

Proposed Solar Farm at Vicarage Drove, Bicker, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Mitigation Strategy, Written Scheme of Investigation

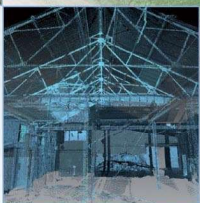
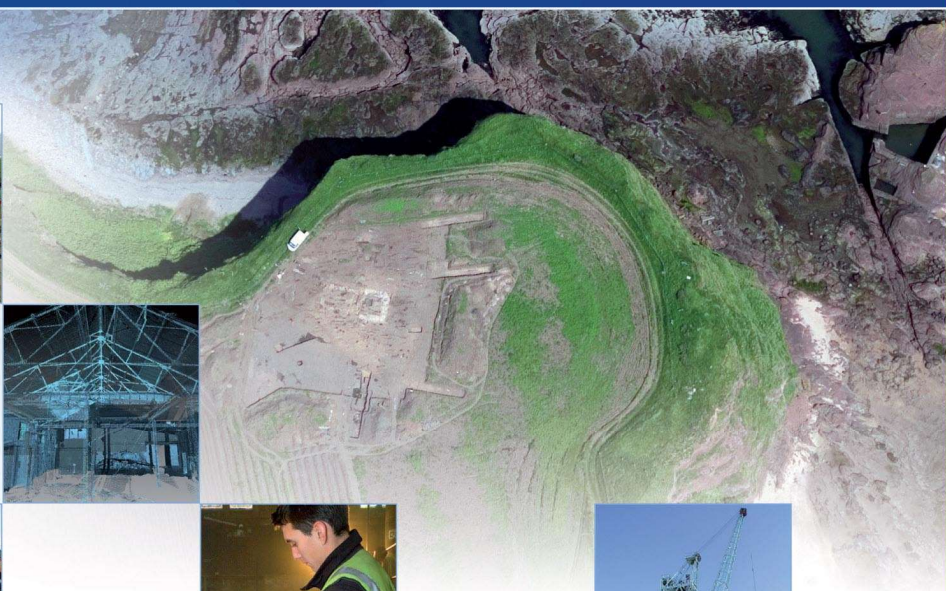
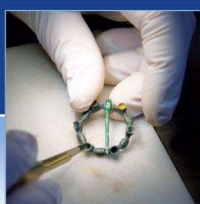
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Proposed Solar Farm at Vicarage Drive, Bicker, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy – Written Scheme of Investigation

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) setting out an archaeological mitigation strategy for the proposed Solar Farm at Vicarage Drive situated to the northwest of Bicker within the Boston Borough of Lincolnshire ("the Site"). The Site is centred on TF 18965 38860 and is currently arable farmland adjacent to recent wind farm and substation developments. The Site is comprised of a parcel of land which fits within existing field boundaries which is bound to the west by the South Forty Foot Drain, to the north by Bicker Drive and to the south and southeast by further field boundaries (Figure 1). The solar farm has been proposed by Renewable Connections Developments Ltd (the 'Applicant') who have commissioned AOC Archaeology Group to prepare this WSI.
- 1.2 Desk-based assessment suggests that the Site was predominantly used for agricultural purposes from the prehistoric period to the modern period with some evidence for Romano British salt extraction being present. There is considered to be a Low to Medium potential for finds or remains from the prehistoric period to be within the Site, and such finds would probably be of lithic working and potentially within peat deposits sealed by later marine deposits. The presence of the marine deposits means that it is possible that some of the underlying peats may be deeply buried, indeed boreholes excavated both on and within the vicinity of the Site encountered peat at depths of between 2.74m and 3.05m below ground level (BGL). There is however, considered to be a Medium to High potential for finds or remains from the Late Iron Age to Roman period to be present within the Site including evidence for occupation and salt working. This potential is higher in the northwestern part of the Site which lies close to land where remains from this period have recently been excavated on the site of the Triton Knoll substation, although the potential for remains surviving in the centre of the western part of the Site is also elevated as a Romano-British saltern has previously been recorded there. Apart from drainage earthworks, which could date from the medieval to the post-medieval period, and demolished post-medieval farmsteads, it is considered that there is a Low potential for finds or remains from the early historic, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods to be present within the Site.
- 1.3 A geophysical survey undertaken in advance of the Proposed Development did not identify any definitive archaeological features. However a number of anomalies were identified with forms that appear to be characteristic of archaeological remains. These anomalies include three comparatively large and well-defined pit type anomalies. These anomalies are measure approximately 12m in diameter and could potentially represent the remnants of salterns. The survey also identified two sets of parallel linear anomalies (A1 & B1), which could potentially be natural. However, in plan, their form appears to be reminiscent of trackways bounded by ditches on either side, which AOC understand would be similar to the remains that have recently been identified as a late-prehistoric to Romano British 'ladder settlement' at the substation site to the north. Three archaeological sensitive areas have been identified on the Site using a combination of a historic environment record (HER) entries and geophysical survey results. The archaeological sensitive areas are shown on Figure 3 and have been described in Section 1. In summary they are as follows:
- Archaeological Sensitive Area 1 (10.54 hectares): The geophysical survey coupled with earlier cropmark evidence suggest the presence of possible enclosures as well as a possible double ditch trackway (geophysical anomalies A1 and B1). Although these are not in themselves indicative of settlement, it is understood that archaeological investigations to the north of the Site in advance of the Triton Knoll Substation found evidence of late Iron Age to Romano British settlement within enclosures that were connected to a double ditched

trackway. Although the geophysical survey found no conclusive evidence for direct settlement on the site given that two sets of parallel linear anomalies were identified the possibility of late prehistoric or Romano-British evidence extending onto the northern end of the Site cannot on present evidence be discounted.

- Archaeological Sensitive Area 2 (0.25 hectares): Site 55 dating to the Romano-British period was identified within the Site in the CHA and marks the location of an artefact scatter of briquetage (the ceramic debris from the vessels and hearths used in heating brine) thought to be evidence for the remains of a Romano-British Saltern. The geophysical survey identified strong, coherent response with a circular form (H1) at this location.
- Archaeological Sensitive Area 3 (0.25 hectares): The geophysical survey identified three very well defined pit type anomalies (J3). These are up to 12m in diameter and may be associated with salterns.

- 1.4 Throughout the survey area several strong, coherent, curvilinear zones of enhanced magnetism have been detected. Although a natural origin cannot be dismissed, their strength and form differs from the geological responses recorded across the site and an archaeological origin cannot be dismissed. Additional trends of an unclear origin have also been noted. It is likely that most of these are associated with modern agricultural activity. Several linear trends and areas of enhanced magnetism have been noted which correspond with former field boundaries and now demolished structures that are indicated on OS mapping from 1888 – 1913. Several agricultural ploughing trends have also been identified along with linear trends suggestive of field drains.
- 1.5 A varied background level of response across has been recorded across the Site which is due to natural variations within the subsoil. Within many of the fields relatively strong and coherent curvilinear zones of magnetic enhancement have been detected which are indicative of palaeochannels. Several areas of magnetic disturbance were recorded many of which are due to wind turbines adjacent to the Site.
- 1.6 Given the potential significance of the archaeological remains that appear on the evidence of both the desk-based assessment and geophysics to be present on the Site, AOC commenced pre-application consultations with the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (HTL) who act as archaeological advisors to Boston Borough Council. Following on from these discussions a draft mitigation strategy will be set out in detail in Section 5 of this WSI. The mitigation strategy will be structured around two core principles; testing the results of the geophysics by means of an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching and finalising the design of the development so as to ensure that any significant remains are preserved *in-situ*.
- 1.7 A draft of this WSI will be submitted to the planning authority as part of the ongoing consultation process. It is anticipated that the finalised mitigation strategy will be agreed with them prior to the determination of the application and then secured through the use of a condition.
- 1.8 This document sets out the methods and standards for the proposed archaeological mitigation strategy. It has been drawn up in accordance with all current best archaeological practice, standards and guidelines:
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014, Updated October 2021);
 - Ministry for Housing, community and Local Government – National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (MHCLG, 2021); and
 - Historic England – Management of Archaeological Projects (HE 2015).

