

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

# Proposed Electricity Substation and Overhead Line Works at Weston Marsh

**Historic Environment Desk-based  
Assessment - Part 1 of 3**

June 2026

**nationalgrid**

# Proposed Electricity Substation and Overhead Line Works at Weston Marsh

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) has been prepared on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid).
- 1.1.2 National Grid are proposing to undertake works to construct a new electricity substation, new sections of overhead line and modification of existing overhead lines west of the Spalding Tee-Point in the Weston Marsh area, within the administrative boundary of South Holland District Council (SHDC) in Lincolnshire

## 1.2 Summary of the Scheme

- 1.2.1 In totality, the Scheme consists of four components, each planned to be progressed via separate consenting routes. These are summarised in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 Components of the Scheme

Works Required	Consenting Regime
Construction of the new Air Insulated Substation (AIS) – 400 kV Weston Marsh Substation A, associated landscaping and environmental mitigation works, drainage, highways and other associated works	Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) (Ref 1) Component referred to as ‘ <b>Substation Works</b> ’
Construction of new sections of overhead line to connect the new substation into the existing 4ZM overhead line Removal of a section of the existing 4ZM overhead line Other associated works	Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Ref 2) and deemed consent pursuant to section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Component referred to as ‘ <b>S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works</b> ’
Construction of a new section of overhead line to connect the existing 2WS overhead line into the new substation Removal of a section of the existing 2WS overhead line Other associated works	S37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed consent pursuant to section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Component referred to as ‘ <b>S37 2WS Overhead Line Works</b> ’
Reconductoring works required on the existing 4ZM overhead line Two spans of temporary overhead lines	The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (Ref 3) and The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (Ref 4) Component referred to as ‘ <b>Exempt Overhead Line Works</b> ’

- 1.2.2 The Substation Works will require consent from SHDC under the TCPA.
- 1.2.3 The S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works and S37 2WS Overhead Line Works (collectively referred to as ‘the S37 Overhead Line Works’) will require consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Section 37).
- 1.2.4 The Exempt Overhead Line Works constitute permitted development under Part 15 Class B of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 and The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.
- 1.2.5 The Scheme Site Boundary, which consists of the land required to construct and operate the Scheme in its entirety, is illustrated on **Figure 1**. The areas of land required to construct and operate each individual component described in **Table 1.1** are also illustrated on **Figure 1**.
- 1.2.6 The Scheme in its totality would be constructed over an approximate two and a half year period.
- 1.2.7 The Scheme in its totality is a standalone development to enable connection of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm to the national electricity transmission system. Each component stated in **Table 1.1** above is required for the Scheme to fully function as part of the national electricity transmission system (NETS).

### 1.3 Purpose of this Report

- 1.3.1 This Historic Environment DBA has been prepared in support of the required consent applications for the Scheme and has been informed by engagement between National Grid, Lincolnshire County Council’s Archaeological Advisor to SHDC and Historic England.
- 1.3.2 This appraisal has been produced to support the necessary consent applications required to deliver the Scheme. The assessment considers the Scheme in its entirety. Where the potential impacts and effects of the Scheme are associated with specific components as set out within **Table 1.1**, this is identified within Section 6. This approach enables the relevant consenting authority to readily identify and consider only those impacts and effects that are associated with the application before them, whilst also maintaining a clear understanding of the Scheme in its wider context.
- 1.3.3 This Historic Environment DBA is in compliance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), relevant national legislation, legislative requirements within the adopted local plan, planning policy guidance, and guidance produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA). It describes the Scheme Site Boundary, including the known heritage assets within the Scheme Site Boundary and surrounding study areas, and assesses their significance and how their setting contributes to this significance. It also places the Scheme within the planning framework and identifies how the significance of heritage assets may be affected by the Scheme.
- 1.3.4 The aims of the assessment are:

- 1) To identify designated and non-designated heritage assets within the Scheme Site Boundary and study area, assessing impacts upon their significance including consideration of changes to their setting;
- 2) To identify the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains within the Scheme Site Boundary and study area and the likely significance of previously unrecorded archaeological remains that may be located therein;
- 3) To place the Scheme Site Boundary and study area within its historic/archaeological context through the collection of baseline information; and
- 4) Where relevant, include proposals for further assessment and/or field investigation and subsequent mitigation measures, if necessary.

## **1.4 Structure of the Document**

1.4.1 This Historic Environment DBA is divided into the following sections, with figures and appendices at the end:

- 1) Section 1 introduces the Scheme and scope of the assessment;
- 2) Section 2 provides the legislative and planning policy framework, which also includes an overview of relevant policy and guidance;
- 3) Section 3 outlines the methodology for the assessment and the determination of the study areas;
- 4) Section 4 offers a description of the archaeological and historical background of the Scheme, including known designated and non-designated heritage assets;
- 5) Section 5 evaluates the significance, including how setting contributes to this, of all heritage assets likely to be impacted by the Scheme, as well as assessing the archaeological potential of the Scheme Site Boundary;
- 6) Section 6 assesses the impacts of the Scheme on heritage assets; and
- 7) Section 7 concludes the DBA, outlining the potential impacts on the historic environment and providing recommendations for further evaluation and/or mitigation measures.

## 2. Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1.0 Legislation and national and local planning policy relevant to the Scheme is described in the Planning, Design and Access Statement (TCPA application) and Section 37 Statement (S37 application). Key legislation and policy specifically relevant to the heritage assessment is summarised in the following sections.

### 2.1 Legislation and National Policy

#### The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

2.1.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (Ref 1) is the central piece of legislation that protects the archaeological resource. The first section of the Act requires the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to maintain a schedule of nationally important sites. For the purposes of the Act, a monument is defined as:

*“a) any building, structure or work, whether above or below the surface of the land, and any cave or excavation; b) any site comprising the remains of any such building, structure or work or of any cave or excavation; and c) any site comprising, or comprising the remains of, any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other moveable structure or part thereof which neither constitutes nor forms part of any work which is a monument as defined within paragraph a) above; and any machinery attached to a monument shall be regarded as part of the monument if it could not be detached without being dismantled’ Section 61 (7).*

2.1.2 Section 61 (F353) states that:

2.1.3 *“Subsection (7)(a) above does not apply to any ecclesiastical building for the time being used for ecclesiastical purposes, and subsection (7)(c) above does not apply—*

2.1.4 *(a)to a site comprising any object or its remains unless the situation of that object or its remains in that particular site is a matter of public interest.”*Section 1(3) of the Act gives the Secretary of State the power to include any monument to the list which appear to him/her to be of national importance, while Section 61 (12) further defines an ancient monument as a scheduled monument or one, which, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, is of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching to it.

2.1.5 The Act enacts a requirement to seek Scheduled Monument Consent for any works, including demolition, repair, and alteration, which may affect a scheduled monument or ancient monument of national interest which could be included on the schedule (Section 2 (1-11)).

2.1.6 A set of criteria, defined as survival/condition, period, rarity, fragility/vulnerability, diversity, documentation, group value and potential, assist in the decision-making process as to whether an asset is deemed of national importance and best managed by scheduling.

## Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

- 2.1.7 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (Ref 6) sets out the principal statutory provisions that must be considered in the determination of any application affecting listed buildings and conservation areas.
- 2.1.8 Section 66 of the Act states that in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. By virtue of Section 1(5) of the Act, a listed building includes any object or structure within its curtilage.
- 2.1.9 Section 72 of the Act establishes a general duty on a local planning authority or the Secretary of State with respect to any buildings or other land in a Conservation Area to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a Conservation Area.

## The Hedgerows Regulations (1997)

- 2.1.10 The Hedgerows Regulations, made under section 97 of the Environment Act 1995 (Ref 7), sets out the requirements for the protection of 'important' hedgerows. The Regulations define a hedgerow as 'important' if it has existed for at least 30 years and if it, or the hedgerows with which it is a stretch, satisfies at least one other criterion identified in Schedule 1 Part II pertaining to archaeology and history. These criteria include the following:
- 1) The hedgerow marks the boundary, or part of the boundary, of at least one historic parish or township predating 1850;
  - 2) The hedgerow incorporates an archaeological feature which is either under scheduled protection as per the 1979 Act already discussed, or which has been recorded as a historic monument prior to the Regulations taking effect on 27 March 1997;
  - 3) The hedgerow marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor recorded prior to 27 March 1997 or is visibly related to any building or other feature of such an estate or manor; or
  - 4) The hedgerow is recorded in a document held at a Record Office on 27 March 1997 as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts; and
  - 5) The hedgerow is part of, or visibly related to, any building or other feature associated with such a system, and that system is either substantially complete or recorded as being a key landscape characteristic by the local planning authority prior to 27 March 1997.
- 2.1.11 Other criteria relating to wildlife and landscape are set out in Schedule 1 Part II of the regulation, but these are not within the scope of this Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment.

## 2.2 National Planning Policy

### National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.2.1 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 8) was published in December 2024 and further amended on 7 February 2025 and sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The NPPF requires plans, both strategic and non-strategic, to make provision for the conservation and enhancement of the built and historic environment (paragraphs 20d and 29).
- 2.2.2 Section 16 of the NPPF sets out a series of policies that are a material consideration to be taken into account in development management decisions, in relation to the heritage consent regimes established in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- 2.2.3 The NPPF sets out the importance of being able to assess the significance of heritage assets that may be affected by a development proposal. Significance is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as the *“value of an asset ... because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic”* and can extend to its setting. The setting of a heritage asset is defined in Annex 2 as *“the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve”*.
- 2.2.4 In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset’s importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance (paragraph 207). Similarly, there is a requirement on local planning authorities to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal; and that they should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset (paragraph 208).
- 2.2.5 In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of the following three points:
- 1) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
  - 2) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
  - 3) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness (paragraph 210).
- 2.2.6 Paragraphs 212 to 217 of the NPPF introduce the concept that heritage assets can be harmed or lost through alteration, destruction or development within their setting. This harm ranges from less than substantial through to substantial. With regard to designated assets, paragraph 212 states that great weight should be placed on its conservation, irrespective of whether any potential harm is considered to be substantial or less than substantial. The paragraph goes further to say that the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be on its conservation. In paragraph 213, a distinction is made in respect of those assets of the highest

significance (e.g. scheduled monuments, grade I and grade II\* listed buildings) where substantial harm to or loss should be wholly exceptional.

- 2.2.7 In instances where development would cause substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated asset consent should be refused unless it can be demonstrated that it is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss or any specified circumstances apply (paragraph 214). In instances where development would cause less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated asset the harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal by the decision taker to provide a balanced judgement (paragraph 215).
- 2.2.8 With regard to non-designated assets, paragraph 216 states that the effect of the application on the significance of the asset should be taken into account in determining the application. A balanced judgement by the decision taker will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

## Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

- 2.2.9 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (2019) (Ref 9) provides further advice and guidance that expands the policy outlined in the NPPF (Ref 8). It expands on terms such as 'significance' and its importance in decision making. The PPG clarifies that being able to properly assess the nature, extent and the importance of the significance of the heritage asset and the contribution of its setting, is crucial to understanding the potential impact and acceptability of development proposals (paragraph 007).
- 2.2.10 The PPG states that in relation to setting a thorough assessment of the impact on setting needs to take in to account, and be proportionate to, the significance of the heritage asset under consideration and the degree to which proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance and the ability to appreciate it (paragraph 013).
- 2.2.11 The PPG discusses how to assess if there is substantial harm. It states that what matters in assessing if a proposal causes substantial harm is the impact on the significance of the asset. It is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that is to be assessed: the harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting (paragraph 018).
- 2.2.12 The NPPF indicates that the degree of harm should be considered alongside any public benefits that can be delivered by development. The PPG states that these benefits should flow from the Scheme and should be of a nature and scale to be of benefit to the public and not just a private benefit and would include securing the optimum viable use of an asset in support of its long-term conservation (paragraph 020).

## 2.3 Local Planning Policy

### South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011 – 2036

- 2.3.1 The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011 – 2036 (Ref 10) was adopted in March 2019 to guide development in the area, ensuring that it is implemented in a sustainable manner. New development which helps South East Lincolnshire to mitigate and adapt to climate change must be of a high standard of design. The

design will also protect, conserve and enhance where possible the importance of South East Lincolnshire's important heritage and natural assets, landscapes and townscapes. Owing to the flat landscape, church towers, spires and the remaining traditional windmills are dominant in the landscape so it is important that new development respects these buildings by not undermining their dominance in the landscape and that views of them are maintained (Paragraph 2.5.1).

2.3.2 Policy 29: The Historic Environment outlines the Local Plan's approach to protecting heritage assets and states the following:

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

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

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

#### **A. Listed Buildings...**

*...Proposals that affect the setting of a Listed Building will be supported where they preserve or better reveal the significance of the Listed Building.*

#### **B. Conservation Areas**

*Proposals within, affecting the setting of, or affecting views into or out of, a Conservation Area should preserve (and enhance or reinforce, as appropriate) features that contribute positively to the area's character, appearance and setting. Proposals should:*

- 1) *Retain buildings/groups of buildings, existing street patterns, historic building lines and ground surfaces;*
- 2) *Retain architectural details that contribute to the character and appearance of the area;*
- 3) *Where relevant and practical, remove features which are incompatible with the Conservation Area;*
- 4) *Retain and reinforce local distinctiveness with reference to height, massing, scale, form, materials and plot widths of the existing built environment;*
- 5) *Assess, and mitigate against, any negative impact the proposal might have on the townscape, roofscape, skyline and landscape; and*

6) Aim to protect trees, or where losses are proposed, demonstrate how such losses are appropriately mitigated against.

### **C. Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments**

*Proposals that affect archaeological remains, whether known or potential, designated or non-designated, should take every reasonable step to protect and, where possible, enhance their significance.*

*Planning applications for such development should be accompanied by an appropriate and proportionate assessment to understand the potential for and significance of remains, and the impact of development upon them.*

*If initial assessment does not provide sufficient information, developers will be required to undertake field evaluation in advance of determination of the application. This may include a range of techniques for both intrusive and non-intrusive evaluation, as appropriate to the site.*

*Wherever possible and appropriate, mitigation strategies should ensure the preservation of archaeological remains in-situ. Where this is either not possible or not desirable, provision must be made for preservation by record according to an agreed written scheme of investigation submitted by the developer, undertaken by a suitably qualified person, and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Any work undertaken as part of the planning process must be appropriately archived in a way agreed with the Local Planning Authority...*

### **... F. Development Proposals**

*Where a development proposal would affect the significance of a heritage asset (whether designated or non-designated), including any contribution made to its setting, it should be informed by proportionate historic environment assessments and evaluations (such as heritage impact assessments, desk-based appraisals, field evaluation and historic building reports) that:*

- 1) identify all heritage assets likely to be affected by the proposal;*
- 2) explain the nature and degree of any effect on elements that contribute to their significance and demonstrating how, in order of preference, any harm will be avoided, minimised or mitigated;*
- 3) provide a clear explanation and justification for the proposal in order for the harm to be weighed against public benefits; and*
- 4) demonstrate that all reasonable efforts have been made to sustain the existing use, find new uses, or mitigate the extent of the harm to the significance of the asset; and whether the works proposed are the minimum required to secure the long term use of the asset."*

## **2.4 Relevant Guidance**

### **Historic England Guidance**

- 2.4.1 Historic England has published a series of Good Practice Advice (GPA) and Advice Notes of which those of most relevance to this appraisal are GPA2 - Managing Significance in Decision-taking (Ref 12), GPA3 - The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (Ref 11) and Advice Note 12 – Statements of Heritage Significance (Ref 13).

- 2.4.2 GPA2 emphasises the importance of having a knowledge and understanding of the significance of heritage assets likely to be affected by the development and that the “*first step for all applicants is to understand the significance of any affected heritage asset and, if relevant the contribution of its setting to its significance*” (paragraph 4). Early knowledge of this information is also useful to a local planning authority in pre-application engagement with an applicant and ultimately in decision making (paragraph 7).
- 2.4.3 GPA3 provides advice on the setting of heritage assets. Setting is as defined in the NPPF and comprises the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Elements of a setting can make positive or negative contributions to the significance of an asset and affect the ways in which it is experienced. Historic England state that setting does not have a boundary and what comprises an asset’s setting may change as the asset and its surrounding evolve. Setting can be extensive and particularly in urban areas or extensive landscapes can overlap with other assets. The contribution of setting to the significance of an asset is often expressed by reference to views and the GPA in paragraph 11 identifies those views, such as those that were designed or those that were intended, that contribute to understanding the significance of assets.
- 2.4.4 Advice Note 12 outlines a recommended approach to assessing the significance of heritage assets in line with the requirements of NPPF. It includes a suggested reporting structure for a ‘Statement of Heritage Significance’, as well as guidance on creating a statement that is proportionate to the asset’s significance (heritage value) and the potential degree of impact of a proposed development.

## Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Principles of Cultural Heritage Assessment in the UK

- 2.4.5 Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK (Ref 14) is a guide to good practice in cultural heritage impact assessment published jointly by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)<sup>1</sup>, the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The document provides guidance on understanding cultural heritage assets and evaluating the consequences of change.
- 2.4.6 Understanding cultural heritage assets is split into three stages: Description, Significance and Importance. The description arrives at a factual statement that establishes the nature of the asset. The heritage values of the asset are then analysed (the guidance stresses that these include but are not limited to aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual values) and a statement of cultural significance given. Finally, the importance of the asset is assessed, and a conclusion drawn as to the level of protection that the asset merits in planning policy and cultural heritage legislation. The guidance notes that unlike cultural significance, importance is scaled and can be described as high, medium or low.
- 2.4.7 The process of evaluating the consequences of change is split into three stages: Understanding change; Assessing impact; and Weighting the effect. All aspects of a proposal that have the ability to change a cultural heritage asset or its setting are first explained. If these changes affect the cultural significance of the asset, the resulting impact (which could be positive or negative) and its magnitude is then assessed. The

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<sup>1</sup> The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) was rebranded to be known as Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professions (ISEP) in July 2025

effect is a combination of the magnitude of the impact and the cultural heritage asset's importance, and the scale of the effect will determine by how much the issue should influence the design of the proposal and whether the proposal is acceptable and will be permitted.

## Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Guidance

- 2.4.8 This desk-based assessment has been carried out in accordance with guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), specifically, the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (2020) (Ref 16) and the Code of Conduct; Professional Ethics in Archaeology (CIfA 2025) (Ref 15). The CIfA Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (2020) sets out the guidelines for heritage professionals, consultants and archaeological companies aiming to provide clear and consistent guidelines to approaching the drafting and submission of desk-based assessments.
- 2.4.9 The CIfA Code of Conduct (2025) sets out the general standard of conduct to which members of CIfA are expected to adhere to.

## Lincolnshire County Council

- 2.4.10 Lincolnshire County Council produced the Archaeology Handbook (revised 2024) (Ref 17) to set out guidelines for planners, developers, consultants and archaeological contractors, aiming to ensure a consistent approach to the historic environment is followed throughout the planning process. This Historic Environment DBA has taken note of the guidance provided and been produced in accordance with the handbook.

# 3. Assessment Methodology

## 3.1 Study Area

- 3.1.1 For establishing the heritage baseline, two study areas have been used which are considered proportionate applying professional judgment. A study area of 1 km from the boundary of the Scheme Site Boundary was considered suitable for non-designated heritage assets (hereafter the 1 km Study Area), whilst a wider study area of 2 km was deemed appropriate for designated heritage assets (the 2 km Study Area), due to the flat topography of the Fens which offers far-reaching views. These Study Areas have been defined so that the archaeological potential of the area, the setting of heritage assets and their geographical extent can be identified, within the context of the Scheme Site Boundary and the Scheme.
- 3.1.2 All identified designated heritage assets are detailed in gazetteer tables in Appendix A, with non-designated heritage assets set out in gazetteer tables in Appendix B. The extent of the 2 km Study Area and location of designated heritage assets are illustrated on **Figure 2**, while extent of the 1 km Study Area and location of non-designated heritage assets provided by the Lincolnshire HER are shown on **Figure 3**. The location of Identified Heritage Assets are shown on **Figure 4**, whilst previous archaeological events (including excavations, archaeological monitoring and recording (watching brief), geophysical surveys and trial trench evaluations) is illustrated on **Figure 5**.
- 3.1.3 Designated heritage assets are referenced with their National Heritage List for England (NHLE) reference number (e.g. NHLE 1010947), whilst non-designated heritage assets are referenced using their Historic Environment Record (HER) unique identifier number (e.g. MLI240 for Lincolnshire). Non-designated heritage assets identified by this assessment that are not yet recorded on the HER (e.g. possible archaeological remains identified by geophysical survey), have been assigned a unique identifier using an AEC prefix (e.g. AEC500). All heritage asset references are highlighted in bold throughout this appraisal.

## 3.2 Data and Information Sources

- 3.2.1 The following sources have been consulted in preparation of the heritage baseline:
- 1) Lincolnshire HER;
  - 2) Historic England's NHLE for designated assets;
  - 3) Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation;
  - 4) Lincolnshire Archives, Lincoln;
  - 5) Local Planning Authority Plans, Guidance and Lists;
  - 6) Historic Ordnance Survey and pre-Ordnance Survey mapping from online archives and the National Library of Scotland (NLS);
  - 7) Aerial Photograph and LiDAR Assessment;

- 8) Geophysical Survey Report;
- 9) British Geological Survey (BGS) Geology of Britain Viewer;
- 10) Databases containing historic environment desk-based assessments or archaeological investigation reports from adjacent schemes, including the Archaeological Data Service;
- 11) Various documentary and internet sources, including East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework; and
- 12) A walkover survey to review known heritage assets and identify potential unknown heritage assets.

### 3.3 Assessment of Previous Ground Disturbance

3.3.1 The previous impact to buried archaeological remains caused by historic development or agricultural activity has been assessed using a five-point scale of 'very high', 'high', 'medium', 'low' and 'very low', the definitions of which are set out below in **Table 3.1**.

Table 3.1 Level of Previous Ground Disturbance

Magnitude of previous disturbance	Description
Very High	Deep level basement/sub-basement excavated into the underlying natural geology resulting in the removal of all subsurface archaeological deposits.
High	Extensive and deep disturbance resulting in the removal of all but the deepest archaeological deposits such as wells or quarry pits, deep foundations, quarrying and large utilities.
Medium	Moderate previous disturbance which may extend to some depth, but where there remains the potential for archaeological remains to survive either between or beneath existing impact levels such as building foundations and utility trenches.
Low	Shallow previous disturbance such as areas of car parking and surfacing where archaeological remains may survive with limited truncation beneath the level of impact.
Very Low	No known historic development impacts to subsurface archaeological remains. Potential for the survival of archaeological horizons from Prehistory to the Post-medieval period.

## 3.4 Assessment of Archaeological Potential

- 3.4.1 Archaeological potential assesses the possibility that unrecorded archaeological remains may exist within the Scheme Site Boundary in addition to the known archaeological resource identified in the baseline. Assessment of the potential of archaeological remains within the Scheme Site Boundary is made based on three factors:
- 1) An assessment of the potential for archaeological deposits to exist within the Scheme Site Boundary based on the collation of the results from desk-based research to inform the historic environment baseline;
  - 2) An assessment of the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits within the Scheme Site Boundary based on an evaluation of previous archaeological investigations; and
  - 3) An assessment of the extent and depth of previous ground disturbance as a result of historic activity or previous development within the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 3.4.2 The potential for an area to contain archaeological remains is rated ‘high’, ‘medium’, ‘low’, ‘negligible’, or ‘unknown’. This rating is based on an understanding of the archaeological resource as a whole and takes into account its national, regional and local context. The rating also considers the number and proximity of known and predicted archaeological/historical sites or find spots within the Scheme Site Boundary and the surrounding study areas. The potential for unrecorded archaeological remains to exist within the Scheme Site Boundary has been determined by professional judgement, guided by an assessment of the existing cultural heritage resource and the impact of previous modern development or ground disturbance within the Scheme Site Boundary.

## 3.5 Assessment of Heritage Significance

- 3.5.1 An assessment of the significance of heritage assets, including any contribution made by their setting, has been undertaken in line with the principles outlined by the NPPF and in consideration of guidance issued by Historic England.
- 3.5.2 The NPPF (Annex 2: Glossary) (Ref 8) defines significance as:
- “the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting.”*
- 3.5.3 Historic England Advice Note 12 (Ref 13) offers an interpretation of the various heritage interests that an asset can possess, based on the terms provided in the NPPF Glossary as follows:
- “Archaeological Interest – there will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or has the potential to hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point;*
- Architectural and Artistic Interest – these are interests in the design or general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and*

*decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skills, such as sculpture; and*

*Historic Interest – an interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation’s history but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.”*

3.5.4 Where known heritage assets are identified, the heritage significance of such assets is determined by reference to existing designations weighed by consideration of the potential for the asset to demonstrate its heritage interests against the criteria set out in Historic England Advice Note 12. Heritage assets are also assessed on an individual basis and regional variations and individual qualities are taken into account where applicable. Significance can therefore be categorised as follows based on the sum of the asset’s interests:

- 1) ‘Exceptional’ for heritage assets of nationally, and possibly internationally, important assets (such as scheduled monuments and grade I and grade II\* heritage assets);
- 2) ‘Considerable’ for heritage assets of regional importance (such as grade II heritage assets);
- 3) ‘Some’ for heritage assets with local importance (such as non-designated heritage assets, but these may be deemed of more importance due to group value or archaeological potential);
- 4) ‘Negligible’ where the interests of an asset make little contribution to significance; and
- 5) ‘Neutral or negative’ where the interests make no contribution or detract from the significance.

3.5.5 Assessment also needs to take into consideration the contribution that an asset’s setting makes to its significance, which is defined in the NPPF as the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. The extent of a setting does not have a fixed boundary and can alter as the heritage asset and the surroundings evolve or extend due to a new understanding of the relationship between neighbouring assets. Setting does not therefore have significance itself, as it either contributes to or detracts from the significance of a heritage asset. The impacts from the Scheme can alter or change the setting of a heritage asset, which can affect the significance of the asset.

3.5.6 Where a heritage asset is impacted by the Scheme, then the resultant harm may be substantial or less than substantial upon its significance.

## **3.6 Consultation**

3.6.1 The Scheme was consulted as part of a Targeted Consultation conducted in November and December 2025.

3.6.2 A consultation response was received from Historic England via email on 19/12/2025 regarding the Scheme design and potential impacts to designated heritage assets. They noted that the new Weston Marsh Substation A is proposed as an Air-Insulated Substation which will reduce visual impacts. However, they highlighted the potential harm to the setting of the Wykeham Chapel: a moated monastic grange and retreat

house (NHLE 1019096) and the associated grade I listed Chapel of St Nicholas (NHLE 1064471). The views from the access route to the Chapel of St Nicholas and beyond to the east, and the views from within the Chapel through the east window were of note. Historic England encouraged opportunities for micro-siting, including through the rhythm of the pylon placement to reduce the impact of the pylons within these views.

- 3.6.3 Historic England also highlighted the importance to consider both direct and indirect impacts on the historic environment when burying underground cables. Indirect impacts may include changes to the water environment that could lead to the degradation of preserved organic archaeological remains (where present). To mitigate this risk, they emphasise the importance of scheduling archaeological investigations such as geoarchaeological baselines and field surveys. This is seen as particularly critical where remains may include deposits such as peat, which can serve as significant reservoirs of palaeoenvironmental information.
- 3.6.4 A consultation response was received from Lincolnshire County Council, as historic environment advisors to SHDC, via email on 24/12/2025, regarding the methodology proposed to assess and mitigate impact to the historic environment. Lincolnshire County Council was generally pleased with the approach taken and the commitment to undertake sufficient evaluation, including fieldwork to adequately assess the archaeological potential. Regarding known heritage assets, Lincolnshire County Council highlighted the importance of not assessing heritage assets in isolation, instead ensuring that historical and spatial relationships between heritage assets are included in all assessments. In particular, they noted relationships between historic farmsteads, the system of manorial moated sites and any association with Crowland Abbey/Spalding Priory, and the sequential experience of heritage assets along droves, lanes and drainage banks.
- 3.6.5 Lincolnshire County Council also emphasised that further infrastructure is likely to alter the way heritage receptors and their setting are experienced and requests that cumulative impacts are also assessed. Owing to the flat topography of the area which allows for long-distance visibility, they also suggest that a Zone of Theoretical Visibility is used to identify any high-value heritage assets beyond the defined Study Areas.
- 3.6.6 Further advice was received from Lincolnshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor to SHDC on 09/04/2026. The advice noted the previously submitted Environmental Summary Report and a need to provide further site-specific information detailing the archaeological potential of the site and potential impacts to buried archaeological remains arising from the Scheme. A recommendation was also made for application to be accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed permanent substation including any connections, and that the Heritage Impact Assessment be informed by Geophysics Survey, Geoarchaeological Assessment and Trial Trench Archaeological Evaluation.
- 3.6.7 Engagement in response to the advice received from Lincolnshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor to SHDC was undertaken by telephone and an online meeting on 16/04/2026 and 20/04/2026 respectively. During the engagement the Scheme and the results of the desk-based research, aerial photographic, geoarchaeological and geophysical surveys evidence collated to inform the impact assessment provided in this Historic Environment DBA were discussed. The discussion noted that the Lincolnshire Fens can be a complex landscape and the inclusion of LiDAR data and the results of the geoarchaeological monitoring work

was welcomed. The need to consider potential impacts to deeply buried archaeological deposits if piling were required as a foundation solution was noted. With regard to the ongoing geophysical surveys and lack of trial trench evaluation within the site, while the difficulties of land access and crop cover were acknowledged, the LCC Archaeological Advisor noted that while post-consent trial trenching is possible pre-determination trial trench evaluation would normally be expected for a Scheme of this type.

