POWER FOR GOOD

Steeple Renewables Project

Archaeological Strategy Note

January 2026

Document Reference: EN010163/EX/8.12

Revision: 1 (original)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 5(2)(q)

Archaeological Strategy Note

Document Properties		
Prepared By	The Steeple Renewables Project Consultant Team	
Version History		
Version	**Date**	**Version Status**
Examination	January 2026	Rev 1

Archaeological Strategy Note

Project name:	Steeple Solar
Author:	L. Garcia and D. Sutherland
Date:	January 2026
Project number:	P22-1144

---

1. Introduction

1.1. This Archaeological Strategy Note has been prepared following the completion of the geophysical survey across the Steeple Solar DCO redline boundary (and beyond) and conclusion of a targeted pre-determination trial trench evaluation within the northern portion of the Order Limits.

1.2. This Note has been prepared following ISH1, in order to provide further rationale and justification for the approach the Applicant has taken with regard to archaeological investigation.

1.3. The note sets out a summary of the works undertaken to date. and the justification and precedent underpinning the choices for the approach taken. We have also undertaken a review of the archaeological strategy, with a particular focus on trenching requirements for other recent DCOs. The information is set out below.

2. Policy and Guidance

Policy

2.1. A summary and extracts of relevant National Policy Statement (NPS) policies with regard to archaeology is provided below with reference to the proposed strategy and timings of archaeological works.

2.2. NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.10.113 states:

"Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, the applicant should submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation…"

2.3. Similar text is included at paragraph 5.9.11 of NPS EN-1, which states:

"Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or the available evidence suggests it has the potential to include, heritage assets with an archaeological interest, the applicant should carry out appropriate desk-based assessment and, where such desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation…"

2.4. There is no mandatory requirement to carry out intrusive field work. Paragraph 2.10.114 of NPS EN-3 goes on to reinforce this by stating:

"In some instances, field studies may include investigative work…"

2.5. Further, at paragraph 2.10.115 of EN-3 it states:

"The extent of investigative work should be proportionate to the sensitivity of, and extent of, proposed ground disturbance in the associated study area."

2.6. Collectively, the policies provide a clear policy position that intrusive trenching works are not a mandatory pre-determination requirement, and that evaluation works that is carried out should be proportionate.

Guidance

2.7. Recent draft guidance has been issued for consultation (consultation ended 15th September 2025) on the approach to archaeology and large-scale solar schemes. The Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide has been prepared jointly between representatives of Historic England, Cadw, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), the Local Government Association, the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME) and Solar Energy UK.

2.8. Although only a consultation draft at this stage, it provides a clear indication of what is to be considered good practice in the archaeology sector with regard to the approach to the assessment of large-scale solar schemes and of how different stakeholders should approach these projects in terms of advice and requirements. The involvement of key national heritage stakeholders indicates that this document has been carefully considered and shows that there is a wide-cross sector agreement to the principles put forward in this document – though not yet in a final version.

2.9. The Good Practice Guide strongly advocates for a proportionate approach to intrusive fieldwork, highlighting the need for a staged approach focussing on non-invasive survey techniques to help to establish the archaeological potential. The document also advocates that due to the flexible nature of solar schemes and the disproportionate level of disturbance from evaluation relative to solar panel insertion, if it is considered that intrusive fieldwork is necessary at all, this work should, where possible, be carried out post-determination.

2.10. The document sets out 13 Principles for Good Practice for practitioners undertaking assessment or consideration of archaeology within solar schemes. Of particular relevance here are:

2.11. **Principle 4: design flexibility can be utilised to protect archaeological remains** – which sets out that the flexibility of solar schemes can be used to avoid impacts on archaeological deposits;

2.12. **Principle 5: differentiated impact zones in solar farms have implications for archaeological impacts** - which sets out that the physical impacts of solar developments on archaeological remains are typically limited compared to many other types of development.

2.13. **Principle 7: high quality non-intrusive evaluation is critical to developing understanding of archaeological potential** - sets out the importance of a staged process of assessment utilising a number of different techniques to provide an understanding of archaeological potential.

2.14. **Principle 8: targeted and sustainable trial trenching: enhancing confidence when considering development impact** – this sets out considerations regarding the need and timing of trial trench evaluation.

