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Our Ref: TN 16/09/95  
Your Ref:

21 September 2016

**FAO: James Poole**

Dear Sirs

**ST NICHOLAS VALE OF GLAMORGAN  
STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE**

Cotswold Archaeology (CA) is one of the largest archaeological contractors in Britain provides a comprehensive archaeological service to the development industry from our four offices in Cirencester, Milton Keynes, Andover and Exeter. CA is an entirely independent agency which is well versed in acting for public and private sector clients, including governmental bodies and executive agencies. CA undertakes fieldwork throughout Britain and beyond. Established in 1989, the company has successfully completed over 6000 projects in all areas of the UK, in more than 60 English and Welsh local authority areas.

With a staff of over 170 specialists in all aspects of and a turnover in excess of £9 million per annum, we average in excess of 600 new archaeology and heritage projects per annum, which vary in size from desk-based assessments and small watching briefs to major excavations. CA regularly completes archaeological projects with six figure budgets and can deploy large field teams at short notice.

Cotswold Archaeology (CA) is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA), the heritage sector-standard accreditation for companies. All managerial staff are full Members of CIFA and many other staff are also members. This indicates their technical abilities been reviewed and validated by external assessors. All projects are undertaken in line with industry best practice (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) and Cadw standards and guidance. Projects are managed in accordance with industry best practice, as set out in in the English Heritage guidance 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide'.

Our team of more than 170 experienced specialists, almost all graduate level or above, are able to deliver the full range of heritage and archaeological services including desk-based heritage assessments, historic building assessment and recording, non-intrusive surveys eg geophysical survey, topographic survey and all aspects of archaeological fieldwork from watching briefs, trial trenching and archaeological excavations. We are experienced at



working in all types of rural and urban environments, and in a variety of geological/topographical conditions. We have particular expertise in prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology, urban archaeology, and wetland archaeology.

CA is certificated for ISO 9001 (Quality) and ISO 14001 (Environmental Management) and its Health and Safety systems are CHAS and SMAS inspected and approved. All fieldwork managerial and supervisory staff have certificated safety training (SSMTS; SSSTS; CCNSG) and all fieldwork staff are at least CSCS certified.

***Selected Recent Welsh Projects:***

**Mynydd Y Betws Wind Farm:** Client - ESB International

The project involved extensive archaeological evaluation in an upland location, of c5km<sup>2</sup> in area. The evaluation comprised trial trenching, palaeoenevironmental borehole survey/core sample recovery and watching brief.

**Milford Haven to Aberdulais and Felindre to Tirley Gas Pipelines:** Client: NLMJV – National Grid

The project involved desk-based assessment, field reconnaissance survey, earthwork survey, evaluation trenching, leading to the production of a cultural heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement for the construction of a 320km-long pipeline. During construction 25 mitigation excavations were completed, including excavation of complete prehistoric henge, Bronze Age cremation cemetery and burnt mounds and Roman roads. Staffing levels reached 70 during project.

**RAF St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan:** Client - DARA and Welsh Development Agency

The project involved desk-based assessment for major development. Subsequent evaluation and excavation resulted in the examination of an of enclosed Iron Age and Roman settlement.

**St Mellons/Trowbridge, Cardiff:** Client - Cardiff City Council

The project involved a programme of field evaluation in zones proposed for new residential development, and subsequent excavation of Roman settlement site at Trowbridge Mawr.

I trust the above will be of interest.

Yours sincerely



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**Project Manager**

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