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6 November 2015

S U M M O N S

MEETING: Community Board
DATE: 16 November 2015
TIME: 6.00 pm
PLACE: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Gosport
Democratic Services contact: Vicki Stone

LINDA EDWARDS
BOROUGH SOLICITOR

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Mayor (Councillor Farr) (ex officio)
Chairman of P&O Board (Councillor Hook) (ex officio)

Councillor Burgess (Chairman)
Councillor Dickson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Bateman
Councillor Edgar
Councillor Foster-Reed
Councillor Hazel
Councillor Mrs Hook

Councillor Hylands
Councillor Mrs Morgan
Councillor Murphy
Councillor Mrs Searle
Councillor Wright

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read by the Mayor if members of the public are present)

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the room immediately. Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

NOTE:

- i. Councillors are requested to note that, if any Councillor who is not a Member of the Board wishes to speak at the Board meeting, then the Borough Solicitor is required to receive not less than 24 hours prior notice in writing or electronically and such notice shall indicate the agenda item or items on which the member wishes to speak.
- ii. Please note that mobile phones should be switched off or on silent for the duration of the meeting.
- iii. This meeting may be filmed or otherwise recorded. By attending this meeting, you are consenting to any broadcast of your image and being recorded.

AGENDA

PART A ITEMS

1. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter, any disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest in any item(s) being considered at this meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD
HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2015

4. DEPUTATIONS – STANDING ORDER 3.5

(NOTE: The Board is required to receive a deputation(s) on a matter which is before the meeting of the Board provided that notice of the intended deputation and its object shall have been received by the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Thursday 12th November 2015. The total time for deputations in favour and against a proposal shall not exceed 10 minutes).

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 3.6

(NOTE: The Board is required to allow a total of 15 minutes for questions from Members of the public on matters within the terms of reference of the Board provided that notice of such Question(s) shall have been submitted to the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Thursday 12th November 2015).

6. REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – INTERPRETATION BOARDS

Part II

To consider the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee relating to the work of the Interpretation Boards Working Group and to indicate what action they propose to take.

Ian Lycett
Chief Executive

7. GOSPORT SCHEME OF ALLOCATIONS - AN INTERIM
REVIEW

Part II

To inform Members of the impact and outcomes of the changes made in 2013 & 2015 to the Scheme of Allocations following interim reviews. To seek approval for some immediate and minor policy adjustments to ensure the most effective use of social housing stock.

Stuart Palmer
Interim Housing
Services
Manager

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Which the Chairman determines should be considered, by reason of special circumstances, as a matter of urgency.

Community Board
16 November 2015

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD
WAS HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 6PM**

The Mayor (Councillor Farr) (ex-officio), Councillor Hook (P), Bateman (P), Burgess (P), Dickson, Edgar (P), Foster-Reed, Hazel, Mrs Hook (P), Hylands, Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy (P), Searle (P), Wright (P)

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Order 2.3.6, Councillor Hook had been nominated to replace Councillor Dickson for this meeting.

18. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted by The Mayor and Councillors Dickson and Foster-Reed.

19. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Board held on 22ND June 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests

21. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

22. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

23. ALVER VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Consideration was given to a report by the Chief Executive that sought Members approval on various proposals and actions regarding a number of projects within the Alver Valley Country Park which were included in the Council's Alver Valley Country Park Strategy approved in April 2014.

Councillors congratulated the Officers on both the quality of the report and the amount of hard work that had been undertaken in progressing the various projects and Strategies for the Alver Valley Country Park.

A Member queried whether the Gun Club had been approached to consider selling land and it was advised that ongoing dialogue was taking place.

Members were informed that a soft market test had been carried out to generate interest in implementing a Garden Centre at the Alver Valley Country Park and it was reported that a meeting was scheduled with architects to finalise plans. Following this meeting and discussions with the 17th Century Village, it was proposed that an extraordinary Community Board meeting be arranged to progress this.

In respect to the proposed dog policy at Alver Valley Country Park, concerns were raised with regard to enforceable measures in place for users. It was confirmed that the site

would be monitored including where necessary the issuing of fixed penalty notices and that responsibility was primarily down to self-enforcement of users of the Country Park. It was envisaged that the segregated dog areas, using the traffic light system would be effective.

Following a Member's question regarding the grant for developing the car parks and access improvements it was reported that subject to recommendations, phased planning applications were ready to be submitted for approval. Works were envisaged to be completed in January/February 2016 with other elements of the Western Gateway being completed in the summer. Works on the Eastern Gateway Car Park were due to be completed by June 2016 with the external funding being used by March 2016. Members were further advised that local firms would be encouraged to submit tenders.

In respect of the Alver Valley Country Park having opportunities for adventurous play equipment for older teens, it was reported that investigations were being made and that consultation with the Youth Council would be made to engage young people.

RESOLVED: That the Community Board:

1. agrees the preferred Concept Plan for the Western Gateway (as set out in Appendix A) and notes that a planning application will be submitted with full details of the car park and access, and illustrative details of the other elements of the Gateway;
2. notes that a full planning application will be submitted for an extended car park and associated works at the Eastern Gateway;
3. agrees developer contributions secured for the Alver Valley and play areas will be used, with other secured funding, to provide the relevant facilities at the Western Gateway (play areas, toilets, landscaping) and Eastern Gateway (car parking and associated works);
4. agrees car park management measures outlined in Paragraph 2.8 of this Report;
5. agrees the Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park for public consultation purposes (see Appendix B);
6. agrees the Alver Valley Country Park Grazing Strategy (Appendix C) for public consultation purposes;
7. adopts the Signage and Interpretation Strategy for the Alver Valley Country Park (see Appendix D);
8. notes other project updates contained within the Report.

24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The Meeting concluded at 18:26.

CHAIRMAN

Board/Committee:	COMMUNITY BOARD
Date of Meeting:	16 NOVEMBER 2015
Title:	REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – INTERPRETATION BOARDS
Author:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

To consider the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee relating to the work of the Interpretation Boards Working Group and to indicate what action they propose to take.

Recommendation

That the Community Board considers the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and responds to their recommendations.

1 Background

- 1.1 On the 4th December 2014 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed an Interpretation Boards Working Group (IBWG) to investigate the condition and potential renovation of the information boards in the Borough, following a request from members of the Gosport Society.
- 1.2 The Council has a stock of 49, Historic, Ecological and Tourist Information Boards throughout the Borough (This was Appendix 1 of the Published Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (Appendix A of this report)).
- 1.3 This is the first of a series of reports, to start a rolling programme of works, with the initial priorities as set out in Appendix B of this report, leaving a further 25 Boards to be prioritised by the IBWG, it should be noted that work recommended on these boards is the recommendation of Officers not of the IBWG.
- 1.4 The provisional findings of the IBWG were presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 30th September 2015 and are attached to this report as Appendix A.
- 1.5 In accordance with the provision of the Council's Constitution, notice has been given requiring the Community Board to consider their report, respond to the recommendation in their Report and to publish the Community Board's response.

2 Report

- 2.1 The recommendation of the IBWG is that the interpretation boards be renovated and upgraded from the funds in the capital programme and a priority list has been produced as set out in Appendix 1 of Appendix A.
- 2.2 Officers are in support of 12 of the 13 recommendations made by the IBWG and that Coastal Interpretation Boards are manufactured out of Marine Stainless Steel with the Aluminium Powder Coated style being used for inland locations throughout the Borough (as per existing Boards). The use of Marine Stainless Steel Boards will complement the existing boards installed by Hampshire County Council along Stokes Bay and provide uniformity.
- 2.3 Officers would recommend that Board No 40, the Diving Museum Board remains the responsibility of GBC with the Diving club providing the graphics as is the case with the other community Groups.
- 2.4 The Council has been working with the D Day Fellowship with regards to the erection of new Interpretation Boards associated with D Day, which were to be manufactured in Black Powder Coated Aluminium Boards. If the Board agrees to use Marine Stainless Steel then these boards will also be manufactured in the same material to ensure that uniformity is maintained along this coastal stretch.
- 2.5 A new application has been submitted from the Lee Residents and Gosport Society regarding the replacement of the missing Interpretation Board at Daedalus, Council Officers would also recommend that this too, be included within the initial phase.

3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 The fabrication of Marine Stainless Steel frames reduces the cost of maintenance in the long term owing to its durability over that of the Powder coated Aluminium Boards, as once damaged the elements can penetrate causing the aluminium to deteriorate causing the material to disintegrate, causing an anaesthetic issue with the board becoming less attractive as well as a health and safety one caused by the effect of the board rusting and having sharp protruding edges which the existing boards have suffered from.
- 3.2 The preference to use Marine Stainless Steel comes at a premium in the short term, being double the cost of that manufactured in Aluminium and Powder Coated.
- 3.3 The Initial recommendations request four new Stainless Steel Boards with further requirements in the future for along Lee On Solent Frontage.

- 3.4 The 2015/16 capital budget of £30000 would cover the proposed works as recommended, with the remainder of the budget being used to address further priorities. As set out in Appendix B
- 3.5 Total cost of works including the removal of existing where identified is estimated at £16500 based on quotes received to date, however alternative quotes are being obtained

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Community Board is requested to consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report of the IBWG and whether they are happy to accept the recommendations of the published report of the Working Group and to respond to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee indicating what action the Board intend to take.

Financial Services comments:	See paragraph 3.4
Legal Services comments:	Contained within the Report
Crime and Disorder:	Not Applicable
Equality and Diversity:	As Per GBC Equality and Diversity Statement
Service Improvement Plan implications:	Delivering Capital Project
Corporate Plan:	Delivering Corporate Plan Under Participation
Risk Assessment:	See Section 3 above
Background papers:	None
Appendices/Enclosures:	
Appendix 'A'	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report of the Interpretation Boards Working Group.
Appendix 'B'	Rolling Programme of Works
Report author/ Lead Officer:	Stevyn Ricketts

APPENDIX A

PUBLISHED REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TITLE: FINDINGS OF THE INTERPRETATION BOARD WORKING GROUP

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Provisional Findings Report of the Interpretation Board Working Group at its meeting on the 30 September 2015.

The Committee agreed to publish the findings of the Working Group and give notice to the Community Board that the report would require consideration.

GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 September 2015

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

TITLE: Provisional Findings of the Interpretation Board Working Group

AUTHOR: LISA YOUNG ON BEHALF OF THE ITERPRETATION BOARD WORKING GROUP

Members

Cllr Linda Batty, Cllr Ingeborg Forder, Cllr Rob Hylands and Cllr Alan Scard.

Officers

Lisa Young and Sam Voller.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The topic was suggested for scrutiny at the 4th December 2014 meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

1.2 The Gosport Society had written to the Chief Executive highlighting concern regarding the condition of the Interpretation Boards located within the Borough. The suggestion to scrutinise the boards with the assistance of the Gosport Society, Friends of Stokes Bay and other interested parties was proposed to the Committee and the Working Group was established, initially comprising Councillors Mrs Cully, Mrs Hook, Mrs Forder and Scard.

1.3 Councillor Mrs Cully and Mrs Hook were subsequently replaced by Councillors Mrs Batty and Hylands following a change to the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in May 2015.

2.0 Scope of Scrutiny

2.1 The initial meeting of the working group was on 20th April 2015 and was primarily to decide upon the scope for the scrutiny and how to move forward.

2.2 The Group were provided with copies of the information received from the Gosport Society, including a list of existing boards, their locations and their current condition.

2.3 Members agreed that they needed to establish how they would like to approach the review of the boards and felt that both a visit to the Boards and a meeting with the Gosport Society would be useful.

2.4 Members recognised that they would need input from not only the Gosport Society, but any 'Friends of' groups. The Lawrence family and the organisation responsible for Nat Gonella's memorials would also need to be consulted. It would also be considerate to contact ward Councillors and those that previously unveiled the boards. It would also need to be established if any of the boards were not owned by GBC

2.5 Members requested that a catalogue be made of all the boards listed, with photographs to allow them to make an informed decision as to which boards needed visiting and assessing.

3.0 Summary of Investigation

3.1 Following receipt of the catalogue of boards the Working Group established that contact would need to be made with the Railway Society, Friends of Stokes Bay, Gosport Society, Friends of the Hermitage, Friends of Crescent Gardens and the Lawrence Family to establish their priorities and thoughts regarding the Interpretation Boards.

3.2 Members recognised that a number of organisations had been involved with the boards over the years, including Hampshire County Council and Groundwork Solent. It was felt that they may need contacting with regard to any action to be taken with the boards.

3.3 It was established that the boards came in two differing forms, historical and ecological.

3.3 The Lawrence Family, Friends of Stokes Bay and the Gosport Society were subsequently invited to address the third meeting of the Group.

3.4 Kevin Casey, Friends of Stokes Bay, Howard Bennett, Gosport Society and Anthony Lawrence of the Lawrence family attended the third meeting of the Group.

3.5 Kevin Casey advised that the Friends of Stokes Bay had initially had input on the boards along the seafront, they still had copies of the information and requested that a new, panoramic board be installed opposite the splash park.

3.6 The Working Group, with the assistance of those present, discussed the location, content and condition of the existing boards, suggestions for amendments were made and relocation ideas were put forward. It was also suggested that the Railway Society be consulted and that the boards located at Stokes Bay be made more weather proof.

3.7 Mr Lawrence welcomed input into the project and welcomed credit for any Lawrence photographs included.

3.8 The Group established a priority list for works to the boards and identified those to be removed completely.

3.9 The Groups fourth meeting took place on 8th July and the Group were advised that correspondence had been received from the Friends of Crescent Gardens and they were happy for their board to be relocated.

3.10 The Group discussed materials for the boards, analysing the suitability for each given location. It was also advised that Ann Bevan, a local artist, had agreed to undertake the artwork for the panorama.

3.11 In addition, the Diving Museum suggested that they would like to take on the board identified as suitable for removal, located outside the museum.

3.11 The final meeting of the Group took place on 25th August 2015, Ann Bevan was present and offered her advice on the panorama project. The Group finalised their programme of works and received advice on the planning and legislative matters surrounding the replacement of the boards.

4.0 Summary of Findings

The Working Group's findings can be summarised as follows:

1. A number of the boards in the Borough are in poor condition.
2. There are large numbers of boards identified as unnecessary.
3. Some of the board content was acceptable, others needed renewing.
4. The introduction of QR codes to the boards was desirable.
5. The input of the difference societies and individuals to the boards was welcome.
6. The boards could be defined by priority of improvement into two separate lists, urgent, and ongoing maintenance.
7. The materials to be used for the boards needed to be analysed for their suitability and ability to withstand weather conditions.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The working group would ask that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the following provisional findings and recommendations following its investigations.

1. the interpretation boards be renovated and upgraded from the funds in the capital programme as set out in Appendix 1
2. the Overview and Scrutiny Committee give consideration to the provisional findings of the Working Group and determine whether the report be published

Appendix 1

Table of priority actions for Interpretation Boards in the Borough.

Appendix 2

Catalogue of Interpretation Boards

Appendix 3

Minutes of the meeting of 20th April 2015

Appendix 4

Minutes of the meeting of the 15th June 2015

Appendix 5

Minutes of the meeting of the 22nd June 2015

Appendix 6

Minutes of the meeting of the 8th July 2015

Appendix 7

Minutes of the meeting of the 25th August 2015

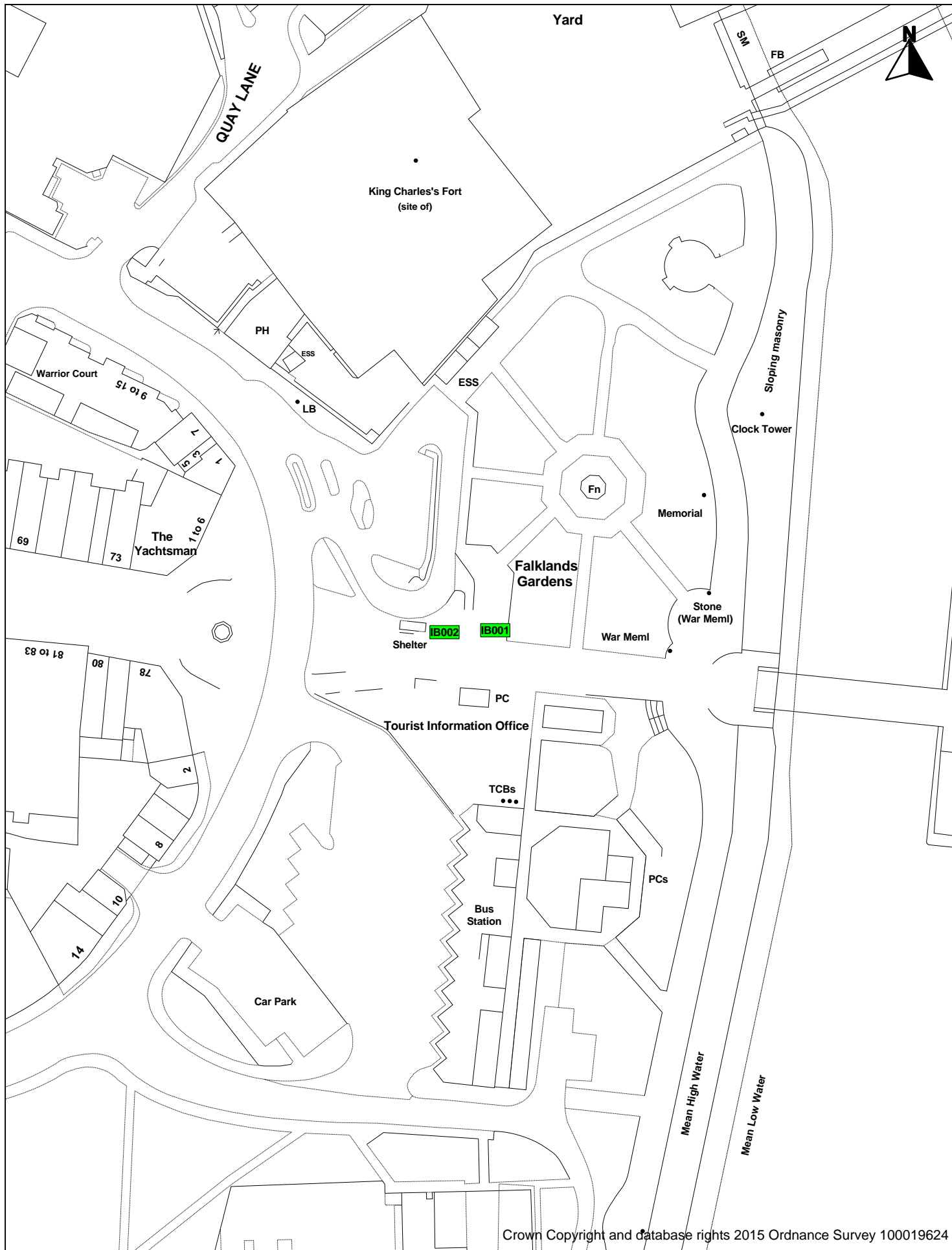
Board	Recommendation
No 5 Lawrence Square	New content
No7 Gosport R/way station	New content; install new black board
No 11 St Vincent Field	remove
No 14 Fort Gilkicker	Replace& update content; install new stainless steel board and move
No 15 & 49 Stokes Bay R/way	Remove both & replace with single black board by Jackie Spencer Bridge
No 18 Crescent Gardens	Move and clean
No20 Gilkicker Heritage Trail	Replace content ; install new stainless steel board
No 35 Shingle Shore	Replace content; install new stainless steel board and move west
No 36 Osborn Gardens	New content including info on Stanley Park; install new black board and move
No 40 no 2 Battery	Diving Museum
No 41 Browndown	remove
New board	Panoramic view by Splashpool; install new larger stainless steel board
No 48 Aviation	clean

All boards to have

- Updated logos
- QR codes
- Revised date

IB001 – GOSPORT WATERFRONT – FALKLAND GARDENS

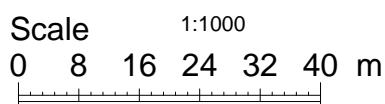




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HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

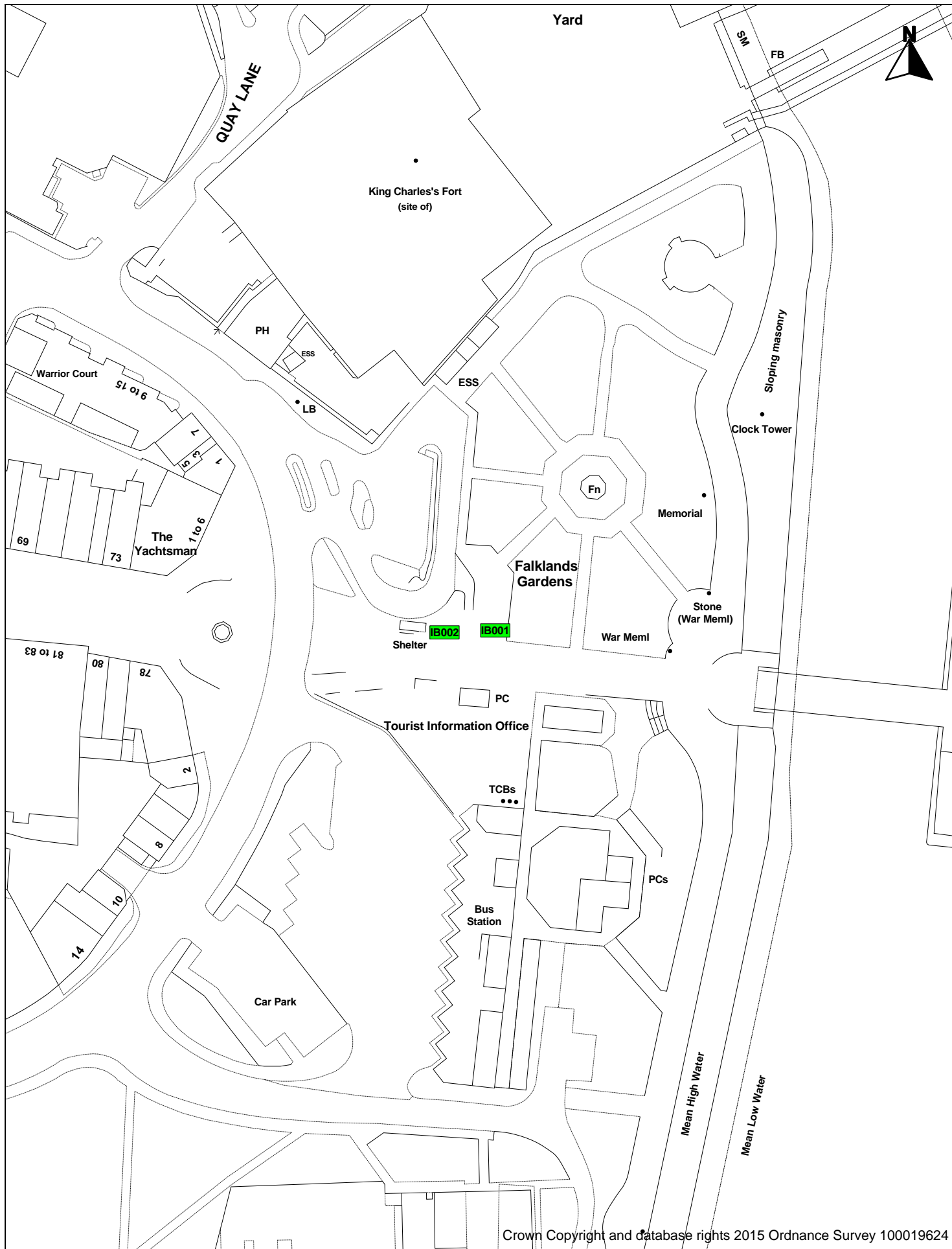
DATE : 02/06/2015



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IB002 – HIGH STREET, GOSPORT – FALKLAND GARDENS

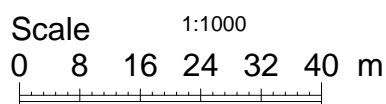




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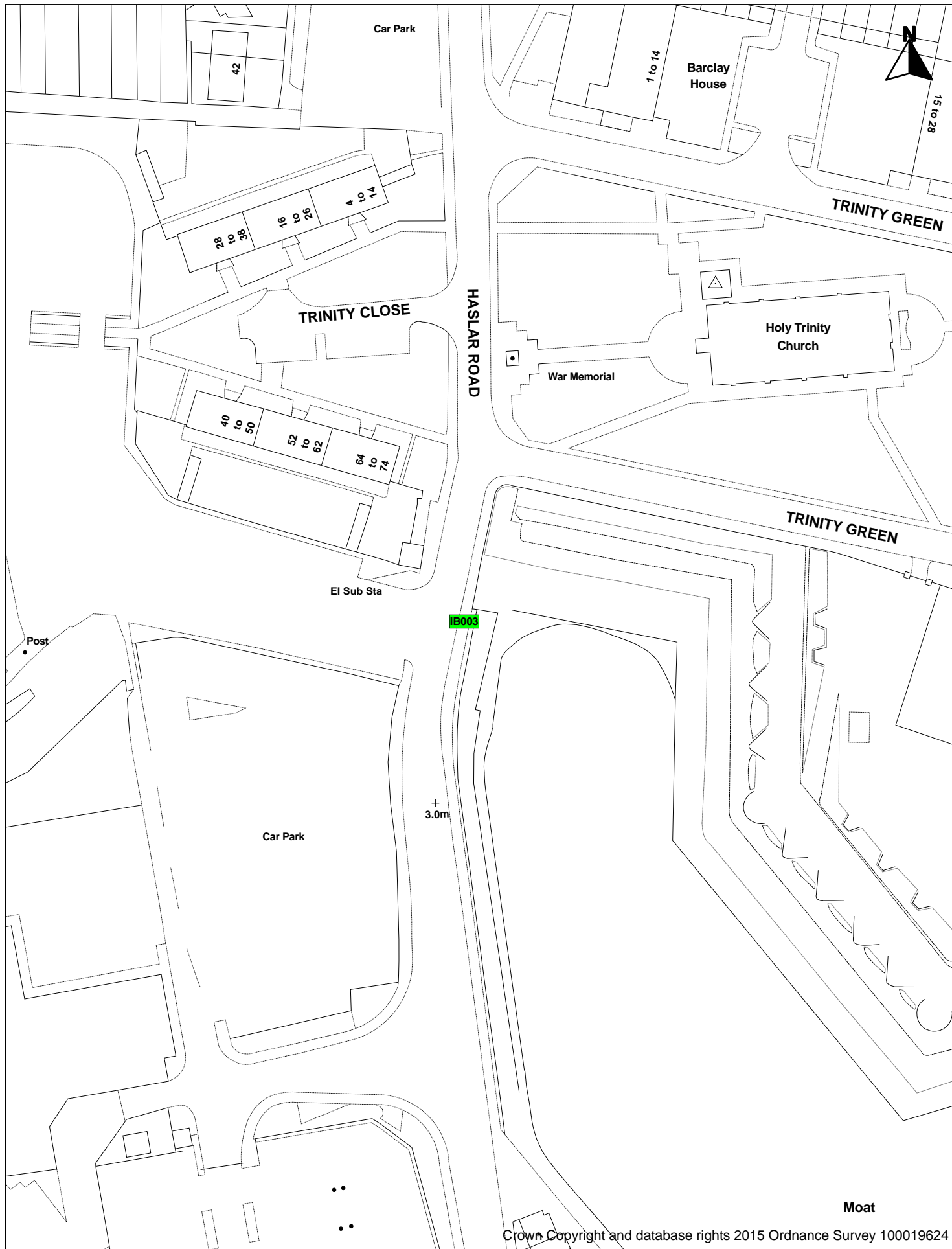
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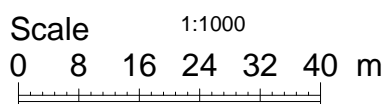
IB003 – BASTION No. 1 - RAMPARTS





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HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

