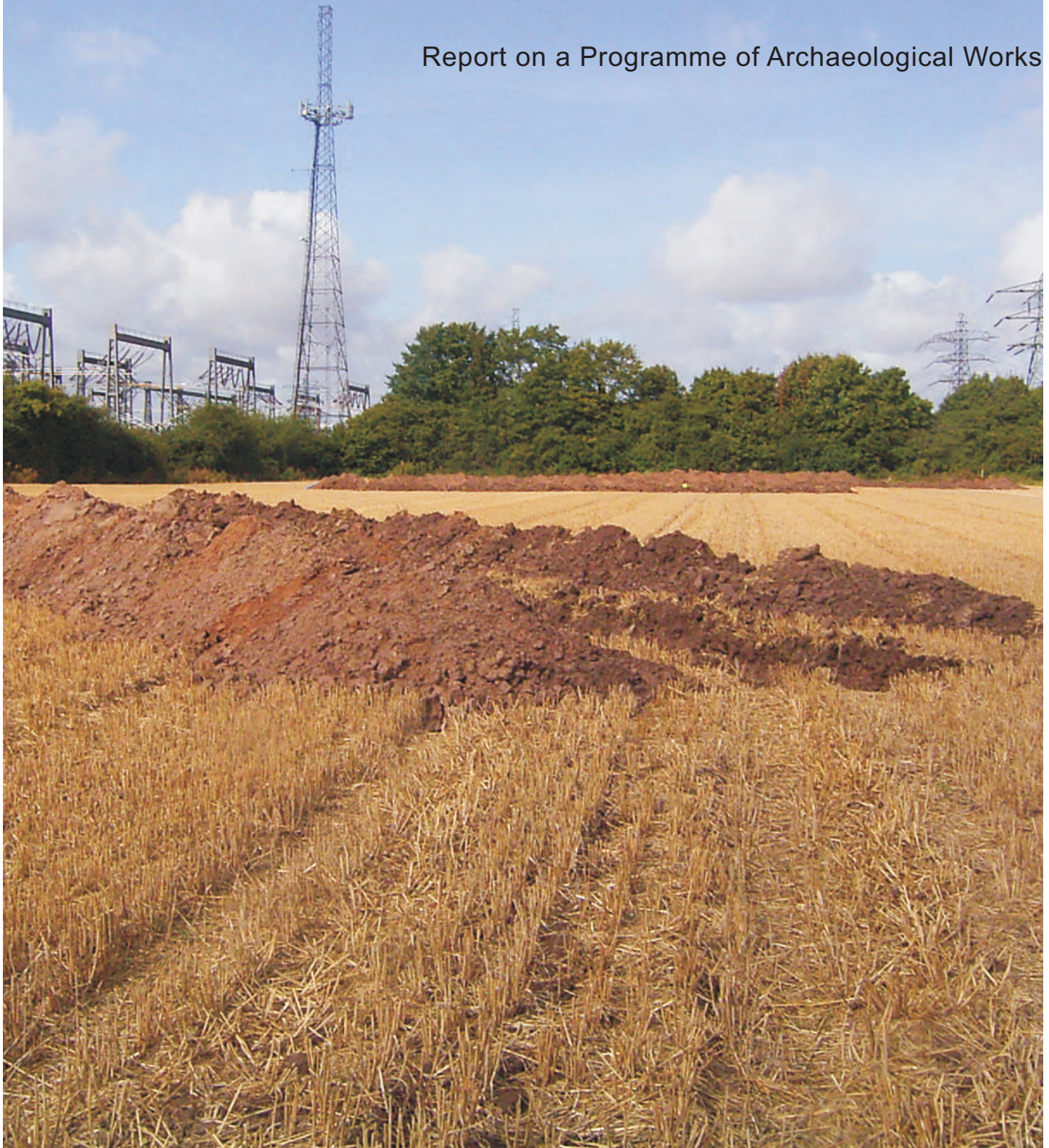




Walpole Electricity Substation, Walpole St Peter, Norfolk

Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works



**Walpole Electricity Substation,
Walpole St.Peter,
Norfolk**

Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works

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Walpole Electricity Substation, Walpole St.Peter, Norfolk

Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Centrica Renewable Energy Limited (CREL) (the Client), to undertake a programme of archaeological works on the site of a proposed extension to the existing Walpole Electricity Substation, Walpole Bank, Walpole St Peter, Norfolk (hereafter, the Site). The proposed Site currently comprises a field located in an area of silt fen. The Site is centred on NGR 548827 316590.

