

February 3, 2021

VIA E-MAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Steven Kahl
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Great River Energy
230 kV Transmission Line – Oliver and Mercer Counties
Siting Exclusion Certification
Case No. PU-20-408

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Attached for filing is Great River Energy's Second Certification Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code § 49-22-03(a)(4), along with Exhibit A. The original and ten copies of these documents are being sent to the Commission today via Federal Express.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mollie M. Smith
Direct Dial: 612.492.7270
Email: msmith@fredlaw.com

MMS:rg:72064144
Encls.

cc: Daniel Leshner (via e-mail, w/encls.)

3 PU-20-408 Filed 02/03/2021 Pages: 25
Second Certification and documentation relating to N.D.C.C. Section 49-22-03(3)(a)(4)
Great River Energy
Mollie Smith, Fredrikson&byron, P.A.

Attorneys & Advisors
Main 612.492.7000
Fax 612.492.7077

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-1425

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Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota
fredlaw.com

5. On September 28, 2020, GRE filed a Certification Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code § 49-22-03(3)(a)(4) (“September Certification”) identifying the Project’s existing centerline and structure locations, proposed centerline and structure locations, and the Corridor.

6. Since filing the September Certification, GRE has determined that further adjustments are needed to the proposed location of Structures 63, 64, and 65 due to constructability issues. A map showing the Project’s existing centerline and structure locations; the currently proposed centerline and structure locations; the previously proposed locations of Structures 63, 64, and 65 (from September 2020, shown in yellow on page 12); and the Corridor is attached as **Exhibit A**.

7. The Project’s construction activities will be conducted wholly within the Corridor, and GRE holds all necessary easement rights within the Corridor.

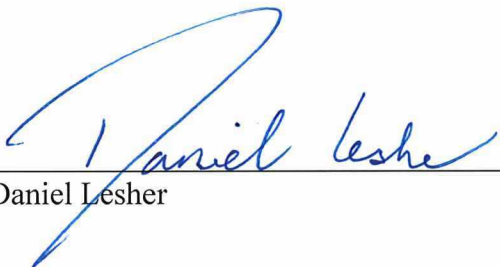
8. In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-03(3)(a)(4), GRE certifies as follows:

- a. The Project involves the replacement of structures to facilitate the installation of new conductors along the SHN Line; thus, the proposed construction activities are to improve an existing electric transmission facility.
- b. GRE conducted an environmental analysis of the Project’s Route and Corridor relative to the Exclusion Areas and Avoidance Areas set forth in N.D.A.C. §§ 69-06-08-02(1)-(2).
- c. One category of Exclusion Area is present within the Corridor: areas critical to the life stages of threatened or endangered animal or plant species (N.D.A.C. § 69-06-08-02(1)(d)). Specifically, occupied habitat for the Dakota skipper, a federally-listed threatened butterfly species, was identified within

the Corridor. However, the Project, including the adjustments depicted in **Exhibit A**, avoids the occupied Dakota skipper habitat.


- d. One category of Avoidance Areas is present within the Corridor: historical resources which are not specifically designated as exclusion or avoidance areas (N.D.A.C. § 69-06-08-02(2)(c)). Specifically, five cultural sites and two isolated finds that remain unevaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places were identified within the Corridor. These resources will be avoided by the Project, including the adjustments depicted in **Exhibit A**.
- e. GRE will comply with all applicable conditions and protections in siting laws and rules. The SHN Line was constructed prior to the Siting Act; therefore, no prior Commission orders exist that are applicable to the facility at issue.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

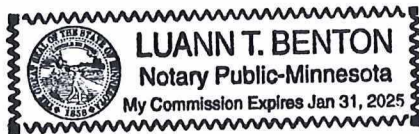


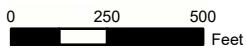
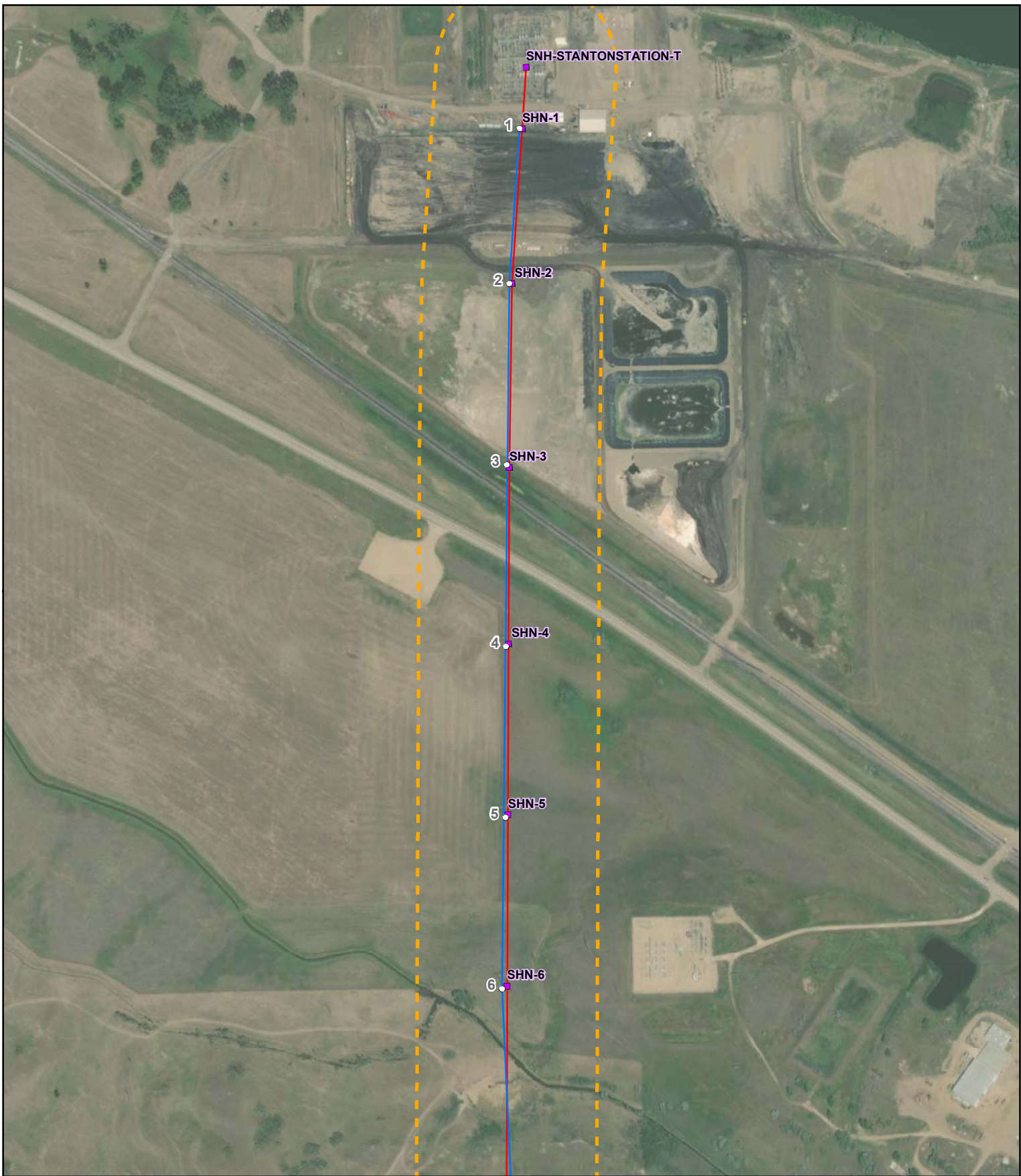
Daniel Lesher

