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Solar Park

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Lime Down Solar Park
Lime Down E
Wiltshire

Interim Report: Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation

Report No. 4661

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Archaeological Evaluation

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Archaeological evaluation trial trenching was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Lime Down E, Fields E1, E2, E14, E15, E17, E18, E19, E20, E21 and E26 of the proposed Lime Down Solar Park from the 25th of March to the 23rd of 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 E are indicative of rural settlement and agricultural practice dating from the prehistoric period into the Romano-British period. The archaeology is quite sparse across Lime Down E with a few distinct areas of archaeological activity in the form of small enclosures and boundary ditches which may have served as land divisions or functional drainage. The curvilinear features identified across Fields E14, E20 and E21 may be the remains of prehistoric round barrows.

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 25th of March to the 23rd of April 2025. The CFA site code and project number for the works are LIDO3 and 5432, respectively.

The work was conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), produced by Lanpro (2024, Appendix 3) 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 a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) site and 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 five 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 E is located in the parish of St Paul Malmesbury (without CP) centred on NGR ST 92681 81877 (Fig. 1). It is comprised of 132 hectares of arable land. The South Wales Main Line runs east to west orientation between Sites C and E. A watercourse cuts through in the west of Lime Down E. The topography across Lime Down E ranges from 74m aOD to 96m aOD.

The bedrock geology in Lime Down E is comprised predominantly of Kellaways Clay Member (Mudstone). There is a pocket of Kellaways Sand Member (Sandstone) in the east, and Cornbrash Formation (Limestone) in the west of Lime Down E. Forest Marble Formation (Mudstone) is recorded following the watercourse in the west of Lime Down E. Much of Lime Down E has no recorded superficial geology, the exception being Alluvium (Clay, silt, sand and gravel) recorded adjacent to Gauze Brook Watercourse (BGS, 2025).

The soils within Lime Down E are comprised by slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Soilscape 18), shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone (Soilscape 3), and Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Soilscape 8) (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 E. There are four non-designated heritage assets listed on the HER within Lime Down E. They are described with their HER number below.

Prehistoric

Possible Upper Palaeolithic blades and cores (MWI64477) found Southwest of Cleeve House. A flint knife blade dated broadly from the Upper Palaeolithic to Late Mesolithic found through fieldwalking is recorded by the HER in woodland c.50 to the south-east of Field E2 in (HER MWI64480).

Neolithic or Bronze Age rubbing stones were also found in the wider search area during fieldwalking near Cleeve House, c.150m to the north of Field E33 (HER MWI64478).

A Bronze Age flint thumbnail scraper has been recovered from Godwin's Meadow at Rodbourne Bottom, c.440m to the south-east of Field E6 (HER MWI64482)

Roman

Several Romano-British pottery fragments (MWI64483) were found in plough soil at Long Ground. To the south of Rodbourne, 340m to the south-east of Field E6, Romano-British settlement activity was recorded during excavations at Godwin's Meadow (HER MWI64475)

Romano-British pottery has also been found to the south-east of Fields E26 and E27 at Stanton St Quintin (HER ST98SW301) and further to the east near to Nabal's Farm (HER ST98SW303), possibly associated with cropmarks of an enclosure (HER ST98SW607).

Medieval and Post-Medieval

A burial ground at Rodbourne is mentioned in a charter of AD 982 (NRHE 212734), and this is thought to be located somewhere between the hill upon which Bincombe Wood is located and a 'withy bed' at the Southern edge of the parish (Grundy 1920, 89). This could be located within the approximate area of Fields E17-E26.

Outfarm (MWI66243) northwest of Avil's Farm, St. Paul Malmesbury Without. Extant 19th century outfarm of loose courtyard plan, worked agricultural buildings, and farmstead which retained all components. Partially extant 19th century outfarm (MWI66202) north-northwest of Avil's Farm.

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).

Geophysical survey of Lime Down E has identified sparse anomalies that are considered likely to denote buried archaeological remains. Results largely relate to agricultural activity, geological or pedological changes in the substrata or modern activity. A subcircular anomaly has been identified in Field E14 that could represent possible prehistoric activity, along with linear and rectilinear anomalies that could either be of an archaeological, geological, or agricultural origin. Subcircular anomalies were identified in Fields E14 (HER MWI79688), E20 (HER MWI79686) and E21 (HER MWI79683) and part of a possible enclosure was identified in the west of Field E1. The rectilinear anomalies appear to extend into the east of Field E15. Several rectilinear anomalies composed of negative values have been identified that are plausibly or an archaeological origin (for example those spanning Fields E1 and E2), if of an archaeological origin this would suggest they are composed of a material with a lower magnetic susceptibility compared with the subsoil.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with the WSI (Lanpro 2024), the overall aim of the archaeological evaluation trial 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.

Regional Research Framework

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

- Research Aim 1: Extend the use of proven methodologies for site location and interpretation, and encourage the development of new techniques.
- Research Aim 10: Address our lack of understanding of key transitional periods.
- Research Aim 29: Improve our understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement.
- Research Aim 41: Assess the impact of the Roman empire on farming.

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 73no. 30m x 2m evaluation trenches were excavated across 10 fields (Fields E1, E2, E14, E15, E17, E18, E19, E20, E21 and E26 Figs. 1 & 2). Trenches E18-01 and E18-03 were moved c.5m to avoid a water course bisecting the field. Trench E26-12 was moved c.5m to avoid abutting a fence line. 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 and features are prefixed by the site designation (E) and field number (#).

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

4.1 Factual Summary of Key Archaeological Findings

Field E1

Three trenches were excavated in Field E1, of which one had archaeological features recorded in them (Trench E1-01).

Field E2

Nine trenches were excavated in Field E2, of which four had archaeological features recorded in them (Trenches E2-03, E2-04, E2-05, and E2-07).

Field E14

Five trenches were excavated in Field E14, of which two had archaeological features recorded in them (Trenches E14-01 and E14-03).

Field E15

Four trenches were excavated in Field E15, there were no archaeological features.

Field E17

Five trenches were excavated in Field E17, of which one had archaeological features recorded (Trench E17-02).

Field E18

Six trenches were excavated in Field E18, there were no archaeological features.

Field E19

Nine trenches were excavated in Field E19, of which one had archaeological features recorded in them (Trench E19-07).

Field E20

Eight trenches were excavated in Field E20, of which three had archaeological features recorded in them (Trench E20-02, E20-03 and E20-06).

Field E21

Eleven trenches were excavated in Field E21, of which two had archaeological features recorded in them (Trenches E21-02 and E21-08).

Field E26

Thirteen trenches were excavated in Field E26, of which two had archaeological features recorded in them (Trenches E26-01 and E26-09).

4.2 Results by Trench

4.2.1 Field E1

Trench E1-01 (Fig. 2.1)

Trench E1-01 contained four ditches and three discrete features. At the north-east of the trench was north-west to south-east orientated Ditch **E1-0120**, it was linear with a slight curve seen in plan on the south-east edge of the trench (Plate 1). It had a U-shaped profile with moderately sloping, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a rounded base. It measured 2.44m wide and 0.56m deep and was filled by

four fills. The lowest fill **E1-0121** was a mid-orange-brown firm silty clay. The second fill **E1-0122** was a mid-orange-grey firm clayey silt with moderate small to very large angular to rounded limestone inclusions concentrated towards the top of the fill. The third fill **E1-0123** was a mid-black-orange firm clayey silt with occasional flecks to medium angular to subangular limestone inclusions. Romano-British pottery, animal bone and CBM were recovered. The upper fill **E1-0124** was a mid-orange-grey firm clayey silt, Romano-British pottery was recovered.

To the south-west of Ditch **E1-0120** was a parallel Ditch **E1-0132** (Plate 2). It had moderately sloped, concave sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a tapered base. It measured 1.54m wide and 0.41m deep. It contained a single fill **E1-0133** which comprised a mid-orange-brown firm silty clay with occasional small to large angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions.

