



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Little Clacton Road Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Five Estuaries OSWF North Falls OSWF Little Clacton Road, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation

Planning Ref: HER FWLC24
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm Ltd and North Falls Offshore Windfarm Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land located in north of Little Clacton Road, Great Holland, Tendring, Essex, CO13 0EU for both the Five Estuaries and North Falls Offshore Windfarms, centred on NGR 620506, 219225.

The evaluation was undertaken as part of the proposed development of the Five Estuaries and North Falls Offshore Arrays, proposals for which are currently under consideration by the Planning Inspectorate. The evaluation area would be used for part of the onshore infrastructure connecting the offshore arrays with the onshore substation. The current proposals through the Site are for two options for the route of the cable corridor through this area.

The evaluation comprised 16 trenches, each measuring 30m by 2m. A total of three ditches across five of the excavated trenches, with ditch segments in Trenches 7/9 and 12/13 part of the same features. The ditch across Trenches 7 and 9 corresponds with a field boundary recorded on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map, and was identified by the previous APS survey, with the other two ditches also likely to represent field boundaries.

A previous geophysical survey failed to identify any of the recorded features, and a proposed archaeological feature was not identified by any of the three trenches targeted to investigate it.

The evaluation was undertaken between 29 April and 10 May 2024.

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Five Estuaries OSWF North Falls OSWF Little Clacton Road, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm Ltd and North Falls Offshore Windfarm Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land located in north of Little Clacton Road, Great Holland, Tendring, Essex, CO13 0EU for both the Five Estuaries and North Falls Offshore Windfarms, centred on NGR 620506, 219225 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of the Five Estuaries and North Falls Offshore Arrays. The evaluation area is required for its associated infrastructure consisting of onshore export cables extending from the landfall between Holland on Sea and Frinton on Sea and connecting to an onshore substation at Little Bromley.
- 1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2023). The Historic Environment Consultant at Place Services approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation, comprising 16 trial trenches and 6 archaeological and geoarchaeological test pits was undertaken 29/04/24 – 10/05/24. No. 1 of the trial trenches measured 50 m x 2 m and the remaining no. 15 trial trenches measured 30 m x 2 m.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located Little Clacton Road is located to the north of Little Clacton Road to the west of Great Holland. The Site is bound by Great Holland Mill and Holland Mill Wood to the west, agricultural land to the north, a track and agricultural land to the east and agricultural land and Little Clacton Road to the south.
- 1.3.2 The Little Clacton Road site is relatively flat and lies at an elevation of around 22m aOD.
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology is mapped as Thames Group (clay, silt and sand) overlain by superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup (sands and gravels; British Geological Survey (2024).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (Royal Haskoning DHV 2022; Wessex Archaeology 2023a), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a study area surrounding the Site. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), and reference numbers assigned during the aerial photographic assessment (Aerial Photo Services (APS) 2022) included. A Geoarchaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2022) has also been undertaken to establish the sub-surface superficial deposits underlying the Site and provides an assessment of their archaeological and geoarchaeological potential and a summary of the results is included below. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous non-intrusive surveys within the Site Area

Geophysical Survey (Wessex Archaeology 2023b)

- 2.2.1 The Site area is referred to as LCR_04 in the Geophysical Survey report (Wessex Archaeology 2023). A broad weakly positive circular anomaly is located in the northern part of the Site (4003). It is up to 5m wide, aligned west-east for 65m before it turns towards the south for 101m and then to the west for 55m. This indicates a ditch-like feature that could form a large enclosure opened to the west. However, it could just as well be a past course of the Holland Brook that runs to the west of the Site. A small number of possible archaeological anomalies are located to the west of the possible enclosure.
- 2.2.2 No other geophysical anomalies have been identified within the evaluation area however to the immediate east of the Site a weakly positive penannular anomaly is located at 4000 and measures 17m in diameter and is 1.4m wide. At its centre is a weakly positive discrete anomaly, which is 2m in diameter as well as three similar anomalies located on the ditch alignment. These anomalies indicate a ditch-like feature such as a roundhouse or round barrow. Small discrete anomalies could relate to postholes or pits. However, given the alluvial sediment present in the area, they as well be natural in origin.
- 2.2.1 To the north of the circular anomaly at 4000, is a weak linear anomaly at 4001 (also outside of the Site boundary). It is 40m long by up to 3m wide and is surrounded by eight weakly positive sub-circular anomalies that are between 2.5m and 4.5m in diameter. The linear anomaly runs on an east-west orientation and curves towards the south-east at the eastern side. It indicates a ditch-like feature or a hardened surface such as a path. The circular anomalies indicate pit-like features that could relate to wider settlement activity in the area, considering the proximity to the ring-ditch. However, given the alluvial sediments present in the area they could as well be natural in origin.
- 2.2.2 About 80m further north from 4000 and 4001 are weakly positive responses at 4002 which occupy an area of 12.5m by 18m (also outside of the Site boundary). The perimeter is delineated by a weakly positive linear anomaly that is up to 1.5m wide and appears to have a 3m wide entrance towards the west. Located within are two orthogonal weakly positive anomalies that occupy an area of 4m by 3m. They could relate to dwellings of an uncertain date. It is equally possible that they are a result of natural undulation in the subsurface.
- 2.2.3 Several small weakly positive discrete anomalies have been identified as possible archaeology to the east of the Order Limits. They indicate pits and could relate to human

activities such as refuse pits or storage pits. However, they could as well be the result of natural undulations in the bedrock for variation within the cover sands.

Aerial Photographic Assessment (APS 2022)

- 2.2.4 There are no polygons, points or lines relating to the information mapped by the National Mapping Programme within the evaluation area. The work undertaken by Aerial Photo Services has mapped a field system across the central part of the evaluation area. This comprises an east-west oriented boundary, with two spurs, one to extending north east and another extending south. No other features have been mapped within the Little Clacton Road Site from the assessment of aerial photographs.
- 2.2.5 There is no National Mapping Programme (NMP) data within the evaluation area.

