# Land at Orchard Farm Cottage, Pomphrey Hill, Mangotsfield, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Planning Reference P20/04560/F AAL22-23.557

## Written Scheme of Investigation

October 2023

# **Avon Archaeology Limited**



Avon Archaeology Limited, Unit 36, Avondale Business Centre, Woodland Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AW Tel: (0117) 960 8487 email: mail@avonarchaeology.co.uk

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Document Title	Land at Orchard Farm Cottage, Pomphrey Hill, Mangotsfield, South Glos.
Document Subtitle	WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief
Client	Jason McDonagh
Site Location	Orchard Farm Cottage, Pomphrey Hill, Mangotsfield, South Glos. BS16 9NF
National Grid Reference	(Site centre) ST 67045 75930
Planning Authority	South Glos. Council
Planning Reference	P20/04560/F
OASIS Reference	avonarch2-519578
Museum	City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery
Accession No.	Pending
Project Code	AAL 22-23.557
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#### Avon Archaeology Ltd

Unit 36, Avondale Business Centre, Woodland Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AW

Tel: 0117 960 8487 Email: mail@avonarchaeology.co.uk



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### Abbreviations

aOD	Above Ordnance Datum

BGS British Geological Survey



- GRO Gloucestershire Record Office
- MYA Million years ago
- OS Ordnance Survey



## 1 Introduction

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out the methodology for an archaeological watching brief on land at Orchard Farm Cottage, Pomphrey Hill, Mangotsfield, South Glos., Planning Ref. P20/04560/F. The development involves the following works, as outlined in the local authority's formal Decision Notice, issued on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2022:

Change of use of land to mobile home site to facilitate the stationing of 3 No. mobile homes with associated hard-standings and landscaping works.

The main focus of the archaeological monitoring will relate to the ground reduction work for the mobile home hard-standings, which may amount in fact to little more than topsoil removal; and subsequent landscaping work.

- 1.2 This WSI has been prepared in response to Condition 7 of the local authority's decision notice, which requires the applicant to submit for approval a WSI for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording, and for the work agreed in the WSI to be implemented.
- 1.3 The work will be conducted in accordance with the relevant guidelines for archaeological fieldwork projects issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology. Specifically, the overarching controlling document in this respect is the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, first issued by the CIfA in Dec. 2014, and most recently substantively revised and updated in June 2020. The project will also follow both the guidelines for archaeological projects set out in MoRPHE (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, 2015), and will be underpinned by the guidelines set out at national level in the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework, as most recently revised July 2021).
- 1.4 Health and Safety will take priority over all archaeological matters, and fieldwork will be undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy



of Avon Archaeology Limited (produced in collaboration with AAL's health and safety advisors Acorn Health and Safety). The CIfA does not itself produce Health and Safety standards and guidance explicitly for the archaeological sector, although some general guidance is provided by FAME (the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers). A project specific Health & Safety risk assessment will be produced by Avon Archaeology Limited prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.5 The local authority archaeological officer for South Glos. Council, Dr Paul Driscoll, and/or Heritage Assistant Rebecca Dumbleton, will be notified of the project commencement date before work begins on site.

## 2 National Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Guidance

2.1 Between March 2010 and March 2012, national planning guidelines as they related specifically to the historic environment were outlined in the document known as PPS (Planning and Policy Statement) 5, Planning for the Historic Environment. However, in March 2012, PPS5, and indeed all the other planning policy guidance and statements which underpinned the operation of the national planning process, was replaced by a single, greatly simplified, overarching and integrated document known as the National Planning Policy Framework (Dept. for Communities and Local Government). A revised edition of this document was published in July 2018, it was updated in February 2019, and again, most recently, in July 2021. Matters relating to archaeology and the historic environment generally are dealt with in Section 16 (pages 55-58), Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. A detailed examination of the implications of the new framework for the specific site being reported on here is outside the scope of this document. By far the majority of the document consists of guidance to local authorities on how they should handle matters relating to the historic environment in their own areas, and the essence of the narrative is



that, in most cases, decisions relating to the historic environment are devolved down to local authorities in the form of their own Local Plans, Core Strategies, Development Frameworks, Supplementary Planning Documents etc.

