



Development Consent Application: East Anglia ONE North Offshore Wind Farm (Case Ref: EN010077)

Development Consent Application: East Anglia TWO Offshore Wind Farm (Case Ref: EN010078)

Examining Authorities' Note of Unaccompanied Inspections of Sites Undertaken 6 & 7 January 2021 (USI6)

Background

The Examining Authorities (ExAs) undertook their sixth unaccompanied site inspections (USI6) on 6 and 7 January 2021 to support examinations of applications for development consent for the proposed East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO Offshore Wind Farms (the applications).

The main purpose of the inspections was to view landscapes and seascapes at and from the Orfordness peninsula, a substantial shingle spit coastline that is inaccessible by road. Orfordness forms part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is also a National Nature Reserve. Earlier inspections did not gain access to it, due to the closure of public access during the Covid pandemic, but having viewed the coast north from Felixstowe to Caister on Sea, this approximately 16 km peninsula shoreline remained as the most substantial element of the coast that had not been inspected. Arrangements for access were made via the National Trust and enabled inspections at Orfordness to be undertaken by Rynd Smith and Jon Hockley.

The ExAs also used this opportunity to complete its programme of traffic and transport related inspections, including at locations requested by IPs. Guy Rigby undertook these inspections.

Further inspections were also undertaken by Rynd Smith, Jon Hockley and Guy Rigby to observe existing offshore wind farms at night from Aldeburgh beach. Potential historic heritage effects in Lowestoft and landscape impacts at Friston raised in a submitted Local Impact Report [REP1-132] and considered in evidence in Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) were undertaken by Jon Hockley and Mr Hockley and Rynd Smith respectively.

The inspections are recorded in this note, the purpose of which is to inform the Applicants, Interested Parties (IPs) and other persons of actions taken by the ExAs. A single note has been produced. It is endorsed with the yellow and blue icon used to identify materially identical documentation in accordance with the ExAs' Procedural Decisions 3 on document management of 23 December 2019¹. Whilst this note has been published to the Examination Libraries for both applications, if it is

¹ The ExA's Procedural Decision 3 for [East Anglia ONE North](#) can be seen here at Annex B. The ExA's identical Procedural Decision 3 for [East Anglia TWO](#) can be seen here at Annex B.



read in one library, there is no need to read it again in the second library. Previous site inspection notes can also be found in both libraries² on the same basis.

Careful consideration has now been given to all site inspection nominations by the Applicants and IPs. Accompanied Site Inspections (ASIs) programmed be held on 26 and 27 January 2021 were amended into a combination of Access Required (AR) and unaccompanied site inspections (USI7) held on 25, 26 and 27 January 2021. Itineraries for these can be found in both libraries³. Additional USIs may be held if new issues requiring to be inspected arise, and notes of these would also be published, but in principle the requests for site inspections made by IPs have now been addressed. It should be noted that the ExAs can decide not to visit nominated locations where they consider that it is not necessary to see them or the features requested to be observed in order to make recommendations to the Secretary of State.

Particulars of the Inspections

The inspections were undertaken by members of the ExAs consisting of Rynd Smith (Lead), Jon Hockley and Guy Rigby. The purposes of the inspections were to:

- observe existing offshore wind farm installations from the coast at night;
- extend the ExAs' review of the Applicants' seascape impact assessments into land at Orfordness that was not accessible during previous inspections;
- complete traffic and transport inspections;
- carry out historic heritage inspections; and
- consider landscape impacts.

The inspections were carried out over two days.

Orfordness Seascapes Route – the inspections reviewed locations referred to in evidence of the applicant and Natural England. Sites were inspected at or as close as possible to the locations from which the Applicants' seascape visualisations were obtained. They were undertaken on 7 January 2021 by boat from Orford Quay to Orfordness Quay and then on foot once on the Orfordness peninsula, commencing at 10:00am, concluding at 3:00pm. Weather conditions were dry and initially overcast but brightening later and with good long-range and sea horizon visibility throughout.

Traffic and Transport Inspections – the inspections viewed locations proposed in the applications for highways works or subject to traffic and transport impacts, including locations proposed by the applicants and IPs. The inspections were undertaken on the afternoon of 6 January 2021 by car between 2:30pm and 4:00pm, and also on 7 January 2021 by car and then on foot, commencing at 09:00am at Aldeburgh and concluding at approximately 3:30pm at Saxmundham. Weather conditions were dry and cloudy with good visibility. There were some locations where it was either not possible or not safe to stop for an inspection on

² Pre-examination USI1, 2 and 3 notes can be seen in the [East Anglia ONE North](#) library here the Examination period USI4 and USI5 Note can be seen [here](#).

Identical Pre-examination USI1, 2 and 3 notes in the [East Anglia TWO](#) library can be seen here and the Examination period USI4 and USI5 Note can be seen [here](#).

