



# Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

## Mallard Pass Solar Farm

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**Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO  
Essendine  
Rutland & Lincolnshire**

*Interim Trial Trenching Summary Report*



*for:*  
LDA Design Consulting Ltd

CA Project: MK0789  
CA Site Code: ESMP22

Rutland Accession Number; OAKRM: 2022.49  
Lincolnshire Accession Number; LCNCC: 2022.131

November 2022



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Between September and November 2022 and still on-going in December 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of trial trench evaluation trenching of land within the surrounding environs of Essendine, Rutland, and extending across the border into the South Kesteven administrative area of Lincolnshire. The works were carried out at the request of LDA Design Consulting Ltd and follow on from desk-based assessment and geophysical survey with a view to further assessing the Order limits for areas of significant or complex archaeological remains.
- 1.2. An application for a Development Consent Order is to be submitted for the construction of a solar farm within the Order limits, consisting of solar panel arrays, access routes, compounds, and the installation of underground cable routes. A Scoping Opinion was produced on 18 March 2022 by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State). This states that a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey of the Order limits should be undertaken as a minimum, and the need for selective trial trenching was also identified.
- 1.3. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022).
- 1.4. This document presents a short interim summary report of the results of the work completed to date, which solely concerns with trenches located within Rutland. A full report including a detailed analysis of all of the completed the fieldwork, as well as relevant specialist reports will follow in due course.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. The evaluation comprises the excavation of 209no. trenches each measuring 50m long by 2m wide, across areas in Rutland and Lincolnshire. The trenches have been located to test areas of archaeological potential first identified via the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. This report focuses on the 123no. trenches that have been excavated to date, representing the trenches located within Rutland.
- 2.2. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. They will be scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and genny equipment.

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- 2.3. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision and ceased whenever the first significant archaeological horizon or natural substrate were revealed.
  - 2.4. Following machining, archaeological features present were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
  - 2.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
  - 2.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

### 3. RESULTS

#### Areas M6, M7 and M10 (Trenches 11 – 45; Fig. 6, 7-12)

- 3.1. The natural substrate was encountered at depths between 0.2m and 0.38m and comprised a mixture of mid yellow and red brown sandy clay, with bands of gravel and limestone. This was overlain by topsoil deposits of dark grey brown silty clay. Extensive modern plough truncation was observed across the area.
- 3.2. In the north-eastern half of Trench 12, a cluster of three pits and a small ditch were revealed, and pit 1202 was investigated by hand excavation, while the remaining features were recorded in plan. Pit 1202 measured 0.92m in diameter and 0.2m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base, and contained three fills (1203-1205). In the north-east end of the trench, a cluster of shallow pits (1212, 1214, 1216, and 1220) were investigated. While a high level of root disturbance was observed throughout, likely relating to the adjacent small pond and surrounding trees, a large assemblage of likely later Iron Age and Roman pottery as well as animal bone and ceramic building material were recovered. At the south-western end of the trench, a broadly north/south aligned ditch, 1218, was investigated, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.27m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base, and containing a single fill, 1219.

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- 3.3. Two parallel east/west aligned ditches, 1304 and 1316, were investigated within the trench, matching a set of linear anomalies forming part of a sub-rectangular enclosure. Ditch 1304 measured 1.26m wide and 0.24m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base, and contained two fills (1305-1306). Ditch 1316 measured 0.98m wide and 0.44m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and contained a single deposit (1317). To the south of ditch 1316, within the interior of the enclosure, a north-west/south-east aligned possible paved track or floor surface 1311 was encountered, measuring c.1.6m wide and comprising slabs of roughly dressed limestone. Fragments of later Iron Age or Roman pottery were recovered from the silt between the stones. The possible surface was cut by the north-east/south-west aligned portion of an L-shaped ditch 1307, measuring 0.46m wide and 0.16m deep, with steep sides and a concave base and containing a single fill 1308. Ditch 1307 curved towards the west just south of the possible surface, although another small ditch, 1309, was seen extended from the corner of the ditch towards the south-west. Ditch 1309 measured 0.42m wide and 0.06m deep, with gently sloped sides and a concave base.
- 3.4. A single small ditch 1402 was investigated at the eastern end of Trench 14, running on a north/south alignment and measuring 0.64m wide and 0.27m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill 1403.
- 3.5. An oval pit 1502 extended into the south-western half of Trench 15 from the south-eastern limit of excavation, measuring 1.64m long, 1.28m wide and 0.17m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill 1503. The feature broadly matched the location, although not the shape or alignment, of an amorphous geophysical anomaly. At the south-western end of the trench, pit 1504 measured 0.66m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with steep edges and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill 1505. Ditch 1506 crossed the north-eastern half of the trench on a north-west/south-east alignment matching a linear geophysical anomaly forming part of a sub-rectangular enclosure. The ditch measured 1.96m wide and 0.66m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained two fills (1507-1508).
- 3.6. A modern ditch 1602 was investigated in Trench 16, crossing the centre of the trench on a broadly east/west alignment matching a geophysical anomaly. The feature

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measured 4m wide and 0.48m deep and contained a large concrete pipe which was observed to lead towards and drain into a small pond to the west. The pipe was covered by a single fill 1603 which produced fragments of modern bottle glass and plastic.

- 3.7. A set of intercutting east/west aligned ditches (2308, 2313, 2315, and 2317) were revealed at the southern end of Trench 23, matching a linear geophysical anomaly. The number of recuts and scale of the features, measuring between 1.69m and 2.4m wide and up to 0.82m deep, suggests an established, well-maintained boundary.
- 3.8. Trench 25 revealed a set of two parallel north-east/south-west aligned ditches (2503 and 2510) which matched a set of geophysical anomalies. Ditch 2503, the south-eastern feature, measured 3m wide and 1.05m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The feature contained a total of five fills (2504-2506, 2508-2509). Ditch 2510 measured 3.6m wide and 0.45m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained a total of three fills (2511-2513).
- 3.9. A set of two parallel broadly north/south aligned ditches (2703 and 2708), spaced c.11m apart, were encountered in Trench 27, matching a set of linear geophysical anomalies. Ditch 2703 measured 3.68m wide and 0.65m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base, and contained a total of four fills (2704-2707). Ditch 2708 measured 2.61m wide and 0.4m deep, with a similar profile to that of 2703, and was filled by a total of two deposits (2709-2710).
- 3.10. Trench 30 revealed a single broadly north-west/south-east aligned ditch, 3004, matching a linear geophysical anomaly. The feature measured 1.65m wide and 0.45m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base, and contained three fills (3004-3007). Although the geophysical anomaly indicated a continuation of the feature to the north-west, across Trench 29, no evidence for this was encountered.
- 3.11. Two intercutting ditches (3103 and 3105) crossed the north-eastern end of Trench 31, running on an east/west alignment matching that of a linear geophysical anomaly, as well as coinciding with part of a curvilinear anomaly. Ditch 3103 measured 1m wide and 0.44m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill (3104). Ditch 3105 measured 0.47m wide and 0.35m deep, with gently sloped sides and a concave base, and was filled by a single deposit (3106).



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- 3.12. Three intercutting pits were investigated at the south-eastern end of Trench 32. Pit 3204 measured 1.05m wide and 0.18m deep, with concave sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill 3205. Pit 3206 measured 1.88m wide and 0.45m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base, and was filled by a single deposit 3207. Pit 3208 measured 1.48m wide and 0.2m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill 3209.
- 3.13. Ditch 3402 crossed the south-eastern half of Trench 34 running on a north-east/south-west alignment. The feature measured 0.67m wide and 0.08m deep, and was filled by a single deposit, 3403. Although a number of north-east/southwest aligned geophysical anomalies cross the trench location, ditch 3402 did not correspond with any of these anomalies.
- 3.14. Two north-west/south-east aligned ditches (3503 and 3506) crossed the centre of trench 35. Ditch 3503 measured 1.68m wide and 0.72m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base, and contained two fills (3504-3505). Ditch 3506 measured 2m wide and 0.6m wide, with a matching profile, and was filled by three distinct deposits (3507-3509).
- 3.15. In Trench 40, a broadly north/south aligned ditch, 4403, was investigated at the eastern end of the trench. The feature measured 1.57m wide and 0.22m deep, with gently sloped sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill, 4404. Further to the west, north-east/south-west aligned ditch 4005 matched a C-shaped curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The ditch measured 1.46m wide and 0.14m deep, with gently sloped sides and a concave base, and contained a single deposit, 4406. In the western half of the trench, pit 4407 extended partially into the trench from the southern limit of excavation, measuring 2.16m long and 0.78m wide, with a depth of 0.56m. The pit contained a single fill, 4408.
- 3.16. Trench 42 targeted the location of two concentric curvilinear anomalies, and two sets of curvilinear ditches were revealed in the locations indicated by the geophysical survey. The outer ring ditch (including re-cuts 4208/4216/4218 at the north-western end of the trench and large ditch 4220 at the south-eastern end) measured approximately 30m in diameter. The inner ring ditch (including 4231/4233/4235/4246 on the north-western side and 4203/4229 to the south-east)

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measured approximately 17.5m in diameter. Although root disturbance was observed within all excavated slots, the ditches were generally well-preserved, with the predominantly V-shaped profiles surviving with depths between approximately 0.3m and 0.8m. A deposit layer, 4241, was observed covering the interior area of the inner ring ditch, measuring 0.24m thick. This covered a small pit, 4249, located at the centre of the trench, measuring 0.66m in diameter and c.0.3m deep, and containing a single fill, 4250.

- 3.17. A localised cluster of five pits was revealed in Trench 44, which produced a small assemblage of likely late prehistoric pottery fragments. Pit 4403 extended into the trench from the north-western limit of excavation, measuring 1.28m long, 1.05m wide and 0.8m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill 4404. Pit 4405, located just south-east of 4403, measured 0.9m in diameter and 0.22m deep, with gently sloped sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill 4406. In the north-western half of the trench, pit 4407 measured 0.63m in diameter and 0.3m deep, with concave sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill 4408. Pit 4409 measured 0.96m long and 0.8m wide, with concave sides and a slightly uneven base, and contained a single deposit, 4410. Pit 4411 measured 0.43m in diameter and 0.21m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a single deposit 4412.
- 3.18. A large modern quarry pit, 4503, was revealed in Trench 45, measuring 9.9m long and 0.36m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill, 4504. Discussions with the farmer suggest a relatively recent date for the feature, likely relating to the construction of the pedestrian bridge across the railway line.

#### **Areas W1, W2 and W3 (Trenches 46 – 62; Fig. 3-4, 13-14)**

- 3.19. The stratigraphic sequence within this portion of the Order limits was broadly consistent, with the natural substrate, comprising a mix of light brown yellow silty clay with lenses of red sandy silt, with frequent bands of gravel and limestone, encountered at depths between 0.27 and 0.34m. This was directly overlain by topsoil deposits of mid grey brown silty clay. With the exception of Trenches 56 and 57, no

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features were encountered within this portion of the Order limits, however extensive evidence for modern plough truncation was observed across the area.

- 3.20. In Trench 56, a single isolated pit 5602 was investigated, measuring 1.10m in diameter and 0.32m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The feature contained a single sterile fill, 5603.
- 3.21. In Trench 57, a large rectangular pit 5703 was revealed, measuring greater than 2m long 0.7m wide by and 0.5m deep, with near-vertical sides and an irregular base. The feature contained a single fill 5704. Fragments of ceramic field drain as well as plastic were observed within the fill.

**Areas P2, P3, P6, P9-11 and P13-14 (Trenches 68 – 96; Fig. 5, 15-19)**

- 3.22. The stratigraphic sequence within this part of the Order limits was broadly consistent, with the natural substrate encountered at depths between 0.26m and 0.37m, comprising a mixture of light to mid brown yellow and red brown silty clay, with lenses of blue clay and some bands of chalk, as well as gravel and limestone bands. This was overlain directly by topsoil deposits of mid grey brown silty clay.
- 3.23. A broadly north-east/south-west aligned ditch was recorded in plan in Trench 69, matching a geophysical anomaly which continued to the north-east and across Trench 71, matching east-west aligned ditch 7102. Ditch 7102 measured 2.55m wide and 1.12m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained two fills (7103-7104). Fragments of ceramic building material and slag were recovered.
- 3.24. A broadly north-west/south-east aligned intercutting ditches, 7202 and 7205, were revealed crossing the centre of Trench 72. Ditch 7202 measured 1.7m wide and 0.57m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained two fills (7203-7204). Ditch 7205 measured 1.15m wide and 0.35m deep, with a matching profile and was filled by a single deposit 7206. Just to the north-east, large quarry pit 7207 corresponded with a discrete geophysical anomaly, measuring 3.4m in diameter and 1.24m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The feature contained a total of eight distinct fills (7208-7215) which produced some fragments of ceramic building material as well as slag.

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- 3.25. A single shallow pit was investigated at the north-western end of Trench 73, extending into the trench from the north-eastern limit of excavation. The feature measured 2.93m long, 1.19m wide and 0.3m deep, with moderately sloped sides and an irregular base, and contained three fills (7304-7306). No evidence was seen for any feature matching a north-east/south-west aligned linear geophysical anomaly which crossed the centre of the trench.
- 3.26. Trench 75 revealed a north/south aligned ditch which matched a linear geophysical anomaly. The feature measured 0.92m wide and 0.14m deep, with moderately sloped sides and an irregular base, and contained a single fill, 7504.
- 3.27. Ditch 7902 crossed the western portion of Trench 79 on a north/south alignment, matching a linear geophysical anomaly. The feature measured 1.92m wide and 0.2m deep, and contained two fills (7903-7904).
- 3.28. A single curvilinear ditch, 8103, was observed in Trench 81, broadly matching the locations of two linear geophysical anomalies. The feature measured 0.95m wide and 0.17m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill 8104.
- 3.29. Trench 86 revealed a single north-west/south-east aligned ditch, 8602, which matched a linear geophysical anomaly. The feature measured 1.5m wide and 0.13m deep, with gently sloped sides and a concave base, and was filled by a single deposit 8603.
- 3.30. Trench 88 targeted the location of two parallel north-east/south-west aligned geophysical anomalies. However, only the easternmost anomaly was matched by a ditch within the trench. Ditch 8803 measured 0.87m wide and 0.6m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained two fills (8804-8805).
- 3.31. A possible small ditch, 9402, was investigated at the north-western end of Trench 94, running broadly north/south. The feature measured 0.45m wide and 0.2m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill (9403). It was observed that the feature alignment matched the modern tram line within this part of the field, and it is possible that it represents wheel rutting or modern disturbance rather than any archaeological activity.

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- 3.32. Ditch 9502 crossed the centre of Trench 95 on a north-east/south-west alignment, matching a linear geophysical anomaly. The feature measured 2.6m wide and 0.22m deep, with gently sloped sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill 9503.
- 3.33. Ditch 9602 in Trench 96 was aligned north-west/south-east and crossed the trench just to the south-west of a linear geophysical anomaly of matching alignment. The feature measured 0.9m wide and 0.36m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by two deposits (9603-9604).

#### **Areas PF1-5, PF7 and PF8 (Trenches 97 – 135; Fig. 20-26)**

- 3.34. The stratigraphic sequence in this portion of the Order limits was broadly consistent, with the natural encountered at depths between 0.3m and 0.4m, comprising light brown yellow and mid brown orange silty clay with bands of limestone and some lenses of blue clay as well as mid red brown sandy silt. This was overlain directly by topsoil deposits of mid grey brown silty clay.
- 3.35. Trenches in this area were targeted to investigate geophysical anomalies, with a particularly dense area of anomalies identified in the area around Trenches 112-121. Although features in this area were still under investigation when this report was produced, features in Trenches 112-121 were producing large assemblages of likely Iron Age to Roman pottery as well as ceramic building material, metal objects, and animal bone.
- 3.36. Trench 97 revealed one possible ditch, matching the westernmost of two parallel linear geophysical anomalies which cross the trench. The feature is still under investigation.
- 3.37. A north-east/south-west aligned possible ditch was encountered in Trench 99, matching a linear geophysical anomaly. The feature is still under investigation.
- 3.38. A north-east/south-west aligned possible ditch was encountered in Trench 101, matching a linear geophysical anomaly. The feature is still under investigation.
- 3.39. A north-east/south-west aligned possible ditch was encountered in Trench 102, matching an L-shaped curvilinear geophysical anomaly which turns towards the south-west to run across Trench 103. The feature is still under investigation.

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- 3.40. A north-west/south-east aligned possible ditch was encountered in Trench 103, matching a linear geophysical anomaly which turns towards the north-east to cross Trench 102. The feature is still under investigation.
- 3.41. Three parallel broadly east/west aligned possible ditches were revealed in Trench 104, matching three linear geophysical anomalies. Immediately to the south of the central possible ditch, a small discrete feature was also observed. The features are still under investigation.
- 3.42. A total of four evenly spaced, parallel north/south aligned linear features were encountered in Trench 111, matching a likely ridge and furrow system identified by the geophysical survey. The features are still under investigation.
- 3.43. Two parallel east/west aligned ditches, 11203 and 11206, were investigated in Trench 112, both matching linear geophysical anomalies. Ditch 11203 measured 1.5m wide and 0.59m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained two fills (11204-11205). Ditch 11206, to the south, measured 0.98m wide and 0.18m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill 11207. The feature's southern edge truncated a small pit, 11208, surviving with a width of 0.54m and a depth of 0.18m, with steep sides and a concave base, and containing a single deposit 11209. At the south-western end of the trench, a possible feature was only partially exposed and recorded in plan, matching a wide north/south aligned geophysical anomaly.
- 3.44. A total of twelve potential features were revealed in Trench 113, including a number of ditches matching geophysical anomalies. The features are still under investigation.
- 3.45. A total of eight potential features were revealed in Trench 114, including a number of ditches matching geophysical anomalies. The features are still under investigation.
- 3.46. A total of eight potential features were revealed in Trench 115, including a number of ditches matching geophysical anomalies. The features are still under investigation.

