

**Surface Artefact Collection
Land North-East of Bexhill
East Sussex**

**NGR: 573340 109090
(TQ 73340 09090)**

**ASE Project No: 7012
Site Code: BLN 14**

**ASE Report No: 2015084
OASIS id: archaeol6-206700**



By Simon Stevens BA MCIfA

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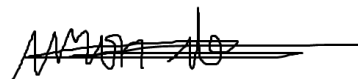

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**With contributions by
Karine Le Hégarat and Luke Barber**

Prepared by:	Simon Stevens	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake a programme of surface artefact collection (archaeological fieldwalking) on land to the north-east of Bexhill, East Sussex.

An assortment of artefacts was retrieved from three fields, in part of an area earmarked for future development. Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval material was recovered in varying quantities, evenly but thinly spread across the examined area.

There was no obvious correlation between the distribution of the prehistoric and medieval finds and the location of potential buried archaeological features identified during a recent 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 CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake a programme of surface artefact collection (archaeological fieldwalking) on land to the north-east of Bexhill, East Sussex (centred at NGR 573340 109090; Figure 1).

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The current site forms part of a larger c.45ha area earmarked for development, and consists of three arable fields located to the north of Pebsham Wood and houses fronting onto Ian Close and Amanda Close.

1.2.2 The fields shown a marked slope from north to south, with a steeper incline to the south as the land drops towards a stream that runs along the southern boundary of the site and into Pebsham Wood. The field boundaries consist of mature hedges with wide unploughed field baulks.

1.2.3 According to the latest available information from the British Geological Survey, the site straddles the junction of two underlying geologies, with Wadhurst Clay to the south-east and the Ashdown Formation of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone to the north-west (BGS 2015).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Although the site has been allocated for development, no specific planning application has yet been made to Rother District Council.

1.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken in 2013. The results suggested that the overall site offered little potential for the survival of prehistoric remains, but that there was a higher probability of the discovery of archaeological deposits from later periods (CgMs 2013).

1.3.3 Following discussions between CgMs Consulting Ltd. and East Sussex County Council (Rother District Council's advisers on archaeological issues) it was agreed that archaeological field work would be undertaken at the site prior to the submission of any planning application to facilitate later decisions on possible archaeological mitigation.

1.3.4 Subsequently ASE was requested by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation of the site by magnetometry, metal detector 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 2014).

1.3.5 The current report gives details of the results of surface artefact collection (archaeological fieldwalking) of the available (i.e. ploughed) part of the site in early March 2015. The results of the geophysical survey of the overall site are given elsewhere (ASE 2015).

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 2014). 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 might take place during any 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) Lucy May and Jake Wilson (Assistant Archaeologists) in early March 2015. The site grid was laid out by Vasilis Tsamis (Senior Geomatics Officer). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Managers).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following information is taken from the Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2013). This information has been supplemented with verbal descriptions of the recent findings resulting from the mitigation ahead of the Gateway Road and Business Mall development (Casper Johnson pers comm).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Recent work ahead of the Gateway Road and Business Mall has identified Mesolithic flint scatters. A Neolithic/early Bronze Age assemblage of worked flints was recovered from a buried soil deposit beneath a possible barrow mound, and a possible Bronze Age round barrow has been identified with evidence for field systems and possible occupation.
- 2.2.2 Four undated ironworking sites are recorded within the area. One of these (HER Ref: MES 7313; TQ 74770 09500) is located within the site boundary on the extreme north west at Glovers Farm, Sidley (within the footprint of the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road), but may extend north of the site (HER MES 66, TQ 7476 0954) into the area of the former railway line (also within the footprint of the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road). An ironworking site is recorded at Sidley some 100m west of the site (HER Ref: MES 114; TQ 7440 0920) and a further possible ironworking site is noted at the edge of the Combe Haven some 400m north of the site (HER MES 308; TQ 74860 09950). The topographical location of the site, on a high ridge overlooking the Combe Haven Valley would have been a suitable settlement location during the Iron Age.

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 The remains of a 'rural settlement' were found ahead of the Gateway Road and Business Mall development. Low status locally produced wares were recovered along with fragments of raw iron ore. The settlement is believed to be potentially associated with or supporting nearby iron working on the hill east of the Mount. During this period the Bexhill and Hastings area was heavily exploited for ironworking with major iron working sites at Beauport Park, Bynes Farm and at Little Henniker Wood possibly forming part of an imperial or military estate (Cleere and Crossley 1995, 68).
- 2.3.2 It is likely that the local late Iron Age settlement pattern continued into the early Roman period, perhaps being replaced with larger centralised farmsteads and hamlets from c 60AD onwards.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Saxo-Norman

- 2.4.1 In the early Anglo Saxon period the site lay within the lands of the 'Haestingas' a tribal group forming part of the Kingdom of Sussex. Several local place names are of early Anglo Saxon origin. These include the place names of lower (now little) and upper Worsham Farm respectively immediately north of, and within the study site. Worsham is first recorded in

AD772 as Wyrlesham - "Wyrtel's hamm" - a large Saxon farmstead thought to have been located in the vicinity of Lower Worsham Farm (HER ref 19679).

- 2.4.2 By the thirteenth century, Worsham appears to have been owned by the Manor of Pebsham as part of the demesne lands. A deed dated October 1277 records 'John de Peplesham, feoffment to John de Wertlesham, son of William de Wertlesham and Matilda his wife, of all the lands which the said William held of the father of John de Peplesham, in the Villanage in the parish of Bexle' .
- 2.4.3 No findspots of Anglo Saxon or early medieval date are recorded from the study area.
- 2.4.4 Overall, while there is a potential for Anglo Saxon and Saxo-Norman activity in the proximity of Upper and Lower Worsham Farm based on place name evidence. The bulk of the site would likely have comprised agricultural land or woodlands during these periods.

2.5 Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 2.5.1 The pattern of dispersed farmsteads that characterised the area until the twentieth century was in place by the late medieval period. The nearest nucleated settlement was Sidley to the west. A number of farmsteads within the area were probably in use during the late medieval period, however, only those actually within or adjacent to the site have any relevance for its archaeological potential (HER Ref: MES 98, Lower Worsham Farmhouse, TQ 7590 0943; HER Ref: MES 20389, Upper Worsham Farm, TQ 7542 0911).
- 2.5.2 Although not recorded as such in the East Sussex HER it is likely that Glovers Farm on the extreme west of the site may be of late medieval origin. An area of ridge and furrow earthworks east of Glovers Farm has been suggested as being of post medieval date. However, it appears much more likely that these earthworks are late medieval (MES 7311; TQ 74870 09250). A possible medieval nail is recorded from south west of Lower Worsham Farm (HER Ref: MES 12961; TQ 75800 09400).
- 2.5.3 Tenement analysis for Bexhill indicates that by the early 17th century there were three separate farmsteads lying in close proximity in the vicinity of the present Lower Worsham Farm (David Martin, pers.comm.). The surviving standing buildings of two of these farmsteads became known as Middle and Lower Worsham Farm and now form part of the present Lower Worsham Farm.
- 2.5.4 A map of the Pebsham Manorial Demesne shows an absence of development on the site of Upper Worsham Farm in 1637. The farmstead at Upper Worsham was certainly active by the late 18th century, when a plan of its lands was produced (ESRO ref AMS 5828/2). Its farmhouse, demolished in 1958, is understood to have had included a date stone of 1710 on what appeared to be an addition to the house, suggesting a construction date during the 17th century (ESRO ref ACC 6588/26).

