Spalding Solar
Lincolnshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2025.64
Document Ref.: 278521.1
Application: H16-0871-24
May 2025

wessexarchaeology



© Wessex Archaeology Ltd 2025, all rights reserved

Unit R6
Sheaf Bank Business Park
Prospect Road
Sheffield
S2 3EN

www.wessexarch.co.uk

Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales number 287786, and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6EB

Disclaimer
The material contained in this report was designed as an integral part of a report to an individual client and was prepared solely for the benefit of that client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and is not intended to nor should it be relied upon by any third party. To the fullest extent permitted by law Wessex Archaeology will not be liable by reason of breach of contract negligence or otherwise for any loss or damage (whether direct indirect or consequential) occasioned to any person acting or omitting to act or refraining from acting in reliance upon the material contained in this report arising from or connected with any error or omission in the material contained in the report. Loss or damage as referred to above shall be deemed to include, but is not limited to, any loss of profits or anticipated profits damage to reputation or goodwill loss of business or anticipated business damages costs expenses incurred or payable to any third party (in all cases whether direct indirect or consequential) or any other direct indirect or consequential loss or damage

Document Information

Document title	Spalding Solar, Spalding, Lincolnshire
Document subtitle	Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation
Document reference	278521.1
Commissioned by	Envams Ltd
Address	54 Hunters Way York YO24 1JJ
Site location	Land off the A16, Spalding
County	Lincolnshire
National grid reference	TF 26267 23155
Planning authority	South Holland District Council
Museum name	The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Museum Site Code	SDG25
Museum accession code	LCNCC: 2025.64
WA project code(s)	278521
Project management by	Sarah Generalski-Sparling
Document compiled by	Isobel Christian
Graphics by	Lara Tonizzo Feligioni

Quality Assurance

Issue	Date	Author	Approved by
1	08/04/2025	IC	
2	10/04/2025	SGS	
3	30/05/2025	IB/AB	

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION 1
1.1 Project background 1
1.2 Scope of document 1
1.3 Location, topography and geology 2

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 2
2.1 Introduction 2
2.2 Previous investigations 2
2.3 Archaeological and historical context 3

3 GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND 5
3.1 Introduction 5
3.2 Chronology 5
3.3 Geological and geoarchaeological context 6
3.4 Overarching Geoarchaeological Context of The Fenlands and The Wash 6
3.5 Holocene (MIS 1) 7

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 11
4.1 Aims 11
4.2 General objectives 11
4.3 Site-specific objectives 11

5 FIELDWORK METHODS 11
5.1 Introduction 11
5.2 Setting out of the trenches 12
5.3 Service location and other constraints 12
5.4 Excavation methods 12
5.5 Geoarchaeological sondages 13
5.6 Recording 13
5.7 Survey 14
5.8 Monitoring 14
5.9 Reinstatement 14
5.10 Finds 14
5.11 Environmental sampling 15

6 POST-EXCAVATION METHODS AND REPORTING 15
6.1 Stratigraphic evidence 15
6.2 Finds evidence 16
6.3 Environmental evidence 16
6.4 Reporting 16

7 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION 17
7.1 Museum 17
7.2 Transfer of title 17
7.3 Preparation of archive 17
7.4 Selection strategy 18
7.5 Security copy 18

8 COPYRIGHT 18
8.1 Archive and report copyright 18
8.2 Third party data copyright 19

9 ARCHAEOLOGY PROCEDURES 19
9.1 External quality standards 19
9.2 Personnel 19
9.3 Health and safety 19

9.4 Insurance 19
REFERENCES 20

List of Figures

Figure 1 Site location, proposed trenches, and geophysical survey results

Spalding Solar
Lincolnshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Envams Ltd ('the Client') to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a proposed archaeological evaluation of a 4.95 ha of land (the Site) located off A16, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 26273 23164 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of a series of ground mounted solar PV panels within the Site. Associated works will include inverter housing, switch gear, access tracks, underground cabling, security measures and other ancillary equipment and landscaping. Lincolnshire County Council provided pre-determination advice on the application (H16-0871-24) on the 18-02-2025, which requested archaeological trenching be carried out in order for an informed recommendation to be made. As such this WSI has been prepared in order to meet these conditions.

1.1.3 The evaluation will comprise the excavation, investigation and recording of nine evaluation trenches (each measuring 50 m by 2 m), within a maximum area of 1.2 ha within the Site. The evaluation is part of a staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the Site and follows up a non-intrusive geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology, 2025) and a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology, 2024).

1.1.4 A contingency trench will be used for the extension of excavated trenches if necessary to extent and/or character of any significant archaeological remains encountered. The contingency trench will be used, if necessary and required, in agreement with the Historic Places Team at Lincolnshire County Council (LHET)/Historic Environment Officer, the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisor, for further investigation or clarification of initial results. This is to extend trenches over whole features, to enable safe excavation where deposits are deep and to check orientations or extents of significant remains should this prove necessary. Contingency trenching will be introduced, in agreement with LHET, to extend trenches over whole features, enable safe excavation where deposits are deep and to check orientations or extents of significant remains, should it prove necessary to do so.

1.1.5 The evaluation will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeological contractor ('the Archaeological Contractor').

1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This WSI sets out the aims and objectives of the evaluation, and the methods and standards that will be employed. It conforms to current best practice, as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' relevant standards and guidance (CIfA 2014a; 2023a–b) and the guidance in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE; Historic England 2015a).

1.2.2 This WSI applies solely to the archaeological evaluation and does not cover any mitigation works. If mitigation is required, a separate WSI will need to be prepared, agreed upon with LHET, and formally submitted to the planning portal before any mitigation work begins.

1.2.3 This document will be submitted to LHET, archaeological advisor to the South Holland District Council, for approval prior to the evaluation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The Site comprises an irregular parcel of land situated in the north-east of the settlement of Spalding, at approximately 4.95 ha. The Site is bounded to the north by Pilgrim's UK and industrial developments, to the east by the A16, to the south by the junction between Low Road and the A16 and to the west by the Coronation Channel.