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- 3.47. The majority of Trench 116 was covered by a large deposit/spread, however two sets of intercutting ditches were revealed. Near the centre of the trench, ditches 11603 and 11607 were aligned east/west and matched a geophysical anomaly.
- 3.48. Near the centre of Trench 117, broadly north/south aligned intercutting ditches 11703 and 11705 matched a linear geophysical anomaly forming part of a sub-square enclosure. Ditch 11703 measured 1.96m wide with moderately sloped sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill 11704. Ditch 11705 measured 1.87m wide with steep sides and a flat base, and contained two fills (11706-11707). In the north-western half of the trench, north-south aligned ditch 11708 extended into the trench from the southern limit of excavation and terminated within the trench. The feature measured 0.35m wide with steep sides and a slightly undulating base, and contained a single deposit 11709. At the south-eastern end of the trench, north-east/south-west aligned ditch 11710 measured 1.21m wide with slightly convex sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill 11711.
- 3.49. In the northern half of Trench 118, broadly east/west aligned intercutting ditches 11803 and 11806 were located just to the south of a linear geophysical anomaly of the same alignment. Ditch 11803 measured 2.16m wide and 0.76m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained two fills (11804-11805). Ditch 11806 measured 1.37m wide and 0.6m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained three fills (11807-11809). Immediately to the north, ditch 11815 matched the alignment of the geophysical anomaly, measuring 1.55m wide and 0.3m deep with gently sloped sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill 11816. At the northern end of the trench, north-east/south-west aligned curvilinear ditch 11810 measured 0.38m wide and 0.38m deep with steep sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill 11811. Immediately to the south, ditch 11812 was aligned north-west/south-east, measuring 0.65m wide and 0.27m deep with steep sides and a concave base, and contained two fills (11813-11814). The southern half of Trench 118 contained a large deposit/spread c. 18m in length.
- 3.50. Near the centre of Trench 119, broadly north/south aligned intercutting ditches 11903 and 11905 matched a linear geophysical anomaly. Ditch 11903 measured 2.25m wide and 0.46m deep with steep sides and an irregular base, and contained a single fill 11903. Ditch 11905 measured 1.65m wide and 0.46m deep with a

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matching profile, and contained one fill 11906. Immediately to the west, north/south aligned ditch 11907 matched a geophysical anomaly forming part of a sub-square enclosure, measuring 1.57m wide and 0.52m deep with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. The feature contained two fills (11908-11909). In the western half of the trench, north-west/south-east aligned ditch 11910 measured 0.8m wide and 0.27m deep with steep sides and an uneven base, and contained a single fill (11911). Near the western end of the trench, circular pit 11916 was investigated, measuring 0.6m in diameter and 0.23m deep, with gently sloped sides and a concave base and containing one fill 11917. In the eastern half of the trench two other pits were also investigated. Pit 11912 was only partially exposed within the trench and measured 2.5m in diameter and 0.1m deep with gently sloped sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill 11913. Pit 11914 measured 1.43m in diameter and 0.31m deep, with gently sloped sides and a concave base, and contained one fill 11915.

- 3.51. A broadly east/west aligned ditch 12003 crossed the southern half of Trench 120, measuring 0.62m wide and 0.38m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill 12004. In the northern half of the trench an area of root disturbance was observed, and tree throw 12005 was tested by hand excavation, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.27m deep, with an irregular profile and containing a single fill (12006).
- 3.52. A north-east/south-west aligned ditch 12103 was investigated in the eastern half of Trench 121, measuring 1.6m wide and 0.65m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The feature contained three deposits (12104-12106). Just to the west, north/south aligned intercutting ditches 12109 and 12112 were broadly aligned with a linear geophysical anomaly. Ditch 12109 measured 1.18m wide and 0.6m deep with steep sides and a concave base, and contained to fills (12110-12111). Ditch 12112 measured 0.32m wide and 0.26m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a single deposit (12113). At the western end of the trench, pit 12107 was partially exposed extended from the southern limit of excavation. The feature measured 1.57m long and 1.43m wide, with a depth of 0.18m, with gently sloped sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill 12108.



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- 3.53. One broadly east-west aligned ditch, 12302, was revealed in Trench 123, matching the northern side of a small square enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. The ditch measured 0.7m wide, with concave sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill 12303.
- 3.54. A north-east/south-west aligned possible ditch was identified in the south-eastern end of Trench 127, matching an L-shaped geophysical anomaly. In the north-western half of the trench, three parallel north-east/south-west aligned linear features were also observed. The features are still under investigation.
- 3.55. A single east/west aligned ditch, 12802, was revealed at the south-eastern end of Trench 128, matching the northern side of a small square enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. Ditch 12802 measured 0.87m wide and 0.18m deep, with gently sloped sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill 12803.
- 3.56. Trench 129 revealed a curvilinear ditch 12902 just to the south of a curvilinear geophysical anomaly. The feature measured 0.75m wide and 0.22m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill 12903. Immediately to the south-west, an oval pit 12904 was investigated, measuring 1.34m long, 0.94m wide and 0.22m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. The feature was filled by a single deposit 12905. At the south-western end of the trench, a north-west/south-east aligned ditch was recorded in plan only.
- 3.57. Trench 130 revealed two ditches which corresponded with two sides of a small square enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. Ditch 13002 was aligned east/west, forming the enclosure's northern side, and measured 0.72m wide with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill, 13003. Ditch 13004 was aligned north/south, forming the western side of the enclosure, and measured 0.94m wide. The ditch contained one fill, 13005.
- 3.58. At the southern end of Trench 131, an east/west aligned possible furrow, 13102, was encountered. The feature measured 0.82m wide, with gently sloped sides and a flat base.

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- 3.59. Two parallel broadly north/south aligned ditches (13503 and 13505) were encountered in Trench 135, broadly aligning with geophysical anomalies. Ditch 13503 measured 1.25m wide, while ditch 13505 measured 0.86m wide.

## 4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1. On the basis of the trial trenching results to date, a number of distinct clusters of archaeological remains can be identified, mostly located on the higher ground within the undulating landscape. Based on preliminary dating evidence, the majority of the activity appears to date to the later Iron Age and Roman periods, with some evidence for modern activity.
- 4.2. The trial trenching results to date confirm the results of the preceding programme of geophysical survey. Although occasional misalignments of geophysical anomalies compared to exposed remains within trenches were encountered, these are to be expected given the nature of non-intrusive survey techniques. Notably, the main focal areas of archaeological activity, particularly in Areas M6, M10, and PF7, and the density and nature of features within these areas, were accurately predicted by the geophysical survey. Archaeologically relatively quiet or blank areas identified by the geophysical survey also were confirmed as such by the results of the trial trenching to date.
- 4.3. Across the majority of the trenching areas investigated to date, high levels of modern plough truncation and evidence for wheel rutting were observed. This is owed in part to the relatively thin topsoil cover in many of the fields, combined with the weight and strength of modern farming equipment. Despite extensive evidence for relatively shallow features which were likely affected by ploughing, the topsoil was relatively sterile and did not produce many unstratified finds. This may suggest that the features were not particularly finds rich and that plough truncation, while damaging to the cut features themselves, has not disturbed stratified finds on any great scale.

## 5. REFERENCES

CA, 2022. *Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO, Essendine, Rutland & Lincolnshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation*

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## 6. SELECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES - PHOTOGRAPHS



Trench 12, looking north-west



Trench 42, looking north



Trench 71, looking north



Trench 72, looking north-east



Trench 116, looking south-west



Trench 117, looking north-east

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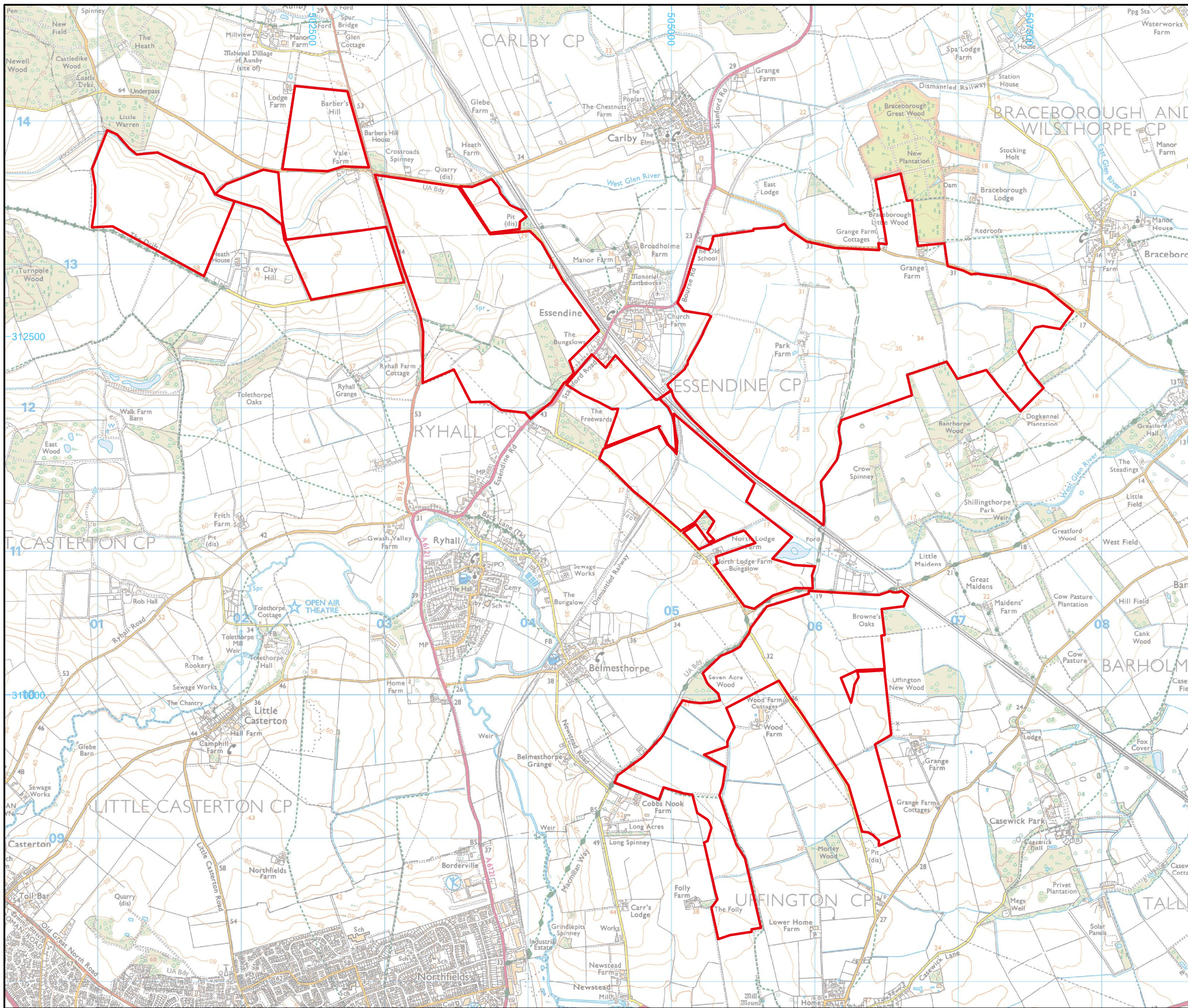
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 Order limits



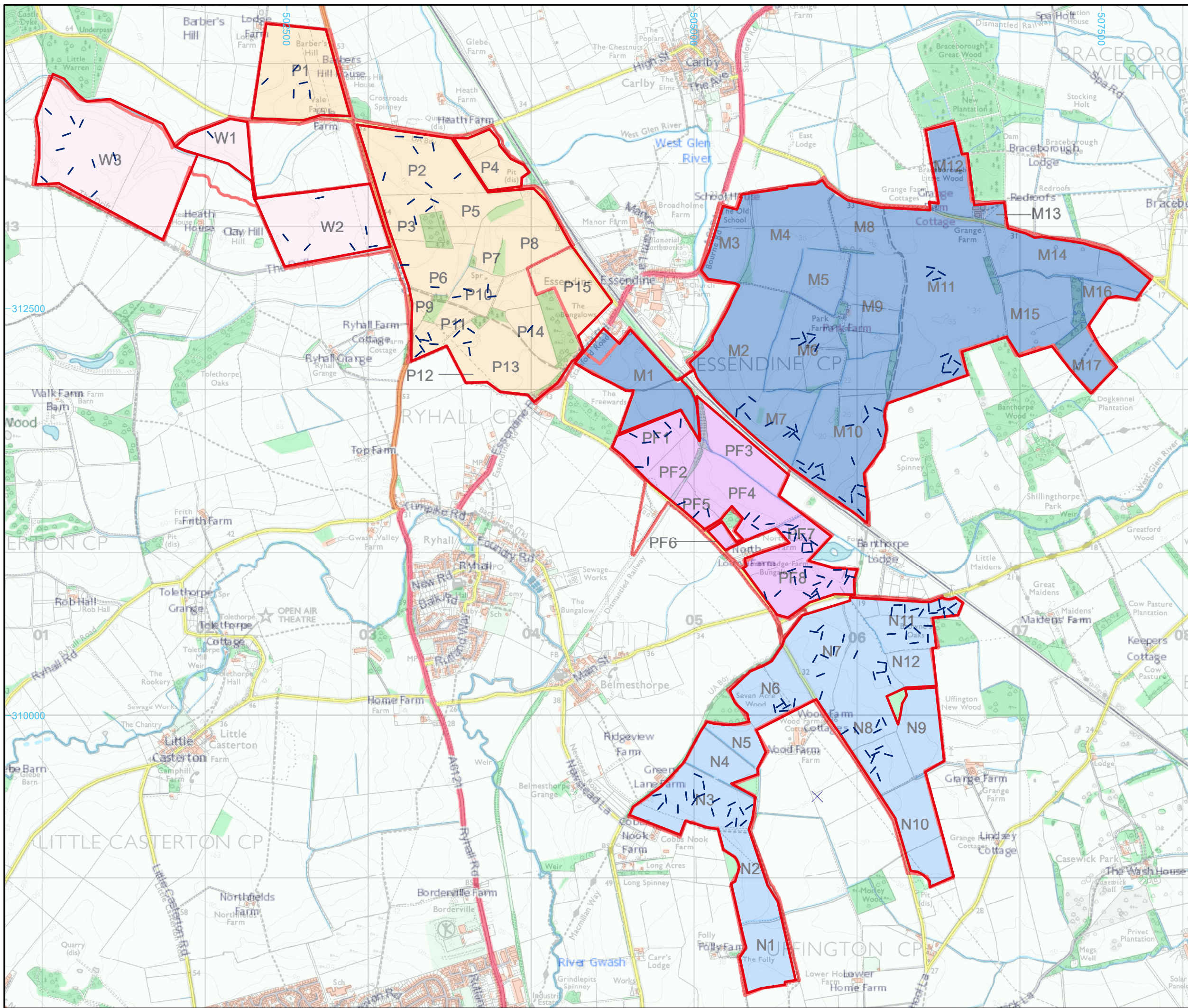
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Order limits Location plan**

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- Order limits
- Proposed trench location
- Area M
- Area N
- Area P
- Area PF
- Area W



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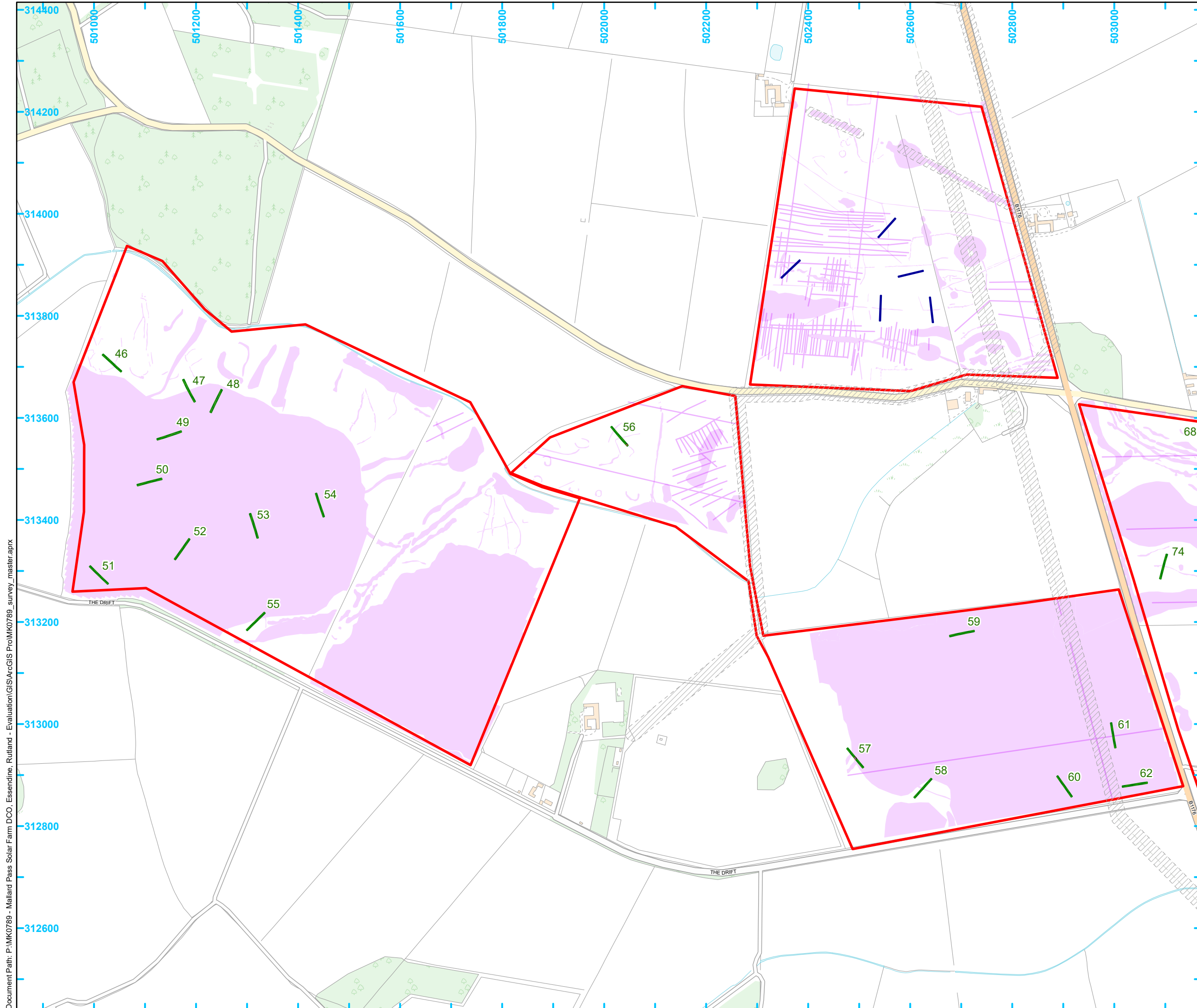
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench layout plan showing areas and field numbers

