ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

HERITAGE CONSULTANCY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT:
SUNNYDALE CLOSE
SURFLEET
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SUSC20)

Prepared For
ASHWOOD HOMES

Report Compiled by
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National Grid Reference: TF 2525 2795



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1. SUMMARY

A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of a proposed housing development on land east of Sunnydale Close, Surfleet, Lincolnshire.

There are no prehistoric, Roman (AD 43-410) or Saxon (AD 410-1066) remains within the assessment area. However, the village of Surfleet is thought to have been founded during the Saxon period and documentary evidence records the presence of two salt-making sites prior to 1086.

During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540), the site was used for the production of salt, as evidenced by the discovery of burnt silt and fire residues identified during previous archaeological evaluation of the site.

In the post-medieval period (AD 1540-1900) the site was likely converted to fields following the drainage of the fens.

During the modern period the fields that comprised the site were amalgamated into a single parcel.

A site visit did not identify any artefacts visible on the land surface. Slight rises in the landscape indicate the presence of a bank and the medieval salt production site.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Desk-Based Assessment

An archaeological desk-based assessment is defined as an '*assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate*' (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Ashwood Homes to undertake a desk-based assessment of land to the east of Sunnydale Close, Surfleet, Lincolnshire. The assessment was requested in support of a proposed housing development.

2.3 Site Location

Surfleet is located 5.5km north of Spalding and 17.5km southwest of Boston in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The site lies within Surfleet, approximately 300m south of the River Glen, at National Grid Reference TF 2520 2794 (Fig. 2).

2.4 Geology and Topography

Local soils are of the Romney Series, typically coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26). These soils are developed on tidal flat deposits of clay and silt which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).

The site occupies approximately 3.1ha on generally level ground. Heights are in the region of 5m AOD, with a slight rise towards the northeast corner.

3. AIMS

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to obtain information about the known and potential archaeological resource of the assessment area. In addition to the above, statutory and advisory heritage constraints are identified.

4. METHODS

In the following text, the term *Site* refers to the limits of the application site and the *Assessment Area* comprises an area of 1km radius from the centre of the application site.

The research undertaken in the compilation of this archaeological desk-based assessment involved the examination of all available sources relevant to the Site and the immediate surrounding area. These sources consisted of:

- Historical documents, held in the Lincolnshire Archives.
- Enclosure and other maps and plans held in the Lincolnshire Archives.
- Recent and early edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.
- The Historic Environment Record, located at Lincolnshire County Council.
- Archaeological and historical books and journals.
- Aerial photographs
- Lidar data
- Previous archaeological work conducted at the Site, comprising a geophysical survey and evaluation trenches.

A full list of the sources is contained within the bibliography.

This research was supplemented by a walkover survey of the Site, undertaken to assess the current ground conditions and land-use patterns and to ascertain the presence of any surface finds of an archaeological character, and of features that might indicate the presence of archaeological remains.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical Data

Surfleet is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c*. 1086 where it is referred to as *Suerefelt*. The name is derived from the Old English and means 'the sour (*sūr*) creek or inlet' (Cameron 1998, 120).

At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by Heppo the Arblaster who was Lord and Tenant in Chief. There were 17 households and land for four and a half ploughs. Mention is also made of two salt-production sites (Foster and Longley 1976).

Around Surfleet areas of land were enclosed behind banks to reclaim it from the sea and the fen. The main sea-bank is pre-Conquest in origin. Salt production, due to the methods used, took place exclusively on the outsides of the sea-banks (Hallam 1954).

Surfleet was enclosed in 1777 and by 1856 it had a population of 945 (White 1856, 812-813).

5.2 Cartographic Data

The 1778 enclosure award plan of Surfleet and the 1846 tithe apportionment map do not cover the Site. Maps of the River Welland and Glen dating to 1776 similarly do not extend to include the Site, although they show that the site was nestled between two sea banks, one along the River Glen (to the north) and the other along Spalding Road (to the west).

Bryant's County Map of Lincolnshire, published in 1828, shows the entire village but at a scale too small for many details (Plate 1). It suggests that at this date there were no buildings on the Site.

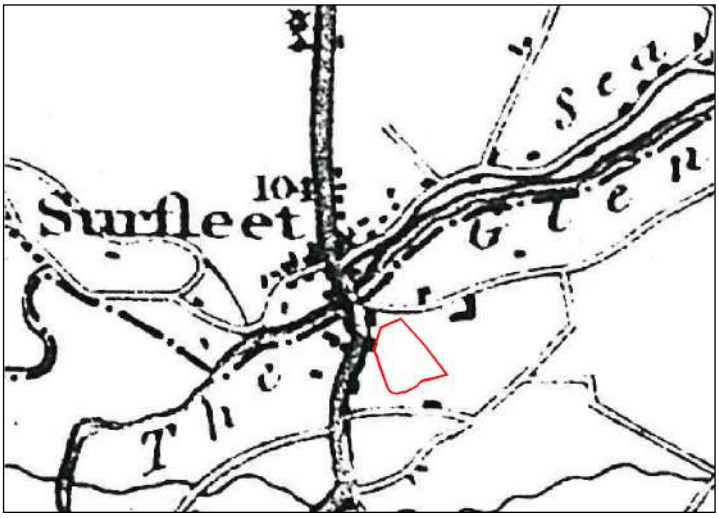


Plate 1. Extract from Byrant's County Map of Lincolnshire 1828. The approximate location of the Site is shown in red.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" map from 1887 is the first known map to show the Site in any detail. At this time the Site partially occupied two fields (Fig. 3a). The larger, western field contained three footpaths, which suggest it was pasture. The same situation is shown on the 1903 edition.

