



Barton Stacey To Lockerley
Natural Gas Pipeline
Hampshire

Archaeological Mitigation Works-
Excavation Areas 1-9 and Watching Brief

Summary Report

**BARTON STACEY TO LOCKERLEY
NATURAL GAS PIPELINE
HAMPSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION WORKS-
EXCAVATION AREAS 1-9 AND WATCHING BRIEF**

SUMMARY REPORT

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Figure 1: Location of Mitigation areas MT01-MT09

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BARTON STACEY TO LOCKERLEY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE HAMPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION WORKS- EXCAVATION AREAS 1-9 AND WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Land and Marine NACAP (the Client) to carry out a programme of archaeological work in mitigation of the construction, on behalf of National Grid, of the 32km Barton Stacey to Lockerley pipeline, Hampshire. The works included targeted excavation of nine areas along the route of the pipeline, followed by a watching brief on selected sections of the main soil strip of the route (**Figures 1 & 2**).

1.1.2 The archaeological works were aimed at preserving by record archaeological remains that had been identified through prior assessment and evaluation. These included remains of late prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon, and medieval date.

1.1.3 The excavation of the nine targeted areas was carried out between the 25th of February and 13th of May 2008, and the watching brief was carried out between the 3rd of April and the 17th of June 2008.

1.1.4 The separate excavations were monitored by the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer (CAO) and, on behalf of National Grid, by Groundwork Archaeology Ltd.

1.1.5 This report provides a summary of the results of the mitigation works and is intended to inform the Client, National Grid, and the County Archaeological Officer.

1.2 The Pipeline Route, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The route of the pipeline from Barton Stacey (National Grid Reference (NGR) 44247 42811) passes under the River Dever at Bullington and runs south-west, crossing the A30 and A272, passing to the west of Crawley and thence toward the Test Valley, before passing beneath

the A3057 and River Test between Michelmersh and Kimbridge. The pipeline terminates at Lockerley (NGR 30294 25118).

- 1.2.2 From Barton Stacey to Michelmersh the Route traverses undulating downland and river valleys. The geology is dominated by Cretaceous Upper Chalk, which is overlain by dispersed areas of Tertiary clay with flint and loam especially between Upper Somborne and Michelmersh. The Upper Chalk generally comprises soft white Chalk with many flint nodules. Alluvial deposits within the Dever and Test river valleys include gravels and sand, whilst the raised ground around Lockerley is situated on Eocene London Clay and Reading Beds of mottled clay and sand (BGS Drift 1:50000 Andover Sheet 283 and BGS Drift 1:63360 Winchester Sheet 299).

2 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION AREAS 1-9

2.1 MITIGATION AREA 1

- 2.1.1 Mitigation Area (MT) 01 (**Figure 1**) was located on land at Bullington Estate (**Plot 2.4**) and was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 445143E, 140529N. The mitigation area comprised a roughly north south aligned measuring 190m x 26m. This was extended to include a 0.4ha area to the south west. The natural geology was chalk with a clay and flint capping into which all archaeological features were cut.
- 2.1.2 Archaeological features investigated comprised a pair of parallel ditches interpreted as a trackway of Romano-British date. The ditches were aligned roughly north east/south west and extended the length of the mitigation area from the north eastern corner. A second ditch, aligned north east/south west, was located at the southern end of the stripped area and this feature split into two at its north eastern extent.
- 2.1.3 Discrete features comprised a number of small pits and two large quarry pits. All features appear to be Romano-British in date. The features represent less archaeological potential than was predicted. In view of the low density of archaeological features revealed in the western half and northern third of the area, and following consultation with the CAO, the remainder of the area, i.e. the south-eastern extent, was not investigated.

2.2 MITIGATION AREA 02

- 2.2.1 MT 02 (**Figure 2**) was located at land designated MOD2 (**Plot 2.6**) and was centred on NGR 445022E, 140190N. The mitigation area comprised a rectangular strip of land orientated north east – south

west measuring 125m by 26m. The underlying geology was chalk into which all archaeological features had been cut.

