

**LAND OFF ROMAN ROAD, MOULTON CHAPEL, LINCOLNSHIRE:
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP,
MAP & RECORD**

ISSUE 1:	ISSUED FOR APPROVAL
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Local Planning Authority: South Holland District Council

Central NGR: TF 29697 18330

Planning Reference H13/1215/18

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2020.13

Site Code: RMCL21

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SUMMARY

A residential development is proposed on land north of Roman Road, Moulton Chapel, Lincolnshire. The proposed development site is located within an area of known archaeological remains of Iron Age to Roman date. An archaeological evaluation of the proposed development area in 2020 revealed evidence for medieval strip cultivation across most of the site, as well as a single Roman ditch in the far west of the site. In the south of the site was a concentration of pits, ditches and a possible posthole dating to the medieval period, indicating a possible area of settlement activity. Further investigation of this area, where the archaeology would be impacted by the development, is required to provide a record and greater understanding of the nature of the archaeological resource in this area. A scheme of Strip, Map & Record investigation is proposed for the focus of remains in the south of the site. Proposed extents of the investigation area are shown on the attached plan. The results of the investigation will be presented in a fully illustrated report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) has been appointed by RPS, on behalf of Larkfleet Homes Ltd, to undertake, as part of the planning process, an archaeological investigation on land to the north of Roman Road, Moulton Chapel, Lincolnshire (Figure 1). This document forms the Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological works.

1.2 Moulton Chapel is c. 6.5km southeast of Spalding in the South Holland District of Lincolnshire. The Site lies at the northeast edge of the village, on the north side of Roman Road, centred at National Grid Reference TF 29697 18330 (Figure 1). A Planning Application (H13/1215/18) for a proposed residential development has been submitted to South Holland District Council.

1.4 The Historic Environment Service of Lincolnshire County Council, as archaeological advisors to South Holland District Council, advised an archaeological evaluation of the site was required. As a result, a scheme of trial trenching was undertaken. Archaeological remains were identified across the site, though in the northern two-thirds of the site these were agricultural in nature. A concentration of features of medieval date was revealed in the south of the site (Figure 2). In consequence, the Historic Environment Officer has advised that further archaeological investigations are required, to preserve by record the remains that will be impacted by the development proposals. A programme of archaeological Strip, Map & Record investigation will be undertaken in the south of the site, encompassing the concentration of medieval remains discovered during the evaluation. An additional area that was not part of the evaluation site has been added to the proposed area of strip, map and record investigation; this is to cover the area impacted by the access road. The proposed extent of the investigation area is shown as a purple polygon on the attached Figure 2.

1.4 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the following documents:

- This Written Scheme of Investigation;
- Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1990);

- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015);
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation' (CIfA 2020).

1.5 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is a Registered Organisation (number 23) with the Institute for Archaeologists and will operate within the Institute's 'Code of Conduct'. (CIfA 2019).

1.6 All work, including reporting, will be in accordance with 'Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Handbook' (2019).

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The solid geology of the site is mudstone and siltstone of the West Walton Formation. This is overlain by alluvial clay and silt of the Tidal Flat Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period when the local environment was dominated by shorelines (BGS).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is a field on flat level land at c. 3m OD in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The Lincolnshire Historic Environment record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area of archaeological potential.

3.1.1 Monitoring of development groundwork immediately to the west of the site identified two phases of field boundary and drainage ditches cut into earlier alluvial deposits. Although lacking artefacts, the ditch systems were considered possibly to be Roman, because of the extensive evidence for Roman enclosures around Moulton Chapel (APS 2003).

3.1.2 Trial trenching on land to the south of the site, on the south side of Roman Road, also identified two phases of field systems represented by ditches and considered to be of Roman date. In the western part of that earlier trenching scheme was evidence for Romano-British occupation, associated with Roman pottery, possible kiln furniture, a pit and a curvilinear feature that may represent a roundhouse (Hall 2018).

3.1.3 Other evidence from around Moulton Chapel has indicated a densely exploited Iron Age and Roman landscape of settlements, droveways, enclosures and industrial sites in the area. Alongside the site is Roman Road, which may be of Roman origin though it possibly represents a later, medieval or post-medieval, droveway. There is little evidence for Saxon or medieval activity in the area and it is likely that the site lay in fields outside the settlement areas of these periods (Flitcroft 2018).