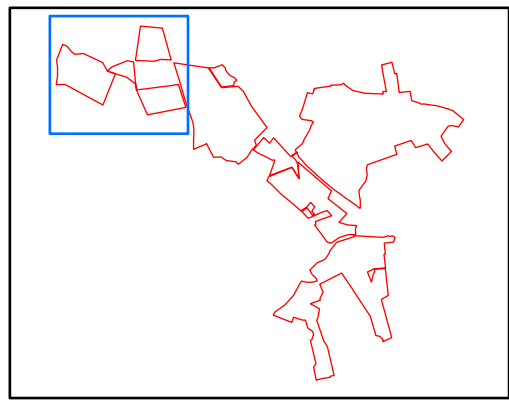
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- Proposed evaluation trench
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Constraint
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Constraint
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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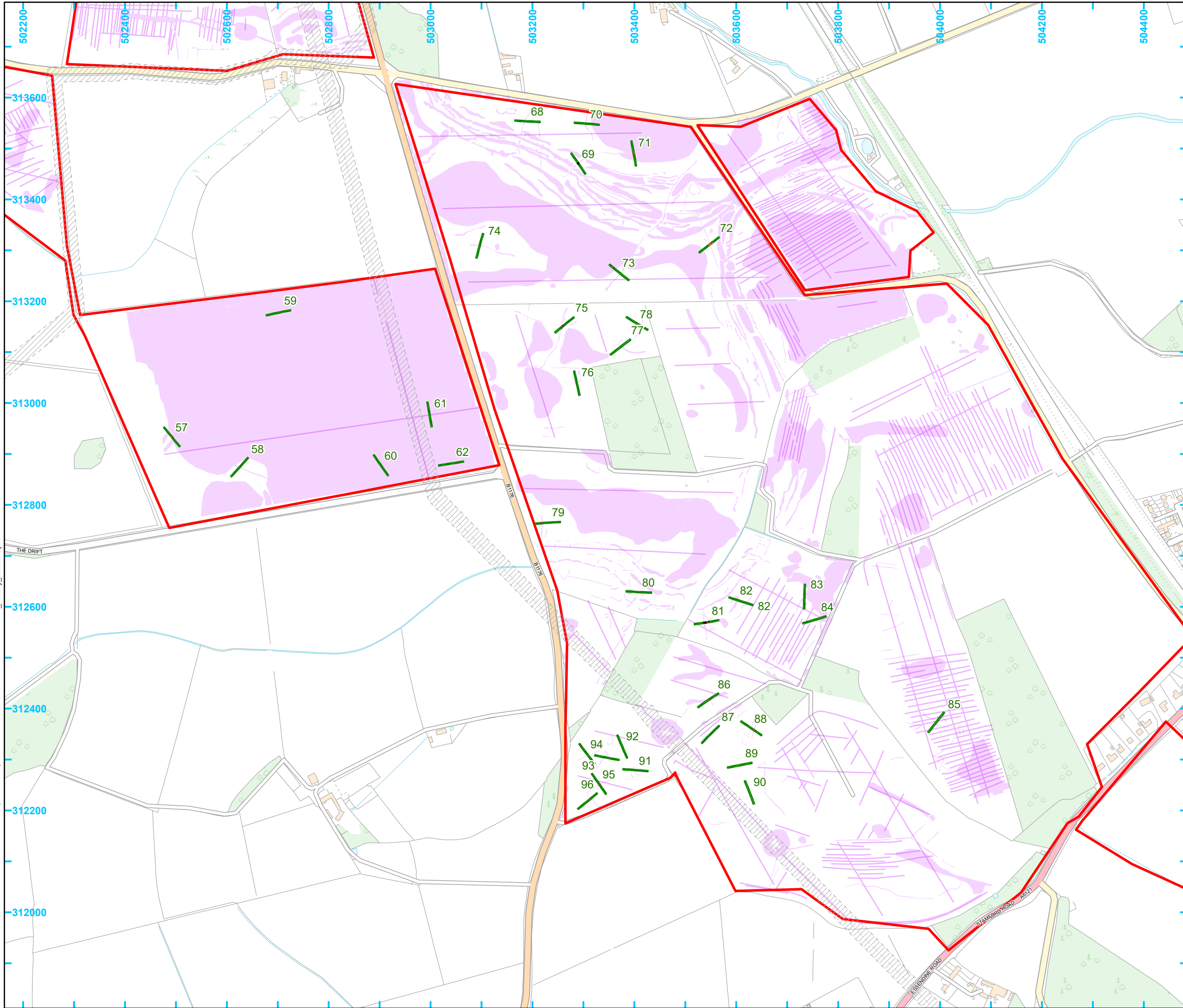
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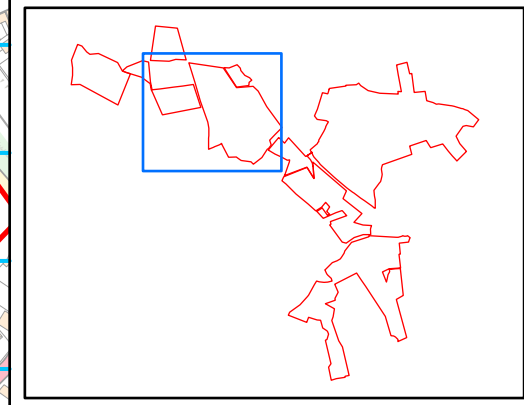
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- Legend**
- Order limits
  - Proposed evaluation trench
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  - LOE Top
  - Constraint
  - Modern
  - Excavated base
  - Excavated intervention
  - Cut feature
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  - Geophysics (Ply)



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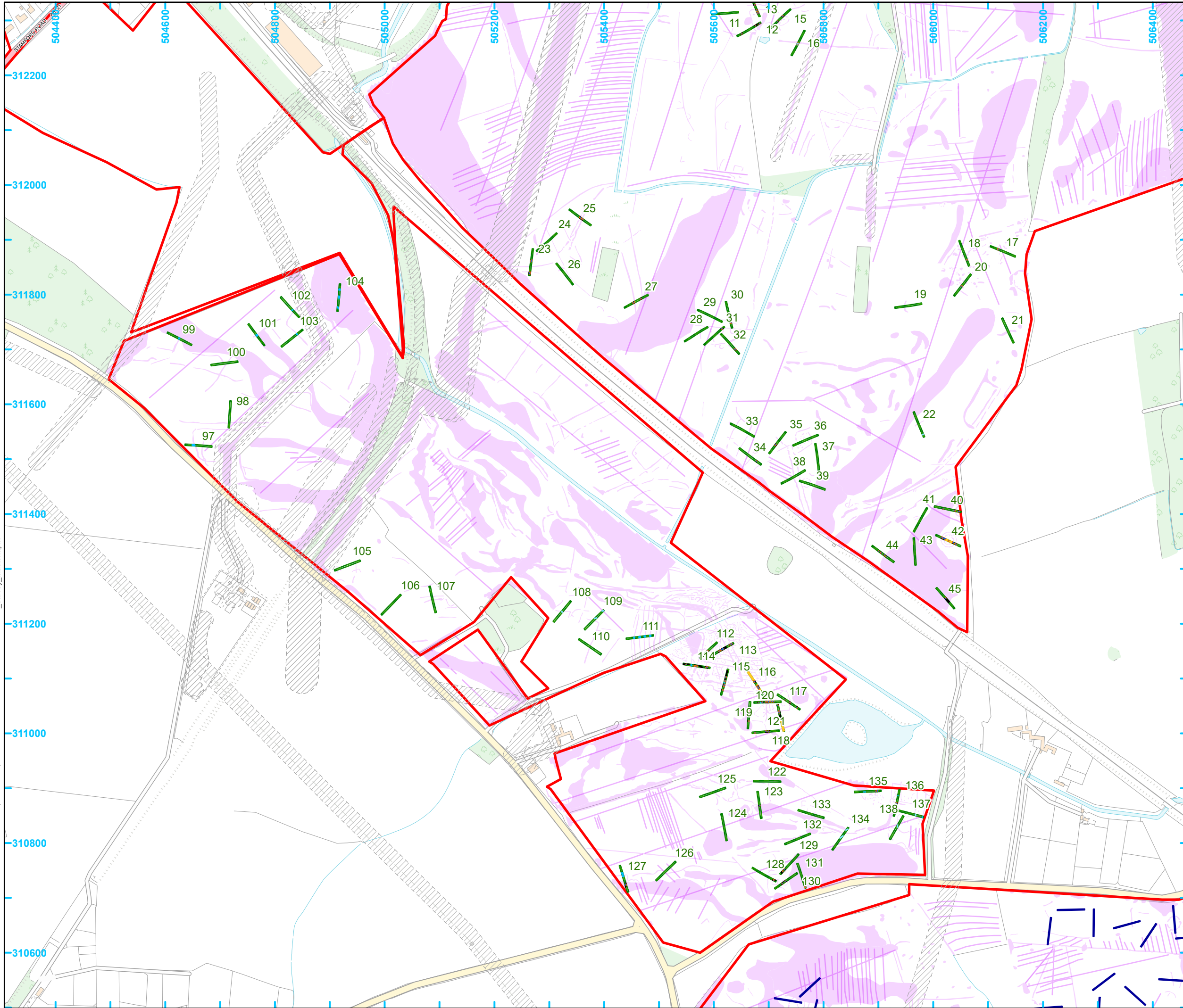
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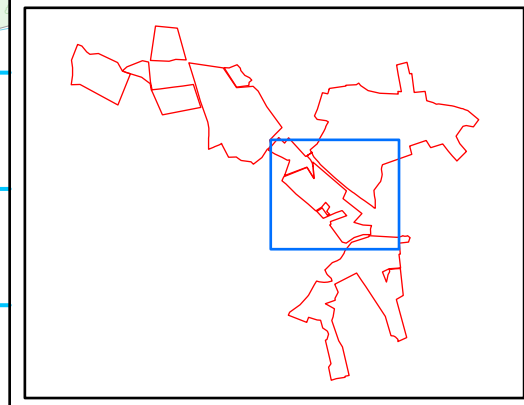
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**Legend**

- ▬ Order limits
- ▬ Proposed evaluation trench
- ▬ LOE Bot
- ▬ LOE Top
- ▬ Constraint
- ▬ Modern
- ▬ Field drain
- ▬ Excavated base
- ▬ Break of slope
- ▬ Excavated intervention
- ▬ Furrow
- ▬ Cut feature
- ▬ Rapid pre-ex
- ▬ Constraint
- ▬ Deposit
- ▬ Surface
- ▬ Natural geology
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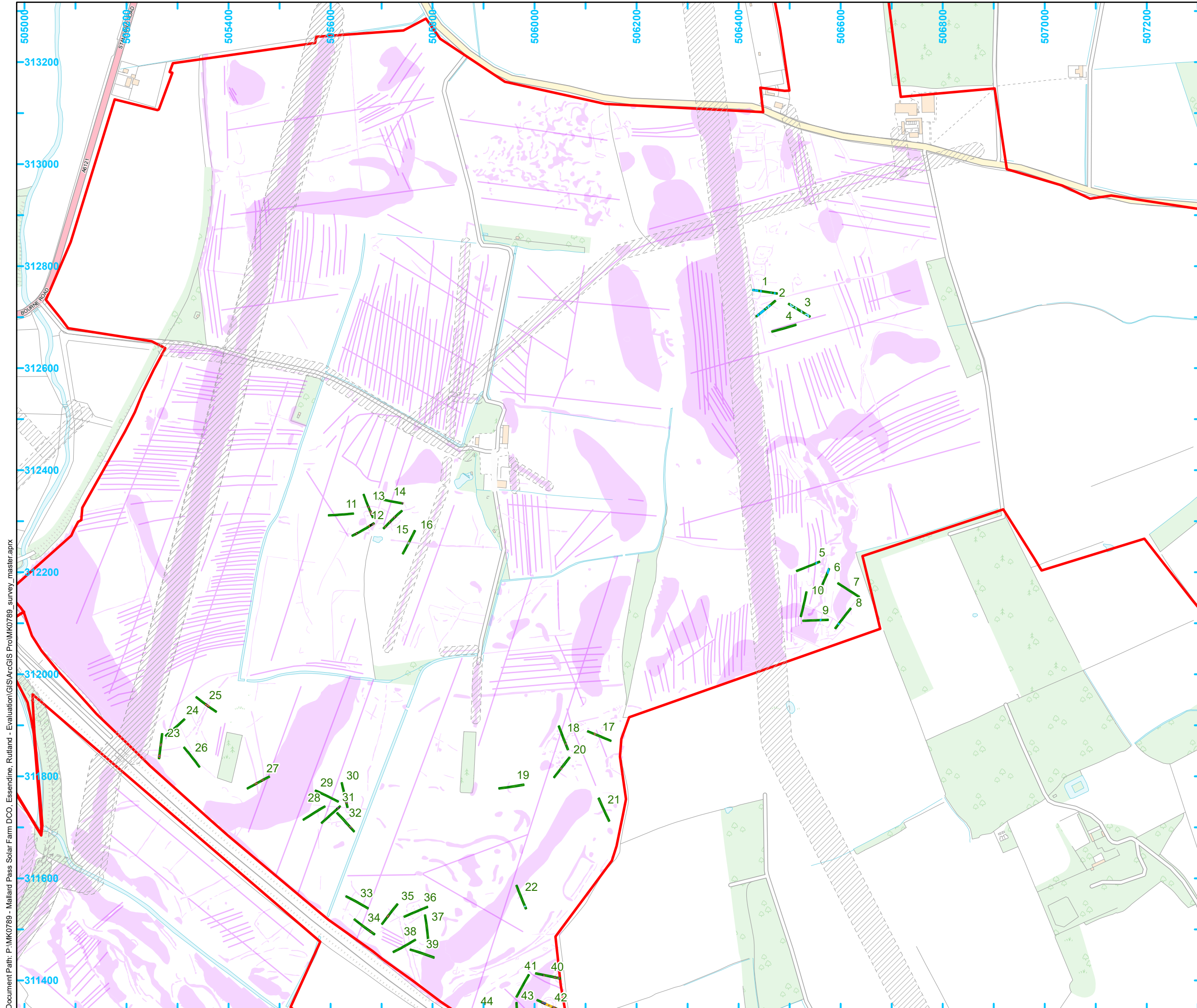
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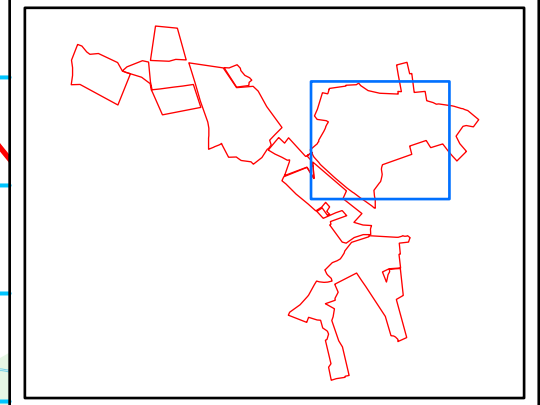
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Constraint
- Modern
- Field drain
- Excavated base
- Break of slope
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Rapid pre-ex
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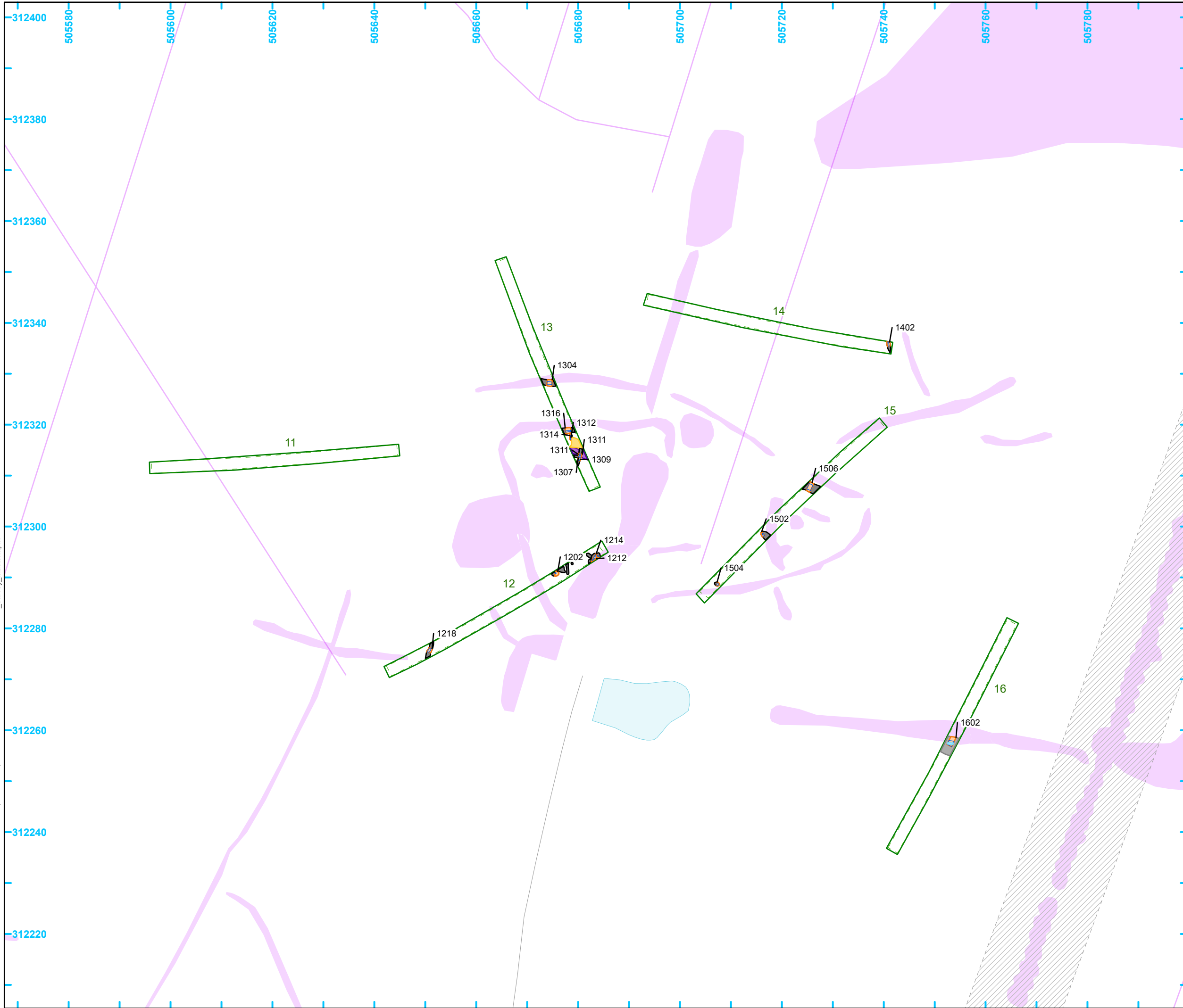
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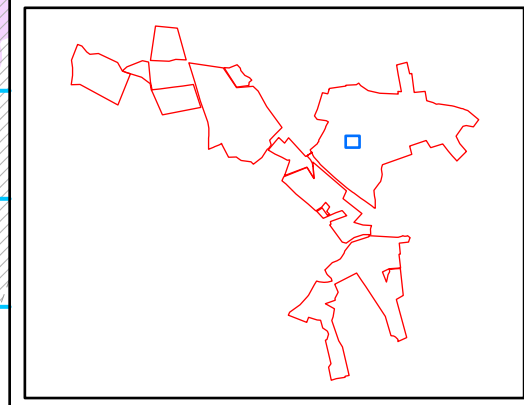
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**Legend**

