

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF
INVESTIGATION
FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**Land at Stanhorn Grove,
Oldlands Farm,
Bognor Regis,
West Sussex PO22 8FP**

**Archaeology
South-East**



December 2018

**Local Planning Authority:
Arun District Council**

**Site centred at:
NGR 495332 101053**

**Author:
Pip Stephenson & Leonie Pett
(Archaeology South-East)**

**Approved by:
Tony Brown
(CgMs Heritage)**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) has been commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client Worthing Homes to undertake archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the construction of 18 residential units, the creation of new access, landscaping and associated groundworks, at land at Stanhorn Grove, Oldlands, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, hereafter 'the site' (NGR **495332 101053**. Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is bounded by Stanhorn Grove (Road) to the south-east, with recent residential development to the north-east and south-west and the land of Bognor Regis Golf club to the north-west.
- 1.3 The underlying solid geology consists of undifferentiated chalk deposits associated with the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation, Culver Chalk Formation and Portsdown Chalk Formation. Superficial river terrace deposits comprising sand silt and clay are recorded. A drainage stream or Rife lies to the north of the Site.
- 1.4 A planning application has been made to Arun District Council (ADC) for the works (planning reference FP/171/18/PL) (Figures 2-3).
- 1.5 This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological works. It has been prepared in accordance with relevant Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (2015), which outlines the methodology to be used in the field, and in reporting and archiving of the results.
- 1.6 This WSI will be submitted to James Kenny, the Chichester District Council (CDC) Archaeologist and Arun DC for approval prior to the commencement of development in accordance with the archaeological condition attached to the planning consent. Any variations to the scope of work will be agreed with CgMs and CDC archaeologist prior to implementation.
- 1.7 The project will be managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Recent archaeological excavation by ASE and the resulting PXA (Margetts 2015) together with prior evaluation by ASE (ASE 2015) on land at Oldlands Farm to the north-west of Site, and evaluation of land adjacent to that site (Cotswold Archaeology 2008) have produced significant results, which are summarised below and largely drawn from the most recent of these documents.
- 2.2 **Prehistory**
 - 2.2.1 Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork was found in residual contexts within later features and is typical of finds of this nature in the area (Butler 2008). The close proximity of watercourses may have encouraged activity of this date at

the site (Margetts 2015). A burnt mound dated to the Late Neolithic was identified.

- 2.2.2 The evaluation trial trenches (CA 2015) identified activity dating from the Middle Bronze Age to the Roman period including funerary activity (cremations) dating to the middle Bronze Age and Iron Age and remnants of field systems dating to both the Roman and Bronze Age periods.
- 2.2.3 The Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity identified by excavation (Margetts 2015) represents an uncommon find on the West Sussex Coastal Plain. Large pits may represent attempts to discover fresh water but may also have had other purposes in the wider landscape, such as marking out early land plots which have left little other archaeological trace. They probably represent occupation or at least transient activity of this date. It was considered likely that features of this date has suffered disproportionately from ploughing and pottery deposits within the base of the ploughsoil may be indicative that further, shallower, features once existed. This may include a number of unphased ring ditches or partial ring ditches which may represent round barrows or other related monuments. A quartzite battle axe as well as beaker and grooved ware pottery were found and are often associated with burials. The discovery of two ring-ditches at Westhampnett (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2008) and the known site of the (now destroyed) Hove Barrow are currently the only other similar features known from the Coastal Plain, however, more examples should be expected (Dunkin and Yates 2008, 37).
- 2.2.4 The Mid-Late Bronze Age activity represented the most intensive land-use at the site for any period and are consistent with the fairly intensive Bronze Age activity known from the wider Sussex Coastal Plain (Margetts 2015). Features included a waterhole and co-axial land division and enclosure, probably related to livestock control, replaced by a more strongly defined system of land division with certain settlement and funerary activity as well as an elaborate enclosure, possibly an early Banjo style enclosure although these usually date to the Iron Age. Nearby excavations also produced evidence of Bronze Age activity (e.g. North Bersted; Taylor *et al.* 2015). A late Bronze Age 'founder's hoard' is recorded at Hoe Lane to the east of the Site where Flansham sits on rising ground (VCH 1997: MONUMENT NO. 249130).
- 2.2.5 Middle Iron Age – early Roman activity at Oldlands Farm comprised drainage and land division features as well as limited evidence for settlement activity probably located in proximity to, but not within, the bounds of the site. Iron Age remains are well attested in the local area (e.g. North Bersted; Taylor *et al.* 2015) and the features of this date encountered at Oldlands Farm probably comprise an extension of this activity.