1.3.2 The Site tapers to the south, bounded by a roundabout where Low Road and the A16 meet. It is currently split into three separate fields, with the hardstanding from the industrial site to the north. The Site is mainly flat varying between 2 m and 4 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.3.3 The geology comprises mudstone of Oxford Clay Formation, with overlying superficial geological deposits of clay and silt tidal flat deposits (BGS 2024).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was presented in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA) (Wessex Archaeology 2024a), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the Site. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations

Geophysical Survey (2025)

2.2.1 In January 2025, Wessex Archaeology undertook a geophysical gradiometer survey of the Site. The survey identified several previously mapped and unmapped agricultural features in the form of field boundaries, drainage, and an area of former coppice and marshland. Two ditches have been detected in the centre of the Sitewhich are possibly the remains of an unmapped former field boundary predating the available OS mapping, or a former drain. A much larger feature has been detected crossing the site north-west to south-east which is potentially a large man-made former drain or a natural channel which has likely been altered and straightened to better drain away excess water. There is, however, the possibility that this is a natural feature.

2.2.2 In the south of the Site the remains of a marshland and two ditches within an area of coppice have been detected, with a former field boundary bordering them to the north. They were recorded on the historical OS mapping and look to have since been infilled with strongly magnetic rubble or waste. A further previously mapped field boundary to the north has also been identified.

2.2.3 Strong variations in the underlying Tidal Flat deposits have been detected across the Site. As former field boundaries and ditches have been detected within the area of Tidal Flat deposits it is felt the survey has been effective. However, due to the strength of these natural

deposits there is the possibility they may be masking or reducing the detectability of weaker anomalies if present.

2.2.4 The remainder of the anomalies pertain to likely modern agricultural features such as informal routeways and drainage.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Designated heritage assets

2.3.1 Within the study area are various listed buildings including a Grade I church (NHLE 1306702) 390 m north of the Site, with the Grade II* buildings of East Elloe (NHLE 1359525), Vicarage (NHLE 1392209), and Willesby (NHLE 1063991) 975 m west, 430 m north, and 980 m west respectively. Two Grade II listed dwellings, Fulney Hall (NHLE 1063984) and 69 and 71 Albion Street (NHLE 1063990) are located 410 m north and 980 m west of the Site.

Non-designated heritage assets

Romano-British

2.3.2 Typically, the Roman road systems avoided the Fen region, except for minor roads designed for exporting the products of the region, especially salt, beef, and leather. There has been a variety of Romano-British features uncovered, primarily in the northern half of the study area, indicating at least a low-level of activity within the area.

2.3.3 As salt was one of the region's largest exports during the period, evidence that salt making possibly occurred nearby was identified 450 m north-east of the Site. A north-east to south-west ditch was uncovered, where the fill contained sherds of 3rd to 4th-century Roman pottery and fragments of burnt clay, thought to be briquetage (a very coarse pottery) typically associated with the process of salt making. Only 225 m north of this Site, further Romano-British features were identified below post Roman silts. Consisting of cut features, a possible ditch or creek was recorded which contained one early 2nd-century shelly ware sherd, another cut feature also held pottery of the 1st to 2nd century.

2.3.4 To the north-east of the Site (790 m) a single grave aligned north – south was identified from the presence of coffin nails and the alignment of the grave. It has been suggested that the burial was Romano-British in date.

2.3.5 As well as the above features there have been six further instances of Roman pottery identified throughout the study area.

Saxon – medieval

2.3.6 During the Saxon period Lincolnshire likely comprised a number of small tribal units, with documentary evidence from the period, the Tribal Hidage, suggesting the presence of the Spalda peoples in Spalding in the early Saxon period. These tribes were later amalgamized to create the region of Middle Anglia, before coming under Mercian control in the 7th century (Albone 2006).

2.3.7 The name Spalding derives from Old English and means a narrow opening or slit, in reference to a topographical feature. The settlement is recorded in the Domesday records as a large prosperous settlement; in 1089 approximately 116 families lived there. Domesday also records a market, saltpans, a wood of alders and 10 fisheries, one of which yielded 1500 eels (Cameron 1998). The historic Anglo-Saxon settlement can be seen within the west of the study area, 960 m from the Site.

2.3.8 By the early 14th century, Spalding had grown to become one of the wealthiest towns in the Lincolnshire Fens, serving as a port and commercial centre for such inland towns such as Stamford, Peterborough, and Bourne (Symonds 1988).

2.3.9 The LHER data indicates that the majority of assets identified from the medieval period within the study area appear to be concentrated within the north-eastern and eastern bounds of Spalding, with further sparse levels of other known medieval activity outside of this.

2.3.10 The medieval activity that has been identified within the study area is broadly comprised of medieval pottery fragments and several medieval field boundaries. Several instances of local industry have been uncovered during at Holbeach Road 550 m north of the site, revealing large-scale crop processing from the 12th century and ironworking from the 13th century to the early post-medieval period. Both of these would have played an important part in the local economy.

2.3.11 During excavations 490 m north of the Site, evidence was uncovered of a small medieval settlement, thought to be in use from the 11th – 14th century. Evidence for this settlement included ditches flanking a trackway and rubbish pits containing a number of finds.

2.3.12 It is likely that during the early medieval to medieval periods the Site sat within the agricultural hinterland of Spalding and its associated smaller settlements.

Post-medieval – 20th century

2.3.13 The importance of Spalding as a port declined as the nearby port of Bicker Haven gradually silted up during the 15th and 16th centuries. However, Spalding was still an important commerce centre during the 17th and 18th centuries, due to its location at the lowest bridging point of the Welland. The river was still navigable to Stamford, and Spalding became a centre for river traffic between the fens of south Lincolnshire, and the uplands in the west.

2.3.14 The river Westlode was also an important feature used to import corn from surrounding villages. The importance of the river systems at Spalding meant that its main rivers, such as the Welland had to be maintained, and in 1743 the River Welland was canalised and deepened. The use of the rivers allowed the town to grow, and this growth in prosperity is apparent in some of the residential properties built during this period, especially between 1750 and 1850. The Grade II listed East Etloe and 69 - 71 Albion Street (NHLE 1359525 & NHLE 1063990) date from this period which saw more and more properties being constructed on the banks of the rivers.

2.3.15 As the settlement continued to thrive, a large number of archaeological features relating to the post-medieval phase of settlement in Spalding have been identified including ditches, drains, cellars, cess pits, walls, and flooring. The historic core of the settlement lies just west of the study area and is broadly represented by the bounds of a Conservation Area.

2.3.16 Evidence of a brick making site as well as general settlement and agricultural activity have also been identified 100 m west of the site off Low Road indicating that the settlement had started expanding towards the Site during this period.

