

Archaeological Mitigation and Management Plan – Updated for 2026

Wick Solar Farm, Lacock, Wiltshire

On behalf of JBM Solar Projects 13 Ltd

Date: 04/06/2026 | Pegasus Ref: P20-0137

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Document Management				
Version	Date	Author	Checked/approved by:	Reason for revision
1	September 2021	Dr Elizabeth Pratt (Senior Heritage Consultant)	Gail Stoten (Executive Director – Heritage)	–
2	October 2021	Dr Elizabeth Pratt (Senior Heritage Consultant)	Gail Stoten (Executive Director – Heritage)	Addressing comments from Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger
3	November 2021	Dr Elizabeth Pratt (Senior Heritage Consultant)	Gail Stoten (Executive Director – Heritage)	Addressing comments from Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger
4	November 2023	Dr Elizabeth Pratt (Associate Heritage Consultant)	Gail Stoten (Executive Director – Heritage)	Updates to reference a reduction to the previously-agreed above-ground foundation zone in Field 9: • Paragraph 1.2 • Paragraph 2.3 • Paragraph 2.9 • Paragraph 2.11 • Paragraph 3.17 • Plate 4 • Appendix 1 • Appendix 6 (formerly Appendix 7) Update to reference a change to the number of swales coinciding with a 10m radius of the exclusion and above-ground foundation zones.
5	March 2026	Dr Elizabeth Pratt (Associate Heritage Consultant)	Gail Stoten (Executive Director – Heritage)	Addition of Figure 1 to show the field numbering of the site. Splitting of Section 1 into Section 1 and Section 2. Update to Section 1 to describe planning history (NMA / S73) and reference to Condition 14 to which this AMMP relates. Updates to Section 3 and Appendix 1 to discuss the proposed rerouting of cabling through the exclusion zones in Fields 5 and 6.

				Updates to Section 3 and Appendix 3 to describe the use of gabion baskets in lieu of 'Monobloc' as the above-ground foundation technology in Fields 9, 10 and 12. Updates to Section 3 and the addition of Appendices 7 and 8 to detail archaeological works carried out since 2023 – for the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9, 10 and 12; for the grid connection across the National Grid land; and for the revised internal cable route through Fields 5 and 6. Updates to Section 4 and the substitution of plans in Appendix 3 to provide details of the confirmed dimensions of cable trenches. Updates to Sections 3 and 4 to refer to the archaeological watching brief required for the revised high and low voltage cable routes through Fields 5, 6, 10 and 12. General restructuring of Sections 3 and 4 – including, in Section 4, splitting and moving the watching brief requirement text to sit under the relevant groundworks subheadings, and cross-referencing the updated Written Scheme of Investigation. Replacing Plates to reflect the S73 Layout.
6	June 2026	Dr Elizabeth Pratt (Associate Heritage Consultant)	Gail Stoten (Executive Director – Heritage)	Updating S73 Layout enclosed as Appendix 1 to exclude the on-site woodland from the redline boundary.

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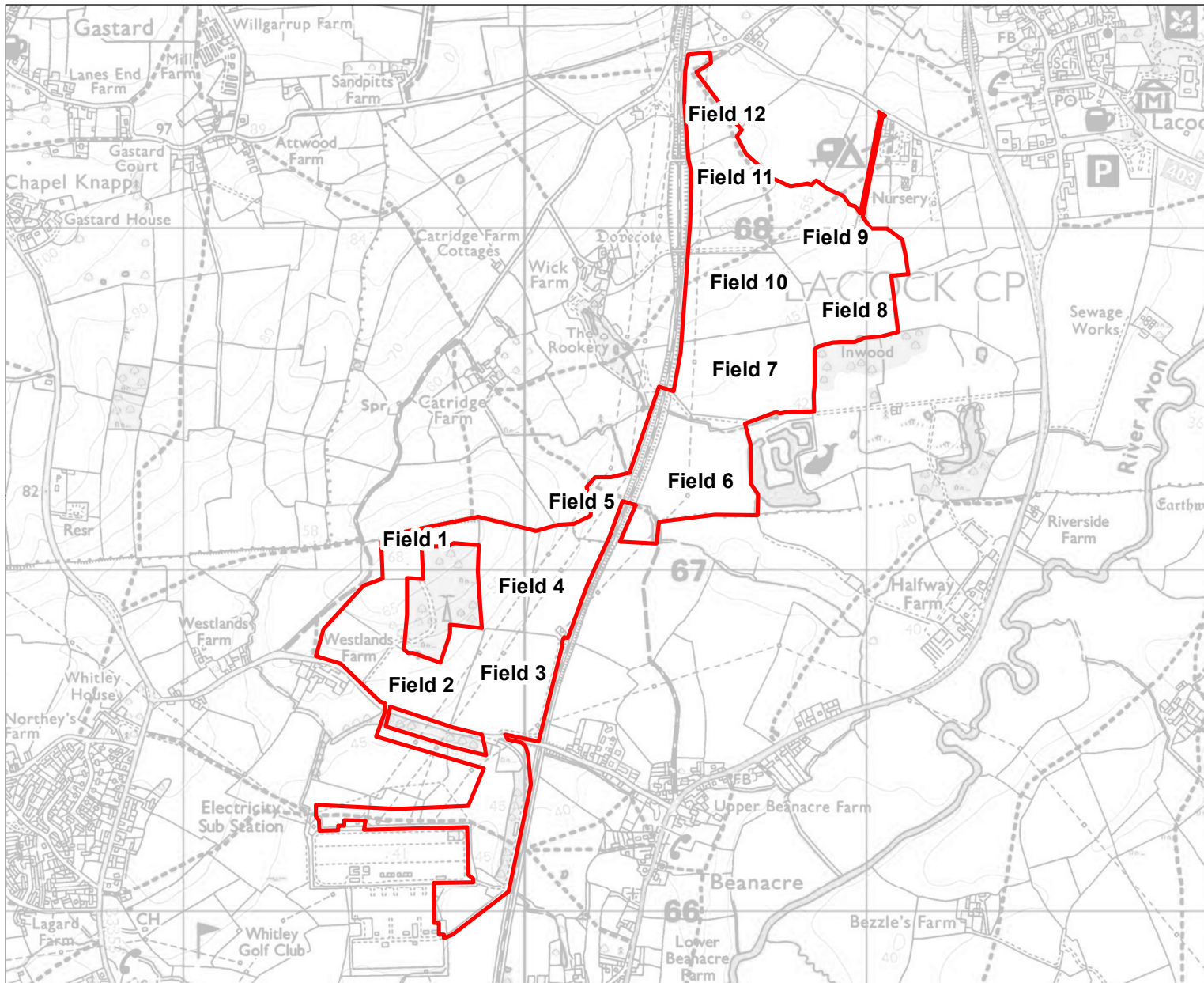
1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Archaeological Mitigation and Management Plan (hereafter 'this AMMP') has been prepared in relation to the proposed development of a solar farm outlying Wick Farm near Beanacre in Wiltshire.
- 1.2 It details the strategy for the mitigation and management of the buried archaeological resource of the site during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- 1.3 The original (2021) AMMP was approved as part of the planning permission granted by Wiltshire Council in 2021 (20/06840/FUL).
- 1.4 An updated (2023) version was prepared to support a Non Material Amendment planning application for a proposed reduction to one of the archaeological mitigation zones (PL/2023/10437).
- 1.5 This updated (2026) version of the AMMP will accompany a forthcoming Section 73 planning application for:
- A revised internal cable route – most notably through Fields 5 and 6 of the solar farm, which are otherwise identified as development exclusion zones on account of archaeological sensitivities; and
 - The use of gabion baskets in lieu of concrete slabs in Fields 9, 10 and 12 of the solar farm, where above-ground foundations are required on account of archaeological sensitivities.
- 1.6 This AMMP should be read in conjunction with **Figure 1**.

- 1.7 Compliance to this AMMP is secured by Condition 14 of the 2021 planning permission, which states:

"The works and mitigation measures detailed in the approved Archaeological Mitigation and Management Plan (Version 3 / November 2021) shall be carried out in full for each phase of development as identified within the document.

REASON: In order that the development is undertaken in an acceptable manner, to protect areas of the site which are of archaeological interest, and to enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest."



KEY

20/06840/FUL Redline

Figure 1: Field Numbers

Wick Solar Farm

Client: RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd

DRWG No: P20-0137

Drawn by: EP

Date: 10/02/2026

Scale: 1:17,500 @ A4

Approved by: GS

2. Overview of Archaeological Resource

Previous Assessment Work

- 2.1 A heritage statement (Pegasus Group 2020), a geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2020), and an archaeological trial trench evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2020) were undertaken for the original planning application. Two heritage addendums were also prepared to clarify impacts on selected designated heritage assets in the wider area and to assess the significance of the buried archaeological resource of the site (Pegasus Group 2021a, Pegasus Group 2021b).
- 2.2 The geophysical survey re-captured data for areas of the site previously subject to archaeological investigation in 2015 for the Melksham to Thingley cable route, and collected new data from the rest of the site. The results indicated the continuation of a previously-known Roman roadside settlement through most of Fields 5 and the north-eastern corner of Field 4 on the west side of the railway line and through the southernmost part of Field 6 on the east side of the railway line (**Plate 1**). The geophysical survey also identified two previously-unknown zones of probable Iron Age to Romano-British enclosed settlement in Fields 9, 10 and 12 in the central and northern parts of the eastern half of the site (**Plate 2, Plate 3**; see below).
- 2.3 The trial trench evaluation confirmed the Roman road and settlement (stone surfaces, walls, occupation deposits, beam slots, postholes, pits, ditches) in Fields 4, 5 and 6. Within the settlement, the road was surfaced with substantial metalling; outside the settlement, it comprised a thin layer of gravel. The enclosures in the north-eastern corner of Field 4 resemble

domestic garden plots. The enclosures in the north-western corner of Field 5 are also peripheral to the settlement core along the road. In Fields 9, 10 and 12, trenches recorded rectilinear enclosures containing post-holes, pits and ditches seemingly of transitional Iron Age to Roman settlement activity.

Archaeological Sensitivities

- 2.4 In 2020, following discussions with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Archaeological Advisor to Wiltshire Council, it was agreed that the area of Roman road and settlement in Fields 4, 5 and 6 would be excluded from development.
- 2.5 It was also agreed that the areas of transitional Iron Age to Roman settlement in Fields 9, 10 and 12 would be subject to development, but using above-ground foundations and cable suspension systems – and only after the execution of a targeted programme of strip map and sample excavation.
- 2.6 This mitigation by design was reflected in the submitted development layout (which was subsequently approved under **20/06840/FUL**). Further details on the exclusion zones and the above-ground foundation zones and technology are provided in **Section 3** and **Section 4**.

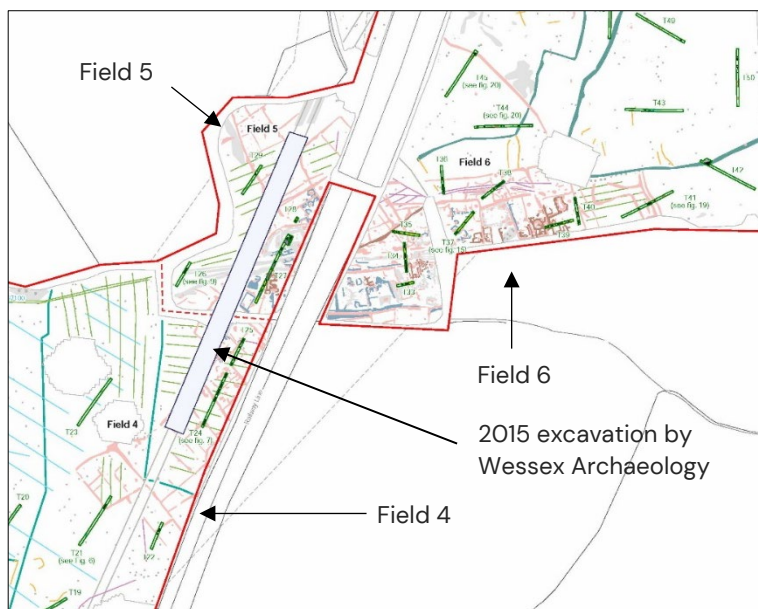


Plate 1: Area of Roman roadside settlement and associated peripheral enclosures within Fields 4, 5 and 6 (from Cotswold Archaeology 2020)



Plate 2: Area of transitional Iron Age to Roman settlement within Fields 9 and 10 (from Cotswold Archaeology 2020)