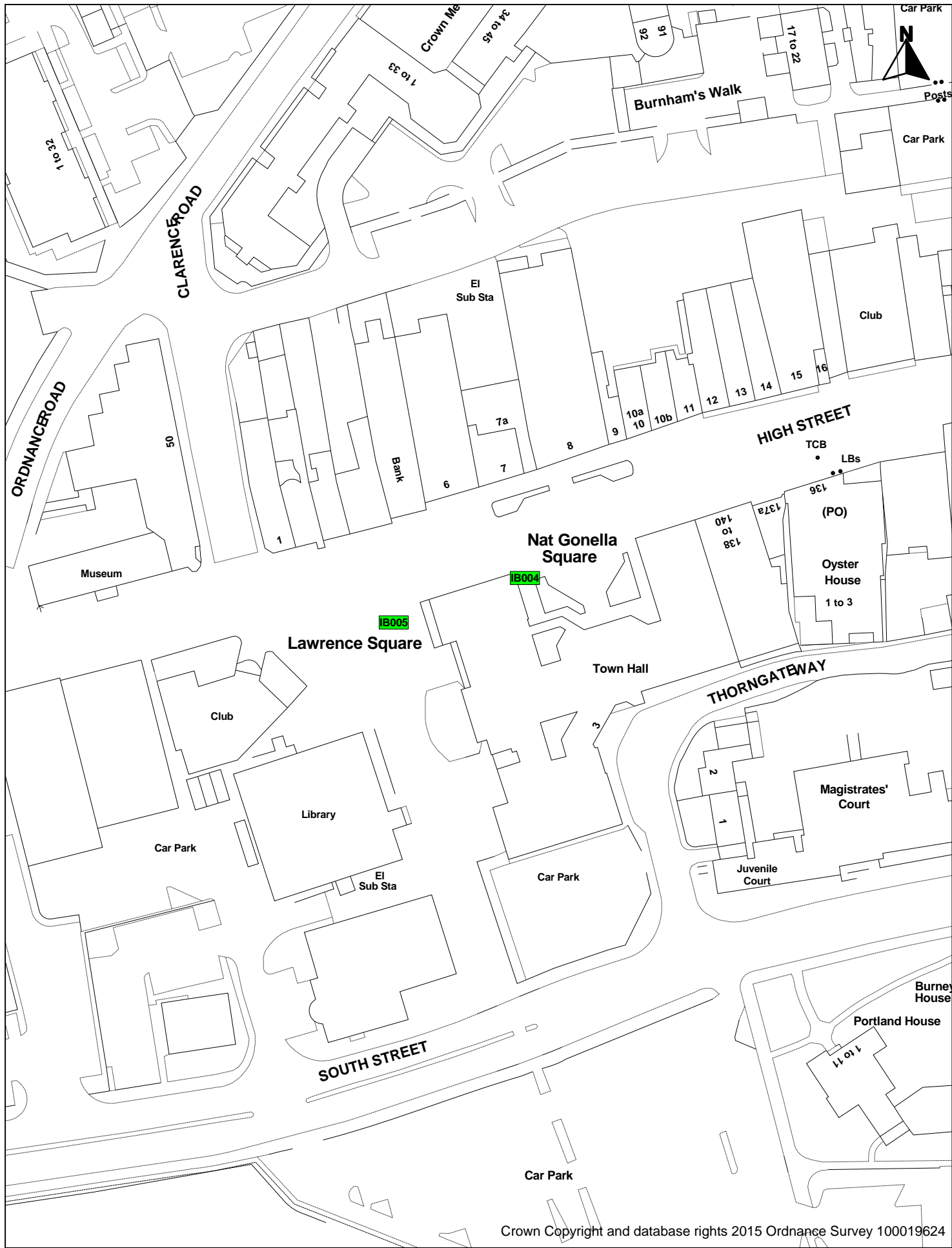
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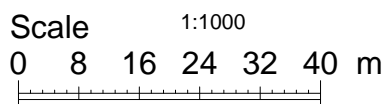
IB004 – NAT GONELLA SQUARE – HIGH STREET, NAT GONELLA SQUARE





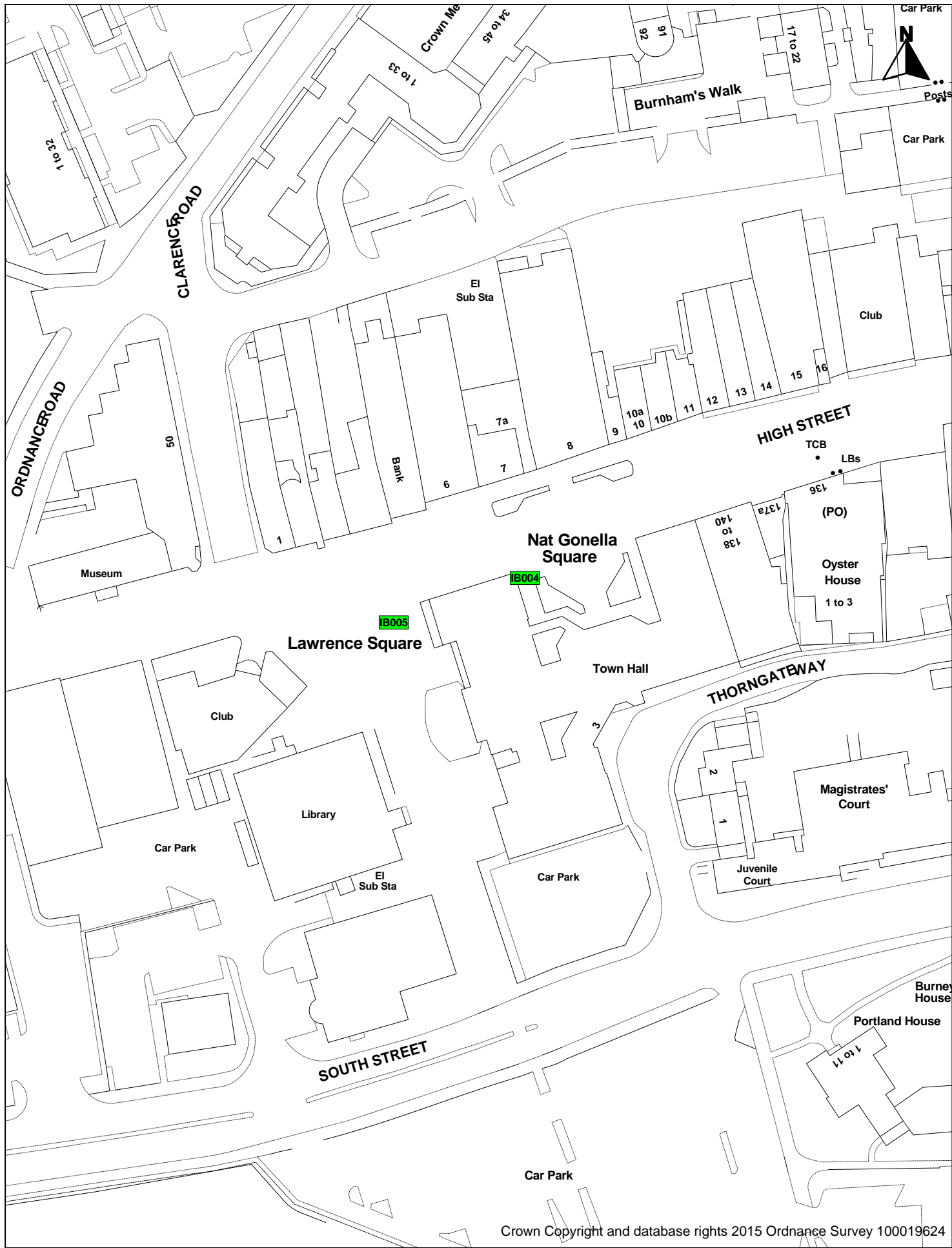
**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

DATE : 02/06/2015



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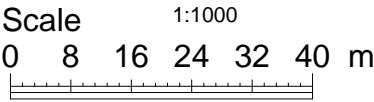




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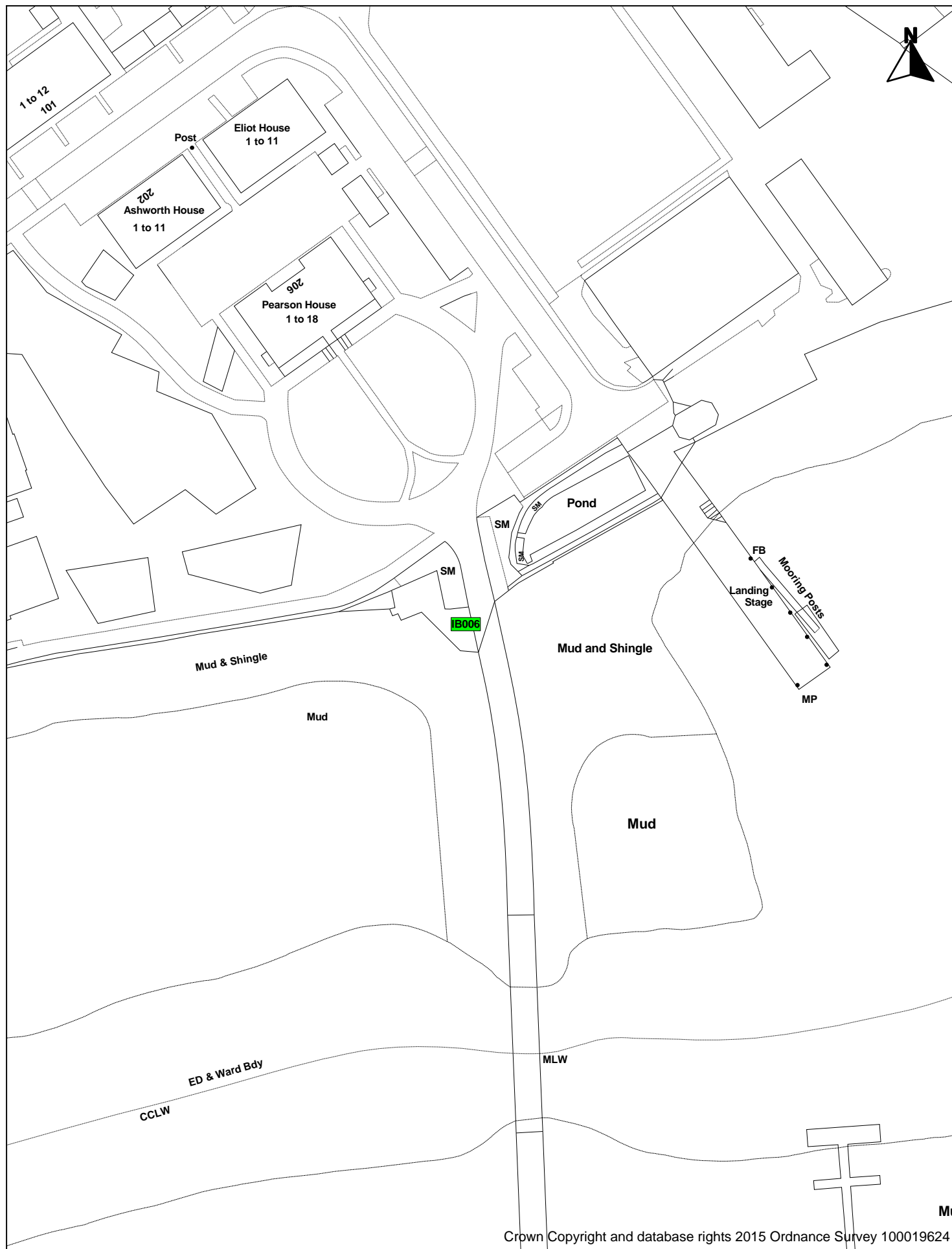
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DATE : 02/06/2015



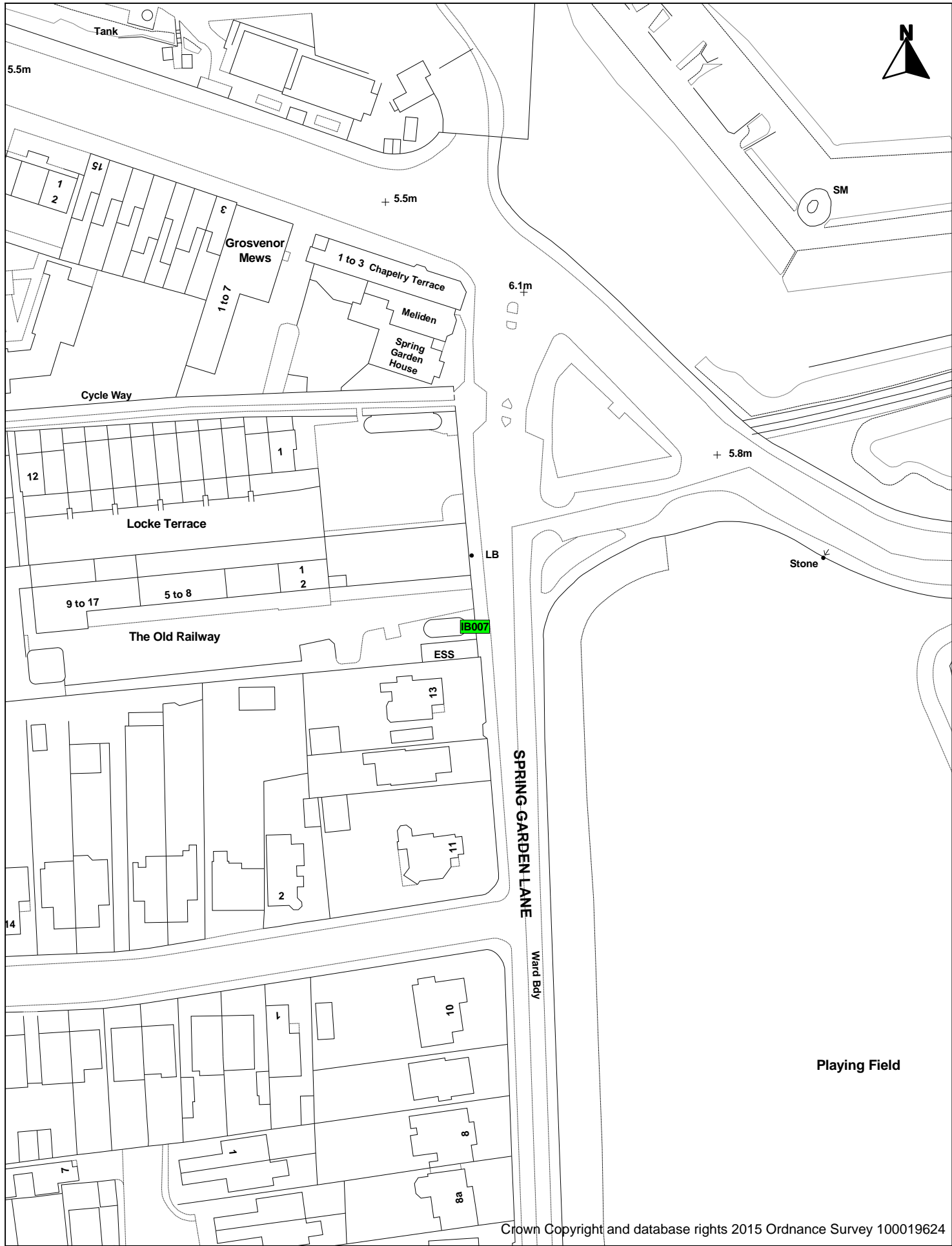
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The image shows an informational sign titled "Forton Lake Archaeology" mounted on a green metal stand. The sign is yellow with a green border and contains several panels of text and images. At the bottom left is a large map of Forton Lake with various sites marked. Above the map are several smaller panels, each with a photograph and accompanying text. The photographs show archaeological excavations, including stone foundations, walls, and structures. The text panels provide information about the archaeological findings and the history of the site. The sign is located on a rocky path next to a black metal fence, with a body of water visible in the background.



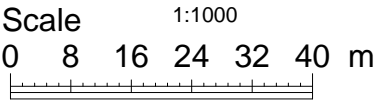
An informational sign for Gosport Railway Station is mounted on a stone wall. The sign is titled "GOSPORT RAILWAY STATION" and contains several paragraphs of text and four black and white photographs. The sign is supported by two black poles. In the background, there is a green metal fence and a building.

Hampshire



**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

DATE : 02/06/2015



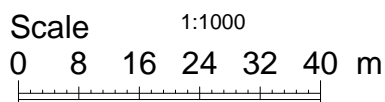
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**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

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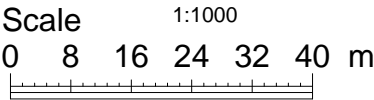
IB009 – STOKE ROAD – O/S METHODIST CHURCH, STOKE ROAD





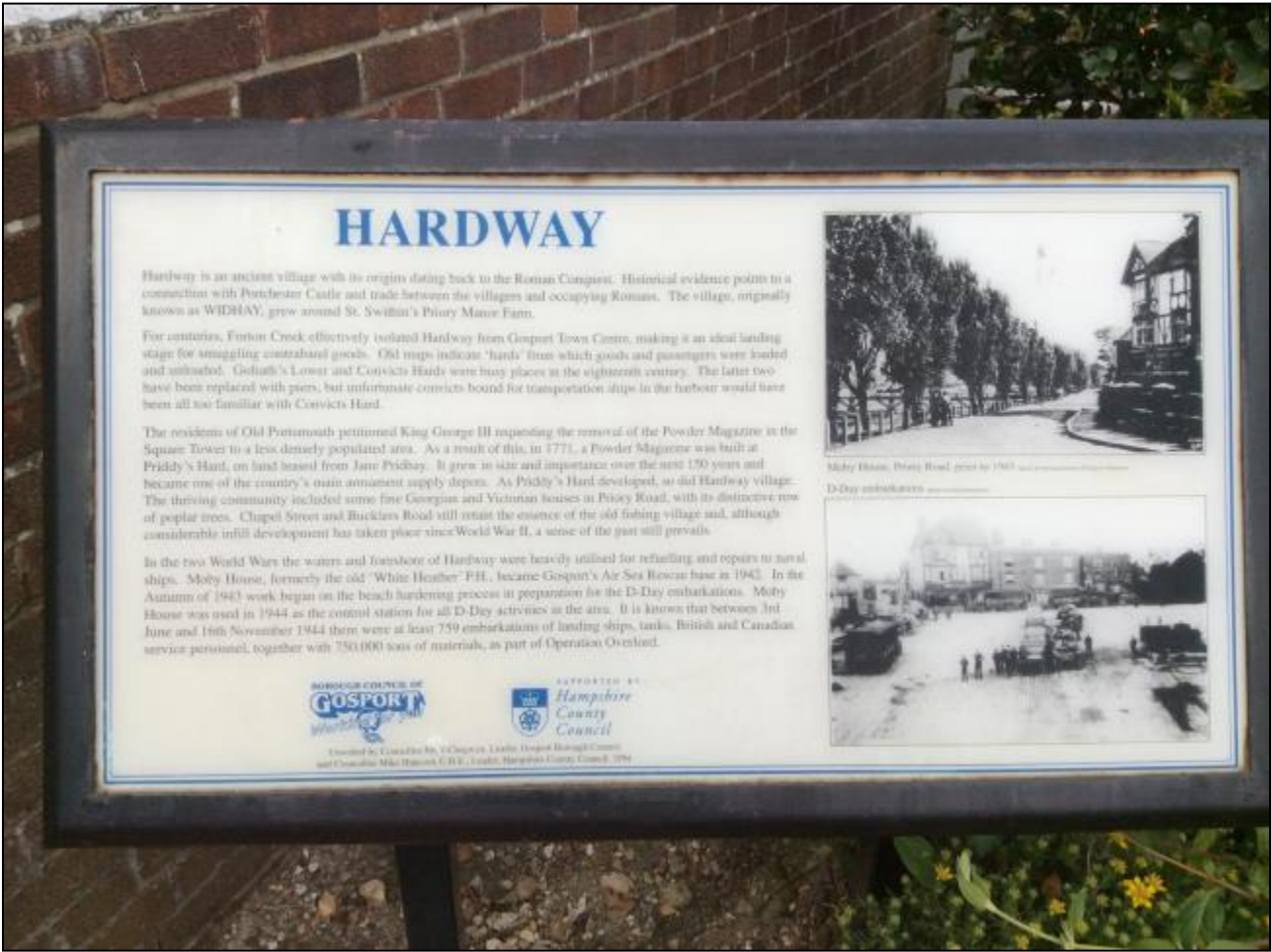
**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

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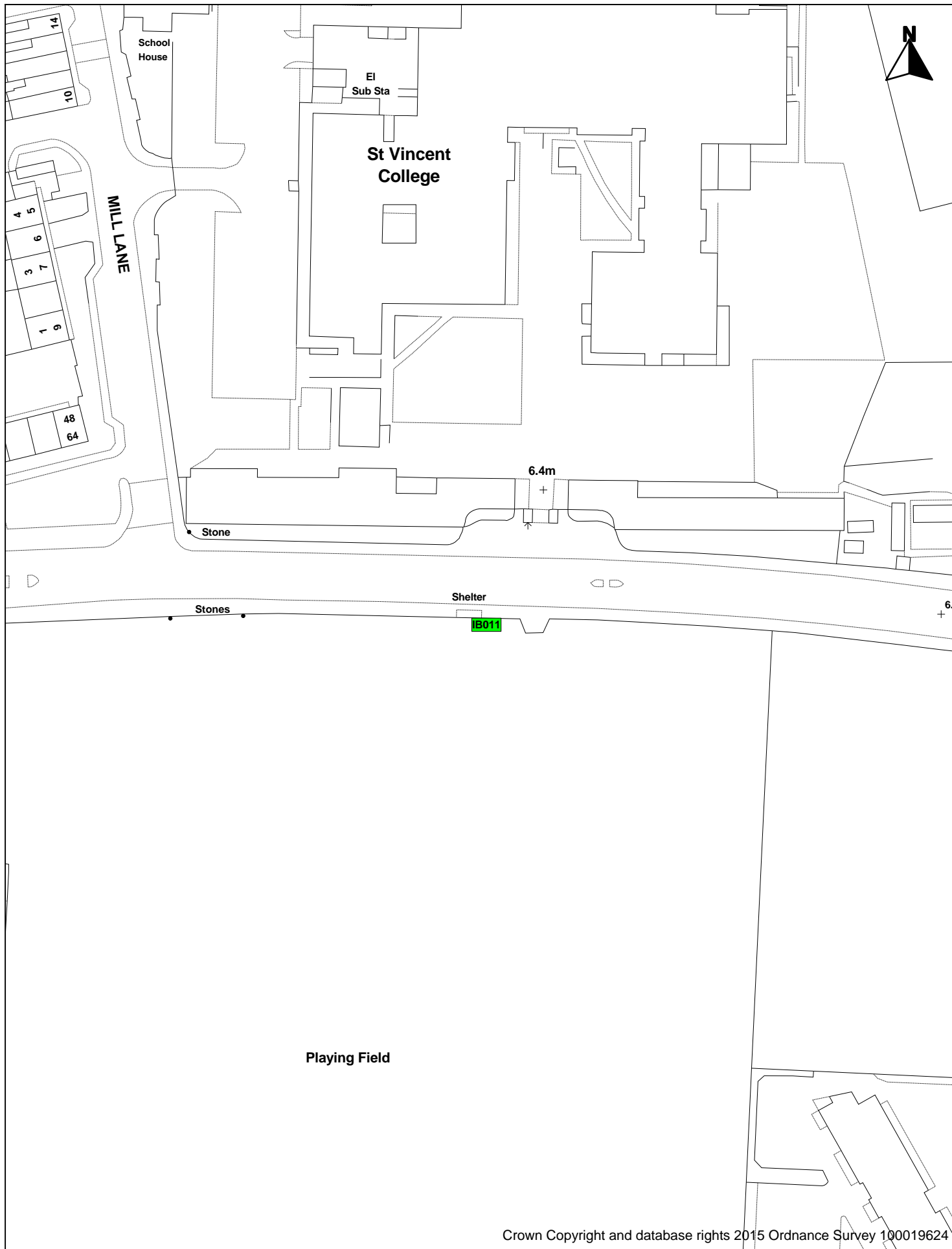


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IB010 – HARDWAY – PRIORY ROAD REST GARDEN



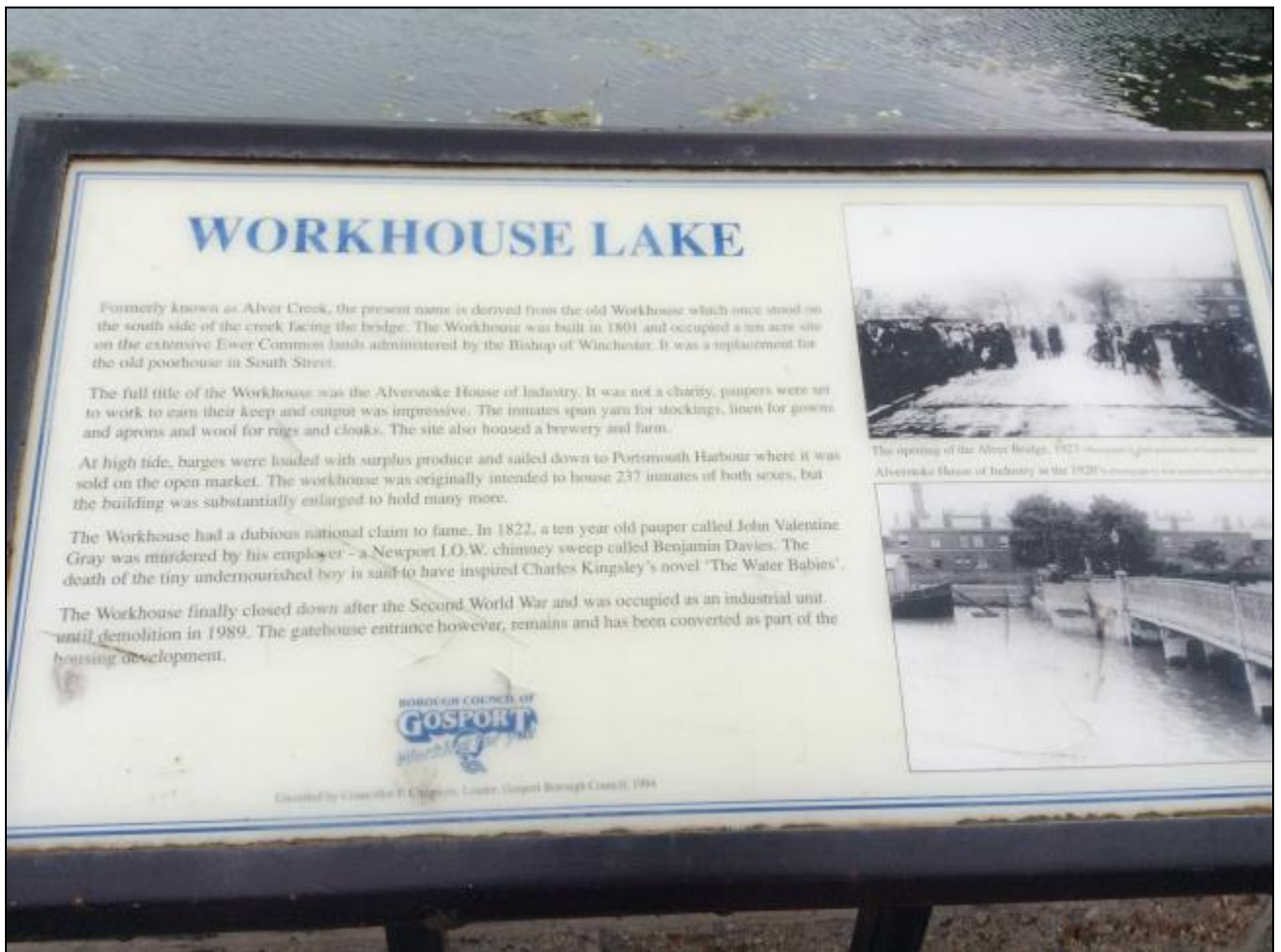
A photograph of a historical marker for St. Vincent Field. The marker is a white rectangular plaque with a black border, mounted on a black metal stand with four legs. The plaque features the title "ST VINCENT FIELD" at the top, followed by a map of the field and surrounding area. The marker is positioned in front of a black metal fence, with dense green foliage and bushes in the background. The ground is paved asphalt.



