



**WRITTEN SCHEME OF
INVESTIGATION FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AND HISTORIC
BUILDING RECORDING**

Land north of Sefter Road

**Site Code: SEF19
Planning Ref: P/134/16/OUT**

**April 2019
(revised January 2020 and
revised February 2020)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) has been commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation and a historic building recording (Historic England Level 3) of land north of Sefter Road, Pagham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex; hereafter 'the site' (NGR SZ 90103 99556; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site consists of a large irregular arable field lying to the north of Rose Green, between Bognor Regis and Pagham, together with a smaller strip of agricultural land to the west. Measuring approximately 13.75 acres, the site is reasonably flat, and is bounded to the south by Sefter Road and a housing development along Osborne Way, to the east by houses fronting onto Lincoln Avenue, and to the north and west by agricultural land (Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.3 According to the latest data available from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock geology at the site is London Clay Formation of clay silt and sand together with an east-west band of Bognor Sand Member, overlain by superficial River Terrace Deposits consisting of sands, silts and clays (BGS 2019).
- 1.4 Outline planning permission has been obtained from Arun District Council for the erection of up to 280 dwellings, together with community buildings and associated access, parking and services (planning reference P/134/16/OUT) as shown in Figure 3. This permission is subject to the following heritage related conditions:

Condition 30

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: The site has the potential to contain unknown remains of archaeological importance therefore in accordance with Policies D DM1 and HER DM6 of the Arun Local Plan. It is considered necessary for this to be a pre-commencement condition because archaeology can only be investigated before construction commences

Condition 34

Prior to the commencement of development, a statement shall be submitted which will provide details of how the WW2 Infantry Section Post will be retained on site and integrated as part of the proposals. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved statement, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To preserve the significance of the non-designated heritage asset in accordance with Policy HER SP1 of the Arun Local Plan and paragraph 197 of the National Planning Policy Framework and to ensure that historic building feature is protected and preserved. It is necessary for this condition to be pre-commencement to avoid any harm to the significance of the non-designated heritage asset.

- 1.5 This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation of the site, and the historic building recording of the

WW2 infantry section post. It has been prepared in accordance with relevant Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b; 2014c; 2014d), together with Historic England's guidance on recording historic buildings (Historic England 2017). All work will be reported upon in line with guidelines set out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE; Historic England 2015). It will be submitted to all parties for approval prior to the commencement of work at the site.

- 1.7 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (WSCC, ESCC, CDC 2017) which outlines the methodology to be used in the field, and in reporting and archiving of the results. The project will be managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).
- 1.8 In the event that archaeological remains are found during the course of the evaluation, further archaeological mitigation may be required. Any such work would be subject to a separate Written Scheme of Investigation.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) has previously been prepared for the site (CgMs 2016). A search of all sites with a 1km radius of the site held on the West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Survey (HER) was made. The following information is taken from that document with all due acknowledgement. A copy of the DBA will be retained on site for reference during the archaeological evaluation (numbers shown in bold refer to Figure 1 of that report).

2.2 Summary

- 2.2.1 Neolithic worked flint, Bronze Age pottery and Iron Age field boundaries with associated occupation deposits have been found in the vicinity of the site. Roman occupation has also been identified, with further occupation and burials in the wider vicinity, focussed on high ground.
- 2.2.2 The nearest settlement of Anglo-Saxon date known in relation to the site lay at Pagham, 2.5km to the south-west. Early medieval occupation debris and pottery have also been recovered 900m to the north-west of the site. Pagham also retains a number of medieval secular and ecclesiastical structures of later medieval date, and a medieval farmstead at Bowley Farm lies 1.1km to the west of the site. Immediately beyond the site's southern boundary, the hamlet of Rose Green is attested as early as the 15th century (Mawer and Stenton 1930, 95).
- 2.2.3 The site is likely to have been used as agricultural land throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, and a number of farmsteads of 17th century and later date lie in the vicinity. During World War 2, an infantry section post was erected within the western part of the site, apparently in relation to an anti-tank ditch, as part of the perimeter defences around Bognor Regis.

