The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Sea Link

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1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

- This Desk Based Assessment (DBA) has been produced to the support the assessment of the likely significant effects on cultural heritage that could result from the Proposed Project, specifically the Kent Onshore Scheme (as described in **Application Document 6.2.1.4 Part 1 Introduction Chapter 4 Description of the Proposed Project**).
- This DBA identifies all known designated and non-designated heritage assets within defined study areas surrounding the Order Limits, to assess the archaeological potential of the land within the Order Limits and to identify key heritage considerations. It places the land within the Order Limits within its wider heritage context to inform the assessment of significance of cultural heritage assets. Cultural heritage in this context means the above and below-ground archaeology, built heritage, the historic landscape and any other elements which may contribute to the historic and cultural heritage of the area.
- The Order Limits, which illustrate the boundary of the Proposed Project, are illustrated on **Application Document 2.2.1 Overall Location Plan** and the Kent Onshore Scheme Boundary is illustrated on **Application Document 2.2.3 Kent Location Plan**.

1.2 Structure of this DBA

- 1.2.1 This DBA is structured into the following sections:
 - Section 2: presents a summary of legislation, policy and guidance relevant to cultural heritage;
 - Section 3: presents the assessment methodology for the DBA:
 - Section 4: presents the cultural heritage baseline for the land within the Kent Onshore Scheme and Study Area, including a summary of fieldwork surveys carried out for the Kent Onshore Scheme; and
 - Section 5: presents an assessment of the archaeological potential within the Kent Onshore Scheme and potential research themes relevant for further investigation.
 - Section 6: presents an assessment of the heritage significance within the Suffolk Onshore Scheme; and
 - Section 7: provides a conclusion to this DBA.
- 1.2.2 The DBA is supported by the following appendices and figures:
 - Application Document 6.3.3.3.B Appendix 3.3.B Cultural Heritage Gazetteers;
 - Application Document 6.3.3.3.C Appendix 3.3.C Site Photos;
 - Application Document 6.3.3.3.D Appendix 3.3.D Geophysical Survey Report;

- Application Document 6.3.3.3.E Appendix 3.3.E Aerial Photographic and LiDAR Report;
- Application Document 6.3.3.3.F Appendix 3.3.F Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report (Draft);
- Application Document 6.3.3.3.G Appendix 3.3.G Geo-archaeological Assessment Report; and
- Application Document 6.4.3.3 Cultural Heritage.

2. National Legislation, Policy, and Guidance

- This section provides an overview of the legislation and planning policy that is relevant to the cultural heritage assessment. A full review of compliance with relevant national and local planning policy is provided within Application Document 6.2.1.2 Part 1 Introduction Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context and also discussed in Application Document 6.2.3.3 Part 3 Kent Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage. A list of legislation and policy relevant to this DBA is provided below:
 - The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (The National Archives, 2024);
 - The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (The National Archives, 2024);
 - National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
 - National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1);
 - NPS for Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5);
 - National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG);
 - Thanet Local Plan (Thanet District Council, 2020);
 - Dover District Local Plan (Dover District Council, 2024);
 - Historic England. Good Practice Advice (GPA) Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-taking (Historic England, 2015);
 - Historic England. GPA3. The Setting of Heritage Assets (Historic England, 2017);
 - Historic England. Advice Note 12 Statements of Heritage Significance (Historic England, 2019); and
 - Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessments (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

3. Assessment Methodology

3.1 Study Area

- The Study Area is the area within which cultural heritage assets may experience effects as a result of the Kent Onshore Scheme during construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning. Effects to heritage assets may arise as a result of physical impacts to their fabric or through changes to their setting.
- For the purpose of this report, a 500 m buffer was applied to the Kent Onshore Scheme Boundary (see **Application Document 2.2.3 Kent Location Plan**), which includes the proposed cable route and other associated works including the Minster Converter Station and Substation, as well as elements such as construction compounds and haul roads, as the Study Area to capture information relating to archaeology and cultural heritage. The extent of the proposed Study Area is the standard for these type of projects in order to provide the necessary context for establishing the cultural heritage baseline and identifying likely impacts and effects arising from the Kent Onshore Scheme. The study area extent was agreed with stakeholders at the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) stage and through subsequent consultation.
- A second wider study area of 2 km was applied to the area around the Minster Converter Station and Substation, and Overhead Line (OHL) in order to provide an assessment of potential setting impacts on designated assets. This review of assets was undertaken alongside a review of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) produced for the Kent Onshore Scheme, as well as consultation with stakeholders (see Application Document 6.4.3.3.6 Designated Assets within the wider 2 km Study Area).
- The Order Limits, which illustrate the boundary of the Proposed Project, are illustrated on **Application Document 2.2.1 Overall Location Plan** and the Kent Onshore Scheme Boundary is illustrated on **Application Document 2.2.3 Kent Location Plan**.

3.2 Data Sources

- The cultural heritage baseline described in this section has been informed by the following data sources (see the figures contained within Application Document 6.4.3.3 Cultural Heritage and Application Document 6.3.3.3.B Appendix 3.3.B Cultural Heritage Gazetteers for a list of all assets within the 500 m study area):
 - National Heritage List for England dataset (NHLE);
 - Kent Historic Environment Record (HER);
 - data collected as part of other schemes in the area including published data from the Kent East Access excavations;
 - local libraries and archives:
 - National Library of Scotland Historic Maps; and
 - other online sources and published material.

A review of aerial photographic and LiDAR data was undertaken for the Order Limits, as well as geophysical survey, targeted evaluation excavations, and a review of the geoarchaeological potential of the Minster Marshes areas. The findings of these reports has been incorporated in this DBA, while the full reports covering these works are reproduced in Application Document 6.3.3.3.D Appendix 3.3.D Geophysical Survey Report, Application Document 6.3.3.3.E Appendix 3.3.E Aerial Photographic and LiDAR Report, Application Document 6.3.3.3.F Appendix 3.3.F Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report (Draft) and Application Document 6.3.3.3.G Appendix 3.3.G Geo-archaeological Assessment Report.

3.3 Site Walkover Survey

- A site walkover and visual assessment of heritage assets within the Study Area was undertaken between 9 and 11 May 2022. This was followed by a further site visit on the 20 and 21 January 2024, part of which was undertaken with a Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and the Archaeology Officers for Kent County Council (KCC). A final site visit was undertaken on the 15 October 2024.
- 3.3.2 The aims of the site walkover were to:
 - identify known and previously unknown heritage assets within the Kent Onshore Scheme Boundary and the Study Area, including non-designated buildings of heritage interest not recorded on the HER;
 - identify and describe the experience and setting of heritage assets within the Kent Onshore Scheme Boundary and Study Area;
 - gain an understanding of the importance of long-range views for some heritage assets and an appreciation of how views change as the viewer moves through the landscape;
 - identify areas suitable for archaeological evaluation; and
 - identify the location and extent of modern ground disturbance and previous construction impacts.
- 3.3.3 The results of the site walkover are presented in Section 4 of this DBA.

3.4 Consultation

- Consultation has been carried out with Historic England's Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and the Archaeology Officers for KCC to ensure, as far as practicable, that cultural heritage issues are identified and potential impacts to cultural heritage assets are included in the assessment.
- The scope of works for archaeological investigation works undertaken during the assessment process was agreed with the Archaeological Officer for KCC. This included a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological geophysical survey, archaeological monitoring of Ground Investigation (GI) works, and archaeological evaluation trenching.
- Stakeholders have provided responses through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping opinion, as well as commented on the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Report and the Additional PEIR which accompanied the Statutory Consultation and further targeted consultation. Further details can be found in

Application Document 6.2.1.6 Part 1 Introduction Chapter 6 Scoping Opinion and EIA Consultation.

Regular meetings were also undertaken with the stakeholders to discuss elements of the Proposed Project and the assessment process. This has included discussing the results of geophysical survey, the positioning of evaluation trenching locations, and the location of photomontages/visualisations required as part of the setting assessment. Further details can be found in Application Document 6.2.1.6 Part 1 Introduction Chapter 6 Scoping Opinion and EIA Consultation and Application Document 6.2.3.3 Part 3 Kent Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage.

3.5 Assessing Heritage Significance

- The significance of identified heritage assets has been determined by professional judgement guided by statutory and non-statutory designations, national, regional, and local policies, and archaeological research frameworks.
- As listed in Section 2 of this DBA, Historic England has published a series of Good Practice Advice (GPA) of which those of most relevance to this appraisal are GPA2 Managing Significance in Decision-taking (Historic England, 2015), GPA3 The Setting of Heritage Assets (Second Edition) (Historic England, 2017), and Advice Note 12: Statements of Heritage Significance (Historic England, 2019).
- GPA2 emphasises the importance of having a knowledge and understanding of the significance of heritage assets likely to be affected by the development and that the 'first step for all applicants is to understand the significance of any affected heritage asset and, if relevant the contribution of its setting to its significance' (paragraph 4). Early knowledge of this information is also useful to a local planning authority in preapplication engagement with an applicant and ultimately in decision making (paragraph 7).
- GPA3 provides detail on the setting of heritage assets and provides general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated. The document also provides advice on how views contribute to setting. Paragraph 8 of the advice note confirms that the extent of the setting, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Paragraph 9 states that although the setting is not itself a heritage asset, nor a heritage designation, land comprising a setting may itself be designated.
- 3.5.5 GPA3 also provides a broad approach to assessing the impact of a proposed development on the setting of heritage assets, and outlines a series of steps that can be applied proportionately to the complexity of the case:
 - Step 1 is to identify the heritage assets and their settings which have the potential to be impacted;
 - Step 2 comprises assessing the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage assets, or allow significance to be appreciated;
 - Step 3 is to assess the effects of a proposed development on that significance or allow significance to be appreciated;
 - Step 4 comprises exploring ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and

- Step 5 should be making and documenting the decision and monitoring the outcomes.
- Advice Note 12 outlines a recommended approach to assessing the significance of heritage assets in line with the requirements of NPPF. It includes a suggested reporting structure for a 'Statement of Heritage Significance', as well as guidance on creating a statement that is proportionate to the asset's significance (its heritage value) and the potential degree of impact of a proposed development.
- The Advice Note also offers an interpretation of the various forms of heritage interest that an asset can possess, based on the terms provided in the NPPF Glossary (Annex 2: Glossary) as follows:
 - Archaeological Interest there will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or has the potential to hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
 - Architectural and Artistic Interest these are interests in the design or general
 aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the
 way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an
 interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and
 decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in
 other human creative stills, such as sculpture.
 - Historic Interest an interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic).
 Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with
 historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history but can also
 provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place
 and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.
- The significance of potential heritage assets is also based on regional research resource assessments and research frameworks as well as thematic and period-specific publications.

3.6 Archaeological Potential

The potential for an area of the Kent Onshore Scheme to contain previously undiscovered archaeological remains is rated in this DBA as high, medium, low or negligible. This rating is based on an understanding of the archaeological resource and the number and proximity of known and predicted archaeological/historical sites and find spots within the Order Limits and Study Area. Further considerations include the site's historical and current land-use, prevailing topography, geology, results of archaeological evaluation, professional opinion and the results of stakeholder consultation and engagement.

