



Frodsham Solar

Outline Written Scheme of Investigation

July 2025



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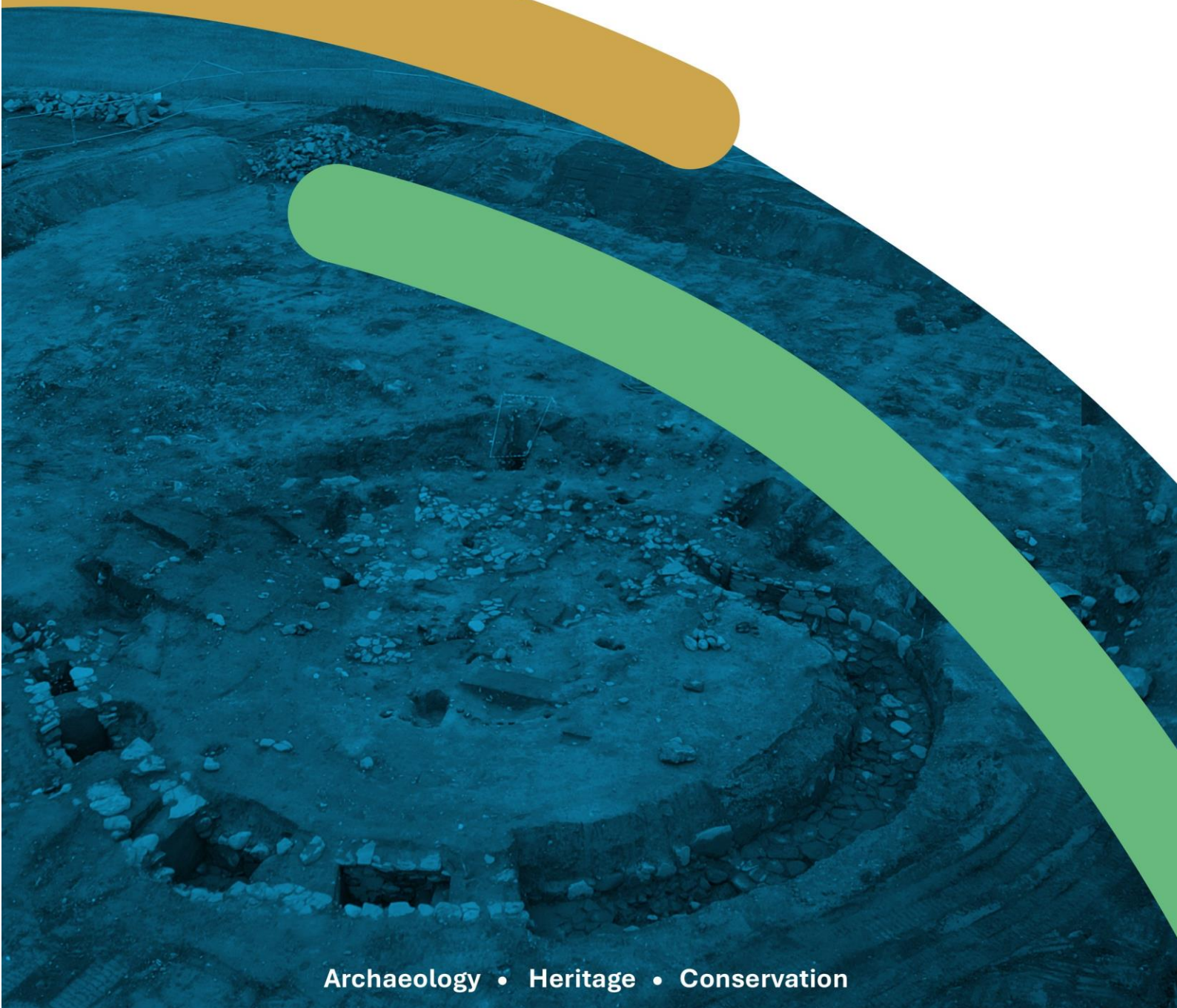
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Revision P01

**FRODSHAM SOLAR, FRODSHAM MARSH
CHESHIRE**
OUTLINE WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

26460

July 2025



On Behalf of: *Frodsham Solar Ltd*

National Grid Reference: *SJ 51000 78500 (centred)*

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Author: *Mark Littlewood*

Illustration by: *N/A*

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Rev	Date	Author	Approved by	Revision Stage
P01	11/07/2025	Mark Littlewood/Project Officer, Alan Whitaker/Project Officer,	Lynne Roy/Project Manager	Final



1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 This Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) has been produced for a programme of archaeological works in relation to the Application by Frodsham Solar Ltd for an order granting development consent for the Frodsham Solar Project (EN010153).
- 1.1.2 The Applicant intends to construct a solar array development area across 314 hectares of land located on Frodsham Marsh, Frodsham, Cheshire (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SJ 51000 78500) (hereafter “the Site”). The Proposed Development will comprise the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a new solar energy generating station with an associated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure. The Site is located between the M56 and the Manchester Ship Canal and bounded to the northeast by the River Weaver; within this, the Solar Array Development Area (hereafter ‘the SADA’) comprises 290 ha (see ES Vol 3, Figure 1-1, [EN010153DR6.3]).
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will require a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 (‘PA2008’) granted by the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), via the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).
- 1.1.4 The OWSI has been informed by ES Vol 1 Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN010153/DR/6.1] and ES Vol 2 Appendix 11-1: Cultural Heritage Assessment [EN010153/DR/6.2]. This sets out the legislative and planning background and provides a detailed baseline and an assessment of the impacts of the DCO Proposed Development. T
- 1.1.5 The Site is currently managed for various purposes, including arable agriculture (fields to the east of Brook Furlong Lane), wildfowling (between Weaver Lane and Brook Furlong Lane) and pasture (to the west of Brook Furlong Lane). Frodsham and Helsby Marshes are divided into parcels by multiple drainage ditches, with water actively pumped into the surrounding canal and river channels, including via Frodsham Pumping Station in the eastern corner of the Site. The western half of the Site is part of the Manchester Ship Canal (MSC) Deposit Ground and comprises six embanked ‘cells’ or ‘tanks’ that served as settling lagoons and storage tanks for dredged silt. Cell 6, to the south of the Site boundary, is still active and currently comprises open water and a large reed bed, but Cells 1 - 5 within the Site are no longer in use and have been restored to agricultural land. Frodsham Wind Farm’s ‘Eastern Cluster’ of turbines is distributed across Cells 1 and 5 in the centre of the Site.

