BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

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Appendix 8.9 Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching
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The Planning Act 2008
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 5(2)(a)
The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/572) – Regulation 14

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WRITTEN SCHEME FOR INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

AUGUST 2023

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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

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APPENDIX 1: DRAWINGS

DRAWINGS	**TITLE**
ST19595-007	Geophysical Survey Parcel Locations
ST19595-105	Trial Trench Plan: Beacon Fen Energy Park showing constraints and survey results
ST19595-110	Trial Trench Plan: Beacon Fen Energy Park

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA), a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), has been commissioned by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Client') to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological trial trench evaluation.

1.1.2 The Site, known as Beacon Fen Energy Park, is located to the east of Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The Site comprises a large plot of agricultural land totalling 506ha. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 16415 48000.

1.1.3 Development proposals comprise the installation of a large-scale Solar PV array across the Site with associated below ground cable infrastructure and landscaping. This WSI does not include the cable route which will be subject to separate works.

1.1.4 The proposed development constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under The Planning Act (2008) which requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to be submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS).

1.1.5 A programme of evaluation through geophysical survey has been completed. WA have also undertaken an aerial and LiDAR assessment.

1.1.6 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out the scope of works for the archaeological trial trenching to be undertaken pre-determination in order to inform upon the archaeological baseline and the potential of the land within the Site. Following engagement with the Planning Archaeologist at Lincolnshire County Council, the trial trenches have been positioned to target sporadic geophysical anomalies identified during the first phase of the survey and to target areas which have provided a 'blank' geophysical response during the first phase of survey.

1.1.7 This document provides the methodology to be employed during the course of the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching within the Beacon Fen Energy Park.

1.1.8 In the event that the trial trenching reveals archaeological remains for which further mitigation is required, for example excavation through strip, map and record, an addendum/update to this WSI would be required to stipulate the scope and extent of open area excavation, the results of which would be subject to the methodology for 'Reporting', 'Publication and Dissemination' and 'Archive Preparation and Deposition' as set out within this section 5 of this document.

1.1.9 Excavation would only be undertaken following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council and the client should the results of the preceding trial trench evaluation justify it.

1.2 Standards and Guidance

1.2.1 The WSI conforms to guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Standard and guidance for field evaluation,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading (CIfA 2020a).
    - *An archaeological field evaluation will determine and report on, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims on the project and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA.*
- *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading (CIfA 2020b).
    - *Collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (hereafter finds work) will result in an ordered, stable, accessible archive using appropriate methods and practices. Finds work will result in report(s) intended for dissemination. The methods and practices employed must satisfy the stated aims of any project of which finds work comprises all or part, and comply with the Code of conduct, and other relevant regulations of CIfA.*
- *Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE),* Historic England: London (HE 2015).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Geological Context

2.1.1 The Site comprises an area of agricultural land totalling c.506ha and is centred is NGR TF 16415, 48000 and comprises 506ha in total. It is located to the north of the small hamlet of Howell and to the east of Ewerby Thorpe.

2.1.2 The geology of the Site is summarised in Table 1 below. Parcel references should be cross-referenced to drawing reference ST19595-007 included within this WSI.

Table 1: Summary of Geology of the Site

Parcel	NGR (Centred)	Area (ha)	Underlying Geology (BGS 2023)	Superficial Geology (BGS 2023)
A	TF 15150 48706	158	Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed during the Jurassic period.	Tidal Flat Deposits across the majority of the parcel with Till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton in the south-western corner.
B	TF 14502 48105	110	Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed during the Jurassic period.	Tidal Flat Deposits across the majority of the parcel with Till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton across the centre.
C	TF 13888 47475	113	Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed during the Jurassic period.	Till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton across the majority of the parcel with Tidal Flat Deposits in the central eastern area.
D	TF 15064 47362	125	Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed during the Jurassic period.	Till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton across the western extent with Tidal Flat Deposits across the eastern extent. A strip of Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits, Mid Pleistocene lies in a north-east, south-west direction within the Till.

2.2 Summary Historical and Archaeological Background

2.2.1 Within the Site, the HER records five assets. Within a 2km vicinity of the Site, the HER records features spanning all archaeological periods. A high-level summary of key assets has been presented below. A comprehensive summary will be provided as part of an archaeological desk-based assessment.

2.2.2 Those assets recorded within the plot comprise prehistoric and medieval assets, listed below:

- Medieval pottery figure found on Ewerby Common (MLI89396): located in parcel A;
- Flint axe found on Ewerby Waithe Common (MLI89392): located in parcel A;

- Medieval cropmark and earthwork field system (MLI88982): located in the north-western extents of parcels B and C. This large field system extends west of the plot and is 3.9km in length;
- Cropmark undated boundary ditch (MLI90710): located within parcel D; and
- Worked flints (NLI60542) and medieval pottery (MLI60543): located within parcel D.

Prehistoric (Bronze Age and earlier)

2.2.3 Evidence for the prehistoric period, within the study area, is limited to single finds and cropmarks identified through aerial photography. The earliest recorded evidence is dated to the Neolithic period. Alongside the flint axe and worked flints located within the plot boundary (section 2.2.1) there are a further 11 stone axes, two bronze axes, several scatters of flints and prehistoric pottery recorded within 1km of the Site. Aerial photography has identified a possible Bronze Age barrow alongside an enclosure and ring ditch of unknown date (HER NLI86039) located 905m north of the Site. There has been no investigation to confirm this.

2.2.4 The probable barrow is located to the north of the River Slea which at its closest point is located 485m north of the Site. The river would have been a source of water for prehistoric populations, and it would have been within an area of fertile ground. Although unconfirmed the presence of a barrow would be indicative of settlement activity within the wider area.

2.2.5 Generally the finds and features identified within the HER are within the vicinity of major watercourses, although the River Slea appears to be a hub of activity Head Dike, to the south-west, also has seen much recorded activity, particularly in relation to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age periods. Although it must be noted that in respect to find spots recorded across the study area, including the Site, these finds are suggestive of transient activity between these two areas of settlement.

2.2.6 The Bronze Age period appears to be a point of increased activity with multiple barrows and the causeway suggesting more permanent occupation activity. Although typically areas of settlement were located at higher points in the landscape being fenland the landscape surrounding the Site is relatively flat, as such areas of occupation would have been near to water sources which were indicative of fertile ground. Although occupation activity is to the north of the River Slea, and near to the causeway, transient finds extend from the River to the Head Dike in the south suggesting the population utilised both water sources.

Iron Age

2.2.7 The Iron Age is represented within the study area through a single ditch (HER MLI82553) located 885m north-west of the Site; this was identified during a watching brief. There are two Iron Age settlements recorded within the HER (MLI82555 & MLI82556); both areas are located west of the Site, near to Ewerby Thorpe, lying 1.65km and 1.95km from the Site, respectively. To the north-east of these recorded settlements the HER records a ditch (HER MLI82553) and finds (HER MLI82554), which are located 900m north-west and 1.4km north west of the Site respectively.

2.2.8 In comparison to Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, there is little evidence of the Iron Age period suggesting a possible change of movement / activity in the landscape at this time. More generally, the Iron Age saw populations begin to settle in a nucleated manner rather than regularly moving across the landscape. The evidence suggests settlement of Iron Age people and activity was nucleated north-west of the Site during this period. Due to a lack of findspots within the study area it would suggest activity was localised rather than expanding south-east of the settlements, across the Site

Romano-British

2.2.9 Roman activity is represented by the Car Dyke, an artificial water channel thought to have been constructed by the Romans in 125AD which runs along the eastern boundary of the Site. Car Dyke is a scheduled monument at points however, this is beyond the Site and its study area. Evidence also pertaining to the Roman period, within the HER, is largely limited to finds, a coffin and a set of earthworks. The stone coffin (HER MLI86262) was found between the Car Dyke and Ferry Lane in North Kyme; the HER records no other details.

2.2.10 The HER records 37 Roman finds/pottery within the study area. These finds are spread throughout the study area however there is a greater concentration to the south-east near the Head Dike.

2.2.11 The evidence suggests the Romans were present throughout the landscape however it is likely settlement was concentrated elsewhere. The burial is singular rather than located within a wider known cemetery and the finds, although plenty, may be a result of transient activity across the landscape. The introduction of the Car Dyke suggests there was some attempt at draining the fen land landscape demonstrating the landscape was being exploited at this time. During the Roman period more generally, there was an increase in land being exploited to provide food which could be transported across the country and the empire.

Early Medieval

2.2.12 The early medieval period is represented through settlements; during the early medieval period populations moved away from mass land exploitation and nucleated into villages. The nearest asset to the Site is the shrunken settlement of Howell (HER MLI84590) located 5m south-west of the Site at its closest point. The name Howell includes 'welle' which means 'a spring' in Old English.

2.2.13 The settlement of Ewerby Thorpe (HER MLI89429) is located 160m west of the north-western extent of the Site.

2.2.14 The settlements of both Howell and Ewerby Thorpe are first mentioned in the Domesday Book thus suggesting they were established by the end of the early medieval period. Due to their close proximity to the Site, it is likely the land within the Site was under agricultural use during this period.

