The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Sea Link

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document Number 7.5.4.1 Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) – Suffolk

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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 Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The 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, and trial trench evaluation.

Ex1.1.3 This Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation details the different methods of further evaluation and mitigation to be undertaken prior to pre-commencement works that involves intrusive groundworks (including vegetation removal which involves intrusive groundworks), and construction works within each area, the successful completion of which will reduce the effects of the Suffolk 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 This Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation details the principles and methods of Site Specific Written Schemes of Investigation (SSWSI) that will be required for each stage of evaluation and mitigation work. Further, this Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation presents the approach to consultation and approvals for the stages of evaluation and mitigation, including approvals of SSWSIs, 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 Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), and Historic England (HE), and is submitted with the DCO. The implementation of this agreed Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation will be secured by Requirement 14 in Schedule 3 of the 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 Suffolk 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.

1.2.4 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'*.

1.2.5 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.

1.2.6 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 archaeological 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 additional 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 additional archaeological evaluation surveys required to be undertaken within the Order Limits;
- Section 4: describes the 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 approach for development of, and outline structure for, detailed Project Wide Written Schemes of Investigation (PWWSI);
- Section 8: sets out the requirement for and outline structure for detailed Site-Specific Written Schemes of Investigation (SSWSIs);
- Section 9: sets out the protocols for monitoring and approvals;
- Section 10: outlines the requirements for public outreach and community engagement; and
- Section 11: provides a general overview of the Health and Safety requirements of the Proposed Project.

1.3.4 This Outline Onshore OWSI is supported by the figure in Appendix A which shows the areas within the Suffolk Onshore Scheme Order Limits where evaluation work has been undertaken and where further evaluation work may still be required in the future. These have been provisionally agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

1.4 Status of this Document

1.4.1 This Outline Onshore OWSI has been prepared for submission to support the application for development consent.

1.4.2 This Outline Onshore OWSI has been updated by the Applicant in response to comments received from the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS on the draft Outline Onshore OWSI [**APP-343** and **REP6-141**]. The scope of this Outline Onshore OWSI has been informed by the final results of the trial trench evaluation undertaken within the Order Limits and has been agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS will be responsible for confirming that the requirements of the DCO are met, in accordance with any conditions relating to archaeology. The Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS (and HE where relevant) will 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS (and HE where relevant) to ensure that evaluation and mitigation measures are correctly implemented, monitored, and maintained during pre-commencement and construction phases 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.** The ACoW will also be responsible for providing Tool Box talks during the construction stage to inform all site personnel of the archaeological and historic environment requirements for the site, the management measures in place, and the responsibilities and obligations of all site personnel to comply with these measures.

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 a PWWSI, as well as SSWSIs for each stage of archaeological investigation (refer to Sections 7 and 8).

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A detailed cultural heritage baseline for the Proposed Project has been produced as part of the DCO application (**Application Document 6.3.2.3.A ES Appendix 2.3.A Cultural Heritage Baseline Report**). The cultural heritage baseline has been informed through a review of previously recorded heritage assets, and the result of archaeological fieldwork surveys carried out for the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The results of these surveys have been synthesised in **Application Document 6.3.2.3.A ES Appendix 2.3.A Cultural Heritage Baseline Report** and **Application Document 6.2.2.3 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage**, as well as **Application Document 9.27 Updated Archaeological Assessment** submitted at Deadline 5. Full details of the surveys submitted as part of the DCO application are included in the following documents:

- **Application Document 6.3.2.3.D ES Appendix 2.3.D Geophysical Survey Report**;
- **Application Document 6.3.2.3.E ES Appendix 2.3.E Aerial Photographic and LiDAR Report**; and
- **Application Document 6.3.2.3.F ES Appendix 2.3.F – Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report (Draft)**.
- **Application Document 9.3.1 Suffolk Section Phase 2A Archaeological Evaluation Report [AS-135].**
- **Application Document 9.3.2 Suffolk Section Phase 2B Archaeological Evaluation Report [AS-136].**
- **Application Document 9.76.5.2 Change Request Appendix B Geophysical Survey Report [CR1-057]**.
- **Application Document 9.127 Suffolk Phase 3 Evaluation Final Report [REP5-140]**.

2.1.2 This section presents a summary of the existing baseline.

2.2 Site Location, Topography, and Geology

2.2.1 The Suffolk Onshore Scheme extends from the landfall to the north of Aldeburgh (NGR TM 46092 58479) westwards to the Saxmundham Converter Station site which is located on the eastern side of Saxmundham (NGR TM 39745 62300) (**Application Document 2.5.1 Work Plans – Suffolk**). Passing through a landscape characterised by its gently undulating topography, the Order Limits vary from 10-15 m above ordnance datum (AOD) at Gorse Hill where the Suffolk Onshore Scheme makes landfall, with most of the route sitting at 15-22 m AOD, before rising to 25 m AOD at the Saxmundham Converter Station site.

2.2.2 The solid geology varies as the Order Limits pass through the landscape, with the coastline element consisting of Calcarenite of the Coralline Crag Formation formed during the Neogene and Quaternary Periods, which changes to Chillesford Church Sand Members, also formed during the Quaternary Period, from the Gorse Hill area (British Geological Survey, 2024). The solid geology remains the same for the Order Limits as they head west until the Friston area where it changes to Crag Group Sands formed during the Neogene and Quaternary Period, with these formations evident for the remaining route (British Geological Survey, 2024).

2.2.3 The drift geology of the Order Limits also varies as it transitions from the landfall inland, with the coastal section consisting of marine deposits and tidal flat deposits formed during the Quaternary Period, changing to sand and gravel of the Lowestoft Formation formed during the Quaternary Period where the landscape rises at Gorse Hill (British Geological Survey, 2024). This drift geology remains the predominant type for much of the Order Limits, although areas of Lowestoft Formation diamicton (including clays) formed in the Quaternary Period have been recorded at the western end of the Order Limits around Friston and Saxmundham (British Geological Survey, 2024).

2.2.4 As the Suffolk Onshore Scheme avoids the main settlements, the landscape through which the Order Limits pass is dominated by agricultural land, most of which is used for arable farming. Some limited areas are used for pastoral activities, or are grasslands preserved as habitat, although these areas are largely restricted to the coastal zone.

2.2.5 Version 3 of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Map produced in 2012 as part of the regional 'East of England Historic Landscape Characterisation Project' shows the Order Limits as falling within three main categories, with 'Coastal Levels' at the landfall changing to 'Estate Sandlands' at Gorse Hill (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, 2012). This remains the main historic landscape type until the Friston/Saxmundham area where 'Ancient Estate Claylands' become the predominant landscape type.

