NEW SOLAR FARM, LAND WEST OF COWBRIDGE ROAD, BICKER FEN, BOROUGH OF BOSTON AND DISTRICT OF SOUTH HOLLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION STRATEGY

NGR:	TF 20641 38018
PCAS job nos.	3116 (WSI and ACoW), 3125 (site)
Site code:	BFSM 25
Planning application refs.:	B/22/0356 (BBC); H04-0849-22 (SHDC)
Archive acc. no.:	LCNCC: 2025.63
OASIS ID:	preconst3-533018

Prepared for

AGR Solar 2 Ltd.

by

R. D. Savage

June 2025

PCAS Archaeology Ltd
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. (01522) 703 800
e-mail info@pcas-archaeology.co.uk

©PCAS Archaeology Ltd

Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Site Location and Description	2
3.0	Topography and Geology	5
4.0	Planning Background	5
5.0	Archaeological and Historical Background	6
6.0	Archaeological Mitigation Requirements	10
7.0	Methodology: Areas of Targeted Excavation	11
8.0	Methodology: Areas of Strip, Map and Sample	14
9.0	Methodology: Monitoring and Recording	17
10.0	Methodology: Post-Fieldwork	18
11.0	Archive and Deposition	21
12.0	Publication and Dissemination	21
13.0	Health and Safety	21
14.0	Insurance	22
15.0	Monitoring Arrangements	22
16.0	Contacts	22
17.0	References	22

Figures

Fig. 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000

Fig. 2: Location plan of the application area at scale 1:1000

Fig. 3: Aerial photograph of the application area at scale 1:1000, showing the field numbering used during previous archaeological work

Fig. 4: Geophysics greyscale plot at scale 1:1000, showing the pattern of roddons below the modern ground surface

Fig. 5: Extract from the 1887 1st edition 6" to the mile scale Ordnance Survey map (not reproduced to scale), showing the post-enclosure landscape

Fig. 6: Evaluation trench locations superimposed on geophysical survey results in Fields 6 and 8. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale

Fig. 7: Plan of the proposed Excavation Zones in Fields 6 and 8. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale

Fig. 8: Plan of the proposed Excavation Zones in Fields 6 and 8 overlaid on the as-proposed plan. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale

Fig. 9: Plan of the proposed strip, map and sample area within Excavation Zone 1. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale

Fig. 10: Plan of the proposed strip, map and sample area within Excavation Zone 3. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale

Fig. 11: Plan and sections of the cable route to the substation. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale.

Fig. 12: As-proposed plan of the Field 6 and Field 8 area of the development. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale.

Version	Date	Author	Approved by
1	08-04-2025	R. D. Savage	L. Brocklehurst
2	09-04-2025	R. D. Savage	L. Brocklehurst
3	10-04-2025	R. D. Savage	L. Brocklehurst
4	22-04-2025	R. D. Savage	L. Brocklehurst
5	24-04-2025	R. D. Savage	L. Brocklehurst
6	02-06-2025	R. D. Savage	L. Brocklehurst
7	03-06-2025	R. D. Savage	A. Josephs
8	10-06-2025	R. D. Savage	L. Brocklehurst

Non-Technical Summary

A programme of archaeological mitigation is to take place in advance of and during the construction of a new solar farm on land to the west of Cowbridge Road in Bicker Fen, falling partly within the Borough of Boston and partly within the District of South Holland in Lincolnshire.

A programme of non-intrusive and intrusive archaeological evaluation has identified the presence of Roman remains within two of the ten fields in which the solar farm is to be built. The ditches and pits encountered could not be confidently identified as either settlement-related or agricultural within the confines of the evaluation trenches, but pottery dating to the 2nd to 3rd century AD was retrieved and environmental sampling identified deposits of crop processing waste. A possible salt processing site was also recorded.

The evaluation results have been used to inform a programme of further archaeological mitigation, to consist of targeted archaeological excavation in three areas where significant archaeological remains have already been identified, archaeological strip, map and sample where large-scale preliminary groundworks encroach on archaeologically sensitive areas and archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks in areas thought to be of archaeological potential.

This document describes the archaeological methodology that will be adopted within each stage of the scheme of archaeological works in order to mitigate the impact of development works on known or undiscovered archaeological remains, and the reporting and archive procedures that will follow.

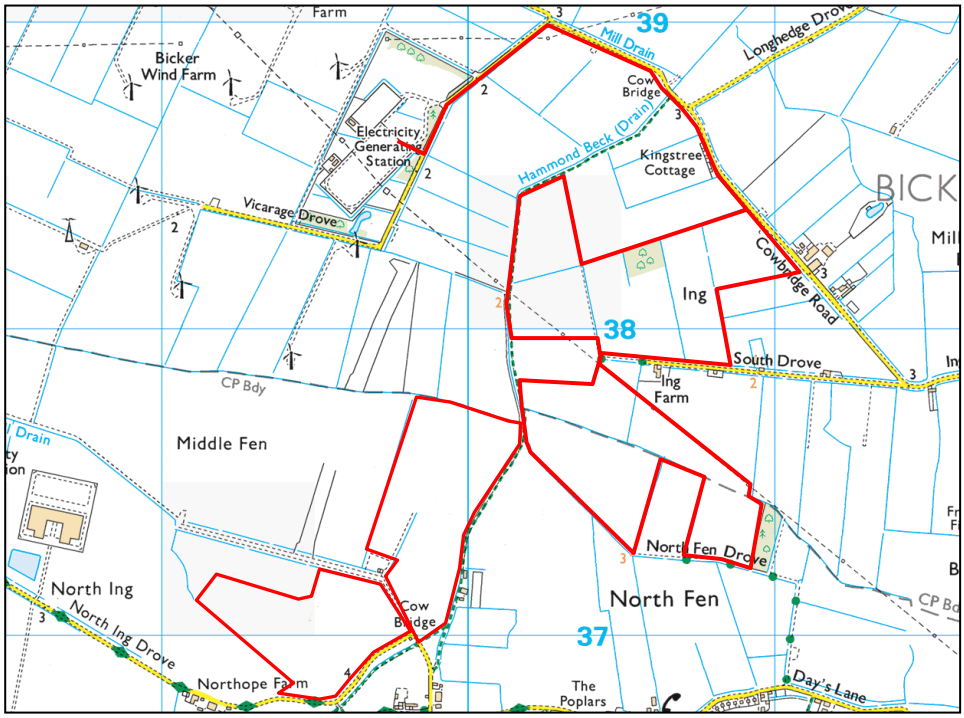


Figure 1: Location plan of the development site at scale 1:25,000. The approximate layout of the application area is outlined in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by AGR Solar 2 Ltd. to prepare a specification for a scheme of archaeological mitigation in advance of and during the construction of a new solar farm on land to the west of Cowbridge Road in Bicker Fen, falling partly within the Borough of Boston and partly within the District of South Holland in Lincolnshire.

A programme of non-intrusive and intrusive archaeological evaluation has identified the presence of Roman remains, dating to the 2nd to 3rd century AD, within two of the ten fields in which the solar farm is to be built. The evaluation results have been used to inform a programme of further archaeological mitigation, to consist of targeted archaeological excavation in three areas where significant archaeological remains have already been identified, archaeological strip, map and sample where large-scale preliminary groundworks encroach on archaeologically sensitive areas and archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks in areas thought to be of archaeological potential.

This document is a specification (written scheme of investigation) for a scheme of archaeological mitigation. It follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2012, revised 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024 and 2025;
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct, revised 2014, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022;
- CIfA Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording, 2023;
- CIfA Standard for Archaeological Excavation, 2023;
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE ver. 1.2, 2015)
- Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2019, revised 2024).

The purpose of the scheme of archaeological mitigation is to ensure that the archaeological remains within the site, already identified by the evaluation trenching, are investigated prior to the development process and incorporated into the county Historic Environment Record (preservation by record). The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the scheme of mitigation has been prepared in accordance with conditions imposed on the planning permission for the development; it represents a variation from a previously approved WSI prepared by AOC Archaeology Group for a programme of mitigation consisting of preservation *in situ*, strip map and sample and monitoring and recording (South *et al.*, 2025).

2.0 Site Location and Description (figs. 1-3)

The site of the new solar farm is in the reclaimed coastal fenland in the south-east of the county of Lincolnshire, approximately 13km west-south-west of the town of Boston and 17km to the west of the current coastline of the Wash, on land within the civil parishes of Bicker and Donington, straddling the boundary between the Borough of Boston and the District of South Holland.