Plate 1: North-west facing section of Ditch E1-0120

Plate 2: Oblique shot of Ditch E1-0132, looking north

To the south-west of Ditch **E1-0132** was a further parallel Ditch **E1-0126** (Plate 3). It had a U-shaped profile with moderately sloping, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a rounded base. It measured 3.30m wide and 0.72m deep and was filled by four fills and then re-cut by **E1-0125**. The lowest fill **E1-0119** was a mid-orange-grey firm silty clay with rare flecks to medium angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions, Romano-British pottery and some fibrous remains were identified and recovered. The second fill **E1-0127** was a light orange-grey firm silty clay. The third fill **E1-0128** was a mid-orange-brown firm silty clay Romano-British pottery was recovered. The upper fill **E1-0129** was a mid-orange-brown firm silty clay Romano-British pottery was recovered.

Ditch Re-cut **E1-0125** had a V-shaped profile with steep, straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a tapered base, it measured 1.80m wide and 0.60m deep and was filled by three fills. The lowest fill **E1-0118** was a dark grey-brown malleable silty clay with moderate medium to large sub-angular limestone inclusions. A ferrous object, animal bone and Romano-British pottery was recovered. The second fill **E1-0130** was a dark brown-black friable clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecks, Romano-British pottery and animal bone was recovered. The upper fill **E1-0131** was a dark brown-black friable clayey silt with occasional flecks to small very angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions.

Plate 3: South facing section of Ditch E1-0126/Ditch Recut E1-0125

To the south-west of Ditch **E1-0126** were two postholes (Plate 4). Posthole **E1-0135** was sub-oval in plan with steep, straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 0.30m long, 0.37m wide and 0.05m deep. It contained a single fill **E1-0134** which comprised a dark orange-brown friable clayey silt, a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered. Post-hole **E1-0136** was sub-circular in plan with steep, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to an uneven base. It measured 0.45m long, 0.42m wide and 0.11m deep. It contained a single fill **E1-0137** which comprised a dark blackish-brown firm silty clay.

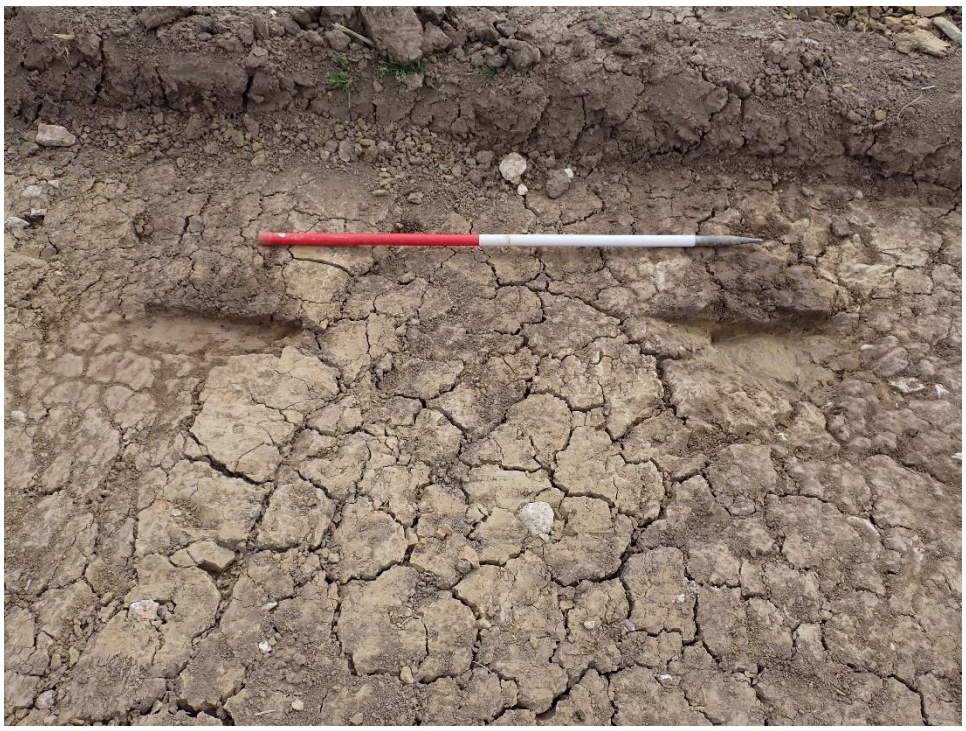

Plate 4: North-west facing sections of Postholes E1-0135/E1-0136

At the south-west end of the trench were four north-west to south-east orientated intercutting ditches, a pit and a possible trample layer (Plate 5). The trample layer **E1-0117** was located at the north-east end of the excavation slot and was a light orange-brown firm clayey silt. Cutting through this layer was Ditch **E1-0115**, it had moderately sloped, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a rounded base. It measured 1.16m wide and 0.22m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E1-0116** which comprised a light orange-grey firm clayey silt, a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered.

Cutting Ditch **E1-0115** to the south-west was Ditch **E1-0113**. It had moderately sloped, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a rounded base. It measured 1.26m wide and 0.30m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E1-0114** which comprised a light orange-grey firm clayey silt, a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered. Towards the south-west end of the slot was Ditch Terminus/Pit **E1-0109**, it had moderately sloped, concave sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a rounded base. It measured >1.51m long, 0.28m wide and 0.26m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E1-0110** which comprised a mid-orange-grey firm silty clay, a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered.

Cutting Ditch Terminus/Pit **E1-0109** to the south-west was Ditch **E1-0108** which had moderately sloped, straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a rounded base. It measured 1.41m wide and 0.31m deep. It was fill with a single fill **E1-0105** which comprised a light orange-grey firm clayey silt, Romano-British pottery was recovered.

Cutting Ditch **E1-0113** to the south-west and Ditch Terminus/Pit **E1-0109** to the north-east, was Ditch Terminus/Pit **E1-0111**. It had steep, straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured >1.40m long, 0.53m wide and 0.34m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E1-0112** which comprised a light orange-grey firm clayey silt with occasional small to large sub-angular to rounded limestone inclusions concentrated to the south-west side, a sherd of Romano-British pottery and an iron object was recovered.

Plate 5: South-east facing section of Ditch E1-0108, Ditch Terminus/Pits E1-0109/ E1-0111, Ditches E1-0113/E1-0115 and Trample Layer E1-0117

There was a pit and a post-hole at the south-west end of the trench (Plate 6). Posthole **E1-0103** was circular in plan with gentle, concave sides with an imperceptible break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 0.33m long, 0.30m wide and 0.02m deep. It contained a single fill **E1-0104** which comprised a mid-red-brown malleable clayey silt. Pit/Terminus **E1-0106** was sub-circular in plan with steep, concave sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base (Plate 7Plate 7). It measured 1.14m long, >0.88m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained a single fill **E1-0107** which comprised a light orange-brown malleable clayey silt with moderate small to medium sub-rounded limestone inclusions, Romano-British pottery was recovered.

Plate 6: South-west facing section of Posthole E1-0103

Plate 7: South-west facing section of Pit/Terminus E1-0106

4.2.2 Field E2

Trench E2-03 (Fig. 2.2)

Trench E2-03 contained a single Ditch **E2-0303** running from east to west in the south end of the trench (Plate 8). The ditch had gentle, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a flat base, it measured 3.45m wide and 0.28m deep. It contained a single fill **E2-0304** which comprised a light orange-brown, very dry, firm sandy clay.

Plate 8: West facing section of Ditch E2-0303

Trench E2-04 (Fig. 2.2)

Trench E2-04 contained a single Ditch **E2-0403** running north-west to south-east located towards the middle of the trench (Plate 9). It had steep concave sides, a gradual break of slope leading to a flat base, it measured 0.80m wide and 0.38m deep, the feature was overcut due to nearby field drain affecting the clarity of the natural geology. It contained a single fill **E2-0404** which comprised a light blue-grey firm clayey silt with coal pieces noted.

Plate 9: North-west facing section of Ditch E2-0403

Trench E2-05 (Fig. 2.2)

Trench E2-05 contained a single Ditch **E2-0504** orientated north-east to south-west located at the north-west end of the trench (Plate 10). It had moderately sloped, straight sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a flat base, it measured 0.84m wide and 0.29m deep. It contained a single fill **E2-0503** which comprised a light blue-grey malleable fine silty sand with rare small stone inclusions.

Plate 10: South-west facing section of Ditch E2-0504

Trench E2-07 (Fig. 2.2)

Trench E2-07 contained a single Ditch **E2-0704** running north-west to south-east located in the northern end of the trench (Plate 11). It had moderately sloped, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a rounded base, it measured 0.62m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained a single fill **E2-0703** which comprised a light blue-grey malleable clayey silt with rare small angular stone inclusions. This ditch may have been agricultural in origin.

