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ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES LAND AND PROPERTY MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING MINERAL ESTATES WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



**BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD** 

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**AERIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT** 

SEPTEMBER 2023





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#### **BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD**

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**AERIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT** 

SEPTEMBER 2023

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# **DRAWINGS (APPENDIX 3)**

ST19595-056: LiDAR imagery (DSM)

ST19595-058: LiDAR imagery (DTM)

ST19595-054: Features identified through aerial assessment



# SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd to undertake an aerial assessment of a Site located to the east of Sleaford, in Lincolnshire. The Proposed Development comprises the installation of a large-scale solar PV array as part of the wider Beacon Fen Energy Park Site.

The Site is made up of a large plot (referred to as the Site) of land in agricultural use totalling 506ha. It is situated to the east of Ewerby Thorpe and south-west of South Kyme (centred on NGR TF 16415 48000).

This aerial assessment work, alongside other methodologies also being employed, including desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, and trial trench evaluation, aims to help inform the forthcoming Development Consent Order (DCO) application on the archaeological potential of the Site, the requirement and scope of any future archaeological evaluation works and the final design and layout of the Proposed Development.

A high number of features of possible archaeological origin have been identified within the boundaries of the Site, the majority reflecting agricultural use of the landscape in the medieval and post medieval periods. There is the potential that a prehistoric enclosure site lies within the Site boundary, represented by a rectilinear feature towards the centre of the Site.

The large number of features of probable medieval origin, mainly field boundaries and areas of ridge and furrow, might be expected from an area populated by known medieval settlements and associated mapped field systems, but this assessment has shown that associated field systems likely extended far further than previously understood. Although many of these features are unlikely to survive at ground level, sub surface remains may survive. Some of these may have associated value with scheduled remains in the vicinity.

The post medieval features identified largely reflect what is known from 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping, and features identified from this assessment suggest that at least one of these fields was subjected to additional drainage in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) would like to thank Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work.

WA also thank Clare Blomfield and Alyson Rodgers at Historic England for advice regarding the interrogation of Historic England aerial photographic catalogue, and to their colleagues, Emma and Nigel, at the Engine House Archive for facilitating access to the aerial photographs and enabling the analysis of the ordered collections.

This report has been written by Cat Peters, the features were digitised by Cat Peters and Helen Phillips and the final drawings supporting this report were produced by Helen Phillips and Gareth Usher, with Elsie Lam providing the LiDAR imagery. Victoria Anderton-Johnson edited the report. Lorna Goring managed the project and provided final quality assurance of this report.



### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### **1.1** Circumstances of Project

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd to undertake an aerial assessment of land proposed for the installation of a large-scale Solar PV array as part of the wider Beacon Fen Energy Park site. The Site, located to the east of Ewerby Thorpe and south-west of South Kyme (centred on NGR TF 16415 48000), comprises 506ha.

### **1.2** The Purpose of the Project

- 1.2.1 This aerial assessment work, alongside other methodologies, including desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, and trial trench evaluation, aims to help inform the forthcoming Development Consent Order (DCO) application on:
  - the archaeological potential of the Site;
  - the requirement and scope of any future archaeological evaluation works; and
  - the final design and layout of the Scheme.
- 1.2.2 The aerial assessment work will contribute to the above by identifying, mapping and interpreting potential archaeological features from defined datasets (aerial photographs and LiDAR).



# 2 METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The preparation of this document has been undertaken in accordance with relevant professional standards and procedures and based on guidance as set out in *Historic England Aerial Investigation and Mapping Standards Technical Review* (Evans 2019) and in accordance with advice on the scope discussed by stakeholders, including Lincolnshire County Council at a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

#### 2.2 Datasets

- 2.2.1 A number of data sources were interrogated by this assessment, aiming to provide a comprehensive coverage of available aerial imagery covering the Site to identify all potential features:
  - DEFRA's LiDAR datasets (formerly held by the Environment Agency);
  - historic Google Earth imagery;
  - historic BING imagery;
  - Britain from Above images;
  - CUCAP aerial images;
  - aerial photographic archive held by Lincolnshire HER; and
  - and historic aerial photographs held in Historic England's Archive.

# 2.3 Processing, Analysis and Mapping

- 2.3.1 DEFRA's 2022 freely accessible LiDAR dataset, the LiDAR Composite Digital Terrain Model (DTM) and LiDAR Composite First Return Digital Surface Model (DSM), both at a resolution of 1m, was downloaded in April 2023. The dataset was then imported in QGIS, where elevation hill-shaded visualisations were applied to both the DTM and DSM datasets at azimuth 315 degrees and altitude 45 degrees. This was then analysed for potential archaeological features. The LiDAR imagery itself is included within this report as Drawings ST19595-056 and ST19595-058.
- 2.3.2 Historic aerial images available online were examined on-screen (historic Google Earth imagery; historic BING imagery; Britain from Above images; CUCAP aerial images). Had any of these covered the correct area and included potential archaeological features, these would have been digitally captured and georeferenced to allow for the digitisation of such features. Unfortunately, this did not occur. In addition, none of the



aerial photographs held by Lincolnshire County Council's HER covered either of the areas comprising the Site.

