

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Puriton Landfill Solar Farm Somerset**

Desk Based Assessment & Site Visit



By  
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Report No. 1220


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# Archaeology Wales

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# **Non-Technical Summary**

*An archaeological desk based assessment and site walkover was carried out across three separate assessment areas on land at Puriton, Somerset, prior to the proposed development of three solar farms with associated access, infrastructure and landscaping.*

*The work was undertaken by Archaeology Wales on behalf of Stratus Environmental Ltd.*

*The three adjacent assessment areas are located within an area of the Somerset levels south of Sedgemoor. HER data has shown a wide range of archaeological features located within a 1km radius of the sites.*

*The desk based assessment has located an area within the proposed development which has previously been recorded as a Roman settlement site.*

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Scope of work**

- 1.1.1 In April 2014 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) was commissioned by Stratus Environmental Ltd to carry out an archaeological desk based assessment and site walkover on three separate areas of land at Puriton, Somerset (NGR ST 31744 43281, ST 31302 42356 & ST 31584 42131 - Figs 1&2).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological work is being undertaken to support a planning application following advice supplied to Stratus Environmental Ltd by Steve Membery, the Somerset County Archaeologist. The local planning authority is Sedgemoor District Council.
- 1.1.3 The desk based assessment includes a study of data recorded on the HER held by Somerset County Council, historic map regression analysis, an assessment of readily available aerial photographs held in the Cambridge University collection (CUCAP) and the results of a site walkover visit undertaken on 10th April 2014.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological work is being undertaken prior to the proposed construction of new surface mounted solar farm arrays with associated access, infrastructure and landscaping.

### **1.2 Proposals**

- 1.2.1 The proposed solar panels will be mounted on frames (four panels per frame). The total number of panels is yet to be finalised. The frames will consist of 0.2m diameter steel

which will be driven or screwed into the ground to a depth of approximately 1.5m below the current ground surface.

- 1.2.2 Approximately 0.2m depth of topsoil will need to be stripped from the locations of new tracks, the substation and inverters. The substation and inverters will be set on concrete bases. Cable trench depths will vary between 0.6m and 0.85m deep. Fencing posts around each site will require 0.6m deep footings.

### **1.3 Geology**

- 1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the assessment area lies on the border between two distinct geological areas. The southern half of the site overlays Triassic Mudstones, including Keuper Marl, Dolomitic Conglomerate and Rhaetic, of the Permian and Triassic periods, whilst the northern half of the site overlays Lower Lias limestone of the lower Jurassic period (Geological Survey Map, 2001).
- 1.3.2 The solid geology in the south of the assessment area is overlain by shallow, freely draining, lime rich soils, whilst the northern half of the assessment area is overlain by naturally wet, loamy and clayey soils, characteristic of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater (Geological Survey Map, 2001).

### **1.4 Site Location and Topography**

- 1.4.1 The assessment area is divided between three separate sites (Figs 2-5). For ease of description these have been named Area A, Area B and Area C.
- 1.4.2 Area A is the most northerly of the sites and covers a total area of 33,400m<sup>2</sup>. It is located to the north of a fishing pond, is bounded to the west by the line of a railway, and to the east by Batch road. The assessment area is flat in profile.
- 1.4.3 Area B is located in the south west and covers a total area of 117,275m<sup>2</sup>. It is bounded to the east by the line of a railway and to the south by the Old Puriton Road. The assessment area is again largely flat in profile.
- 1.4.4 Area C is located in the south east and covers a total area of 102,000m<sup>2</sup>. It is bounded to the west by the line of the railway and to the east by the course of the M5. The assessment area is largely flat, though rises towards the south.

### **1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 1.5.1 The following paragraphs are extracts from the Victoria County History: A History of the County of Somerset (Dunning, 2004).
- 1.5.2 “The parish of Puriton lies on the gentle northern slope of the Polden ridge at its western end. Arable fields occupy the top of the slope, with grassland mostly on Puriton Level to the north and north-east and beside the river Parrett to the south-west. The parish includes the large but compact village of Puriton, 5 km north-east of Bridgwater, the former borough of Downend 1 km to the

west-south-west, and the former industrial hamlet and wharf at Dunball 1.5 km to the south-west” (Dunning, 2004).

- 1.5.3 Iron-age and Romano-British settlements are indicated west of Puriton village and there are traces of linear banks and ditches of field systems on Puriton Level to the north. The line of a probable Roman road runs along the Poldens from Ilchester and leaves the ridge south of Woolavington.
- 1.5.4 Puriton village is on the gentle northern slope of the Poldens and appears to have developed from two roughly parallel streets with the church and a small green known as Rye at its western end.
- 1.5.5 Three hides of land at Pirition, assumed to be Puriton, formed part of Gastonbury abbey's estate by 854. In 1066 six hides at Puriton were held by Queen Edith. By 1086 possession had passed to the church of St. Peter in Rome. By 1186–7 Maud de Chandos, widow of Philip de Columbers (I) (d. c. 1185) and a descendant of Alfred d'Epaignes, the Domesday owner of Nether Stowey, held the land, which by 1212 was part of the barony of Stowey. Maud was followed, as at Nether Stowey, by her son Philip de Columbers (II) (d. c. 1216), her grandson Philip (III) (d. 1257), and her great-grandson Philip (IV) (d. 1262).
- 1.5.6 In 1086 Puriton was a single estate assessed at 6 hides but taxed on 5, which had arable land for 12 ploughteams. The demesne farm measured 3 hides and had 2 teams and 4 serfs. Tenants, described as 11 villeins and 4 bordars, had 6 teams. There were 300 a. of grassland, half meadow and half pasture, and the demesne supported 2 cows and 60 sheep. The whole was worth £12. Pasture for small numbers of cows, oxen, and sheep was mentioned in two compositions in the 13th century, and a holding there in 1316 included 40 a. of meadow. The tax returns of 1327 indicate a number of substantial tenant farmers with holdings offering more than subsistence farming. A small dower estate produced wheat, beans, and oats.
- 1.5.7 The name *Caput Montis*, later *Chefdelmunt* or Chisley Mount, was given in the later 12th century to the prominent western end of the Polden ridge where a castle has been identified and a borough was established. The form *la Donend*, later Downend, occurs in 1281.
- 1.5.8 A mound, thought to be a motte, was excavated in 1908 and produced early Norman pottery, although earlier finds from the site were thought to have been Roman. No traces of stone building were found and no medieval written record of a castle has been discovered. However, references to a piece of land called the castle bailey occur between 1562 and 1640, a ditch ran beside *le Baly* in 1505, and a plot at the site was called Bally in 1842 and the Bally field in 1908.
- 1.5.9 The adjoining settlement was called a vill in the early 13th century and a hamlet in 1280, but in 1225 and later in the century it was a borough. Eight burgesses there belonged to Puriton manor in 1306 but at least one burgage had earlier belonged to Thomas Trivet in respect of his estate at Puriton and Crandon. A rent there was assigned

to the infirmary at Athelney abbey, and John Burney, vicar of Puriton, devised a burgage there *c.* 1426. Henry Courtenay (d. 1469) held 15 burgages. Holders of three burgages were mentioned in 1505, 1554, and 1604, and individual burgages, otherwise described as tenements or dwelling houses, were recorded between 1572 and 1787.

1.5.10 The three assessment areas are located within the wider area known as the Somerset Levels. They are bounded to the north and west by the Puriton, Pawlett and Huntspill levels, to the east by the Woolavington level and to the south by Horsey level. The area of slightly raised land upon which Puriton stands would have been an island raised above the coastal marsh prior to formal draining of the area beginning in earnest in the medieval period.

1.5.11 The following is an extract from Harvey (1980) concerning the draining of the Somerset levels:

“The story of the draining of the Somerset Levels covers 1000 years of human effort and includes the first reference in English history to a drainage specialist, Girard Fossarius, who appears in Domesday Book (1086) as a tenant of Glastonbury Abbey which was responsible for so much of the earlier reclamation. It has left a series of embankments, cuts and ditch systems... It has also, incidentally, destroyed the topography of Sedgemoor, the last English Battlefield. The Black Dyke which Monmouth’s men followed in their advance through the peatmoor mists in 1685 is now part of a larger drainage scheme”

1.5.12 The ‘Black Dyke’ referred to by Harvey (1980) runs approximately 100m to the north of assessment Area A.

1.5.13 An archaeological assessment of Down End, to the immediate south of the assessment areas, was undertaken for English Heritage in 2003 (Gathercole, 2003). Of most significance to the currently proposed development was the identification of two areas of Roman settlement, the most northerly of which is located within the southern half of Area C.

## **2 Aims and Objectives**

### **2.1 Desk Based Assessment**

2.1.1 The desk based assessment was undertaken to:

- Assess the likely impact of the development proposals on the historic environment
- To place the results of the work in their historic context.

- To aid and inform potential future archaeological mitigation work undertaken on the site.

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Desk Based Assessment

3.1.1 As part of the desk based assessment, the following repositories were consulted for readily available information:

- The regional HER database for the locations of all known archaeology (Monuments, Events) within a 1km radius from the centre of each site and previously undertaken published/unpublished works and aerial photographic coverage
- The regional library for all material relating to local studies within Puriton
- Landmark/Promap online services for historic mapping
- Heritage Gateway online sources
- Internet sourced satellite imagery
- Cambridge University's collection of aerial photographs (CUCAP) for coverage of the assessment area.

3.1.2 The site visit and the overall management of the project were undertaken by Chris E Smith (MifA). All areas were photographed using high resolution digital photography in RAW format.

3.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with the IfA's *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological desk based assessment* (2008, revised 2011) and current Health and Safety legislation.

## 4 HER Search

### 4.1 HER Data Area A

4.1.1 A search of the regional HER (Taunton) revealed a total of 31 recorded sites of archaeological interest within a 1km radius of the centre of Area A. These are listed by PRN number below along with a brief description. The distribution and locations of HER data is shown on figures 6-9. The full HER gazetteer for Area A is contained within Appendix 3.

### 4.2 Area A PRNs (Fig 6)



- 4.2.1 10498 - Site Name: Shrunken medieval village, Withy. Grid Ref: ST 33 44 (ST 34 SW)  
Also comprises 32073: Watching brief (1978), Northern Trunk Sewer pipeline
- 4.2.2 10710 - Site Name: Colthurst Symons Brick and Tile Works, Puriton Grid Ref: ST 316 426 (ST 34 SW). Also comprises 32158: First World War munitions store, Dunball Pottery, Puriton
- 4.2.3 11171 - Site Name: Extensive field system, S of Mark Causeway, N of the Polden Hills. Also comprises 32326: Geophysical survey (2010), Withy End Farm, East Huntspill, 30286: Evaluation (2010), Huntspill Level, West Huntspill/Pawlett
- 4.2.4 11175 - Site Name: Cropmark enclosure, E of Batch Road, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3204 4265 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.2.5 11829 - Site Name: Cropmark enclosures, Pawlett Level. Grid Ref: ST 307 430 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.2.6 12502 - Site Name: Royal Ordnance Factory, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 334 419 (ST 34 SW). Also comprises 32104: Evaluation (2012), Royal Ordnance Factory, Puriton
- 4.2.7 12625 - Site Name: Cropmark enclosures, S of Withy Farm, East Huntspill. Grid Ref: ST 323 434 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.2.8 12964 - Site Name: Bristol and Exeter Railway. Comprises 17096: Crooked Lane Railway Bridge, Brent Knoll, 17098: Cripp's Bridge, Exeter to Bristol Railway, Brent Knoll, 18354: Brean Road Halt, 18360: Creech St Michael Halt, 18362: Dunball Station, 18369: Highbridge GWR Station, 18574: Railway water troughs, Creech St Michael, 17100: Brent Knoll Station, Bristol to Exeter Railway, Brent Knoll, 18272: Mail catching apparatus site, S of Bridgwater Station, 18547: Bridgwater Station, 14660: Railway station, Wellington, 22811: Great Western Railway Wharf and Dock Branch, Bridgwater, 27100: A 361 bridge over railway, Durston, 29207: Whiteball tunnel, Stampford Tunnel, 29878: Staplegrove Road railway bridge, Taunton, 29983: Taunton railway station, 19899: Railway mail catching apparatus, Poole, Wellington, 22559: Forty Steps footbridge, Taunton, 40949: Railway bridge and lodge adjoining on south front at NGR ST 1445 2174, Nynehead
- 4.2.9 14335 - Site Name: Evaluation (2006), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3159 4330 (ST 34 SW) – Prehistoric features
- 4.2.10 16989 - Site Name: Borehole logging (2004), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3130 4357 (ST 34 SW) – Peat deposits
- 4.2.11 17904 - Site Name: Buried prehistoric landsurface, Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3132 4336 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 44964: Evaluation (2000), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett, 17988: Watching Brief (2005), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett
- 4.2.12 17959 - Site Name: Evaluation (2004), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3135 4257 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 17960

- 4.2.13 17960 - Site Name: Prehistoric buried landsurface, Walpole, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3136 4256 (ST 34 SW). Comprises: 17959: Evaluation (2004), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett
- 4.2.14 17988 - Site Name: Watching Brief (2005), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3111 4343 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 17904 – Post Medieval
- 4.2.15 26106 - Site Name: Watching Brief (2005-2006), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3107 4341 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 28495 – Neolithic organic remains
- 4.2.16 27796 - Site Name: Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, Dunball and Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 29 42 (ST 24 SE) Comprises: 30286: Evaluation (2010), Huntspill Level, West Huntspill/Pawlett, 31550: Evaluation (2011), N of Stretcholt, Pawlett
- 4.2.17 28245 - Site Name: Watching brief (2008), Walpole Landfill Site northern extension, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 312 434 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 28495 – Prehistoric post alignment
- 4.2.18 28312 - Site Name: Watching brief (2009), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3114 4376 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 28495 – Prehistoric wooden features
- 4.2.19 28313 - Site Name: Excavation (2009), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3125 4326 (ST 34 SW) – Prehistoric & Roman features
- 4.2.20 28495 - Site Name: Neolithic wooden structures, Walpole. Grid Ref: ST 3105 4378 (ST 34 SW), ST 3098 4371 (ST 34 SW), ST 3106 4362 (ST 34 SW), ST 3095 4348 (ST 34 SW), ST 3098 4338 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 26106: Watching Brief (2005-2006), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett, 28312: Watching brief (2009), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett, 28245: Watching brief (2008), Walpole Landfill Site northern extension, Pawlett – Neolithic wooden structures
- 4.2.21 29686 - Site Name: Medieval and earlier River Siger, Burnham and East Huntspill. Grid Ref: ST 309 506 (ST 35 SW), ST 319 433 (ST 34 SW), ST 371 423 (ST 34 SE), ST 372 473 (ST 34 NE), ST 364 508 (ST 35 SE). Comprises: 31602: Evaluation (2012), N of Vole, East Brent, 31852: Geophysical survey (2012), N of Vole, east Brent, 32367: Geophysical survey (2013), Woolavington Level, 32376: Evaluation (2013), Pyde Drove, Woolavington, 32421: Watching brief (2014), Watchfield Lawn, Burham without, 32326: Geophysical survey (2010), Withy End Farm, East Huntspill
- 4.2.22 29978 - Site Name: Excavation (2006), Walpole landfill, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3121 4336 (ST 34 SW) – Buried soil and Prehistoric/Roman artefacts
- 4.2.23 29979 - Site Name: Excavation (2007), Walpole landfill, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3122 4339 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 29978
- 4.2.24 30194 - Site Name: Excavation (2010), Walpole landfill site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3121 4328 (ST 34 SW) – Prehistoric finds/features
- 4.2.25 30286 - Site Name: Evaluation (2010), Huntspill Level, West Huntspill/Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3100 4425 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 11171, 27796 – Modern

- 4.2.26 31543 - Site Name: Palynological investigation (2010), Walpole landfill site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 312 436 (ST 34 SW) – Pollen analysis
- 4.2.27 31625 - Site Name: Prehistoric or Roman road, burials etc, Dunball brick pits, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 425 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.2.28 31773 - Site Name: Possible Second World War pillbox, NW of ROF Bridgwater, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3262 4300 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.2.29 32073 - Site Name: Watching brief (1978), Northern Trunk Sewer pipeline. Grid Ref: ST 3003 4665 (ST 34 NW), ST 3233 4178 (ST 34 SW), ST 3472 4190 (ST 34 SW), ST 3425 4478 (ST 34 SW) Part of: 10498, 11709, 12817, 32069 – Medieval & Roman features/finds
- 4.2.30 32158 - Site Name: First World War munitions store, Dunball Pottery, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 426 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 10710
- 4.2.31 44964 - Site Name: Evaluation (2000), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 309 432 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 17904 – Prehistoric features

### **4.3 Area A HER Data Summary**

- 4.3.1 The HER data has shown a large amount of finds, features and archaeological event locations within a 1km radius of the centre of Area A. These date from the prehistoric periods to the end of the Second World War and include a wide variety of site types including, most significantly, waterlogged organic prehistoric remains.

### **4.4 HER Data Area B**

- 4.4.1 A search of the regional HER (Taunton) revealed a total of 43 recorded sites of archaeological interest within a 1km radius of the centre of Area B. These are listed by PRN number below along with a brief description. The distribution and locations of HER data is shown on figures 6-9. The full HER gazetteer for Area B is contained within Appendix 4.

### **4.5 Area B PRNs (Fig 7)**

- 4.5.1 10702 - Site Name: Iron age and Roman settlement site, Crockland, Churchfield Lane, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3153 4190 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.2 10703 - Site Name: Medieval borough of Caput Montis, Down End. Grid Ref: ST 311 413 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 28347: Evaluation (2010), Apple Tree Cottage, Downend, Puriton, 30688: Excavation and watching brief (2011), Appletree Cottage, Downend, Puriton, 28352: Evaluation (2010), Green Cover, Downend Crescent, Downend, Puriton
- 4.5.3 10705 - Site Name: Roman settlement, Down End. Grid Ref: ST 315 412 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.4 10709 - Site Name: Church of St Michael and churchyard, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3203 4170 (ST 34 SW)

- 4.5.5 10710 - Site Name: Colthurst Symons Brick and Tile Works, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 426 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 32158: First World War munitions store, Dunball Pottery, Puriton
- 4.5.6 10711 - Site Name: Mesolithic flint finds, Long Field, Champion's Farm, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 421 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 30225: Excavation (1971), Long Field, Champion's Farm, Puriton
- 4.5.7 11171 - Site Name: Extensive field system, S of Mark Causeway, N of the Polden Hills. Comprises 32326: Geophysical survey (2010), Withy End Farm, East Huntspill, 30286: Evaluation (2010), Huntspill Level, West Huntspill/Pawlett
- 4.5.8 11175 - Site Name: Cropmark enclosure, E of Batch Road, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3204 4265 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.9 11447 - Site Name: Motte and bailey castle, Down End. Scheduled Monument: - Motte with two baileys immediately east of Bristol Road, Down End (EH No: 1019291). Grid Ref: ST 3092 4135 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 12211: Earthwork and geophysical survey (1999), Downend castle, Puriton, 30233: Excavation (1908), Down End motte and bailey castle, Puriton, 30688: Excavation and watching brief (2011), Appletree Cottage, Downend, Puriton
- 4.5.10 11829 - Site Name: Cropmark enclosures, Pawlett Level. Grid Ref: ST 307 430 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.11 11830 - Site Name: Cropmark enclosures, Pawlett Level. Grid Ref: ST 306 421 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.12 12211 - Site Name: Earthwork and geophysical survey (1999), Downend castle, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3092 4135 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 11447
- 4.5.13 12713 - Site Name: Second World War pillbox (N101), W of Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3144 4161 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 15410
- 4.5.14 12888 - Site Name: Nineteenth-century cement works, Downend, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3134 4134 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 29680: Nineteenth-century workers' housing, Downend, Puriton
- 4.5.15 12964 - Site Name: Bristol and Exeter Railway. Comprises 17096: Crooked Lane Railway Bridge, Brent Knoll, 17098: Cripp's Bridge, Exeter to Bristol Railway, Brent Knoll, 18354: Brean Road Halt, 18360: Creech St Michael Halt, 18362: Dunball Station, 18369: Highbridge GWR Station, 18574: Railway water troughs, Creech St Michael, 17100: Brent Knoll Station, Bristol to Exeter Railway, Brent Knoll, 18272: Mail catching apparatus site, S of Bridgwater Station, 18547: Bridgwater Station, 14660: Railway station, Wellington, 22811: Great Western Railway Wharf and Dock Branch, Bridgwater, 27100: A 361 bridge over railway, Durston, 29207: Whitehall tunnel, Stampford Tunnel, 29878: Staplegrove Road railway bridge, Taunton, 29983: Taunton railway station, 19899: Railway mail catching apparatus, Poole, Wellington,

22559: Forty Steps footbridge, Taunton, 40949: Railway bridge and lodge adjoining on south front at NGR ST 1445 2174, Nynehead

- 4.5.16 13753 - Site Name: Church of St Michael and All Angels, Rye (North side), Puriton. Listed Building Grade I: - CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS (EH No: 1344664). Grid Ref: ST 3203 4172 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.17 13754 - Site Name: Unidentified monument in churchyard, about 10 m south-east of chancel, Church of St Michael and All Angels, Rye (North side), Puriton: Listed Building Grade II (EH No: 1173477). Grid Ref: ST 3204 4171 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.18 14335 - Site Name: Evaluation (2006), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3159 4330 (ST 34 SW) – Prehistoric feature
- 4.5.19 15973 - Site Name: Watching brief (2002), Puriton level gas pipeline. Grid Ref: ST 3211 4205 (ST 34 SW), ST 3354 4187 (ST 34 SW) – Roman finds
- 4.5.20 16120 - Site Name: Second World War pillbox (N102) site, Dunball. Grid Ref: ST 3149 4149 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 15410
- 4.5.21 16989 - Site Name: Borehole logging (2004), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3130 4357 (ST 34 SW) – Peat deposits
- 4.5.22 17294 - Site Name: Enclosure and possible Occupation Earthworks, S of Walpole, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3056 4158 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.23 17904 - Site Name: Buried prehistoric landsurface, Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3132 4336 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 44964: Evaluation (2000), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett, 17988: Watching Brief (2005), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett
- 4.5.24 17959 - Site Name: Evaluation (2004), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3135 4257 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 17960
- 4.5.25 17960 - Site Name: Prehistoric buried landsurface, Walpole, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3136 4256 (ST 34 SW). Comprises: 17959: Evaluation (2004), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett
- 4.5.26 17988 - Site Name: Watching Brief (2005), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3111 4343 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 17904 – Post Medieval
- 4.5.27 18120 - Site Name: Milestone, Walpole, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3067 4173 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.28 18129 - Site Name: School, Village Centre, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3202 4166 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.29 24587 - Site Name: Eighteenth-century Turnpike road, East Brent to Thurloxton. Grid Ref: ST 3481 5076 (ST 35 SW)
- 4.5.30 26106 - Site Name: Watching Brief (2005-2006), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3107 4341 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 28495 – Neolithic organic remains

- 4.5.31 27796 - Site Name: Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, Dunball and Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 29 42 (ST 24 SE) Comprises: 30286: Evaluation (2010), Huntspill Level, West Huntspill/Pawlett, 31550: Evaluation (2011), N of Stretcholt, Pawlett
- 4.5.32 28245 - Site Name: Watching brief (2008), Walpole Landfill Site northern extension, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 312 434 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 28495 – Prehistoric post alignment
- 4.5.33 28313 - Site Name: Excavation (2009), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3125 4326 (ST 34 SW) – Prehistoric & Roman features
- 4.5.1 28495 - Site Name: Neolithic wooden structures, Walpole. Grid Ref: ST 3105 4378 (ST 34 SW), ST 3098 4371 (ST 34 SW), ST 3106 4362 (ST 34 SW), ST 3095 4348 (ST 34 SW), ST 3098 4338 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 26106: Watching Brief (2005-2006), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett, 28312: Watching brief (2009), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett, 28245: Watching brief (2008), Walpole Landfill Site northern extension, Pawlett – Neolithic wooden structures
- 4.5.2 28813 - Site Name: Watching Brief (1996), Down End Road, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3085 4142 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.3 29680 - Site Name: Nineteenth-century workers' housing, Downend, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 313 413 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 12888
- 4.5.1 29686 - Site Name: Medieval and earlier River Siger, Burnham and East Huntspill. Grid Ref: ST 309 506 (ST 35 SW), ST 319 433 (ST 34 SW), ST 371 423 (ST 34 SE), ST 372 473 (ST 34 NE), ST 364 508 (ST 35 SE). Comprises: 31602: Evaluation (2012), N of Vole, East Brent, 31852: Geophysical survey (2012), N of Vole, east Brent, 32367: Geophysical survey (2013), Woolavington Level, 32376: Evaluation (2013), Pyde Drove, Woolavington, 32421: Watching brief (2014), Watchfield Lawn, Burham without, 32326: Geophysical survey (2010), Withy End Farm, East Huntspill
- 4.5.1 30194 - Site Name: Excavation (2010), Walpole landfill site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3121 4328 (ST 34 SW) – Prehistoric finds/features
- 4.5.2 30225 - Site Name: Excavation (1971), Long Field, Champion's Farm, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 421 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 10711
- 4.5.1 31625 - Site Name: Prehistoric or Roman road, burials etc, Dunball brick pits, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 425 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.1 32158 - Site Name: First World War munitions store, Dunball Pottery, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 426 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 10710
- 4.5.2 32354 - Site Name: Geophysical survey (2013), Riverton Road, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3176 4166 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.5.1 44964 - Site Name: Evaluation (2000), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 309 432 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 17904 – Prehistoric features

#### **4.6 Area B HER Data Summary**

- 4.6.1 The HER data has shown a large amount of finds, features and archaeological event locations within a 1km radius of the centre of Area B. These date from the prehistoric periods to the end of the Second World War and include a wide variety of site types including, most significantly, waterlogged organic prehistoric remains.
- 4.6.2 Owing to the relative proximity of Areas A, B & C, some HER data results are included in more than one data set.

#### **4.7 HER Data Area C**

- 4.7.1 A search of the regional HER (Taunton) revealed a total of 43 recorded sites of archaeological interest within a 1km radius of the centre of Area C. These are listed by PRN number below along with a brief description. The distribution and locations of HER data is shown on figures 6-9. The full HER gazetteer for Area C is contained within Appendix 5.

