

# WP029(C) Historic Environment Works – Fosse Way, Offchurch / River Leam – Enabling Works North Contract

## Interim Report: Mitigation Area 3

Document Number: 1EW04-LMJ-EV-REP-NS01\_NL03-029023

Revision	Author	Checked by	Approved by	Date	Reason for revision
Po1	Alan Duffy	Ross Murray	Melissa Melikian	17.01.2020	Issued for acceptance
Co1	Alan Duffy	Ross Murray	Melissa Melikian	27.04.2020	Issued for acceptance
Co2	Alan Duffy	Ross Murray	Melissa Melikian	27.10.2020	Issued for acceptance

DOCUMENT OWNER: ALAN DUFFY

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: OFFICIAL

Handling instructions: Uncontrolled when printed

Code 1 - Accepted

Revision: Co2

## Contents

1	Executive Summary	2
2	Site Location	2
3	Methodology	2
4	Factual Summary of Key Archaeological Findings	3
5	Interim Artefactual Summary	5
6	Provisional Interpretation and Discussion	5
7	Potential Contribution to Specific Objectives	8
8	Provisional Conclusion	9
9	Appendix 1	9

Code 1 - Accepted

Revision: Co2

# 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1.1 This interim report details the results of archaeological mitigation works at WP29C Fosse Way, Offchurch / River Leam, Archaeological Mitigation Area 3. The mitigation works were carried out by Connect Archaeology between the 18<sup>th</sup> of November and the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2019. The Site is required as part of the construction land requirements for the enabling works and subsequent main works for HS2 Phase One. The works were undertaken to record sub-surface archaeological remains within the site that were identified during previous archaeological trial trenching. The excavation scope is detailed in the Project Plan for Archaeological Mitigation at Fosse Way, Offchurch / River Leam (Doc No: 1EW04-LMJ\_DJV-EV-PLN-NS01\_NL03-029006).
- 1.1.2 The mitigation works followed trial trenching which identified several features of Iron Age date as detailed in WP 29B Historic Environment Works – Long Itchington Wood to River Leam – Enabling Works North Contract- Report: Trial Trenching (Doc No: 1EW04-LMJ-EV-REP-NS01\_NL01-029001). The mitigation works identified further sub-surface archaeological features associated with previously recorded features consistent with an Iron Age settlement, including the remains of a probable roundhouse and an enclosure feature identified during previous geophysical survey works. Furrow features, indicating recent agricultural activity, were also recorded.
- 1.1.3 Several of the features identified during the mitigation works contained pottery similar to that retrieved during previous evaluation and contingency works, which have been dated to the Iron Age. Further animal bone was also retrieved, along with two flint finds. A sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the topsoil, along with an assemblage of copper alloy finds, dating from the post-medieval to modern periods, recovered during a pre-excavation metal detecting survey.

# 2 Site Location

- 2.1.1 The mitigation area is located within the Stratford-upon-Avon district of Warwickshire and consists of an area within a single agricultural field situated immediately north of Ufton/Long Itchington Wood and c. 1km north-east of the village of Ufton. It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 438669 263129 and covers an area of approximately 0.7oha (Figure 1). The mitigation area was reduced slightly immediately prior to the commencement of ground-breaking works along its southern and south-western margins due to ecological and utilities constraints. The project code for this site is IN19ITCAR.

# 3 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The mitigation works were conducted according to the detailed methodology laid out in the Project Plan for Archaeological Mitigation at Fosse Way, Offchurch / River Leam (Doc No:

Code 1 - Accepted

Revision: Co2

1EW04-LMJ\_DJV-EV-PLN-NS01\_NL03-029006), Section 4, which includes Metal Detector Survey 4.3.10-4.3.20, Archaeological Recording 4.3.21-4.3.29, Setting Out 4.3.30-4.3.33, Fieldwork Recording 4.3.34-4.3.40, Environmental Sampling 4.3.48-4.3.61, 4.3, and Finds 4.3.62-4.3.66. The works also adhered to HS2 Technical Standard Specification for Historic Environment Investigations (Doc No: HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000035).