The Site is located in close proximity to a number of sites that potentially date from the Romano British era and late Saxon through to the medieval periods. Notably the Site contains a potential medieval saltern (site for the production of salt) as identified by a recent geophysical survey. Recent archaeological evaluations did not support the findings of the survey, no clear evidence of saltern structures, such as troughs and hearths was revealed, however several episodes of burning were evident and some of the residue had become incorporated into a series of layers of silt. In this respect, there are clear similarities with excavated saltern sites both within the Fenland area and further afield, which have produced similar deposits of silt interleaved with burnt material, poorly fired clay fragments or briquetage, off cuts of lead and areas of puddle clay.

The current evaluation and watching brief works failed to identify any archaeological features. The anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey were generally accounted for by the presence of modern field drains and variations in the ferrous material found within the underlying alluvial layers. A single archaeological deposit comprising a small quantity of charcoal in conjunction with fired clay (**54**) was identified within Trial Pit 5. Fragments of Ceramic Building Material were also retrieved from the topsoil/ ploughsoil levels in all of the evaluation trenches.

No feature characteristic of salt production was identified within any of the trial pits or trial trenches. However, the environmental evidence provided by deposit 54 may tentatively suggest the possibility of salt working on the Site.

The programme of archaeological works was carried out between the 1st and 5th September 2008.

Walpole Electricity Substation, Walpole St.Peter, Norfolk

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thanks Jonny Lewis of RPS Groups Ltd for commissioning the works on behalf of CREL. Thanks are also extended to Ed Orchin and Andrew Soanes of Harrison Group for their assistance. Thanks are also due to Ken Hamilton, Archaeological Monitor of NLA (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) for his advice during the fieldwork.

The programme of archaeological works was directed by Rebecca Fitzpatrick, who also compiled this report, with the assistance of Emma Nordstrom and Dalia Pokutta. The finds assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the environmental sample was processed by Marta Perez Fernandez and assessed by Chris Stevens. The Illustrations were prepared by Elizabeth James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

Walpole Electricity Substation, Walpole St.Peter, Norfolk

Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Project Background

- 1.1.1. Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Centrica Renewable Energy Limited (CREL) (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological works on the site of a proposed extension to the existing Walpole Electricity Substation, Walpole Bank, Walpole St Peter, Norfolk centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 548827 316590 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2. A programme of archaeological works was required in advance of the construction works associated with the proposed extension to the existing electricity substation. The works comprised archaeological evaluation by trial trenching followed by monitoring of a series of geotechnical investigations to allow an assessment of the potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the Site.
- 1.1.3. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2008) which outlined the scope of works and the methods to be employed was submitted to and approved by the Head of Archaeological Planning (HAP) of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the County Council, prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.
- 1.1.4. The programme of works was undertaken from 1st to 5th September 2008.

1.2. Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1. The existing Walpole Electricity Substation is situated in an area of silt fen, east of the River Nene, close to the western boundary of the county of Norfolk. The substation lies approximately 1.5km to the west of the villages of Walpole St. Andrew and Walpole St. Peter (**Figure 1**). The proposed extension to the substation is located to the south-east of the current complex, within an area utilised as farmland, and to the north-west of the former sea bank.
- 1.2.2. The Site is very low lying: the top of the adjacent sea bank stands at 5.27m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The ground surface to the north and west of the sea bank, where the evaluation trenches were located lies at c.3.6m aOD. The Site lies to the south-west of the existing access road to the present substation. The access road crosses a low mound, approximately 0.5m above the surrounding fen. The mound measures approximately 150m in diameter and probably reflects the location of a former saltern (salt production site) of Romano-British or medieval date (NAA 2008).

- 1.2.3. The solid geology of the Walpole area is composed of Kimmeridge and Ampthill clays of the Upper Jurassic period; this is overlain by fen alluvium, comprising marine silts with buried peat horizons (NAA 2008). Previous geotechnical investigations undertaken on the Site have indicated that the marine deposits exceed 20m in depth, although a thin horizon of peat was revealed at 3m depth (NAA 2008).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1. A Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Site (NAA 2006) identified a number of archaeological sites within the vicinity. The proposed substation extension is located on the seaward side of a former sea bank called the 'Roman Bank'. The sea bank is likely to have been constructed in the Late Saxon period, as elements of settlement dating to this period which have been identified at Rose Hall Farm are recorded as extending beneath it. Spaced along the seaward side of the sea bank are a number of mounds raised as much as 2m above the surrounding land. The mounds are often kidney shaped and have been interpreted as salterns. One of these potential salterns lies within the area of the Site and a second lies at the south-west corner of the existing substation.
- 2.1.2. A geophysical survey (GSB Prospection 2006) undertaken to investigate the archaeological potential of the proposed development area identified a concentration of features in the area of the suggested northern saltern (Figure 2). The survey may also have identified the northern edge of the southern saltern, although potentially this lies to the south of the Site. The remains of the northern saltern appear to extend both north and south of the access track, possibly associated with a sub-rectangular enclosure. The remains appear to extend to the west and south of this enclosure and may have been partly truncated by the existing substation. Although some linear features could have been identified, it is not clear what type of discrete features and/or structural features may also be associated with these archaeological remains. However, a substantial burnt feature has been identified towards the centre of the enclosure which may represent a possible hearth or evaporation trough.
- 2.1.3. Where salterns have been excavated elsewhere within the fens and coastal areas, they generally comprise a substantial hearth, settling tanks and encircling ditches with feeder channels, usually accompanied by quantities of fired clay or briquetage (e.g. Hall and Coles 1994, 117; Thomas and Fletcher 2001, 215–230). Briquetage is characteristic of the salt industry, and the term encompasses a wide range of structural elements produced for salt manufacture. These include the troughs used for evaporation of the brine, vessels for storage and transportation of the salt and the pedestals and bars for supporting these during heating over a fire or flue (Crosby 2001, 410–424).