#### **4.8 Area C PRNs (Fig 8)**

- 4.8.1 10702 - Site Name: Iron age and Roman settlement site, Crockland, Churchfield Lane, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3153 4190 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.2 10703 - Site Name: Medieval borough of Caput Montis, Down End. Grid Ref: ST 311 413 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 28347: Evaluation (2010), Apple Tree Cottage, Downend, Puriton, 30688: Excavation and watching brief (2011), Appletree Cottage, Downend, Puriton, 28352: Evaluation (2010), Green Cover, Downend Crescent, Downend, Puriton
- 4.8.3 10705 - Site Name: Roman settlement, Down End. Grid Ref: ST 315 412 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.4 10709 - Site Name: Church of St Michael and churchyard, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3203 4170 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.5 10710 - Site Name: Colthurst Symons Brick and Tile Works, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 426 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 32158: First World War munitions store, Dunball Pottery, Puriton
- 4.8.6 10711 - Site Name: Mesolithic flint finds, Long Field, Champion's Farm, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 421 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 30225: Excavation (1971), Long Field, Champion's Farm, Puriton
- 4.8.7 10719 - Site Name: Pur Well, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 323 416 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 15529: Evaluation (2002), Culverhay Dairy, Puriton, 16233: Watching brief (2003), former Culverhay Dairy, Woolavington Rd, Puriton
- 4.8.8 11171 - Site Name: Extensive field system, S of Mark Causeway, N of the Polden Hills. Also comprises 32326: Geophysical survey (2010), Withy End Farm, East Huntspill, 30286: Evaluation (2010), Huntspill Level, West Huntspill/Pawlett

- 4.8.9 11175 - Site Name: Cropmark enclosure, E of Batch Road, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3204 4265 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.10 11447 - Site Name: Motte and bailey castle, Down End. Scheduled Monument: - Motte with two baileys immediately east of Bristol Road, Down End (EH No: 1019291). Grid Ref: ST 3092 4135 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 12211: Earthwork and geophysical survey (1999), Downend castle, Puriton, 30233: Excavation (1908), Down End motte and bailey castle, Puriton, 30688: Excavation and watching brief (2011), Appletree Cottage, Downend, Puriton
- 4.8.11 11830 - Site Name: Cropmark enclosures, Pawlett Level. Grid Ref: ST 306 421 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.12 12211 - Site Name: Earthwork and geophysical survey (1999), Downend castle, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3092 4135 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 11447
- 4.8.13 12502 - Site Name: Royal Ordnance Factory, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 334 419 (ST 34 SW). Also comprises 32104: Evaluation (2012), Royal Ordnance Factory, Puriton
- 4.8.14 12713 - Site Name: Second World War pillbox (N101), W of Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3144 4161 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 15410
- 4.8.15 12817 - Site Name: Medieval settlement site, North Mead Drove, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3236 4198 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 32073: Watching brief (1978), Northern Trunk Sewer pipeline
- 4.8.16 12888 - Site Name: Nineteenth-century cement works, Downend, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3134 4134 (ST 34 SW). Comprises 29680: Nineteenth-century workers' housing, Downend, Puriton
- 4.8.17 12964 - Site Name: Bristol and Exeter Railway. Comprises 17096: Crooked Lane Railway Bridge, Brent Knoll, 17098: Cripp's Bridge, Exeter to Bristol Railway, Brent Knoll, 18354: Brean Road Halt, 18360: Creech St Michael Halt, 18362: Dunball Station, 18369: Highbridge GWR Station, 18574: Railway water troughs, Creech St Michael, 17100: Brent Knoll Station, Bristol to Exeter Railway, Brent Knoll, 18272: Mail catching apparatus site, S of Bridgwater Station, 18547: Bridgwater Station, 14660: Railway station, Wellington, 22811: Great Western Railway Wharf and Dock Branch, Bridgwater, 27100: A 361 bridge over railway, Durston, 29207: Whitehall tunnel, Stampford Tunnel, 29878: Staplegrove Road railway bridge, Taunton, 29983: Taunton railway station, 19899: Railway mail catching apparatus, Poole, Wellington, 22559: Forty Steps footbridge, Taunton, 40949: Railway bridge and lodge adjoining on south front at NGR ST 1445 2174, Nynehead
- 4.8.18 12987 - Site Name: Watching brief (1999), The Rye, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3213 4170 (ST 34 SW) – 19<sup>th</sup> Century remains



- 4.8.19 13753 - Site Name: Church of St Michael and All Angels, Rye (North side), Puriton. Listed Building Grade I: - CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS (EH No: 1344664). Grid Ref: ST 3203 4172 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.20 13754 - Site Name: Unidentified monument in churchyard, about 10 m south-east of chancel, Church of St Michael and All Angels, Rye (North side), Puriton: Listed Building Grade II (EH No: 1173477). Grid Ref: ST 3204 4171 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.21 13755 - Site Name: Manor Farmhouse, Rye (South side), Puriton. Listed Building Grade II: - MANOR FARMHOUSE (EH No: 1060137). Grid Ref: ST 3226 4176 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.22 13779 - Site Name: Gateway to Puriton Manor, Rye (South side), Puriton. Listed Building Grade II: - GATEWAY TO PURITON MANOR (EH No: 1296223). Grid Ref: ST 3207 4158 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.23 15529 - Site Name: Evaluation (2002), Culverhay Dairy, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 323 415 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 10719 – Medieval features
- 4.8.24 15973 - Site Name: Watching brief (2002), Puriton level gas pipeline. Grid Ref: ST 3211 4205 (ST 34 SW), ST 3354 4187 (ST 34 SW) – Roman finds
- 4.8.25 16120 - Site Name: Second World War pillbox (N102) site, Dunball. Grid Ref: ST 3149 4149 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 15410
- 4.8.26 16233 - Site Name: Watching brief (2003), former Culverhay Dairy, Woolavington Rd, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 323 415 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 10719 – Medieval features
- 4.8.27 17959 - Site Name: Evaluation (2004), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3135 4257 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 17960
- 4.8.28 17960 - Site Name: Prehistoric buried landsurface, Walpole, Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 3136 4256 (ST 34 SW). Comprises: 17959: Evaluation (2004), Walpole Landfill Site, Pawlett
- 4.8.29 18123 - Site Name: Congregational Church, 11 Woolavington Road, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3216 4150 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.30 18125 - Site Name: Industrial Tramway, south of Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3142 4119 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.31 18126 - Site Name: Quarry, south east of Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3160 4115 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.32 18129 - Site Name: School, Village Centre, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3202 4166 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.33 24587 - Site Name: Eighteenth-century Turnpike road, East Brent to Thurloxton. Grid Ref: ST 3481 5076 (ST 35 SW)

- 4.8.34 27796 - Site Name: Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, Dunball and Pawlett. Grid Ref: ST 29 42 (ST 24 SE) Comprises: 30286: Evaluation (2010), Huntspill Level, West Huntspill/Pawlett, 31550: Evaluation (2011), N of Stretcholt, Pawlett
- 4.8.35 28352 - Site Name: Evaluation (2010), Green Cover, Downend Crescent, Downend, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3100 4134 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 10703 – Medieval & Post-medieval features
- 4.8.36 29680 - Site Name: Nineteenth-century workers' housing, Downend, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 313 413 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 12888
- 4.8.37 29686 - Site Name: Medieval and earlier River Siger, Burnham and East Huntspill. Grid Ref: ST 309 506 (ST 35 SW), ST 319 433 (ST 34 SW), ST 371 423 (ST 34 SE), ST 372 473 (ST 34 NE), ST 364 508 (ST 35 SE). Comprises: 31602: Evaluation (2012), N of Vole, East Brent, 31852: Geophysical survey (2012), N of Vole, east Brent, 32367: Geophysical survey (2013), Woolavington Level, 32376: Evaluation (2013), Pyde Drove, Woolavington, 32421: Watching brief (2014), Watchfield Lawn, Burham without, 32326: Geophysical survey (2010), Withy End Farm, East Huntspill
- 4.8.38 30225 - Site Name: Excavation (1971), Long Field, Champion's Farm, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 421 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 10711
- 4.8.39 30384 - Site Name: Evaluation (2011), NE of Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 325 420 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.40 31625 - Site Name: Prehistoric or Roman road, burials etc, Dunball brick pits, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 425 (ST 34 SW)
- 4.8.41 32073 - Site Name: Watching brief (1978), Northern Trunk Sewer pipeline. Grid Ref: ST 3003 4665 (ST 34 NW), ST 3233 4178 (ST 34 SW), ST 3472 4190 (ST 34 SW), ST 3425 4478 (ST 34 SW) Part of: 10498, 11709, 12817, 32069 – Medieval & Roman features/finds
- 4.8.42 32158 - Site Name: First World War munitions store, Dunball Pottery, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 316 426 (ST 34 SW). Part of: 10710
- 4.8.43 32354 - Site Name: Geophysical survey (2013), Riverton Road, Puriton. Grid Ref: ST 3176 4166 (ST 34 SW)

#### **4.9 Area C HER Data Summary**

- 4.9.1 The HER data has shown a large amount of finds, features and archaeological event locations within a 1km radius of the centre of Area C. These date from the prehistoric periods to the end of the Second World War and include a wide variety of site types.
- 4.9.2 Owing to the relative proximity of Areas A, B & C, some HER data results are included in more than one data set. This is particularly apparent in the Area B & C data sets owing to the proximity of the two areas (Fig 9).

#### **4.10 Historic Landscape Characterisation**

- 4.10.1 Historic Landscape Characterisation information, supplied by the regional HER, shows the general area around the assessment areas to be divided up into distinct landscape types, including recently enclosed land, anciently enclosed land, settlement and industry.
- 4.10.2 Area A and the majority of Area B are located within parcel 3808 (Fig 10). This is defined as anciently enclosed (pre-17<sup>th</sup> century) land with a general field size of 3-6 hectares. Fields in this area have seen less than 25% boundary loss since 1905. The area was previously wetland.
- 4.10.3 Area C is divided between two different HLC areas (Fig 10). The northern half of Area C, along with the eastern edge of Area B, falls within parcel 3969. This area is defined as anciently enclosed land modified between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with a general field size of between 6-12 hectares. Fields in this parcel have seen between 25% and 50% boundary loss since 1905. The area was previously wetland.
- 4.10.4 The southern half of Area C is located within parcel 4204 (Fig 10). This is again defined as anciently enclosed land modified between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries though the general field size is only between 3-6 hectares with less than 25% boundary loss seen from 1905 onwards.

#### **4.11 HER Data Summary**

- 4.11.1 The HER data for Areas A, B & C contains a large number of finds, features and archaeological events. This is indicative of a wealth of archaeological features being located within the general vicinity.
- 4.11.2 The naturally wet, loamy and clayey soils characteristic of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater (British Geological Survey, 2001), referred to in paragraph 1.2.2 and found within the assessment areas, create ideal anaerobic conditions for the survival of organic materials. This is evidenced by the discovery of wooden structures of Neolithic date (PRN 28495).
- 4.11.3 Such soil conditions are also ideal for sealing peat layers (PRN 16989) or buried prehistoric land surfaces (PRNs 17904 & 17960).
- 4.11.4 As well as evidence of prehistoric exploitation and use of the landscape surrounding the assessment areas, abundant evidence of activity from the Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods was also present within the HER data.

#### **4.12 Heritage Gateway Online**

- 4.12.1 An online search of the Heritage Gateway database returned no information not already contained within the HER data

#### **4.13 Other Sources**

- 4.13.1 No geotechnical boreholes/trial pits have been undertaken on the site at this time.
- 4.13.2 A search of the Portable Antiquities Scheme online database returned no finds from within Areas A – C.

## **5 Map Regression**

### **5.1 Maps**

- 5.1.1 For the historic map regression OS map sets at both 1:2500 and 1:10000 were analysed covering the date ranges of 1887 to the present day.

### **5.2 Area A Map Regression**

- 5.2.1 1887-88 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Fig 11).

Area A is shown on the 1887-8 OS map in clear detail. It is bounded by a road to the east and the north and the route of the railway to the west.

- 5.2.2 A single linear feature, presumably a drainage ditch representative of a defunct field boundary, is visible towards the west of the area running north to south. Prior to the construction of the railway this feature would have served as the eastern boundary of the field located to the west of Area A.

- 5.2.3 A rectangular feature is faintly marked and located adjacent to the inside of the eastern field boundary. No further features are visible.

- 5.2.4 1904 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Fig 12).

The 1904 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition, although it marks out the faint rectangle visible at the eastern boundary of the area as a fence line. No further features are visible.

- 5.2.5 1930 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Fig 13).

The 1930 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous editions, with the added detail of marking out the roadways to the east and north of the assessment area as the 'Puriton Drove ways'. No further features are visible.

- 5.2.6 1969-70 4<sup>th</sup> Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Fig 14).

The 1969-70 OS map shows largely the same detail as that seen on previous editions, though a long pond feature is now shown within the eastern side of the assessment area as well as a small mound. A further pond is also shown as having been created within the field immediately to the south. No further features are visible.

- 5.2.7 1975-91 5<sup>th</sup> Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Fig 15).

The 1975-91 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent additions. No further features are visible.

#### 5.2.8 1989 Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Fig 16).

The 1989 OS map shows largely the same detail as the previous edition with the exception that the pond within the assessment area appears to have severely contracted in size by this time and is now limited to two small areas at the very eastern edge of the site. No further features are visible.

#### 5.2.9 1995 Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Fig 17).

The 1995 OS map shows largely the same detail as the previous edition with the exception that mound located adjacent to the two ponds is no longer depicted. No further features are visible.

### 5.3 Area A Map Regression Summary

5.3.1 Area A is largely unchanged from 1887 up to 1995. The digging of a pond on the eastern edge of the site, which appears to have gradually been filled in, is the only significant change within the assessment area in the last 127 years.

### 5.4 Area B Map Regression

#### 5.4.1 1888 1st Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 18-21).

All five fields of Area B are shown on the 1888 OS map in clear detail. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.4.2 1904 2nd Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 22-25).

The 1904 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent changes. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.4.3 1930 3rd Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 26-29).

The 1930 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with only one apparent change. A section of ditch shown on the southern edge of the most southerly field has seemingly been removed to leave only a pond. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.4.4 1969-70 4th Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 30-33).

The 1969-70 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent changes. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.4.5 1975 5th Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 34-37).

The 1975 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent changes. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.4.6 1988-9 Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 38-41).

The 1988-9 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent changes. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.4.7 1995 Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Fig 42-45).

The 1995 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent changes. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

### 5.5 Area B Map Regression Summary

- 5.5.1 Area B is largely unchanged from 1888 up to 1995. The filling in of a section of ditch to leave just a pond at the southerly end of the site is to be the only significant change within the assessment area in the last 126 years.

### 5.6 Area C Map Regression

#### 5.6.1 1888 1st Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 46-47).

Area C is a long thin area located adjacent to the railway lines to the west and the Dunball Pottery, Brick and Tile Works to the north. The 1888 OS map shows the assessment area in clear detail. It is made up of a total of ten fields. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.6.2 1904 2nd Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 48-49).

The 1904 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent changes. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.6.3 1930 3rd Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 50-51).

The 1930 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent changes. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.6.4 1970 4th Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 52-53).

The 1970 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent changes noted within the assessment area. The number of structures comprising the complex of buildings forming The Dunball Pottery, Brick and Tile Works, which is located to the north of the assessment area, has increased by this time. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.6.5 1975 5th Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Fig 54-55).

Although very little change within the assessment area is shown, the modern route of the M5 motorway is now depicted as bounding the site to the east. This has necessarily resulted in the truncation of field boundaries in the area. Church Field Lane, to the south of the assessment area, is now shown as a dead end lane. The Dunball Pottery, Brick and Tile Works, located to the north of the assessment area, has closed down by this

point and is no longer shown as a standing structure on the map. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.6.6 1989 6th Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 56-57).

The 1989 OS map shows largely the same detail as the previous edition with some small changes in the layout of field boundaries within the assessment area. These all relate to the removal of boundaries in order to increase field sizes, which occurred after truncation of the area by the M5. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

#### 5.6.7 1995 Edition 25 Inch OS Map (Figs 58-59).

The 1995 OS map shows exactly the same detail as the previous edition with no apparent changes. No features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

### 5.7 Area C Map Regression Summary

5.7.1 With the exception of the large-scale landscape change to the east, brought about by the construction of the M5 motorway between 1970 and 1975, and the removal of field boundaries that took place as a consequence, very little change appears to have occurred within the assessment area. Area C (Motorway area aside) is largely unchanged from 1888 up to 1995.

### 5.8 Historic Map Regression Summary Areas A-C

5.8.1 The map regression analysis has been very useful in identifying changes in the appearance and layout of the assessment areas (A-C) over the last 127 years.

5.8.2 Very little change, other than the alteration and removal of field boundaries, is evident across Areas A to C. No structures are shown within the assessment areas.

5.8.3 No features of archaeological or historic significance have been located by the historic map regression analysis.

## 6 Aerial Photographs

6.1.1 Only one aerial photograph that covers the majority of the assessment is held in the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP).

6.1.2 This photograph (Plate 1) is an Ordnance Survey black and white vertical image taken in 1975. With the exception of the northern half of Area A, it shows all three areas in very high clarity.

6.1.3 Although only half of Area A is shown, no differences from the 1975-91 historic map can be observed. A series of equally spaced linear features running north-south along

the field, most likely representing modern drainage features, are noted. No archaeological features are visible within Area A.

- 6.1.4 Area B is composed of five distinct fields, some of which are separated by wide, steep sided, drainage ditches.
- 6.1.5 Although marks indicative of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation are visible in fields surrounding Area B, none are visible within the assessment area. Two of the five fields show well defined, equally spaced, drainage features. No archaeological features are visible within Area B.
- 6.1.6 Area C is shown as composed of ten fields separated by mature hedge lines interspersed with large trees. Of the ten fields, the five in the northern half of Area B show clear evidence of ridge and furrow agriculture, whilst two of the ten show evidence of modern drainage features as seen in Areas A & B. No archaeological features are visible within Area C.
- 6.1.7 Google Earth satellite images dated from 2001 to 2010 show Area A in very clear detail. No difference in appearance is noted from the earlier, 1975, aerial photograph and no features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.
- 6.1.8 Google Earth satellite images dated from 2001 to 2010 also show Area B in very clear detail. No difference in appearance is noted from the earlier, 1975, aerial photograph (the new organic landfill site to the north is noted) and no features of archaeological or historic significance are shown. It is worth noting that a cropmark, visible as a square set within a square, is located in the field to the immediate south of the assessment area. The feature appears to pre-date the ridge and furrow marks in the same field, so is likely to date to the medieval period or earlier.
- 6.1.9 Google Earth satellite images dated from 2001 to 2010 show Area C in very clear detail. Enclosure of the smaller fields in this area, undertaken since the 1975 aerial photograph was taken, means larger fields are now evident, although traces of the removed field boundaries are visible within the larger fields. With the exception of these field boundaries, which are likely to be of medieval origin, no other features of archaeological or historic significance are shown.

## **6.2 Aerial Photograph Summary**

- 6.2.1 Analysis of the aerial photograph has identified no historical or archaeological features within the assessment areas and no changes within the assessment areas that are not highlighted by the historical map regression analysis.
- 6.2.2 The cropmark located in the field immediately to the south of Area B is only visible on the 2001 aerial photograph and appears as a square set within a square. The feature appears to pre-date the ridge and furrow marks in the same field, so is likely to date to the medieval period or earlier.



## **7 Site Visit**

- 7.1.1 A site visit was undertaken in bright and sunny conditions on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The site visit encompassed all parts of Areas A-C (Plates 5-34).
- 7.1.2 Area A, which was entered via a field in the south eastern corner, is flat in profile and currently under grass. Linear drainage features identified on the aerial photograph are visible on the surface of the field. No features of historic or archaeological significance were noted.
- 7.1.3 Area B, which was entered via a gate at the southern end of the area, comprised five fields and is also flat in profile. Each field is currently in use as pasture. Linear drainage features identified on the aerial photograph are visible on the surface of the field. No features of historic or archaeological significance were noted.
- 7.1.4 Area C, which was entered via a gate at the southern end of the area, is more undulating than areas A or B, although is still relatively flat. It is also in use as pasture. Evidence of removed field boundaries is apparent across the area, as traces of ditches and occasional mature tree alignments are still present. Although ridge and furrow marks are shown on the 1975 aerial photograph, no trace of these was evident during the site visit. Aside from the removed field boundaries, no features of historic or archaeological significance were noted during the site visit.

### **7.2 Site Visit Summary**

- 7.2.1 No previously unknown archaeological or historical features/sites were located during the site visit.

## **8 Archaeological/Palaeoenvironmental Potential**

### **8.1 Area A**

- 8.1.1 Area A is the most northerly of the three assessment areas and lies at approximately 5m above sea level on the edge of the Pawlett and Puriton levels.
- 8.1.2 The HER data has shown evidence of prehistoric exploitation of what was previously a wet/marshy coastal area within the 1km search area. Soil conditions in the area are extremely favourable for the survival of organic remains which, owing to their rarity, are of significant archaeological and palaeoenvironmental interest.
- 8.1.3 As well as evidence of prehistoric activity within the 1km search area, activity from later periods (Roman, medieval and post-medieval) was also evident. This includes evidence of shrunken medieval settlement (PRN10498), cropmarks (PRN12625, 11829, 11175), Roman road and burials (PRN31625), extensive evidence of ridge and furrow as well as post-medieval and industrial features associated with Dunballs brick works

## **8.2 Area A Potential**

- 8.2.1 Owing to its low height above sea level and the likely waterlogged/anaerobic conditions present within the soil, Area A is felt to have a high potential for prehistoric features, a high potential for preserved organic materials and a high palaeoenvironmental potential.
- 8.2.2 The potential for features of later date (Roman to post-medieval) is felt to be moderate to high based on the evidence of the HER data.

## **8.3 Area B**

- 8.3.1 Area B, the most westerly of the three assessment areas, lies at 8m above sea level at its southern end, falling to 7m above sea level at its northern end.
- 8.3.2 The presence of ridge and furrow ploughing in fields adjacent to Area B indicates that the area was sufficiently dry in the medieval period for agriculture to take place.
- 8.3.3 Although located only slightly higher above sea level than Area A, this difference marginally lessens the likelihood that waterlogged remains survive, because prehistoric land surfaces in this area are likely to be located above the water table. However, it does not negate it completely.
- 8.3.4 The potential for features of later date (Roman to post-medieval) is felt to be moderate to high based on the evidence of the HER data.

## **8.4 Area B Potential**

- 8.4.1 Owing to its comparatively low height above sea level and the possible waterlogged/anaerobic conditions present within the soil, Area B is felt to have a moderate to high potential for prehistoric features, a moderate to high potential for preserved organic materials as well as moderate to high palaeoenvironmental potential.
- 8.4.2 The potential for features of later date (Roman to Post-medieval) is felt to be moderate to high based on the evidence of the HER data.

## **8.5 Area C**

- 8.5.1 Area C, located between the railway to the west and the M5 to the east, contains the highest piece of land of the three assessment areas. At its southern end the land in this area is approximately 16m above sea level. This gradually falls to 6m above sea level at its northern extent.
- 8.5.2 Anecdotal evidence from the landowner, received during the site visit, suggests that at the southern end of the site, on the higher ground, the natural solid geology is within 0.4 to 0.5m of the surface. This higher ground would have been located above the coastal marsh prior to any formal draining of the lower areas.
- 8.5.3 Whilst shallow soils such as this will negate any possibility of waterlogged remains surviving, the majority of later (Roman period onwards) settlement activity appears to

be located on slightly higher ground. Evidence of Roman settlement activity on the higher ground comes from PRNs 10705, a large settlement uncovered during topsoil stripping near Down End during the M5 construction, and 10702, material exposed in the railway bank cutting at Down End. Indeed, the southern end of Area C is shown as being part of a Roman settlement in an English Heritage Urban Survey: An Archaeological Assessment of Down End (Gathercole, 2003) (Fig 60).

- 8.5.4 The remainder of Area C is very similar in both ordnance datum height and appearance to Area B. The presence of ridge and furrow ploughing, as evidenced by aerial photography in the northern half of Area C, is again suggestive of a landscape dry enough in the medieval period for agriculture to have taken place.

## **8.6 Area C Potential**

- 8.6.1 Owing to the presence of Roman and later settlement on higher ground in the area, as evidenced by Gathercole (2003) and PRNs 10705 & 10702, the potential for Roman settlement activity in the southern half of Area C is deemed to be high.
- 8.6.2 Owing to its comparatively low height above sea level and the possible waterlogged/anaerobic conditions present within the soil, the northern half of Area C is felt to have a moderate to high potential for prehistoric features, a moderate to high potential for preserved organic materials, and a moderate to high palaeoenvironmental potential.
- 8.6.3 The potential for features of later date (Roman to post-medieval) within the northern half of Area C is felt to be moderate to high based on the evidence of the HER data.

# **9 Discussion**

## **9.1 Conclusions**

- 9.1.1 As outlined above, there is a potential for significant archaeological features of different periods being located within each of the three assessment areas.
- 9.1.2 In particular, there is a high potential for survival of significant prehistoric remains, organic remains and palaeoenvironmental remains in Areas A, and a moderate to high potential for the survival of similar material in Area B and Area C.
- 9.1.3 The southern end of Area C has previously been identified as an area of potential Roman settlement activity (Gathercole, 2003) (Fig 60).

## **9.2 Impacts**

- 9.2.1 The provisional site layout is shown on figure 61.
- 9.2.2 The construction method for the frames supporting the solar panels does not include the digging of any footings/foundations. Rather the 0.2m diameter frames will be driven or

screwed into the ground to a depth of 1.5m. The depth of the frames (1.5m) has the potential to impact on buried archaeological features. However, this impact is clearly less than if trenched foundations had been dug.

- 9.2.3 Topsoil stripping for substation and inverter footings, as well as access tracks (shown on fig 61), although only being carried out to 0.2m depth, has the potential to impact on buried archaeological features. This is especially noteworthy in the southern half of Area C where the Roman settlement material, along with a shallower soil cover over the natural rock (as mentioned in paragraph 8.5.2), is located. The shallower soil deposits alluded to by the farmer during the site visit (para 8.5.2) would mean that archaeology of all periods in this area would be closer to the surface and thus more prone to damage from any development.
- 9.2.4 Cable trenching, to be carried out to depths of between 0.6m and 0.85m, has the potential to impact upon previously unrecorded buried archaeological features in all areas.

### **9.3 Proposed Mitigation**

- 9.3.1 It is suggested that, owing to the apparent shallow depth of soil and presence of Roman settlement, a magnetic geophysical survey be carried out in the southern half of Area C in order to identify areas of archaeological potential prior to the commencement of on-site construction works.
- 9.3.2 A watching brief on all groundworks, dependent upon the results of the geophysical survey in this area, is also suggested.
- 9.3.3 It is further suggested that a watching brief be carried out during all cable trench excavations for Areas A and B owing to the amount of archaeological features in the area as indicated by the HER data.
- 9.3.4 Owing to the apparent depth of deposits within Areas A and B, it is felt that a watching brief on topsoil stripping activities here should only be carried out if a depth of 0.2m below the current ground surface is exceeded.
- 9.3.5 Although the proposed depth of the driven panel frames (1.5m) has the potential to impact upon buried archaeological features, mitigation is not suggested at this point as no archaeology will be physically exposed by the construction process.

## **10 Sources**

### **Data sources**

- HER for 1km radius from centre of each assessment area (Somerset HER)
- Heritage Gateway online search

- Portable Antiquities Scheme online search

### **Cartographic Sources**

- 1887-8 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map set
- 1904 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map set
- 1930 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map set
- 1969-70 4<sup>th</sup> Edition 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map set
- 1975-91 Edition 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map set
- 1988-89 Edition 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map set
- 1995 Edition 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map set

### **Aerial Photographs Consulted (CUCAP)**

RC8BD035 – 07/05/1975 Black & White Vertical

### **Internet Sourced Satellite Imagery**

Google Earth Images 2001-2010

### **Bibliography**

British Geological Survey. 2001, 4th Edition. Solid Geology Map, UK South Sheet

Dunning, R (Ed). 2004. Victoria County History: A History of the County of Somerset: Volume 8. The Poldens and the Levels. University of London Institute of Historical Research, Oxford University Press

Gathercole, C. 2003. An Archaeological Assessment of Down End: English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

Harvey, N. 1980. The Industrial Archaeology of Farming in England and Wales. BT Batsford Ltd, London

Institute for Archaeologists, 2011. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX I:** Figures