2.2.15 Further early medieval settlement can be found in the wider area at Ewerby (HER MLI89425) and South Kyme (HER MLI60815) located 1.2km west and 1.6km east of the Site respectively. Further evidence at South Kyme includes a possible early medieval monastic site (HER MLI60125) which lies 1.3km east of the Site.

2.2.16 Findspots attributed by the HER as being of early medieval date are located to the west, east and south of the Site. To the west of the Site, a brooch and pottery (HER MLI60586), Stamford ware pottery sherds (HER MLI80420) and a ropework mount (HER MLI89455) were found. North of South Kyme, to the east of the Site, a late Roman or Saxon silver pin (HER MLI83268) is recorded; and a sherd of pagan Saxon Pottery was found (HER MLI87996) 2km south of the Site. These findspots are likely a result of transient activity near to areas of early medieval settlement.

2.2.17 The Site does not contain evidence of the early medieval period, instead the Site appears to have been located between the early medieval settlements of Ewerby and South Kyme.

Medieval

2.2.18 The medieval period is represented within the Site (section 2.2.1) and the wider vicinity. This period saw some growth within the wider area including Howell Hall and St Oswald's church and churchyard which contains the scheduled monument of St Oswald's Churchyard Cross (NHLE 1009228). This cross is located 165m south-west of the Site within Howell. Other evidence from this period includes earthworks, ridge and furrow, former field systems, pottery scatters, an old wood and findspots (pottery and half a mirror case).

2.2.19 The medieval period is further represented within the study area through settlement, moated sites and halls, ecclesiastical features and agricultural features and finds.

2.2.20 The Domesday Book was collated in 1086; within the vicinity of the Site there are four settlements recorded. Further settlement can be seen through the remains of medieval hamlet of Boughton (HER MLI89852) and the settlement of Asgardby (HER MLI60345). These are respectively found 1.28km and 1.97km south-west of the Site. Asgardby lies on 395m west of Boughton. Boughton is not mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086 however references in later documents suggests it was in use by the 12th century.

2.2.21 The evidence for the medieval period suggests the Site is within a landscape of nucleated villages, agricultural activity and transient activity. The main points of settlement, for which remains survive are at Ewerby, South Kyme and Heckington. Smaller settlements which have medieval origins are Ewerby Thorpe and Howell which are to the immediate north-west and south-west of the Site. The landscape contains several instances of medieval activity including field boundaries which encroach into the Site, and ridge and furrow near to existing settlements.

2.2.22 The priory at South Kyme suggests an area of religious activity and potentially high importance.

2.2.23 There are multiple findspots throughout the landscape which indicate transient activity across the landscape, likely representative of peoples moving from village to village potentially for trade/social events.

Post-medieval

2.2.24 The post-medieval period is the most represented period within the vicinity of the Site and records attest towards significant growth within the wider area. Gashes Barn, which is located central to parcel A, though outside of the Site boundary, was constructed at this time. Several farmsteads are recorded within the wider area alongside Howell Hall, houses, and Old Rectory.

2.2.25 Remains, beyond buildings, comprise of four demolished farmsteads, Sleaford Navigation canal, ridge and furrow, two square enclosures, two parks and parkland associated with Howell Hall. The evidence shows a continuation of agriculture within the Site with expansion, development and growth of the rural community within the wider vicinity.

2.2.26 The 1850 Ewerby tithe map shows the land being agricultural in nature and split into several fields. This split of fields is also depicted on the 1906 six-inch-to-the-mile

Ordnance Survey map which also contains a square plot of woodland within parcel B which is known as "fox covert". The fields appear to have been split again, according to the 1956 OS 10:10,560 map. When reviewing satellite imagery via Google Earth from 1995 onwards, there is evidence that some fields opened.

2.2.27 The post medieval period shows the Site within an agricultural landscape; within the wider area there are signs of industry which are either located within settlements or running through the landscape connecting settlements together.

2.2.28 There are pockets of parkland, again near to settlements.

Undated

2.2.29 There are several HER entries within the study area which are undated, often comprising of cropmarks, ditches and pits. One feature, an undated boundary ditch (HER MLI90710), extends into the Site on a north-east south-west alignment across Field N29. There is potential for that boundary ditch to extend across the Site, further into field N29.

2.2.30 Cropmarks, ditches and pits within the study area are indicative of landscape changes potentially across thousands of years.

2.3 Previous Work

Aerial Assessment

2.3.1 An Aerial Assessment (Wardell Armstrong 2023) has been produced as part of the desk top assessments being prepared to support the DCO submission. This study has allowed a comprehensive, non-intrusive investigation of features of possible archaeological origin and has revealed a number of features across both arrays which were previously undocumented. This provides an important contribution to the origins and evolution of the agricultural landscape proposed for development.

2.3.2 The potential for prehistoric activity within the Site was based on the discovery of prehistoric finds within the boundary of the Site, and potential features of the period include a large north-east to south-west aligned rectangular structure, visible towards the centre of the Site, across parcels N14 and N15. This was only visible in an aerial photograph of 1966, despite earlier aerial photographs covering this area. As this was not detectable on later aerial photographs or LiDAR, the feature may have been detrimentally impacted by modern agricultural techniques.

2.3.3 Individual findspots and a series of known medieval field systems associated with known medieval settlements were known to extend within the boundaries of the Site ahead of this study commencing, and so evidence for medieval activity was to be

expected. In the Site, the medieval cropmark and earthwork field system of Ewerby and Evedon extends within the north-western corner of the array area (HER MLI88982) and the shrunken settlement of Howell lies to the immediate south-west (HER MLI84590). Medieval earthwork field boundaries associated with South Kyme are also known to the north-east of the array boundary (HER MLI88961). Within the Site, areas of ridge and furrow were identified, almost exclusively from historic aerial photographs, and predominantly concentrated in the western half of the Site, in two areas, one at the northern extent and one at the southern extent of the array, although one area of ridge and furrow was also identified towards the north of the array at the centre. In addition, field boundaries visible in LiDAR imagery do not conform to those shown on 19th century mapping and may reflect earlier field systems. An irregular long linear feature towards the southern extent of the array may also represent an associated access track or boundary marking the extent of landholdings.

2.3.4 Very few of the ridge and furrow areas were visible on LiDAR imagery for the Site suggesting the vast majority has been levelled by modern agricultural practices and may not be visible at ground level. Evidence may yet survive sub-surface.

2.3.5 A large number of former field boundaries are identifiable across the entirety of the Site from historic aerial photographs, and more particularly, from LiDAR imagery. The majority of these can be interpreted as of likely post medieval origin as they respect boundaries known from 19th century mapping. These were mostly identified from LiDAR imagery, which would be expected, as most of the merging of smaller fields into larger prairie-style fields occurred in the period following the Second World War with increased pressure on production and the move to mechanisation. Thus, these boundaries may have been removed in the late 20th century, after the date of many of the historic aerial photographs.

2.3.6 The angular squarish features identified from the corners of fields as mapped in the 19th century suggest targeted attempts to improve drainage of former fenland in the early-mid 20th century, prior to the prairie fields being formed. These would be considered of low archaeological or historic interest.

Geophysical Survey

2.3.7 As part of the proposed development, a geophysical survey of the Site was undertaken by Headland Archaeology and Wessex Archaeology in April and August 2023 to evaluate the potential for below-ground archaeology and to inform on further intrusive trial trenching.

2.3.8 Headland did not identify any anomalies of obvious archaeological potential. Whilst a handful of uncertain anomalies were recorded none are considered likely to be of archaeological interest. Several discrete and linear anomalies have been recorded at varying locations. The anomalies have been interpreted of being of uncertain origin; whilst they could be of archaeological origin it is noted by Headland this is the least likely origin.

2.3.9 Two parallel curvilinears, forming a semi-circle are noted in field N13. It is believed this is likely to be drains and they terminate on the N12/N13 boundary. Also within N13, on the southern boundary, lies a cluster of three possible inter-connected short linear anomalies at right angles to or parallel with the current boundaries; the alignment suggests a modern/agricultural origins. Within N12 a sinuous curvilinear anomaly with a negative response is recorded; the anomaly does not continue into N5 thus suggesting it is drain.

2.3.10 Within field N15 two discrete anomalies standout above the prevailing homogenous magnetic background. The responses may be indicative of pits but given the lack of any other anomalies/features which would give weight to an archaeological interpretation it is considered that localised variation in the soils or superficial deposits is more likely cause. Within N14 a short linear anomaly aligned broadly north/south, oblique to the current field layout is recorded. Again, the absence of an supporting archaeological context led to the conclusion that an agricultural/modern origin is considered most likely.

2.3.11 Wessex Archaeology, who completed part of the geophysical survey, identified features that are considered to be archaeological in origin. These are primarily associated with two areas containing ditch-like response in the north-west of the Site. A series of weak and strong positive linear anomalies are located in the north-western portion of the survey area within N9. The collection of anomalies covers an area of 70m by 273m. These anomalies are within the area previously identified on the HER (MLI88982) and within the LiDAR and aerial assessment.

2.3.12 A series of conjoined linear weak and strong positives, typical of ditched features have been detected in field N18. The collection of anomalies covered and area of 160m x 87m. The anomalies join a former field boundary which makes the eastern extent. Given their proximity to the medieval field systems identified above it is likely they are of a similar date however there is potential for these to be earlier in date.