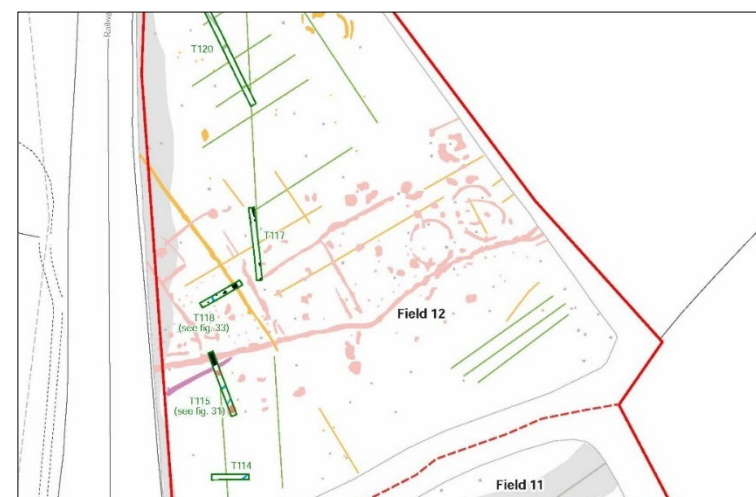


Plate 3: Area of transitional Iron Age to Roman settlement within Field 12 (from Cotswold Archaeology 2020)

3. Mitigation Pre-Commencement: By Design and By Archaeological SMS

By Design

Exclusion Zones (*Preservation In Situ*)

- 3.1 The development layout approved under the original application (**20/06840/FUL**) showed the areas of Roman roadside settlement lying within Fields 4, 5 and 6 as development exclusion zones. This remained the case for the development layout approved under the later NMA (**PL/2023/10437**).
- 3.2 In fact, the entirety of Field 5, not just the part with the known Roman archaeology, was to be left undeveloped – with the exception of cabling around its northern and western field margins (which themselves were beyond the mapped extent of the Roman archaeology).
- 3.3 The cabling entered Field 5 (which is the northernmost field on the west side of the railway line) at its north-eastern corner – having crossed the railway line via the underpass at the north end of Field 6. This underpass was intentionally chosen over the underpass at the south end of Field 6 in order to avoid the Roman roadside settlement at the south end of Field 6.
- 3.4 This strategy was endorsed by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Archaeological Advisor to Wiltshire Council, in email correspondence dated 3rd September 2021.
- 3.5 However, in 2025, Engineering, Procurement, and Construction work established that this cable route/crossing would not be feasible after all, on account of its proximity to an existing

electricity pylon at the north-eastern corner of Field 5. It was necessary to re-route the high voltage cable through the western margin of Field 6, close to the railway embankment, and to use the southern underpass to cross into Field 5.

- 3.6 To minimise impacts to the Roman archaeology in Field 5, however, it was decided that the cable would then directly join the east side of the Melksham to Thingley electrification cable easement (for which archaeological works had previously been undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2015; see **2.2**) for the cable's southerly continuation into Field 4.
- 3.7 Consultation with Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council, in Autumn 2025, established that the section of the revised cable route through Field 6, and through the part of Field 5 lying between the railway underpass and the existing cable easement, would need to be subject to strip map sample excavation (see **3.37**) – while the section within the previously-disturbed easement could be subject to a watching brief (see **4.36–4.37**).

Above-Ground Foundations (*Preservation In Situ*)

- 3.8 The development layout approved under **20/06840/FUL** showed the areas of transitional Iron Age to Roman settlement in Fields 9, 10 and 12 as “ballasted solar system”.
- 3.9 This meant that above-ground foundations and cable suspension would be used to avoid the truncation of known and potential buried archaeological deposits. This mitigation by design strategy was endorsed by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger in email correspondence dated 3rd September 2021.

- 3.10 Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger also requested that small areas within these above-ground foundation zones be subject to strip map sample excavation (SMS) in order to recover additional information regarding the buried depth, phasing, and significance of the buried archaeological resource – and to verify that there was sufficient protective overburden for the use of above-ground foundations. Further details of the SMS are provided in **3.21**.

Above-Ground Foundation Zone Extents

- 3.11 Based on the results of the aforementioned SMS in Fields 9, 10 and 12 (see **3.21**), a reduction to the extent of the above-ground foundation zone in Field 9 was proposed to Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council, and approved by him in email correspondence dated 29th September and 2nd October 2023.
- 3.12 The revised extents of the above-ground foundation zones in all three fields was then approved under the 2023 NMA (**PL/2023/10437**).

Above-Ground Foundation System For Arrays

- 3.13 The above-ground foundation system approved under **20/06840/FUL** was 'Monobloc'.
- 3.14 This would have comprised ballast slabs measuring 1m in width x 2.4m in length x 0.18m in depth, which sit on a 100mm thick, porous gravel sub-base overlying a geotextile membrane laid directly onto the current ground surface. Piles supporting the PV panels would be mounted to the ballast slabs. Each slab would carry 15 panels, and a single inverter/combiner box would be mounted to one of the piles.

- 3.15 The 2026 S73 application seeks to retrospectively change the above-ground foundation system to gabion baskets.

- 3.16 The gabion baskets are constructed of steel mesh and are approximately 1m in width x 1m in length x 0.75m in height. Where the existing surface is level, the gabion baskets will sit directly on the ground. If levelling is required, a geotextile membrane will be laid on the ground and stone chippings spread on top to create a level surface for the gabion basket to sit on. The baskets are then filled with a stone/aggregate ballast. Piles supporting the PV panels and mounting structure will be fixed to the gabion baskets. Each pile/basket will support approximately 4 panels, and a single combiner box will be mounted to the PV mounting structure.

Above-Ground Foundation System For Cabling

- 3.17 Within the above-ground foundation zone in Field 9, there will be no buried cabling. Low voltage cables will be suspended on the underside of each row of ballasted panels. The cables will sit in a steel cable hanger with a rubber coating, which will be hooked onto the back of the array (**Appendix 4**).
- 3.18 Within the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 10 and 12, however, short lengths of cable trenches are necessary. Further details of cable trenches are presented in **4.18** onwards.
- 3.19 In Fields 9, 10 and 12, the suspended cables / cable trenches will then feed into other low- and high-voltage cable trenches outside the above-ground foundation zones (**Appendix 1** and **Appendix 4**).

- 3.20 Mitigation for the impacts arising from the cable trenching within these three fields as a whole is secured by way of an archaeological watching brief (see **4.18** onwards).

By Archaeological Work (Preservation By Record)

Strip Map Sample Excavations

Fields 9, 10 and 12

- 3.21 The requirement for strip map and sample excavation (SMS) within Fields 9, 10 and 12 (see **3.10**) was secured by Condition 16 of the original planning permission (**20/06840/FUL**).
- 3.22 The 2021 edition of this AMMP stated that selected areas within Fields 9, 10 and 12 would be subject to prior to construction, as follows:
- 0.21ha within Field 9;
 - 0.68ha within Field 10; and
 - 0.18ha within Field 12.
- 3.23 A plan showing these SMS areas was drawn up by Pegasus Group. It was accepted by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger in email correspondence dated 3rd September 2021.
- 3.24 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the execution of the SMS (comprising fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, reporting) was prepared by Cotswold Archaeology, a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Registered Organisation, and approved by Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist, on 19th May 2023.

- 3.25 The SMS fieldwork was subsequently carried out between May and September 2023 (**Appendix 6**). A summary report was provided in October 2023, and a Post-Excavation Assessment report was provided in August 2024.

- 3.26 The scope of Stage 2 analysis and publication has been agreed with Neil Adam, and is scheduled for completion by the end of September 2026.

Grid Connection Across National Grid Land

- 3.27 The requirement for a programme of archaeological investigation and mitigation for the grid connection across National Grid land south of Westlands Lane – connecting the solar farm to the Melksham Substation – was secured by Condition 15 of the original planning permission (**20/06840/FUL**).
- 3.28 The requirement for this archaeological work was recognised by the earlier editions of this AMMP. The works were completed between 2024 and 2025 – i.e. in the intervening period between the 2023 edition of the AMMP and this updated AMMP.
- 3.29 Two Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) for geophysical surveys of land within the redline area south of Westlands Lane were prepared by Archaeological Surveys in October 2023 and February 2024, and approved by Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist, on 20th October 2023 and 20th February 2024.
- 3.30 The surveys were undertaken in December 2023 and March 2024. The initial survey identified a small number of positive linear and discrete anomalies of uncertain origin. The second survey identified a ring ditch, and a number of linear ditches

that seem to have drained into a former watercourse that had undergone modifications. Both reports were submitted for planning applications **PL/2024/01560** and **PL/2025/05856**.

- 3.31 Following consultation with Neil Adam in November 2024, it was agreed that mitigation could be secured by planning condition but would need to comprise strip map sample excavation (SMS) focussed along the cable route (the area subject to geophysical survey having been much greater in extent, as the cable route was not known at that time).
- 3.32 A proposed plan of the area to be subject to SMS was drawn up by Pegasus Group, comprising a 10m buffer from the outermost cables to allow not only for the cable trenches but the 7.5m working corridors. This plan was accepted by Neil Adam on 24th January 2025.
- 3.33 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the execution of the SMS (comprising fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, reporting) was subsequently prepared by Cotswold Archaeology, a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Registered Organisation, and approved by Neil Adam on 24th April 2025.
- 3.34 The SMS fieldwork was subsequently carried out between June and July 2025, prior to the determination of planning application **PL/2025/05856** – i.e. pre-empting the condition requirement. A plan of the SMS area is included as **Appendix 7**. An interim report was issued in February 2026, and the Post-Excavation Assessment report is scheduled for completion by the end of June 2026.
- 3.35 It was agreed with Neil Adam via email on 6th February 2026 that the forthcoming **PL/2025/05856** planning condition will be fully discharged through:

- The submission of the PXA report and its approval in writing by the LPA; and
- Written commitment from the applicant to the necessary follow-on publication and archiving.

3.36 **This must happen before the solar farm is brought into use.**

Fields 5 and 6

- 3.37 As explained in **3.5–3.7** above, consultation with Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist, established that a combined strategy of strip map sample excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording would be required for the revised high voltage cable route through Fields 5 and 6 (i.e. for which permission is sought by the forthcoming S73 application).
- 3.38 A proposed plan of two areas to be subject to SMS was drawn up by Pegasus Group, comprising:
- The north/south aligned cable trench (and the associated working corridor on its east side) on the eastern side of the railway embankment; and
 - The east/west aligned cable trench (and the associated working corridor on its south side) on the western side of the railway embankment.
- 3.39 This strategy was accepted by Neil Adam on 24th January 2025.
- 3.40 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the execution of the SMS (comprising fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, reporting) – and also making provision of the watching brief (see **4.35–4.37**) – was subsequently prepared by Cotswold

Archaeology, a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Registered Organisation, and approved by Neil Adam on 28th October 2025.

- 3.41 The SMS fieldwork was subsequently carried out between November and December 2025, prior to the submission and determination of the S73 application – i.e. pre-empting the condition requirement. A plan of the SMS area is included as **Appendix 8**. A summary report was issued in January 2026, and will be submitted with the forthcoming S73 application. The Post-Excavation Assessment report is scheduled for completion by the start of September 2026.
- 3.42 It was agreed with Neil Adam via email on 6th February 2026 that the forthcoming S73 planning condition will be fully discharged through:
- The submission of the PXA report and its approval in writing by the LPA; and
 - Written commitment from the applicant to the necessary follow-on publication and archiving.
- 3.43 **This must happen before the solar farm is brought into use.**

4. Management During Construction: Working Methods and Watching Briefs

Pre-Commencement

Preparatory Groundworks

- 4.1 For the majority of the site there will be no topsoil stripping or levelling; the intention is to work with the natural topography.
- 4.2 There will be no topsoil stripping in the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9, 10 and 12 – except as part of the strip map and sample excavation (see **3.21**) and cable trenching (see **4.18** onwards).
- 4.3 There will be no topsoil stripping in the development exclusion zones in Fields 4, 5 and 6 – except as part of the strip map and sample excavation (see **3.38**).

Temporary Protective Fencing

- 4.4 Prior to commencement of groundworks for the installation of the solar arrays and associated infrastructure, the development exclusion zones for the Roman roadside settlement in Fields 4, 5 and 6 will be enclosed with Heras fencing to prohibit access during the construction phase.
- 4.5 Typical Heras panel dimensions are 3.5m wide x 2.0m tall; they are inserted into bases placed directly onto the ground surface. This is the industry-standard temporary fencing solution for large construction sites – providing an effective, robust, highly visible barrier.
- 4.6 Industry-standard signage prohibiting unauthorised access will be attached at eye-level to the fence panels at suitable

intervals. During construction activities in close proximity to the Roman roadside settlement fencing, hi-visibility tape can be temporarily applied to relevant fence panels to assist with plant operations.

- 4.7 The nature, location, and sensitivity of the Roman roadside settlement, and the work protocols to be adopted during all proximate construction works, will:
 - Form part of the relevant construction method statement(s);
 - Be brought to the attention of all construction personnel engaged on any aspect of the project prior to their admittance onto the construction site, e.g., via a site induction / toolbox talk.
- 4.8 Once construction works have commenced, the integrity and effectiveness of the Roman roadside settlement fencing will be subject to routine checks every month to ensure that the panel fastenings and bases are secure and all signage is prominent and visible. One-off checks will also be undertaken as follows:
 - Prior to commencement of, and subsequent to, any discrete new phase of construction works;
 - Prior to commencement of, and subsequent to, construction works within especial proximity to the fencing – namely, installation of arrays and cabling outside the fencing;

- Subsequent to any instances of authorised (or unauthorised) access to the Roman roadside settlement areas – including landscaping (see below); and
- Subsequent to any instances of damage, either accidental or criminal, to the fencing and any associated repairs.

