf Lane, Portbury (AR212).
- 3.2.8 No Late Prehistoric archaeological sites or artefacts have been recovered from areas in the immediate vicinity of the Stage 9 works, although a late prehistoric field system is recorded by the North Somerset Historic Environment Records (HERs), to the west of Portbury, c. 2km to the south-east (HER MNS556).

### **Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)**

- 3.2.9 North Somerset was invaded from the south east by the second legion under Vespasian, during which the hillforts (see Paragraph 3.2.6 above) of the indigenous Dobunni tribe were captured. The region was particularly attractive due to the lead and silver deposits in the Mendip Hills, and the mines here were run by the Roman military. There are a number of Roman towns and trading posts, connected by roads.
- 3.2.10 Roman occupation skirted the Somerset Levels on slightly higher ground. Somerset is traditionally associated with Roman salt production and lead mining, but there was also a pottery industry. It has been suggested that this had its origins in itinerant potters following the army westwards but the range of pottery dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD (Somerset County Council, 2007). Evidence from the North Somerset Levels suggests widespread reclamation of wetland during the Roman period and paleoenvironmental evidence shows that the landscape was protected from tidal inundation (see for example Rippon 2000 and 2006),
- 3.2.11 No heritage assets of Roman date are recorded within the Stage 9 baseline, however, a number of findspots of Roman pottery, indicative of settlement activity, are recorded by the North Somerset HER to the north and west of the Stage 9 work area (e.g. MNS423, MNS5425)

### **Early Medieval (AD 410 – 1066)**

- 3.2.12 Immediately following the collapse of the Roman Empire, Somerset appears to have continued to use Roman infrastructure, farms and other sites such as Cadbury into the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The area became a border between the Romano-British Celts and the West Saxons, and boundary ditches and defences are evident.
- 3.2.13 The Saxons occupied Somerset during the late 7<sup>th</sup> century, following a number of notable battles and the establishment of a border along Wansdyke to the north of the Mendip hills.
- 3.2.14 No heritage assets of Early Medieval date are recorded in the Stage 9 baseline.

### **Medieval Period (AD 1066AD – 1540)**

- 3.2.15 After the Norman invasion, castles were set up in the region by the new local lords, however, only two known motte and bailey castles are known in North Somerset and churches therefore constitute the main body of evidence for medieval structures. Farming appears to have thrived during the early centuries of this period, although the region suffered greatly during the Black Death, causing an extensive reorganisation of the feudal system due to the dramatic drop in population. There was an increasing reclamation of the Somerset levels marshland, as well as an increase in local industry and coal mining in the Mendips. Eventually, sheep farming became the dominant trade in the region. The field pattern in North Somerset is predominately recorded as late medieval enclosed open fields and post medieval (15th to 17th century) organised enclosure of anciently reclaimed inland moors (Avon Historic Landscape Characterisation, 1999). However, a number of rhyes and drainage channels are present in vicinity of the current scheme and may be associated with land reclamation of possible medieval (or earlier) date. An undated group of enclosures immediately south of Sheepway may indicate continuation of that settlement or the presence of another settlement. Thirteen rectangular enclosures, defined by ditches, have been observed, of which two are small and may surround a deserted farm site. Field reconnaissance survey identified a large structure platform and furlongs of ridge and furrow, suggesting that the settlement is Medieval in origin. In the fields further south, more ridge and furrow and a possible trackway were located, which are likely to be contemporary.
- 3.2.16 The upper slope of the Failand Ridge is characterised by thin zones of medieval enclosed fields created by assart (HL301, HL303). Zones of late Medieval enclosed fields created by local arrangement and exchange dominate this area, and are found along the base of the Failand Ridge and from The Portbury Hundred (i.e. the A369) almost to the coastal area. There are also zones of former moorland enclosed in the late medieval or early Post-medieval periods, which tend to occupy slightly lower ground.
- 3.2.17 No heritage assets of Medieval date are recorded in the Stage 9 baseline.

### **Post Medieval Period (AD 1540 - 1901)**

- 3.2.18 Arable production and population numbers increased with the enclosure of fields in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Large country houses began to be established in greater numbers. The Bristol Channel floods affected large parts of the Somerset levels in 1607. Somerset fought against King James II during this period under the Duke of Monmouth in 1685. The 18th century saw declining industry in the region, as the industrial revolution saw the end of the cottage industries, although farming continued to thrive, as did coal mining in the Somerset coalfield. A number of canals and railways were built in part to supplement the coal industry. Roads were improved, and turnpikes introduced.
- 3.2.19 Post-medieval settlements are known from documentary sources. Settlement stretched along Caswell Lane during this period, with core settlements at Stratton and Cherryorchard Farm, and at Upper and Lower Caswell, the intervening roadside being infilled during the nineteenth century. Further north, 'core settlements' are recorded at Sheepway, Sheepway Gate (AR207, AR209, AR210, HL338), and at Atherton House (AR216, HL343). Moor Farm on the edge

of Portishead (HL330) and Elm Tree Farm north of Portbury (HL329) are also recorded as late eighteenth century or nineteenth century settlements.

