Mowbray Land 2 at North Horsham, West Sussex

Project specification for an archaeological evaluation

5th July 2023
Revised 14th July 2023

Ref: 22s117ev

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1.0 Background

1.1 The site is located on land north east of the A264, north of Horsham, West Sussex (TQ 196 334) (Fig. 1). The overall site comprises an area of c. 250 ha, but the proposed site here (Parcel 2) consists of *c.*15ha of former farmland to be developed for housing (TQ 1957 3413).

1.2 Outline planning permission (DC/16/1677) has been granted by Horsham District Council for a major development to the north of Horsham for residential and commercial purposes.

1.3 The planning permission is subject to a standard condition (22) relating to archaeology and the historic environment. This document is to assist the process of discharging condition 22.

1.4 The archaeological potential of the overall development site had been considered in a desk-based assessment, (ASE 2014, 2015) geophysical survey and fieldwalking (ASE 2016, Beaverstock 2023), trench evaluation (WA 2020) with some follow-up fieldwork (Attard 2021; Attard in prep), In summary, the site lies within the Sussex Weald, until recently an area considered to contain few sites of archaeological interest prior to the medieval period (Rudling 2003). The exceptions to this were iron production sites in Iron Age, Roman and Saxon times (Cleere and Crossley, 1995) and Mesolithic sites on the fringes of the Weald in north east Hampshire and south west Surrey (Rankine 1954). However, recent fieldwork has located several sites of different periods in the Horsham area and beyond (e.g. McNicoll-Norbury et al 2017). Horsham is also known for sites which area a variation of typical sites of Mesolithic date and which might represent a middle Mesolithic with a distinct microlith form- a Horsham Point (Clarke 1934; Jacobi 1976). Most Mesolithic sites in the arable lands of southern England comprise no more than clusters of lithic artefacts now usually found only within topsoil/plough soil contexts. Below ground cut features are extremely infrequently encountered.

1.5 Recent evaluation of parts of the overall development has revealed little of archaeological interest except for small scatters of struck flintwork indicative of further Mesolithic occupation (WA 2020; 2021) and charcoal rich pits of Medieval date which are possibly charcoal clamps. Follow-up fieldwork has examined one of these Mesolithic flint scatters (Attard 2021) and investigation of Medieval and Post-Medieval deposits adjacent to Moathouse Farm also recorded areas of iron production (Attard in prep). Mowbray Land to the south has been subject to geophysical survey, (ASE 2016; Cicu and Beaverstock 2022), fieldwalking (ASE 2015) and trenching (Rouard in prep) but little of interest has been recorded.

1.6 Of particular note for the site is the presence of a moated site (The Castle) immediately adjacent to the east side of the site (Fig. 1). The site is considered to be another Medieval farm, manor, or hunting lodge. It is a Scheduled Monument (SM20035). There is a possibility of ancillary components to the settlement adjacent to the earthworks and within the proposal site itself.

1.7 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken in 2023 (Beaverstock 2023). This identified a series of positive linear anomalies which likely represent buried ditches. Of these, one can be linked to a field boundary shown on the 1844 tithe map while the others do not appear on historic mapping and as such probably represent field boundaries and a possible trackway of earlier date. The southern part of the proposal site has been subject to geophysical survey and fieldwalking (ASE 2015, area C). The geophysical survey revealed a number of anomalies, one of which matches up with an old field boundary on the historic maps and one indicates a modern service to the west. Other boundary-like anomalies are probably of post-medieval date but do not correspond with any shown on the historic maps and presumably represent earlier layouts of the fields. There were few other anomalies. The exception to this was an area of intense disturbance immediately adjacent to 'The Castle' moated site, of unknown significance.

1.8 Fieldwalking of the southern part of the site revealed a modest collection of prehistoric struck flint and post-medieval material (ASE 2015).

1.9 A hedgerow that traverses the site is considered to be historic.

2.0 Requirement for Work

2.1 As a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits during development of the site it is proposed to carry out a field evaluation on the site as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and Horsham District Council's policies on archaeology. This work will be carried out to comply with the Sussex requirements for archaeological fieldwork (ESCC 2019), and in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020a).

2.2 A number of countrywide policy documents for archaeological research such as Historic England Research Agenda (HE 2017) consider the full range of deposits that might be encountered on the site. More specific aims are presented in the *South-East Research Framework Resources Assessment and Research Agenda* (SERFA 2019).

