

*Allen Archaeology Limited*

**SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING:  
LAKE WEIR, SOUTH ORMSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

<b>Client:</b>	<b>South Ormsby Estate</b>
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	<b>Pre-Planning</b>
<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	<b>TF 36925 75650</b>
<b>AAL Site Code:</b>	<b>SOWE 23</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>
<b>Museum Accession Number:</b>	<b>LCNCC: 2023.190</b>



*Plate 1: View of the weir, looking southwest. Scales are 1m and 0.4m (the latter is partially hidden)*

## **1.0 Summary**

This document is the written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological scheme of works, which has been prepared for South Ormsby Estate prior to submission of a planning application for removal of an existing weir and replacement with a new structure to include eel pass and fish ladder, new footbridge, landscape bunds and floodwater spillway at the lake on the South Ormsby Estate in Lincolnshire. The fieldwork, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (CIfA 2023) and the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015). All Historic England guidelines on archaeological best practice will also be followed ([www.historicengland.org.uk/advice](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice)). Local guidance in the '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*' (LCC 2019) will also be followed.

## **2.0 Site Location and Description**

The site is located within the South Ormsby Registered Park & Gardens (Grade II). The weir is located at the northeast end of the lake c.200m northeast of South Ormsby Hall, accessed by an estate road off Bluestone Heath Road to the north. The site is centred on NGR TF 36925 75650.

The bedrock geology comprises Ferriby Chalk Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of glacial till (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### **3.0 Planning Background**

This document has been prepared to support a future planning application to replace the existing weir with a new weir with fish ladder and eel pass, new footbridge, landscape bunds and floodwater spillway, and sets out the scope of a programme of works to mitigate any potential impacts upon the archaeological resource.

The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the chapter of relevance being 'Chapter 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2023).

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

The information presented below is summarised from a desk-based study for the wider South Ormsby Estate (AAL 2018a), and a desk-based assessment for Manor Farm (AAL 2018b)

Early prehistoric activity is limited, with a few flint scatters recorded in the area. Cropmarks of possible Neolithic long barrows and Bronze Age round barrows are also recorded as cropmarks in several locations across the estate.

Later prehistoric hut circles and ditched boundary features are also recorded as cropmarks, and the Bluestone Heath Road, to the north of the site, potentially originated as a prehistoric trackway.

Roman activity is also limited, although there are a few finds scatters in the area, and cropmarks indicative of a possible villa and a Roman 'camp', both at the west end of the estate.

Early medieval activity is limited to a few pottery finds, but the settlements of South Ormsby, Calceby and Driby all appear in the Domesday Book.

Medieval evidence is better represented, with the earthworks of the South Ormsby shrunken medieval village, the church of St. Leonard and a medieval cross all within the estate to the west and southwest of Manor Farm, with ridge and furrow to the north, east and southeast. Further village earthworks are recorded around the settlements of Driby and Calceby.

At the centre of the estate is the Grade II\* Listed South Ormsby Hall and Registered Park, with associated Listed gates and gate piers, and stables. An earlier hall was demolished in 1751, the current hall was built shortly afterwards, with numerous later alterations.

The lake is shown on a 1716 plan of the South Ormsby estate, although the weir is not shown on mapping until the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (Southern Green and Green 2017). Paintings of the house however show a stone rubble weir was likely present in the 18<sup>th</sup> century however (*ibid.*).

The current weir is a stepped brick and concrete structure with modern brick wing walls and a penstock drawdown on its north side (Plate 2).



*Plate 2: View of the weir, looking west. Scales are 1m and 0.4m*

## **5.0 Methodology**

The groundworks will comprise removal of the existing weir and its replacement with a new weir, eel pass, new footbridge, landscape bunds and floodwater spillway. It is proposed that one experienced field archaeologist will be present during all groundworks for the scheme. They will act strictly in accordance with the contents of this document and will adhere to national and local guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects.

The scheme of archaeological works will involve monitoring of all ground disturbances, with the ability to stop and fully record archaeological features. If archaeological remains are revealed, then hand excavation will be required where such deposits can be accessed safely.

All groundworks should be carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, except for where removal of concrete or tarmac surfaces or obstructions necessitates the use of a hydraulic breaker or toothed bucket, at the discretion of the supervising archaeologist.

A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Sections to be excavated will be marked with string and nails and allocated an individual drawing number. A comprehensive record of all drawings will be maintained, and the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan and correctly referenced. All excavated sections will then be drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each drawing.

All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded by full colour photography, with an identification number board, appropriate metric scales and a north arrow. General site shots will also be taken to show the location of the groundworks and the stratigraphic sequence.