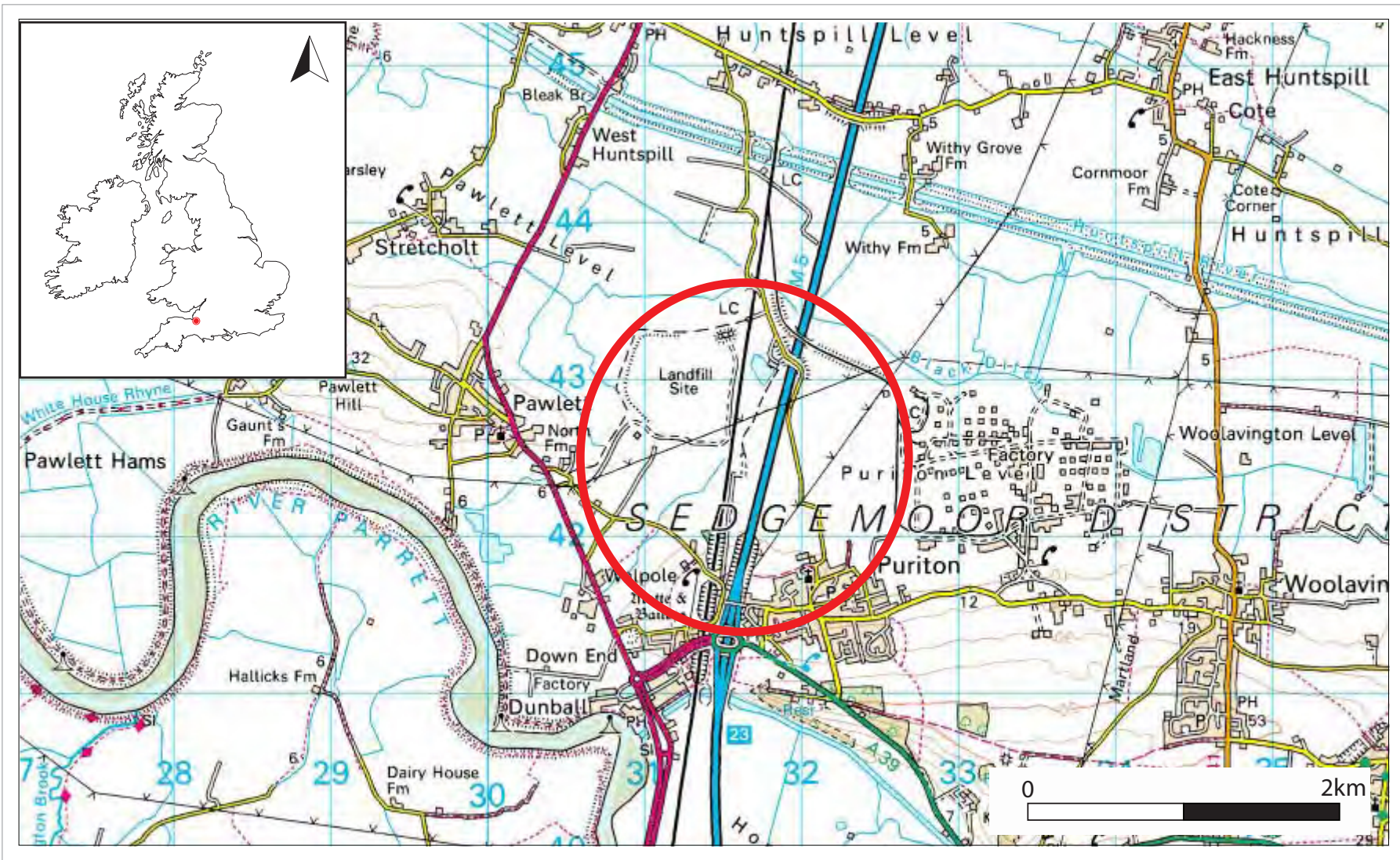


Fig 1: Figure showing location of assessment area



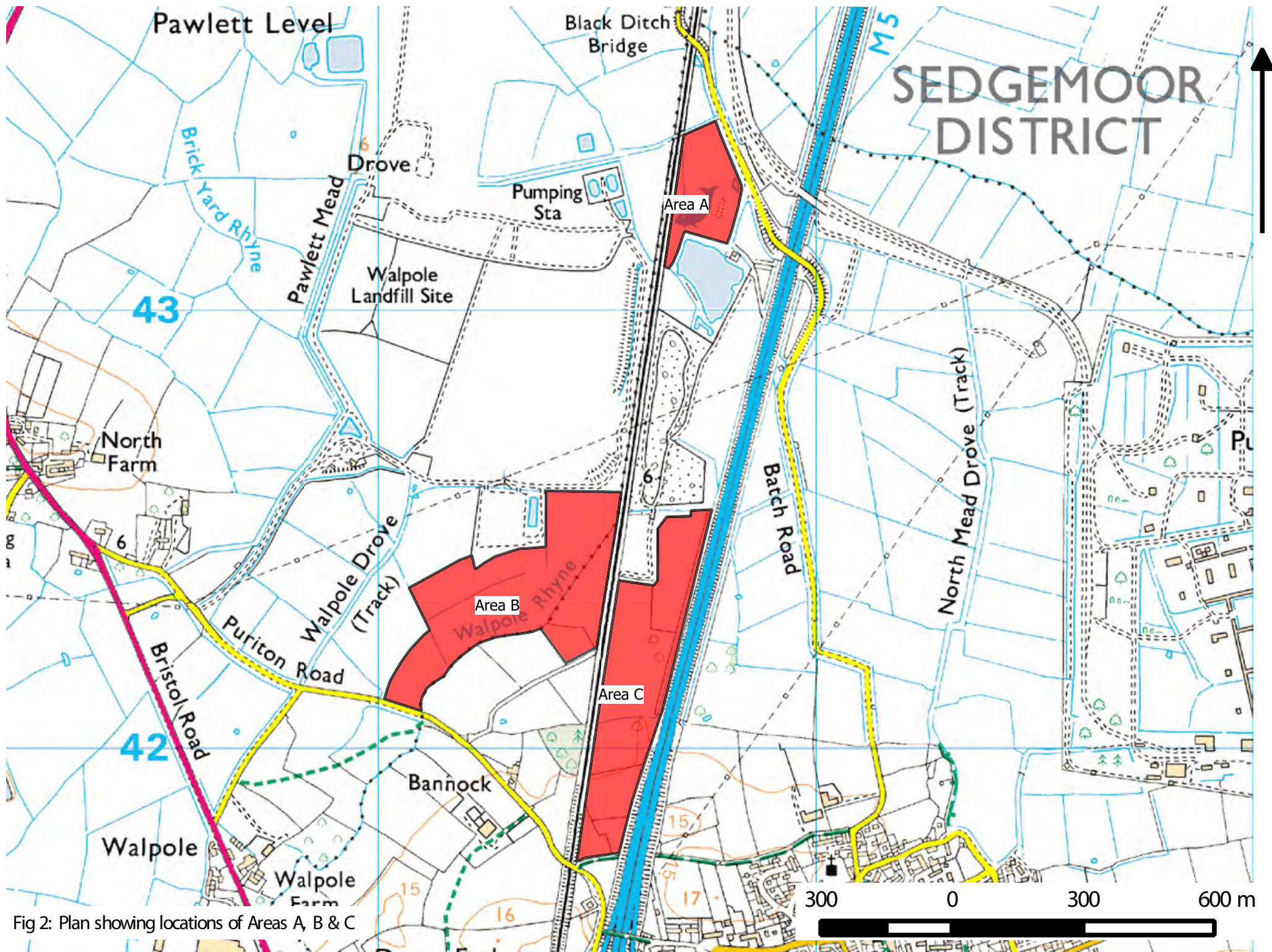


Fig 2: Plan showing locations of Areas A, B & C



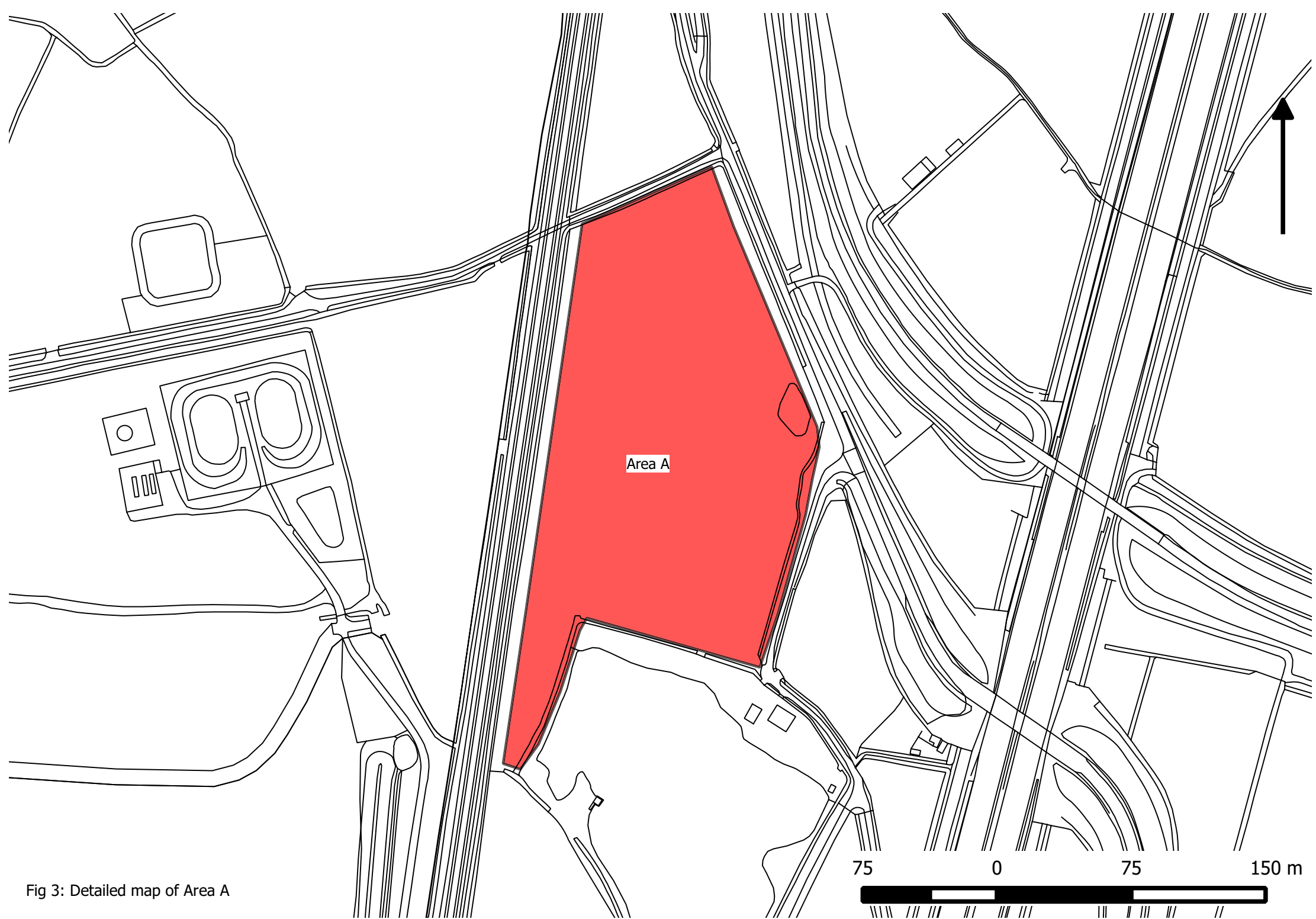


Fig 3: Detailed map of Area A

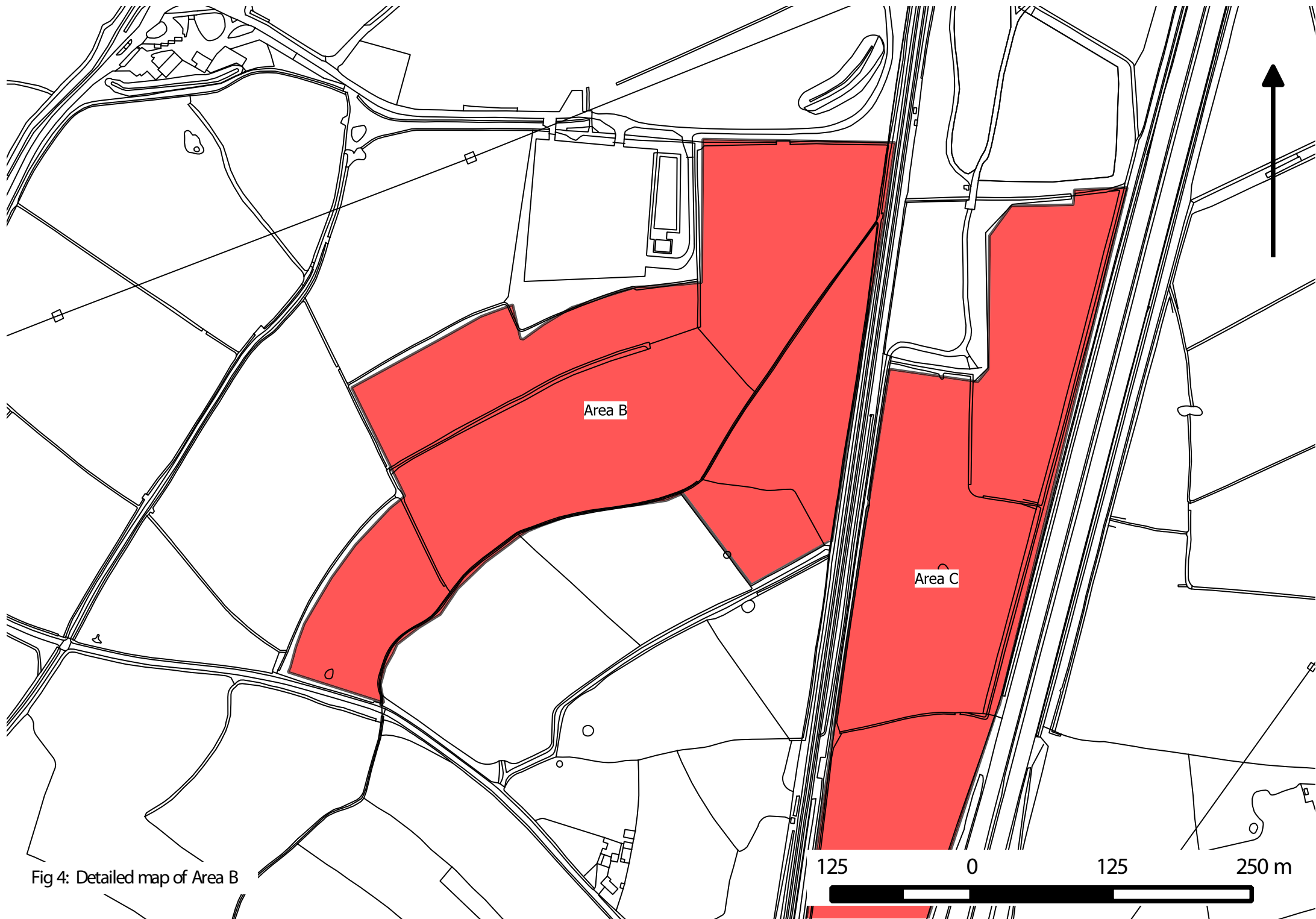


Fig 4: Detailed map of Area B

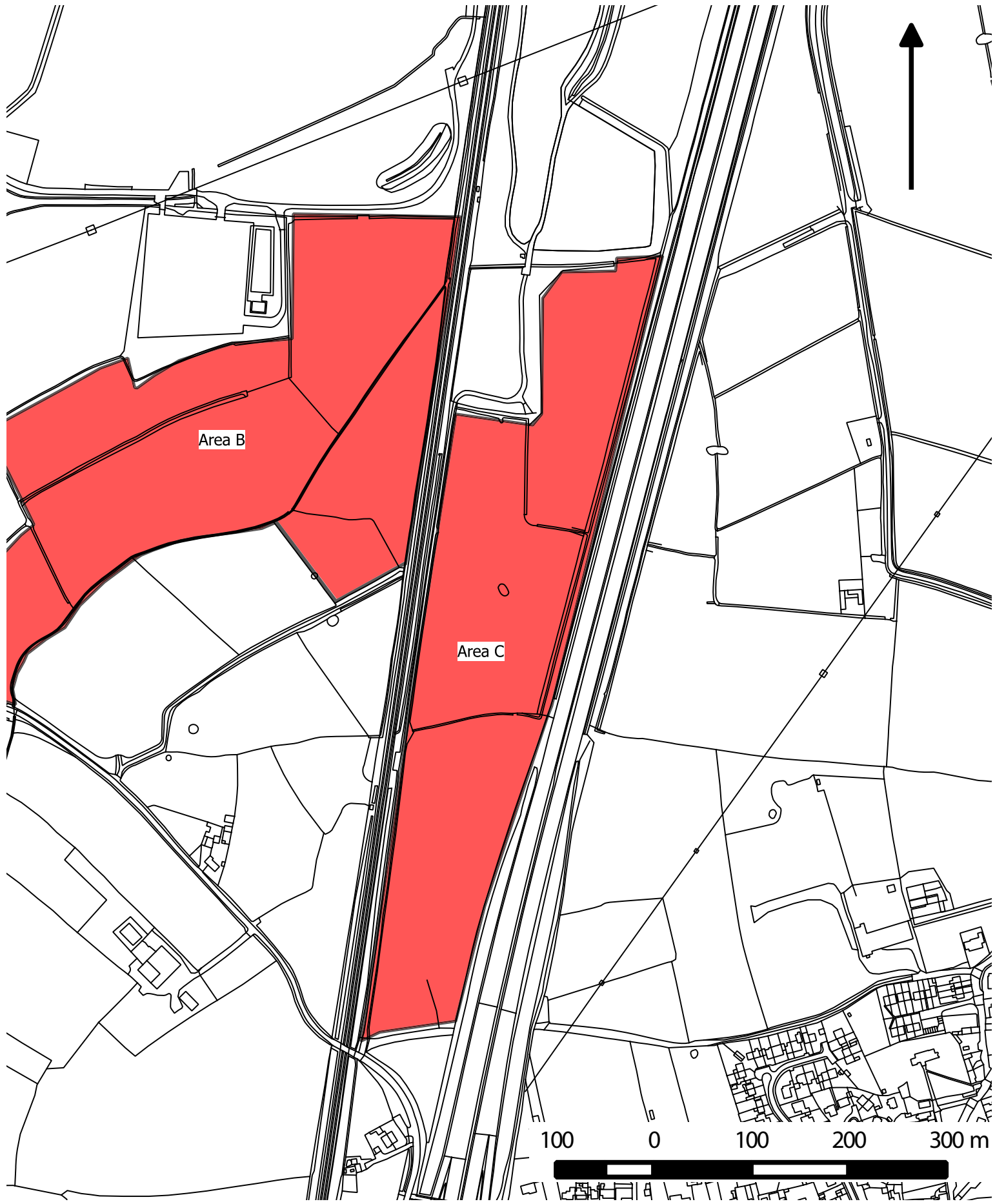


Fig 5: Map showing location of Area C



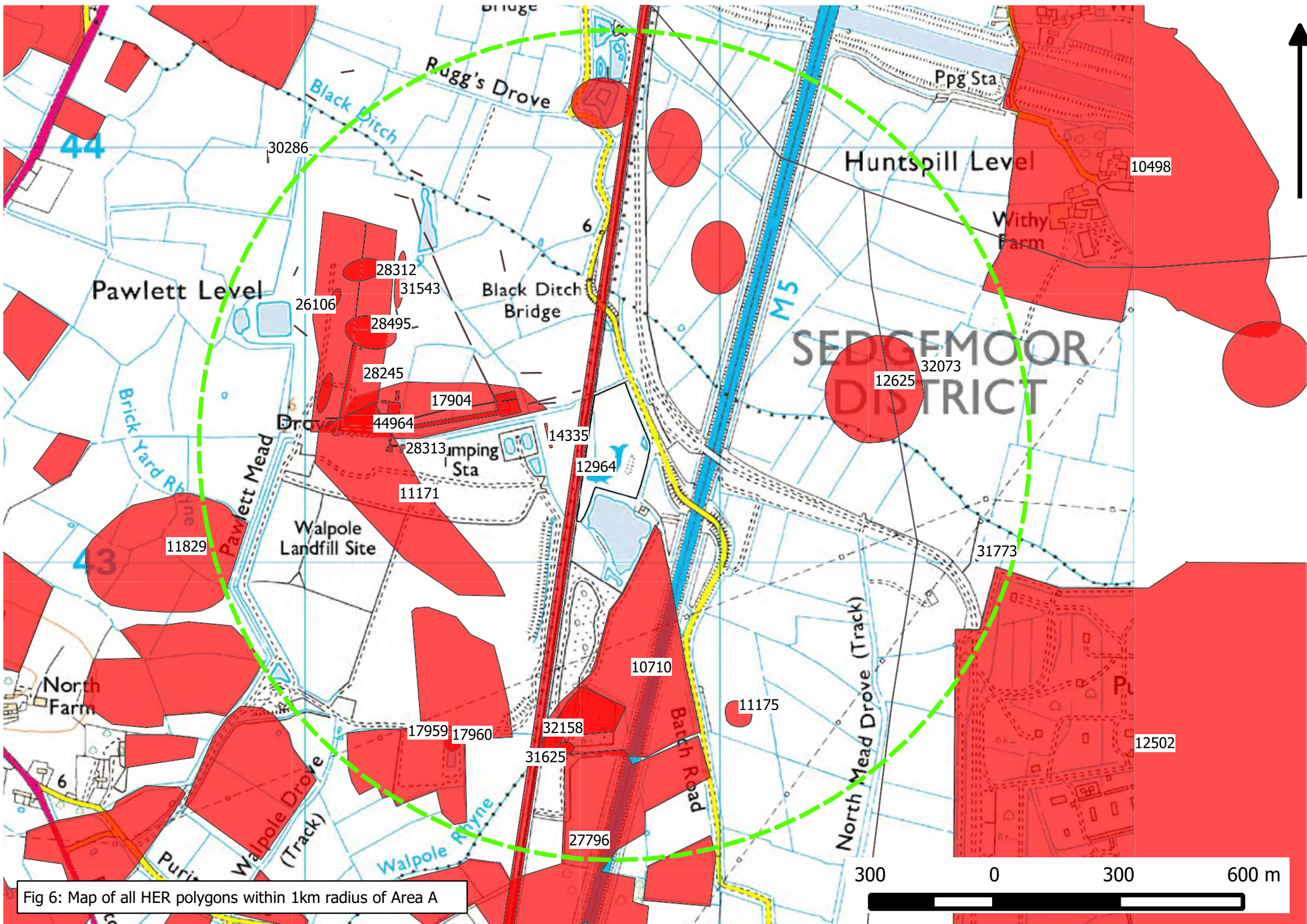


Fig 6: Map of all HER polygons within 1km radius of Area A



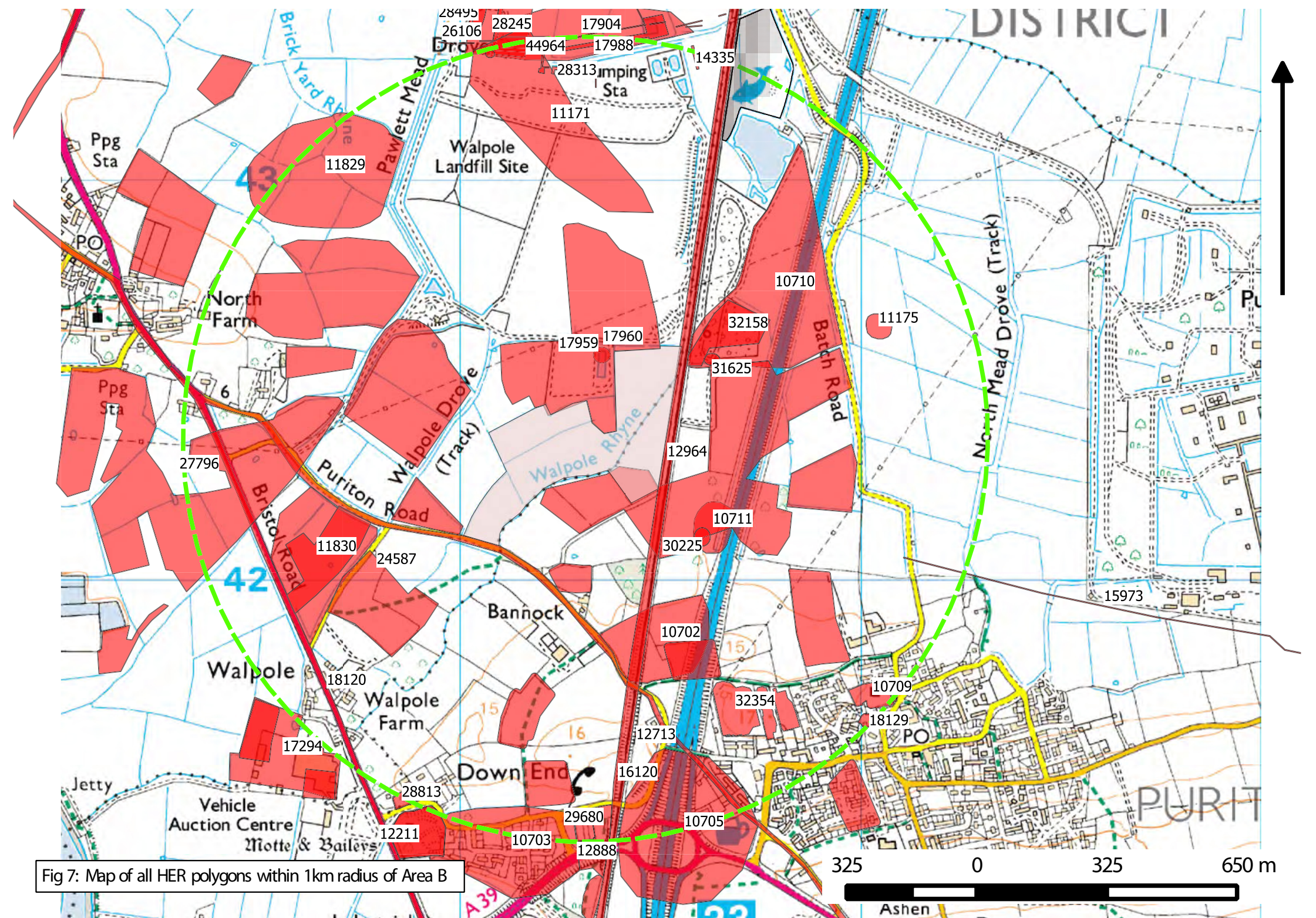


Fig 7: Map of all HER polygons within 1km radius of Area B











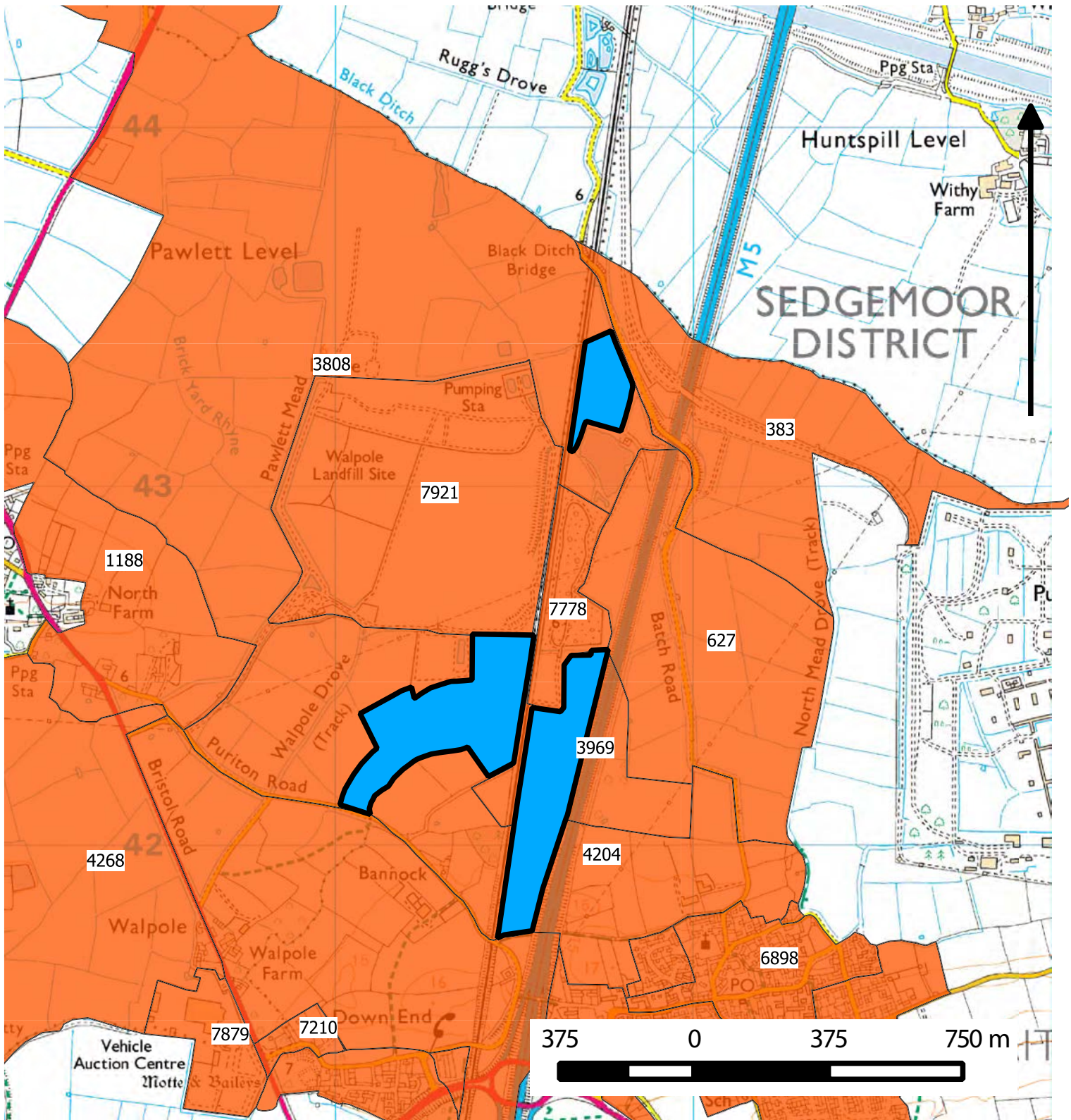
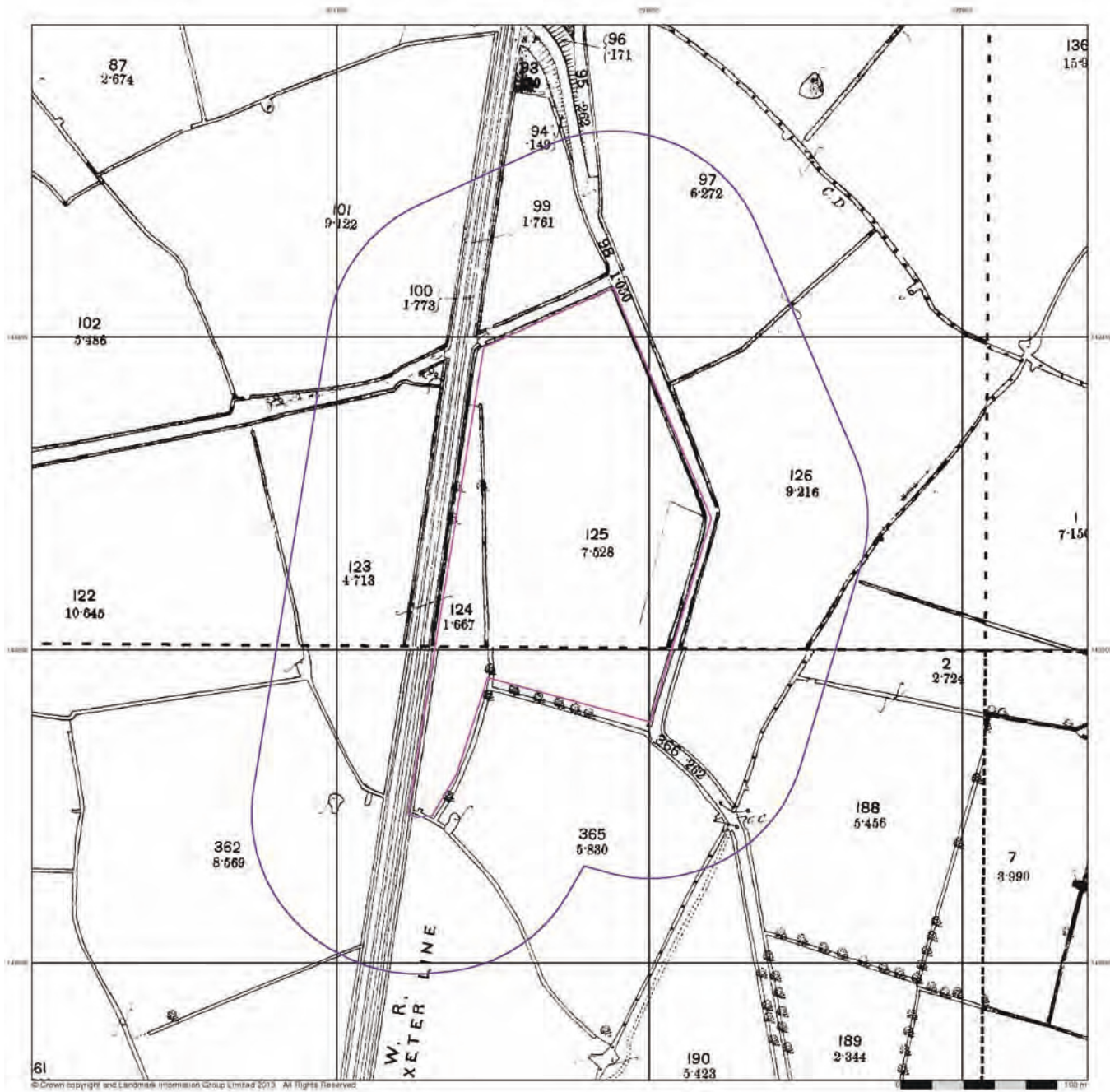


