

## ***Allen Archaeology Limited***

### **SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING: LEYS LANE, YAXLEY, SUFFOLK**

<b>Client:</b>	<b>Conrad Energy</b>
<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	<b>TM 11875 74792</b>
<b>AAL Site Code:</b>	<b>YELL 22</b>
<b>Planning Application:</b>	<b>DC/22/04021</b>
<b>SHER Parish Code:</b>	<b>YAX 069</b>
<b>Oasis number:</b>	<b>allenarc1-514169</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>

#### **1.0 Summary**

This document is the specification for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Leys Lane, Yaxley, which has been prepared for Conrad Energy, as part of planning consent for Synchronous Condensers and associated infrastructure.

The excavation, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the '*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*' (CIfA 2020a), the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015), local guidelines outlined in the '*Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*' (Medlycott 2011) and '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*' (Gurney 2003), a brief provided by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) (SCCAS 2023a), and *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2023b).

#### **2.0 Site Location and Description**

The proposed development site is located c.600m north of the centre of the village of Yaxley, in the administrative district of Mid Suffolk. The site is approximately 4.0 hectares in area and is presently farmland. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 1186 7494 and is c.45m above Ordnance Datum.

The bedrock geology comprises Crag Group – Sand, with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geoindex-onshore/>).

#### **3.0 Planning Background**

An application for planning permission (DC/22/04021) for Synchronous Condensers and associated infrastructure was approved by the Mid-Suffolk District Council with conditions, including conditions 4 and 5:

*4. No development shall take place until a scheme of archaeological evaluation of the site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (including any demolition needing to be carried out as necessary in order to carry out the evaluation). The evaluation shall be carried out in its entirety as may be agreed to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.*

*5. No development shall take place until a written report on the results of the archaeology evaluation of the site has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority and that confirmation by the Local Planning Authority has been provided that no further investigation work is required in writing. Should the Local*

*Planning Authority require further investigation and works, no development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:*

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.*
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment.*
- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.*
- d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*
- g. Timetable for the site investigation to be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

This written scheme of investigation outlines a programme of archaeological work; prepared in response to a design brief for archaeological evaluation from a brief provided by SCCAS (SCCAS 2023a).

The evaluation follows on from a geophysical survey and heritage impact assessment of the site. This is the third stage of archaeological investigation, intended to inform the decision on the need, design and extent of any subsequent archaeological mitigation works that may be required in advance of development. This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation only; this document alone will not result in the discharge of any archaeological conditions that may be part of any future planning permission for this site. Any further mitigation work will need to be subject to a separate WSI.

The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being 'Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2021).

#### **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The Archaeological and Historical Background has been largely taken from the heritage impact assessment for the site (AAL 2022), with addition of the results of the geophysical survey.

The proposed development site is situated within a rural location on the outskirts of the village of Eye. Extensive archaeological works have taken place in the vicinity of the site as part of the Progress Power Project. The majority of the archaeology found as part of these works is situated outside of the study area to the east, including a Bronze Age burnt mound. A few scatters of prehistoric finds have been found nearer to the site and one worked flint was uncovered within a trench excavated along the access track, suggesting a low archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

Roman activity is well represented in the area, with a Roman road (now A140) in the east part of the study area forming a focus for activity. Pottery scatters have been found near to the site and a significant quantity of PAS finds are recorded in the study area, including on the site itself. Archaeological work in the southwest corner of the site exposed a ditch containing a single fragment of possible Roman tile, and a pit was excavated within the access track that contained a single fragment of Roman pottery, suggesting a moderate

potential for Roman activity.

The site lies on the periphery of the early medieval to medieval settlement of Eye, but there has been a large number of PAS finds in the study area, suggestive of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries to the north and south of the site, suggesting a moderate potential for early medieval activity.

Archaeological works in the southwest corner and southern extent of the site as well as to the immediate west have revealed ditches of a probable late medieval to post-medieval date, suggesting a high potential for further similar features to be present within the proposed development area.

The geophysical survey of the site (AAL 2023) however identified very little of archaeological interest, with former field boundaries seen on historic mapping revealed along with modern land drainage, a buried modern service and magnetic noise associated with the modern compound within the southwest part of the site and a track running through the site.