4.9 Removal of the fencing at any time prior to completion of the construction of the development would only be undertaken after providing reasonable justification to the Wiltshire County Archaeologist, or their representative or successor, and receiving their written approval.

Installation of Built Infrastructure

4.10 Construction groundworks across the solar farm will include:

- Provision of access;
- Piling of the solar arrays;
- Excavation of cable trenches;
- Excavation of bases for the battery stations;
- Excavation of drainage swales; and
- Installation of perimeter fencing with CCTV.

Access Tracks

- 4.11 Access tracks are required within the solar farm area for construction and operation; however none cross the archaeologically-sensitive areas (**Appendix 1**).
- 4.12 Existing farm tracks will be used wherever possible. These will be reinforced where necessary by excavation up to 400mm below present ground level to lay GeoGrid Ground Stabilisation Mesh, followed by up to 150mm of compacted soil, another GeoGrid Ground Stabilisation Mesh, and up to 250mm thick of crushed concrete (**Appendix 2**).

Vehicle Movements within Above-Ground Foundation Zones

- 4.13 Only lightweight plant will be deployed to transport and install the solar arrays and cabling within the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9, 10 and 12.
- 4.14 The plant will only use pre-defined routes that have been laid with Terrafirma matting.
- 4.15 No vehicle movements will take place during or immediately after heavy rainfall.
- 4.16 These measures will avoid truncation and minimise compression of the buried archaeological deposits here.

Piling

- 4.17 All solar arrays aside from those in the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9, 10 and 12 (see **Section 3**) will be piled. It has previously been agreed with Wiltshire Council (for the original application) that no mitigation is needed for the limited impacts to arising from piling.

Cable Trenching

- 4.18 The low voltage cable routes within the archaeologically-sensitive areas were fixed for the 2020 planning application to ensure that potential impacts to the buried archaeological resource could be understood and addressed.
- 4.19 In the approved development layout:
- No cabling at all was present in the exclusion zones in Fields 5 and 6; and
 - A no-dig suspension system was intended for low voltage cabling within the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9 and 10.
 - However, it was necessary, for reasons of Health and Safety, for a c.50m length of high voltage cable to be buried within the western margin of the above-ground foundation zone in Field 12.
- 4.20 EPC work in 2025 identified a requirement for a change to the high voltage cable route through Fields 5 and 6 containing the exclusion zones, and, for minor variations to the low voltage cable routes elsewhere within the site – including the introduction of two short sections of cable trenches within the above-ground foundation zone in Field 10.
- 4.21 EPC work also finalised the dimensions of the cable trenches. The indicative cable trench section drawings included in the 2023 version of this AMMP had shown typical DC cables across open ground to be 1.10m in depth and 0.70m in width, LV cable trenches across open ground to be 1.40m in depth and 0.70m in depth, and HV cable trenches across open ground to be 1.60m in depth and 0.70m in width.

- 4.22 EPC work established a need for approximately 50 different trench section configurations across the site. **Table 1** and **Table 2** detail the maximum widths and depths of these various configurations.

Table 1: Cable trench dimensions for the overall site

Type	Width*	Depth**
DC	2.06m	1.00m
LV	0.90m	1.00m
HV	3.08m	1.10m

**Maximum widths. Trenches containing fewer circuits will be narrower.*

***Trenches may be as deep as 1.45m for short sections where they are crossing other features.*

Table 2: Cable trench dimensions in the above-ground foundations zones and the exclusion zone within the site

Type	Width*	Depth
DC	1.80m	1.00m
HV	1.00m	1.10m

**Maximum widths. Trenches containing fewer circuits will be narrower.*

- 4.23 The EPC-confirmed maximum widths are greater than the indicative drawings from 2023. This is because those widest trenches are those where many individual trenches are consolidated as they approach their destination. However the EPC-confirmed maximum depths are less than the indicative drawings from 2023.

- 4.24 Technical drawings showing typical cable trench sections in the overall site, and in the archaeologically-sensitive areas, are provided in **Appendix 4**.
- 4.25 Mitigation for impacts to the buried archaeological resource arising from the excavation of high and low voltage cable trenches is secured by way of archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief).

Fields 9, 10 and 12

- 4.26 The previously-approved suspension system for the low voltage cabling through the above-ground foundation zone in Field 10 is unchanged. For further details, see **3.19**.
- 4.27 The previously-approved c.50m long trench for high voltage cabling running north/south inside the western boundary of the above-ground foundation zone in Field 12, is unchanged.
- 4.28 However, in Field 10, a c.30m long trench for low voltage cabling will now run west/east inside the northern boundary of the above-ground foundation zone, while another c.30m long trench for low voltage cabling will run west/east inside the southern boundary of the above-ground foundation zone.
- 4.29 It was previously agreed with Wiltshire Council that archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) would be carried out for:
- The excavation of all high voltage cable trenches across the site; and
 - The excavation of low voltage cable trenches leading away from the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9, 10 and 12, and around the perimeter of Field 6.

- 4.30 This requirement was secured by Condition 15 of the original planning permission (**20/06840/FUL**) and referenced in the earlier editions of this AMMP.

- 4.31 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for this programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was prepared by Cotswold Archaeology, a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Registered Organisation, and approved by Neil Adam on 16th November 2023.

- 4.32 This WSI has since been amended to:

- **Include** the 50m long section of cable trench through the above-ground foundation zone in Field 12 (shown on the approved development layout but inadvertently omitted from the 2023 WSI) (**Plate 4**);
- **Include** the two 30m long cable trenches through the above-ground foundation zone in Field 10 (**Plate 5**); and
- **Exclude** the cabling around the perimeter of Field 6, which has instead been addressed by way of strip map sample excavation (see below).

- 4.33 The 2023 WSI was updated by Cotswold Archaeology, a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Registered Organisation (2026; Rev D), and was approved by Neil Adam on 4th March 2026.



Plate 4: High voltage cable trench within the above-ground foundation zone in Field 12

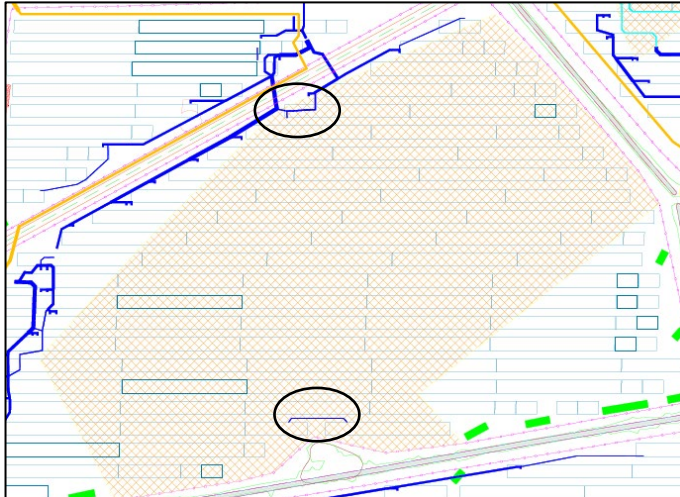


Plate 5: Low voltage cable trenches within the above-ground foundation zone in Field 10

Fields 5 and 6

- 4.34 As explained in **3.7**, a revised route is now being sought for the high voltage cabling through Fields 5 and 6.
- 4.35 Consultation with Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council, in Autumn 2025, established that the revised cable route through Field 6, and through the part of Field 5 lying between the railway underpass and the existing cable easement, would need to be subject to strip map sample excavation – while the easement could be subject to a watching brief.
- 4.36 The SMS has already been discussed in **3.37–3.43**. For the watching brief, it was agreed with Neil Adam that this would be undertaken for the installation of the cable within the Melksham to Thingley electrification cable easement in Field 5, as shown on **Appendix 8**.
- 4.37 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording – and also making provision of the SMS (see **3.37–3.43**) – has been prepared by Cotswold Archaeology, a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Registered Organisation, and approved by Neil Adam on 16th November 2023.

Battery Stations

- 4.38 The battery stations, which typically comprise three containers housing one inverter and two batteries, will be installed in the following locations (**Appendix 1**):
- The western margins of Fields 10 and 11;

- In the centre of Field 9 (to the north-west of the above-ground foundation zone);
 - Outside the north-western corner of Field 6;
 - Along the western margin of Field 6 (to the north of the exclusion zone);
 - Within the eastern and southern margins of Field 3; and
 - Within the southern margin of Field 2.
- 4.39 The footprint of each battery station requires excavation up to 300mm below ground level to lay a gravel base for the containers (**Appendix 5**).
- 4.40 The installation of all battery stations will require mitigation in the form of archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief).
- 4.41 This requirement was secured by Condition 15 of the original planning permission (**20/O6840/FUL**) and referenced in the earlier editions of this AMMP.
- 4.42 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording has been prepared by Cotswold Archaeology, a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Registered Organisation, and was approved by Neil Adam on 16th November 2023.
- 4.43 The provision for the watching brief has been retained in the updated WSI (2026; Rev D), which was approved by Neil Adam on 4th March 2026 (see **4.33**).

Drainage Swales

- 4.44 A total of 94 drainage swales are proposed across the site (**Appendix 1**).
- 4.45 Considering the archaeologically-sensitive areas, none are within Field 5 and none are within 10m of the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9 and 12. However:
- Eight lie within 10m of the exclusion zone in Field 4 (**Plate 6**);
 - Four lie within 10m of the exclusion zone in Field 6 (**Plate 7**); and
 - Two lie within 10m of the above-ground foundation zone in Field 10 (**Plate 8**).
- 4.46 The swales require excavation to 525mm below present ground level, the removed spoil forming a bund on the downhill edge.
- 4.47 No swale excavations will take place within the exclusion zones or the above-ground foundation zones.

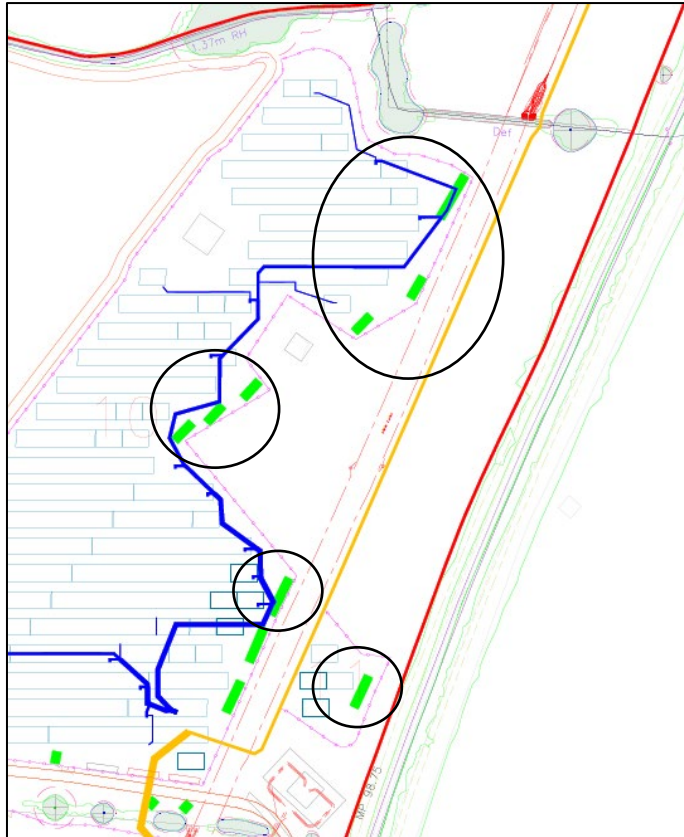


Plate 6: Extract from S73 site layout showing the eight swales (circled) located within 10m of the exclusion zone in Field 4

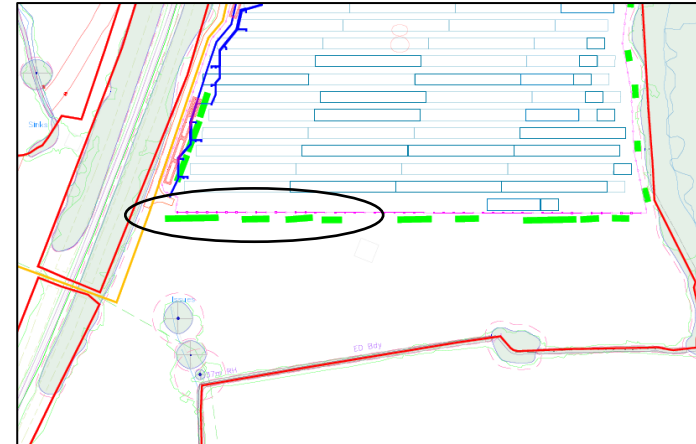


Plate 7: Extract from S73 site layout showing the four swales (circled) located within 10m of the exclusion zone in Field 6

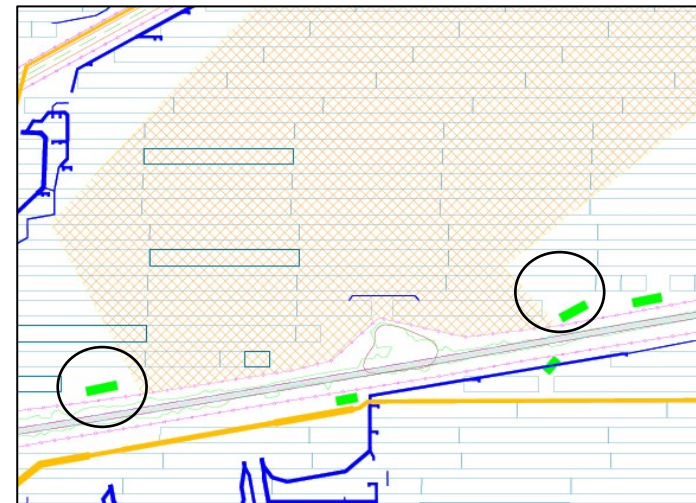


Plate 8: Extract from S73 site layout showing the two swales (circled) located within 10m of the above-ground foundation zone in Field 10

- 4.48 The excavation of the 11 drainage swales that lie within 10m of the exclusion zones and above-ground foundation zones will require mitigation in the form of archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief).
- 4.49 This requirement was secured by Condition 15 of the original planning permission (**20/06840/FUL**) and referenced in the earlier editions of this AMMP.
- 4.50 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording has been prepared by Cotswold Archaeology, a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Registered Organisation, and was approved by Neil Adam on 16th November 2023.
- 4.51 The provision for the watching brief has been retained in the updated WSI (2026; Rev D), which was approved by Neil Adam on 4th March 2026 (see **4.33**).