- Order limits
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- LOE Top
- Constraint
- Modern
- Field drain
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Constraint
- Deposit
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- Geophysics (Ln)
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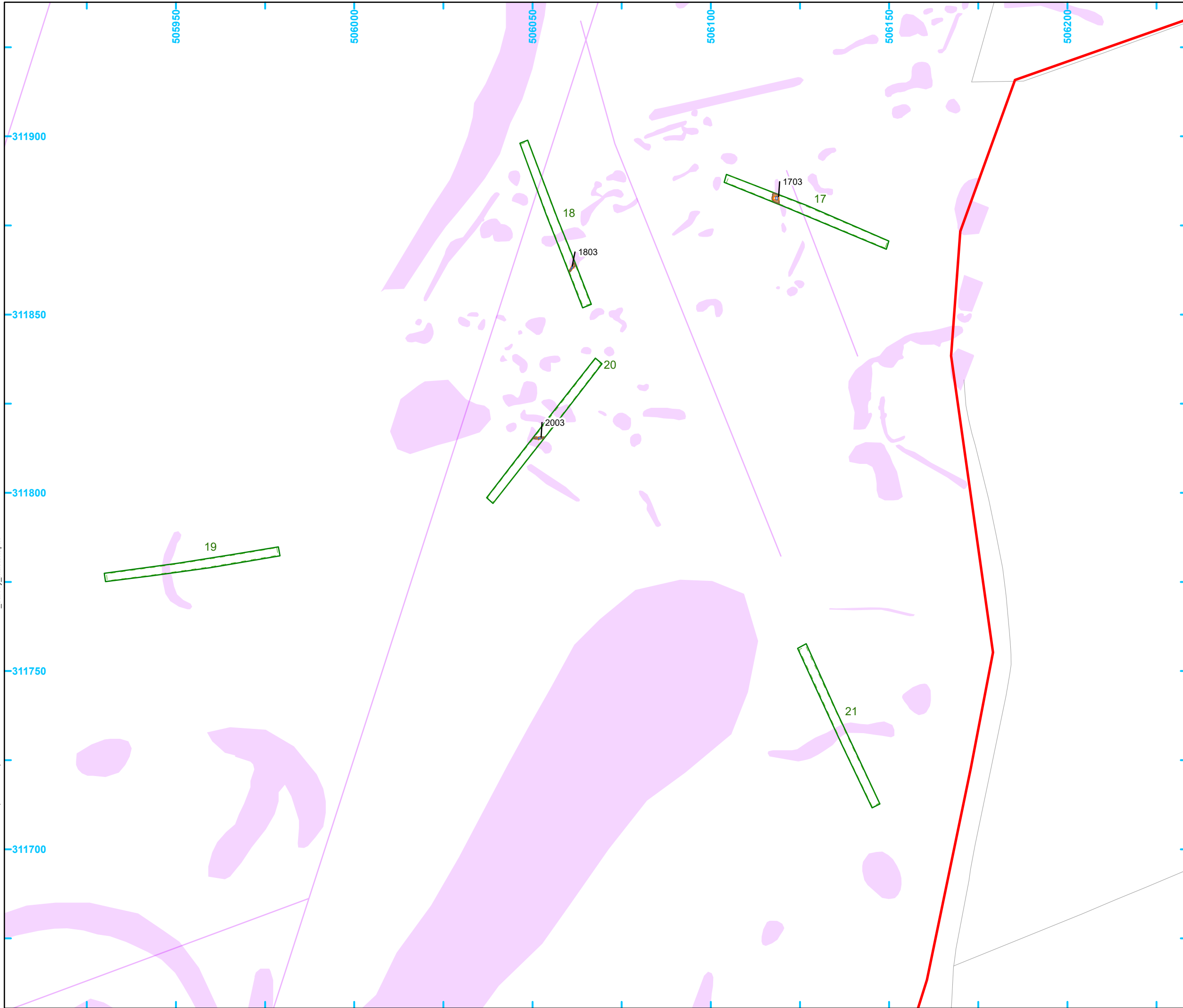
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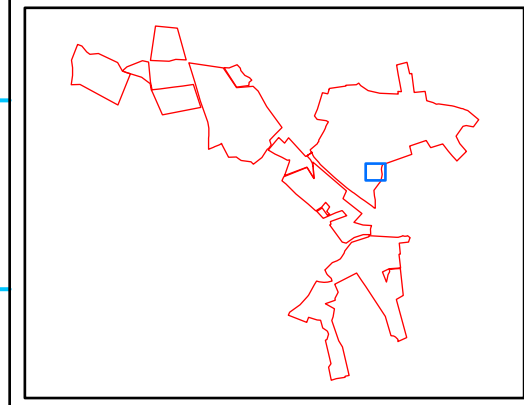
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Natural geology
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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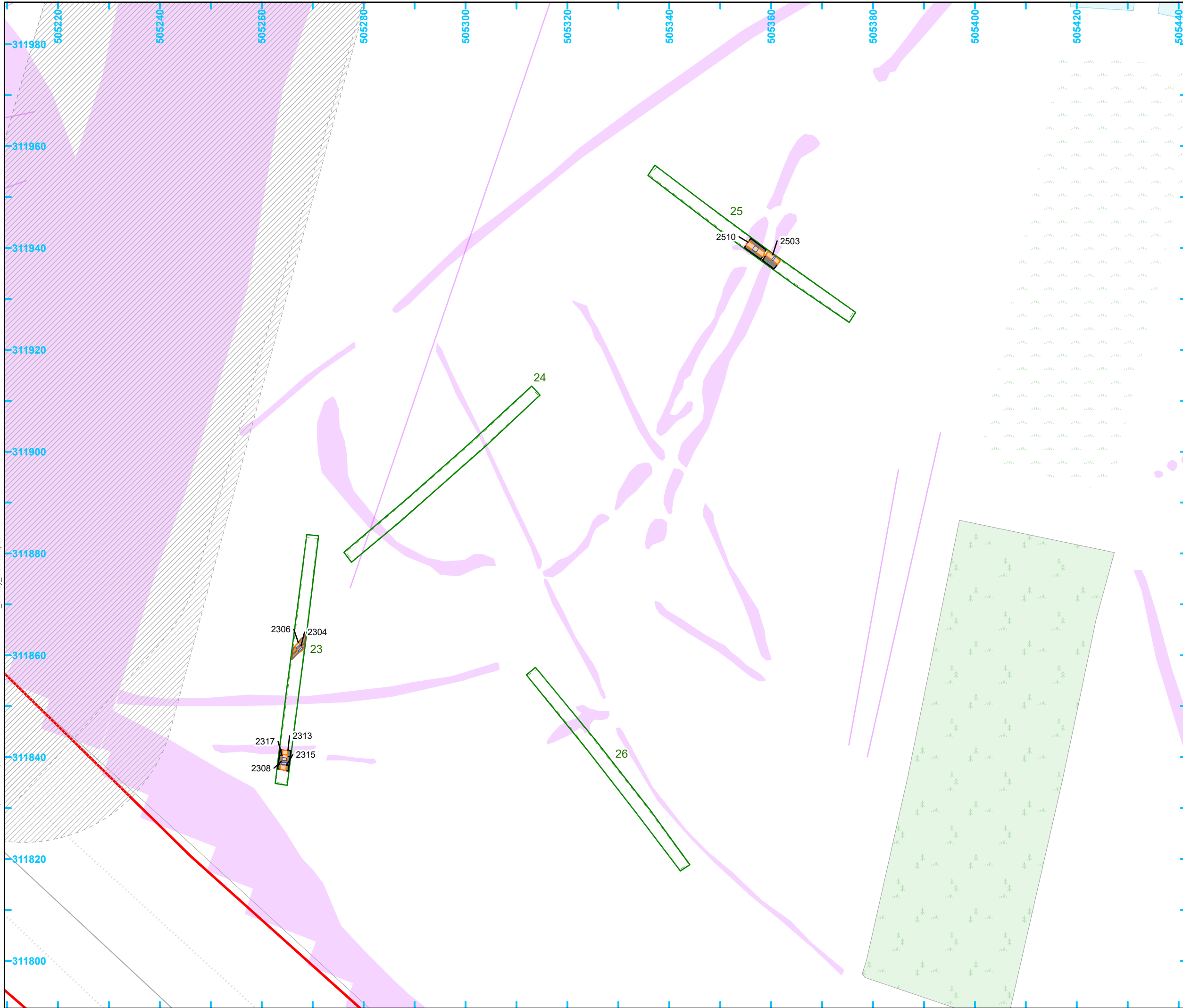
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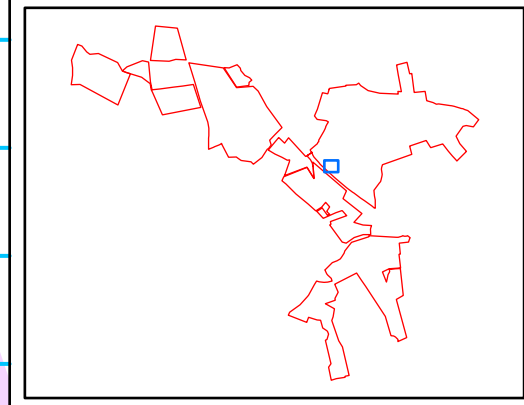
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Constraint
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Constraint
- Natural geology
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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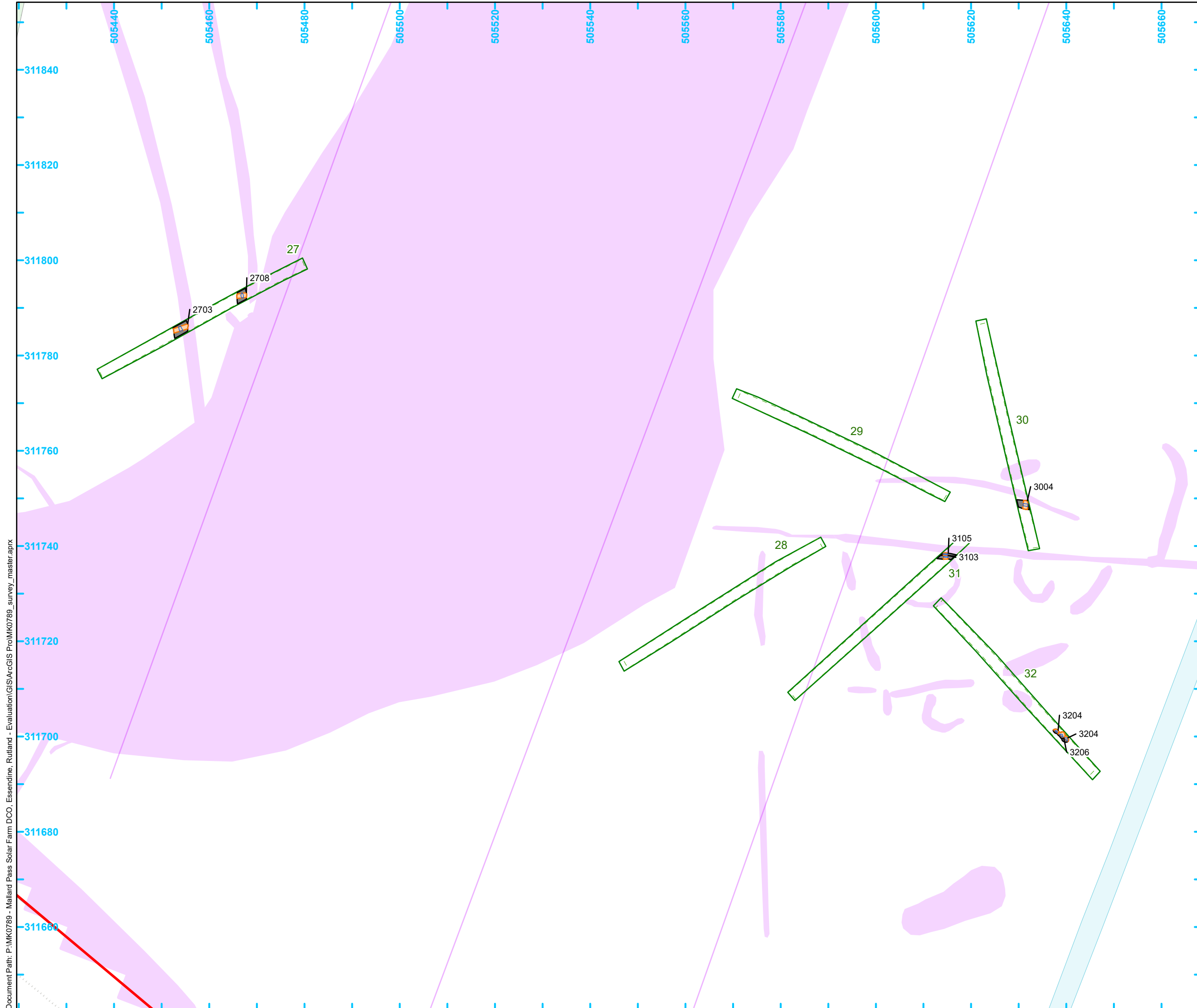
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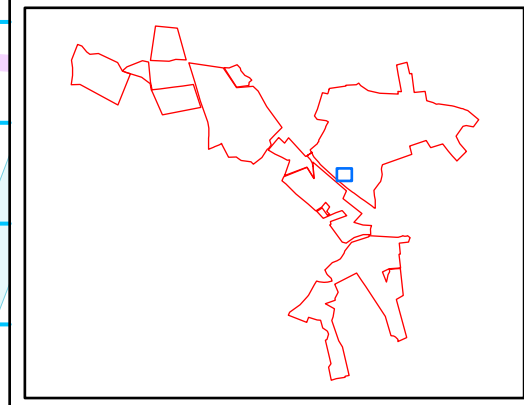
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- LOE Top
- Excavated base
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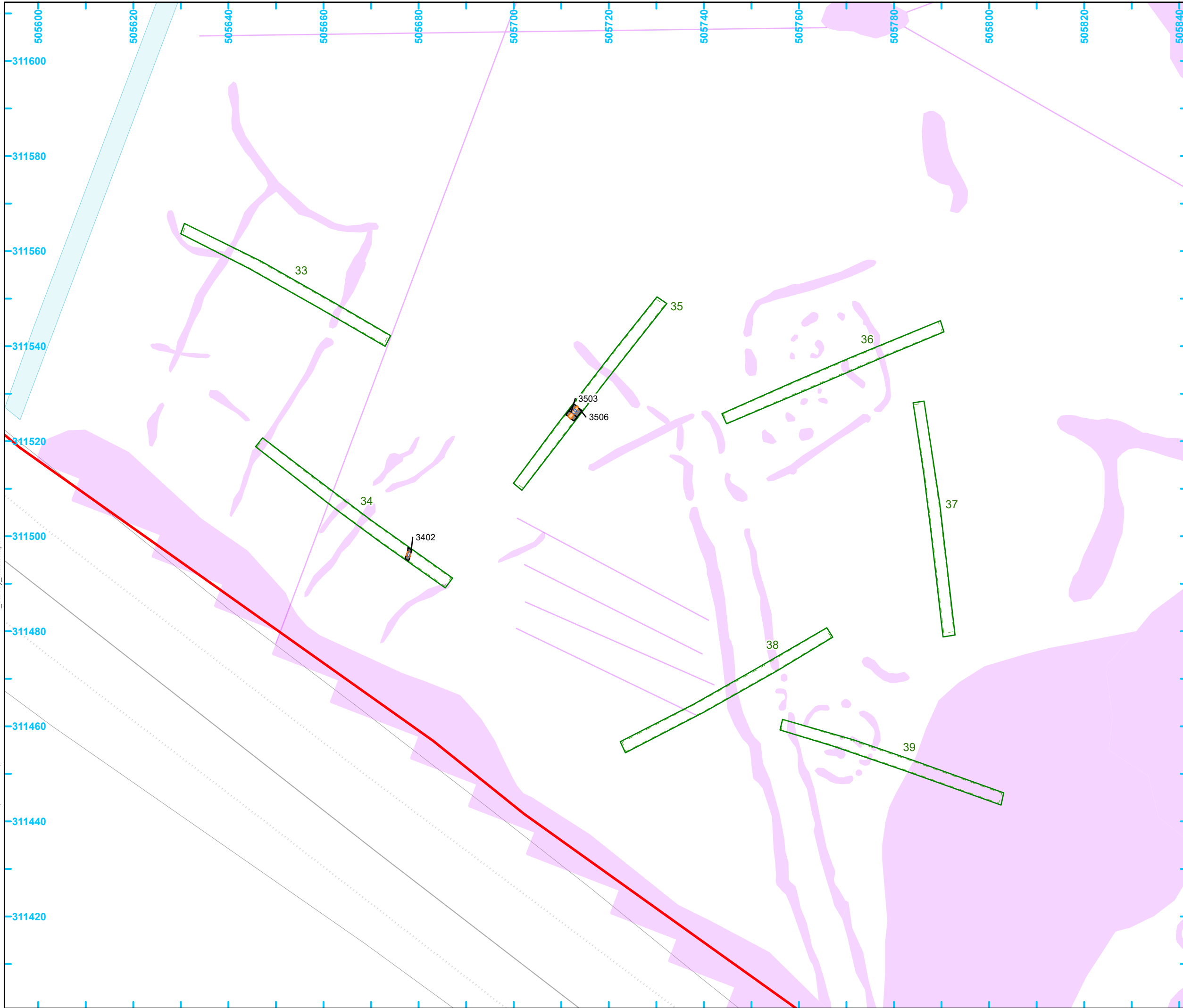
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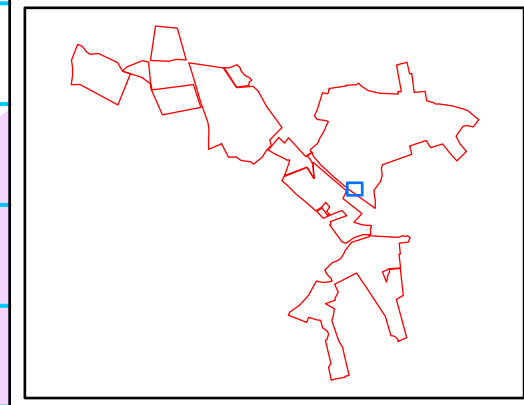
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Excavated base
- Break of slope
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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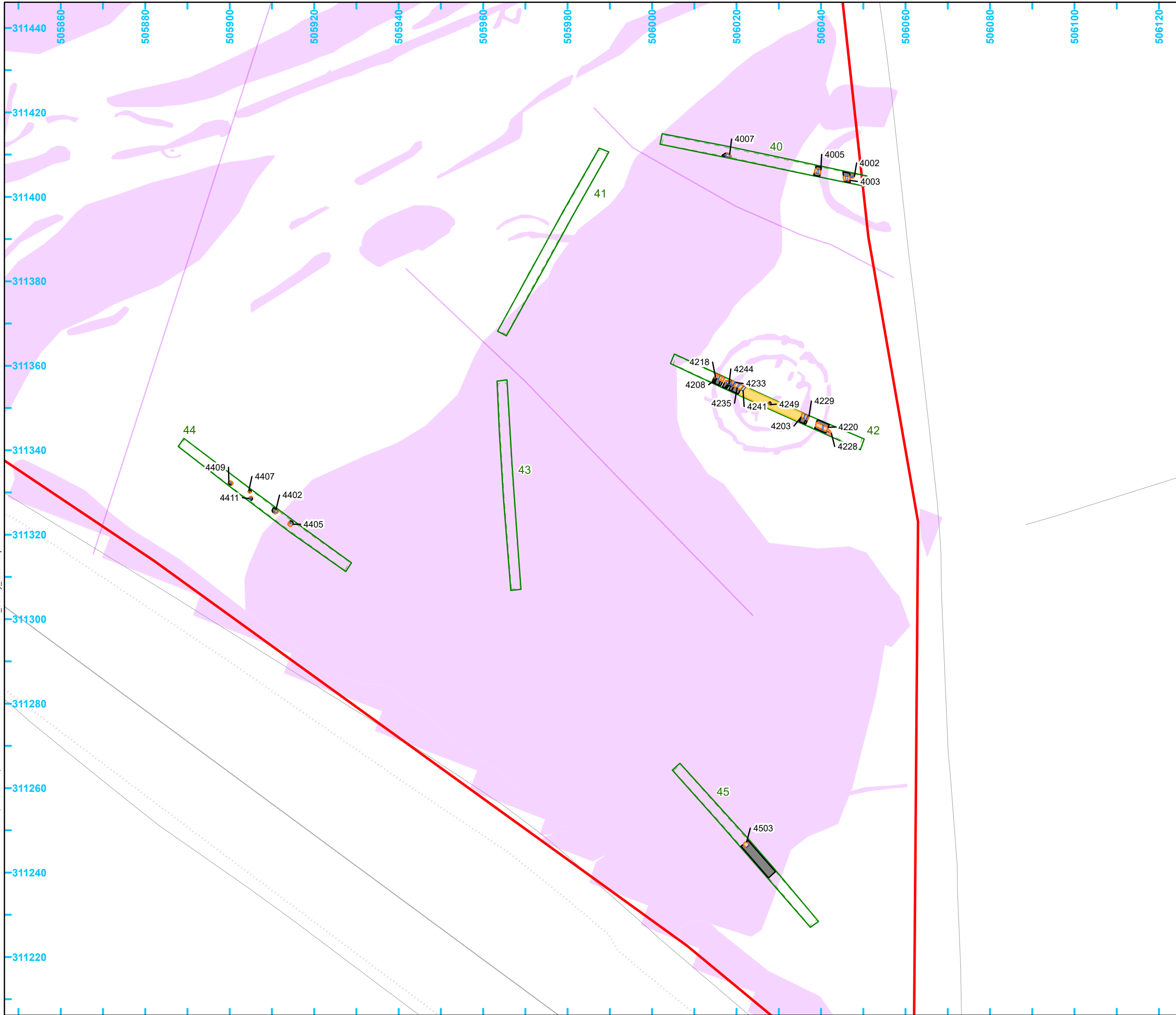
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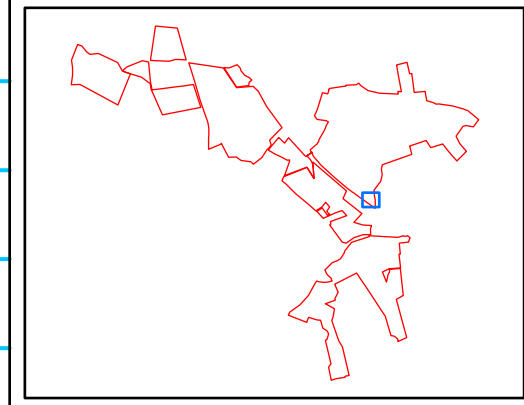
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Excavated base
- Break of slope
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Deposit
- Natural geology
- Tree throw
- Geophysics (Ln)
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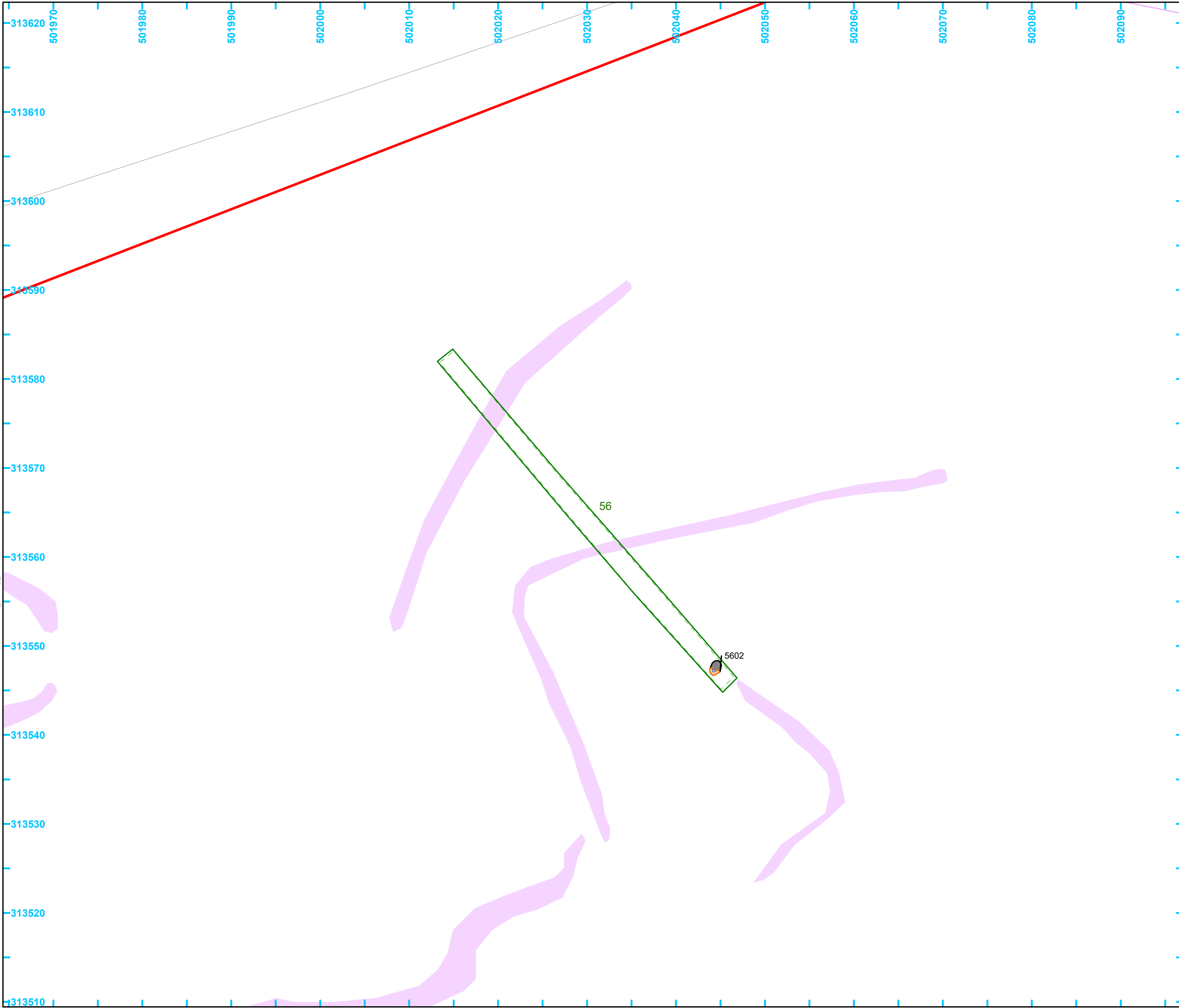
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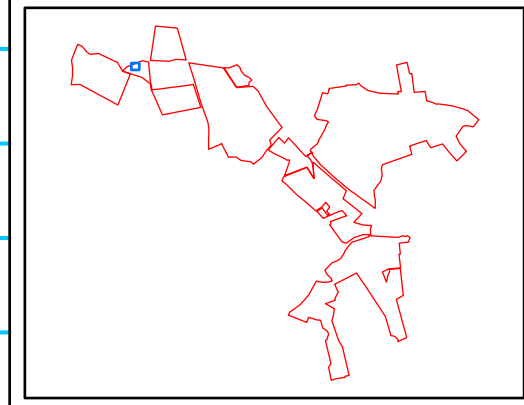
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**Legend**

