



making sense of heritage

Land at Fen Lane, Fulstow, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Reference: DC/11/05923/STPLFE/STRAT
Ref: 110910.01
October 2015



**Land at Fen Lane,
Fulstow, Lincolnshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Quality Assurance

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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Land at Fen Lane, Fulstow, Lincolnshire

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Land at Fen Lane, Fulstow, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land at the south of Fen Lane (A1031), Fulstow, Lincolnshire (centred on National Grid Reference 533258,398897) to inform a forthcoming application for the proposed development of seven wind turbines and associated infrastructure (DC/11/05923/STPLFE/STRAT).

A Desk-based Assessment and geophysical survey have previously been carried out in support of the planning application, neither of which identified any significant archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

Ten evaluation trenches were opened targeting the locations of the proposed turbine bases. No significant archaeological finds or features were identified during the evaluation. The archaeological evaluation has therefore confirmed the results of the Desk-based Assessment and geophysical survey

On the basis of the results of the evaluation it is considered that the archaeological potential for the development area is extremely low.

The project archive has been compiled according to the Written Scheme of Investigation and is fully cross-referenced and indexed. It is currently held by Wessex Archaeology under the project code **110910** and site code **FLF15** and will be transferred to The Collection Museum Lincoln under accession number **LCNCC: 2015.167** in due course.



Land at Fen Lane, Fulstow, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage and is grateful to Robert Bourn in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Jan Allen, the archaeological officer for East Lindsey District Council for visiting the Site.

The fieldwork was directed by Jim O'Brien between the 8th and 12th of September. The report was compiled by Alexandra Grassam. The illustrations were prepared by Alix Sperr. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Christopher Swales.



Land at Fen Lane, Fulstow, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land at the south of Fen Lane (A1031), Fulstow, Lincolnshire (hereafter the 'Site', centred on NGR 533258,398897) to inform a forthcoming application for the proposed development of seven wind turbines and associated infrastructure (DC/11/05923/STPLFE/STRAT).
- 1.1.2 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA, CgMs 2014) and geophysical survey (Archaeological Services 2013) have previously been carried out in support of the planning application. Neither the DBA or geophysical survey identified any significant archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation was originally to comprise the excavation of fourteen trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m, however, this was later reduced to ten 30m by 1.8m trenches. The aim of the evaluation was to determine the archaeological potential of the Site and characterise any remains that may survive prior to redevelopment.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, Wessex Archaeology 2015) set out the strategy and methodology by which Wessex Archaeology implemented the archaeological evaluation. Although the WSI included for the original proposed 14 trenches, an updated WSI was not deemed necessary following the reduction in trench numbers.
- 1.1.5 All works undertaken conformed to current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment ('MoRPHE') (Historic England 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA 2014a-d). The WSI was submitted and approved by East Lindsey District Council prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site covers approximately 235 hectares in extent and lies to the north of Fulstow. It is bounded by Land Dyke to the south, Thoresby Road and outlying fields to the west, Fen Lane and outlying fields to the north and a field boundary and outlying fields to the east (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Site is located within marshland fields to the north of the settlement of Fulstow. Ground levels within the Site lie at just under 5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.3 New Dike, a branch of the Louth Canal, and other tributary drains and channels flow across the Site. Louth Canal lies 350m east of the Site.



- 1.2.4 The solid geology for the Site comprises Chalk of the Burnham Chalk Formation. The superficial geology comprises Clay and Silt from the Tidal Flat Deposits (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following information represents a summary of the historic background within the DBA (CgMs 2014). The DBA comprised an examination of evidence in Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER), Historic England's National Heritage List for England, Lincolnshire Archives and online sources. The results of a site inspection, an examination of published/ unpublished material and a map regression exercise are also included. The study area for the DBA examined evidence within 1km of the proposed development area.

- 2.1.2 No designated heritage assets were identified within the study area.

