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22 September 2015

S U M M O N S

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE: Wednesday, 30 September 2015
TIME: 6.00 pm
PLACE: Committee Room 1 , Town Hall, Gosport
Democratic Services contact: Lisa Young



LINDA EDWARDS
BOROUGH SOLICITOR

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Councillor Beavis (Chairman)
Councillor Forder (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Allen	Councillor Gill
Councillor Mrs Batty	Councillor Hazel
Councillor Mrs Forder	Councillor Hylands
Councillor Foster-Reed	Councillor Scard
Councillor Geddes	Councillor Mrs Wright

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read from the Chairman 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: Please note that mobile phones should be switched off or switched to silent for the duration of the meeting.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members are required to disclose, 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

To confirm the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 29 July 2015

4. REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED

- i) Provisional Findings of the Interpretation Board Working Group - Report attached
- ii) Grounds Maintenance Contract – Presentation by the Chief Executive
- iii) Use of Agency Staff and Consultants – Presentation by the Chief Executive
- iv) Public Access and use of Fort Brockhurst – verbal update by the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

A) REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

To consider any requests for scrutiny received by the Borough Solicitor. A copy of the Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid is attached.

B) WORK PROGRAMME

To consider the work programme (attached) for the Committee and any suggestions from Members for issues to be scrutinised.

C) OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 29 JULY 2015

Councillors; Allen, Mrs Batty (P), Beavis (P), Forder. Mrs Forder, Foster-Reed, Geddes (P), Gill (P), Hazel, Hylands (P), Scard (P) and Mrs Wright (P)

12. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Forder, Allen and Forder.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9 JUNE 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 June 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

15. REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED

i. Interpretation Boards

The Chairman invited Councillor Scard to provide an additional verbal update to that of Cllr Mrs Forder's written update for members. He shared that Kevin Casey had joined the working group and his knowledge and voluntary work had been helpful to the, group advising that Mr Casey was a volunteer at the Diving Museum and a member of the Friends of Stokes Bay Committee. Costings for the improvements, replacements or addition of interpretation boards had been provided by Mr Casey and Gosport Borough Council.

Councillor Scard advised there had been a suggestion of involving the men's 'Shed Scheme' and that he would be arranging a meeting with Mr Casey and a representative at the 'Shed'. He continued by saying that it would assist if the representative could be involved with the work on the design for future boards as they were currently of different materials and not all were weatherproof. He added that Mr Casey had suggested a design made of Perspex where information sheets could easily be updated. In response to a question Councillor Scard advised members that Tony Lawrence of the Lawrence family had agreed to provide photographs free of charge.

ii. Public Access to Fort Brockhurst

The Borough Solicitor provided a verbal update to the Committee. The Borough Solicitor advised members that contacting and arranging a meeting with English Heritage to look at the Draft Management Plan was still in progress. She added that background papers for this working group would be sent to new members of the Committee.

Clarity was provided in response to questions raised; in relation to the education facility at Fort Brockhurst it was confirmed that the facility was used by schools, The Council for Summer Passport and other agencies; that the bridge has been used by vehicles and further confirmed that English Heritage used some facilities for storage however it was believed this would not impact negatively on access for the public.

16. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

A. Requests for Scrutiny

The Chairman called on members to raise requests for scrutiny.

Councillor Mrs Wright requested two areas to be considered:

- i) the first being the strategic review of housing allocation and the void properties process within Housing Services Unit.

Members discussed the request. It was advised that recent changes to the allocation policy that had been agreed at Community Board may resolve void property issues. Members also discussed options and timing of the request for scrutiny. It was agreed that it was too early to scrutinise the allocation policy, and It was felt that it be more appropriate to allow time to see the outcome of the changes made.

RESOLVED: That Stuart Palmer, Interim Housing Services Manager, provided a presentation to Members at the December meeting and that scrutiny be programmed for post-Christmas.

- ii) the second area suggested for scrutiny was for the investigation of council spending relating to the use of Agency staff and Consultants.

Members discussed the difficulty in recruiting specialist staff to fill posts and that this resulted in utilising agency staff, during the interim, until such a time when appropriate employment could be matched. Councillor Mrs Wright shared her concerns that due to the reduction in staffing there was often a lack of cover during staff absence that lead to exceeding policy/procedure times for response to residents. She continued by sharing her view that by scrutinising this area problems to recruitment may be identified.

RESOLVED: That a report be provided to the September Committee informing of the number of agency staff and consultants that are currently working at Gosport Borough Council and the reason they would not become permanent staff

B. Work Programme

The Chairman highlighted the work programme attached to the agenda for the meeting and asked for comments. It was agreed that the work programme was fit for purpose.

17. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded 18:37

CHAIRMAN

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

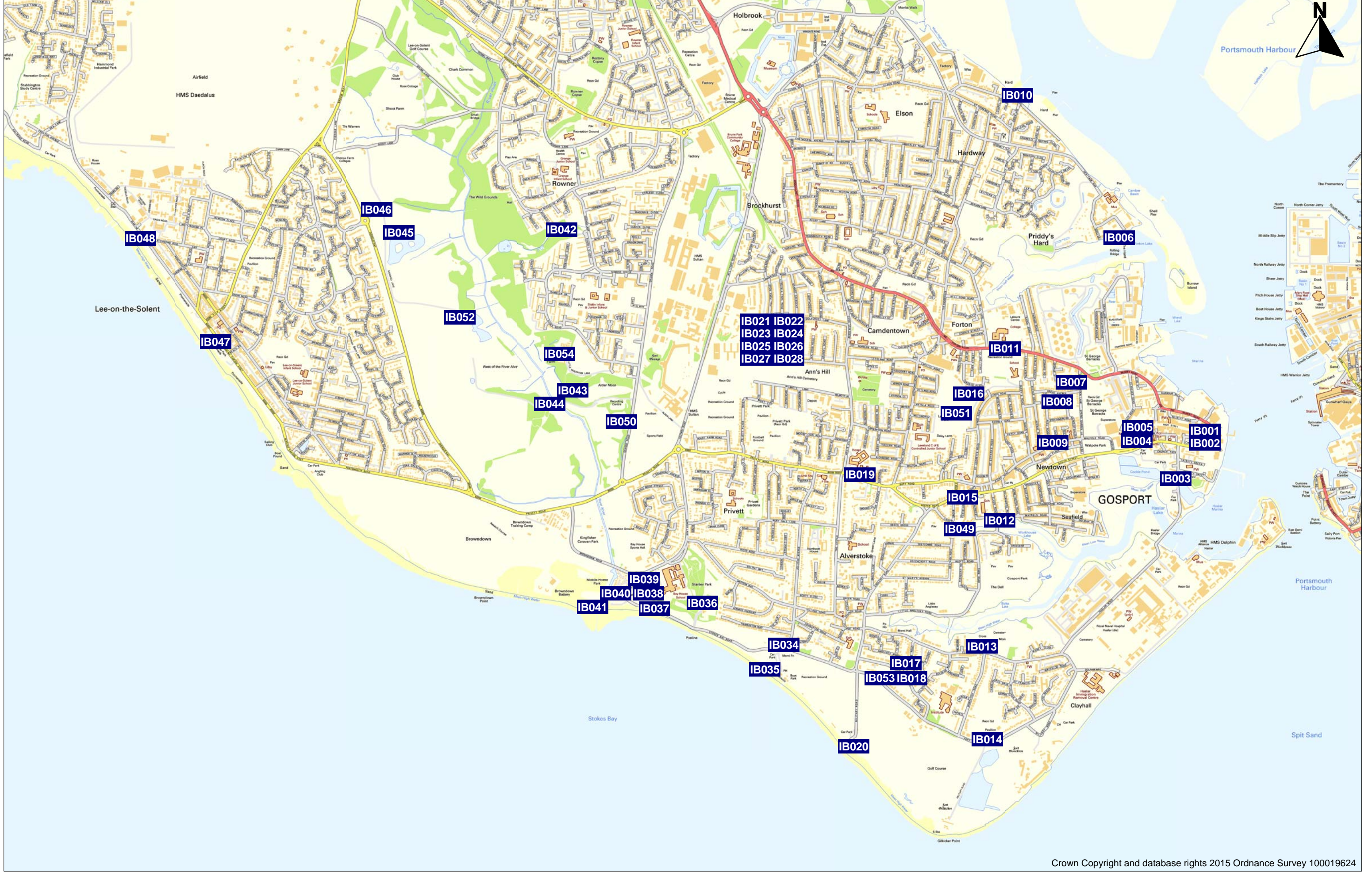
Appendix 7

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

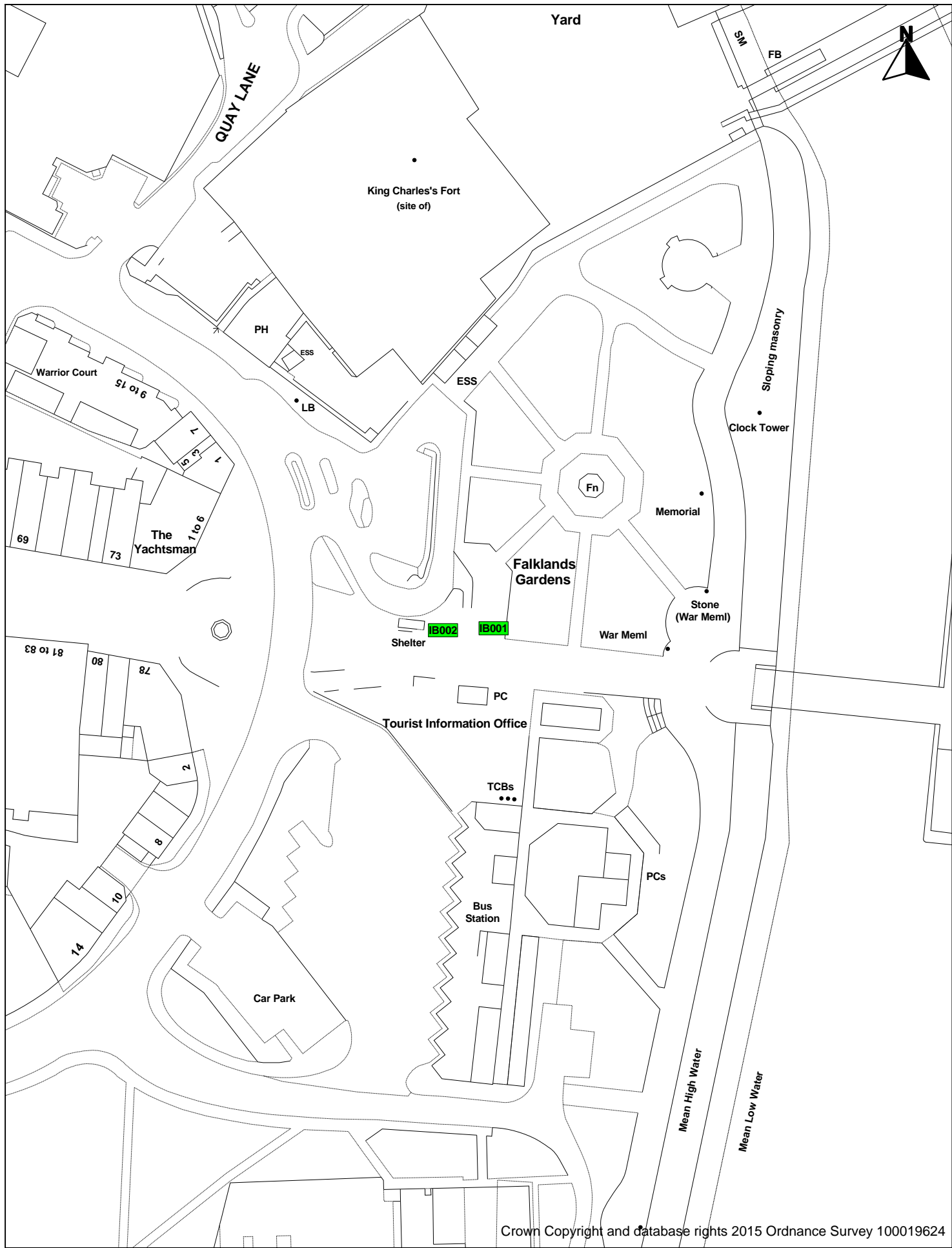
- Updated logos
- QR codes
- Revised date



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IB001 – GOSPORT WATERFRONT – FALKLAND GARDENS

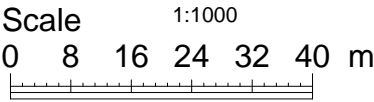




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HANTS, PO12 1EB.**

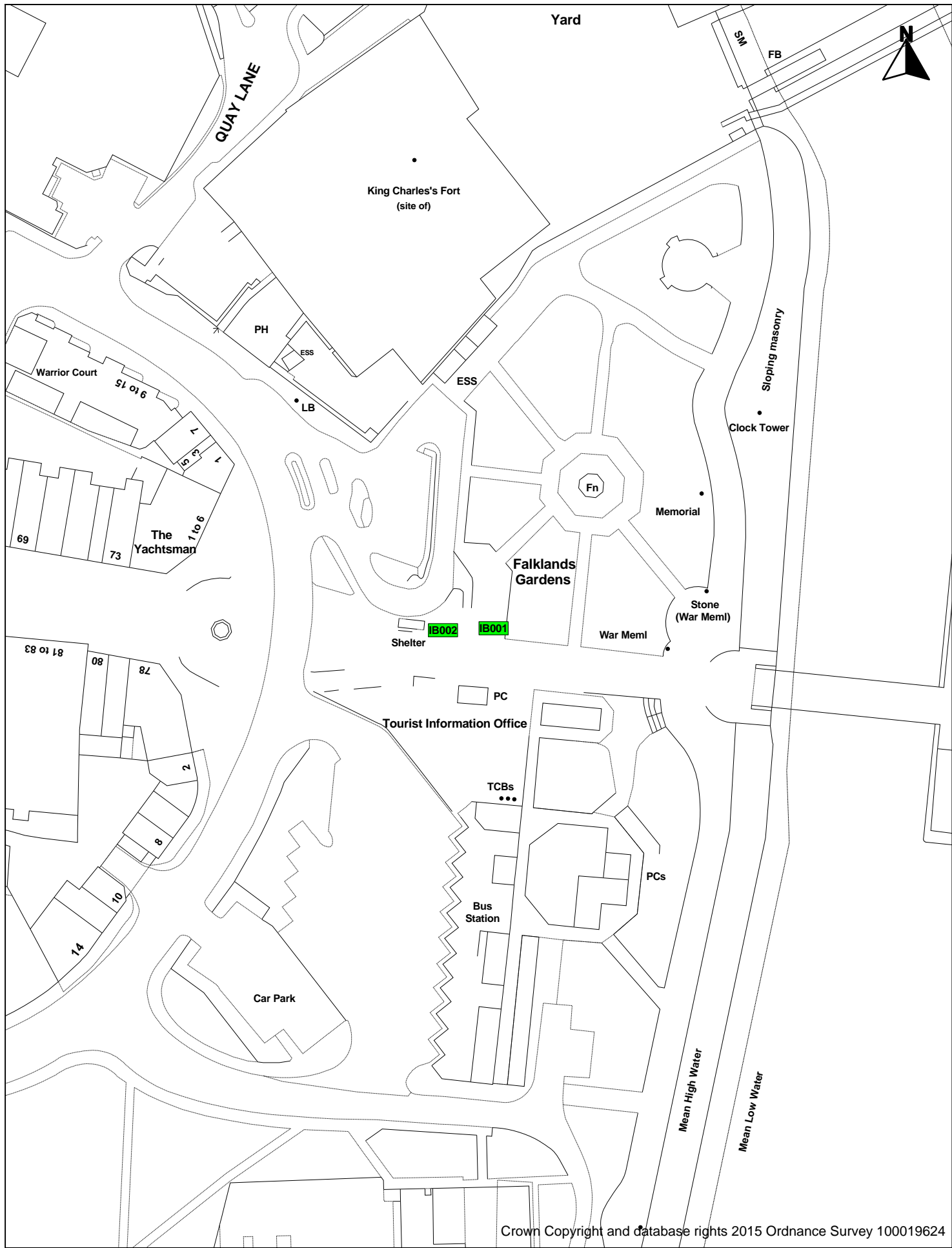
DATE : 02/06/2015



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IB002 – HIGH STREET, GOSPORT – FALKLAND GARDENS