2 Part One –Archaeological Mitigation Strategy

- 2.1.1 This document provides an outline of the process for determining the archaeological requirements associated with the DCO Proposed Development. It sets out the methodologies and process by which the programme of archaeological investigations will be delivered, including fieldwork and the required post excavation and reporting. Post-consent, this outline WSI will be developed into a archaeological mitigation strategy which must be in substantial

accordance with this Outline WSI and will require approval by CWaCC. This is secured as a Requirement within Schedule 2 of the draft DCO.

2.1.2 The overarching principles of the mitigation are:

- To preserve or retain any significant archaeological remains that may be found *in situ*;
- To excavate and record any significant archaeological remains that may be found (known as preservation by record).

2.1.3 The preferred archaeological mitigation will be preservation *in situ* of identified heritage assets. Where this is not practicable, a range of archaeological techniques can be used to make a permanent documentary record of any archaeological remains impacted by the Proposed Development.

2.1.4 Where archaeological remains will not be directly affected by the DCO Proposed Development, such remains will be left *in situ*.

2.1.5 The archaeological work outlined by this OWSI relates to works within the Site with post-excavation analysis continuing after archaeological fieldwork has been completed.

2.1.6 Where archaeological work is required, a specific Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for each fieldwork intervention type or identified archaeological mitigation area will be prepared in consultation with Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS) for Cheshire West and Chester Council () and Historic England (HE). These WSIs may be developed on a phase by phase basis.

2.1.7 This OWSI sets out the broad principles of the archaeological work proposed in section 11.9 of ES Vol 1 Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN010153/DR/6.1]. Where appropriate the proposed work will comprise the following targeted activities:

- Geoarchaeological mitigation within the southern, central and southeastern parts of the Site (outside the areas of previous canal dredging deposition) in order to ascertain the depth of preservation of any buried peat and organic deposits.
- A trial trench evaluation within the land east of Brook Furlong in the form of archaeological trenches in order to ascertain the level of preservation of the ridge and furrow (Asset 257) recorded across the area, and to investigate whether that ridge and furrow could be obscuring any earlier archaeological features.
- A Level 1 historic building recording survey will be undertaken on the brick shafts identified within the Order limits which would be destroyed or damaged during construction.
- Preservation *in situ*; and
- Proportionate and appropriate post-excavation analysis and reporting.

2.1.8 If, following the trial trenches, areas do not contain any archaeological remains, then no further archaeological work will be required.

2.2 Geoarchaeological Investigation

- 2.2.1 A programme of geoarchaeological investigation in the form of a purposive borehole survey would be undertaken within the southern, central and southeastern parts of the Site (outside the areas of previous canal dredging deposition) in order to ascertain the depth of preservation of any buried peat and organic deposits. This will allow for the identification and sampling of deposits which have the potential to preserve paleoenvironmental proxies and thus allow for investigation of past environmental conditions and provide opportunities for scientific dating. The completion of this investigation would allow for an enhancement of the current levels of knowledge regarding the survival and composition of the peat deposits across the Helsby Marshes. The exact scope of the geoarchaeological investigation would be agreed through consultation with the CAPAS and HE .

2.3 Archaeological Trial Trenching

- 2.3.1 In areas that would be subject to below ground disturbance from the Proposed Development a programme of archaeological investigation would be undertaken within the land east of Brook Furlong in the form of archaeological trenches in order to ascertain the level of preservation of the ridge and furrow (Asset 257) recorded across the area, and to investigate whether that ridge and furrow could be obscuring any earlier archaeological features. The completion of this investigation would allow for the archaeological potential within areas of potential impact to be assessed further and for any encountered remains to be investigated and recorded and for the requirements for any further stages of mitigation to be determined. On completion of any works, the potential impacts upon any archaeological remains identified would be mitigated via their recording and addition to the archaeological record. The exact scope of any archaeological investigation would be agreed through consultation with the CAPAS and HE .

2.4 Photography and Measured Survey

- 2.4.1 Ventilation shafts (Asset 16) which would be destroyed or damaged during construction would be subject to a programme of recording prior to their demolition (this assessment has taken a worst-case approach assuming that all of these ventilation shafts would be lost). This would allow for the partial mitigation of their demolition via preservation by record. The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010153/DR/7.5] includes measures to provide for the retention of any ventilation shafts which do not need to be lost or damaged to facilitate the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. Any shafts which are not impacted by the solar array would be retained and fenced during construction to avoid damage. As set out in the oCEMP [EN010153/DR/7.6] retained ventilation shafts which are at risk of damage from routine operational maintenance works would be permanently fenced.
- 2.4.2 A Level 1 historic building recording survey will be undertaken on the brick shafts identified within the Order limits. The exact scope of any recording would be agreed by consultation with the CAPAS and HE.

- 2.4.3 The Level 1 survey will follow the Historic England's guidelines Understanding Built Heritage: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (2016b). This consists of a basic visual record, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the structures' location, age and type. The record will mainly be photographic, with general and detailed coverage of each shaft taken using a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera in raw format to a minimum 24-megapixel resolution. Where possible, the wider setting of the shaft will also be taken. Photographs will be processed using Adobe Lightroom software to create final JPGs which will be used as plates to illustrate the report. Each shaft will also receive a note on its dimensions, brick bond and size, and its position and layout plotted in detail using a survey grade Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).

2.5 Preservation *In Situ*

- 2.5.1 Where archaeological sites will not be affected by the Proposed Development, the principle will be followed that there is no need to excavate them. Alternatively, where possible and justified (such as the discovery of nationally important remains), avoidance of archaeology through a minor variation (within the limits of deviation), use of non-open cut techniques, or protection of subsoil within the working area (e.g. trackway panels, topsoil retention, or other suitable technique), will be considered.
- 2.5.2 Preservation of archaeological remains will be undertaken where possible. The aim of preservation is to allow them to survive for future generations.

2.6 Post-Excavation Analysis

- 2.6.1 Post-excavation analysis and reporting, along with the creation of the archaeological project archive, is a requirement of all archaeological projects. This ensures there is a record of the archaeology which has been investigated as part of the Proposed Development. The results will also be published, as appropriate, in line with EN-1 para 5.9 (DESNZ) (2024a)..

