



Land at Postland Road and James Road, Crowland

Archaeological Trial-Trench Report

AMP Clean Energy

Prepared by:

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Basis of Report

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Executive Summary

SLR Consulting Ltd) was commissioned by the Client, AMP Clean Energy, to undertake archaeological trial trenching in support of a proposed construction of a micro energy storage facility, land at Postland Road and James Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR TF 24822 10831).

The archaeological work was undertaken on the 28th of January and comprised of the excavation of one sample trench across the proposed development area. The trenching recorded a sequence of natural strata associated with woodland and water solution processes: no features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified.



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1.0 Introduction

On the 28th of January 2026, SLR Consulting Limited (SLR), undertook archaeological trial trenching at land at Postland Road and James Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR TF 24822 10831- Figure 1)

During pre-planning consultation in advance of the construction of a micro energy storage facility, South Holland District Council (SHDC) consulted with Ruben Lopez Catalan, LCC Historic Places Team – Historic Environment Officer / SHDC Planning Archaeology Advisor (hereafter, LCC HEO). The groundworks associated with the proposed development were deemed to “have a significant impact on any surviving archaeological remains, resulting in total or partial loss, if present” on a site where “insufficient specific information on the archaeological potential for the site and the extent of impact to buried archaeological remains from the proposed development”

As such, a “full standard archaeological evaluation of the site” as a pre-determination condition in support for the planning application was requested. This recommendation is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF2024, paragraphs 207, 208 and 218) and Policy 29 of the Southeast Lincolnshire Local Plan (SLLP 2019).

The proposed site is surrounded by areas of known multi-phased archaeological remains and its investigation could contribute to the East of England Regional Research Agenda (RFN 2019/2025).

A written scheme of Investigation (WSI) was then produced by SLR (SLR 2026) to provide a specific methodology: this was approved by LCC HEO prior to the fieldwork taking place.

This report outlines the work undertaken on Site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological trenching.



2.0 Methodology

2.1 Standards and Guidance

The archaeological trenching was undertaken in accordance with the approved WSI (SLR 2026), and the following guidance:

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Universal Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. (CIfA 2023a & b)
- *Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Handbook* (LCC2024)
- And in accordance with the SLR fieldwork manual (SLR 2021).

The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in:

- *Standard and Universal and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2023a&b)
- *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation, and Research of Archaeological Materials* (CIfA 2020b).

2.2 Archaeological Trenching

The archaeological trial trenching comprised the excavation of one trench measuring 7m in length and 1.8m in width, located on the western limit of the Site (Figure 3). As requested by LCC HEO, the trench plan provides a 5% general coverage of the Site.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. All possible features or deposits were inspected, and deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples.

Once excavation was completed, all features were recorded according to the SLR standard procedure as set out in the *Excavation Manual* (SLR 2021). The trenches and features were surveyed using a Trimble TSC5 with an accuracy/error of <1cm.

A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. The metal detector survey was conducted when the trench was opened, and the detector was not set to discriminate against iron. The spoil tips were also surveyed, though nothing was recovered during this exercise.

No artefacts were recovered during the trial trench excavation.

Upon completion, the trench was reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.3 Aims and Objectives

The general aims of this investigation were:

- determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the specified targeted areas of the Site.
- determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits revealed.



- determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from later building and landscaping activities.
- determine the likely impact on any archaeological deposits present from the consented scheme.
- disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of recording.

