

Sea Link

Volume 7: Other Documents

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Version History

Date	Issue	Status	Description / Changes
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November 2025	B	Final	Updated for Deadline 1
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January 2026	C	Final	Figures now included
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Executive Summary

- Ex1.1.1 This Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared on behalf of National Grid to support the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).
- Ex1.1.2 This Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation sets out the scope, guiding principles and methods for the planning and implementation of further archaeological evaluation and mitigation works that are required within the Order Limits for the Kent Onshore Scheme. This further evaluation and mitigation works have been identified following analysis of the results of desk-based research, archaeological geophysical survey, analysis of aerial photography and LiDAR data, trial trench evaluation, and from the results of geoarchaeological assessment.
- Ex1.1.3 The Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation details the different methods of further evaluation and mitigation, the successful completion of which will reduce the effects of the Kent Onshore Scheme on the cultural heritage resource. Further evaluation will be undertaken on areas of planned intrusive activities where no archaeological evaluation has yet been possible. Archaeological mitigation measures will comprise either the protection and preservation of archaeological remains, where practicable, or, where remains cannot be preserved, a structured programme of archaeological investigation to mitigate the loss.
- Ex1.1.4 Further, this Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation presents the approach to consultation and approvals for the stages of evaluation and mitigation, and details the framework to deliver the stages of investigation and following post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and archive processes.
- Ex1.1.5 This Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation has been agreed with the relevant cultural heritage statutory consultee, comprising the Archaeological Advisor for Kent County Council, and is submitted with the DCO. The implementation of this Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation will be secured by Requirement 14 in Schedule 3 of the draft DCO.

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This document presents the Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) which sets out the scope and guiding principles for the planning and implementation of further evaluation surveys and proposed archaeological mitigation works to be undertaken in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Sea Link (hereafter referred to as ‘the Proposed Project’), specifically for the Kent Onshore Scheme.

1.2 The Proposed Project

- 1.2.1 The Proposed Project is a proposal by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (hereafter referred to as National Grid) to reinforce the transmission network in the South East and East Anglia. The Proposed Project is required to accommodate additional power flows generated from renewable and low carbon generation, as well as accommodating additional new interconnection with mainland Europe.
- 1.2.2 National Grid owns, builds and maintains the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. Under the Electricity Act 1989, National Grid holds a transmission licence under which it is required to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated, and economic electricity transmission system.
- 1.2.3 This would be achieved by reinforcing the network with a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Link between the proposed Friston substation in the Sizewell area of Suffolk and the existing Richborough to Canterbury 400kV overhead line close to Richborough in Kent. National Grid is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act 1989, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to:
- Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest;’ and
 - Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects’.
- 1.2.4 The Proposed Project would comprise the following elements:

The Suffolk Onshore Scheme

- A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third-party projects. If Friston Substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed as part of the Proposed Project.

- A high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 1.9 km in length between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below).
- A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station (including permanent access from the B1121 and a new bridge over the River Fromus) up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection, safety rails for maintenance works, ventilation equipment, aerials, similar small scale operational plant, or other roof treatment) near Saxmundham.
- A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Saxmundham, and a Transition Joint Bay (TJB) approximately 900 m inshore from a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology.
- A landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness).

The Offshore Scheme

- Approximately 122 km of subsea HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay.

The Kent Onshore Scheme

- A landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay.
- A TJB approximately 800 m inshore to transition from offshore HVDC cable to onshore HVDC cable, before continuing underground for approximately 1.7 km to a new converter station (below).
- A 2 GW HVDC converter station (including a new permanent access off the A256), up to 28 m high plus external equipment such as lightning protection, safety rails for maintenance works, ventilation equipment, aerials, and similar small scale operational plant near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent.
- Removal of approximately 2.2 km of existing HVAC overhead line, and installation of two sections of new HVAC overhead line, together totalling approximately 3.5 km, each connecting from the substation near Minster and the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line.

1.2.5 The Proposed Project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk (only if Friston Substation is not built pursuant to another consent) and Kent, diversions of third-party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation and compensation. The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including overhead line diversions, use of temporary towers or masts, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, parking spaces, storage, accesses, bellmouths, and haul roads, as well as watercourse crossings and the diversion of Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and other ancillary operations.

1.3 Purpose and Structure of the Outline Onshore OWSI

- 1.3.1 The purpose of the Outline Onshore OWSI is to set out the scope and methods proposed to mitigate effects of the Proposed Project on heritage assets within the Order Limits, to secure compliance with relevant national and local planning policies.
- 1.3.2 This document describes the principles to be applied in undertaking archaeological evaluation and mitigation works including strategies for the protection of archaeological remains, and for the investigation, recording and analysis of archaeological remains that would be impacted as a result of construction of the Proposed Project.
- 1.3.3 The Outline Onshore OWSI is structured as follows:
- Section 1: presents an overview of this document, including the purpose and structure of the Outline Onshore OWSI including aims and objectives, and the roles and responsibilities of each party to ensure the implementation of the Outline Onshore OWSI;
 - Section 2: presents an overview of the archaeological baseline and includes a summary of archaeological surveys that have been carried out for the Proposed Project;
 - Section 3: describes the archaeological evaluation surveys required to be undertaken within the Order Limits;
 - Section 4: describes the potential archaeological mitigation strategies that may be deployed within the Order Limits;
 - Section 5: sets out the protocols for unexpected archaeological discoveries;
 - Section 6: outlines the protocols for reporting and publication, including archiving requirements;
 - Section 7: sets out the requirement for and outline structure for detailed Site-Specific Written Schemes of Investigation (SSWSIs);
 - Section 8: sets out the protocols for monitoring and approvals;
 - Section 9: outlines the requirements for public outreach and
 - Section 10: provides a general overview of the Health and Safety requirements of the Proposed Project.
- 1.3.4 This Outline Onshore OWSI is supported by figures in Appendix A which show the areas within the Kent Onshore Scheme Order Limits where impacts to heritage assets are anticipated, along with the areas for further evaluation and/ or mitigation surveys agreed with the Kent County Council Archaeological Advisor.

1.4 Status of this Document

- 1.4.1 This Outline Onshore OWSI has been prepared to support the application for development consent.
- 1.4.2 The scope of this Outline Onshore OWSI has been agreed with the Kent County Council Archaeological Advisor (KCCAA) and the archaeological works detailed in this Outline Onshore OWSI fulfil Requirement 14 of Schedule 3 of the Draft DCO (**Application Document 3.1**).

1.5 Roles and Responsibilities

- 1.5.1 This Outline Onshore OWSI has been prepared for submission alongside the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 1.5.2 National Grid (the Applicant for the Proposed Project) will establish the appropriate roles and responsibilities for site staff as set out in **Application Document 7.5.3 Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)**.
- 1.5.3 The KCCAA will be responsible for confirming that the requirements of the DCO are met, in accordance with any conditions relating to archaeology. The KCCAA (or any succeeding archaeological advisor to the local planning authority) will also be responsible for final sign off and approval of all mitigation measures.
- 1.5.4 National Grid will appoint an Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW) for the Proposed Project. The ACoW, working on behalf of National Grid, will be responsible for liaising with the KCCAA to ensure that evaluation and mitigation measures are correctly implemented, monitored, and maintained during the construction phase of the works. This will include monitoring the Archaeological Contractor's work to ensure compliance with the SSWSIs and this Outline Onshore OWSI and monitoring the specific construction activities to ensure compliance with all archaeological mitigation requirements, including protection measures, set out in **Application Document 7.5.3 Outline Onshore CEMP**.
- 1.5.5 National Grid will appoint an Archaeological Contractor to carry out the archaeological evaluation and mitigation fieldwork. The Archaeological Contractor will be responsible for the production of SSWSIs for each stage of archaeological investigation (refer to Section 7).

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A detailed baseline for the Proposed Project has been produced as part of the DCO application (**Application Document 6.3.3.3.A ES Appendix 3.3.A Cultural Heritage Baseline Report**). This has been informed through a review of previously recorded heritage assets, as well as additional surveys. The results of these surveys has been synthesised in **Application Document 6.3.3.3.A ES Appendix 3.3.A Cultural Heritage Baseline Report** and **Application Document 6.2.3.3 Part 3 Kent Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage**. Full details of the surveys submitted as part of the DCO application are included in the following appendices:

- **Application Document 6.3.3.3.D ES Appendix 3.3.D – Geophysical Survey Report;**
- **Application Document 6.3.3.3.E ES Appendix 3.3.E – Aerial Photographic and LiDAR Report;**
- **Application Document 6.3.3.3.F ES Appendix 3.3.F – Archaeological Evaluation Trial Trenching Report (Draft);** and
- **Application Document 6.3.3.3.G ES Appendix 3.3.G – Geo-archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.**

2.1.2 This section presents a summary of the existing baseline.

2.2 Site Location, Topography, and Geology

2.2.1 The Proposed Project 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 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.

2.2.2 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 Wantsum Channel and formation of the Minster Marshes.

- 2.2.3 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.
- 2.2.4 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 is 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.
- 2.2.5 Historic Landscape Characterisation data provided by Kent County Council shows the Study Area falling into three categories. The elevated area of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula consists 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'.

2.3 Archaeological Baseline

- 2.3.1 Two Study Areas are discussed in this section, a 500 m Study Area around the Kent Onshore Scheme Boundary and a 2 km Study area around the above ground infrastructure. Further details are provided in **Application Document 6.3.3.3.A ES Appendix 3.3.A Cultural Heritage Baseline Report**.

Designated Assets

- 2.3.2 There are no designated heritage assets located within the Order Limits.
- 2.3.3 There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, or Protected Wrecks located within the Study Area.
- 2.3.4 A total of two scheduled monuments and 40 listed buildings are recorded within the 500 m Study Area.
- 2.3.5 A further two scheduled monuments and 45 listed buildings are recorded within the 2 km Study Area from the above ground infrastructure associated with the Proposed Project, which has been adopted for assessing impacts on setting.