Plate 11: North-west facing section of Ditch E2-0704

4.2.3 Field E14

Trench E14-01 (Fig. 2.3)

Trench E14-01 contained four features which were previously identified by geophysical survey and either represent three ditches and a ditch terminus or four large pits which extend beyond the trench boundaries. Three north-south orientated agricultural furrows were also identified and surveyed in the trench. Ditch or Pit **E14-0107** was orientated north-east to south-west and located at the western end of the trench (Plate 12). It had steep, convex sides, the base was not reached due to exceeding the safe working limit. It measured more than 1.60m wide and more than 0.65m deep and was filled by four fills. The lowest fill **E14-0108** was a mid-brown-grey malleable clayey silt with frequent flecks of charcoal inclusions. The second fill **E14-0109** was a dark black-brown, malleable clayey silt. The third fill **E14-0110** was a mid-grey-brown, malleable clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. A small fragment of CBM was recovered. The upper fill **E14-0111** was a light grey-brown firm clayey silt with frequent flecks of charcoal inclusions.

Ditch Terminus or possible Pit **E14-0112** was located in the middle of the trench and was orientated north to south (Plate 13). It had a deep, U-shaped profile with steep, straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured >1.20m long, 1.00m wide and 0.55m deep. It was filled by a single fill **E14-0113** which comprised a mid-grey-brown firm silty clay with rare flecks of charcoal inclusions.

Plate 12: South-west facing section of Ditch/Pit E14-0107

Plate 13: East facing section of Ditch Terminus/Pit E14-0112

Ditch or Pit **E14-0103** was located at the eastern end of the trench and was orientated north to south (Plate 14). It had gentle, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 1.00m wide and 0.40m deep. It was filled by a single fill **E14-0104** which comprised a mid-grey-brown firm silty clay with rare flecks of charcoal inclusions. The ditch was re-cut by **E14-0105** which had a deep, U-shaped profile with steep, straight sides, the base was not reached due to exceeding the safe

working limits. It measured 2.50m wide and >0.75m deep. It was filled by a single fill **E14-0106** which comprised a dark brown, firm clayey silt with frequent small charcoal inclusions. It was likely deliberately backfilled and contained a single sherd of Romano-British pottery.

Plate 14: North facing section of Ditch/Pit E14-0103/Ditch Recut E14-0105

Trench E14-03 (Fig. 2.3)

Trench E14-03 contained two ditches and a pit (Plate 15). Ditch **E14-0307** was orientated east to west and located towards the northern end of the trench. It had steep, straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to an uneven base. It measured 1.30m wide and >0.40m deep and was filled by two fills. The lower fill **E14-0308** was a mid-brown-orange firm silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular limestone inclusions. The upper fill **E14-0309** was a light orange-brown loose clayey silt.

Ditch **E14-0303** was orientated north-west to south-east and located at the southern end of the trench (Plate 16). It was curvilinear in plan with stepped sides to the north and vertical sides to the south with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 1.10m wide and 0.41m deep and was filled by three fills. The lowest fill **E14-0304** was a dark orange-brown firm silty clay with moderate small very angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions. The second fill **E14-0305** was a mid-orange-brown firm clayey silt with frequent small to very large sub-angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions. The upper fill **E14-0306** was a mid-orange-brown friable clayey silt.

Plate 15: East facing section of Ditch E14-0307

Plate 16: South-east facing section of Ditch E14-0303

Pit **E14-0310** was located north of Ditch **E14-0303** (Plate 17). It was sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping, concave sides and a gradual break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 1.84m long, 1.22m wide and 0.33m deep. It contained a single fill **E14-0311** which comprised a mid-orange-brown loose clayey silt.

Plate 17: West facing section of Pit E14-0310

4.2.4 Field E17

Trench E17-02 (Fig. 2.4)

Trench E17-02 contained one Pit **E17-0203** located towards the end of the trench (Plate 18). It was semi-oval plan with steep, straight sides with a gradual break of slope leading to an uneven base, it measured >1.10m long, >0.73m wide and 0.24m deep. It was filled by two fills. The lower fill **E17-0204** was a mid-brown-grey friable silty clay with frequent small to large angular limestone inclusions. The upper fill **E17-0205** was a mid-red-brown malleable silty clay with occasional small to medium angular limestone inclusions.

Plate 18: Oblique shot of Pit E17-0203, looking north-west

4.2.5 Field E19

Trench E19-07 (Fig. 2.4)

Trench E19-07 contained a single Ditch **E19-0703** orientated east to west located at the north end of the trench (Plate 19). It had gentle, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a rounded base, it measured 0.83m wide and 0.27m deep. It was filled by a single fill **E19-0704** which comprised a mid-brown-orange loose sandy silt with occasional small to large angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions.

Plate 19: East facing section of Ditch E19-0703

4.2.6 Field E20

Trench E20-02 (Fig. 2.4)

Trench E20-02 contained a single Ditch **E20-0203** orientated east to west located at the southern end of the trench (Plate 20). It was curvilinear in plan with vertical, straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 1.70m wide and 0.50m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E20-0204** which comprised a dark orange-brown loose sandy silt with frequent small to large angular limestone inclusions.

Plate 20: East facing section of Ditch E20-0203

Trench E20-03 (Fig. 2.4)

Trench E20-03 contained three ditches orientated north-west to south-east.

Ditches **E20-0304** and **E20-0306** formed a double ditch located at the south-west end of the trench (Plate 21). Ditch **E20-0304** had moderately sloping sides to the north-east and vertical, concave undercutting sides to the south-west with a gradual break of slope leading to an uneven base. It measured 1.20m wide and 0.36m deep. It was filled by a single fill **E20-0305** which comprised a mid-red-brown loose silty clay.

Located to the north-east was Ditch **E20-0306** which had steep, convex sides to the south-west and vertical concave sides to the north-east, with a gradual break of slope leading to an uneven base. It measured 0.86m wide and 0.28m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E20-0307** which comprised a mid-red-brown loose silty clay.

Ditch **E20-0308** was located towards the north-east end of the trench, it had steep, straight sides with a gradual break of slope leading to an uneven base. (Plate 22). It measured 0.80m wide and 0.31m deep. It was fill by a single fill **E20-0309** which comprised a mid-red-brown friable silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular limestone inclusions.

Plate 21: South-east facing section of Ditches E20-0304/E20-0306

Plate 22: South-east facing section of Ditch E20-0308

Trench E20-06 (Fig. 2.5)

Trench E20-06 contained a single Pit **E20-0603** located at the southern end of the trench (Plate 23). It was sub-circular in plan with steep, concave sides with an imperceptible break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 0.50m long, 0.36m wide and 0.12m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E20-0604** which consisted of a dark

red-brown friable clayey silt with frequent small angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions.

Plate 23: South facing section of Pit E20-0603

4.2.7 Field E21

Trench E21-02 (Fig. 2.5)

Trench E21-02 contained a single Pit **E21-0203** located at the southern end of the trench (Plate 24). It was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 1.10m long, 0.70m wide and 0.13m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E21-0204** which comprised a dark red-brown friable clayey silt with frequent small angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions.

Plate 24: South facing section of Pit E21-0203

Trench E21-08 (Fig. 2.4)

Trench E21-08 contained a single Ditch **E21-0803** orientated north-east to south-west located at the north-west end of the trench (Plate 25). It had steep, straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 1.40m wide and 0.40m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E21-0804** which comprised a light orange-brown firm sandy silt with frequent small to large angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions.

Plate 25: North-west facing section of Ditch E21-0803

4.2.8 Field E26

Trench E26-01 (Fig. 2.6)

Trench E26-01 contained a single Ditch **E26-0103** orientated north-west to south-east located at the south-west end of the trench (Plate 26). It had moderate, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a rounded base. It measured 1.27m wide and 0.31m deep. It was filled with a single fill **E26-0104** which comprised a mid-red-brown friable sandy silt with frequent small to medium angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions. This ditch was possibly agricultural in origin.

Trench E26-03 (Fig. 2.6)

Trench E26-03 was located to target three east to west linear anomalies identified by geophysical survey, however no features were identified in the trench.

