Normanton Rd, Crowland, Lincs.

Written Scheme of Investigation
Evaluation Trenches

Client: Allison Homes

Local Planning Authority: South Holland District Council

Planning Reference: H02-0759-25

NGR: TF 24589 10977

Site code: TBC

LCNCC Accn No: TBC

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1.0 Introduction

1.1.1 Prospect Archaeology has been commissioned by Allison Homes to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation of land off Normanton Rd, Crowland, in support of a full planning application to South Holland District Council for residential development.

1.1.2 The recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct:professional ethics in archaeology(2022), Standard for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a), Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023b).

2.0 Site Location and Description

2.1.1 The application site the north-eastern edge of Crowland, roughly equidistant between Spalding to the north and Peterborough to the south. It comprises two rectangular agricultural fields divided by a field drain, north of Normanton Rd. The site is almost level, sitting at c.1.5m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) across most of the site, but rising gently to c.2m aOD to the south. It is situated on the edge of a peninsula within the Lincolnshire Fen, a marshy wetland that was drained during the post-medieval and modern period.

2.1.2 The underlying geology of the site as mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation with superficial Abbey sand and gravel deposits (https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/. The Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute identified the soils of the study site as loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface across the site (Soilscape 23: http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/).

3.0 Planning Background

3.1.1 A full planning application has been made for residential development of up to 80 dwellings with access, landscape, drainage, open space and associated infrastructure to S. Holland District Council. The results of the evaluation will be submitted in support of this application.

4.0 Archaeological Background

4.1.1 A full account of the archaeological background to the area can be found in the Heritage Statement prepared by RPS in May 2025 (Behrendt 2025). A summary is provided here based on that report.

4.1.2 A watching brief (ELI4504), undertaken during construction of the residential estate c.200m

west of the site in 2003. This recovered a Neolithic serrated blade (MLI85778), a Bronze Age scraper (MLI85779 and five undated ditches and eight pits (MLI85776).

4.1.3 Trial trenching (ELI7454) in advance of other residential development c.250m southwest of the site in 2006 recorded residual prehistoric flints (MLI89555) and undated linear features and pits (MLI89554).

4.1.4 Fieldwalking followed by geophysical survey and trial trenching (ELI7415, ELI3715 and ELI7416) c.200m south-east of the site recorded Mesolithic to Neolithic worked flint (MLI89526), a possible Bronze round barrow (MLI23230), Roman tesserae (MLI20250) as well as Saxon and Medieval features believed to be associated with the possible site of the cell of St Guthlac and St Pega and the succeeding medieval chapel.

Previous Site Investigations

4.1.5 A geophysical survey undertaken in February 2025 (Armstrong 2025) covered the proposed development site and the adjacent field to the north. The corner of a large enclosure extends into the proposed development site. The survey also recorded a possible second enclosure to its south as well as a series of anomalies of uncertain but possible archaeological origin along the eastern site boundary where there appears to be a ditched trackway. Other faint anomalies across the two fields are more difficult to interpret. The survey also picked up a strong former boundary which had once divided the southern field into two.

Archaeological Potential

4.1.6 There were no previously recorded archaeological finds from within the proposed development site but geophysical survey revealed several anomalies that are likely to be of moderate archaeological potential comprising possible Iron Age or Roman field enclosures that might contain associated smaller features that are not readily identifiable by geophysical survey are indicative of rural settlement activity. The site's potential for archaeological remains from all other periods is assessed to be low.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

5.1.1 In general terms the purpose of the evaluation will be to :

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- To verify the results of the geophysical survey

- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures to be undertaken either in advance of and/or during development
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire HER.

5.1.2 More specifically the aims of the evaluation trenches will be to establish the date and state of preservation of the possible enclosures and whether the more ephemeral features recorded in the geophysical survey still survive.

6.0 Scope of Work

6.1.1 A programme of trial trenching has been agreed with the Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council who is Archaeology Advisor to S. Holland District Council in accordance with NPPF 2023 Section 16 para. 205. The results of the evaluation will inform any archaeological mitigation that may be required.

6.1.2 A Data Management Plan will be prepared in advance of fieldwork commencing and will be submitted to the curator for approval. Data acquisition standards are defined against ADS Guides to Good Practice. Digital Archiving will comply with 'Dig Digital, A guide to managing digital data generated from archaeological investigations' (Historic England, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Dig Ventures 2019).