4. Heritage Baseline

4.1 Introduction

The following sets out the cultural heritage baseline conditions for the Kent Onshore Scheme and Study Areas. The history of human activity can be influenced by an area's geological and topographical character and therefore the baseline begins with a description of both. This is followed by an historical narrative of the Study Area by chronological period, as well as review of work undertaken as part of the Proposed Project including geophysical survey, archaeological evaluation trenching, and a review geoarchaeological data.

4.2 Geology, Topography, and Land use

- The Kent Onshore Scheme is located on land that was formally a marine environment on the southern edge of the Isle of Thanet, with the Kent Onshore Scheme running from Pegwell Bay in the east (NGR TR 34517 63625) to the Minster Converter Station and Substation in Minster Marshes in the west (NGR TR 32224 63035). In the east the Study Area lies between sea level and 5 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) as it rises out of Pegwell Bay to the Sandwich Road area, from where it rises to a maximum height of approximately 15 m AOD as it crosses the line of the A256 on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula near Cottingham Hill. The Study Area then drops again as it heads west towards the Minster Marshes where the average ground level is approximately 3 m AOD.
- While the solid geology of the land to the north consist of chalk (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015), the solid geology of the Order Limits consists of Thanet Formation deposits comprising sand, silt, and clay laid down in the Palaeogene Period between 59.2 and 56 million years ago (British Geological Survey, 2024). The drift geology at the eastern end of the Study Area consists of Beach and Tidal Flat Deposits of sand, silts, and clays formed between the 2.588 million years ago and the present, while the western end consists of Tidal Flat Deposits of clay and silt laid down over the last 11,000 years during the silting up of the Wantsom Channel and formation of the Minster Marshes. The drift geology of the central area, where the land rises to form the headland known as the Ebbsfleet Peninsula along which the A256 now runs, is formed by Thanet Sands dating to the late Paleocene.
- Land use within the Study Area is almost entirely agricultural, with the higher ground of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula dominated by arable agriculture, while the lower land of the Minister Marshes used for arable and pastoral activities. The land to the east, where the Study Area falls away towards Pegwell Bay, includes a mix of arable land as well as a large area used for recreation (two golf courses are location in the area). The varying topography has been key in determining land use in earlier periods, with the higher ground of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula representing a spur on the south side of the Isle of Thanet surrounded by a marine environment from the early prehistoric period though to the medieval period. This consisted of the Wantsum Channel to the west and south, which cut the Isle of Thanet off from the rest of Kent, and the North Sea/English Channel to the east.

4.2.4 Historic Landscape Characterisation data provided by KCC shows the Study Area falling into three categories. The elevated area of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula consist of 'Field Patterns Type 1.14: Fields Predominantly Bounded by Tracks, Roads, and Other Rights of Way'. To the south and west the Ebbsfleet Peninsula drops away to land defined as 'Reclaimed Marshland Type 5.4: Rectilinear Enclosures', while to the east the land is defined as 'Reclaimed Marshland Type 5.3: Small Rectilinear Enclosures'. The eastern end of the Order Limits, near the coastline, are categorised as 'Coastal Type 8.9: Dunes' and 'Coastal Type 8.7: Mud Flats', with other types within the Study Area limited to small pockets of 'Extractive and Other Industry Type 12.5: Reservoirs and Water Treatment' and 'Recreation Type 11.2: Golf Courses'.

4.3 Designated Assets

- A total of 43 designed assets have been recorded within the Study Area, of which three are Scheduled Monuments and the remaining 40 are listed buildings, none of which fall within the Order Limits. The Scheduled Monuments date from the Roman, early medieval, and medieval periods and consist of Richborough Roman Port and Saxon Shore Fort located approximately 150 m south of the Order Limits (SM101462), while the monastic grange and nunnery at Minster is located approximately 210 m to the northwest (SM1016850). The final Scheduled Monument is the Anglo Saxon cemetery near Ozengell Grange located some 450 m to the northeast of the Order Limits.
- A further 47 designated assets were recorded in the wider 2 km study area from the Minster Converter Station and Substation adopted for impacts on setting. These consist of two scheduled monuments and 45 listed buildings, and as with the aforementioned designated assets, most of the listed buildings are located within the settlement of Minster.
- There are no Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, or World Heritage Sites within the Study Area or the wider 2 km study area.

4.4 Non-Designated Assets

- A review of the Kent HER identified a total of 651 assets within the Study Area, of which 72 are located with the Order Limits. The majority of the assets recorded are find spots, and in a number of cases find spots from the same location have been recorded under separate identification numbers on the HER. For the sake of the baseline preparation, as well as the assessment, assets which have the same location/grid reference have been grouped together. As a result, the number of assets, when findspots from the same location are grouped, total 357 within the Study Area, of which 28 are located with the Order Limits.
- A large number of assets were recorded as 'monument polygons', the vast number of which were features recorded during archaeological excavation works undertaken as part of mitigation associated with developments. Due to the large number of assets, these have been examined in groups in the DBA and are also grouped in the Gazetteers.
- A further eight assets were identified as part of the current assessment through a review of aerial photo and LiDAR, geophysical survey, a review of historic mapping, and archaeological evaluation trenching. Assets recorded on the Kent HER have the prefix 'TR', 'MKE', or 'MWX', while assets recorded as part of the assessment have the prefix 'AECOMK'.

The assets recorded date from the Mesolithic period onwards, although the largest concentrations date to the Iron Age and Roman periods, as well as the post-medieval periods. They are discussed below by period (see section 4.5 onwards).

4.5 Archaeological Background

Previous Archaeological Work

- While the land encompassed by the Study Area has been subject to archaeological interventions since the antiquarian period, the main focus of the following overview are the more recent elements that have been undertaken in the late 20th and early 21st century. A full list of previous works are included in **Application Document 6.3.3.3.B Appendix 3.3.B Cultural Heritage Gazetteers**, but include developer lead programs of investigation, as well as research.
- The most significant works relevant to the Kent Onshore Scheme consist of the 4.5.2 archaeological excavations undertaken a part of the East Kent Access (Phase II) Project (EKA2) which involved the construction of the A299 to the north of the Order Limits, as well as the A256 which runs north-south through the Order Limits. The large nature of the scheme means that it involved a large number of components including evaluation excavations (EKE13622), as well as fieldwalking (EKE13620), and metal detector surveys (EKE13621). This was followed by full excavation of a number of areas across the scheme which was divided into a number of Zones 1-25 (works within these zones are covered by Kent HER Event numbers EKE22398-EKE22407, and EKE22409-EKE22412). Zones 6-8 are the most pertinent to the Proposed Project as they represent the areas excavated in advance of the construction of the A256 between Cottington Lane in the north and Ebbsfleet Farm in the south, and elements of them fall within the Order Limits. However, Zones 1 to 5 lie immediately to the south of the Order Limits, while Zones 9 to 12 lie to the north. As has been noted above, the vast majority of the 'Kent HER Monument Polygons' represent archaeological features recorded as part of the excavations, and as such the features recorded have been grouped by 'Excavation Zone' in the baseline rather than by individual feature to allow an holistic approach to be taken to the assessment.
- The result of the EKA2 work was published in two volumes (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015), which provide a detailed overview of the development of settlement and land use within the Kent Onshore Scheme Study Area due to the overlap between projects. Of particular relevance is the area defined as 'Landscape 3 The Ebbsfleet Peninsular' which the Order Limits cross on a northeast to southwest alignment, and which forms the main focus of the Study Area. This work demonstrated that the southern side of the Isle of Thanet had been the focus of relatively intensive human occupation from the early prehistoric period onwards, with extensive evidence for settlement and ritual/mortuary activity.
- Other significant archaeological works within the Study Area include archaeological excavations undertaken for the Sandwich Bay Water Treatment Scheme (EKE11609; EKE11614; EKE4951) which identified evidence of activity from the prehistoric period onwards at the southern end of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula.
- Works undertaken to the north of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, on the chalk ridge of Thanet, include desk based research, evaluation trenching, and strip, map, and sample associated with the Thanet Parkway project (EKE14703; EKE20718; EKE22885; EKE22887), as well as works linked to various residential schemes around Cliffsend (EKE14703; EKE20718; EKE15607; EKE22806). These works again recorded evidence

of land use and occupation from the prehistoric period onwards, further demonstrating the extensive nature of land use on the Isle of Thanet through time.

Prehistoric Period

- The prehistoric period is well represented within the Study Area with assets dating to the Mesolithic period onwards, although the majority of assets recorded date to the Bronze Age and later. No assets dating to the Palaeolithic have been recorded within the Study Area, with the earliest evidence being residual finds of lithics (MKE113989) and an axe (TR 36 SW 366) dating to the Mesolithic. It has been suggested that the lack of Paleolithic evidence is a result of topsoil loss or scouring during the last ice age, with only limited residual material recovered from the wider Thanet area (Moody, 2008).
- 4.5.7 Most evidence for Mesolithic activity comes from the lower lying land around the Ebbsfleet Peninsular, and changes in sea level during this period would have resulted in the Minster Marshes being something of an inland river valley during this period (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015) and (Page, 1908). Such an environment would have been an attractive prospect to be exploited by the transient hunter gatherers of the Mesolithic period. However, the changes in sea level at end of the Mesolithic period that resulted in the United Kingdom becoming an island also resulted in the flooding of the lowland areas of the Minster Marshes, and severing Thanet from Kent.
- By the Neolithic period (4,000 BC to 2,400 BC), the Isle of Thanet had been cut off from 4.5.8 Kent, with the Ebbsfleet Peninsula surrounded on three sides by water. This included the Minister Marshes area becoming a wide tidal channel known as the Wantsum Channel to the west, while the North Sea shoreline bordered the peninsula to the south and east. While activity dating to the Neolithic is still relatively limited within the Study Area, archaeological works in the wider Thanet landscape have recovered more extensive remains including burials, as well as ritual sites such as cursus monuments (Moody, 2008). Remains dating to the Neolithic within the Study Area include possible pits from Weatherlees Hill (TR 36 SW 95) within the Order Limits, as well as pits at Cliffs End Farm (TR 36 SW 477), and stray finds of polished stone axes (TR 36 SW 354), an adze (TR 36 SW 287), and lithics (TR 36 SW 344) from the Study Area. Work undertaken in Zone 6 of the EKA2, in the area near where the A256 crosses Ebbsfleet Lane, recorded two areas of former ground surface dating to the Neolithic period, as well as number of discrete pits and at least one tree throw which contained the remains of in situ flint knapping having taken place (TR 36 SW 352). Pits were also recorded partially sealed by later colluvium on the lower slopes of Ebbsfleet Hill (TR 36 SW 442), and it has been suggested that the lower areas near water may have been the focus of settlement, while the upper areas may have been a tool preparation/working area (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015).
- The Bronze Age (2,400 BC to 700 BC) is more visible in the archaeological record, with previously recorded assets including burial mounds (TR 36 SE 20; TR 36 SE 42; TR 36 NE 56) and remains of field systems (TR 36 SW 358), as well as stary finds of lithic (TR 36 SW 29) and bronze and copper implements (TR 36 SW 11; TR 36 SW 13; MKE74252; MKE74253). The main focus of activity is the Ebbsfleet Peninsular area of the Study Area, with the lower land to the east and west assumed to have been a marine environment from the late Mesolithic onwards.
- Works undertaken as part of the EKA2 project in Zone 8, which falls within the point at which the Order Limits cross the A256, identified a series of double ring ditches representing at least two Early Bronze Age barrows (MKE117321 and MKE91911). Positioned on Cottington Hill, the barrows would have represented a prominent feature

on the high ground near the point at which the Ebbsfleet Peninsula joins the Isle of Thanet. Further Bronze Age barrows were also identified within the Order Limits as part of the geophysical survey undertaken as part of the Proposed Project (Application Document 6.3.3.3.D Appendix 3.3.D Geophysical Survey Report), and evaluation excavations undertaken have also suggested an early Bronze Age date (Application Document 6.3.3.3.F Appendix 3.3.F Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report (Draft)).

