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To whom it may concern,

Horiba MIRA Archaeology: Post-Excavation Programme

Following the completion of the archaeological excavation at the end of June 2024, the project now needs to move into a post-excavation phase to complete the work required by the planning condition.

ULAS have been in regular contact with MIRA and the LCC Planning Archaeologists to provide a clear route towards completion of the post-excavation work, and this will be broken down into two phases; a Post-excavation Assessment phase, and a Post-excavation Analysis phase.

The Assessment phase has recently started, with the work projected to take place over the next 4 months, and a report produced at the end of January 2025. The Assessment phase is an important part of the post-excavation process, as it allows for a review of the archaeological evidence gathered from the excavation, and considers the relative research value of the structural & stratigraphic record, and the various finds & environmental categories. The assessment of the records helps refine understanding of how the archaeological site developed, and the finds assessment helps clarify what further work will be required to move into the analysis phase. Everything is considered against regional and national research frameworks to determine how the analysis work will contribute towards better understanding.

The results of the Assessment will feed into an Updated Project Design, which forms the second half of the report produced at this stage, and this describes what the records and material can contribute, what further work is necessary to achieve this, and time/costs to complete the Analysis phase.

Budgets for the two phases of work are calculated as percentages of the excavation costs, as recommended by Historic England, and amount to 80% of the total fieldwork cost. This is usually divided 20:60%, but with this project ULAS have decided to do a slightly larger Assessment (based on 30% of the costs) to investigate the environmental remains in better detail to help determine their value for the analysis.

MIRA have provided funds to carry out the Assessment work, and have also provided assurance that the maximum amount of funds (remaining 50%) have been allocated for the Analysis phase, which could also

be made available before the Assessment was completed, should that be required to help discharge the condition.

The Assessment phase is a routine part of project work that ULAS carry out on a regular basis, and I do not foresee any problems in getting everything completed to provide a draft report in January. Although I am not able to provide full details about the Updated Project Design until the current work has been done, I imagine that the further work required will consist of more detailed analysis of the stratigraphic record, cross-comparison with similar archaeological sites, more detailed work on finds & environmental remains, and scientific analysis including residue analysis of pottery and radiocarbon dating of specific contexts to help establish the overall chronology of the site, all of which should be achievable withing the resource outlined above.

Based on the above assurances, we would support the early discharge of the planning condition to allow for the expedited delivery of the solar development and ensure timely completion of the project.

Yours sincerely,



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