2.3.17 The post-medieval period saw nationwide enclosure of the medieval open field system through parliamentary act or private agreement; however, archival evidence suggests that within the parish of Spalding, the act of enclosure was post-production of the tithe map and

awards. As such, the tithe records could not be located for reference and the earliest available mapping of the site is the First Edition 1888 Ordnance Survey (OS) Map.

2.3.18 The First Edition mapping indicates that at least at the time of the later 19th century, the Site was situated within the wider agricultural landscape to the east of the town. The Site itself was largely part of one parcel of land despite several roads crossing throughout, separating it into five sections. Within the south of the site a small parcel of land can be seen as a mix of coppice and marshland.

2.3.19 By the 1930's the northern section of the Site has been amalgamated into one larger field with the road traversing the site from north-west to south-east following the same route as the present-day field boundary. In the south, the area of marshland is still present separated by a road crossing east to west. By the 1960s the only change within the Site is the removal of the marshland and a further smaller subdivision of field within the most northern extent of the Site. The map also shows that the Coronation Channel to the west had been built by then.

Undated

2.3.20 LiDAR imagery was consulted during the preparation of the DBA (Wessex Archaeology 2024). The LiDAR confirmed the features indicated could be identified on historical mapping, for example, the former lands/roads and field divisions crossing the Site and the area of marshland in the south.

3 GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section provides background information relevant to the possible geoarchaeological resource present.

3.2 Chronology

3.2.1 Geoarchaeological investigations are typically undertaken with reference to geological periods (e.g., Quaternary), epochs (e.g., Pleistocene) and sub-epochs (e.g., Devensian) that reflect major climate sea-level and/or environmental changes. Here we adopt British nomenclature correlated to the Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) record to distinguish between different climatic periods, with dates given in Kya BP (thousands of years before present).

3.2.2 Marine Isotope Stages are deduced from marine palaeoclimatic records and reflect alternating warm (interglacial and interstadial) and cold (glacial and stadial) periods throughout the Quaternary (**Table 1**).

3.2.3 Where age estimates are available these are expressed in millions of years (Mya), thousands of years (Kya) and within the Holocene epoch as either years Before Present (BP), Before Christ (BC) and Anno Domini (AD). These are linked to the global Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) chronological framework.

Table 1 British Quaternary chronostratigraphy

Geological Period	**Chronostratigraphy**		**Age (Kya)**	**MIS**
Holocene	Holocene interglacial		11.7 – present	1
	Devensian	Loch Lomond Stadial	11.7 – 12.9	2 – 5d

Geological Period	Chronostratigraphy		Age (Kya)	MIS
Late Pleistocene	Glaciation	Windermere Interstadial	12.9 – 15	
		Dimlington Stadial	15 – 26	
		Upton Warren Interstadial	40 – 43	
		Early Devensian	60 – 110	
	Ipswichian interglacial		115 – 130	5e
Middle Pleistocene		Unnamed cold stage	130 – 374	6
		Aveley interglacial		7
		Unnamed cold stage		8
		Purfleet interglacial		9
		Unnamed cold stage		10
	Hoxnian interglacial		374 – 424	11
	Anglian glaciation		424 – 478	12
	Cromerian Complex		478 – 780	13 – 19

3.3 Geological and geoarchaeological context

3.3.1 The bedrock geology underlying the Site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS GeoIndex) as the Oxford Clay Formation. This is a fossiliferous siliceous mudstone with argillaceous limestone nodules that formed between 163.5 and 157.3 Mya during the Callovian and Oxfordian stages of the Jurassic period.

3.3.2 The superficial geology is exceptionally thick within the area of Spalding, with rockhead being noted at depths exceeding 20m bgl (below ground level) in archival BGS boreholes within 2.5km of the Site (BGS Geoindex). Rockhead is encountered within Weston Marsh to the north of Spalding at depths between c.25-30m bgl.

3.3.3 To provide a complete understanding of the geoarchaeological significance of Holocene aged superficial deposits in Spalding, a brief overview of the Pleistocene and Holocene stratigraphic sequence of The Fenland Basin (also called *The Fens*) and The Wash will be provided.

3.4 Overarching Geoarchaeological Context of The Fenlands and The Wash

Middle to Late Pleistocene (MIS 12- MIS 2)

3.4.1 The morphological formation of the Fenlands Basin is strongly correlated with past glaciations, with the eventual formation of the Basin being associated with all three major glacial periods in the Pleistocene: the Anglian (MIS 12), the post-Anglian Middle Pleistocene glaciations (formerly termed the Wolstonian Complex) (MIS 10, 8 and 6) and the Devensian (MIS 5d-2). Of these, the late Middle Pleistocene glaciation of MIS 6 (c. 160 Kya) is considered to have had the largest overall impact in producing the modern drainage system and geomorphology of the Fenland Basin, with the greatest growth of the Fenlands Basin being associated with the Tottenhill Ice Lobe, which both directly deposited glacial till as

well as being as being associated with proglacial glaciofluvial and glaciolacustrine deposits in the Fenlands area (Gibbard et al. 2018).

3.4.2 The initial mechanism leading to the formation of the Fenland Basin occurred during the Anglian glaciation (MIS 12 478-424 Kya). The formation was likely forced by sub-glacial fluvial processes forming tunnel valleys, with these valleys then becoming inundated following glacial retreat (Gibbard et al 2018).

3.4.3 Sparse alluvial and marine deposits from the Hoxnian (MIS 11) and Ipswichian (MIS 5e) interglacials suggest that the Fenlands have been a basin since the end of the Anglian glaciation, with the initial, smaller tunnel valleys initially produced during the Anglian period being deepened and expanded by further glacial scour in the middle Pleistocene glaciation, allowing for further marine transgression in the Ipswichian during periods of relative high sea level.

3.4.4 However, due to the lack of remnant deposits from MIS 5e-11 in the Fenlands in addition to glacial scouring in the Devensian the complete depositional history of the interglacial periods in the Fenland Basin is poorly understood. The area does appear to have a complex history of marine transgression and regression forced by climatic sea level changes much like the Holocene, albeit over a smaller area as the Fenlands Basin was continuously expanding in each subsequent glacial period following the Anglian (Gibbard et al. 2018).

3.4.5 It is suggested that some glaciogenic moraine deposits on the coastline in northern Norfolk and eastern Wash may be attributed to the post Anglian late Middle Pleistocene glaciations, with OSL (Optically Stimulated Luminescence) dating performed on the Stiffkey moraine suggesting a MIS 6 age (Evans et al. 2018); the Tottenhill Ice Lobe was otherwise constrained to the Fenlands Basin within the East Anglia region.