- 3.1.2 Further methodologies were agreed with DJV in the field during the mitigation works, these included the 100% excavation of the features recorded in the south-eastern area of the mitigation area, 100% excavation of features previously identified in the larger contingency area in the central part of the mitigation area, 20% excavation of the enclosure feature, 10% excavation of the broad furrow feature that runs along the western edge of the mitigation area and the excavation of a minimum of two sondages across the remaining furrows in the western part of the area. Sample volumes were also increased from 40L to 60L where feasible.

## 4 Factual Summary of Key Archaeological Findings

- 4.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded largely to the southern half of the mitigation area (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 The largest of these (and previously identified during earlier geophysical survey works) was located towards the southern end of the excavation area and featured the remains of a probable enclosure [276079/276081/278086/276088/276092/276093] from which pottery, flint and bone were retrieved. The enclosure continued beyond the limits excavation to the south but extended from the baulk to between c 15m – c 22m in length north to south within the mitigation area and measured between c 17m – c 19m wide east to west. The enclosure ditch itself was 0.44m – 0.95m wide and 0.22m – 0.40m deep and was filled with a mid-reddish grey/brownish grey silty clay fill. No internal features were noted within the enclosure upon excavation of the feature.
- 4.1.3 The enclosure ditch had been truncated by two linear features on a north-west to south-east orientation [276100] and [276107]. Feature [276100] is interpreted as a furrow, the larger (2.50m wide and 0.15m in depth) linear to the east [276107] is provisionally interpreted as a former parish boundary. Furrows on the same alignment were also recorded to the east of the enclosure [276082], [276083] and [276084]. The furrows were generally up to 1.50m wide and up to 0.10m deep.
- 4.1.4 The remains of a possible roundhouse were recorded to the north-east of the probable enclosure. This consisted of a curvilinear feature [276024/276027] from which pottery and bone was retrieved, which was c. 14m long by 0.43m to 0.58m wide and up to 0.19m deep. A possible continuation of this feature, curvilinear feature [276043] located to the north, was 5m long x 0.40m wide and 0.08m deep. To the south of the roundhouse was sub-rectangular pit [276020]

Revision: Co2

which was 1.90m long by 0.48 m wide by 0.31m deep with a mixed fill of mid to dark greyish brown silty clay with bone (276019).

- 4.1.5 Immediately adjacent, to the north of these features, lay another curvilinear feature [276031/276036/276053] from which pottery, bone and worked stone was retrieved. A small This feature was c. 5m long by 0.40m to 0.44m wide and up to 0.12m deep. To the immediate west of this lay curvilinear feature [267046] which was 1.75m long by 0.42m – 0.45m wide and up to 0.09m deep. A small pit [276022] measuring 0.6m in diameter and 0.06m deep, was located between the two curvilinears and is likely part of the same structure but separated due to truncation. The fills of all these features consisted generally of mid brownish-grey silty clays.
- 4.1.6 To the north-east of the probable roundhouse were the remains of a shallow curvilinear ditch [276032/276034] which measured c. 8.5m long by 0.40m – 0.50m wide and up to 0.18m deep. The feature was filled with a mid-brownish grey clay fill from which sherds of pottery were recovered. To the immediate west of the ditch were three pits [276073], [276075] and [276076]. These pits were on a roughly north to south alignment. Pit [276073] from which pottery and flint was retrieved was 1.50m in diameter by 0.16m deep. Pit [276075] from which pottery and bone was retrieved was 1.80m in diameter by 0.18m deep. Pit [276076] was 0.36m in diameter by 0.12m deep. To the immediate east of the ditch [276032/276034] was a single pit [276037/276070]. This pit measured 0.95m in diameter by 0.20m in depth.
- 4.1.7 To the north-east of these features, and at the edge of the excavation area, were a series of four small pits. Pit [276057] was 0.70m in diameter by 0.18m deep, pit [276059] from which pottery was retrieved was 0.60m in diameter by 0.10m deep, pit [276061] was 0.52m in diameter by 0.11m deep and pit [276063] was 0.54m in diameter by 0.14m deep. The pits were all filled by a grey silty fill.
- 4.1.8 Towards the centre of the site, lying between the location of the enclosure and the probable roundhouse, features previously identified during trial trenching of the area were fully excavated, along with three additional features of a similar type. The previously identified features consisted of a series of shallow curvilinears [276003], [276006], [276012] and [276014] from which pottery and bone were retrieved. The full extent of a curvilinear feature which extended outside the original contingency area was also fully excavated and recorded [276010/276103].
- 4.1.9 The three new linear features recorded included ditch [276101] from which pottery was retrieved, and which was c 11m long by 0.50m – 0.73m wide and up to 0.38m deep, ditch [276108] which was 1.45m long by 0.27m – 0.50m wide and 0.13m deep, and ditch [276111] which was c 2m long by 0.20m wide by 0.15m deep. The fills of these features consisted of reddish-brown silty clays.

