

**Langford Solar Park
Langford
Central Bedfordshire**

Programme of Archaeological Investigation
Recording, Analysis and Publication

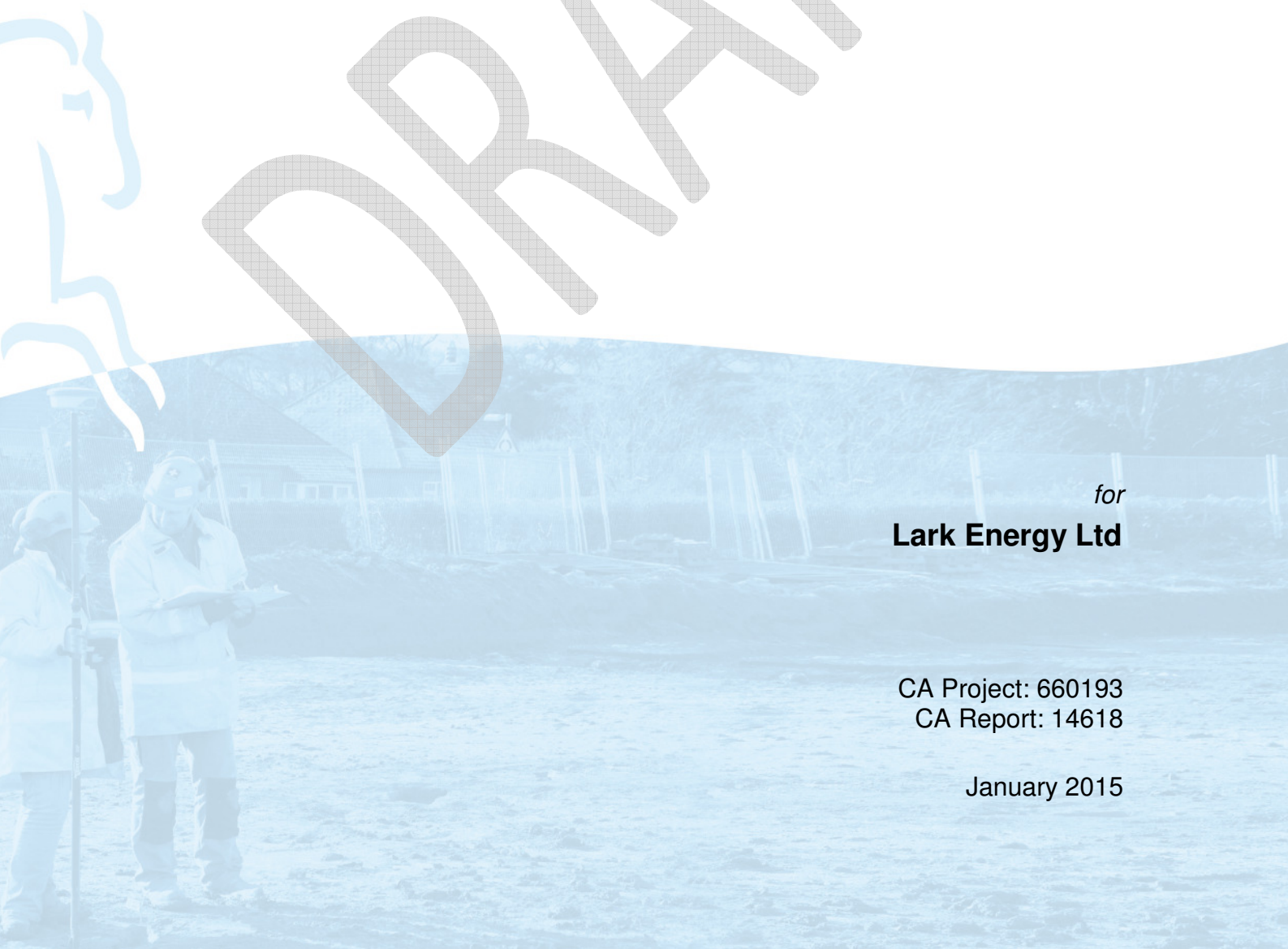
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DRAFT

for
Lark Energy Ltd

CA Project: 660193
CA Report: 14618

January 2015




LANGFORD SOLAR PARK
LANGFORD
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Programme of Archaeological Investigation
Recording, Analysis and Publication