3.4.6 Rockhead in the Fenlands Basin is notably lower than in the adjacent areas, with rockhead in the north-eastern basin adjacent to The Wash recorded at depths of -20m OD, with a maximum depth of -24m OD being recorded in a depression associated with the south-west north-east aligned Ouse-Nene palaeovalley (Brew et al. 2000). Bedrock in the area of Site are associated with the fossiliferous mudstones of the Ancholme Group, whereas the adjacent bedrocks to the east and west are chalk and oolitic limestone respectively; the far eastern and western margins of the Fenlands line up approximately at these lithological boundaries, suggesting a preferential glacial pathway for the more fissile mudstones over more resistant limestone and chalks.

3.4.7 Holocene sediment thicknesses of up to 28m have been recorded overlying glaciogenic deposits generally associated with the Devensian or Anglian (MIS 12) glacial periods, with the former generally being associated with the proglacial glaciolacustrine deposits of the North Sea Ice Lobe and the latter with the Albion Glaciogenic Group (Britice, BGS Geoindex, Evans et al. 2019). However, thicknesses are typically not this high, with a general thickness of less than 6m being encountered for the mud facies and up to 10m for the sand facies (see section 2.6) (Brew et al. 2000).

3.5 Holocene (MIS 1)

3.5.1 Brew et al (2000) split the Holocene sedimentary sequence of The Fenlands into four discrete lithofacies:

- Intertidal mud;
- Intertidal sand;

- Riverine alluvium, and;
- Peat.

3.5.2 Of these, the intertidal mud and intertidal sands are associated with areas mapped by the BGS as tidal flat alluvium, (BGS Geoindex). Riverine alluvium facies are associated with the modern course of the rivers draining into The Wash and will not be expanded on further in this background.

Intertidal Mud

3.5.3 The intertidal mud facies are described as a variably blueish grey to greyish brown sandy clay with interbedded organic layers in Brew et al. 2000 associated with low energy mudflat, shallow marine and saltmarsh environment.

Intertidal Sand

3.5.4 The intertidal sand facies are described as being a well sorted clean fine sand with subordinate beds of silty sand by Brew et al. (2000), with the sand being generally comprised of quartz with uncommon feldspar. The facies east of the River Nene is noted to contain erosional facies with bands of organic material, sands and gravels and silts. The sand facies as a whole across the Fenland Basin is normally graded and fines up-sequence, with silts being identified readily at surface.

3.5.5 The intertidal sand facies have been suggested to have eroded away and replaced priorly deposited mud and peat facies in the northern and central Fenland Basin, with this process being controlled by channel migration (Brew 1997, Brew et al. 2000). The intertidal sands are associated with sandflats, tidal channel, estuarine and subtidal settings.

Peat

3.5.6 Peat comprises the partially decomposed organic matter preserved within waterlogged oxygen-free (anaerobic) conditions. Peat is recorded interbedded within the intertidal mud facies locally across The Fenland Basin and also within the intertidal sand as localised lenses or layers, though this is more uncommon.

3.5.7 The basal peats that denote the earliest accumulations of peat vary in date throughout the Fenlands, ranging from approximately 8 Kya to 3.8 Kya (Brew et al. 2000). The distribution of the basal peat in the central Fenlands is patchy and discontinuous, being generally confined to the western and southern margin of the Fenlands where thicker long-lived peats were able to accumulate free from repeated marine inundation (Waller 1994, Brew et al. 2000).

3.5.8 The uppermost interbedded peats between 2 and -2mOD are referred to by the BGS as the Nordelph Peat, though the naming of the peat as such is considered contentious by Wheeler and Waller (1995) and Brew et al. (2000) due to the insinuation that the Nordelph Peat unit is associated with a singular event and restricted location, rather than a unit formed over several phases of transgression and regression over the breadth of the Fenlands. The base of these upper peats is of variable date, deposited between 4.4 Kya and 2 Kya depending on location, with these peats accumulating in the south and east (4.4-3.9kya) of the Fenlands before the north and west (3.65-3.05 Kya). The accumulation of the upper peat terminated due to marine transgression approximately 2.8 Kya in the western Fenlands and by 1.95 Kya latest in the south-eastern Fenlands (Brew et al. 2000).

Human impact on the Fenlands

3.5.9 The Fenlands was systematically drained from the 17th century onwards; before this time, the Fenlands were inundated with water seasonally, generally within the winter, despite drainage attempts being performed in the area since the Roman period. Due to this drainage, the peat of the Fenlands has shrunk, causing widespread land subsidence; this subsidence can be seen prominently at the Holme Fen Posts, the lowest lying point in Great Britain. Whittlesey Mere in modern day Cambridgeshire was the last remaining mere following this drainage, with the mere being completely drained by 1851.

3.5.10 Due to the shrinkage of the surrounding surficial peat, roddons, which are alluvial palaeochannel deposits formed of silts and clays, now stand proud of the landscape of the Fenlands. Structures within the Fenlands are preferentially constructed upon roddons due to peat being a poor foundational material. Several areas of higher ground that are still referred to as *islands* despite being surrounded by dry land in the modern day were true islands that required access via boat prior to the draining of the Fenlands. The most significant of these islands is the Isle of Ely.

3.5.11 Due to the generalised subsidence of the Fenlands the entire region is at high risk of being flooded due to climate change forced sea level rise, with a significant percentage of the region lying under sea level.

Heritage resource of the Fenlands

3.5.12 Several sites of significance are associated with The Fenlands, including the Bronze Age sites at Flag Fen and Must Farm to the east of Peterborough, the Roman Car Dyke from Lincoln to Fengate and The “Fen Five” monastic sites (Ely Cathedral, Thorne Abbey, Croyland Abbey, Ramsey Abbey and Peterborough Cathedral). Of these, the Bronze Age resource is most associated with the peat deposits, with this resource being generally concentrated to the continuous peat deposits to the edges of the Fenlands rather than within the interbedded saltmarsh peat layers of the central Fenland adjacent to the Wash where the Site is located.

3.5.13 As peat has been noted to have been accumulating at earliest from 8 Kya in the western and southern margins of the Fenlands (Brew et al. 2000), there is the possibility of the archaeological resource extending back to the Mesolithic within marginal peat deposits.