3 Part Two – Written Scheme of Investigation

3.1 Archaeology Strategy

Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section of the OWSI details the high-level methodologies that will be undertaken for the required archaeological fieldwork. Each fieldwork intervention type, and each identified mitigation area will be subject to a specific Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

Roles, Responsibilities and Definitions

- 3.1.2 The follow terms and definitions apply throughout this document;
- The Applicant;
 - Archaeological Contractor (as appointed by the Principal Contractor or the Applicant). Responsible for carrying out the fieldwork, post-excavation reporting, deposition of the archive and dissemination;

- The Archaeological Consultant is responsible for managing the scope and for monitoring and assuring the work on behalf of the Applicant. The team will liaise directly with CAPAS (and HE, where set out in section 2).

3.1.3 The 'archaeological project archive' comprises all resources created and accumulated during the lifespan of an archaeological project. This includes paper and digital records such as context sheets, photographs, drawings, survey data, reports, artefacts and ecofacts. The aim of the archive is to ensure long term preservation of the resource which will allow for further research or reinterpretation of the original findings. The archive will be ordered and accessible.

3.1.4 The 'archaeological project archive repository' is the organisation, for example the county or local museum, responsible for the long-term curation of the Proposed Development archive, including the field notes, plans, photographs, and archived finds. The Archaeological Contractor will establish the Proposed Development archive repository prior to starting the work and will be assigned a unique Proposed Development reference number ('site code').

Regional Research Priorities

3.1.5 All archaeological work will be undertaken in line with research questions, to ensure that fieldwork is focussed on addressing the key research priorities of the region.

3.1.6 The North West England Regional Research Framework assesses the current state of archaeological knowledge in the North West, including Cheshire West and Chester. The Framework includes an assessment and a research agenda for each archaeological period from the Palaeolithic to the post-medieval / modern periods. Despite the period specific nature of the research questions a number of common research themes relevant to this OWSI have been identified:

- **Improving Methodological Approaches:**
 - *How can we expand our understanding of late Holocene peat sequences? (GS21)*
- **Land Use and Environment:**
 - *How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types? (GS37).*
 - *How did land use and management change through time? (GS38)*
 - *How did people exploit coastal and marine resources and did this change through time (GS39)?*

3.1.7 These broad research areas will be revised and refined in consultation with CAPAS as the work proceeds and more information on the nature and significance of any archaeological remains is revealed.

Stage Specific Written Scheme of Investigation

3.1.8 The stage specific WSIs will include the following sections as a minimum:

- Site location (including map) and descriptions.
- The relevant event number and accession number. These will be shown on all records, finds and samples.
- Context of the site.
- Geological and topographical background.
- Archaeological and historical background.
- General and specific research aims of the site, with reference to Regional Research Frameworks, as well as earlier Stages of work.
- Methods.
- Collection and disposal strategy for artefacts, ecofacts, and all paper, graphic and digital materials.
- Arrangements for immediate conservation of artefacts.
- Post-fieldwork assessment and analysis of project data.
- Report preparation (including details of the section headings).
- Publication and dissemination proposals, as required.
- Copyright.
- Details of finds storage. The Archaeological Contractor shall include details of how the finds will be packaged for storage.
- Data Management Plan for digital archiving.
- Methods for preparation of the physical archive, including accession numbers.
- Timetable.
- Staffing. Details on the expertise of the archaeology team will also be required. The Archaeological Clerk of Works will be a named Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA) who is adequately qualified to manage the required archaeological work or who can demonstrate an equivalent level of competence. The composition and experience of the project team will be described.
- A statement on compliance with relevant professional ethical and technical standards (including data standards).
- Health and Safety considerations, including details of relevant insurance.
- Environmental protection considerations.

3.2 Stage 1 - Geoarchaeological Mitigation

- 3.2.1 The objective of evaluation as defined by the ClfA is to ‘determine and report on, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices’ (ClfA 2023a). The results of the evaluation will inform an

appropriate mitigation strategy for any archaeological remains, if required. The Archaeological Contractor's methodology will conform to best professional practice for geoarchaeology (Historic England 2015a, 2020).

- 3.2.2 A Geoarchaeological Specialist will be employed by the Archaeological Contractor to manage the on-site day-to-day operations and will update the Archaeological Clerk of Works on a daily basis regarding results and programme. This information will be fed back to the client. Field staff will be suitably trained and experienced archaeologists. Site inductions and toolbox talks will be provided to all staff working on the site.
- 3.2.3 Prior to commencing fieldwork, the client will furnish the Archaeological Contractor with up-to-date service and utilities information for the area of investigation. Where required, the Archaeological Contractor will then liaise with utilities and service providers and undertake any relevant site visits.
- 3.2.4 A detailed Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) will be prepared and approved by an external Health and Safety consultant. The RAMS will be submitted to the client for review before the commencement of the site works. A qualified First Aider will be present on site at all times.
- 3.2.5 It is assumed that the client will have addressed all significant programme constraints prior to the start of fieldwork, including ecological and environmental constraints and landowner access issues. Once on site, the Archaeological Contractor staff will visually inspect the site prior to the commencement of breaking any ground. A photographic record will be made of the geoarchaeological evaluation area prior to works commencing as a record of existing ground conditions. All borehole areas will be scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) before excavation; this work will be undertaken by a qualified and competent person.
- 3.2.6 Static welfare facilities or a welfare van will be provided for the duration of the geoarchaeological works which will include toilets, fresh water supplies and anti-bacterial hand sanitiser. These facilities will be available for all staff, subcontractors, consultants and visitors.
- 3.2.7 The evaluation boreholes will be accurately located using survey-grade Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) (Trimble R8) equipment. All surveys will be accurately tied into the OS National Grid and Ordnance Datum Newlyn (ODN) heights.
- 3.2.8 Boreholes will need to be drilled to top of pre-Holocene superficial or solid geology (e.g. terrace gravels or bedrock), whichever is encountered first. Where possible the pre-Holocene deposits will be drilled into a further c. 0.5m to prove they are in situ. Continuous core samples will be collected throughout the drilled deposit sequence. The cores will be retained by the Archaeological Contractor.
- 3.2.9 The locations will be drilled with a tracked window sampler (e.g. Premier or Dando rig) taking window-less samples (1m long cores) or a tracked rotary rig (e.g. Comacchio style rig) taking window-less samples (1.5m long cores). The locations will be drilled by a sub-contracted drilling crew, under the supervision of a Geoarchaeological Specialist. Where appropriate,

service pits (approximately 300mm x 300mm) will be hand-dug to c 1.2m at each location, and the holes CAT-scanned for live services at regular intervals by the sub-contractor or by the Archaeological Contractor during this process.