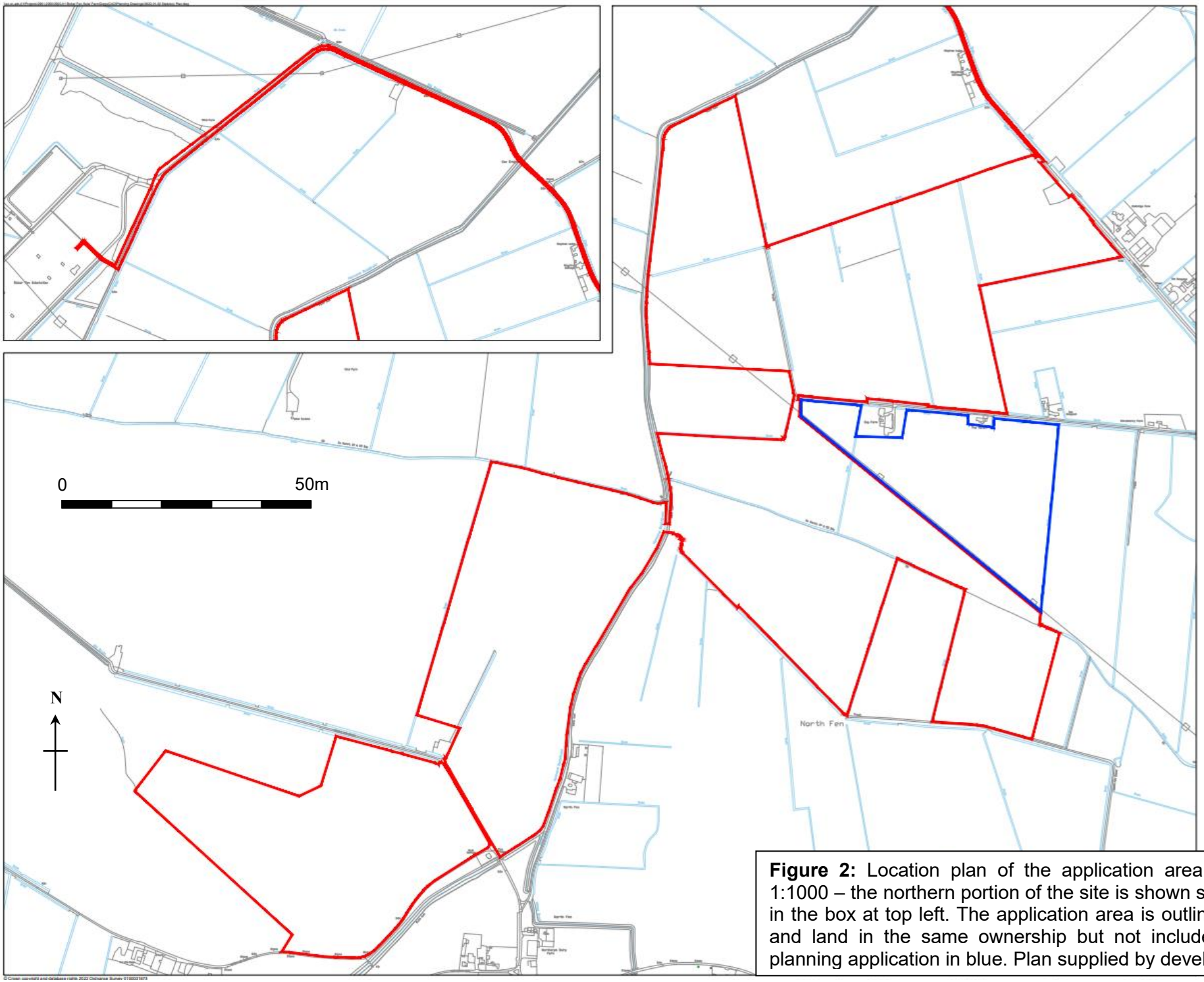


Figure 2: Location plan of the application area at scale 1:1000 – the northern portion of the site is shown separately in the box at top left. The application area is outlined in red and land in the same ownership but not included in the planning application in blue. Plan supplied by developer.

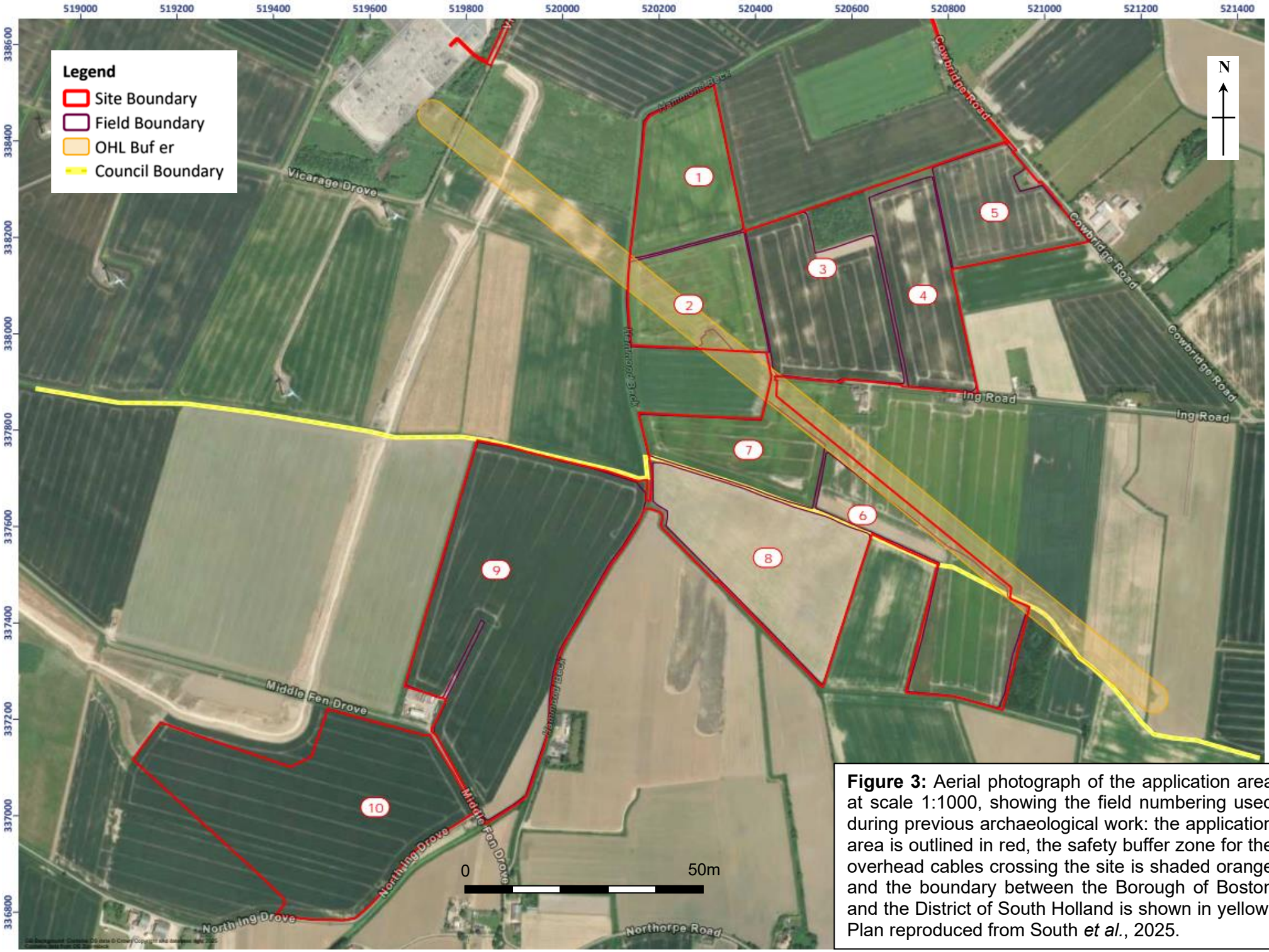


Figure 3: Aerial photograph of the application area at scale 1:1000, showing the field numbering used during previous archaeological work: the application area is outlined in red, the safety buffer zone for the overhead cables crossing the site is shaded orange and the boundary between the Borough of Boston and the District of South Holland is shown in yellow. Plan reproduced from South *et al.*, 2025.

The development site is on arable farmland, with a large, uniform field structure within a network of ditches and drains. Field margins are typically formed by open ditches, although some fields are bounded by established hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Development in the area consists of occasional farm buildings, both residential and functional, of varying sizes and conditions, with a number of widely spaced dwellings along the roads that border the site. The proposed area of the solar farm, including grid connection and access, covers some 97.3 hectares, at a central NGR of TF 20641 38018. It is located approximately 400m to the east of the existing Bicker Fen substation, where it will be connected to the National Grid. The grid connection cabling will run along the road corridor of Cowbridge Road, then along Bicker Drove and Vicarage Drove to reach the substation (Axis, 2022). The works area is divided into ten separate fields, numbered 1-10 during previous archaeological work (fig. 3).

3.0 Topography and Geology

The site is on almost flat, very low-lying, artificially drained land, below the height of the historic fen-edge, which is generally considered to follow the Ordnance Survey 5m contour line. Mapped heights across the site are 2-3m above current Ordnance Datum sea level.

The drift geology of the Bicker Fen consists of Quaternary Tidal Flat Deposits – unconsolidated sediments, generally of mud and/or sand, laid down by the rise and fall of the tide in an intertidal zone (bgs.ac.uk). These deposits are thought to have continued to be laid down until the land was drained and reclaimed in the post-medieval period. The underlying solid geology is Oxford Clay Formation clay. A programme of archaeological evaluation carried out across the site recorded a widely varying natural geology at the bases of the evaluation trenches, with clays, silts, sandy clays and clayey silts of different colours all being recorded, probably representing patterns of tidal deposition and erosion. Ridges of slightly higher ground, representing the courses of roddons (silted-up watercourses left standing higher than the surrounding land following the drainage of the fen) were observed in most of the fields, corresponding with the findings of a previous geophysical survey (fig. 4). The trenches in Field 6 recorded reddish- and greyish-brown natural clays, varying to yellowish-brown clayey silt at the highest areas, while those in Field 8 recorded a mid-reddish-brown silty clay natural at lower levels, varying to mid-orange-brown compact sandy clay on higher ground. A greyish-brown clay subsoil, between 0.11m and 0.20m in depth, was recorded in both fields (South *et al.*, 2025).

4.0 Planning Background

The development required planning permission from both of the local authorities across whose boundary the application area lies. Planning permission for the proposed development of a photovoltaic solar array, grid connection, access improvement works and ancillary development on land at Bicker Fen was granted subject to conditions by Boston Borough Council in July 2023 (planning application ref. B/22/0356). In compliance with Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy 29 of the South-East Lincolnshire Local Plan, Condition 9 of the planning decision requires a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the commencement of development; the archaeological site work is to be undertaken only in accordance with the approved WSI. Condition 10 requires the applicant to notify Heritage Lincolnshire in writing of the intention to commence works at least 14 days before the start of the archaeological work, in order to facilitate adequate monitoring arrangements. Condition 11 requires a copy of the final report on the archaeological work to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of the site work; the material and documentary archives are to be deposited with an appropriate archive in accordance with guidance published in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook. Planning permission was granted by

South Holland District Council in July 2023 (planning application ref. H04-0849-22). In compliance with Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy 29 of the South-East Lincolnshire Local Plan, Condition 7 of the planning decision requires a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the commencement of development, the archaeological site work is to be undertaken only in accordance with the approved WSI. Condition 8 requires the applicant to notify the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Department in writing of the intention to commence works at least 14 days before the start of the archaeological work, in order to facilitate adequate monitoring arrangements. Condition 9 requires a copy of the final report on the archaeological work to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of the site work; the material and documentary archives are to be deposited with an appropriate archive in accordance with guidance published in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook. Conditions 9 of the BBC planning permission and 7 of the SHDC planning permission have already been discharged; however, variations to the proposed works necessitate alterations to the approved WSI (South *et al.*, 2025): the present document is sought to replace the previous WSI, which is likely to be done via a non-material amendment of the condition.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A complete archaeological and historical background for the development site and its neighbourhood was compiled as part of a desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared at an earlier stage of planning, and summarised in previous Written Schemes of Investigation produced by Cotswold Archaeology and AOC Archaeology Group (South *et al.*, 2025). The desk-based assessment was followed by a programme of non-intrusive and intrusive archaeological evaluation, consisting of geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, carried out by AOC Archaeology Group in 2022.