Accession no. BEDFM: 2013.63

CA Project: 660193
CA Report: 14618

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Date	15 January 2015
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Date	15 January 2015
Issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Langford Solar Park
Location:	Langford, Central Bedfordshire
NGR:	TL 1984 3943
Type:	Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication
Date:	10 November to 3 December 2014
Planning Reference:	Central Bedfordshire 13/02288/FULL
Location of Archive:	Bedford Museum
Accession no:	BEDFM: 2013.64
Site Code:	LAS 14

In November and December 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication on farmland near Langford, Central Bedfordshire. The work, which was commissioned by Lark Energy, was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar park at the site.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during groundworks associated with the construction of the solar park and there was no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period in the excavated deposits.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November and December 2014, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication on farmland near Langford, Central Bedfordshire (site centred at NGR: TL 1984 3943; Fig. 1). The work, which was commissioned by Lark Energy, was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of the Langford Solar Park.
- 1.2 The development had been granted planning permission by Central Bedfordshire Council and the programme of archaeological investigation was attached as a condition of planning consent (planning ref. CB/13/02288/FULL, Condition 6). The scope of works was formalised following discussions between CA and Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeological Officer (CBCAO), and outlined in a *Model Brief* (CBCAO 2013).
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by CA (2013) and abided by the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2009) and the English Heritage (EH) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.4 The site, which encloses an area of c. 28ha, is located approximately 0.7km to the south-east of the village of Langford and 5.5km to the south of Biggleswade town centre (Fig. 1). It comprises four arable fields, set within an arable landscape, that are situated on the south-facing slope of Topler's Hill, to the north of Hill Farm (Figs. 2 and 3). Ground level descends from c. 52m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-east corner of the site to 43m aOD along its southern boundary. A track runs along the western edge of the site, leading from Edworth Road to Hill Farm, and a triangular tree belt borders its north-eastern edge. The East Coast Mainline railway passes c. 270m to the west of the site.
- 1.5 The geology of the site comprises Lower Cretaceous mudstone of the Gault Formation, with superficial deposits of glacial till (diamicton) occurring in its north-western corner (BGS 2014).

Archaeological and historical background

- 1.6 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in the archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared by CA (2013). In conclusion, this established that there were no designated or non-designated heritage assets within the site, although the southern edge of one non-designated heritage asset did extend marginally into its north-eastern corner. In the study area surrounding the site (within 500m of the site boundary), a number of sites were identified, as summarized below.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 1.7 A fieldwalking survey carried out on farmland bordering the north-east corner of the site recovered Neolithic flints, a small Bronze Age polished axe and Iron Age pottery from the ploughsoil. The Iron Age pottery may be associated with linear cropmarks that have been identified in this area; similar cropmarks to the north-east of the site, on Topler's Hill, have been investigated and have been dated to the Early to Middle Iron Age (Luke 2004).

Roman (AD 43 - AD 410)

- 1.8 Edworth Road, which passes within c. 0.5km to the north of the site, is thought to follow the route of a Roman road between Little Brickhill and Arrington Bridge. Roman pottery was found by the fieldwalking survey immediately to the north-east of the site and two 3rd-century Roman coins were recovered by a metal detectorist c. 150m to the east. A reputed item of Roman cavalry equipment has also been found nearby, in a field near Boot End, Langford.

Medieval period (AD 1066 – AD 1539)

