

**RSPB Northward Hill Green Recovery Higham Marshes Habitat Restoration
– Planning Permission 20220575
Archaeological Reply**

How any impacts from groundworks would be avoided and/or mitigated (e.g. through an archaeological watching brief).

Impacts will be avoided by no groundworks being carried out in the areas of archaeological features. The works have been designed around the archaeological features identified on site via Kent County Councils Exploring Kent's Past website, the RSPB management plan and the Farm Environment Record in the Sites Higher Level Stewardship Agreement.

Contractors will be given co-ordinates of all archaeological features on site as part of the Contract to ensure no damage is caused either by works or via movement on site as is standard practice. The areas will be fenced off to ensure contractors are unable to enter the areas of archaeological features.

Only 12 of the archaeological features are within the application area, the rest are within the RSPBs freehold of the site, but outside of the application area. Several of the HERs on the website have been misidentified. Justification to show this is found in table 1. Creating rills and excavating scrapes to a shallow depth and avoiding identified features, the creation of the new wetland features do not present a risk to the extant archaeology. Furthermore, it is accepted that archaeological features in a wetland environment are better protected against deterioration and the provision of a WSI for the delivery phase will offer direct protection during that critical part of the project.

RSPB Archaeology Policy is;

The RSPB advocates the effective and sustainable management of heritage assets (whether designated or not), thereby ensuring all reserves comply with: the laws relating to archaeological and historic sites ('heritage assets'), national planning policies, cross-compliance, and the conditions imposed by agri-environment and woodland schemes, with a view to exemplary land management. It is recognised that designated heritage assets must be protected and should be managed to achieve favourable condition wherever possible.

It is also recognised that, where we know about non-designated assets, we should take measures to ensure that they are not damaged. Non-designated sites should be logged and, where feasible, be brought into favourable condition through reserve management planning.

HER No	Name	Justification
HMM1 TQ 77 SW 1001	Drainage pattern in fields, Shorne Marshes Drainage pattern in fields. Metropolitan police firing range, no access during coastal survey in 2005	<i>Considering the description, likely to be incorrectly identified. Therefore, no impact upon this feature</i> 1. Shorne Marshes is an RSPB Land holding to the west of Higham Marshes 2. Higham Marshes does not fall within the Metropolitan Police Firing Range fall out zone, however Shorne Marshes does, therefore access would have been possible during coastal survey.
HMM5 TQ 77 NW 1031	Remains of enclosure	No invasive groundworks will be happening near this feature.
HMM6 TQ 77 NW 1038	Ring ditch, Shorne Marshes Ring ditch. Metropolitan police firing range, no access during coastal survey in 2005	Considering the description, likely to be incorrectly identified. 1. Shorne Marshes is an RSPB Land holding to the west of Higham Marshes 2. Higham Marshes does not fall within the Metropolitan Police Firing Range fall out zone, however Shorne Marshes does, therefore access would have been possible. 3. No ring ditch is identifiable from overheads in this location
HMM7 TQ 77 NW 1009	Remains of saltworks(?)	No invasive groundworks will be happening near this location.
HMM20 TQ 77 NW 1009	Mesolithic antler pick found	No invasive groundworks will be happening near this location.
HMM23 MKE83225	Sheepfold on Higham Marshes	No works are being carried out in this field therefore no impact upon this feature.
HMM24	Remains of saltworks(?)	No invasive groundworks will be happening near this location.
HMM26	Remains of enclosure, Higham	No invasive groundworks will

	Marshes	be happening near this location.
HMM27 TQ 77 NW 149	Higham Tudor Thames Defence A bulwark or blockhouse at Higham, mentioned in 1540, was one of five authorised for the Thames defences in 1539. It is now shown on Robert Adam's Map of the Thames Defences 1588. No further information; there is nothing to be seen on the Higham parish foreshore. Possible location of blockhouse, referred to by Spurrell (1885) who describes a quantity of stone and rubble in layers. Mentioned in context with other Thames defences.	No invasive groundworks will be happening near this feature.
HMM28	Sheepfold on Higham Marshes A field barn with no associated yard. Farmstead completely demolished.	Culvert being put in adjacent to this feature but not within this field. Therefore there will be no impact upon this feature
TQ 77 NW 1268	Ring ditch, saltern or bomb crater, Shorne Marshes	No invasive groundworks will be happening near this feature.
TQ 77 NW 1269	Ring ditch, saltern or bomb crater, Shorne Marshes	No invasive groundworks will be happening near this feature.

If a watching brief is required as per recommendations from the KCC Archaeologist, this can be implemented as the project has a funding line for these works.

If the location of rills and/or scrapes need to be moved to avoid areas, I would be happy to do so. This was required for another site we are working on at Cooling Marshes to avoid a large archaeological feature.

