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STATKRAFT

LAND WEST OF RHYDYPANDY ROAD, MORRISTON, SWANSEA

SCHEME OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT MITIGATON: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2023

wardell armstrong

Wardell Armstrong
Tudor House, 16 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9LJ United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)29 2072 9191 www.wardell-armstrong.com

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STATKRAFT

LAND WEST OF RHYDYPANDY ROAD, MORRISTON, SWANSEA

SCHEME OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT MITIGATON: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2023

PREPARED BY:

Charlotte Bellamy — Principal Heritage Consultant

CHECKED & APPROVED BY:

Lorna Goring — Technical Director

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Figure 1	Proposed area of work and known assets within 1km	1:6000@A3

1 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT HISTORY

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA), a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, has been commissioned by Statkraft (the 'Applicant') to prepare a Scheme of Historic environment Mitigation in respect to the submission of a new full planning application for a Greener Grid Park at Land West of Rhydypandy Road, Morriston, Swansea (henceforth referred to as the 'Proposed Development'),The Site benefits from an extant planning permission for a Greener Grid Park (Application Reference 2021/0163/FUL).

1.1.2 There are no designated heritage assets located within the boundary of the Site. However, both known prehistoric and Post-medieval sites are located within 1km of the Site. These include a probable Iron Age enclosure to the northwest, an 18th century listed building to the west, and several traditional farmsteads such as Abergelli Farm and Lletty Morfil Farm, as well as industrial features such as the Bryn Whilach Colliery and associated mineral railway. As such there is the possibility of encountering archaeological remains during the course of the proposed development.

1.1.3 The consultation response from Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT; The Curator), who are the Archaeological Advisors to the Local Planning Authority, on the extant planning permission concluded that a Scheme of Historic environment Mitigation comprising a watching brief on all groundworks during the development was necessary in order to investigate and record archaeological remains which might be exposed during the construction process. A subsequent condition (condition 8) was attached to the extant permission to secure the necessary archaeological works requiring the following:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured agreement for a written scheme of historic environment mitigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. Thereafter, the programme of work will be fully carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards of the written scheme.'

1.1.4 This document sets out in detail the methodologies to be employed during an archaeological watching brief of groundworks associated with the installation of the proposed development.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Geological Context

2.1.1 The main compound excluding the access tract is comprised of agricultural land located to the east of Swansea North National Grid Substation and Felindre Gas Compressor Station. The total redline area including the existing National Grid access where no works are proposed is 6.24ha.

2.1.2 The Site lies c. 400m north of Maes Egwlys Farm and c. 400m south of Abergelli Farm, while Cefn Betingau Solar Farm lies c. 300m to the east.

2.1.3 The topography of the Site slopes gently from the northeast to the southwest. The Site is bound by hedges to the north; by post and wire fencing, a ditch, stone wall and individual trees to the south; by post and wire fencing with scattered trees and gorse along the eastern boundary, and by post and wire fencing and a vegetated ditch along the western boundary.

2.1.4 A thin strip of ancient woodland lies to the west of the Site, beyond which lies the Swansea North National Grid Substation and Felindre Gas Compressor Station. There are substantial overhead electricity transmission lines to the north and south of the Site. The surrounding landscape is mainly agricultural in nature, with well-defined field boundaries, and a high level of tree and woodland cover. There are also several existing and proposed energy developments in the surrounding area, including Brynwilach and Cefn Betingau Solar Farms (operational), Afon Llan Solar Farm (proposed) and Abergelli Power Station (approved) which the proposed development would support.

2.1.5 The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 265314, 201125 and its location and layout are shown on Figure 1.

2.1.6 Across the Site, the solid geology comprises Grovesend Formation; mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed between 309.5 and 308 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. The Superficial geology comprises Devensian diamicton till formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2022).

2.2 Brief Historical and Archaeological Background

2.2.1 Designated historic assets have been identified using GIS information downloaded from Cadw (Cadw 2022). Non-designated historic assets have been identified using GIS information obtained from GGAT Historic Environment Record (enquiry ref: 6939).

