



# **Lime Down**

## Solar Park

# **Environmental Statement**

## **Volume 3, Appendix 12-5: Interim Evaluation Trial Trenching Reports Part 2**

**September 2025**

**Revision 1**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010168**

**Document Reference: APP/6.3**

**APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)**





Lime Down Solar Park  
Site B  
Wiltshire

Report type: Archaeological Trial Trenching-Interim  
Report No. 4672

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Commissioned by	Lime Down Solar Park Ltd
Version	V4
Date Issued	July 2025
Grid Ref	ST 88493 85095
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-531917

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

**Lime Down Solar Park  
Lime Down B  
Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Interim Report  
Report No. 4672**

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## SUMMARY

*Archaeological evaluation trial trenching was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Lime Down B, Fields B5, B6, B7, B8, B9 and B11 of the proposed Lime Down Solar Park from in April 2025 to inform a planning application for a solar farm development. The purpose of the archaeological works was to identify and record any remains of archaeological and historical significance.*

*The archaeological features recorded across Lime Down B are indicative of rural settlement and agricultural practice dating from the Bronze Age to Iron Age. These features include rectilinear enclosures of varying complexity, ring ditches, and boundary ditches which may have served as land divisions or functional drainage.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an evaluation trial trenching undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) for Lanpro on behalf of Lime Down Solar Park Ltd, with archaeological evaluation trenching taking place between the 8<sup>th</sup> of April to the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2025. The CFA site code and project number for the works are LIDO4 and 5444, respectively.

The work was conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), produced by Lanpro (2024) and approved by the County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council (WC).

The works were required in support of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for a solar development. The Scheme consists of five electricity generating sites each with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) consisting of ground mounted solar arrays and 'Associated Development'; comprising energy storage, grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme.

### 1.1 Site Location and Description

The proposed Lime Down Solar Park comprises six sites (Lime Down A, B, C, D and E). The solar sites are located south and south-west of Malmesbury and cover an area of c.901ha within a swathe of land measuring approximately 9.5km from west to east and 4.5km from north to south.

Lime Down B is located in the parish of Norton and centered on ST 88493 85095 (Fig. 1). It is comprised of 111.92ha hectares of arable land. The north-western boundary of site was marked by the Foss Way. A north-west to south-east road bisects site with B1 – B5 on the south-east and B6 to B12 to the north-west. The topography across Lime Down B ranges from 87m aOD to 100m aOD.

The bedrock geology across site was mainly formed of Cornbrash Formation (Limestone), with bands of Forest Marble Formation (mudstone) across Fields B5 to B9.

Field B11 had a large are of Kellaways Clay Member (Mudstone). Much of Lime Down B has no recorded superficial geology, the exception being Head (Clay, silt, sand and gravel) the north of B11 and Alluvium (Clay, silt, sand and gravel) located over the Forest Marble Formation (BGS 2025).

The soils within Lime Down B comprised shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone (Soilscape 3), lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Soilscape 9) and slowly permeable, seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Soilscape 18; Landis, 2025).

## **1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

A full archaeological and historic background is available in the Desk Based Assessment (Lanpro 2024), and the relevant information from this document is summarised below. There are no designated heritage assets within Lime Down B. There are 19 non-designated heritage assets listed on the HER within the bounds of Lime Down B. They are described with their HER number below.

### ***Prehistoric***

Seven ring ditches or possible barrows were identified by aerial photography and cropmarks across Lime Down B (MWI64495), (MWI72518), (MWI72519), (MWI72520), (ST88NE618), (ST88SE610), (ST88SE611) and (ST88NE607). A further six possible Bronze Age barrows, or Iron Age settlements bounded by an enclosure ditch were also identified north of Norton Farm (ST88NE639). A further three Iron Age or Romano British enclosures and field boundaries are visible as cropmarks (MWI44994) north of Norton, (MWI72523) at Honey Lane and (ST88NE637) east of Bakers Gorse.

Cropmarks of conjoined, possibly double-ditched, ring ditches have been identified west of Highfield Farm, c.125m east of Field B12 (HER MWI64496), and two possible barrows have been identified south-east of Foxley, possible barrows have also been identified c.830m to the north-east of Field B12 (HER MWI72539), c.575m to the north-west of Field B6 (HER MWI72516), and c.420m to the north-west of Field B12 (HER ST88NE638).

In Field B6 and extending southwards into Field B5, a large undated rectilinear cropmark enclosure to the west of Baker's Gorse has been assigned a broad date range from the 'Early Iron Age' to the 'Medieval' period (HER ST88NE636). A similarly aligned group of field boundaries and a possible rectilinear enclosure identified to the south-east in Field B9 could also be part of the same field system (HER MWI44994)

### ***Roman***

The Fosse way, the Roman road running from Exeter to Lincoln forms the western Lime Down Boundary and still exists as a road and byway in part.

Possible roadside settlement has been identified from cropmarks to the north of the junction of the main route of the Fosse Way, north of Field B6 (HER ST88NE608). Further to the north, along the Fosse Way, a series of quarry pits have been identified by geophysical survey which may have been associated with the road's construction (HER MWI74339).

Within the wider search area, numerous cropmarks of boundary ditches and enclosures relating to possible Iron Age and/or Romano-British activity have been recorded in close proximity to Field B6, such as those at New Barn Farm (HER MWI74193), west of Bremilham Mill (HER ST98NW629), south of Cowage Farm (HER MWI72602), north of Foxley (HER ST88NE634), north of Baker's Gorse (HER ST88NE635; ST88NE624), north-east of Baker's Gorse (HER MWI64731) and north-west of Gorsey Leaze (HER ST88NE640). The location of the Roman Road from Easton Grey to Arlingham (HER MWI79403) also runs north-west to south-east towards Field B6

### ***Unknown Date***

Further cropmarks have been identified across the site area, with possible extraction pits or grubenhausen north of Norton Farm (MWI64726), further large pits have been identified north of Honey Lane (MWI72524). Ridge and furrow has been identified across the site area west of Norton Farm (MWI72517), at Foxley Manor Farm (MWI72522) and north of Honey Lane (MWI72569). A square enclosure was also identified by cropmarks west of Bakers Gorse (ST88NE636).

### **1.3 Previous Work**

A geophysical gradiometer survey has been undertaken across the entirety of the Lime Down Solar Park area, where this was feasible (ASWYAS 2025). In Site B, to the east of the Fosse Way, geophysical survey has identified possible linear trends that may be indicative of former field systems and an area of pit-like anomalies in Field B2. In Field B6 geophysical survey has mapped a series of rectilinear and subcircular anomalies that correspond with a square enclosure or field system of unknown date (ST88NE636) and a probable Bronze Age round barrow (HER ST88NE607). Further field systems are recorded on the HER (MWI44994) and have been confirmed by geophysical survey to be present in Field B9. As well as identifying anomalies associated with cropmarks of linear and sub-circular features in field B9 (ST88SE602 and ST88SE610), geophysical survey also identified a small sub-circular anomaly not recorded on the HER and it is possible these features continue into the adjacent Field B11. A linear anomaly is likely to be indicative of a ditch in the east of Field B11. Geophysical survey has mapped extensive features associated with probable Iron Age and/or Roman settlement (A18 and A19) and an associated field system in Field B12, which have also previously been recorded on the HER (ST88NE637).

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

In accordance with the WSI (Lanpro 2024), the overall aim of the archaeological evaluation trenching was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological

features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts, and record and report on the nature, extent, preservation and significance of such archaeological remains.

This will allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made for further archaeological mitigation works, the scope of which would be detailed in a project design in agreement with the Archaeological Advisor(s) to the relevant Local Planning Authority(s).

This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the Scheme;
- To excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret identified archaeological features;
- To report the results of the archaeological assessment and place them in their local and regional context; and
- To compile and deposit a site archive and to provide information for the HER.

## **2.1 Regional Research Framework**

Targeted research priorities will be identified from the South West England Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF 2024) in the complete report (forthcoming). Chosen research priorities may include:

- Research Aim 10: Address our lack of understanding of key transitional periods;
- Research Aim 39: Understand better the relationships of Neolithic and Bronze Age people to plants and animals;
- Research Aim 40: Improve our understanding of agricultural intensification and diversification in later prehistory.