## **3.7 Limitations and Assumptions**

3.7.1 A number of assumptions and limitations have influenced the assessment presented in this Historic Environment DBA. These are:

- 1) Only partial coverage of the Scheme has been achieved by geophysical surveys which are ongoing at the time of writing. This is due to limitations caused by land access, crop constraints and waterlogged ground conditions. As a result, there remains potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to survive within those parts of the Scheme Site Boundary that have not yet been surveyed;
- 2) Delays to the programme of geophysical survey has pushed back the commencement of the trial trench evaluation within the Scheme Site Boundary. Consequently, the assessment of the heritage significance of some archaeological assets has been restricted to evidence available at the time of writing;
- 3) The assessment has relied upon data and records provided by third parties, and therefore it has been assumed that this information is accurate and up to date at the time of reporting; and
- 4) The assessment has been undertaken using the available designs for each element of the Scheme and the maximum likely extents of land required for its construction, operation and maintenance.

## 4. Historic Environment Baseline

### 4.1 Geology and Topography

#### Geology

- 4.1.1 Records held by the BGS indicate that the Scheme Site Boundary is located on Oxford Clay Formation of mudstone (Ref 18). These sedimentary rocks formed in shallow-marine conditions, approximately 154.8 to 161.5 million years ago, during the Jurassic Period and range from coarse to fine-grained forming interbedded sequences. To the south east of the Study Area, approximately 1 km south east of much of the Scheme Site Boundary and 130 m from an access track leading to Weston, the bedrock is comprised of West Walton Formation of mudstone and siltstone (*ibid.*). Across the entirety of the Scheme Site Boundary, the bedrock is overlain by superficial tidal flat deposits of clay and silt (*ibid.*). These sedimentary deposits are shallow-marine in origin and generally coarse-grained forming beaches and bars in a coastal setting. This sediment was deposited across the Fenland Basin when the sea levels rose during the Holocene and, whilst tidal flat deposits are of low geoarchaeological potential, they may mask deposits of higher potential, typically overlaying peat deposits across much of the Fenland Basin (Ref 19). Loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats are present on the surface which are naturally high in groundwater and conducive for agricultural practices (Ref 20).

#### Topography

- 4.1.2 The Scheme Site Boundary is located in National Character Area 46 - The Fens, which extends across southern Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. The Fens are characterised by low-lying, flat and expansive landscape, with wide views to the horizon, which is largely comprised of agricultural land, some of which has been reclaimed by successive periods of artificial drainage since the early medieval period (Ref 23). The Scheme Site Boundary lies within such an area, having undergone consolidated reclamation efforts since the medieval period, evidenced by a number of sea banks surviving as earthworks and cropmarks across the Study Area. A series of drainage channels also cross the Scheme Site Boundary which are crucial to maintaining the arable land; the most major of these being Lord's Drain which crosses the Scheme Site Boundary in the east.
- 4.1.3 Despite the Scheme Site Boundary being located within the valley of the River Welland, the river system provides little topographic variation. The Scheme Site Boundary is located across low-lying reclaimed marshland, which ranges from 3 m to 6 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Spalding, located approximately 1.8 km south of the Scheme Site Boundary in the west, and Weston, located approximately 200 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary in the east, are also located on low-lying land which does not exceed the elevation of 6 m aOD.

#### Landscape Development and Geoarchaeological Context

- 4.1.4 Whilst human activity has influenced the modern landscape, natural forces have also spent millennia defining it. The Scheme Site Boundary is located on a coastline

which has seen significant periods of marine transgression and regression which has resulted in complex and thick sequences of interchanging alluvium and peat, covering deeply buried ancient land surfaces (Ref 24). During the Pleistocene epoch, Britain experienced repeated Glacial cycles. Geoarchaeological research has suggested that no pre-Anglian Pleistocene sediments are likely to be present across the Study Areas (Ref 19). This is due to the ice sheets that were present during the Anglian glaciation (MIS 12, 478 ka – 424 ka) effectively excavating the soft Mesozoic bedrock and superficial deposits which overlaid it, causing continual erosion which resulted in the formation of the Fenland Basin (*ibid.*). This erosion included the loss of one of the great Pleistocene Rivers which is thought to have flowed through Spalding and drained into the sea at Pakefield in Suffolk, approximately 130 km from the Scheme Site Boundary (Ref 25).

- 4.1.5 The Hoxnian interglacial (MIS 11, 424 ka – 374 ka) saw the River Proto-Soar formed, which would have represented a major river crossing the Fenland Basin, with the mouth at the Wash (Ref 25). Following the retreat of the ice sheets, at the end of the Wolstonian (MIS 6, 191 ka – 130 ka), the River Proto-Soar no longer crossed the Fenland Basin (*ibid.*).
- 4.1.6 Preserved palaeoenvironmental and sedimentological evidence dated to the Ipswichian interglacial (MIS 5e, ~123 ka) suggest that the Fenland Basin experienced afforestation and a shift from braided rivers to meandering rivers during the early Ipswichian, before becoming a more open environment during the later Ipswichian (Ref 19). This however would have been largely eroded by an ice sheet which covered Lincolnshire and Norfolk during the Devensian (MIS 5d-2, ~109 ka – 14 ka). Whilst it is disputed whether there was a singular glacial advance or multiple events, it is largely agreed that The Wash was the southern limit of the glacier. The Wash itself was covered by an ice lobe, known as the North Sea Lobe (Ref 26).
- 4.1.7 At the onset of the Holocene, approximately 11,700 Before Present (BP), sea-levels began to rise which transformed the Fenland Basin into a resource-rich wetland environment (Ref 27). This wetland environment was connected to mainland Europe by the lowland plain of Doggerland. From about 8,000 BP, during the Mesolithic, sea-levels were c. 17.0 m below current levels, leading to the widespread development of floodplains with the formation of biogenic sediments (alluvium and peat) (Ref 19). However, the warming of the climate continued and as such so did glacial melt, which led to a continued rapid sea-level rise which saw much of Doggerland drowned, becoming the bottom of the North Sea, by approximately 6,000 BP. The low-lying coastal areas of Britain, including the Scheme Site Boundary, were transformed into saltmarsh environments, and marine transgression continued through the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods, with much of the area of the coastal fenlands eventually inundated by the Bronze Age 3,500 BP (Ref 27). This inundation saw much of the Fenland Basin, including the area in which the Scheme Site Boundary is situated, covered by a large tidal estuary, which comprised the initial extent of The Wash. This area would only truly have been accessible during periods of marine regression, which began to occur once sea levels stabilised at the end of the Neolithic period (Ref 28).
- 4.1.8 A number of research papers have been published attempting to reconstruct the coastline and intertidal limits of the Fenland Basin and The Wash during the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the most recent being Green (Ref 29; Ref 30; Ref 31) who used BGS mapping data and other sources for the reconstruction. Other research has focussed on the dating of saltern sites and analysis of clustering to decipher where the limits of land use were in each period (Ref 32). Both approaches appear to provide

comparable conclusions, with the late prehistoric coastline located to the north and west of the River Welland. In the Roman period, much of the Scheme Site Boundary is thought to have been submerged, however, the most south easterly section may have been located on the coastline of the estuary. Concerted efforts to reclaim The Wash have been taking place since the early medieval period, by the end of which, the coastline had moved to the confluence of the River Welland and River Glen, approximately 750 m north west of the Scheme Site Boundary, meaning the coastline likely intersected it. Efforts continued into the medieval and post-medieval periods, with the largest proportion occurring in the 14th to 18th centuries (Ref 33). Since the 17th century, systematic drainage of the area has occurred and subsequently, the peat has dried significantly and caused widespread subsidence. Due to the shrinkage of the peat deposits, roddons (alluvial palaeochannel deposits) are now much more prominent within the landscape (Ref 27). As such, the Scheme Site Boundary is crossed by a significant number of palaeochannels which are likely to contain these deposits and may preserve other palaeoenvironmental data (AEC538). Peat deposits and possible buried roddon deposits were identified by a geoarchaeological monitoring of ground investigations undertaken for the Grimsby to Walpole Project within the footprint of the new Weston Marsh Substation A and can be expected to extend into other areas of the Scheme Site Boundary.

- 4.1.9 The Scheme Site Boundary is located within a landscape which has seen significant transformation as a result of glacial cycles in the Pleistocene, periods of marine transgression and regression during the Holocene and human reclamation efforts which has resulted in the formation of a complex and thick stratigraphy (Ref 24). The identification of buried peat and roddon deposits within the footprint of the new Weston Marsh Substation A, as discussed in Paragraph 4.1.1, highlights the possibility of buried prehistoric and later land surfaces, as well as palaeoenvironmental remains to survive in this area, including the wider Scheme Site Boundary. These deposits hold the potential to increase understanding of the changing geology and geomorphology of the landscape, and how this impacted human land use.

## 4.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 4.2.1 A total of 22 previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the 1 km Study Area (Appendix C; Figure 5), four of which were located partially within the Scheme Site Boundary. These investigations were all related to the construction of a high-pressure gas pipeline which crosses the Scheme Site Boundary north east to south west, which forms part of the Spalding Power Connection. The methods of investigation included a walkover survey (ELI9314), a watching brief conducted during topsoil stripping (ELI9378), as well as trial trenching and test pitting (ELI12945), none of which revealed archaeological finds or features. A systematic fieldwalking survey (ELI4354) was also undertaken, during which a considerable number of post-medieval finds were identified along the entire 7.9 km length of the proposed pipeline.
- 4.2.2 The majority of archaeological investigations have been conducted within the village of Weston and along the bypass. Prior to the construction of the bypass, a programme of fieldwalking was completed, approximately 125 m to the south of the Scheme Site Boundary (ELI1019). Nineteen trial trenches were subsequently opened along the bypass which revealed Roman deposits at the western end and late early medieval and medieval activity near Saint Mary's Church (ELI9013). Three areas of open excavation were also investigated, within which early medieval to medieval

deposits were recorded (ELI9015, ELI9016, ELI9017). These findings indicate that the village of Weston has been a centre of activity since the Roman period and likely settled since at least the early medieval period.

- 4.2.3 Within the village of Weston, a walkover survey was completed approximately 180 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary to assess the ground conditions and identify archaeological remains (ELI1880). This was followed by a magnetometry survey which identified no anomalies (ELI1886, ELI1888). Approximately 230 m to the south of the Scheme Site Boundary, the remains of two probable ditches were recorded, one of which ran parallel to the alignment of the adjacent road. It was thought possible that the ditches relate to late early medieval and medieval remains previously found to the north of Weston, although no finds were recovered, and both features remain undated (ELI12470). A trial trenching excavation just south of this identified no further archaeological deposits of significance (ELI9273), nor did another directly to the north (ELI13426). However, immediately to the east of these investigations, magnetic anomalies thought to represent former palaeochannels were recorded, along with the remains of a ditch and possible enclosure of unknown date (ELI12881).
- 4.2.4 At the southern extent of the village, approximately 890 m to the south of the Scheme Site Boundary, a site visit noted no archaeological finds or features, whilst a fluxgate gradiometer survey noted a singular probable pit feature (ELI12577, ELI12578).
- 4.2.5 A programme of monitoring was completed approximately 810 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary at St. Lambert's Hall (ELI4350), at a site to the north of Weston. The results of this monitoring are not recorded in the HER. The final three investigations are reports following the observation and recording of built heritage assets all of which are located beyond 500 m of the Scheme Site Boundary, namely the methodist chapel on High Road (ELI11879), a pillbox at St. Lambert's Hall (ELI13092) and The Ship Inn (ELI5709).

## **4.3 Archaeological Investigations undertaken within the Scheme Site Boundary**

### **Geophysical Survey**

- 4.3.1 A programme of geophysical survey, comprising detailed gradiometry, is being undertaken within the Scheme Site Boundary. At the time of writing the surveys are still ongoing with interim results available for fields in the eastern and central parts of the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 4.3.2 The interim results from the fields completed to date have identified four linear features within the survey area. Three linear features - WM.4000 (AEC514), WM.4001 (AEC564) and WM.4002 (AEC565) - were identified on a north east to south west alignment, measuring approximately 1-2m in width and extending for 200m. Due to their location adjacent to current field boundaries, these have been interpreted as former post-medieval field boundaries.
- 4.3.3 Linear anomaly WM.4003 has been interpreted as a modern service which corresponds with a known gas main.
- 4.3.4 A series of sinuous water channels were also identified during the geophysical survey. These are the same undated watercourses identified during the LiDAR and aerial photography assessment and have been identified as AEC538.

- 4.3.5 The geophysical survey has identified two probable field boundaries (AEC564, AEC565), whilst the third field boundary identified corresponds with one already noted during the aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment (AEC514).

## Aerial Photograph and LiDAR Assessment

- 4.3.6 An aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment undertaken for the Grimsby to Walpole DCO Project (Ref 35) has provided coverage of the new Weston Marsh Substation A and 1 km Study Area, aiming to identify, map and interpret previously unknown archaeological features in the form of cropmarks, soilmarks and earthworks, and provides coverage of the Scheme Site Boundary and the 1 km Study Area. The results of this assessment are presented in **Figure 4**.
- 4.3.7 The northern half of the 1 km Study Area lies seaward of the former coastline of The Wash, which is marked by the sea bank previously known as 'Roman Bank' (MLI98445). This sea bank crosses the Scheme Site Boundary, running west from Moulton Seas End and probably has origins in the early medieval rather than the Roman period (Ref 36). Approximately 20 additional features interpreted as sea defences were noted within the 1 km Study Area, all of which lie to the north of the 'Roman Bank' (MLI98445) (AEC534), including one which is aligned north south and appears to have connected to the 'Roman Bank' and as such may form part of the same heritage asset (AEC535). The majority of these survive as cropmarks, however, a small number situated around Wraggmarsh Farmhouse (NHLE 1147603), to the north east of the Scheme Site Boundary, survive as vestigial earthworks. The cropmark of a sea defence was also noted crossing the northern section of the Scheme Site Boundary directly south of the River Welland (AEC533, AEC560). Another possible cropmark of a sea defence crosses the Scheme Site Boundary to the south east of Welland House Farm (AEC529). Both of the aforementioned run from east to west and may be the remains of successive land reclamation schemes. The reclamation of the land between the 'Roman Bank' and the River Welland post-dates the early medieval period and as such, it was found that it is unlikely that any of the cropmarks, soilmarks or earthworks identified in this area predate the early medieval period.
- 4.3.8 A single possible sea defence was noted directly south of the 'Roman Bank', aligned north south, located approximately 50 m to the west of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC536). The field in which this feature is located contains several low mounds and ridges, which are likely the remains of salt workings. It is perhaps more likely related to salt-making given its form and the presence of a notable number of saltern sites identified by this appraisal (AEC023, AEC530, AEC531, AEC532).
- 4.3.9 A number of additional banks have been noted across the 1 km Study Area, thought to represent historic boundaries rather than sea defences. These include: a singular bank approximately 260 m to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC502); two parallel banks intersected by the road, Hall Gate, which are located 375 m to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC503); a bank flanked by ditches, located approximately 20 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC504), which is perpendicular with a parish boundary bank, between Weston and Moulton parishes, located 25 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC506); two parallel boundary banks situated 840 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC505); and a series of aligned ditches and banks which cross into the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary (AEC507).

- 4.3.10 Also, between the sea bank and the River Welland, many of which cross the Scheme Site Boundary, there are complex patterns of sinuous and intercutting cropmarks and soilmarks (AEC538). These indicate former watercourses, probably inter-tidal marsh creeks that were active before the land was reclaimed and may preserve paleoenvironmental data.
- 4.3.11 There are a small number of cropmarks of uncertain origin between the sea bank and the River Welland, which includes a ditch located within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary (AEC512), a cluster of pits located 20 m south west of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC524), a partial curvilinear enclosure located approximately 45 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC509) and a complete curvilinear enclosure within the Substation Works Site Boundary (AEC508). The origin of the curvilinear enclosure is uncertain, but it is unlikely to be of pre-medieval date. It measures approximately 40m in diameter. This cropmark appears on air photos taken in three different years.
- 4.3.12 At least 5 circular features, two of which intersect the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary and S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary (AEC525), and two other circular enclosures located approximately 310 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC526) have been noted. The five circular features are only visible on one recent occasion, the other two are only visible on aerial photographs taken in 1971. Those in the larger group range in diameter from 7 m to 14 m; the others are 9 m in diameter; in both cases the cropmarks are faint and narrow. These cropmarks resemble the ‘fen circles’ first reported by Derrick Riley in 1946. A distribution map published by Wilson in 1978 suggested that, as a type, the fen circles were mostly confined to the silt fen, although other factors may have influenced their visibility. In 2019 a large group of fen circles was excavated at Wisbech St Mary; there was evidence that they may have been constructed over a long period of time: from the 12th or 13th century and up to the early 19th century. It is possible, though not certain, that they were drip gullies around open stores of crops (Ref 37).
- 4.3.13 Directly east of the River Welland, approximately 920 m to the west of the Scheme Site Boundary, a now demolished farmstead was identified on aerial photographs (AEC516). It was extant in 1946 but has since been demolished. This is also the case with four roads or trackways which now survive as cropmarks. The first intersects the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary to the west of Marsh Road (AEC527), the second intersects with the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, S37 2WS Overhead Line Works and Substation Works Site Boundaries at Stone Gate (AEC537), the third is located approximately 455 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC522), whilst the fourth is located approximately 910 m to the north east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC528). The roads and farmstead are all thought to be of post-medieval origin.
- 4.3.14 According to the definition provided for other Scheduled examples on Lincolnshire Fenland, dylings are “medieval fields on the siltlands of the Fens and comprise blocks of strips of cultivated land which were often bordered by droves and dykes. These strips were separated by ditches and were broader than those of the ‘ridge and furrow’ system which is more typical of the uplands. They also differed in that they were ploughed flat, rather than ridged.” In the 1 km Study Area there are possible dylings visible on the land between the village of Weston and Wykeham Chapel, in some areas intersecting with the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, S37 2WS Overhead Line Works and Substation Works Site Boundaries (AEC515). No dylings were observed between the ‘Roman Bank’ (MLI98445) and the River Welland. One possible example of ridge and furrow was also identified to the north of

Weston which also intersects with the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, S37 2WS Overhead Line Works and Substation Works Site Boundaries (AEC501).

- 4.3.15 Possibly related to later phases of agricultural practices, approximately 32 drainage ditches, 21 field boundaries and 12 field boundaries or drainage ditches have been noted dispersed widely across the 1 km Study Area (AEC513, AEC520, AEC521). Across the entire Scheme Site Boundary itself, three ditches (AEC510, AEC511, AEC514) and three field boundaries (AEC517, AEC518, AEC519) have been identified by the Aerial Photographic and LiDAR assessment. These have all been dated to the post-medieval period.

## Geoarchaeological Monitoring of Ground Investigations

- 4.3.16 Geoarchaeological monitoring of ground investigations for the Grimsby to Walpole Project was undertaken during January and February 2025 (Ref. 18). The monitoring works included several boreholes and test pits within the footprint of the new Weston Marsh A substation and wider area.
- 4.3.17 The geoarchaeological monitoring recorded a deposit sequence of deep, sand facies tidal flat deposits recorded in BH401, BH402 and BH403 (Plate 1) down to a depth of approximately 13.5m to 14m bgl. The tidal deposits included bands of lenticular sandy silts and silty sands and broadly coarsens as the deposit increases in depth. The deposits contains a high proportion of shell inclusions, with the amount of shell increasing with the depth of the deposit.
- 4.3.18 The ground investigations identified basal peat deposits of geoarchaeological interest between 13.5m and 15.25m below ground level (bgl), with the overlying Holocene sequence and underlying Pleistocene sequence being of lower geoarchaeological interest (Ref 21). Basal peats were identified in borehole BH401 between 13.5-13.63m bgl and overlain by pervasively shelly peaty clays from 13.4-13.5m bgl – that may be correlated with a palaeochannel cutting the basal peat (roddon deposit). Pseudofibrous to fibrous well compacted basal peats were identified in a second borehole, BH403, between 13.7-13.85m, underlain by organic sandy clay with compressed fibrous plant material from 13.85m-14m bgl. Subvertical rooting was noted from 14-14.7m bgl. No peat was encountered in a third borehole, BH402, with sandy tidal flat deposits being seen until 15.8m bgl.
- 4.3.19 Underlying the basal peat deposits were deposits of sandy gravels, with flint, and rare quartz and mudstone inclusions, which were observed in BH401, BH402 and BH403. These were interpreted as high-energy coastal gravels such as barrier graves or storm beach deposits.
- 4.3.20 Underlying the sandy gravel deposits in all three boreholes was a glacial till dated to the Pleistocene period. The glacial till deposits were recorded at a depth of 15.25m in BH401, 7.9m bgl in BH402 and 15.2m bgl in BH403. The glacial till was recorded as similar to East Anglian- tills such as Lowestoft Till but is associated with Wolstonian tills such as Tottenham Ice Lobe.
- 4.3.21 The glacial till deposits overlaid an Oxford Clay bedrock in all three boreholes, identified at a depth of 24.75mbgl in BH401, 24.25m bgl in BH402 and 25m bgl in BH403.

## Conclusions

- 4.3.22 The sand facies tidal flat deposits are of low palaeoenvironmental interest and of low to medium geoarchaeological interest. There is potential for archaeological features dating between the medieval and modern periods, to be recorded within the upper deposits of the sand facies tidal flat deposits. These have been identified during the geophysical survey and AP and LiDAR assessment in this DBA (Paragraphs 4.3.1 to 4.3.15).
- 4.3.23 The basal peat and associated peaty clays are of geoarchaeological interest and palaeoenvironmental potential (Ref 22). Basal peats elsewhere within the Fen Basin have been dated to provide a timeline of Holocene sea level change.
- 4.3.24 Gravelly sands and sandy gravels, dominated by flint, with rare quartz and mudstone were also encountered in all three boreholes beneath the aforementioned sedimentary deposits. This gravel is of geoarchaeological interest but low palaeoenvironmental potential (ibid).
- 4.3.25 The glacial till deposits were identified below the gravelly sand and sandy gravel deposits and are of low palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological interest.
- 4.3.26 It is likely that the geological sequences observed extend beyond the footprint of the new Weston Marsh Substation A into other areas of the Scheme Site Boundary.

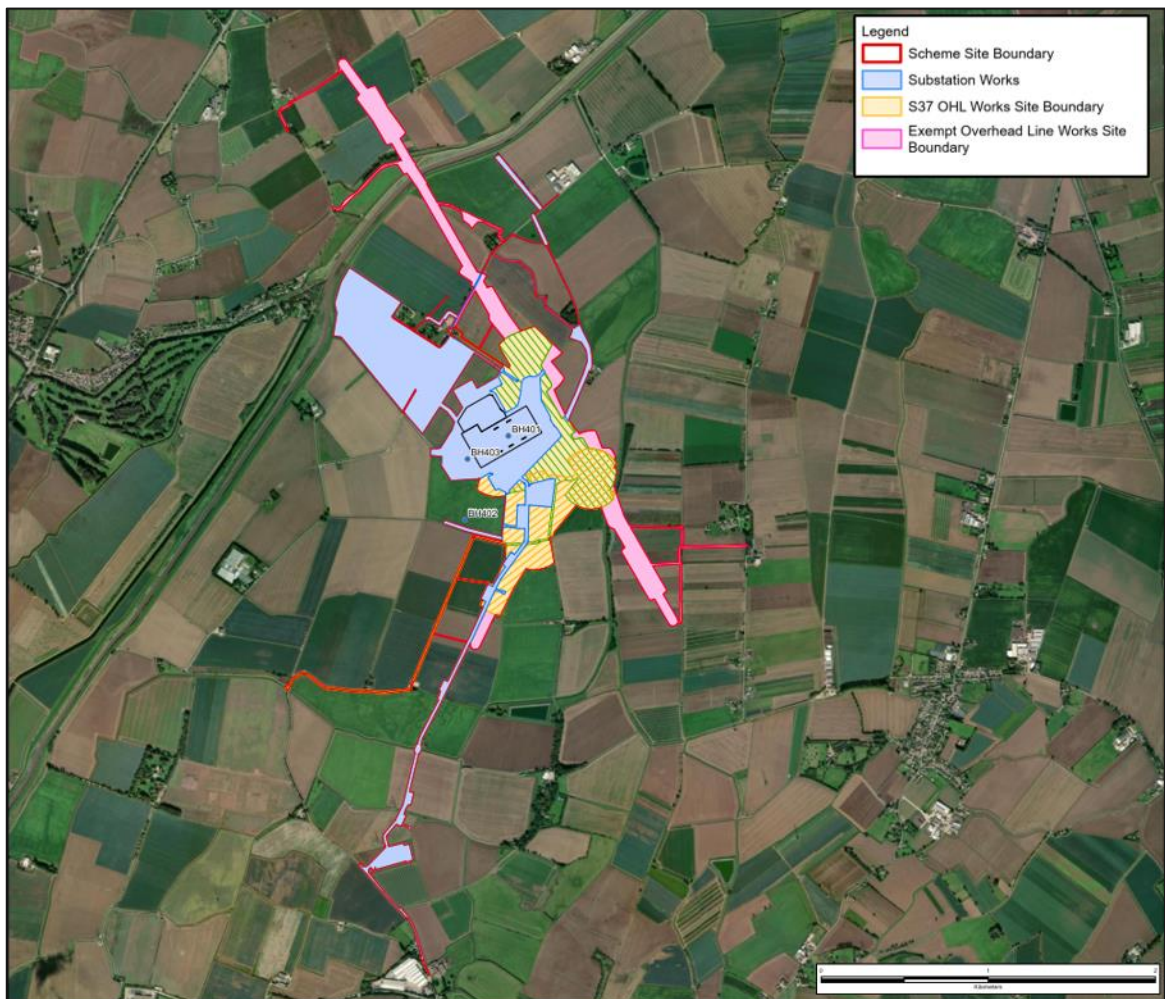


Plate 1: Borehole Locations Monitored

## 4.4 Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.4.1 Located within the 2 km Study Area, there are 40 designated heritage assets, none of which are located within the Scheme Site Boundary (**Figure 2**). The 40 designated heritage assets are comprised of two scheduled monuments, four grade I listed buildings, 33 grade II listed buildings and one conservation area. There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the 2 km Study Area.
- 4.4.2 The first of the scheduled monuments, Wykeham Chapel, is located approximately 760 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary (NHLE 1019096). The chapel is also a grade I listed building (NHLE 1064471). The monument is comprised of a medieval moated monastic grange, together with the remains of a retreat house and chapel. The grange was associated with Spalding Priory, which lay 5 km to the south west. After the Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the chapel and its lands came under private ownership, with a manorial house constructed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, named Chapel Farmhouse, which is a grade II listed building (NHLE 1147513). A set of grade II listed gate piers are located at the entrance to the grounds (NHLE 1064472).
- 4.4.3 Within the settlement of Weston, approximately 300 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary, the churchyard cross of St Mary is located, which is both a scheduled monument and grade II listed building (NHLE 1013529, NHLE 1064473). The cross is medieval in origin with modern additions from restoration works. It is located within the churchyard of the grade I listed Church of St Mary, which is a parish church with elements dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century (NHLE 1064475). Within the same churchyard, a Lychgate (NHLE 1147551), a Row of Seven Gravestones (NHLE 1064474), and a Tomb Chest (NHLE 1147556) are located, which are all grade II listed buildings.
- 4.4.4 There are a further two grade I listed buildings in Moulton to the south east of the Scheme Site boundary. The first is the parish Church of All Saints, which has elements dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century (NHLE 1147325) and is located approximately 1.8 km to the south east of the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 4.4.5 The second grade I listed building is Moulton Windmill (NHLE 1308557), situated approximately 1.9 km south east of the Scheme Site Boundary. The windmill was built c. 1822, comprising eight storeys of brown brick, measuring a total of 24.4 m in height, making it one of the tallest windmills in England.
- 4.4.6 The historic core of Moulton is designated as a conservation area and located approximately 1.35 km to the south east of the Scheme Site Boundary. Sixteen grade II listed buildings are located within the conservation area:
- 1) Hazeldean House (NHLE 1064502);
  - 2) Harrox House (NHLE 1064506);
  - 3) Hand Pump (NHLE 1064504);
  - 4) 10, High Street (NHLE 1064507);
  - 5) Manor House (NHLE 1064501);
  - 6) 2, Shivean Drive (NHLE 1147465);
  - 7) Harrington House (NHLE 1147237);
  - 8) Brooklyn House with Attached Stables (NHLE 1147281);

- 9) The Swan Public House (NHLE 1147422);
- 10) 2, Bell Lane (NHLE 1147210);
- 11) The Goddards (NHLE 1147257);
- 12) K6 Telephone Kiosk at the Intersection of Broad Lane and High Street (NHLE 1253327);
- 13) The Old Vicarage (NHLE 1359268);
- 14) Lychgate (NHLE 1359270);
- 15) Bayfield (NHLE 1359271); and
- 16) 20, High Street (NHLE 1064505).