- 2.5.5 Apart from the farm complexes noted, the only extant post medieval building within the study site is Boulder Cottage, Worsham Lane. This is Grade II listed and described as: *“Early c.19 front to a possible older building, 1 storey and attic. 3 windows. Faced with cobbles with red brick window dressings, quoins and stringcourses. Half hipped tiled roof. Casement windows. Attic window in gable end”*.
- 2.5.6 In Gardner and Greams map of 1795, Lower and Upper Worsham Farms are clearly identifiable, while Glovers Farm appears to have been grouped as part of a larger hamlet ‘*Sidley Green*’. South-west of the site Pebsham Farm (Pepplesham) is clearly visible. This map gives a striking impression of the sites natural topography prior to modern development with a narrow promontory of high ground extending east from Sidley into the Combe Haven valley.
- 2.5.7 The Ordnance Survey maps of 1806, 1813 and Greenwood’s map of 1825 show no significant changes to the site. The first detailed map of the site is the Bexhill Tithe map of 1839. This shows Glovers Farm and Upper and Lower Worsham Farms. In the case of the latter, many of the existing farm buildings bordering the study site are recognisable, giving a construction date prior to 1839. At Glovers Farm, a number of the existing buildings are recognisable on the 1839 Tithe. At Upper Worsham Farm, the buildings shown on the 1839 Tithe appear to have been replaced. Of particular interest on the 1839 Tithe is that Boulder Cottage is not shown, proving that it was certainly constructed after 1839.
- 2.5.8 The majority of the field boundaries present within the study site today are recognisable in the 1839 Tithe map; although it is clear that some field boundaries shown in 1839 have been removed to create larger fields. Some of the field boundaries around Glovers Farm are recorded in the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER Ref: MES 7310, terracing related to land boundaries, TQ 74680 09340).
- 2.5.9 A very small number of post-medieval finds are recorded from the vicinity of the site as metal detecting finds (HER Ref: MES 15877, lead weight, TQ 74929 09355, HER Ref: MES 15878, lead token dated 1768, TQ 74838 09448; HER Ref: MES 15881, token, TQ 74926 09436).
- 2.5.10 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1873 shows the site as largely unchanged from the Tithe map of 1839. By this date, Boulder Cottage had been constructed, giving a construction date between 1839 and 1873.
- 2.5.11 Subsequent Ordnance Survey maps of 1897, 1908, 1938, 1954/55 and 2012 show changes of minor detail to the site, while the land to the west and south is shown as comprehensively developed for new housing.

2.6 Recent archaeological work at the site

- 2.6.1 The magnetometer survey, undertaken as part of the same programme of archaeological evaluation as the current fieldwalking, uncovered a series of anomalies in Areas 1, 2 and 3. The most striking probable archaeological feature in Area 1 was a penannular-shaped anomaly thought likely to be due to the presence of a buried cut feature such as a gully (ASE 2015).
- 2.6.2 Further linear anomalies were noted in all three areas and may relate to buried cut features such as ditches. Similarly discreet anomalies may represent cut features such as pits, however, these anomalies may also relate to in-filled natural features (*ibid.*)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The basic fieldwalking 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 Hastings Museum and Art Gallery in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

No. of FW Record Forms	18
No. of files/paper record	1
Bulk finds	Retained finds only
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 3 - 12)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All three of the fields had been recently ploughed offering excellent conditions for the recovery of surface artefacts. The ploughsoil was mid-greyish brown silty clay, with a higher clay content closer to the stream on the southern edge of the site, reflecting the change in the underlying geology and perhaps localised deposits of alluvial clay. Weather conditions varied considerably over the three days of fieldwalking, with periods of bright sunshine, differing levels of cloud cover and occasional squally showers.

4.2 The Distribution of Finds

Prehistoric

4.2.1 There was little variation in the pattern of recovery over the three fields, which are therefore considered together. The distribution of the prehistoric material, both struck flint and fire-cracked flint was notably thin across the whole examined area.

4.2.2 Arguably more struck flint was collected in north-eastern corner of the site than elsewhere, but the retrieval of seven flints can hardly be classed as a significant concentration. There was also no corresponding distribution of fire-cracked flint.

Medieval

4.2.3 Again the spread of medieval material retrieved across the site was extremely thin. Only six pieces of highly abraded medieval pottery dated to the 13th and 14th centuries were recovered, with three fragments of broadly contemporary tile. West Country slate (usually dated to the medieval period) was also present, but again never in large quantities.

Post-Medieval

4.2.4 The vast majority of the recovered material dated from this period. There was a virtual ubiquitous distribution of brick and tile fragments, and a widespread pattern of post-medieval pottery, mostly dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. Other materials included limited assemblages of clay pipe, glassware, metalwork and Welsh slate. A worn Victorian penny dated 1862 was also recovered, as well as a possible fragment of WW2 ordnance.

5.0 THE FINDS (Figures 3 - 12)

5.1 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.1.1 In total, 17 pieces of struck flint weighing 486g were recovered. A further two pieces (351g) were recovered during the geophysical survey (Table 2). Pieces of struck flint were found only in 16 squares. No concentration was noted, with the maximum number of pieces per square being just two (in 73X). This assemblage is small, but it provides evidence for prehistoric activity in the area. No chronologically diagnostic artefacts were present, but based on technological and morphological grounds a few pieces indicate human presence during the Mesolithic and Neolithic period. A few pieces could be later. There was also a thin scatter of undatable fire-cracked flint.

Context	Flint	Wt(g)
65S	1	36
66L	1	12
66R	1	<1
67A	1	4
70B	1	4
70D	1	16
71S	1	26
73X	1	3
73X	1	14
74A	1	194
78J	1	6
78P	1	6
78U	1	1
78Y	1	138
79E	1	14
79I	1	4
80A	1	8
Geophys	1	327
Geophys	1	24
Total	19	837

Table 2: The Flintwork

5.1.2 Two types of raw material were noted. The flint colour varied from light to dark grey. Occasional inclusions were evident. Where present the outer surface was either, pitted and mid grey (indicating a gravel origin) or thin (1mm to 2mm), abraded and off-white. The later material could have been obtained from superficial deposits on the chalk. Gravel appeared to be the main source exploited. Overall, the flintwork material displays moderate to extensive edge-damage, possibly a result from successive re-deposition. Eleven pieces are broken, and rust marks - often associated with ploughing activities - were noticed. Most pieces were free from surface cortication, but three artefacts are re-corticated light-bluish.

- 5.1.3 The small assemblage is largely composed of un-retouched pieces of flint débitage, and no diagnostic artefacts were present. Ten flakes, two blade-like flakes, one blade, one piece of irregular waste, a core and four modified pieces were collected. The majority of pieces cannot be closely dated. However, the blade from [78J] and the blade-like flake from [70D] could be Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. Both artefacts are re-corticated. Several flakes display abraded platform edge and a winged platform which indicate a careful reduction strategy. These pieces are likely to pre-date the Early Bronze Age. Four modified pieces were collected; a side scraper (recovered during the Geophysical survey, from either square [18] or [25]) and three retouched flakes in a poor condition, one of which could represent a broken scraper. None of the retouched pieces are chronologically diagnostic.
- 5.1.4 The fieldwalking survey has revealed a small quantity of struck flints. The material was widely dispersed with no more than two pieces per square. Overall it is quite in poor condition. Although it indicates prehistoric presence in the area, the small quantity of flints and the absence of concentrated scatters suggest only a “background” activity.

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The fieldwalking recovered a total of 144 sherds of pottery, weighing 653g, from 92 individually numbered transects. With an average sherd size of 4.5g 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 as part of the digital archive. There is a fairly 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 medieval material. Seven sherds weighing 42g are of this period, all being of the 13th- to mid-14th centuries. At 6g the average sherd size is slightly higher than the overall average, however, this is mainly due to a heavy fragment of jug handle – certainly the sherds are all heavily abraded and have clearly been subjected to extensive reworking. A fairly typical range of local fine to medium/coarse sandy wares are represented, both cooking pots and jugs. The material undoubtedly relates to low-level manuring activity during the High Medieval period.
- 5.2.3 There is no definite pottery of the late 14th to mid-16th 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 later 16th century, though most of these sherds could also be placed in the 17th century. Altogether this early post-medieval period accounted for 10 sherds, weighing 71g, from nine different transects. With an average sherd size of 7.1g the material is clearly heavily reworked and the sherds are usually correspondingly abraded. Local unglazed hard-fired sandy earthenware sherds of the mid-16th to 17th centuries are present in transects 76B, 77U and 78P but all are too small to discern form.

5.2.4 There is just one local glazed earthenware sherd, probably from a 17th- to mid-18th- century vessel (transect 66G). Transect 72D produced two sherds of Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware of the early/mid-18th century (a plate and mug) and part of a tin-glazed ware drug jar was recovered from 72C. The latter, with its distinctive orange fabric and purple decoration, is almost certainly of 17th- to early 18th- century date. Imports are limited to two sherds from Frechen stoneware bottles, the example from transect 79G being from the moulded medallion. Overall the Early Post-medieval assemblage would suggest low-level manuring activity only restarted on the land during the later 16th or early 17th century and then continued at a very low level until the mid-18th century.