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DATE : 02/06/2015

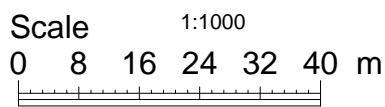
IB012 – WORKHOUSE LAKE – MAYFIELD ROAD





**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

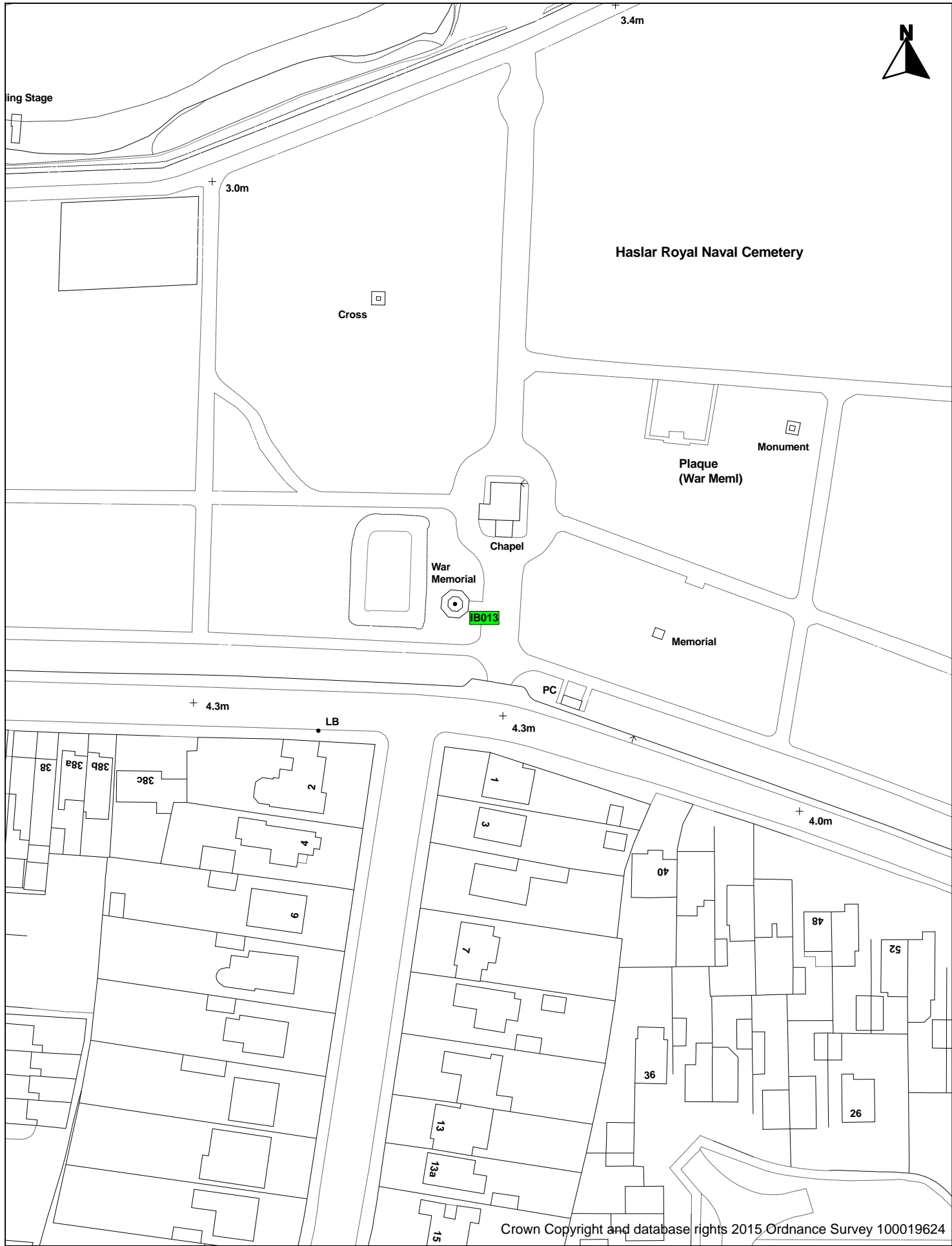
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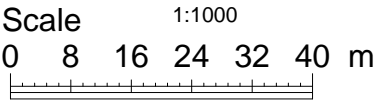
IB013 – CLAYHALL ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY





**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

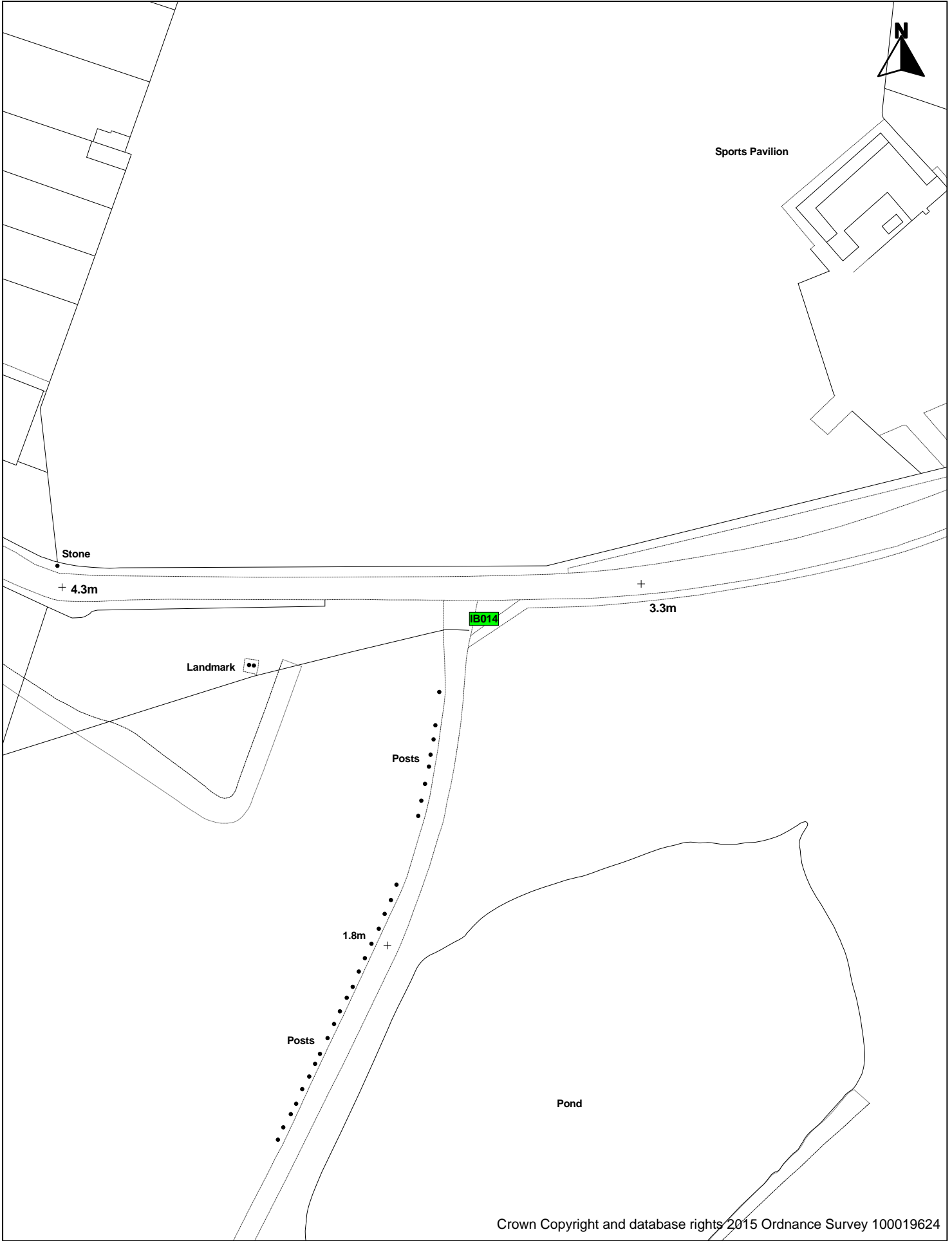
DATE : 02/06/2015



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IB014 – FORT GILKICKER – FORT ROAD, GILKICKER

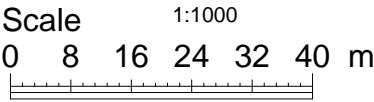




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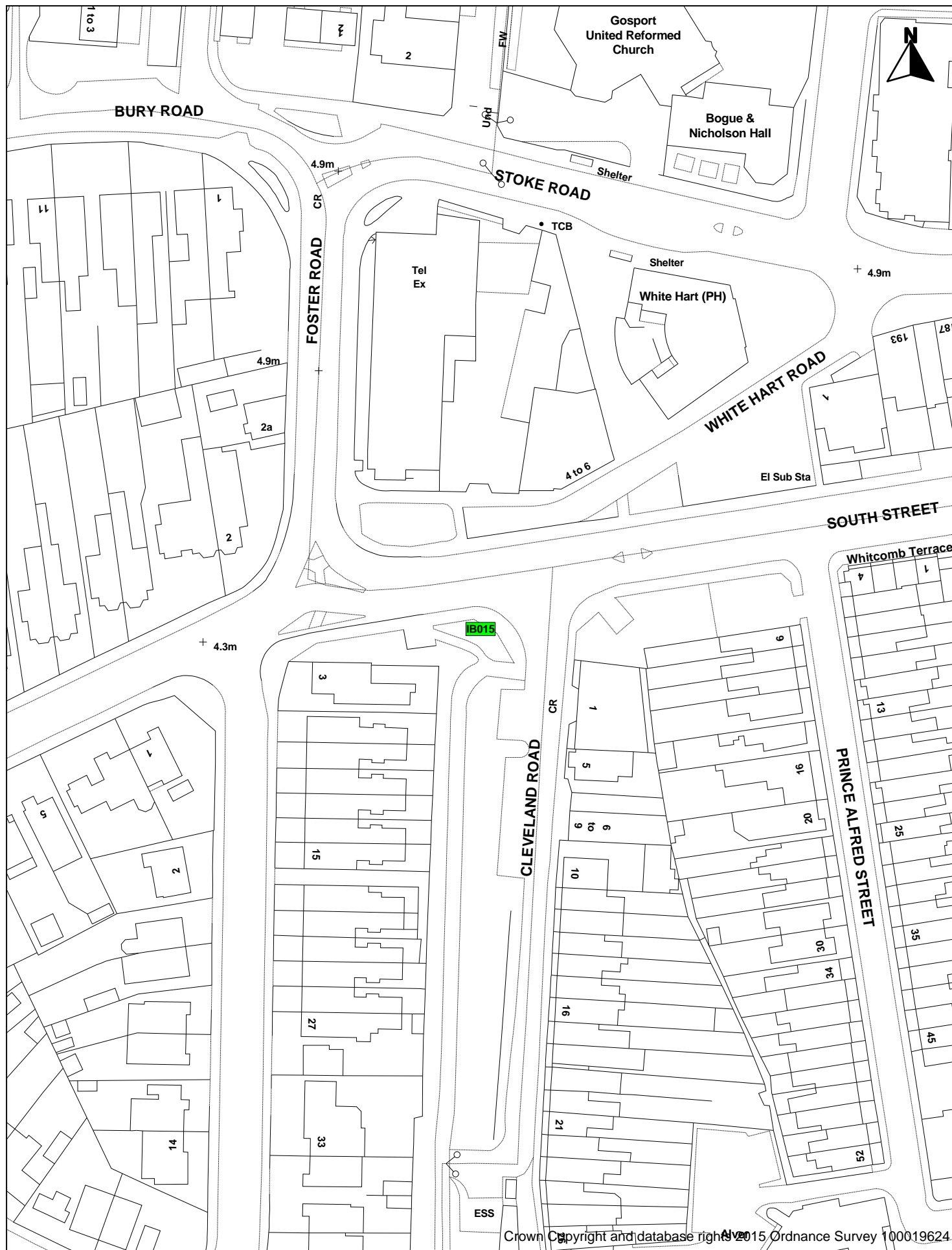
**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

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**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.** DATE : 02/06/2015

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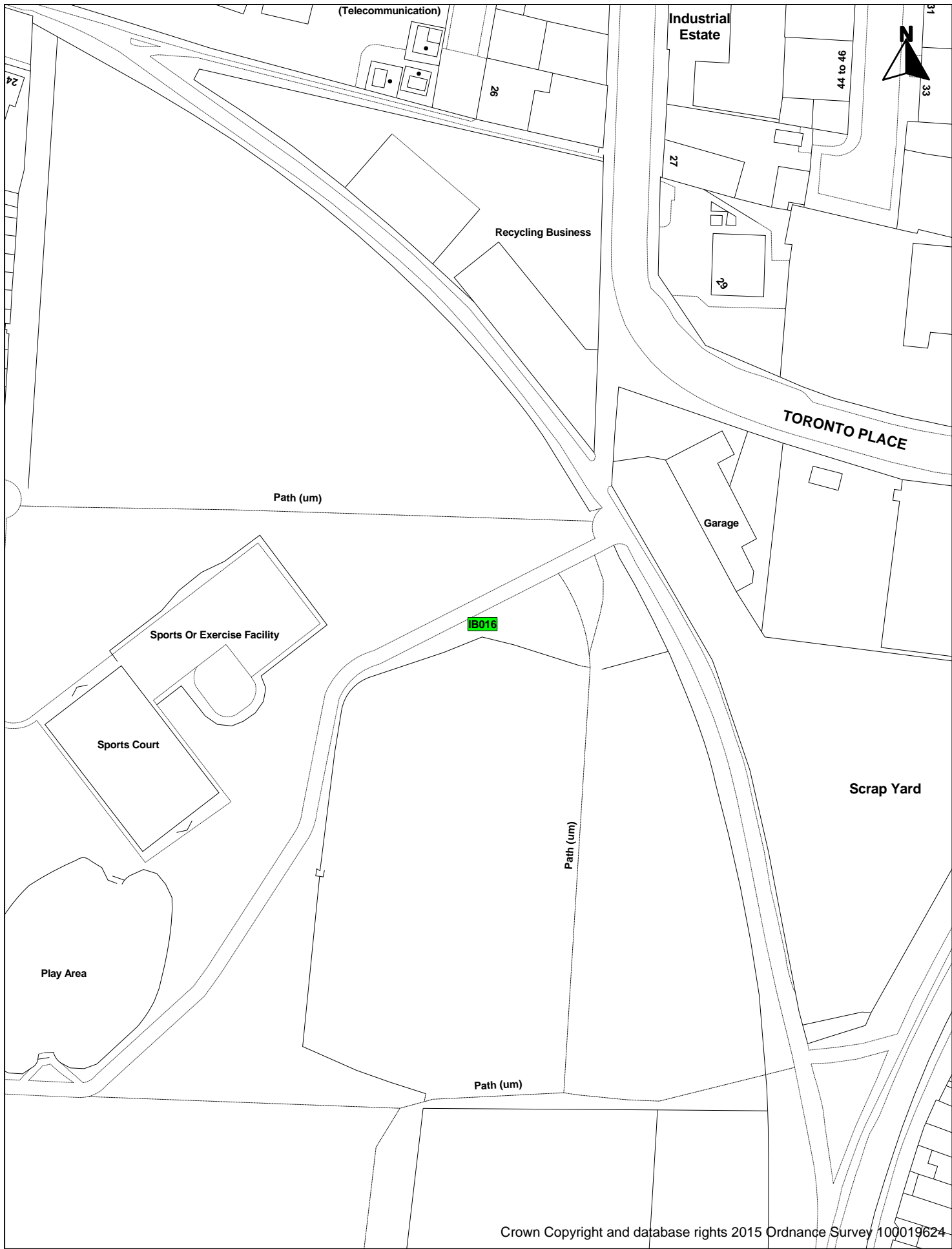
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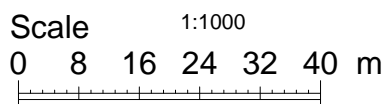
IB016 – LEESLAND PARK





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IB017 – ST. MARK’S CHURCHYARD – ST. MARK’S ROAD

St Mark's Church

part of the Gosport Heritage Trail

St Mark's Church 1844-1911



St Mark's Church was built by Robert Cruickshank as a Chapel of Ease to St Mary's Parish Church. The vicar of St Mary's had opposed the building and would have preferred an extension to the parish church instead. However, Cruickshank had somehow persuaded the bishop that Angsey should have its own place of worship and it was completed in 1844.

By the end of the 19th Century St Mark's was rarely being used and in 1911 it was declared unsafe and demolished, leaving the area to be used as a graveyard. Over the following years many more people were buried in the churchyard and today there are over 200 recorded graves.

The upkeep of the churchyard has proved more and more difficult over the years and until recently the cemetery had become overgrown and in a poor state of repair. In 2003 a group of volunteers was formed to bring the cemetery back to a manageable state, and the Friends of St Mark's now works on behalf of the Church.



Robert Cruickshank 1787-1853

Robert Cruickshank was born in the West Indies to a wealthy and family of plantation owners. Little is known about his early life but he evidently had a good basic education. He was sent when still very young to study Law in Montreal, Canada, where his next home had relatives with influence and access to family funds. It is not clear whether he studied at a Law School or with an established firm of lawyers but it is known that he arrived in Gosport in 1806 at the age of nineteen.

He joined a firm of attorneys in Clarence Square and must have shown promise, as by the time he was twenty five, he was Company Secretary of the group that demolished the old Gosport Market Hall and built a new building near to Gosport Town. This new Market House survived intact until the 1840s, and the style of the building was still standing until the 1950s.



The Crescent

Cruickshank then embarked on a career as an entrepreneur, planning and arranging the housing for many projects around Gosport. He formed companies and raised capital with varying degrees of success. Some of his more successful ventures include the building of the first Hauler Toll Bridge, the Floating Bridge that ran across the Harbour between Gosport and Portsmouth, and the building of the Crescent.

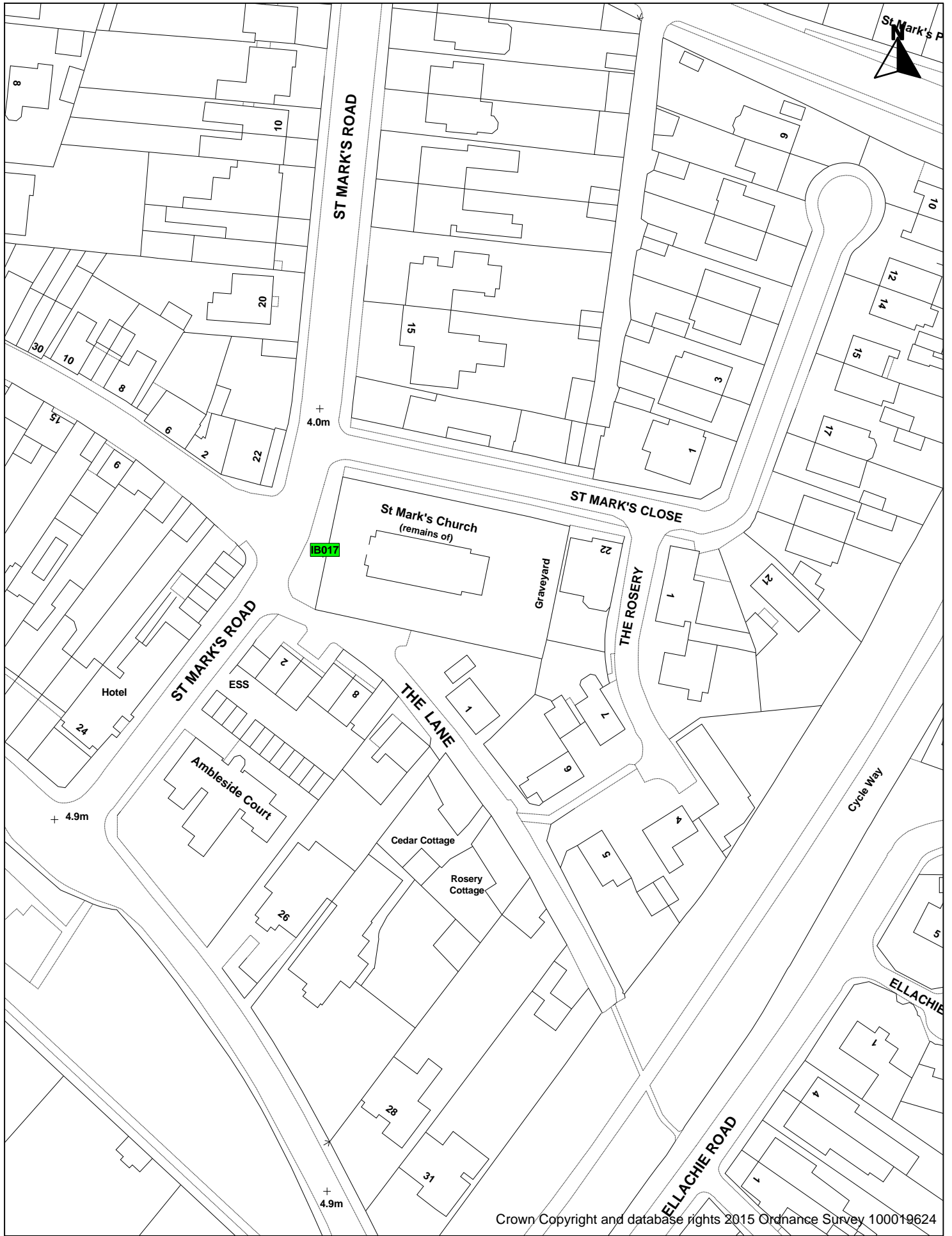
The Crescent was part of his larger plan of building a new called Angseyville. The whole project included a racetrack, gardens and a bath house supplied by water from Hauler Creek, residences and a hotel. Roads were built around the whole area and Cruickshank wanted to complete the complex with a church. He had a prolonged battle with the church authorities before finally getting his way, and St Mark's Church was finally completed in 1844 at a cost of £2,800.



Floating Bridge (by kind permission of Gosport Museum)





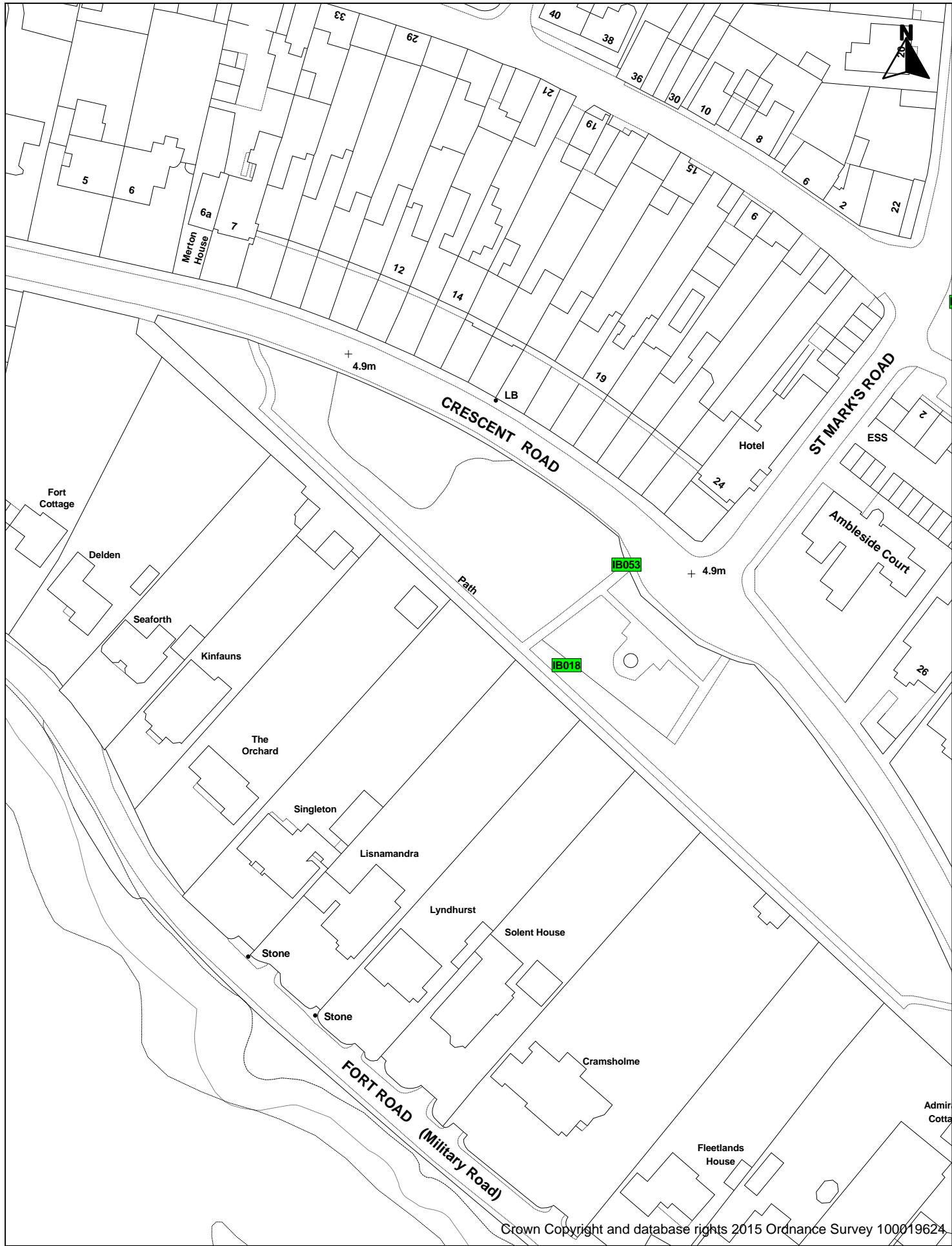


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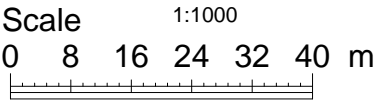
IB018 – ALVERSTOKE CRESCENT GARDENS – TERRACED WALK





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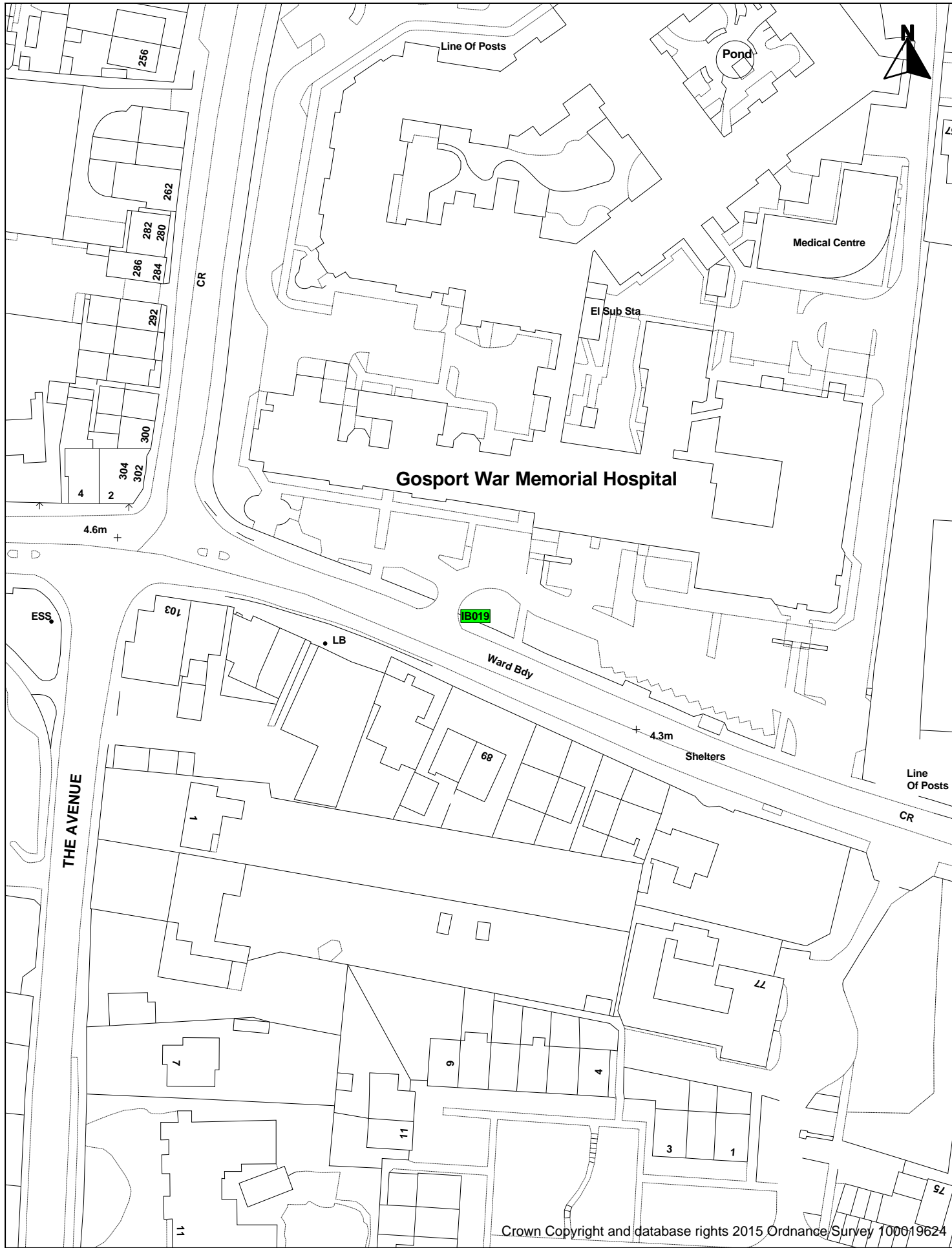
DATE : 02/06/2015