2.3 Roman – Modern Periods

- 2.3.1 Romano-British activity on the site largely relates to agricultural land-use, however, circular and rectangular enclosures extended beyond the western limit of excavation and probably relate to settlement. Roman period remains are very well attested on the Sussex Coastal Plain in general and there is evidence of Roman settlement at nearby Flansham (VCH 1997).
- 2.3.2 Medieval activity identified by excavation (Margetts 2015) largely related to enclosed strip field land division surrounding the medieval hamlet and manor of Shripney. Few, or no, other strip fields have been investigated on such a

large scale in this part of Sussex and the investigation of how the medieval field systems of the Coastal Plain developed are key to our understanding of the medieval period of the county as a whole (Barber 2008, 107). Open field systems are an atypical element of the historic landscape of the South-East an area which is dominated by a dispersed settlement pattern with enclosed fields rather than nucleated villages more often associated with open field farming. Such systems are therefore an under researched element of the historic landscape of the region (Margetts 2015). The present site lies within the Parish of Felpham on land between Flepham and Flansham. The manor of Felpham is known from the late 9th century and by the late medieval period its boundaries corresponded roughly to those of the ancient parish (VCH 1997) the site lying towards the north-eastern limit of the parish. Felpham had a church in 1086.

- 2.3.3 Post medieval land drainage features are an important feature of the low-lying locality. Despite Bognor's development as a resort from the late 18th century, Flansham and the gradual erosion of the rural character of Felpham as it was absorbed into the outskirts of Bognor, Flansham retained a strongly rural character into the mid 20th century and two working farms remained in 1992 (VCH 1997).

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 In general, the aim of the watching brief is to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks associated with this development (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.
- 3.2 The watching brief will also assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 3.3 The watching brief also has the potential to address the following specific research questions and research priorities with reference to the South-East Research Framework (SERF):

Local research questions

- Can the site provide further information about the Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age, notably, evidence of funerary practice and / or burnt mound monuments?
- Can the site contribute further to the growing body of evidence for mid-late Bronze Age land use in the coastal plain?
- Is there evidence of late Iron Age- Roman field systems and / or settlement, possibly related to nearby settlement at Flansham?
- Can the site provide information relating to medieval farming practice and specifically to the origins of a possible medieval strip field system identified locally? Do these remains relate to continued development of a later Roman field system?

Research Priorities [SERF]

- If Bronze Age funerary evidence is identified, how can it inform our understanding of funerary landscape and practices, notably the use of the body and / or body parts as symbolic object? [*SERF*, Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age, 2]
- How can the historic landscape inform an understanding of the Roman/Anglo-Saxon transition? Can understanding the long-term evolution of field systems and their environmental context establish definite cases of continuity in Roman estate boundaries and land -use? [*SERF*: 26]

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during ground works associated with the approved development, and will be monitored by an archaeologist unless otherwise agreed in writing with the CDC Archaeologist. **Any machine (tracked 360 excavator or similar) used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil will be fitted with a toothless bucket of appropriate width whenever practicable.** All hand and mechanical excavation and plant movement carried out by the ground work contractor must be undertaken with due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains.
- 4.2 Where new excavations reveal archaeological remains, an opportunity will be made for careful hand excavation and the collection of samples by the archaeologist in attendance taking site health and safety into account. Adequate time will be made available for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works to extract archaeological and environmental information, should this prove necessary. The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, animal bone and human burials) will be developed with reference to ASE's in-house specialists and undertaken in accordance with the CIfA Standards. **A final decision on site as to how to proceed in the event that *significant* remains are revealed during the Watching Brief will be determined in agreement with ASE, CgMs and the County/District Archaeological Officer as required.**
- 4.3 The above approach will enable any archaeological deposits disturbed during the proposed works to be adequately recorded in line with the advice given in NPPF and Condition 6 of the planning consent.
- 4.4 Reasonable access to the site will be granted to the CDC Archaeologist and their representatives to allow for suitable monitoring of the works if required.
- 4.5 All archaeological features will be recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features will be planned at 1:20 and section drawings will be at 1:10. Drawings will be on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits will be described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains will be levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record will be made in both monochrome and colour transparency.
- 4.6 Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology (Historic England 2011) and waterlogged wood (Historic England 2010) will be followed, as

required. Samples will be collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features, sealed hearths, sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, water-logged or cess deposits.

