



**Chris Butler MfA
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**A Desk-based Assessment
at
Land South of Boxal Bridge,
Kirdford Road,
Wisborough Green, West Sussex**

Project No. CBAS0358

**By
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March 2013

Summary

An archaeological Desk-based Assessment has been carried out at Land South of Boxal Bridge, Kirdford Road, Wisborough Green, West Sussex in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be affected by a proposed compound for an oil well.

The assessment has established that the Application Site has a moderate potential for containing archaeological remains associated with a hollow way of possible Saxon and medieval date and with Post Medieval farming. There is a low potential for the Site to produce material of an earlier date, as the Low Weald was exploited for its resources rather than settled during the prehistoric and Roman periods.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd has been commissioned by Celtique Energie Weald Ltd (The Client) to carry out an archaeological Desk-based Assessment at Land South of Boxal Bridge, Kirdford Road, Wisborough Green, West Sussex (Fig. 1) in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed compound for an oil well and its new access track (Fig. 2).
- 1.2** The proposed compound (thereafter, the Proposed Site) is a rectangular piece of land located in the northeast corner of a large arable field, to the northwest of Wisborough Green village in the Low Weald, and is centred at TQ 03718 26728. It lies between 15m and 21m OD, on the gentle north-facing slope of a large low-lying hill. Although open to its north, south and east sides; the Proposed Site is bound to its west by a protruding piece of Northup Copse. To its north, the hill slopes down to a strip of woodland that fronts onto Boxal Brook.
- 1.3** From the farm gate on Kirdford Road, the Access Track will skirt around the field edge, clipping two spoil heaps sited to the west of a barn, before reaching the southwest corner of the Proposed Site. The Access Track lies at a height of 18m-20m OD.
- 1.4** According to the British Geological Survey¹, the geology of the Application Site comprises the mudstone and sandstone of the Weald Clay Formation, with a localised outcrop of sand and gravel of the Arun Terrace Deposits overlying the mudstone. Alluvium has built up over the mudstone beside Boxal Brook.
- 1.5** There are no Scheduled Monuments designated within a 1km radius of the Proposed Site centre. Wisborough Green Conservation Area begins directly outside this area, whilst there are only four Listed Buildings within its perimeter. All are Grade II Listed. The closest Listed Building to the Application Site is Skiff Farmhouse, an 18th century or earlier building which stands c.350m to the east on Kirdford Road. Two of the Listed Buildings stand at Sparr Farm on Skiff Lane, c.650m to the northeast of the Proposed Site: Sparr Farmhouse is of 17th century construction or earlier whilst its barn dates to the 18th century. Barkfold House is the fourth Listed Building. Although built in the early 19th century at the wide bend in Kirdford Road to the west of the Application Site, it incorporates an L-shaped portion that dates to the 17th century.

¹ http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

- 1.6** There are several woods within a 1km radius of the Site centre - including the parcels of Northup Copse to the west, north and east of the Proposed Site - which have been designated as Ancient Woodland² and so have stood since at least 1600.
- 1.7** This Desk-based Assessment initially covers the objectives and scope of the report, then discusses the methodology used in the survey, followed by a review of the archaeological and historical assets of the immediate area. Before a conclusion is drawn together, former impacts upon any potential archaeology within the Application Site are assessed, as is the possible archaeological impact of the proposed development.

² <http://sxbrc.org.uk/projects/revised-ancient-woodland-inventory/>

2. Objectives & Scope of Report

- 2.1** The objective of this report is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource of the Application Site and its immediate area. This will include information relating to the presence or absence of any archaeology, its character, extent, date, integrity and state of preservation, and the relative quality of the potential archaeological resource.
- 2.2** This will allow an assessment of the merit of the archaeology in context to be made, leading to the formulation of a strategy for the recording, preservation and management of the resource or, where necessary, the formulation of a strategy for further investigation where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be defined.
- 2.3** The report will consider the archaeological resource within a 1km radius around the Proposed Site centre (hereafter, called the Study Area), whilst also taking into account sites further afield where these may be considered to have an impact or relevance to the Application Site in its landscape setting.
- 2.4** It should be noted that this report can only take into account the existing known archaeology, and by its nature cannot provide a complete record of the archaeological resource of the Application Site. Its intention is to provide an overview of the known archaeology in the Study Area, from which judgements can be made about the potential archaeological resource of the Application Site itself.

3. Methodology

3.1 This Desk-based Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012); the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (Institute for Archaeologists 2012); and West Sussex County Council's *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation Work* (version dated February 2007).

3.2 The research for this Desk-based Assessment has included an analysis of the following resources:

- Chichester District Historic Environment Record (HER)
- PastScape (formerly part of the National Monuments Record or NMR)
- The National Heritage List for England (a list of all nationally designated heritage assets)
- Portable Antiquities Scheme database
- Defence of Britain database
- Historic mapping
- West Sussex Record Office (WSRO)
- Personal library resources
- British Geological Survey
- NMR aerial photographs

3.3 The following maps were used:

- Speed (1610; not informative)
- Morden (1695; not informative)
- Kitchin (1750 and 1763; not informative)
- Bowen (1756; not informative)
- Yeakell and Gardiner (1778-1783; not informative)
- Map of Barkfold, Dounhurst and Idehurst Farms in Kirdford and Wisborough Green, c.1800 (WSRO Add Mss 2055)
- Cole (1808; not informative)
- Cooper (1808; not informative)
- Moule (1837; not informative)
- Dugdale (c.1840; not informative)
- 1842 Wisborough Green Tithe map (WSRO TD W149)
- 1847 Kirdford Tithe map (WSRO TD W74)
- 1st Edition OS map (1876)
- 2nd Edition OS map (1897)
- 3rd Edition OS map (1911)
- Later OS Maps

Information gained from the map regression exercise is contained in Section 4.9 on the Post Medieval period.

