Archaeology South-East

ASE

Surface Artefact Collection Report
Land West of Sweeter's Copse
Alfold
Surrey

NGR 504082 134540

Planning Reference PLE/2014/1450

ASE Project No: 7342
Site Code: ALF 15

ASE Report No: 2015074
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Catesby Property Group to undertake a programme of surface artefacts collection (archaeological fieldwalking) on land to the west of Sweeter's Copse, Alfold, Surrey.

An assortment of artefacts was retrieved from two fields, which are the subject of a recent planning application. Prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval material was recovered in varying quantities, mostly from the southern part of the examined area.

There was some correlation between the distribution of the Romano-British and medieval finds and the location of potential buried archaeological features identified during a concurrent geophysical survey.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London (UCL) Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) was commissioned by Catesby Property Group to undertake a programme of archaeological work on land west of Sweeter's Copse, Alfold, Surrey (centred at NGR 504082 134540; Figure 1).

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site, which is 7.2ha in area, lies on the western side of Loxwood Road, to the north of the centre of Alfold. It consists of two parcels of land, encompassing a northern field enclosed by housing to the west and north, a stream to the east, and a line of tress to the south (Figure 2, *Field 1*), and part of a field to the south, bounded by houses to the west and north-west, a stream to the east, and the same line of trees to the north (Figure 2, *Field 2*).

1.2.2 Apart from the treeline that traverses the site, there are no obvious landscape features visible in the fields, with an overall gentle slope from north to south. The land drops away sharply towards the stream to the east of the current site in *Field 2*, but this formation is not seen in *Field 1*.

1.2.3 According to the latest available information from the British Geological Survey, the natural geology of the site comprises Weald Clay Formation, with superficial deposits of alluvium towards the north of the site (BGS 2015).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application for a residential development at the site has been submitted to Waverley Borough Council (planning ref. PLE/2014/1450) and is awaiting consideration.

1.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken in 2013, associated with a previous planning application, and recommended the archaeological evaluation of the site prior to development (ASE 2013). In the light of this document and other evidence (see below), Nick Truckle, Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer recommended the implementation of a programme of geophysical survey and surface artefact collection at the site.

1.3.3 Subsequently ASE produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation of the site by magnetometry and fieldwalking surveys. This document outlined the methods to be used in the field and in the production of a report and site archive (ASE 2015a)

1.3.3 The current report gives details of the results of surface artefact collection (archaeological fieldwalking) undertaken at the site. The results of the geophysical survey are given elsewhere (ASE 2015b).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The principal research aim of the project given in the WSI was to *'obtain a better understanding of the archaeological potential of the site'* (ASE 2015a, 4). The specific research aim of the fieldwalking element of the project was to (*ibid.*):

> *'identify any concentrations of surface artefacts which might indicate the presence of below ground archaeological features or foci of past human activity'*

1.4.2 Therefore the systematic surface artefact collection aimed to establish whether concentrations of artefacts survive within areas where significant groundworks will take place during the proposed development. This (in combination with the results of the geophysical survey) was aimed to facilitate decisions regarding mitigation measures and/or the need for further archaeological fieldwork.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of systematic surface artefact collection at the site undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and Lucy May (Assistant Archaeologist) in late February 2015. The site grid was laid out by Vasilis Tsamis (Senior Geomatics Officer). The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Senior Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is taken from the DBA (ASE 2013). Archaeological sites and find spots within a 1km radius of the site held on the Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by Surrey County Council were included in that study.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Three prehistoric sites have been recorded. At Little Hammer Wood Field, *c.*0.7km to the east of the site, 37 pieces of flint were recovered during the construction of a golf course, including 19 secondary flakes, 1 primary flake, 1 blade core, 2 core rejuvenating flakes and 5 complete or partial blades.

2.2.2 During the extension to Wildwood Country Club, Horsham Road, *c.*0.6km to the north east of the site, a number of burnt flints were recovered during a watching brief, suggesting prehistoric activity in the area, but little else was noted in conditions described as not ideal for archaeological observation.

2.2.3 A flint core, probably Mesolithic in date, a few burnt flints and two pieces of iron slag were found by Surrey County Council during site watching of site topsoil removal, *c.*50m from the north western corner of the site.

2.3 Romano-British

2.3.1 There is one Romano-British entry - an Alexandrian billon, a tetradrachm of Carus was found at Waynde, Alfold Crossways*, c.*0.5km to the north of the site. The current whereabouts of the coin are unknown

2.4 Saxo-Norman

2.4.1 One site of Saxo-Norman date has been recorded locally - the Grade I Listed Church of St Nicholas. The original church is said to date to circa 1100, the south aisle to 1190, and the north aisle to c.1290. The Church was rebuilt in 1845 and has a 15th century bellcage.

2.5 High Medieval

2.5.1 One medieval site is known: a Grade II Listed Building - Alfold Park Farm, which lies *c.*0.8km to the west to the Site. The house, partly modernised, is timbered with a later Tudor chimney.

2.6 Post-Medieval

2.6.1 Twenty three entries are recorded in the study area dating to the post-medieval period. One of these refers to a milestone located within the village of Alfold, *c.*0.6km south of the site. Ten entries refer to Listed Buildings located within Alfold *c.*0.3 to 0.5km to the south of the current site; of these seven are Grade II Listed Buildings, and three are Grade II* Listed Buildings.

2.6.3 Five entries refer to Grade II Listed Buildings located *c.*0.4km to the north, at Alford Crossways and three entries refer to Grade II Listed Buildings located between the two villages, *c.*0.3km toi 0.5km from the site.

2.6.4 Examination of the available cartographic evidence shows little change within the boundaries of the site since the 1840s, except for the removal of subdivisions of the fields in the late 19th century. However the environs of the site have seen great change in that period, including the construction of school buildings fronting onto Loxwood Road, and housing to the north and north-west.

2.7 Undated

2.7.1 In addition to the positively dated archaeological entries, two as yet undated cropmarks (one circular, the other sub-circular) have been noted in a field *c.*0.3km to the west of the site.

2.8 Recent Archaeological Work

2.8.1 Local residents and schoolchildren have undertaken informal fieldwalking and metal detecting in the two fields over a number of years. Concentrations of medieval pottery and struck flint have been noted in the southern field (Nick Truckle and Judy English *pers. comm.*). A plot of these finds is included as Figure 3, by kind permission of Judie English.

2.8.2 The magnetometer survey undertaken at the same time as the current fieldwalking uncovered a series of positive anomalies interpreted as possible discrete features such as pits and ditches, and two roughly semi-circular shaped positive anomalies which may also represent archaeological features. A possible east–west aligned linear feature does not appear on available historic mapping of the site and may, therefore, represent an earlier boundary ditch. However, it must be noted that these anomalies may also relate to naturally occurring geological variations (ASE 2015b).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The basic field-walking methodology was that usually used by ASE during fieldwalking projects, itself based on the standard practice utilised by the former Archaeological Field Projects Service of Essex County Council.

3.2 In short, the method involved dividing the accessible area into numbered squares each measuring 20m by 20m (Figure 2). Based on this grid, transects measuring 20m long, 2m wide and 20m apart were walked from south to north on the western edge of each grid square. All encountered archaeological artefacts were collected and bagged according to grid square, resulting in a 10% sample collection policy across the site.

3.3 The site archive is currently held at Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

No. of FW Record Forms	12
No. of files/paper record	1
Bulk finds	Retained finds only

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 3 - 14)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Although neither of the fields had been ploughed since the last harvest, and the lower stalks of maize were still *in situ* in close rows, visibility for the recovery of artefacts from the surface of the mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil was nevertheless good. Bright sunshine and periods of light cloud cover offered highly suitable conditions for fieldwalking. The edges of both fields could not be walked owing to wide grass-covered baulks, and the northernmost available transects in Squares 4 and 5 were partially flooded.

4.2 Field 1

4.2.1 Fire-cracked flint (FCF) and post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) were virtually ubiquitous in the transects walked in this field. Only two struck flints were recovered from *Field 1*, so clearly its distribution does not match that of the FCF.

4.2.2 Virtually all of the remaining material was post-medieval in date (with the exception of two small sherds of medieval pottery) and is interpreted as material spread on the fields during manuring in the relatively recent past.

4.3 Field 2

4.3.1 Again fire-cracked flint and post-medieval CBM were almost omnipresent, although similarly only a handful of struck flints were recovered. However, a far more varied and interesting selection of material was recovered in this field.

4.3.2 The presence of a concentration of Romano-British material was a surprise, given the paucity of such material from the immediate area. There was a clear spread of this material (pottery and a small quantity of CBM) from east to west across the site. The presence of unabraded pottery (including imported samian ware) is strongly suggestive of the presence of buried archaeological features in the immediate vicinity.

4.3.3 A spread of medieval material partially mirrored in that of the Romano-British finds. Again, the medieval assemblage consisted of pottery, but with notably more CBM, which dovetails with finds reported from previous work at the site (Figure 3). There is some correlation with features identified during the geophysical survey and the distribution of the Romano-British and medieval assemblages (ASE 2015b) (see below).

4.3.4 The post-medieval material has a widespread distribution and shows the field has been manured on a regular basis using waste from the nearby cottages and perhaps from the village of Alfold itself. The encountered blast furnace and glass slag is diagnostically later, but given the notorious mobility of the material (Cleere & Crossley 1995, 275) is probably not indicative of the presence of a blast furnace or glassworks in the immediate vicinity.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 **The Flintwork by** Karine Le Hégarat (Figures 4 and 5)

Introduction and Methodology

5.1.1 The fieldwalking exercise resulted in the recovery of 241 fragments of burnt unworked flint weighing 5133g and seven pieces of struck flint weighing 39g. The fragments of burnt unworked flint were scanned for worked material and quantified by pieces and weight. The pieces of struck were quantified by piece count and weight and were catalogued directly into an Excel spreadsheet. A breakdown of the composition of the assemblage by square grid is provided in Table 2 (for the fragments of burnt unworked flint) and Table 3 (for the pieces of struck flint). None of the pieces of struck flint are chronologically diagnostic.

Results

The Burnt Unworked Flint

5.1.2 The field walking survey produced 241 pieces of burnt unworked flint weighing a total of 5133g. Fragments were present in the majority of the 2m squares, and no apparent concentration was observed. Where present, the material occurred in very small quantities, with the numbers per square ranging from one to nine fragments. The fragments are principally small-sized. They are mostly heavily calcined to a white or light grey colour. The absence of red or pinkish fragments suggests that the degree to which the flint had been heated was fairly consistent. Burnt unworked flints are frequently associated with prehistoric activities, although they could also relate to more recent activities such as field clearances. This small assemblage may also indicate distinct burning events or successive depositions.