## **5.0 Aims and Objectives**

The general purpose of the evaluation will be to gather sufficient information for the SCCAS to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resource, specifically with the aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, localized depth, approximate form, purpose and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aims to provide an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened, to ground truth the geophysical survey results, and establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

The results of the evaluation will be used to determine the character, date, condition and significance of the archaeological resource, and define the nature and extent of any additional mitigation works that may be required. The evaluation will aim to put the results within a local, regional and national context, as appropriate, with reference to the East Anglian regional research agendas:

- Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997)
- Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
- Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region (Medlycott and Brown 2008)
- Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011)
- East of England Regional Research Framework reviewed 2018-20 [online]. Available at: East of England Research Framework ([researchframeworks.org](http://researchframeworks.org))

The evaluation will also include the characterisation and dating (including absolute dating) of artefact, burial and/or economic evidence in order to characterise the nature of the site and help in developing future mitigation strategies. As part of this, artefact and/or economic evidence will be retrieved from the site and the location of any burials will be noted.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will also be established across the site.

## **6.0 Methodology**

A trial trenching strategy is proposed for the site, comprising 30no trenches 30m long by 1.8m as set out on

the attached site plan, or as near as site conditions will allow. In each trench, topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits will be removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 100mm in thickness. Machining will be under constant archaeological supervision. The process will be repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon is exposed. All further excavation will then be by hand. If deeper deposits are encountered provision will be made to step out the trench to allow full investigation of the feature.

Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations. Trenches will not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS.

The use of metal detectors on site will be required to aid the recovery of artefacts. Metal detector searches will take place at all stages of the evaluation by an experienced metal detector user (Graham Brandeys), with the detector not set to discriminate against iron.

Metal detecting of trench locations will be carried out before trenches are cut, with trench bases and spoil scanned once trenches have been opened.

In the event of positive results, all features exposed will be investigated and recorded, unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS, in order to determine their date, extent, level of preservation, form and where possible, function. Discrete features will be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants where they are large or found to be deep. Linear features will be investigated by hand excavated slots at least 1m wide. It is not anticipated that the complete excavation of features will be necessary at this stage, although, if archaeologically relevant, some individual features may be excavated in their entirety. If more complex/significant features are revealed then the approach to dealing with these features will be discussed and agreed with SCCAS.

Should human remains be encountered the SCCAS and the local coroner will be informed immediately. The human remains will be left *in situ*, unless their condition indicates that exhumation would be more appropriate. If uncovered, human remains left *in situ* will be carefully covered with geotextile (terram) and then sterile materials. If removal is essential an exhumation licence will be requested from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). Redeposited, disarticulated human remains will be collected and reburied on site, or retained following the requirements of the MoJ. The decision to remove human remains rests with SCCAS only.

All fieldwork should be completed within two weeks and will be undertaken by a team of at least three staff, one of whom will be a Project Supervisor or Project Officer. Any delays in the event of bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances may affect this timetabling and a safety margin of a week will be timetabled for such instances. This will also include a provision for judgemental trenching (up to 60m) or deposit testing, should this prove necessary in the field. Any extra work of this nature will be decided in discussion with SCCAS.

### ***Environmental Sampling***

Samples will be taken from deposits that have the potential to provide information on the preservation conditions and potential of analysis of all biological remains. If appropriate during the investigation, specialist advice will be sought from the environmental archaeologist, including a site visit to develop the sampling strategy.

Bulk samples, of 40 litres minimum or full context if less, will be taken from a selection of stratified contexts that have produced good dating evidence, and sufficient in number to establish the range and quality of the environmental evidence. With undated features any contexts that appear to have good enviro potential will also be sampled. Where feasible, bulk samples will be taken as scatter samples, whereby tubs will be filled from different locations within the designated fill to avoid spatial preservation bias or missing biological remains invisible to the naked eye which can form discrete 'clusters' within the fill (English Heritage, 2011, 10). Provision for other enviro sampling will be made if appropriate.

Animal bone will be hand collected from all excavated features. These will be identified and assessed by the named specialist, with any recommendations for future archaeological work on the site.

### **Recording**

A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits will be drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Sections of discrete features will be drawn at a scale of 1:10. Colour photography will form an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs will incorporate scales (ensuring the use of vertical scales used against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales), an identification board and directional arrow. A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of high resolution digital images. All photographs taken during the survey will be archived as uncompressed TIFF files.

Any artefacts found during the investigation that are deemed to be ‘treasure’ (as defined by the Treasure Act 1996) will be removed from site to a secure store and reported immediately to the Finds Liaison Officer, who will report it to the appropriate Coroner within 14 days of discovery. All finds work will conform to the guidelines as set out in the ‘*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*’ (CIfA 2020b).