4.4.7 The remaining grade II listed buildings within the 2 km Study Area comprise:

- 1) Ivy House, located approximately 1.41 km north west of the Scheme Site Boundary (NHLE 1359281);
- 2) The Gables, located approximately 700 m north west of the Scheme Site Boundary (NHLE 1146546);
- 3) Wraggmarsh House Farmhouse (NHLE 1147603) and Pigeoncote to the east (NHLE 1064477), located approximately 390 m north east of the Scheme Site Boundary;
- 4) Seasend Hall, located approximately 1.2 km to the south east of the Scheme Site Boundary (NHLE 1064468);
- 5) Methodist Chapel, located approximately 1.6 km to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary (NHLE 1147449);
- 6) Moulton Seas End War Memorial, located approximately 1.6 km to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary (NHLE 1454594);
- 7) Oakleigh House (NHLE 1261851) and the Barn to the South (NHLE 1147591), located approximately 510 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary;
- 8) Milestone, located approximately 920 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary (NHLE 1064476); and
- 9) Broadgate House Farmhouse, located approximately 1.85 km to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary (NHLE 1308515).

## 4.5 Non-Designated Heritage Assets

4.5.1 There are 54 non-designated heritage assets identified by the Lincolnshire HER within 1 km of the Scheme Site Boundary, comprised of 31 archaeological sites, 22 buildings and one findspot, one of which lies within the Scheme Site Boundary (**Figure 3**). A further 72 heritage assets have been identified within the 1 km Study Area during investigations carried out to inform this DBA, including the Aerial Photographic and LiDAR Assessment, geophysical survey, historic map regression and use of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, 28 of which are located within the Scheme Site Boundary (**Figure 4**).

4.5.2 A total of 29 non-designated heritage assets have been identified within the Scheme Site Boundary (**Figure 3**; **Figure 4**), these include:

- 1) Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445);
- 2) Tramway, Wragg Marsh, Weston (MLI22401);
- 3) Ridge and Furrow (AEC501);
- 4) Possible Boundary Bank (AEC507);
- 5) Curvilinear Enclosure (AEC508);
- 6) Post-medieval Ditches (AEC510);
- 7) Post-medieval Ditch (AEC511);
- 8) Undated Ditch (AEC512);
- 9) Undated Ditch (AEC514);
- 10) Medieval Dylings (AEC515);
- 11) Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC517);
- 12) Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC518);
- 13) Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC519);
- 14) Circular Anomalies (AEC525);
- 15) Undated Road (AEC527);
- 16) Sea Defences (AEC529);
- 17) Sea Defence (AEC533);
- 18) Sea Defence (AEC535);
- 19) Trackway (AEC537);
- 20) Natural Watercourses (AEC538);
- 21) Pond (AEC540);
- 22) Pond (AEC541);
- 23) Pond (AEC544);
- 24) Post-Medieval Ditches (AEC559);
- 25) Sea Defence (AEC560);
- 26) Undated Ditches (AEC561);
- 27) Peat Deposits (AEC562);
- 28) Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC564); and
- 29) Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC565).

## 4.6 Historic Environment Baseline

- 4.6.1 This section of the appraisal provides the historic and archaeological background for the Scheme, drawing on the sources listed in Section 3.2 and the designated and non-designated heritage assets identified above. Where relevant, archaeological sites and artefacts recorded beyond the 1km and 2km Study Areas are referenced to provide regional or national context.

### Palaeolithic (700,000 BC to 10,000 BC)

- 4.6.2 The presence of widespread glacial till across Lincolnshire indicates that Anglian glaciation covered most, if not all, of the county (Ref 38). During the Wolstonian it is also possible that icesheets were widespread across the region and most of the eastern area of Lincolnshire was glaciated during the Devensian (*ibid.*). As such, the majority of Palaeolithic (700,000 BC to 10,000 BC) sites which may once have existed in the area have likely been eroded by the glacial advances. At the end of the upper Palaeolithic period, approximately 15,000 Before Present (BP), the Scheme Site Boundary would have consisted of dry land and so seasonal habitation, and exploitation of resources would have been possible. Despite this, all finds from the Palaeolithic in Lincolnshire have been recorded in the uplands of the county with none known from the Fens (*ibid.*). This is likely due to limited and non-continuous occupation during this period, as well as the favouring of upland sites. It is also possible that any activity that did occur within the 1 km Study Area was ephemeral and further erosion of land surfaces during the inundation and formation of The Wash removed the evidence.

### Mesolithic (10,000 BC to 4,000 BC)

- 4.6.3 As the climate improved at the onset of the Holocene, the Mesolithic period (10,000 BC to 4,000 BC) saw the start of continuous occupation of the British Isles. As in the Palaeolithic, this occupation was seasonal and transient, meaning much of the surviving evidence is superficial, consisting largely of lithic scatters and temporary settlements which leave few traces in the landscape. During the Mesolithic period Lincolnshire was connected to mainland Europe by a land bridge known as Doggerland which sat in what is now the North Sea. Doggerland was comprised of lagoons, saltmarshes, mudflats and beaches as well as inland streams, rivers, marshes and lakes, making it a resource-rich zone for hunting and gathering (Ref 39).
- 4.6.4 Evidence of Mesolithic activity has been found on the upland limestone and chalk ridges which appears to have been the focus of activity during this period in Lincolnshire (Ref 40). The Fenland Basin including the Scheme Site Boundary was, like Doggerland, being transformed into a resource-rich wetland by rising sea levels at this time and so was exploited for these rather than for settlement. Excavations along the fen edge, approximately 18 km west of the Scheme Site Boundary, have shown that activity did occur on lowland areas, although inundation of marine deposits from The Wash has buried Mesolithic landscapes up to 10 m below current ground levels and so the extent of activity is uncertain (*ibid.*).

## Neolithic (4,000 BC to 2,200 BC)

- 4.6.5 The transition to the Neolithic period (4,000 BC to 2,200 BC) is marked by the gradual adoption of agricultural practices which in turn caused a shift to permanent settlement. Lithic technological developments also occurred which saw more intricate tools produced and the building of monuments began to take place. The Neolithic is also associated with wide-scale deforestation, occurring more gradually in the low-lying areas of Lincolnshire compared to the higher ground of the Wolds, with some areas continuing to maintain tree coverage until the development of Bronze Age peat deposits (Ref 41). This is likely due to rapid sea-level rise, which saw much of Doggerland drowned by the start of the Neolithic period, and the transformation of low-lying coastal areas of Britain into saltmarsh environments with periods of marine transgression. The Wash, in which the Scheme Site Boundary was located, rapidly evolved from a freshwater to a more saline environment with periods of flooding as sea levels continued to change. As this environment would have been less conducive for agriculture, deforestation was less likely to have occurred, however, exploitation of the natural resources would have continued.
- 4.6.6 Given this change to the lowland, coastal environment, settlements were often located on upland areas as well as on the fen edge. Ritual and mortuary monuments, such as long barrows, are primarily encountered on the Wolds, although not exclusively as some examples have been identified in the lowlands (Ref 41). Evidence from the lowlands is typically restricted to gravel outcrops which formed higher areas of land, standing above the surrounding wetland. No such elevated areas are noted across the 1 km Study Area, so settlement and monument building is unlikely to have occurred. Whilst on the low, relatively flat ground of the Fens even the smallest of barrows would have had some visual impact, the scale of inundation at this time makes it unlikely that any exist within the Scheme Site Boundary (*ibid.*). Given the deposition of thick tidal flat deposits from marine transgressions, evidence of resource exploitation, such as ancient trackways across the wetland or fish traps, may have been sealed within the underlying peat deposits, however, no evidence of this is recorded within the 1 km Study Area.

## Bronze Age (2,200 BC to 800 BC)

- 4.6.7 The Bronze Age (2,200 BC to 800 BC) is marked by the continuation of agricultural activities first introduced in the Neolithic period, but with technological advancements, such as the use of bronze and ceramics, new monument forms including round barrows, and new types of settlement forms, including roundhouses in different sizes and groupings. As with the Neolithic period, Bronze Age funerary monuments such as round barrows are primarily found on upland areas or along the fen edge, typically centred around sites established in the Neolithic. Flat cremation cemeteries are also known in this period, often found on the river terraces or on the fen edges as with the barrows (Ref 41). Bronze Age settlements are found along the fen edges or at the southern foot of the Wolds. Much of the Fenland Basin was inundated by the beginning of the Bronze Age, with research showing the intertidal limit was to the north of the River Welland, at the confluence with the River Glen, possibly located at the northern limit of the Scheme Site Boundary. Much of the Bronze Age landscape within the 1 km Study Area has thus either been sealed by the deposits or scoured out by ancient watercourses which also may have truncated deeper surviving deposits dating to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods (AEC538). Perhaps the most likely evidence of Bronze Age activity in the area is from the votive deposition of

metalwork, which occurred in rivers and wetland areas in the late Bronze Age, although none has been identified within the 1 km Study Area (*ibid.*).

## Iron Age (800 BC to 43 AD)

- 4.6.8 During the Iron Age (800 BC to 43 AD) the building of ceremonial barrows ceased, with the construction of hillforts becoming dominant. Lincolnshire does not feature the massive hill forts of some of its neighbouring counties, and evidence of Iron Age activity is largely identified along the fen edges. Marine inundations from the Later Bronze Age onwards made large areas unsuitable for settlement (Ref 42). The majority of evidence for Iron Age activity in Lincolnshire comes from salt production sites (Ref 43). One concentration of sites runs along the edge of the southern Fens, with a total of 13 salterns of Iron Age date identified at Cowbit during the Fenland Survey (Ref 42), located approximately 8 km south of the Scheme Site Boundary. Whilst salterns are known to be situated within the 1 km Study Area, these are unlikely to be of an Iron Age date given that, similarly to the Bronze Age, the coastline during the Iron Age is thought to have been located beyond the confluence of the River Glen and River Welland to the north west, meaning the Scheme Site Boundary was located within the intertidal zone (Ref 29; Ref 30; Ref 31; Ref 32).
- 4.6.9 No finds from any of the prehistoric periods have been noted within the 1 km Study Area. This is likely due to regular marine inundations of the area caused by rising sea levels from the Mesolithic period onwards. It is possible that activity is masked by thick deposits of alluvial and peat deposits, as seen at Cowbit, located approximately 7 km south west of the Scheme Site Boundary. Archaeological investigations here identified Mesolithic working platforms buried approximately 10 m below ground level, indicating that early prehistoric remains can survive when hidden by thick silt deposits. Evidence of Late Neolithic finds, close to Pinchbeck approximately 4 km west of the Scheme Site Boundary, have also been recorded. These have been suggested to have been disturbed finds from a much deeper Neolithic flint working platform. The repeated marine transgressions across the Scheme Site Boundary led to the deposition of thick tidal flat deposits in this area, which may have sealed and preserved prehistoric land surfaces. However, given the frequent marine inundations making the area uninhabitable from the end of the Mesolithic onwards, it is unlikely that there are archaeological features present from the prehistoric period. Similarly, the monitoring of ground investigations undertaken for the Grimsby to Walpole Project within the footprint of the new Weston Marsh Substation A encountered no evidence of former land surfaces in the silts overlying the peat deposits, furthering the conclusion that surviving prehistoric features and surfaces are unlikely within the Scheme Site Boundary (Ref 22).

## Roman (AD 43 to AD 410)

- 4.6.10 The Roman settlement of The Fens began in the first century AD shortly after the Empire's arrival in Britain. Historically, the previously unsettled land of The Fens was thought to have been inhabited under the direction of the Imperial Government but recent work has shown a continuation of usage of Iron Age sites (Ref 44). This is consistent with archaeological evidence from across the rest of the country where Iron Age settlements saw continued occupation and expansion during the Roman period. It is thought that new settlements in The Fens were established in the later centuries when planned drainage is known to have started to take place, allowing previously inundated areas to be permanently or intermittently settled (Ref 42). Many of the small settlements were linked by a series of droveways, which allowed quicker

and easier access across the marshlands but are also now considered to be the remains of flood defence banks for the settlements in the area, with the settlements also often established on raised areas of silt to further mitigate the risk of inundation (Ref 44). Two examples of small settlements have been identified close to Pinchbeck and Surfleet which were located approximately 3km west of the Scheme Site Boundary. Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, marine inundations occurred across the Scheme Site Boundary, reaching as far west as Pinchbeck and Surfleet, leading to these Late Roman settlements being deeply buried under alluvial deposits (Ref 19).

- 4.6.11 Whilst some reclamation efforts were undertaken, the land within the 1 km Study Area was still predominantly tidal or marshy and potentially underwater. Along the coastline, which was located along the confluence of the Rivers Glen and Welland as well as extending into the south eastern corner of the Scheme Site Boundary, evidence of salt production has been identified (Ref 29; Ref 30; Ref 31; Ref 32). Approximately 10 km to the south of the Scheme Site Boundary, a briefly occupied Romano-British Settlement in Moulton West Fen, which is designated as a Scheduled Monument, is located. Evidence for the settlement comprises ditched enclosures, a watercourse and droeways, which form at least twenty-four separate domestic and salt making sites, including four red hills. This is interpreted to be a Roman coastal site producing salt by boiling seawater. Closer to the Scheme, but outside of the 1 km Study Area, a small salt-making site was noted to the north east of Spalding. According to the research, this would also have been located on the coastline during the Roman period. In the south eastern section of the 1 km Study Area, Roman metal finds have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, one within Weston and one to the north of Weston (AEC555, AEC557).
- 4.6.12 Given that the majority of the 1 km Study Area was still inundated at this time and the salt production appears to be focussed along the coastline, finds from this period are unlikely within the Scheme Site Boundary itself, with the highest potential found in the south eastern corner of the Scheme Site Boundary.

## Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)

- 4.6.13 Upon the Romans' departure from Britain in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, Britain changed economically and socially. Many smaller settlements were abandoned and infrastructure fell into disrepair. Lincoln may have been one of the few urban centres to have survived as a British community through this period, partially evidenced by a lack of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in the vicinity of the city and the continued survival of the Roman name Lindum Colonia in its modern form as Lincoln (Ref 45). Without the Roman presence, Germanic settlers arrived in Britain uncontested, largely from north Germany, Frisia and southern Scandinavia. In Lincolnshire, evidence of these early settlers is limited to large cremation cemeteries, which appear to suggest that no substantial settlement occurred in Lincolnshire before the middle of the fifth century (*ibid.*). During the late fifth and sixth centuries, Lincolnshire was likely occupied by a number of small tribal units, and in the north of the county these eventually joined together to form the Kingdom of Lindsey in the 7<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid.*). The first documented Viking attack on Lincolnshire was in AD 841, and subsequent raiding and attacks caused instability throughout the region, with Lincolnshire passing between Viking and English control up to the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup> century when the region finally came under the control of Edward the Elder (c. AD 874 - 924) (Ref 42).
- 4.6.14 Throughout the early medieval period, the coastline remained largely similar to its form at the end of the Roman period, located along the confluence of the Rivers Glen

and Welland as well as extending into the south eastern corner of the Scheme Site Boundary (Ref 29; Ref 30; Ref 31; Ref 32). Whilst it is likely some sea defences and reclamation efforts occurred in the early medieval period, no evidence of this has been identified within the 1 km Study Area, with the Scheme Site Boundary remaining a seasonally inundated saltmarsh. As such, no evidence within the Scheme Site Boundary has been identified, however, Middle Saxon settlement sites have been recorded close to both Pinchbeck, approximately 3 km west of the Scheme Site Boundary, and at Gosberton, approximately 4 km to the north west. These settlements were built upon low mounds which are not naturally formed, rather they have been built up on accumulated settlement waste or 'dark earth'. Archaeological excavations at Gosberton indicated three phases of occupation, with settlement features, such as sunken-floored buildings, rectangular structures, pits, and ditches (Ref 46). These settlements are examples of the "Townlands", a series of settlements established on the silt ridge extending from Wainfleet in the north, around the coast to Boston, Spalding, Holbeach and Long Sutton, all of which were referenced in the Domesday Book of 1086 in some form (Ref 47).

- 4.6.15 Settlements in the Fenland basin, continued to be the focus of salt production throughout the early medieval period. Evidence of this lies beyond the 1 km Study Area, to the north east of Spalding, where early medieval activity which may be related to salt production has been identified around the settlement at Pinchbeck. A second area of early medieval activity was noted approximately 60 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary within the village of Weston (MLI92283, MLI92282). Late Saxon deposits were revealed during excavation, which included a ditch containing domestic waste, dated by pottery to the late 10th to mid-11th century, and a creek with fills dated by pottery from the 10th to 11th century. The village of Weston was founded in the 11th century and is recorded in the Domesday Book with the land owned by Ivo Taillebois and Guy of Craon. The excavations on this site appear to have revealed activity dating from this period. They include an assemblage of 10<sup>th</sup> century pottery, recovered from the fields north of High Road (MLI20331), as well as metalwork dating to this period, which has been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (AEC555). As in the Roman period, the south eastern corner of the Scheme Site Boundary would have formed the coastline during this period, allowing for a settlement to be established at Weston, with activity possibly extending further north into the Scheme Site Boundary. The remainder of the Scheme Site Boundary would have formed the coastal marshland which experienced seasonal inundation and as such is unlikely to have been used for activity beyond seasonal pasture and resource exploitation.

## Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1540)

- 4.6.16 Following the Norman invasion of 1066, England came under the control of William I who made many notable changes to the landscape. Castles were established, particularly in the north towards the River Humber, to assert the new King's dominance and reduce the threat of rebellion, whilst the church's influence increased. Land was divided amongst the Norman King's supporters, as well as the church, with the religious institutions becoming crucial to administration, and strengthening Norman control and influence across England (Ref 48). As such, much of the medieval economy was reliant on major monastic and religious centres, with two of the large and regionally important monasteries located at Ely and Peterborough. A third important religious centre was also located at Lincoln. Closer to the 1 km Study Area a Priory was established at Spalding, as a dependent of St Nicholas' Abbey, Angers until it gained independence in 1397, and had considerable influence in The

Fenland Basin. It grew in wealth and importance in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, increasing land holdings to the east, likely including parts of the 1 km Study Area (Ref 49). The religious institutions held large tracts of land, which were farmed by a monastic community known as Granges, distinct from the secular manorial system. The Wykeham Chapel scheduled monument (NHLE 1019096), located 760 m south west of the Scheme Site Boundary, is a rare example of a moated monastic grange, retreat house and chapel of the Benedictine order. The standing remains of the Chapel of St Nicholas (NHLE 1064471) are adjoined by a graveyard which lie at the centre of the moated grange. This chapel, was built in 1311 by Clement Hatfield, Prior of Spalding, as a domestic chapel for his new Manor (Ref 50). The retreat house and chapel lie 4 km to the north of his Priory at Spalding and the estate comprised eighteen acres of land with the hall, chapel, garden and wharf where ships landed their wares. The 'Roman Bank' sea wall (MLI98445) that runs along Stone Gate may represent the northern boundary of the agricultural land held by the Priory, which was certainly the boundary of the post-medieval Wykeham Estate shown on the 19<sup>th</sup> century parish map of Spalding (Not Reproduced). As such, the dyings recorded in the fields immediately north, east and south of Wykeham Chapel, intersecting with the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, S37 2WS Overhead Line Works and Substation Works Site Boundaries, were likely part of the Priory's agricultural land (AEC515). A building identified on the Ordnance Survey (OS) Drawing of Holbeach (**Figure 7**), directly south of Wykeham and just outside of the 1 km Study Area, may be an ancillary building of the retreat house or later estate related to these agricultural holdings.

- 4.6.17 As religious institutions grew, settlements became more nucleated around these institutions or manor houses, as seen within the "Townlands" including Spalding (Ref 23). Settlement evidence pertaining to Spalding is located beyond the 1 km Study Area, however, activity has also been noted in Weston, approximately 140 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary which would have been related to a smaller village. Medieval deposits were noted, including ditches dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, as were ditches relating to the expansion of Weston, around the time of the construction of St. Mary's Church (NHLE 1064475) in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, and to the drainage and field divisions on the north west side of the village (MLI92284, MLI92285). Whilst much of the country saw dispersed settlements abandoned, the more thinly populated pastoral landscapes of dispersed settlements and mixed economies continued to prevail in the Fenland of South Lincolnshire (Ref 47). No evidence of dispersed settlement has been noted within the 1 km Study Area, likely due to the persistent waterlogged conditions which dominated until the end of the medieval period.
- 4.6.18 Despite previous drainage efforts, much of the Fenland Basin remained waterlogged and thus continued to be exploited, with the salt making industry growing in this period. Land to the east of Spalding along the northern banks of the River Welland is noted as an area in which there are the remains of a large number of saltern mounds (Ref 23). A cluster of saltern sites have been recorded on the west bank of the River Welland, beyond the 1 km Study Area. Their position along what would have been the coast may have been partly responsible for the next phase of reclamation recorded by the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This strip of former marsh, running parallel to the silt bank on the seaward side, is likely to have formed by accretion after numerous high spring tides, which would eventually have left the land dry enough to enclose and surround with a sea-bank (Ref 47). The construction was largely funded by the monasteries and the earliest to be established was the "Roman Bank", likely constructed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (MLI98445, MLI98446). This bank runs along the

edge of the Townlands in an arc from Skegness to Long Sutton, crossing the Scheme Site Boundary to the west of Moulton Seas End, and marks the beginning of the salt marsh reclamation to the seaward side of the settlement line (Ref 51). A possible north south aligned section of the “Roman Bank” survives as a cropmark approximately 40 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC535) and an additional section labelled with the same name was depicted on the First Edition OS Map directly south of the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary (AEC402). This section of Bank is located on the western bank of the River Welland but may be contemporaneous to the bank of the same name on the eastern bank. Directly south of the “Roman Bank”, a cluster of salterns were identified during the aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment, which are of uncertain date but likely medieval and located as close as 15 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC530, AEC531, AEC532, AEC536; **Figure 4**). The salterns hold good potential for horizontal stratigraphy and landscape relationships with sea banks and settlements (Ref 52). Given their location on the town-side of the sea defence, they likely post-date the “Roman Bank” and may demonstrate the movement of the salt-production industry to follow the line of the coast.

- 4.6.19 Lincolnshire’s large estuarine frontage of The Wash was also exploited for seasonal activities. When the water receded, the land was used as a large common for grazing livestock. However, a substantial maritime trade and fishing industry flourished when the land was inundated, using the many small havens and creeks as well as the major ports of Boston and Grimsby (Ref 52). As with the salterns, this industry would have followed the changing coastline, reliant on the creeks and maritime location for trade. As the waterlogged conditions receded, through silting up and coastal accretion, much of this fishing industry was abandoned, however, evidence of it may survive sealed in old river channels and along the former coastlines.
- 4.6.20 Once the land on the town-side of the “Roman Bank” was reclaimed, it was likely used for year-round pasture, with the salt marsh on the far side of the bank providing further seasonal grazing when not inundated by the sea. The process of gradual accretion followed by defence and enclosure continued gradually for several centuries (Ref 47). This resulted in a series of sea banks, which can still be seen in the landscape today and may be dated to the late medieval period but are more likely of a post-medieval date (AEC534). Alongside the rearing of livestock, some cultivation began to occur after reclamation, largely centred around the settlement of Weston, as represented by the identification of a cluster of dylings field systems which intersect with the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, S37 2WS Overhead Line Works and Substation Works Site Boundaries (AEC515). Dylings are medieval fields on the siltlands of the Fens. Very few examples of this distinctive regional pattern of cultivation are known to survive as earthworks in the Fens and all good examples which do survive as earthworks will merit protection. A single possible example of ridge and furrow survives and intersects with the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, S37 2WS Overhead Line Works and Substation Works Site Boundaries, also to the north of Weston (AEC501). This type of field system is rarer within the Fenland Basin.
- 4.6.21 Clusters of medieval metalwork have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme at five locations across the 1 km Study Area, namely around the A16 (AEC407), to the south of Spalding Golf Club (AEC555), to the north of Wykeham Chapel (AEC556), to the west of Moulton Seas End (AEC558) and within Weston (AEC555).

## Post-medieval (AD 1540 – AD 1900)

- 4.6.22 The Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century transformed both the landscape and society through the enclosure of open fields and commons between settlements. Land owned by the monasteries were confiscated and the institutions themselves were dissolved, with wealthy individuals able to gain this land (Ref 50). Many of the monasteries were sold or gifted to wealthy landowners, as with Wykeham Chapel (NHLE 1019096), which is located 760 m south west of the Scheme Site Boundary. It was bestowed in 1543 by the King on the Harrington family. The Harrington family subsequently built a manor house next to the chapel (now grade II listed, NHLE 1147513) and appear to have established an estate of agricultural land holdings which were sold with the manor (*ibid.*). The Wykeham Estate was the property of Robert Everard Esq., by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the agricultural land holdings shown to span from Stone Gate in the north, to Stump Lane in the south and from the River Welland in the west to the parish boundary in the east (Ref 54) (map not reproduced). Two further manor houses have been noted in the 1 km Study Area, namely Wimberley Hall, which was located in Weston immediately east of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI20330) and St Lambert's Hall (MLI122925), a farmstead likely built on the site of an earlier moated manor (MLI20329), which is located approximately 700 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary. Leading to the hall was a slightly curving, north to south aligned, linear feature which contained wheel ruts, suggesting a former trackway (which was subsequently overlain by the present trackway) (MLI85256). The wealthy families who owned the manor houses established vast estates, acquiring copious amounts of land. This marginalised the general farming populations and led to a decline in rural settlement in many places as people migrated to towns searching for a better life (Ref 55).
- 4.6.23 Despite the acquisition of land by wealthy families, the Fens may have remained more open compared to elsewhere in the county, as it was suited to open pasture farming. Evidence of continued use as pasture can be found in the form of ring ditches, including a partial curvilinear enclosure located approximately 45 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC509), a complete curvilinear enclosure 20 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC508), at least five circular features, two of which intersect the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary and S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary (AEC525), and two other circular enclosures located approximately 310 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC526). These cropmarks resemble the 'fen circles', first reported by Derrick Riley in 1946, which may have acted as drip gullies dug around stores of crops, some of which may have been continuously used from the 12<sup>th</sup> century through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As these were located north of the "Roman Bank", they are likely of a post-medieval date and suggest that the land was now used as arable as well as pasture.
- 4.6.24 Whilst the reduction in rural populations continued throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century, across most of the country, migration to The Fens actually increased (Ref 55). This was due to large portions of The Fenland Basin being reclaimed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, under the Fenlands drainage scheme, which was established shortly after the accession of James I in 1603, the work continuing over the next 300 years. The drainage scheme comprised large-scale dewatering and drainage through the excavation of new drainage ditches, sluices, the importing of new soil material and water management through new earthwork banks. The land was reclaimed gradually from the "Roman Bank" (MLI98445), with possible successive phases of reclamation seen in the landscape, surviving as partially extant banks and earthworks of sea defences (AEC534). A small number lie directly north of the "Roman Bank, whilst the

rest are located to the north east of the 1 km Study Area, beyond the Scheme Site Boundary. There are also a number of sea defences which bound the River Welland, two of which cross the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary (AEC533, AEC560). These sea defences can likely be attributed to 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century reclamation efforts to control seasonal inundation around the River Welland. Saxton's map of Lincolnshire, dated to 1576, depicts the southern half of the Scheme Site Boundary as dry, whilst the area north of the confluence of the Rivers Glen and Welland is labelled as '*The Wasshe*', suggesting it remained an area which experienced seasonal inundation. Spalding, Crowland, Weston, Moulton, Waplode Drove (Whaplode Drove), and Cowbit are all shown as settlements on the map in an area labelled as '*Flete fen*' (Not Reproduced). Bowen's Accurate Map of Lincolnshire, from 1751, suggests that little progress had been made in reclaiming the salt marsh to the north of the confluence of the Rivers Glen and Welland, whilst the River Welland itself was still wider, due to seasonal flooding and standing water that allowed the formation of peat deposits ( Not Reproduced). At this time, it was realised that the River Welland was too great to be fully drained and so efforts to just reclaim the freshwater peat fens began (Ref 51).

