

**Surface Artefact Collection at the site of the new Community Stadium,
Village Way, Brighton**

NGR 517478 128419

**Project No. 3611
Site Code: CSB 08**

**ASE Report No. 2008186
OASIS id: archaeol6-50174**



**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by
Chris Butler and Luke Barber**

October 2008

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Abstract

A programme of Surface Artefact Collection (field-walking) was undertaken at the site in late September and early October 2008. Flintwork (including finished tools as well as debitage) was widespread across the site. There was also a thin scatter of fire-cracked flint.

A small quantity of medieval pottery and tile was recovered, and there were larger assemblages of post-medieval material, including pottery, tile and a small amount of glass and metalwork.

A systematic metal detector survey of the site did not produce any significant finds.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Gifford on behalf of The Community Stadium Ltd to undertake a programme of surface artefact collection (field-walking) at the site of the new Community Stadium, Village Way, Brighton (NGR 517478 128419) (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography (Fig. 2)

1.2.1 The site lies to the west of the village of Falmer, East Sussex. It straddles Village Way and consists of two large fields (labelled Area A and B, Fig. 2). Topographically there is a slope downwards from south-to-north, the dip slope of the local downland. However the most obvious geographical feature on the ground is a dry valley running from north-to-south, which is noticeably more pronounced in Field A. Village Way runs along a causeway artificially constructed to cross the valley.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet 318/333) the underlying geology at the site is Upper and Middle Chalk, with Head Deposits in the dry valley.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted in July 2007 by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the erection of the stadium and permission has also been granted for an associated transport interchange.

1.3.2 A condition (No. 20) was attached to the permission for the stadium that required a programme of archaeological work at the site prior to the commencement of construction. A similar condition (No. 10) was applied to the permission for the transport interchange.

1.3.3 An *Archaeological Mitigation Strategy* has been produced by Gifford (2008) which outlines the scope of the archaeological work required. One element of this scheme was a programme of surface artefact collection. The investigation was carried out on the site of the Community Stadium and Transport Interchange (Area B), and the site of associated recontouring of an adjacent field (Area A).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The systematic surface artefact collection aimed to establish whether concentrations of worked flint artefacts (or of other artefacts) survive within areas where significant ground works will take place during the proposed development. This 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 the results of the systematic surface artefact collection undertaken at the site by a team comprised of Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), Louise Munns, Chris Russel and Michael Tunicliffe in late September and early October 2008. The site grid was laid out by Rob Cole (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Senior Project Manager) and monitored by Andy Shelley (Gifford) on behalf of the client.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been summarised elsewhere (Gifford 2008, 3-6). There are a number of known archaeological sites and findspots in the vicinity of the site, ranging in date from the Palaeolithic to the post-medieval.
- 2.2 A programme of fieldwalking was undertaken at the site itself in early 2006 (by Brighton & Hove Archaeology Society), resulting in the recovery of worked flint, fire-cracked flint and small quantities of ?Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery (Funnell 2006).
- 2.3 In summary, based on the available evidence, the Gifford document (*op. cit.*) concluded that the estimated potential for archaeological sites and/or findspots being located at the site was:
- Palaeolithic - Moderate
 - Mesolithic – Low to Moderate
 - Neolithic – Low to Moderate
 - Bronze Age – Moderate to Good
 - Iron Age – Moderate to Good
 - Roman – Good to High
 - Anglo-Saxon – Moderate to Good
 - Medieval – Moderate
 - Post-Medieval – Moderate
 - Modern - Low
- 2.4 In addition, an archaeological watching brief has recently been undertaken during the excavation of geotechnical test-pits in advance of infrastructure work for the stadium. This work was undertaken on the opposite side of the A27. The investigation revealed an unpromising sequence of made ground and re-deposited head deposits disturbed or emplaced during the building of the A27 dual-carriage way. However, the line of the proposed works located within Stanmer Park revealed a partially disturbed dry valley sequence offering archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential (ASE 2008).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The basic field-walking methodology was outlined in the Specification provided by Gifford (2008, 12). The methodology matched that usually used by ASE during fieldwalking projects, itself based on the standard practice utilised by the Archaeological Field Projects Service of Essex County Council, as modified for use by ASE.
- 3.2 The method involved dividing the accessible area into numbered hectare-sized squares (Fig. 2). Each hectare was then divided into 25 separate squares (lettered A-Z, omitting 'O'), each measuring 20m by 20m. 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.
- 3.3 In conjunction with the surface artefact collection, a full metal detector survey of the two fields was also undertaken. This initially began as a 10% sample too, but was broadened to include most of the site.

4.0 RESULTS (Figs. 3 to 11)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The two separate fields were walked at different times owing to problems with access. Both of the fields had been recently ploughed but not harrowed and neither had been weathered to any great degree.

4.1.2 The soil was generally an orangey brown loam, but was richer in chalk pieces on the sides of the dry valley, resulting in a lighter colour, and also slightly darker in colour in the bottom of the valley. This clearly reflected the underlying geological deposits. It should be noted that the areas of chalk-rich soil might mask light-coloured fire-cracked flint.

4.2 Area A

4.2.1 Area A was walked during the week commencing 6th October 2008. Environmental conditions were generally good with strong sunshine or bright diffuse light.

4.2.2 Flintwork was found widely dispersed across the entire field. There was a marked concentration within the dry valley, suggesting downhill movement away from the original site of deposition. Fire-cracked flint was also widespread, but with a clearly thinner distribution, and in markedly smaller quantities.

4.2.3 No Romano-British pottery was recovered and only four sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved from Area A, although there was a thin scatter of medieval tile and slate. There was much post-medieval pottery, but the largest group of recovered material was post-medieval brick and tile.

4.2.4 Other materials included stone (much of it deriving from geological deposits present at the site), and very limited quantities of metalwork, slag, glass, fired clay and shell which were all post-medieval in date.

4.2.5 The metal detector survey of the field did not produce any significant artefacts.

4.3 Area B

4.3.1 Area B was walked during the week commencing 29th September 2008. Conditions were variable with some periods of string diffuse light, but also times of light and also heavy rain.

4.3.2 The distribution of all materials matched that seen in Area A, although the concentration of flintwork towards the dry valley bottom was less marked.

4.3.3 The plotted distribution of the other artefact classes also closely matched that of the other field. Only one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered, along with three fragments of medieval tile. Post-medieval material was relatively abundant, although no metalwork was recovered either during the surface artefact collection or as part of the metal detector survey.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The Flintwork by Chris Butler

5.1.1 Introduction

5.1.1.1 An assemblage of 253 pieces of worked flint weighing 5.023kg was recovered during the fieldwalking at the site (Table 1).

5.1.1.2 The assessment comprised a visual inspection of each bag, counting the number of pieces of each type of worked flint present, noting details of the range and variety of pieces, general condition, and the potential for further detailed analysis. A hand written archive of the assemblage was produced at this stage.