Plate 26: North-west facing section of Ditch E26-0103

Trench E26-09 (Fig. 2.6)

Trench E21-09 contained one ditch and one pit. Pit **E26-0903** was located towards the south-west end of the trench (Plate 27). It was sub-oval in plan with vertical, straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 2.14m long, >0.70m wide and 0.71m deep. It was filled with two fills, the lower fill **E26-0904** was a mid-orange-brown malleable silty clay with frequent flecks to large angular to sub-rounded limestone and rare small sub-angular flint inclusions. The upper fill **E26-0905** was a mid-orange-brown firm silty clay with occasional small to large angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions, a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered.

Ditch **E26-0906** was orientated north-east to south-west and located in the middle of the trench (Plate 28). It had vertical, concave sides with a gradual break of slope leading to a flat base. It measured 3.95m wide and 0.68m deep. It was filled with two fills, the lower fill **E26-0907** was a mid-yellow-brown firm sandy silt with frequent small to very large angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions concentrated towards the base, a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered. The upper fill **E26-0908** was a dark brown-yellow firm medium grained silty sand, a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered.

Plate 27: North-west facing section of Pit E26-0903

Plate 28: Oblique shot of Ditch E26-0906, looking south

5 INTERIM FINDS SUMMARY

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

Find Type	Quantity	Weight
Animal bone	6	24
Pottery	184	1244
Fired clay	4	8
Lithic	1	13
Grand Total	**195**	**1289**

Table 1: Artefactual Find Pre-Quantification

5.1 Interim Pottery Summary

The assemblage is small and mostly consists of locally produced reduced and oxidised body sherds broadly dating to the Roman period. Very few sherds had identifiable features such as rims or decoration, making dating groups difficult or not possible (Table 2).

The pottery can be considered as dating from the Roman period with a mix of grey and oxidised body sherds, and the inclusion of the Black Burnished Ware suggests a date from at least 120AD onwards. Black Burnished Wares were recovered from **E1-0105**, **E1-0107**, **E1-0114**, **E1-0118**, and **E1-0128**, forms include a hooked rim jar, bead and flange bowl and a plain curved bowl dating to the late 2nd to early 3rd century.

Samian ware was also recorded, mostly as small body sherds and can be identified to specific regions. The earliest being a Dr.29 from La Graufesenque (**E1-0112**) dating to 85AD, three sherds from Central Gaul, with two possible Lezoux (**E1-0105** and **E1-0107**) and one Les Martres-de-Veyre (**E1-0114**), and a final fragment of a foot ring base that may be from Eastern Gaul (Rheinzabern, **E1-0128**)

Other notable sherds were recorded, such as the body sherd of a rusticated jar (**E1-0105**), typically earlier in date spanning the Early Roman period up until the middle of the 2nd century, a grey ware hooked rim jar (**E1-0118**) dating from the late 2nd century onwards, a fragment of possible kiln bar from **E1-0123**, and a small grog and sand tempered ware handled beaker or small flagon (**E1-0128**), potentially dating to the Early Roman period.

Context	Comments	Spot date
E1-0105	BBW type jar, with slight hook-on tip, rusticated grey ware body sherd, various grey and ox body sherds, Central Gaul? Samian base.	EC2+
E1-0107	Small sherd of various oxidised and reduced, no id, single sherd of BBW single flake of Central Gaul Samian.	EC2+

Context	Comments	Spot date
E1-0110	Oxidised with grey core small jar/beaker.	RB
E1-0112	Dr.29 South Gaul small sherd with bead decoration above and below cordon E-L1st no later 85.	E-L1st
E1-0114	Flake of LMV Samian, Black Burnished Ware body sherds, grey and ox body sherds, various other sherds.	120+
E1-0116	Grey and oxidised body sherds.	RB
E1-0118	Fine ox body, Black Burnished Ware base with burnished wavy lone, bead and flange bowl, grey hooked/undercut bead rim jar. grey three ribbed handle.	3rd
E1-0119	Mica grey wares- burnt- BWSY base.	C2+
E1-0123	Possible kiln bar, grog tempered body.	ERO
E1-0124	Savernake grey? small frag of DR.20 Amphora.	RB
E1-0128	Small grog and sand tempered small flagon with handle scar, Fine oxidised sandy ware with roulette dec, oxidised body sherds, BBW plain rimed bowl, with incised burnished dec on base, possible EG Samian footring Dr.18/31.	L2-E3
E1-0130	Oxidised and grey body sherds.	RB
E1-0134	Grey ware base, flake of ox.	RB
E14-0106	OXFRS C51	240-400
E26-0904	Pmed glazed ware	Pmed

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.

6 INTERIM DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

6.1 Field E1

Two sides of a square enclosure, located on the north-western edge of Field E1 was identified by the geophysical survey. This was confirmed in Trench E1-01, finds recovered suggest a Romano-British date. There were more ditches present than had been identified by geophysical survey and four discrete features, indicating that this enclosure was maintained and re-used.

The geophysical survey identified uncertain linear trends in trenches E1-02 and E1-03. No linear features were identified in these trenches.

6.2 Field E2

Uncertain and possible archaeological trends were identified by the geophysical survey in Field E2. This was confirmed in trenches E2-03, E2-04, E2-05 and E2-07, the features were generally shallow and heavily truncated by agricultural activity. No dating evidence was recovered. The anomalies were not identified in trenches E2-06 and E2-09.

6.3 Field E14

The geophysical survey identified a curvilinear feature in Field E14. This was confirmed in Trench E14-03 and is a possible barrow. A further isolated pit was recorded south of the possible barrow feature. No dating evidence was recovered; however, this type of feature is more typical of prehistoric activity.

Agricultural trends from ridge and furrow were present on the geophysical survey, this was confirmed within the trenches in Field E14. Extant ridge and furrow on the same alignment was observed in the elongated field to the south-east.

Trench E14-01 contained four features which appear to correlate to well defined pits identified by geophysical survey, one contained Romano-British pottery.

6.4 Field E15

The geophysical survey did not identify any archaeological features in Field E15, this was confirmed in the excavated trenches.

6.5 Field E17

The geophysical survey did not identify any archaeological features in Field E17. One isolated pit was identified in Trench E17-02, no dating evidence was recovered.

6.6 Field E18

The geophysical survey did not identify any archaeological features in Field E18, this was confirmed in the excavated trenches. Extant ridge and furrow was observed in Field E18, the topsoil contained large quantities of metal refuse which may have distorted the results of the geophysical survey.

6.7 Field E19

The geophysical survey identified part of a small enclosure to the west in Field E19, this was confirmed in Trench E19-07 although it was very shallow and likely heavily truncated by agricultural activity, no dating evidence was recovered. Ridge and furrow was also identified in trenches E19-01 and E19-05.

A large dump of modern refuse, including metal, glass, plastic and possible asbestos was identified in Trench E19-02. This is visible on the geophysical survey.

6.8 Field E20

The geophysical survey identified the edge of a two intersecting curvilinear features and possible linear features in the eastern side of Field E20. This was confirmed in Trench E20-02, this is a possible barrow. No dating evidence was recovered; however this type of feature is more typical of prehistoric activity. Three ditches were identified in Trench E20-03 confirming the presence of possible linear features identified on the geophysical survey. No dating evidence was recovered.

An isolated post-hole was excavated in Trench E20-06, no dating evidence was recovered.

6.9 Field E21

The geophysical survey identified curvilinear features in the east of Field E21. One was confirmed in Trench E21-08, this is a possible barrow. No dating evidence was recovered however this type of feature is more typical of prehistoric activity. Trench E21-02 contained an isolated pit but no evidence of the other targeted curvilinear feature.

6.8 Field E26

The geophysical survey identified several linear trends across the field as uncertain or possibly archaeological in origin. The majority of these were found to be related to differences in geology. Trench E26-01 contained one ditch present on the geophysical survey, possibly a former boundary ditch. No dating evidence was recovered. Trench E26-09 contain a ditch present on the geophysical survey and an isolated pit, both containing Post Medieval pottery. The ditch is possibly a former boundary ditch.

6.9 Conclusion

The archaeological features recorded across Lime Down E are indicative of rural settlement and agricultural practice dating from the prehistoric period into the Romano-British period. The archaeology is quite sparse across Lime Down E with a few distinct areas of archaeological activity in the form of small enclosures and boundary ditches which may have served as land divisions or functional drainage. The curvilinear features identified across Fields E14, E20 and E21 may be the remains of prehistoric round barrows. No evidence was identified of the burial ground at Rodbourne recorded in a charter of AD982 within any of the fields, and it is therefore likely that it is located outside of the scheme.