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 3rd day of February, 2021.



Notary Public

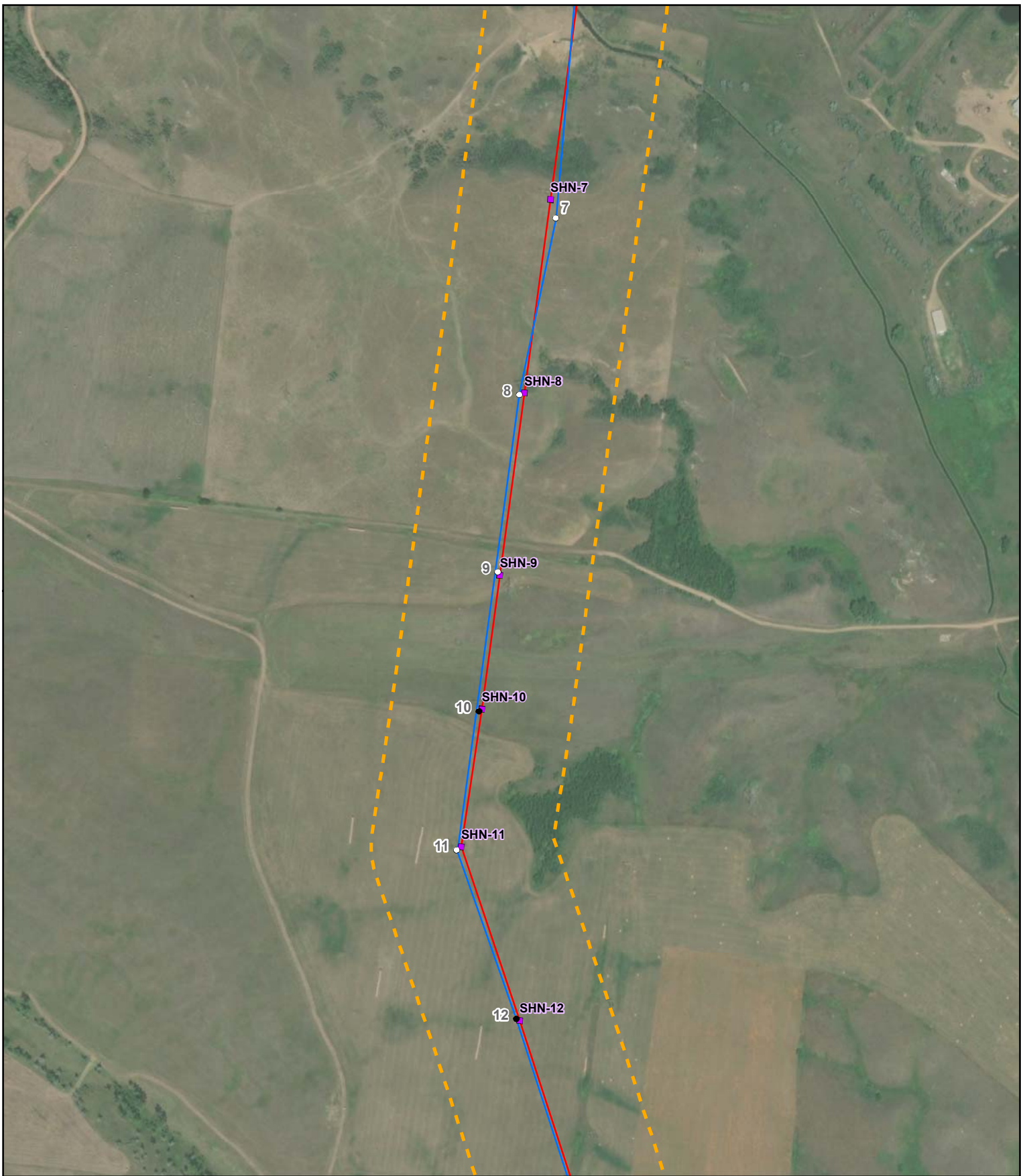




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Great River Energy
SHN 230 kV Line Rebuild Project
Exhibit A
Mercer and Oliver and Counties, North Dakota

- Existing Structure
- Proposed Structure
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Existing Transmission Line
- 700' Corridor