2.3.13 Field N26 contains a linear, weak positive anomaly which is 98mm long x 1.3m wide; it is on a similar orientation to mapped former field boundaries but does not continue

from other features. Considering its typology it is considered to be a filed/enclosure boundary. At the northern extent lies a strong positive which is typical of a pit feature.

2.3.14 N32 holds two weak positive curvilinears which are spaced 6m apart. Given their position and the signal it is considered they likely relate to the post medieval field system. Another curvilinear was identified in this field however due to its isolation interpretation was difficult and it was concluded it was potentially natural variation, modern agricultural activity or an archaeological boundary.

2.3.15 Surrounding the enclosures and across much of the west of the Site are various regimes of ridge and furrow orientated on a roughly east-west, north-south coaxial system. The anomalies are largely located between Ewerby Thorpe and Howell.

2.3.16 There is evidence of use in to the post medieval period across the Site with several anomalies interpreted as former field boundaries correlating to those depicted on the 1888 OS mapping.

2.3.17 The Site also contains several anomalies interpreted to be ponds.

2.3.18 The remaining anomalies are thought to be modern or natural in origin.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The purpose of the required archaeological trial trench evaluation is to investigate the potential of the archaeological resource and, where present, to characterise, record and date it. The general preliminary aims of any archaeological trial trenching would be to:

- determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the Site;
- determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits revealed as well as their potential significance;
- determine the likely impact on any archaeological deposits present from the proposed scheme; and
- disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of recording.

3.1.2 Specific aims of the archaeological trial trenching may be as follows:

- Determine the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the areas devoid of anomalies shown on the geophysical survey; and
- Contribute to the East Midland Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) strategic research aims regarding the Bronze Age and the early medieval through to post-medieval activities. Specifically, where possible and where relevant the work should contribute towards strategic aims 3F, 3H, 3I, 4A – C, 4E relating to the Bronze Age period, strategic aims 6A, 6C, 6F, 6G, 6H and 6I relating to the Early Medieval period, strategic aims 7E and 7F relating to the High Medieval period and strategic aims 8A and 8E relating to the Post-Medieval period.

4 METHOD STATEMENT

4.1.1 This scheme for archaeological trial trenching has been designed in order to satisfy the stated objectives of the project as set out under Section 3 above.

4.1.2 This evaluation will comprise the excavation of 1476 trenches, targeting identified heritage assets and 'blank' areas of the Beacon Fen Energy Park; see drawings ST19595-105 and ST19595-110 included within this WSI. Once the second phase of geophysical survey has been undertaken the trench plan will be updated to include trenches within these currently blank areas.

4.1.3 All trenches are to measure 50m x 1.8m in size; all trenches will be reduced to natural, unless archaeological features prohibit this. Sondages will be utilised at regular points to ensure the natural level is correct.

4.1.4 Trench locations have been informed by known drainage and ecological constraints which have required consideration of appropriate stand-offs.

4.1.5 Measures to enable wildlife egress from trenches left open overnight will be put in place within each trench.

4.1.6 Notwithstanding any information on constraints already supplied, in advance of any fieldwork Wardell Armstrong must request that the Client has demonstrated that all reasonable measures have been taken to identify any constraints to ground disturbance and that they have been provided with all reasonable information regarding the confirmation of the presence of services, any ecological constraints, any areas of potentially contaminated land and/or any other known risks to health and safety.

4.1.7 Wardell Armstrong will open all trenches using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket to maximise the chance for identification of any archaeological remains should they be present. All mechanical excavation will be constantly monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist who will control the level excavated to and stop machining at the top of the first potentially significant archaeological horizon, or the top of the natural substrate, whichever is encountered first. Should substantial obstructions be encountered a toothed bucket may be employed on the understanding that it will be removed again once the obstacle is past.

4.1.8 All trenches will be cleaned by hand (where necessary), photographed and recorded as appropriate. The trenches will be left open for a suitable amount of weathering time to allow for any archaeological features not immediately apparent to present themselves. Once cleaned all trenches will be inspected and potential

features/deposits excavated to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual material, as well as determine their character, significance and date.

4.1.9 Prior to backfilling, all deposits, including the trench sides will be again inspected for artefactual material to ensure that finds are recovered from as many contexts as possible regardless of date. Agreement to backfill will be sought from the Planning Archaeologist at Lincolnshire County Council.

4.1.10 Any changes to the agreed method statement will need to be discussed with and agreed by the Planning Archaeologist at Lincolnshire County Council before implementation.

4.2 **Investigation and Sampling Strategy**

4.2.1 Archaeological features will be sampled sufficiently to characterise, date them and determine their significance i.e. 10% of fills of linear features (unless the linear features are substantial or complex in nature, in which case an alternative sampling strategy will be discussed and agreed with the Planning Archaeology at Lincolnshire Council) and 50% of pit fills. Smaller discrete features such as postholes will be 100% sampled.

4.2.2 If structural features of buildings/structures of archaeological interest are identified, these will be cleaned, photographed and recorded in-situ, with sample excavation undertaken as necessary in order to determine their form, construction methods and dating. Any substantial structures may also be subject to a programme of photogrammetric recording where appropriate, and where it meet the project's objectives.

4.2.3 The locations of significant artefacts will be recorded where possible, whilst all other archaeological artefactual material will be collected in bulk where appropriate. Measures will be taken to protect particularly significant, valuable or sensitive archaeological remains from exposure, accidental damage and/or theft.

4.2.4 Upon the discovery of sensitive material (e.g., human remains or particularly significant features), all excavation shall cease, and the archaeological contractor will establish a clearly visible cordon around the area of discovery, to ensure protection from exposure, accidental damage and / or theft.

4.2.5 Measures, including fencing-off, will be taken to protect particularly significant, valuable or sensitive archaeological remains from exposure, accidental damage and/or theft. The Client and as well as the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council will be notified to agree further measures of mitigation if required.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 All fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with codes and practices outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation/field evaluation etc* (CIfA 2020a).

4.3.2 All recording undertaken during WA led projects will be in accordance with the *Wardell Armstrong Excavation Manual, Technical Manual No. 1* (WA 2020a).

4.3.3 All features will be recorded using a GNSS survey system (such as a Trimble R10 GNSS system with TSC3 controller or equivalent) with sub-centimetre accuracy with each point recorded in relation to the OSGB36 geod model and coded to an internal database to provide a dataset that records feature type, context number, associated drawing numbers and any other feature specific information that may be relevant.

4.3.4 All written records will utilise the WA pro-forma recording sheets and registers.

4.3.5 A full digital photographic record of the work is to be kept, in accordance with guidance set out in Historic England's *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice* (Cole and Backhouse 2015). All images are to be taken using a digital SLR camera with a suitable megapixel resolution. A full photographic record of all contexts will be maintained in both .JPG and .TIFF digital formats. The photographic record is to be regarded as part of the site archive and the digital files will be labelled appropriately and cross-referenced in relation to a site-specific photography register. Wherever possible, photographs will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be maintained.

4.3.6 All plans and sections will be levelled in respect to metres above Ordnance Datum (m aOD) and are to be drawn on water resistant, polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled. Plans will be drawn to a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Trench plans and long sections can be drawn to 1:50 or 1:100 as appropriate, in accordance with the Wardell Armstrong Excavation Manual. A combination of multi and single context planning will be utilised where necessary, and a register of drawings and sheets will be maintained throughout.

4.3.7 Wardell Armstrong will ensure that the complete site archive including finds and paleoenvironmental samples is to be kept in a secure place throughout the period of fieldwork and post-excavation process.

4.4 Human Remains

4.4.1 In the event that human remains, both inhumations and/or cremations, are exposed during the course of the archaeological evaluation then all works are to cease

immediately, and the local police and coroner informed. The area will be screened from view and discussions will be held with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council on options for their appropriate preservation in-situ or for their removal in accordance with professional standards and guidelines once the antiquity of the remains has been suitably proven.

4.4.2 Wardell Armstrong will have an appropriately qualified and experienced osteoarchaeologist available to supervise the excavation and removal of any human remains (where this is necessary) from the Site.

4.4.3 In the event that human burials are discovered, a Ministry of Justice Licence will be required (in accordance with Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857) before the remains can be lifted. The need for a Ministry of Justice Licence applies to both inhumation and cremated remains. Application for a Licence will be made by Wardell Armstrong.

4.5 Finds Recovery and Processing

4.5.1 All artefacts recovered during the course of the archaeological evaluation are the property of the landowner and/or Client however donation to a suitable local museum will be encouraged. The receiving museum is expected to be Lincoln Museum. They will be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (CIfA 2020b), the Europae Archaeologia Consilium *A Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe* (EAC 2014), and the standards and guidance provided by the recipient museum.

4.5.2 Artefacts from the trenches will be collected and labelled with the unique site code and context number of the deposit from which it was recovered.

4.5.3 Each 'significant find' (e.g., coins, metalwork, etc) will be recorded three dimensionally using electronic survey equipment to an accuracy of ± 100 mm and assigned a Small Finds number. A register of Small Finds will be maintained if such finds are encountered.

4.5.4 Similarly, concentrations of artefacts or artefact scatters should be recorded three dimensionally.

4.5.5 All artefacts revealed will be recovered regardless of date so that the provisional dating of as many contexts as possible can be ascertained. However, should excessive material be uncovered a specific Selection and Retention Strategy would be devised in discussion with the archaeological curator at LCMS. A useful reference in relation to the selective deposition of archival material has been produced by the CIfA (2022).