2.15. In terms of timing, the document states at §3.8.2:

"Where trial trenches are needed, timing should be carefully considered, with post-determination assessment preferred where possible… Their use and precise layout is best defined at the point when the applicant is able to provide archaeological advisors with an acceptable level of information about the specifics and layout of the solar scheme and clarity around the degree of flexibility of specific parts of the site"

2.16. With regards to whether trenching should be deployed at all, either at pre- or post-determination stage, §3.83 of the document states:

"Trial trenching can involve more ground disturbance than the construction of panel supports. Finding an appropriate balance between ground disturbance caused by archaeological evaluation and that caused by construction needs careful thought."

2.17. Rightly, the guidance sets out that where intrusive pre-determination fieldwork may be useful is in those larger areas of the scheme which are completely fixed – such as substation locations.

3. Summary of archaeological evaluation to date

3.1. A staged approach has been undertaken with regard to the consideration of below ground archaeology within the Order Limits. Works undertaken comprise:

- A detailed Heritage Baseline;
- Site walkover;
- Analysis of historic mapping;
- Analysis of LiDAR data;
- Analysis of geology and a geoarchaeological assessment;
- Analysis of aerial photographs;
- Consideration of archaeological reports for other schemes within the area;
- Geophysical survey across the Order Limits and beyond; and,
- Trial trenching across the fixed areas of infrastructure for the Scheme.

3.2. Four areas considered to be of high archaeological significance were identified from the geophysical survey (Appendix 9.2 - Magnitude Surveys Geophysical Survey Report [APP-123]) and desk-based analysis (Appendix 9.1 Cultural Heritage Technical Baseline [APP-122]. These four areas have been excluded from development, with remains in these areas to be preserved *in situ*. These four areas comprise:

- **Area A** – The largest concentration of geophysical anomalies within the Site is in the south-east and corresponds with a site identified on HER records. The anomalies appear to represent a Roman linear settlement focussed on either side of a routeway, and are likely associated with further remains to the east, and the Scheduled Roman town of Segelocum to the north-east;
- **Area B** – A smaller area of enclosure towards the eastern extent of Site which has strong responses, and a relatively dense array of internal features, with further likely associated linear and curvilinear features to the north and south;
- **Area C** – An overlapping complex of enclosures towards the north of the eastern portion of Site, with strong responses and internal and external features; and,
- **Area D** – A series of potentially associated enclosures south of the centre of the western portion of Site with potential clusters of pits, other internal features and some external features.

3.3. The locations in which and the mechanisms by which preservation will be secured (such as control of construction traffic, fencing off during construction etc) are outlined in Appendix 9.3 – Archaeological Mitigation Statement [APP-124].

3.4. The identification of these areas, in particular, the features identified to the south of the Scheduled Monument of Littleborough Roman Town, and the exclusion of these from the

areas of developments provides an example of how §5.9.6 of NPS EN-1 is intended to operate. This paragraph states:

"Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments or Protected Wreck Sites should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets."

3.5. The geophysical survey identified archaeological anomalies strongly indicative of an area of archaeology with some connection to the Scheduled Monument to the north. The nature of the anomalies indicated a road with settlement activity on either side. It was considered that because of this likely association, these features were on the balance of probability of demonstrably equivalent significance to the Scheduled Monument to the north. As such, this area was demarcated and removed from the development and will be preserved *in situ*.

3.6. The geophysical survey has been successful in identifying anomalies indicative of archaeological remains, with discrete areas of activity identified across the Order Limits. The largest concentration of geophysical anomalies recorded within the Site by the recent survey lies in the south-east of the Order Limits and broadly corresponds with Historic Environment Record (HER) records which identified a settlement site trackway, pits and linear features in the same location (see paragraph 5.36 of Appendix 9.1 – Cultural Heritage Technical Baseline [APP-122]). The geophysical survey has also identified further areas of localised archaeological potential comprising enclosures/groups of enclosures with possible associated features. Based on the form of these features and recorded archaeology in the vicinity, it is considered likely that these are indicative of rural settlement activity and/or related to agricultural practises. As noted in Section 5 of Appendix 9.1 – Cultural Heritage Technical Baseline [APP-122] late prehistoric and/or Roman date is considered likely for these features.

3.7. It should also be highlighted, that the survey has been successful in identifying anomalies indicative of significant archaeological remains within the east of the Order Limits, closest to the River Trent, where there was the greatest potential for alluvial/fluvial deposits which may have masked archaeological features (e.g. Plate 1). The potential for masking effects of these deposits was raised by the LPA's archaeological advisors in their Relevant Representations [RR-052], however the results of the survey do not support this.