Revision: Co2

## 5 Interim Artefactual Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage consisting of 111 sherds of pottery, 171 fragments of animal bone, 2 struck flints and 1 fragment of worked stone was recovered. Additionally, 1 sherd of pottery and 37 metal objects were collected during the metal detecting survey. The artefacts are in a poor to fair state of preservation.

Table 1 Provisional quantification and dating

Artefact Type	Estimated Quantity	Provisional date
Ceramics	111	Prehistoric/Iron Age
Animal Bone	171	
Flint	2	Prehistoric
Worked Stone	1	
Ceramic	1	Roman
Copper Alloy	37	Post-medieval to Modern

## 6 Interim Palaeo-Environmental Summary

6.1.1 Due to the large number of environmental samples, and the clay derived nature of the deposits within the majority of archaeological features, it was not possible to undertake a paleoenvironmental assessment for this report. Processing of the environmental samples is currently ongoing. A list of environmental samples taken during the mitigation works is provided below.

Sample No.	Context No.	Size (L)	Fill of
1	267019	60	Pit 276020
2	276012	20	Pit 276022
3	2276023	60	Curvilinear Feature 276024/276027
4	276025	60	Curvilinear Feature 276024/276027

Code 1 - Accepted

Revision: C02

5	276028	60	Curvilinear Feature 276046
6	276030	60	Curvilinear Feature 276031/276036/276053
7	276038	40	Pot Hole / Pit 276037
8	276039	60	Curvilinear Feature 276043
9	276041	60	Curvilinear Feature 276043
10	276035	30	Curvilinear Feature 276031/276036/276053
11	276048	60	Linear Feature 276032/276034
12	276034	60	Linear Feature 276032/276034
13	276030	20	Post Hole / Pit 276060
14	276062	20	Post Hole / Pit 276063
15	276056	30	Post Hole / Pit 276057
16	276058	30	Post Hole Pit 276059
17	276051	40	Curvilinear Feature 276031/276036/276053
18	276044	50	Curvilinear Feature 276046
19	276049	60	Curvilinear Feature 276032
20	276054	60	Curvilinear Feature 275032
21	276026	30	Curvilinear Feature 276022/276027
22	276067	60	Curvilinear Feature 276024/276027
23	276072	60	Pit 276073
24	276074	?	Pit 276075
25	276078	60	Enclosure Ditch 276079/276081/276086/276088/276092/276093
26	276080	60	Enclosure Ditch 276079/276081/276086/276088/276092/276093
27	276089	60	Enclosure Ditch

Code 1 - Accepted

Revision: C02

			276079/276081/276086/276088/276092/276093
28	276087	10	Enclosure Ditch 276079/276081/276086/276088/276092/276093
29	276077	?	Pit Feature 276076
30	276091	60	Enclosure Ditch 276079/276081/276086/276088/276092/276093
31	276087	10	Enclosure Ditch 276079/276081/276086/276088/276092/276093
32	276089	60	Enclosure Ditch 276079/276081/276086/276088/276092/276093
33	276094	60	Enclosure Ditch 276079/276081/276086/276088/276092/276093
34	276104	60	Curvilinear Feature 276101
35	276098	60	Linear Feature 276101
36	276102	60	Linear Feature 276101
37	276105	60	Feature 276101
38	276019	Soil Micromorphology	Pit 276020

## 7 Provisional Interpretation and Discussion

- 7.1.1 The large feature recorded to the southern end of the site was identified during prior geophysical survey of the site and interpreted as the remains of an enclosure. However, the size of the feature, and the lack of any internal features recorded upon excavation of the area seems to suggest that the enclosure was not used for habitation and may in fact represent the remains of an enclosure used for livestock or as part of a field system.
- 7.1.2 The presence of a possible roundhouse to the east would suggest that any habitation of the area is likely to have been in this location, although heavy truncation, likely caused by post-medieval ploughing and farming, had occurred with only the eastern side of the former roundhouse and some associated features (largely pits) surviving at the time of the excavation, although the likely entrance to the roundhouse, located towards the eastern side of the ditch and typical of many similar features in the area was noted. The presence of the small pits to the south and east of the

Code 1 - Accepted



Revision: Co2

roundhouse can be interpreted as waste pits associated with the activities carried out during the usage of the roundhouse.