2.2. Recent Archaeological Investigations

- 2.2.1. A recent archaeological evaluation of the adjacent area to the Site (NAA 2008) revealed potential archaeological features in five of the eight trenches excavated, although some of these may be related to natural silted up creeks (roddons). A single trench contained complex archaeological deposits and features including a beamslot, which contained 13th – 14th Century Grimston ware pottery, a series of square post settings.
- 2.2.2. The evaluation did not reveal any clear evidence of saltern structures, such as troughs and hearths, however several episodes of burning were evident and some of the residue had become incorporated into a series of layers of silt. In this respect, there are clear similarities with excavated saltern sites both within the Fenland area and further afield, which have produced similar deposits of silt interleaved with burnt material, poorly fired clay fragments or briquetage, off cuts of lead and areas of puddle clay (NAA 2008).

3. AIMS

- 3.1.1. The general aims, as laid out in the WSI (WA 2008) were as follows;
- To determine or confirm the presence/absence and the specific nature and depth below current ground surface of any archaeological remains present on the Site.
 - To determine or confirm the character, condition, approximate date or date range, distribution and potential of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence where development is proposed.
 - To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
 - To provide information on which to base future decisions concerning the treatment of any archaeological remains on the Site.
- 3.1.2. The specific aims were as follows;
- To further examine the potential archaeological anomalies as identified by the previous geophysical survey.
 - To establish the presence or absence of any features characteristic of salt manufacture such as troughs or hearths and to characterise any such features as recommended in the Research Agenda for the Eastern Counties (Going and Plouviez 2000).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Introduction

- 4.1.1. The following methodology was employed in order to meet the aims of the programme of archaeological works. All works were undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the WSI and requirements of the Client and the Archaeological Monitor for NLA (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology). All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (revised 1999) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (as amended 1994).

4.2. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

- 4.2.1. The evaluation investigated an area of 2.23ha, within which four trial trenches (2No 40m x 2m and 2No 30m x 2m) were excavated. These were laid out in general accordance with the WSI (WA 2008) with the exception of the south-western end of Trench 1 which was adjusted to accommodate a drainage ditch which runs along the north-west perimeter of the Site.
- 4.2.2. Excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision, using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation proceeded in discrete spits to the level of known archaeological deposits and features as encountered in the adjacent evaluation (NAA 2008), where no features were encountered machining continued either until the top of the archaeological levels or the top of alluvial deposits, whichever was encountered first. However, to comply with Health and Safety constraints no trench exceeded a depth of 1.2m depth and the end of each trench was stepped/ battered to allow safe access and egress. Modern clay and plastic land drains were left intact and their location photographed and surveyed.
- 4.2.3. A photographic record of the evaluation, its conduct and setting was maintained throughout the works in digital (.jpg) format.
- 4.2.4. Each trial trench was recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system and are summarised in **Appendix 1**. A representative section of each trial trench was drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10).
- 4.2.5. The trenches were mapped and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid system (including heights above OS datum) using GPS (Global Positioning Equipment) equipment.
- 4.2.6. On completion of the trial trenches, as agreed by the HAP of NLA and the Client, all trial trenches were backfilled with arisings (in the order which they were removed). Material was backfilled by machine and was intermittently tracked over during backfilling to compact the fill and minimise the potential for any subsequent subsistence. No further reinstatement procedures were implemented.