5.1.2 The Assemblage

5.1.2.1 The raw material comprised a typical range of Downland flint, mostly either having a white or blue-grey patination, or grey or black in colour. There was a single piece of Bullhead flint.

Hard hammer-struck flakes	162
Soft hammer-struck flakes	30
Soft hammer-struck blades	6
Soft hammer-struck bladelet	1
Flake/blade fragments	33
Chips	2
Crested blade	1
Cores	1
Core fragment	1
Scrapers	13
Notched flake	1
Truncated blade	1
Polished axe fragment	1
Total	253

Table 1: The Flintwork

5.1.2.2 The majority of the flintwork assemblage comprised hard hammer-struck flakes and fragments; but there were also a significant proportion of soft hammer-struck flakes together with some blades. The majority of the flakes and blades had no evidence of any platform preparation, and were sometimes broken or had hinge fractures, and were a variety of sizes. There was a single flake core with two platforms at 90° to one another, together with a core fragment and a probable crested blade.

5.1.2.3 The majority of the implements were scrapers, comprising nine end scrapers, two side scrapers, an end-and-side scraper and a hollow scraper. The other implements comprised a notched flake and a truncated blade, together with a small fragment from a polished flint axe. In addition to the formal tools, there were three flakes with retouch, another possible truncated blade, and a utilised large soft hammer-struck flake.

5.1.2.4 The flintwork can be divided into two groups. Firstly, a group of pieces that

includes the soft hammer-struck debitage, some of the hard hammer-struck debitage and the blades, with some of these pieces also having prepared platforms. This group also includes the crested blade and core, together with some of the scrapers, especially those manufactured on blades, the truncated blade and polished axe fragment. These are likely to be Early Neolithic in date, although a minority of the pieces may be Mesolithic. Interestingly many of these pieces are either in black flint or highly patinated white or blue-grey flint, with the black pieces being more likely to be Mesolithic.

- 5.1.2.5 The second group includes all of the remaining hard hammer-struck debitage and the remaining implements, and fits a Later Neolithic or Bronze Age date. The form of these pieces, with a lack of evidence for control during the flint knapping process, and the resultant variability in size and shape, and the breaks and fractures, would suggest a later Bronze Age date is more likely

5.1.3 **Research Potential**

- 5.1.3.1 This assemblage is probably too small and variable for any further meaningful analysis, unless more flintwork is recovered during any further work at the site. It is recommended that no further detailed work be undertaken on this assemblage at present, although the flintwork should be retained for possible further study in the future.

5.2 **The Pottery** by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The field-walking recovered a small assemblage of pottery, all of which consists of small abraded sherds. The material was spread thinly across the area with no particular concentrations. The earliest sherd consists of a single small heavily abraded flint and sand tempered piece from a 12th- to mid 13th- century cooking pot (20H). There are more oxidised medium sand tempered sherds of mid 13th- to mid 14th- century date (12M, 12S, 14Q and 16Y). These sherds, again all heavily abraded, are from cooking pots. The next period represented is the 18th century but again only in low numbers. There are a few glazed red earthenwares (5R, 14A, and 14U), part of a London stoneware tankard (3B) and a single sherd of scratch blue stoneware (6N).

- 5.2.2 The vast majority of the recovered pottery is of the 19th century, probably from the second half of that century or indeed the early part of the 20th century. A range of wares are represented including unglazed earthenware flower pots (14 sherds e.g. 7J, 14Q, 17D and 21B), glazed red earthenwares (21 sherds e.g. a plate rim from 3R and a large jar from 12S), English stoneware (x6 sherds including preserve jars from 8B and 21D and printed ginger beer bottles from 9U and 7Q), plain and transfer-printed china (including a preserve jar from 12J and a plate from 13E), English porcelain (a saucer from 13U) and yellow ware (a bowl from 20H).

- 5.2.3 The pottery would suggest that during the medieval period there were very rare episodes of manuring the land, presumably as the land was predominantly used for grazing. This trend appears to have continued until the 18th century when some manuring may have resumed though again on

a very small scale. The higher quantities of later 19th- and early 20th-century pottery suggest arable cultivation was more common by this date, though manuring was never intensive.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Significantly more roof tile (with lesser quantities of brick) was recovered than pottery from the site. Apart from the highly fired later 19th-century material most of this material is quite heavily abraded through repeated reworking. This has meant the distinction between some medieval and early post-medieval fragments is often very difficult. Despite this, it is quite clear that medieval peg tile is present in very small quantities across the area. The material is usually tempered with medium sand, crudely finished and always notably abraded when compared to the later material. At least 22 fragments have been identified, most of which appear to be of mid/late 13th- to 14th-century date (e.g. 5G, 9T, 14S, 19H and 20C). A few pieces, tempered with sparse fine sand with rare medium sand, medium fired and also notably abraded may be placed in a later 14th- to 16th-century date range but this is far from certain given the nature of the current assemblage.

5.3.2 The vast majority of the ceramic building material is of the definite post-medieval period. Some four quite crudely finished pieces, tempered with sparse fine sand and moderate iron oxides to 3mm, may be of the earlier part of the period (later 16th to mid 18th centuries) (e.g. 8W and 20H). However, the majority of the tile is clearly of mid/late 18th- to early 20th-century date. The material is usually well finished, hard-fired and tempered with sparse fine sand, occasionally with sparse iron oxides (e.g. 8Q and 17E). Two glazed wall tiles are likely to be of 20th- century date (18F and 18P). All of the brick fragments from the site are of mid 18th- to early 20th-century date (e.g. 9Y and 10T). Other material includes a single fragment of ridge tile (10R) and a salt-glazed drain fragment (14X).

5.3.3 The ceramic building material from the site quite closely resembles the chronological spread of pottery suggesting manuring did not take place on a notable scale until the 19th century.

5.4 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Only small quantities of glass were recovered. The earliest pieces consist of three corroded fragments from 18th-century wine bottles (1S, 14D and 18I). The remaining material is all of 19th- to mid 20th-century date and includes a range of aqua mineral water bottle fragments (e.g. 7V, 16Y), green wine/beer bottle fragments (e.g. 9M and 20H), clear glass bottles including 20th- century milk bottles (e.g. 8A, 15X and 20H) and fragments of brown (8Q) and blue (poison) (5P) bottles as well as a single fragment of window glass.

5.5 The Metalwork by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Only four items were recovered during the field-walking. These include a brass coffee percolator lid of 19th/20th-century date (6M) and a 1916 dated

fired .303 rifle cartridge (4U). The ironwork consists of a twisted wire fragment (14W) and a fragment of agricultural machinery (13Y) both of which are likely to be of 19th- to 20th-century date.