### Modern Period (AD 1901 – present)

- 3.2.20 North Somerset has a concentration of sites related to the Second World War, as its geographical position made it an ideal area for the Normandy invasion preparations. There are four assets dating from the Second World War in the local area, all of which are located north of Sheepway. The largest of these is a site containing remains of a military camp, searchlights and light anti-aircraft batteries (AR219). Four octagonal emplacements, support structures and extant buildings are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1946 and 1947. Field reconnaissance survey found that the battery appears to be in very good condition, and identified a brick pillbox, possible underground magazines and a possible sentry box. A contemporary garage (AR217) and two other sets of searchlights and light anti-aircraft batteries (AR221, AR222) are located nearby.
- 3.2.21 There are also some small zones of post-Enclosure fields around Portishead, as well as modern ‘utility landscapes’, towards the northwest.

### 3.3 Summary of Non-designated Archaeological Remains

- 3.3.1 Table 3 summarises the non-designated archaeological remains found within or in the immediate vicinity of the Stage 9 works, as shown in **Appendix B**.

**Table 3: Non-designated Archaeological Remains**

Asset Reference	Period	Name & Description	Heritage Significance	Within Stage 9 works area?
AR207	Post-medieval	Site of Sheepway gate Farm, Sheepway; recorded on 1830 OS map.	Low	No
AR209	Post-medieval	‘Core Settlement’ (late C18th/19th) at Sheepway Gate, Portbury.	Low	No
AR210	Post-medieval	Site of a building north of Sheepway Gate Farm (documented in 1782).	Low	No
AR211	Undated	Oval soil mark north of Sheepway Gate Farm.	Low	No
AR212	Early Prehistoric	A Neolithic stone axe, assigned to petrological Group I, was found in 1932 at a depth of 1.3m in alluvium while clearing a drain at Wharf Lane, Portbury.	Negligible	No
AR216	Post-medieval	Post-medieval settlement of Wathpins/ Atherton House, Portishead	Low	No

Asset Reference	Period	Name & Description	Heritage Significance	Within Stage 9 works area?
AR217	Modern	World War 2 (WW2) garage & inspection pit associated with HAA battery. Field reconnaissance survey identified the former garage to be in relatively good condition beneath heavy undergrowth.	Negligible	No
AR219	Modern	Site of WW2 searchlights & Light Anti-Aircraft batteries at Sheepway. The remains of the Second World War Portbury (Sheepway) anti-aircraft battery & military camp. Four octagonal emplacements, support structures & extant buildings were mapped from aerial photographs taken in 1946 & 1947. Field reconnaissance survey identified that the site stands on the (possibly augmented) terminus of a prominent ridge. The battery, although much overgrown, appears to be in very good condition. To the east of the heads of the battery, and overlooking the approach from the east, is a brick pillbox. In the southwest corner of the site are possible underground magazines (much overgrown). A possible WW2 sentry box guards the access to the site and lane near Atherton house	Low	No
AR221	Modern	Site of WW2 searchlights & LAA at Sheepway HAA site.	Negligible	No
AR222	Modern	Site of WW2 searchlights & LAA.	Negligible	Yes
AR224	Early Prehistoric	Lower Palaeolithic handaxes found north of Sheepway Village on Terrace 1 Gravel geology.	Moderate	No

## 4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 4.1 Objective

- 4.1.1 All work shall be planned, managed and carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) in their standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA, 2014b). This guidance defines the purpose of a watching brief as follows:

*“...to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;*

*to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist<sup>2</sup> to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the Watching Brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.” (CIfA, 2014a, 2).*

### 4.2 Aims

- 4.2.1 The CEMP Appendix 3 “Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation” sets out the steps National Grid will take to achieve the aims and commitments of the Environmental Statement in relation to mitigating the potential effects of Hinkley Point C Connection on archaeological and geo-archaeological remains and the historic landscape heritage. It also describes the procedures for the identification of archaeological remains through an archaeological watching brief (Volume 5.26.4C National Grid, July 2015, Section 8).