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- Geophysics (Ln)
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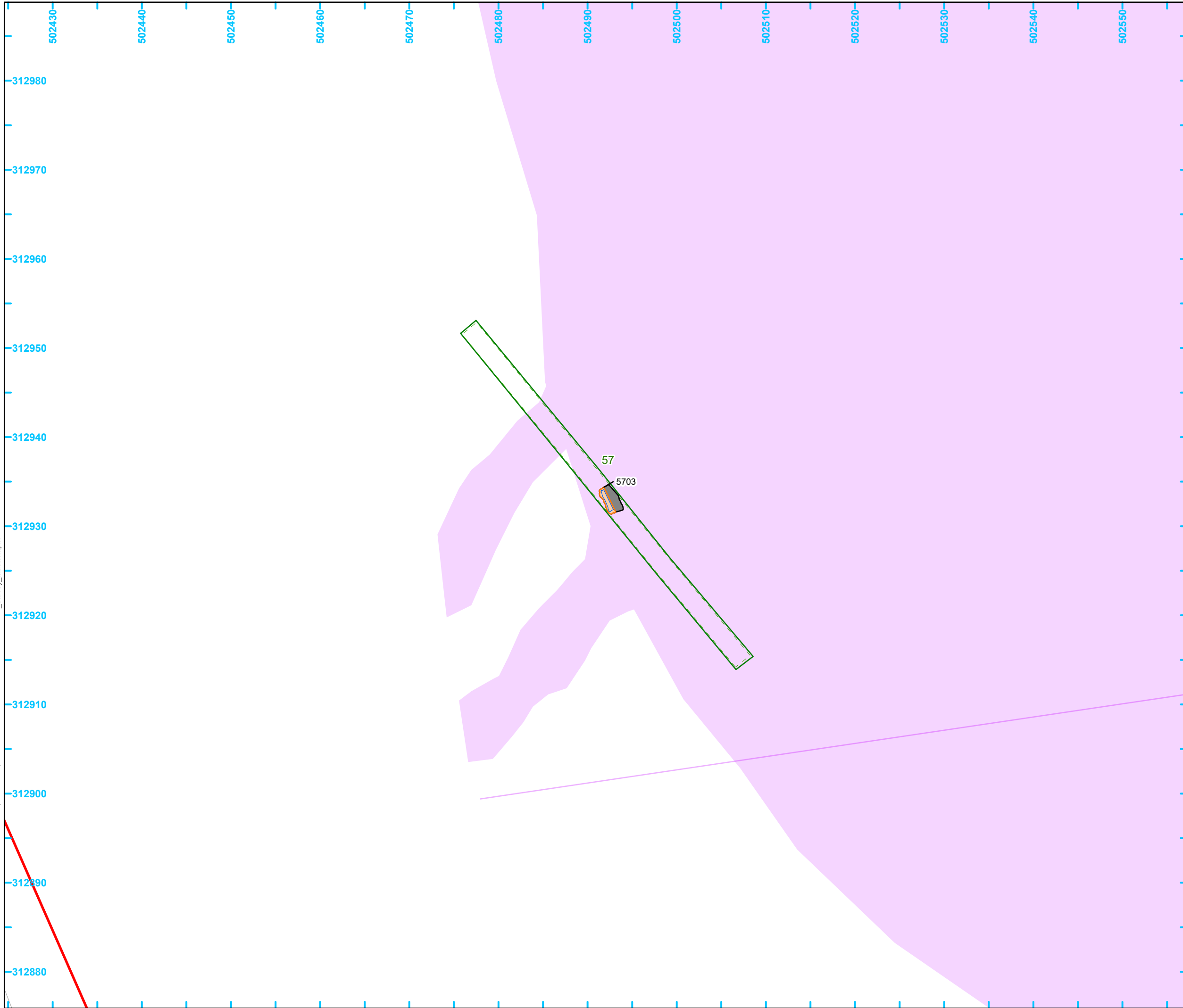
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- Order limits
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- LOE Top
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)

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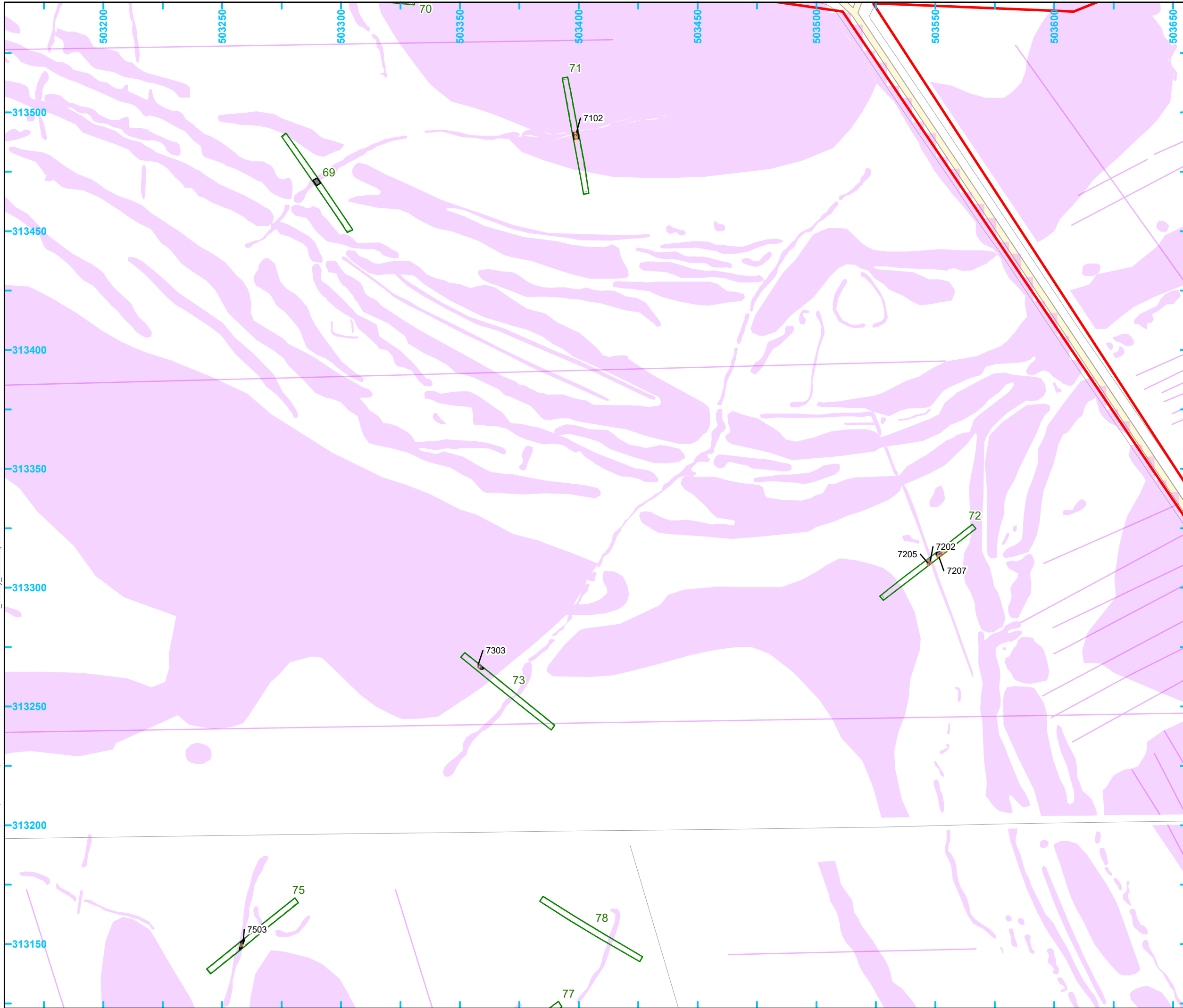
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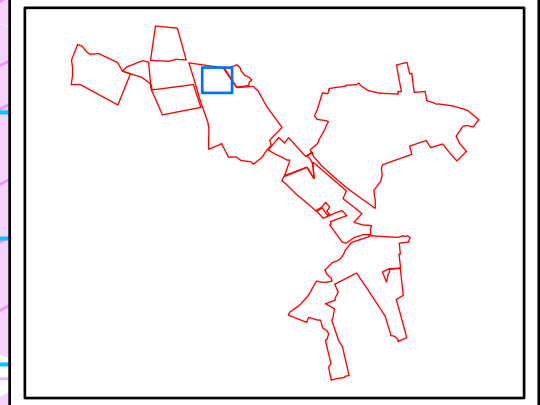
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**Legend**