Dependent upon the results of the archaeological trial trenching, it may have been possible to address research questions presented in the East of England Research Framework East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework¹ (RFN 2019/2025), including:

- **Neo 05:** How do we ensure the recovery of Neolithic material from the ploughzone?
- **E-MBA 06:** How can we refine the chronology of Bronze Age cemeteries?
- **LIA-Rom 05:** How can we better understand the Late Iron Age to Roman transition?
- **MSax-Lsax 02:** How can we better characterise Middle and Late Anglo-Saxon settlement types and forms?
- **MSax-Lsax 08:** How can we better understand the extent of Middle and Late Anglo-Saxon landscape reorganisation?
- **MSax-Lsax 11:** How do we characterise the relationship between churches and settlements?
 - **Med (Rural) 06:** How can we improve our understanding of medieval rural religious structures and features?
 - **Med (Rural) 08:** How can we improve our understanding of medieval rural monastic establishments, especially those of the minor orders?
- **Multi 06:** How do we interpret and ground-truth cropmark evidence?
- **Multi 08:** How can we better realise the archaeological potential of the Fenland?

2.4 Site Archive

A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011), EAC (EAC 2014) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020b) and in accordance with any guidelines provided by Lincoln Museum.

As soon as a suitable repository becomes available, a digital copy of the archive will be submitted to the Lincoln Museum and it will be filed under the accession number **LCNCC: 2026: 1**, with a Museum Site Code of **PJCD26**.

The project will be registered with OASIS ([OASIS: Home](#)), which is an online reporting form which allows heritage practitioners to provide information about their investigations to regional Historic Environment Records (HERs) and respective national heritage organisations. Upon completion of the final report and following its approval by the LCC HEO and the Client, a pdf copy will be uploaded onto OASIS for eventual transfer to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) library ([Archaeology Data Service](#)) where it will be publicly accessible. The OASIS reference for the project is: **slrconsu1-540224**



3.0 Site description

The site, currently covered in mature vegetation (trees) and grass land (Plates 1 & 2), is located on the outskirts of Crowland, approximately 1 km east of the town centre (Figure 1). It is bounded to the southeast by James Road, to the southwest by Postland Road, and to the north by pastures and commercial properties.

The bedrock geology site is Oxford Clay Formation-Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed in shallow marine environment between 165 and 154 million years ago during the Jurassic period. Superficial deposits consist of Abbey Sand and Gravel Member, alluvial deposits formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS 2025).

Overlying the superficial deposits, the soils are recorded as loamy and sandy with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface (Soilscape 23) (Soilscape Viewer 2025). The potential for organic-rich deposits immediately below the subsoil to be present at the site was demonstrated by evaluation trenching immediately to the south of the present site (Cope Faulkner 2004)

4.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

To identify heritage assets that may be directly affected by the proposed development, and to provide sufficient data to represent the archaeological character of the area, the Lincolnshire Heritage Record (HER) was consulted for entries within the search area within a radius of 1000m of the Site boundary (Figure 2).

4.1 Previous archaeological works

The Site has not been subject to any previous archaeological investigation. However, the adjacent Anchor Church Field (on the south side of James Road) is known to have been a focus of prehistoric activity through medieval activity, including the proposed site of the early medieval Saint Guthlac's hermitage (**MLI22029**). Here a series of investigations were carried out, notably following deep ploughing in 1997, which disturbed sub-surface archaeological remains.

Previous investigations in this area include:

- The Fenland Management Project (Hayes and Lane 1992) identified two possible Bronze age barrows, one truncated by medieval structures (**MLI23230**).
- A site walkover conducted in 1997, identified a probable medieval building and a hearth affected by recent ploughing, together with extant scatters of tesserae of potential Roman date, alongside unstratified mixed pottery, the earliest dating to the Middle Anglo Saxon period, 650-850 AD (Cope-Faulkner 2004)
- A geophysical survey detected the outlines of a series of medieval building (also identified as soil and crop marks) and a possible earlier enclosure (English Heritage 2002).
- Evaluation trenching (Cope-Faulkner 2004- ELI7416 – Figure 2) carried out in in 2004, identified remains dating to
 - Bronze age: a single burial mound (**MLI23261**) already observed during the fieldwalking and an enclosure ditch (potentially the second burial mound)
 - Romano-British activity comprising spreads of discarded material (pottery and tesserae) (**MLI20250**)



- Middle to Late Anglo-Saxon activity, including an enclosure ditch
- Medieval habitation focus comprised a number of pits, layers and a robbed-out (sand-filled) foundation trench of a building, along with a short section of limestone walling interpreted as a column base. These remains probably relate to a chapel building that was standing on the site until the Eighteenth century.