If human burials or cremations are exposed during the groundworks, in the first instance the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire will be contacted to discuss an appropriate strategy for the management of the human remains. It is anticipated however that wherever possible the human remains will be left in situ unless at direct threat from the proposed development. If the remains are at threat from the development, AAL will obtain a Ministry of Justice licence authorising the removal of the remains. These will be cleaned, photographed and recorded on standard AAL

human skeletal remains recording sheets, prior to removal for cleaning at the offices of AAL and subsequent analysis by the named specialist.

Any artefacts found during the investigation that are deemed to be 'treasure' (as defined by The Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023) will be removed from site to a secure store and reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

All finds of all classes will be collected, other than obviously modern finds from topsoil and subsoil contexts. The spoil from the excavated areas will be examined for further artefact recovery. Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, while registered finds will be 3D located and bagged individually with the deposit context number and small find number. If necessary, the relevant specialist will visit the site during fieldwork to advise on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All finds will be processed (cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate) at the offices of Allen Archaeology Limited. These will then be submitted for specialist reporting to the following organisations/persons (depending on their availability):

Sarah Percival	Early prehistoric pottery
Joshua Hogue	Worked lithic materials
Alice Beasley	Later prehistoric and Roman ceramics
Anne Irving	Post-Roman ceramics
Zoe Tomlinson	Ceramic building material
Bryn Leadbetter	Animal bone
Tania Kausmally	Human bone
Adam Daubney	Other artefacts
Bryn Leadbetter	Environmental analysis
York Archaeological Trust	Conservation

Any changes to the above-named specialists will only be made in agreement with the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire.

## **6.0 Environmental Works**

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. Processing and assessment of environmental remains will take place at Allen Archaeology's Lincoln office.

Bulk samples will be taken from a selection of stratified contexts that have produced secure good dating evidence, and sufficient in number to establish the range and quality of the environmental evidence. 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).

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

## 7.0 Post-Excavation and Reporting

On completion of site operations, the records produced during the fieldwork will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared. A short interim report will then be prepared, comprising a basic description of the excavated evidence, a summary of the archive and a site plan.

Upon completion of the works, a fully illustrated report text will then be prepared that will contain the following information:

- 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 works and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results.
- A text describing the results of the fieldwork.
- Overall plan of the site showing excavated areas, accurately located to the national grid.
- Plans of the excavated areas showing the archaeological features exposed.
- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist assessment 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, including a review of the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework once artefact dating has been achieved and an understanding of the archaeological deposits has been achieved.
- A copy of the OASIS form will be included as an appendix.

The report is to be completed within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. If required, specialists will propose their own timescales during the post-fieldwork stage.

## 8.0 Archive

All documentation and records generated during the project will be converted into an appropriate format in accordance with the national guidelines in *'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'* (AAF 2011) and the local guidelines in guidelines set out in the LCC document *'Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice'* (LCC 2019).

The archive will be deposited with The Collection Museum in Lincoln, where it will be stored under the museum accession code LCNCC: 2023.190.

## 9.0 Report Dissemination

The report will be completed within three months of the completion of the fieldwork, and a copy will be sent to the client, to the Local Planning Authority, the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire, and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. A summary account on the

results of the investigation in the form of an OASIS form will be forwarded to the ADS in York following the completion of the works.

#### **11.0 Curatorial Monitoring**

Curatorial responsibility for the investigation on the site rests with the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire, who will be given at least two weeks' notice of the commencement of the fieldwork.

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

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation from the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire.

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.

The archaeological site supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that all on-site archaeological work is carried out in a safety-conscious, sensible and responsible manner with due regard for the relevant health and safety requirements and legislation. All staff involved in the scheme will be provided with a Risk Assessment document prior to commencement of site operations.

#### **14.0 Insurance**

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 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 the Lincolnshire HER, East Lindsey District Council or a third party.

In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Allen Archaeology. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Allen Archaeology to any Planning Authority or

archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Allen Archaeology that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.