6.1.3 It is proposed that 15 machine excavated trenches measuring 50m x 2m will be targeted to investigate the anomalies identified on the geophysical survey as well as apparently blank area of the site as a control (see Fig. 2).

6.1.4 If archaeological remains are encountered a mitigation strategy for additional investigations will be prepared in agreement with her. This would be the subject of a separate WSI.

7.0 Method

7.1.1 All archaeological works will be conducted in accordance with the CIfA's Code of Conduct (2022) and its Standards and Universal Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (2023a and 2023b) and the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (2019).

7.1.2 Trenches will be positioning using Leica System 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of ± 0.05m. The trenches should be opened in a controlled manner, using an appropriate mechanical excavator equipped with a wide, toothless ditching bucket. Excavation must be under direct archaeological supervision. The soil will be removed by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology. A sondage 5m in length will be excavated at each end of each trench to a depth 1m below the base of the trench and augering will be undertaken in the base of the trench to record the sequence of deposits at greater depth, subject to safe ground conditions.

7.1.3 The trenches will be hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features will be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations should these prove to be necessary. The complete excavation of features is not regarded as necessary; a sufficient sample of any archaeological features and deposits revealed will be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to establish the aims of the evaluation and to understand the full stratigraphic sequence in each trench, down to naturally occurring deposits.

7.1.4 A metal detector will be used to scan the site prior to excavation and also on spoil heaps of the trenches.

7.1.5 Care will be taken not to compromise the integrity of the archaeological record. Any significant remains, such as kilns, buildings and other domestic or industrial structures will be investigated sufficiently to date, characterise and determine their principal dimensions. Full excavation will not be conducted and the larger portion of the feature will be left in situ pending a more suitable excavation strategy.

7.1.6 The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification will be recorded on pro-forma sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each

distinct deposit and feature. A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all material revealed during the course of the trial excavation. Trenches containing archaeological features will be planned at a scale of 1:50. Complex features will be planned at scales of between 1:20 to 1:10, as appropriate. the full stratigraphic sequence will be recorded, including the relationship of cut features and subsoils\overburden in sections at the edge of the trench'

7.1.7 A full digital photographic record will be made of the evaluation features with photos to place the site in its surrounding context. An SLR digital camera will be used that takes bot RAW and .jpg format photographs. The former will be used for digital archiving and the .jpgs for the report. Size of final images will be c.23MB for the RAW and 10MB for the jpgs.

7.1.8 Finds which are located in archaeological features will be identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological remains will be in operation. All finds (artefacts and ecofacts) visible during the excavation will be collected and processed. Artefacts and ecofacts will be collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site, in line with procedures outlined in First Aid for Finds (UKIC 1998). Unstratified animal bones and modern material will not be collected.

7.1.9 Once the evaluation has been completed, the trenches will be simply backfilled, with the topsoil replaced uppermost and lightly compacted.

Environmental Remains

7.1.10 Provision should be made for buried soils and sediment sequences to be inspected and recorded on site by a recognised geoarchaeologist, since field inspection may provide sufficient data for understanding site formation processes. Samples for laboratory assessment must be collected where appropriate following discussion with the geoarchaeologist and the S. Holland Historic Environment Officer. Procedures and techniques should follow the guidelines presented in Historic England 2015 *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record.*

7.1.11 Provision will be made for the sampling of a range of feature types across the site in order that soils may be accurately characterised and to enable analysis of biological remains off site in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*: English Heritage Guidelines 2011 second edition). This guide states that sampling in evaluation should be fit for purpose- i.e.,

to contribute to an understanding of the potential and significance of the archaeological resource (EH2011, p.7).

7.1.12 Further, it states that where projects are commissioned to inform the planning process ...information sought should be proportionate to the significance of the heritage assets and to the potential impacts of the proposed development..... Assessments of heritage assets should therefore be sufficient to provide an understanding of the significance of heritage assets and their settings affected wither directly or indirectly by the development proposals. (EH 2011, p.4). In the case where determination has already been agreed it is understood that should the potential of the site be sufficient a further stage of investigation may be required.

7.1.13 A strategy for the recovery and sampling of environmental remains will be developed in accordance with these guidelines and in conjunction with the project specialists. The strategy will be kept under review during the course of fieldwork and modified as necessary in agreement with the S. Hollan Historic Environment Officer and Historic England Science Advisor.

7.1.14 Animal bone will be scanned to determine the species present, the state of preservation, to identify evidence for butchery and assess the potential for further analysis.

