

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

**Roundstone Lane
Angmering
West Sussex**

October 2014

Planning • Heritage

Specialist & Independent Advisors to the Property Industry

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This document represents an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation to undertake an archaeological mitigation strategy at land at Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 535158 124294 and its location is shown on Figure 1.
- 1.2 The site is located to the southeast of Angmering town centre and consists of three fields currently laid to pasture. The site is bounded to the north by residential properties, to the south by sports fields and Pound Place and by Roundstone Lane and the A280 to the west and east respectively. The site lies at around 14m OD. The underlying geology of the site, according to recent data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014) consists of River Terrace Deposits of sand, silt and clay.
- 1.3 Planning permission has been granted by Arun District Council for the residential development of the site (Planning reference: A/82/12), consisting of the construction of 139 dwellings with associated access roads, services and landscaping.
- 1.4 Previous archaeological works undertaken at the site include a Desk Based Assessment (L-P: Archaeology 2012) and evaluation trenching (ASE, 2014). Having considered the results of both the Desk Based Assessment and the trenching work it has been agreed that a programme of mitigation work (archaeological excavation) be undertaken between West Sussex County Council's archaeologists and CgMs Consulting.
- 1.5 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which outlines the scope of the mitigation work and has been submitted to CgMs Consulting and WSCC, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority, for approval prior to the commencement of fieldwork. It has been prepared with reference to the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work will be carried out in accordance with these documents (unless otherwise specified below).

2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The following summary is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment of the site (L-P: Archaeology 2012) and the evaluation trenching (ASE, 2014). For a complete background, please refer to that document.

Prehistoric

- 2.2 A series of prehistoric sites and find spots are known in close proximity to the site. A multi period site is recorded to the northeast, including a Bronze Age enclosure, with later Iron Age pottery and activity from the Roman period onwards, while a further area of Bronze Age activity is recorded immediately to the west of the site, including a Middle Bronze Age cremation, postholes and a curvilinear (ASE 2014). Limited prehistoric activity is also recorded to the southwest of the site during the excavation of a Roman and medieval site, while a Bronze Age farmstead is recorded to the north of the site. Find spots in the area include finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age adzes to the southwest, a Neolithic flint scatter to the west, a prehistoric flint scatter to the northeast and Late Bronze Age material to the northwest of the site. Overall, the archaeological potential for the later prehistoric periods (Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age) is considered to be high.

Roman

- 2.3 Iron Age pottery and Roman features and finds are known to the northeast of the site, during the construction of the Angmering Bypass (Oxford Archaeology 2002), while Roman activity is recorded to the west of the site, including a cremation, a ditch and postholes (ASE 2002). Roman occupation is also recorded to the southwest of the site and a possible Roman road is known approximately 1km to the south of the site and a short stretch of metalled trackway to the west (ibid.). A variety of find spots of Roman material are also known to the north, west and south of the site, including finds of a quern stone, coins and pottery.

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.4 The first reference to Angmering dates to c. AD880 and the town is recorded in the Domesday Book. Evidence for medieval activity within a 1km radius of the site is limited but includes features of this period recorded to the northeast of the site on the Angmering bypass scheme and a medieval ditch is recorded to the southwest. Find spots of medieval material are also known to the south and northeast. The Desk Based Assessment of the site (L-P: Archaeology 2012) concluded that the archaeological potential of the site for these periods is medium to low.

Post-medieval

- 2.5 The site appears to consist of little more than fields throughout the 19th century, as shown on historic maps. although the Grade II Listed Pound House lies to the northwest of the site and a building, known as Pound cottage, is shown on several 19th century maps to lie on the southwestern boundary of the site. Other listed buildings in the wider vicinity include Eccleden Manor and its associated dovecote, as well as a series of listed buildings within the Angmering Conservation Area. Two post-medieval windmills are recorded to the west and northeast of the site, while scattered post-medieval features area also recorded to the west and southwest. The potential for post-medieval features within the site is considered to be low (L-P: Archaeology 2012).