Scheduled Monuments

- 2.3.6 All scheduled monuments are deemed to be of high value as nationally important heritage assets.

- 2.3.7 There are two scheduled monuments within the 500 m Study Area, comprising of:
- Richborough Saxon Shore Fort, Roman Port, and Associated Remains (NHLE 1014642). Located approximately 0.15 km south of the Order Limits.
 - Monastic Grange and Pre-Conquest Nunnery at Minster (NHLE 1016850). Located approximately 0.21 km north of the Order Limits.
- 2.3.8 There are two scheduled monuments within the 2 km Study Area from the above ground infrastructure adopted for setting impacts. These consist of:
- Richborough Saxon Shore Fort, Roman Port, and Associated Remains (NHLE 1014642). Located approximately 1.58 km south of the overhead connection works.
 - Monastic Grange and Pre-Conquest Nunnery at Minster (NHLE 1016850). Located approximately 1.45 km north of the Minster Converter Station and Substation site.

Listed Buildings

- 2.3.9 A total of 40 listed buildings are recorded within the 500 m Study Area, of which three are Grade I listed, and 37 are Grade II listed.
- 2.3.10 A total of 45 listed buildings are recorded within the 2 km Study Area from the above ground infrastructure adopted for assessing impacts on setting. These consist of two Grade I listed buildings, one Grade II* listed building, and 42 are Grade II listed buildings.

Non-Designated Assets

- 2.3.11 A review of previously recorded assets on the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) recorded a total of 72 assets within the Order Limits. The majority of these are features relating to the complex multiperiod site recorded on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula that was partially excavated as part of the East Kent Access 2 (EKA2) scheme, a major road construction project around the Isle of Thanet, with the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching undertaken for the Proposed Project demonstrating that the features excavated for the construction of the A256 continue on the eastern and western side of the road. However, other previously recorded assets within the Order Limits include remains of features associated with medieval and post-medieval reclamation and land management in the former Wantsum Channel, agricultural activities, chance finds from various periods, and 20th century military remains.
- 2.3.12 Previously recorded non-designated assets recorded within the Order Limits consist of (from east to west):
- Second World War beach scaffolding (MWX43182);
 - Second World War wire entanglements (MWX43183);
 - Second World War anti-tank pimples (TR 36 SW 280);
 - Second World War anti-tank blocks (MWX43185);
 - Second World War probable stop line (MWX43387);
 - the Boarded Groin (TR SW 203);
 - Second World War anti-aircraft battery at St Augustine's Golf Course (MWX43192);

- multi period complex on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula straddling the A256;
- Weatherlees Sidings and Richborough Port (TR 36 SW 414; MWX43282; MWX43195);
- 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);
- Stack Stances, Ash Levels (MWX43344; MWX43352; MWX43356; MWX43357; MWX43359; MWX43360; MWX43363; MWX43364; MWX43376; MWX43377; MWX43378; MWX43381); and
- former Wantsum Channel and Associated Geo-Archaeological Deposits.

- 2.3.13 The largest concentration of non-designated assets identified are on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, with a multi-phase complex straddling the A256. As noted above, these features were previously recorded during the works associated with the construction of the A256, and additional surveys undertaken as part of the Proposed Project, including geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, confirmed that the multi-period site continued on both sides of the A256 and into the Order Limits. These remains, which included continuations of trackways, ditches, and enclosures, as well as Bronze Age burial mounds and later inhumations, confirmed the survival of remains throughout the Ebbsfleet Peninsula area. While these remains are not designated, stakeholders have highlighted they are considered to be of schedulable quality and as such they are deemed to be of high value (sensitivity) in the assessment.
- 2.3.14 Features in the Minster Marshes were less evident on the geophysical survey, and the evaluation trenching also identified limited evidence of activity with the deposits encountered largely associated with depositional processes linked to the reclamation of the former Wantsum Channel. The majority of previously recorded assets in this area date to the medieval and post-medieval periods, and include drainage works such as the Abbot's Wall (TR 26 SE 148), and possible flood banks in the Ash Levels (MWX43343). In the majority of cases, the full extent and original form of these features is not well understood due to a lack of fieldwork or intrusive investigations. Furthermore, many appear to have been subject to later remodelling and enhancement as part of the ongoing process of drainage and protection of the agricultural land in the Minster Marshes and Ash Levels from flooding. However, consultation with stakeholders has noted that they are considered to be of regional importance and as such they considered to be medium heritage value.
- 2.3.15 Evidence of post-medieval agricultural land use includes field boundaries (MWX43368) as well as haystack stances (MWX43335; MWX43344; MWX43352; MWX43353; MWX43356; MWX43357; MWX43359; MWX43360; MWX43363; MWX43364; MWX43376; MWX43377; MWX43378; MWX43381), suggesting a mixture of arable and pastoral activities taking place. While these features represent an important part of the history and development of land use in the area, they are considered to be of local importance and therefore of low heritage value.

- 2.3.16 The later post-medieval development of the region's infrastructure, as well as the conflicts of the 20th century, are also well represented within the Order Limits. Remains linked to the area's infrastructure include the Deal Branch Line (TR 35 NW 800) which are still operational, and runs through the Minster Marshes area. Other assets include the later 20th century hoverport terminal site, which is located on the coast near Pegwell Bay (TR 36 SE 714). These assets are considered to be of low heritage value.
- 2.3.17 Remains associated with the conflicts of the 20th century include a number of defensive features, as well as the Richborough Port complex, and remains associated with bombing. Previously recorded assets on the coastline around Pegwell Bay include beach scaffolding (MWX43182), as well as anti-tank obstacles (MWX43185), a possible stop line (MWX43387), and remains of an anti-aircraft battery (MWX43192). Further evidence of military defences have been recorded inland in the Minster Marshes and Ash Levels and include areas of enhanced drainage (MWX43337; MWX43342) and possible 'stop lines' (MWX4372), all of which appear to have been relatively short-lived features and backfilled at the end of the Second World War.
- 2.3.18 The military assets associated with the early 20th century military infrastructure include the northern limits of the Richborough Port complex (TR 36 SW 414), with a small element of the former Weatherlees Railway Siding falling within the Order Limits (MWX43282), while other features Second World War include backfilled bomb craters recorded on aerial photographs (MWX43355).
- 2.3.19 While a limited number of Second World War defences in the wider landscape have been listed due to their rarity, including anti-tank pimples and cylinders at Pegwell Bay (HNLE 1413803), the features that have been recorded within the Order Limits are either poorly preserved or of a type frequently found in the area. As a result, the military remains within the Order Limits are considered to be of low or medium heritage value.

2.4 Regional Research Frameworks and Agendas

- 2.4.1 The South East Research Framework (SERF) sets out resource assessment and research agenda for the historic environment in the southeast. Further to this, the Thanet Archaeological Landscapes Mapping Project provides relevant baseline information for the historic environment as well as modelling and characterisation data for the area's archaeology. Both resources will help develop a comprehensive research strategy for the works set out in this Outline Onshore OWSI.
- 2.4.2 Relevant research themes are set out below, and these will be further developed and refined with KCCAA and Historic England and detailed in the relevant SSWSI for each stage of archaeological investigation. Current research questions which should be developed further include:
- Through geoarchaeological assessment, deposit modelling and analysis including scientific dating techniques, contribute to the understanding of Holocene and submerged environments.
 - Contribute to the understanding of Bronze Age settlement distribution and recognise in SSWSIs the importance of small-scale and low-density Bronze Age activity in the design of fieldwork strategies.
 - Enhance the chronology of the construction, use and abandonment of Bronze Age field systems.

- Enhance current understanding relating to Bronze Age, later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age funerary practices:
 - Unurned cremation burials and unaccompanied inhumation burials should be scientifically dated to enhance chronology;
 - The occurrence of individual human bones in settlement sites needs better understanding and identification during archaeological investigations to enable more detailed research.
- Contribute to the understanding of the formation, development, and reclamation of the Wantsum Channel.
- Contribute to the understanding of the establishment, development and abandonment of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula.
- Contribute to the understanding of Second World War defences and build up on research and recording carried out for the Defence of Kent Project.

3. Scope of Archaeological Evaluation Surveys

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 A number of archaeological surveys have been undertaken as part of the DCO process to inform the assessment reported in **Application Document 6.2.3.3 Part 3 Kent Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage**. This included a review of aerial photography and LiDAR data (**Application Document 6.3.3.3.E ES Appendix 3.3.E – Aerial Photographic and LiDAR Report**), geophysical survey (**Application Document 6.3.3.3.D ES Appendix 3.3.D – Geophysical Survey Report**), evaluation trenching (**Application Document 6.3.3.3.F ES Appendix 3.3.F – Archaeological Evaluation Trial Trenching Report (Draft)**), and a geo-archaeological assessment of the former Wantsum Channel where the proposed Minster Converter Station, Substation, and Overhead Line (OHL) would be located (**Application Document 6.3.3.3.G ES Appendix 3.3.G – Geo-archaeological Desk Based Assessment**).
- 3.1.2 A limited number of areas of the Order Limits were not examined by the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, for example due to land access not being granted or ground conditions not being suitable, and these areas may require evaluating once the detailed design is agreed to enable a mitigation plan to be developed and agreed with the KCCAA. Areas identified for further evaluation measures are illustrated on the figures in Appendix A and each stage of work will require a SSWSI to be agreed with KCCAA.
- 3.1.3 Furthermore, ongoing geotechnical site investigations for the Kent Onshore Scheme continue to be monitored by a geoarchaeologist and the results of the ongoing geoarchaeological monitoring will inform the scope of necessary mitigation, which may entail further detailed modelling and/ or scientific dating of deposits.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological evaluation surveys will be carried out in accordance with this Outline Onshore OWSI, the approved SSWSI and any further specifications approved by the KCCAA. The works will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance provided by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), including the Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2022), the Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA, 2023), the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014), and other current and relevant good practice and standards and guidance including Kent County Council's specification manual for trial trenching (Kent County Council, 2020).

