

Land at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Project specification for an archaeological watching brief

**Access road junctions with A259 and
sports pitch flood compensation area**

7th May 2009



Ref: 07e132wb

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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 These components of the project lies in the east and south east of the development site adjacent to the A259 Chichester Road, North Bersted, West Sussex (SU 9175 0130).

1.2 Outline planning permission for residential development on the site, comprising 650 residential dwellings (with associated facilities, flood relief and road infra-structure, has being gained from Arun District Council on appeal (APP/C3810/A/04/1167106 . Field evaluation informed the planning process in order to determine appropriate mitigation measures for the development and the consent included conditions (Annex C item 7) relating to archaeology. Subsequent area excavation has taken place according to a written scheme of investigation agreed with the District Council to excavate and record archaeological deposits on the site. Detailed planning permission has now been obtained (BE/8/09) and which requires further archaeological consideration of components of the project that could not be determined at the outline stage of the project. There are four particular requirements that need monitoring; Observation of the construction of an access road at its junction with the A259, the construction of a main roundabout between the A259 and the northern relief road, the digging of a deep sewer trench along the A259 and ground reduction for a flood compensation area associated with construction of a new sports pitch. This document is intended to address these components of the project.

1.3 This is to take place according to a written scheme of investigation approved by the archaeological advisor to Arun District Council as set out in *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990) and the District policies on archaeology. This is to take place during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits.

1.2 The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in detail in the written schemes of investigation produced for the main excavation project (TVAS 2007a and b) and is not repeated here.

2.0 Requirement for Work

2.1 As a condition on the granting of a planning consent a watching brief is required as set out in *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990) and the District policies on archaeology. This is to take place during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits.

2.2 This is to take place according to a written scheme of investigation approved by the archaeological advisor to Arun District Council.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The aims of the project are to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This will involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular topsoil and overburden removal and ground reduction for creating of the new road junctions and the digging of deep trenches for new drainage services and ground reduction as a flood compensation area for the new sports pitch (Figs 1-4).

3.2 The area of the sports pitch has been previously stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision. No archaeological deposits were exposed at that level. Ground reduction for the sports pitch flood compensation area is up to 1m in places and it is possible that excavation to this depth might impact upon waterlogged deposits located within the former stream channel zone and which had been identified as containing archaeological deposits in the evaluation phase of the project.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Archaeological deposits which are threatened by groundworks will be excavated and recorded. Sufficient time will be allowed to carry this out within the groundworker's schedules.

4.2 In general, all finds and artefacts will be retained, though all but a sample of some classes of building material will be discarded after recording. The categories of artefacts to be discarded will be discussed with the recipient museum and the archaeological advisor to Arun District Council.

4.3 Conservation on site will follow guidelines in First Aid For Finds with any other specialist conservation work subcontracted to the project conservator (see project team below).

4.4 A programme of environmental sampling will take place should sufficient well stratified subsoil deposits be located. Typically this involves samples of 40 L depending on the size of the feature examined. These will be sampled in consultation with our environmental consultants, the English Heritage regional scientific advisor and the archaeological advisor to Arun District Council. Sampling will take place according to English Heritage guidance (English Heritage 2002).

4.5 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the coroner and will be excavated following guidelines issued by the Ministry of Justice.

4.6 All gold and silver and any associated objects will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner and county finds liaison officer according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act (1996). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. No title will be assumed by the finder of any items of value.

4.7 In the unlikely event of an unexpected discovery of exceptional archaeological findings, such as extensive human remains or other complex archaeological deposits, this may require an additional level of mitigation to enable preservation in-situ (such as by a modification to the groundworks scheme) or further archaeological recording. The scope of this mitigation will have to be determined in consultation with the client and the archaeological advisor to Arun District Council. In such circumstances a modest delay to the works on site may ensue whilst this consultation and resultant mitigation takes place.

5.0 Recording Methodology

5.1 A single context recording system will be used in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording Manual (6th edition 2008). Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets.

5.2 All archaeological deposits exposed will be planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. All site drawings will be by pencil on drafting film.

5.3 Heights above OD will be taken and recorded on plans and sections.

5.4 The locations of the foundation trenches, and of all plans and sections will be tied into the National Grid.

5.5 A full photographic record will be made of the watching brief project, consisting of colour slide, colour print, and b/w print (contact sheet) should archaeological deposits be encountered. It will record the principal features and finds discovered, both in detail and in their general context.