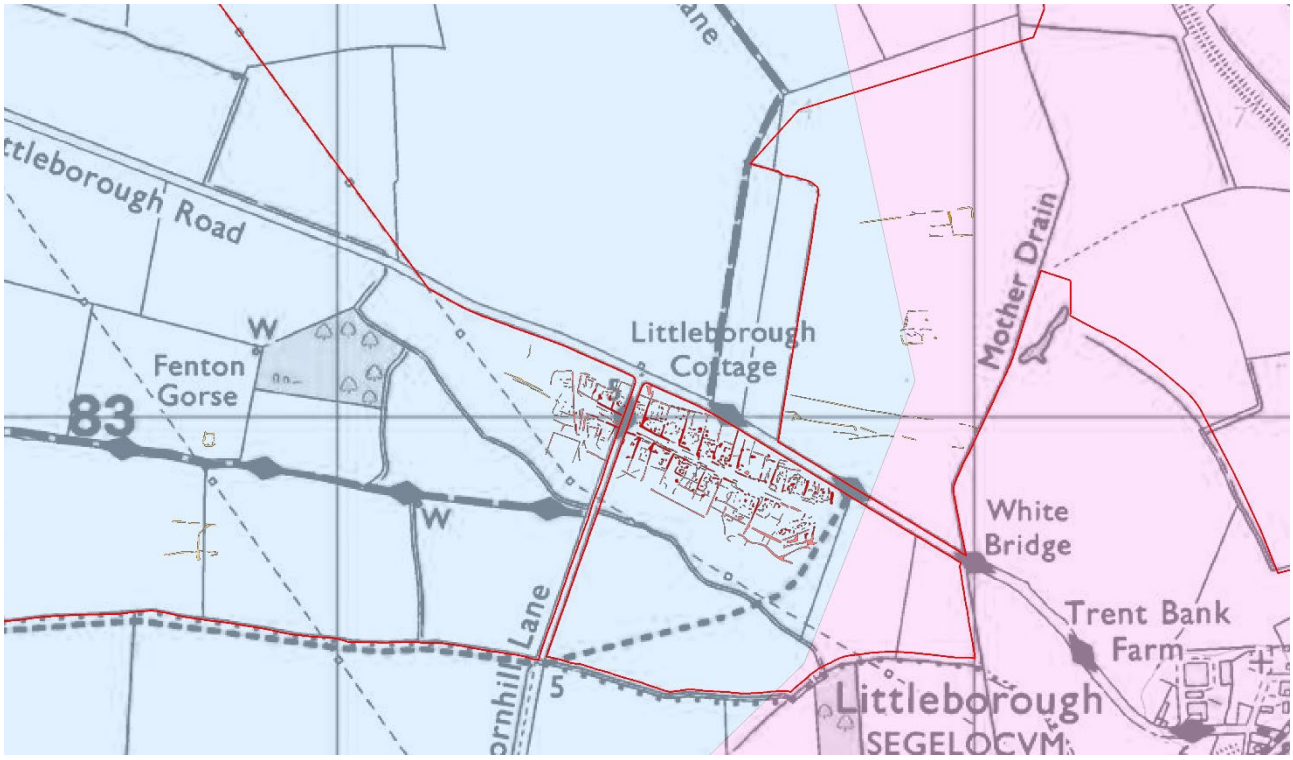

Plate 1: Extract showing geophysical anomalies indicative of archaeological remains within east of Order Limits overlaid on mapped superficial geology (courtesy of BGS) - blue indicates river terrace deposits, and pink alluvial deposits

3.8. It is therefore considered that the survey was effective.

3.9. Based on the results of the geophysical survey, the areas of greatest archaeological potential have been removed entirely from the proposed development.

3.10. The methodology and scope of the pre-determination trial trench evaluation is provided in Appendix 9.4 – Outline Written Scheme of Investigation for Pre-Determination Trial Trenching [APP-125]. This was agreed with the LPA's archaeological advisors ahead of the commencement of works, with some minor amendments to trench locations due to nearby services, with the amendments outlined in a Method Statement MS prepared by the archaeological fieldwork team, ASWYAS. Approval of the WSI and MS were confirmed via email by Matt Adams, Senior Planning Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County Council on 20th October 2025. The archaeological advisors were also consulted and updated throughout the works.