2 Topographical & Geological Conditions

- 2.1 The British Geological Survey GeoIndex (BGS 2021) records one bedrock within the Site. The Site is underlain by Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 157 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic period in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. The bedrock immediately to the north east of the Site (within c.1km) is recorded as West Walton Formation - Mudstone And Siltstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 157 to 164 million years ago in the Jurassic period in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas.
- 2.2 The superficial geology is consistent across the Site and is recorded as Tidal Flat Deposits (1 - Clay And Silt), which formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period in a local environment previously dominated by shorelines. These sedimentary deposits are shallow-marine in origin, detrital and generally coarse-grained forming beaches and bars within a coastal setting.
- 2.3 The BGS records a line of boreholes running across the Site on a northwest to southeast alignment as part of the Westburton to Waltham 400KV power line undertaken in 1963. Five of these boreholes are located within or in close proximity to the Site:
- Borehole TF13NE15 (located to the west of the Site): A clay topsoil at 0.00m to 0.46m Below Ground Level (BGL), medium density sandy silt from 0.46m to 3.66m BGL, medium density fine, medium and coarse sand and gravel from 3.66m to 4.72m BGL, firm light grey clay and pieces of chalk (with pockets of sand and gravel) from 4.72m to 6.25m BGL, a hard brown silty clay from 6.25m to 6.86m BGL and hard dark grey boulder clay from 6.86m to 10.21m BGL.
 - Borehole TF13NE13 (located within the Site): A soft grey clay topsoil at 0.00m to 0.46m BGL, a soft grey and brown silty clay from 0.46m to 1.68m BGL, a very soft silty clay from 1.68m to 3.51m BGL, a stiff grey clay with pieces of chalk from 3.51m to 5.79m BGL, a stiff brown silty clay from 5.79m to 7.62m BGL and hard dark grey boulder clay from 7.62m to 12.19m BGL.
 - Borehole TF13NE11 (located to the east of the Site): A silty clay topsoil at 0.00m to 0.46m BGL, a soft grey and brown silty clay at 0.46m to 2.74m BGL, a soft peat at 2.74m to 3.05m BGL, a stiff grey clay with pieces of chalk from 3.05m to 5.49m BGL and a stiff dark grey boulder clay from 5.49m to 12.19m BGL.
 - Borehole TF13NE10 (located to the south east of the Site): A silty clay topsoil at 0.00m to 0.46m BGL, a soft grey and brown silty clay at 0.46m to 2.74m BGL, a soft peat at 2.74m to 3.05m BGL, a very stiff light grey clay with pieces of chalk from 3.05m to 4.57m BGL and a hard dark grey boulder clay from 4.57m to 12.19m BGL.
 - Borehole TF23NW16 (located to the south east of the Site). A soft grey clay topsoil at 0.00m to 0.46m BGL, a soft brown and grey silty clay at 0.46m to 2.13m BGL, a very stiff light grey clay with pieces of chalk from 2.13m to 4.57m BGL and a hard dark grey boulder clay from 4.57m to 12.19m BGL.
- 2.4 These boreholes indicate that the topsoil depth is relatively consistent across the Site, as are the underlying deposits, with a layer of peat within the central part of the Site (at 2.74m to 3.05m BGL). This peat was also encountered during archaeological monitoring of the turbine footings for the Bicker Fen Windfarm, located in the fields to the south of the Site and during a watching brief for a pile cap relating to the substation to the east of the Site. The peat deposits visible in the turbine footings ranged in thickness between 0.20m and 1.10m thick and were overlain by a sequence of alluvial clays. They are thought to have been formed while the Site was a freshwater marsh prior to a later encroachment by a marine advance (APS, 2008).

- 2.5 The topography of the Site is quite flat, gently sloping across to the east and southeast with heights from 3.05m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the north west of the Site to 2.15m AOD in the south east of the Site.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The Applicant commissioned AOC to prepare a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) covering the Proposed Development (AOC 2021a). A copy of the CHA has been included within the planning application and it need not therefore be replicated here, although the findings of this assessment suggest that the Site has historically been used predominantly for agricultural purposes from the prehistoric period to the modern period with some evidence for Romano British salt extraction being present and late prehistoric to Roman settlement to the north. There is considered to be a Low to Medium potential for finds or remains from the prehistoric period to be within the Site, and such finds would probably be of lithic working and potentially within peat deposits buried by later marine deposits although borehole evidence suggests that these peats are buried at depths of between 2.74m to 3.05m BGL. There is considered to be a Medium to High potential for finds or remains from the Late Iron Age to Roman period to be present within the Site including evidence for occupation and salt working. This potential is higher in the northwestern part of the Site, and in the vicinity of the Romano British Saltern in the centre of the western part of the Site. Apart from drainage earthworks, which could date from the medieval to the post-medieval period, and demolished post-medieval farmsteads, it is considered that there is a Low potential for finds or remains from the early historic, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods to be present within the Site.

Geophysical Survey

- 3.2 A geophysical survey of the Site was conducted from the 20th of May to the 9th of July 2021 and in total 81ha were surveyed using fluxgate gradiometers (AOC2021b) in fields labelled Field A (Development Zone 2); Field B (Development Zone 1); Field C (Development Zone 3); Field D (Development Zone 2); Fields E to F (Development Zone 3); Field G (Development Zone 6); Field H (Development Zone 7); Field I (Development Zone 8) and Field J (Development Zone 9).
- 3.3 Preliminary results from the ten fields did not identify any definitive archaeological features. However a number of anomalies were identified with forms that appear to be characteristic of archaeological remains
- 3.4 These anomalies include three comparatively large and well-defined pit type anomalies. These anomalies are measure approximately 12m in diameter and could potentially represent the remnants of salterns. The survey also identified two sets of parallel linear anomalies (A1 & B1), which could potentially be natural. However, in plan, their form appears to be reminiscent of trackways bounded by ditches on either side which AOC understand would be similar to the remains that have recently been identified as a late-prehistoric to Romano British 'ladder settlement' at the substation site to the north.
- 3.5 Throughout the survey area several strong, coherent, curvilinear zones of enhanced magnetism have been detected. Although a natural origin cannot be dismissed, their strength and form differs from the geological responses recorded across the site. While they may have a modern origin, an archaeological origin cannot be dismissed.
- 3.6 Additional trends of an unclear origin have also been noted. It is likely that most of these are associated with modern agricultural activity. Several linear trends and areas of enhanced magnetism have been noted which

correspond with former field boundaries and now demolished structures that are indicated on OS mapping from 1888 – 1913. Several agricultural ploughing trends have also been identified along with linear trends suggestive of field drains.