- 2.3.3 GIS shapefiles of the redline boundary of the Site were sent to Historic England's archivist to be compared against their historic aerial photograph collection coverage. A catalogue run-off of all vertical and all oblique prints held at the archive was returned which included all photographs that covered all or part of the Site. These were then georeferenced in QGIS to further identify those with the potential to cover the Site. This resulted in a total of 41 verticals and 5 obliques (Appendix 2). These were then requested to be viewed in person at the archive in Swindon. Upon ordering, it became apparent that eight verticals did not exist as prints, and so were not available for viewing. As these all dated to 2001, these were not further investigated to see if the negative or slides were available on the provision that should the more recent photograph prints viewed at the archive show additional potential archaeological features not visible on earlier photographs, these could be ordered and analysed at a later date.
- 2.3.4 The archive was visited on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023; two obliques and eight verticals were not available to view on the day, but a total of two obliques (neither of which covered the Site) and 33 verticals were, providing good vertical coverage of the area between 1947 and 1996, were reviewed. Each of these were studied at the archive using a magnification glass, and notes were made of all features identified, with rough outs of their location and extent drawn straight into QGIS. Digital photographs were taken of a number of the prints (not for reproduction) to be georeferenced later to aid more accurate depictions and digitisation. These features were then compared to features identified from the LiDAR datasets to ensure no duplication and finalised as a drawing included within this report (ST19595-054). Very few new additional features were identified from prints dating from 1996, and so a decision was made not to investigate whether the negatives or slides were available for the 8 verticals not available as print (all dating 2001).



# **3** BASELINE INFORMATION

#### 3.1 Location

3.1.1 The Site is located to the east of Ewerby Thorpe and south-west of South Kyme, east of Sleaford, in Lincolnshire and comprises agricultural land totalling 506ha (centred on NGR TF 16415 48000).

#### 3.2 Geology

3.2.1 The bedrock geology is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed during the Jurassic Period (BGS 2023). Across the northern and eastern parts of the Site, the superficial deposits are mapped as Tidal Flat Deposits and across the southern and western, the special deposits are mapped as Till, Mid Pleistocene -Diamicton (*op.cit.*).

### 3.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.3.1 This historical and archaeological background is compiled predominantly from primary and secondary sources consulted in March and April 2023 and on an HER dataset procured to inform a forthcoming archaeological desk-based assessment for the Scheme and summarised within the Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey (Wardell Armstrong 2023). It is intended only as a summary of the currently known archaeological features in the vicinity of the Site, to help provide context and interpretation for features revealed on the aerial imagery and LIDAR.
- 3.3.2 Seven known archaeological assets are recorded within the Site in the HER dataset; five are findspots. These are all of prehistoric or medieval origin and are summarised below:
  - Medieval pottery figure found on Ewerby Common (MLI89396);
  - Flint axe found on Ewerby Waithe Common (MLI89392);
  - Stone axes found on Ewerby Waithe Common (MLI89383);
  - Medieval cropmark and earthwork field system (MLI88982). This large field system extends west of the array and is 3.9km in length;
  - Cropmark undated boundary ditch (MLI90710);
  - Worked flints (NLI60542); and
  - Medieval pottery (MLI60543).



# Prehistoric (Bronze Age and earlier)

- 3.3.3 Evidence for the prehistoric period from the wider area, is limited to single finds and cropmarks identified through aerial photography. The earliest recorded evidence is dated to the Neolithic period. Alongside the flint axe and worked flints located within the array boundary (HER MLI189392, MLI89393; MLI60542) there are a further 11 stone axes, two bronze axes, several scatters of flints and prehistoric pottery recorded within 1km of the array boundary. Aerial photography has identified a possible Bronze Age barrow and an enclosure and ring ditch of unknown date (HER MLI86039) located 905m north of the array. There has been no investigation to confirm this.
- 3.3.4 The probable barrow is located to the north of the River Slea which at its closest point is located 485m north of the array. The river would have been a reliable source of fresh water for prehistoric populations and would have provided fertile ground. Although unconfirmed, the presence of a barrow is indicative of settlement activity in the vicinity.

# Iron Age and Romano-British

- 3.3.5 The Iron Age is represented by a single ditch (HER MLI82553) located 885m northwest of the array, identified during an archaeological watching brief.
- 3.3.6 Roman activity is represented by the Car Dyke, an artificial water channel thought to have been constructed by the Romans in 125AD, which runs along the eastern boundary of the array (HER MLI60706). Car Dyke is scheduled in places; however, this is beyond the array boundary. The Roman period is further evidenced by pottery finds and half a Roman brooch; all found within 1km of the Site.

# Early Medieval

- 3.3.7 Evidence for activity from the early medieval period comes from the shrunken settlement at Howell (HER MLI84590) and the settlement at Ewerby Thorpe (MLI89429), located 5m south-west, and 165m west, of the array. Both settlements are recorded in the Domesday Book. The close proximity of these early medieval settlements suggests the land within the array would likely have been associated agricultural land.
- 3.3.8 In addition, the discovery of Saxon finds in the vicinity, pottery and an unidentified bronze object, (MLI89848) located 735m south-west of the Site, are further evidence of activity of the period within the wider area.