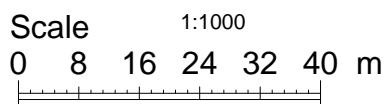




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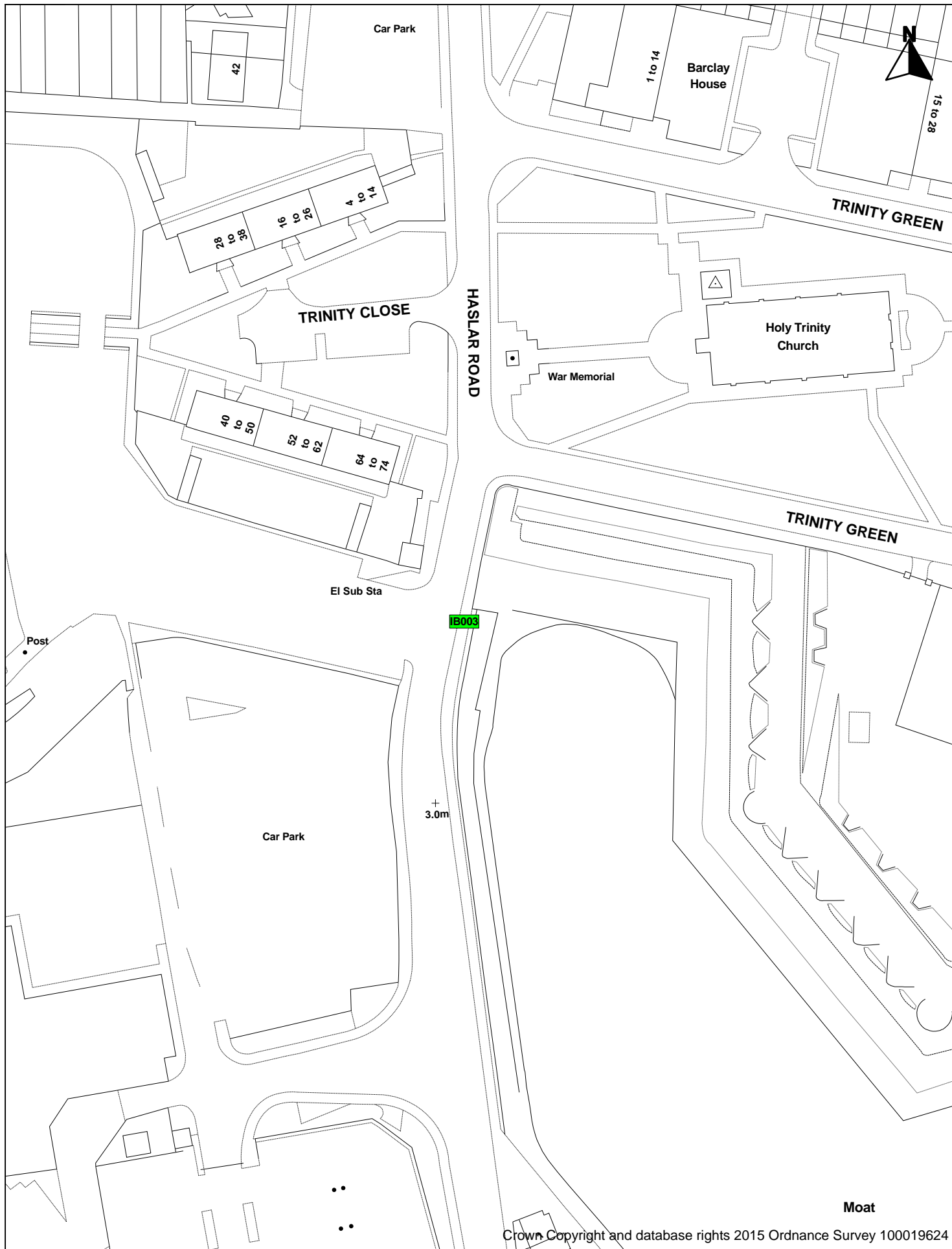
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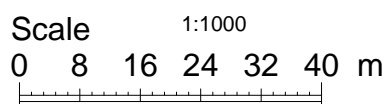
IB003 – BASTION No. 1 - RAMPARTS





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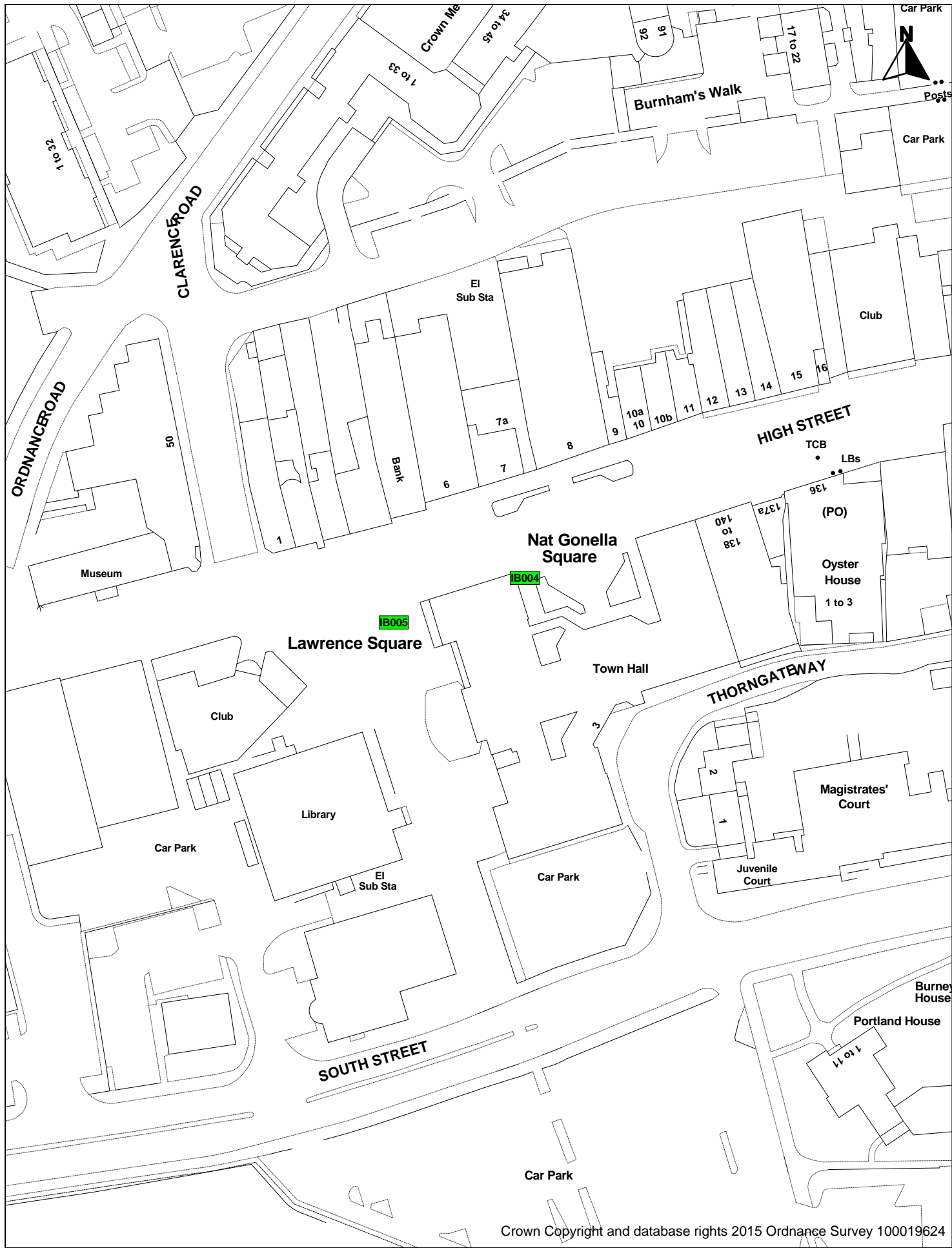
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IB004 – NAT GONELLA SQUARE – HIGH STREET, NAT GONELLA SQUARE

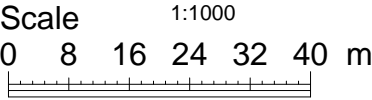




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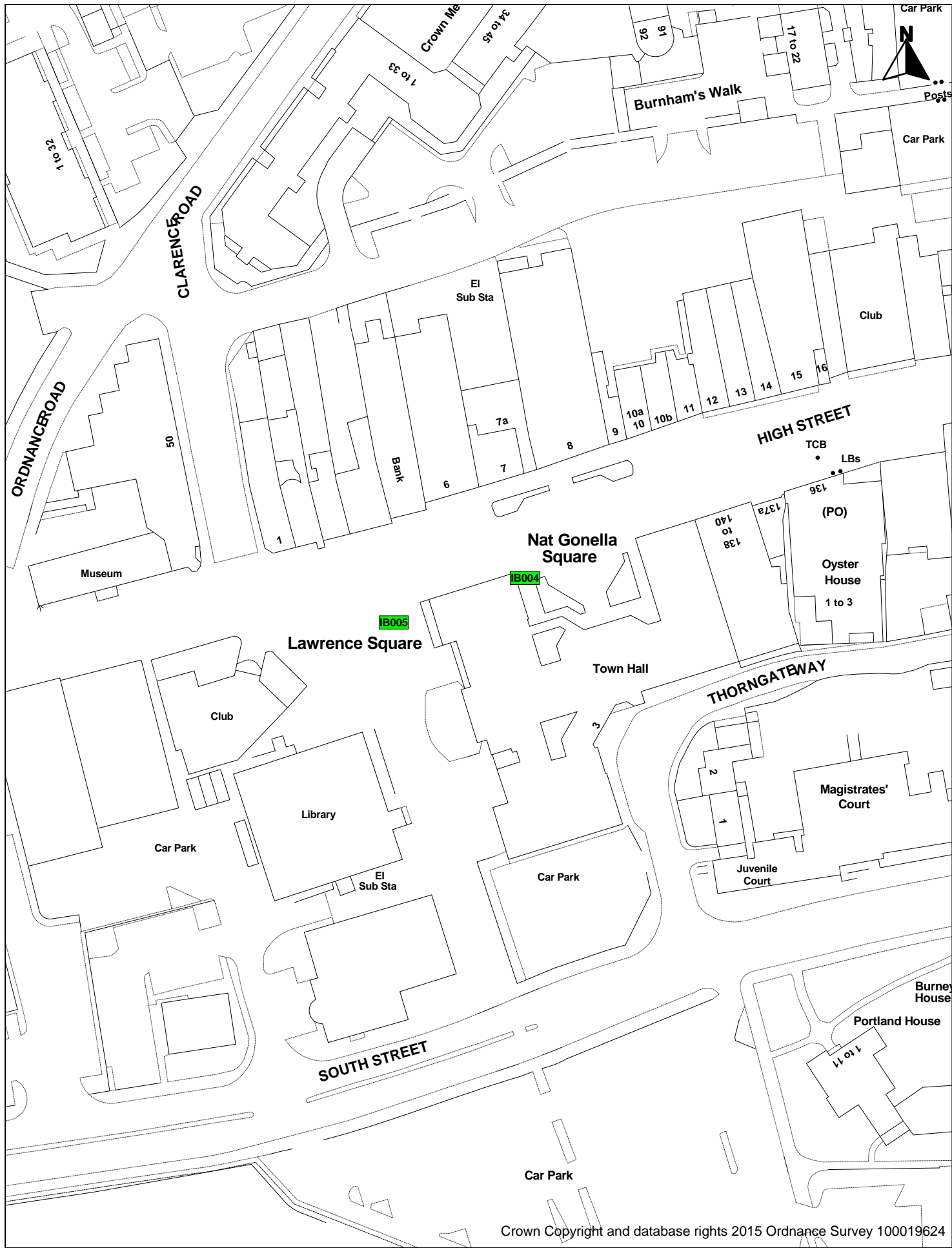
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IB005 – LAWRENCE SQUARE – HIGH STREET, LAWRENCE SQUARE