- 3.7 A varied background level of response across has been recorded across the Site which is due to natural variations within the subsoil. Within many of the fields relatively strong and coherent curvilinear zones of magnetic enhancement have been detected which are indicative of palaeochannels.
- 3.8 Several areas of magnetic disturbance were recorded many of which are due to wind turbines adjacent to the Site.
- 3.9 Full analysis of the geophysics will be included within a dedicated survey report which will be submitted separately (AOC Archaeology 2021b).

4 Proposed Development

- 4.1 The Applicant proposes to construct a solar photovoltaic ('PV') farm with battery storage and associated infrastructure. The proposed development would include: rows of solar photovoltaic ('PV') panels; batteries within shipping containers (or similar); inverters within containers (or similar); DNO Substation and Customer Switchroom; Cable connection; internal access tracks; perimeter fence; and CCTV cameras. The Site will cover an area of 80.36 Ha and have approximately 49.9-Megawatt Direct Current solar panels with top heights of c.2.75m. The Site will also include a substation and battery site, covering an area measuring approximately 55m by 28m, located at the eastern boundary of the Site in close proximity to the Bicker Fen substation, to which it will be connected. Taken together these works will be referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.

5 Mitigation Strategy

- 5.1 The design of the Proposed Development has been developed using the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach, which sets out a 'worst case' scenario approach to the impact of a project and allows for a broad definition of the project to be framed within a number of set parameters. This approach allows for a project to be assessed on the basis of maximum project design parameters in order to provide flexibility, while ensuring all potentially significant effects (positive or adverse) are assessed within the planning application. This is of particular importance to maintain flexibility due to the rapid pace of change in solar PV and battery storage technology. Due to the nature of the Proposed Development, it will not be possible for the Applicant to fix all of the design details at this stage. The Applicant has therefore sought to incorporate sufficient design flexibility. This relates to the dimensions and layout of structures and panels forming part of the Proposed Development, including the precise layout of the Site. This approach involves defining Development Zones, rather than having a defined layout. This would allow the contractor to optimise the layout of the solar farm up to the maximum parameters within the assessment as part of the planning application, following any grant of planning permission, rather than being bound to a precise layout.
- 5.2 The zones are shown in the Development Zones Plan (Reference: RNC004-DZ-01)) that forms part of the planning application submission. The zones define where certain infrastructure should be located within the Site, but there is flexibility in terms of the layout within each zone. The zones define where certain infrastructure should be

located within the Site, but there is flexibility in terms of the layout within each zone. The infrastructure that is permitted to only be located within each zone is as follows:

- Development Zones 1 – 5, 7 - 9: solar panels, inverters and associated infrastructure; and
- Development Zone 6: substations, battery storage, solar panels and associated infrastructure.

5.3 Given that the geophysical survey suggests that the potential for archaeological remains varies considerably across the Site two separate approaches are proposed:

Development Zones 3-9 and the southern and central parts of Development Zone 2

5.4 The geophysical survey suggests that these areas lay within the former salt marsh and that consequently any potential for archaeological remains to be present is limited. However, a number of possible salterns were identified within this area, including a circular feature (H1) which accords with the approximate position of the possible saltern identified through field walking within Development Zone 7.

5.5 Two archaeological sensitive areas have been identified on the Site using a combination of a historic environment record (HER) entries and geophysical survey results. The archaeological sensitive areas are shown on Figure 3 and have been described in Section 1. In summary they are as follows:

- Archaeological Sensitive Area 2 (0.25 hectares): Site 55 dating to the Romano-British period was identified within the Site in the CHA and marks the location of an artefact scatter of briquetage (the ceramic debris from the vessels and hearths used in heating brine) thought to be evidence for the remains of a Romano-British Saltern. The geophysical survey identified strong, coherent response with a circular form (H1) at this location.
- Archaeological Sensitive Area 3 (0.25 hectares): The geophysical survey identified three very well defined pit type anomalies (J3). These are up to 12m in diameter and may be associated with salterns.

5.6 Although the potential significance of any remains within these two archaeological sensitive areas cannot be discounted, given that the geophysics indicates that their extents are limited any direct impacts upon them could be mitigated through finalising the design of the Proposed Development to ensure that they are preserved in situ through the adoption of 'no dig' solutions within their comparatively limited footprints. The footprints of these features have, along with a buffer zone surrounding them, identified as Archaeological Sensitive Areas 2 & 3 on Figure 2 and 3 and it is envisaged that the implementation of this mitigation strategy could be secured through the use of a planning condition.

Development Zone 1 and the northern part of Development Zone 2

5.7 One archaeological sensitive area has been identified on the Site using geophysical survey results. The archaeological sensitive areas is shown on Figure 1 and have been described in Section 1. In summary they are as follows:

- Archaeological Sensitive Area 1 (10.54 hectares): The geophysical survey coupled with earlier cropmark evidence suggest the presence of possible enclosures as well as a possible double ditch trackway (geophysical anomalies A1 and B1). Although these are not in themselves indicative of settlement, it is understood that archaeological investigations to the north of the Site in advance of the Triton Knoll Substation found evidence of late Iron Age to Romano British settlement within enclosures that were connected to a double ditched trackway. Although the geophysical survey found no conclusive evidence for direct settlement on the site

given that two sets of parallel linear anomalies were identified the possibility of late prehistoric or Romano-British evidence extending onto the northern end of the Site cannot on present evidence be discounted.

- 5.8 Both the geophysical survey and the cropmark evidence could potentially indicate the presence of archaeological remains within Development Zone 1 and the northern part of Development Zone 2 and these have therefore been identified as Archaeological Sensitive Area 1 on Figure 2. Although, given the nature of solar farm developments any remains that may be present within this area could if necessary be preserved in situ using the 'sensitive area' approach that has been set out above for the remainder of the Site. However, given the extent of the area, potential presence of settlement remains and the fact that the interpretation of these anomalies cannot be determined on the geophysical evidence alone, a limited trial trench evaluation within these two areas could be beneficial. This would help determine, whether a preservation in situ approach is required in this instance. Given that any impacts within these areas could be amended through design, which in accordance with the principles of the 'Rochdale Envelope' that are discussed below, will be finalised post consent it is proposed that the implementation of trenching secured by condition.
- 5.9 In line with other solar energy schemes, the design of the Proposed Development is being progressed using a 'maximum design scenario' which reflects the Rochdale Envelope approach. This approach allows for a project to be assessed on the maximum design parameters in order to provide flexibility while ensuring all significant effects are assessed within the planning application, enabling the detailed site layout to be for subsequent approval as part of a planning condition.
- 5.10 Although the design of the Proposed Development will not be fixed until consent has been obtained the mitigation strategy that is outlined below would be secured through the use of a planning condition. It should also be noted that whilst the mitigation strategy assumes that panels and other infrastructure will be set within the two archaeological sensitive areas, and sets out a detailed methodology to facilitate this, the Applicant reserves the right not to place infrastructure within the archaeological sensitive areas and to maintain them instead as open ground.
- 5.11 In line with the discussion above it is recommended that the mitigation strategy be varied between the archaeological sensitive areas. Within the southern part of the Site the limited extents of Archaeological Sensitive Areas 2 & 3, mean that mitigation through design would be preferable and the Applicant has therefore agreed to finalise the design of their development to ensure that any groundworks within these sensitive areas are kept to at worst, an absolute minimum. This will be achieved by:
- Setting all solar panels within the sensitive areas upon concrete shoes laid directly upon the surface so as to avoid the need for piling;
 - Laying any access tracks within the sensitive areas upon a Terram permeable separation layer which will sit directly upon the ground surface;
 - Designing the installation of the electricity cabling within the sensitive areas so as to cause as little ground disturbance as possible. Catenary wire suspended systems, cable troughs or cable trays will be used as these are 'no dig' options and will therefore negate the need for groundworks altogether. However, the Applicant requests that an allowance of up to 0.15m of ground reduction along the cable routes be allowed for so as to permit the troughs and trays to be set into ground if required;