- While a number of monuments associated with burial have been recorded in the Study Area, settlement evidence dating to the Early Bronze Age is scant, and it is not until the Middle and Late Bronze Age that clear evidence of settlement becomes visible. Works in Zones 6 and 7 of the EKA2 project revealed a coaxial field systems dating to the Later Bronze Age which included field systems, holloways, and enclosures within the footprint of the A256 (e.g. TR 36 SW 350, TR 36 SW 350, TR 36 SW 350). These features were also clearly visible in the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching undertaken as part of the Proposed Project, confirming that the field systems continued across Cottington Hill within the Order Limits.
- Other Middle and Late Bronze Age features in the Study Area also include further a possible settlement site with a structure and enclosures (e.g. TR 36 SW 1128 and TR 36 SW 1129), hoards (TR 36 SW 456; TR 36 SW 1128) and a cremation cemetery (TR 36 SW 1130) at the southern end of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula in EKA2 Zones, as well as pits and burials in EKA2 Zones 9 to 11 in the north. It has been suggested that the lower lying land at the southern end of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula would have been a wet marshy area during the Later Bronze Age, and the occurrence of a number of hoards, as well as mortuary remains, might suggest it formed part a ritual landscape (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015). It is clear that by the end of the Bronze Age a well-defined field system with associated areas of settlement and burial existed within the upland area of the Order Limits and Study Area on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, while the lower lying land to the east and west was a marine environment.
- Extensive evidence of activity continues into the Iron Age (700 BC to 43 AD), with previously recorded assets record throughout the upland sections of the Study Area. As with earlier periods, the main source of evidence is the archaeological works undertaken as part of the EKA2 scheme which recorded evidence for land division and organisation with a complex series of ditches and trackways dividing the landscape. In Zones 6, 7, and 8, which fall partially within the Order Limits, early Iron Age activity was largely limited to field boundaries and trackways (grouped as TR 36 SW 445). However, by the Middle to Late Iron Age the situation had changed with a number of round houses recorded throughout the zones suggesting a relatively densely occupied landscape.
- As with the Bronze Age remains, the Iron Age features recorded as part of the EKA2 scheme can be seen to continue into the Order Limits on either side of the A256, with the geophysical survey undertaken as part of the Proposed Project identifying continuations of the field systems and trackways, as well as possible round houses. A number of these features were also tested as part of the evaluation trenching for the Proposed Project, and confirmed a similar range of dates and features to those recorded as part of the EKA2 works.
- In addition to the field systems and settlement remains, a very large defensive enclosure was constructed at the southern end of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula during the late Iron Age (TR 36 SW 448). This feature was first recorded in the southern section of the Study Area during archaeological works for the Weatherlees Waste Water

Treatment Works (Egging Dinwiddy & Schuster, 2009), and was further investigated as part of the EKA2 works in Zones 6 and 7 (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015). The geophysical survey undertaken for the Proposed Project also clearly defined the feature on both the eastern and western sides of the A256, although only a small element falls within the Order Limits on the eastern side of the A256.

- Results of the EKA2 works have suggested that the enclosure was a relatively short lived feature dating to the Late Iron Age, and it also appears to coincide with a decrease in settlement activity on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015). The presence of early Roman material, as well as historical sources describing the Roman invasion under Ceasar in 54BC in the Pegwell Bay/Thanet area has resulted in the enclosure being associated with the Roman invasion. Subsequent work undertaken by the University of Leicester, supported by KCC and local volunteers, undertook further archaeological works on the enclosure site and this has further reinforced the case for the enclosure being linked to the Ceasarian invasion (University of Leicester, 2024).
- 4.5.17 As noted, the geophysical survey undertaken for the Proposed Project confirmed the extent of the enclosure, although subsequent evaluation trenching did not target the large enclosure as it is located immediately to the south of the Order Limits.

Roman Period (43Ad to 410AD)

- The extensive evidence for activity within the Study Area continues into the Roman period, with previously recorded assets again recorded across the Ebbsfleet Peninsula. These include stray finds, as well as remains of settlement activity (TR 36 SW 123), field systems (TR 36 SW 405), and burial remains (TR 36 SW 36; TR 36 SW 124; TR 36 SE 320) recorded as part of previous excavations. As with earlier periods, the most relevant previous excavations are those undertaken as part of the EKA2 project, and features recorded within Zones 6 to 8 (which fall fully or partially within the Order Limits) consisting of an extensive field system formed around a series of trackways, along with elements such as enclosures, possible structures, and burials.
- Geophysical survey as well as archaeological evaluation trenching undertaken for the Proposed Project has confirmed that features identified as part of the EKA2 project continue either site of the A256 corridor which was the focus of the EKA2 excavations. These are focused on the upper areas of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, with the lower lying land either side still assumed to be a marine environment during the early Roman period although it is possible that silting was starting to reduce the width and depth of the Wantsum Channel.
- The majority of the features recorded within the Order Limits relate to trackways and field systems which are evident on both sides of the A256, as well as field systems that had previously been established. However, while the land within the Order Limits was agricultural, other parts of Thanet were still relatively well wooded, with evidence suggesting up to 45% of the land was covered by woodland (Brookes & Harrington, 2010).
- In addition to the clear Roman evidence along the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, further remains have been recorded to the south of the Study Area where the scheduled Roman Fort of Richborough Fort is survives with well-preserved defensive walls and ditches (SM1014642). Although now some 3 km from the coast, the site represented a key port during the Roman period, with the fort built to a peninsula, or possible island, on the north coast of Kent with the Wantsum Channel and the Isle of Thanet beyond to the north. The earliest Roman evidence from Richborough dates to the Claudian invasion of

43 AD, with the more visible defensive walls and diches that survive dating to the late third century when a series of 'Saxon Shore Fort' were built to defend the province from Saxon and Frankish raiders (Wilmott, 2018). By the late first century the original fort that had been established during the invasion had developed into a key town, with the importance of Richborough as key gateway to Britain highlighted by the construction of a monumental arch at the center of the town. Other features associated with the development of the town included an amphitheater to the south, and extensive granaries suggesting the site being a major supply base.

- Phases of rebuilding and redevelopment at Richborough took place in the second century, while the largescale redevelopment of the mid to late third century resulted in the most visible remains with the wall and ditches that survive in the contemporary landscape.
- Two further areas of Roman activity have also been recorded in the Study Area on elevated areas known as Weatherlees Hill and Boxlees Hill. Both areas now form part of the Minster Marshes landscape, however, during the Roman period they would have possible islands within the Wantsum Channel, or at the very least elevated areas in an intertidal zone (Moody, 2008). Remains recorded at Boxlees Hill include a possible cremation cemetery identified during the construction of the Minster Sewage Works (TR 36 SW 36), while the remains at Weatherlees Hill include possible inhumations as well as settlement activity (TR 36 SW 93).
- Both the previously recorded archaeological remains, as well as the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching undertaken as part of the Proposed Project, demonstrate that the Study Area continued to be extensively exploited throughout the Roman Period. This activity, as with the prehistoric period, was governed by topography with the higher ground of the Ebbsfleet Peninsular, across which the Order Limits cross, forming the focus of settlement, while lower land at the eastern and western ends of the Order Limits remained a marine environment where the Wantsum Channel met the North Sea/English Channel.
- While the southern element of the Study Area on the south side of the Wantsum Channel near Richborough became a port and military center, the majority of the Study Area including the Order Limits was dominated by rural settlements and field system along the spine of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula as it and the wider Thanet landscape.

Early Medieval Period (AD410 to AD 1066)

Evidence for early medieval activity within the Study Area is far less frequent, with most 4.5.26 previously recorded assets being chance finds. These include coins (e.g. TR 36 SW 243; TR 36 SW 244) beads (TR 36 SW 31), and broaches (MKE80176), as well as possible fittings (e.g. MKE113974; MKE63893; MKE108965). The majority of evidence for settlement activity within the Study Area again comes from the archaeological works undertaken for the EKA2 scheme (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015). This found very little evidence of activity along the Ebbsfleet Peninsula which forms the main focus of the Study Area, with most activity recorded to the north on the high ground of the Isle of Thanet. Evidence from this more northern area, much of which lies outside of the Study Area, included at least two possible cemeteries as well as possible structures/sunken features buildings, as well as trackways. However, evidence from within the Study Area at the northern end of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula includes a possible Grubenhaus in Zone 9 of the EKS2 works (TR 36 SW 364), as well as more ephemeral features including a shell midden at Pegwell Bay (TR 36 SE 716), pits at Cottington Hill (TR 36 SW 71), and a possible farmstead (TR 36 SW 299).

- 4.5.27 Historically, the land on the eastern side of the Study Area, around Pegwell Bay, has been considered one of the first landing points of the Anglo-Saxons who began to settle in the area from the mid-fifth century (Kent County Council, 2024), while St Augustine is also thought to have arrived here in the late sixth century (Brentnall, 1972). Evidence from Minster, to the northwest of the Study Area, has also demonstrated that a nunnery was established there by the late seventh century (Hawkes & Hogarth, 1975), and this in turn later developed as a monastic grange and subsequent settlement the remains of which are scheduled (SM 1016850).
- Documentary sources note that the Wantsum Channel was still an active watercourse during the early medieval period, with Bede providing the first reference of the name when he recorded it as *Uantsumu* (Moody, 2008). In his account of the area, he noted that the Wantsum Channel was some three furlongs across (approximately 600 m), and only fordable in two locations (Moody, 2008). He also noted that the Isle of Thanet was home to six hundred families, suggesting a relatively well settled area in the eighth century, and the apparent increase in population may have resulted in more felling as woodland across Thanet is reported to have dropped from 45% coverage to 25% coverage by 1086 (Brookes & Harrington, 2010). Later documentary sources also note the area being subjected to numerous attacks from Scandinavian countries, with sources reporting incursions from as early as the ninth century (Lawson & Killingray, 2004), as well as the destruction of the nunnery at Minster in 988 and again in 1011 (Hasted, 1800).
- In summary, the evidence from the early medieval periods suggests that while the Study Area continued to be settled throughout the period, land use on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula may have been more centered on agriculture with little evidence of settlement. Evidence for settlement in general during the early medieval period is limited, with most evidence coming from burials and most of these have been recorded further north on Thanet rather than the Ebbsfleet Peninsula. Finally, while the Wantsum Channel may have been starting to silt up and reduce in width, it was a significant stretch of water, separating Kent from the Isle of Thanet. As such, the highest potential for further remains dating to this period within the Order Limits are largely limited to the Ebbsfleet Peninsula.