- 4.2.2 The WSI has identified the following is required during construction for the installation of the 132kV underground cable connection into Portishead substation (Volume 5.26.4C, National Grid, July 2015, Annex B):

*“Combination of excavation in areas of known archaeology; controlled strip in areas of high potential and watching brief during construction for remainder of working area”.*

- 4.2.3 Appendix B shows the recorded heritage assets (the archaeological baseline) and the construction components of the Stage 9 works. Only one asset of negligible significance (AR222) is within the Stage 9 works area. Therefore, it is considered the following will take place:

- a. Asset AR222 will be preserved in situ and the archaeological subcontractor will undertake a Level 1 record (photos and basic plan) and provide them so that a new HER record can be completed; and
- b. a watching brief during construction is required.

- 4.2.4 The aim of the archaeological watching brief is to ensure that any archaeological remains are identified during the course of construction, and their significance determined. The impact of construction on non-complex archaeology will be

<sup>2</sup>For the purposes of this method statement, the watching archaeologist is synonymous with the Monitoring Archaeologist as defined in Table 2.

mitigated by making a record of any remains. Additional approaches to the mitigation of impacts on complex archaeology will be developed separately.

4.2.5 If significant archaeological remains are identified, any watching brief report produced will make reference to the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) so that the remains can, if possible, be placed within their local and regional contexts.

4.2.6 The specific aims of the archaeological work have been considered in light of the South West Archaeological Research Framework South West Archaeological Research Framework Research Strategy (Grove & Croft, 2008) and may include (but are not limited to):

- Research Aim 14: Widen our understanding of Later Bronze Age and Iron Age material culture
- Research Aim 33: Widen understanding of the origins of villages
- Research Aim 42: Improve understanding of medieval farming.
- Research Aim 21b: Medieval and Post-Medieval agriculture.
- Research Aim 64: Improve understanding of the less-researched areas of Post-Medieval to Modern defence and warfare.

4.2.7 As per Paragraph 6.4.2 (below), should complex archaeological remains be identified during the course of the works the archaeological contractor will prepare a short document highlighting more detailed research aims, as appropriate to the archaeological remains identified, prior to archaeological excavation commencing. These will relate to local research frameworks and include a sampling strategy that is designed to deliver those aims.

4.2.8 More specific aims and objectives are:

- to identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in this Archaeological Method Statement;
- to determine (so far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of features identified; and
- to disseminate the results through deposition of an ordered archive at an appropriate museum, the deposition of a detailed report at the North Somerset HER, and the report made available through the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project website.

## 5 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

### 5.1 Timetable/Programme

The archaeological watching brief is currently programmed to commence in April 2021, within the areas of topsoil strip, associated with the construction of pylon and crane bases, cable working width, haul roads and cable trench excavation.

### 5.2 Staffing

5.2.1 The Archaeological Contractor shall nominate a single individual (the Supervising Archaeologist) to be responsible for the overall management and delivery of the project and shall act as the main point of contact with the National Grid-appointed ACoW.

5.2.2 The project staff employed by the Archaeological Contractor in any role or for any part of the archaeological watching brief shall be suitably qualified and experienced. See Appendix C for further details of Cotswold Archaeology's (the Archaeological Contractor) staffing.

### 5.3 Curriculum Vitae

5.3.1 Curriculum Vitae of all staff (including the Supervising Archaeologist and the Field Archaeologist(s)) to be employed on the archaeological fieldwork, with a description of their proposed role on site and responsibilities (including specialists), shall be submitted to the ACoW for approval 10 working days prior to the commencement of the investigations. The ACoW shall communicate these to the Curator.

### 5.4 Continuing Professional Development

5.4.1 Continuing Professional Development will be built into the archaeological works (ClfA 2014c). Members of the archaeological team will be encouraged to develop their skills where appropriate within the constraints of the type of work being undertaken and informed about new developments or methodologies appropriate to the work.

5.4.2 This could be done through tool-box talks led by experienced team members and individual mentoring. These sessions should be recorded in members' CPD logs as work-based learning. See Appendix C for further details of Cotswold Archaeology's (the Archaeological Contractor) continuing professional development.

## 6 SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 6.1 Scope of Work

6.1.1 The Archaeological Contractor shall undertake the following:

- Undertake a watching brief on the removal of topsoil and overburden associated with the construction of pylon and crane bases, cable working width, haul roads and cable trench excavation; and
- Preparation of an Archaeological Report detailing the results of the watching brief on the removal of topsoil and overburden.

6.1.2 The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken in accordance with this AMS and with best practice guidance including but not limited to the examples provided in the references. See Appendix C for details of Cotswold Archaeology's (the Archaeological Contractor) procedural documents/standards.