- 2.1.3 No non-designated assets are located within the footprint of the proposed turbine locations. The wider 235ha Site contains four non-designated heritage assets: an undated cropmark enclosure; an undated cropmark enclosure and field boundary; a modern enclosure; and the site of a former brick and tile works. These features will not be impacted upon by the proposed development. An overview of the potential for further non-designated assets being discovered within the proposed development area is presented below.

2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 2.2.1 Little evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity has been identified around the Site. The only prehistoric evidence recorded is a find spot of a Bronze Age axe hammer, found 840m south-east of the Site, while the Romano-British period is represented by a scatter of 3rd-to early 4th-century pottery, 920m south of the Site.

- 2.2.2 It is considered that the Site has a low potential for evidence of these periods.

2.3 Anglo-Saxon and medieval

- 2.3.1 Fulstow is listed in the Domesday Survey (1086 AD) which is suggestive of a Late Saxon origin for the settlement. No archaeological evidence from the Saxon period has been identified to support this. It is therefore considered that the Site has a low potential for evidence of this period.

- 2.3.2 The historic core of the village of Fulstow lies c.460 m south of the Site with eleven medieval sites or findspots recorded within a 1km radius. HER records for house platform earthworks and earthwork tofts within the village core. Enclosure earthworks, c.870 m south of the Site, identified from aerial photograph analysis, may represent the western boundary of the medieval village. The church of St Laurence, which retains 13th century features and the remains of a medieval cross lies on the outskirts of the settlement, c.80 m south of the Site, and may represent the northern boundary of the historic settlement.

- 2.3.3 The Domesday Survey records that there were five manors within Fulstow. Two possible locations for medieval manors are recorded within the search area: North Hall Manor c.120 m south of the Site; and Fulstow Hall, c.700 m south of the Site. The distance of these manors from the Site suggests that it is unlikely that remains associated with either medieval manor exist within the Site.



2.3.4 The development area is located outside of the historic core of Fulstow and lies within an area occupied by an open field system during the Medieval period. It is considered that the Site has a low potential for evidence of this period, other than features associated with agriculture.

2.4 Post-medieval to modern

2.4.1 HER records have identified an undated, disused brick and tile works, marked on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps, and a modern enclosure within the Site. Neither of these features were identified during a site visit.

2.4.2 Earthworks associated with a post-medieval quarry are located along the southern boundary of the Site and three square enclosures, identified during the National Mapping Programme as modern features, are located c.100m east of the Site. Aircraft obstruction earthworks, c.90 m north-west of the Site and cropmarks/earthworks of an anti-glider ditch were also identified c.880 m northeast of the Site

2.4.3 Additional HER records all relate to standing buildings and associated monuments.

2.4.4 A map regression has shed light on a process of field enclosure undertaken during the 18th century with the General Enclosure Act in 1836 ensuring that fields were enclosed by 1846. The Fulstow Enclosure Award map, 1815, shows that the fields had been enclosed by this date and the Site was divided into 41 fields. Newdike Drain and Water Lade Drain cross the Site and Land Dike Drain forms the southern boundary of the Site.

2.4.5 Three windmills are depicted within the Site on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. By 1907 and the publication of the Second Edition map one 'windmill' has fallen out of use.

2.4.6 Within the south-east corner of the Site, a series of buildings and a large pond, possibly associated with a 'Brick & Tile Works' are shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey maps. These features were constructed between 1815 and 1884. From the 1970s onwards, the brick and tile works are no longer marked.

2.4.7 Three farm buildings are shown on the First and Second Edition maps. Between 1956 and 1976, two of these buildings were demolished.

2.4.8 The development area is located outside of the historic core of Fulstow and lies within an area occupied by enclosed field systems during the post-medieval period. It is considered that the Site has a low potential for evidence of this period, other than features associated with agriculture.