5.6 **The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.6.1 A small assemblage of stone was recovered from the site. A large proportion of this is derived from the Tertiary deposits which overlay the chalk in places and are as such natural to the site. This material is usually ferruginous and includes medium-grained sandstones (14 pieces e.g. 7Q), box stone (6 pieces e.g. 19K) and fissure fill-type breccia (4 pieces e.g. 14Z). Stone definitely introduced by man is confined to pieces of slate. Two types are represented, West Country and Welsh. The West Country slate is far rarer (11 pieces) but is certainly of medieval origin (6R, 10M, 12F, 12I, 14G, 14I, 14Y, 16G, 18A and 21J). Its presence suggests manuring may have originated from a settlement of some substance which could afford such roofing material. The Welsh slate (28 pieces) is typical of a 19th-century manuring scatter and is in keeping with the ceramics.

5.7 **The Other Material** by Luke Barber

5.7.1 A small assemblage of shell was recovered. Virtually all of the material consists of oyster fragments in good condition suggesting a 19th-century date for its origin. The only other species represented is a single scallop fragment from 12B, a species typical of 19th-century assemblages. Two fragments of glassy, possibly fuel ash, slag were also recovered (14Q and 14W). These would not be out of keeping with 19th-century steam-driven agricultural machinery. Three lumps of amorphous fired clay (15S, 16D and 16Y) and part of an orange plastic cover from a vehicle indicator (6A) were also recovered.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The results of the surface artefact collection closely match those obtained by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society in the same area (although their work was limited to Area B). The Society walked a field that had been ploughed and then weathered over a long period. This resulted in the recovery of more flintwork and pottery than during the current programme of surface artefact collection, which was affected by the ground conditions.
- 6.2 Both campaigns of surface artefact collection revealed a clear 'background scatter' of flint tools and debitage across the whole examined area, a downland phenomena noted elsewhere (Funnell 2006, p.6). There was also a thin scatter of fire-cracked flint.
- 6.2 Material from later periods was sparse (with the exception of brick and tile), and is not indicative of settlement within the boundaries of the examined area during the Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods. The presence of larger quantities of post-medieval material is symptomatic of manuring of arable fields rather than of permanent or even temporary habitation at the site. The absence of significant metalwork, both from surface artefact collection and from the systematic metal detector survey confirmed this.
- 6.3 There are problems with the interpretation of the evidence, given the obvious effects of down-slope movement on distribution of the flintwork. However the presence of the flintwork is an unequivocal indication of prehistoric activity in the immediate area. The evidence of the datable flintwork strongly suggests activity dating back as far as the Mesolithic, continuing through into the Late Bronze Age.
- 6.4 Therefore, based on currently available evidence, it is apparent that there was no discernible Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval or post-medieval occupation within the boundaries of the site. However it is possible that the flintwork and fire-cracked flint came from buried prehistoric features that potentially survive in areas that may be affected by groundworks for the construction of the new stadium. Fieldwork in similar downland environments has uncovered a range of archaeological remains dating from the periods represented in the flintwork assemblage from the stadium site (e.g. Greig 1997; Rudling 2002).

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Surface artefact collection offered an efficient methodology for the identification of the artefacts present in the ploughsoil. Although this method has limitations in regard to issues such as character, quality, and degree of survival of buried archaeological remains, it is a useful tool in the detection of scatters of artefacts.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SMR Summary Form

Site Code	CSB 08					
Identification Name and Address	New Community Stadium, Village Way					
County, District &/or Borough	Brighton & Hove and Lewes, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	517478 128419					
Geology	Chalk and Head Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3611					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	SAC ✓	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB.	Other <i>Sept. to Oct. 2008</i>		
Sponsor/Client	Gifford on behalf of The Community Stadium Ltd.					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ✓	Neo. ✓	BA ✓	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>A programme of Surface Artefact Collection (field-walking) was undertaken at the site in late September and early October 2008.</i></p> <p><i>Flintwork (including finished tools as well as debitage) was widespread across the site. There was also a thin scatter of fire-cracked flint. A small quantity of medieval pottery and tile was recovered, and there were larger assemblages of post-medieval material, including pottery, tile and a small amount of glass and metalwork.</i></p> <p><i>A systematic metal detector survey of the site did not produce any significant finds.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-50174

Project details

Project name	Surface Artefact Collection at the site of the new Community Stadium, Brighton, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Surface artefact collection at the site revealed a scatter of flintwork (including tools as well as debitage). Later material included a small assemblage of medieval pottery and tile, and a larger group of post-medieval material.
Project dates	Start: 29-09-2008 End: 10-10-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	3611 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CSB 08 - 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
Methods & techniques	'Fieldwalking'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE BRIGHTON New
Community Stadium Site

Postcode BN1 9PH

Study area 15.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 517478 128419 50.8945166540 0.158010068273 50 53 40
N 000 09 28 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 75.00m Max: 100.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Gifford

Project design originator Gifford

Project director/manager Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor Simon Stevens

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Gifford on behalf of The Community Stadium Ltd.