3.2 Rapid Identification Survey

- 3.2.1 A Rapid Identification Survey will be undertaken where reasonably practicable in areas which could not be evaluated before the end of the DCO Examination period due to access not being available. Areas not subject to evaluation are shown on the figures in Appendix A.

3.3 Geophysical Survey

- 3.3.1 The majority of the Order Limits have been subject to geophysical survey, with only limited areas not surveyed due to access not being available. The results of the geophysical surveys are submitted with the DCO as Appendix 3.3.D Geophysical Survey Report [**APP-164**].
- 3.3.2 Further geophysical survey may be required on land within the Order Limits not previously subject to geophysical survey and where further ground impacts from the Kent Onshore Scheme detailed design are anticipated.
- 3.3.3 Geophysical survey will likely comprise archaeological magnetometry survey of identified areas in order to identify geomagnetic anomalies of potential archaeological origin. Other methods of survey, such as electrical resistivity, may be used depending on the nature of the geological conditions (for example across alluvial areas) and/ or anticipated archaeological remains. The scope of the geophysical survey, including the type of survey proposed, will be agreed with the KCCAA and detailed in a SSWSI.
- 3.3.4 Geophysical work and reporting will be carried out in line with the standards set out in Section 4.3; the EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology (Schmidt, et al., 2016) and the ClfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists , 2020).

Aims and Objectives

- 3.3.5 The general objectives of the geophysical survey are:
- to investigate the archaeological potential of the cable corridor;
 - to assess the presence/absence of potential archaeological anomalies;
 - to determine the level of risk that the archaeological resource would present to the cable corridor option;
 - to inform the emerging design; and
 - to inform the scope of further evaluation and/or mitigation strategies.
- 3.3.6 Following the completion of the geophysical survey, further evaluation surveys (such as trial trenching) may be required, further detail is provided in the next section.

3.4 Trial Trench Evaluation Scope

- 3.4.1 A programme of trial trenching has been carried out for the Kent Onshore Scheme, and the results are submitted with the DCO as Appendix 3.3.F Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report [**APP-166**].
- 3.4.2 Further evaluation trenching may be required in areas where evaluation has not been practicable in advance of the end of the DCO examination, and provision must be made in the SSWSI for further trenching as appropriate in accordance with Requirement 14 in Schedule 3 of the draft DCO (**Application Document 3.1**).
- 3.4.3 A 4-5% trial trenching sample is the extent recommended by the KCCAA, however this is likely to be subject to standard constraints such as ground conditions and topography which may reduce the final sample percentage. The sample percentage may also be reduced if the trial trenching has been informed by geophysical survey results and potential archaeological anomalies are being targeted. The final number, layout and location of the trenches will be agreed with the KCCAA.

- 3.4.4 Evaluation trenches are anticipated to measure 30 m in length and at least 1.8m width unless otherwise agreed with the KCCAA. Any sampling strategy will have regard to the results of previous evaluation surveys and the extent of prior disturbance.
- 3.4.5 The purpose of the evaluation is to identify and characterise the nature, extent and significance of specific archaeological foci, within an extensive area. This information will be used to allow more detailed proposals for mitigation to be developed.
- 3.4.6 A SSWSI (refer to Section 7) will be required, setting out the full scope and methodology of the evaluation. The SSWSI will be prepared by the Archaeological Contractor and agreed with the KCCAA. All work will be carried out to the standards set out in Section 4.3, and in accordance with the KCCAA requirements.

Aims and Objectives

General Aims

- 3.4.7 The general aims of the archaeological trial trench evaluation are to:
- provide additional information on the archaeological potential; and
 - inform the requirement for and scope of any archaeological mitigation works that may be required.

General Objectives

- 3.4.8 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the archaeological trial trenching are to:
- Test areas of possible palaeoenvironmental potential based on the results of the ongoing geoarchaeological monitoring of geotechnical investigations and the subsequent assessment reporting;
 - test the results of the geophysical survey;
 - confirm the presence or absence of surviving archaeological remains within the Order Limits;
 - determine the location, nature, extent, date, condition, state of preservation, significance and complexity of any archaeological remains and palaeoenvironmental sequences;
 - determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
 - interpret the archaeological remains within their local, regional and national archaeological context; and
 - make available information about the archaeological resource within the Order Limits by reporting on the results of the archaeological trial trenching.

3.5 Geo-Archaeological Scope

- 3.5.1 Further geo-archaeological evaluation may be required in areas of potential identified from ongoing geotechnical ground investigations (GI) carried out for the Kent Onshore Scheme.

- 3.5.2 A desk-based review of previous GI works, as well as geo-archaeological data from previous relevant schemes, is submitted as part of the DCO as Appendix 3.3.G Geo-archaeological Desk-Based Assessment [**APP-167**]. This is being supplemented by a phase of geo-archaeological works during additional GI works being undertaken during Autumn/Winter 2025. The results of this work may result in the need to undertake further geo-archaeological works that will be agreed with the KCCAA as well as the Historic England Science Advisor.
- 3.5.3 The purpose of the current geo-archaeological works is to identify and characterise the nature, extent and significance of palaeoenvironmental deposits. This information will be used to allow more detailed proposals for mitigation to be developed.
- 3.5.4 A SSWSI (refer to Section 7) will be required, setting out the full scope and methodology of the evaluation. The SSWSI will be prepared by the Archaeological Contractor and agreed with the KCCAA. All work will be carried out to the standards set out in Section 4.3, and in accordance with the KCCAA requirements.

Aims and Objectives

General Aims

- 3.5.5 The general aims of the geo-archaeological works are to:
- provide additional information on the geo-archaeological potential; and
 - inform the requirement for and scope of any archaeological mitigation works that may be required.

General Objectives

- 3.5.6 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the geo-archaeological works are to:
- test areas of possible palaeoenvironmental potential based on the results of the ongoing geoarchaeological monitoring of geotechnical investigations and the subsequent assessment reporting;
 - confirm the presence or absence of surviving archaeological remains within the Order Limits;
 - determine the location, nature, extent, date, condition, state of preservation, significance and complexity of any palaeoenvironmental sequences;
 - determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
 - interpret the archaeological remains within their local, regional and national archaeological context; and
 - make available information about the archaeological resource within the Order Limits by reporting on the results of the archaeological trial trenching.

3.6 Next Steps Following Evaluation

- 3.6.1 Following the completion of all stages of archaeological evaluation works, it will be agreed with the KCCAA that either further archaeological work is not required, or a level of archaeological mitigation is required.
- 3.6.2 The appropriate mitigation response will depend on the character and complexity of the archaeological remains, and will be agreed with the KCCAA. The mitigation response (if required) will comprise one or more of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 4 of this Outline Onshore OWSI.

4. Scope of Archaeological Mitigation Measures

4.1 General Principles

- 4.1.1 The Proposed Project has been designed to mitigate impacts upon heritage assets where possible. Heritage buffer areas have been incorporated into the Proposed Project design to enable preservation in-situ of potentially significant archaeological remains where feasible. Where the preservation of archaeological remains is not practicable, and/or the heritage significance of the remains do not merit preservation, preservation by record measures are proposed.
- 4.1.2 Archaeological mitigation is intended to:
- inform planning of non-archaeological mitigation (i.e., avoidance by design), and
 - mitigate loss of archaeological interest of at-risk heritage assets.
- 4.1.3 All archaeological mitigation will be proportionate to the significance and extent of the potential effects on archaeological remains, and will be designed to address the research agenda set out at Section 2.4, and any further research questions set out in the relevant SSWSI.
- 4.1.4 The following professional standards will apply:
- ClfA 2023 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023);
 - ClfA 2023 Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists , 2023);
 - ClfA 2014 Guidelines for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists , 2014);
 - ClfA 2022 Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists , 2022); and
 - Relevant KCC Fieldwork Guidance Documents including Kent Heritage Conservation Strategy (Kent County Council, 2022).
- 4.1.5 The above are current guidance and standards documents and should updated guidance and standards be issued during the course of the Proposed Project, that will also be followed.
- 4.1.6 National Grid is responsible for compliance with all measures set out in this Outline Onshore OWSI and subsequent SSWSIs agreed with the KCCAA. However, for clarity, this Outline Onshore OWSI sets out which activities National Grid will require of its Archaeological Contractor and other contractors in order to comply with these documents; this does not diminish National Grid's responsibility under these documents which are secured pursuant to Requirement 14 within Schedule 3 of the Draft DCO (**Application Document 3.1**).

- 4.1.7 Prior to archaeological works being carried out, the Archaeological Contractor must develop a detailed archaeological methodology set out in a SSWSI for approval by the KCCAA, setting out how the professional standards will be applied to those works to meet the research agenda and any site-specific archaeological issues.

4.2 Proposed Methodology and Application

Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Brief)

- 4.2.1 Archaeological monitoring (watching brief), where required, will:
- be used to provide opportunities for archaeological investigation, and recording in circumstances where investigation would otherwise be impracticable;
 - be used where archaeological remains of limited value or extent are suspected within a working area; and
 - comprise an archaeologist being present, either continuously or on an agreed schedule of inspection-based visits, during intrusive groundworks so that the presence, or absence, of archaeological remains could be confirmed, and any such remains be appropriately recorded.
- 4.2.2 The risk that archaeological remains might be present will be well established on the basis of previous stages of evaluation, and/or mitigation works, and the areas identified within the SSWSIs. Any site-specific requirements, which may include control measures on how ground excavations proceed, will be set out within the SSWSIs.
- 4.2.3 The need to monitor construction works will be predictable, and appropriate arrangements for KCCAA inspection visits will be acceptable in most instances.
- 4.2.4 Where archaeological deposits are encountered, sufficient excavation will take place to allow appropriate records to be compiled, as might be reasonably achieved. Provision will be allowed for access in keeping with health and safety considerations.
- 4.2.5 Should extensive and/or important/well preserved remains be found, which cannot be addressed within the scope of a watching brief, the requirements for any further excavation will be discussed with the KCCAA.
- 4.2.6 Archaeological monitoring and recording will be carried out to the standards set out in Section 4.3, and in accordance with the KCCAA requirements.

