

Wickham Hall Solar Farm

Farnham, Essex

Archaeological cropmark statement

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Wickham Hall Solar Farm, Farnham, Uttlesford, Essex

Air Photo Statement

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Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Wickham Hall Solar for commissioning this project. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by [REDACTED] Survey and digitising was carried out by [REDACTED]

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Wickham Hall Solar to produce a statement on cropmarks visible on the site of a proposed solar farm at Wickham Hall, Farnham, Uttlesford, Essex.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in advance of a planning submission, to provide additional information on potential heritage assets within the development area. The scope of work was discussed with [REDACTED] (Place Services).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the north of Bishops Stortford, close to the current route of the A120 (Fig.1). The area of proposed development lies at between 106m and 109m OD.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation, with overlying superficial deposits of diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation and sand and gravel of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup ([REDACTED] accessed 2024).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A full desk-based assessment has been produced discussing the archaeological background in detail. In addition, a geophysical survey has been carried out. This document notes cropmarks that are not included in these previous reports.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The project aims and objectives, were to record the presence of cropmarks on the proposed development area as efficiently as possible.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Cropmarks visible on Google Earth (largely the image dated 6/25/2018) were digitised. These were then added to a GIS project, together with the results of the geophysical survey. Two figures (figure 1 and 2 below) were then produced from this.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the cropmark survey presented below in Figure 1. Figure 2 presents both the cropmark survey results and the interpretation of the geophysical survey, to allow comparison. There are some ditches and several potential pits recorded via cropmarks that are not shown on the geophysical survey.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of the investigation

4.1.1 The investigation only examined features visible of Google Earth imagery. However, some of these images do show cropmarks quite clearly, so the results are seen as reliable.

4.2 Interpretation

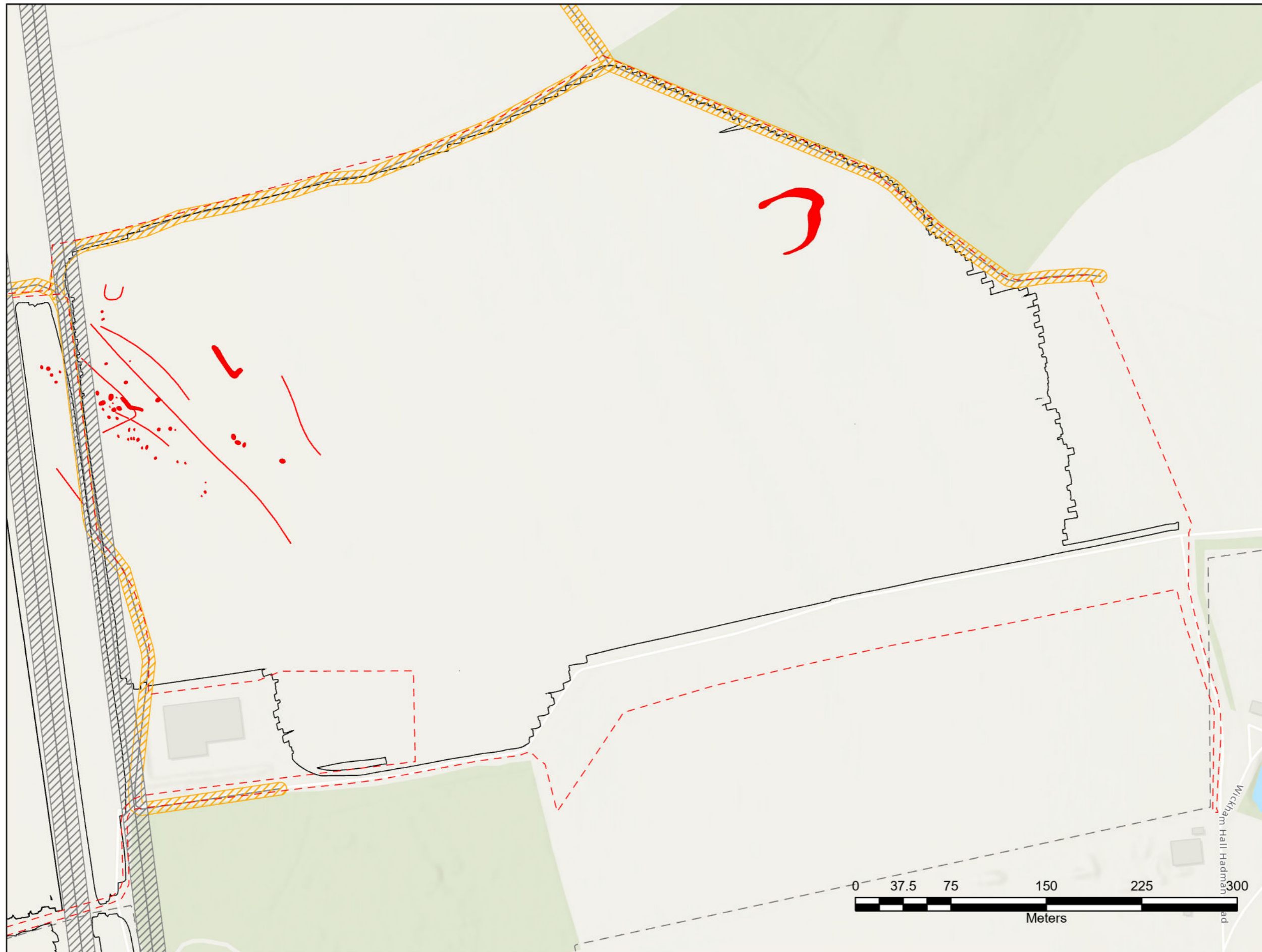
4.2.1 Six ditches are visible on the cropmarks, all to the west of the proposed development area. Three of these match reasonably well to ditches that were also identified on the geophysical survey (see Fig. 2).

