

Addendum to Brynwell Solar Farm, Vale of Glamorgan Archaeological and Heritage Assessment edp6698_r002b

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Addendum has been written by EDP in order to supplement an assessment of the potential impacts on the historic environment from the development of Brynwell Solar Farm, Vale of Glamorgan (hereafter known as 'the Site').
- 1.2 It has been written in response to a formal request for 'further information' under Regulation 15(2) of the DNS Regulations issued by the planning Inspector Iwan Lloyd on the 12th August 2021 (REF: DNS/3261558). It also responds to comments made by the Vale of Glamorgan Council on the application.
- 1.3 The report is an Addendum to an Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (edp6698_r001) and should be read in conjunction with this report and its supporting plans. The Addendum revisits the assessment of effects on historic assets from changes within their settings that is presented in Section 5 of the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (from Paragraph 5.9). The revision is on account of the appraisal of new information on the potential visibility of the proposed development in the wider landscape, including from historic assets. The following new sources have been considered in this revision and are appended to this report at **Appendix EDP 1**:
- A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) which is presented as a bare earth model, a model that includes screening from existing trees and buildings and a cumulative model showing the proposed development's visibility in conjunction with the adjacent Woden Park Solar Farm;
 - A series of photographs taken from viewpoints in the wider landscape; and
 - A series of AVR viewpoints for those viewpoints in which the development would be visible, showing the extent of its visibility.
- 1.4 The section below considers firstly, the scope of the assessment and then, each of the historic assets assessed in the Archaeological and Heritage Baseline Assessment in turn, making reference to the original assessment and, where appropriate, to the new visual sources listed above.

2. Designated Historic Assets

Scope of the Assessment

- 2.1 The ZTV justifies the use of a 1km radius study area within the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment. It demonstrates how the Site is well-contained by the surrounding landscape, with rising land, woodland and urban areas screening views from most directions and thus containing the majority of its visibility within a 1km buffer.
- 2.2 Pockets of visibility lie beyond the 1km buffer although for the most part these do not include views from historic assets. An exception to this is with regard to the Grade II Historic Park and Garden Cwrty-yr-ala (PGW Gm42 GLA) which is discussed below.
- 2.3 Very distant views to a small part of the development may be possible from the eastern edge of the Grade II* Historic Park and Garden at Coedarhydyglyn. However, the asset is very distant from the site being 3.3km to the west and the view would only be from its eastern edge, from an area occupied by a caravan park, and probably at least filtered by an adjacent hedgerow. There would be no view from the central areas which include the Grade I listed house and core parkland, and which contain the majority of its heritage significance. As such, a distant and limited view of a small part of the Site from this location would have no implication for the park's significance.
- 2.4 As such, for the most part the scope of the assessment as presented in the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (Section 5; Paragraphs 5.9 – 5.11) is fully justified by the new visual sources.
- 2.5 The conservation area Michaelston-le-Pit and four listed buildings located within it are entirely outside of the ZTV, located within a valley where the topography screens any views to the development. The land at the Site has no historical or functional association with the village and so, on account of the lack of views to or from it, they would not have their settings affected by development and so are scoped out of the assessment.
- 2.6 Likewise, the Grade II listed Pillar Box at Theobald Road, Leckwith (25862) is also entirely outside of the ZTV and is screened by intervening buildings, and thus is also scoped out of the assessment.
- 2.7 The Grade II listed building Church of St Mary is located within the earlier Iron Age hillfort of Caerau Camp which is a scheduled monument. Given its location, it is considered along with the hillfort in the section below.
- 2.8 The Grade II Historic Park and Garden Cwrty-yr-ala (PGW Gm42 GLA) is scoped out of the assessment presented in the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment. However, part of the Historic Park and Garden intersects with the ZTV, and so it is considered in further detail in a revised assessment below.

Scheduled monument Ely Roman Villa (GM205)

- 2.9 The Archaeological and Heritage Assessment concluded that the proposed development will not be visible from the scheduled monument and that, regardless, given its highly modern surroundings, the asset's setting makes virtually no contribution to its significance anyway.
- 2.10 It is also apparent that the Site contains no known archaeological features that are contemporary with the villa and thus has no historical or functional association with it. Consequently, the assessment concluded no effect on the significance of the monument.
- 2.11 This conclusion is supported by the new visual sources in that the ZTV confirms that there are no views to the Site from the scheduled monument and vice versa. As such, it is considered that the conclusion of the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment is entirely robust and valid.