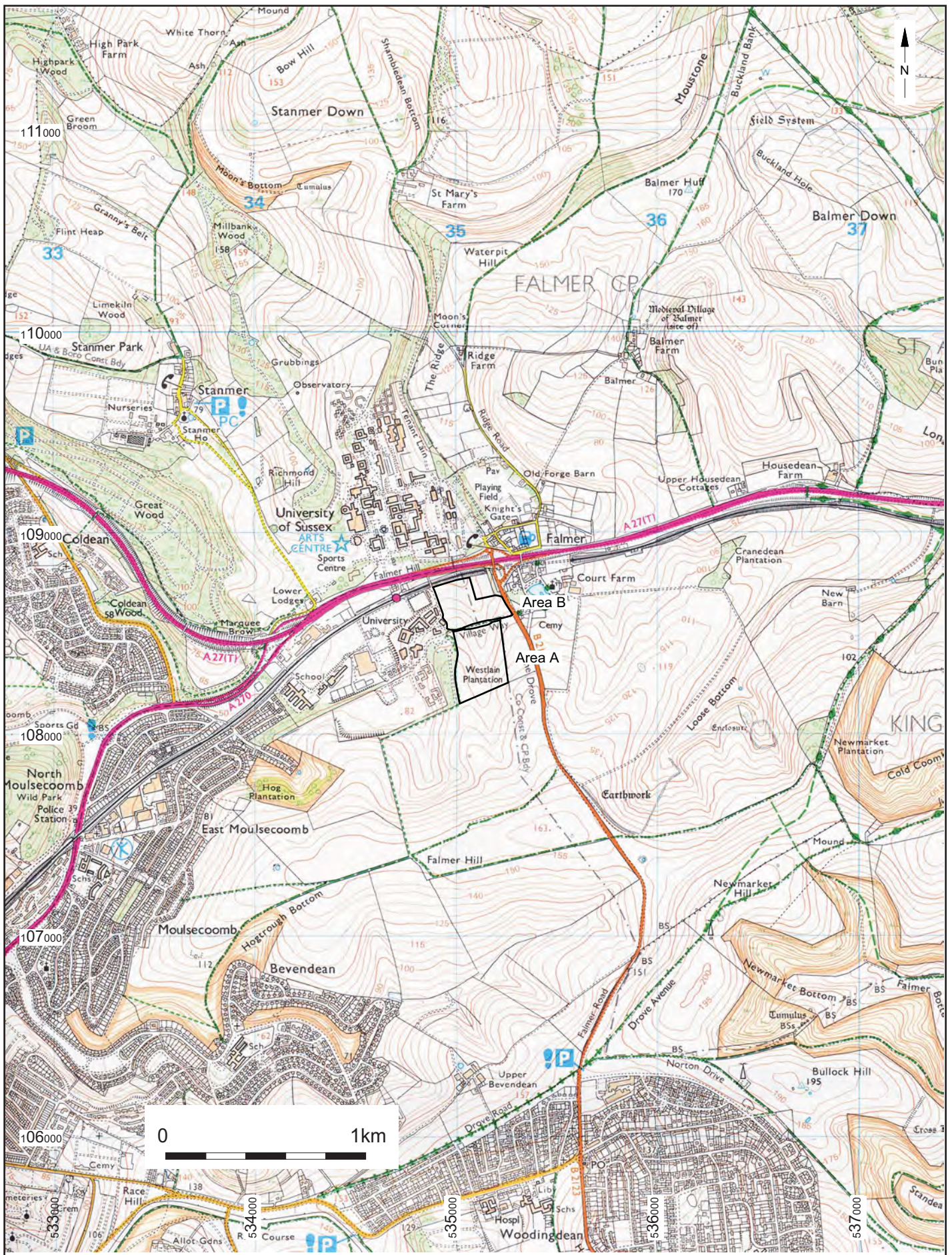
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Map','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Report','Survey '

Project bibliography

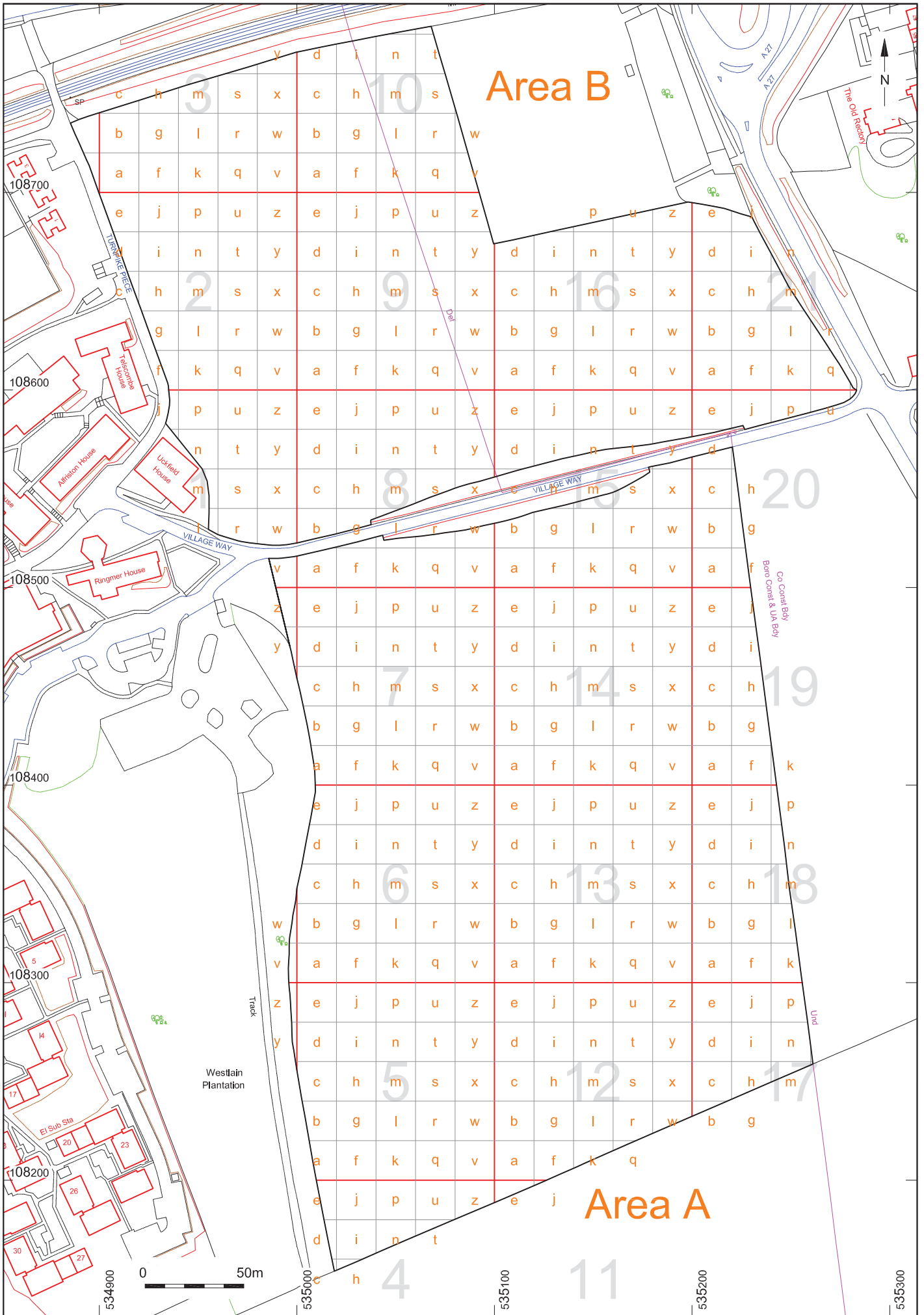
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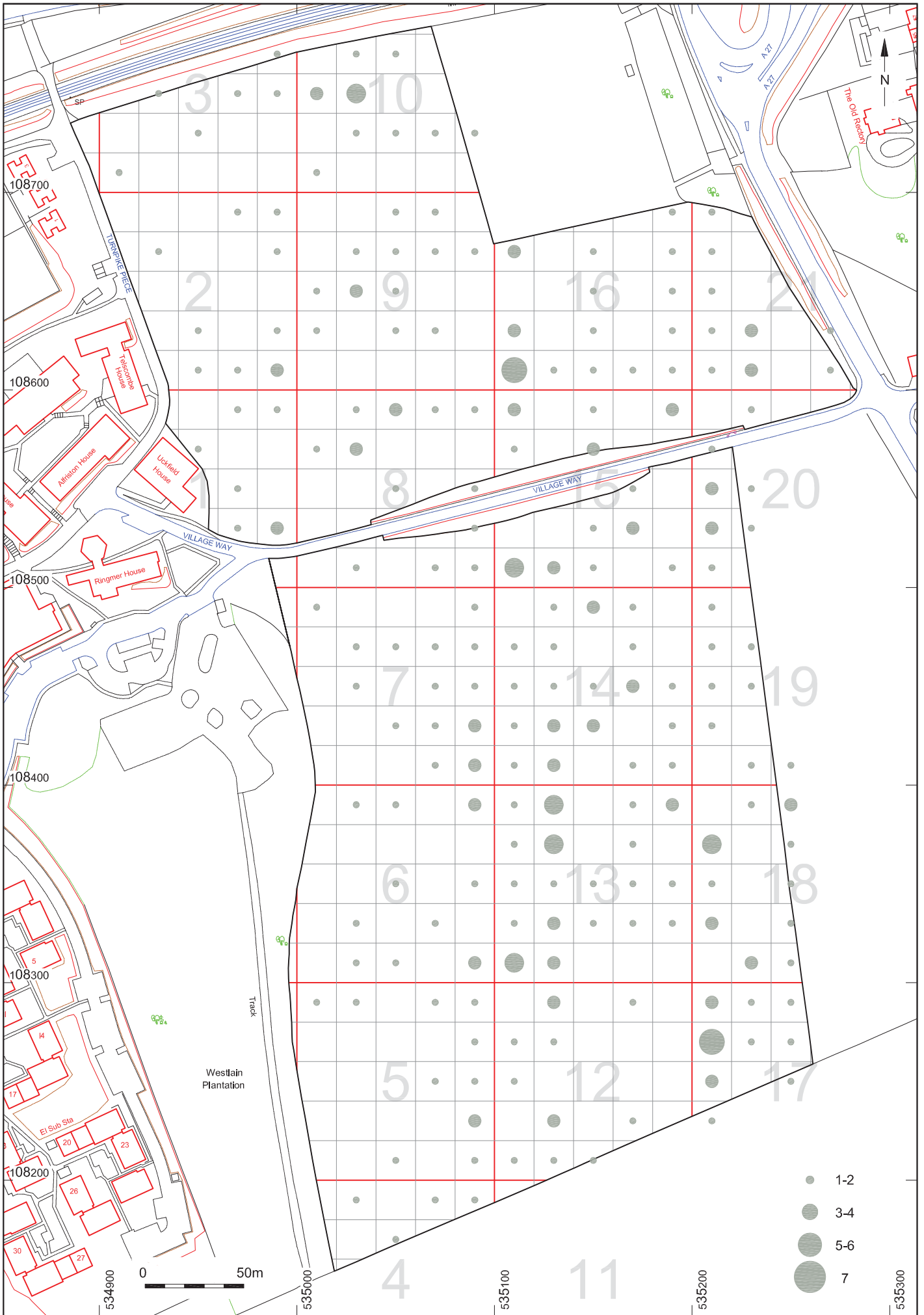
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Description	Standard ASE Client Report: A4-sized with cover logo.