The 1951 edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" map shows that the field division had been removed, although the area was otherwise the same (Fig. 3b). The footpaths cease to be illustrated on the 1973 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map and the residential housing adjacent to the Site is first depicted on this map. Sunnydale Close would be constructed towards the end of the 20th century.

5.3 Aerial photographic and lidar data

Aerial photographs obtained from Google Earth and Cambridge Air Photos did not reveal any features on the Site.

The lidar data indicates three likely features: an east-west aligned ditch; a northeast-southwest aligned bank; and a small mound within the northwest limit of the Site (Fig. 4). The ditch is likely to be a superficial modern agricultural feature which aerial photographs show was in use from 2005-6. The bank may be an unrecorded field boundary. The hill is likely to be associated with a mound of waste material from salt-making, as this was the area of the Site in which salt making residues have been found.

The mound visible on lidar is similar to salt-mounds recorded to the east, just outside the assessment area. Here a chain of mounds are visible extending along a sea bank north towards the River Glen (Fig. 5). A second possible set of salt mounds, not listed in the HER, extends northeast from the Site, along be south bank of the River Glen (Parker 2016, 5), implying the salt-making at the Site was at the terminal end of an extensive salt production industry.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds within the assessment area are held at the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER). Table 1 at the end of this text summarises the available records and Figure 6 shows the entries' locations. The numbers in brackets (No. 1) in the following discussion references these entries.

Prehistoric
No prehistoric entries are recorded for the assessment area.

Romano-British
No Roman entries are recorded for the assessment area.

Saxon
No Saxon entries are recorded for the assessment area.

Medieval
Less than 30m west of the Site is the historical core of Surfleet, which has been occupied since at least the 10th century (No. 1). A scatter of medieval pottery has been discovered on the periphery of the village, some 330m northwest of the Site (No. 2), while within the village is the church of St Laurence (No. 3). The church is a grade I Listed Building (List no. 1064403) and the earliest parts are thought to date to the 13th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 729).

Elements of medieval salt-making were revealed on the Site itself during an archaeological evaluation (Parker 2016). These included deposits rich in burnt silt and ash (No. 4). Pottery dating from between the mid 11th to early 13th century was found above and below the burnt deposits and a nearby pit containing pottery dating to the 11th to 12th century was also discovered (No. 5). Additionally, located on the site was a palaeochannel that contained pottery dating to the 13th and 14th century in its upper fills, perhaps indicating that the inlet that made it a favourable spot for salt making had silted up before the end of the medieval period (No. 6).

As noted above, lidar data suggests that the salt production taking place on the Site represented the southwestern extent of a series of production sites alongside the River Glen, and these were themselves perhaps a small off-shoot of the extensive salt making industry to the east.

Post-medieval
The location of several village amenities that date to the post-medieval period are known, including a Windmill (No. 7), a possible brick making site (No. 8) and a former Methodists chapel (No. 9).

Two post-medieval features near the site identified archaeologically include a cess pit revealed 80m northwest of the Site (No. 10) and a ditch 160m northwest of the Site (No. 11).

A Grade II Listed 18th century building, known as the Cottage Farmhouse (List no. 1064435) is 460m southwest of the Site (No. 12).

There are seven known 19th century farmsteads within the assessment area (Nos. 13-19). The closest to the Site is 90m west and is unnamed (No. 14)

The Portable Antiquity database was consulted, but the only finds noted from the vicinity of the assessment area comprised post-medieval pieces of metalwork of a typical domestic nature (buttons, buckles and small denomination coins, etc).

Modern
The only modern entry in the HER is the Surfleet war memorial (No. 20), which lies 220m north of the site.

Undated
An undated pit was recorded during the evaluation on the Site (Parker 2016) (No. 21).

Previous archaeological interventions
There have been two prior pieces of archaeological work conducted on the western half of the Site. A geophysical survey identified a palaeochannel and raised the possibility of the presence of salterns (Smith 2015). A subsequent four trench evaluation confirmed the existence of salt-making waste and provided a mid 11th-13th century date for it. The palaeochannel was also located and proved to have 13th and 14th century pottery in its fills. A pair of pits were revealed nearby and one was proven to be of medieval date (Parker 2016).

The results from other interventions in the vicinity have been represented in the preceding sections.

5.5 Walkover Survey

The site was visited on the 5th February 2020 in order to assess the ground conditions, to identify any potential archaeological features and to note any constraints to further work. The weather conditions were cold and bright. The results of the survey are shown on Figure 7.

Access to the site is via Sunnydale Close. The field was recently cut grass at the time of the visit. The bank and mound associated with salt-making which have been identified with lidar data are also visible with the naked eye as subtle undulations in the field. No archaeological artefacts were visible on the surface.