# Medieval

3.3.9 The medieval period is represented within the array by pottery findspots (MLI89396; MLI60543) and a large field system extending westwards beyond the array boundary and measuring 3.9m in length (MLI88982); an undated boundary ditch may also have medieval origins (MLI90710). In the wider vicinity, this period saw some growth, with the establishment of Howell Hall and St Oswald's Church; the churchyard including the scheduled St Oswald's Churchyard Cross (NHLE 1009228), 165m south-west of the Site, within Howell. Other evidence from this period includes earthworks, ridge and furrow, former field systems, pottery scatters, an old wood and findspots (pottery and half a mirror case).

### Post-medieval

- 3.3.10 The post-medieval period is the most represented period within the vicinity of the array and records attest towards significant growth within the wider area. Gashes Barn, which is located centrally within the north-eastern part of the array, though outside the redline boundary, was constructed in this period, as were several additional farmsteads alongside Howell Hall, houses, and Old Rectory and four additional farmsteads, since demolished. Parkland associated with Howell Hall and two additional parks, also date to the post medieval period.
- 3.3.11 Industrial and communication advances were also developed in the post medieval period, demonstrated in the vicinity by the Sleaford Navigation Canal, although the Site itself remained agricultural in character, demonstrated by post medieval narrow ridge and furrow and two square enclosures in the wider area. The 1850 Ewerby tithe map, the earliest to show the Site in detail, shows the Site divided into several fields. The same field pattern is depicted on the 1906 six-inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey map which also contains a square plot of woodland known as 'fox covert'. The fields were divided again, as shown on the 1956 OS 10:10,560 map. Satellite imagery from 1995 onwards shows that some fields have since been merged to form larger ones.



# 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This analysis is compiled predominantly from the investigation of aerial photographs held by Historic England in their archive at Swindon, and of LiDAR imagery (Drawings ST19595-056 and ST19595-058, Appendix 3). None of the other collections interrogated during this study held relevant images for the Site. A full summary of the results is included, relating to each parcel within the Site boundary, as a gazetteer in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Summary

- 4.2.1 Of the 37 parcels comprising the Site, a total of 9 parcels had no features of archaeological potential visible on available aerial photographs and LiDAR. This means that most parcels had visible features of archaeological potential. These have been subdivided into types for ease of reference:
  - Archaeological features of unknown origin;
  - Areas of ridge and furrow;
  - Former field boundaries;
  - Trackways; and
  - Features of probable modern origin. These, although likely to be of no archaeological interest, have been included for completeness, and in case research and/or surveys undertaken as part of the wider project can provide further information on these anomalies.
- 4.2.2 The archaeological features of unknown origin have the highest potential to represent the earliest activity within the Site. The areas of ridge and furrow were wide and characteristic of medieval type agricultural activity rather than narrower formations typical of post medieval period activity. Where field boundaries respected the ridge and furrow, these are likely to be contemporary.
- 4.2.3 Vast changes in the way land was farmed in the post medieval period, and the partitioning of more regular and larger fields than the stripfields typical of the earlier period, would suggest that those that do not respect ridge and furrow, are more likely to be of later origin. Continued agricultural developments in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with larger machinery and increased mechanisation, exacerbated after the Second World War, led to prairie-type fields which absorbed several earlier fields into much larger



parcels. Earlier boundaries can be preserved within these. The trackways too, depending on context, may have medieval or post medieval origins, and linked farmsteads with their landholdings.

- 4.2.4 The majority of features of probable modern origin seem very regular and relate to the edges of fields; they appear in several places across the Site and are more likely to relate to modern drainage techniques across the fenland. If so, these would be of negligible archaeological interest.
- 4.2.5 All features identified by this assessment are depicted in Drawing ST19595-054, using conventions in accordance with Historic England's aerial investigation and mapping standards (Evans 2019).

# 4.3 Analysis

### Prehistoric

- 4.3.1 One probable archaeological feature of unknown origin has been identified during this assessment with the potential to have prehistoric origins. It comprises a large northeast to south-west aligned rectangular structure, visible towards the centre of the array across parcels N14 and N15 on an aerial photograph taken on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1966 (Historic England HSL/UK/66496). Although not visible on earlier photographs, such as those from 17<sup>th</sup> May 1947 which did cover this area, different conditions on different days caused by factors such as levels of light, cloud cover, planting types and rain levels can reveal different features. The fact that parcel N14 is the site of a known findspot of stone axes (HER MLI89393) might further evidence the prehistoric potential of this feature.
- 4.3.2 Prehistoric findspots from within the Site and wider vicinity, and the possibility of the presence of a barrow site, indicates that prehistoric settlement activity should be anticipated in the vicinity.

#### Medieval

4.3.3 A large proportion of the features identified from the aerial assessment analysis were areas of ridge and furrow. This was largely concentrated across the western half of the Site, although one area of north-east to south-west aligned ridge and furrow was identified towards the north of the Site at the centre, at the western extent of parcel N6. This was identified from an aerial photograph taken on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1973 (Historic England OS/73326) and matches the extent of a former field as shown on the 1851 tithe map.