2.3 Two components of work are proposed at this stage, namely, geophysical survey of the unsurveyed northern part of the site (7ha) followed by field investigation by means of machine trenching. Dependent on the findings of this evaluation, further archaeological work may be requested and will be determined through consultation with the archaeological advisor to Horsham Council (Essex County Council Archaeological Officer) who advises the council on archaeological matters. This document is concerned with the trial trenching phase of archaeological works, and any additional work will be governed by a separate written scheme of investigation.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The aims of the evaluation will be to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or paleoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

3.2 This work will be carried out in a manner which will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

3.3 The specific research aims of this project are;

a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

c) To determine if there are any deposits of Prehistoric date on the site

d) To determine if there are Iron Age, Roman or Saxon iron production sites are present.

e) To determine if any geophysical anomalies are of archaeological interest, especially the 'disturbed' area adjacent to the moated site.

f) The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the *South-East Research Framework Resources Assessment and Research Agenda* (SERFA 2019) as necessary.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Trenching Methodology

4.1.1 We propose to dig 165 trenches, 25m long and 1.8m wide across the site, as shown on Figure 2 (5% of site area). The trench positions are indicative only and may need to be moved or subdivided to avoid obstacles or services.

4.1.2 The trenches have been positioned to avoid known services and tree protection zones. The machine will be kept well away from all trees on site, protected or not, to avoid any damage, and no excavation will take place beneath their crowns.

4.1.3 A contingency of 150m of trench is included within the proposal should this be required to clarify the results of the initial trenching.

4.2 Excavation Methodology

4.2.1 Topsoil and other overburden for the machine-dug trenches will be removed by a 360° machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. This will take place under constant archaeological supervision.

4.2.2 Trenches will be excavated to the first archaeologically relevant horizon, or to the level of the natural geology.

4.2.3 Should alluvium (or peat) be encountered overlying gravel; this will be removed in spits of 0.1-0.15m thickness with each phase of surface exposed inspected for deposits and artefacts.

4.2.4 Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

4.2.5 Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed will be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the objective set out in 3.2.

4.2.6 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.

4.2.7 Conservation on site will follow guidelines in First Aid for Finds with any other specialist conservation work subcontracted to our conservation advisor (see below).

4.2.8 A programme of environmental sampling will take place should sufficient well stratified subsoil deposits be located. Typically, this involves samples of up to 40L depending on the size of the feature examined. Bulk waterlogged samples with organic preservation will be of the order of 1L. These will be sampled in consultation with our environmental consultants and the archaeological advisor to Horsham District Council. Sampling will take place according to Historic England guidance (HE 2015b).

4.2.9 Discovery of any human remains will be confirmed by minimal excavation but no further action will be taken as part of the evaluation exercise, unless requested as additional work by the client in consultation with the archaeological advisor to Horsham District Council. Human remains will be treated following the guidelines of the Ministry of Justice and in Mitchell and Brickley (2017).

4.2.10 Spoil heaps will be searched for finds including use of a metal detector.

4.2.11 All gold and silver, prehistoric base metal 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) and subsequent amendments. Where removal cannot be affected 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.

4.2.12 Following completion of all excavation and recording, the trench will be efficiently backfilled but will not be resurfaced. No liability is accepted for damage to any services unless a plan of these is provided by the client.

4.3 Recording Methodology

4.3.1 A single context recording system will be used in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording Manual (8th edition 2018). Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets.

4.3.2 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.

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

4.3.4 Where appropriate, significant finds will be recorded in 3D.

4.3.5 The locations of the trenches, and of all plans and sections will be tied into the National Grid using Trimble hand held GPS units with sub-decimetre accuracy.

4.3.6 The photographic record will consist of digital image and monochrome film image. It will record the principal features and finds discovered, both in detail and in their general context. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' and, where applicable, aerial photographs to illustrate the nature of the archaeological fieldwork programme. All feature shots will include appropriate scales and a photo board, the latter positioned in such a way that the writing is legible and including the context number and site code. Digital images are taken on Canon EOS 4000D cameras with APS-C sensors taking 16-megapixel images.