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FIGURES

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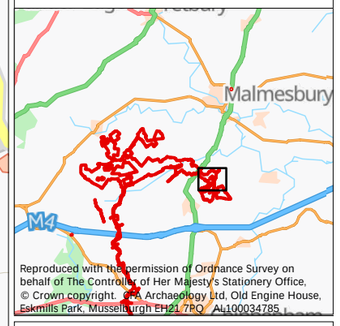
- Site Boundary
- Excavated Trench
- Archaeological Feature
- Excavated Feature
- Field Drain
- Furrow



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Project:
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Site E: Interim Report

Client:
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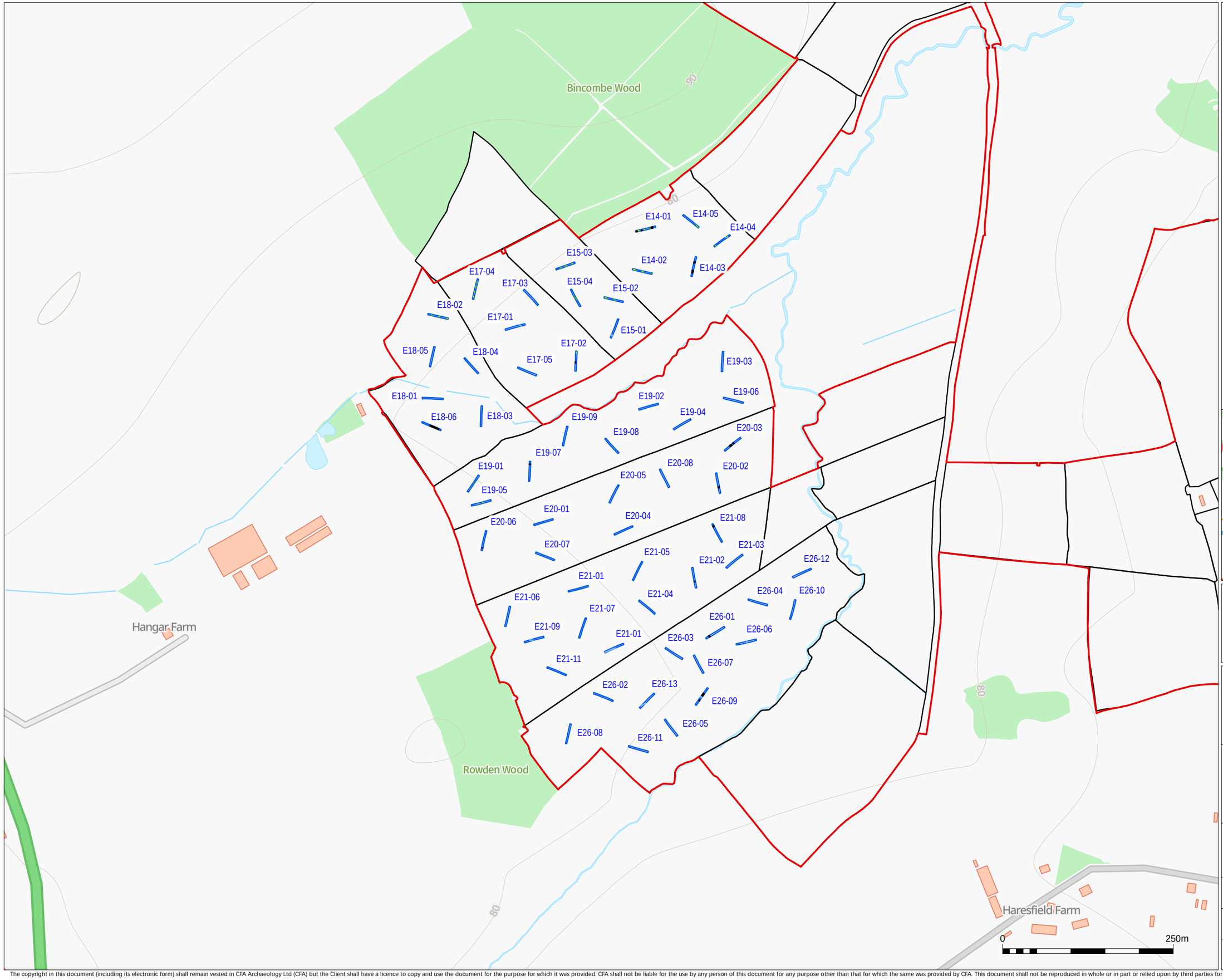

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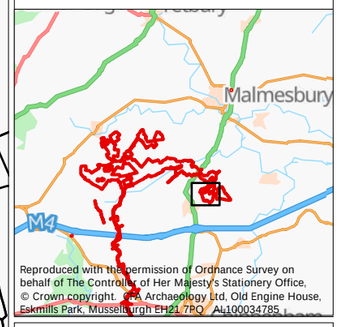

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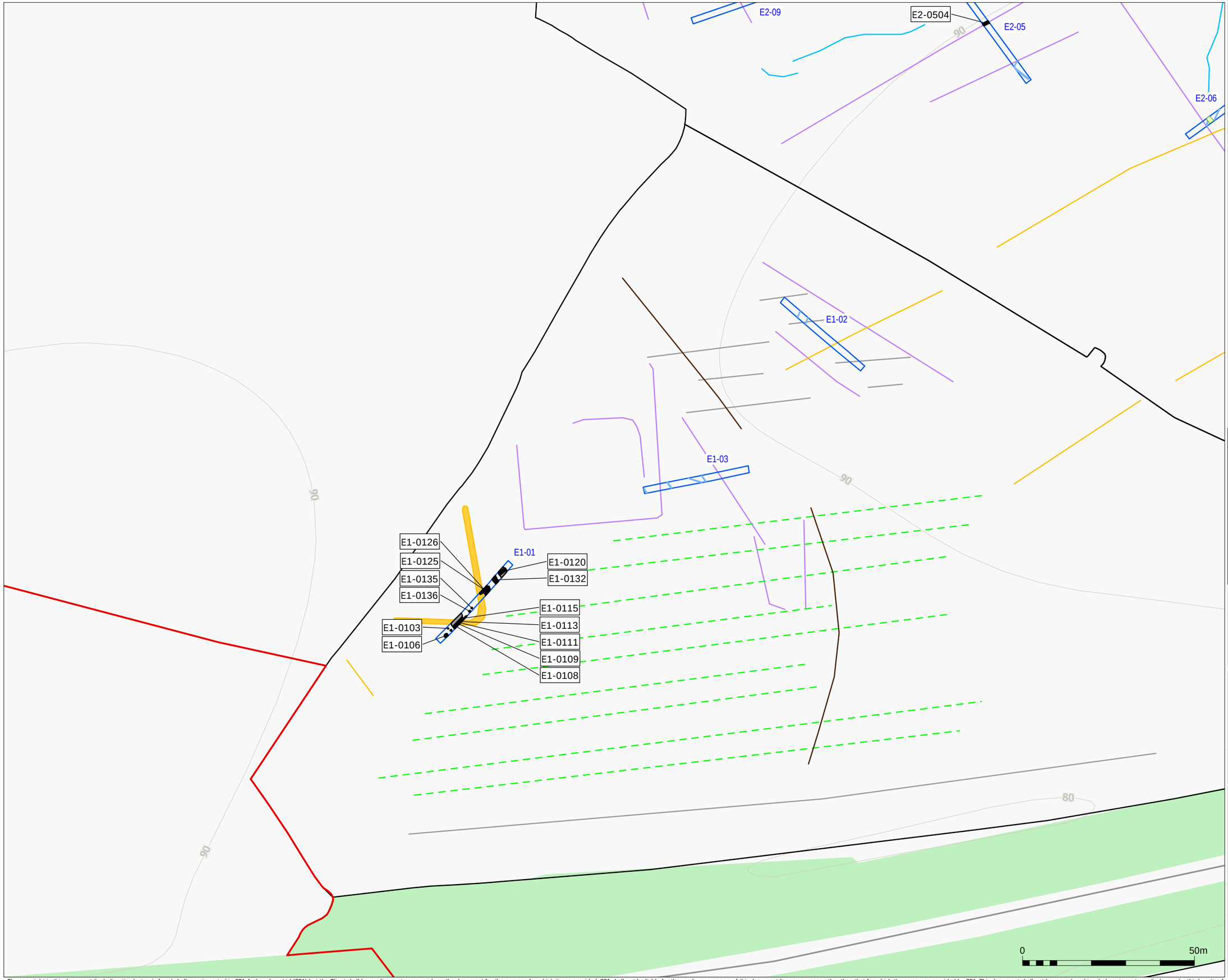