Plate 2. General view of Site. Looking north.

6. CONSTRAINTS

6.1 Heritage Constraints

There are no Scheduled Monuments protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (HMSO) present within the assessment area.

There are a total of 2 Listed Buildings lying within the assessment area. St Laurence's Church is Grade I Listed and its tower is visible from the Site. Cottage Farm is Grade II Listed but not visible from the Site.

All other archaeological remains within the assessment area are protected only through the implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework which identifies the historic environment as a non-renewable resource (MHCLG 2019). The historic environment's fragile and finite nature is a particularly important consideration in planning. The effect of an application on the significance of a heritage asset or its setting is a material consideration in determining the application.

6.2 Other Constraints

No specific checks were carried out to determine the presence of services (gas, water, electricity *etc.*) at the site. An electricity cable was noted as being present on the site during a previous excavation (Fig. 7).

7. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

Past impacts are largely restricted to agriculture. The Site has been ploughed during the 21st century.

Although details for the proposed housing development are not finalised, an adverse effect on below ground archaeology is likely to be caused through the excavation of house footings, services and landscaping.

There is likely to be a visual impact on the spire of St Laurence's church. Views of the spire can be incorporated into the overall design of the proposed developments. There is no visual impact Cottage Farm as there is no intervisibility.

8. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE

Information collated in the production of this document has allowed an assessment of the known and potential archaeological resource.

Prehistoric and Roman sites are absent from the assessment area. The potential for remains of these periods to be present at the Site is considered to be low.

No remains from the Saxon period have previously been identified within the assessment area. However, given the village was probably founded in the late Saxon period, there is a possibility Saxon remains could be encountered. The Domesday Survey indicates two salt-making sites were already established in the parish before 1086, and these may be have been on or near the Site. Therefore, the possibility of encountering late Saxon remains is considered moderate.

In the earlier medieval period (11th-13th century) the Site was host to a salt-making site and below ground is likely to contain evidence of salterns, mounds of burnt material, channels for the control of water and sundry other features related to the industry. The available data

suggests these features are concentrated towards the north of the Site. The later medieval period (13th-14th century) is thought to have seen the silting up of palaeochannels and the end of salt-making on the site.

During the post-medieval period the land was drained, divided into fields and probably served as pasture in the 19th century. Given the Site's proximity to the core of Surfleet, there is a moderate possibility of encountering remains of this period, but they are likely to be agricultural in nature.

The walkover survey identified visible indications of a bank and the saltern mound.

A geophysical survey on the western half of the site identified magnetic anomalies which proved to be of archaeological origin, although there was not a good correlation between the extent of magnetic features and the subsequently excavated deposits. Extending the survey to the entirety of the site may be of limited use. It is probable that further below ground interventions will be required in the eastern part of the field.

The regional research framework identifies establishing a chronology of salt production sites as a key research goal, especially on sites which may have their origin before the 11th century (Knight *et al*, 2012, 82).

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The HER data used in the production of this report is copyright of Lincolnshire County Council.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

All of the following references were consulted in the research. However, as some of them duplicated evidence given in others, or proved not to be relevant to the assessment, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office
LAO	Lincolnshire Archive Office
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
OS	Ordnance Survey

Table 1: Archaeological sites and findspots within the assessment area

Map No.	HER No.	Description	Period	National Grid Reference
1	MLI20139	Medieval settlement of Surfleet	Medieval	TF 2512 2820
2	MLI20141	Medieval pottery scatter	Medieval	TF 249 283
3	MLI22469	*St Laurence's Church	Medieval	TF 25137 28228
4	MLI124942	Salt-making waste	Medieval	TF 2520 2803
5	MLI124944	Pit	Medieval	TF 2519 2796
6	MLI124945	Palaeochannel	Medieval	TF 2522 2793
7	MLI20541	Windmill (1509-1909)	Post-medieval	TF 2499 2879
8	MLI22466	Possible brick-making site (1700-1799)	Post-medieval	TF 2505 2824
9	MLI85841	Methodist Chapel (1856-2001)	Post-medieval	TF 25935 28552
10	MLI87004	Cess pit	Post-medieval	TF 2512 2811
11	MLI89197	Post-medieval ditch and undated ditch	Post-medieval	TF 2506 2816
12	MLI94304	*18th century cottage	Post-medieval	TF 24540 27386
13	MLI122586	19th century farmstead	Post-medieval	TF 2505 2801
14	MLI122587	19th century farmstead	Post-medieval	TF 2505 2801
15	MLI122595	19th century farmstead	Post-medieval	TF 2471 2763
16	MLI122733	19th century farmstead	Post-medieval	TF 2482 2724
17	MLI122734	19th century farmstead	Post-medieval	TF 2569 2816
18	MLI122735	19th century farmstead	Post-medieval	TF 2501 2742
19	MLI122736	19th century farmstead	Post-medieval	TF 2516 2746
20	MLI125314	Surfleet war memorial (1921)	Modern	TF 25110 28268
21	MLI124943	Pit	Undated	TF 2522 2799