4.2.2 The easternmost ditch identified on the cropmark survey does not appear on the geophysical survey. It continues in an almost north-south direction, before curving to the west. It may then join the dense complex of features shown on the geophysical survey in the adjacent field (to the west). The other ditches follow a similar alignment. It is considered likely that these ditches represent a field system outlining the core settlement (ie that located in the field to the west). However, this interpretation is not the only option.

4.2.3 The potential pits identified on the cropmark survey are in similar locations to several pits visible on the geophysical survey. These pits appear to relate to the ditches around them. However, interpretation of the function or date of these pits is not clear.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The ditches and probable pits revealed on aerial photos add further detail to the potential heritage assets identified within the proposed development area by the geophysical survey.



Legend

Constraints

- BT
- Footpath
- Overhead Electric
- River

Cropmarks

- [Red shape]



Figure. Cropmarks (Based on 2018 Google Earth Image)

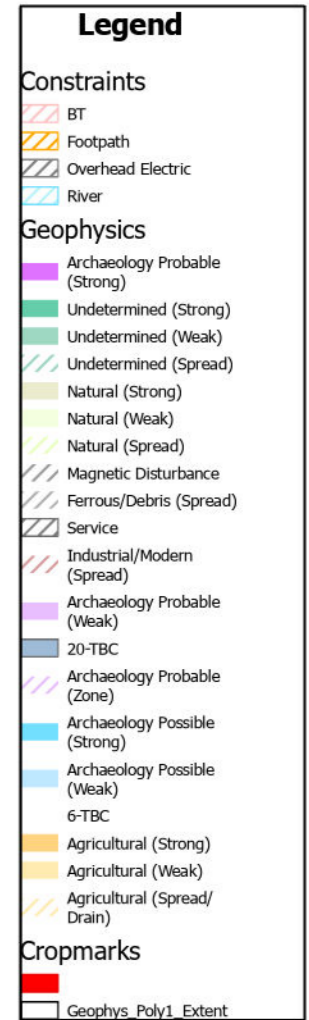
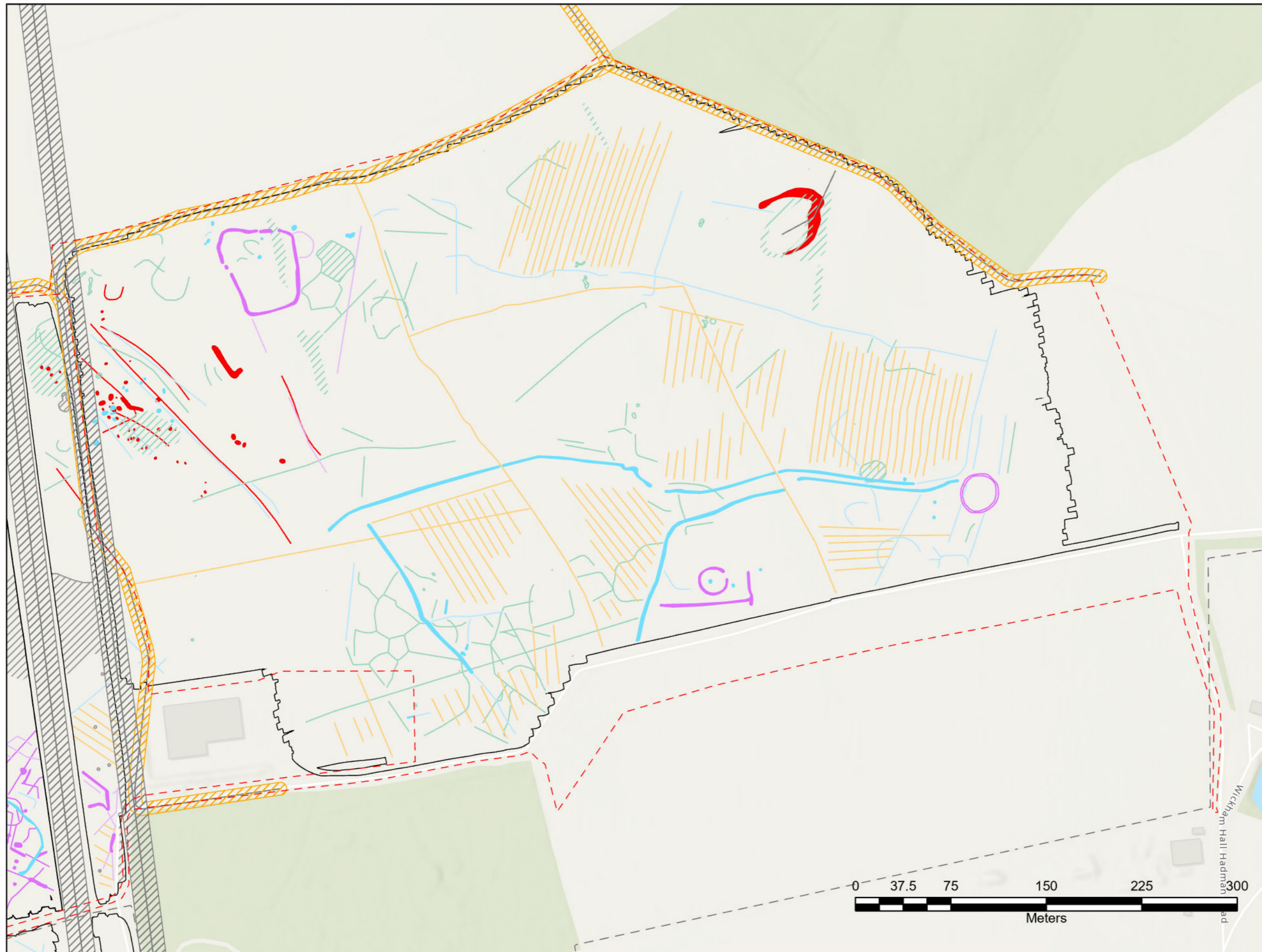


Figure. Geophysics Interpretation and Cropmarks (Based on 2018 Google Earth Image)

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