

**Land South of Crawley Down Road,
Felbridge, West Sussex**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR 536456 139262

ASE Project no. 230233

Site Code: FBR23

Planning Ref: DM/23/0810

July 2023

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Reviewed and approved by:	Jon Sygrave	Project Manager	
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) has been commissioned by BDW Homes Southern Counties to undertake archaeological evaluation of land south of Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, West Sussex, hereafter 'the site' (centred on NGR 536456 139262; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site occupies arable land to the west of Felbridge village centre. It is bounded by Crawley Down Road to the north, a stream known as Felbridge Water to the south, woodland and residences to the east and west (Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.3 According to the British Geological Survey the sites lie over Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand (Sandstone and Siltstone). Superficial deposits are not mapped (BGS 2023).
- 1.4 A desk-based assessment for the site concluded that it has the potential to contain archaeological remains, including those of a Roman road and medieval remains associated with a nearby moated site (WA 2023).
- 1.5 Geophysical survey has identified anomalies of possible archaeological interest across much of the site area. These include anomalies corresponding with the route of the Roman road (SUMO 2023; see Appendix).
- 1.6 A planning application has been submitted to Mid Sussex District Council for the residential development of the site (DM/23/0810; Figure 2).
- 1.7 This document is 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 2019a-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.
- 1.8 All work will be carried out in accordance with the Sussex Archaeological Standards (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).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following background information is paraphrased from the desk-based assessment (WA 2023) supplemented with the results of an investigation undertaken to the immediate west of the site (ASE 2019).
- 2.2 Mesolithic flints have been recovered during fieldwalking exercises over the fields surrounding Gullede Farm to the south of the site (MWS4167).
- 2.3 An apparent scatter of Neolithic flint implements was found in the field to the south of Gullede Farm (MWS3448).

- 2.4 There is no evidence for the Bronze Age or Iron Age periods in the vicinity of the site.
- 2.5 The projected route of the London to Brighton Roman Road is noted to run through the north-west corner of the site.
- 2.6 In 2019 archaeological investigation undertaken by ASE to the immediate west of the site identified a section of the north-north-east aligned Roman London to Brighton road running through the south-east corner of the site in its projected location. No other archaeological evidence was found suggesting that this section of the road was in a remote area of the Roman landscape (ASE 2019).
- 2.7 Two possible bloomery sites were recorded to the west of the site that may be either Romano-British or medieval in origin (MWS997).
- 2.8 The scheduled remains of a former medieval moated site exist 75 m to the southwest of the western field (NHLE entry 109904). The monument survives as two contiguously ditched rectangular islands orientated west-southwest-east-northeast with overall dimensions of 90 m long and 47 m wide. The exact age of the moated sites is not currently known as no intrusive survey has been completed, but it is likely to have been constructed between the 13th and 14th century when moated houses were in fashion. There are no surface features to suggest the presence of buildings, however, medieval and post-medieval tiles have been recovered, suggesting a high-status building existed. The moated site may have been built in this location to take advantage of the Roman road which is likely to have still be in use at the time.
- 2.9 Approximately 200 m to the south of the moated site is also the possible siting of a deserted medieval village (MWS3812). The deserted village was identified in 1985 after what appeared to be building platforms were recognised.
- 2.10 The earliest depiction of the Site in detail is the 1840 Tithe map for the parish of East Grinstead (Figure 4). The map shows that the western field comprised one large field not too dissimilar in appearance to today. However, the eastern field was divided into small regular plots, some occupied by small buildings. A trackway also cut partially through the eastern field that linked up to the bridleway. A different family occupied each plot with the empty plots used for grazing.
- 2.11 By 1876, the eastern field had undergone considerable change (Figure 5). All of the former buildings and land divisions had been removed in favour of a more regular field system layout. The changes coincided with the construction of Oak Farm directly north of the eastern field. Two buildings in the eastern field were probably used as farm buildings associated with Oak Farm.
- 2.12 By 1896, the two buildings within the site had been demolished (Figure 6). Between 1896 and 1936, a number of developments had occurred to the site and surrounding area. In the eastern field, the land was amalgamated to form the field system we see today. In the western field, the woodland known as Avenue Wood had been allowed to encroach northwards along the north bank of Felbridge Water. Felbridge had also expanded with new residential

development along Crawley Down Road, which continued well into the late 20th century. The small cottage located within the site was constructed between 1896 and 1936. The site has remained in its current form since 1936 (Figure 7).