4.3. Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Works

- 4.3.1. The watching brief monitored the excavation of five geotechnical trial pits which were excavated as indicated on **Figure 2**. The trial pits measured between 2.70-3.20m long, by between 0.45 – 2.20m wide and were excavated to a depth of between 2.00-2.20m. The locations of the trial pits was predetermined by the Client, on the basis of the proposed development footprint, and laid out in advance by the geotechnical contractors.
- 4.3.2. The trial pits were excavated under constant archaeological supervision, using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation proceeded in discrete spits to the level of known archaeological deposits and features as encountered in the adjacent evaluation (NAA 2008), where no features were encountered machining continued either until the top of the archaeological levels or the top of alluvial deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- 4.3.3. The works were carried out and supervised by a team of specialist geotechnical contractors.
- 4.3.4. A photographic record of the works, including their conduct and setting was maintained in digital (.jpg) format.
- 4.3.5. Each trial pit was recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system and are summarised in **Appendix 1**. A representative section of each trial pit was drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10).
- 4.3.6. The works were mapped and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid system (including heights above OS datum) using GPS (Global Positioning Equipment) equipment.
- 4.3.7. Provision was made, throughout the works, for the collection of palaeoenvironmental samples from well sealed archaeological or peat/organic rich deposits were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

5. RESULTS

5.1. Introduction

- 5.1.1. No archaeological features were observed during the course of the works. A single deposit of archaeological origin (**54**) (**Plate 4**) was identified in Trial Pit 5, located at the north-west end of the Site (**Figure 2**).
- 5.1.2. All trial trenches contained land drains dated to the modern period (**Figure 2** and **Plate 1**).

5.2. Stratigraphy

- 5.2.1. All of the trial trenches and trial pits displayed a similar stratigraphic sequence. This comprised topsoil (0.30 – 0.40m deep) overlying red/brown clay subsoil (0.60m – 0.95m deep). The subsoil was observed to overlie a series of alluvial deposits, ranging from white/yellow sand to mid red brown clay, which were observed to a depth of 2.20m within the geotechnical trial pits (**Plates 2-4**). The lower alluvial deposits, below 1.35m, comprised saturated red brown clays.
- 5.2.2. Notably in Trenches 1 and 2 and Trial Pits 3 and 4, located to the south and east of the Site (**Figure 2**), the alluvial deposits contained a higher sand content and were lighter in hue than in the remainder of the excavated trenches/pits.

5.3. Archaeological Remains

- 5.3.1. No archaeological features were revealed during the course of the works however Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was retained from the topsoil of all of the trial trenches and fired clay fragments were also recovered from alluvial deposit 304 in Trench 3 at a depth of c.1.10m below current ground level.
- 5.3.2. A single deposit of archaeological origin was recorded in Trial Pit 5 at a depth of 1.35m below current ground level. It is notable that this deposit is approximately 1m below the predicted level of the archaeological horizon as indicated by previous evaluation works adjacent to the Site (NAA 2008). The deposit, which is discussed in detail in section 7 contained a small quantity of charcoal in conjunction with rare fired clay fragments. No datable artefacts were recovered from the deposit.

6. FINDS

- 6.1.1. A very small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, mostly from topsoil and subsoil contexts within the evaluation trenches; finds were also recovered from an archaeological deposit (54) within trial pit 5. All the finds are ceramic, and comprise fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay; quantities by context are given in **Appendix 2; Table 1**.
- 6.1.2. All of the CBM is of post-medieval date, and comprises fragments of brick, tile and field drain. The fired clay fragments from deposit 54 are small, abraded and undiagnostic; they contain sparse organic inclusions. There is a chance that these fragments could be briquetage-related, but in the absence of diagnostic features this cannot be confirmed.
- 6.1.3. Given the small quantity of finds, their range and provenance, retention for long term curation is not recommended.

7. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL

7.1. Introduction

- 7.1.1. A single sample of 6 litres was taken from a layer (54) of charcoal rich, organic material within Test Pit 5 with some evidence of waterlogging. The layer was of unknown date but had some possible evidence for fired clay. The layer was at 1.35m below ground level, sealed by alluvium and thought to possibly contain peat along with charcoal.
- 7.1.2. The sample was processed for the recovery of waterlogged, charcoal, charred plant remains and other environmental material in order to evaluate the presence and nature of archaeological activity as well as archaeological and environmental potential.

7.2. Assessment Results

- 7.2.1. Five litres of the sample were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. A further sub-sample of 1 litre was processed for waterlogged material, with flots retained on a 0.25mm mesh and residues on a 0.5mm mesh. Residues were fractionated into 5.6mm and 0.25mm fractions. The flots from both samples were then scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains (Table E2) and waterlogged material quantified (Table 1). Nomenclature follows that of Stace (1997).