- 3.4** The Monuments recorded on the HER are listed in Appendix 1 to this report and are shown on Fig. 3. They are mentioned in the text where relevant. Historical and other sources are given as footnotes as appropriate.
- 3.5** A total of ten vertical aerial photographs held at the NMR were inspected (see Appendix 2). They help to provide additional information with regard to changes in the local landscape between 1947 and 1993.
- 3.6** A site visit was undertaken on 22nd February 2013. From the farm gate on Kirdford Road, a hard surfaced track curves around the edge of a large field and past two spoil heaps adjacent to a barn and a chalk spoil heap (Plate 1). At the first bend in the track, in front of the gate, the Access Track will continue straight on to clip the two spoil heaps and re-join the track in front of the barn. At this point, the existing track becomes a dirt track that leads to the Proposed Site entrance at the southern tip of a protruding piece of woodland. This woodland is designated as Ancient and is part of Northup Copse. The Access Track lies on flat even ground. The land beside it, within the west half of the field, looks to be under a winter crop.
- 3.7** The Proposed Site (Cover Plate and Plate 2) and the remaining east half of the field are not so obviously under crop. The land within the northeast corner of the field slopes gently downslope to the north to a hedgerow that fronts a belt of woodland and Boxal Brook. A wide grass verge and the dirt track run around the edge of this land. Although the Proposed Site runs up to Northup Copse to the west, it does not extend as far downhill as the track.



Plate 1: The Access Track; looking southeast



Plate 2: The Proposed Site;
looking east



Plate 3: The hollow-way;
looking southwest



Plate 4: The west edge of the
Proposed Site, defined by
Northrup Copse and a
double-banked ditch;
looking southwest

- 3.8** The protruding piece of Northup Copse runs the length of a substantial hollow-way that opens up to Boxal Brook, and could represent an early passing point across the stream (Plate 3). Although the hollow-way is enclosed elsewhere by a single or double bank (Plate 4), these features may be associated with later land clearance for arable farming. The trees within the hollow-way include holly, which may have been planted for use as ‘on the move’ fodder. Coppiced hazel is also present, revealing that this wood has been managed in the past.
- 3.9** No track is recorded at this location on any historic map. However, a linear feature is seen on a satellite image (but no aerial photograph) to run northeast to meet the south end of the hollow-way. This linear could define a track, as it is not known to represent a grubbed out field boundary.
- 3.10** A concrete slab, inscribed with the letters ‘WHC’, stands bolted into the top of the bank, close to the northwest corner of the Proposed Site (Plate 5). As it perhaps relates to water management, it may imply the presence of drains nearby.



Plate 5: Possible indication of water management;
looking southeast

4. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 4.0.1 This section considers each archaeological period in turn, reviewing the known archaeological resource of the Study Area, defining its location and extent, character, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality.
- 4.0.2 No archaeological interventions are recorded by the HER as having taken place within the Study Area.
- 4.0.3 The review of each period will also bring in evidence from a wider area, especially where there is little known archaeological evidence locally. This will enable a more accurate judgement to be made about the archaeological potential of the Application Site. This evidence will include that taken from similar landscapes and geologies.

4.1 *Palaeolithic Period (750,000BC to 10,000BC)*

- 4.1.1 This period covers a huge expanse of time, during which early hominid occupation of Southern Britain was intermittent. The period is divided into warm and cold periods, with the evidence suggesting that hominid occupation occurred during some of the warm periods. Apart from a small number of exceptional sites (e.g. Boxgrove), most of the evidence for human activity in this period comes from isolated finds of stone tools, often in secondary deposits.
- 4.1.2 No Palaeolithic artefacts have been found within the Study Area. The closest Palaeolithic findspot is sited to the east beside the River Arun³. A flint knife of probable Palaeolithic date (CD1900) was discovered to the north in Loxwood village in 1956. The Weald has only a handful of Palaeolithic finds⁴. Such discoveries in Sussex are normally associated with the raised beaches of the Coastal Plain and also probably the gravel deposits in the river valleys⁵.
- 4.1.3 Although the Proposed Site contains an outcrop of river terrace gravel, the absence of any nearby finds suggests that there is still a low likelihood of finding Palaeolithic material within the Application Site.

³ Woodcock, A. 1999. 'Earliest Inhabitants', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 10-11.

⁴ Pope, M. 2003. 'The Earliest Occupation of Sussex: Recent Research and Future Objectives', in Rudling, D. (Ed.), *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*. Kings Lynn: Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 17-28, Fig. 2.8.

⁵ Woodcock, A. 1999. 'Earliest Inhabitants', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 10-11.

4.2 Mesolithic Period (10,000BC to 4,000BC)

- 4.2.1 The start of the Mesolithic period saw Britain largely covered by pine and birch woodland, which was gradually replaced by a mixed deciduous woodland that provided an ideal environment for the bands of hunter-gatherers who exploited the resources on a seasonal basis⁶.
- 4.2.2 There is little evidence for Mesolithic activity within the Study Area, with a single Mesolithic axe having been found at Dunhurst Farm to the north of the site⁷. Two Mesolithic flint scatters have been discovered to the south of the Study Area, close to the Petworth - Wisborough Green road (the A272)⁸. The next nearest Mesolithic findspots are sited c.5km from the Proposed Site⁹: nine unretouched blades / flakes were recovered from a field beside the River Arun near Tisman's Common to the northeast, whilst 12 microliths and five microburins came from the general area around Bedham to the southwest. The Low Weald only contains the odd flint scatter, indicative of the limited exploitation of its woodland resources¹⁰.
- 4.2.3 With few Mesolithic sites known from the Study Area and its immediate surroundings, the Application Site is unlikely to contain finds or features of this date.