2.3 Previous intrusive surveys in the Site Area

- 2.3.1 A program of geoarchaeological monitoring of Ground Investigation works has recently been completed to the immediate south of Little Clacton Road, forming part of a broader program of GI monitoring (WA 2023c).
- 2.3.2 Two boreholes (BHLC-1 and BHLC-3) were monitored by a geoarchaeologist at this location. Both boreholes are situated approximately 100m south of the evaluation area, within GCZ 2 Geoarchaeological Character Zone, representing a zone where no previous stratigraphic data was available, but where there was potential for unmapped Pleistocene deposits to be present. The archaeological potential of the deposits within each GCZ is detailed in the Geoarchaeological Desk Based Assessment (WA 2022).
- 2.3.3 Both boreholes produced sequences of Quaternary superficial sediments, including 2.5m of Kesgrave Sands and Gravels overlying London Clay bedrock recorded in BHLC-1, with brickearth (0.20-1.20mbgl) overlying Kesgrave Sands and Gravels to 5.60mbgl in BHLC-3.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical context

Post Palaeolithic prehistoric

- 2.4.1 A neolithic axehead is recorded 350m to the south east of the Little Clacton Road as an isolated find and 1km to the south east a Bronze Age socketed axehead was discovered. Cropmarks relating to ring ditches have been identified within 1km of the Site, although these have not been intrusively investigated, this could relate to prehistoric funerary activity.

Romano-British to Anglo-Saxon

- 2.4.2 No finds or features of known Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon date have been recorded within 1km of the Little Clacton Road site.

Medieval to Modern

- 2.4.3 The estuary between Frinton and Clacton became known as the Gunfleet Estuary in the medieval and post-medieval periods. It is thought that boats were able to travel as far up stream as Thorpe-le-soken at this time. The Fan bridge is known to have existed since 1509 and prior to this there was probably a ford or boat crossing at this point. Documents from the 16th century describe the estuary as a 'haven' suggesting that it was used for shipping and the channel between the coast and Gunfleet Sands is known to have been used as safe anchorage for larger ships. Within the estuary a number of landing places have been identified which were linked to villages and farms on the higher ground, by lanes. The estuary was reclaimed in the 17th century to stop sea water entering the marshland so that

it could be used for agriculture. A sea wall was constructed across its mouth with a sluice to allow the river water to drain away into the sea.

- 2.4.4 Great Holland Mill existed adjacent to the Site from at least the post-medieval period to 1985 when it was lost to fire. A mill is shown west of Great Holland on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777 and this is the earliest depiction of the mill at this location. The circular smock mill and associated buildings can be seen on the parish of Great Holland tithe map of 1839. The apportionment indicates that this was occupied by Thomas Beckwith at this time and it is listed as a Homestead in the apportionment. The base of the mill is the only part of the windmill that survived the fire. The Mill House is Grade II listed and is of 19th century date with ranges attached to the rear; a separate granary is also located in the farmstead.
- 2.4.5 A small number of post-medieval findspots have been recorded within 1km of the Site, the closest of which is located 500m to the south of the Site.
- 2.4.6 Historic mapping of the area has shown that the Site has been previously sub-divided into smaller parcels of land as shown on the Great Holland Parish tithe map dating to 1839. This shows the site to comprise smaller, irregular shaped parcels of agricultural land. This appears to have remained until the later part of the 20th century when the internal field boundaries were removed to create a single larger field.

Unknown

- 2.4.7 A large number of cropmarks have been recorded on the HER and through the NMP survey. Many of these relate to field boundaries which could relate to agricultural activities from the medieval period to the 19th century. A polygon relating to field boundaries of unknown date extends within the eastern portion of the Site, although the digitised cropmarks lie outside of the Site to the east. Another lies 500m to the north of the Site which records cropmarks of linear feature and field boundaries.
- 2.4.8 Possible earlier features such as ring ditches and possible trackways have been recorded 1km to the west of the Site. To the south of the Site a polygon relating to a broad double ditched trackway, possible penannular ditches and pits are recorded of unknown date. Approximately 500m to the south east of the Site an single large ring ditch has been recorded with a trackway running north east to south west, which could be prehistoric in date. A sub-rectangular enclosure and possible small ring ditches have been identified as cropmarks approximately 500m to the south west of the Site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023), were to:
- provide information about the archaeological and geoarchaeological potential of the site; and
 - inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological and/or geoarchaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

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

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 The site-specific objectives, as defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023), were to:

- test the results of the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2023a);
- examine evidence for any prehistoric activity within the Site; and
- examine evidence for any medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity within the Site.

3.3.2 The trial trenches have been targeted over the geophysical anomalies and positioned to test the apparent 'blank' areas. Blank areas have been tested using a 30m trench grid system where possible. A rationale is provided below for the positioning of the trenches.

Table 1 Trench Position Rationale

Trench no.	Trench Position Rationale	Trench Length (m)
Tr.1	Tr.1 is aligned E-W within 'blank' area	30m
Tr.2	Tr.2 NE-SW aligned to target geophysical anomaly, possible large enclosure	30m
Tr.3	Tr.3 aligned E-W to target possible large enclosure and internal discrete anomalies from geophysical survey	50m
Tr.4	Tr.4 is aligned NE-SW within 'blank' area	30m
Tr.5	Tr.5 is aligned N-S within 'blank' area and targeting geological features	30m
Tr.6	Tr.6 aligned N-S to target southern section geophysical anomaly, possible large enclosure	30m
Tr.7	Tr.7 is aligned N-S targeted possible geological feature and field boundary identified by APS	30m
Tr.8	Tr.8 is aligned NW-SE within 'blank' area	30m
Tr.9	Tr.9 is aligned N-S to target field boundary identified by APS	30m
Tr.10	Tr.10 is aligned E-W within 'blank' area	30m
Tr.11	Tr.11 is aligned NE-SW within 'blank' area and targeting geological feature	30m

Tr.12	Tr.12 is aligned N-S within 'blank' area	30m
Tr.13	Tr.13 is aligned N-S within 'blank' area and targeting geological feature	30m
Tr.14	Tr.14 is aligned N-S within 'blank' area and targeting geological features	30m
Tr.15	Tr.15 is aligned E-W within 'blank' area and targeting geological features	30m
Tr. 16	Tr.16 is aligned NE-SW within 'blank' area	30m

3.3.3 Geoarchaeological objectives in the WSI are covered by a separate Geoarchaeological Report (Wessex Archaeology Forthcoming).

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and in general compliance with ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2023a–b). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although trench 2 had to be slightly shortened because of proximity to track road. (Fig. 1).

4.2.2 15 trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 2 m wide, and 1 trial trench measuring 50m in length and 2m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims.