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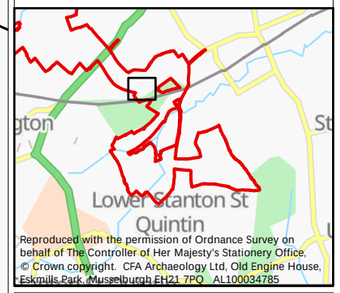

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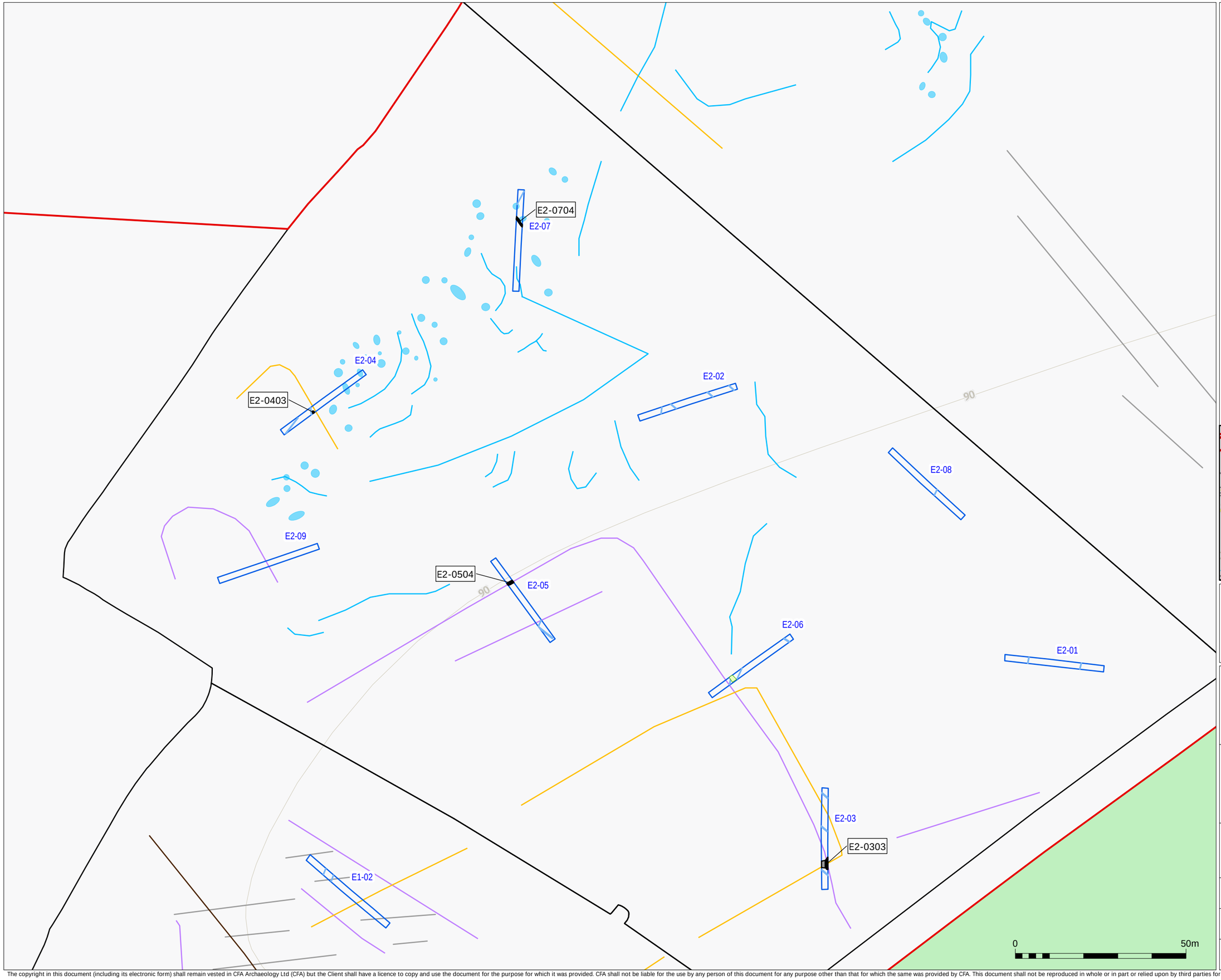

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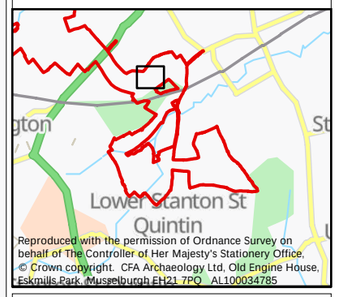

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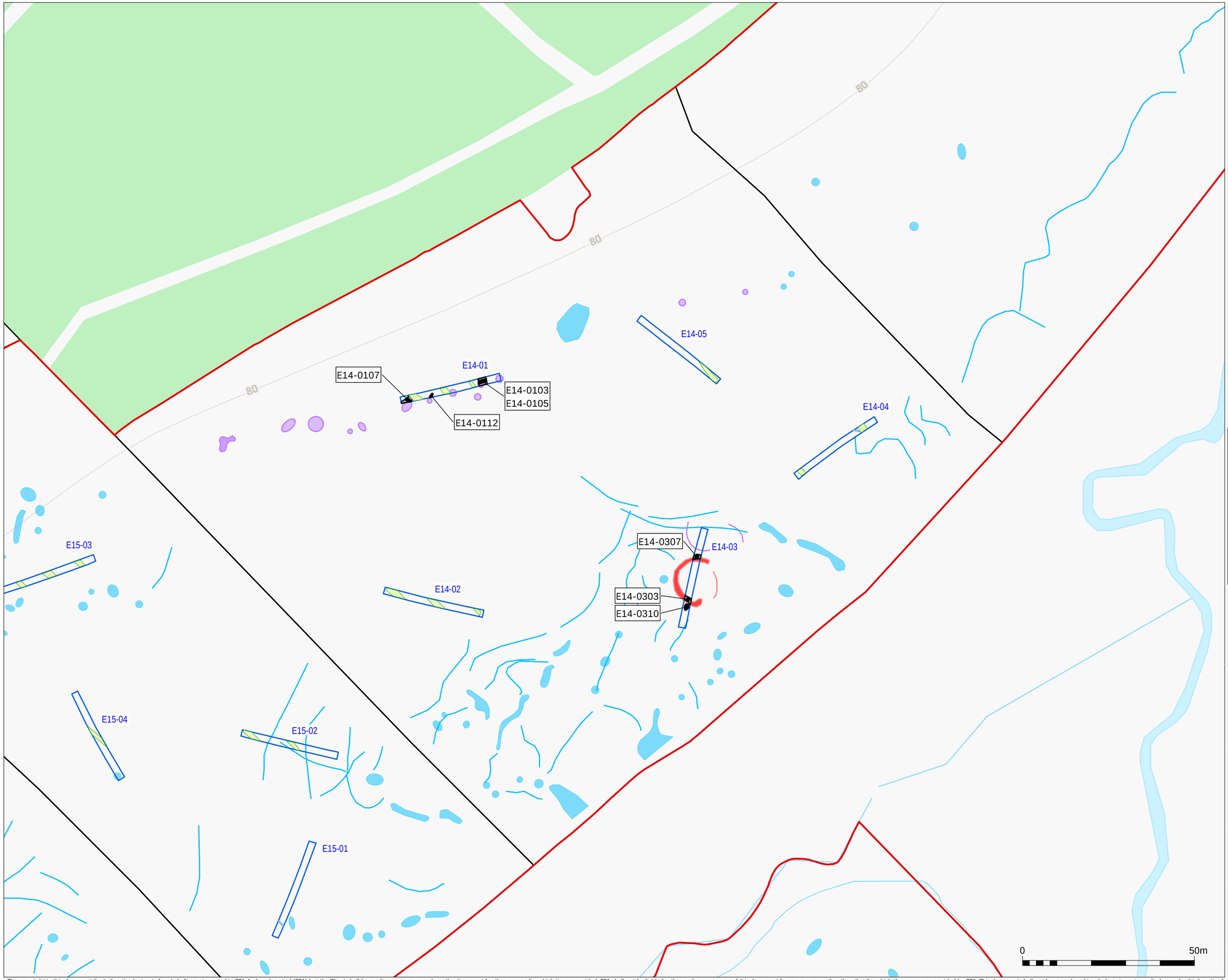

