

FIVE LANES SOLAR SITE, MALMESBURY, WILTSHIRE

(Centred on NGR ST 9356 8998)

Mitigation Statement

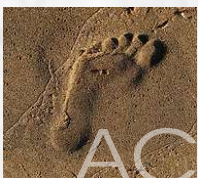
Wiltshire Council planning reference 20/08618/FUL
(Condition 7)

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
Stark Energy Limited

Report No: ACA0451/2/0

Date: January 2026



archaeology

FIVE LANES SOLAR SITE, MALMESBURY, WILTSHIRE

(Centred on NGR ST 9356 8998)

Mitigation Statement

Wiltshire Council planning reference 20/08618/FUL (Condition 6)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This mitigation statement has been prepared by AC archaeology on behalf of Lighthouse Development Consulting in January 2026 to discharge condition 6 relating to the grant of planning permission (Wiltshire Council planning reference 20/08618/FUL) for the installation of a solar farm on land at Five Lanes Solar Site, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR ST 9356 8998).

1.2 The consultation advice of the Wiltshire Council Assistant County Archaeologist (WCACA) provided to Wiltshire Council for planning reference 20/08618/FUL was as follows:

In response to the findings of evaluation report I would advise that an archaeological strip, map and record excavation is undertaken and should be targeted on the curvilinear ditch identified in the southern half of Trench 69. The area subject to excavation should measure a minimum of 30m by 30m and should include a 5m contingency beyond the last archaeological feature identified within the stripped area. Any archaeological features exposed in the strip, map and record areas should then be planned and recorded, followed by sufficient excavation in order to determine their extent, date and character.

This archaeological strip, map and record excavation should be secured via a condition attached to any planning consent which may be granted. Such a condition is to be worded thus:

'No development shall commence within the area indicated by application 20/08618/FUL until:

a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and

b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.'

The work is to be carried out following the standards and guidelines for Strip, Map and Record excavations as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The costs of this work are to be met by the applicant.

1.3 Following discussions with the WCACA, and subsequent to planning consent being granted, it was agreed that the implementation of a no dig approach within the strip, map and record area surrounding Trench 69 would ensure that no further archaeological work would be required in this area. This document sets out the revised approach within a 'no dig' area shown on Figure 1.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The site has been the subject of a geophysical survey (Webb 2021) and an archaeological evaluation (Brett 2022). Within approximately the centre of the site the geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies comprising a broadly funnel-shaped enclosure and square enclosure set within a larger sub-circular enclosure, with few anomalies identified within this larger enclosure. It is suggested that this enclosure was probably used as a stock enclosure. To the northeast of these enclosures a second enclosure was identified, which was broadly rectangular in shape and contained a number of smaller enclosures of varied shape and size. This enclosure is indicative of settlement activity. A number of linear anomalies were identified, and possibly associated with the enclosures, including a linear that possibly sealing the gap between the enclosures. Elsewhere two curvilinear anomalies, thought to potentially represent round barrows, and ridge and furrow were identified.
- 2.2** The archaeological evaluation recorded a number of largely undated archaeological features across much of the site, with a concentration of features of Romano-British date within trenches surrounding the two enclosures identified by the geophysical survey. Only a single feature contained exclusively finds of prehistoric date and comprised a ditch located to the northeast of the enclosures and did not conform to the alignment of the recorded Romano-British features. Undated features consisting of a ditch and two postholes recorded in Trench 53 and a ditch recorded in Trenches 19 and 20 are possibly associated with two anomalies, excluded from the development area, which were identified by the geophysical survey and thought to potentially represent round barrows. Trench 69 recorded a curvilinear ditch, which was not identified by the geophysical survey, that contained no finds. Based on the form of the feature, it is possible that this may represent a round barrow, however, this is by no means certain.
- 2.3** Features of Romano-British date were concentrated within the centre of the site and were largely filled with deposits indicative of settlement activity, with the finds indicating the main settlement is likely of 2nd to 3rd century AD in date, with some activity possible during the 1st to 2nd century and 3rd to 4th century. Ditches identified to the south of the enclosures possibly represent a north to south aligned trackway or droveway, and elsewhere possible field systems associated with the settlement.