2.2.2 There are no designated historic assets located within the boundary of the Site. There are two designated assets within 1km of the Site which comprise of an Iron Age enclosure (**GM308**) and a Grade II listed 18th century house (**26238**); these are shown on Figure 1. Both identified assets are located approximately 1km from the Site.

Prehistoric

2.2.3 The prehistoric period within the vicinity of the Site is represented by the remains of a later prehistoric enclosure, which lies to the northwest of the Site. The monument comprises the remains of an earthwork enclosure believed to be later prehistoric (c. 800BC - AD74). Oval in shape, it measures 90m north-east - south-west by 65m. The monument is recognised as being of national importance for its potential to inform upon later prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement and forms an important element within the wider surrounding landscape.

2.2.4 There are no further assets of prehistoric origin recorded within the vicinity of the Site.

Romano British

2.2.5 There are no Romano-British assets recorded within the Site or its vicinity.

Early Medieval and Medieval

2.2.6 There are no early medieval or medieval assets recorded within the Site or its vicinity.

Post-medieval and Modern

2.2.7 There are 22 non-designated historic assets recorded by the HER within 1km of the Site. These consist of nineteen Post-medieval assets and three modern assets.

2.2.8 The Post-medieval is represented by eight traditional farmsteads, two 17th-18th century houses which are no longer extant, a goods yard, a former colliery, two former quarries, a former mill, a former mineral railway and three field boundaries. The assets provide evidence of agricultural occupation and industrial activities within the vicinity of the Site during the post-medieval period.

2.2.9 The modern heritage assets within 1km of the Site consists of two World War One defensive structures, and a plating works (Velindre Works), all of which are still intact.

Velindre Works (**GGAT02905w**) is located 1km to the south of the Site, and the two defensive structures (**GGAT09013w** and **GGAT09029g**) are located approximately 750m and 950m northwest respectively.

2.2.10 Map regression has revealed that the proposed development is located to the immediate east of woodland named Aber-gelli-fach Plantation from at least 1881 (First Edition Ordnance Survey Map), where the Site location appears to part of a Post-medieval agricultural landscape.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Works

2.3.1 In 2007, Cardiff Archaeological Unit Limited carried out a watching brief (**E005663**) commissioned by Enviros Consulting Limited on behalf of National Grid PLC, to observe any archaeological finds revealed during groundworks on a site that was to be prepared for the building of a Gas Compressor Station on Land off Heol Llangyfelach, near Felindre Swansea (located to the immediate west of the Site). The site covered 4 hectares, and no archaeological remains or finds were unearthed during the watching brief. The conclusion stated that since there was no evidence of pottery there is no proof that this area was intensively farmed. The report concluded that the site was designed as 'woodland' (Turner, 2007).

2.4 Conclusion

2.4.1 The baseline information presented above suggests that there is a low potential for remains from the Iron Age period to be present within the Site. There is moderate potential for remains from the post-medieval period onwards to be present within the Site. The Site does not appear to be part of the earlier Aber-gelli-fach woodland plantation, and it is considering that the Site is located within a Post-medieval field system which is not recorded on the HER. It is anticipated that any remains, if present, are likely to pertain to agrarian activity and are likely of low importance. Any remains found would be of archaeological and historic interest informing on land management practice within the area.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The purpose of this written scheme is to set out a quantifiable schedule of works against which performance, fitness for purpose and achievement of quality can be measured.

3.1.2 This written scheme has been prepared to ensure that the work is undertaken to the standard required by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2020a):

An archaeological watching brief will record and report on the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA.

- *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2020c) -

Collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (hereafter finds work) will result in an ordered, stable, accessible archive using appropriate methods and practices. Finds work will result in report(s) intended for dissemination. The methods and practices employed must satisfy the stated aims of any project of which finds work comprises all or part, and comply with the Code of conduct, and other relevant regulations of CIfA.