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Feet

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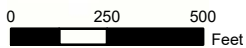
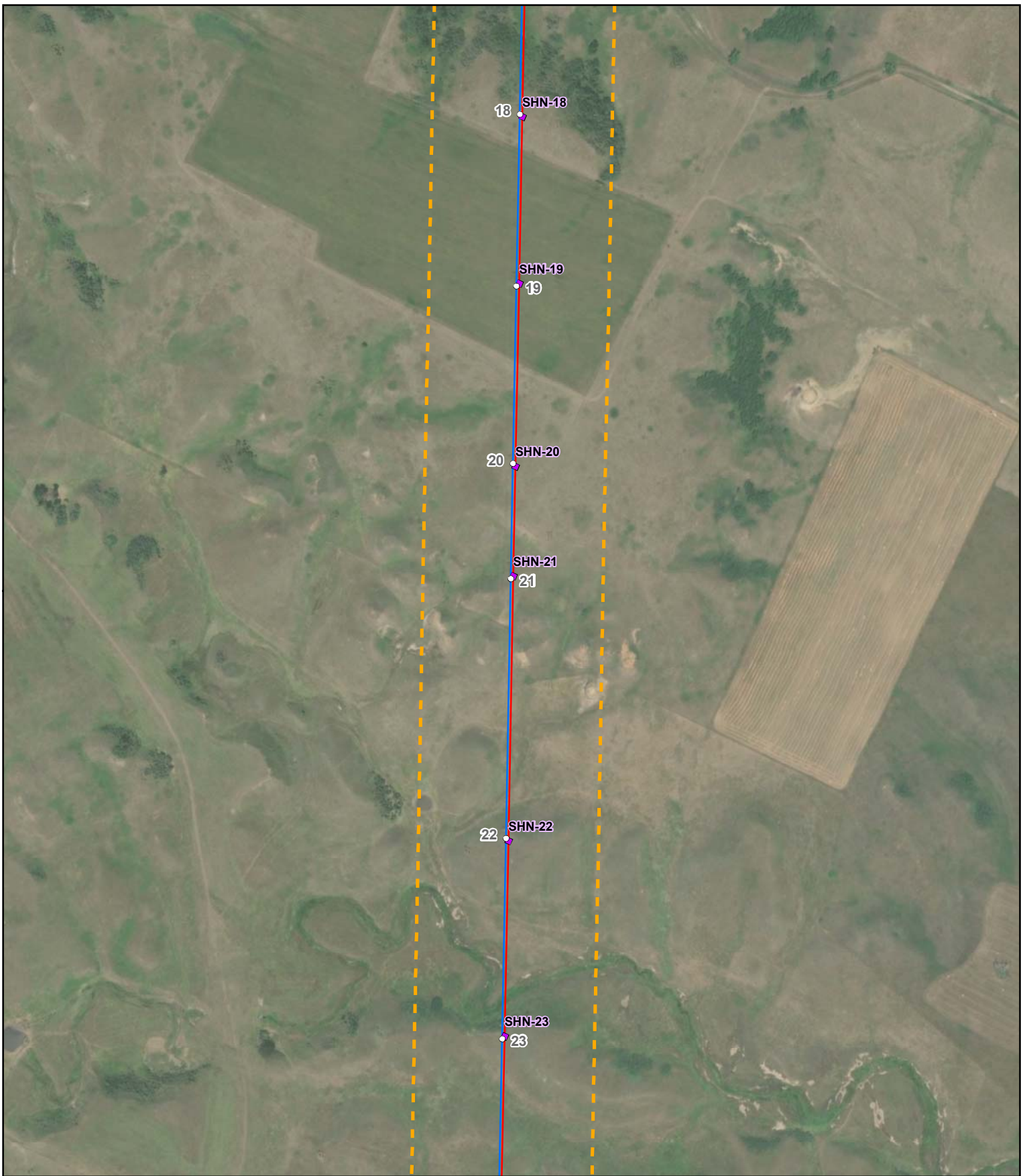