* denotes a listed building



Plate 3. General view of Site. Looking northeast

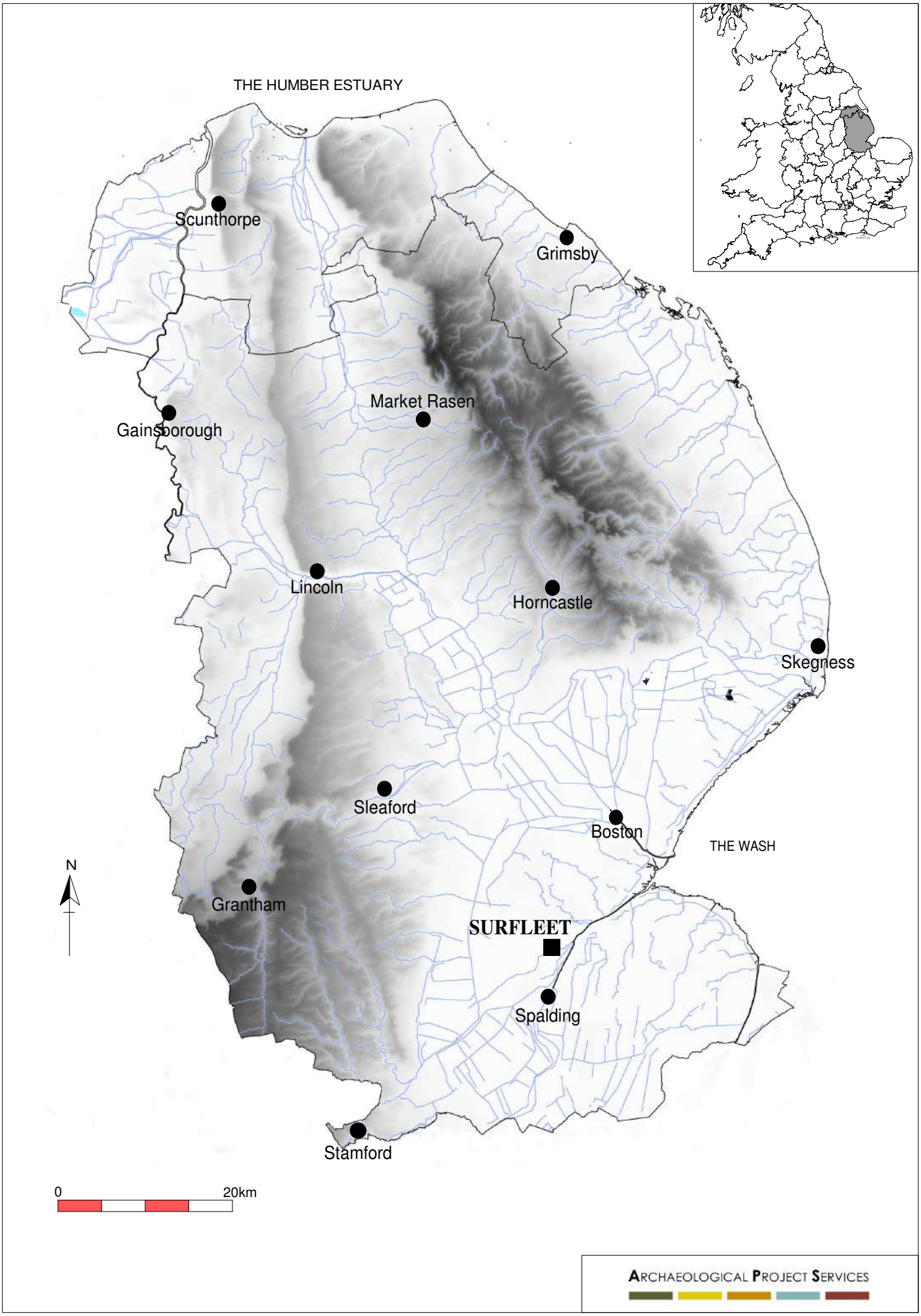


Figure 1 - General location plan