Results of the evaluation trenching

- 2.6 Previous archaeological work on the site comprised the excavation of fifty-four evaluation trenches. Of these, thirty-two encountered archaeological remains, including a variety of features comprising gullies, ditches, pits and post-holes. Pottery with a date range suggesting activity at the site from the Middle Bronze Age through into the first century AD was recovered. There was clear evidence of systemic land organisation in the survival of ditches and gullies, and the pits and post-holes are indicative of domestic activity within the boundaries of the site. As well as the assemblages of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery, other finds included struck flint, fire-cracked flint, daub and slag.

3.0 Research aims and objectives

- 3.1 The specific research aims, based on the findings of the South-East Research Framework (SERF) include the following:

Bronze Age and Iron Age

- To further define and characterise the land use identified during the evaluation; can such evidence inform on the long-term history of Bronze Age land division in Sussex?
- The site has archaeological remains of multiple periods; can this inform on the nature of the Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age transition?

Roman

What can the Roman remains on the site further inform on the character of Roman rural settlement and the Roman agricultural economy in the area?

4.0 Methodology

- 4.1 The work comprises the mechanical excavation of an area measuring 10,573m² (Fig. 2). The area will be accurately located by means of a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS or similar).
 - 4.2 The size excavation may vary if significant archaeological remains are found to extend beyond the proposed boundaries. The extension of the excavation will only take place following discussions between the WSCC Archaeological Advisor and CgMs Consulting.
 - 4.3 Prior to excavation the area will be scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited archaeological personnel.
 - 4.4 Machine stripping will be undertaken using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Overburden deposits will be removed in spits of no more than 0.25m in thickness. Machine excavation will be carried down on to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of natural deposits, whichever is uppermost. Care will be taken not to machine off seemingly homogenous layers that may include the upper parts of archaeological features. The resultant surfaces will be cleaned as necessary and planned.
 - 4.5 Once the machine strip of the areas is complete a fixed site grid will be established relative to Ordnance Datum using a Total Station and/or survey grade Global Positioning System (GPS). A full pre-excavation plan will be prepared as the stripping progresses using Global Positioning System (GPS) planning technology in combination with Total Station surveying. This will be available to the Project Manager, the Supervisor and the WSCC County Archaeologist immediately, or at the latest the day after the recording has taken place. This pre-excavation plan will be available in Autocad or PDF format and will be printed at a suitable scale (1:20 or 1:50) for on-site use. The plan will be updated by regular visits to site by a Surveyor who will plot excavated features and record levels in close consultation with the Supervisor and/or the excavators. Where it is deemed necessary (for example detailed structural features or burials) features will be hand planned at a scale of 1:20 from the grid and then digitised to be included on the overall plan.
 - 4.6 All excavation work will be carried out in line with the Recommended Standards Archaeological Conditions (WSCC 2007).
 - 4.7 After the cleaning and planning of the excavation area the following sampling strategy will be employed:
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- All structures and all zones of specialised activity (e.g. funerary, ceremonial, industrial, agricultural processing) will be fully excavated and all relationships recorded.
 - Ditches and gullies will have all relationships defined, investigated and recorded. All terminals will be excavated. Sufficient of the feature lengths will be excavated to determine the character of the feature over its entire course.
 - Discrete features will be 50% sampled (half sectioned/quadrated as appropriate). The remaining 50% will be removed if the feature is manifestly rich in ancient palaeoenvironmental remains.
 - For complex/ very significant features/ deposits/ artefact assemblages/ artefacts, the excavation feature sampling policy is to be subject to further discussion. If of exceptional nature, the advice of English Heritage may be sought.
 - Highly/nationally significant features (e.g. high status burials) strategy for excavation/scientific investigation/conservation etc. to be agreed between CgMs and WSCC's Archaeologist before work resumes.
 - For layers a decision on-site will be made between the archaeological contractor, CgMs and WSCC's Archaeologist as to the extent that they will be excavated. The factors governing the judgement will include the possibility that they mask earlier remains, the need to understand function and depositional processes, and the necessity to recover sufficient artefacts to date the deposit and to meet the project aims.
- 4.8 All excavated deposits and features will be recorded according to current professional standards using the standard context record sheets employing a single context recording system.
- 4.9 A photographic record will be maintained. This will illustrate the principal features and finds both in detail and in a general context. The photographic record will also include working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork.
- 4.10 All finds recovered from excavated deposits will be collected and retained in line with the contractors artefacts collection policy.
- 4.11 All finds that are covered by the Treasure Act will be moved to a safe place and reported to the coroner's office according to the procedures of this Act. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the artefacts from theft or damage.
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- 4.12 Any finds of human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected. The coroner's office will be informed. Excavation, recording and removal will only take place under the relevant Ministry of Justice licence and local authority environmental health regulations.