Scheduled monument Caeraeu Camp (GM018) and Grade II listed building Church of St Mary (13406)

- 2.12 Part of the scheduled monument intersects with the ZTV comprising partial views from the centre of the monument to a moderate part of the Site and, from the north-eastern and western parts of the monument to a small part of the Site. Two viewpoints, 7 and 7B are located within the scheduled monument area, one (7) being from part of the ramparts on the eastern side and the other (7B) being from adjacent to the Grade II listed ruined church.
- 2.13 The Archaeological and Heritage Assessment stated that the 'intervening ridge between the Site and the hillfort precludes intervisibility', however, the ZTV and viewpoints indicate that this is not the case.
- 2.14 In Viewpoint 7 the proposed development would be visible with its location and extent of visibility illustrated by the AVR viewpoint 05 – 3. It would also be seen in conjunction with the existing Woden Park Solar Farm. The presence of the Woden Park Solar farm in the viewpoint gives a good impression as to what the proposed development would look like, comprising a view to solar panels between trees and across hedgerows that would be partially filtered by vegetation, especially in the summer months. It is apparent that the development would not be especially prominent and only very partially visible but that it would introduce a modern element into the view to the east from the monument that is presently dominated by woodland and tree-lined field boundaries, including those on the edge of the A4232 dual carriageway and farmland.
- 2.15 The Archaeological and Heritage Assessment described the significance of the monument and the contribution to that significance made by its setting. It should be considered that the wider setting of the monument has changed considerably since its occupation in the Iron Age and later, in the medieval period. As stated in the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment, it is its topographic situation that is most relevant to its significance rather than the character and appearance of the adjacent landscape. Its setting in this respect is highly modern with modern housing to the north and west and a modern road to the east. To the south and east is woodland



and farmland that is mainly a product of the post-medieval period and thus also unrelated historically to the monument and its archaeology.

- 2.16 The introduction of a further, slightly visible modern element into this landscape would have no influence on the monument's significance. Views out from the monument would still be achievable and the relevance of the monument's topographic setting to its strategic function would still be discernible. The solar development would not impose heavily upon the view and would not distract more than to a very small degree from the appreciation and experience of the monument. As such, it is concluded that the proposed development, whilst resulting in a very minor change to the monument's wider setting, would not result in any adverse effect on its significance.
- 2.17 In viewpoint 7B the Site cannot be seen due to intervening vegetation which suggests that the development would not be visible from the Grade II listed church. In this respect, given a lack of historic or functional association between the Site and the church, the proposed development would not change the church's setting and would have no effect on its significance.

Scheduled monument and Grade II listed building Leckwith Bridge (GM014; 13748, 26487)

- 2.18 The Archaeological and Heritage Assessment concludes that the proposed development (comprising the cable run installed within the modern roadway, with the main development entirely screened by woodland to the west) will not be visible from the scheduled monument/listed building and that, regardless, given its highly modern surroundings, the asset's setting makes virtually no contribution to its significance anyway.
- 2.19 It is also apparent that the Site contains no known historic assets that have any historical or functional association with the bridge. Consequently, the assessment concludes no effect on the significance of the monument.
- 2.20 This conclusion is supported by the new visual sources in that the ZTV confirms that there are no views to the Site from the scheduled monument and vice versa. As such, it is considered that the conclusion of the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment is entirely robust and valid.

Grade II Historic Park and Garden Cwrty-yr-ala (PGW Gm42 GLA)

- 2.21 The part of the Historic Park and Garden that intersects with the ZTV comprises an open area that is presently agricultural fields on the north-facing slopes on the southern side of the Park.
- 2.22 The Park comprises the mansion of Cwrt-yr-ala, its adjacent formal gardens, outbuildings and wider parkland which is defined on its boundaries by woodland or tree-lined hedgerows. The estate is set around a valley with the Wrinstone Brook running through it from west to east. The house is on the north side and would have commanded views from it and from parts of its gardens to the south across the stream, taking in parkland on the southern slopes of the valley.

In this respect, views out from the house would have been in the opposite direction from the Site and this part of the Park, accordingly, does not lie within the ZTV.