The Struck Flint

5.1.3 A small assemblage of struck flints was recovered. In total, seven pieces weighing 39g were collected. The material was thinly spayed over both fields, with square grids 1A, 2M, 2N, 5K, 5Q, 11A and 12A producing just one piece each. The small assemblage comprised four flakes, a blade-like flake, a very small core fragment and an awl. The awl was manufactured on a broken flake. The overall condition of the material was surprisingly good considering the origin of the artefatcs. This could indicate that the material has undergone negligible post depositional disturbance. However, the assemblage is small, and none of the artefacts are chronologically distinctive.

Discussion

5.1.4 The fragments of burnt unworked flints and the struck flints indicate a low level of activity during the prehistoric period. However, this may not reflect the exact level of activity undertaken in the area because a recent fieldwalk exercise produced some material that was not available for this assessment.

Grid Square	Burnt unworked flint (no.)	Wt(g)	Burnt unworked flint - Description
1A	3	250	Calcined mid grey to white; fragments up to 96mm; iron mould
1B	3	62	Calcined mid to light grey; small fragments up to 56mm; iron mould
1C	2	6	Calcined mid grey to white; small fragments up to 26mm
1D	8	16	Calcined mid grey to white; small fragments up to 18mm
1E	4	50	Calcined mid grey to white; small fragments up to 39mm
1F	9	240	Calcined mid grey to white; fragments up to 83mm; iron mould
1G	5	24	Calcined dark grey to white; fragments up to 45mm; iron mould
1I	1	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 20mm
1J	2	12	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 26mm
1K	4	10	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 14mm
1L	3	130	Calcined white; small fragments up to 41mm; iron mould
1M	1	14	Calcined white; small fragments: 36mm
1N	1	24	Calcined white; small fragment: 41mm; iron mould
1Q	2	18	Calcined white; small fragments up to 25mm
1R	2	50	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 49mm
1U	1	212	Calcined white; fragment: 80mm; iron mould
1W	3	84	Calcined dark to light grey; small fragments up to 44mm
1X	2	20	Calcined white; small fragments up to 22mm
1Z	1	5	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 32mm
2B	2	<1	Calcined white; small fragments up to 28mm
2C	3	20	Calcined white; small fragments up to 17mm
2D	2	20	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 41mm
2E	3	6	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 21mm
2G	2	10	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 16mm
2H	1	18	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 43mm
2J	3	24	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 35mm
2L	1	10	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 18mm
2M	3	94	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 48mm
2N	5	68	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 41mm
2P	4	58	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 38mm
2T	1	6	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 31mm
2U	3	32	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 41mm; iron moulds
2V	5	150	Calcined light grey to white; fragments up to 71mm; iron moulds
2W	4	106	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 59mm; iron moulds; a vitrified piece
2X	6	118	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 38mm; iron moulds

Grid Square	Burnt unworked flint (no.)	Wt(g)	Burnt unworked flint - Description
2Y	1	4	Calcined white; small fragment: 19mm
2Z	2	10	Calcined mid grey; small fragments up to 23mm
3R	1	4	Calcined mid grey; small fragment: 18mm
3T	1	10	Calcined dark grey; small fragment: 27mm
3U	1	<1	Calcined mid grey; small fragment: 4mm
3W	1	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 15mm
3X	2	22	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 30mm; iron moulds
3Y	1	<2	Calcined white; small fragment: 17mm
4L	2	52	Calcined white; small fragments up to 34mm; iron moulds
4Q	2	30	Calcined white; small fragments up to 37mm; iron moulds
4R	5	503	Calcined light grey; nodule fragments up to 99mm; iron moulds; a vitrified piece
4V	1	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 10mm
4X	1	8	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 23mm; iron mould
5A	5	32	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 26mm
5B	2	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 13mm
5C	1	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 19mm
5F	1	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 17mm
5H	2	215	Calcined light grey to white; fragments up to 83mm (an elongated nodule)
5K	1	4	Calcined light grey; fragments up to 24mm; iron mould
5L	1	4	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 25mm
5M	1	12	Calcined white; small fragment: 29mm; iron mould
5Q	1	42	Calcined white; small fragment: 39mm
5R	2	52	Calcined grey to white; fragments up to 59mm
5S	1	4	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 18mm
5V	2	4	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 20mm
5W	4	58	Calcined mid grey to white; small fragments up to 31mm
5X	2	136	Calcined white; fragments up to 77mm; iron mould
6A	1	4	Calcined white; small fragment: 16mm
6B	2	138	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 65mm; a small vitrified piece
6C	1	<1	Calcined white; small fragment: 5mm
6G	1	2	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 17mm
6J	3	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 4mm
6K	1	20	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 25mm
6N	5	97	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 42mm
6P	4	22	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 30mm; a vitrified piece
6T	2	14	Calcined dark to light grey; small fragments up to 55mm

Grid Square	Burnt unworked flint (no.)	Wt(g)	Burnt unworked flint - Description
6U	3	141	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 22mm
6Y	1	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 19mm
6Z	1	6	Calcined white; fragments up to 24mm; iron mould
7E	2	128	Calcined white; fragments up to 64mm; iron mould
8K	7	203	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 49mm
8L	4	62	Calcined mid grey to white; small fragments up to 40mm; iron mould
8M	2	80	Calcined mid grey to white; small fragments up to 53mm
8Q	5	80	Calcined light to mid grey; small fragments up to 64mm; iron mould
8S	3	25	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 30mm; a vitrified piece
8T	1	146	Calcined light grey: small fragment: 59mm
8U	3	28	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 31mm
8V	2	142	Calcined light to mid grey; small fragments up to 47mm; iron mould
8W	3	13	Calcined light grey to white; small fragments up to 30mm
8X	2	92	Calcined light grey to white; fragments up to 70mm; iron mould
8Y	3	56	Calcined white; small fragments up to 48mm; iron mould
8Z	4	79	Calcined mid grey to white; small fragments up to 38mm; iron mould
9Q	2	58	Calcined white; small fragments up to 42mm
9S	1	<1	Calcined white; small fragment: 22mm
9W	1	2	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 21mm
9X	1	<1	Calcined white; small fragment: 25mm
10A	1	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 16mm ; iron mould
10B	1	80	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 61mm; iron mould
10C	2	12	Calcined dark grey to white; small fragments up to 36mm
10E	1	52	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 60mm ; iron mould
11A	4	32	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 34mm; iron mould
11B	2	16	Calcined light grey; small fragments up to 34mm
11C	2	26	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 46mm ; iron mould
11E	1	<1	Calcined light grey; small fragment: 13mm
12B	1	94	Calcined light grey; fragment: 71mm
12C	3	10	Calcined white; small fragments up to 18mm
Total	**241**	**5133**	

Table 2: Catalogue of the burnt unworked flint

Context	Flint	Wt(g)	Comment
1A	1	8	Awl, made on a flake fragment; minimal retouch ls and rs prox end; moderate post depositional edge damage
2M	1	2	Broken blade-like flake, proximal end absent, moderate post depositional edge damage
2N	1	3	Flake fragment
5K	1	17	Fragmentary core
5Q	1	2	Flake fragment
11A	1	3	Flake fragment
12A	1	4	Flake fragment
Total	**7**	**39**	

Table 3: Catalogue of the struck flints

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber (Figures 6, 7 and 8)

5.2.1 The fieldwalking recovered a total of 109 sherds of pottery, weighing 609g, from 70 individually numbered transects. With an average sherd size of 5.6g overall the material is notably fragmented as one may expect from ploughsoil deposits. The assemblage was quantified by transect and period, with notes being made on the fabrics and forms present. This information has been used to create an excel database of the assemblage. There is a wide chronological range present within the group, though the majority of sherds are from the more recent past.

5.2.2 The earliest pottery consists of a scattering of Roman material. Some 14 sherds weighing 110g have been provisionally allocated to this period. At 7.9g the average sherd size is slightly higher than the overall average; however, most of the Roman sherds are notably abraded or affected from an acidic subsoil. The majority of sherds consist of oxidised, or more rarely reduced, fine or medium sand tempered wares. Most of these consist of featureless bodysherds with extensive abrasion and in a number of instances a medieval date cannot be ruled out (eg the sherds from 1N, 1P, 1R). However, enough sherds definitely of this period are present to show a range of fine and medium sand tempered wares were in use at this time, including one probable Alice Holt sherd from transect 1T. Other types include a very weathered grog-tempered sherd (3U) and a Samian flanged bowl of Dr 38 type from 10D. The latter sherd, at 22g, is notably large suggesting occupation may be close at hand.

5.2.3 The medieval period is represented by 15 sherds, weighing 100g, from 10 different transects. At 6.7g the average sherd size is less than that for the Roman period but there is more variability in the condition of the sherds. Although most are heavily abraded a conjoining sherd from 1J is much fresher. All of the pottery is in sand tempered fabrics, typically being fine for the jugs and medium/coarse for the cooking pots and bowls. Although most sherds are not particularly diagnostic of source there are a couple of Surrey

whiteware pieces from 1D and 1K. All of the medieval assemblage can be placed in a mid 13th- to 14th- century date range.

5.2.4 There is no definite pottery of the late 14th to 15th centuries suggesting either a change in agricultural practise or the decimation of the population by the plague, a pattern quite common in other areas of the south-east. There is some indication of activity by around the middle of the 16th century that increases notably during the 17th to mid 18th centuries. Altogether this early post-medieval period accounted for 33 sherds, weighing 174g, from 29 different transects. With an average sherd size of 5.3g the material is clearly heavily reworked and the sherds are usually correspondingly abraded. Local glazed red earthenwares dominate the assemblage and cover the mid 16th to mid 18th centuries.

5.2.5 There are a couple of green glazed Border ware sherds (transects 2L and 10D) of probable late 16th- to 17th- century date as well as a scatter of London stoneware and Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware of the first three quarters of the 18th century. Imported sherds include part of an early/mid 16th- century Cologne stoneware mug with girth motto (4Q), a couple of Frechen stoneware sherds (eg 1Z), part of a 17th- to early 18th- century Westerwald stoneware tankard (11E) and a chip of 18th- century Chinese porcelain (1L).