4.4 Post-fieldwork

4.4.1 Finds processing, sieving of bulk samples (including flotation and the sorting of residues) and analysis will commence immediately following the completion of the fieldwork in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), and TVAS post-excavation procedures (6th edition 2013).

4.4.2 Artefacts will be cleaned, conserved and prepared for long term museum storage.

4.4.3 Specialist reports will be prepared on the artefacts and ecofacts recovered; particular attention will be paid to correlating the pottery recovered with local or regional fabric type sequences.

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

Project management	Ms Odile Rouard
Fieldwork supervisor	(one of) Ms Odile Rouard, Mr Will Attard, Mr Kyle Beaverstock, Ms Maisie Foster, Mr Ben Matus
Post-excavation	Mr Steve Preston
Finds coordination	Dr Cristina Mateos
Pottery specialist	(from) Dr Jane Timby, Ms Sue Anderson, Dr Phil Mills, Mr Luke Barber, Dr Barbara McNee (consultants)
Environment (general)	Ms Joanna Pine (TVAS) or Professor Mark Robinson (Oxford University)
Brick and tile	Ms Danielle Milbank, (TVAS)
Carbonised botanical remains	Professor Mark Robinson (Oxford University) or Ms. Rossy McKenna (consultant)
Faunal remains	Dr Matilda Holmes (consultants) or Dr Ceri Falys (TVAS)
Human remains	Dr Ceri Falys (TVAS)
Coins	Dr Pierre Manisse (TVAS)
Metalwork	Dr Robin Taylor (consultant) or Ms Sophie Peng (TVAS)
Pollen	Quest (Reading University)
Wood	Ms Rossy McKenna, (consultant) or Mr Michael Bamforth (consultant)
Slag	Dr David Dungworth (consultant)
Archaeomagnetism	Bradford University
Radiocarbon dating	Queens University, Belfast
Conservation	Wiltshire County Council Heritage Centre

5.0 Report and Dissemination

5.1 The reports on the results of the evaluation and should be available within 4 weeks of completion of the fieldwork.

5.2 The reports will follow our established format, comprising a descriptive text, illustrations and catalogues in appendices.

5.3 The text will address the aims and objectives of the evaluation, 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.

5.4 The reports will include a front sheet providing the following information:

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

5.5 The illustrations will include:

- a site location plan
- a trench layout plan
- trench plans and sections
- profiles/sections of a selection of excavated features
- a selection of colour photos of significant findings

5.6 Catalogues giving descriptions of trenches, archaeological features, and artefacts will be contained in a series of appendices.

5.7 Any findings of national or special local significance will be published as a dedicated report in an appropriate journal such as *Sussex Archaeological Collections.* Otherwise, a summary will be produced for publication in 'round up' sections in publications such as period specific national journals like *Medieval Archaeology*.

5.8 Copies of the results will be supplied to the West Sussex HER in digital format. Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download on the TVAS web site.

6.0 Archive Selection Strategy and Data Management Plan

6.1 An academic synthesis of the findings of the fieldwork will be presented as a report detailed above in section 5, addressing where appropriate the regional research topics such as presented in the *South-East Research Framework Resources Assessment and Research Agenda.* Selected summary data, such as digital images will be presented to the county Historic Environment. The original record and artefact data will be managed according to the plan set out in paras 6.2-6.7 (above).

6.2 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), CIfA guidance (CIfA 2020a) and after consultation with the recipient museum.

6.3 The site and finds archive will be deposited in Horsham Museum or Archaeology Data Service

6.4 With the consent of the landowner, the site finds will be deposited in Worthing Museum.

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

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

6.7 The digital component of the archive will be managed according to TVAS digital archive and backup recording policies.

7.0 General Items

7.1 The project will be managed on a regular basis by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (S. Ford, J. Pine or A. Taylor) with an appropriate area of competence.

7.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with the CIFA Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation (2020b) and Code of Conduct (2019) and the quality control mechanisms set out in the TVAS fieldwork and post-fieldwork manuals.

7.3 Safe working practices as set out in TVAS health and safety manual will be adopted and current health and safety regulations will be adhered to. If the site is accessible to the public, the trenches will be fenced with barrier mesh/bunting and road pins or Heras fencing as necessary.

7.4 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 £5m.

7.5 The archaeological advisor to Horsham District Council will be contacted both prior to work commencing on site, and during the evaluation itself, to arrange a site monitoring visit. Any changes in the agreed project design will be discussed and agreed with the project consultant and the archaeological advisor to the Council before implementation.