The application area lies below the historic fen-edge and would have been marginal or wetland for much of its history and prehistory. Evidence of prehistoric activity is almost absent, with a single Neolithic flint scraper having been found in 2005 during borehole ground investigation works.

A reduction in sea levels, coinciding with much of the period of Roman occupation in Britain, caused previously marginal land to become temporarily habitable, and geophysical survey carried out on a site some 450m to the west (inland) of the application area identified a dense cluster of enclosures, possible trackways and associated features interpreted as being of Roman date. Excavation revealed a series of enclosure and boundary ditches containing pottery of between 2nd- and 4th-century date, but exposed no evidence of structures beyond a single post-hole containing two Roman roof tiles. A Roman boundary ditch and pit were also recorded on a site some 470m to the south of the application area. Traces of Roman activity in the wider area are generally associated with the lines of roddons, indicating that the slightly higher ground was preferred, although the height differences in the silt fen are relatively slight (South *et al.*, 2025). The evaluation trenching carried out within the application area identified clusters of Roman remains in fields 6 and 8 (section 5.1 below).

Sea levels rose again towards the end of the Roman period, and the parishes of Bicker and Donington would again have become marginal. No sites or findspots from the post-Roman or early medieval periods have been recorded within the study area taken for the DBA, but the two villages are both recorded in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086. Bicker at the time of the Norman Conquest was a substantial settlement, associated with but not subordinate to (sokeland of) Count Alan's manor of Drayton, with a church, a priest and a population of 37 free and unfree households. Although arable and meadow land are recorded, the village had twenty salt production sites, indicating that at the time it lay close to the coast, with access to

land between the high and low tide-marks where brine or salt-rich sand could be collected for salt production. A second manor, belonging to Guy de Craon, had a smaller associated settlement, with only 8 households farming arable and meadow land and operating a single salt-pan, and a further 12 households were farming land belonging to Kolgrimr. Countess Judith's manor of North Witham had an interest in a single salt-pan in Bicker, while a single disused salt-pan is recorded on land belonging to the Archbishop of York's manor of Dowsby, Count Alan's manor of Drayton also had substantial possessions in Donington, with 26 unfree housholds farming extensive areas of meadow and ploughland, as well as nine salt-pans. There was also a prosperous manor in Donington, belonging to Peterborough Abbey and including 16 salt-pans, with arable land and meadow and a population of 32 households (Williams and Martin, 2003, pp. 890, 900, 905. 906, 949, 950, 956). The high taxable value of the landholdings recorded – Count Alan's salterns in Donington rendered 12 shillings a year – indicates the value of salt to the medieval economy, as does the number of wealthy landowners with an interest in operating a saltern on land outside their own manors.

Evidence of medieval activity in the form of 14th- to 15th-century ditches has been recorded in the neighbourhood of the application area, with cropmark traces of the furrows of strip cultivation lying to the north of Donington, indicating that its arable land lay inland from the settlement.

The first attempts at large-scale drainage in the Bicker Fen were made in the early 17th century, but no significant progress was made until Parliamentary Enclosure in 1766, when the site was brought within the area drained by the Black Sluice and South Forty Foot drainage system. The area was still vulnerable to flooding by the River Witham until the river was embanked and straightened in the 19th century. Enclosure-period farmsteads on the newly reclaimed land survive adjacent to the application area and throughout the study area, but none are recorded on the proposed development site itself (South *et al.*, 2025; fig. 5).

5.1 Archaeological Evaluation

Nine evaluation trenches were excavated in Field 1: an undated ditch oriented north-east to south-west was encountered in Trench 6, and a sub-rectangular pit containing modern refuse in Trench 7.

Four of the twelve trenches excavated in Field 6 contained archaeological remains (fig. 6). Trenches 54 and 55 contained ditches and a pit producing a wide range of 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery including both locally produced and imported wares. Environmental sampling was productive, with one feature producing a high level of charred plant remains interpreted as crop processing waste. However, the limitations of the evaluation prevented identification of the features as associated with settlement or agricultural activity. A broad ditch or channel encountered in Trench 52 corresponded with a geophysical anomaly, possibly indicating that it was a natural watercourse, while a flat-based gully was partially exposed in Trench 53; neither feature produced dating evidence.

18 trenches were excavated in Field 8 (fig. 6). Trenches 74 and 76 contained ditches and pits potentially corresponding to those found in Field 6, with pottery of the same period; environmental remains indicating the disposal of crop processing waste were also plentiful here. Again, the features could not be confidently identified as either settlement-related or agricultural within the confines of the evaluation trenches. An irregular feature in Trench 68 produced small amounts of fired clay, potentially indicative of a saltern site, with pottery of 2nd to 3rd-century date, but this material could not be confirmed as briquetage post-excavation.

Six trenches were excavated in Field 2; ten in Field 3; eight in each of Fields 4, 5 and 7; 24 in Field 9, and 22 in Field 10: no archaeological remains were encountered in any of these trenches (South *et al.*, 2025; Marshall, 2024).



Figure 4: Geophysics greyscale plot at scale 1:1000, showing the pattern of roddons below the modern ground surface. Plan reproduced from Sykes, 2022.

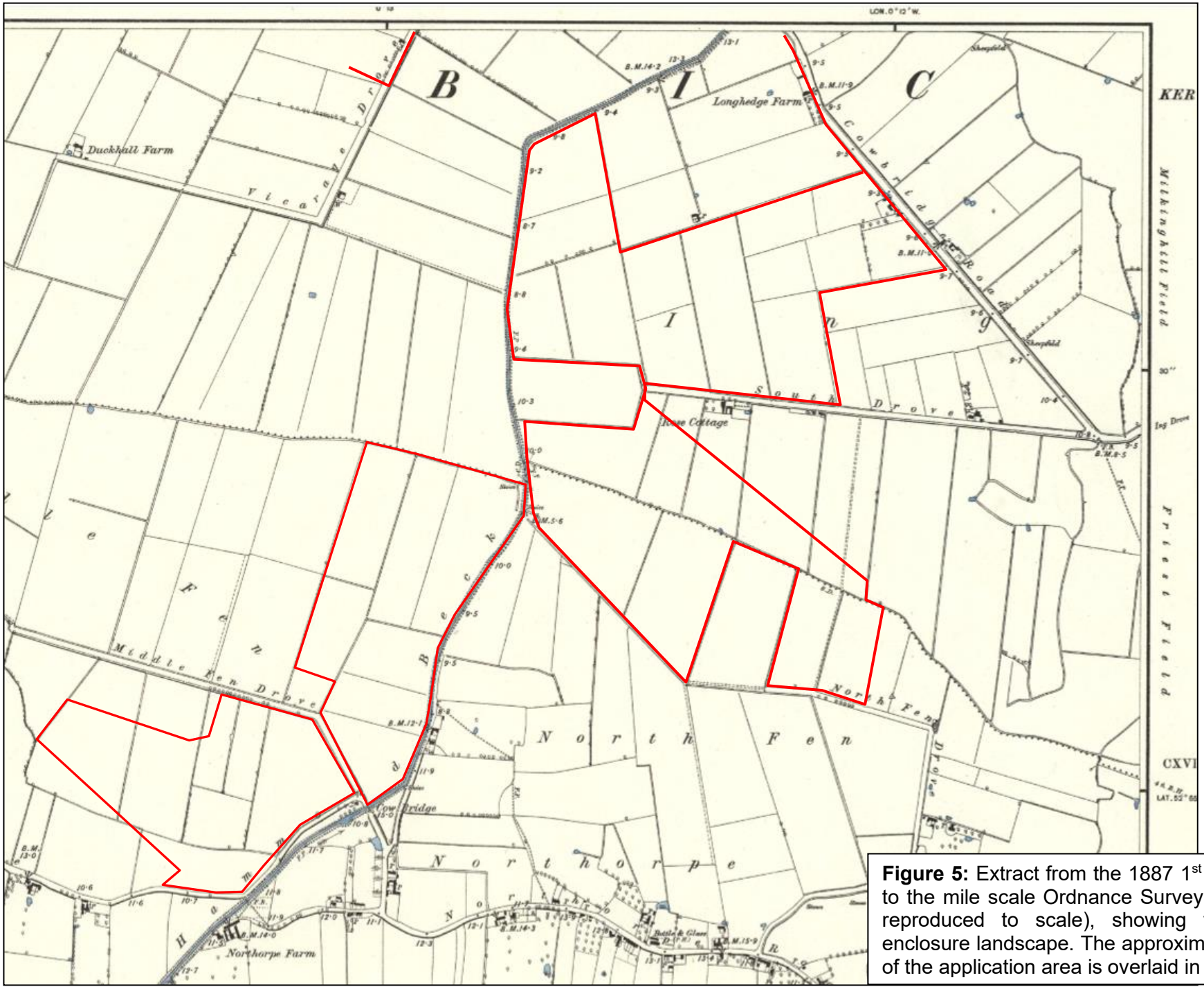


Figure 5: Extract from the 1887 1st edition 6" to the mile scale Ordnance Survey map (not reproduced to scale), showing the post-enclosure landscape. The approximate layout of the application area is overlaid in red.

6.0 Archaeological Mitigation Requirements

A programme of mitigation, informed by the findings of the archaeological evaluation, has been agreed, following extensive consultation with the Historic Environment Officers at Lincolnshire County Council and Heritage Lincolnshire (advising South Holland District Council and Boston Borough Council respectively).

An Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW), employed by PCAS Archaeology Ltd., will have primary responsibility for the implementation of the Written Scheme of Investigation. The ACoW will be a professional archaeologist with experience of fenland projects. They will identify situations within the archaeological works where formal consent, authorisation or permission are required from others and will liaise with all relevant bodies and individuals. They will identify situations where the archaeological resource is at risk and action is required to avoid or limit damage; they will ensure that appropriate action is taken, and will have the authority to halt any works that are infringing the agreed methodology of the mitigation scheme. They will ensure that any decisions are fully documented and that the Historic Environment Officers are kept fully informed at all times.