- Order limits
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- LOE Top
- Modern
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Geophysics (Ln)
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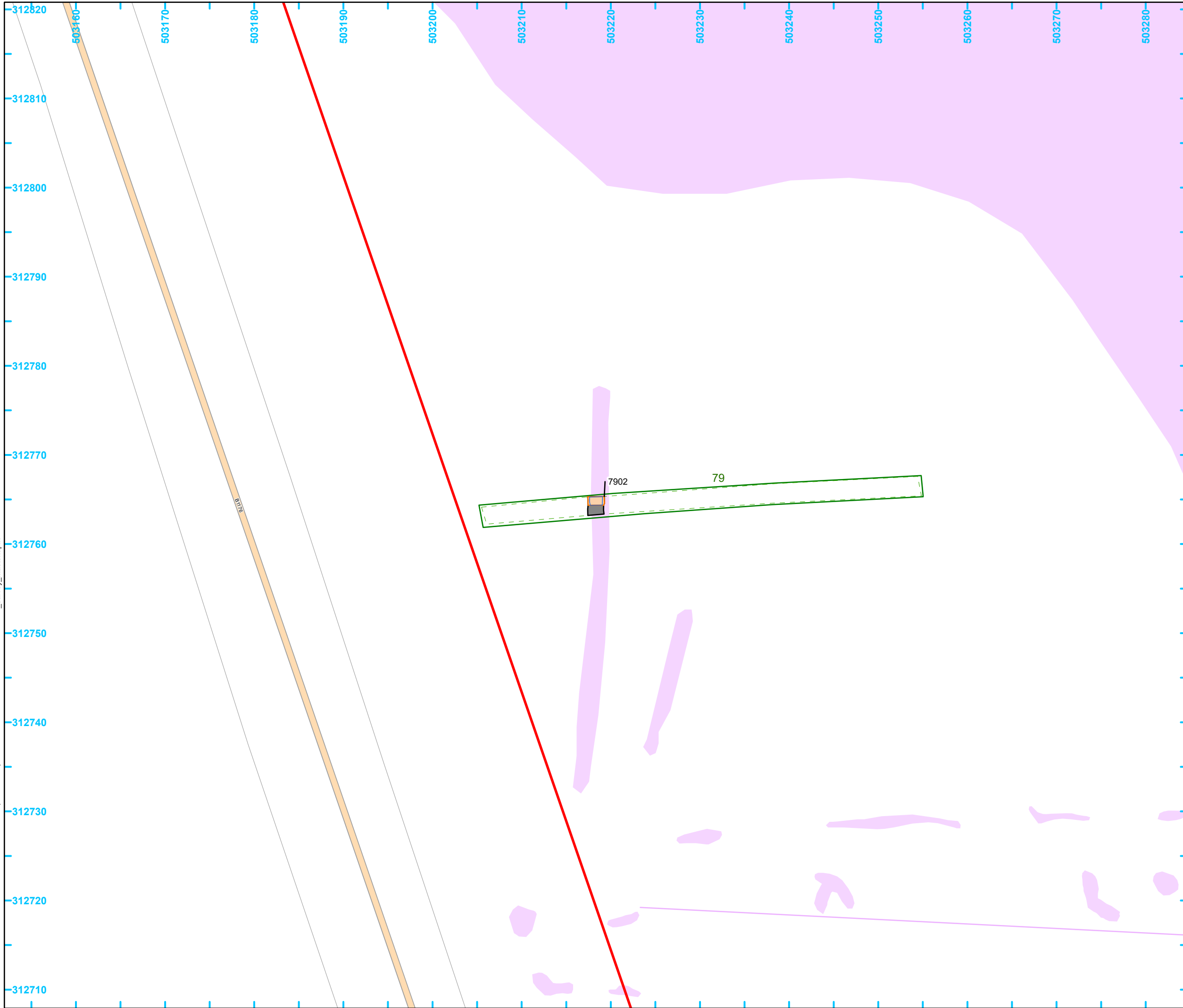
Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
Suffolk	01449 900120

[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
 Essendine, Rutland

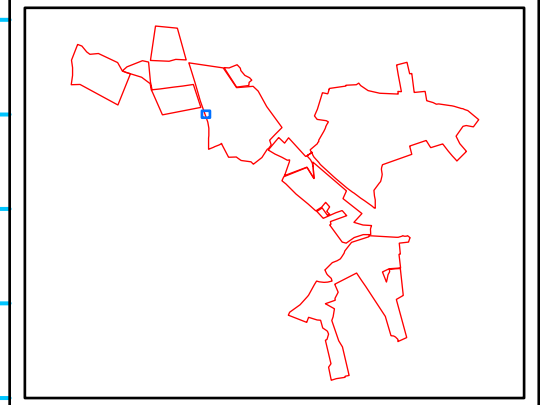
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Excavated trenches showing  
 archaeological features and  
 pre-ex survey

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<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DGL	<b>DATE</b>	15/11/2022	<b>15</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	AS	<b>SCALE@A3</b>	1:1,500	



**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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**Cotswold Archaeology**

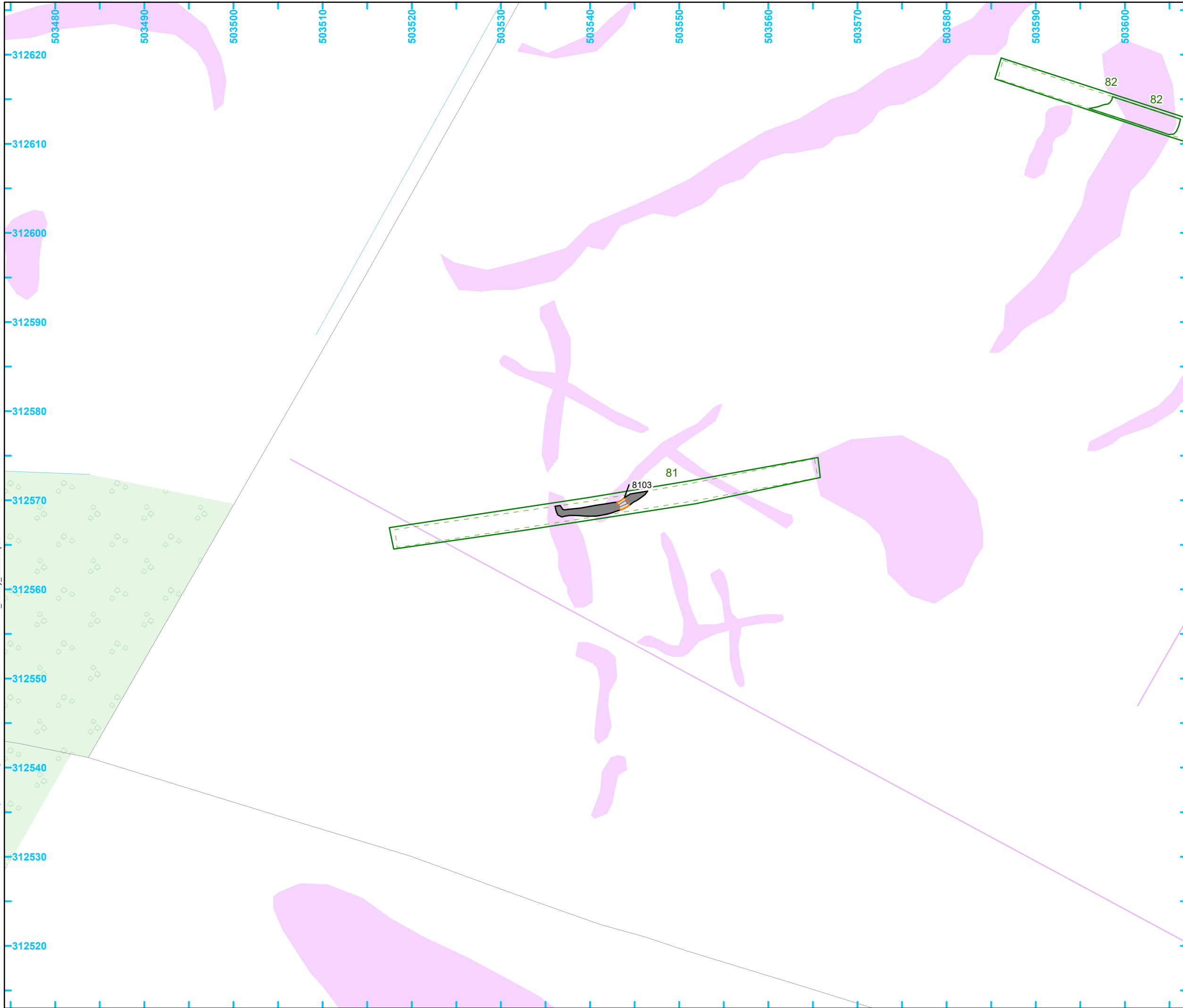
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
Essendine, Rutland

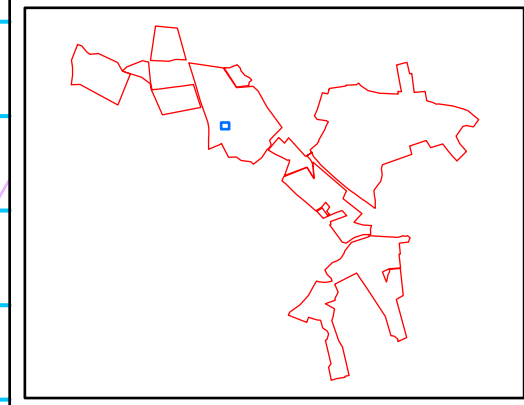
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Excavated trenches showing  
archaeological features and  
pre-ex survey

DRAWN BY	DGL	PROJECT NO	MK0789	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DGL	DATE	15/11/2022	16
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE@A3	1:400	



**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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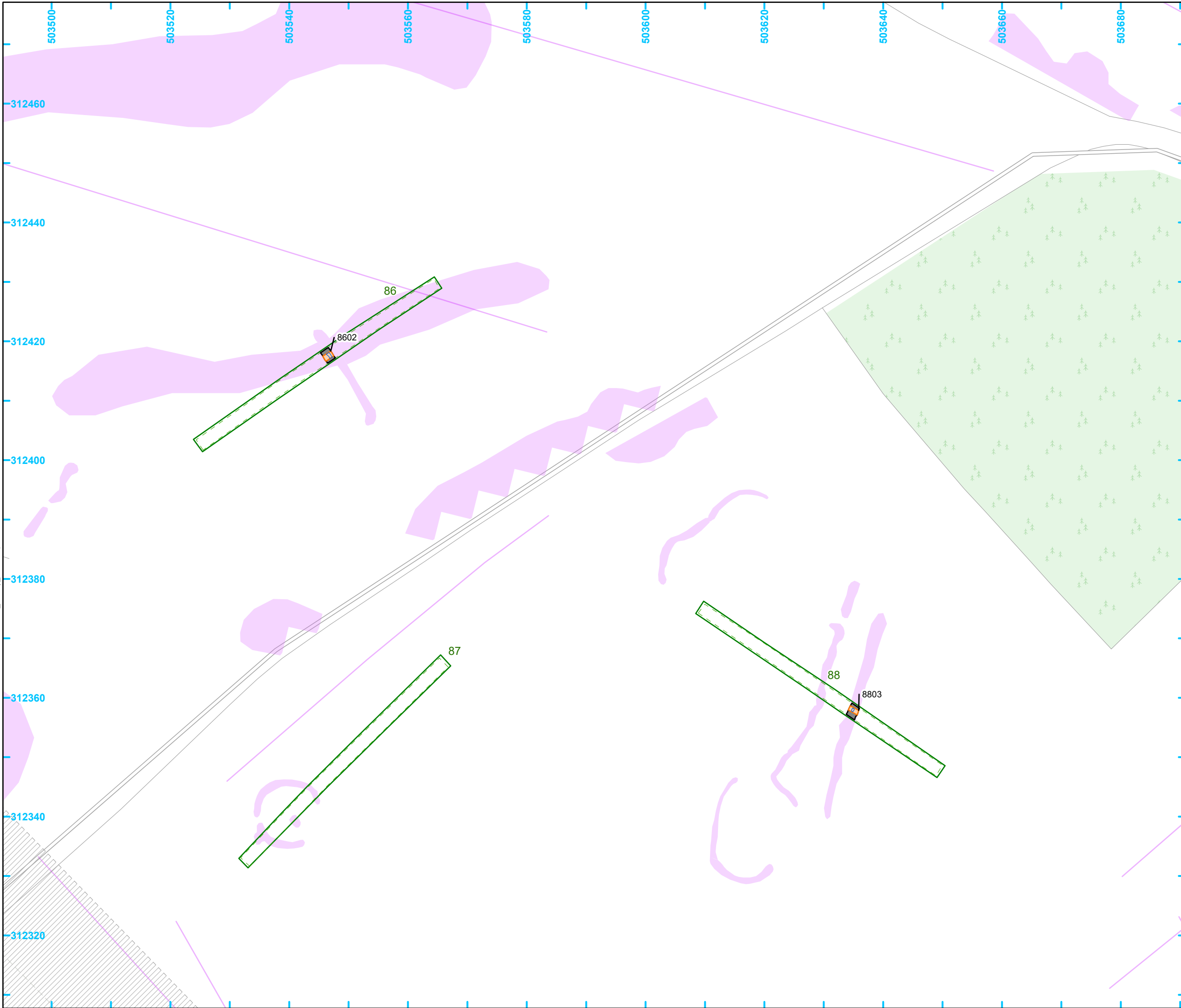
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[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
 Essendine, Rutland

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Excavated trenches showing  
 archaeological features and  
 pre-ex survey

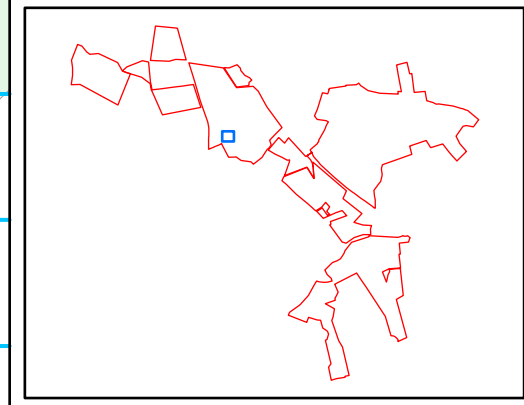
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Constraint
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Constraint
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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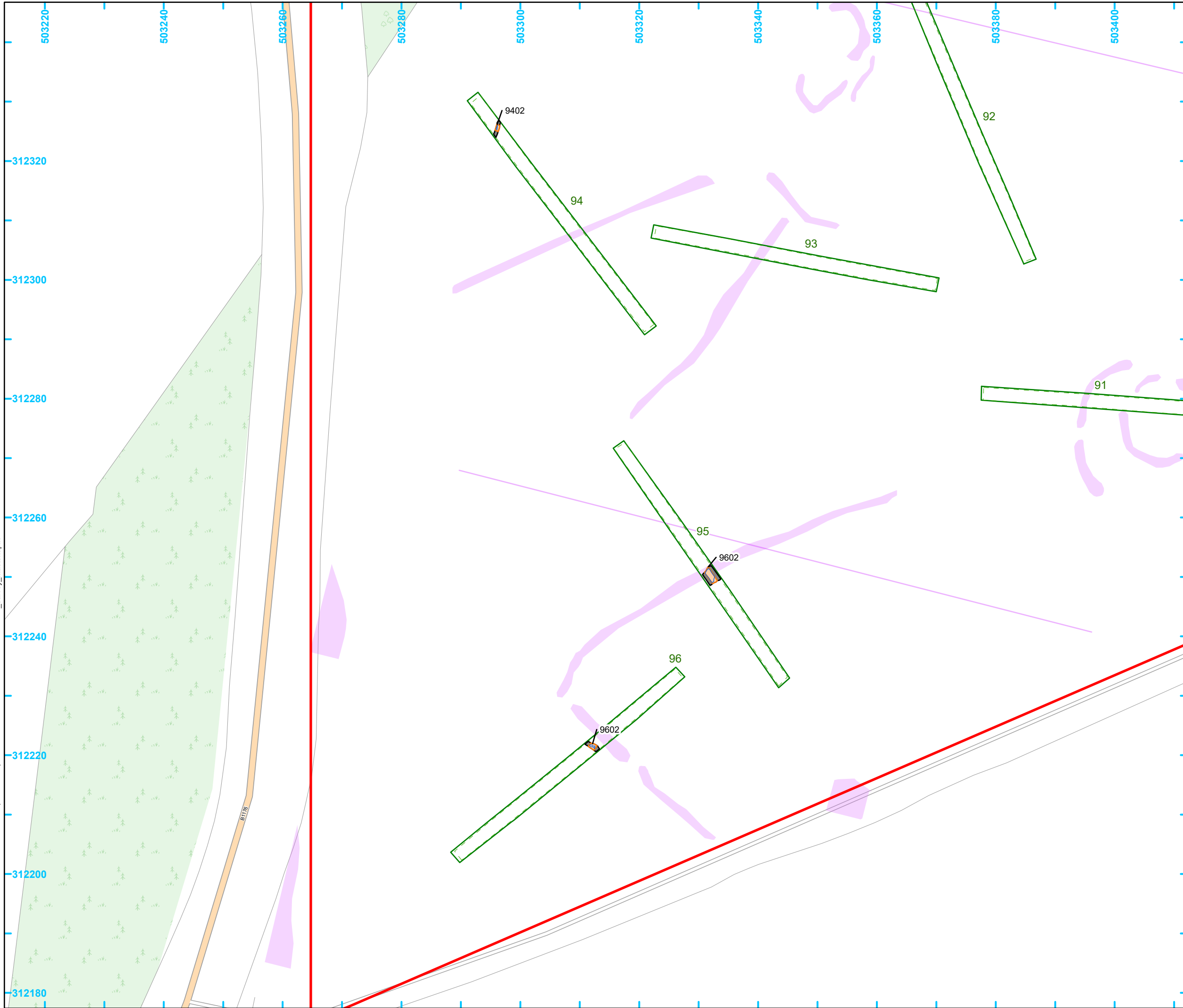
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[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
Essendine, Rutland

