



Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.3 ES Appendix 8-2:
Historic Environment
Desk Based Assessment -
Appendix E Volume 1

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications:
Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009

March 2026

E Archaeological Field Evaluation



Meridian Solar Farm

Interim report on an Archaeological Evaluation

Meridian Solar Farm
Interim report on an Archaeological Evaluation



York Archaeology – Nottingham Office
Unit 1 Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 4AB
+44 (0)115 896 7400 | yaenquiries@yorkat.co.uk | www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk



Copyright

York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited (trading as York Archaeology) asserts the right to be identified as the author of this report and all the content within it (Report), as specified in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (chapter IV).

York Archaeology gives permission for this Report to be used in perpetuity by the archives/repository with which it is deposited. This permission allows the archives/repository to reproduce the Report, including for use by third parties for any purpose relating to the titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report, subject to York Archaeology being suitably identified as the author of the Report and copyright owner by ensuring the following appears within each copy of the Report unless otherwise specified by York Archaeology in writing:

© Copyright York Archaeology 2025

Disclaimer

This report and all content within it (Report) has been prepared solely for the commissioning person or organisation specifically for the purpose of the titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited (trading as York Archaeology) accepts no responsibility or liability for use of the Report by anyone, or for any purpose, other than that for which it was prepared and/or provided. Any other person wishing to rely on the Report in a different way should obtain written agreement for that use from York Archaeology.

York Archaeology

York Archaeology operates from offices in York, Sheffield and Nottingham, and is a trading name of © **York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited**. Registered Office: 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX. A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No. 1430801. A Registered Charity in England and Wales (No. 09060) and Scotland (No. SCO42846).

York Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), an audited status which ensures that all work is carried out in accordance with Industry good practice.



KEY DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Project name	Meridian Solar Farm
Type of project	Evaluation
YA archaeological code	10020
National Grid Reference	TF 29061 13240
OASIS ID	yorkarch3-538678
Planning Reference	Pre-application
Client	Meridian Solar Farm Ltd
Report version no. and status	Interim report, V2 for client comments
Author Illustrator Editor	Eleri Davies Marius Ilie Diana Fernandes
Report approved by date	Andy Failes 17/02/2026
Report number	YA/2025/177
Filename	YA_10020_Lincs_Meridian_Solar_Farm_Eval_interim_report_v2

ABBREVIATIONS

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
BGL	Below Ground Level
JBA	Archaeological Consultants
LPA	Local Planning Archaeologist
NGR	National Grid Reference
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
YA	York Archaeology

SUMMARY

York Archaeology (Nottingham) was commissioned by Meridian Solar Farm Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in support of the design process and the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for a proposed solar farm. The proposed development comprises a photovoltaic (PV) area covering approximately 1,100 ha across four parcels of land located to the south-east of Spalding and to the north and north-east of Crowland, Lincolnshire. This Interim Report presents a summary of the principal findings of the trial trench evaluation and intends to inform the Client's DCO application.

The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation of 406 trenches and 209 test pits across various land parcels. Prior to the excavation, a non-intrusive survey air photo and LiDAR mapping and interpretation determined the presence of roddons across the site. Roddons are raised silty features representing the remains of former creeks, frequently associated with historic settlement activities across this region. Geophysical surveys also took place across various land parcels of the Site.

The trenches were designed to investigate features identified by the non-intrusive surveys within the roddon areas as well as in apparently blank areas of roddons. The test pits were excavated outside the roddons to investigate the stratigraphic sequence in these areas. All test pits were excavated under geoarchaeological supervision.

The archaeological evaluation confirmed the results of the previous non-intrusive surveys, specifically the presence of roddons, their utilisation for settlement activity and archaeological features identified by the geophysical surveys. The archaeological remains identified across the Site generally dated to the Roman period and possibly to the Iron Age. Features associated with drainage and agricultural were also present and, although dating evidence was often limited, a post-medieval and modern dates have been established.

The Roman activity can be broadly characterised as comprising areas of settlement often associated with salt production located on the larger areas of roddon. Sparser activity, potentially of seasonal nature, was recorded alongside the smaller roddons and sometimes within the marine alluvium layers. This activity often comprised ring gullies, which can be provisionally interpreted as temporary roundhouses. Ditches, often in parallel sets, following the roddon contours were present across the Site and on the majority of roddons. Their function can be interpreted as water management, maintenance of dryland areas and sometimes creation of droveways. The combined evidence of possible droveways and possible seasonal exploitation of the watermeadows, may suggest that pastoralism played an important part in the local economy, although this cannot be confirmed at this stage of the investigation.

While the later features generally comprised probable drainage and agricultural elements, they have the potential to inform on the evolving landscape from the medieval to the modern periods, including drainage efforts and the changing relationship of agriculture and the fenland over time.

Area A contained sparse archaeological remains. Evidence for probable seasonal and peripheral Roman activity was evidenced by the occasional presence of ring gullies and small ditches following the roddon contours. Later agricultural features were also present, especially to the north, including an example of ridge and furrow cultivation confined to the furrows.

Areas B and C were located partially within and adjacent to multiple areas of known Roman settlement activity. A large roddon spanned the two areas and was filled with a long continuous area of settlement activity. The densest parts of this settlement were not included in the evaluation scope. A total of two salterns were found close to the roddon edge within this settlement area (Fields C-1-01 and C-1-03). Where this large roddon branched off into smaller and twisting roddons to the west and south, the evaluation revealed evidence for the more peripheral and potentially seasonal activity evidenced by ring gullies, ditches and occasional small enclosures. Later agricultural and drainage features were also present, often represented by long meandering ditches not following the roddons, and parallel pairs of long straight ditches.

Area D contained evidence for Roman activity. The northern and central parts of the area contained evidence of more peripheral activity, comprising ditches and possible field systems, and occasional isolated salterns closely relating to the small roddons. In the southern part of the area, a large roddon was found to contain two spatially limited settlement areas and associated peripheral activity. Saltern complexes were found at the edges of both settlement areas, while the frequent presence of briquetage within the settlement areas, indicates that salt production may have been a major part of the settlements' economy. Post-medieval field systems, as well as undated features, were also present.

The evidence from the Site and the archaeological potential of the Site are highly relevant to multiple research questions established in the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Agenda.

This interim report will be followed by a full report, a draft of which will be delivered in April 2026 and a final version in May 2026.

CONTENTS

KEY DOCUMENT INFORMATION

SUMMARY

1	INTRODUCTION	27
1.1	Background	27
1.2	Outline of Archaeological Work.....	27
1.3	Scope of the report.....	28
2	SITE BACKGROUND	29
2.1	Site Location and Topography	29
2.2	Geological background	29
2.3	Geoarchaeological Background	29
2.4	Archaeological and Historical Background	34
2.5	Previous Archaeological Works	38
3	RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE.....	40
3.1	Planning context	40
3.2	Legislation	40
3.3	National Planning Policy	40
3.4	Local Planning Policy.....	42
4	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	43
4.1	Aims	43
4.2	Objectives	43
4.3	Research Agenda	43
5	METHODOLOGY	49
5.1	Scope.....	49
5.2	Setting out and site survey	52
5.3	Machine excavation of trenches.....	52
5.4	Machine excavation of test pits.....	53
5.5	Backfilling	53
5.6	Roddon recording	54
5.7	Hand excavation and recording.....	54
5.8	Recording	54
5.9	Finds.....	55
5.10	Environmental Sampling.....	56
5.11	Human Remains.....	58
6	POST-EXCAVATION	59
6.1	Artefact Processing	59
6.2	Deposit modelling	59
6.3	Reporting	59
6.4	Subsequent reporting	59
6.5	Archive and Finds Deposition	60
6.6	OASIS.....	60

7	INTERIM RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	61
7.1	Overview	61
7.2	Area A	61
7.3	Areas B and C.....	67
7.4	Area D	86
7.5	Geoarchaeological Test Pitting	97
8	PRELIMINARY ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	99
8.1	Overview.....	99
8.2	Finds summaries	100
9	INTERIM CONCLUSIONS	101
9.2	Area A	101
9.3	Areas B and C.....	102
9.4	Area D	104
10	STRATGEY FOR FULL REPORTING	106
11	REFERENCES.....	108

FIGURES

Figure 01: Location Map

Figure 02: Site plan

Figure 03a: Plan of Area A

Figure 03b: Plan of Area A over OS six inch map 1888-1913

Figure 04a: Plan of Area B

Figure 04b: Plan of Area B over OS six inch map 1888-1913

Figure 05a: Plan of Area C

Figure 05b: Plan of Area C over OS six inch map 1888-1913

Figure 06a: Plan of Area D

Figure 06b: Plan of Area D over OS six inch map 1888-1913

Figure 07: Plan of Trenches 1025 and 1026

Figure 08: Plan of Trench 1031

Figure 09: Plan of Trenches 1040 and 1041

Figure 10: Plan of Trenches 1038 and 1039

Figure 11: Plan of Trenches 1042 and 1043

Figure 12: Plan of Trenches 1014, 1015 and 1016

Figure 13: Plan of Trenches 1033 and 1053

Figure 14: Plan of Trenches 1036, 1037 and 1052

Figure 15: Plan of Trench 1034

Figure 16: Plan of Trench 1044

Figure 17: Plan of Trenches 1005 and 1006

Figure 18: Plan of Trenches 1008 and 1010

Figure 19: Plan of Trenches 1012 and 1013

Figure 20: Plan of Trench 1003

Figure 21: Plan of Trenches 1001 and 1046

Figure 22: Plan of Trenches 2130, 2134 and 2087

Figure 23: Plan of Trenches 2085 and 2129

Figure 24: Plan of Trenches 2090 and 2091

Figure 25: Plan of Trench 2088

Figure 26: Plan of Trench 2131

Figure 27: Plan of Trenches 2013 and 2014

Figure 28: Plan of Trenches 2012, 2115 and 2069

Figure 29: Plan of Trench 2072

Figure 30: Plan of Trench 2055

Figure 31: Plan of Trenches 2041 and 2111

Figure 32: Plan of Trenches 2040 and 2042

Figure 33: Plan of Trenches 2052, 2070 and 2141

Figure 34: Plan of Trench 2142

Figure 35: Plan of Trenches 2051 and 2053

Figure 36: Plan of Trenches 2016, 2018, 2127 and 2128

Figure 37: Plan of Trenches, 2016, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127 and 2128

Figure 38: Plan of Trenches 2121, 2122 and 2123

Figure 39: Plan of Trenches 2007, 2009, 2011, 2057, 2058, 2106 and 2107

Figure 40: Plan of Trenches 2007, 2058, 2011 and 2008

Figure 41: Plan of Trenches 2010 and 2145

Figure 42: Plan of Trenches 2035, 2047 and 2048

Figure 43: Plan of Trenches 2033, 2034 and 2063

Figure 44: Plan of Trenches 2032, 2033 and 2063

Figure 45: Plan of trenches 2044, 2045 and 2046

Figure 46: Plan of trenches 2004, 2005, 2006, 2060, 2061 and 2062

Figure 47: Plan of Trenches 2025, 2030, 2031, 2064, 2065 and 2105

Figure 48: Plan of trenches 2024, 2026, 2066, 2104, 2105 and 2116

Figure 49: - Plan of trenches 2024, 2025, 2030, 2101, 2102, 2104 and 2105

Figure 50: Plan of Trenches 2024, 2027 and 2028

Figure 51: Plan of Trenches 2001, 2076, 2077, 2101, 2102 and 2114

Figure 52: Plan of Trenches 2022, 2023 and 2075

Figure 53: Plan of trenches 2096, 2099, 2117 and 2120

Figure 54: Plan of Trenches 022, 2023 and 2075

Figure 55: Plan of Trenches 2023, 2075, 2097 and 2112

Figure 56: Plan of Trenches 2003, 2095, 2100, 2118 and 2119

Figure 57: Plan of Trenches 2050, 2067 and 2068

Figure 58: Plan of Trenches 3018, 3019, 3020 and 3064

Figure 59: Plan of Trenches 3022, 3065 and 3074

Figure 60: Plan of Trenches 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3021 and 3075

Figure 61: Plan of Trenches 3016, 3017, 3021, 3023 and 3066

Figure 62: Plan of trenches 3002, 3004, 3007 and 3015

Figure 63: Plan of Trenches 3001, 3002, 3003, 3007 and 3068

Figure 64: Plan of Trenches 3008 and 3010

Figure 65: Plan of Trenches 3030 and 3031

Figure 66: Plan of Trenches 3028 and 3030
Figure 67: Plan of Trenches 3004 and 3005
Figure 68: Plan of Trenches 3011 and 3067
Figure 69: Plan of Trenches 3032
Figure 70: Plan of Trenches 3033 and 3034
Figure 71: Plan of Trench 3056, 3069, 3072 and 3073
Figure 72: Plan of Trenches 3058
Figure 73: Plan of Trenches 3057, 3062 and 3063
Figure 74: Plan of Trenches 3059 and 3060
Figure 75: Plan of Trenches 3035, 3037 and 3038
Figure 76: Plan of Trenches 3039, 3042 and 3070
Figure 77: Plan of Trenches 3040, 3043, 3044 and 3071
Figure 78: Plan of Trenches 3047, 3049 and 3051
Figure 79: Plan of Trenches 3045, 3046, 3048 and 3050
Figure 80: Plan of Trench 3052, 3053 and 3054
Figure 81: Plan of Trenches 3055
Figure 82: Plan of Trenches 4101, 4102 and 4104
Figure 83: Plan of Trenches 4095, 4097 and 4100
Figure 84: Plan of Trenches 4087, 4091 and 4094
Figure 85: Plan of Trenches 4074 and 4085
Figure 86: Plan of Trenches 4073 and 4078
Figure 87: Plan of Trenches 4077, 4080 and 4081
Figure 88: Plan of Trenches 4079 and 4082
Figure 89: Plan of trenches 4065, 4070 and 4072
Figure 90: Plan of Trenches 4067
Figure 91: Plan of Trenches 4066 and 4068
Figure 92: Plan of Trenches 4053, 4055 and 4063
Figure 93: Plan of Trench 4059
Figure 94: Plan of Trenches 4057 and 4062
Figure 95: Plan of Trenches 4060 and 4061
Figure 96: Plan of Trenches 4031, 4036 and 4037
Figure 97: Plan of Trenches 4032, 4033, 4180, 4181 and 4182
Figure 98: Plan of Trenches 4034
Figure 99: Plan of Trenches 4039 and 4040

Figure 100: Plan of Trenches 4038 and 4041

Figure 101: Plan of Trench 4035

Figure 102: Plan of Trenches 4013, 4014, 4016, 4017 and 4030

Figure 103: Plan of Trenches 4010, 4012 and 4030

Figure 104: Plan of Trenches 4003 and 4008

Figure 105: Plan of Trenches 4001, 4007 and 4009

Figure 106: Plan of Trenches 4024, 4027 and 4029

Figure 107: Plan of Trenches 4020, 4022, 4023, 4026 and 4028

Figure 108: Plan of Trenches 4018, 4019, 4021, 4178 and 4186

Figure 109: Plan of Trenches 4013, 4015 and 4179

Figure 110: Plan of Trenches 4075 and 4084

Figure 111: Plan of Trenches 4098 and 4103

Figure 112: Plan of Trenches 4106, 4107 and 4112

Figure 113: Plan of Trenches 4096 and 4105

Figure 114: Plan of Trenches 4090 and 4099

Figure 115: Plan of Trenches 4088 and 4170

Figure 116: Plan of Trenches 4161, 4166 and 4169

Figure 117: Plan of Trenches 4109 and 4111

Figure 118: Plan of Trench 4108

Figure 119: Plan of Trenches 4089 and 4162

Figure 120: Plan of Trenches 4166, 4167 and 4168

Figure 121: Plan of Trenches 4162, 4163, 4165 and 4171

Figure 122: Plan of Trenches 4160 and 4164

Figure 123: Plan of Trenches 4184 and 4185

Figure 124: Plan of Trenches 4119 and 4124

Figure 125: Plan of Trenches 4172 and 4173

Figure 126: Plan of Trenches 4110 and 4122

Figure 127: Plan of Trenches 4159 and 4176

Figure 128: Plan of Trenches 4114, 4115, 4116 and 4120

Figure 129: Plan of Trenches 4117, 4118 and 4177

Figure 130: Plan of Trenches 4110 and 4122

Figure 131: Plan of trenches 4159 and 4176

Figure 132: Plan of trenches 4114, 4115, 4116 and 4120

Figure 133: Plan of trenches 4117, 4118 and 4177

Figure 134: Plan of trenches 4117, 4123 and 4177

PLATES

Area A

Plate 1: Field A-1-01 Trench 1021 facing east

Plate 2: Field A-1-01 Trench 1022 facing west

Plate 3: Field A-1-01 Trench 1024 facing south-east

Plate 4: Field A-1-01 Trench 1025 facing south

Plate 5: Field A-1-01 Trench 1026 facing east

Plate 6: Field A-1-01 Trench 1026 north-east facing section of ditch [102606]

Plate 7: Field A-1-02 Trench 1019 facing west

Plate 8: Field A-1-02 Trench 1019, south-east facing section of ditch [101904]

Plate 9: Field A-1-02 Trench 1020 facing south-west

Plate 10: Field A-1-02 Trench 1023 facing east

Plate 11: Field A-1-03 Trench 1027 facing north-west

Plate 12: Field A-1-03 Trench 1028 facing south-east

Plate 13: Field A-1-03 Trench 1029 facing north

Plate 14: Field A-1-03 Trench 1030 facing north-west

Plate 15: Field A-1-03 Trench 1030, south facing section of furrow [1030004]

Plate 16: Field A-1-04 Trench 1031 facing north

Plate 17: Field A-1-05 Trench 1038 facing north-west

Plate 18: Field A-1-05 Trench 1039 facing north-west

Plate 19: Field A-1-05 Trench 1039, east facing section of [103902]

Plate 20: Field A-1-05 Trench 1040 facing east

Plate 21: Field A-1-05 Trench 1041 facing east

Plate 22: Field A-1-05 Trench 1042 facing north-west

Plate 23: Field A-1-05 Trench 1043 facing north

Plate 24: Field A-1-05 Trench 1049 facing east

Plate 25: Field A-1-06 Trench 1017 facing north-west

Plate 26: Field A-1-06 Trench 1018 facing north

Plate 27: Field A-1-06 Trench 1047 facing north-east

Plate 28: Field A-1-06 Trench 1047 facing south-west

Plate 29: Field A-1-07 Trench 1032 facing west

Plate 30: Field A-1-07 Trench 1053 facing north

Plate 31: Field A-1-08 Trench 1036 facing east

Plate 32: Field A-1-08 Trench 1037 facing west

Plate 33: Field A-1-08 Trench 1052 facing south
Plate 34: Field A-1-08 Trench 1052, east facing section of possible ring gully [105202]
Plate 35: Field A-1-09 Trench 1014 facing west
Plate 36: Field A-1-09 Trench 1015 facing north-west
Plate 37: Field A-1-09 Trench 1016 facing east
Plate 38: Field A-1-09 Trench 1016, west facing section of ditch [1016]
Plate 39: Field A-1-09 Trench 1033 facing south-east
Plate 40: Field A-1-09 Trench 1048 facing north-east
Plate 41: Field A-1-10 Trench 1034 facing west
Plate 42: Field A-1-10 Trench 1034 facing east, west facing section of ditch [103403]
Plate 43: Field A-1-10 Trench 1034 north facing section of ditch [103407]
Plate 44: Field A-1-10 Trench 1035 facing south
Plate 45: Field A-1-11 Trench 1003 facing north
Plate 46: Field A-1-11 Trench 1005 facing east
Plate 47: Field A-1-11 Trench 1007 facing north-west
Plate 48: Field A-1-11 Trench 1008 facing east
Plate 49: Field A-1-11 Trench 1010 facing north
Plate 50: Field A-1-11 Trench 1011 facing north
Plate 51: Field A-1-11 Trench 1012 facing west
Plate 52: Field A-1-11 Trench 1013 facing south
Plate 53: Field A-1-11 Trench 1013, west facing section of pit [101303]
Plate 54: Field A-1-11 Trench 1044 facing north
Plate 55: Field A-1-11 Trench 1050 facing east
Plate 56: Field A-1-11 Trench 1051 facing north
Plate 57: Field A-1-12 Trench 1001 facing east
Plate 58: Field A-1-12 Trench 1001 facing west
Plate 59: Field A-1-12 Trench 1001, south facing section of linear feature [100105]
Plate 60: Field A-1-12 Trench 1002 facing west
Plate 61: Field A-1-12 Trench 1045 facing south-west
Plate 62: Field A-1-12 Trench 1046 facing south-west

Area B

Plate 63: Field B-1-01 Trench 2012 facing south
Plate 64: Field B-1-01 Trench 2013 facing north
Plate 65: Field B-1-01 Trench 2013, south-west facing section of ditch [201304]

Plate 66: Field B-1-01 Trench 2014 facing west
Plate 67: Field B-1-01 Trench 2069 facing south
Plate 68: Field B-1-01 Trench 2110 facing east
Plate 69: Field B-1-01 Trench 2115 facing west
Plate 70: Field B-1-02 Trench 2036 facing east
Plate 71: Field B-1-02 Trench 2037 facing east
Plate 72: Field B-1-02 Trench 2054 facing west
Plate 73: Field B-1-02 Trench 2055 facing west
Plate 74: Field B-1-02 Trench 2055, north-east facing section of ditch [205502]
Plate 75: Field B-1-02 Trench 2072 facing north
Plate 76: Field B-1-03 Trench 2038 facing north-west
Plate 77: Field B-1-03 Trench 2039 facing north-west
Plate 78: Field B-1-03 Trench 2040 facing south-east
Plate 79: Field B-1-03 Trench 2041 facing south
Plate 80: Field B-1-03 Trench 2042 facing east
Plate 81: Field B-1-03 Trench 2111 facing east
Plate 82: Field B-1-03 Trench 2111, north-east facing section of possible ring gully [211105]
Plate 83: Field B-1-06 Trench 2017 facing east
Plate 84: Field B-1-06 Trench 2019 facing east
Plate 85: Field B-1-06 Trench 2020 facing south-west
Plate 86: Field B-1-06 Trench 2073 facing south
Plate 87: Field B-1-06 Trench 2074 facing east
Plate 88: Field B-1-07 Trench 2051 facing south-east
Plate 89: Field B-1-07 Trench 2052 facing south-east
Plate 90: Field B-1-07 Trench 2053 facing south-west
Plate 91: Field B-1-07 Trench 2070 facing north-east
Plate 92: Field B-1-07 Trench 2071 facing south-west
Plate 93: Field B-1-08 Trench 2015 facing south
Plate 94: Field B-1-08 Trench 2016 facing north
Plate 95: Field B-1-08 Trench 2018 facing south-west
Plate 96: Field B-1-08 Trench 2049 facing south-west
Plate 97: Field B-1-08 Trench 2079 facing north-west
Plate 98: Field B-1-08 Trench 2121 facing north
Plate 99: Field B-1-08 Trench 2122 facing west

Plate 100: Field B-1-08 Trench 2122, south facing section of ditch [2122] (left and ring gully [212205] (right)

Plate 101: Field B-1-08 Trench 2122 south facing section of ditch [2122] (left and ring gully [212205] (right)

Plate 102: Field B-1-08 Trench 2123 facing south

Plate 103: Field B-1-08 Trench 2124 facing north

Plate 104: Field B-1-08 Trench 2125 facing north

Plate 105: Field B-1-08 Trench 2126 facing south

Plate 106: Field B-1-08 Trench 2126, east facing section of ditches [212602] (left) and [212604] (right)

Plate 107: Field B-1-08 Trench 2127 facing west

Plate 108: Field B-1-08 Trench 2127, south facing section of ditch [212702]

Plate 109: Field B-1-08 Trench 2127, east facing of ring gully [212704]

Plate 110: Field B-1-08 Trench 2128 facing east

Plate 111: Field B-1-09 Trench 2004 facing north

Plate 112: Field B-1-09 Trench 2004, west facing section of ditch [200403]

Plate 113: Field B-1-09 Trench 2005 facing south

Plate 114: Field B-1-09 Trench 2005, west facing section of ditches [200516] and [200518]

Plate 115: Field B-1-09 Trench 2006 facing north-east

Plate 116: Field B-1-09 Trench 2007 facing east

Plate 117: Field B-1-09 Trench 2008 facing south-east

Plate 118: Field B-1-09 Trench 2008, south-west facing section of gully [200802]

Plate 119: Field B-1-09 Trench 2009 facing east

Plate 120: Field B-1-09 Trench 2010 facing south-east

Plate 121: Field B-1-09 Trench 2011 facing north

Plate 122: Field B-1-09 Trench 2021 facing north-west

Plate 123: Field B-1-09 Trench 2056 facing west

Plate 124: Field B-1-09 Trench 2057 facing west

Plate 125: Field B-1-09 Trench 2058 facing south-east

Plate 126: Field B-1-09 Trench 2059 facing north-west

Plate 127: Field B-1-09 Trench 2060 facing north-east

Plate 128: Field B-1-09 Trench 2061 facing west

Plate 129: Field B-1-09 Trench 2106 facing west

Plate 130: Field B-1-09 Trench 2107 facing south

Plate 131: Field B-1-09 Trench 2108 facing south

Plate 132: Field B-1-10 Trench 2025 facing north-west

Plate 133: Field B-1-10 Trench 2031 facing north-west
Plate 134: Field B-1-10 Trench 2032 facing west
Plate 135: Field B-1-10 Trench 2032, south facing section of ditch [203203]
Plate 136: Field B-1-10 Trench 2033 facing west
Plate 137: Field B-1-10 Trench 2034 facing south-east
Plate 138: Field B-1-10 Trench 2035 facing west
Plate 139: Field B-1-10 Trench 2047 facing north-west
Plate 140: Field B-1-10 Trench 2048 facing south-east
Plate 141: Field B-1-10 Trench 2062, north facing section of ditch [206208] and recut [206211]
Plate 142: Field B-1-10 Trench 2063 facing south
Plate 143: Field B-1-10 Trench 2064 facing north
Plate 144: Field B-1-10 Trench 2065 facing south-west
Plate 145: Field B-1-11 Trench 2043 facing north
Plate 146: Field B-1-11 Trench 2044 facing south-west
Plate 147: Field B-1-11 Trench 2045 facing south
Plate 148: Field B-1-11 Trench 2046 facing west
Plate 149: Field B-1-11 Trench 2046, north facing section of ditch [204603]
Plate 150: Field B-1-11 Trench 2080 facing west
Plate 151: Field B-1-12 Trench 2145 facing north
Plate 152: Field B-1-12 Trench 2146 facing east
Plate 153: Field B-1-12 Trench 2147 facing south
Plate 154: Field B-1-13 Trench 2001 facing south-east
Plate 155: Field B-1-13 Trench 2002 facing south
Plate 156: Field B-1-13 Trench 2003 facing south-west
Plate 157: Field B-1-13 Trench 2076 facing west
Plate 158: Field B-1-13 Trench 2076 facing north, view of modern structural remains and ditch [207629]
Plate 159: Field B-1-13 Trench 2077 facing north
Plate 160: Field B-1-13 Trench 2077 facing east, view of pit [207710] and articulated animal remains
Plate 161: Field B-1-13 Trench 2078 facing north-west
Plate 162: Field B-1-13 Trench 2095 facing south
Plate 163: Field B-1-13 Trench 2096 facing east
Plate 164: Field B-1-13 Trench 2096, north-east of ring gully [209603]
Plate 165: Field B-1-13 Trench 2098 facing south-east
Plate 166: Field B-1-13 Trench 2099 facing south

Plate 167: Field B-1-13 Trench 2100 facing north

Plate 168: Field B-1-13 Trench 2113 facing south-west

Plate 169: Field B-1-13 Trench 2117 facing north-west

Plate 170: Field B-1-13 Trench 2118 facing south-east

Plate 171: Field B-1-13 Trench 2118, east facing section of ditches [211804] and [211816]

Plate 172: Field B-1-13 Trench 2119 facing north

Plate 173: Field B-1-14 Trench 2024 facing north-west

Plate 174: Field B-1-14 Trench 2026 facing west

Plate 175: Field B-1-14 Trench 2027 facing west

Plate 176: Field B-1-14 Trench 2028 facing east

Plate 177: Field B-1-14 Trench 2029 facing north

Plate 178: Field B-1-14 Trench 2030 facing south-west

Plate 179: Field B-1-14 Trench 2050 facing south-west

Plate 180: Field B-1-14 Trench 2067 facing west

Plate 181: Field B-1-14 Trench 2067, mid excavation view of ditch [206704], showing timber {206705}

Plate 182: Field B-1-14 Trench 2068 facing south-east

Plate 183: Field B-1-14 Trench 2101 facing west

Plate 184: Field B-1-14 Trench 2102 facing east

Plate 185: Field B-1-14 Trench 2102 facing north-east, view of curvilinear feature [210202] and articulated animal skeletons

Plate 186: Field B-1-14 Trench 2103 facing north

Plate 187: Field B-1-14 Trench 2104 facing south

Plate 188: Field B-1-14 Trench 2105 facing north

Plate 189: Field B-1-14 Trench 2105, north facing section of ring gully [210502]

Plate 190: Field B-1-14 Trench 2114 facing east

Plate 191: Field B-1-14 Trench 2114, east facing section of ditch [211412]

Plate 192: Field B-1-14 Trench 2116 facing south-west

Plate 193: Field B-2 Trench 2022 facing south-east

Plate 194: Field B-2 Trench 2022, east facing section of ditch [202209]

Plate 195: Field B-2 Trench 2023 facing north-east

Plate 196: Field B-2 Trench 2075 facing east

Plate 197: Field B-2 Trench 2075, north facing section of curvilinear gully [207503]

Plate 198: Field B-2 Trench 2097 facing south

Plate 199: Field B-2 Trench 2112 facing south-east

Plate 200: Field B-3-01 Trench 2131 facing east

Plate 201: Field B-3-01 Trench 2132 facing south
Plate 202: Field B-3-01 Trench 2140 facing south-east
Plate 203: Field B-3-01 Trench 2141 facing north
Plate 204: Field B-3-02 Trench 2142 facing north
Plate 205: Field B-3-02 Trench 2143 facing south
Plate 206: Field B-3-02 Trench 2144 facing north
Plate 207: Field B-5 Trench 2081 facing west
Plate 208: Field B-5 Trench 2082 facing north-west
Plate 209: Field B-5 Trench 2083 facing south-east
Plate 210: Field B-5 Trench 2085 facing west
Plate 211: Field B-5 Trench 2085, south-west facing section of ditch terminus [208503]
Plate 212: Field B-5 Trench 2086 facing south-east
Plate 213: Field B-5 Trench 2087 facing north-east
Plate 214: Field B-5 Trench 2088 facing north-west
Plate 215: Field B-5 Trench 2089 facing south-west
Plate 216: Field B-5 Trench 2089, south-west facing section of pit/discrete feature [208903]
Plate 217: Field B-5 Trench 2090 facing west
Plate 218: Field B-5 Trench 2091 facing south-west
Plate 219: Field B-5 Trench 2129 facing north-west
Plate 220: Field B-5 Trench 2130 facing north-east
Plate 221: Field B-5 Trench 2133 facing north-west
Plate 222: Field B-5 Trench 2134 facing south
Plate 223: Field B-5 Trench 2135 facing north
Plate 224: Field B-5 Trench 2136 facing south-east
Plate 225: Field B-5 Trench 2137 facing north-west
Plate 226: Field B-5 Trench 2138 facing south

Area C

Plate 227: Field C-1-01 Trench 3001 facing west
Plate 228: Field C-1-01 Trench 3002 facing west
Plate 229: Field C-1-01 Trench 3003 facing west
Plate 230: Field C-1-01 Trench 3004 facing south-west
Plate 231: Field C-1-01 Trench 3004, north facing section of ditch [300405]
Plate 232: Field C-1-01 Trench 3005 facing north-east
Plate 233: Field C-1-01 Trench 3005, north facing section of curvilinear saltern ditch [300545]