2.5 Previous archaeological investigations

2.5.1 A geophysical survey (Archaeological Services 2013) was undertaken covering an area of 1ha around each of the seven proposed turbine bases. No features of archaeological significance were identified.

2.5.2 A walkover survey, covering a large area to the east of the Site and including a small section of the Site within the eastern boundary, was undertaken as part of the Fulstow East Capital Scheme in 2005. No archaeological remains were identified.



3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- *to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;*
- *to record a sufficient sample of the features to adequately characterise the nature of the surviving archaeology and date significant features;*
- *to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for additional archaeological mitigation; and*
- *to make available the results of the work.*

3.1.2 The specific aim of the project was:

- *to confirm/disprove the results of the DBA and geophysical survey suggesting the a low archaeological potential for the Site.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The following summarises the methodologies set out in full in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015). The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trenches (**Figure 1**) measuring 30m by 1.8m. Each of the turbines were targeted by two evaluation trenches. All works undertaken conformed to current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment ('MoRPHE') (Historic England 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA 2014a-d).

Machine excavation

3.2.2 The location of all trenches was scanned using a CAT before excavation took place in order to check for uncharted services.

3.2.3 Topsoil and subsoil were removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the natural geology. Both topsoil and subsoil was stored separately at a safe distance away from the trench edge.

Hand excavation

3.2.4 Natural and archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity.

3.2.5 Archaeological features were hand excavated but the complete excavation of obviously modern features was not regarded as necessary.

3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 The project was monitored by East Lindsey District Council Archaeological Officer to ensure all works was carried out according to the agreed WSI.



3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits (including those within 'blank' trenches).
- 3.4.2 All trenches were located by means of a RTK GPS system in relation to the OS grid, and other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate.
- 3.4.3 A photographic record consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and digital images to a resolution of at least 10 megapixel was produced for the Site, including all trenches, natural and any archaeological features.

3.5 Specialist strategies

Artefacts

- 3.5.1 No artefacts were recovered during the evaluation.

Environmental

- 3.5.2 No features were identified which required environmental sampling.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trenches (**Figure 1; Plates 1-4**) measuring 30m by 1.8m. The archaeological layers and stratigraphy were consistent in all of the trenches.
- 4.1.2 None of the evaluation trenches contained features of archaeological significance.
- 4.1.3 Modern land drains were identified in **Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 9**. A brick manhole was identified associated with a patch of disturbed ground (**501**) in Trench 5. A full trench context listing is provided in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Summary

Natural geology

- 4.2.1 The natural geology consisted of a mid-light brown clay with patches of grey and blue mottling located at an average depth of 0.4m below ground level (bgl), with sondages periodically dug to a depth of 1m bgl to confirm the natural deposits.

Subsoil

- 4.2.2 A layer of dark brown plastic silty clay subsoil measuring in depth from 0.15m to 0.20m was identified in **Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6**.

Topsoil

- 4.2.3 The topsoil was a dark grey brown, which varied in depth from 0.30m to 0.35m.



5 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 No finds or deposits of significance were recovered during the archaeological evaluation.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 Ten evaluation trenches were opened targeting the locations of the proposed turbine bases. A geophysical survey previously undertaken within the Site did not identify any anomalies of potentially archaeological origin.

6.1.2 No significant archaeological finds or features were identified during the evaluation.

6.1.3 Modern land drains were identified in **Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 9**. A brick manhole was identified associated with a patch of disturbed ground (**501**) in Trench 5.

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation did not identify the presence of any archaeological remains within the location of the proposed turbine bases.

6.2.2 The archaeological evaluation has confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and the Desk-based Assessment, which indicated a low potential for archaeological remains. No archaeological features were identified, with only modern drains recorded.

6.2.3 On the basis of the results of the evaluation it is considered that the archaeological potential for the development area is extremely low.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with The Collection Museum, Lincoln. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under accession code **LCNCC: 2015.167**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner

7.2 Archive

7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Collection Museum, Lincoln, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014d; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; English Heritage 2005; MGC 1991; UKIC 2001).