5.2.5 The late post-medieval period accounts for 127 sherds, weighing 540g, from 81 individual transects. Clearly this material has a much wider and denser distribution than seen in the earlier periods. At 4.3g the average sherd size is notably small and the material is distinctly abraded on the whole suggesting significant reworking. A fairly standard range of industrially produced domestic ware of the period is present in the assemblage. Interestingly there is virtually no creamware suggesting little activity between c. 1750 and 1790, however, early pearlwares are well represented suggesting a notable increase in activity from the 1790s. However, the majority of sherds can be placed in an 1830 to 1920 date range, suggesting an intensification of manuring at this time.

5.3 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Just one bowl fragment and three stem fragments were recovered during the survey, all of which are likely to be of 19th- century date. Although the bowl fragment is quite fresh the stems are notably abraded.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The fieldwalking recovered a total of 849 pieces of ceramic building material, weighing 27,169g, from 265 individually numbered transects. With an average size of 32g the material has a reasonable average size, though this is partly distorted by a number of large brick fragments. 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 similar chronological spread within the brick and tile as was noted for the pottery, though the vast majority of fragments are from the mid-18th to early 20th centuries.

5.4.2 The medieval period accounts for just three pieces of peg tile weighing 66g from three separate transects. All of the pieces are heavily abraded, average 12mm thick, and are tempered with common to abundant fine/medium sand. It is likely they represent a background scatter derived from manuring during the mid-13th to 14th centuries.

5.4.3 Although the division of ceramic building material between the early and late post-medieval periods is notoriously difficult, an attempt has been made in the current assemblage to keep material likely to predate 1750 separate from

that post-dating this date. This division is based on fabric, finish and firing and probably gives a fairly accurate split between these periods.

5.4.4 The early post-medieval assemblage consists of 36 pieces, weighing 1676g, from one of 30 individually numbered transects. The material is spread thinly across the whole area and is always more heavily abraded than the late post-medieval pieces. Generally it consists of quite crudely formed, medium fired peg tiles in a number of silty/fine sandy fabrics with notable quantities of iron oxides and/or marl swirls. All of the material would fit within a 17th- to mid-18th- century date range and would thus be very much in keeping with the pottery.

5.4.5 The remaining bulk of the ceramic building material is of late post-medieval date. This assemblage 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. There are also single pan tile and floor tile fragments. Most can be given a general mid-18th- to 19th- century date range. The few machine-made bricks and tiles are probably of the late 19th to 20th- century and there is certainly a scatter of bricks with the typical early 20th- century granular fabric. Some of these are stamped e.g. a Southwater (near Horsham) 20th- century brick from transect 75N. The sudden expansion of the ceramic building material of this period once again mirrors the increase noted in the pottery.

5.5 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.5.1 The 25 fragments of glass weigh 303g and were recovered from one of 23 individually numbered transects. The entire assemblage consists of aqua and green bottle and colourless window glass fragments of mid-19th- to early 20th- century date.

5.6 The Metalwork and Coin by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Five pieces of iron (306g) and a single bronze coin (6g) were recovered from the site. All of the ironwork is of 19th- to 20th- century date and consists of agricultural items, though the piece from transect 75E is fragmented in such a way as to suggest it may derive from a WW2 aerial bomb. The coin (80K) is a somewhat worn Victorian one penny dated 1862.

5.7 The Slag by Luke Barber

5.7.1 The fieldwalking recovered seven pieces of slag, weighing 220g, from seven individually numbered transects. All pieces are of a slightly aerated iron slag with some areas of vitrification. The material is not diagnostic of either process or date.

5.8 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.8.1 The 52 pieces of stone (955g) were recovered from 47 individually numbered transects. The material falls into two groups. The first consists of material naturally available in the local area. This material consists of just three pieces

of fine ferruginous Wealden sandstone. The majority of stone has been imported from other areas. The largest group consists of roofing slate fragments. These are of two types: a fine laminated type very similar to (but not exactly the same as) medieval West Country slate from Devon/Cornwall and the more usual coarser Welsh slate.

- 5.8.2 The West Country type is represented by 16 pieces that are widely spread across the whole survey area. This quantity is not in keeping with the density and distribution of the medieval finds and the slate almost certainly represents a post-medieval import, either from the West Country or potentially from abroad. The Welsh slate is typical of the mid-19th to early 20th centuries and is represented by 19 pieces, also on a similarly wide distribution. The remaining stone types include quartzite and carboniferous limestone aggregate pieces and a scattering of coal pieces, again, all likely to be of 19th- to 20th- century date.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 A range of artefacts ranging in age from prehistoric to modern were recovered during the systematic fieldwalking of the site. Extensive scatters of late post-medieval material were to be expected in a field so close to agricultural buildings. Equally much of the earlier material holds little potential archaeological significance.
- 6.2 The flintwork does suggest some level of prehistoric activity in the general area, but most 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 and fire-cracked 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 medieval material consisting of an extremely thin spread of pottery and CBM, and is plainly not indicative of extensive occupation at the site. The material undoubtedly relates to manuring activity carried out during the medieval period. The spread of post-medieval pottery shows that this activity continued at the site.
- 6.4 There is no obvious correlation between the locations of the recovered prehistoric and medieval material and the potential buried features identified during the geophysical survey (ASE 2015).
- 6.5 In conclusion the fieldwalking at the site did not identify any obvious concentrations of material indicative of past human activity at the site of significant antiquity. Therefore the utilised methodology was able to address the main research aim of the current project.

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SMR Summary

Site Code	BLN 14					
Identification Name and Address	Land to the north-east of Bexhill					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	573340 109090					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay and Ashdown Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7012					
Type of Fieldwork					SAC	
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork				March 2015		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd.					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary		Meso.?	Neo. .?	BA.?		
		MED	PM			
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake a programme of surface artefact collection (archaeological fieldwalking) on land to the north-east of Bexhill, East Sussex.</p> <p>An assortment of artefacts was retrieved from three fields, in part of an area earmarked for future development. Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval material was recovered in varying quantities, evenly but thinly spread across the examined area.</p> <p>There was no obvious correlation between the distribution of the prehistoric and medieval finds and the location of potential buried archaeological features identified during recent geophysical survey work.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-206700

Project details

Project name	Surface Artefact Collection on land to the north-east of Bexhill, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake a programme of surface artefact collection (archaeological fieldwalking) on land to the north-east of Bexhill, East Sussex. An assortment of artefacts was retrieved from three fields, in part of an area earmarked for future development. Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval material was recovered in varying quantities, evenly but thinly spread across the examined area. There was no obvious correlation between the distribution of the prehistoric and medieval finds and the location of potential buried archaeological features identified during recent geophysical survey work.
Project dates	Start: 02-03-2015 End: 04-03-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	7014 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BLN 14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Fieldwalking""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	General structure plan/local plan/minerals plan guidance
Position in the	Pre-application

planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER BEXHILL Land North-east of Bexhill
Study area	12.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 73340 09090 50.8547103944 0.463010547177 50 51 16 N 000 27 46 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hastings Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Hastings Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hastings Museum
Paper Contents	"other"

Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Surface Artefact Collection at land to the north-east of Bexhill, East Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Stevens, S.