3.11. The programme of pre-determination trial trench evaluation was undertaken on the areas of 'fixed', large-scale development within the north of the Order Limits. The results corresponded well with the geophysical survey results in this area and did not identify any significant archaeological features, and no finds pre-dating the post-medieval period were recovered. The only features recorded during the works were those also recorded by the geophysical survey, comprising former field boundaries, and modern land drains.

3.12. A summary of the results of the trial trench evaluation is included below:

- Trench 1 – 1nr. possible feature tested, proved to be natural, sondage down to bedrock;

- Trench 2 – Blank;
- Trench 3 – 1nr. field boundary (identified by geophysical survey);
- Trench 4 – Blank;
- Trench 5 – Blank;
- Trench 6 – Blank;
- Trench 7 – Blank, with 1 land drain;
- Trench 8 – Blank, with land drains;
- Trench 9 – Blank;
- Trench 10 – Blank, with 2nr. drains;
- Trench 11 – Blank;
- Trench 12 – Field boundary ditch NE-SW (identified by geophysical survey);
- Trench 13 – Blank, with 3nr. drains;
- Trench 14 – Field boundary ditch NE-SW (identified by geophysical survey);
- Trench 15 – Blank; and,
- Trench 16 – Blank.

3.13. The results of the trial trench evaluation therefore corroborate the results of the geophysical survey and provide further evidence as to its success.

4. Proposed Archaeological Strategy

4.1. The proposed archaeological strategy has been informed by the previous stages of work and the consideration of the guidance found within policy and the draft Archaeology and Solar guidance note discussed above.

4.2. It is proposed that further archaeological works will be undertaken post-consent, including further trenching and possible mitigation where required. The approach is set out in Appendix 9.5 – Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (oWSI) for Post-Consent Archaeological Works [APP-126]. The oWSI sets out a range of possible responses (see paragraph 5.7 of that document) to the results of evaluative works, comprising:

- No further works required;
- Archaeological watching brief;
- Strip, map and sample (SMS) or open area excavation;
- Preservation *in situ* using 'no dig' construction methods; and,
- Preservation *in situ* by excluding areas from the development.

4.3. The methodologies for the various mitigation options are provided within the oWSI. However, the oWSI makes clear at paragraph 5.8 that any further works will need to be agreed with the LPA's archaeological advisor, and that each additional phase of fieldwork will require a specific WSI or Method Statement, outlining the scope of the works, aims and objectives, detailed methodology, and key personnel. Any further WSI will also need to be in accordance with the oWSI, unless agreed otherwise with the archaeological advisor. It is through this mechanism outlined above, that results of further trial trenching can be taken into account within mitigation proposals.

4.4. As per current consideration of solar schemes and archaeological requirements and investigation, this is considered to be a proportionate and appropriate response. The inherent flexibility of solar schemes is discussed in detail in the Good Practice Guide and can be achieved through design flexibility, e.g. avoidance or through no-dig construction methods such as ballast foundations and suspended cables. This means that archaeological deposits, no matter what the significance or nature, can be addressed in an appropriate manner in the post-consent phase of works, as indicated by the various measures outlined above.

Anticipated Impacts

4.5. A solar scheme does not create below-ground impacts of anywhere near the scale of other forms of development. As outlined in Section 4 of the Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide, a solar scheme often comprises the following:

- Solar arrays;
- Cabling trenches;
- Roads,

- Substations and battery storage;
- Fencing;
- Landscaping and drainage;
- Temporary construction infrastructure; and,
- Habitat creation.

4.6. These elements are consistent with those in the proposed Scheme. Section 4 of the Guide goes on to discuss impacts associated with various elements, a summary of which is included below.

Solar arrays

4.7. The Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide notes that:

"Archaeologically, the impact of one metal support is limited and unlikely to harm the archaeological interest of most archaeological features."

4.8. It is acknowledged that some remains such as burials or graves would not be acceptable to install supports into, and that impacts may be greater with some ancient masonry, earthen structures or waterlogged wood. It is however noted that there is no evidence to suggest such features are present within the Order Limits, and that these could be avoided through an appropriate mitigation strategy.