Scientific Dating

7.1.15 Opportunities for scientific dating will be identified as appropriate and discussed with the curator and/or the Regional Science Advisor. Opportunities for C14 and archaeomagnetic dating are noted. All scientific dating will be considered as a contingency item.

Industrial Remains

7.1.16 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues e.g. slag, will be collected by hand. All environmental samples will be screened for micro-slags (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) or separately collected, if appropriate, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Archaeometallurgy in Archaeological Projects* (HE 2015).

Human Remains

7.1.17 If human remains are encountered, the Planning Archaeologist will be notified immediately. It is not proposed to undertake any exhumation work at this time and remains will be left in situ pending a more suitable mitigation strategy. If excavation is required, a Licence, as required under the current requirements of the Ministry of Justice Statement on the

exhumation of human remains for archaeological purposes (2011) will be obtained. Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains will be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. The remains will be adequately recorded in situ before lifting in accordance with IFA Technical Paper 13, *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*, English Heritage 2005 *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* and English Heritage 2004 *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports*.

Treasure

7.1.18 The possibility of encountering items of treasure, as defined in the Treasure Act 1996 and the new Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order (2023) is noted and provision will be made for informing the necessary authorities, and providing appropriate security measures, should the need arise.

8.0 Post Excavation

8.1.1 All records created during fieldwork will be compiled into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. A stratigraphic matrix will be compiled and where appropriate circulated to specialists to inform their reports. All finds will be cleaned, catalogued and prepared for storage prior to review by suitably qualified specialists. Specialists' reports will be incorporated into the main report and the findings integrated with the main site narrative. The need for scientific dating, illustration of pottery and artefacts as appropriate should be assessed and sufficient resources to cover such requirements must be in place.

8.1.2 All finds work will conform to the guidelines as set out in the 'Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials' (CIfA 2020b). All artefacts of all classes will be collected, other than obviously modern material from modern overburden contexts. Bulk artefacts (e.g. pottery, brick, tile, animal bone) collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, while registered artefacts (e.g. coins, glass, metal objects, worked flints, worked stones, worked bone etc; also known as small finds) will be 3D located and bagged / boxed individually with the deposit context number and small find number. If necessary, the relevant specialist will visit the site during fieldwork to advise on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All artefacts will be processed (cleaned, marked and labelled, as appropriate) at the contracting archaeologists' premises. These will then be submitted for

specialist reporting.

8.1.3 For ceramic assemblages, the recognised local pottery reference collections and relevant codes must be used; the medieval pottery reference collection for Lincolnshire is held at The Lincoln Museum, Lincoln, and is accessible to contractors and their specialists by appointment.

8.1.4 Any discard policy relating to finds will be in line with the recommendations of the specialists, which will normally apply to finds from unstratified contexts or those of 20th century and later date.

Conservation

8.1.5 Provision will be made for basic conservation of finds requiring stabilisation (e.g., metal, glass, organic remains) including X-rays of all metal finds, for archiving purposes. Assessment must include inspection of all X-radiographs in accordance with Guidelines on the X-radiography of Archaeological Metalwork (English Heritage 2006).

8.1.6 Artefacts will then be distributed to the appropriate specialist for identification and recording, who may recommend further conservation work.

9.0 Report

9.1.1 A draft evaluation report will be issued, presenting the findings of the investigation, within six weeks of completion of all fieldwork. This will be sent to the client and to the South Holland Senior Historic Environment Archaeologist for comment. Once it has been approved, the report will be issued to the local planning authority. The final report will be uploaded onto the OASIS III database (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations).

9.1.2 The report will include the following as a minimum:

- A title page detailing site address, site code and accession number, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address
- Full contents listing
- A concise non-technical summary of the fieldwork findings
- A description of the archaeological background
- A description of the topography, geology, soils and drainage of the development area

- A description of the methodologies used during fieldwork
- Plans of the excavated area showing the archaeological features. These plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey data and will have accurate scales and north arrows
- Sections of relevant excavated archaeological features with accurate scales
- Interpretation of the archaeological features and their context within the surrounding landscape
- Specialist reports on the artefactual/ecofactual remains from the site
- Appropriate photographs showing the general nature and character of the site as well as of specific archaeological features
- A consideration of the importance of the archaeological remains in local, regional and national terms and in relation to the project objectives
- Updated project design if appropriate
- A full listing of the archive content
- OASIS summary

9.1.3 In the event that no further fieldwork takes place on the site, a full programme of post excavation analysis and publication of artefactual and scientific material from the evaluation must be completed, as appropriate. Due attention must be paid to artefact retrieval and conservation, illustration of ceramics and artefacts, ancient technology, dating of deposits, and scientific analysis of soils, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone. Where appropriate, this work will be a requirement of a mitigation strategy for the site and does not form part of the tender for the evaluation work.