6.0 Post-fieldwork

6.1 Finds processing and analysis will commence immediately following the completion of the fieldwork in accordance with guidelines in MAP2 and TVAS post-excavation procedures (4th edition 2008).

6.2 Artefacts/ecofacts will be cleaned, conserved and prepared for long term museum storage.

6.3 Specialist reports will be prepared on the artefacts recovered. Particular attention will be paid to correlating the pottery recovered with local or regional fabric type sequences.

6.4 Specialist analysis and reporting will be carried out by the following specialist staff or consultants as appropriate:-

Pottery Specialists

Dr Malcolm Lyne, Dr Jane Timby, Mr. Paul Blinkhorn
or Ms Frances Raymond (consultants)

Later Prehistoric Struck flint

Dr. Steve Ford (TVAS)

Stone Specialist	Dr. David Williams (Southampton University)
Metalwork Specialist	Ms Natasha Bennett (TVAS) or Dr. Robin Taylor (consultant)
Charred Plant Remains	Professor Mark Robinson (Oxford University) or Ms Lucy Cramp (Reading University)
Faunal Remains	Ms Sheila Hamilton-Dyer or Ms Matilda Holmes (consultants) or Ms Ceri Falys (TVAS)
Human Remains	Ms Ceri Falys (TVAS)
Pollen Remains	Ms Karen Wicks (Reading University)
Conservation	Wiltshire County Council Conservation Services

7.0 Report and Dissemination

7.1A report on the results of the fieldwork should be available within two-three weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

7.2 The report will follow our established format, comprising a descriptive text, illustrations and catalogues in appendices as appropriate.

7.3 The text will address the aims and objectives of the project, the methodology employed, describe the basic nature of the archaeological deposits discovered, and report on the artefacts recovered. It will then attempt to place the significance of the findings in their local, regional and national setting if appropriate.

7.4 The report will include a frontsheet providing the following information:

- *Site name
- *Grid reference
- *Site activity (evaluation trenching, geophysical survey, fieldwalking, watching brief, excavation, etc.)
- *Date and duration of project
- *Site code
- *Area of site
- *Summary of results
- *Monuments identified (referenced to the RCHME Thesaurus of Monument Types)
- *Location and reference of archive

7.5 The illustrations will include:
a site location plan
a plan of archaeological deposits
profiles/sections of excavated features

7.6 Any findings even if negative will be published as a note in an appropriate journal such as *Sussex Archaeological Collections*. It is anticipated that the results will be incorporated into the main excavation report.

7.7 Copies of the results will be supplied to the West Sussex HER.

7.8 A digital version of the report will be provided to the OASIS project.

7.9 Copies of slides/ digital images will be supplied to the West Sussex HER (if requested).

8.0 Archive Deposition

8.1 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in Management of Archaeological Projects 2 and after consultation with the recipient museum.

8.2 The site archive will be deposited with Chichester Museum.

8.3 With the agreement of the landowner, the finds will be deposited with Chichester Museum.

8.4 The records will be copied onto microfiche for the National Archaeological Record.

9.0 General Items

9.1 The project will be managed on a regular basis by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with an appropriate area of competence (S. Ford or J. Pine). The fieldwork will be supervised and carried out by staff of other categories of membership of the IFA.

9.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with the IFA Code of Conduct and Code of Practice and Standards and Guidance. The quality control mechanisms set out in the TVAS fieldwork and post-fieldwork manuals. The fieldwork will be as defined by the IFA standards and guidance on watching briefs.

9.3 Regular monitoring of the project for the Planning Authority will be carried out by the archaeological advisor to Arun District Council. Access to the field- and post-fieldwork will be available at all reasonable times. Any necessary changes to the agreed project design will take place in consultation with and the agreement of the archaeological advisor to Arun District Council..

9.4 Safe working practices will be adopted as set out in the TVAS health and safety manual and current health and safety standards will be adhered to.

9.5 Our insurance cover comprises £10 million for public liability, £10 million for employee liability, cover for any hired-in plant, and professional indemnity cover of £2m.

10.0 References

English Heritage 2002, *Environmental Archaeology*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, English Heritage, Portsmouth.