Perimeter Fencing and CCTV

- 4.52 Each block of arrays will be enclosed by wire-and-post deer fencing, with CCTV cameras mounted on poles (**Appendix 2**).
- 4.53 It is not considered necessary or practical to mitigate impacts to the buried archaeological resource from fence posts. This infrastructure is not located within the archaeologically-sensitive exclusion or above-ground foundation zones.

Landscaping

- 4.54 Seeding of the site will take place before any other construction groundworks. This typically entails cultivation (tilling) to 100mm below present ground level and then spreading seed across the bare earth. Further seeding will

take place post-construction in any areas adversely affected by vehicle tracking.

Fields 9, 10 and 12

- 4.55 The following landscaping is proposed within the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9, 10 and 12:
- The land beneath the ground-mounted arrays within all three fields will be sown with a Long Term Grazing Mix;
 - The field margins of all three areas will be sown with a Standard General Purpose Meadow Mix;
 - The existing hedgerow within the eastern margin of Field 10, outside the above-ground foundation zone, will be enhanced with new planting; and
 - The western boundary of Field 12, outside the above-ground foundation zone, will be enhanced by new hedgerow and tree planting.
- 4.56 There will be no cultivation (tilling) within the above-ground foundation zones, to avoid truncation of buried archaeological deposits. Grass seed will be dispersed using a hand-pushed spreader; no heavy machinery or equipment will be deployed.
- 4.57 No other vegetation, or trees, will be planted within the above-ground foundation zones at this or any other time.

Fields 4, 5 and 6

- 4.58 Landscaping of the development exclusion zones in Fields 4, 5, and 6 will be undertaken once the arrays and infrastructure have been installed elsewhere within the site.
- 4.59 First, the Heras fencing will be removed to facilitate access to the areas. This will entail the manual detachment of the panels from their bases and from one another, and the collection of the panels and their bases.
- 4.60 The areas will then be sown with a Standard General Purpose Meadow Mix. This will provide suitable surface coverage of the Roman roadside settlement areas with no risk of root damage to the underlying buried archaeological deposits. The existing mature hedgerow and tree group at the southern boundary and to the west of centre of Field 5 will be retained.
- 4.61 There will be no cultivation (tilling) within the exclusion zones, to avoid truncation of buried archaeological deposits. Grass seed will be dispersed using a hand-pushed spreader; no heavy machinery or equipment will be deployed. No other vegetation, or trees, will be planted within the exclusion zones at this or any other time.

5. Management During Operation

5.1 Operation and maintenance activities requiring vehicle access to the site will include:

- Planned maintenance and testing;
- Unplanned maintenance activities (repairs);
- Array cleaning;
- Maintenance of all areas of new planting for 12 months following practical completion of the development:
 - Weeding by hand or using approved herbicides in April, June and August;
 - Clearance of litter from the planting beds;
 - Watering of all new trees and shrubs weekly from May to the end of September;
 - Hedgerow pruning and replacement of any dead, dying or diseased hedge plants and trees in the first growing season;
 - Checking and replacing tree stakes and guards, and removing these once trees are fully established in or after the second growing season.

5.2 It is anticipated that typical vehicle movements will entail small vans or 4x4s. As each block of arrays will be enclosed by deer fencing, there will be no vehicular access into the

development exclusion zones. The railway underpass will not be used as a vehicular shortcut between Fields 5 and 6.

5.3 The grazing grass beneath the solar arrays in the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9, 10 and 12 will be maintained by sheep. The meadow grass in the exclusion zones in Fields 4, 5 and 6 will be left ungrazed. The existing trees in the exclusion zone of Field 6 will be pruned if and when necessary.

5.4 For the grazing grass and meadow grass, one or possibly two cuts will be taken per year. This will comprise an early cut in February (if necessary) to manage regrowth around the arrays, and a second in late August/September. Grassed areas along hedgerow bases will be cut less frequently once established, with a single main cut in late August/September.

5.5 Grass cutting in the exclusion zones will be undertaken using a lightweight 'ride-on mower' and not a tractor, and only during dry ground conditions to prevent unnecessary soil churning and potential damage to underlying archaeological deposits by the mower wheels.

5.6 The Wiltshire County Archaeologist (or their representative or successor) will be informed if the removal of the existing trees in Field 6 is required, such that a suitable methodology can be agreed (e.g. felling to ground level and applying herbicide to the tree stump, rather than attempting to uproot).

5.7 Should any below-ground damage to the archaeologically-sensitive areas be noted (e.g. arising from sheep grazing, wild animal burrowing and/or use of the public footpath through

Fields 5 and 6) or caused during the operation and maintenance works, the Wiltshire County Archaeologist will be informed so that any exposed archaeological deposits can be investigated and recorded and the need for any remedial works can be discussed, agreed and implemented.

- 5.8 Heavier plant will be required only for more significant repairs such as the re-mounting or replacement of arrays. For any such work in Fields 4, 5 and 6, Heras fencing will be re-installed around the Roman roadside settlement remains to ensure that vehicles do not encroach into these areas. For any such works in Fields 9, 10 or 12, Terrafirma matting will be laid to protect the underlying archaeological deposits here.
- 5.9 Contractors will be informed of the archaeological constraints before entering the site.

6. Management During Decommissioning

6.1 Decommissioning of the development will entail:

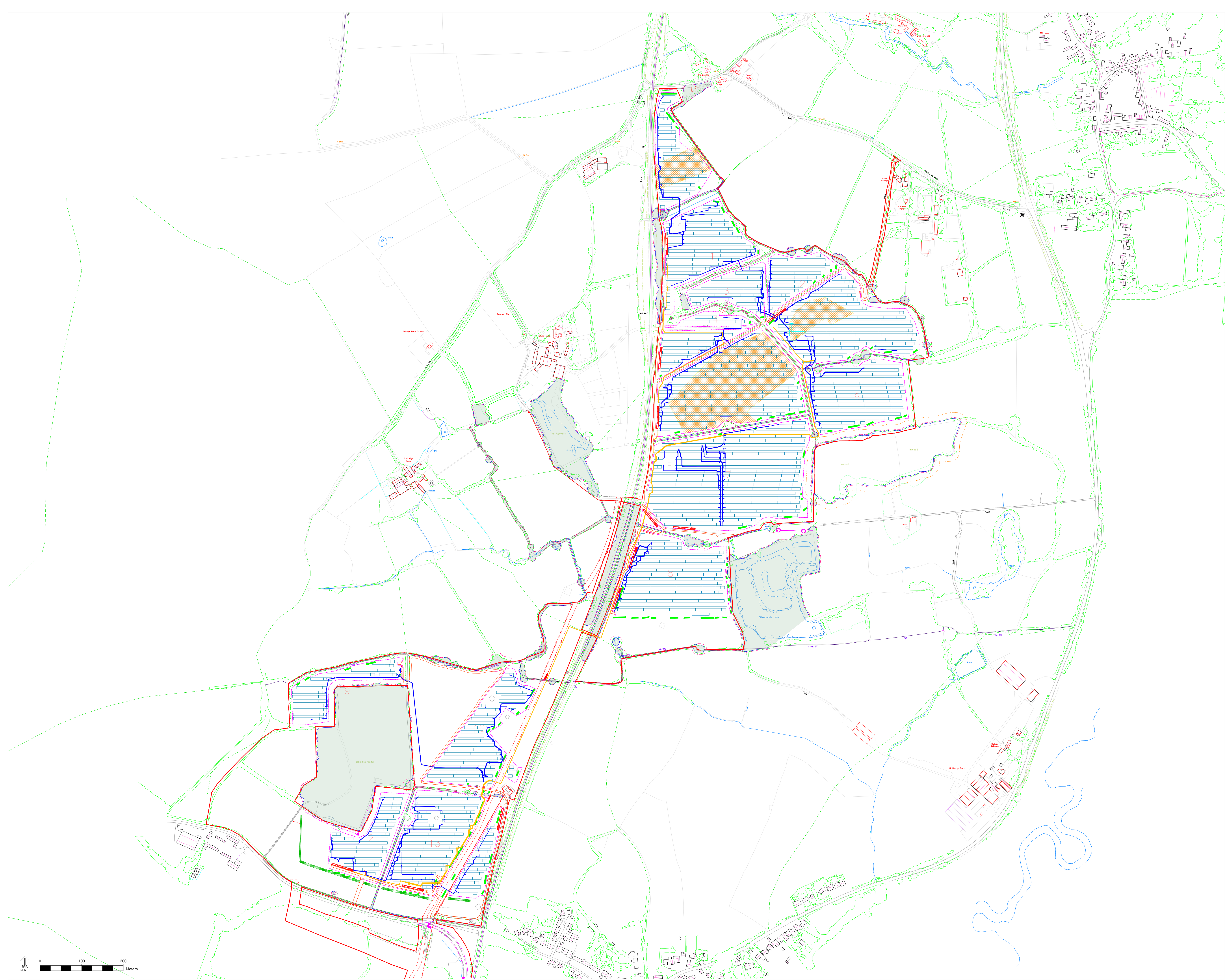
- The unscrewing of the arrays from the mounting frames, the removal of the mounting frame horizontal poles and the pulling of the piles from the ground using a tracked pile driver;
- The unscrewing of the arrays from the mounting frames, the removal of the mounting frame horizontal poles and the removal (by a 'scooping' action) of the Monobloc slabs from the underlying gravel drainage base using a tracked forklift on Terraforma matting;
- The disconnection and removal (by opening and pulling from one end of a single trench) of all cabling buried less than 1200mm below ground level;
- The removal of the battery station containers using a crane and HGVs for transportation;
- The removal of fencing and CCTV equipment and the backfilling of any holes left by the fence posts and poles;
- The retention and/or removal of access tracks;
- The harrowing and re-seeding in grass of most areas of disturbed ground and the retention or infilling of swales with new topsoil.

6.2 As for the construction phase, Heras fencing will be re-erected around the development exclusion zones in Fields 4,

5 and 6, to ensure that no plant or vehicles inadvertently encroach onto these areas. Lightweight vehicles and Terraforma matting will again be used to access the above-ground foundation zones in Fields 9, 10 and 12, to safeguard buried archaeological deposits. These protocols will be outlined in relevant method statements and form part of the briefing to on-site personnel.

6.3 The landscaping treatment with meadow grass of the areas of archaeological sensitivity in Fields 4, 5, and 6 will be retained without harrowing or other groundworks.

Appendix 1: Revised Development Layout



NOTES

- 1. All details are indicative only.
- 2. Dimensions are in metres unless stated otherwise.
- 3. Refer to HSE document "Avoiding danger from overhead power lines – Guidance Note GS6" to ensure safe operation of machinery in proximity to overhead power lines.