4.5.6 Finds retrieved will be suitably bagged, boxed, and marked in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (CIfA 2020b), the *Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe* (EAC 2014). On completion of the project, specialists will assess each artefact for selection and retention. Modern material and objects that have been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention will be discarded after a period of six months, unless there is a specific request to retain them.

4.5.7 Once assessed, all retained material must be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in First Aid for Finds (Leigh, Watkinson and Neal 1998).

4.5.8 The primary archive records will clearly state how all artefact assemblages have been recovered, sub-sampled and processed.

4.5.9 Any artefact assessment will be undertaken with appropriate reference to the regional type series and local specialists will undertake the finds assessment if the assemblage is believed to have potential significance. The finds assessment report must reference all ceramic to the county type fabric series. This will be discussed with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council in the first instance if required.

4.6 Treatment of Treasure

4.6.1 Finds falling under the statutory definition of treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its revision of 2023) will be reported immediately to the relevant Coroner's Office, the landowner/Client and the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council.

4.6.2 A treasure receipt (obtainable from either the FLO or the DCMS website) will be completed and a report submitted to the Coroner's Office and the FLO within 14 days of understanding that the find is treasure. Failure to report within 14 days of discovery is a criminal offence. The treasure receipt and report will include the date and circumstances of the discovery in addition to the identity of the finder (the Archaeological Contractor) and the location of the find in relation to Ordnance Survey Grid Reference.

4.7 Palaeoenvironmental Sampling

4.7.1 A structured programme of paleoenvironmental sampling appropriate to the specific aims of the project will be implemented. The strategy and methodology for the sampling of deposits will be in accordance with Historic England guidance

Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2011).

4.7.2 Where deposits are dry, bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths, and floors. Each context will be sampled in isolation. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 40-60 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features or where context horizons are not fully defined.

4.7.3 Where deposits are dry, bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths, and floors. Each context will be sampled in isolation. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 40-60 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features or where context horizons are not fully defined.

4.7.4 Mollusc samples of two litres each will be taken vertically from appropriate sections to investigate the changes of vegetation through time.

4.7.5 Where deposits are wet, waterlogged, or peaty, monoliths will be taken along cleaned vertical surfaces for the retrieval of pollen, diatoms, ostracods, and foraminifera. The numbers to be taken will be agreed with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council. Where bulk samples are to be taken a minimum of 20 litres will be taken from visible layers or spits for the retrieval of plant macro-remains and insects.

4.7.6 Environmental samples from dry deposits will normally by processed by floatation following the fieldwork and the residues will be sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds and charcoal that has not floated. Environmental samples from wet deposits will normally be sent to specialists for processing in laboratory conditions.

4.8 Backfilling

4.8.1 Trial trenches will not be backfilled without the prior approval of the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council. However, some backfilling would be permitted if health and safety or ground stability reasons warrant this.

4.8.2 Waterlogged trenches must be drained appropriately prior to backfilling.

4.8.3 Unless instructed otherwise, topsoil and subsoil must be replaced as separate horizons with the subsoil below the topsoil in the order in which the material was excavated.

4.8.4 Backfilled trenches will be lightly compacted but not formally reinstated or reseeded.

4.9 Monitoring and Liaison

4.9.1 Reasonable notice will be provided to the Planning Archaeologist at Lincolnshire County Council prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

4.9.2 Wardell Armstrong will allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time during or after the archaeological fieldwork by the Client, the Planning Archaeologist or any designated representative of the LPA.

4.9.3 Wardell Armstrong will liaise closely with the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council throughout the course of the project and will arrange for regular onsite monitoring meetings should they be required, as well as weekly email updates and updates via Microsoft Teams where appropriate.

5 REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

5.1.1 All post-excavation reporting, publication and compilation of site archives will be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2020c), as well as Wardell Armstrong's own internal policies outlined in the *WA Post-excavation Handbook, Technical Manual No. 2* (WA 2020b).

5.1.2 Reporting may be staged as follows;

- Assessment Report(s).
- Further Reporting (as necessary):
  - Updated Project Design (to set out the scope and extent of further fieldwork or reporting requirements such as specialist analysis).
  - Specialist Analysis Reports (to analyse finds and or samples).
  - Post Excavation/Archive Report (Grey Literature Report) (consolidating all of the above).
- Publication (for the purposes of public dissemination, for example a journal article).

5.1.3 The level of post-excavation analysis and reporting for the purposes of the work will be commensurate to the findings of the fieldwork and sufficient to establish the character, scale, date range, artefactual and palaeo-environmental potential in regard to the aims and objectives as set out in Section 3 and to assess the overall significance of the remains. The extent and scope of the reporting will be agreed with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council prior to commencement.

5.1.4 The minimum level of reporting would be an Assessment Report for the trial trench evaluation.

5.1.5 The necessity for further reporting/further fieldwork after the trial trenching Assessment Report stage would be determined by the significance of the archaeology revealed and the finds assemblage/samples. The Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council would determine the necessity for further fieldwork to mitigate the impact on any significant archaeology encountered following completion of the evaluation fieldwork within each phase (see Section 5.4).

5.2 Post-excavation Assessment Report

5.2.1 Upon completion of the archaeological trial trench evaluation, the archaeological contractor will undertake post-fieldwork assessment of the results and produce an appropriate report, a draft of which will be made available to the Client for comment in the first instance within three months of the completion of the fieldwork.

5.2.2 Once approved by the Client, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council for comment. The report will include stratigraphic information, a summary of all ecofacts and artefacts recovered from the fieldwork, which will be assessed for their potential for further (full) analysis in relation to the project's research aims and the broader context of regional and national archaeological research priorities. The report will identify the archaeological potential of the site, and present an assessment of the site, integrated with previous works carried out nearby and within the wider context of the archaeology of the area and an interpretation of its significance.

5.2.3 The Assessment Report will include:

- a location plan showing the areas of investigation, related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid;
- the dates on which the project was undertaken;
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results;
- a summary of the historical and archaeological background;
- a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken, and results obtained;
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location;
- a description of archaeological features and deposits identified during the archaeological fieldwork;
- a context table, summarising the features and deposits identified on site;
- digital photographs where appropriate;
- plans and sections, if applicable, at an appropriate scale showing the position of excavated deposits;
- a list of, and spot dates for, any finds recovered, and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified;

- a table summarising the classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and any spot dating of significant finds;
- a description of any environmental or any other specialist work undertaken, and the results determined;
- a concluding statement of the actual and potential significance of the archaeology; and
- recommendations for further work and/or analysis if applicable.

5.3 National and Regional Research Agenda

5.3.1 The research questions applicable to the site, deposits and finds will also be included in any report produced from the results of the project, in order that the work contributes to the relevant national and regional research agendas and period updates and research questions to the online East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF 2023). The results of this project will look to address questions relevant to the observed archaeology as suggested within the Aims and Objectives listed in this WSI. At this stage, it is expected that there will be a focus on Bronze Age, early medieval to post-medieval research questions surrounding rural settlement patterns and agricultural economy and rural landscape.

5.4 Further Work

5.4.1 The Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council would determine the necessity for further fieldwork and/or analysis of finds and samples (in addition to processing and assessment undertaken at the Assessment stage), following completion of the evaluation fieldwork. In this event, an Updated Project Design (UPD) would be prepared as necessary to set out the scope of further fieldwork and/or specialist reports. Multiple UPDs may be required depending on the archaeological findings and sequence of fieldwork. For Client information, all UPDs would incur an additional fee and each UPD would set out the scope and extent of specific required additional work, providing a document against which a subsequent cost estimate could be acquired.

5.4.2 Further fieldwork to mitigate the impact may take the form of extension to trenches or strip, map, and record of targeted areas.

5.4.3 Following this there would be the need for a detailed post-excavation assessment report with a contingency for post-excavation analysis and appropriate publication, the scope of which would be set out within the UPD.

5.5 Dissemination

5.5.1 This project will be registered with the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) and a digital copy of the archaeological report will be made available upon its completion. The digital archive will be uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) as required.

5.5.2 Upon approval of the report, a digital .pdf copy of the report must be provided to the HER within 6 months of completion of fieldwork.

5.6 Confidentiality

5.6.1 All internal reports to the Client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

5.7 Site Archive and Deposition

5.7.1 The archaeological contractor will make provisional arrangements for the deposition of the site archive with Lincoln Museum. Wardell Armstrong will follow the latest *Archaeological Archives Deposition Guidance* (May 2017) for the deposition of the site archive with the museum.

5.7.2 The site archive will include all project records and cultural material produced by the archaeological watching brief and will be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavated archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990), and in compliance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (CIfA 2020c) and those recommended by Brown (2011).

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY

6.1.1 Wardell Armstrong is fully compliant with HSE guidance and legislation. It is the duty of all personnel, under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974, to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work. They must also co-operate with the Technical Director or Associate Director regarding any duty or requirement imposed by the Technical/Associate Director or any other person by, or under, any of the relevant statutory provisions so far as it is necessary to enable that duty or requirement to be performed or complied with. Any personnel contravening relevant statutory provision may be prosecuted in a Magistrates' Court.