4.2 Archaeological Baseline

4.2.1 Mesolithic and Neolithic

Mesolithic finds comprising worked flint tools (a microlith, along with a possible blade flake) have been recovered during fieldwalking and excavation in Anchor Church field. In the same investigation, residual flint flakes of a Neolithic date were also recovered (**MLI89526**).

Two further flint scatters (**MLI22014** and **MLI22980**) are recorded within the Crowland peninsula gravel 'island' in the area surrounding The Chase (400 m southeast of the Site). These finds demonstrate that the area was a focus of human activity during earlier prehistory.

4.2.2 Bronze Age

The Site lies at the north end of the fen edge dry island of Crowland: here, a number of Bronze Age barrows have been identified. These funerary monuments appear to be part of an extensive complex that extends along the axis of the peninsula north to Dowsby, south into Northborough and west along the Welland valley (**MLI20265**). The two barrows observed within Anchor Church field (**MLI23230** and **MLI23261**) are part of this complex, and this area was evidently part of an important ritual landscape at this time.

4.2.3 Iron Age to Romano-British

Within the vicinity of the site, Iron Age activity is recorded c. 500 m to the southeast. Along the proposed route of the A1073 relief road between Eye and Spalding, archaeological investigations identified the construction trench of a probable Iron Age roundhouse (**MLI86352**), although no artefacts were recovered from this feature.

800 m west of the Site, on an undated mound interpreted as saltern (salt making site (**MLI20260**)) has produced sporadic finds of Iron Age and Roman date (mixed with Postmedieval pottery)

4.2.3 Anglo-Saxon

Guthlac, saint of Crowland, arrived in a boat from Repton Abbey in 697-99 AD, seeking refuge. His landing place is traditionally regarded as a site roughly four miles north-east of Crowland in 697-99. Guthlac's anchorage cell was said to have been in the side of a hillock on which later stood a small chapel, and this location has been equated with the Anchor Church field (**MLI22029**) by antiquarians and place-name scholars. In 1708, William Stukeley noted the remains of a small chapel converted into a cottage at Anchor Field (Stukeley 1724). This was pulled down in 1720.

An aerial photograph dated to 1969 clearly shows the cropmark of a stone-built rectangular building with two internal divisions and a smaller room adjoining the south-west corner of the main structure in Anchor Field. This building and a possible timber post-pad structure to the south-east were apparently enclosed by an outer ditch (ibid).

In 2002 a geophysical survey confirmed the presence of the building visible in aerial photographs, as well as revealing a possible second adjacent building. Further investigation was carried out in 2004, consisting of fieldwalking and trial trench evaluation (see Figure 2).



This work identified deposits of a Middle Anglo-Saxon date, with pottery recovered that dated to the 7th century and later (APS 2004). No structural remains of this date were identified.

4.2.4 Medieval to Modern

The Scheduled Monument of Crowland Abbey (**MLI20551**) lies c 1 km west of the Site. The original monastery, founded in the early 8th century on the transmitted site of the hermitage of the Anglo-Saxon Saint Guthlac, was destroyed by the Danes in 870 AD and re-founded as a Benedictine abbey in the mid-10th century. From the 10th to the 15th centuries, the monastic buildings were repeatedly extended and rebuilt. The abbey was finally dissolved in 1539 and all the monastic buildings demolished, except the nave and aisles of the abbey church which were taken into use as the parish church.