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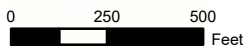
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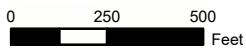
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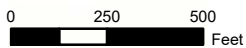
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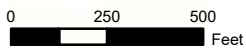
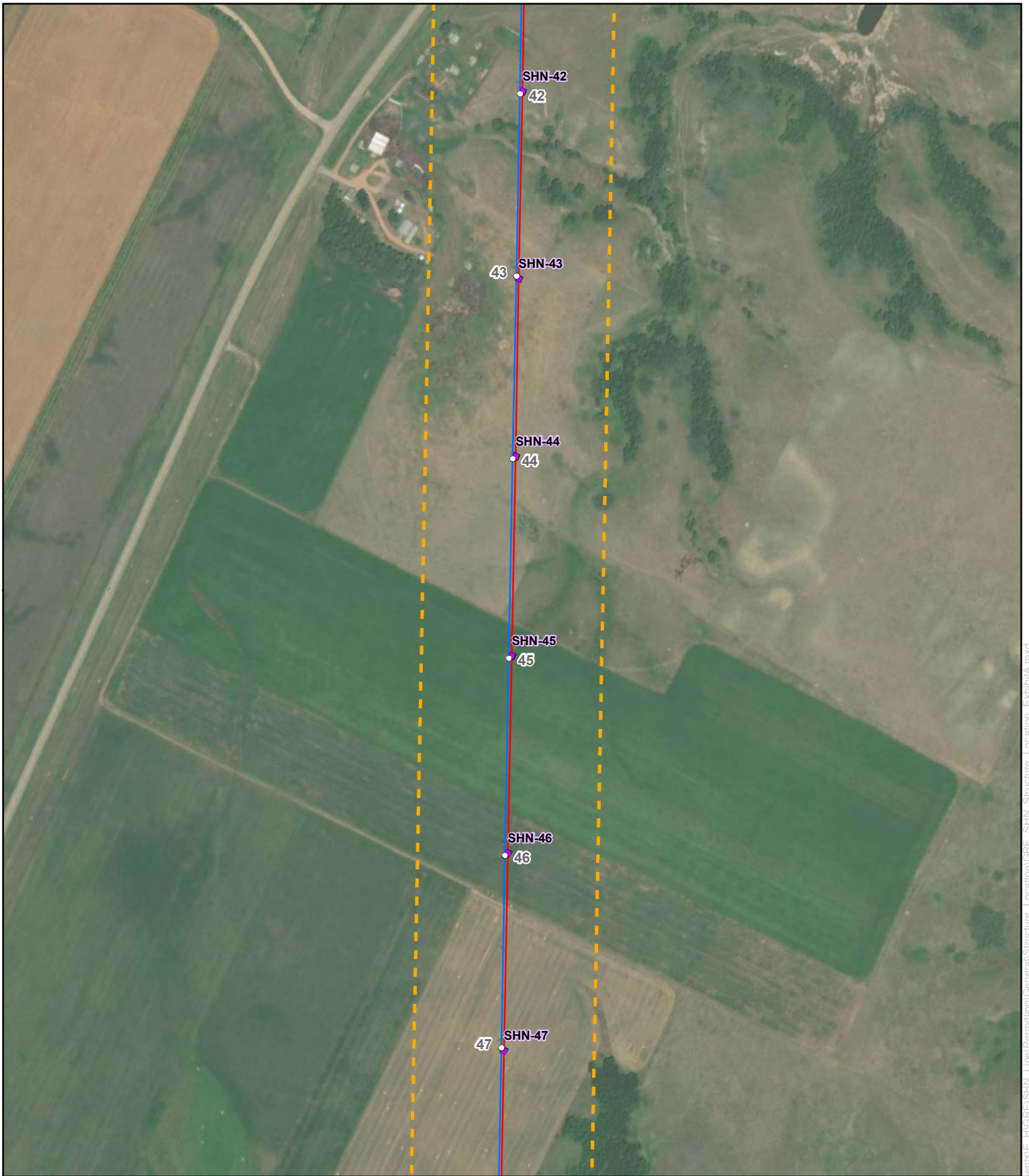
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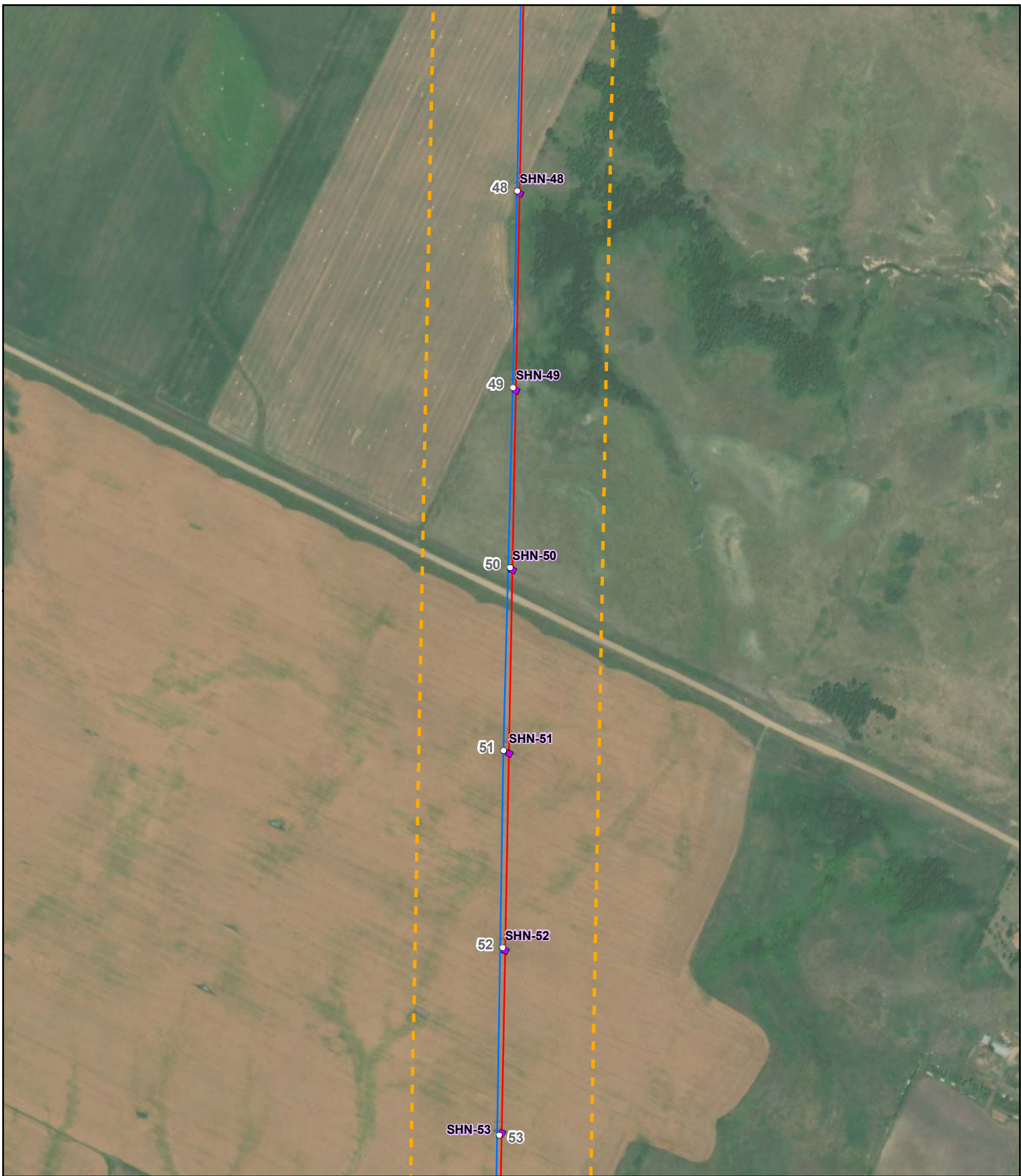
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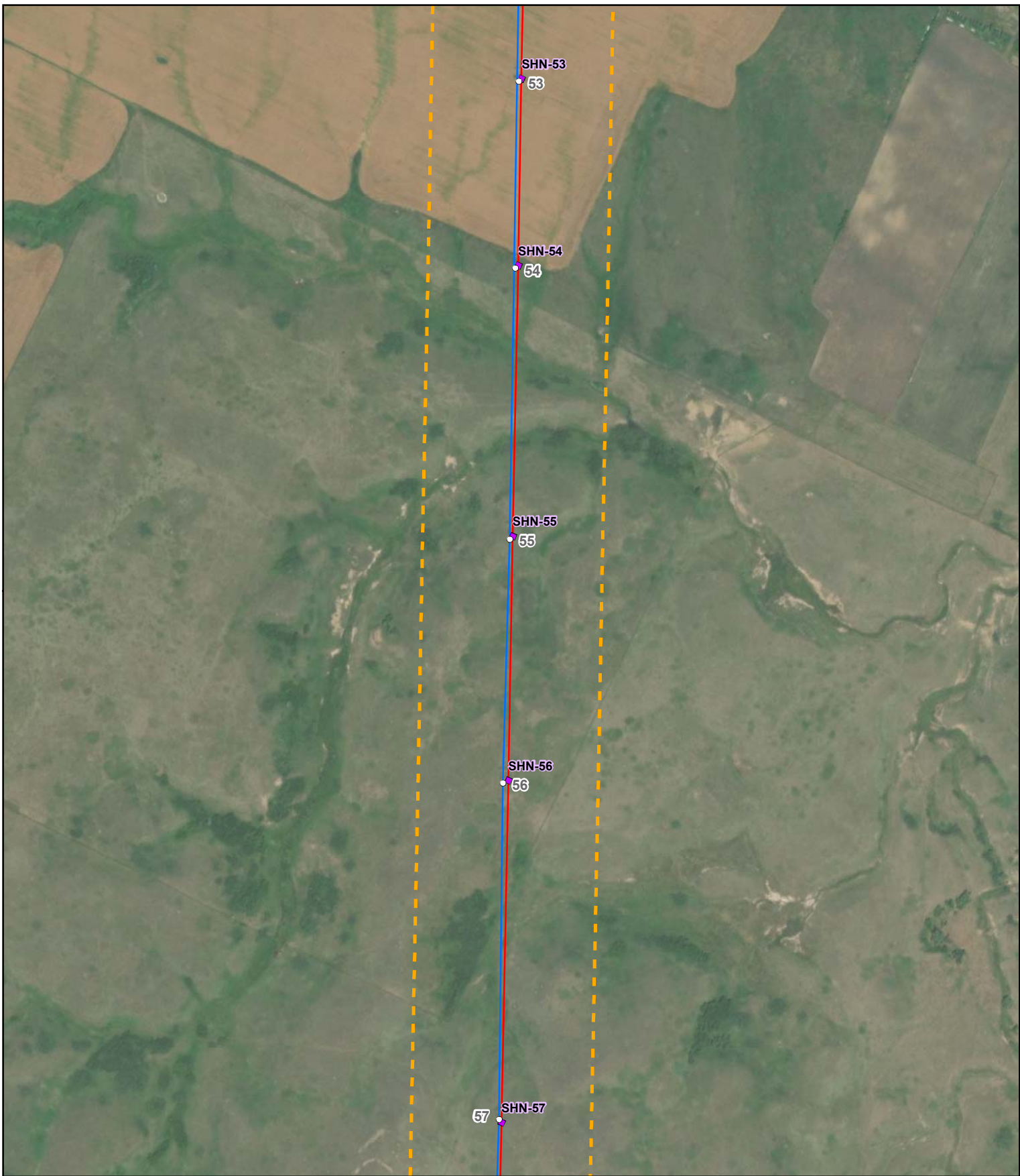