- 4.6.25 Alongside the construction of sea banks came the creation of drainage channels and field boundaries. These works were undertaken in an organised pattern where rectilinear fields were established, the only sinuous boundaries being those which were naturally formed by stream channels that were utilised as part of the man-made network of drains necessary for reclamation (Ref 24). By the time of the OS Surveys of the 1810s, the entirety of the salt marsh had been reclaimed and transformed into arable land, with The Wash depicted to the same extent as it remains today (**Figure 7**). The River Welland was confined to the river channel and the substantial Lord's Drain, which connected to Wheat Mere Drain, depicted crossing all four parts of the Scheme Site Boundary from north east to south west. The fields are depicted as rectilinear and fairly regular in size, separated into parcels that are bounded by drainage channels, similarly depicted in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Tithe maps of Spalding and Weston (**Figure 8**; Spalding Tithe Map not reproduced). Minimal consolidation of fields is shown on the First Edition OS Map from 1888 (**Figure 9**). Possible remnants of these rectilinear enclosures include the cropmarks of 21 field boundaries (AEC520) and 12 field boundaries or drainage ditches (AEC521) within the wider 1 km Study Area. Across the Scheme Site Boundary, the cropmarks of three post-medieval field boundaries have been noted (AEC517, AEC518, AEC519). Evidence of the drainage channels which bounded the field parcels has been noted at 32 locations across the 1 km Study Area (AEC513), with a number also noted across the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC510, AEC511, AEC512, AEC514). Also shown on the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Tithe maps of Spalding and Weston are lanes, tracks and roads, which have since been reduced to trackways or entirely abandoned; the cropmark remains of which were noted during the aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment (AEC537, AEC529, AEC528, AEC527, AEC522).
- 4.6.26 With agricultural activity now dominating the Fenland Basin and the salt marshes reclaimed, previously thriving industries began to diminish. This includes fishing on the Fens (wildfowl, oysters, crabs, fishing) which was much affected by the drainage schemes of the 17th century onwards (Ref 55). Additionally, salt production became increasingly commercialised and continued to follow the coastline. A single post-medieval saltern was identified approximately 320 m to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary, just north of the "Roman Bank" (AEC523). Another possible mound was identified on the First Edition OS Map immediately south of the Scheme Site Boundary and approximately 2 km further north than the aforementioned (AEC539).

These mounds may be examples of the saltern industry following the coastline as reclamation occurred but are both likely of an early post-medieval date, having fallen out of use prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the coastline moved beyond the 1 km Study Area.

- 4.6.27 Following the reclamation and drainage of the Fenlands, the smaller field systems were amalgamated, with some of the larger fields sub-divided following the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These large fields enabled mechanised farming techniques to be employed, allowing agricultural production on a larger and faster scale as part of the Agricultural Revolution (Ref 56). With the land fully drained, the use of hedgerows to separate land holdings and control / contain livestock was introduced, with 14 possible historic hedgerows noted within the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC402, AEC403, AEC404, AEC405, AEC406, AEC547, AEC548, AEC549, AEC550, AEC551, AEC552, AEC553, AEC554, AEC563).
- 4.6.28 A notable number of isolated farmsteads were constructed at this time within the Fenland Basin. These were able to serve the newly divided and enlarged fields, changing the landscape from predominantly nucleated settlements to much more widespread habitation. Eighteen farmsteads which were established in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries remain extant within the 1 km Study Area, those closest to the Scheme being Crowtree Farm, located approximately 5 m south east of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI122916), Woad Farm located approximately 30 m north west of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI122578), Weston Marsh Farm located approximately 20 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI122920), Chestnut House located approximately 10 m west of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI122926), Top Yard located approximately 390 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI122919), and Shepherds Farm located approximately 440 m north west of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI122924). A further twenty-two demolished farmsteads have also been noted within the 1 km Study Area, with evidence of these buildings possibly surviving as buried archaeological remains. The closest to the Scheme Site Boundary are Bottom Yard, located 30 m to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI122915), Moulton Marsh Farm, located 160 m to the north (MLI123156) and an unnamed farmstead located 360 m to the north west (MLI122922).
- 4.6.29 Alongside the Agricultural Revolution, the Industrial Revolution also caused major change to the landscape with the introduction of improved infrastructure, including a network of roads and railways (Ref 56). Approximately 450 m to the west of the Scheme Site Boundary, the Lincolnshire Loop Line Railway was constructed (later utilised, once abandoned, as the alignment for the A16 road) (AEC401). Intersecting with the Substation Works Site Boundary to the north west, a tramway was also established which has since been abandoned and dismantled, although part of the route now forms trackways and footpaths (MLI22401). Both of these transportation networks would have connected the newly drained Fenland Basin to the wider area, allowing for the transportation of agricultural produce to urban areas. The tramway once extended all the way to Weston, in which industrial development also occurred throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, leading it to become larger and more urbanised, with a considerable number of listed buildings and locally listed buildings located within this settlement.
- 4.6.30 Two artefact scatters containing post-medieval pottery were also recorded 250 m south and 65 m west of the Scheme Site Boundary within agricultural fields (MLI85278, MLI85279). Clusters of post-medieval metalwork have also been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme at two locations across the 1 km Study

Area, namely to the south of Spalding golf club (AEC555) and to the north of Wykeham Chapel (AEC556).

## Modern (AD 1900 – Present)

- 4.6.31 Whilst reclamation works had been completed by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, improvements to embankments and drainage routes continued. This included the River Welland Major Improvement Scheme, which was undertaken between 1947 and 1955. Around Spalding, the Spalding Flood Channel was established to protect the town from flooding and streamline the course of the river (Ref 57). The effects of these works can be seen on the 1951 OS Map when compared to the 1936 OS Map where the channel is far wider (**Figure 10; Figure 11**). A reservoir is shown and labelled on the 1951 OS Map, approximately 780 m to the west, which was likely associated with these works. At this point, four channels converge into one then continue on to The Wash in the north east.
- 4.6.32 The OS Map of 1936 reveals that the field pattern had changed little since the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Between the 1936 and 1951 OS Maps, a significant amount of field consolidation had occurred, with many of the rectilinear fields combined to form larger fields more suitable for industrial scale farming. The village of Weston, which is centred around High Road, is shown to have expanded gradually throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, continuing to grow in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- 4.6.33 During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Lincolnshire was a militarily significant region, particularly related to aviation through its association with the RAF in both the First and Second World Wars (Ref 58). Various anti-invasion defences were constructed within the county as part of the Defence of Britain project. These include a vast network of pillboxes, though these were primarily located along the coastline (*ibid.*). Evidence of the Second World War is extremely limited within the 1 km Study Area, with no possible features identified from this time by the aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment. The only modern asset noted within the 1 km Study Area is a pillbox, located approximately 920 m to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary at Lambert's Hall (MLI125205).

## Undated Heritage Assets

- 4.6.34 Across the 1 km Study Area, a number of archaeological features, namely pits and ditches, have been identified that are of an uncertain date. The majority are located in the southern half of the 1 km Study Area, in proximity to Weston.
- 4.6.35 Within Weston, three areas of undated features have been noted. The closest to the Scheme Site Boundary is located approximately 240 m to the south and consists of undated ditches (MLI116098). It is possible that both features relate to late early medieval and medieval remains previously found to the north of Weston. A possible former enclosure was identified as a diffuse, semi-circular magnetic anomaly, to the immediate south of and attached to a ditch, approximately 400 m to the south of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI124932), whilst a single buried pit was identified as a magnetic anomaly 930 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI116216).
- 4.6.36 Two undated features are noted in the northern half of the 1 km Study Area, the first being a possible rabbit warren in the vicinity of Coney Garth House (MLI23631). It is located approximately 600 m west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The second is comprised of a number of pits identified during the aerial photograph and LiDAR

assessment which are located approximately 20 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC524).

## 4.7 Historic Landscape Character

### National Character Area

- 4.7.1 The Scheme Site Boundary lies within National Character Area 46: The Fens which is described as a distinctive, historic and human influenced wetland landscape, lying to the west of The Wash estuary, which formerly constituted the largest wetland area in England (Ref 23). The flat topography of the area creates a vast, open landscape which offers extensive views to level horizons. Elevations rarely rise above 10 m Ordnance Datum (OD), with much of the land actually below sea level. As such, the network of drainage ditches, dykes and rivers that cross The Fens are essential to maintaining the dry, arable land that now comprises this landscape.
- 4.7.2 Four major rivers cross The Fens and drain into the Wash, namely the Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse. Management of these rivers has been achieved through the development of canals and embankments along their courses, to separate the waters from the adjacent, low-lying fields. The drainage and water management, which began in earnest from the 17th century, has preserved valuable soils which provide excellent conditions for large-scale cultivation of arable and horticultural crops. The Fens are often referred to as the bread basket of Britain.
- 4.7.3 There is a long history of human occupation within The Fens, although evidence of early prehistoric sites is often deeply buried beneath the sedimentary deposits. Those which have been identified are largely located on the higher land of the fen edge or on small “islands” which would have risen above the wetlands. The remains of settlements and activity sites are increasingly being discovered as the peat dries out across the fenland area. From the Roman period onwards, activity was focussed in the western Fens due to the coastline of The Wash being far further inland than at present. Activities such as salt production are known to have occurred along the coastline from this period through to the post-medieval when consolidated reclamation efforts began and land was slowly accreted.

### Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Character

- 4.7.4 The regional Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Character framework identified the Scheme Site Boundary as being located within Regional Character Area 10: The Wash (Ref 47). The Wash is a large estuarine complex on the east coast of Lincolnshire, fed by the Rivers Witham, Welland, Steeping, Great Ouse and Nene, which are themselves fed by numerous drains and streams across the East Midlands. At its greatest extent, The Wash estuary encompassed the entirety of this character area, although reclamation efforts have seen the coastline gradually move further east. The western edge of the character area is dominated by a silt ridge which stands about 4 m above sea level, with the land between this ridge and the Wash Estuary itself typically at or below sea level. Earthen banks at regular intervals parallel to the coast mark the extent of former coastlines, occurring due to successive periods of artificial drainage for agricultural purposes.
- 4.7.5 The Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Character framework further divides The Wash into six distinctive zones, four of which fall within the 1 km Study Area and are each partially located within the Scheme Site Boundary (**Figure 6**).

Table 4.1 Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Character Zones

Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Character Zones	Location within the 1 km Study Area
WSH1: Reclaimed Coastal Fringe	North of the River Welland, east of the confluence with the River Glen
WSH4: Reclaimed Wash Farmlands	South east of the River Welland
WSH5: Bicker Haven	Between the River Welland and “Roman Bank”
WSH6: Townlands	South of the “Roman Bank” and west of the confluence of the Rivers Glen and Welland

**WSH1: Reclaimed Coastal Fringe**

- 4.7.6 The entire zone was reclaimed from saltmarsh between 1660 and 1811, prior to which the area was used as an extensive common for grazing (Ref 59). Land use throughout the entire zone is primarily agricultural, with large scale farmsteads of industrial size present. Settlement in the area is mainly dispersed linear, mostly adhering to the roads.
- 4.7.7 The agricultural landscape of the zone comprises a semi-regular pattern of field enclosures, with occasional areas of coherent rectilinear field divisions in the east of the zone. Field boundaries predominantly comprise narrow and shallow wet dykes, although embanked natural watercourses form continuous linear boundaries across the zone. A small number of fields around Holbeach St Matthew and Dawesmere are bounded by hedgerows.
- 4.7.8 Relict sea-banks around the periphery of the zone are associated with successive stages of coastal land reclamation. Sea-banks run roughly parallel to the coastline, with few perpendicular banks dividing inland areas. The west edge of the zone is formed by the canalised river channel of the Welland. The southern limits of the zone have a higher population density, with settlement following the course of the “Roman Bank” and forming more nucleated settlements, such as Moulton Seas End, that are satellite villages to inland market towns.

**WSH4: Reclaimed Wash Farmlands**

- 4.7.9 The land-use throughout this zone is primarily agricultural, with a high number of post-medieval farmsteads located across the zone. The agricultural landscape is comprised primarily of a semi-regular pattern of enclosed field systems, with small areas of rectilinear field divisions. Field boundaries comprise natural watercourses with a small number of hedgerows present across the zone.
- 4.7.10 The western edge of the zone is bounded by the River Welland, with settlement patterns largely dispersed in the northern and western areas of the zone, with settlements largely following the road infrastructure. The settlement patterns located along the southern area of the zone close to the ‘Roman Bank’ are largely nucleated with settlements located at Holbeach Hurn and Moulton Seas End.
- 4.7.11 Woodland across the zone is sparsely distributed, and where present, consists of rectilinear plantations and holts adjacent to buildings and along field boundaries.

### **WSH5: Bicker Haven**

- 4.7.12 The borders of the zone are delineated by the course of the “Roman Bank” to the north west of the River Welland, which itself forms the south east limit of the zone. During the medieval period, the haven was a tidal estuary providing navigable access to the village of Bicker. The perimeter of the haven became defined by the “Roman Bank” which protected inland areas from rising floodwaters during the early 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.7.13 The majority of the land in this area is under arable cultivation, although there are some small areas of pastoral land which are found in proximity to isolated farmsteads. Settlement in the area is predominantly made up of working farm complexes, with only a few examples of individual private houses. Settlement patterns show no sign of nucleation.
- 4.7.14 The landscape is comprised of irregular geometric field boundaries and small sinuous relict natural drainage channels aligned in a north west to south east direction in the south of the zone. The pattern reflects the retention of the larger natural waterways when the land was drained and enclosed in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Field boundaries are discontinuous and in the form of shallow wet dykes which connect to form a drainage network discharging into canalised embanked watercourses. The south of this area is characterised by a landscape of later parliamentary enclosure with strict rectilinear field morphology.

### **WSH6: Townlands**

- 4.7.15 Prior to the early medieval period the zone was coastal in character, consisting of an intertidal saltmarsh with localised areas of marginally higher ground. The area would predominantly have been exploited due to its resource-rich environment, rather than being a place for settlement. Falling sea levels during the early medieval period allowed settlement on drier areas which saw a landscape of small villages established on a long curve of higher silt land running from King’s Lynn to Wainfleet. By 1086, the modern-day settlement pattern of market towns had been established.
- 4.7.16 Although predominantly agricultural, this character zone encompasses most of the nucleated settlements in the wider Wash region. The two largest settlements, Boston and Spalding, have markedly different roles within the local area. Spalding, which lies partially within the 2 km Study Area, is very much the hub of the food production industry in the region, with an assortment of processing plants, canneries and distribution centres.
- 4.7.17 The smaller settlements in the area are primarily residential, forming a string of nucleated medieval market towns and villages running roughly parallel to the coastline. Several small hamlets bridge, or lie adjacent, to the “Roman Bank”.
- 4.7.18 The greater part of this area is made up of arable fields, but there are some areas of pasture most of which is found in close proximity to historic settlements. Field morphology consists of a combination of irregular enclosures of early medieval origin, subdivided by straight field boundaries along the seaward edge of the zone. Most of the zone’s seaward edges are defined by the “Roman Bank”. Field patterns in more inland parts of the zone comprise series of thin parallel strips within large irregular fields. Many of which have been amalgamated through extensive boundary removal in the mid- to late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.7.19 The zone is divided by large straight embanked river channels, mainly canalised during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Minor rivers and sewers are more sinuous in

character but nonetheless have been straightened and embanked from at least the sixteenth century.

## Historic Landscapes

- 4.7.20 Due to the coastline being much further west and inundation making much of the saltmarsh inaccessible throughout the prehistoric and Roman periods, no evidence of early historic landscapes remain within the 1 km Study Area.
- 4.7.21 The village of Weston was established during the early medieval period, and its morphology does reflect that of a street village typical of this time. However, the village itself has been greatly modernised, reflecting that of a rural post-medieval village, and the surrounding field systems have been changed numerous times, from dylings to ridge and furrow to large, consolidated fields, so no evidence of the early medieval agricultural landscape remains. As such, no truly visible evidence of the early medieval landscape is thought to remain.
- 4.7.22 Through human intervention, the 1 km Study Area saw great change throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, some evidence of which is still visible within the landscape, as discussed below.

## Medieval Landscape

- 4.7.23 It was during the medieval period that concerted efforts to reclaim The Wash through the construction of sea defences began, evidence of which survives as vestigial earthworks. The most notable is “Roman Bank” (MLI98445, AEC402, MLI98446) which is thought to date to the early 14<sup>th</sup> century and crosses the Scheme Site Boundary to the west of Moulton on Seas End, with a second section noted to the north of the confluence of the Rivers Glen and Welland. This bank became the new coastline, with the land to the north remaining salt marsh until the post-medieval period.
- 4.7.24 Along the coastline during the medieval period, an extensive salt production industry was present, with two distinct areas still visible in the landscape as vestigial earthworks. The first lies directly south of the “Roman Bank” (AEC530, AEC531, AEC532, AEC536), whilst the second lies to the north of Spalding, along the west bank of the River Welland (MLI23633, MLI89833, MLI89834, MLI89835, MLI89836, MLI89837). These salterns share a close relationship with the coastline and sea defences and together, not only demonstrate the location of the medieval coastline but also remain as physical evidence of the medieval population’s exploitation and management of coastal land and resources.
- 4.7.25 Evidence of agricultural practices also survive around the village of Weston, where an extensive medieval dylings field system has been found to survive as vestigial earthworks (AEC515). Very few examples of this distinctive regional pattern of cultivation are known to survive as earthworks in the Fens and their proximity to the village, which has early medieval origins, provides a tangible representation of a rural community in the medieval period. Whilst much of the village itself expanded within the post-medieval period, the village remains centred around a single street, a layout which was likely established in the early medieval period and consolidated in the medieval period. Medieval elements of St. Mary's Church (NHLE 1064475) also survive and are still visible, as intended when constructed, from great distances across the flat landscape.

- 4.7.26 St. Mary's Church is one of two examples of the Church's presence across the 2 km Study Area during the medieval period, the second being Wykeham Chapel (NHLE 1019096) which is a rare example of a moated monastic grange, retreat house and chapel of the Benedictine order. Whilst now enclosed by trees and hedgerows, with only partial or filtered views from the surrounding landscape, the standing remains of the chapel of St Nicholas and the moated site on which they are located survive in good condition and contribute to the evidence for the survival of medieval landscape features.
- 4.7.27 All surviving elements of the medieval landscape are located to the south of the "Roman Bank" (MLI98445) on what would have been the dry land at this time. As such, the "Roman Bank" is the only extant medieval feature to survive within the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI98445). The extant features from this period, whilst not extensive in number, demonstrate a broad picture of the area's use in the medieval period and some time depth within the modern landscape. Industry is represented by two clusters of salterns, rural villages in the Fens and their agricultural practices are shown by the morphology of Weston, as well as the survival of a dylings field system, land management is demonstrated by the "Roman Bank", and the church's importance is seen in the survival of the parish church within Weston and private chapel at Wykeham.

### **Post-medieval landscape**

- 4.7.28 The post-medieval period was the first since the Mesolithic in which the land to the north of the "Roman Bank" was inhabitable, as such the landscape possesses a distinct character which was established in the post-medieval period. Successive phases of land reclamation occurred from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, although many of the sea defences, which represent former coastlines, have now been ploughed out and survive as cropmarks. Whilst the flood defences which were constructed on the banks of the River Welland are no longer extant, changes to the river itself demonstrate post-medieval development. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the river had been diverted and confined to follow its present course and other drainage channels had been constructed which are still in use today, including the substantial Lord's Drain which connected to Wheat Mere Drain. Some of the rectilinear fields established during reclamation efforts survive to the north of the "Roman Bank" (MLI98445), however, many field boundaries have been changed in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries due to field consolidation.
- 4.7.29 In the post-medieval period, the agricultural landscape of the 1 km Study Area can be largely divided into north and south of the "Roman Bank" (MLI98445). To the south, morphology consisted of a combination of irregular enclosures of medieval origin, subdivided by straight field boundaries, whilst to the north a semi-regular pattern of field enclosures, with occasional areas of coherent rectilinear field divisions in the east of the zone were identified. Field boundaries both to the north and south often comprised narrow and shallow wet dykes, although embanked natural watercourses form continuous linear boundaries across the zone. Following the reclamation and drainage of the Fenlands, the smaller field systems were amalgamated, with some of the larger fields sub-divided following the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a practice which continued in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to allow for large-scale mechanised farming. Whilst drains were used to separate most fields, the drier land enabled farmers to divide their own land with hedgerows. The use of hedgerows to define fields survives in the modern landscape with 11 possible historic hedgerows being noted within the Scheme Site Boundary and further examples

being recorded in the wider 1 km Study Area (AEC403, AEC404, AEC405, AEC406, AEC547, AEC548, AEC549, AEC550, AEC551, AEC552, AEC553). To support farming of the newly created agricultural land, a notable number of isolated farmsteads were erected at this time within the Fenland Basin, changing the landscape from predominantly nucleated settlements to much more widespread habitation. Eighteen farmsteads established in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries remain extant within the 1 km Study Area, which constitutes around 50% of those known to have been developed during this period.

- 4.7.30 Additionally, the villages continued to develop, with the village of Weston containing a historic core, including six listed buildings which were constructed in the post-medieval period, which has been little changed since. One further example of post-medieval settlement occurred at Wykeham Chapel which came under private ownership when the monasteries were dissolved (NHLE 1019096). A manor house was built next to the chapel (NHLE 1147513) which remains under private ownership today. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Wykeham Estate was depicted on the Parish Map of Spalding, with the land holdings shown to extend from Stone Gate in the north to Stump Lane in the south and the River Welland in the west to the parish boundary in the east. The roads and boundaries which defined this estate since at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century remain visible in the landscape today. This estate and the re-purposing of ecclesiastical land in the post-medieval period is a good surviving example of an estate which remains easily identifiable in the landscape.
- 4.7.31 With the increased populations and production, infrastructure had to be improved to transport the produce to cities. A network of roads and railways were developed, including the Lincolnshire Loop Line Railway, which later became the A16 road (AEC401), and Wragg Marsh Tramway which has since been dismantled, although much of the route is encompassed by an existing trackway (MLI22401).
- 4.7.32 Whilst changes have been made to the post-medieval landscape, elements such as the management and layout, as well as settlement patterns remain. Whilst many field systems, sea defences and drainage channels were developed within the land north of the “Roman Bank” (MLI98445) during the post-medieval period as part of reclamation efforts, many of these changes are no longer visible in the landscape. As agriculture has become more industrialised and fields have been consolidated, the pattern of fields bounded by drainage ditches survives due to the continual need for landscape management. Additionally, many of the sea defences which are no longer in use have been ploughed out, yet some vestigial earthworks survive around Wraggmarsh Farm to the north of the Scheme Site Boundary. The historic core of Weston demonstrates the growth this area experienced in the post-medieval period and the survival of 18 isolated, post-medieval farmsteads, which are connected by road networks, attest to the development of farms that served individual land holdings. The modern landscape greatly reflects that established in the post-medieval period in terms of settlement pattern and landscape management, with field boundary drainage ditches and the “Roman Bank” (MLI98445) surviving within the Scheme Site Boundary itself.

# 5. Assessment of the Baseline

## 5.1 Designated Heritage Assets

### Scheduled Monuments

#### Wykeham Chapel (NHLE 1019096)

- 5.1.1 The scheduled monument of Wykeham Chapel moated monastic grange and retreat house, constructed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (NHLE 1019096), is located approximately 760 m to the south east of the Scheme Site Boundary. Located at the centre of the scheduled monument is the grade I listed Wykeham Chapel of St Nicholas (NHLE 1064471) which is included in the scheduling as is the adjoining graveyard. The grade II listed building, 17<sup>th</sup> century Chapel Farmhouse (NHLE 1147513), is also located within the scheduled boundary but is excluded from the scheduling. The grade II listed Gate Piers to Chapel Farmhouse (NHLE 1064472) are located to the immediate south west of, and just outside, the scheduled boundary. Wykeham Chapel comprises a medieval moated monastic grange with the remains of a retreat house and chapel. The grange was associated with Spalding Priory, approximately 5 km to the south west, which was originally a dependency of Crowland Abbey before the priory was refounded under the abbey of St Nicholas at Angers in 1074, gaining independence from the abbey in 1397. The majority of the land of Weston was under the jurisdiction of Spalding Priory and the abbey from the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century. The grade I listed Wykeham Chapel of St Nicholas (NHLE 1064471) was built as a domestic chapel for the country residence of the Prior of Spalding in 1311. The establishment at Wykeham served as a monastic retreat house, a place of rest and recuperation for the monks. The chapel became a free chapel following the Dissolution but by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century it had fallen into disuse, following the collapse of the roof. The Chapel is constructed of limestone ashlar and measures approximately 13 m by 6.5 m with fenestration existing in the north and eastern elevations. The scheduled moated island is rectangular, measuring 270 m by 140 m, with the centre of the island raised above the surrounding ground level, indicating the location of the earlier house. The moat is partly water filled and measures up to 10 m in width, with earthwork features indicating there was once a more extensive system of drainage. The moat is now crossed by two causeways on its western arm and a third narrow causeway on its northern arm. Standing 20 m to the south west of the Chapel is the late 17<sup>th</sup> century grade II listed Chapel Farmhouse (NHLE 1147513) which is constructed of red brick with limestone ashlar dressings. The principal elevation of the farmhouse faces southwards, although there is also significant fenestration to the eastern elevation. The scheduled monument is bounded by mature trees on all sides, with a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead located immediately to the south east and bounding the scheduled area; this farmstead is not recorded on the HER but is depicted on the First Edition OS map of 1887. A small area of mature trees lies just to the north east of the scheduled monument along the eastern field boundary.
- 5.1.2 The immediate setting of the listed buildings comprises their close proximity and historic relationship to one another and the moated monastic grange, set within an isolated, enclosed landscaped site that contributes strongly to their value, with the surviving earthwork features of the monastic grange and standing remains of the

chapel constituting a rare example of their type. The wider agricultural landscape which surrounds the heritage assets, forms their wider setting, over which the Chapel windows would once have afforded views. There are views of the spire of a Church (likely the Church of All Saints in Moulton) to the south east from Wykeham Lane, south east of the scheduled monument. While mature hedges now screen views into the monastic site, it is possible that intervisibility between Wykeham Chapel and the Church to the south east formed part of its historic setting. Although mature trees and hedges border the monastic site, as the trees are deciduous, there would be seasonal views into the surrounding fields and there are occasional gaps in the tree screening along the scheduled boundary.

- 5.1.3 The monastic grange scheduled monument and grade I listed chapel retain strong archaeological, architectural and historic interest derived from their history and function as a medieval ecclesiastical site, with multiple phases of development. This is reflected in their designated status as heritage assets of exceptional significance, of national importance, enhanced by mutual historic relationship and their immediate setting and proximity to one another.
- 5.1.4 The grade II listed Chapel Farmhouse has architectural and historic interest as an example of a post-medieval farmhouse constructed in the local vernacular; its association within the monastic grange also contributes to its historic interest. It has significance as an asset of regional importance.
- 5.1.5 The grade II listed gate piers retain architectural and historic interest, derived from their association with the farmhouse and monastic site, which contributes to their significance and designation of regional importance.
- 5.1.6 The wider setting of this group of assets contributes substantially to their overall significance, individually and collectively.

### **Churchyard Cross, St Mary's Churchyard (NHLE 1013529; 1064473)**

- 5.1.7 The scheduled monument, the Churchyard Cross (NHLE 1013529), which is also grade II listed (NHLE 1064473), is located in the churchyard of the grade I listed Church of St Mary (NHLE 1064475). The scheduled monument is 14<sup>th</sup> century in date consisting of a limestone ashlar cross with an octagonal base with chamfered top, surmounted by tapering rectangular shaft with deeply chamfered corners and broached stops. Above is a 19<sup>th</sup> century crenelated capital with tapering cross with gable. The scheduled monument possesses archaeological, architectural, and historic interest as a surviving medieval feature located at or close to its original position. The archaeological interest is derived from the potential for medieval archaeological deposits to survive below ground. It has significance as an asset of national importance. The setting of the cross, comprising its relationship to the medieval church, contributes to its significance.

## **5.2 Conservation Areas**

### **Moulton Conservation Area**

- 5.2.1 The historic core of Moulton is designated as a conservation area and located approximately 1.4 km to the south east of the Scheme Site Boundary. Within this conservation area there are 18 listed buildings, including two grade I and 16 grade II listed buildings. The grade I listed buildings comprise the Church of All Saints (NHLE 1147325) and Moulton Windmill (NHLE 1147325), approximately 1.85 km and 1.9 km

south east of the Scheme Site Boundary, respectively. The grade II listed buildings include various post-medieval houses (NHLE 1064502; 1064506; 1064507; 1064501; 1147465; 1147237; 1147281; 1147210; 1147257; 1359271), a former vicarage (NHLE 1359268), public house (NHLE 1147422), a hand pump (NHLE 1064504), lychgate (NHLE 1359270) and a 1930s K6 Telephone Kiosk (NHLE 1253327). The historic settlement of the village was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, indicating an earlier Saxon settlement existed. The Church of All Saints (NHLE 1147325) is the only surviving medieval building in the conservation area, located east of the High Street and surrounded by the village core. The value of the church is derived from its architectural interest and its historic relationship with the village, located within the old historic core of the settlement. The spire of the church is visible on roads into the village and across the wider agricultural landscape. Moulton Windmill (NHLE 1308557) is located to the south east of the church at the southern edge of Moulton Conservation Area. Both the church spire and windmill are visible from outside the village to the north west towards the Site. The grade I listed buildings' significance are of national importance while the conservation area and grade II listed buildings' significance are of regional importance. These assets possess architectural and historic interest as examples of a surviving historic settlement and medieval / post-medieval buildings, which utilise local materials to create a visual cohesion. The agricultural farmland surrounding the village forms part of the setting of the conservation area contributing to its character and significance.

