



**SOLAR FARM,
MANOR FARM,
BURNGULLOW,
CORNWALL**

NGR: SW 98201 52361

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

July 2011

Report No. 742



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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Between the 17th May and the 7th June 2011, Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (watching brief) during groundworks associated with the installation of inverter housings and a substation at the Solar Farm, Manor Farm, Burngullow, Cornwall (NGR: SW 98201 52361). The work was commissioned by Mr Andy Mayes of Scott Wilson Group plc on behalf of Low Carbon Solar.

Planning permission has been granted for the development of a Solar Farm and associated substations on land previously used for agricultural purposes. In accordance with the principles of PPS5 (*Planning Policy Statement 5*) and the archaeological policies of Cornwall Council, a condition was applied to the planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological works.

The watching brief comprised the monitoring of four induction housing platform trenches and one trench for the substation, located in the three fields to the east of Manor Farm.

No archaeological finds or deposits were present within the watched areas. However, the natural deposits were only exposed in two trenches, the Substation Trench and Inverter Trench 2, this result does not necessarily reflect the archaeological potential of the site as a whole. The absence of intact subsoils but presence of a thick topsoil in the observed areas suggests that the area has been heavily ploughed for some time, rather than truncated.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic building material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Roman

The period traditionally dated between AD 43 and *circa* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between the 17th May and the 7th June 2011 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (watching brief) during the development of the Solar Farm, located at Manor Farm, Burngullow, Cornwall (NGR: SW 98201 52361). The work was commissioned by Andy Mayes of Scott Wilson Group plc on behalf of Low Carbon Solar.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Scott Wilson Group plc (April 2011). The works were carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2008) and *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

2 PROJECT AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted for the development of a Solar Farm and associated substations on land previously used for agricultural purposes. In accordance with the principles of PPS5 (*Planning Policy Statement 5*) and the archaeological policies of Cornwall Council, a condition was applied to the planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological works.
- 2.2 The site is located to the east of St Austell, immediately west of the village of Trewoon. Burngullow Farm lies on the southeast corner of the site. At the time of the work, the site comprised an open field bounded to the west and south by Burngullow Lane, to the north by the railway and to the east by open fields.
- 2.3 The proposed development is located in an area of known archaeological potential. To the east of the development area is a Bronze Age Round. Twelve Medieval hamlet settlements have also been observed in the surrounding area.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed works.

3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the objectives as stated below.

i) to identify, define and record any archaeological deposits and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;

iii) where possible, to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The development formation levels, as detailed in the brief, were designed to minimise the potential impact upon the known archaeological deposits within the study area.

4.2 All groundworks that had the potential to impact upon buried archaeological deposits were carried out under constant archaeological observation. The groundworks comprised the excavation of four trenches for inverters (Inverter Trench 1, Inverter Trench 2 etc.) and one trench for the substation (Substation Trench); see Figure 2.

4.3 Where groundworks were undertaken by a mechanical excavator, the machine was equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Machine excavation was used only for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material.

4.4 Investigation of archaeological deposits was conducted manually by an experienced archaeologist. All archaeological deposits and features were subject to appropriate levels of investigation and recording. Spoil tips were scanned for finds. All recovered archaeological artefacts were allocated a context reference number and retained. Modern artefacts were noted and discarded.

5. RESULTS

5.1 A full stratigraphic description of all contexts identified in the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1. A summary discussion is given below.

5.2 The revealed stratigraphic sequence of the site consisted of a light brown, friable clay/silt topsoil (101) to a maximum depth of 0.50m which overlaid a mottled mid brown and orange plastic clay natural with frequent stone inclusions. No subsoils were observed.

- 5.3 The full stratigraphic sequences were only observed in the Substation Trench and the North-East corner of Inverter Trench 2. The remaining trenches did not penetrate through the topsoil (101).