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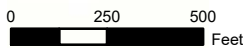
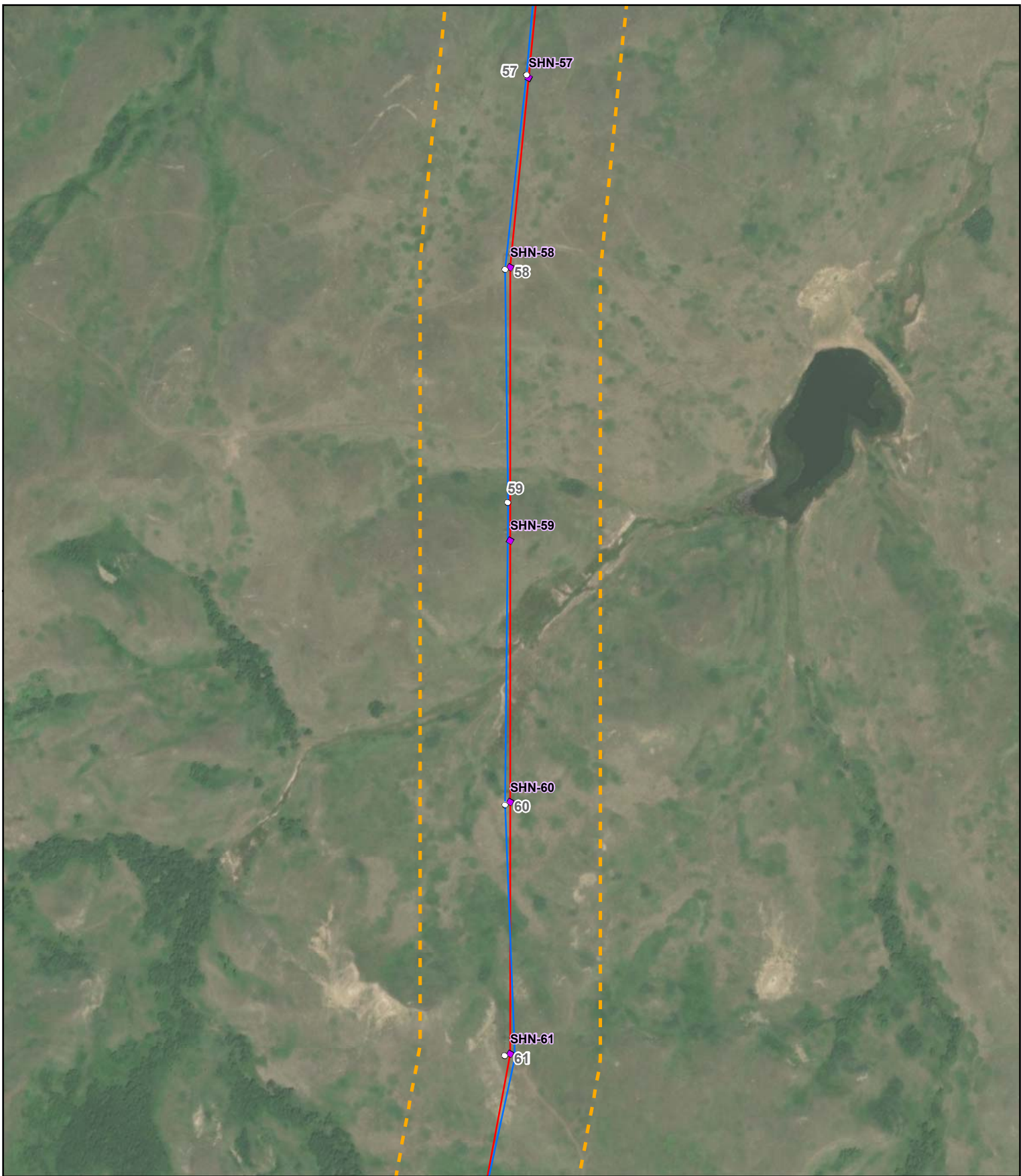