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 References

AAF, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

AAL, 2018a, *Archaeological desk-based assessment: South Ormsby Hall and Park, South Ormsby, Lincolnshire*, Allen Archaeology Limited report number 2018083

AAL, 2018b, *Archaeological desk-based assessment: Manor Farm, South Ormsby, Lincolnshire*, Allen Archaeology Limited report number 2018133

CifA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2023, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Department for Communities and Local Government

English Heritage, 2004, *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidance for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports*, Historic England

English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (second edition)*, English Heritage

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. Historic England

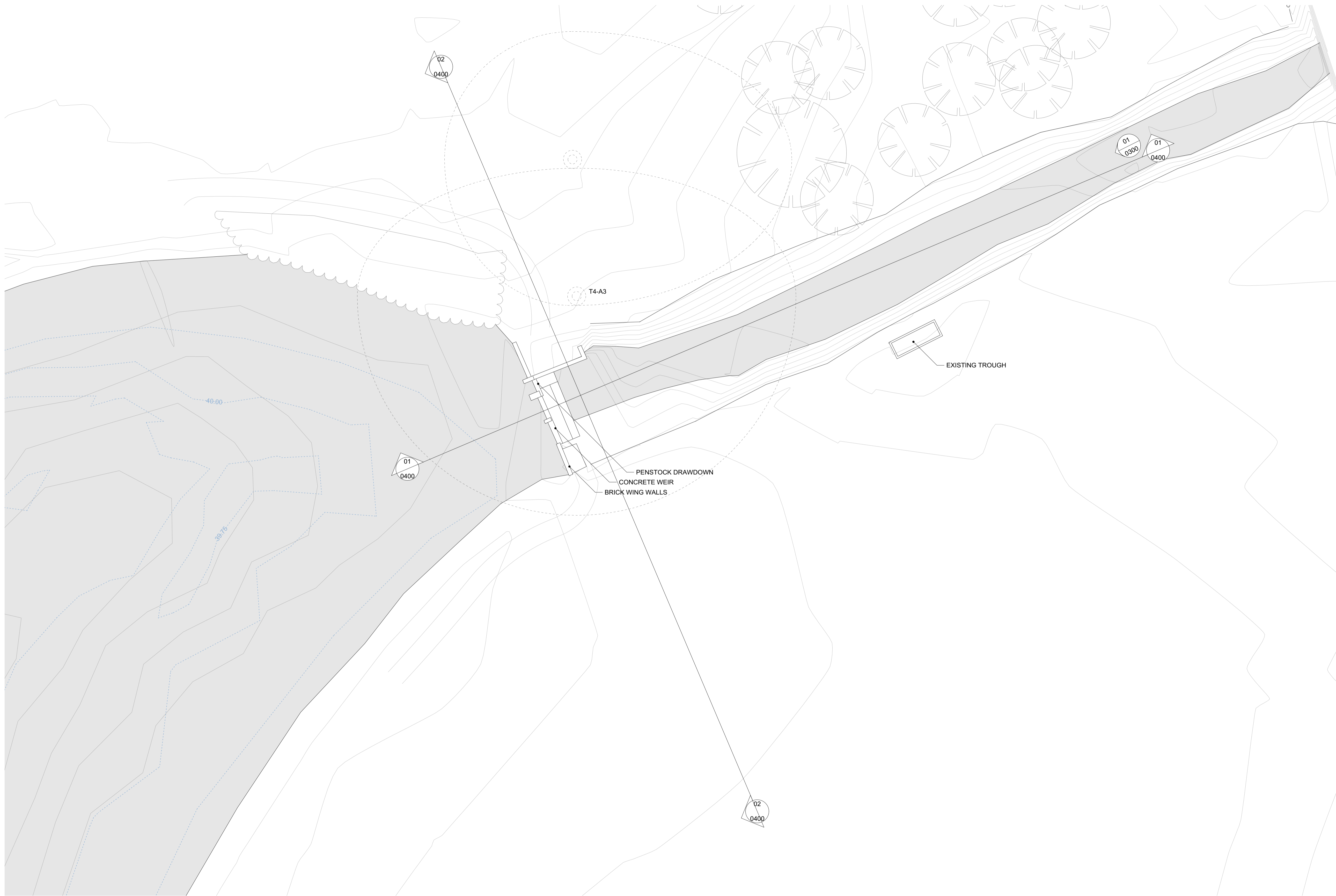
LCC, 2019, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*. Lincolnshire County Council

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: Department for Communities and Local Government

Southern Green and Green, F., 2017, *South Ormsby Hall Gardens and Parkland. Historic Landscape Report*. Southern Green Ltd.