8.0 References

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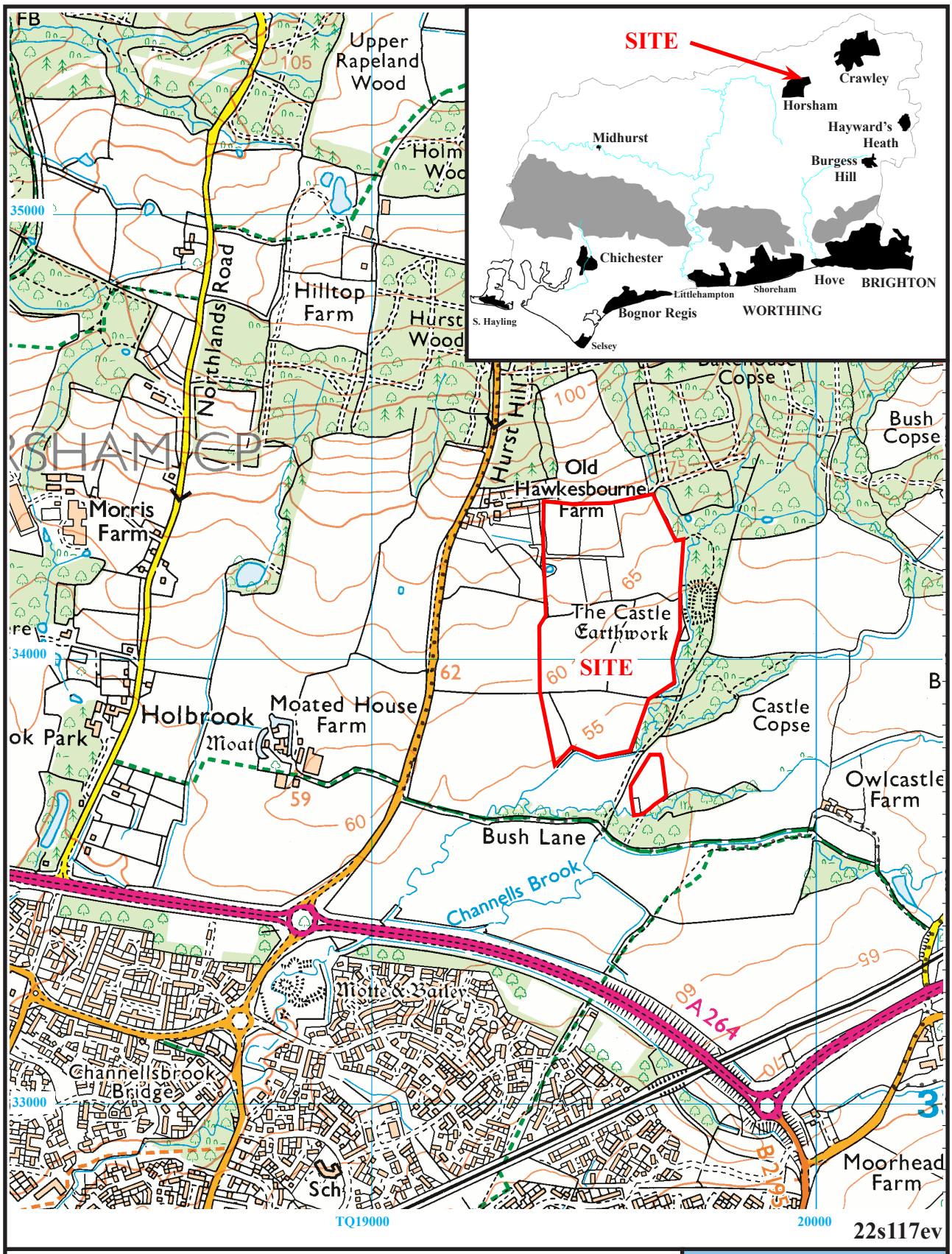
WA 2021, North Horsham, West Sussex, Phase 1 (Principal Access Works 1, Principal Access Works 2, Sub-Phases 1a to 1d) and Sports Hub, 1 Archaeological Field Evaluation, Wessex Archaeology report 217770.5, Salisbury part 2



Mowbray Land 2 at North Horsham,
West Sussex
Proposal for an Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Horsham and West Sussex.