### 6.2 Methodology for Archaeological Watching Brief during topsoil removal

6.2.1 All topsoil removal shall be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket in a manner conducive to archaeological monitoring.

6.2.2 Stripping of topsoil and other overburden shall be undertaken by the Contractor operating under the continuous observation of the Field Archaeologist(s). Sufficient Field Archaeologists shall be present to ensure that all stripping is properly monitored.

6.2.3 Stripping of topsoil and other overburden shall remain subject to the oversight of the Field Archaeologist, and no further construction operations may commence including tracking of any plant which might obscure observations, until they have agreed with the Supervising Archaeologist and ACoW that further oversight is not required and the Supervising Archaeologist has issued in writing a 'clearance to proceed' to the Contractor. The Supervising Archaeologist may issue such clearance in any of the following circumstances:

- they are satisfied that no remains of archaeological interest are present in the specified area;
- they are satisfied that all remains of archaeological interest in the specified area have been identified, investigated and recorded in accordance with the requirements set out below; or
- they are satisfied that, although there remains a possibility that unidentified archaeological remains are present in the specified area, no further ground disturbance will take place that would result in the exposure or disturbance of those remains.

### 6.3 Investigation and Recording of Archaeological Remains

6.3.1 Where archaeological remains are identified which, in the judgment of the Supervising Archaeologist and the Archaeological Contractor, are of low density, complexity or less than moderate heritage significance, and where they can reasonably do so without compromising the ongoing watching brief, the Archaeological Contractor shall investigate and record the remains according to the methodology set out below and following the protocol set out as Inset 8.1 in the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (Volume 5.26.4C, National Grid, July 2015, p. 36), and presented in Appendix D.

- 6.3.2 The protocol sets out two scenarios, depending on the complexity or lack thereof, of archaeological remains found. The presence of complex archaeology requires the site of the remains to be signed and fenced off in the first instance. The Contractor will be contacted immediately and following consultation with the ACoW and Curator, a decision will be made as to whether to excavate or preserve the remains in situ. Non-complex, or a lack of archaeology, requires recording before continuing. Assessing and responding appropriately to the level of archaeological complexity will be the responsibility of the Field Archaeologist in the first instance. However, the ACoW will ensure that the Curator is regularly updated (at least weekly) and provided with suitable opportunities to monitor the works (either directly or remotely, as appropriate). The Curator will be responsible for signing off areas once the work has been completed.
- 6.3.3 As set out in the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (Volume 5.26.4C, National Grid, July 2015, para. 8.8), significance will be determined, onsite by the ACoW and the Supervising Archaeologist on behalf of the Archaeological Contractor, and ensuring the implementation of the protocol will be the responsibility of the Field Archaeologist, the client and their contractor (Volume 5.26.4C, National Grid, July 2015, para. 8.13).
- 6.3.4 Unless otherwise agreed with the Curator and the ACoW, the Field Archaeologist shall undertake archaeological excavation by hand of any archaeological remains identified in accordance with the following strategy:
- 6.3.5 Hand-cleaning of features or selected areas shall be undertaken to clarify the extent of, or relationship between, features/deposits. Where deemed appropriate by the Field Archaeologist, linear features may be investigated by mechanical excavation of the section followed by cutting-back the exposed face by hand excavation. Relationships between intersecting features shall be determined by hand-excavation. Discrete features shall be investigated by hand-excavation of a half section, or otherwise as appropriate and depending on the significance and complexity of the remains in question. All hand-excavation shall be carried out in a stratigraphic manner in accordance with best industry practice.
- 6.3.6 It is currently anticipated that the following excavation strategy will be employed, although this may be varied following an assessment of the type, extent and significance any archaeological remains encountered by the supervising archaeologist (in conjunction with the ACoW and Curator):
- all funerary/ritual activity and domestic/industrial deposits will be 100% excavated;
  - all discrete features (e.g. postholes, pits) will be sampled by hand excavation (average sample unlikely to exceed 50% of each individual feature), unless their common/repetitious nature suggests they are unlikely to yield significant new information;
  - all linear features will be sampled to a maximum of 10% of their lengths;

bulk horizontal deposits will as a minimum be 10% by area hand excavated, after which a decision may be taken (in conjunction with ACoW and Curator) to remove the remainder with machinery