4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

4.2.5 16 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Historic Environment Consultant at Place Services were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and

heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014a), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Historic Environment Consultant at Place Services monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Historic Environment Consultant at Place Services.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 5 of the 16 excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present within the site (Fig. 1).
- 5.1.2 The uncovered features comprised a number of ditches of post-medieval and modern date.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by trench.
- 5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 2 shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (Wessex Archaeology 2023a). Figure 3 shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches overlaid on historical mapping.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence was largely consistent across the site with 0.30-0.38m of mid-brownish grey sandy silt topsoil directly overlying deposits of mid reddish yellow or mid-yellowish brown silty clay natural, with moderate flint inclusions and common manganese inclusions. Trenches 1-6 in the northern part of the evaluation area had particularly rich manganese patches in the natural. Trenches 2,3 and 5, in the northern part of the evaluation area contained a slightly thicker level of topsoil, around 0.43-0.45m.

5.3 Archaeological results

- 5.3.1 Trenches 1-6, 10, 11 and 14-16 did not contain any archaeological features or deposits and are not discussed further. Trenches 7 and 9 contained a single modern ditch identified in

DBA as part of field system (see Fig 3). Trenches 12 and 13 contained a single east-west aligned modern ditch, possibly an old drainage ditch or boundary ditch. Trench 8 contained a single ditch running approximately north-south, suggesting a possible old boundary ditch.

Trench 7

- 5.3.2 Trench 7 was located in the central eastern side of the evaluation area, on a north/south alignment, and contained a single ditch. Southwest/northeast aligned ditch 703 was recorded in the southern half of the trench and contained a single secondary fill. The ditch measured at least 2m long, 1.6m wide and 0.49m deep, with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Two pieces (166g) of stone and two pieces (33g) of CMB were recovered from the fill. This ditch continues in Trench 9 to the west and is a part of previously identified field system.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was located in the central eastern side of the evaluation area, on a northwest/southeast alignment, and contained a single post-medieval ditch. North/south aligned ditch 803 was recorded in the northern half of the trench and contained a single secondary fill. The ditch measured at least 3m long, 1.7m wide and 0.42m deep, with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. A single sherd (6g) of post-medieval/modern pottery and a piece (3g) of clay pipe was recovered from the fill.

Trench 9

- 5.3.3 Trench 9 was located in central western side of the evaluation area, on a north/south alignment and contained a single ditch. This ditch was not excavated as it was a continuation of ditch 703 to the east, three pieces (24g) of CBM was recovered from the surface of the ditch.

Trench 12

- 5.3.4 Trench 12 was located in southwestern part of the evaluation area, on a north-south alignment and contained a single ditch. This ditch was not excavated as was a continuation of ditch 1303 to the east.

Trench 13

- 5.3.5 Trench 13 was located in southeastern part of the evaluation area on a north-south alignment and contained a single modern ditch, possibly an old drainage ditch. East/west aligned ditch 1303 was recorded in southern half of the trench and contained a single secondary fill. The ditch measured at least 2m long, 0.97m wide and 0.24m deep, with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. The ditch continued in Trench 12 to the west. A single piece (60g) of CBM was recovered from the ditch, with common small pieces of modern material recorded on site.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds totalling just 292 g was recovered from trenches 7, 8, 9 and 13. The finds range in date from the medieval/post-medieval to modern period, although a residual piece stone potentially of earlier date is included. The finds have been cleaned and scanned to assess their nature and condition and are quantified by context in Table 1. Reporting conforms to the CIFA's 'Toolkit for Specialist Reporting (CIFA 2022) Type 2, Appraisal Level' which aims to characterise the finds assemblage with specific reference to dating, where possible.

Table 2 Summary of finds by context (No./Weight in grammes)

Context	Feature/deposit	CBM	Clay pipe	Pottery	Stone	Total
704	Ditch 703	2/33			2/166	4/199
804	Ditch 803		1/3	1/6		2/9
904	Ditch 903	3/24				3/24
1304	Ditch 1303	1/60				1/60
Total		6/117	1/3	1/6	2/166	10/292

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 A single piece of pottery was collected from ditch 803. This is a narrow, ovate fragment (15x10 mm) from a handle in brown-glazed red earthenware of post-medieval/modern date.

6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

- 6.3.1 Small flat fragments of medieval or post-medieval peg roof tile in an oxidised, fine, sandy fabric with occasional clay pellets were recovered from ditches 703 and 1304, while three small, featureless fragments of modern brick were found in ditch 903.

6.4 Stone

- 6.4.1 Two pieces of stone were recovered from ditch 703 in trench 7. One is a small, angular fragment of granite which shows no evidence for working or utilisation. Such material does not occur anywhere in the region and can only have been brought here by human agency; its purpose is unclear, but it is likely to be a remnant of hardcore used in construction. The other piece, also of non-local material, is a small, angular fragment of Hertfordshire Puddingstone with one smooth flat surface. This stone originally derives from the Chilterns and, although glacial action has transported it as far to the south-east as west Essex (where it now forms a component of drift deposits), its presence here must also be due to human transportation. Puddingstone was particularly favoured for Romano-British quern/millstone production and its use was widespread in the south-east of England (Shaffrey forthcoming). Although no other local evidence for activity during this period has been found, it could be a residual fragment of such an object, possibly further reduced as a result of repurposing during the post-medieval period.

6.5 Clay pipe

- 6.5.1 A single plain stem fragment of post-medieval/modern clay pipe was found in ditch 803.

6.6 Finds potential

- 6.6.1 The finds assemblage consists of only four material types which are present in minimal quantities and, with the possible exception of the Puddingstone fragment, all dating to the post-medieval or modern periods. There is very little potential for further analysis to provide any information beyond that presented here. There seems no reason to expect any future archaeological investigations to produce much additional material, but the presence of the Puddingstone (millstone/quern?) fragment may be clarified by any such work.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits requiring environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2024). The evaluation identified a small quantity of archaeological features across the excavated trenches, comprising 3 ditches recorded across 5 trenches.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 None of the identified features contained enough datable material to provide adequate dating based on the artefactual evidence alone. However, ditches 703 and 903 correspond directly with a east-northeast/west-southwest aligned boundary ditch shown on the 1874 Ordnance Survey (OS) map. None of the other ditches correspond to known historic field boundaries, but they likely represent land management features.
- 8.2.2 None of the identified features correspond with the previous geophysical survey.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Meopham and Salisbury. Colchester Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 9.2.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Colchester Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014b; SMA 1995).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code 231918, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
 - 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

- 9.2.3 The digital archive, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection to establish what will be retained for long-

term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected for retention are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities (i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving museum).