6.1.2 All personnel taking part in fieldwork have a responsibility to adhere to sensible standards of behaviour. Personnel are made aware that fieldwork activities have inherent hazards which staff members minimise with appropriate safety precautions. However, the potential dangers make it imperative that personnel co-operate by behaving responsibly in order to reduce the risk of accidents.

6.1.3 Risk assessments are undertaken prior to any fieldwork taking place and staff are fully briefed regarding on-site hazards and safe working procedures. Full consideration will be given to health and safety issues during all fieldwork for this project.

6.1.4 The Client will be asked to provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and confirm the location of services before the archaeological works commence.

6.1.5 Site staff will have an appropriate level of training to enable them to carry out fieldwork safely. Appropriate (Personal Protective equipment (PPE) as directed by the Client will be worn by field staff at all times.

6.1.6 The Client will be requested to provide details of their own risk assessment and specify PPE required before fieldwork commences.

6.1.7 Wardell Armstrong will abide by the Client's health and safety methodology as well as producing their own internal risk assessment and method statement document. If there is conflict between the Client's risk assessment and that of Wardell Armstrong, then the Client's will take priority unless it is perceived to be placing the field team at greater risk.

6.1.8 All staff will assist the Client in maintaining the Site in a safe condition. Hazards will be appropriately identified and managed including identification of buried and above ground services/utilities.

6.1.9 In addition to the risk assessment and method statement, where appropriate a Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessment will also be undertaken. Once on-site, these documents will be assessed, and any variations will be highlighted and added to the appropriate assessment. These will be re-evaluated periodically during the course of the fieldwork to make sure that they remain consistent to the Site-specific risks.

6.1.10 All staff and visitors will be required to be inducted and sign the Risk Assessment documents on first arrival to Site to show that they have read and understood the contents and any variations will be communicated as required.

6.1.11 Unless instructed otherwise, Wardell Armstrong will take no responsibility for site security. The Client will be expected to be provide for this as required. No provision has been made for fencing individual trenches or securing the site perimeter.

7 STAFFING AND WORK TIMETABLE

7.1.1 Wardell Armstrong will adhere to the CIfA *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2021) at all times.

7.1.2 The fieldwork will be undertaken by competent archaeologists with appropriate experience, relevant to the methodologies outlined in this WSI. Details of the fieldwork staff including specialists will be provided to the Client and the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council on commission, should they be requested.

7.1.3 Wardell Armstrong will keep the Client informed on the progress of work.

7.1.4 Exact timescales for the works have not been confirmed at this time.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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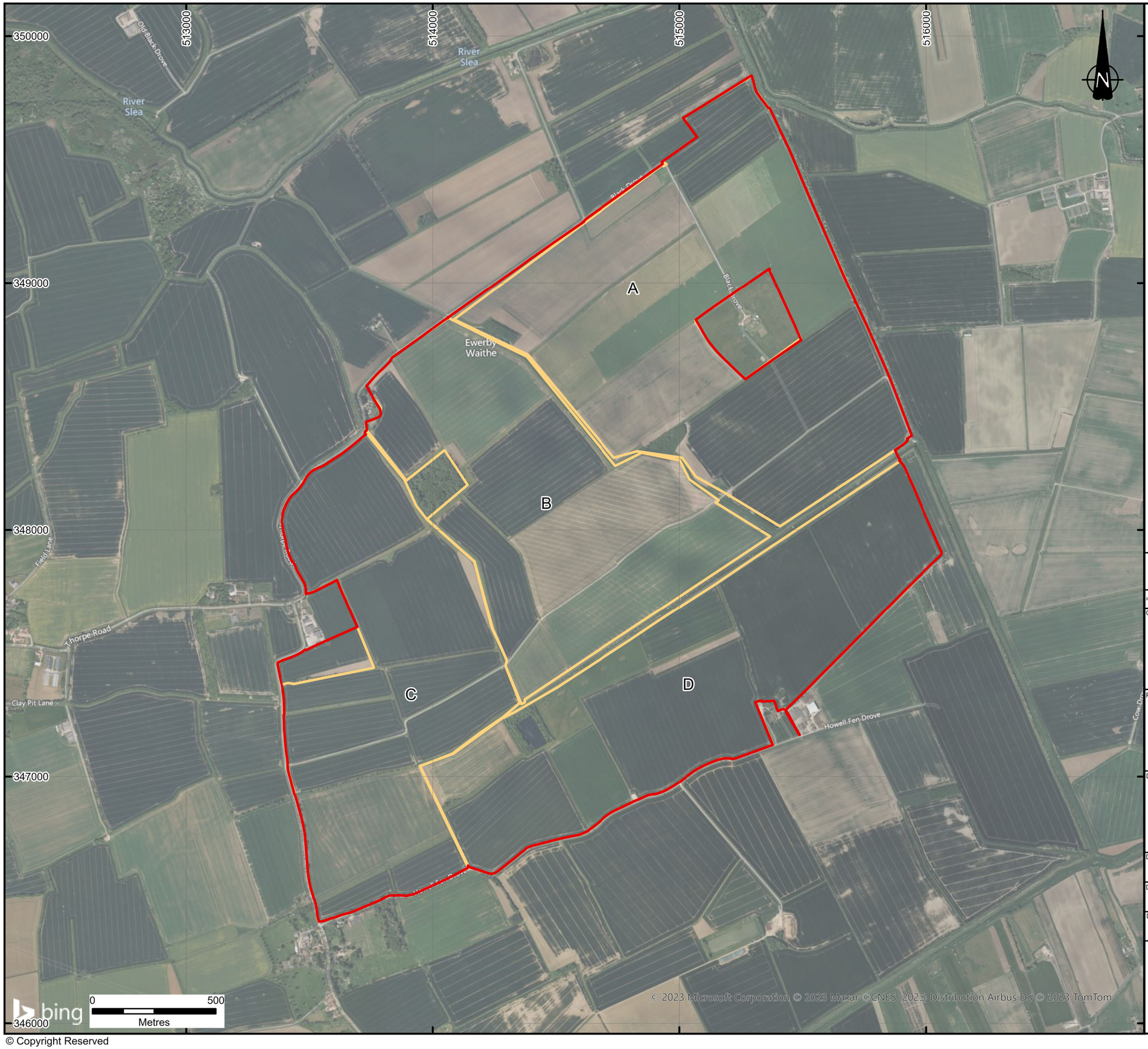
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: DRAWINGS



KEY

- Beacon Fen Energy Park
- Geophysical Survey Parcel

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative.

Site boundary provided by Ardent Management on 07/07/2023

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D
B	Revision of title and site boundary	25/07/23	HP	VA-J	LG
A	FIRST ISSUE	21/02/23	EK	VA-J	LG

CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY PARCEL LOCATIONS

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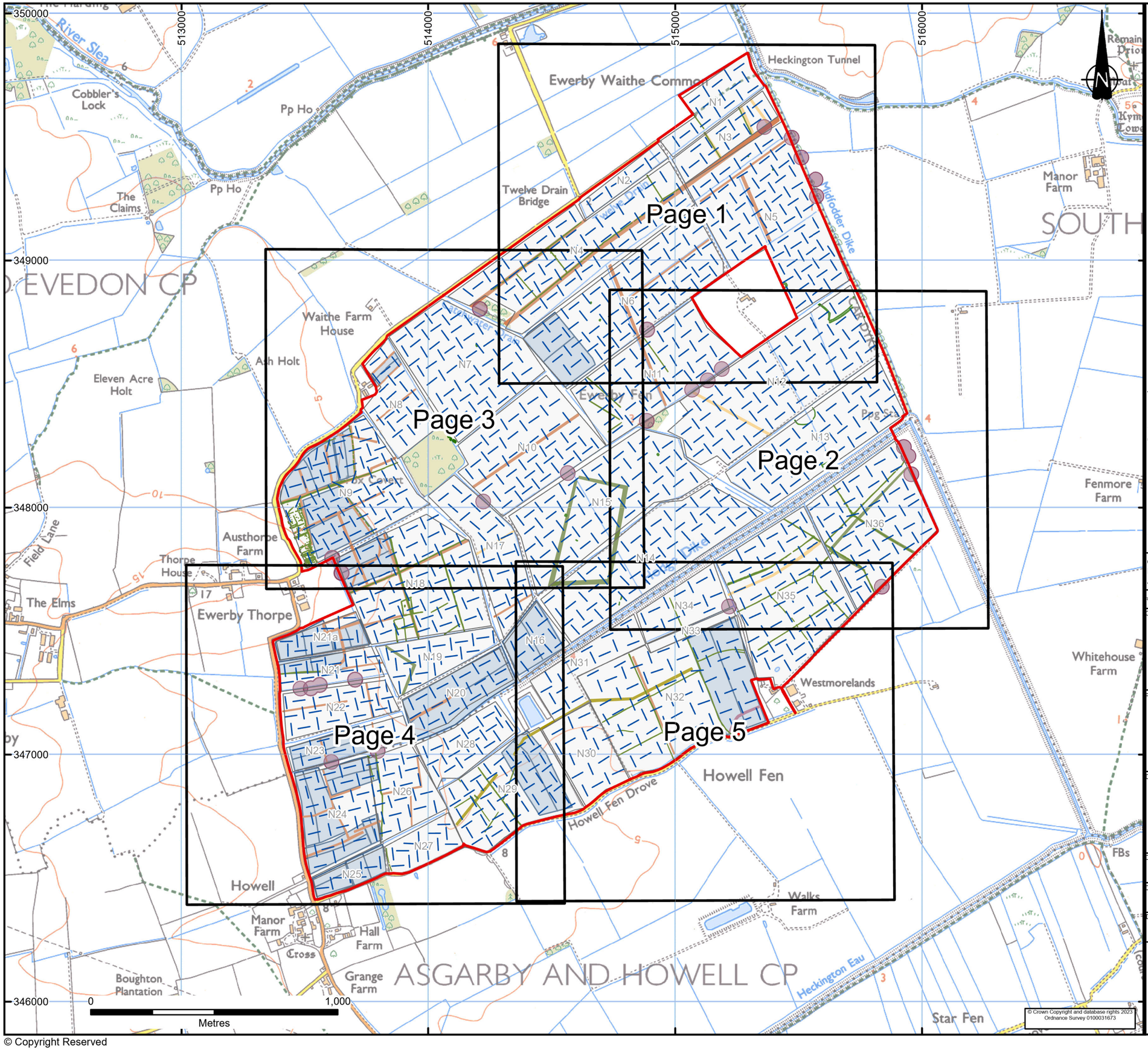
wardell armstrong