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No. 2015084

Date 2015

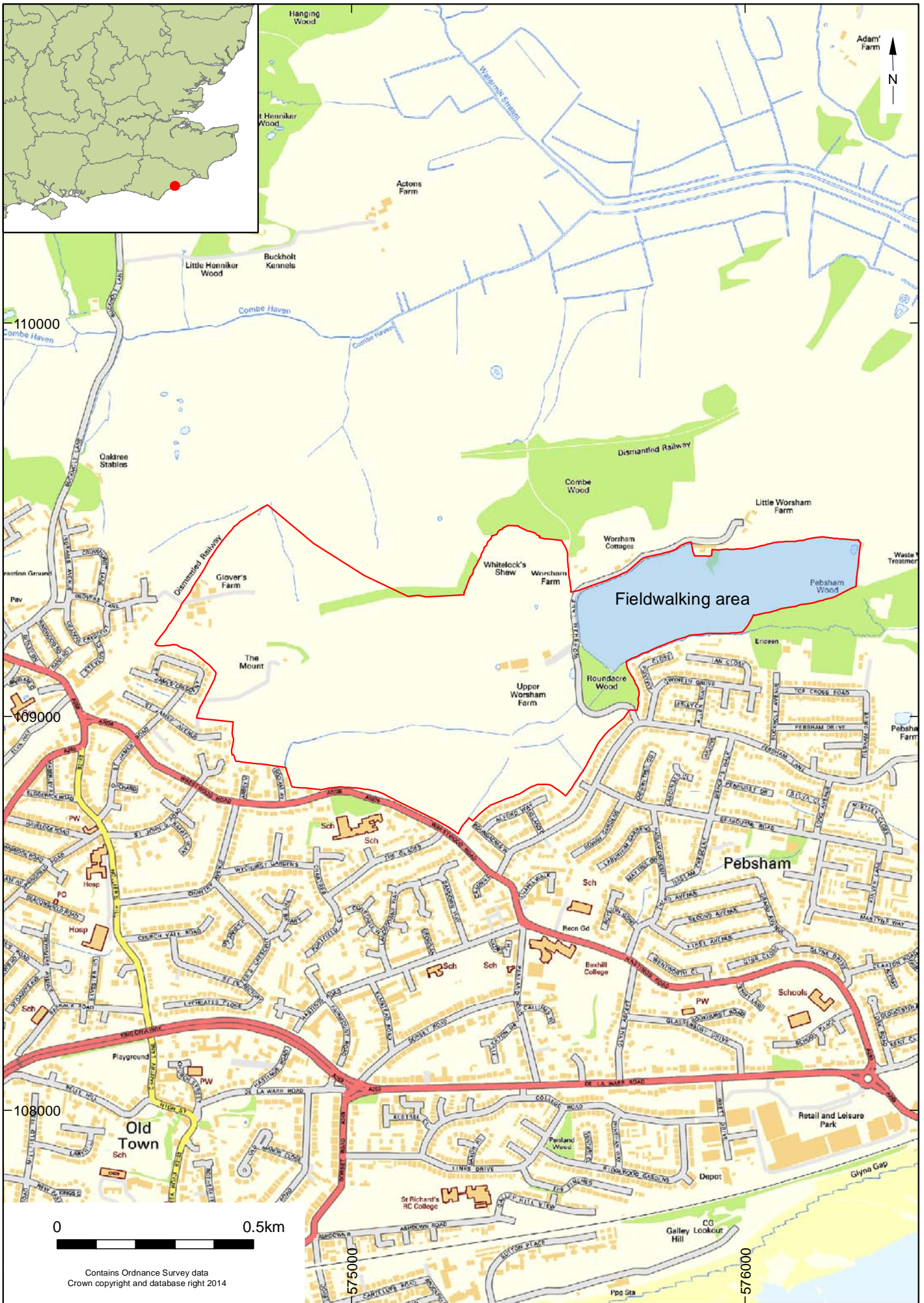
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

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Description Standard ASE Client report. A4-sized with cover logios

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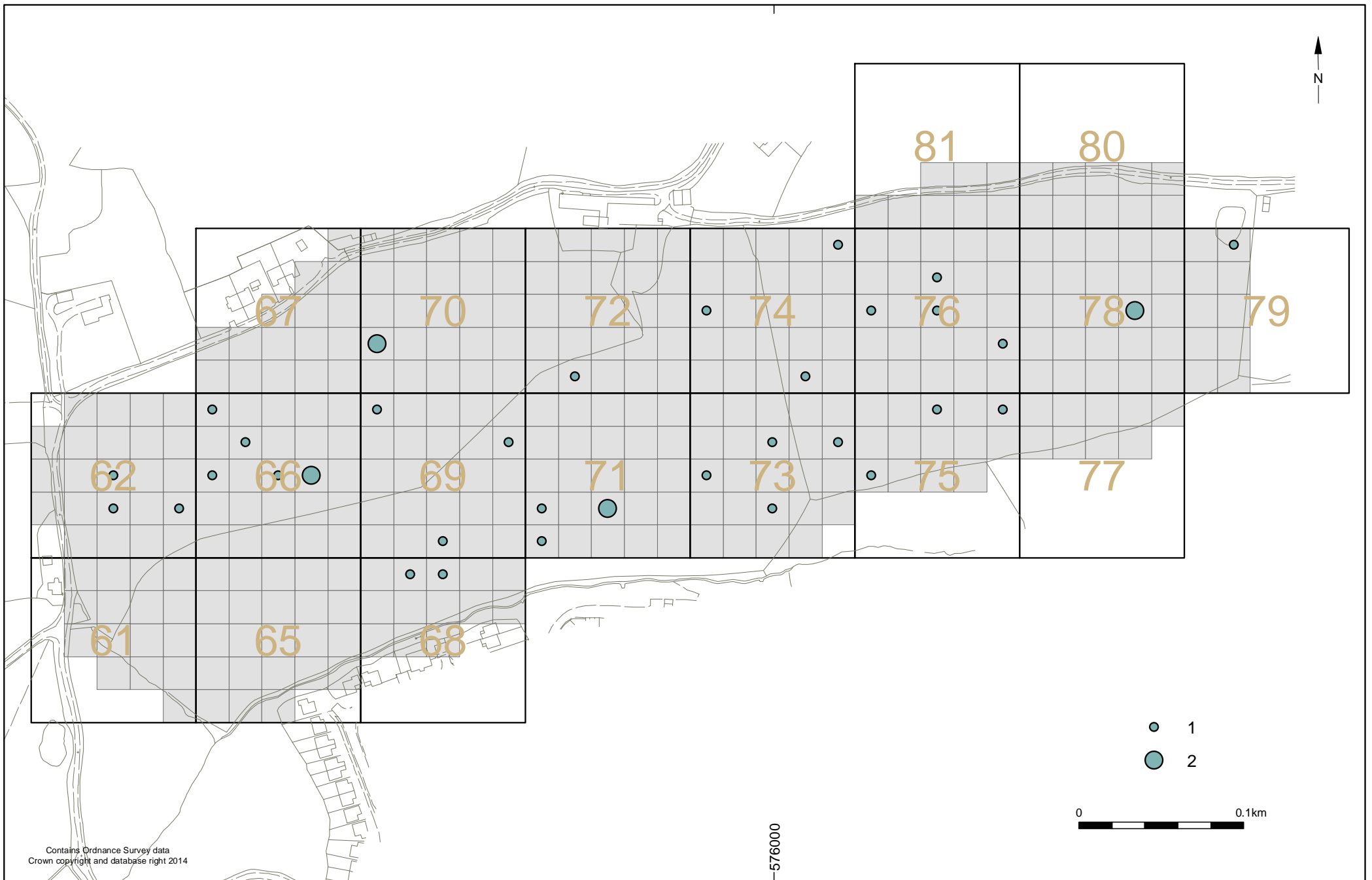


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Project Ref: 7012	March 2015	Site location		
Report Ref: 2015084	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Land north-east of Bexhill	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7012	March 2015	Location of surface artefact grid squares	
Report Ref: 2015084	Drawn by: JLR		