5.2.6 The late post-medieval period accounts for 47 sherds, weighing 225g, from 40 individual transects. At 4.8g the average sherd size is notably small and the material is distinctly abraded on the whole suggesting significant reworking. A fairly standard range of industrial domestic ware of the period is present in the assemblage. Some material, such as the creamware and glazed red earthenwares, probably represent a continuation of activity in the second half of the 18th century. However, the majority of sherds can be placed in an 1830 to 1910 date range, suggesting an intensification of manuring at this time.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber (Figure 9, 10 and 11)

5.3.1 The fieldwalking recovered a total of 536 pieces of ceramic building material, weighing 7917g, from 130 individually numbered transects. With an average size of 14.8g the material is notably fragmented. Indeed the vast majority of pieces show extensive signs of abrasion. The assemblage was quantified by transect and period, with notes being made on the fabrics and forms present. This information has been used to create an excel database of the assemblage. There is a wide chronological range present within the group, though the vast majority of fragments are from the post-medieval period.

5.3.2 Just two pieces of Roman tile are present. These consist of an 18mm thick example (22g) from transect 1D tempered with sparse fine sand, common marl and rare iron oxides and a 58g fragment from a 23mm thick tile in a fine sand/silty fabric containing sparse iron oxides to 0.25mm (transect 3P). Although not diagnostic of form the former may be from an imbrex tile, the latter from a tegula tile. There is also a 6g fragment of amorphous silty burnt clay from 9X that may be of this early period.

5.3.3 The medieval period accounts for some 13 pieces of peg tile, weighing 163g, from 12 different transects. All of the pieces are heavily abraded, vary between 12 and 13mm thick, and are tempered with common to abundant medium sand. It is likely they represent a background scatter derived from manuring.

5.3.4 The remainder of the ceramic building material is of post-medieval date. No attempt was made to divide this into early and late post-medieval material: although some definite later 16th- to mid 18th- century and 19th- to 20th-century material is present, the vast majority of pieces are in fabrics that could span the later 17th to 19th centuries. The earliest material consists of a number of peg tile fragments of fairly crude form in one of a number of marl-rich fabrics with or without sand and/or iron oxides. These are likely to be of 17th- to mid 18th- century date and mirror the ceramics of the period. This earlier material was quite widely spread, being represented in at least 22 different transects.

5.3.5 The remaining ceramic building material consists of a range of brick, peg tile and land drain fragments in a number of well-fired fabrics tempered with sparse fine sand and iron oxides in various proportions. Occasionally these also have marl but never in significant quantities. All can be given a general 18th- to 19th- century date range. The few machine-made tiles are probably of the late 19th to 20th century.

5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber (Figure 12)

5.4.1 Just two stem fragments were recovered during the survey, both of which are likely to be of 18th- century date.

5.5 The Glass by Luke Barber (Figure 12)

5.5.1 The 18 fragments of glass weigh 89g and were recovered from one of 17 individually numbered transects. The entire assemblage consists of colourless, aqua, green and cobalt blue bottle and colourless window glass fragments of mid 19th- to early 20th- century date.

5.6 The Ironwork by Luke Barber (Figure 12)

5.6.1 A single 274g fragment from an agricultural tool of late post-medieval date was the only metalwork recovered (transect 1N).

5.7 The Slag by Luke Barber (Figure 13)

5.7.1 The fieldwalking recovered 25 pieces of slag, weighing 484g, from 14 individually numbered transects. All is of post-medieval date. Two main types are represented. Iron blast furnace slag, usually with moderate amounts of wear, was recovered from transects 1J, 1W, 2Q, 2T, 5W and 10D. Such slag was produced in vast quantities during the smelting of iron by the Wealden industry during the early post-medieval period. The slag heaps were subsequently used to provide metalling for roads and tracks in the Weald so the presence of this material here is not unexpected.

5.7.2 There is also a 16g piece of glassy slag from 4Q that has part of a grey sandy furnace or crucible lining adhering. Although this could be more blast furnace slag it cannot be ruled out as waste from the Wealden glass industry. The other main slag type is brittle aerated fuel ash slag. The piece from transect 1R has fragments of coal embedded in it and taken as a whole all would appear to derive from coal-burning. Whether this was from steam-driven agricultural machinery or domestic hearths is impossible to be certain of, however, considering the other domestic waste spread on the area during the 19th century the latter is perhaps more likely.

5.8 The Geological Material by Luke Barber (Figure 14)

5.8.1 The 29 pieces of stone (779g) were recovered from 25 individually numbered transects. The material falls into two groups. The first consists of material naturally available in the local area. This material consists of a number of pieces of iron concretion and greensand chert, a couple of the latter pieces being burnt (eg transect 1G). However, the vast majority of pieces are of non-local origin and have clearly been brought in during the 19th or early 20th centuries. Most consist of coal or partially burnt coal shale fragments, but there is a scatter of welsh slate (including a ruled school slate from transect 1P) and a single piece of carboniferous limestone aggregate.

5.9 The Plastic by Luke Barber (not illustrated)

5.9.1 Eleven pieces of 20th- century plastic were recovered. These include a button, the inside of a shotgun cartridge and six golf balls.

5.10 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton (Figure 12)

5.10.1 Just two fragments of animal bone were retrieved from separate grid squares, 2E and 5H. The two specimens have been identified as a fragmented sheep/goat molar (5H) and a dog mandible (2E). There are no signs of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 A range of artefacts were recovered during the systematic fieldwalking of the site, ranging in age from prehistoric to modern. Extensive scatters of late post-medieval material were to be expected in a field so close to historic settlement (the number of listed buildings in the area is indicative of this), but much of the other material holds more potential archaeological significance.

6.2 The flintwork does suggest some level of prehistoric activity in the general area, but is not closely datable and may all come from hunter/gatherer activity, and could have been deposited at the site in separate episodes over a lengthy period of time. Therefore, in itself the struck flint is arguably not indicative of any activity which would have left other traces in the landscape (i.e. buried archaeological features).

6.3 The excessive quantity of fire-cracked flint is perhaps more problematic, and might suggest the presence of buried features, perhaps associated with prehistoric pottery that has not survived the plough. However the sheer quantity of the material perhaps counterbalances this argument.

6.4 The presence of Romano-British material, although small in quantity was undoubtedly the most surprising discovery, not hinted at in the local HER records or in previous fieldwork at the site. It has been suggested that much of the Weald was under direct Roman Imperial control, owing to the value of the ironworking industry in the area to the Empire (Cleere & Crossley 1995, 68), however the absence of contemporary slag suggests a domestic origin for this material. The large sherd of samian ware suggests that the occupation site is in the immediate vicinity, if not within the site boundaries.

6.5 The medieval pottery also hints at domestic activity in the vicinity. Material recovered during previous fieldwork at the site is clearly concentrated to the south and east of the site currently under investigation, and it is possible that the focus (or foci) of medieval activity (and potential buried features) lie outside the current site.

6.6 However, there is some correlation between the scatters of Romano-British and medieval material and the potential buried features identified during the geophysical survey (ASE 2015b). Possible linear features and pits were scattered across the entire site but were notably concentrated in Field 2 and in the southern part of Field 1 (*ibid*).

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 Clearly there were issues with the fieldwalking project, given the knowledge that the field had been examined before, and that artefacts had been removed from the fields. Realistically the current project could only be expected to encounter and record the residue from earlier surface artefact collection, and even then only a 10% sample of this material.

7.2 However, a range of artefacts were recovered during the current work and results supported the findings of the previous work in that prehistoric and medieval material does survive in the fields, as well as post-medieval and hitherto unforeseen Romano-British material. However the overwhelming level of recovery of FCF dwarfed the poor returns of struck flint, perhaps suggesting that not all of the burnt material dates from prehistory.

7.3 Taken in combination with the evidence from the geophysical work, this material is indicative that buried archaeological features may survive at the site, and therefore the fieldwalking has clearly been able to address the main research aim of this element of the archaeological work.

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HER Summary

Site Code	ALF 15					
Identification Name and Address	Land to the west of Sweeter's Copse, Alfold					
County, District &/or Borough	Waverley Borough, Surrey					
OS Grid Refs.	504082 134540					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7342					
Type of Fieldwork					SAC ✓	
Type of Site	Green Field ✓					
Dates of Fieldwork				*February 2015*		
Sponsor/Client	Catesby Property Group					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary		Meso.? ✓	Neo. .? ✓	BA.? ✓		RB ✓
		MED ✓	PM ✓			

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Catesby Property Group to undertake a programme of surface artefacts collection (archaeological fieldwalking) on land to the west of Sweeter's Copse, Alfold, Surrey.

An assortment of artefacts was retrieved from two fields, which are the subject of a recent planning application. Prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval material was recovered in varying quantities, mostly from the southern part of the examined area.

There was some correlation between the distribution of the Romano-British and medieval finds and the location of potential buried archaeological features identified during a concurrent geophysical survey.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-205691

Project details

Project name	Surface Artefact Collection on land to the west of Sweeter's Copse, Alfold, Surrey
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Catesby Property Group to undertake a programme of surface artefacts collection (archaeological fieldwalking) on land to the west of Sweeter's Copse, Alfold, Surrey. An assortment of artefacts was retrieved from two fields, which are the subject of a recent planning application. Prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval material was recovered in varying quantities, mostly from the southern part of the examined area. There was some correlation between the distribution of the Romano-British and medieval finds and the location of potential buried archaeological features identified during a concurrent geophysical survey.
Project dates	Start: 23-02-2015 End: 25-02-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	7342 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ALF 15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	PLE/2014/1450 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""""Fieldwalking""""
Development type	Rural residential

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY WAVERLEY ALFOLD Land to west of Sweeter's Copse
Postcode	GU6 8HN
Study area	7.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 04082 34540 51.1001691699 -0.513326914802 51 06 00 N 000 30 47 W Point