© Archaeology South-East		Community Stadium, Brighton	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3611	Oct 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008186	Drawn by: JLR		

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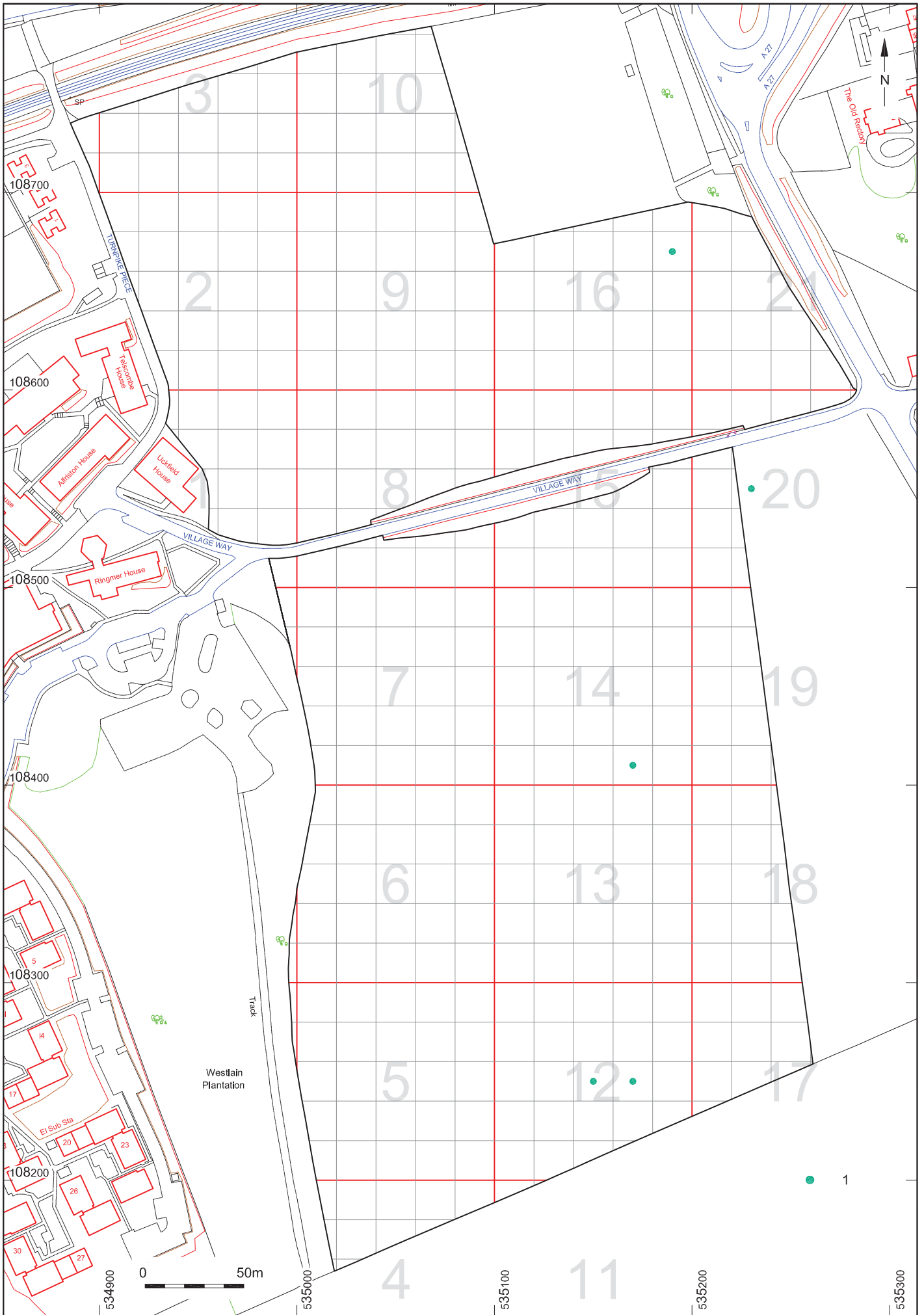