2.2.6 Historic Landscape Characterisation data provided by the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) show the coastal area as 'Unimproved Land' with most of the Order Limits from the Gorse Hill through to Hazelwood categorised as '18th Century and Later Enclosure', and further sub-categorised as 'Former Common Arable or Heathland'. The majority of land from Hazelwood to Saxmundham is categorised as a 'Post 1950 Agricultural Landscape', with the sub-category 'Boundary Loss From Irregular Co-axial Fields', with two small areas defined as 'Pre 18th-Century Enclosure' sub-category 'Random Fields' near Friston and Sternfield.

2.2.7 Both versions of the Historic Landscape Characterisation demonstrate that the landscape through which the Order Limits pass has been dominated by agriculture from at least the 19th century, with this land use continuing into the contemporary landscape.

2.3 Archaeological Baseline

Designated Assets

2.3.1 There are no designated heritage assets located within the Suffolk Onshore Scheme Order Limits.

Archaeological Background

2.3.2 A review of previously recorded assets on the Suffolk HER within the Order Limits and 500m of the Order Limits (the 'Study Area'), as well as archaeological investigations undertaken as part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, recorded a total of 97 assets, or groups of assets, within the Order Limits. These assets are distributed throughout the length of the Order Limits, and represent multi-period remains dating from the Neolithic period onwards. The majority of the previously recorded assets are cropmark sites recorded through aerial photography, and the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching undertaken as part of the Proposed Project has enhanced our understanding of the remains, as well as their extent and date.

2.3.3 Features recorded through the Order Limits dating from the Neolithic period onwards include pits and more isolated groupings of features, as well as remains associated with settlement and land management/division, however, remains linked to burial have also been recorded. Other features include a D-Shaped enclosure near Friston dated to the Bronze Age associated with Change 3 of Change Request 1. The largest concentrations of features were identified at Gorse Hill (ADB008; ADB009; ADB014; ADB068; ADB202; ADB358), the area north of Hazlewood Hall Farm (AECOMS009), Friston (FRS107; KND064; KND066), and the Saxmundham Converter Station site (SXM085; SNF033; SNF039; SNF034).

2.3.4 The Gorse Hill complex represents a multi-period complex with activity from the Neolithic period onwards, although most remains encountered dated to the Late Iron Age and Roman period with traces of a possible structure and one oven of kiln recorded during the evaluation phase (ADB008; ADB009; ADB014; ADB068; ADB202; ADB358).

2.3.5 Remains identified north of the Hazlewood Hall Farm area include a number of possible enclosures identified through geophysical survey, while a cluster of cremations were identified during the evaluation trenching (AECOMS009). These features have also been dated to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period.

2.3.6 Late Iron Age and Romano-British features have also been recorded in the Friston area, with remains identified as part of the SPR EA1N/2 works, as well as during surveys undertaken for the Proposed Project. These include enclosures (FRS107 and KND064), as well as a square enclosure to the north of Friston with possible internal divisions (KND066).

2.3.7 Geophysical survey undertaken for the Suffolk Onshore Scheme in the area of the Saxmundham Converter Station also revealed a ring ditch (SNF034), possible enclosures (SNF038; SNF033), and a small complex of enclosures and possible trackways (SXM085) (APP-122 Geophysical Survey Report, Figures 40 and 42). Evaluation trenching confirmed that the ring ditch in the southern section of the field represented a Bronze Age barrow (SNF034), while the more isolated enclosures dated to the Romano-British period (SNF038; SNF033). The most extensive remains, however, consisted of the complex of smaller enclosures, trackways, and possible structures, and the evaluation trenching found that these dated to the medieval period (SXM085). Geophysical survey in the fields to the south of the proposed temporary construction compound, to the east of Friston, identified the partial remains of a circular enclosure with a diameter of approximately 90 m within the Order Limits, and a rectangular enclosure, measuring 24 m x 32 m to the west, outside of the Order Limits. The results of this phase of geophysical survey were submitted with the DCO application as **Application Document 6.3.2.3.D Appendix 2.3.D Geophysical Survey Report** [**APP-112**].

2.3.8 Subsequent archaeological trial trenching (**Application Document 9.3.2 Suffolk Section Phase 2B Archaeological Evaluation Report [AS-136]**) suggested the circular feature was possibly a Late Neolithic henge. However, further geophysical survey (**Application Document 9.76.5.2 Change Request Appendix B Geophysical Survey Report [CR1-057]**)carried out to further investigate the character and heritage importance of the feature, followed by additional trial trenching (**Application Document 9.127 Suffolk Phase 3 Evaluation Final Report** submitted at Deadline 5), confirmed that it was a D-shaped enclosure, likely to be Bronze Age and related to settlement and stock enclosure.

2.3.9 Assets recorded throughout the Order Limits, as well as a review of cartographic and documentary sources, suggest that most of the settlements in the Study Area were well established by the medieval period. As a result, the landscape through which the Suffolk Onshore Scheme traverses has been largely agricultural in nature from at least the medieval period with the exception of the Saxmundham Converter Station field where the aforementioned medieval remains were identified during the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching (SXM085). The most extensive later remains within the Order Limits are features associated with the conflicts of the 20th century. These include remains of the former First World War Hazelwood Aerodrome recorded through historic mapping, geophysical survey (FRS017), and evaluation trenching, and extensive remains of Second World War defences recorded through historic aerial photographs, geophysical survey, and evaluation trenching at the eastern end of the Order Limits.

2.4 Regional Research Frameworks and Agendas

2.4.1 While the mitigation proposed is designed primarily to mitigate impacts on cultural heritage assets, it is important to align the result of the fieldwork/mitigation into the wider archaeological research framework. This will further advance the understanding of the historic environment within the Order Limits as well as Suffolk and the east of England.

2.4.2 The East of England Regional Research Framework (EERRF) was published in 2021 and built on the previous research farmwork published in 2000 and updated in 2011. The EERRF outlined the current understanding of the historic environment of the east of England region, and identified gaps in current knowledge/understanding, and relevant research questions.

2.4.3 SSWSIs will provide further detail and set out how the research potential of individual sites will be aligned to the EERRF. However, based on the archaeological remains expected to be identified during the mitigation stage, current research questions which might be applicable, and which archaeological mitigation may contribute to answering, include:

- NEO 03 – How do we gain a better understanding of the coastal environment during the Neolithic period?
- NEO 10 – To what extent was there continuity from the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age?
- NEO 14 – What was the original purpose of Neolithic pits and why are their contents so variable?
- E-MBA 03 – How can we refine the chronology of the Early and Middle Bronze Age?
- E-MBA 05 – How can we refine the chronology of Early Bronze Age structures?