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Excavated trenches showing  
archaeological features and  
pre-ex survey

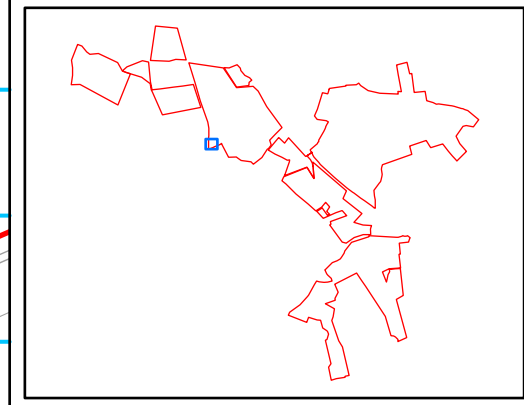
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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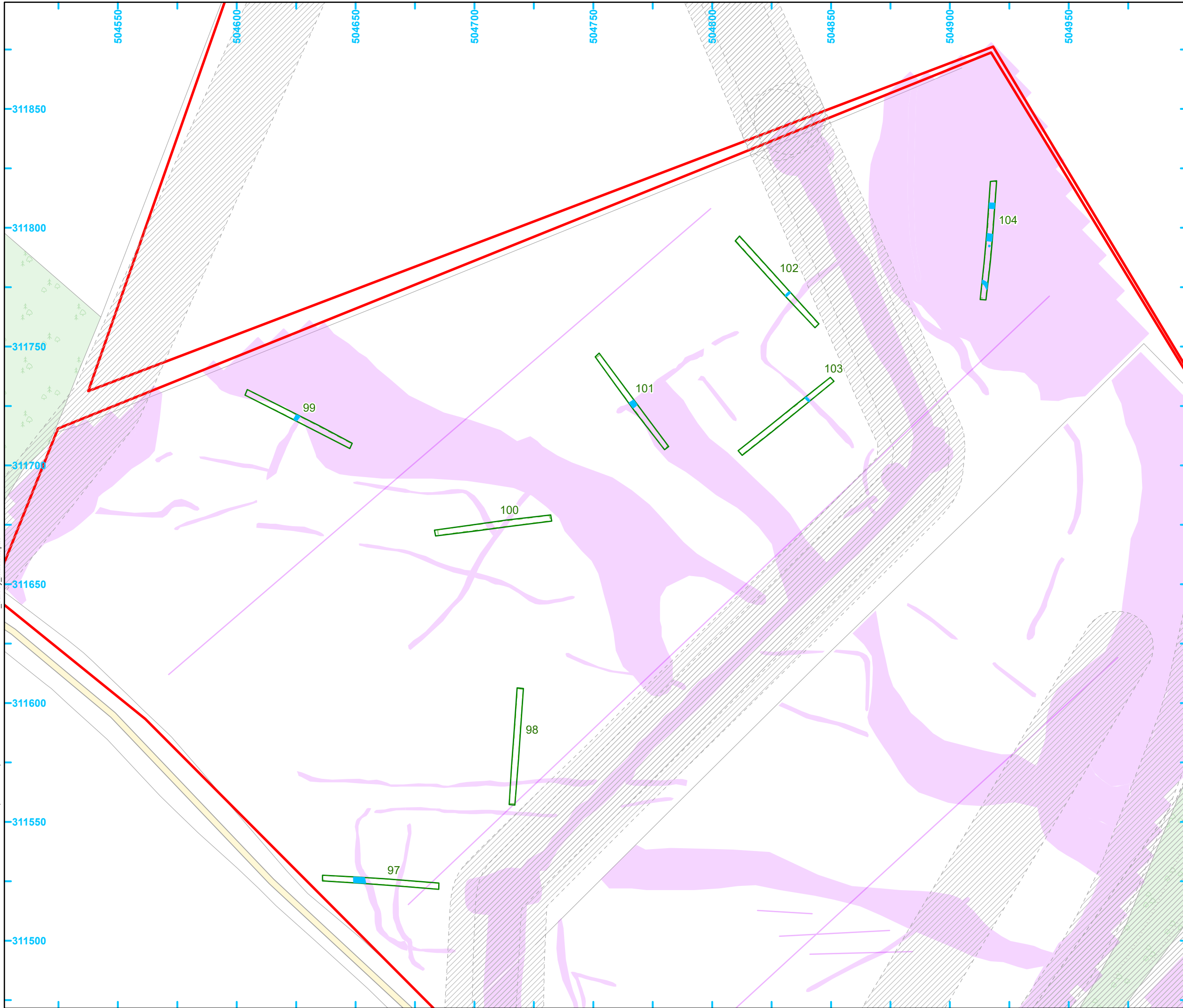
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
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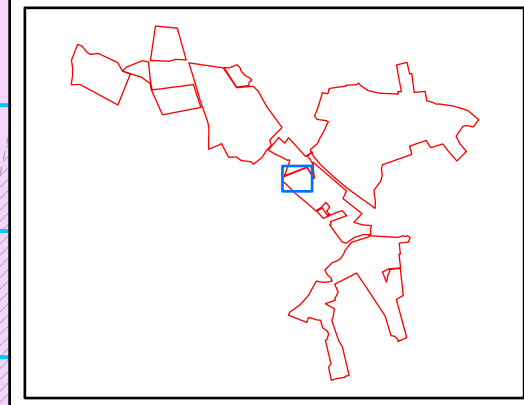
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**Excavated trenches showing  
archaeological features and  
pre-ex survey**

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- Legend**
- Order limits
  - LOE Bot
  - LOE Top
  - Constraint Rapid
  - pre-ex
  - Constraint
  - Geophysics (Ln)
  - Geophysics (Ply)



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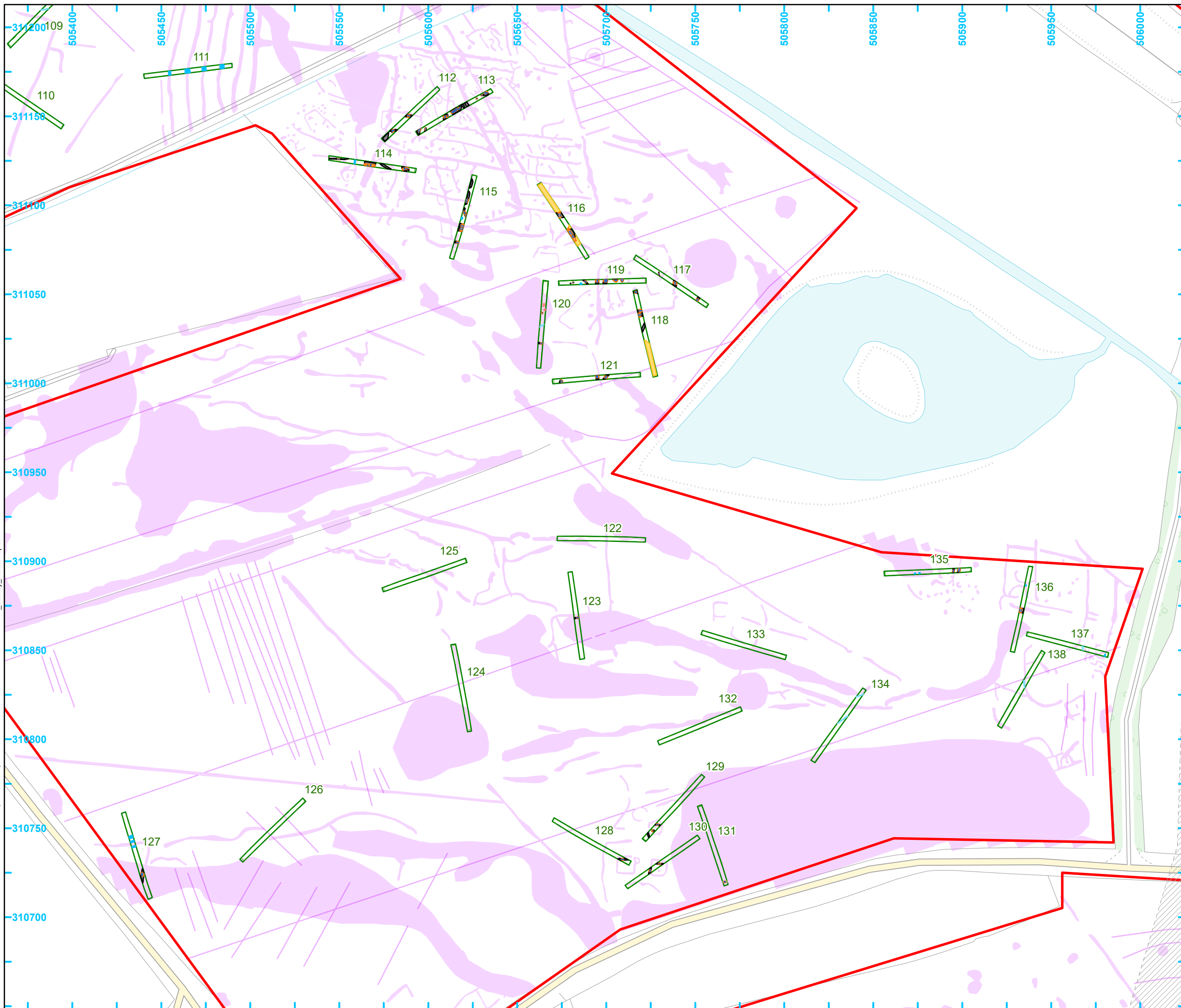
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
Essendine, Rutland

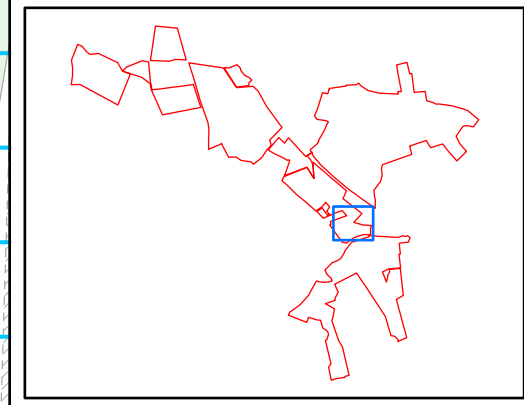
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archaeological features and  
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- Legend**
- Order limits
  - LOE Bot
  - LOE Top
  - Constraint
  - Field drain
  - Excavated base
  - Break of slope
  - Excavated intervention
  - Furrow
  - Cut feature
  - Rapid pre-ex
  - Constraint
  - Deposit
  - Natural geology
  - Tree throw
  - Geophysics (Ln)
  - Geophysics (Ply)



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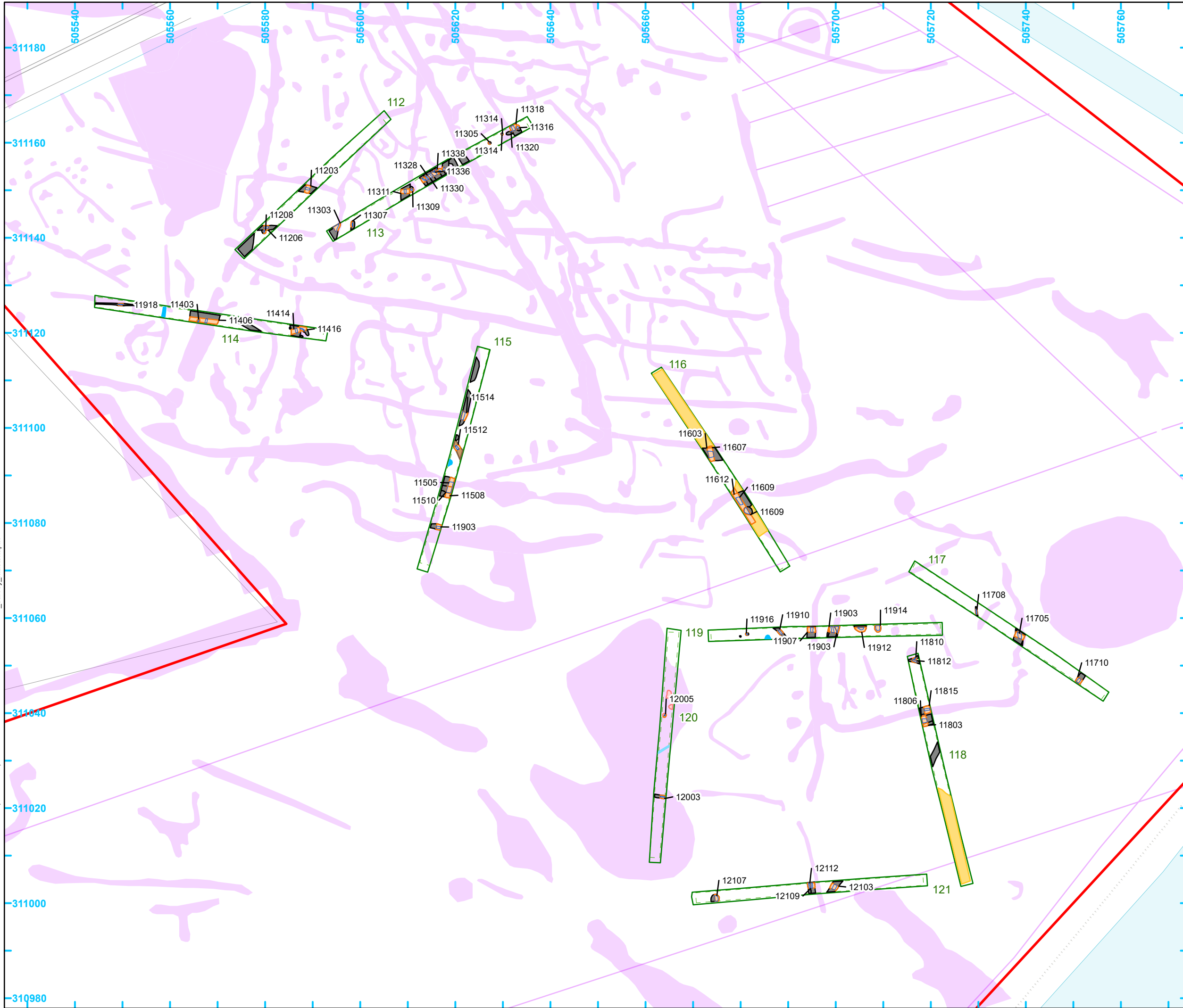
Andover	01264 347630
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w <a href="http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>	
e <a href="mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>	

**PROJECT TITLE**  
Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
Essendine, Rutland

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Excavated trenches showing  
archaeological features and  
pre-ex survey**