Medieval Period (AD 1066 to 1547)

- The medieval period, like the early medieval period, is visible in the archaeological record although evidence suggests the land use in the Study Area was dominated by agricultural activities, with limited evidence of settlement.
- As with earlier periods, previously recorded assets dating to the medieval period include find spots (e.g. MKE74068; MKE73940; MKE122283; MKE118913), as well as material excavated as part of the EKA2 scheme. Remains excavated along the Ebbsfleet Peninsula revealed features such as possible farmsteads and associated enclosures at the southern end in EKA2 Zones 1, 2, and 3, which lie to the south of the Order Limits, as well as possible enclosures in Zone 11 to the north (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015). Features in Zones 6 to 9, which fall completely or partially within the Order Limits, were limited to traces of possible field systems and trackways, suggesting the main area of the Order Limits was used for agriculture rather than settlement during the medieval period.
- 4.5.32 Settlement appears to have been very much located elsewhere on the Isle of Thanet during the medieval period, and the settlement of Minster to the northwest continued to develop around the religious house that had developed there during the early medieval

period, and by the time of the Domesday survey it was the largest settlement on Thanet (Powell-Smith, 2024). Data from the Domesday Survey also suggests that the Wantsum Channel shoreline of Thanet was the focus of settlement, with Monkton to the west also representing a key settlement, while settlements that would later develop on the north and east coast were relatively small (Lawson & Killingray, 2004).

- By the mid-fourteenth century other settlements had started to develop with Broadstairs granted a market, and the taxation returns on the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1334-35 show Thanet area as having one of the highest density of taxpayers as well as well as some of the highest tax payers (Lawson & Killingray, 2004). However, while the settlements outside of the Study Area developed, the area within remained one dominated by agriculture (Draper, 2016).
- Possibly the most significant change within the Study Area during this period was the 4.5.34 silting up and subsequent reclamation of the Wantsum Channel which would ultimately result in the Isle of Thanet becoming part of mainland Kent and see the formation of the landscape that survives into the present day. Work undertaken on the Wantsum Channel has suggested by silting probably started during the Roman period, although it was still an active channel of some size in the early medieval period, while a survey from the early fifteenth century shows pilgrims being carried across the waterbody between the Isle of Thanet and Kent (Moody, 2008). However, documentary sources from the late fifteenth century note that silting was becoming an issue with some ferries struggling to cross, while a survey from the later sixteenth century show embankments being used to reclaim land (Moody, 2008). These include banks in the Wetherlees Hill area, and near the southern limits of the Order Limits, with an earthwork known as the Abbott's Walls assumed to relate to these early attempts at land management (TR 26 SE 148). As the name suggests, these earthworks are associated with the religious houses in the area, and sources suggest that the reclamation commenced as early as the eleventh century when the religious houses of Christ Church and St Augustine in Canterbury were granted land at Minster and wanted to create more grazing lands (Andrews, Booth, Fitzpatrick, & Walsh, 2015).
- As such, by the end of the medieval period the landscape of the Study Area would have been one dominated by agriculture, with the main focus of settlement continuing to be to the north on the chalk ridge of the Isle of Thanet. Evidence points to land use in the Order Limits varying from arable on the upper areas of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, to pasture on the lower lands of the Minster Marshes where land had been reclaimed from the former Wantsum Channel.

Post-Medieval Period (1547 to 1900)

- While evidence for post-medieval activity has been recorded in the Study Area, the remains recorded to date suggest that the landscape of the Order Limits remained largely agricultural during the post-medieval period. The settlement pattern that had started to the develop in the medieval period, with most village focused on the chalk ridge of Thanet to the north, continued during the post-medieval with the nearest settlement of any size being Minster to the northwest which developed around the religious house.
- Previously recorded assets recorded within the Order Limits include some limited evidence for activity including post-medieval features on Weatherlees Hill (TR 36 SW 201), as well stack stands for hay on Ash Levels (e.g. MWX43352; MWX43356; MWX43357), and chance finds (MKE73939). Evidence for the continued management of the reclaimed land of the Minster Marshes is also evident with the Order Limits with

flood defenses and embankments recorded in Ash Levels (MWX43344), with these features recorded as part of the review of LiDAR data.

- Remains in the immediate surroundings of the Order Limits further point to the agricultural nature of the land, and include Outfarm on Ash Levels (MKE86927; MKE86928), Marsh Farm (MKE86895), Ebbsfleet and Farm (MKE86974), while traces of a field system were recorded during archaeological works at Weatherlees Water Treatment Works (TR 36 SW 227). The dominance of pastoral activities, especially in the lower land of the Minster Marshes, is also highlighted by the presence of features such as sheep pens (MKE86925; MKE86929) and a sheep wash (MKE86923).
- While a number of seventeenth and early eighteenth-century surveys shows the Study Area, most are of limited detail due to their scale. The Blaeu survey of 1662 (National Library of Scotland, 2024) shows settlements such as *Mynster* (Minster), as well as *Ebsfleet* (Ebbsfleet), and *Richborow Castle* (Richborough), however, the first detailed surveys of the whole Study Area only come with the tithe plans of the early 19th century. At the time the surveys were undertaken, the vast majority of the Study Area was within the Parish of Thanet, with only the eastern limits in the Parish of St Lawrences, and the southern element (beyond the River Stour) in the Parish of Ash.
- The tithe survey for Minster, dated 30 June 1840, depicts the Order Limits, as well as the Study Area as largely agricultural with the field system of the both the Ebbsfleet Peninsula area and the lower Minster Marshes largely following that which survives in the contemporary landscape (The Genealogist, 2024). The main farmstead depicted within the Study Area is Ebbsfleet Farm (MKE86974) which still survives, although a small farmstead is shown named as Brook (AECOMK001) as well as a possible sheep pen (AECOMK002) are also depicted in the Minster Marshes area. Both of these assets have now been cleared.
- The majority of the land within the Order Limits was in the ownership of three individuals when the Tithe Survey was undertaken, with the land on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula listed as arable, while the Minster Marshes area was recorded as pasture. Some limits areas of woodland were also noted near Ebbsfleet farm where woodland still survives today.
- A similar picture is visible in the Parish of Ash to the south of the River Stour where the field system recorded in July 1840 can be largely traced in the contemporary landscape, although some drainage ditches appear to have bee culverted to produce lager fields. The area covered by the Order Limits within the Parish of Ash is shown as consisting wholly of pasture in the Minster Marshes, with the only structure being the buildings names 'White House' which survives today (AECOMK003).
- Only the coastal element of the Order Limits falls within the Parish of St Lawrence at Pegwell Bay, and this shows the area under which the onshore cable will pass as pasture and saltings. The pattern of fields recorded on the Tithe Plan, dated 22 October 1840, in the area of the Order Limits can again largely be traced in the contemporary landscape as the system of drainage ditches survive within the golf course which now occupies part of this area.
- A similar situation is recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of the area, which depicts the landscape of the Order Limits dominated by agriculture. As with the early Tithe Survey, the upper landscape of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula is divided into a limited number of large fields, largely resembling those which survive today, with the last presumably used for arable farming. Meanwhile, the lower lying land of the Minster Marshes is divided into smaller fields, many of which again can still be traced, with pastoral activities presumably dominating land use.

- The most significant change in the landscape of the Study Area in the second half of the nineteenth century was the introduction of two railways lines, with the construction of the Deal Branch Line on the western side of the Study Area (TR 35 NW 800), and the Ashford, Canterbury, and Ramsgate Branch to the north (TR 15 NE 1063). Both of these lines are still operating, with the Deal Branch Line passing through the western end of the Order Limits.
- By the closing years of the 19th century the landscape of the Order Limits remained a landscape where the predominant land use was agriculture. This situation, which had probably existed from at least the early medieval period, was split between the upper lands of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula where arable agriculture dominated, and the lower reclaimed Minster Marshes where pastoral activities were most prevalent.

Modern Period (1900 – Present)

- Assets from the modern period are overwhelmingly related to the conflicts of the 4.5.47 twentieth century, with the majority being military defences constructed during the Second World War. The opening years of the twentieth century saw the continued reclamation of the land to the south and west of the Study Area, with a large port facility developed at Richborough at the southern end of the Study Area (Butler, 1999). The development of the port area (TR 36 SW 414) included wharfs (TR 36 SW 187), as well as jetties (MWX43852), and sidings (MWX43282; MWX43551). At the end of the First World War the harbour area was suffering from silting, and large areas of the port facility were abandoned with only limited area used for industry. However, the Second World War resulted in the harbour/camp facility being recommissioned, and the strategic importance of the port, as well as Pegwell Bay area representing a suitable landing point for any invasion, resulted in the need for extensive defences during the Second World War. Military remains within the Order Limits are largely located in the coastal area around Pegwell Bay and included anti-tank pimples (TR 36 SW 280), as well as beach scaffolding (MWX43182), slit trenches and associated features (MWX43184), and anti-seaplane/invasion obstacles (MWX43173). However, military works and drainage features were also constructed in the 'Ash Levels' in the area where the Order Limits cross the River Stour (MWX43337).
- Further remains within the Study Area include pillboxes (e.g. TR 36 SW 141; TR 36 SE 572; TR 36 SW 137 to TR 36 SW 139), road blocks (TR 36 NE 2166), coastal batteries (TR 36 SW 140; TR 36 SE 753; TR 36 SE 754), and observations posts (TR 36 SW 284), as well as features such as tranches and weapons pits many of which have been recorded from aerial photography (e.g. MWX43204; MWX43186; MWX43183; MWX43188). Other previously recorded assets represent the targeting of the area during the war, with bomb craters recorded within the Order Limits (MWX43353) as well as Study Area with a number in the Minster Marshes area (e.g. MWX43206; MWX43193; MWX43354).
- While the land at the eastern and southern extent of the Order Limits and Study Area were developed throughout the twentieth century, land use within the main focus of the Order Limits on the Ebbsfleet Peninsular and Minster Marshes remained much as it had in the post-medieval period. This saw land use dominated by arable agriculture on the raised areas of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, with mixed pastoral and arable activities on the lower land of Minster Marshes, and accounts of the early twentieth century noted how good and fertile the soils on the upper chalk areas were (Page, 1908).
- The most significant changes in the Order Limits, as well as the Study Area, largely date to the late twentieth and early twenty first century and include the construction of the

EKA2 scheme which runs through the Order Limits from north to south along the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, and which has greatly improved the understanding of settlement and land use in the area. Other schemes include various water treatment facilities on the fringes of the Minster Marshes, as well as a solar farm to the south, and housing developments to the north east. However, as noted above, the landscape of the Order Limits has remained one dominated by agriculture.