WSI prepared by Mark Allen  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2023





**KEY:**

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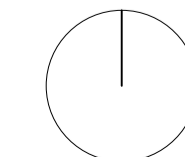
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NOTES:

- 12.12.23 Issued for Planning

Takero Shimazaki Architects  
6a Peacock Yard, Iliffe Street  
London SE17 3LH  
t 020 7928 9171  
mail@t-sa.co.uk  
www.t-sa.co.uk

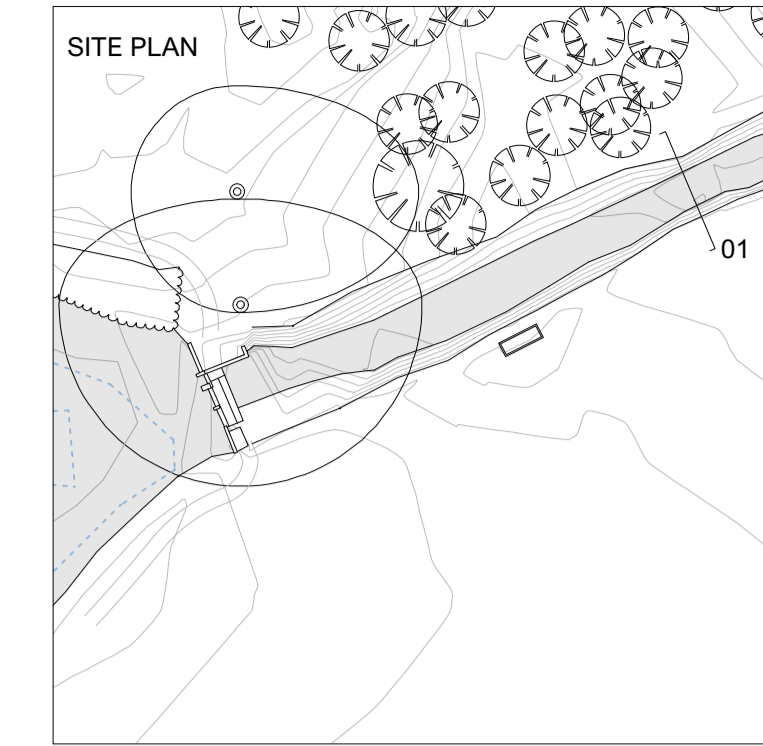
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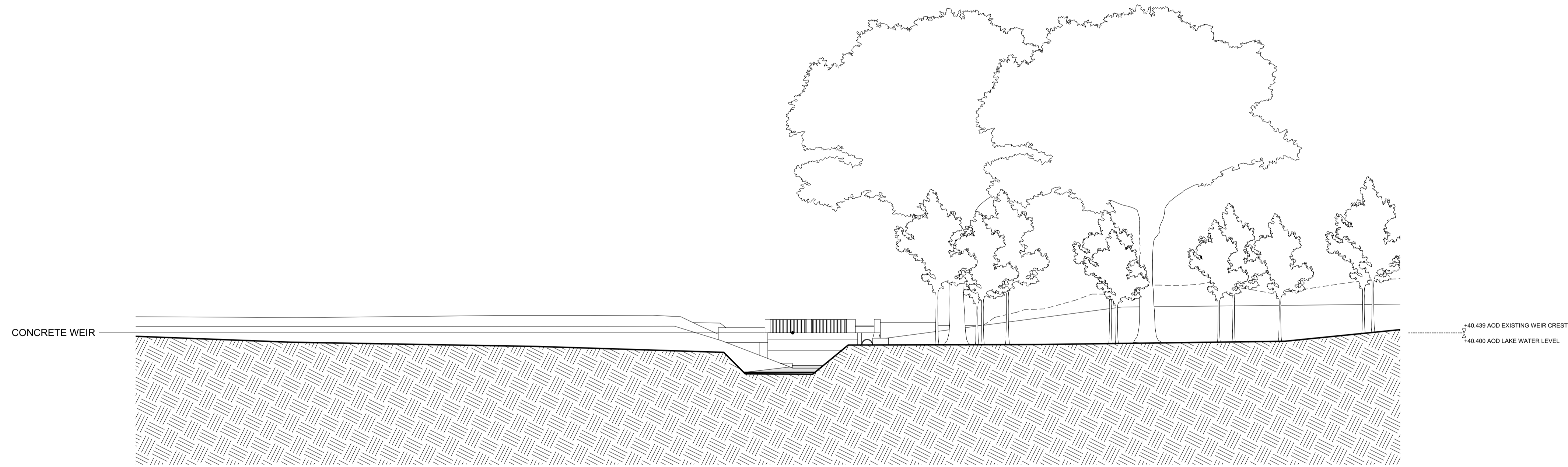
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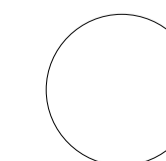
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