2.2 For South Gloucestershire specifically, the relevant sections of the *Local Plan: Core Strategy* (adopted 2013) state that:

(2.5) Relics of historic settlements and the industrial past (coal mining and manufacturing) texture the landscape. A rich and varied heritage of historic buildings, settlements, parks and gardens and archaeological features make an important contribution to the character of the area. South Gloucestershire also has a rich natural environment and an array of ecological assets, from international designations in the Severn Estuary to species of critical importance for local biodiversity. The Severn Levels is also an area of high archaeological potential.

**(5.4)** The policy sets out criteria for the assessment of high quality design in new development. In particular, through Design & Access Statements, development proposals should demonstrate a clear understanding of both the site and locality's historic, archaeological, ecological and landscape context in drawing up development proposals. The policy also sets out key design priorities and a standard against the established national assessment methodology, 'Building for Life' (BfL12), that residential development proposals will be expected to achieve.

(8.8) South Gloucestershire has an important legacy of heritage and cultural assets, including over 2000 listed buildings, approximately 1500 locally listed buildings, 30 conservation areas, 8 registered historic parks and gardens, and 37 scheduled monuments. There are a wide range of undesignated historic buildings, archaeological sites and remains, and historic parks and gardens as well as places, areas and landscapes of historic interest. Information about heritage assets can be found in the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Register (HER). These assets make a significant contribution to the identity of the locality in which they are set, helping to create a sense of place. Applications for development which affect heritage assets and their settings directly or indirectly will need to describe



the nature of the significance of the assets affected, and set out how development will maintain and enhance heritage assets and their settings in a manner appropriate to that significance. New development should seek opportunities to draw on the historic environment in order to maintain and enhance local character and distinctiveness.

- 2.3 South Gloucestershire Council has not at the time of writing, issued an SPD (Supplementary Planning Document), relating specifically to archaeology and/or the historic environment in general, although there are a number of TANs (Technical Advice Notices) which relate indirectly to those matters.
- 2.4 Guidance on regional research agendas is provided by Webster 2008 and Grove and Croft 2012, and AAL is fully mindful of those sources. It must be said, however, that, realistically, relatively small projects such as the one under consideration here, *individually* rarely produce results which have much, if any, material impact on archaeological knowledge such as to affect the way that the agendas may be framed in the future.

## 3 Site Location, Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The site is centred on NGR ST 67045 75930, and the postcode is BS16 9NF (Figures 1 and 2). It lies on the southern side of Pomphrey Hill, is to all intents and purposes level, and lies at an elevation of about 77m aOD.
- 3.3 In terms of geology, the underlying hard rock lithology is likely to be made up of beds of the so-called Mangotsfield Member, a highly variable series dating to the Upper Carboniferous, and which according to BGS GeoIndex is made up of:

Predominantly cross-bedded, lithic arenite, 'Pennant' sandstone in the lower part, and an upper part with thick grey fissile mudstone beds interbedded with sandstone and sparse coal seams......The sandstone weathers to a distinctive red to purple colour. The sandstones formed in channels and floodplains within a broad alluvial tract, with palaeocurrents toward the north and north-west....



Although it should be noted that the site lies very close to a geological boundary, and it is also possible that different deposits, of Downend Sandstone, may also be encountered. BGS GeoIndex describes the physical characteristics of these deposits as:

Sandstone with some conglomerate and pebbly sandstone and sporadic fissile mudstone beds. Some workable coal seams are also present. Sandstone is typically a coarse-grained lithic arenite of 'Pennant' type. The sandstones formed in channels and floodplains within a broad alluvial tract.