7.3. Charred Plant Remains, Charcoal and Waterlogged Material

- 7.3.1. The flot comprised of a mixture of organic waterlogged and charred material. Wood charcoal was relatively rare. Charred identifiable material consisted mainly of occasional degraded root stems from herbaceous species and larger charred fragments of woody root stems. The only cereal remain was an unidentified rachis fragment of possible barley (*Hordeum* sp.).
- 7.3.2. In most cases the charred material comprised of reconstituted amorphous lumps of probably stem and root material. Also seen were occasional siliceous conglomerates that can be related to the heating of earth, turves and/or plant material. The sample also contained occasional fragments of coal, as well as macro-spores from coal
- 7.3.3. Uncharred material was fairly frequent in the sample, comprising mainly of woody root stems, however occasional seeds were found, identified where possible and are listed in **Appendix 2; Table 2**.
- 7.3.4. The species represent a mixture of habitats including wetland (*Potamogeton* sp., *Carex* sp.), marsh (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and saltmarsh (*Suaeda maritima*) species, with occasional seeds of disturbed ground (*Chenopodium album*, *Atriplex* and *Centaurea* sp.).
- 7.3.5. Testing with a magnet revealed a reasonable quantity of magnetic material, although on closer inspection this was seen to be natural in origin probably relating to iron panning within the deposit.

- 7.3.6. Burnt material relating to possible salt-working has also been found in the previous evaluations on the Site (Northern Archaeological Associates 2008). It might be noted that the material examined from this Site was highly similar to material from a Romano-British and medieval salt-working site at Parsons Drove, Cambridgeshire, and at Efford, on the Hampshire coast the location of a probable medieval salt-works. At both these sites such burnt material was seen in pits and ditches, as well as in the mounds at Efford (Stevens 2006; Pelling forthcoming). However, at neither site were extensive deposits of such material seen as appears to be the case at this Site.
- 7.3.7. The origin of such burnt material is difficult to ascertain. It may relate to the burning of peat or turves (see Stevens 2006; Pelling forthcoming) in the evaporation of salt, or indeed it may relate to more specific activities even more directly related to salt-production, for example Agricola describes the boiling of “salty earth”, to obtain salt (cf. Agricola 1556). It would however seem most probable that it is contemporary with the salt-working activity and hence medieval in date.

7.4. Other Material

- 7.4.1. While mollusc remains have been recorded in previous excavations (Northern Archaeological Associates 2008), no such remains were recorded in the sample from these works. However, occasional fish vertebrae were present within the sample.

7.5. Potential

- 7.5.1. The sample showed only limited potential for the recovery of material relating to archaeological activity. There is little in the sample either to suggest a date for the deposit. The presence of occasional fragments of coal may suggest a medieval or later date, although such material may have been worked into the deposits from naturally occurring outcrops of coal on the Eastern coast of Britain.
- 7.5.2. The date of the deposit could be established with radiocarbon, although some caution needs to be exercised, as some of the material may relate to peat and so would be older than the date of burning. Further investigation of the material, however, is unlikely to reveal more information as to its exact origin or the nature of the activities associated with it.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1. The archaeological works at Walpole Electricity Substation have established the absence of any tangible features associated with the previously suspected salterns thought to be present on the Site. However, the environmental evidence provided by an isolated deposit within Trial Pit 5, situated in the north-west of the Site, may tentatively suggest the possibility of salt working.
- 8.1.2. The potential archaeological anomalies, as identified by the previous geophysical survey of the Site, were accounted for by the presence of modern land drains in each of the evaluation trial trenches and by variations in iron content within the underlying alluvial deposits.

9. ARCHIVE

- 9.1.1. The project archive, containing site documentation, written and drawn records, photographic images, specialist reports and digitally captured data, is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office, under the site code 69821. In due course it is anticipated that the archive will be deposited with Norfolk Museum Service.
- 9.1.2. The completed project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990).

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11. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND TRIAL PIT SUMMARIES

Evaluation Trench 1		Max Depth: 1.2m Ground Level (m aOD): 3.381	Length: 40m	Width: 2m
Context	Type	Description		Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil/ Ploughsoil: Dark red/grey/ brown silty clay. Loose from recent plough action and crop growth. Latter still visible. Chalk fragments (very rare)		0-0.0-0.45
101	Layer	Subsoil: Mid grey/ brown silty clay with no visible coarse components. Iron staining (rare). Quite firm compaction.		0.45-0.65
102	Layer	Alluvium: Mid brown/ Grey silty sand with low clay content contains laminations of light grey fine sand. Rare iron staining visible. Moderate –loose compaction.		0.65-0.75
103	Layer	Alluvium: Laminations of mid-light grey and yellow/ grey silty sand (fine) and mid-light grey silty clay. Iron staining evident throughout (occasional-moderate). Quite loose compaction.		0.75-1.02
104	Layer	Alluvium: Mid brown/ grey fine silty sand laminated with light grey fine sand. Iron staining evident (occasional). Quite loose compaction.		1.02-1.20+