Plate 234: Field C-1-01 Trench 3006 facing east
Plate 235: Field C-1-01 Trench 3007 facing east
Plate 236: Field C-1-01 Trench 3008 facing south-west
Plate 237: Field C-1-01 Trench 3009 facing east
Plate 238: Field C-1-01 Trench 3010 facing south-west
Plate 239: Field C-1-01 Trench 3011 facing south-east
Plate 240: Field C-1-01 Trench 3011, south-west facing section of ditches (left to right) [301109], [301110] and [301121]
Plate 241: Field C-1-01 Trench 3013 facing south-west
Plate 242: Field C-1-01 Trench 3014 facing east
Plate 243: Field C-1-01 Trench 3015 facing north-west
Plate 244: Field C-1-01 Trench 3067 facing north-west
Plate 245: Field C-1-01 Trench 3068 facing south-west
Plate 246: Field C-1-01 Trench 3069 facing north-west
Plate 247: Field C-1-02 Trench 3027 facing south-east
Plate 248: Field C-1-02 Trench 3028 facing south-east
Plate 249: Field C-1-02 Trench 3029 facing north-east
Plate 250: Field C-1-02 Trench 3030 facing north-east
Plate 251: Field C-1-02 Trench 3031, north-east facing representative section
Plate 252: Field C-1-02 Trench 3032 facing south
Plate 253: Field C-1-03 Trench 3056 facing south-east
Plate 254: Field C-1-03 Trench 3057 facing south-east
Plate 255: Field C-1-03 Trench 3059 facing north-east
Plate 256: Field C-1-03 Trench 3059, east facing section of ditch [305903]
Plate 257: Field C-1-03 Trench 3060 facing north-east
Plate 258: Field C-1-03 Trench 3061 facing south-west
Plate 259: Field C-1-03 Trench 3062 facing south-west
Plate 260: Field C-1-03 Trench 3062, north-east facing section of ditch [306206] and recut [306203]
Plate 261: Field C-1-03 Trench 3063 facing north
Plate 262: Field C-1-03 Trench 3063, west facing section of ditches [306315] (left), [306307] (central) and recut [306317] (central)
Plate 263: Field C-1-03 Trench 3064 facing south
Plate 264: Field C-1-03 Trench 3072 facing east
Plate 265: Field C-1-03 Trench 3072 facing east, after excavation, showing saltern
Plate 266: Field C-1-03 Trench 3072, north facing section of pit [307220] and ditch [307218]

Plate 267: Field C-1-03 Trench 3073 facing west

Plate 268: Field C-1-04 Trench 3037 facing south-west

Plate 269: Field C-1-04 Trench 3037, north facing section of ditch [303702] and land drain

Plate 270: Field C-1-04 Trench 3038 facing north-west

Plate 271: Field C-1-05 Trench 3033 facing north-west

Plate 272: Field C-1-05 Trench 3034 facing south-west

Plate 273: Field C-1-05 Trench 3034, north-west facing section of geological feature [303403]

Plate 274: Field C-1-05 Trench 3035 facing north-west

Plate 275: Field C-1-06 Trench 3039 facing south

Plate 276: Field C-1-06 Trench 3040 facing north-west

Plate 277: Field C-1-06 Trench 3041 facing north-west

Plate 278: Field C-1-06 Trench 3042 facing north-west

Plate 279: Field C-1-06 Trench 3042, north-east facing section of ditch [304203]

Plate 280: Field C-1-06 Trench 3070 facing west

Plate 281: Field C-1-06 Trench 3071 facing north-east

Plate 282: Field C-1-06 Trench 3071, west facing section of ditch [307110] and recut [307112]

Plate 283: Field C-1-07 Trench 3043 facing west

Plate 284: Field C-1-07 Trench 3044 facing south-east

Plate 285: Field C-1-07 Trench 3045 facing east

Plate 286: Field C-1-07 Trench 3046 facing north-west

Plate 287: Field C-1-07 Trench 3047 facing east

Plate 288: Field C-1-07 Trench 3048 facing north-west

Plate 289: Field C-1-07 Trench 3049 facing south-east

Plate 290: Field C-1-07 Trench 3050 facing south-east

Plate 291: Field C-1-07 Trench 3051 facing south-west

Plate 292: Field C-1-07 Trench 3052 facing south-east

Plate 293: Field C-1-07 Trench 3053 facing south

Plate 294: Field C-1-07 Trench 3054 facing north-east

Plate 295: Field C-1-07 Trench 3055 facing west

Plate 296: Field C-2-02 Trench 3074 facing north-west

Plate 297: Field C-2-02 Trench 3074, north-west facing section of ditch [307402]

Plate 298: Field C-2-02 Trench 3075 facing north-east

Plate 299: Field C-2-02 Trench 3016 facing south

Plate 300: Field C-2-02 Trench 3016, east facing section of ditch [301611] and recut [301613]

Plate 301: Field C-2-02 Trench 3017 facing south-west

Plate 302: Field C-2-02 Trench 3018 facing south-east
Plate 303: Field C-2-02 Trench 3018, south-west facing section of ditch [301805] and recut [301802]
Plate 304: Field C-2-02 Trench 3019 facing north-west
Plate 305: Field C-2-02 Trench 3020 facing south-west
Plate 306: Field C-2-02 Trench 3021 facing east
Plate 307: Field C-2-02 Trench 3022 facing north-west
Plate 308: Field C-2-02 Trench 3022, north facing section of ditch [302210] and recut [302212]
Plate 309: Field C-2-02 Trench 3023 facing south-east
Plate 310: Field C-2-02 Trench 3065 facing west
Plate 311: Field C2-02 Trench 3066 facing north-east

Area D

Plate 312: Field D-2-01 Trench 4113 facing north-east 3
Plate 313: Field D-2-01 Trench 4113 facing south-west
Plate 314: Field D-2-01 Trench 4114 facing south
Plate 315: Field D-2-01 Trench 4115 facing south
Plate 316: Field D-2-01 Trench 4116 facing east
Plate 317: Field D-2-01 Trench 4117 facing east
Plate 318: Field D-2-01 Trench 4118 facing north-east
Plate 319: Field D-2-01 Trench 4119 facing north-west
Plate 320: Field D-2-01 Trench 4120 facing south-west
Plate 321: Field D-2-01 Trench 4121 facing north
Plate 322: Field D-2-01 Trench 4122 facing north-west
Plate 323: Field D-2-01 Trench 4123 facing north-east
Plate 324: Field D-2-01 Trench 4124 facing south-west
Plate 325: Field D-2-01 Trench 4177 facing south-west
Plate 326: Field D-2-01 Trench 4177, north-west facing section of ditch [417706]
Plate 327: Field D-2-02 Trench 4172 facing north
Plate 328: Field D-2-02 Trench 4173 facing south
Plate 329: Field D-2-02 Trench 4174 facing south
Plate 330: Field D-2-02 Trench 4184 facing north-west
Plate 331: Field D-2-02 Trench 4184, west facing section of ditch [418403]
Plate 332: Field D-2-02 Trench 4185 facing north
Plate 333: Field D-2-03 Trench 4175 facing south-west
Plate 334: Field D-2-03 Trench 4176, west facing section of ditch [417607]

Plate 335: Field D-2-04 Trench 4159 facing west
Plate 336: Field D-2-04 Trench 4160 facing east
Plate 337: Field D-2-04 Trench 4161 facing west
Plate 338: Field D-2-04 Trench 4162 facing west
Plate 339: Field D-2-04 Trench 4163 facing south-west
Plate 340: Field D-2-04 Trench 4164 facing south-west
Plate 341: Field D-2-04 Trench 4164, east facing section of ditch [416403]
Plate 342: Field D-2-04 Trench 4165 facing south-east
Plate 343: Field D-2-04 Trench 4166 facing south
Plate 344: Field D-2-04 Trench 4167 facing west
Plate 345: Field D-2-04 Trench 4168 facing south-west
Plate 346: Field D-2-04 Trench 4169 facing north-east
Plate 347: Field D-2-04 Trench 4170 facing north-west
Plate 348: Field D-2-04 Trench 4171 facing south
Plate 349: Field D-3-01 Trench 4101 facing north, representative section
Plate 350: Field D-3-01 Trench 4101 facing north-east
Plate 351: Field D-3-01 Trench 4102 facing north-east
Plate 352: Field D-3-01 Trench 4103 facing east
Plate 353: Field D-3-01 Trench 4104 facing north-east
Plate 354: Field D-3-01 Trench 4104 facing north-east, general view showing curvilinear ditches [410410] and [410414]
Plate 355: Field D-3-01 Trench 4104, north-east facing section of curvilinear ditch [410407]
Plate 356: Field D-3-01 Trench 4105 facing north-east
Plate 357: Field D-3-01 Trench 4106 facing north-east
Plate 358: Field D-3-01 Trench 4107 facing south-west
Plate 359: Field D-3-01 Trench 4108 facing south
Plate 360: Field D-3-01 Trench 4109 facing north-east
Plate 361: Field D-3-01 Trench 4110 facing north-east
Plate 362: Field D-3-01 Trench 4111 facing south
Plate 363: Field D-3-01 Trench 4112 facing east
Plate 364: Field D-3-01 Trench 4183 facing north-east
Plate 365: Field D-3-02 Trench 4094 facing west
Plate 366: Field D-3-02 Trench 4095 facing west
Plate 367: Field D-3-02 Trench 4095, north facing section of ditch [409503]
Plate 368: Field D-3-02 Trench 4096 facing west

Plate 369: Field D-3-02 Trench 4097 facing north-east
Plate 370: Field D-3-02 Trench 4098 facing north-east
Plate 371: Field D-3-02 Trench 4098, west facing section of pit [409805] and ditch [409812]
Plate 372: Field D-3-02 Trench 4099 facing west
Plate 373: Field D-3-02 Trench 4100 facing north
Plate 374: Field D-3-03 Trench 4083 facing east
Plate 375: Field D-3-03 Trench 4084 facing east
Plate 376: Field D-3-03 Trench 4084north facing section of ditch [408403]
Plate 377: Field D-3-03 Trench 4085 facing south-west
Plate 378: Field D-3-03 Trench 4086 facing south-west
Plate 379: Field D-3-03 Trench 4087 facing west
Plate 380: Field D-3-03 Trench 4088 facing east
Plate 381: Field D-3-03 Trench 4088, north-west facing section of ditch [408804] and recut [408806]
Plate 382: Field D-3-03 Trench 4089 facing west
Plate 383: Field D-3-03 Trench 4090 facing west
Plate 384: Field D-3-03 Trench 4091 facing south-west
Plate 385: Field D-3-03 Trench 4092 facing west
Plate 386: Field D-3-03 Trench 4093 facing east
Plate 387: Field D-3-04 Trench 4071 facing south
Plate 388: Field D-3-04 Trench 4072 facing west
Plate 389: Field D-3-04 Trench 4073 facing north
Plate 390: Field D-3-04 Trench 4073 facing south
Plate 391: Field D-3-04 Trench 4074 facing east
Plate 392: Field D-3-04 Trench 4075 facing south-west
Plate 393: Field D-3-04 Trench 4076 facing north
Plate 394: Field D-3-04 Trench 4077 facing west
Plate 395: Field D-3-04 Trench 4078 facing south-west
Plate 396: Field D-3-04 Trench 4079 facing south
Plate 397: Field D-3-04 Trench 4079, north facing section of ditch [407903]
Plate 398: Field D-3-04 Trench 4079, north facing section of ditch [407909] and recut [407914]
Plate 399: Field D-3-04 Trench 4080 facing west
Plate 400: Field D-3-04 Trench 4081 facing north-west
Plate 401: Field D-3-04 Trench 4082 facing east
Plate 402: Field D-3-05 Trench 4065, north facing representative section
Plate 403: Field D-3-05 Trench 4065, south-east facing section of ditch [406504]

Plate 404: Field D-3-05 Trench 4066 facing south-west
Plate 405: Field D-3-05 Trench 4067 facing north
Plate 406: Field D-3-05 Trench 4068 facing north
Plate 407: Field D-3-05 Trench 4069, west facing representative section
Plate 408: Field D-3-05 Trench 4070 facing south
Plate 409: Field D-3-06 Trench 4053 facing west
Plate 410: Field D-3-06 Trench 4053, north-west facing section of ditch [405303]
Plate 411: Field D-3-06 Trench 4054 facing south-west
Plate 412: Field D-3-06 Trench 4055 facing north
Plate 413: Field D-3-06 Trench 4056 facing north-west
Plate 414: Field D-3-06 Trench 4057 facing north-west
Plate 415: Field D-3-06 Trench 4058 facing north
Plate 416: Field D-3-06 Trench 4059 facing west
Plate 417: Field D-3-06 Trench 4062 facing south-east
Plate 418: Field D-3-06 Trench 4063 facing north-west
Plate 419: Field D-3-06 Trench 4064 facing north
Plate 420: Field D-5-01 Trench 4010 facing north
Plate 421: Field D-5-01 Trench 4011 facing north-east
Plate 422: Field D-5-01 Trench 4012 facing north-east
Plate 423: Field D-5-01 Trench 4013 facing north-west
Plate 424: Field D-5-01 Trench 4014 facing north-west
Plate 425: Field D-5-01 Trench 4014, south-east facing section of ditch [401410]
Plate 426: Field D-5-01 Trench 4015 facing east
Plate 427: Field D-5-01 Trench 4016 facing north
Plate 428: Field D-5-01 Trench 4017 facing north-west
Plate 429: Field D-5-01 Trench 4017, south-west facing section of ditch [401709]
Plate 430: Field D-5-01 Trench 4019 facing south
Plate 431: Field D-5-01 Trench 4020 facing south
Plate 432: Field D-5-01 Trench 4021 facing north-east
Plate 433: Field D-5-01 Trench 4022 facing south-west
Plate 434: Field D-5-01 Trench 4023 facing north-east
Plate 435: Field D-5-01 Trench 4024 facing west
Plate 436: Field D-5-01 Trench 4025 facing west
Plate 437: Field D-5-01 Trench 4026 facing south

Plate 438: Field D-5-01 Trench 4026 facing east, pre excavation view of saltern complex, including settling tank [402605]

Plate 439: Field D-5-01 Trench 4026, north-west facing section of pit [402607]

Plate 440: Field D-5-01 Trench 4027 facing south-east

Plate 441: Field D-5-01 Trench 4028 facing north-west

Plate 442: Field D-5-01 Trench 4029 facing north-west

Plate 443: Field D-5-01 Trench 4030 facing north

Plate 444: Field D-5-01 Trench 4178 facing south

Plate 445: Field D-5-01 Trench 4178 facing north-east, section of pit [417820]

Plate 447: Field D-5-01 Trench 4178, view of in situ bone and pottery in pit [417820]

Plate 446: Field D-5-01 Trench 4178, east facing section of pit [417824] and ditch [417826]

Plate 448: Field D-5-01 Trench 4179 facing north-east

Plate 449: Field D-5-01 Trench 4186 facing east

Plate 450: Field D-5-02 Trench 4001 facing south-east

Plate 451: Field D-5-02 Trench 4002 facing north-east

Plate 452: Field D-5-02 Trench 4003 facing south-east

Plate 453: Field D-5-02 Trench 4003, south-east facing section of pit [400305]

Plate 454: Field D-5-02 Trench 4004 facing south-west

Plate 455: Field D-5-02 Trench 4005 facing north-west

Plate 456: Field D-5-02 Trench 4006 facing north-west

Plate 457: Field D-5-02 Trench 4007 facing south-west

Plate 458: Field D-5-02 Trench 4008 facing south-east

Plate 459: Field D-5-02 Trench 4009 facing south-east

Plate 460: Field D-6 Trench 4031 facing north-east

Plate 461: Field D-6 Trench 4031, mid-excavation view of pit [403147] showing articulated animal skeleton

Plate 462: Field D-6 Trench 4032 facing north-east

Plate 463: Field D-6 Trench 4032, north-west facing section of pit [40321] and rectangular feature [403250]

Plate 464: Field D-6 Trench 4032, south-east facing section of rectangular feature [403228] with ditches [403235] and [403240] and pit [403227] in foreground

Plate 465: Field D-6 Trench 4033 facing north-west

Plate 466: Field D-6 Trench 4033, south-west facing section of ditches [403303] (left) and [403305] (right)

Plate 467: Field D-6 Trench 4034 facing south-east

Plate 468: Field D-6 Trench 4035 facing south

Plate 469: Field D-6 Trench 4036 facing north

Plate 470: Field D-6 Trench 4037 facing south

Plate 471: Field D-6 Trench 4037, south facing section of ditch [4037] and recut [403706]

Plate 472: Field D-6 Trench 4038 facing north

Plate 473: Field D-6 Trench 4039 facing south-east

Plate 474: Field D-6 Trench 4040 facing south-east

Plate 475: Field D-6 Trench 4041 facing north-east

Plate 476: Field D-6 Trench 4180 facing south-west

Plate 477: Field D-6 Trench 4181 facing east

Plate 478: Field D-6 Trench 4182 facing south-west

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Appendix 2: Data Management Plan

Appendix 3: Descriptive Acronyms after Troels Smith (1955)

Appendix 4: OASIS Data Summary Form

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 York Archaeology (Nottingham) were commissioned by Meridian Solar Farm Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in support of the submission of a Development Consent Order application for the proposed Meridian Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme'). The project code used by YA is 10020.
- 1.1.2 The Scheme constitutes the total land area under consideration and includes three primary elements; the Photovoltaic (PV) area, the Grid Connection Corridor, and Inter-Array Areas. The PV area comprises approximately 1100ha, the Grid Connection Corridor is approximately 718ha, while the combined Inter-Array Areas are approximately 303ha. The photovoltaic (PV) area of the Scheme only (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'), was subject to archaeological evaluation.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation involved the excavation of 406 archaeological trial trenches and 209 test pits. The archaeological works were designed to further understanding of the complex Fenland depositional sequence and its relationship with archaeological remains across the Site and to assess the nature of the archaeological resource. The results will contribute to a suite of archaeological assessments aimed to inform the design of a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy. The evaluation follows, and is informed by, a Desk-Based Assessment (Evans 2025) and a geophysical survey (AOC Archaeology Group 2025a and 2025b).
- 1.1.4 The Site is located 10km south-east of Spalding and 2km north and north-east of Crowland (Figure 01), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 29061 13240. It covers an area approximately 1100ha in size and consists of four separate parcels of land (Areas A, B, C and D as shown on Figures 1 and 2), comprising arable fields, bounded by deep drainage ditches forming a distinctive linear drainage pattern.

1.2 Outline of Archaeological Work

- 1.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance to the project design and detailed methodology laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; York Archaeology 2025), which was devised in accordance with the archaeological specification produced by JBA Consulting (2025). It was also produced in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide (Historic England 2015a) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2022), Standards for archaeological field evaluation (2023a) and Universal Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2023b). The implementation of the WSI is being conducted under the approval and monitoring of the local planning archaeologist (LPA). The evaluation is required to provide further baseline information regarding the nature of heritage assets at the Site, which will be impacted by the development.
- 1.2.2 The evaluation comprises the excavation of 402 evaluation trenches of 50m length by 2m width, 28 trenches of varying size designed to evaluate areas of salt-making activity, and 10 trenches of varying size designed to maintain an even spread of evaluation trenches around areas of salt-making, as well as 239 test pits of approximately 2m by 2m size.
- 1.2.3 Results of the previous archaeological surveys and the desk-based assessment suggest the majority of archaeological activity is to be found on the tops or sides of roddons: the silt/sand raised beds of extinct creeks which form a dendritic pattern throughout the Fens. Trenches

have been located to target features identified from the results of the geophysical survey, aerial survey and desk-based assessment in order to evaluate their nature, extent and significance. Trenches have also been located on areas of the site located on the roddon deposits that appear to be devoid of features in order to ground truth the lack of archaeological deposits and/or determine the presence and potential of any archaeological deposits that have not been previously identified.

- 1.2.4 Test pits have been sited between the roddons in order to record the stratigraphic sequence of deposits and test that the alluvial sequence outside of the roddons are of sufficient depth to preserve in-situ any significant archaeological remains.

1.3 Scope of the report

- 1.3.1 This interim report aims to provide a summary of the principal findings of the trial trench evaluation. It offers an initial appraisal of the results in order to inform the Client and Statutory Consultees of these on a high-level basis. The information is considered of sufficient detail to allow the planning of future surveys.
- 1.3.2 A full report, including specialist analysis and report, is in preparation. A draft will be submitted by the end of April 2026 and a final report at the end May 2026.
- 1.3.3 This interim report follows an Interim Statement (York Archaeology 2025b) produced while fieldwork was ongoing.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 The Site is centred on NGR TF 29061 13240 located approximately 2km to the north and north-east of Crowland and approximately 10km south-east of Spalding, within the fenland basin of South Lincolnshire (Figure 01). The site is situated to the east of the Fen edge at approximately 1m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The Site covers an area of approximately 1100ha and comprises four land parcels (A, B, C and D) composed of arable fields, bounded by deep drainage ditches which form a distinctive linear drainage pattern. Of this area, 705ha is covered by trial trenching and test pits; the remaining c. 400ha of the Site has been excluded from the survey as PV panels will not be installed in these areas.
- 2.1.2 There are a number of farms and associated buildings across the landscape, and the eastern land parcel (Area D) is separated from the western land parcels (Areas A, B and C) by the settlement of Whaplode Drove. Area A is situated west of the A16, while Area B is adjacent to the A16. Areas C and D are situated to the east of Area B (Figure 02).

2.2 Geological background

- 2.2.1 The Site is located within the historical fenland and contains a complex stratigraphic sequence. The superficial geology for the surrounding region is mapped as Tidal Flat Deposits - Clay and Silt. These deposits form the Fenland sequence which covers 400,000ha and form a sequence of peat, silts and clays infilling a basin carved out by ice in the Quaternary period. Area A is located along the eastern bank of the canalised River Welland where Holocene Alluvium is mapped along the course of the channel (York Archaeology 2025). The fens were drained and managed in this area, starting in the Saxon period through the medieval and post-medieval periods, resulting in large landscape changes (ibid).
- 2.2.2 The bedrock geology, for the majority of the western half of site (Areas A, B, C) is mapped by the BGS (BGS 2025) as Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 166.1 and 157.3 million years ago during the Jurassic period. In the northern half of Areas A and B a small discrete patch of West Walton Formation mudstone is mapped.
- 2.2.3 Just 200m to the east, in Area D, is a bedrock fault within the southern half of the area mapped as the West Walton Formation - Mudstone and siltstone; the northern half is composed of West Walton and Amphill Clay Formation.

2.3 Geoarchaeological Background

- 2.3.1 As stated above, the Fen basin was formed in the Quaternary with the erosion of the underlying bedrock surface. During the Pleistocene Epoch (2.58 million years ago to 11,700 years ago), the region was subject to a variety of geological processes during alternating cold (glacial) and warm (interglacial) stages, including periods during the early and middle Pleistocene when it has been completely overrun by major icesheets (Table 1). Abundant evidence demonstrates that the Anglian ice sheet extended across the entirety of the Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire region down to the Thames Valley during the Middle Pleistocene (Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 11; Clark et al. 2004). A subsequent glaciation occurred during the later Middle Pleistocene which deposited extensive deposits of glacial sediment within the region to the west of the site mapped as GlacioFluvial Deposits. During the Ipswichian interglacial the Abbey Sand and Gravel was deposited at Crowland just to the south of Area A and in areas along the western fen margin, which preserve brackish to marine

fauna (Langford and Briant 2004). This glaciation was assigned to the Late Wolstonian period (MIS 6) as a result of the OSL dating of terminal glaciogenic sediment (Gibbard et al. 2021) which gave dates of around 169-212 thousand years ago (ka). The most recent glaciation, the Devensian (MIS 2/3), did not reach the area within which the site is located, however it did greatly influence site formation processes which deposited the underlying superficial geology of the site.

Geological Period	Archaeological Period BP (Before Present) / BC (Before Christ)	Glacial Period	Sea Level
Middle Pleistocene	Palaeolithic- Lower Palaeolithic (700,000 - 150,000 BP)	Anglian glaciation (480,000 to 425,000 BP)	Low
		Hoxnian interglacial (425,000 to 380,000 BP)	High
		Wolstonian glaciation (380,000 to 130,000 BP)	Low
Late Pleistocene	Middle Palaeolithic (150,000 to 30,000 BP)	Ipswichian interglacial (130,000 to 70,000 BP)	High
		Devensian glaciation (70,000 to 12,000 BP)	Low
		Early Upper Palaeolithic (30,000 to 12,000 BP)	
Holocene	Late Upper Palaeolithic (12,000 to 10,500 BP = 8,500 BC)	Flandrian interglacial (12,000 BP to present)	High
	Mesolithic (8,500 to 4,000 BC)		
	Neolithic (4,000 to 2,400 BC)		
	Bronze Age (2,400 to 700 BC)		
	Iron Age (700 BC to 43 AD)		
	Romano-British (43 AD to 410 AD)		
	Early Medieval (410 to 1066 AD)		
	Medieval (1066 to 1500 AD)		
	Post-Medieval (1500 to 1800 AD)		
	Modern (1800 to Present Day)		

Table 1: Timeline of glacial and archaeological periods

(<https://ets.wessexarch.co.uk/recs/outerthamesestuary/archaeology/>)

- 2.3.2 Areas A-D are located within around 15km of the Fen edge which is located on a roughly north-south alignment at Bourne, Lincolnshire. The Fen edge is marked by the extent of River Terrace Deposits as mapped by the BGS. These deposits pertain to the River Welland, with First Terrace deposits lying mainly to the north of the river and cover a large part of the area north-west of Peterborough (Horton, 1989). These deposits extend westward along the river valley almost to Stamford and were laid down as a broad fan. Boreholes along the edge of the current canalised course of the River Welland demonstrated First Terrace Deposits (BGS borehole 473522) at 4.98m BGL and comprise a medium dense sandy gravel. The River Welland preserves a relatively complete geological record over the last 140ka years and extensive OSL dating work has been carried out at Deeping St James to better understand the chronological development of the First Terrace (Briant et al. 2004). Here early Devensian deposits were recorded which indicates deposition in periglacial conditions and subsequent reworking under the same cold climate.

Marine Isotope Stage	Pleistocene Stage	Deposit
2-4	Devensian	Upper 1 st terrace gravels
5c?	Devensian	Maxey interstadial deposits
5d?	Devensian	1 st terrace gravels
5e?	Ipswichian	Maxey interglacial deposits Abbey Gravel
6	Wolstonian	1 st terrace gravels
7?	Wolstonian	Maxey basal channels
8?	Wolstonian	Lag gravel in Maxey basal channels 2 nd terrace gravels
9?	Wolstonian	March Gravel
10?	Wolstonian	Basal 2 nd terrace gravels Upper 3 rd terrace gravels
11?	Hoxnian	Woodston Beds
12	Anglian	Basal 3 rd terrace gravels Lowestoft Till

Table 2: Revised stratigraphy of the Pleistocene sequence of the Peterborough area (after Bridgland et al. 1991)

- 2.3.3 As the British ice sheet reached its maximum extent by 27ka BP and during its subsequent regression, a number of proglacial lakes were formed as river drainage was disrupted by ice masses (Clark et al. 2004). Of these, the most prominent was pro-glacial Lake Humber which may have covered an area of around 4,500 km². The extent of glacial Lake Humber has been extrapolated from the Digital Elevation Model of the area by the BRITICE project (Clarke et al 2018). However, the extent of the lake is also suggested to follow the 33m OD contour (Gaunt and Tooley 1974). The evidence for both models has been suggested to be too incomplete to robustly define accurately the limits of the lake and this is something that requires further work (Clarke et al. 2018, 27). Although the site itself is situated within the 100m contour which defines the uppermost limit of the lake, it is difficult to say whether it actually extended as far south as Spalding along the eastern edge of England.

Holocene

- 2.3.4 The Pleistocene deposits are overlain by Holocene Peat, Alluvium and Tidal Flat Deposits (alluvium) which relate to the marine and estuarine inundation of the fenland margins in response to deglaciation and sea level rise following the Last Glacial Maximum.
- 2.3.5 Within the wider Fenland region, the broad Holocene stratigraphic sequence follows what was identified within the Fenland Survey (Hayes and Lane 1992) which defined four separate layers as typifying the region.
- 2.3.6 The lowermost of these Holocene deposits is the Lower Peat which overlies earlier Pleistocene deposits, BGS borehole 473522. This lower peat is rarely recorded in shallow excavations and predominantly located within boreholes (Horton, 1989). For the most part this deposit is largely late Mesolithic in date with a time lag in the landward deposits of the Fen. The contact between the peat and the overlying silts is often erosive leading to differences in ages across the area depending on the levels of erosion by the later marine transgressive episode.

- 2.3.7 This lower peat unit was then followed by marine/brackish flooding that deposited soft dark grey, slightly humic and silty clays known as the Barroway Drove Beds (Horton, 1989). This marine inundation began around the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age (Shennan 1986). These clays were downcut by a complex, dendritic network of channels infilled by silt and fine sand, with individual channels ranging in size from less than 1m deep and 2m across to 10m deep and up to 1km wide.
- 2.3.8 A successive peat unit, known as the Nordelph Peat, formed over the marine clays at around 1300-1130 calBC/Middle-Late Bronze Age (Shennan 1986) when a relatively rapid transition from a marine-influenced to a fresh water-influenced environment began. This peat formation continued in some areas of Fen through the Iron Age and well into the Romano-British period (Hayes and Lane, 1992). When it was succeeded by the Terrington Beds silt unit, a process that began in the Later Iron Age. In many parts of the drained Fen the Nordelph peat unit does not survive and the main deposit relates to the Barroway Dove Beds. The complexity of the deposits was further explored by Hall and Coles (1994) who suggested that these terms created correlations across too broad an area and that the deposits should be referred to as Basal Peat, Intercalated Peat and Upper Peat.
- 2.3.9 There is a range of borehole data available for the western part of the site mainly in the vicinity of Area A. This data becomes sparse to the west in Areas B, C and D. Many of the boreholes were carried out over 30 years ago and therefore should be accepted as representative with caution given the levels of drainage and soil erosion within this period, particularly in the upper fen sequence.
- 2.3.10 A borehole located immediately to the south of Area A, BGS borehole 473543, recorded First Terrace Deposits at 6.00m BGL, overlain by an alternating series of peat and silt deposits characteristic of the Fen sequence (Table 3). This log was recorded in 1979 and work throughout the Fens has shown significant degradation of the upper organic deposits which in some instances have completely disappeared.

Stratigraphy	Lithology	Thickness Depth m	Depth mbgl
Alluvium	Soil, indurated greyish brown loam becoming peaty to base	0.5	0.5
Nordelph peat	Peat extremely silty	0.6	1.1
Barroway Drove Beds	Clay soft mottled grey brown with peaty pockets	3.6	4.7
Lower Peat	Peat fibrous visible seeds	0.1	4.8
Barroway Drove Beds	Clay as above with much organic matter	0.7	5.5
Lower Peat	Peat as above	0.4	5.9
First Terrace	Sandy clay	2.1	6.0

Stratigraphy	Lithology	Thickness Depth m	Depth mbgl
	becoming sandy gravel		
Oxford clay			8.5

Table 3: BGS borehole 473543 data

- 2.3.11 To the south west of Martin's Farm (Area C), there are fewer BGS boreholes but a log from BGS borehole 473490 records a similar sequence with peat encountered at 6.40m BGL overlain by Barroway Drove Bed clays. Here there was an absence of upper peats and the log was also drilled in 1979. Here the peat likely overlies the Oxford Clay given the distance from the Welland.
- 2.3.12 The Fenland survey records a series of maps which provide interpretations for the likely characteristics of the landscape in key periods. Radiocarbon dating carried out by Shennan in the vicinity of Cowbit Wash, to the north of the site, indicates a late Mesolithic date for the lower peat c. 4710-4380 cal BC (Hv-10807 5675 ± 115 BP, Shennan 1986 in Hall and Coles 1994). In addition, as part of the Land Ocean Interaction Study (LOIS) a further series of basal peat dates were recorded at Cowbit Wash (Brew et al. 2000), c. 7157 to 5723 cal BP/ 6070 to 4461 cal BC (late Mesolithic).
- 2.3.13 This is followed by a short-lived marine/brackish sequence and followed by further peat development in the Late Neolithic before a more extensive marine transgression is recorded representing saltmarsh expansion and coastal reed swamp development in the Iron Age. The later prehistoric period of the site would therefore have been defined by an extensive saltmarsh crossed by intertidal creek systems and the course of the River Welland, which itself would have been characterised by broad levees upon which saltmaking activity would have taken place. This saltmaking activity continues into the Roman period where this landscape persisted. The recent review of the Late Bronze Age-Iron Age research framework resource assessment highlights the work of Laing (2022) interpreting saltmaking as a seasonal process. The mapping of different types of briquetage in Cheshire has helped to establish trade networks, although it is suggested this may not be possible for Lincolnshire as the salt may have been transported in perishable cloth bags (Willis 2023, section 8.8, <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/updated-period-resource-assessment-the-later-bronze-age-and-iron-age/#section-82>).
- 2.3.14 The depositional sequences within roddons has been recorded in the Cambridgeshire fen and such sequences are characterised by laminated sand and silt deposits representing the waxing and waning of energy within the creek system. The majority of the roddon system would have been infilled by the Iron Age and the majority of the creek system relates to Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age positive sea level tendencies.
- 2.3.15 Crowland, to the south was effectively a peninsula in the prehistoric period and it likely to have been the focus of settlement, although given the spread of urban development it is not possible to be certain the character of this. Barrows are known but are no longer extant. The river would also have provided a useful communication route and, as has been demonstrated at Must Farm in Cambridgeshire, the roddon system was also easily navigable by boat. Roman finds from the 19th century such as 20 querns from Crowland Common have been suggested to represent lost cargo. In addition, there are later records relating to fishing and it is to be expected that fixed fishing gear, such as eel traps and wattle and post built fish weirs may be

preserved within the channels. In addition, access to the wetland is likely to have been facilitated by ground-level trackways constructed of both timber and stone.