4.3 Neolithic Period (4,000BC to 2,500BC)

- 4.3.1 A number of changes occurred during the Neolithic, with environmental evidence suggesting that some woodland was being cleared for small-scale agricultural activities. However, the Low Weald has a sparse distribution of stone axes, including one axe each from the Billingshurst and Bedham areas¹¹, and these finds are most likely to represent the occasional exploitation of a landscape still dominated by woodland, rather than reflect any settlement or agriculture.

⁶ Holgate, R. 2003. 'Late Glacial and Post-glacial Hunter-gatherers in Sussex', in Rudling, D. (Ed.), *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*. Kings Lynn: Heritage Marketing and Publications Ltd, 29-38.

⁷ Wymer, J.J. 1977 *Gazetteer of Mesolithic Sites in England and Wales*, CBA Research Report 22

⁸ Drewett, P. 1999. 'Later Hunters and Gatherers', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 14-15.

⁹ Wymer, J.J. (Ed.) 1977. *Gazetteer of Mesolithic Sites in England and Wales*. Research Report 22. The Council for British Archaeology.

¹⁰ Drewett, P. 1999. 'Later Hunters and Gatherers', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 14-15.

¹¹ Drewett, P. 1999. 'First Farming Communities and Communal Monuments', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 16-17.

4.3.2 Other changes in the earlier part of the Neolithic period include the construction of large-scale monuments and the first industrial activity. As all causewayed enclosures, burial mounds and flint mines in Sussex are sited on the South Downs¹², this would again imply that many Neolithic settlements were established well away from the Low Weald.

4.3.3 Given that this region is likely to have been largely exploited during the Neolithic period, there is a low possibility that Neolithic remains will be recovered from the Application Site.

4.4 *The Bronze Age (2500BC to 800BC)*

4.4.1 The Bronze Age saw continued clearance of the woodland in the Weald. However, as this region has little evidence for complete clearance or widespread agriculture, hunting presumably continued in parallel with farming¹³. There are no known settlement sites, transitory camps or even single finds of bronze flat axes from the Sussex Low Weald¹⁴, other than the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age settlement at America Wood sited between the Arun and Adur¹⁵. In contrast, there is extensive evidence that the South Downs and Coastal Plain were densely populated by small farming settlements in the Middle and Late Bronze Age.

4.4.2 As there is no archaeological evidence that the Study Area was even exploited in the Bronze Age, it is doubtful that groundwork at the Application Site will uncover material of Bronze Age date.

4.5 *The Iron Age (800BC to 43AD)*

4.5.1 Rather than arable cultivation, farming in the Low Weald during the Iron Age may have comprised the grazing of livestock in the field systems of enclosed farms, as seen in the High Weald at Kings Standing on the Ashdown Forest¹⁶, for instance.

4.5.2 One major feature of the Iron Age is the hillfort. Many hillforts appear to have originated in the Late Bronze Age, with some having become important centres of control and redistribution in the Middle and Late Iron Age. However, hillforts only

¹² Drewett, P. 1999. 'First Farming Communities and Communal Monuments', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 16-17.

¹³ Gardiner, M. 1990. 'The Archaeology of the Weald - A Survey and a Review', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **128**, 33-53.

¹⁴ Greatorex, C. 1999. 'Emerging Hierarchies and the Rise of the Individual', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 18-19.

¹⁵ Hamilton, S. and Manley, J. 1999. 'Regional Traditions c.1000-100BC', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 20-21.

¹⁶ Margary, I.D. 1946. 'War Damage to Antiquities on Ashdown Forest', *Sussex Notes & Queries* **11**, 1-3.

began to be built in the Weald during the Middle Iron Age¹⁷, if not the Late Iron Age¹⁸. The closest hillfort to the Proposed Site is located c.6.5km to the northwest at Piper's Copse. Its sphere of influence may have extended into the Study Area.

- 4.5.3 The late appearance of hillforts in the Weald is believed to be associated with a more intensive exploitation of the region's iron sources¹⁹. The closest ironworking site of possible Iron Age date is an unexcavated bloomery at the Piper's Copse hillfort²⁰. It has been dated to the 1st century AD.
- 4.5.4 An Iron Age coin has been found in the area of Wisborough Green²¹. However, on considering the absence of Iron Age remains from the Study Area itself, features and finds of this date are unlikely to be exposed at the Application Site.

4.6 The Roman Period (43AD to 410AD)

- 4.6.1 The Roman invasion of Britain in 43AD resulted in dramatic changes to this island's social and economic environment²². It is likely that many of the rural farmsteads and associated field systems that were in existence in the Late Iron Age continued throughout the Roman period. Where they have been excavated elsewhere, they provide evidence for a mixed farming economy of crops and animal husbandry.
- 4.6.2 Villa's are unknown in the Weald, being almost entirely concentrated on the Sussex Coastal Plain and immediately to the north of the South Downs, or in North Kent. There is also little evidence for any larger settlements. It has been suggested that the Weald was set aside as an 'Imperial Estate' for iron working²³, which may explain its lack of villas and larger settlements. No ironworking site of Roman date has been identified near to the Study Area²⁴.
- 4.6.3 The Study Area has no archaeological representation of the Roman period and so the Application Site has low potential for containing Roman remains.

¹⁷ Hamilton, S. and Manley, J. 1999. 'Regional Traditions c.1000-100BC', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 20-21.

¹⁸ Hamilton, S. and Manley, J. 1999. 'The End of Prehistory c.100BC-AD43', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 22-23.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ <http://www.wirgdata.org>

²¹ Hamilton, S. and Manley, J. 1999. 'The End of Prehistory c.100BC-AD43', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 22-23.

²² Rudling, D. 2003. 'Roman Rural Settlement in Sussex: Continuity and Change', in Rudling, D. (Ed), *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd.

²³ Cleere, H. et al. 1995. *The Iron Industry in the Weald*. Cardiff: Merton Priory Press.