³ Annexes E (Notice) and E1 (Outline Itinerary) of the Rule 8(3) Letter of 8 December 2020 can be seen in the [East Anglia ONE North](#) library here and in an identical letter in the [East Anglia TWO](#) library here. Detailed itineraries can be seen in the [East Anglia ONE North](#) library here and in the [East Anglia TWO](#) library here.



foot, and these are noted below, but it was nevertheless possible to appreciate views of the proposed highways works locations and of other highways locations of interest to the ExAs.

Aldeburgh Beach Night Inspection – the inspection was undertaken on foot on Aldeburgh beach after nightfall, between 7:00pm and 7:30pm on 6 January 2021. The purpose of the inspection was to observe the visibility, effect and extent of sea horizon affected by lighting on constructed offshore wind farms at night, enabling wind turbine generator (WTG) lighting to be seen. Weather conditions were dry with a dark sky providing good long-range and sea horizon visibility.

Historic Heritage – the inspections viewed locations raised by Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council in their joint local impact report [REP1-132] as relevant to the assessment of the impact of the proposed offshore infrastructure on heritage assets, including the South Lowestoft Conservation Area and listed buildings within this area, including group listings of large terraces at Wellington Esplanade, Victoria Terrace, and Kirkley Cliff Terrace. Inspections were undertaken on 6 January 2021 on foot commencing at 2:30pm and concluding at 3:45pm. Weather conditions were dry and reasonably clear.

Landscape Inspections – the inspections viewed agricultural buildings located at Red House Farm as referred to in evidence both in writing and verbally at ISH2. These were viewed from a nearby footpath and were undertaken on foot on 7 January 2021 commencing at 3:30pm and concluding at 4:00pm. Weather conditions were dry and clear.

The individual locations inspected over both days and the purposes of those inspections are recorded below with route maps provided at **Annex A**. Route and location numbers as shown on the maps are set out below.

Reference to Environmental Statement Viewpoints (ES VP) is taken to be to Figures 28.5 and 29.4 for seascape and onshore receptors (Examination Library references [APP-319] and [APP-394] respectively); these references are common to both applications.



6-7 January 2021:

Orfordness Seascapes Route viewed the following:

Location(s)	Relevant Observations	ES VP (where applicable)
National Trust 'Red route' through former airfield site and past Rangers Office	Views of marshland areas of Orford Ness	
Bailey Bridge (1)	Entrance/bridge to shingled area of the Ness	
Bomb Ballistics building (2)	Views obtained from roof of building to gain impression of the character of the wider Ness and seascapes	
Site of former lighthouse and coastguard lookout (3)	View of seascape	VP 18
Beach adjacent to Pagodas (4)	View of seascape	VP 18
Black Beacon (5)	Views of character of area	
AWRE Laboratory 1 (6)	Views of character of area	

Traffic and Transport Inspections viewed the following:

Location(s)	Relevant Observations	Works Nos. (where applicable)
A14/A12	Observed the grade separated dual carriageway A14 and the variable standards of the A12 between the ports of Felixstowe and Lowestoft, including the junction with A1094 at Friday Street, in both directions by car.	37
A12/A1094 junction at Friday Street towards Aldeburgh	Observed general traffic conditions on the A1094 westwards from Aldeburgh, then observed the A12/A1094 junction (already observed at USI4); then travelled eastwards on A1094 towards Aldeburgh and observed junctions and general traffic conditions.	36



Location(s)	Relevant Observations	Works Nos. (where applicable)
A1094 between A12 and Snape	Right turn junctions to Gromford: first turn very tight into single track road, stopped and observed second (eastern) junction at Wadd Lane, a single-track road, from A1094 westbound.	Off-site footway improvements (Wadd Lane)
A1094/B1069 junction	Staggered junction next to Snape church; stopped on northern side road by church and observed A1094 eastbound approach to junction with B1069, also war memorial immediately adjacent to eastbound A1094 opposite junction, no footway.	Off-site footway improvements
A1094/B1121 junction	Passed through, already observed at USI4.	35
A1094/B1069 junction	Passed through, already observed at USI4.	35
A1094/B1122 junction	Stopped to observe operation of five arm roundabout junction (fifth arm to community centre adjacent to supermarket entrances not signed), including approach to and geometry of tight left turn from A1094 into B1122.	
B1122 towards Yoxford	Travelled and observed B1122 northbound.	
B1122 Fitches Lane/Gipsy Lane	Observed proposed site accesses 5 and 6 and cable route crossing point while driving past: these are very narrow tracks with sharp turns off B1122, so unsafe to stop.	19,20,21
B1122 Aldringham crossroads	Observed junction while making open left turn from A1122 northbound into Aldringham Lane towards B1069 and noted limited visibility of right turn out.	
Aldringham Lane/B1069	Observed junction while making sharp, awkward 45 degree left turn from Aldringham Lane onto B1069.	