## **3 WORKING METHODS**

### **3.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd is a registered organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CFA Archaeology follows all relevant CIfA and Historic England (formerly English Heritage) Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2020a, 2020b, 2022, 2023a & 2023b, English Heritage 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011 & 2012 and Historic England 2015a & 2015b).



All features and trenches were surveyed using an industry standard Trimble GPS. The same equipment was used to establish the levels above Ordnance Datum for the areas of archaeological investigation. Modern finds (c. 20th-century onwards) were identified but not retained.

A summary of the results of the archaeological works has been submitted for inclusion in the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS V, Appendix 2). The OASIS reference is cfaarcha1-531917.

### **3.2 Method of Excavation**

A total of 67no. 30m x 1.80m evaluation trenches were excavated across six fields (Fields B5, B6, B7, B8, B9 and B11 Figs. 1 & 2). These works were carried out in accordance with the methods specified in the WSI.

During the excavation of the evaluation trenches, the topsoil and any subsoils were removed down to the natural substrate or first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.20m thickness, using a rubber tracked 14t machine equipped with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The groundwork was carried out under direct archaeological supervision. All the exposed features were cleaned and excavated by hand and recorded in accordance with MOLAS field manual (1994). The sections of the excavated features were drawn at a 1:10 scale and planned at a 1:20 scale (Figs. in prep.).

All archaeological features were scanned with an XR ADX150 metal detector prior, during, and after excavation. The trenches and all archaeological remains were surveyed and tied into the National Grid using a Trimble GPS.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

The locations of the excavated trenches can be seen in Figure 1. The trenches containing archaeological features are described below. These results should be read in conjunction with Figures 1 & 2. A table detailing depth of topsoil and subsoil for each trench can be found in Appendix 1. Recorded trenches are prefixed by the site designation (B) and field number (#). Archaeological Features are given six-digit numbers, relating to the Field Number, Trench Number and Unique Number.

Unless otherwise stated, no finds were recovered from the following features.

### **4.1 Factual Summary of Key Archaeological Findings**

#### *Field B5*

Five trenches were excavated in Field B5, of which one had archaeological features recorded (Trench B5-05).

### *Field B6*

Nine trenches were excavated in Field B6, of which three had archaeological features recorded in them (Trenches B6-02, B6-03 and B6-11).

### *Field B7*

Twelve trenches were excavated in Field B7, there were no archaeological features within these trenches.

### *Field B8*

Five trenches were excavated in Field B8, of which one had archaeological features recorded (Trench B8-05)

### *Field B9*

Twenty-five trenches were excavated in Field B9, of which ten had archaeological features recorded in them (Trenches B9-01, B9-03, B9-06, B9-08, B9-09, B9-10, B9-13, B9-21 and B9-24).

### *Field B11*

Eleven trenches were excavated in Field B11, of which two had archaeological features recorded in them (Trenches B11-01 and B11-08)

## **4.2 Results by Trench**

### **4.2.1 Field B5**

#### ***Trench B5-05 (Fig. 2.1)***

Trench B5-05 contained a north-east to south – west orientated field boundary, located in the centre of the trench, this is present on historic mapping and was not excavated. A large ditch **B5-0503**, orientated north-east to south-west was located to the north-east of the trench. It had gentle, irregular sides and a sharp break of slope leading to an uneven base. It measured 2.80m wide, and 0.50m deep and contained three fills. The lowest fill **B5-0504** was a firm dark orange-brown silty clay with rare small angular limestone inclusions. Overlying this was the second fill **B5-0505** a firm mid yellow-brown silty clay with frequent small to large angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions. The third fill **B5-0506** was a dry mid red-brown silty clay, with occasional small to medium angular limestone inclusions.



***Plate 1: South-west facing section of Ditch B50503***

#### **4.2.2 Field B6**

##### ***Trench B6-02 (Fig. 2.2)***

Trench B6-02 contained one field boundary and a large pit. The Pit **B6-0204** was located to the south-eastern end of the trench (Plate 2). It was orientated north-west to south-east and was irregular in plan with irregular, U-shaped sides to an uneven base. It measured 4.75m wide, with a depth of 0.30m. It contained a single fill **B6-0205** a mid-yellowish brown, loose, sandy silt with frequent small to medium limestone inclusions.

The Field Boundary **B6-0206** was located in the centre of the trench (Plate 3). It was orientated north-west to south-east, with steep straight sides and a flat base. It measured, 1.30m wide, with a depth of 0.45m. It was filled by **B6-0207** a mid-yellowish brown, loose, sandy silt with frequent angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions.





***Plate 2: Oblique shot of Pit B6-0204***



***Plate 3: North-east facing section B6-0206***



### ***Trench B6-03 (Fig. 2.2)***

Trench B6-03 contained a ring ditch, with a shallow central pit.

The internal Pit **B6-0304** was located in the centre of the trench (plate 4). It was an irregular oval in plan, with shallow irregular sides with a sharp break of slope to an uneven base. It measured 2.10m long, with a width of >0.80m and a depth of 0.19m. It was filled with a single fill **B6-0305** which consisted of a mid-red-brown firm, silty clay with frequent medium angular limestone inclusions.

To the south-east end of the trench one side of the Ring Ditch **B6-0306** was excavated (plate 5). Orientated east-west, it was curvilinear in plan with steep, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to an uneven base. It measured 0.95m wide and 0.21m deep. It was filled by **B6-0307** which consisted of a mid-red-brown loose sandy silt with frequent small to medium angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions.

To the north-west end of the trench the return of the Ring Ditch **B6-0308** was excavated (plate 6). Orientated east-west it was curvilinear in plan, with steep, concave sides to a sharp break of slope to an uneven base. It measured 1.70m wide and 0.45m deep. it was filled by **B6-0309** which consisted of a light red-brown, loose, silty sand with frequent medium angular limestone inclusions.



***Plate 4: South-east facing section of Pit B6-0304***





***Plate 5: West facing section of Ditch B6-0306***



***Plate 6: East facing section of Ditch B6-0308***



### ***Trench B6-11 (Fig. 2.2)***

Trench B6-11 contained a field boundary and a single Ditch (**B6-1104**) located in the centre of the trench. Orientated north-west to south-east it with moderate concave sides to a gradual break of slope leading to an uneven base. It measured 0.47m wide and 0.08m deep. It was filled by **B6-1105** which consisted of a mid-yellow-brown friable sandy silt, with frequent small to medium angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions.

### ***Trenches B6-04, B6-06, B6-07, B6-09, B6-10***

These trenches contained field boundaries that were present on historic mapping and not excavated.

## **4.2.3 Field B8**

### ***Trench B8-05 (Fig. 2.3)***

Trench B8-05 contained a single Ditch **B8-0504** located towards the north-west end of the trench. Orientated north-east to south-west it had gentle convex sides to a gradual break of slope leading to a rounded base. It measured 1.5m wide and 0.33m deep. It was filled by **B8-0505** which consisted of a dark yellow-brown, firm, silty clay with frequent small to medium angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions, concentrated in the centre of the fill.



*Plate 7: North-eastern facing section Ditch B8-0504*

#### 4.2.4 Field B9

##### *Trench B9-01 (Fig. 2.4)*

Trench B9-01 contained a double ditch and a small pit. The Double Ditch **B9-0103** was located at the south-western end of the trench, orientated north-west to south-east, the western most cut had steep concave sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 1.10m wide, and 0.40m deep. It was filled with a single fill **B9-0104** which consisted of a mid-grey-brown loose sandy silt with frequent medium to large angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions. The eastern cut of the Double Ditch **B9-0105** had steep concave sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep. It was filled with a single fill **B9-0106** which consisted of a mid-grey-brown loose sandy silt with frequent medium to large angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions. Due to the unclear horizons between the two fills it was into possible to see a relationship between the ditches.