3.6 Site specific geology

3.6.1 BGS mapping suggests the following Quaternary deposits may be present in the Site:

- Tidal flat deposits (Holocene)
    - Peat/organic-rich sediment (Holocene)
    - Basal Gravels (?Early Holocene/Late Devensian)
- Glacial till (Pleistocene, ?MIS 6-12)

3.6.2 Of these, only tidal flat deposits are expected to be encountered during the archaeological and geoarchaeological works.

Tidal flat deposits and associated organic and peat deposits

3.6.3 Tidal flat deposits are expected to be the dominant superficial deposit encountered upon the Site and are expected to be composed of silty clays, silty fine sands and fine sands,

with the tidal flat deposits becoming coarser with depth. Tidal flat deposits are frequently banded, laminated, lenticular or display flaser beds, with such structures being associated with rhythmite systems such as waves and tides. The tidal flat deposits as seen within the area at surface are attributed to the Intertidal Mud facies (see **Section 3.5**).

3.6.4 Organic or carbonaceous bands and laminae may be present, but these are of low geoarchaeological and paleoenvironmental potential due to the possible wide provenance of the organic material. Shell and shell fragments are expected to be encountered infrequently.

3.6.5 Roddon deposits are not expected within the Site at the depth of the sondages (see **Section 3.5.11**). No buried soil horizons were identified within archival BGS records within a 2.5km radius of the Site, but may be present in localised areas; such deposits are of geoarchaeological interest for understanding the evolution of the Fenlands Basin in the Late Holocene.

3.6.6 Interbedded peats have been identified in the vicinity of the Site, with archive BGS borehole TF22SE21 recording two discrete interbedded peat layers between 7.01 and 7.32m bgl and 9.45m and 10.06m bgl. A basal peat was identified in TF22SE4 between 11.50 and 11.95m bgl, with this peat transitioning into a peaty clay between 11.95 and 12.15m bgl.

3.6.7 Peat is of high geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential; dating such deposits can provide a greater insight of the evolution of the Fenlands area over the Holocene.

Basal gravel

3.6.8 A basal gravel attributed tentatively to the earliest Holocene or latest Devensian is described in multiple archival BGS boreholes within 2.5 km of the Site and is described as a flint rich sandy gravel with sporadic shell inclusions of bivalve (BGS Geoindex). The depositional environment of this deposit is unclear, but it is considered likely to be a high-energy fluvial coastal deposit, possibly a storm beach or barrier gravel. The top of the basal gravel is generally encountered c. 13.50-15.00m bgl.

3.6.9 The possibility of the basal gravel being an outwash gravel of the Devensian (MIS 2) North Sea Ice Lobe is also considered, but is considered less likely due to the presence of shell within the unit. The unit is classed as part of the tidal flat deposit by the BGS (BGS Geoindex).

3.6.10 The basal gravel is of low paleoenvironmental potential but is of moderate geoarchaeological interest for providing an understanding of the evolution of the Fenland Basin following the retreat of the North Sea Ice Lobe.

Glacial till

3.6.11 Glacial till is extant within the Site, but is not expected to be encountered at depths shallower than c.14.50m bgl from archival BGS boreholes in the vicinity of the Site (BGS Geoindex). The glacial till within the area of Spalding is described as a stiff chalky-flinty blueish to brownish grey clay; the till is not attributed to a specific formation but is distinctly similar to the Anglian-aged Oadby Till and Lowestoft Till, tills of north-eastern and eastern provenance respectively. The glacial till may also be correlated with the mid-Pleistocene (MIS 6-10) Tottenhill Ice Lobe (see **Section 3.4**).

3.6.12 Glacial till is expected to be directly overlying Oxford Clay bedrock within the Site, with rockhead projected to be at a depth c.20-25m bgl (BGS Geoindex).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Aims

4.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation are to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the Site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required, or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource) or management strategy.

4.2 General objectives

4.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives are to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, geoarchaeological context, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the Site by reporting on the results.

4.3 Site-specific objectives

4.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the Site and the regional research framework (East Midlands Regional Research Framework), the site-specific objectives are to:

- test the results of the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2025);
- examine evidence for remains of post-medieval field boundaries (known from historic maps) and assess if this has impacted on any earlier remains.

5 FIELDWORK METHODS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Compliance with health and safety regulations and requirements will take priority over archaeological considerations in all works.

5.1.2 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within this WSI. Any significant variations to these methods will be agreed in writing with LHET and the Client prior to being implemented.

5.1.3 The evaluation will comprise the excavation, investigation and recording of nine trial trenches (each measuring 50 m by 2 m) plus 1% contingency (1 trench).

5.1.4 An accession code has been obtained in advance of the fieldwork (LCNCC: 2025.64). The Museum Site Code is SDG25.

5.2 Setting out of the trenches

5.2.1 All trenches will be set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) or Total Station Theodolite (TST) in the approximate positions shown in **Figure 1**. Minor adjustments to the layout may be required to take account of constraints such as vegetation or located services, and to allow for machine manoeuvring. The trench locations will be tied into the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid and Ordnance Datum (OD) (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15.

5.3 Service location and other constraints

5.3.1 The Client will provide information regarding the presence of any below/above-ground services, and any ecological, environmental or other constraints.

5.3.2 Before excavation begins, the evaluation area will be walked over and visually inspected to identify, where possible, the location of any below/above-ground services. All trial trench locations will be scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to verify the absence of any live underground services.

5.4 Excavation methods

5.4.1 The trenches will be excavated using a 360º tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation will be under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation will proceed in level spits of approximately 50–200 mm until the upper-most archaeological horizon or geological substrate is exposed. Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits will be cleaned by hand.

5.4.2 The trenches will be excavated to a maximum safe working depth. Beyond this safe working depth or when required, provision following the current H&S regulations will be made for safe excavation (shoring/stepping) as well as water management. This is in order to expose the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon (Lincs Archaeological handbook 10.9.1). Provision for safe deep excavation (shoring/stepping) and water management to meet the requirements of Section 9.3 Health and Safety. All archaeological investigations must include provisions for effective water management to prevent obstruction of proper recording due to water accumulation. The WSI must explicitly state measures such as baling, pumping, or excavation of sumps where necessary. Deep features will be excavated according to safe working methods detailed in the FAME Manual of Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2010) (see paragraph 4.7.4). Machine assistance may be required (with the approval of LHET for the excavation of very large/deep features.