- 4.7 For archaeological features bulk soil samples (of 40 litres where possible or 100% of the context if smaller) will be taken to target the recovery of plant remains (including wood charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts, although it should be noted that no samples will be obtained from soils subject to remediation works. For alluvial sequences specialist samples may also be taken to target recovery of pollen (using kubiena tins); fish and small bone, molluscs, foraminifera, parasites and insects in measured 10cm spits (in small <20 litre samples) or large mammal bones and marine molluscs (in large samples of ~80-100 litres). When taken, large samples will be extracted wholesale from deposits to maximise the range of bone recovered. As a general rule waterlogged wood specimens will be photographed and recorded in detail in their original location prior to being lifted or sampled for more detailed assessment. Other scientific dating and geoarchaeological techniques will be considered and employed where appropriate. In all instances deposits with clear intrusive material shall be avoided.

5.0 TREATMENT OF HUMAN REMAINS AND TREASURE TROVE

- 5.1 If human remains are found, work will cease and all necessary statutory provisions followed. ASE Project Management, CgMs and CDC Archaeologist will be informed immediately.
- 5.2 Any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 (amended 2003), shall be reported to the coroner. Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the coroner, the landowner, WSCC will also be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the WSCC Historic Environment Record of the date and circumstances of discovery, the identity of the finder, and the exact location of the find(s) (OS map reference to within 1 metre, and find spot(s) marked onto the site plan).

6.0 TREATMENT OF OTHER ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

- 6.1 Pottery, worked flint, metal and other finds of archaeological significance will be retained and treated according to standard Archaeology South-East procedures. Identification of retained finds will be undertaken by staff of, and specialists contracted by, Archaeology South East as necessary.
- 6.2 Bulk samples will be processed using tank flotation unless considered detrimental to the samples or recovery rate (such as for waterlogged samples). Waterlogged samples will be wet sieved through nested sieves and stored in wet, cool conditions or dried if considered an appropriate form of conservation for the remains. Flots and wet samples may be subsampled for assessment purposes. If waterlogged wood specimens are removed from site they will be cleaned, recorded, photographed and a thin section sample will be taken for identification (unless considered detrimental to the artefact preservation or status). These specimens will be stored submerged in water

in cool conditions and assessment will establish whether appropriate for conservation. Specialist samples as well as sub-samples of bulk soil samples (taken to recover pollen, parasites, fish and small bone, foraminifera and insects for example) will be sent to appropriate specialists for assessment and analysis.

7.0 REPORTING

7.1 In general, the report will present the results of the watching brief and will as a minimum standard contain sufficient detail to serve both future research and inform future planning decisions.

7.2 The watching brief reporting is to include as a minimum:

7.3 An **Abstract** summarising the scope and results of the archaeological watching brief.

7.4 An **Introduction** including:

- the location of the scheme including National Grid Reference;
- an account of the background and circumstances of the work;
- a description of the development proposals, planning history and planning reference together with the planning condition (where appropriate);
- the scope and date of the fieldwork, the personnel involved and who commissioned it;
- the nature of potential impacts arising from the proposals;

7.5 An account of the **Archaeological Background** of the development scheme including:

- geology, soils and topography;
- any known existing disturbances on the site;
- archaeological and historical background of the site
- summary of any previous phases of archaeological investigation at the development scheme;
- any constraints on the archaeological monitoring.

7.6 The **Methodology** employed during the watching brief will be detailed in the report. Any **aims** and **objectives** will be included as will any further objectives identified during the course of the watching brief. The frequency of monitoring visits, ground works observed and any constraints experienced while carrying out the monitoring will be detailed.

7.7 The report will include a quantification of the archive contents, their state and future location.

7.8 A description of the **Results** of the archaeological monitoring. This description will include for each area observed:

- the dimensions of the area observed;
- the nature and depth of overburden soils encountered;
- description of all archaeological features and finds encountered in each area observed, their dimensions, states of preservation and interpretation;
- a description of the geological subsoil encountered across the site;