- 7.1.3 The interpretation of the features recorded towards the centre of the site is unclear as heavy truncation meant the features survived in a fragmentary state. However, these have provisionally been interpreted as possible gully/drainage features associated with a possible second roundhouse structure, or elements of a second enclosure.
- 7.1.4 The finds material recovered during the earlier evaluation works, contingency works and the most recent mitigation works suggest that the majority of features within the mitigation area are of a prehistoric/Iron Age date. This excludes the furrow features from which no dateable materials were recovered, and which are interpreted as the remains of relatively modern cultivation.

## 8 Potential Contribution to Specific Objectives

Table 2 Contribution to Specific Objectives- Knowledge Creation

Specific Objective	Contribution
KC15: Can we identify regional patterns in the form and location of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements across the route, and are there associated differences in landscape organisation and enclosure?	Probable location of roundhouse and associated infrastructure including pits and ditches of an Iron Age date identified in mitigation area.  Heavy truncation had affected large areas of the Site and makes an interpretation of landscape organisation and enclosure style extremely difficult in this case.
KC16: Investigate the degree of continuity that existed between Late Bronze Age and Iron Age communities in terms of population, mobility and subsistence strategies	Probable location of roundhouse and associated infrastructure including pits and ditches of an Iron Age date identified in mitigation area.  No significant evidence for continuity between Late Bronze Age and Iron Age communities in terms of population, mobility and subsistence strategies.
KC21: Assess the evidence for regional and cultural distinctiveness along the length of the route in the Romano-British period, with particular regard to the different settlement types encountered along the route	None
KC23: Identify evidence for late Roman occupation and attempt to identify any continuity in settlement patterns between the end of the Romano-British period and the Early Medieval period	None
KC40: Identify patterns of change within medieval rural	None