5.4.3 All potentially archaeological features must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with LHER. Investigation slots through all linear features will be no less than 1m in width. Discrete features will be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants where they are large or found to be deep. Sections through linear features will be excavated at approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis to provide a cross-section profile. Cross sections will be cut vertically and cleaned by hand in order to enhance the definition of stratigraphic sequences. Intersecting features will be investigated to determine the relationship between them. The full section evidence will be shown of trenches, e.g. for sections at trench edges, the vertical sequence to the top of the plough or topsoil should be cleaned to establish the presence/absence of vestigial old land surface soils and other stratified deposits, photographed, drawn and discussed in the report. As a minimum 1 m wide representative section will be cleaned and recorded in each trench. Structural remains will be excavated in sufficient detail to allow meaningful characterisation.

5.4.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavation will be visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval and, where appropriate, will also be metal-detected by trained archaeologists. Finds will be collected and bagged by context.

5.4.5 If human remains are uncovered, the specific methods outlined below (section 4.9) will be followed.

5.4.6 Where modern features are seen to truncate the archaeological stratification, these may be removed, where practicable, in a manner that does not damage the surrounding deposits to enable the depth of stratification to be assessed.

5.5 Geoarchaeological sondages

5.5.1 The geoarchaeological sondages will be excavated in the one end of each archaeological trial trenches using 14 tonne 360º mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation will be under the constant supervision and instruction of the geoarchaeological specialist, who will record and number the sequence of sedimentary units as excavation progresses following standard descriptive practices. The textural characteristics (grain-size, consolidation, colour, material and sedimentary structures) of sedimentary units will be recorded, and the shape and nature of their lithostratigraphic contacts (dip, conformity and overall geometry).

5.5.2 The excavation of each sondage will be performed once any archaeological features encountered within the trial trench have been excavated and recorded. The location of the sondages will be selected as to provide the widest survey possible within the trial trenches.

5.5.3 Machine excavation will proceed in level spits of approximately 50 mm, respecting the interface between sedimentary units to a depth up to 4.00m or until further excavation becomes impractical (i.e. excessive water ingress or structural failure).

5.5.4 Bedrock will not be encountered in the sondages; rockhead is noted to be at a depth exceeding 20m in nearby archive BGS records (BGS Geoindex).

5.5.5 Sondages will be entered at the maximum safe depth (usually *c*. 1.20 m, but less if loose sands/gravel are present) to record the upper stratigraphy. After excavation has progressed beyond this depth, recording will typically take place without entering the sondages.

5.5.6 If any archaeological features are identified in deposits overlying or cut into the Quaternary stratigraphy, they may be either excavated and recorded (in agreement with the County Archaeologist and the Client) or the location of the sondage moved to avoid disturbance.

5.5.7 Where modern features are seen to truncate the geoarchaeological deposits, these may be removed, where practicable.

5.6 Recording

5.6.1 All exposed and investigated archaeological deposits and features will be recorded using the Archaeological Contractors pro forma recording system.

5.6.2 A complete record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be made. This will include plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections) and tied to the OS National Grid.

5.6.3 A full photographic record will be made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. This will record the detail and general context of the principal features and the site. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Photographs will also be taken of all areas, including access routes, to provide a record of conditions prior to and on completion of the evaluation.

5.7 Survey

5.7.1 The real time kinematic (RTK) survey of all trenches and features will be carried out using a Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data will be recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

5.8 Monitoring

5.8.1 The Client and/or the Archaeological Contractor will inform LHET of the start of the evaluation with at least 10 working days as per the Lincs Archaeological Handbook (Section 18.4.2) its progress. LHET will have free access to the site (subject to Health and Safety considerations) and all records to ensure the works are being carried out in accordance with this WSI and all other relevant standards. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, will be agreed in advance with the Client and LHET.

5.9 Reinstatement

5.9.1 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the Client and LHET will be backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated. No mechanical excavators, earthmoving or other vehicles are permitted to travel within any excavated trench until it has been signed off by LHET. Unless safety considerations require otherwise, no backfilling of trenches will take place until LHET has visited the site and confirmed that the evaluation has been carried out to an acceptable standard.

5.10 Finds

General

5.10.1 All archaeological finds will be retained, although those of clearly very recent origin with negligible potential to provide information relevant to the project aims and objectives may be recorded on site and not retained subject to prior written agreement with LHET. Where appropriate, and subject to prior written agreement with LHET soil samples may be taken and sieved to aid in finds recovery. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

Human remains

5.10.2 In the event of discovery of any human remains (articulated or disarticulated, cremated or unburnt), all excavation of the deposit(s) will cease pending the Archaeological Contractor obtaining a Ministry of Justice licence (this includes cases where remains are to be left *in situ*).

5.10.3 Initially the remains will be left *in situ,* covered and protected, pending discussions between the Client, the Archaeological Contractor's osteoarchaeologist and LHET regarding the need for excavation/removal or sampling. Where this is deemed appropriate, the human remains will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from site in compliance with the Ministry of Justice licence.

5.10.4 Excavation and post-excavation processing of human remains will be in accordance with the Archaeological Contractor's protocols and in-line with current guidance documents (e.g., McKinley 2013) as well as the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken if required.

5.10.5 The final deposition of human remains subsequent to the appropriate level of osteological analysis and other specialist sampling/examinations will follow the requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice licence.

Treasure

5.10.6 The Archaeological Contractor will immediately notify the Client and LHET on discovery of any material covered, or potentially covered, by the *Treasure Act 1996*. All information required by the Act (i.e., finder, location, material, date, associated items etc.) will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.

5.11 Environmental sampling

5.11.1 Where necessary the advice of the Environmental Specialist or 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.

5.11.2 All sampling should adhere to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011; Historic England 2015b). This will be implemented in consultation and written agreement with LHET.

5.11.3 Bulk environmental soil samples, for the recovery of plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, small animal bones and other small artefacts, will be taken as appropriate from well-sealed and dateable contexts. In general, features directly associated with particular activities (e.g., pits, latrines, cesspits, hearths, ovens, kilns and crop driers) should be prioritised for sampling over features, such as ditches or postholes, that are likely to contain reworked and residual material.

5.11.4 If waterlogged or mineralised deposits are encountered, an appropriate environmental sampling strategy will be agreed with LHET. Specialist guidance will be provided by the Archaeological Contractor's geoarchaeological and environmental team, with site visits undertaken if required.

5.11.5 Any samples will be of an appropriate size – typically 40 litres for the recovery of environmental evidence from dry contexts, and 10 litres from waterlogged deposits.