Location(s)	Relevant Observations	Works Nos. (where applicable)
B1069/Sloe Lane	Turn left off B1069 southbound not possible as single track road closed, but stopped briefly to observe cable route crossing point on Sloe Lane (site accesses 7 and 8) from B1069 (Sloe Lane closed for works)	23
B1122 northbound towards Yoxford	Not safe to stop but observed tight left turn junction with Abbey Lane (leading to Leiston airfield), wide right turn into Lovers Lane and sharp left turn into access road to Leiston Abbey while driving past; also observed junction with Church Road, Theberton, from safe stopping point to the south; also observed lack of footway north of Church Road junction at Manor Cottage, and level crossing at Middleton while driving past (no safe stopping points).	Off-site footway improvements at Church Road junction and Manor Cottage, Theberton
B1122/A12 junction at Yoxford	Stopped to observe B1122/A12 junction again (already observed at USI4) including proposed AIL overrun and street furniture removal.	
B1122 southbound towards Aldeburgh	Observed wide left hand turn into Lovers Lane from southbound B1122 (existing AIL route).	
B1122/Lovers Lane	Travelled along Lovers Lane, stopped to observe site access 1 looking west from entrance to Greater Gabbard substation and site access 2 looking east along Sizewell Gap from St George's Avenue.	10,15
B1122/A1094	Returned along B1122 to the A1094 junction, observing Aldringham crossroads and the Gipsy Lane/Fitches Lane junctions at site accesses 5 and 6 while driving past.	19,20,21



Location(s)	Relevant Observations	Works Nos. (where applicable)
A1094/B1121	Travelled along A1094 to junction with B1121 to Friston, observing junction with B1069 including AIL manoeuvring space, and poor visibility at junctions with B1069 and B1121 while driving through.	35
Church Road, Friston	Travelled along B1121 through Friston and turned sharp right into Church Road to observe single track Church Road with running water by church – not safe to stop.	
Grove Road	Turned left into single track Grove Road and stopped briefly in layby to view near where the cable route and haul road cross single track Grove Road (accesses 11 and 12); also observed the use of Grove Road by pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists south of Manor Farm and stables.	26
B1121 Friston	Returned to B1121 and briefly observed the permanent site access to the right while driving past on B1121, then making the sharp left turn into single track Kiln Lane at the second attempt (not safe the first time) to observe the permanent site access (13) briefly while driving along Kiln Lane – not safe to stop on single track road.	34
B1121 towards Saxmundham	Travelled along B1121 through Sternfield to observe the junction with Main Road into Saxmundham (formerly A12, now B1121).	



Aldeburgh Beach Night Inspection viewed the following:

Location	Relevant Observations	ES VP (where applicable)
Market Cross Place, Crag Path and Aldeburgh Beach	The beach was accessed on foot from Market Cross Place between the Museum and Ash Smoked Fish premises. Walking to beyond the storm berm it was possible to obtain views to sea with only limited effects from street and building lights in the town. Individual nacelle level red aviation lighting from Galloper and Greater Gabbard offshore wind farms were viewed to the south east.	13

Historic Heritage Inspections viewed the following:

Locations (all Lowestoft)	Relevant Observations	ES VP (closest where applicable)
South Lowestoft Conservation Area 16-28 Victoria Terrace.	Walk around Conservation Area to gain impression of the character and appearance of the heritage asset.	VP1
Wellington Esplanade.	Grade II listed terrace of 24 properties.	VP1
Ashurst.	Grade II listed properties.	VP1
South Lodge.	Grade II listed properties.	VP1
Kirkley Cliff Terrace.	Grade II listed terrace of 17 properties.	VP1
Windsor House.	Pair of Grade II listed buildings	VP1
Richard Henry Reeve Memorial.	Grade II listed structure, Kensington Gardens.	VP1
9, 10 and 11 Waterloo Road and 16-28 Victoria Terrace.	Grade II listed corner terrace.	VP1



Landscape Inspection (Red House Farm)

Location	Relevant Observations	Works Nos (where applicable)
Red House Farm, Friston, viewed from footpath nos. 15 and 16, Grid Ref TM 40425 61422.	To view agricultural buildings referred to in landscape submissions during ISHs2.	N/A