- 3.2.10 Cores to be utilised for Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating will be drilled using opaque liners or will be wrapped in black plastic as soon as they are extruded from the tool.
- 3.2.11 On site, the geoarchaeologist will photograph and log the sediments revealed in the cores according to standard geoarchaeological criteria (Jones et al 1999; Troels-Smith 1955; Tucker 2003). The geoarchaeologist will keep a field log of the interventions and a photographic record of the borehole works and cores. Preliminary interpretation of the deposit sequence sampled in the cores will be made on site and an overview of the lithology will be produced that will characterise the stratigraphy and identify formation processes.
- 3.2.12 As a minimum all logs will be tabulated to include the following descriptive information:
- Sample Unique Identification Number
 - Location (XY coordinates)
 - Level of the top of the sample (e.g. m OD)
 - Depth for top and bottom of each lithological unit
 - Depths for poor / no sediment retrieval
 - Description of each lithological unit, following conventional standards (see Historic England 2015) and including sediment structure;
 - Colour;
 - Texture; and
 - Sorting and boundary characteristics.
- 3.2.13 While the drilling rig is running the geoarchaeologist will remain outside the active working area of the rig. The geoarchaeologist will signal the lead driller when they wish to approach the rig and will approach only when it is safe to do so. Upcast or core samples will be brought by the drilling crew outside of the active drilling area, to a safe designated area, and made available to the geoarchaeologist for recording.
- 3.2.14 Boreholes will be re-instated with bentonite (or similar inert material) to prevent groundwater flooding and reduce potential contamination pathways. Should a significant obstruction be encountered beyond 1.2m Below Ground Level (BGL) and before reaching the target depth an additional location shall be attempted >1.0 m from the original location and at the discretion of the supervising geo/archaeologist. Should the new location also encounter an obstruction drilling will cease. Any such substituted locations will be assigned the same number as the original core along with a suffix (e.g. A, B, etc. for each additional drilling attempt).
- 3.2.15 The samples will be adequately sealed and labelled and taken to the Archaeological Contractor's laboratories storage for retention during the subsequent stages of the project (e.g. palaeoenvironmental assessment). As a general rule cores have a shelf life limited to 3-4

years. Once in the Archaeological Contractor laboratories, the cores may require extrusion or further cleaning/examination.

Deposit Model

- 3.2.16 In order to create the deposit model, geotechnical and geoarchaeological data will be entered into a digital database (e.g. Rockworks 24). Any recent geotechnical logs supplied by the client or previous archaeological work onsite may be given the prefix 'SA' for shell and auger boreholes, 'RT' for rotary boreholes, 'WS' for window samples, 'AH' for auger holes, 'TP' for test pits, or 'TR' for trenches. BGS logs (BGS 2024) added to the database will be given a prefix relating to the two-letter grid square of its national grid reference e.g., SJ. The distribution of this data set will be presented and the data references for the sedimentary logs provided.
- 3.2.17 Each lithology type (gravel, sand, silt, clay etc.) will be given a unique colour (primary component) and pattern (secondary component) enabling visual correlation of the sediment components of deposits across the site. By examining the relationship of the lithology types (both horizontally and vertical) in preliminary and iterative transects, correlations can inform the site-wide deposit groups. The grouping of these deposits will be based on the lithological descriptions, which represent distinct depositional environments, coupled with a wider understanding of the local floodplain sequences. Thus, a sequence of stratigraphic units ('facies'), representing certain depositional environments, and/or landforms can be reconstructed both laterally and through time.
- 3.2.18 Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW, suggested settings: weighting =2, number of points =12) Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and thickness (Isopach) plots will be produced for key deposits (i.e., units defining major changes in the environment and modes of deposition) and surface horizons. These highlight major features of the topography through time. In this respect, the most common surface plot depicts the surface of the Pleistocene (or older) deposits and gives an approximation of the topography of the Site as it existed at the beginning of the early Mesolithic period c 10,000 years ago. The development of the Holocene floodplain is likely to have been influenced by the topography inherited from the Pleistocene/Late glacial period. This surface would have dictated the course of later channels, with gravel high points forming areas of dry land within the wetlands, and lower lying areas forming the main threads of later channels. Many of the additional surface or thickness plots provided will likely be more representative of deposit survival than time-specific landscapes.
- 3.2.19 The overlying deposit sequence across the Site depicted by the stratigraphic units, as representative of specific depositional environments and/or landforms laterally and through time for the Site and immediate vicinity, will also be illustrated in profile or transect form. Such transects present a straight-line correlation between the data points, extrapolating the stratigraphic units identified within each sequence.
- 3.2.20 By examining the surface and thickness plots in combination with the vertical deposition shown in the transects, areas of archaeological potential can be mapped. These will characterise the differing geoarchaeological and archaeological potential and significance of

single stratigraphic units, deposit sequences containing multiple stratigraphic units, or specific landforms and depositional environments.