5.0 Environmental Sampling Strategy

- 5.1 On-site sampling methodology, processing and recording will be undertaken within the guidelines laid out by English Heritage (2002) and WSCC Recommended Standard Conditions (WSCC 2007) and in close consultation with the archaeological contractors specialist.
- 5.2 Samples will be collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silted features, sealed hearths, sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, water-logged or cess deposits. In all instances deposits with clear residual or intrusive material will be avoided.
- 5.3 The sampling will aim to recover spatial and temporal information concerning the occupation of the site. This will be best achieved by sampling a range of feature types (e.g. pits, ditches, post-holes, cess pits) from across the site, the fills of which can be compared and contrasted. Where clearly defined fills are evident within features or in large features with superficially homogenous fills, stratified data will be obtained by taking multiple samples spread through the deposits.
- 5.4 A standard bulk sample size of 40litres (or 100% of small features) will be taken from dated/datable sealed contexts to recover environmental remains such as fish, small mammals, molluscs and botanicals. Larger samples of 80-100litres will be taken wholesale from some contexts, rich in large mammal bones and shell.
- 5.5 Sub-samples of up to 10 litres will be kept aside from the bulk samples for specialist processing and analysis to target retrieval of insects, fish bone and parasites for example. Where appropriate deposits are encountered column samples will be taken to assess pollen, ostracods and sediment profiles. Waterlogged wood samples will be recorded in situ if possible, sampled if large or removed for further analysis and identification.
- 5.6 Suitable sampling should be considered throughout the programme of archaeological fieldwork to ensure that material suitable for radiocarbon dating can be achieved. The precise requirements will be discussed and established with the WSCC Archaeological Officer as fieldwork progresses.

6.0 Processing and Post-Excavation Assessment

- 6.1 During the excavation, brief weekly progress reports will be supplied, in writing (via email), to the WSCC Archaeological Officer. These will include timetabled information for the on-site works.
 - 6.2 A brief summary report with feature plan will be provided to the WSCC Archaeological Officer within 3 weeks of the complete cessation of on-site investigation if required.
 - 6.3 All hand-collected, bulk finds (pottery, bone, stone, worked flint, building material) will be washed, dried and bagged by material and context. The pottery will be marked with sitecode and context number. All bulk finds will be counted and weighed and quantification presented on a context by context basis for each material group. Ceramic building material and burnt flint may be discarded after recording and quantification in line with the Guidelines of the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993). Samples will be retained as appropriate.
 - 6.4 In carrying out post-excavation work and analysis of ceramics from the Site, the Contractor will liaise with the Research Officer of the Sussex Archaeological Society (currently Mr Luke Barber, Research Officer, Sussex Archaeological Society, Barbican House, 169 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1YE; tel. 01273 405736/ 01273 486260) with a view to ensuring a concordance between fabric type descriptions of ceramics from this site and those employed on other recently excavated sites in the area and those commonly employed elsewhere in Sussex. The reason for such liaison is to ensure against a proliferation of different systems of ceramic fabric type descriptions and nomenclature in the area of the relevant site. **NB.** Example sherds of each identified ceramic fabric type, with context information, to be sent by post to the Research Officer (address above) for comment and return.
 - 6.5 All registered finds (coins, individual objects etc.) will be washed, dried and packaged as appropriate. Requirements for remedial conservation will be ascertained and carried out in order to stabilise objects. Site specific numbers will be assigned to each registered find for identification purposes.
 - 6.6 All retained environmental samples will be processed by experienced and qualified staff and recorded using pro-forma recording sheets. Bulk samples from dry (non-waterlogged) deposits will be processed using flotation. As a minimum, 50% of each sample will be processed. The flots and residues from these samples will be retained, dried and sorted for environmental and archaeological remains. Samples from waterlogged deposits will be wet sieved through nested sieves and stored in anaerobic, wet, cool conditions or dried if considered an appropriate form of conservation. Column samples and samples extracted for analysis of insects or parasites for example will be sent to
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an appropriate specialist for assessment. Waterlogged wood specimens will be recorded, sampled for identification and stored in wet, cool conditions. All will be assessed and retained as appropriate.