Recent Geophysical Survey

- 2.13 Recent geophysical survey of the site has identified anomalies of possible archaeological origin across much of the site area. These include a pair of parallel ditches along the mapped route of the Roman road, anomalies corresponding with the structures appearing on historic mapping and other ditch and pit-like anomalies (SUMO 2023; Figure 8; see Appendix).

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation are to ascertain:
- Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so to assess their nature, date, survival and significance;
 - To test anomalies identified by the geophysical survey;
 - How they might be impacted by the development of the site;
 - To enable the LPA Archaeology Officer to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work either in advance of, or during, the development.
- 3.2 The project also has the potential to inform on the following areas of research from the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF);
- To what degree is the region a crossroads or a backwater in terms of UP and early Mesolithic occupation patterns (SERF Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Periods).
 - Communications: complete the main road network (SERF: Roman Period)
 - Comparisons between urban and rural, coastal and in-land communities (SERF Medieval Period)
 - Communications: work could be done on the medieval re-use of Roman roads (SERF Medieval Period)
 - The development of the village in the post-medieval period (SERF: Post-medieval and modern period)
 - An understanding of the multifaceted landscape (SERF: Post-medieval and modern period)

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Sixty-one trenches measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide will be excavated across the development footprint as shown in Figure 2. This represents a 4% sample of the site. A contingency for up to a further 1% sample has been allowed for.
- 4.2 The trenches will be accurately laid out using a GPS survey system or total station and tied in to the National Grid. Some modification to the suggested trench positions may be necessary due to obstructions. Significant variations

to the trench layout will be discussed with The Client and the LPA Archaeological Officer.

- 4.3 The trenches will be scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. The trenches will be excavated using a suitable mechanical excavator (360° excavator) equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 4.4 Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin will be removed by machine and will be kept separately. The excavation will be taken down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying 'natural', whichever is uppermost. Due to Health and Safety considerations the trench will not be excavated beyond a safe working depth (generally c. 1.2m) unless suitable precautions (i.e. stepping or battering of trench edges, and /or shoring) have been implemented; the indicative depth of 1.2m may be reduced if the trench sides appear to be particularly unstable. All machining will be undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- 4.5 On conclusion of the excavation, the spoil will be backfilled by ASE's plant. Trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by Place Services. No formal reinstatement to previous condition (i.e. re-turfing) will be undertaken.
- 4.6 A Risk Assessment will be produced and agreed with the client prior to the commencement of the work.

5.0 EXCAVATION AND RECORDING TECHNIQUES

- 5.1 All exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned by hand, planned and recorded. All discrete cut features will be sampled as a minimum by half section (i.e. 50% of feature excavated). At least 25% of any linear feature will be sectioned to produce a vertical section where practicable. A minimum 50% of structural features (beamslots, ring ditches) - actual surviving structural elements (walls, collapse/debris fields) will be exposed, cleaned and preserved for excavation in more appropriate circumstances. 50-100% domestic/industrial working features (hearths, ovens) - unless large & structural, in which case see above. All features will be planned at the scale of 1:20 in relation to the trench outline. Further plans at the scale of 1:20 and sections at the scale of 1:10 will be drawn as necessary. Plans will be drawn on plastic film. Comparative site levels will be recorded for each feature or important context with reference to an OS bench mark, or if unfeasible to an arbitrary on-site datum.
- 5.2 All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East, UCL. A metal detector will be used to scan all excavated material.
- 5.3 The Client and the LPA Archaeological Officer will be informed immediately of any archaeological features or deposits worthy of preservation *in situ*, and generally of any high quality archaeological remains in order that this written scheme of investigation can be reviewed if necessary.
- 5.4 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures encountered during any stage of archaeological fieldwork (which

can include soils, timbers, animal bone and human burials) will be developed with reference to English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology (English Heritage 2011) and waterlogged wood (English Heritage 2010) and in consultation with the English Heritage 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.

- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 In the event that human remains are discovered the LPA Archaeological Officer will be informed. No human remains will be lifted at evaluation stage unless it is unavoidable and only with the appropriate licence from the Ministry of Justice.
- 5.7 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 local Finds Liaison Officer. Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the Coroner, the landowner and the County Archaeologist will also be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the County Archaeologist 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 PROCESSING AND IDENTIFICATION OF RECOVERED MATERIAL

- 6.1 All pottery, bone and worked flint recovered from the excavation will be washed and marked with an appropriate code to identify the site and context. Most ceramic and other building material (not including significant diagnostic 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 stabilized using passive conservation techniques where appropriate before being deposited with the receiving museum.
- 6.3 Environmental samples will be processed using tank flotation unless considered detrimental to the samples or recovery rate (such as for

waterlogged samples). Bulk samples will target recovery of plant remains (charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. 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. Specialist samples may also be taken from dry or waterlogged contexts. Such samples will target recovery of pollen (using monolith tins), molluscs, foraminifera, parasites and insects. Larger samples (80-100 litres) will be extracted wholesale from deposits rich in marine molluscs and large mammal bones. As a general rule waterlogged wood specimens will be recorded in detail in their original location. If removed they will be cleaned, photographed and a thin section sample will be taken for identification. Specimens will either be stored in wet cool conditions or dried if considered appropriate for the material. In all instances deposits with clear intrusive material shall be avoided.

7.0 REPORTING

- 7.1 Within six 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 future 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. The report will also include a timetable of works carried out, a consideration of the project strategy with a confidence rating and all other data required by the Brief.
- 7.2 Following internal review the report will be submitted to The Client and the LPA Archaeologist for comment/approval. Once any necessary amendments have been made by ASE the requisite number of bound and digital copies (PDF format) will be distributed to The Client, LPA and other interested parties.

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 English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects 2 and in accordance with the guidelines set out in: 'Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice' (AAF 2011); 'A Standard and Guide to best practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe' (EAC 2013); and 'Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections' (SMA 2020).
- 8.2 Permission will be sought from the landowner to deposit finds and paper archive in an appropriate local museum.
- 8.3 The results of the project will be submitted to OASIS and ADS.

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.

11.0 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED AS NECESSARY:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11.1 | Prehistoric pottery | Louise Rayner (ASE) |
| | Roman pottery | Anna Doherty (ASE) |
| | Medieval/post medieval pottery | Luke Barber (freelance) |
| | Ceramic Building Material | Rae Regensberg (ASE) |
| | Animal bone | Emily Johnson (ASE) |
| | Human remains | Lucy Sibun (ASE) |
| | Environmental samples | Dr. Lucy Allott (ASE)) |
| | Metalwork | Trista Clifford (ASE) |
| | Coins | Trista Clifford (ASE) |
| | Conservation | UCL Institute of Archaeology |
- 11.2 These are the most commonly required specialisms. Should other specialists be required they will be appointed as necessary to the satisfaction of ASE Quality Assurance procedures and those of the LPA archaeologist.