- E-MBA 06 – How can we refine the chronology of Bronze Age cemeteries?
- E-MBA 07 – How can we refine the chronology of Bronze Age field systems?
- E-MBA 16 – How best can we synthesise what we already know about Middle Bronze Age settlement?
- E-MBA 20 – Can machining be used more effectively during Early to Middle Bronze Age excavations?
- LBA-MIA 17 – How can we better understand the nature and extent of Bronze Age cremation?
- LBA-MIA 18 – How can we improve the dating of Bronze Age cremations and inhumations?
- LBA-MIA 19 – How can we improve our understanding of Late Bronze Age (LBA) to Middle Iron Age (MIA) burial practices?
- LIA-Rom 03 – How should we approach the study of the Late Iron Age and Roman periods?
- LIA-Rom 05 – How can we better understand the Late Iron Age to Roman transition?
- LIA-Rom 16 – Can we better distinguish between Late Iron Age and Early Roman features and sites?
- LIA-Rom 21 – How can we improve the recovery of Late Iron Age and Roman cemeteries and human remains?
- Med (Rul) 03 – How can we improve our understanding of medieval agricultural practices?
- Med (Rul) 05 – How were medieval communication routes established and maintained?
- Med (Rul) 14 – How can we characterise and explain medieval rural settlement change, evolution and abandonment?
- Med (Rul) 17 – How can we characterise medieval rural farms and farmsteads?
- P-Med 06 – How can we increase our understanding of post-medieval farms and farmsteads?
- P-Med 15 – How can we ensure that post-medieval military structures from all periods are recorded uniformly?
- Multi 09 – What should we keep and why?

2.4.4 In addition to the research questions within the EERRF, SSWSIs should also consider the relevance of research aims for 20th century military remains, where there is potential for these to be encountered.

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 6.2.2.3 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage** and **Application Document 9.27 Updated Archaeological Assessment - Suffolk** submitted at Deadline 5. This included a review of aerial photography and LiDAR data (**Application Document 6.3.2.3.E ES Appendix 2.3.E Aerial Photographic and LiDAR Report**), geophysical survey (**Application Document 6.3.2.3.D ES Appendix 2.3.D Geophysical Survey Report**) and evaluation trenching (**Application Document 6.3.2.3.F ES Appendix 2.3.F Phase 1 Archaeological Trial Trenching Report (Draft)**). Reporting on works completed late in the DCO process, or during the examination process includes the Phase 2a and Phase 2b evaluation trenching (**Application Document 9.3.1 Suffolk Section Phase 2A Archaeological Evaluation Report [AS-135]**) and (**Application Document 9.3.2 Suffolk Section Phase 2B Archaeological Evaluation Report [AS-136]**), as well as **Application Document 9.127 Phase 3 Archaeological Evaluation [REP5-140]**.

3.1.2 A limited number of areas within the Order Limits were not examined by the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching because of either land access not being granted, or the land being unsuitable for geophysical survey and trenching (i.e. fields containing commercial tree plantation) (see Figure 1). All areas of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme where ground disturbance will occur, and that have not been archaeologically evaluated previously, will require a level of additional archaeological evaluation, comprising geophysical survey and/or trial trenching. The results of the additional archaeological evaluation will inform a proportionate and suitable mitigation response, as detailed in Section 4 of this Outline Onshore OWSI. Further to this, depending on the final location of the launch pit and groundworks associated with the Suffolk Landfall, there may be a need for additional evaluation, and mitigation, to assess and mitigate potential impacts arising from directional drilling. The need for this will be agreed between the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, with the agreed measures set out in a SSWSI.

3.1.3 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. 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 (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023), the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023), and other current and relevant good practice and standards and guidance including Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, David, 2003), and geophysical survey and trench evaluation guidance published by SCCAS (SCCAS, 2026) and (SCCAS, 2026).

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, or unsuitable ground conditions. The areas not subject to previous evaluation are shown on figures in Appendix A.

3.3 Geophysical Survey

3.3.1 Further archaeological geophysical survey may be required to develop an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy for the cable corridor. Geophysical survey of areas of the Order Limits not previously subject to geophysical survey or evaluation trenching, and that would experience ground disturbance as a result of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, is proposed.

3.3.2 Geophysical survey will comprise archaeological magnetometry survey of identified areas in order to identify geomagnetic anomalies of potential archaeological origin. This survey would aim to cover the developable extent of these areas, but will exclude any confirmed safeguarded areas and areas of demonstrable past disturbance (e.g. hardstandings and modern building footprints).

3.3.3 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), the CIfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020), and SCCAS Standard requirements for geophysical survey (SCCAS 2026).Following the completion of the geophysical survey, further evaluation surveys (such as trial trenching) may be required. The scope of any additional archaeological evaluation required will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS and set out in a SSWSI to be produced by the Archaeological Contractor.

Aims and Objectives

3.3.4 The general objectives of further geophysical survey are:

a. to investigate the archaeological potential of the cable corridor;

b. to assess the presence/absence of potential archaeological anomalies;

c. to determine the level of risk that the archaeological resource would present to the cable corridor; and

d. to inform the scope of further evaluation, comprising trial trench evaluation (refer to section 3.4), and/or an appropriate mitigation strategy (refer to section 4).

3.4 Trial Trench Evaluation Scope

3.4.1 Evaluation trenching may be required in areas where evaluation has not been practicable, and provision will be made in a SSWSI for further trenching as appropriate in accordance with Requirement 14 in Schedule 3 of the Draft DCO (**Application Document 3.1(G) draft Development Consent Order [REP4-217]**).

3.4.2 Evaluation trenching will comprise the excavation of up to a 5% area sample, agreed on a site by site basis. The number and layout of the trenches will be agreed with the

Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, and it is expected that all trenches will measure 30 m (L) x 1.8 m (W). Any sampling strategy will have regard to the results of the results of the rapid identification survey and/ or the geophysical survey as applicable, and the extent of prior disturbance.

3.4.3 A SSWSI (refer to Section 7) for the trial trenching scope will be prepared by the Archaeological Contractor and agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS and will be carried out to the standards set out in Section 4.3 (Suffolk County Council, 2026).

Aims and Objectives

General Aims

3.4.4 The general aims of the archaeological trial trench evaluation are to:

- provide additional information on the archaeological potential of the Order Limits; and
- inform the requirement for and scope of any archaeological mitigation works that may be required.

General Objectives

3.4.5 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the archaeological trial trenching are to:

- 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 palaeoenvironmental potential identified from ongoing geotechnical ground investigations (GI) carried out for the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

3.5.2 A phase of geo-archaeological works during additional GI works is being undertaken during Winter 2026 in the Saxmundham area. The results of this work may result in the need to undertake further geo-archaeological works that will be agreed with the SCCAS as well as the Historic England (HE) Science Advisor.

3.5.3 Works may also be required for the land east of the landfall at Gorse Hill where the cable will reach Gorse Hill through trenchless technique.

3.5.4 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.

3.5.5 A SSWSI (refer to Section 8) 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 SCCAS and the HE Science Advisor. All work will be carried out to the standards set out in Section 4.3, and in accordance with the SCCAS and HE requirements.