Targeted archaeological excavation is to take place in three areas in Fields 6 and 8, in order to investigate and characterise the Roman remains identified by the evaluation trenching. In the previously approved scheme of archaeological mitigation (South *et al.*, 2025), these areas were designated as Exclusion Zones, scheduled for preservation *in situ*, and they may still appear with this label on some contractors' documentation. Excavation Zone 1, surrounding Trenches 54 and 55, is to measure 8915 square metres; Zone 2, around the potential saltern site recorded in Trench 68, is to measure 4575 square metres, and Zone 3, incorporating Trenches 72, 74, 76, 77 and 78, is to measure 13,709 square metres. The Excavation Zones include a 20m wide buffer zone on all sides, to allow the excavated areas to be extended if significant archaeological remains continue beyond the designated limits of excavation: their scope has been agreed with the Historic Environment Officers. All three areas are to be fenced off under the supervision of the appointed Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW) before the commencement of development groundworks in these two fields, in order to prevent uncontrolled plant movement in archaeologically sensitive areas: fencing is to consist of wire sheep-netting on posts with appropriate signage. As part of the overall development management structure of the site, all construction personnel operating on site will be made aware of the restricted nature of the Excavation Zones during their site induction and through a toolbox talk given by the ACoW.

In order to expedite the construction process, a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample is required in advance of the commencement of the targeted excavations for that portion of the route of an access road which is to pass through the south-western corner of Excavation Zone 3, and for the construction of a temporary haul road serving the part of the solar farm lying to the east of Excavation Zone 1 in Field 6.

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is to be maintained during construction groundworks within those portions of Fields 6 and 8 that lie outside the excavation zones and SMS areas. Monitoring and recording will also take place during the excavation for the main cable route along public roads between the site and the existing substation. The cable route will cover 1.5km, but not all sections will require monitoring, as the cable will be laid by directional drilling in some areas (the ACoW is to be informed of the locations of the directional-drilled sections, as the groundworks for the launch and receptor pits will require monitoring). Monitoring will be undertaken by the appointed Archaeological Clerk of Works, who will liaise daily with the site contractor regarding any additional works where monitoring may be required.

The site should not be treated in isolation, and reference should be made to relevant historical sources and previous archaeological work in the area when interpreting the results. Environmental evidence should be taken into account as appropriate: the results of the previous evaluation suggest that palaeoenvironmental preservation conditions may be favourable.

An online record of the project data shall be initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database) before fieldwork commences, and completed at the end of the project, including an uploaded digital copy of the report. The record for this project has been assigned the OASIS ID **preconst3-533018**.

7.0 Methodology: Areas of Targeted Excavation

Targeted archaeological excavation is to take place in three areas in Fields 6 and 8, in order to investigate and characterise the Roman remains identified by the evaluation trenching. Excavation Zone 1, surrounding Trenches 54 and 55, is to measure 8915 square metres; Zone 2, around the potential saltern site recorded in Trench 68, is to measure 4575 square metres, and Zone 3, incorporating Trenches 72, 74, 76, 77 and 78, is to measure 13,709 square metres (these areas are labelled as Exclusion Zones on some site plans, in reference to the previously approved scheme of works (South *et al.*, 2025)). All three areas were fenced off under the supervision of the appointed Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW) before the commencement of development groundworks in these two fields, in order to prevent uncontrolled plant movement in archaeologically sensitive areas: fencing consists of wire sheep-netting on posts with appropriate signage.

No mobile plant will enter these zones except under the direction of the ACoW for the purposes of removing topsoil and subsoil at the commencement of excavation. The zones will be located on the site by GPS, using co-ordinates provided by AGR (figs. 7 and 8) at the beginning of development works. The two areas where construction of plant access routes is immediately required will be investigated first by a process of archaeological Strip, Map and Sample (section 8.0 below). The remainder of Excavation Zones 1 and 3, with the whole of Zone 2, will then be opened by machine, under constant supervision by an experienced archaeologist, to the first archaeologically significant horizon or the natural geology, whichever is encountered first; where overburden is deep, machine excavation will take place in horizontal spits. As with the SMS areas, the excavation zones will be checked for live services both visually (for overhead cables) and by CAT (for buried services) before work commences; if live services or other hazards are identified, the affected area will be repositioned or a buffer zone designated as appropriate. A pre-excavation plan of each of the stripped excavation areas will be drawn, and archaeological deposits encountered will then be cleaned and excavated by hand. Unless ground conditions (e.g. concrete or compacted rubble) dictate otherwise, a **toothless** bucket will be used for machine excavation.

The Excavation Zones include a 20m buffer within the fence on all sides, to allow the excavated areas to be extended if significant archaeological remains continue beyond the designated limits of excavation. This buffer zone will be used for stockpiling topsoil and subsoil removed from the excavated areas by machine, in order to facilitate reinstatement: should archaeological remains extend into the buffer zones, the piled top- and subsoil will be replaced in the excavated areas before buffer excavation commences.

Hand excavation and recording by an archaeological team will proceed in accordance with the Risk Assessment and Safety Method Statement prepared for this project. As a minimum, all identified archaeological deposits and features will be sample excavated, in order to establish their form, depth, character, date, state of preservation and extent, as well as to recover artefactual / ecofactual remains for further study. This process will typically include the following level of sampling:

- All structural remains (e.g., eaves drip gullies, beam slots and post-holes) will be fully or extensively excavated, and all relationships recorded. Any industrial features, including domestic ovens and hearths, will be 100% excavated and sampled for analysis; this will typically involve excavation in opposing quarter-sections in order to obtain full section drawings.
- All zones of specialised activity (e.g., industrial, agricultural processing, ceremonial, funerary) will be fully or extensively excavated and sampled for analysis, and all relationships recorded.
- Ditches, gullies and linear features will be excavated sufficiently to determine the character of each individual linear feature over its entire course, with consideration given to possible re-cutting of ditches which may not have taken place over their entire lengths: sections will normally be a minimum of 1m wide. A minimum sample of 10% of a linear feature will be excavated (i.e. one 1m wide section for each 10m length or part of a 10m length exposed); all terminals and junctions will be investigated. Should specialised deposits (e.g., localised refuse dumping, industrial wastes) be present, more extensive excavation will be required. Where possible, sufficient artefact assemblages will be recovered to assist in dating stratigraphic sequences and for obtaining sufficient ceramic assemblages for comparison with other sites.
- Pits will be generally half- or quarter-sectioned according to size. Some pits may be fully excavated in the light of information gained in sampling. Pits containing significant structural traces or important artefactual or environmental material will be fully excavated; pits containing possible cremation burials will be fully excavated and any potential cinerary vessels removed complete for excavation under controlled conditions.
- Post-holes and stake-holes where not clearly forming a structure will be half-sectioned, ensuring that relationships are investigated. Those features with a significant artefactual or environmental content will be fully excavated.
- Other features such as working hollows or quarry pits will be investigated to define their extent, date and function. All relationships will be defined.

All excavated deposits and features will be recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (normally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 or 1:20 for sections), incorporating Ordnance Survey datum heights, which will be located on a scale base plan of the site derived from drawings provided by the developer.

A metal-detector, operated by a trained, experienced member of PCAS staff, will be used to aid the recovery of artefacts. The metal-detector used will be a Fisher M-scope 1236-X2, set to a high sensitivity setting for maximum depth, and a relatively low discrimination to pick up a wide range of objects. Stripped areas and spoilheaps (where accessible) will be scanned.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature will be made on standard PCAS context and (where appropriate) masonry and timber recording forms. These will be supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. The archaeologist will pay due attention to the landscape aspect of any exposed remains – both the cultural and the natural landscape – which may require a brief assessment to be made of neighbouring conditions (e.g. visible earthworks in adjacent areas, surface observation, standing buildings, vegetation cover etc).

A photographic record will be maintained during the course of the archaeological intervention: this will consist of digital SLR photography which supplies both JPEG and RAW formats. Photographs will incorporate an identification board, north arrow and vertical/horizontal scales as appropriate. The photographic record will include:

- general location shots depicting the area of works;
- working shots chronicling the progress and recording the methodology of the groundworks;
- individual features in plan and/or section as appropriate;
- groups of features, where relationships are important.

If human remains are discovered, lifting will be kept to the minimum which is compatible with the planned development processes and the aims of the archaeological project; remains will be left *in situ* where possible. The landowner and/or developer, the Historic Environment Officers for LCC and Heritage Lincolnshire and the coroner will be informed of the discovery. Where removal is considered to be necessary, a Ministry of Justice Exhumation Licence will be requested, in accordance with the Burial Act of 1857 and the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2014, No. 1 Section 2 and the local Environmental Health Officer will be advised. All reasonable requests of interested parties concerning the methods of removal, reinterral or disposal of the remains and associated items will be complied with, and attempts will be made at all times not to cause offence to interested parties. Christian burials are not expected on this site; as a standard, pre-Christian remains are retained in a museum of record for possible future study following initial specialist assessment post-excavation, and the terms of the exhumation licence will be arranged to reflect this. The treatment of human remains will be at all times in accordance with the requirements of civil law and all relevant CIFA and Historic England (formerly English Heritage) guidance, including *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports* (EH, 2004).

All artefacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neale 1998). All artefacts encountered during the groundworks will be retrieved and returned to PCAS offices for initial assessment. A register of finds that are potentially of particular interest will be kept, and such finds will be located on the plan and section drawings; recorded finds typically include all items of precious metal; recognisable base metal artefacts other than those identifiable as modern; complete ceramic or glass vessels other than those identifiable as modern; glass or ceramic sherds with dates, inscriptions or significant decoration (e.g. stamped mortarium); worked bone artefacts; wooden artefacts, and complete flint artefacts. All finds will be stored in polythene bags labelled with the site code and the context number of the individual deposit from which they were recovered, in order to be returned to PCAS premises for later cleaning, marking and in-house assessment or dispatch to external specialists; finds will not be left on the site overnight. An initial record of the presence of finds by type will be made for each context as part of the written recording on site; a full record of the type and count of artefacts retrieved from each context will be made during initial processing (see section 10.0 below).