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

9.3.3 Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. The proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (e.g., museum, local authority), prior to deposition of the archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

9.3.4 All the finds have been recorded to an appropriate level prior to any selection proposals being implemented, and the selection process will be fully documented in the project archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

- Pottery (1 sherd): minimal assemblage of post-medieval/modern date with no future research potential; discard.
- CBM (6 pieces): minimal assemblage of post-medieval/modern date with no future research potential; discard.
- Stone (2 pieces): undiagnostic fragments with no further research potential; discard but archive photographs of the Puddingstone fragment are recommended.
- Clay pipe (1 piece): minimal assemblage of post-medieval/modern date with no future research potential; discard.

Documentary records

9.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

9.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others that are not directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.4 Security copy

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

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Historic Environment Consultant at Place Services on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

depth bgl = below ground level

Trench No 1		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.40 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
101		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.0–0.35	
102		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey hue. silty clay. abundant small rounded flints. Common manganese.	0.35+	

Trench No 2		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.47 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
201		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.0–0.43	
202		Natural	Mid reddish yellow with grey hue. silty clay. abundant small rounded flints. Common manganese.	0.43+	

Trench No 3		Length 50 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.45 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
301		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.0–0.45	
302		Natural	Mid reddish yellow with grey hue. silty clay. abundant small rounded flints. Common manganese.	0.45+	

Trench No 4		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.44 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
401		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.0–0.37	
402		Natural	Light reddish yellow with grey hue. silty clay. abundant small rounded flints. Common manganese.	0.37+	

Trench No 5		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.45 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
501		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.0–0.43	
502		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey hue. silty clay. abundant small rounded flints. Common manganese.	0.43+	



Trench No 6		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.35 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
601		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.0–0.30	
602		Natural	Mid reddish yellow with grey hue. silty clay. abundant small rounded flints. Common manganese.	0.30+	

Trench No 7		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.40 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
701		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey Sandy Silt, Common small rounded flints	0.0–0.33	
702		Natural	Mid reddish yellow with grey hue. silty clay. abundant small rounded flints. Common manganese	0.33+	
703	704	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned WSW-ENE with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth: 0.49 m.		
704	703	Secondary fill	Mid blueish brown sandy clay with common small sub-angular flint. rare chalk flecks		

Trench No 8		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.46 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
801		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey Sandy Silt, Common small rounded flints	0.0–0.37	
802		Natural	Mid reddish yellow with grey hue. silty clay. abundant small rounded flints. Common manganese	0.37+	
803	804	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned N-S with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 3.00 m. Width: 1.70 m. Depth: 0.42 m.		
804	803	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate small rounded flints, rare chalk flecks		

Trench No 9		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.44 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
901		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey Sandy Silt, common small rounded flints	0.00–0.30	
902		Natural	Mid yellowish brown silty clay. rare small rounded flints	0.30–0.44+	
903	904	Ditch	Continuation of ditch 703		
904	903	Fill	Same as fill 704		



Trench No 10		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.36 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1001		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.00–0.30	
1002		Natural	Mid yellowish brown. silty clay. rare small rounded flints.	0.30–0.36+	

Trench No 11		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.34 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1101		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey. Sandy Silt. common small rounded flints.	0.00–0.32	
1102		Natural	Mid yellowish brown. silty clay. rare small rounded flints, rare patches of manganese.	0.32–0.34+	

Trench No 12		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.36 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1201		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey. Sandy Silt. common small rounded flints .	0.00–0.30	
1202		Natural	Mid yellowish brown. silty clay. rare small rounded flints.	0.30+	
1203	1204	Ditch	Continuation of ditch 1303		
1204	1203	Fill	Same as fill 1304		

Trench No 13		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.37 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1301		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey. Sandy Silt. common small rounded flints.	0.00–0.30	
1302		Natural	Mid yellowish brown. silty clay. rare small rounded flints.	0.30+	
1303	1304	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned E-W with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 0.97 m. Depth: 0.24 m.		
1304	1303	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey sandy silt with common small rounded flints		

Trench No 14		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.38 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1401		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.0–0.30	
1402		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey hue. silty clay. rare small rounded flints.	0.30+	



Trench No 15		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.44 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1501		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.00–0.30	
1502		Natural	Mid yellowish brown with grey hue. silty clay. rare small rounded flints.	0.30+	

Trench No 16		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.42 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1601		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Sandy Silt. Common small rounded flints.	0.0–0.38	
1602		Natural	Mid grey. silty clay. rare small rounded flints.	0.38+	