Aims and Objectives

General Aims

3.5.6 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

3.5.7 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;
- produce deposit models in areas where appropriate and agreed with SCCAS and HE;
- 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 Post-Trial Trench Evaluation – Next Steps

3.6.1 Following the completion of the archaeological trial trench evaluation it will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. The mitigation response (if required) will comprise one or more of the following mitigation measures:

- a programme of continuous archaeological recording;
- a programme of strip, map, excavate and record;
- set piece (detailed) archaeological excavation and recording; or
- the preservation of archaeological remains.

3.6.3 These mitigation measures are 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 avoid impacts to heritage assets, where possible. The preservation of archaeological remains is the preferred mitigation choice and buffer areas have been incorporated into the Proposed Project design to enable preservation in-situ of potentially significant archaeological remains, where feasible. Furthermore, the Order Limits have been redesigned in some areas to avoid impacts to significant archaeological remains. Where the preservation of archaeological remains is not practicable, and the heritage significance of the remains do not merit preservation, preservation by record measures are proposed.

4.1.2 Archaeological mitigation is intended to:

- mitigate the loss of archaeological interest of at-risk heritage assets;
- inform the planning of non-archaeological (i.e. avoidance by design) mitigation measures; and
- preserve by record archaeological remains that cannot be preserved in situ and will be removed or damaged.

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 specific research agenda set out at Section 2.4, and any further research questions detailed in SSWSIs.

4.1.4 The following professional standards will apply:

- CIfA 2023 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023);
- CIfA 2020 Guidelines for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020);
- CIfA 2022 Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2022);
- Geoarchaeology. Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record (Historic England, 2015);
- Animal Bones and Archaeology. Recovery to Archive (Historic England, 2019);
- Environmental Archaeology (Historic England, 2025);
- Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, 2003); and
- SCCAS Fieldwork Guidance Documents (Suffolk County Council, 2026).

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 PWWSIs and SSWSIs agreed with SCCAS. 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 of Schedule 3 of the Draft DCO (**Application Document 3.1 draft Development Consent Order**).

4.1.7 Prior to any archaeological works being carried out, the Archaeological Contractor must develop a detailed archaeological methodology set out in a SSWSI for approval by the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, setting out how the standards will be applied to those works to meet relevant research agenda and site-specific archaeological issues. These SSWSIs should also be shared with Historic England including, but not limited to, the regional Science Advisor.

4.1.8 The Proposed Project will be designed and constructed in stages as set out in the programme to be developed under Requirement 4 in the draft DCO (**Application Document 3.1 draft Development Consent Order**). A PWWSI for each stage of the project will be developed in advance of or in parallel with the SSWSIs and submitted alongside each SSWSI, forming a live document. Further detail on the PWWSIs is provided in Section 7.Once agreed, archaeological requirements need to be highlighted in all relevant documentation for that stage of works including, but not limited to, the CEMP, LEMP, and soil management plan to ensure all requirements are documented across the project.

4.1.9 The mitigation strategy would also be produced, in as far as possible, in collaboration with other relevant projects in the area including EA1N/2 and Lion Link

4.2 Proposed Methodology and Application

Continuous Archaeological Recording

4.2.1 Continuous archaeological recording entails the constant archaeological recording of any pre-commencement and construction phases of the works that could result in impacts to above or below ground heritage assets. Continuous archaeological recording will:

- 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 potential for archaeological remains to be present will be established by previous stages of evaluation and the areas requiring continuous archaeological recording will be illustrated within PWWSIs and SSWSIs along with any relevant site-specific requirements, such as environmental and scientific sampling, and updated research aims.

4.2.3 The ACoW will make appropriate arrangements for inspection visits by the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

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 continuous archaeological recording scope, the requirements for any further excavation, comprising strip, map, excavate and record and/ or archaeological excavation, will be discussed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

4.2.6 Continuous archaeological recording will be carried out to the standards set out in Section 4.3, and in accordance with appropriate SCCAS and regional standards (Suffolk County Council, 2026).

Strip, Map, Excavate and Record

4.2.7 Strip, map, excavate and record 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 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. This will inform proposals for targeted excavation, to be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

4.2.9 Where necessary to allow construction works to continue, the release of a part of an area may be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS once an appropriate agreed level of investigation has been completed. In this situation, areas which have not been released will be clearly demarcated by the Archaeological Contractor.

4.2.10 Key stages in strip, map, excavate and record 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
- sample excavation, concentrating on establishing a relative chronology through feature intersections investigations, and by attempting to establish a more precise chronology.

4.2.11 Areas for strip, map, excavate and record will be identified following geophysical survey, evaluation trenching, or continuous archaeological recording, and will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. Individual areas and the justification for their selection will be set out within the PWWSI and SSWSIs for each strip, map, excavate and record area. A buffer zone, to be agreed between the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, and illustrated in the SSWSI, will be

incorporated around each strip, map, excavate and record area. This buffer area, designed within the spatial constraints of the Order Limits and accounting for any other agreed environmental buffer zones, will allow for spoil storage (if applicable) and also to allow for the extension of the area should significant archaeological remains need to be better revealed. These buffer zones will be excluded from any groundworks and will be handed back to the developer/contractor once the strip, map, excavate and record area has been signed-off as completed by the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

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 SCCAS and any appropriate regional guidance. Any site-specific variations will be set out within the SSWSIs, and/or agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

4.2.13 The requirement to sample excavate 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 strip, map, excavate and record methods will be discussed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, with a view to extending these operations (with a buffer of at least 30 m applied) 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, excavate and record mitigation will only be undertaken after agreement of the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS has been confirmed.

4.2.15 Following completion of archaeological investigation to the satisfaction of the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, the relevant area, or agreed parts thereof, will be released to the developer/contractor so that construction works may proceed.

Set-Piece Archaeological Excavation

4.2.16 Set-piece excavation will be undertaken where trial trench evaluation has identified the extent, and character of significant archaeological remains, allowing for a definitive investigation area, excavation methodology 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. In line with Section 4.2.11, the defined areas will include provision for buffer zones, so that areas could be extended if important archaeology continues beyond the initial machined extent, as well as details relating to aspects such as environmental and scientific sampling. This latter requirement may also result in the need for specialists (including but not limited to the Historic England Science Advisor) to visit site

4.2.18 Set-piece excavation and recording will be undertaken to the standards set out at Section 4.3, and in accordance with SCCAS and any appropriate regional excavation standards (i.e. (Suffolk County Council, 2026)). Site-specific excavation sampling requirements will be set out within the PWWSI and SSWSIs and will be updated and refined, as necessary, once the site has been machine stripped, and the character and extent of the archaeological remains is confirmed.