- 4.3.4 An area of ridge and furrow aligned north-west to south-east is identifiable on an aerial photograph taken on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (Historic England RAF/CPE/UK/2073 at the southern boundary of the array, at the eastern extent of parcel N32, and this too, respects the limits of a field shown on the tithe map. A little further to the west, within the eastern part of parcel N29, a further area of fainter ridge and furrow on a northwest to south-east alignment is visible on an aerial photograph taken on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1966 (Historic England HSL/UK/66494). A little further north, towards the centre of the array, two additional areas of ridge and furrow have been identified within parcels N20 and N16, both covering the extent of these parcels.
- 4.3.5 Within N20, the ridge and furrow is fainter, but is aligned north-east to south-west and was noted from aerial photography dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 1966 (Historic England HSL/UK/66494). Within N16, the ridge and furrow is north-west to south-east aligned and shown on an aerial photograph taken on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (Historic England RAF/CPE/UK/2073).
- 4.3.6 The main concentration of ridge and furrow identified, however, is located within the western extent of the Site and occurs in two areas; one to the north and one to the south. The southern concentration appears within parcels N23, N24 and N25, and occurs in smaller areas within these parcels. That within parcel N23 is restricted to the western part of the parcel and is east-north-east to west-south-west aligned, identified from an aerial photograph taken on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1966 (Historic England HSL/UK/66494). To the immediate south, the ridge and furrow within parcel N24 occurs in four distinct areas around the edges of the parcel, the southern and western elements identified from an aerial photograph taken on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (Historic England RAF/CPE/UK/2073) and the northernmost from an aerial photograph taken on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1966 (Historic England HSL/UK/66494). The 1851 tithe plan depicts this parcel as subdivided into four fields, and even smaller fields would be typical of earlier, medieval field systems.
- 4.3.7 Field boundaries visible in LiDAR imagery do not conform to those shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping, and may reflect earlier field systems, though only those identified within parcels N23 and N24 match areas of ridge and furrow from historic aerial photographs. Those further east within parcel N26, and north, within parcel N22 may also have early origins.
- 4.3.8 In the parcel at the south-western extent of the Site, N25, two distinct areas of ridge and furrow have been observed; the western half is north-east to south-west aligned,



and the eastern is north-west to south-east aligned, both are shown on an aerial photograph taken on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (Historic England RAF/CPE/UK/2073). The known shrunken settlement site of Howell (HER MLI84590) lies to the immediate south-west of parcel N25.

- 4.3.9 To the east, crossing parcels N29, N30, N31 and N32 and on a broadly west-southwest to east-north-east alignment extending from the direction of the known shrunken settlement site of Howell (HER MLI84590), an irregular linear feature is visible on LiDAR. Interestingly, as well as potentially originating at a known medieval settlement, and therefore potentially an associated feature in the form of an access track or boundary marking the extent of landholdings, the western extent of this feature is only a little to the north (*c*. 39m) of, and on a similar alignment to, a feature included within the HER dataset as an undated boundary ditch (HER MLI90710). It is therefore possible that these may both be related to the known shrunken settlement site of Howell (HER MLI84590).
- 4.3.10 Further north is a second concentration of ridge and furrow, at the north-western extent of the array, within parcels N8, N9, N18, N21 and N21a. Part of parcels N8, N9 and N18 has been previously recorded as a known medieval cropmark and earthwork field system associated with Ewerby and Evedon (HER MLI88982), and thus the identification of ridge and furrow here is to be expected. Within parcel N8 it has been located towards the northern extent across a narrow area on a north-east to southwest alignment from an aerial photograph taken on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (Historic England RAF/CPE/UK/2073). A known former farmstead once existed to the immediate west (HER MLI121913).
- 4.3.11 Within parcel N9, three areas of ridge and furrow are discernible, the north-eastern north to south aligned element and the southern north-east to south-west aligned area from an aerial photograph taken on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (Historic England RAF/CPE/UK/2073), and the north-western north-north-west to south-south-east aligned area from an aerial photograph taken on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1966 (Historic England HSL/UK/66494). The two northernmost elements largely conform to probable former field boundaries visible on LiDAR imagery, although other field boundaries within this parcel do not match areas of ridge and furrow meaning they cannot be contemporary.
- 4.3.12 Further south, within the north-western part of parcel N18, an area of north-east to south-west ridge and furrow is visible on an aerial photograph taken on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (Historic England RAF/CPE/UK/2073), and a little to the south-west, within



parcels N21a and N21, three distinct areas of north to south aligned ridge and furrow are identifiable, the southernmost, within parcel N21, from an aerial photograph taken on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1947 (Historic England RAF/CPE/UK/2073), and the northern two, within parcel N21a, from an aerial photograph taken on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1973 (Historic England OS/73395). Some of the field boundaries visible within these parcels from LiDAR imagery may be related, although not all respect areas of ridge and furrow. It is likely that these features form part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and Eveden to the north (HER MLI88982) or the shrunken settlement of Howell to the south (HER MLI84590).

# Post-medieval

- 4.3.13 A large number of former field boundaries are identifiable across the entirety of the Site from historic aerial photographs, and more particularly, from LiDAR imagery. As a result of cross referencing these with readily available historic Ordnance Survey mapping, and, in places, tithe mapping, the majority of these can be interpreted as of likely post-medieval origin. Those which can be linked to earlier field systems have been discussed above, and those that can be linked to known boundaries as mapped in the 19<sup>th</sup> century will not be discussed fully. Such former field boundaries have been identified in parcels N3, N4, N5, N6, N8, N9, N10, N11, N12, N17, N18, N20, N32, N35 and N36.
- 4.3.14 An additional linear feature has also been identified from the datasets and has been interpreted as a possible former trackway of the post-medieval period. This crosses the south-eastern extent of parcel N32 and may represent a former access route to Asgarby Fen farmstead (HER MLI121926).