LEGEND

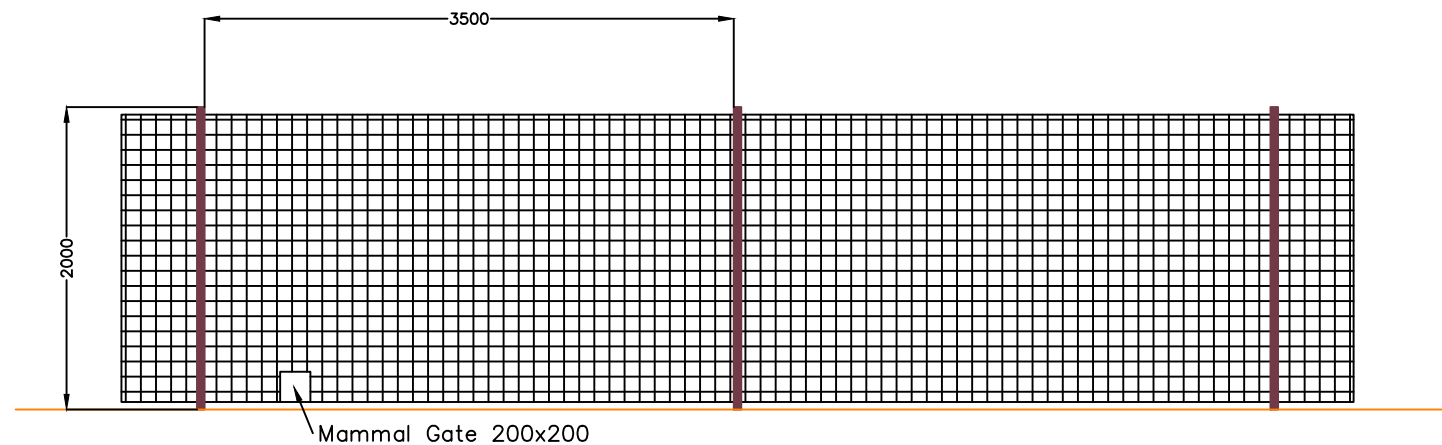
- Planning Red Line
- Access Track
- Solar panels
- Fence
- Hedges
- Trees
- Proposed Hedges
- Swales
- Hybrid BESS Station
- Inverter
- Spares Container
- Customer Switch Gear Container
- Access Gate
- Public Rights Of Way
- High Voltage Cable
- Archaeology Areas
- Proposed HV Cable Routes
- Proposed LV Cable Routes
- Proposed Above-ground Cable Routes



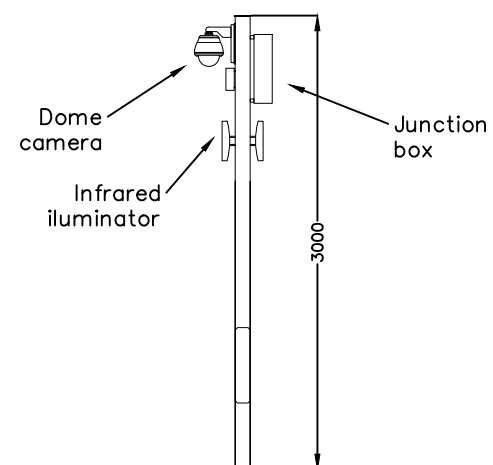
DETAILS

TITLE	Wick Farm S73 General Layout
LOCATION	Near SN15 2LU
DATE	2 June 2026
CONFIGURATION	Typical fixed design
REVISION	04

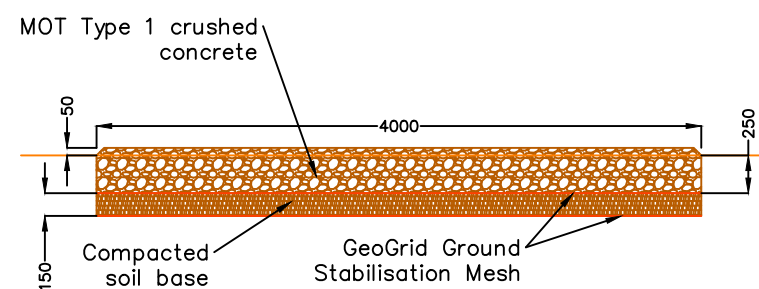
Appendix 2: Access Tracks & Perimeter Fencing



Timber post & wire fence



CCTV pole



Access track cross section

SCALE A3 @ 1:50
0 400 800 1200 1600 2000



REVISIONS:

- Initial design

NOTES:

-



DATE: 14 May 2020

TITLE:
Typical Fence, Track &
CCTV

PROJECT TITLE:
Wick Farm

LOCATION:
SN15 2LU

CONFIGURATION:
-

REV: A

FILENAME: Typical Fence, Track & CCTV
Details.dwg

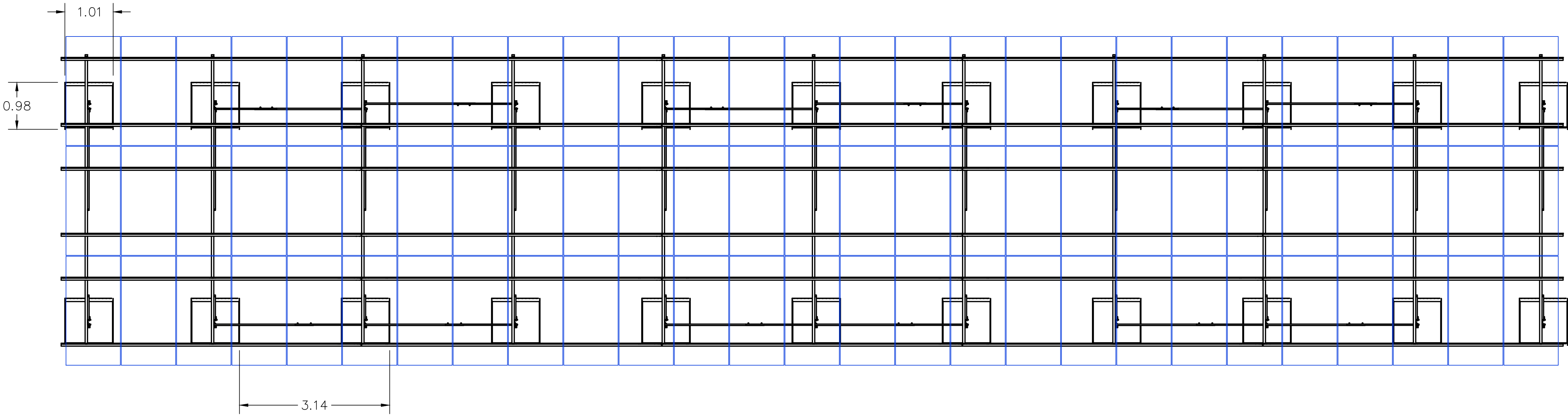
Appendix 3: Gabion Baskets

NOTES

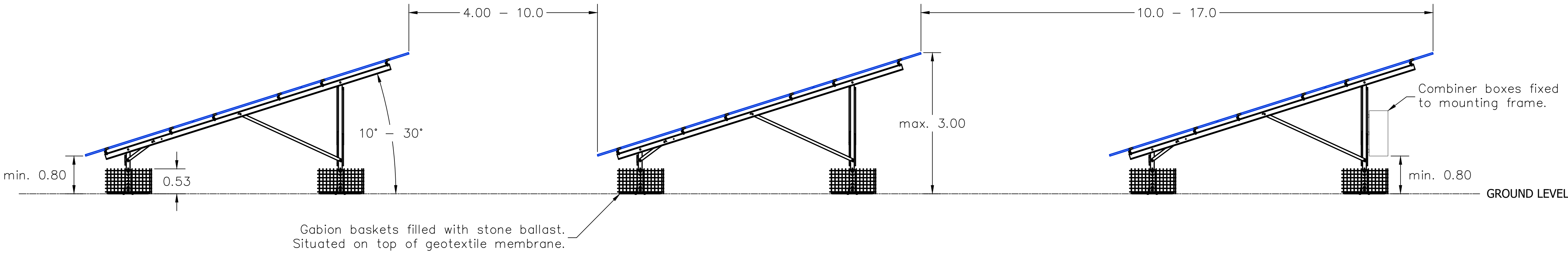
1. All details are indicative only.
2. Dimensions are in metres unless stated otherwise.
3. -

LEGEND

TOP VIEW



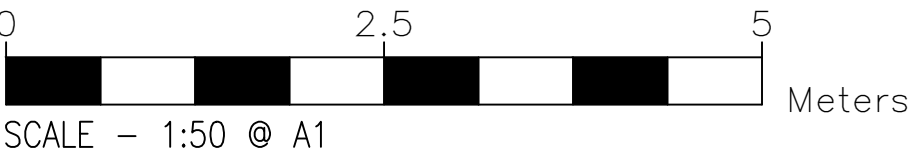
SIDE VIEW



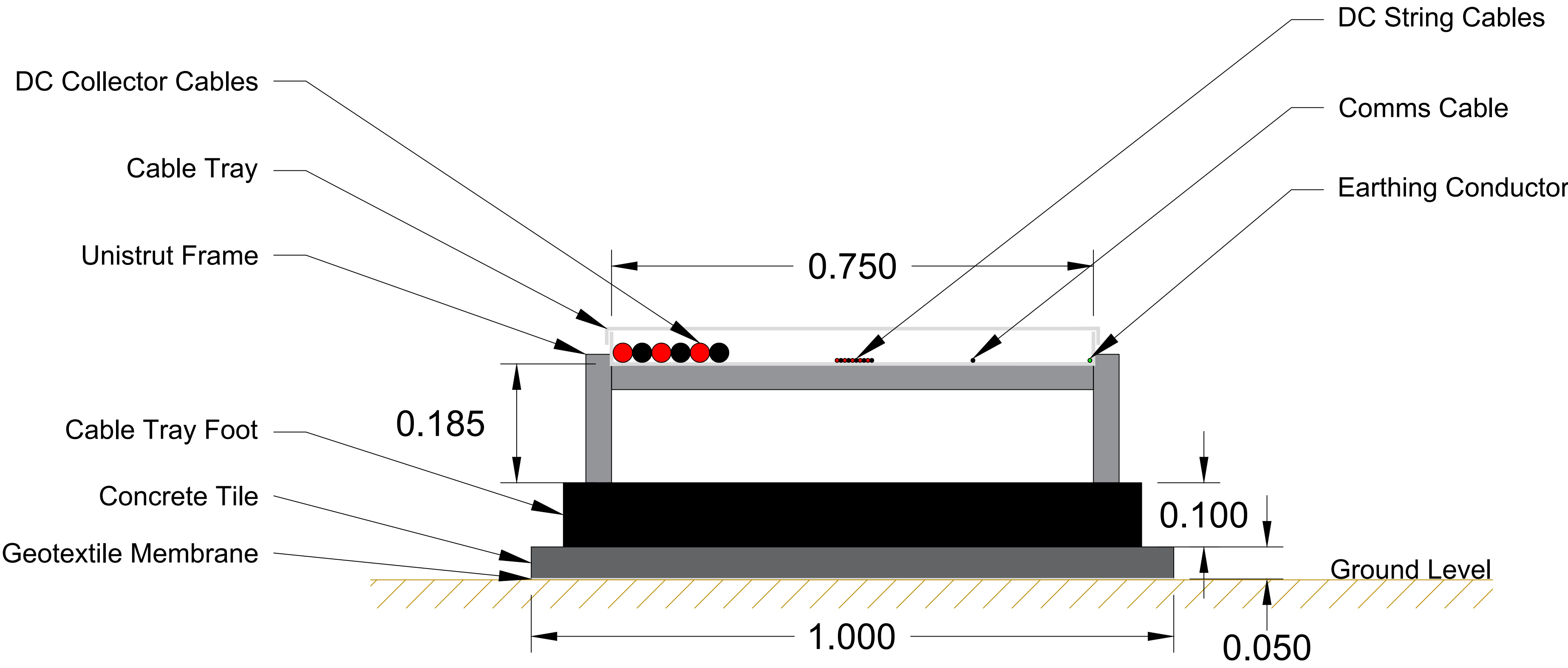
RWE

DETAILS

TITLE	Typical 3P Fixed Table – Ballasted		
PROJECT	NG03 Wick Farm		
LOCATION	Near SN15 2LU		
DATE	Feb-26		
DWG NO.	NG03-0001	REVISION	02



Appendix 4: Cable Suspension System & Buried Cable Trenches



NOTES

1. All details are indicative only.
2. Dimensions are in metres unless stated otherwise.
3. -

LEGEND



DETAILS

TITLE	Typical Above Ground Cabling		
PROJECT	NG03 Wick Farm		
LOCATION	Near SN15 2LU		
DATE	Feb-26		
DWG NO.	NG03-0405	REVISION	01