- heights related to Ordnance Datum (where practicable) will be provided for each feature and deposit.
 - for complex remains a Harris Matrix diagram will be provided.
- 7.9 The **Finds** recovered during the course of the watching brief will be described, quantified and assessed by artefact type within the report. The report will also provide an indication of the potential of each category of artefact for further analysis and research. For each category of artefact the report will describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling, conservation and assessment undertaken. Where appropriate, local reference collections will be referred to for descriptive and analytical consistency. Any implications for future archive, conservation or discard of the artefacts will also be detailed.
- 7.10 The report will include a table showing the contexts, classes and quantity of artefacts recovered, together with their date and interpretation.
- 7.11 The report will include an assessment of the **Environmental** potential of the scheme. Details will be provided of any environmental sampling undertaken in connection with the fieldwork and the results of any processing and assessment of the samples. The report will describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling and assessment. Any potential for future analysis of the samples or environmental remains recovered from the fieldwork will be described. Implications for future archive, conservation or discard of environmental samples or remains will be detailed.
- 7.12 The report will include, as appropriate, tables summarising environmental samples taken, together with the results of processing and assessment.
- 7.13 Any results from the watching brief involving the application of archaeological scientific techniques e.g. specialist dating will be included in the watching brief report.
- 7.14 An **Interpretation** and **Discussion** of the archaeology of the scheme, including its location, extent, date, condition, significance and importance. This will include, even if no archaeology is identified as present on the scheme, description of areas of disturbance, non-archaeological deposits and changes in geological subsoil where appropriate.
- 7.15 A **Conclusion** with a summary of the archaeological results and how any archaeology observed relates to the development scheme. The effects of the development works on the archaeological remains will also be described. The report will highlight any areas of significant archaeological deposits that remain preserved within the development scheme. Particular note shall be made of any variations in the depth of overburden covering any archaeological deposits revealed.
- 7.16 The report will include comments on the effectiveness of the methodology employed and the confidence of the results and interpretation.
- 7.17 Figures / illustrations – The report shall include sufficient illustrations to support descriptions and interpretations within the report text. Figures will be fully cross-referenced within the document text. As a minimum the report shall include the following figures:
- a scheme location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey at 1:1250 or in the

case of larger sites at 1:2500. The plan will also include at least two National Grid points and show the scheme boundary;

- a plan at 1:100 or 1:200 showing the layout of the development groundworks clearly indicating the areas observed. The plan will show significant archaeological features, coloured by phases or period as related to the development scheme. Where possible, projection of archaeological features outside of the areas observed shall be included on the plan. This plan will also include two National grid points;
- plans of the features revealed in each of the excavation areas at a larger scale e.g. 1:20 or 1:50; such plans will also illustrate areas of disturbance, change in subsoil and location of sections; The location of significant finds and samples taken will also be indicated;
- relevant section drawings and soil trench profiles as appropriate;
- illustrations and/or photographs of significant finds shall be included where appropriate.

7.18 All report illustrations will be fully captioned and scale drawings will include a bar scale. Standard archaeological drawing conventions shall be used. Plan and section illustrations will include the numbers of all contexts illustrated. North will be included on all plans and shall be consistent. Sections will indicate the orientation of the section and the Ordnance Datum height of the section datum.

7.19 Black & White or Colour photographs shall be included where appropriate to illustrate the archaeology of the scheme, the development operations or the range of soil profiles encountered. All photographs shall be appropriately captioned.

7.20 Following internal review by CgMs a draft report will be submitted to the CDC Archaeologist for approval. Once any necessary changes have been made, the approved final report will be issued to CgMs and the CDC Archaeologist in the requisite number of digital and bound copies. A copy should also be submitted by the applicant to Arun District Council. In the event of significant archaeological findings it may be appropriate for an article to be published in the Sussex Archaeological Collections or similar journal. Details for publication in a journal will be agreed with the CDC Archaeologist and CgMs.

7.21 A further digital copy of the watching brief report (including plans, illustrations and photographs) will be supplied to the West Sussex Historic Environment Record on CD-ROM in a .pdf format.

7.22 Upon completion of the fieldwork an OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed for the project. A print-out of the form will be included as an appendix to the final report.

8.0 PREPARATION AND DISPOSITION OF THE FINDS AND ARCHIVE

8.1 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).

- 8.2 The written and drawn archive will be deposited in Chichester Museum, subject to their current policy on accepting new archives. Artefacts and ecofacts recovered during excavation form an important part of an archaeological site archive. The archive will be prepared according the principles of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015) and the requirements of the recipient museum. If the recipient museum is unable to accept the archive it will be retained by ASE at their Sussex Offices until a suitable repository has been identified.

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.1 A risk assessment for the project will be prepared prior to the commencement of work. All relevant health and safety regulations will be adhered to.