- 2.3.16 The Welland itself is likely to have been tidal which is now hard to appreciate given the extensive changes to the landscape due to the installation of Medieval flood defences and the creation of Cowbit Wash. The realignment of the river is suggested to have Saxon origins and may relate to management and drainage of the Fens by Crowland Abbey. This continued into the 17th century with locks and canals installed to control the navigation of the river. Further changes to the surrounding landscape in the Medieval period are noted in the historical record with entries relating to the invasion of ‘Men of Holland’ on the land enclosed by the abbey due to the shortage of pasture in the surrounding area caused by the fen drying out in the 12th century (Roffe 1993). The river itself was recorded as sluggish and prone to silting, like many lowland rivers in the medieval period and overbank flooding was common, leading to the deposition of silts across wide areas sealing former land surfaces and traces of earlier human activity.
- 2.3.17 The enclosing of the fen with banks in the medieval period was part of land reclamation which saw an intensification of agricultural exploitation for sheep and cows. The drying fen more suitable for pastoral activities than arable farming. Regionally the role of secondary products such as milk and cheese are poorly understood due to the lack of organic residue analysis on suitable ceramics.

Conclusions

- 2.3.18 The site has the potential to preserve important interdigitated river Welland alluvial sequences and tidal creek/roddon system deposits, as well as multiple horizons of archaeological material relating to saltmaking and pastoral exploitation of the associated saltmarsh. A broad understanding of the depositional sequence for the Fenland is established although there are variations in the timings of sedimentation on a site scale and the deposits themselves have yet to be modelled. Understanding the timing of the onsets of the changing marine/freshwater depositional environments in relation to relative sea level rise remains an outstanding research question. In addition, understanding the timings of the infilling of the roddon system in relation to human activity and exploitation in the later prehistoric period is also important for the prospection for archaeological sites.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.4.1 The following section has been compiled using evidence contained in the Aerial Survey Report (Deegan, 2024), Geophysical Survey (AOC Archaeology 2025a and 2025b) and the draft of Meridian Heritage Desk Based Assessment (Evans, 2025).

Palaeolithic to Bronze Age (c.800,00 BC – 800 BC)

- 2.4.2 There are no records of remains of this date at or around the Site, however the major Bronze Age site of Flag Fen (PHER 8188; NRHEUID 871837) and the Late Neolithic–Early Bronze Age dispersed settlement of Must Farm (PHER 51413) are located approximately 15km and 17km respectively, to the southwest of the Site.

Iron Age and Roman (c. 800 BC – AD 420)

- 2.4.3 Within the Fens, settlement of this period is typified by enclosures featuring roundhouses and frequently linked by trackways and field systems (Mattingly 2006, 392-393). Drainage of the

fenland is known to have begun taking place in the Romano British period and the fens have been subject to permanent or intermittent settlement from this time (East Anglian Archaeology 1992, 1).

- 2.4.4 The majority of evidence for Iron Age activity around the Site comes from salt-making sites (salterns). A concentration of these sites run down the edge of the southern fen edge and well into the southern fens. The largest concentration occurs in the parish of Cowbit (located just north of Land Parcel B), where 13 salterns of Iron Age date were identified during the Fenland Survey, 2 of which (COW 25 and COW 26) were subject to excavation (Lane 2001, 13).
- 2.4.5 A total of 20 Roman querns were recovered from Crowland Common in the 19th century, and have been suggested to represent lost cargo.
- 2.4.6 Three coin hoards are recorded in the Portable Antiquities Scheme database recovered from the vicinity of the site: IARCH-A658C and IARCH-D83BAD were acquired by Stukeley in the C18th and appear to have contained coins of Roman date. These two hoards are said to have been discovered near Crowland (to the south of Area A) and Gedney Hill (to the south of Area D). IARCH-8E0A2C was found by metal detectorists in 2000 and recovered by a combination of hand and machine excavation by the detectorists and the farmer. It consisted of 20 Corieltavian gold staters. The location of this find is given as Whaplode Drove, which lies between Area C and Area D.
- 2.4.7 There are two Scheduled Monuments of possible Iron-Age/Romano-British date within the study area, which are characterised by dense concentrations of archaeological features, including ditches, ditched enclosures, possible salterns or roundhouses and potential droveways which have been protected as Scheduled Monuments (1004978 and 1004979).
- 2.4.8 The DBA recorded 80 records within its study area. These relate for the most part, to extensive settlement sites comprising areas enclosed by ditches. These are often found in association with salt production sites containing remains of salterns as well as scatters of pottery. Settlements are primarily identified from cropmarks seen on aerial photographs. Visible evidence of Romano-British settlements and enclosures within the Site are visible on oblique aerial photographs taken by Historic England (Historic England 2024b), and have been identified through geophysical survey in fields such as C-2-05, C-2-04, C-2-02, C-2-03, C-2-01, C-1-08, D-6, D-3, D-1-01, and D-1-02. The locations are also indicated from pottery scatters identified during fieldwalking. Roman field systems are seen alongside the settlements and industrial sites, sometimes featuring drove roads. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at North Road (ELI4597), which uncovered two late 1st to early 2nd century ditches which evidence agricultural activity at Gedney Hill at this time.
- 2.4.9 The aerial survey (Deegan 2024) identified numerous features dated to the Iron Age or Roman period including settlements, salt production sites, boundaries, trackways, drove roads and field systems, many of which are recorded as monuments in the HER or have been protected through scheduling. This work has been further supported by geophysical survey at the site, which has identified anomalies correlating to those features identified during the aerial survey, as well as additional anomalies not previously identified.
- 2.4.10 In Area C, a swathe of Iron Age or Roman settlement or salt production features flank a trackway that runs through the centre of a broad roddon that runs south-west to north-east through the Site. This trackway runs through fields C-2-02, B-1-13 and B-1-09, with associated features extending into B-1-10 and B-1-14. The geophysical survey confirmed the findings of the aerial survey and identified sub-rectangular enclosures, circular features and linear

features. These may represent known components of salt production sites including feeder channels, settling tanks and hearths/ovens, as identified through previous work in Lincolnshire (Lane 2001, 90). These features may be associated with Scheduled Monument 1004978 and 1004979.

- 2.4.11 The western limit of these features in Area B coincide with a substantial linear feature that runs north to south through B-1-09, B-1-10 and B-1-11. This feature may have been a boundary between settlement and salt marsh or possibly a route or trackway connecting areas of higher ground. The geophysical survey has identified potential salt production features to the west of this possible boundary, primarily circular features lying atop of the lesser roddons that meander through fields B-1-09, B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-06, B-1-05, B-1-01, B-1-02 and B-1-03. The evidence for activity seems to lessen westward across the site, but features were still present in B-1-01.
- 2.4.12 There are multi-foci settlement, trackways and other features on the western flank of the wide silt ridge in C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-1-08. A possible medieval drove road cuts through these features on a north-east to south-west orientation. In C-1-01, C-1-03 and C-1-08 features correlating with Scheduled Monument 1004979 were identified by the aerial survey and geophysical survey. These features appear to extend beyond the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument, extending into C-1-01, C-1-03 and C-1-08. In C-2-01 and C-2-03 are features correlating with Scheduled Monument 1004979. These features appear to extend outside of the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument into C-2-03 and C-2-01. A double ditched linear feature, likely a trackway, appears to lead out from the Scheduled Monument to a T-junction, before turning south-west towards the features described above within C-2-02, B-1-13, B-1-09, B-1-10 and B-1-14.
- 2.4.13 Area D to the west of Whaplode Drove also contains a concentration of features likely to represent Iron Age or Romano-British settlement or salt production remains. In D-1-01, D-1-02, there is an arrangement of sub-rectangular enclosures and linear boundary features which may represent an Iron Age or Romano-British settlement. In D-2-01 similar features are seen coinciding with the course of a lesser roddon that crosses east to west through this field. Features of potential Iron Age or Roman date, including field boundaries, salt production remains and boundary banks are also seen in fields D-3-01, D-2-01, D-2-02, D-2-04, D-3-02, D-3-03, D-3-04, D-3-05, D-3-06 and D-4.
- 2.4.14 In D-6 the aerial survey identified field boundaries and a potential trackway of Iron Age or Roman date. The geophysical survey identified additional features including sub-rectangular enclosures as well as circular features, indicating a potential settlement or salt production site. Enclosures, trackways and boundaries were also identified within D-5-01 with features here likely representing an Iron Age or Romano-British enclosed settlement site.
- 2.4.15 Metal detecting in field D-5-01 on 11/09/22, reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, recovered two Roman copper alloy brooches (SWYOR-052B61 and SWYOR-050746), and a very worn copper alloy coin of an empress (SWYOR-04978B).
- 2.4.16 Within Area A evidence of Iron Age or Romano-British activity is less well represented. A number of small circular features, potentially salterns, ring ditches or round houses, have been identified in parcels A-1-07, A-1-08, A-1-10 and A-1-11 from the geophysical survey

Medieval (c. AD 410–1485)

- 2.4.17 The site lies within the bounds claimed by Crowland Abbey, and possibly forms part of that area disputed by the men of Holland, as recorded in the *Chronicle of the Abbey of Crowland* (Roffe 1993). Crowland Abbey was founded in the C8th, and has been shown to lie within a complex multi-period landscape, reoccupying and transforming prehistoric monumental features, and potentially importing material from Roman sites in the vicinity (Wright and Willmott 2024).
- 2.4.18 Within the study area of the DBA the medieval period is represented primarily by features relating to rural settlement or rural activities.
- 2.4.19 The Aerial Survey (Deegan 2024) identified a triple ditched linear feature that traversed C-1-06 and C-1-08 and may represent the remains of a medieval drove road. Other long straight ditches run parallel to this road and may be of a similar date. In field B-5 a long linear feature crosses the site parallel to Queen's Bank, which is identified as a Drove Road in the HER (MLI20346). However, the feature is aligned to a Scheduled feature to the east which is described as the northern boundary of the monastic lands of Crowland Abbey. Elsewhere in the site the aerial survey also identified features representing medieval strip fields and ridge and furrow.
- 2.4.20 Metal detecting in field A-1-11, reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, recovered fragments of a medieval or post-medieval copper alloy vessel leg (LIN-84B6E8).

Post-medieval (AD 1485–1750)

- 2.4.21 Saxton's map of Lincolnshire of 1576 depicts the area of the Site as dry land located to the south of 'The Wasshe'. Spalding, Crowland, Weston, Moulton, Waplode Drove (Whaplode Drove), and Cowbit are all shown as settlements on the map. The area in which the Site sits is additionally labelled as 'Flete fen'.
- 2.4.22 Within the study area the post-medieval period is primarily represented by rural farmsteads of 19th century date, many of which survive as partially redeveloped structures that are still in use on operational farms, though many have also been demolished.
- 2.4.23 The First edition OS map of 1887 depicts Area A-1 located just to the south of the 'Wash Bank', a drainage channel running along the north edge of the Site; at this date this area was divided into smaller fields than at present (OS 1887a and OS 1887b). A group of buildings annotated as 'Clout House Farm' is depicted within the Site at approximately TF 25430 14640 (MLI23854, A-1-12). Modern aerial imagery shows that these buildings are no longer extant; foundations associated with these structures may survive. Other structures identified within the Site include a small structure annotated as 'Old Barn' located at approximately TF 24272 13727 (MLI123863, A-1-02, A-1-05) and another small structure annotated 'Bottom Yard' located at approximately TF 25089 13408 (MLI123862, A-1-11). Another farmstead 'Lodge Farm' is shown within W-1-08 at TF 2439 1300 (MLI123864).
- 2.4.24 Part of the east border of B-1 is defined by what was once the Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint Railway, the route of which is still visible on aerial photographs. A complex of buildings annotated as 'Whipchicken Farm' is shown on the first edition OS within the Site at TF 27408 13103 (MLI123861, B-1-10; OS 1887c). A small building set within a small coppice of trees sits at this location, and may be related to this historic farmstead, although any other buildings relating to the farm have been demolished. A second farmstead is also shown within

B-1-13 on the first edition OS, annotated as 'Whitebread Farm', located at approximately TF 28369 13537 (MLI123860). This farmstead appears to have been completely demolished as no remains are visible on aerial photos, although below ground remains may survive.

- 2.4.25 At C-1 and C-2 a cluster of buildings (likely a farmstead) annotated as 'Shepherd's House' is located at TF 30448 12919 (MLI123880, C-1-08; OS 1887c), no features associated with this farmstead are visible on modern aerial photos and the complex appears to have been demolished.
- 2.4.26 In Area D the historic land boundaries and field layouts are largely preserved, with only minor alterations from those seen on the late-nineteenth-century mapping (OS 1887d). At the north edge of D-2-01 a small building is depicted on the first edition OS that partly crosses with the Site (MLI123531). This building is no longer extant but remains may exist below ground level. A large body of water is shown within D-3-01 which no longer exists, as is a small structure labelled as 'Sheepfold'. Two small buildings are also shown within D-5-01 located at TF 33750 13084 and TF 33787 13148 which no longer survive.
- 2.4.27 Between D-5 and D-6 two farmsteads are shown, Fleet Coy Farm (MLI123534) and Waltons Farm (MLI123535), both of which are still extant.
- 2.4.28 The aerial survey (Deegan 2024) also identified various post-medieval features within the Site including strip fields, ridge and furrow and post-medieval field boundaries removed in the 20th century.

Modern (AD 1750 to Present)

- 2.4.29 Dornier 217 F8+CN 4279 crashed with bombs on board within field D4 of the Site during World War II, in July or August 1942 (RAF Air Historical Branch, *pers. comm.* to Fiona Lee 11/04/2025). Information from the Ministry of Defence indicates that the crew bailed out prior to the crash and all survived; no further information is known about the fate of the aircraft structure and contents, although it was likely a high-speed impact and therefore the remains may be deeply buried. The geophysical survey identified a spread of highly elevated magnetic responses in D-4 that may potentially be linked to this event.

2.5 Previous Archaeological Works

- 2.5.1 Being a sparsely populated rural area, there have been few archaeological interventions prompted by development projects. Two exceptions are the scheme of archaeological works instigated ahead of the construction of the A16, known as the A1073 Spalding to Eye Improvement Scheme (Failes and Peachey 2013) and archaeological evaluation trenching at Holbeach Drove Gate and Holbeach Drove (Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd 2006, 2023).
- 2.5.2 Archaeological evaluation along the route of the A1073 (now A16) running along the west edge of Area B uncovered numerous archaeological features, most of which lay outside of the, 1km from the Scheme boundary, study area of the desk-based assessment. Subsequent excavations (Failes and Peachey 2013) to the south of Cowbit investigated sites of Iron Age and Roman date. Of particular interest is Site 4, located c. 300m north of Field B5 where a two-phase Roman saltern was revealed. It appeared that flooding had ended the first phase of salt production and created a new land surface over the western part of the saltern. The saltern then appeared to have been quickly dismantled, with large fragments of briquetage being discarded in the eastern area of the enclosure ditch. The only part of the ditch which hadn't been entirely silted up when the flooding occurred. A second enclosure was then dug

alongside settling tanks and salt-making continued. Interestingly, outside of the saltern, in the south-eastern corner of that site, a deposit containing an unusual assemblage of Roman material, including fragments of a triple vase, a preponderance of drinking vessels and a fragment of *patera* pan' handle, a rare item often associated with the army, was excavated. Triple vases are elaborate items with an assumed ritual function and *paterae* may also have been used ritually, possibly during funerary rites (Woodfield 2005, 209-11). This is a very unusual assemblage for a rural Roman site and suggests the occurrence of ritual activity nearby.

- 2.5.3 Investigations by Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at Holbeach Drove Gate (2006) and Holbeach Drove (2023) took place in fields adjacent to Land Parcel D with trenches targeting the extensive potential cropmarks of Iron Age / Roman Date in the area. A number of ditches were identified which relate to the cropmarks. However, no dateable material was recovered during the investigations. It was noted that the ditches differed from each other in morphology suggesting that the cropmarks may not all be contemporaneous.

3 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

3.1 Planning context

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken ahead and in support of the submission of a Development Consent Order application for the proposed Meridian Solar Farm.

3.2 Legislation

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

- 3.2.1 Scheduled Monuments are designated by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as selective examples of nationally important archaeological remains. Part 1, Section 1 and 2 of the Act set out guidelines for the process of selection of sites to be included in the protected schedule. Part 1, Section 2 provides legal protection for Scheduled Monuments; it states that it is an offence to damage, disturb, or alter a Scheduled Monument without permission of the Secretary of State. Although the Act does protect the ground below Scheduled Monuments, it does not protect the wider setting of the monument.

Planning Act, 2008

- 3.2.2 The 2008 Act provides a consenting regime for granting planning and other consents for nationally significant infrastructure projects. The Act states that Historic England will act as a statutory consultee on all NSIP projects, and that the local authority must also be consulted about the proposed application. Section 32 of the Act defines “development” as having the same meaning as in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. For the purposes of the Planning Act, the following works are taken to be development; demolition, alteration or extension of a listed building which would affect its character, demolition of a building in a conservation area, demolition, destruction or damage to a scheduled monument, works to remove or repair a scheduled monument, works to make any alterations or additions to a scheduled monument, flooding or tipping operations on land in, or under which there is a scheduled monument.

3.3 National Planning Policy

National Policy Statements (NPS) for Energy EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5

- 3.3.1 The NPS EN-1 (DESNZ, Nov 2023) defines the government's policy statement for energy. The statement provides the definition of the historic environment and information on appropriate levels of assessment of energy proposals that have the potential to impact upon the historic environment. Paragraph 5.9.12 states that the applicant should ensure that the extent of the potential impact on the significance of any heritage asset as a result of the proposed development must be adequately understood from the application. The applicant is also encouraged, where opportunities exist to make a positive contribution to the historic environment through options such as sensitive design, public benefits and enhanced access or interpretation (paragraph 5.9.13).
- 3.3.2 NPS EN1 states (paragraph 5.9.17) "*Where the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, the Secretary of State will require the applicant to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost (wholly or in part). The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the asset's importance and significance and the impact.*" Where deemed appropriate the Secretary of State will impose requirements

on the Development Consent Order to ensure that the required works are undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigations and the NPS policies. The scope of this work is to be agreed with the local authority (paragraph 5.9.18).

- 3.3.3 Within the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3, DESNZ, Nov 2023) when considering the impact on the historic environment and whether it is satisfied that the substantial public benefits would outweigh any loss or harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, the IPC should take into account the positive role that large-scale renewable projects play in the mitigation of climate change, the delivery of energy security and the urgency of meeting the national targets for renewable energy supply and emissions reductions.
- 3.3.4 The NPS EN5 (DESNZ, Nov 2023) sets out the government's policy statement in regard to electricity networks infrastructure. The document requires that the potential effects of heritage assets as a result of overhead lines and buried cables contribute of the consideration of the options. Paragraph 2.9.25 also determines that an overhead line will take preference over a buried cable unless it can be demonstrated that the benefit of a buried option clearly outweighs the extra economic, social or environmental impacts it presents.

National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG), 2024

- 3.3.5 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out guidelines for achieving sustainable development, based on the core objectives: economic, social, and environmental. Protecting and enhancing the historic environment is just one element contributing to the realisation of these objectives. Section 16 details the policies for protecting and enhancing the historic environment during planning procedure and decision making.
- 3.3.6 For proposals affecting heritage assets, NPPF states that in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance (para. 207). This paragraph also states that where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developments to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.
- 3.3.7 The NPPF states that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation, and that this weight should be proportionate to the asset's importance, irrespective of the level of harm (i.e. substantial, total loss or less than substantial) (para. 212). Any potential harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification (para. 213). Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that public benefit or lack of viability and sustainability outweigh the harm or loss (para. 214). Should a proposal lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposed development, including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use (para. 215).
- 3.3.8 In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required regarding the scale of any harm or loss and the

significance of the heritage asset (para. 216). The developer should be required to record and advance the understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost wholly or in part, in a manner appropriate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible (para. 218). Local authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites and the settings of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance, whilst proposals that conserve elements of settings that make a positive contribution to the asset or which better reveal its significance, should be treated favourably (para. 219).

Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG, 2019)

3.3.9 The Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG 2019) provides further advice and guidance that expands the policy outlined in the NPPF. It expands on terms such as ‘significance’ and its importance in decision making and also provides advice on how proposals can avoid or minimise harm to the significance of a heritage asset. The Guidance also covers the setting of heritage assets, how the setting can contribute towards the significance of a heritage asset and how the proposed Scheme can interact with the setting of an asset. The guidance also provides advice on various other matters including;

- Whether the deteriorated state of a heritage asset should be taken into account in reaching a decision on an application.
- What is the optimum viable use for a heritage asset and how is it taken into account in planning decisions.
- How can the possibility of harm to a heritage asset be assessed?

3.4 Local Planning Policy

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP) 2011-2038 (Adopted March 2019)

3.4.1 The Local Plan for South Holland District Council is jointly produced with Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council. The Local Plan will guide development and the use of land in South East Lincolnshire from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2036. Of relevance is Policy 29: The Historic Environment:

Distinctive elements of the South East Lincolnshire historic environment will be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. Opportunities to identify a heritage asset’s contribution to the economy, tourism, education and the local community will be utilised including:

- *The historic archaeological and drainage landscape of the Fens;*
- *The distinctive character of South East Lincolnshire market towns and villages;*
- *The dominance within the landscape of church towers, spires and historic windmills;*

To respect the historical legacy, varied character and appearance of South East Lincolnshire’s historic environment, development proposals will conserve and enhance the character and appearance of designated and non-designated heritage assets, such as important known archaeology or that found during development, historic buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, street patterns, streetscapes, landscapes, parks (including Registered Parks and Gardens), river frontages, structures and their settings through high-quality sensitive design.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Aims

4.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence of any archaeological deposits or features that may be impacted by the proposed PV modules, electricity generating infrastructure, and a battery energy storage (BESS) facility;
- To ground truth, in seemingly 'blank' areas of the site, the lack of archaeological deposits and/or determine the presence and potential of archaeological deposits not previously identified;
- To test the stratigraphic sequence and record the depths of deposits across the site;
- To test the assumption that the alluvial deposits outside of the roddons are of sufficient depth to preserve any deposits of archaeological significance *in-situ* with consideration given to levels of oxidation and hydrological regime;
- To produce a report presenting the results of the fieldwork which can be used to inform the Environmental Statement which will form part of the Development Consent Order application;
- To inform any further archaeological evaluation or mitigation which may be carried out as part of the proposed development.

4.2 Objectives

4.2.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Identify, characterise and record any archaeological features or deposits that are present within the evaluation trenches;
- evaluate a representative sample of any remains that have been identified;
- ascertain the extent, depth, character, date, significance and condition of archaeological remains;
- recover finds and environmental samples for post-excavation assessment;
- understand the archaeological potential across the site with reference to the historic landscape and other evidence;
- ensure the reporting meets with national standards and guidance;
- provide evidence to determine what further archaeological work may be required; and
- provide evidence to inform design of the development if appropriate.

4.3 Research Agenda

4.3.4 The site provided an unusual opportunity to investigate the spatial arrangement of an Iron Age/Roman salt-producing landscape. Various questions were outlined in the WSI

- are areas of salt production distinctly defined?;
- are such areas separate from areas of domestic settlement?;
- does such spatial definition, if present, persist through time?; and

- can the location of such areas be related to geological and environmental factors beyond the presence of roddons?

4.3.5 The evaluation will also contribute to selected Research Themes and Objectives outlined in the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (www.researchframeworks.org/emherf), and for the *East of England Research Framework* (<https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/research-agenda/>). The research themes and objectives set below were organised prior to the fieldwork. A review of periods the research objectives will be undertaken for the full report.

4. Late Bronze Age and Iron Age (c.9500-c.4000 cal BC)
4.1 Dating
4.1.1: How can we maximise the potential of scientific dating methods as tools for refining the regional chronological framework for the first millennium BC?
4.1.2: How can we refine further the ceramic chronology for the first millennium BC?
4.2 Site visibility, prospection and landscape exploration
4.2.1: What mechanisms may underlie intra-regional variations in site densities?
4.2.2: May the density and/or spatial extent of settlements of particular types and periods and within particular landscape zones be underestimated?
4.2.3: How can we expand our knowledge of first millennium BC activity in areas with a poor record of settlement
4.4 Middle Iron Age settlements (c.450-100 BC)
4.4.1: Why were settlements increasingly enclosed during this period and to what extent may the progress of enclosure have varied regionally?
4.5 Late Iron Age settlements (c. 100 BC – AD 50)
4.5.3: How may nucleated and other settlements have developed in the Roman period?
4.6 Field systems and major linear boundaries
4.6.1: Can we shed further light upon the development of field and boundary systems?
4.6.2: What were the economic, social or political roles of the pit alignments and linear ditch systems that characterised many areas of the East Midlands?
4.6.3: What may we deduce from studies of linear boundaries with respect to changes in the agrarian landscape?
4.7 Ritual and structured deposition and religion
4.7.1: What is the nature of structured deposits in this region and may sub-regional patterns or trends be discerned?

4.7.2: What roles may wet and other natural locations have performed and how might these have changed over time?
4.7.3: How may studies of boundaries within, around and between settlements contribute to analysis of structured deposits?
4.8 The agricultural economy and landscape
4.8.2: How may diet and land-use have varied over time and between different ecological zones? Can we identify specialist pastoral zones and elucidate coastal resource exploitation strategies?
4.8.3: How may agricultural changes have impacted upon settlement patterns? Can the relationship between sedentary and mobile economies be clarified, and how did this vary spatially and over time?
4.8.4: What was the impact of climate change upon farming practices, especially in upland areas such as the Derbyshire Peak?
4.9 Finds, craft, industry and exchange
4.9.1: How can we add to our existing knowledge of industries and crafts in this region, particularly the extraction and smelting of iron and lead, salt production and quern manufacture?
4.9.3: What can we determine from artefact studies about trade and exchange and the role of coinage?
4.10 Social relations and society
4.10.1: What social and economic roles may open and enclosed sites have performed, and may the progression in some areas from open to enclosed settlements imply the development of less mobile societies?
4.10.2: What may further analyses of burials and of settlement architecture and morphology contribute to studies of social and political organisation?
4.10.3: How can we better understand the nature of the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age and the socio-political changes of the later Iron Age?
5. Romano-British (AD 43 – c.410)
5.1 Chronology
5.1.1: How can we enhance our knowledge of developing pottery industries, particularly during the Conquest period and 3 rd to 4 th centuries?
5.1.2: How may information on temporal and regional variations in Romano-British pottery typology and vessel fabrics best be disseminated?
5.1.4: How can we advance our knowledge of the chronology of Romano-British metal finds, particularly brooches?
5.1.5: What are the priorities for scientific dating, particularly radiocarbon, and how may targeted dating programmes be developed for the Romano-British period?
5.2 The military impact

5.2.1: How far was the military conquest a motor of social and economic change during the Romano-British period?
5.2.4: How did the supply needs of Roman military garrisons and armies along the northern frontier affect the economy and transport infrastructure?
5.2.5: How did the withdrawal of Roman political and financial support impact upon the established society and economy?
5.4 Rural settlement patterns and landscapes
5.4.1: How did the Conquest impact upon rural settlements and landscapes?
5.4.2: How and why did settlement forms and building traditions vary within the region and over time?
5.4.3: How did rural settlements relate to each other and to towns and military sites, and how may this have varied regionally and over time?
5.4.4: How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time?
5.4.5: What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?
5.4.6: Can we elucidate further the daily life of settlements and their role in the processing and marketing of agricultural products?
5.5 The agricultural economy
5.5.1: How is the upland-lowland divide manifested in the regional agricultural economy and other aspects of the archaeological record?
5.5.2: How did integration into the Roman Empire impact upon the agrarian economy, including the introduction of new crops, herbs and fruits?
5.5.3: What is the evidence for the diet of people of high and low status in urban and rural settlements, especially those close to military sites?
5.5.4: Can we chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems?
5.5.5: Can we define more precisely the networks developed for the trade and exchange of agricultural produce and fish?
5.6 Artefacts: production, distribution and social identity
5.6.1: What resources moved in and out of the region during this period?
5.6.3: How may studies of the production, movement and consumption of pottery contribute to understanding of the regional economy?
5.6.4: What production techniques and exchange networks were involved in the manufacture and marketing of salt and building materials?

5.6.6: What can artefact research contribute to studies of eating, drinking and other manifestations of social identity?
5.7 Roads and waterways
5.7.3: To what extent may communication routes have been influenced by Late Iron Age settlement patterns and routes of movement?
5.8 Ritual and religion
5.8.1: How far is the location of religious sites related to Late Iron Age activity and to what extent may structured deposition of human/animal bones in settlement/boundary features have continued?
5.8.3: Can we elucidate the beliefs and practices associated with religious or ritual foci and may certain classes of site have been associated with particular activities?
5.8.4: Why have so few early Roman burials been found, and may practices have varied regionally and between different communities?
7. High Medieval (1066 – 1485)
7.2 Rural settlement
7.2.2: How can we shed further light upon the origin and development of dispersed hamlets and farms in champion and pastoral areas?
7.6 Industry and trade
7.6.2: By what means were the extractive mineral industries controlled or organised by royal, monastic or lay lords?
7.6.3: Can we identify, investigate and date sites associated with the region's key extractive industries (especially iron, coal, lead and alabaster), the production and distribution of cloth and leather-work, and freshwater or marine fishing?
7.7 The agrarian landscape and food producing economy
7.6.3: Can we identify, investigate and date sites associated with the region's key extractive industries (especially iron, coal, lead and alabaster), the production and distribution of cloth and leather-work, and freshwater or marine fishing?
7.7.4: What can environmental remains teach us about diet and living conditions in urban, rural and coastal communities?
7.7.5: What may fish bones and other environmental data contribute to studies of the exploitation and distribution of freshwater and marine fish?
7.7.6: How best may we enhance study of the origins and development of early land reclamation and drainage, particularly in Lincolnshire?
8 Post-medieval (1485 – 1750)
8.3 Agricultural landscapes and the food-producing economy
8.3.1: How can we improve our understanding of the early landscapes of enclosure and

improvement and the interrelationship between arable, pasture, woodland, commons and waste?
8.3.2: How did water management and land drainage change the landscape during this period?
8.3.4: What garden plants and crops were grown in the countryside and urban market gardens, and what new types were introduced?

Table 4: Relevant Regional Research Agenda Question (East Midlands)

Palaeolithic to Mesolithic
Pal-Meso 11: Are deposit modelling and predictive modelling useful tools?
Neolithic
Neo 02: How can we learn more about climate and environmental conditions during the Neolithic?
Late Iron Age and Roman
LIA-Rom 05: How can we better understand the Late Iron Age to Roman transition?
LIA-Rom 06: How can we increase our understanding of the Iron Age and Roman environment?
LIA-Rom 16: Can we better distinguish between Late Iron Age and Early Roman features and sites?
Early Anglo-Saxon
E-Sax 12: What did the Early Anglo-Saxon landscape look like?
Middle to Late Anglo-Saxon
M-Sax-L-Sax 21: How can we better understand the region's Late Anglo-Saxon monastic houses?
Medieval (Rural)
Med (Rural) 03: How can we improve our understanding of medieval agricultural practices?
Med (Rural) 08: How can we improve our understanding of medieval rural monastic establishments, especially those of the minor orders?
Post-medieval
P-Med 14: How can we characterise the post-medieval historic landscape and the factors which affected it?
Multi-period
Multi 06: How do we interpret and ground-truth cropmark evidence?
Multi 08: How can we better realise the archaeological potential of the Fenland?

Table 5: Relevant Regional Research agenda Questions (East of England)

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Scope

- 5.1.1 An adequate archaeological evaluation of the Site was required to provide information concerning the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains present within the Site area.
- 5.1.2 All aspects of the investigation have been and will be conducted in accordance with:
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2022);
 - *Standards for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023a);
 - *Universal Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023b);
 - *The Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook* (LCC, 2024);
 - Historic England Guidance (HE 2015a).
- 5.1.3 The original scope for the evaluation comprised 402 evaluation trenches measuring 50m by 2m, 28 trenches of varying size targeting salterns (see Section 5.1.10 below), 10 investigation areas of varying size adjacent to salterns, and 239 test pits of approximately 2m by 2m and up to 3m deep (see Section 5.1.15 below).
- 5.1.4 Multiple changes to the original scope were undertaken during the works, including the addition of new trenches targeting proposed cable routes in Area B and C (Fields B-1-12, B-3-02, B-3-01 and B5). Several areas of the Site were found to contain remains or potential remains of historic World War Two plane crashes. Following a UXO assessment, exclusion zones were implemented in high UXO risk areas and multiple fields and areas within fields were subsequently descoped (Fields A-1-12, D-1-01, D-1-02, D-1-03 and D-4). An addendum to the original WSI was also made based on the potential for modern disarticulated human remains, originating from the World War Two plane crashes. No modern disarticulated human remains were found to be present. Trenches were also occasionally extended to further investigate potential saltern complexes.
- 5.1.5 After all changes, a total of 406 evaluation trenches and 209 test pits were excavated.