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The general objective of the archaeological work is to ensure that any deposits, features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed by the evaluation are recorded, interpreted and reported on to appropriate standards and to enable appropriate mitigation methods.
- 3.2 The aim of the historic building recording is to create a record of the infantry section post as existing, prior to any future refurbishment work, so that the latter is fully informed by an understanding of the historic fabric.
- 3.3 Site-specific research aims for the archaeological evaluation are proposed below with reference to the South-East Research Framework (SERF):
- Evidence for transition from Iron Age to Roman land use and / or settlement (SERF, Roman Period].
 - Harness the potential of the historic landscape to inform an understanding of the Romano-British/Anglo-Saxon transition, notably on the long term evolution of field systems and their environmental context to establish definite cases of continuity in Roman estate boundaries and land use. The potential of palaeo-environmental studies needs to be maximised by targeting gaps in off-site sequences and by dating existing sequences more closely (SERF Anglo-Saxon, 2013, p26).
 - Evidence for transition from open field exploitation to post medieval enclosure and the chronology of post medieval field boundaries to complement historic map evidence [SERF Post medieval and Industrial Research Agenda, 2013].
 - The nature of 20th century defensive sites in the South-East, their pattern, distribution and context across the region and beyond to better understand their meaning and significance. Also, the extent to which defences were anticipatory as well as reactive to imminent threats [SERF Defence Research Agenda, 2013].

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Evaluation

- 4.1 The trial trench evaluation will comprise the excavation of 80 trenches, each measuring 30m x c.2m (Figures 2 and 3). Trench locations may be altered, subject to on-site constraints. Other trenches within the excavation area may be subject to ecological restraints.
- 4.2 A Risk Assessment will be produced prior to the commencement of the work. The locations of all the trenches will also be checked with a CAT scanner prior to the commencement of excavation.
- 4.3 The trenches will be excavated using a suitable mechanical excavator. The trenches will be excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.10m with artefact recovery taking place every scrape until archaeological deposits are encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached. The excavator will be fitted with a smooth grading bucket and care will be taken that archaeological deposits are not damaged due to over machining. All machining will stop if significant archaeological deposits are encountered.

- 4.4 Any exposed archaeological deposits will then be cleaned by hand and recorded in plan and section. During the evaluation archaeological features/deposits will be excavated enough to characterise them.
- 4.5 Any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, shall be reported to the Finds Liaison Officer. Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the Coroner, the landowner and the Archaeological Officer will also be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the Archaeological Officer 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).
- 4.6 If human remains are found they will be left in situ, covered over and protected. The client and the Archaeological Officer will be informed immediately.

Historic Building Recording

- 4.7 The WW2 infantry section post in the western part of the site will be recorded to Historic England Level 3 standard (Historic England 2016). All work will be undertaken in line with the risk assessment prepared for the work. Archaeology South-East staff will not enter any structures deemed unsafe either by themselves or the contractors for any reason. Should certain areas be unsafe to enter (due to structural failure or other reasons) then an external record only will be made of these areas.
- 4.8 The written record will note the location of the infantry section post and any statutory designations. It will describe its form, function, date and sequence of development.
- 4.9 The drawn record will consist of a measured plan and section of the structure, together with any existing drawings provided by the client, where relevant.
- 4.10 The photographic record will comprise high-quality digital images (24 megapixel) and will include general external and internal views of the structure, with detailed views of any fixtures or architectural elements. Photograph locations will be plotted on floor plans of the building. A photographic scale will be used where appropriate, as a minimum for detailed shots.

5.0 RECORDING AND ANALYSIS

- 5.1 All recording and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with this document and the Sussex Archaeological Standards unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Archaeological Officer.
- 5.2 The spoil from the excavations will also be inspected by the ASE archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A metal detector will be used at regular intervals to scan spoil derived from the excavations and at regular intervals during the excavation of archaeological deposits and features.
- 5.3 The Archaeological Officer will be kept informed of progress and given the opportunity to attend site once all the trenches have been opened.

- 5.4 All archaeological features will be recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features will be planned at 1:20 and section/wall elevation drawings will be at 1:10, unless this is impractical in which case an alternative will be agreed with the Archaeological Officer. 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 digital format, monochrome and colour transparency.
- 5.5 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 Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology (Historic England 2011) and waterlogged wood and in consultation with the Historic England regional advisor or relevant specialists. 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, waterlogged or cess deposits.
- 5.6 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. Specialist samples may also be taken to target recovery of pollen (using monolith tins), fish and small bone, molluscs, foraminifera, parasites and insects (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.

6.0 TREATMENT OF ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

- 6.1 All pottery, bone and worked flint recovered from the excavations will be washed and marked with an appropriate code to identify the site and context. Most ceramic and other building material and burnt flint will be identified, counted, weighed and discarded. Samples will be retained as appropriate. Finds will be bagged in polythene bags according to type and context.
- 6.2 The lithic and ceramic finds will be identified by specialists within Archaeology South-East, and preliminary identification of faunal remains may be undertaken if the nature of the deposits justifies such study. All finds in an unstable condition will be stabilised using passive conservation techniques where appropriate before being deposited with the receiving museum.
- 6.3 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.

- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 Provision will be made for obtaining charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating from such archaeological features as structural features (e.g. post holes), hearths, kilns or features that contain good artefactual or ecofactual assemblages.

7.0 REPORTING

- 7.1 Reporting will be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the *Sussex Archaeological Standards*.
- 7.2 Within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork a full report on the results of the field evaluation will be submitted. It will include the local geology and archaeological evidence. It will describe the work undertaken and results of elements described above. It will include a description of archaeological features and tabulated details of finds from each context. A list of environmental samples and any samples taken for dating will also be included. The report will include a plan showing the trench locations. Further plans, sections and photographs of features located and excavated will be included as necessary.
- 7.3 A draft report will be submitted to CgMs Consulting in the first instance, then to the Archaeological Officer for approval. Once any necessary changes have been made, the approved final report will be submitted to the client and should be passed to the local planning authority with a further copy submitted to Arun District Council so that the results may be added to the Historic Environment Record. A short summary of the work will be prepared for the relevant local archaeological journal.
- 7.4 A further digital copy of the report (including plans, illustrations and photographs) will be supplied to West Sussex Historic Environment Record on CD-ROM in a .pdfa format.

8.0 PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION OF THE FINDS AND ARCHIVE

- 8.1 The site archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in Historic England'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 Artefacts and ecofacts recovered during excavation form an important part of an archaeological site archive. The archive will be deposited in the local receiving museum.

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.