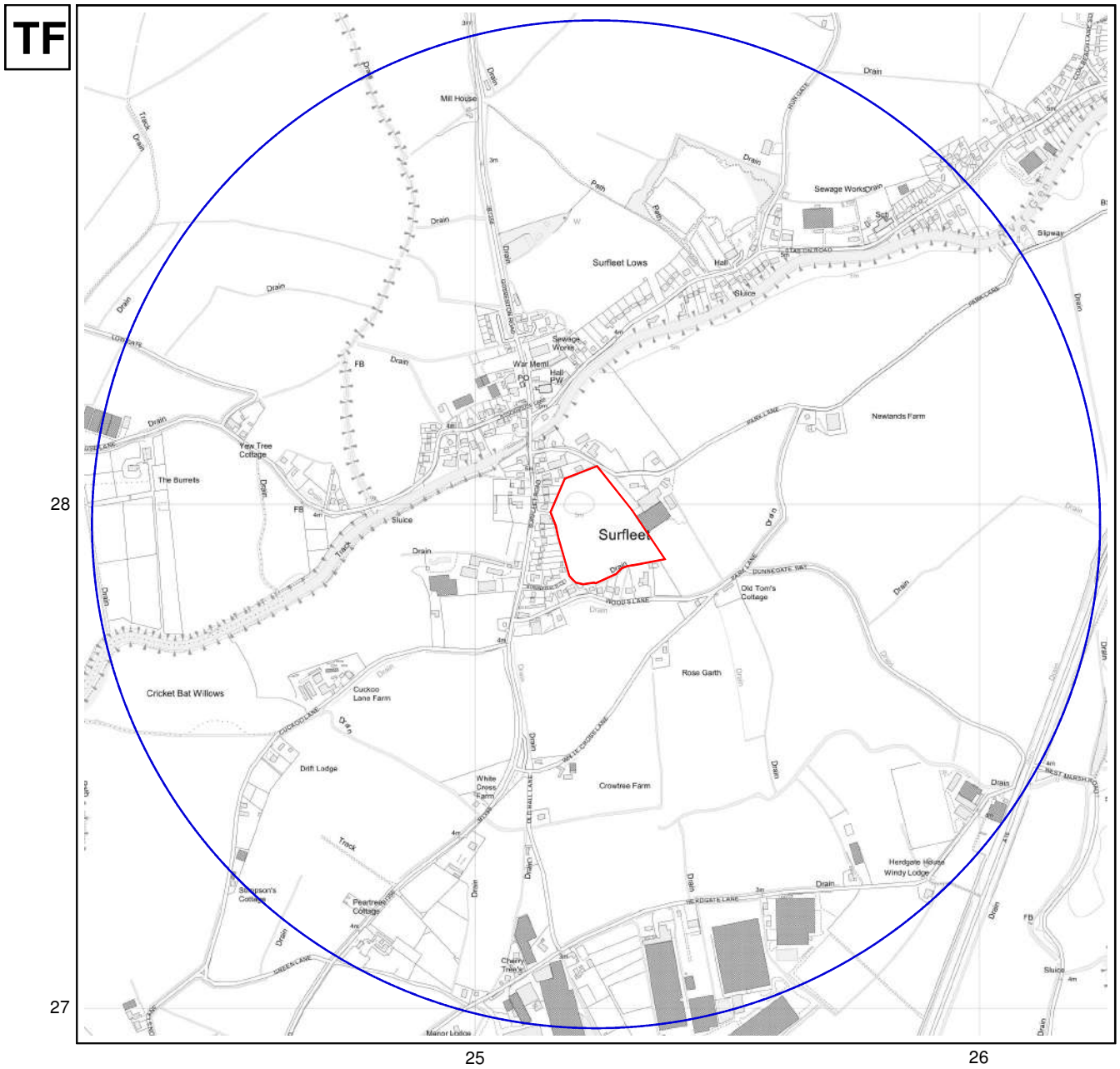
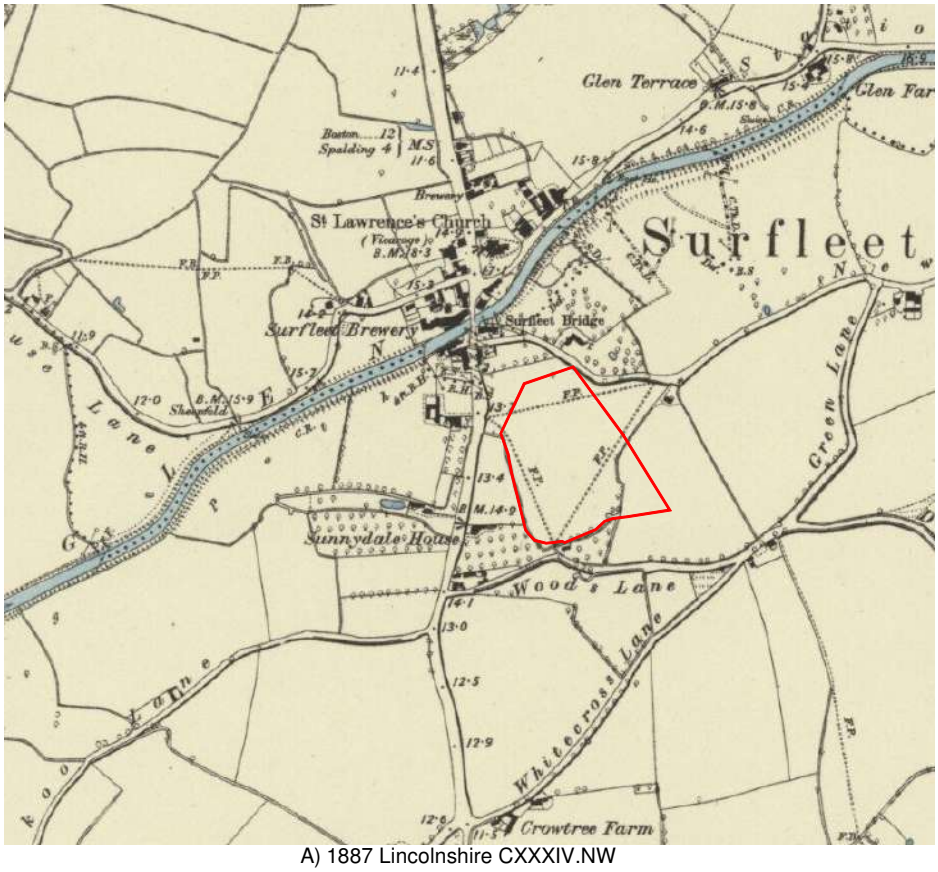
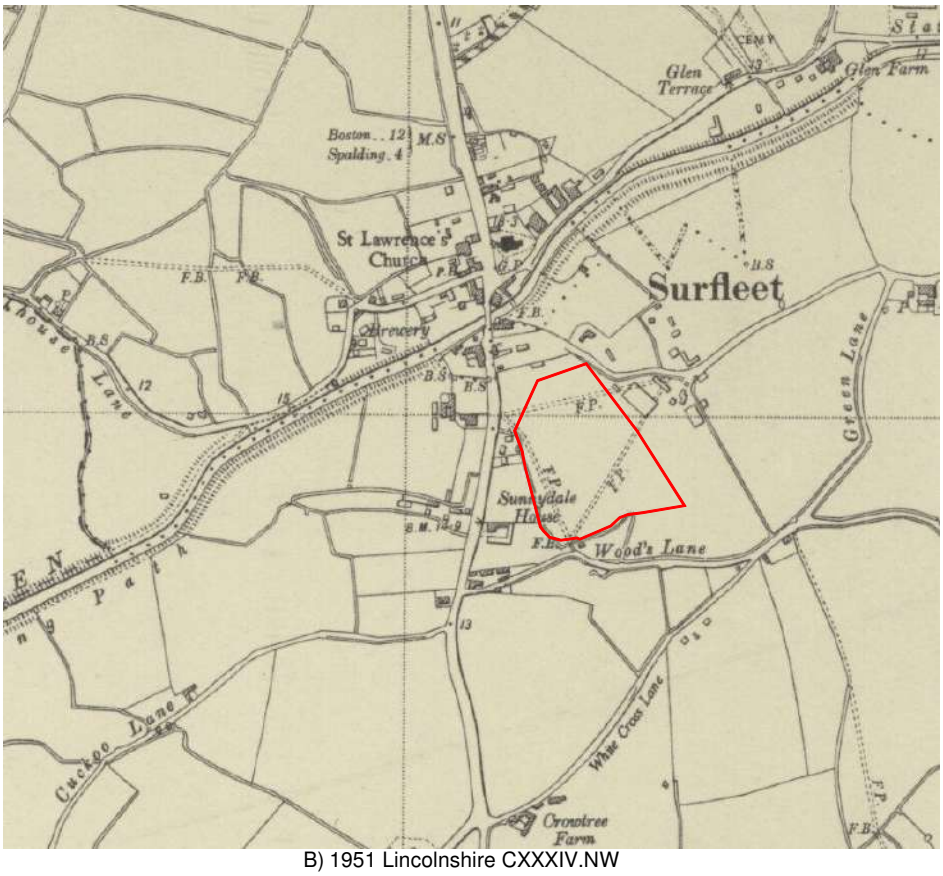


