

Appendix 8.5: Trial Trenching Update

Trenching Status

Trial Trenching works are being carried out in advance of the Beacon Fen Energy Park as part of pre-determination works. The trenching is being carried out across the Site in line with the Written Scheme of Investigation and in agreement with Lincolnshire County Council. From the initial evidence found through geophysical survey, aerial and LiDAR assessment, and the desk-based assessment it suggests there is potential for transient activity from the prehistoric period onwards and potential for agricultural evidence from the medieval period onwards. This is shown through a potential medieval field system to the north-west and historic field boundaries across the Site.

Wardell Armstrong LLP began trial trenching on the 4th of September 2023. The works have been completed across the Site in consideration of crop requirements. Trenching is currently being undertaken with 54% of the trenches currently open, signed off by Lincolnshire County Council county archaeologist and North Kesteven District Councils archaeologist or backfilled. Storms and increasingly wet weather in late October and early November has resulted in some backfilling being delayed.

It must be noted all results presented within this appendix are based on onsite observations; no post-excavation work has been undertaken including reviewing samples.

The following table shows a high-level trenching update:

Table 8.5.1: Status and fields and presence of archaeological remains (correct as of the 10th of November 2023).

Field Number	Status	Was archaeology present?
N1	Signed off, waiting backfill due to wet weather.	Yes, in one trench
N2	Completed and handed back to the client.	No archaeology identified
N3	Signed off, waiting backfill due to wet weather.	Yes, in three trenches
N4	Partially signed off and backfilled.	Yes, in seven trenches
N5	Partially signed off and backfilled.	Yes, in 18 trenches
N6	Partially signed off and backfilled.	Yes, in three trenches
N7	Completed and handed back to the client.	Yes, in 11 trenches
N8	Completed and handed back to the client.	Yes, in three trenches
N9	Not yet opened	N/A
N10	Trenches are currently being opened.	Yes, in 10 trenches currently
N11	Trenches are opened and awaiting sign off from the county archaeologists.	Yes, in 13 trenches
N12	Not yet opened	N/A
N13	Not yet opened	N/A
N14	Completed and handed back to the client.	Yes, in 24 trenches
N15	Completed and handed back to the client.	Yes, in 20 trenches
N16	Completed and handed back to the client.	No archaeology identified
N17	Not yet opened	N/A
N18	Signed off and awaiting backfill due to wet weather.	Yes, in 24 trenches
N19	Not yet opened	N/A
N20	Not yet opened	N/A

N21	Not yet opened	N/A
N21a	Not yet opened	N/A
N22	Not yet opened	N/A
N23	Not yet opened	N/A
N24	Not yet opened	N/A
N25	Completed and handed back to the client.	Yes, in 3 trenches
N26	Not yet opened	N/A
N27	Completed and handed back to the client.	Yes, in 5 trenches
N28	Fully opened and waiting for backfill due to wet weather.	No archaeology identified
N29	Completed and handed back to the client.	Yes, in 20 trenches
N30	Completed and handed back to the client.	Yes, in 6 trenches
N31	Not yet opened	N/A
N32	Not yet opened	N/A
N33	Not yet opened	N/A
N34	Not yet opened	N/A
N35	Not yet opened	N/A
N36	Not yet opened	N/A

Archaeological Remains/Features identified to date.

The following is a brief summary of the archaeological remains/features identified to date within the field. Due to a lack of post-excavation analysis at the moment, due to trenching ongoing the following is high level information. Further information will be provided as part of the Environmental Statement Chapter. The archaeological remains are associated with field boundaries, water management and agricultural practices.

- Field N1: Remnants of an old pumping station have been identified in trench 116.
- Field N2: Field was devoid of archaeology.
- Field N3: Historic Field Boundaries have been identified within the area. These are in line with the Ordnance Survey Historic Mapping.
- Field N4: Historic Field Boundaries have been identified within the area.
- Field N5: There is an area of N5 which contains ditches and pits; these are sterile, and no finds have been identified. Struck flint has been identified around N5-174, N5-176; these were not within the features. These trenches were targeting a possible enclosure identified on geophysical survey. A natural fen basin and possible palaeochannel is also visible in this field, however, there have been no archaeological remains uncovered.
- Field N6: Historic Field Boundaries have been identified within the area.
- Field N7: Boundary ditches, tree throws, and some possible archaeological ditches were found.
- Field N8: Backfilled boundary ditches of possible medieval date due to their form; they were backfilled with early modern material.
- Field N10: There is a large dyke (4m wide) within this field. The dyke deeper than 1.2m in depth however this has not been explored due to ground water and safety concerns. This field is still in progress of activity archaeological evaluation at the time of writing.
- Field N11: There is a backfilled dyke filled with modern material. There are patchy shallow linears found.
- Field N14: A backfilled dyke is visible within this field and extends into N15.
- Field N15: A backfilled dyke is visible within this field and extends into N14.

- Field N16: Field was devoid of archaeology.
- Field N18: There are large boundary ditches; the geophysical survey showed a lot of activity thought to be of smaller enclosures however much of this was not found during instructive works and therefore may have been ploughed out or may have been hedgerows. There is a piece of worked flint within this field but that has been damaged by the plough so may be residual.
- Field N25: Boundary ditches and tree throws have been uncovered.
- Field N27: Boundary ditches and tree throws have been uncovered.
- Field N28: Field was devoid of archaeology.
- Field N29: A historic field boundary and a possible old track was found within this field. Possible ridge and furrow which has been damaged through ploughing was also visible; this extends into N30.
- Field N30: Possible ridge and furrow which has been damaged through ploughing; this may extend into N29.