3.1.4 The site was the subject of a recent trial trench evaluation involving the excavation of 19 trenches (Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, 2020). This revealed archaeological remains throughout the area, though much of this evidence was in the form of ditches, perhaps field systems or for drainage,

and undated. However, in the south of the site there was evidence of possible occupation of medieval date. This is particularly significant given the lack of evidence of medieval settlement in Moulton Chapel to date.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

4.1 The site is the subject of a Planning Application (H13/1215/18) for a proposed residential development. South Holland District Council recommended an archaeological evaluation be undertaken as a condition of consent. This was carried out and identified archaeological remains throughout most of the site, with a concentration of activity in the south of the site. The Historic Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council, as archaeological advisor to South Holland District Council, has recommended that further investigations be undertaken in this area, to preserve the remains by record.

4.2 National Planning Policy on archaeology and built heritage is set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Revised in 2021, National Planning Framework: Planning for the Historic Environment (NPPF) provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of archaeological remains.

4.3 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance NPPF, by Local policy and by other material considerations.

4.4 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or listed buildings within the study site or adjacent to its boundaries.

4.5 Research Objectives

The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**, ed. N Cooper (2006), along with the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, ed. D. Knight, B. Vyner & C. Allen (2012) will be referenced for specific research criteria.

The archaeological works will address the following objectives:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the specified areas.
- To assess, where appropriate, any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features within the site.

In addition, the investigations will seek to address the following research questions:

- To set the site and its archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape
- To establish the extent & character of the medieval activity identified in the south of the evaluation site.

- To identify any other phases of past land use at the site.

5 SCOPE OF WORKS

5.1 The Historic Environment Officer requested a Strip, Map and Record investigation in the southern part of the evaluation site, in the area of concentrated archaeology around Trenches 18 and 19. The evaluation site is approximately 3.5 hectares in extent; an area of up to c. 0.8 hectares is proposed for the strip, map and sample excavation. The proposed area of investigation comprises a 'core' area of c. 0.4 hectares and a 'rear' area of another c. 0.4 hectares (Figure 2). The southern part of the 'core' area will provide the access route to the site. In this area an initial 30m x 2m evaluation trench will be excavated. This will be to test for the presence and density of archaeological remains and act as a guide to how much of this area may need to be stripped and investigated. Otherwise, the whole of the 'core' area shown on Figure 2 will be stripped and investigated. If archaeological remains are discovered at a distance of less than 10m from the northern edge of the 'core' area, the area of excavation will be extended to the north and/or northwest, into the 'rear' area, to check for further archaeology within 10m of features in the 'core' area. Topsoil stripping will stop when a margin of 10m has been reached around the archaeological features; this may entail the extension of the 'rear' area to the north and/or west if required by the Historic Environment Officer. The 10m margin will not apply to the ditches identified during the evaluation as representing medieval strip cultivation.

6 METHOD STATEMENTS

6.1 Strip, Map & Record

6.1.1 The supervising archaeologist will monitor the gradual machine excavation with a flat-bladed ditching bucket of non-archaeological overburden to the level of the first archaeological horizon. The machining will be coordinated so that no plant is tracked across areas reduced to this level once machined. Excavated material will be stored on-site (close to the excavated area).

6.1.2 Once the archaeological horizon has been reached, the stripped area will, if necessary, be cleaned by hand and kept free of loose spoil. Archaeological features, structures and deposits will be identified, recorded and excavated by trained archaeologists using appropriate hand tools.

6.1.3 Once areas have been machined open, the limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions will be recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

6.1.4 The overall sampling strategy will be proportionate to the apparent interest of the archaeological features revealed and should be an iterative process. Spot-dating of artefacts and assessment of ecofacts will wherever possible be integrated into this process and fed back to the excavation team to ensure that appropriate sampling is undertaken for those features and deposits with real potential.

6.1.5 All relationships between features or deposits will be investigated and recorded.

6.1.6 A representative sample of discrete, non-burial, features will be half-sectioned where safe to do so but should not be less than 50% of the whole. Where they are shown to form part of recognisable structures, contain deposits of particular value or significant artefact or environmental assemblages they will be fully excavated.

6.1.7 For all linear features e.g. ditches, gullies, paths and tracks, an initial 10% will be excavated away from intersections with other features or deposits to obtain unmixed samples of material. Excavation slots will be at least 1m in width. Where significant patterns of deposition occur, further excavation will take place to investigate those patterns.