All artefacts of all classes will be collected, other than obviously modern material from modern overburden contexts. Artefacts collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, while registered artefacts will be 3D located and bagged individually with the deposit context number and small findnumber. If necessary, the relevant specialist will visit the site during fieldwork to advise on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All artefacts will be processed (cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate) on site. These will then be submitted for specialist reporting to the following organisations/persons (depending on their availability):

Sarah Bates	Worked lithics
Sarah Percival	Prehistoric Pottery
Phil Mills	Later prehistoric and Roman ceramics
Sue Anderson	Post-Roman ceramics and Ceramic Building Material
Bryn Leadbetter	Animal bone
Sue Anderson	Human remains
Adam Daubney	Other finds
Val Fryer or Ellen Cooper	Environmental analysis
York Archaeological Trust	Conservation

Should they be unavailable, any changes to the above named specialists will only be made in agreement with SCCAS.

### **7.0 Site Team**

- Project Manager: Adam Loeden
- Supervisor: Jake Minton
- Project Archaeologists: Chris Brown, Mason Edwards, Francis Frassine

### **8.0 Post-Fieldwork Methodology**

On completion of site operations, the records produced will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic

matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared.

An evaluation report will be compiled, comprising a description of the results of the archaeological investigations. This will follow the Historic England guidance MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3 (Historic England 2008) and MoRPHE (Historic England 2015), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists document '*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*' (2020a).

The report will contain:

- A non-technical summary of the results
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the results of the investigation
- Overall plan of the site showing excavated areas, accurately located to the national grid;
- Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria
- An assessment of the development impact
- The archaeological advisory and planning role of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) will be acknowledged in the report.
- A downloaded version of the completed Oasis form

## **9.0 Curatorial Monitoring**

SCCAS officers are responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Suffolk and will need to inspect site works at an appropriate time during the fieldwork and review the progress of reports and/or archive preparation.

The project manager will inform SCCAS at least ten working days in advance of ground works on the site. The project manager will update SCCAS on the nature of archaeological remains during the site works, particularly to arrange any visits by SCCAS that may be necessary. Trenches will not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS.

Any changes to the specification after approval will be communicated directly to SCCAS for approval.

SCCAS will be kept regularly informed about developments both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.

Internal monitoring will be undertaken by the AAL Project Management team.

## **10.0 Archive**

The documentation and records generated by the excavation will be assembled in accordance with the

national guidelines in *'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'* (Brown 2011), and the local guidelines set out in *Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Archives Guidelines for Archive Preparation and Deposition* (SCCAS 2022).

Arrangements for the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts will be agreed with the landowner and SCCAS before or during the reporting stage. Transfer of title and the transfer of the ownership of the archive to Suffolk County Council will be arranged at this time, and the proposed arrangements indicated in the evaluation report. The archive will be prepared according to guidelines issued by SCCAS (SCCAS 2022).

All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be completed and a copy will be included in the final report and also with the site archive.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

### **11.0 Report Dissemination**

Digital copies of the report will be sent to the client and the Local Planning Authority. An OASIS form detailing a summary account on the results of the project will be submitted to the ADS and the final report uploaded to OASIS and submitted to the SCCAS within two weeks of approval.

Following approval of the report by SCCAS, a digital copy of the approved final report will be submitted to the Suffolk HER. Provision should also be made for a hard copy report to be submitted, however, the need for this should be discussed and agreed with SCCAS who will advise on a case-by-case basis.

Digital vector plans of trench locations, recorded archaeological features and excavated sections, which must be compatible with QGIS software, should also be provided to the Suffolk HER following approval of the final report.

A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.

Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report will be prepared for the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

### **12.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme**

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written approval from the SCCAS.

Should any further investigation be required beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

### **13.0 Health and Safety**

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of Allen Archaeology Limited will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation. A detailed site specific Risk Assessment will be carried out in advance of any archaeological fieldwork and a copy supplied to HET.

### **14.0 Insurances**

Allen Archaeology Limited maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £2,000,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied upon request.

### **15.0 Copyright**

Allen Archaeology Limited shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that an exclusive license is hereby provided to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project described in this document.

License is also given to the archaeological curator to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes. This license does not cover commercial use of the material by Suffolk County Council or a third party.

The author of any specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes for further publication.