Preservation of Archaeological Remains

4.2.19 The preservation of archaeological remains is another mitigation option and could comprise the avoidance of important archaeological remains, by fencing the remains off during construction activities, or the temporary burial of archaeological remains, for example remains preserved beneath temporary construction compounds or haul roads. If this method is used, the ACoW will prepare a scheme wide Historic Environment Management Plan (HEMP) in consultation with SCCAS detailing how important archaeological remains within the Order Limits will be preserved from impacts and harm during the construction and operational stage of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The HEMP will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

Preservation by Temporary Burial

4.2.20 Proposals for the temporary burial of archaeological remains, where practicable without the risk of damage through compaction or decompaction works (i.e. ripping of agricultural land), would require the Principal Contractor to prepare a method statement setting out the methodology to preserve sensitive archaeological remains and prevent deformation of topsoil/subsoil horizons. If applicable to the preservation area, the method statement will detail the effects of compression and loading, whether dynamic or static.

4.2.21 Method statements for the preservation of archaeological remains will be developed in line with the principles of Historic England's 'Preserving Archaeological Remains' guidance, and in discussions with the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. The agreed construction methodology and appropriate archaeological mitigation response, which will likely comprise a programme of continuous archaeological recording, will be detailed in a SSWSI prepared by the ACoW and approved by the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

Preservation of Archaeological Remains during Construction

4.2.22 Archaeological remains that are to be preserved in situ, including important remains identified from archaeological evaluation surveys (Section 3 of this Outline Onshore OWSI), will be fenced off and protected from accidental damage during the construction of the Scheme.

4.2.23 The spatial extent of the area(s) to be preserved and protected by fencing will be agreed between the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS and detailed in a SSWSI prepared by the ACoW.

4.2.24 The area to be preserved will be clearly demarcated and secured with appropriate barrier fencing (the type of fencing will be specified in the SSWSI), supplied by the Principal Contractor. The Principal Contractor and the ACoW will be responsible for

regularly monitoring the condition of the fencing and will be responsible for its maintenance until either construction work in that area is complete or at the opening of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, at which time the removal of the fencing will be monitored by the ACoW.

4.2.25 Notices prohibiting works will be attached to the fencing, detailing the purpose of the fenced off area. This is to ensure that no impacts are made to the remains which are being protected.

4.2.26 Should these areas subsequently be required for construction works for the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, a SSWSI will be prepared for each area by the Archaeological Contractor for an appropriate level of alternative archaeological mitigation, and agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

4.2.27 The ACoW will give Toolbox Talks to inform all site personnel of the archaeological preservation measures that are in place during the construction of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, the protection measures that are required and the obligations of the Principal Contractor and contractors.

Preservation of Archaeological Remains during Operation

4.2.28 There are no archaeological remains of national importance within the Order Limits that require long-term preservation measures. Additional evaluation surveys, detailed in section 3 of this OWSI, may identify important archaeological remains that merit preservation in situ during the construction period, and into the operational stage of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. If required by the results of the evaluation surveys, the ACoW will prepare a HEMP detailing how important archaeological remains within the Order Limits will be preserved from impacts and harm during the operational stage of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The HEMP will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

Geo-Archaeological Assessment and Analysis

4.2.29 A programme of geoarchaeological investigation and assessment is currently ongoing in relation to the monitoring of GI works for the Suffolk Onshore Scheme in and around the Fromus Crossing and the Converter Station. 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 and analysis of palaeoenvironmental indicators as part of an analysis stage.

4.2.30 As the geoarchaeological monitoring works are ongoing, the scope of further evaluation and analysis, or mitigation, will be detailed in the PWWSI and SSWSIs which may include works required in areas using trenchless technologies at the landfall near Gorse Hill. The scope of geoarchaeological investigation will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS 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 SCCAS fieldwork requirement documents, and the appropriate national and regional excavation standards.

4.3.2 A parish code number (a separate code for each mitigation area) will be obtained from the Suffolk HER in advance of each phase of the works, and a unique site code will be assigned as agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. All parts of a 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. Information to inform the further stages of geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation will also be gathered, including ground conditions, the location of known utilities, and land-use (e.g., arable, crop field or pasture).

Geophysical Survey

4.3.4 Geophysical survey will be undertaken with regard to guidance published by SCCAS (SCCAS, 2026). It is anticipated that the survey will be carried out using a suitable 'industry standard' instrument. Readings will be taken every 0.25 m along lines 1 m apart.

4.3.5 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

4.3.6 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.

4.3.7 If any problems are encountered during the geophysical survey these will be reported to National Grid.

Machine Overburden Strip

4.3.8 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.

4.3.9 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.

4.3.10 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.

4.3.11 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, once any archaeological features cutting them have been fully excavated and recorded, and it has been established that these deposits are otherwise archaeologically sterile. Areas that have been stripped, and which contain archaeological deposits, will not be left exposed for prolonged periods of time due to the potential for damage to archaeological features. The time that stripped sites can be left exposed before archaeological excavation will be agreed with the SCCAS as part of the SSWSI.

4.3.12 Following completion of archaeological investigation to the satisfaction of the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, 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

4.3.13 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.

4.3.14 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, will be hand excavated to establish the accuracy of the interpretation.

Archaeological Evaluation

4.3.15 Evaluation trenching be carried out in line with guidance published by SCCAS (SCCAS, 2026). During evaluation, there is the presumption of the need to cause minimal disturbance to the site and the archaeology, particularly if further, detailed mitigation is merited, and therefore significant archaeological features (e.g. building slots or postholes) should be preserved intact (as far as is practicable to achieve the aims of the evaluation) 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, or complex remains are encountered, these will be sampled through the use of test pits, as agreed with the

Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, to determine their date and character, and to determine whether earlier features are sealed by these deposits.

4.3.16 Should complex archaeology or sensitive remains such as human remains be defined during trial trenched evaluation, the strategy for investigation at this stage should be agreed with Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

4.3.17 Metal detecting will be conducted during evaluation trenching by a named and experienced detectorist, before trenches are opened and during the excavation of features within the trenches. Spoil heaps will also be detected.

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. Sunken feature buildings should be excavated in quadrants initially, and then 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 as well as SCCAS guidance on excavating inhumations for mineral preserved organics (SCCAS 2026). Spatially distinct samples from the head, torso and feet will be taken in accordance with SCCAS requirements and best practice.
- Ring ditches should be at least 50% excavated.
- Any SFBs defined should be dug in quadrants, with opposing quadrants removed first, followed by full excavation.
- Industrial features should be 100% excavated.
- Other features must be sufficiently examined to establish, where possible, their date function. In general, at least 50% of the representative non-structural linear cut features; 10% of the fills of substantial linear features (e.g. ditches) should be excavated 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS and set out within SSWSIs where required.

- Where complex sequences are observed during the excavation, an amended excavation strategy will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS and confirmed in writing. For any complex remains, a sampling strategy will be discussed and agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. 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 PWWSI and subsequent 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 SCCAS.

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 6 MP) 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.