Strip Map and Sample

- 4.2.7 Strip, map and sample mitigation will be undertaken, where required, to identify specific archaeological foci within an extensive area of potential, or to expose the spatial characteristics of extensive archaeological landscape elements, such as field systems, prior to selecting locations for targeted sample excavation. This work is to be undertaken within a framework of evidence-based research objectives.
- 4.2.8 Following initial machine overburden strip (which will be directed and monitored by the Archaeological Contractor), the area will be examined, and a plan of identified and potential archaeological features and deposits prepared at an appropriate scale. A sufficiently large area will need to be exposed so that a suitable comprehensive sample strategy can be designed and agreed with the KCCAA.

- 4.2.9 Where necessary to allow construction works to continue, the release of a part of an area may be agreed with the KCCAA once an appropriate agreed level of investigation has been completed. In this situation, areas which have not been released will be clearly demarcated.
- 4.2.10 Key stages in strip-map-and-sample are:
- careful overburden strip of topsoil and subsoil, using a back-acting excavator, to the archaeological horizon;
 - immediate planning (mapping) of the area while the uncovered surface is fresh. The area should be subsequently checked to see if weathering reveals further features and the plan updated as appropriate; and
 - sampling, concentrating on established a relative chronology through feature intersections investigations, and by attempting to establish a more precise chronology.
- 4.2.11 Areas for strip, map, and sample will be identified following geophysical survey, and/or evaluation trenching, and will be agreed with the KCCAA. Individual areas and the justification for their selection will be set out within the SSWSIs.
- 4.2.12 Following the planning stage, an appropriate sample of identified features will be investigated. Key areas and nodes will be investigated in sufficient detail to understand them both in respect of themselves and also in relation to their surroundings. This work will be focused on adding to the spatial, chronological, functional and environmental context of the investigated area drawing on the standards set out in Section 4.3, and in accordance with the KCCAA requirements. Any site-specific variations will be set out within the SSWSIs, and/or agreed with the KCCAA.
- 4.2.13 This requirement to sample and record identified features will be continually monitored during the course of fieldwork, and amended according to its effectiveness in meeting research objectives. In particular, consideration of strip, map, and sample operations will be discussed with the KCCAA, with a view to extending these operations where significant archaeological remains have been observed, or scaling back operations where the potential presence of archaeological features is demonstrably low, based on:
- identified prior truncation/disturbance;
 - absence of observed features; or
 - confirmation of prior survey results which suggest poor survival of archaeological features.
- 4.2.14 Any decision to scale back the scope of strip, map, and sample mitigation will only be undertaken after agreement of the KCCAA has been confirmed.
- 4.2.15 Following completion of archaeological investigation to the satisfaction of the KCCAA, the relevant area, or agreed parts thereof, will be released to the contractor so that construction works may proceed.

Set-Piece Archaeological Excavation

- 4.2.16 Set-piece excavation will be undertaken where evaluation has identified the extent, and character of significant archaeological remains, allowing for a definitive investigation area, sampling and finds recovery policy to be defined.

- 4.2.17 The individual defined areas identified for set-piece excavation will be set out in the relevant SSWSI. This will include provision to extend areas if important archaeology continues beyond the defined extent.
- 4.2.18 Set-piece excavation and recording will be undertaken to the standards set out at Section 4.3, and in accordance with the KCCAA requirements. Any site-specific sampling requirements will be set out within the SSWSIs.

Geo-Archaeological Assessment and Analysis

- 4.2.19 A programme of geoarchaeological investigation and assessment is currently ongoing in relation to the monitoring of GI works for the Kent Onshore Scheme. The results of this assessment may influence the scope and methodology of further trial trench evaluation carried out for the Proposed Project. Furthermore, the results of the geoarchaeological assessment may recommend scientific dating as part of an analysis stage.
- 4.2.20 As the geoarchaeological monitoring works are ongoing, the scope of further evaluation and analysis will be detailed in further SSWSIs. The scope of geoarchaeological investigation will be agreed with the KCCAA and will comply with best practice and guidance published by Historic England (Historic England, 2015).

4.3 Standards for Archaeological Work

- 4.3.1 The standards set out below draw upon, and should be used in conjunction with, the KCC fieldwork requirement documents, and the national and regional excavation standards.
- 4.3.2 A parish code number will be obtained from the County HER in advance of each phase of the works. All parts of Site Archive, including finds, samples, plans, photographs, and excavation paperwork will be marked with this number. It will be printed on the cover of all reports and used as the accession number for deposition of the archive.

Rapid Identification Survey

- 4.3.3 Areas will be walked systematically on regular transects, typically at 25 m intervals with the aim of identifying and recording any surviving earthwork features, or structural remains. Each feature or observation will be given a unique record number, and will be recorded in plan and by photography. A record will also be made of any artefactual material observed, although modern material will not normally be retained.

Geophysical Survey

- 4.3.4 Geophysical survey will likely comprise mainly archaeological magnetometry survey of identified areas in order to identify geomagnetic anomalies of potential archaeological origin. However, other methods of survey, such as electrical resistivity or ground penetrating radar, may be used depending on the nature of the geological conditions (for example across marsh/ alluvial areas). The most appropriate methodology will be discussed and agreed with the KCCAA and detailed in the SSWSI.
- 4.3.5 It is anticipated that any survey required will be carried out using an appropriate instrument. Readings will be taken every 0.25 m along lines 1 m apart.

- 4.3.6 The survey will be carried out using a grid system accurately tied in with the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. Any variations to the survey area set out within the SSWSIs caused by crop growth, or ground conditions will be agreed with the KCCAA.
- 4.3.7 A record will be made of surface conditions, and of possible sources of modern geophysical interference that may have a bearing on subsequent interpretation of field data. Any areas where it is considered unsafe to work will be excluded from the survey.
- 4.3.8 If any problems are encountered during the geophysical survey these will be reported to National Grid.

Machine Overburden Strip

- 4.3.9 For all areas identified as requiring intrusive archaeological work in the SSWSIs, removal of topsoil, overburden, to the first significant archaeological horizon will be undertaken by a back-acting excavator fitted with a wide (1.8 m) toothless ditching bucket, under the continuous supervision of the Archaeology Contractor with the authority to halt and direct machine excavation.
- 4.3.10 Spoil will be temporarily stockpiled on-site at an identified location, at a safe distance from the stripped areas, and other constraints. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits will be kept separate during excavation, to allow for sequential backfilling of excavation. Topsoil will be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3.11 Areas stripped for, or under, archaeological investigation must be clearly marked and identified to construction contractors, so that the area is not tracked over, or otherwise disturbed, until the area is clear of archaeological remains. The supervising site archaeologist will confirm to the contractors when an area has been released from archaeological control, and vehicles can track over the specified area.
- 4.3.12 Once the first archaeological horizon has been revealed and is exposed to a satisfactory condition, excavation of any archaeological deposits identified will proceed by hand, to the standards set out below, unless specifically agreed with the KCCAA, or to any site-specific requirements set out in the SSWSIs. If colluvial or alluvial deposits are identified sealing earlier archaeological horizons, the potential for machine stripping of these deposits will be discussed with the KCCAA, once any archaeological features cutting them have been fully excavated and recorded, and it has been established that these deposits are otherwise archaeologically sterile.
- 4.3.13 Following completion of archaeological investigation to the satisfaction of the KCCAA, each trench, or excavation area, will be backfilled with the spoil and compacted by machine to level fill unless the area is required to be left open as part of further archaeological mitigation or construction works.

Archaeological Hand Excavation

- 4.3.14 Excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine.
- 4.3.15 Archaeological features will be hand cleaned prior to excavation, to provide accurate definitions. For linear features, such hand cleaning will be targeted at sample excavation points. Deposits interpreted as natural subsoil should be tested by hand, or machine excavation to determine the validity of this interpretation. Where features are interpreted as natural (e.g. tree throws), a percentage of these features, agreed with the KCCAA, will be hand excavated to establish the accuracy of the interpretation.

Archaeological Evaluation

- 4.3.16 In evaluation trenching, there is the presumption of the need to cause minimal disturbance to the site; and that significant archaeological features (e.g. building slots or postholes) should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled:
- for linear features, 1.00 m wide slots (min.) will be excavated across their width.
 - for discrete features (e.g. pits), 50% of their fills will be sampled.
 - any natural subsoil surface revealed will be hand cleaned, and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
 - where extensive occupation deposits or layers are identified, these will be sampled through the use of test pits, as agreed with the KCCAA, to determine their date and character, and to determine whether earlier features are sealed by these deposits.
- 4.3.17 Metal detecting will be conducted during evaluation trenching by a named and experienced detectorist, before trenches are opened, during the excavation of features within the trenches, and of the spoil.