Modern

4.3.15 An angular, square feature has been identified at the western extent of parcel N19 from an aerial photograph of 29<sup>th</sup> May 1966 (Historic England HSL/UK/66494). It seems most likely that this represents a modern drainage feature, likely of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century origin, hence not identifiable from aerial photographs of the 1940s and representative of the increased mechanisation and adaptation of agricultural processes following the Second World War.



# 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 This study has allowed a comprehensive, non-intrusive investigation of features of possible archaeological origin and has revealed a number of features across the Site which were previously undocumented. This provides an important contribution to the origins and evolution of the agricultural landscape proposed for development.
- 5.1.2 The potential for prehistoric activity prior to this assessment was based on the discovery of prehistoric finds within the boundary of the Site. The assessment has identified a potential feature of the period in the form of a large north-east to southwest aligned rectangular structure, visible towards the centre of the array, across parcels N14 and N15. This was only visible on an aerial photograph of 1966, despite earlier aerial photographs covering this area. As it was not detectable on later aerial photographs or LiDAR, it may have been detrimentally impacted by modern agricultural techniques.
- Individual findspots and a series of known medieval field systems associated with 5.1.3 known medieval settlements were known to extend within the boundaries of the Site ahead of this study commencing, and so evidence for medieval activity was to be expected. Within the Site, the medieval cropmark and earthwork field system of Ewerby and Evedon extends within the north-western corner (HER MLI88982) and the shrunken settlement of Howell lies to the immediate south-west (HER MLI84590). Medieval earthwork field boundaries associated with South Kyme are also known to the north-east of the array boundary (HER MLI88961). Within the Site itself, areas of ridge and furrow were identified, almost exclusively from historic aerial photographs, and predominantly concentrated in the western half of the Site, in two areas, one at the northern extent and one at the southern extent of the array, although one area of ridge and furrow was also identified towards the north of the array at the centre. Very few of the areas of ridge and furrow were visible on LiDAR imagery, suggesting the vast majority has been levelled by modern agricultural practices and may not be visible at ground level. Evidence may yet survive sub-surface.
- 5.1.4 In addition, field boundaries visible in LiDAR imagery do not conform to those shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping, and may reflect earlier field systems. An irregular long linear feature towards the southern extent of the array may also represent an associated access track or boundary marking the extent of landholdings. The identification of additional features of medieval origin, close to previously known medieval settlements, indicates that agricultural activity associated with these settlements



covered a wider area than previously known, and that those within the Site boundary may have associative value.

- 5.1.5 A large number of former field boundaries are identifiable across the entirety of the Site from historic aerial photographs, and more particularly, from LiDAR imagery. The majority of these can be interpreted as of likely post medieval origin as they respect boundaries known from 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping. These were mostly identified from LiDAR imagery, which would be expected, as most of the merging of smaller fields into larger prairie-style fields occurred in the period following the Second World War with increased pressure on production and the move to mechanisation. Thus, these boundaries may have been removed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, after the date of many of the historic aerial photographs.
- 5.1.6 The angular squarish feature identified from the corner of N19 might be indicative of a targeted attempt to improve drainage of former fenland in the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, prior to the prairie fields being formed. This would be considered of low archaeological or historic interest.



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#### Secondary Sources

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Wardell Armstrong 2023, Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey, Beacon Fen Energy Park, unpublished grey literature report by Wardell Armstrong

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#### APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF PARCELS AND FEATURES

The table below summarises the parcels comprising the Site and the types of features identified within them. Features **green** text were identified from historic aerial photography, and those in **blue**, from LiDAR:

Parcel Description Interpretation Associated ID Reference No features of archaeological origin were observed from available LiDAR or historic aerial photographs. N/A N/A N1 No features of archaeological origin were observed from available LiDAR or historic aerial photographs. N/A N/A N2 A series of three broadly NW/SE aligned linear features, probable former field boundaries. This parcel Field boundaries N/A N3 comprised four fields on the 1851 tithe map. NE/SW wide linear boundary which extends beyond parcel, NE, across parcel N5. Corresponds with a narrow strip N4 Field boundaries N/A of woodland shown on 1851 tithe map NE/SW aligned former field boundary. Corresponds with a field boundary shown on 1851 tithe map Known location of two findspots, a flint axe (HER MLI89392) and a medieval pottery figure (HER MLI89396). N5 NW/SE aligned former field boundary. Field boundaries N/A NE/SW aligned former field boundary. NE/SW wide linear boundary which extends beyond parcel SW, across parcel N4. Corresponds with a narrow strip of woodland shown on 1851 tithe map Area of NE/SW aligned ridge and furrow at western extent of parcel; matches extent of former field shown on **Ridge and furrow** N6 N/A the 1851 tithe map. NW/SE aligned former field boundary, which extends SE into adjacent parcel N11. Matches boundary shown on Field boundaries 1851 tithe map. NE/SW aligned former field boundary. Matches boundary shown on historic Ordnance Survey map, and not 1851 tithe map, and must be associated with land allocation changes as a result of the establishment of Gashes Barn (HER MLI121916) No features of archaeological origin were observed from available LiDAR or historic aerial photographs. N/A N/A N7 NE/SW aligned ridge and furrow towards northern extent of parcel – possibly part of known medieval field N8 **Ridge and furrow HER MLI88982** system known from a cropmark and earthwork (HER MLI88982). NE/SW aligned former field boundary towards northern extent of parcel. Matches boundary shown on tithe map. **Field boundaries** Second NE/SW aligned former field boundary a little to the south of the first. Matches boundary shown on 1851 tithe map. Third NE/SW aligned former field boundary a little to the south of the first. Matches boundary shown on tithe map. The site of an unnamed farmstead, shown on 1851 tithe map (HER MLI121913) lies just to the west.