3.3 Stage 2 - Archaeological Evaluation

- 3.3.1 The objective of trial trench evaluation as defined by the CifA is to ‘determine and report on, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices’ (CifA 2023a). The results of the evaluation will inform an appropriate mitigation strategy for any archaeological remains, if required.
- 3.3.2 A Project Officer or Project Supervisor will manage the on-site day-to-day operations and will update the Archaeological Clerk of Works on a daily basis regarding results and programme. This information will be fed back to the client. Field staff will be suitably trained and experienced archaeologists who are Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) certified. Site inductions and toolbox talks will be provided to all staff working on the site.
- 3.3.3 Prior to commencing fieldwork, the client will furnish the Archaeological Contractor with up-to-date service and utilities information for the area of investigation. Where required (and pursuant to the Protective Provisions in the DCO), the Archaeological Contractor will then liaise with utilities and service providers and undertake any relevant site visits.
- 3.3.4 A detailed Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) will be prepared and approved by an external Health and Safety consultant. The RAMS will be submitted to the client for review before the commencement of the site works. A qualified First Aider will be present on site at all times.
- 3.3.5 It is assumed that the client will have addressed all significant programme constraints prior to the start of fieldwork, including ecological and environmental constraints and landowner access issues. Once on site, the Archaeological Contractor staff will visually inspect the site prior to the commencement of any machine excavation, including the examination of any available exposures. A photographic record will be made of the evaluation area prior to its excavation as a record of existing ground conditions. All areas of excavation will be scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) before excavation; this work will be undertaken by a qualified and competent person.
- 3.3.6 Static welfare facilities will be provided for the duration of the evaluation which will include toilets, fresh water supplies and anti-bacterial hand sanitiser. These facilities will be available for all staff, subcontractors, consultants and visitors.
- 3.3.7 The evaluation trenches will be accurately located using survey-grade Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) (Trimble R8) equipment. All surveys will be accurately tied into the OS National Grid and Ordnance Datum Newlyn (ODN) heights.
- 3.3.8 The evaluation trenches will initially be excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket down to the first archaeological horizon or to the natural substrate, whichever is encountered first. All machining will be conducted under the direct supervision of an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist.

- 3.3.9 Topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate and will be stored in separate spoil heaps either side of the trenches.
- 3.3.10 The maximum safe working depth of all trenches will be determined by the on-site Project Officer or Project Supervisor in consultation with the Archaeological Contractor and will be based on the nature of the deposits encountered and an assessment of the stability of the sides of the trenches and any hand excavated sondages. Where appropriate and practicable, trench edges will be stepped to ensure safe access and egress.
- 3.3.11 Following completion of the initial machine excavation, further excavation will be undertaken by hand, although mechanical equipment may be used to remove some deposits or structural elements if required and with the agreement of CAPAS within the stage specific WSI.
- 3.3.12 Exposed surfaces will be cleaned in order to assist the identification of any features. Exposed archaeological deposits and features will then be excavated in an archaeologically controlled manner.
- 3.3.13 The excavation sampling policy will be detailed within the stage specific WSI and agreed with CAPAS but is expected to be as follows:
- a 100% sample will be taken of all stake-holes;
 - a 50% sample will be taken of all post-holes;
 - a 50% sample will be taken of all pits with a diameter of up to 1m;
 - a minimum 25% sample will be taken of pits with a diameter of over 1.5m; this should include a complete section across the pit to recover its full profile;
 - a minimum 20% sample will be taken of all linear and curvilinear features less than 5m in length, each excavated section to be 1m in length;
 - a minimum 10% sample will be taken of all linear and curvilinear features greater than 5m in length, each excavated section to be 1m in length;
 - Deposits at junctions (and interruptions) in linear features will be excavated to determine the relationships between the different components;
 - All linear terminal ends will be excavated;
 - Any in situ building remains will be fully recorded to the extent that they are exposed; brick and stone samples may be taken if potentially diagnostic of date or function; and
 - Significant features will be 100% excavated, if required by CAPAS.

Archaeological Recording

- 3.3.14 A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all features revealed during the course of the archaeological evaluation, including representative sample sections at an appropriate scale. A record of the full sequence of all archaeological deposits as revealed in the trenches will be produced. Plans will be completed at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 (as appropriate), with section drawings at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 (as appropriate). All recording

will be undertaken to meet the standards and requirements of the Archaeological Field Manual (MOLAS 1994). Records will be produced using pro-forma context sheets compatible with those published by the Museum of London (MoLAS 1994). Written descriptions, comprising both factual and interpretive elements, will be recorded.

- 3.3.15 All site drawings will be accurately tied into the OS National Grid and ODN heights using survey-grade GNSS surveying equipment.
- 3.3.16 A full photographic record will be maintained using a DSLR camera capturing data in RAW and JPEG formats. This will illustrate archaeological features and deposits in detail and in a broader context. In addition, appropriate record photographs will be taken to illustrate work in progress.
- 3.3.17 All identified finds and artefacts will be collected and retained. A discard policy will be agreed with CAPAS following the post-excavation assessment stage of the project. Where required, suitable specialists will be employed during fieldwork to advise, date or excavate significant finds or features.

Archaeological Finds

- 3.3.18 All finds will be bagged according to their context, and significant finds will be allocated a recorded finds number and their positions surveyed individually. Finds requiring further analysis, excavation or conservation will be lifted and packed using suitable archival standard storage materials and will be assessed in a relevant conservation laboratory.
- 3.3.19 Finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No. 2 and the ClfA guidelines Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2020a).
- 3.3.20 If required, conservation will be undertaken by approved conservators in line with the First Aid for Finds guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998). In accordance with the procedures outlined in Historic England's MoRPHE PPN3 (2008), all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before assessment.
- 3.3.21 All finds of gold and silver will be moved to a safe place. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the artefacts from theft or damage. All finds of gold and silver, and associated objects, will be reported to the coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 (and the act's amendment of 2003 and 2023), after discussion with the client and CAPAS.

Human Remains

- 3.3.22 The client, the coroner and CAPAS will be informed if human remains are found. Disturbance of human skeletal remains will be kept to a minimum. Any human remains encountered will be accurately recorded in plan and, where appropriate, will be examined in situ by a palaeopathologist, but no further investigation will occur, and the remains will be covered and protected.

- 3.3.23 Removal of human remains will only take place under appropriate government and environmental health regulations, in compliance with the Burial Act 1857 and after obtaining a Section 25 exhumation licence from the Ministry of Justice.

Environmental Sampling

- 3.3.24 The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy will comprise the removal of bulk samples from securely sealed and hand-excavated contexts, except those with excessive levels of residuality or those with minimal 'soil' content (such as building rubble). Bulk samples will comprise a representative 40 litre sample. However, where a context does not yield 40 litres of material, smaller samples will be taken (generally the maximum amount of material that it is practicable to collect). Bulk samples will be used to recover a sub-sample of charred macroplant material, faunal remains and artefacts. Suitable deposits will also be sampled for industrial residues. If buried soils or other deposits are encountered, column samples may be taken for micromorphological and pollen analysis. Environmental material will be stored in controlled environments and environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the work if necessary.
- 3.3.25 Waterlogged organic materials will be dealt with in line with Historic England's guidance documents *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (2018b) and *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (2010).
- 3.3.26 The recovery of material suitable for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic and/or dendrochronological dating will be sought, as appropriate. Sampling of this nature will be agreed in discussion with the client, CAPAS and the appropriate Environmental Specialists. If sufficient dates are obtainable the use of Bayesian analysis will be considered for a suite of dates during the post-excavation assessment.
- 3.3.27 On completion of all archaeological excavation and recording the trenches will be backfilled. Topsoil and subsoil will be reinstated separately but no engineered re-instatement will be undertaken. A photographic record of the backfilled trenches will be made.