Evaluation Trench 2		Max Depth: 1.20 Ground Level (m aOD): 3.473	Length: 30m	Width: 2m
Context	Type	Description		Depth (m)
200	Layer	Topsoil/ Ploughsoil: Dark silty clay with rare, small, sub-angular to sub-rounded flint inclusions. Quite loose compaction from recent plough action and crop growth, latter still visible.		0-00-0.32
201	Layer	Subsoil: Light-mid red/grey brown clay with sand the latter is fin and white in hue.. Occasional small, sub-rounded flint inclusions. Compact and crumbly in texture.		0.32-0.64
202	Layer	Alluvium: Light white/ yellow sand laminations containing iron staining/ deposits. Compact and compressed layer, in section, that is saturated with water thus soft and plastic in texture when trowelled.		0.64-86
203	Layer	Alluvium: Mid/ light red brown laminated throughout with light white/ yellow fine sands and silty sands. More compact than (202). Saturated with water throughout.		0.86-1.08
204		Alluvium: Mid red/ grey silty clay with grey laminations of clay. Iron staining evident throughout and saturated with water throughout.		1.08-1.20+

Evaluation Trench 3		Max Depth: 1.20m Ground Level (m aOD): 3.622	Length: 30m	Width: 2m
Context	Type	Description		Depth (m)
300	Layer	Topsoil/ Ploughsoil: Dark grey/ brown silty clay. Loose from recent plough action and crop growth. No visible coarse components.		0-00-0.40
301	Layer	Subsoil: Mid grey/ brown silty clay. No visible coarse components. Sparse iron staining evident. Quite firm compaction.		0.40-0.65
302	Layer	Alluvium: Laminations of mid grey silty clay, light yellow/ grey fine sand and light grey clay with low silty sand content. Loose compaction. Contains sparse charcoal flecks.		0.65-0.84
303	Layer	Alluvium: Laminations of light yellow fine sand, mid grey silty sandy clay and dark grey/ black sand of organic material with rare charcoal flecks. Of loose compaction.		0.84-1.03
304	Layer	Alluvium: Mid-dark brown/ grey silty san with occasional iron staining. Contains rare charcoal flecks. Moderate compaction with no visible coarse components.		1.03-1.20+

Evaluation Trench 4		Max Depth: 1.20m Ground Level (m aOD): 3.435	Length: 40m	Width: 2m
Context	Type	Description		Depth (m)
400	Layer	Topsoil/ Ploughsoil: Dark grey/ brown sity clay. No visible inclusions. Loose from recent plough action and crop growth. Latter still visible		0-00-0.33
401	Layer	Subsoil: Mid red/ grey brown silty clay. Iron panning and stains visible throughout. Quite firm compaction.		0.33-0.72
402	Layer	Alluvium: Laminations of light yellow/ red brown fine sand and light grey sand with low clay content. Loose compaction.		0.72-0.84
403	Layer	Alluvium: Laminations of light yellow/ grey fine sand, light grey fine sand with low clay content and rare dark grey/ black sand with low clay content. Latter contains organic material with rare charcoal flacks. Loose compaction.		0.84-1.20+

Trial Pit 1		Max Depth: 2.10m Ground Level (m aOD): 3.384	Length: 3m	Width: 2.10m
Context	Type	Description		Depth (m)
10	Layer	Topsoil/ Plough soil: dark grey/ black brown silty clay. Loose from recent plough action and crop growth. Latter still visible. Contains very rare chalk fragment inclusions.		0-00-0.35
11	Layer	Subsoil: Mid-dark red/ grey brown silty clay has higher silty sand content towards lower interface.		0.35-0.60
12	Layer	Alluvium: Mottled mid brown silty sand with lighter yellow/ beige laminations of sand with low clay content.		0.60-1.00
13	Layer	Alluvium: Light- mid yellow/ beige sand with low clay content. Contains very rare charcoal flecks.		1.00-1.35
14	Layer	Alluvium: Dark mottled brown/ grey clay. Compact. Iron stains evident throughout. Contains common shall fragments (cockles etc) and very rare charcoal flecks.		1.35-2.10+