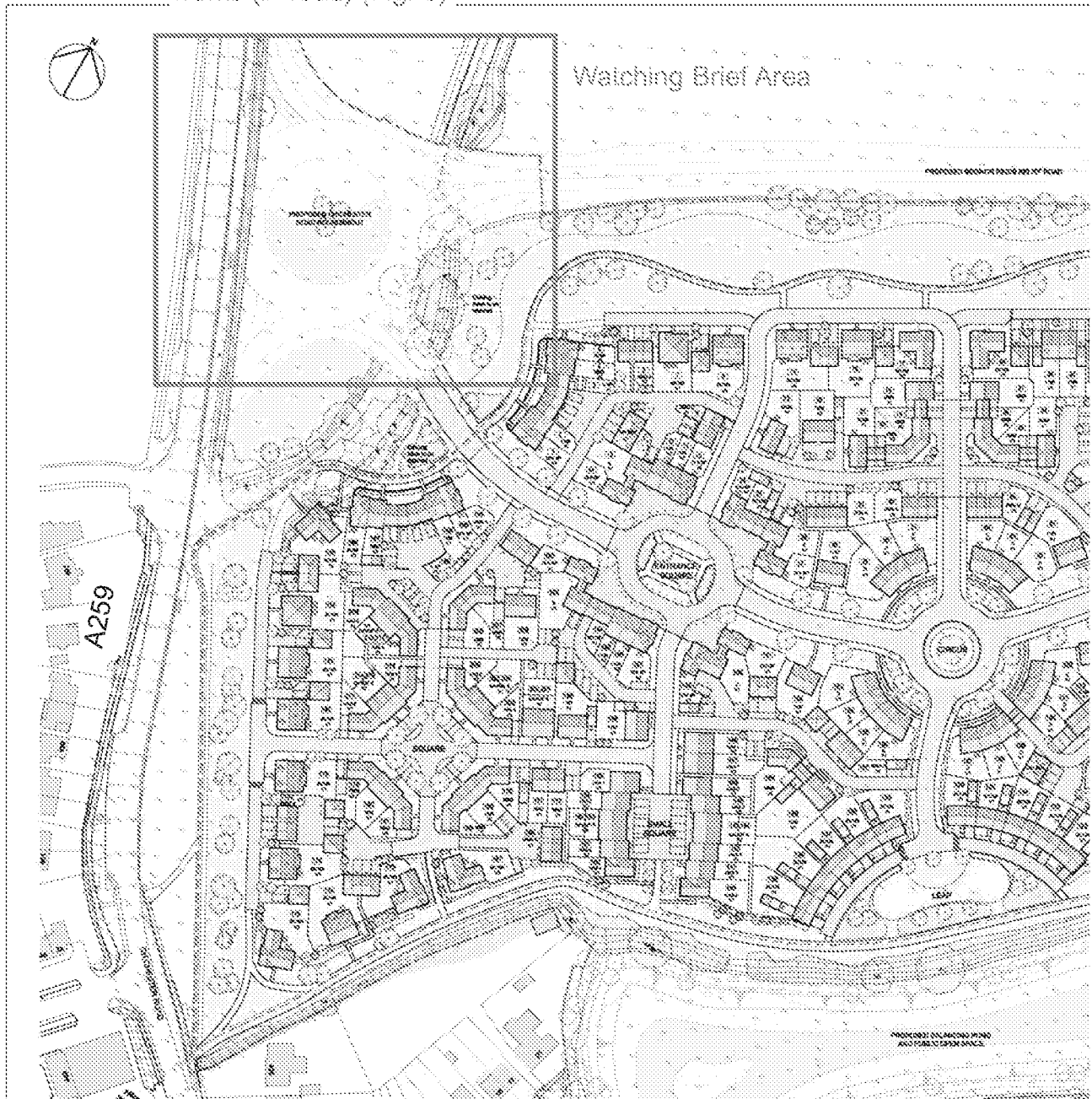
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, (HMSO).