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IB019 – GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL – GOSPORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

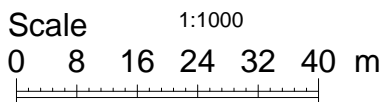




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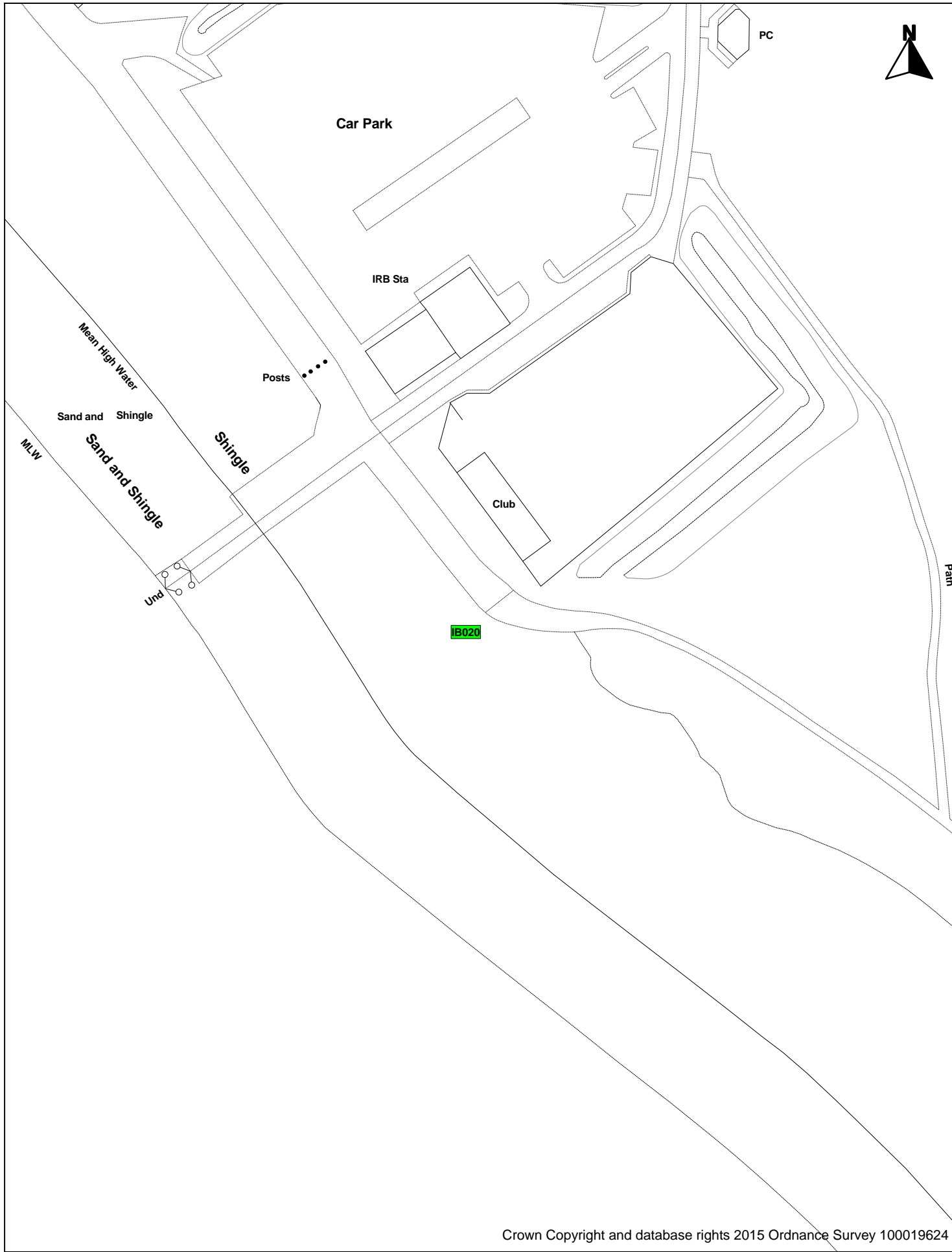
DATE : 02/06/2015



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IB020 – GILKICKER PART OF THE HERITAGE TRAIL – ANGLING CLUB

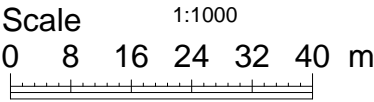




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The History of The Hermitage

The Legend

The story of the Hermitage is a legend. It is a story of a man who lived in a cave, and a woman who lived in a house. The man was a hermit, and the woman was a hermitess. They lived together in a cave, and they lived together in a house. The man was a hermit, and the woman was a hermitess. They lived together in a cave, and they lived together in a house.

The Land

The land of the Hermitage is a land of legend. It is a land of a man who lived in a cave, and a woman who lived in a house. The man was a hermit, and the woman was a hermitess. They lived together in a cave, and they lived together in a house.

The Hermit

The hermit was a man who lived in a cave. He was a hermit, and he lived in a cave. He was a hermit, and he lived in a cave. He was a hermit, and he lived in a cave.

The Hermitess

The hermitess was a woman who lived in a house. She was a hermitess, and she lived in a house. She was a hermitess, and she lived in a house. She was a hermitess, and she lived in a house.

The Hermitage

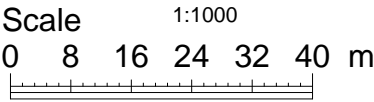
The Hermitage is a place of legend. It is a place of a man who lived in a cave, and a woman who lived in a house. The man was a hermit, and the woman was a hermitess. They lived together in a cave, and they lived together in a house.





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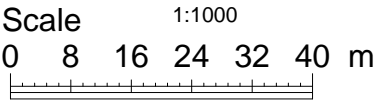
IB022 – THE HERMITAGE – THE MEADOW





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HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

DATE : 02/06/2015



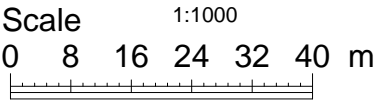
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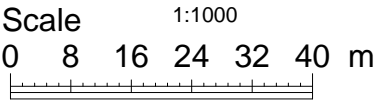
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HANTS, PO12 1EB.

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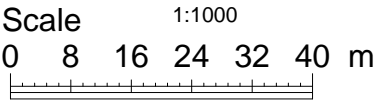
IB025 – THE HERMITAGE – FRUITS OF THE HERMITAGE





TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.

DATE : 02/06/2015



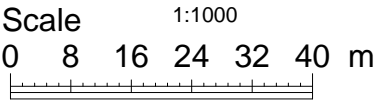
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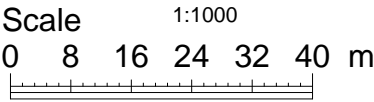
IB027 – THE HERMITAGE – BUTTERFLY GARDEN





TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
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DATE : 02/06/2015



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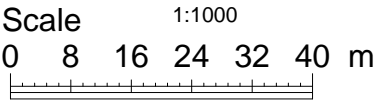
IB028 – THE HERMITAGE – THE HERMITAGE WILDLIFE GARDEN





TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
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DATE : 02/06/2015



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National Cycle Network-Route 2

Ray Reece Cycleway-Stokes Bay Road, Gosport

Who are Sustrans?

Sustrans provided the funding for the cycleway in Stokes Bay Road and is a 'Link to School Project'. They worked in partnership with Hampshire County Council and Gosport Borough Council in ensuring successful delivery.

The cycleway forms part of the National Cycle Network, Route 2, and is named in memory of local man Ray Reece, who in 1975 cycled around the world.

Sustrans makes smaller travel choices possible, smarter and healthier. They are a leading UK charity making people travel by foot, bus or public transport for more of their journey, we make every day journeys work with families, commuters, cyclists and police organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cheaper and cheaper pleasure, with better places and spaces to move through our lives.

If you're a cycle commuter, a leisure worker or a long distance bike tourist - join the million plus people that live using Sustrans' well-signed National Cycle Network every single day. The network covers 19,000 miles of walking and cycling.

To find out more about Sustrans and other routes near you visit [www.sustrans.org.uk](#)

Ray Reece (1906-2008) - "Local Hero"

80 year old Gosport man Ray Reece was already a hero in 1971 as he was the first to circumnavigate the world on a bicycle.

As a member of Gosport and Portsmouth Cycling Club, with great success, Ray set himself a target of 20 weeks leave for very few rest days.

Ray had left the RAF in 1950 with spinal problems and cycled again. This didn't hold him back as neither his doctor treated him through diet and exercise.

On June 14th 1971, unprompted and with five men Town Hall, cheered on by the Deputy Mayor and 100 spectators, would prove critical time in what was ahead. He carried 45lbs (19kg) of luggage strapped to his body, food and kit, tent, sleeping bag and an electric torch.

Ray's journey was a dangerous adventure - in Tuvalu, Laysan, Ray Rowen in the road to take his way to the island it was attacked by muggings in Australia, and he found with this bank collapse. Amazingly, he had whole journey.

He arrived home to a hero's welcome on November morning being in the island looked. He had cycled 33,573 miles. Ray Reece was the first to achieve the feat to remain in the record books with 1980. Ray remained in the local press until his death in 2008. His pursuit of two dreams has made him an inspiration.

Map of the World

Top view of the world showing the route taken by Ray Reece, starting from London, England, and ending in London, England, after completing the first circumnavigation of the world on a bicycle.

Legend:

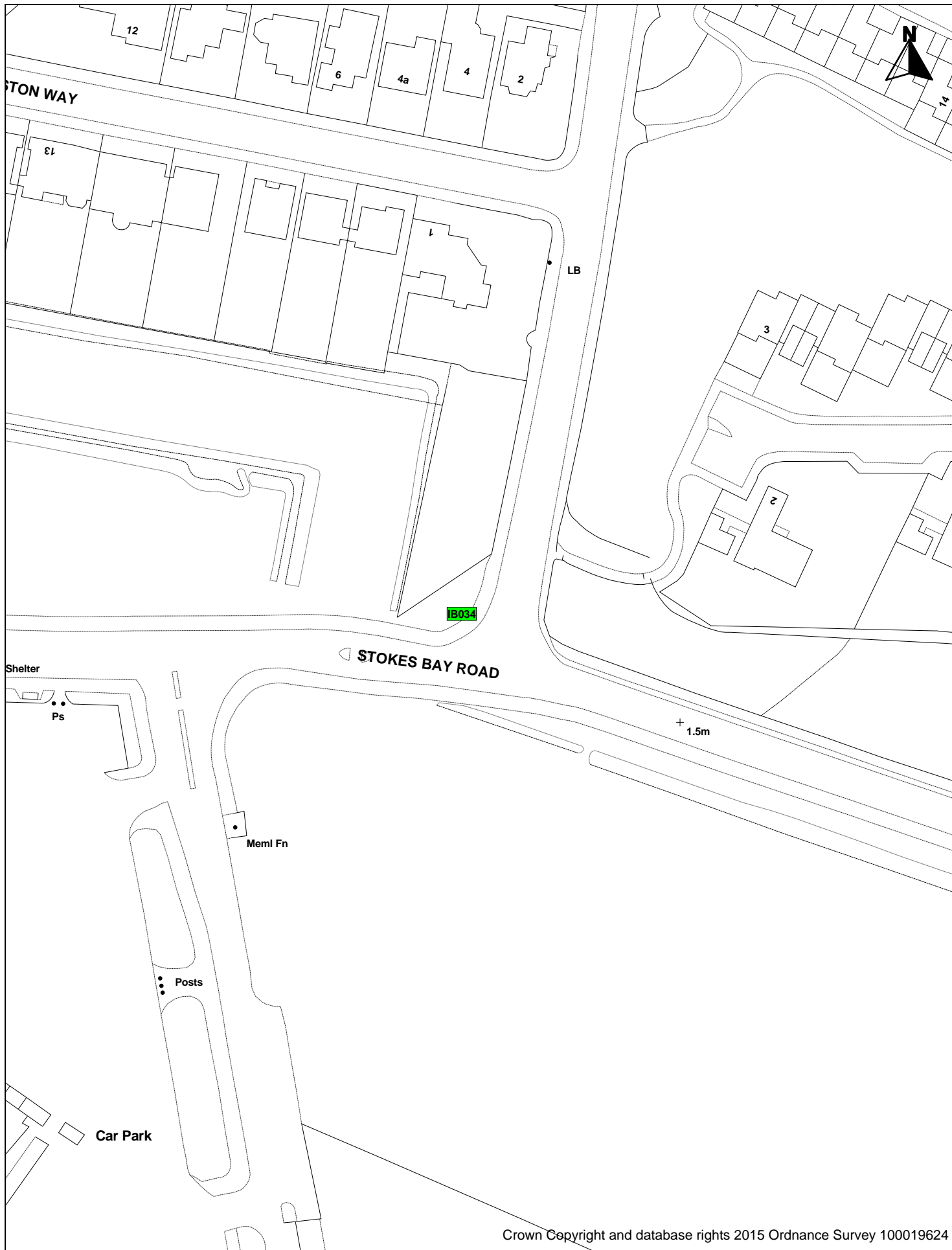
- London, England
- Tokyo, Japan
- Hong Kong, China
- Bombay, India
- Mumbai, India
- Calcutta, India
- Rangoon, Burma
- Singapore, Singapore
- Jakarta, Indonesia
- Manila, Philippines
- Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico
- New York, New York
- Los Angeles, California
- San Francisco, California
- Seattle, Washington
- Vancouver, Canada
- Ottawa, Canada
- London, England

Gosport Borough Council

Hampshire County Council

Sustrans





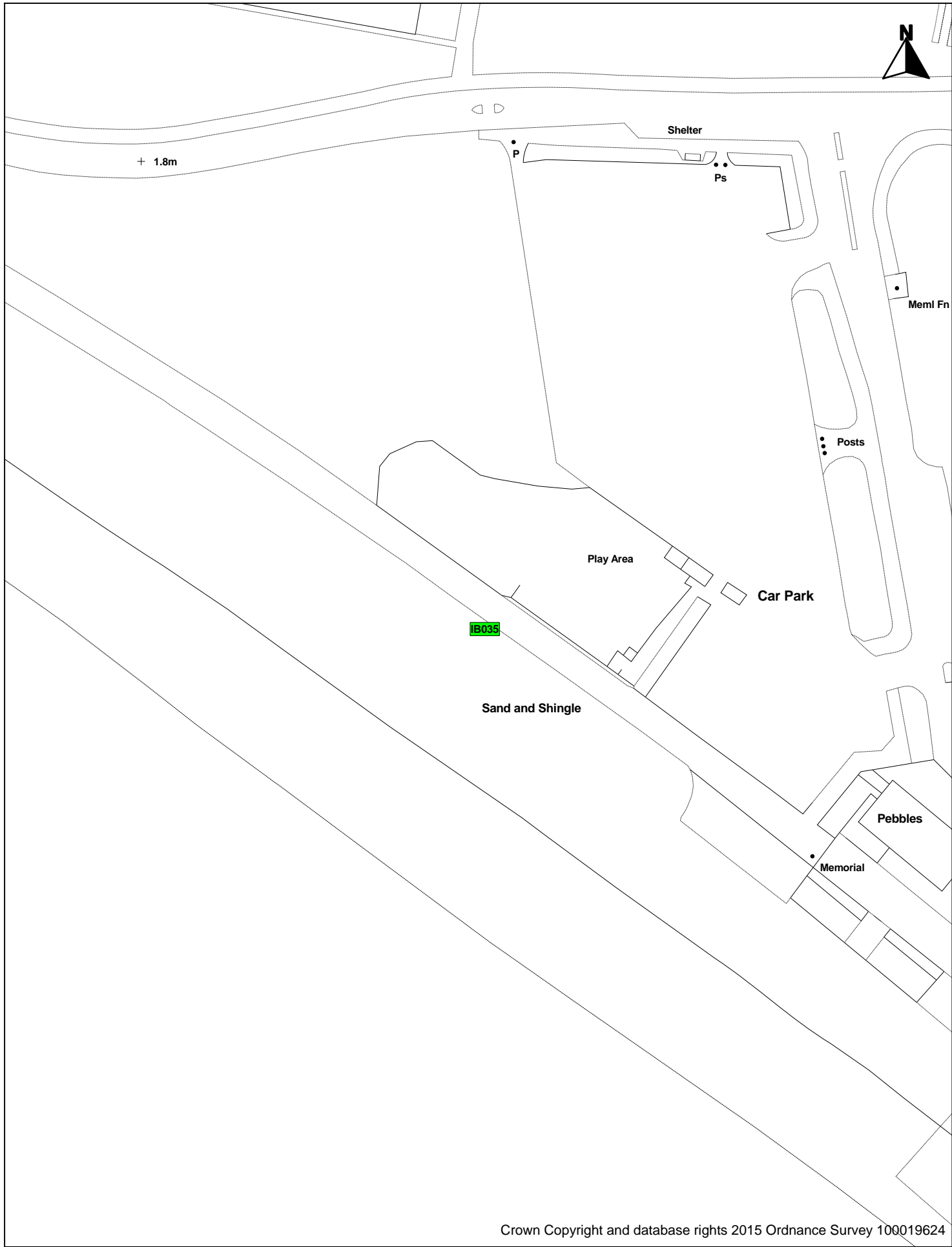
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DATE : 02/06/2015

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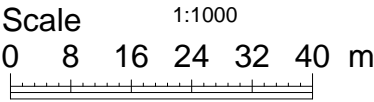




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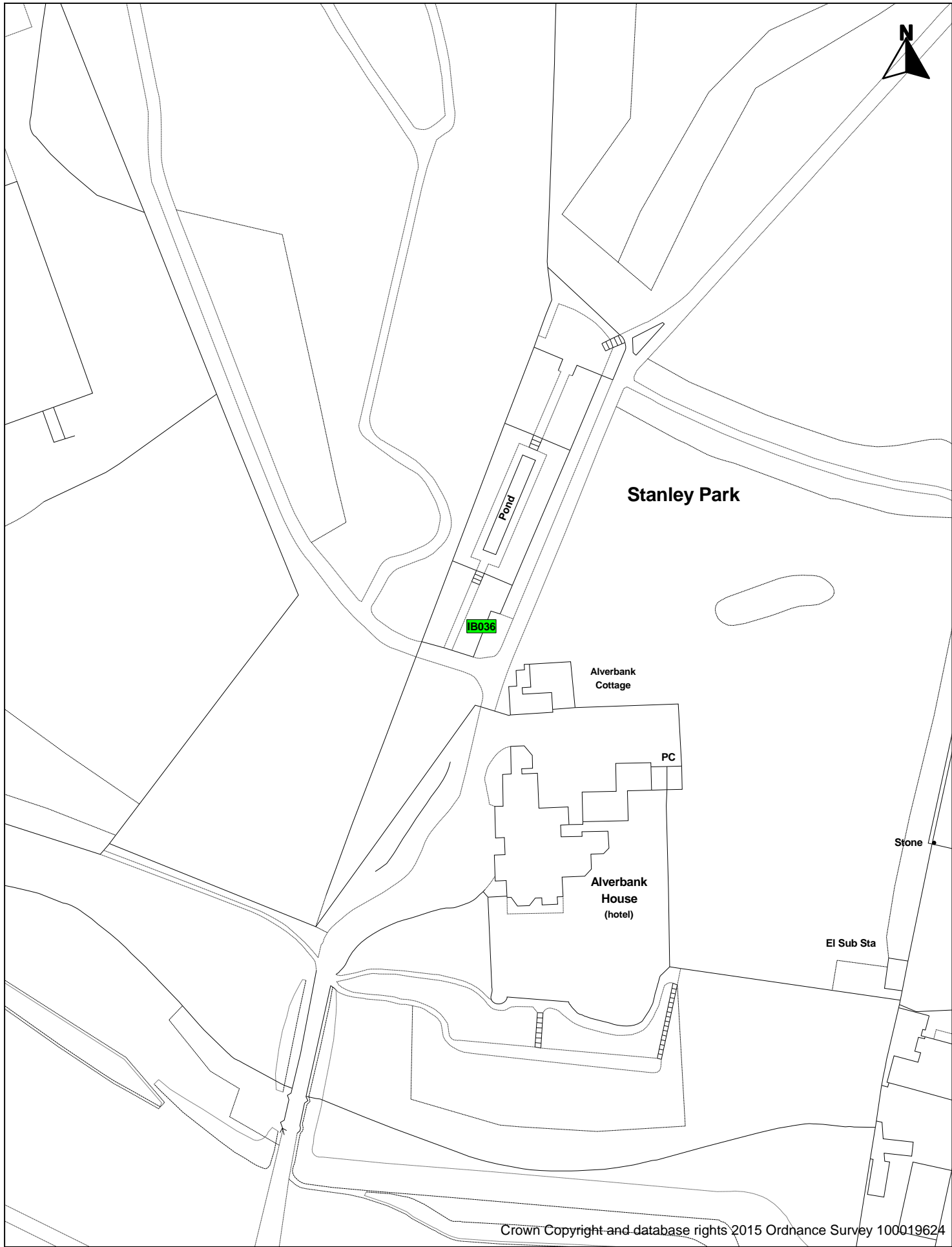
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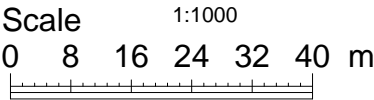




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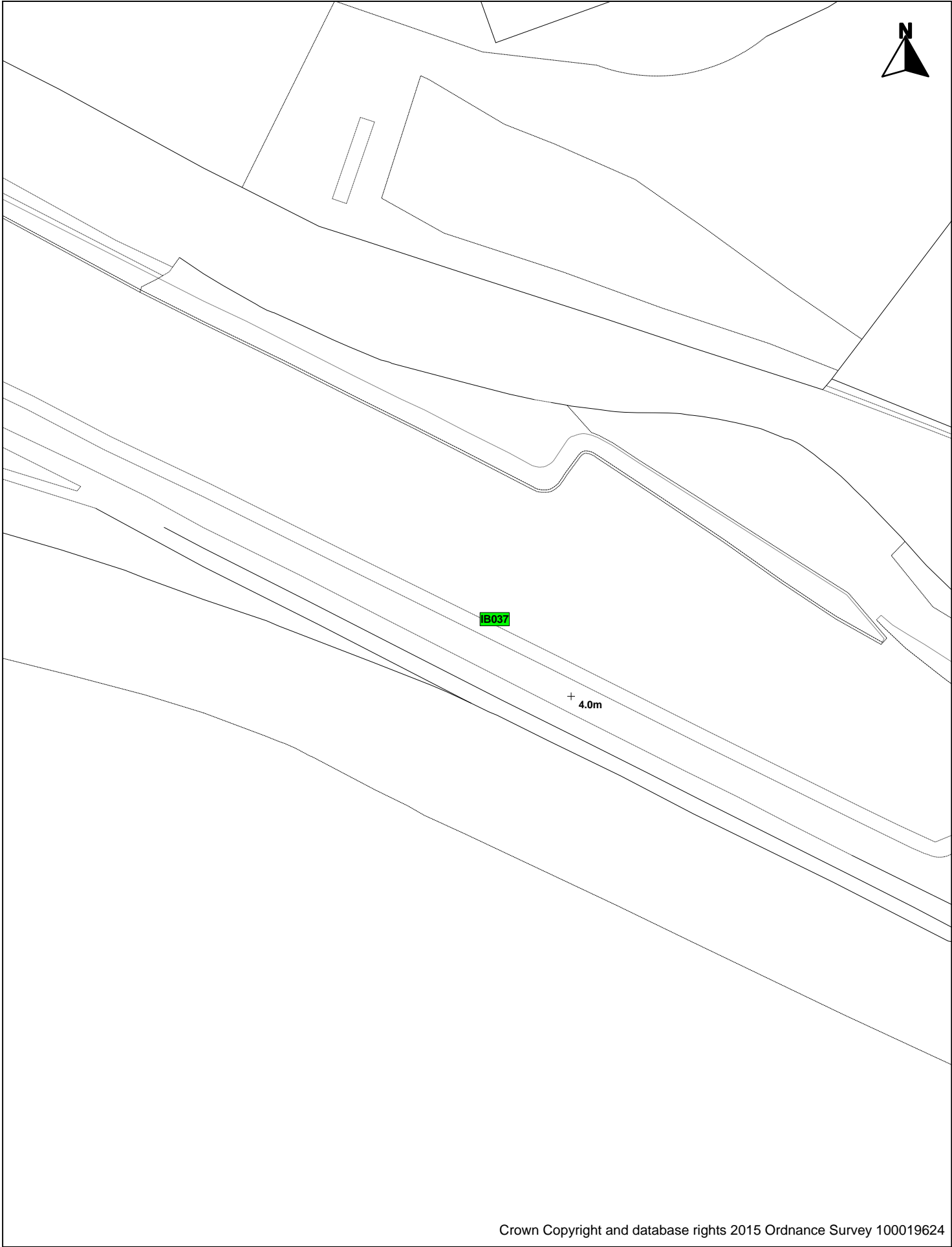
DATE : 02/06/2015



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IB037 – THE STOKES BAY LINES – ALVERBANK DRIVE, STOKES BAY

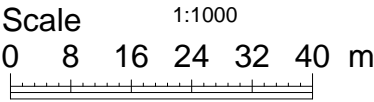




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The Stokes Bay Lines

The Stokes Bay Lines were constructed in 1887 as part of the great Victorian Royal Devonshire defence of the United Kingdom because of Japanese invasion scares in 1880 and 1885, when the possibility of an enemy landing on Stokes Bay was considered to threaten the security of Portsmouth Harbour and Dockyard.

The Lines consisted of a ditch, 600' in width, running north to a depth of 18", a long step in front and behind walls to be occupied by infantry in three of attack. The ditch ran from No. 2 Battery at the west end of Stokes Bay to Collector Lane to the east, a distance of 2,350 yards. Five batteries of guns provided artillery fire along the ditch. Water for flooding the Lines was provided by diverting the River Alver into the supply at No. 2 Battery.

From where you are standing you can see the three gun emplacements of No. 2 Battery to the east. Behind them is a long gun in the battery from which the three batteries to the west, where a bridge once crossed the ditch to Stokes Bay Head.

By 1987, the old World War II coastal defence gun emplacements had been removed.