- Locating all other infrastructure, including but not limited to inverter stations, substations, security cameras and fencing outwith the sensitive areas; and
- Ensuring that a programme of archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during works within the sensitive areas under the terms of the planning condition, with provision for further archaeological works if required. The requirement for further works if necessary, would also be secured by condition.

5.12 At the northern part of the Site, within Archaeological Sensitive Area 1, the distribution of the anomalies identified through the geophysics, coupled with the recently discovered late-prehistoric to Romano British ladder settlement to the north, means that a programme of post-determination trial trenching is recommended in order allow the extent of the sensitive area to be clarified. Should the footprint of the remains then be shown to be limited then a 'no dig' approach similar to that set out for Archaeological Sensitive 2 and 3 in Paragraph 5.10 above will be adopted. However, should this not prove possible then provision will be made within the scope of the mitigation programme with monitoring or, should the significance of the remains to be impacted warrant it, an archaeological excavation. The wording of the planning condition would be phased so as to allow provision for this.

6 Trial Trenching

- 6.1 As set out in Paragraph 5.11 above a programme of archaeological trial trenching is proposed within Archaeological Sensitive Area 1 which extends across the northern part of the Site. The trenching would be secured by condition and would take place prior to any construction works, in order to allow for the final design of the development to be amended if need be. This would be in line with the principles of the Rochdale Envelope that have been set out above.
- 6.2 The scope of the trenching within Archaeological Sensitive Area 1 would be agreed with the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Boston Borough Council prior to the commencement of works. The work would be undertaken in accordance with a trenching specific WSI (separate from this present document), the requirement for which would be specifically referenced in the planning condition.
- 6.3 The trenching specific WSI will include a trench location plan and details on excavation methodologies, and it is envisaged that it will be secured by a condition which will state that no works can commence on the Site until the WSI has been approved by the planning authority and their archaeological advisors and the trial trenching programme has been implemented to their satisfaction.

7 Archaeological Monitoring

- 7.1 The mitigation strategy for Archaeological Sensitive Areas 2 & 3 located in the southern part of the Site will be secured through a programme of archaeological monitoring undertaken under the terms of the planning condition. The scope of the archaeological monitoring will be as follows:
- To brief the construction team on the presence of archaeological remains on the Site and the requirements of the approved mitigation strategy.
 - To mark out Archaeological Sensitive Areas 2 & 3 on the ground and to fence them if necessary.

- To monitor the placement of concrete shoes upon the ground surface within Archaeological Sensitive Areas 2 & 3.
- To monitor the laying of cable troughs within Archaeological Sensitive Areas 2 & 3 in the event of ground reduction being required.
- To monitor the laying of the maintenance access upon the ground surface within Archaeological Sensitive Areas 2 & 3.

7.2 It is envisaged that archaeological monitoring visits will be undertaken by the archaeological contractor at each key stage of the project; e.g. the commencement of the access track or the start of the installation within the Archaeological Sensitive Areas 2 & 3 under the terms of an archaeological watching brief. In order to ensure compliance provision will be made for the archaeological contractor to make additional announced visits to the Site during the course of the groundworks.

8 Scope of Works and Strategy

8.1 The trial trenching, archaeological monitoring, and subsequent post-excavation work will conform to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- Historic England – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (HE 2015a);
- Historic England – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (HE 2015b);
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014a, Updated October 2020);
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014b, Updated June 2020);
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation (CIfA 2014c, Updated October 2020);
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014d, Updated October 2020).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2014e, Updated October 2020);
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists – Code of conduct (CIfA 2014, Updated October 2021);
- Museum of London – Archaeological Site Manual (MoLA 1994);
- RESCUE & ICON – First Aid for Finds (RESCUE & ICON 2001).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983); and
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).

- 8.2 Insurances, copyright and confidentiality, and standards are defined in Appendix 1a.
- 8.3 The site archive will be organised to be deposited with the local receiving museum, according to their current guidance.
- 8.4 AOC will order a unique site code for the watching brief which will be used as the site identifier.
- 8.5 A copy of the approved WSI will be held on Site along with the detailed Site risk assessment. All site staff will be made aware of and will have reviewed both documents.
- 8.6 The archaeological trial trenching will be undertaken by an experienced field archaeologist under the overall direction of a Project Manager. Additional staff will be made available as required.
- 8.7 The investigation will be undertaken by AOC for the client and HTL, as advisors to Boston Borough Council. AOC will be advised of the start of the works ideally one week in advance of the proposed start date and will be provided with updates on progress during the site works.

9 Methodology

Trial Trenching

- 9.1 Trenches will be excavated by machine down to the first significant archaeological horizon or to natural subsoil. All machine excavation will be supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. Deep trenches will be laterally stepped or subject to gradual batter where access for archaeological inspection is required. Trenches will be extended, or ancillary trenches excavated, in areas of archaeological discovery in establishing the full lateral extent of any significant archaeological material.
- 9.2 All trial trenching will be undertaken in accordance with the terms of the trenching specific WSI which will be agreed with the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (HTL) under the terms of the planning condition. As well as random distribution, the placement of trial trenches will be designed to:
- ensure comprehensive coverage of the development area;
 - Investigate features identified through map regression;
 - investigate linear features which may cross the landscape (i.e. trenches will be located on various orientations);
 - ensure that the area of every feature of potential archaeological significance is investigated;
 - anticipate the advantages derived from topographic advantage; and
 - examine the preservation potential of some areas, e.g. sediment traps.
- 9.3 Trenches will be up to 30m in length and set along differing orientations to maximise the opportunity of locating linear features which may cross the site. Where archaeological features are encountered, trenches will be extended to define the full lateral extent of these features. Ancillary trenching will be undertaken in the local vicinity in anticipating any nonnucleated or more dispersed distribution of associated features. The trial trenching will be undertaken in accordance with a separate trial trenching WSI the implementation of which will be secured through the use of a planning condition.

- 9.4 All significant archaeological features will be cleaned and fully defined. A sufficient number of any features present will be investigated to determine the character, function, condition, nature and date of features present.
- 9.5 An adequate proportion of each feature selected for investigation will be excavated, sampled and recorded to determine the character, function, nature, date and significance of the features sampled.
- 9.6 No specialised re-instatement will be undertaken. Trenches will be backfilled with spoil and then compacted using the mechanical excavator. Trial trenches will not be backfilled under archaeological supervision, other than in areas of significant archaeological findings.