Evaluation Trenches

- 5.1.6 Trial trench locations were designed to target, evaluate and characterise possible or probable archaeological features, avoid constraints and ensure appropriate coverage while taking into account the following factors:
1. Trenches have not been included in areas identified as areas where no development is proposed to be undertaken to preserve archaeological deposits in situ, to avoid high quality agricultural land, or to provide mitigation in relation to potential visual impacts from the proposed scheme.
 2. Ecological constraints. Buffers have been used around known ecological constraints. These include a barn owl nesting site and badger setts. Trenches have also been set back to protect the roots of trees and hedgerows.
 3. Services. The trenches have been set out to maintain appropriate safety buffers around buried and overhead services.
 4. Ditches. The trenches have been set out to maintain appropriate safety distance from the drainage ditches.

5. Public rights of way. The trenches have been set out to maintain appropriate safety distance from public rights of way.

5.1.7 Additionally, the following considerations have informed the density of the trenching and location of the test pits:

6. A higher density of trenches has been included in areas identified for potential compounds and indicative areas for on-site substations.
7. Test pits have largely been located in areas off the roddons where it was anticipated that fewer archaeological deposits, of lower importance will be located.

5.1.8 Trench locations were selected with reference to information gathered from non-intrusive surveys including a report on aerial photography and lidar imagery (Deegan, 2024) and geophysical survey (AOC Archaeology 2025a and 2025b). Areas identified for potential compounds and on-site substation(s) were covered by a higher density of trenches.

5.1.9 Where trial trenches crossed deposits of significant palaeoenvironmental interest sondages were excavated in the ends to allow for characterisation and sampling. These sondages were excavated according to the methodology used for the test pits.

Evaluation Trenches Targeting Potential Salterns

5.1.10 There were a significant number of potential salterns at the Site. Review of cropmark and geophysical survey suggested the possibility of 55 salterns, with the majority of them (c. 45) occurring in Area B. Due to the potential difficulties involved in fully characterising features of this type in a typical archaeological trial trench, a specific methodology has been devised.

5.1.11 Fenland salterns of prehistoric or Roman date comprise a number of elements, which generally include a central hearth or oven-like heating structure, a series of one or more clay-lined pits (termed 'settling tanks') and an enclosure ditch with an undug 'entrance'. However, there are differing configurations; hearths for example, are not always central, such as at COW 25 at Cowbit (Lane, 2001) where the hearth was recorded close to the northern entrance of the enclosure. Adding to the complexity of these sites is the potential for multiple phases due to the dynamic nature of the environment. For example, two phases of use were identified at the Site 4 saltern on the A1073 Improvement Scheme (Failes, Lane and Peachey, 2011; Failes and Peachey, 2013) as severe flooding had curtailed Phase 1 by creating a new land surface in the western area of the site.

5.1.12 Due to the complexity and differing configurations of these sites, a relatively narrow (2m wide) evaluation trench would not be the best suited to identifying the character, extent, depth and preservation of saltern remains. A shorter and wider trench, targeted where possible on potential hearth locations, a portion of the interior of the enclosure (to identify 'settling tanks'), the enclosure ditch and entrance area, would allow better identification of components of the saltern and where to place interventions to best characterise these features in terms of their extent, depth and condition. The wider stripped area allowed for increased understanding of the salterns' morphology and the chance of identifying and disentangling any multi-phase use of the sites. Trench locations and their justification are listed in Table 6 below.

Area	Trench Number	Size	Justification
A	1052	6m x 6m	Targets S of probable saltern.
A	1053	7m x 7m	Targets NE quarter of probable saltern.
B	2095	6m x 6m	Targets NW quarter of probable saltern.
B	2096	6m x 6m	Targets NW quarter of probable saltern.
B	2097	7m x 7m	Targets NW quarter and entrance area of probable saltern.
B	2098	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter and entrance area of probable saltern.
B	2099	7m x 7m	Targets W side and internal features of probable saltern complex.
B	2100	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter of probable saltern.
B	2101	6m x 6m	Targets NE quarter and entrance area of probable saltern.
B	2102	10m x 10m	Targets W side of probable saltern complex.
B	2103	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter of probable saltern complex.
B	2104	6m x 6m	Targets SW quarter of probable saltern.
B	2105	8m x 8m	Targets NW quarter, entrance, and internal features of probable saltern.
B	2107	8m x 7m	Targets N and S sides of two adjacent salterns.
B	2108	8m x 5m	Targets E side and internal area of probable saltern.
B	2109	5m x 5m	Targets SW quarter of probable saltern.
B	2110	7m x 7m	Targets E side and internal area of probable saltern.
B	2111	6m x 6m	Targets NW quarter and entrance of probable saltern.
B	2115	50m x 2m	Targets internal area of two possible ovoid/rectangular salterns.
B	2116	50m x 2m	Targets northern half possible small saltern and adjacent linear feature
B	2121	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter and internal feature of probable saltern.
B	2122	10m x 8m	Targets possible enclosure ditch and W half of possible saltern within this.
B	2123	16 x 4m	Targets two possible salterns.
B	2124	5m x 5m	Targets E sides of two probable salterns immediately adjacent to each other.
B	2125	7m x 7m	Targets E side and internal area of probable saltern.
B	2127	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter of probable saltern.
B	2128	10m x 5m	Targets NW area of possible salterns.
C	3072	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter of probable saltern complex.

Table 6: Trenches with potential saltern features

5.1.13 Where clusters of salterns were anticipated, such as in fields B-1-08, B-1-13 and B-1-14, trenching was undertaken on a sub-sample of potential salterns. Potential salterns at the edge of the clusters were trenched as well as any potential saltern in the cluster located on higher ground in order to identify any difference in depth/preservation of remains. The results of the sample evaluation can be extrapolated to give a good understanding of the archaeological potential and inform any future mitigation strategies. This method also had the advantage of preserving the remains *in-situ* if further work is to be carried out, or if the area is descoped.

5.1.14 Trench size varied according to the saltern. However, the majority of potential saltern enclosures on the Site range from 8 to 12 meters in diameter. A typical trench size for a saltern in this range was 36-64 m². These trenches were enlarged as necessary in order to identify interior features or map the extent of a hearth/oven-like feature.

Geoarchaeological Test Pits

5.1.15 Test pits have been located in areas between roddons where it was anticipated that fewer significant archaeological deposits would be located. It was assumed that the alluvial deposits outside of the roddons would be of sufficient depth to preserve any *in-situ* deposits of

archaeological significance given the limited impact of the PV modules at certain depths. The test pits also provide information relating to the depositional sequence of the fen to determine if inter-roddon organic or gravel deposits are present which might suggest locales for human activity.

5.2 Setting out and site survey

- 5.2.1 All spatial setting out and recording was done in accordance with the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Survey Newlyn Datum (ODN) as defined by the OS Active GNSS network (OS Net). The trenches were set out by a trained and competent YA operative.
- 5.2.1 Trenches were located using a Leica CS15/GS15 RTK Differential GNSS GPS, and points laid out to a horizontal accuracy of +/-50mm.
- 5.2.2 Following trenching, the resulting exposed surface was recorded in spot heights of sufficient density to define the landform. A preliminary record of the outlines of all potential archaeological features and significant deposit changes were also included. The resulting trench plans were updated where necessary and used for recording and communicating the excavation sampling strategy.
- 5.2.3 Plans of the excavated parts of general archaeological deposits and feature outlines were mechanically recorded in line with the Site Survey Strategy and in adherence to the Data Management Plan (Appendix 2), with internal detail added by digital mechanical or hand recording. Sections were recorded by hand. All hand drawings were recorded in relation to baselines recorded mechanically by GPS. The record of features contain at least: context numbers, all colour and textural changes of fills, principal slopes and spot-heights on the excavated shape.
- 5.2.4 Where photogrammetric recording was employed on the Site, the methodology followed standards set out in the York Archaeology Excavation Manual (2024). Each photogrammetric model was georeferenced according to standard site surveying methodology (as detailed above).

5.3 Machine excavation of trenches

- 5.3.1 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, YA had a PAS 128 desk search for services undertaken to inform the archaeological evaluation. This was used in conjunction with the safety buffer zones around buried and overhead services provided by the Consultant.
- 5.3.2 Prior to excavation, each trench and test pit area were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT4) and signal generator ('Genny') by a trained YA operative in order to locate any buried services not shown on the services plans supplied by the PAS 128 desk search and the Consultant.
- 5.3.3 Machine excavation was undertaken using tracked 360-degree excavators fitted with toothless ditching buckets of 2m length, under constant archaeological supervision by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist so that a clean surface can be exposed. Hand-cleaning of surfaces was undertaken in various occasions to enhance visibility. During excavation areas were scanned with a CAT and Genny to locate any services that may have not been shown on the service plans provided by the client.

- 5.3.4 Each trench was excavated to a level at which archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate were present. Topsoil and subsoil deposits, where encountered, were excavated in spits no greater than 250mm. Each spit was examined carefully to assist the recovery of archaeologically significant artefacts and to help determine when to cease machining.
- 5.3.5 All care was taken to avoid land drain strikes during mechanical excavation. However, when land drains were damaged by the machine, they were photographed and the Consultant, Client and Landowner notified as a matter of priority. After inspection by the Landowner decisions were made on whether or not the drain is active and in need of repair. Repairs were undertaken by staff and used suitable plastic pipe. Photographs were taken and the repairs were open to inspection before being signed off on by the Landowner for backfill. Any damage to land drains were recorded in the site diary, and repairs were made subsequent to discussion and approval.
- 5.3.6 In the early stages of the evaluation a small quantity of trenches were excavated beyond a safe working depth in order to assess the general stratigraphy and its relationship to the archaeological horizon. These trenches were not entered and were fenced to prevent accidental entry.

5.4 Machine excavation of test pits

- 5.4.1 Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated to the bedrock, or to the maximum safe extent of the machine bucket/soils stability, whichever was shallower. The pits were recorded by a geoarchaeologist using the Troels-Smith (1955) system of sediment classification (Appendix A). The scheme breaks down a sediment sample into four main components and allows the inclusion of extra components that are also present, but that are not dominant. Key physical properties of the sediment layers are darkness (Da), stratification (St), elasticity (El), dryness of the sediment (Sicc) and the sharpness of the upper sediment boundary (UB). Water strike will also be recorded.
- 5.4.2 A summary of the sedimentary and physical properties classified by Troels-Smith (1955) and a stratigraphic breakdown of the deposits were recorded on proforma log sheets.
- 5.4.3 The logs were supplemented by digital photography carried out using a DSLR with a minimum sensor size of 10 megapixels. All photography will adhere to Historic England guidance for Digital Image Capture and File Storage (HE 2015c). Graduated metric scales of appropriate lengths were used, ensuring the use of vertical scales used against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales. Digital photographs intended for archive purposes will comply with AAF and ADS guidance (i.e. high quality non-proprietary raw files (DNG) or TIFF images).
- 5.4.4 Grab-sampling was carried out on deposits with the potential to provide palaeoenvironmental data or material for radiocarbon or dendrochronological dating. Sampling was based on the judgement of the attending geoarchaeologist and sought to characterise the broad sequence of deposits.

5.5 Backfilling

- 5.5.1 Topsoil and subsoil were kept separate during removal and stored separately at either side of the trench to enable sequential backfilling of the excavations. Topsoil and subsoil bunds were placed at a safe distance (minimum 1m) from the trench edge. Spoil was checked for artefacts both visually and with a metal detector when safe to do so. The location of any artefacts

recovered in the topsoil/subsoil was recorded three-dimensionally or by context/spit if appropriate.

- 5.5.2 All trenches were empty of water when backfilled however water ingress was generally not found to be a problem during the evaluation.

5.6 Roddon recording

- 5.6.1 The trench design took advantage of opportunities to record deposits within the roddons sequences, particularly within the more minor creek systems. Machine excavated sections were undertaken in areas of low densities of archaeological features and were recorded as detailed in section 4.4. All roddons were located with GNSS and any sample recovery was carried out in relation to the archaeological remains and on the advice of the geoarchaeologist.

5.7 Hand excavation and recording

- 5.7.1 Hand excavation of all features sought to minimise the disturbance to the archaeological resource at the evaluation stage in a manner which sufficiently characterised the date, nature and form of the features identified. Sample excavation of features adhered to standard methods as detailed in the WSI (York Archaeology 2025a) and as aligned with the specification provided by the Consultant (JBA 2025). YA provided weekly reports to the Client and Consultant on the trench excavation process.
- 5.7.2 Suitably experienced and trained staff employed metal detectors to scan for metallic finds during the excavation of all archaeological features and deposits. In addition, spoil heaps were subject to metal detector survey and any finds retrieved shall had approximate locations recorded and plotted on suitable plans within the report. Metal detectors were not be set to discriminate against iron.
- 5.7.3 A sufficient sample of archaeological features and deposits were fully excavated/sampled to allow the resolution of the aims and objectives of the work. This included all archaeological features and deposits (unless otherwise agreed with the LPA), with the exception of repeating features in trench bases, such as furrows and land drains, or established continuation of recent features such as post-medieval field boundaries.
- 5.7.4 Investigative slots across linear features were no less than 1m wide and excavated at approximately 90 degrees to the longitudinal axis to provide a cross section in profile. Discreet features were half-sectioned (subject to 50% sample by volume) or excavated in quadrants where they are large or found to be deep. Intersecting features were investigated to determine the relationship between them.
- 5.7.5 Cross-sections were cut vertically and cleaned by hand to enhance definition of stratigraphic sequences. Feature fills were removed by contextual change (the smallest usefully definable unit of stratification) and/or in spits no greater than 100mm.
- 5.7.6 No features were excavated beyond a safe working depth.

5.8 Recording

- 5.8.1 All features were planned, either digitally or hand drawn, and located on appropriate scale plans. Plans show the limits of the trench edges and are related to the OS grid. Digital plans

were undertaken with the use of a RTK GNSS and will show at least: context numbers, all colour and contextual changes, principal slopes and levels expressed as O.D. values. Stratigraphically complex features may be supplemented with a hand drawn plan on drafting film at a scale of 1:10/1:20 (as appropriate). The location of all drawing points were surveyed.

- 5.8.2 Sections were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:10/1:20/1:50 (as appropriate). Levelling information and surface heights were recorded using RTK GNSS, accurate to 0.03m. Ordnance Survey Benchmarks (OSBM) were not used.
- 5.8.1 All archaeological features, layers or deposits were allocated unique context numbers prior to any hand excavation. These were recorded on pro-forma digital or paper context sheets describing each deposit in line with the YA excavation manual (York Archaeology 2024), detailing character, contextual relationships, a detailed description, associated finds, interpretation, and cross referencing to the drawn, photographic and finds records. On-site matrices were compiled during the excavation such that the results of the written stratigraphic records may be fully analysed and phased.
- 5.8.2 The stratigraphy of a representative sample of all trenches (including trenches of no archaeological significance) were recorded and will comprise a full vertical sequence (section) cleaned by hand from the top of the ploughsoil/topsoil to the base of the trench to establish the presence or absence of vestigial old land surface soils and other stratified deposits. These were photographed, drawn and recorded. Topsoil and subsoil will be recorded in the same manner as any other archaeological deposits, with full soil descriptions.
- 5.8.1 The photographic record comprises digital photography carried out using a DSLR with a minimum sensor size of 12.7 megapixels, capable of shooting at a high resolution. All photography adhered to Historic England guidance Digital Image Capture and File Storage (HE 2015c). Graduated metric scales of appropriate lengths were used, ensuring the use of vertical scales used against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales. Digital photographs intended for archive purposes will comply with AAF and ADS guidance i.e. high quality non-proprietary raw files (DNG) or TIFF images as laid out in Appendix 2 (Data Management Plan). Digital images of each context were taken together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations. Appropriate record photographs were taken to illustrate work in progress. All photographs will be listed and indexed in the archive. The photographic record will be included in the archive.
- 5.8.2 A change to context numbering was made during the early stages of the evaluation. The earlier context numbering system was not tied to the trench numbers, while the later system was built with that relation. Context numbers were amended in retrospect to reflect this change and the original context records were amended. A small register of amended context numbers was created to track these changes and prevent loss of data. The original numbers are sometimes present within photographs. This change affected 59 context numbers.

5.9 Finds

- 5.9.1 All archaeological finds encountered during the trial trench evaluation were collected, including those recovered in topsoils and subsoils. The finds were exposed, lifted and treated as recommended in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998). After safe removal, finds were bagged or packed, labelled to the deposit they were found in by a context number or spit. Finds of particular interest were retrieved as Registered Finds and 3-D located on Site. No finds, other than clearly modern objects, were discarded without prior approval by the YA post-excavation team.

- 5.9.2 All retained artefacts were removed from site for specialist examination and assessment, and if deemed necessary, conservation. Cleaning and catalogue of objects took place at YA facilities, to ensure a controlled environment and provide an appropriate response to each material type and individual object.
- 5.9.3 Recording, preliminary cleaning and storage of finds was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2020), First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).
- 5.9.4 All retained artefacts have been listed and quantified (weighed and divided into coherent material classes) in a spreadsheet. All artefacts will be analysed by the relevant specialists as defined in the WSI (York Archaeology 2025a).
- 5.9.5 Waterlogged wood was found in Trench 2067, Field B-1-14. This was recorded on pro-forma wood sheets supplemented with digital photography and a sample was retained following consultation with the relevant specialists. Possible waterlogged leather was recovered from Trench 1053, Field A-1-07. All waterlogged items removed from the site were stored in acid-free bags with a small amount of water as a temporary storage before further study and conservation. Recovery, storage and analysis of waterlogged materials was undertaken and will be undertaken in line with the guidelines in *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018) and *Waterlogged Wood: Historic England Draft Guidelines on the Excavation, Recording, Sampling and Conservation of Waterlogged Wood* (Historic England 2024a).
- 5.9.6 Any waterlogged items were stored according to the HE guidance listed above, including keeping the items stored in wet, dark and cold environments. Further study by appropriate specialists has been organised. Following specialist analysis, any items recommended for conservation will be stabilised at the YA conservation facilities.

5.10 Environmental Sampling

- 5.10.1 The purpose of archaeological sampling at the evaluation stage was to identify the range of environmental materials present within the Site, their preservation, significance and distribution, as well as to inform on the general environmental conditions and dietary evidence of the sites' inhabitants. This will be achieved through the retrieval of charred macro and microfossils, faunal remains, as well as the retrieval of waterlogged plant macro and microfossils, insect, faunal remains, molluscs, pollen and other biological remains from waterlogged deposits. The sampling followed procedures set out within the Historic England Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology and Geoarchaeology (HE 2011 and HE 2015b).
- 5.10.2 The site had the potential for features associated with Iron Age, Roman and medieval activity, including settlement, agricultural practices and salt-making. Sampling therefore targeted a percentage of the following where present:
- Archaeological features identified as cropmarks or geophysical anomalies which are likely associated with potentially Iron Age, Roman or medieval activity (i.e., ditches, gullies, earthworks) as well as other relevant remains (i.e., pits or postholes). Basal samples from ditches that represent primary deposition were targeted;

- Particular attention was given to remains associated with settlement, any remains associated with salt-making (i.e. enclosures, settling tanks, ovens/hearths), other industrial activity and deposits associated with funerary activity;
- Salterns, given their likely number and complexity, were selectively sampled, for charred plant macrofossils, molluscs, diatoms, and radiocarbon dating. Up to three examples were targeted for sampling which will be designed to understand the age and levels of preservation within the deposits rather than a comprehensive study of the depositional history of each feature;
- Roddon deposits were sampled in relation to key archaeological remains; up to four sequences were recovered for potential waterlogged macrofossil, molluscan, microfossil and radiocarbon dating using a combination of Kubiena tins and measured 10L bulk samples. There may also be the potential to recover samples for OSL dating in the absence of in situ organic remains;
- In addition to these main 'master' sequences, when other deposits were encountered of palaeoenvironmental or archaeological significance these were also sampled on the advice of the geoarchaeologist;
- Deposits representing the main phases of human activity on-site, or deposits that were multi-phase in nature (to assess whether there are changes in rates of deposition or material survival over time); and
- As appropriate, samples of a percentage of archaeological deposits that are undated, but have the potential to be of archaeological significance (i.e. deposit types notable for the scarcity of artefactual evidence)

5.10.3 Sampling did not only target charcoal rich or wet deposits, but was also undertaken on those features outlined above and in the preliminary Site Sampling Strategy found in the WSI (York Archaeology 2025a).

5.10.4 This ensured that samples were recovered from a representative range of contexts, which adequately characterise past activities at the Site and allow an assessment to be made of the extent to which they help address palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic questions. The sampling of features followed procedures set out in Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the theory and practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2011).

5.10.5 Samples for charred plant macrofossils and charcoal were generally 40 litres and were processed within the York Archaeology Environmental Lab, under the supervision of York Archaeology Environmental Officer Stacey Adams.

5.10.6 Material of post-glacial date can be submitted for radiocarbon AMS dating, single entity macrofossils and identifiable small diameter roundwood can be selected where possible. If no such remains were encountered then bulk sediment could be submitted for dating. Should minerogenic deposits of Pleistocene age be encountered, OSL dating will be recommended. All dating will follow Historic England guidance for *Radiocarbon dating and Chronological Modelling* (Historic England 2022).

5.10.7 Samples were protected at all times from temperatures below 5°C and above 25°C and from wetting and drying out due to weather exposure. YA ensured all samples were taken off site

as soon as practicable to ensure that they are stored appropriately. Cores and subsamples will be retained for a maximum of two years when discard permission will be sought.

- 5.10.8 The deposits will be considered in line with Historic England Guidance for *Preserving archaeological remains: Decision-taking for sites under development* (HE 2016). This will comprise a Tier 1 assessment and will pay particular attention to *chapter 4 water availability and stresses* and *Appendix 3* when considering direct and indirect impacts on water levels within the deposits. In addition, if possible consideration will also be given to the removal of the solar arrays and the likely affects this process will also have on the deposits.

5.11 Human Remains

- 5.11.1 No in situ human remains were identified on the Site. A single human tibia was identified within the animal bone assemblage following excavation. This bone and any other human bones will be recorded in accordance with the *Updated Guidelines for the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (Mitchell and Brickley 2017).

6 POST-EXCAVATION

6.1 Artefact Processing

- 6.1.1 All finds were cleaned, conserved, marked, packed and stored as recommended in the “First Aid for Finds” (Watkinson and Neal 1998) and following the “Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials” (ClfA, 2014). The selected artefacts, following agreement with the museum services, will be marked with the site, find number and accession code and deposited with the Lincolnshire Museum, on completion of the final report.
- 6.1.2 The retention of finds will be considered by specialists who will act according to the selection strategy using the ClfA Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives (<http://archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit>; ClfA and HE 2019). The project archive will be deposited with the appropriate repository on completion and approval of the final report.
- 6.1.3 All retained artefacts were quantified (weighed and divided into coherent material classes) and catalogued. All artefacts will be analysed by suitable specialists.

6.2 Deposit modelling

- 6.2.1 A deposit model will be constructed using the results of the test pits, existing British Geological Survey records and any other GI works undertaken at the site. The modelling will follow procedures set out within the Historic England Guidance for Deposit Modelling and Archaeology (Historic England 2020).
- 6.2.2 The lithological and stratigraphic data from the BGS logs and purposive trial pits will be entered into a Rockworks database in order to generate 3-D solid models, fence diagrams and cross sections to provide an initial visualisation of the deposits at the site. In addition, surfaces may be created to aid visualisation using ArcGis incorporating available Lidar data as digital terrain models with multi-directional hillshading and/or local relief modelling used to aid interpretation.
- 6.2.3 This will provide a conceptual model of the site in three dimensions and will show levels of oxidation (affecting preservation), water strike and levels of archaeological remains/deposits (periodised if possible) where present. This will represent an initial model of the site which can be updated and tested with any subsequent phases of work.
- 6.2.4 The data will be archived in an excel spreadsheet.

6.3 Reporting

- 6.3.1 This interim report follows an Interim Statement (York Archaeology 2025b), which was produced during fieldwork. This document will be superseded a full report. A draft will be submitted in April 2026 and the full report in May 2026.

6.4 Subsequent reporting

- 6.4.1 If results are deemed to be significant then an individual report of an appropriate level of detail, will also be submitted for dissemination through publication on a suitable academic journal or platform. Other outreach opportunities will be discussed between YA, the Client and LPA which may include a presentation made to local archaeology/history societies or

similar bodies and through the dissemination of information in publications such as local magazines. Client permission will also be sought for the dissemination of results via social media.

- 6.4.2 York Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents, or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to the client and their appointed agent/consultant for the use of such documents in all matters directly relating to the project, with no limitation on the number of times that the client/consultant may reproduce any report.

6.5 Archive and Finds Deposition

- 6.5.1 The archive will be fully catalogued and prepared to recognised standards (Brown 2011; ADS 2024), following the archiving guidelines in Chapter 17, *The Archive* from the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2024) and contain where relevant: copies of correspondence relating to fieldwork, site notebooks/diaries, original photographic records, site drawings (plans, sections, elevations), original context records showing stratigraphic sequence of all contexts, artefacts, original finds records, original sample records, computer discs and printouts.
- 6.5.2 The digital archive will be prepared following guidelines set out in *Guides to Good Practice* (Archaeology Data Service 2025).
- 6.5.3 Contact with the appropriate museum will be made prior to commencement of fieldwork. Final deposition will be made using the appropriate notification form and adhering to all relevant conditions. The LPA and the museum curator will be notified in writing on completion of fieldwork, with a proposed timetable for deposition of the archive. This should be confirmed in the assessment report. The LPA must be informed in writing on final deposition of archive.
- 6.5.4 The paper and artefactual archive generated by York Archaeology will remain safely stored by the unit until deposited with the appropriate museum. Deposition of finds with the appropriate museum will take place after signing of the Transfer of Title by the landowner(s). The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.
- 6.5.5 The archive will be deposited within 12 months of approval of the full report.

6.6 OASIS

- 6.6.1 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> was initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the County HER. A digital copy of the report will be uploaded with the online OASIS record, which will be released onto the Archaeological Data Services (ADS) at an appropriate time.
- 6.6.2 A summary OASIS form is included in Appendix 4.

7 INTERIM RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

7.1 Overview

- 7.1.1 The trial trench evaluation revealed significant archaeological evidence spread across the Scheme. The trench design, based on the aerial and geophysical surveys undertaken prior to excavation, targeted areas initially theorised to comprise Iron Age to Roman salt making activity (York Archaeology 2025a).
- 7.1.2 As the works progressed, the majority of circular features identified by the geophysics to represent potential salterns in Areas A, B and C, were not suggestive of salt production. These features generally comprised ring gullies without the diagnostic features of salterns such as the dense spreads of briquetage, clay lined settling tanks and hearths (Lane 2008) and can be alternatively interpreted as possible roundhouses/temporary dwellings. The exceptions to this were the saltern complexes in Trenches 3005 and 3072 in Fields C-1-01 and C-1-03, Area C. In Area D more salterns were present including smaller, slightly isolated salterns in Trench 4104, Field D-3-01 and Trench 4098, Field D-3-02. Saltern complexes, were also located at the edges of associated settlements (Trench 4026, Field D-5-01 and Trench 4033, Field D-6).
- 7.1.3 The remainder of the geophysical anomalies corresponded to various types of enclosures, ditches, water channels and settlement areas. A provisional Roman date could be attributed to many of the features identified and the Roman activity across the Site appeared to encompass at least three types of landscape use: settlement, peripheral and probable seasonal activity with associated temporary dwelling, and salt production. Most features were located on roddons which represented dry ground amid fenland (East Anglian Archaeology 1992). The evidence confirmed that Roman land use was strongly associated with the roddon topography.
- 7.1.4 Later agricultural features spanning at least the post-medieval and modern periods, with many undated elements, were also identified across the Scheme. The relationship of these features with the roddons was found to vary, reflecting the development of the agricultural systems alongside the changing environment and fenland drainage. All ditches and linear features were assessed alongside cartographic evidence from 1887 OS mapping as part of this report (OS 1887a–OS1887e; Figures 3b, 4b and 5b).
- 7.1.5 A total of 406 trenches were excavated across the Scheme. A total of 80 trenches were found to be archaeologically blank (Trenches 1002, 1007, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1014, 1017, 1018, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1035, 1037, 1045, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 2110, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2029, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2045, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2054, 2056, 2070, 2071, 2074, 2079, 2083, 2086, 2098, 2103, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2116, 2133, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2143, 3036, 3041, 3061, 3068, 3069, 3073, 4002, 4004, 4076, 4083, 4087, 4092, 4093, 4096, 4113, 4159, 4168, 4171 and 4174). These trenches are not going to be described in this report.
- 7.1.6 The results of the archaeological evidence are summarised below by area and respective field. Full context descriptions for all trenches can be found in Appendix 1.

7.2 Area A

- 7.2.1 Area A was identified by the geophysical and aerial survey to contain a lower density of archaeological remains in comparison with other areas of the Scheme (Figures 3a, 3b and 7–21; Plates 1–62). This area is located at a distance from any known heritage assets, in contrast

to Areas B and C. The roddon system within the area was broadly formed of an approximately 230m wide, north to south aligned roddon, located within Field A-1-11. Smaller branches of roddon were present in the other fields (A-1-01, A-1-02, A-1-03, A-1-04, A-1-05, A-1-06, A-1-07, A-1-08, A-1-09, A-1-10 and A-1-12), but these broadly varied from 24m–80m in width.

- 7.2.2 Activity of potential prehistoric or Roman date consisted of ring gullies representing possible roundhouses (Trenches 1052, 1053) and nearby ditch (Trench 1033) in Field A-1-7.
- 7.2.3 Linear cropmarks were present predominantly in the eastern side of the area, straddling the roddon and the area outside. Not all of these features were found in the trench bases, but the majority of confirmed linear features were found to correspond to mapped historical field boundaries or could be dated to the medieval and/or post-medieval periods (OS 1887e; Figure 03b).
- 7.2.4 Area A had a total of 23 archaeologically blank trenches: 1002, 1007, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1014, 1017, 1018, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1035, 1037, 1045, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050 and 1051.

Stratigraphy

- 7.2.5 The stratigraphy varied slightly across the area with various sediments found forming the roddons, marine alluviums, subsoils and topsoils. These are summarised below, by field. Silty blueish subsoils were often found overlying the roddons and the features present, indicating that water inundation continued in this area following the formation of the roddons and earlier human activity.

Changes to scope

- 7.2.6 Trench 1004 in Field A-1-12 was descoped due to an UXO exclusion zone.

Field A-1-01 (Trenches 1021–1026; Figures 3a, 3b and 7; Plates 1–6)

- 7.2.7 Field A-1-01 is located in the western extent of Area A and contains three small area of roddon. Two trenches, targeting apparently blank areas outside the roddons (1021 and 1022), were found to be archaeologically blank. A linear anomaly on a roddon was targeted by Trench 1024, which was found to be geological in nature.
- 7.2.8 An east to west aligned ditch was identified in Trench 1025 alongside a parallel modern linear feature. Trench 1026 targeted another linear feature and roddon and revealed two ditches which appeared to follow the roddon contour (Plate 6).
- 7.2.9 The roddon was composed of yellow-brown silty sand and the marine alluviums varied in composition between yellow-brown clay, dark and mid-grey-brown clay and pale-blue-grey clay. A micro-tidal clay channel and a natural formed channel were also found in Trenches 1024 and 1025. In two trenches (1021 and 1025) a blueish silty clay subsoil was present, this measured 0.12m in depth. The overlying topsoil measured 0.23m–0.63m in depth.

Field A-1-02 (Trenches 1019, 1020 and 1023; Figures 3a and 3b; Plates 7–10)

- 7.2.10 Field A-1-02 is located in the north-western part of Area A. A single thin roddon is present in the field with two smaller branches. A total of three trenches were excavated: Trench 1023, which targeted an amorphous geophysical anomaly between the roddons; Trench 1020, which targeted an apparently blank area between roddons; and Trench 1019, which was excavated

across the roddon. All but Trench 1019, which contained six furrows, were archaeologically blank (Plate 8).

- 7.2.11 The roddon was found to be composed of a mid-yellowish-brown, silty sand. Marine alluvium was recorded in all tree trenches and was found to comprise a yellow-brown, compact clay. Subsoil was present in two trenches (1019 and 1023) and comprised a light blue-grey, silty clay, measuring 0.3m in depth. The overlying topsoil measured 0.3m–0.5m in depth and comprised a grey brown, silty clay or clay silt.

Field A-1-03 (Trenches 1027–1030; Figures 3a and 3b; Plates 11–15)

- 7.2.12 In Field A-1-03, two areas of roddon are present. Two trenches targeted the northern roddon (1027 and 1028), and two trenches targeted the southern roddon (1029 and 1030). Furrows were present in Trenches 1029 and 1030 and a modern linear feature was found in Trench 1029. The trenches were otherwise blank.

- 7.2.13 The roddons were found to be composed of orange brown silty clays and marine alluvium was only encountered in one trench (1030), where it was found to be a grey brown compact clay. These layers were directly overlain by 0.21m–0.324m of topsoil.