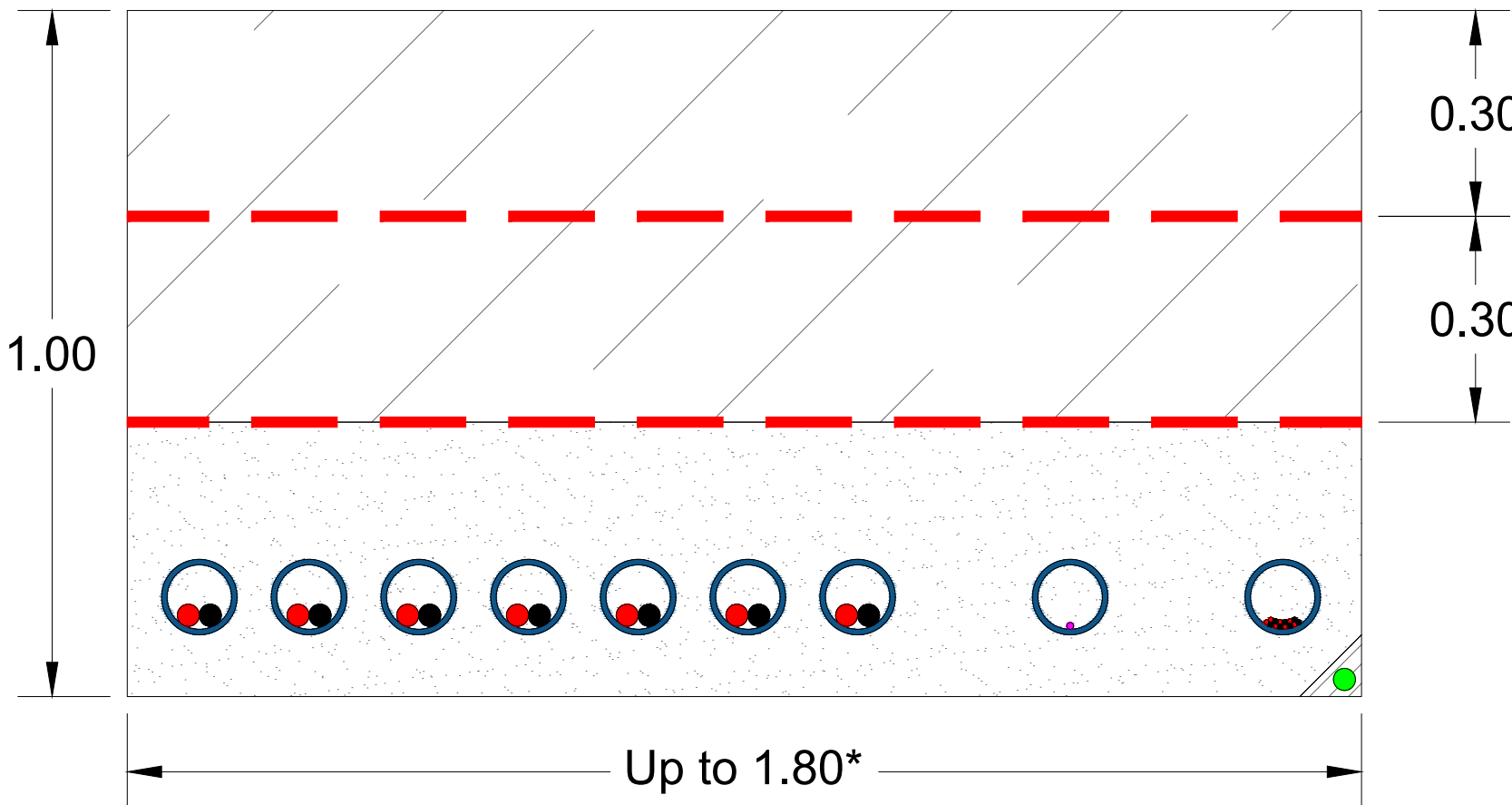
NOTES

1. All details are indicative only.
2. Dimensions are in metres unless stated otherwise.
3. -

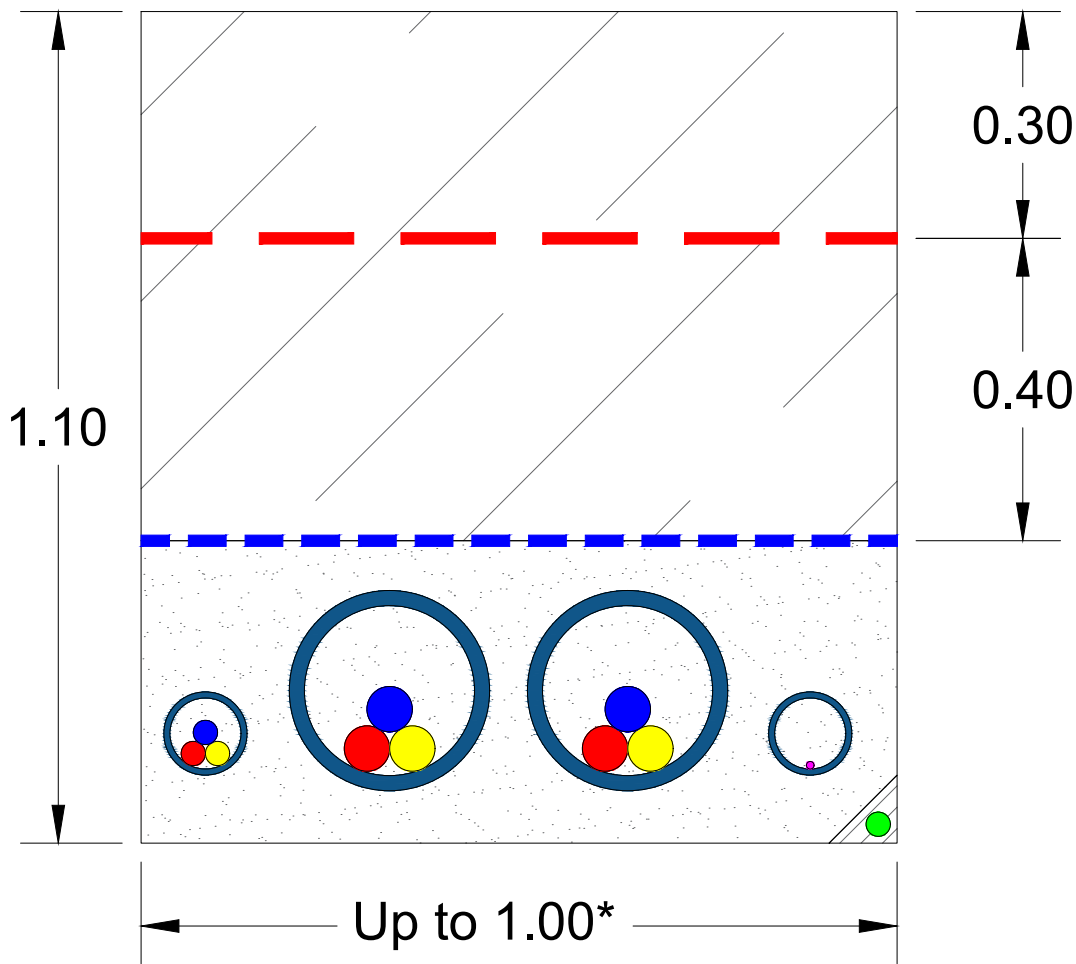
LEGEND

- Native Backfill
- Suitable Thermal Backfill
- Warning Tape
- Protection Tile
- Duct
- DC Cables
- HV (33kV) Cables
- Communication Cable
- Earthing Conductor

Typical DC Trench
in Archaeology



Typical HV AC Trench
in Archaeology



*Trench width will vary with number of circuits.

RWE

DETAILS

TITLE	Typical Cable Trench in Archaeology		
PROJECT	NG03 Wick Farm		
LOCATION	Near SN15 2LU		
DATE	Mar-26		
DWG NO.	NG03-0406	REVISION	01

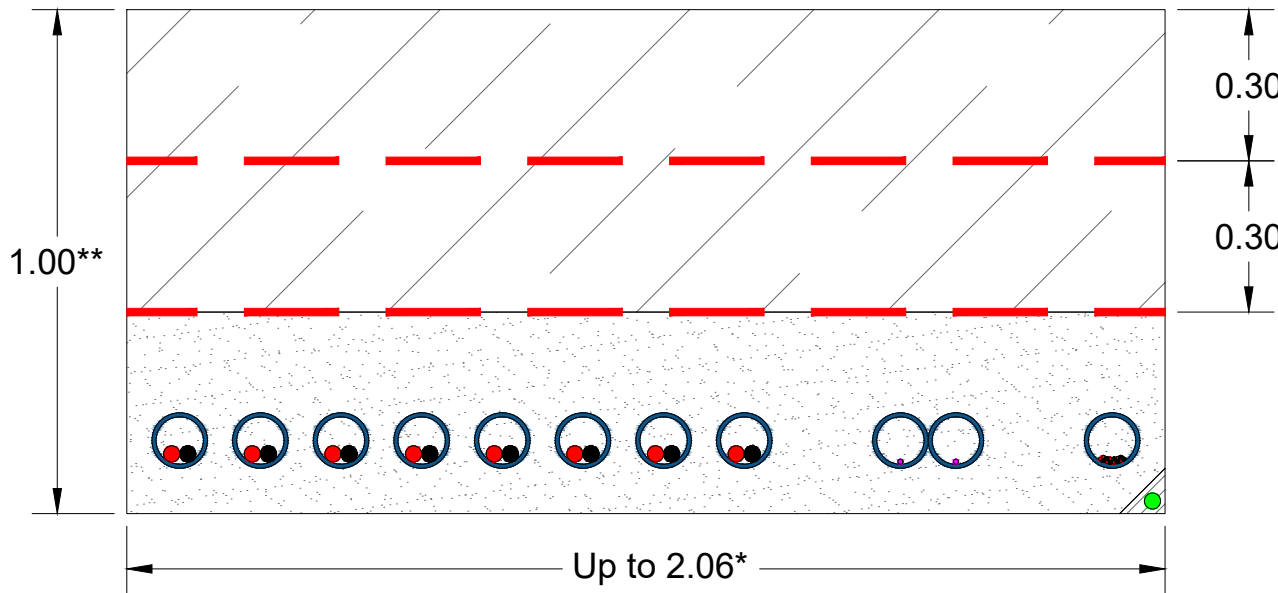
NOTES

1. All details are indicative only.
2. Dimensions are in metres unless stated otherwise.
3. –

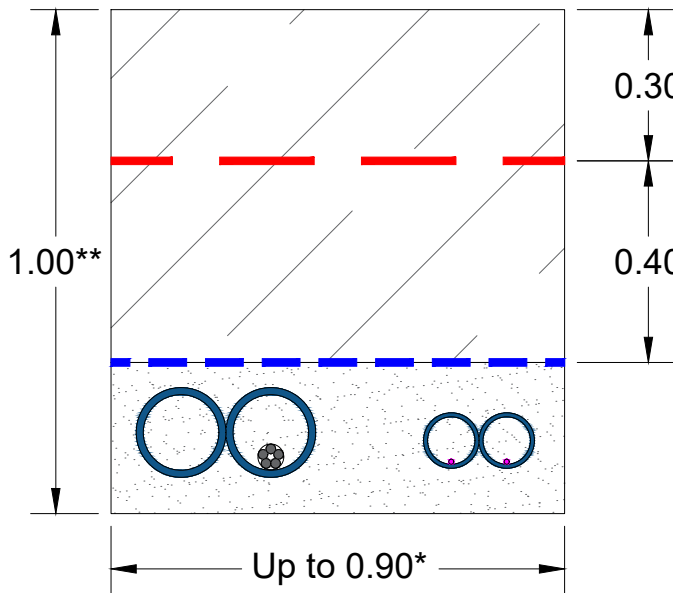
LEGEND

- Native Backfill
- Suitable Thermal Backfill
- Warning Tape
- Protection Tile
- Duct
- DC Cables
- LV Cables
- HV (33kV) Cables
- Communication Cable
- Earthing Conductor

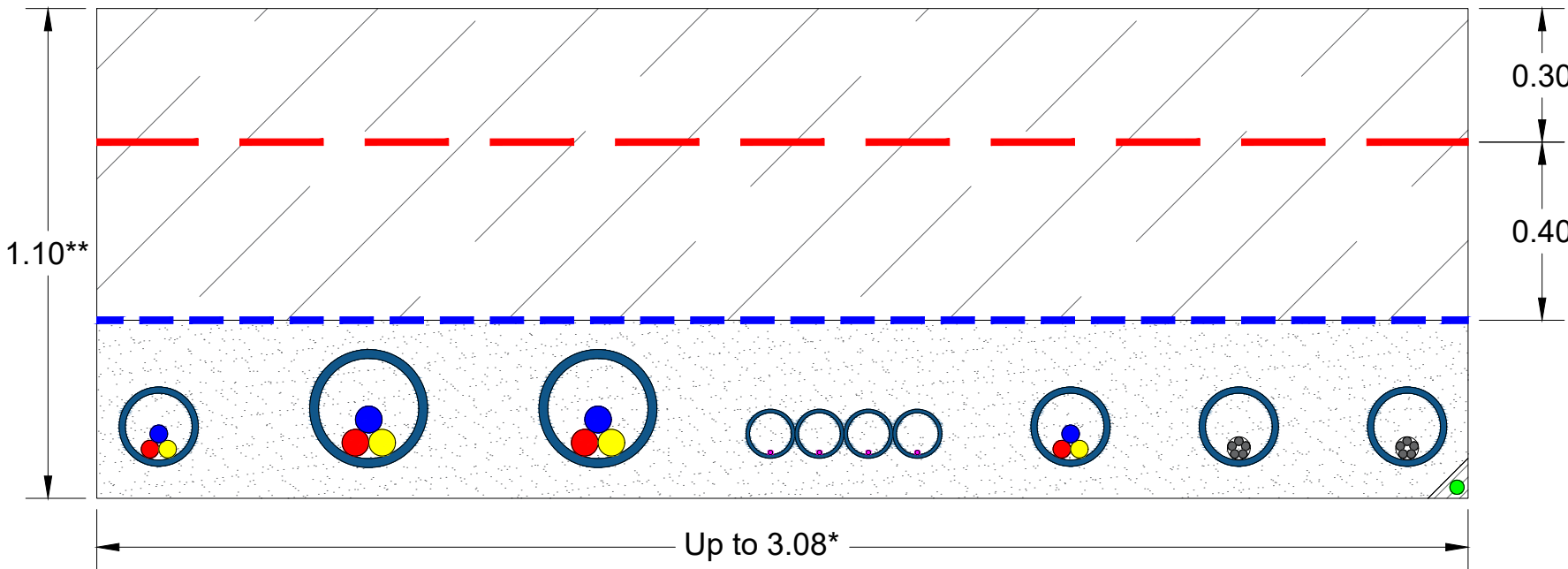
Typical DC Trench



Typical LV AC Trench



Typical HV AC Trench



*Trench width will vary with number of circuits.
**Up to 1.45m deep for crossings.