10.0 INSURANCE

- 10.1 Archaeology South-East is insured against claims for: employer's liability to the value of £50,000,000 each and every loss, any one occurrence; primary public/products liability to the value of £50,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate for products liability, with an extension for no-fault compensation up to £15,000,000 in the aggregate; professional indemnity to the value of £15,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate.

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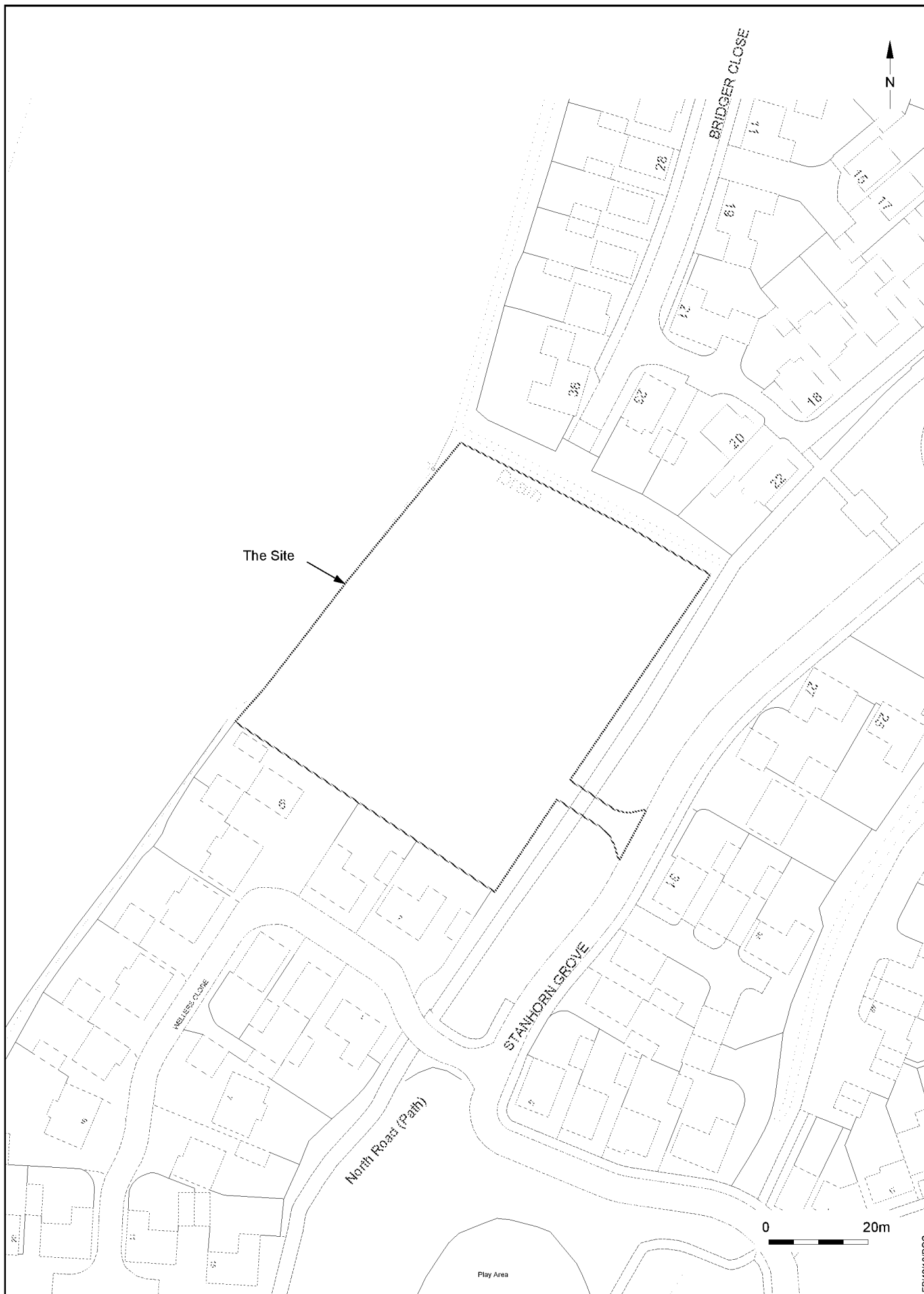
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Land at Stanhorn Grove, Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis

Fig. 2

Project Ref: 180948

Dec 2018

Report Ref:

Drawn by: JR

Site Plan



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Stanhorn Grove, Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 180948	Dec 2018	Development proposals	
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