Field A-1-04 (Trench 1031; Figures 3a and 3b; Plate 16)

- 7.2.14 Trench 1031 was excavated in Field A-1-04, targeting a linear anomaly identified to the north of a roddon. The excavation revealed that the feature represented a natural water channel.

Field A-1-05 (Trenches 1038–1043 and 1049; Figures 3a, 3b, 10 and 11; Plates 17–24)

- 7.2.15 Field A-1-05 is located in the northern part of Area 1. It contained three thin braids of roddon and was identified as containing a sparse distribution of linear anomalies. Linear features were found in Trenches 1038–1043 at a slightly higher density than foreseen and were generally found to date to the post-medieval and modern periods (Plate 19). A shallow palaeochannel [104008] was present in Trench 1040 and Trench 1049 was archaeologically blank.

- 7.2.16 The roddons in this field were light grey orange in colour and the marine alluvium were generally blueish, sometimes with orange mottles or lens of orange brown clay. These layers were directly overlain by topsoil, measuring 0.33m–0.55m in depth.

Field A-1-06 (Trenches 1017, 1018 and 1047; Figures 3a and 3b; Plates 25–28)

- 7.2.17 Field A-1-06 is located in the area between the larger roddons in Area A, with a single thin branch of roddon present. A total of three trenches were excavated in this area, 1017 and 1018, which targeted linear anomalies in the northern part of the field. Trench 1047 targeted an apparently blank area between roddons. All the trenches were found to be archaeologically blank.

- 7.2.18 A simple overlying stratigraphy of subsoil and topsoil was recorded.

Field A-1-07 (Trenches 1032, 1033 and 1053; Figures 3a, 3b, 13 and 14; Plates 29 and 30)

- 7.2.19 Field A-1-07 is located towards the centre of Area A and contains a large roddon and a smaller roddon extension. A linear feature following the contour of the roddon, and a circular feature were both identified anomalies on the larger roddon. These were found to correspond to archaeological features.

- 7.2.20 The circular feature was targeted by a square trench (Trench 1053) as a potential saltern. It was investigated with four intervention slots which identified it as a ring gully and found that it was flat based in profile. No internal features were present, indicating that an interpretation as a roundhouse feature is more likely. Based on the geophysical survey it probably has a diameter of 10m. A series of possible postholes were found in the base of the gully, but these may also represent natural features formed by alluvial conditions. The finds included a possible leather item, briquetage and animal bone.
- 7.2.21 The linear feature, [103304] in Trench 1033, was found to be a shallow undated ditch with a blueish grey clay fill suggestive of infilling in waterlogged conditions. Based on its position following the roddon contour, a water management function is likely.
- 7.2.22 Trench (1032), targeting the smaller roddon braid, was found to be archaeologically blank.
- 7.2.23 The roddon in this field was formed of orange-grey-yellow sand. The marine alluvium, between the roddons was formed of mottled orange and blue, mid to dark grey silty clay. No subsoil was present and the overlying topsoil was a dark-grey-brown silt, measuring 0.41m–0.55m.

Field A-1-08 (Trenches 1036, 1037 and 1052; Figures 3a, 3b and 14; Plates 31–34)

- 7.2.24 Field A-1-08 is located in the southern part of Area A and contains a small roddon meander. The three trenches targeted a linear anomaly that appeared to follow the roddon contour (Trenches 1036 and 1037) and a circular feature (Trench 1052).
- 7.2.25 Trenches 1036 and 1037 found naturally formed features, including channels possibly formed via the movement of water.
- 7.2.26 The circular feature, targeted by Trench 1052, was found to represent an undated curvilinear gully (Plate 34). This was small in size with a V-shaped profile, width of 0.35m and depth of 0.2m and appeared to have infilled via marine silting. Based on the geophysical survey, it probably has a diameter of 10.9m and based on its location, outside the roddon, and its infill, it is likely that it represented a temporary, or seasonal structure.
- 7.2.27 Multiple layers of marine alluvium were seen in the trenches in this field, often with orange mottling and the curvilinear gully in Trench 152 was directly overlain by the topsoil. This was a grey brown clay–silty clay, which had a consistent depth of 0.37m–0.4m.

Field A-1-09 (Trenches 1014–1016 and 1048; Figures 3a, 3b and 12; Plates 35–40)

- 7.2.28 Field A-1-09 is located in the central part of Area A and contains an approximately 100m wide branch of roddon. A series of linear anomalies, confined to the roddon and continued into Field A-1-11 to the east, were identified in the geophysical survey. The trenches were, however, generally archaeologically blank, with the exception of Trench 1016, which contained a ditch [101603] and Trench 1015, which contained a post-medieval ditch.
- 7.2.29 The ditch [101603] (width >2m, depth 0.46m) in Trench 1016, followed the roddon contour and a series of similarly aligned furrows on the roddon (Plate 38). It also aligned with a field boundary seen in 1887 OS mapping, while the furrows can be broadly dated via function to the medieval/post-medieval period (OS 1887e; Figure 03b). These features demonstrate utilisation of the roddons for agriculture in this period, while the cartographical evidence indicates that this boundary, once established, was utilised into the 19th century. This may tie

into regional research questions about agriculture in the fen and the process of land reclaiming in the medieval to post-medieval periods.

- 7.2.30 The roddons in this field were found to be composed of yellow brown silty clay. The marine alluviums included grey-brown clays and mottled orange and blue silty clay. Subsoil was seen in the trenches on the roddon (1014–1016), and ranged between light blue grey silty clay and dark grey brown silt, both indicating wet conditions in the period following the agricultural activity in Trench 1016. This subsoil ranged in depth from 0.28m–0.35m, followed by a grey-brown sand–dark brown silty topsoil which ranged in depth from 0.08m in Trench 1016 on the roddon, to 0.55m in Trench 1048, which was located off the roddon.

Field A-1-10 (Trenches 1034 and 1035; Figures 3a, 3b and 15; Plates 41–44)

- 7.2.31 Field A-1-10 is located to the south of Field A-1-09 and was identified to supposedly comprise a roddon-free area. A single curvilinear anomaly was identified in the south-eastern corner of the field. One of the trenches excavated in this field found three undated ditches (Trench 1034) and the second was found to be blank (Trench 1035). The curvilinear anomaly identified during the geophysics was not targeted during the evaluation.
- 7.2.32 The three undated ditches in Trench 1034, had not been identified by the geophysical survey. They ranged from shallow and U-shaped [103405] to sharply defined and narrow [103407] (Plate 43) and were found on differing alignments. Ditch [103403] appeared to represent a ditch corner (Plate 42). Their function remains unknown at this stage.
- 7.2.33 Areas of roddon were found in Trench 1035, despite forecasts. The marine alluvium in this field was found to be a blue-orange-grey, sandy clay. The overlying subsoil was a grey-orange-brown sandy silt, ranging between 0.25m–0.34m and the topsoil was a dark-grey-brown, silt measuring 0.27m–0.4m in depth.

Field A-1-11 (1003, 1005–1013, 1022, 1050 and 1051; Figures 3a, 3b and 17–20; Plates 45–56)

- 7.2.34 Field A-1-11 was the largest field in Area A, measuring approximately 48.8ha. It is located in the eastern half on the Area and contains a large roddon from where other roddons in the area branch off from. A series of linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, both on and off the roddon, and a small circular feature were recorded on the northern part of the roddon.
- 7.2.35 Many of the of the linear anomalies were not found or to be non-archaeological in nature (Trenches 1007, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1013, 1022, 1051). The confirmed linear features were found in Trenches 1003, 1005, 1006, 1008 and 1012. All of these with the exception of ditch [100503] in Trench 1005, were found to correspond to mapped field boundaries (OS 1887e; Figure 03b). Although, many of the geophysical linear anomalies were not present archaeologically, comparison with OS mapping indicates that they correspond to historical field boundaries, and may therefore represent features within the topsoil and subsoil. Finds from these features included a shotgun casing, glass, iron, animal bone, clay pipe and CBM.
- 7.2.36 In addition to the linear features two pits were present in Trench 1013 (Plate 53). No dating evidence was obtained and their function remains unclear.
- 7.2.37 The roddon was found to be composed of yellowish-brown–reddish -brown silty clay. The marine alluvium was composed of grey-brown clay. Subsoil was often present (Trenches 1010–1012, 1050 and 1051) trenches and was composed of blue grey silty clay, indicating

another period of water inundation following the formation of the roddon. It measured 0.17m–0.4m in depth. The overlying topsoil, was composed of grey-brown–black grey silt clay and measured 0.1m–0.39m in depth.

Field A-1-12 (1001, 1002, 1004 and 1045 and 1046; Figures 3a, 3b and 21; Plates 57–62)

- 7.2.38 The roddons in Field A-1-12 are small scale and considered as less likely to have been heavily used prior to the draining of the fen. A long linear feature and a pair of curvilinear anomalies following a roddon were identified in the north of the field.
- 7.2.39 The linear feature following the roddon was confirmed in Trench 1001, where it was identified as a relatively substantial, but undated, ditch [100105] (width 1m, depth >0.51m) (Plate 59). A series of ditches were found in Trench 1046, corresponding to both linear anomalies and a historic field boundary (OS 1887e; Figure 03b). A modern linear feature, possibly representing a mapped field boundary was also present. The finds included post-medieval and modern pottery, glass, animal bone and iron objects.
- 7.2.40 Trenches 1002 and 1045, in the southern part of the field, were found to be archaeologically negative. Trench 1004 was descope due to a UXO exclusion zone.
- 7.2.41 The roddon was found to be composed of light-yellow brown material, with traces of briquetage, probably included via distance or intrusive. The marine alluvium was found to be composed of mid blue grey sediment. A dark brown/grey brown subsoil (depth >0.15m–>0.23m) was found to be present above these, followed by a black grey/brown silty clay topsoil (depth >0.25m–>0.34m).

7.3 Areas B and C

- 7.3.1 Within Areas B (Figures 4a, 4b and 22–56; Plates 63–226) and C (Figures 5a, 5b and 57–80; Plates 227–312), archaeological activity was concentrated on a large roddon, present to the east. This geological formation occupies much of the footprint of Area C and branches into smaller roddons in Area B. Complexes of dense archaeological activity were identified in much of the Area C roddon area and continuing into Area B. A focus of activity was seen in the northern part of Area C, correlating with the known settlement west of Cate’s Cove Corner (NHLE: 1004979; ML20005; MLI22043) and the known settlement north-east of Whitbread Farm (NHLE 1004978; MLI20004).
- 7.3.2 The scheduled part of these settlements was excluded from the evaluation, although the non-designated parts of the assets were evaluated in Fields B-2, C-1-01, C-1-03 and C-2-02. A further non-designated heritage asset recording possible settlement (MLIO22032) is located at the boundary of Area B and C, straddling fields B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13 and B-1-14. Cropmarks believed to represent Roman settlement and salt making activity are also located in Field C-1-08, which was not included in the evaluation scope, partially extending into Fields C-1-06 and C-1-07 and within Fields C-1-01, C-2-05 (MLI22037; MLI2302; MLI20246). Further Roman settlement areas, salt making activity, and field systems, are recorded as heritage assets to the direct north and south of Areas B and C.
- 7.3.3 The geophysical anomalies identified in the evaluated parts of Areas B and C, included systems of parallel ditches, possibly functioning as water channels, circular features and rectilinear enclosures. Pottery was recovered from a number of contexts and this activity can be provisionally dated to the Roman period.
- 7.3.4 Within Area B, activity was predominantly identified in fields B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13 and B-1-14. Apparently roddon-free areas were present in fields B-1-02, B-1-03, B-1-04, B-1-05, B-1-06, B-3-01 and B5, with areas of possible archaeological anomalies identified in B-1-01 and B-1-07. Fields B-1-11 and B-3-02 were largely located between roddons.
- 7.3.5 Fields C-1-02, C-1-04, C-1-05, C-2-01, C-2-04, C-2-05 were identified as containing areas of apparently blank roddon while geophysical results for Fields C-1-01, C-1-03, C-1-06, C-1-07, C-1-08, C-2-02, C-2-03 showed the presence of dense archaeological remains.

Changes to scope

- 7.3.6 Additional trenches were designed for Fields B-1-12, B-3-02, B-3-01 and B5 in order to assess a proposed cable route and associated infrastructure. A further two trenches in Field C-2-02 were added to the scope during the works and two trenches (Trenches 3005 and 3072, Fields C-1-01, C-1-03) were extended to investigate potential saltern activity.
- 7.3.7 Field C-2-05 was descoped from the evaluation.

Results Overview

- 7.3.8 The area of dense archaeological anomalies identified along the large roddon in Areas B and C has been confirmed by the evaluation. This has generally found to be of Iron Age or Roman in date, but this is tentative at this stage of investigations.
- 7.3.9 In Fields C-1-01, C-1-03, C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-2-02, the activity appears to represent potential settlement activity. As the activity continues westwards through Fields B-1-13, B-1-14 and B-1-09 the density decreases, levels of enclosure decline and the activity may be more seasonal

or less permanent in nature. On the smaller branches of roddon, archaeological features are sparse consisting of ring gullies and occasional ditches (Fields B-1-03, B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-19, B-2 and C-1-05). The vast majority of features have been found to be concentrated on the roddons but, utilisation of the marine alluvium area was also evidenced, often with ring gullies and (Fields B-1-13 and B-2) occasionally possible droveways/ water management ditches (Field C-2-02).

- 7.3.10 Parallel ditches often seen following the edges of the roddon are frequently present, probably representing water management and droveways. Most of the identified circular anomalies have been identified and recharacterised as possible roundhouses; these are present in Fields B-1-03, B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13, B-1-14 and B-2. Features associated with salt making activity were identified in two trenches (Trenches 3005 and 3072, Fields C-1-01 and C-1-03).
- 7.3.11 The fill formations in features of probable Iron Age/Roman date were often suggestive of flooding and inundations of water.
- 7.3.12 This combined evidence is suggestive of seasonal activity associated the nearby settlement areas. The seasonal activity may have been pastoral in nature, based around accessing water meadows in drier periods. The levels of seasonality and provisional interpretations will be further refined as the investigations progresses.
- 7.3.13 Evidence for later activity was also present. This often took the form of long straight ditches, which did not respect the roddons, representing probable land and water management of uncertain date. Occasional post-medieval finds were retrieved from these ditches. Ditches which could be identified with 19th century field boundaries were occasionally present.
- 7.3.14 Wherever tested the geophysical survey has been found to be highly accurate.
- 7.3.15 A total of 44 trenches in Areas B and C were found to be archaeologically blank (Trenches 2110, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2029, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2045, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2054, 2056, 2070, 2071, 2074, 2079, 2083, 2086, 2098, 2103, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2116, 2133, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2143, 3036, 3041, 3061, 3068, 3069 and 3073).

Stratigraphy

- 7.3.16 The composition and depths of the marine alluvium, tidal clay, roddons and overlying layers varied across the two areas and have been presented in more detail per field. A broad stratigraphy of marine alluvium was present between the roddons, sometimes overlain by subsoil followed by topsoil was recorded, however test pitting sometimes revealed a more dynamic picture of the site formation.
- 7.3.17 Roddons were often found overlying marine alluvium, while further marine alluvium was sometimes found to be deposited following the formation of the roddon. Trench 2038, Field B-1-03, had a layer of marine alluvium overlying the roddon, indicating a possible rise in water levels and loss of dryland. The variation of redder oxidised alluvial layers, bluer non-oxidised alluvial layers, browner alluvial layers and the variations in marine alluvium composition, indicate a complex and changing environment.
- 7.3.18 Occasional additional layers were also present, including a possible occupational layer in Trench 2025, and layers of uncertain/natural formation in Trench 3075.

Field B-1-01 (Trenches 2012–2014, 2069, 2110 and 2115; Figures 4a, 4b, 27 and 28; Plates 63–69)

- 7.3.19 Field B-1-01 is located at the western side of Area B and contains two small branches of roddon. A series of features were predicted by the geophysical survey, including possible enclosure features, linear features and circular features. These were not limited by the extent of the roddon.
- 7.3.20 A shallow undated ditch [201203] (width 1.32m, depth 0.28m) was present in Trench 2012, corresponding to a predicted feature of uncertain character (Plate 65).
- 7.3.21 Ditches corresponding to both the predicted features were present in Trenches 2013, 2069 and 2115. These could be identified as historical field boundaries based on 1887 OS mapping (OS 1887c; Figure 04b). A small quantity of Roman pottery and briquetage was recovered, possibly representing residual finds. Trench 2010, which targeted a circular anomaly was found to be archaeologically blank.
- 7.3.22 The roddons in this field were found to be composed of orange-brown, silty clays occasionally mottled with whiteish sand. The marine alluvium was found to consistently compose a mid-blue-grey, silty clay and the overlying topsoil composed a dark-grey-brown, silty clay, measuring a consistent 0.33m–0.35m in depth.

Field B-1-02 (Trenches 2036, 2037, 2054, 2055 and 2072; Figures 4a, 4b, 29 and 30; Plates 70–75)

- 7.3.23 Field B-1-02 is located to the south of Field B-1-01 and contains an area of meandering roddon with small branches to the south. A few linear anomalies were identified in this field, all of which correlate with mapped historical field boundaries (OS 1887c). Palaeochannels and a small curvilinear feature were also identified on the roddons.
- 7.3.24 The curvilinear anomaly was confirmed in Trench 2055 [205502] (width 0.52m, depth <0.16m), where it was recorded as being relatively shallow with steep sides (Plate 74). It could be identified as a potential roundhouse, based on the geophysical evidence. A peaty fill was present indicating that it may have inundated towards the end of its use and formed part of the fen.
- 7.3.25 One of the mapped historical field boundaries was identified in Trench 2072 as a shallow ditch [207202] (width 2.06m, depth 0.32m), while the other anomalies respecting to field boundaries (Trenches 2054 and 2073) were not identified. Field boundaries within this field can be theorised to have been relatively shallow/ less intrusive.
- 7.3.26 Trench 2037 did not target any identified anomalies and was found to be blank.
- 7.3.27 The roddon was composed of yellow/orange-brown, clay silt with silty clay lenses. The marine alluvium was found to be a grey-brown, clay with orange flecking. The overlying topsoil was found to be 0.32m in depth.

Field B-1-03 (Trenches 2038–2042 and 2111; Figures 4a, 4b and 31; Plates 76–82)

- 7.3.28 The trenches in field B-1-03 were designed onto two apparently blank areas of roddon, both branching off from the large roddon in Area C.

- 7.3.29 A single curvilinear feature, originally identified as a potential saltern, was targeted by Trench 2111. This was represented within the trench by a narrow curvilinear gully [211105] (width 0.34m, depth 0.19m) (Plate 82). No internal features were found and no indications of salt making were present. This feature was filled with an orange-grey, silty clay, suggestive of natural silting.
- 7.3.30 Trenches 2038–2042 were archaeologically blank, as expected from the previous surveys.
- 7.3.31 The stratigraphic sequence on the roddon generally consisted of a yellow/orange brown silt directly overlain by topsoil (depth 0.3m). In Trench 2038, however, a layer of marine alluvium (203801; depth 0.3m) was present in between the roddon and the topsoil.
- 7.3.32 Between the roddons, deep deposits of marine alluvium consisting of dark-grey-brown silty clay marine alluvium with orange flecks (depth >0.5m→1m) directly overlain by topsoil were present. Trench 2041 had a layer of oxidised alluvium (204103; depth >0.21m) overlain by 0.46m of marine alluvium.

Field B-1-04 (Figures 4a and 4b)

- 7.3.33 Field B-1-04 is a small field located to the east of B-1-01, with no roddons. This area was not targeted by any archaeological trial trenches. A single linear anomaly was identified by the geophysical survey. This feature continues into Field B-1-07 where it was investigated in Trenches 2052 and 2070.

Field B-1-05 (Figures 4a and 4b)

- 7.3.34 Similarly, to Field B-1-04, Field B-1-05 has not been targeted by any archaeological trial trenches. It contains a small roddon and predicted palaeochannel, which continues from Field B-1-01 to the west to Field B-1-07 to the east. No archaeological features have been predicted by previous surveys.

Field B-1-06 (Trenches 2017, 2019, 2020, 2073 and 2074; Figures 04a, 04b and 109 ; Plates 83–87)

- 7.3.35 Field B-1-06 is located towards the south-west of Area A. It contains two areas of roddon, the northern roddon meanders from Field B-1-02 to the west to Field B-1-08 to the east. The southern roddon continues from Field B-1-03 to the west into Field B-1-08 to the east. The previous surveys identified palaeochannels and occasional linear features associated with the roddons.
- 7.3.36 All of the trenches in this field have been found to be archaeologically blank. A copper alloy coin was found in the topsoil.
- 7.3.37 The roddons in this field were composed of yellow-brown–orange-brown silty clay. The marine alluvium was found to be a blue-grey, silty clay. The overlying topsoil is a dark-grey-brown, silty clay, measuring 0.27m–0.35m in depth.

Field B-1-07 (Trenches 2051–2053, 2070 and 2071; Figures 33 and 35; Plates 88–92)

- 7.3.38 Field B-1-07 is located in the western part of Area B. It contains a roddon in the south, which continues from Field B-1-05 in the west into Field B-1-09 in the east.

- 7.3.39 The trenches in the northern part of Field B-1-07 (2052, 2070) targeted a series of linear cropmarks, which continued from Field B-1-04 to the west, where they appeared to continue from a mapped historical field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 04b). The cropmarks were found to correspond to natural deposits, generally of tidal clay. This may indicate that part of the field system formation was influenced by natural features.
- 7.3.40 In the southern part of the field, Trench 2051 targeted an apparently blank area of roddon and palaeochannel, and was found to be blank. A single tidal clay feature was present. Trench 2071 targeted a curvilinear anomaly outside the roddons and was found to be blank.
- 7.3.41 Lastly, Trench 2053 targeted one of a series of circular features, initially interpreted as salterns, on the roddon. The trench contained a substantial ditch [205305] (width >1.48m, depth 0.59m) and a curvilinear gully [205304] (width 0.27m, depth <0.1m), confirming the results of the geophysical survey, however no interior features were present and the curvilinear feature was more suggestive of a roundhouse. A black-brown silty clay fill was present in [205304] indicating water inundation and peat formation after abandonment. A cluster of roundhouses and associated ditches are present on the roddon in this field.
- 7.3.42 The roddon was occasionally found cutting into marine alluvium layers and the general stratigraphy indicated multiple environmental changes overtime. The stratigraphic sequence on the roddons consisted of tidal clays (depth>0.59m), overlain by mottled, white, red and orange silts (depth 0.12m–0.26m) forming the roddons. These were directly overlain by topsoil (0.3m–0.56m). Between the roddons, deep deposits of marine alluvium, consisting of blue-grey, silty clays (>0.69–>0.78m) were directly overlain by topsoil. In Trenches 2053 and 2071 deposits of oxidised alluvium were overlain by 0.26m–1.1m of marine clay. In Trench 2070 tidal clay was also sometimes found on top of the roddon.

Field B-1-08 (Trenches 2015–2018, 2049, 2079 and 2121–2128; Figures 4a, 4b and 37; Plates 93–110)

- 7.3.43 Field B-1-08 was narrow and rectangular with three areas of roddon, two of which branched off from a larger area of roddon in field B-1-10 and continued into Field B-1-06 to the west. The third roddon in the northern part of the field was a small offshoot from a roddon in Field B-1-07 to the north. Palaeochannels were identified by the previous surveys, as well as areas of archaeological activity on the two southern roddons. A single linear feature, which did not respect the roddons, was also identified.
- 7.3.44 The northern roddon area was targeted by Trench 2049 and was archaeologically blank.
- 7.3.45 The roddon towards the centre was identified as containing an area of archaeological activity consisting of ring ditches/ring gullies and a possible enclosure. It was targeted by Trenches 2015, 2016, 2018, 2124–2126 and 2128, which confirmed the presence of the majority of the anomalies, with the exception of the sub-square enclosure targeted by Trench 2128 (Plate 106). A ring gully was confirmed in Trench 2127 (Plates 108 and 109) and an unforeseen curvilinear feature was found in Trench 2018. A single animal bone was recovered.
- 7.3.46 The roddon in the southern part of the field contained a sub-rectangular enclosure, an internal curvilinear feature and associated discrete feature, as well as further circular and sub-circular external features, representing ring ditches/ring gullies. These features were targeted by Trenches 2122–2123, which confirmed the presence of the enclosure, internal curvilinear feature (Trench 2122) and one of the external ring ditches/ring/gullies (Trench 2121) (Plates 100 and 101). Although, the potential sub-circular feature targeted by Trench 2123, was not

found to be real, an east to west aligned ditch was present, possibly representing further enclosure or drainage. A small quantity of briquetage and CBM was recovered.

- 7.3.47 Trench 2079 was designed on an area between roddons and Trench 2016 targeted a thin branch of roddon, both were found to be archaeologically blank.
- 7.3.48 While the ring ditches/ring gullies within the field were initially identified as salterns, the excavation evidence did not find briquetage nor features associated with salt making. It is possible that they instead, represent a series of roundhouses. A vertically sided rectangular pit [212102] (length 1.08m, width 0.9m, depth 0.64m) was found within the ring ditch [212104] in Trench 2121. This did not have the clay lining expected for a salt making tank, but may have functioned as a storage pit or as a large structural element. Multi-phased activity was also indicated by the spatial relationships between the ring ditches/ring gullies in Trench 2124, although there were no intersections. The ditches found in Trenches 2015, 2122 and 2126 may represent enclosure and drainage associated with these possible roundhouses.
- 7.3.49 The stratigraphic sequence on the roddons consisted of orange-brown sandy silt and silty clay roddon deposits (depth >0.2m->0.6m), directly overlain by topsoil (depth 0.28m-0.41m). Between the roddons layers of dark-grey-brown, silty clay and blue-grey silty clay marine alluvium/tidal clays were present (depth >0.7m-1.4m). A test pit in Trench 2015 showed the roddon overlying tidal clays, and a dark blue-grey marine alluvium clay was found beneath the roddon in Trenches 2122 and 2123. Tidal clays were also found under marine alluvium in Trench 2049.

Field B-1-09 (Trenches 2004-2011, 2021, 2056-2061 and 2106-2109; Figures 4a, 4b and 39-45; Plates 111-131)

- 7.3.50 Field B-1-09 is a large field, covering approximately 46.6ha, located in the centre of Area B. It contains part of the large roddon, which dominates Area C and branches into smaller roddons to the west. A high density of archaeological anomalies was identified on the roddon, including parallel ditches, following the roddon contour, possible enclosures and curvilinear features, initially thought to represent potential salterns. Part of this activity is recorded in the Lincolnshire HER as a possible Romano British settlement (MLI22032). Occasional linear features correlating with mapped historical field boundaries were also identified (OS 1887c; Figure 04b).
- 7.3.51 The parallel ditches following the contour of the southern roddon were confirmed in Trenches 2004 and 2005 (Plates 112 and 114). These ditches varied in depth from 0.26m-1.19m and contained recuts. The ditch fills included blueish silting deposits and black peaty deposits, indicating periods of flooding and water inundation. A single fragment of CBM was recovered. The presence of further potential enclosure features in the southern part of the roddon was confirmed by Trenches 2006 and 2061.
- 7.3.52 Trenches 2007, 2010, 2011, 2057, 2058, 2106 and 2107, targeted anomalies identified on a meandering roddon area branching off to the north. A small cluster of linear anomalies of uncertain function were confirmed in Trenches 2007, 2011 and 2106. Similarly, to the ditches in Trenches 2004 and 2005, blueish silty fills, black peaty fills and recuts were frequently noted. A series of undated ditches corresponding to twisting linear features which did not respect the roddons, were found in Trench 2009 and 2057. Another meandering linear features/set of parallel linear anomalies corresponded to ditches in Trenches 2010 and 2011. These ditches were undated, but continue into Fields B-1-12 and B-2 to the north-east. Trenches 2107 and 2058 were found to be archaeologically blank.

- 7.3.53 Off the roddon, Trenches 2008, 2021, 2059, 2108 and 2109 were designed to identify geophysical anomalies. An undated gully and a possible gully were found in Trench 2008, which correlated imperfectly with a curvilinear anomaly (Plate 118). The feature targeted in Trench 2059 was not found to be real. The circular features targeted by Trenches 2108 and 2109 were also not found. A linear feature corresponding to a mapped field boundary was targeted by Trench 2021, but was not present as an archaeological feature.
- 7.3.54 Trench 2056 targeted a small branch of roddon and was did not contain archaeological elements.
- 7.3.55 A 19th century field boundary was noted in Trenches 2008, 2058, 2059 and 2060, but it was not investigated.
- 7.3.56 Based on the features recorded on the roddons, the sparsely distributed circular features and enclosures in the western part of the roddon can be presumed to exist.
- 7.3.57 The roddon deposits were found to be yellow-brown and orange-brown silty clays. The marine alluvium generally consisted of mid-blueish grey silty clays. The deposits and the archaeological features were directly overlain by a dark grey brown silty clay topsoil, which measured 0.29m–0.44m in depth.

Field B-1-10 (Trenches 2030–2035, 2047, 2048 and 2062–2064; Figures 4a, 4b and 42–44; Plates 132–144)

- 7.3.58 Field B-1-10 is located to the south of Field B-1-09 and contains a curving roddon, the western part of which represented the southern continuation of the roddon in Field B-1-09. The eastern part of the roddon forms part of an area of a large roddon in Field B-1-13, which branches to B-1-09 to the north and B-1-14 to the south. A high density of archaeological anomalies was identified in the eastern part of the roddon, where a possible Romano British settlement (MLI22032) is recorded on the HER.
- 7.3.59 The area of archaeological density (Trenches 2030, 2031, 2062 and 2064), included areas of parallel linear features representing potential drainage features or possibly droveways, areas of potential rectilinear enclosures, circular features/ring gullies and other linear features. A lower density of anomalies was identified on the western arc of the roddon, potentially representing a more peripheral area associated with a potential settlement. All trenches in this field were found to be archaeologically positive and the archaeology generally matched the geophysical identifications. Occasional unexpected features were also present such as a curvilinear gully in Trench 2062.
- 7.3.60 The finds from this field included animal bone, fired clay, CBM, metal and provisionally Late Iron Age/Roman and Roman pottery, suggesting Roman and possibly Late Iron Age settlement activity. While the artefactual dating evidence remains limited, an Iron Age/Roman date is likely for the majority of the features based on the evidence from the wider context. Based on wider comparability, features likely to beyond to these periods include: a rectilinear enclosure of predicted 29m x 18m, confirmed in Trench 2062 (Plate 141) and the parallel ditches following the edge of the roddon, confirmed in Trench 2030.
- 7.3.61 Ditches that could be dated to the post-medieval or modern periods based on finds and/or historical OS mapping were present in Trenches 2047 and 2031 (OS 1887c; Figure 04b).

- 7.3.62 Undated ditches corresponding to linear anomalies, and extending into the marine alluvium were found in Trenches 2064 and 2065 in the eastern part of the field. These spatially respected the probable Roman features on the roddon.
- 7.3.63 In the western part of the field multiple ditches were present, but often these could not be dated or fully characterised. A shallow ditch was found in Trenches 2032 and 2033 (width 1m–1.71m, depth 0.15m–0.22m) (Plate 135). This corresponded to a long anomaly which continued to the north in Field B-1-09 and to the south in Field B-1-11. This feature did not respect the roddon shape nor the 19th century mapped field boundaries, implying a date between the drying of the fenland in this area and the establishment of the mapped field systems. Ditches corresponding to fragmentary geophysical anomalies were also found in Trenches 2034, 2035 and 2048. An undated ditch was also found in Trench 2063, which corresponded with a small linear anomaly. Based on its spatial relationships, it could potentially be associated with the long ditch seen in those trenches or represent an earlier iteration of the mapped field systems.
- 7.3.64 The roddon in this field was composed of an orange-brown and yellow brown silty clay. The marine alluvium was found to be a mid-blue-grey silty clay with higher clay content and orange flecking recorded in a single trench (Trench 2048). No subsoil was recorded and the topsoil was found to be a dark-grey-brown, silty clay measuring a consistent 0.3m–0.39m in depth.

Field B-1-11 (Trenches 2043–2046 and 2080; Figures 4a, 4b and 45; Plates 145–150)

- 7.3.65 Field B-1-11 is located to the north of Field B-1-10. It contains a small area of roddon, continuing from the western part of Field B-1-10, but broadly consists of a marine alluvium area between roddons. Occasional linear anomalies were identified in the marine alluvium area, including a continuation of an undated long linear feature seen in Field B-1-10 to the north; this was targeted by two trenches (Trenches 2044 and 2046). The south-eastern part of the field included part of an area of undated cropmarks (MLI20253).
- 7.3.66 Trenches 2044 and 2046 targeted a long meandering feature, which continued into Fields B-1-10, and B-1-09 to the north. While Trench 2044 was found to be archaeologically blank, the ditch was confirmed in Trench 2046. In Trench 2046, a ditch, recut and parallel possible terminus were present (Plate 149). These varied in width from 0.78m–1.26m and in depth from 0.18m–0.48m. As observed to the north, this feature did not respect the roddon and may therefore date to the period of fenland drainage or later. A black organic fill was generally present indicating peaty fenland conditions. No dating evidence was retrieved.
- 7.3.67 Trenches 2043 and 2045 were targeted onto linear features, but were found to be archaeologically blank. Trench 2080 investigated an area of marine alluvium and was also archaeologically blank.
- 7.3.68 The roddon in Trench 2046 was found to be composed of yellow white silty clay with blue grey clay inclusions. Tidal clay comprising dark blue grey clay was recorded in Trench 2080 and the marine alluvium across the field was a blue grey silty clay. These deposits and features were overlain by 0.33m–0.37m of a dark grey brown silty clay topsoil.