Fig 10: Plan showing location of HLC areas by ID number in relation to Areas A, B & C





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Drawing Title: 1888 OS

Date: 9/5/14

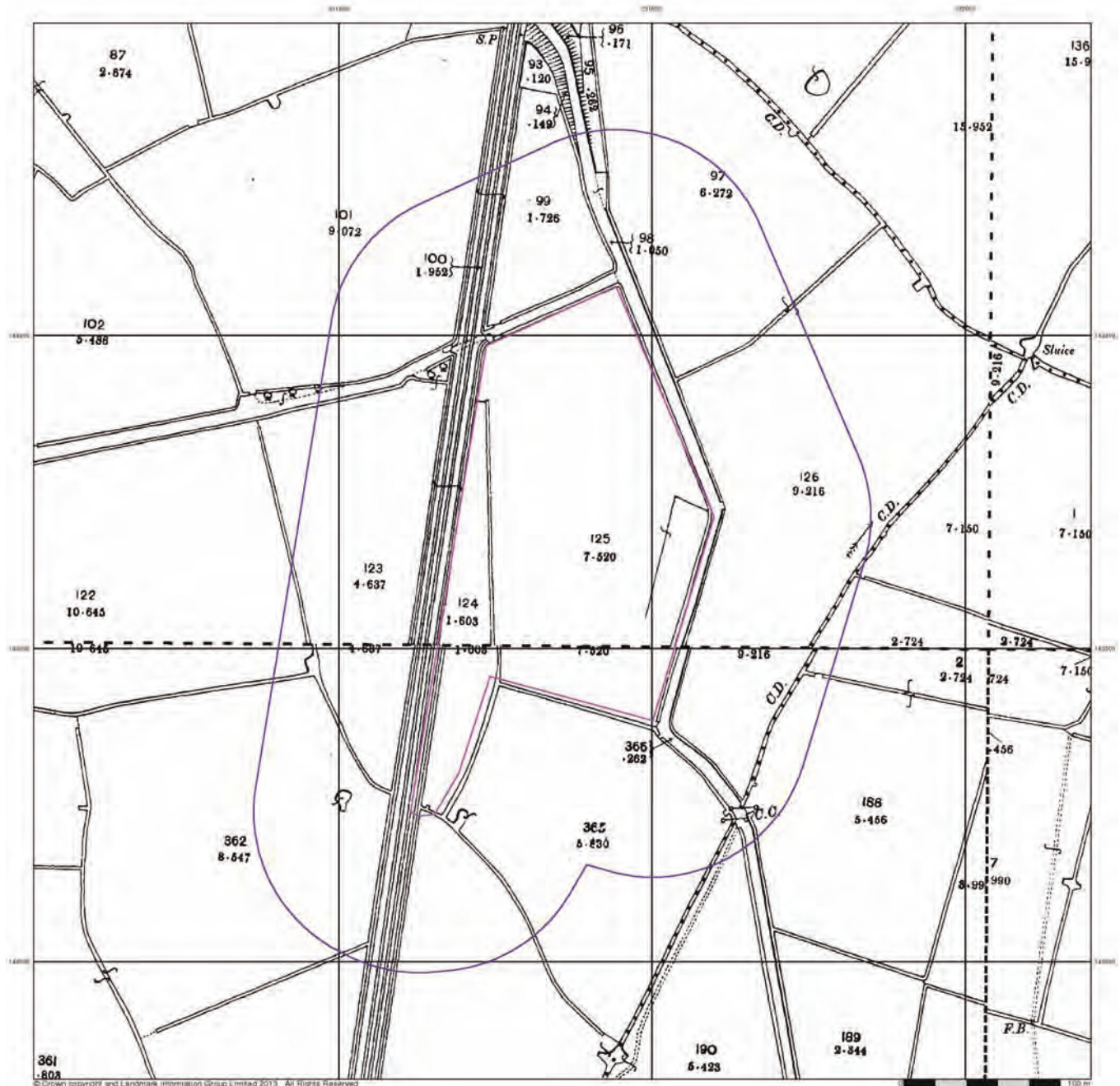
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Figure 11:



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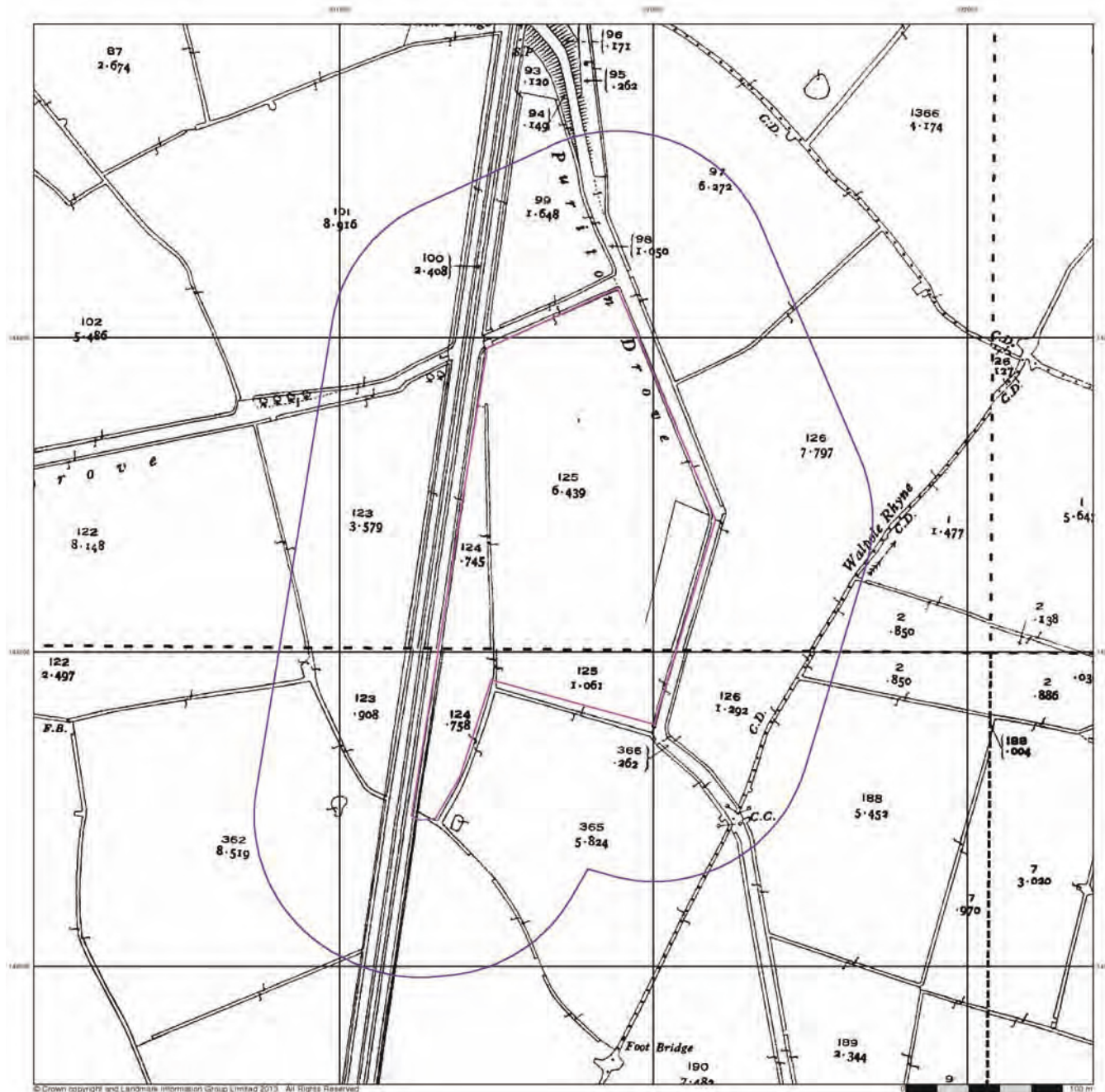


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Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

Drawing Title: 1930 OS

Date: 9/5/14

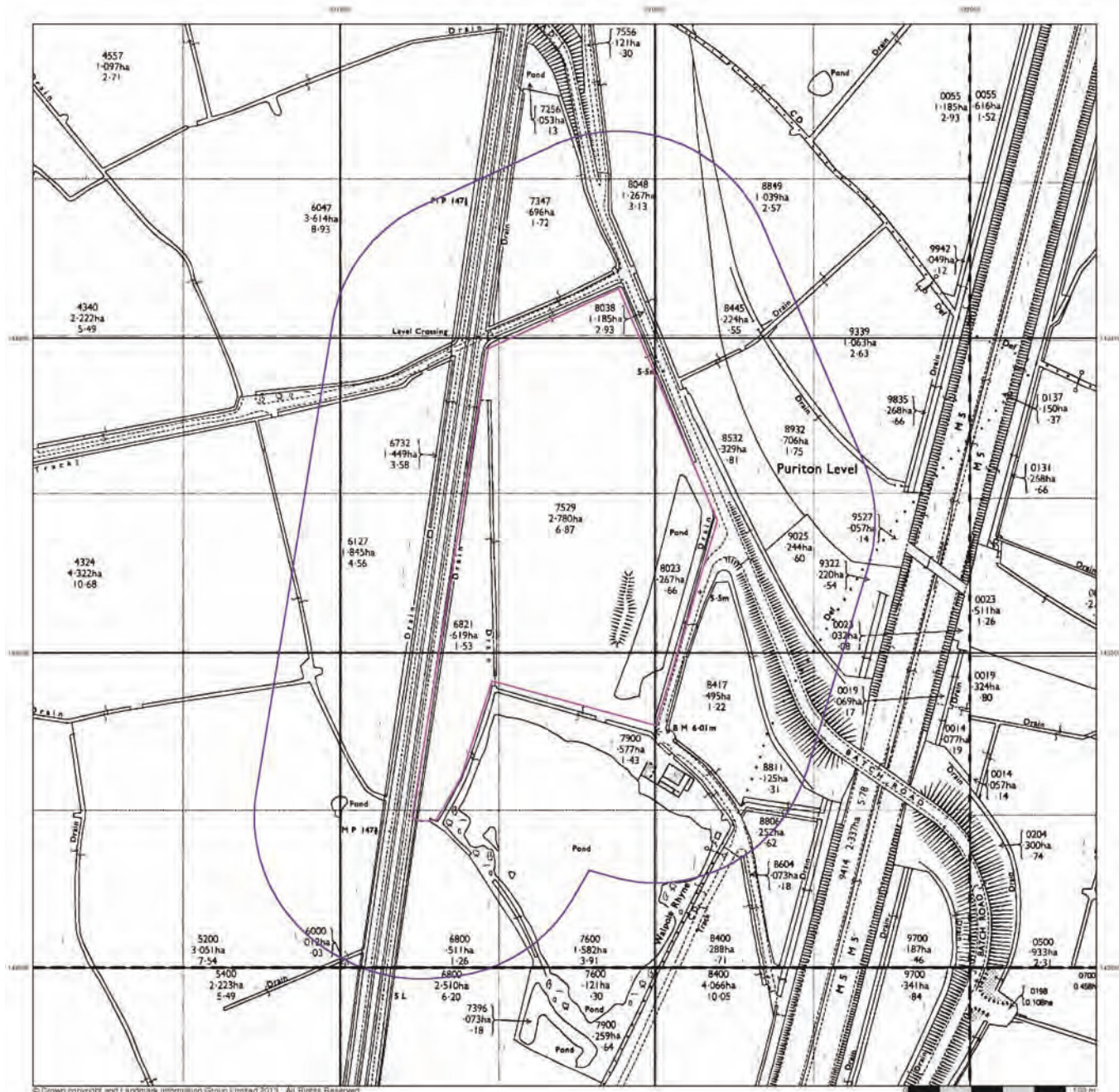
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Figure 13:







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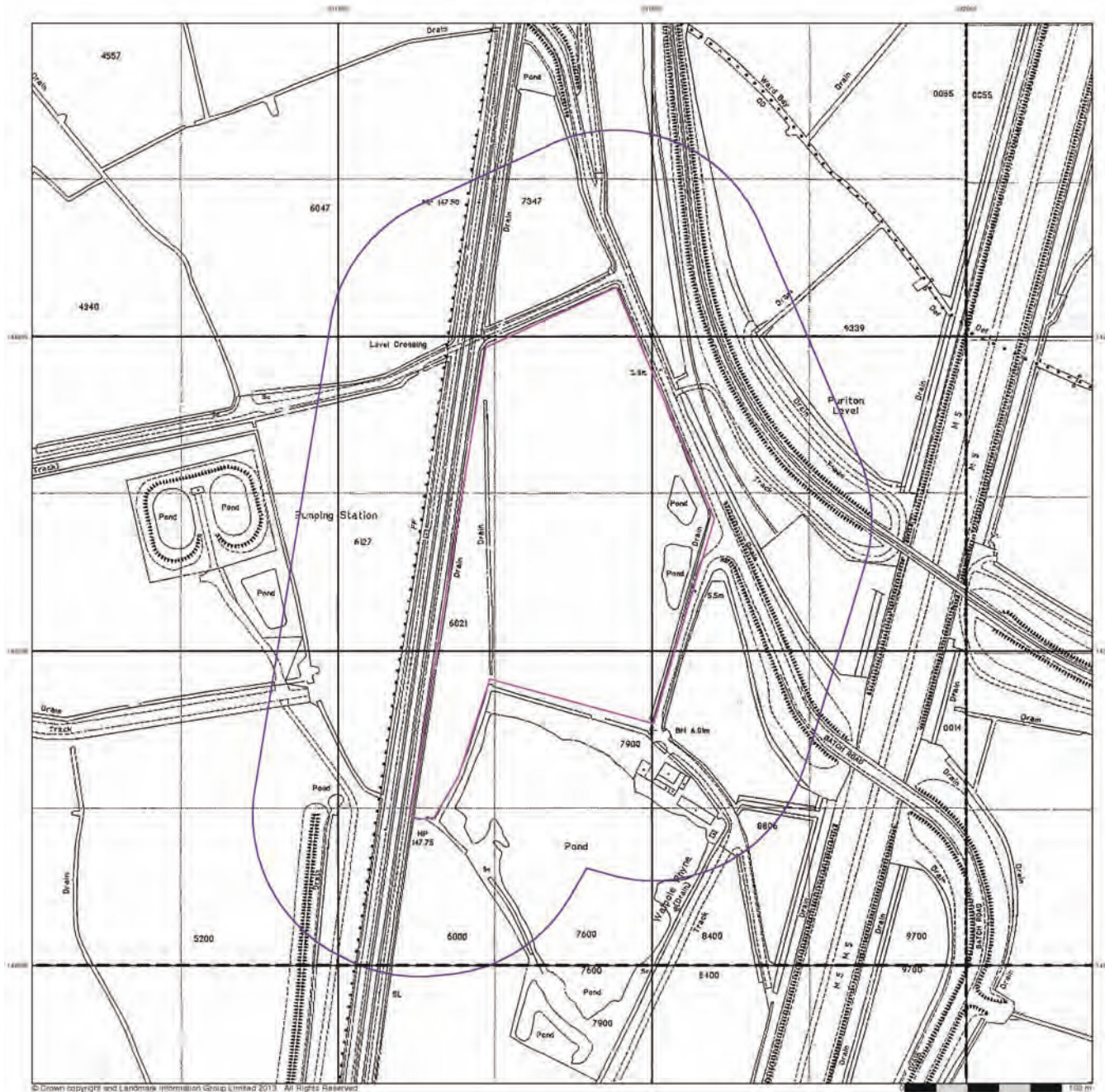
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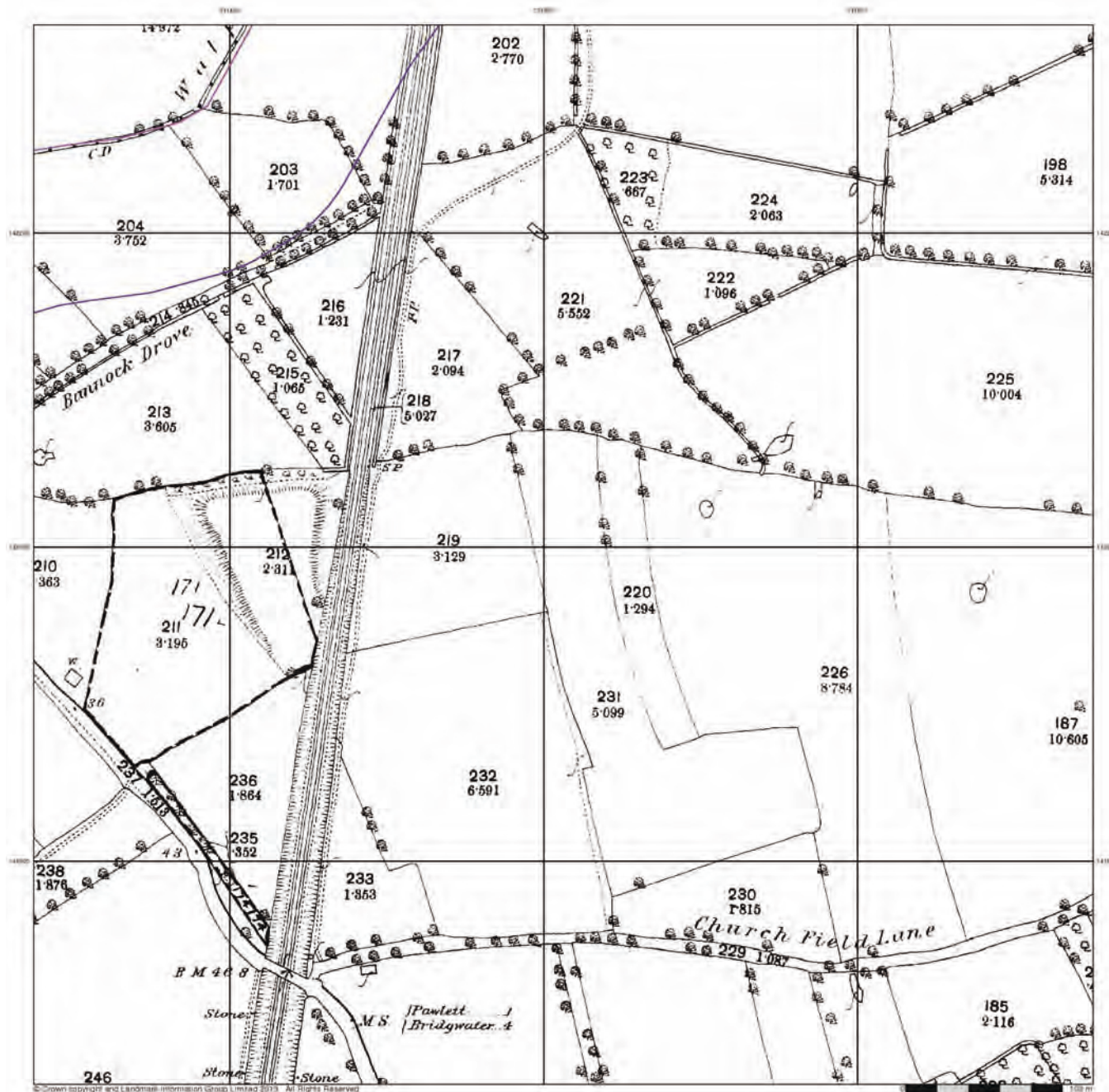
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Figure 17:



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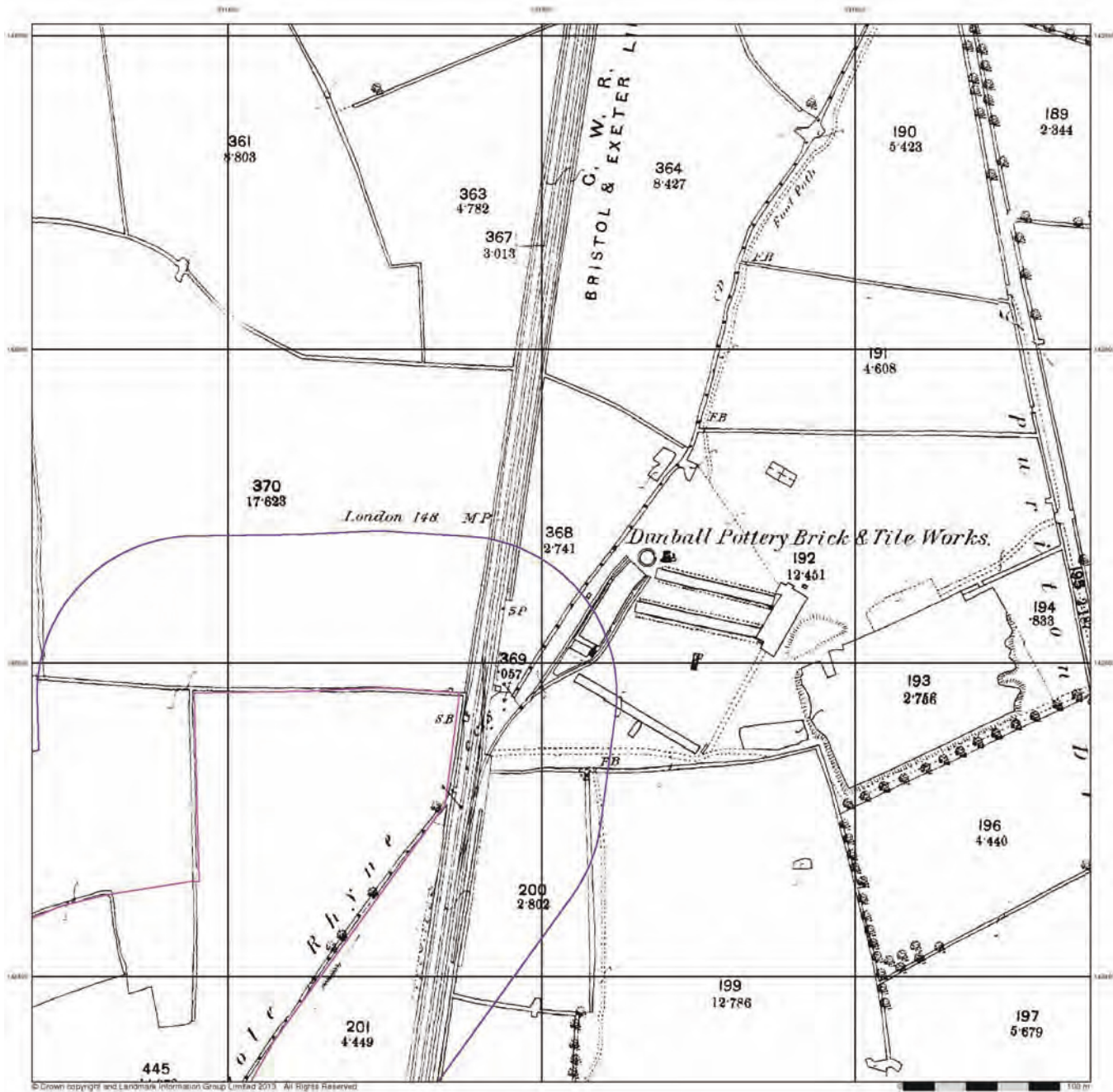
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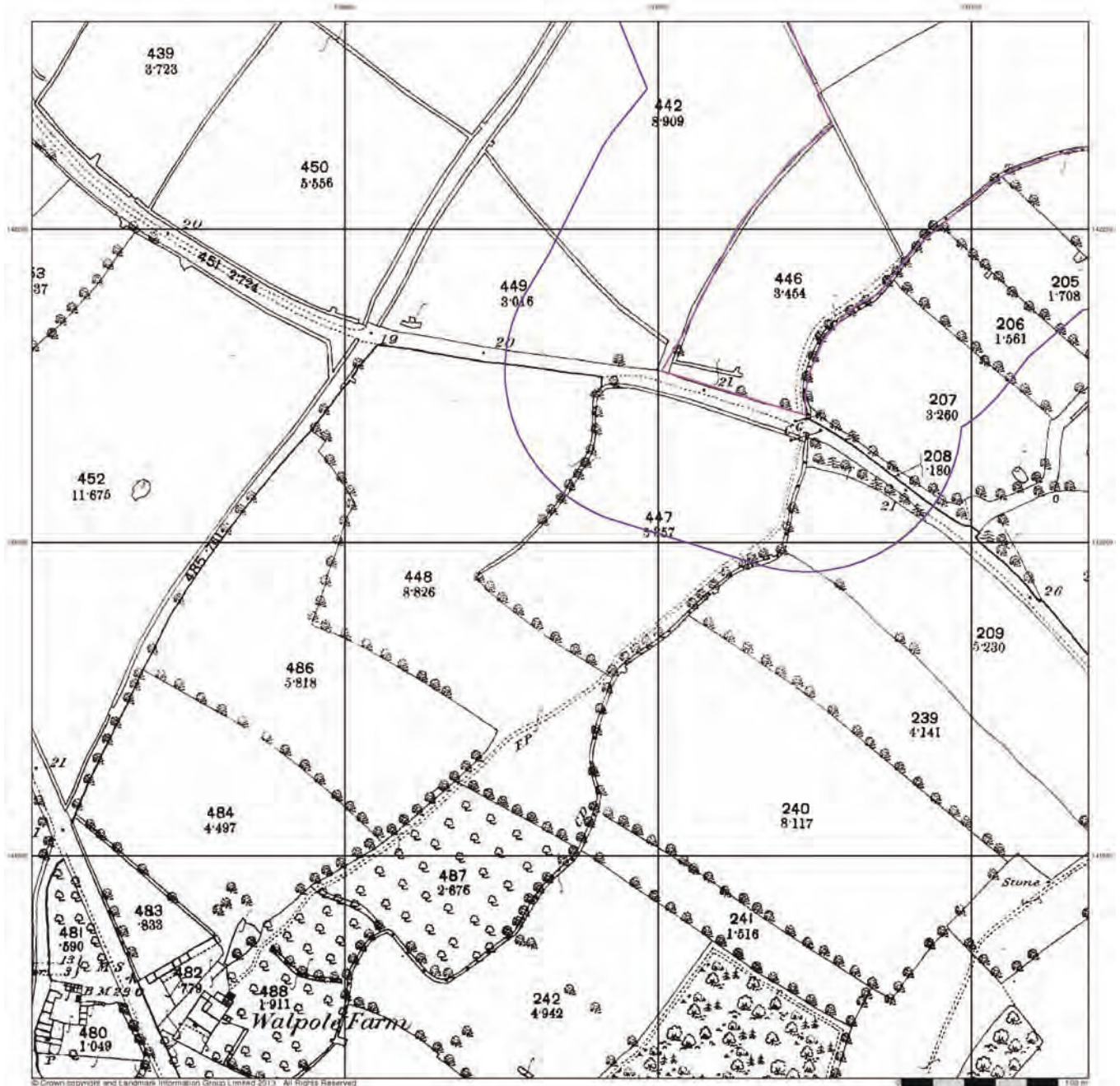
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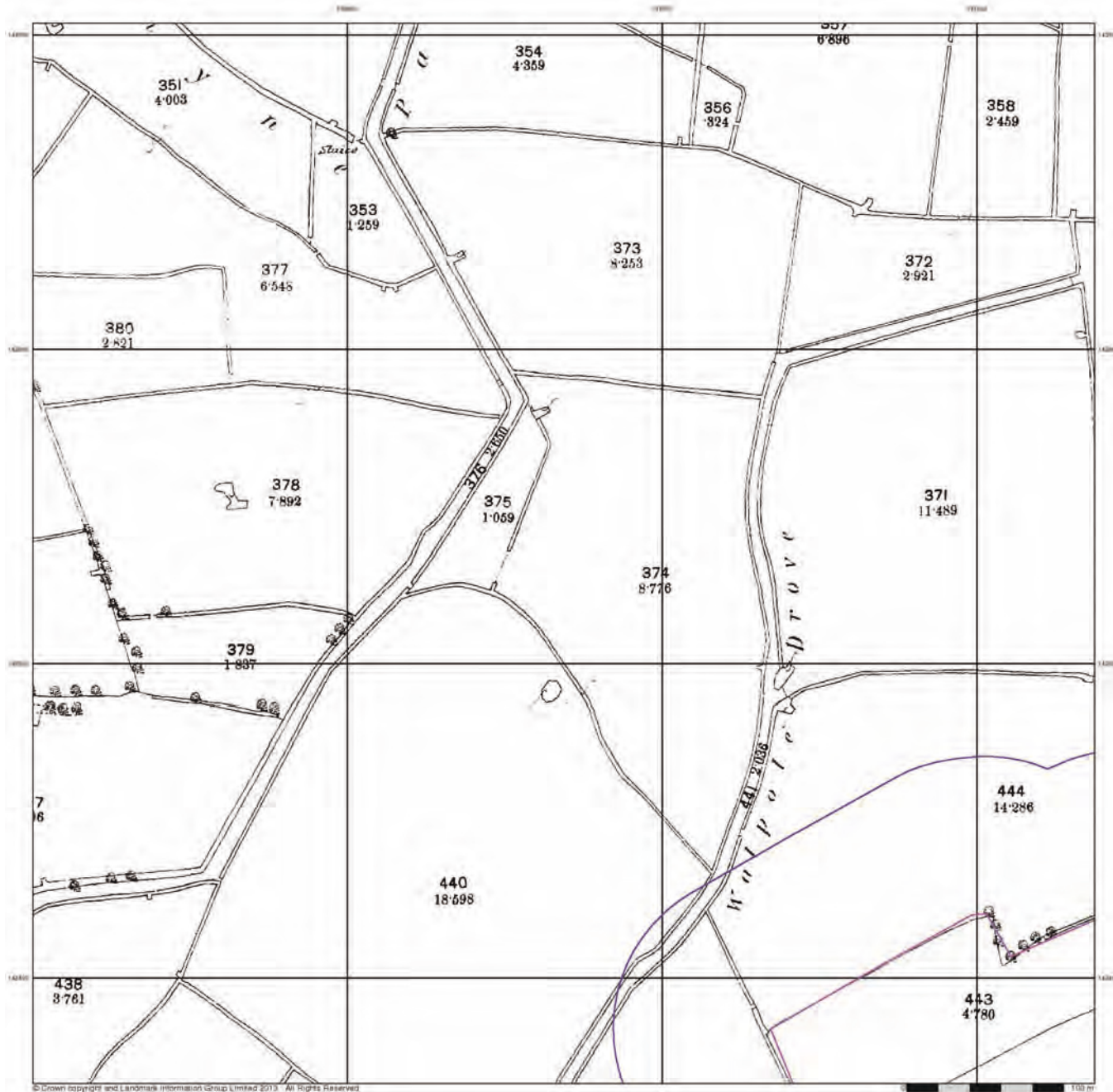