4.9. The Guide does not provide specific details with regard to impacts, only identifying this as usually <1% of the land parcel subject to the solar array, however general measurements and specifications are provided with regard to typical solar arrays which can be used to provide a rough calculation of impacts. At paragraph 4.2.1 the guide notes that piled steel supports are typically 'C' or 'U' shaped, measuring *c.*10-20 cm and *c.*0.3-0.5cm thick. At paragraph 4.2.3 it is noted that typical arrays have supports at 2-3 metre intervals along a set of panels, with a gap of 3-4 metres between panels. A worst-case scenario impact could therefore be calculated assuming a 20cm length, and 0.5cm diameter (0.1sqm) every 2m, which would equate to 0.05% of the area, not factoring in spacing between panels. While there may be some additional impacts immediately adjacent to piles, the Guide notes at paragraphs 4.2.1, and 4.2.2 that supports are:

"…pushed/driven into the ground on a standard grid layout by small track-mounted rigs which cause minimal disturbance to the topsoil.

…In most ground conditions the support is pushed into the ground with limited vibration. The area that is disrupted by the installation would usually be limited to the cross-section of the support, and soil either side of the metal support would rarely be disturbed or disrupted."

Fencing

4.10. At paragraph 4.3.1 fencing is noted as typically comprising frequent small-diameter posts pushed or hammered into the ground and impacts are considered similar to those associated with solar arrays. It is further noted that these activities are commonplace in agricultural settings.

Cable Trenches

4.11. With regard to cable trenches it is noted at paragraph 4.4.1 of the Guide that panels are:

"…connected to cables from the other rows of panels at one end of the array (usually at the edge of the field) and run in cable trenches to transformers and other electrical infrastructure."

4.12. It is noted that in some cases, cables linking panels are also buried, which can result in further impacts. However, there are also, non-intrusive methods of cabling such as suspended cables which can be used to avoid these impacts.

4.13. Cable trenches are noted as typically being approximately 1m by 1m. The extent of cable trenches within the Site is uncertain, and calculating exact impacts is therefore difficult, however assuming a 1m x 1m cable trench along a field edge, and using some fields within the west of the Order Limits as examples, and taking the longest field edges to provide worst case scenarios, the potential site area involved has been calculated at *c.*0.1-0.2%.

4.14. The Guide notes at 4.4.2, that the excavation of cable trenches would physically impact archaeological remains without archaeological mitigation, which is acknowledged.

Roads

4.15. The impacts associated with roads as identified at paragraph 4.5.1 of the Guide as being variable, as while it may involve the removal of topsoil and potentially subsoil, roads can also be designed to sit on top of topsoil. Where soil removal takes place, it is considered that impacts will be similar to those associated with cable trenches.

Substations and Battery Storage

4.16. It is identified at paragraph 4.6.1 that due to the substantial weight of these facilities, they usually require foundations which involve the removal of soil.

4.17. As identified above, the area of largescale 'fixed' development which comprises the proposed substation and battery storage element of the Scheme, has already been subject to trial trench evaluation, which did not identify any archaeological remains which would warrant further mitigation.

Landscaping and Drainage

4.18. At paragraph 4.7.1 of the Guide it is identified that landscaping or drainage features that involves excavation e.g. swales or attenuation ponds could disturb archaeological remains.

4.19. Four attenuation ponds are identified on the Site Layout [AS-009], along some adjoining swales. Two of the ponds are however located adjacent to the proposed BESS and substation in the north of the Order Limits and have already been subject to trial trench evaluation as part of the pre-determination works discussed above. A review of the two other proposed attenuation basins, and associated swales would suggest an area covering less than <9,000sqm, which equates to <0.10% of the Order Limits.

Temporary Construction Infrastructure

4.20. As identified at Section 4.8 of the Guide, temporary construction compounds and roads, can require a soil strip prior to construction, and if needed this will potentially have similar impacts to permanent roads or infrastructure. It is however noted that construction compounds and roads can be constructed, if required on top of soil by laying protective matting or imported fill.

Habitat Creation

4.21. At Section 4.9 of the Guide it is noted that habitat creation can result in below ground impacts, e.g. with the creation of ponds. It is also noted that some impacts can also be involved in the creation of wildflower meadows, with the turning of soil. The latter is however considered unlikely to be no more impactful in terms of below-ground disturbance than current agriculture practices within the Order Limits.

4.22. As identified on the Figure 6.9 Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Strategy [APP-160], approximately 500sqm of ponds are proposed in the eastern extent of the Order Limits (*c.*0.0056% of the Order Limits). The majority of the ecological management strategy involves managing the existing arable cropland, to include skylark plots, although areas of species rich grassland and/or grassland are also proposed, along with some areas of additional woodland planting.

Summary

4.23. This low level of impact relative to the size of the footprint of the Scheme has driven the archaeological strategy. The approach taken is bespoke to solar and would not be a viable alternative for other types of higher-impact development such as housing, roads, power stations.