Figure 2 - The assessment area showing the proposed development Site



A) 1887 Lincolnshire CXXXIV.NW

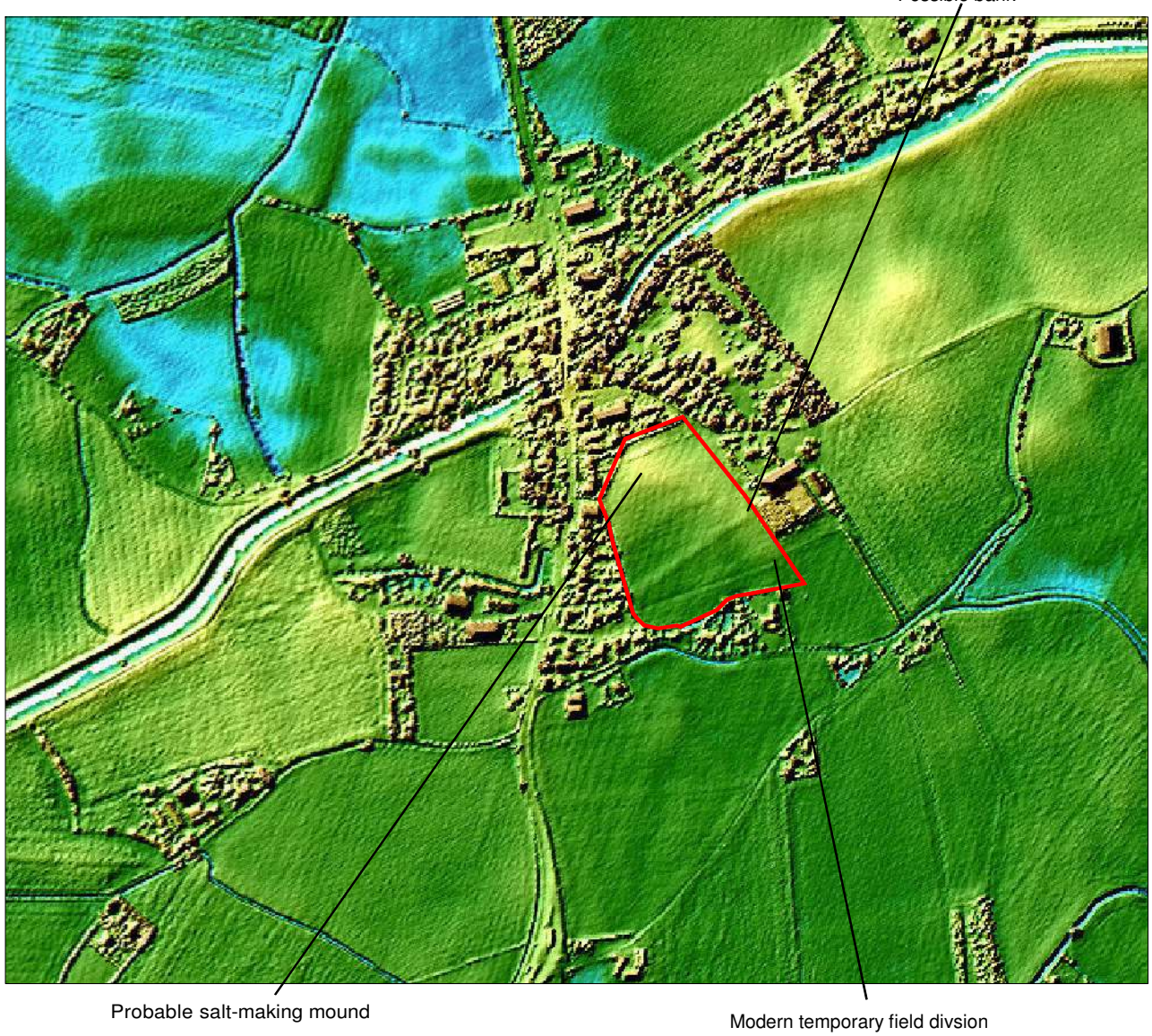


B) 1951 Lincolnshire CXXXIV.NW

0 500m

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Figure 3 - 1887 and 1951 Ordnance Survey maps