6.1.8 A 5% sample of linear features that are field boundaries will be excavated away from intersections with other features or deposits to obtain unmixed samples of material.

6.1.9 All structural remains including beam slots, post-holes and floor surfaces/floor makeup surfaces demonstrated to be part of a buildings construction require total (100%) excavation. All industrial features including "domestic" ovens and hearths will be at least 50% excavated and samples taken for analysis.

6.1.10 The excavation of deposits relating to funerary/ritual activity such as burials and cremations will be 100% excavated.

6.1.9 Deep features such as wells and pits will be excavated to their full depth or to the underside of the construction impact, whichever is the higher. This may require the adoption of appropriate Health and Safety procedures.

6.1.10 Archaeological deposits and features will be excavated and recorded in accordance with ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2020) and PCA procedures as detailed within the PCA fieldwork induction manual, (Operations Manual I) by J Taylor and G Brown (2009).

6.1.11 The examination of spoil heaps for archaeological material will be carried out and a representative sample of unstratified material may be retained.

6.1.12 All archaeological features and deposits will be hand excavated to identify the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

6.1.13 The stripped area will be scrutinised to identify, characterise and record any archaeological features and geological conditions that are exposed. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits (no such deposits were encountered within the earlier evaluation phase).

6.1.14 A written description relating to the nature of the deposits, features and fills that are encountered during ground disturbances will be compiled on Pre-Construct Archaeology pro-forma record sheets.

6.1.15 Any finds that are recovered will be bagged and labelled per context for post excavation analysis.

6.2 Burial Remains

6.2.1 In the event that human burials are discovered, a Ministry of Justice Licence will be required (in accordance with Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857) before the remains can be lifted. The need for a Ministry of Justice Licence applies to both inhumation and cremated remains. Application for a Licence will be made by PCA. PCA will comply with the conditions of the Licence and discuss any requirements of that Licence which conflict with the agreed method of investigation with Lincolnshire County Council's Historic Environment Officer

6.2.2 Inhumation and cremation burials will be fully excavated by hand within 24 hours of exposure unless otherwise agreed with the Historic Environment Officer.

6.2.3 The archaeological contractor will put in place arrangements to ensure the security, protection from deterioration and damage, and the respectful treatment of human remains and burial goods.

6.2.4 Where burial remains are expected excavation and recording will be in accordance with the pro forma recording sheets and drawing sheets of PCA with reference to the Museum of London's Archaeological Recording System.

6.2.5 PCA will have available within the team or on call an appropriately qualified and experienced osteo-archaeologist to supervise the excavation and removal of human remains from the site. PCA will use an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological conservator to assist where appropriate in the lifting of human remains and grave goods / cremation vessels.

6.3 General

6.3.1 Treatment of treasure - Finds, discovered by PCA, falling under the statutory definition of Treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its revision of 2002) will be reported immediately to the relevant Coroner's Office, the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) who is the designated treasure co-ordinator for Lincolnshire, the client and the Historic Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council. A Treasure Receipt (obtainable from either the FLO or the DCMS website) must be completed and a report submitted to the Coroner's Office and the FLO within 14 days of understanding the find is Treasure. Failure to report within 14 days is a criminal offence. The Treasure Receipt and Report must include the date and circumstances of the discovery, the identity of the finder (put as unit/contractor) and (as exactly as possible) the location of the find.

7 FINDS RECOVERY PROCESSING AND TREATMENT

7.1 All artefacts (apart from Human remains and objects listed as treasure) that are recovered during the excavations on the site are the property of the Landowner. They are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, *Conservation Guidelines no.2* and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme arrangements for transfer of ownership will be made.

7.2 Artefacts will be excavated carefully by hand. PCA will use an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological conservator to assist in the lifting of fragile finds of significance and / or value.

7.3 Artefacts will be collected and bagged by archaeological context. The location of special finds will be recorded in three dimensions. Three-dimensional recording will be carried out if deemed appropriate.

7.4 Records of artefact assemblages will clearly state how they have been recovered, sub-sampled and processed.

7.5 Excavated artefacts will be bagged upon recovery or placed in finds trays. They must not be left loose on site.

7.6 To aid recovery of metalwork finds, spoil heaps and stripped areas will be scanned regularly using metal detectors.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

8.1 Where appropriate, programs of archaeological science and environmental sampling will be commissioned, sufficient to provide an appropriate record of the palaeo-environmental significance of the affected heritage assets. The results of this work will be presented in the final report.