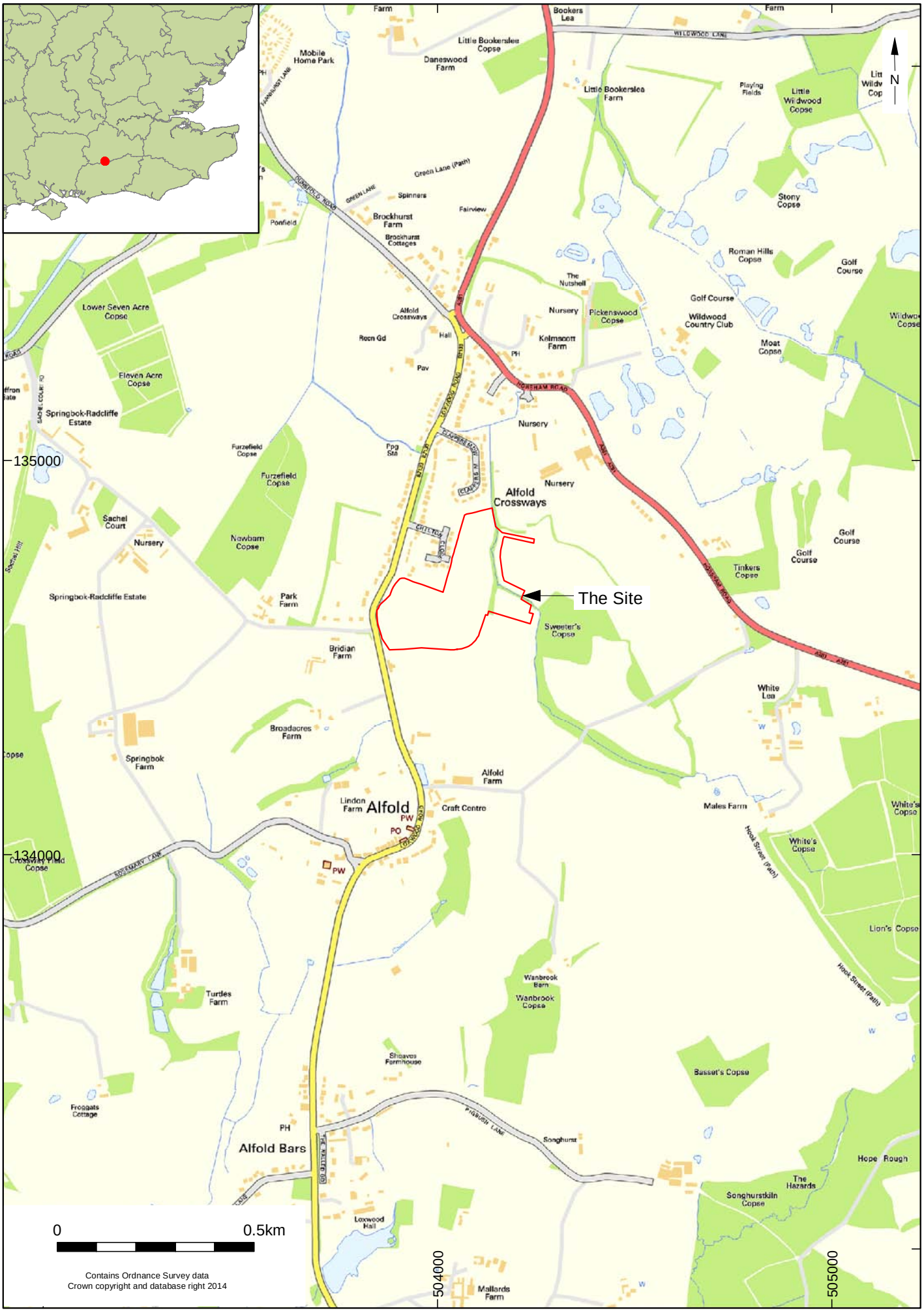
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Catesby Property Group

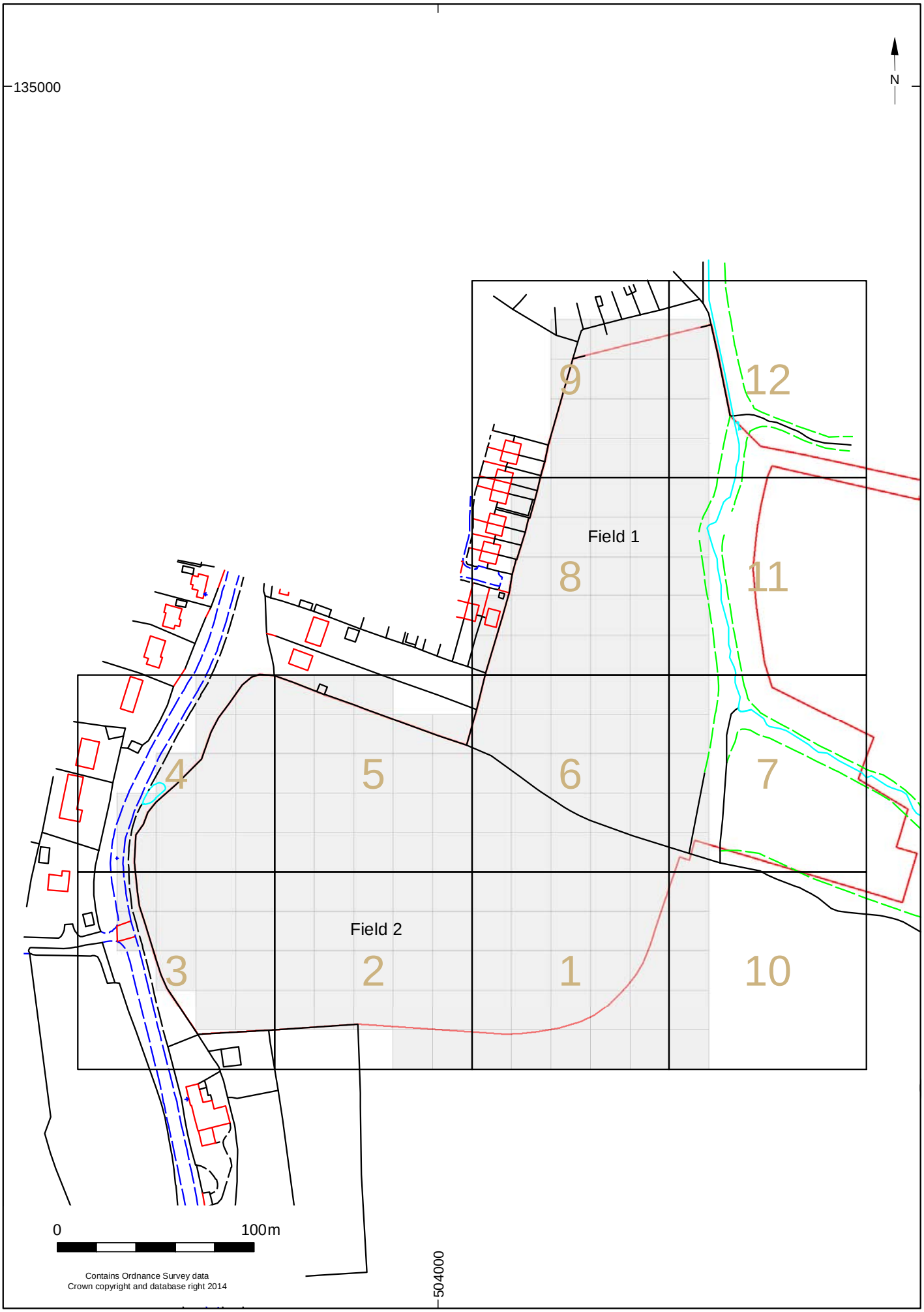
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Surface Artefact Collection at land to the west of Sweeter's Copse, Alfold, Surrey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2015074

Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos
Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	16 March 2015



© Archaeology South-East		Land west of Sweeter's Copse, Alfold	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7342	March 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015074	Drawn by: JLR		



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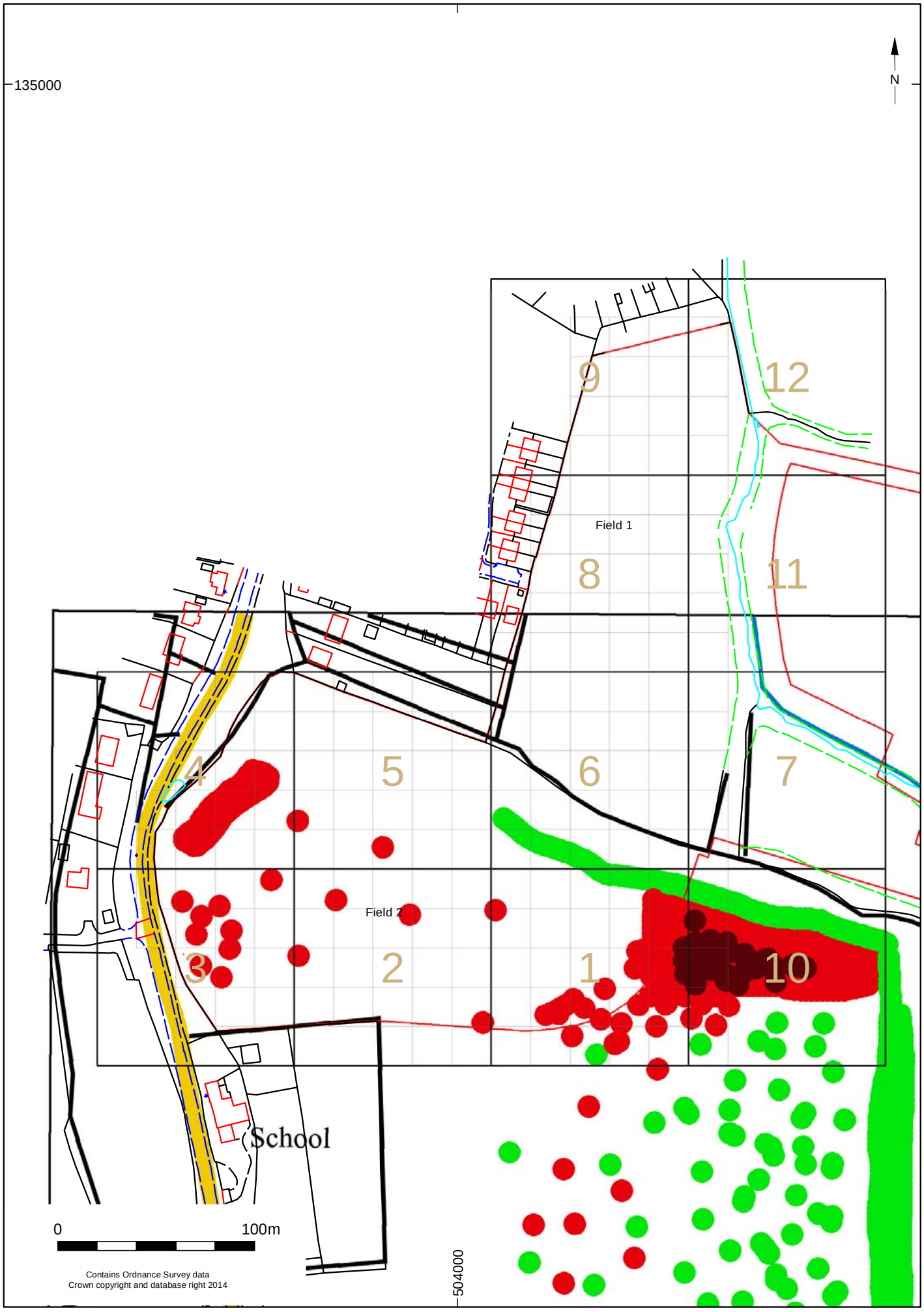
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