GeoIndex does not unfortunately give details of the drift deposits that might be encountered on the site, and neither does it record any borehole logs either on the site itself, or nearby.

## 4 Historical and Archaeological Background

4.1 There is no desk-based assessment for this site, and a full review of the historical context is beyond the remit of a WSI, so it will be sufficient for present purposes to note here only a few salient points. Historically the site lay in the parish of Mangotsfield, which was certainly in existence as a bounded and named territorial entity before the Norman Conquest. Historic map evidence shows that the site was occupied by the buildings of Orchard Farm, by the early 1880s, but only one of those shown on the OS First Edition 25" map now survives, as Orchard Farm Cottage. The mid-19<sup>th</sup> century tithe map unfortunately does not record this part of Mangotsfield, but it is almost certain that Orchard Farm is of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century foundation (KnowYourPlace). It seems as though the original farmhouse lay immediately to the south-east of Orchard Farm Cottage. The orchard from which the farm takes its name, is marked on all the early OS maps up to and including the Third Edition of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, immediately to the south of the farm.



4.2 The South Gloucestershire HER, as presented on the KnowYourPlace website, notes that the original Orchard Farm(house) had been demolished by 1990 (SGHER 6405), possibly as part of works for the Avon Ring Road. There are no other known sites of any kind noted by the SGHER in this area, no listed buildings, and no Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

## 5 Aims and Objectives

5.1 The aims of the watching brief, as defined in the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2020) are:

• To allow for the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be ascertained in advance of the development;

• To provide the opportunity, if required, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and

• To inform a mitigation strategy allowing for a programme of recording appropriate to the significance of such deposits.

- 5.2 The objectives of the Watching Brief are:
  - To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the Project Site;

• To establish and record the extent, character, date, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological remains, to an appropriate level and within the constraints of the Project Site;

• To place identified archaeological remains within the wider historical and archaeological context in order to establish their significance; and



• To prepare an archaeological report detailing the results of the watching brief.

## 6 Methodology

- 6.1 All the methods and requirements of the Archaeological Officer for South Gloucestershire will be adopted and no omissions are intended. The Archaeological Watching Brief is required to monitor *all* intrusive ground works that will be undertaken within the development area. *Unless ground conditions make it completely unavoidable, the groundworks contractor is requested to use a toothless grading bucket for all on-site excavation and/or ground reduction work.* The groundworks will be monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 6.2 Where archaeological features are identified, the supervising archaeologist will have the authority to suspend construction work temporarily for an appropriate time, to enable finds to be recovered and a suitable level of recording to be undertaken.
- 6.3 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded using the Avon Archaeology Limited pro forma recording system. The contexts will be characterised individually and numbered in sequential order. A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (usually 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum heights of all features will be calculated, and the levels added to the drawings.
- 6.4 A full photographic record will be made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels.



- 6.5 An accession number will be obtained from the accepting museum (in this case Bristol Museum and Art Gallery), and a formal record has already been opened on the OASIS database, under the reference avonarch2-519578.
- 6.6 The aim of the project is to make sure that any features or deposits of an archaeological nature which would otherwise have been lost, are preserved in the historic record.

## Survey

6.7 A survey of all archaeological features will be carried out using a GPS. All survey data will be recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above Ordnance Datum. In the event that it is not possible to use the survey equipment, archaeological features will be located using client plans or features that appear on OS mapping. This will be achieved using handheld measuring tapes and the basic principles of triangulation.

## **Contingency Measures**

- 6.8 In the event that significant archaeological deposits are discovered, contact with the client and the council's Archaeological Officer will be made to review any additional project requirements that are not outlined in this document.
- 6.9 A contingency fund has been earmarked for possible use to undertake additional work, including specialist studies and/or treatment of archaeological finds recovered during the course of post excavation assessment and project reporting.