The Pit **B9-0107** was located to the north-eastern end of the trench. It was an oval in plan with moderate concave sides and a gradual break of slope to a rounded base. It measured 0.65m long, 0.56m wide, and 0.16m deep. It was filled by **B9-0108** which consisted of a mid-red-brown friable sandy silt.





***Plate 8: North-western facing section of Ditches B9-0103 and B9-0105***



***Plate 9: Plan shot of Pit B9-0107***



***Trench B9-03 (Fig. 2.4)***

Trench B9-03 contained a ditch and ditch terminus. The Ditch **B9-0303** was located to the north-western end of the trench and orientated north-east to south-west. It had steep convex sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured, 1.70m wide and 0.52m deep. It was filled by **B9-0304** which consisted of a mid-red-brown, friable silt with cobbles and frequent large to very large angular to sub angular limestone inclusions. This fill contained prehistoric pottery.

To the south eastern end of the trench was Ditch Terminus **B9-0305**, orientated north-east to south-west. It was rounded in plan, with moderate concave sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured >1.20m long, 1.60m wide and 0.52m deep. It was filled with a single fill **B9-0306** which consisted of a mid-grey-brown loose sandy silt with frequent medium to large, angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions.



***Plate 10: North-east facing section of Ditch B9-0303***





***Plate 11: North-eastern facing section of Ditch B9-0305***

***Trench B9-06 (Fig. 2.4)***

Trench B9-06 contained a large Ditch **B9-0603** located in the centre of the trench and orientated north-east to south-west, with steep concave sides and an imperceptible break of slope to a rounded base. It measured 2.25m wide and 0.86m deep. It was filled with two fills, the lowest fill **B6-0904** was a mid-orange-brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to large angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions. Fragments of prehistoric pottery were recovered. The second fill **B9-0605** was a mid-orange-brown, firm, clay silt with frequent small to large angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions. The fill contained pottery.





***Plate 12: South-western facing section of Ditch B9-0603***

***Trench B9-08 (Fig. 2.4)***

Trench B9-08 contained a single large Ditch **B9-0804** located to the western end of the trench and orientated north-east to south-west, with steep convex sides, the base was not exposed due to the depth of the feature. It measured 2.45m wide and was excavated to 0.65m deep. It contained two fills, the lowest fill **B9-0806** comprised a mid-orange-brown, friable, silty clay with moderate amounts of small to medium angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions. The second fill **B9-0805** comprised a mid-red-brown malleable silty clay with frequent small to medium angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions. This fill contained possible lithics and animal bone.





**Plate 13: South facing section of Ditch B9-0804**

**Trench B9-09 (Fig. 2.4)**

Trench B9-09 contained a ring ditch with two central features. The Ring Ditch **B9-0904** was excavated at the south-eastern end of the trench (Plate 14). It was curvilinear in plan with vertical concave sides and a sharp break of slope to an uneven base. It measured 0.75m wide and 0.55m deep. It was filled with a single fill **B9-0905** which comprised a light red-brown, firm, silt with abundant pebbles, frequent medium very angular limestone inclusions.

The most southern of the central Pits **B9-0906** (Plate 15) was orientated north-west to south-east and sub-oval in plan, with stepped concave sides to a sharp break of slope to an uneven base. It measured >1.4m long, 1.05m wide and 0.25m deep. It was filled with a single fill **B9-0907** which comprised a light red-brown, firm silty pebble, with frequent medium very angular limestone inclusions.

The return of the Ring Ditch **B9-0908** was excavated to the north-west end of the trench (Plate 16). It was curvilinear in plan with steep, straight sides to a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 1.40m wide and 0.60m deep. It was filled with two fills, the lowest fill **B9-0909** comprised a dark orange-brown, friable, sandy silt, with frequent medium to large limestone inclusions, and CBM fragments. The second fill **B9-0910** comprised a mid-orange-brown, friable, sandy silt.



The more northerly of the central pits **B9-0911** (Plate 17), was orientated north-east to south-west and was rectangular in plan, with moderate concave sides with a gradual break of slope to an uneven base. It measured >1.80m long, 2m wide and 0.35m deep. It was filled by **B9-0912** which comprised a mid-red-brown loose sandy silt with moderate small to medium angular to sub angular limestone inclusions.



***Plate 14: South-western facing section Ditch B9-0904***





***Plate 15: Plan view of Pit B9-0906***



***Plate 16: South-west facing section Ditch B9-0908***





*Plate 17: South-west facing section Pit B9-0911*

***Trench B9-10 (Fig. 2.4)***

Trench B9-10 contained a single Ditch **B9-1004** located in the centre of the of the trench. Orientated north-east to south-west, with moderate, concave sides to a sharp break of slope to an uneven base. It measured, 0.74m wide and 0.26m deep. It was filled with a single fill **B9-1005** which comprised a mid-orange-brown, loose, sandy silt, with frequent small to medium angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions.

***Trench B9-13 (Fig. 2.5)***

Trench B9-13 contained a single Ditch **B9-1303** located in the centre of the trench (Plate 18). Orientated north-east to south-west, with moderate concave sides, to a sharp break of slope to a rounded base. It measured 2.80m wide and 0.62m deep. It was filled with two fills, the lowest fill **B9-1304** comprised a mid-yellow-brown, friable, clay silt, with frequent large angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions, the fill also contained pottery and animal bone. The second fill **B9-1305** comprised a light grey-brown, friable, clay silt, with frequent small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded limestone.





*Plate 18: South-west facing section of Ditch B9-1303*

***Trench B9-21 (Fig. 2.5)***

Trench B9-21 contained a field boundary and a ditch, the field boundary was present on historic mapping and not excavated. The Ditch **B9-2103** was located in the centre of the trench and orientated north to south, it was curvilinear in plan with steep concave sides to a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 0.71m wide and 0.29m deep. It was filled by two fills, the lowest **B9-2104** comprised a mid-orange-brown, firm, silt with cobbles, with frequent small to very large, angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions. The second fill was **B9-2105** comprised a mid-red-brown, firm, clay silt, with moderate flecks to medium, angular limestone inclusions.





***Plate 19: South facing section of Ditch B9-2103***

***Trench B9-24 (Fig. 2.4)***

Trench B9-24 contained a single Ditch **B9-2404**, located in the centre of the trench (Plate 20). Orientated east to west, with moderate straight sides to a sharp break of slope to an uneven base. It measured, 0.61m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled by a single fill **B9-2405** which comprised a mid-orange-brown, loose, sandy silt, with moderate small, to medium, angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions.





***Plate 20: East facing section of Ditch B9-2404***

***Trenches B9-04, B9-14, B9-15, B9-19, B9-22, B9-23***

Trenches B9-04, B9-14, B9-15, B9-22, and B9-23 contained field boundaries that were present on historic mapping and not excavated.

**4.2.5 Field B11**

***Trench B11-01 (Fig. 2.6)***

Trench B11 contained a single Ditch **B11-0103** located in the centre of the trench (Plate 21). Orientated north-west to south-east, with straight stepped sides to one the western edge and straight vertical sides to the eastern edge, with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 1.15m wide and 0.43m deep. It was filled by a single fill **B11-0104** which comprised a mid-orange-brown, firm, silty clay, with frequent large angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions, concentrated in the centre of the fill.





***Plate 21: South-east facing section Ditch B11-0104***

***Trench B11-08 (Fig. 2.6)***

Alongside ridge-and-furrow trends, Trench B11-08 contained a single Ditch: Ditch **B11-0804** located to the north-west end of the trench (Plate 22). Orientated north-west to south-east with moderate concave sides to a gradual break of slope to a rounded base. It measured 0.86m wide and 0.19m deep. It was filled with a single fill **B11-0805** which comprised a very light orange-brown, firm, silty-clay.





***Plate 22: South-east facing section of Ditch B11-0804***

## **5 INTERIM FINDS SUMMARY**

The pre-quantified finds from Lime Down B can be found in Table 1 below, organised by find type. At this stage, no cleaning or specialist assessment has been undertaken.