Code 1 - Accepted

Revision: Co2

settlement from the 11th to mid-14th century	
--	--

## 9 Provisional Conclusion

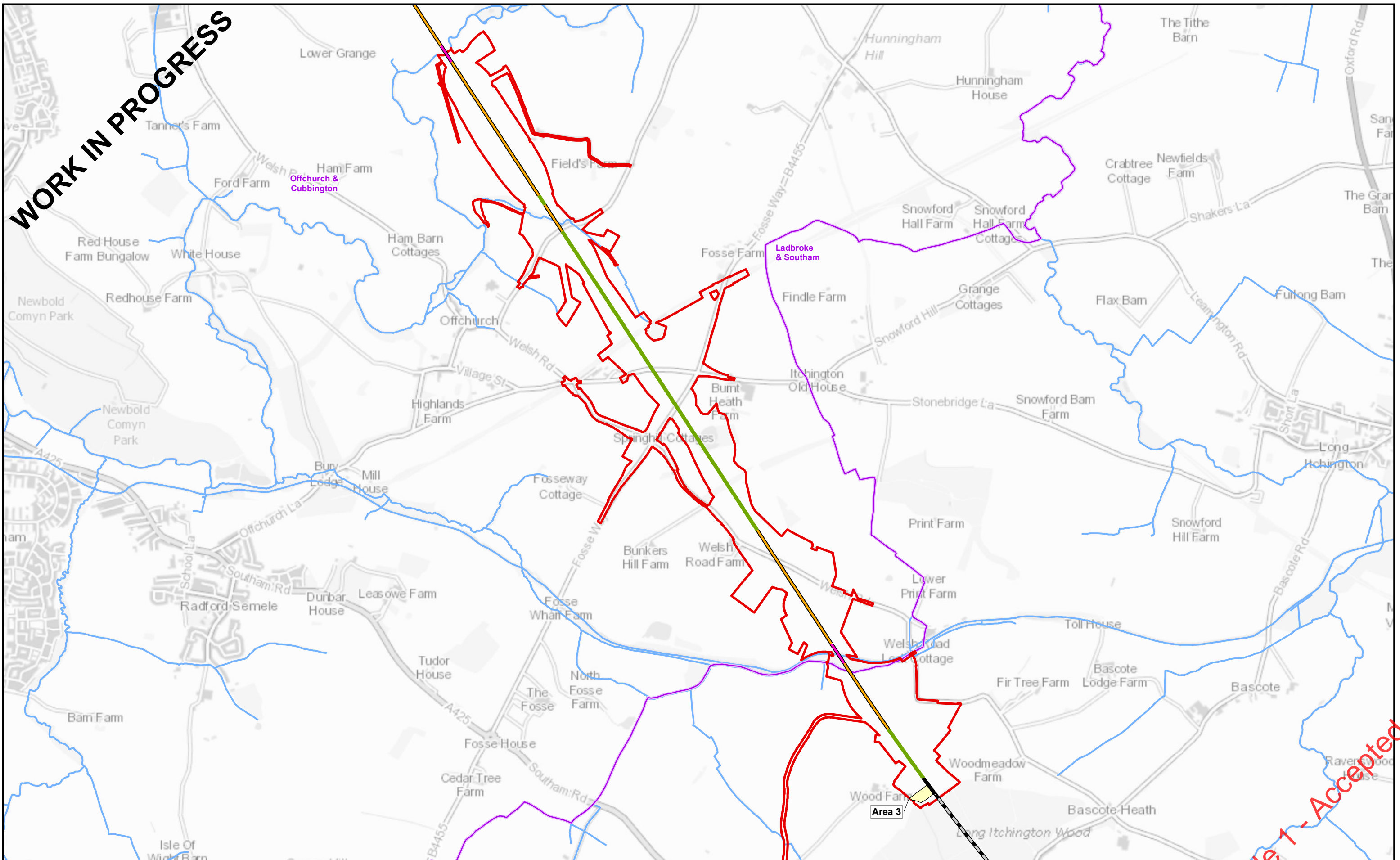
- 9.1.1 The provisional conclusions are based on the most recent mitigation works as well as the earlier contingency works carried out within the mitigation area, and evaluation works carried out in the wider area to both the north and east of the mitigation area.
- 9.1.2 The earlier contingency works revealed features and finds consistent with the remains of an Iron Age settlement, with no further significant archaeological features being noted in the evaluation trenches immediately to the north and east of the mitigation area suggesting an isolated area of Iron Age activity. The excavation of Mitigation Area 3 has not changed the original interpretation of the remains being those of an Iron Age settlement.
- 9.1.3 The features recorded in the mitigation area, along with the dateable finds, have been provisionally interpreted as the possible remains of an unenclosed Iron Age farming settlement, consisting of at least one probable domestic structure and a stock enclosure. It is possible that further remains may be present to both the south and west of these features although this lies outside the mitigation area.
- 9.1.4 Truncation by post-medieval farming practices appeared to have left many of the features recorded on the site in a partially fragmented state limiting the amount of interpretation that can be made as to the usage of these features. The results and analysis of the data collected during the mitigation excavation has, however, the potential to contribute to specific HERDS research objectives KC15 and KC16.