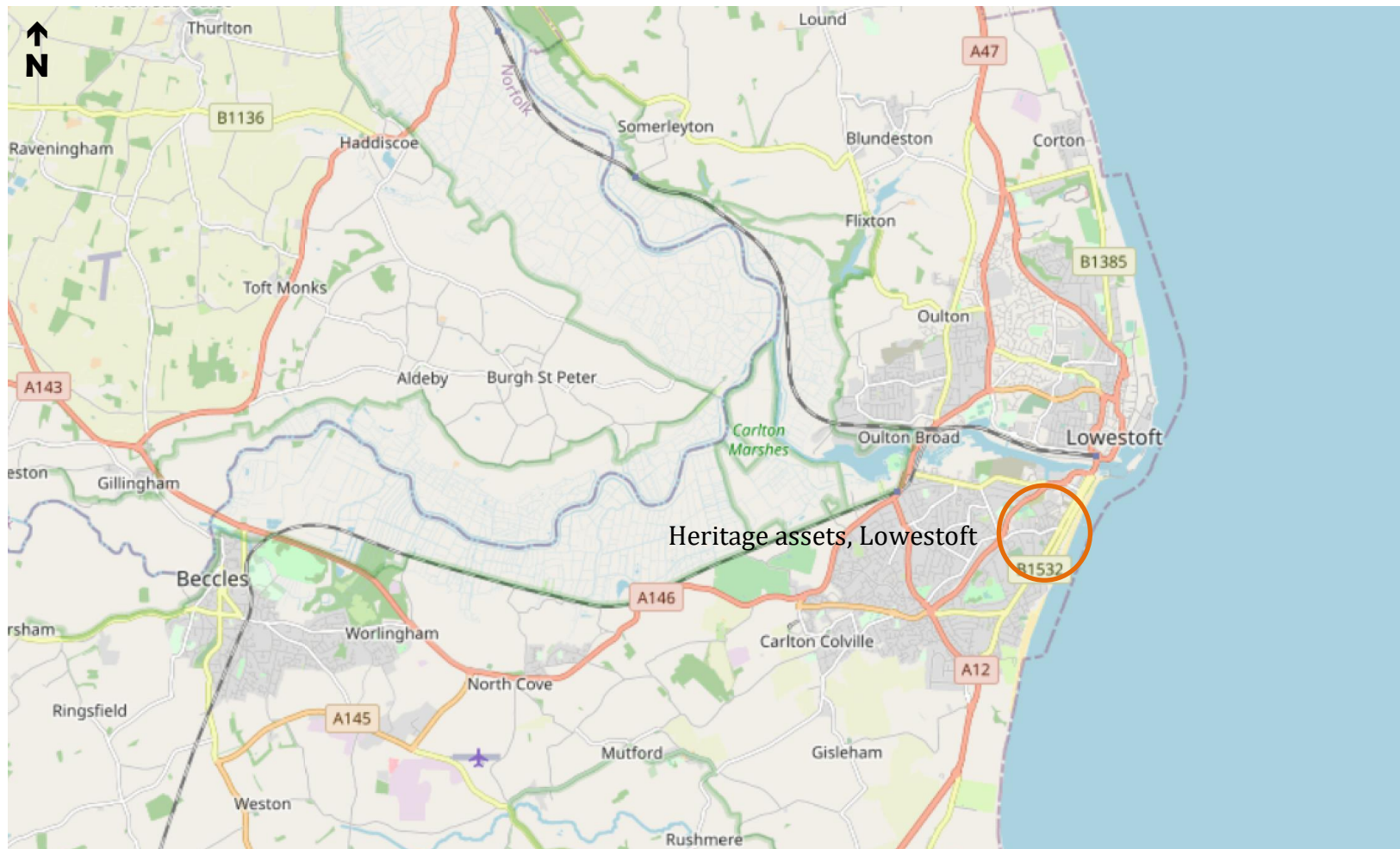


Annex A

USI6

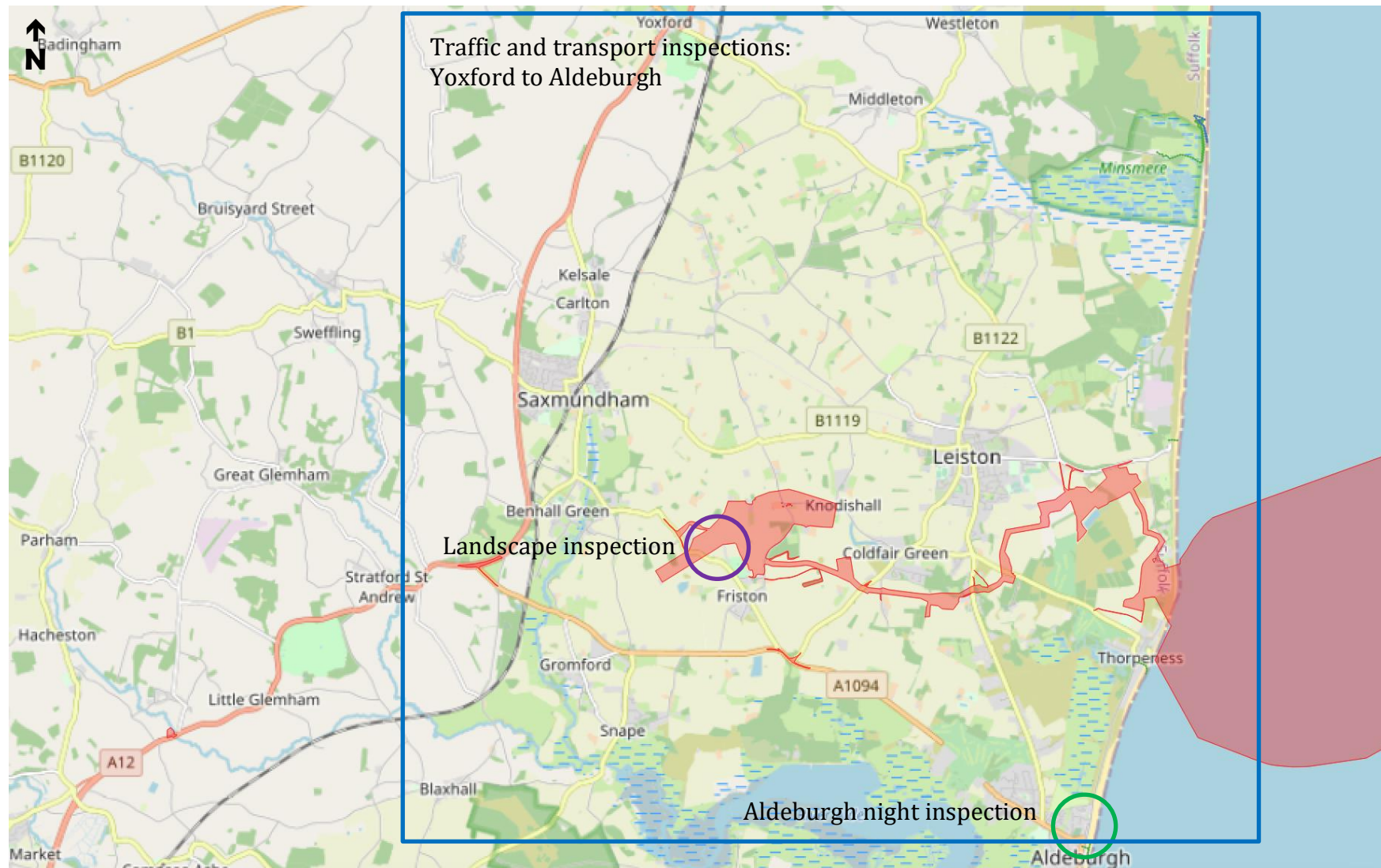
Key Plans (North to South)