REFERENCES

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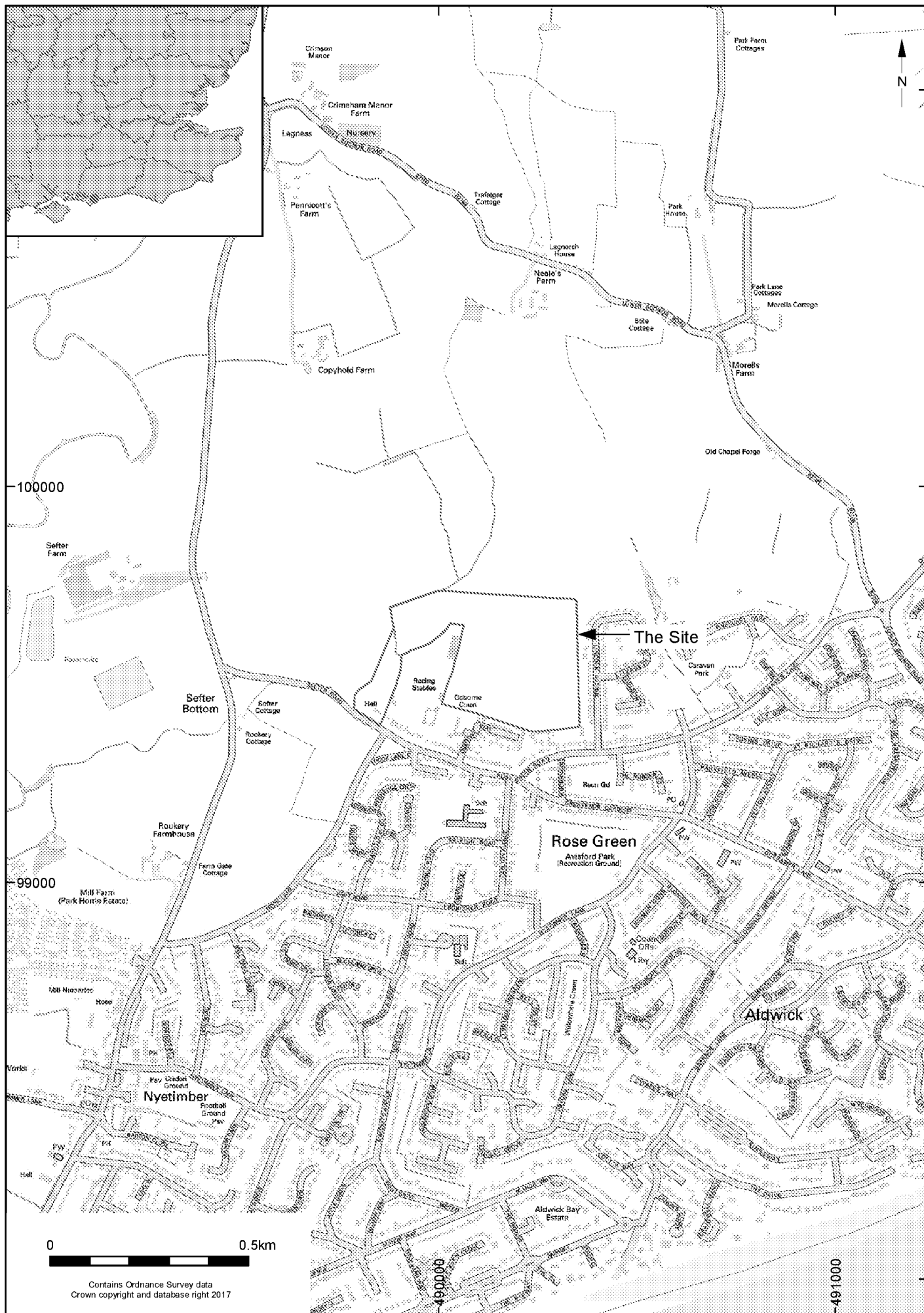
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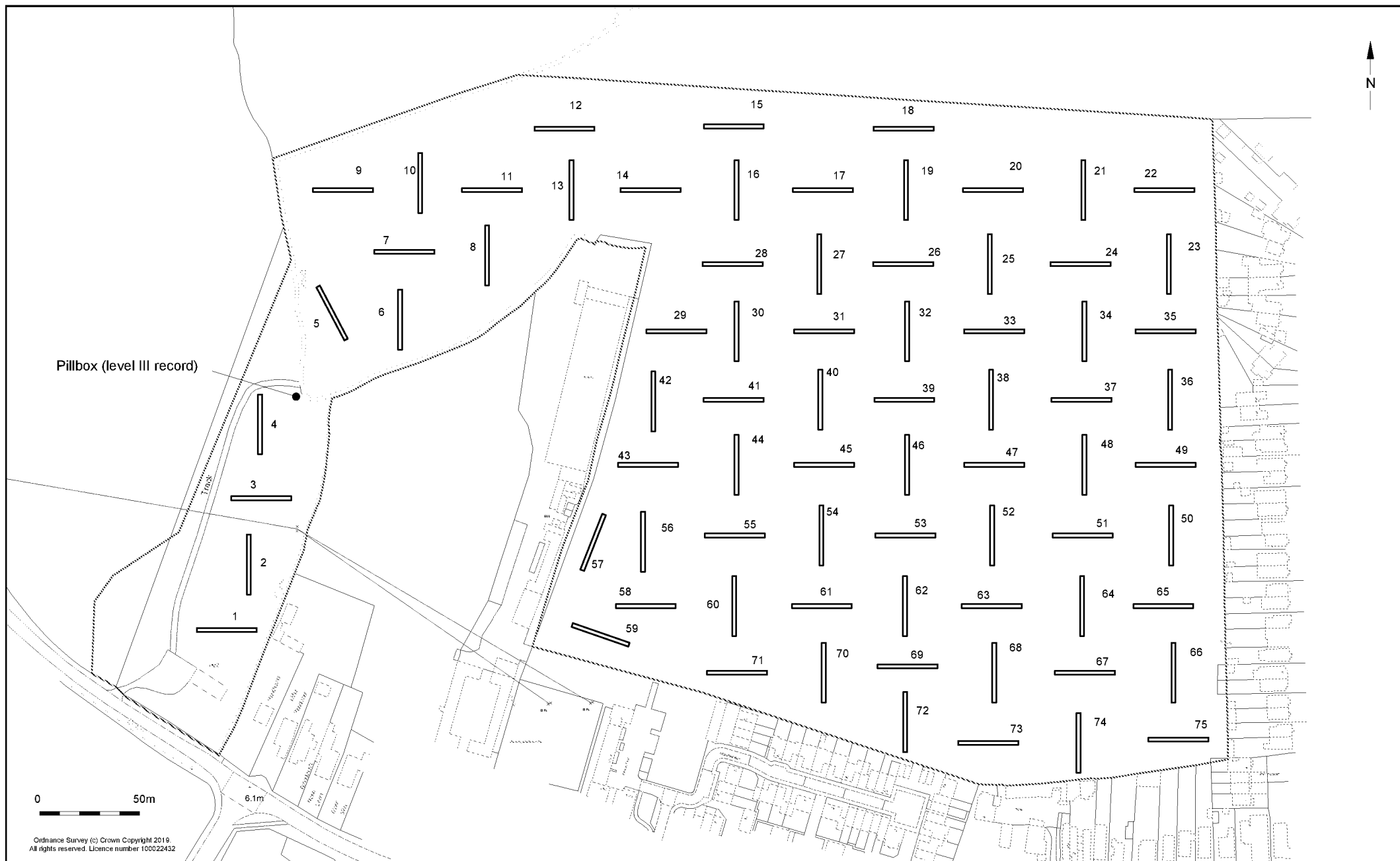
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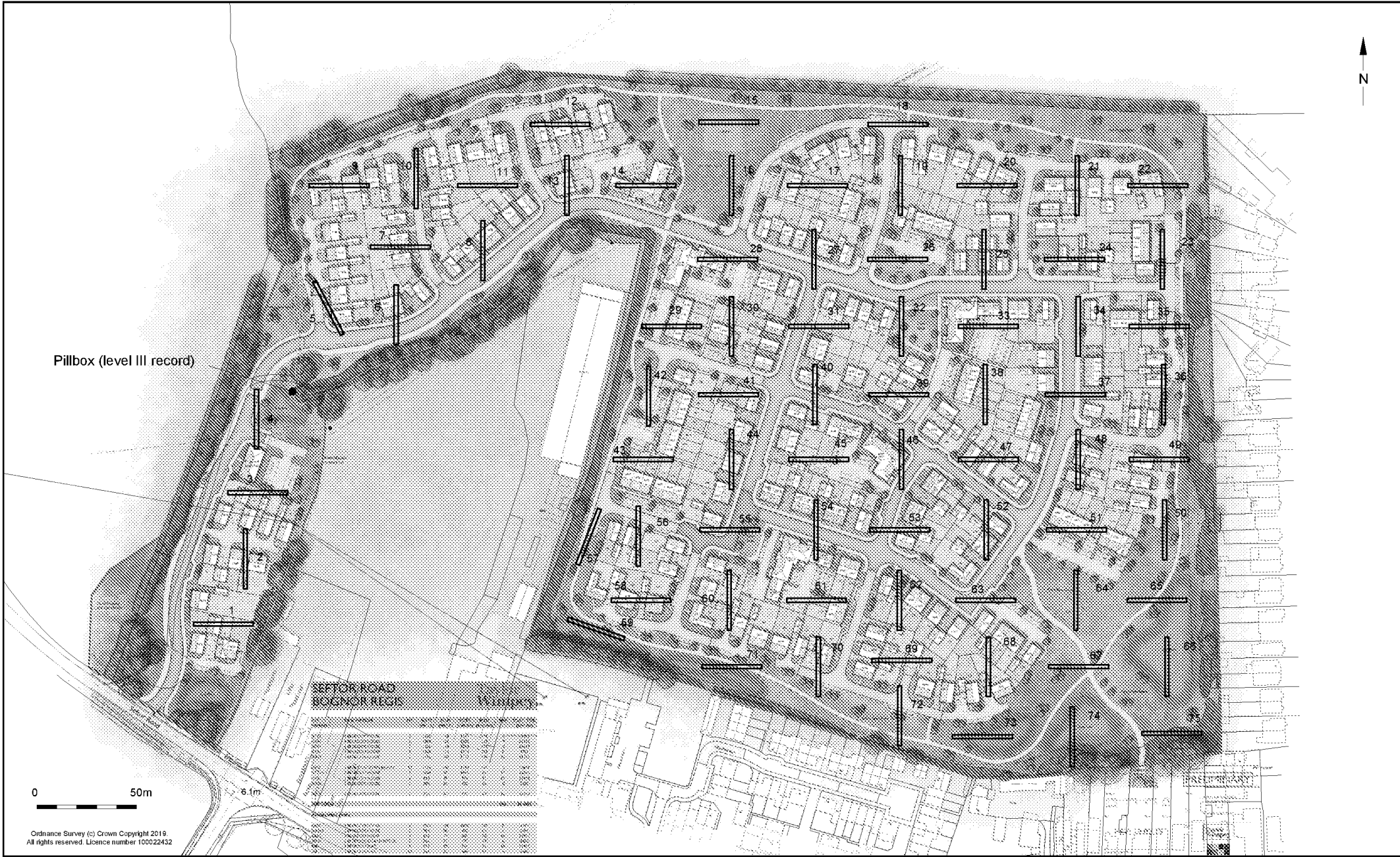
WSCC, ESCC, CDC 2017, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*



		Sefter Road, Bognor Regis		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 190166	March 2019	Site location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JR			



Sefter Road, Bognor Regis		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 190166	March 2019	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JR	Trench location



		Seftor Road, Bognor Regis	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 190166	March 2019	Trench location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JR		

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