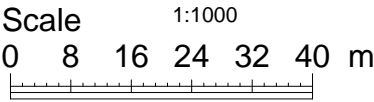




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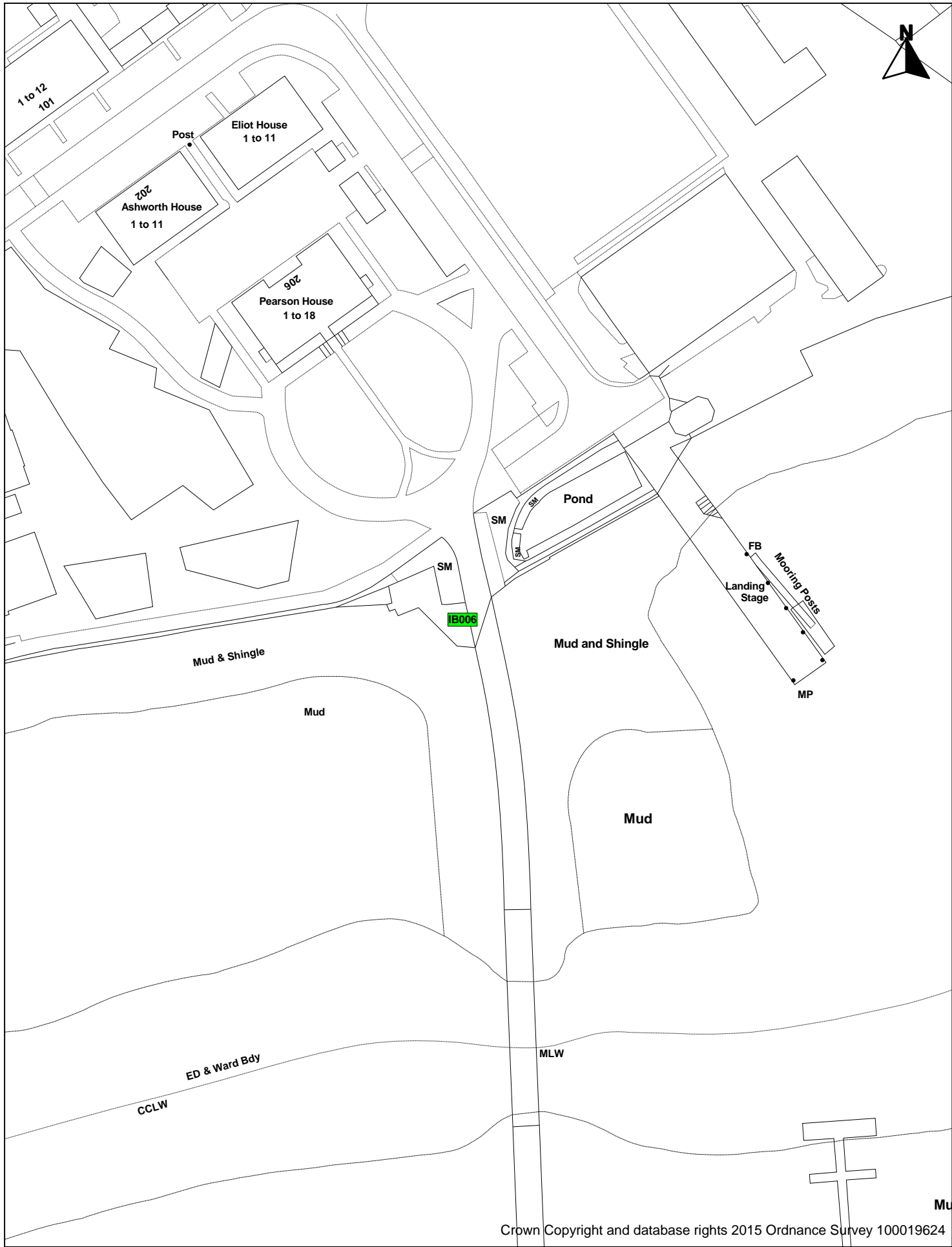
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Forton Lake Archaeology

The sign contains the following content:

- Top Left:** A small photograph of a stone wall and a text panel.
- Top Center:** A photograph of a stone wall and a text panel.
- Top Right:** A photograph of a stone wall and a text panel.
- Middle Left:** A photograph of a stone wall and a text panel.
- Middle Center:** A photograph of a stone wall and a text panel.
- Middle Right:** A photograph of a stone wall and a text panel.
- Bottom Left:** A large map of Forton Lake with various sites marked. Below the map is a small legend and a text panel.
- Bottom Right:** A photograph of a stone wall and a text panel.

At the bottom of the sign, there is a copyright notice: "© 2004 H&L and H&L Archaeology, an archaeology project". There are also logos for "H&L Archaeology" and "H&L Archaeology" on the right side.



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

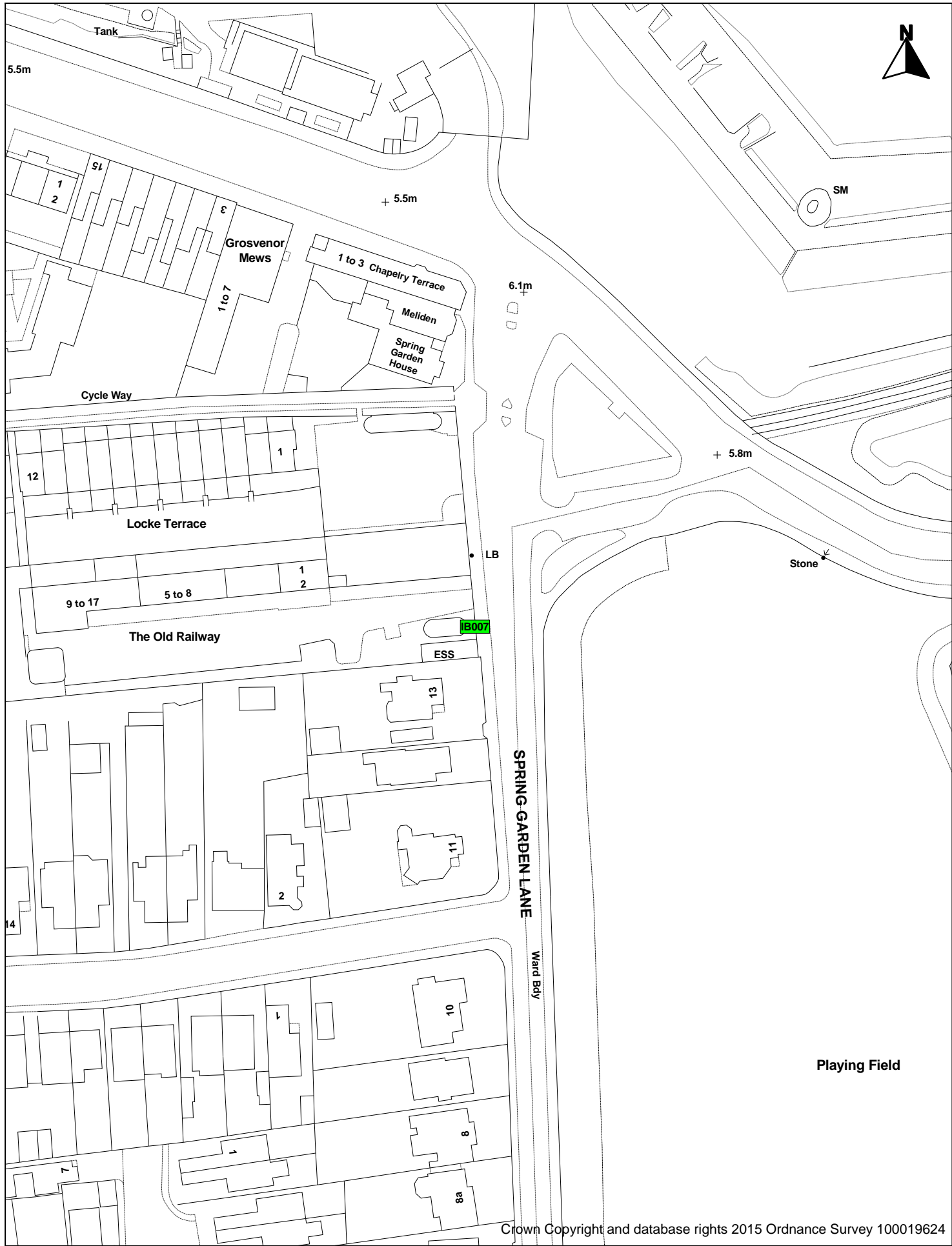
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IB007 – GOSPORT RAILWAY STATION – SPRING GARDEN LANE





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





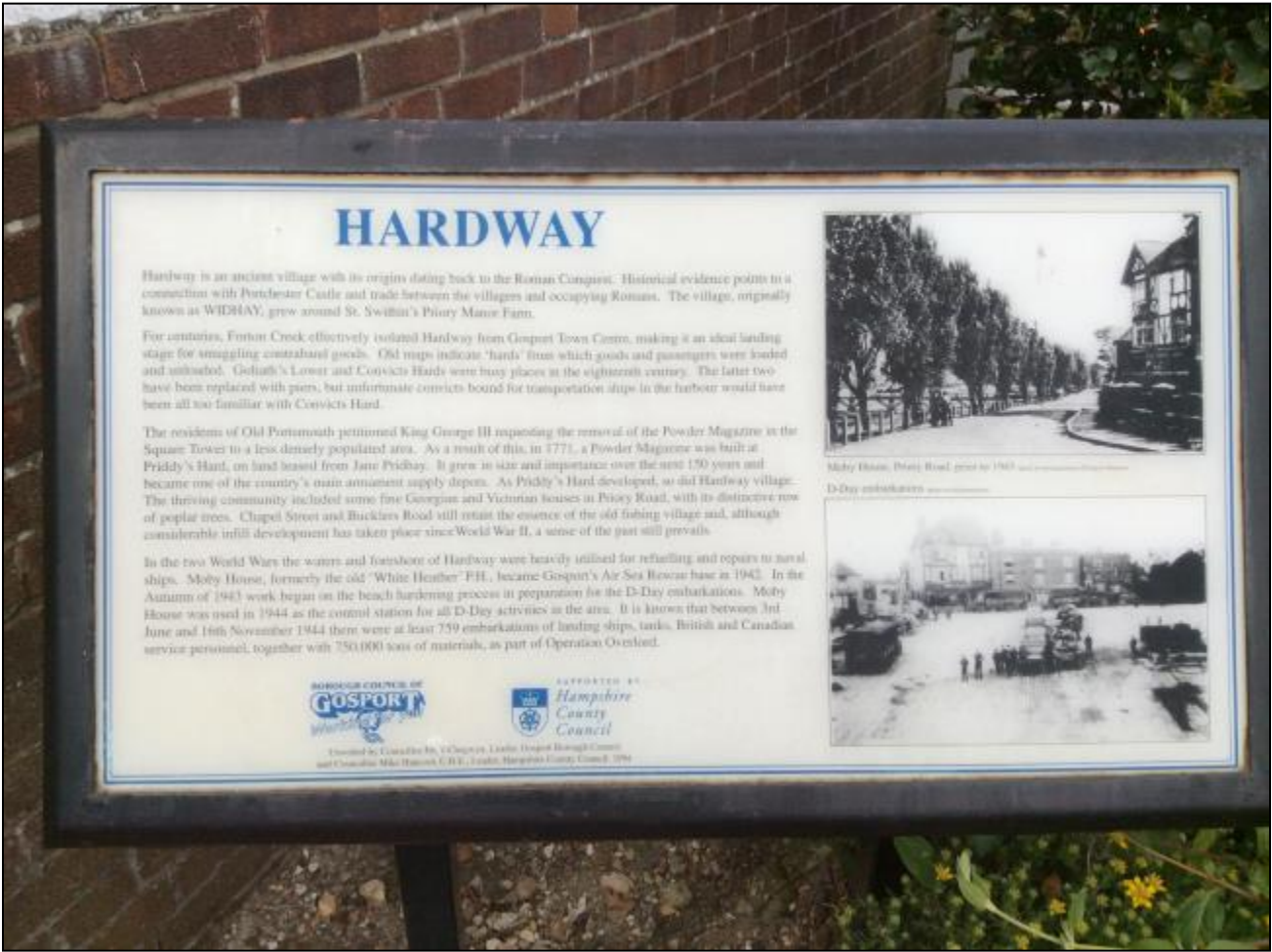
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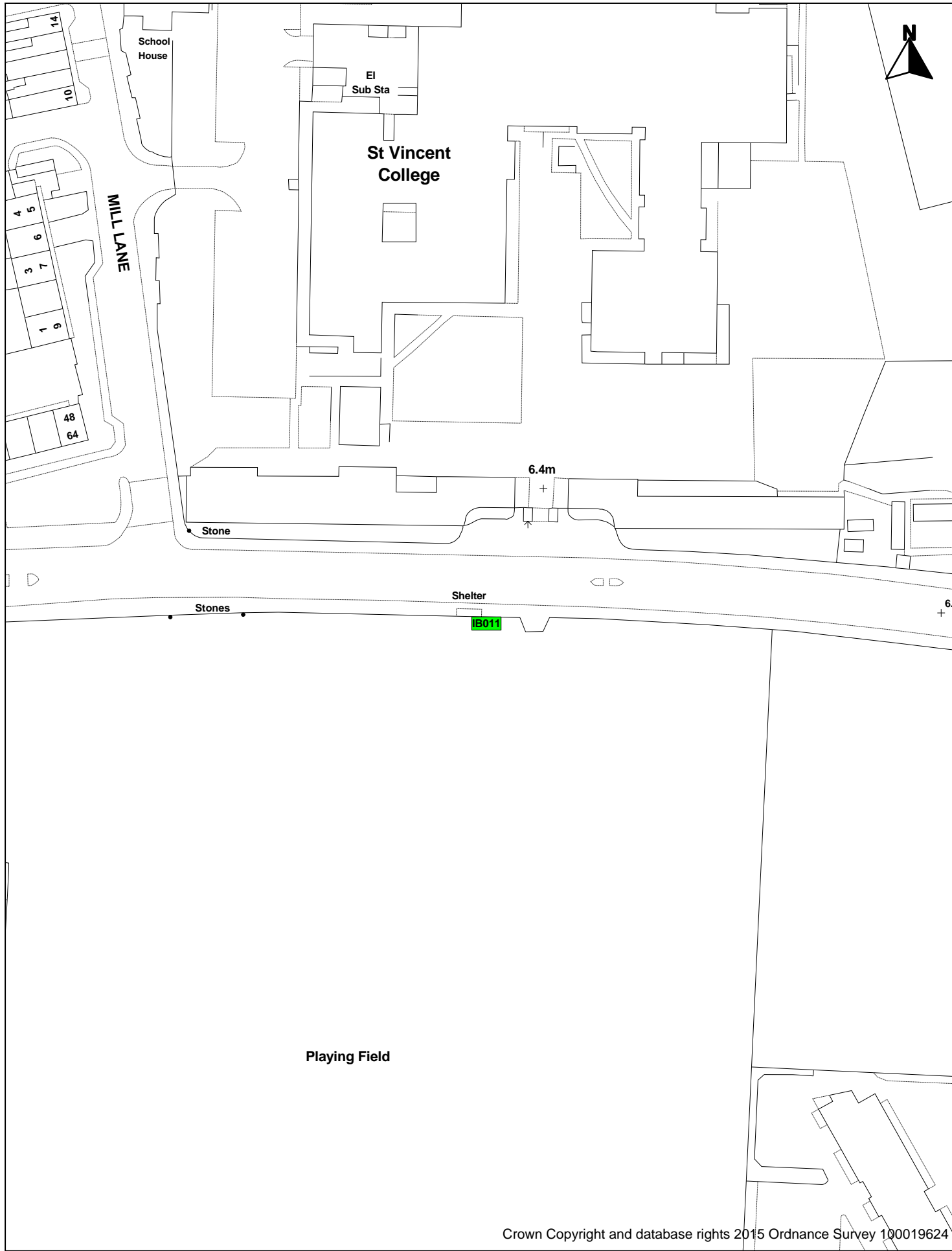