9.1.4 If a decision is taken not to proceed with any further fieldwork or analysis, the evaluation results may still be of sufficient significance to merit publication in their own right. Allowance must be made for the preparation and publication in a local and/or national journal of a short summary on the results of the evaluation and of the location and material held within the site archive.

9.1.5 Should further archaeological excavation be undertaken, a synopsis of the results of the evaluation shall be prepared for publication with the final results of any further fieldwork.

Dissemination

9.1.6 Digital copies of the report will be supplied to the client and to South Holland District Council Planning Department. Additional copies will be submitted to the Lincolnshire

Historic environment Record and the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire.

9.1.7 The deposition of a copy of the report at the HER will be deemed to put all information in the public domain, unless a request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with HER. In normal circumstances the agreed term does not usually exceed six months.

Copyright

9.1.8 The archaeological contracting company and its sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports or other project documents, including all data, text and graphics, (in accordance with CIfA guidelines) under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification. The HER will be given a licence to make all reasonable professional use of this material, granted that copyright is acknowledged.

10.0 Site Archive

10.1.1 The ordered and checked archive, along with artefacts, ecofacts and relevant documents will be deposited with an appropriate museum or repository. This excludes finds that are subject to the Treasure Act 1996 (and later amendments), the deposition of which will be determined separately.

10.1.2 Preparation of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines in Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995 Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and Brown, D. 2011 Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.

10.1.3 Archive deposition must be arranged in consultation with the recipient museum and must take account of the requirements and the relevant guidelines relating to the preparation and transfer of archives set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2016). The project archive will include a bound copy of the report.

10.1.4 On completion of the archive an electronic data submission form will be completed for the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS), to enable information about the site to be accessible to the wider archaeological community and the public.

10.1.5 Written confirmation of the date and place of deposition must be sent to the Lincolnshire HER, together with an index to the contents of the archive.

11.0 Programme & Staffing

11.1.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services (PCAS) Ltd.

11.1.2 Specialists will undertake work as required and may include as appropriate

T. Lane – Lithics
Dr. K. Leahy –post-Roman and early medieval artefacts, particularly metalwork.
Dr. R. Mackenzie –metalworking residues.
Q. Mould –leather artefacts.
Sarah Percival –prehistoric pottery.
I. Rowlandson Iron Age and Roman pottery.
Dr. R. Tyson –glass.
J. Wood –animal bone & human remains.
J. Young –post-Roman pottery, fired clay, ceramic building material (with J. Gray).
Durham University Archaeological Services (DUAS)–environmental archaeology services

11.1.3 The Senior Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council will be given at least 10 working days' notice of the proposed start date for the project and regular site meetings will be arranged.

11.1.4 The archaeological contractor will ensure that all staff are adequately briefed on the archaeological background to the site and that copies of this WSI is available for consultation on site.

11.1.5 Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following discussion with and written confirmation from the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council.

12.0 Further Works

12.1.1 Should significant archaeological remains be discovered and the proposed scheme has an impact on those remains, further archaeological work will be necessary in the form of either a mitigation strategy for preservation in situ, full excavation or a combination of both. This would be the subject of a separate written scheme of investigation. Sufficient funds should be set aside for this eventuality should the need arise.

12.1.2 Sufficient funds will be provided to enable full analysis of the finds and environmental and any other samples, building on the preliminary identifications and analysis carried out for the evaluation stage of work.

Health and Safety

12.1.3 All site work will be carried out in accordance with the relevant current Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the contractor's Health and Safety Document should be supplied to the client along with copies of relevant insurance policies and RAMS documentation prior to commencement of work on site.

Insurance

12.1.4 PA and its sub-contractors are fully covered by Employers and Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurances, copies of which are available for inspection on request.

Monitoring

12.1.5 The Senior Historic Environment Officer will be responsible for monitoring the archaeological work on behalf of the local planning authority. She will be kept regularly informed about developments both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work. A member of Prospect Archaeology staff will monitor the fieldwork on behalf of the client. Site monitoring visits will be co-ordinated by Prospect Archaeology.