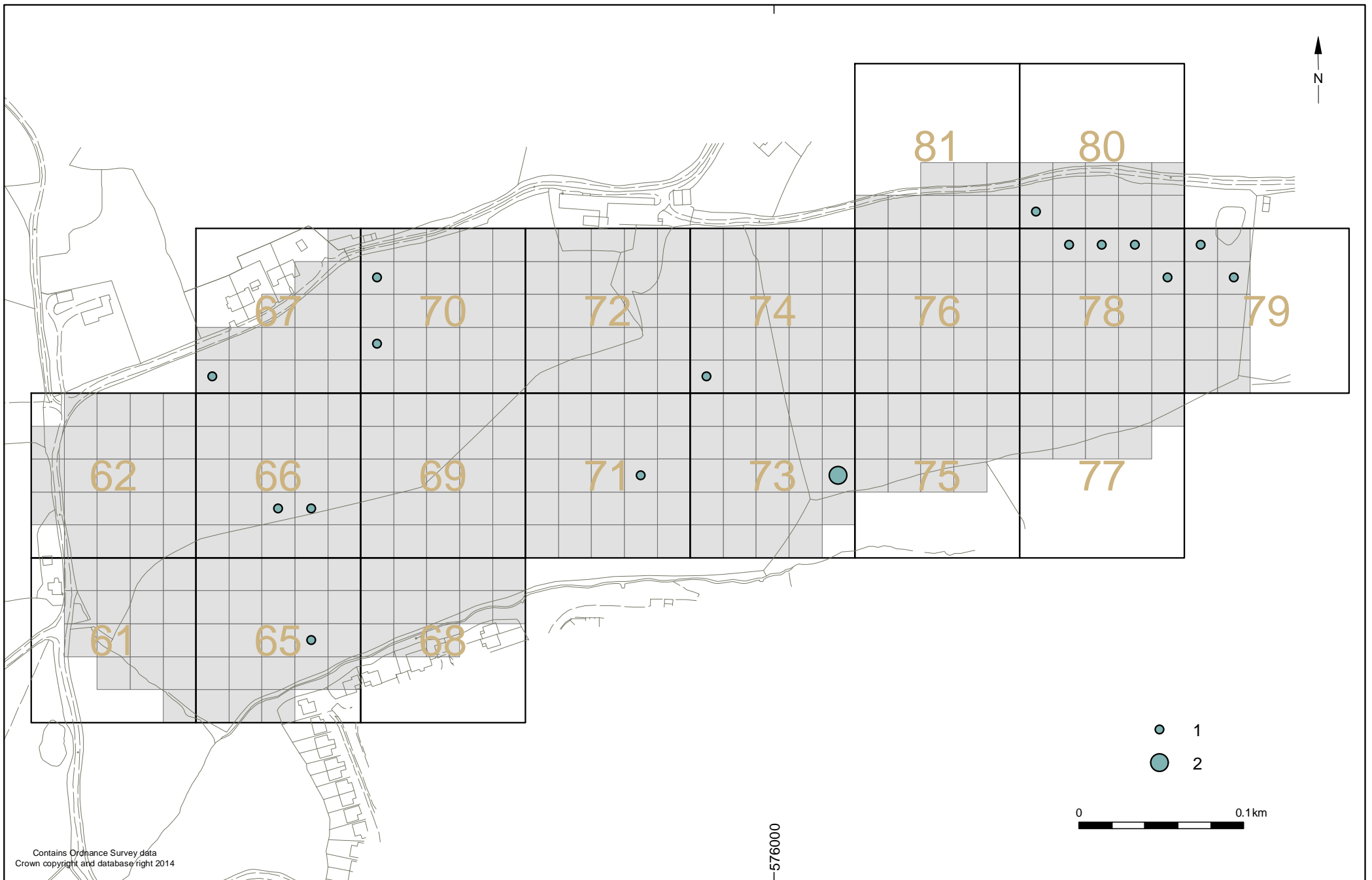
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Report Ref: 2015084 Drawn by: JLR

Land north-east of Bexhill

Distribution of fire-cracked flint

Fig. 3



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March 2015

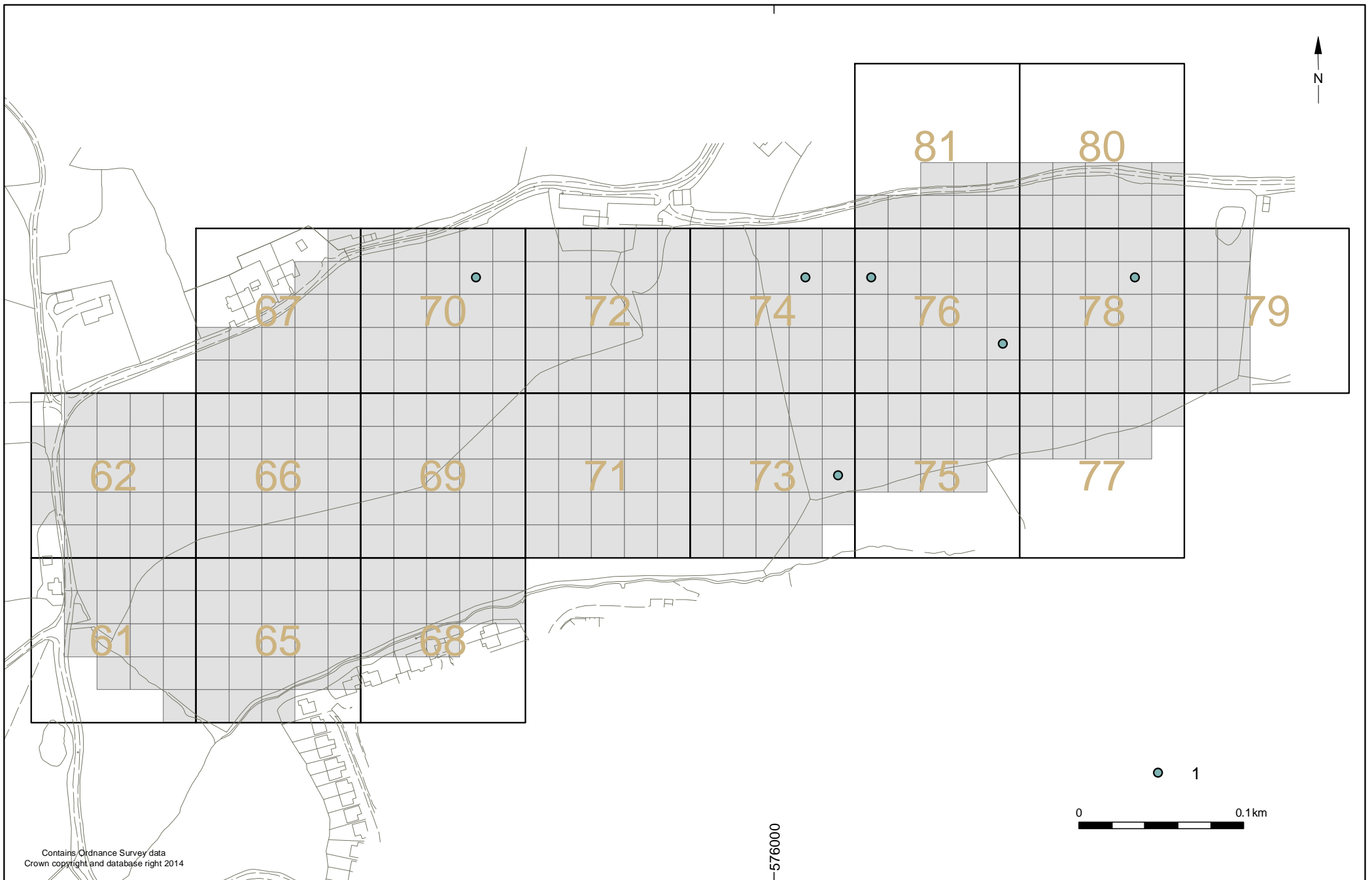
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Land north-east of Bexhill

Distribution of struck flint

Fig. 4



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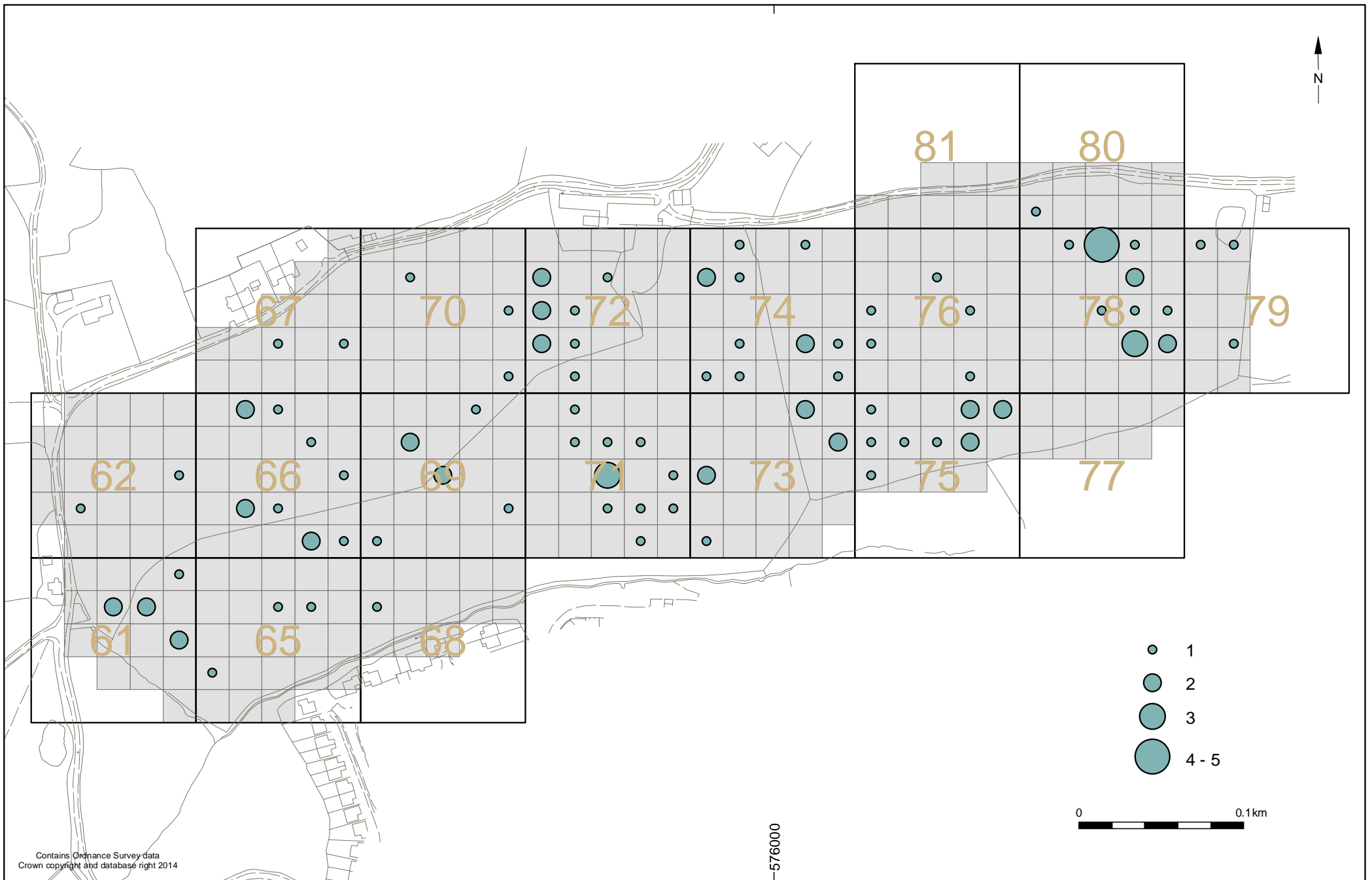
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Land north-east of Bexhill