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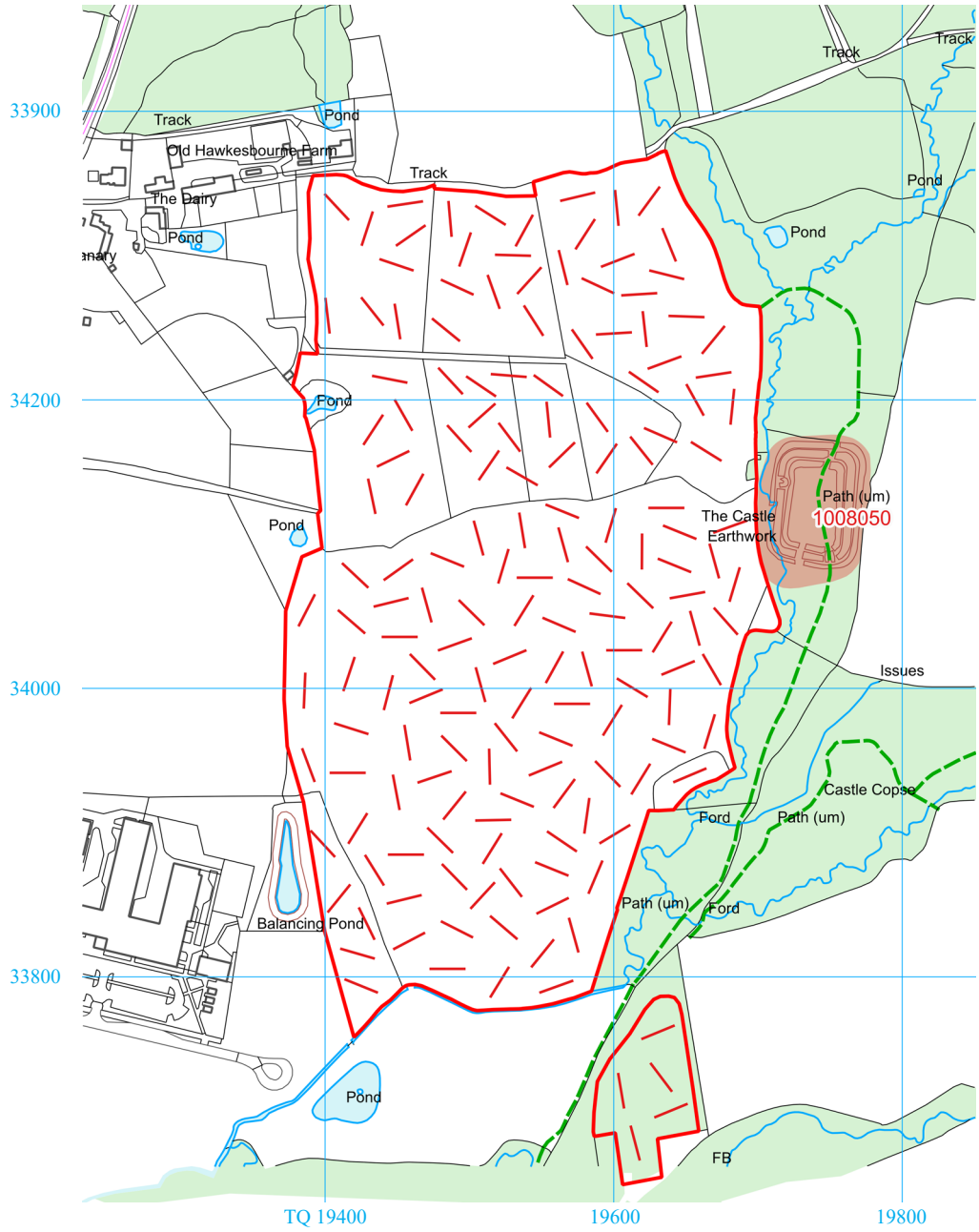
TVAS SOUTH