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No archaeological finds or features were present within the watched areas. However, as the natural deposits were only exposed in two trenches, the Substation Trench and Inverter Trench 2, this result does not necessarily reflect the archaeological potential of the site as a whole. The absence of intact subsoils but presence of a thick topsoil in the observed areas suggests that the area has been heavily ploughed for some time, rather than truncated.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

IfA 1999 (rev. 2008). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute for Archaeologists.

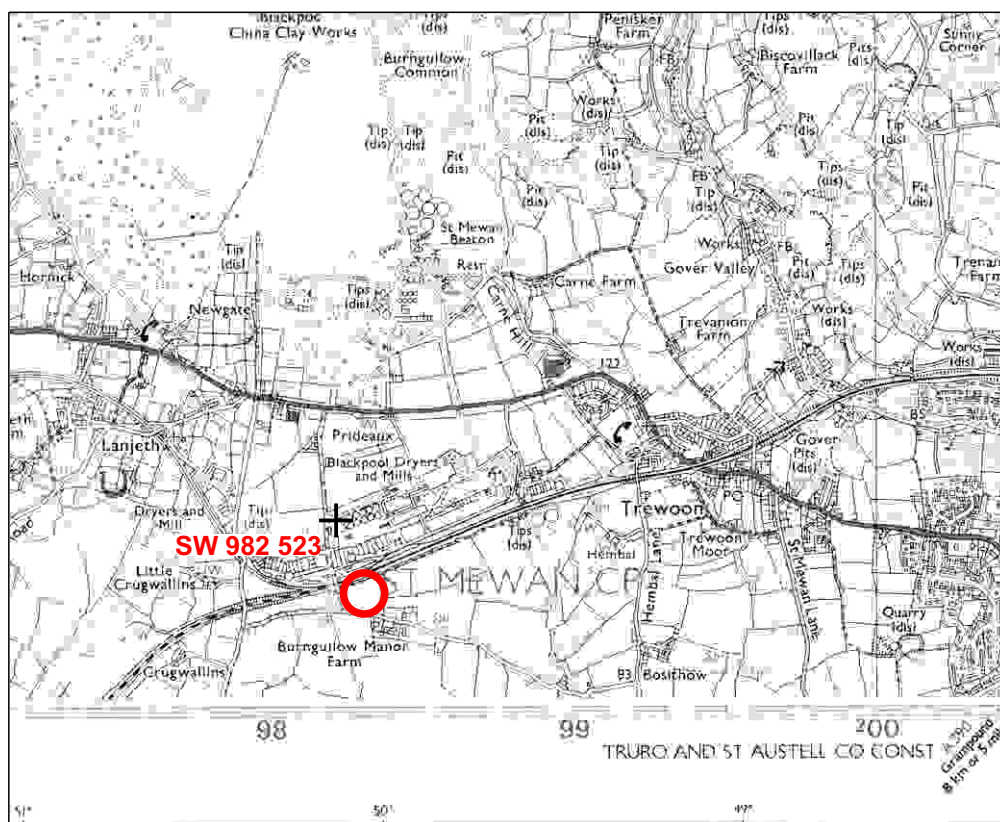
Scott Wilson Group plc (April 2011) *Solar Farm Land at Manor Farm, Burngallow Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Andy Mayes of Scott Wilson Group plc and Phil Copleston of Cornwall Council.

APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

				APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data		
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
101	9	7	0.22	Substation Trench Topsoil (101) onto natural clays	Natural	
101	10	5	0.3	Inverter Trench 1 Excavated into (101) Topsoil		
101	10	5	0.5	Inverter Trench 2 topsoil layer (101) onto natural clays	Natural	
101	10	5	0.1	Inverter Trench 3 excavated into topsoil layer (101)		
101	10	5	0.1	Inverter Trench 4 excavated into topsoil layer (101)		