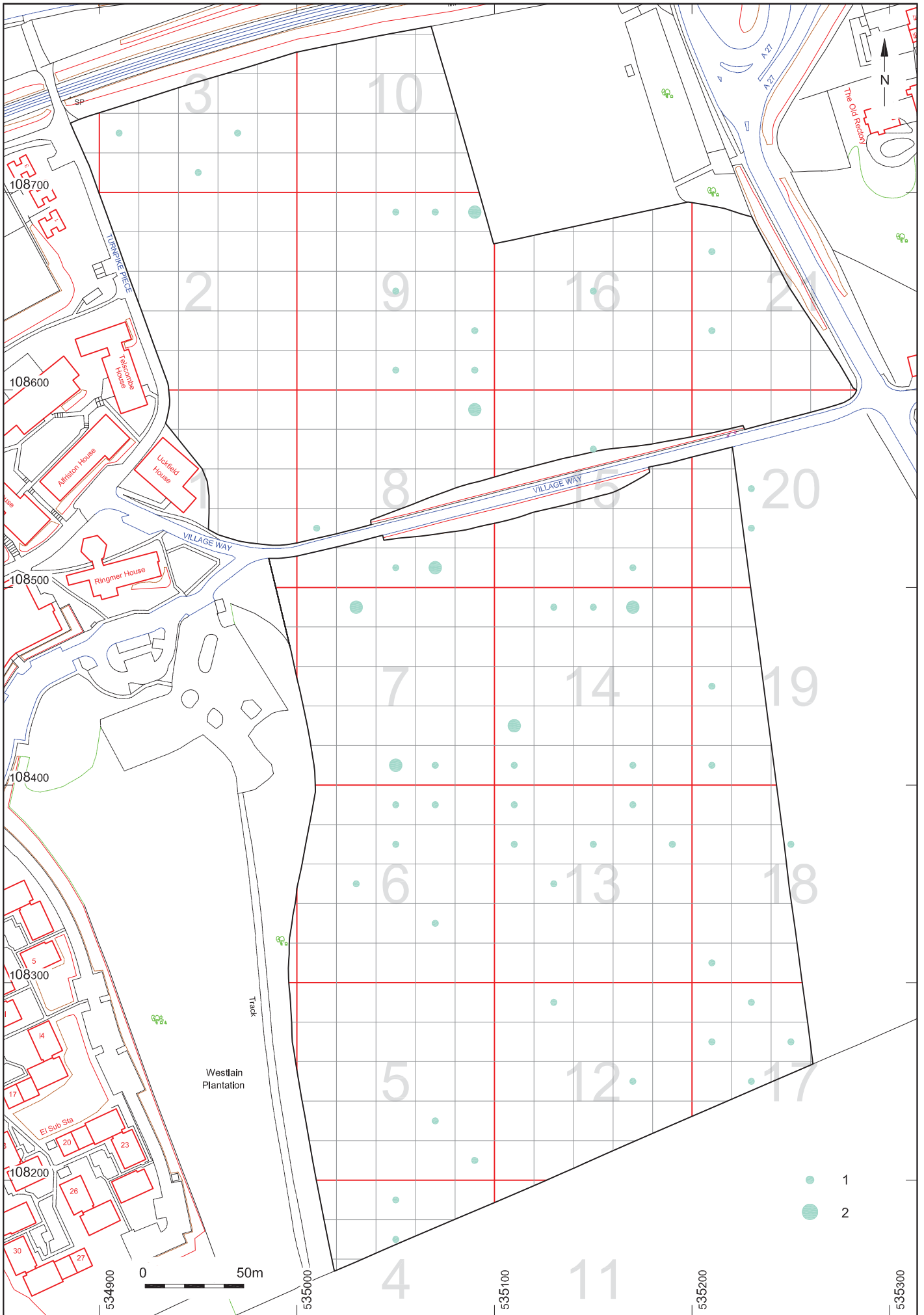
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Project Ref: 3611	Oct 2008	Distribution of Worked Flint	
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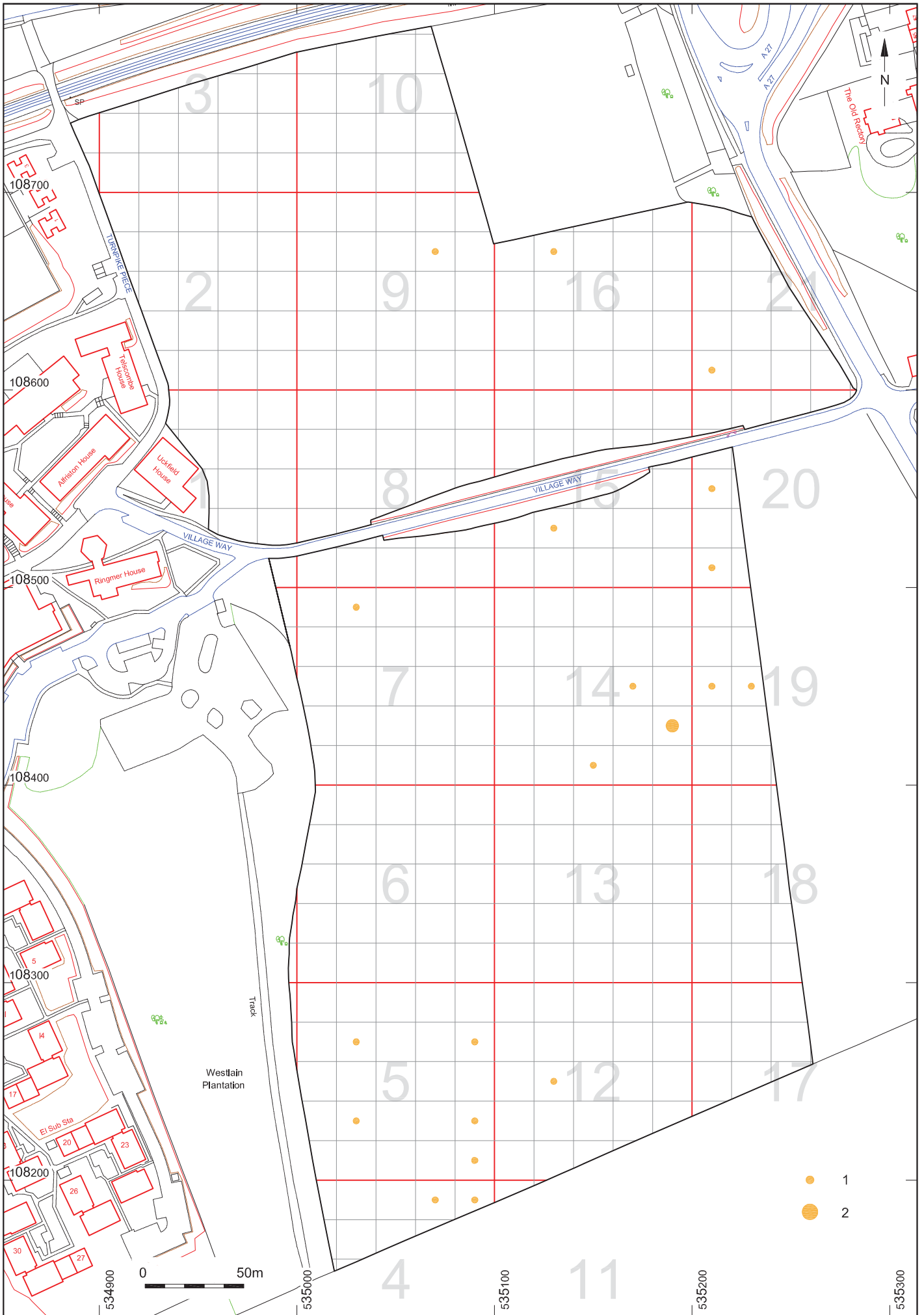
© Archaeology South-East		Community Stadium, Brighton	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 3611	Oct 2008	Distribution of Fire-cracked Flint	
Report Ref: 2008186	Drawn by: JLR		