²⁴ <http://www.wirgdata.org>

4.7 The Saxon Period (410AD to 1066AD)

- 4.7.1 In the early Post-Roman period there was a change in the economy and land use, with many areas that had previously been cultivated reverting to woodland. The heavily wooded Weald remained an important area for the grazing of pigs and other animals²⁵.
- 4.7.2 With few Domesday settlements sited within the Low Weald²⁶, it is reasonable to assume that this region was just as poorly populated in the preceding Saxon period. A Saxon presence within and just beyond the Study Area is, however, evidenced in those place names that comprise at least one element in Old English. Barkfold Farm in the western fringes of the Study Area, Linfold Farm to its southwest, and Lowfold Farm to the south of Wisborough Green all suggest the use of livestock enclosures or pens in the Saxon period. Kirdford can be translated as ‘Cynethryth’s ford’ or ‘Cynered’s ford’, whilst the first element of Wisborough Green is Old English for ‘a marshy-meadow’²⁷.
- 4.7.3 The hollow-way to the west side of the Proposed Site may have originated in the Saxon period as a droveway used for the seasonal movement (or transhumance) of livestock to and from the Weald. A satellite image shows the possible continuation of the hollow-way as a wide linear feature that runs northeast from the west field boundary towards the Access Track. There is a moderate potential that the remains of this possible track will be found in the form of a soil-filled depression, for instance, where it is assumed to cross the Access Track to reach the holloway. Having perhaps been wooded, the rest of the Application Site may have been grazed during the Saxon period, which is unlikely to have left a trace in the archaeological record.

4.8 The Medieval Period (1066AD to 1500AD)

- 4.8.1 No places in Wisborough Green or its neighbouring parishes are mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086²⁸. Wisborough Green was granted the right of a market in 1227²⁹.

²⁵ Gardiner, M. 1990. ‘The Archaeology of the Weald - A Survey and a Review’, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **128**, 33-53.

²⁶ Morris, J. (Ed.), 1976. *Domesday Book: Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd.

²⁷ <http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/county/Sussex>

²⁸ Morris, J. (Ed.), 1976. *Domesday Book: Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd.

²⁹ Bleach, J. and Gardiner, M. 1999. ‘Medieval Markets and Ports’, in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 42-43.

- 4.8.2 In the medieval period, the Low Weald was a region of moderate fertility, with wheat and oat having been grown and flocks of sheep and some cattle having been kept³⁰. Sparr Farm (CD9531), sited c.650m to the northeast of the Proposed Site, is medieval in origin. It has since been reduced to less than half its former size.
- 4.8.3 There is no known medieval ironworking site within a 6km radius of the Proposed Site centre³¹. Glass production in the medieval period was limited to the small-scale production of forest glass for window glass and vessels, and took place predominantly in the Weald³².
- 4.8.4 The use of the Application Site during the medieval period is unknown. It may have been managed woodland, wood pasture or open farmland, all of which may leave archaeological evidence. As the droveway may have continued in use, the Access Track has a moderate potential for the discovery of associated medieval remains.

4.9 *The Post Medieval Period (1500AD to the Present Day)*

- 4.9.1 Two glass working sites (CD2861 and CD2838) are located within the Study Area. The remains of a glass furnace (CD2861) are sited just within the northwest corner of Idehurst Copse, in the southern fringes of the Study Area. Scientific analysis of the glass from the site revealed that forest glass was being produced here before the arrival of John Carré, the French glassmaker, in 1567.
- 4.9.2 A 'Glasshouse Field' (CD2838) was recorded in the 17th century deeds for Sparr Farm (CD9531). Other than the glass furnace waste used as metalling for the old farmyard, no evidence for this glass works has been found within the field and its adjacent lands beside the northeast boundary of the Study Area.
- 4.9.3 In 1602, an iron furnace (CD2855) was working on Boxal Brook c.550 to the west of the Application Site entrance. At this site, there is a 60m long pond bay with a depression below it that may represent the wheel pit. A large mound of slag extends from the pond bay along the north side of the brook. The 1st Edition OS map of 1876 shows a possible pond bay (CD8149) in Idehurst Copse, to the southeast of the glassworks (CD2861).
- 4.9.4 Sparr Farmhouse (CD5875) was constructed in the 17th century, if not earlier. Skiff Farm (CD9532), sited c.350m to the east of the Proposed Site, and Barkfold House, located c.800m to the southwest of the Appraisal Site entrance, were both built on

³⁰ Gardiner, M. 1999. 'The Medieval Rural Economy and Landscape', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 38-39.

³¹ <http://www.wirgdata.org>

³² Kenyon, G.H. 1967. *The Glass Industry of the Weald*. Leicester: Leicester University Press.

Kirdford Road in the 17th century. Skiff Farmhouse (CD7546) and the barn (CD7248) at Sparr Farm (CD9531) are of 18th century construction.