<b>Find Type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
Animal Bone	41	517
CBM	1	3
Iron Nail	4	42
Lithic	2	14
Pottery	22	156
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>732</b>

**Table 1: Artefactual Finds Pre-Quantification**

### **5.1 Interim Pottery Summary**

At this preliminary stage, pottery sherds were examined visually for spot dating only, with no further specialist analysis undertaken. The assemblage was minimal and in poor condition, with all sherds heavily abraded, featureless, and lacking diagnostic elements.

Body sherds were recovered from contexts **B9-0304**, **B9-0605**, and **B9-1304**. These consisted of handmade, shell-tempered wares with a range of temper sizes from coarse (up to 8 mm) to fine. The surfaces were pitted due to the loss of shell inclusions, and no decoration or form features were observed.

Shell-tempered wares are common in the region and span a broad chronological range from the Early Prehistoric period to the Medieval period. However, the generally crude manufacture and fabric characteristics of these examples suggest a Bronze Age to Iron Age date. Due to the poor preservation and lack of diagnostic features, more precise dating is not currently possible.

Context	Notes	Spot date
B9-1304	Sherds of handmade coarse shell tempered body sherds	BA-IA
B9-0605	Sherds of handmade fine to medium shell tempered body sherds	BA-IA
B9-0304	Sherds of handmade shell tempered body sherds common vesicles	BA-IA

**Table 2: Pottery Preliminary Spot dates**

## 5.2 Interim Animal Bone Summary

Some animal bone has been recovered from a range of features reported on within this interim report. The results from the animal bone assessment will be included in the final report.

## 5.3 Interim Palaeo-Environmental Summary

Samples have been taken from a range of features reported on within this interim report. The results from the environmental assessment will be included in the final report.

## 5.4 Interim Metal Summary

Some metal has been recovered from a range of features reported on within this interim report. The results from the metal assessment will be included in the final report

## 5.5 Interim Lithics Summary

Some lithics have been recovered from a range of features reported on within this interim report. The results from the lithics assessment will be included in the final report.

## **6 INTERIM DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

### **6.1 Field B5**

Field B5 had a large enclosure and several sub-circular features identified by geophysical survey and on the HER record, as well as a field boundary present on historic mapping. Trench **B5-05** was located to target the possible archaeological anomalies identified by geophysical survey and recorded one large pit and a field boundary which was not excavated. The large pit had no dating evidence.

### **6.2 Field B6**

The trenching in Field B6 confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, trench **B6-02** had two features a field boundary and a large pit, the large pit was interpreted as a quarry pit. In trench **B6-03** a sub-circular ditch was identified with a shallow central feature, excavating this appeared to confirm the HER record (ST88NE607) as a Barrow, but no datable evidence was recovered. In **B6-11** a small ditch confirmed the geophysical survey. Former field boundaries were identified in **B6-04**, **B6-06**, **B6-07** and **B6-09**, these were on historic mapping and were not excavated. The anomaly identified by geophysical survey in trench **B6-10**, that corresponded with a cropmark, was a stone lined drain, most likely a former field boundary, but not on historic mapping.

### **6.3 Field B7**

The HER Record (MWI64726) shows some pits on the south-eastern edge of Field B7. This was targeted in Trench **B7-04** but not identified. A linear anomaly identified by geophysical survey in Trench **B7-05** was identified and partially excavated, the ditch was found to have modern glass and CBM and was therefore deemed to be modern in date.

### **6.4 Field B8**

There were no HER monument records for this field. The geophysical survey identified a possible ditch in **B8-05** which was confirmed however no dating evidence recovered.

### **6.5 Field B9**

The geophysical survey identified numerous linear features across Field B, some possibly forming an Iron-Age enclosure or field system. This was targeted by trenches **B9-01**, **B9-03** and **B9-08**, and was recorded in all of the trenches, with prehistoric pottery recovered from one of the ditches in **B9-03**, animal bone was recovered from **B9-08**. Trench **B9-06** also targeted a ditch, this was confirmed and contained prehistoric pottery, while the feature targeted in **B9-13** contained a large amount of animal bone.

Linear features identified by the geophysical survey were also confirmed in trenches **B9-10**, **B9-17** and **B9-24**, however no finds were recovered, and it is difficult to ascertain if they are associated with older prehistoric field systems or more modern land use.

A round barrow identified on the geophysical survey and as a cropmark HER (MWI64495) was targeted in trench **B9-09** and was formed of steep sided ditches with two shallow internal pits. This was sterile with no dateable finds.

Field boundaries present on historic mapping and identified by the geophysical survey where present in trenches **B9-04**, **B9-14**, **B9-15**, **B9-19**, **B9-21** and **B9-23**.

In Trench **B9-21** the geophysical survey identified a field boundary and another ditch on a different alignment, this was confirmed in the trench, however no dating evidence was recovered, this feature continued into Field **B11** and does not correspond with historic field boundaries.

The geophysical survey identified an area of high archaeological potential which was targeted by **B9-05**, however this appeared to be a very mixed and fractured limestone natural. A ditch targeted by trench **B9-16** was identified as a field drain.

## **6.6 Field B11**

The geophysical survey in Field **B11** identified a north-to-south archaeology trend that was recorded as a ditch in Trench **B11-01**.

Trench **B11-08** identified a north-west to south-east orientated ditch that was not present on the geophysical survey.

The remainder of the trenches exposed field drains, relict cultivation furrows, or were blank.

## **6.7 Conclusion**

The archaeological features recorded across Lime Down B are indicative of rural settlement and agricultural practice dating from the prehistoric period. Archaeological activity was mainly concentrated in Field B9 with an outlying feature in Field B5.

Further assessment of the artefactual finds will provide greater information and will be included in the final assessment report.

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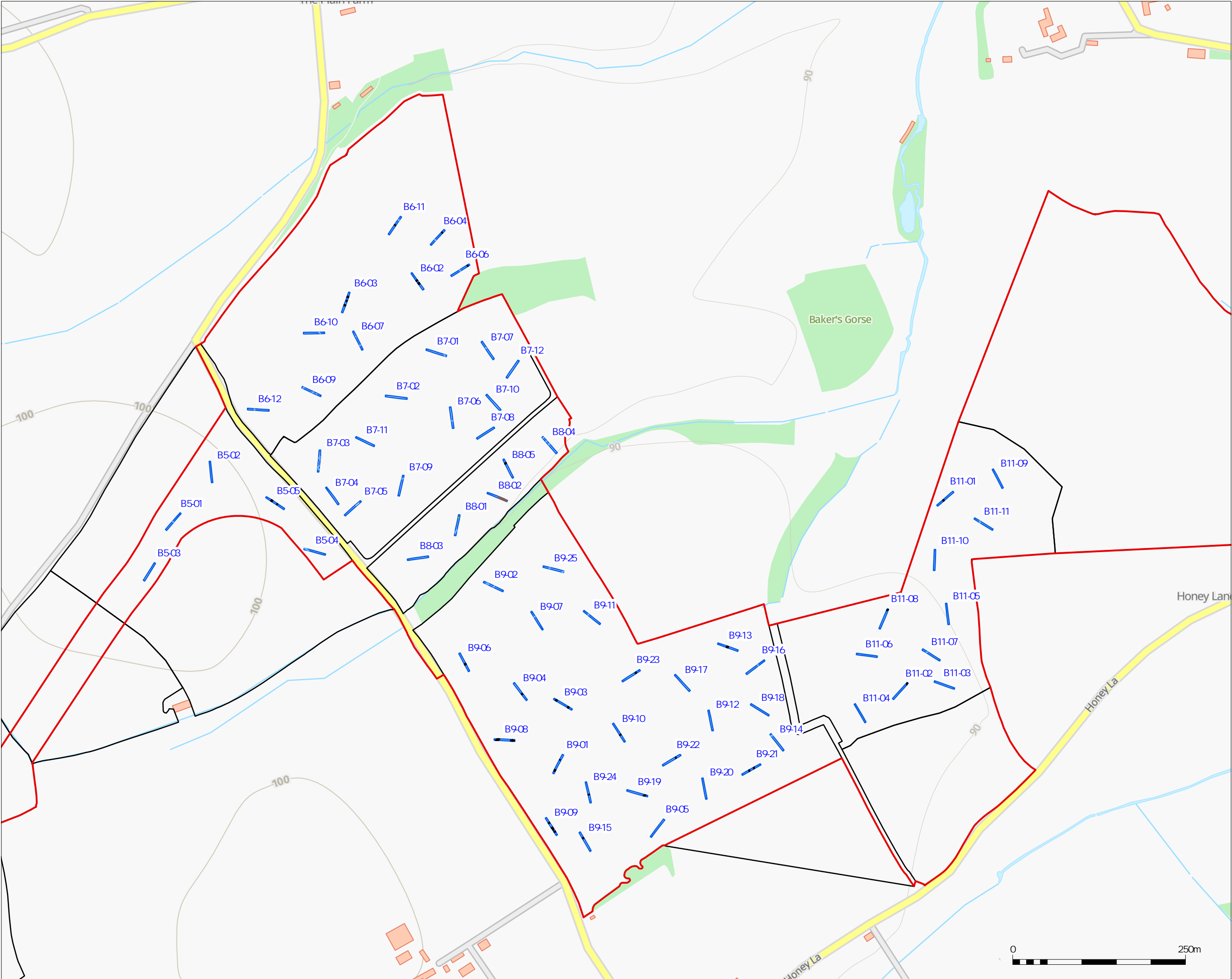
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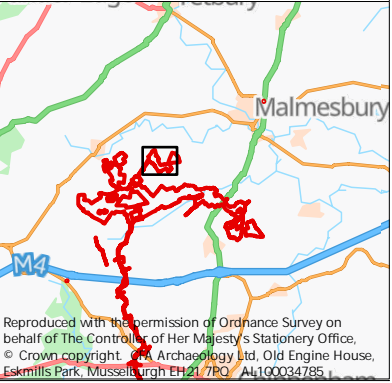