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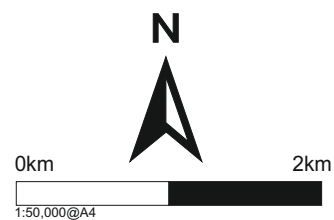
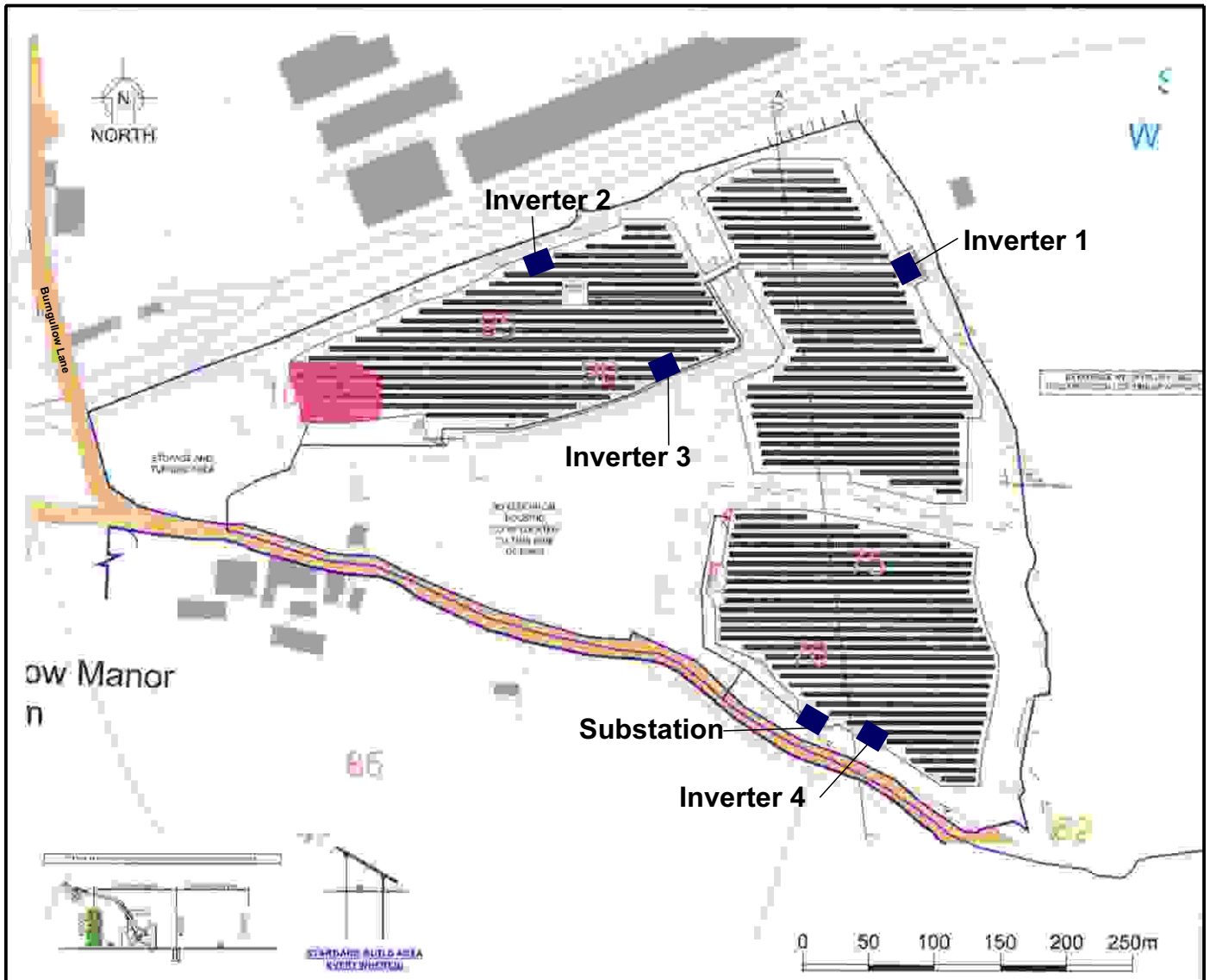


FIGURE 1: Site Location



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Site Code: MFB11

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Monitored Area

0m 200m

1:5000

FIGURE 2: Site Plan