Archaeological Excavation

- 4.3.18 Features will be excavated in accordance with the following sampling strategy:
- features which are, or could be, interpreted as structural must be fully excavated.
 - post holes and pits must be examined in section. Full excavation may be appropriate for specific problem-solving, complex depositional sequences and finds recovery. Full excavation may also be appropriate if pits or postholes are small.
 - fabricated surfaces (e.g. yards and floors) must be fully exposed and cleaned, and representative sections excavated, to determine their construction and whether they seal earlier deposits. Where earlier features are suspected of underlying surfaces, the surface will be hand-lifted once it has been fully recorded. The collection of spatially distinct samples will be considered in order to investigate the use/function of an area and if different activity zones can be identified.
 - all burial deposits and associated remains will be subject to 100% excavation and recorded in accordance with an agreed methodology. Spatially distinct samples from the head, torso and feet will be taken in accordance with KCCAA requirements and best practice.
 - other features must be sufficiently examined to establish, where possible, their date function. In general 50% of the representative non-structural linear cut features; 10% of the fills of substantial linear features (e.g. ditches) in order to establish the feature's character, date and morphology and to provide information on activities taking place in close proximity to the feature. These samples may be varied with the agreement of the KCCAA to reflect specific site conditions observed during excavation.
 - any stratified layers should be subject to hand excavation in 2.5 m or 1.0 m systematic, and gridded squares on the basis of the complexity and extent of the layers. The details of which will be agreed with the KCCAA and set out within SSWSIs where required.

- where complex sequences are observed during the excavation, an amended excavation strategy will be agreed with the KCCAA.
- 4.3.19 The sampling excavation strategy will be reviewed continuously throughout the course of fieldwork and, if necessary, amended in order to take account of changing circumstances and understanding. Any changes or amendments will be agreed in advance of implementation with the KCCAA and confirmed in writing. For any complex remains, a sampling strategy will be discussed and agreed with the KCCAA.
- 4.3.20 Where insufficient dating material or information has been retrieved from a partially sectioned feature, further sampling may be undertaken, subject to consideration of residuality, or other factors that might limit the integrity of archaeological data, with reference to the research objectives, and in consultation and agreement with the KCCAA. This may include bulk or column sampling for scientific dating, and/or environmental analysis (e.g. grain or faunal species) which may provide broad dates.
- 4.3.21 Guidelines for developing site-specific sampling strategies will be set out in the SSWSIs. The sampling strategy will be kept under review during the excavation work, and will consider the following:
- a robust spatial framework of excavation to provide an understanding of the distribution of past activities across the investigation area, including any 'special' deposits and any patterning in artefact distribution. Such a framework will consider the inter-relationship of major features.
 - the investigation of the intersections of features of archaeological date to obtain a phasing of the site.
 - structural remains and other areas of significant and specific activity (domestic, industrial, religious, hearths, 'special'/patterned deposits etc.) will be excavated, and recorded to a degree whereby their extent, date form, function and relationship to other features and deposits can be established.
- 4.3.22 Metal detector searches must take place during excavation, including the scanning of areas before they are stripped. Detecting must be undertaken by named, experienced metal detector users, with the SSWSI including reference to their relevant experience. Detecting equipment will be high specification.

Survey

- 4.3.23 Surveying will be done using a survey-grade Global Positioning System (GPS).
- 4.3.24 The site grid will be accurately tied into the OS National Grid, and located on the 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. Elevations will be levelled to the Ordnance Datum.

Recording

- 4.3.25 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic, as appropriate) will be made for all work in line with the standards set out by the KCCAA.
- 4.3.26 A register of all trenches, features, photographs, survey levels, small finds and human remains will be kept.
- 4.3.27 Unique context numbers will be issued for all features, layers and deposits. Each will be individually documented on a context sheet and drawn in section and plan:

- plans of any archaeological features on-site are to be drawn at 1:20, or 1:50 depending on the complexity of the feature being recorded.
- sections should be drawn at 1:10, or 1:20 depending on the complexity of the feature being recorded.
- all levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- a photographic record of the work will consist of digital images (minimum file size of 6MP) taken on a high-resolution digital camera.
- photographs will include general site shots and photographs of specific features. Photographs will include a scale, north arrow, site code and feature number (where relevant), and will be listed on the photograph register.

Environmental Sampling

- 4.3.28 The on-site sampling policy will be inclusive, as the significance of individual features may not be fully understood, until wider patterns of spatial distribution and phasing are understood. As set out in the general methods above, arrangements for the processing of bulk samples taken for the recovery of environmental materials should be confirmed. The minimum bulk sample size will normally be 40 litres or 100% of the deposit if the deposit does not amount to 40 litres, though the final sampling and discard policy for individual sites will be agreed in consultation with the KCCAA, and the Regional Scientific Advisor, and set out within the SSWSI. Processing of samples should be undertaken while evaluation excavations are being undertaken in order that information can be fed back and inform the ongoing strategy.
- 4.3.29 Archaeological deposits will be sampled systematically in bulk samples. All samples will be collected from the fills of cut features, and from any other securely stratified deposits that have the potential to provide environmental or economic information, such as occupation layers or material accumulating on use surfaces. Particular emphasis will be placed on contexts that may supply material suitable for scientific dating of potential early medieval and prehistoric features. Decisions on sampling must also take account of stratigraphic factors, and consider the opportunity to employ chronological, and spatial controls, in the recovery of samples in order to generate environmental information of sufficient quality to meet the research objectives.
- 4.3.30 Provision will be made for column and other appropriate samples to be taken for geoarchaeological assessment, and analysis as appropriate and in line with technical guidance including Historic England guidance (Historic England, 2016). Due consideration will be given to the collection of samples suitable for microfossil analysis, and other specialised analysis from suitable deposit sequences, that might inform the pattern of changing environmental conditions over time. Waterlogged and cess deposits will be specifically sampled for microfaunal and invertebrate analysis. Bulk samples will also be taken from any waterlogged deposits present for assessment of organic remains. Any organic artefacts that are retrieved during the excavation will be stored in appropriate conditions, and assessed by a qualified archaeological conservator.
- 4.3.31 Industrial residues and waste from craft, and manufacturing processes will also be routinely sampled in line with guidance provided by Historic England (Historic England, 2016).

- 4.3.32 If required, a detailed site-specific sampling policy in line with the KCC regional, and national guidance will be set out in the individual SSWSI in consultation with the Historic England Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Southeast). This will detail specific categories of material that are of interest for the individual sites, and identify a programme of work to support the research objectives. This will be revised as appropriate throughout the excavation and post-excavation phases.

Artefact Recovery and Conservation

- 4.3.33 The recovery of material that can adequately date major archaeological phases is a key requirement. It is recognised that the incidence of artefacts may limit the quality of datable assemblages, and measures for scientific dating are also set out below. However, artefacts remain a key source of dating information.
- 4.3.34 All finds will be collected and processed, unless variations are agreed with the KCCAA during the course of excavation.
- 4.3.35 Ceramic finds, and potentially other finds assemblages as agreed with the KCCAA, should be processed, and initial assessment undertaken for dating and significance concurrently with the excavation, to allow immediate assessment and input into decision-making.
- 4.3.36 Bulk finds such as pottery and animal bone will normally be collected by context. Where it is appropriate and following additional instruction, enhanced recovery techniques and sampling strategies for the recovery, and recording of waterlogged wood and timber, will be set out in respect of specific sites in the SSWSIs as appropriate.
- 4.3.37 Finds will be temporarily stored on-site and removed from site to a secure location as required. Waterlogged organic finds, such as wood and leather, should be removed from site on the day that they are excavated and transferred to a suitable location with facilities to maintain them without degradation of the material.
- 4.3.38 Finds and samples will be exposed, lifted, cleaned (with the exception of organic remains, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis), conserved, marked, bagged, boxed and stored in line with the standards in:
- Watkinson & Neal (1988) First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal, 1987);
 - Chartered Institute for archaeologists (2014) Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014);
 - English Heritage (1995) A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds (English Heritage, 1995);
 - Historic England (2017) Organic Residue Analysis and Archaeology (Historic England, 2017); and
 - The requirements of the recipient museum/archive (the receiving museum/archive) will be identified in the relevant SSWSI.
- 4.3.39 A discard policy acceptable to the suitable museum or archive that is accepting the archive will only be implemented following quantification, assessment, and recommendation from artefactual and environmental specialists. Certain classes of material, such as post-medieval pottery and building material, may be discarded after recording if a representative sample is kept, but no finds will be discarded without the prior approval of the suitable museum or archive.

- 4.3.40 Where finds require conservation, this will be done in accordance with relevant guidelines of the Institute for Conservation.

Scientific Dating

- 4.3.41 Achieving coherent intra and inter-site chronologies across all phases of activity is a key objective, as this may help resolve problems in the identification of cultural activity during period when ceramics were not generally available to communities, or where features do not contain readily datable artefacts. A strategy for the selection of samples for scientific dating will be set out for each site in the relevant SSWSI, taking into consideration statistical procedures designed to enhance the accuracy of site chronologies.
- 4.3.42 Samples of material suitable for scientific dating techniques including AMS C14 dating, archaeomagnetism (for example, charred seeds or in situ burnt clay from appropriate contexts), or thermoluminescence will be collected where available in accordance with SSWSIs. Where a specialist may be required to visit the site and collect samples this will be identified at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.3.43 Scientific dating will be a significant consideration during the post-excavation assessment and will inform the updated Proposed Project design. The assessment of the chronology within a Bayesian framework should be considered if significant remains or sequences are identified.
- 4.3.44 Scientific dating, undertaken concurrent with the excavation fieldwork, may be required to inform levels of sampling of certain features or structures, such as wooden trackways. If there is the potential for significant waterlogged wooden remains to be found, a wood specialist may be required on site to record and sample remains and dendrochronology specialists be used to support the dating of remains where necessary.

Treasure

- 4.3.45 Any items which are recovered which could be deemed as treasure will be subject to the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996, the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, and the Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023. Such material will normally be removed from site to a secure location, to be stored in appropriate conditions, at the end of the working day on which it is found. **However, if the find requires longer time in the ground and careful excavation, then arrangements for security need to be made by the Principal Contractor.**
- 4.3.46 H.M. Coroner will be informed by the Archaeological Contractor of the discovery within 14 days, and the relevant Portable Antiquities Officer will be informed within 24 hours.
- 4.3.47 The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that the Treasure regulations are enforced and will maintain a list of finds that have been collected that fall under the Treasure Act. The final list shall be included in the fieldwork report.