3. COMMENTS

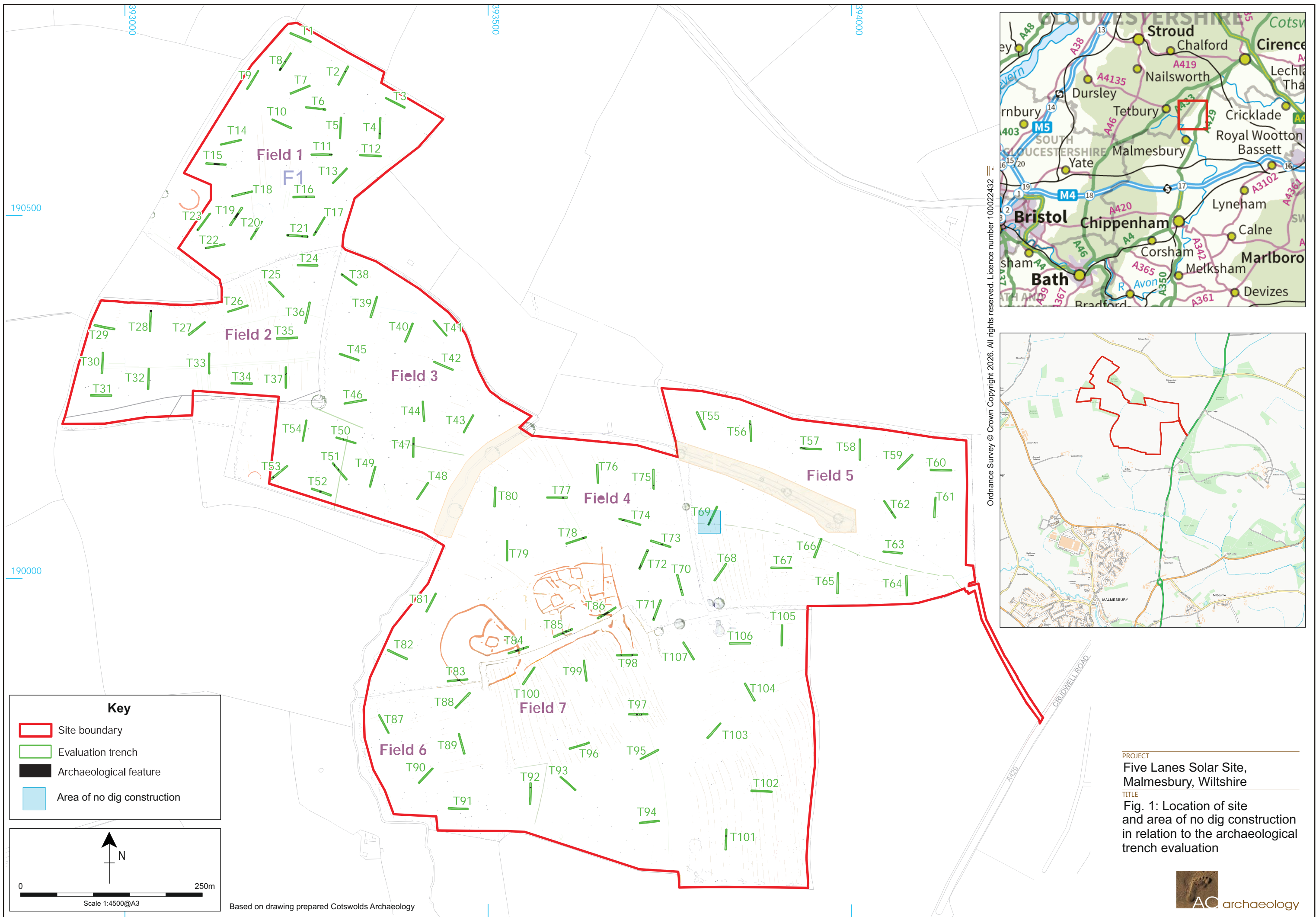
- 3.1** The previous trench evaluation (Brett 2022) demonstrated that the archaeological features recorded within Trench 69 were sealed by soil overburden at a depth of 0.54m below ground surface. Following discussion with the WCACA it was agreed that the implementation of a 'no dig' construction method within the strip, map and record excavation area, required by condition 6, would be an appropriate alternative mitigation strategy and ensure that the archaeology present would be preserved *in situ*.
- 3.2** Prior to the commencement of works the area of 'no dig' construction will be plotted by AC archaeology, who will brief the construction management team. The area will be visually demarcated and no untracked vehicles will enter the area. The 'no dig' construction method will comprise frames mounted on concrete footings over stone bases, with all cables routed above ground, hung behind the panels and channeled through cable trays.
- 3.2** In summary, it is concluded that the implementation of a 'no dig' construction methodology will ensure the archaeology recorded in Trench 69 will be preserved *in situ* and that no further archaeological investigations are necessary within this area (Fig. 1).