4.3.29 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 in line with guidance and good practice published by Historic England (Historic England, 2025), agreed in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, and the Regional Science Advisor from Historic England, and set out within the PWWSI and SSWSI. Processing of samples should be undertaken while evaluation excavations are ongoing so that information can be fed back and inform and update the sampling strategy.

4.3.30 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.

4.3.31 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, 2015). 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.

4.3.32 Industrial residues and waste from craft, and manufacturing processes will also be routinely sampled in line with guidance provided by Historic England (Historic England, 2025).

4.3.33 A detailed site-specific sampling policy in line with the SCCAS regional, and national guidance will be set out in the individual SSWSI in consultation with the Historic England Science Advisor (East of England). This will be informed by the results of the evaluation trenching, and 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, and may also be further informed or refined through consultation with appropriate specialists.

Artefact Recovery and Conservation

4.3.34 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.

4.3.35 All finds will be collected and processed, unless variations are agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS during the course of excavation.

4.3.36 Ceramic finds should be processed, and initial assessment undertaken for dating and significance, concurrently with the excavation, to allow immediate assessment and input into decision-making.

4.3.37 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.

4.3.38 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.

4.3.39 Finds and samples will be exposed, lifted, cleaned on a case-by-case basis and considering the potential for organic remains to be present), conserved, marked, bagged, boxed and stored in line with the standards in:

- Watkinson & Neal (1987) First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal, 1987);
- CIfA (2020) Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020);
- English Heritage (1995) A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds (English Heritage, 1995);
- Historic England (2025) Environmental Archaeology (Historic England, 2025);
- Historic England (2015a) Archaeometallurgy (Historic England, 2015);
- Historic England (2015b) Archaeological and Historic Pottery Production (Historic England, 2015);

- Historic England (2017) Organic Residue Analysis and Archaeology (Historic England, 2017); and
- Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (2026) Archive Guidance (SCCAS, 2026).

4.3.40 The receiving archive will be the SCCAS Archive so policies and processes, including the discard policy must be in line with archive guidance published by SCCAS (SCCAS, 2026). 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS and in line with the archive guidance.

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

Scientific Dating

4.3.42 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.

4.3.43 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), thermoluminescence, or Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) will be collected where available in accordance with the SSWSIs. Where a specialist may be required to visit the site and collect samples this will be identified at the earliest opportunity.

4.3.44 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.

4.3.45 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

4.3.46 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. H.M. Coroner will be informed of the discover by the Archaeological Contractor within 14 days, and Suffolk Finds Liaison 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 Human remains are known to be present within the Order Limits and are likely to be excavated during the course of archaeological mitigation works undertaken for the Proposed Project. As such, the SSWSI for each mitigation area that may entail archaeological excavation and recording, will include a methodology for the treatment of human remains. The methodology in the SSWSI should reference best practice and guidance including guidance published by SCCAS (SCCAS, 2026) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2017).

4.3.49 Should human remains be identified, they will be covered and protected and left in-situ in the first instance, in accordance with current best practice. All works within the vicinity of the relevant area of the site will immediately stop. The Archaeological Contractor will immediately notify the ACoW and H.M. Coroner with details of the remains. 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS (and HE if features are considered to be of national significance) 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 investigation beyond the scope set out within this Outline Onshore OWSI as well as the PWWSI and SSWSIs.

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, the Principal Contractor 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS 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 archaeological SCCAS requirements as well as standards and guidance, including but not limited to, those published by CIfA.

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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. The timings for these interim reports will be agreed with the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

6.3.3 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 Report Form;
- a non-technical summary;
- site location drawing;
- archaeological and historical background;
- methodology;
- 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 the Proposed Project archive;
- Site Selection Strategy;
- Strategy for the digital archive (refer to Section 6.7); and
- Data Management Plan.

6.3.4 A digital .pdf copy (complete with illustrations and plates) of the completed draft report will be submitted to the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS for comment. In finalising the report, the comments of the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS will be taken into account.

6.3.5 A digital record of the final report shall be submitted to the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, 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. Provision should also be made to submit hard copies of report to the Historic Environment Record.

6.3.6 It is recognised that not all archaeological sites will merit further analysis and contribute to the post-excavation assessment and publication stages. As such, provision must be made by the Archaeological Contractor for the submission of full grey literature research archive reports, for all sites, to the Historic Environment Record, with archive material transferred to the SCCAS Archive in line with SCCAS guidance (SCCAS, 2026).

6.4 Post-Excavation Assessment Report and Updated Project Design

6.4.1 A Post-excavation Assessment (PXA) Report will be produced for each mitigation area of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme to detail the results of each mitigation area and agree further fieldwork reporting. These will be submitted for approval to SCCAS

6.4.2 The PXA reports, once completed, will be used to inform a scheme wide Updated Project Design (UPD) which will set out recommendations for further analysis, including resources and timescales, and the recommended publication format. The Post-excavation Assessment Report will include an Updated Project Design (UPD) in accordance with the guidance and standards set out in Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

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 publication (if publication is merited) (including a synopsis of the proposed contents);
- proposed resources and programming (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; and
- OASIS summary sheet.

6.4.4 The post-excavation assessment report and UPD 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 Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS for comment. In finalising the report, the Archaeological Contractor will take account of comments from the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

6.4.5 All data collected as part of works undertaken for the Kent Onshore Scheme, as part of the assessment, evaluation, and mitigation phases, will be shared with all archaeological contractors involved

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 post-excavation 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.

6.5.2 The post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by the Archaeological Contractor supported by external specialists as appropriate. The programme for analysis and publication, building upon the proposed programme detailed in the post-excavation assessment report and UPD, will be agreed between the Archaeological Contractor, the ACoW, the Applicant, and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

6.5.3 The format of any publication shall be commensurate with the significance of the archaeological results and will be agreed with the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. Online publication formats as well as traditional publication formats will be considered.

6.5.4 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. In addition, provision should be made to prepare summaries for inclusion in the annual journal of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, as well as contribute to blog posts for the Suffolk Heritage Explorer.

6.5.5 Any identified publication should also aim to draw on the results of relevant previous archaeological investigations undertaken within and adjacent to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, 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 A separate OASIS entry is required for each fieldwork report, and the final OASIS record shall be included in all fieldwork reports and post-excavation assessment report. Copies of the relevant OASIS summary sheet should also be included in all reports.

6.7 Archive and Data Management

6.7.1 The SCCAS Archive will be the repository for the site archive for each site and mitigation area. Prior to the start of each stage of archaeological fieldwork, the Archaeological Contractor will contact the 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 CIfA guidelines, including the Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists , 2020), and SCCAS Archive guidance (SCCAS, 2026).

6.7.3 The Archaeological Contractor will compile a Data Management Plan and Selection Strategy in line with CIfA guidelines (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists , 2020) and include it in their SSWSI.