- 1.9 There are seven sites within the study area dating to the medieval period: Etonbury Deserted Medieval Village (DMV); extant lynchets; Vine Farm moated site and four findspots identified through metal detecting. Etonbury DMV consists of east-west trackways running through a series of north-south rectilinear enclosures, although these have been suggested as meadow earthworks. The DMV site has been cut by the canalised River Ivel but a possible moat-like feature has been suggested abutting the former course of the river at the eastern edge of the earthworks. Since the completion of the DBA, no further information has been added to the HER for this site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The objectives of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the WSI (CA 2013), were:
- to monitor groundworks and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks (specifically to include: construction compounds and any temporary construction access routes within the site; permanent tracks or roads servicing the development; cable trenches and foundations for structures);
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013) and abided by *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks, including during the excavation of foundations for inverter and transfer stations, cable trenches and access roads (Figs. 2 and 4).
- 1.12 Where archaeological deposits and features were encountered, they were planned and recorded in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context was recorded on a *pro-forma* context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits were recorded by drawn plans and drawn sections. The site was surveyed using GPS in accordance with *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2012). Photographs (digital colour and 35mm black & white film) were taken as appropriate. There were no finds and no suitable deposits were encountered for environmental sampling.
- 1.13 The archive from the project is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes; this will eventually be deposited with Bedford Museum, under accession number BEDFM: 2013.64. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 The site comprised four arable fields, separated by deep, water-filled drainage ditches (Fields 1 to 4; Fig. 2-5). No archaeological features were encountered in the areas impacted by groundworks associated with the construction of the solar park and there was no pre-modern artefactual material in the excavated deposits. Details of the deposits encountered during the fieldwork are presented in Appendix A; in the following text, context numbers are in parenthesis.
- 2.2 The geological substrate (102), consisting of firm mid bluish-grey clay with patches of yellowish-brown clay, was revealed at a depth of approximately 0.4m below present ground level (Fig. 6). This was overlain by mid yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil (101), which ranged in thickness between 0.13m and 0.21m. The topsoil, 100, was c. 0.25m thick and comprised mid greyish-brown silty clay.
- 2.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite attendance on site throughout the period when groundworks associated with the construction of the solar park were under way, no archaeological features or deposits were identified. There was no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period in the excavated deposits.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was undertaken by Caoimhín Ó Coileáin and James Coyne. The report was written by James Coyne, with illustrations prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Caoimhín Ó Coileáin and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.



5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer <http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>, accessed 12 December 2014

CA (Cotswolds Archaeology) 2013 *Langford Solar Farm, Langford, Central Bedfordshire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*, typescript report **13222**

Gurney, D, 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**

Luke, M, 2004 The investigation of an early-middle Iron Age settlement and field system at Topler's Hill. *Bedfordshire Archaeology* Vol: 25. 23-55.