Fig 1
The Stokes Bay Lines as they were in 1887

Fig 2
The Stokes Bay Lines as they were in 1987

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The Stokes Bay Lines as they were in 1987

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The Stokes Bay Lines as they were in 1987

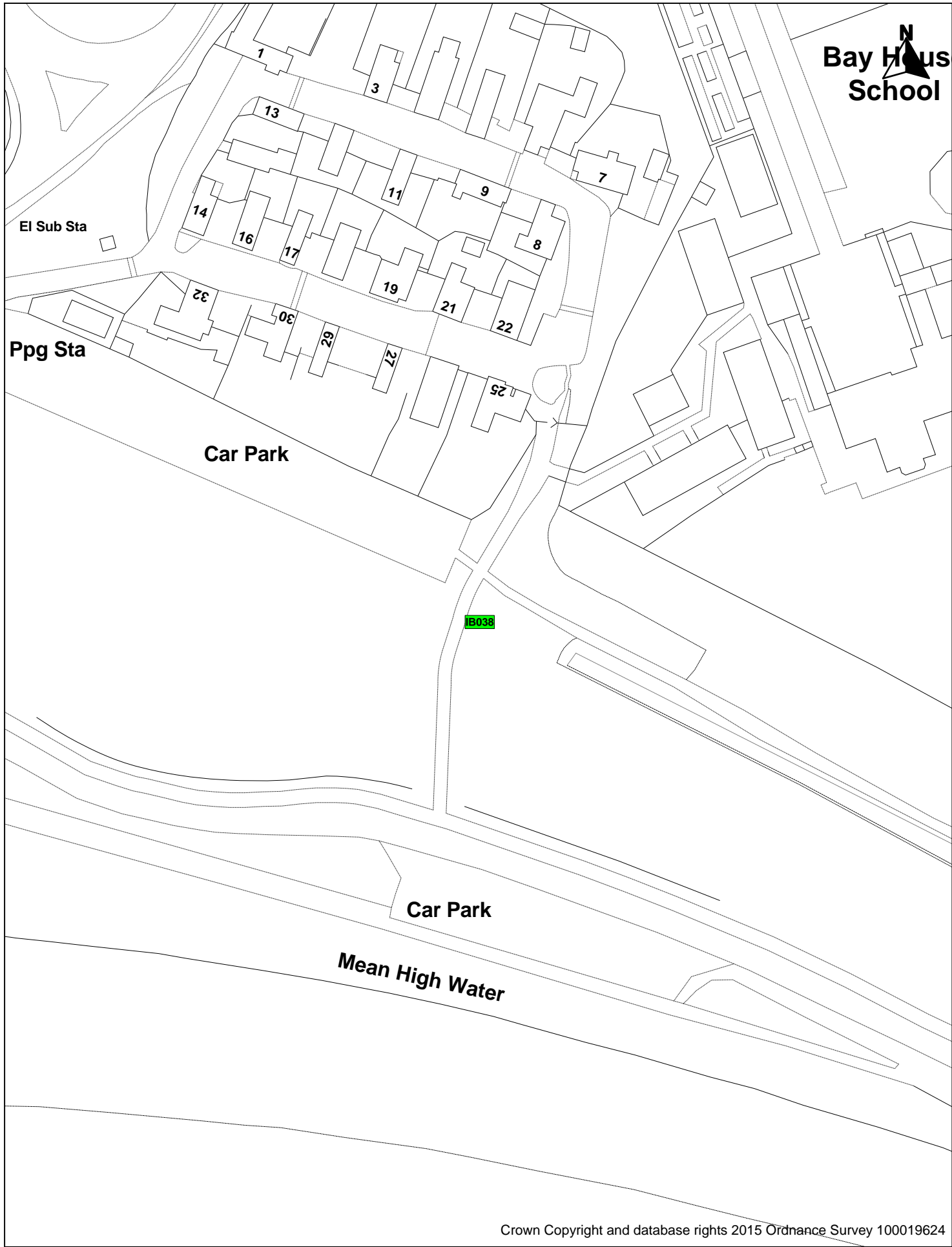
Fig 128
The Stokes Bay Lines as they were in 1987

Fig 129
The Stokes Bay Lines as they were in 1987

Fig 130
The Stokes Bay Lines as they were in 1987

Fig 131
The Stokes Bay Lines as they were in 1987

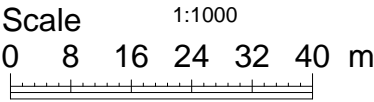




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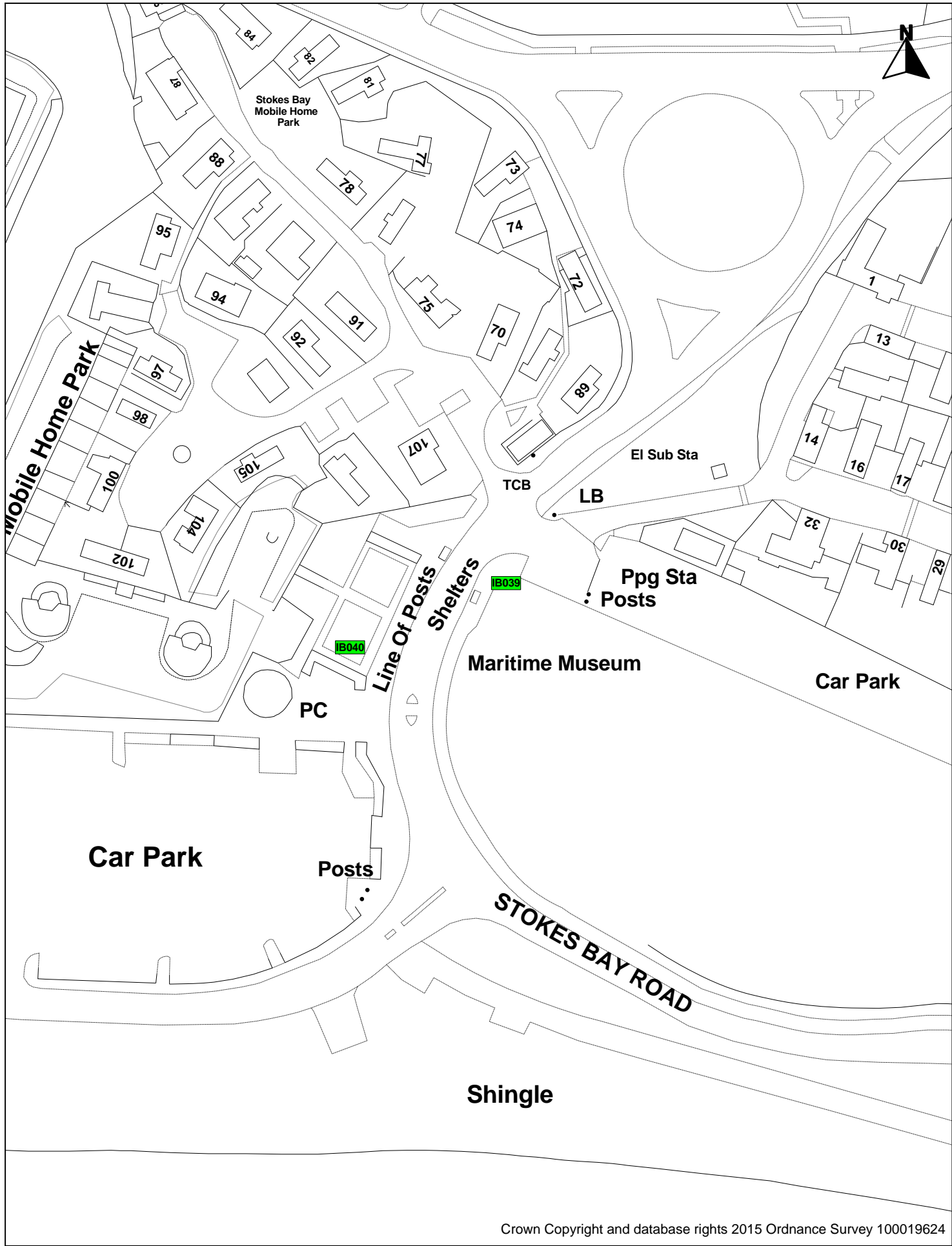
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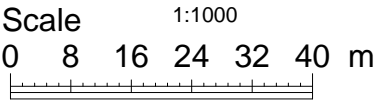
IB039 – THE STOKES BAY LINES – UPPER HOME PARK





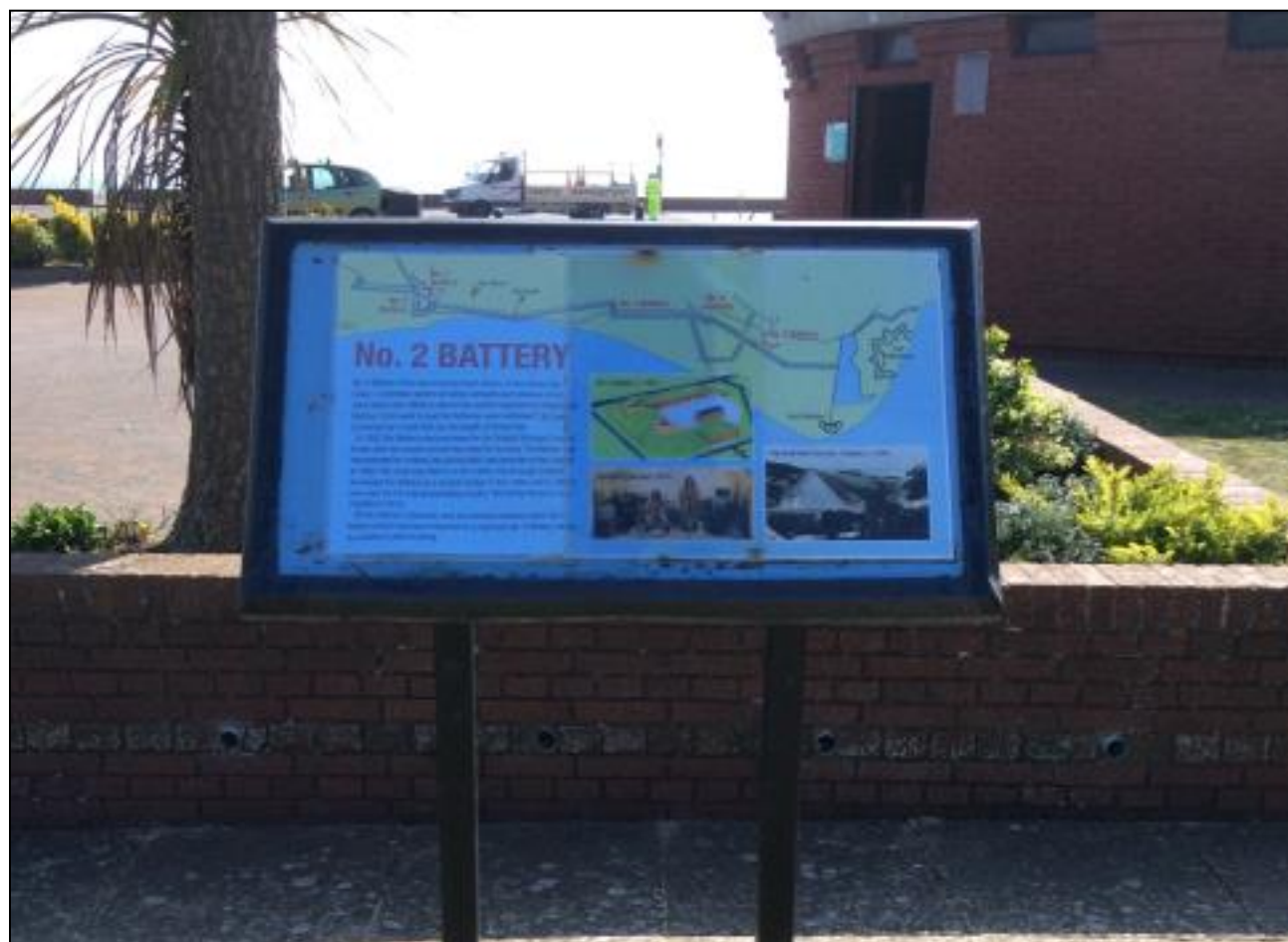
**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

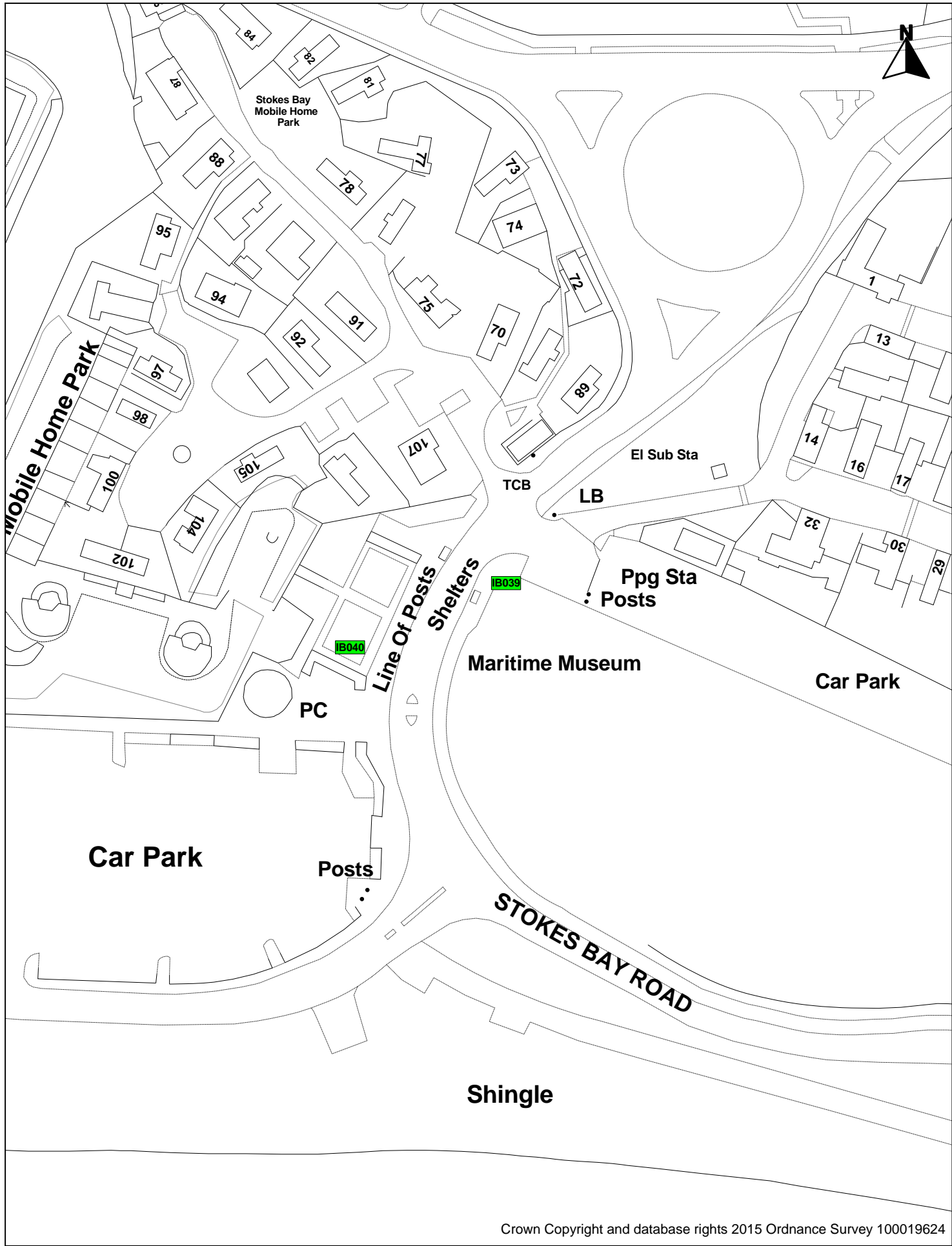
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IB040 – NO. 2 BATTERY, NO. 2 BATTERY, STOKES BAY

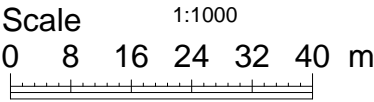




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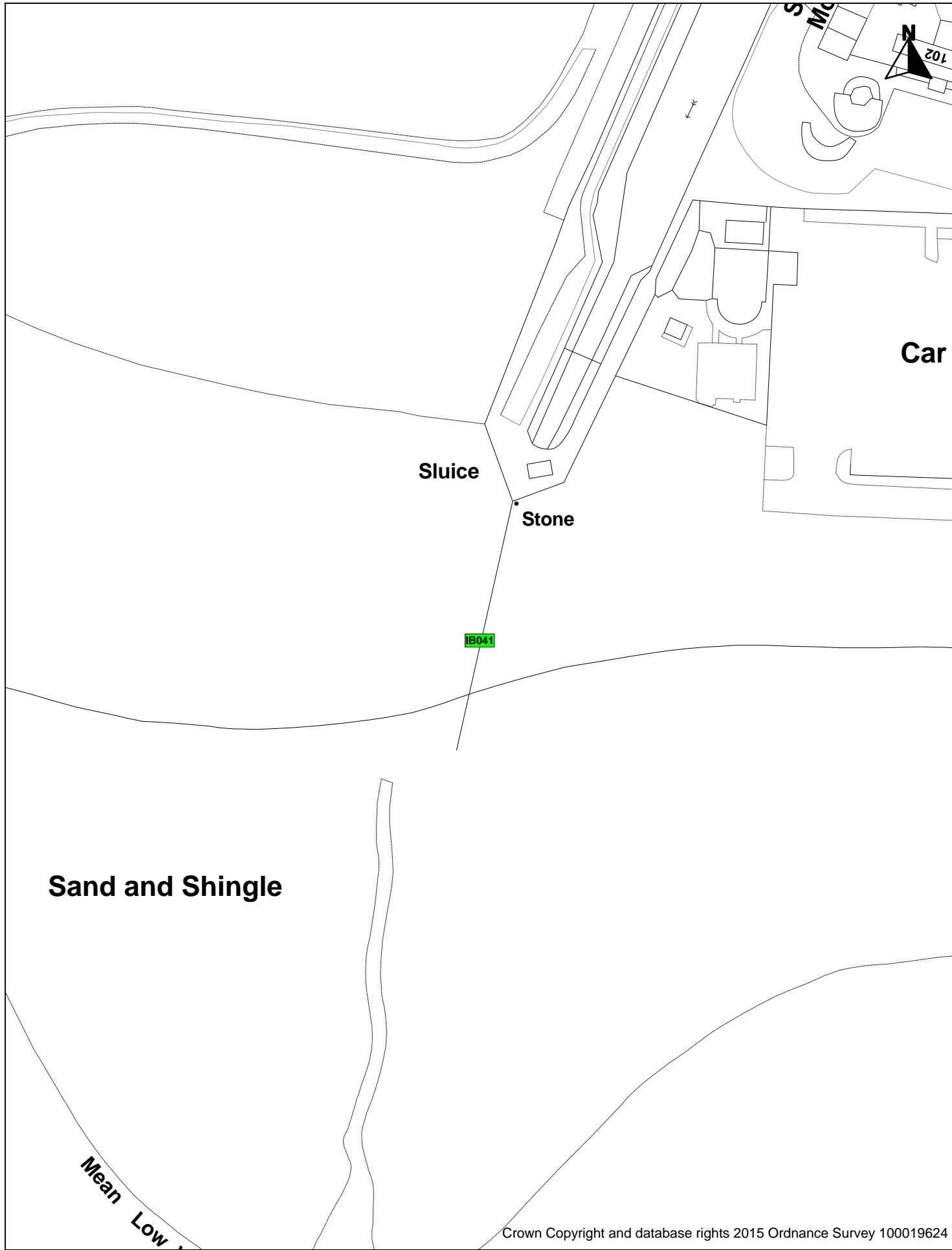
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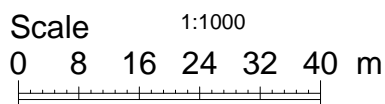
IB041 – BROWNDOWN – ENTRANCE TO RANGE NO. 2 BATTERY





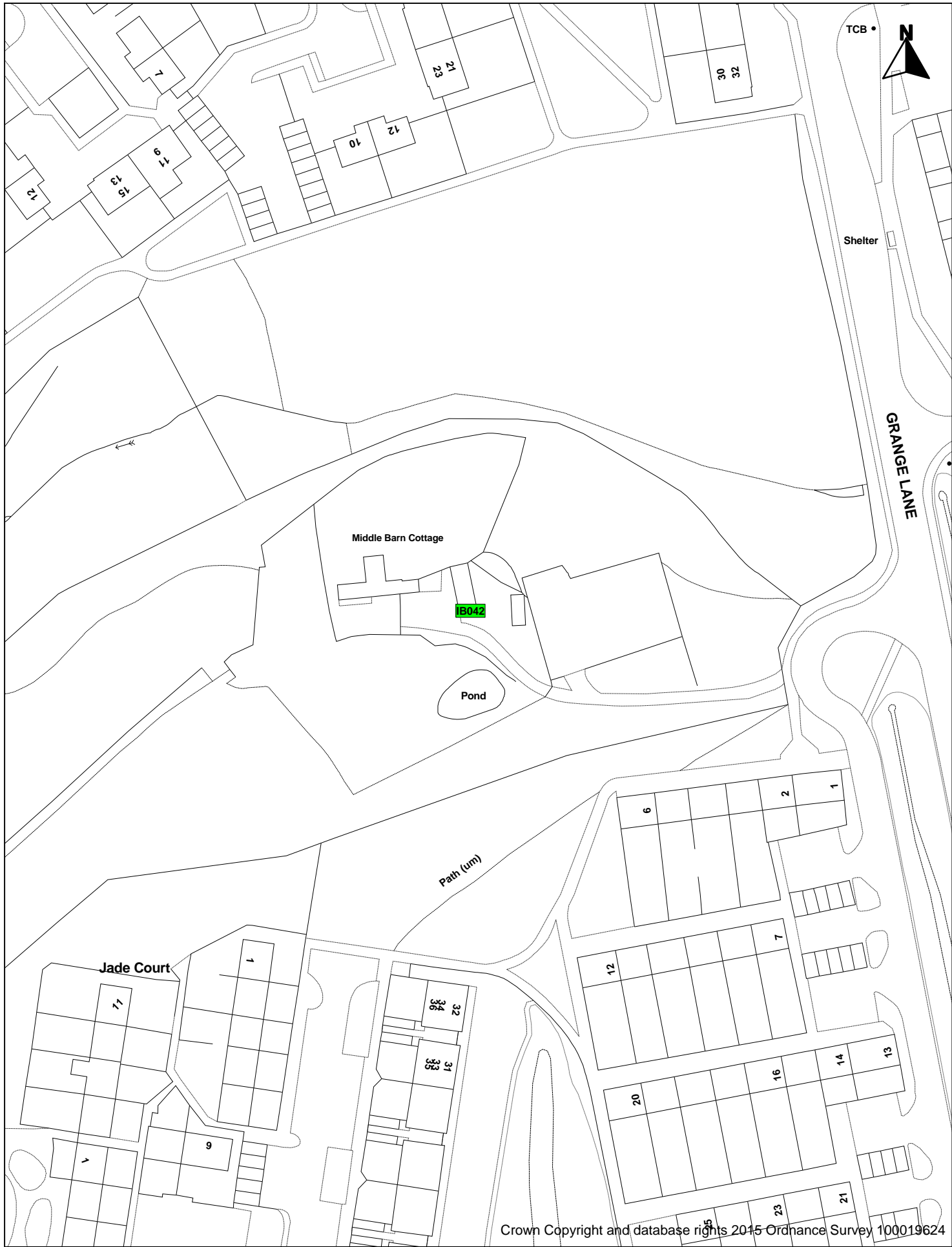
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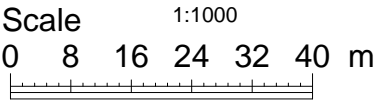
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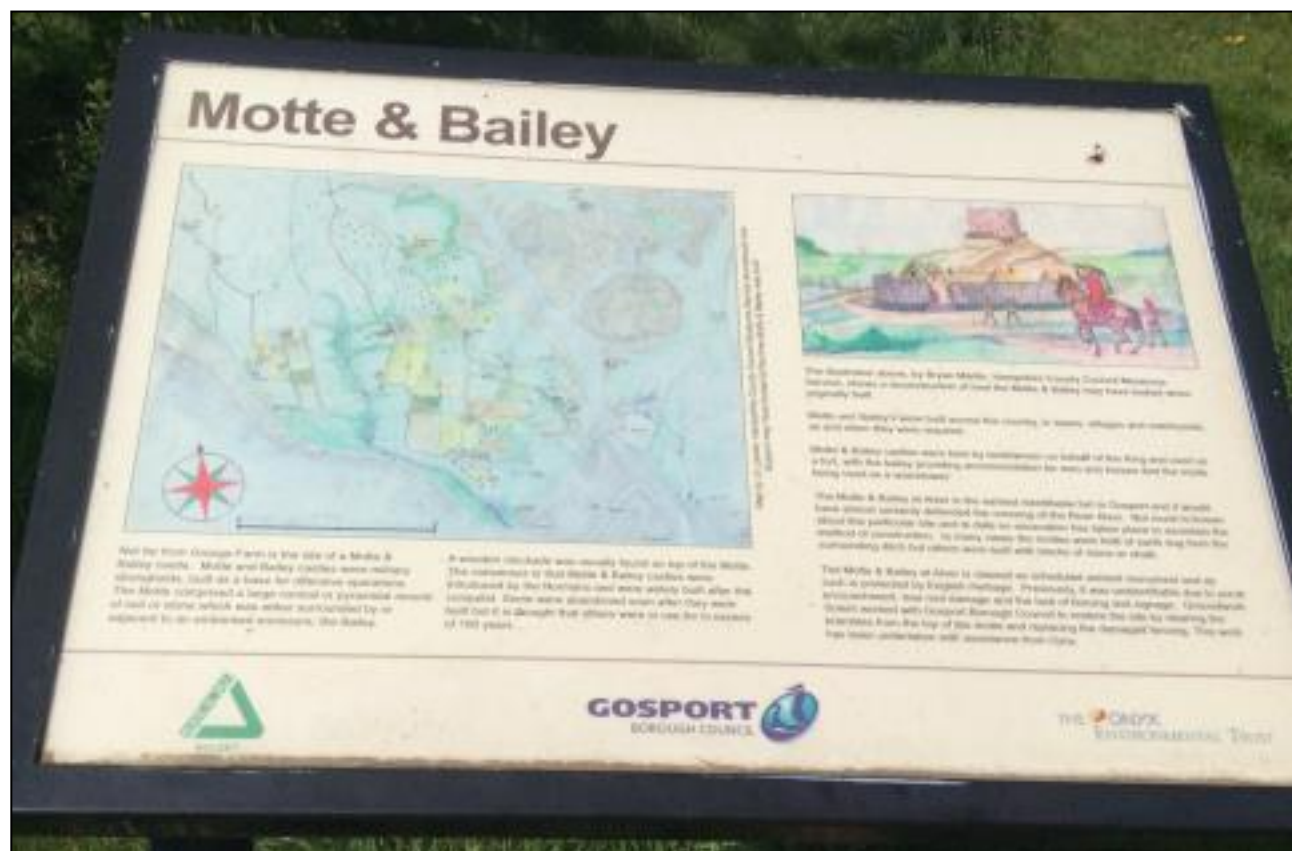


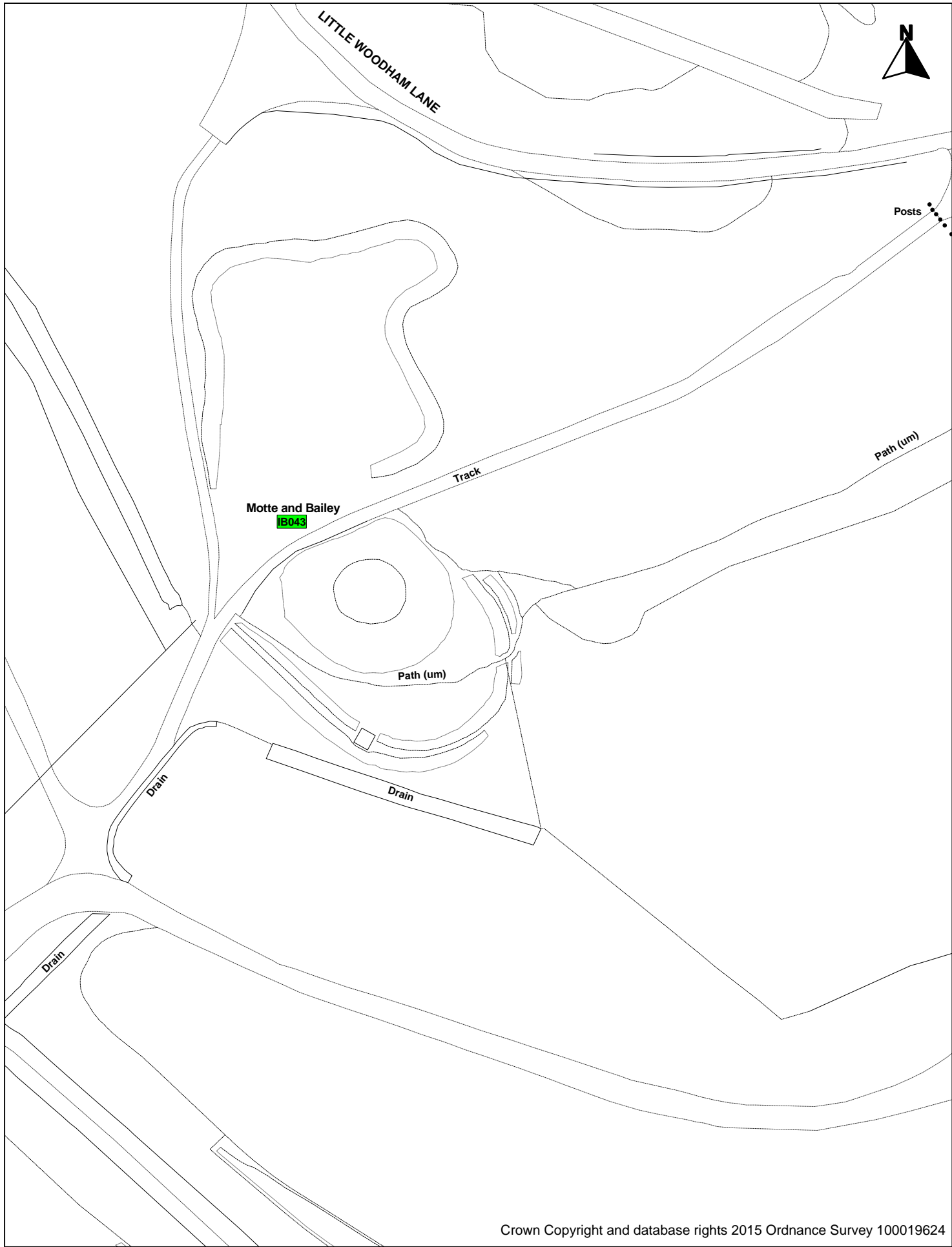
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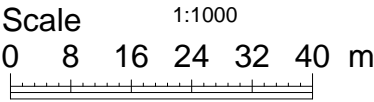