- 2.2.2 As predicted archaeological remains in MT 02 comprised a Late Bronze Age rectilinear enclosure ditch aligned north east/south west by north west/south east. This feature may have formed part of an enclosure of higher ground to the north-west. Features dating to the Iron Age were also revealed, comprising two parallel ditches located in the southern part of the area on a north west/south east alignment and a sinuous ditch in the northern part which was on a roughly north east/south west axis. Two possible ditch fragments were also observed in the north eastern corner of the area. A series of discrete features including several pits of late Prehistoric and Romano British date, and tree throw hollows, were also excavated. The features appear to represent part of a multi-period landscape otherwise well attested in vicinity.

2.3 MITIGATION AREA 03

- 2.3.1 MT 03 (**Figure 2**) was located on land at MOD 2 (**Plot 2.7**) and was centred on NGR 444920E, 140009N some 130m south of MT 02. The mitigation measured 45m by 26m. The underlying geology was chalk, into which all archaeological features had been cut.

- 2.3.2 As expected the area revealed archaeological features including discrete features in the north. Four tree throw hollows were also located. A large feature extended across the entire area on a north east/south west alignment and is interpreted as a lynchet. The discrete features included postholes and small pits. The features investigated provide further evidence of the multi-period landscape in the surrounding landscape.

2.4 MITIGATION AREA 04

- 2.4.1 MT 04 (**Figure 2**) was located on land at Hill Farm (**Plot 4.3**) and was centred on NGR 443709E, 136779N. The mitigation area was orientated north west/south east and measured 195m by 26m. The underlying geology was found to be periglacially scarred chalk in the north western portion of the mitigation area and clay with flints in the southern part.

- 2.4.2 Targeted archaeological features comprised two possible quarry pits of apparently Romano-British date located by evaluation trenches; limited evidence for these was revealed in the form of large depressions in the underlying natural, and a natural origin for these features now appears most likely. In the northern part of the area was a single curvilinear ditch aligned roughly north west/south east, which extended from the northern limit of the area. Discrete features

comprised two pits of possible Bronze Age date and several tree throw hollows in the southern portion of the area. In general the archaeological potential was less than expected.

2.5 MITIGATION AREA 05

- 2.5.1 MT 05 (Figure 2) was located on land north of Crawley (**Plot 5.1**) and was centred on NGR 441887E, 135353N. The mitigation area measured 140m by 26m. The underlying geology was observed to be periglacially scarred chalk into which all archaeological features were cut.
- 2.5.2 The archaeological features investigated comprised three ditches extending across the area on a north west/south east orientation and a single, curving, probable enclosure ditch, aligned roughly north east/south west, which extended into the area from the northern baulk. Discrete features were defined by pits and several large tree throw hollows. In addition three graves containing human remains were revealed. These are believed to predate the ditches, which appear to be of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date. The position of the burials, which were fairly widely spaced, did not indicate the presence of a formal cemetery. The probable enclosure ditch may indicate a small settlement north of the mitigation area that is also indicated by crop marks on aerial photographs.
- 2.5.3 The archaeological features revealed and investigated in the area were as predicted by previous evaluation works. The archaeological potential of the information recovered, while confirming the archaeological nature of the crop mark evidence, is of moderate significance

2.6 MITIGATION AREA 06

- 2.6.1 MT 06 (**Figure 2**) was located on land at Monk's Farm (**Plot 6.4**) and was centred on NGR 440798E, 133172N. The area measured 60m by 26m. The underlying geology was periglacially scarred chalk overlain in the northern and south-western corners of the area by colluvium.
- 2.6.2 The archaeological features comprised a series of postholes in the north west of the area, although no coherent structure was discernible. Discrete pits and tree throw hollows were dispersed across the remainder of the area. The features are believed to be late Saxon in date, based principally on the recovery of Michelmersh ware from one of the features when investigated during evaluation trenching of the area.
- 2.6.3 The potential of the archaeological remains that were investigated is rather less than was predicted.