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IB010 – HARDWAY – PRIORY ROAD REST GARDEN

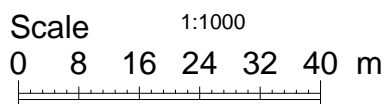


A photograph of a historical marker for St. Vincent Field. The marker is a white rectangular plaque with a black border, mounted on a black metal stand with four legs. The plaque features the title "ST VINCENT FIELD" at the top, followed by a map of the field and surrounding area. The marker is positioned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



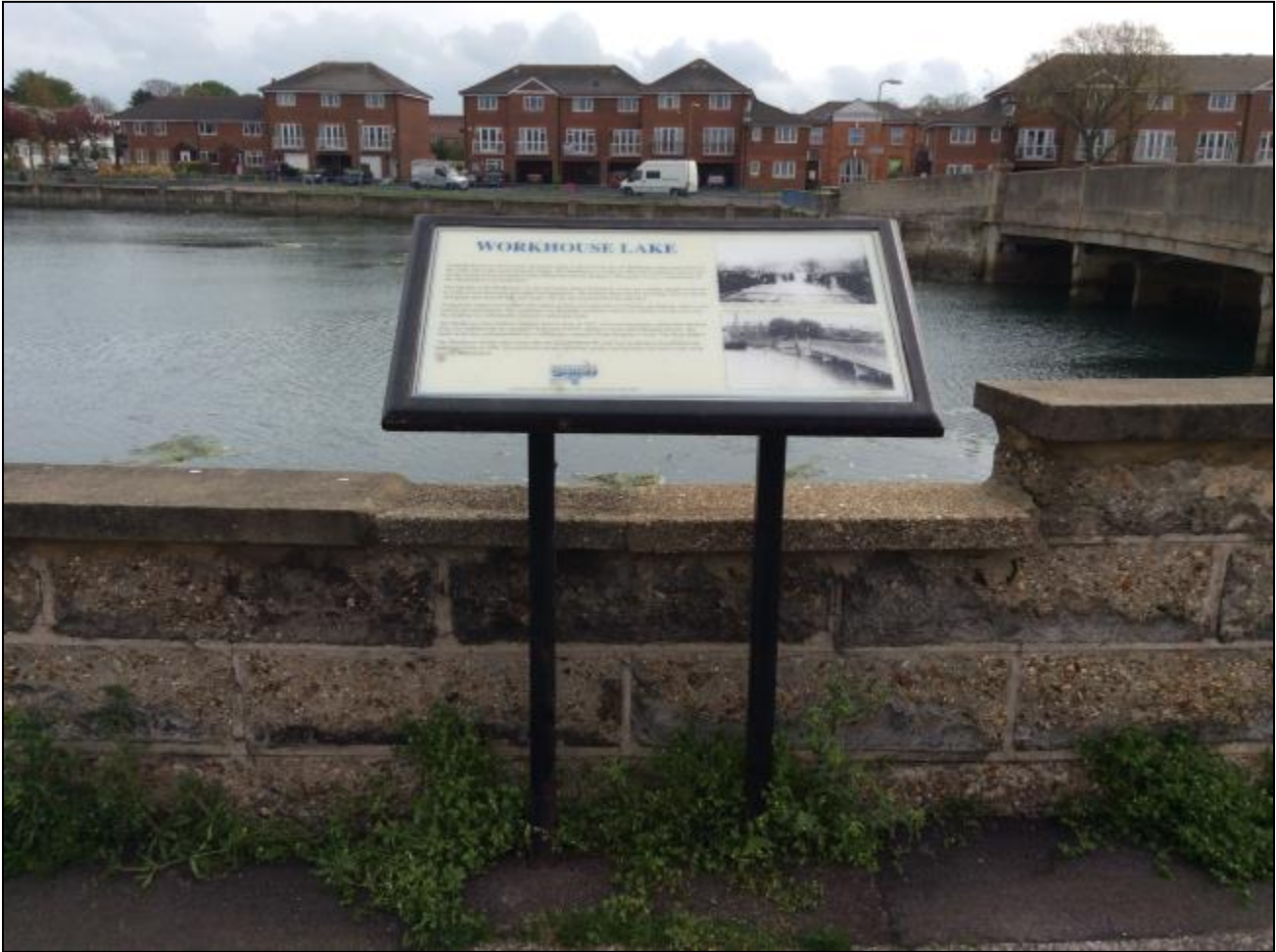
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IB012 – WORKHOUSE LAKE – MAYFIELD ROAD





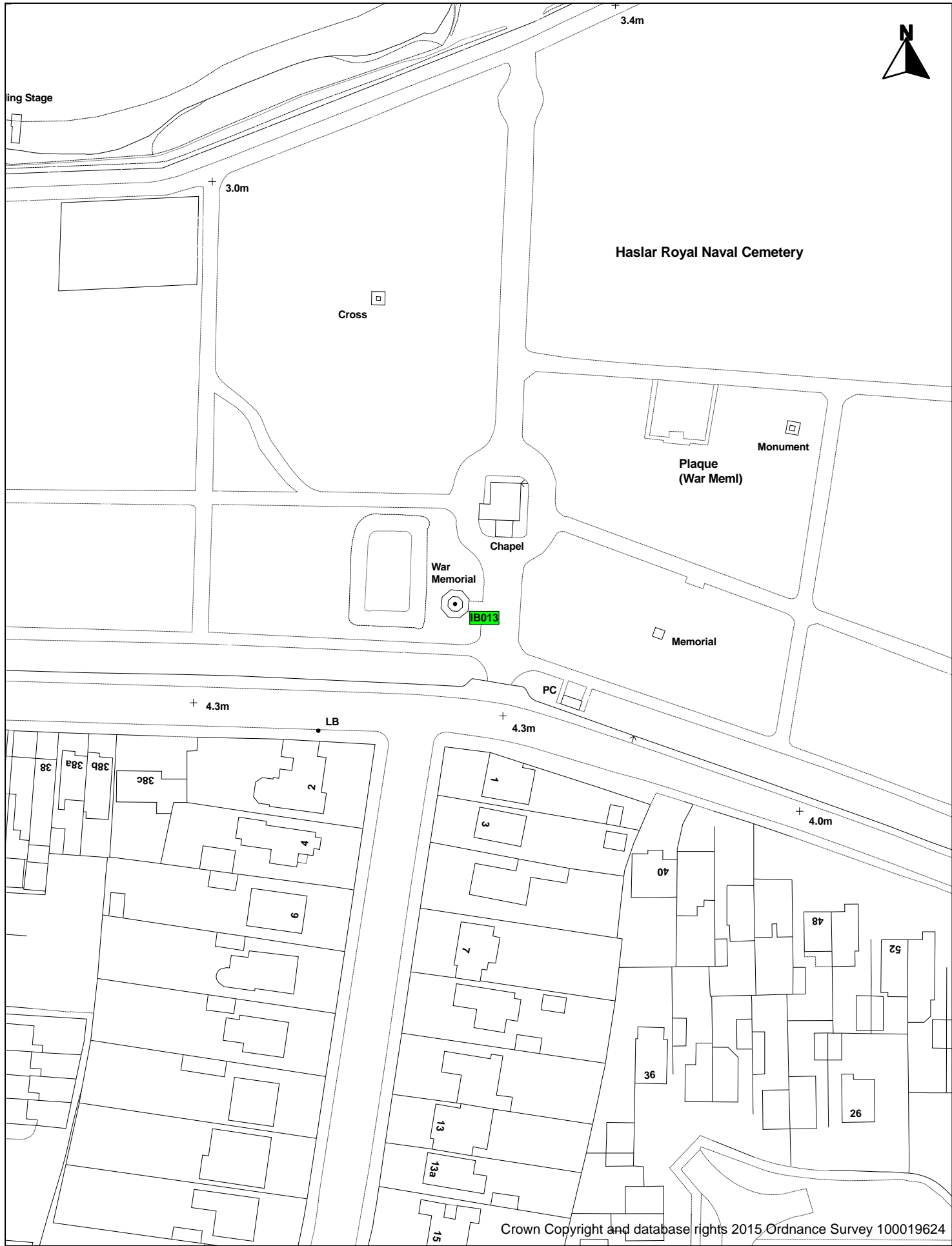
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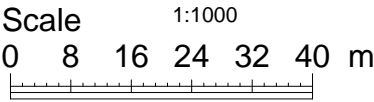
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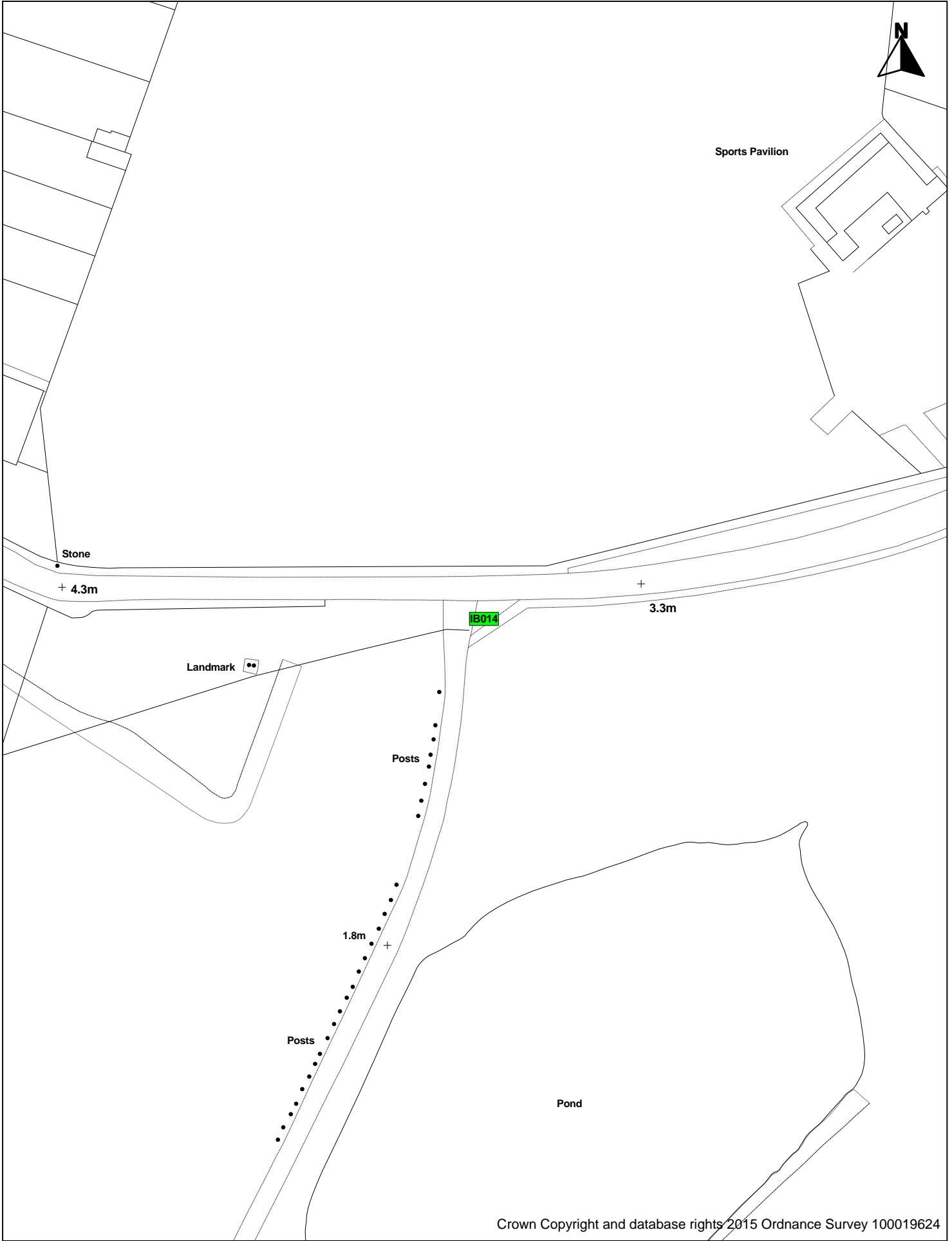
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IB014 – FORT GILKICKER – FORT ROAD, GILKICKER