5.11.6 Following specialist advice, other sampling methods such as monolith, Kubiena or contiguous small bulk (column) samples may be employed to enable investigation of deposits with regard to microfossils (e.g., pollen, diatoms) and macrofossils (e.g., molluscs, insects), soil micromorphological or soil chemical analyses.

6 POST-EXCAVATION METHODS AND REPORTING

6.1 Stratigraphic evidence

6.1.1 All written and drawn records, and surveyed data from the evaluation will be collated and checked for consistency. Key data will be transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any future analyses. The preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits will be undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from finds, particularly pottery, and any other relevant information.

6.1.2 A written description will be made of all archaeologically significant features and deposits that were exposed and excavated, ordered by trench, site subdivision and/or period/phase as appropriate. Detail of all contexts will be provided in trench tables in an appendix to the report.

6.2 Finds evidence

6.2.1 All retained finds will, as a minimum, be cleaned, weighed, counted and identified. They will then be recorded to a level appropriate to the aims and objectives of the project. Recording and reporting will conform to the Type 2 (Appraisal) level according to the CIfA (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*, to include appropriate quantification, characterisation and assessment of significance and potential. The report will include a table of finds by feature/context or trench.

6.2.2 Metalwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and, along with other fragile and delicate materials, stored in a stable environment. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by suitably qualified and approved conservation staff.

6.2.3 Finds will be suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidance given by The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire (2012) and CIfA (2014b).

6.3 Environmental evidence

6.3.1 Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by standard flotation methods. The residues will be fractionated into 5.6/4 mm and 1/0.5 mm and dried if necessary. The coarse residue fraction (>5.6/4 mm), and the fine fraction when appropriate, will be sorted and discarded, with any finds recovered given to the appropriate specialist. The flot will be retained on a 0.25 mm mesh and scanned to assess the range of environmental remains present and their preservation. Unsorted fine residues will be retained until after any analyses and discarded following final reporting (in accordance with the Selection policy, below).

6.3.2 In the case of samples from cremation-related deposits the flots will be retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, with residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm. In the case of samples from inhumation burial deposits, the sample will be wet-sieved through 9.5 mm and 1 mm mesh sizes. The coarse fractions (9.5 mm) will be sorted with any finds recovered given to the appropriate specialist together with the finer residues.

6.3.3 Any waterlogged samples will be processed by standard waterlogged flotation methods.

6.3.4 Recording and reporting will conform to the Type 2 (Appraisal) level according to the CIfA (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*, to include appropriate quantification, characterisation and assessment of significance and potential.

6.4 Reporting

General

6.4.1 Following completion of the fieldwork and the evaluation of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental evidence, a draft report will be prepared in general accordance with relevant guidance (CIfA 2023b). The draft report will be submitted for approval to the Client and LHET for comment. Once approved, a final version will be submitted.

6.4.2 The report will include the following elements:

- Non-technical summary;

- Project background;
- Archaeological and historical context;
- Aims and objectives;
- Methods;
- Results – stratigraphic (Harris) matrix/diagram to report content, finds and environmental;
- Conclusions in relation to the project aims and objectives, and discussion in relation to the wider local, regional or other archaeological contexts and research frameworks etc;
- Archive preparation and deposition arrangements;
- Appendices, including trench summary tables;
- Illustrations; and
- References.

6.4.3 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the HER, along with surveyed spatial digital data (.dxf or shapefile format).

Publication

6.4.4 If no further mitigation works are undertaken, a short report on the results will be prepared for publication in a suitable journal, if considered appropriate and agreed with the Client and LHET.

OASIS

6.4.5 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigation) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) will be created, with key fields completed, and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

7 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive be deposited with The Lincoln Museum in Lincolnshire. Provision should be made for long-term storage in the post-fieldwork costs. The museum will receive notification of the project prior to fieldwork commencing. An accession number has been obtained (LCNCC: 2025.64).

7.2 Transfer of title

7.2.1 The legal owner of any finds recovered (i.e., the landowner), with the exception of human remains and any objects covered by the *Treasure Act 1996*, will be contacted to request transfer of their ownership to the museum via a written agreement.

7.3 Preparation of archive

Physical archive

7.3.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Lincoln Museum in Lincolnshire, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014b; SMA 1995). The

archive will usually be deposited within one year of completion of the project, with the agreement of the client.

Digital archive

7.3.2 The digital archive will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

7.4 Selection strategy

7.4.1 It is widely accepted that not all records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of future researchers and the receiving museum.

7.4.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, will be underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; the Archaeological Contractor's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's (n.d. b) *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (the Archaeological Contractor's specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

7.4.3 In this instance, given that the level of finds recovery is expected to be relatively low, decisions on selection will be deferred until after the fieldwork, and no detailed strategy is presented here. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by the Archaeological Contractor.

7.5 Security copy

7.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared in the form of a digital PDF/A file.

8 COPYRIGHT

8.1 Archive and report copyright

8.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by the Archaeological Contractor under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

8.1.2 Digital copies of the final report will be made available to the Historic Environment Record (HER) through OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations). Geospatial/survey data forming part of the digital archive will be supplied, on request, to the HER.

8.2 Third party data copyright

8.2.1 This document may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

9 ARCHAEOLOGY PROCEDURES

9.1 External quality standards

9.1.1 The appointed Archaeological Contractor should be registered as an archaeological organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and fully endorse its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014c) and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA 2019). All staff directly employed or subcontracted by the Archaeological Contractor will be of a standard approved by the Archaeological Contractor, and archaeological staff will be employed in line with the CIfA codes of practice and will normally be members of the CIfA.

9.2 Personnel

9.2.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by an experienced archaeologist from the Archaeological Contractor's core staff. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by one of the Archaeological Contractor’s project managers, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. Where required, monitoring visits may also be undertaken by the Archaeological Contractor's Health and Safety manager.

9.2.2 The assessment of any finds and environmental data will be undertaken by the Archaeological Contractor's core staff or external specialists, using their standard methods, under the supervision of the departmental managers and the overall direction of the project manager. A complete list of specialists should be provided to LHET by the Archaeological Contractor before the commencement of the evaluation.

9.3 Health and safety

9.3.1 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*; the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999* and all other applicable health and safety legislation.

9.4 Insurance

9.4.1 The Archaeological Contractor should hold Employers Liability, Public Liability and Professional Indemnity policies, the details of which should be provided to the Client prior to commencement of the evaluation.

REFERENCES

ADS 2013. *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*. Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice.