Lowestoft



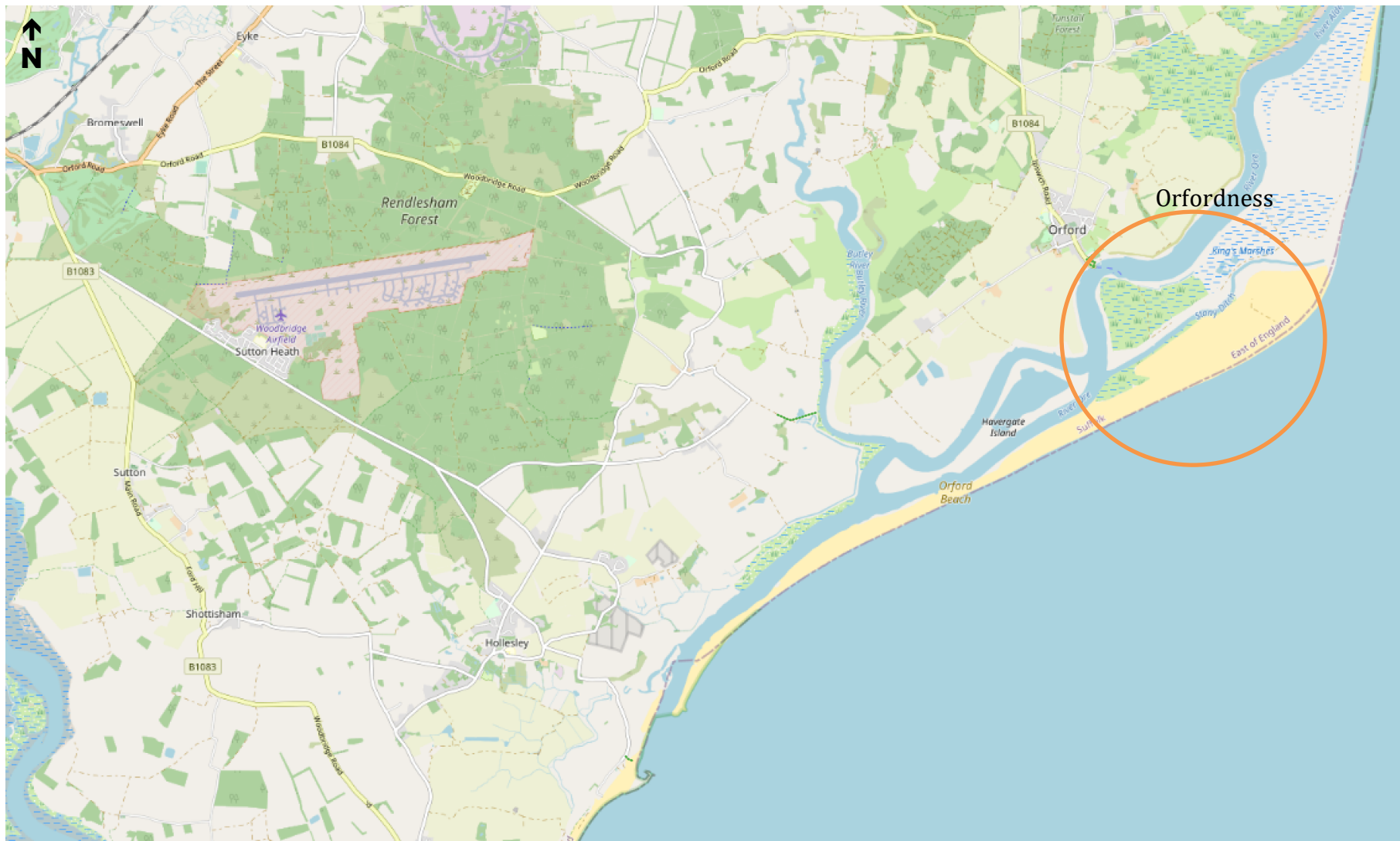


Yoxford to Aldeburgh















Orfordness



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Key to Plan Notations

	Walking and driving routes taken by the ExAs during USI6
	
	
	
	
	Traffic and transport route inspections