Trial Pit 2		Max Depth: 2m Ground Level (m aOD): 3.525	Length: 3.20m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
20	Layer	Topsoil/ Plough soil: dark grey/ black brown silty clay. Loose from recent plough action and crop growth. Latter still visible. Contains very rare chalk fragment inclusions.	0-00-0.30	
21	Layer	Subsoil: Mid-dark red/ grey brown silty clay has higher silty sand content towards lower interface.	0.30-0.65	
22	Layer	Alluvium: Light yellow sand. Iron stains evident throughout.	0.65-0.80	
23	Layer	Alluvium: Mid grey/ brown sand and clay, latter has blocky structure, with light yellow sand laminations.	0.80-1.00	
	layer	Alluvium: Light yellow/ red sand. Iron stains evident throughout.	1.00-1.10	
25	Layer	Alluvium: Mid blue/ grey clay. Has sandier upper interface becoming more pure and moist clay towards the base of the trial hole. Iron stains evident throughout.	1.10-2.00+	

Trial Pit 3		Max Depth: 2.20m Ground Level (m aOD): 3.395	Length: 3.20m	Width: 0.45m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
30	Layer	Topsoil/ Plough soil: dark grey/ black brown silty clay. Loose from recent plough action and crop growth. Latter still visible. Contains very rare chalk fragment inclusions.	0-00-0.30	
31	Layer	Subsoil: Mid-dark red/ grey brown silty clay has higher silty sand content towards lower interface.	0.30-0.60	
32	Layer	Alluvium: Mottled light yellow/ grey soft, fine and loose silty sand. Iron stains evident throughout.	0.60-0.90	
33	Layer	Alluvium: Light grey/ brown laminated yellow beige (more grey in hue than (32)) very fine sandy clay and has high salt content. Has higher clay content towards lower interface at 1.30m.	0.90-1.30	
34	Layer	Alluvium: Same hue as (33) but has higher clay content. Contains pockets of peat (?)/ organic material, very rare shell fragments and iron stains evident throughout.. Very fine and moist in texture.	1.30-1.80	
35	Layer	Alluvium: Dark grey/ blue mottled red/ brown (from pockets of iron deposits) sandy, silty clay. Saturated with water.	1.80-2.20+	

Trial Pit 4		Max Depth: 2.10m Ground Level (m aOD): 3.416	Length: 2.70m	Width: 0.45m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
40	Layer	Topsoil/ Plough soil: dark grey/ black brown silty clay. Loose from recent plough action and crop growth. Latter still visible. Contains very rare chalk fragment inclusions.	0-00-0.35	
41	Layer	Subsoil: Mid-dark red/ grey brown silty clay has higher silty sand content towards lower interface.	0.35-0.80	
42	Layer	Alluvium: Light mottled yellow/ red very fine sand. Iron panning evident throughout.	0.80-1.20	
43	Layer	Alluvium: Mid grey/ brown mottled yellow/ red sandy silts with low clay content. Higher clay content towards the lower interface with (44).	1.20-1.50	
44	Layer	Alluvium: Mottled mid grey/ blue red/ yellow clay. Saturated with water.	1.50-2.10+	

Trial Pit 5		Max Depth: 2.10m Ground Level (m aOD): 3.355	Length: 3.20m	Width: 0.90m
Context	Type	Description		Depth (m)
50	Layer	Topsoil/ Plough soil: dark grey/ black brown silty clay. Loose from recent plough action and crop growth. Latter still visible. Contains very rare chalk fragment inclusions.		0-00-0.35
51	Layer	Subsoil: Mid-light grey /brown silty sandy clay laminated with light yellow/ brown soft, fine and loose sandy silt. Contains very rare shell fragments.		0.35-0.95
52	Layer	Alluvium: mid grey brown sandy silts with low clay content, moister and greyer in hue than (51).		0.95-1.25
53	Layer	Alluvium: Very thin band of wet clay mid grey/ brown in hue (same as above).		1.25-1.35
54	Layer Deposit	Anthropogenic material with alluvial elements (post deposition): Mid/ brown mottle blue sandy clay. Contains very common/ abundant charcoal inclusions and very rare fired clay fragments. Also contains what appears to be semi formed peat (?). Deposit from deliberate human activity though possibly not <i>insitu</i> arrived in location from possible post depositional alluvial activity from reclamation of the area. Material might derive from known saltern activity in the vicinity. Represents a layer, laid down, in part of the alluvial sequence of the surrounding landscape. Briquetage fragments retrieved but no datable finds evident. Bulk Sample 1 taken.		1.35-1.50
55	Layer	Alluvium: Mid mottled blue/ grey brown clay. Saturated by water.		1.50-2.10+