The sand filled foundation trench of a building excavated during the 2004 evaluation at Anchor Church field was equated with the medieval phase of St. Guthlac's hermitage. This structure was partially still visible in 1866 when the stone building was robbed: it was described as "an east-west aligned structure with concrete walls and bases for stone pillars to the east". Excavation on the site in 1866 exposed "foundations of two parallel walls, running east to west, about 14 feet apart and 84 feet long. On either side at the west end was a room, making the west end 42 feet wide" (Moore 1879).

Following the disuse of the Anchor Field buildings, the surrounding land (including the site) has been utilised for agriculture purposes.

5.0 Archaeological Trenching Results

The trenching was undertaken on 28th January 2026 with one trench excavated across the Site, placed to provide general coverage (Figure 3). The trench position was moved slightly from the approved WSI due to the presence of overhead cables and ground supports, as well as mature trees, the LCCHEO was notified.

A tabulation of contexts is provided in Appendix 1.

Trench 01 (Figure 3-4; Plates 3-4) was situated along the western limit of the Site and was North to South oriented. The trench measured 7m in length and 1.8m in width and was excavated a maximum depth of 1m.

The superficial geological deposit of alluvial origin (**102**) was encountered at a depth of 0.8m Below Ground Level (BGL), it comprised a friable yellow-orange sand with occasional patches of natural gravel and lighter silt. The silt patches, upon investigation were confirmed as root runs and/or solution hollows. A sondage into the natural sand/gravel to a depth of 1.1m confirmed that this was a natural terrace deposit and not redeposited.

The natural substrate was overlain by (**101**), a 0.5-0.6m thick subsoil deposit of mid brown subsoil, rich in sandy reddish lenses, naturally formed, but with abundant evidence of rooting. Trench 01 was sealed by topsoil (**100**), a loamy dark Brown-Black friable-firm silty sand, 0.3m thick and containing active rooting.

Trench 01 was devoid of archaeological deposit, finds or features

6.0 Finds Assessment

No artefacts were encountered nor environmental samples were collected during the archaeological trial trenching at Land at Postland Road and James Road, Crowland.



7.0 Interpretation and Significance

SLR Consulting Ltd (SLR) was commissioned by AMD Clean Energy) to undertake archaeological trial trenching land at Postland Road and James Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR TF 24822 10831- Figure 1).

During archaeological work, that took place on 28th January 2028, one trench was excavated to provide a general sample (5%) of the wider Site.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified.



8.0 References

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9.0 Acknowledgements

SLR Consulting Ltd



Gabriele Impiombato
Senior Archaeologist



Gareth Davies
Technical Director

SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) thanks the client AMP Clean Energy for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. SLR also thanks Ruben Lopez Catalan, LCC Historic Places Team – Historic Environment Officer / SHDC Planning Archaeology Advisor at Lincolnshire County Council.

The archaeological works were supervised by Gabriele Impiombato. The report was written by Gabriele Impiombato, and the figures were produced by Dr. John Summers. The project was managed by Ginette Murray and the report edited by Gareth Davies