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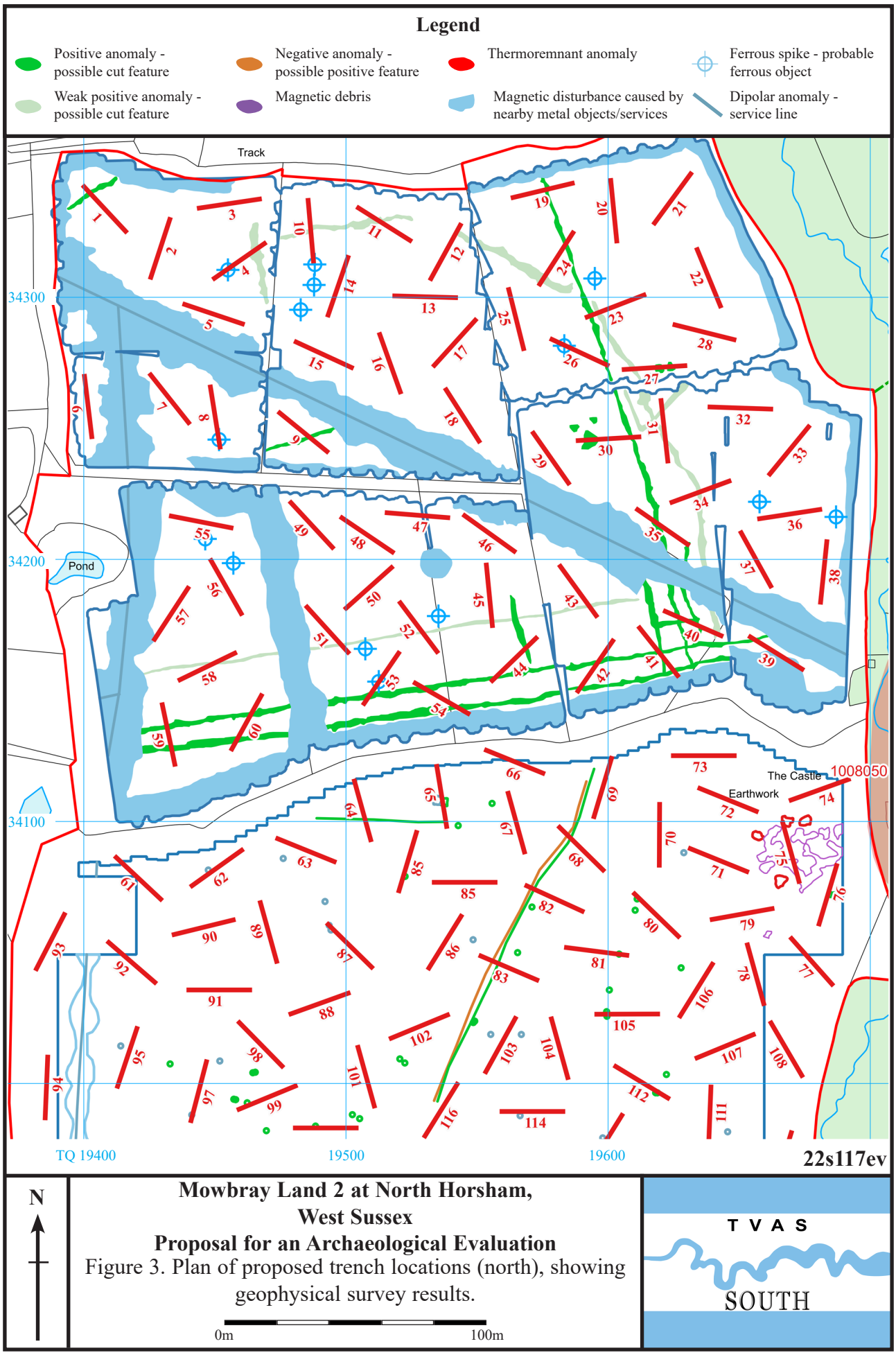
Mowbray Land 2 at North Horsham, West Sussex