## **FIGURES**



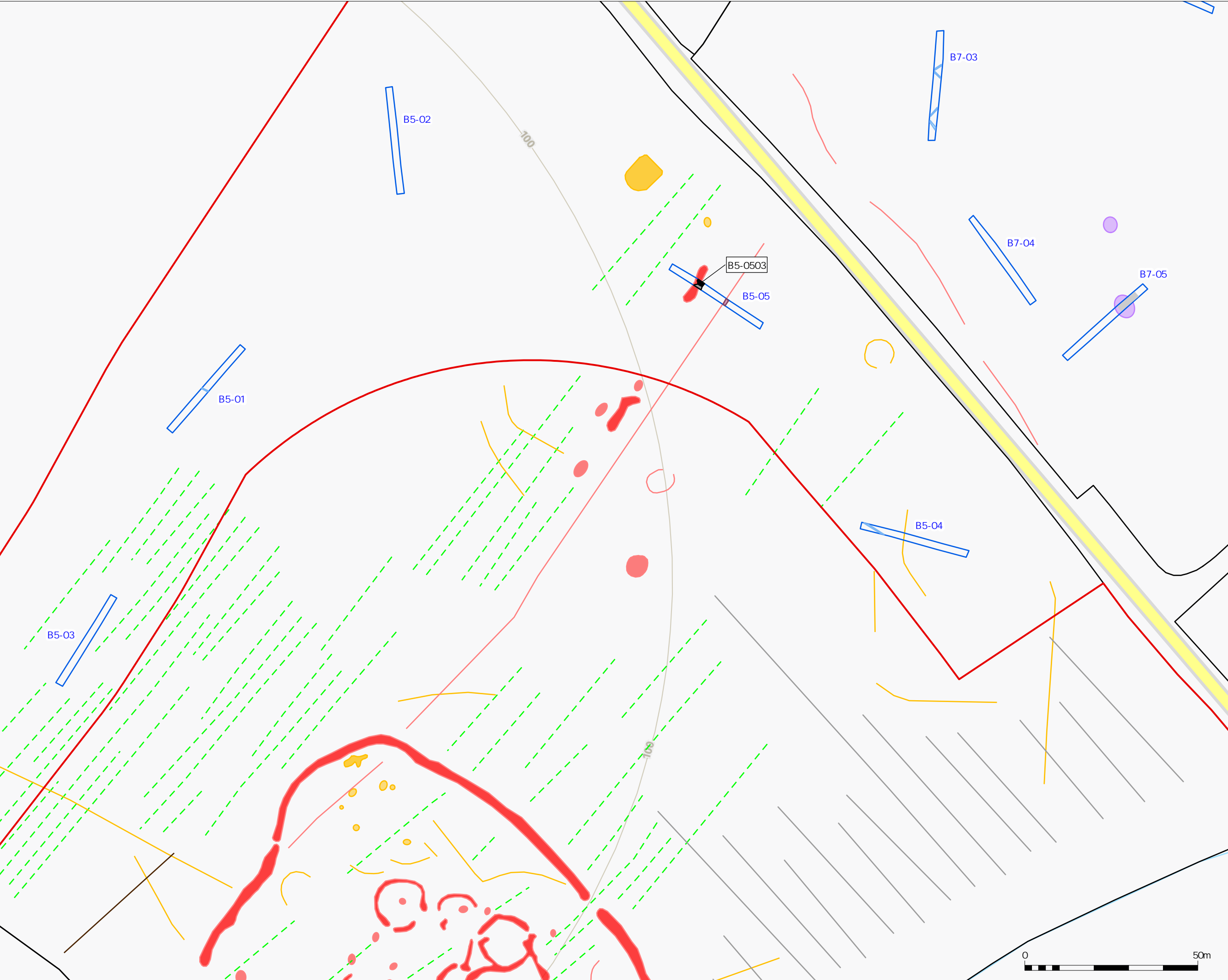
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- Furrow
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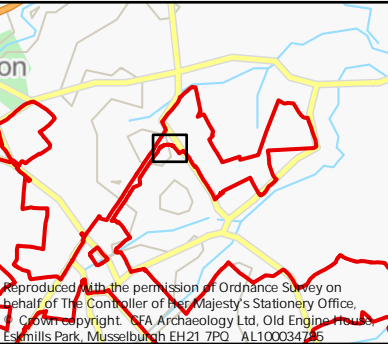
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Report No: 4672		Fig. No: 1





Key:

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- Archaeological Feature
- Excavated Feature
- Field Boundary
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- Archaeology
- Archaeology?
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- Ferrous