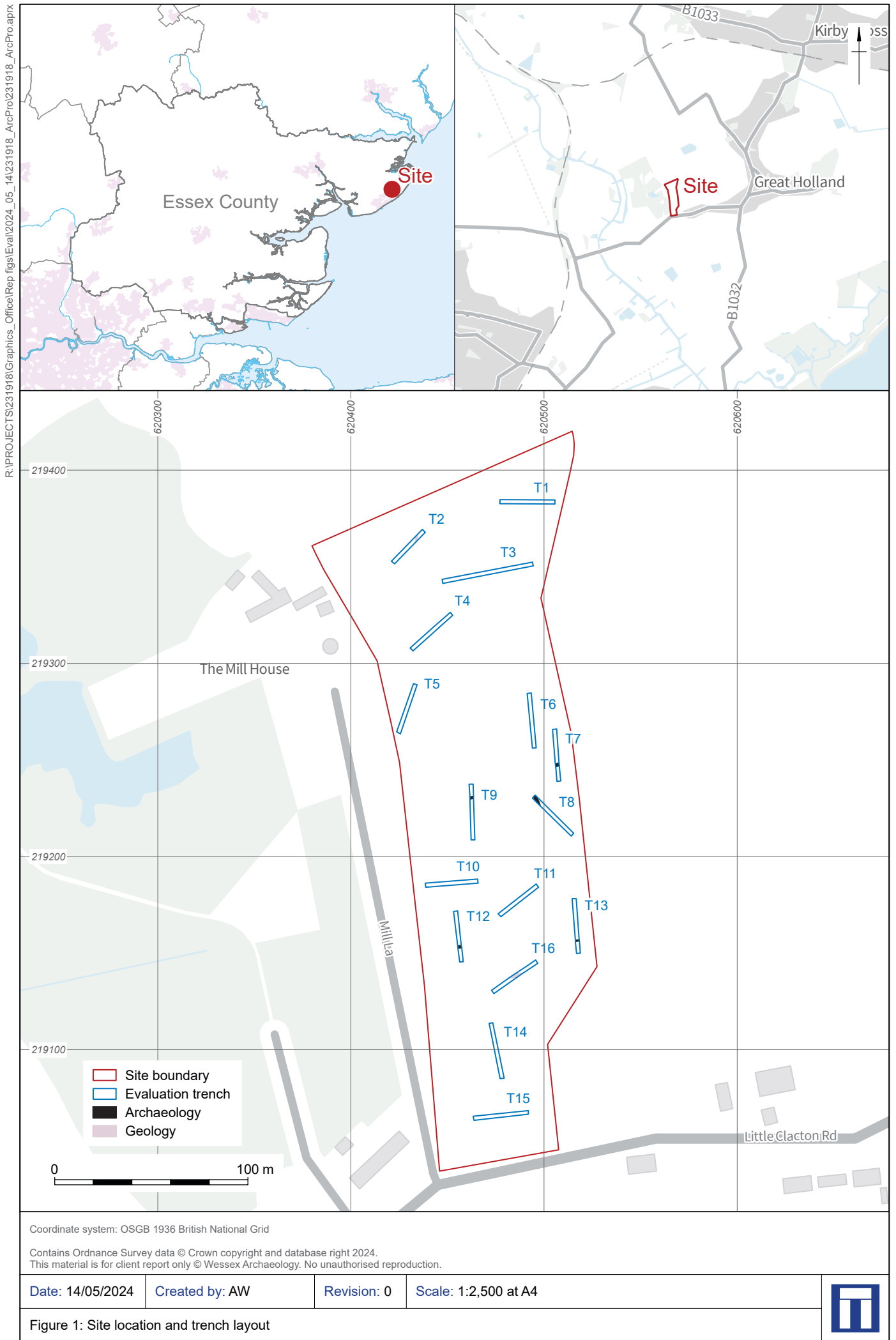


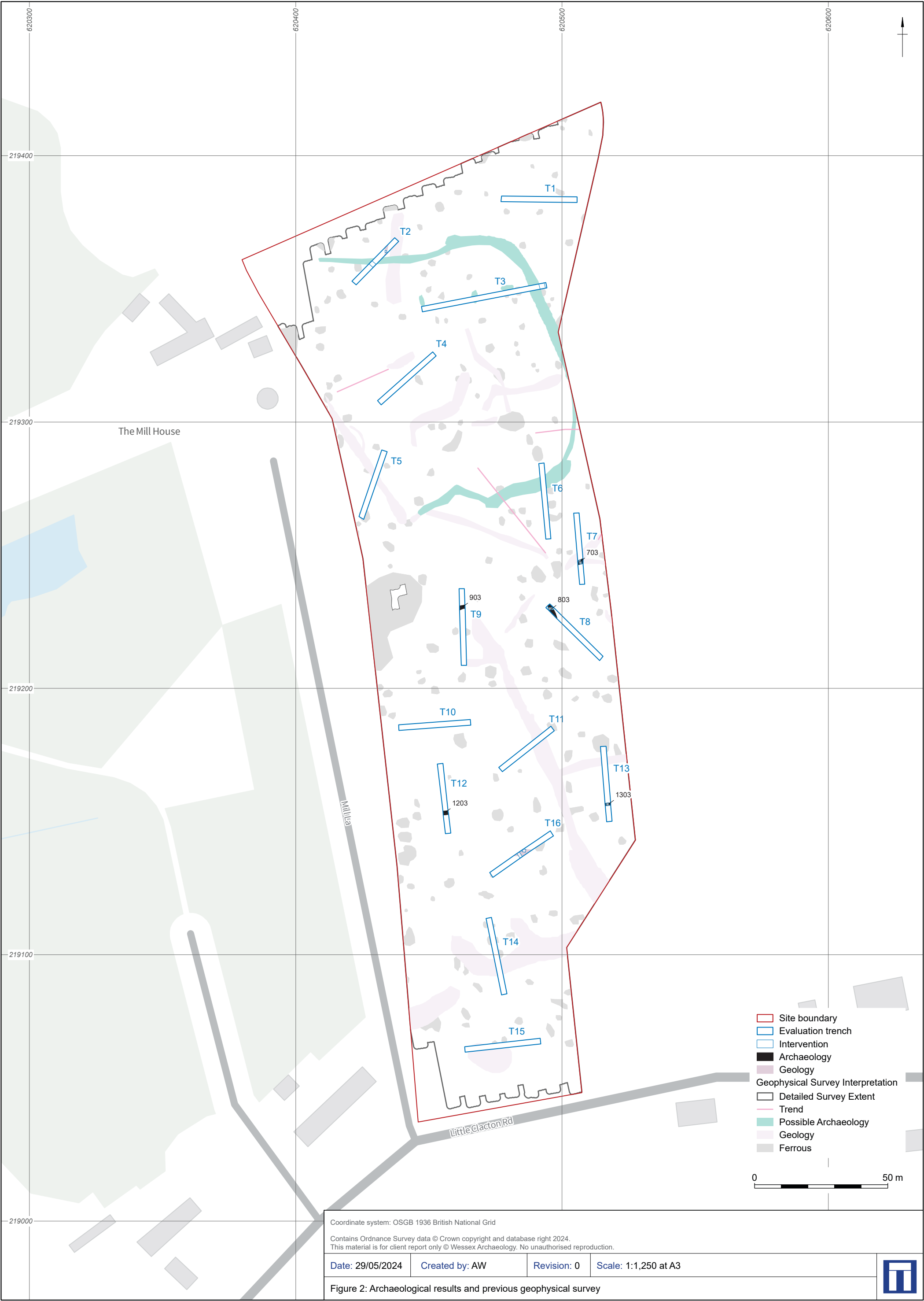
Appendix 2 OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-525301
Project Name	Five Estuaries OSWF, North Falls OSWF, Little Clacton Road, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation
Sitename	Five Estuaries OSWF, North Falls OSWF, Little Clacton Road, Essex
Sitecode	FWLC24
Project Identifier(s)	231918
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	DCO Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	29-Apr-2024 - 10-May-2024
Location	Five Estuaries OSWF, North Falls OSWF, Little Clacton Road, Essex NGR : TM 20506 19225 LL : 51.82809864236768, 1.198657999394559 12 Fig : 620506,219225
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Tendring Parish : Frinton and Walton
Project Methodology	<p>15 trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 2 m wide, and 1 trial trench measuring 50m in length and 2m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.</p> <p>Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims.</p> <p>Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.</p>
Project Results	The evaluation was undertaken as part of the proposed development of the Five Estuaries and North Falls Offshore Arrays, proposals for which are currently under consideration by the Planning Inspectorate. The evaluation area would be used for part of the onshore infrastructure connecting the offshore arrays