All finds that qualify as ‘treasure’ under the 1996 Treasure Act (Treasure Act Code of Practice – 3rd revision 2023) will be treated in accordance with the Act; HM Coroner and the regional Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme will be informed and the finds will be safely stored. PCAS will be deemed to be ‘the finder’ with regard to treasure (or potential treasure) as defined under the Treasure Act 1996, and the Applicants’ and PCAS’ obligations will cease with regard to the artefacts on the handing over of any such items to the party designated by the Coroner (or to the Coroner’s Office) and will not recommence unless the items are declared not to be Treasure under the Act or if they are returned further to being declined for acquisition by appropriate bodies.

In line with the recommendations made in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English Heritage, 2011, 2nd edition), palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken from interpretable and datable archaeological deposits (*ibid.*, p.5). The previous evaluation recorded a variety

of silt and clay naturals across the site, which in combination with its low-lying position suggests a favourable preservation environment for organic remains; samples taken during the evaluation demonstrated good survival of charred plant material (South *et al.*, 2025). Recommended sample sizes are 40-60 litres, or the whole of smaller features (EH, 2011, p.12), where this is practicable within the physical constraints and safety requirements of groundworks within a confined area. Bulk samples for environmental processing will be taken in 10-litre capacity lidded plastic buckets. Where the deposit to be sampled is large, the sample will be taken from several locations within the deposit, at different depths; material from each location will be divided among all the sample buckets being filled, rather than filling one bucket from each of four different places in the deposit, to ensure that any one bucket being processed as an initial sub-sample will still contain material from several places in the deposit. All samples will be 'whole earth': visible finds will not be removed unless their nature demands special treatment (e.g. precious metal, human remains or artefacts in need of immediate conservation) or they are likely to be adversely affected by the sieving process. The removal of any such material will be noted on the sample record. All samples will be labelled with the site code, context number and sub-sample count (e.g. '1 of 4', '2 of 4') with indelible pen on plasticized labels; two labels will be sealed inside each bucket, and two attached to the exterior of each bucket. Smaller and specialised samples may be kept in polythene finds bags: these will be double-bagged, with the site code, context number and sub-sample count written on the white panels of both bags, and a label placed in the inner bag and between the inner and outer bags, duplicating this information.

As the site is located within a fenland landscape, on-site specialist advice will be sought if necessary from the appointed palaeobotanical specialist (C. Simpson) for consultation on the nature of any potential buried soils or palaeosols exposed and their potential for soil micromorphological analysis, and the development of an appropriate site-specific sampling strategy if such deposits are identified.

Excavated areas will not be signed off until the relevant archaeological curator (either the LCC Historic Environment Officer or the Historic Environment Officer for Heritage Lincolnshire) has either visited the site and confirmed that the archaeological work has been carried out to an acceptable standard or has confirmed the signing-off remotely.

8.0 Methodology: Areas of Strip, Map and Sample

The areas designated for the schemes of archaeological strip, map and sample will be located on the site by GPS, using co-ordinates provided by AGR (figs. 7 and 8), and their positions will be checked for live services both visually (for overhead cables) and by CAT (for buried services) before work commences; if live services or other hazards are identified, the affected area will be repositioned or a buffer zone designated as appropriate. They will then be opened by machine under constant supervision by an experienced archaeologist, to the first archaeologically significant horizon or the natural geology, whichever is encountered first; where overburden is deep, machine excavation will take place in horizontal spits. A pre-excavation plan of each of the stripped areas will be drawn, and archaeological deposits encountered will then be cleaned and excavated by hand. Unless ground conditions (e.g. concrete or compacted rubble) dictate otherwise, a **toothless** bucket will be used for machine excavation.

The linear Strip, Map and Sample areas are to include a 20m archaeology-free rolling buffer at either end, following the routes of the roads. If necessary, the SMS areas are to be extended in order to achieve this.

Hand excavation and recording by an archaeological team, if necessary, will proceed in accordance with the Risk Assessment and Safety Method Statement prepared for this project. As a minimum, all identified archaeological deposits and features will be sample

excavated, in order to establish their form, depth, character, date, state of preservation and extent, as well as to recover artefactual / ecofactual remains for further study. This process will typically include the following level of sampling:

- All structural remains (e.g., eaves drip gullies, beam slots and post-holes) will be fully or extensively excavated, and all relationships recorded. Any industrial features, including domestic ovens and hearths, will be 100% excavated and sampled for analysis; this will typically involve excavation in opposing quarter-sections in order to obtain full section drawings.
- All zones of specialised activity (e.g., industrial, agricultural processing, ceremonial, funerary) will be fully or extensively excavated and sampled for analysis, and all relationships recorded.
- Ditches, gullies and linear features will be excavated sufficiently to determine the character of each individual linear feature over its entire course, with consideration given to possible re-cutting of ditches which may not have taken place over their entire lengths: sections will normally be a minimum of 1m wide. All terminals and junctions will be investigated. Should specialised deposits (e.g., localised refuse dumping, industrial wastes) be present, more extensive excavation will be required. Where possible, sufficient artefact assemblages will be recovered to assist in dating stratigraphic sequences and for obtaining sufficient ceramic assemblages for comparison with other sites.
- Pits will be generally half- or quarter-sectioned according to size. Some pits may be fully excavated in the light of information gained in sampling. Pits containing significant structural traces or important artefactual or environmental material will be fully excavated; pits containing possible cremation burials will be fully excavated and any potential cinerary vessels removed complete for excavation under controlled conditions.
- Post-holes and stake-holes where not clearly forming a structure will be half-sectioned, ensuring that relationships are investigated. Those features with a significant artefactual or environmental content will be fully excavated.
- Other features such as working hollows or quarry pits will be investigated to define their extent, date and function. All relationships will be defined.

All excavated deposits and features will be recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (normally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 or 1:20 for sections), incorporating Ordnance Survey datum heights, which will be located on a scale base plan of the site derived from drawings provided by the developer.

A metal-detector, operated by a trained, experienced member of PCAS staff, will be used to aid the recovery of artefacts. The metal-detector used will be a Fisher M-scope 1236-X2, set to a high sensitivity setting for maximum depth, and a relatively low discrimination to pick up a wide range of objects. Stripped areas and spoilheaps (where accessible) will be scanned.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature will be made on standard PCAS context and (where appropriate) masonry and timber recording forms. These will be supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. The archaeologist will pay due attention to the landscape aspect of any exposed remains – both the cultural and the natural landscape – which may require a brief assessment to be made of neighbouring conditions (e.g. visible earthworks in adjacent areas, surface observation, standing buildings, vegetation cover etc).

A photographic record will be maintained during the course of the archaeological intervention: this will consist of digital SLR photography which supplies both JPEG and RAW

formats. Photographs will incorporate an identification board, north arrow and vertical/horizontal scales as appropriate. The photographic record will include:

- general location shots depicting the area of works;
- working shots chronicling the progress and recording the methodology of the groundworks;
- individual features in plan and/or section as appropriate;
- groups of features, where relationships are important.

If human remains are discovered, lifting will be kept to the minimum which is compatible with the planned development processes and the aims of the archaeological project; remains will be left *in situ* where possible. The landowner and/or developer, the Historic Environment Officers for LCC and Heritage Lincolnshire and the coroner will be informed of the discovery. Where removal is considered to be necessary, a Ministry of Justice Exhumation Licence will be requested, in accordance with the Burial Act of 1857 and the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2014, No. 1 Section 2 and the local Environmental Health Officer will be advised. All reasonable requests of interested parties concerning the methods of removal, reinterral or disposal of the remains and associated items will be complied with, and attempts will be made at all times not to cause offence to interested parties. Christian burials are not expected on this site; as a standard, pre-Christian remains are retained in a museum of record for possible future study following initial specialist assessment post-excavation, and the terms of the exhumation licence will be arranged to reflect this. The treatment of human remains will be at all times in accordance with the requirements of civil law and all relevant CIFA and Historic England (formerly English Heritage) guidance, including *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports* (EH, 2004).

All artefacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neale 1998). All artefacts encountered during the groundworks will be retrieved and returned to PCAS offices for initial assessment. A register of finds that are potentially of particular interest will be kept, and such finds will be located on the plan and section drawings; recorded finds typically include all items of precious metal; recognisable base metal artefacts other than those identifiable as modern; complete ceramic or glass vessels other than those identifiable as modern; glass or ceramic sherds with dates, inscriptions or significant decoration (e.g. stamped mortarium); worked bone artefacts; wooden artefacts, and complete flint artefacts. All finds will be stored in polythene bags labelled with the site code and the context number of the individual deposit from which they were recovered, in order to be returned to PCAS premises for later cleaning, marking and in-house assessment or dispatch to external specialists; finds will not be left on the site overnight. An initial record of the presence of finds by type will be made for each context as part of the written recording on site; a full record of the type and count of artefacts retrieved from each context will be made during initial processing (see section 10.0 below).

All finds that qualify as ‘treasure’ under the 1996 Treasure Act (Treasure Act Code of Practice – 3rd revision 2023) will be treated in accordance with the Act; HM Coroner and the regional Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme will be informed and the finds will be safely stored. PCAS will be deemed to be ‘the finder’ with regard to treasure (or potential treasure) as defined under the Treasure Act 1996, and the Applicants’ and PCAS’ obligations will cease with regard to the artefacts on the handing over of any such items to the party designated by the Coroner (or to the Coroner’s Office) and will not recommence unless the items are declared not to be Treasure under the Act or if they are returned further to being declined for acquisition by appropriate bodies.

In line with the recommendations made in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English

Heritage, 2011, 2nd edition), palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken from interpretable and datable archaeological deposits (*ibid.*, p.5). The previous evaluation recorded a variety of silt and clay naturals across the site, which in combination with its low-lying position suggests a favourable preservation environment for organic remains; samples taken during the evaluation demonstrated good survival of charred plant material (South *et al.*, 2025). Recommended sample sizes are 40-60 litres, or the whole of smaller features (EH, 2011, p.12), where this is practicable within the physical constraints and safety requirements of groundworks within a confined area. Bulk samples for environmental processing will be taken in 10-litre capacity lidded plastic buckets. Where the deposit to be sampled is large, the sample will be taken from several locations within the deposit, at different depths; material from each location will be divided among all the sample buckets being filled, rather than filling one bucket from each of four different places in the deposit, to ensure that any one bucket being processed as an initial sub-sample will still contain material from several places in the deposit. All samples will be 'whole earth': visible finds will not be removed unless their nature demands special treatment (e.g. precious metal, human remains or artefacts in need of immediate conservation) or they are likely to be adversely affected by the sieving process. The removal of any such material will be noted on the sample record. All samples will be labelled with the site code, context number and sub-sample count (e.g. '1 of 4', '2 of 4') with indelible pen on plasticized labels; two labels will be sealed inside each bucket, and two attached to the exterior of each bucket. Smaller and specialised samples may be kept in polythene finds bags: these will be double-bagged, with the site code, context number and sub-sample count written on the white panels of both bags, and a label placed in the inner bag and between the inner and outer bags, duplicating this information.