3.4 Preservation In Situ

- 3.4.1 Any strategy proposed for mitigation by preservation in situ will be agreed with CAPAS, and will refer to existing guidance (HE, 2016a). Strategies for preservation in situ will consider direct impacts such as disturbance from plant operations, and indirect impacts such as changes to the hydrology and soil chemistry of a site (HE, 2016a).

3.5 Post – Excavation Analysis

- 3.5.1 Post-excavation assessment of the archaeology will comprise consideration and appropriate research of any buried features. For environmental samples, the processing technique will depend on the deposit type and likely potential. Processing will aim to retrieve ecofacts such as plant macrofossil, animal bone, mollusc or ostracod remains. Environmental samples will be assessed by appropriate specialists for the presence or absence of these remains and the quantity and significance of assemblages considered for further work.

3.5.2 An assessment report outlining the results of the archaeological evaluation will be produced. The report will assess the stratigraphic sequence, and the significance and extent of any archaeological features identified. The potential of any retrieved artefacts and soil samples for further analysis will also be considered.

3.5.3 The report will be prepared in accordance with the 2015 ALGAO guidance for post-excavation assessment (ALGAO 2015) and Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, HE 2015b) and will contain the following:

- A concise non-technical summary of the results of the work, and its aims and objectives;
- A frontispiece including the site code/project number, planning reference number, dates when the fieldwork took place and a full National Grid Reference;
- An introduction, including a site description, background on the development, details of the local topography and geology, and the reasons for the archaeological work;
- An account of the aims and objectives of the work;
- An account of the methodology and equipment used;
- A clear exposition of the results of the work, the structural sequence and the dates, forms and functions of the features identified; specialist assessment reports will be reproduced as Appendices to the report and the results of the assessments will be considered and incorporated into the main body of the results;
- A discussion which places the results of the work into the broader historical, regional and national context, and which assesses site phasing and the quality and significance of the remains encountered;
- Specialist assessments of the artefacts recovered including an assessment of their potential for further analysis and study, and recommendations for retention / discard and illustration (where appropriate), in line with national guidelines;
- Specialist assessments of the environmental and industrial samples taken, with a view to their potential for subsequent study;
- Recommendations for further analysis;
- An integrated concordance table that details every context and correlates them to group, number, finds, samples taken and the potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis and radiocarbon dating;
- All text will be cross-referenced with plans, photographs and other illustrative material;
- Illustrations will include: a site location plan; an overall site plan accurately identifying the location of the trenches; individual trench plans at a suitable scale, as excavated, indicating the location of all archaeological features; plans and sections at an

appropriate scale showing features, deposits and the extent of the identified archaeology;

- Photographic records of selected archaeological features and finds;
- A description of the site archive and the name of the institution with which it will be deposited;
- References and bibliography of all sources used;
- Archiving arrangements.

3.5.4 Updated research objectives for further analysis will also be developed if relevant, and this may include amendments or additions to the original research aims.

3.5.5 A draft copy of the final report will be provided to the client and CAPAS for comment within a timescale provisional on the extent and character of the finds and samples recovered. The final version of the report will be provided to the client and CAPAS within three weeks of receiving any comments

3.5.6 Digital copies of the final report will be submitted to OASIS to allow the results of the work to be accessible on-line to the wider archaeological community and the general public. The OASIS form will be appended to the post-excavation assessment report.

3.5.7 The specific WSIs will provide a list of specialists in the following categories:

Palaeobotany
Metalwork / Vitrified Material
Coarse Stone
Environmental
Wood
Glass
Ceramic Building Material
Human Bone
Soil Micromorphology
Conservation
Lithics
Ceramics
Ceramics
Ceramics

Archiving

- 3.5.8 The archaeological project archive will contain all the data collected during the fieldwork, including records and finds, and all reports. Cheshire West Museums will designate a unique site code for the archaeological works.
- 3.5.9 The Archaeological Contractor will contact the recipient museum in advance of commencing of any fieldwork to determine the preparation, ownership and deposition of the archive and finds, and obtain a museum accession number.
- 3.5.10 The Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2020b) and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) recommend that finds are publicly accessible and that landowners donate archaeological finds to a local museum. The landowner will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to the receiving museum. A Deed of Transfer will be drawn up by the recipient museum which the landowner will be asked to sign.
- 3.5.11 The archive will contain all the data collected during the archaeological evaluation, including all digital and paper records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. Adequate resources will be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent. Irrespective of a post-excavation assessment recommendation to proceed to analysis and publication, the evaluation will require the compilation of a site archive report (as required by ALGAO 2015). As a minimum this will comprise copies of the WSI, the relevant section of the post-excavation assessment report and any specialist reports for the site, as well as quantifications of all records and materials for the site and a site specific post-excavation concordance table.
- 3.5.12 Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork and will include the following work:
- the site record will be checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary;
 - all retained finds will be cleaned, conserved, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum;
 - all retained finds will be assessed and recorded using pro-forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating will be integrated within the site matrix;
 - all retained environmental samples will be processed by suitably experienced and qualified staff.
- 3.5.13 The CIfA Archive Selection Toolkit, or similar process, will be used in the compilation of the archive and explicitly documented.
- 3.5.14 The archive will be assembled and prepared in line with the recommendations provided in Historic England's MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (PPN3) (2008), ALGAO's Advice Note for Post-excavation Assessment (2015) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage (United Kingdom

Institute for Conservation, 1990) and the Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994). Provision will be made for the stable storage of paper records and their long-term storage.