- 4.9.5 A map of c.1800 shows that the Proposed Site lay largely within ‘The Hook Field’ (Plot 33), whilst Plot 32 to its south was ‘The Barn Field’ and Plot 36 to its east was ‘The Geoff’s Meadow’. Northup Copse extended into the very west end of the Proposed Site; it had no plot number. The field with the Site access was ‘Geoff’s Lag’ (Plot 31). These four plots were part of Idehurst Farm and along with the wood, remained the same in plan in 1847 (Fig. 4).
- 4.9.6 The 1847 Tithe map and apportionment for Kirdford parish (Fig. 4) record that the Proposed Site lay mostly within an arable field (Plot 1434), which was ‘Part of Old Fifteen Acres’, whilst its extreme west end was sited within ‘Ten Acre Copse’ (Plot 1433). The north side of the arable field defined the parish boundary between Kirdford and Wisborough Green (Fig. 5). The Access Track ran through an arable field (Plot 1452) called ‘Ten Acres’. Richard Hasler owned all three plots, with the two fields having been tenanted out to Charles Older.
- 4.9.7 The Tithe map shows an L-shaped building (CD9691) and yard (Plot 1431) to stand between two fields (Plots 1430 and 1432), c.150m to the west of the Application Site entrance; this building is called ‘Boxalbrook Barn’ on the 1st Edition OS map of 1876 (Fig. 6). The occasional house is seen on the Tithe map to stand on Kirdford Road to the southeast of Skiff Farm (CD9532). There is a triangular area of open land with a pond sited beside Skiff Farm at the Kirdford Road / Skiff Lane junction. It was known as Skiff Common in 1876.
- 4.9.8 By 1876 (Fig. 6), a field boundary had been removed to amalgamate the field containing the Proposed Site with the field to its south. This process of field enlargement had also taken place to the immediate west and south. This 1st Edition OS map depicts settlement within the fringes of the Study Area: crofts to the southwest; Barkfold Farm (CD9651) and Barkfold House in its park setting (CD2866) to the west; and Chandler’s Barn (CD9690) and Hookhurst Farm (CD9515) to the north.
- 4.9.9 A limekiln (CD2876) is marked on the 1st Edition OS map on the roadside opposite the Application Site entrance. ‘Kiln Copse’ is named to the east of Barkfold Farm (CD9651). Its place name suggests that a kiln (CD8137) operated nearby, which the HER believes was a limekiln on the basis of its topographical and geological location.
- 4.9.10 There was no change to the field with the Proposed Site by 1897, the time of the 2nd Edition OS map, although further hedgerows had been grubbed out to enlarge the field containing the Access Track. There was no change by the 3rd Edition OS map of 1911. The aerial photographs show a building compound to have stood at the Application Site entrance in 1947, but which had disappeared by 1959.

- 4.9.11 As clearly seen from an aerial photograph, the Application Site fell within the one field by 1973 (see Fig. 7 for the 1972-1975 OS map). Boxalbrook Barn had been demolished by this time. The large arable field present today on the hill was created sometime after 1973, as was the barn and its access track. The aerial photographs show the Application Site to have been arable between 1947 and 1993, as it is today.
- 4.9.12 The Post Medieval use of the Application Site prior to 1847 is unknown. Whereas the Proposed Site has been part of a larger field since at least 1847, the remains of a 19th century or earlier field boundary may be discovered running through the Access Track up to the southern tip of the protruding piece of Northup Copse. Further features associated with farming may include drainage ditches or drains, and a scatter of pottery sherds indicative of manuring. The Application Site, therefore, has moderate potential for containing Post Medieval remains.

5. Impact of Development

- 5.1** This Desk-based Assessment has established that the Study Area may not have been settled on a permanent basis until the medieval period, when farming is known to have occurred at Sparr Farm. Prior to this, there is no archaeological evidence that the Study Area was even exploited in the prehistoric and Roman periods, presumably because the Low Weald was heavily wooded and inhospitable at the time. Place name evidence and the presence of a hollow-way beside the Proposed Site may imply that livestock were driven through the Access Track to a crossing over Boxal Brook in the Saxon period. This crossing possibly fell out of use when farming became the principal land use and / or when the Kirdford Road was built across the stream. The Application Site has been under arable cultivation since at least 1847.
- 5.2** Any potential archaeological remains within the Application Site are likely to have been impacted by successive years of ploughing, especially with the introduction of the mechanised tractor in the 20th century. The planting of a hedgerow through the route of the Access Track, and the excavation of any associated ditch, may have damaged any remains of the droveway leading to the holloway.
- 5.3** Given the evidence accumulated during this Desk-based Assessment, the probability of finding remains from each of the different archaeological periods is shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Period	Potential
Palaeolithic	Low
Mesolithic	Low
Neolithic	Low
Bronze Age	Low
Iron Age	Low
Roman	Low
Saxon	Moderate
Medieval	Moderate
Post Medieval	Moderate

- 5.4** The proposed development will involve the construction of a large bunded compound and access track (Fig. 2). Groundwork for the compound will comprise cutting into the upper slope of the Proposed Site by 0.9m - 1.25m and using the spoil to build up the lower slope by 0.6m - 0.75m (Fig. 8). The cut will destroy most if not all deep-seated archaeological remains within its footprint, whilst the build-up will provide a protective buffer for any archaeological deposits present beneath it. The excavation of the cellar for the drilling of the well should have no additional harmful effect.

- 5.5** Topsoil stripping of the Application Site and any further levelling works within the Proposed Site, such as for the parking area, may also cut into the natural deposit where the overburden is shallow. The driveway and any other underlying archaeological features may, therefore, be at risk from machine rutting, truncation or even total destruction.
- 5.6** There are no Scheduled Monuments designated within the Study Area. Those few Listed Buildings that stand within the Study Area have no inter-visibility with the Application Site.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1** This Desk-based Assessment has established that the Application Site has a moderate potential for containing archaeological remains associated with a hollow-way of possible Saxon and medieval date and with Post Medieval farming. There is a low potential for the Site to produce material of an earlier date, as the Low Weald was exploited rather than settled during the prehistoric and Roman periods.
- 6.2** Although ploughing may have destroyed any shallow archaeological features located within the Application Site, deeper deposits may still survive. Satellite imagery shows a possible driveway to cross the arable field towards the hollow-way, thereby implying that archaeological preservation below the ground is good.
- 6.3** As little is known of the Study Area, it would benefit from its first programme of archaeological investigation. A geophysical survey would help to clarify the presence of archaeological remains within the Application Site. A subsequent evaluation excavation would enable decisions to be made regarding the mitigation strategy for either in-situ preservation of the archaeology or its preservation by record in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 6.4** The Proposed Site is to back onto Ancient Woodland and so care should be taken not to damage any earthworks associated with this historically important landscape feature.

7. Acknowledgements

- 7.1** I would like to thank Celtique Energie Weald Ltd for commissioning this Desk-based Assessment and their Planning Officer, Jenny Massingham, for providing information of the proposed development and for arranging Site access. Thanks are extended to the staff of West Sussex Record Office. James Kenny, Archaeology Officer at Chichester District Council, provided copies of the Chichester District HER.