Archaeological Monitoring

- 9.7 The archaeologist will be present to observe any intrusive groundworks associated with the works within Archaeological Sensitive Areas 2 & 3. Staff will be positioned outside of the working area of any mechanical excavator, in the normal working arrangement. Should access to the machined area be required; the machine will cease operations and if necessary, relocate to ensure safe access.
- 9.8 Any machining undertaken under archaeological direction will be done, where practicable, with a flat bladed bucket (toothless), and in horizontal spits in accordance with a health and safety Risk Assessment Method Statement.
- 9.9 In the event that significant archaeological remains are revealed, adequate time will be allowed to record them, and additional excavation staff are available. The groundwork in the location of the archaeology can be temporarily halted in order to determine the extent and character of any remains revealed. The degree of further work will be defined in discussions with HTL, as advisors to Boston Borough Council and the client. Delays to development can be minimised by continuing to monitor areas of watching brief while the archaeological resource is recorded.
- 9.10 Records will be produced using either pro-forma context or trench record sheets and by the single context planning method and will be compatible with those published by the Museum of London (MoL 1994).
- 9.11 A record of the full sequence of all archaeological deposits as revealed in the watching brief will be made. Plans and sections of features will be drawn at an appropriate scale of 1:10 or 1:20.
- 9.12 In consultation with the archaeological monitor, AOC will recover environmental data, if available, for the prehistoric and subsequent periods that might help to characterise local environmental changes or inform on the characterisation of land-use for the local area during the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 9.13 Bulk samples, 20L for wet and 40L-60L for dry contexts will be taken from appropriate contexts for the recovery and assessment of environmental data. Provision will be made for column and other appropriate samples to be taken. Sampling methods will follow the guidelines set out in A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis (Murphy & Wiltshire 1994).
- 9.14 Any finds of human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected. The Ministry of Justice and the local constabulary will be informed. If removal is essential advice on how best to proceed in accordance with both legislative requirements, professional standard and guidance and ethical considerations.
- 9.15 Any finds covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act (1996, amended 2003) and Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, including gold and silver, will be moved to a safe place and reported to the coroner's office according to the procedures determined by the Act. They will also be reported to the local finds liaison officer from the Portable

Antiquities Scheme. Where removal cannot be affected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the artefacts from theft or damage.

- 9.16 All identified finds and artefacts will be collected and retained. Certain classes of material, i.e. post-medieval pottery and building material may be discarded after recording if a representative sample is kept. No finds will be discarded without the prior approval of the archaeological monitor.
- 9.17 Finds will be scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage with particular reference to pottery. In addition, the artefacts will be used to characterise the site, and to establish the potential for all categories of finds should further archaeological work be necessary.
- 9.18 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner and to standards agreed in advance with the recipient museum. Finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No. 2 (UKIC 1983).
- 9.19 Provision for onsite conservation and finds treatment, in addition to any scientific dating of materials uncovered, will be undertaken where appropriate. Upon completion of the project the landowner and the relevant museum will be contacted regarding the preparation, ownership and deposition of the archive and finds.

10 Report and Archive Preparation

Trial Trenching and Archaeological Monitoring

- 10.1 The trial trenching and archaeological monitoring report will be completed within four to six weeks of the completion of fieldwork, subject to the availability of specialist reports. The watching brief report will include as a minimum the following:
- A location plan of the site;
 - A location plan of the trenches and/or other type of fieldwork strategy employed;
 - Plans and sections of features and/or extent of archaeology located. These will be at an appropriate scale;
 - A summary statement of the results;
 - A table summarising per trench the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds; and
 - Consideration to the methodology will be given.
- 10.2 The procedures defined in Historic England's Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd edition (2015) will be followed for immediate post-field archive preparation and initial assessment if warranted.
- 10.3 The watching brief report will also include an assessment of the potential for archaeological features and environmental deposits to survive within the stratigraphic sequence identified.
- 10.4 A list of specialist staff that may be used for analysis of samples and artefacts is given in Appendix 1b.

- 10.5 Copies of the watching brief report will be issued to HTL, as advisors to Boston Borough Council, the client and a local history library and archive, on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time.
- 10.6 Publication of the results will be pursued. As a minimum this will be a summary text in a local journal. Should archaeology be encountered that may warrant further dissemination, AOC will seek to implement a scheme of public outreach to be agreed with all parties. This may include a press release, social media, displays for local libraries/museums and public talks.
- 10.7 An OASIS form will be completed (Appendix 1d) and an electronic copy of the watching brief report deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

Archive Preparation

- 10.8 The site archive will comprise all artefacts, ecofacts and written and drawn records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record. Archaeological finds rarely have any monetary value, but they are an important source of information for future research, included in museum exhibits and teaching collections. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b) and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993, 1995) recommend that finds are publicly accessible and that landowners donate archaeological finds to the appropriate local museum. The paper archive will be security copied and will then be deposited with the appropriate local museum.
- 10.9 On completion of the project AOC will discuss arrangements for the archive to be deposited with the appropriate local museum and with the developer/landowner. This will be prepared in the format agreed with the appropriate local museum and following national guidance (ADS 2011 and Brown 2011).
- 10.10 In the event of the legal owner(s) resolving to retain all or part of the site archive, they shall be responsible for the future preservation and maintenance of any material element of that archive. That part of the site archive in question, shall be transferred to the legal owner only after; all necessary processing, research, analysis and investigative/ stabilising conservation and correct packing necessary to prepare the archive for preservation and in a usable, accessible form, and to produce a full report for publication, has been completed. The owner shall ensure that all necessary provision is made for the long-term preservation of the archive in a satisfactory environment, and that it is accessible for future research. AOC will ensure that a proper record of material is kept by the landowner shall be included in the written archive and public record. The explicit (written) permission of the owner shall be obtained in order that the Data Protection Act 1984 is not contravened.
- 10.11 In the case where finds are retained, landowner consent will be required to allow transfer of the finds to the appropriate local museum. A Deed of Transfer will be drawn up for signing by the landowner. The complete finds inventory and further finds information can be provided to the landowner, on request.
- 10.12 The site archive will be retained at AOC Archaeology until such time as it can be deposited. It will then become publicly accessible.

11 Health and Safety

- 11.1 Health and Safety (H&S) will take priority over all other requirements. However, where archaeological remains are located, appropriate H&S measures will be agreed with the client and contractor to ensure recording of the

remains can be undertaken safely. A conditional aspect of all archaeological work is both safe access to the area of work and a safe working environment.

- 11.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with safe working practices and under the defined Health and Safety Policy. The Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015 (CDM) will apply to the archaeological work, as a principal contractor will be present on site during the works and will be responsible for all health and safety requirements.
- 11.3 A separate Risk Assessment/Method Statement (RAMS) will be prepared prior to the commencement of the fieldwork and will include specific Covid-19 measures if the work takes place during the current pandemic.
- 11.4 Staff present on site will be CSCS accredited, asbestos awareness trained and will be required to wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which will be issued as necessary. Welfare Facilities will be made available by the Principal Contractor on site for washing.
- 11.5 Where AOC is not the principal contractor on a site the principal contractor's Risk Assessment will have primacy over the AOC document given that:
- The main contractor risk assessment is aware of, and takes account of, AOC's working practices – i.e. it does not compromise normal and safe archaeological procedure as set out in our Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment;
 - AOC was notified of the full suite of hazards present prior to arriving on site;
 - There is a proper induction and monitoring process in place and AOC staff have been through this process;
 - There is no significant conflict between AOC H&S procedures and those proposed by the main contractor; and
 - AOC are made aware of new threats or hazards as they arise during the course of our onsite involvement.