British Geological Survey 2024. *BGS Geology Viewer* https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/ (accessed 28/03/2025).

Brown, D. H. 2011. *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (revised edition). Archaeological Archives Forum.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2014a (revised October 2020). *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Reading: CIfA.

CIfA 2014b (revised October 2020). *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Reading: CIfA.

CIfA 2014c (revised October 2022). *Code of Conduct*. Reading: CIfA.

CIfA 2019 (revised July 2021). *Regulations for Professional Conduct*. Reading: CIfA.

CIfA 2023a. *Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Reading: CIfA.

CIfA 2023b. *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Reading: CIfA.

CIfA n.d. a. *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit (accessed 10/12/2023).

CIfA n.d. b. *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit (accessed 10/12/2023).

English Heritage 2011. *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd edition). Portsmouth: English Heritage.

Historic England 2015a. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: the MoRPHE project managers' guide*. Swindon: Historic England.

Historic England 2015b. *Geoarchaeology. Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record*. Swindon: Historic England.

Lincolnshire Historic Places Team 2019 (revised 2024). *Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook*. Lincoln: Lincolnshire County Council.

McKinley, J. I. 2013. 'Cremation: excavation, analysis and interpretation of material from cremation-related contexts', in Tarlow, S. and Nilsson Stutz, L. (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Death and Burial*, 147–71. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

McKinley, J. I. and Roberts, C. 1993. *Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains.* Reading: CIfA Technical Paper 13.

SMA 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*. London: Society of Museum Archaeologists.

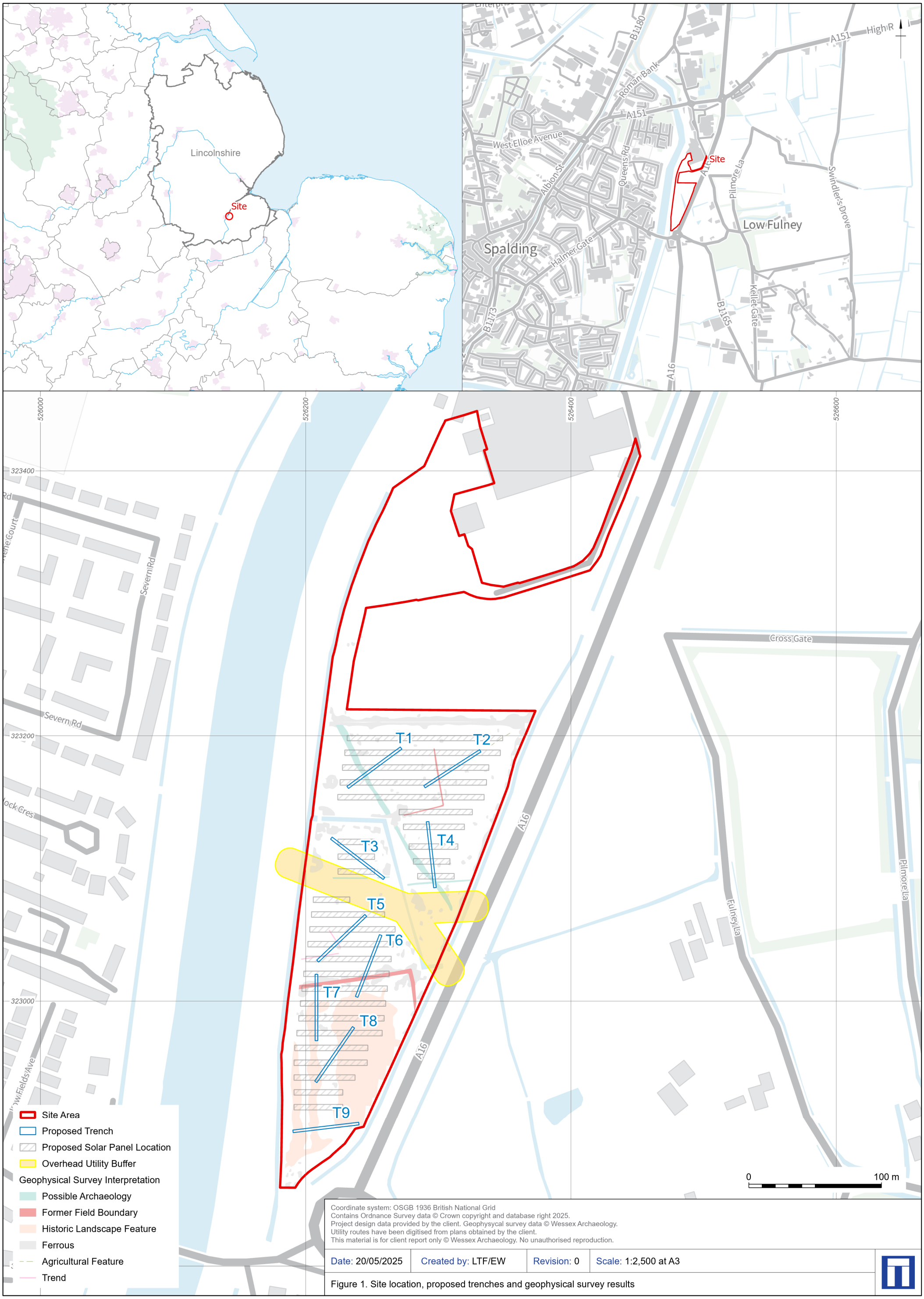
SMA 1995. *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*. London: Society of Museum Archaeologists.

The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire 2012. *Archaeological Archives Deposition Guidelines*

Watkinson, D. and Neal, V. 1998. *First Aid for Finds: practical guide for archaeologists*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works.

Wessex Archaeology 2024. *Spalding Solar, Spalding Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment*. Sheffield: unpublished report, ref. 268221

Wessex Archaeology 2025. *Spalding Solar, Spalding, Lincolnshire, Magnetic Gradiometer Survey Report.* Sheffield: unpublished report, ref. 268222



Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2025.
Project design data provided by the client. Geophysycal survey data © Wessex Archaeology.
Utility routes have been digitised from plans obtained by the client.
This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date: 20/05/2025	Created by: LTF/EW	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:2,500 at A3

Figure 1. Site location, proposed trenches and geophysical survey results

X:\Projects\278521\Geomatics\Setup\278521_setup.aprx



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, No. 1712772 and is a Registered Charity in England and Wales, No. 287786;
and in Scotland, Scottish Charity No. SC042630. Registered Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6EB.