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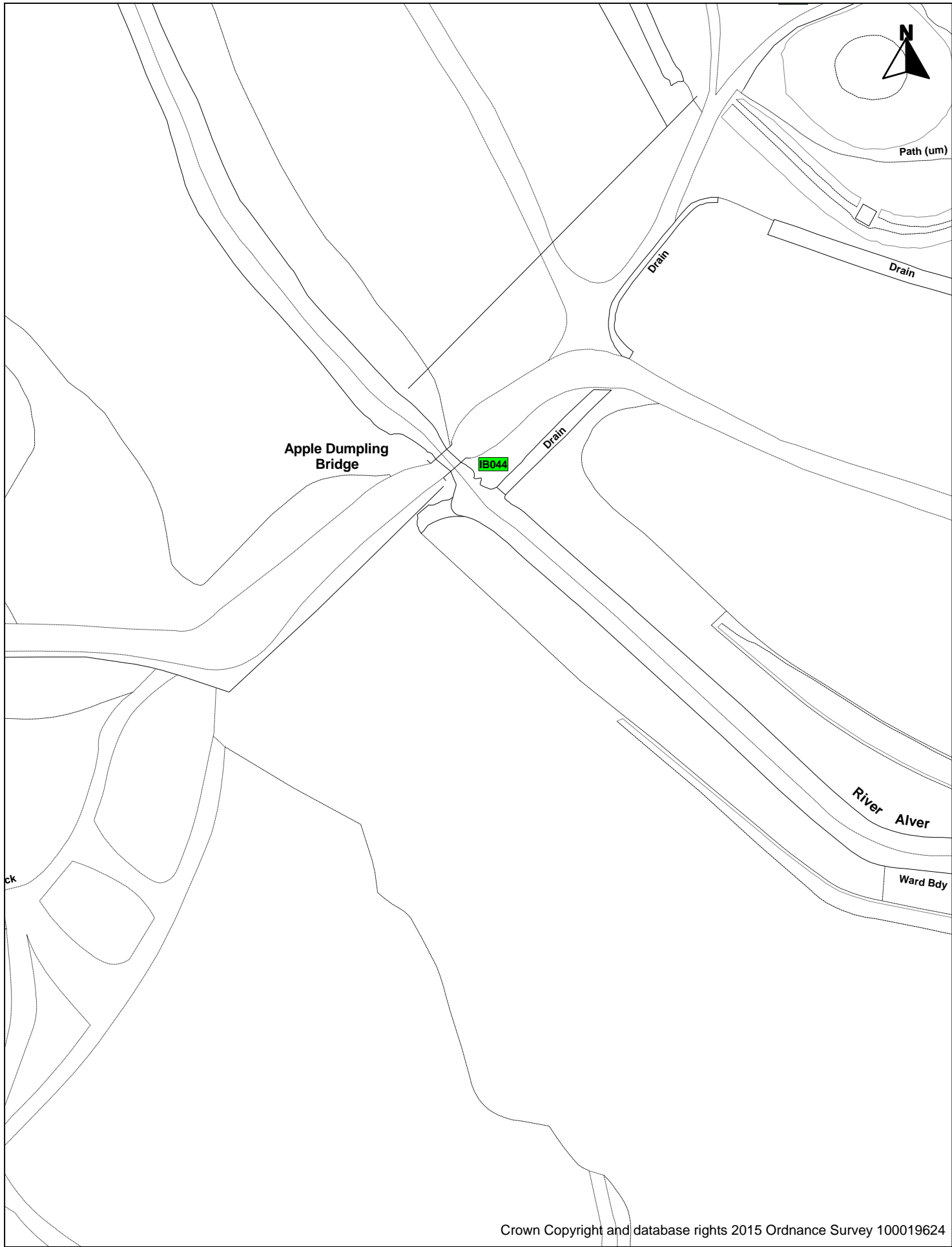
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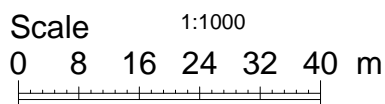
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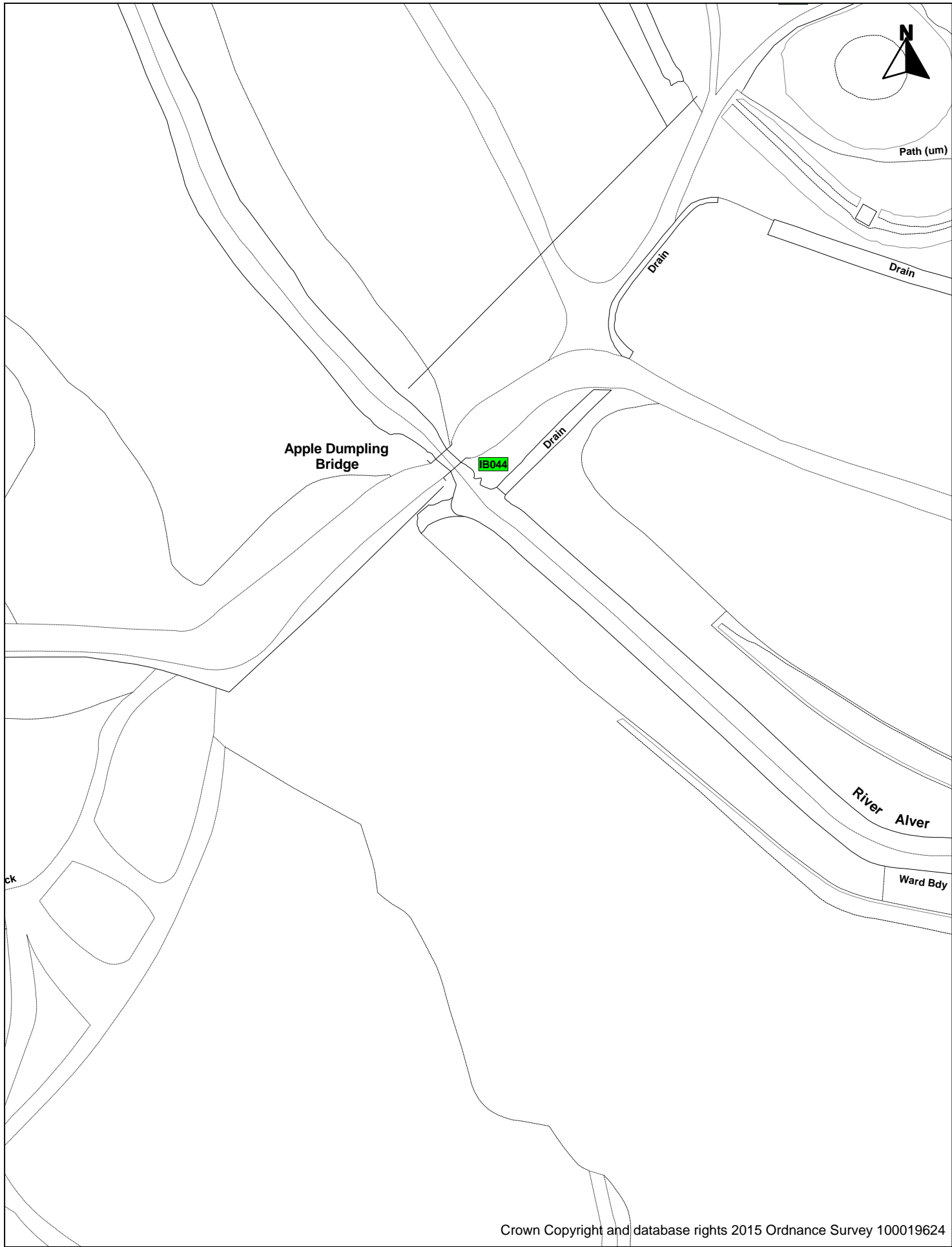
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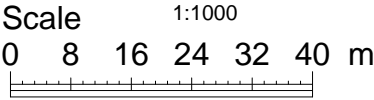




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...of the monks of Quarr
...
...from the very woodland
today... the wild apple tree,
... apple tree, *Amelanchier*, and
... of short valley running
... which coincidentally
... As old English evolved
... this old language...

In 1857 the War Department purchased the land here from the
Aldrich-Bruce Estate, and some time prior to World War II replaced
the wooden bridge shown in Figure 2 with a concrete one.

Fig 2
Local resident
beside the bridge
in the mid-1930s
White thanks to V.C. from
'Gauguin in Old Photographs'
J. Smith



In 1940 three concrete blocks (bank traps) were installed to inhibit
Enemy forces in the event of an invasion. Two can still be seen today
beside the western end of the bridge. Since the war much of the nearby
land was used for gravel extraction, and the structure bore heavy
trucks carrying aggregate out of the valley. Later the bridge served as a
crossing point for lorries bringing in waste material destined for
landfill, until 1992, when the municipal tip at Sandhill was finally
restored. Figure 3 shows the former bridge in 2002 displaying signs of
erosion and deterioration.




...from the
... II replaced
... concrete one.

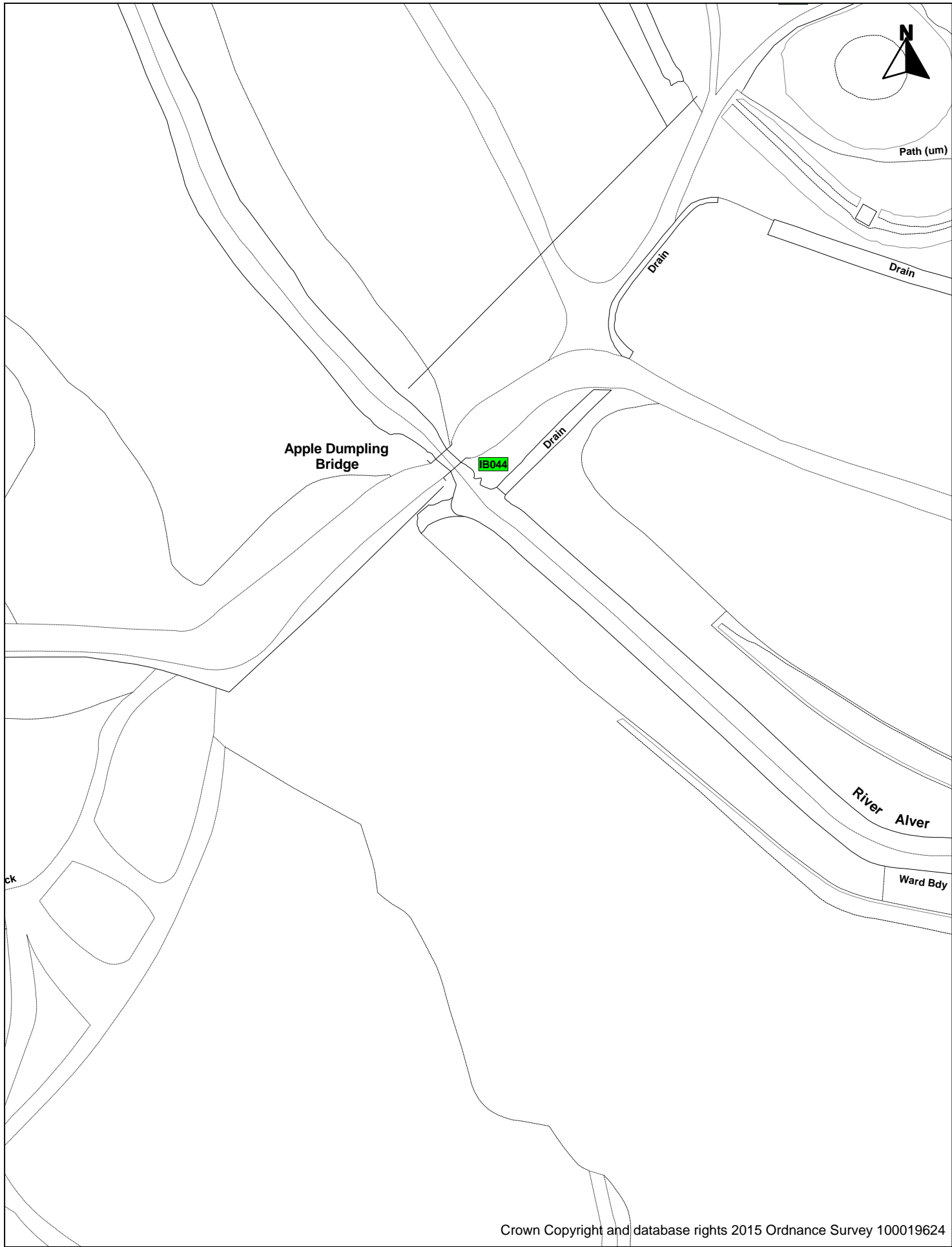
In 2003 The Ouse Environmental Trust sponsored the construction of the
new bridge, with funds generated from Landfill Tax. The design
includes a ramp for the first time, and the new handrails mimic former
wooden bridges.

The River Alver

The River Alver flows the Gosport Peninsula, starting in the vicinity
of Peckham and running slowly south through the marshy Alver
Valley, passing through the single track behind Number Two
Battersea railway. This direct route was created artificially in the
twentieth century, and regularly blocks up causing
flooding. Originally it would have passed behind Stokes Bay before
emerging near to Gilkicker Point.

The river provides a habitat to fish such as eels and roach, and birds
such as kingfisher, teal and mallard. Warblers such as reed-, sedge-
and Cetti's take advantage of the extensive reedbed, the third largest
on the south-coast, which also plays host to a wide range of
invertebrates and occasionally the elusive bittern. The increasingly
shallow water vole nests in the river-bank, although flooding and mink
have contributed to its decline.

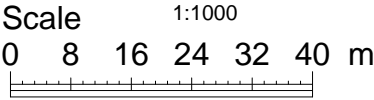




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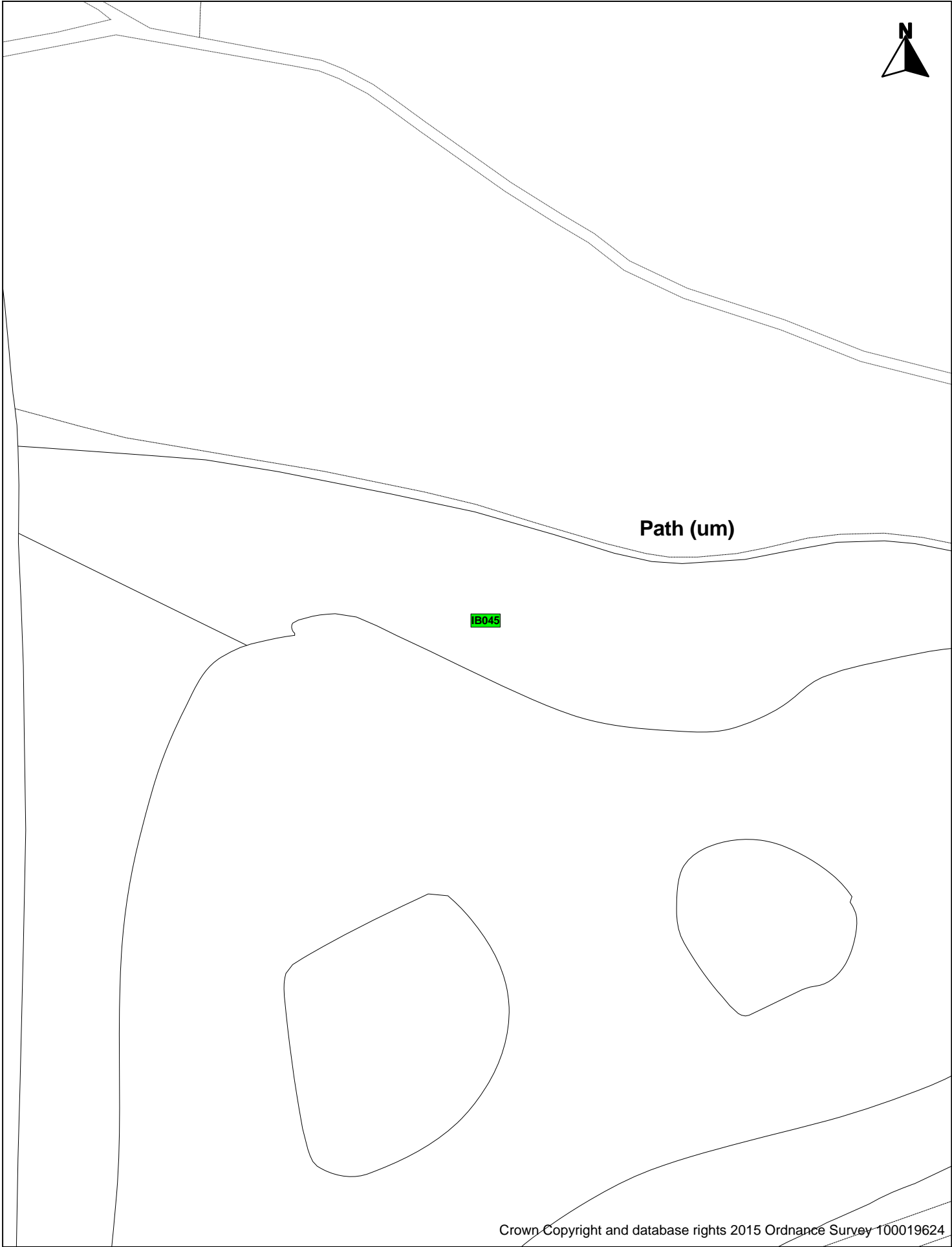
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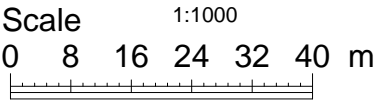
IB045 – NOAH LAKE – CONSERVATION AREA





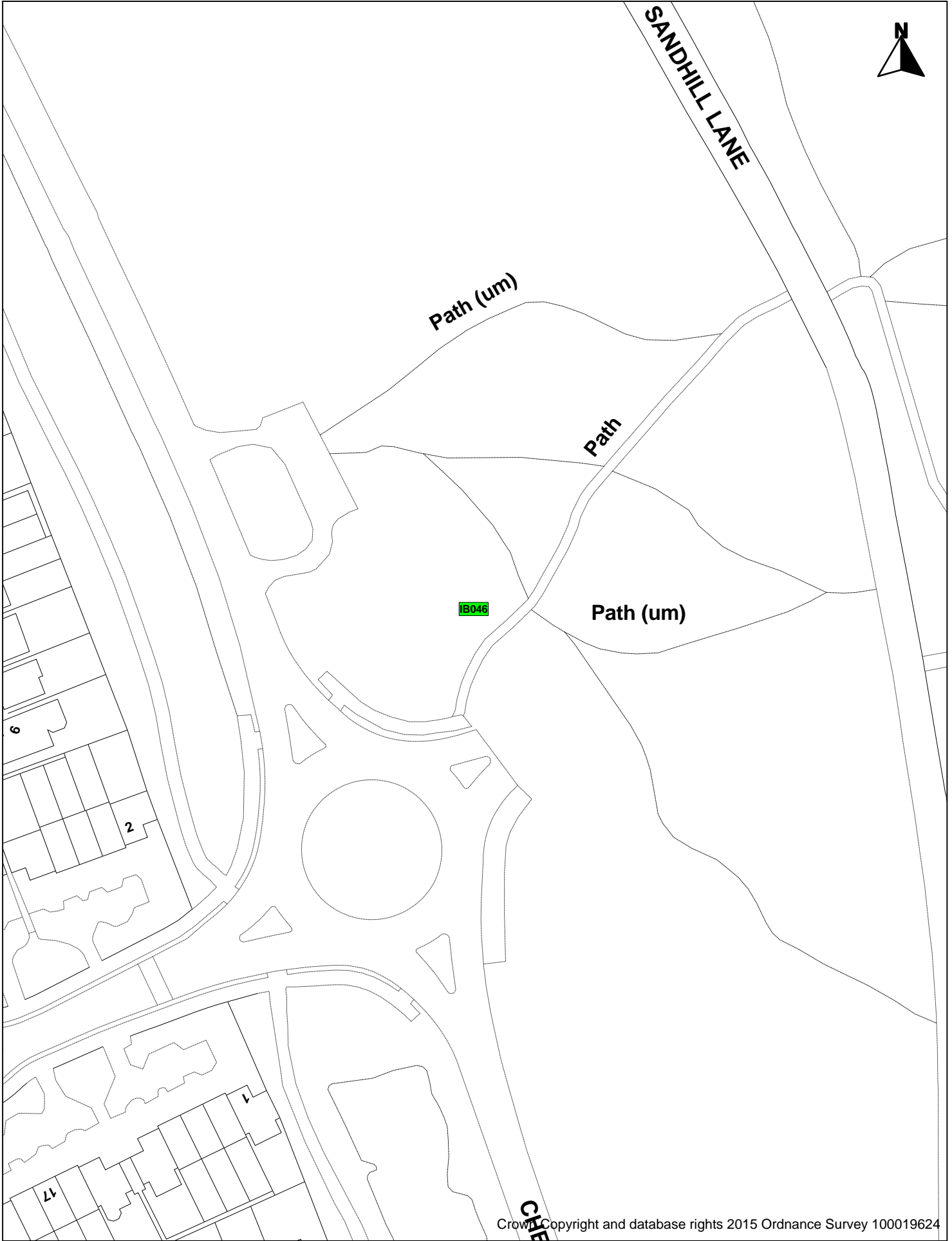
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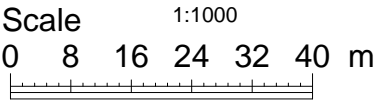
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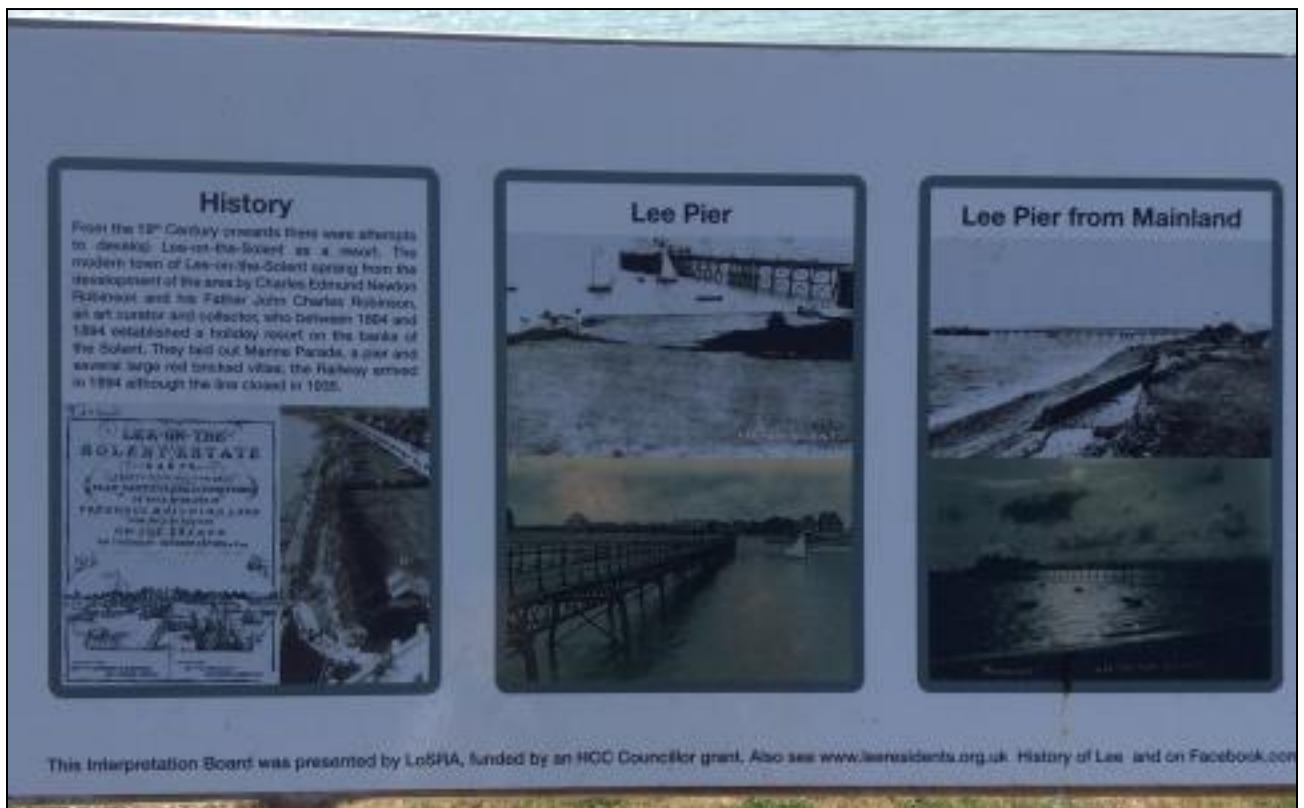


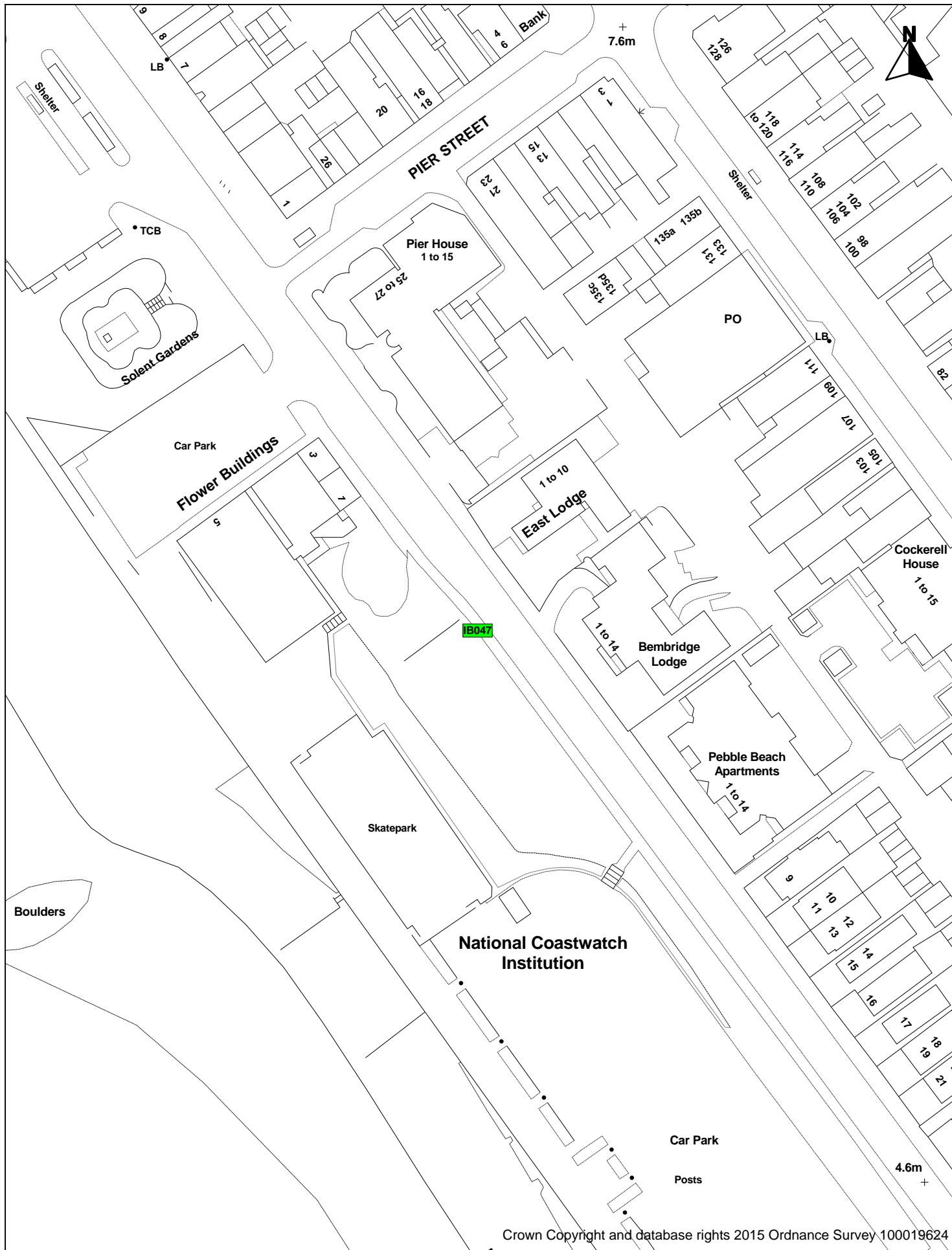
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**TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT,
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DATE : 02/06/2015


History of Lee Pier and the Surroundings

Views of Lee Pier





Lee Tower

In 1935 the Lee Tower, an Art Deco complex, was built on the waterfront next to the old pier and railway station. It was designed by architects Yellie, Cook & Derbyshire: complete with cinema, ballroom, restaurant and a 120-foot tower with a viewing platform. The foreign holiday boom of the 1960s/70s saw a gradual decline in the tower's fortunes; the pier was demolished in 1968 and the tower in 1971, with its level now used for the promenade and landscaped gardens. Noel Coward performed at Lee Pier.