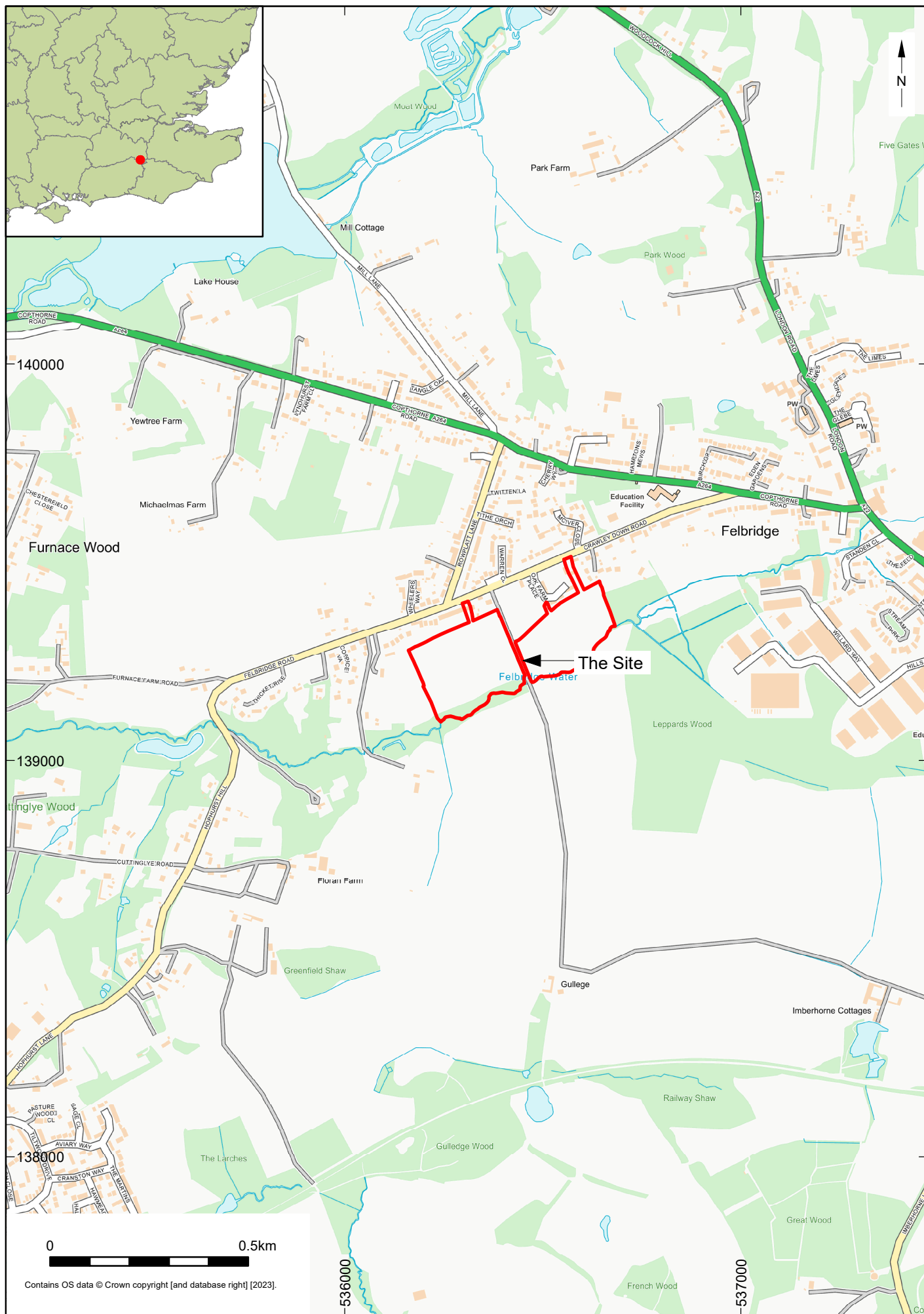
12.0 MONITORING

- 12.1 Provision will be made at all stages of the project for The Client and the LPA Archaeological Officer to monitor progress and standards. Adequate provision will be made available by ASE for the LPA Archaeological Officer to make site monitoring visits at agreed and specified times.

REFERENCES

- Archaeological Archives Forum 2011, *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice*
- ASE 2019 *Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report: Land East of Walnut Marches Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, West Sussex*
- British Geological Survey online viewer:
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
Accessed 22nd May 2023
- ClfA 2019a *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*
- ClfA 2019b *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*
- ClfA 2019c *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- Europae Archaeologiae Consilium 2013, *A Standard and Guide to best practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe*
- Historic England 2010 *Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood*
- Historic England 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (second ed.)*. English Heritage
- Historic England 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*
- SERF 2008 *Resource Assessment and Research Agenda, South East Research Framework*. Kent County Council: unpublished
- Society for Museum Archaeology 2020, 'Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections'
- SUMO 2023, *Geophysical Survey Report: Land South of Crawley Down Road, Felbridge*
- WA 2023 *Land South of Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, West Sussex: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*
- WSCC, ESCC 2017, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*

Archaeology South-East
July 2023



© Archaeology South-East		Crawley Down Road, Felbridge	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 230233	May 2023	Site Location	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: ARC		

+ 536040, 139501



+ 536040, 139081

0 50m + 536730, 139081

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Crawley Down Road, Felbridge