7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site Code (**FLF15**) accession code (**LCNCC: 2015.167**) and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises one file document case of paper records.



7.3 Discard policy

- 7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995).

7.4 Security copy

- 7.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



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Online resources:

British Geological Survey, 2015. www.bgs.ac.uk



9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Trench context tables

Trench 1		Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
100	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0-0.35	
101	Natural – Patchy mid-light grey brown plastic silty clay	0.35+	

Trench 2		Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.40m
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
200	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0 - 0.35	
201	Natural – Patchy mid-light grey brown plastic silty clay	0.35+	

Trench 3		Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
300	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0 - 0.30	
301	Subsoil – Dark brown plastic silty clay	0.30 - 0.45	
302	Natural – Mid to light brown grey patchy silty clay	0.45+	

Trench 4		Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.50m
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
400	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0 - 0.30	
401	Subsoil – Dark brown plastic silty clay	0.30 - 0.50	
402	Natural – Mid to light brown grey patchy silty clay	0.50+	

Trench 5		Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.50m
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
500	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0 - 0.30	
501	Drain fill?– Mixed light and dark grey brown clay with sandstone inclusions	0.30+	
502	Subsoil – Dark brown plastic silty clay	0.30 – 0.50	
503	Natural – Mid to light brown grey patchy silty clay	0.5m+	

Trench 6		Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.50m
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
600	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0 - 0.30	
601	Subsoil – Dark brown plastic silty clay	0.30 - 0.45	
602	Natural – Mid to light brown grey patchy silty clay	0.45+	

Trench 7		Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.50m
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
700	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0 - 0.35	
701	Natural – Mid to light brown grey patchy silty clay	0..35+	

Trench 8		Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
800	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0 – 0.30	
801	Natural – Mid to light brown grey patchy silty clay	0.30+	

Trench 9		Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
900	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0 - 0.35	



Trench 9	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
901	Natural – Mid to light brown grey patchy silty clay	0.35+

Trench 10	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1000	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0 - 0.30
1001	Natural – Mid to light brown grey patchy silty clay	0.30+



9.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: wessexar1-223388

Project details

Project name	Land at Fen Lane, Fulstow, Lincolnshire, Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land at the south of Fen Lane (A1031), Fulstow, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR 533258,398897) to inform a forthcoming application for the proposed development of seven wind turbines and associated infrastructure (DC/11/05923/STPLFE/STRAT). A Desk-based Assessment and geophysical survey have previously been carried out in support of the planning application, neither of which identified any significant archaeological remains within the proposed development area. Ten evaluation trenches were opened targeted at the locations of the proposed turbine bases. No significant archaeological finds or features were identified during the evaluation. The archaeological evaluation has therefore confirmed the results of the Desk-based Assessment geophysical survey. On the basis of the results of the evaluation it is considered that the archaeological potential for the development area is extremely low.
Project dates	Start: 14-09-2015 End: 18-09-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	110910 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2015.167 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Wetlands
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Wind farm developments



Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY FULSTOW Fen Lane, Fulstow
Postcode	DN36 5TY
Study area	235 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 33258 98897 53.469647683218 0.007820567683 53 28 10 N 000 00 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5m Max: 5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Orion Heritage
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Chris Swales
Project supervisor	Jim O'Brien
Type of sponsor/funding body	Energy company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Orion Heritage

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection (Lincolnshire)
Digital Archive ID	LCNCC:2015.167
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection (Lincolnshire)
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC:2015.167
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Diary","Photograph","Report"