Field B-1-12 (Trenches 2146 and 2147; Figure 04a and 04b; Plates 151–153)

- 7.3.69 Field B-1-12 is located in the northern part of Area B, entirely in an area of marine alluvium. Occasional linear features were identified in the area including two features which correspond to mapped historical field boundaries (OS 1887c; Figure 04b) and a north-east to southwest

aligned feature which continues to the west in Field B-3-02 and to the east in Field B-2. The two trenches in this field were designed to assess a cable route and were found to be archaeologically negative. The stratigraphy consisted of blue grey marine alluvium directly overlain by 0.14m–0.48m of topsoil.

Field B-1-13 (Trenches 2001–2003, 2076–2078, 2095, 2096, 2098–2100 and 2117–2120; Figures 51, 52, 53 and 56; Plates 154–172)

- 7.3.70 Field B-1-13 is located on a wide roddon area which appears to form the focus for activity and a high density of archaeological features were identified by the previous non-intrusive surveys. The roddon in this field continues from Field C-1-02 and to the west and south it branches into Fields B-1-09, B-1-10 and B-1-14.
- 7.3.71 Trenches 2001, 2002, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2095, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2113, 2118, 2119 and 2120 were designed to target anomalies on the roddon, while Trenches 2003, 2069 and 2117 were targeted anomalies in the marine alluvium area. Of these, only Trench 2098 was found to be archaeologically blank. Linear features, correlating with 1887 OS mapping were also present, but these were not targeted by the trenches (OS 1887c; Figure 04b).
- 7.3.72 The anomalies identified on the roddon were generally confirmed and comprised multiple groups of parallel ditches (Trenches 2001, 2002, 2076, 2118, 2119, 2078) (Plates 171) possibly forming water channels or drove ways and ring gullies (Trenches 2095, 2099, 2100). In Trench 2100 a ditch was found within the ring gully, while in Trench 2099, multiple curvilinear gullies were present, possibly suggesting multiple phases. The ring gullies on the roddon were generally found to be narrow and steeply sided (widths 0.27m–0.33m, depths 0.16m–0.33m). Based on the geophysical survey they range from approximately 9.6m–14m in diameter. No evidence for salt making was found and they are likely to represent roundhouses, rather than salterns as previously predicted. Dating evidence for these features is currently highly limited, but based on the evidence from the wider area, an Iron Age/ Roman date is likely. An amorphous anomaly targeted by Trenches 2076 and 2077 was found to correspond to a series of deep modern features, often containing articulated animal bone (Plate 160).
- 7.3.73 The trenches to the north of the roddon (2069 and 2117) positively identified cropmark and geophysical evidence for a ring gully and a ditch. The ring gully [206903] (Trench 2069; diameter 10m, width 0.56m, depth 0.24m) was comparable to the ring gullies on the roddon and may represent a seasonal/temporary dwelling (Plate 164). The ditch [211703], (width 1.55m, depth 0.34m; Trench 2117), corresponded to a long straight and north-east to southwest aligned geophysical anomaly seen in Fields B-1-09, C-2-02. A ditch [211302] found in Trench 2113 on the roddon appears to spatially associated.
- 7.3.74 The trench to the south of the roddon (Trench 2003) contained a post-medieval ditch and field drain. This ditch corresponded with a northwest-southeast aligned anomaly, which continued into Field B-1-14 and was comparable in alignment to the linear feature investigated in Trench 2113. Based on these provisional findings it is possible that the ditches in Trenches 2003, 2113 and 2117 represent, post-medieval drainage features. Modern remains were also present in the form of a demolished farm building in Trench 2076 (Plate 158).
- 7.3.75 Finds included animal bone, worked bone, CBM, mortar, possible worked stone, fired clay, possible Roman glass, modern glass, iron objects, post-medieval pottery and plaster. Based on the location, features and artefacts, the evidence is indicative of a settlement area.

7.3.76 The roddon was found to be formed of yellow-brown and orange brown silty clay, clay silt and sandy silt. The marine alluvium was formed of mid-blue-grey silty clay with a yellow-grey tidal clay identified in Trench 2120. No subsoil was recorded and the topsoil was found to be a dark-grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.15m–0.44m in depth.

Field B-1-14 (Trenches 2024–2029, 2050, 2065–2068, 2101–2105, 2114 and 2116; Figures 47, 48, 49, 57, 109 and 110; Plates 173–192)

7.3.77 Field B-1-14 was located to the south of B-1-13 and contained a branched continuation of the roddon and archaeological activity see in Field B-1-13. Trenches 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2114, 2116, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2066 targeted geophysical anomalies on the roddon, while Trenches 2029, 2050, 2067 and 2068 targeted linear anomalies outside of the roddon. The majority of trenches were found to be archaeologically positive with the exception of Trenches 2029, 2050, 2103 and 2116.

7.3.78 A series of circular and curvilinear features were predicted on the roddon in the field, these were confirmed to represent ring gullies in Trenches 2066, 2101, 2102 and 2105 with one negative result (Trench 2103) (Plate 189). In Trench 2102 two sets of curvilinear ditches were present, one of which contained articulated animal bones (Plate 185). Similarly, to Field B-1-13 the ring gullies were broadly consistent in size and form with no internal features and occasional evidence for multiple phases (Trench 2102). No evidence for salt making was present and it is likely that these represent roundhouses. A sherd of possible Iron age pottery was recovered from the ring gully in Trench 2105.

7.3.79 Areas of parallel ditches were predicted in the north and south of the area, although these were less common than in Field B-1-13 to the north. In Trench 2066, a pair of parallel ditches were confirmed. These were shallow and ranged in width from 1m–2.1m and depth from 0.29m–0.3m. Spatially, these seemed to be associated with the majority of the features in the field.

7.3.80 A series of anomalies, forming a possible area of possible enclosures was identified in the northern part of the field and confirmed in Trench 2025. The southernmost of these ditches [202506] (width 1.9m, depth 0.66m) was a recut of an earlier ditch and was substantial with steeply sloping sides. Dark clay silt fills were often seen in the ditches, hinting at a period of flooding after these features were established. A possible occupational layer (202510) was also found around the enclosures seen in Trench 2025.

7.3.81 A long (276m) meandering linear feature, which travelled along the roddon and appeared to be integrated with the enclosures, was confirmed as a ditch in Trench 2026. The function of this ditch is uncertain, although it appears to mirror the alignment of a potential palaeochannel to the east, and also appeared to form an eastern boundary to much of the activity described above. Iron Age/Roman pottery was recovered from the ditch.

7.3.82 In Trench 2028 on the eastern part of the roddon, three anomalies were identified, one of which was curvilinear. No dating evidence was obtained during excavation and their characterisation is limited.

7.3.83 A series of linear anomalies was identified in the eastern part of the field, which did not, or only partially, respected the roddon. These were confirmed in Trenches 2027, 2067, 2069 and 2114, where they were often found to represent deep and substantial ditches. Ditches [211403], Trench 2114 (width 1.8m, depth 0.7m) and [211412] (width 1.5m, depth 0.84m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 191). Although, none of these ditches corresponded

to mapped historical boundaries, one ditch [206704], Trench 2067 (width 2.89m, depth >0.84m) could be dated to the post-medieval period. This ditch was found to contain a waterlogged timber {206705} (Plate 181). Multiple intercutting features were also present in Trench 2114, including a modern animal grave [211436].

- 7.3.84 The finds assemblage from this field often included animal bone. Other finds included CBM, metal, wood, a possible ceramic bead, and a possible post-medieval leather shoe.
- 7.3.85 The roddon was found to be composed of yellow-brown and orange-brown silty clay and sandy silt. An occupational layer was present in Trench 2025, overlying the roddon. The marine alluvium varied between blue-grey silty clays, orangey-brown silty clays and grey-brown clay, with mottling sometimes present. Subsoil was occasionally present (Trenches 2050, 2101 and 2116) and the topsoil consisted of a grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.27m–0.38m in depth.

Field B-2 (Trenches 2022, 2023, 2075, 2097 and 2112; Figure 54; Plates 193–199)

- 7.3.86 Field B-2 is a triangular field located at the north-eastern extent of Area B. Most of the field is located on an area of marine alluvium with one small branch of roddon. It is included within the non-designated heritage asset for the settlement at Whitbread Farm (MLI20004). The identified features include two north-east to south-west aligned linear features seen as cropmarks, one of which runs from Field B-3-02, B-1-12, B-2 and C-2-01. Circular and curvilinear features, initially thought to be salterns, were identified in the south of the area.
- 7.3.87 Curvilinear features, including a partial curvilinear anomaly and a circular feature, were investigated in Trenches 2075 and 2097 (Plate 197). The feature in Trench 2097 was identified as a shallow ring gully (diameter 12m, width 0.66m, depth 0.12m). The partial curvilinear identified in Trench 2075 was highly truncated, and may represent another truncated ring gully. As seen across Area B, no internal features or evidence for salt making were present and a roundhouse interpretation is more likely. The ring gullies in this field were located off the roddon and approximately 155m from the large roddon. They may represent seasonal or temporary dwellings. While they cannot be fully dated at this time an Iron Age/Roman date is considered likely.
- 7.3.88 The northernmost trench (Trench 2022) targeted the long north-east to south-west aligned linear cropmark. These corresponded to two parallel undated ditches, one of which was cut by a pit, and a parallel ditch/furrow. The deepest of these features was ditch [202209] (width 0.92m, depth 0.28m) (Plate 194). Similarly, the north-east to south-west aligned linear feature in the south was found to represent a wide and shallow ditch [211205] (width 1.42m, depth 0.2m) and a terminus/pit. Other long and similarly aligned linear features can be seen in nearby fields (Field B1-13 and Field C-2-02) and can potentially be interpreted as part of a larger system of drainage or field boundaries. While no artefactual dating evidence is currently available, a post-Roman date is likely based on the spatial relationship with the roddons. Possible furrows, east to west aligned, were also found in Trench 2023 which targeted an apparently blank area of roddon. Finds from these furrows included bone, CBM and clay pipe.
- 7.3.89 Tidal clay in this field was found to be a blue-grey silty clay with orange flecks, overlain by 0.23m–0.34m of topsoil.

Field B-3-01 (Trenches 2131, 2132 and 2139–2141; Figures 26 and 33; Plates 200–203)

- 7.3.90 Field B-3-1 is located towards the north-western extent of Area B. The field contains marine alluvium with a single small and meandering roddon. No archaeological anomalies have been identified. The trenches targeted a potential cable route.
- 7.3.91 All trenches in this field were found to be archaeologically blank with the exception of Trench 2131 which contained a ditch. This ditch [213102] (width 4.22m, depth 1.26m), was found to correlate with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 04b).
- 7.3.92 The roddon deposits in this field comprised yellow-grey and orangey-brown silty clay. The marine alluvium comprised mid-blue grey silty clay. The overlying topsoil was a grey brown silty clay, measuring 0.36m–0.41m in depth.

Field B-3-02 (Trenches 2142–2145; Figures 34 and 41; Plates 204–206)

- 7.3.93 Field B-3-02 is located to the north of Area B and contains roddon elements. Occasional linear anomalies were identified in the eastern extent of the area, two of which correspond to mapped historical field boundaries (OS 1887c; Figure 04b), and another which forms part of a long linear feature confirmed as a series of parallel ditches in Fields B-1-09 and B-2. The trenches in this field targeted a proposed cable route.
- 7.3.94 The majority of trenches was found to be archaeologically blank. Trench 2142 contained two parallel ditches which appeared to correlate to a mapped field boundary and a small mapped sub-enclosure (OS 1887c; Figure 04b). Trench 2145 contained two undated recut ditches which corresponded with the long linear feature. This ditch did not respect the roddon and contained fills indicative of flooding.
- 7.3.95 The roddons in this field comprised deposits of yellow-grey silty clay. The marine alluvium was a blue-grey silty clay and the overlying topsoil was a grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.34m–0.42m.

Field B-5 (Trenches 2081, 2085–2091, 2129, 2130, 2133–2138; Figures 22, 23, 24 and 25; Plates 207–226)

- 7.3.96 Field B-5 is located at the north-western extent of Area B. Much of the area is marine alluvium with a few small branches of roddon. A series of linear anomalies were identified, many of which correlate with mapped historical field boundaries (OS 1887c; Figure 04b). To the immediate north-west of the field, there is a known deserted medieval settlement (MLI23090), which appears to continue into the area of the direct north of the field as cropmarks. Roman salt making features have also been found during works adjacent to the field (MLI86349 MLI86347).
- 7.3.97 Almost all of the trenches in the northern part of the field contained archaeology (Trenches 2085, 2087–2091 and 2129) (Plates 211 and 216). The features within these trenches correlated to the identified linear anomalies and could be linked to historical mapping. The finds included small quantities of animal bone, briquetage and Production Process Residues (PPR).
- 7.3.98 The roddons in this field were generally composed of yellowish-brown silty clay. Deposits of blue-grey silty clay marine alluvium were recorded between the roddons and all deposits and features were overlain by a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil, which measured 0.26m–0.45m in depth.

Field C-1-01 (Trenches 3001–3015, 3067 and 3068; Figures 62, 63, 64, 67, 68 and 104; Plates 227–246)

- 7.3.99 Field C-1-01 contains part of the large roddon that runs through Areas B and C, as well as an area of high archaeological density. The majority of the known Romano-British settlement, west of Cates Cove Corner (MLI20005), is in association with the scheduled monument in the north-east (NHLE 1004979). The scheduled monument was excluded from the evaluation scope and the trenches have been designed to investigate the lower density areas at the edge of the settlement as well as the thinner areas of roddon and areas between the roddons in the southern part of the field. Heritage assets recording circular features or salterns are also present within the field (MLI23202; MLI22037); these were not investigated with any trenches. The majority of trenches in this field were archaeologically positive with the exception of Trenches 3006, 3014, 3068 and 3073 and the geophysical survey was found to be accurate.
- 7.3.100 A potential saltern was found in Trench 3005 (Plate 233) at the edge of the Scheduled Monument. Trench 3005 was extended to further investigate these features. Features included part of a probable circular feature, part of a probable small enclosure, ditches with ashy material, a possible pit and spreads with frequent briquetage. A high number of fills were seen in each feature, probably relating to use and water inundation and 57 contexts in total were recorded. An Iron Age/Roman and Roman date was provisionally assigned to the features present. Briquetage was also present in Trench 3011.
- 7.3.101 To the west of the Scheduled Monument, two parallel ditches following the roddon contour were investigated in Trench 3004 (Plate 231). Multiple recuts were identified with ranged in depth from 0.14m–0.7m. The fills included grey silty clays and black peaty deposits. Further parallel ditches, running across the roddon, were investigated in Trenches 3001 and 3002. These were similar in form and fill. The remaining trenches to the west of these ditches, appeared to indicate an area of scarce Roman archaeology. Trenches 3014, 3006 and 3068 were archaeologically blank and the features in Trenches 3003, 3007 and 3015 contained ditches that correlated with predicted long straight linear features, which did not respect the roddon. The fills in these ditches included dark and peaty fills.
- 7.3.102 To the south of the Scheduled Monument and the main area of roddon, another area of sparse archaeology was present. Trench 3010 contained a continuation of the ditch seen in Trench 3015 and two parallel ditches that appeared to follow the roddon contour. Further ditches following roddon contours were seen in Trenches 3011, 3012, 3028 and 3009 (Plate 240). Two long straight linear features, coaxial with the one investigated in Trenches 3010 and 3015, was confirmed in Trenches 3008 and 3013. These continued into Field C-1-03 where CBM was recovered.
- 7.3.103 The finds from the features in this field included Iron Age/Roman and Roman pottery, animal bone and briquetage, further confirming the presence of Roman and possibly Iron age settlement activity and salt making.
- 7.3.104 The roddon deposits varied slightly across the area between yellowish brown, greyish yellow, brownish orange clay sands and silty clays, with flecking and mottling often recorded. Blueish and brownish marine alluvium deposits were recorded as well as orange/blueish tidal clay. No subsoil was present and the overlying topsoil was a brown grey/grey brown clay silt/silty clay, measuring 0.27m–0.4m.

Field C-1-02 (Trenches 3027–3032; Figure 66 and 69; Plates 247–252)

- 7.3.105 Field C-1-02 is located to the south of Field C-1-01 and generally comprises areas of alluvium and smaller roddon branches. Occasional straight linear features, which did not respect the roddons were predicted, one of these can be identified as a modern field boundary based on historical mapping (OS 1887c; Figure 05b).
- 7.3.106 A meandering ditch with multiple recuts following the roddon contour was identified in Trenches 3030 and 3031.
- 7.3.107 Trench 3028 contained a ditch corresponding to an anomaly and mapped historical field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 05b), and a second ditch which corresponded to a long north-east to south-west aligned linear feature, which did not respect the roddon. No continuation of these features was seen in Trenches 3075, 3030, 3031 and 3035.
- 7.3.108 The linear anomaly targeted by Trench 3029 was not found.
- 7.3.109 Animal bone, shell, CBM and Roman pottery were often collected, indicating Roman domestic activity. Briquetage was present, indicating nearby salt making.
- 7.3.110 The roddon deposits were found to be comprised of clay sand, sandy silt, and silt of varying colours. The marine alluvium was generally blueish in colour and comprised clay and sandy silts. The topsoil was a grey brown/brown grey clay silt, measuring 0.3m–0.38m.

Field C-1-03 (Trenches 3056–3063, 3069, 3072 and 3073; Figure 71, 72, 73 and 74; Plates 253–267)

- 7.3.111 Field C-1-03 is located to the east of Field C-1-01 and contains a continuation of the same roddon, area of archaeological density and known Roman settlement (MLI20005; NHLE 1004979). As in Field C-1-01, the scheduled monument has been excluded from the evaluation scope. The majority of trenches investigated features along the edge of the roddon with a single trench (Trench 3058) targeting geophysical anomalies outside the roddon area. All trenches except Trench 3073 were found to contain archaeology. The finds assemblage includes Roman and Late Iron Age /Roman pottery, frequent animal bone and shell. This further confirms the presence of Roman, and possibly Iron Age settlement activity.
- 7.3.112 Significant salt making features were uncovered in Trench 3072, located at the edge of the scheduled monument (Plates 264–266). The trench was extended to 13.4m x 7.3m, following consultation with the LPA in order to fully investigate the activity present. The features in this trench consisted of a small squarish enclosure (approximately 8m x 9m) represented by ditches [307216], [307211], [307223] and [307218]. It measured 0.75m in width and 0.33m in depth. This was cut by a deep pit [307220] (Length >2m, width 2.4m, depth 1.16m) and a curvilinear ditch [307203], [307209] and [307212], indicating multiple activity phases. A clay filled depression [307219] was found adjacent to a ditch and appeared to represent rake-out and maintenance activity for the ditches and a possible associated bank. Frequent briquetage was present although no internal tanks or other salt making features were identified. An area of possible heat affected ground was also observed, indicating potential burning in situ. It is currently uncertain whether the activity seen here represents the saltern or ancillary features for a saltern. It can be noted that larger curvilinear anomalies identified to the west and east, possibly relate to parts of a larger complex.
- 7.3.113 The linear features investigated in the other trenches in this field confirmed the geophysical survey results. Ditches dating to the Iron Age/Roman, Roman and undated periods were

recorded. Ditch recuts were often noted and the ditches frequently had laminated sands or peaty fills indicating water inundation.

7.3.114 The ditches recorded in Trenches 3056, 3069 and 3061 had not been identified by the geophysical survey.

7.3.115 The two long straight parallel linear anomalies identified in the southern part of the field (Trenches 3058–3060) continued from Field C-1-01 to the west. They had variable dimensions with the northern linear ranging from 0.05m–0.24m in depth (Trenches 3058 and 3059), and the southern linear representing a substantial ditch [305903] (width 2.5m; depth of 0.8m). Based on the spatial relationships with the roddons and length and straightness of the ditches, these can be provisionally interpreted as later water management/field boundaries. There was CBM present in the ditch fills.

7.3.116 Further complexes of linear features were found in Trenches 3057, 3060, 3062, 3063 (Plate 262). These appeared to represent a continuation of the settlement activity to the north, but also seemed to be integrated with a long linear feature, which continued across the area. These may represent a mixture of Roman settlement activity and post-medieval drainage ditches. Possible glass slag was recovered from one of these features in Trench 3063.

7.3.117 Test pitting within the trenches in this field found layers of grey-brown clay silt marine alluvium below the roddon. The roddons were composed of varying materials, including silty clays and sandy silts, with laminations and mottling sometimes present. As well as the fill evidence for water inundations, clay silt filled depressions were also seen (Trench 3060). The marine alluvium outside the roddons was found to comprise mid-blue-grey clay with inclusions. The overlying topsoil was usually a humic silty clay and ranged in depth from 0.2m to 0.58m in the marine alluvium area.

Field C-1-04 (Trenches 3036–3038; Figure 75; Plates 268–270)

7.3.118 Field C-1-04 is a smaller field located to the south of C-1-03. A small branch of roddon is present and several long straight linear features, which do not respect the roddons were predicted.

7.3.119 A pair of broadly north to south aligned linear anomalies were confirmed in Trenches 3037 and 3038. These were found to be wide and shallow with recuts and, in Trench 3037, these appeared to be associated with a field drain although they could not be dated. Both ditches continued into Field C-1-05 to the south, where they were recorded in Trench 3035 and Field C-1-03 to the north, where they were found in Trench 3060. They are also similarly spaced and perpendicular to the east to west aligned linear features seen in Trenches 3013, 3058–3060 (Fields C-1-01 and C-1-03), further indicating a later large-scale water management or field boundary system. Based on the evidence from Field C-1-05, they can also be dated to the medieval/post-medieval periods.

7.3.120 Ditches corresponding to north-west to south-east aligned linear anomalies were also found in Trench 3038. These were similar in nature to the north to south aligned ditches.

7.3.121 Animal bone was present in the ditches, possibly indicating some nearby domestic activity.

7.3.122 Trench 3036 was archaeologically blank.

7.3.123 The roddon in this field was composed of yellow-brown sandy silt. Tidal clay and marine alluvium varied between grey brown and grey-blue silty clay reflecting varying oxidation and

therefore water levels during deposition. No subsoil was recorded and topsoil was consistent in depth (0.3m–0.35m).

Field C-1-05 (Trenches 3033–3035; Figures 70 and 75; Plates 271–274)

- 7.3.124 Field C-1-05 is located to the south of C-1-04 with a similar geology and predicted features.
- 7.3.125 Trench 3035, contained the continuation of the shallow parallel ditches seen in Trenches 3037 and 3038 in Field C-1-04, and Trench 3060 in Field C-1-03. Small quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery were retrieved.
- 7.3.126 Two undated parallel ditches were recorded running alongside the roddon in Trench 3033, and a provisionally prehistoric ditch was found in Trench 3034, in the marine alluvium area. None of these features had been identified by the geophysical survey. The areas around these two trenches may contain evidence for prehistoric activity, although its nature is currently unclear.
- 7.3.127 The linear anomaly identified to the south of the field appears to represent a geological feature (Plate 273).
- 7.3.128 The roddons in this field were composed of mid-grey-yellow clay/clay silt. An additional area of possible roddon was identified in Trench 3033. The marine alluvium was found to be composed of brown-grey silty clay. No subsoil was identified and the topsoil was found to be a grey-brown, clay silt, measuring 0.3m in depth.

Field C-1-06 (Trenches 3039–3042, 3070 and 3071; Figures 76 and 77; Plates 275–282)

- 7.3.129 Field C-1-06 is located to the east of Fields C-1-4 and C-1-5. The southeast part of this field lies in an area of Romano British cropmarks (MLI20246) which extend towards Fields C-1-07 and C-1-08. Part of the large roddon, which dominates Area C is present in the eastern half of the field, where a high density of archaeological anomalies was identified. Sparser continuation of the linear features can be seen in the western marine alluvium area; these spatially appear to be contemporary with the features in the archaeologically dense areas.
- 7.3.130 A set of three parallel anomalies following a north-east to south-west alignment from Field C-1-70 into C-1-06 and C-1-08, were investigated in Trenches 3040 and 3071. The corresponding ditches were provisionally dated to the Roman period and were found to follow the pattern of fills formed via water inundation and multiple seen elsewhere on the Site. These were substantial with widths of 0.63m–3.28m and depths of 0.5m–0.88m seen in Trench 3071 (Plate 282).
- 7.3.131 Anomalies, potentially suggestive of a subdivided enclosure, were targeted by Trenches 3039 and 3070. These were also provisionally dated as Roman and had evidence for repeated water inundation and recuts. Further ditches were found in Trench 3070, indicating more complexity to the area than initially expected, however, one of the anomalies identified as continuing further into the marine alluvium area was not found in Trench 3041. Roman pottery and animal bone were retrieved from the features in Trench 3039.
- 7.3.132 In the northern part of the field, Trench 3042 targeted a curving linear anomaly which did not respect the roddon. This was later identified as a relatively shallow ditch with a U-shaped profile [304203] (width 1m, depth 0.44m) (Plate 279). In the south-eastern part of the trench, a ditch which appeared to correlate to 1887 OS mapping was noted (OS 1887c; Figure 05b).

7.3.133 The roddon in this field comprised a brownish clayey sandy silt, with mottling sometimes recorded. The marine alluvium varied between blue grey and greyish brown silty clay and clay silt. The overlying topsoil was a grey brown silty clay, which measured 0.3m–0.45m in depth.

Field C-1-07 (Trenches 3043–3055; Figures 77, 78 and 79; Plates 283–295)

7.3.134 Field C-1-07 is located in the south-eastern part of Area C. It contains part of the large roddon and dense archaeological anomalies. Extensive archaeological remains are known to the direct east in Field C-1-08 (MLI20246). An area recorded as Romano British settlement, Crowland (MLI22045), is partially located within the southern part of the field and an area of Romano British settlement/saltern activity, medieval and post-medieval pottery scatters (MLI23177; MLI23178; MLI23179). Many of the linear anomalies appeared to form a continuation of the probable settlement area seen in Field C-1-08 to the east. Other anomalies included two long straight linear north to south aligned features, and a continuation of the set of three north-east to south-west aligned features investigated in Field C-1-06. All anomalies were found to correspond to archaeological features, confirming the continuation of the probable Roman settlement activity to the north and east. The pottery recovered from these features is provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age/Roman and Roman periods.

7.3.135 Many of the ditches investigated within the field had uncertain function, despite their probable association with the nearby settlement activity (Trenches 3047, 3048, 3049, 3051). Enclosures could be seen in the north and west of the field (Trench 3045, 3052 and 3062). The enclosure investigated in Trench 3045 measured approximately 68m x 40m across and where investigated was defined by a pair of ditches. The external ditch [304502] (width 2m, depth 0.68m) and recut [304507] (width 1.42m, depth 0.5m) contained silty and peaty fills, indicating water inundation. The internal ditch [304509] (width 1.9m, depth 0.9m) and two recuts [304511] (width 1.28m, depth 0.4m) and [304510] (width >0.6m, depth 0.3m) Silty, blueish and laminated fills were present, indicating that the ditches were through periods of flooding. This activity can be provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age/Roman and Roman periods, based the finds which included pottery, animal bone and a single fragment of fired clay or briquetage.

7.3.136 The long linear ditches were investigated in Trenches 3043, 3046 and 3048, where they were found to be flat based and relatively shallow (widths 1.9m–2.5m, depths 0.18m–0.5m). Spatially, these did not appear to respect the other archaeological features and in Trench 3084 were found to be the latest features. They can be considered to represent later water management features along with the three north-east to south linear features, investigated in Trench 3044.

Field C-1-08

7.3.137 Field C-1-08 was not included within the archaeological evaluation scope.

Field C-2-01

7.3.138 Field C-2-01 was not included within the archaeological evaluation scope.

Field C-2-02 (Trenches 3016–3023, 3064–3066, 3074 and 3075; Figures 58, 59 and 60; Plates 296–311)

7.3.139 Field C-2-02 is located to the east of Field B-1-13 and contains a continuation of the large roddon and the dense geophysical anomalies on the roddon, including enclosures and long groups of parallel linear features. A smaller branch of roddon is present in the south of the field with anomalies possibly linking the two roddons. Much of the field falls within the non-designated asset for the settlement north-east of Whitbread Farm (MLI20004).

- 7.3.140 The anomalies on the northern roddon were targeted by Trenches 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3020 and 3064. These were generally present and comprised deep parallel ditches (Trenches 3018 and 3019) (Plate 303), rectilinear enclosure features (Trenches 3016 and 3017), and ditches (Trenches 3020 and 3064). No features were seen within the enclosures, limiting interpretation of their function, but pottery and animal bone were more frequent within this area, possibly indicating settlement activity, continuing from C-2-03 and C-1-01. This could be dated to the Late Iron Age/Roman and Roman periods. The enclosure ditches were often substantial as seen in Trench 3016, with ditch [301611] (width 2.1m, depth 0.54) and its recut [301613] (width 1.36m, depth 0.29m) (Plate 300). A possible enclosure continuing onto the marine alluvium from these features was confirmed in Trench 3074 (Plate 297).
- 7.3.141 The anomalies on the southern area of roddon in the field, consisted of a series of parallel curvilinear ditches. These were confirmed in Trench 3022 and 3066 and were generally wide and flat based (Plate 308). Roman pottery was retrieved from the ditch in Trench 3066, indicating a Roman date.
- 7.3.142 Trench 3021 contained two parallel ditches which seem to link the ditch systems in the roddons. The other linear features between the roddons were also confirmed in Trenches 3023, 3065 although their function is currently unclear.
- 7.3.143 The artefactual evidence from this field provisionally spans the Bronze Age/Iron Age, Iron Age, and Roman periods, indicating multi-phased activity. As well as pottery, animal bone was frequently found with shell, fired clay, CBM and metal finds. The pottery assemblage from Trench 3019 included two sherds with possible metal studs, indicating pottery repair.
- 7.3.144 A frequently identified fill sequence in this area included early silty blue-grey fills, followed by dark-grey peaty, silty clay fills. This is exemplified in ditch [3019], Trench 3019 and represents wet conditions and inundation events. Frequent recuts closely following the routes of previous earlier trenches were also observed, indicating frequent maintenance of the ditches and frequent silting. The extent of seasonality of the activity in this area is currently uncertain as well as the frequency of the apparent flooding events, but further analysis alongside the geoarchaeological results, may answer these questions. This may allow a deeper understanding of the relationship between humans and the watery environment in the fenland.
- 7.3.145 The roddons in this field were composed of orange-brown and yellow-brown silty clays, silty sands and sandy silts. Layers of uncertain formation were occasional present, including a layer (307513), which masked a feature. Between the roddons, tidal clay and marine alluvium were found to be composed to grey-brown silty clays and clay silts and a mid-reddish-brown clay. No subsoil was present and the topsoil comprised grey-brown silt clay, measuring 0.3m–0.5m.

Field C-2-03

- 7.3.146 Field C-2-03 is not included within the archaeological evaluation scope.

Field C-02-04

- 7.3.147 Field C-2-04 is not included within the archaeological evaluation scope.

Field C-2-05 (Trenches 3024–3026)

- 7.3.148 Field C-2-5 has been descope from the archaeological evaluation.

7.4 Area D

- 7.4.1 Area D comprises a long and narrow strip of land, roughly oriented from north-east to south-west (Figures 06a and 06b; Plates 312–478). The alignment and shape of the area derives from the fields which, based on cartographic evidence, have been elongated land parcels for various centuries. Since the post-medieval to the modern periods, these lands have been part of an area characterised by the presence of long drains connected to the South Holland Main Drain, to the north.
- 7.4.2 Area D contains multiple heritage assets including Romano British cropmarks (MLI2226; MLI204444; MLI204443), a Roman ditch network, enclosures and drove road (MLI22296; MLI22263), Romano-British settlement cropmarks (MLI22251) and undated cropmarks (MLI20453; MLI20442; MLI20441). The areas of cropmarks cover almost the entirety of the area. The extent of Roman heritage assets presents in Areas B, C and D supposes some sort of contemporary or continuous activity during that period.
- 7.4.3 Geologically, Area D contains two large roddons located to the north and south, with areas of thinner meanders between them. The geophysical and aerial survey identified features across the area including clustered areas of enclosures and on the southern roddon, representing potential settlement areas (Fields D-5-01 and D-6).