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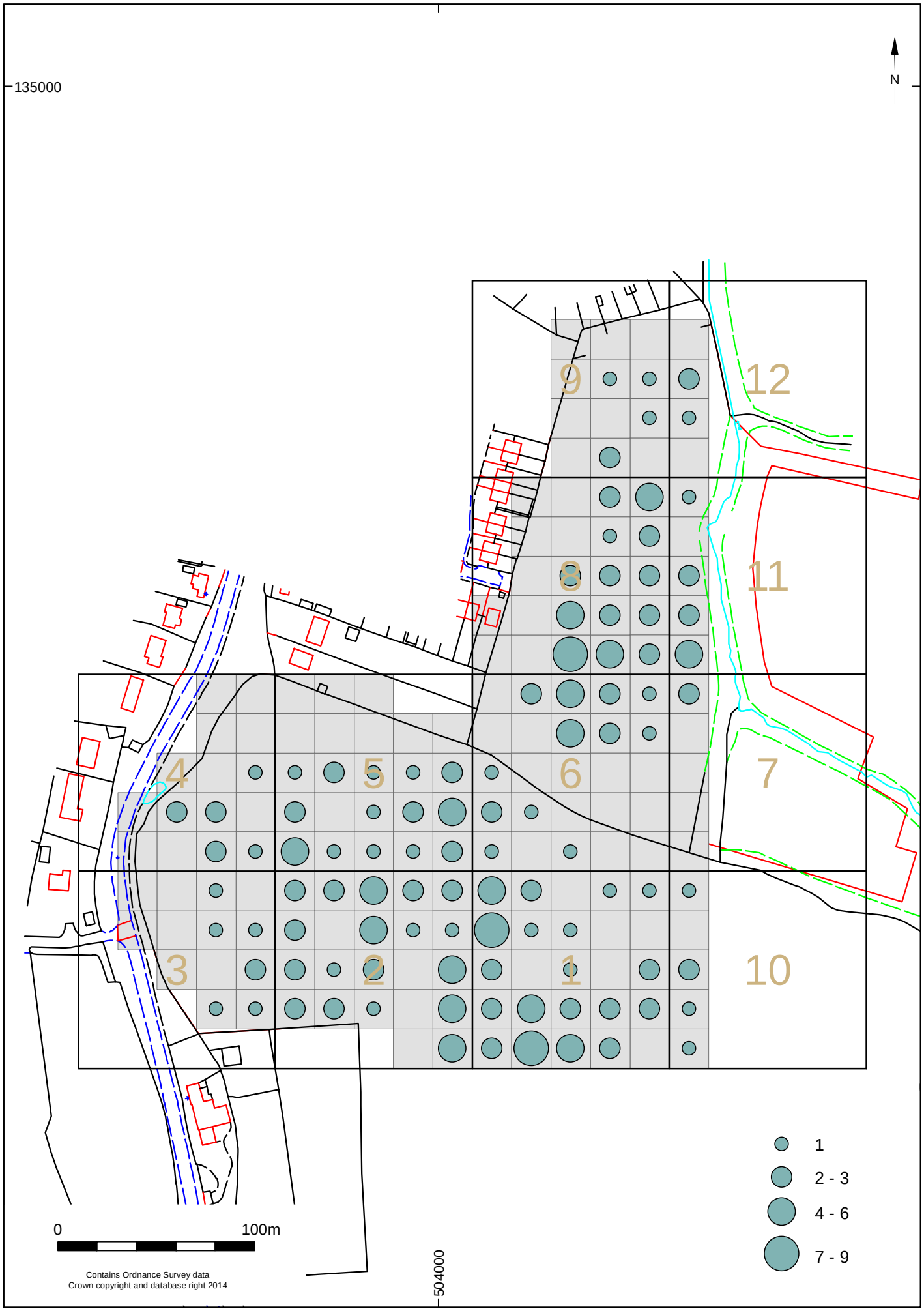
Report Ref: 2015074	Drawn by: JLR		



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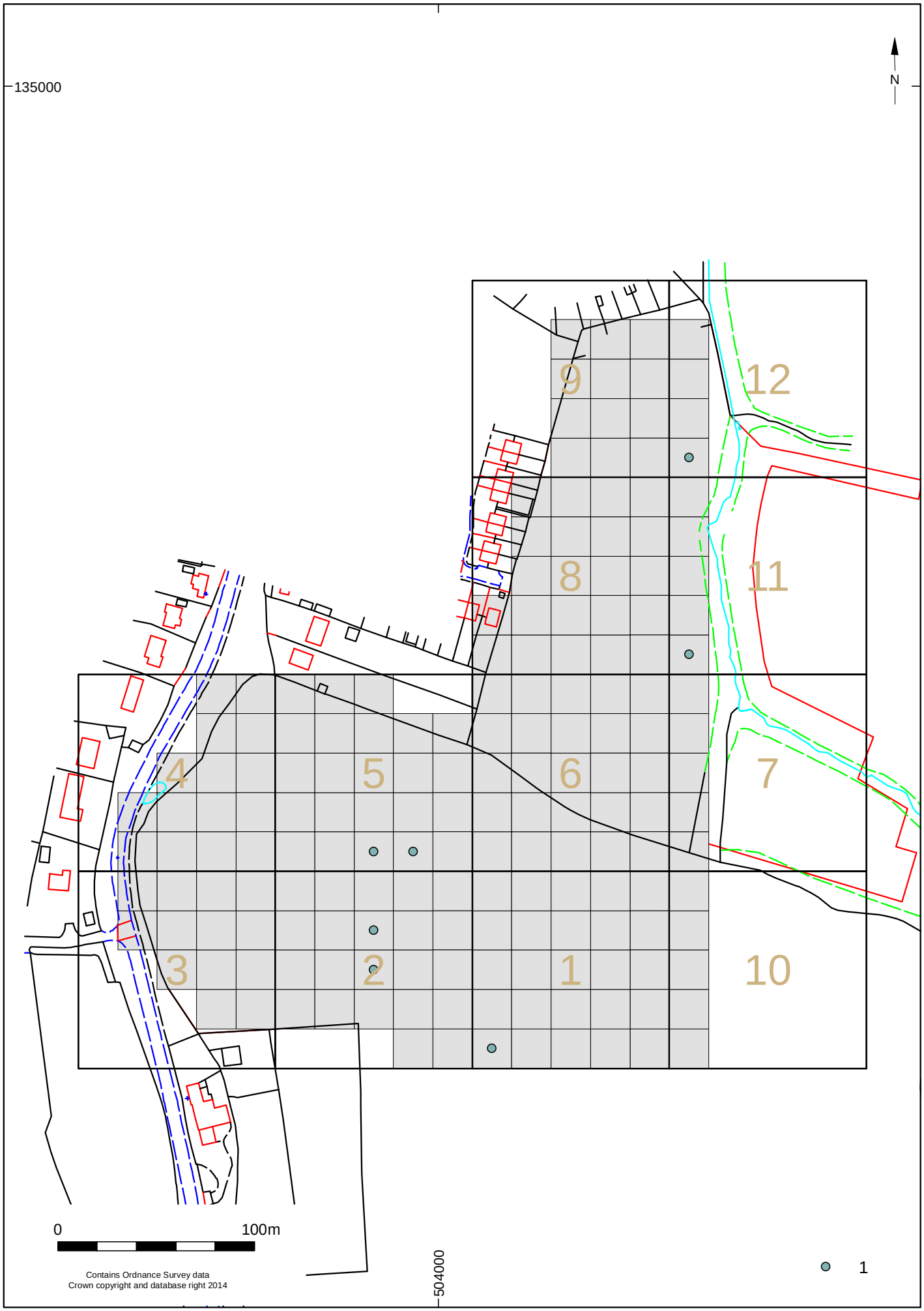
Report Ref: 2015074	Drawn by: JLR		



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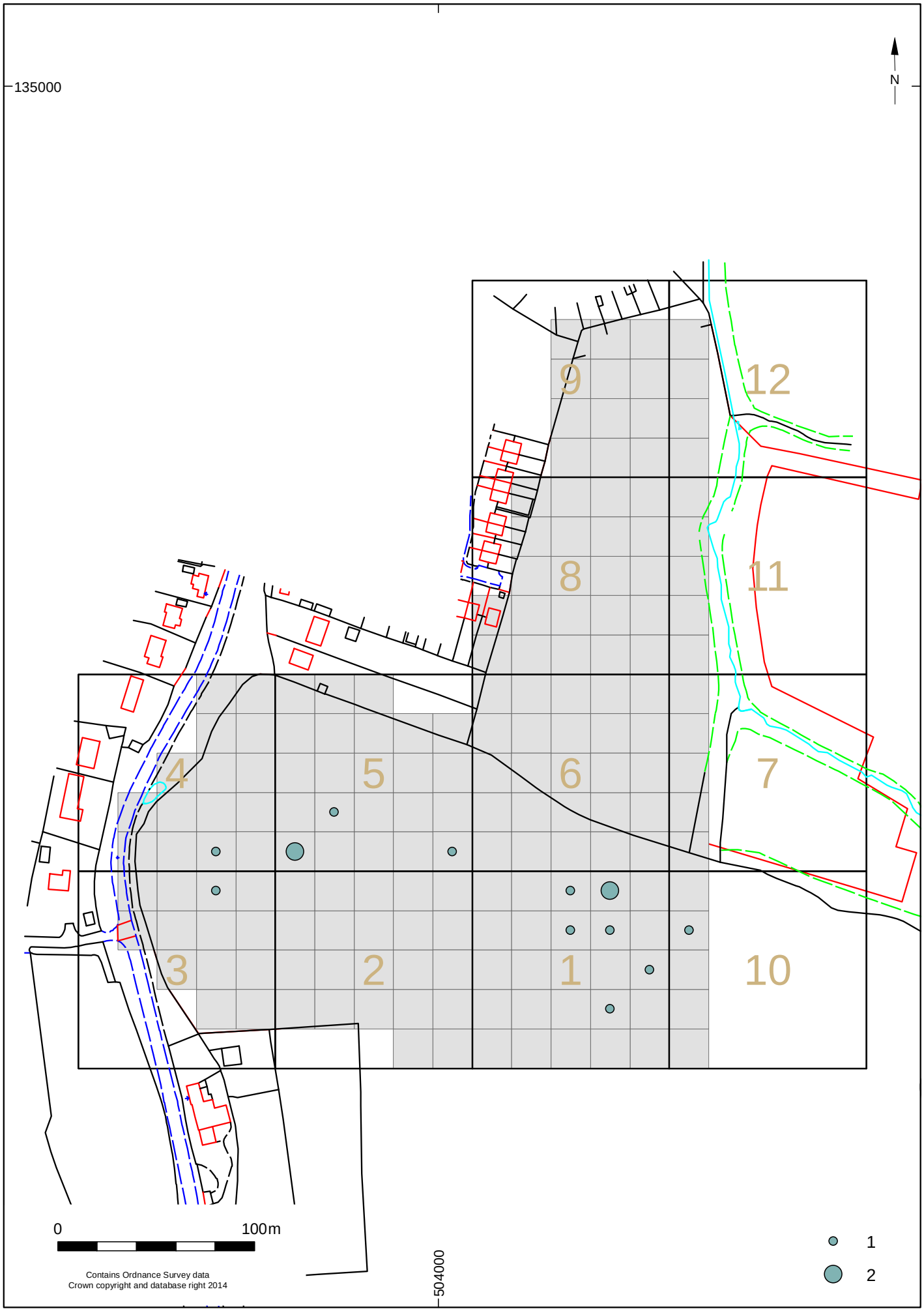