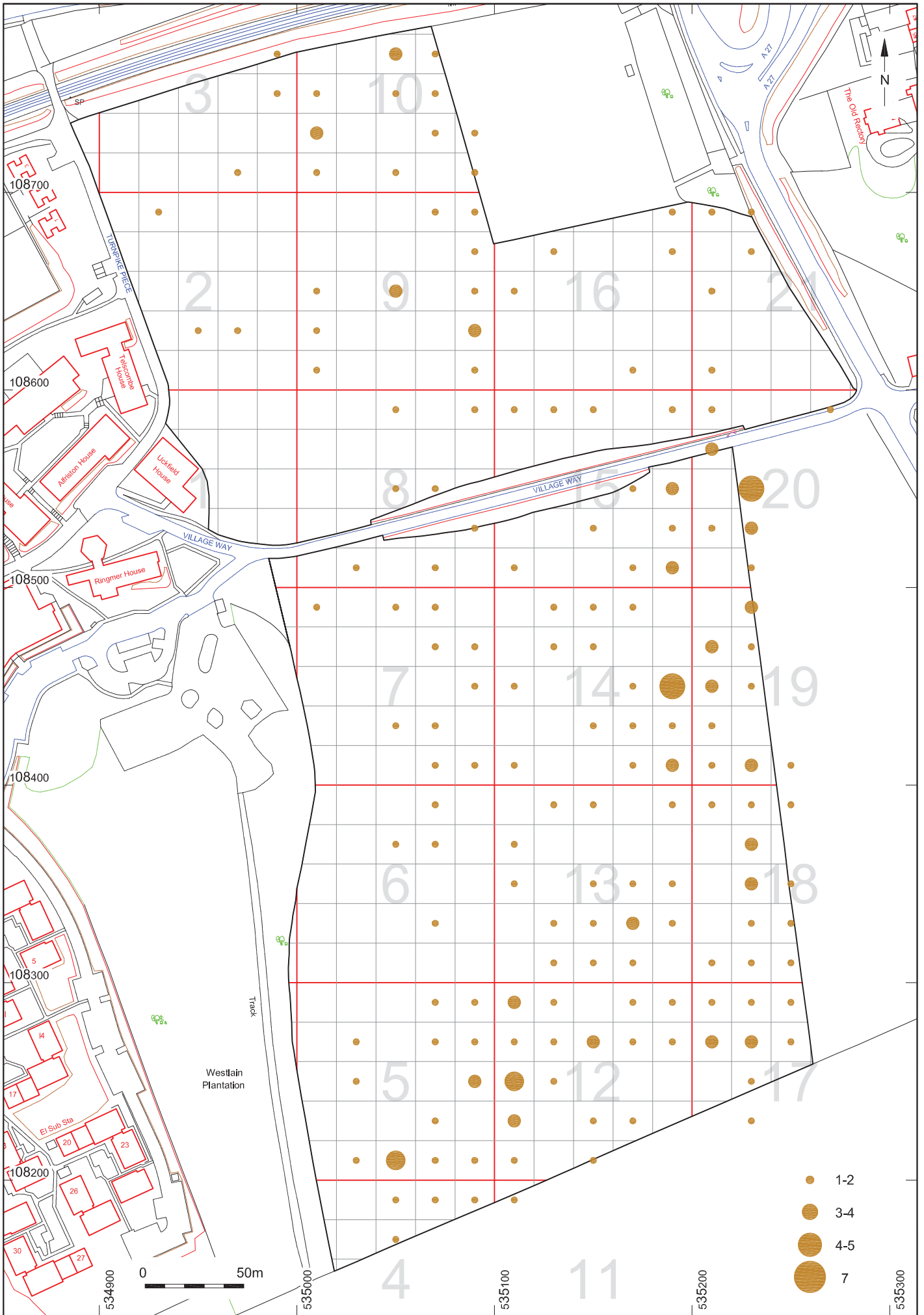
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Project Ref: 3611	Oct 2008	Distribution of Post-Medieval Pottery	
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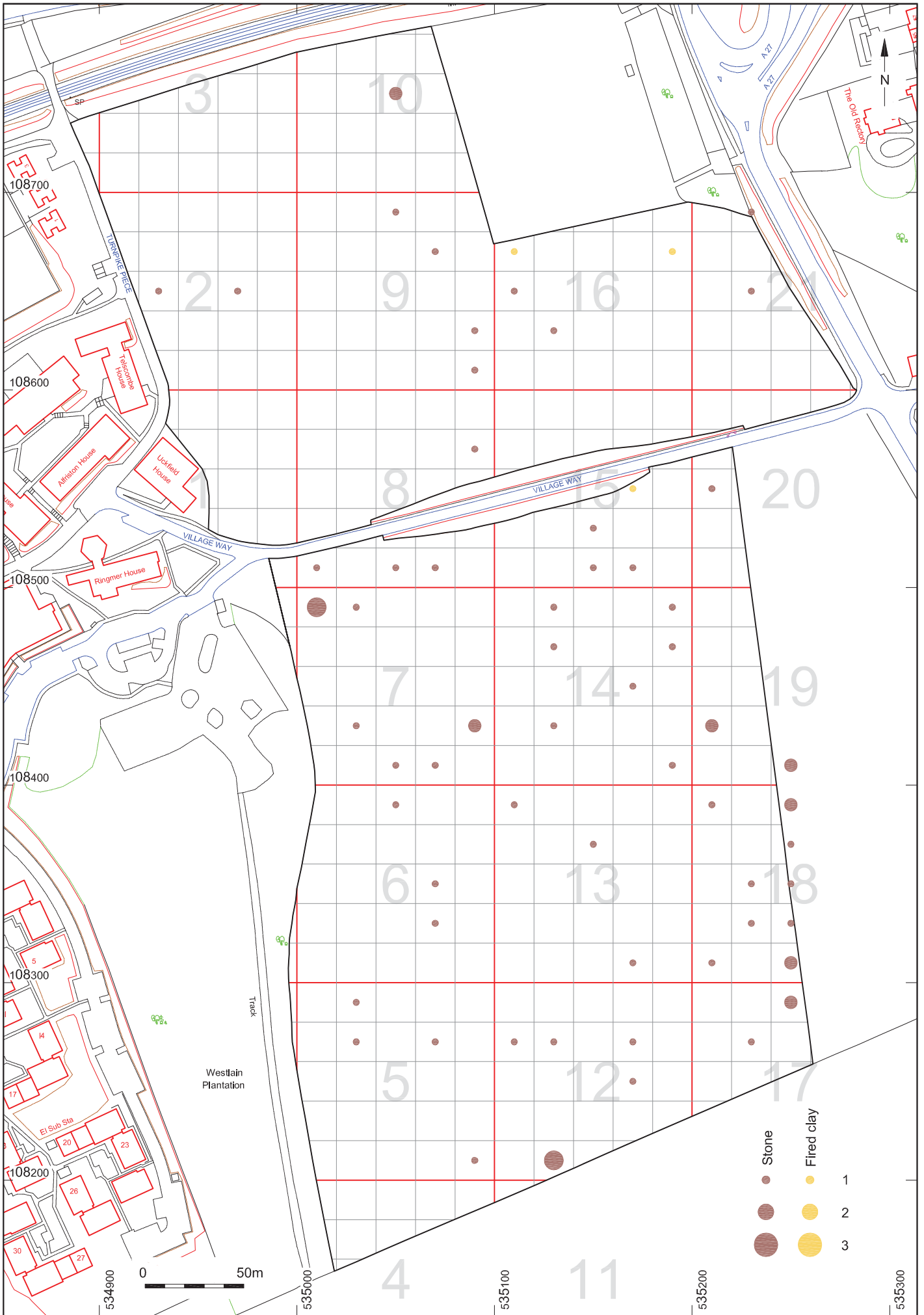
© Archaeology South-East		Community Stadium, Brighton	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 3611	Oct 2008	Distribution of Medieval CBM	
Report Ref: 2008186	Drawn by: JLR		