## 10 Appendix 1

- |        |          |  |
|--------|----------|--|
| 10.1.1 | Figure 1 | Site Location Plan                           |
| 10.1.2 | Figure 2 | Plan of Archaeological features              |
| 10.1.3 | Figure 2 | Detailed Plan of Archaeological Features 1/2 |
| 10.1.4 | Figure 3 | Detailed Plan of Archaeological Features 2/2 |

Code 1 - Accepted

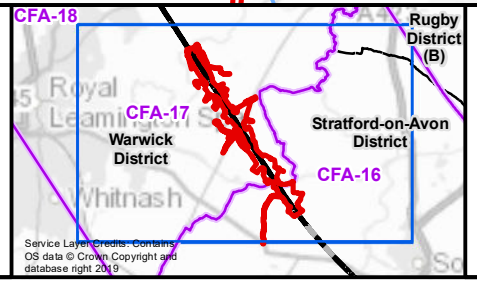
**WORK IN PROGRESS**



HS2 Ltd accept no responsibility for any circumstances, which arise from the reproduction of this map after alteration, amendment or abbreviation or if it issued in part or issued incomplete in any way.  
 © Crown copyright and database rights 2020  
 OS 100049190  
 Derived from (...cite the scale of the BGS data used...) scale BGS Digital Data under licence 2011/111 BP British Geological Survey, © NERC.  
 Contains Environment Agency information © Environment Agency and database right.  
 © Crown copyright material is reproduced with the permission of Land Registry under delegated authority from the Controller of HMSO.  
 This material was last updated on [date] and may not be copied, distributed, sold or published without the formal permission of Land Registry and Ordnance Survey. Only an official copy of a title plan or register obtained from the Land Registry may be used for legal or other official purposes. © Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey.