## Listed Buildings

### **Church of St Mary (NHLE 1064475) and associated grade II listed buildings**

5.2.2

The grade I listed Church of St Mary (NHLE 1064475), Weston, is located approximately 300 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The Church of St Mary was constructed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and consists of a nave with west tower, north and south aisles with south porch, clerestory, north and south transepts and chancel. The west tower has three stages, surmounted by a castellated parapet and pinnacles to each corner. Within the churchyard are a series of grade II listed buildings, including a Tomb Chest (NHLE 1147556), a row of seven 18<sup>th</sup> century Gravestones (NHLE 1064474) and the c.1918 Lychgate (NHLE 1147551), which is also a war memorial. The church is set within its churchyard which includes these heritage assets and is bounded by mature trees to the north and east, which form the buildings' setting, along with their position within the settlement of Weston. The church possesses archaeological, architectural and historic interest as a surviving example of a medieval, ecclesiastical building with multiple phases of development. The church's significance is of national importance. The grade II listed buildings possess architectural and historic interest, formed by their relationship to the church and as examples of post-medieval and early 20<sup>th</sup> century memorial features. They are of regional importance. The setting of the buildings also contribute to their significance.

### **Oakleigh House (NHLE 1261851) and the Barn to the South (NHLE 1147591)**

5.2.3

The house and barn are grade II listed buildings located approximately 510 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary in Weston. Oakleigh House is an 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, built of red brick with slate and pantile roofs in an L-shaped plan. It has two storeys and a three bay front facing the road to the south east. The south east front has a central doorway with a painted surround and plain sash windows to

either side and above. The barn to the south is also of 18<sup>th</sup> century date, consisting of a single storey, red brick building with a corrugated iron roof. The setting of the buildings comprise their position in the rural village and along the historic road, as well as the relationship between the buildings, which adds to their setting. The former agricultural setting of the buildings have been infilled with modern housing to the north west. The buildings possess architectural and historic interest as surviving 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings constructed in the local vernacular; their setting also contributes to their significance. The assets are of regional importance.

### **Wraggmarsh House Farmhouse (NHLE 1147603) and Pigeoncote to the east (NHLE 1064477)**

5.2.4 The farmhouse and pigeoncote are grade II listed buildings located approximately 390 m north east of the Scheme Site Boundary. The Pigeoncote dates to around 1740 so is not contemporary with the Farmhouse which dates from about 1800, although their proximity and possible historical association forms part of their immediate setting. The two listed buildings are located approximately 60 m apart, with the non-designated former Wragg Marsh tramway (MLI22401) recorded once running between them. The Farmhouse (NHLE 1147603) stands two storeys tall with a three bay front with the principal elevation facing south west towards the Pigeoncote and Site, partially screened by mature trees. The Pigeoncote (NHLE 1064477) is located in an isolated position in the middle of a field, comprising a circular plan form of two storeys built of red brick with a conical slate roof and tall weathervane. There are wide open views from and to the Pigeoncote across Lord's Drain, along Marsh Road and the agricultural land within the Site. The wider setting of the Farmhouse and Pigeoncote comprises the surrounding rural countryside which contributes to the functional context and understanding of these assets. The buildings possess architectural and historic interest as surviving post-medieval buildings, built in the local vernacular, which highlight the historic agricultural use of the landscape. The buildings' setting also contribute to their significance. The assets are of regional importance.

### **The Gables (NHLE 1146546)**

5.2.5 The Gables is a grade II listed building located approximately 700 m north west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The Gables is a farmhouse, built in 1692, of roughcast rendered brick with stucco quoins and slate roof. It is of two storeys and has a three bay front with the principal elevation to the south west. Views to the south east towards the Site are limited by tall, mature trees and hedges bordering the A16. The setting of the farmhouse consists of its associated farm complex, to the west as well as the surrounding agricultural fields which form its functional setting. The building possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving post-medieval building built in the local vernacular which highlights the historic agricultural use of the landscape. The building's setting also contributes to its significance. The asset is of regional importance.

### **Milestone (NHLE 1064476)**

5.2.6 The milestone is a grade II listed building located approximately 920 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The milestone is a small, 19<sup>th</sup> century, rectangular, painted and inscribed stone, with the distances to Holbeach and Spalding marked upon it. The setting of the milepost consists of its roadside position, although the milestone is not noted on the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century OS maps in

this location, although a guide post is recorded further to the north east on the maps, so it may have been moved from its original location. The milestone possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving feature of the post-medieval road network. The setting of the asset also contributes to its significance. The asset is of regional importance.

### **Seasend Hall (NHLE 1064468)**

- 5.2.7 Seasend Hall is a grade II listed building located approximately 1.2 km to the south east of the Scheme Site Boundary. The building is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse built of red brick with a hipped slate roof. It consists of two storeys and a three bay front, with a central doorway accessed via three steps. The setting of the house comprises the surrounding grounds and the wider agricultural fields associated with the farm. The building possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving post-medieval building, built in the local vernacular, which highlights the historic agricultural use of the landscape. The building's setting also contributes to its significance. The asset is of regional importance.

### **Ivy House (NHLE 1359281)**

- 5.2.8 Ivy House is a grade II listed building located approximately 1.41 km north west of the Scheme Site Boundary. Ivy House is an 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse of red brick with a concrete tile roof with two storeys and a three bay front. The principal elevation of the house is to the south east towards the Site, although the view is partially screened as the garden is bordered by mature trees. The setting of the farmhouse consists of its associated farm complex to the south of Ivy House, as well as the surrounding agricultural fields. The building possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving post-medieval agricultural structure, still in use as a farm, contributing to the understanding of the agricultural history of the area. The setting of the building also contributes to its significance. The asset is of regional importance.

### **Methodist Chapel (NHLE 1147449)**

- 5.2.9 The Methodist Chapel is a grade II listed building located approximately 1.6 km to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary. The chapel is dated 1835 and consists of a red brick, single storey building, with a concrete tiled roof. It has a single bay to its principal elevation to the east with a semi-circular headed doorway with painted inscription plaque above. The setting of the chapel comprises its rural village position, set in the fenland landscape. The chapel possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century religious building, highlighting an example of a small, rural Methodist building of the period. The setting of the building also contributes to its significance. The asset is of regional importance.

### **Moulton Seas End War Memorial (NHLE 1454594)**

- 5.2.10 The war memorial is a grade II listed building located approximately 1.6 km to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary. The memorial was constructed in 1920 of grey granite and comprises a tall, four-sided pillar, with a moulded and dentilated cornice and a moulded foot. The pillar is crowned by a small, four-sided block of granite with a pyramidal top. The memorial is enclosed by metal railings with gold painted finials and a gate to the west with decorative gate posts; the memorial stands in its original position. The setting of the memorial consists of its road-side position and the associated rural village it serves. The memorial possesses architectural and historic

interest as a fine example of a decorative memorial; commemorating the lives lost in the conflicts of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the memorial also contributes to its significance. The asset is of regional importance.

### **Broadgate House Farmhouse (NHLE 1308515)**

- 5.2.11 Broadgate House Farmhouse is a grade II listed building located approximately 1.85 km to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The farmhouse was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century of red brick with a slate roof. It has two storeys with an attic and a symmetrical three bay front. The central doorway is under a round arched open porch, supported by slender Doric columns. To either side are canted bay windows, above are tripartite plain sashes to the outer bays and there is a round arched plain sash above the doorway. There are also two dormer windows above. The principal elevation is towards the road to the east, with a hedgerow of mature trees screening views to the field beyond, although there may be some views from the upper storeys. The setting of the farmhouse consists of the associated farm complex to the south and west, with the barns now converted into houses. The setting of the asset is defined by the surrounding agricultural fields. The farmhouse possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving post-medieval farmhouse, built in the local vernacular with interesting architectural details. The setting of the building also contributes to its significance. The asset is of regional importance.

## **5.3 Non-Designated Heritage Assets**

### **Chestnut House (MLI122926)**

- 5.3.1 The non-designated farm is located approximately 10 m west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The farm comprises a partially extant 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead with a loose cluster of traditional buildings. The First edition OS map shows the farm to include a T-plan range with a regular courtyard and an additional detached farmhouse range. It appears that a number of these structures have been lost and replaced with modern agricultural buildings to the north and a modern property to the north west. The farmhouse has been extended to the north with its principal elevation facing south, screened by trees. The parish of Weston's Tithe Apportionment of 1838 shows the historic land parcels associated with Chestnut House to extend to the north and east of the farmstead. This historic landholding informs the wider functional setting of the non-designated farm. The farm possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving 19<sup>th</sup> agricultural buildings, which contributes to the understanding of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. The agricultural setting of the farm also contributes to its significance. The asset is of local importance.

### **Weston Marsh Farm (MLI122920)**

- 5.3.2 The non-designated farm is located approximately 15 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary. The farm is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and consists of a regular courtyard in a U-shaped plan with a detached farmhouse. Most of the historic buildings have been removed with one rectangular shed building extant. The setting of the farm has been partially diminished by the loss of historic buildings, although the wider agricultural surroundings survive. The farm possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving 19<sup>th</sup> agricultural structure, which contributes to understanding of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. The agricultural setting of the farm also contributes to its significance. The asset is of local importance.

## Woad Farm (MLI122578)

- 5.3.3 The non-designated farm is located approximately 30 m north west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The farm is a partially extant 19th century farmstead. It consists of a regular courtyard with a detached farmhouse. There has been a partial loss of traditional buildings with the addition of large modern sheds located to the side of the asset. The setting of the farm is formed by the complex of farm buildings and its position within the surrounding agricultural landscape. The farm possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving 19<sup>th</sup> agricultural structure, which contributes to the understanding of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. The agricultural setting of the farm also contributes to its significance. The asset is of local importance.

## Top Yard (MLI122919)

- 5.3.4 The farm is located approximately 390 m south east of the Scheme Site Boundary and consists of outbuildings in an L-shaped courtyard plan with a detached farmhouse. Elements of the historic farm have been removed and modern sheds added to the east of the farm. The farm possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving 19<sup>th</sup> agricultural structure, which contributes to the understanding of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. The agricultural setting of the farm also contributes to its significance. The asset is of local importance.

## Crowtree Farm (MLI122916)

- 5.3.5 The farm is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, located approximately 5 m south east of the Scheme Site Boundary. It comprises a detached farmhouse at the western end of the farm complex with outbuildings to the north, including large modern sheds. The farmhouse is a two storey, brick building in a square plan, with a single storey wing to the north. The principal elevation of the farmhouse is to the southern elevation, although there is fenestration to the east elevation, towards the Scheme Site Boundary. Views to the south are partially screened by mature trees within the garden of the farmhouse, while long views to the east are across the surrounding agricultural fields. The setting of the farm is formed by the complex of farm buildings and its position within the surrounding agricultural landscape. The farm possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving 19<sup>th</sup> agricultural structure, which contributes to the understanding of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. The intact agricultural setting of the farm also contributes to its significance. The asset is of local importance.

## Shepherds Farm (MLI122924)

- 5.3.6 The non-designated farm is located approximately 440 m north west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The farm consists of a detached farmhouse and a working complex. The farmhouse is a two storey, brick building, with the principal elevation to the north, with many of the traditional historic outbuildings demolished. The farm is bordered by Stone Gate (road) to the east and mature trees and hedges to the north, east and south. The loss of some of the historic outbuildings resulted in the loss of the original farm plan and partially diminishes the immediate setting of the farmhouse. The wider setting of the farm is the surrounding agricultural landscape. The farm possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving 19<sup>th</sup> agricultural structure, which contributes to the understanding of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. The

agricultural setting of the farm also contributes to its significance. The asset is of local importance.

### **Welland House Farm (MLI122918)**

- 5.3.7 Welland House Farm is a non-designated farm located approximately 390 m south west of the Scheme Site Boundary. Welland House is a partially extant 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead which is shown on the First Edition OS map to include a regular courtyard with multiple regular yards and a detached farmhouse. The principal fenestration of the farmhouse is to the south and east elevations. Views to the south are screened beyond the farm by mature hedges bordering the garden and views to the east are towards the outbuildings. Modern agricultural sheds have replaced some of the historic structures to the east of the farmhouse, resulting in the loss of the courtyard plan and diminishing the immediate setting of the farmhouse. The wider setting of this non-designated heritage asset is the surrounding agricultural landscape, particularly to the east and south. To the west, the asset is located in close proximity to the River Welland and Vernatt's Drain. The farm possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving 19<sup>th</sup> agricultural structure, which contributes to the understanding of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. The agricultural setting of the farm also contributes to its significance. The asset is of local importance.

### **The Ship Inn, Surfleet Seas End, Surfleet (MLI87121)**

- 5.3.8 The Ship Inn is located approximately 250 m west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The inn is thought to date to around 1642 when Scottish and Irish prisoners of war and Dutch labourers were working on the drainage of the Fens. However, a map of this area in 1676 does not show the Inn. The Deeping Fe, Pinchbeck and Spalding Internal Drainage Board owned the Inn for many years, until 1970 when it was sold. The Ship Inn is constructed in brick with a concrete tile roof. Some parts of the building have been extended in the 1950s and these bits have felt roofs. Upon examination the building appears to have retained little obvious signs of its heritage apart from its brick shell. The principal elevation of The Ship Inn is to the south east, overlooking the River Glen and the surrounding rural countryside which contributes to its setting and the understanding of its historic associations with the waterways and rural countryside. The building possesses architectural and historic interest as a surviving post-medieval inn associated with the drainage of the Fens. The setting of the building also contributes to its significance. The asset is of local importance.

### **Weston non-designated buildings: Former School Weston (MLI126656); Unnamed Farmsteads, Weston (MLI122928; MLI122935); White House Farm, Weston (MLI122917); Church Farm, Weston (MLI122927); Mount Pleasant, Weston (MLI122930); Cavell House, Weston (MLI122931)**

- 5.3.9 There are seven non-designated buildings in the 1 km Study Area in Weston to the south of the Scheme Site Boundary, including post-medieval farms and a former school building. The farm buildings are also extant or partially extant 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads and consist of courtyards of working buildings and detached farmhouses. The former school building is a two storey red brick building, under a pitched gabled slate roof. It has stone quoins and dressed ashlar stone door and window surrounds. Adjacent is a single storey red brick building under a pitched gabled slate roof.

- 5.3.10 The setting of the buildings comprises their position in the rural village, and the surrounding agricultural fields. The buildings possess architectural and historic interest as surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings. The farms also contribute to the understanding of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. The setting of the buildings also contribute to their significance. The assets are of local importance.

**Surfleet non-designated buildings: Old Three Tuns Farm, Surfleet (MLI122568); Ali-San-Ama, Surfleet (MLI122574); Coney Garth House, Surfleet (MLI122576); Unnamed Farmstead, Surfleet (MLI122577); Unnamed Farmstead, Surfleet (MLI122579); Welland House Farm (MLI122570).**

- 5.3.11 There are six non-designated farmsteads in Surfleet approximately between 2.5 and 3 km to the west of the Scheme Site Boundary. The farms are all 19<sup>th</sup> century complexes with regular courtyard plans of working buildings and associated farmhouses. The setting of the buildings comprises their position in the rural landscape, and the surrounding agricultural fields. The buildings all possess architectural and historic interest as surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings. The farms also contribute to the understanding of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. The setting of the buildings also contribute to their significance. The assets are of local importance.

## **Non-Designated Assets Located Within the Scheme Site Boundary**

### **Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445)**

- 5.3.12 A medieval sea bank has been previously identified through aerial photography as an extant earthwork, located within the Scheme Site Boundary. The sea bank is recorded on the 1905 OS map and extends west from the settlement of Moulton (MLI98445) to the River Welland. Whilst colloquially it is known as the 'Roman Bank', due to an incorrect dating of the bank by antiquarians in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the asset likely dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century and is therefore of medieval date.
- 5.3.13 The asset comprises a linear earthen bank that survives as an extant earthwork. Further associated buried remains relating to the bank may also survive, including buried ditches and postholes.
- 5.3.14 The setting of the asset is the local area that it was designed to protect against flooding, including the nearby settlement of Weston and the surrounding post-medieval agricultural fields in which it is situated.
- 5.3.15 The asset holds historical and archaeological interest as a surviving example of a medieval sea bank defence, which forms part of a wider system of medieval flood defence, with potential to contribute to the understanding of medieval settlement patterns, land and water management techniques within the Lincolnshire Fens. As such the significance of this heritage asset is considered to be of regional importance.

### **Tramway, Wragg Marsh, Weston (MLI22401)**

- 5.3.16 The Wragg Marsh Tramway (MLI22401) is located crossing several post-medieval fields on a north eastern to south western alignment. The tramway dates to the 19th century, and is recorded on the First Edition OS map. The tramway was dismantled in the early 20th century with any surviving remains buried below ground.
- 5.3.17 The tramway comprises the buried remnants of the tramway including the track bed and ancillary structures, such as the bases for demolished power line pylons.
- 5.3.18 The asset holds historical and archaeological interest, derived from its potential to inform upon research questions regarding post-medieval transport techniques within the Weston Marsh Area of the Lincolnshire Fens. It is of local importance.

### **Ridge and Furrow (AEC501)**

- 5.3.19 Ridge and furrow agricultural features have been recorded, through aerial photographic analysis, as cropmarks within an agricultural field approximately 250 m north of Stone Gate. The ridge and furrow extend for approximately 100 m on a north east to south west alignment.
- 5.3.20 The ridge and furrow comprises linear ditches, interspaced at approximately 5 to 10m centres.
- 5.3.21 The ridge and furrow holds archaeological interest, contributing to its significance as agricultural features of local importance. It may have the potential to contribute to the understanding of agricultural practices within the Lincolnshire Fens and may help to inform upon research questions posed in the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework.

### **Possible Boundary Banks (AEC507)**

- 5.3.22 A series of three linear banks has been identified through aerial photography as cropmarks extending on a north to south alignment. Whilst undated, they may be dated to the prehistoric, Roman or medieval periods. The banks are located to the west of Lord's Bank drain, is situated to the north of the medieval Sea Bank in Weston (MLI98445) and may be part of a wider drainage system of the marshes. The asset is adjacent to asset (AEC526). The asset comprises buried earthen banks and may have associated features, such as postholes adjacent to the asset.
- 5.3.23 The linear features hold archaeological and historic interest and are of local importance. They have potential to contribute to the understanding of agricultural practices and water management within the Lincolnshire Fens and may help to inform upon research questions posed in the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework.

### **Curvilinear Enclosure (AEC508)**

- 5.3.24 A curvilinear enclosure has been identified through aerial photography as a cropmark located approximately 70m east of Marsh Road. The asset is undated but based on its shape and form, likely dates to the medieval or post-medieval period and may be an animal enclosure. The asset would comprise a buried curvilinear ditch which may contain environmental material within its fill.
- 5.3.25 The asset hold archaeological and historic interest and are of local importance. It holds potential to contribute to the understanding of agricultural practices within the

Lincolnshire Fens and may help to inform upon research questions posed in the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework.

### **Post-Medieval Ditches (AEC510)**

- 5.3.26 A series of linear and curvilinear ditches have been recorded through aerial photographic analysis as cropmarks. Based upon their form and curvilinear nature, these ditches may be part of former drainage channels used throughout the post-medieval period to help drain the Lincolnshire Fens. The asset may contain palaeoenvironmental remains within the features fills.
- 5.3.27 The asset holds historical and archaeological interest, derived from its potential to inform upon research questions regarding land and water management and agricultural practices within the Lincolnshire Fens. The asset is of regional importance.

### **Undated Ditches (AEC511 and AEC512)**

- 5.3.28 Several linear ditches, extending for between approximately 75 m and 90 m on a north east to south west and east to west alignment, has been identified through aerial photographic analysis as a cropmark. The ditches connect to a much larger water channel to the west and are likely water management features associated with this larger water channel. The assets are undated but likely dates to the medieval or post-medieval period when a programme of drainage and land reclamation was undertaken across the Lincolnshire Fens. The assets comprises buried linear ditches, and the fills/deposits infilling it.
- 5.3.29 The assets hold historical and archaeological interest for its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to medieval and post-medieval water management and agricultural practices within the Lincolnshire Fens. The asset is of local importance.

### **Undated Ditch (AEC514)**

- 5.3.30 A linear ditch, extending for approximately 150 m on a north to south alignment has been identified through aerial photographic analysis as a cropmark. The ditch is undated but may be part of the wider land reclamation and water management systems undertaken across the Lincolnshire Fens during the post-medieval period.
- 5.3.31 The asset survives wholly as a buried archaeological feature that may form part of a wider group of post-medieval land and water management features including ditches, banks and drainage channels.
- 5.3.32 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to agricultural and land management techniques within the Lincolnshire Fens posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. As such, the asset is considered to be of local importance.

### **Medieval Dylings (AEC515)**

- 5.3.33 Evidence for this type of medieval agricultural practice is largely centred around the settlement of Weston where a series of linear medieval dylings have been identified, by cropmark evidence, in fields approximately 100m and 350m west of the Lord's Drain.

- 5.3.34 The medieval dyings are aligned predominantly on a north to south alignment, with a further six dyings aligned north east to south west. The medieval dyings would comprise a series of buried linear ditches, interspaced approximately 5 m apart.
- 5.3.35 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to medieval agricultural techniques within the Lincolnshire Fens posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. As such, the asset is considered to be of regional importance.

#### **Post Medieval Field Boundary (AEC517, AEC518 and AEC519)**

- 5.3.36 Two linear features have been identified through aerial photographic analysis as a cropmark, extending east from Marsh Road on a north west on south east alignment. The field boundaries are likely contemporary, forming part of a post-medieval field system. The field boundary is undated, however, it likely dates to the post-medieval period.
- 5.3.37 The assets comprise a buried linear ditches and the deposits infilling it. The asset holds historical and archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions, relating to post-medieval agricultural practices within the Lincolnshire Fens, posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is considered to be of local importance.

#### **Circular Anomalies (AEC525)**

- 5.3.38 A group of five concentric circular anomalies have been identified through aerial photographic analysis as cropmarks. The anomalies are located in a field to the east of Marsh Road and north east of Crowtree Farm. The circular anomalies vary between 9 m and 16 m in diameter and are grouped together over an area of approximately 150 m. An irregular shaped feature is located approximately 50 m to the west of this group of ring ditches and may be an associated enclosure (AEC508). These circular anomalies are interpreted as 'fen circles', first reported by Derrick Riley in 1946, and suggested as a drip gully for open crop storage.
- 5.3.39 The circular anomalies are likely post-medieval in date and would comprise circular gullies, with internal features such as a storage pit. These fen circles may have formed part of an area of habitation / activity and as such further features may be located in the area between the fen circles, such as postholes, storage and rubbish pits, and animal enclosures.
- 5.3.40 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to post-medieval rural agricultural practices within the Lincolnshire Fens posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is of regional importance.

#### **Undated Road (AEC527)**

- 5.3.41 A likely road or trackway has been identified through aerial photographic analysis as cropmarks, extending across the fields to the west and east of Marsh Road, on a north west to south east alignment. The trackway is approximately 10 m in width and is recorded extending for approximately 65 m, before it terminates at Marsh Road. An existing road, Hall Gate, is located on the same alignment as the asset and this may be a continuation of this road or trackway. The trackway / road follows the edge of an existing post-medieval field boundary and it is likely that this trackway / road dates to the post-medieval period.

- 5.3.42 The asset would likely comprise a buried earthen or stone trackway, with several layers of compressed earth and stone forming the trackway over many years. There may be associated features such as road-side ditches, wheel ruts, repairs that may be present along the length of the trackway / road.
- 5.3.43 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to post-medieval transport links and road construction techniques within the Lincolnshire Fens posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is of regional importance.

#### **Sea Defences (AEC529, AEC533 and AEC560)**

- 5.3.44 Two anomalies were identified through aerial photographic and LiDAR analysis as a soilmark, located approximately 200m east of the River Welland extending for approximately 750 m on an east to west alignment, with an approximate width of 15 m. The sea defence extends from Marsh Road to the west and the post-medieval canal known as the Domino Drainium to the east. A sinuous anomaly extends and terminates at the asset, (AEC401), indicating this was an old stream course during the medieval or post-medieval periods. It is likely that the sea defence dates to the medieval or post-medieval period and forms part of the wider sea defences of the Weston Marshes in the Lincolnshire Fens. The asset would comprise the buried remains of an earthen bank.
- 5.3.45 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions, relating to medieval and post-medieval land-use, sea defences and land reclamation techniques within the Lincolnshire Fens. The asset is of regional importance.

#### **Sea Defence (AEC535)**

- 5.3.46 An anomaly was identified through aerial photographic analysis as a cropmark approximately 200m north of the Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445) and 200 m north west of the Lord's Drain. The sea defence extends for approximately 230 m on a curvilinear north east to south west alignment, with an approximate width of 6 m. It is likely that the asset dates to the medieval or post-medieval period and forms part of the wider land reclamation and flood defences across Weston Marsh.
- 5.3.47 The asset would comprise the buried remains of an earthen bank.
- 5.3.48 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions, relating to medieval and post-medieval land-use, sea defences and land reclamation techniques, within the Lincolnshire Fens posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is of regional importance.

#### **Undated Trackway (AEC537)**

- 5.3.49 A curvilinear trackway (AEC537) has been identified through aerial photographic analysis as a cropmark, extending on a north east to south west alignment. The trackway is visible on LiDAR data as two potential ditches, that would have flanked a trackway linking Stone Gate in the south to the Lord's Drain and Moulton-on-Sea to the north east.
- 5.3.50 The asset comprises the buried remains of two parallel ditches and possibly several layers of compressed earth and stone forming the trackway in between.

- 5.3.51 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to post-medieval transport links and road construction techniques within the Lincolnshire Fens, posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is of local importance.

#### **Pond (AEC540)**

- 5.3.52 A pond was identified on the first edition OS map, located within an agricultural field approximately 270 m west of Lord's Drain. The pond measures approximately 5 to 10m in diameter and likely dates to the post-medieval period based on form and its location.
- 5.3.53 The asset comprises a singular ovoid shaped pond and any material that has infilled it.
- 5.3.54 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to post-medieval agricultural practice within the Lincolnshire Fens posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is of local importance.

#### **Pond (AEC541)**

- 5.3.55 A pond was identified on the first edition OS map located within an agricultural field approximately 520 m east of Marsh Road. The pond measures approximately 5 to 10m in diameter and likely dates to the post-medieval period based on its form and location.
- 5.3.56 The asset comprises a singular ovoid shaped pond and any material that has infilled it.
- 5.3.57 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to Late medieval and post-medieval agricultural practices within the Lincolnshire Fens, posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is of local importance.

#### **Pond (AEC544)**

- 5.3.58 A pond was identified on the first edition OS map located within a field to the west of Carrington Road. The pond appears to be approximately 10m in diameter and is ovoid shape in plan. The pond likely dates to the post-medieval period.
- 5.3.59 The asset comprises a singular ovoid shaped pond and any material that has infilled it.
- 5.3.60 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to post-medieval agricultural practices within the Lincolnshire Fens, posed in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is of local importance.

#### **Natural Watercourses (AEC538)**

- 5.3.61 A series of sinuous, interconnecting watercourses have been recorded through aerial photography and LiDAR assessment, connecting to a post-medieval drainage channel, to the east and extending westwards towards Marsh Road. The watercourses are approximately 4 m in width and extend across an area of

approximately 500 m east to west and 530 m north to south. They are undated but may date to the medieval or post-medieval periods.

- 5.3.62 The watercourses would likely comprise a series of interconnecting, incised channels, infilled by sediment and possibly waterlogged deposits, which could preserve organic material and palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 5.3.63 The asset holds archaeological interest in its potential to inform upon further research questions relating to medieval and post-medieval land-use and water management in the East Midland Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is of regional importance.

#### **Post-Medieval Ditches (AEC559)**

- 5.3.64 Two ditches have been recorded as cropmarks in an agricultural field approximately 250m north of Stone Gate. Based upon their form, proximity and alignment, they may be associated with and be an extension of the medieval dylings (AEC515), located approximately 60 m north and 50m west of the asset.
- 5.3.65 The asset comprises several buried linear ditches that may contain palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 5.3.66 The asset holds historical and archaeological interest derived from its potential to inform upon research questions regarding agricultural practices within the Lincolnshire Fens. The assets are of regional importance.

#### **Undated Ditches (AEC561)**

- 5.3.67 Two undated ditches have been recorded through aerial photographic analysis, approximately 70m north of the Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445). The two undated ditches interact with Sea Defence (AEC535), however, it is unknown whether they pre-or post-date it. It is likely, based on their location, form and being sited close to medieval and post-medieval dylings (AEC562) and the Medieval Sea Bank, (MLI98445) that the ditches are of medieval or post-medieval date.
- 5.3.68 The asset will comprise two buried linear ditches, that may contain palaeoenvironmental remains within their infills.
- 5.3.69 The asset holds historical and archaeological interest, derived from its potential to inform upon research questions regarding medieval or post-medieval agricultural techniques within the Lincolnshire Fens. The asset is of local importance.