- 2.23 Whilst the ZTV suggests that partial views (to a moderate part of the Site) may be possible to the Site from the southern, former parkland areas, Viewpoint 10 was taken from a location in this part of the Park and does not indicate any visibility to the Site due to woodland on the opposite side of the valley and hills beyond (although the viewpoint itself is partially screened by adjacent vegetation and so is not especially broad). This suggests that, at the most, if it were visible from parts of the Park (i.e. areas adjacent to the Viewpoint) the development would only appear as a distant feature, visible just above woodland on the hill slopes to the north which lie between the Park and the Site. The proposed development would not be especially prominent in this view and its visibility could be made even less so through the provision of boundary planting around the development.
- 2.24 The view would be from part of the Park which was designed to be part of the view itself rather than a location from where views are had. Therefore, the presence of part of the proposed development in the distance would have little influence on the Parks' historic designed views and thus on its significance. The experience of the Park from the house and its gardens across the valley and from within the valley adjacent to the brook would be unaffected. Given this factor and the likelihood that the view to the development would be at most very slight and not prominent, it is assessed that the development of the Site would not result in any adverse effect on the significance of the Cwrty-yr-ala Historic Park and Garden.

Grade II listed building Brynwell Farm (19575)

- 2.25 The listed building intersects with the ZTV, with that part adjacent to it comprising partial views to a moderate part of the Site. Two viewpoints are located nearby, 2, which is located c. 80m to the north of the house looking towards the Site from a lane and, 1, which is located c. 250m to the south-east looking towards the Site with the farmhouse in the foreground.
- 2.26 In this regard the assessment presented in the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment concurs with the new visual sources in concluding that the proposed development would be visible from the listed building. Due to the retention of the overall layout of the fields at the Site, the change being only visible in approximately 90 degrees of the view from the farm, with the remaining part of the view unchanged and retaining its countryside character and the likely additional screening of the solar panels by hedgerows or planting, the assessment concludes that the development would result in no adverse effect upon the significance of the farmhouse.



2.27 Whilst AVR viewpoint 01-3 illustrates that the solar panels will be visible in views towards the farmhouse, it also illustrates how the development will only occupy a small part of the visible landscape and that, for the most part, the setting of the farmhouse will retain its rural, countryside character. In this respect, the additional evidence provided by the ZTV and viewpoints supports the assessment presented in the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment, and a conclusion of change to the setting of the farmhouse but no adverse effect on its significance is still reached.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 This Addendum has reviewed and revised the assessment presented in the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (EDP, 2021) with reference to new visual sources comprising a ZTV, photo viewpoints and AVR viewpoints where the development might be visible.
- 3.2 With reference to the ZTV, the Addendum has confirmed that the 1km study area adopted by the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment is justified and results in a robust assessment.
- 3.3 Whilst the Addendum has revised the assessment in relation to the scheduled monument Caeraeu Camp (GM018) and the Grade II Historic Park and Garden Cwrty-yr-ala (PGW Gm42 GLA), the conclusions of the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment, that the development proposals would not result in any adverse effect on any historic assets, are still valid.
- 3.4 Overall, the assessment of change to the settings of historic assets has not identified that the proposed development of the Site would result in any adverse effects to the significance of any historic assets and that therefore the proposal accords with planning legislation and policy as it relates to the historic environment.