ST19595/ RPT-10.0 SEPTEMBER 2023



Parcel	Description	Interpretation	Associated
ID			Reference
N9	Three areas of ridge and furrow: an area of N/S aligned ridge and furrow; an area of ENE/WSW ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	HER MLI88982
	towards the southern extent; and an area of N/S aligned ridge and furrow, also mapped as levelled earthwork		
	by National Mapping Programme (Historic England Project 1408047: Lincolnshire Witham Valley). Probably also		
	part of known medieval field system known from a cropmark and earthwork (HER MLI88982).		
	A series of field boundaries within parcel N9 not shown on the 1851 tithe map, nor historic OS mapping, so likely	Field boundaries	
	part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and Eveden to the west		
	A wide NW/SE aligned probable former field boundary which extends south-eastwards into adjacent parcel N18.		
	likely part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and Eveden to the west		
	A broadly NE/SW field boundary with two adjoining NNW/SSE boundaries to the south and three extending north;		
	matches boundaries shown on 1851 tithe map – post medieval		
	The site of an unnamed farmstead, shown on 1851 tithe map (HER MLI121913) lies just to the north-east.		
N10	NE/SW aligned former field boundary. Matches boundary shown on 1851 tithe map.	Field boundary	N/A
N11	NW/SE aligned former field boundary, which extends NW into adjacent parcel N6. Matches boundary shown on	Field boundary	N/A
	1851 tithe map.		
N12	NW/SE aligned former field boundary. Possible associated with known former unnamed farmstead once existing	Field boundary	N/A
	at the south-western extent of this parcel (HER MLI121915) and certainly shown on 1851 tithe map.		
N13	No features of archaeological origin were observed from available LiDAR or historic aerial photographs.	N/A	N/A
N14	Southern part of large NE/SW aligned rectangular feature.	Archaeological	N/A
	Known location of stone axe findspots (HER MLI89393).	feature of unknown	
		origin	
N15	Northern part of large NE/SW aligned rectangular feature.	Archaeological	N/A
		feature of unknown	
		origin	
N16	Area of NW/SE aligned ridge and furrow.	Ridge and furrow	N/A
N17	NE/SW aligned former field boundary. Matches boundary shown on 1851 tithe map.	Field boundary	N/A



Parcel	Description	Interpretation	Associated
ID			Reference
N18	Four former field boundaries forming an x-shape across parcel. This parcel comprised six fields on 1851 tithe	Field boundaries	HER MLI88982
	map. Also shown on LiDAR		
	NE/SW ridge and furrow identified in NW corner of parcel. Also shown on LiDAR	Ridge and furrow	
	Curvilinear former field boundary at north-western corner of parcel N18. likely part of a wider medieval field		
	system associated with Ewerby and Eveden to the west		
	A wide NW/SE aligned probable former field boundary which extends north-westwards into adjacent parcel N19.		
	Likely part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and Eveden to the west		
	ENE/WSW/ aligned probable former field boundary towards the south-western extent of the parcel. Likely part		
	of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and Eveden to the west		
N19	Corner of square feature at western extent of parcel – possible modern drainage	Feature of probable	N/A
		modern origin	
N20	Possible NE/SW aligned ridge and furrow.	Ridge and furrow	N/A
	Former field boundary in western half of parcel. Matches western extent of boundary shown on 1851 tithe map	Field boundary	
N21a	Two areas of N/S aligned ridge and furrow, one within the western part and one the eastern part of the parcel.	Ridge and furrow	HER MLI88982
	Possible former NW/SE aligned field boundary suggested by line of trees on historic OS mapping	Field boundaries	
	Northern part of curved probable former field boundary – likely part of a wider medieval field system associated		
	with Ewerby and Eveden to the north or the shrunken settlement of Howell to the south		
	Three probable former field boundaries forming small rectangular area at the north-eastern extent of parcel 21a		
	- likely part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and Eveden to the north or the shrunken		
	settlement of Howell to the south		
N21	Area of NW/SE aligned ridge and furrow across north-western part of parcel. Watercourse shown along	Ridge and furrow	HER MLI88982
	southern extent of this with pond to east on historic OS mapping		HER MLI84590
	ENE/WSW former field boundary – likely part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and Eveden		
	to the north or the shrunken settlement of Howell to the south	Field boundaries	
	Southern part of curved probable former field boundary – likely part of a wider medieval field system associated		
1122	with Ewerby and Eveden to the north or the shrunken settlement of Howell to the south	e: 111 1 :	
N22	NNW/SSE former field boundary - likely part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and Eveden	Field boundaries	HER MLI88982
	to the north or the shrunken settlement of Howell to the south		HER MLI84590
	Eive/wSw former field boundary - likely part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and		
1122	Eveden to the north or the shrunken settlement of Howell to the south		
N23	Area of ENE/WSW aligned ridge and furrow within western half of parcel.	Ridge and furrow	
	I wo former NW/SE aligned field boundaries - likely part of a wider medieval field system associated with	Field boundaries	HEK MILI84590
	Ewerby and Eveden to the north or the shrunken settlement of Howell to the south		