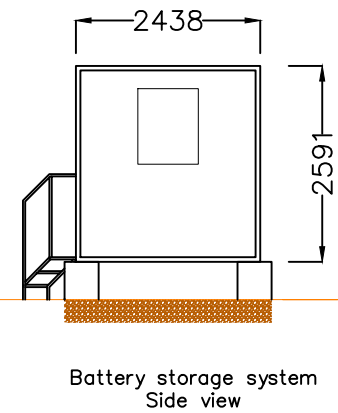
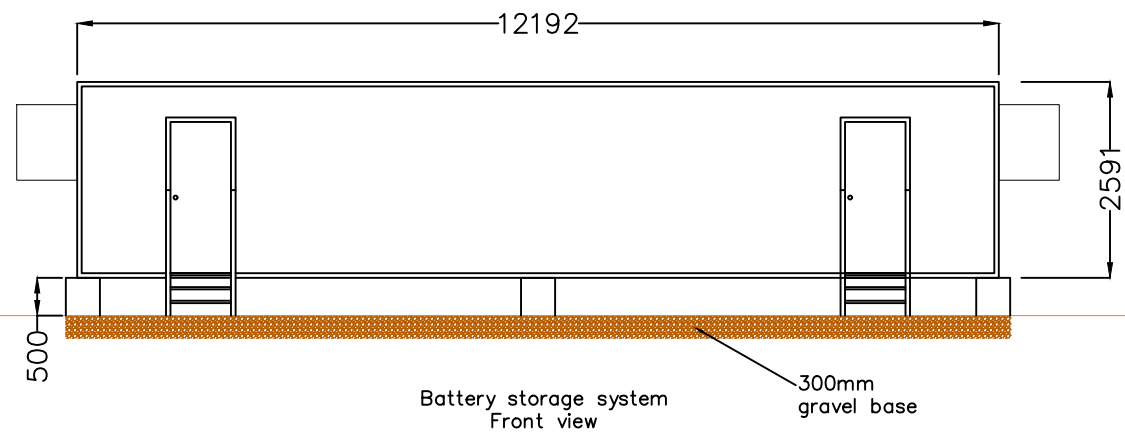
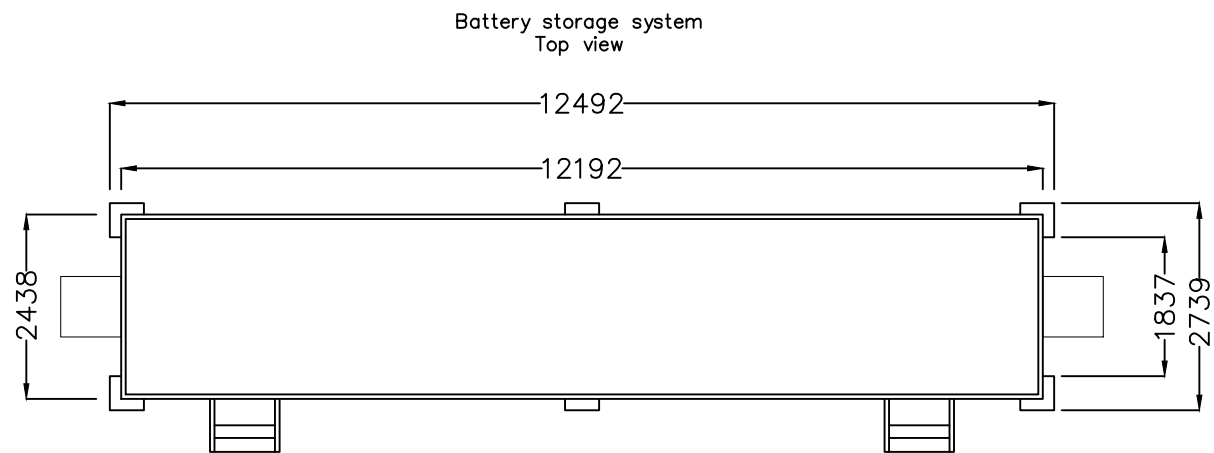
RWE

DETAILS

TITLE	Typical Cable Trench		
PROJECT	NG03 Wick Farm		
LOCATION	Near SN15 2LU		
DATE	Mar–26		
DWG NO.	NG03–0400	REVISION	01



Appendix 5: Battery Stations



SCALE A3 @ 1:100



REVISIONS:

— Initial design

NOTES:

—



DATE: 14 May 2020

TITLE:
Battery Storage System
Details 1

PROJECT TITLE:
Wick Farm

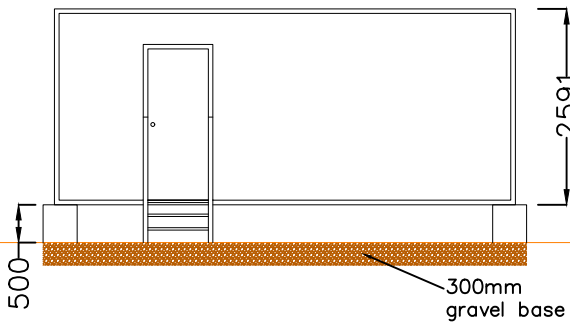
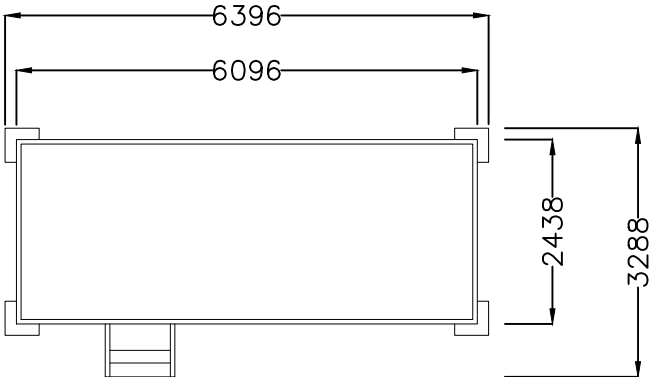
LOCATION:
SN15 2LU

CONFIGURATION:
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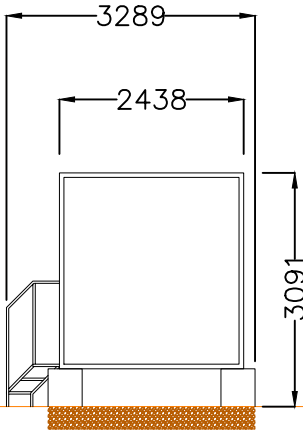
REV: A

FILENAME: Typical Battery Storage
System Details 1.dwg

Battery storage system – auxiliary equipment
Top view



Battery storage system – auxiliary equipment
Front view



Battery storage system – auxiliary equipment
Side view



REVISIONS:

- Initial design

NOTES:

–



DATE: 14 May 2020

TITLE:
Battery storage system
– auxiliary equipment
Details

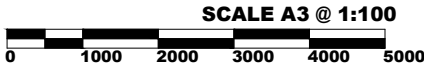
PROJECT TITLE:
Wick Farm

LOCATION:
SN15 2LU

CONFIGURATION:
–

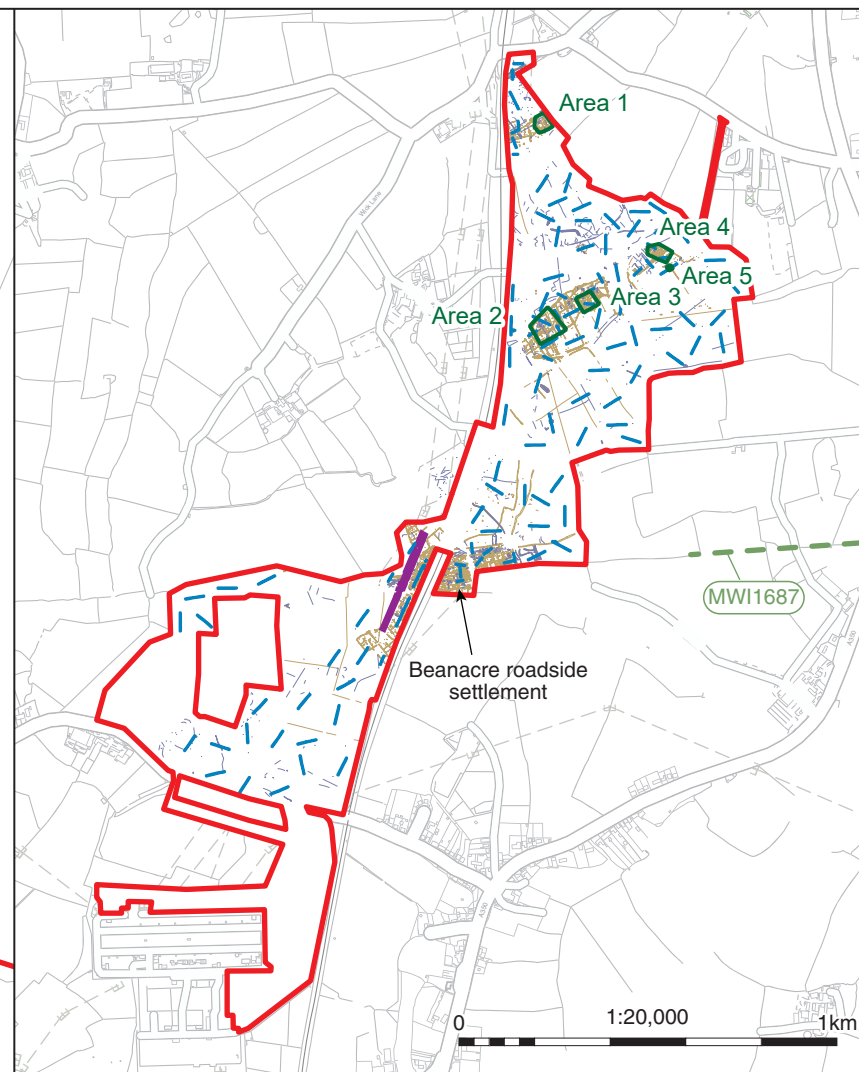
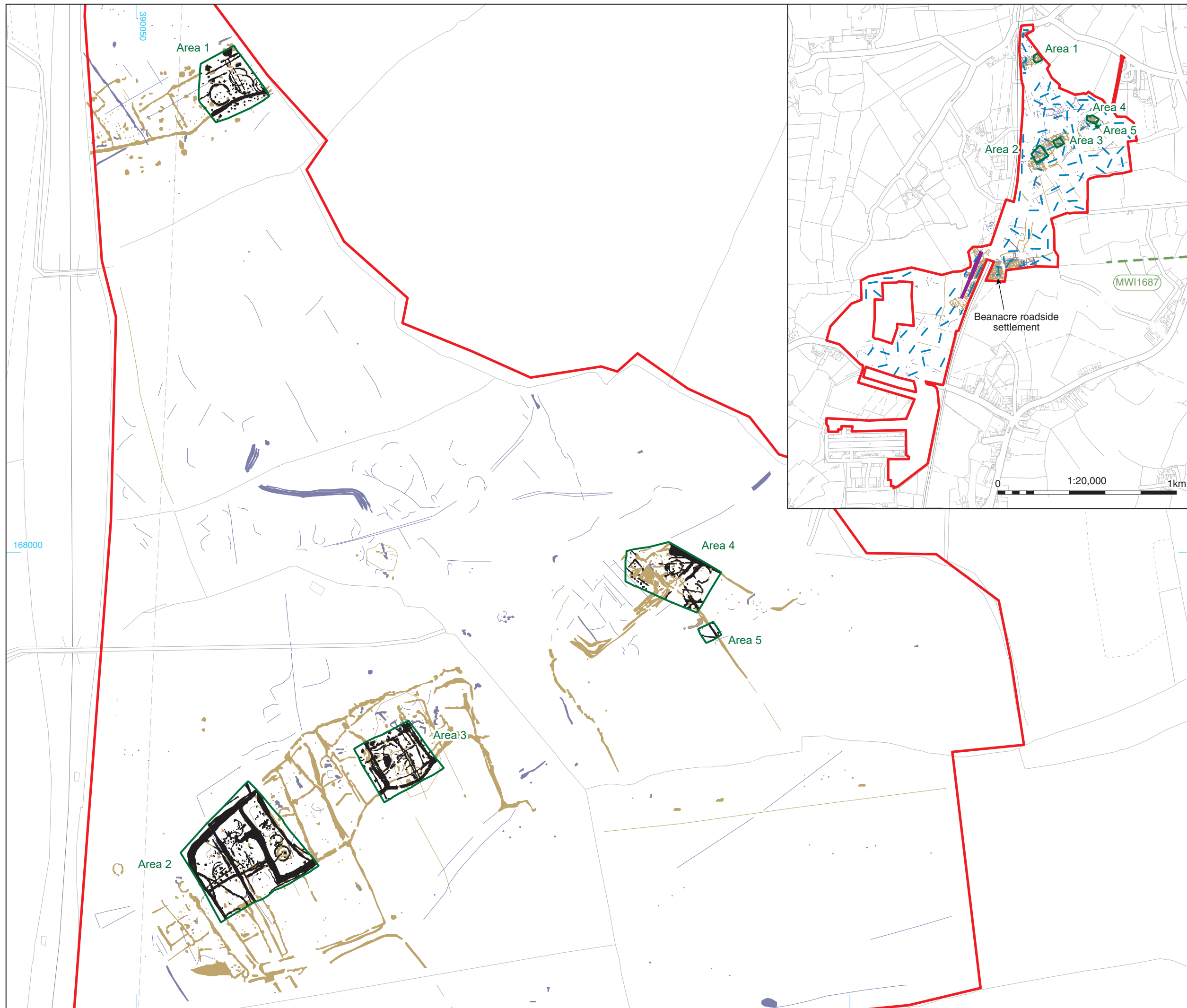
REV: A