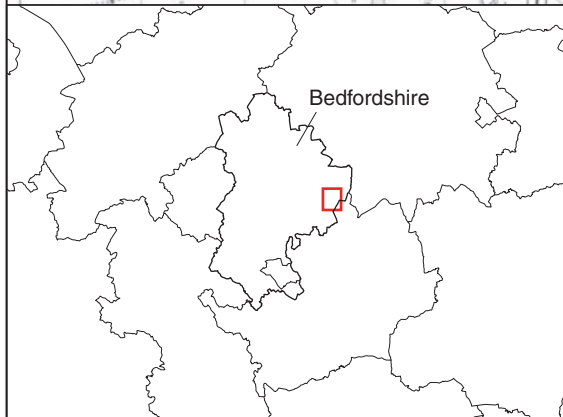
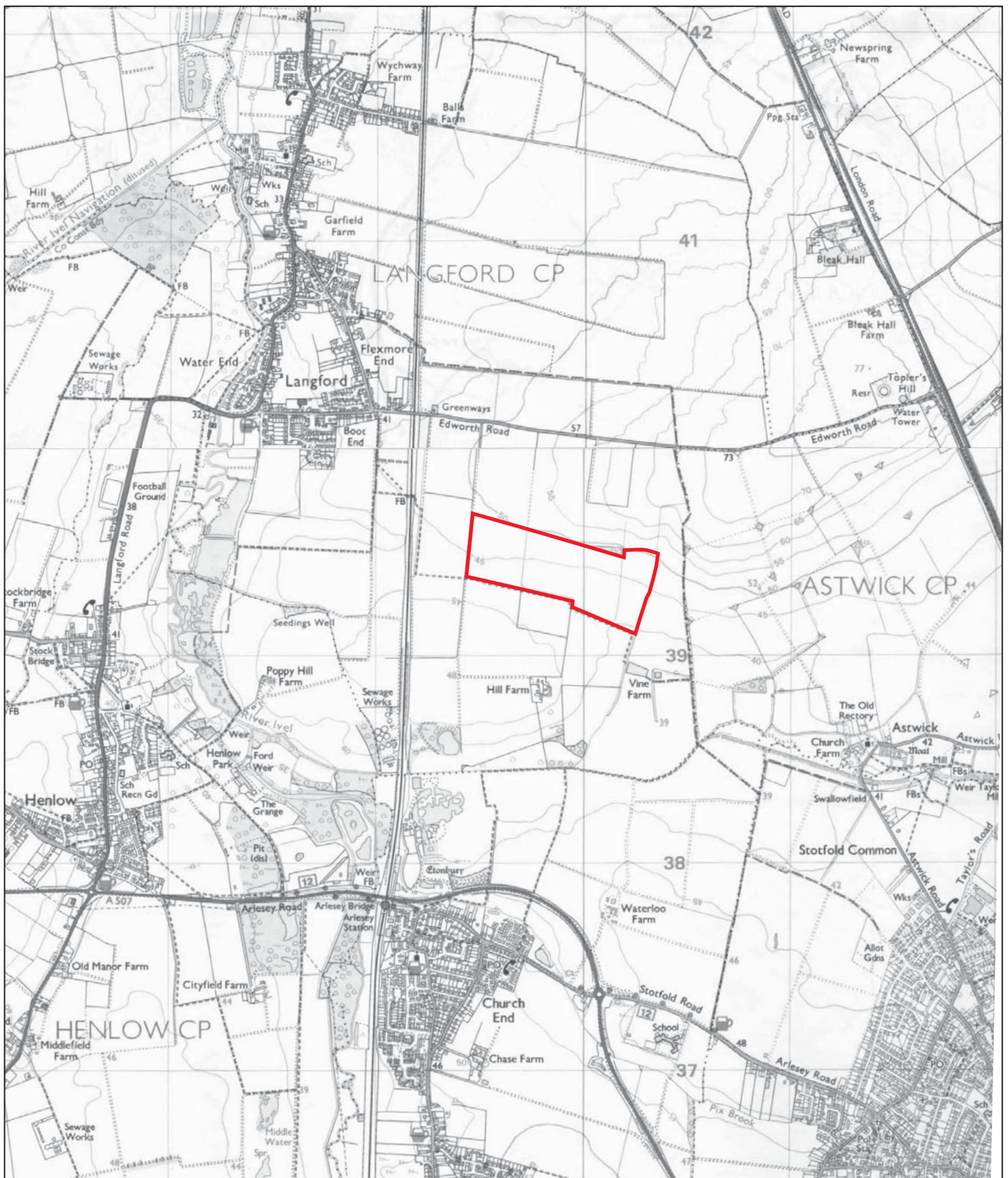


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context no.	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)
100	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown moderately loose silty clay with mod. fine to coarse sub-angular flint pebbles	0.25
101	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay with mod. fine to coarse sub-angular flint pebbles	0.13-0.21
102	Geology	Mid bluish-grey clay with patches of yellowish-brown clay, with mod. fine to coarse sub-angular flint pebbles	-

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Langford Solar Park, Langford, Central Bedfordshire	
Short description	No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during groundworks associated with the construction of the solar park and there was no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period in the excavated deposits.	
Project dates	10 November to 3 December 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2013)	
Future work	None	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Hill Farm, Langford, Central Bedfordshire	
Study area	24ha	
Site co-ordinates	TL 1984 3943	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	Martin Oake, CBCAO	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA)	
Project Supervisor	Caoimhín Ó Coileáin (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVE		
	Accession no: BEDFM: 2013.63	Content
Physical	Bedford Museum	None
Paper	Bedfordshire HER	Site records and photos
Digital		Report, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Langford Solar Park, Langford, Central Bedfordshire: Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication</i> , CA typescript report 14618		



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PROJECT TITLE

Langford Solar Park, Langford
Central Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan



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 of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright
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PROJECT NO. 660193 DATE 14-1-2015
 DRAWN BY PJM/LJH REVISION 01
 APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



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TL

- site boundary
- area of observed groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE
**Langford Solar Park, Langford
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FIGURE TITLE
**Plan showing area of observed
 groundworks**



DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	660193	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	14-01-2015	2
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A4	1:5000	



3



4

3 General view of the site from the north-east corner of Field 4, looking west

4 Solar panel stands *in situ*, looking west



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 660193 DATE 14/01/2015
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FIGURE NOS.

3 & 4



5



6

5 A cable trench under excavation

6 General soil profile



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

5 & 6