Distribution of Medieval pot

Fig. 5



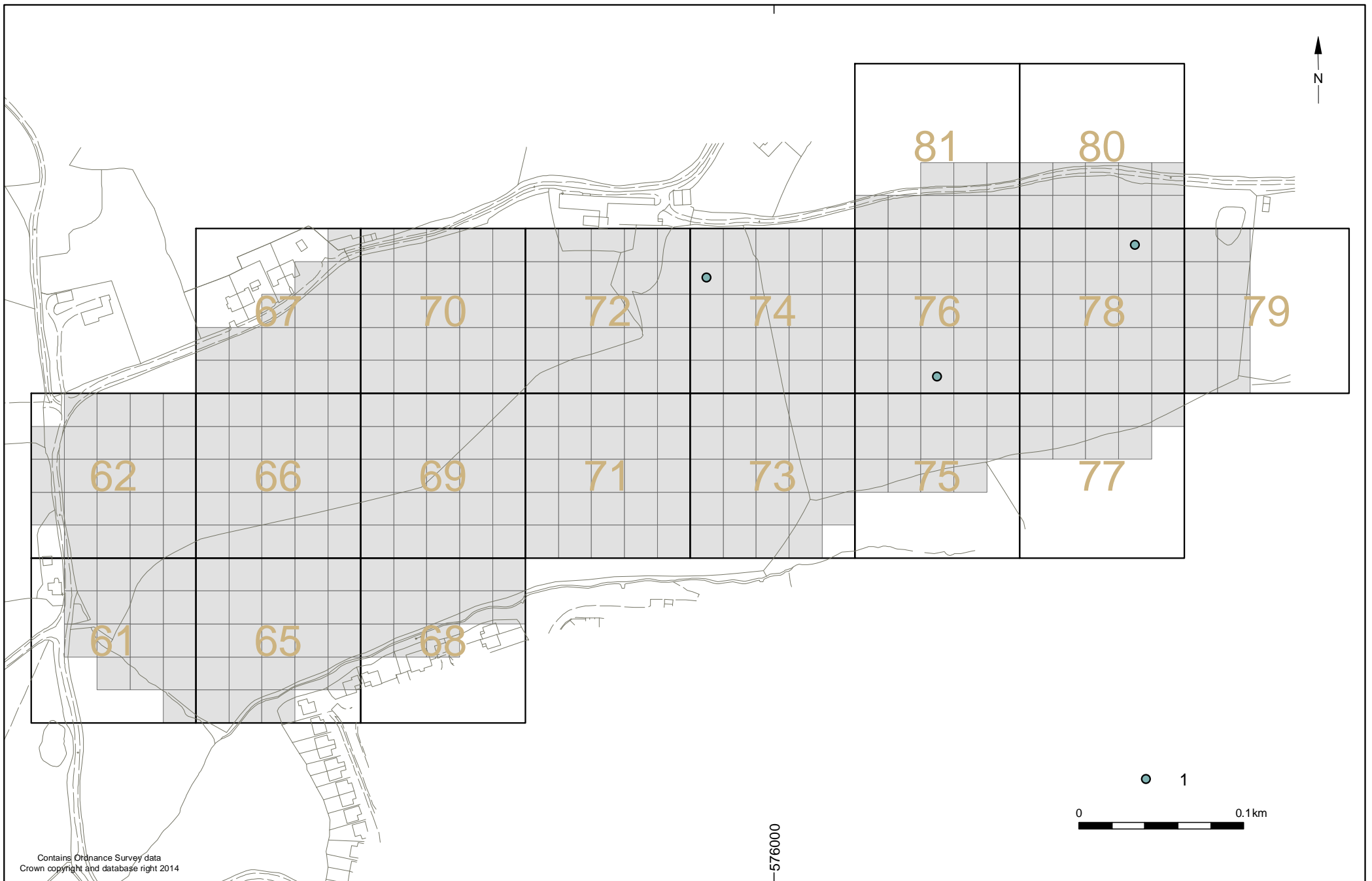
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Land north-east of Bexhill

Distribution of post-Medieval pot

Fig. 6



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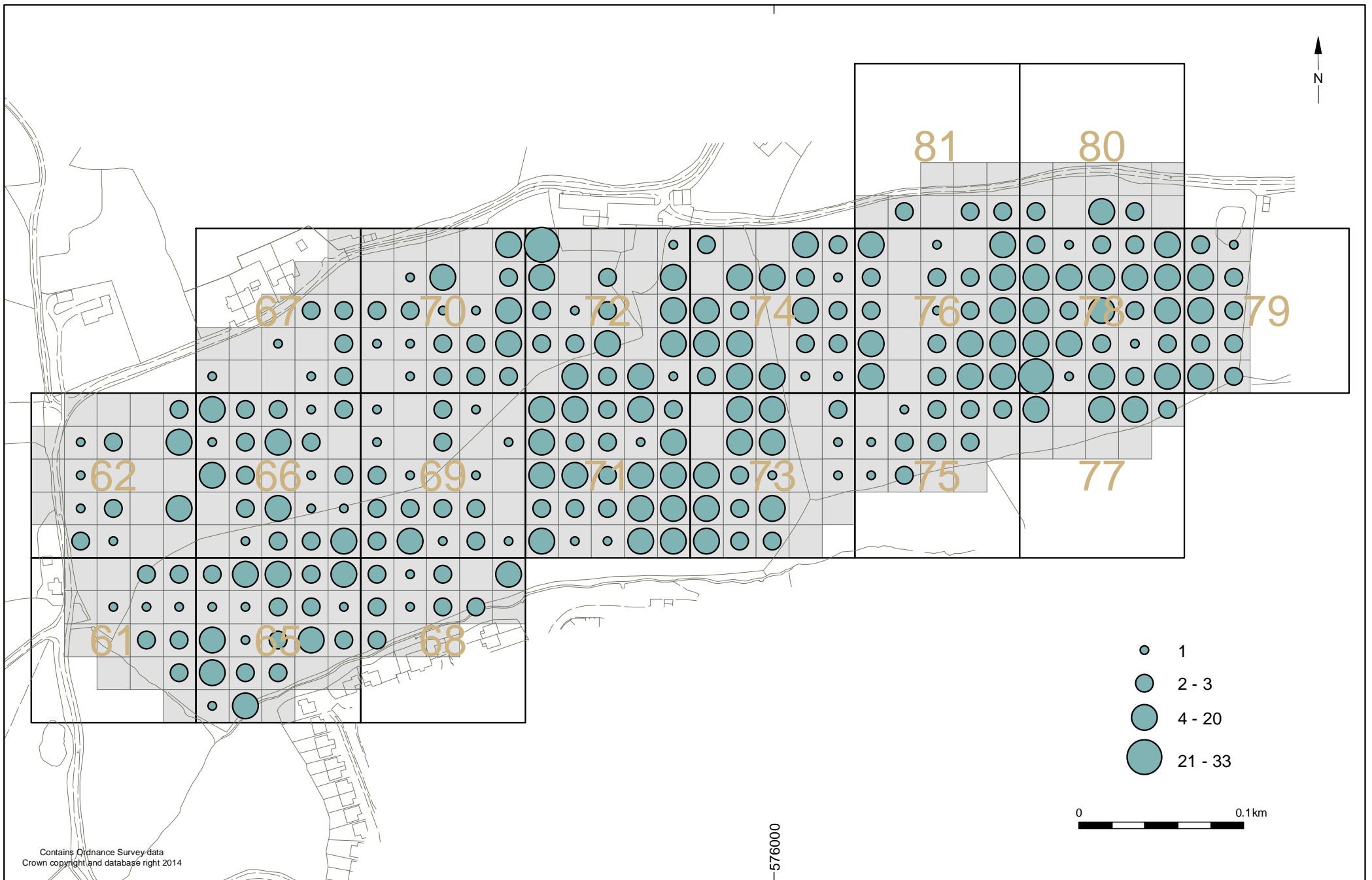
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Land north-east of Bexhill