KEY

- Beacon Fen Energy Park
- Field References
- Page reference
- Trial Trenches
- Geophysical Survey results (probable archaeology)

Constraints

- Ecology Constraints

Features identified from Aerial Photography

- Possible Archaeological Features
- Former Trackway
- Historic Field Boundaries
- Alignment of Ridge and Furrow
- Area of Ridge and Furrow

Features identified from LiDAR

- Possible Archaeological Feature
- Historic Field Boundaries

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative.
Site boundary provided by Ardent Management on 07/07/2023

Features digitised from Aerial Photographs courtesy of Historic England's aerial photographic archive, Swindon

Features digitised from 2022 LiDAR courtesy of DEFRA. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D
C	Addition of trenches	30/08/23	HP	VA-J	LG
B	Revision of title	25/07/23	HP	VA-J	LG
A	FIRST ISSUE	07/07/23	HP	VA-J	LG

CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

TRIAL TRENCH PLAN:
BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK SHOWING CONSTRAINTS AND SURVEY RESULTS KEY SHEET

DRG No.		REV
ST19595-105		C
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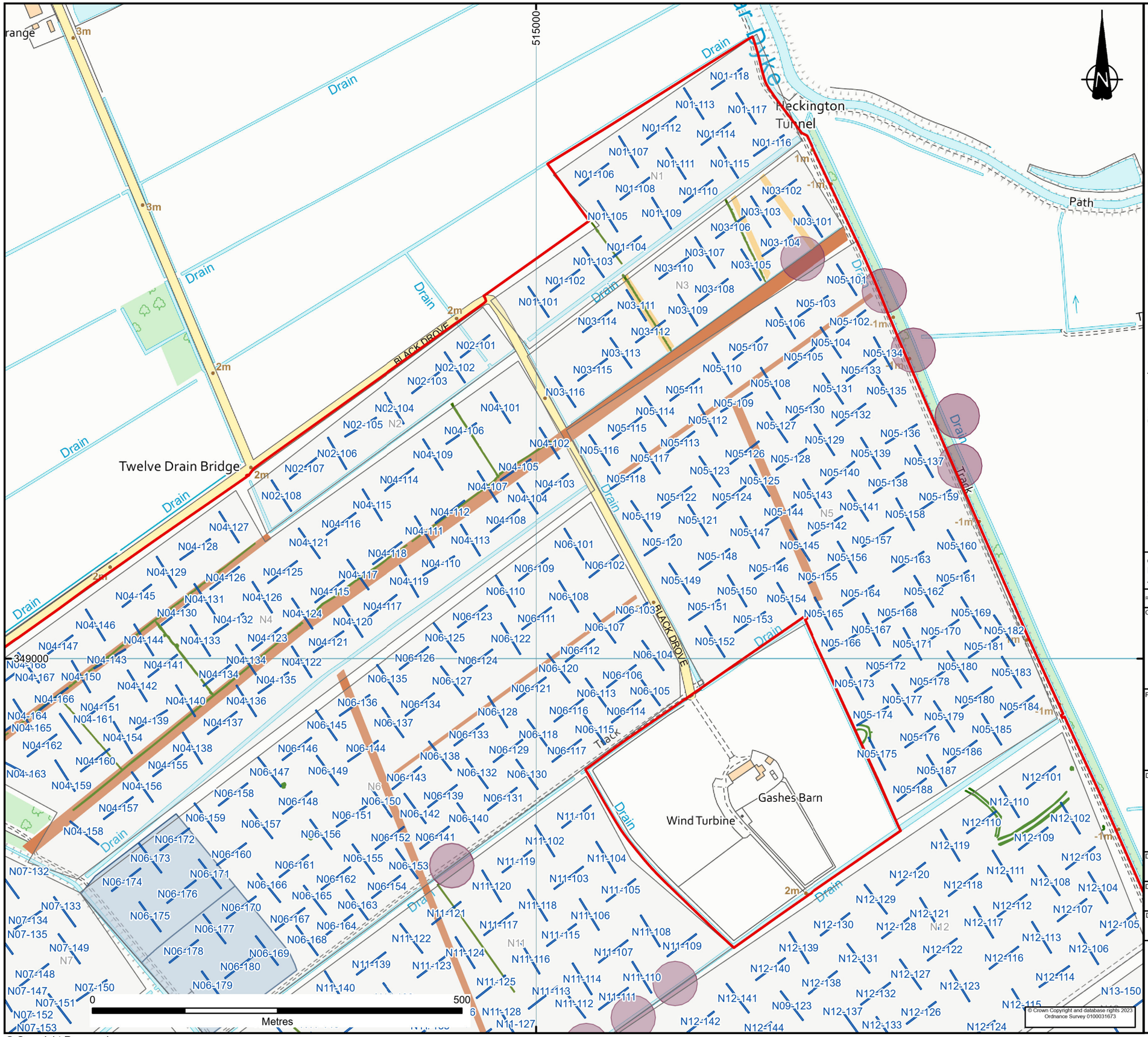
wardell armstrong



KEY

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BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

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DRAWING TITLE

TRIAL TRENCH PLAN:
BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK SHOWING CONSTRAINTS AND SURVEY RESULTS
PAGE 1 OF 5

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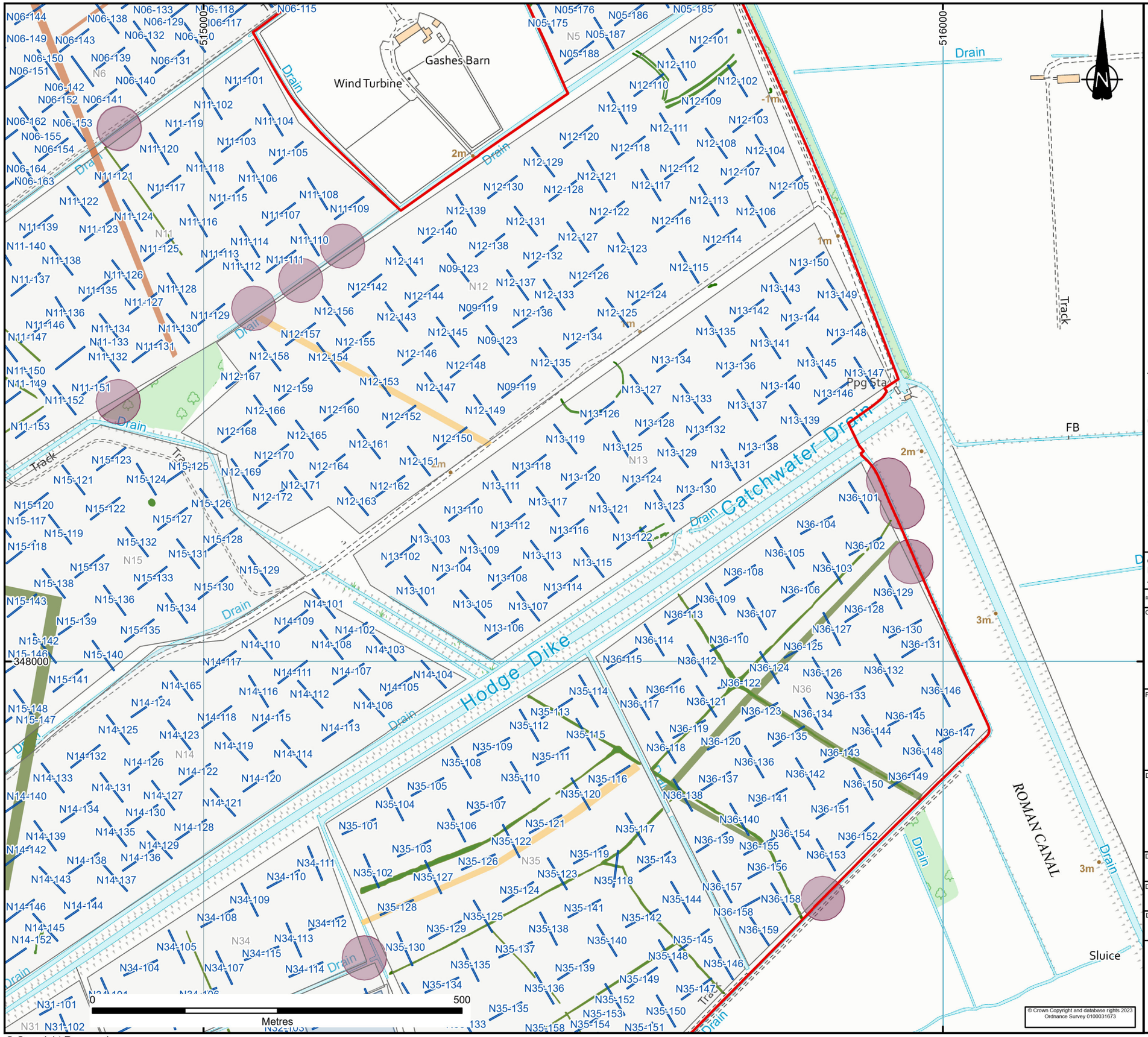