6.7.4 The digital archive will be deposited with 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. Project Wide Written Scheme of Investigation (PWWSI)

7.1 General Approach

7.1.1 The Archaeological Contractor will produce a Project Wide Written Scheme of Investigation (PWWSI) for each stage of works as defined in the programme submitted for approval under Requirement 4 of the draft DCO (**Application Document 3.1**). This will set out the detailed strategy for further evaluation and mitigation for the entire Suffolk Onshore Scheme, detailing all areas of mitigation and the type of mitigation to be used. The PWWSIs will not apply to pre-commencement works given that pre-commencement works may take place prior to completion of detailed design of the Proposed Project in those areas. For avoidance of doubt, pre-commencement works that require intrusive groundworks will be subject to SSWSIs.

7.1.2 The PWWSI will be developed in collaboration with the relevant planning authority and HE as the detailed design is developed for each stage, with the individual SSWSIs approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with HE. The PWWSI will continue to be updated, as appropriate, as the detailed design develops.

7.1.3 A PWWSI for each stage of the project will be developed in advance of or in parallel with the SSWSIs and submitted alongside each SSWSI, forming a live document. Given that the detailed design of some works within a stage may proceed before others, the PWWSI for each stage may iteratively evolve as elements of detailed design are completed and detail of all areas within a stage may not be provided in the PWWSI when the first SSWSI is submitted for approval. There may also be areas where a SSWSI is submitted in advance of a PWWSI, particularly for archaeological works that commence prior to a decision being made on the DCO application. In these instances, the PWWSI for that stage submitted with later SSWSIs will summarise and cross reference any SSWSIs that have already been approved to enable a holistic understanding of works that are part of that stage of works.

7.1.4 This PWWSI for each stage will be provided to all relevant project contractors in Suffolk, with the defined locations of outstanding archaeological evaluation and mitigation added to project constraint mapping. It will be shared iteratively where a document is updated.

7.1.5 This will ensure that all parties are clear as to the archaeological constraints in each part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme prior to works commencing in that area. This will ensure that all archaeological mitigation work is completed prior to commencement of any other works in each area, where those works involve intrusive groundworks, and that defined archaeological PIS are suitably protected.

7.1.6 The PWWSIs will be prepared in accordance with current standards and guidance, and should include the following sections as a minimum:

- Suffolk Onshore Scheme location (including map) and descriptions of all mitigation areas;
- context of the Proposed Project;

- geological and topographical background;
- archaeological and historical background;
- trenching results overlain on geophysical survey greyscales or interpretation for all areas;
- general and specific research aims of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, with reference to Regional Research Frameworks;
- mitigation type for each work area;
- site security provisions;
- overview of general post-fieldwork assessment and analysis of project data;
- overview of general of report preparation (including details of the section headings);
- overview of general of publication and dissemination proposals, as required;
- copyright;
- Health and Safety considerations;
- environmental protection considerations;
- overview of general of monitoring procedures;
- overview of general of archiving provisions; and
- digital data management plans.

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

8.1 General Approach

8.1.1 The Archaeological Contractor will be responsible for the production of SSWSIs prior to the start of each stage of archaeological evaluation and mitigation fieldwork.

8.1.2 The SSWSIs will be drafted in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this Outline Onshore OWSI and PWWSI which will follow. 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.

8.1.3 The SSWSIs will be prepared in consultation with the ACoW and approved by the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS prior to the start of works.

8.1.4 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;
- trenching results overlain on geophysical survey greyscales or interpretation;
- general and specific research aims of the Proposed Project, with reference to Regional Research Frameworks;
- methodology;
- site security provisions;
- fieldwork timelines;
- 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 (including specialist staff);
- Health and Safety considerations;
- environmental protection considerations;
- monitoring procedures;
- archiving provisions; and
- digital data management plans.

9. Monitoring Process

9.1 Monitoring

9.1.1 ACoW will liaise with the Archaeological Contractor to monitor progress and compliance with the requirements of this Outline Onshore OWSI, PWWSI, and approved SSWSIs.

9.1.2 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.

9.1.3 The ACoW will act as a coordinator in respect of access and monitoring arrangements with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. 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.

9.1.4 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 is it being carried out to the required standard and that it will achieve the desired aims and objectives.

9.2 Stakeholder and Statutory Roles

9.2.1 Implementation of the Outline Onshore OWSI, PWWSI, and SSWSIs will also be monitored by the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

9.2.2 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.

9.3 Site Meetings

9.3.1 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.

9.3.2 Attendees will normally include, but not be limited to the following, as required:

- ACoW;
- Archaeological Contractor; and
- Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

9.4 Progress Reports

9.4.1 The Archaeological Contractor will prepare weekly progress reports for the duration of the archaeological works. The reports will be issued to the ACoW who will distribute them to National Grid and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS. 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.

9.5 Approval and Sign-Off of Archaeological Mitigation Sites

9.5.1 No works (either pre-commencement or construction) involving ground disturbance may commence within defined archaeological mitigation areas until they have been formally signed off by the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

9.5.2 Archaeological site works that have been completed (confirmed as completed during a site meeting and agreed between the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS) will be subject to a sign-off procedure.

9.5.3 The Archaeological Contractor will submit a completion statement to the ACoW who will distribute it to the Applicant. The ACoW will also submit the completion statement to the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS as confirmation that the relevant works have been completed in compliance with this Outline Onshore OWSI, PWWSI, and relevant SSWSI. The Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS will have final approval and sign off on all archaeological evaluation and mitigation works.

10. Public Outreach and Community Engagement - Outline Strategy

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 Prior to the commencement of archaeological works, a public outreach and community engagement strategy for the Suffolk Onshore Scheme will be prepared by the ACoW.

10.1.2 The following outline strategy sets out suggested themes, concepts and proposed aims for public outreach and community engagement which the ACoW may build upon in their detailed strategy, which will then be implemented by the Archaeological Contractor. It is recognised that not all of the measures suggested in this outline strategy will be applicable, or feasible, but all should be considered by the ACoW in the design of their detailed strategy.

10.1.3 Using the detailed strategy designed by the ACoW, the Archaeological Contractor will set out in their SSWSI the measures for delivering public outreach and engagement. The measures will be relevant and proportionate to the archaeological mitigation sites and archaeological findings and will be finalised and agreed in discussions with the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

10.2 Outline Strategy Overview

10.2.1 The suggested approach and initiatives in this outline strategy includes potential site-based activities, activities to be undertaken while site work is ongoing, and activities to be undertaken throughout the post-excavation phase of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, 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 Suffolk Onshore Scheme to visitors to the area.

10.2.2 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 Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

10.2.3 The post-excavation phase of the Suffolk 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.

10.2.4 The Archaeological Contractor, in consultation and collaboration with the ACoW and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS, will prepare a site-specific public outreach and community engagement strategy, detailing the targeted audiences and the

activities to be undertaken. This will include a programme of activities throughout the Scheme's lifecycle.