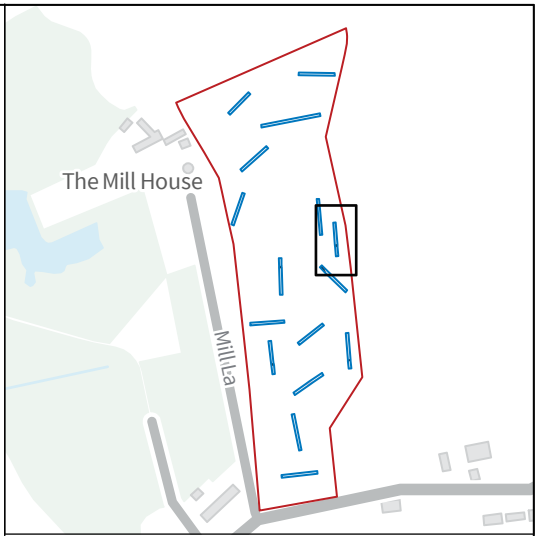
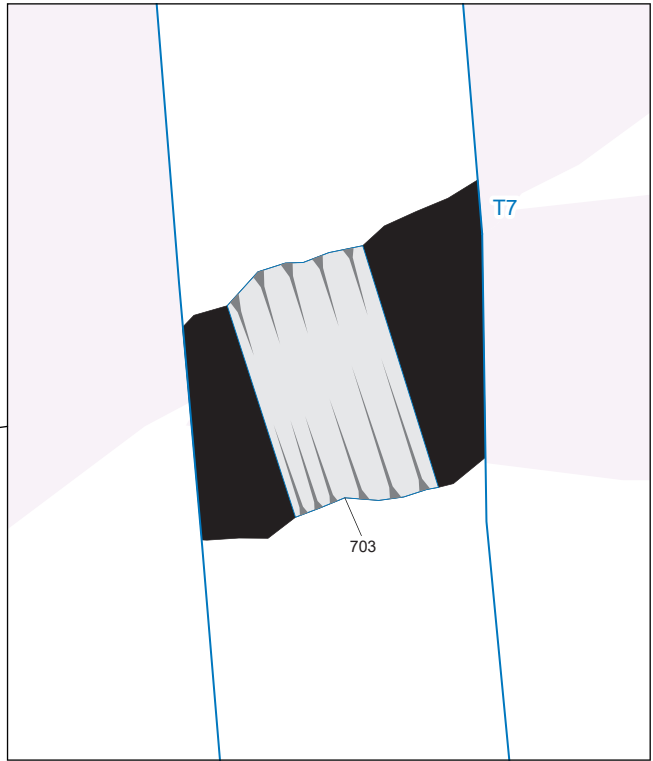
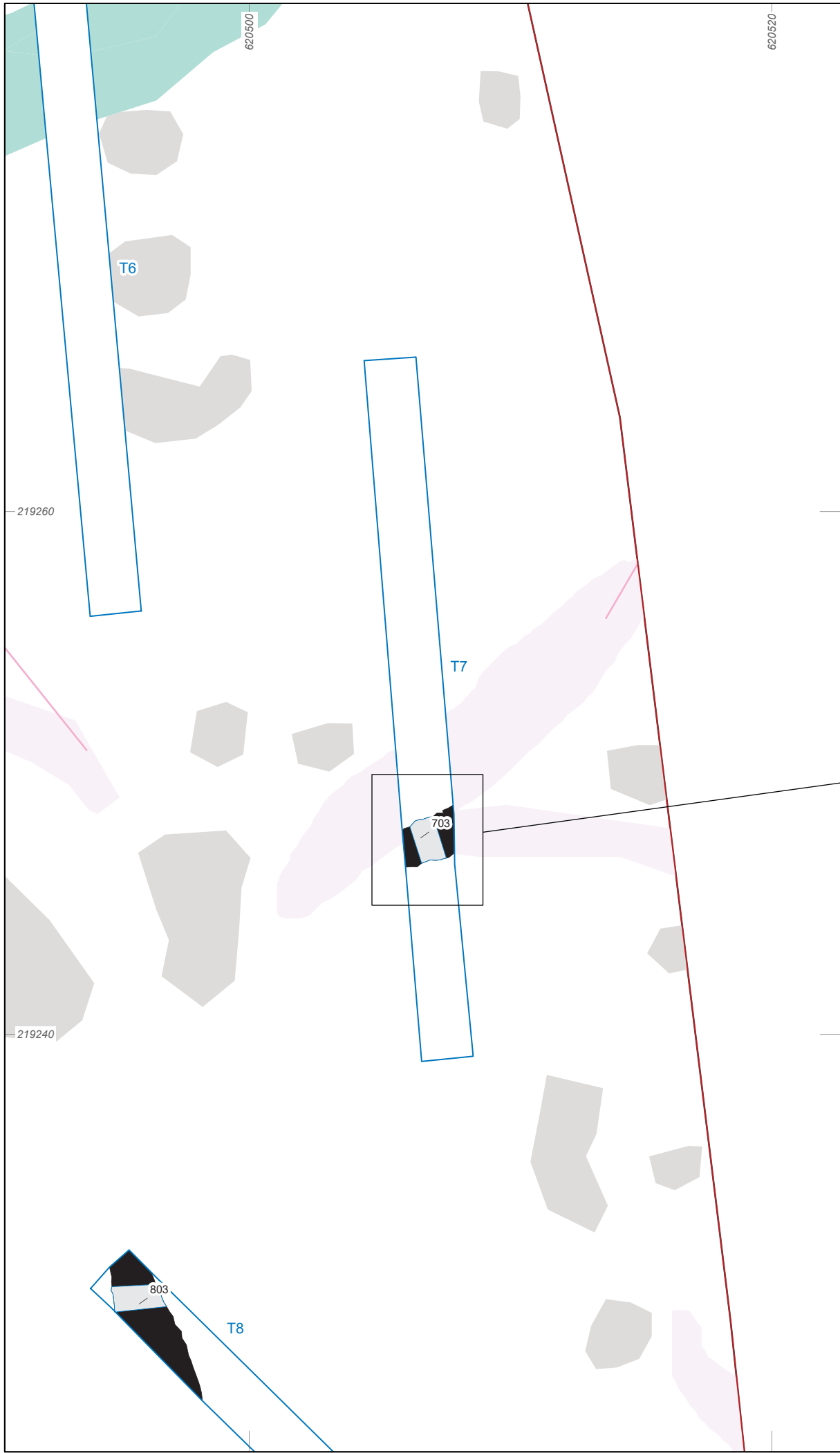