Appendix 1

Tabulation of Contexts

Trench 01

Length: 7m

Width: 1.6m

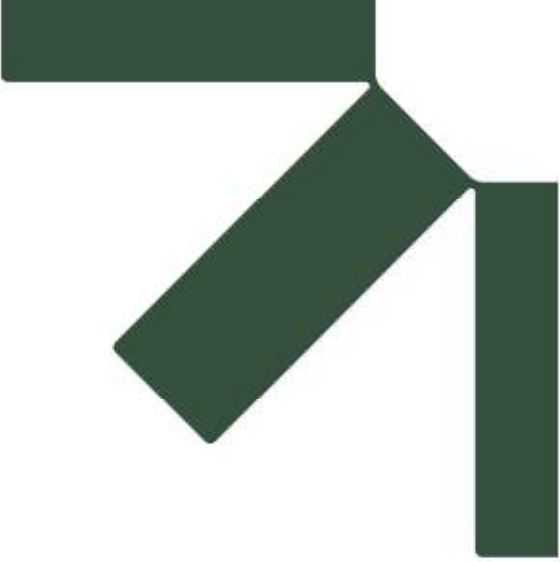
Orientation: NE to SW

Maximum Depth: 1m

Minimum Depth: 0.7m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions	Discussion/ Interpretation
(100)	Layer	Dark Brown-Black friable-firm silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel.	Thickness: 0.3-0.35m	Topsoil with intense rooting action: woodland
(101)	Layer	Friable, mid brown, silty sand with sparse small to mid-sized rounded stones. Occasional reddish lenses of sand present	Thickness: 0.5-0.55m	Subsoil with rooting/ water solution events
(102)	Layer	Friable, dark yellow with mid orange patches, sand and sparse small sub-rounded stones	Depth: 0.8-0.85m	Superficial natural deposits of alluvial origin