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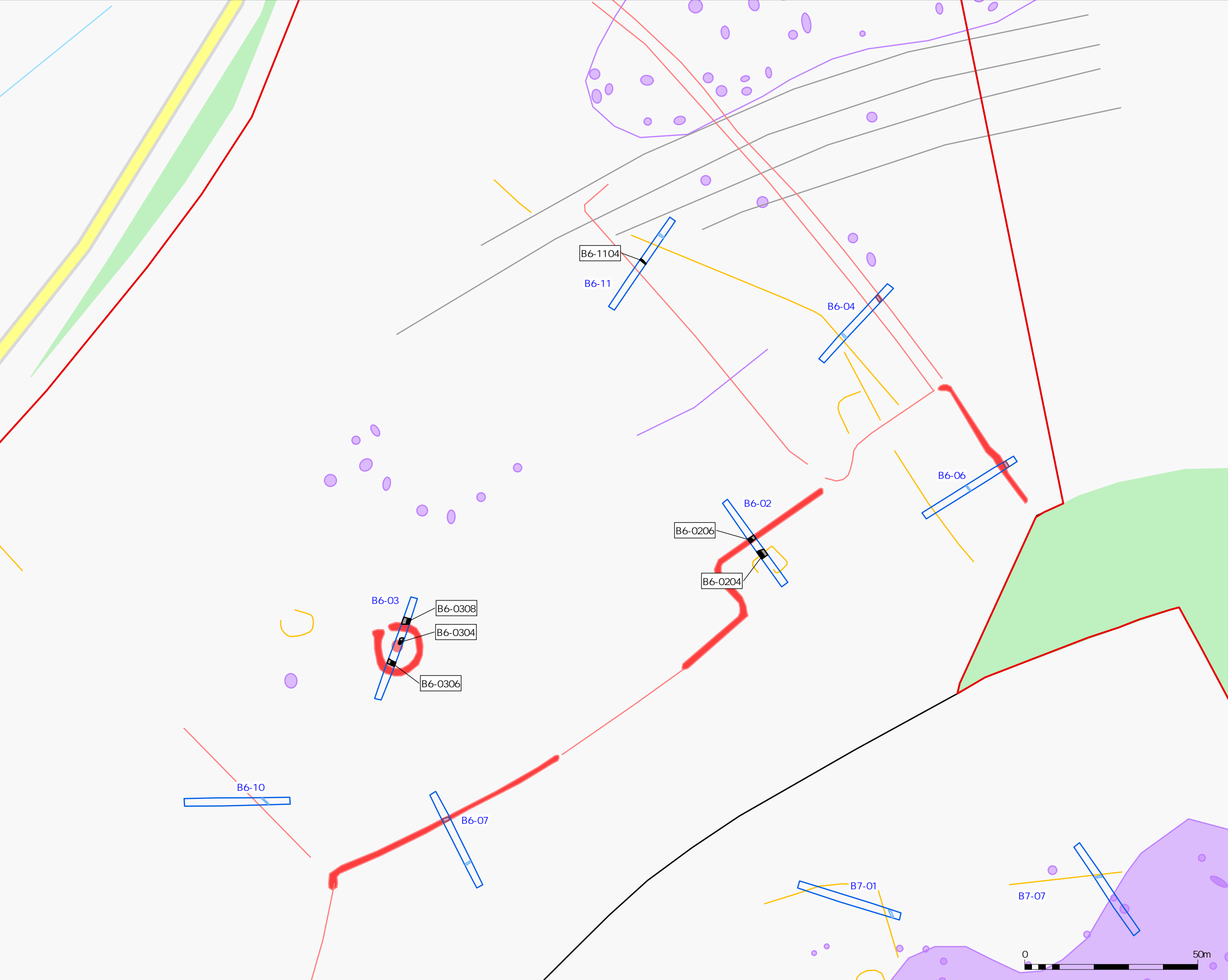
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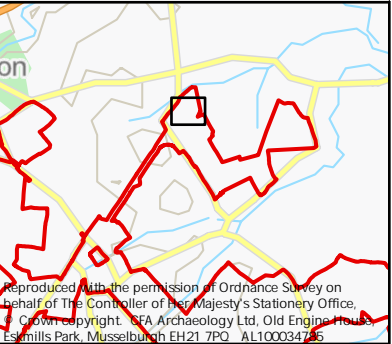
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- Archaeology?
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- Uncertain
- Ferrous



Title:  
Trench Plans

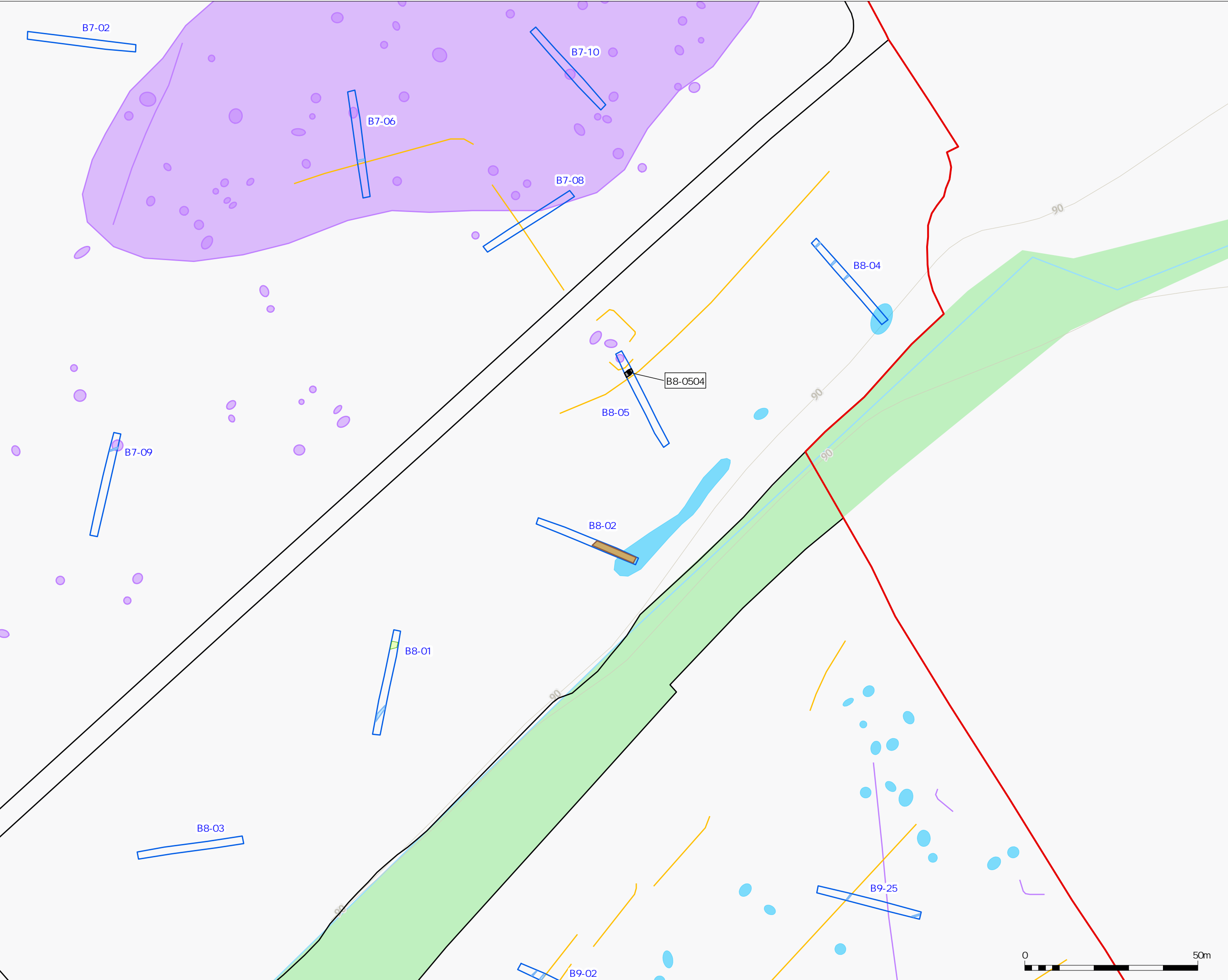
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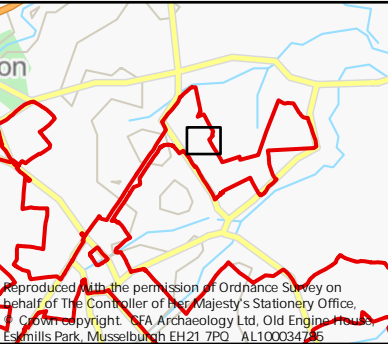
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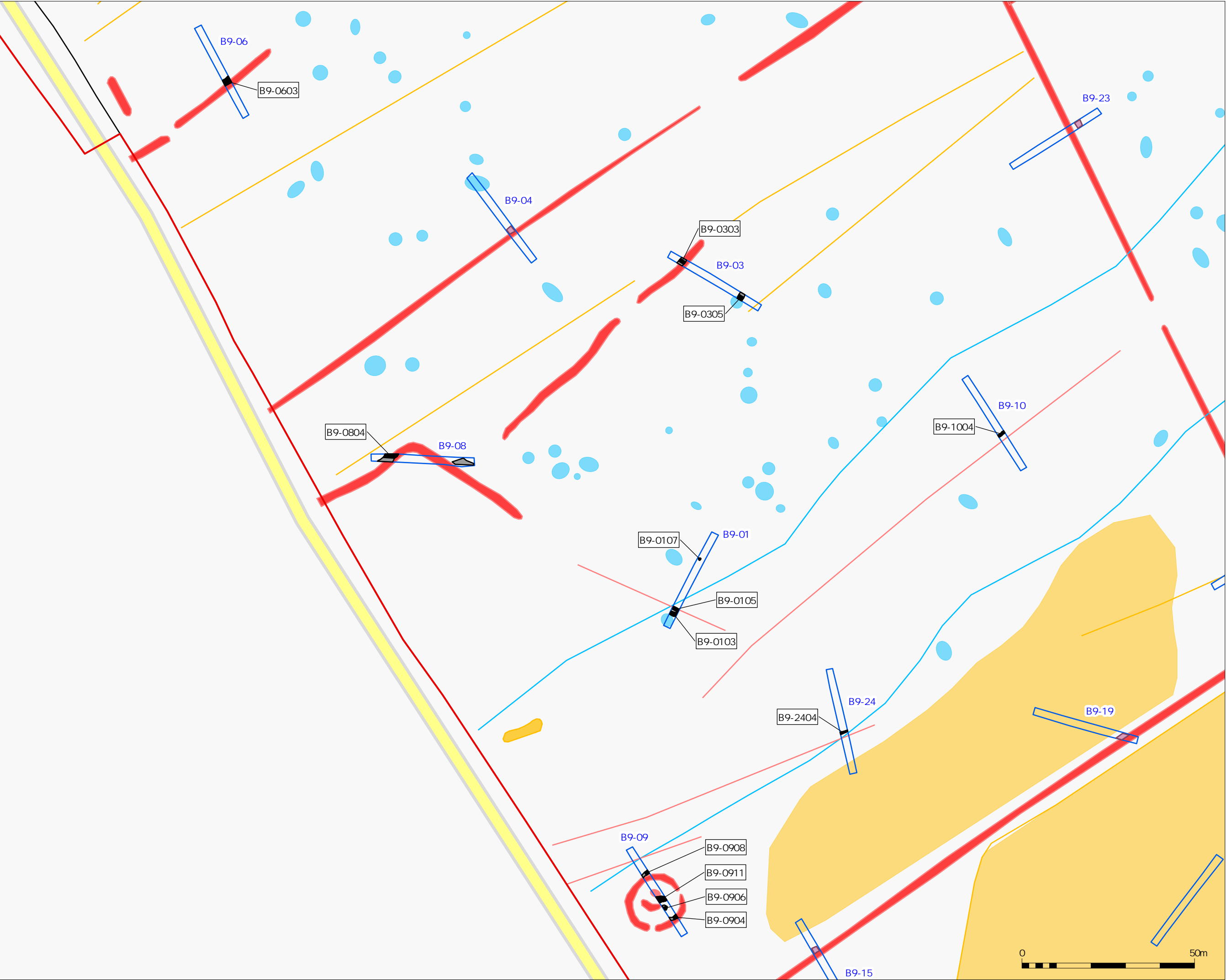
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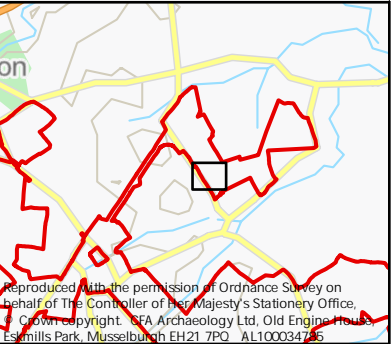
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- Archaeological Feature
- Excavated Feature
- Field Boundary
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- Furrow
- Modern
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- Archaeology
- Archaeology?
- Geology
- Geology