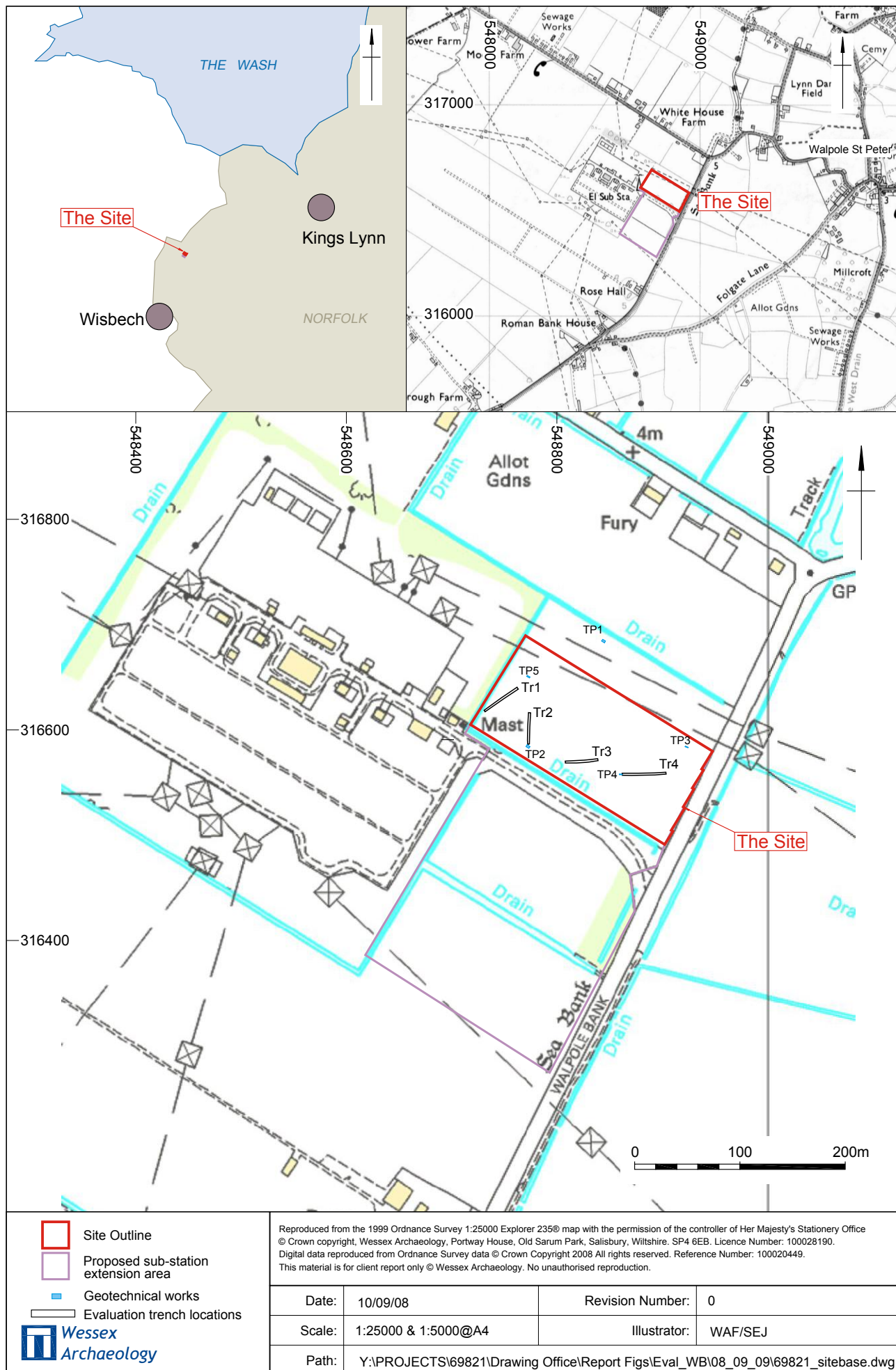
12. APPENDIX 2: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	CBM	Fired Clay
54		5/32
100	2/72	
200	16/600	
201	1/60	
300	6/188	
400	2/302	
TOTAL	27/1222	5/32

Table 2 Uncharred plant material

Latin Name	Common Name	Quantity
<i>Chenopodium album</i> x2	fat-hen	2
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	orache	1
<i>Suaeda maritima</i>	sea-blite	cf.3
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	bog bean	1
<i>Viola</i> sp. (looks modern)	violet	1
<i>Centaurea</i> sp.	knapweed	1
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.	pondweed	2
<i>Carex</i> sp. (unusual)	sedge	1



Site location plan

Figure 1



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Archaeological works location plan

Figure 2



Plate 1: View of Trench 4 from the north-east showing the location of a land drain



Plate 2: East facing representative section of Trench 2



Plate 3: View of Trial Pit 4 from the south-east



Plate 4: North-east facing section of Trial Pit 5 showing deposit **54**



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