Fig. 1: Land South of Boxal Bridge, Wisborough Green: Location plan
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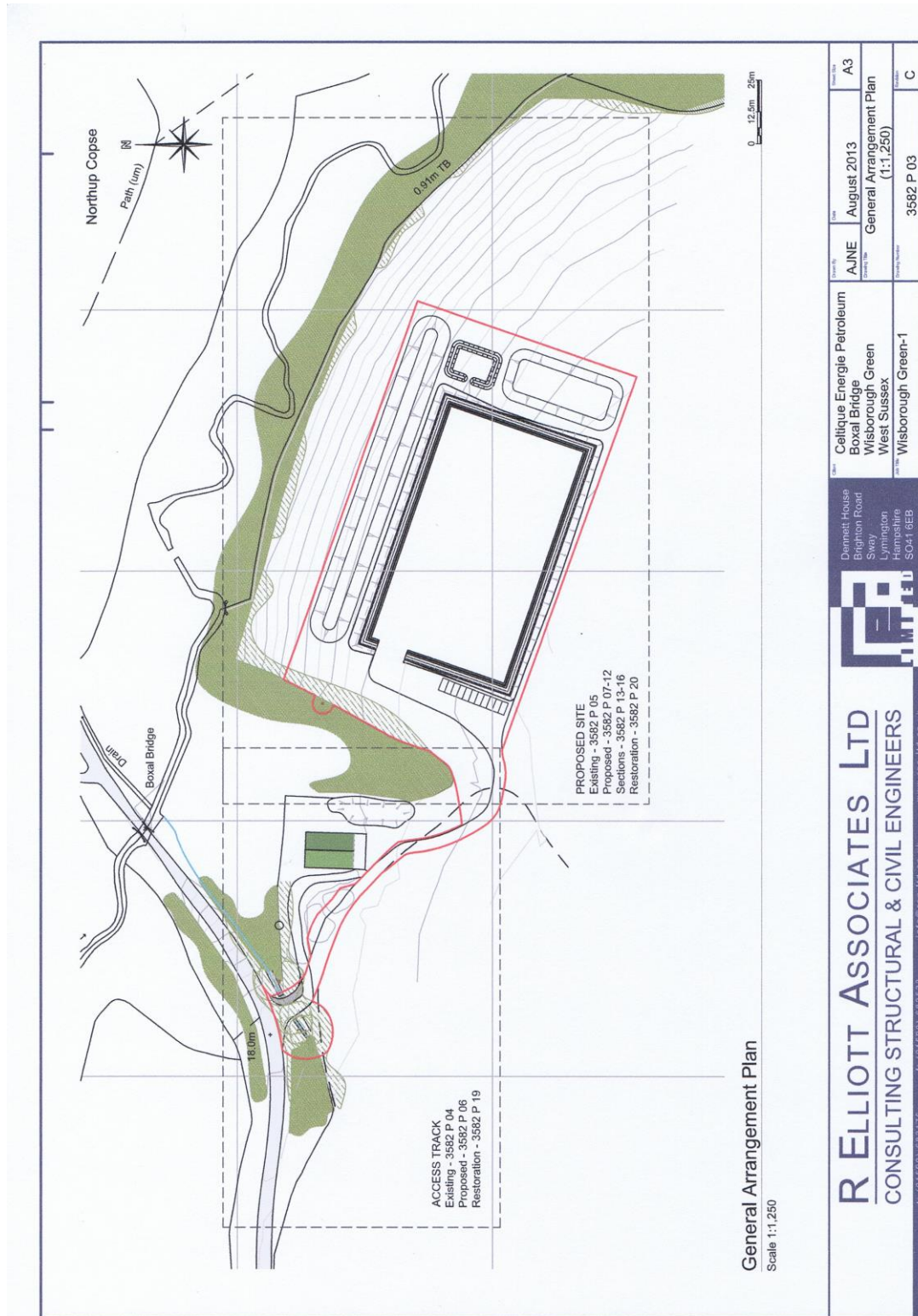


Fig. 2: Land South of Boxal Bridge, Wisborough Green:
General arrangement plan of the proposed development