Human Remains

- 4.3.48 Should human remains be discovered during the course of any archaeological fieldwork being undertaken for the Proposed Project, the remains will be covered and protected and left in-situ in the first instance, in accordance with current best practice. Should human remains be discovered, all works within the vicinity of the relevant area of the site will immediately stop. The Archaeological Contractor will notify the ACoW and the H.M. Coroner with details of the remains immediately. The removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with a licence from the Ministry of Justice and under the appropriate Environmental Health regulations and the Burial Act 1857 (HM Government, 1857).

5. Procedures for Unexpected Archaeological Discoveries

5.1 Unanticipated Significant or Complex Archaeological Discoveries

- 5.1.1 In the event of unanticipated significant or complex archaeological discoveries being made during the course of any archaeological fieldwork being undertaken for the Proposed Project, the Archaeological Contractor will notify National Grid and the ACoW immediately. The ACoW will liaise with the KCCAA in order to determine an appropriate strategy for the excavation and recording of any such remains, and will liaise with the Archaeological Contractor and National Grid to estimate the additional time and resources needed to complete the archaeological work should the remains require preservation or investigation beyond the scope set out within this Outline Onshore OWSI and the SSWSI.

5.2 Unexpected Archaeological Discoveries During Construction

- 5.2.1 In the event of unexpected archaeological discoveries being made during construction activities where no archaeological mitigation works are being undertaken, National Grid will notify the ACoW immediately. It is anticipated that all constructions works within the vicinity of the unexpected remains will be suspended until completion of any required archaeological excavation and recording is completed in that area.
- 5.2.2 An additional SSWSI may be required to set out the methodology for the recording of the archaeological remains, and to allow adequate time within the construction programme. The ACoW will liaise with the KCCAA in order to determine whether the remains require further investigation, and to estimate the additional time and resources needed to complete the archaeological investigation should it be required.

6. Reporting and Publication

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 All reporting, publication and archiving will be undertaken in accordance with this Outline Onshore OWSI, the SSWSIs and will follow relevant KCCAA requirements as well as archaeological standards and guidance, including but not limited to, those published by ClfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023).

6.2 Interim Report

- 6.2.1 Interim reports will be prepared by the Archaeological Contractor for each stage of evaluation and mitigation works, and submitted to the ACoW and KCCAA. The timings for these interim reports will be agreed with the ACoW and the KCCAA prior to the start of works and set out within the SSWSI.

6.3 Fieldwork Report

- 6.3.1 Fieldwork reports will be required following the completion of each stage of archaeological evaluation and mitigation fieldwork.
- 6.3.2 A fieldwork report will be submitted in draft within four weeks of the completion of each stage of archaeological evaluation fieldwork. This timescale may be flexible subject to approval by the ACoW and the KCCAA.
- 6.3.3 If the results of the archaeological mitigation works for individual sites are decided by the ACoW and the KCCAA to not be significant enough to warrant detailed analysis and publication, then a standalone fieldwork report will be produced. However, the results will be considered and incorporated into the site-wide post-excavation assessment report and thereafter a publication if the assessment results warrant it (refer to sections 6.4 and 6.5).
- 6.3.4 The content and scope of each fieldwork report will be dependent on the findings, but typically will include the following:
- a Quality Assurance sheet detailing as a minimum title, author, version, date, checked by, approved by;
 - OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations)¹ Report Form;
 - a non-technical summary;
 - site location drawing;
 - archaeological and historical background;
 - methodology;

¹ OASIS is the online system for reporting investigations into the historic environment and linking research outputs and archives (<https://oasis.ac.uk/>)

- aims and objectives;
- results (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the remains);
- statement of potential with recommendations;
- a statement of the significance of the results in their local, regional and national context cross referenced to relevant research frameworks;
- current and proposed arrangements for archive storage and curation (including recipient museum details);
- references;
- general and detailed plans showing the location of the survey accurately positioned on an OS base map (to a standard scale);
- detailed plans and sections illustrating archaeological features (to a standard scale);
- detailed drawings at appropriate scale(s) and format to sufficiently illustrate the results of the topographic survey;
- colour photographic plates illustrating the site setting, work in progress and discovered archaeological remains;
- a complete matrix for each archaeological area, if appropriate;
- a cross-referenced index of Proposed Project archive;
- Site Selection Strategy; and
- Data Management Plan.

6.3.5 A digital .pdf copy (complete with illustrations and plates) of the completed draft report will be submitted to the ACoW and the KCCAA for comment. In finalising the report, the comments of the ACoW and the KCCAA will be taken into account.

6.3.6 A digital record of the final report shall be submitted to the ACoW and the KCCAA, containing image files in JPEG or TIFF format, digital text files in Microsoft Word format, and illustrations in AutoCAD format or ArcGIS shapefile format. A fully collated version of the report shall be included in .pdf format.

6.4 Post-Excavation Assessment Report and Updated Project Design

6.4.1 A Post-excavation Assessment Report will be produced which collates the results from all of the mitigation fieldwork reporting. The post-excavation assessment report will include an Updated Project Design (UPD) which will set out recommendations for further analysis, including resources and timescales, and the recommended publication format.

6.4.2 The Post-excavation Assessment Report and UPD will be prepared in accordance with the guidance and standards set out in Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England , 2015) and KCC standards for post-excavation reporting.

6.4.3 The Post-excavation Assessment Report and UPD will, as a minimum, present:

- A Quality Assurance sheet detailing as a minimum - title, author, version, date, checked by, approved by.
- A non-technical summary.
- Site location.
- Brief archaeological, historical and project background.
- Methodology.
- Aims and objectives.
- Results – factual data statements (stratigraphic, artefactual, environmental, initial scientific dating results).
- Statements of potential (stratigraphic, artefactual, environmental).
- Quantification of the project archive (site records, plans, digital files, finds by category and environmental remains) and a list of items recommended for discard at the assessment stage.
- Statements regarding immediate and long-term storage and curation.
- Review of original aims and objectives.
- Statement of the significance of the results in their local, regional, national and international context.
- Archaeological research design that sets out how the research aims and objectives of the SSWSI(s) can be addressed at the analysis stage (if applicable).
- Post-excavation analysis method statements.
- Recommendations for analysis, reporting and form of publication (if publication is merited) (including a synopsis of the proposed contents).
- Proposed resources and programming for publication (task list linked to key personnel, time required and key research questions that the task will answer or facilitate and programme cascade chart).
- General and detailed plans showing the location of the investigation areas accurately positioned on an OS base with grid co-ordinates and a plan of the identified archaeological remains (to a known scale).
- Detailed plans and sections/profiles, deposit models etc., to support the narrative.
- Detailed stratigraphic matrix for each area excavated and how the areas interlink (where applicable).
- Photographs and illustrations, including any 3D models.
- Bibliography.
- A cross-referenced index to the project archive and summary of contexts.
- Appendices containing specialist reports.
- OASIS summary sheet.

- 6.4.4 The Post-excavation Assessment Report and UPD for the Kent Onshore Scheme will be submitted to the ACoW for review and comment. The Archaeological Contractor will address any comments that they may have. The ACoW will issue the revised draft report to the KCCAA for comment. In finalising the Post-excavation Assessment Report and UPD, the Archaeological Contractor will take account of comments from the KCCAA.

6.5 Publication

- 6.5.1 If detailed analysis and publication are recommended by UPD, a stage of post-excavation analysis and publication will be required. The analysis stage will comprise the detailed quantification, analysis and reporting of the recorded archaeological remains (contextual records), artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the programme of archaeological mitigation. The analysis will be undertaken by the Archaeological Contractor supported by external specialists as appropriate. The programme for analysis and publication will abide by the agreed programme set out in the UPD.
- 6.5.2 The format of any publication shall be commensurate with the significance of the archaeological results and will be agreed with the ACoW and consulted on with the KCCAA. Online publication formats as well as traditional publication formats will be considered.
- 6.5.3 If the results merit it, a popular publication report and illustrated document explaining the results in layman's terms should be produced. The popular report should inform the non-expert audience about the discoveries and their significance in an accessible manner. Popular booklets may be produced both for children and for adult audiences.
- 6.5.4 Any identified publication should also aim to draw on the results of relevant previous archaeological investigations undertaken within and adjacent to the Proposed Project, to present a coherent and comprehensive record of the archaeological resource within its wider landscape view.

6.6 OASIS

- 6.6.1 At the start of the site work (immediately before each stage of archaeological fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record will be initiated, and key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 6.6.2 The final OASIS record shall be included in the fieldwork report and/or post-excavation assessment report.

6.7 Archive and Data Management

- 6.7.1 Prior to the start of each stage of archaeological fieldwork, the Archaeological Contractor will contact the recipient museum/archive to determine the requirements for the preparation and deposition of the physical archive and finds and agree any accession numbers.
- 6.7.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with the ClfA guidelines, including the Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists , 2020), and any Kent County Council requirements.

- 6.7.3 The Archaeological Contractor will compile a Data Management Plan and Selection Strategy in line with ClfA guidelines (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists , 2020) and include it in their SSWSI.
- 6.7.4 The digital archive must be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, such as the Archaeological Data Service and it is anticipated that the repository will have in-house Data Management Plans to allow for the long-term preservation of the digital archive data, including plans for data back-up and migration to new digital formats as they emerge.