- 6.3.7 All excavated contexts shall be fully recorded by a descriptive written context record for each stratigraphic unit, together with full photographic records and drawn plans and sections at appropriate scales (e.g. 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate for the feature/context encountered). All section heights will be recorded in m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). All excavated features and deposits shall be recorded photographically using, as a minimum, high resolution digital photography. Additional illustrative photographs shall be taken as appropriate using digital photography. A high-resolution digital camera with a minimum resolution of ten megapixels shall be used to produce colour images. Digital images shall be supplied in uncompressed TIFF format for long-term storage and accessibility.
- 6.3.8 If any human remains are encountered, the Supervising Archaeologist and the ACoW shall be informed immediately. Any human remains (skeletal or cremated) will always be treated with due decency and respect. Where human remains are encountered, these will not be excavated unless their disturbance by the development is unavoidable. In cases where 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 (ClfA 2017).
- 6.3.9 Small-scale hand-excavation shall be undertaken where necessary to clarify the nature or significance of features or deposits, or to facilitate recording, or for hand-cleaning of sections or other surfaces as part of the recording process.
- 6.3.10 All finds of potential archaeological value shall be retained and removed from the site, then cleaned, catalogued and appropriately packaged. All recording, cleaning, storage and conservation of finds shall be in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA, 2014c). Upon discovery of treasure, the Supervising Archaeologist will notify the ACoW immediately. CA will comply fully with the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred to therein. Findings will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.
- 6.3.11 Should waterlogged remains be encountered during the investigations, the strategies for their recovery and treatment will be in accordance with the appropriate national guidance, including English Heritage's guidelines on Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidance on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation (2012). The Archaeological Contractor shall also liaise with the ACoW, who will liaise with the Curator about the treatment of waterlogged remains.
- 6.3.12 Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. This will follow the Historic England environmental sampling guidelines outlined in Environmental Archaeology, A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage 2011). The sampling strategy set out below may be revised if necessary,

in the field in close consultation with the CA Environmental Officer but will follow the general selection parameters set out in the following paragraphs. Advice may also be sought from the Historic England science advisor if necessary, once the fieldwork is underway.

- 6.3.13 The preservation of charred remains varied across the second Severn Crossing project. Secure deposits related to settlement activity and/or structures will be considered for sampling for the recovery of charred plant remains, charcoal and mineralised remains. The sample size should be 40 litres where possible. Any cremation-related deposits will be sampled appropriately for the recovery of cremated human bone and charred remains.
- 6.3.14 If any evidence of in situ metal working is found, suitable samples for the recovery of slag and hammer scale will be taken. Generally, 10 litre samples should be taken from two quadrants of these deposits but if it is a large deposit a series of samples taken in a grid across the deposit would be more appropriate. In this instance, sampling advice should be sought from the CA Environmental Officer.
- 6.3.15 The processing of the samples will be done in conjunction with the CA Environmental Officer and relevant specialists following the Historic England general environmental processing guidelines (English Heritage 2011). Flotation or wet sieve samples will be processed to 0.25mm. Other more specialist samples such as those for pollen will be prepared by the relevant specialist. Due to the project timescales, the sample processing will be undertaken after the watching brief fieldwork has been completed. The samples will then be reviewed, and a selection made for processing in order to evaluate the potential for environmental remains in the remaining samples. Further processing would then be done, as appropriate. Samples selected for processing will be 100% processed (i.e. there will be no processing of sub-samples). A list of any samples not selected for processing will be produced, along with justification for the decision not to process.
- 6.3.16 Any revisions to the sampling strategy outlined above will be documented. The Cotswold Archaeology Environmental Officer will be involved in any decisions about revising the sampling strategy. The Historic England science advisor will also be contacted for advice as appropriate. Field Archaeologists will be informed about any changes in site aims and sampling strategies.

## **6.4 Complex Archaeology**

- 6.4.1 Where complex archaeological remains (of moderate or high significance) (National Grid, July 2015, Section 8.6) are identified then the Field Archaeologist shall mark-out the relevant area in an appropriate manner and notify the Supervising Archaeologist, the ACoW and the Curator. Plant or vehicles shall not be permitted to enter the marked-out area except if given clearance to do so by the Supervising Archaeologist. All construction works within the marked-out area shall be suspended until a strategy has been agreed between the Client, their environmental advisors, the Supervising Archaeologist, the ACoW and the Curator.
- 6.4.2 Notification of discoveries as set out above shall be made within one working day of the discovery and shall include a brief outline of what has been discovered. The archaeological contractor will look to prepare a short document highlighting more detailed research aims, as appropriate to the archaeological remains

identified, prior to archaeological excavation commencing. These will relate to local research frameworks and include a sampling strategy that is designed to deliver those aims.