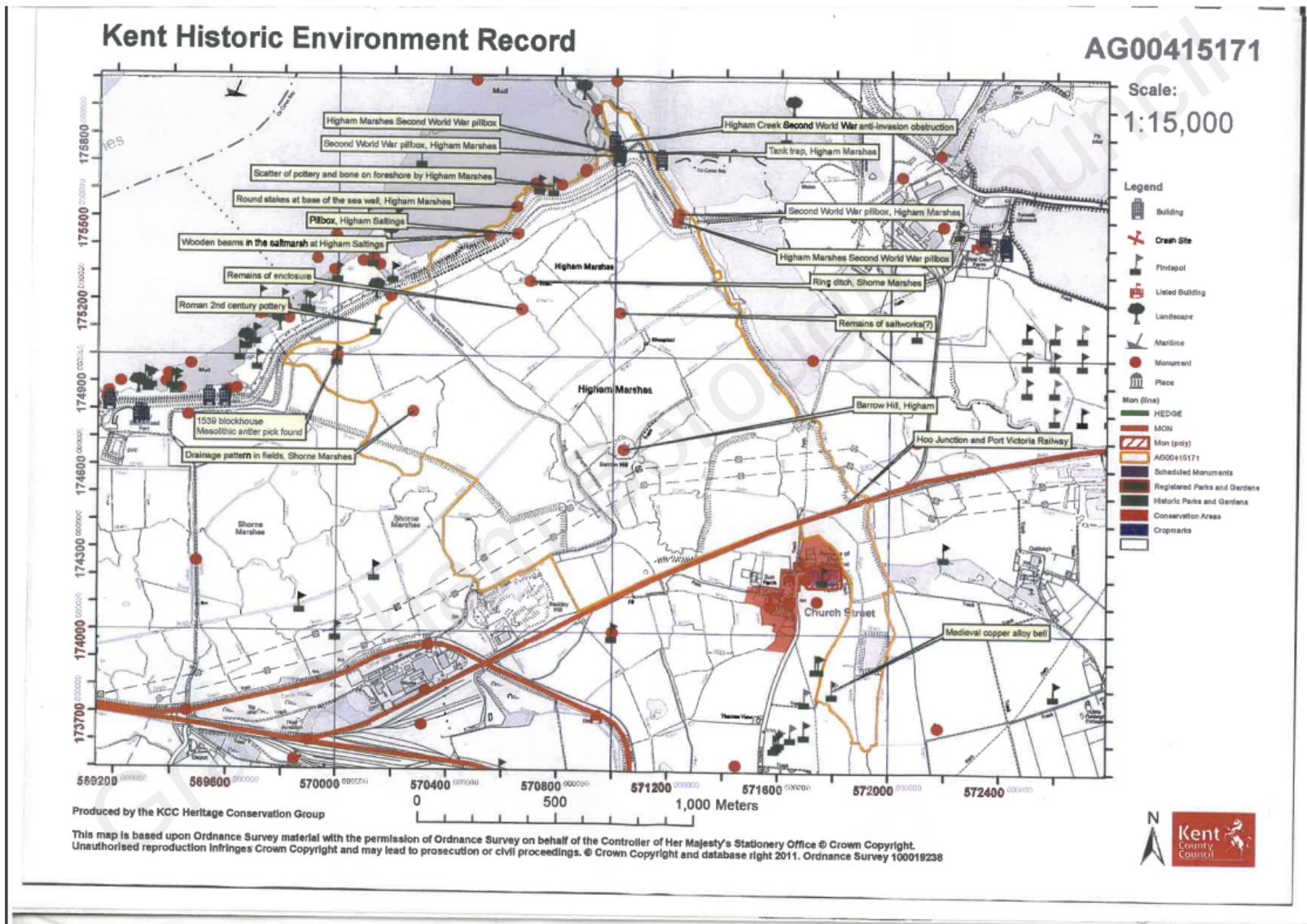
What archaeological studies have been undertaken to support the archaeology statements in the submitted documents and could these survey reports be shared.

No archaeological studies have been undertaken apart from the Use of the Kent County Council's Exploring Kent's Past website which includes the North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey: Phase II: Field Assessment Year Two Report from 2005 carried out by Wessex Archaeology which list all archaeological features of sites. These features are listed within the applications Archaeological Gazetteer and feature in the sites Management Plan (a copy can be provided on request) and within the site Higher Level Stewardship Agreement (See Appendix 1).

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment can be carried out if recommended.

Gravesham Borough Council

Appendix 1 – Higham Marshes HLS Farm Environment Record



HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP FARM ENVIRONMENT RECORD and FARM ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Assigned colour		Applicants colour match
	Hedges, hedge banks and lines of trees	
	Stone walls and stone faced banks	
	Earth banks	
	Relict boundaries of historic importance and other linear historic features	
	Archaeological and historic features additional to those identified on the HER Consultation map	
	Non-domestic historic buildings additional to those on the HER Consultation map	
	In-field trees (over 30cm in diameter at breast height) (value = total number of trees in parcel)	
	Mature trees within a boundary (over 30cm in diameter at breast height)	
	*Boulders and rocky outcrops	
	Ponds and lakes	
	Wet ditches (ditches which regularly contain standing or running water)	
	Rivers and streams on, and near to, the farm	
	Other wetlands (marsh, fen, saltmarsh, open water, reed beds)	
	Traditional orchards	
	Woodlands (groups of 4 or more trees, including copses, shelter belts and groups of trees)	
	Unimproved land (land which has not been ploughed and has not received artificial fertiliser in the last 20 years)	
	Fields on which soil erosion or run-off may occur (see guidance in Scheme Handbook)	
	*Areas of bracken	
	*Areas of scrub	
	Boundary of features occupying part parcels	
1234	RLR field number	
	Holding parcels (buff coloured parcels are to be marked up on this map. Any grey parcels are covered on other maps)	

*Features specific to uplands HLS agreements
 Annotate all relevant HLS Environmental Features in black ink using the appropriate codes - full list in guidance handbook.
 Potential for new or upgraded access routes should be marked with a dashed green line.

0 200 400
 Metres

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