Site Visit

- A number of site visits were undertaken as part of the assessment process, with all areas of the Kent Onshore Scheme visited. This found the main area of the Order Limits on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula to be agricultural land with arable farming dominating the landscape, while the lower laying landscape of the Minster Marshes remains largely pastoral. This land use also governs the field patterns with larger open arable fields on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, while smaller fields surrounded by a maze of drainage ditches of typical of the largely pastoral Minster Marshes.
- In the wider landscape, developments of the later twentieth and early twenty-first century are visible in the landscape with the expansion of the settlements of Ramsgate, Cliffsend, and Minster resulting in residential developments covering the south side of Thanet.
- Development in the south is more industrial/commercial in nature with developments around the former Richborough Port area running from Stonelees south to Stonar. This includes the energy park at the southern end of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula which is connected to the wider landscape by two overhead lines running to the northwest, while a third heads out to the southwest. These developments combined give the coastal strip a relatively urban or developed appearance, although the valley of the River Stour remains a relatively green open area as it runs to the northwest in the corridor where the Wantsum Channel once existed.

Review of LiDAR and Aerial Photographic Report

A review of aerial photography and LiDAR data was undertaken as part of the assessment, with the full report provided as **Application Document 6.3.3.3.E Appendix 3.3.E Aerial Photography and LiDAR Report**. This did not identify any previously unrecorded assets, however, it did confirm the presence of a number of embankments constructed as part of the reclamation of the Wantsum Channel/Minster Marshes area, and also noted a number Second World War defences that had been previously recorded.

Review of Geophysical Survey

- A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2023, with an additional area on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula surveyed in October 2024. The scope and extent of the survey was agreed via a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Suffolk CC Archaeological Advsiors, and focused on the areas of the Order Limits that would be subject to surface works/disturbance, and as a result did not include the area where trenchless techniques would be employed (i.e. the landfall). Geophysical survey is not generally undertaken along HDD routes as the HDD is assumed to go below any archaeological features.
- The survey provided additional information relating to the complex multi-period site previously recorded straddling the A256 on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula. Information from

the lower lying Minster Marshes was limited with some possible drainage features identified. Full details of the geophysical survey are included in **Application Document 6.3.3.3.D Appendix 3.3.D Geophysical Survey Report**

Review of Evaluation Trenching Report

- A programme of archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken, and included targeted trenching designed to investigate features recorded by geophysical survey and aerial photography. Areas that appeared blank/free from archaeological features in the Minster Marshes were also tested, with the trenching focusing on the areas of greatest potential physical impact arising from the Kent Onshore Scheme (i.e. the Ebbsfleet Peninsula area for the HDD starter pits, cable route, compounds, and permanent access, as well as the cable route, compounds, substations, and converter station in the Minster Marshes area). The proposed temporary access roads and overhead line works south of the River Stour were not subject to evaluation trenching due to the limited disturbance predicted from these works, and the low archaeological potential for the area.
- The evaluation trenching confirmed that the data collected during the geophysical survey was accurate and a good representation of the buried archaeological remains in the area. Trenching on the Ebbsfleet Peninsular confirmed the distribution of features, the character of the remains, and also provided some dating evidence. This included confirming a series of ring ditches across the ridge were Bronze Age round barrows, and a number of enclosures on the eastern side of the A256 contained late Iron Age/Romano-British burials.
- The trenching also noted that current agricultural practices were actively damaging some buried archaeological features, with truncation resulting from ploughing visible, while a limited number of new features were observed on the eastern side of the A256 were colluvium/alluvium had masked them on the geophysical survey.
- Trenching in the Minster Marshes did not record any significant features, with trenches targeting the areas on the western side of Field 224.1, where the Ebbsfleet Peninsula drops into the former Wantsum Channel/Minster Marshes, failing to record any former riverside remains linked to a possible Roman waterfront. While most trenches in the Minster Marshes were limited in depth to 1 m, a number of deeper trenches were excavated to a depth of 2 m to provide additional information on the geoarchaeological potential in the upper deposits, specifically in the area of the possible former shoreline. These, again, did not identify any archaeological features. Full details of the archaeological evaluation are included in **Application Document 6.3.3.3.F Appendix 3.3.F Draft Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report**. Review of Geoarchaeology Report.

Review of Geo-Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

A geo-archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken to assess the geo-archaeological/paleoenvironmental potential for the Kent Onshore Scheme, and the report was submitted to Kent County Council, although feedback had not been received at the time of writing. This was focused on the low-lying areas of the Minster Marshes which had previously been a marine environment known as the Wantsum Channel. The study also focused on the areas of work which were most likely to result in impacts on deep deposits, namely the Converter Station and Substation, as well as the tower locations which will also require piled foundations.

- A review of the GI data collected as part of the Proposed Development identified alluvial type deposits characteristics of a marine environment that subsequently silted up throughout the area of the Substation and Converter Station. A review was also undertaken of recent geo-archaeological works carried out as part of the Richborough Connection and the Weatherlees Pumping Station schemes. This noted that while the study of deposits in this area of the former Wantsum Channel had provided further information regarding the previous environment, with dateable samples recovered, no structural remains or features such as wrecks have been recorded. It also noted that no large organic deposits, such as peat beds, had been reported during previous works.
- The report concluded that the deposits in the area had the potential to provide information relating to past environments as well as the silting and reclamation of the Wantsum Channel. However, it also noted that the deposits in the Kent Onshore Scheme represented a small element of a much larger feature, and concluded that based on current knowledge they were considered to be of local or regional significance (although any wrecks or structural remains that might exists would likely be of higher value). Full details of the archaeological evaluation are included in Application Document 6.3.3.3.G Appendix 3.3.G Geo-Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.

4.5.64 Table 4.1 provides an overview of the findings of the above mentioned reports.

Table 4.1 Overview of Findings from LiDAR, Geophysical Survey, Evaluation Trenching and Geoarchaeology Report

Plot Reference	Previously Recorded Assets	Overview of LiDAR, Geophysical Survey, Evaluation Trenching and Geoarchaeology Report
359.1	MWX43387: Probable WWII Stop Line	Not subject to geophysical survey or evaluation trenching as in area of HDD, as well as area where Onshore Scheme limited to use of an existing access.
374a.1	MWX43387: Probable WWII Stop Line	Not subject to geophysical survey or evaluation trenching as in area of HDD.
346.4		Geophysical survey identified limited features representing a continuation of the enclosures recorded to the north (Plot 346.3).
346.3		Northern section of Field 206.2. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey. Evaluation trenching did record features which appears to be a continuation of features from higher on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula. These were, however, more limited suggesting the activity was less frequent on the lower ground.
206.2	Ebbsfleet Peninsula Complex	Geophysical survey identified extensive remains forming part of the archaeological site recorded as part of the 'East Kent Access 2' work. These include a complex

Plot Reference	Previously Recorded Assets	Overview of LiDAR, Geophysical Survey, Evaluation Trenching and Geoarchaeology Report
		series of enclosures (E1, E2, and E3), as well as at least one ring ditch (RD1). The evaluation trenching also confirmed the geophysical survey data with remains including possible mortuary enclosures.
206.3	Ebbsfleet Peninsula Complex	Geophysical survey to be undertaken in October 2024. Archaeological evaluations undertaken confirmed features previously excavated as part of the EKA2 works immediately to the east continued in to Plot 206.3, with most features appeared to be remains of tracks and edges of field systems, the majority of which were dated to the late Iron Age and Roman period.
244.1	Ebbsfleet Peninsula Complex	Geophysical survey identified extensive remains forming part of the archaeological site recorded as part of the 'East Kent Access 2' work. These include a complex series of enclosures (E1, E4, E5, and E6), as well as ring ditches (RD2-R7), and magnetic enhancements (ME1). Archaeological evaluations undertaken confirmed that the ring ditches on the higher ground were Bronze Age round barrows, with features near the barrows representing part of a Bronze Age field systems. The remaining activity in the field was largely Iron Age and Roman, and most features of this date appeared to respect the Bronze Age remains rather than overlay them. The evaluation trenching also confirmed that the geophysical survey had worked well, with very few additional features identified.
247.1		Southern section of Field 244.1. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey. Evaluation trenching also did not record any significant features.
244.16	TR 36 SW 1123: Parallel cropmark features recorded on aerial photos.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No significant archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with anomalies limited to a former field boundary or drain which had been recorded as a cropmark (TR 36 SW 1123). Evaluation trenching also did not record any significant features.
244.4		In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching also did not record any significant features.

Plot Reference	Previously Recorded Assets	Overview of LiDAR, Geophysical Survey, Evaluation Trenching and Geoarchaeology Report
244.10		In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching also did not record any significant features.
244.25	TR 36 SW 103: Undated burials	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching also did not record any significant features.
244.14		In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching also did not record any significant features.
244.23		In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching also did not record any significant features.
232.17		In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
232.14		In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
232.22		In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.

Plot Reference	Previously Recorded Assets	Overview of LiDAR, Geophysical Survey, Evaluation Trenching and Geoarchaeology Report
232.25	MWX43372: Possible WWII Stop Line.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
232.13	MWX43372: Possible WWII Stop Line. MWX43342: WWII Enhanced Drainage.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
232.24	MWX43369: Possible drainage channel.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
237.1	MWX43368: Enclosure and Boundary Feature.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
237.12	MWX43368: Enclosures and boundary features, Ash Levels.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
231.3	MWX43359 and MWX43360: Hay stack stances, Ash Levels; MWX43337: WWII Enhanced Drainage.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
237.12	MWX43343: Possible Flood Bank; MWX43337: WWII Enhanced Drainage.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
237.13	MWX43376: Hay stack stance, Ash Levels; MWX43337:	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar.

Plot Reference	Previously Recorded Assets	Overview of LiDAR, Geophysical Survey, Evaluation Trenching and Geoarchaeology Report
	WWII Enhanced Drainage.	Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
237.16	MWX43374: WW2 Bomb Crater, Fleet Valley.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
231.3	MWX43343: Possible Flood Bank	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
229.1	MWX43343: Possible Flood Bank	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
229.3	MWX43337: WWII Enhanced Drainage	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. Geophysical survey not undertaken in this area. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
237.5	MWX43337: WWII Enhanced Drainage; MWX43378: Hay Stack Stance.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. Geophysical survey not undertaken in this area. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
237.16	MWX43374: Hay Stack Stance.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. No archaeological features recorded on geophysical survey, with features limited to possible palaeochannels or similar. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
237.7	MWX43337: WWII Enhanced Drainage.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. Geophysical survey not undertaken in this area. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.
237.8	MWX43337: WWII Enhanced Drainage.	In Minster Marshes, so former area of Wantsum Channel. Geophysical survey not undertaken in this area. Evaluation trenching not undertaken in this area.