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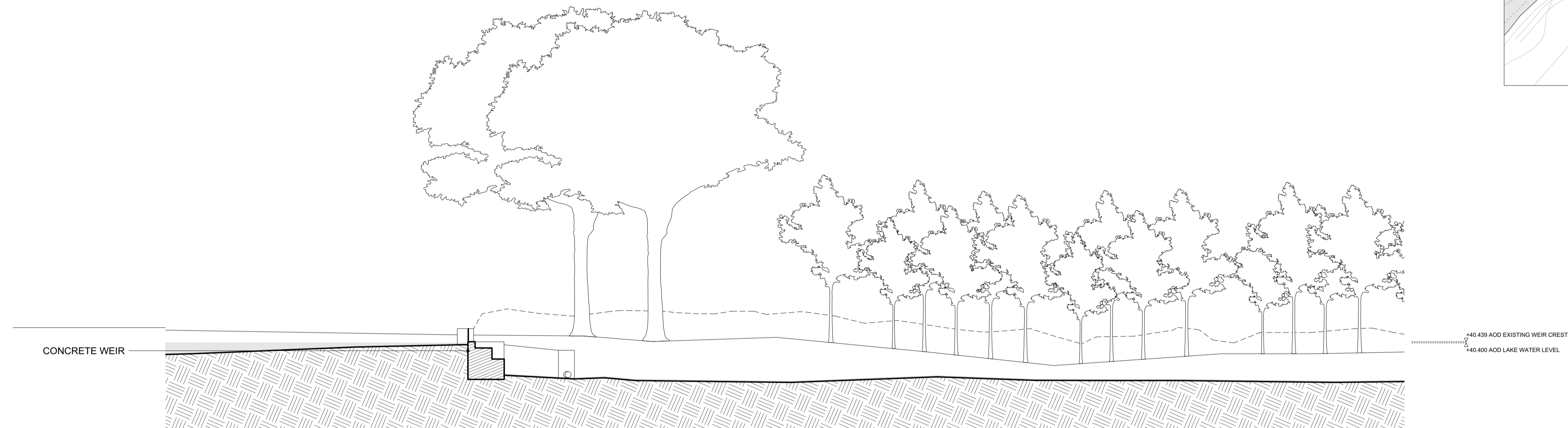
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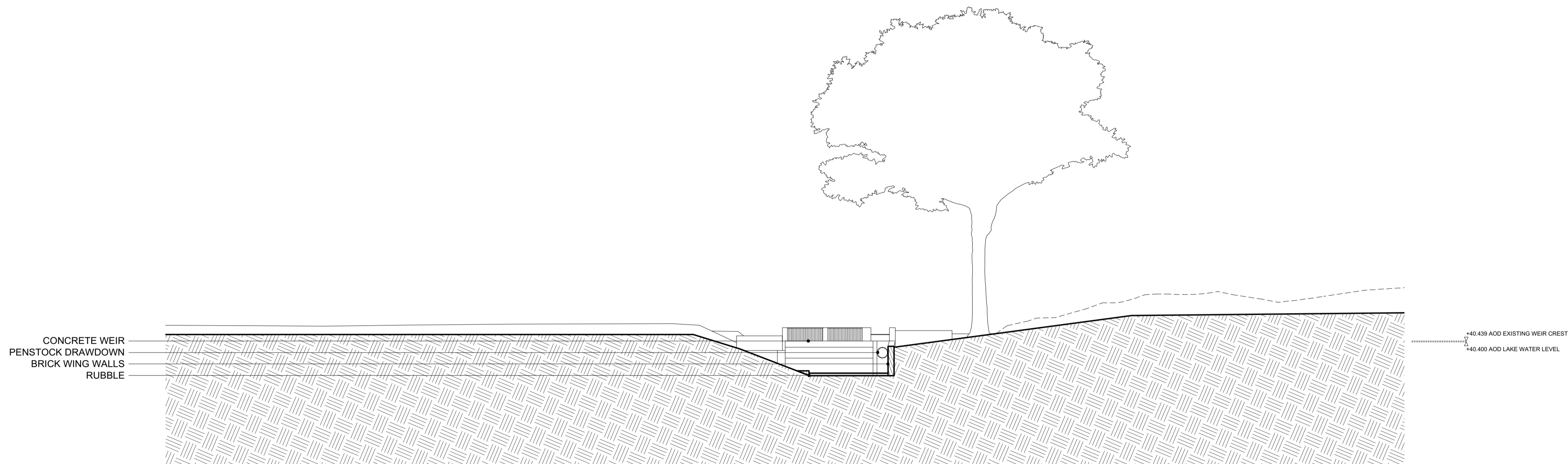
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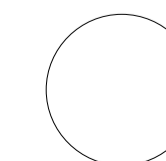
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DRAWING STATUS PLANNING

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