Parcel	Description	Interpretation	Associated
ID			Reference
N24	Area of NE/SW ridge and furrow towards south-western extent of parcel, matching north-western extent of	Ridge and furrow	HER MLI88982
	former field on 1851 tithe map when Parcel N24 comprised elements of four fields.		HER MLI84590
	Area of NW/SE aligned ridge and furrow towards western extent of parcel.	Ridge and furrow	
	Area of NW/SE aligned ridge and furrow towards south-eastern extent of parcel.	Ridge and furrow	
	Area of ENE/WSW aligned ridge and furrow.	Ridge and furrow	
	A series of field boundaries – likely part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and Eveden to	Field boundaries	
	the north or the shrunken settlement of Howell to the south		
N25	NW/SE aligned ridge and furrow within north-eastern part of parcel.	Ridge and furrow	HER MLI88982
	NE/SW aligned ridge and furrow within south-western part of parcel.	Ridge and furrow	HER MLI84590
N26	Square feature identifiable from aerial photographs – former field.	Field boundaries	HER MLI88982
	A series of former field boundaries - likely part of a wider medieval field system associated with Ewerby and		HER MLI84590
	Eveden to the north or the shrunken settlement of Howell to the south.		
N27	No features of archaeological origin were observed from available LiDAR or historic aerial photographs.	N/A	N/A
N28	No features of archaeological origin were observed from available LiDAR or historic aerial photographs.	N/A	N/A
N29	Area of faint NW/SE aligned ridge and furrow at eastern extent of parcel matching extent of former field on	Ridge and furrow	HER MLI84590
	1851 tithe map.		HER MLI90710
	Linear feature of unknown origin	Archaeological	
	Additional linear feature at the north-eastern extent, extending through parcels N31 and N32 also, possible	features of unknown	
	continuation of first linear feature	origin	
	Known location of undated boundary ditch identified from a cropmark, cited in HER (HER MLI90710).		
N30	No features of archaeological origin were observed from available LiDAR or historic aerial photographs.	N/A	N/A
N31	Linear feature along southern extent, extending from parcel N29 to the west and continuing through parcel N32	Archaeological	HER MLI84590
	to the east. Possible continuation of another linear feature at western extent of N29	feature of unknown	HER MLI90710
		origin	
N32	Area of NW/SE aligned ridge and furrow at eastern extent of parcel, matching extent of former field shown on	Ridge and furrow	N/A
	1851 tithe map.		
	NE/SW aligned former trackway at south-eastern extent of parcel – probable former access to Asgarby Pen	Trackway	
	Linear feature across centre of parcel, extending from parcel N29 and parcel N32 to the west. Possible	Archaeological	
	continuation of another linear feature at western extent of N29.	feature of unknown	
	NW/SE aligned former field boundary dividing western two thirds of parcel into two	origin	
	Farm shown on historic OS mapping; a farmstead also shown here on tithe map (HER MLI121926).	Former field	
		boundary	
N33	No features of archaeological origin were observed from available LiDAR or historic aerial photographs.	N/A	N/A



Parcel	Description	Interpretation	Associated
ID			Reference
N34	No features of archaeological origin were observed from available LiDAR or historic aerial photographs.	N/A	N/A
	Known location of worked flint findspots (HER MLI60542) and medieval pottery findspot (HER MLI60543).		
N35	NE/SW linear feature – former field boundary. This parcel was once occupied by six fields as shown on the tithe	Former field	N/A
	map, the northernmost division of which matches this feature.	boundary	
N36	A series of three linear feature, matching boundaries shown on the tithe map, at which time this parcel	Former field	N/A
	comprised five fields.	boundaries	



#### APPENDIX 2: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS INTEROGATED BY THE ASSESSMENT

The table below provides a summary of the aerial photographs (obliques) available for the Site held at the Historic England archive in Swindon

and what they showed:

Photo reference (NGR and Index number)	Film and frame n	umber	Original number	Date	Film type		Results
TF 1347 / 2	NMR 28157	/ 38		14 JUN 2011	Digital colour	35 mm	Unavailable
TF 1347 / 3	NMR 28157	/ 39		14 JUN 2011	Digital colour	35 mm	Unavailable
TF 1448 / 2	NMR 2105	/ 1075		05 MAR 1982	Black & white	70mm,120,220	Outside area
TF 1548 / 2	BBS 454	/ 005	F16	1969	Black & white	5x5"	Outside area
TF 1549 / 1	CCC 5229	/ 9334	APR768	1930s	Black & white	SF or I Neg	Outside area

The table below provides a summary of the aerial photographs (verticals) available for the Site held at the Historic England archive in Swindon

and what they showed:

Sortie number	Library number	Frame number	Held	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length	Film details (in inches)	Results
RAF/CPE/UK/2073	636	3012	P	1	17 MAY 1947	AB	10500	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	N25: NE half: NW/SE ridge and furrow) N25: SW half: NE/SW ridge and furrow N24:SE extent: NE/SW ridge and furrow N24: W extent: NW/SE ridge and furrow N24: SE corner: NW/SE ridge and furrow N21: NW corner and into field to north- NW/SE ridge and furrow
RAF/CPE/UK/2073	636	3013	Ρ	1	17 MAY 1947	AB	10500	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	N25: NE half: NW/SE ridge and furrow) N25: SW half: NE/SW ridge and furrow N24:SE extent: NE/SW ridge and furrow N24: W extent: NW/SE ridge and furrow N24: SE corner: NW/SE ridge and furrow N21: NW corner and into field to north- NW/SE ridge and furrow
RAF/CPE/UK/2073	636	3014	Р	1	17 MAY 1947	AB	10500	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	N18: NW corner: NE/SW ridge and furrow
RAF/CPE/UK/2073	636	3349	Р	7	17 MAY 1947	AB	10500	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	N32: eastern: NW/SE ridge and furrow
RAF/CPE/UK/2073	636	3350	Р	7	17 MAY 1947	AB	10500	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	N16: NW/SE ridge and furrow
RAF/CPE/UK/2073	636	3351	Р	7	17 MAY 1947	AB	10500	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	N8: near northern extent: NE/SW ridge and furrow N9: N/S ridge and furrow



Sortie number	Library number	Frame number	Held	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length (inches)	Film details (in inches)	Results
										N9: southern extent – ENE/WSW ridge and furrow
RAF/CPE/UK/2073	636	4011	Р	10	17 MAY 1947	AB	10500	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	None
RAF/CPE/UK/2073	636	4012	Р	10	17 MAY 1947	AB	10500	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	None
RAF/CPE/UK/2073	636	4013	Р	10	17 MAY 1947	AB	10500	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	None
HSL/UK/66494	9215	7732	Ρ	3	29 MAY 1966	A	10560	6	Black and White 9 x 9	N26: square field N23: ENE/WSW ridge and furrow N24; ENE/WSW ridge and furrow N32, eastern extent: SW/NE former trackway N14/N15: large rectangular feature N29: faint, slanty NW/SE ridge and furrow N20: possible NE/SW ridge and furrow
HSL/UK/66494	9215	7733	Р	3	29 MAY 1966	A	10560	6	Black and White 9 x 9	N9: N/S ridge and furrow N17: NE/SW possible former field boundary N19: corner of square feature
OS/75305	9819	75	Р	4	03 JUL 1975	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/75305	9819	112	Р	5	03 JUL 1975	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	N3: series of NW/SE linears – former field boundaries?
OS/73326	10386	525	Р	4	18 JUN 1973	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/73326	10386	526	Р	4	18 JUN 1973	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	N36: linear features N35: linear feature, former field boundary N12- NW/SE former field boundary N6 western extent: possible NE/SW ridge and furrow
OS/73326	10386	527	Р	4	18 JUN 1973	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/73329	10387	204	Р	1	23 JUN 1973	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/73329	10387	205	Р	1	23 JUN 1973	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/73329	10387	212	Р	2	23 JUN 1973	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/73329	10387	213	Р	2	23 JUN 1973	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/73329	10387	214	Р	2	23 JUN 1973	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/73395	10388	781	Р	2	10 AUG 1973	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/73395	10388	782	Р	2	10 AUG 1973	А	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	N18: former field boundaries
OS/73395	10388	783	P	2	10 AUG 1973	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	N21/N22: western extent: N/S ridge and furrow N21/N22: north extent east: second area of N/S ridge and furrow
OS/73395	10388	784	Р	2	10 AUG 1973	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/73395	10388	795	Р	3	10 AUG 1973	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/96334	15124	103	Р	4	14 OCT 1996	А	7600	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None



Sortie number	Library number	Frame number	Held	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length (inches)	Film details (in inches)	Results
OS/96334	15124	104	Р	4	14 OCT 1996	А	7600	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/96334	15124	105	Р	4	14 OCT 1996	А	7600	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/96334	15124	146	Р	6	14 OCT 1996	А	7600	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/96334	15124	161	Р	7	14 OCT 1996	А	7600	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/96334	15124	162	Р	7	14 OCT 1996	А	7600	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/96334	15124	163	Р	7	14 OCT 1996	А	7600	12	Black and White 9 x 9	None
OS/01584	23660	58	N	1	05 JUL 2001	А	7600	12	Colour 9 x 9	Not available
OS/01584	23660	78	Ν	2	05 JUL 2001	А	7600	12	Colour 9 x 9	Not available
OS/01584	23660	79	Ν	2	05 JUL 2001	А	7600	12	Colour 9 x 9	Not available
OS/01584	23660	80	Ν	2	05 JUL 2001	А	7600	12	Colour 9 x 9	Not available
OS/01584	23660	124	Ν	3	05 JUL 2001	А	7600	12	Colour 9 x 9	Not available
OS/01584	23660	125	Ν	3	05 JUL 2001	А	7600	12	Colour 9 x 9	Not available
OS/01584	23660	126	Ν	3	05 JUL 2001	А	7600	12	Colour 9 x 9	Not available
OS/01584	23660	127	Ν	3	05 JUL 2001	А	7600	12	Colour 9 x 9	Not available



**APPENDIX 3: DRAWINGS** 



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Beacon Fen Energy Park     Field References		
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