**Legend**

- Bored Tunnel
- Cutting
- Embankment
- Tunnel Portal
- Viaduct
- Mitigation Areas
- Site Boundary
- Community Forum Boundary
- Watercourse



High Speed Two

Figure 1  
Site Location Plan

Community Forum Area CFA16  
Ladbroke & Southam

Published

**HS2**

Registered in England. Registration number 06791686.  
Registered office: 2 Snowhill, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

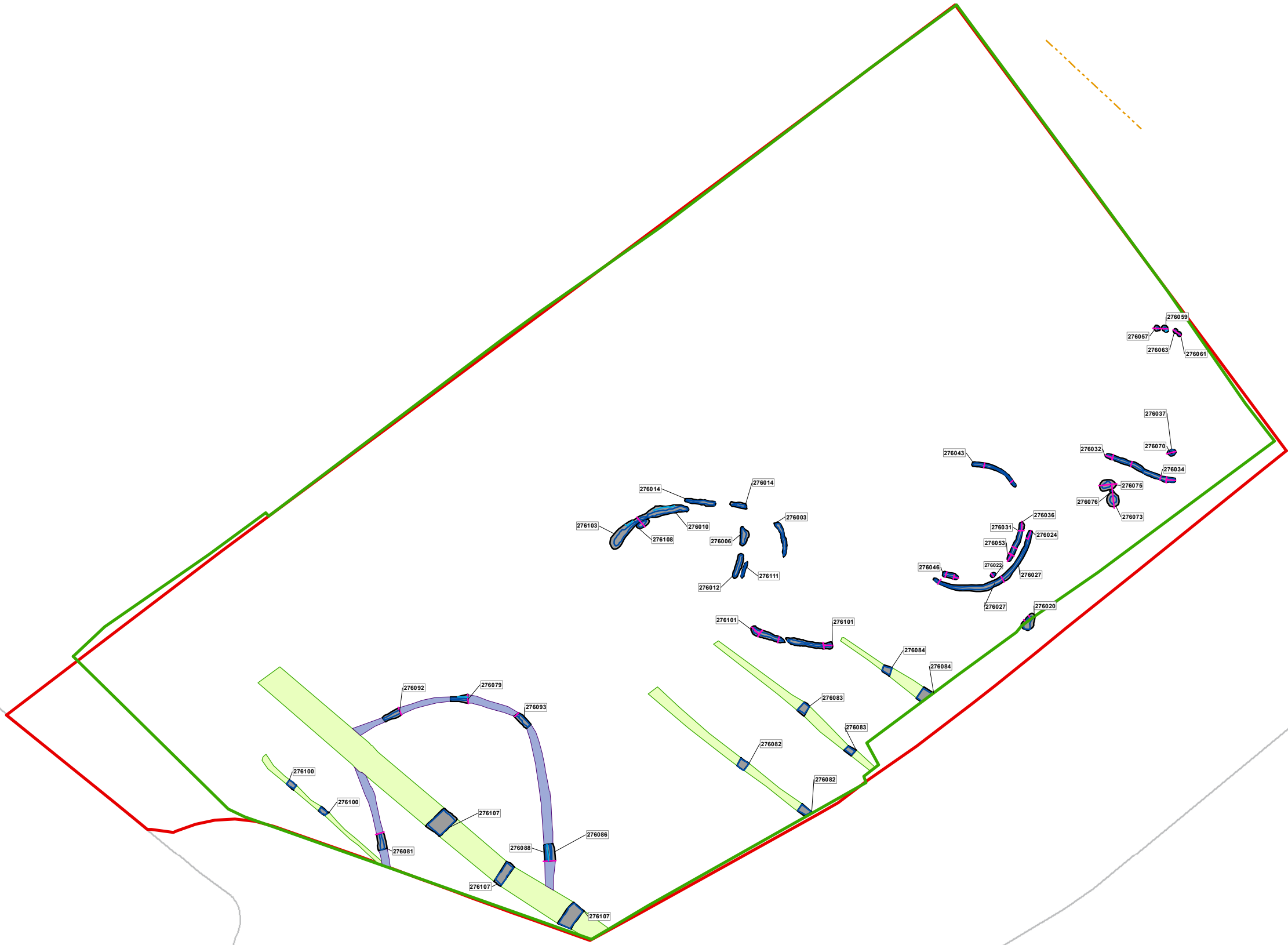
Scale at A3: 1:20,000

0 200 400 600 800  
Meters

**Doc Number:** 1EW04-LMJ-EV-REP-NS01\_NL03-029023 **Date:** 16/01/20

Code 1 - Accepted

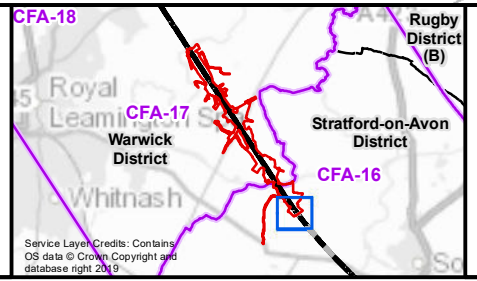
**WORK IN PROGRESS**



HS2 Ltd accept no responsibility for any circumstances, which arise from the reproduction of this map after alteration, amendment or abbreviation or if it issued in part or issued incomplete in any way.  
 © Crown copyright and database rights 2020 OS 100049190  
 Derived from (...cite the scale of the BGS data used...) scale BGS Digital Data under licence 2011/111 BP British Geological Survey. © NERC.  
 Contains Environment Agency information © Environment Agency and database right.  
 © Crown copyright material is reproduced with the permission of Land Registry under delegated authority from the Controller of HMSO.  
 This material was last updated on [date] and may not be copied, distributed, sold or published without the formal permission of Land Registry and Ordnance Survey. Only an official copy of a title plan or register obtained from the Land Registry may be used for legal or other official purposes. © Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey.

**Legend**

- Site boundary
- Excavated Area
- Break of Slope
- Service
- Section Line
- Base of Feature
- Feature
- Pre Ex
- Furrow



High Speed Two  
 Figure 2  
 Plan of archaeological features  
 Community Forum Area CFA16  
 Ladbroke & Southam  
 Published

**HS2**  
 Registered in England. Registration number 06791686.  
 Registered office: 2 Snowhill, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