- *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2022).

3.1.3 In the event that archaeological remains are present the programme of archaeological monitoring will aim to interpret and characterise them.

3.1.4 The general aims of the watching brief are to:

- determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the development area;
- determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance;
- disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting; and

- inform upon the Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales (2019).

3.1.5 In the event that archaeological remains are present which cannot be dealt with under a watching brief remit, requiring a greater level of resources which cannot be accommodated under the time constraints, the watching brief will provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist 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. In this unlikely event, the sensitive area should be fenced off until such a time that the scope of a targeted archaeological response can be negotiated.

3.2 Preliminaries and General Procedures

3.2.1 The contractor will ensure that access to the investigations is granted at all times to representatives of the Client and the Archaeological Planning Officer to the LPA (GGAT).

3.2.2 The contractor will request that intrusive groundworks are carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to maximise the chance for identification of archaeological remains should they be present. However, a toothed bucket may be necessary in areas where substantial obstacles are present.

3.2.3 All machine excavation will be done under the close supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Should archaeological deposits be revealed, time will be allowed for excavation by hand. Clean surfaces will be inspected, and selected deposits excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their character, significance and date.

3.2.4 Notwithstanding any information on constraints already supplied, in advance of any fieldwork the appointed contractor must request that the Client has demonstrated that all reasonable measures have been taken to identify any constraints to ground disturbance and that they have been provided with all reasonable information regarding the confirmation of the presence of services, any ecological constraints any areas of potentially contaminated land and/or any other known risks to health and safety.

3.2.5 Should archaeological remains be encountered during the watching brief then the Archaeological Planning Officer at GGAT should be informed immediately to discuss requirement for further work.

3.3 Investigation and Sampling Strategy

3.3.1 In the event that archaeological features are revealed these will be sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them and to determine their significance and the Archaeological Planning Officer at GGAT will be informed straight away.

3.3.2 Should soil-filled/cut features archaeological features be identified, these will be sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them and to determine their significance i.e., 10% of fills of linear features (unless the linear features are substantial in which case an alternative sampling strategy will be discussed with the Archaeological Planning Officer) and 50% of pit fills. Smaller discrete features such as postholes will be a 100% sampled. Where structural features of substantial buildings/structures of archaeological interest these will be photographed and recorded in-situ, with sample excavation undertaken as necessary and as agreed with the Archaeological Planning Officer, in order to determine their form, construction methods and dating, based on the best practice and methodology to maximise retrieval of information.

3.3.3 In all instances of cut features and intercutting cut features should they be revealed, the attending archaeologist will undertake sufficient sections to characterise their form, sequence and relative dating and to recover and retain a representative sample of artefacts and ecofacts should they be discovered.

3.3.4 Upon the discovery of sensitive material (e.g., human remains or particularly significant features), all excavation shall cease, and the archaeological contractor will establish a clearly visible cordon around the area of discovery, to ensure protection from exposure, accidental damage and / or theft.

3.3.5 The locations of significant artefacts will be recorded where possible, whilst all other archaeological artefactual material will be collected in bulk where appropriate. Measures will be taken to protect particularly significant, valuable or sensitive archaeological remains from exposure, accidental damage and/or theft.

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 Where appropriate features will be recorded using a Trimble TSC3 GPS unit (or equivalent) with sub-centimetre accuracy with each point recorded in relation to the OSGB36 geod model and coded to an internal database to provide a dataset that records feature type, context number, associated drawing numbers and any other feature specific information that may be relevant.

3.4.2 All written records will utilise record sheets. Plans and sections will be drawn on water resistant permatrace. Plans will be drawn to a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. A full photographic record of all contexts will be maintained in monochrome, colour transparency and digital formats. All photographs will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be maintained. A combination of multi and single context planning will be utilised.