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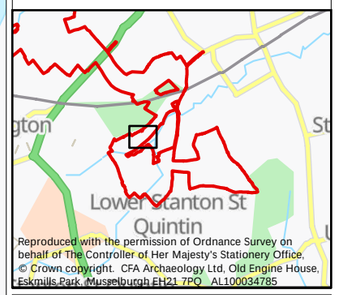

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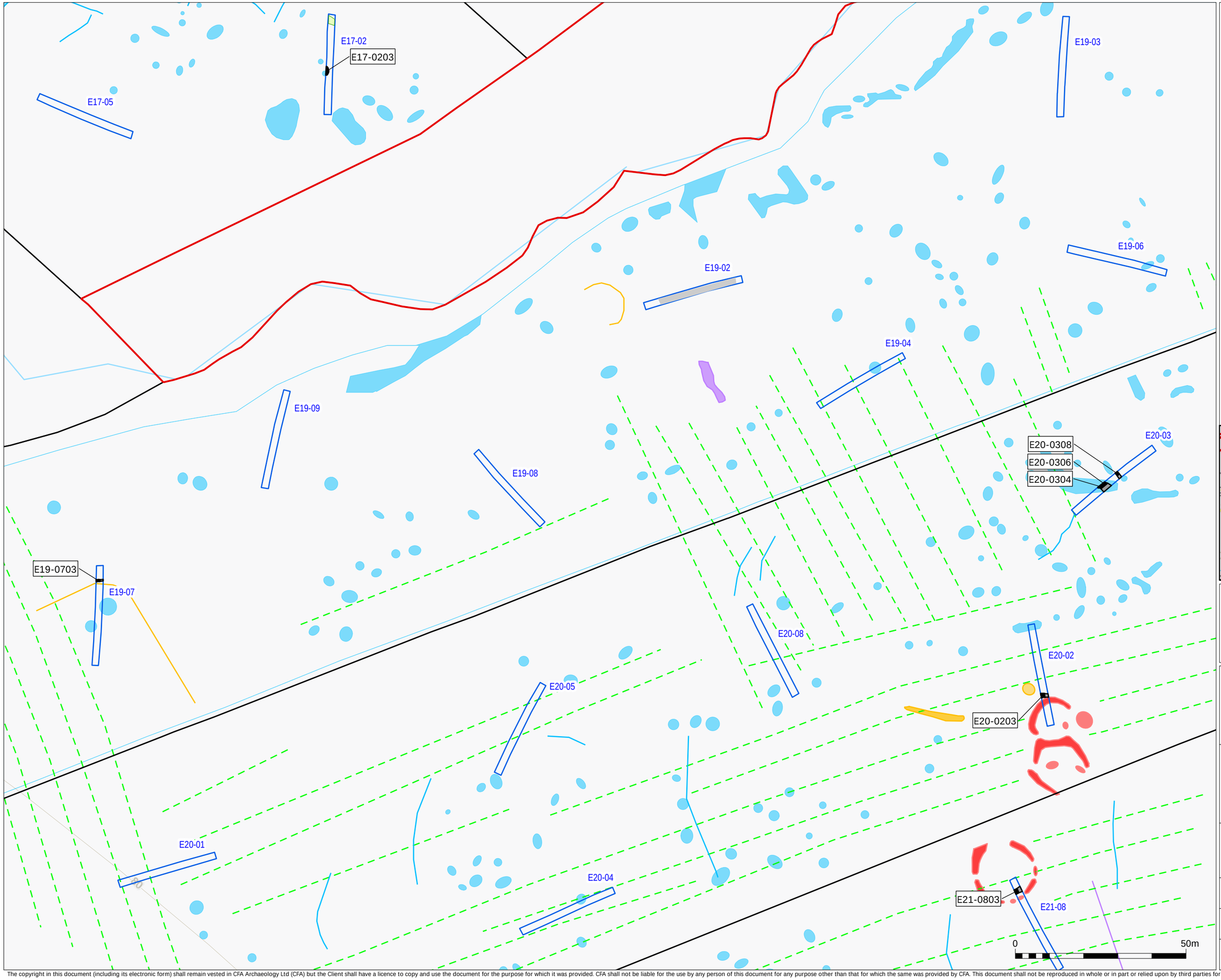

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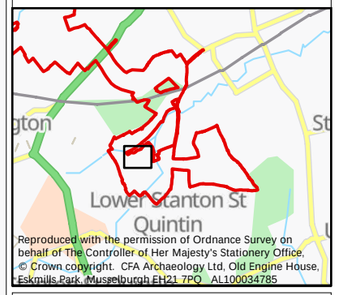

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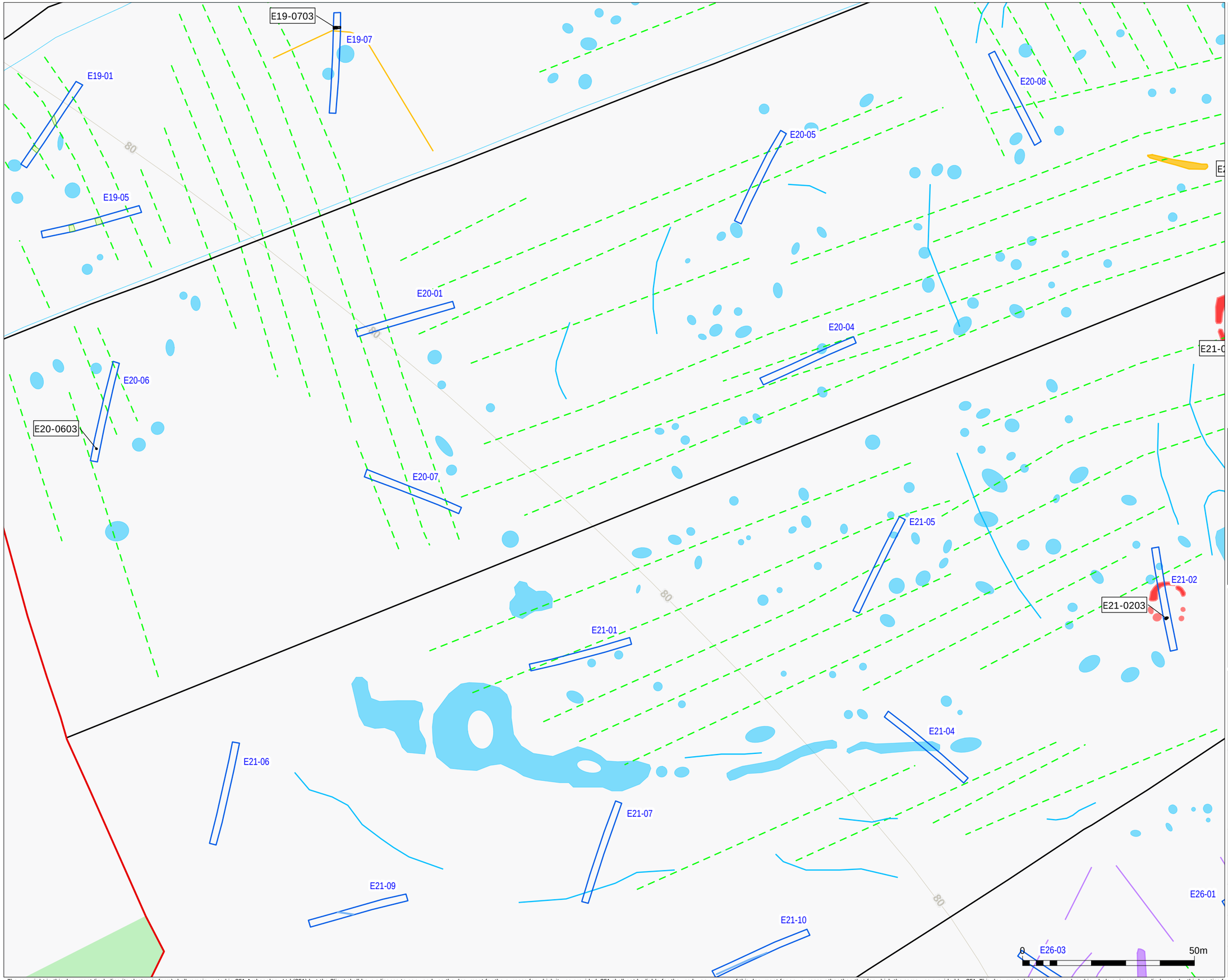