- 6.7 A post-excavation assessment report and updated project design will be prepared within six months of completion of the site work.
- 6.8 The assessment report will be in line with guidelines set out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE; English Heritage 2006) and MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008) and will adhere to the standards laid out in the WSCC Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions (2007); specifically Section 6 and Annex C which apply to post-excavation reporting standards.
- 6.9 A draft copy of the report will be sent to the WSCC Archaeological Officer in the first instance for his comments and approval. Once the report has been accepted further copies and one electronic copy in PDF format will be sent to WSCC and the client as appropriate. A copy will be forward to Local Planning Authority (MSDC) by the client or by Archaeology South-East on their behalf.
- 6.10 A copy of the post-excavation assessment report will be supplied to the County SMR on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time not exceeding six months.
- 6.11 An Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> following the completion of the Assessment report and included as an appendix.

7.0 Final Reporting and Archive Deposition

- 7.1 In line with the recommendations of the Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design report, agreement shall be reached with the WSCC Archaeological Officer regarding the format and destination of subsequent publication(s) arising from all investigations (evaluation, excavation, watching brief etc).
 - 7.2 Upon completion of the final report for publication, the archive will be prepared for deposition in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994).
 - 7.3 Permission will be sought for the deposition of the site archive and finds in Littlehampton museum as soon as a start date for the field work is confirmed. An accession number will be obtained as necessary.
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- 7.4 In the event that there is important archaeology on the site, a wider, community and educational approach to communicating the heritage of the site will be implemented in consultation with WSCC and the client.

8.0 Project Management

- 8.1 This Overall project will be managed by Matthew Smith Bsc MIfA of CgMs Consulting and ran day to day by a project manager of the appointed archaeological contractor.

9.0 Health and Safety

- 9.1 Health and Safety must take priority over archaeological requirements. It is essential that all projects be carried out in accordance with safe working practices and under a defined Health and Safety Policy. A Risk Assessment for the project will be prepared prior to the commencement of work and all relevant health and safety regulations will be adhered to.

10.0 Preparation and deposition of the finds and archive

- 10.1 The site archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects 2 and in accordance with the guidelines published in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission, 1994).
- 10.2 Permission will be sought to deposit the archive with Littlehampton Museum, who have been notified of the project and agreed to accept the archive. The archive will be prepared according the principles of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991) and the requirements of the recipient museum..

11.0 Public Communication

- 11.1 The scale of public communication will be dependent on the quality of the results of the archaeology and will be agreed between CgMs and WSCC. However, it is noted that the site lies within Worthing Archaeological Society's area of interest.

References

ASE 2002. Archaeological Investigations at Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex. Archaeology South-East, unpublished archive report, project number 1333.

ASE 2014 Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land at Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex

Archaeology South-East, 2007 *Post-Excavation Manual 1: Finds and Environmental Deposition and Processing Guidelines*