2.7 MITIGATION AREA 07

2.7.1 MT 07 (**Figure 2**) was located on land at Vaux's Farm (**Plot 8.3**) and was centred, approximately, on NGR 439193E, 131951N. The area measured 40m by 26m.

2.7.2 MT 07 was targeted on potential Bronze Age funerary remains, however only a single undated truncated posthole and several tree throw hollows were revealed within the mitigation area. No significant archaeological remains were observed.

2.8 MITIGATION AREA 08

2.8.1 MT 08 (**Figure 2**) was situated on land south of Staff Road, Michelmersh (**Plot 15.1**) and was centred on NGR 433677E, 125865N. The area was rectangular in shape and was orientated north/south. The initially targeted area measured 40m by 26m. The underlying geology was periglacially scarred chalk.

2.8.2 As expected archaeological features comprised several pits (provisionally dated to the Early Iron Age), postholes and tree throw hollows. The pits yielded finds significant enough to warrant the extension of the mitigation area to incorporate immediately adjacent land that was required for off-easement storage activities. This revealed relatively few additional features and it would appear that the original extent of the mitigation area incorporated most of the immediate archaeological potential previously identified by evaluation.

2.8.3 Three of the large pits in the centre of the mitigation area were 100% excavated and yielded iron slag and a single disarticulated human skull. One of these pits may be interpreted as a flint mine. This feature (excavated by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision) was approximately 4.5m in depth and bottomed out on a seam of tabular flint; the feature was not securely dated and may be of significantly earlier date than the surrounding Iron Age features.

2.8.4 The features investigated in this area, and their finds and environmental assemblages, have significant potential.

2.9 MITIGATION AREA 09

2.9.1 MT 09 (**Figure 2**) was located on land at Hyde Farm (**Plot 19.5 – 19.6**) and was centred on NGR 431869E, 124801N. The mitigation area measured 190m by 26m. The natural geology comprised sandy silt with pockets of sand, clay and gravel.

2.9.2 As expected, significant archaeological features were investigated, including a double ditch enclosure of Late Iron Age date with

associated ditches, gullies, discrete pits and postholes. Toward the centre of the area features of medieval date were revealed comprising pits, field drains and a trackway. At the extreme south of the mitigation area several small gullies and discrete features of Romano-British date were excavated. In the north two large boundary ditches were revealed. To the north of these ditches were several shallow pits containing burnt deposits and a small amount of iron slag, which appears to represent metalworking.

- 2.9.3 The archaeological potential of this area is more complex than was predicted and represents successive phases of activity, from the Late Iron Age to the medieval period, utilising a prominent position in the landscape overlooking the Test Valley.

3 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 The watching brief covered predetermined sections along the length of the Route. These sections were identified as having some archaeological potential, based on the results of previous assessment, aerial photographs, and geophysical survey, although in general the potential of these areas was judged to be low. The watching brief was carried out between the 3rd of April and the 17th June 2008.

- 3.1.2 Archaeological features were revealed in **Plots 0.2, 1.2, 2.9, 3.2, 5.1, 5.6, 6.1, 9.1, 9.2, 10.5, and 15.1**. The features included linear and discrete features, of different dates and were predominantly discovered on sections of the route that crossed chalk. The potential of the features investigated is not considerable, although includes, for example, archaeological evidence of Iron Age date confirming cropmark evidence in **Plot 2.9** and an apparently isolated well of possible Bronze Age date found in **Plot 6.1**.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The nine mitigation areas and watching brief yielded archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to the medieval periods. Significant remains of Early Iron Age date, including metal working (**MT 08**), and evidence of the widespread use of the landscape in the later prehistoric period settlements appears to bear out the general archaeological potential of the pipeline route.
- 4.1.2 The targeting of archaeological sites revealed during the evaluation stage of the project was, in the main, successful. The potential of the individual sites was either as expected or less, but certainly not significantly greater than expected.