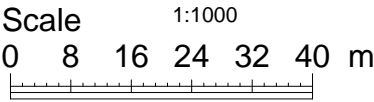




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IB015 – STOKES BAY RAILWAY – SOUTH STREET/CLEVELAND ROAD





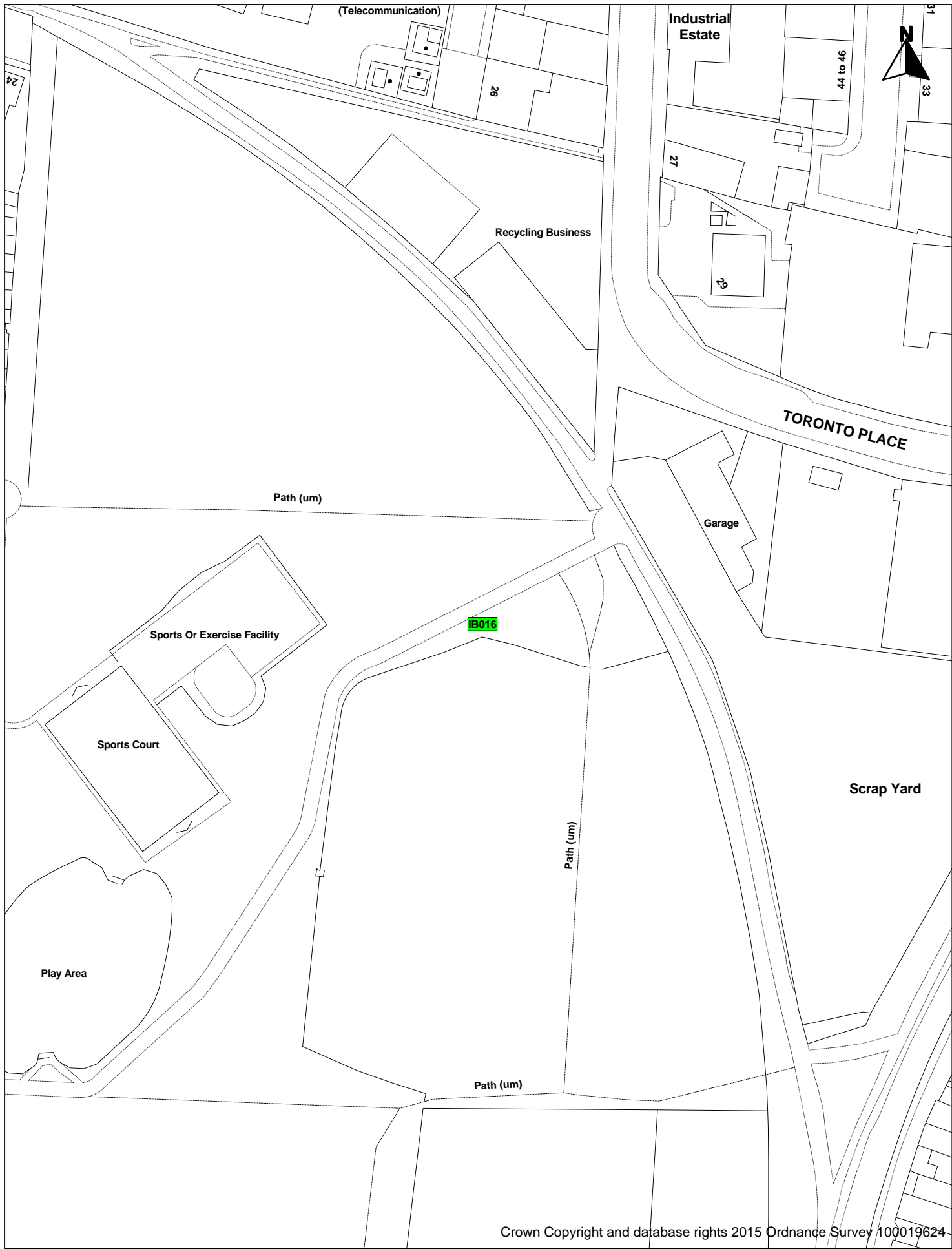
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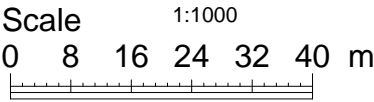




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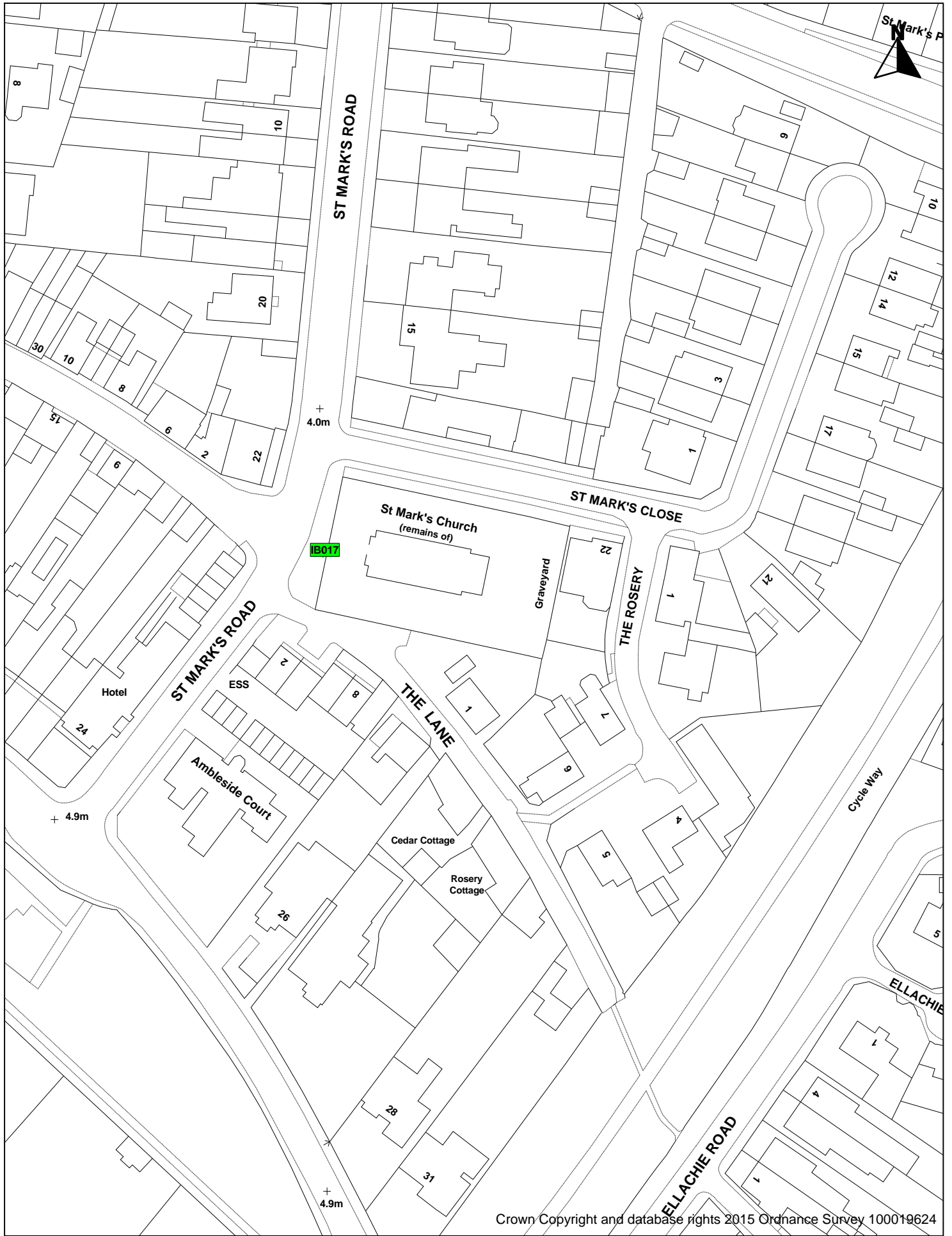
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IB017 – ST. MARK'S CHURCHYARD – ST. MARK'S ROAD





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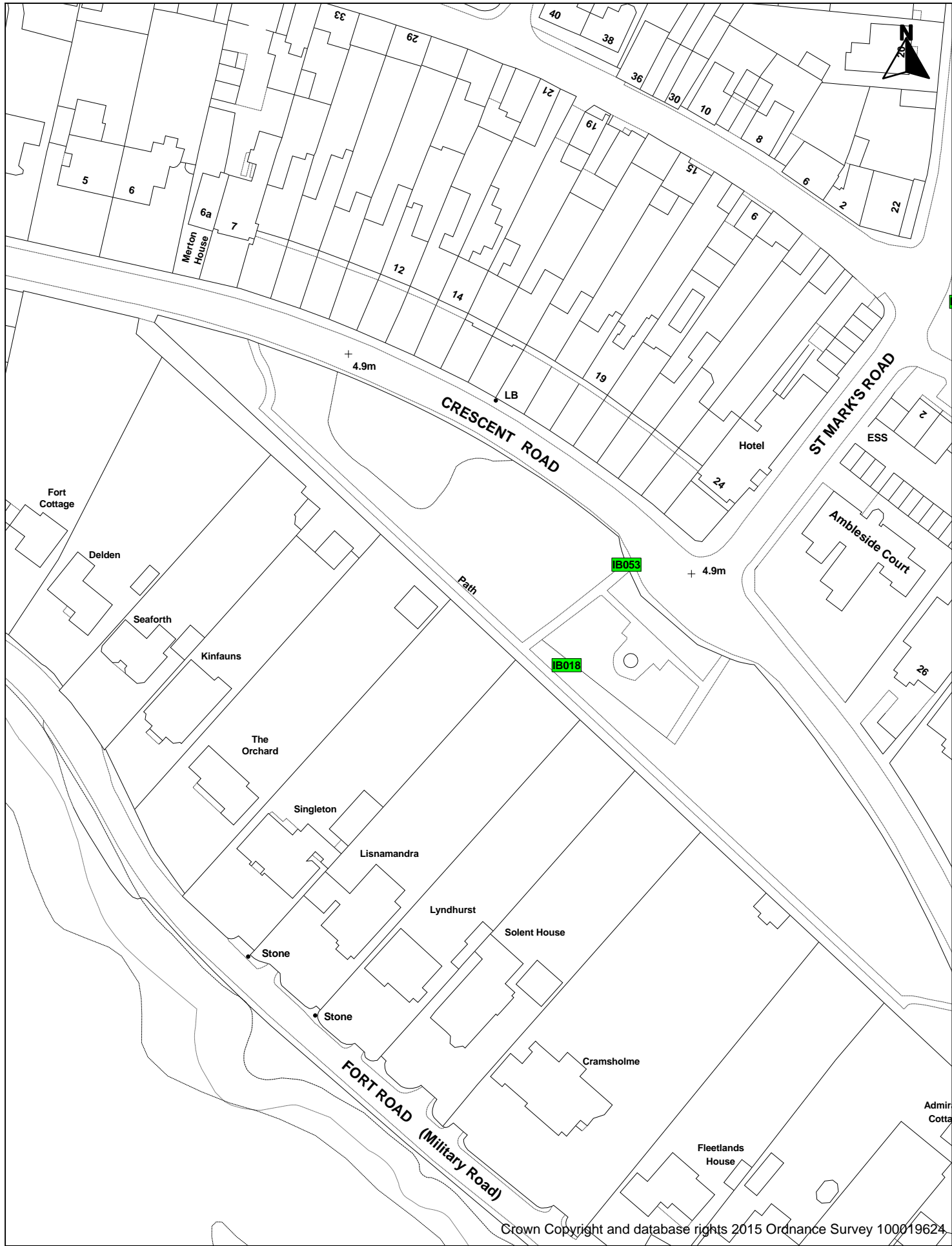
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IB018 – ALVERSTOKE CRESCENT GARDENS – TERRACED WALK

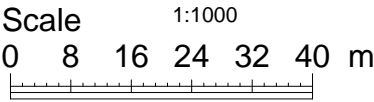




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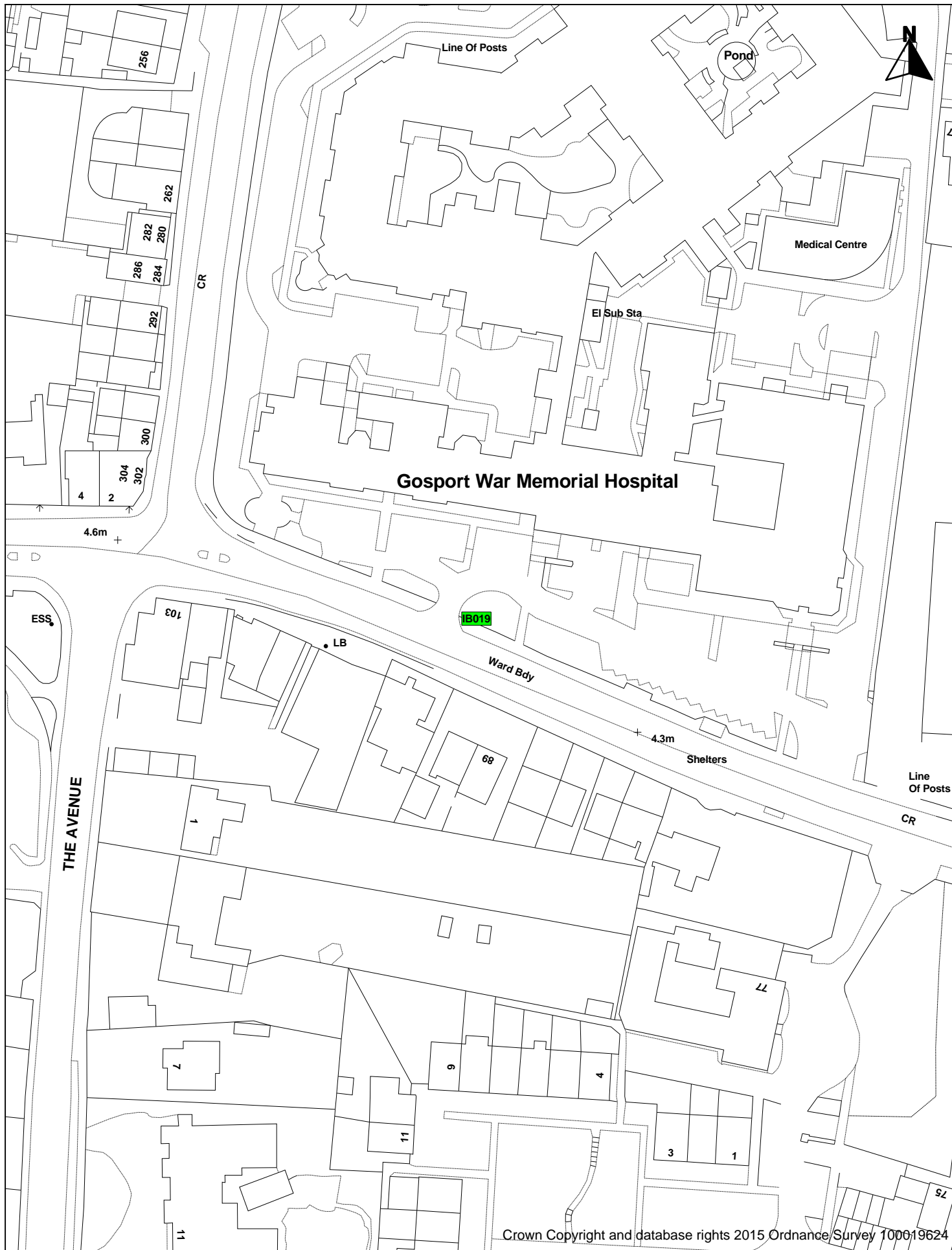
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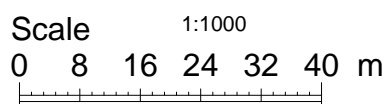
IB019 – GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL – GOSPORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL





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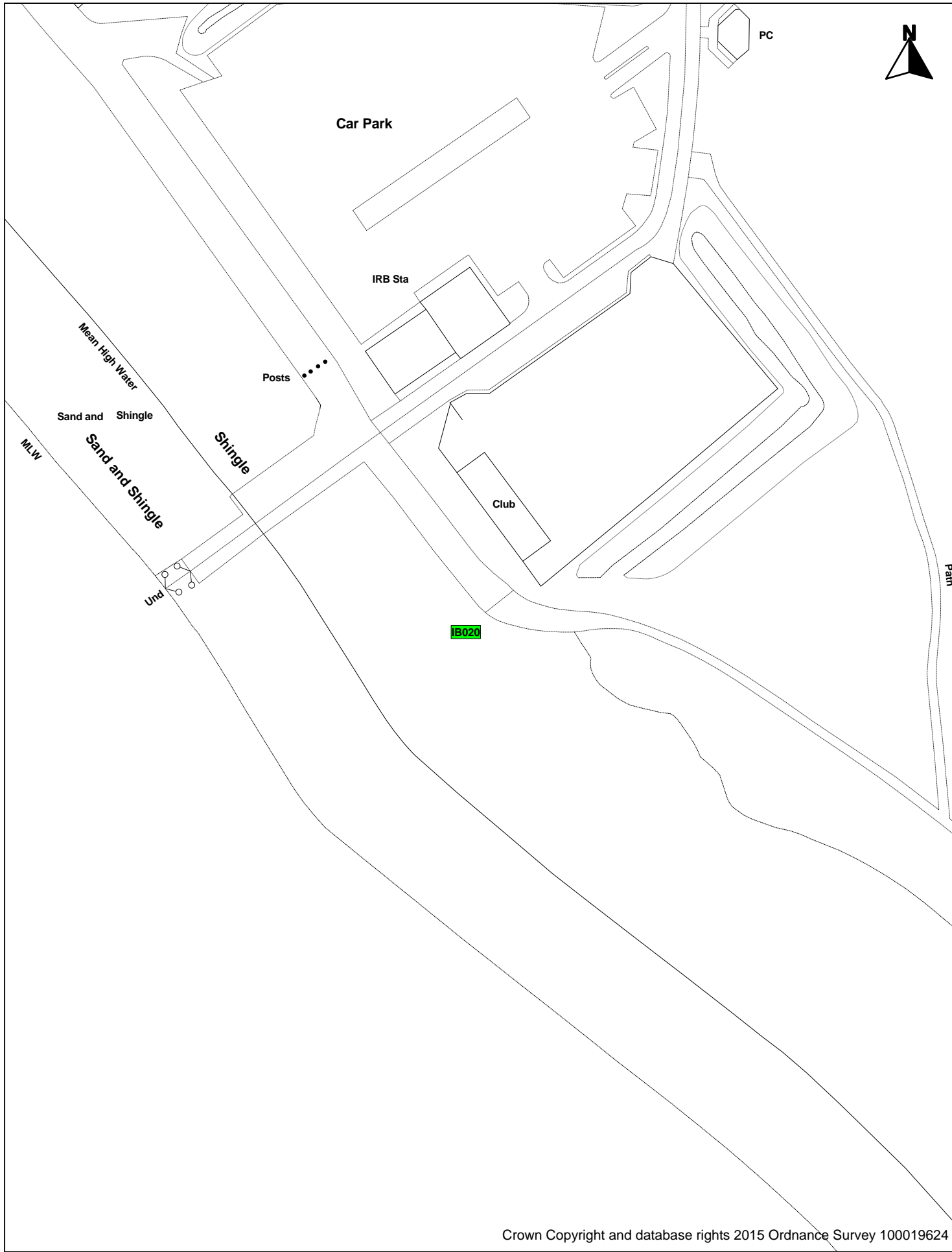
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IB020 – GILKICKER PART OF THE HERITAGE TRAIL – ANGLING CLUB

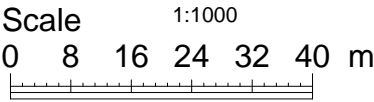




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The History of The Hermitage

The Legend

The story of the Hermitage is a legend that has been passed down for generations. It is a story of a man who lived in a cave and was known for his wisdom and his ability to heal the sick. The legend says that he was a man of great power and that he was able to control the elements of nature. He was known as the Hermit and his name was never spoken.

The Land

The Hermitage is a small, quiet town in the heart of the mountains. It is a town that has been built on a hillside and is surrounded by a forest of tall, ancient trees. The town is a place of peace and tranquility and is a place where the people of the mountains have lived for centuries.

The History

The Hermitage has a long and rich history. It was founded by a man who was a great leader and a great warrior. He was a man who was known for his courage and his ability to lead his people to victory. He was a man who was known as the Hermit and his name was never spoken.

The Hermitage

The Hermitage is a place of great beauty and interest. It is a place where the people of the mountains have lived for centuries. It is a place where the people of the mountains have built a life of peace and tranquility. It is a place where the people of the mountains have built a life of wisdom and knowledge.





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IB022 – THE HERMITAGE – THE MEADOW





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IB025 – THE HERMITAGE – FRUITS OF THE HERMITAGE





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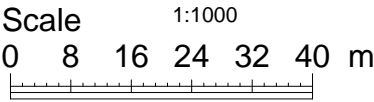
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IB027 – THE HERMITAGE – BUTTERFLY GARDEN





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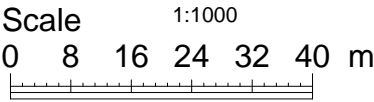
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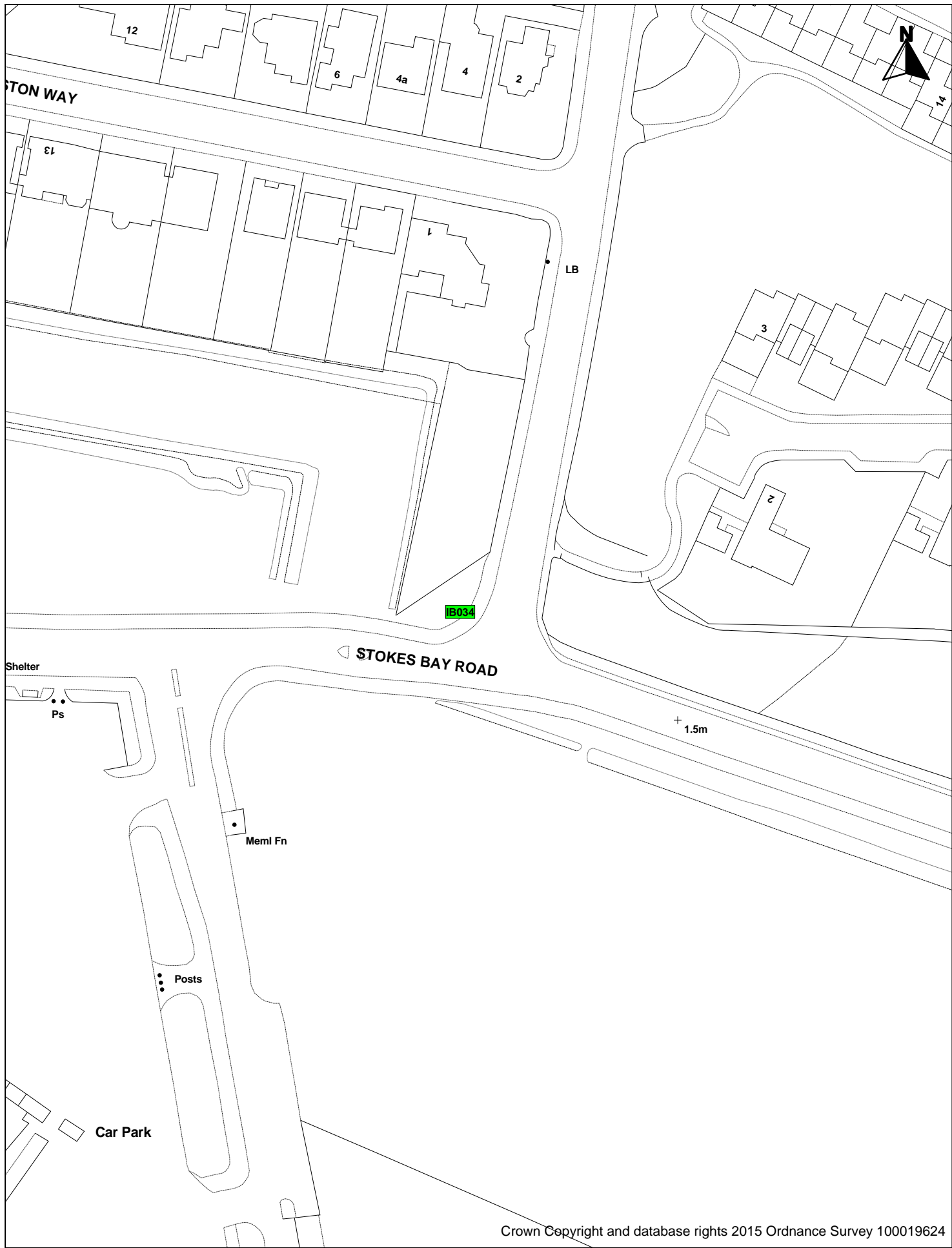
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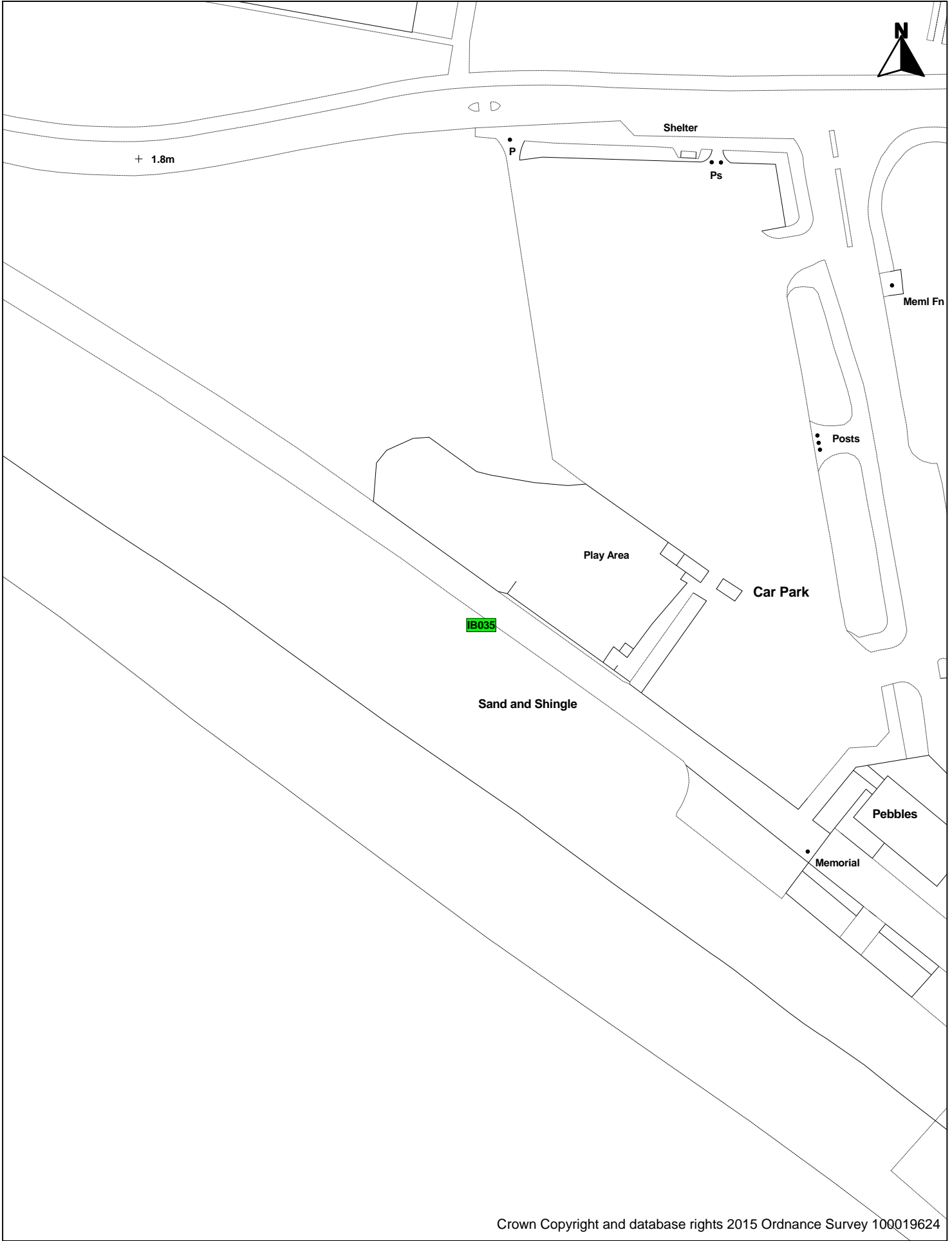
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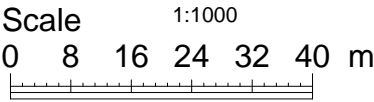
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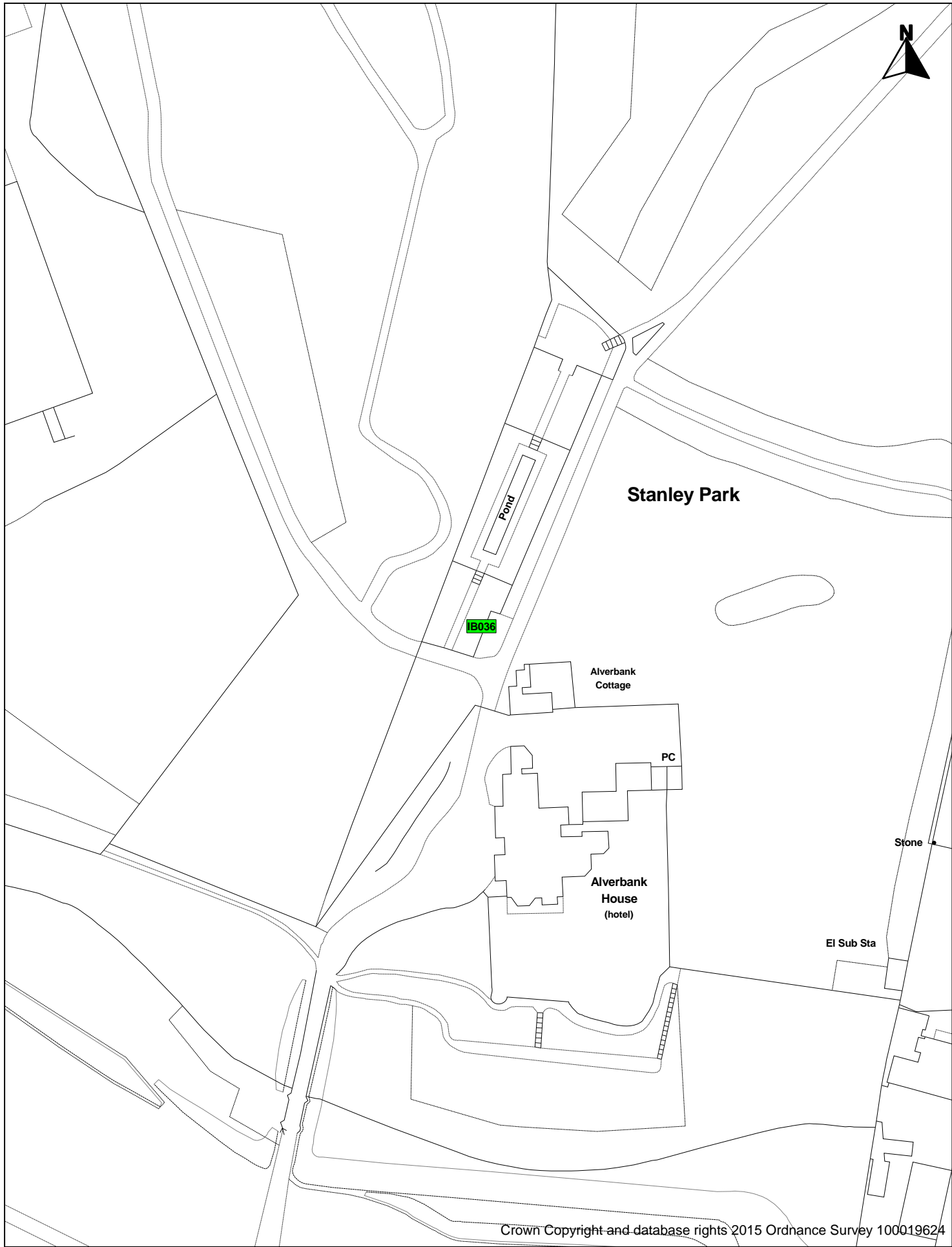
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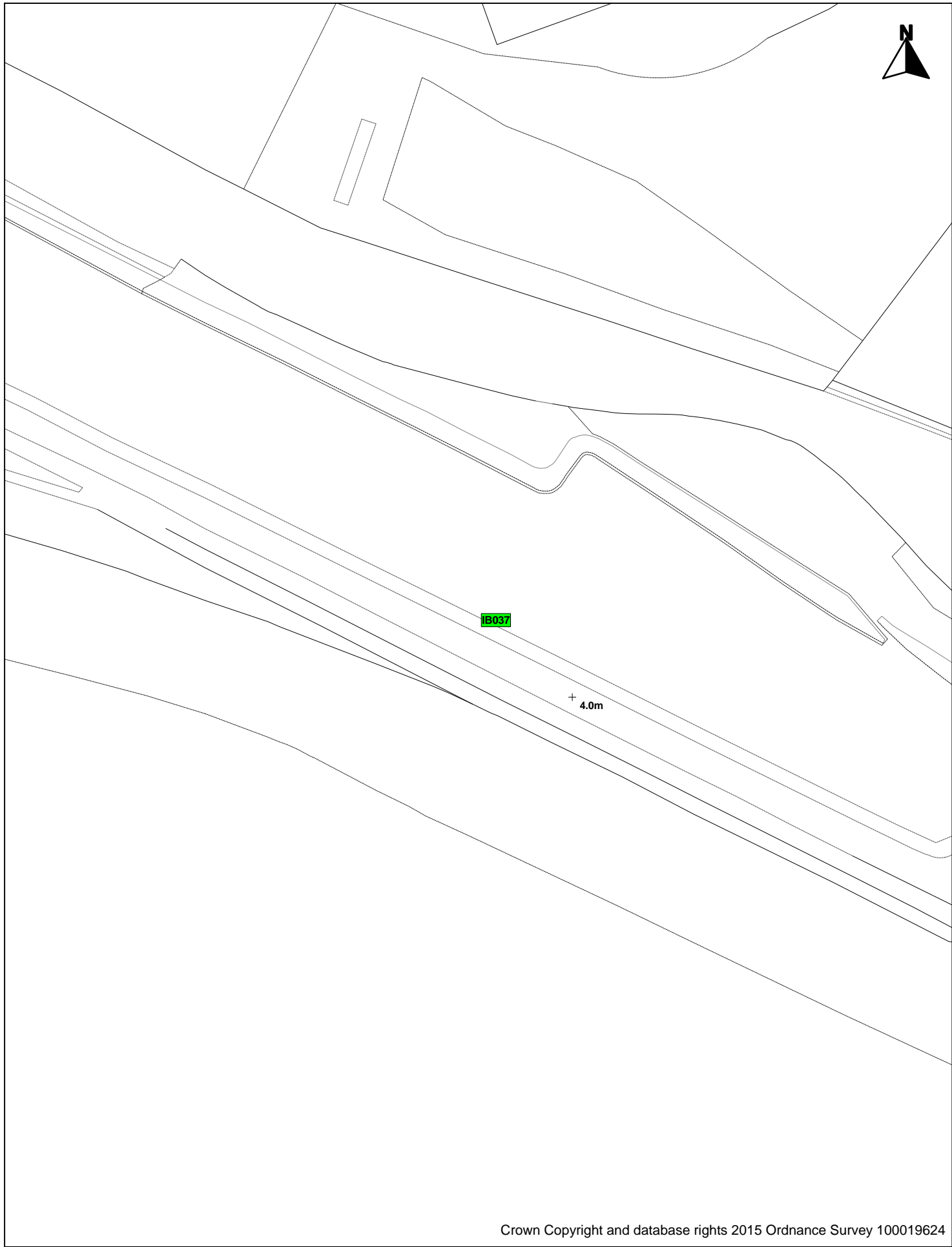
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IB037 – THE STOKES BAY LINES – ALVERBANK DRIVE, STOKES BAY

