

**Land West of Worthing Road,
Southwater, (Phase 5)**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Centred at NGR 515434 127648
(TQ 15434 27648)**

ASE Project no. 180858

Site Code: WSW13

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) has been commissioned by Berkeley Homes Southern Ltd. to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation of land west of Southwater, West Sussex, hereafter 'the site' (centred on NGR 515434 127648; Figure 1).
- 1.2 It is understood that a planning application is shortly to be submitted for a residential development at the c.7ha site, which comprises a broadly rectangular plot of land, forming Phase 5 of a larger scheme of development. It lies immediately to the west of the sites of the Berkeley Homes Phase 3 and 4 developments (currently fields), with Shaw's Lane to the west, and open fields to the north and south (Figure 2).
- 1.3 According to current data available from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology at the site comprises the Wealden Group of mudstones, siltstones and sandstones. No superficial geological deposits are recorded for this area (BGS 2019).
- 1.4 This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation of the site. It has been prepared in accordance with relevant Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a-c). 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.
- 1.5 All work will be carried out in accordance with the Sussex Archaeological Standards (WSCC, ESCC & CDC, 2019) 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).
- 1.6 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 The historical and archaeological background of the site was presented in the desk-based assessment (DBA) (ASE 2014a) and is further refined in Heritage Statements for the Phase 3 & 4 development (ASE 2017a) and for the current phase of works (ASE 2019c). What follows is a summary of the results of the fieldwalking exercise and geophysical survey in Phases 3 & 4 (ASE 2011 & 2014b) and the evaluation and mitigation work undertaken to the north of Church Lane in Phases 1 & 2 (2016a), in Phase 3.1 (2019a) and Phase 3.2, 4 and Allotments (ASE 2019b).
- 2.2 Fieldwalking across the central and southern fields to the south of Church Lane recovered small quantities of worked flint and a larger amount of fire-cracked flint; no particular concentrations were noted. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered together with approximately 20 sherds of post-Roman pottery. Ceramic building material dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods was present – the later period represented by a significant

concentration in the central eastern part of the site which corresponds to the location of 'College Barn', a structure which first appears on the Ordnance Survey Old Series 1-inch map of c.1800 (ASE 2011).

- 2.3 Geophysical survey of the Phase 3 & 4 areas was undertaken by Stratascan (2011). A series of discrete anomalies located towards the north-east corner of the southern field was interpreted as a possible pit alignment. A number of ferrous spikes detected in the area of the football pitch, immediately south of Church Lane, were interpreted as possible archaeology. A small number of possible 'cut' features were located in the northern field (cricket pitch) and across the middle and southern fields south of Church Lane. A smaller number anomalies, possibly corresponding with former earthworks, were noted in similar locations. Thermoremnant anomalies were detected in the northern and southern parts of the Phase 3 & 4 site (Stratascan 2011). Areas of magnetic disturbance were noted across the site.
- 2.4 Twenty-three trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated across the Phase 1 and 2 sites to test the veracity of the geophysical survey. Small quantities of residual worked flint were recovered from the overburden across the site. Evidence of Iron Age activity, represented by ditches and an occupation layer was identified in a small area of the site. Evidence of burn beating was also encountered which might derive from this period. Post-medieval activity was represented by a small collection of 19th and 20th century pottery in the overburden (ASE 2016a).
- 2.5 Subsequent watching brief across the Phase 1 & 2 area did not reveal anything of archaeological significance (ASE 2017b).
- 2.6 An evaluation in the area of Phase 3.1 was undertaken in 2019. Eighteen trenches were mechanically excavated but only two undated shallow gullies were encountered and recorded (ASE 2019a).
- 2.7 The first stage of archaeological evaluation of Phases 3.2 and 4 by trial trenching was also undertaken recently. Four trenches were mechanically excavated but no archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered (2019b).

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects are:
 - To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
 - To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
 - To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
 - To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

3.1.2 The site also has the potential to address the following research priorities identified in the South Eastern Research Framework:

- The use of the Weald in later prehistory
- Further archaeological investigation of agricultural buildings and other ancillary structures in the post-medieval period

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The trial trench evaluation will comprise the excavation of 43 trenches, each measuring 30m x 2m (Figure 2). Trench locations may be altered, subject to on-site constraints.