- 4.1.3 It is concluded that the results of the mitigation works represent fulfilment of the requirements of the CAO and the aims of works, as set out in the agreed Schemes of Investigation.
- 4.1.4 It is proposed to proceed with the stabilisation of the archive generated by the works and to prepare a post-excavation assessment report on the results obtained.

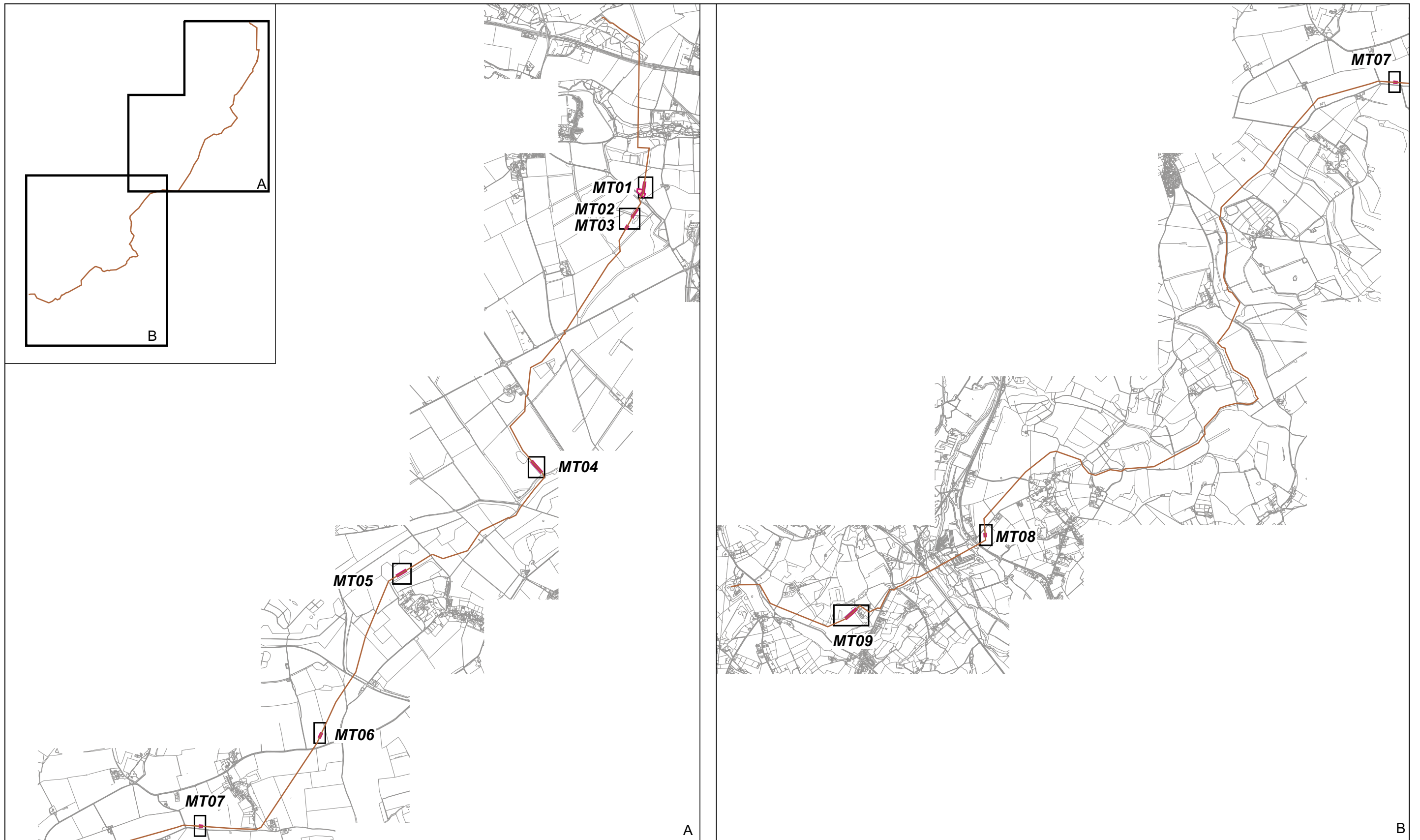
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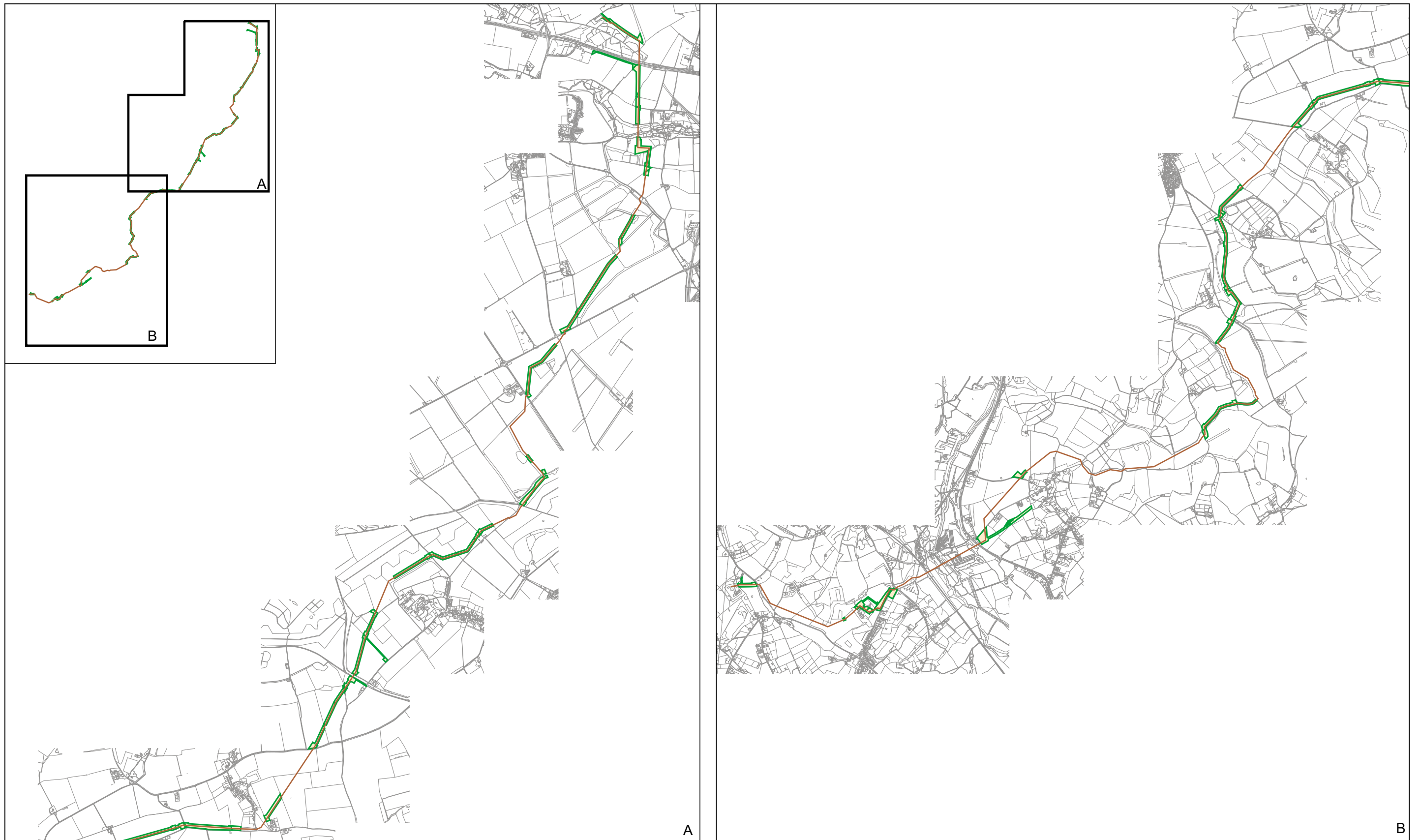
Location of Mitigation areas MT01-MT09



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Figure 1



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