Distribution of Medieval CBM

Fig. 7



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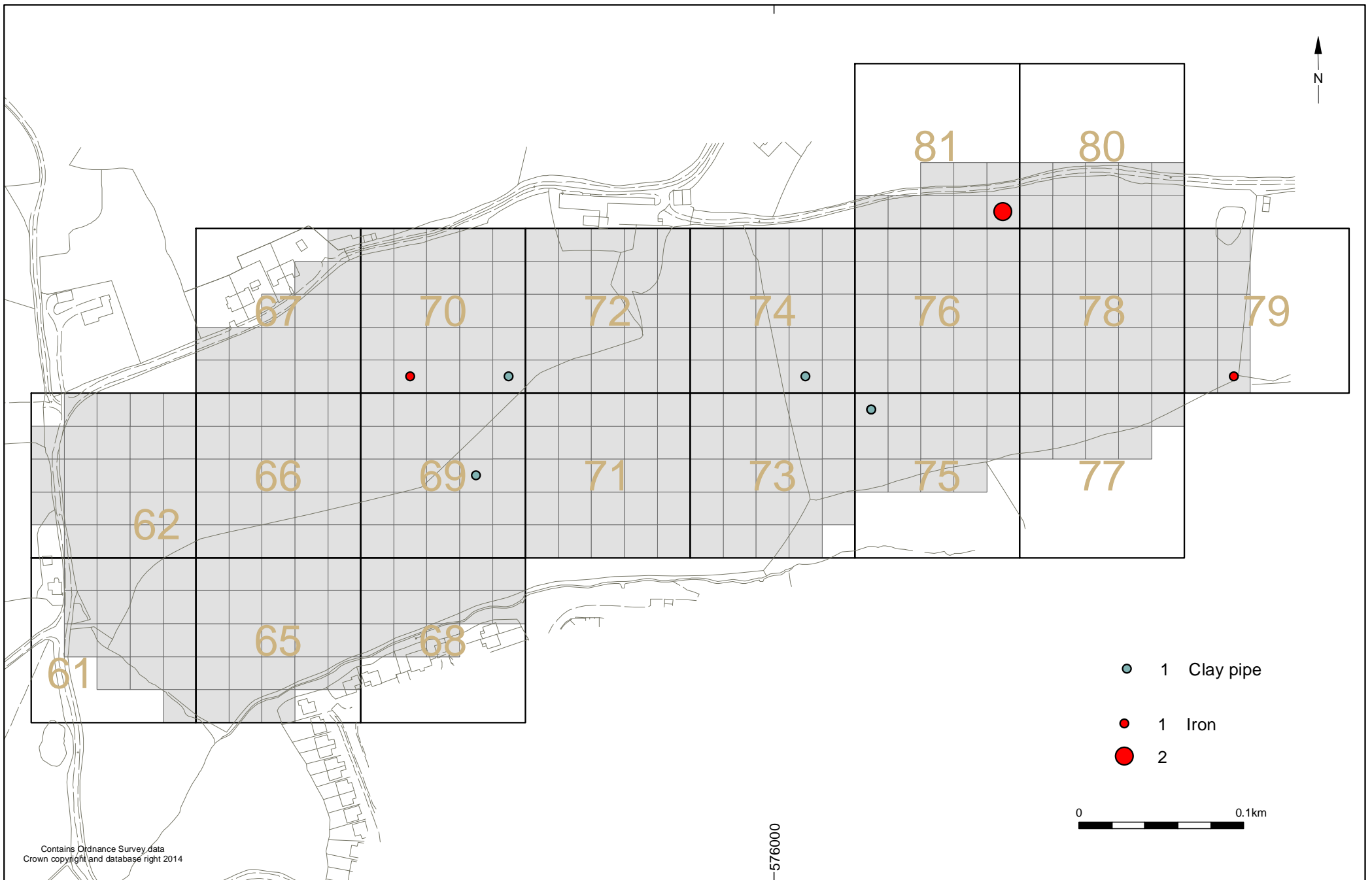
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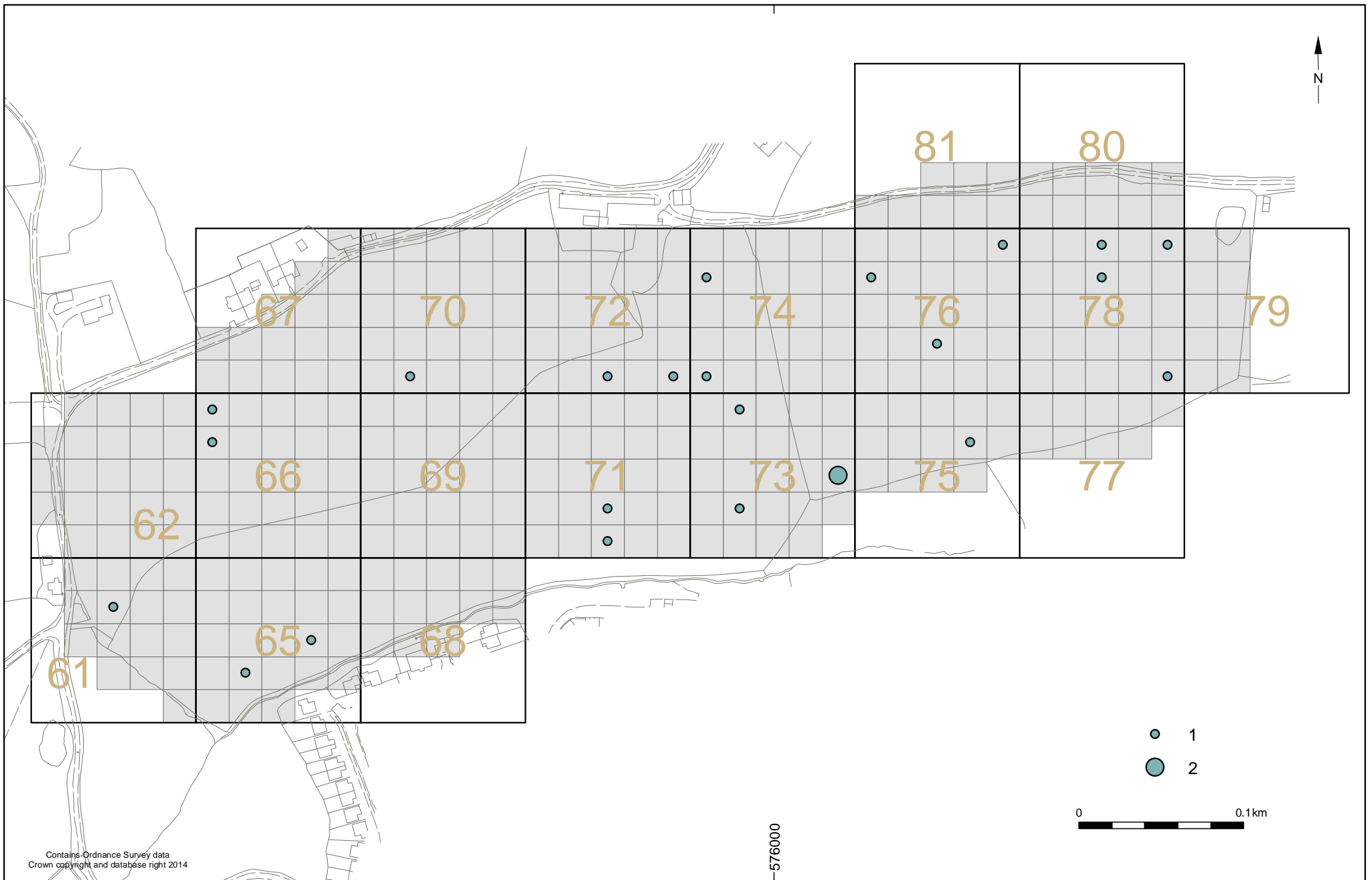
Land north-east of Bexhill