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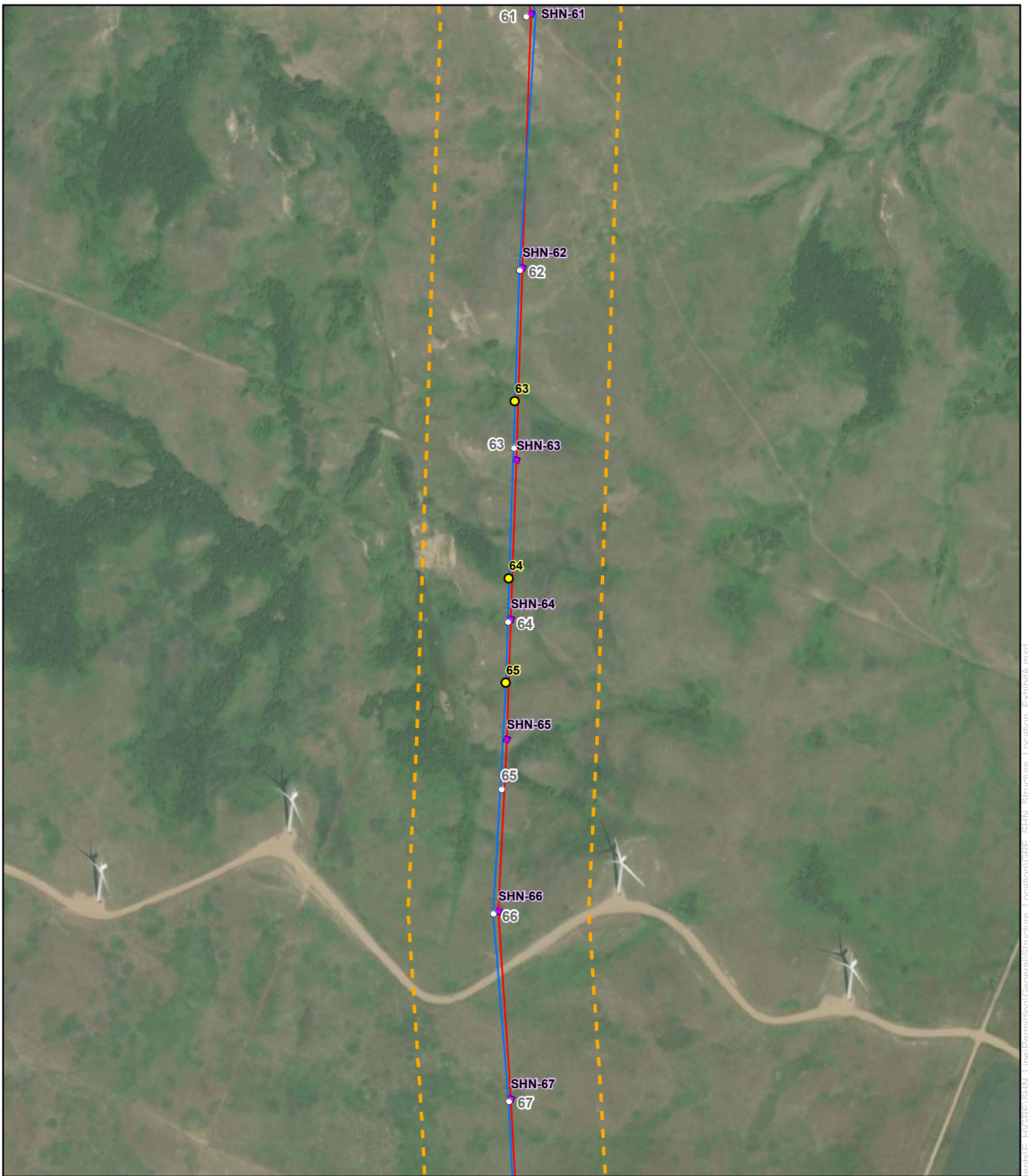
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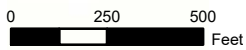
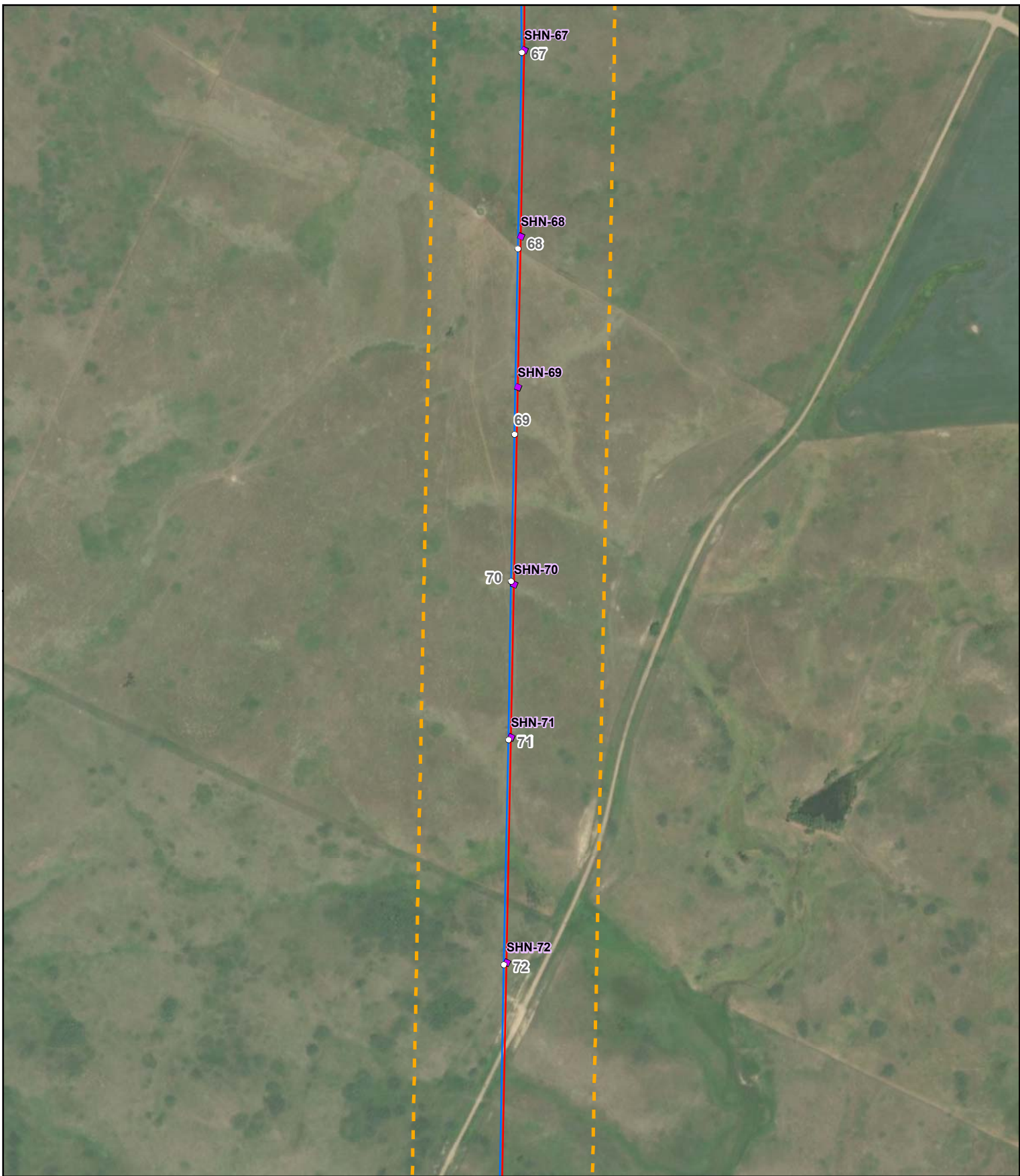
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For Environmental Review Purposes Only