As the site is located within a fenland landscape, on-site specialist advice will be sought if necessary from the appointed palaeobotanical specialist (C. Simpson) for consultation on the nature of any potential buried soils or palaeosols exposed and their potential for soil micromorphological analysis, and the development of an appropriate site-specific sampling strategy if such deposits are identified.

All written and drawn archaeological records will be checked, ordered and cross-referenced before leaving the site. Excavated areas will not be signed off until the relative archaeological curator (either the LCC Historic Environment Officer or the Historic Environment Officer for Heritage Lincolnshire) has visited the site and confirmed that the archaeological work has been carried out to an acceptable standard.

9.0 Methodology: Monitoring and Recording

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is to be maintained during construction groundworks within those portions of Fields 6 and 8 that lie outside the archaeological exclusion zones. Monitoring will be undertaken by the appointed Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW), who will liaise daily with the site contractor regarding any additional works where monitoring may be required. The monitored groundworks are expected to consist of (but not necessarily be limited to) the construction of solar inverter/transformer stations, battery storage containers, battery inverter/transformer stations and buildings for storage, switch gear and controls, with excavation for cable trenches, launch and receptor pits for directional drilling and the erection of deer fencing. Monitoring and recording will also take place during the excavation for the main cable route along public roads between the site and the existing substation. The cable route will cover 1.5km, but not all sections will require monitoring, as the cable will be laid by directional drilling in some areas – details of the locations of these areas and the methodology of the drilling process (depth of operations, size and positioning of start and end pits etc.) are to be provided to the ACoW by the main contractor in order to facilitate monitoring of the groundworks for the launch and receptor pits. The ACoW will cause the least possible disruption to the development programme during the monitored works, but at any time may request a pause

in groundworks to assess any potential features or deposits and to allow the adequate hand excavation and recording of any features that have been identified. The ACoW will keep the construction contractors and the Historic Environment Officers informed of developments and progress.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature will be made on standard PCAS context and (if appropriate) masonry and timber recording forms. These will be supplemented by a drawn record consisting of measured plan, section and (if appropriate) elevation drawings at appropriate scales (normally 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50) and a narrative account in the form of a site diary, with sketches showing the progress of each day's monitored works.

A photographic record will be maintained during the course of the archaeological intervention: this will consist of digital SLR photography which supplies both JPEG and RAW formats. Photographs will incorporate an identification board, north arrow and vertical/horizontal scales as appropriate. The photographic record will include:

- general location shots depicting the area of works;
- working shots chronicling the progress and recording the methodology of the groundworks;
- individual features in plan and/or section as appropriate;
- groups of features, where relationships are important.

Finds retrieval strategies will correspond to those detailed in sections 7.0 and 8.0 above; sampling strategies will also conform to those detailed in sections 7.0 and 8.0, as far as is possible within the restrictions required by site safety considerations and imposed by the scope of the monitored works.

If significant archaeological remains are identified during the monitored groundworks, it may be necessary, in liaison with the Historic Environment Officers for LCC and Heritage Lincolnshire and the developer, to formulate a strategy for the more complete establishment of the character, distribution, extent, condition, dating and further treatment of any such remains. In such a case, groundworks in the affected area will be halted and the structures, features or finds concerned will be protected from deterioration until further arrangements can be made.

10.0 Methodology: Post-Fieldwork

Following completion of site works, all archaeological records and finds will be taken to the offices of PCAS prior to processing and dispatch or in-house assessment; all written and drawn archaeological records will be checked, ordered and cross-referenced before leaving the site. Certain classes of bulk find, such as post-medieval pottery and building material, may be discarded during this process, with the prior approval of the Historic Environment Officers and the receiving museum, providing that a sample is kept and that the full count of material is recorded.

Stable finds (e.g. pottery, bone etc) will be washed, marked and packaged at PCAS prior to dispatch. Unstable finds will be dispatched for remedial conservation as a prelude to assessment. Following the completion of site works, the processed finds will be dispatched for specialist identification and assessment, and bulk and specialist environmental samples will be dispatched for processing and reporting. PCAS have used the services of the following specialists in the past and may use any/all of the following again, depending on suitability, availability etc.

Archaeological Contractors:

- University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) – provides a comprehensive service in all areas of post-excavation analysis.
- Durham University Archaeological Services (DUAS) – provides environmental archaeology services.
- York Archaeological Trust (YAT) – identification and assessment of registered special finds; X-Ray analysis and Conservation Services.
- Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) – radiocarbon dating laboratories.

Other Freelance Specialists:

- R. Devaney – specialising in the identification and assessment of lithic materials and tools.
- J. Curl – specialising in the identification and assessment of animal bone.
- M. Holst, York Osteoarchaeology Ltd. – specialising in the identification and assessment of human remains.
- Dr. K. Leahy – specialising in the identification and assessment of post-Roman and early medieval artefacts, particularly metalwork.
- Dr. R. Mackenzie – specialising in the identification and assessment of waste metalworking residues.
- G. Monteil – specialising in the identification and assessment of samian ware.
- Q. Mould – specialising in the identification and assessment of leather artefacts.
- S. Percival – specialising in the identification and assessment of prehistoric pottery and ceramics.
- I. Rowlandson – specialising in the identification and assessment of Iron Age and Roman pottery.
- C. Simpson – specialising in processing, assessment and analysis of environmental remains.
- G. Taylor – specialising in the identification and assessment of general small-finds assemblages.
- Z. Tomlinson – specialising in the identification and assessment of general small-finds assemblages.
- I. Tyers – specialising in dendrochronology and the identification and assessment of timber and worked wood.
- R. Tyson – specialising in the identification and assessment of medieval and post-medieval glass.
- M. Wood – specialising in registered and other finds, including slag, metal objects, worked stone and glass;
- J. Young – specialising in the identification and assessment of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material.

The initial post-excavation assessment and reporting will be commissioned on completion of all fieldwork: evidence of a purchase order with timetable will be provided to the LPAs. The timescales will depend on the availability of specialists to carry out assessments, but the aim

will be to complete within 3 months. If this timescale is not achievable, an interim report will be produced, with the agreement with the client and the Historic Environment Officers.

The full assessment report will be prepared in accordance with current guidelines and will include the following minimum information:

- A non-technical summary
- Museum accession number, site code and project number
- Planning reference number
- Grid reference, site location, topography and geology
- Archaeological and historical background
- A statement of aims and objectives of the project
- A description and analysis of the fieldwork undertaken
- A geo-referenced location plan at a minimum scale of 1:10,000
- A scaled overall site plan showing the accurately surveyed location of the development site in relation to known and speculated archaeological features (if appropriate)
- Scaled section and plan drawings of all archaeological features encountered within the excavation area
- Discussion and conclusions, including interpretation of the results and their context within the surrounding landscape, consideration of the importance of the findings in local, regional and national basis with reference to the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework, and a critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology
- An updated project design considering scope for any further analysis and dissemination, including potential publication, if significant discoveries are made
- A stratigraphic matrix to determine the phasing of recorded features and deposits, where applicable, with dating applied where possible
- Tables summarising features and artefacts with full descriptions and brief interpretation
- Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary, with reference made to appropriate published type-series
- Colour photographs, including general views and appropriate detail
- Acknowledgements
- Bibliography of sources used
- Archive deposition location and agreed deposition date
- A summary of the report’s presence and location on the OASIS online database

If the results of the project merit further analysis and additional stages of post-excavation reporting, potentially including publication, an Updated Project Design will be produced, in liaison with the Historic Environment Officers for LCC and Heritage Lincolnshire, and included in the assessment report.

Copies of the project report will be sent to the client, the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Historic Environment Officers for LCC and Heritage Lincolnshire. Copies of the report will also be deposited with the Lincolnshire Archives as part of an ordered and indexed project archive. The data from the project, along with a digital copy of

the report, will be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database for public consultation: the OASIS ID **preconst3-533018** has been assigned to this project.

11.0 Archive and Deposition

Following acceptance of the report, a project archive (documentary and material) will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). Artefacts found during the monitoring scheme (excluding items qualifying as treasure: see section 7.0 above) will initially be the property of the landowner. Title to any artefacts not retained by the landowner will be transferred to PCAS, and such artefacts are routinely deposited as part of the site archive.

The entire archive will be prepared at the offices of PCAS prior to deposition with the appointed museum of record (expected to be Lincoln Museum). Following deposition, the archive will be available for public consultation under the unique LCNCC accession number 2025.63.

12.0 Publication and Dissemination

Deposition of the report with the HER, where it will be incorporated into their database for public consultation, and uploading the project data to OASIS will be considered as placing the results of the project in the public domain. Where the significance of the results warrants it, wider publication of the results will be considered: the content and place of publication will be dependent on what is found (e.g. an account of discoveries of regional interest might appear in a county journal), and will be subject to discussion with the archaeological advisors to the planning authorities.

Working under the terms of the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988, PCAS shall retain full copyright with regard to written, digital and graphic material. However, following project completion, the commissioning body, the Lincolnshire HER and the Archaeology Data Service may all, in the interest of informing and advancing the profession, make responsible use of the data, provided that any material copied or cited in reports is duly acknowledged and all copyright conditions observed.

13.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice.

Employees and sub-contractors of PCAS Archaeology Ltd will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy (revised 2023). Where employees are temporarily engaged at other workplaces, they are to respect relevant local regulations, both statutory and as imposed by other employers within the Health and Safety at Work Act.

In furtherance of the duty of care imposed by the Health & Safety at Work Act, the Employer shall make available to his employees whatever reasonable facilities are required by particular circumstances, e.g. appropriate protective clothing, safety equipment, rest breaks for specialised tasks, etc.

A site risk assessment and safety method statement will be prepared prior to any site works taking place; this will be reviewed and updated as appropriate and a copy will be kept available on site.