5. Assessment of Archaeological Potential

5.1 Discussion of Archaeological Potential

- The archaeological potential of the land within the Kent Onshore Scheme has been determined by reviewing the known archaeological resource alongside current land-use, topography, the results of archaeological evaluation, professional opinion, and as a result of stakeholder engagement and consultation.
- No Palaeolithic or Mesolithic findspots or archaeological remains have been recorded within the Order Limits, and the geological history of the Study Area would suggest that any remains that are encountered would be residual finds rather than *in situ* material. As a result, the potential for discoveries dating to these periods within the Order Limits is assessed to be **negligible** to **low**.
- There is clear evidence for settlement activity dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, although this is limited to the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, with the lower lying land of the Minster Marshes to the south and west, and Pegwell Bay to the east, being a marine environment during this time. Previous archaeological work has revealed features dating to this period, and further remains have been identified through geophysical survey and evaluation trenching undertaken as part of the current assessment. The evaluation trenching has also confirmed that the geophysical survey result are accurate and very few new features were recorded. That being said, the Neolithic features recorded to date in the Order Limits have largely been ephemeral and sealed under later prehistoric remains. As such, the potential for new discovered dating to the Neolithic is considered to be **moderate**, while the potential for new discoveries dating to the Bronze Age are considered to be **low** for the upland area of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula. The potential for new discoveries for both periods in the Minster Marshes and Pegwell Bay area is considered to be **negligible**.
- There is extensive evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity, with features recorded 5.1.4 through pervious excavations as well as geophysical survey and evaluation trenching undertaken as part of the current assessment. The evaluation trenching has also confirmed that the geophysical survey results are accurate and very few new features were recorded. As with earlier periods, the landscape of the Order Limits was very different during these periods, with the upper area of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula being the only land available, and the surrounding area being occupied by the Wantsum Channel and the North Sea coastline at Pegwell Bay. The successful use of geophysical survey, which has been ground-truthed through archaeological evaluation, would suggest that most features have been identified through the geophysical survey. However, some discrete burials and associated features were recorded as part of the evaluation trenching, and therefore the potential for further discoveries dating to these periods is considered to be **low to moderate** for the Ebbsfleet Peninsula. The potential for new discoveries for both periods in the Minster Marshes and Pegwell Bay area is considered to be **negligible**.
- 5.1.5 While the early medieval period is less evident within the Order Limits, previous archaeological work has demonstrated that the Ebbsfleet Peninsula continued to the settled during this period. Settlement may, however, have become less frequent with the landscape becoming dominated by arable agriculture on the more elevated land of

the Ebbsfleet Peninsula. As such, the potential for new discoveries dating to this period is considered to be **low** for the Ebbsfleet Peninsula. The potential for new discoveries for the early medieval period in the Minster Marshes and Pegwell Bay area is considered to be **negligible**.

- The medieval period continues to see the landscape of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula dominated by arable agriculture, with the main focus of settlement being outside of the Order Limits. This period also sees the widescale reclamation of the Wantsum Channel, and as such the Minster Marshes in particular see land becoming available for pastoral activities. The limited traces of remains associated with the agricultural practices means that the potential for new discoveries dating to the medieval period is **negligible** for the Ebbsfleet Peninsula area. However, the potential for new discoveries linked to land reclamation and management in the Minster Marshes is considered to be **low**.
- The post-medieval and modern period is well represented with cartographic and documentary sources providing an accurate picture of the landscape of the Order Limits, which has remained a landscape dominated by agriculture. While there has been some loss of field boundaries in the twentieth century, the locations of many of these is known from historic mapping as well as geophysical survey, evaluation trenching, and aerial photography. As a result, the potential for new discoveries is considered to be **negligible.**

6. Assessment of Heritage Significance

6.1 Designated Assets

- While there are no designated assets within the Order Limits, a number of designated assets have been identified within 2 km of the permanent above ground infrastructure (Minster Marshes Converter Station and Substation) which has the potential to cause impacts on setting. The Study Area adopted for the setting assessment is depicted in Application Document 6.4.3.3.6 Designated Assets within the Wider 2 km Study Area Adopted for Setting Impacts Kent, with the list of designated assets identified in Application Document 6.3.3.3.B Appendix 3.3.B Cultural Heritage Gazetteers. These assets include two scheduled monuments, and 45 listed buildings, of which two are Grade I listed, one is Grade II* listed, and 42 are Grade II listed. The scheduled monuments and the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings are considered to be of high value, while the Grade II listed buildings considered to be of medium value.
- The scheduled monuments consist of Richborough Saxon Shore Fort, Roman Port, and Associated Remains (NHLE 1014642) and the Monastic Grange and Pre-Conquest Nunnery at Minster (NHLE 1016850). Richborough Saxon Shore Fort is located approximately 1.58 km south of the OHL connection works, while the monastic grange at Minster is located approximately 1.45 km north of the proposed Minster Substation and Minster Converter Station.
- The majority of the listed buildings are located within the settlement of Minster to the north which is also a Conservation Area, with smaller groupings distributed throughout the landscape. Most of these are private dwellings, former shops, and other public buildings. However, religious buildings include the Grade I listed Minster Abbey (NHLE 1223807) and Church if St Mary (NHLE 1224116) which lie in the center of the settlement.
- The remaining listed buildings are largely former farmhouses located in the agricultural landscape that surrounds the Kent Onshore Scheme. While many of these were originally built as farmhouses in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, most are now private dwellings and are no longer part of the farm holdings.

Richborough Saxon Shore Fort Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building (NHLE1014642/NHLE1363256)

- Richborough Saxon Shore Fort stands in an elevated position on the south side of an area formerly occupied by the Wantsum Channel. The earliest Roman remains recorded at the site date to 43 AD when an initial phase of ditches were constructed, and over the following two hundred years the site developed with a settlement established before the large defensive walls were constructed in the late 3rd century (Wilmott, 2018).
- 6.1.6 While the fort now stands inland, the coastline in the Roman period meant that the fort was on an island, or at the very least a peninsular, projecting into the Wantsum Channel and represented a key gateway to Roman Britain.

- Located on the opposite side of the Wantsum Channel, some 3.1 km to the north-northeast, was a large enclosure at the southern end of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula (TR 36 SW 448) dating to the late Iron Age/Early Roman period. While it is not clear if the two sites were garrisoned by troops at the same time, it seems likely that there would have been views across the Wantsum Channel between the two.
- The value of this asset derives its archaeological interest, and the information it could provide relating to the history and development of the Roman military in the area, as well as the associated civilian settlement. It also has some architectural value from the above ground remains that survive. As a scheduled monument it is considered to be of high value.
- While the southern extent of the Order Limits are only approximately 0.5 km from the scheduled area, the works in this area are limited to minor upgrades to existing tracks which would not result in alterations to the setting of the asset. However, the introduction of aspects of the Kent Onshore Scheme, such as the substation and converter station, do have the potential to result in impacts to the setting of the scheduled monument and as such the asset will be taken forwards to assessment.

Minster Conservation Area including the Monastic Grange and Pre-Conquest Nunnery (NHLE 1016850) and listed buildings within the Conservation Area.

- The majority of the listed buildings, as well as one scheduled monument, identified in the 2km study area are located within the Minster Conservation Area to the north of the Kent Onshore Scheme. The scheduled monument is the Monastic Grange and Pre-Conquest Nunnery (NHLE 101850) which dates to the early-medieval and medieval periods, while the listed buildings include the Grade I listed Minster Abbey (NHLE 1223807) and the Church of St Mary (NHLE 1224116), and a number of Grade II listed buildings. These latter sites include private dwellings, as well as public buildings include shops/former shops, and pubs.
- Most of the assets are centered around the historic core of the village which is focused on the Church of St Mary as well as the earlier monastic range. While no Conservation Area Appraisal has been produced for Minster, a site visit suggests that there are no significant views from the Conservation Area to the south due to the 20th century buildings that that block views towards the Minster Marsh area.
- As a Conservation Area containing a scheduled monument as well as two Grade I listed buildings, and a number of Grade II listed buildings, the settlement and its associated assets are considered to be of High Value. The value largely derives from the architectural and historic interest.
- The Conservation Area, as well as the assets that fall within it, are screened from the Minster Marshes Converter Station and Substation by buildings dating to the 20th century that surround the Conservation Area on all sides, by particularly to the south. Furthermore, the railway line to the south of the settlement also forms a southern boundary to the settlement.
- Both the distance between the Conservation Area, and its associated designated assets, and the extensive screening from the surrounding built environment means that significant impacts arising from changes to the setting of the assets are considered unlikely. As a result, they will not be taken forward to full assessment.

Assets Outside of the Settlement

The majority of the remaining Grade II listed buildings are farmhouses, or associated structures such as barns, as well as a limited number of residential dwellings. Most of these buildings are dispersed throughout the surrounding landscape, with the individual buildings discussed below. Assets which fall outside of the ZTV have not been discussed below, as impacts on their setting are not predicted.

Wayborough Manor (NHLE1224593)

- Wayborough Manor is a Grade II* listed buildings originally dating to the 14th century, with the surviving building largely dating to the 16th century. Located to the north of Minster, and 1.8km to the north of the Minster Substation and Converter Station, the house sits in a slightly elevated position although is well screened by woodland and buildings. The complex has a courtyard to the rear, while the western range was added in the 16th century during wider remodeling.
- As a Grade II* listed building, the house is considered to be of High Value, and this value largely stems from its architectural and historic interest derived from the information it contains associated with larger and more formal post-medieval buildings. The house is set within a small garden with woodland enclosing it, with an extensive agricultural complex of large barns and sheds, while further houses and holiday camp provide additional screening to the south and east. Furthermore, woodland around the assets also screen views to and from the asset, and it is not a prominent feature in the landscape.
- Potential impacts from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme are limited to possible impacts on the setting of the assets resulting from the Minster Converter Station and Substation. However, the distance from the above ground infrastructure, as well as the existing screen from both woodland and the built environment, means that significant impacts on the setting of the asset are not expected. As a result, it will not be taken forward to full assessment.

Castle Farm (NHLE 1045868), King's End Farmhouse (NHLE 1070222), and Richborough Farm (NHLE 1045842) all Grade II listed

- The three listed buildings are located in a small grouping on the south side of the Minster Converter Station and Substation, between 1.6km and 1.8km of the OHL works associated with the Kent Onshore Scheme. Straddling a minor road, the complex consists of Richborough Farm Cottage which dates to the 16th century, as well as Castle Farm and King's End Farm which are both largely 18th and 19th century in date. All buildings now largely surrounded by modern agricultural buildings such as large barns and sheds.
- As Grade II listed buildings, the farmsteads are considered to be of Medium Value, and this value largely stems from its architectural and historic interest derived from the information they contain associated with post-medieval agriculture.
- 6.1.21 It is not clear if the buildings are still associated with the agricultural land they once served or if they are now residential properties, however, they are surrounded by modern agricultural buildings such as large barns and sheds which screen views both in and out from the farmhouses. Furthermore, the land that the farms served was largely south of the River Stour, and the Kent Onshore Scheme will not result in the loss of this land with the main infrastructure (i.e. the Minster Substation and Converter Station

being north of the watercourse). As such, there is limited potential for the Kent Onshore Scheme to result in significant impacts to the setting of the assets. As a result, they will not be taken forward to full assessment.