#### **Peat Deposits (AEC562)**

- 5.3.70 Geoarchaeological monitoring of geotechnical investigations for Weston Marsh Substation Works, as part of the wider Grimsby to Walpole Project (Ref. 18), recorded a basal peat deposit, at a depth of between 13.5 m bgl and 15.25 m bgl, extending across the Weston Marsh area. The peat deposit has geoarchaeological interest and palaeoenvironmental potential, which could be compared with other peat deposits recorded across the Fen Basin and contribute to the known timeline of Holocene sea level change.
- 5.3.71 The peat deposits would hold archaeological interest in their potential to inform upon landscape and environmental change, as well as the development of early prehistoric wetland and Fenland within the Lincolnshire Fens, as posed in the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework. The asset is of regional importance.

### **Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC564 and AEC565)**

- 5.3.72 Two linear post-medieval field boundaries has been recorded during the geophysical survey undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2025. This identified a linear anomaly adjacent to an existing post-medieval field boundaries on a north east to south west alignment. Due to its proximity and alignment, it is highly likely these anomalies was part of the same field system but was removed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 5.3.73 The asset comprises buried linear ditches with associated backfills.
- 5.3.74 The asset holds historical and archaeological interest to inform on post-medieval agricultural techniques within the Lincolnshire Fens. The asset is of local importance.

## **5.4 Archaeological Potential**

### **Previous Ground Disturbance**

- 5.4.1 Cartographic sources and historical evidence, for the marsh reclamation activities within the Lincolnshire Fens, has indicated that *Weston Marsh*, as depicted on historic maps, and the land within the Scheme Site boundary has been agricultural fields since the early post-medieval period. Cartographic sources, including the late 20th century OS maps reveal very little alteration and change within the Scheme Site Boundary and wider 1 km Study Area.
- 5.4.2 A high pressure gas main is located extending across the Scheme Site Boundary on a north east to south west alignment. Whilst the depth of this gas main is unknown, it is likely that archaeological deposits down to a depth of approximately 1m have been removed within its footprint.
- 5.4.3 Agricultural topsoil extends across the Scheme Site Boundary down to a depth of approximately 0.3 m bgl. Plough erosion may have caused some erosion to archaeological remains, should they survive, within the agricultural fields.
- 5.4.4 The Geoarchaeological DBA, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (Ref. 15), has identified the depth of deposits within the footprint of the new Weston Marsh Substation A, beyond the Scheme Site Boundary and across the wider Weston Marshes. This shows that underlying agricultural topsoil are deposits of sand facies tidal flat deposits, that are present down to a depth of approximately 13.5-14m bgl. The tidal flat deposits then seal peat deposits of geoarchaeological interest that extend to a depth of between 13.5m and 15.25m bgl. These peat deposits seal Pleistocene glacial till identified at a depth of between 15.25m and 15.9m bgl.
- 5.4.5 It is anticipated that there is very little disturbance to the Holocene glacial till and peat deposits, due to their deep stratified nature and the lack of extensive or deep ground disturbance within the Scheme Site Boundary and 1 km Study Area.
- 5.4.6 As such, it is assessed that the level of disturbance within the Scheme Site Boundary is low.

### **Potential for Previously Unrecorded Archaeological Remains**

- 5.4.7 Prehistoric: No previously identified archaeological assets have been recorded within 1 km of the Scheme Site boundary, however, much of the activity from the prehistoric period is likely to be masked by thick tidal flat and peat deposits, with the sand facies tidal flat deposits recorded from ground level down to c.13.5-14m bgl and peat

deposits identified at a depth of 13.5-14m bgl, which may overlay Holocene deposits and features. The repeated marine transgressions and regressions led to the deposition of these thick tidal flat deposits, which in turn, may seal and preserve prehistoric land surfaces. Examples of masked prehistoric remains are located at Cowbit, located approximately 7 km south west of the Scheme Site Boundary, where Mesolithic working platforms, buried approximately 10 m below ground level, were recorded. The Geoarchaeological DBA undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (Ref.15) identified layers of peat between a depth of 13.5 m and 15.25 m bgl which may also seal early prehistoric features and land surfaces. As such, there is a medium potential to encounter previously unrecorded early prehistoric archaeological remains, either sealed beneath the tidal flat deposits or within or beneath the peat deposits within the Scheme Site Boundary.

- 5.4.8 Roman: The Roman settlement of the Fens began in the first century AD shortly after the Empire's arrival in Britain. It is thought that new settlements in the Fens were established in the later centuries when drainage is known to have begun taking place, allowing previously inundated areas to be permanently or intermittently settled, with many of the small settlements linked by a series of droveways, which allowed quicker and easier access across the marshlands.
- 5.4.9 Whilst some reclamation efforts were undertaken, the 1 km Study Area was still predominantly tidal or marsh, and therefore potentially underwater. A single Roman archaeological asset has been recorded within the 1 km Study Area or the Scheme Site Boundary, with the closest Roman assets to the Scheme Site Boundary, a small salt-making site, noted to the north east of Spalding, approximately 670 m to the south west of the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 5.4.10 The majority of the 1 km Study Area was underwater at this time, and the salt production appears to be focused along the coastline. The potential to encounter previously unrecorded Roman remains within the Site is deemed to be low.
- 5.4.11 Early Medieval: Upon the Romans' departure from Britain in the early 4th century AD, Britain changed economic and socially, with Lincoln one of the few urban centres to have survived as a British community through this period.
- 5.4.12 Throughout the early medieval period, the coastline remained largely similar to its form at the end of the Roman period, located along the confluence of the Rivers Glen and Welland as well as extending into the south eastern corner of the Scheme Site Boundary. As such, no evidence of early medieval activity has been recorded within the Scheme Site Boundary. The nearest settlements to the Scheme Site Boundary are Middle Saxon settlement sites, including Weston, approximately 110 m to the south of the Scheme Site Boundary (MLI92283, MLI92282) and several settlements recorded close to both Pinchbeck, approximately 3 km west of the Scheme Site Boundary, and at Gosberton, approximately 4 km to the north west. These settlements were built upon low mounds which are not naturally formed, rather they have been built up on accumulated settlement waste or 'dark earth'.
- 5.4.13 Within the 1 km Study Area, two areas of early medieval activity have been noted, one of which may be related to salt production activity near the settlement at Pinchbeck. This area lies to the north east of Spalding, approximately 270 m to the west of the Scheme Site Boundary, on what would have been the coastline (MLI83935). The second area of activity was noted approximately 110 m to the south of the Scheme Site Boundary within the village of Weston (MLI92283, MLI92282). Late Saxon deposits were revealed during excavation which included a ditch containing domestic waste, including late 10th to mid-11th century pottery. Metalwork

dating to this period has also been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (AEC559). As in the Roman period, the south eastern corner of the Scheme Site Boundary would have formed the coastline during this period, allowing for a settlement to be established at Weston.

- 5.4.14 No previous early medieval activity has been recorded within the Scheme Site Boundary, with early medieval activity limited to the coastline towards Weston. Therefore, the potential to encounter previously unrecorded Early Medieval remains within the Scheme Site Boundary is deemed to be low.
- 5.4.15 Medieval: Following the successful Norman invasion of 1066, England came under the control of William I who made many notable changes to the landscape. Castles were established, particularly in the north towards the River Humber, to assert the new King's dominance and handle the threat of rebellion, whilst the church's influence increased. The Wykeham Chapel scheduled monument (NHLE 1019096) located 480 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary, is a rare example of a moated monastic grange, retreat house and chapel of the Benedictine order.
- 5.4.16 No evidence of dispersed rural settlement has been noted within the 1 km Study Area, likely due to the persistent waterlogged conditions which dominated until the end of the medieval period. Despite previous drainage efforts, much of the Fenland Basin remained waterlogged and thus continued to be exploited, with the salt making industry growing in this period.
- 5.4.17 A possible north south aligned section of the "Roman Bank" (MLI98445) survives as a cropmark approximately 40 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC535). An additional section is labelled with the same name and depicted on the First Edition OS map directly south of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC402). This section of Bank is located on the western bank of the River Welland but may be contemporaneous to the bank of the same name on the eastern bank. Directly south of the "Roman Bank", a cluster of salterns were identified during the aerial photographic and LiDAR assessment within the 1km Study Area, which are of uncertain date (AEC530, AEC531, AEC532, AEC536).
- 5.4.18 Once the land on the town-side of the "Roman Bank" was reclaimed, it was likely used for year-round pasture, with the salt marsh on the far side of the bank providing further grazing when not inundated by the sea. The process of gradual accretion of alluvial deposits has resulted in a series of sea banks, which can still be seen in the landscape today and may be dated to the late medieval period but are more likely of a post-medieval date (AEC534). Evidence of agriculture and cultivation began to occur after reclamation and is largely centred around the settlement of Weston, as represented by the identification of a cluster of dylings field systems (AEC515). A single possible example of ridge and furrow survives approximately 230 m to the north east of the Scheme, also to the north of Weston (AEC501). This type of field system is rarer within the Fenland Basin.
- 5.4.19 Clusters of medieval metalwork have also been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme at five locations across the 1 km Study Area, namely around the A16 (AEC407), to the south of Spalding Golf Club (AEC555), to the north of Wykeham Chapel (AEC556), to the west of Moulton Seas End (AEC557), and within Weston (AEC558)
- 5.4.20 The area around Weston Marsh was reclaimed during the medieval period, with cultivation and construction of flood defences identified within the Scheme Site Boundary and 1 km Study Area. There is evidence for medieval agricultural activity

within the 1 km Study Area, and more widely salt production. There is therefore potential for both of these types of medieval archaeological remains to survive and extend within the Scheme Site Boundary. As such, it is deemed that there is a high potential to encounter previously unrecorded medieval remains within the Scheme Site Boundary.

- 5.4.21 Post-Medieval: The Reformation of the 16th century transformed both the landscape and society through the enclosure of open fields and commons in between.
- 5.4.22 Evidence of continued use as pasture can be found in the form of ring ditches, including a partial curvilinear enclosure located approximately 90 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC509), a complete curvilinear enclosure 10 m south of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC508), at least five circular features, two of which extend within the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC525), and two other circular enclosures located approximately 310 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC526).
- 5.4.23 The continuing drainage scheme comprised large-scale dewatering and drainage of the low-lying Fens through the excavation of new drainage ditches, sluices, the importing of new soil material and flood defence through new earthwork banks. The land was reclaimed gradually from the “Roman Bank”, which was likely established in the 14th century (MLI98445), with possible successive phases of reclamation seen extending northwards across the landscape, surviving as partially extant banks and earthworks of sea defences (AEC534). A small number lie directly north of the “Roman Bank, whilst the rest are located to the north east of the 1 km Study Area, beyond the Scheme Site Boundary. There are also a number of sea defences which bound the River Welland (AEC554), one of which crosses the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC533). These sea defences can likely be attributed to 18th and 19th century reclamation efforts to control seasonal inundation around the River Welland.
- 5.4.24 Alongside the construction of sea banks came the creation of drainage channels and field boundaries. These works were undertaken in an organised pattern where rectilinear fields were laid out. The only sinuous boundaries evidenced were formed by natural drainage channels and these were utilised as part of the man-made network of drains necessary for reclamation. By the time of the OS surveys of the 1810s, the entirety of the salt marsh had been reclaimed and transformed into arable land, with The Wash depicted to the same extent as it remains today (**Figure 7**). The River Welland was confined to the river channel and the substantial Lord’s Drain, which connected to Wheat Mere Drain, was depicted crossing the Scheme Site Boundary from north east to south west/Possible remnants of these rectilinear enclosures include the cropmarks of 21 field boundaries (AEC520) and 13 field boundaries or drainage ditches (AEC521) within the wider 1 km Study Area. Within the Scheme Site Boundary, the cropmarks of three post-medieval field boundaries have been noted (AEC517, AEC518, AEC519).
- 5.4.25 Evidence of the drainage channels which bounded the field parcels has been noted at 42 locations across the wider 1 km Study Area (AEC513), with a number also noted within the Scheme Site Boundary (AEC510, AEC511, AEC512, AEC514). Also shown on the mid- 19th century Tithe maps of Spalding and Weston are several lanes, tracks and roads, which have since been reduced to trackways or entirely abandoned, the cropmark remains of which were noted during the aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment (AEC537, AEC529, AEC528, AEC527, AEC522).

- 5.4.26 Following the reclamation and drainage of the Fenlands, the smaller field systems were amalgamated, with some of the larger fields sub-divided following the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18th and 19th centuries.
- 5.4.27 There is clear evidence of post-medieval activity relating to land reclamation, flood management and agriculture within the Scheme Site Boundary and 1 km Study Area. The evidence suggests this area, around Weston Marsh, was utilised for its fertile soils and that the land was continually managed throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Based upon the high amount of land management and agricultural assets identified within the Scheme Site Boundary and 1 km Study Area, it is deemed that there is a high potential for further previously unrecorded post-medieval land management, agricultural remains and features to be present within the Scheme Site Boundary.
- 5.4.28 Modern: During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Lincolnshire was a militarily significant region, particularly related to aviation through its association with the RAF in both the First and Second World Wars. Evidence of the Second World War is extremely limited within the 1 km Study Area, with no features identified from this period by the aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment. The only modern asset noted within the 1 km Study Area is a pillbox, located approximately 920 m to the east of the Scheme Site Boundary at Lambert's Hall (MLI125205).
- 5.4.29 Due to the paucity of archaeological assets dating to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, or World War II, the potential to encounter previously unrecorded remains dating to the Modern period is deemed to be low.

## Significance of Potential Archaeological Remains

- 5.4.30 The significance of potential heritage assets is based on the regional research resource assessment, the East Midlands Archaeological Framework (2013).
- 5.4.31 The assessment has identified a low potential to encounter archaeology from the prehistoric, Roman, early medieval, and modern periods, a moderate potential for prehistoric remains and high potential to encounter medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.
- 5.4.32 Archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period would likely consist of peat deposits containing palaeoenvironmental evidence and early prehistoric / Holocene period settlement remains sealed by peat deposits.
- 5.4.33 Archaeological remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods would likely consist of agricultural remains such as boundary ditches, water management features and watercourses.
- 5.4.34 The significance of previously unrecorded remains of these periods would derive from their archaeological and historical interest and their potential to contribute to our understanding of past human activity based on national, regional or local frameworks. According to current evidence, isolated artefactual material or truncated / disturbed remains, exhibiting some archaeological and historic interest, would be of local significance. In contrast, well preserved and *in situ* evidence for occupation / settlement remains, for which their archaeological and historic interest make a considerable contribution to their significance, could be of regional importance. In each case they would contribute to local and regional research frameworks.

- 5.4.35 Any remains that are compromised by poor preservation or truncation, for which their archaeological and historic interest make little contribution to their significance, are assessed as having negligible importance.
- 5.4.36 The importance of any previously unknown remains that may survive within the Scheme Site Boundary would derive from their archaeological and historic interest, derived their potential to contribute to our understanding of past human activity, guided by local, regional and national research priorities and any contribution made by their setting.

## 6. Impact Assessment

- 6.1.1 Potential impacts on the historic environment as a result of the Scheme are assessed below. The assessment has been undertaken for each element of the Scheme; the new Weston Marsh Substation A Substation Works, the 4ZM Overhead Line Works, the 2WS Overhead Line Works and the Exempt Overhead Line Works.

### 6.2 New Weston Marsh Substation A - Substation Works

#### Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.2.1 There is potential for temporary and permanent setting changes to Wraggmarsh House Farm (NHLE 1147603) and the Pigeoncote to the east (NHLE 1064477) during construction of the Substation Works. These buildings are located approximately 1.6 km north east of the Substation Works Site Boundary. Due to the flat, open nature of the landscape and the height of the proposed substation there may be intervisibility between the substation and the buildings. The increased noise, light and construction equipment associated with the construction of the new building would temporarily alter the setting of these buildings, while the presence of the new substation would permanently alter the assets' setting due to the addition of modern infrastructure into the rural landscape. These changes would constitute less than substantial harm to their significance for both the temporary and permanent change in the landscape.
- 6.2.2 The proposed Substation Works Site Boundary is located approximately 2.5 km north east of the Wykeham Chapel scheduled monument and group of listed buildings (NHLE 1019096; 1064471; 1147513). The monastic grange is bordered by mature trees to all sides, and there are no designed views from the buildings to the north east towards the Substation Works Site Boundary. The substation would add a modern element to the rural landscape in a location that has witnessed little change over the centuries. The historic site was positioned to offer panoramic views over the surrounding landscape and as a focal point in views towards it. In respect of the Substation Works, there may be glimpsed views during the winter months, due to the deciduous nature of the trees, to and from the heritage assets. Taking into account the distance between the proposed substation and the assets, there would be a small change overall to the wider setting of the assets which would only have a minimal affect upon their significance. This would constitute considerably less than substantial harm to their significance for both the temporary and permanent change in the landscape.

#### Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 6.2.3 There would be potential permanent and temporary setting changes to the non-designated farms in the land surrounding the Substation Works that may affect the significance of these heritage assets. Notably, there would likely be intervisibility between the substation and the Crowtree Farm (MLI122916) and Welland House Farm (MLI122918) to the west, Top Yard (MLI122919) to the south and Old Three Tuns Farm (MLI122568) to the north west. With each of these, the flat landscape

would allow views of the substation, which would alter the setting of the buildings by introducing modern infrastructure into their agricultural settings. There could be views from the principal elevation of the buildings and there would be some change to the wider setting of the assets, although given the distance from the proposed substation, this would have only have a small affect upon their significance and would constitute less than substantial harm. There may also be temporary setting changes during the construction of the substation due to increased noise, light and the presence of plant equipment. This temporary change would also constitute less than substantial harm

- 6.2.4 There is also potential for temporary and permanent setting changes to the Ship Inn (MLI87121). The principal elevation is to the south east, overlooking the river and the fields beyond. A number of the existing pylons are visible from the principal elevation and the proposed substation may also be visible. A proposed area of environmental mitigation is also proposed approximately 250 m to the east of the building. The addition of the modern infrastructure into the rural setting of the inn would permanently alter its rural setting, although to a minor extent. There may also be temporary setting changes during the construction of the substation and the proposed environmental mitigation site due to increased noise, light and the presence of plant equipment. These changes are also considered to constitute less than substantial harm.

#### **Tramway Wragg Marsh, Weston (MLI22401)**

- 6.2.5 The Wragg Marsh Tramway (MLI22401) is crosses the Substation Works Site Boundary. The asset is of local importance. The asset comprises the buried remnants of the tramway such as the track bed for the tramway, and ancillary structures such as the bases for the dismantled power line pylons.
- 6.2.6 There is potential for topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the cable trench for the installation of the low voltage electrical supply to the new Weston Marsh A substation, to result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance of the heritage asset would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to the localised partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.
- 6.2.7 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Advisor to SHDC (LCCAA).

#### **Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445)**

- 6.2.8 A medieval sea bank has been previously identified through aerial photography and cartographic analysis as an extant earthwork, located within the Substation Works Site Boundary. The sea bank is recorded on the 1905 OS map and extends west from the settlement of Moulton (MLI98445) to the River Welland, likely dating to the medieval period.
- 6.2.9 The asset survives as a mixture of extant earthwork and likely associated buried remains, including ditches and postholes.
- 6.2.10 The medieval sea bank is located within the extent of a proposed construction access haul road that will be shared during the Substation Works and S37 Overhead

Line Works. There is potential for topsoil stripping and ground reduction required for construction of the access haul road to result in partial truncation or disturbance of a small section of this heritage asset. This partial truncation or disturbance of the heritage asset would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to the localised partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.

- 6.2.11 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.
- 6.2.12 There may also be temporary short-term impacts from increased noise and traffic upon the setting of the heritage asset, arising from construction activities, these are not anticipated to affect the significance of the medieval sea bank or the way it is understood, with no long-term permanent impacts anticipated to the assets arising from the Substation Works. The temporary changes to the setting of the heritage assets are considered to constitute less than substantial harm.

#### **Ridge and Furrow (AEC501)**

- 6.2.13 Ridge and furrow agricultural features have been recorded through aerial photographic analysis as cropmarks, within an agricultural field approximately 250 m north of Stone Gate and extending within the Substation Works Site Boundary. The ridge and furrow extend for approximately 100 m on a north east to south west alignment and likely date to the post-medieval period, based on their form. The asset is of local importance.
- 6.2.14 There is potential for construction of the SuDS drainage basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), and the haul road to result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance of the heritage asset would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to partial loss of the archaeological interest that contributes to its local importance.

The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA

#### **Curvilinear Enclosure (AEC508)**

- 6.2.15 A curvilinear enclosure has been identified through aerial photography as a cropmark located approximately 70m east of Marsh Road. The asset is undated but based on its shape and form, likely dates to the medieval or post-medieval period and may be an animal enclosure.
- 6.2.16 The asset survives wholly as a buried archaeological feature that may form part of wider medieval or post-medieval agricultural land management including ditches, banks and drainage channels.
- 6.2.17 The asset is located within the extent of an area of construction maintenance trackway; however, construction activities associated with the maintenance trackway

are anticipated to be non-intrusive. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance, or loss of significance, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Post-Medieval Ditches (AEC510)**

- 6.2.18 A series of linear and curvilinear ditches have been identified within the Substation Works Site Boundary and are of local importance. Whilst the assets remain undated, based upon their form and curvilinear nature, these ditches may be part of former post-medieval drainage channels to help drain the Lincolnshire Fens.
- 6.2.19 The asset survives as buried archaeological features that may form part of a wider system of post-medieval water management, including the nearby asset (AEC507).
- 6.2.20 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction required for the construction of proposed pylon 2WS015, SuDS basins (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), and the construction access haul road. These may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset, result in a permanent loss of archaeological interest which contributes to its significance.
- 6.2.21 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Undated Ditch (AEC514)**

- 6.2.22 A linear ditch, extending for approximately 150 m on a north to south alignment has been identified within the Substation Works Site Boundary. The asset is of local importance. The ditch is undated but may be part of the wider land reclamation and water management systems undertaken across the Lincolnshire Fens during the post-medieval period.
- 6.2.23 The asset survives wholly as a buried archaeological feature that may form part of a wider group of post-medieval land and water management features including ditches, banks and drainage channels.  
  
The asset is located within the extent of an area of crossing protection; however, construction activities associated with the area of crossing protection are anticipated to be non-intrusive. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance, or loss of significance, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Medieval Dylings (AEC515)**

- 6.2.24 A series of linear medieval dylings have been identified through aerial photography as cropmarks in a field approximately 100m to 350m west of the Lord's Drain. The asset dates to the medieval period and is of regional importance.
- 6.2.25 The medieval dylings survive wholly as a buried archaeological feature that would comprise a series of buried linear ditches, interspaced approximately 5 m apart.
- 6.2.26 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction required for the construction of the construction access haul road. This may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This truncation or disturbance would result in a permanent loss of its archaeological interest which contributes to its

significance, resulting in substantial harm requiring archaeological mitigation measures to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest.

- 6.2.27 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Trackway (AEC537)**

- 6.2.28 A curvilinear trackway (AEC537) has been identified through aerial photography and LiDAR assessment extending on a north east to south west alignment. The trackway is visible on LiDAR as two potential ditches on either side of a potential trackway, that would have linked the road Stone Gate in the south to the Lord's Drain and Moulton-on-Sea to the north east.
- 6.2.29 The asset survives as a buried asset with no extant surviving earthworks visible above ground.
- 6.2.30 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction required for the construction of the construction access haul road. This may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This truncation or disturbance would result in a permanent loss of its archaeological interest which contributes to its significance, resulting in substantial harm requiring archaeological mitigation measures to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest.
- 6.2.31 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Sea Defences (AEC529)**

- 6.2.32 An anomaly was identified through aerial photographic and LiDAR analysis extending within the Substation Works Site Boundary. The asset is of local importance. The sea defences are undated and extend from Marsh Road to the west and the Domino Drainium to the east. A sinuous anomaly extends and terminates at the asset, (AEC401), indicating this was a former stream during the medieval / post-medieval period.
- 6.2.33 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature comprising a buried bank, with no extant earthworks surviving above ground.
- 6.2.34 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from intrusive works associated with the Substation Works such as piling and ground reduction which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest, which contributes to its significance.
- 6.2.35 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Natural Watercourses (AEC538)**

- 6.2.36 The asset was identified extending within the Substation Works Site Boundary. The natural watercourses extend across the footprint of the proposed Substation Works Site Boundary, are approximately 4 m in width and extend across an area of approximately 500 m east to west and 530 m north to south. They are undated but may date to the medieval or post-medieval periods.
- 6.2.37 The asset survives as a buried asset with no extant surviving earthworks visible above ground and is assessed as being of regional importance.
- 6.2.38 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from activities associated with the Substation Works, associated temporary construction compounds and construction access haul road. It is anticipated that construction activities will include ground reduction across the extent of the asset resulting in partial truncation or disturbance.
- 6.2.39 This partial truncation or disturbance would result in permanent loss of the parts of the asset and its archaeological interest which contributes to its significance. This is assessed as less than substantial harm but requiring archaeological mitigation measures to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest.
- 6.2.40 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Pond (AEC540)**

- 6.2.41 A pond was identified on the first edition OS map within an agricultural field, located approximately 270 m west of Lord's Drain. The pond likely dates to the post-medieval period based on its form and location.
- 6.2.42 There is potential for ground reduction, required for the construction of the ecological mitigation area, to partially truncate or disturb the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance would result in permanent and adverse impacts and the partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.
- 6.2.43 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Pond (AEC541)**

- 6.2.44 An ovoid shaped pond was identified on the first edition OS map within an agricultural field, located approximately 520 m east of Marsh Road and wholly within the Substation Works Site Boundary. The asset likely dates to the post-medieval period based on its form and location. It is of local importance.
- 6.2.45 There is potential for ground reduction required for the construction of the proposed Weston Marsh Substation A to result in complete truncation or disturbance of the asset. This complete truncation or disturbance would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to complete loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.

- 6.2.46 Total loss of the significance of this heritage asset is assessed as constituting substantial harm. The loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest could be further offset by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording. The scope of the archaeological investigation would be informed by the results of the trial trench evaluation and would be determined in agreement with the LCCAA during consultation following completion of the trial trenching works.

#### **Post Medieval Ditches (AEC559)**

- 6.2.47 Two ditches dating to the post-medieval period have been recorded as cropmarks, in an agricultural field approximately 250m north of Stone Gate, extending within the Substation Works Site Boundary. Based upon their form, proximity and alignment, these may be associated with the medieval dyings (AEC515), located approximately 60 m north and 50m west of the asset. The asset is assessed as of regional importance.

- 6.2.48 The asset survives as a wholly buried archaeological feature and will comprise several buried linear ditches that may contain environmental remains within their backfills.

- 6.2.49 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset as a result of topsoil stripping and ground reduction required for the construction of the construction access haul road and proposed SuDS basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance of the asset would result in a permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest which contributes to its regional importance.

This would result in less than substantial harm to this heritage asset, which could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

#### **Sea Defence (AEC560)**

- 6.2.50 An undated asset, identified as a likely sea defence bank, was identified within the Substation Works Site Boundary. The asset is of regional importance. The asset extends for approximately 400 m, on a north east to south west alignment, before curving to extend north west to south east for approximately 350 m, within agricultural fields, located to the east of the River Welland, with an approximate width ranging from 15 to 30 m. The sea defence is located 140 m east of the River Welland at its closest point. The asset likely dates to the post-medieval period and is part of the wider series of sea defences that were constructed in the post-medieval period across the Lincolnshire Fens.

- 6.2.51 The asset survives as a buried archaeological asset with no surviving extant earthworks above ground.

- 6.2.52 Whilst the asset is located within the Weston Marsh A Substation Works, the asset is not located within the extent of any intrusive construction activities. Therefore, there will be no truncation or disturbance, or loss of significance experienced by this heritage asset associated with the Weston Marsh A Substation Works.