Scale at A3: 1:500

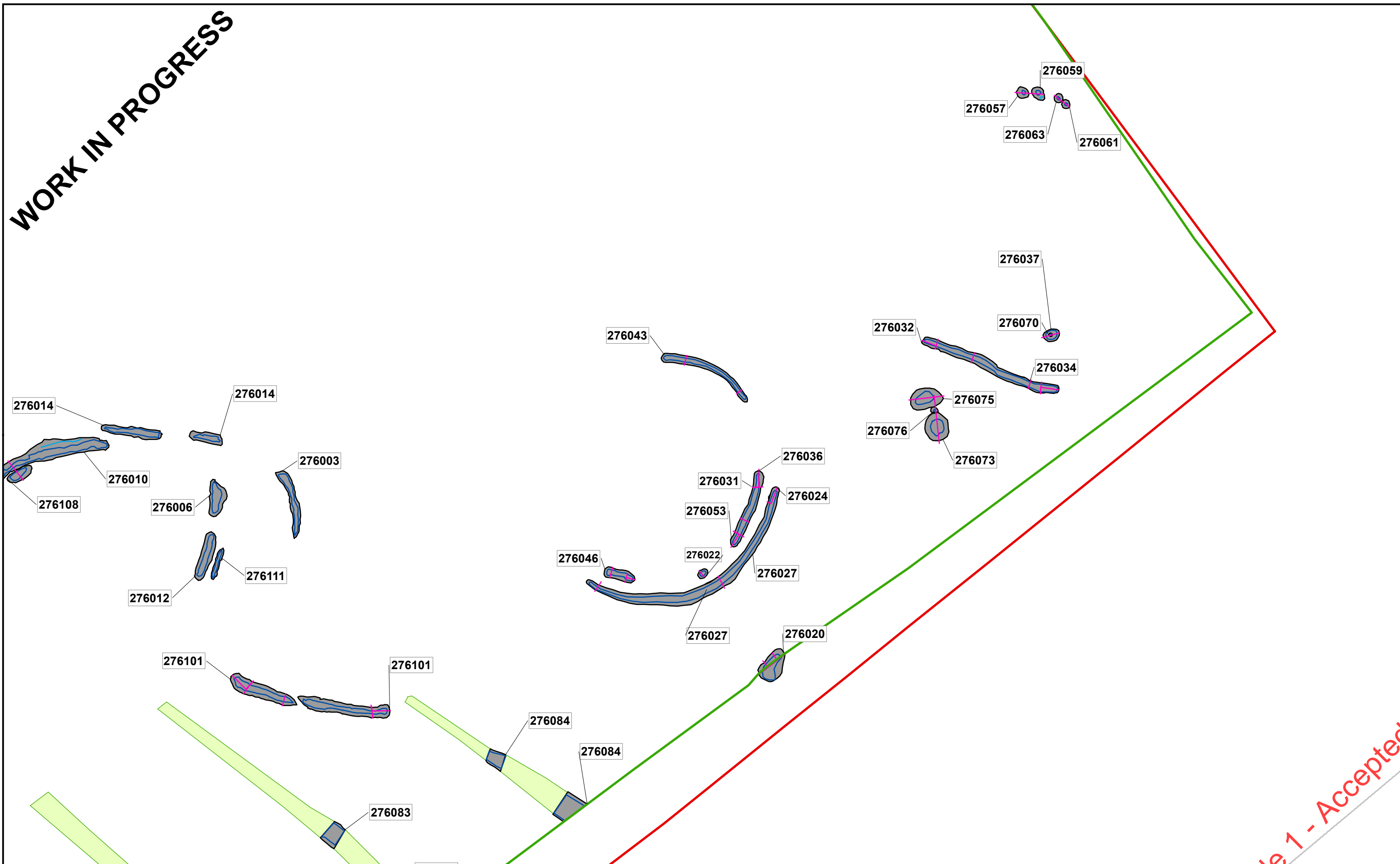
0 5 10 15 20  
 Meters

**Doc Number:** 1EW04-LMJ-EV-REP-NS01\_NL03-029023 **Date:** 15/01/20

Code 1 - Accepted



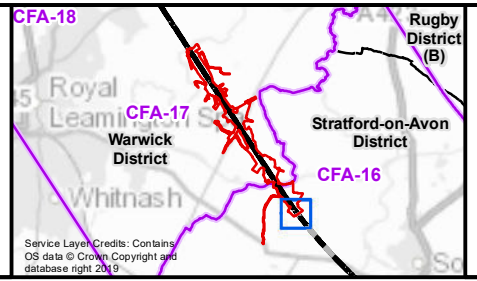
**WORK IN PROGRESS**



HS2 Ltd accept no responsibility for any circumstances, which arise from the reproduction of this map after alteration, amendment or abbreviation or if it issued in part or issued incomplete in any way.  
 © Crown copyright and database rights 2020  
 OS 100049190  
 Derived from (...cite the scale of the BGS data used...) scale BGS Digital Data under licence 2011/111 BP British Geological Survey. © NERC.  
 Contains Environment Agency information © Environment Agency and database right.  
 © Crown copyright material is reproduced with the permission of Land Registry under delegated authority from the Controller of HMSO.  
 This material was last updated on [date] and may not be copied, distributed, sold or published without the formal permission of Land Registry and Ordnance Survey. Only an official copy of a title plan or register obtained from the Land Registry may be used for legal or other official purposes. © Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey.

**Legend**

- Site boundary
- Excavated Area
- Break of Slope
- Section Line
- Base of Feature
- Feature
- Furrow



High Speed Two  
 Figure 3  
 Detailed plan of archaeological features  
 Community Forum Area CFA16  
 Ladbroke & Southam  
 Published

**HS2**  
 Registered in England. Registration number 06791686.  
 Registered office: 2 Snowhill, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

Scale at A3: 1:200

Doc Number: 1EW04-LMJ-EV-REP-NS01\_NL03-029023 Date: 15/01/20

Code 1 - Accepted