Sevenscore House and associated farm office and barn (NHLE 1224327; NHLE 1266833; NHLE 1266813)

- The Sevenscore House and associated structures are all Grade II listed buildings originally dating to the 18th century, although heavily altered in the 19th century. Located approximately 1.3km to the north of the Minster Substation and Converter Station, the complex sits on the eastern side of Ebbsfleet Lane where mature tress provide screening and block views in and out. Large agricultural buildings border the listed buildings to the north, south, and east, while 20th century buildings and a main railway line are located to the south.
- As Grade II listed buildings, the farmstead and associated structures are considered to be of Medium Value, and this value largely stems from its architectural and historic interest derived from the information they contain associated with post-medieval agriculture.
- It is not clear if the buildings are still associated with the agricultural land they once served or if they are now residential properties, however, they are surrounded by modern agricultural buildings such as large barns and sheds which screen views both in and out from the farmhouses, as well as residential properties. Furthermore, the agricultural land that the farm is believed to have once served (and may still serve) is separated from the farm complex by a railway line which is flanked by tall trees which also separates the farm from its original setting. As such, there is limited potential for the Kent Onshore Scheme to result in significant impacts to the setting of the assets. As a result, it will not be taken forward to full assessment.

6.2 Non-designated Assets

- A total of 72 non-designated assets have been recorded within the Order Limits for the Kent Onshore Scheme, including previously recorded assets on the Kent HER, as well as new assets identified as during the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching undertaken to inform the assessment. These include archaeological remains dating from the early prehistoric period onwards, as well as find spots, and a limited number of earthwork remains. The majority of the non-designated assets recorded within the Order Limits are buried archaeological features that have been recorded through non-intrusive methods such as geophysical survey and aerial photography, with evaluation excavation providing additional information for most.
- While find spots have been considered for the information they can contain associated with the dating of features in a field, or as a possible indicator of previously unrecorded assets in a field, they have not been taken forwards to assessment as they represent assets that have been recovered and therefore no longer exist 'in situ'.
- Assets within the Order Limits are discussed below. A number of concentrations of features have been recorded, and therefore they have been grouped when discussing their significance. Assets of a similar type/form have also been grouped together when discussing their significance.

Second World War Defences, Pegwell Bay (MWX43183; MWX43182; MWE89564; MWX43192)

- A number of defensive features dating to the Second World War have been recorded in the Pegwell Bay area, as well as the area inland which is now occupied by St Augustines Golf Course. These include remains recorded on wartime aerial photographs, such as beach scaffolding, as well as features that still survive such as concrete anti-tank pimples.
- The value (sensitivity) of the assets derives largely from their archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to early defences created rapidly at the start of the Second World War. It also has some historic significance associated to the part the features played in the defence of the area during the Second World War, while the surviving anti-tank pimples have some architectural significance. However, they are of a type found commonly throughout the area as well as large parts of the United Kingdom, and as such they are considered to be of low value due to their limited level of survival/preservation.
- 6.2.6 Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme are limited to underground installation of the cable through HDD techniques which will go below the heritage assets, avoiding physical impacts. As a result, these remains will not be taken forwards to full assessment.

Pegwell Bay Hoverport (TR 36 SE 714)

- The site of the former Pegwell Bay hoverport survives as a series of concrete hardstandings and access roads on the shoreline near Cliffs End. Operational from the late 1960s through to the early 1980s, the hoverport was the first purpose-built site of this type and operated a service to Calais in France. After closure in the early 1980s, the main buildings we reused by an engineering company until they were eventually demolished in the late 1980s/1990s. The remaining elements that survive include carparking, access roads, and car marshalling areas, as well as the hovercraft pad.
- The value (sensitivity) of the assets derives largely from its historic significance associated with the part the site played in cross-Channel transport in the post-war period. However, as the main structures have been removed and only elements such as access roads and the hovercraft pad survive in a poor state of repairs they are considered to be of low value.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme in the area of these features are limited to the use of existing tracks as a temporary access to the marine works, thus avoiding physical impacts on any remains that might survive as buried features. As a result, these assets will not be taken forwards to full assessment

Second World War Defences, Pegwell Bay (MWX43230; MWX43173; MWX43184)

- A number of defensive features dating to the Second World War have been recorded in the Pegwell Bay area, as well as the area inland which is now occupied by former hoverport site and housing. These largely consist of remains recorded on wartime aerial photographs, such as beach scaffolding and poles, as well as a gun emplacement, all of which have now been removed.
- The value (sensitivity) of the assets derives largely from their archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to early defences created rapidly at the start

of the Second World War. It also has some historic significance associated to the part the features played in the defence of the area during the Second World War. However, they are of a type found commonly throughout the area as well as large parts of the United Kingdom, and as such they are considered to be of low value due to their limited level of survival/preservation.

Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme in the area of these features are limited to the use of existing tracks as a temporary access to the marine works, thus avoiding physical impacts on any remains that might survive as buried features. As a result, these assets will not be taken forwards to full assessment.

The Boarded Groin (TR 36 SW 309)

- The boarded groin is a structure, thought to date to the medieval period, constructed as part of the reclamation of the coastline in the area of Pegwell Bay. Running for at least 2.5 km on a roughly north-south alignment, the full extent of the feature is not well understood due to a lack of intrusive archaeological investigations. The section within the Order Limits is also in an area that was heavily disturbed during the Second World War with defensive ditches associated with a gun emplacement (MWX43192) and a possible stop line (MWX43387) following its alignment.
- The value (sensitivity) of the asset derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to medieval and later land reclamation. It also has some historic significance associated to the reclamation of the Pegwell Bay area/Isle of Thanet. It is considered to be of regional importance and as such is deemed to be of medium value.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme are limited to the underground installation of the cable through HDD techniques which will go below the heritage assets, avoiding physical impacts. Furthermore, only 100m of the asset fall within the Order Limits, and they are also in an area where later defence dating to the Second World War appear to exist and may have disturbed or destroyed the feature. As a result, physical impact are not predicted and the asset will not be taken forwards to full assessment.

Prehistoric Midden Material (TR 36 SW 105)

- Remains of a possible midden was recorded eroding out of a dyke on what is now the edge of St Augustines Golf Course. Although limited data survives for the site, the material was thought to date to the Bronze Age and/or Iron Age.
- The value (sensitivity) of this site derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information it could provide relating to the history and development of land use in the area. However, it is not clear if the asset survives, and it is also of a type that is relatively common in this area. As a result, it is considered to be of local importance and therefore of low value.
- While the asset falls within the Order Limits, the works proposed in this area are limited to the use of an existing access, and this is located approximately 20 m from the dyke where the remains were reported to have been seen and therefore no physical impacts are expected. As a result, this asset will not be taken forwards to full assessment.

Ebbsfleet Peninsula Multi-Period Complex Straddling the A256

- A complex multi-period site has been recorded covering a large area of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula in Plots 244.1, 316, 336, and 346. Originally identified during works for the EKA2 scheme, parts of the complex were excavated during the construction of the A256, with a subsequent research project undertaking further geophysical survey and some limited excavation. Remains encountered date from the Neolithic through to the Post-Medieval period, however, the most significant remains include the remains of Bronze Age burials mounds, Iron Age enclosures, trackways and field systems, and a large Late Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure with associated features.
- A geophysical survey undertaken as part of the Proposed Project provided further information relating to the area covered by the complex, and subsequent evaluation trenching provided information relating to the date and character of the remains, as well as their level of survival. This has included confirming a Bronze Age date for a number of ring ditches, and identifying burials in a number of enclosures.
- The value (sensitivity) of these assets derives largely from their archaeological interest, and the information they could provide relating to the history and development of land use in the area, and they are considered to be of schedulable quality. As a result, they are of high value as they are of national importance. Embedded mitigation in the form of avoidance and redesign has been employed to avoid the majority of features, with large areas of the complex falling outside of the Order Limits, while other remains fall outside of the LoD. Furthermore, works on the eastern side of the A256 required to lay out cables would not require stripping and would use track matting to avoid physical impacts, while an access track required in the same field would use an area of land previously disturbed during utilities work to avoid further impacts.
- However, a number of elements of the Kent Onshore Scheme would be required within the complex, or on the fringes of the complex. On the eastern side of the A256 these works consist of an excavation pit (for trenchless installation) in Field 346 and a temporary construction compound in Field 316, both of which are on the fringes of the complex. On the western side of the A256 the works include a temporary compound and excavation pit (for trenchless installation) in Field 316, and the permanent access and cable route in Field 224.1. The Kent Onshore Scene would therefore result in direct physical impacts on parts of the complex, and as a result these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Weatherlees Sidings and Richborough Port (TR 36 SW 414 and MWX43282)

- The former Richborough Port, which includes the former Weatherlees railway sidings, was originally constructed during the First World War as part of a complex to aid the movement of troops and supplies to Europe. The sidings were decommissioned after the armistice, but were commissioned again during the Second World War with most activity linked to the preparations for D-Day. Decommissioned in the post-war period, no obvious traces of the railway sidings survive with the exception of slight earthwork embankments on the eastern side of the asset, outside of the Order Limits, while remains linked to the overall port site are also limited.
- The value (sensitivity) of these assets derives largely from their archaeological interests, and the information they could provide relating to the history and development of the railway sidings during the First and Second World Wars. The complex also has historic interest due to the information it contains linked to the infrastructure that supported the military in the First and Second World War. While the wider complex may be of regional interest and therefore of medium value, the small element that survives within and adjacent to the Order Limits represents a short-lived site with little or no remains

surviving. As such, the railway sidings are considered to be of local importance and therefore of low value.

Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme and have the potential to result in physical impacts on the assets include a small area of an attenuation pond and associated outfall into an existing drain. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Former Sheep Dip (AECOMK002)

- The site of a former sheep dip has been recorded in the Minster Marshes in Plot 244.4 on historic mapping from at least the 19th century, although no traces survive as above ground remains. The approximate area was subject to geophysical survey which did not record any traces of the feature, while evaluation trenching in the approximate area also failed to locate any remains. As the field is now used for pasture it is assumed all traces have been removed.
- The value (sensitivity) of the asset derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information any surviving remain might provide relating to post-medieval agriculture. It also has some historic significance associated to the part the feature played in agricultural land use. However, they are of a type found commonly throughout the area as well as large parts of the United Kingdom, and as such they are considered to be of negligible value due to their limited level of survival/preservation.
- 6.2.28 Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme and have the potential to result in a physical impact on the assets include construction of a temporary compound. As a result these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment

Bridge and Former Sheep Dip (AECOMK006)

- The site of a former sheep dip and adjacent bridge has been recorded in the Minster Marshes in Plot 244.10 on historic mapping from at least the 19th century. Although no traces of the sheep dip survive as above ground remains, the bridge still forms an access across a drain in this area. The approximate area of the sheep dip was subject to geophysical survey which did not record any traces of the feature, while evaluation trenching in the approximate area also failed to locate any remains (although the trenching was set back from the area to avoid impacts on the bridge). As the field is now used for pasture it is assumed all traces of the sheep dip have been removed by ploughing.
- The value (sensitivity) of the assets derives largely from their archaeological interest, and the information any surviving remain might provide relating to post-medieval agriculture. They also have some historic significance associated with their role in agricultural land use, land management, and access. However, they are of a type found commonly throughout the area, as well as large parts of the United Kingdom, and as such they are considered to be of negligible value due to their limited level of survival/preservation.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme and have the potential to result in a physical impact on the assets include construction of the Converter Station, Substation, and associated accesses. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Probable Second World War Stop Line, Minster Marshes (MWX43372; MWX43387)

- A probable Second World War stop line has been recorded through 1940s aerial photography showing freshly cut earth banks to fortify a stream on the north bank of the River Stour, with a second section running from the River Stour towards Pegwell Bay. Later aerial photographs show that the earth banks were levelled and no traces survive today.
- The value (sensitivity) of the asset derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to early defences created rapidly at the start of the Second World War. It also has some historic significance associated to the part the features played in the defence of the area during the Second World War. However, they are of a type found commonly throughout the area as well as large parts of the United Kingdom, and as such they are considered to be of low value due to their limited level of survival/preservation.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme and have the potential to result in a physical impact on the assets include construction of two sections of temporary haul road that cross the feature at right angles, as well as three areas of temporary drainage works that would feed into the existing drain/stream in the area of the asset. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Second World War Enhanced Drainage, Minster Marshes (MWX43342)

- An element of a probable Second World War stop line known as 'enhanced drainage' has been recorded through 1940s aerial photography. This shows freshly cut earth banks designed to help fortify a stream on the north bank of the River Stour through digging out, or enhancing, existing drainage. Wartime aerial photos also show similar works on the south side of the River Stour in the Ashe Levels, and in both instances later aerial photographs show that the earth banks were levelled with no clear traces surviving today.
- The value (sensitivity) of the asset derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to early defences created rapidly by enhancing existing drainage at the start of the Second World War. They also have some historic interest due to the information they contain associated with the defence of the area in the Second World War. They are considered to be of local importance and therefore of low value due to their limited level of survival/preservation.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme and have the potential to result in a physical impact on the assets include construction of two sections of temporary haul road that cross the feature at right angles, as well as three areas of temporary drainage works that would feed into the existing drain/stream in the area of the asset. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Abbot's Walls (TR 26 SE 148)

The Abbot's Wall is an earth bank and associated ditch which is assumed to have originally been constructed in the medieval period by the Abbot of St Augustine as part of the efforts to reclaim and protect the Minster Marshes area from the former Wantsum Channel. Running for a distance of at least 7 km, the feature is thought to originally date to the late 13th century, although it has been modified and consolidated over time.

- The value (sensitivity) of the asset derives from its archaeological interest, and the information it could provide relating to the history of land reclamation and management in the Wantsum Channel/Minster Marshes area. However, the bank and ditch also have some historic interest due to their role in the reclamation and ongoing flood protection in the Minster Marshes. Its setting also contributes to its significance as it remains a visible earthwork in the largely flat and open Minster Marshes landscape. It is considered to be of regional importance and as such is deemed to be of medium value.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme that have the potential to result in a physical impact on the asset include construction of a temporary haul road that crosses the feature at a right angle, as well as temporary drainage works that would feed into the existing drain/stream in the area of the asset. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Possible Flood Bank, Ash Levels (MWX43343)

- This is a large flood bank, assumed to be part of flood defences or associated with the reclamation of the Wantsum Channel/Minster Marshes. Originally recorded on 1940s aerial photography, the feature does not follow the 19th century field systems and is assumed to be medieval or post-medieval in date. However, the feature was destroyed by ploughing in the second half of the 20th century, and it is unclear if any remains survive with no clear evidence of the feature in the geophysical survey data.
- The value (sensitivity) of the asset derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to early efforts to reclaim the Wantsum Channel/Minster Marshes area, as well as subsequent drainage and flood protection activities. It is considered to be of local interest and therefore of low value.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme that have the potential to result in physical impacts on the asset includes construction of a temporary haul road that would cross the feature at a right angle, as well as a temporary OHL structure. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Enclosure and Boundary Features, Ash Levels (MWX43368, MWX43373)

- A series of banks along with a possible enclosure were identified through a review of 1940s aerial photography. The alignment of the banks respect the layout of field systems recorded on 19th century mapping, and as such are assumed to form part of the post-medieval field and flood defence system. However, 1960s aerial photographs show they had largely been ploughed out in the post-war period, and only limited traces now survive above ground in some areas.
- The value of the asset derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to efforts to drain/protect the Ash Levels area, as well as agriculture in the area. It is considered to be of local importance and therefore of low value due to its limited survival/ploughed out nature.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme that have the potential to result in a physical impact on the asset includes construction of a temporary haul road that would cross the feature at a right angle. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Hay Stack Stances, Ash Levels (MWX43357; MWX43360; MWX43376; MWX43377; MWX43378; MWX43381)

- A number of hay stack stances have been recorded across the Ash Levels area on historic aerial photographs dating to the 1940s. However, aerial photographs dating to the 1970s no longer show the features and it is assumed they have been levelled by post-war arable agriculture.
- The value of the assets derive largely from their archaeological interest, and the information any remains that may survive as buried remains might provide relating to post-medieval agriculture in the Ash Levels area. They are, however, or a type common in the United Kingdom, and their very poor survive means they are considered to be of negligible value.
- While the features fall within the Order Limits, the works proposed in this area are limited to alterations to the existing OHL. Furthermore, none of these works are expected to encroach onto the monument therefore avoiding physical impacts to any remains that might survive. As a result, these remains will not be taken forwards to full assessment.

Second World War Enhanced Drainage, Ash Levels (MWX43337)

- An element of a probable Second World War stop line known as 'enhanced drainage' has been recorded through 1940s aerial photography. This shows freshly cut earth banks designed to help fortify existing drainage on the south bank of the River Stour through digging out, or enhancing, existing drainage. Wartime aerial photos also show similar works on the north side of the River Stour in the Minster Marshes, and in both instances later aerial photographs show that the earth banks were leveled in most areas with limited traces surviving today. Observations made during the walkover survey also noted that these features, where they survive, continue to the be enhanced as drainage ditches are cleared and the overburden used to build banks up.
- The value of the asset derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to early defences created rapidly by enhancing existing drainage at the start of the Second World War. It also has some historic importance due to its role in the defence of the area during the Second World War. The asset is considered to be of local importance and therefore of low value due to its limited level of survival/preservation.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme and have the potential to result in a physical impact on the asset includes construction of the temporary haul road that would cross the feature at right angles, as well as areas of temporary drainage works that would feed into the existing drain/stream in the area of the asset. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Former Pillbox (TR 36 SE 465)

- The site of a former Second World War pillbox line has been recorded through 1940s aerial photography to the south of the Sandwich Road Junction in Plot, although no traces survive today.
- The value (sensitivity) of the asset derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to defences created rapidly during the Second World War. It also has some historic significance associated to the part the features

played in the defence of the area during the Second World War. However, it is of a type found commonly throughout the area as well as large parts of the United Kingdom, and it also appears to have been completely remove. As such, it is considered to be of negligible value due to its limited level of survival/preservation.

6.2.55 Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme and have the potential to result in a physical impact on any remains that might survive consist of the construction of a temporary compound. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Circular Feature (AECOMK007)

- A circular feature has been recorded through aerial photography to the south of the sandwich Road Junction in Plot. Transcribed as part of the Thanet Mapping Programme, the feature could represent a prehistoric roundhouse or burial. However, a Second World War pillbox has also been recorded slightly to the south (TR 36 SE 465), and it is possible that the cropmark is linked to the former wartime structure.
- The value (sensitivity) of the asset derives largely from its archaeological interest, and the information it may provide relating to prehistoric activity if found to be prehistoric. However, if a round house or burial, it represents a type of features found commonly throughout the area as well as large parts of the United Kingdom. As such, it is considered to be of local importance and therefore of low value due to its limited level of survival/preservation.

Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme and have the potential to result in a physical impact on any remains that might survive consist of the construction of a temporary compound. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

Former Wantsum Channel and Associated Geo-Archaeological Deposits

- A review of GI data collected for engineering purposes as part of the Kent Onshore Scheme was reviewed and this noted the alluvial deposits surviving across the Minster Marshes area up to 20 m deep. This review was undertaken in association with a review of geo-archaeological works undertaken in the immediate surroundings as part of the Richborough Connection Project and the Weatherlees Pumping Station Project, which also identified similar deposits (Application Document 6.3.3.3.G Appendix 3.3.G Geo-archaeological Desk-Based Assessment).
- Both the Richborough Connection and Weatherlees Pumping Station works noted that the deposits encountered had the potential to provide information relating to past environments, although no deep organic deposits were encountered (i.e. peat). Furthermore, no traces of wrecks or structural features such as timber trackways were noted.
- The upper palaeo-environmental remains were also observed as part of the evaluation trenching, although in most cases only the very upper deposits were observed as most trenches did not go deeper than 1.5 m. However, these trenches also failed to identify any structural remains.
- The value of the deposits derive largely from their archaeological interest, and the information they may provide relating to earlier environmental conditions, as well as the reclamation of the Wantsum Channel. In general, the deposits are considered to be of

- regional importance and therefore of medium value. However, it is recognised that the value of any structural remains such as wrecks, trackways, or features associated with water management could be higher.
- Works that form part of the Kent Onshore Scheme and have the potential to result in a physical impact on the deposits include the construction of the Sub Station and Converter Station, as well as the new pylons of the OHL connection. As a result, these remains will be taken forwards to full assessment.

7. Conclusion

- The assessment outlined in the previous section allows for consideration of the potential for the Kent Onshore Scheme to result in significant effects to heritage assets either through change to their settings and/or physical impacts. It also allows for the identification of assets where there is no potential for the Kent Onshore Scheme to result in such effects. Such assets, as detailed above, can now be scoped out of further assessment. The remaining assets are those where the assessment has identified the potential for the Kent Onshore Scheme to result in impacts to the assets.
- The following designated heritage assets have been scoped into further assessment in the ES:
 - Richborough Fort.
- 7.1.3 Non-designated heritage assets scoped into further assessment comprise:
 - Multi period complex on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula straddling the A256;
 - Weatherlees Sidings and Richborough Port (TR 36 SW 414 and MWX43282);
 - Former sheep dip (AECOMK002);
 - Bridge and former sheep dip (AECOMK006);
 - Probable Second World War Stop Line (Minster Marshes) (MWX43372);
 - Second World War Enhanced Drainage, Minster Marshes (MWX43342);
 - Abbot's Walls (TR 26 SE 148);
 - Possible Flood Bank, Ash Levels (MWX43343);
 - Enclosure and Boundary Features, Ash Levels (MWX43368, MWX43373);
 - Second World War Enhanced Drainage, Ash Levels (MWX43337); and
 - Former Wantsum Channel and Associated Geo-Archaeological Deposits.
- Outside of the known areas of archaeological activity, there is a low potential for the Order Limits to contain previously unknown archaeological remains.

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