	Orfordness inspections
	Aldeburgh night inspection
	Historic heritage inspections (Lowestoft)
	Landscapes inspection (Red Barn Farm)



Orfordness Seascapes Route



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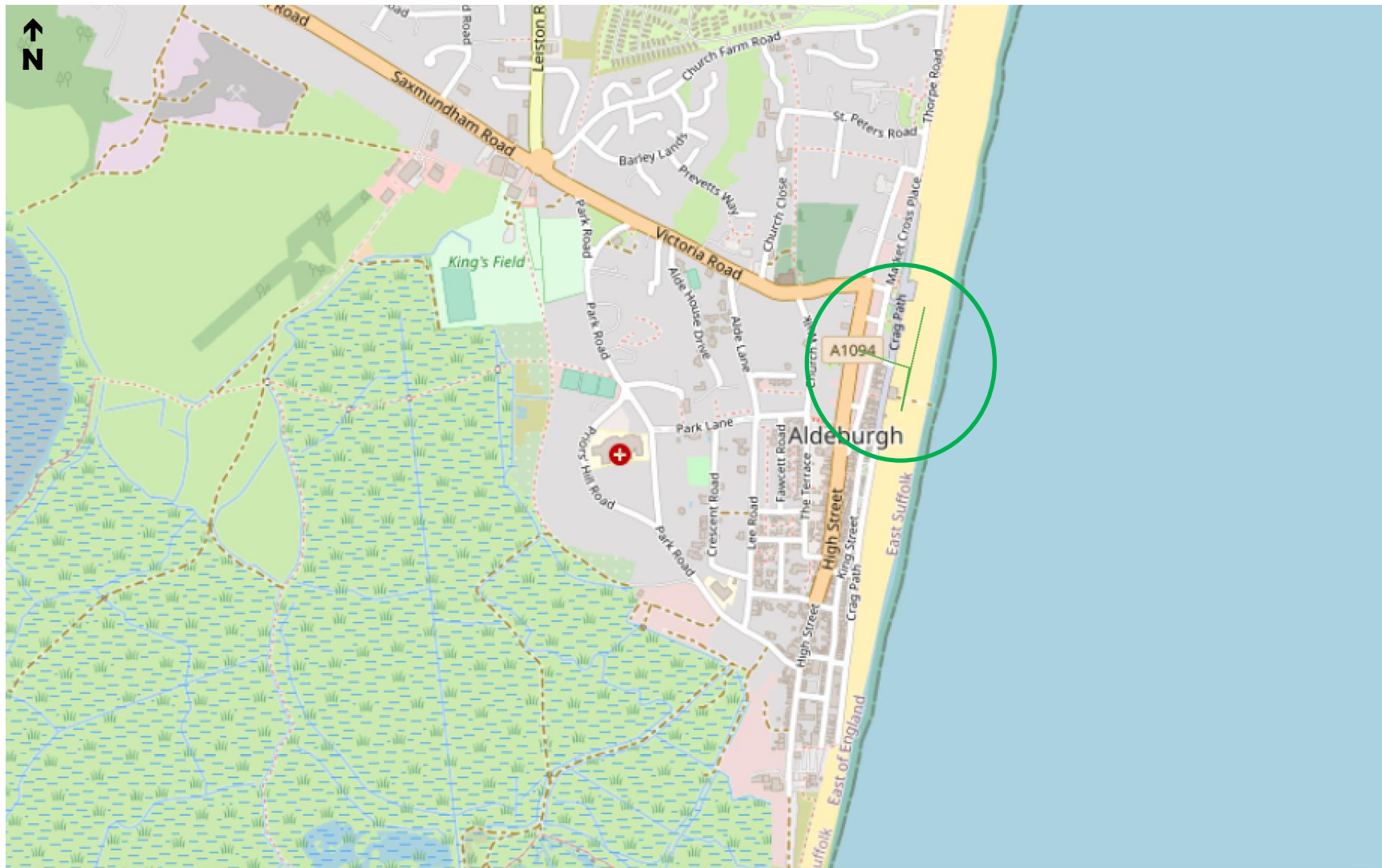
Traffic and Transport Inspections