12 General

- 12.1 The methodologies of the WSI will be met in full where reasonably practicable.
- 12.2 Any significant variations to the proposed methodology will be discussed with the HTL who act as archaeological advisors to Boston Borough Council and the client.
- 12.3 The scope of fieldwork is aimed at meeting the aims of the project in a cost-effective manner. AOC Archaeology attempts to foresee all possible site-specific problems and make allowances for these. However, there may on occasion be unusual circumstances, which have not been included in the programme and costing. These can include:
- Unavoidable delays due to extreme bad weather, vandalism etc.;
 - Extensions to feature excavation sample sizes requested by the local authority's archaeological advisor; and

- Complex structures or objects, including those in waterlogged conditions, requiring specialist removal.

12.4 This WSI only relates to the works detailed above. The necessity for any further archaeological work will be agreed with HTL, as archaeological advisors to Boston Borough Council.

13 Bibliography

- ADS, 2011, *Guides to Good Practice*, <http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Main>
- AOC Archaeology, 2021a, *Proposed Solar Farm at Vicarage Drove, Bicker, Lincolnshire Cultural Heritage Assessment*, AOC Project No.25643
- AOC Archaeology, 2021b, *Vicarage Drove, Bicker, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Geophysical Survey Report*, AOC Project No. 40175
- British Geological Survey, 2021, *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Available at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, [Accessed 18 January 2021]
- Brown, D. H., 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Second Edition)*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Updated October 2020)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Updated June 2020)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014c), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (Updated October 2020)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014d), *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Updated October 2020)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014e), *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (Updated October 2020)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (Updated October 2020)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). *Code of Conduct*. (Updated October 2021)
- Historic England (2015) *Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd edition*
- Historic England, (2015a), *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London*
- Historic England (2015b). *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*
- Museum of London, 1994), *Archaeological Site Manual (3rd ed.)*
- RESCUE & ICON, 2001, *First Aid for Finds*. (3rd ed.)
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1983, *Conservation Guidelines No 2*.
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990. *Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice*.

Appendix 1: Technical Appendixes and Terms and Conditions

Appendix 1a – General

Insurances

1. AOC holds Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details can be supplied on request.
2. AOC will not be liable to indemnify the client against any compensation or damages for or with respect to:
 - damage to crops being on the Area or Areas of Work (save in so far as possession has not been given to the Archaeological Contractor);
 - the use or occupation of land (which has been provided by the Client) by the Project or for the purposes of completing the Project (including consequent loss of crops) or interference whether temporary or permanent with any right of way light air or other easement or quasi easement which are the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement;
 - any other damage which is the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement; and
 - injuries or damage to persons or property resulting from any act or neglect or breach of statutory duty done or committed by the client or his agents' servants or their contractors (not being employed by AOC Archaeology or for or in respect of any claims demands proceedings damages costs charges and expenses in respect thereof or in relation thereto)
3. Where excavation has taken place evaluation trenches will be backfilled with excavated material but will otherwise not be reinstated unless other arrangements have previously been agreed. Open area excavations normally will not be backfilled but left in a secure manner unless otherwise agreed.

Copyright and Confidentiality

4. AOC Archaeology will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive license to the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
5. AOC will assign copyright to the client upon written request but retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.
6. AOC will advise the Client of any such materials supplied in the course of projects, which are not AOC's copyright.
7. AOC undertake to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Client's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. In addition, AOC further undertakes to keep confidential any conclusions about the likely implications of such proposals for the historic environment. It is expected that Clients respect AOC's and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

Standards

8. AOC conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, the ClfA Code of Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment, the ClfA Standards and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment, the ClfA Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation etc., and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice.
9. Where practicable AOC will liaise with local archaeological bodies (both professional and amateur) in order that information about particular sites is disseminated both ways (subject to client confidentiality).

Appendix 1b – Specialist Staff

The following specialist staff may be used on this project depending on the type of artefacts and soil samples recovered during the course of the fieldwork.

Macroscopic plant remains	Quaternary Scientific	Reading University
Soils and sediments analysis	Quaternary Scientific	Reading University
Palaeoenvironmental archaeology	Quaternary Scientific	Reading University
Human remains	Mara Tesorieri	AOC
Conservation	Gretel Evans	AOC
Building material	Luke Barber	Freelance
Lithics	Jon Cotton	Freelance
Mammal and bird bone	Matilda Holmes	Freelance
Prehistoric pottery	Anna Doherty	Arch SE
Roman pottery	Anna Doherty	Arch SE
Medieval and post-medieval pottery	Kylie MacDermott	AOC
Metal	Helen Chittock	AOC
Glass	Luke Barber	Freelance
Geoarchaeology	Virgil Yendell	AOC

Appendix 1c – Archaeological Archive Consent Form

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVE CONSENT FORM

SITE: [Site address]

SITE CODE: [Site code]

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY REF: [Project number]

RECEIVING MUSEUM: [Local recipient museum]

I agree to the finds archive recovered from this site being donated to the specified museum.

SIGNED [Signature]

PRINT [Name]

Landowner/Agent

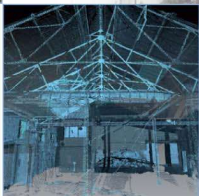
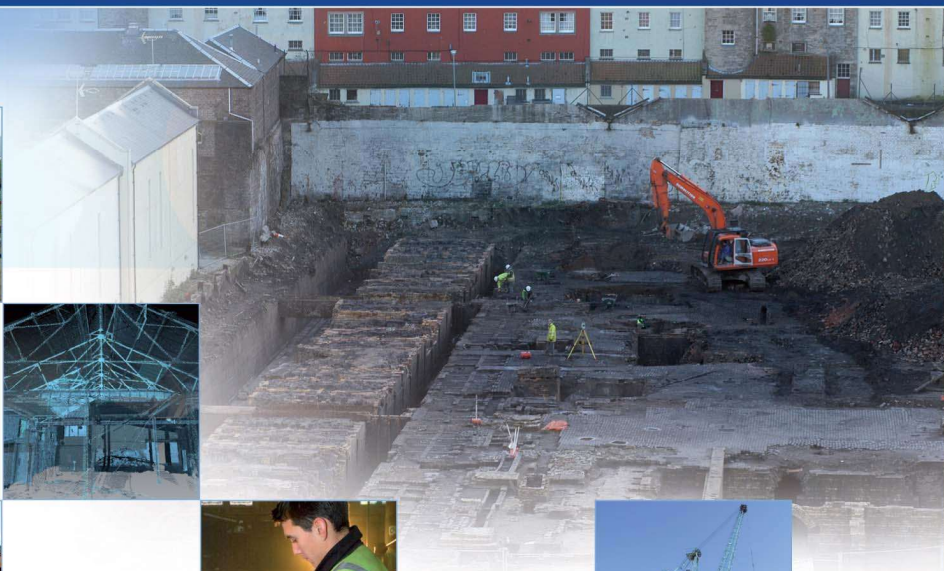
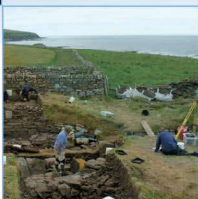
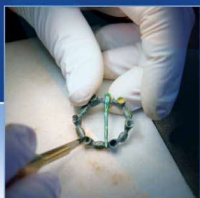
LANDOWNER'S NAME: [Landowner name]