- 6.4.3 After such notification, the Supervising Archaeologist will initiate a meeting between the Client, their environmental advisors, the ACoW and the Curator to determine the need for, nature and scope of any further archaeological investigation and recording works.
- 6.4.4 Where preservation in situ is not possible, following this meeting and within 5 working days of receipt of a written instruction from the ACoW to do so, the Archaeological Contractor shall submit for the approval of the ACoW a Project Design detailing how these archaeological remains are to be mitigated in accordance with the requirements outlined in this document. The ACoW shall seek the Curator's approval for the Project Design prior to the works taking place.

## **6.5 Site Archive**

- 6.5.1 The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that adequate resources shall be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent.
- 6.5.2 Archive consolidation shall be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork.
- 6.5.3 The site record shall be checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary.
- 6.5.4 All retained finds shall be cleaned, conserved, marked and packaged as necessary to maintain the archive prior to transfer.
- 6.5.5 All retained finds shall be assessed and recorded using pro-forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating shall be integrated with the site matrix.
- 6.5.6 The archiving and post-excavation work shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA, 2014b).
- 6.5.7 The integrity of the primary field records shall be preserved, and the Archaeological Contractor shall create security copies in digital format of all primary field records.
- 6.5.8 All construction method statements, design drawings and risk assessments etc. will be available in hard copy on site at all times held by the attending archaeologist, and available for all staff, curator and ACoW.

## **6.6 Monitoring**

- 6.6.1 The Supervising Archaeologist shall inform the ACoW, who will liaise with the Curator, of the start date and timetable of works at least 10 working days in advance of work commencing, so that monitoring meetings may be arranged.
- 6.6.2 Reasonable access to the site shall be afforded to the Curator or their nominee at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the works. This shall be carried out in line with the Contractor's site access requirements.
- 6.6.3 During the investigations, monitoring may include visits to the site by the Client ACoW and/or representatives of the Curator who shall be given full access to any site records or other information recorded. Due to the current government

restrictions relating to Covid-19, regular remote monitoring; including video meetings/telephone conference calls with the curator and/or HE, may be considered as an alternative to site visits.

- 6.6.4 The Supervising Archaeologist shall supply brief weekly reports summarising progress and results to the ACoW following each week's work. As a minimum, the weekly reports shall include the following:
- a table setting out all staff and other resources used on the project during the relevant period;
  - staff time broken down by staff grade/role and task on project;
  - any standing time due to weather, staffing or technical problems; and
  - a short free text summary of archaeological tasks undertaken and archaeological results.
- 6.6.5 The Supervising Archaeologist shall include in their weekly reports; details of the groundworks which are being monitored, the site code and location of the watching brief (including a grid reference), copies of plans (sketch or measured), or digital photographs of features or finds identified.
- 6.6.6 The ACoW will review and, once approved, ensure that the weekly reports are sent to the Curator at the earliest possible opportunity to ensure that they are adequately informed as to progress.
- 6.6.7 During the course of monitoring, the ACoW or their nominee may identify defects in the works. The Archaeological Contractor shall take steps to rectify any such defects immediately on being notified by the ACoW, either verbally or in writing.
- 6.6.8 The archaeological investigations described in this Method Statement shall be deemed to be complete only when completion has been confirmed in writing by the ACoW. The ACoW shall take advice from the Curator if required before providing such written confirmation.

Following completion of the investigations, all documentation produced will be reviewed and the completed archive may be inspected by the ACoW at any time. The Archaeological Contractor shall take into account any comments made by the ACoW and remedy any faults identified.

## 7 POST EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

### 7.1 Post-Fieldwork Assessment

- 7.1.1 It is possible that very few archaeological remains will be recorded, in which case a summary report will be adequate. In this case the structure of, and timescales for, this summary report will be confirmed with the Curator. In all eventualities, post-excavation reporting will be sufficient to establish the character, scale, date and significance of any remains identified.
- 7.1.2 It is not anticipated that this watching brief will afford opportunities for public engagement or participation during the course of the fieldwork. However, the watching brief results will be made publicly available on the ADS and CA websites.
- 7.1.3 Each category of data and material recovered by the fieldwork (site records/stratigraphic data), each category of artefact or other find and any other data shall be examined, quantified, catalogued and assessed by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists or specialists.
- 7.1.4 The report shall be prepared in line with the principles set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief (CIfA, 2014b) and excavation (CIfA, 2014a). The report shall clearly acknowledge the role of the Curator, and shall show the logo of National Grid and WPD, and shall include as a minimum:
- A non-technical summary;
  - Introductory Statements;
  - Background to the project;
  - Archaeological background;
  - Methodology;
  - Results;
  - Discussion and Conclusion which will place the findings of the watching brief into a wider landscape context;
  - A specialist assessment of any artefacts or environmental material recovered (as agreed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders) with a view to their potential for further study. Allowance should be made for preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects and an assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs;
  - Supporting drawings (including location plans of all areas subject to watching brief), photographs etc.;
  - Supporting data;
  - Index to/location of archive;
  - References; and
  - Photographic references as an appendix identifying the subject, position and direction of each shot.