	<p>with the onshore substation. The current proposals through the Site are for two options for the route of the cable corridor through this area.</p> <p>The evaluation comprised 16 trenches, each measuring 30m by 2m. A total of three ditches across five of the excavated trenches, with ditch segments in Trenches 7/9 and 12/13 part of the same features. The ditch across Trenches 7 and 9 corresponds with a field boundary recorded on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map, and was identified by the previous APS survey, which the other two ditches are also likely to represent field boundaries.</p> <p>A previous geophysical survey failed to identify any of the recorded features, and a proposed archaeological feature was not identified by any of the three trenches targeted to investigate it.</p>
Keywords	Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Electricity company Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm LTD
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Nina Oloffson
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - FWLC24
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection);









- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Intervention
- Archaeology
- Geophysical Survey Interpretation
- Detailed Survey Extent
- Trend
- Possible Archaeology
- Geology
- Ferrous

Scale for detailed inset

0 2 m

Scale for trench plan

0 10 m

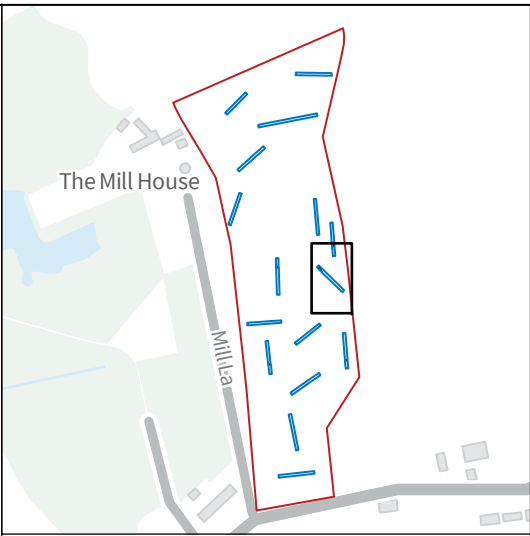
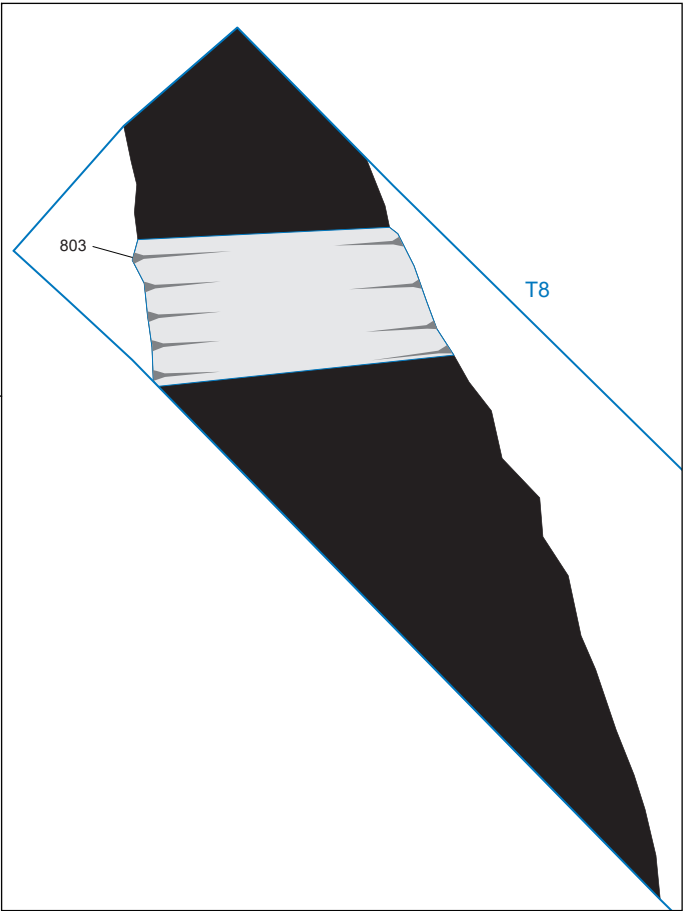
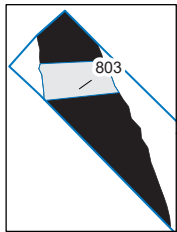
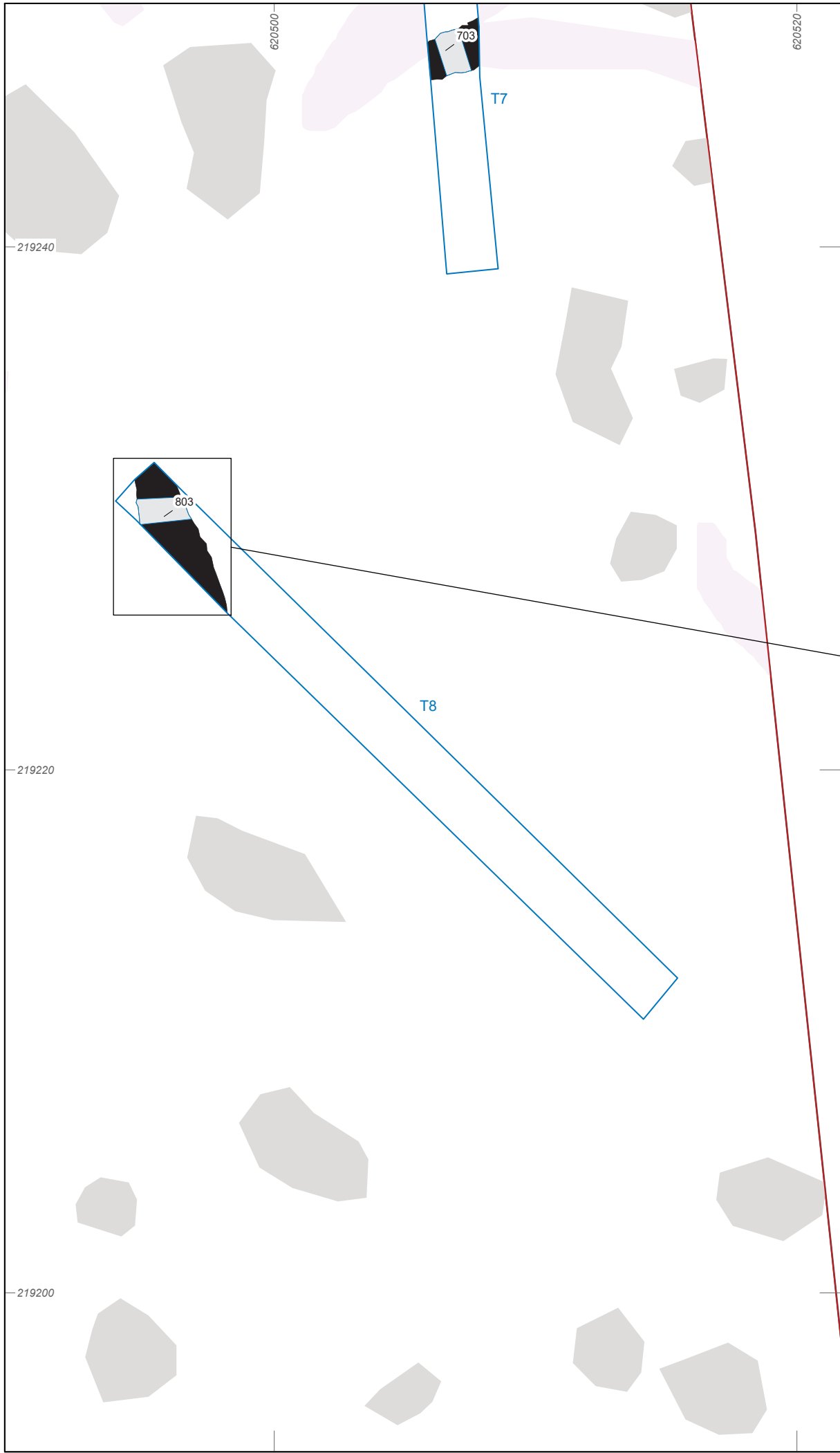
Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