FILENAME: Typical Battery Storage
System Details 2.dwg



Appendix 6: Strip Map & Sample Excavation Areas within Ballasted Zones of Fields 9, 10 and 12

(Completed in Summer/Autumn 2023, with minor adjustments to original 2021 extents)



- Site boundary
 - Excavation area
 - Evaluation trench (CA 2020)
 - Previous excavation area (Mason 2018)
 - Archaeological feature
 - HER data
- Geophysical Survey Results (AS 2020)
- Archaeology
 - Possible archaeology



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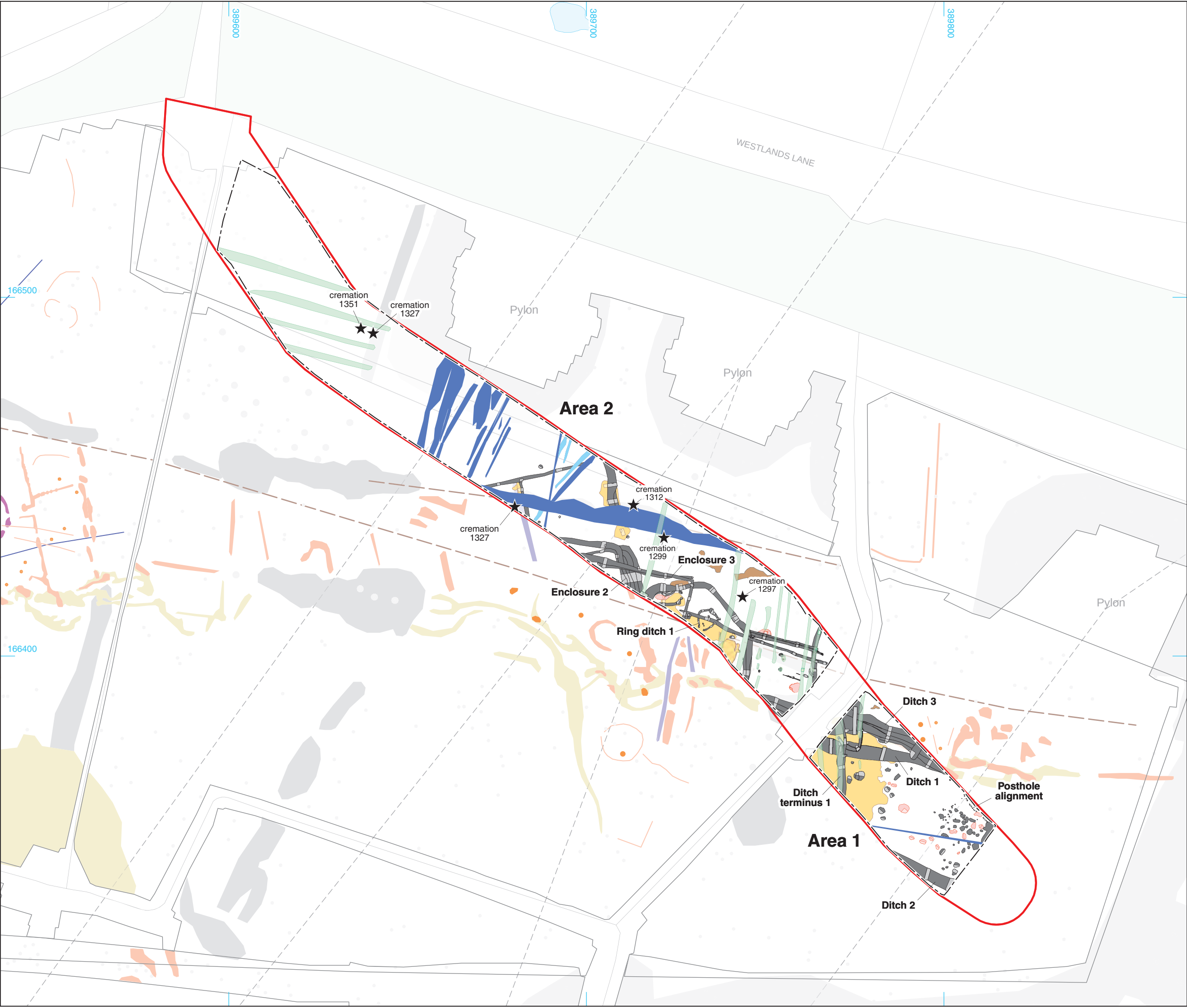
PROJECT TITLE
Wick Solar Farm, Lacock, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan showing excavation areas, previous investigations, geophysical survey, and archaeological features

DRAWN BY	CRP	PROJECT NO.	CR1444	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2024	2
APPROVED BY	PG	SCALE@A3	1:20,000, 1:2500	

Appendix 7: Strip Map & Sample Excavation Area for grid connection across National Grid land

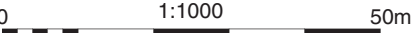
(Completed in Summer 2025)



- Site boundary
- Overhead power line
- Excavation area
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Deposit (excavated/unexcavated)
- Furrow (excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern
- Drain
- Natural feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Tree throw hole (excavated/unexcavated)
- Possible cremation deposit

Geophysical survey results (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2024)

- Survey area
- Former field boundary
- Positive anomaly
- Negative linear anomaly
- Possible ditch
- Possible pit
- Natural
- Magnetic debris
- Ferrous



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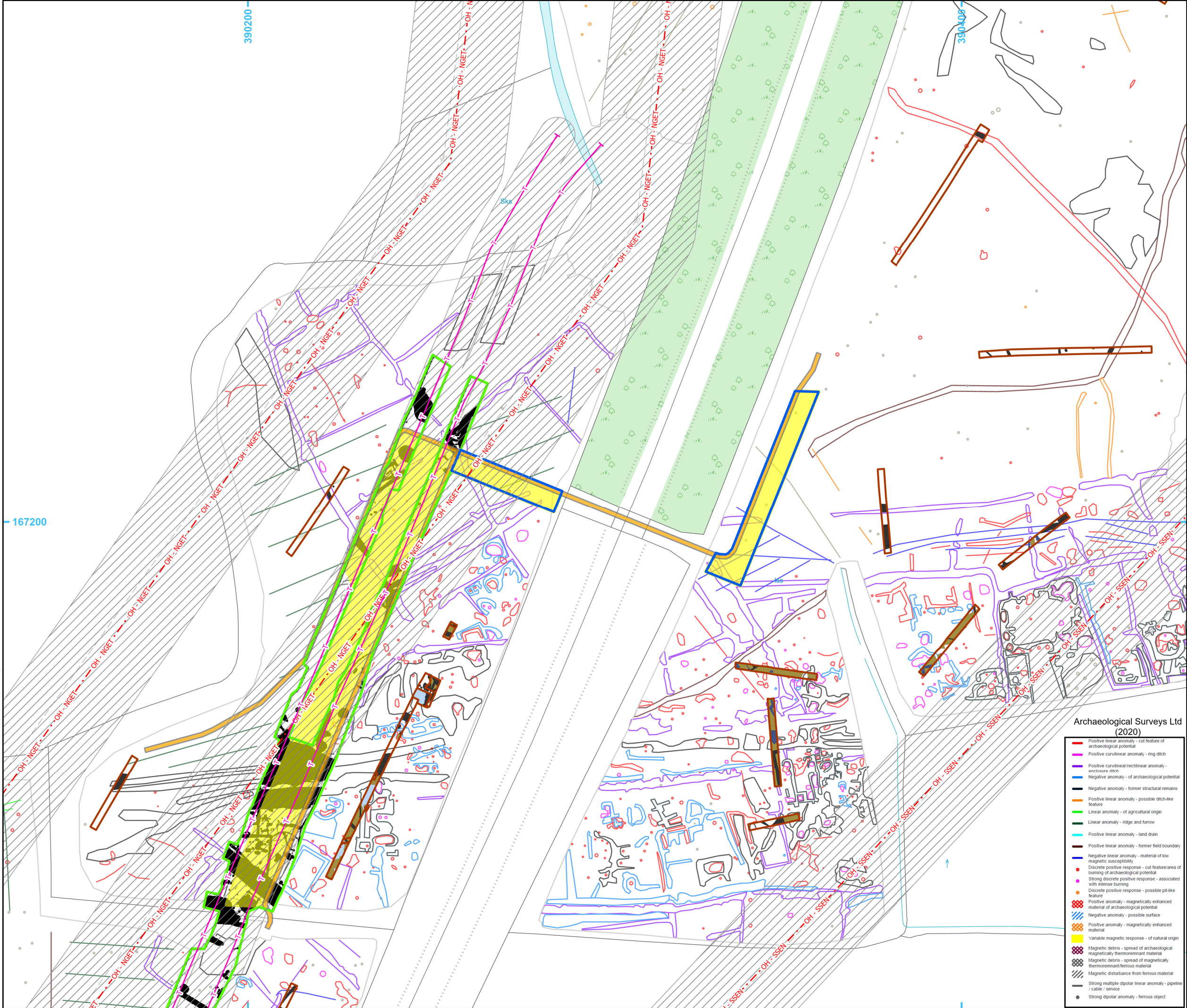
PROJECT TITLE
Wick Solar Farm Connection, Melksham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	KL	PROJECT NO.	CR1987	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	HK	DATE	15/01/2026	2
APPROVED BY	CR	SCALE@A3	1:1000	

Appendix 8: Strip Map & Sample Excavation Area for Rerouted Cable through Fields 5 and 6

(Completed in Winter 2025)



Legend

- Proposed cable route
- Proposed working corridor
- Proposed SMS areas
- Constraint

Utilities

- Electric - OH - NGET
- Electric - OH - SSEN
- Fibre optic - UG - Vodafone/NGET

Previous investigations

- Previous evaluation trench (CA 2020)
- Previous excavation areas (Wessex Archaeology 2015)
- Previous burial
- Previous feature
- Previous geology/natural
- Previous furrow
- Previous structure
- Previous deposit
- Previous surface

Archaeological Surveys Ltd (2020)

- Positive linear anomaly - cut feature of archaeological potential
- Positive curvilinear anomaly - ring ditch
- Positive curvilinear/rectilinear anomaly - enclosure ditch
- Negative anomaly - of archaeological potential
- Negative anomaly - former structural remains
- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - of agricultural origin
- Linear anomaly - ridge and furrow
- Positive linear anomaly - land drain
- Positive linear anomaly - former field boundary
- Negative linear anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility
- Discrete positive response - cut feature/area of burning of archaeological potential
- Strong discrete positive response - associated with intense burning
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Positive anomaly - magnetically enhanced material of archaeological potential
- Negative anomaly - possible surface
- Positive anomaly - magnetically enhanced material
- Variable magnetic response - of natural origin
- Magnetic debris - spread of archaeological magnetically thermoremanent material
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong multiple dipolar linear anomaly - pipeline / cable / service
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object

0 1:1000 40m

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Contains data from OS Zoomstack

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PROJECT TITLE
Wick Solar Farm, Lacock, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Proposed excavation areas

DRAWN BY	TW	PROJECT NO	CR2070	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	KW	DATE	27/10/2025	2
APPROVED BY	KW	SCALE@A3	1:1000	