- 7.1.5 The report shall include the following reference information:
- Title page;
  - Full site name;
  - Site code;
  - OASIS reference;
  - OS National Grid Reference;
  - Author;
  - Organisation/contractor;
  - Dates of fieldwork (date/month/year);
  - Names of fieldwork staff;
  - Date report written; and
  - Commissioning body.
- 7.1.6 The report shall be illustrated with relevant plans, sections and a selection of digital photographs.
- 7.1.7 A draft report will be required no later than 6 weeks following completion of fieldwork.
- 7.1.8 One copy of a complete draft post-fieldwork assessment report shall be submitted in the first instance for review/checking by the ACoW who will provide a copy to the Curator for their review. In finalising the report, the Archaeological Contractor shall take into account any comments made remedy any faults identified by the ACoW and the Curator. The finalised report shall be submitted to the ACoW.
- 7.1.9 One digital copy in PDF/A format of the final report will be deposited with the Curator. Digital data derived from the report will be provided in a format suitable for inclusion into the North Somerset HER for record enhancement purposes. Shapefiles of the watching brief area and any archaeological features identified will be provided to the Curator and the Archaeological Contractor shall liaise with the Curator to discuss the nature and format of any further material required.
- 7.1.10 North Somerset HER supports the OASIS Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork. On completion of the report, the Archaeological Contractor will make a copy accessible to the wider research community by submitting it to the OASIS Project (Oasis ID: cotswold2-411186).
- 7.2 Copyright**
- 7.2.1 The copyright in all drawings, reports, specifications and other documents and information prepared by or on behalf of the Archaeological Contractor in connection with the archaeological watching brief shall be vested in WPD.
- 7.3 Publication**
- 7.3.1 The Archaeological Contractor shall also prepare a summary of the work undertaken for any regional journals as identified by North Somerset Council .

One copy of the complete draft of the summary shall be submitted in the first instance for review/checking by the ACoW who shall also consult the Curator during the review period. In finalising the summary, the Archaeological Contractor shall take into account any comments and remedy any faults identified by the ACoW and the Curator.

- 7.3.2 Should significant archaeological or environmental remains be recorded then consideration will be given to full analysis and publication of materials of special interest or significance, even if the archaeological investigation as a whole does not merit full publication.

#### **7.4 Archive Deposition**

- 7.4.1 The archaeological contractor will obtain an accession number for the archive from the Somerset Museums Service. The accession number will be obtained prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 7.4.2 Immediately upon completion of the reviewed post-fieldwork report, the post-fieldwork report and any data or other documentation produced during the post-fieldwork reporting shall be integrated into the site archive.
- 7.4.3 The Archaeological Contractor shall store the archive in suitable conditions in a secure location until instructions are received from the Curator for the deposition of the archive.
- 7.4.4 The Archaeological Contractor shall arrange for the deposition of an ordered archive and the artefact collection (if applicable) at Somerset Museums Service in Taunton, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), if required.

## 8 HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

### 8.1 General Health and Safety Requirements

- 8.1.1 The Archaeological Contractor shall prepare an Archaeological Risk Assessment and Method Statement that takes the Project Specific Health and Safety plan into account. This shall be submitted to the Client and ACoW no less than ten working days prior to the proposed date of commencement of the archaeological watching brief. A site-specific Point of Work Risk Assessment (POWRA) will also be compiled for each specific area subject to watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The Archaeological Contractor shall ensure full compliance with all Health and Safety legislation and the requirements of the Contractor.
- 8.1.3 Welfare facilities will be provided by the Contractor.
- 8.1.4 The Contractor shall supply all suitable plant for the topsoil removal. All such plant shall operate under the direct and continuous supervision of the Contractor.
- 8.1.5 All Archaeological Contractor's site staff shall be Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cardholders.
- 8.1.6 The Archaeological Contractor's site staff shall bring to the attention of the ACoW and Contractor any actions by site staff or third parties that may endanger site operatives or the investigations. If these actions are considered to be of an immediate danger or compromise the safety of the archaeological watching brief, then the Archaeological Contractor may act accordingly.
- 8.1.7 The Contractor shall be responsible for maintaining the safety of the public.
- 8.1.8 The number of personnel shall be kept to a minimum at all times. The number of personnel required to safely and efficiently conduct the works determines the limit.
- 8.1.9 The Archaeological Contractor's site staff and/or or the Contractor shall have the right, in the interests of safety, to halt investigations on the approach of any non-essential personnel.
- 8.1.10 The Client, Contractor, Field Archaeologist and/or the ACoW shall have the right to halt investigations in the interests of health and safety and/or to exclude the Archaeological Contractor's personnel from site in the event of a breach of health and safety policy or observance of unsafe practices or other unacceptable behaviour.

