



The processing of environmental finds

### Post-excavation

Following an excavation, all of the archaeological finds are taken away to be appropriately cleaned, labelled, bagged and sent off to specialists for further analysis. All of the recovered soil samples are also sent to a specialist to write up a report on the findings.

During the analysis, pottery will usually provide a good indication of how old a feature is, while the environmental analysis will give an indication of what the landscape might have looked like. The information from all of the specialist reports is then collated and used to tell the whole story of the archaeological site, with the aid of digitised plans and section drawings.

### Archival

After the excavation report has been completed and the finds have come back from the specialists, everything is safely packaged up and sent to an archive for future storage. Some of the finds may eventually be available for the public to view within a museum. In this instance, the archive will be stored at The Collection in Lincoln.

Multiple finds from the excavation



If you have any questions about the archaeological work undertaken as part of the project, please do not hesitate to contact Triton Knoll's 24 hour helpline on **0800 2545 270** or email us at **info@tritonknoll.co.uk**.

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# Archaeology in Lincolnshire

### Approach to archaeology

The onshore work for the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm has led to some exciting archaeological discoveries which has helped to create a picture of how communities in Lincolnshire used to live.

The Triton Knoll onshore construction work involves routing high voltage electrical cables over a 60km stretch, from the Bicker Fen substation near Boston, to the landfall site north of Anderby Creek. With an infrastructure project of this size, there are a number of factors which must be taken into consideration so the impacts can be mitigated, and to ensure the project is causing as minimal disruption as possible. Archaeology is one of these considerations.

Over the past three years, Triton Knoll and its principle onshore contractor, J Murphy & Sons Ltd, have been working hard to ensure the Lincolnshire archaeology has



Wood planks found at the top of a large pit

been preserved by record along the full stretch of the cable route. Together with the specialist supply chain partners, Allen Archaeology and Headland Archaeology, the project has carried out a series of archaeological assessments, excavations, and has carefully managed any archaeological remains uncovered from the Lincolnshire soil. All of this work is important to ensure the archaeological sites and finds are identified and preserved.

## The archaeological process

From identifying an excavation site, to discovering a Bronze Age axe head, there are a number of important steps that need to be followed to preserve the archaeology by record when constructing a nationally significant infrastructure project.

### Geophysical survey

In 2017, one of our specialist archaeological contractors, Allen Archaeology, carried out a geophysical survey along the full 60km onshore cable route. A geophysical survey uses sensing instruments to create a map of subsurface archaeological features and identify any traces of human activity in the soil. Unlike other archaeological survey methods, geophysical surveys are non-intrusive and were undertaken by Triton Knoll to avoid disturbing the Lincolnshire land. The survey identified evidence of Lincolnshire salt-making, large ditches associated with water management and areas of human settlement.



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### Trial trenching

Trial trenching is a digging technique used to understand the presence, condition and date of any archaeological remains under the ground. Once the results of desk-based research and the geophysical survey had been analysed, the archaeological team plotted areas along the cable route to start digging trial trenches. This would help to identify any archaeological sites and ensure measures could be put in place to preserve them.

In total, 350 separate trial trenches were dug. Any small finds were collected and soil samples were sent to a specialist for investigation – the evaluation revealed evidence of Iron Age and Roman salt-making practices, and settlements dating back to the Roman and medieval periods. It also indicated evidence of medieval field systems, and former marshland areas.

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### Excavations

An excavation is the exposure, processing and recording of archaeological remains. During 2018 and so far in 2019, excavations have been carried out in areas along the cable route highlighted by the trial trenching evaluation as having the greatest archaeological significance. So far, the excavations have confirmed evidence of Roman settlements and a possible prehistoric round barrow.

A round barrow is a mound of earth and/or stone raised over a grave or burial ground. It is circular in feature, and the earliest artefacts identified suggest this was created by people of Britain during the Bronze Age. The image on the right shows the archaeological team in action excavating the site.

Working shot of the team excavating a potential prehistoric round barrow



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