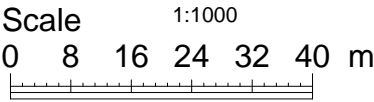




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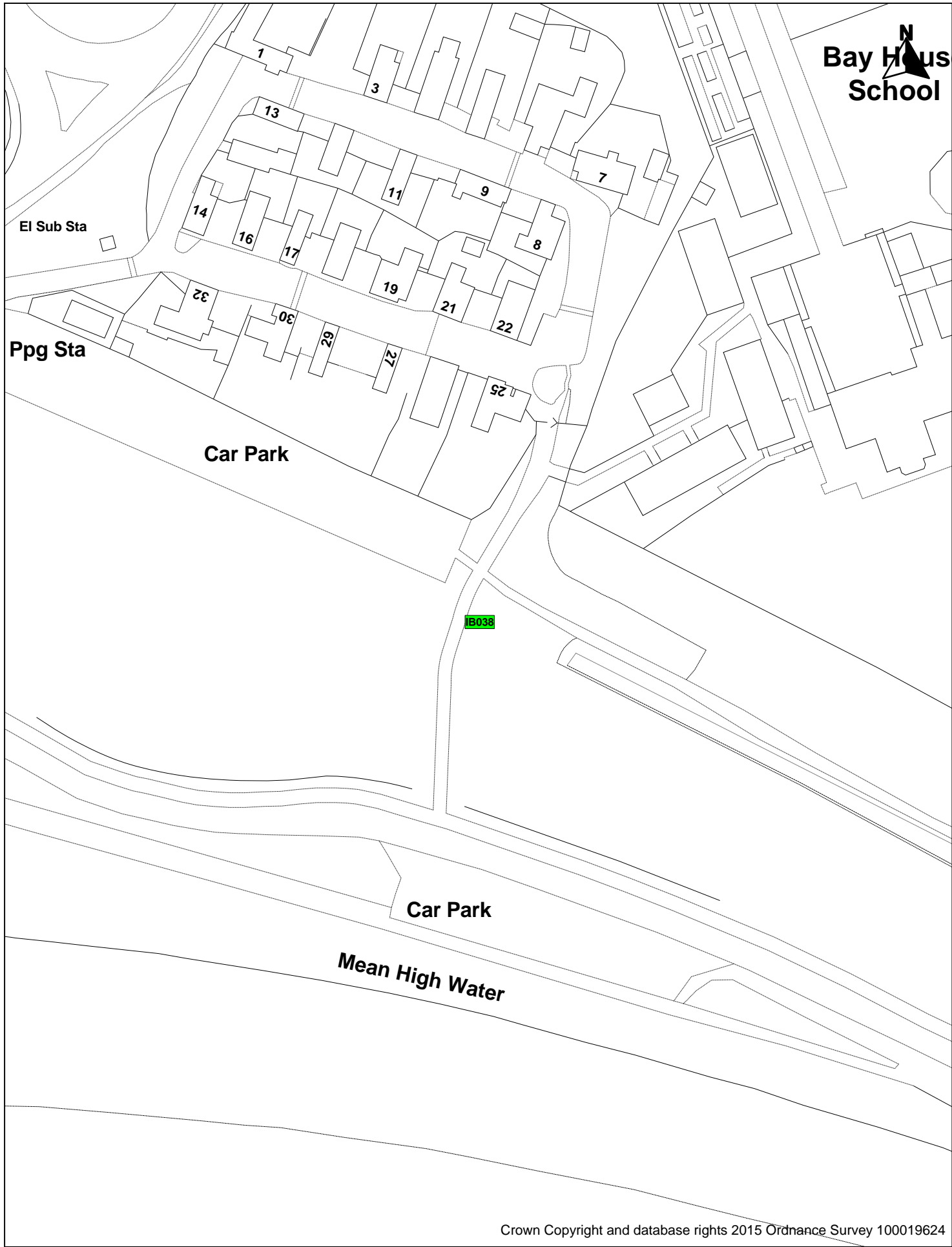
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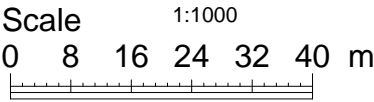
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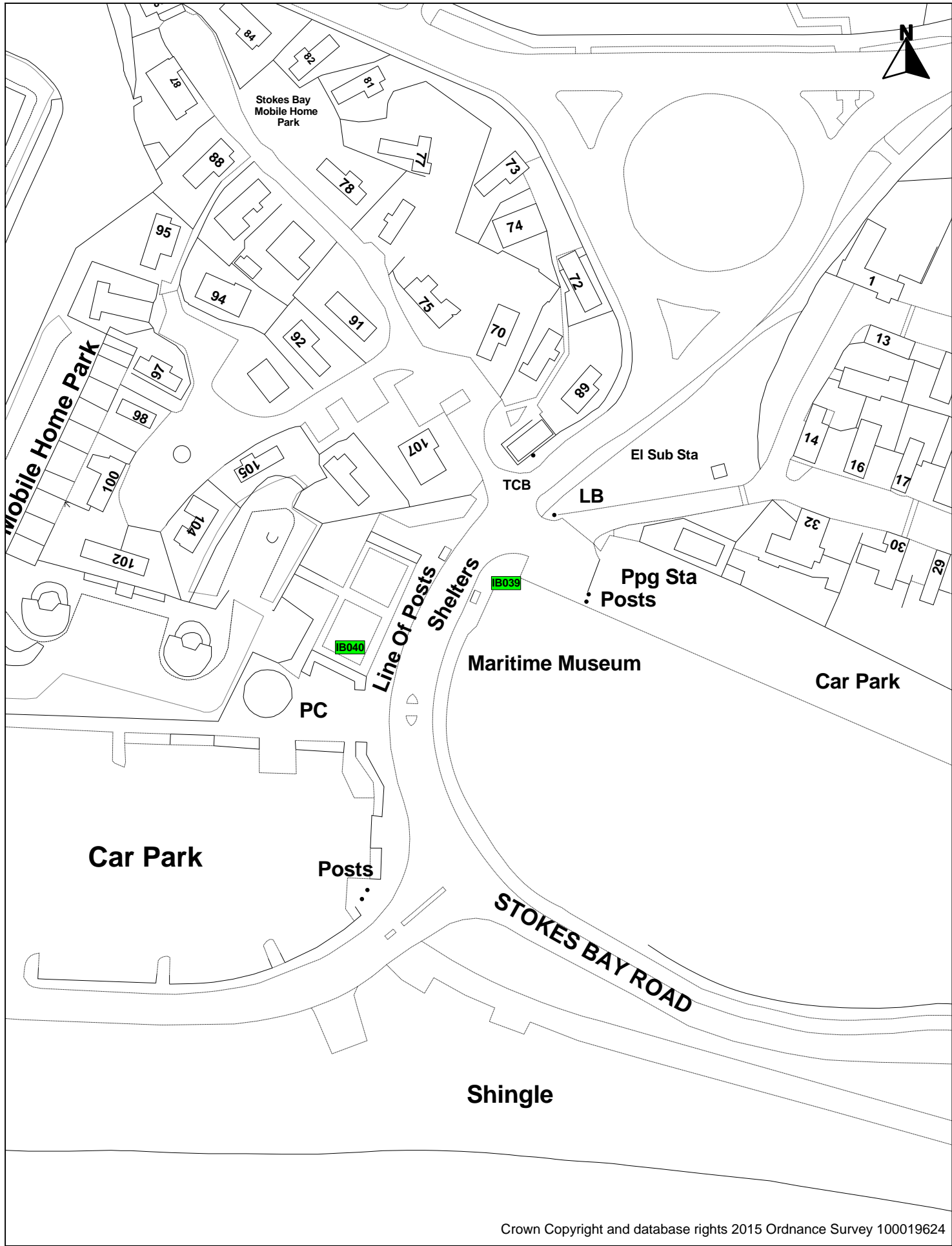
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IB039 – THE STOKES BAY LINES – UPPER HOME PARK