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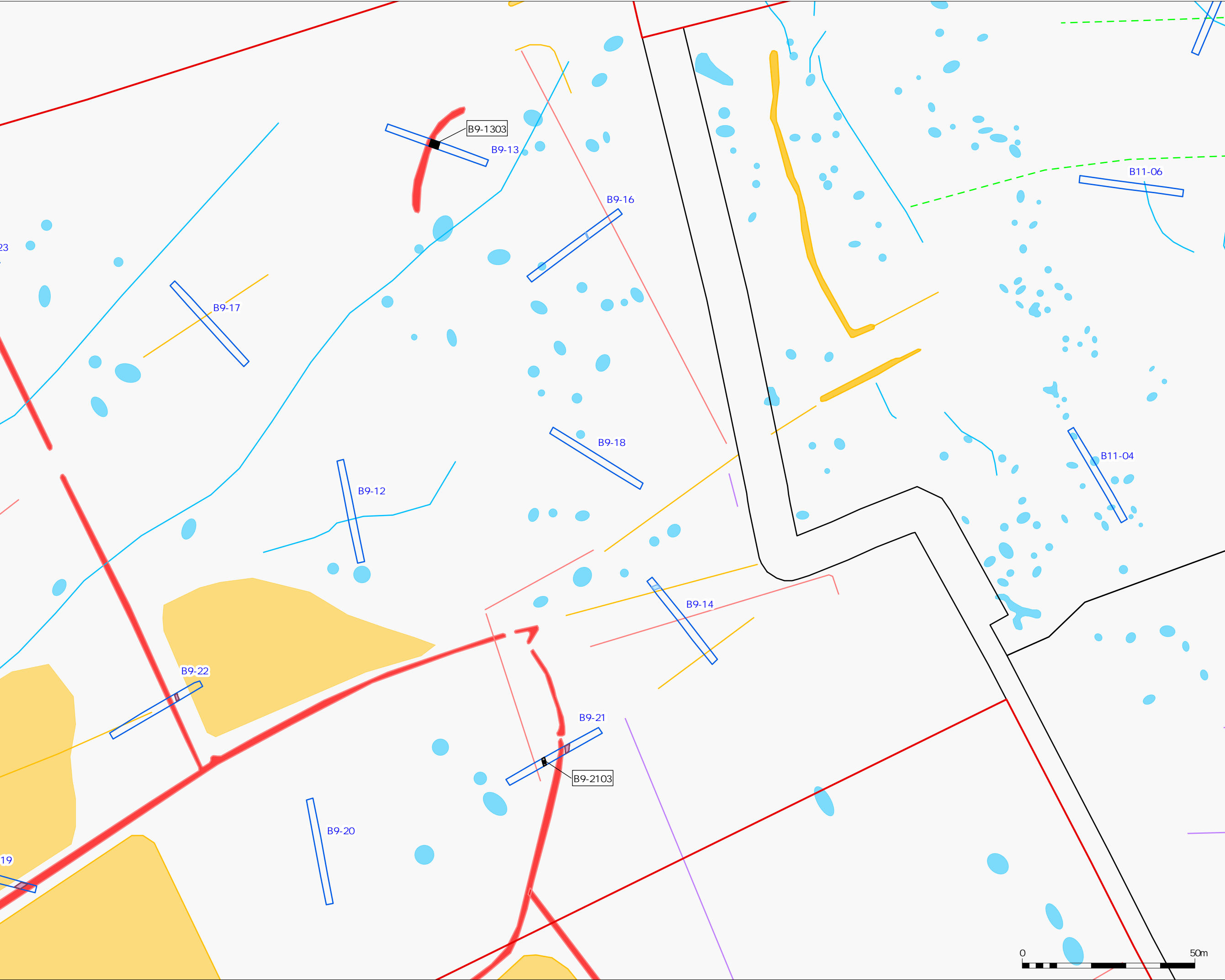
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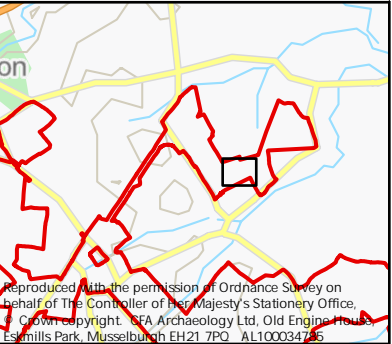
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- Excavated Feature
- Field Boundary
- Field Drain
- Furrow
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- Ridge and Furrow
- Uncertain
- Geology
- Geology



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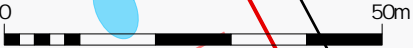
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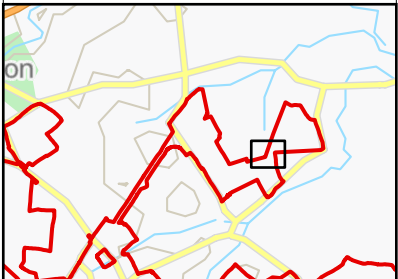