BGS 2014 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 6th June 2014

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*

English Heritage, 2008 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

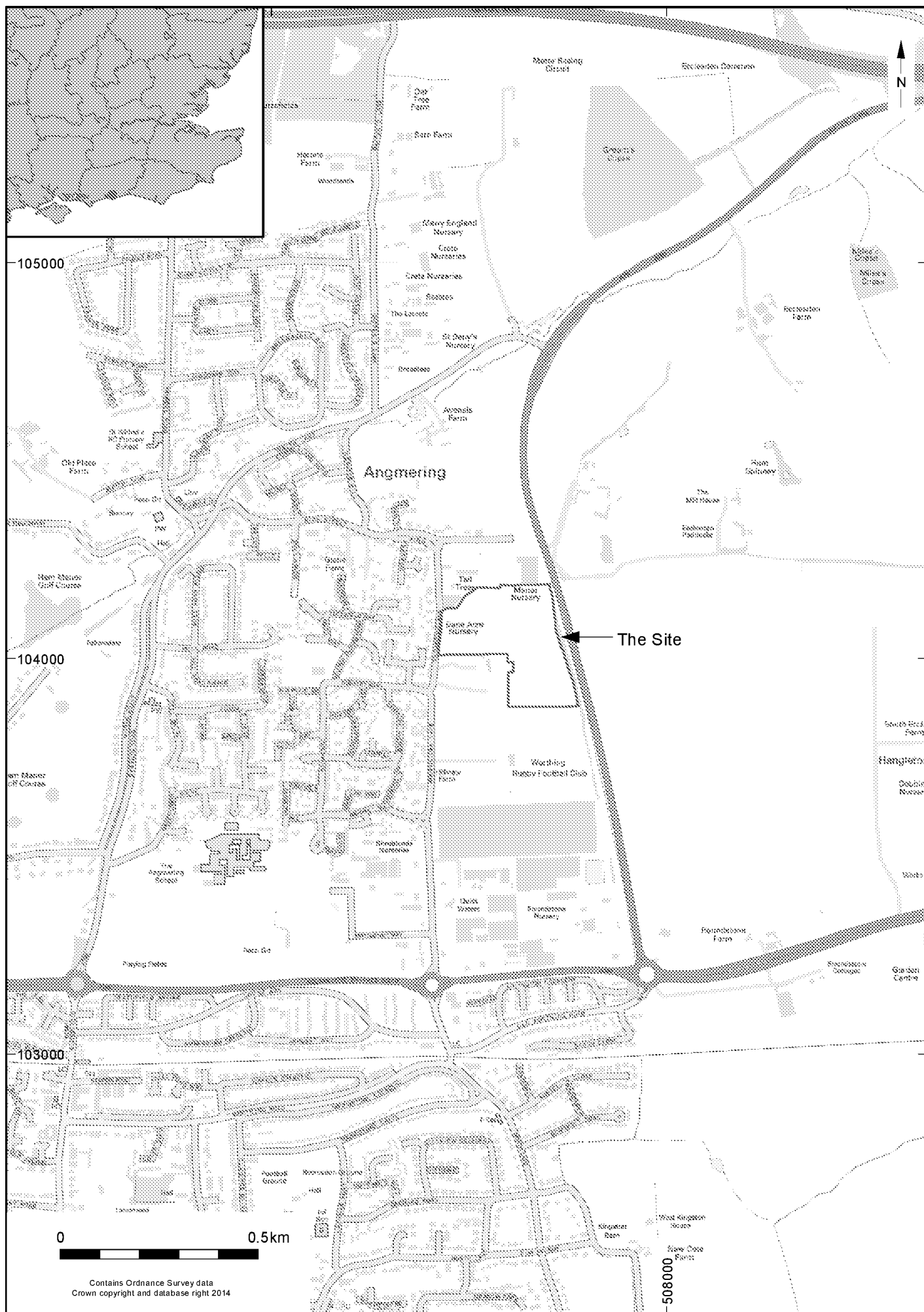
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IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

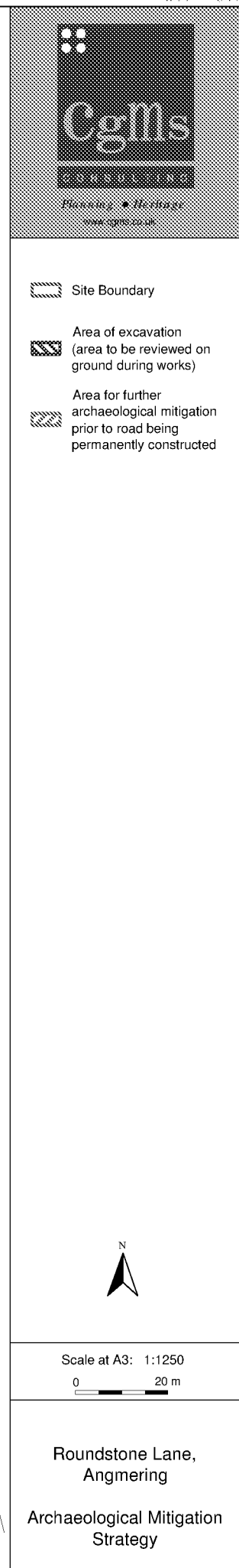
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Oxford Archaeology, 2002. A280 Angmering By-pass, West Sussex, Post Excavation Assessment. Oxford Archaeology, unpublished archive report.

Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993 *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*, (1st ed.)



© Archaeology South-East		Roundstone Lane, Angmering	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6824	Oct 2014	Site location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: RHC		



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