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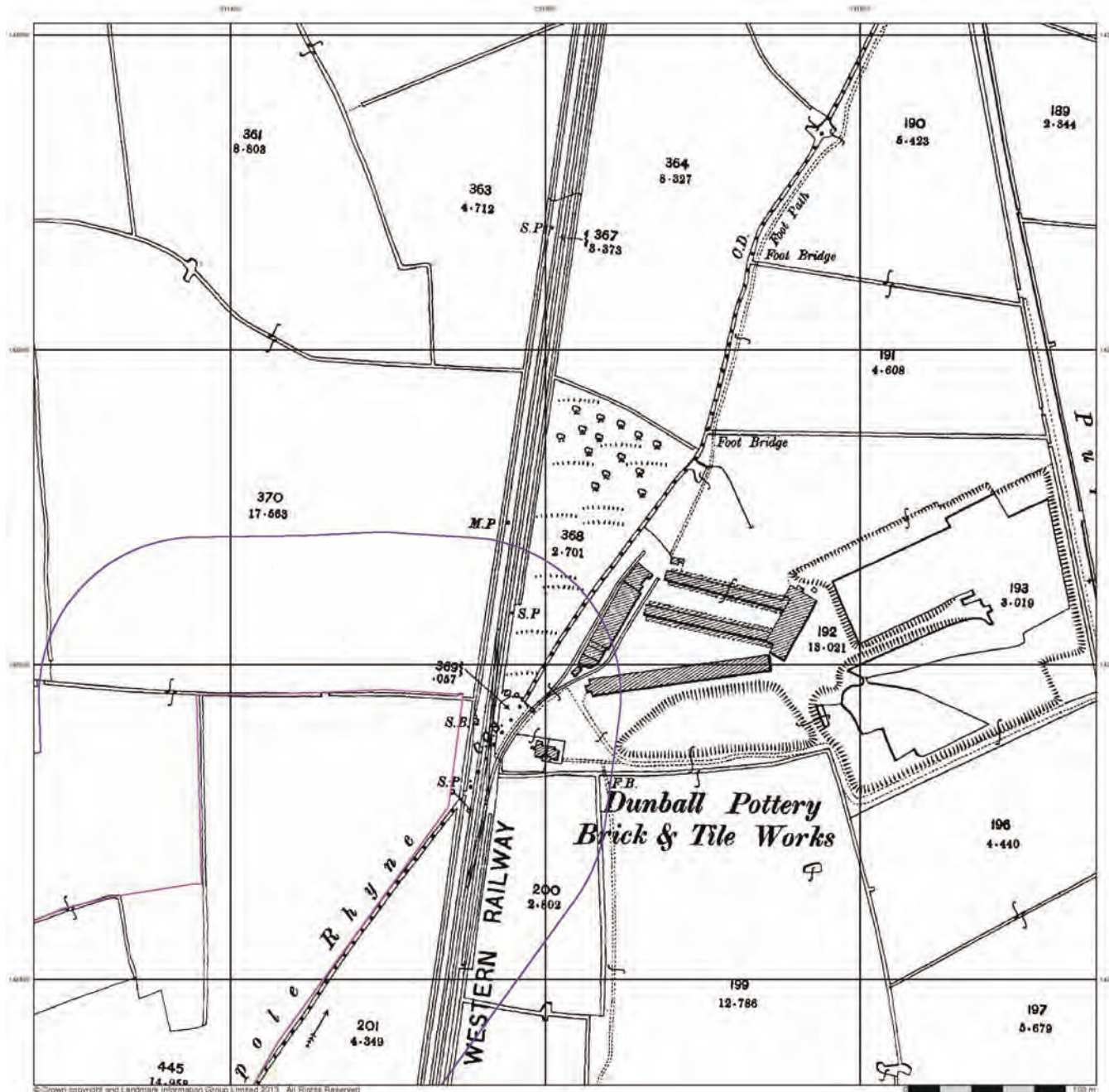
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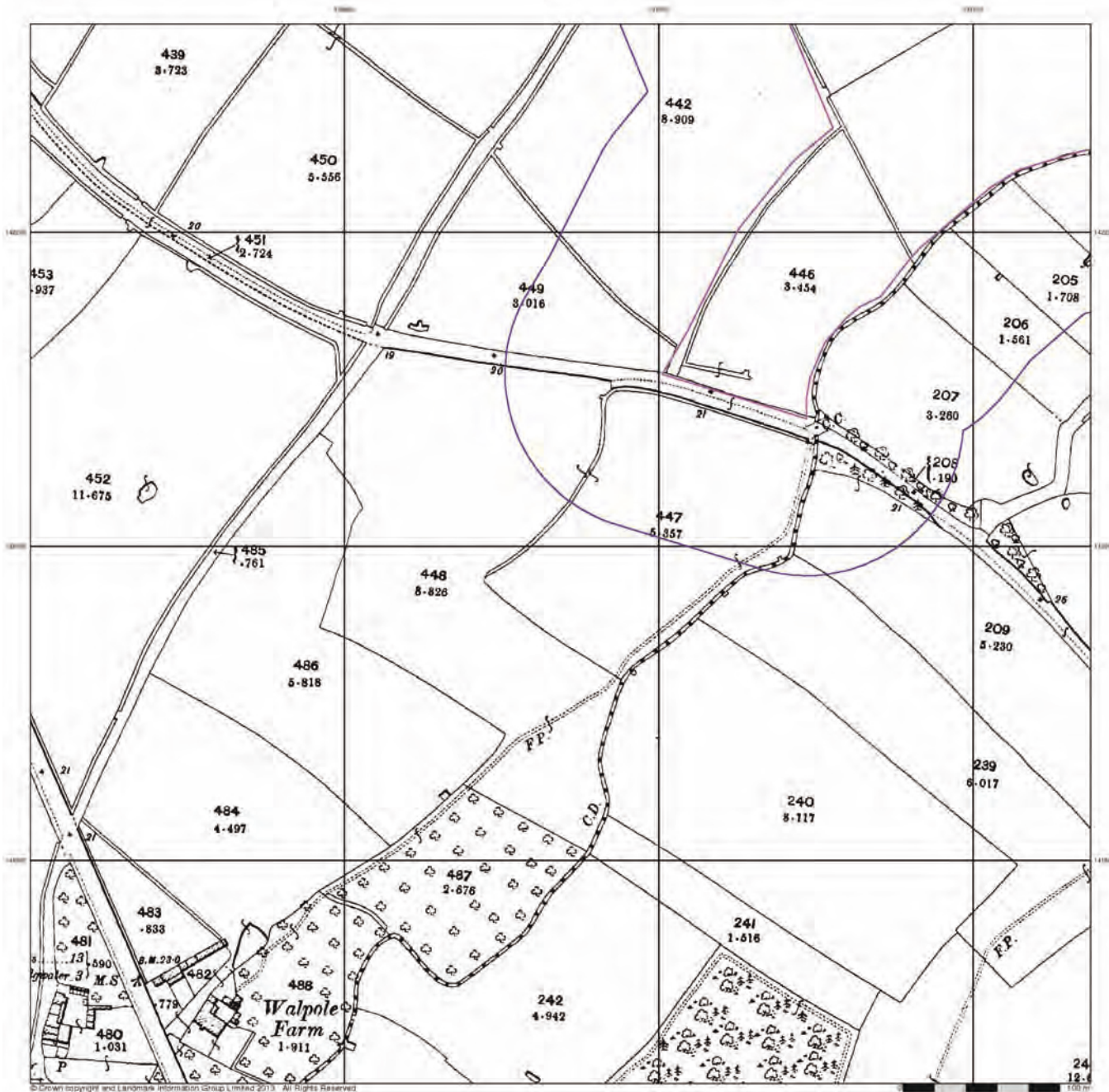
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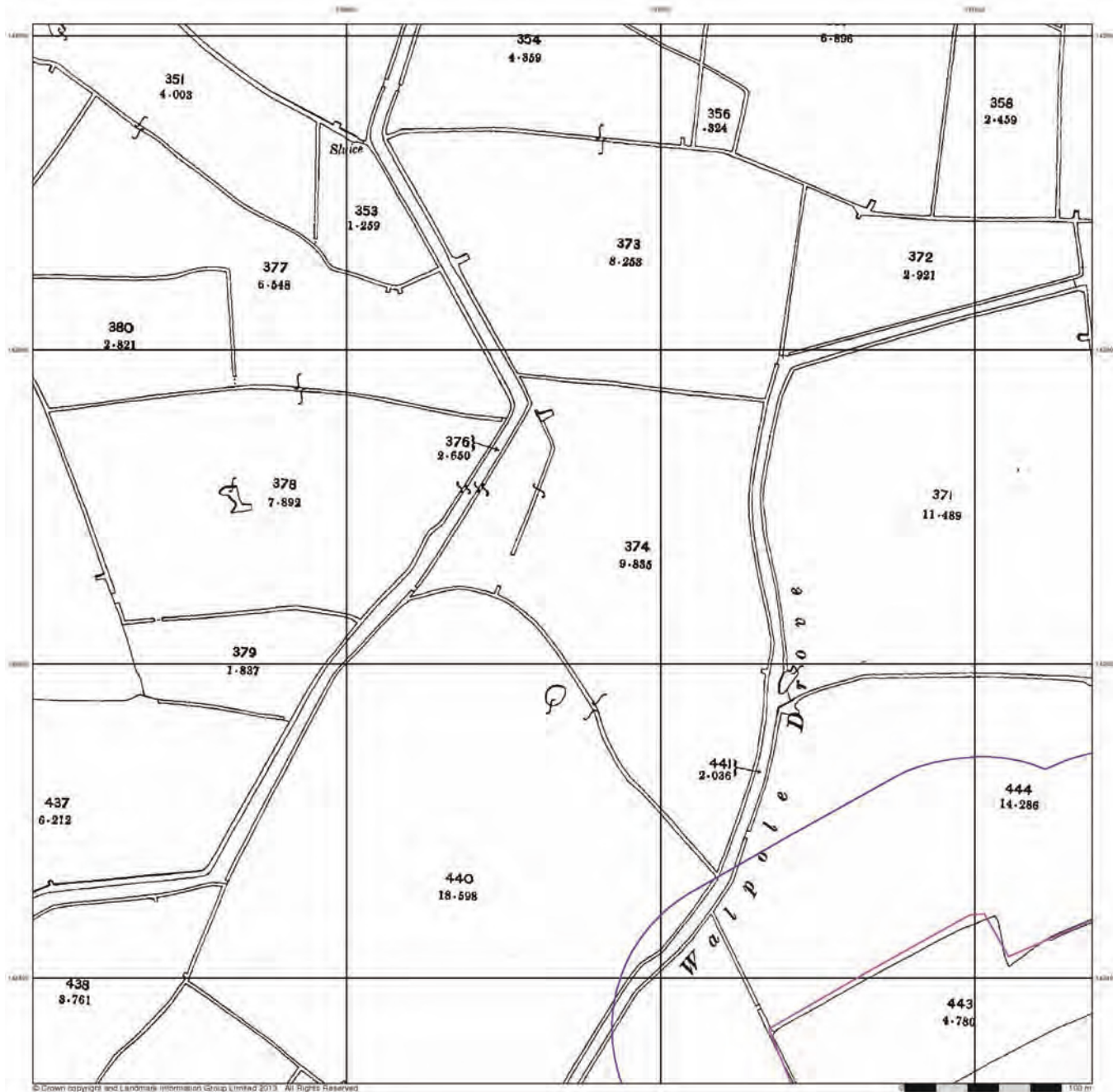
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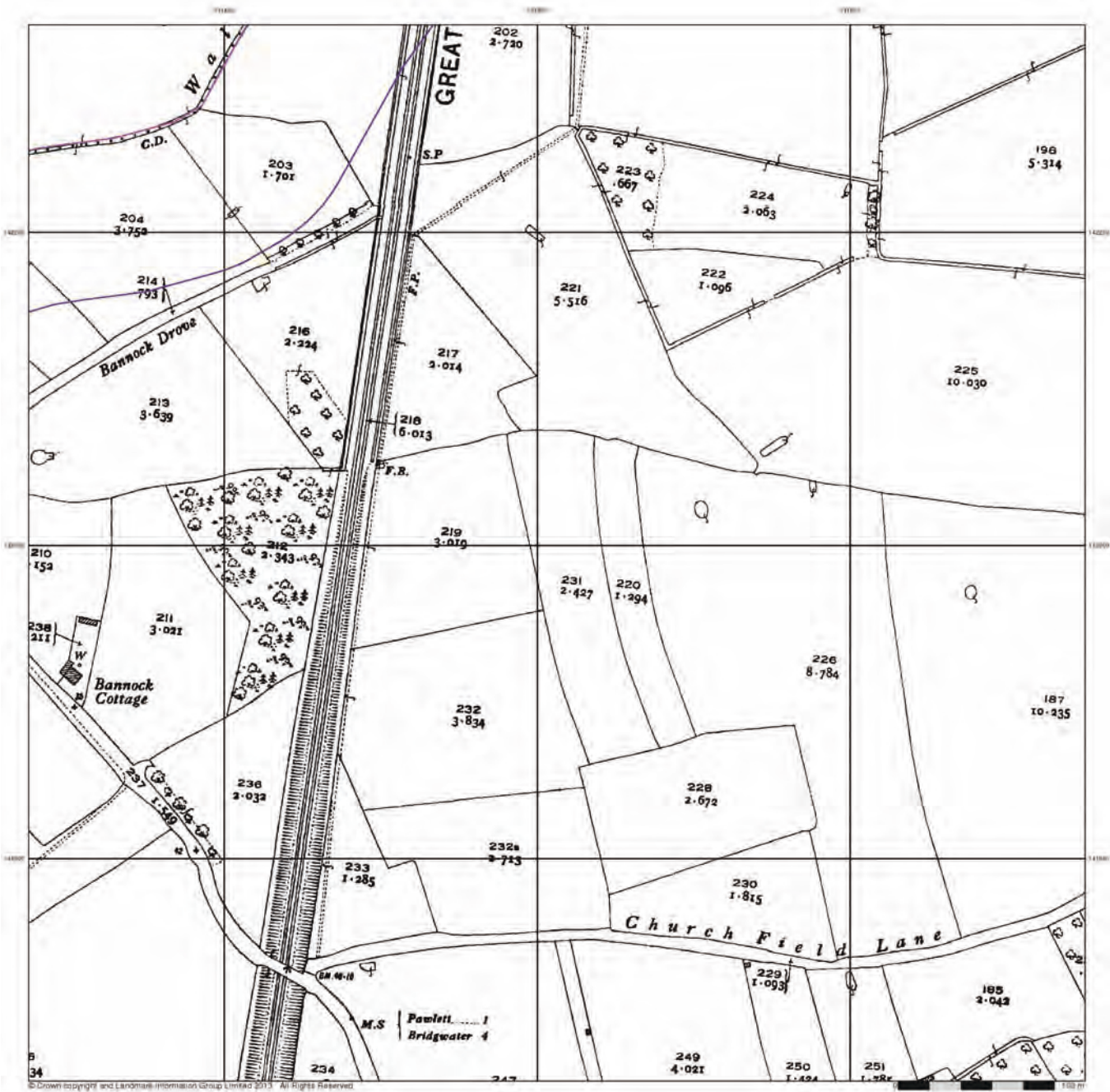




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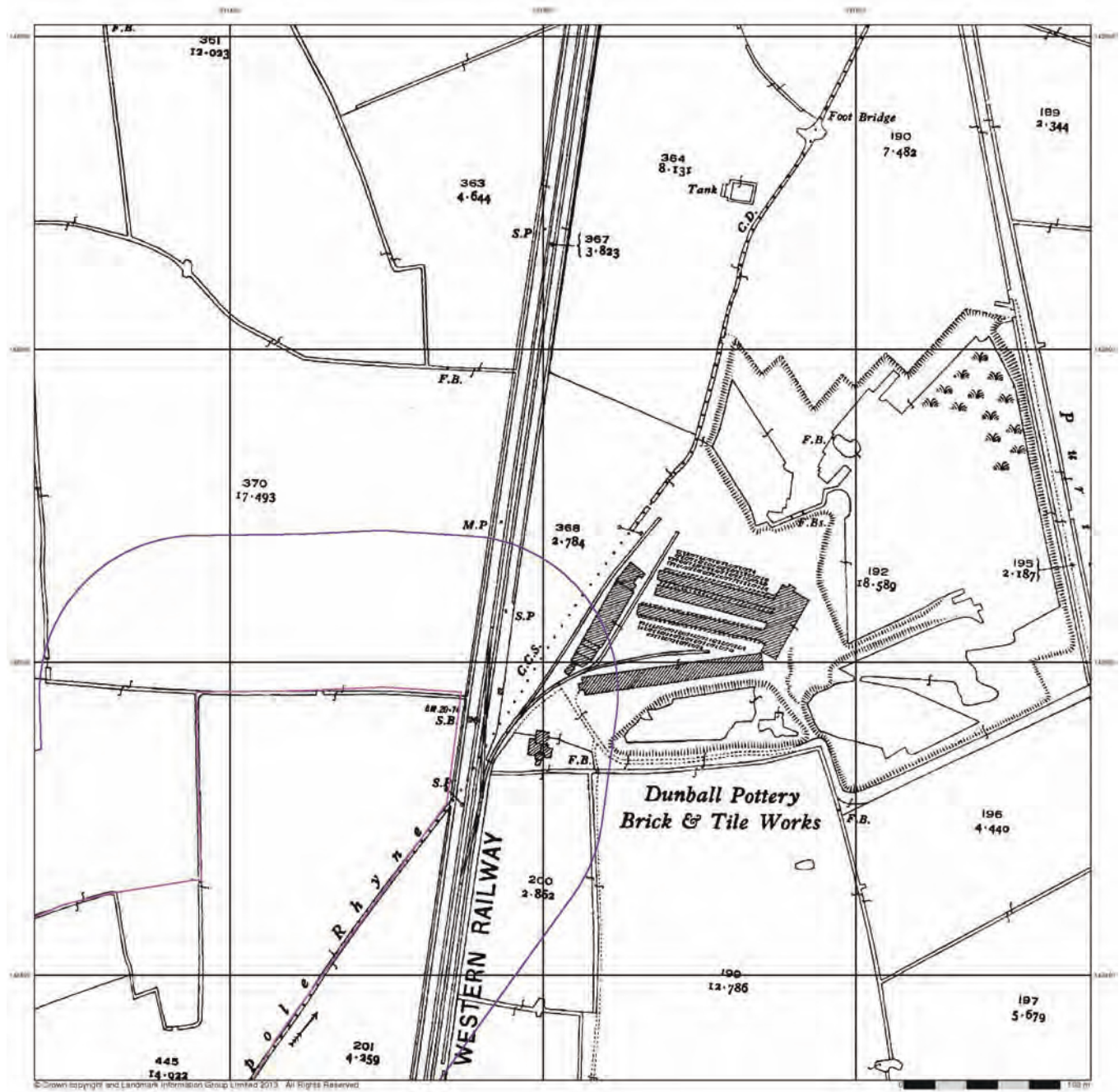


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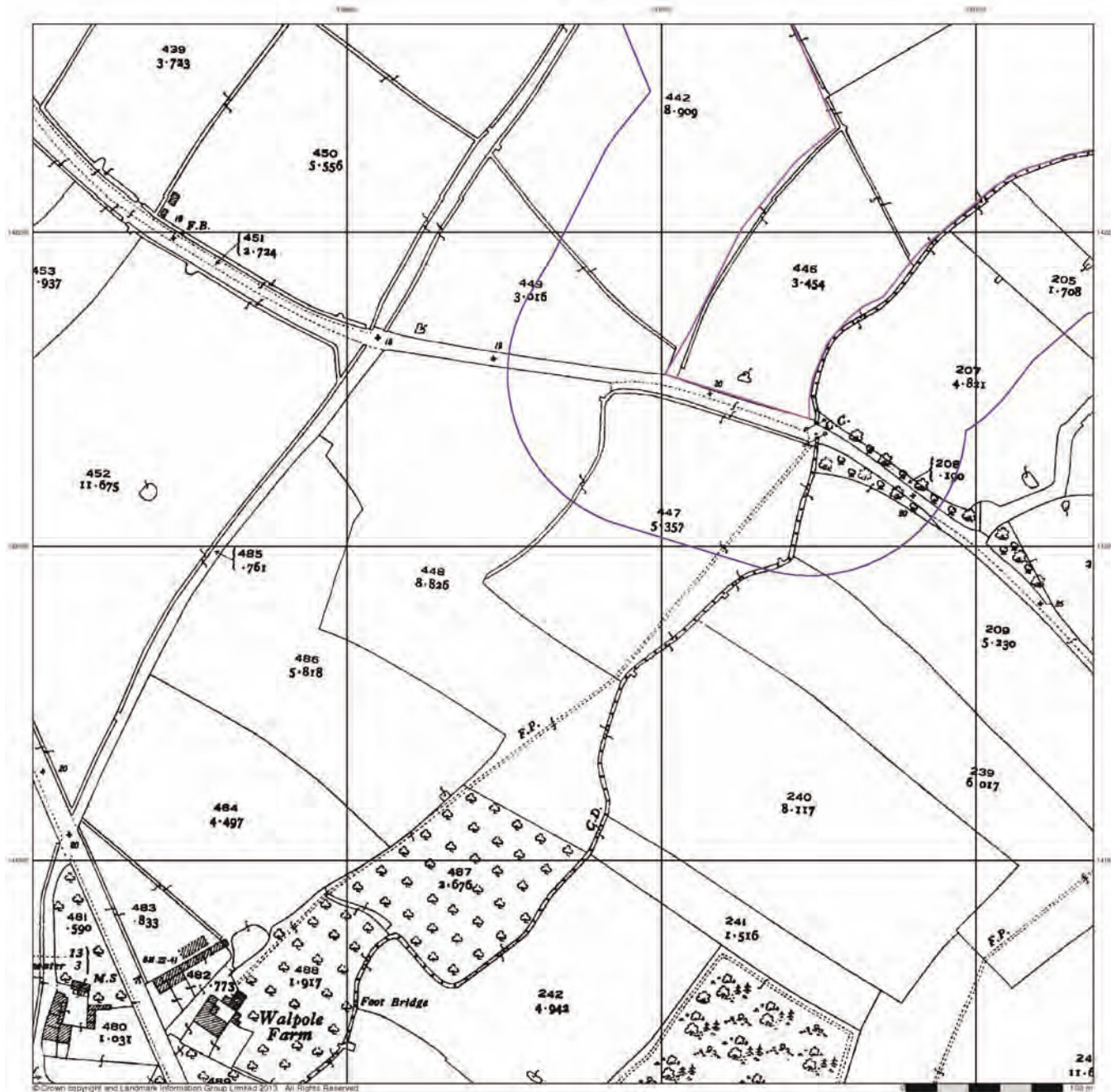