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Date: 31/05/2024	Created by: AW	
Scale: 1:200 and 1:50 at A3	Revision: 0	

Figure 4: Plan of Trench 7



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Intervention
- Archaeology
- Geophysical Survey Interpretation
- Detailed Survey Extent
- Geology
- Ferrous

Scale for detailed inset

0 2 m

Scale for trench plan

0 10 m

Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

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Date: 31/05/2024	Created by: AW	
Scale: 1:200 and 1:50 at A3	Revision: 0	

Figure 5: Plan of Trench 8

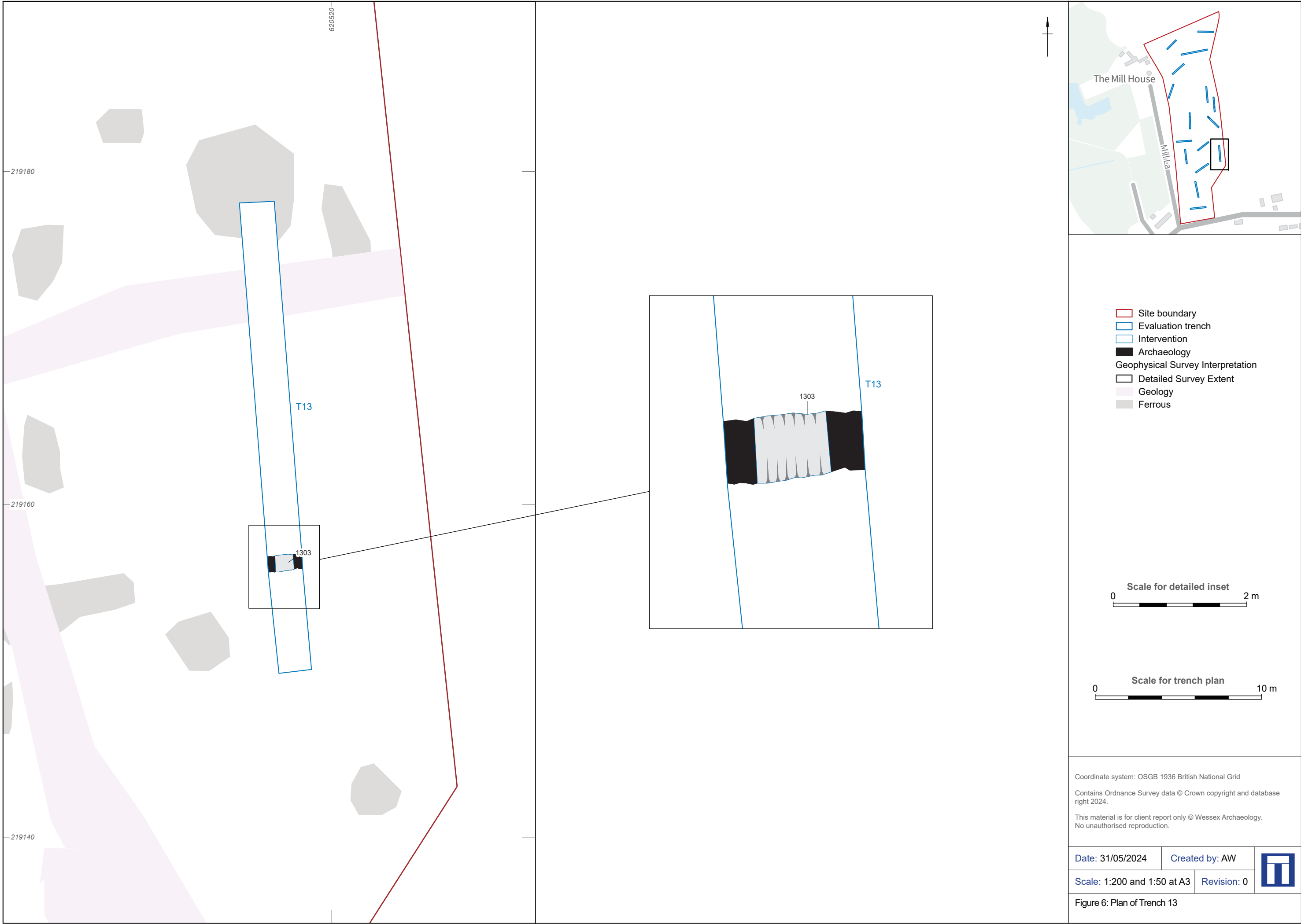




Figure 7: Trench 1, viewed from the northwest
(1 m and 2 m scales)



Figure 8: South facing representative section of Trench 3 (1 m scale)



Figure 9: Trench 12, viewed from the north
(1 m and 2 m scales)



Figure 10: South east facing representative section of Trench 10 (1 m scale)



Figure 11: Ditch 803, viewed from the south (1 m scale)



Figure 12: Ditch 703, viewed from the southwest (1 m scale)



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NORTH FALLS

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RWE

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