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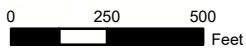
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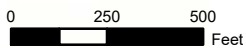
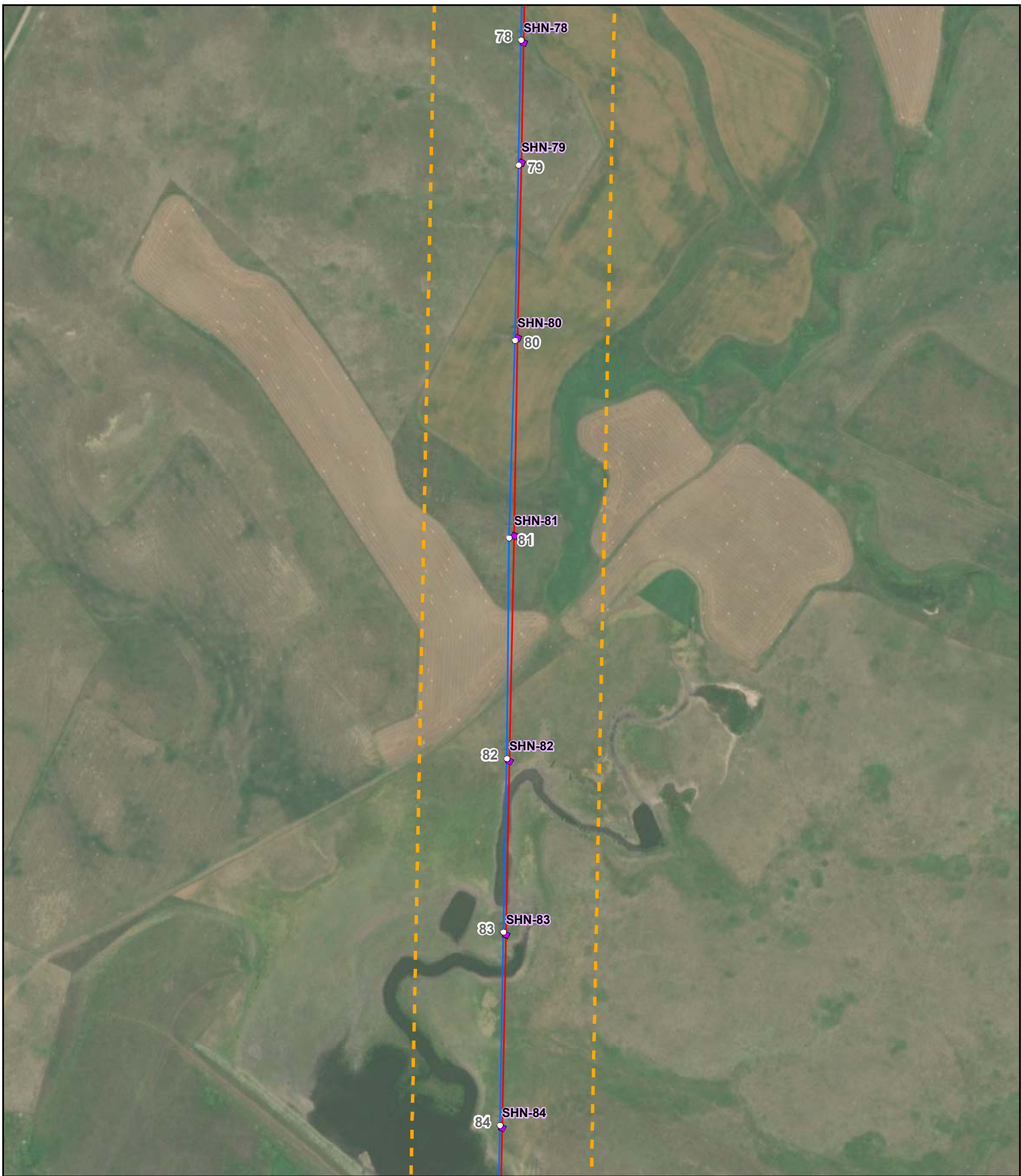
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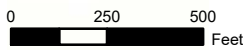
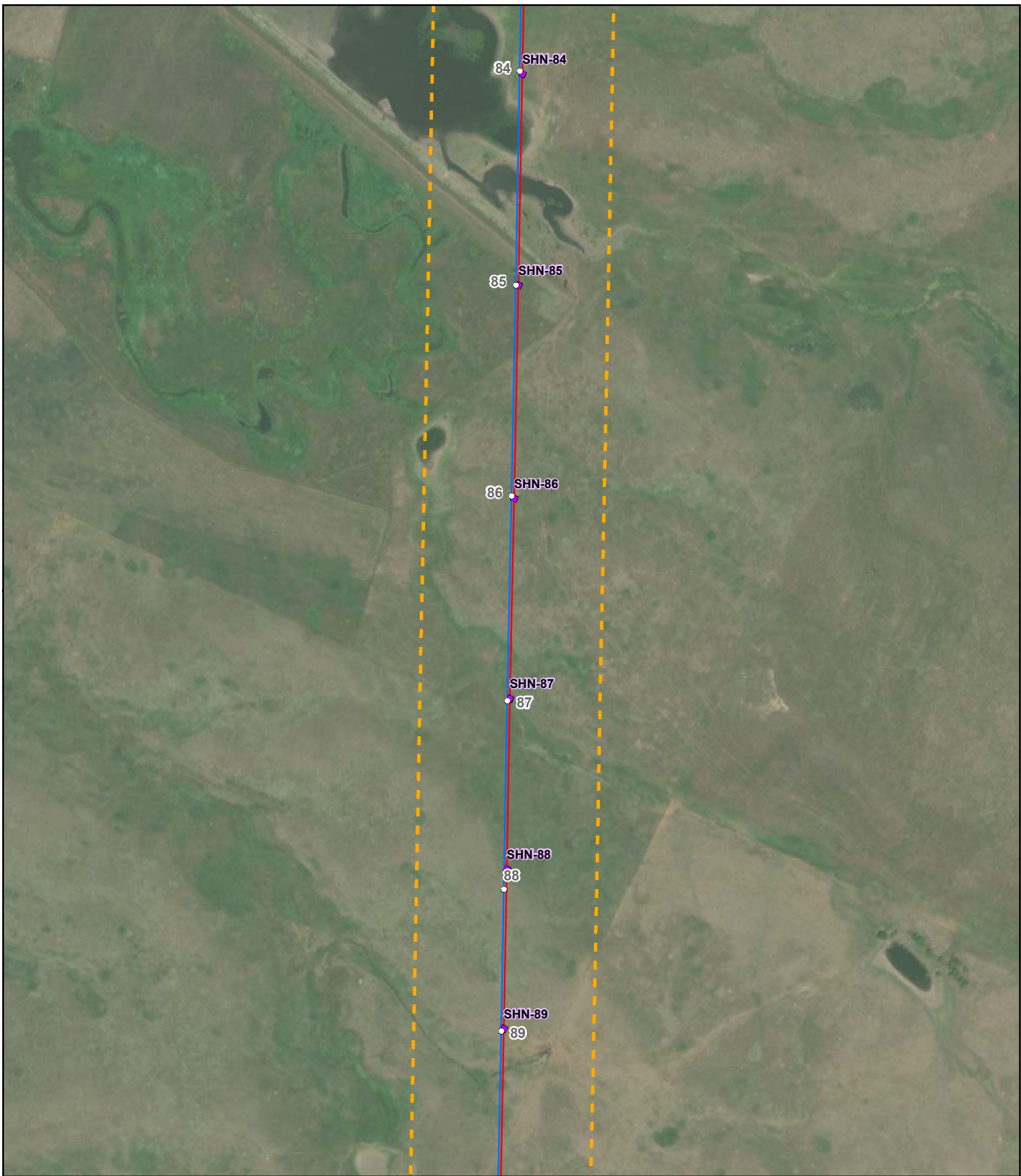
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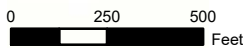
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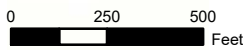
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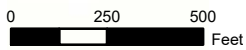