### Finds

6.10 All artefacts and ecofacts will be recovered, identified by stratigraphic unit, catalogued and prepared for long term storage after analysis, if appropriate.Provision is made in the form of a contingency to undertake appropriate



analysis and reporting of significant artefacts if such finds are located during the site work.

- 6.11 Artefacts from features of modern date (19th-century or later) may be recorded on site but not retained.
- 6.12 Where appropriate, soil samples may be taken and sieved to aid finds recovery. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

## **Environmental Sampling**

- 6.13 All sampling will be undertaken by Avon Archaeology Limited and in line with the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015).
- 6.14 Bulk environmental soil samples taken for the recovery of plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, small animal bones and other small artefacts, will be taken as appropriate from well-sealed and dateable contexts or features. In general, features directly associated with particular activities (e.g. pits, latrines, cesspits, hearths, ovens, kilns, and corn driers) will be prioritised for sampling over features such as ditches or postholes, which are likely to contain reworked and residual material.
- 6.15 If waterlogged or mineralised deposits are encountered, an environmental sampling strategy will be devised and agreed with the County Archaeologist, as appropriate. Specialist guidance will be provided by Hayley McParland, Historic England's Science Advisor for the South-West, with site visits undertaken if required.
- 6.16 Samples will be of an appropriate size typically 40 litres for the recovery of environmental evidence from dry contexts and 10 litres from waterlogged



deposits. Following specialist advice, other sampling methods such as monolith, Kubiena or contiguous small bulk (column) samples may be employed to enable investigation of deposits with regard to microfossils (e.g. pollen, diatoms) and macrofossils (e.g. molluscs, insects).

## **Human Remains**

- 6.17 Any human remains discovered (articulated or disarticulated, cremated or unburnt) will in the first instance be left in situ, covered and protected. The need for excavation, removal and/or sampling will be determined following discussion with the client and the council's Archaeological Officer. If deemed appropriate, the remains will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the site in compliance with the terms of a Ministry of Justice licence, which will be obtained by Avon Archaeology Limited.
- 6.18 Any excavation and post-excavation processing of human remains will be undertaken in line with current guidance documents (specifically Mitchell and Brickley 2017). Please note that appropriate specialist guidance may be provided by Heidi Dawson Hobbis (Winchester University), with site visits undertaken if required. The final deposition of human remains, following analysis, will be in accordance with the terms of the Ministry of Justice licence.

### Treasure

6.19 Avon Archaeology Limited will immediately notify the client and the Archaeological Officer for South Glos. Council of the discovery of any material covered, or potentially covered, by the Treasure Act 1996 (as amended by The Coroners and Justice Act 2009). All information required by the Treasure Act (i.e., finder, location, material, date, associated items etc.) will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.



## 7 Finds and Specialist Contributions

- 7.1 Recovered finds, ecofacts and bone will be identified by stratigraphic unit, marked, catalogued and prepared for long term storage following analysis, which may be undertaken in house, but where required provision is included for specialist reporting. The strategy and sampling procedures for the evaluation of environmental and geoarchaeological evidence, if necessary, will be based upon formal advice sought from archaeological specialists from Allen Archaeology in consultation with South Glos. Council.
- 7.2 The project will be managed by Kevin Potter, MCIfA. The specific member of staff who may attend the site will only be allocated upon AAL's formal appointment to the fieldwork stage of the project. The following key specialists will also be earmarked to the project and will be available for use if suitable deposits are located:

Roman pottery and finds – Dr Jane Timby Medieval and post medieval ceramics – Dr David Dawson Faunal remains – Joss Davis (AAL) and/or Lorrain Higbee (Wessex Archaeology Limited) Human skeletal material – Joss Davis, AAL, and Dr Heidi Dawson-Hobbis, University of Winchester Environmental Archaeology – Allen Archaeology Small Finds – Sarah Newns (AAL) and/or Dr Jane Timby Coins – Sarah Newns (AAL) Prehistoric lithics – Dr Katharine Walker, Visiting Fellow, University of Bournemouth C<sup>14</sup> Dating – Dr Tim Knowles, University of Bristol AMS Lab Archaeometallurgy – Dr Tim Young, GeoArch



## 8 Special Circumstances

8.1 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and/or the Burial Act of 1857. All human burials will in the first instance be preserved in-situ until a licence for removal has been obtained from The Ministry of Justice.