## 16.0 Bibliography

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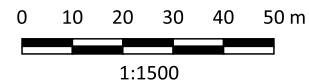
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Figure 1: Trench locations superimposed on the geophysical survey



 trenches

Site Code	YELL 22
Scale	1:1500 @ A4
Drawn By	A Lodoen
Date	29/03/2023

Allenarchaeology


 Lincoln  
 Birmingham  
 Cambridge  
 Southampton

www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

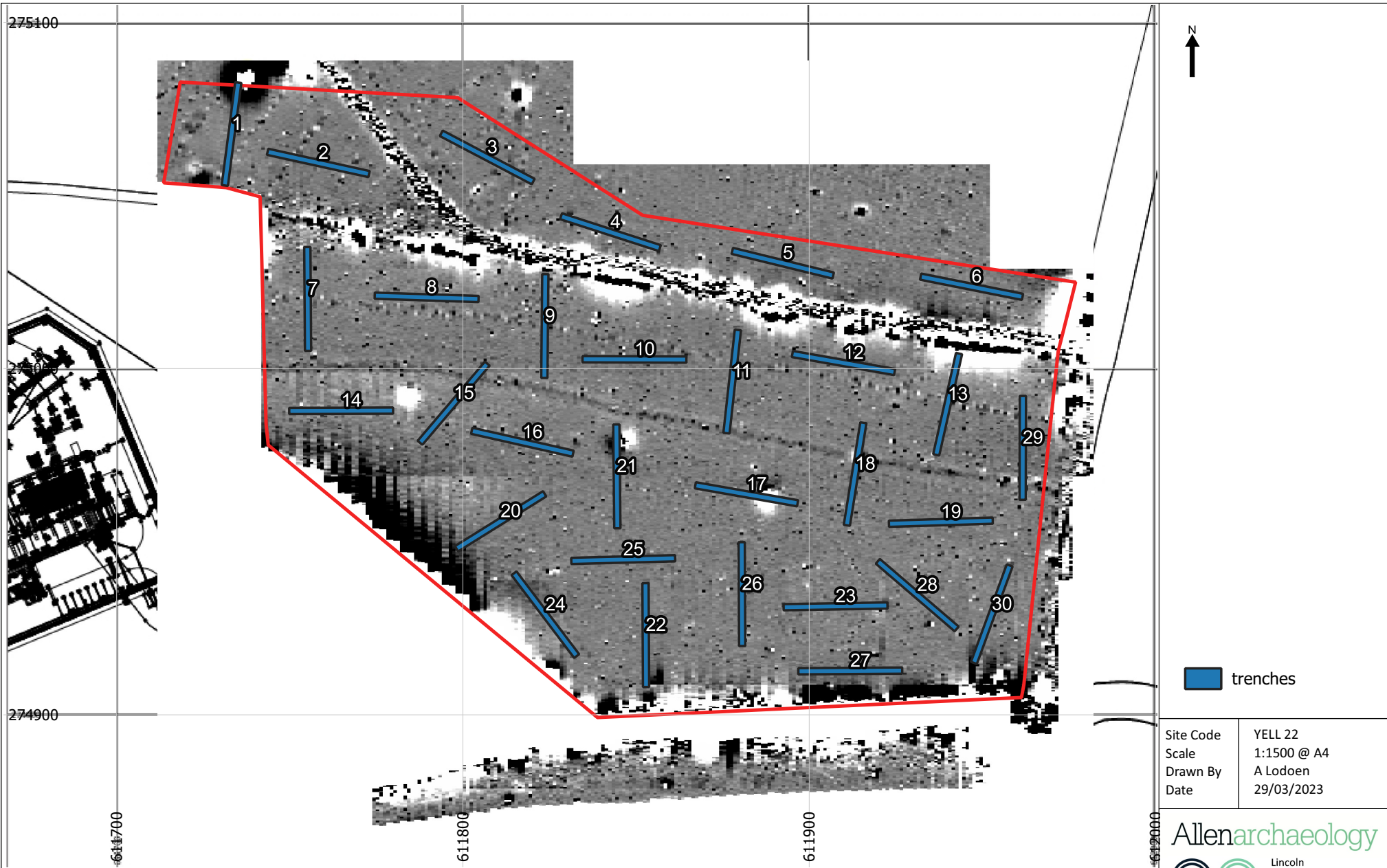


Figure 2: Trench locations superimposed on the geophysical survey

## Data Management Plan, Yaxley, Leys Lane, Suffolk (YELL 22)

<b>Project Manager</b>	Adam Lodoen
<b>Site code</b>	YELL 22
<b>Project Name</b>	Yaxley, Leys Lane, Suffolk
<b>Author(s)</b>	Robert Evershed
<b>Origination Date:</b>	29/03/2023
<b>Reviser(s)</b>	
<b>Date of last revision</b>	
<b>Project stages covered</b>	Trench evaluation
<b>Version</b>	0.1
<b>Summary of Changes</b>	
<b>File Name/Location</b>	<a href="https://allenarchaeology.sharepoint.com/sites/Management/Shared Documents/Counties/Suffolk/Yaxley Leys Lane (YELL 22)/Evaluation/Documentation/ADAPt Data Management Plan YELL 22.docx">https://allenarchaeology.sharepoint.com/sites/Management/Shared Documents/Counties/Suffolk/Yaxley Leys Lane (YELL 22)/Evaluation/Documentation/ADAPt Data Management Plan YELL 22.docx</a>
<b>Related Policies</b>	N/A
<b>Data Collection/Creation</b>	
<b>Data to be Collected/Created</b>	<p>A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Images will be created according to standards set out in Historic England's Archaeological Digital Archiving Protocol (ADAPT) (<a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-project-procedures/">https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-project-procedures/</a>) and the Allen Archaeology Site Recording Manual. All file formats created will meet the standards set out in ADAPT.</p> <p>The collected data will consist of digital photographs, GPS Survey data, Context sheets, Permatrace drawings, various Word documents and Excel sheets. The digital photographs and GPS Survey data will be collected or created by Allen Archaeology employees working on site with a digital camera or a GPS. All data collection will be in accordance with the Allen Archaeology Site Recording Manual and will meet the standards set out in ADAPT).</p> <p>The documentary archive will consist of:</p> <p>Text: Various Word Documents; including the Written Scheme of Investigation, and the Project Report.  Permatrace drawings: Plans and sections  Context sheets: Description of archaeological deposits  Excel sheets: Context List  Images: Digital images, including site photography</p> <p>A written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Images will be created according to standards set out in ADAPT and the Allen Archaeology Site Recording Manual. All file formats created will meet the standards set out in ADAPT.