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Data Management Plan (DMP)

1. Project	
Site Code:	26460
Site Name:	Frodsham Solar, Frodsham Marsh Cheshire: Development Consent Order Project
Project Type:	Geotechnical Mitigation, Archaeological Evaluation, Level 1 Historic Building Recording
OASIS ID:	Aocarcha1-<No.>
Local authority:	CWaCC
Data Repository:	Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS), Archaeology Data Service (ADS) National Heritage List for England (NHLE)
2. Data Collection and Standards	
Data Standards & Methods of Collection	
<p>Methods of collection will conform to the Archaeological Contractor's recording practices and relevant ClfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (ClfA 2014). Digital data acquisition standards are defined from <i>ADS Guides to Good Practice</i> (Niven 2021):</p> <p>https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/help-guidance/guides-to-good-practice/the-project-lifecycle/planning-for-the-creation-of-digital-data/</p> <p>Data collection will adhere to FAIR Principles and will be in line with ClfA <i>Dig Digital</i> Guidance:</p> <p>https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/downloads/selection-toolkit/digdigital_full_guidance.pdf</p> <p>The intended repository for digital data is Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS), ADS and the NHLE.</p> <p>The intended repository for physical site records is West Chester Museum</p>	
Site Records	
<p>Records for this project will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created digitally using the Archaeological Contractor's Field Data Manager and exported to spreadsheets <p>Handheld devices running Field Data Manager (FDM) software will be used to record archaeological data. FDM software will be used to produce the following site records on pro forma .csv outputs in line with ClfA Standards and Guidance (2014):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Context sheets * Trench records * Finds registers * Photographic registers * Sample registers * Drawing registers 	

* Trench record shots

* Working shots

Photographic Record

The photographic record will comprise digital images taken using a DSLR camera of at least 12 megapixels. The photography format to be used is:

JPG

Survey

Archaeological features will be surveyed using a Trimble GNSS GPS tied to Ordnance Survey of Great Britain (OSGB) with corrections provided by Trimble Virtual Reference Station (VRS) Network. Tolerance will be to a horizontal and vertical accuracy of +/- 0.05m. Where tree cover or site obstructions prevent a clear GNSS signal, survey will be carried out either by Total Station positioned over a known point or tied to a predefined grid or by hand planning. Where hand plans are required, these will be georeferenced in Geographic Information System (GIS) and shapefiles exported for final plans and archiving purposes.

Data Standards

Data collected will include standard formats which maximise use and reuse in the future. The table below conforms to ADS Instructions for Depositors (2021) <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/help-guidance/instructions-for-depositors/files-and-metadata/>.

The table below provides a summary of the data types and formats for data collected and created. In cases where the project progresses or becomes more complex, additional types will be added to this section where required.

Data Type Collected	Format for Storage and Archive
Spreadsheets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Context Register ➤ Finds Registers ➤ Sample Registers ➤ Photographic Register ➤ Drawing Register ➤ Specialist Data Tables ➤ Harris Matrices ➤ Metadata Tables 	<p>Registers and Data Tables Microsoft Excel (.csv)</p> <p>Metadata as .csv files</p>

Text / Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WSI ➤ Daybook/watching brief logs ➤ Final Report ➤ Individual Specialist Reports 	All reports as PDF (.pdf/a)
Photography & Raster Images <p>Photography will be undertaken using:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital SLR 2. Colour print 3. B/W print 4. Colour side 5. B/W slide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Final Archive Images 	<p>Site photographs will be provided in:</p> <p>Joint Photographic Experts Group JPG (.jpg)</p> <p>Raw photo (.CR2, .CR3 or .DNG)</p>
GIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Site Plans ➤ Survey Data 	ESRI Shapefile (.shp,.shx & .dbf, plus associated files) deposited as .zip file
Additional Survey Types (if applicable): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	
3. Data Storage and Backup	
Field Data <p>Site Records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Born digital’ data from the Archaeological Contractor’s FDM app data is uploaded to a live SharePoint list on creation and backed up daily. • Paper records are kept in site folders and removed from site at close of work each day <p>Photographic Backup Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site cameras are removed from site at close of work each day <p>Digital photographs are recorded onto Secure Digital (SD) cards and backed up as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD cards are downloaded to server storage weekly/on completion of job (whichever is first) 	

Survey Data

- Survey data is synced daily to cloud storage and downloaded as a Trimble .job file to the specific project folder on the Archaeological Contractor's servers.

Project Data

- The primary data storage location for this project is the Archaeological Contractor's on-premises servers
- Sufficient data storage space is available via the Archaeological Contractor's servers and via SharePoint backup. The server is accessible by staff on and off-site through a secure log-in, including 2-factor authentication.
- The on-premises server is backed up daily to maintain an up-to-date security copy of the organisation wide data. A working copy is kept in cloud storage.
- Off-site access to the project files on the Archaeological Contractor's servers is provided to support back-up of raw data while fieldwork is ongoing.
- Where internet access for data backup is not possible, the raw data will be backed up to a separate media device (such as laptop and portable external hard drive) and transferred to the server at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Project files will be shared with external specialists and contractors directly using the same system, with the wider project team gaining access to only the files needed using permissions-based access.
- Project folders and files will be named following established procedures.
ProjectNumber_name_date (yyyymmdd) and conform to ADS best practice and version control guidance.
- On completion of the project, cloud data will be moved to the Archaeological Contractor on-premises servers for long term storage.
- Data intended for digital archive will be structured in the server directory as follows:
 - **Archive**
 - **3D**
 - **Graphics**
 - **GIS**
 - **Photos**
 - **Spreadsheets**
 - **Reports**

4. Metadata

- Metadata tables for each data type will be populated as the project progresses and will use the standard format for each data type as recommended by:

ADS Guides to Good Practice (Niven 2021).

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/help-guidance/guides-to-good-practice/the-project-lifecycle/project-metadata/>

- Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project, Museum Deposition Guidelines, Digital Repository Guidelines and the methodology described in the WSI.

5. Ethics and Legal Compliance

- Personally Identifiable Information (PII) will be removed from the archaeological project archive and permission to include individual's names in any reporting will be gained prior to use.
- Copyright for all data collected by the project team belongs to the Archaeological Contractor, and formal permission to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor.
- Where formal permissions and/or license agreements are linked to data sharing, details of these will be included in the project documentation folders and will accompany the archaeological project archive.

6. Archive

Digital archive material will be deposited with a trusted digital repository, where data migration and backup procedures are in place, and the integrity of the digital archive is maintained (see Section 1). Where a trusted repository is not specified, digital archive material will be deposited with the county museum on Archival Gold CD.