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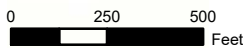
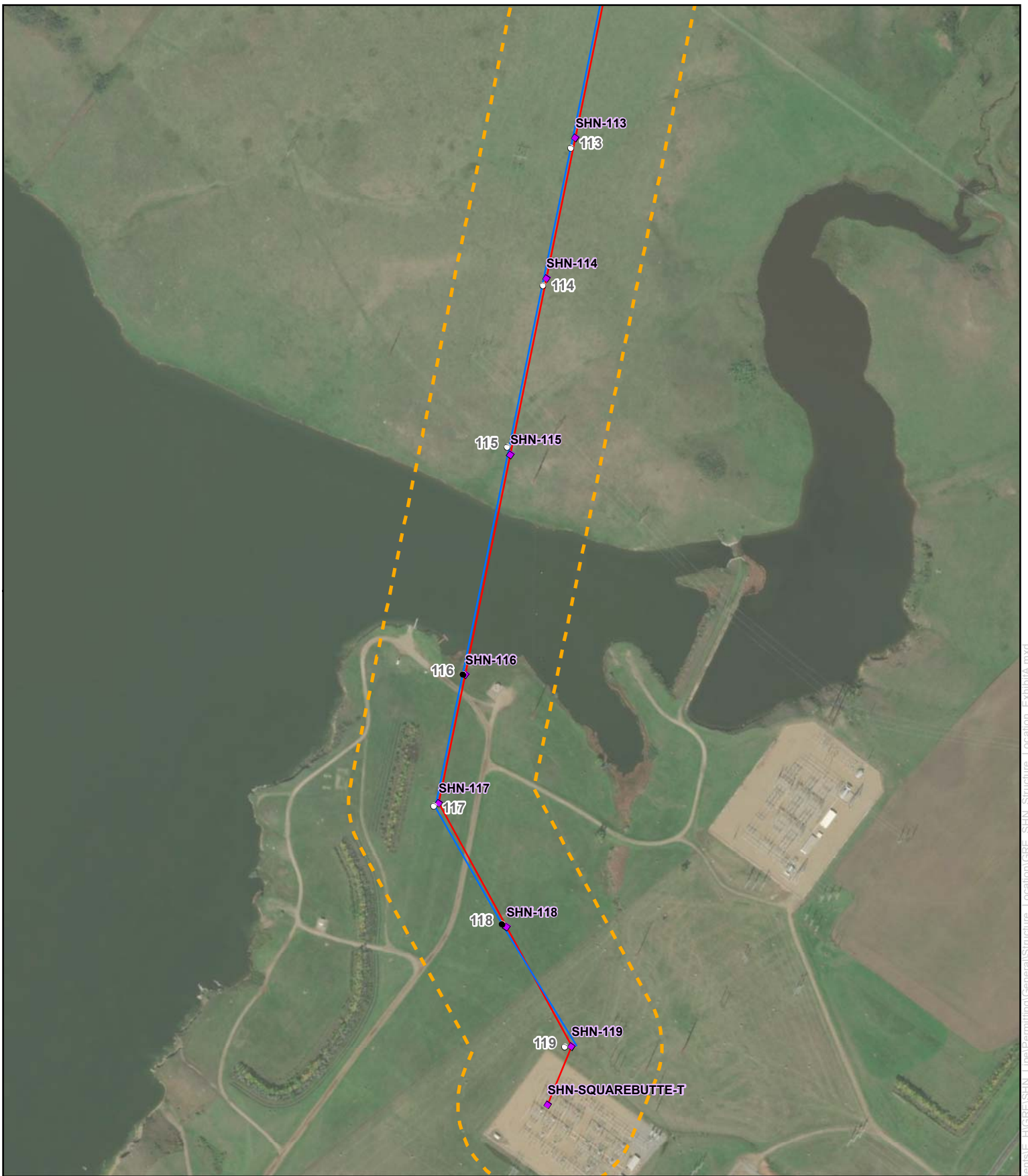
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