## 9 Post-Excavation Reporting

- 9.1 Following completion of the fieldwork and assessment of data recovered, the results will be incorporated into a final report. The report will be forwarded as a *draft* text to the client, and the final report, with corrections as necessary, will be issued upon settlement of all outstanding invoices.
- 9.2 The report will contain the following as a minimum:
  - A frontispiece detailing the site name, grid reference, report author(s), project dates, project title and reference number and planning application number;
  - A non-technical summary;
  - Basic Historic Background, including reference to relevant archival material;
  - The dates of the Watching Brief;
  - The aims and methodology of the Watching Brief;
  - The results of the Watching Brief, including any necessary Post-Excavation assessment;
  - An interpretation of the project's results and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains encountered
  - Supporting scaled plans and illustrations;
  - Archive preparation and deposition arrangements;
  - References



9.3 The final copy of the report will be submitted to the South Glos. Historic Environment Record, and deposited with the Archaeological Data Service, along with surveyed data in shapefile format. Digital geospatial data will be submitted to South Glos. Council along with the project report. It is anticipated that this will be in a CAD format and will include all survey data.

## Publication

9.4 If appropriate, a publication of findings will be made in a suitable medium at an appropriate detail, depending on the results of the project. As a minimum, a note will be submitted to a relevant local journal, in this case probably either *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, or *Bristol and Avon Archaeology*.

## **10** Preparation and Deposition of the Archive

- 10.1 On completion of the programme of work, every effort will be made to persuade the legal owner of any finds recovered to transfer their ownership to the receiving museum, in line with a written agreement. This excludes human remains and any objects covered by the Treasure Act 1996 (as amended by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009).
- 10.2 The complete project archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared, compiled and presented in accordance with the guidelines laid down by Bristol city Museum and Art Gallery, and the nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ADS 2013; CIfA 2020).
- 10.3 Arrangements will be made with the City of Bristol Museum for the deposition of the documentary and material archive for storage and public access at an appropriate local museum. The archive will be deposited under



an accession number to be supplied. The Museum currently (Oct. 2023) is dealing with a large backlog of issuing Accession Numbers, in part due to the Covid-19 emergency. The archive will usually be deposited within one year of the completion of the project.

- 10.4 As already noted, the appointed archaeological contractor will be required to open an OASIS record for the project. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record should be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue. If appointed to the fieldwork stage, Avon Archaeology Ltd will ensure the deposition of the digital archive with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within a reasonable period of time.
- 10.5 Until final deposition, the archive will be stored securely at the offices of Avon Archaeology Limited, *should* AAL be appointed to the fieldwork stage of the project.

## 11 Health and Safety

11.1 Matters of Health and Safety will take priority over all archaeological matters, and fieldwork will be undertaken in accordance with the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers' guidelines. Project specific Health and Safety Risk Assessment and Safe Working documents will be prepared in advance of attendance on site in accordance with Avon Archaeology Ltd Health and Safety Policy, which has been drafted in collaboration with Acorn Health and Safety Ltd. All members of staff are qualified and registered with the Construction Skills Certification Scheme.