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PAGE 2 OF 5

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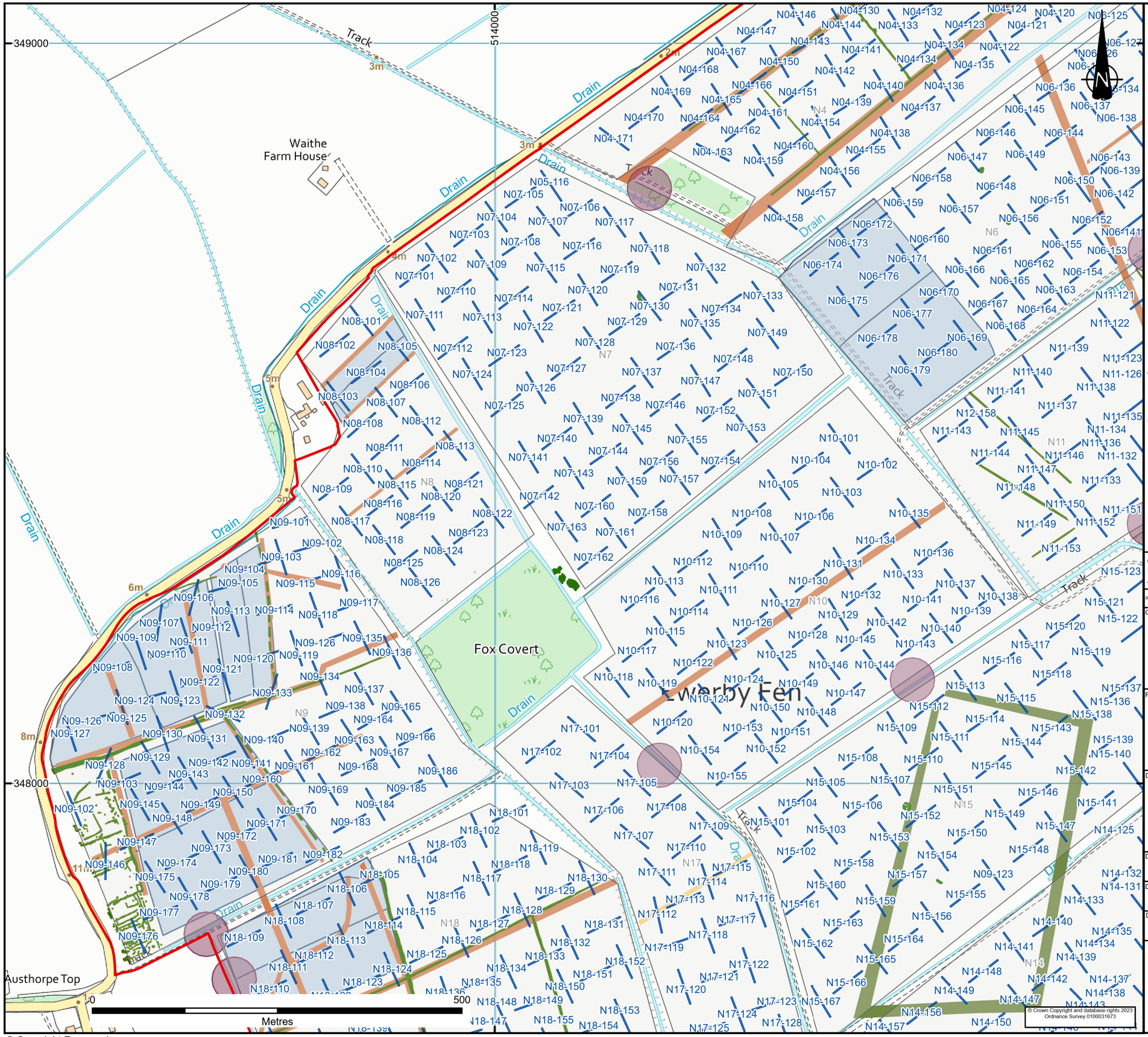

KEY

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CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

TRIAL TRENCH PLAN:
BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK SHOWING CONSTRAINTS AND SURVEY RESULTS
PAGE 3 OF 5

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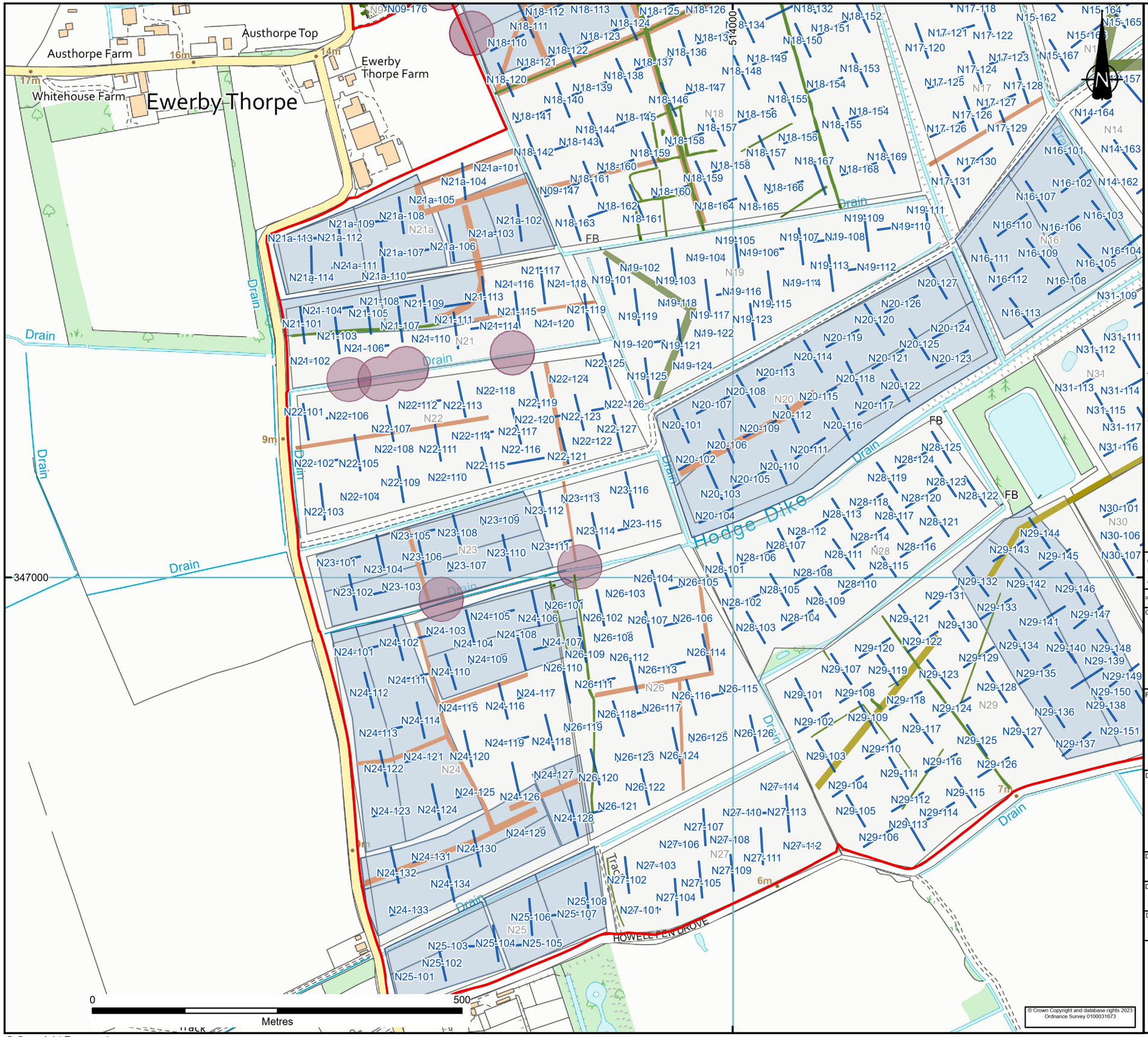