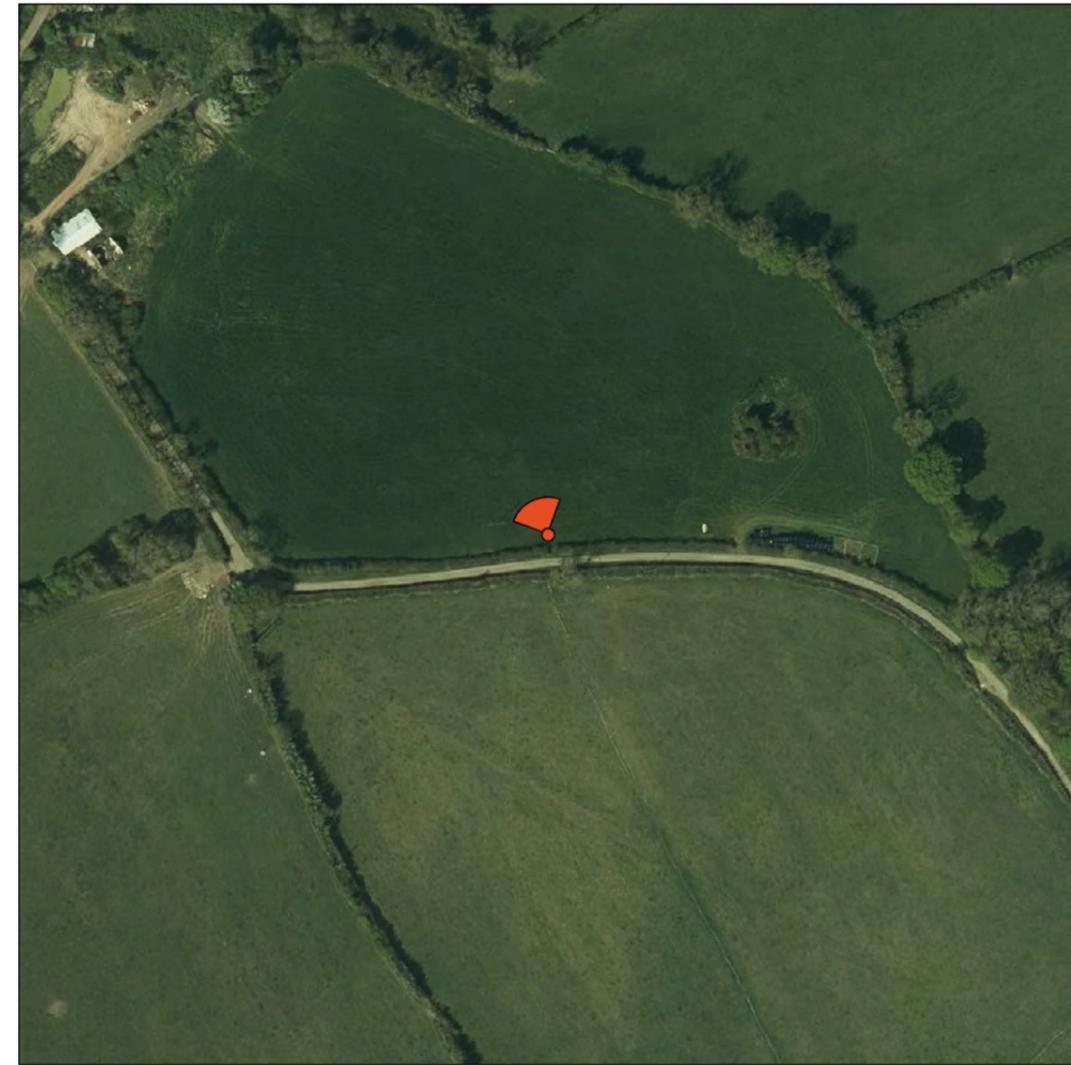
Appendix EDP 1
ZTV, viewpoints and relevant AVR viewpoints



Scale 1:10,000

Viewpoint information:

OS reference: 314844, 174212
 Ground level: 67.0m AOD
 Direction of view: 335°
 Distance to site: 385m



Scale 1:2,500

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Brynwell Farm
 Solar Project

VP1: View north from public footpath crossing fields
 between Meadowvale Farm and Brynwell

Project no. B027669

September 2021

AVR.01-1

Brynwell Farm
 Solar Ltd



Client Proj No. Originator Val/System Level/Location Type/Code Role Number Revision Stability
 B027769 TTE 00 XX DR L 001 P01 S3

Extent of proposed solar farm



TTE Proj No B027669
Client Proj No
Originator
Wall System
Level/Location
Type/Code
Risk
Number
Revision
Subsidiary
L 02 P01 53
DR
XX
00
TTE

Baseline Photograph

Viewpoint information:
OS reference: 314844, 174212
Ground level: 67.0m AOD
Direction of view: 335°
Distance to site: 385m

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)
Vertical field of view: 27°
Enlargement factor: 96%
Principal distance: 812.5mm
Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm
Camera: EOS 5D Mk III
Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)
Camera height: 1.6m AGL
Date and time: 18/02/2021 12:21

Brynwell Farm
Solar Project

Project no. B027669
September 2021

**VP1: View north from public footpath crossing fields
between Meadowvale Farm and Brynwell**

AVR.01-2

Brynwell Farm
Solar Ltd



View flat at a comfortable arm's length