## 12 GDPR Compliance

- 12.1 We may process the information that we collect from clients and third parties such as landowners, for the legitimate purposes of our business:
  - Artefacts provenance (that is, to record the history of an object);
  - To keep a record of our professional services on projects.
- 12.2 This information may be collected from contract documents, including tender information; and during a project, from information requested by telephone, email or in person, in relation to artefacts. The information includes an individual's or company's name, address, email address and telephone number.
- 12.3 We do not sell any data that we process. Nor do we use it for marketing or for any purpose other than those stated above. To fulfil our professional obligations, we store data in our project archives. In the case of any artefacts collected, the local collecting museum is permitted to both store the artefacts and store, process and use the names and addresses of clients and landowners referenced in the archive. Data not passed to a museum is stored in our project archives which will be maintained for as long as Avon Archaeology Limited is in operation. Museums may hold data in connection with collections in perpetuity (i.e. forever). Such processing by a museum is strictly for the purpose of collections provenance. The personal data may be used by the museum to contact the client or third party regarding the archive.
- 12.4 When you enter into a contract with us, or when data is requested, you will be asked to confirm that you agree to the processing of your personal information. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us using the details at the end of this policy. Where you wish to withdraw your consent for us to share your details with a third party museum please make this known to us and we will contact that third party on your behalf.



## 13 References

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Health and Safety Policy 2020/2021

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Archaeology Data Service https://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/

#### BGS

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### **Historic England 2015**

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### **Know Your Place**

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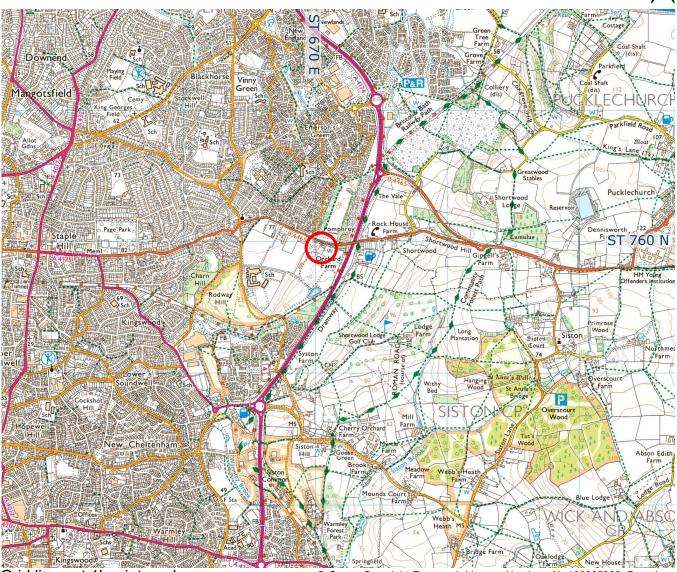
## Figure 1

## Location of the Site

The Site



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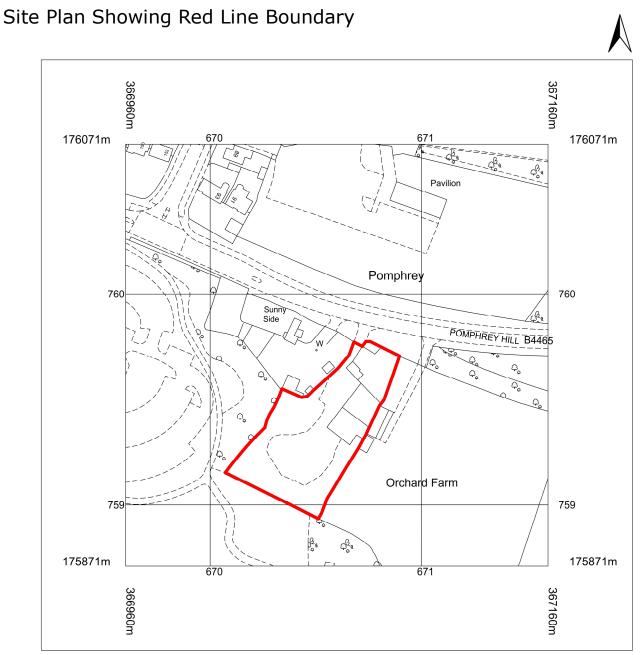


Grid lines at 1km intervals

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## Figure 2



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