Site plan overlaying proposed development

Fig. 2



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June 2023

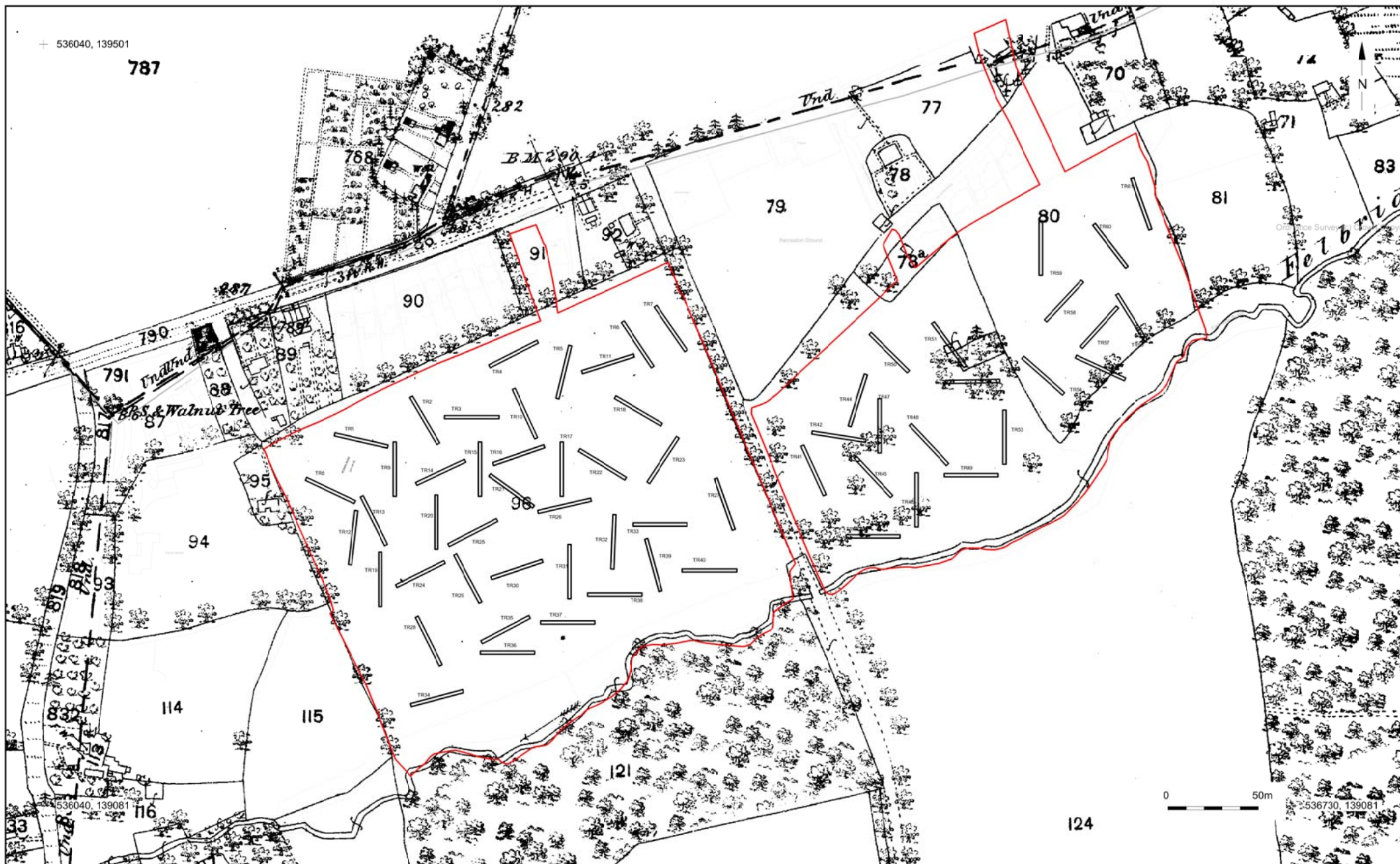
Report Ref: WSI

Drawn by: AC /HF

Crawley Down Road, Felbridge

Site plan overlaying proposed Google Satellite

Fig. 3



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Site plan overlaying 1st edition OS, 1874

Fig. 5



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Site plan overlaying OS, 1956

Fig. 7



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Site plan overlaying with Geophysics

Fig. 8