- 6.2.53 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to

offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

#### **Undated Ditches (AEC561)**

- 6.2.54 Two undated ditches have been recorded through aerial photographic analysis, located approximately 70m north of the Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445). The assets are of local importance.
- 6.2.55 The asset survives as a wholly buried archaeological feature and comprises two linear infilled ditches that may contain palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 6.2.56 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction required for the construction of the construction access haul road. This may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This truncation or disturbance would result in a permanent loss of its archaeological interest which contributes to its significance, resulting in substantial harm requiring archaeological mitigation measures to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest.
- 6.2.57 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

#### **Peat Deposits (AEC562)**

- 6.2.58 Geoarchaeological monitoring of geotechnical investigations for Weston Marsh A Substation Works, as part of the wider Grimsby to Walpole Scheme (Ref. 18), recorded a basal peat deposit at a depth of between 13.5 m bgl and 15.25 m bgl, extending across the Weston Marsh area. The deposits are of regional importance.
- 6.2.59 The peat deposits have geoarchaeological interest and palaeoenvironmental potential, which could be compared with peat deposits recorded across the Fen Basin, which have been dated and provide a timeline of Holocene sea level change.
- 6.2.60 Should deep intrusive works such as piling or deep foundation be required as part of the substation construction works, there is potential for partial and localised truncation and disturbance of these peat deposits.
- 6.2.61 This partial truncation or disturbance of the asset would result in permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest, which contributes to its importance. This is considered to result in less than substantial harm requiring archaeological mitigation measures to further offset the loss of its physical remains and heritage significance.
- 6.2.62 A programme of archaeological/geoarchaeological mitigation would be undertaken ahead of construction, the scope of which would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

#### **Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC564)**

- 6.2.63 A linear post-medieval field boundary has been recorded during the geophysical survey undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2025, extending within the Weston Marsh A Substation Works. Due to its proximity to an existing post-medieval field

boundary and its alignment, it is highly likely this anomaly was part of the same field system, that was removed in the late 19th or 20th centuries. The asset is of local importance.

- 6.2.64 There is potential for ground reduction, required for the construction of the ecological mitigation area, to result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to partial loss of its archaeological interest.
- 6.2.65 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC565)**

- 6.2.66 A linear post-medieval field boundary has been recorded during the geophysical survey undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2025, extending within the Weston Marsh A Substation Works. Due to its proximity to an existing post-medieval field boundary and its alignment, it is highly likely this anomaly was part of the same field system, that was removed in the late 19th or 20th centuries.
- 6.2.67 There is potential for ground reduction, required for the construction of the ecological mitigation area, to result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to partial loss of its archaeological interest, that contributes to its local importance.
- 6.2.68 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

## **6.3 S37 4ZM and 2WS Overhead Line Works**

### **Designated Heritage Assets (S37 4ZM and S37 2WS)**

- 6.3.1 There is potential for temporary setting changes to the Wykeham Chapel scheduled monument (NHLE 1019096; 1064471) and associated grade II listed farmhouse (NHLE 1147513) during construction of the S37 Overhead Line Works. This is particularly related to increased noise and the movement of construction vehicles and equipment to the Scheme Site Boundary. The closest proposed pylon (2WS016-N) would be located approximately 2.4 km north east of the scheduled monument and there are no designed views or significant fenestration which would face the pylons. The mature trees bordering the scheduled monument would screen most views but glimpsed views may be possible, especially during winter months. However, the addition of the proposed overhead lines to the north east, while permanently altering the wider rural setting of the chapel and farmhouse, would not impact the ability to understand the assets. These changes would result in less than substantial harm.
- 6.3.2 There is potential for temporary setting changes to the grade II listed Wraggmarsh House Farm (NHLE 1147603) and the Pigeoncote to the east (NHLE 1064477) during construction of the S37 Overhead Line Works. These buildings are located

approximately 390 m north east of the Scheme Site Boundary and the nearest proposed pylon is located approximately 1.3km south west of the buildings (4ZM414-N). Due to the flat, open nature of the landscape there is intervisibility between the pylons and the buildings. The increased noise, light and construction equipment, associated with the construction of the new pylons and the removal of the obsolete pylons, would temporarily alter the setting of these buildings. While new pylons would be constructed, existing pylons visible in the landscape would also be removed (4ZM09 and 4ZM08). As such, the permanent presence of the pylons would not affect the ability to understand the assets or their setting. These changes would result in less than substantial harm.

## Non-designated Built Heritage Assets (S37 4ZM and S37 2WS)

- 6.3.3 There is potential for temporary and permanent setting changes to several non-designated farms from the construction of the S37 Overhead Line Works. Firstly, Crowtree Farm is approximately 550 m west of the nearest proposed pylon (4ZM414-N) and proposed access lines are located approximately 70 m east of the Scheme Site Boundary. Welland House Farm is located approximately 1.1 km west of the proposed pylons (4ZM411-N; 4ZM412-N; 4ZM413-N) and approximately 530 m west of the access routes. Top Yard (MLI122919) is located approximately 600 m south east of the proposed pylons (2WS016-N). There would be views of new and existing pylons to the east and north of the buildings, as there are views from these buildings across the flat, agricultural landscape. The increased noise, light and construction equipment, associated with the construction of the new pylons and the removal of the obsolete pylons, would temporarily alter the setting of these buildings. While new pylons would be constructed, existing pylons visible in the landscape would also be removed (4ZM09; 2WS016 and 2WS017). As such, the permanent presence of the pylons would result in a limited change to the assets' settings, as modern infrastructure already exists and the new pylons would replace existing ones. This would result in less than substantial harm.
- 6.3.4 There are also three further non-designated farms which may experience temporary setting changes from construction works from increase noise and traffic along proposed access roads. These buildings comprise Chestnut House (MLI122926) and Shepherd's Farm (MLI122924). Chestnut House is located approximately 10 m west of the proposed access route and potential ditch realignment. The S37 2WS Overhead Line Works are located approximately 2.2 km north of the building. Shepherd's Farm is located approximately 440 m north west of the proposed access route and 1.8 km south west of the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works. There is not expected to be any permanent setting changes to these buildings from the presence of the new overhead lines given the distance from the buildings. This would result in less than substantial harm.
- 6.3.5 There is also potential for temporary and permanent setting changes to the Ship Inn (MLI87121). The principal elevation is to the south east, overlooking the river and the fields beyond. A number of existing pylons (4ZM410, 4ZM411) are visible from the principal elevation and new pylons would be visible within the asset's setting (4ZM414-N). The increased noise, light and construction equipment, associated with the construction of the new pylons and the removal of the obsolete pylons, would temporarily alter the setting of the building. New pylons would be constructed and existing pylons would also be removed (4ZM09), although several existing pylons would remain. The addition of further modern infrastructure in the views from the principal elevation would result in a permanent setting change to the inn, having a

small effect on the significance of the building. This would result in less than substantial harm.

## Impacts on Non-Designated Archaeological Assets (S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works)

### **Tramway Wragg Marsh, Weston (MLI22401)**

- 6.3.6 The Wragg Marsh Tramway (MLI22401) crosses the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset is of local importance. The asset comprises the buried remnants of the tramway such as the track bed for the tramway, and ancillary structures such as the bases for the dismantled power line pylons.
- 6.3.7 There is potential for topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of the proposed pylon 4ZM412, to result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance of the heritage asset would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to the localised partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.
- 6.3.8 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as less than substantial harm and could be mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Advisor to SHDC (LCCAA).

### **Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445)**

- 6.3.9 A medieval sea bank has been previously identified through aerial photography and cartographic analysis as an extant earthwork, located within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The sea bank is recorded on the 1905 OS map and extends west from the settlement of Moulton (MLI98445) to the River Welland, likely dating to the medieval period.
- 6.3.10 The asset survives as a mixture of extant earthwork and likely associated buried remains, including ditches and postholes.
- 6.3.11 The asset is located within the extent of a proposed maintenance access track, however, construction activities associated with the maintenance access track during operation of the Scheme are anticipated to be non-intrusive with no anticipated impacts.
- 6.3.12 Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed during the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2.8).
- 6.3.13 There may be temporary short-term impacts from increased noise and traffic upon the setting of the heritage asset arising from construction activities, these are not anticipated to affect the significance of the medieval sea bank or the way it is understood, with no long-term permanent impacts anticipated to the asset's setting arising from the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works. The temporary changes to the setting of the heritage asset are assessed as being less than substantial harm.

### **Ridge and Furrow (AEC501)**

- 6.3.14 Ridge and furrow agricultural features have been recorded, through aerial photographic analysis, within an agricultural field approximately 250 m north of Stone Gate, extending within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Boundary. The ridge and furrow extend for approximately 100 m on a north east to south west alignment and likely date to the post-medieval period based on their form. The asset is of local importance.
- 6.3.15 There is potential for construction of the SuDS drainage basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), to result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset.
- 6.3.16 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Post-Medieval Ditches (AEC510)**

- 6.3.17 A series of linear and curvilinear ditches, of local importance, have been identified within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. Whilst the assets remain undated, based upon their form and curvilinear nature, these ditches may be part of former post-medieval drainage channels to help drain the Lincolnshire Fens.
- 6.3.18 The asset survives as buried archaeological features that may form part of a wider system of post-medieval water management features including channels, ditches and banks, including the nearby asset (AEC507).
- 6.3.19 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed pylon 2WS015, SuDS basins (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl).
- 6.3.20 Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2). Proposed mitigation relating to the asset has also been discussed in Section 6.2 and has not been repeated here.
- 6.3.21 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than Substantial Harm.

### **Ditch (AEC511)**

- 6.3.22 An undated linear ditch, extending for approximately 75 m on a north east to south west alignment has been identified within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The heritage asset has been assessed as being of local importance. The asset comprises a single linear ditch which connects to a much larger water channel to the west. It is likely to be a water management feature associated with the post-medieval land reclamation programme undertaken across the Lincolnshire Fens.
- 6.3.23 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature as part of a wider group of post-medieval land and water management features. There are no surviving extant earthworks or above ground features associated with the asset.
- 6.3.24 There is potential for impacts to the asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction required for the construction of the pylon working area and foundations for the

proposed pylon 4ZM408. This would result in permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest.

- 6.3.25 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

#### **Medieval Dylings (AEC515)**

- 6.3.26 A series of linear medieval dylings have been identified through aerial photography as cropmarks in a field approximately 100 m to 350 m west of the Lord's Drain. The asset dates to the medieval period and is of regional importance.

- 6.3.27 The medieval dylings survive wholly as buried archaeological features that would comprise a series of buried linear ditches, interspaced approximately 5 m apart.

The asset is located within the extent of the construction haul road. Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2). Proposed mitigation relating to the asset has also been discussed in Section 6.2 and has not been repeated here.

- 6.3.28 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than Substantial Harm.

#### **Post Medieval Field Boundary (AEC518)**

- 6.3.29 A linear feature has been identified through aerial photography and LiDAR analysis, extending on a north east on south west alignment within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset is assessed as of local importance. The field boundary is in close proximity and at a 90-degree angle to field boundary (AEC517). They are therefore likely to be contemporary with one another.

- 6.3.30 The asset survives wholly as a buried archaeological feature that forms part of a wider post-medieval field boundary system within the Lincolnshire Fens.

- 6.3.31 The asset is located within the extent of the construction haul road. Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2).

- 6.3.32 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than Substantial Harm.

#### **Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC519)**

- 6.3.33 A linear ditch, extending for approximately 300 m on a north east to south west alignment has been identified within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The ditch likely formed part of a wider series of former field boundaries located across Weston Marsh.

- 6.3.34 The asset survives wholly as a buried archaeological feature that may have formed part of a wider group of post-medieval agricultural field boundary ditches.

- 6.3.35 Whilst the asset is located within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, the asset is not located within the extent or boundary of any intrusive construction activities. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance or loss of significance to the asset

associated with the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Circular Anomalies (AEC525)**

- 6.3.36 A group of five concentric circular-shaped anomalies have been identified within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The assets are assessed as being of regional importance. The circular ditches vary between 9 m and 16 m in diameter and are grouped together over an area of approximately 150 m by 150 m. They likely date to the post-medieval period and are interpreted as 'Fen Circles' which were gullies that would have surrounded areas for the storage of agricultural crops.
- 6.3.37 The circular anomalies are likely post-medieval in date, comprising of circular gullies, with possible internal features such as a storage pit. These fen circles may have formed part of an activity area and as such further features may have been located in the land between the fen circles, such as postholes, storage and rubbish pits, and animal enclosures.
- 6.3.38 The asset is located within the extent of a proposed maintenance access, which will enable non-intrusive vehicle or pedestrian access to the overhead line during the operation of the Scheme. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance or loss of significance experienced by this heritage asset associated with the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Sea Defences (AEC529)**

- 6.3.39 An anomaly was identified through aerial photography and LiDAR analysis extending within the S37 4ZM and 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundaries. The asset is of local importance. The sea defences are undated and extend from Marsh Road to the west and the *Domino Drainium* to the east. A sinuous anomaly extends and terminates at the asset, (AEC401), indicating that this was a former stream during the medieval / post-medieval periods.
- 6.3.40 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature comprising a buried bank, with no extant earthworks surviving above ground.
- 6.3.41 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed pylon 2WS018-01, the SuDS basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), and the construction access haul road, which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance would result in permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest.
- 6.3.42 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Sea Defence (AEC535)**

- 6.3.43 An anomaly was identified as a cropmark, through aerial photographic analysis, approximately 200m north of the Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445) and 200 m north west of the Lord's Drain. The asset is of regional importance.

- 6.3.44 The asset survives as a buried archaeological asset with no surviving earthworks above ground and comprises the buried remains of an earthen bank.
- 6.3.45 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset as a result of topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed SuDS basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance would result in a permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest, which contributes to its regional importance. This is considered less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

#### **Trackway (AEC537)**

- 6.3.46 A curvilinear trackway (AEC537) has been identified through aerial photography and LiDAR analysis extending on a north east to south west alignment. The trackway is visible on LiDAR as two potential ditches on either side of a potential trackway, that would have linked the road Stone Gate in the south to the Lord's Drain and Moulton-on-Sea to the north east.
- 6.3.47 The asset survives as a buried asset with no extant surviving earthworks visible above ground.
- 6.3.48 The asset is located within the extent of the construction haul road. Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2).
- 6.3.49 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than substantial harm.

#### **Natural Watercourses (AEC538)**

- 6.3.50 A series of sinuous, interconnecting watercourses have been recorded extending within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, the watercourses are approximately 4 m in width and extend across an area of approximately 500 m east to west and 530 m north to south. They are undated.
- 6.3.51 The asset survives as a buried asset with no extant surviving earthworks visible above ground.
- 6.3.52 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset as a result of topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed pylon 4ZM411-N and an associated SuDS basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This partial truncation or disturbance would result in a permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest which contributes to its regional importance. This would result in less than substantial harm to this heritage asset, requiring a programme of archaeological mitigation measures to further offset the loss of its physical remains and heritage significance.

#### **Post Medieval Ditches (AEC559)**

- 6.3.53 Two ditches dating to the post-medieval period have been recorded as cropmarks in an agricultural field approximately 250m north of Stone Gate, extending within the

S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works. Based upon their form, proximity and alignment, these may be associated with the medieval dyings (AEC515), located approximately 60 m north and 50m west of the asset. The asset is assessed as of local importance.

- 6.3.54 The asset survives as a wholly buried archaeological feature, comprising of several buried linear ditches that may contain palaeoenvironmental remains within their backfills.
- 6.3.55 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset as a result of topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed SuDS basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in a permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest, which contributes to its regional importance.
- 6.3.56 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

#### **Undated Ditches (AEC561)**

- 6.3.57 Two undated ditches have been recorded through aerial photographic analysis, located approximately 70m north of the Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445). The assets are of local importance.
- 6.3.58 The asset survives as a wholly buried archaeological asset and comprises two linear ditches that may contain palaeoenvironmental remains within their backfills.
- 6.3.59 The asset is located within the extent of the construction haul road. Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2).
- 6.3.60 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than substantial harm.

#### **Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC564)**

- 6.3.61 A linear post-medieval field boundary has been recorded during the geophysical survey undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2025, extending within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Boundary. Due to its proximity to the existing post-medieval field boundary and its alignment, it is highly likely this anomaly was part of the same field system, that was removed in the late 19th or 20th centuries. The asset is of local importance.
- 6.3.62 There is potential for ground reduction required for the construction of the ecological mitigation area which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.
- 6.3.63 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC565)**

- 6.3.64 A linear post-medieval field boundary has been recorded during the geophysical survey undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2025 extending within the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works Boundary. Due to its proximity to the existing post-medieval field boundary and its alignment, it is highly likely this anomaly was part of the same field system and was removed in the late 19th or 20th centuries.
- 6.3.65 There is potential for ground reduction required for the construction of the ecological mitigation area which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.
- 6.3.66 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Impacts on Non-Designated Archaeological Assets (S37 2WS Overhead Line Works)**

#### **Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445)**

- 6.3.67 A medieval sea bank has been previously identified through aerial photography and cartographic analysis as an extant earthwork, located within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The sea bank is recorded on the 1905 OS map and extends west from the settlement of Moulton (MLI98445) to the River Welland, likely dating to the medieval period.
- 6.3.68 The asset survives as a mixture of extant earthwork and likely associated buried remains, including ditches and postholes.
- 6.3.69 The asset is located within the extent of a proposed maintenance access track, however, construction activities associated with the maintenance access track during operation of the Scheme are anticipated to be non-intrusive with no anticipated impacts.
- 6.3.70 Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2).
- 6.3.71 There may be temporary short-term impacts from increased noise and traffic upon the setting of the heritage asset arising from construction activities, these are not anticipated to affect the significance of the medieval sea bank or the way it is understood, with no long-term permanent impacts anticipated to the asset's setting arising from the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works. The temporary changes to the setting of the heritage asset are assessed as being less than substantial harm..

#### **Ridge and Furrow (AEC501)**

- 6.3.72 Ridge and furrow agricultural features have been recorded, through aerial photographic analysis, as cropmarks within an agricultural field approximately 250 m north of Stone Gate, extending within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The ridge and furrow extend for approximately 100 m on a north east to

south west alignment and likely date to the post-medieval period based on their form. The asset is of local importance.

- 6.3.73 There is potential for construction of the SuDS drainage basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), to result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.
- 6.3.74 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Post-Medieval Ditches (AEC510)**

- 6.3.75 A series of linear and curvilinear ditches have been identified within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary and are of local importance. Whilst the assets remain undated, based upon their form and curvilinear nature, these ditches may be part of former post-medieval drainage channels to drain the Lincolnshire Fens.
- 6.3.76 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature that may form part of a wider system of post-medieval water management features, including the nearby asset (AEC507).
- 6.3.77 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed pylon 2WS015, SuDS basins (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset.
- 6.3.78 The asset is also located within the construction haul road. Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2).
- 6.3.79 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than substantial harm.

### **Medieval Dylings (AEC515)**

- 6.3.80 A series of linear medieval dylings have been identified, through aerial photography, as cropmarks in a field approximately 100m to 350m west of the Lord's Drain, extending within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset dates to the medieval period and is of regional importance.
- 6.3.81 The medieval dylings survive wholly as buried archaeological features that would comprise a series of buried linear ditches, interspaced approximately 5 m apart.
- 6.3.82 The asset is located within the extent of the construction haul road. Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2).
- 6.3.83 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than substantial harm.

### **Sea Defences (AEC529)**

- 6.3.84 An anomaly was identified through aerial photographic and LiDAR analysis extending within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset is of local importance. The sea defences are undated and extend from Marsh Road to the west and the *Domino Drainium* to the east. A sinuous anomaly extends and terminates at the asset, (AEC401), indicating this was a former stream during the medieval / post-medieval period.
- 6.3.85 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature comprising a buried bank, with no extant earthworks surviving above ground.
- 6.3.86 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed pylon 2WS018-01, the SuDS basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest, which contributes to its significance, considered as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Sea Defence (AEC535)**

- 6.3.87 An anomaly was identified through aerial photographic analysis as a cropmark approximately 200m north of the Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445) and 200 m north west of the Lord's Drain, extending within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset is of regional importance.
- 6.3.88 The asset survives as a buried archaeological asset with no surviving earthworks above ground and comprises the buried remains of an earthen bank.
- 6.3.89 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset as a result of topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed SuDS basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in a permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest which contributes to its regional importance, considered as less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

### **Trackway (AEC537)**

- 6.3.90 A curvilinear trackway (AEC537) has been identified through aerial photographic and LiDAR analysis extending on a north east to south west alignment. The trackway is visible on LiDAR as two potential ditches on either side a possible trackway, that would have linked the road Stone Gate in the south to the Lord's Drain and Moulton-on-Sea to the north east.
- 6.3.91 The asset survives as a buried asset with no extant surviving earthworks visible above ground.
- 6.3.92 The asset is located within the extent of the construction haul road. Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here

(Section 6.2). Proposed mitigation relating to the asset has also been discussed in Section 6.2 and has not been re-discussed here.

6.3.93 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than substantial harm.

#### **Watercourses (AEC538)**

6.3.94 A sinuous watercourse, that likely dates to the post-medieval period, was identified through aerial photographic and LiDAR analysis, extending within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary.

6.3.95 The asset survives as a buried feature with no extant surviving earthworks visible above ground and is assessed as being of regional importance.

6.3.96 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed pylon 2WS018-N and the temporary haul road, which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest which contributes to its significance, resulting in less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

#### **Post Medieval Ditches (AEC559)**

6.3.97 Two ditches dating to the post-medieval period have been recorded as cropmarks in an agricultural field approximately 250m north of Stone Gate, extending within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Boundary. Based upon their form, proximity and alignment, these may be associated with the medieval dylings (AEC515), located approximately 60 m north and 50m west of the asset. The asset is of local importance.

6.3.98 The asset survives as wholly buried archaeological features and will comprise several buried linear ditches that may contain palaeoenvironmental remains within their backfills.

6.3.99 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset as a result of topsoil stripping and ground reduction, required for the construction of proposed SuDS basin (which may extend to a depth of between 1 to 2m bgl), which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset.

6.3.100 The asset is also located within the construction haul road. Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2). Proposed mitigation relating to the asset has also been discussed in Section 6.2 and has not been repeated here.

6.3.101 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than substantial harm.

#### **Undated Ditches (AEC561)**

6.3.102 Two undated ditches have been recorded through aerial photographic analysis, located approximately 70m north of the Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445), extending within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset is of local importance.

- 6.3.103 The asset survives as buried archaeological features and comprises two linear ditches that may contain palaeoenvironmental remains within their backfills.
- 6.3.104 The asset is located within the extent of the construction haul road. Impacts to the asset resulting from ground reduction associated with construction of the haul road have been assessed for the Substation Works and have not been re-assessed here (Section 6.2). Proposed mitigation relating to the asset has also been discussed in Section 6.2 and has not been re-discussed here.
- 6.3.105 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than substantial harm.

#### **Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC564)**

- 6.3.106 A linear post-medieval field boundary has been recorded during the geophysical survey undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2025, extending within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. Due to its proximity to the existing post-medieval field boundary and its alignment, it is highly likely this anomaly was part of the same field system, that was removed in the late 19th or 20th centuries. The asset is of local importance.
- 6.3.107 There is potential for ground reduction required for the construction of the ecological mitigation area which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.
- 6.3.108 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

#### **Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC565)**

- 6.3.109 A linear post-medieval field boundary has been recorded during the geophysical survey undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2025 extending within the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. Due to its proximity to the existing post-medieval field boundary and its alignment, it is highly likely this anomaly was part of the same field system, that was removed in the late 19th or 20th centuries.
- 6.3.110 There is potential for ground reduction required for the construction of the ecological mitigation area to result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in permanent and adverse impacts, leading to partial loss of the archaeological interest of the asset, that contributes to its local importance.
- 6.3.111 The impact to the heritage asset is assessed as being less than substantial harm and could be further mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording to offset the loss of its physical remains and archaeological interest. The scope of any archaeological mitigation measures would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

## 6.4 Exempt Overhead Line Works

### Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.4.1 There is potential for temporary setting changes to the grade II listed Wraggmarsh House Farm (NHLE 1147603) and the Pigeoncote to the east (NHLE 1064477) during construction of the reconductoring works. These buildings are located approximately 390 m north east of the Scheme Site Boundary and the nearest pylons along the existing overhead line are located approximately 1 km south west of the buildings (4ZM411 and 4ZM412). Due to the flat, open nature of the landscape, there is intervisibility between the pylons and the buildings. The increased noise, light and construction equipment, associated with replacing the cables, would temporarily alter the setting of these buildings, although given the presence of the existing pylons, there would be no permanent setting change to the buildings from this work, having limited effect on the buildings' significance. This would result in less than substantial harm.
- 6.4.2 There is also potential for temporary setting changes to Ivy House (NHLE 1359281) and The Gables (NHLE 1146546), to the north west of the Scheme Site Boundary from the reconductoring works. The Gables is approximately 700 m north west and Ivy house is approximately 1.41 km north west of the Scheme Site Boundary. While closer, the Gables is screened from the Scheme Site Boundary by mature trees to the east but may experience increased noise during the construction of the reconductoring works. However, Ivy House's principal elevation lies to the south east towards the Scheme Site Boundary and may have intervisibility with the Site. As such, the construction works for the reconductoring of the nearest pylons (4ZM415 and 4ZM414), including the proposed stringing position, may affect the rural setting of the building. Given the presence of the existing overhead line, there is not expected to be any permanent setting change to the buildings due to the reconductoring works. As such, these changes would have limited effect on the buildings' significance. This would result in less than substantial harm.
- 6.4.3 Seasend Hall (NHLE 1064468) is located approximately 1.2 km south east of the Exempt Overhead Line Works. There is potential for intervisibility between the Scheme Site Boundary and the building. As such, the construction works for the reconductoring of the nearest pylons (4ZM404 and 4ZM405), including the proposed stringing position, may affect the rural setting of the building. Given the presence of the existing overhead line, there is not expected to be any permanent setting change to the building due to the reconductoring works. As such, these changes would have limited effect on the building's significance. This would result in less than substantial harm.

### Non-designated Heritage Assets

#### Non-designated historic buildings

- 6.4.4 There are a number of non-designated farms which have the potential for temporary setting changes from the Exempt Overhead Line Works along the existing overhead line. Three farms, located to the north west of the Scheme Site Boundary in Surfleet, may be impacted. These include Woad Farm, located approximately 30 m north west of the proposed access route and 410 m south west of the existing overhead line within the Scheme Site Boundary (4ZM415), Old Three Tuns Farm, located approximately 240 m south east of the access route and 300 m south west of the

existing overhead line and proposed stringing position (4ZM414, 4ZM413) and an Unnamed Farmstead, Surfleet (MLI122577), located approximately 380 m north west of the access route and 790 m west of the existing overhead line (4ZM415). The construction works for the reconductoring of the nearest pylons (4ZM413- 4ZM415), including the proposed stringing position, may affect the rural setting of the buildings from increased noise, light, traffic and the presence of the plant equipment, as well as the increased traffic along the access routes close to the buildings. Given the existing overhead line, there is not expected to be any permanent setting change to the buildings from the reconductoring works. As such, these changes would have limited effect on the buildings' significance. This would result in less than substantial harm.

#### **Medieval Sea Bank (MLI98445)**

- 6.4.5 A medieval sea bank has been previously identified through aerial photography and cartographic analysis as an extant earthwork, located within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The sea bank is recorded on the 1905 OS map and extends west from the settlement of Moulton (MLI98445) to the River Welland, likely dating to the medieval period.
- 6.4.6 The asset survives as a mixture of extant earthwork and likely associated buried remains, including ditches and postholes.
- 6.4.7 The asset is located within the extent of a proposed maintenance access track, however, construction activities are anticipated to be non-intrusive. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance or loss of significance to this heritage asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works.
- 6.4.8 There may be temporary short-term impacts from increased noise and traffic upon the setting of the heritage asset arising from construction activities. These are not anticipated to affect the significance of the medieval sea bank or the way it is understood, with no long-term permanent impacts anticipated to the asset arising from the Exempt Overhead Line Works.
- 6.4.9 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than substantial harm.

#### **Possible Boundary Bank (AEC507)**

- 6.4.10 A series of four undated linear banks have been identified extending within the Exempt Overhead Works Area. The asset is of local importance.
- 6.4.11 The asset survives as a buried feature that may form part of a wider system of land and management, including boundaries, ditches and banks, such as the nearby heritage asset (AEC526).
- 6.4.12 Whilst the asset is located within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, the asset is not located within the extent or boundary of any intrusive construction activities. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance or loss of significance to the asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

#### **Post-Medieval Ditches (AEC510)**

- 6.4.13 A series of linear and curvilinear ditches have been identified within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary and are of local importance. Whilst the assets

remain undated, based upon their form and curvilinear nature, these ditches may be part of former post-medieval drainage channels to help drain the Lincolnshire Fens.