Proposal for an Archaeological Evaluation

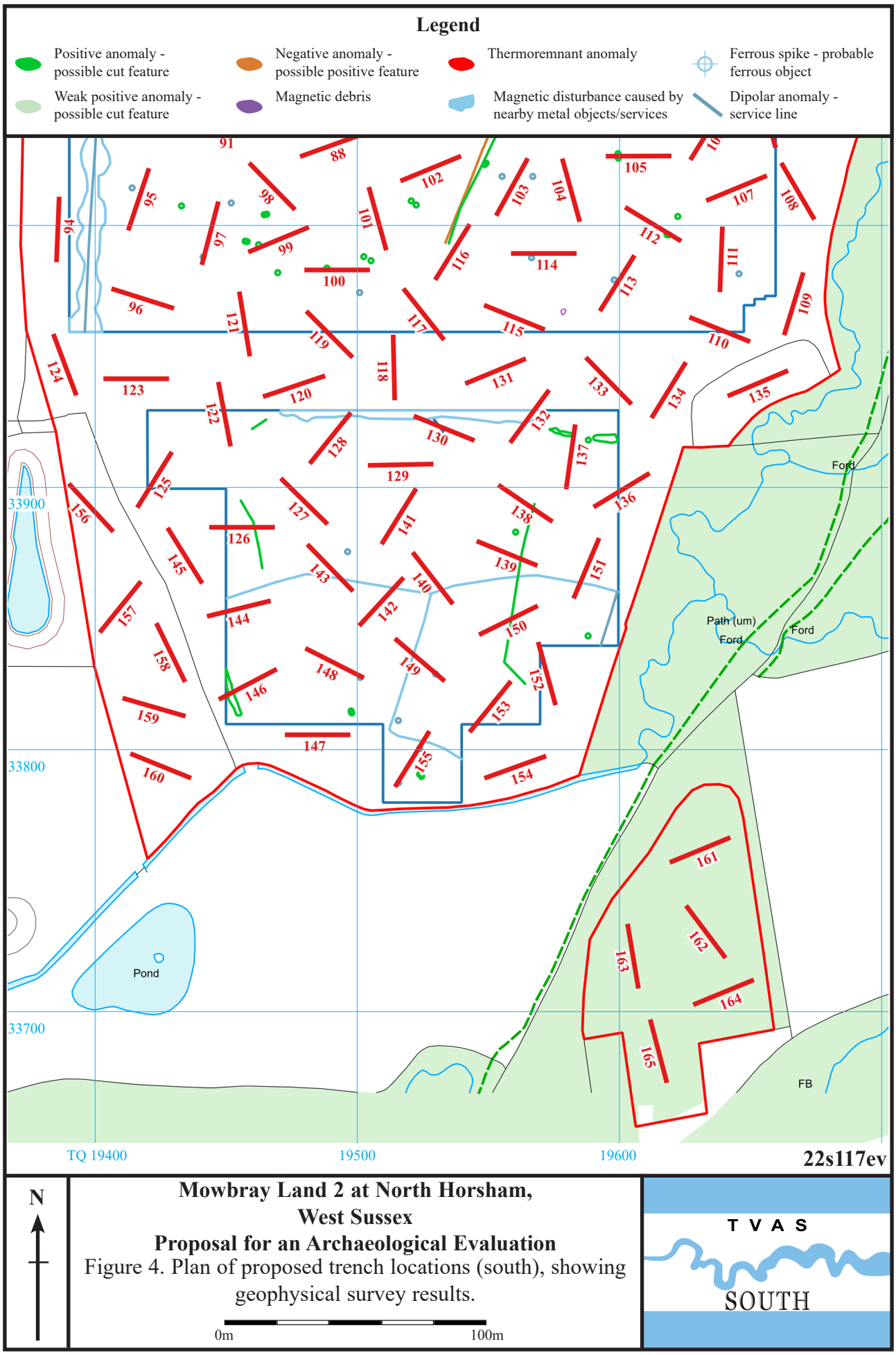
Figure 2. Plan of proposed trench locations, showing location of Scheduled Monument (shaded red).

0m 200m

TVAS SOUTH



Mowbray Land 2 at North Horsham, West Sussex
Proposal for an Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 3. Plan of proposed trench locations (north), showing geophysical survey results.


Legend
Positive anomaly - possible cut feature
Negative anomaly - possible positive feature
Thermoremnant anomaly
Ferrous spike - probable ferrous object
Weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature
Magnetic debris
Magnetic disturbance caused by nearby metal objects/services
Dipolar anomaly - service line
Ford
Path (um)
Ford
Ford
Pond
FB
33900
33800
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TQ 19400
19500
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22s117ev
N
Mowbray Land 2 at North Horsham,
West Sussex
Proposal for an Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 4. Plan of proposed trench locations (south), showing geophysical survey results.
0m
100m
TVAS
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