4.24. Undertaking 100,000's sqm of trenching at the pre-determination stage of a Scheme is not mitigating the impacts of a solar scheme, it is permanently removing archaeology which, if the scheme should not gain consent, would have been for no justification and would otherwise remain *in situ* for future generations. The coverage of solar panels, access tracks and cable routes equates to an area of disturbance of around 0.45% of the site area, assuming a worst—case scenario for all elements: the higher-level impact of cables based on the calculations provided above, and roads having a similar degree of impact which is around 39,973.5 sqm. A sample of even 1% trenching of the Site would equate to 88,830 sqm. It is simply not a proportionate response to undertake that level of disturbance for a scheme causing a much lesser amount of impact.

4.25. In terms of post-consent trenching or other methods of fieldwork, this should, as set out above, be in proportion to the level of disturbance caused by the Scheme.

5. Review of other applications

5.1. This section considers recent applications for ground mounted solar development (submitted since 2024). All NSIPs have been considered, with 18nr. projects having been identified which had either been Submitted or Consented; Withdrawn and Refused applications were not considered. Consented TCPA applications have also been considered for schemes of 12MW and above. The information has been collated from the Government's Renewable Energy Planning Database (last updated October 2025). A summary of the collated information is provided at **Appendix 1**.

5.2. This has been provided to understand the differing approach taken to archaeological strategy for DCO and TCPA applications in the different counties in England. Each county has its own Archaeological Advisor.

5.3. A review of historic and recent DCO applications has identified that there is no standard approach to pre-determination trial trenching, however it is certainly the case that very limited or no pre-determination trial trenching is not an unusual or novel approach. Indeed, the review has identified that high samples of trenching or arbitrary trial trenching across the entirety of the Order Limits is far less common. The situation is the same with TCPA applications with the majority of approved applications having no pre-determination trenching.

5.4. The approach to undertake a targeted, archaeologically driven evaluation rather than conform to an abstract sample size is an approach taken at the recent consented schemes at Longfield Solar Farm (Essex) –0.08% sample pre-determination; Mallard Pass Solar (Lincolnshire) – 0.30%; West Burton Solar (Lincolnshire) – 0.45% and Cottam Solar (Lincolnshire) – 0.39%.

5.5. There are also sites where no pre-determination trial trenching has been undertaken, such as Helios Renewable Energy Project (EN010140) which was recently granted consent by the Secretary of State (3rd December 2025). For this application, a full geophysical survey was undertaken across the Order Limits which, similarly to the results of the geophysical survey results for the Proposed Development, identified discrete areas of archaeological anomalies. Following discussion with the LPA Archaeologist, it was agreed that these areas of discrete archaeology would be demarcated and would be put forward as areas of preservation in-situ, however panels were still placed in these areas but on concrete feet. The Archaeological Mitigation Strategy document for this application [APP-126 of the Helios Scheme] set out the measures including raising of cables, laying of access tracks on geotextile and other measures to ensure no below ground disturbance would take place within these identified areas.

5.6. The LPA Archaeologist for the Helios scheme agreed that no pre-determination trenching was required for the application (an approach Historic England were happy with and had no comment upon). They agreed that the geophysical survey indicated that the potential for significant archaeology beyond the discrete areas of potential was low and no further works were required. In the AMS, it is stated that the LPA Archaeologist set out: "***The Principal Archaeologist…also noting that the nature of the Proposed Development (solar panels on pile-driven poles) would have a low-impact on archaeological remains especially on linear features***."

5.7. An archaeological watching brief was proposed on the cable route, with this agreed to be undertaken post-determination.

5.8. It is the case therefore, that the archaeological strategy the Applicant is proposing here is not novel in its approach. It is an approach increasingly taken on large-scale solar schemes where the approach of doing thousands (literally) of trenches across vast swathes of landscape, causing significant disruption for farmers, damaging the soil condition of thousands of square meters, at a cost running into the millions of pounds, permanently removing archaeological deposits that may not even have been impacted by the Scheme is increasingly seen, to use an analogy, as 'using a sledgehammer to crack a nut'.

6. Conclusions

6.1. The inherent flexibility of solar development, and generally limited nature of below ground impacts (as identified at paragraph 2.10.109 of NPS EN-3), allow for a range of potential mitigation measures to be utilised, should remains of archaeological significance be encountered. The overall impacts associated with this type of scheme are also far less than associated with other forms of developments, and likely to be significantly less than a site-wide arbitrary percentage of trial trench evaluation.