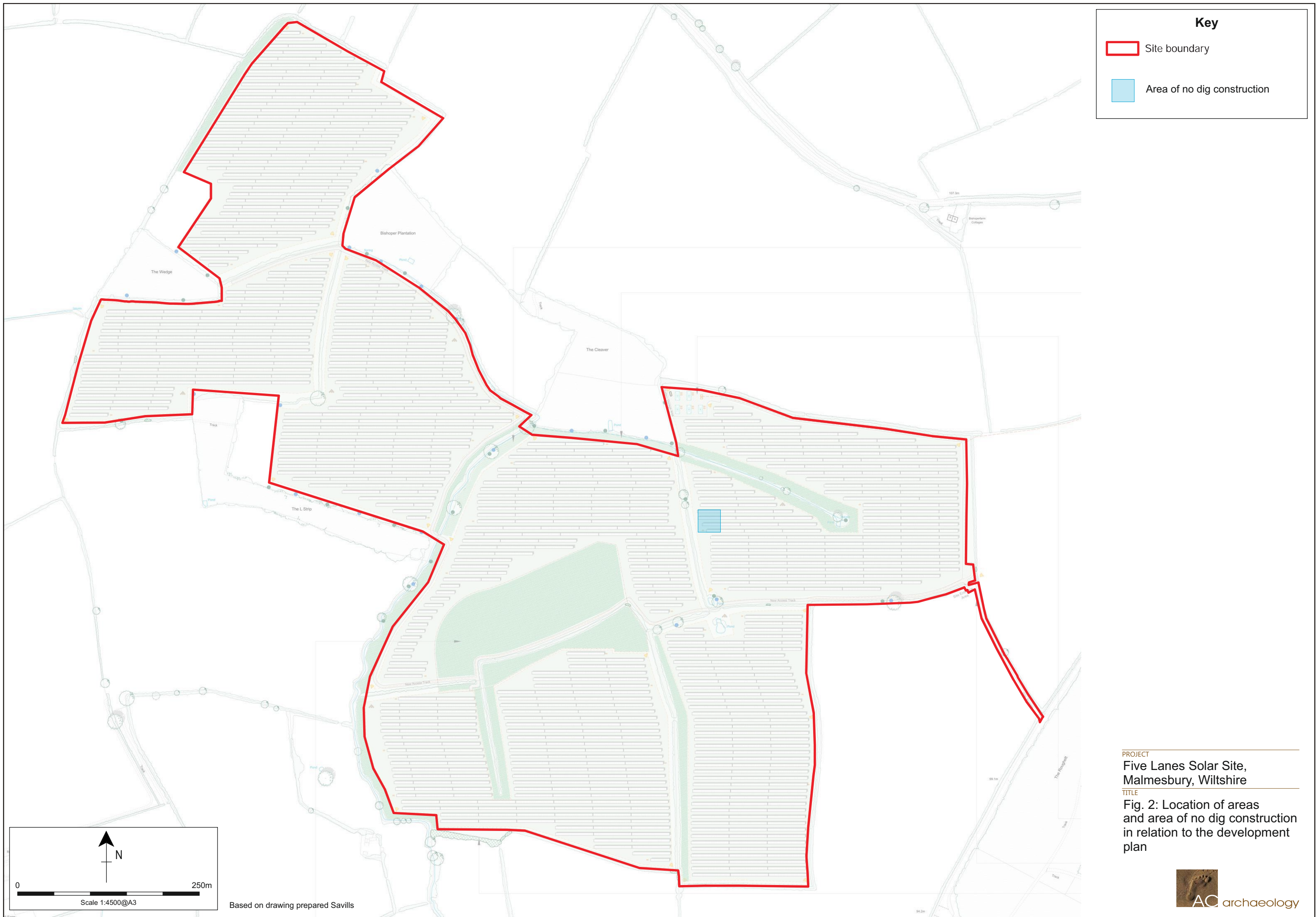
4. SOURCES CONSULTED

Brett, M., 2022, *Five Lanes Solar Site, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*.
Unpublished Cotswold Archaeology report ref. CR1155_1.

Webb, A., 2021, *Five Lanes Solar Project, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Geophysical Survey Report*.
Unpublished Headland Archaeology report.

Version 1
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