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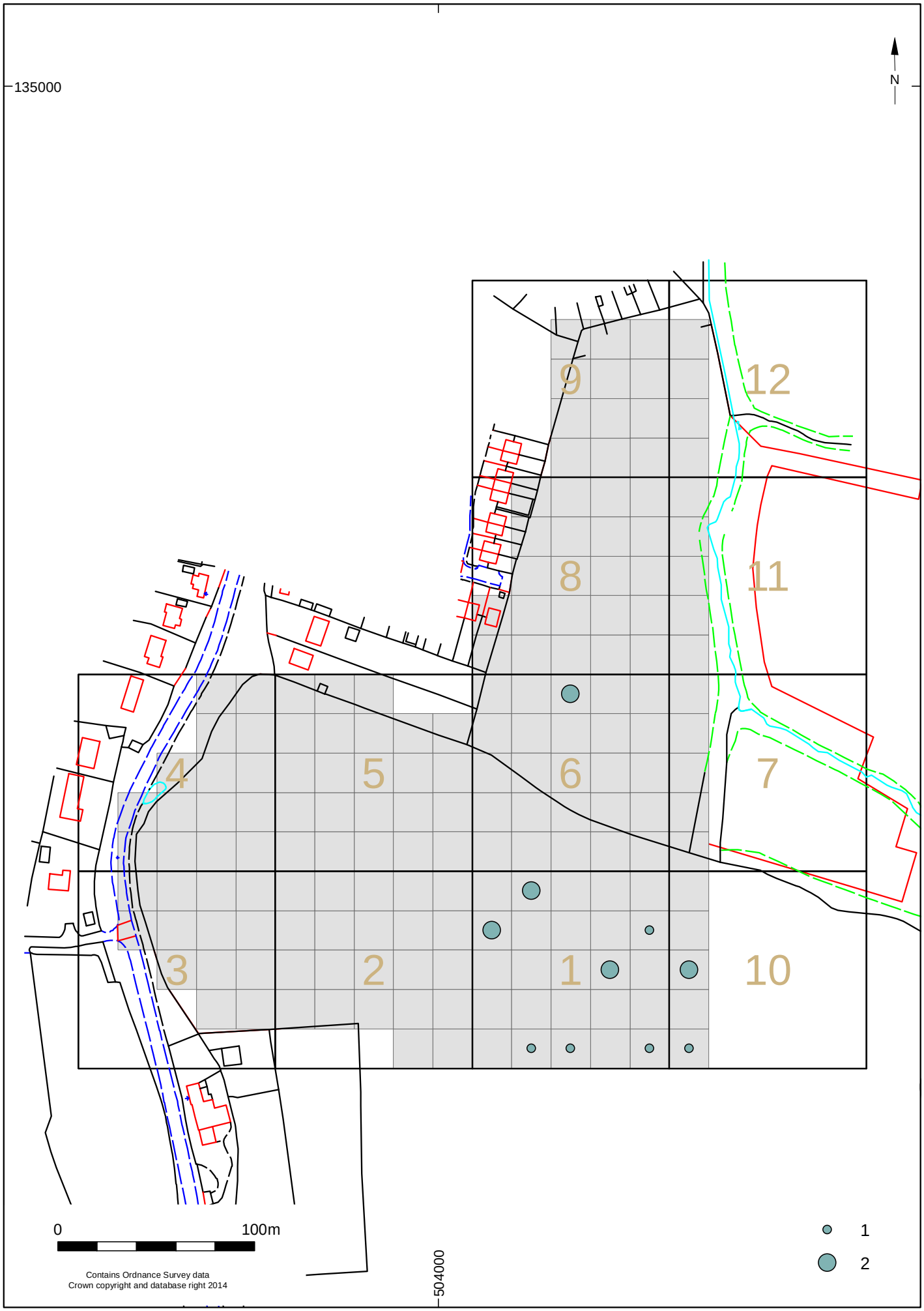

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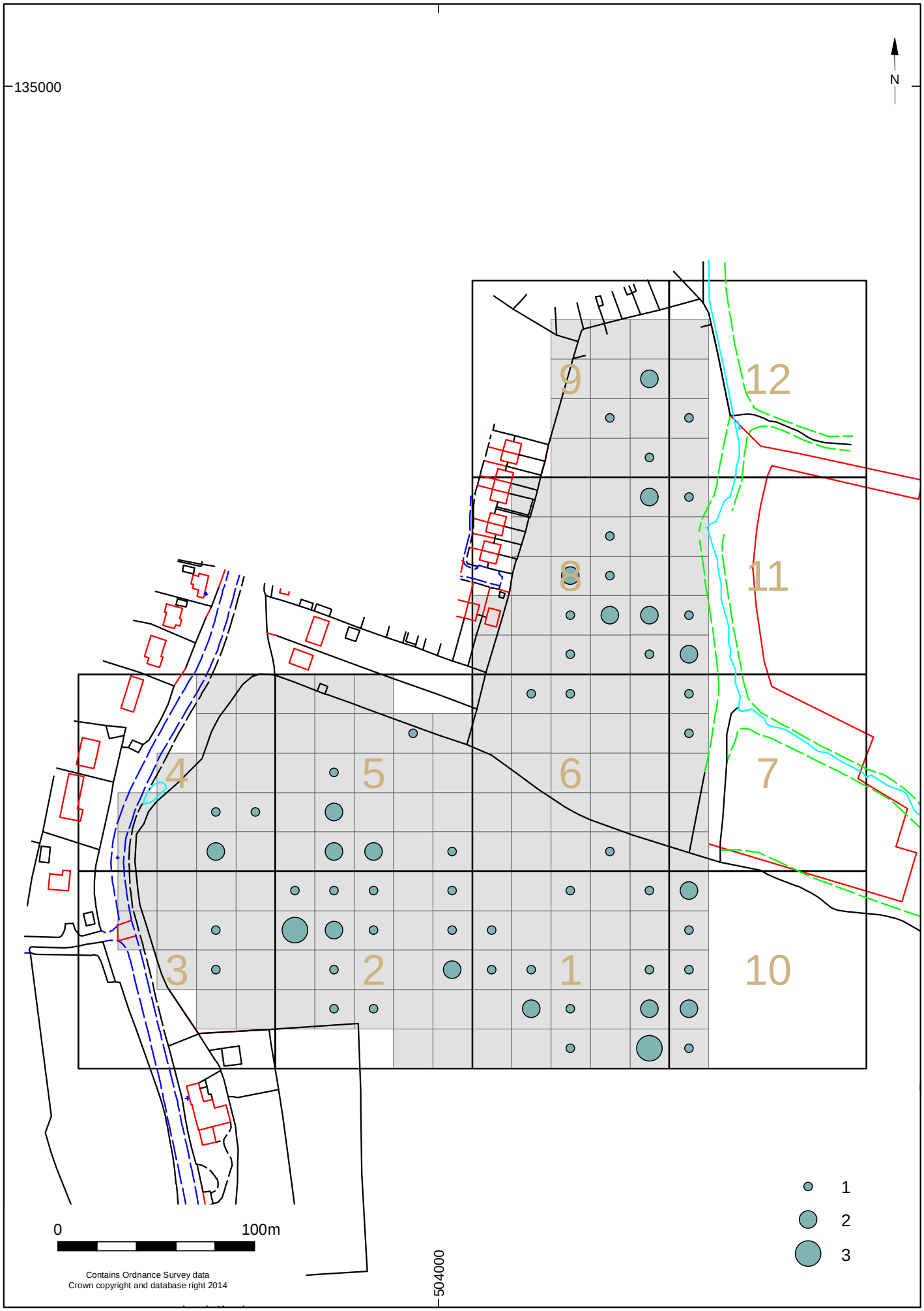

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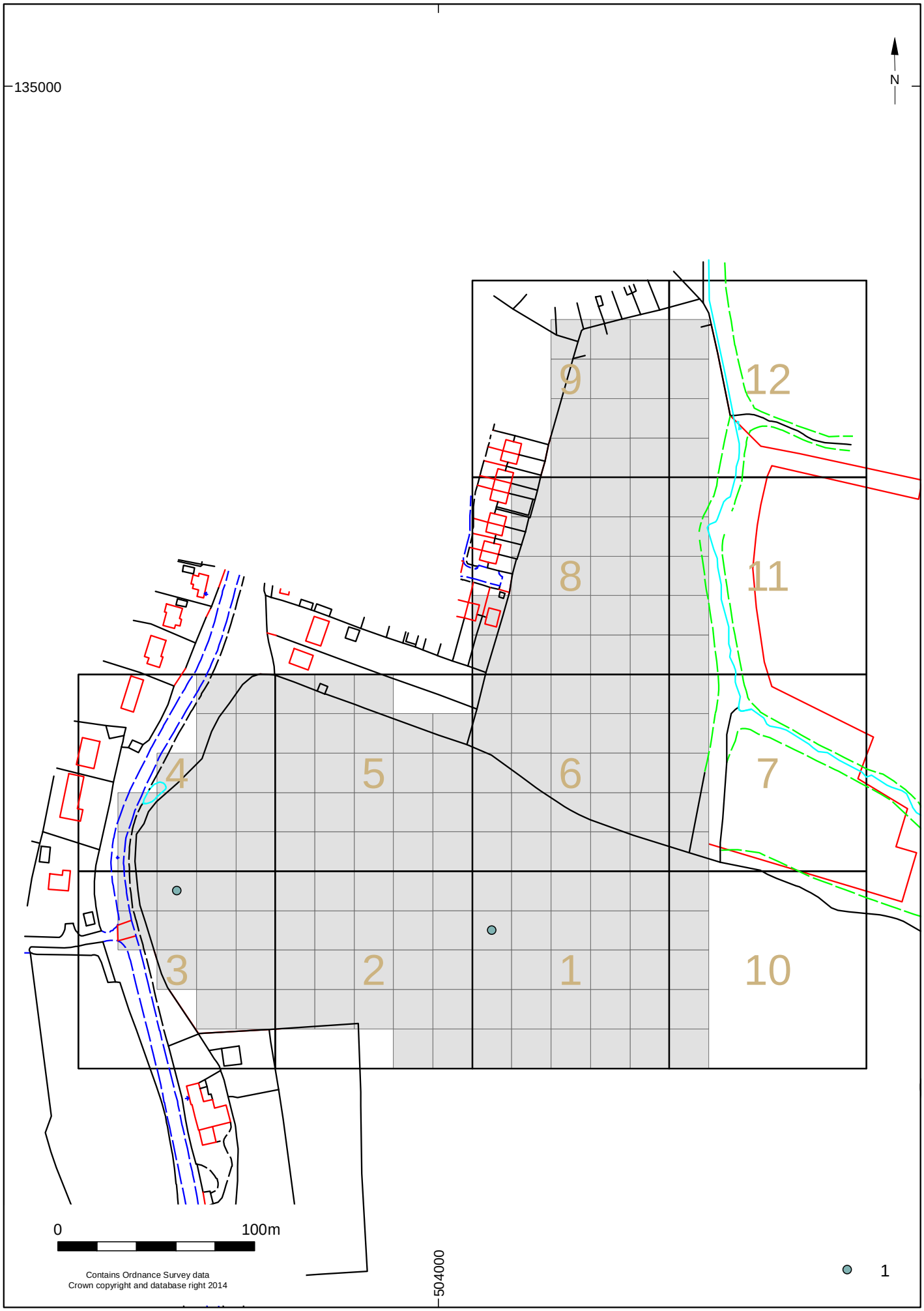