3.4.3 All plans and sections will be levelled in respect to aOD and are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

3.4.4 A full digital photographic record of the work is to be kept. All images are to be taken using a digital SLR camera with a suitable megapixel resolution. The photographic record is to be regarded as part of the site archive and the digital files will be labelled appropriately and cross-referenced in relation to a site-specific photography register.

3.4.5 The contractor will ensure that the complete site archive including finds and paleoenvironmental samples is to be kept in a secure place throughout the period of fieldwork and post-excavation process.

3.5 Human Remains

3.5.1 Although unexpected, in the event that human remains, both inhumations and/or cremations, are exposed during the course of the archaeological evaluation then all works are to cease immediately, and the local police and coroner informed. The area will be screened from view and discussions will be held with the Client and the Archaeological Planning Officer on options for their appropriate preservation in situ or for their removal in accordance with professional standards and guidelines once the antiquity of the remains has been suitably proven.

3.5.2 Wardell Armstrong will have an appropriately qualified and experienced osteoarchaeologist available to supervise the excavation and removal of any human remains (where this is necessary) from the Site.

3.5.3 In the event that human burials are discovered, a Ministry of Justice Licence will be required (in accordance with Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857) before the remains can be lifted. The need for a Ministry of Justice Licence applies to both inhumation and cremated remains. Application for a Licence will be made by Wardell Armstrong.

3.6 Finds recovery and processing

3.6.1 All artefacts recovered are the property of the landowner who will be encouraged to donate them to the receiving museum.

3.7 Recovery/Processing

3.7.1 All artefacts revealed will be recovered regardless of date so that the provisional dating of as many contexts as possible can be ascertained. However, in circumstances where the quantity of finds present preclude total recovery then a representative sample will be taken in agreement with the Archaeological Planning Officer and this noted on the context sheet.

3.7.2 Finds retrieved will be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (CIFA 2020c), the Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe (Perrin et al. 2014).

3.7.3 The assessment of finds (and any subsequent analysis to be subject to a UPD) will be undertaken by suitable qualified specialists.

3.8 Retention

3.8.1 With regards to retention of finds, a useful reference in relation to the selective deposition of archival material has been provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists[1].

3.8.2 On completion of the project modern material, unstratified remains and objects that have been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention will be discarded after a period of six months, unless there is a specific request to retain them.

3.8.3 Once assessed, all retained material must be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

3.9 Treatment of treasure

3.9.1 Finds falling under the statutory definition of treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its revision of 2002) will be reported immediately to the relevant Coroner's Office, the landowner/Client and the Archaeological Planning Officer at GGAT. A treasure receipt (obtainable from either the FLO or the DCMS website) will be completed and a report submitted to the Coroner's Office and the FLO within 14

[1] https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit

days of understanding that the find is treasure. Failure to report within 14 days of discovery is a criminal offence.

3.9.2 The treasure receipt and report will include the date and circumstances of the discovery in addition to the identity of the finder and the location of the find in relation to Ordnance Survey.

3.10 Paleoenvironmental Sampling

3.10.1 The strategy and methodology for the sampling of deposits will be in accordance with Historic England Centre for Archaeology Guidelines "Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation" (2011). Where deemed appropriate the advice of the relevant Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be sought in relation to the collection of palaeo-environmental material, industrial residues or other relevant scientific material.

3.10.2 Where deposits are dry, bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths and floors. Each context will be sampled in isolation. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 40-60 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features or where context horizons are not fully defined.

3.10.3 Mollusc samples of two litres each will be taken vertically from appropriate sections to investigate the changes of vegetation through time.

3.10.4 Where deposits are wet, waterlogged or peaty, monoliths will be taken along cleaned vertical surfaces for the retrieval of pollen, diatoms, ostracods and foraminifera. The numbers to be taken will be agreed with the client and LPA. Where bulk samples are to be taken a minimum of 20 litres will be taken from visible layers or spits for the retrieval of plant macro-remains and insects.