LANDOWNER'S ADDRESS: [Landowner address]

Please retain a copy of this form for your records

Appendix 1d – OASIS Form

AOC would start an OASIS form prior to the commencement of works and complete it during archiving



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
 tel: 0131 555 4425 | fax: 0131 555 4426 | e-mail: edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com

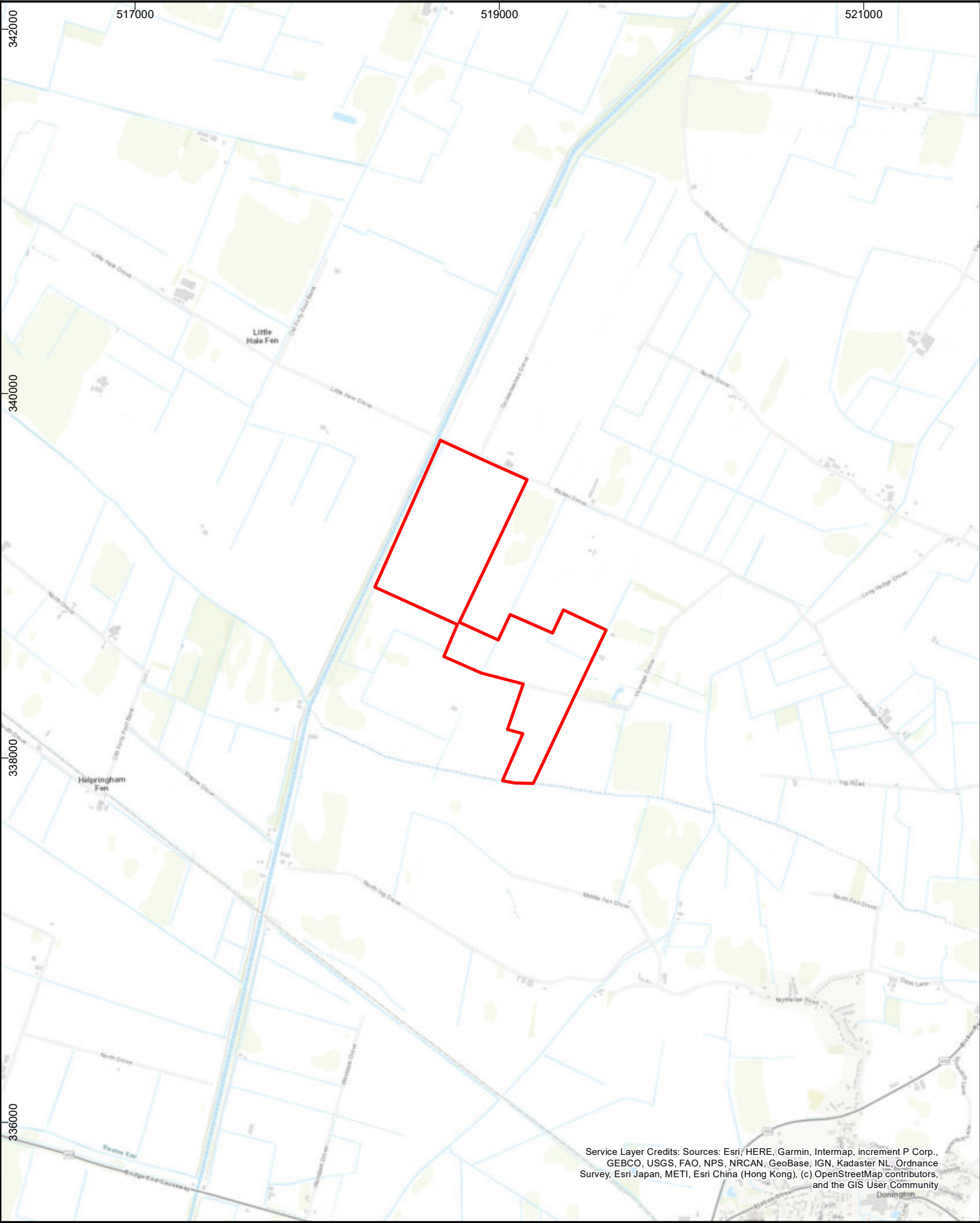
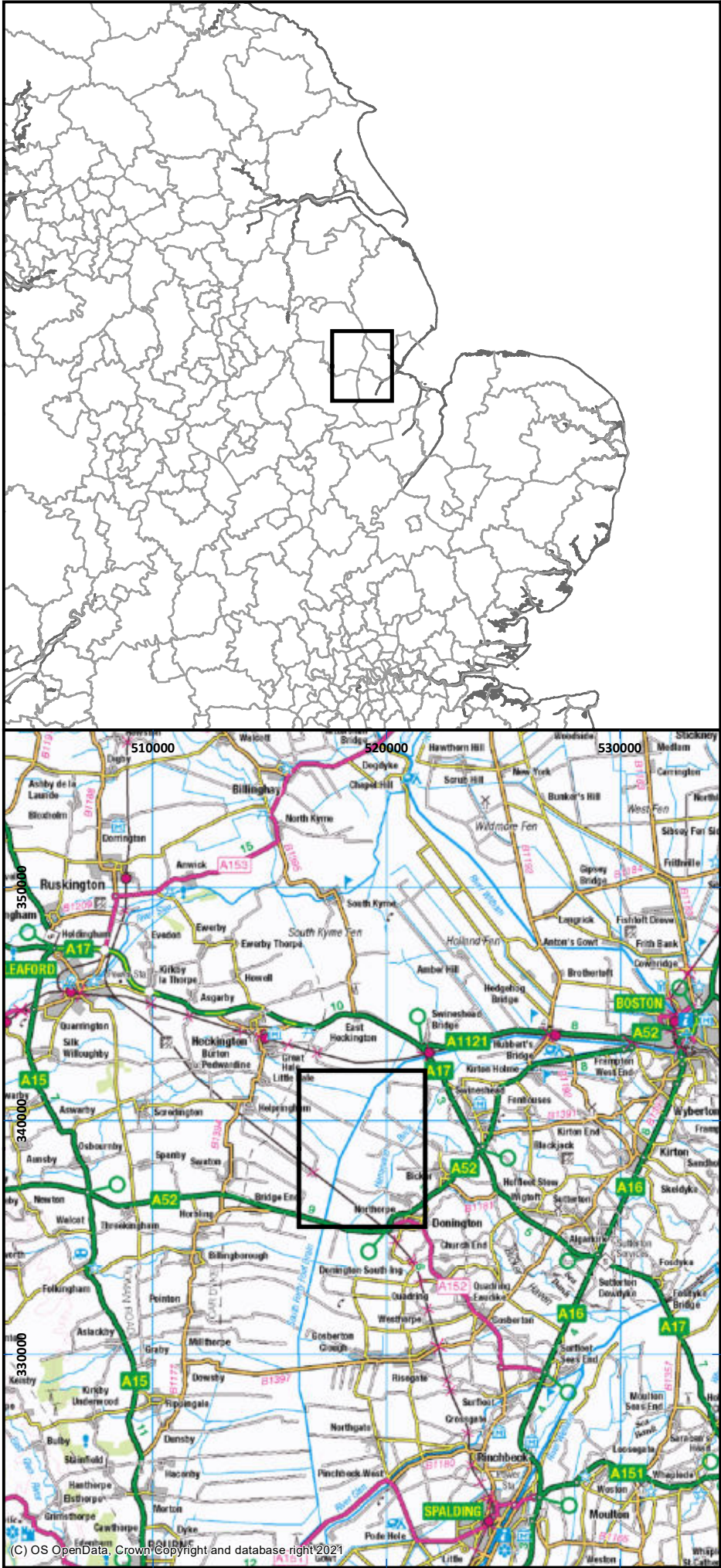