8.2 Where necessary the advice of the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor will be sought regarding specialist sampling requirements and any scientific applications relevant to the archaeological evaluation of this site.

8.3 If appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from features to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described and analysed. Samples will be taken from the fills of features where organic materials may be preserved, such as pits, ditches and other deposits, especially if waterlogged. Historic England Environmental Archaeology Guidelines (2011) *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* will be adhered to.

8.4 Where appropriate and to aid with achieving the research aims, scientific dating will be undertaken, for example, Radio carbon dating of human remains.

8.5 Where appropriate the guidance in the following Historic England papers will be followed:

- “Waterlogged Organic Artefacts Guidelines on their recovery, analysis and conservation” 2012
- “Dendrochronology – guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates” 1998
- “Archaeometallurgy” 2015
- “Human bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports” 2004

- “Geoarchaeology” 2015
- “Waterlogged Organic Artefacts guidelines on their recovery, analysis and conservation” 2012
- “Archaeomagnetic Guidelines for best practice” 2015
- “Guidelines on the X-radiography of archaeological metalwork” 2006

9 RECORDING

9.1 All structures, deposits, burials and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards. Sufficient data will be recorded to allow the required level of assessment and reporting.

9.2 Recording must be carried out to a sufficiently high standard to provide a full record of the deposits excavated.

9.3 All archaeological contexts are to be recorded individually on context record sheets. A further, more general, record of the work, comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology, is to be maintained as appropriate. Context sheets are to be primarily filled in by the archaeologist excavating the feature or deposit.

9.4 A plan to indicate the location of the boundaries of the excavated areas and the site grid is to be drawn at a scale of 1:1250 (or a similar appropriate scale). Plans indicating the location of the excavated areas and the location of all archaeological features encountered are to be drawn at an appropriate scale. An overall site plan is to be maintained at a scale of 1:100 or larger scale where appropriate. Sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Significant archaeological features will normally be drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 if appropriate. All detailed plans and sections are to be related to the 1:100 or 1:1250 plans. The 1:1250 and 1:100 plans are to be accurately related to the National Grid.

9.6 All plans and sections are to be levelled with respect to OD.

9.7 All plans and sections are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

9.8 Photography will form an integral part of the recording strategy. All photos will be taken using a digital SLR camera with sensors exceeding 12 mega pixels, using the highest quality setting available on the camera. All photographs will incorporate scales, an identification board (clearly detailing site code & context information) and directional north arrow. All photographs were feasible, will be taken in appropriate light conditions. A photographic record will be compiled throughout the evaluation. The photographic record is to be regarded as part of the site archive.

9.9 The complete site archive including finds and environmental samples are kept in a secure place throughout the period of the Strip, Map & Record and subsequent post excavation works.

10 REPORTING

10.1 Unless otherwise agreed with the LPA's archaeological advisor, an initial post-excavation assessment report will be produced. This will comprise an integrated illustrated site narrative together with specialist assessment of artefact assemblages and palaeo-environmental samples, with recommendations for any further analysis.

10.2 Following assessment, a review of the post-excavation programme will be held in consultation with the LPA's archaeological advisors. A timetable including the aims of specialist research and intended final report format ('grey literature'/journal article/other) will be presented in an Updated Project Design. The timetable will include agreed monitoring points. [This stage may be omitted if the fieldwork results are less complex.]

10.3 Following the review, a full post-excavation analysis programme will be implemented including specialist reports, to be completed within 2 years, leading to the production of an archive report and draft publication. The Report will include as a minimum:

- a non-technical summary
- a table of contents
- an introduction including a list of staff members involved in the project
- summary geological, archaeological and historical background details for the site
- a statement for the aims of the project
- a full description of the results of the investigations
- plans and sections at the appropriate scale cross-referenced with the written description
- appropriate maps and photographs
- a discussion of the location, date, extent, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits identified
- all finds and environmental specialist reports
- an interpretation of the results of the investigations in relation to the archaeology in the vicinity
- a bibliography of sources consulted
- an index to the project archive
- the OASIS record

10.4 Copies of the report will be provided to:

- the Developer/client
- the Historic Environment Officer
- the Local Planning Authority

10.5 The report will be submitted to all parties in digital format. Hard copies will be supplied if requested.

11 ARCHIVE PREPARATION & DEPOSITION

11.1 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990), 'Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Handbook' (2019), and "Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation" (Brown 2011.) On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln, in accordance with the provisional arrangements made at the onset of fieldwork. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the Historic Environment Officer and the Local Planning Authority.