3.10.5 Environmental samples from dry deposits will normally by processed by floatation following the fieldwork and the residues will be sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds and charcoal that has not floated. Environmental samples from wet deposits will normally be sent to specialists for processing in laboratory conditions.

3.11 Monitoring and Liaison

3.11.1 One weeks' notice of the commencement of Site work will be given to the Archaeological Planning Officer at GGAT along with the name, CV and contact number of the attending archaeologist if requested.

3.11.2 The contractor will allow the Site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time during or after the archaeological fieldwork by the Client, Archaeological Planning Officer, or any designated representative of the Local Planning Authority.

3.11.3 The contractor will liaise closely with the Archaeological Planning Officer throughout the course of the watching brief and, in consultation with the Client, will arrange for on-site meetings if necessary.

3.12 Health and Safety

3.12.1 The Client will be asked to provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and confirm the location of services before the archaeological works commence.

3.12.2 Site staff will have an appropriate level of training to enable them to carry out fieldwork safely. Appropriate PPE as directed by the Client will be worn by field staff at all times.

3.12.3 The Client will be requested to provide details of their own risk assessment and specify PPE required before fieldwork commences.

3.12.4 The contractor will abide by the Client's health and safety methodology as well as producing their own internal risk assessment and method statement document as required. If there is conflict between the Client's risk assessment and that of contractor, then the Client's will take priority unless it is perceived to be placing the field team at greater risk.

3.12.5 All staff will assist the Client in maintaining the Site in a safe condition. Hazards will be appropriately identified and managed including identification of buried and above ground services/utilities.

3.12.6 In addition to the risk assessment and method statement, where appropriate a COSHH assessment will also be undertaken. Once onsite, these documents will be assessed, and any variations will be highlighted and added to the appropriate assessment. These will be re-evaluated periodically during the course of the fieldwork to make sure that

they remain consistent to the Site-specific risks. All staff and visitors will be required to be inducted and sign these documents on first arrival to Site to show that they have read and understood the contents and any variations will be communicated as required.

3.13 Staffing

3.13.1 The project will be managed by a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equal standing.

3.13.2 The project will be undertaken by an experienced archaeological supervisor and be assisted by additional the contractor's field staff as required should archaeological features be uncovered in a volume that cannot be dealt with by a single archaeologist.

4 REPORTING

4.1.1 Reporting may be staged as follows:

- Minimum: Assessment Report(s).
- Further Reporting (as necessary):
  - Updated Project Design (to set out the scope and extent of further reporting requirements such as specialist analysis).
  - Specialist Analysis Reports (to analyse finds and or samples).
  - Post Excavation/Archive Report (Grey Literature Report) (consolidating all of the above).
- Publication (for the purposes of public dissemination, for example a journal article).

4.1.2 The minimum level of reporting would be an Assessment Report for the watching brief.

4.1.3 The necessity for further reporting after the Assessment Report stage would be determined by the features revealed and the finds assemblage/samples. The Archaeological Planning Officer would determine the necessity for further reporting/further fieldwork.

4.2 Assessment Report

4.2.1 It is expected that the production and submission an Assessment Report could be undertaken in 4-6 weeks of completion of the watching brief.

4.2.2 As a minimum, the Assessment Report will include:

- A title page inclusive of a site address, a NGR, a report number, the OASIS code, and a museum accession number for the project archive where this is required;
- a summary of the project's planning and archaeological/historic background;
- results – clear and concise stratigraphic descriptive text;
- an interpretation of the results;
- a catalogue and basic assessment of each category of artefact – to include basic specialist assessments (referencing local typologies) and a summary of potential for further work;

- a catalogue and basic specialist assessment of soil samples and ecofacts and a summary of potential for further work;
- an appendix containing a list and summary description of all contexts recorded; and
- reference to the project archive and its location.