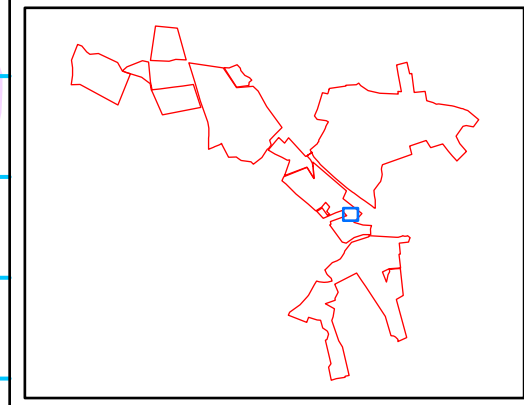
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Field drain
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Rapid pre-ex
- Deposit
- Natural geology
- Tree throw
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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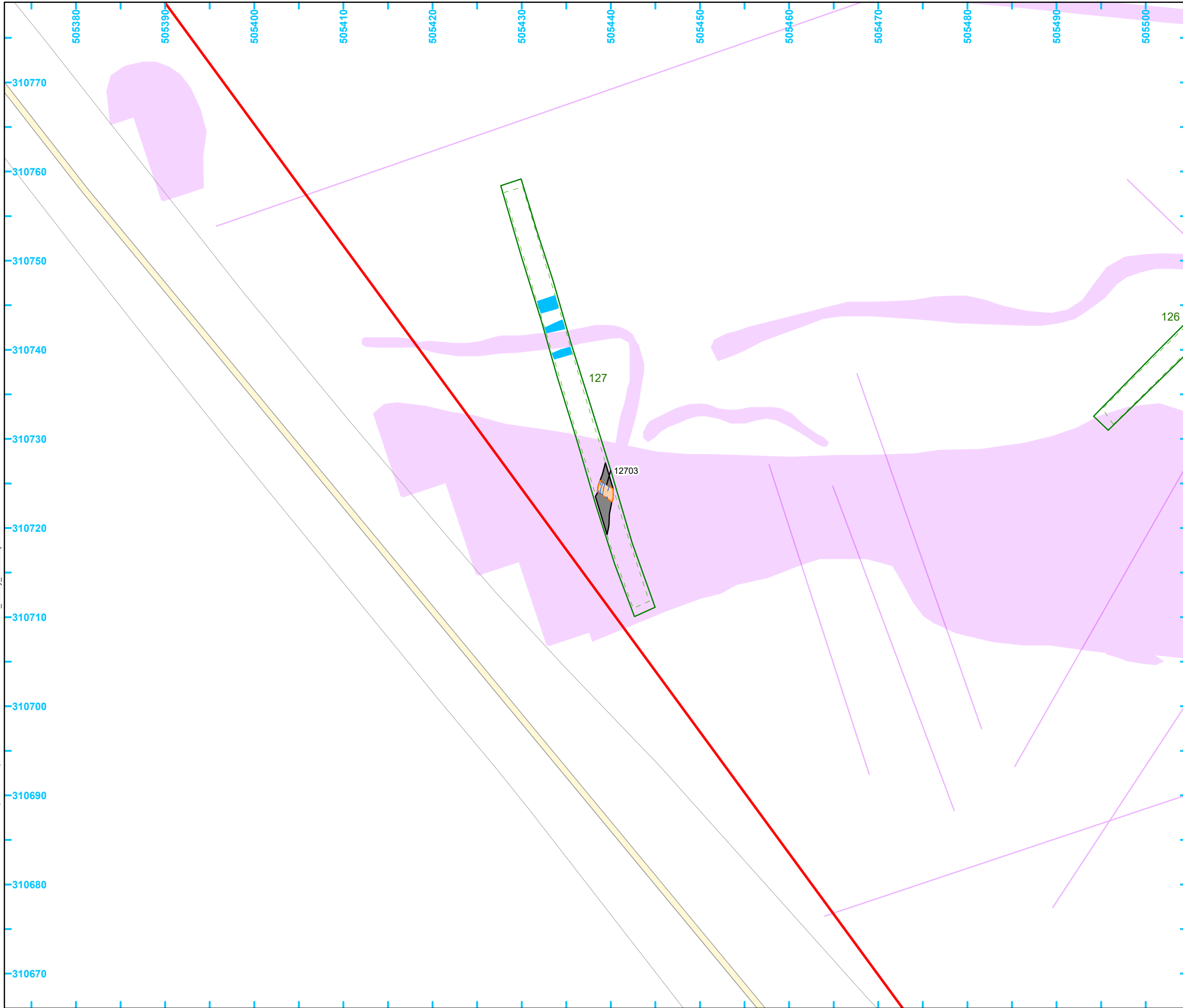
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Excavated trenches showing  
 archaeological features and  
 pre-ex survey


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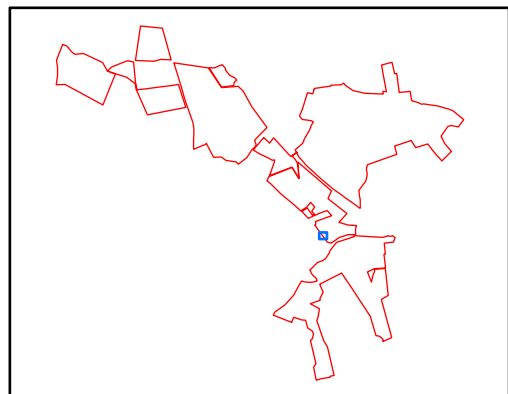
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Excavated base
- Break of slope
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Rapid pre-ex
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)








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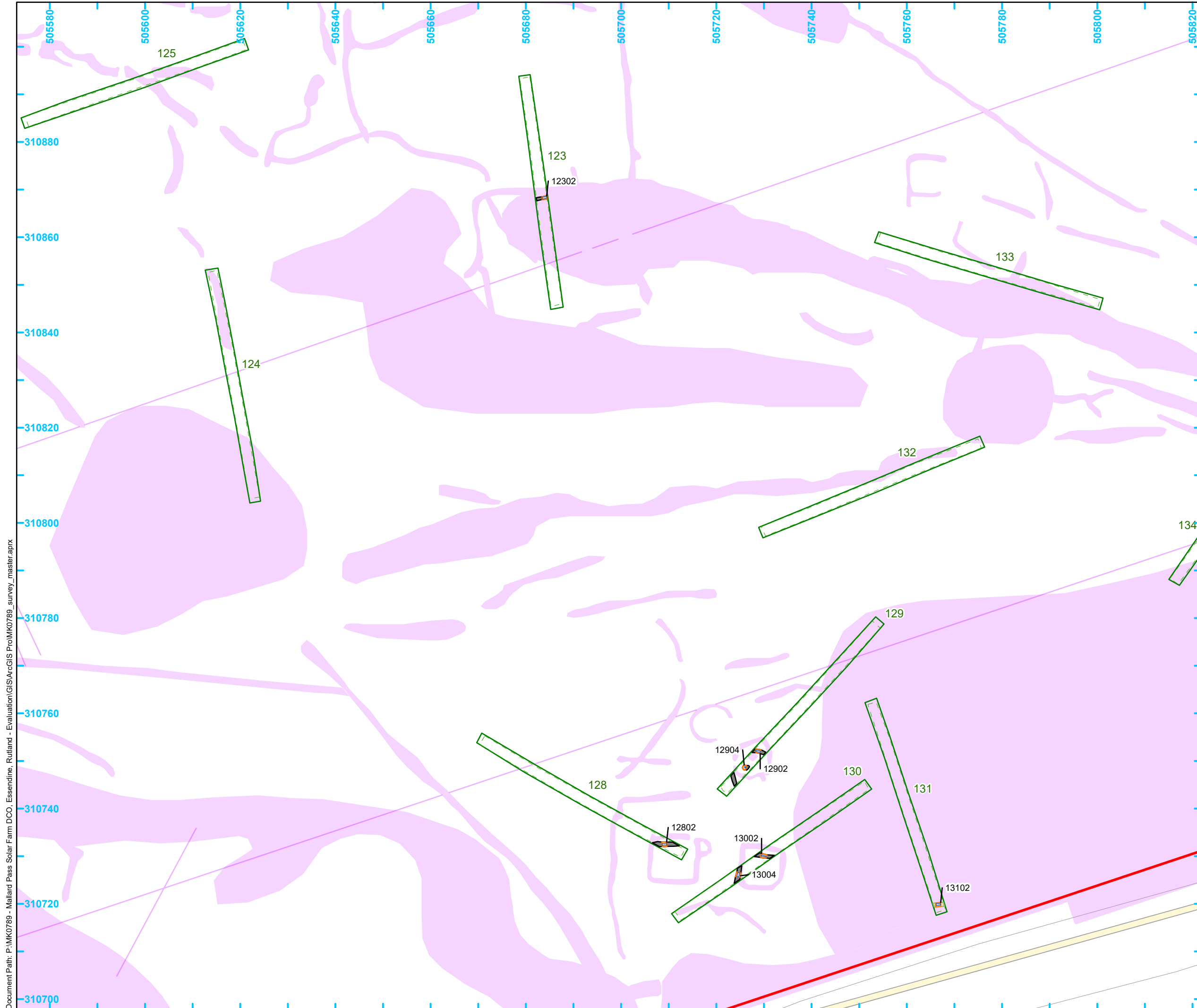
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 Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
 Essendine, Rutland

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Excavated trenches showing  
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 pre-ex survey

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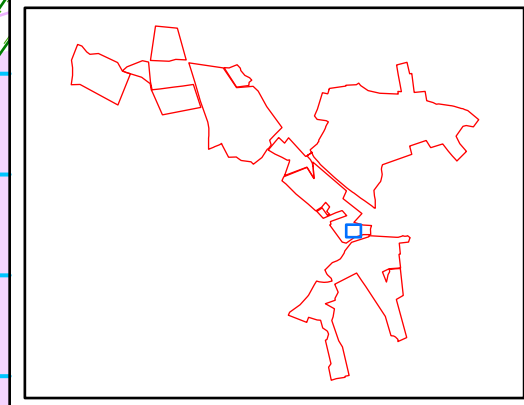
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**23**



**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Furrow
- Cut feature
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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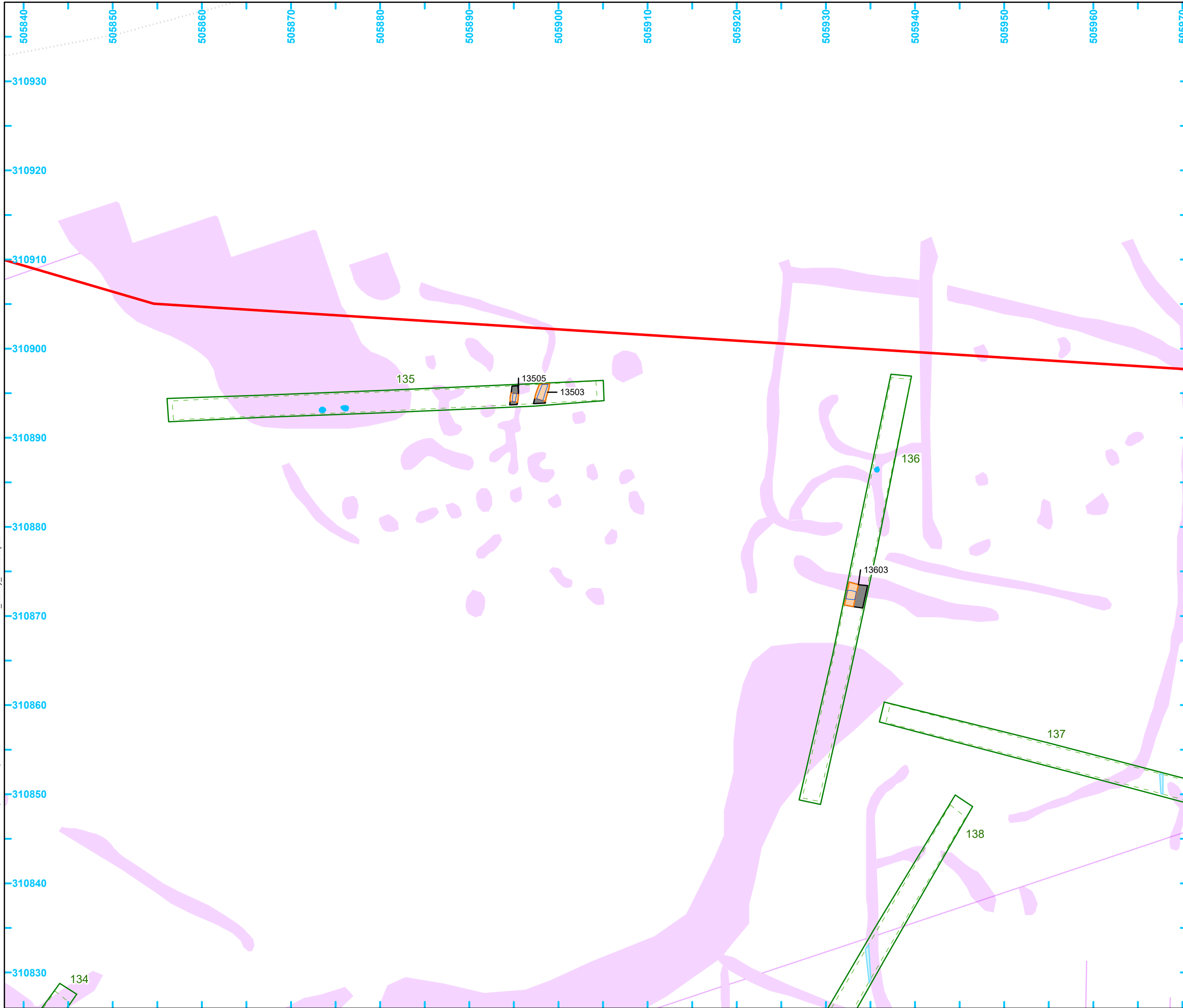
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[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
 Essendine, Rutland

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Excavated trenches showing  
 archaeological features and  
 pre-ex survey

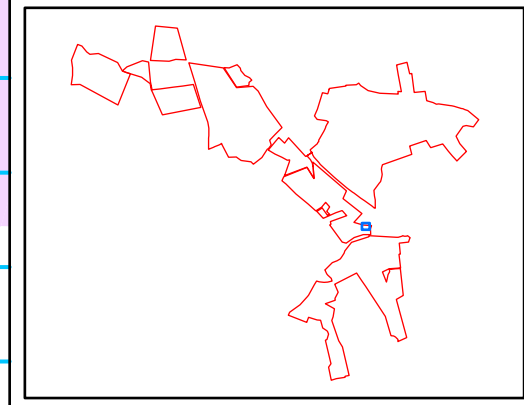
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**Legend**

- Order limits
- LOE Bot
- LOE Top
- Field drain
- Excavated base
- Excavated intervention
- Cut feature
- Rapid pre-ex
- Geophysics (Ln)
- Geophysics (Ply)



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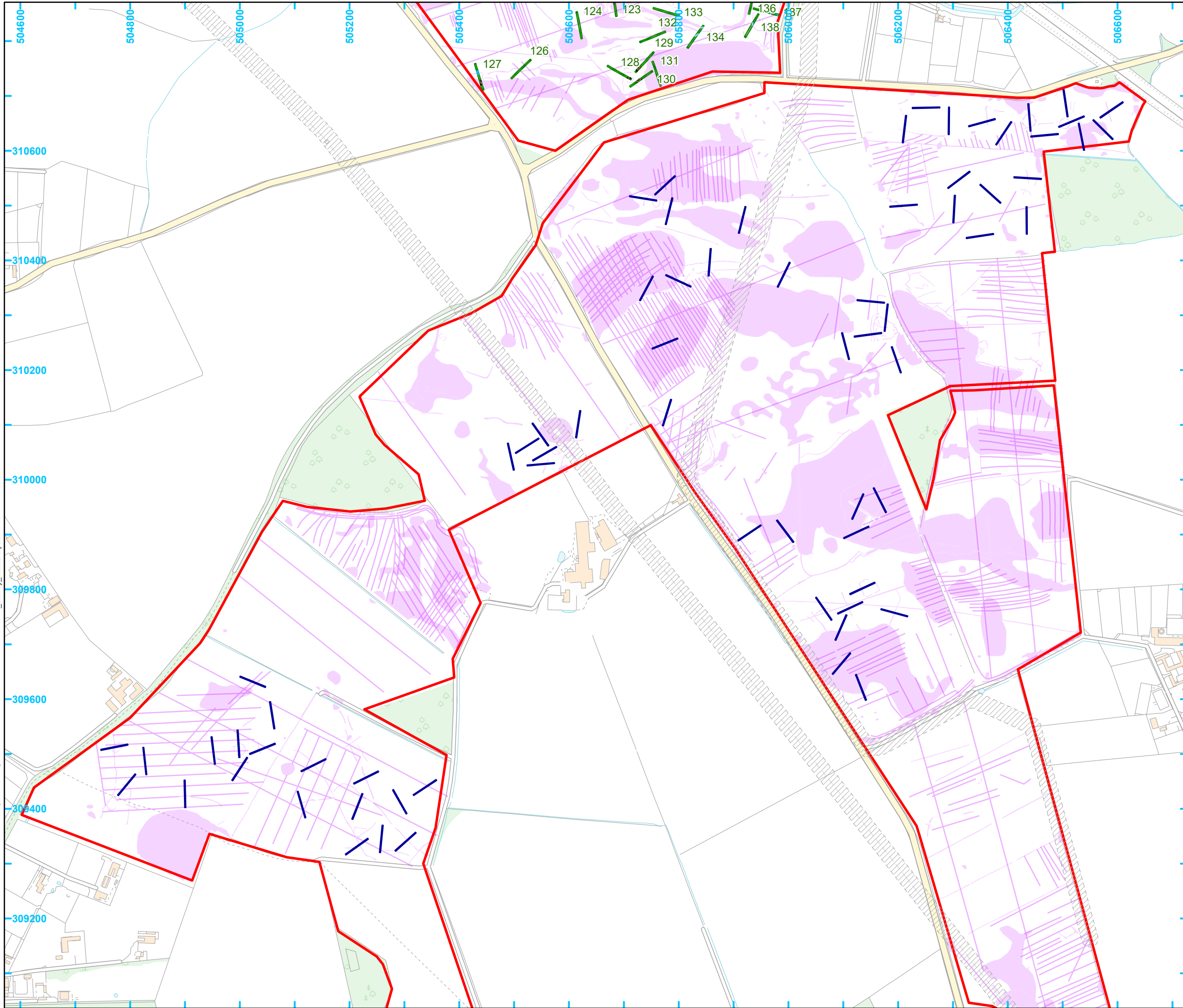
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 Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
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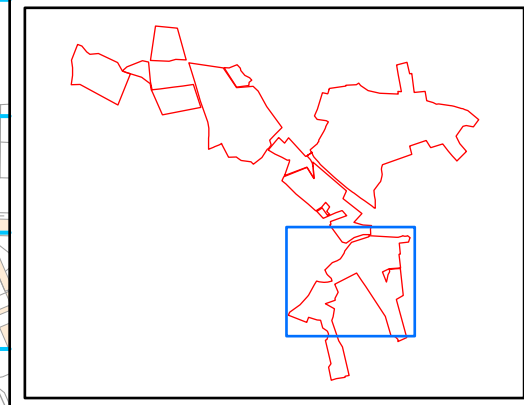
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 Excavated trenches showing  
 archaeological features and  
 pre-ex survey

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- Legend**
- Order limits
  - - - Proposed evaluation trench
  - - - LOE Bot
  - LOE Top
  - / / / Constraint
  - Field drain
  - - - Excavated base
  - - - Break of slope
  - Excavated intervention
  - Furrow
  - Cut feature
  - Rapid pre-ex
  - / / / Constraint
  - Geophysics (Ln)
  - Geophysics (Ply)



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Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
Excavated trenches showing  
archaeological features and  
pre-ex survey

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