13.0 References

Armstrong, K. 2025 *Cloot Drove, Crowland, South East Lincolnshire, Archaeological Geophysical Survey.* AOC project 40879, report for Allison Homes

Behrendt, A. *2025 Cloot Drove, Crowland, Lincolnshire; Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* Report for Allison Homes RPS report 794-PLN-HER-01170

Brown, D. 2011 *Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* Archaeological Archives Forum.

CIfA 2014 (revised 2022) *Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2023a, *Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

CIfA 2023b, *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

NPPF 2024 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

NB EH= English Heritage, now Historic England

EH 2004 *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports*.

EH 2005 *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*

EH 2010 *Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood.* English Heritage

EH 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to Theory and Practice for Methods, from sampling to post-excavation,* English Heritage

HE 2015 *Archaeometallurgy in Archaeological Projects* Historic England

Historic England 2015, *Geoarchaeology. Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*. (London)

Knight, D, Vyner, B and Allen, C 2016 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands.* https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/

Lincolnshire County Council, 2019 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*

Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*

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14.0 Figures

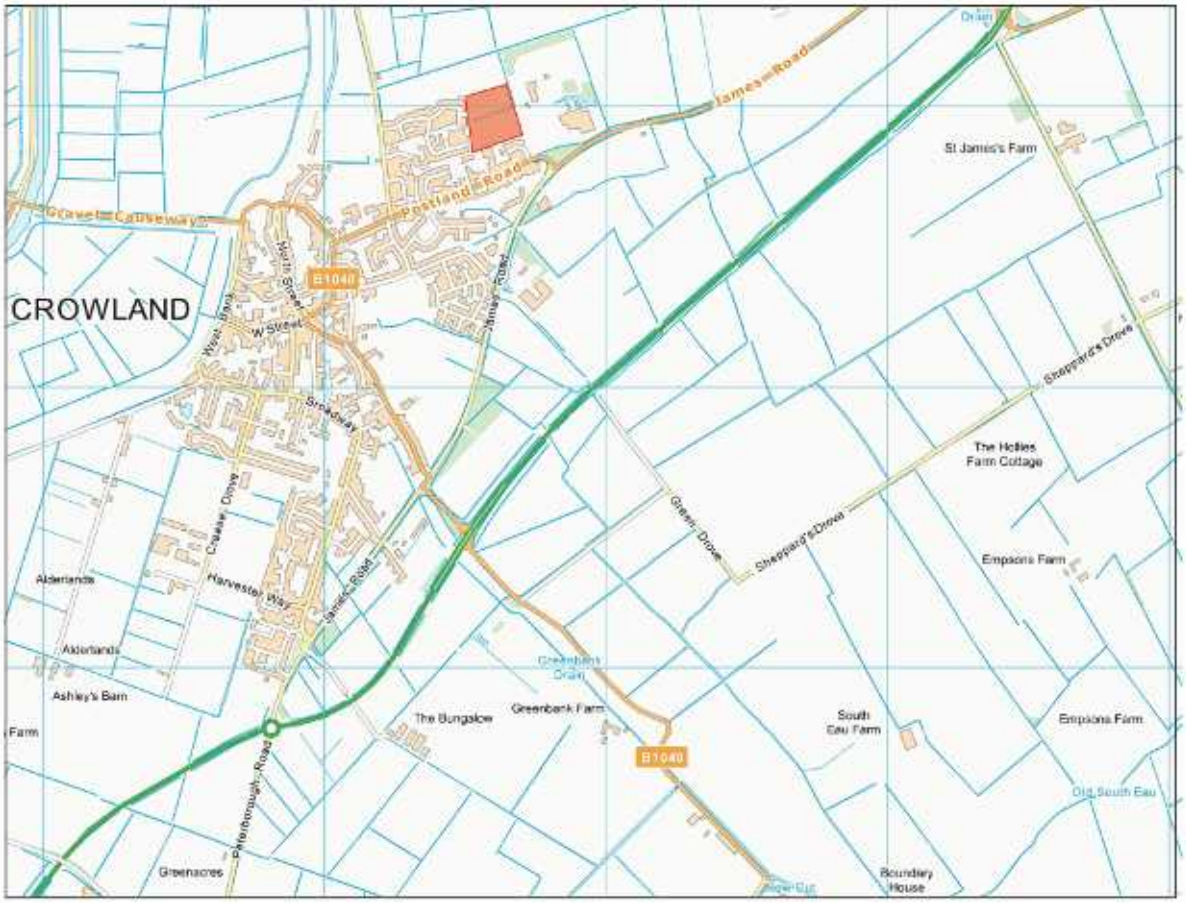




Fig. 1 Land off Normanton Rd, Crowland. Site location

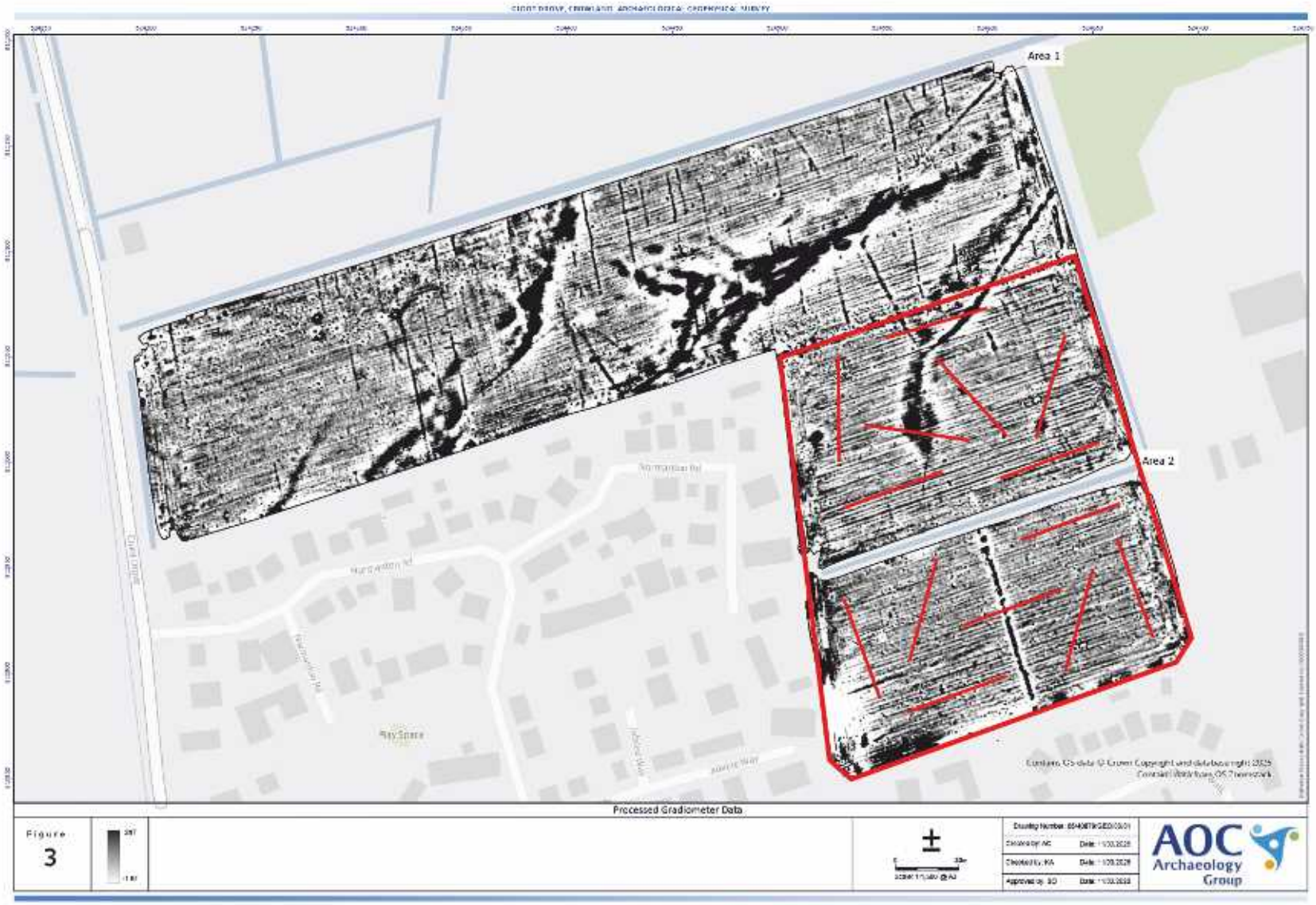


Fig. 2 Normanton Rd, Crowland. Proposed evaluation trench plan 14no. 50m x 1.8m trenches. overlay on geophysical survey results (AOC Archaeology Group)