4.3 Further Fieldwork/Reporting

4.3.1 In the event that finds and sample analysis is required (in addition to processing and assessment undertaken at the Assessment stage), an Updated Project Designs would be prepared as necessary to set out the scope of specialist reports. For client information the UPD and would set out the scope and extent of specific required additional work, providing a document against which a subsequent cost estimate could be acquired.

4.4 Dissemination, Archive Preparation and Deposition

4.4.1 The contractor will make arrangements for the deposition of the site archive with Swansea Museum and all documents, artefacts and any other material associated with the project will be marked with a unique site code during fieldwork and a museum accession number will be issued once the fieldwork has been completed.

4.4.2 In addition, the contractor will use an internal site code during the course of the archaeological investigations which shall also be placed on all documents, artefacts and any other items that may be associated with the project.

4.4.3 The site archive will include all project records and cultural material produced by the evaluation and will be prepared in accordance with Swansea Museum's deposition guidelines, Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (Brown 2011) and A Standard Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe (Perrin et al 2014).

4.4.4 A copy of the Assessment Report shall also be deposited with Gwent Archive Service and the GGAT Historic Environment Record as a Grey Literature Report in accordance with the guidance for paper and digital archives presented within the National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (2019) and RCAHMW Guidelines For Digital Archives (2015). In respect to the digital archive, a pdf copy of the complete assessment report will be provided. Images shall be provided in .tif format with drawings in CAD format. The

digital archive shall be accompanied by an Archive Information Form and File information form obtained from the RCAHMW.

4.4.5 The report shall be prepared in accordance with Guidance for the Submission of Data to Welsh Historic Environment Records (July 2018) and shall include a Welsh translated summary of the archaeological work carried out in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations (2015).

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FIGURES

DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

Key

- Site boundary
- 1km radius
- Listed buildings
- Designated assets
- Non-designated assets

Derived from information held by the GGAT HER Charitable Trust Database Right

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DR'N	CHK'D	APP'D
B	Revised red line boundary	9/2/23	HP	LG	LG

CLIENT

STATKRAFT UK LTD

PROJECT

SWANSEA NORTH GREENER GRID PARK

DRAWING TITLE

Proposed area of work and known assets within 1km

DRG No.	REV	SUIT.
ST19905-018	B	-

DRG SIZE	SCALE	DATE
A3	1:12,000	February 2023

DRAWN	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
HP	CB	LG

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0 500 1,000 m

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HELEN.PHILLIPS

wardell-armstrong.com

STOKE-ON-TRENT
Sir Henry Doulton House
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BD
Tel: +44 (0)1782 276 700

BIRMINGHAM
Two Devon Way
Longbridge Technology Park
Longbridge
Birmingham
B31 2TS
Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

BOLTON
41-50 Futura Park
Aspinall Way
Middlebrook
Bolton
BL6 6SU
Tel: +44 (0)1204 227 227

BRISTOL
Temple Studios
Temple Gate
Redcliffe
Bristol
BS1 6QA
Tel: +44 (0)117 203 4477

BURY ST EDMUNDS
Armstrong House
Lamdin Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 6NU
Tel: +44 (0)1284 765 210

CARDIFF
Tudor House
16 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CARLISLE
Marconi Road
Burgh Road Industrial Estate
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 7NA
Tel: +44 (0)1228 550 575

EDINBURGH
Great Michael House
14 Links Place
Edinburgh
EH6 7EZ
Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GLASGOW
24 St Vincent Place
Glasgow
G1 2EU
Tel: +44 (0)141 428 4499

LEEDS
36 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 5JL
Tel: +44 (0)113 831 5533

LONDON
Third Floor
46 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1JE
Tel: +44 (0)207 242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
City Quadrant
11 Waterloo Square
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4DP
Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943

TRURO
Baldhu House
Wheal Jane Earth Science Park
Baldhu
Truro
TR3 6EH
Tel: +44 (0)187 256 0738

International office:

ALMATY
29/6 Satpaev Avenue
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Office Tower
Almaty
Kazakhstan
050040
Tel: +7(727) 334 1310

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