</p> <p>The collected data will consist of digital photographs, GPS Survey data, Context sheets, Permatrace drawings, various Word documents and Excel sheets. The digital photographs and GPS Survey data will be collected or created by Allen Archaeology employees working on site with a digital camera or a GPS. All data collection will be in accordance with the Allen Archaeology Site Recording Manual and will meet the standards set out in Historic England's Archaeological Digital Archiving Protocol (ADAPT) (<a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-project-procedures/">https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-project-procedures/</a>).</p> <p>The documentary archive will consist of:</p> <p>Text: Various Word Documents; including the Written Scheme of Investigation, and the Project Report.  Permatrace drawings: Plans and sections  Context sheets: Description of archaeological deposits  Excel sheets: Context List  Images: Digital images, including site photography</p>
<b>How Data will be Collected/Created</b>	The data will be created according to Allen Archaeology's Site Recording Manual and ADAPT.

<b>Relations</b>	N/A
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## Data Management Plan

<b>Documentation and Metadata</b>	
<b>Metadata</b>	Metadata will be created to the standard set out in ADAPT
<b>Documentation</b>	A digital photograph record sheet will be filled in by hand and kept as part of the primary archive.
<b>Ethical and Legal Compliance</b>	
<b>Data Security Issues</b>	The risks to data security are kept to a minimum and managed by Allen Archaeology employees .
<b>Intellectual Property Rights</b>	The data is owned by Allen Archaeology. Any shared data must be credited to Allen Archaeology when published.
<b>Data Storage</b>	
<b>Storage and Backup</b>	The data will be stored on Allen Archaeology servers during the research. The data can only be accessed by Allen Archaeology employees, unless shared.
<b>Access and Security</b>	Data created in the field is downloaded ASAP onto secure servers. Digital data can only be accessed by Allen Archaeology employees. There are no security issues.
<b>Selection and Preservation</b>	
<b>Preservation Plan</b>	The physical archive, documentary and material, will be submitted to Suffolk HER. Digital drawings and digital site records produced during the course of the fieldwork will be archived with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).
<b>Data Sharing</b>	
<b>Data Sharing Plan</b>	The results of the trial trench evaluation will be made available via a written report accessible through the Archaeological Data Service.
<b>Data Sharing Restrictions</b>	There are no restrictions on the use of this data after project completion.
<b>Responsibilities and Resources</b>	
<b>Responsibilities</b>	The Allen Archaeology Project Manager and Post-excavation Manager has overall responsibility for data capture, metadata production, data quality and correct storage and data sharing. The security and backup of data is the responsibility of the Archaeological Data Service.
<b>Resources</b>	Resources required to deliver this plan are covered by standard Allen Archaeology resources and the project design. The costs of deposition of the archive are covered by the client fees.