Changes to Scope

- 7.4.4 Local reports indicate that German bomber may have offloaded bombs in Fields D-1-01, D-1-02, D-1-03 during the Second World War. These fields were assessed by UXO specialists, who classified them as of High Risk for UXO, and were subsequently descoped from the evaluation. Field D-4 has also been descoped from the works as part of an exclusion zone for the site of a World War Two air crash.

Results Overview

- 7.4.5 Both the geophysical and aerial survey results proved to be highly accurate across the area.
- 7.4.6 In the northern part of the area, concentrations of activity were generally found on and around the smaller roddons. Particular areas of denser activity were recorded in Fields D-2-01 and D-3-04, where areas of enclosure and possible field systems appear to have been built on and around the smaller roddons. Salt making activity was recorded in Fields D-3-01 and D-3-02. This activity appeared to be of small scale and relatively peripheral.
- 7.4.7 The southern roddon accommodated two large concentrations of Roman and possible Late Iron Age and Roman activity (Fields D-5-01 and D6). Both concentrations had evidence for settlement and salt production activities. While this evidence was spatially limited, sparser contemporary and undated activity was found on the roddons around them, indicating a wider use of this landscape.
- 7.4.8 The exploitation of the wetland can be inferred as well by the active human presence, often dated to the Roman period, in the thin meandering roddons.
- 7.4.9 The area also contained evidence of field systems. These often cut across areas of marine alluvium, indicating a post-wetland date. Multiple periods of field system development could be inferred by contrasting the evidence with historical mapping. Medieval, post-medieval and modern artefacts were sometimes retrieved from these features.

- 7.4.10 A total of 13 trenches did not contain archaeological evidence: 4002, 4004, 4076, 4083, 4087, 4092, 4093, 4096, 4113, 4159, 4168, 4171 and 4174.

General Stratigraphy

- 7.4.11 In the northern part of the area, the large roddon was not always present in the trenches, possibly indicating that it did not represent the large area of dryland as indicated by the initial survey. The smaller roddons, however, were present; based on their relationships with the archaeological features, these must have represented higher points and drier areas in the landscape. The roddons were found to be composed of silty sands, sandy silts, silty clays and clay silts.
- 7.4.12 In the central part of the area, the thinner roddons were found to be generally composed of sandy silts with one composed of clay silt. A possible linear feature, detected via aerial survey in Fields D-3-04, D-3-05 and D-3-06, was found to correspond to an unmapped roddon.
- 7.4.13 The large roddon in the southern part of the area was found to be composed of multiple sediment types, with a clay deposit recorded within the roddon in Trench 4037, indicating a complex formation.
- 7.4.14 Marine alluvium was found in trenches across the area. The alluvium varied in composition, again indicating a complex formation process.
- 7.4.15 Subsoil was recorded in Fields D-2-01, D-3-01, D-5-01 and D6, where it was often intermittently present. It varied greatly in depth, sometimes reaching depths of 0.4m. Topsoil depth also varied greatly across the area (depths 0.12m–0.54m), with large depth variations often present within fields.

Field D-1-01

- 7.4.16 Field D-1-01 was descopeed from the evaluation.

Field D-1-02

- 7.4.17 Field D-1-02 was descopeed from the evaluation

Field D-1-03

- 7.4.18 Field D-1-03 was descopeed from the evaluation.

Field D-2-01 (Trenches 4113–4124 and 4177; Figures 128, 130 and 132; Plates 312–326)

- 7.4.19 Field D-2-01 is located at the northern edge of the roddon, in the north part of the area, and contains a thinner meandering roddon. It falls within an area identified as containing Roman settlement cropmarks (MLI22251). A complex of linear anomalies was identified in this field. These were present in the two roddons with continuations into the marine alluvium areas.
- 7.4.20 Almost every trench in this field contained archaeological evidence with most of the geophysical anomalies found, except for the most discreet features. The evidence comprised enclosures (Trenches 4114, 4177, 4122), parallel ditches that roughly followed the roddon (Trenches 4115, 4123), single ditches following the roddon contour (Trenches 4113, 4124), a pair of parallel meandering ditches cut across the roddon and marine alluvium (Trenches 4116, 4120), ditches extending into the marine alluvium (Trenches 4121, 4124, 4177, 4117, 4118)

and 19th century field boundaries (Trench 4113, 4120). The majority of the features was given a provisional Romano British date. A large round feature investigated in Trench 4115 was found to represent a pond. A small quantity of briquetage was recovered from the features in Trench 4120.

- 7.4.21 The enclosures present (Trenches 4114, 4177, 4122) were confined to the roddons. The curvilinear enclosure investigated in Trench 4177 closely followed a bulge in the roddon contour. The enclosure ditch [417706] (width 2.35m, depth 0.45m) was flat-based and contained a grey silty fill followed by a black peaty fill (Plate 326). The pattern of feature distribution and evidence for water inundation to the features on the roddon, indicates that the majority of this area may have been seasonally flooded with activity focussed on the higher drier areas and probable seasonal exploitation and management of the remainder of the field.
- 7.4.22 The meandering ditches investigated by Trenches 4116 and 4120, could not be artefactually dated, but they appeared to continue into a 19th century field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 06b) to the south, indicating that they formed an earlier part of the current field boundary system. This was corroborated by their fills, which were not indicative of waterlogged conditions, despite their path across the marine alluvium.
- 7.4.23 The roddon deposits were found to be composed of yellowish clay silts and sandy silts. The marine alluvium was generally composed of blue brown clays. A layer of silty clay subsoil was recorded in four trenches (4113 and 4120–4123) (depth 0.1m–0.32m), followed by a grey brown clay silt topsoil found across the field (depth 0.19m–0.44m).

Field D-2-02 (Trenches 4172–4174, 4184 and 4185; Figures 127 and 129; Plates 327–332)

- 7.4.24 Field D-2-02 is located to the direct south of Field D-2-01 and is dominated by the large roddon. Much of the field is also located within the non-designated heritage asset for Romano British settlement cropmarks (MLI22251). The geophysical survey identified very few archaeological features in this field.
- 7.4.25 In its northern part, a slightly meandering set of parallel linear anomalies were identified. These continue across a small area of marine alluvium into Field D-3-02, where they follow the contour of a small roddon. They were investigated in Trenches 4173 and 4172. The ditches were found to have substantial dimensions (widths >1.2m→2.5m, depth 0.72m→1.1m), with varying profiles. Fills of bluey grey silty clay followed by black silty clay, indicated a similar pattern of infilling to Roman ditches elsewhere on the Site. A small quantity of animal bone was present.
- 7.4.26 In the southern part of the field, Trenches 4184 and 4185 contained single ditches, possibly forming a single north-east to south-west aligned ditch (Plate 331). These trenches had steeply sloping sides and flat bases (widths >0.8m–1.45m, depths 0.3m–0.8m) and light lower fills followed by darker fills. Trench 4174 was archaeologically blank.
- 7.4.27 The roddons in this field were composed of yellow-brown sand and silty sand. The marine alluvium was composed of blue-grey clay. The overlying topsoil was silty and measured a relatively uniform 0.34m–0.43m in depth.

Field D-2-03 (Trenches 4175 and 4176; Figures 126 and 131; Plates 333 and 334)

- 7.4.28 Field D-2-03 was located to the south of Field D-2-02 and contained a large area of roddon.

- 7.4.29 Despite the absence of geophysical anomalies, features were found in both trenches. A single linear feature was found in Trench 4175, which was interpreted a possible hedgerow. Trench 4176 contained three peaty ditches with evidence for re-cutting.
- 7.4.30 Marine alluvium was frequently present indicating that, despite the presence of the roddon, the field would have been submerged for some time. The marine alluvium was a mid-blue grey clay. The roddon was composed of mid-yellow brown silty sand. The overlying topsoil was a black-brown clay silt, measuring 0.15m in depth.

Field D-2-04 (Trenches 4159–4171; Figures 119, 122, 123, 124, 125 and 131; Plates 335–348)

- 7.4.31 Field D-2-04 is located to the south of Field D-2-03. It contains the southern part of the large roddon and an area of marine alluvium to the south, and a small meandering roddon. The field also included parts of two undated cropmarks (MLI20441; MLI20442). Multiple linear anomalies were identified within the field but not all of these were found to be archaeological in nature. Trenches 4159, 4168 and 4171 were archaeologically blank.
- 7.4.32 Probable 19th century field boundaries were recorded in Trenches 4160, 4161, 4162, 4164 and 4170 (Plate 341).
- 7.4.33 In addition to these a curvilinear/arc shaped feature was recorded in Trenches 4164, 4165 and 4167. The date and function of this ditch is uncertain. Ditches following the roddon contour were seen in Trench 4169. A meandering linear anomaly extending from Field D-3-03 was confirmed as a ditch in Trench 4163. A series of broadly east to west aligned ditches were confirmed in Trench 4166.
- 7.4.34 The roddons in this field were composed of yellow-brown silty sand. The marine alluvium was composed of clays of varying colours. The topsoil was identified as a black brown clay silt, measuring 0.12m–0.31m.

Field D-3-01 (Trenches 4101–4112 and 4183; Figures 82, 113, 114, 115, 120, 121 and 130; Plates 349–364)

- 7.4.35 Field D-3-01 is located in the northern part of Area D. The entirety of the field is covered by cropmarks (MLI20443; MLI20444). The western part of the field contains the large roddon while the eastern part of the field broadly comprises marine alluvium and a small meandering roddon. A small quantity of linear anomalies was found to correspond to ditches. A single archaeologically blank trench (4183) was present.
- 7.4.36 A pair of meandering parallel ditches continuing from Fields D-2-02 and D-3-02 was confirmed in Trench 4103, where they were found to be U-shaped in profile and shallow.
- 7.4.37 Trench 4104 investigated an area of small circular anomalies in the southern part of the field (Plates 353–355). The features in the trench included briquetage and charcoal, suggestive of saltern activity. The features included a ring ditch [410414/410407] (width 0.76m–1.2m, depth 0.3m–0.38m), containing heat affected material and ash, a posthole [410404] (length 0.6m, width 0.43m, depth 0.26) and a ditch [410418] (width 0.8m, depth 0.19m). Briquetage and a small quantity of animal bone were present.
- 7.4.38 Finds from the remaining trenches comprised animal bone and shell.

7.4.39 The roddons in this field were composed of yellowish sandy silts which were occasionally mottled or banded. The marine alluvium varied in colour from grey-brown to orangey-brown and tidal clay was recorded in Trench 4105. A grey-brown clay subsoil (depth 0.25m–0.46m) was recorded in Trenches 4103, 4104 and 4183. The overlying topsoil was a grey brown silty clay, which ranged in depth from 0.13m–0.54m).

Field D-3-02 (Trenches 4094–4100; Figures 83 and 84; Plates 365–373)

7.4.40 Field D-3-02 is located to the south of Field D-3-01 and to the west of Field D-2-02. Most of the field sits on the large roddon in the northern part of the area. It is located within an area of known Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). A relatively sparse distribution of linear anomalies was identified in the field.

7.4.41 The northern part of the field contained a series of parallel anomalies following the contour of a small roddon before continuing across the larger roddon. These were not investigated in this field, but were found to correspond to a series of substantial ditches in Trenches 4172, 4173, Field D-2-02 and 4103, Field D-3-01.

7.4.42 Towards the centre of the area, Trench 4098 investigated a circular feature and found evidence for a potential saltern. The features included pits [409805] and [409807] containing charcoal and briquetage, silty deposits containing briquetage (409810) and (409811), and possible associated ditches (Plate 371). A small quantity of provisionally Roman pottery was also present. No roddon material was found in Trench 4098.

7.4.43 A series of straight and broadly coaxial linear anomalies, which appeared to form an early field system, were investigated in Trenches 4095, 4097, 4098, 4100. These were often found to be relatively shallow and U-shaped in profile. Ditch [409707] in Trench 4097, measured 1.16m in width and 0.2m in depth; and ditch [409503] in Trench 4095, measured 1.72m in width and 0.52m in depth (Plate 367). The fills of these ditches included black fills and bluish silty fills, indicating waterlogged conditions. No dating evidence was retrieved, but the features did not respect the existent roddons.

7.4.44 Two sets of meandering linear anomalies were investigated in the field. One of these, investigated in Trenches 4094 and 4095 was found to be geological in nature. The other, investigated in Trench 4099 was confirmed to represent a series of relatively shallow ditches, and recuts (widths 0.47m–5.4m, depths 0.06m–0.46m). These remain undated, but appear to spatially relate to the parallel ditches seen in the north of the field.

7.4.45 A potential enclosure was investigated in Trench 4096, but was not archaeological in nature.

7.4.46 The roddon in this field was composed of yellow-brown sandy silt. It was not found in all trenches where it was expected, and may have been submerged below the marine alluvium. The marine alluvium was composed blueish grey and blueish brown clays and silty clays. The overlying topsoil was composed of a grey brown silty clay (depth 0.25m–0.46m).

Field D-3-03 (Trenches 4083–4093; Figures 84, 85, 112, 113, 117 and 118; Plates 374–386)

7.4.47 Field D-3-03 is located to the south of Field D-3-01 and the west of Fields D-2-03 and D-2-04. A roddon is present in the north-east corner of the field and the rest is on marine alluvium or smaller meandering roddons. It is located within an area with Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). The anomalies include continuations of the possible field system and meandering features seen in Field D-3-02 to the north. Only Trench 4088 contained a ditch [408803] that was not identified by the geophysical survey (Plate 381).

- 7.4.48 While the meandering feature to the west was identified as geological in Trenches 4094 and 4095 (Field D-3-02), Trench 4084 in Field D-3-03 contained a corresponding ditch. The ditch [408403] (width 0.85m, depth 0.32m) was U-shaped in profile and contained a peaty fill (Plate 376). It could be theorised to represent a later feature with lower intrusion into the archaeological horizon.
- 7.4.49 The meandering feature to the east was investigated by Trenches 4088 and 4090. In contrast to the investigation of this feature in Field D-3-02, only a single ditch was present. A linear feature branching off this ditch was investigated in Trench 4089 and was also found to represent a ditch.
- 7.4.50 A thinner meandering feature was investigated in Trenches 4091 and 4092 but it was not archaeological in nature.
- 7.4.51 Although the majority of linear anomalies forming the potential undated field system were confirmed in Field D-3-02, they were often not present when investigated in Field D-3-03 (Trenches 4083, 4093). Where confirmed in Trenches 4084, 4086 and 4091, (widths 0.85m–1.46m, depths 0.04m–0.52m), the dimensions of these ditches were found to be highly variable. The discrepancy in representation of these ditches may therefore be ascribed to variable depth, intrusiveness and truncation.
- 7.4.52 In the south-western corner of the field, a set of parallel ditches following the contour of a small roddon were found in Trench 4085. These were shallow (depths 0.12m–0.18m) and appeared to form part of a feature complex, centred on Field D-3-04.
- 7.4.53 The large roddon in this field was found to be composed of orange-brown clay silt, while the smaller roddons were composed of brownish-yellow silty clay. The marine alluvium was composed of blue-grey and red flecked clay. The topsoil was found to be a grey brown silty clay, measuring 0.12m–0.45m in depth.

Field D-3-04 (Trenches 4071–4082; Figures 85, 86, 87, 88 and 89; Plates 387–401)

- 7.4.54 Field D-3-04 is located to the south of Field D-3-03 and to the west of Field D-2-04. The topography of the field comprises small meandering roddons and marine alluvium and it is located within an area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). The cropmarks include a small complex centred on the meandering roddons in the western part of the field, an east to west aligned linear feature, coaxial linear features and continuations of the meandering features investigated in Field D-3-03 to the north.
- 7.4.55 The small linear complex to the west was centred on small roddons but also continued beyond them, indicating the presence of an area of drier land during that period. The trenches investigating this complex (4073, 4074, 4077, 4078, 4079, 4080, 4081, 4082) confirmed the results from the geophysical survey. The features can be characterised as ditches following the roddon contour, as well as irregular parcels enclosing areas of roddon. These small enclosures were divided into non-regular strips by broadly parallel ditches. In Trench 4079 the enclosure ditch [407909] (width 1.46m, depth 0.28) and recut [407914] (width 0.96m, depth 0.19) was relatively shallow while an internal dividing ditch [407903] (width 1.85m, depth 0.38m) and recut [4079] (width 0.96m, depth 0.19m) was slightly more substantial (Plate 397 and 398). The fill formation was similar to that seen elsewhere on the Site. A Roman date can be provisionally assigned based on a small quantity of pottery and CBM. It can also be provisionally interpreted as a field system, cut once the marine alluvium in this area had started to dry out.

- 7.4.56 The long east to west linear anomaly was investigated in Trenches 4073, 4081 and 4071. Shallow ditches potentially corresponding to this feature were found in Trenches 4073 and 4081, but these ditches are more likely to represent parts of the undated linear complex.
- 7.4.57 To the south of the linear complex, a pair of north to south aligned linear anomalies were found to correspond to a single shallow ditch [407209] (width 1.6m, depth 0.1m) and possible recut [407211] (width 1.05m, depth 0.12m). A possible curvilinear ditch/animal burrow was also recorded [407207].
- 7.4.58 In the eastern part of the field, Trenches 4075 and 4076 investigated potential continuations of features confirmed in Field D-3-03, but were found to be blank.
- 7.4.59 The roddons in this field were composed of yellow-brown silty sand. The marine alluvium and tidal clay were blue and orangey brown clays. The overlying topsoil was a grey-brown clay silt, measuring 0.18m–0.36m in depth.

Field D-3-05 (Trenches 4065–4070; Figures 89, 90 and 91; Plates 402–408)

- 7.4.60 Field D-3-05, located to the south of D-3-04, also contains an area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). No roddons were expected in this field and a sparse distribution of linear anomalies had been identified.
- 7.4.61 Within the centre of the field, a north-west to south-east aligned linear feature, investigated in Trench 4072, Field D-3-04, was present. This was investigated in two trenches (Trench 4065 and 4066), confirming the presence of a single recut ditch (widths 0.55m–1.8m depths 0.2m–0.75m), which was deeper and flat based with vertical sides (Plate 403). The linear anomaly, however, appeared to correspond to a thin meandering roddon present in both trenches. A Roman date could be provisionally assigned for this ditch, based in finds from Field D-3-06.
- 7.4.62 Broadly east to west aligned linear features, which appeared to form parts of larger division systems, were investigated in Trenches 4067, 4068 and 4070 where they were confirmed to represent ditches.
- 7.4.63 In the south-western part of the field, a pair of meandering parallel linear anomalies were targeted by Trench 4069 which did not reveal any archaeological features.
- 7.4.64 The roddon seen in Trenches 4065 and 4066 comprised deposits of yellow-brown silty sand. Elsewhere within the field the marine alluvium comprised deposits of blueish grey and blueish brown clay silt. The overlying topsoil was found to be a black brown clay silt, measuring 0.2m–0.29m in depth.

Field D-3-06 (Trenches 4053–4064; Figures 92, 93, 94 and 95; Plates 409–419)

- 7.4.65 Field D-3-06 is located to the south of Field D-3-05 and partially within the area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). The cropmarks included the continuation of a north-west to south-east aligned ditch (Trenches 4053 and 4054), previously investigated in Fields D-3-04 and D-3-05. A small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from the ditch [405303] (width 1.56m, depth 0.57m) in Trench 4053, allowing a provisional date (Plate 410).
- 7.4.66 Linear features that appeared to form part of the possible field system in D-3-05 were investigated in Trenches 4056 and 4064 and linear features that either correlated with or spatially respected the 1887 field system were investigated in Trenches 4060–4063 (OS 1887d; Figure 06b). A small quantity of clay pipe was retrieved further suggesting a post-medieval to

modern date. The meandering feature investigated by Trench 4069 in Field D-3-05 was found to represent a ditch in Trench 4058 and another meandering feature as found to correspond to a ditch in Trench 4059. All of the trenches were archaeologically positive and correlated with the geophysical survey. No roddons were expected in this area.

- 7.4.67 Roddon deposits were found in Trenches 4060–4063, in the southern part of the field, composed of yellow white clay silt. Marine alluvium deposits were recorded as greyish brown silty clay and blue grey clay. The overlying topsoil was found to be a grey brown silty clay, measuring 0.24m–0.45m in depth.

Field D-4

- 7.4.68 Field D-4 was descoped from the archaeological evaluation.

Field D-5-01 (4010–4030, 4178, 4179 and 4186; Figures 104, 105, 108, 109, 110 and 111; Plates 420–449)

- 7.4.69 The northern part of Field D-5-01 is located on a large east-west aligned roddon in the south of Area D, with an area of marine alluvium in the southern part of the field. It is also located within an area of cropmarks believed to represent a Roman ditch network and drove road (MLI22296). A particular concentration of archaeology was identified on the roddon. The anomalies in this area are slightly fragmentary but seem to comprise enclosures with subdivisions and internal features. Further linear features were recorded outside this concentration, including curving parallel features that follow the roddon contour, and straighter features that extend into the marine alluvium area. Every trench in this field was found to be archaeologically positive and the accuracy of the geophysical survey was confirmed throughout. Within the high-density area (Trenches 4018, 4019, 4020, 4021, 4022, 4026, 4178 and 4186) evaluation often found a higher density of features than predicted. A total of 127 cut features were recorded in this field. The artefacts from this field included items of Late Iron Age/Roman, Roman post-medieval and modern date, while the assemblage itself was indicative of settlement activity and salt production.
- 7.4.70 The high-density area included ditches, curvilinear ditches, gullies, pits, postholes, a square feature, boundary ditches and settling tanks. These were often inter-cutting and indicative of multiple phases of activity. Much of this area can be characterised as a potential settlement area associated with salt making of probable Roman and possibly Late Iron Age date. While dense, this area was found to be spatially restricted in line with the geophysical survey. At the edge of the potential settlement area, Trench 4026 found a probable saltern (Plate 437–439). The features included a clay lined settling tank, ditches and evidence for burning. A total of 42 contexts were recorded. Another potential saltern was seen in Trench 4178 (Plates 444–446). A small enclosure (c. 20m x 11m) was recorded, with recuts and fills formed of briquetage rubble. Unfortunately, a large post-medieval pit [417820] (length >2m, width 6.8m depth 0.82m) was present in the centre of this probable saltern, truncating any internal features. The activity in Trench 4019 appeared to form part of the same feature complex. Further evidence for salt making in the field was provided by briquetage recovered from Trenches 4019, 4022, 4024, 4026, 4178 and 4186, totalling c. 18.3kg.
- 7.4.71 In the western part of the high-density area, a pair of small abutting enclosures (c. 41mx18m and 31mx24m) were investigated by Trenches 4186 and 4018 respectively. Roman and post-medieval ditches were present and it was unclear which period these enclosures dated to.

- 7.4.72 The parallel ditches, following the southern roddon contour, were investigated in Trenches 4013, 4014, 4019 and 4178 which revealed that they had been recut on multiple occasions, similarly to the evidence seen in Areas B and C (Plate 425). This was more prevalent on the side close to the marine alluvium area, suggesting one side may have been frequently flooded and required more maintenance. The two original ditches in Trench 4014, measured 1.7m–1.98m and 0.6m–0.64m in depth with steeply sloping sides.
- 7.4.73 Elsewhere within the field a sparse distribution of possible Roman and post-medieval ditches was present, representing drainage and possible field systems (Trenches 4010, 4011, 4012, 4015, 4016, 4017, 4024, 4025, 4027, 4029, 4029 and 4179; Plate 429).
- 7.4.74 The roddon was formed of yellow-brown sandy silt. Marine alluvium, where present, was formed of blueish clay. A layer of grey clay silt subsoil, measuring 0.13 in depth, was recorded in a single trench (Trench 4025). The overlying topsoil was a grey brown silty clay, measuring 0.27m–0.43m in depth.

Field D-5-02 (4001–4009; Figures 106 and 107; Plates 450–459)

- 7.4.75 Field D-5-02 is located to the south of D-1-01 and mostly contains an area of marine alluvium with a thin meandering branch of roddon.
- 7.4.76 The geophysical survey found slightly fragmentary and amorphous anomalies of possible archaeological nature. The anomalies generally followed the edge of the roddon with one feature identified to the south. Archaeology was present in all the trenches that targeted these features (Trenches 4001, 4003, 4008 and 4009) and was identified as undated ditches and occasional pits. Ditches running parallel to the roddon edge were found to be occasionally present, as were the ditches at perpendicular angles to those features. The ditches were often substantial, such as ditch [400803] (width >4.5m, depth >0.76m) in Trench 4008. Peaty fills were also sometimes seen such as in ditch [400903] (2.81m, depth 0.78m), indicating water inundation. A single pit [400305] (width 2.18m, depth 0.54m) was present in Trench 4003 (Plate 453). Provisionally Roman pottery and CBM was retrieved from the features in Trench 4009, indicating that this activity was Roman in date and probably contemporary with the settlement activity to the north. Due to the fragmentary nature of the survey results for this area, the overall character is uncertain, but it can be theorised to represent utilisation of a thin roddon.
- 7.4.77 Multiple linear features were identified across the area, often seeming to respect each other and possibly forming a contemporary system. However, these features were usually not encountered in the trenches that targeted them (Trenches 4002, 4004, 4005, 4006 and 4008), with the exception of Trench 4007. These may represent later agricultural features, present only in the topsoil.
- 7.4.78 The roddon in this field was composed of light brown-yellow clay silt with light grey concentrations and flecking. The marine alluvium was composed of blue-grey clay. The topsoil was found to be a dark grey clay, measuring 0.26m–0.42m.

Field D-6 (4031–4041 and 4180–4182; Figures 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 and 103: Plates 460–478)

- 7.4.79 Field D-6 is located to the west of D-5-01 and contains a continuation of the same large roddon. It is also located within an area of Romano British cropmarks (MLI2262). A concentration of archaeological features was identified by the geophysical survey in the

northern part of the roddon. This consists of a possible enclosure complex with internal features, divisions, and curvilinear features (Trenches 4021, 4029, 4031, 4033, 4034, 4049, 4180, 4181). To the south, a potential rectilinear enclosure was identified by the geophysics (Trenches 4036, 4037 and 4038), as well as a high quantity of north-east to south-west linear features. All of the trenches had archaeological features and almost all of the geophysical anomalies corresponded to features. Densities of archaeology were higher than predicted. All trenches in this field were archaeologically positive. Briquetage was collected from features in Trenches 4031, 4032, 4033, 4039 and 4182, indicating salt making activity.

- 7.4.80 The concentration of archaeological features can be characterised as a probable settlement area, with similarities to the one seen in Field D-5-01 to the east. A Roman date can be confidently ascribed based on a rich artefactual assemblage. The settlement appears to have been built along the edge of the roddon, potentially utilising an area of dry ground and exploitation the wetland beyond. Similarly, to the probable settlement area in Field D-5-01, it also appeared to be spatially limited as predicted by the geophysical survey. Provisionally the results appear to indicate a series of closely spaced complexes, with subdivided enclosures, internal features and possible ring gullies. The presence of enclosures and internal features was confirmed in Trenches 4031, 4032, 4033, 4034, 4036, 4180, 4181 and 4182. Enclosure ditches were often found to be substantial, probably reflecting a need for drainage. Similarly, to the high-density complex in Field D-5-01, briquetage was often recovered from this area, indicating salt making activity. A particular concentration was found in Trench 4032, where the briquetage assemblage also included a pedestal. Where datable this area of activity was generally provisionally dated as Roman and occasionally as Iron Age.
- 7.4.81 In Trench 4032 (Plates 462–464), enclosure ditch [403255] (width 1.55m, depth 0.8m) was found to have been recut by ditch [403261] (width >0.9m, depth >0.56m) and [403266] (width 2.18m, depth 0.44m). Pottery, burnt bone, CBM and slag were retrieved, indicating domestic activity and potentially industry. Within the enclosure area in Trench 4032, features included pits, postholes and ditches. The fills in internal ditch [403213] (width 0.8m, depth 0.28m) were highly indicative of domestic waste and included greenish deposits suggestive of cess, animal bone, burnt animal bone, shell and pottery as well as briquetage. Further features were present outside the enclosed area, including a flat based rectangular feature [403228] (length 2.7m, width 0.8m, depth 0.26m). Results in the rest of the complex were similar, but less dense. In Trench 4033, part of a curvilinear gully [403303] (width 0.6m, depth 0.2m) was confirmed (Plate 466).
- 7.4.82 Outside the high-density area, the aerial survey predicted a possible enclosure and sub enclosure. This was investigated in Trenches 4036–4038. This enclosure remains undated, but was found to consist of substantial ditches with recuts frequently present. The northern extent of the sub enclosure was represented by ditch [403611] (width 2.5m, depth 0.76m) and recut [403614] (width 2.05m, depth 0.38m). The western extent of the enclosure was represented by ditch [403703] (width 1.32m, depth 0.74m) and recut [403706] (width 1.1m, depth 0.54m) (Plate 471). Fills were generally formed of greyish sand silts. Further features found in Trenches 4039 and 4040, included ditches, a shallow sub-circular feature [403916] (length 2.4m, width >1.63m, depth 0.22m) and a possible ring ditch [403912] (width 1.03m, depth 0.3m), indicating another area of activity. As briquetage was obtained from this area, this activity can be theorised to include salt making.
- 7.4.83 Across the field, both the geophysical and aerial surveys identified a high quantity of north-east to south-west aligned linear features, present in the majority of trenches, which were evidently of a separate phase to the enclosures and high-density area, based on spatial relationships. Occasionally artefactual evidence for a post-medieval date was present and a

later date can also be inferred from the similar alignment of the features to the 19th century and modern field systems (OS 1887d; Figure 06b) and the occasional presence of similarly aligned field drains. The extent of these features in the southern part of the field appears to correlate with a mapped field boundary (Figure 06b). The linear features were investigated in all trenches except Trenches 4039 and 4040 and were almost always found to correspond to deep ditches, which varied in profile, from flat-based, to broadly U-shaped. Ditch [403117] (width 1.8m, depth 0.68m) contained a fill sequence with blackish silty sands towards the base and greyer silty sands towards the top. A similar fill sequence was seen in ditches [403327] (width 2.3m, depth 1m) and [403502] (width 2.3m, depth 1m).

- 7.4.84 The roddon was composed of yellowish clay silt, clay sand, silty sand, and silt. In Trench 4041 part of the roddon was eroded and in Trench 4037 a clay deposit (403701) (depth 0.26m) was found in the roddon. Marine alluvium, which was only present in Trench 4180, comprised dark grey silty clay. Subsoil was occasionally present (Trenches 4038 and 4040), where it varied in depth between 0.11m–0.28. The overlying topsoil was a grey brown silty clay, measuring approximately 0.3m–0.4m in depth.

7.5 Geoarchaeological Test Pitting

Methodology

- 7.5.1 Test pits were located in areas between roddons identified from processed LiDAR imagery, where it was anticipated that fewer significant archaeological features would be located. It was assumed that the BGS mapped Tidal Flat Deposits outside of the areas of roddons would be of sufficient depth to preserve any deposits of archaeological significance in-situ given the limited impact of the PV modules. The test pits intended to provide information relating to the depositional sequence of the fen to determine if inter-roddon organic or gravel deposits were present, which may suggest locales for human activity.
- 7.5.2 Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated to the maximum safe extent of the machine bucket/soils stability which was approximately between 3.5 to 4m BGL (Below Ground Level). The pits were recorded by a geoarchaeologist using the Troels-Smith (1955) system of sediment classification. The scheme breaks down a sediment sample into four main components and allows the inclusion of extra components that are also present, but that are not dominant. Key physical properties of the sediment layers are darkness (Da), stratification (St), elasticity (El), dryness of the sediment (Sicc) and the sharpness of the upper sediment boundary (UB). Water strikes were also recorded.
- 7.5.3 A summary of the sedimentary and physical properties classified by Troels-Smith (1955) and a stratigraphic breakdown of the deposits was recorded on proforma log sheets (see Appendix 3).
- 7.5.4 Bulk samples were retained from deposits with the potential to provide palaeoenvironmental data or material for radiocarbon dating. Sampling was based on the judgement of the attending geoarchaeologist and will seek to characterise the broad sequence of deposits.
- 7.5.5 Topsoil and subsoil were kept separate during removal and stored separately at either side of the test pit to enable sequential backfilling of the excavations. Topsoil and subsoil bunds were placed at a safe distance (minimum 1m) from the trench edge. Spoil was checked for artefacts both visually and with a metal detector when safe to do so.
- 7.5.6 One test pit in area A was descoped from works, TP148, due to an amendment made following the likelihood of encountering human remains from a downed WWII plane. In Area B, TP201 was descoped. Within Area D a total of 24 test pits were descoped following an increased risk of the presence of unexploded ordnance in the northern extent of the land parcel. Also, within area D, a number of test pits were limited by depth due to highly waterlogged sediment which proved to cause a high level of ground instability during machine excavation. As a result, some test pits did not reach the scheduled depths of 3.5 to 4m BGL.