Lee Tower



© LeeResidentsAssociation 

Living Area

Lee Tower Complex



Interior Views



Views



The Surroundings

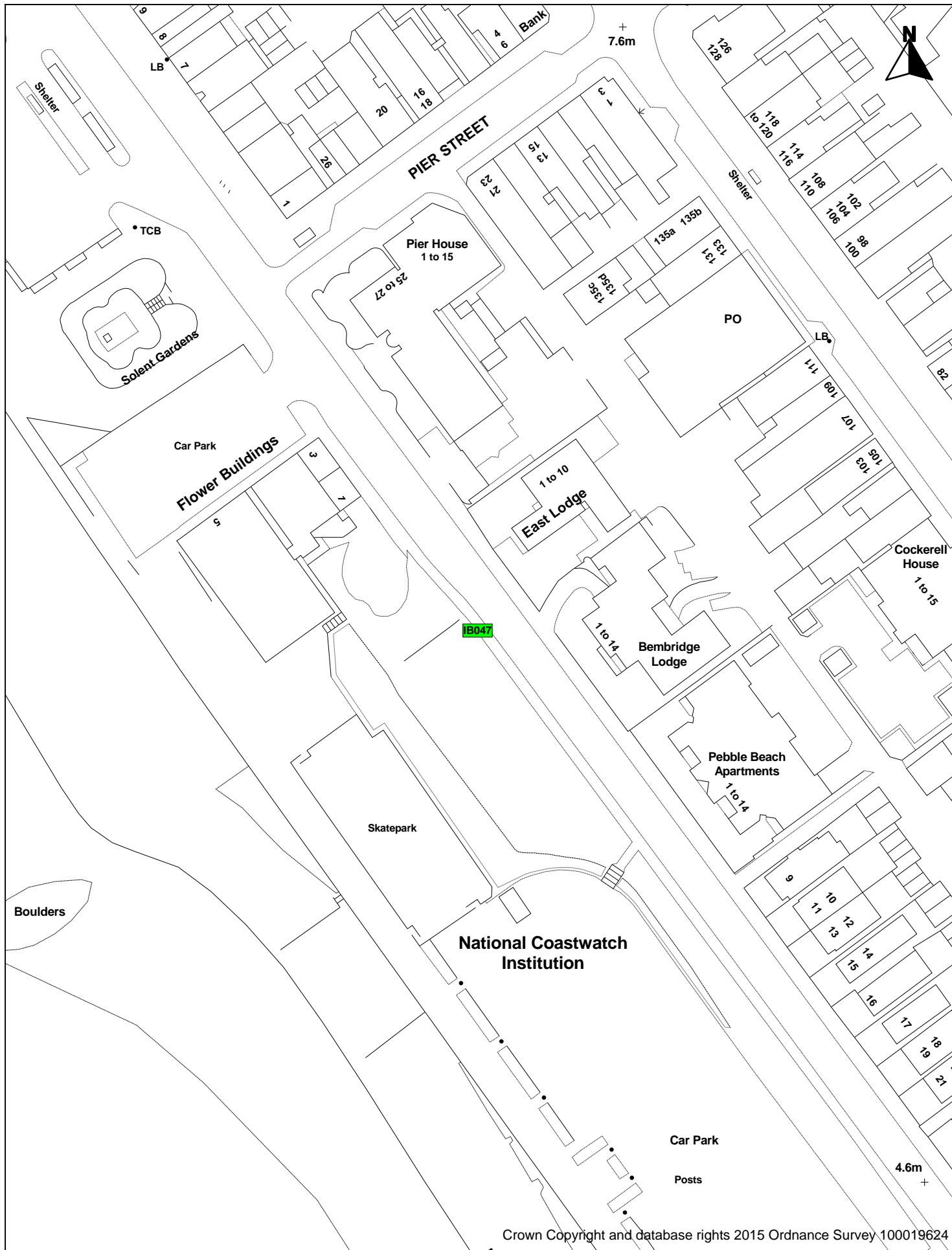
The tower opened in 1935 although the site existed in 1935. The tower platform is now part of the Lee Tower Pier and the former station is now the development bridge.

The tower was the first of its kind in the area.

Play Hotel, only the first five floors remain in the Lee Pier House.



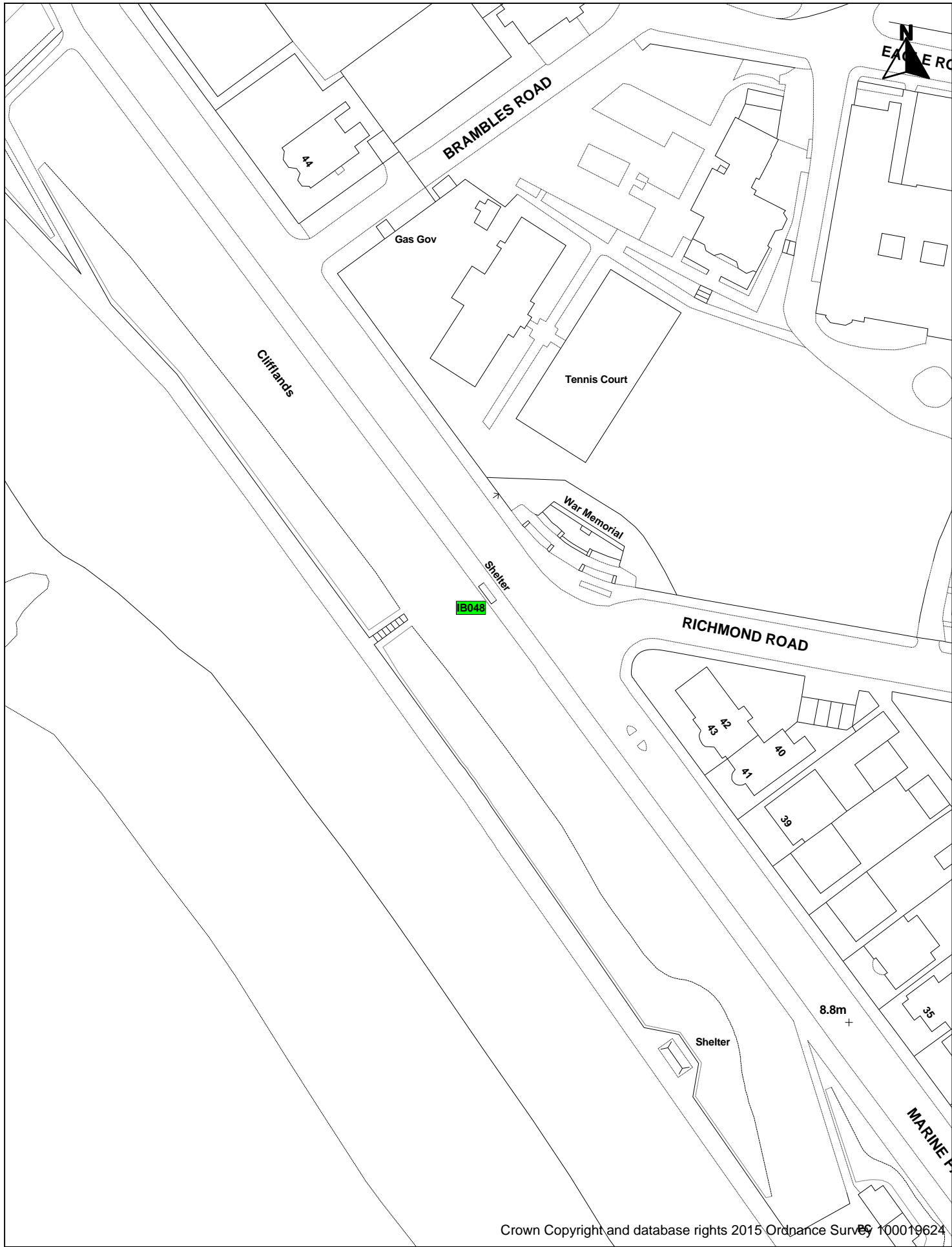
 LeeResidents



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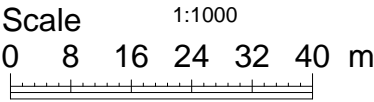




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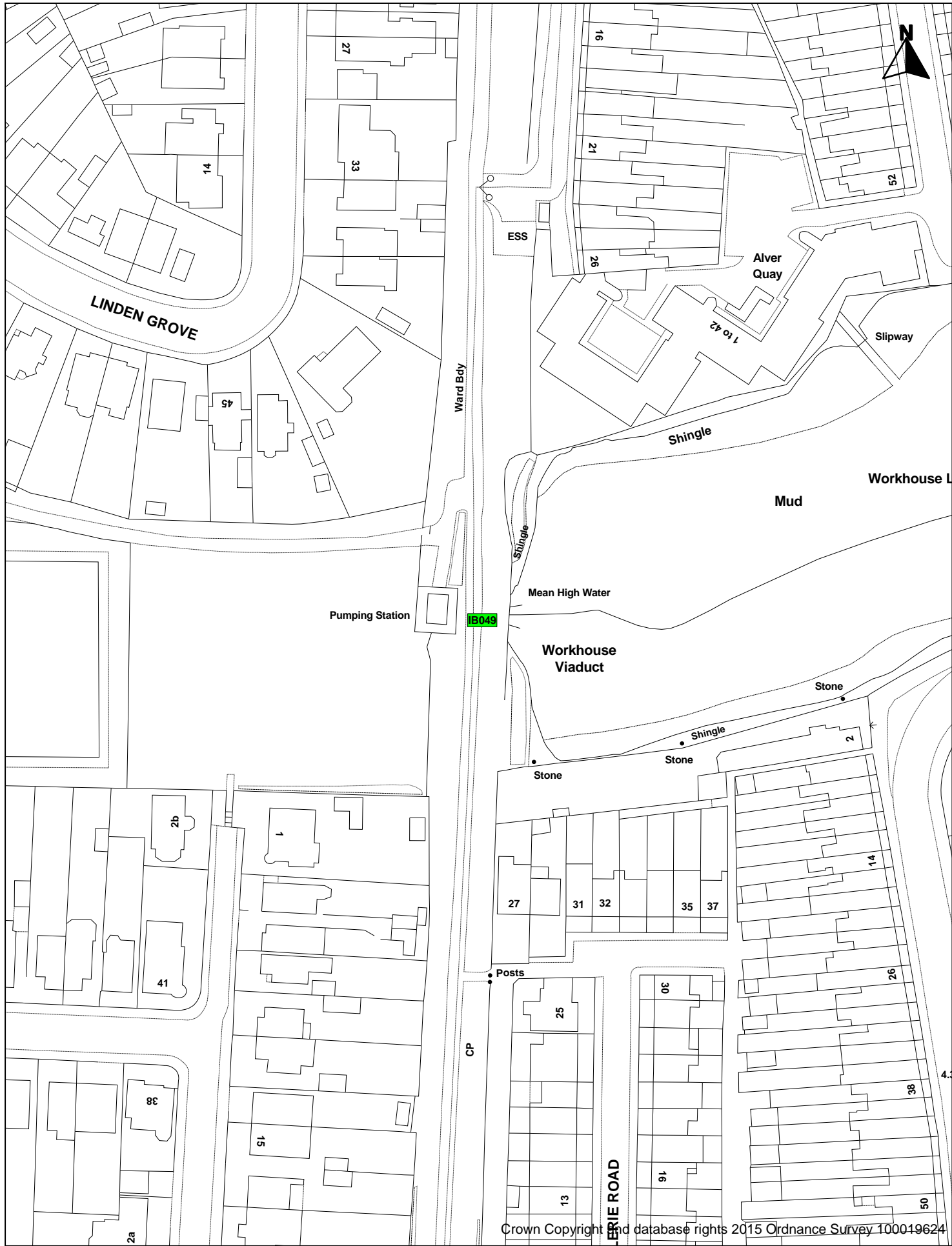
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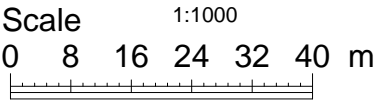
IB049 – WORKHOUSE LAKE – CLEVELAND ROAD CYCLETRACK





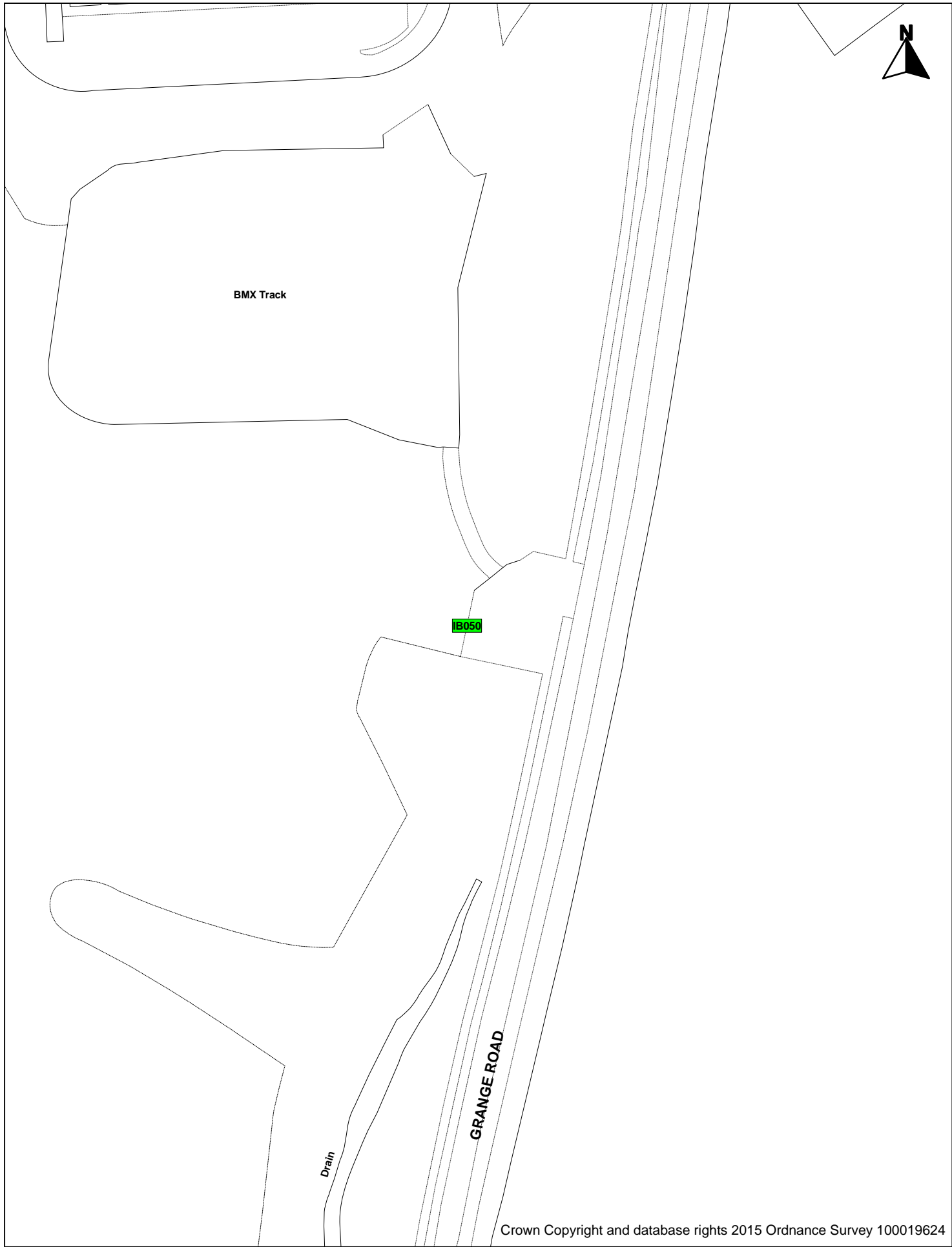
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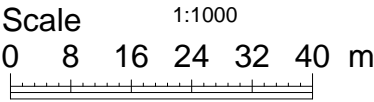




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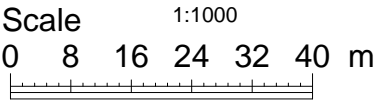
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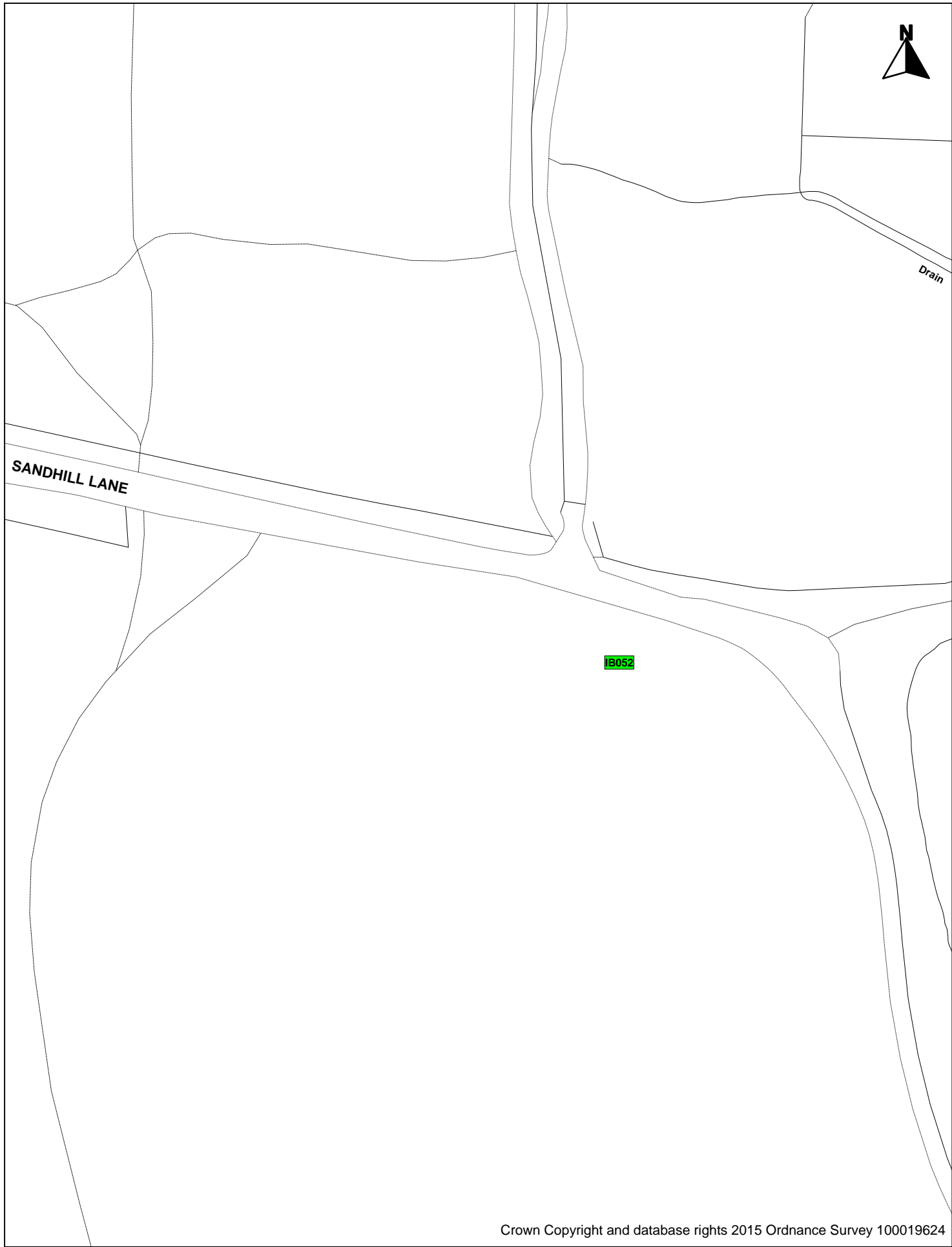
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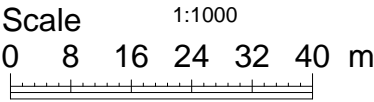
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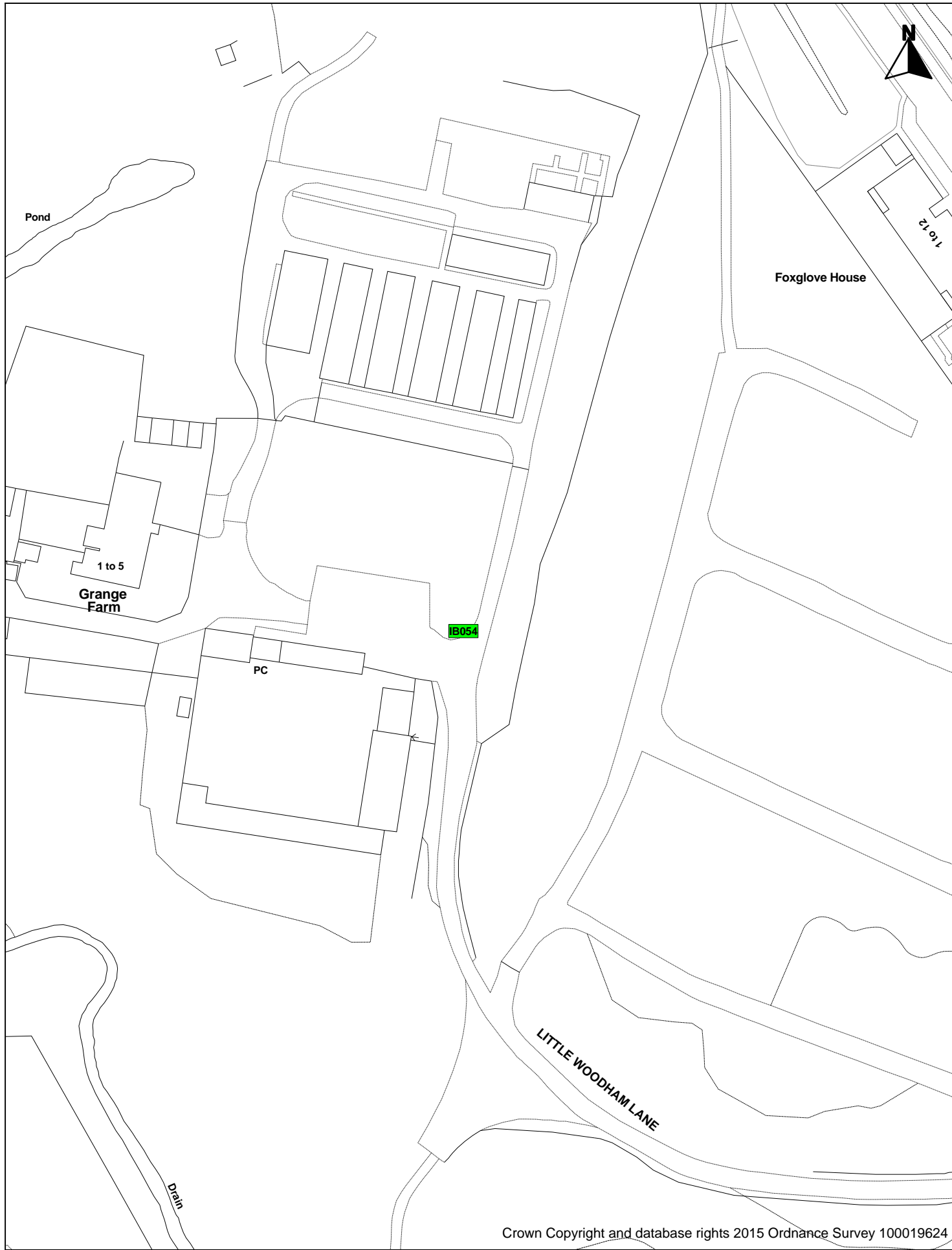
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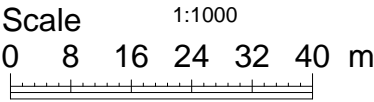




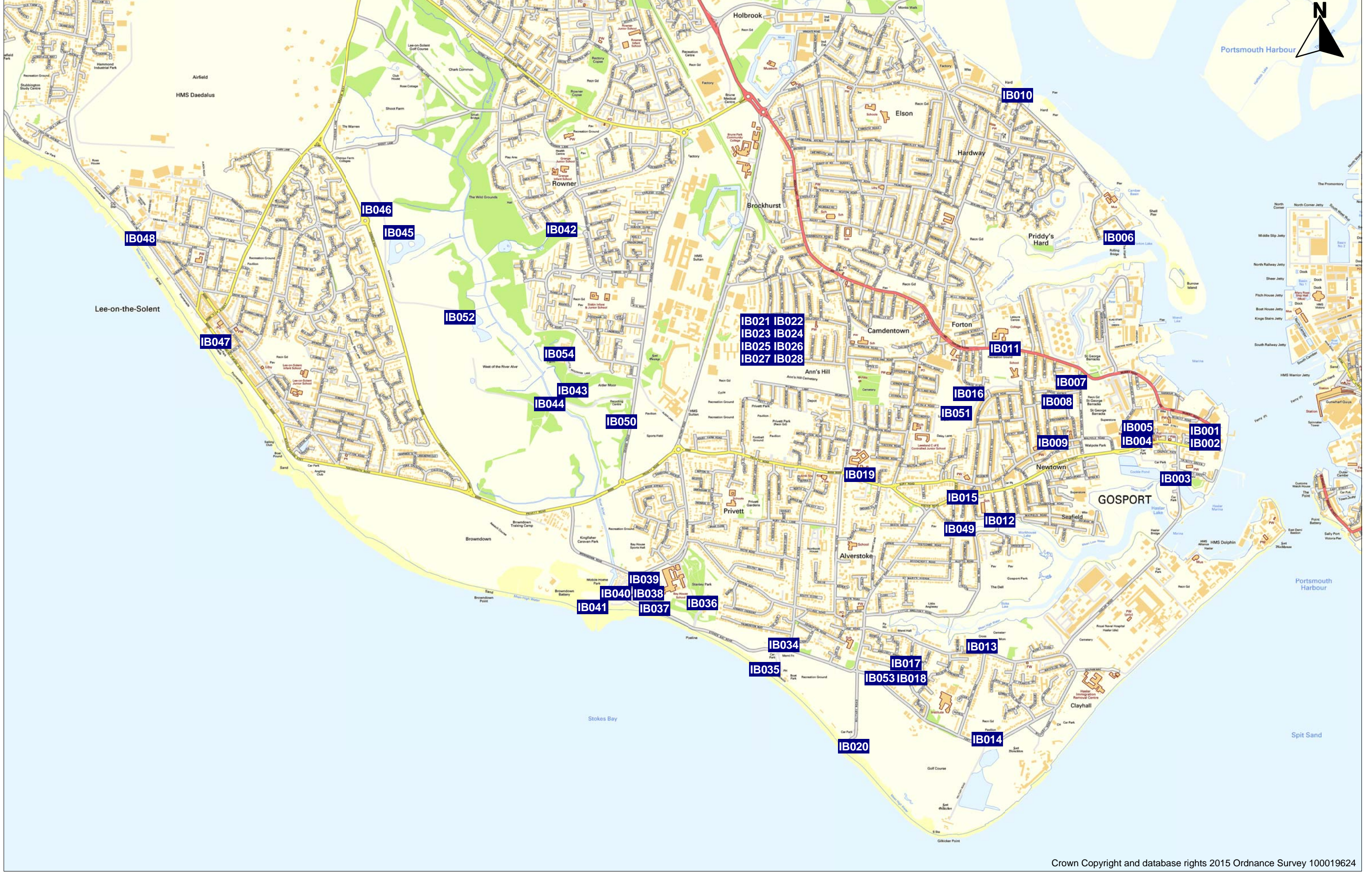
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**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INTERPRETATION BOARDS WORKING GROUP
HELD AT 16.00 ON MONDAY, 20 APRIL 2015**

Membership: Councillors Mrs Cully, Mrs Forder(P), Mrs Hook(P) and Scard.