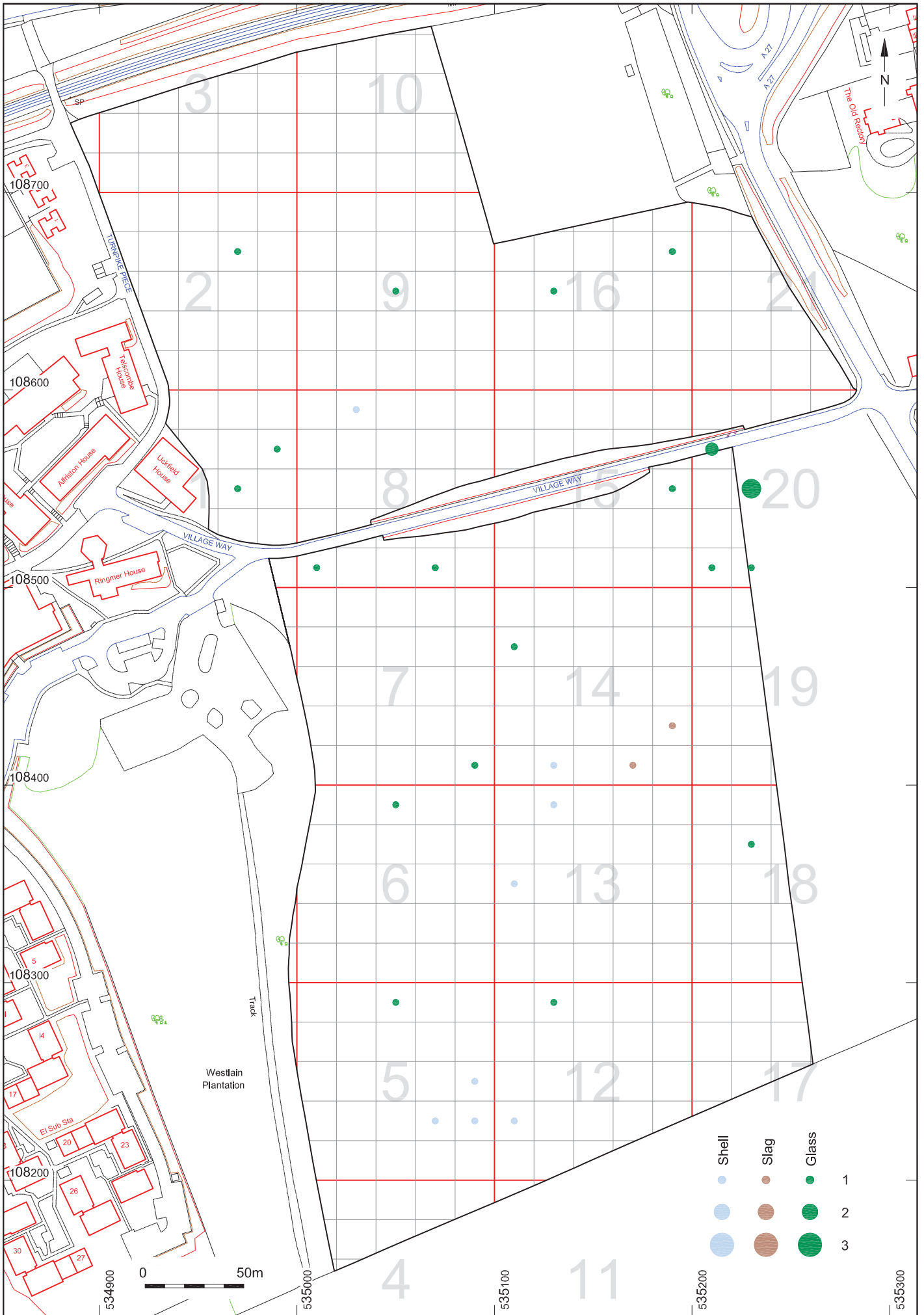
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Project Ref: 3611	Oct 2008	Distribution of Post-Medieval CBM	
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Project Ref: 3611	Oct 2008	Distribution of Fe and Cu	
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Project Ref: 3611	Oct 2008	Distribution of Stone and Fired Clay		
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