10.3 Aims and Objectives

10.3.1 Research themes have been identified for the Suffolk 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.

10.3.2 The aim of public outreach and community engagement 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 Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

10.3.3 The objectives of the public outreach and community engagement 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 Suffolk 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 Suffolk 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.

10.4 Audiences

10.4.1 The aim of public outreach and community engagement 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 Suffolk Onshore Scheme), 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.

10.4.2 The public outreach and community engagement is likely to predominantly focus on those communities directly impacted by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, or in its immediate vicinity, specifically those people living and working within or adjacent to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The academic community at relevant 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.

10.4.3 Audiences could comprise:

- local communities, particularly those in villages close to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
- primary and secondary school pupils and teachers;
- local history groups, both within the Suffolk Onshore Scheme area and the wider area, including history groups in other villages in the wider area;
- local businesses;
- members of 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; and
- visitors to the area, tourism firms.

10.5 Proposed Activities

10.5.1 A range of public outreach and community engagement activities should be proposed by the Archaeological Contractor; tailored to the wants and needs of the differing audiences to maximise the benefit.

10.5.2 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).

10.5.3 At all stages the research questions of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme should be considered, to ensure that the knowledge gained from the archaeological works is disseminated to the public.

10.5.4 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 Archaeological Contractor when designing 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 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 Suffolk Onshore 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 CIfA) and publication of papers and annual journals (PSIAH);
- artefact handling sessions; and
- 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.

10.6 Media Strategy

10.6.1 Press releases to local, regional and national media outlets to promote the public outreach and community engagement activities and to inform of the progress of the archaeological mitigation programme, will be the managed by the Applicant, in consultation with the ACoW, the Archaeological Contractor and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA from SCCAS.

11. General Health and Safety Requirements

11.1.1 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.

11.1.2 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).

11.1.3 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.

11.1.4 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.

11.1.5 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.

11.1.6 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.

11.1.7 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.

11.1.8 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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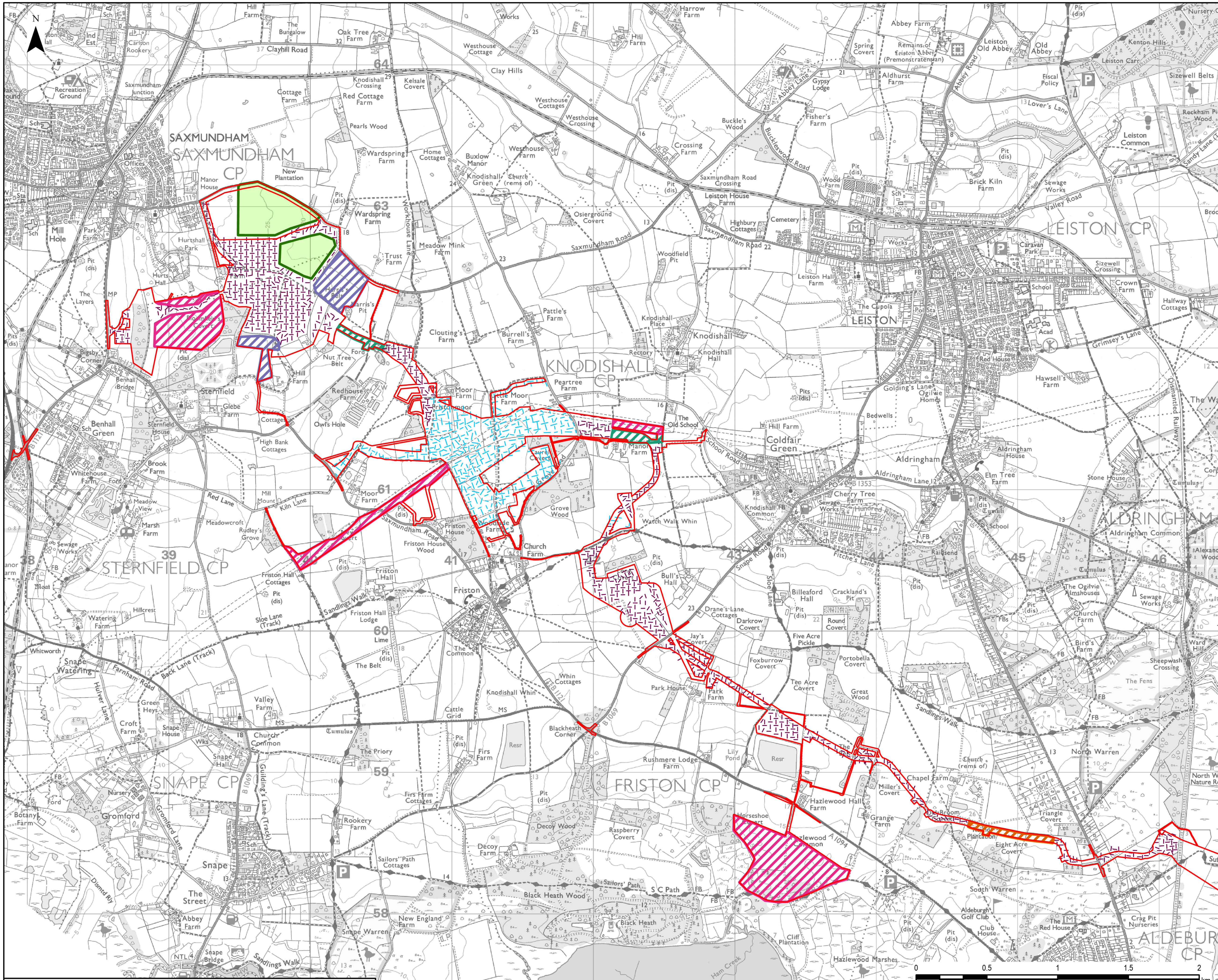
Appendix A Figures



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Legend

- Order Limits
- Sea Link Evaluation Trenching
- East Anglia 1 and East Anglia 2 Evaluation Trenching
- Area of Lion Link Evaluation Trenching
- Not subject to trenching due to crops (i.e. Christmas Tree cultivation)
- Not subject to trenching due to other developments taking place
- Not subject to trenching due to other reasons (i.e. Order Limit changes)
- Not subject to trenching due to Suffolk Onshore Scheme not involving intrusive works (i.e. ecological mitigation areas and OHL works)

Rev	Date	Description	GIS	Chk	App
0	05/03/2026	OVERARCHING WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION	DF	EB	JS

nationalgrid

Scheme: SEA LINK

Document Title: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING WITHIN THE SEA LINK ORDER LIMITS

Creator:	Date:	Checker:	Date:	Approver:	Date:
DF	05/03/2026	EB	05/03/2026	JS	05/03/2026

Document Ref:	Scale:	Format:	Sheets:	Rev:
FIGURE 1	1:25,000	A3	1	0

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