7. Site Specific Written Scheme of Investigation (SSWSI) Requirements

7.1 General Approach

- 7.1.1 The Archaeological Contractor will be responsible for the production of SSWSIs prior to the start of each stage of archaeological evaluation and mitigation fieldwork.
- 7.1.2 The SSWSIs will be drafted in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this Outline Onshore OWSI. The Archaeological Contractor will be responsible for the delivery of the archaeological evaluation and mitigation programme in accordance with the SSWSIs, and this responsibility will include all on-site and off-site archaeological works and recording.
- 7.1.3 The SSWSIs will be prepared in consultation with the ACoW and approved by the KCCAA prior to the start of works.
- 7.1.4 The SSWSI will be prepared in accordance with current standards and guidance, and should include the following sections as a minimum:
- a statement on the technical, research and ethical competences of the Proposed Project team, including relevant professional accreditation;
 - site location (including map) and descriptions;
 - context of the Proposed Project;
 - geological and topographical background;
 - archaeological and historical background;
 - general and specific research aims of the Proposed Project, with reference to Regional Research Frameworks;
 - methodology;
 - collection and disposal strategy for artefacts, ecofacts, and all paper, graphic and digital materials (including Data Management Plan and Selection Strategy);
 - arrangements for immediate conservation of artefacts;
 - details of backfilling;
 - post-fieldwork assessment and analysis of project data;
 - report preparation (including details of the section headings);
 - publication and dissemination proposals, as required;
 - copyright;
 - details of finds storage;
 - programme and staffing;
 - Health and Safety considerations;

- environmental protection considerations; and
- monitoring procedures.

8. Monitoring Process

8.1 Monitoring

- 8.1.1 ACoW will liaise with the Archaeological Contractor to monitor progress and compliance with the requirements of this Outline Onshore OWSI and approved SSWSIs.
- 8.1.2 This will include (but not be limited to):
- monitoring of all aspects of on-site archaeological fieldwork; and
 - monitoring of the installation and removal of protective measures, such as temporary fencing, and at sites where preservation of archaeological remains is required.
- 8.1.3 The ACoW will act as a coordinator in respect of access and monitoring arrangements with the KCCAA. This will include oversight of engagement between the Archaeological Contractor and the relevant stakeholders, including the Regional Science Advisor for Historic England, to ensure the timely provision of on-site advice to the fieldwork team.
- 8.1.4 The archaeological fieldwork will be subject to ongoing monitoring by the ACoW, who will have unrestricted access to the sites, site records, or any other information as may be required. The work will be inspected to ensure that it is being carried out to the required standard and that it will achieve the desired aims and objectives.

8.2 Stakeholder and Statutory Roles

- 8.2.1 Implementation of the Outline Onshore OWSI and SSWSIs will also be monitored by the KCCAA or their successor organisation.
- 8.2.2 Site monitoring meetings will be held as necessary throughout the archaeological programme to allow implementation of the works to be monitored to ensure adherence to the approved SSWSIs, effective decision making where required and to support timely 'sign-off' of archaeological completion.

8.3 Site Meetings

- 8.3.1 It is anticipated that monitoring meetings will be held as necessary throughout the archaeological programme to allow implementation of the works to be monitored to ensure adherence to the approved SSWSIs, effective decision making where required and to support timely 'sign-off' of archaeological completion.
- 8.3.2 Attendees will normally include, but not be limited to the following, as required:
- ACoW;
 - Archaeological Contractor; and
 - KCCAA.

8.4 Progress Reports

8.4.1 The Archaeological Contractor will prepare weekly progress reports for the duration of all stages of the archaeological works. The reports will be issued to the ACoW who will distribute them to National Grid and the KCCAA. The progress reports will include as a minimum:

- general progress and summary of fieldwork results;
- programme and resources lookahead;
- site-specific issues (access/constraints etc.); and
- SHE issues.

8.5 Approval and Sign-Off of Archaeological Mitigation Sites

8.5.1 Site works that have been completed (confirmed as completed during a site meeting and agreed between the ACoW and the KCCAA) will be subject to a sign-off procedure.

8.5.2 The Archaeological Contractor will submit a completion statement to the ACoW who will distribute it to National Grid. The ACoW will also submit the completion statement to the KCCAA as confirmation that the relevant works have been completed in compliance with the Outline Onshore OWSI and relevant SSWSI. The KCCAA will have final approval and sign off on all archaeological evaluation and mitigation works.

8.6 Public Outreach Introduction

8.6.1 Prior to the commencement of archaeological works, a public outreach strategy for the Kent Onshore Scheme archaeological works will be prepared by the ACoW.

8.6.2 The following outline strategy sets out suggested key themes, concepts and Proposed Project aims for public outreach to which the ACoW may build upon in their detailed approach, and which the Archaeological Contractor will then implement. It is recognised that not all of the suggested measures will be applicable, or feasible, and this will be considered by the ACoW in their detailed approach.

8.6.3 Using this strategy as a foundation, the Archaeological Contractor will set out in their SSWSI their detailed measures for public outreach and engagement. The measures will be relevant and proportionate to the archaeological mitigation sites and archaeological findings, and will be agreed in discussions with the ACoW and the KCCAA, or their successor organisation.

8.7 Outline Public Outreach Strategy

8.7.1 This outline strategy includes potential site-based activities, initiatives to be undertaken while site work is ongoing, and activities to be undertaken throughout the post-excavation phase, where practicable. The initiatives aim to maximise the potential influence and learning opportunities resulting from the archaeological works, providing information to the widest variety of audiences, ranging from members of the public living in the vicinity of the Proposed Project to visitors to the area.

- 8.7.2 It is acknowledged that the events and activities proposed often attract the same group of people, generally including those who would frequent local museums and heritage attractions. Efforts should be made to reach those who would not usually engage with archaeology or community heritage in the wider area, to create a lasting legacy to the archaeological and other heritage works undertaken as part of the Kent Onshore Scheme.
- 8.7.3 The post-excavation phase of the Kent Onshore Scheme will focus on making information available in more permanent formats, such as exhibitions, printed and pdf format booklets and web-based media including blog posts, in collaboration with local history and archaeology groups. Lectures could be provided to groups with a specific interest in the archaeology of the area during this phase, though it is noted that this form of outreach is self-selecting and not especially effective in reaching significant audiences: resources are better focused on more general information provision.
- 8.7.4 The Archaeological Contractor, in consultation and collaboration with the ACoW and the KCCAA will implement a public outreach strategy, detailing the targeted audiences and the activities to be undertaken. This will include a programme of activities for the duration of the on-site archaeological works and, if applicable, further activities throughout the post-excavation and publication stages. further activities throughout the post-excavation and publication stages.

8.8 Aims and Objectives

- 8.8.1 Research themes have been identified for the Kent Onshore Scheme (refer to section 2.4) and these themes will be enhanced and/ or added to as the programme of archaeological mitigation works progress. The archaeological evidence from these sites will help address many research themes and may also result in wider implications for the understanding of the landscape and archaeology of the area.
- 8.8.2 The aim of public outreach will be to raise awareness of the significance of the archaeological landscape, to provide a lasting legacy of the archaeological works, and to encourage the enjoyment, interaction and engagement with the archaeological process and the discoveries arising from the mitigation works undertaken for the Kent Onshore Scheme.
- 8.8.3 The objectives of the public outreach programme will be:
- **Engagement and appreciation:**
 - Encouraging engagement with and appreciation of the archaeological landscape.
 - **Knowledge about archaeology within and in the vicinity of the Scheme:**
 - Advancing public understanding and stimulating interest and public curiosity about archaeology within the Kent Onshore Scheme.
 - **Public understanding of developer-led archaeology:**
 - Making the archaeological process more understandable for the public, particularly in relation to a major infrastructure scheme, explaining why the sites selected for investigation have been chosen while others have not.
 - **Accessible learning:**
 - Creating accessible learning opportunities for people to be involved in actively discovering more about their past.

- **Disseminating fieldwork information:**
 - Disseminating information about the archaeology within the Kent Onshore Scheme to schools, the local community, local societies and groups with a keen interest in history and archaeology, and the academic community via a variety of platforms.
- **Sharing research:**
 - Showcasing the research impact of development-led archaeological fieldwork and how it can inform our understanding of the past with local and regional audiences, including academic interest.
- **Inclusive participation:**
 - Encouraging engagement with those that may not normally engage with archaeology or local history.

8.9 Audiences

- 8.9.1 The aim of public outreach is to collaboratively interpret and communicate the results of the archaeological mitigation works to a wide audience, including local communities directly impacted by the Proposed Project (that is, people living and working within the locality of the Proposed Project), and wider regional audiences where appropriate. As such, the detailed strategy should be tailored to meet the needs of the identified audience and provide engaging activities to add enjoyment. Outreach has traditionally been focused on a similar range of activities, such as public talks and site tours, but consideration should be given to other activities to widen the audience.
- 8.9.2 The public outreach is likely to predominantly focus on those communities directly impacted by the Kent Onshore Scheme, or in its immediate vicinity, specifically those people living and working within or adjacent to the Order Limits. The academic community at relevant colleges and universities may also be targeted, through activities such as presentations at conferences, along with the promotion of events or exhibits that may engage with or encourage those who do not normally engage with those targeted by these sorts of events. This will increase the impact of the outreach and the overall project legacy.
- 8.9.3 Audiences could comprise:
- Local communities, particularly those in villages close to the Kent Onshore Scheme.
 - Primary and secondary school pupils and teachers.
 - Local history groups, both within the Kent Onshore Scheme area and the wider area, including history groups in other towns and villages in the wider area.
 - Local businesses.
 - Kent Archaeological Society, members of other local archaeology, history and civic societies.
 - Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Young Archaeology Clubs, CBA regional groups.
 - Higher education students, including archaeology students.
 - Academic archaeologists and members of subject and period specialist societies.

- Relevant elected members.
- Interest-focused and period-focused archaeological research groups.
- Visitors to the area, tourism firms.