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Figure 4 - Lidar data



Figure 5 - Lidar data showing salt production in the wider landscape

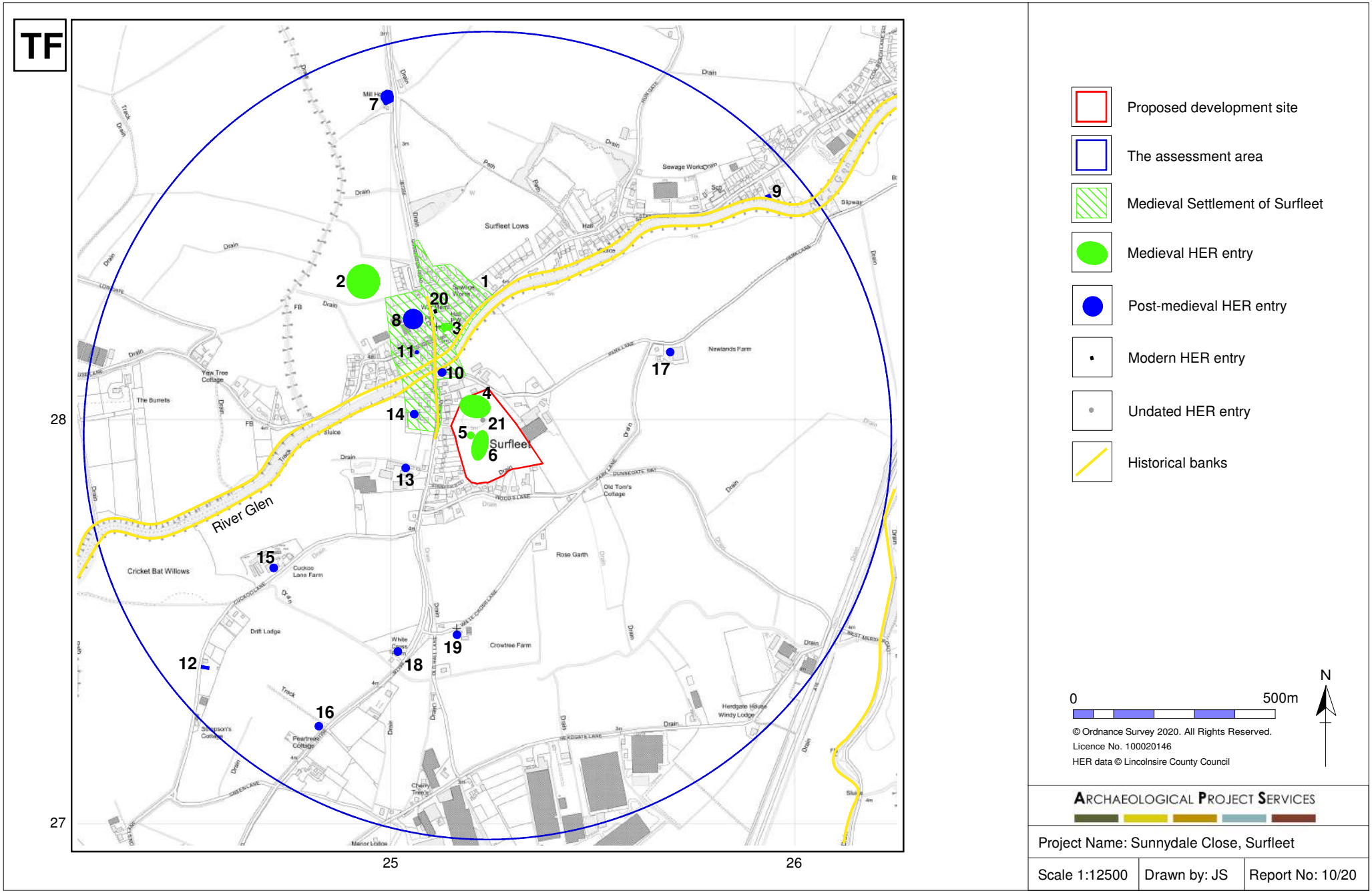


Figure 6 - The assessment area showing the proposed development Site

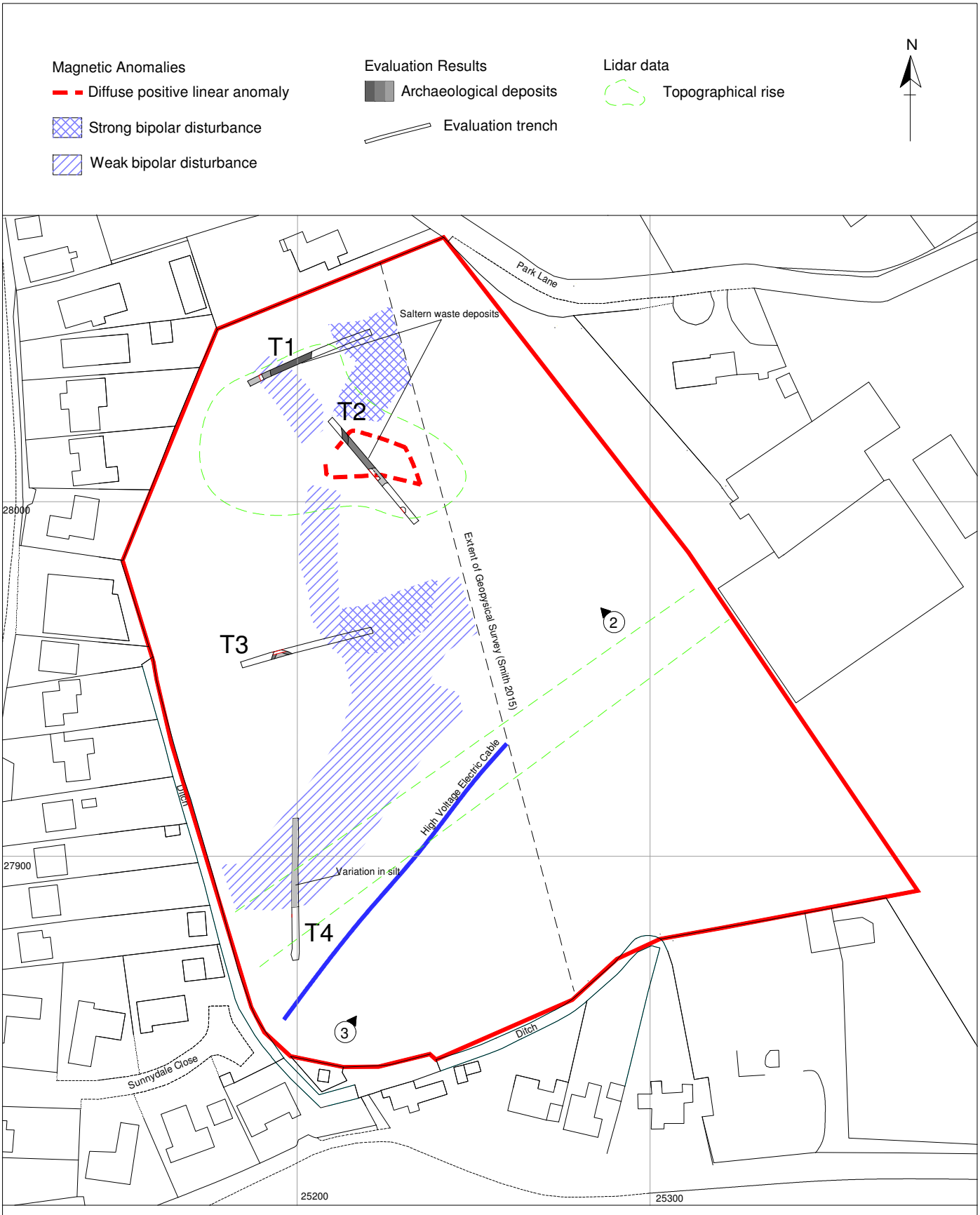


Figure 7 - Known archaeology and walkover survey

Appendix

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Drift	Material that has been eroded, transported or deposited by glaciers (or their melt water). The term 'drift' is commonly used to describe any deposits of Quaternary age.
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Lidar	An aircraft-based method of survey using analysis of pulses of laser light reflected from the surfaces of the ground and buildings. It is cable of identifying subtle differences in topography.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (*q.v.*) occupants of Britain.
Palaeochannel	A former river, stream or creek
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1900.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Rodon	A water channel which has silted up and now sits higher than the surrounding landscape, often due to the drying out and shrinkage of peat layers.
Roman	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Salterns	A salt furnace, in which brackish water is boiled off to leave salt in clay pans.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.

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