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PAGE 4 OF 5

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HP	VA-J	LG

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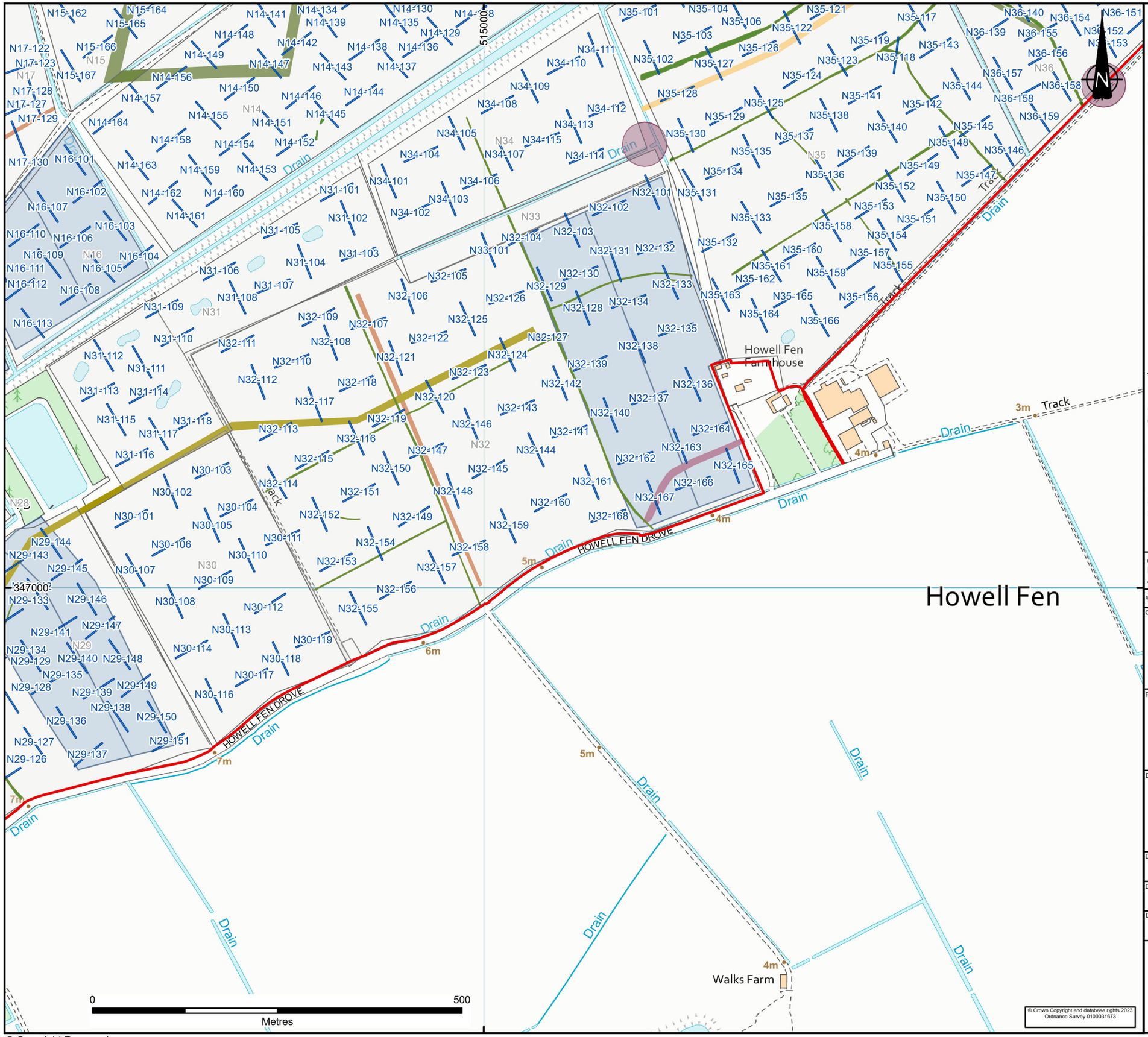

KEY

- Beacon Fen Energy Park
- Field References
- Trial Trenches

Features identified from Aerial Photography

- Possible Archaeological Features
- Former Trackway
- Historic Field Boundaries
- Alignment of Ridge and Furrow
- Area of Ridge and Furrow

Features identified from LiDAR

- Possible Archaeological Feature
- Historic Field Boundaries

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative.
Site boundary provided by Ardent Management on 07/07/2023

Features digitised from Aerial Photographs courtesy of Historic England's aerial photographic archive, Swindon

Features digitised from 2022 LiDAR courtesy of DEFRA. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D
C	Addition of trenches	30/08/23	HP	VA-J	LG
B	Revision of title	25/07/23	HP	VA-J	LG
A	FIRST ISSUE	07/07/23	HP	VA-J	LG

CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

TRIAL TRENCH PLAN:
BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK SHOWING CONSTRAINTS AND SURVEY RESULTS
PAGE 5 OF 5

DRG No.	REV
ST19595-105	C

DRG SIZE	SCALE	DATE
A3	1:5,000	08/09/2023

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
HP	VA-J	LG

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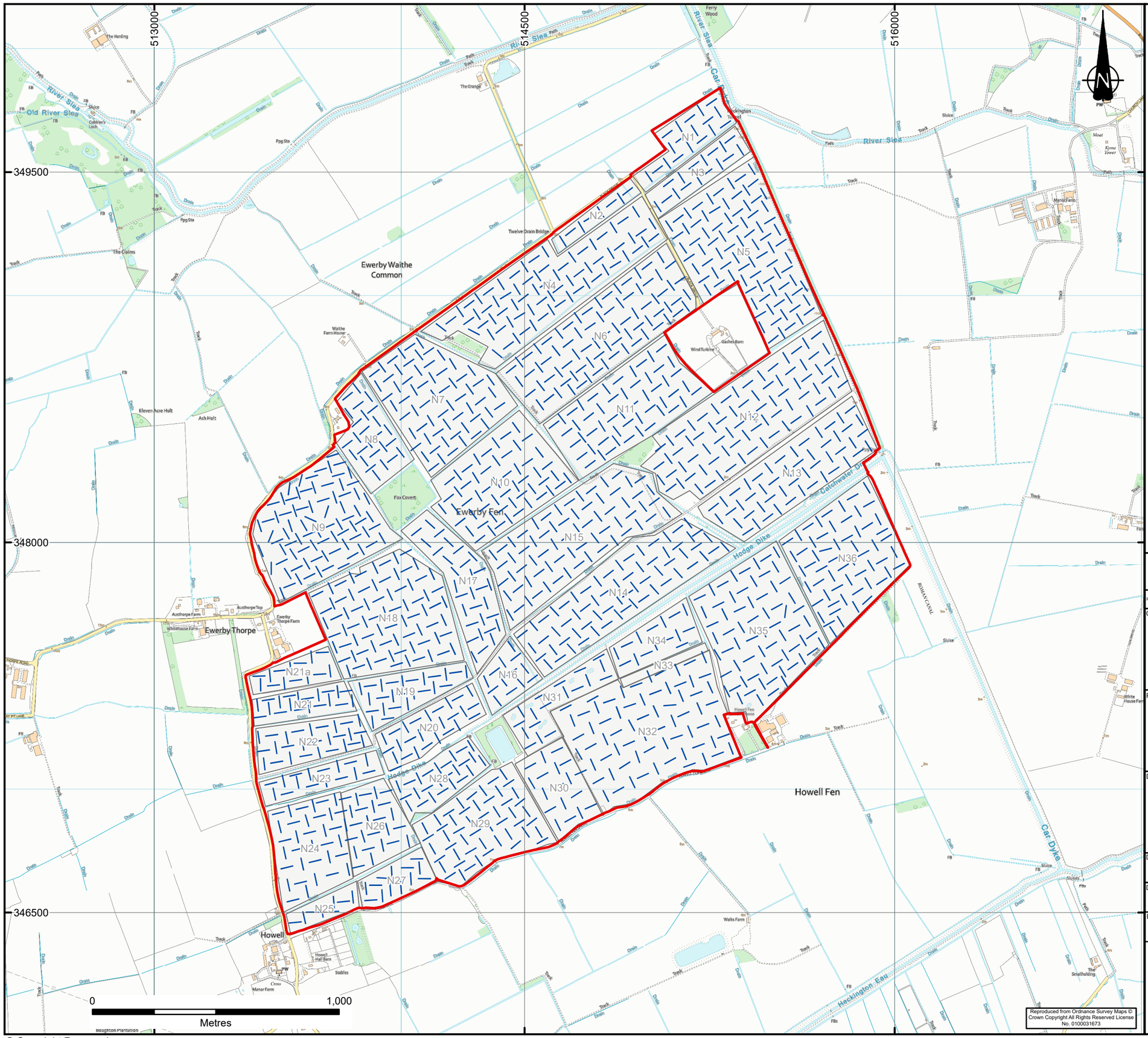

KEY

- Beacon Fen Energy Park
- Field References
- Trial Trenches

Notes:

Boundaries are indicative.

Site boundary provided by Ardent Management on 07/07/2023

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D
C	Addition of trenches	30/08/23	HP	VA-J	LG
B	Revision of title	25/07/23	HP	VA-J	LG
A	FIRST ISSUE	07/07/23	HP	VA-J	LG

CLIENT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK LTD

PROJECT

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRAWING TITLE

TRIAL TRENCH PLAN:
BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

DRG No.	REV
ST19595-110	

DRG SIZE	SCALE	DATE
A3	1:15,000	30/08/2023

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