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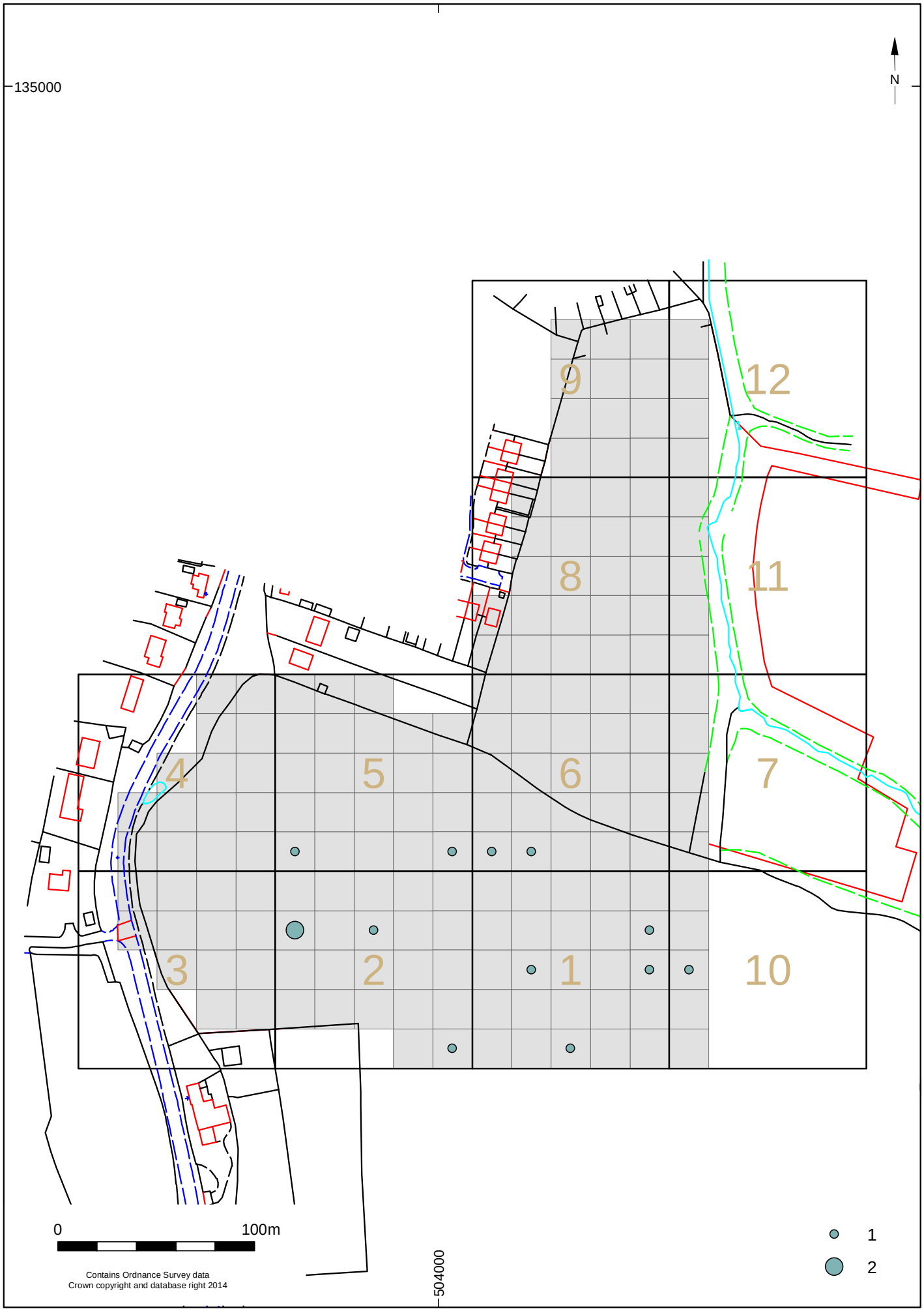

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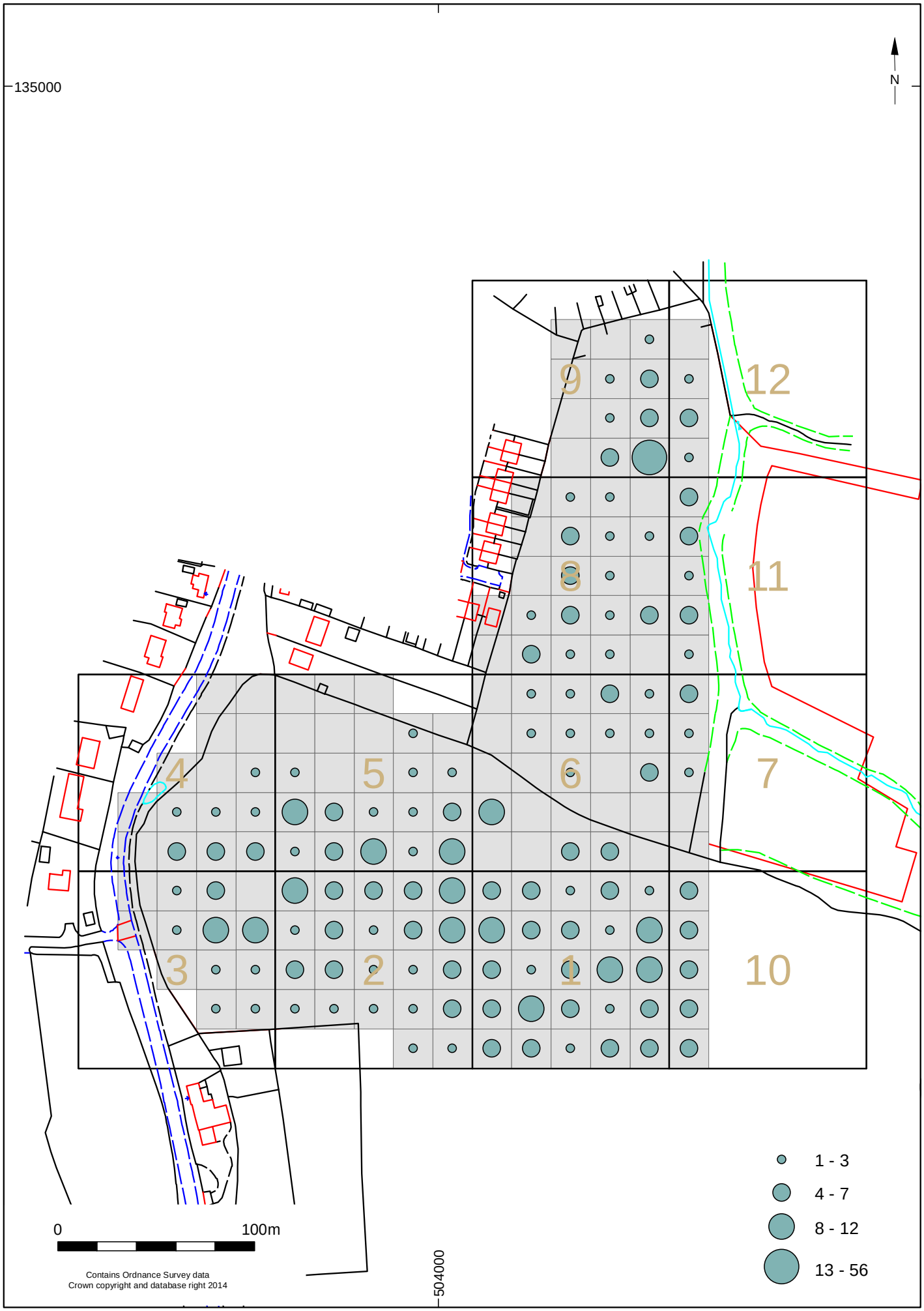