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.

5.0 RECORDING AND ANALYSIS

5.1 All recording and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with this document and the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (WSCC, ESCC & CDC, 2019) 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, water-logged 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. 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.
- 6.4 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* (WSCC, ESCC & CDC, 2019).
- 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 Berkeley Homes 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 Horsham 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 .pdf 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.

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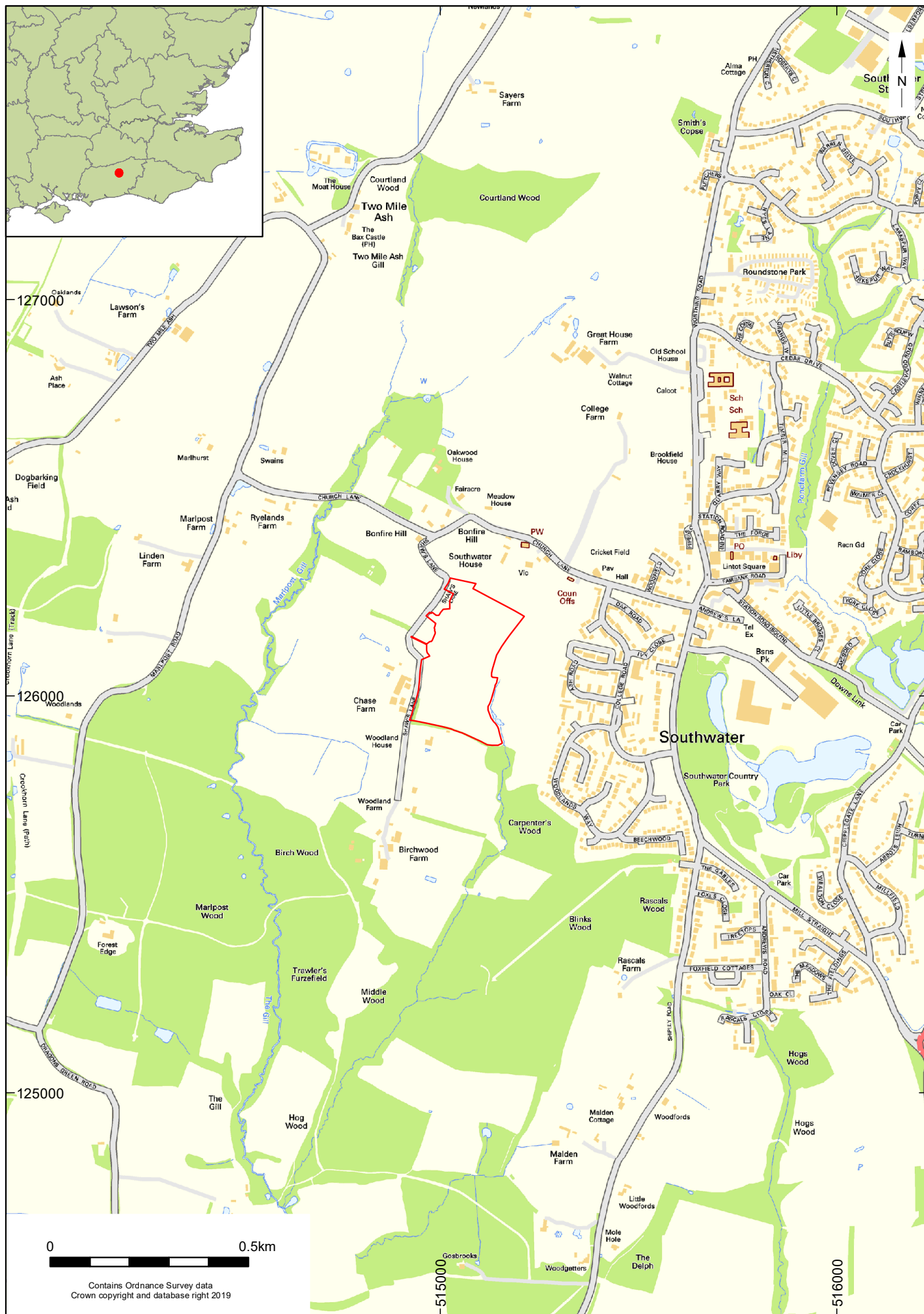
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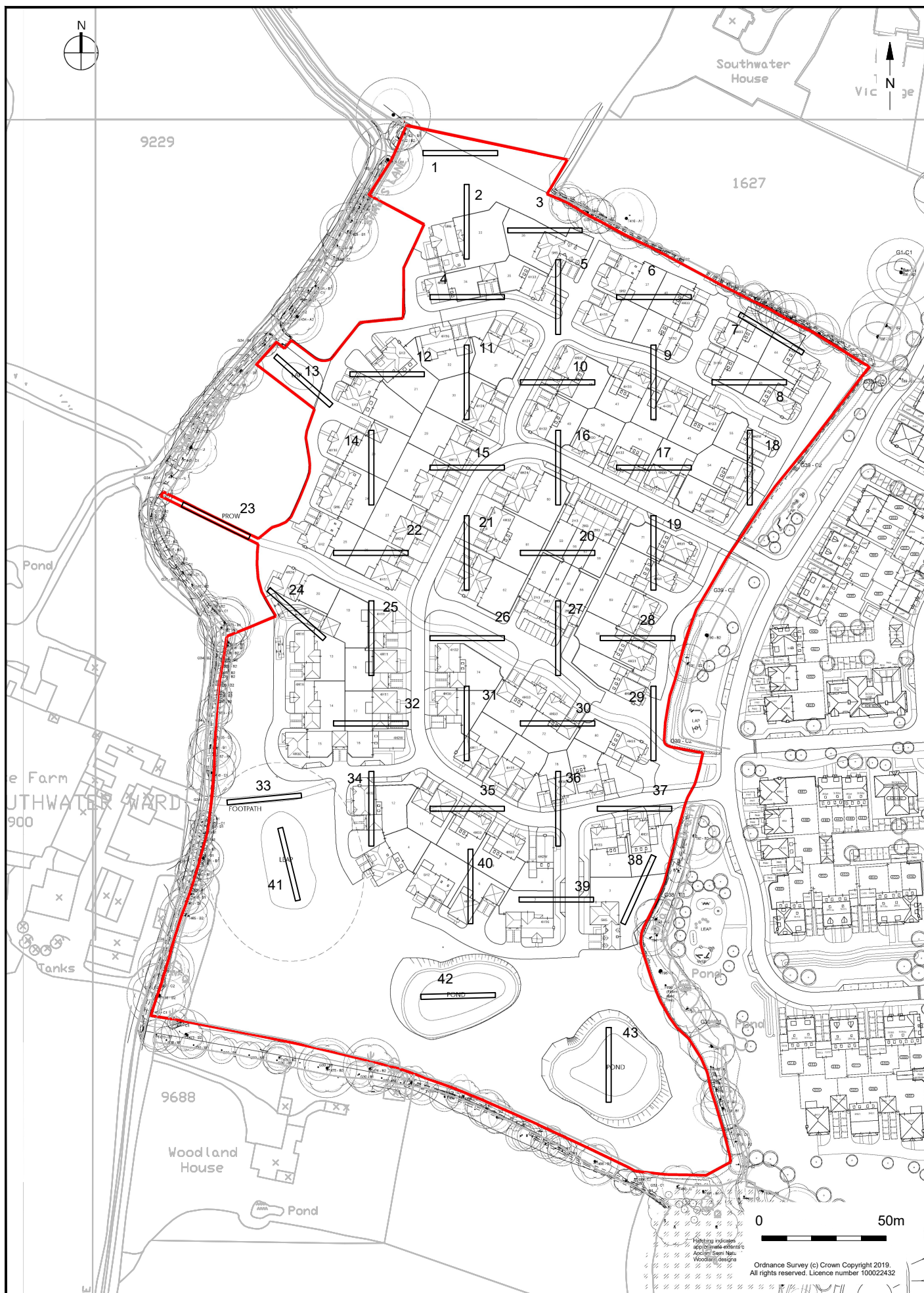
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© Archaeology South-East		Southwater Phase 5	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 180858	Oct 2019	Site location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JR		



© Archaeology South-East		Southwater Phase 5	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 180858	Oct 2019	Trench location	
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