TVAS 2007a, Land at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, Project specification for archaeological excavation, Lead developer and infrastructure works, Thames Valley Archaeological Services 07e135, Reading

TVAS 2007b Land at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, Project specification for archaeological excavation, Second developer, Thames Valley Archaeological Services 07e135, Reading

Fig.1

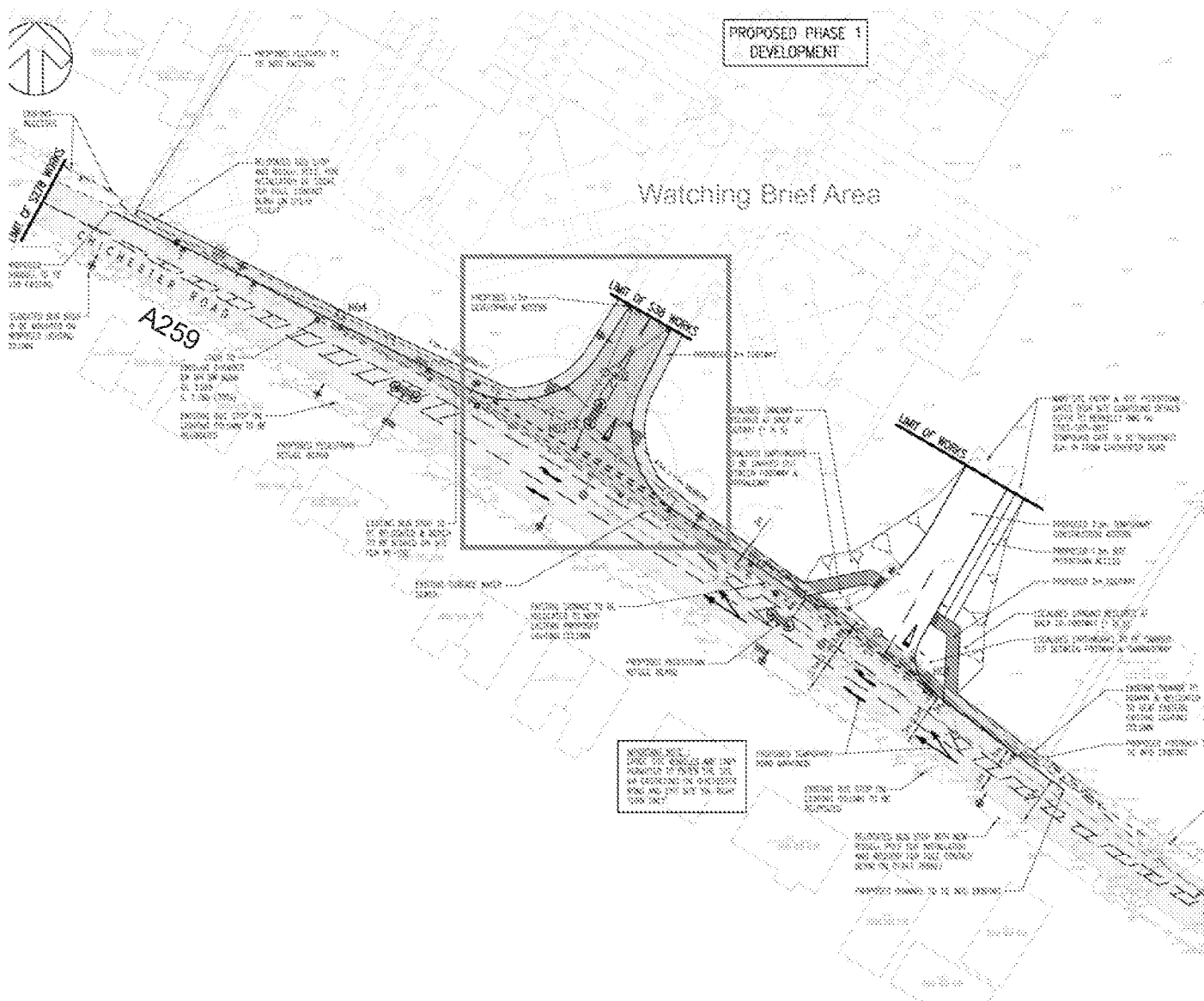
Deep drainage
works (in road) (Fig. 3)



Not to scale

Fig.2

257/ACC/15/101	TRAFFIC SIGNS & ROAD MARKINGS	257/ACC/15/116	TRAFFIC SIGNS
257/ACC/15/102	TRAFFIC INFORMATION	257/ACC/15/117	TRAFFIC INFORMATION
257/ACC/15/104	EXISTING SURVEY INFORMATION	257/ACC/15/118	EXISTING SURVEY INFORMATION
257/ACC/15/105/101	TRUCKING -- ARTIC LORRY	257/ACC/15/119	TRUCKING -- ARTIC LORRY
257/ACC/15/105/102	TRUCKING -- ESTATE CAR	257/ACC/15/120	TRUCKING -- ESTATE CAR
257/ACC/15/111	PHASE 1 DRAINAGE LAYOUT SHEET 1 OF 3	257/ACC/15/123	PHASE 1 DRAINAGE LAYOUT SHEET 1 OF 3
		257/ACC/15/124	PHASE 1 DRAINAGE LAYOUT SHEET 2 OF 3