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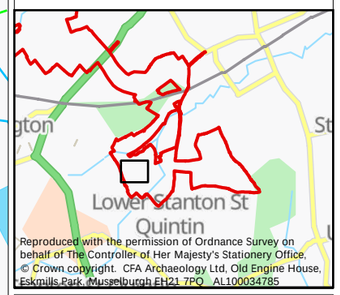

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E21-10
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E26-06
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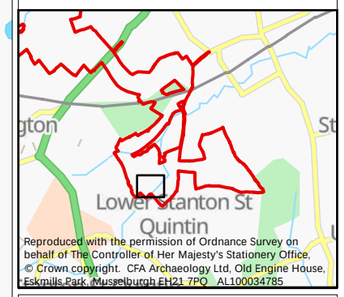

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APPENDIX 1

Trench Strata Summary

Context	Trench	Area	Title	Vertical span (m)
010101	E1-01	E1	Topsoil - Trench E1-01	0.20 (avg.)
010201	E1-02	E1	Topsoil - Trench E1-02	0.20 (avg.)
010301	E1-03	E1	Topsoil - Trench E1-03	0.20 (avg.)
020101	E2-01	E2	Topsoil - Trench E2-01	0.26 to 0.30
020201	E2-02	E2	Topsoil - Trench E2-02	0.27 (avg.)
020301	E2-03	E2	Topsoil - Trench E2-03	0.35 (avg.)
020401	E2-04	E2	Topsoil - Trench E2-04	0.35 (avg.)
020405	E2-04	E2	Sub surface disturbance - Trench E2-04	0.16 (avg.)
020501	E2-05	E2	Topsoil - Trench E2-05	0.24 (avg.)
020601	E2-06	E2	Topsoil - Trench E2-06	0.25 to 0.27
020701	E2-07	E2	Topsoil - Trench E2-07	0.23 to 0.26
020801	E2-08	E2	Topsoil - Trench E2-08	0.24 to 0.29
020901	E2-09	E2	Topsoil - Trench E2-09	0.24 (avg.)
140101	E14-01	E14	Topsoil - Trench E14-01	0.34 to 0.42
140201	E14-02	E14	Topsoil - Trench E14-02	0.35 to 0.40
140301	E14-03	E14	Topsoil - Trench E14-03	0.22 to 0.42
140401	E14-04	E14	Topsoil - Trench E14-04	0.30 to 0.42
140501	E14-05	E14	Topsoil - Trench E14-05	0.30 to 0.37
150101	E15-01	E15	Topsoil - Trench E15-01	0.25 to 0.30
150102	E15-01	E15	Subsoil - Trench E15-01	0.20 to 0.25
150201	E15-02	E15	Topsoil - Trench E15-02	0.32 to 0.43
150301	E15-03	E15	Topsoil - Trench E15-03	0.26 to 0.35

Context	Trench	Area	Title	Vertical span (m)
150401	E15-04	E15	Topsoil - Trench E15-04	0.32 to 0.45
170101	E17-01	E17	Topsoil - Trench E17-01	0.34 to 0.36
170201	E17-02	E17	Topsoil - Trench E17-02	0.30 to 0.36
170301	E17-03	E17	Topsoil - Trench E17-03	0.33 to 0.35
170401	E17-04	E17	Topsoil - Trench E17-04	0.30 to 0.33
170501	E17-05	E17	Topsoil - Trench E17-05	0.26 (avg.)
180101	E18-01	E18	Topsoil - Trench E18-01	0.20 to 0.35
180201	E18-02	E18	Topsoil - Trench E18-02	0.25 to 0.45
180301	E18-03	E18	Topsoil - Trench E18-03	0.10 to 0.35
180401	E18-04	E18	Topsoil - Trench E18-04	0.36 to 0.45
180501	E18-05	E18	Topsoil - Trench E18-05	0.25 to 0.30
180502	E18-05	E18	Subsoil - Trench E18-05	0.25 to 0.30
180601	E18-06	E18	Topsoil - Trench E18-06	0.11 to 0.36
190101	E19-01	E19	Topsoil - Trench E19-01	0.36 to 0.40
190201	E19-02	E19	Topsoil - Trench E19-02	0.30 to 0.40
190301	E19-03	E19	Topsoil - Trench E19-03	0.30 to 0.40
190401	E19-04	E19	Topsoil - Trench E19-04	0.40 to 0.45
190501	E19-05	E19	Topsoil - Trench E19-05	0.30 to 0.37
190601	E19-06	E19	Topsoil - Trench E19-06	0.30 to 0.40
190701	E19-07	E19	Topsoil - Trench E19-07	0.30 to 0.38
190801	E19-08	E19	Topsoil - Trench E19-08	0.34 to 0.44
190901	E19-09	E19	Topsoil - Trench E19-09	0.28 to 0.36
200101	E20-01	E20	Topsoil - Trench E20-01	0.33 to 0.45
200201	E20-02	E20	Topsoil - Trench E20-02	0.28 to 0.35

Context	Trench	Area	Title	Vertical span (m)
200301	E20-03	E20	Topsoil - Trench E20-03	0.30 to 0.40
200302	E20-03	E20	Subsoil - Trench E20-03	0.20 (avg.)
200401	E20-04	E20	Topsoil - Trench E20-04	0.43 to 0.48
200501	E20-05	E20	Topsoil - Trench E20-05	0.42 to 0.50
200601	E20-06	E20	Topsoil - Trench E20-06	0.34 to 0.37
200701	E20-07	E20	Topsoil - Trench E20-07	0.37 to 0.42
200801	E20-08	E20	Topsoil - Trench E20-08	0.30 to 0.43
210101	E21-01	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-01	0.36 to 0.40
210201	E21-02	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-02	0.27 to 0.34
210301	E21-03	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-03	0.29 to 0.35
210401	E21-04	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-04	0.40 (avg.)
210402	E21-04	E21	Subsoil - Trench E21-04	0.05 to 0.40
210501	E21-05	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-05	0.30 to 0.37
210601	E21-06	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-06	0.30 to 0.35
210701	E21-07	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-07	0.24 to 0.34
210702	E21-07	E21	Subsoil - Trench E21-07	0.20 to 0.28
210801	E21-08	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-08	0.28 to 0.34
210901	E21-09	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-09	0.27 to 0.35
210902	E21-09	E21	Subsoil - Trench E21-09	0.20 to 0.26
211001	E21-10	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-10	0.26 (avg.)
211002	E21-10	E21	Subsoil - Trench E21-10	0.10 to 0.30
211101	E21-11	E21	Topsoil - Trench E21-11	0.28 to 0.34
260101	E26-01	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-01	0.22 to 0.28
260201	E26-02	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-02	0.23 to 0.36

Context	Trench	Area	Title	Vertical span (m)
260301	E26-03	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-03	0.23 to 0.31
260302	E26-03	E26	Subsoil - Trench E26-03	0.13 to 0.28
260401	E26-04	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-04	0.28 to 0.34
260501	E26-05	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-05	0.25 to 0.34
260601	E26-06	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-06	0.25 to 0.30
260602	E26-06	E26	Subsoil - Trench E26-06	0.00 to 0.30
260701	E26-07	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-07	0.26 to 0.32
260801	E26-08	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-08	0.25 to 0.30
260901	E26-09	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-09	0.30 to 0.40
261001	E26-10	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-10	0.26 to 0.40
261101	E26-11	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-11	0.30 to 0.35
261201	E26-12	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-12	0.26 to 0.31
261202	E26-12	E26	Subsoil - Trench E26-12	0.20 to 0.25
261301	E26-13	E26	Topsoil - Trench E26-13	0.22 to 0.28

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	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. 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. 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.
Project Results	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. 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.

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	

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