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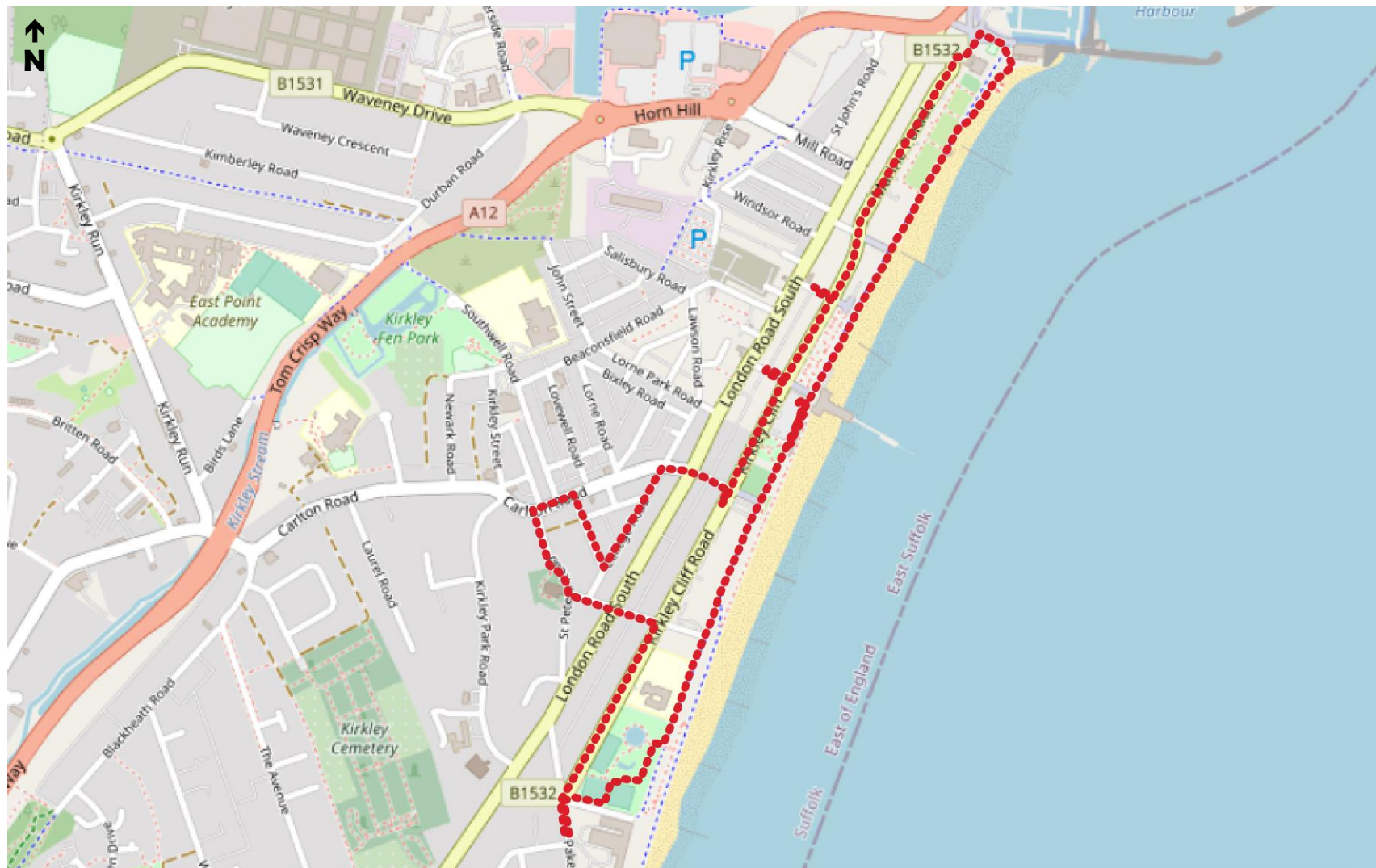
Aldeburgh Night Inspection