Apologies were received from Councillors Scard and Mrs Cully.

Officers: Lisa Young, Sam Voller and Ian Lycett.

1 Background

- 1.1 This was the first meeting of the group.
- 1.2 The Gosport Society had written to the Council expressing concern at the condition of the interpretation boards in the Borough, they had undertaken a survey of them and found that many were in need of repair or replacement.
- 1.3 The Group were provided with a copy of the letter sent by the Gosport Society and a copy of the survey of the condition of the boards.
- 1.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed to set up a working group to explore the refurbishment of the boards.

2 Discussion at the meeting

- 2.1 The Group were provided with copies of the information received from the Gosport Society, it included a list of existing boards, their locations and their current condition.
- 2.2 Members agreed that they needed to establish how they would like to approach the review of the boards and felt that both a visit to the boards and a meeting with the Gosport Society would be useful.

- 2.3 Members recognised that they would need input from not only the Gosport Society, but any 'Friends of' groups. The Lawrence family and the organisation responsible for Nat Gonella's memorials would also need to be consulted. It would also be considerate to contact ward Councillors and those that previously unveiled the boards. It would also need to be established if any of the boards were not owned by GBC
- 2.4 In addition to the condition of the boards, the content including amount of information, whether a QR needed to be included, photographic content would all need to be discussed.
- 2.5 In addition the material the boards were made from needed to be given consideration.
- 2.6 Members were advised that each board cost approximately £1000 and that there was £39000 in the capital programme. This would also need to cover boards for the D Day memorial.
- 2.7 Members agreed that it would be best to have an understanding of the content and style of boards before meeting with the Gosport Society.
- 2.8 SV agreed to photograph and catalogue each board and provide a pack for the next meeting of the Group. Members agreed that they would then decide which boards needed visiting, and undertake such visits.
- 2.9 The packs would include colour photographs, location plans and the Gosport Society review of the board.
- 2.10 Members recognised that once complete, a maintenance programme for the boards would need to be established.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 That the group be provided with information about the boards and establish a plan to visit the boards to examine them further.

4 Actions

- SV to prepare pack with details of the boards, following distribution, a subsequent meeting to be arranged.

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INTERPRETATION BOARDS WORKING GROUP
HELD AT 10.30am ON MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2015**

Membership: Councillors Mrs Batty (P) Mrs Forder(P), and Scard (P).

Apologies were received from Councillor Hylands

Officers: Lisa Young, Sam Voller.

1 Background

- 1.1 This was the second meeting of the group.
- 1.2 Members had received information on each board, including photographs.

2 Discussion at the meeting

- 2.1 Members recognised that there were a number of external organisations, in addition to the Gosport Society that could provide useful input into the assessment process of the Boards.
- 2.2 Members recognised that a number of the boards were in poor condition and that there was a mismatch of styles and content.
- 2.3 It was also recognised that the content of the boards maybe owned by different people and societies.
- 2.4 The Group requested that the Gosport Society, Friends of Stokes Bay and the Lawrence family should be invited in to discuss their boards with the group.
- 2.5 It was acknowledged that the Alver Valley boards would be amended and updated in line with the work on Alver Valley Country Park.

It was recognised that the wooden post designs were attractive.

- 2.6 Members were advised that the boards were categorised as historical or ecological.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 That a meeting be arranged with the Lawrence family, Gosport Society and Friends of Stokes Bay to establish their priorities.

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INTERPRETATION BOARDS WORKING GROUP
HELD AT 2pm ON MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2015**

Membership: Councillors Mrs Batty (P) Mrs Forder(P), and Scard (P).

Apologies were received from Councillor Hylands

Officers: Lisa Young.

Antony Lawrence, Kevin Casey and Howard Bennett were also in attendance

1 Background

- 1.1 This was the third meeting of the group.
- 1.2 Invitations had been extended to Anthony Lawrence, of the Lawrence family Kevin Casey from the Friends of Stokes Bay and Howard Bennett of the Gosport Society.

2 Discussion at the meeting

- 2.1 The Group spoke with Kevin Casey of the Friends of Stokes Bay to establish the priorities for the boards located there.
- 2.2 He advised that the Friends had previously had input in board numbers 14, 20, 35 of the pack and still had the artwork for them.
- 2.3 It was suggested that board number 35, currently located at the splashpool be relocated to one of the car parks near to the entrance to the Alverbank.
- 2.4 It was suggested that it be replaced with a panoramic picture of Stokes Bay detailing points of interest and landmarks. It could potentially be moved slightly to be positioned nearer the telescope.
- 2.5 It was suggested that board 41 was little used and could therefore potentially be removed.

- 2.6 It was also felt that the frames for the boards should be standardised and complimented the new boards in the Alver Valley.
- 2.7 It was recognised that the board's material would need to be able to withstand the elements, in particular the sea water.
- 2.8 It was felt that the board currently located on Fort Road would be better located along the footpath to explain the lagoons and pools.
- 2.9 It was agreed that boards 15 and 49 could be removed and replaced with a single board on Jackie Spencer bridge and that the Gosport Railway Society would be best placed to provide the content.
- 2.10 It was agreed that board number 40 could be removed following the addition of the boards to the cycle lane at Stokes Bay.
- 2.11 It was felt that the board at the railway station needed improving and replacing as it was out of date.
- 2.12 It was agreed that the boards at the Hermitage would need further investigation, but that contact needed to be made with the friends of the garden to progress this further.
- 2.13 It was also recognised that the Friends of Crescent Gardens should be consulted on any proposal for the board located there.
- 2.14 The Group acknowledged that the board on Stoke Road was probably not looked at.
- 2.15 The group also acknowledged that the boards in the Alver Valley and the wild grounds would be covered by the work to make Alver Valley a country park.
- 2.16 The Group felt that the board at Osborne Gardens needed to be replaced and relocated.
- 2.17 The Group felt that the content of the boards on the High Street was acceptable, but that they could do with cleaning up.
- 2.18 The Group commended the quality of the sign on the Millennium Bridge.
- 2.19 The Group felt that the board opposite St Vincent on Forton Road was not required.
- 2.20 The Gosport Society advised that they had access to the art work for

boards 14, 20, 35.

- 2.21 The group felt it was important to establish who had contributed financially and to the content of the boards.
- 2.22 Mr Lawrence advised that he would welcome the opportunity to involve the Lawrence family in the updating of the board in Lawrence Square.
- 2.23 The opportunity to review and credit any Lawrence pictures was also welcome.
- 2.24 Kevin Casey advised that he knew of people that would potentially be willing to contribute artwork for the new boards.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 That the following boards needed action as a top priority
- 3.2 Boards number 14, 20 and 35 be updated and replaced with board 35 moving west to a car park nearer to the Alverbank
- 3.3 That a panoramic board be installed by the splash pool detailing the bay and its contents.
- 3.4 That the boards in the Hermitage and Crescent Gardens should be discussed with the friends of both areas
- 3.5 That boards 15 and 49 be removed and replaced with a board, with input from the Gosport Railway Society.
- 3.6 That board 40 be removed.
- 3.7 That the board opposite St Vincent be removed.
- 3.8 That the Lawrence board be updated
- 3.9 That the board at the Old Railway Station be updated with the help of the Railway Society.
- 3.10 That investigations be made as to who owns the boards and their content.
- 3.11 That the board opposite St Vincent be removed.
- 3.12 It was agreed that although the boards in the High Street would

benefit from cleaning, they were not a top priority.

- 3.13 That the Lawrence Family be contacted in relation photographs on other boards.
- 3.14 That further contact be made with Friends of Crescent Gardens and the Hermitage.

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INTERPRETATION BOARDS WORKING GROUP
HELD AT 2pm ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2015**

Membership: Councillors Mrs Batty (P) Mrs Forder(P), and Scard (P).

Apologies were received from Councillor Hylands

Officers: Lisa Young.

Kevin Casey and Howard Bennett were also in attendance

1 Background

- 1.1 This was the fourth meeting of the group.

2 Discussion at the meeting

- 2.1 An email had been received from the Friends of Crescent Gardens, they had a proposal for the relocation of the board but had concern over whether the board would fade in the new location as it had been hand drawn. It was also requested that a site visit be made to the Gardens by the group.
- 2.2 It was agreed that the style of the boards needed to be determined, and costed, a definitive technical specification needed to be established.
- 2.3 The friends of Stokes Bay advised that they had the artwork for their boards.
- 2.4 It was suggested that a frame with Perspex that could be removed with the content updated be considered. A number of the existing boards has lips in the bottom that allowed water to collect and rusting to occur.
- 2.5 The quality of the Stokes Bay lines boards was complimented and desired.

- 2.6 The Group felt that a definitive decision on the budget for the project needed to be made available.
- 2.7 The groups were advised that Ann Bevan had agreed to design the art work for the panorama, she was also keen to undertake other art work, but there would be a cost. It was agreed to see the work provided for the panorama first and assess the process for securing art work.
- 2.8 The priority list was updated. (attached to the notes)
- 2.9 LY agreed to source copies of the maps for relocation of the boards and contact Sam Voller for guidance on the design and material of boards and funding available.
- 2.10 It was also agreed to add the board at Lee on the Solent to the second priority, and to contact the Lee Aviation Society about the content.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 That the action sheet be updated.

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INTERPRETATION BOARDS WORKING GROUP
HELD AT 3pm ON TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 2015**

Membership: Councillors Mrs Forder(P), and Scard (P).

Apologies were received from Councillor Hylands and Councillor Mrs Batty

Officers: Lisa Young, Sam Voller and Di Dobinson.

Kevin Casey, Ann Bevan and Howard Bennett were also in attendance

1 Background

- 1.1 This was the fifth meeting of the group.

2 Discussion at the meeting

Ann Bevan was invited to talk to the group. She advised of the options for the panorama.

The Group discussed the options for the panorama with her and it was felt that a painting would be most suitable, due to the level of detail that could be included.

It was suggested that the Gosport Society use their contacts to source a suitable artist.

The Group felt that the boards at Stokes Bay should be stainless steel to allow them to be weatherproof.

The group updated SV on the proposals for each board - a list of these will be circulated separately.

SV advised that 'Signs and Lines' were providing quotes for the individual elements of each board; they also included any graphic work that needed undertaking.

SV reiterated that the replacements, removal and installation of boards would require planning permission.

Liaisons would be ongoing with Gosport Society, Railway Society, Friends of Crescent Gardens, and Friends of Stokes Bay in relation to the content of the boards.

The Group agreed to recommendations to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, these are reflected in the updated action plan and established a list of 13 priority boards to be replaced, removed, cleaned or moved as appropriate, including one new panoramic board at Stokes Bay.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 That the action sheet be updated and a report be drafted for the Overview with the recommendations of the Group.

HISTORICAL, ECOLOGICAL AND TOURIST INFORMATION BOARD LOCATIONS

NEW IB NO	Name	Location	Condition GS	Condition GBC	Recommendation
IB001	Gosport Waterfront	Falkland Gardens	Good for age	Refurbish & Update	NEW CONTENT
IB002	High Street Gosport	Falkland Gardens	Good for age	Refurbish & Update	NEW CONTENT
IB003	Ramparts	Ramparts	Legible but tired	Refurbish	NEW CONTENT
IB004	Nat Gonella Square	High Street Nat Gonella Square	Fair	Refurbish	NEW CONTENT
IB005	Lawrence Square	High Street Lawrence Sq	Fair	Refurbish	NEW CONTENT
IB006	Forton Creek	Millennium Bridge	Good for age		NO WORK REQUIRED
IB007	Gosport Railway Station	Spring Garden Lane	Decrepit	Update & replace	REMOVE EXISTING NEW CONTENT & FRAME (PCA)
IB008	The Grove	Grove Avenue	Well Maintained		NO WORK REQUIRED
IB009	Stoke Road	o/s Methodist Church Stoke Road	Legible but tired	Update & replace	NEW CONTENT & FRAME (PCA)
IB010	Hardway	Priory Road Rest Garden	Legible but tired	Refurbish	NEW CONTENT
IB011	St Vincent Field	Forton Road	legible but scruffy	Refurbish	REMOVE
IB012	Workhouse Lake	Mayfield Road	Good for age	Refurbish	NEW CONTENT
IB013	Clayhall Royal Naval Cemetery	Haslar Cemetery	Reasonable	Refurbish	NEW CONTENT
IB014	Gilkicker Fort	Fort Road Gilkicker	Dilapidated	Restore & Re-position	NEW CONTENT & FRAME (MSS) & MOVE
IB015	Stokes Bay Railway	South Street /Cleveland Road	Illegible & Decrepit	Replace	REMOVE BOTH FRAME 15 & 19 & REPLACE WITH NEW CONTENT & FRAME (PCA)RELOCATE JACKIE SPENCERS BRIDGE
IB016	Leesland Park Part of the Heritage Trail	Leesland Park	Decrepit	Restore	NEW CONTENT & FRAME(PCA)
IB017	St Marks Church Yard part of the Heritage Trail	St Marks Road	Well Maintained		NO WORK REQUIRED
IB018	Alverstoke Crescent Gardens	Terraced Walk Crescent Gardens	Poor Position	Clean and move	RELOCATE WITHIN GARDENS AND CLEAN

HISTORICAL, ECOLOGICAL AND TOURIST INFORMATION BOARD LOCATIONS

IB019	Gosport War Memorial Hospital	Gosport War Memorial Hospital	Good for age	Clean	NO WORK REQUIRED
IB020	Gilkicker Part of the Gosport Heritage Trail	Angling Club	Weary	Refurbish	NEW CONTENT & FRAME (MSS)
IB021	The History of the hermitage	Legible but scruffy		Amalgamate all 8	CLEAN
IB022	The Meadow				CLEAN
IB023	The Herb Garden				CLEAN
IB024	The Pond				CLEAN
IB025	Fruits of the Hermitage				CLEAN
IB026	The Carol Lycett Hedgerow				CLEAN
IB027	The Butterfly Garden				CLEAN
IB028	Hermitage Wildlife Garden				CLEAN
IB034	Ray Reece Cycleway	Stokes Bay Road	Good for age		NO WORK REQUIRED
IB035	The Shingle Shore Stokes Bay	Stokes Bay Near Splash Park	Decrepit		NEW CONTENT & FRAME (MSS) & MOVE WEST
IB036	Osborn Gardens - Stanley Park	Stanley Park	Dilapidated		NEW CONTENT PLUS INFO ON STANLEY PARK, FRAME (PCA) & MOVE
IB037	The Stokes Bay Line	Alverbank Drive	Good		
IB038	The Stokes Bay Line	Rear of Bay House	Good		
IB039	The Stokes Bay Line	Upper Caravan Park Stokes Bay	Good		NO WORK REQUIRED
IB040	Stokes Bay	No 2 Battery	Blank		DIVING MUSEUM
IB041	BrownDown Gate	Browndown Ranges near No 2	Good		REMOVE
IB042	Cecil Buckingham / Wildgrounds	Game keepers Cottage Grange lane	Illegible & Decrepit		
IB043	Motte & Bailey	Grange Farm Nursery	Good for age		
IB044	Apple Dumpling Bridge	River Alver	Illegible	Damaged Perspex	
IB045	Alver Valley Country Park Noah Lake	Alver Valley	Good		

HISTORICAL, ECOLOGICAL AND TOURIST INFORMATION BOARD LOCATIONS

IB046	Alver Valley Country Park	Grasslands	Good		
IB047	History Of Lee Pier and Tower	Site of Tower	Good		NO WORK REQUIRED
IB048	Aviation at Los	Opposite Richmond Road	Legible but tired		CLEAN
IB049	Workhouse Lake	Cleveland Road Cycle Track			
IB050	Brent Geese	Grange Road		Fair Condition	NO WORK REQUIRED
IB051	Leesland Park Orchard	Leesland Park			NEW CONTENT & FRAME (PCA)
IB052	Alver Valley Country Park	The Wetlands	Good		
IB053	Welcome to Crescent Gardens	Crescent Gardens Entrance			NO WORK REQUIRED
IB054	Grange Farm	Little Woodhams Lane	Good		
NEW	PANORAMIC VIEW	SPLASH PARK AREA			NEW BOARD (MSS) PANORAMIC VIEW BY SPLASHPool
	KEY				
	Bold Text - Priorities identified by IBWG				
	BOARDS IN GOOD CONDITION				
	<i>IB042 - IB046 & IB054 Alver Valley not included in survey as part of Alver Valley Country Park Strategy</i>				
	MISSING BOARDS (FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION)				
	Lee on Solent Railway				

HISTORICAL, ECOLOGICAL AND TOURIST INFORMATION BOARD LOCATIONS

	HMS Daedalus				
	D Day Hard				
	Gunboat Yard Hornet				
	Solent Views				
	Alverstoke				
	Ruth's Trail				

AGENDA ITEM NO. 07

Board/Committee:	COMMUNITY BOARD
Date of Meeting:	16 NOVEMBER 2015
Title:	GOSPORT SCHEME OF ALLOCATIONS - AN INTERIM REVIEW
Author:	INTERIM HOUSING SERVICES MANAGER
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

To inform Members of the impact and outcomes of the changes made in 2013 & 2015 to the Scheme of Allocations following interim reviews. To seek approval for some immediate and minor policy adjustments to ensure the most effective use of social housing stock.

Recommendations

The Community Board approves:-

1. The following amendments to the Gosport Scheme of Allocations for immediate implementation:
 - a) For access to Sheltered and Extra Care accommodation only, the capital/equity threshold is raised from £16,000 to £70,000 and for income thresholds to remain unchanged;
 - b) Any changes to the above threshold to reflect changes in the market is dealt with by officers as part of their discretion on capital/equity thresholds;
 - c) That access criteria for Council mature lets be reduced from 38 years or more to those aged 35 years or more.
 - d) That Extra Care nominations requests are not advertised under the Choice Based Lettings approach.
2. Consultation with housing association partners in respect of recommendation 1(a) above, and, if significant issues arise from that consultation, authority is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Board to determine the Council's response.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council made significant changes to the Gosport Scheme of Allocations (the Policy that determines the prioritisation and selection of prospective tenants for social housing) in 2013 through revised qualification criteria for customers to join the Housing Register. This was following the flexibility given to Councils in the Localism Act 2011. A Report in March 2015 introduced further minor changes.

- 1.2 As with any significant policy change it is prudent to monitor and review the impact to determine any unintended consequences. An initial review has been completed, with further detailed work underway in some specific areas.
- 1.3 The effect of changes to the Scheme of Allocations has impacted significantly on the number of qualified applicants, which in turn has reduced the pool of “active” bidders for various properties. The changes have been effective in achieving the intended outcomes of focusing bids to properties from local people in most housing need and sending strong messages on unacceptable behaviour. It has also effectively removed many applicants in no housing need who may have unnecessarily been given false hope of achieving a council home.
- 1.4 While it is clear that local people in significant housing need have more opportunities to bid for properties there are some areas of Policy that may have impacted on people in lower levels of housing need and our business objective of maximising letting of housing stock at all times.
- 1.5 Some immediate minor changes are recommended for adoption in this report. Further analysis is underway to ensure the scheme achieves the policy objectives that the Council set out in its changes, while meeting the business needs of maintaining fully let properties and nominations to our partner housing associations.

2 Report

- 2.1 The Policy changes made in 2013-15 are summarised below.
 - 1. The shift in treatment for those customers assessed as evidencing unacceptable behaviour.**

Prior to the 2013 changes affected customers had a penalty placed on their application, but they were still able to register. Now such customers do not meet the qualification criteria, and this is a much stronger message from this Council.
 - 2. The higher threshold for assessing local connection.**

Prior to the 2013 changes a customer’s own residence of six months was sufficient to establish a local connection. Now customers must have two or more years own residence and this better supports the theme of local housing for local people.
 - 3. Introduction of direct lets for homeless customers**

This was only introduced in 2015. This provision enables homeless customers to be directed to specified void properties that are in low demand. It serves a dual purpose of addressing issues of low demand and overcoming identified problems of discharging duties to homeless customers. This measure is having some success for both purposes, but a further period of

analysis is needed to determine the full impact.

4. Re-introduction of disqualification for refusal of 2nd offer

This was introduced in 2015 and we are still assessing the impact. However, there are encouraging signs that it is having a positive impact on customer behaviour by reducing frivolous bids for properties that the customer would not want if offered. There is a noticeable drop in bidding across certain types of housing, and further analysis will determine the full impact.

5. Financial assessment revision

Prior to 2013 the test was whether the customer could afford to access the owner-occupier sector, and there were suitable available properties on the market. The 2013 changes shifted this test to that of whether the customer could access the private sector. One emerging question is whether it is better to have a more calibrated Policy reflecting the wide variation of needs of our customer base, particularly for older people in need of sheltered housing. This is considered further below at 2.3.

6. The introduction of the requirement to have an assessed housing need to qualify to register.

Prior to 2013 customers were not required to have an assessed housing need. This resulted in nearly 4,000 households being registered, but for many applicants with no housing need this gave them false hopes of rehousing as we only have around 400 lets per year. Also in reducing administration this helped us to move staff resources to the Housing Advice function in the section restructure. However, it is unclear whether some applicants with lower levels of housing need are excluded by using the strict statutory 'reasonable preference' test. Further analysis is required to ensure the Scheme of Allocations is compliant with new case law, and also helps us to ensure we use our housing in the most effective and efficient way. This is considered below.

2.2 Financial resources assessment

Identifying nominations for sheltered accommodation has not been easy for many years. There are simply not enough applicants to guarantee a successful bidder for a void property. This situation has deteriorated since the 2013 -15 Policy changes. So far in 2015/16 a total of 24 sheltered lets have been advertised, with an average of 3.2 adverts per void (ranging from 1 – 9 adverts). The average time between first advert and final offer is 45 days. Appendix A compares the number of bids for all one bedroom properties prior to the 2013 changes and in 2015. Financial restrictions on capital are perceived to limit the number of suitable prospective elderly sheltered housing scheme residents

2.3 This Council's policy on financial tests has varied over time. An analysis of other Hampshire authorities shows no uniform treatment

of capital and income. The key issue is whether an elderly resident will have the financial capacity to secure suitable alternative accommodation with their available resources. The current median sale price for retirement homes in the Gosport district is £85,000, and the lowest sale price is £65,000 (2 of 17 properties). Five properties are on sale for less than £70,000. All retirement homes for sale have high lease fees. Market prices are increasing.

2.4 It is recommended that the capital limit for access to sheltered /extra care housing only be adjusted to £70,000. The flexibility needed to adjust this limit in line with market shifts is best undertaken through the existing officer discretion on capital limits.

2.5 The risk of not amending the capital limit would be increased numbers of long term void properties, or allocation of sheltered housing to younger people with support needs, which would not sit well with management practice and may destabilise sheltered housing schemes.

2.6 Consultation with housing association partners is recommended on this change. In the event that significant issues arise it is recommended that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Board to determine the Council's response.

2.7 **Areas requiring further analysis**

Appendix B sets out data on the total number of bids made in each advertising cycle for void properties. This shows that prior to the 2013 changes, the total bids received in a cycle were around 600. The total number of bids in each cycle has dropped to just over 100 in mid-2015/16. It is difficult for the allocations process to provide sufficient nominees for some property types at this level of bidding activity with refusal rates. This is particularly the case for this Council's one bedroom designated mature and elderly designated flats, but this problem is also now affecting all upper floor properties.

2.8 It is recognised that lettings issues do impact on void times, although they are just one of a number of factors involved. A detailed assessment of how these disparate processes work, is underway, and a future report will be put to this Board in 2016.

2.9 However there are areas where changes to Policy now could assist:-

2.9.1 Council mature lets (currently for those over 38 years old)

It is recommended that access criteria be reduced to those aged 35 or more in line with central government classification of claimants by age cohorts. This will marginally increase the pool of suitable customers able to bid for these properties. This measure only affects this Council so no further consultation with partners is required.

2.9.2 Extra Care Scheme Lettings

The Council has received a request that nominations for the Juniper Court Extra Care Scheme (and any other future extra Care Housing in the Borough) are not subject to the advertising and choice based lettings approach. This request is in line with existing special arrangements whereby a panel of agencies work collectively on the highest priority customers. As the panel exerts significant influence and professional judgement to ensure that people with appropriate level of needs and ability access extra care housing, it is unnecessary to advertise vacancies as this raises customer expectations unnecessarily. It is recommended that Extra Care nomination requests are not advertised under the Choice Based Lettings approach. No consultation with the relevant housing association is required as this measure has been requested by that partner.

3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 There is currently a medium risk that previous changes have re-calibrated demand for some properties, reducing the number of potential bidders to a level below that which is prudent for ensuring our stock is fully let.
- 3.2 There is prima facie evidence that local people in low housing need may not receive consideration or access to inclusion on the register through the strict definitions of 'reasonable preference criteria'. It is important to address these concerns to lessen the risk of vacant property times extending, and ensure that the scheme of allocations is compliant in its full policy impact. A more detailed analysis of impact and modelling is needed to fully mitigate this, and this is underway.

Financial comments:	Services	Contained in the report
Legal Services comments:		Contained in the report
Crime and Disorder:		The exclusion of households who demonstrate anti-social behaviour has confirmed the council's non tolerance of this behaviour
Equality and Diversity:		No equality impacts arising from these changes have been identified
Service Improvement Plan implications:		The review of the Scheme of Allocations was a Service Improvement Plan objective
Corporate Plan:		This is a service improvement plan item
Risk Assessment:		Medium - see 3.1
Background papers:		November 2013 Community Board: Allocations Policy Review 9item 7) March 2015 Community Board: Gosport

	Scheme of Allocations (item 8)
Appendices/Enclosures:	
Appendix 'A'	Comparison of bids for all one bedroom properties: 2013 and 2015 compared
Appendix 'B'	Gosport Choice Bidding Analysis
Report author/ Lead Officer:	Stuart Palmer / Steve Newton

APPENDIX A

A comparison of total bids received by property type
for the period 2013 and 2015

Key:

Red cells (below 10 bids per advert) mean bidding levels at high risk of allocation being unsuccessful

Amber cells (between 10 and 15 bids per advert) mean bidding levels at medium risk of allocation being unsuccessful

Black cells mean no lets in period

One bedroom lets 2013/14	All	Bedsit	Bungalow	flat	house	maison ette	sheltered bedsit	sheltered bungalow	sheltered flat
total lets	196	1	30	119	1	4	6	3	32
total bids	13098	55	3509	8792	145	188	22	61	326
Average bids	66.83	55.00	116.97	73.88	145.00	47.00	3.67	20.33	10.19

One bedroom lets 2015/16	All	Bedsit	Bungalow	flat	house	maison ette	sheltered bedsit	sheltered bungalow	sheltered flat
total lets	90		10	58			1	1	19
total bids	1033		316	613			1	7	96
Average bids	11.48		31.6	10.57			1	7	5.05

APPENDIX B

GOSPORT CHOICE BIDDING ANALYSIS 2013- 15

The following three graphs show total number of bids in each advertising cycle (Y axis on the left hand side) and the corresponding week in the year (x axis on the bottom of each graph).

The 2013 policy changes were implemented in a staged manner but the majority were implemented in weeks 35 – 40 in year 2013/14 (see first graph)