Appendix 2

Plates





Picture Taken:
28/01/2026

Plate
No. 1

Title: Site view, East facing



Picture Taken:
28/01/2026

Plate
No. 2

Title Site view, South facing



Client: Heritage AMP Clean Energy

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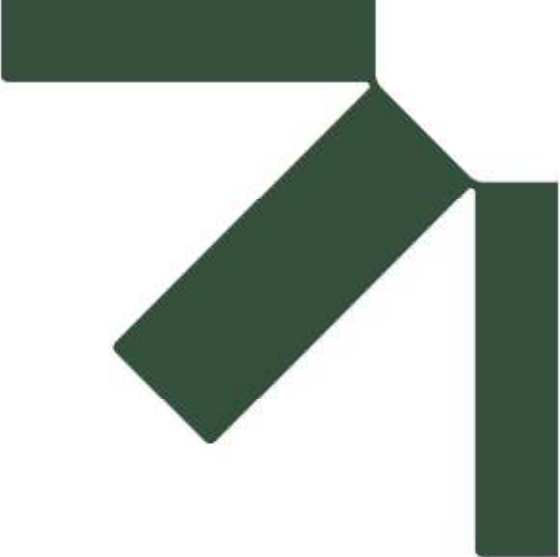
Picture Taken: 28/01/2026	Plate No. 03	Title: Open Trench 01, North-West Facing
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Picture Taken: 28/01/2026	Plate No. 04	Title: Representative section of Trench 01, North-West facing
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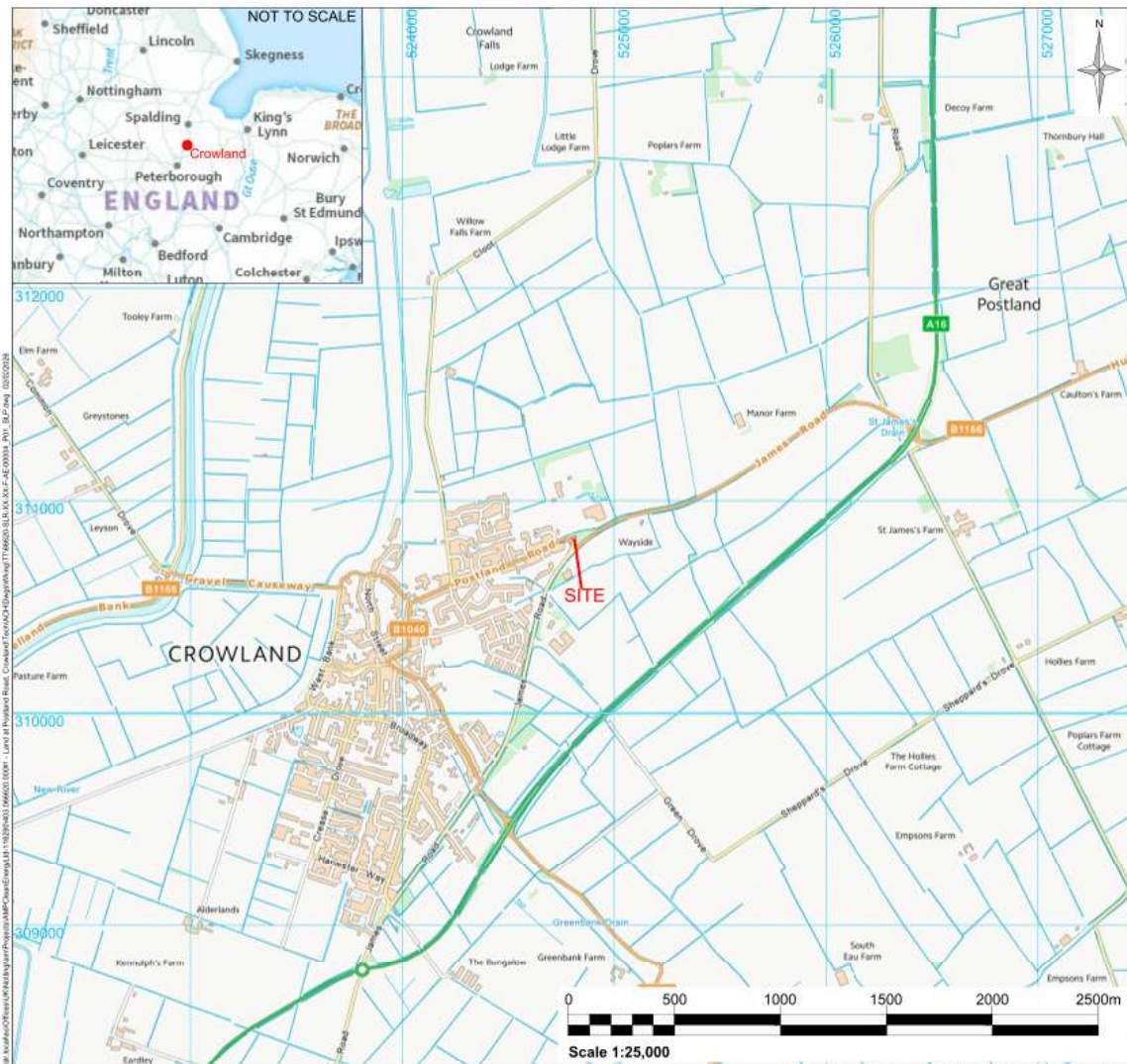
Client: Heritage AMP Clean Energy
Project: Land at Postland Road and James Road, Crowland
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Appendix 3