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## APPENDIX 1

### Trench Strata Summary

Context	Trench	Field	Title	Depth (m)
050101	B5-01	B5	Topsoil - Trench B5-01	0.30 to 0.40
050201	B5-02	B5	Topsoil - Trench B5-02	0.25 to 0.35
050301	B5-03	B5	Topsoil - Trench B5-03	0.30 to 0.40
050401	B5-04	B5	Topsoil - Trench B5-04	0.30 to 0.35
050501	B5-05	B5	Topsoil - Trench B5-05	0.30 to 0.40
060201	B6-02	B6	Topsoil - Trench B6-02	0.45 (avg.)
060301	B6-03	B6	Topsoil - Trench B6-03	0.35 (avg.)
060401	B6-04	B6	Topsoil - Trench B6-04	0.28 (avg.)
060601	B6-06	B6	Topsoil - Trench B6-06	0.35 (avg.)
060701	B6-07	B6	Topsoil - Trench B6-07	0.40 (avg.)
060901	B6-09	B6	Topsoil - Trench B6-09	0.35 (avg.)
061001	B6-10	B6	Topsoil - Trench B6-10	0.40 (avg.)
061101	B6-11	B6	Topsoil - Trench B6-11	0.30 (avg.)
061201	B6-12	B6	Topsoil - Trench B6-12	0.35 (avg.)
070101	B7-01	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-01	0.30 to 0.40
070201	B7-02	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-02	0.30 to 0.40
070301	B7-03	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-03	0.45 (avg.)
070401	B7-04	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-04	0.35 to 0.45
070501	B7-05	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-05	0.25 to 0.35
070601	B7-06	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-06	0.40 to 0.50
070701	B7-07	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-07	0.30 to 0.40

Context	Trench	Field	Title	Depth (m)
070801	B7-08	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-08	0.35 to 0.45
070901	B7-09	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-09	0.30 to 0.40
071001	B7-10	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-10	0.35 to 0.45
071101	B7-11	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-11	0.25 to 0.35
071201	B7-12	B7	Topsoil - Trench B7-12	0.30 to 0.40
080101	B8-01	B8	Topsoil - Trench B8-01	0.25 to 0.35
080201	B8-02	B8	Topsoil - Trench B8-02	0.25 to 0.35
080301	B8-03	B8	Topsoil - Trench B8-03	0.20 to 0.30
080401	B8-04	B8	Topsoil - Trench B8-04	0.30 to 0.40
080402	B8-04	B8	Subsoil - Trench B8-04	0.00 to 0.10
080501	B8-05	B8	Topsoil - Trench B8-05	0.20 to 0.40
090101	B9-01	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-01	0.30 to 0.40
090201	B9-02	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-02	0.30 to 0.40
090301	B9-03	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-03	0.25 to 0.35
090401	B9-04	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-04	0.30 to 0.40
090501	B9-05	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-05	0.30 to 0.40
090601	B9-06	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-06	0.30 to 0.40
090701	B9-07	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-07	0.20 to 0.30
090801	B9-08	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-08	0.30 to 0.40
090901	B9-09	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-09	0.30 to 0.40
091001	B9-10	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-10	0.30 (avg.)
091101	B9-11	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-11	0.30 to 0.40
091201	B9-12	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-12	0.30 to 0.40
091301	B9-13	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-13	0.30 to 0.40

Context	Trench	Field	Title	Depth (m)
091401	B9-14	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-14	0.30 to 0.40
091501	B9-15	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-15	0.30 to 0.40
091601	B9-16	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-16	0.30 to 0.40
091701	B9-17	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-17	0.30 to 0.40
091801	B9-18	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-18	0.30 to 0.40
091901	B9-19	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-19	0.38 (avg.)
092001	B9-20	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-20	0.30 to 0.40
092101	B9-21	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-21	0.30 to 0.40
092201	B9-22	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-22	0.30 to 0.40
092301	B9-23	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-23	0.38 (avg.)
092401	B9-24	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-24	0.30 to 0.40
092501	B9-25	B9	Topsoil - Trench B9-25	0.30 to 0.40
110101	B11-01	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-01	0.30 to 0.40
110201	B11-02	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-02	0.30 to 0.35
110301	B11-03	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-03	0.20 to 0.30
110401	B11-04	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-04	0.20 to 0.30
110402	B11-04	B11	Subsoil - Trench B11-04	0.20 to 0.30
110501	B11-05	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-05	0.30 to 0.35
110601	B11-06	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-06	0.36 (avg.)
110602	B11-06	B11	Subsoil - Trench B11-06	0.18 (avg.)
110701	B11-07	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-07	0.30 to 0.50
110801	B11-08	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-08	0.31 (avg.)
110802	B11-08	B11	Subsoil - Trench B11-08	0.28 (avg.)
110901	B11-09	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-09	0.30 to 0.40



Lime Down Solar Park Lime Down B: Fields B5, B6, B7, B8, B9 and B11  
Interim Report for Archaeological Evaluation Trenching  
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Context	Trench	Field	Title	Depth (m)
110902	B11-09	B11	Subsoil - Trench B11-09	0.20 to 0.50
111001	B11-10	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-10	0.30 to 0.40
111002	B11-10	B11	Subsoil - Trench B11-10	0.10 to 0.30
111101	B11-11	B11	Topsoil - Trench B11-11	0.30 to 0.40

# OASIS Summary for cfaarcha1-531917

OASIS ID (UID)	cfaarcha1-531917
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation Trenching at Lime Down Solar Park
Sitename	Lime Down Solar Park: Site D
Sitecode	LIDO
Project Identifier(s)	LIDO, LIDO4, LIDO3, LIDO2, LIDO5
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Lanpro Archaeology + Heritage
Project Dates	12-Nov-2024 - 20-Feb-2025
Location	Lime Down Solar Park: Site D NGR : ST 89907 83679 LL : 51.55190690978507, -2.146960674025795 12 Fig : 389907,183679
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Wiltshire Local Authority District : Wiltshire Parish : Hullavington
Project Methodology	<p>A total of 157 30m x 1.80m evaluation trenches were excavated across 11 fields (Fields D1, D2, D3, D6, D11, D12, D13, D19, D20, D22 and D24). These works were carried out in accordance with the methods specified in the WSI.</p> <p>During the excavation of the evaluation trenches, the topsoil and any subsoils were removed down to the natural substrate or first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.20m thickness, using a rubber tracked 14t machine equipped with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The groundwork was carried out under direct archaeological supervision. All the exposed features were cleaned and excavated by hand. The sections of the excavated features were drawn at a 1:10 scale and planned at a 1:20 scale.</p> <p>All archaeological features were scanned with an XR ADX150 metal detector prior, during, and after excavation. A burial licence was issued and adhered to when excavating human remains. The trenches and all archaeological remains were surveyed and tied into the National Grid using a Trimble GPS.</p>
Project Results	<p>Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Site D, Fields D1, D2, D3, D6, D11, D12, D13, D19, D20, D22 and D24 of the proposed Lime Down Solar Park from November 2024 to February 2025 to inform a planning application for a solar farm development. The purpose of the archaeological works was to identify and record any remains of archaeological and historical significance.</p> <p>The archaeological features recorded across Site D are indicative of rural settlement and agricultural practice dating from the Iron Age into the Roman period. These features include rectilinear enclosures of varying complexity, curvilinear ditches, a probable Romano-British settlement, and boundary ditches which may have served as land divisions or functional drainage.</p>



Keywords	Enclosed Settlement - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditched Enclosure - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Utilities and infrastructure Lime Down Solar Park Ltd
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Phil Mann
HER Identifiers	HER Monument No - MWI2480, HER Monument No - MWI2496, HER Event No - ST88SE612, HER Monument No - MWI2483, HER Monument No - MWI2485, HER Event No - ST88SE614, HER Event No - ST88SE629
Archives	

Report generated on: 07 Aug 2025, 11:53



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