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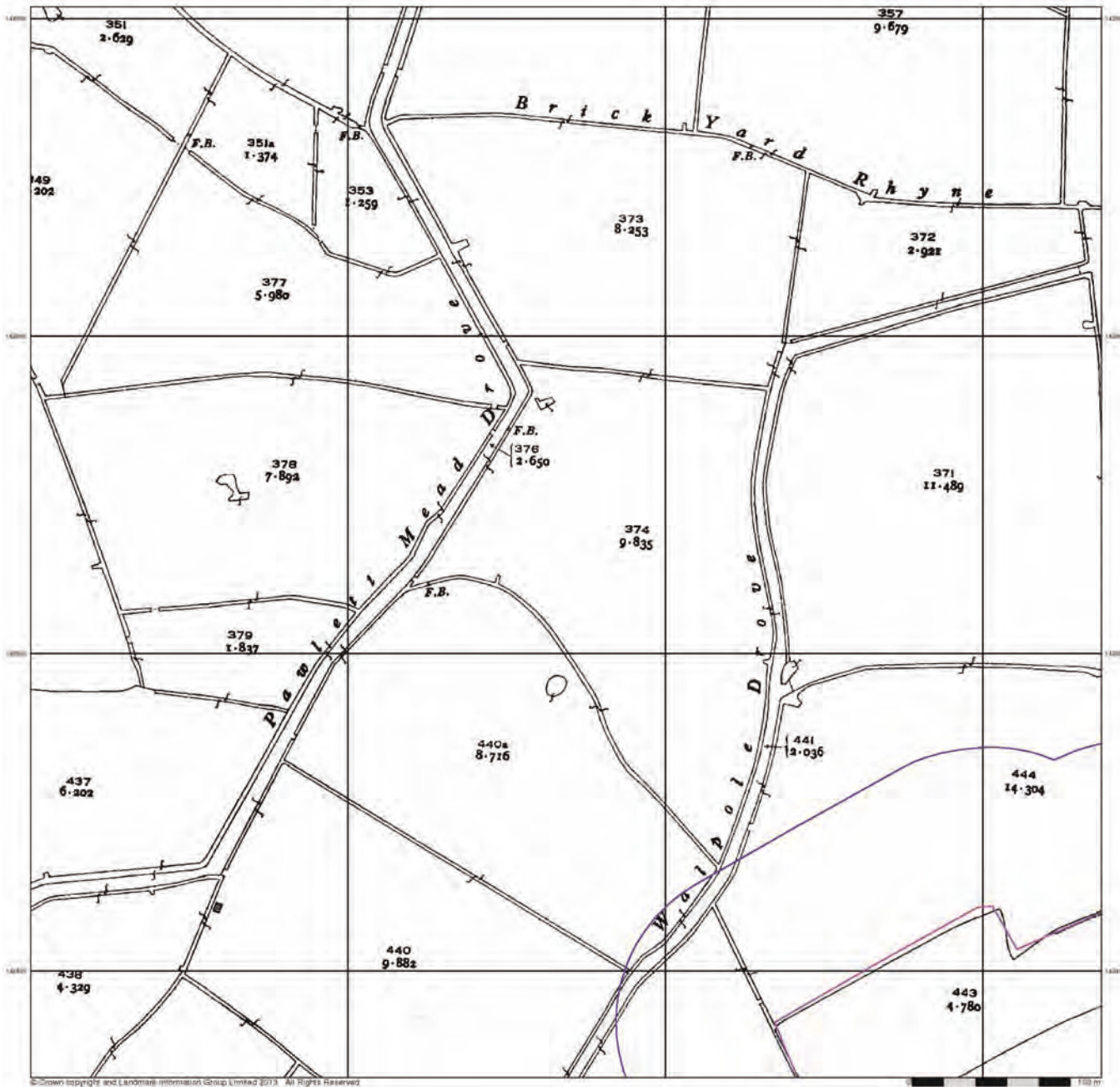
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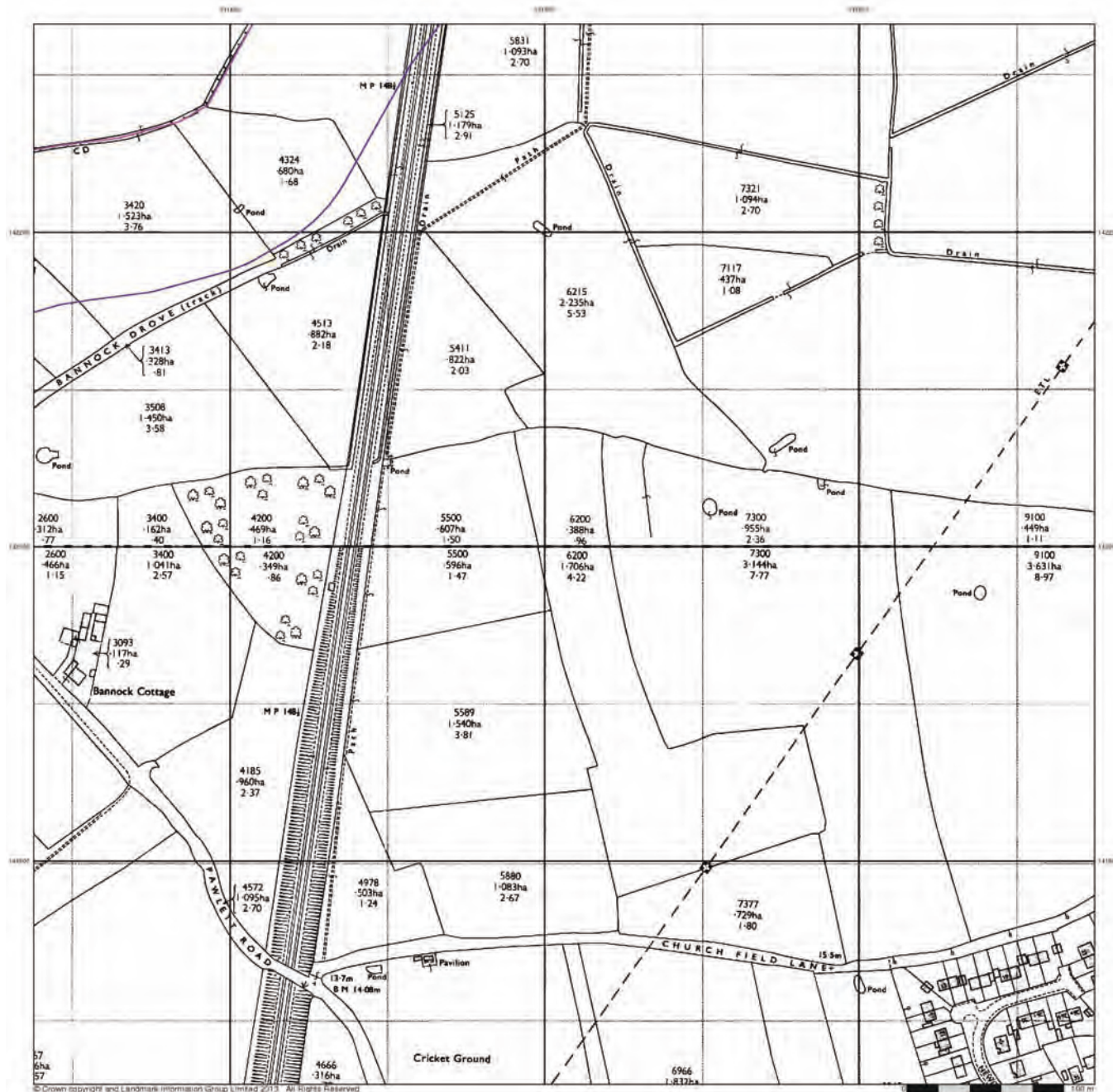
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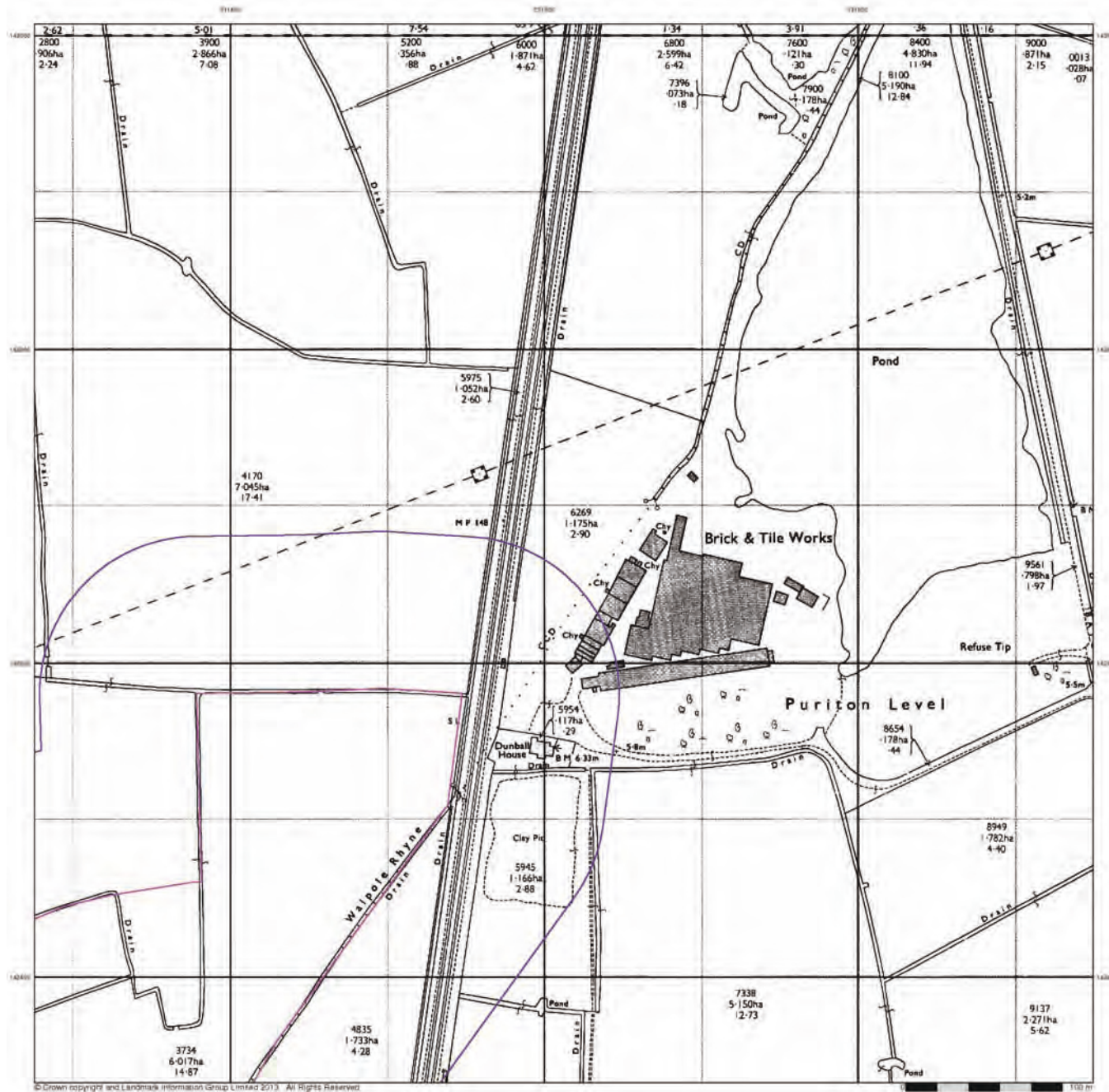
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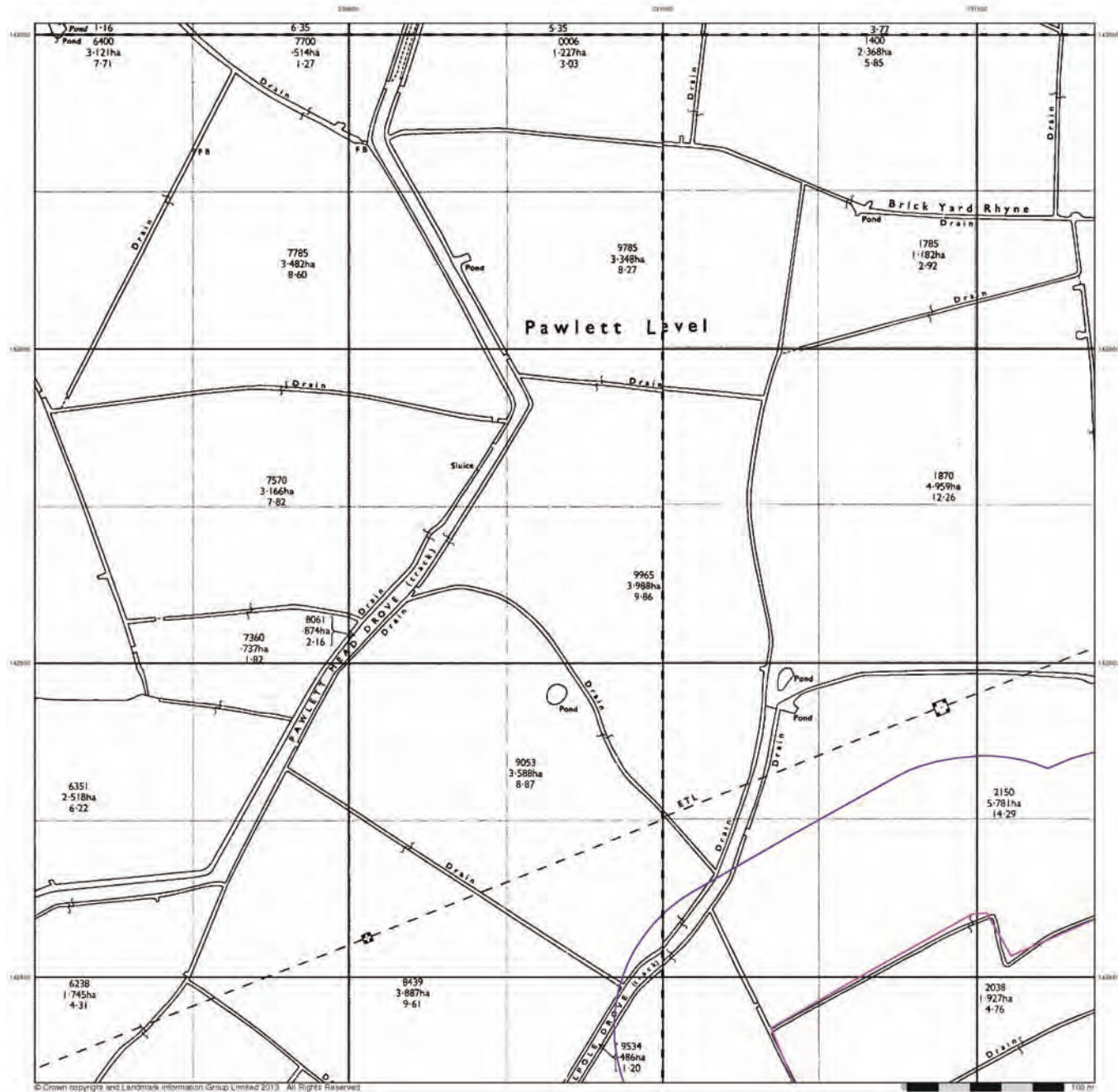
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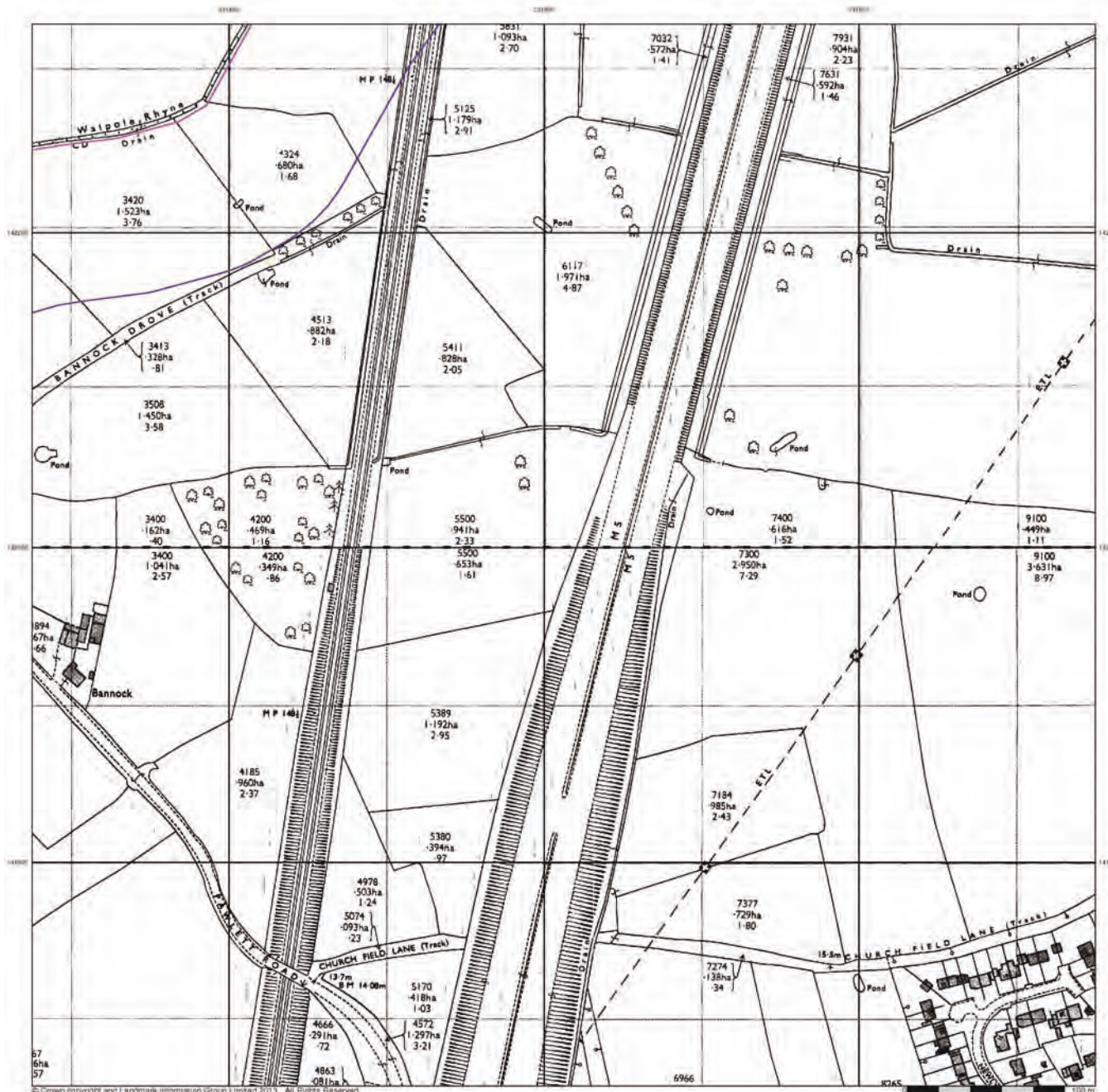
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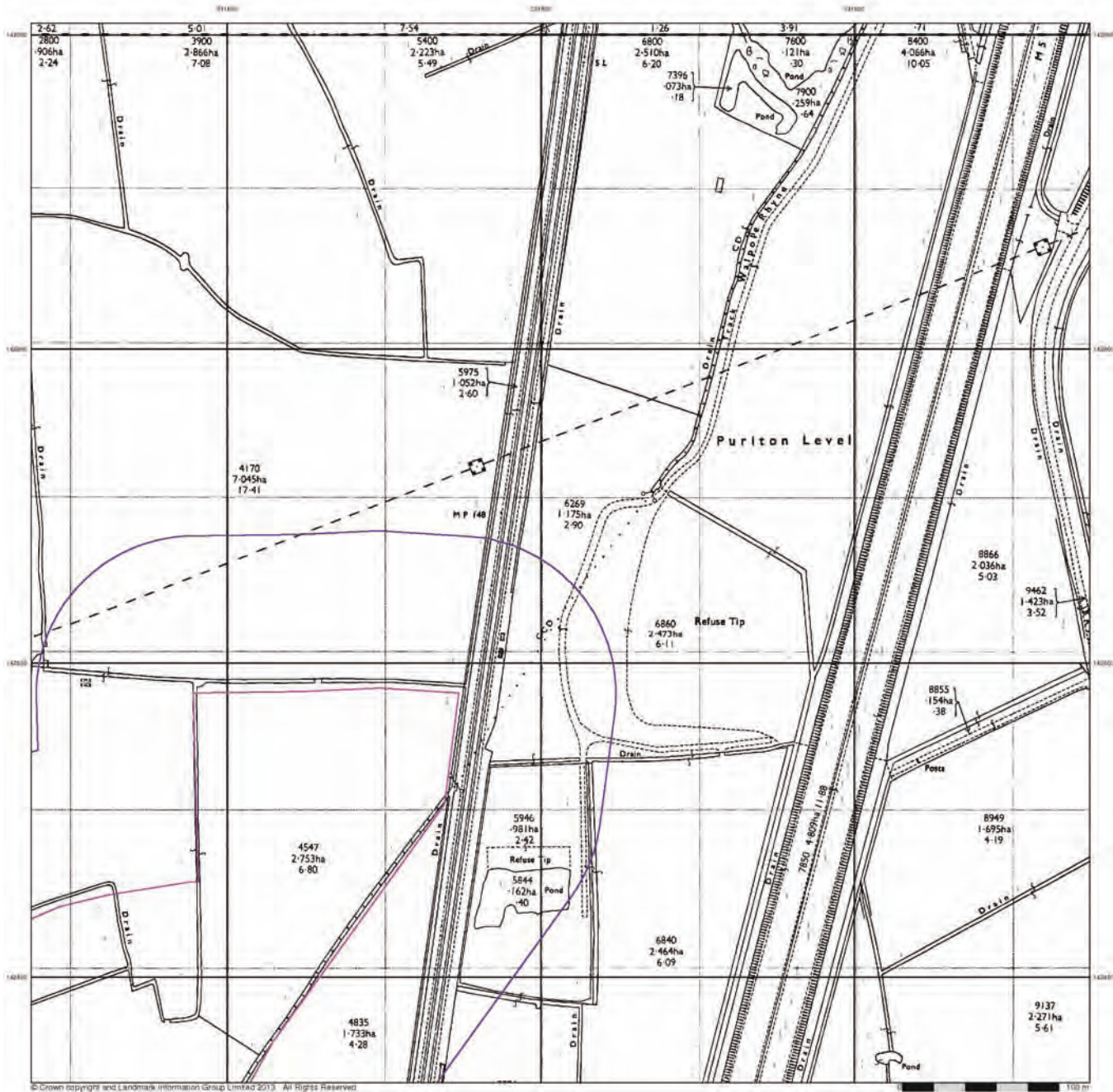
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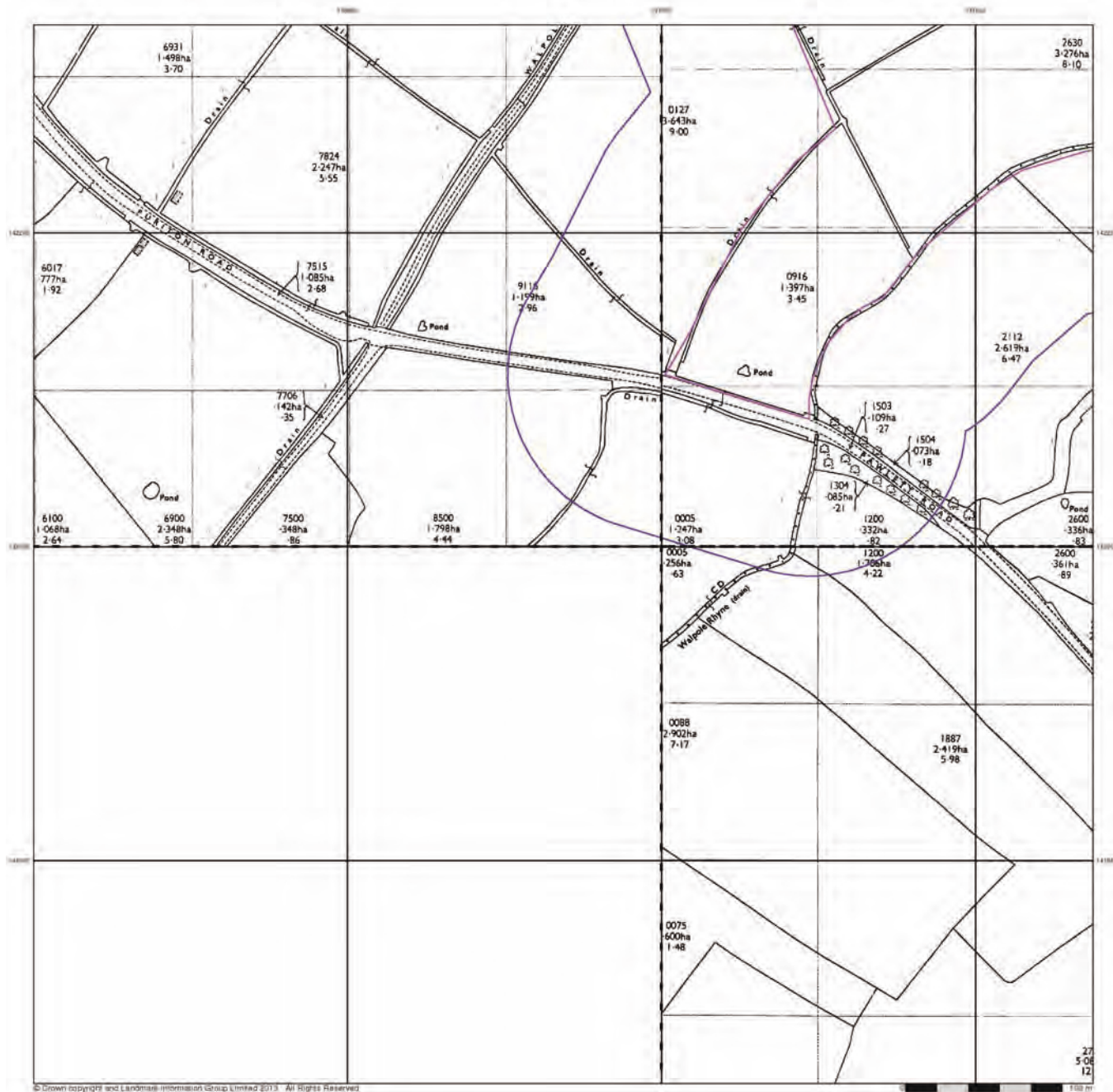
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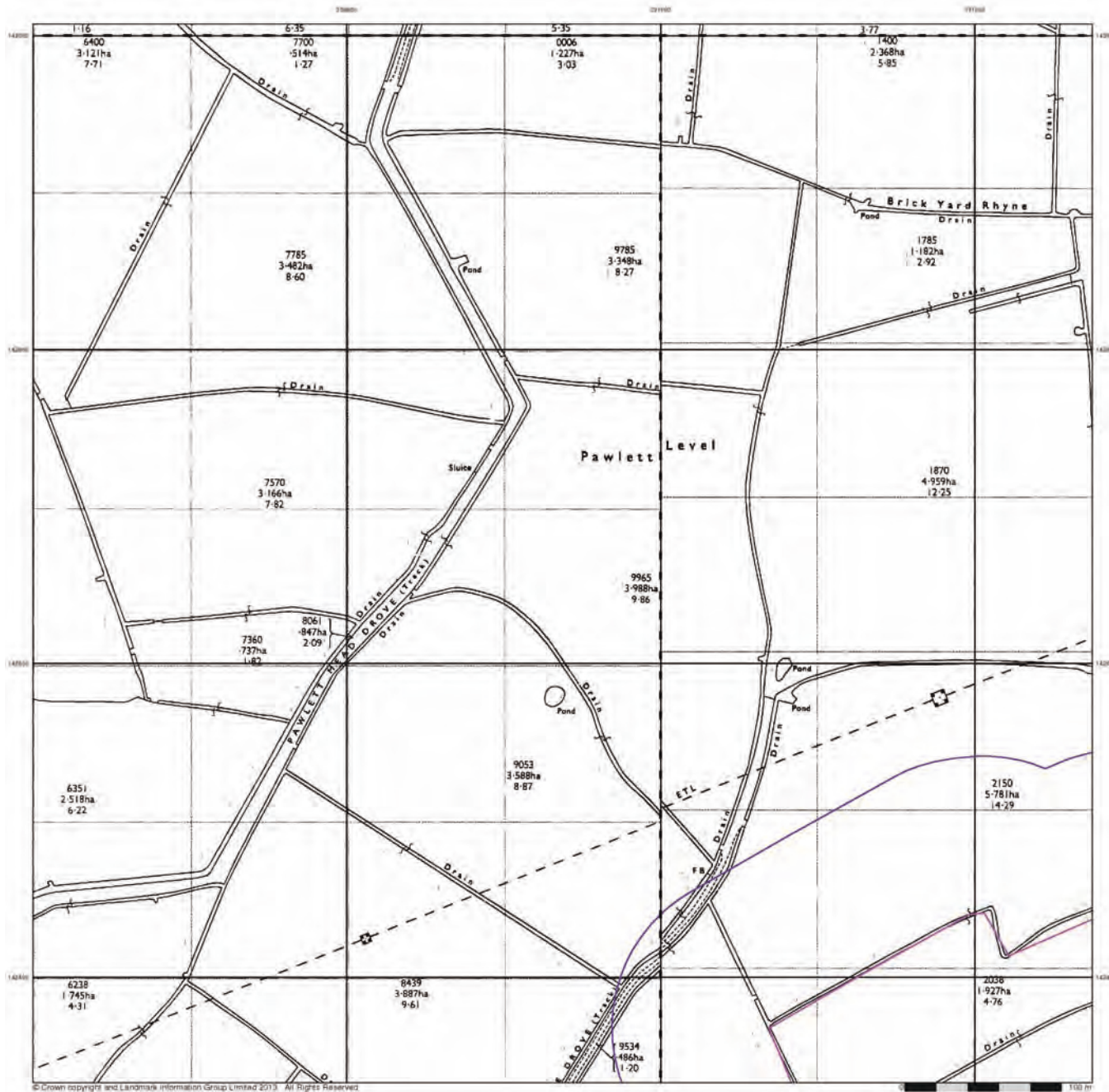
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Figure 37:





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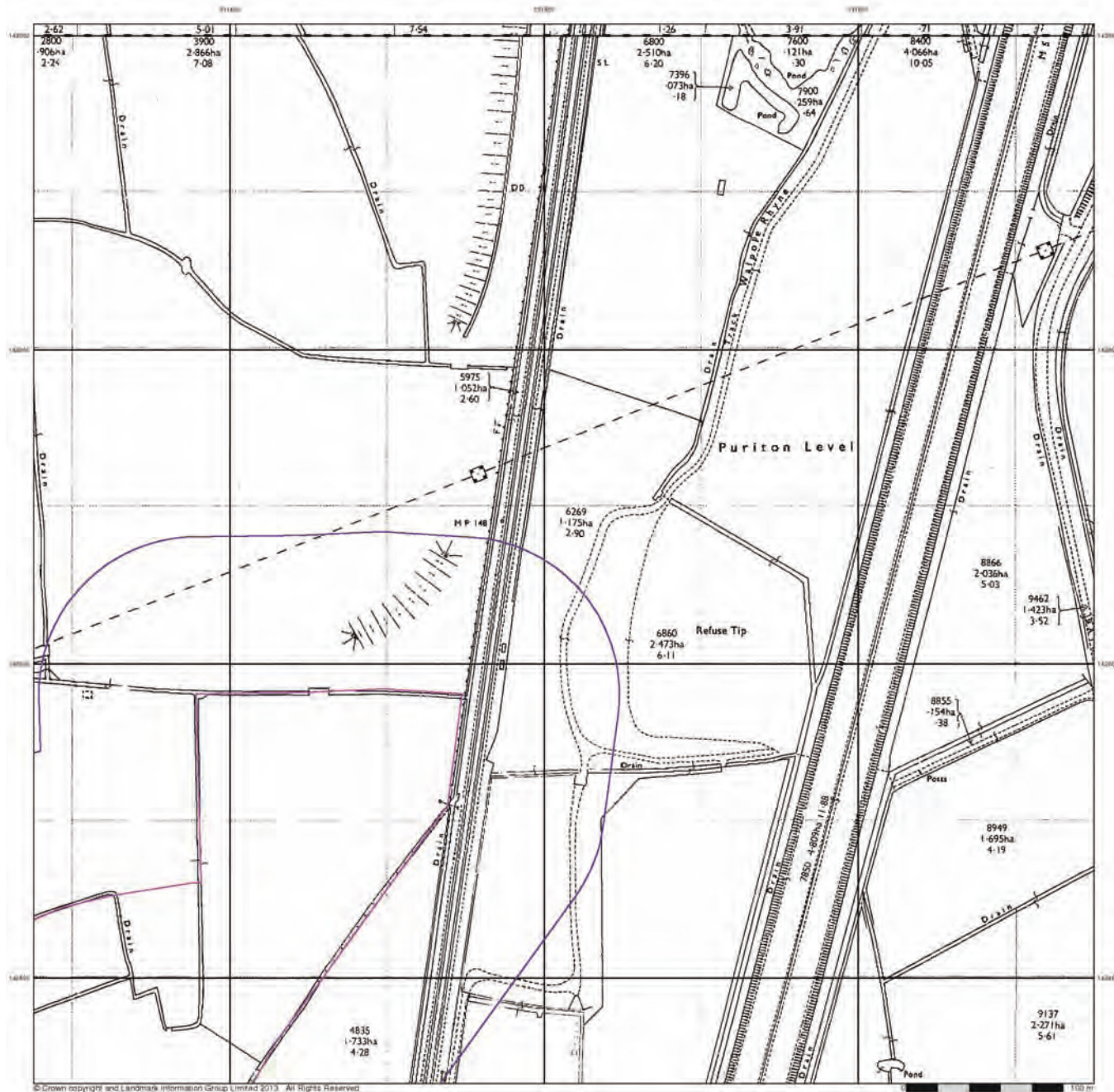
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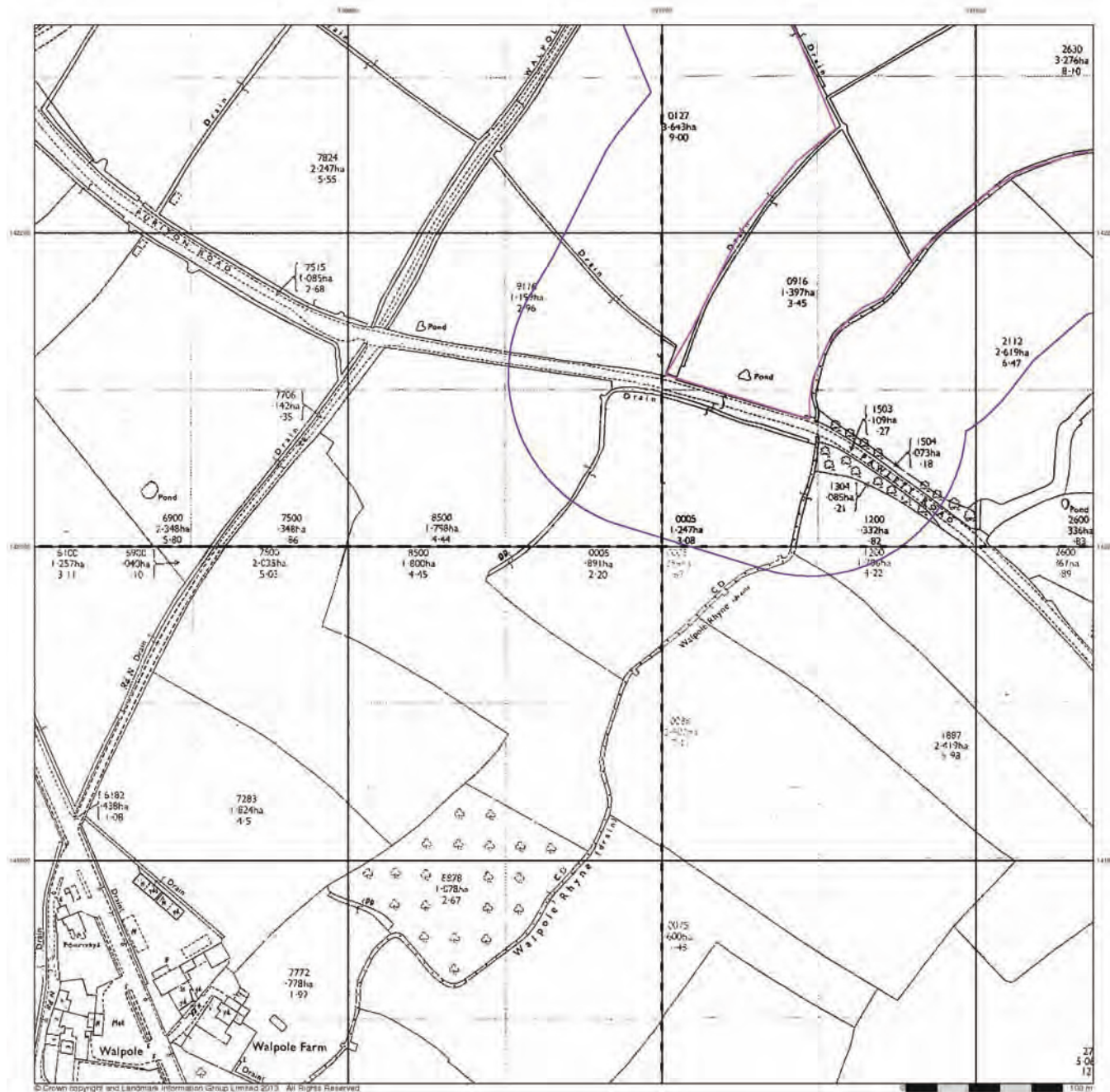
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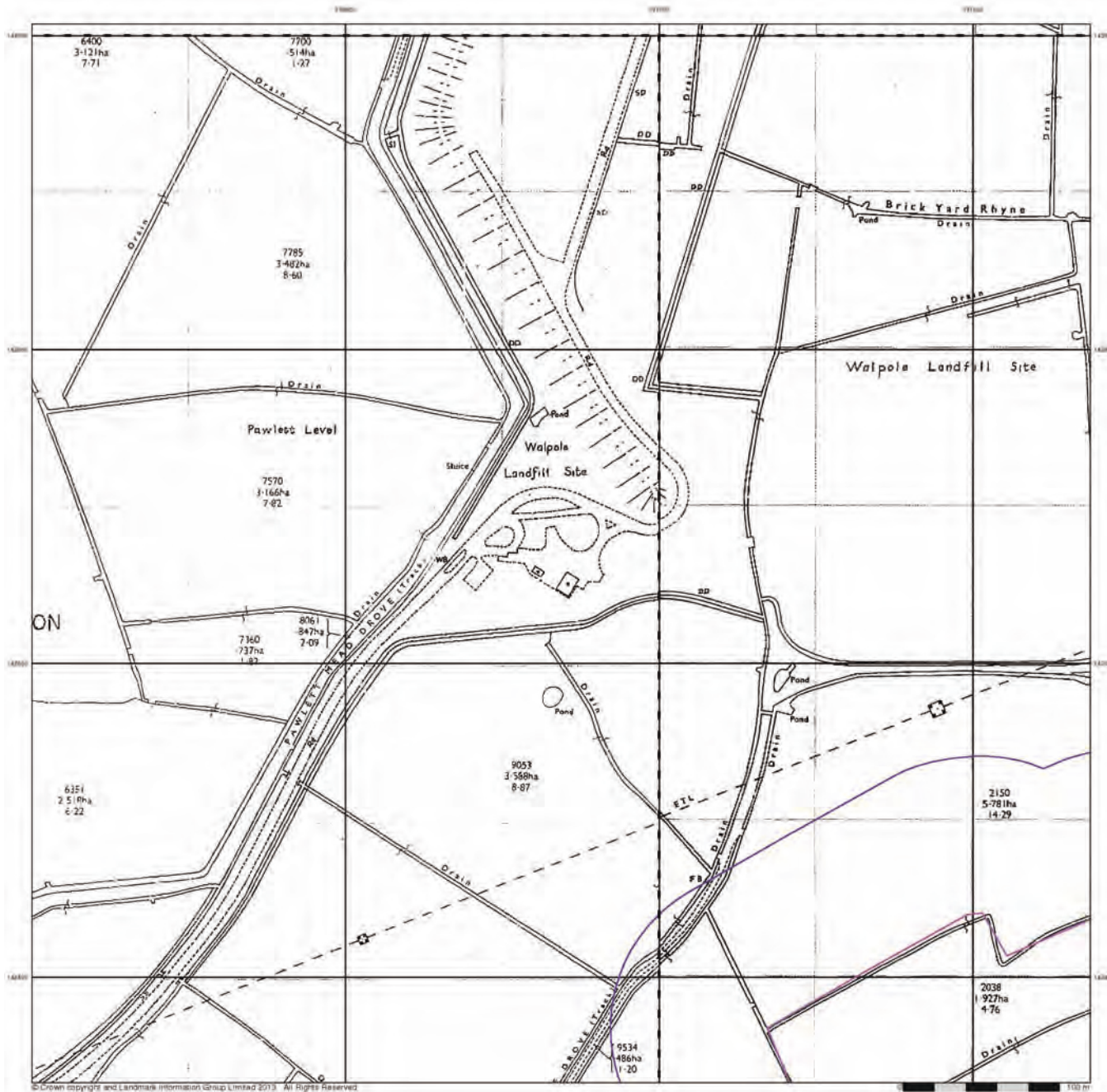
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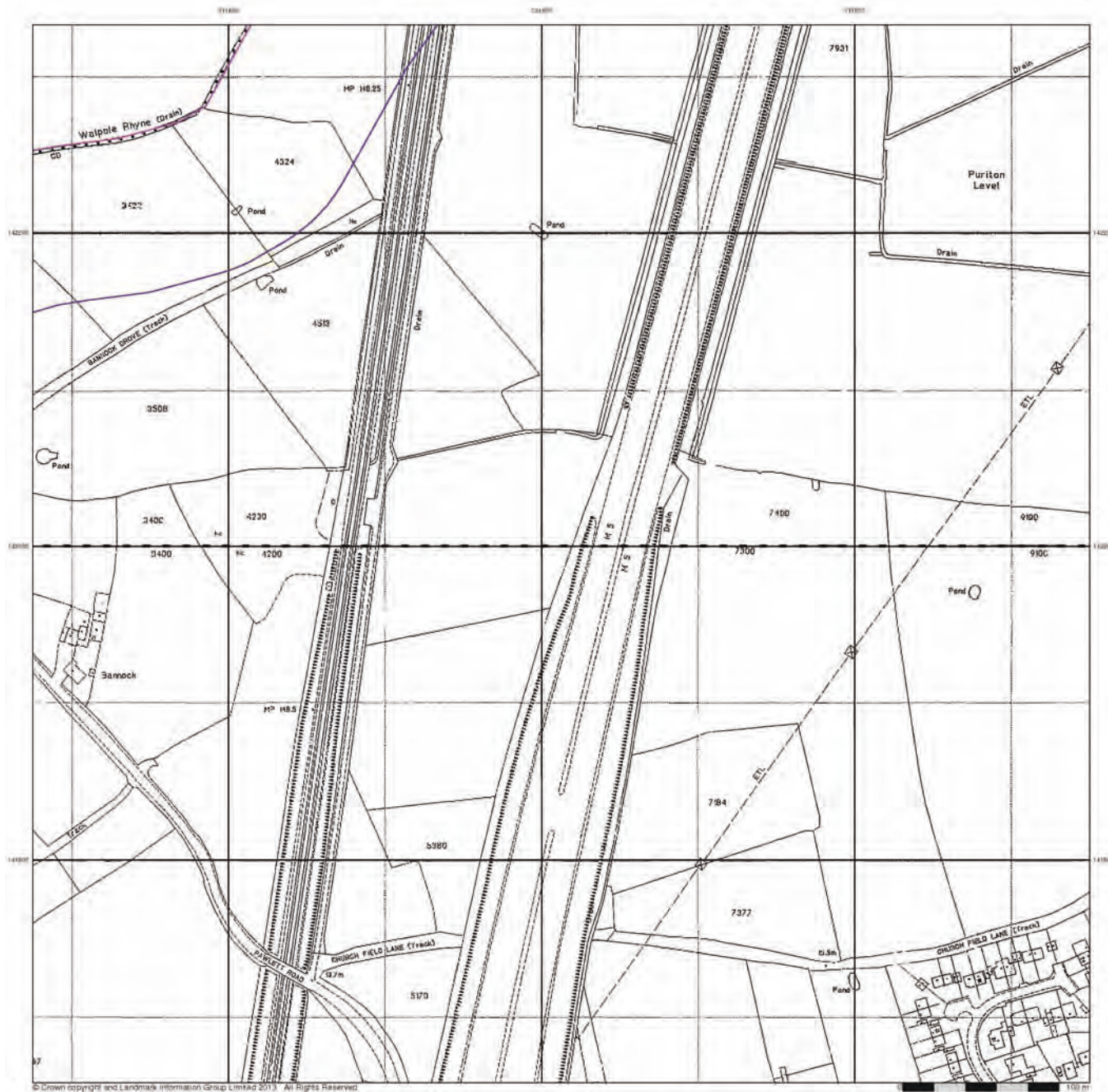
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Figure 41:



Drawing Title: 1995 OS

Date: 9/5/14

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Scale: See bar

Figure 42:





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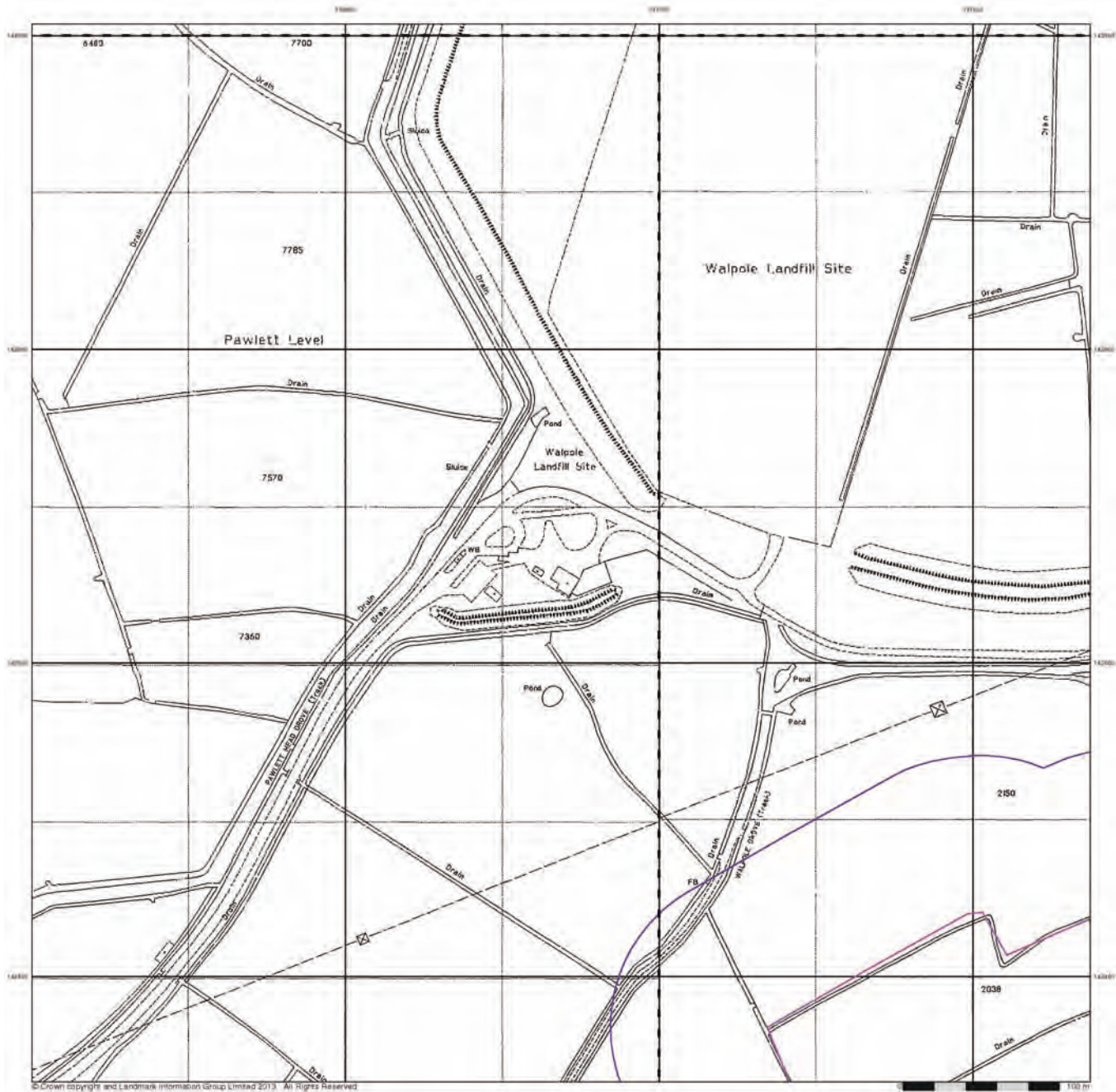
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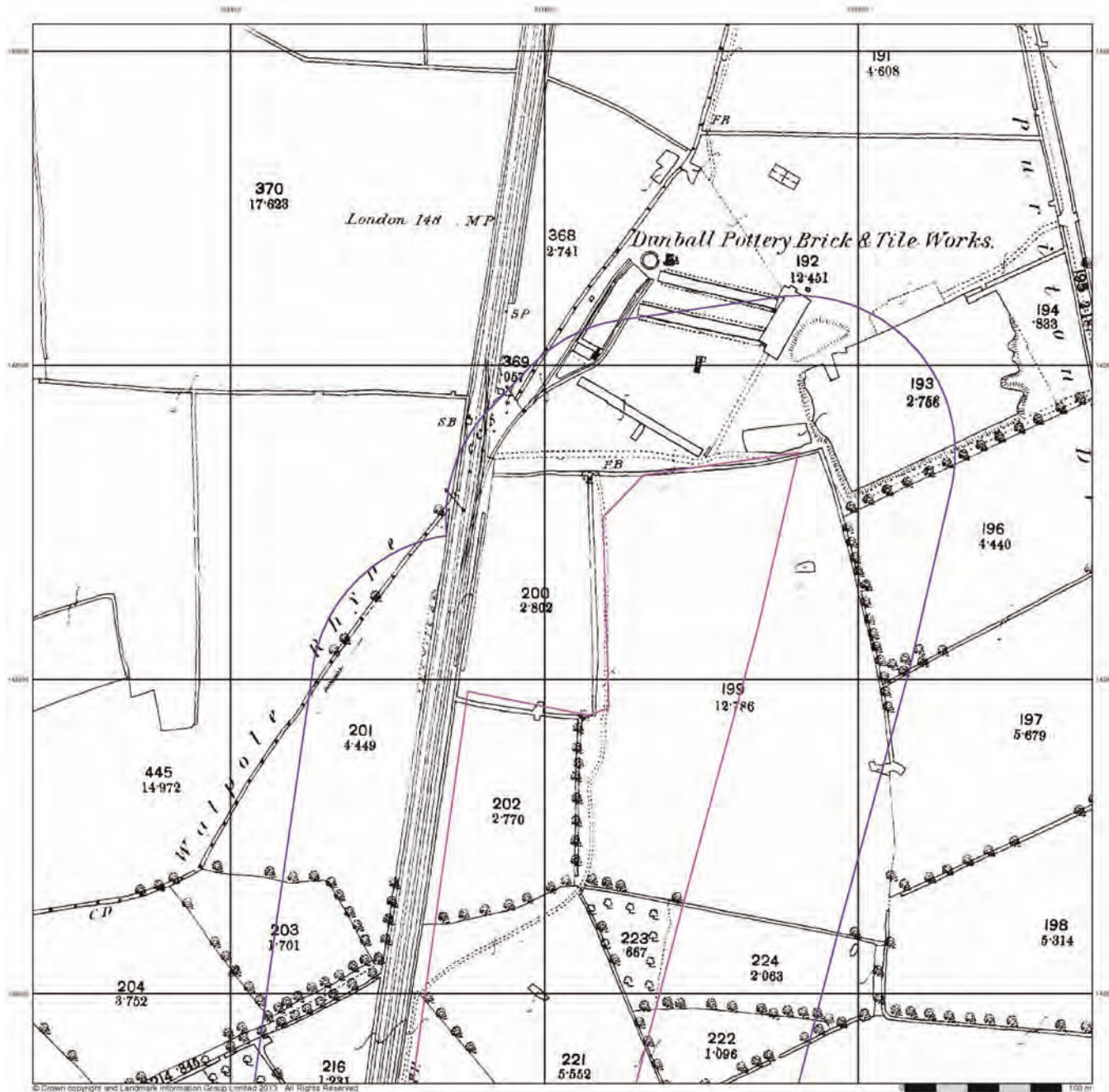
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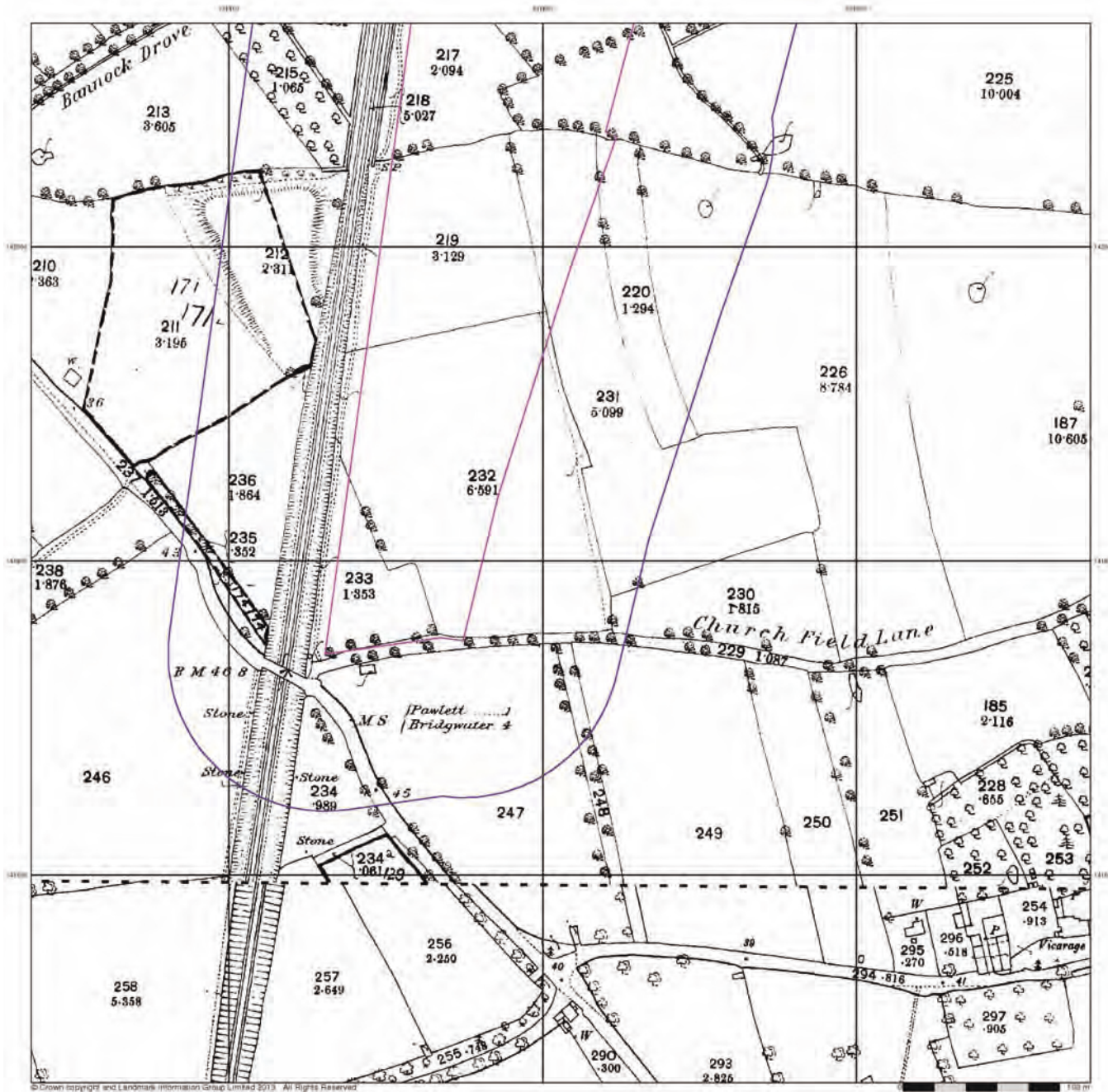
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Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

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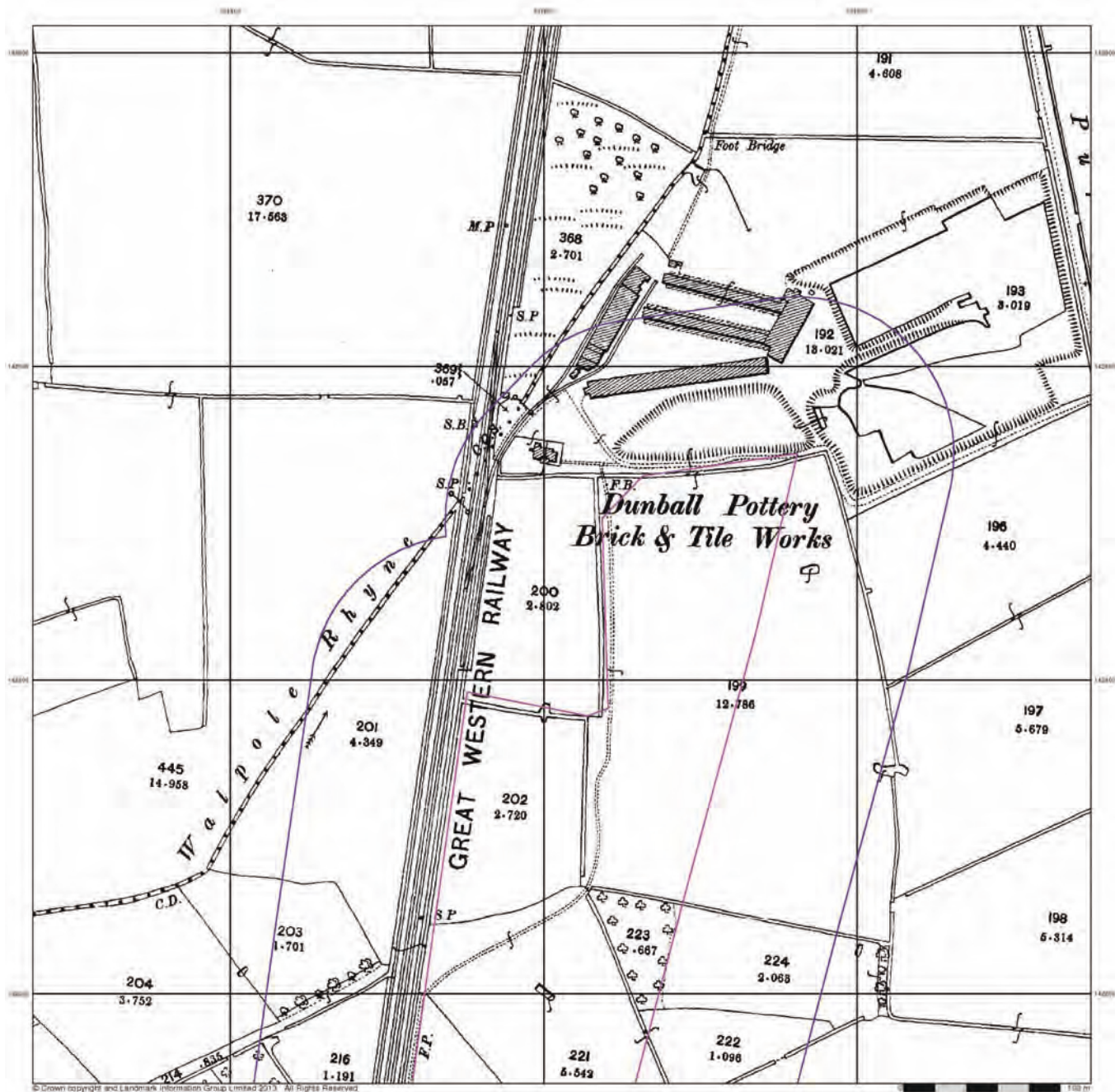
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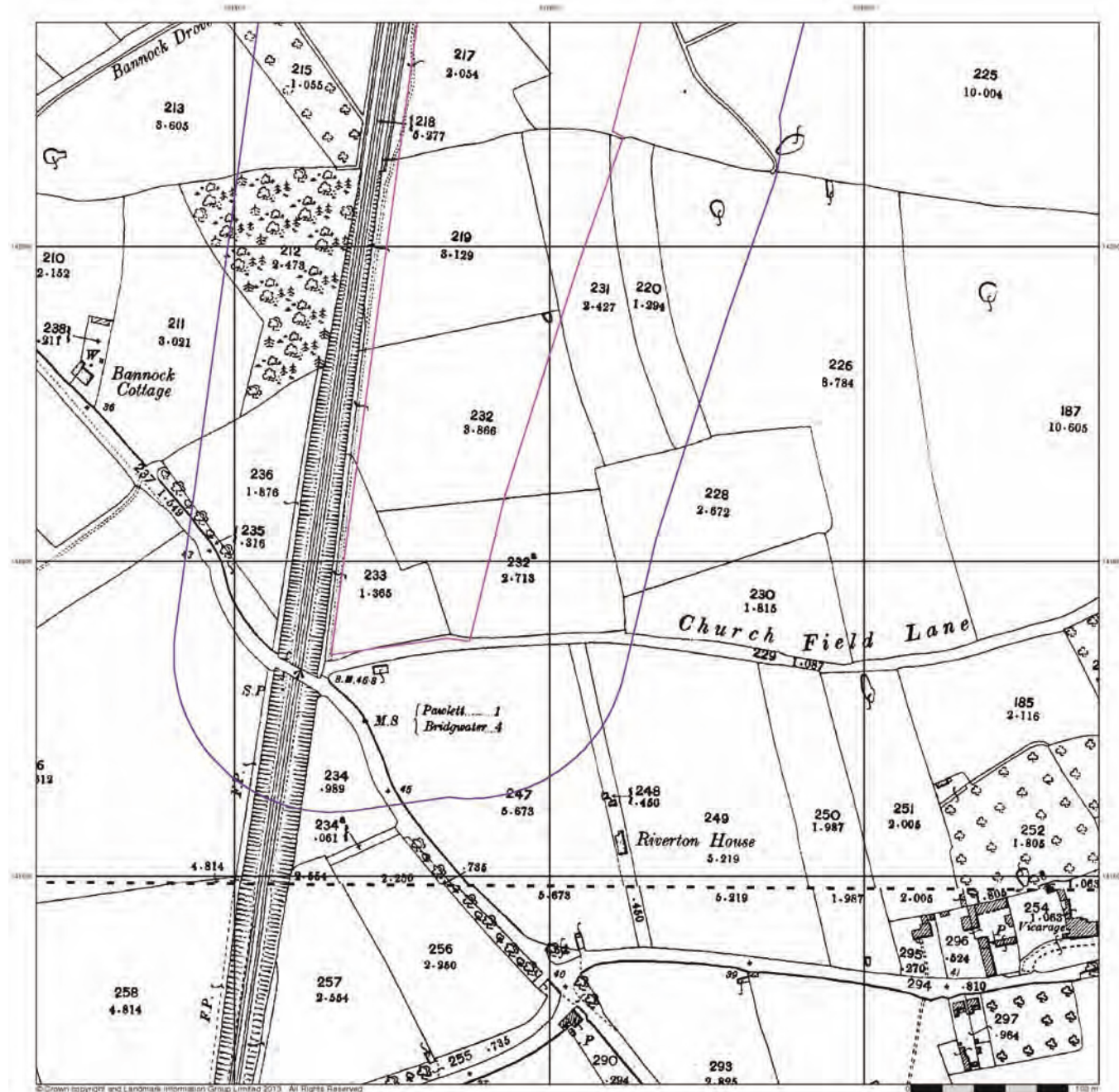
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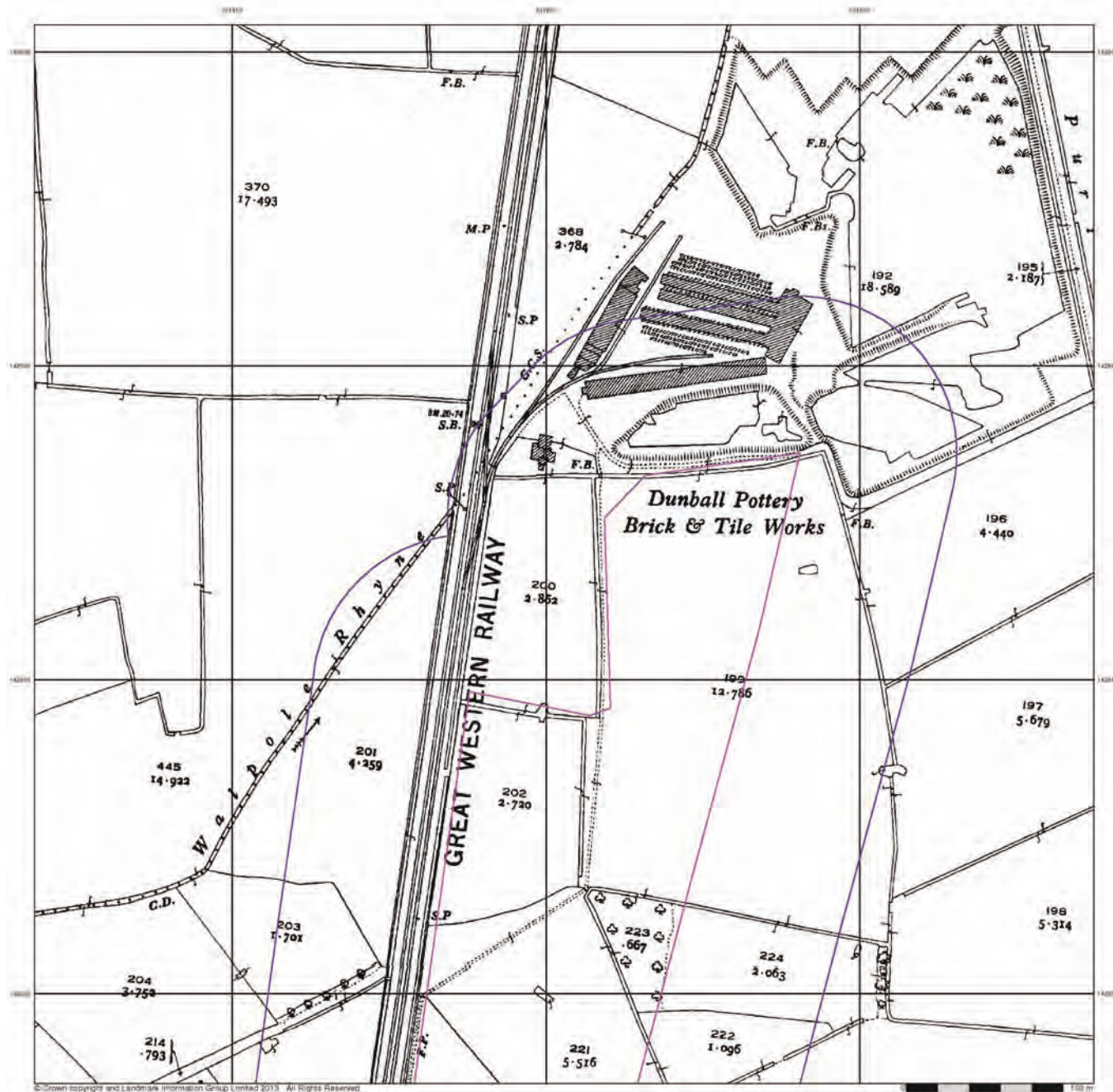
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Figure 49:





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Figure 50:





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Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm  
 Drawing Title: 1930 OS  
 Date: 9/5/14  
 Drawn By: CES  
 Scale: See bar  
 Figure 51:







Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

Drawing Title: 1970 OS

Date: 9/5/14

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Figure 52:



Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

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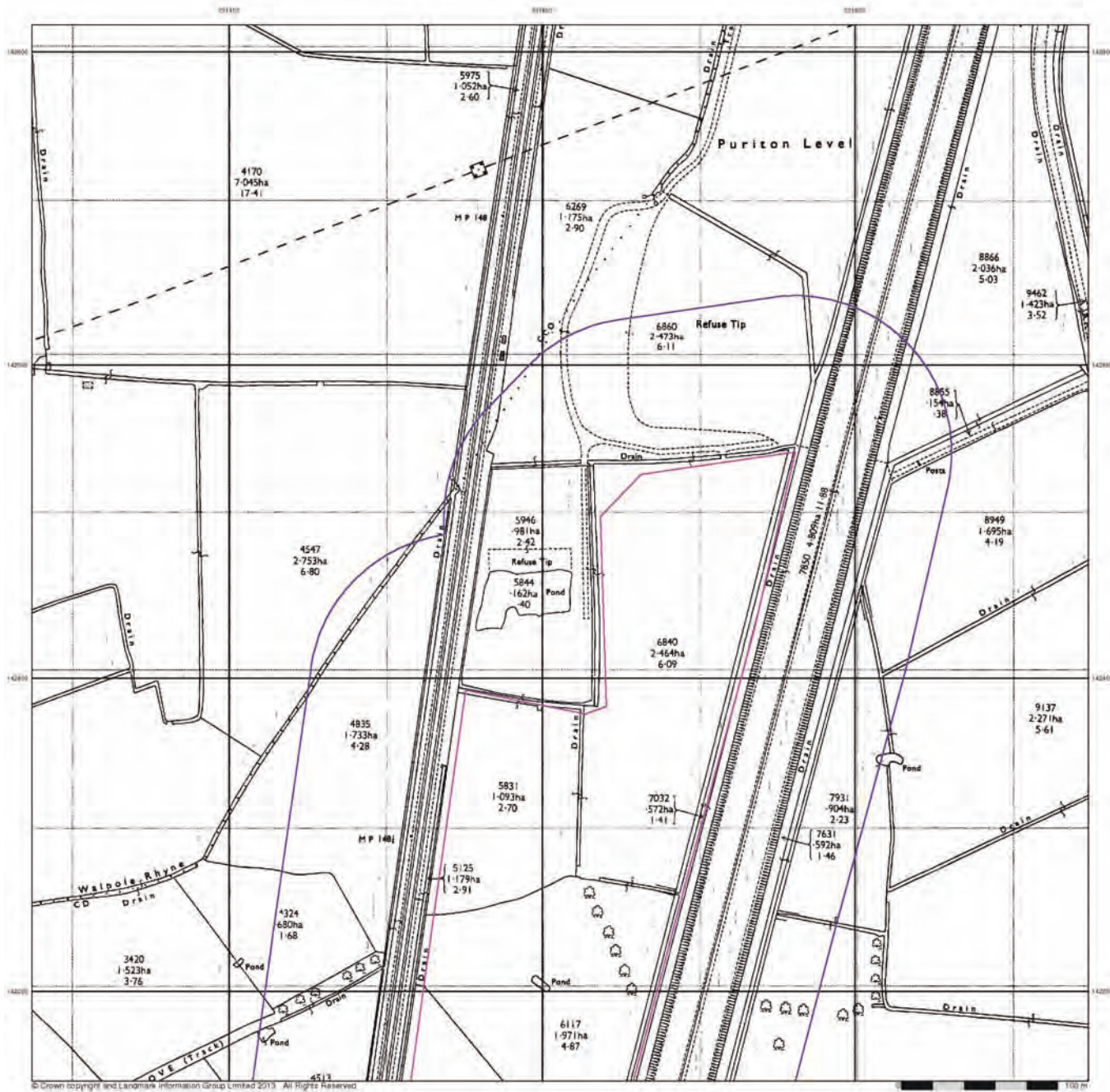
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Scale: See bar

Figure 53:





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Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

Drawing Title: 1975 OS

Date: 9/5/14

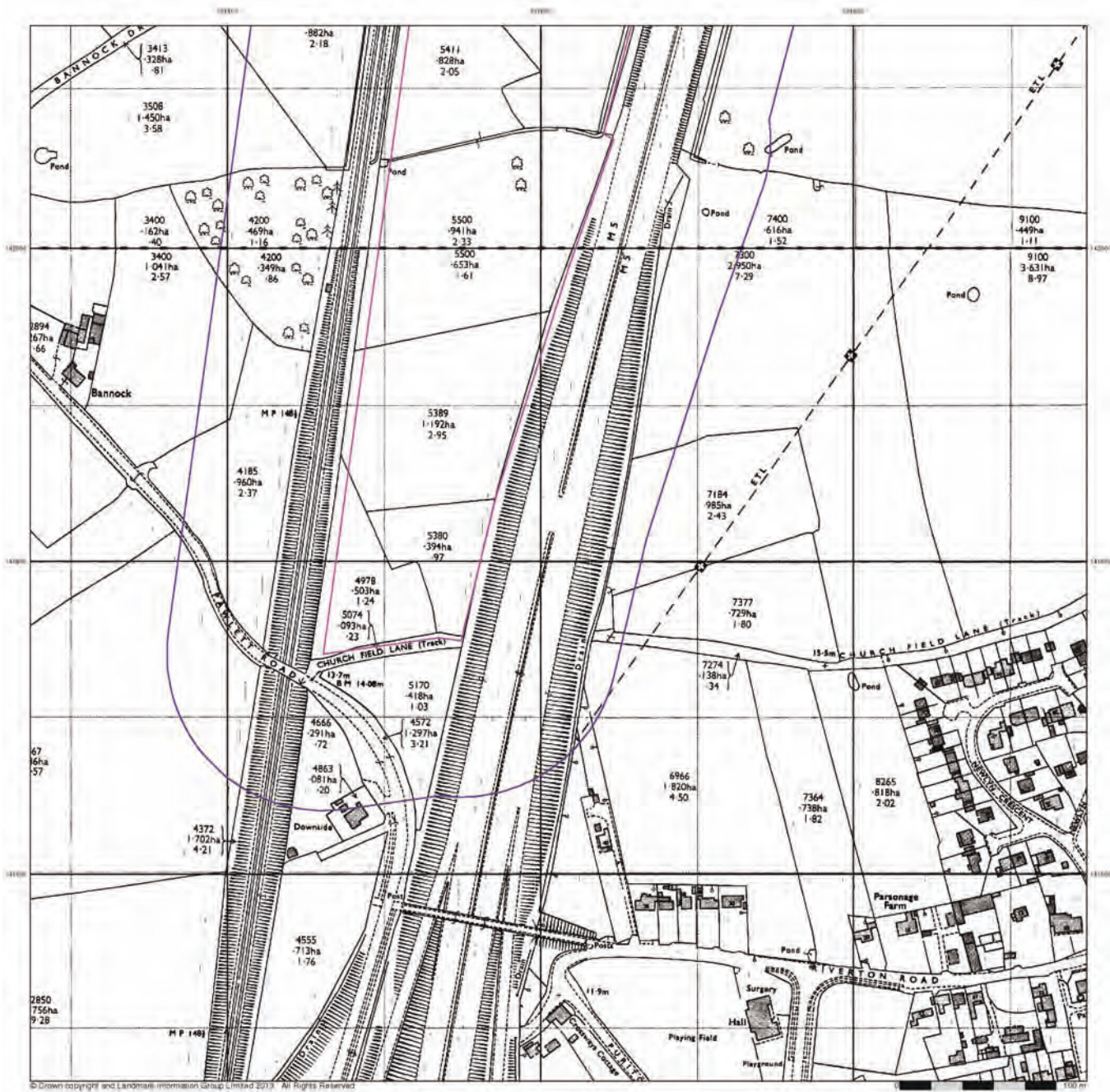
Drawn By: CES

Scale: See bar

Figure 54:







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Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

Drawing Title: 1975-7 OS

Date: 9/5/14

Drawn By: CES

Scale: See bar

Figure 55:





Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

Drawing Title: 1989 OS

Date: 9/5/14

Drawn By: CES

Scale: See bar

Figure 56:





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Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

Drawing Title: 1989 OS

Date: 9/5/14

Drawn By: CES

Scale: See bar

Figure 57:





Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

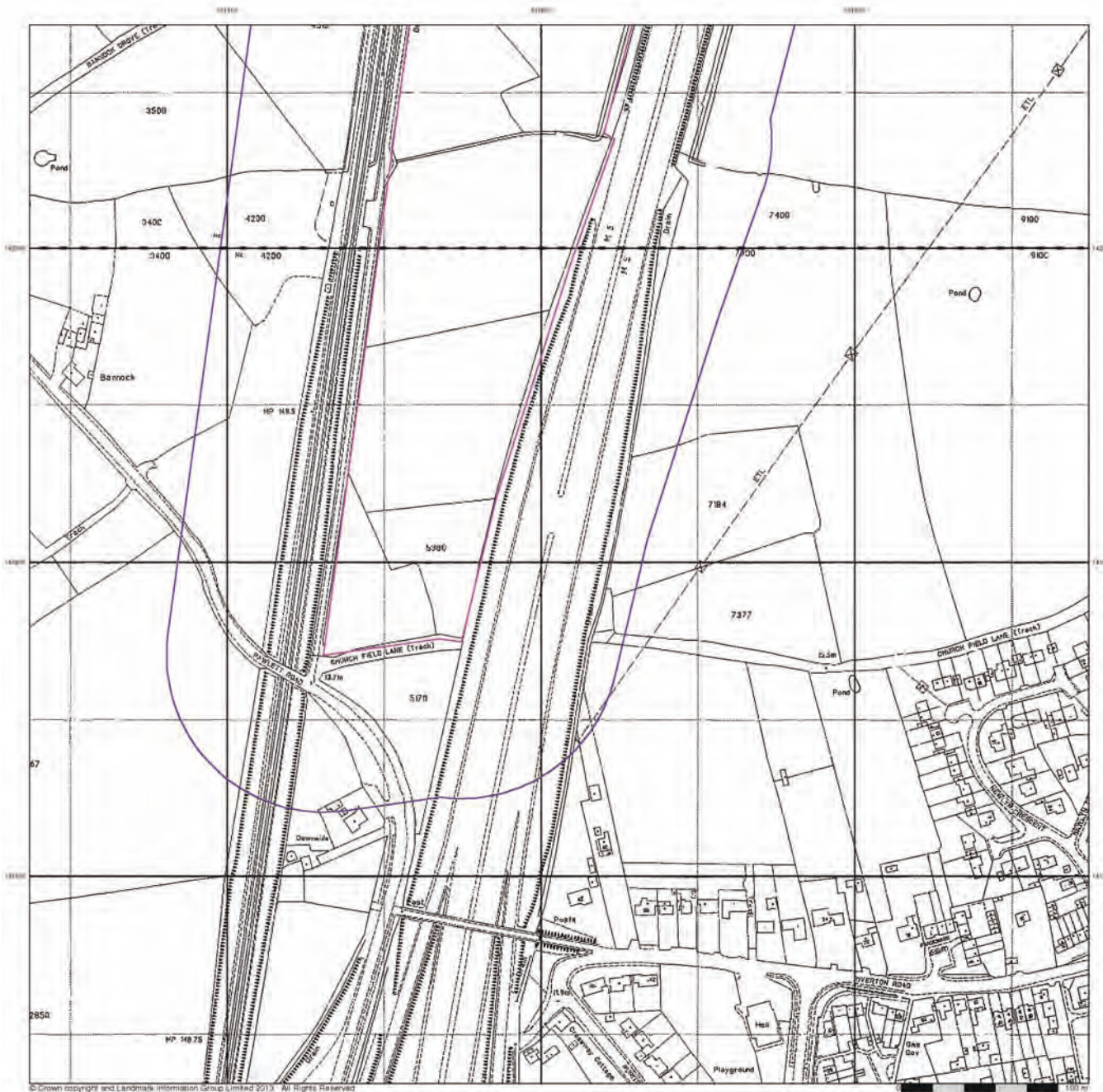
Drawing Title: 1995 OS

Date: 9/5/14

Drawn By: CES

Scale: See bar

Figure 58:



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Job Title: Puriton Solar Farm

Drawing Title: 1995 OS

Date: 9/5/14

Drawn By: CES

Scale: See bar

Figure 59:



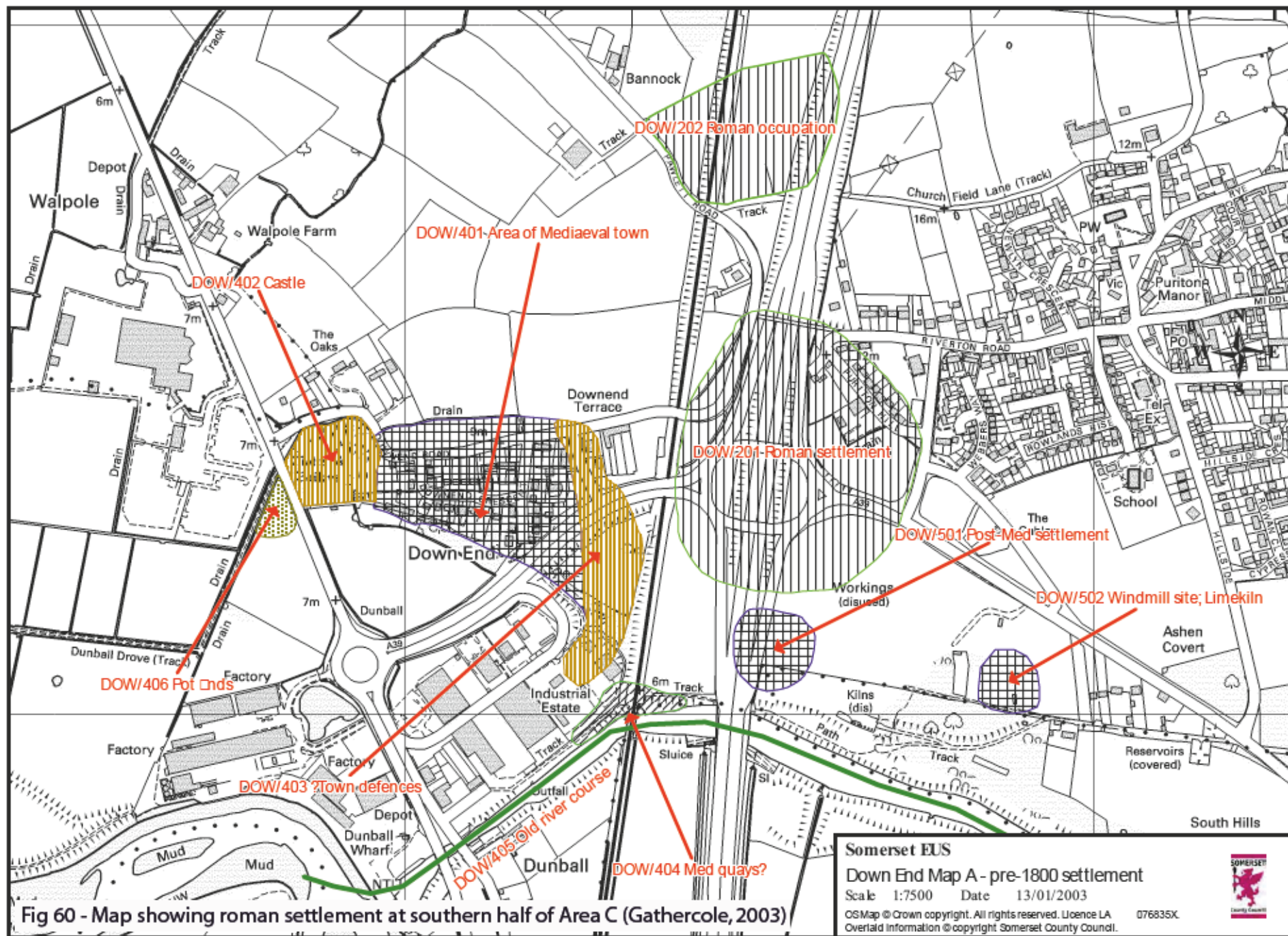
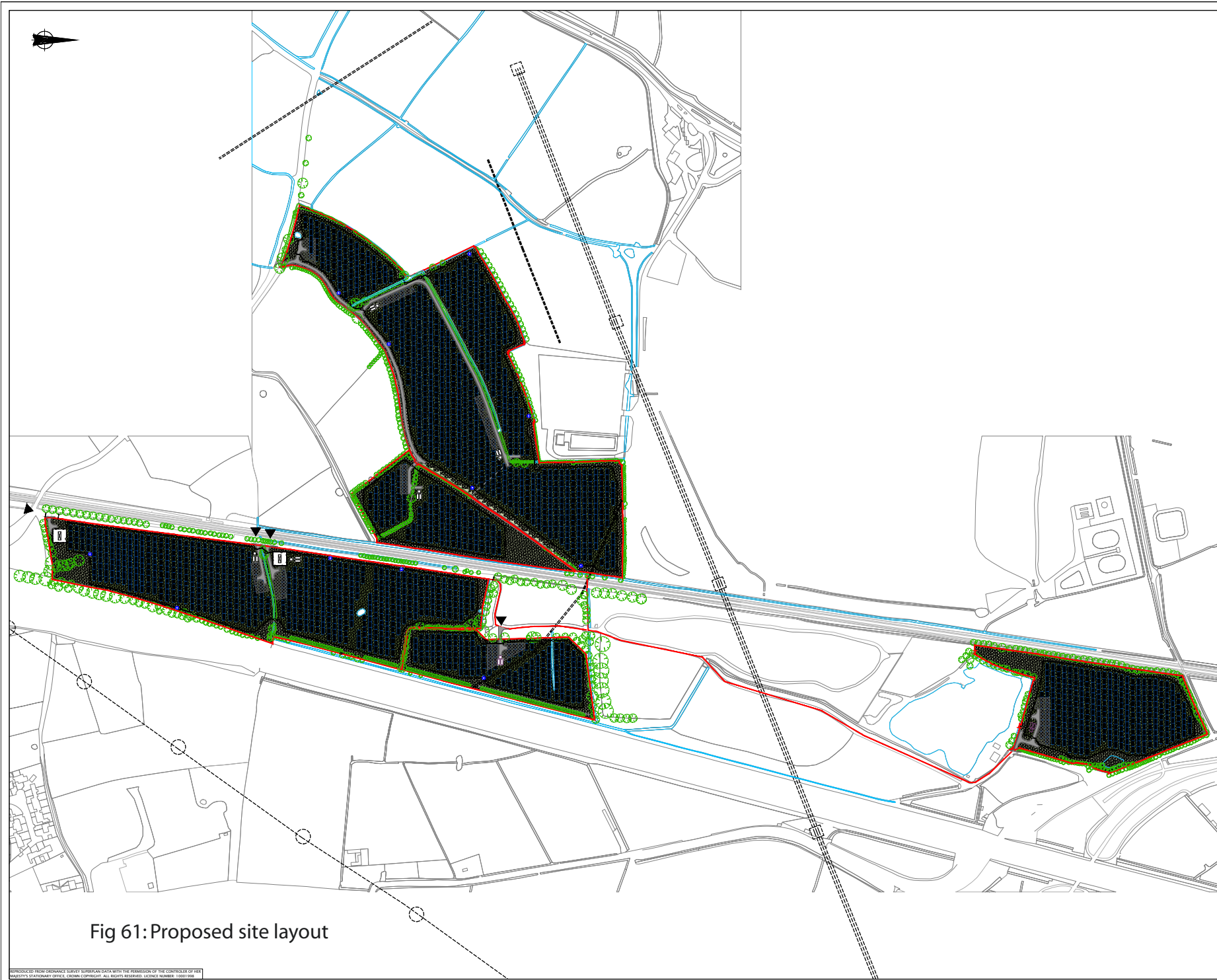















Fig 60 - Map showing roman settlement at southern half of Area C (Gathercole, 2003)





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- NOTES
- SEE FIGURE 6.10 FOR DETAILS OF LANDSCAPING PROPOSALS

- KEY
-  APPLICATION BOUNDARY
  -  PROPOSED PALISADE FENCE
  -  PROPOSED DEER FENCE
  -  EXISTING TREES
  -  EXISTING HEDGES
  -  PROPOSED WILDFLOWER MEADOW (NEUTRAL GRASSLAND)
  -  PROPOSED LOW MAINTENANCE GRASS UNDER PV PANELS
  -  PROPOSED SITE ACCESS ROAD
  -  PROPOSED TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION ROAD AND SET DOWN AREA
  -  PROPOSED PV PANELS
  -  PROPOSED INVERTER AND TRANSFORMER STATION
  -  PROPOSED CCTV LOCATION
  -  PROPOSED SITE ENTRANCES

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY



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The Solar Building  
 COMPANY LIMITED

JOB TITLE  
**PURITON SOLAR FARM**

DRAWING TITLE  
**PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT**

DRAWN	DATE	BY	DATE
S.T	25/3/2014	J.C	25/3/2014

SCALE	SHEET	DESIGN NUMBER	REVISION
1:2500	A1	SBC1014/17/07	0

Fig 61: Proposed site layout

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# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX II: Plates**



Plate 1: 1975 B&W vertical OS aerial photograph showing assessment areas







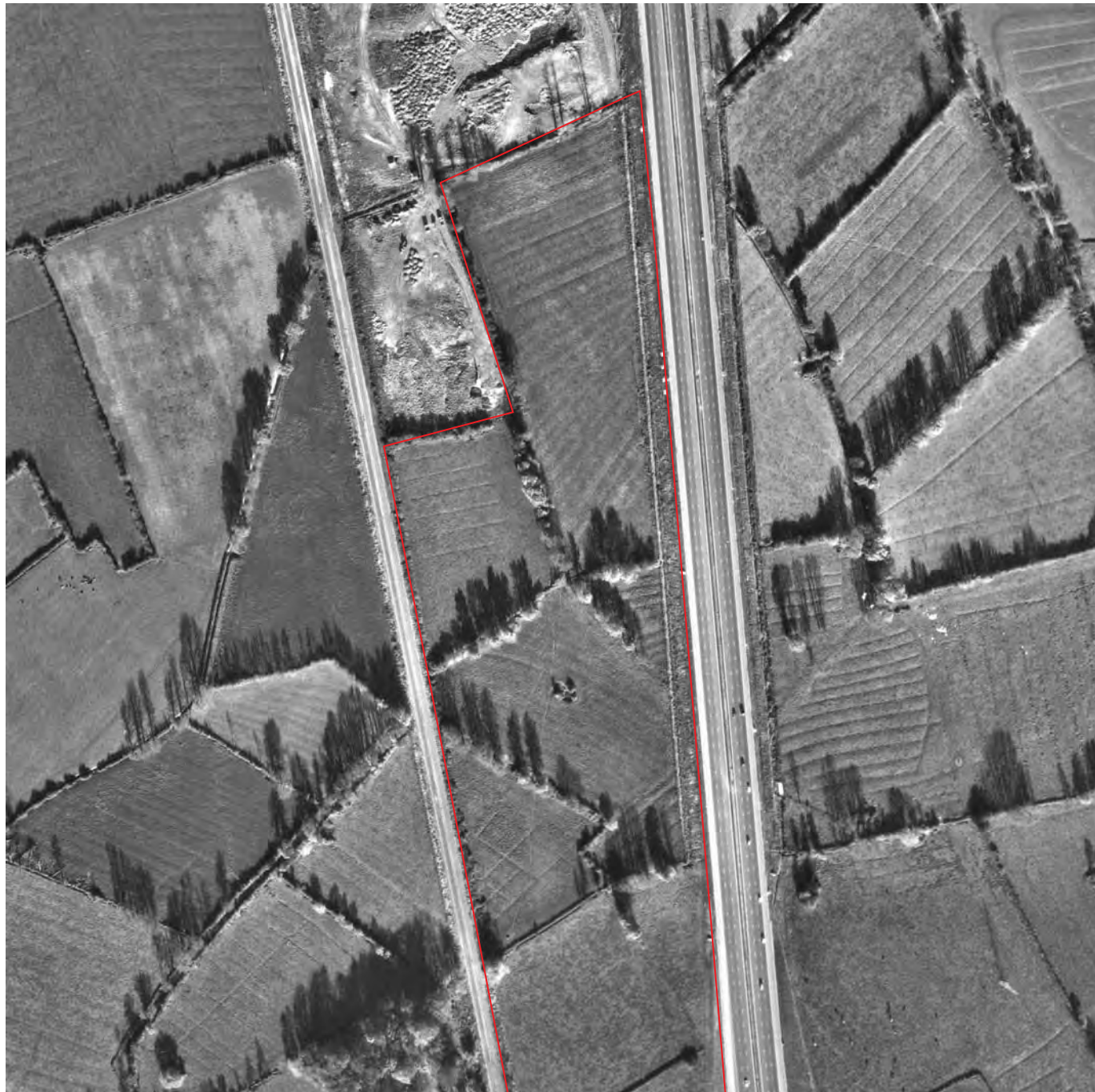


Plate 1b: Detail view of northern section of area C from 1975 OS aerial photograph

Note ridge & furrow within northern fields



Plate 1c: Detail view of southern half of area C from 1975 OS aerial photograph





Plate 2: 2001 Google Earth satellite image of area A





Plate 3: 2001 Google Earth satellite image of Area B - Note square feature in field to south of assessment area boundary





Plate 4: 2006 Google Earth satellite image of Area C





Plate 5: View west across Area A



Plate 6: View north west across Area A



Plate 7: View north along eastern boundary of Area A



Plate 8: View south across Area A





Plate 9: View north across Area A



Plate 10: View north east across Area A





Plate 11: View west across southern end of Area B



Plate 12: View north across southern end of Area B



Plate 13: View west along middle section of Area B



Plate 14: View north along middle section of Area B





Plate 15: View north across Area B



Plate 16: View south west across central area of Area B





Plate 17: View across Area B



Plate 18: View across northern section of Area B



Plate 19:View across Area B



Plate 20:View across Area B





Plate 21:View north west along north western field of Area B



Plate 22:View north east along north western field of Area B



Plate 23: View south west along north western field of Area B



Plate 24: View north along Area C from southern half





Plate 25: View east across southern half of Area C



Plate 26: View north from southern half of Area C



Plate 27: View north west across Area C



Plate 28: View north across Area C





Plate 29: View north across Area C



Plate 30: View west across middle of Area C



Plate 31: View north west across middle of Area C



Plate 32: View north across middle of Area C





Plate 33:View of pond feature within upper middle half of Area C



Plate 34:View north east across Area C