Figures





Notes:

1. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right (2026)

Legend:

Site redline boundary

C01	First issue	02/02/26	JS	GI	GD
Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth



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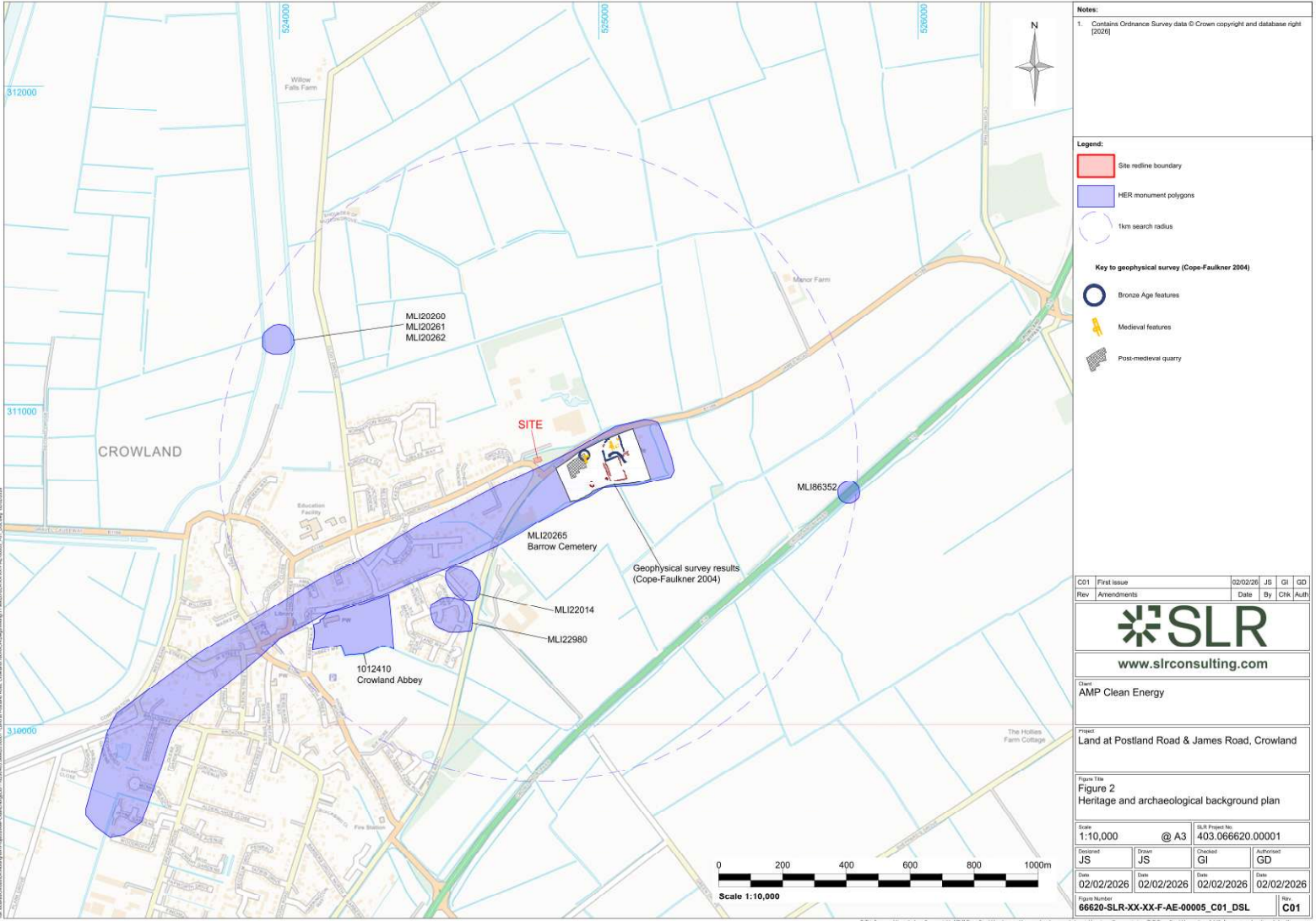
Client
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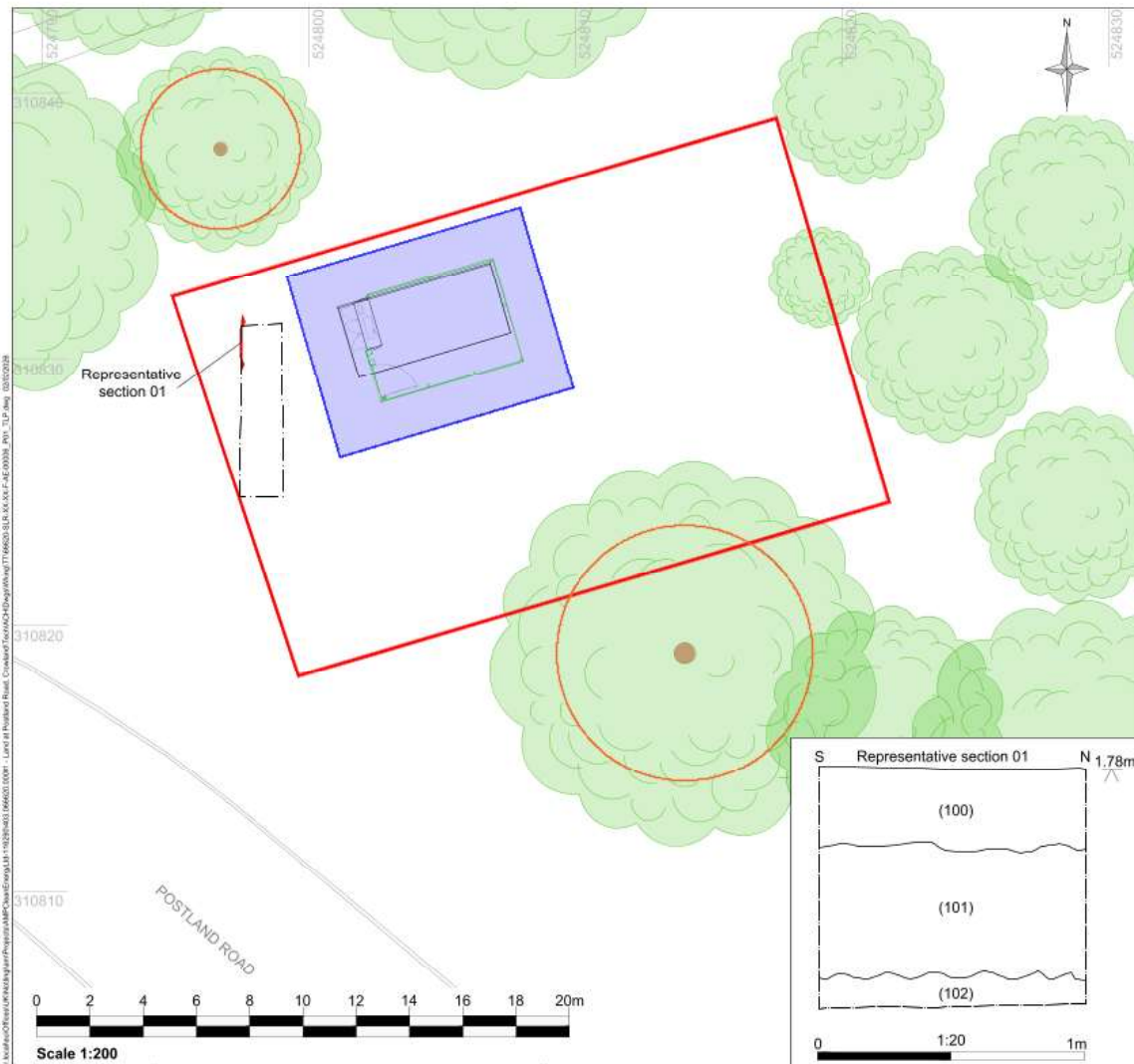
Project
Land at Postland Road & James Road, Crowland

Figure Title
Figure 1
Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000		@ A4		SLR Project No. 403.06620.00001	
Designed JS	Drawn JS	Checked GI	Authorised GD		
Date 02/02/2026	Date 02/02/2026	Date 02/02/2026	Date 02/02/2026		
Figure Number 66620-SLR-XX-XX-F-AE-00004 C01 SLP				Rev. C01	

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Notes:
1. Basemap supplied by client © AMP Clean Energy. File: 'Postland_Box_Master_Plan.dwg'

Legend:

Site redline boundary

Proposed location of battery box

Trial trench

C01	First issue	02/02/26	JS	GI	GD
Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth

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Figure Title
Figure 3
Trench location plan and Representative Section 01

Scale 1:200 & 1:20 @ A4		SLR Project No. 403.066620.00001	
Designed JS	Drawn JS	Checked GI	Authorised GD
Date 02/02/2026	Date 02/02/2026	Date 02/02/2026	Date 02/02/2026

Figure Number
66620-SLR-XX-XX-F-AE-00006_C01_TLP

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