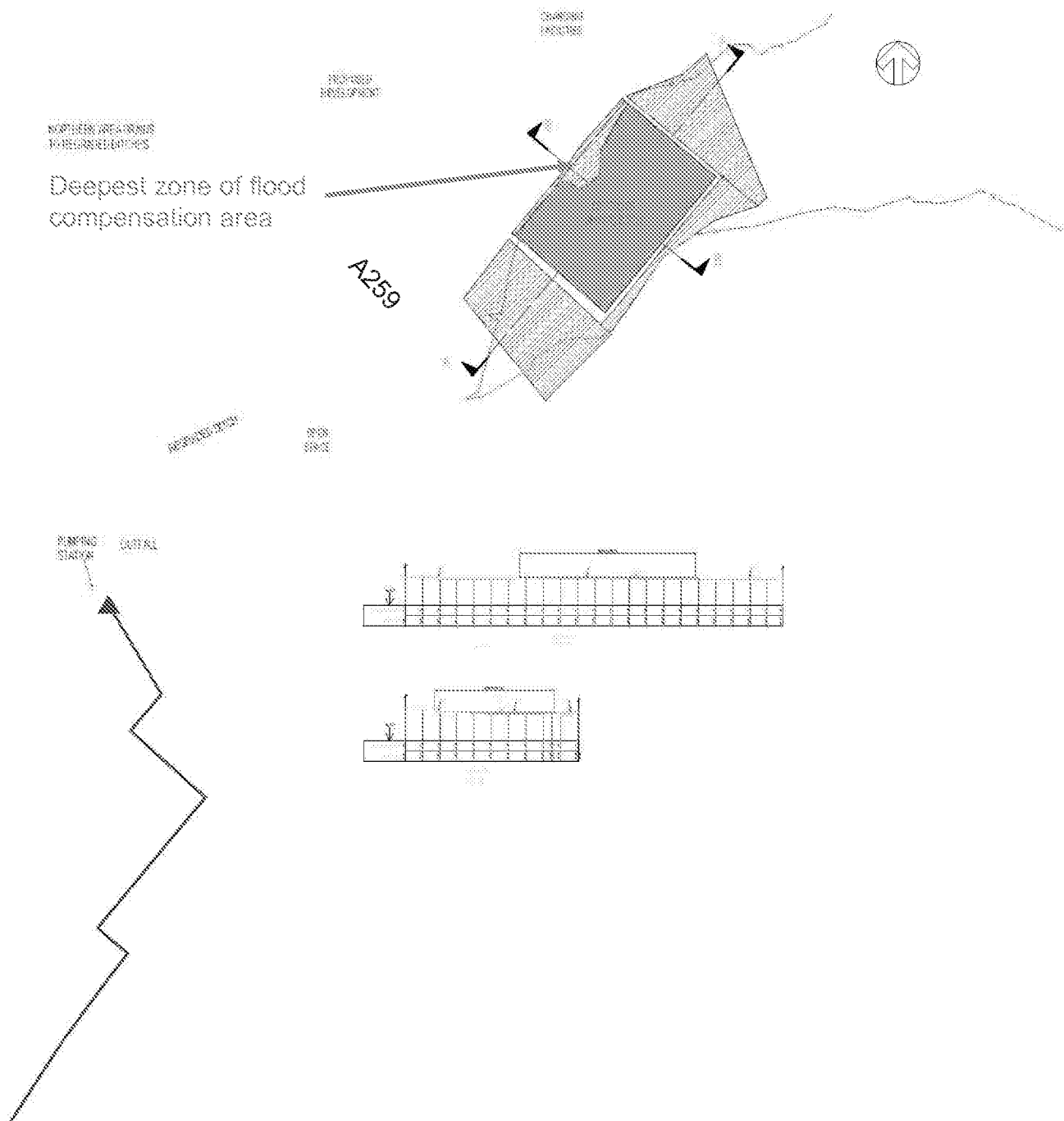


Not to scale

[illegible]

NCIL BE/6/12/DOC

Fig.4



Not to scale