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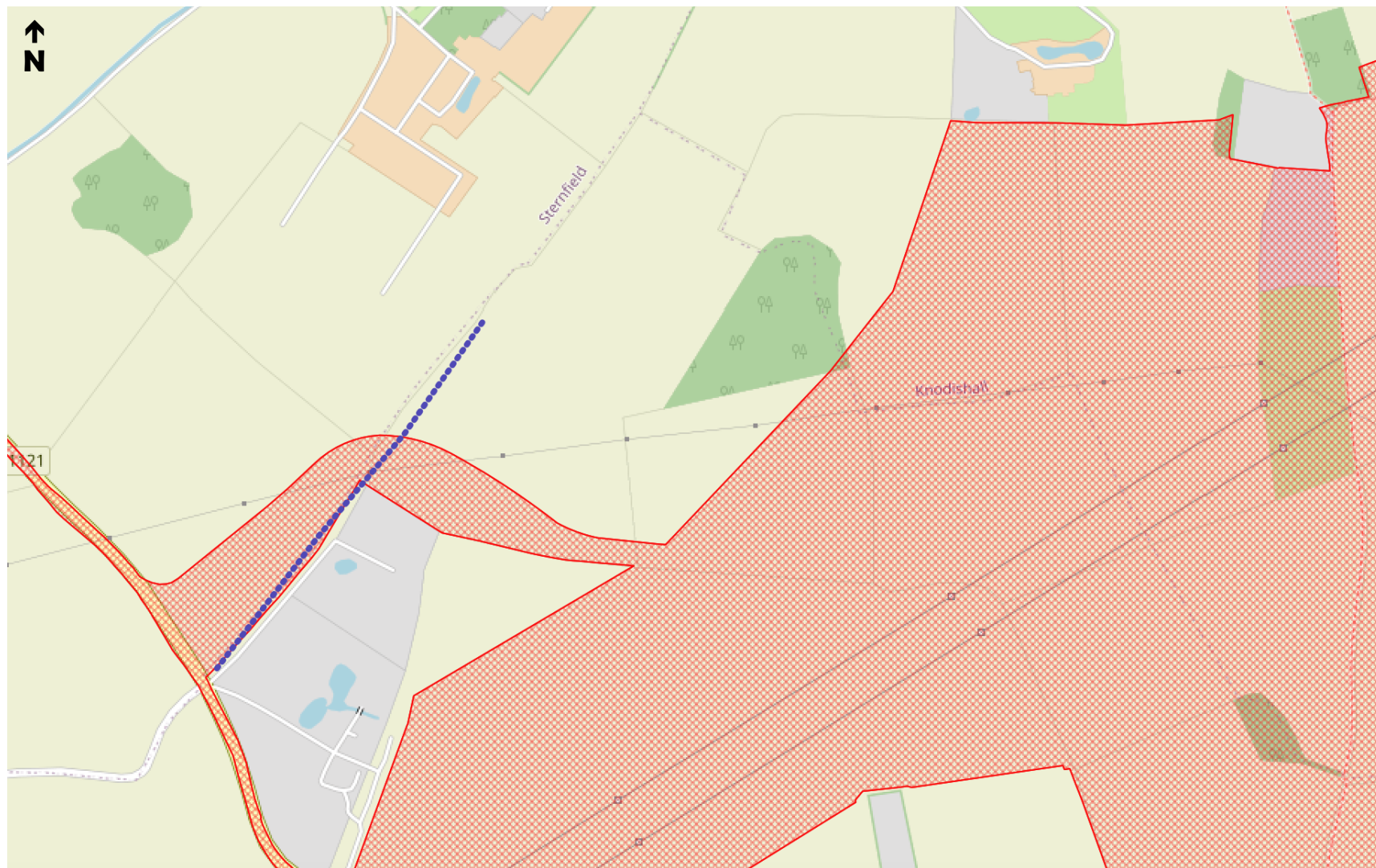
Historic Heritage Inspections (Lowestoft)



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Landscapes Inspection (Red Barn Farm)



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