6.2. It is therefore considered that the proposed approach, comprising a programme of targeted, pre-determination trial trenching, focussed on fixed, large-scale elements of development, with further works to be undertaken post-consent, is an appropriate one, and is in line with policy. Fundamentally, this is an archaeology-led approach, that is informed by the nature of impacts associated with the Proposed Development and the potential for archaeological remains. The approach is also in line with national Policy and recent Guidance.

6.3. In terms of the robustness of this approach, there is an increasing precedent for doing a proportionate level of trenching and then mitigation which focusses on the areas of actual impact of a scheme – as in the Mallard Pass, Longfield and Cottam solar schemes. There are notably also schemes where no trial trenching is undertaken, and mitigation is informed by non-intrusive evaluative works such as Helios Renewable Energy Project.

Appendix 1: Approaches to Trial Trenching in Recent Solar Schemes

Table 1: 2024/2025 DCO Schemes

Scheme	Status	County	Non-intrusive evaluation	Pre-determination trial trenching (percentage of Order Limits)
Botley West, Botley - Botley West Solar Project **EN010147**	Planning Application Submitted	Oxfordshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 0.6%
The Tween Bridge Solar Farm **EN010148**	Planning Application Submitted	South Yorkshire	Geophysical survey and fieldwalking undertaken	Targeted trial trenching, approximately 0.076%
Springwell, Lincoln - Springwell Solar Farm & Battery Storage **EN010149**	Planning Application Submitted	Lincolnshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	0.14% focussed on areas of greatest potential ground impact
Great North Road Solar Park **EN010162**	Planning Application Submitted	Nottinghamshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 0.12%
One Earth Solar Farm **EN010159**	Planning Application Submitted	Nottinghamshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 2%
Green Hill Solar Farm & Battery Storage **EN010170**	Planning Application Submitted	Northamptonshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 0.5%

Tillbridge Solar Farm, Hemswell – Solar Panels **EN010142**	Development Consent Granted	Lincolnshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 2%
Steeple Renewables Project **EN010163**	**Planning Application Submitted**	**Nottinghamshire**	**Geophysical survey undertaken**	**Approximately 0.01%**
Beacon Fen Energy Park **EN010151**	Planning Application Submitted	Lincolnshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 2.6%
Fosse Green Energy **EN010154**	Planning Application Submitted	Lincolnshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 0.2%
Peartree Hill Solar Farm **EN010157**	Planning Application Submitted	East Riding of Yorkshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 0.05%
Fenwick Solar Farm & Battery Storage **EN010152**	Planning Application Submitted	South Yorkshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 1.34%
Helios Renewable Energy Project **EN010140**	Development Consent Granted	North Yorkshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	None undertaken
Byers Gill Solar Farm **EN010139**	Development Consent Granted	County Durham	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 0.22%

Dean Moor Solar Farm & Battery Storage **EN010155**	Planning Application Submitted	Cumbria	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 0.05%
Frodsham Solar Project & Battery Storage **EN010153**	Planning Application Submitted	Cheshire	None undertaken	None undertaken, although a geoarchaeological investigation was undertaken within parts of the Order Limits
Oaklands Solar Farm Project - Solar Farm & Battery Storage **EN010122**	Development Consent Granted	Derbyshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	None undertaken
Stonestreet Green - Solar Farm & Battery Storage **EN010135**	Planning Application Submitted	Kent	Geophysical survey undertaken	Approximately 0.013%

Table 1: 2024/2025 Approved TCPA Schemes

Scheme	County	Non-intrusive evaluation	Pre-determination trial trenching
Rookery Farm, Kimbolton Road - Solar PV Panels & Battery Storage **24/00883/FUL**	Cambridgeshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	2.22%
Cobholden Solar Farm **24/00858/MAF**	Bedfordshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	0.14%

Pilton Village, Luffenham Lane - Solar Array **2024/0300/MAF**	Leicestershire	None undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Weald Farm, Cambridge Road - Solar Farm & Battery Storage **24/00295/FUL**	Cambridgeshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Pre-determination trenching undertaken but no report submitted in application
High Barnes Farm, Coal Lane - Solar Farm **H/2024/0180**	Cleveland	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Immingham Solar Farm - Solar Farm **DM/0108/24/FUL**	Lincolnshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	0.14%
Scalm Park, Wistow - Solar Farm & Battery Energy Storage **ZG2024/1129/FULM**	North Yorkshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Moreton Brook Farm, Lea Lane - Solar Farm **P/2024/0569/SOL**	Staffordshire	None undertaken	Planning ref is incorrect should be P/2024/00696 - no information available
Camp Farm, Knowle Hill - Solar Farm **PAP/2024/0586**	Warwickshire	None undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
The Strawberry Line, Brinsea Road - Solar Farm	Somerset	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching

25/P/0809/FUL			
Cambridge Road, Croxton - Solar Panels **25/01657/FUL**	Cambridgeshire	None undertaken	31 trenches noted as complete in the heritage impact assessment but no measurement info, if 50m x 2m trenches then *c.*0.39%
Fleet Hill Solar Farm **23/02591/FUL**	Hampshire	None undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Welby Solar Farm, Welby - Solar Farm **S24/1040**	Lincolnshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	0.7%
Colbrans Farm Estate, Laughton - Solar Panels **WD/2024/2392/MEA**	East Sussex	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Nowhere Lane, Norwich - Solar Photovoltaic Panels **2024/3676**	Norfolk	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Kitland Solar Farm **24/P/1011/FUL**	Somerset	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Brompton Solar Farm - Solar Farm **ZD25/00038/FULL**	North Yorkshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	0.14%
Britton Court Farm, Hackington Road - Solar Farm	Kent	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching

CA/24/02283			
Quarry Solar Farm & Battery Storage Facility 24/01565/FUL	Oxfordshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	1.40%
Manor Farm, South Hiendley - Solar Photovoltaic Farm 24/00512/FUL	West Yorkshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Haigh Lane, Woolley Edge Lane - Solar Farm 23/02397/FUL	West Yorkshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Home Farm - Solar PV Farm S24/2100	Lincolnshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	Pre-determination trenching undertaken but trench length uncertain - 93 trenches and 13 geo-archaeological sondages. If 50 x 2m, trenches, then a *c.*1.7% sample.
Nickerlands Solar Farm - Solar Farm EPF/1546/24	Essex	None undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Carr House Farm, East Heslerton - Solar Farm ZF24/00191/FL	North Yorkshire	None undertaken	Application no longer available online
Old Hall Solar farm 23/01101/FUL	Leicestershire	Geophysical survey undertaken	1.60%
Cholderton Road, Quarley - Solar Farm	Hampshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching

24/01288/FULLN			
The Warren, Hackmans Lane - Solar Farm 24/00366/FULM	Essex	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Limes Farm Solar Farm & Battery Energy Storage S22/1432	Lincolnshire	None undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Watling Street, Caddington - Solar Farm CB/24/02069/FULL	Bedfordshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Kerswell Barton Farm, Broadclyst - Solar Panels 25/0467/MFUL	Devon	Geophysical survey undertaken	No information available on planning portal but understood to be a c.3% sample following a call with the LPA's archaeological advisor.
Aveley Landfill, Sandy Lane - PV Solar Array & Battery Energy Storage 24/00141/FUL	Essex	None undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Bengrove Farm, Base Lane - Solar Farm 24/00050/FUL	Gloucestershire	Geophysical survey undertaken	0.11%
Feeringbury Farm, Coggeshall Road - Solar Farm 24/02658/FUL	Essex	Geophysical survey undertaken	2.18%
Fen Farm - Solar Park	Lincolnshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching

N/036/00565/24			
Tiddiecross Lane, Charlton - Tiddiecross Solar Farm & Battery Storage TWC/2024/0909	Shropshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Cressing Farm, Witham Road - Solar Farm 24/02673/FUL	Essex	Geophysical survey undertaken	No details on number of trenches provided on planning portal, but it is noted that a 'targeted trial trench evaluation on an area of cropmark features' was completed.
Hatherton Lodge Farm, Hunsterson Road - Solar Farm 24/5074/FUL	Cheshire	None undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
University of Surrey, Blackwell Farm - Solar Farm 24/P/00441	Surrey	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Bath Road, Grange Lane - Solar Photovoltaic Array 24/01899/FULMAJ	Berkshire	None undertaken	No pre-determination trenching
Bentham House Farm, Mopes Lane - Solar Farm PL/2024/08441	Wiltshire	Geophysical survey undertaken	1.63%
Great Cowbridge Grange Farm, London Road - Solar Farm	Essex	Geophysical survey undertaken	No pre-determination trenching