Project bibliography 1

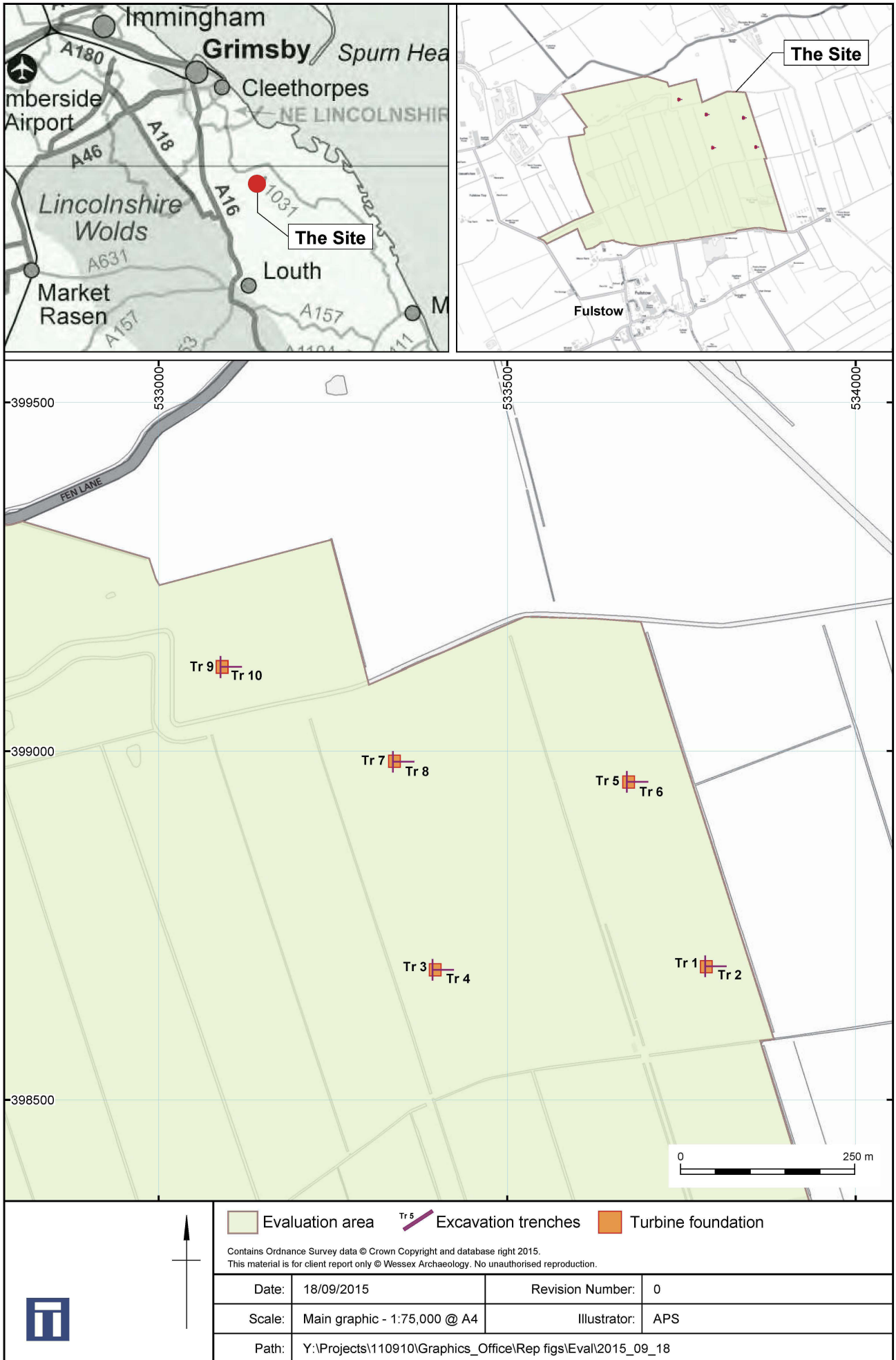
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Site location and plan of trenches

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 2 showing typical overburden across the Site, view from south



Plate 2: Trench 4 showing natural geology, view from east



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Plate 3: Trench 7 showing sondage through natural geology, view from east



Plate 4: Trench 9 showing sondage through natural geology, view from west

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