The project will be carried out in accordance with safe working practices and under the defined Health and Safety Policy. The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM) may apply to the archaeological work, depending on whether contractors other than the archaeological team are present on the site. The ACoW will abide by the construction site rules while working to the RAMS issued to and accepted by the Principal Contractor, Attendance at daily toolbox talks and any Health and Safety meeting to ensure proper coordination will be required.

14.0 Insurance

PCAS Archaeology Ltd has the following insurance cover:

Employers' Liability:	£10,000,000
Public Liability:	£5,000,000
Professional Indemnity:	£1,000,000

15.0 Monitoring Arrangements

Internal monitoring will be the responsibility of Leigh Brocklehurst, Project Manager, PCAS. The Senior Historic Environment Officer for Heritage Lincolnshire and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer advising South Holland District Council will be informed, with not less than two weeks' notice, of the start of the scheme of works. They will be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress, and will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement with the site director.

16.0 Contacts

Denise Drury, Heritage Lincolnshire	(01529) 461 499
Gregor Robertson-Morris, Lincolnshire County Council	07887 509756
Leigh Brocklehurst, Project Manager, PCAS	(01522) 703 800

17.0 References

Axis, 2022, *Proposed Development of a Photovoltaic Solar Array, Grid Connection, Access Improvement Works and Ancillary Development on Land at Bicker Fen, Boston and South Holland, Lincolnshire: Planning and Design & Access Statement*. Unpublished planning document consulted online at https://www.boston.gov.uk/planningapplicationsearch?pageSessionId=8bf99d14-0ab7-47bb-9d69-5d4aad69db7c&fsn=3249d3eb-85b5-44f6-a7c0-02f8796b8bdc.

English Heritage (EH), 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (second edition). English Heritage Publishing.

Marshall, N., 2024, *Land at Bicker Fen, Boston/South Holland, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report*. Unpublished client report produced by AOC Archaeology Group, consulted online at

https://www.boston.gov.uk/planningapplicationsearch?pageSessionId=8bf99d14-0ab7-47bb-9d69-5d4aad69db7c&fsn=3249d3eb-85b5-44f6-a7c0-02f8796b8bdc

Ordnance Survey, 2015, Spalding & Holbeach, Long Sutton & Kirton: 1:25,000 scale Explorer Series sheet 249. Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Ordnance Survey, 1888, 1st edition 6" to 1 mile scale map sheet Lincolnshire CXVI.SE, surveyed 1887.

South, K., Murray, R. and Edwards, C., 2025, *Land at Bicker Fen, Boston/South Holland, Lincolnshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation.* Unpublished planning document produced by AOC Archaeology Group, consulted online at https://www.boston.gov.uk/planningapplicationsearch?pageSessionId=8bf99d14-0ab7-47bb-9d69-5d4aad69db7c&fsn=3249d3eb-85b5-44f6-a7c0-02f8796b8bdc.

Sykes, C., 2022, *Proposed Bicker Fen Solar Farm, Bicker, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Geophysical Survey*. Unpublished client report produced by AOC Archaeology Group, consulted online at https://www.boston.gov.uk/planningapplicationsearch?pageSessionId=8bf99d14-0ab7-47bb-9d69-5d4aad69db7c&fsn=3249d3eb-85b5-44f6-a7c0-02f8796b8bdc.

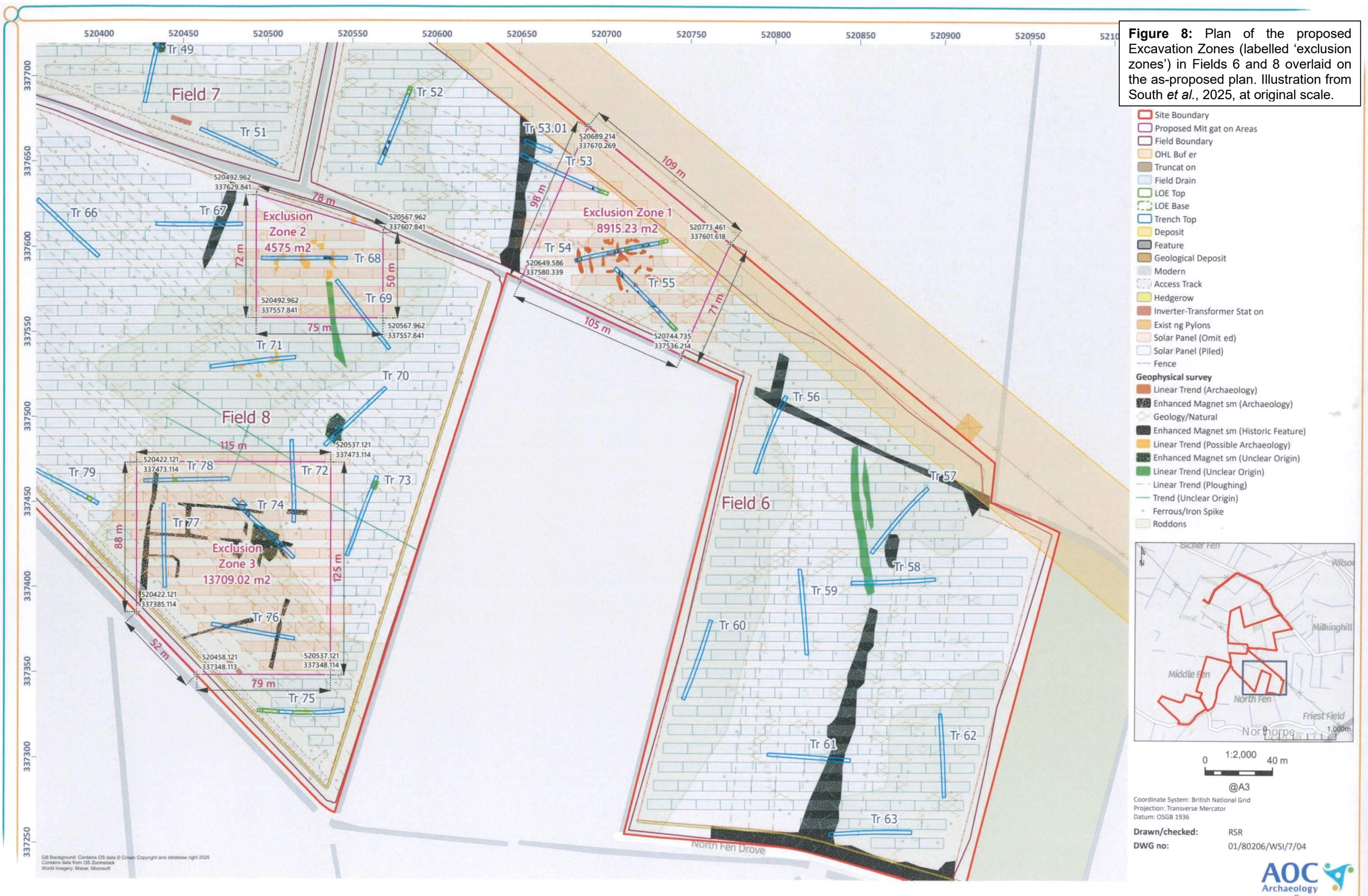


Figure 6: Evaluation trench locations superimposed on geophysical survey results in Fields 6 and 8. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale.



Figure 7: Plan of the proposed Excavation Zones (labelled 'exclusion zones') in Fields 6 and 8. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale.

Figure 8: Plan of the proposed Excavation Zones (labelled 'exclusion zones') in Fields 6 and 8 overlaid on the as-proposed plan. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale.



Site Boundary
Proposed Mit gat on Areas
Field Boundary
OHL Buf er
Truncat on
Field Drain
LOE Top
LOE Base
Trench Top
Deposit
Feature
Geological Deposit
Modern
Access Track
Hedgerow
Inverter-Transformer Stat on
Exist ng Pylons
Solar Panel (Omit ed)
Solar Panel (Piled)
Fence

Geophysical survey

Linear Trend (Archaeology)
Enhanced Magnet sm (Archaeology)
Geology/Natural
Enhanced Magnet sm (Historic Feature)
Linear Trend (Possible Archaeology)
Enhanced Magnet sm (Unclear Origin)
Linear Trend (Unclear Origin)
Linear Trend (Ploughing)
Trend (Unclear Origin)
Ferrous/Iron Spike
Roddons