- 6.4.14 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature that may form part of a wider system of post-medieval land and water management, including boundaries, ditches and banks, such as the nearby asset (AEC507).
- 6.4.15 Whilst the asset is located within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, the asset is not located within the extent or boundary of any intrusive construction activities. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance or loss of significance to the asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

#### **Ditch (AEC511)**

- 6.4.16 An undated linear ditch, extending for approximately 75 m on a north east to south west alignment, has been identified within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The heritage asset has been assessed as being of local importance. The asset comprises a single linear ditch which connects to a much larger water channel to the west. It is likely a water management feature associated with the post-medieval land reclamation programme undertaken across the Lincolnshire Fens.
- 6.4.17 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature. There are no surviving extant earthworks or above ground remains associated with the asset.
- 6.4.18 Whilst the asset is located within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, the asset is not located within the extent or boundary of any intrusive construction activities. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance or loss of significance to the asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

#### **Undated Ditch (AEC512)**

- 6.4.19 A linear ditch, extending for approximately 90 m on an east to west alignment, has been identified within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset is of local importance. The ditch is undated but may be part of the wider post-medieval land reclamation and water management system for this part of the Fens.
- 6.4.20 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature and is located within the extent of an area of crossing protection; however, construction activities are anticipated to be non-intrusive. Therefore, there will be no truncation or disturbance, or loss of significance experienced by this heritage asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

#### **Post Medieval Field Boundary (AEC517)**

- 6.4.21 A linear feature has been identified, through aerial photographic analysis, extending from Marsh Road on a north west to south east alignment. The asset dates to the post-medieval period and is of local importance. The field boundary is located in close proximity and at a 90-degree angle to a post-medieval field boundary (AEC518), and is likely contemporary and part of the same agricultural field system.
- 6.4.22 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature and is located within the extent of an area of crossing protection; however, construction activities are anticipated to be non-intrusive. Therefore, there will be no truncation or disturbance, or loss of

significance to this heritage asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Post Medieval Field Boundary (AEC518)**

- 6.4.23 A linear feature has been identified through aerial photography and LiDAR analysis extending a north east on south west alignment within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset is of local importance. The field boundary is located in close proximity, at 90-degrees to field boundary (AEC517) and are likely contemporary.
- 6.4.24 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature that forms part of a wider post-medieval field system within the Lincolnshire Fens.
- 6.4.25 The asset is located within the extent of the Maintenance Access Swathe, which enables non-intrusive vehicle or pedestrian access to the overhead line during the operation of the Scheme. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance, or loss of significance experienced by this heritage asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Post-Medieval Field Boundary (AEC519)**

- 6.4.26 A linear ditch, extending for approximately 300 m on a north east to south west alignment, has been identified within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The ditch likely formed part of a wider post-medieval field system across Weston Marsh.
- 6.4.27 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature, is located within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary but is not located within the extent or boundary of any intrusive construction activities. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance or loss of significance to the asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Circular Anomalies (AEC525)**

- 6.4.28 A group of five concentric circular-shaped anomalies have been identified within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The assets are assessed as being of regional importance. The circular ditches vary between 9 m and 16 m in diameter and are grouped together over an area of approximately 150 m by 150 m. They are likely to date to the post-medieval period and are interpreted as 'Fen Circles' which were gullies that surrounded areas where crops were stored.
- 6.4.29 The circular anomalies are likely to be buried features with internal features such as storage pits. These fen circles may have formed part of an activity area which may include further features in the land between the fen circles, such as postholes, storage and rubbish pits, and animal enclosures.
- 6.4.30 The asset is located within the extent of a proposed maintenance access, which will enable non-intrusive vehicle or pedestrian access to the overhead line during the operation of the Scheme. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance, or loss of significance experienced by this heritage asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Undated Road (AEC527)**

- 6.4.31 A likely road or trackway has been identified through aerial photography and LiDAR analysis, within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The significance of the asset is assessed as being of local importance. The trackway is approximately 10 m in width and is recorded extending from approximately 65 m before it terminates at Marsh Road. An existing road, Hall Gate, is located on the same alignment as the asset and this may be a continuation of this road or trackway.
- 6.4.32 The asset survives as buried archaeological features comprising a series of road layers or construction make up such as stone, cobbles and beaten earth.
- 6.4.33 The asset is located within the extent of a proposed maintenance access, which will enable non-intrusive vehicle or pedestrian access to the overhead line during the operation of the Scheme. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance, or loss of significance experienced by this heritage asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Sea Defence (AEC533)**

- 6.4.34 An undated asset, identified as a likely sea defence bank, was identified within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset is of regional importance. The asset extends for approximately 200 m on a north east to south west alignment within agricultural fields located to the east of the River Welland, with an approximate width of 10 m. The sea defences are located between 160 m and 800 m east of the River Welland. The asset likely dates to the post-medieval period and is part of the wider series of sea defences that were constructed in the post-medieval period across the Lincolnshire Fens.
- 6.4.35 The asset survives as a buried archaeological asset with no surviving extant earthworks above ground.
- 6.4.36 Whilst the asset is located within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, the asset is not located within the extent or of any intrusive construction activities. Therefore, there will be no truncation or disturbance, or loss of significance experienced by this heritage asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

### **Watercourses (AEC538)**

- 6.4.37 A sinuous watercourse, that likely dates to the post-medieval period, was identified through aerial photography and LiDAR analysis, extending within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary.
- 6.4.38 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature with no extant surviving earthworks visible above ground and is assessed as being of regional importance.
- 6.4.39 There is potential for impacts to the heritage asset from ground reduction, required for temporary haul road, which may result in partial truncation or disturbance of the asset. This would result in permanent loss of part of the asset and its archaeological interest which contributes to its significance, resulting in less than substantial harm requiring archaeological mitigation measures to offset the loss.
- 6.4.40 A programme of archaeological mitigation would be undertaken ahead of construction, the scope of which would be determined during consultation with the LCCAA.

6.4.41 The impacts to the heritage asset are assessed as less than substantial harm.

#### **Pond (AEC544)**

6.4.42 A pond was identified on the first edition OS map located within a field to the west of Carrington Road. The pond appears to be approximately 10m in diameter and is ovoid in shape. The pond likely dates to the late medieval / post-medieval period and is of local importance.

6.4.43 The pond survives as a buried archaeological feature with associated backfills.

6.4.44 The asset is located within the extent of a proposed maintenance access, which will enable non-intrusive vehicle or pedestrian access to the overhead line during the operation of the Scheme. Therefore, there will be no truncation, disturbance, or loss of significance experienced by this heritage asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

#### **Sea Defence (AEC560)**

6.4.45 An undated asset, identified as a likely sea defence bank, is situated within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary. The asset is of regional importance. The asset extends for approximately 400 m on a north east to south west alignment, before curving to extend north west to south east for approximately 350 m. It is located within agricultural fields to the east of the River Welland, with an approximate width ranging from 15 to 30 m. The sea defence is located 140 m east of the River Welland at its closest point. The asset likely dates to the post-medieval period and is part of the wider series of sea defences that were constructed in the post-medieval period across the Lincolnshire Fens.

6.4.46 The asset survives as a buried archaeological feature with no surviving extant earthworks above ground.

6.4.47 Whilst the asset is located within the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, the asset is not located within the extent or of any intrusive construction activities. Therefore, there will be no truncation or disturbance, or loss of significance experienced by this heritage asset associated with the Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary, resulting in no harm to this heritage asset.

## **6.5 Historic Landscape Sensitivity to Change**

6.5.1 The importance and significance of historic landscape character is assessed in terms of sensitivity to change. Those with a high sensitivity to change should be accommodated and preserved, where possible, within new developments or should be subject to well managed changes. Historic landscapes with a lower sensitivity to change can be potentially enhanced by new developments and can absorb most types and scales of essential, well-managed change.

6.5.2 The Scheme Site Boundary lies predominantly within a post-medieval agricultural landscape, with the fields becoming more consolidated / rationalised through the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Evidence for the former post-medieval sea defences, which are no longer in use, is in the form of buried archaeological features. There are further post-medieval features that survive within the wider landscape, including the historic core of the village of Weston to the south east and 18 post-medieval farmsteads that are spread across the landscape within the agricultural fields they serve.

- 6.5.3 The appraisal assesses the post-medieval agricultural landscape as low sensitivity to change. The post-medieval field systems within the Lincolnshire Fens are a common character type and the Scheme would not result in a reduction of legibility or clarity of the post-medieval character in which the Scheme is situated.

# 7. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 7.1.1 This Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) has been prepared on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid).
- 7.1.2 National Grid are proposing to undertake works to construct a new electricity substation, new sections of overhead line and modification of existing overhead lines south west of the Spalding Tee-Point, within the administrative boundary of South Holland District Council, in Lincolnshire.
- 7.1.3 This DBA first sets out the heritage baseline for the Scheme, in order to identify all known designated and non-designated heritage assets within the 2 km and 1 km Study Areas to determine the potential for as yet unknown buried archaeological remains to be present within the Scheme Site Boundary, and to identify heritage assets within the 2 km and 1 km Study Areas that may have their settings impacted by the Scheme.
- 7.1.4 This DBA includes an assessment of the significance of the known and potential heritage assets and archaeological resource that may be impacted by the Scheme. The DBA concludes with an assessment of potential impacts to the heritage assets and archaeological resource identified in this assessment.
- 7.1.5 Located within the 2 km Study Area, there are 40 designated heritage assets, none of which are located within the Scheme Site Boundary. The 40 designated heritage assets are comprised of two scheduled monuments, four grade I listed buildings, 33 grade II listed buildings and one conservation area.
- 7.1.6 The scheduled monuments located within 2km of the Site are Wykeham Chapel (NHLE 1019096) and the Churchyard cross of St Mary (NHLE 1013529), which is both a scheduled monument and a grade II listed building.
- 7.1.7 There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the 2 km Study Area.
- 7.1.8 There are no expected physical impacts to designated or non-designated buildings, however, there is potential for permanent and temporary setting changes as a result of the Substation Works, S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, S37 2WS Overhead Line Works and Exempt Overhead Line Works, as well as temporary setting changes from the Exempt Overhead Line Works. These impacts would result in less than substantial harm to the significance of the assets.
- 7.1.9 There is potential for permanent and temporary setting changes to listed buildings and the Wykeham Chapel scheduled monument as a result of the Substation Works, as well as temporary setting changes to designated assets from the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works, S37 2WS Overhead Line Works and Exempt Overhead Line Works. These changes would result in less than substantial harm.
- 7.1.10 The assessment concludes that there may be temporary impacts to the setting of designated assets, including Wraggmarsh House Farm (NHLE 1147603), the Pigeoncote to the east (NHLE 1064477), Wykeham Chapel scheduled monument (NHLE 1019096; 1064471) and associated grade II listed farmhouse (NHLE 1147513). It is not anticipated that there would be any permanent impacts to the setting of these assets, resulting in less than substantial harm to their significance.

- 7.1.11 There is potential for temporary impacts to the setting of several non-designated assets from the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works and S37 2WS Overhead Line Works, including Crowtree Farm (MLI122916), Top Yard (MLI122919), Chestnut House (MLI122926) and Shepherd's Farm (MLI122924). There is also potential for temporary and permanent setting changes to the non-designated asset the Ship Inn (MLI87121) from the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works and S37 2WS Overhead Line Works. These changes would result in less than substantial harm.
- 7.1.12 With regard to non-designated heritage assets with archaeological interest, a total of 29 non-designated heritage assets have been identified within the Scheme Site Boundary, these include a tramway (MLI22401), ridge and furrow (AEC501), sea defences (MLI98445, AEC529, AEC533, AEC535, and AEC560), banks and ditches associated with former field systems (AEC507, AEC510, AEC511, AEC512, AEC514, AEC517, AEC518, AEC519, AEC559, AEC561, AEC564 and AEC565), medieval dylings (AEC515), circular anomalies (AEC525), curvilinear enclosure (AEC508), an undated road and trackway (AEC527, AEC537), watercourses (AEC538), ponds (AEC540, AEC541 and AEC544) and peat deposits (AEC562).
- 7.1.13 A single non-designated archaeological asset, comprising the buried remains of a post-medieval pond (AEC541) of local importance, has been assessed as experiencing substantial harm. This harm would result from the complete and permanent, truncation or disturbance of the physical remains of the heritage asset by the Substation Works, resulting in the complete loss of its archaeological interest. The harm experienced by the asset could, however, be offset by an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation and recording.
- 7.1.14 Ten of the non-designated archaeological assets have been assessed as being impacted by the construction access haul road required for both the Substation Works and S37 Overhead Line Works resulting in their partial loss or truncation. The tramway (MLI22401), ridge and furrow (AEC501), sea defences (MLI98445 and AEC529), watercourses (AEC538), medieval dylings (AEC515), trackway (AEC537), post-medieval ditches (AEC510 and AEC559) and undated Ditches (AEC561) are all assessed as experiencing less than substantial harm as a result of construction of the Scheme.
- 7.1.15 Archaeological assets, including former watercourses (AEC538), Peat Deposits (AEC562), pond (AEC540), ditches (AEC559) and post-medieval sea defence (AEC560) have the potential to be physically impacted by construction works associated with the Substation Works. These changes also would result in the partial loss of these archaeological assets and their archaeological interest resulting in less than substantial harm.
- 7.1.16 The DBA has assessed that there is potential for permanent physical impacts arising from the construction works associated with the S37 4ZM Overhead Line Works to non-designated archaeological assets. These include ridge and furrow (AEC501), medieval dylings (AEC515) post-medieval banks and ditches (AEC510, AEC511, AEC559, AEC518, AEC561), (AEC565) undated pits (AEC524), watercourse (AEC538) and sea defences (AEC529) and (AEC535). These changes would result in less than substantial harm.
- 7.1.17 There is potential for permanent physical impacts arising from the construction works associated with the S37 2WS Overhead Line Works on non-designated archaeological assets including ridge and furrow (AEC501), sea defences (MLI98445, AEC529 and AEC535), post-medieval ditches (AEC510) (AEC559),

(AEC561), (AEC564), (AEC565), medieval dyling (AEC515) and former watercourses (AEC538). These changes would result in less than substantial harm.

- 7.1.18 Two non-designated heritage assets, curvilinear enclosure (AEC508) and undated ditch (AEC514) are located within the Scheme Site Boundary but are outside of areas directly affected by construction activities. As such, these heritage assets have been assessed as experiencing no harm from the Scheme.
- 7.1.19 Further consultation will be undertaken with the LCCAA to determine the scope of any archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation works ahead of construction of the Scheme.

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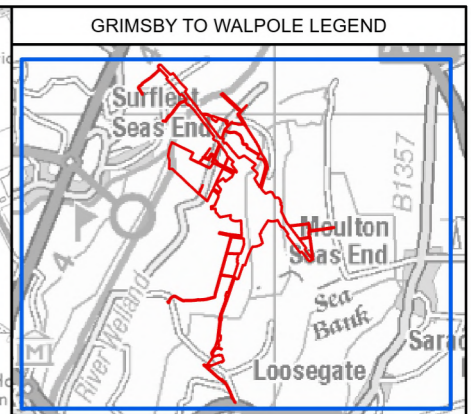
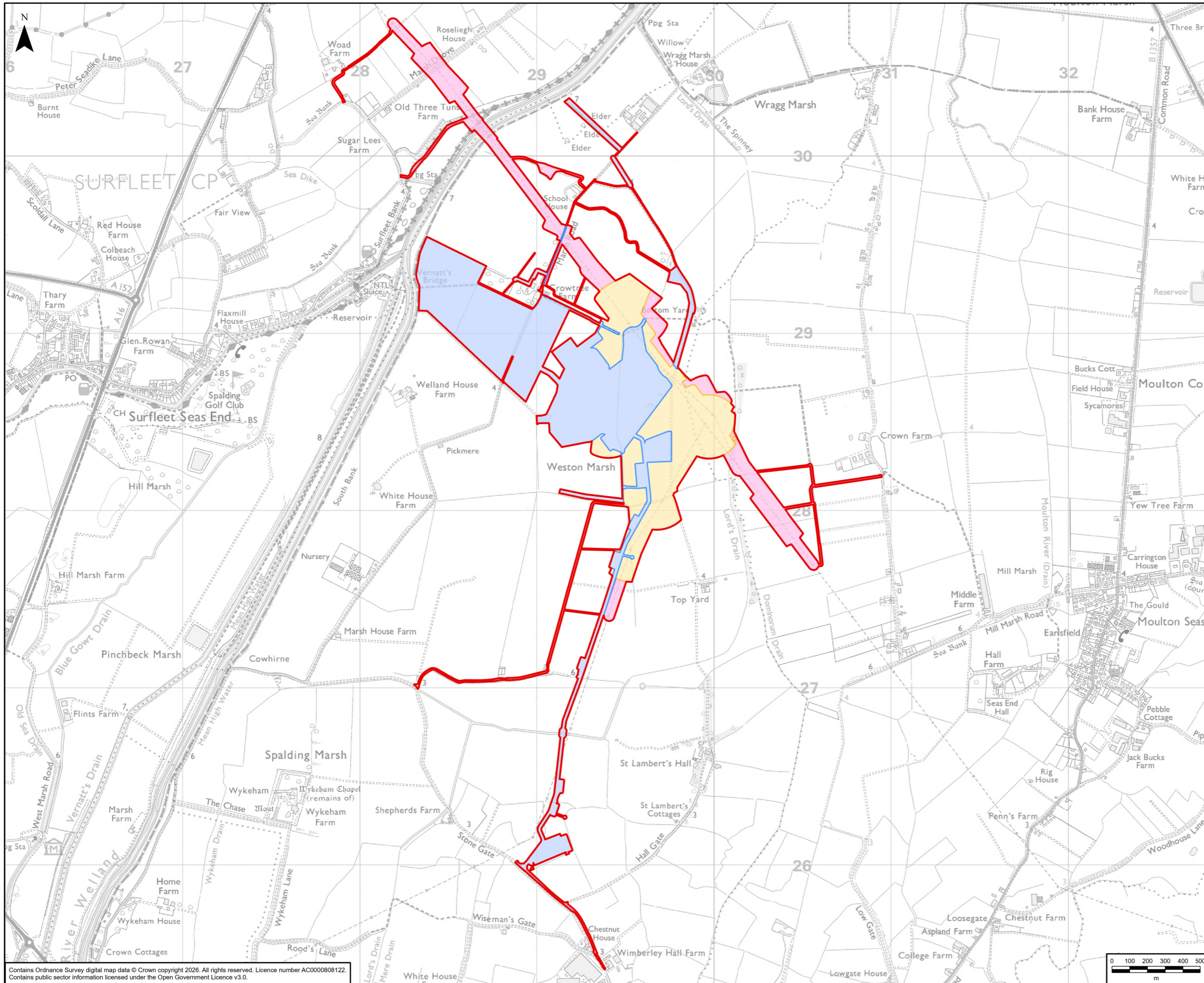
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# Figures

# Figure 1 Site Location

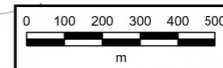


- Legend**
- Scheme Site Boundary
  - Substation Works
  - S37 OHL Works Site Boundary
  - Exempt Overhead Line Works Site Boundary

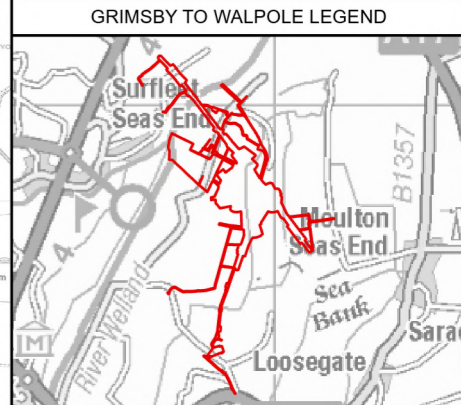
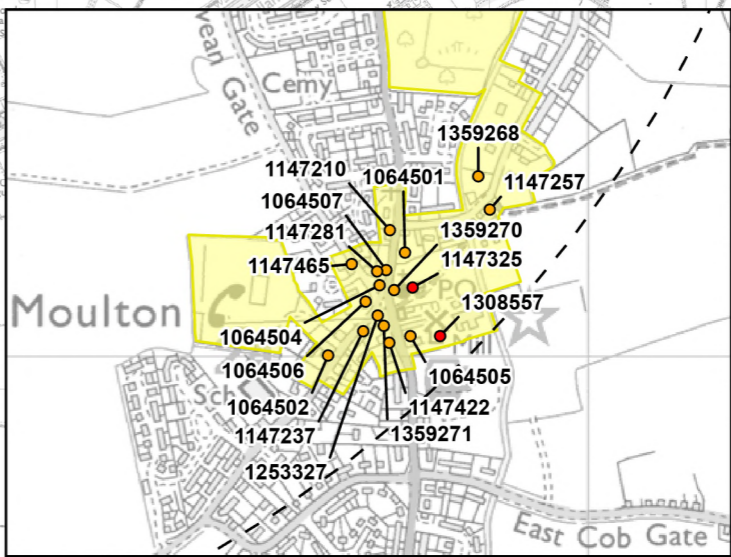
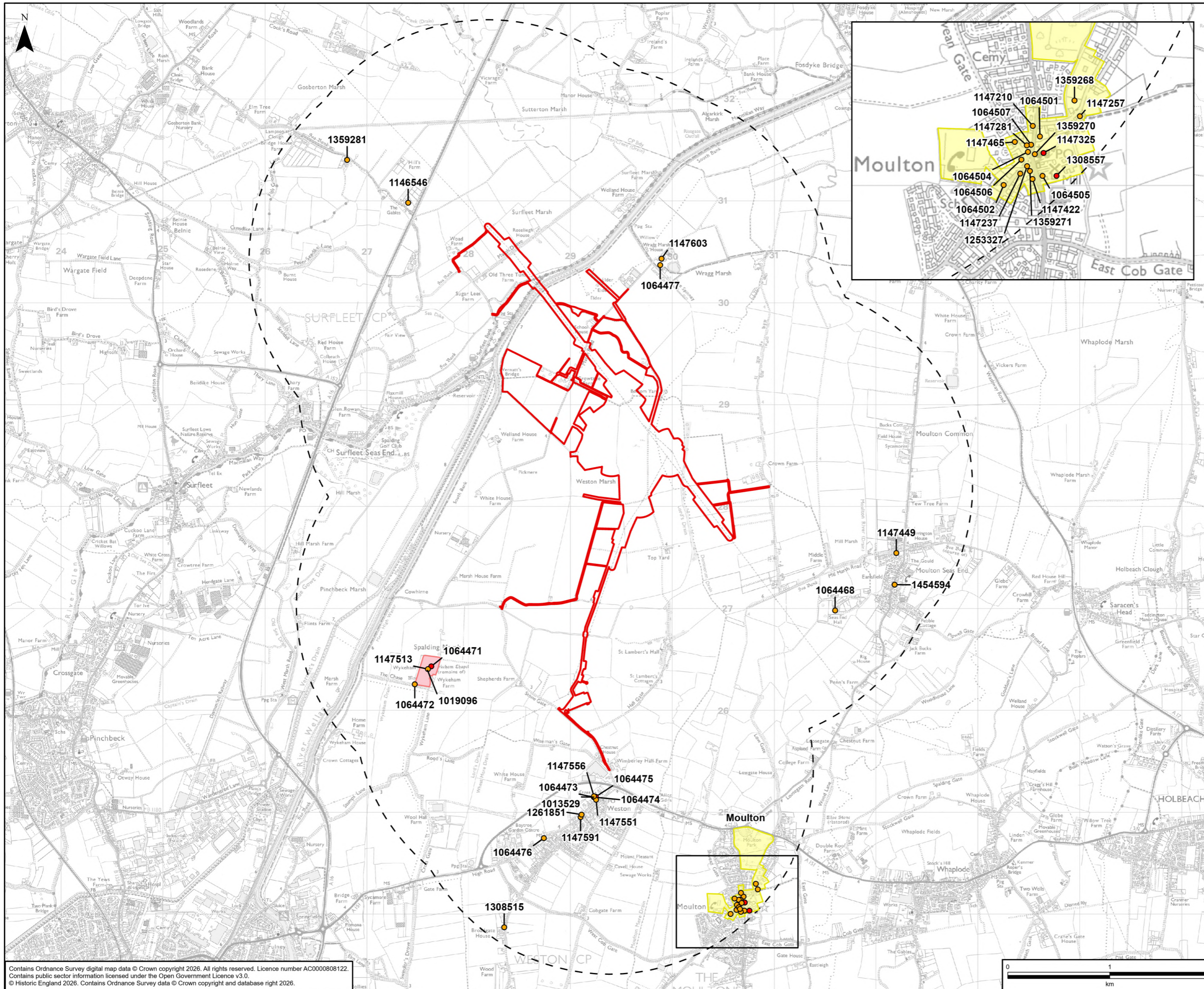
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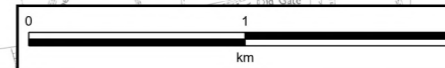


## **Figure 2      Designated Heritage Assets**



- GRIMSBY TO WALPOLE LEGEND**
- Scheme Site Boundary
  - 2km Study Area
  - Grade I Listed Building
  - Grade II Listed Building
  - Scheduled Monument
  - Conservation Area

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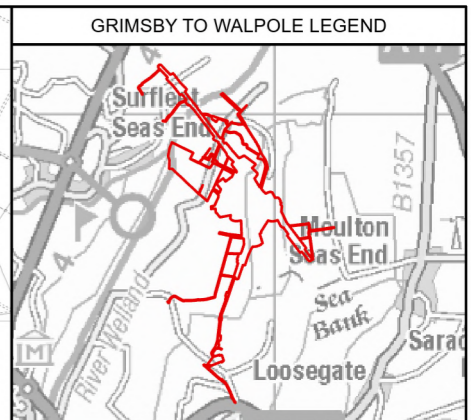
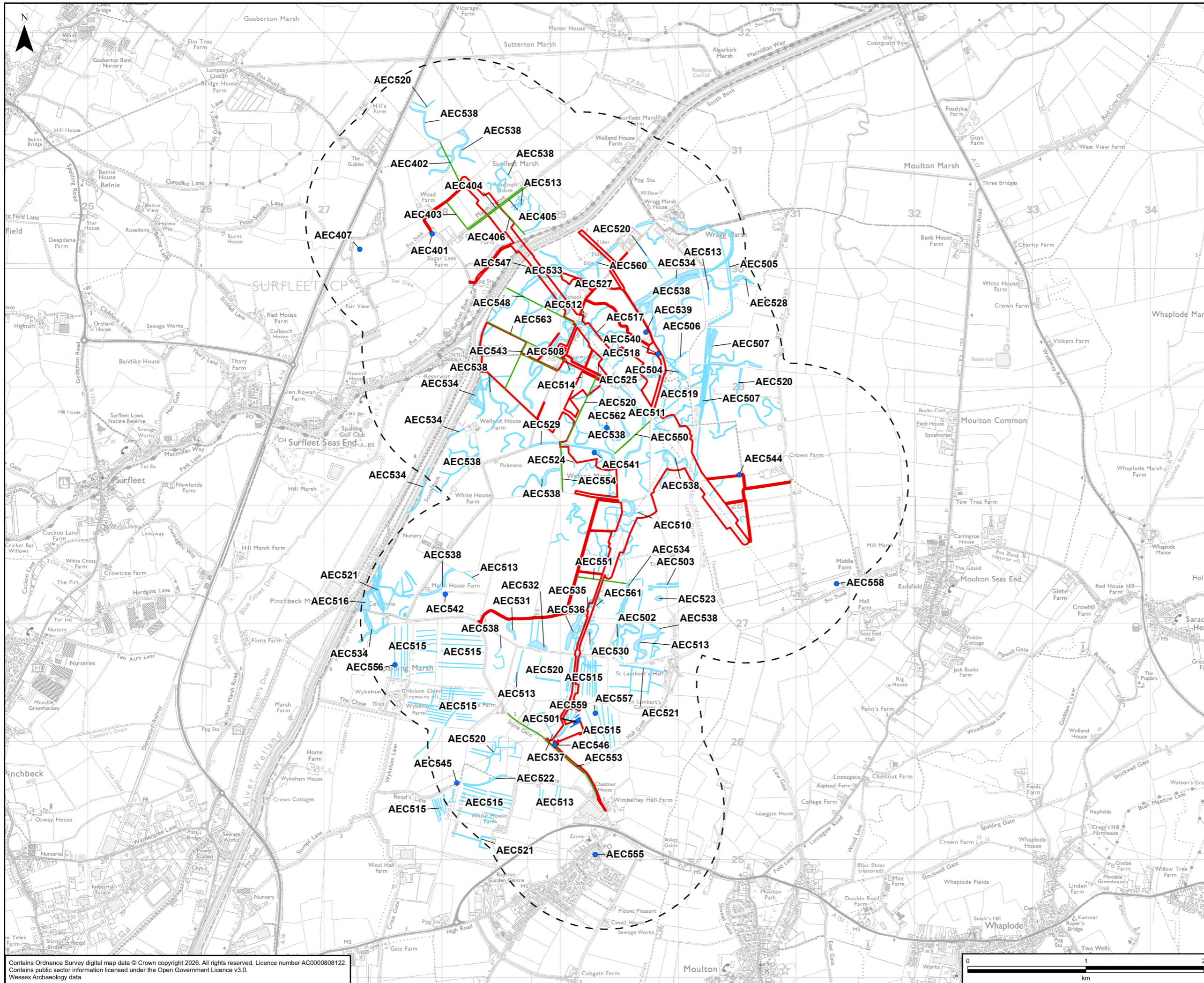
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## **Figure 3      Non-Designated Heritage Assets**



# Figure 4 AECOM Identified Heritage Assets



- Legend**
- Scheme Site Boundary
  - 1km Study Area
  - Assets Identified on Cartographic Evidence and by the Portable Antiquities Scheme
  - Assets Identified by AP and LiDAR Assessment (Line)
  - Assets Identified by AP and LiDAR Assessment (Polygon)
  - Historic Hedgerows
  - Assets Identified by Geophysical Survey

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