Distribution of post-Medieval CBM

Fig. 8



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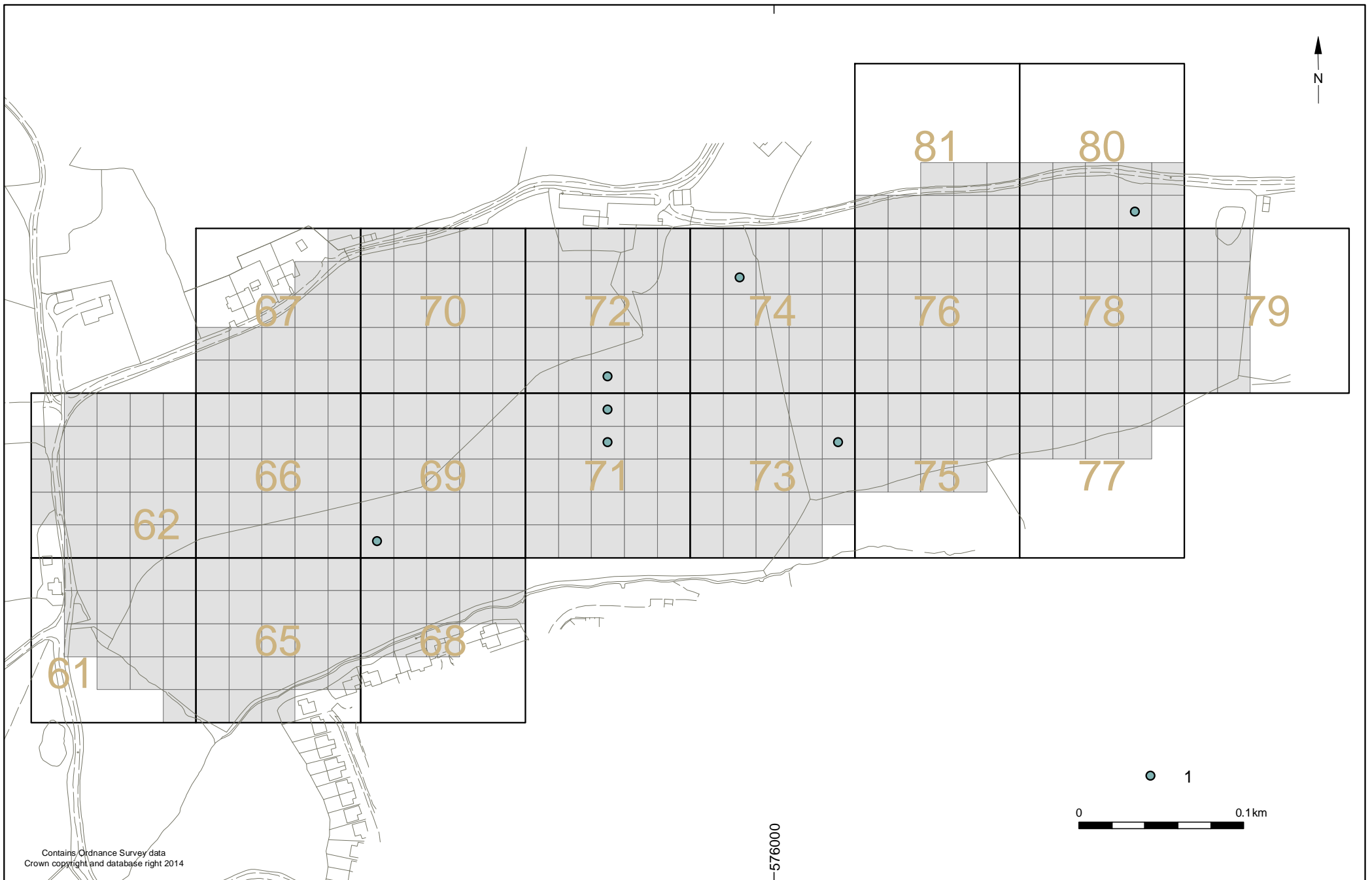
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Land north-east of Bexhill

Distribution of glass

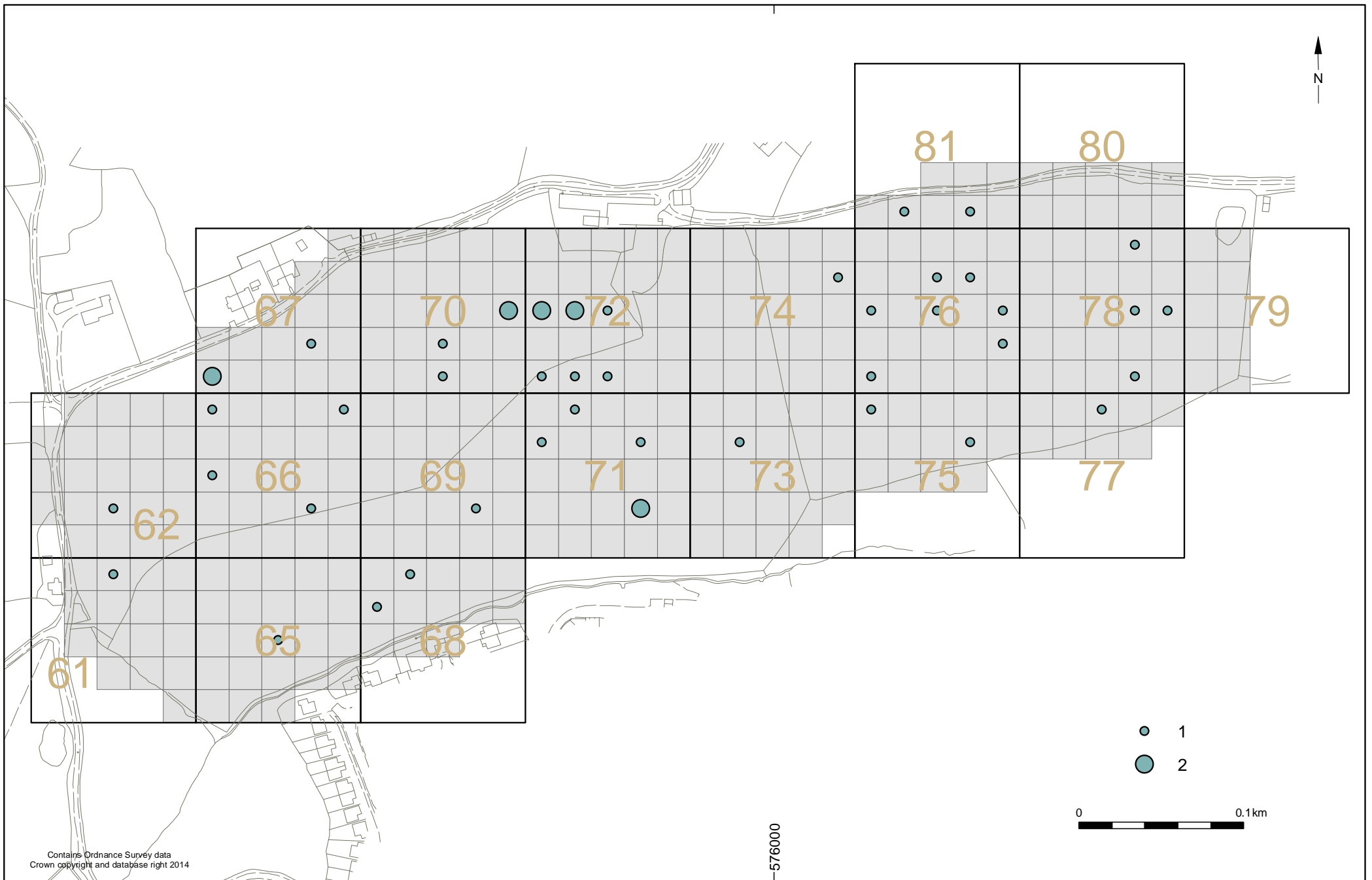
Fig. 10



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Project Ref: 7012	March 2015	Distribution of geological material	
Report Ref: 2015084	Drawn by: JLR		

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex CM7 3QD
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