Results

- 7.5.7 Throughout the entirety of the test pitting programme, the overall stratigraphy as recorded in 209 machine-dug test pits has been relatively uniform and typical of the deposits recorded within wider fenland contexts. Geological test pits were excavated across all four land parcels, these test pits yield lithologies which were consistent with what was anticipated based on nearby BGS boreholes and consisted generally of agricultural worked silty sandy clay topsoil, overlying oxidised deposits of oxidised silts and clays transitioning into grey blue clay of the unoxidised Barroway Drove Bed material (Tidal Flat Deposits).

- 7.5.8 Overlying the Barroway Drove Beds within occasional test pits across all land parcels (except D) were thin upper layers of pale cream/yellow poorly sorted silty fine sand. These represent the edges of roddons which relate to Holocene fluvial deposition and form the uppermost stratigraphic unit (underlying the topsoil). These roddon deposits were found to be infrequent across the areas A, B, and C but frequently across D. No archaeological features were identified within the test pits completed.
- 7.5.9 The lithology for land parcel A consists of blue clay of the Barroway Drove Beds, which extended to depths of around 2.20 to 4.40m BGL within most areas of the land parcel, followed by dark brown silty sandy topsoil. Within a number of test pits deposits of peat were recorded at depths of around 1.90 to 3.70m BGL. These peat deposits were comprised of very humified peat with frequent reed and as of yet unidentified woody remains. This peat is interpreted as 'Lower Peat' as defined by the general fenland sequence; however, this would need to be confirmed through radiocarbon dating. The anticipated age for the Lower Peat would be broadly Neolithic.
- 7.5.10 Overlying the peat were further deposits of tidal clays and silts (Barroway Drove Beds) which extend up to either the modern topsoil or to the interface with the roddon deposits, where the upper portion of the sequence had been truncated (see below). These tidal clay deposits are predominantly soft-slightly firm clay, though often with increased sandy composition. Roughly the upper metre of these tidal clays was oxidised and has orange mottling, lying below the seasonal water table, although they are still part of the same sedimentary unit. These clays are interpretable as the Barroway Drove Beds as defined by the general fenland sequence and were deposited by Holocene marine inundation / transgressions.
- 7.5.11 No peat was recorded during the test pitting of land parcel C, the lithology was mostly comprised of oxidized and blue clay Barroway Drove Bed deposits underlying the agriculturally worked topsoil. Roddon and alluvial deposits were also identified within a number of the test pits across land parcel C.
- 7.5.12 The lithology for land parcel B was very much the same as A, with more regular instances of roddon deposits. Peat deposits within this area were identified at depths of c. 2.70 to 4.20m BGL. Again, these peat deposits were humified, included reed and heartwood inclusions, and did not contain any archaeological materials. The lowermost superficial geological deposit recorded comprised two occurrences of a pale yellow/grey coarse sand with very frequent flint gravel recorded in TP210 and TP259 in Parcel B. Within these test pits it was recorded as being at 4.08m BGL and 3.00m BGL respectively. This gravel was recorded as overlying weathered bedrock within TP210 at 4.15m BGL. This gravel may relate to post-Anglian Pleistocene fluvial deposition by the former course of the River Welland.
- 7.5.13 Beyond the above two interventions, the lowermost deposit within most test pits (and stratigraphically overlying the gravel) has been a blue silty clay which extends beyond the maximum depth reached in test pitting ($\leq 4.00\text{m}$). The clay is interpreted as relating to tidal deposition during marine inundation.
- 7.5.14 The test pitting for areas D has yielded similar lithologies, with deposits of Barroway Drove Beds underlying the worked topsoil with occasional roddon and alluvial deposits, and regular instances of lower peat deposits across the area.

8 PRELIMINARY ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1 Overview

- 8.1.1 The evaluation works at Meridian Solar Farm targeted four areas – A, B, C, D – and yielded a total of 11857 artefacts and ecofacts. This number will increase after the sorting of the soil samples is completed. A total of 115 soil samples were collected for floatation, wet sieving and palaeoenvironmental analysis.
- 8.1.2 All finds have been washed, quantified, bagged and stored according to the guidance for the safe handling and curation of archaeological objects (CifA, 2020) 1. A catalogue of all finds has been entered onto a Microsoft Excel database, per Site. Potential chronology of datable artefacts (spot dates) was sought whenever possible. The total quantities for each Area are detailed in Table 1.
- 8.1.3 The soil samples were processed by flotation, using a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue and a 250µm for the flot. The heavy residue is being sorted by hand for ecofactual and artefactual material.
- 8.1.4 All artefacts and ecofacts are going to be fully evaluated by adequate specialists and the results presented in the full site report.

Material / Areas	A	B	C	D	Grand Total
Bone	31	2037	762	2578	5408
Briquetage	14		483	1215	1712
CBM	21	39	73	94	227
Ceramic (bead)		1			1
Clay pipe	1	16		19	36
Fired clay (+ briquetage)	2	26	1597	1516	3141
Flint	1		1		2
Glass	8	5	3	32	48
Leather	2	4			6
Leather & metal		5			5
Metal (Cu)		1		1	2
Metal (Fe)	52	30	1	14	97
Metal (Pb)			1		1
Mortar		22		2	24
Plaster		1			1

¹ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) (2020) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Material / Areas	A	B	C	D	Grand Total
Pottery	17	32	277	733	1059
PPR	2	10		9	21
Shell	1	3	5	38	47
Stone		9		9	18
Wood					
Worked Bone		1			1
Grand Total	152	2242	3203	6260	11857

Table 7 Quantification of finds, per Area and material type

8.2 Finds summaries

Area A

- 8.2.1 A total of 152 artefacts and ecofacts were recovered during the archaeological evaluation in Area A. The majority of the pottery was of post-medieval date, and the metal components probably have a similar date range.

Area B

- 8.2.2 A total of 2242 artefacts and ecofacts were recovered during the archaeological evaluation in Area B. The largest group is represented by animal bone, with the majority of elements coming from Trench 2077. The pottery spans from the Iron Age/Roman to the post-medieval periods.

Area C

- 8.2.3 The investigation in Area C yielded 3203 finds. The majority of the finds comprise fired clay and briquetage associated with salt making features. The pottery assemblage is mainly dated to the Roman period.

Area D

- 8.2.4 The investigation in Area D provided the largest group of material retrieved during the evaluation. A total of 6260 artefacts and ecofacts were recovered during the archaeological evaluation. The largest group of material is represented by fired clay and briquetage, followed by animal bone. The pottery assemblage is mainly dated to the Roman period.
- 8.2.5 Disarticulated human remains were found in Trench 4031.

9 INTERIM CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1.1 Prior to the commencement of the evaluation, much of the activity on the Site was believed to be dominated by salt production. This can now be reassessed following the excavation evidence, to comprise pastoral and settlement activity with a few areas of salt making.
- 9.1.2 A general conclusion of the evaluation was that the geophysical survey was highly accurate. The vast majority of identified anomalies were found to correspond to archaeological features. Other occasional features, not detected by the geophysics, were also present. Therefore, expected blank areas, especially close to roddons and areas of activity, cannot be considered fully sterile. Possible roundhouse structures were found throughout Areas A and B; these were often very shallow and potentially susceptible to being missed by the geophysical survey.
- 9.1.3 A complex and changing environment was identified in the roddon areas and marine alluvium formation. The results of the evaluation will refine the evidence from the extensive surveys of the landscape in this area and will be presented in the full report.
- 9.1.4 A full analysis of the data will allow the reconstruction of detailed relationships between environment, settlement, agriculture and industry across a large part of the fenland landscape.

9.2 Area A

- 9.2.1 The overall archaeological potential for Area A can be preliminary characterised as evidencing small-scale, peripheral, and possibly seasonal pre-medieval activity. Evidence for agricultural development in the medieval to post-medieval periods was also recorded during the evaluation. Many trenches did not contain archaeological features or had sparse elements.

Late prehistoric to medieval

- 9.2.2 The evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in Area A was generally limited. The results from the evaluation depict an area with potential low to moderate activity.
- 9.2.3 Occasional ring gullies representing probable round houses were present (Fields A-1-07, A-1-08). These features were sometimes found on the marine alluvium area (Trench 1052, Field A-1-08) and may have corresponded to temporary habitation structures associated with seasonal activity.
- 9.2.4 Undated ditches following the roddon area were present in Fields A-1-01 and A-1-07. These are likely to predate the drainage of the surrounding fenland and, based on land use patterns in Areas B and C, these may date to the late prehistoric and/or Roman periods.
- 9.2.5 Based on the distance from known heritage assets, on the low density of remains, and on the nature of the archaeological remains, Area A can be hypothesised as having had peripheral activity in the pre-medieval period. Seasonal utilisation and small-scale habitation appear to be evidenced, indicating exploitation of the water meadows, possibly for pastoral activity.

Medieval to modern

- 9.2.6 Furrows were present in Fields A-1-01, A-1-02, A-1-03, A-1-09. In Trench 1016, Field A-1-09 a ditch following the roddon contour was found to be associated with a series of furrows on the

roddon, indicating ridge and furrow cultivation prior to the drainage of the surrounding fenland.

- 9.2.7 Post-medieval and modern ditches of probable drainage and field boundary function were found in Field A-1-05 and ditches corresponding to historic field boundaries were found in Fields A-1-11 and A-1-12.
- 9.2.8 The limited evidence for possible pre-drainage ridge and furrow cultivation utilising the furrows and later possible post-medieval and modern field systems, indicates that the area has potential to inform on the development of agriculture in association with the drainage of the fenland.

Undated

- 9.2.9 Undated ditches were found in Field A-1-10 and undated pits were found in Fields A-1-11 and A-1-12. The character, date and significance of the features is currently uncertain.

Blank Areas

- 9.2.10 All of the trenches in Fields A-1-04 and A-1-06 were found to be archaeologically blank.

9.3 Areas B and C

- 9.3.1 Areas B and C were found to have high archaeological potential with a evidence for settlement and associated marginal activity dating to the Roman and possible Late Iron Age. Multiple later field systems could be identified, indicating evidence for developing agriculture in the post-Roman period. Very few areas were found to have a low archaeological potential.
- 9.3.2 The results correlate with the known historical background of the area, which includes multiple areas of Roman settlement, and further contribute to its understanding.

Late prehistoric and Roman

- 9.3.3 In Areas B and C, along the meandering area of probable Roman settlement, further human activity was identified (Fields B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13, B-1-14, C-1-01, C-1-03, C-1-06, C-1-07, C-2-02). This activity continued from known areas of Roman settlement at Cate's Cove Corner (NHLE: 1004979; ML20005; MLI22043), the settlement to the north-east of Whitbread Farm (NHLE 1004978; MLI20004), and from the archaeologically dense descoped fields (C-2-03 and C-1-08).
- 9.3.4 Based on the higher density of anomalies in those descoped fields, the evaluated areas appear to contain the more peripheral parts of the settlement. The features in the probable settlement area included long stretches of parallel ditches following the roddon contour, possibly representing driveways and drainage, enclosures and occasional ring gullies. At the edge of the denser scheduled part of the settlement (NHLE: 1004979), two saltern complexes were identified (Trench 3005, Field C-1-01; Trench 3072, Field C-1-03). These were confidently identified and between them had evidence for multiple phases of use, ring gullies, small enclosures, ditches with ashy material pit, briquetage spreads, potential evidence for rakeout and possible evidence for burning in situ.
- 9.3.5 Towards the west and south, the thinner and twisting roddons appear to have been utilised for access to the wetland (B-1-02, B-1-03, B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-09, B-1-10, C-1-02, C-1-05, C-2-02). Ditches following the roddon contours, as well as small-scale enclosures and small ring

gullies were sometimes recorded. While these ring gullies were characterised, prior to the evaluation, as potential salterns, they were found to be more likely to represent roundhouses. The presence of roundhouses on the thin meandering roddons, and occasionally on the marine alluvium (Trench 2096, Field B-1-13), are suggestive of potentially seasonal occupation, possibly associated with periodic utilisation of water meadows. Ring gullies were often found to be shallow and diffuse, with fills indicative of water inundation, which further suggests that they may have been temporary structures located in areas prone to seasonal flooding. Features such as ditches or potential driveways between roddons (Trench 3021, Field C-2-02) are also suggestive of livestock being moved across the areas of marine alluvium.

- 9.3.6 The ditches forming these structures were often recut, reflecting maintenance of frequently flooded features. There is also potential for this to reflect seasonality. The fill sequence in many of these ditches was indicative of multiple water inundations and periods of total flooding, with an early phase of light grey silty fills followed by a later black peaty fill. This evidence may reflect a larger environmental change or event within the Site.
- 9.3.7 Further analysis of this activity has potential to inform on Roman settlement, pastoralism and salt production within the fens as well as seasonality and the relationship of humans with the wetland environment. It can also be used to complement and expand on the understanding of the settlement areas in the northern parts of the Site.

Medieval to post-medieval

- 9.3.8 The post-Roman activity in Areas B and C generally comprised probable drainage and field systems. Dating evidence from these features was generally limited, but later features were often long, sometimes meandering ditches, not respecting the roddons.
- 9.3.9 This included a long, slightly meandering linear feature seen in Fields B-1-09, B-1-10, Field B-1-11. A post-medieval ditch and drain was found in Field B-1-13 and B-1-14, with further predicted linear features and ditches in the field that appeared to form part of the same system in the northern part of the field and Fields C-2-01 and C-2-02. In Field B-1-14 a series of substantial ditches, which did not follow the roddon, were present (2027, 2067, 2069 and 2114), one of which could be artefactually dated to the post-medieval period. A timber drain and multiple articulated animal burials were also recovered from this area. A long curving linear feature was predicted in Fields B-3-02, B-1-12, B-2 and C-2-01 and was found to correspond to a pair of ditches.
- 9.3.10 A large-scale field or drainage system was recorded across Fields C-1-01, C-1-03 C-1-04, C-1-05, C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-1-08. This comprised a pair of parallel ditches on north-east to south-west alignment and two pairs on a broadly north to south alignment. Each set of ditches was spaced 24m–27m apart and the broadly north to south aligned ditches were spaced approximately 260m apart, possibly representing a field. This system could be dated to the post-medieval period via the evidence from interventions in Field C-1-05.
- 9.3.11 Furrows were identified in Fields B-2.
- 9.3.12 Ditches following a potential older continuation of the mapped 1887 field boundaries were found in Field B-1-07.
- 9.3.13 Ditches corresponding to 1887 OS mapping or appearing to respect the field system depicted in 1887 OS mapping were found in Fields B-1-01, B-1-02, B-1-09, B-1-10, B-5, C-2-02 and C-1-06 (OS 1887c; Figure 04b). However, not all mapped boundaries corresponded to

archaeological features, indicating that many of the boundaries may have been less intrusive in form.

- 9.3.14 These field systems have potential to inform on the agricultural development of the Site and its relationship with the drainage of the fens. This can be used to inform on multiple questions from the EMHERF, including:

7.7.6: How best may we enhance study of the origins and development of early land reclamation and drainage, particularly in Lincolnshire?

Undated

- 9.3.15 Small scale undated activity was present in Fields B-1-01 and B-1-10. Further undated features were found across the majority of fields in Areas B and C, often comprising probable drainage and boundary features.

Blank Areas

- 9.3.16 All trenches in Fields B-1-06 were found to be archaeologically blank.

9.4 Area D

- 9.4.1 While evidence for Roman and post-Roman activity was found across Area D, the remains with highest archaeological potential are found in the southern part of the area. Here, two areas of probable Roman settlement associated with salt making activity were evidenced. Very few trenches in this area were found to be archaeologically blank, attesting to the presence of archaeological remains even in low density areas.

- 9.4.2 The evidence from the evaluation can refine the known historical background of the area, which is almost entirely within multiple heritage assets relating to Roman cropmarks. The evidence also refines the understanding of the interplay of human activity and the landscape. Of the two large roddons in the area, only the southern one appears to have represented dryland in the Roman period. Marine alluvium was occasionally found in the expected location of the northern roddon and very few archaeological features were present. Use of the smaller meandering roddons was also frequently evidenced with activity often centred on these, but also expanding outward from the smaller roddons (Fields D-2-01 and D-3-04) indicating areas of dryland centred on these roddons as the marine alluvium had begun to dry. Sometimes this activity could be provisionally dated to the Roman period.

Late prehistoric and Roman

- 9.4.3 Late Iron Age/Roman, Roman and probable Roman activity was found across the evaluation area. The high quantity of known heritage assets, in and around the area, indicates that almost the entire landscape within the area was utilised in the Roman period.

- 9.4.4 In the northern and the central parts of Area D (Fields D-2-01, D-2-02, D-2-04, D-3-01, D-3-02, D-3-03, D-3-04 and D-3-06), the activity could be characterised as comprising small-scale possible field systems on the small roddons, drainage ditches following the roddon contours and occasional slightly isolated salterns (Trench 4104, Field D-3-01 and Trench 4098, Field D-3-02). Dating evidence from these areas was limited and any phasing is provisional. A similar pattern was also seen in Field D-5-02, at the southern extent of the area. This could be dated to the Roman period.

- 9.4.5 In the southern part of the area, two large settlement complexes were present, both situated on the southern large roddon (Fields D-5-01 and D-6). Both include dense archaeological remains, amalgamated enclosure and/or multiple closely spaced enclosures, internal subdivisions, pits, postholes and occasional ring gullies. The settlement complex in Field D-5-01 covers an area of approximately 267m x 100m and the settlement complex in Field D-6 covers an area of approximately 380m x 176m. The artefactual assemblage from these areas included high quantities of animal bone and pottery further suggesting a settlement activity.
- 9.4.6 In layout these areas of settlement differ from the settlement seen in Areas B and C, which is continuous across a long meandering area, but similarly to the Area B and C settlement, salt making complexes were found at the settlement edge (Trench 4026, Field D-5-01 and Trench 4033, Field D-6). As high quantities of briquetage were found in the settlement areas and surrounding fields, further salt making complexes can be theorised and salt production can be inferred to have constituted a major part in the settlement's economy.
- 9.4.7 In the areas surrounding the settlements, further evidence for activity was present, including probable enclosures, suggesting the area on the southern roddon may have been fully utilised in the Roman period.
- 9.4.8 The evidence from this area has potential to inform on questions of settlement patterns and layout, landscape use, the role of salt making in these settlements and the wider peripheral landscape associated with the settlements.

Medieval to modern

- 9.4.9 Similarly to Areas B and C, evidence for post-Roman field systems was present across the area (Fields D-2-01, D-2-04, D-3-02, D-3-06, D-5-01, D-5-02 and D6). Many of these spatially respected the 1887 OS boundaries (OS 1887d; Figure 06b).

Undated

- 9.4.10 The majority of fields in Area D contain features which cannot currently be dated. This included the possible field system and enclosures in Field D-2-01, a large arc-shaped feature Field D-2-04, a pair of meandering ditches found in Fields D-2-02, D-3-01 and D-3-02, a field system seen in Fields D-3-02 and a meandering feature seen in Fields D-3-02 and D-3-03. Based on the dated features Roman and medieval–modern dates are both possible. Provisional dating will be further refined at the next reporting stage.

10 STRATEGY FOR FULL REPORTING

10.1.1 YA aims to complete the full report in May 2026. A draft of the report will be sent in late April 2026. A digital copy of the full report will be shared with the LPA following client approval. YA will aim to submit a final copy within four weeks of receipt of any comments. Any variation to the reporting protocol will need to be agreed with the LPA and Client in advance. The reporting timescales will be kept under review, and any variation to the programme advised to the Client and the LPA.

10.1.2 The final evaluation report will include:

- Cover Page and Key project information;
- List of contents, figures, tables, appendices, etc.;
- Non-technical summary – Summary of the evaluation results;
- Introduction – Overview of the project scope;
- Planning Background – Contextualisation of the archaeological works including the nature of the works, dates of fieldwork, personnel, commissioning body, and nature of the Proposed Development;
- Location, Geology and Topography – Overview of the geological and topographical traits of the Site;
- Archaeological and Historical Background – Research and historiography, sufficient to place the results of the excavation within their local or regional context. Regional Research Objectives – Specification and update on the EMHERF research themes and objectives, based on the archaeological results;
- Methodology – Description of excavation and investigation methodology applied during the fieldwork, including any agreed changes in the research methods;
- Results – Description of physical characteristics of all archaeological features and structures, according to their contextual, stratigraphical nature and phasing. Integration and relation of artefactual and ecofactual data. The results section will be supplemented by illustrations (including plans, section drawings and photographs) as appropriate in appendices.
- Specialist reports – Section dedicated to the presentation of the results resulting from the artefactual and ecofactual investigation, with recommendations for any further analysis;
- Discussion - Examination on the nature, extent, date, condition and overall significance of the features, finds and environmental results, site phasing and interpretation. Description of areas of disturbance, non-archaeological deposits and changes in the natural substrate, where appropriate. Discussion of the results within the local and regional context, following the EMHERF research and objectives, supported by specialist assessment;

- Conclusion – Final summary of the results including the main archaeological themes and their chronological range;
- Figures – Illustrative material including location maps, phased plans, section of excavated features, artefact drawings and photographs as necessary.
- Plates – Selected photographs of the Site, with specific contexts, general views and work in progress;
- Appendices – Supporting appendices containing context lists, tables and any additional supporting appendices as necessary;
- OASIS Cover Sheet – Oasis Form, as submitted;

11 REFERENCES

- AOC Archaeology. 2025a. *Meridian Solar Farm Lincolnshire Archaeological Geophysical Survey* [unpublished report]. Leeds: AOC Archaeology Group. AOC Project No: 40983
- AOC Archaeology. 2025b. *Meridian Solar Phase II, Lincolnshire Archaeological Geophysical Survey* [unpublished report]. Leeds: AOC Archaeology Group. AOC Project No: 40983
- Archaeology Data Service. 2025. *Guides to Good Practice* [Online Resource]. Available at: <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/help-guidance/guides-to-good-practice/digital-archiving/about-these-guidelines/> [Accessed 22/07/2025]. University of York; Archaeology Data Service.
- British Geological Survey (BGS). 2025. *Geology of Britain Viewer*. [online] <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed 01/04/2025].
- Brew, D.S, Holt, T, Pye, K and Newsham, R. 2000. Holocene sedimentary evolution and palaeocoastlines of the Fenland embayment, eastern England. In Langford, H. E. and Briant R. M. 2004. Post-Anglian deposits in the Peterborough area and the Pleistocene history of the fen basin. In, *Nene Valley Field Guide* London, Quaternary Research Association.
- Briant, R.M, Coope, G.R, Preece, R.C and Gibbard, P.L. 2004. Evidence for early Devensian (Weichselian) fluvial sedimentation: geochronological and palaeoenvironmental data from the upper Pleistocene deposits at Deeping St James, Lincolnshire, England. *Geographie physique et Quaternaire* 15, pp 5-15.
- Bridgland, D. *et al.* 1991. 'The Pleistocene sequence in the Peterborough district: possible correlation with the deep-sea oxygen isotope record'. In *Central East Anglia and the Fen Basin: field guide* (ed Lewis, C. *et al*) 209–212. London, Quaternary Research Association.
- Brown, D. 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, completion, transfer and curation*. London; Archaeological Archives Forum.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 2020. *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Reading; Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 2022. *Code of Conduct: Professional ethics in archaeology*. Reading; Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 2023a. *Standard for Archaeological field evaluation*. Reading; Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 2023b. *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. Reading; Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Historic England (HE). 2019. *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (updated 2022). Reading; Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Clark, C. D., Evans, D. J. A., Khatwa, A., Bradwell, T., Jordan, C., Marsh, S. H., Mitchell, W. A., and Bateman, M. D. 2004. Map and GIS database of glacial landforms and features related to the last British Ice Sheet. In Ehlers, J. and Gibbard, P. L. , *Quaternary Glaciations – Extent and Chronology: Part I – Europe* Vol 2, pp. 237–260
- Clark, C. D., Ely, J. C., Greenwood, S. L., Hughes, A. L. C., Meehan, R., Barr, I. D., Bateman, M. D., Bradwell, T., Doole, J., Evans, D. J. A., Jordan, C. J., Monteys, X., Pellicer, X. M., and Sheehy, M. 2018. BRITICE Glacial Map, version 2: a map and GIS database of glacial landforms of the last British–Irish Ice Sheet. *Boreas* 47(1)

- Deegan, A. 2024. *Air photo and LiDAR mapping and interpretation: Meridian Solar Farm Project. Lincolnshire*. [unpublished report]
- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). 2023. *Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (EN-1)* (updated January 2024). (DESNZ).
- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). 2023. *National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-3)* (updated January 2024). (DESNZ).
- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). 2023. *National Policy Statement for electricity networks infrastructure (EN-5)* (updated January 2024). (DESNZ).
- East Anglian Archaeology (EAA). 1992. *The Fenland Project, Number 5: Lincolnshire Survey, the Southwest Fens*. Sleaford. Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. East Anglian archaeology Report No. 55.
- East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework. 2025. *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* [Online Resource], Part of the Research Frameworks Network. Available at: <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/> [Accessed 22/04/25]
- Evans, K. 2025. *Meridian Solar Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* [Unpublished Document]. Saltaire. JBA Consulting.
- Failes, A and Peachey, M. 2013. *Archaeological Investigations along the Route of the A1073, Spalding-Eye Improvement Scheme*. Lincolnshire History and Archaeology No. 48 p21-38.
- Failes, A., Lane, T., and Peachey, M. 2011. *Highway to History: Archaeology and the A1073 Improvement Scheme*. Heckington, The Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
- Gaunt, G. and Tooley, M. 1974. Flandrian sea-level changes in the Humber Estuary and adjacent areas. *Bulletin of the Geological Survey of Great Britain* 48, 25–40
- Gibbard, P., Hughes, P., Rolfe, C., Candy, I. 2021. Evidence for the age of the British Ice Sheet glaciations in Lowland Britain: OSL dating of glaciogenic sediments from the Wolstonian (MIS 6). *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, 132(6), 669-682
- Hall and Coles. 1994. *Fenland survey: an essay in landscape and persistence. (Archaeological Report 1.)* London: English Heritage
- Hayes, P. and Lane, T. 1992. 'The Fenland Project No. 5: Lincolnshire Survey, the South-West Fens, report no. 55'. East Anglian Archaeology (EAA).
- Historic England. 2011. *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (second edition). Swindon. Historic England.
- Historic England. 2015a. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide*. Swindon. Historic England.
- Historic England. 2015b. *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*. Swindon. Historic England.
- Historic England. 2015c. *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: A guide to best practice*. Swindon. Historic England.
- Historic England. 2016. *Preserving archaeological remains: Decision-taking for sites under development*. Swindon. Historic England.
- Historic England. 2018. *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation*. Swindon. Historic England.

- Historic England. 2020. *Deposit Modelling and Archaeology: Guidance for mapping buried deposits*. Swindon. Historic England.
- Historic England. 2022. *Radiocarbon Dating and Chronological Modelling: guidelines and best practice*. Swindon. Historic England
- Historic England. 2024a. *Waterlogged Wood: Historic England Draft Guidelines on the Excavation, Recording, Sampling and Conservation of Waterlogged Wood*. Swindon. Historic England
- Historic England. 2024b. *Scunthorpe and its Environs Air photo and lidar mapping and interpretation*, Historic England Research Report Series 33/2024
- Horton, A. 1989. Geology of the Peterborough District. *British Geological Survey Memoir Sheet 158*. England and Wales
- JBA Consulting. 2025. *Meridian Solar Specification for Archaeological Evaluation* [unpublished document]. Saltaire. JBA Consulting.
- Laing, M 2022. Who Made the White Gold? Exploring the Demographics of Iron Age Salt Production in England through Fingerprint Analysis. *Proceeding of the Prehistoric Society* 88, 79-96
- Lane, T. W. 2001. *A millennium of salting : prehistoric and Romano-British salt production in the Fenland*. Sleaford : Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
- Lane, T. 2008. 11. The Fenland of Eastern England and the Production of Salt. In (Eds Olivier Weller, Alexa Dufraisse and Pierre Petrequin) *Sel, eau, forêt. D'hier à aujourd'hui Salt, Water, Forest. From Yesterday to Today Sal, agua, bosque. De ayer a hoy*. Besançon: Presses universitaires de Franche-Comté. (p 231–253)
- Langford, H. and Bryant, R. 2004. 'Post-Anglian Deposits in the Peterborough Area and the Pleistocene History of the Fen Basin'. *Nene Valley Guide*, 22-35, London, Quaternary Research Association.
- Lincolnshire County Council. 2024. *Archaeology Handbook*. Available at: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/historic-environment/archaeological-handbook> [Accessed 22/04/2025]
- Mattingly, D. 2006. *An Imperial Possession: Britain in the Roman Empire*. London; Allen Lane (Penguin)
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). 2019. *NPPF Planning Practice Guide Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* (MHCLG)
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). 2024. *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*. (MHCLG).
- Mitchel, P. and Brickley, M. 2017. *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. Southampton; BABAO, University of Southampton.
- Ordnance Survey. 1887a. *Lincolnshire Sheet CXLVIII.SW*, surveyed 1887 [map]. Ordnance survey.
- Ordnance Survey. 1887b. *Lincolnshire Sheet CXLVIII.NW*, surveyed 1887 [map]. Ordnance Survey.
- Ordnance Survey. 1887c. *Lincolnshire Sheet CXLVIII.NE*, surveyed 1887 [map]. Ordnance Survey.

- Ordnance Survey. 1887d. *Lincolnshire Sheet CXLIX.NW*, surveyed 1887 [map]. Ordnance Survey.
- Ordnance Survey 1887e. *Lincolnshire Sheet CXLVIII.NW*, surveyed 1887 [map]. Ordnance Survey.
- Pre-construct Archaeology. 2006. *Land off Holbeach Drove Gate, Holbeach Drove, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. Archaeological Evaluation* [unpublished report]. Pre-construct Archaeology
- Pre-construct Archaeology. 2023. *Land off Holbeach Drove Gate, Holbeach Drove, Lincolnshire: An Archaeological Evaluation* [unpublished report]. Pre-construct Archaeology. PCA Report Number: R15420
- Roffe, D. 1993. *On Myddan Gyrwan Fenne: Intercommoning around the Island of Crowland', Fenland Research 8*, 1993, pp 80-6
- Shennan, S 1986. Flandrian sea-level change in the Fenland 1: The geographical setting and evidence of relative sea level changes. *Journal of Quaternary Science 1*, 199-154
- Troels-Smith, J. 1955. Karakteriseringaf lose jordater (characterisation of unconsolidated sediments). *DenmarksGeologiskeUndersogelse, Series IV/3, 10*, 73.
- Watkinson, D. and Neal, V. 1998. *First Aid for Finds*. London; Rescue/UKIC
- Willis, S. 2023. *Updated Period Resource Assessment: The Later Bronze Age and Iron Age*. In East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework, Part of the Research Frameworks Network. Available at: <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/updated-period-resource-assessment-the-later-bronze-age-and-iron-age/#section-82> [Accessed 22/04/2025]
- Woodfield, C., 2005. 'Rare tazze, paterae and a broad hint at a lararium from Lactodorum (Towcester)', *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies*, vol.12, 209-12
- Wright, D. W, and Willmott, H. 2024. 'Sacred Landscapes and Deep Time: Mobility, Memory, and Monasticism on Crowland.' *Journal of Field Archaeology 49*, 280-299
- York Archaeology. 2024. *Excavation Manual* [unpublished document]. York Archaeology; Nottingham
- York Archaeology. 2025a. *Meridian Solar Farm Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation* [unpublished document]. Nottingham; York Archaeology. YA reference: YA/2025/082
- York Archaeology. 2025b. *Meridian Solar Farm Interim statement on an Archaeological Evaluation* [unpublished report. Nottingham; York Archaeology. YA reference: YA/2025/206

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

York Archaeology would like to thank JBA Consulting Ltd for commissioning this work on behalf of Meridian Solar Farm Ltd, and to [REDACTED] (NISP archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council) for overseeing the same.

The following York Archaeology staff contributed to the Project. The project was managed by Phillipa Puzey-Broomhead and Andy Fails. Sitework was overseen by Carina Summerfield-Hill, Paul Renner, Megan Hughes and Suzie Westall. Craig Appleby, Ezra Crump, Ben Ward, Caitlin Halton, Charlotte Stone, Ewan Montgomery, Ellie Stevens, Eleonora Scandola, Elle Wenham, Joseph Parker, Emma Challoner, Evan Machin, Jack Thomas, Kaitlin Hull, Lauren Antle, Mark Collins, Martha Carruthers, Miranda Richardson, Niamh Rushton, Oliver Morley, Will Stock, Steve Pratt and Rebecca Wood undertook the fieldwork. Emilie Greene undertook geoarchaeological fieldwork.

York Archaeology extends thanks to Cambridge Archaeological Unit and self-employed archaeologists for assisting with the fieldwork. The following external staff contributed to the fieldwork [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The post-excavation process is being managed by Diana Fernandes, assisted by Morwenna Fox, Eleri Davies and Marius Ilie. The interim statement and interim report were written by Eleri Davies with contributions from Emilie Greene, Diana Fernandes and Tom Keyworth. The figures were produced by Marius Ilie supported by Briannie Price.