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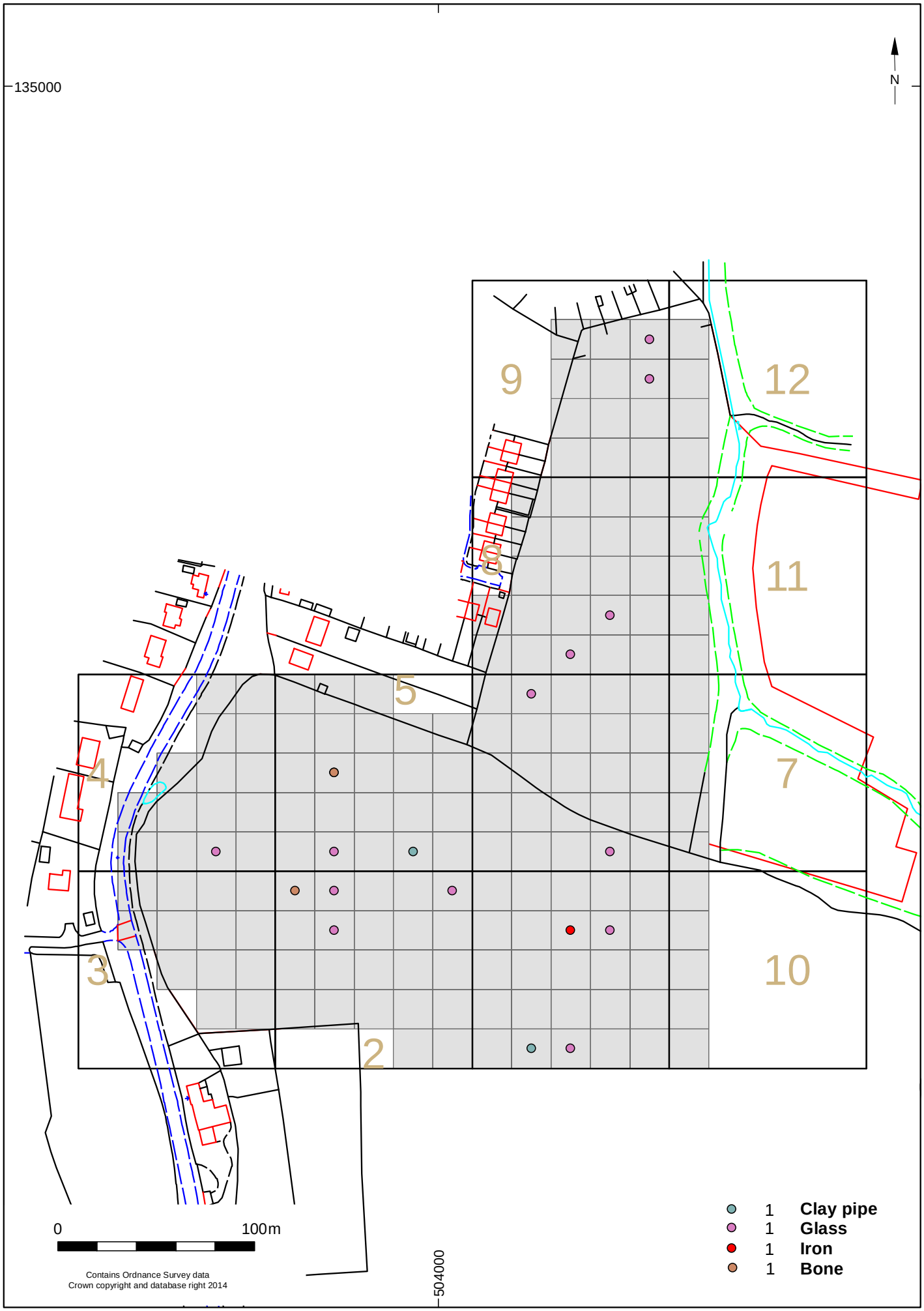

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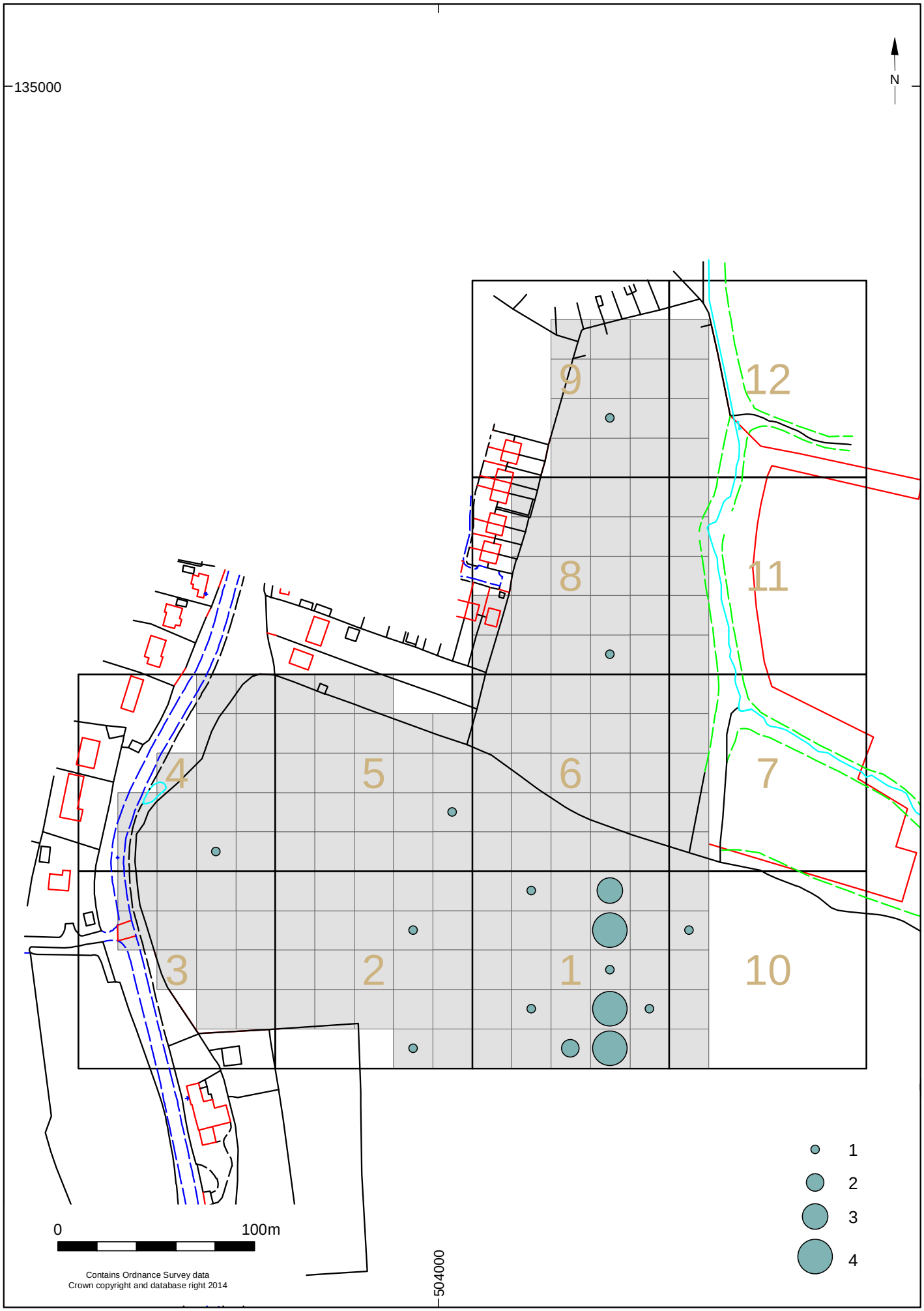

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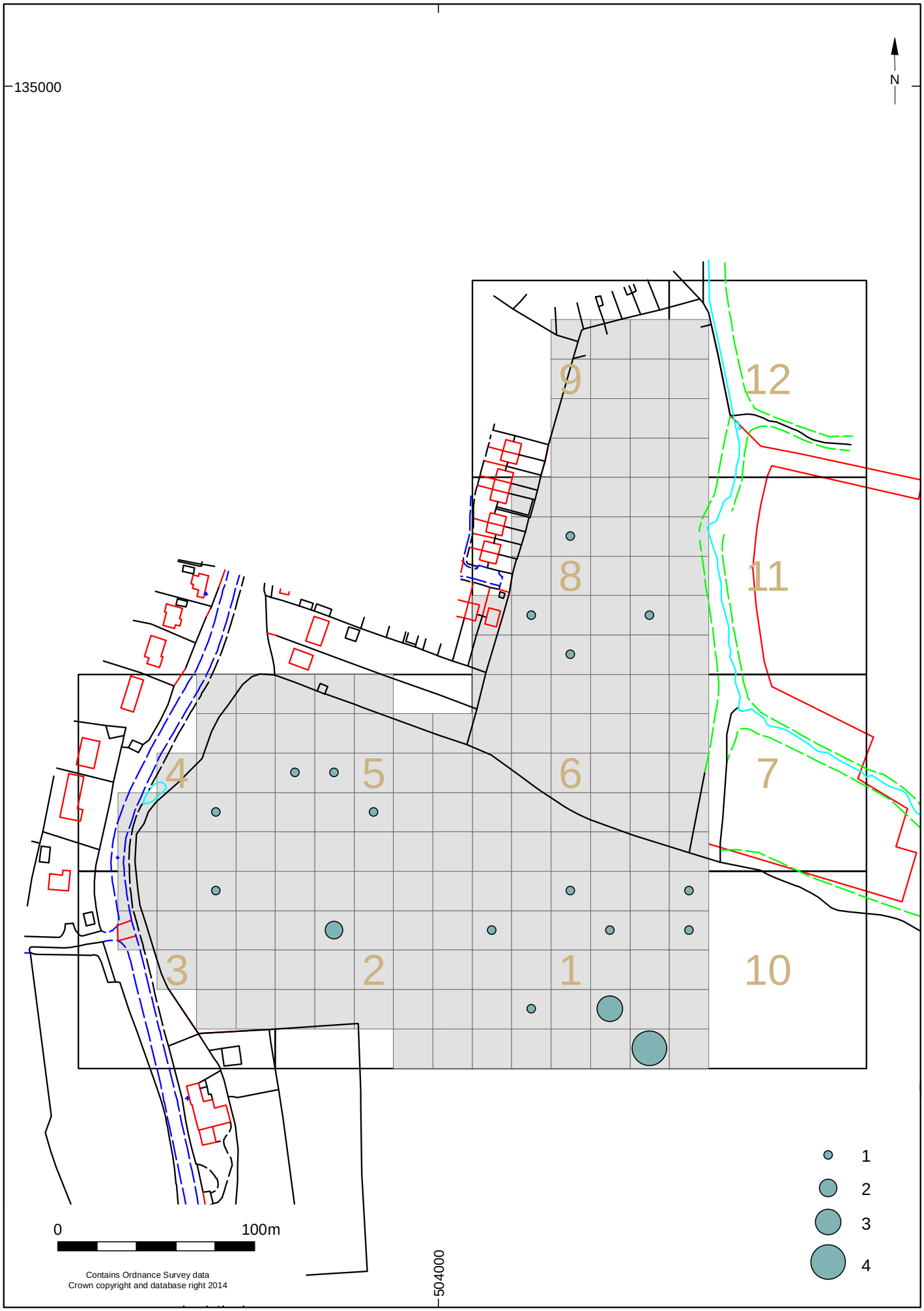

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Project Ref: 7342	March 2015	Distribution of geological material	
Report Ref: 2015074	Drawn by: JLR		

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