- Version control will be applied throughout the project in line with the Archaeological Contractor's standard operating procedures and ADS (2021) ClfA (2019) and HE (2015) guidelines.
- Only the final version of 'born digital' documents (reports, databases, images, survey files) will be selected for inclusion in the Digital Archive. The material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive will be duplicates or re-productions created during the lifespan of the project.
- Digital photographs will be assessed during post-excavation and selection based on the principles set out in the ADS (2011) & HE guidelines (2015).
- **Raw data (all formats) will only be preserved if specifically requested by the Client or specified by local authority requirements, e.g. unprocessed survey, raw photogrammetric data. Where an archive of raw data with an accepted repository (e.g. ADS) is required, a subsequent costing for storage and archiving will be provided.**
- Selection will be defined against the research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project results. Selection will be carried out based on the following guidelines:

ADS (2021) Guidelines for Depositors

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/guidelinesForDepositors>

ADS (2018) Guidance for the selection of material for deposit and archive

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/selectionGuidance.xhtml>

ClfA (2019) Selection Toolkit for Archaeological Archives

<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit>

Historic England (2015) Digital Image Capture and File Storage – Guidelines for Best Practice

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/digital-image-capture-and-file-storage>

7. Data Sharing and Accessibility

Data specific requirements, ethical issues or embargos which are linked to particular data formats will be documented within the relevant metadata tables accompanying the project archive.

- A summary of the project will be included on the OASIS Index of Archaeological Investigation (see Section 1).
- A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record via OASIS, and any data which they request can also be provided directly.
- The location(s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be added to OASIS when appropriate.
- The Repository in Section 1 will disseminate the digital elements of the Archaeological Archive online under a creative commons licence and the dataset will receive a unique identifier, a Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

8. Responsibilities

- The Archaeological Clerk of Works will be responsible for implementing the DMP, and ensuring it is reviewed and revised at each stage of the project.
- Data capture, metadata production and data quality are the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Archaeological Clerk of Works with support from the Geomatics Manager and Archives Officer.
- Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team. Data management on site will be supervised by the site lead.

The site lead responsible for field data management:

- Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by the Archaeological Contractor's IT Support Team.
- Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Archives Officer with the support of the Geomatics Manager.
- The Archives Officer is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.
- Details of the core project team can be provided on request.

9. Additional References

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CIfA Dig Digital Online Resource, <https://www.archaeologists.net/digdigital>

www.aocarchaeology.com



www.facebook.com/aocarchaeology



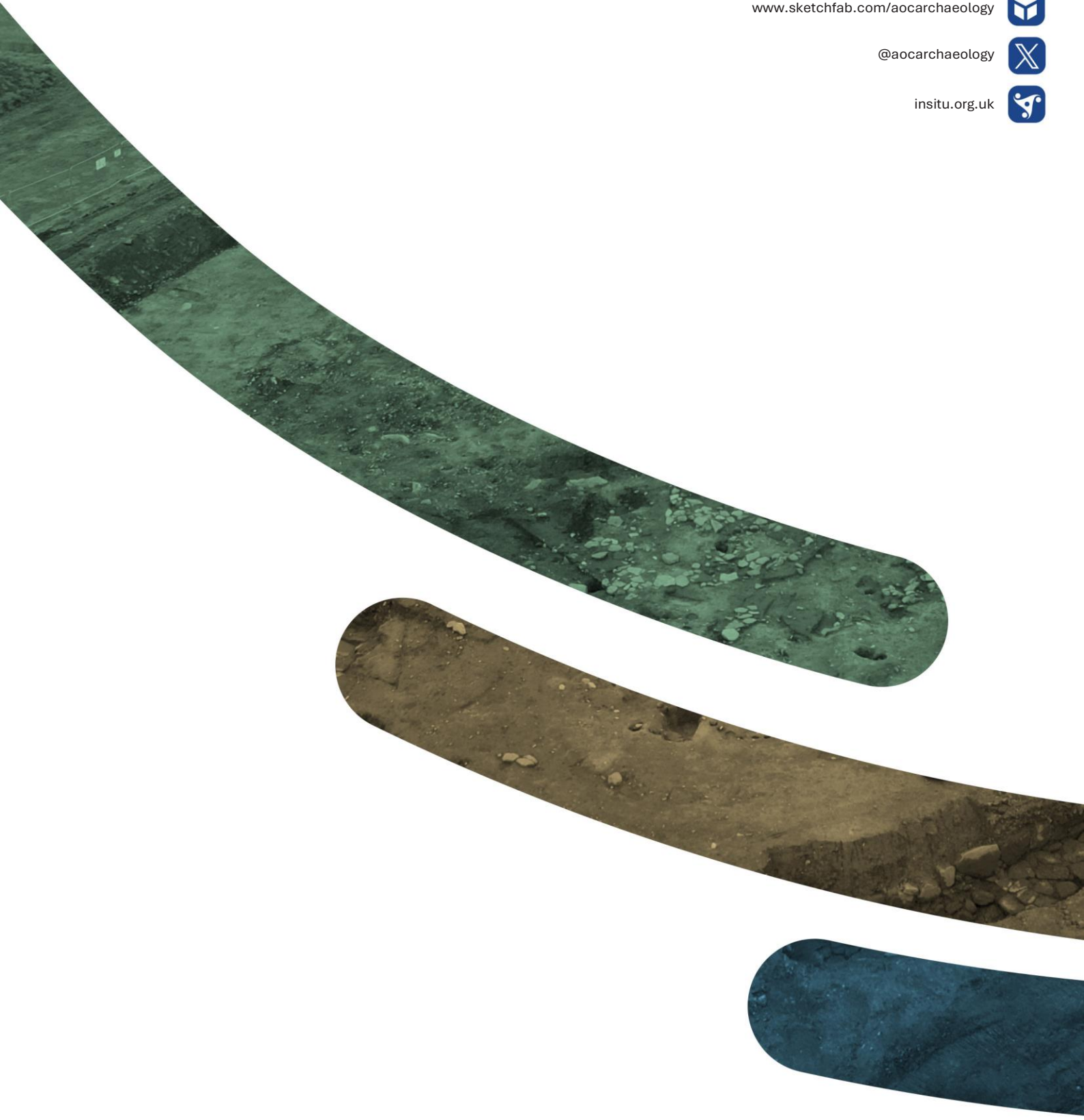
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