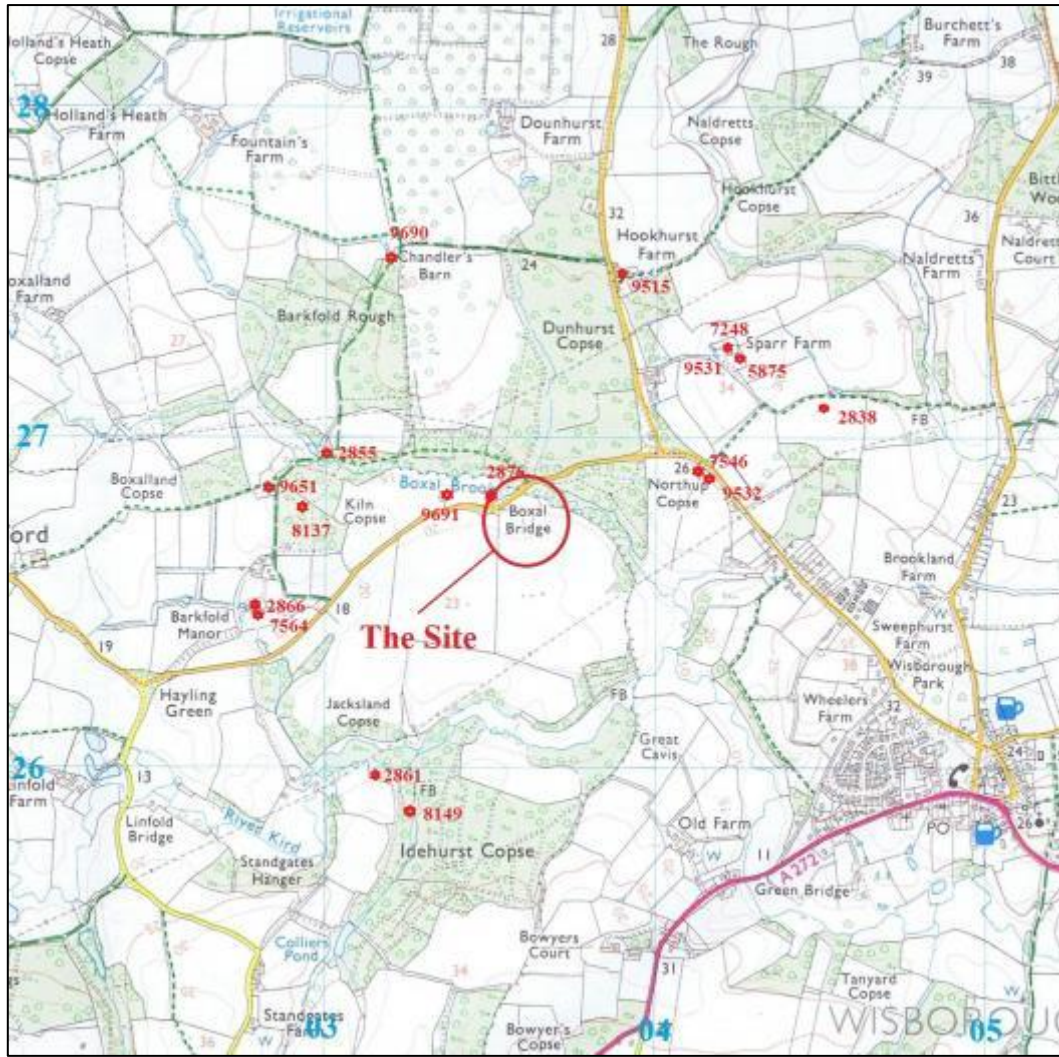


Fig. 3: Land South of Boxal Bridge, Wisborough Green:
Map showing Monuments recorded on the HER
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Fig. 4: Land South of Boxal Bridge, Wisborough Green:
Kirdford Tithe map of 1847 (WSRO TD W74)
(Copyright WSRO)



Fig. 5: Land South of Boxal Bridge, Wisborough Green:
Wisborough Green Tithe map of 1842 (WSRO TD W149)
(Copyright WSRO)

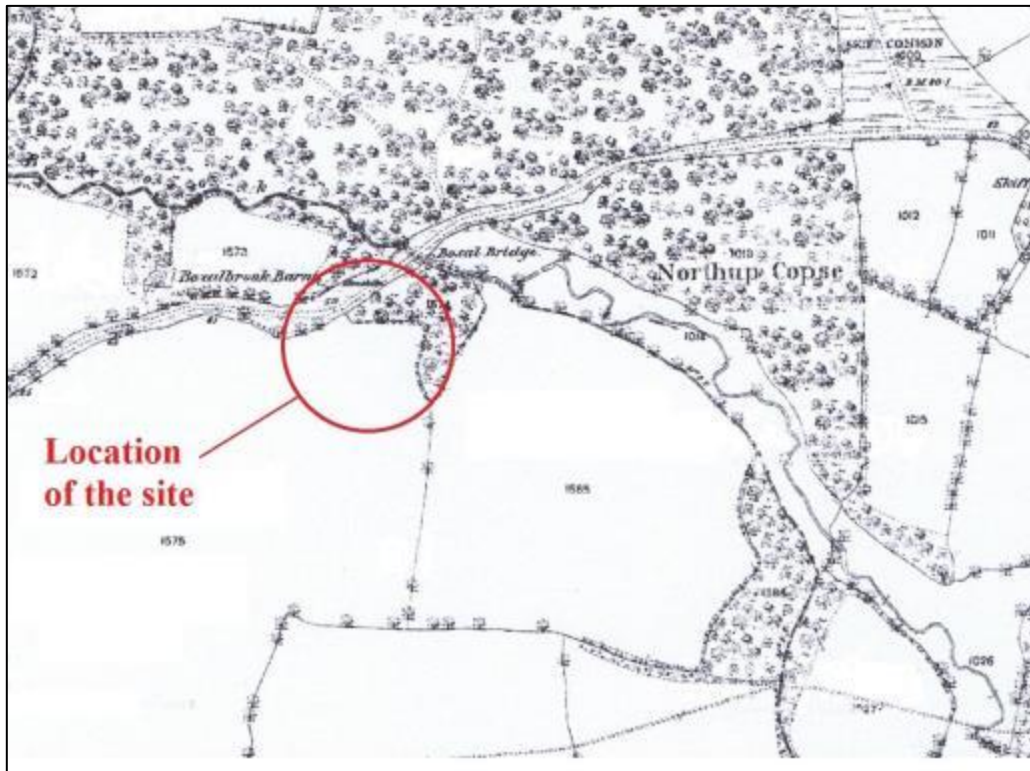


Fig. 6: South of Boxal Bridge, Wisborough Green: 1st Edition OS map (1876)