11.2 An Accession number was obtained for the evaluation phase and it is proposed to retain this for the further investigations. Museum accession number: LCNCC: 2020.13; Site code: RMCL21; deposition date: August 2022. Any change to this date will be agreed with the museum curator and the Historic Environment Officer will be informed.

11.3 Upon completion of the fieldwork, the online OASIS form <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/> will be completed. Once the report has become a public document, following their incorporation into the HER, it will be uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service website where it may be freely consulted.

12 MONITORING AND LIAISON

12.1 PCA will allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the fieldwork, by the client/developer, the Lincolnshire County Council's Historic Environment Officer, or any designated representative of the Local Planning Authority.

12.3 PCA will liaise closely with the client, agent and curator throughout the course of the investigations to arrange for on-site meetings at key decision points.

13 HEALTH AND SAFETY

13.1 PCA will conduct the work in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The Archaeological Contractor will also follow the guidance set out in "Health and Safety in Field Archaeology" Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers 1997.

13.2 PCA Health and Safety Policy and a procedures manual will be available on-site. Site staff will have an appropriate level of training to enable them to carry out fieldwork safely.

13.3 PCA will maintain the site in a safe condition. All hazards will be appropriately identified and managed. Deep excavations will be appropriately fenced. PCA will carry out a risk assessment and complete a Health and Safety Method Statement prior to commencement of fieldwork and where appropriate a COSHH assessment. Risks and measures to reduce risk will be communicated to all working on and visiting the site.

14 LINCOLNSHIRE HER

14.1 PCA will provide the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record with copies of all reports in digital PDF format and a single bound hard copy.

15 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

15.1 The fieldwork is expected to take around 6 weeks on site and will be dependent on ground conditions.

15.2 The archaeological field team will comprise 1 Supervisor and up to 4 Archaeologists. Further Archaeologists will be brought in if required.

15.3 The commencement of this project is subject to approval of this WSI. The work can only start with approval of this WSI by the Historic Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council.

15.4 The following table lists the personnel who may be involved in both archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation:

Role	Name
<i>Project Management</i>	Gary Taylor (PCA)
<i>Archaeological Supervision</i>	Joanne Lathan/Iain Pringle (PCA)
<i>Archaeologists</i>	To be selected from a pool of PCA Staff.
<i>Illustrations</i>	PCA CAD Dept
<i>Prehistoric Pottery</i>	Ian Rowlandson
<i>Roman Pottery</i>	Ian Rowlandson/Alex Beeby (PCA)
<i>Post-Roman Pottery</i>	Jane Young/Alex Beeby (PCA)
<i>Ceramic Building Material</i>	Jane Young/Alex Beeby (PCA)
<i>Briquetage</i>	Tom Lane
<i>Architectural Stonework</i>	Kevin Hayward (PCA)
<i>Petrology</i>	Kevin Hayward (PCA)
<i>Animal Bone</i>	Kevin Rielly (PCA)/ James Rackham
<i>Human Remains</i>	James Langthorne (PCA)
<i>Lithics</i>	Barry Bishop
<i>Timber</i>	Maisie Taylor/Mike Bamforth
<i>Glass</i>	Gary Taylor (PCA)
<i>Small Finds</i>	Gary Taylor (PCA)
<i>Roman Coins</i>	Alex Beeby (PCA) or Malcolm Lyne
<i>Metalwork</i>	Gary Taylor (PCA)
<i>Leather</i>	Gary Taylor (PCA)/Quita Mould
<i>Iron Slag</i>	Gary Taylor (PCA)/Jane Cowgill

Charcoal	Val Fryer/James Rackham
Conservation	York Archaeological Trust
Environmental Archaeology	Val Fryer/James Rackham

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FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