8.10 Proposed Activities

- 8.10.1 A range of public outreach activities should be proposed in the detailed programme by the Archaeological Contractor. These need to be tailored to the wants and needs of the differing audiences to maximise the benefit.
- 8.10.2 Activities should be split across the different phases of archaeological work, including excavation and post-excavation. It is not anticipated that trial trench evaluation would form a suitable phase for public engagement unless specifically designed to engage a target audience. Later phases of work will provide different types of activity, although there will be some overlap (such as talks to local groups).
- 8.10.3 At all stages the research questions of the Kent Onshore Scheme should be considered, to ensure that the knowledge gained from the archaeological works is disseminated to the public.
- 8.10.4 The following list of suggested activities may not all take place, and other activity types may be more appropriate, but all should be considered by the ACoW and Archaeological Contractor when designing and delivering the detailed programme:
- A series of presentations to local groups and communities, both during excavation and post-excavation.
 - Open Days and site tours during excavations.
 - Community excavation or other fieldwork event (subject to suitable sites, access and health and safety).
 - Liaison with local schools, including educational events, talks and finds handling.
 - Participation in STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) events as well as the provision of teaching materials.
 - Project website including information such as dig diaries, key finds, videoblogs from site, post-excavation analysis etc.
 - Provision of information via social media platforms.
 - Reaching a new audience. Activities and displays focused around popular non-heritage events. This strategy minimises the requirement for marketing, as it would make use of existing events that have their own promotional scheme in place. For example, a stall at local food festival could introduce participants to the weird and wonderful world of prehistoric/ Iron Age/ Roman foods - with information boards, finds from the sites, and food preparation exhibits. Tailored to location.
 - Attendance at local history, archaeology or other heritage events.
 - Pop-up displays of artefacts and information at community hubs or museums.
 - Permanent information panels at suitable locations. This could include displayed QR codes which refer to a website or virtual reproduction.

- Production of a popular publications, on the Scheme as a whole, or covering thematic topics. A booklet for children could be considered.
- Mapping of features from historic maps.
- Contribution to academic and professional conferences (such as ClfA) and publication of papers and annual journals.
- Artefact handling sessions.
- Volunteer involvement in off-site post-excavation, such as finds cleaning, processing and recording, subject to regulations regarding the use of volunteers on development-led archaeological projects.

8.11 Media Strategy

- 8.11.1 Press releases to local, regional and national media outlets to promote the public outreach activities and to inform of the progress of the archaeological mitigation programme, will be managed by National Grid, in consultation with the ACoW, the Archaeological Contractor and the KCCAA.

9. General Health and Safety Requirements

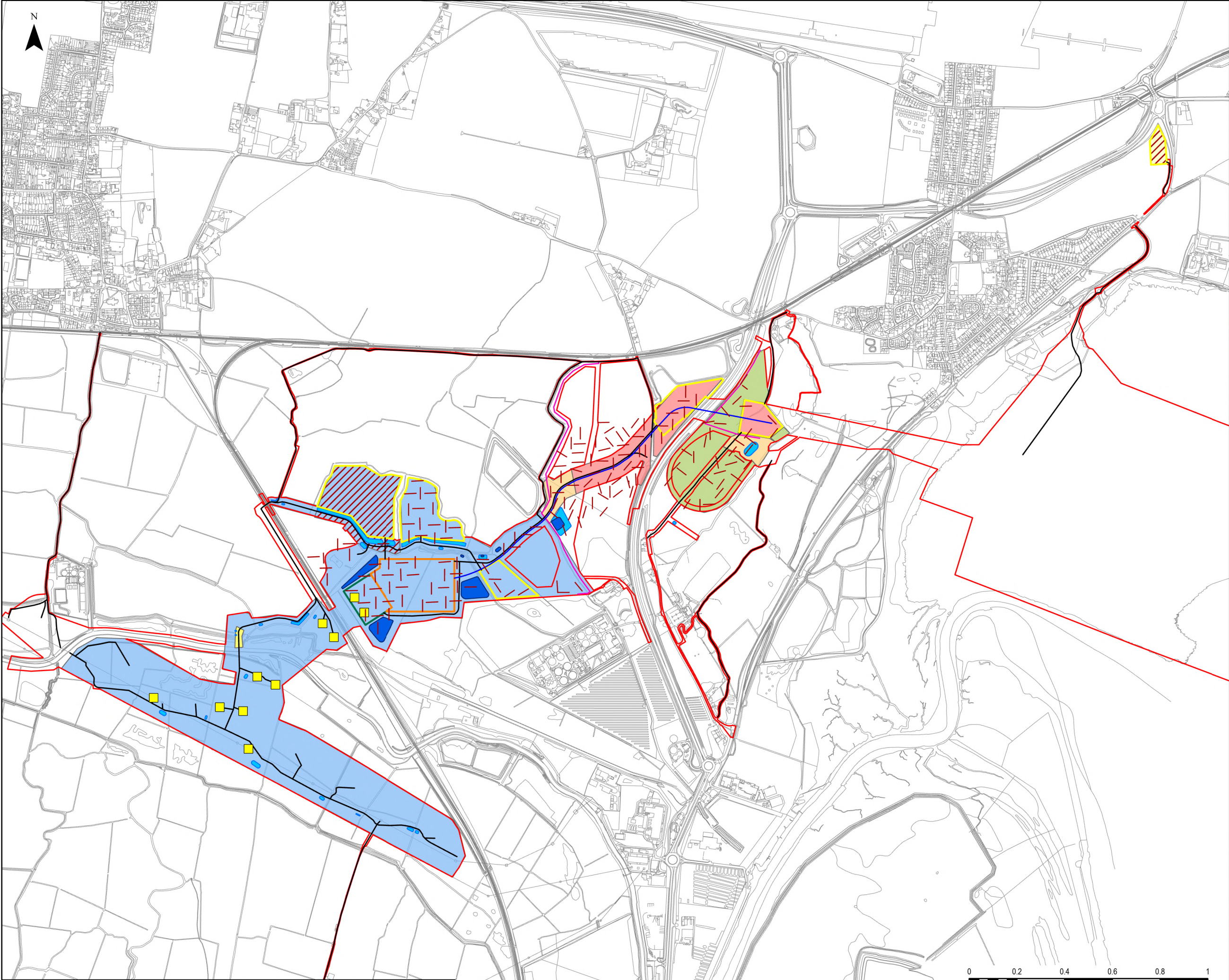
- 9.1.1 National Grid is responsible for providing information on any relevant constraints within the Order Limits, including, but not limited to, recently conducted service and utility searches (for both buried and overhead services) and Unexploded Ordnance Survey (UXO) reports.
- 9.1.2 The Archaeological Contractor shall prepare Risk Assessment(s) and a project specific Health and Safety Plan and submit these to National Grid for approval prior to starting work on site. These should include staff CVs which should detailed the Health and Safety qualifications held by the Archaeological Contractor site team, including Site Managers Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) and Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS).
- 9.1.3 The Archaeological Contractor's Risk Assessment(s) and project Health and Safety Plan shall make reference to relevant health and safety guidance and good practice.
- 9.1.4 National Grid will provide the Archaeological Contractor with the results of recently conducted service and utility searches; however, the Archaeological Contractor shall be responsible for identifying any buried or overhead services and taking the necessary precautions to avoid damage to such services, prior to and during the fieldwork. The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that any individual scanning for buried services is both competent and appropriately trained in the use of a CAT and genny.
- 9.1.5 The Archaeological Contractor shall at all times maintain a safe working distance from the overhead and buried services/utilities. In addition, the Archaeological Contractor shall be responsible for any requirements with regard to work in the vicinity of watercourses.
- 9.1.6 All site personnel will wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as defined by the Archaeological Contractor's approved risk assessment undertaken in accordance with mandatory requirements. Any visitors to the investigations will require a site induction in accordance with the Archaeological Contractor's Health and Safety requirements and will have read the appropriate Archaeological Contractor's site-specific Risk Assessment and Method Statement. The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that any visitors to the investigations are equipped with suitable PPE prior to entry to the site. All equipment that is used in the course of the fieldwork must be 'fit for purpose' and be maintained in a sound working condition that complies with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and recommendations.
- 9.1.7 The Archaeological Contractor will assure the provision and maintenance of adequate, suitable and sufficient welfare and sanitary facilities at appropriate locations for the duration of the works. The locations for the temporary site welfare facilities and vehicle parking will be agreed with National Grid and the ACoW prior to the start of the works. Facilities, roles and responsibilities shall adhere to the provisions of relevant Health and Safety Executive guidance.
- 9.1.8 All site personnel will familiarise themselves with the following:
- site emergency and evacuation procedures;
 - the site's health & safety coordinator;

- the first aider; and
- the location of the nearest hospital and doctor's surgery.

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Appendix A Figures



- Legend**
- Order Limits
 - Area of Possible Evaluation Trenching
 - Area of Full Excavation
 - Area of Possible Geophysical Survey
 - Area of Preservation in Situ
 - Area of Strip, Map, and Sample
 - Possible Strip, Map, and Sample
 - Possible area of further geo-archaeological work
 - Evaluation trenches undertaken previously
 - Proposed Scheme Components**
 - Proposed Pylon
 - Proposed Access Route
 - Proposed HVDC Cable Alignment
 - Proposed Utility Diversion Route
 - Proposed Converter Station
 - Proposed Construction Compound
 - Proposed Substation
 - Proposed Permanent Attenuation Pond
 - Proposed Temporary Attenuation Pond

0	13/11/2025	KENT ONSHORE OVERARCHING WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION	HS	EB	AC
Rev	Date	Description	GIS	Chk	App

nationalgrid

Scheme: SEA LINK

Document Title: KENT ONSHORE SCHEME: LOCATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND MITIGATION

Creator: HS	Date: 13/11/2025	Checker: EB	Date: 13/11/2025	Approver: AC	Date: 13/11/2025
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