Fig. 7: Land South of Boxal Bridge, Wisborough Green: 1972-1975 OS map
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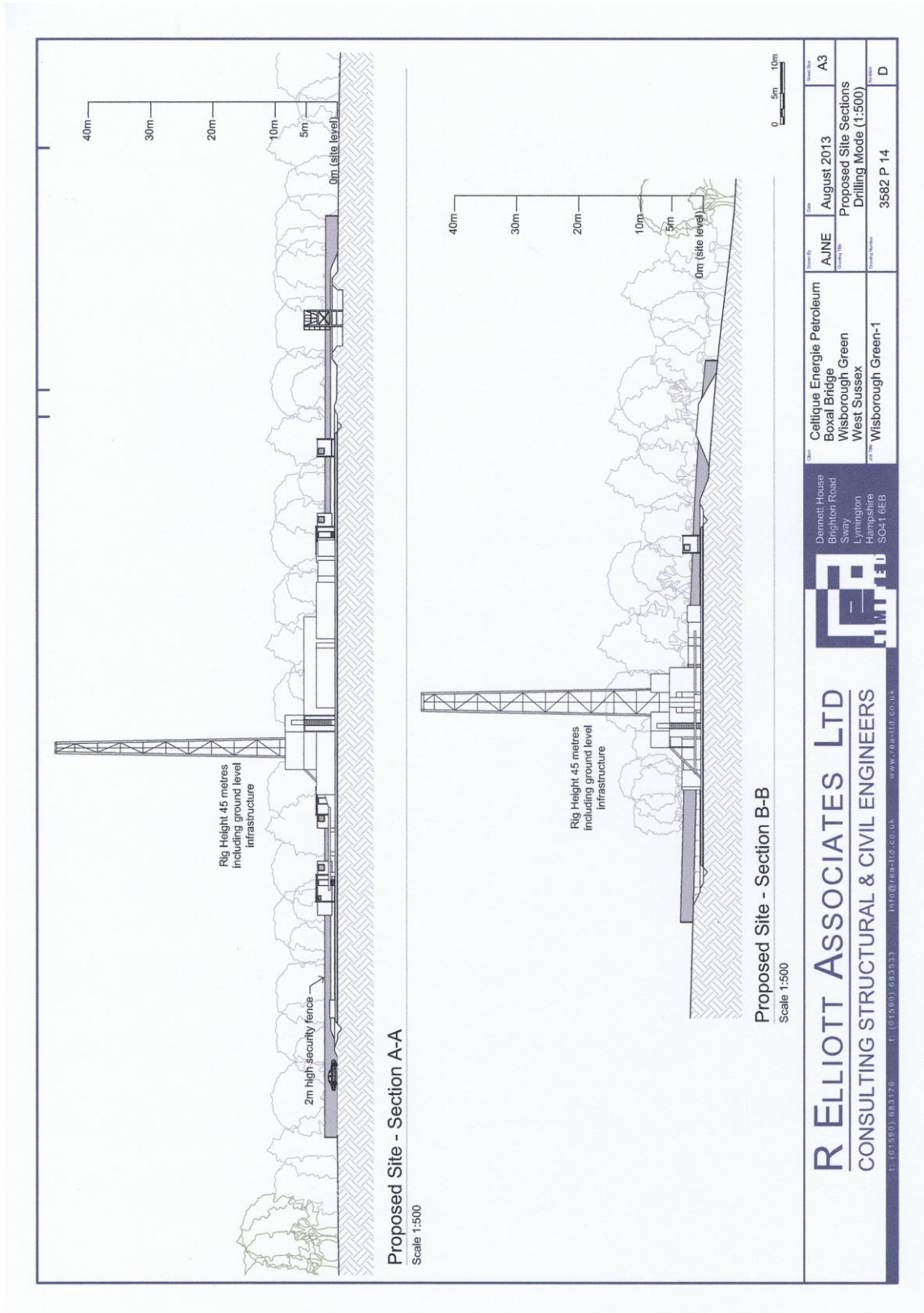


Fig. 8: Land South of Boxal Bridge, Wisborough Green:
Groundwork details of Proposed Site

Appendix 1: Monuments Recorded on the HER

HER No.	NGR	Period	Type of Site	Notes
CD2838	504510127100	Post Medieval	Glass Works Glass Working Site	Glass furnace - Sparr Farm
CD2855	503003126940	Post Medieval	Furnace Pond Bay	Barkfold furnace
CD2861	503150125980	Post Medieval	Glass Works Glass Working Site	Idehurst Copse
CD2866	502810126480	Post Medieval	Park	Barkfield House
CD2876	503520126830	Post Medieval	Kiln	Lime kiln - Boxal Bridge
CD5875	504229127265	Post Medieval	House	Sparr Farmhouse, Skiff Lane - C17 or earlier <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>
CD7248	504229127265	Post Medieval	Barn	Barn at Sparr Farm, Skiff Lane - C18 <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>
CD7546	504131126901	Post Medieval	Farmhouse	Skiff Farmhouse, Kirdford Road - C18 or earlier <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>
CD8137	502949126800	Post Medieval	Kiln	Possible limekiln site - E of Barkfold Farm
CD8149	503264125870	Post Medieval	Pond Bay Pen Pond	Possible pond bay - Idehurst Copse
CD9515	503886127498	Post Medieval	Farmstead	Hookhurst Farm - C19
CD9531	504235127240	Medieval	Farmstead	Sparr Farm
CD9532	504144126882	Post Medieval	Farmstead	Skiff Farm - C17
CD9651	502843126861	Post Medieval	Farmstead	Barkfold Farm - C19
CD9690	503197127550	Post Medieval	Outfarm	Chandler's Barn - C19
CD9691	503378126818	Post Medieval	Outfarm	Boxalbrook Barn - C19
-	502782126481	Post Medieval	House	Barkfold House - Early C19 but with an original L-shaped portion that dates from the 17 th century. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>

Appendix 2: Vertical Aerial Photographs Inspected

Photograph Ref.	Dated
RAF_CPE_UK_1966_RS_4095	10 April 1947
RAF_CPE_UK_1996_RS_4096	10 April 1947
RAF_58_2860_F42_402	14 May 1959
RAF_58_2862_F43_56	14 May 1959
OS_69314_V_428	30 June 1969
OS_69314_V_429	30 June 1969
OS_73392_V_835	9 August 1973
OS_73392_V_836	9 August 1973
OS_92526_V_139	26 September 1992
OS_93353_V_36	29 June 1993

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society, and was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and until recently taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys, watching briefs and evaluations, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. Chris is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavations. He has also recently undertaken an archaeological survey of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Fieldwalking, Landscape & Woodland surveys, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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