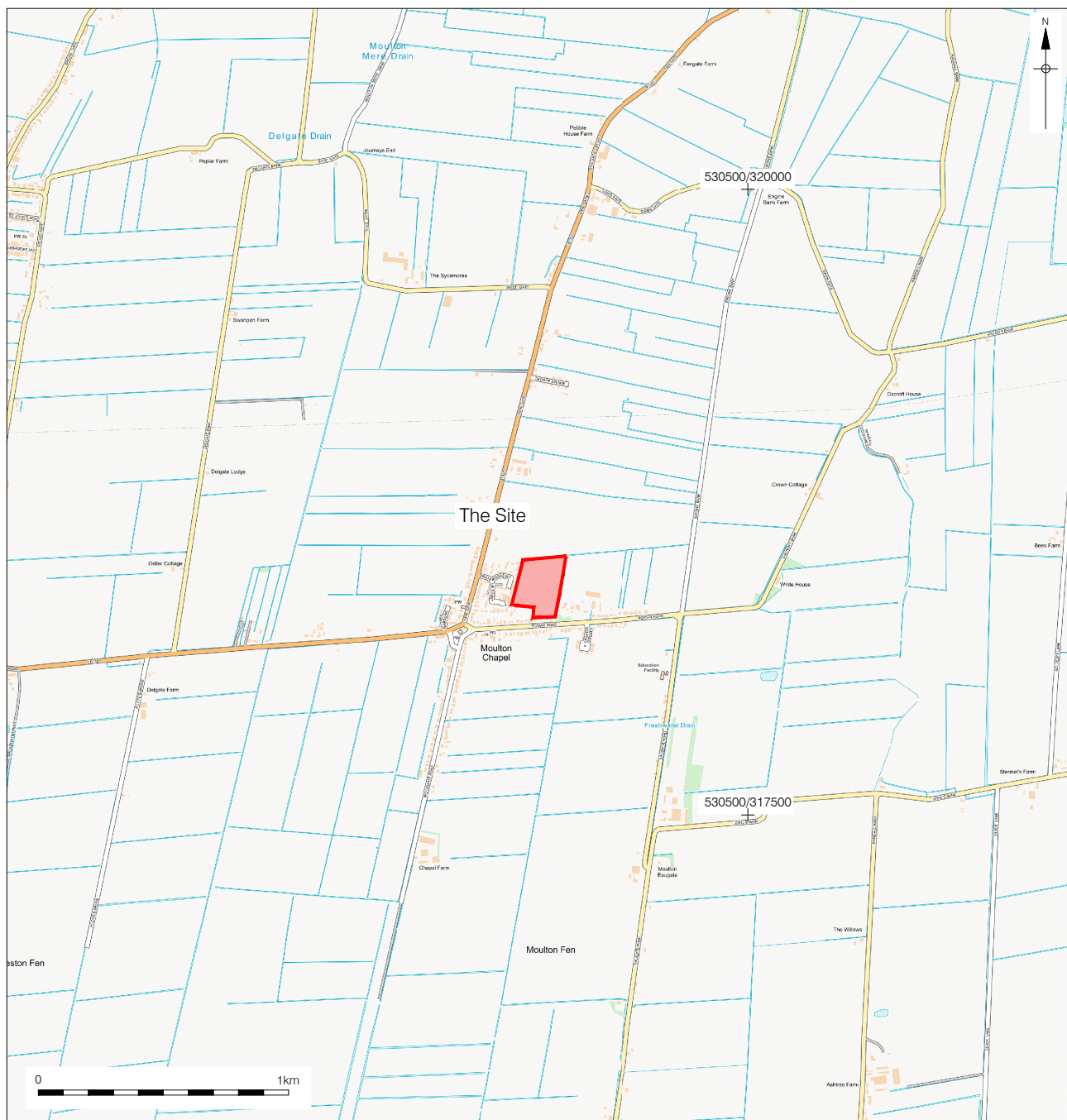
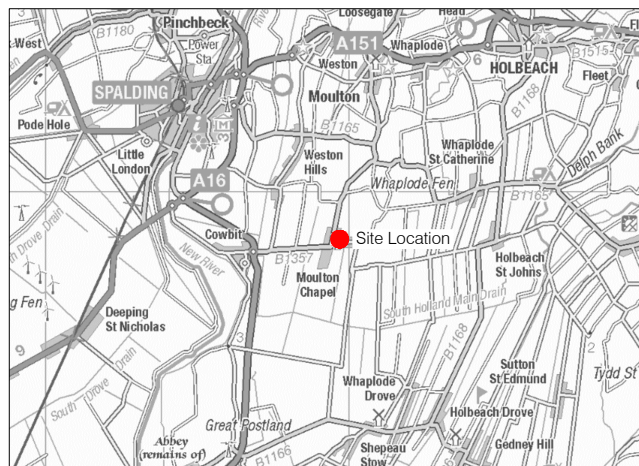


FIGURE 2: PROPOSED SMR AREA