## 9 REFERENCES

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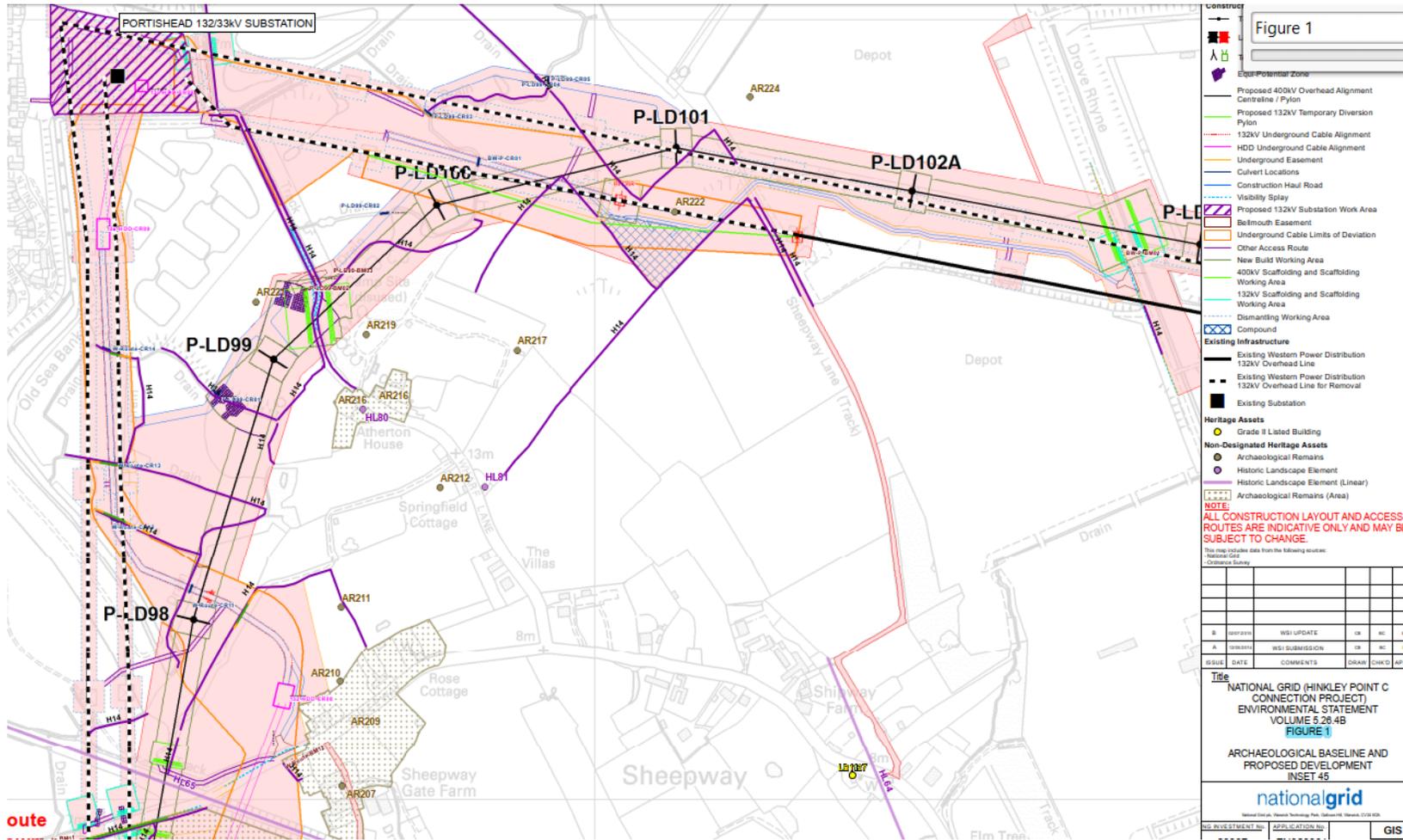
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## APPENDIX A – SCHEME LAYOUT PLAN

# APPENDIX B – LOCATION OF HERITAGE ASSETS



**APPENDIX C – COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT DESIGN FOR AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

## **APPENDIX D - WATCHING BRIEF REPORTING PROTOCOL**

This protocol is reproduced from the CEMP Appendix 3 WSI (Inset 8.1)