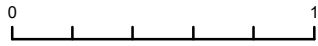


Figure		1
Site location map		
Legend [Red Outline] Site Boundary		
FOR DWD Property & Planning 6 New Bridge Street London EC4V 6AB		
Drawn/checked:	ML/SO	
DWG no:	01/25643/WSI/01/01	
AOC Project No.:	25643	
 (C) AOC Archaeology Group 2021		
		
SYSTEM Coordinate System: British National Grid Projection: Transverse Mercator Datum: OSGB 1936		
SCALE 1:25,000@ A3		
		

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339500

339000

518500

519000

Bicker Drive

Bicker Drive

South Forty Foot Drain

Archaeological Sensitive Area 1

Development Zone 1

Development Zone 2

Development Zone 3

Development Zone 4

Development Zone 5

Development Zone 8

Development Zone 6

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Figure

2

The northern Development Zones and the geophysical interpretation

Legend

- Geophysical Survey Area
- Development Zone
- Archaeological Sensitive Area
- Enhanced Magnetism (Historic Feature)
- Ferrous/Iron Spike
- Enhanced Magnetism (Modern)
- Geology/Natural
- Enhanced Magnetism (Unclear Origin)
- Geophysical Interpretation
 - Linear Trend (Historic Feature)
 - Linear Trend (Ploughing)
 - Linear Trend (Drainage)
 - Linear Trend (Unclear Origin)

FOR

DWD
Property & Planning
6 New Bridge Street
London
EC4V 6AB

Drawn/checked:	GM/SO
DWG no:	01/25643/CHA/02/01
AOC Project No.:	25643



(C) AOC Archaeology Group 2021

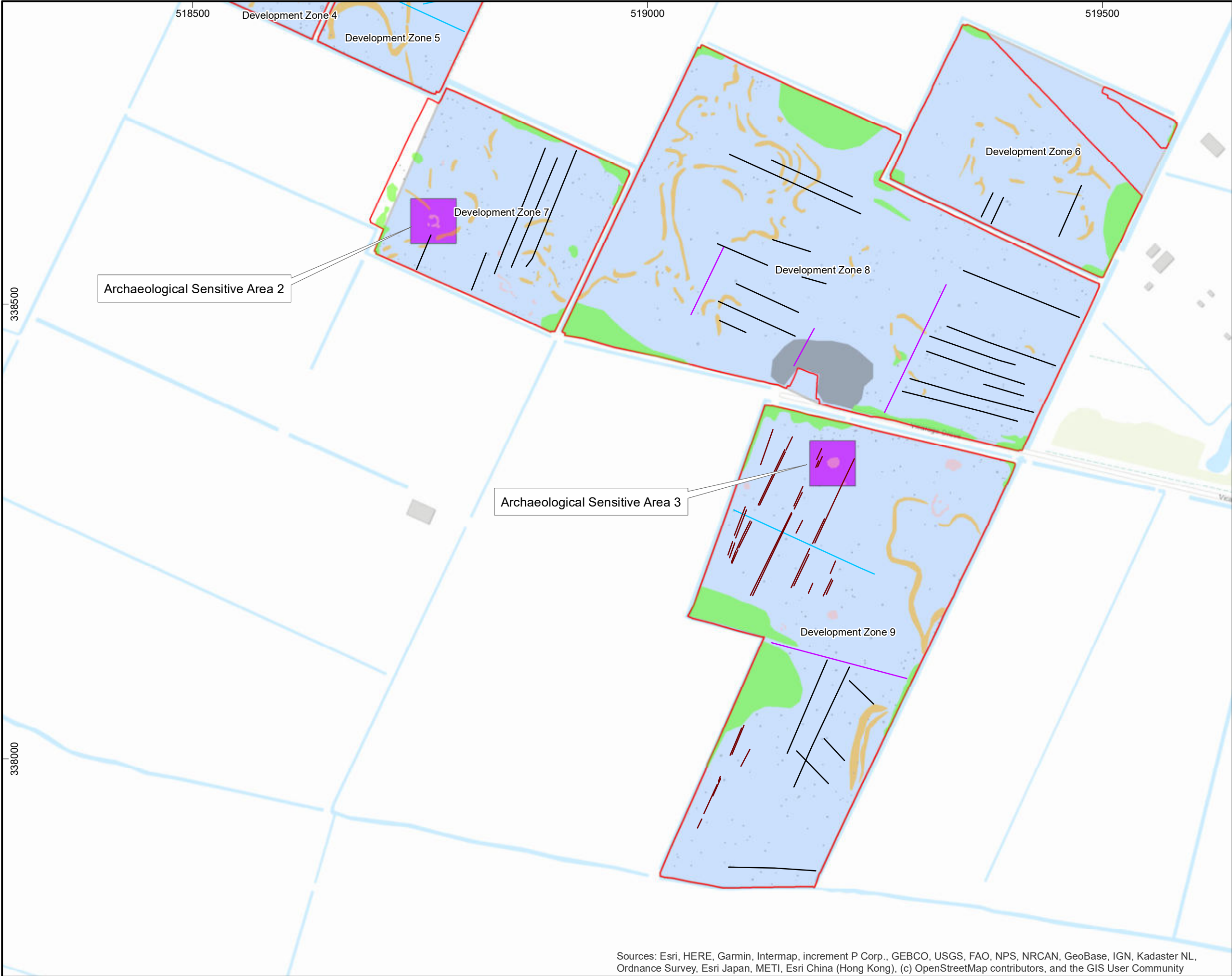


SYSTEM
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Datum: OSGB 1936

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1:4,000 @ A3

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Figure

3

The southern Development Zones and the geophysical interpretation

- Legend**
- Geophysical Survey Area
 - Development Zone
 - Archaeological Sensitive Area
 - Enhanced Magnetism (Historic Feature)
 - Ferrous/Iron Spike
 - Enhanced Magnetism (Modern)
 - Geology/Natural
 - Enhanced Magnetism (Unclear Origin)
 - Geophysical Interpretation
 - Linear Trend (Historic Feature)
 - Linear Trend (Ploughing)
 - Linear Trend (Drainage)
 - Trend (Unclear Origin)

FOR

DWD

Property & Planning
6 New Bridge Street
London
EC4V 6AB

Drawn/checked:	GM/SO
DWG no:	01/25643/CHA/03/01
AOC Project No.:	25643



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SYSTEM

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

SCALE

1:4,000 @ A3



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community