0 1:2,000 40 m

@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR

DWG no: 01/80206/WSI/7/04

AOC Archaeology Group

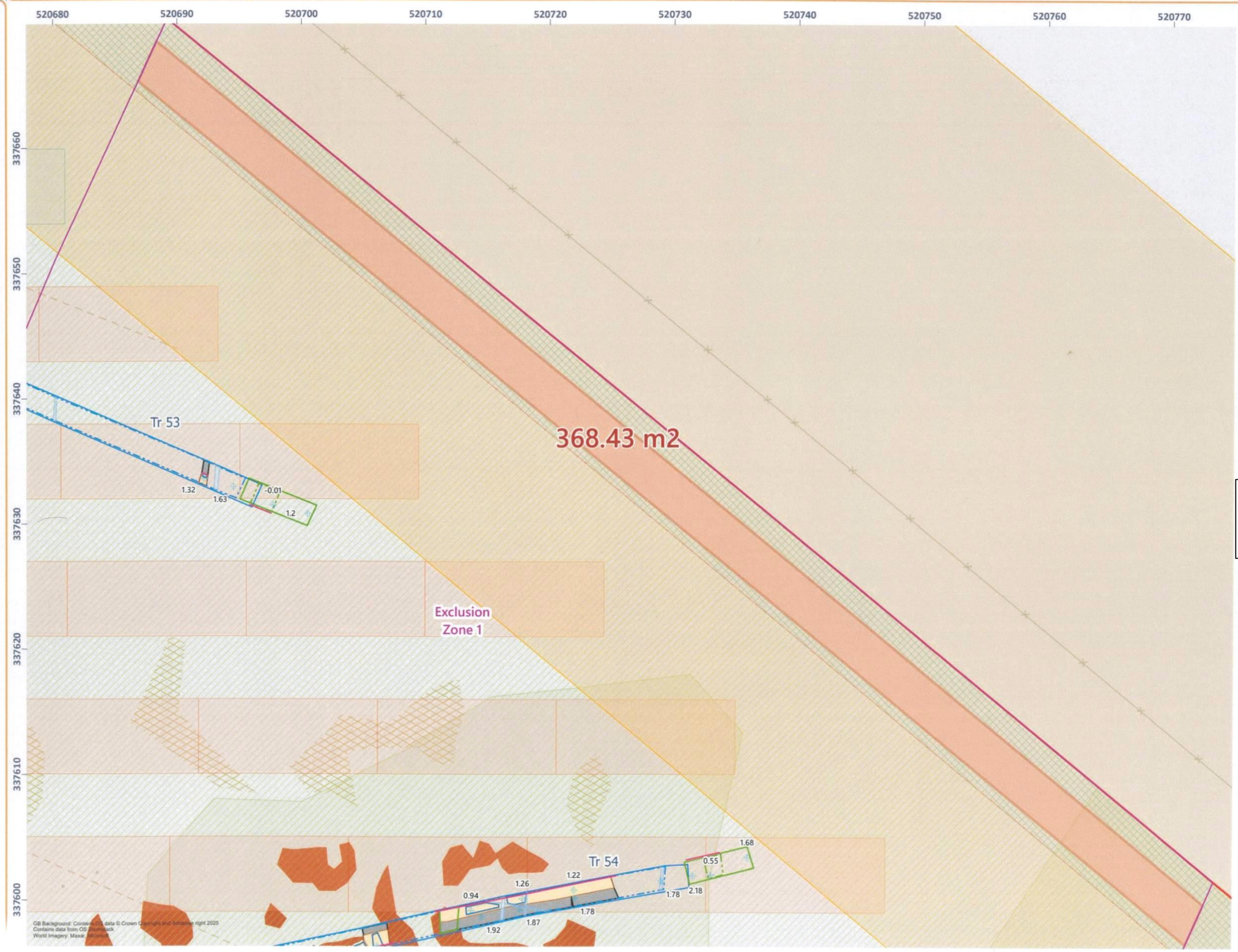
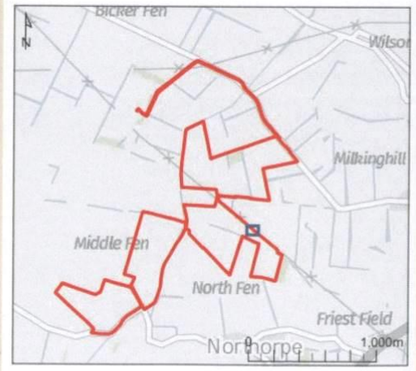


Figure 9: Plan of the proposed strip, map and sample area within Excavation Zone 1. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale.



0 1:300 10 m

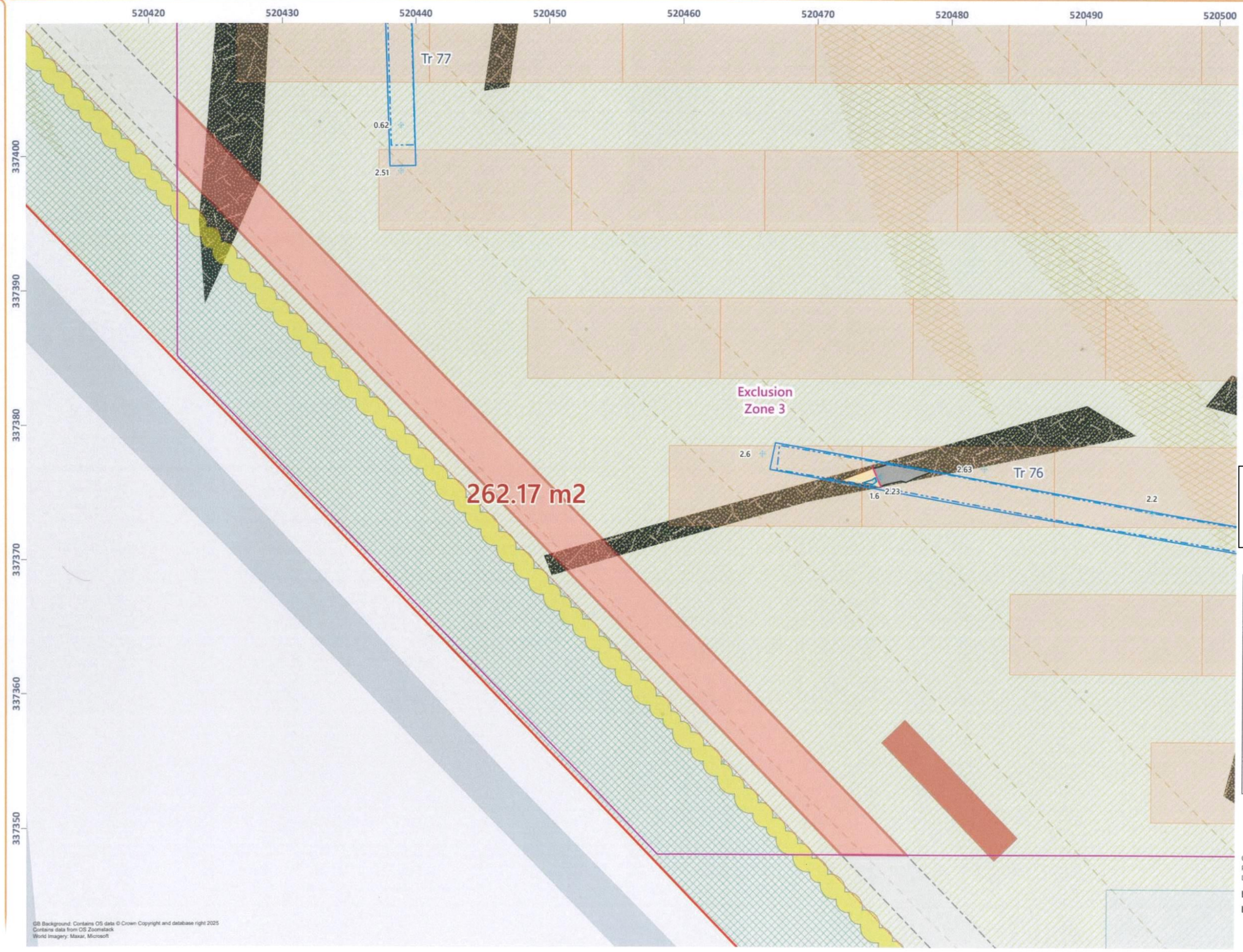
@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR

DWG no: 01/80206/WSI/9/05

AOC Archaeology Group



N

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Strip, Map & Sample Area
- Exclusion Zones
- Spot Heights (m)
- Sect on
- Trench Top
- Trench Base
- Base of Feature
- Excavated
- Feature
- Solar Panel (Piled)
- Solar Panel (Omit ed)
- Fence
- Access Track - SMS Area
- Hedgerow
- Inverter-Transformer Stat on
- Species Rich Grassland
- Low Maintenance Pasture

Geophysical survey

- Enhanced Magnet sm (Archaeology)
- Geology/Natural
- Linear Trend (Ploughing)
- Ferrous/Iron Spike
- Roddons

Figure 10: Plan of the proposed strip, map and sample area within Excavation Zone 3. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale.



0 1:280 8 m

@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR

DWG no: 01/80206/WSI/8/05

AOC Archaeology Group

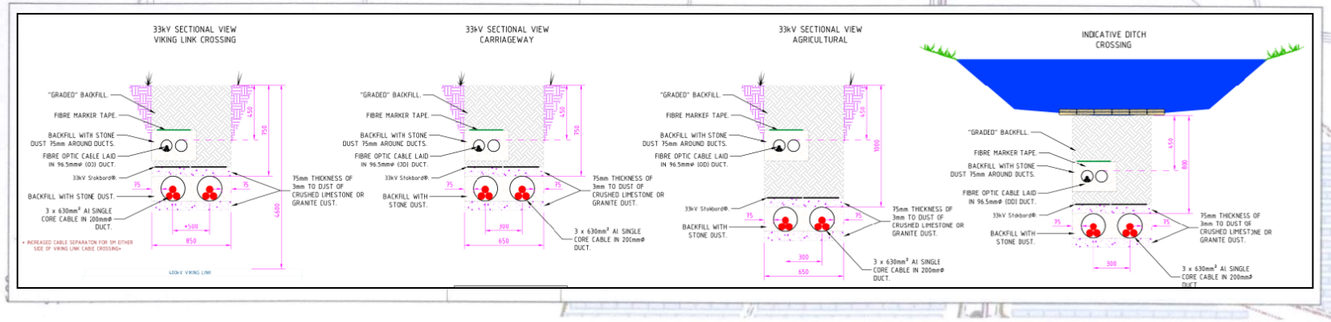
519400 519600 519800 520000 520200 520400 520600 520800 521000

339000 338800 338600 338400 338200 338000 337800

N

Legend

- Photovoltaic Panels
- Fence
- Footpath
- 33kV Cable
- BT
- Access Track
- Proposed Ditch Crossing
- Grass
- Hedgerow
- Inverter-Transformer Stat on
- Exist ng Pylons
- Switchgear
- Water
- Of ce-storage
- Control Building
- Cable Route - Buf er
- BT
- 33kV Cable
- HDD
- Cable Crossing
- Woodland
- Transformers
- MV Stat on
- Bat ery Storage Container
- Bat ery Managment System





0 1:5,600 200 m

@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR

DWG no: 01/80206/WSI/10/05

AOC Archaeology Group

Figure 11: Plan and sections of the cable route to the substation. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale.

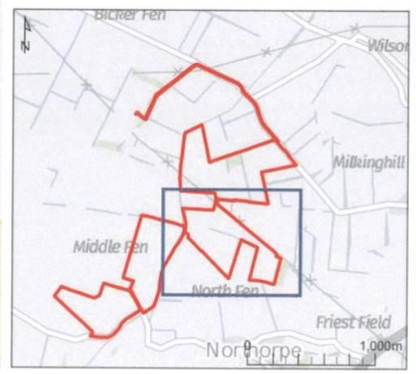


N

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Field Boundary
- Photovoltaic Panels
- Fence
- Footpath
- Access Track
- Proposed Ditch Crossing
- Grass
- Hedgerow
- Inverter-Transformer Stat on
- Exist ng Pylons
- OHL Buf er

Figure 12: As-proposed plan of the Field 6 and Field 8 area of the development. Illustration from South *et al.*, 2025, at original scale.



0 1:3,500 100 m

@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR

DWG no: 01/80206/WSI/3/03

AOC Archaeology Group