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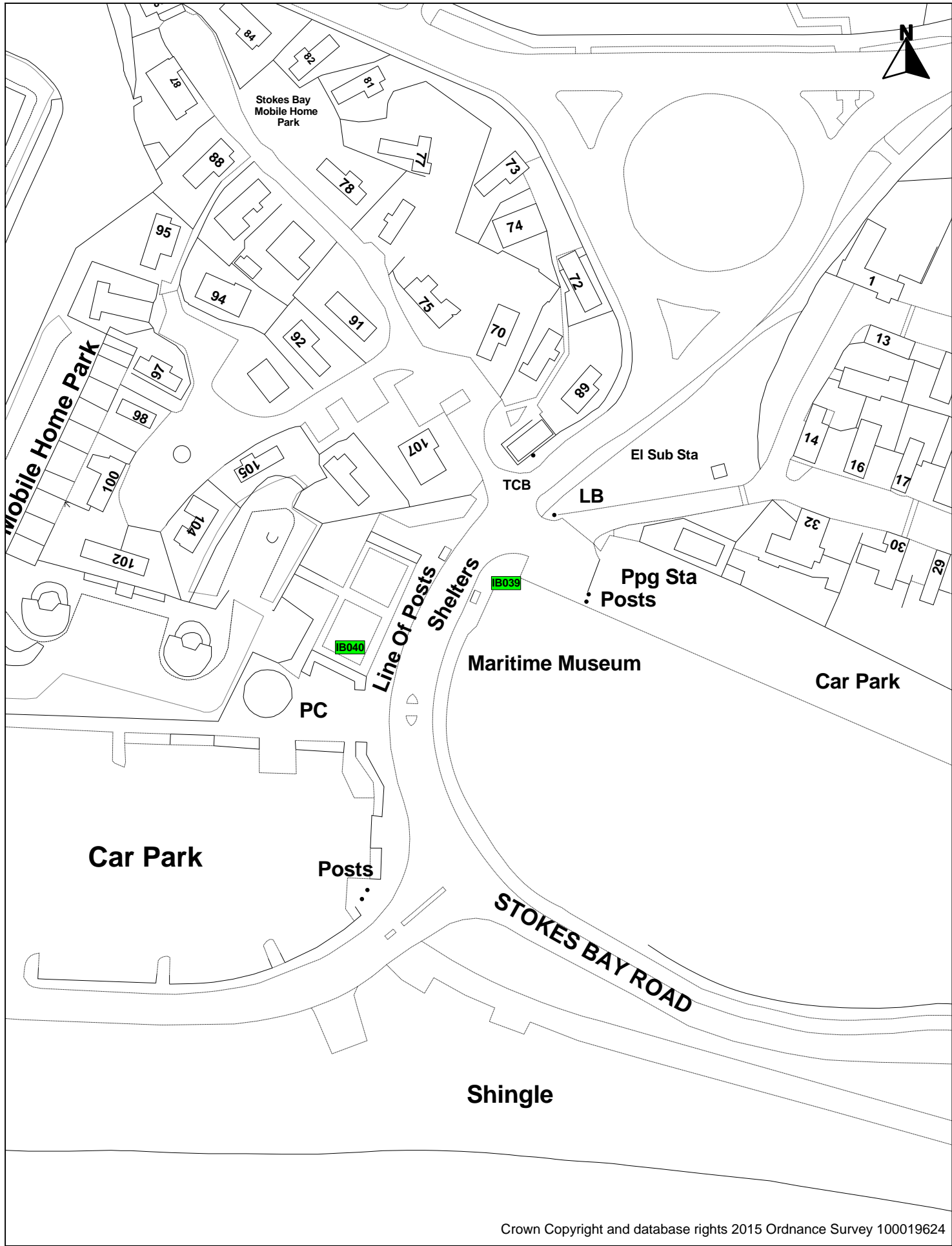
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IB040 – NO. 2 BATTERY, NO. 2 BATTERY, STOKES BAY





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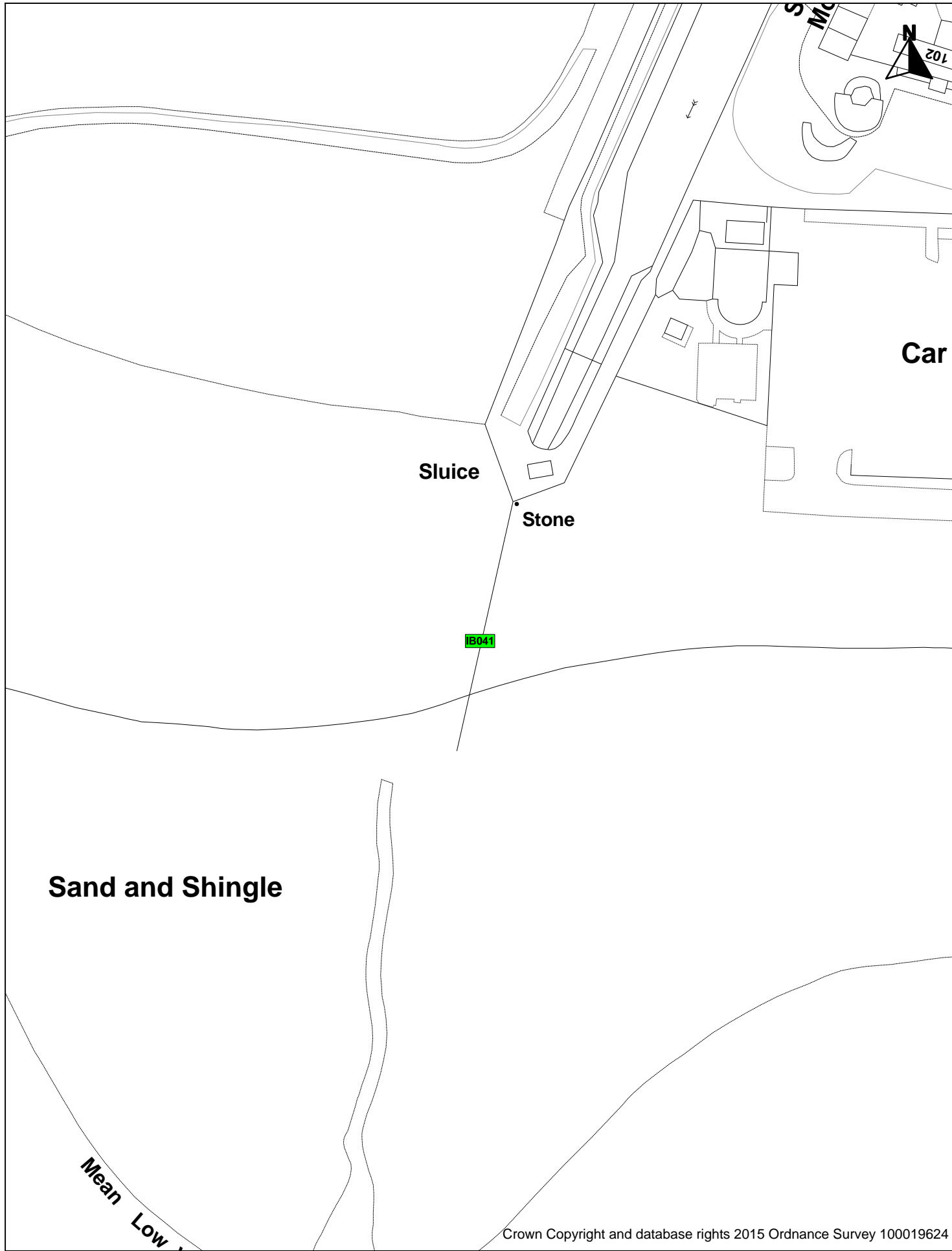
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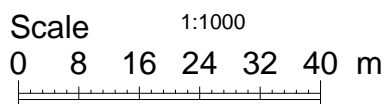
IB041 – BROWNDOWN – ENTRANCE TO RANGE NO. 2 BATTERY





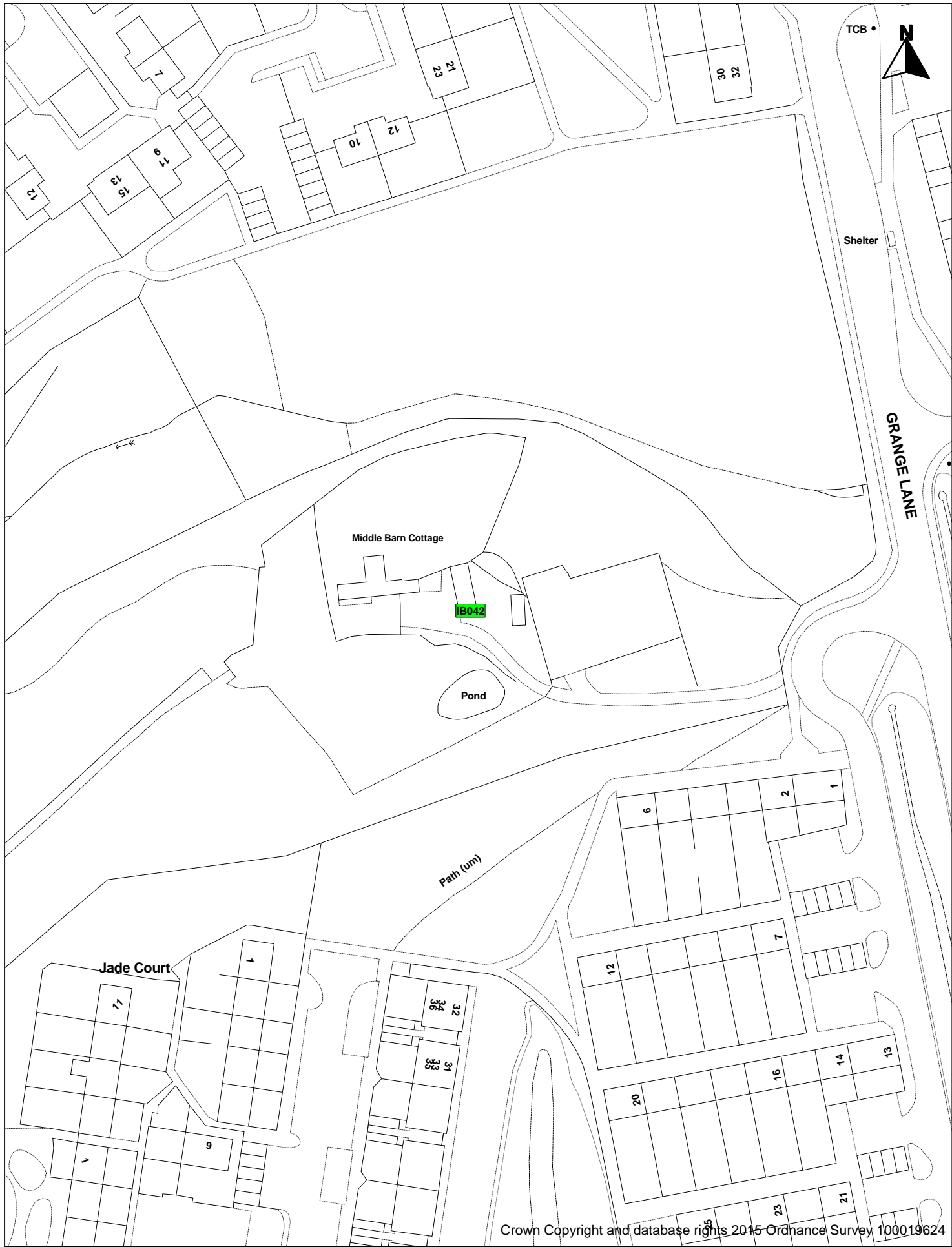
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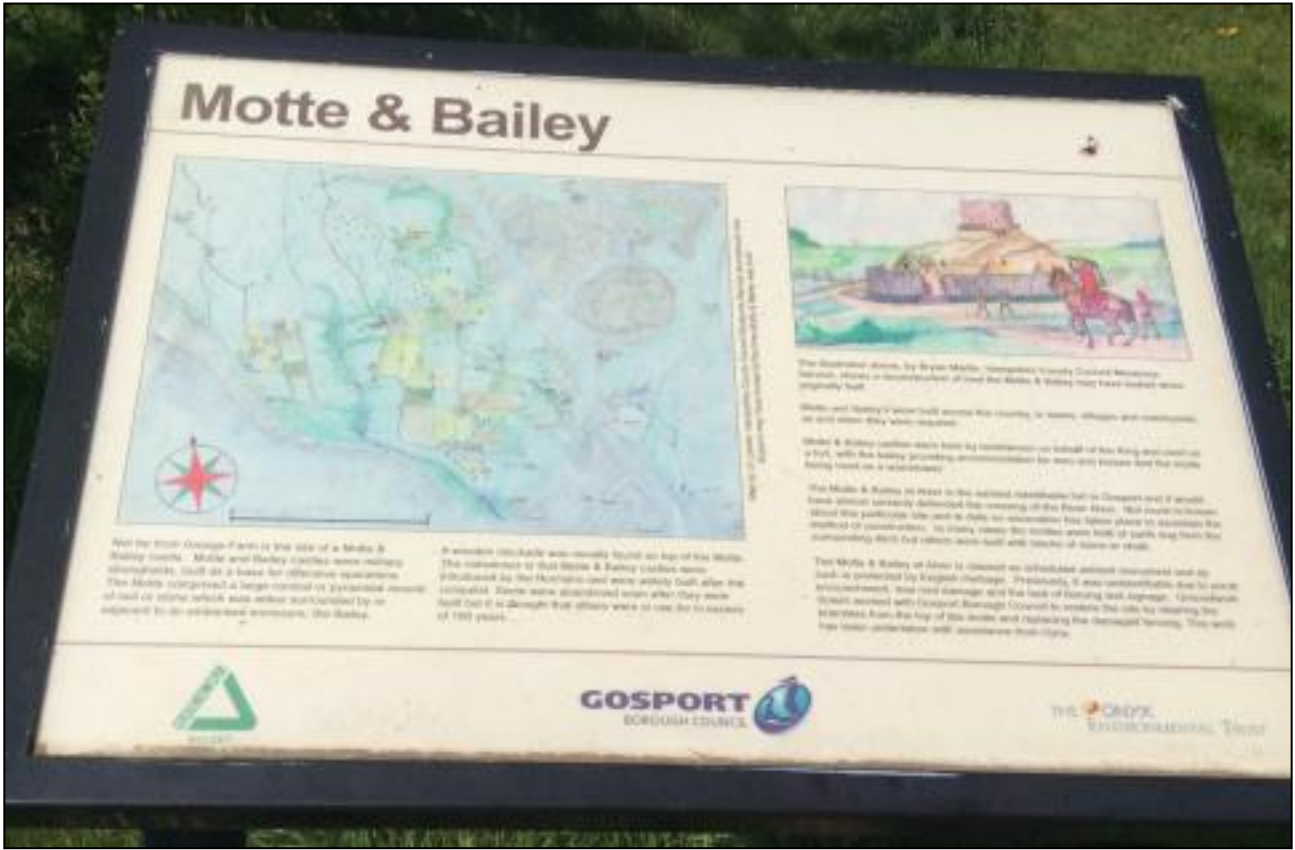


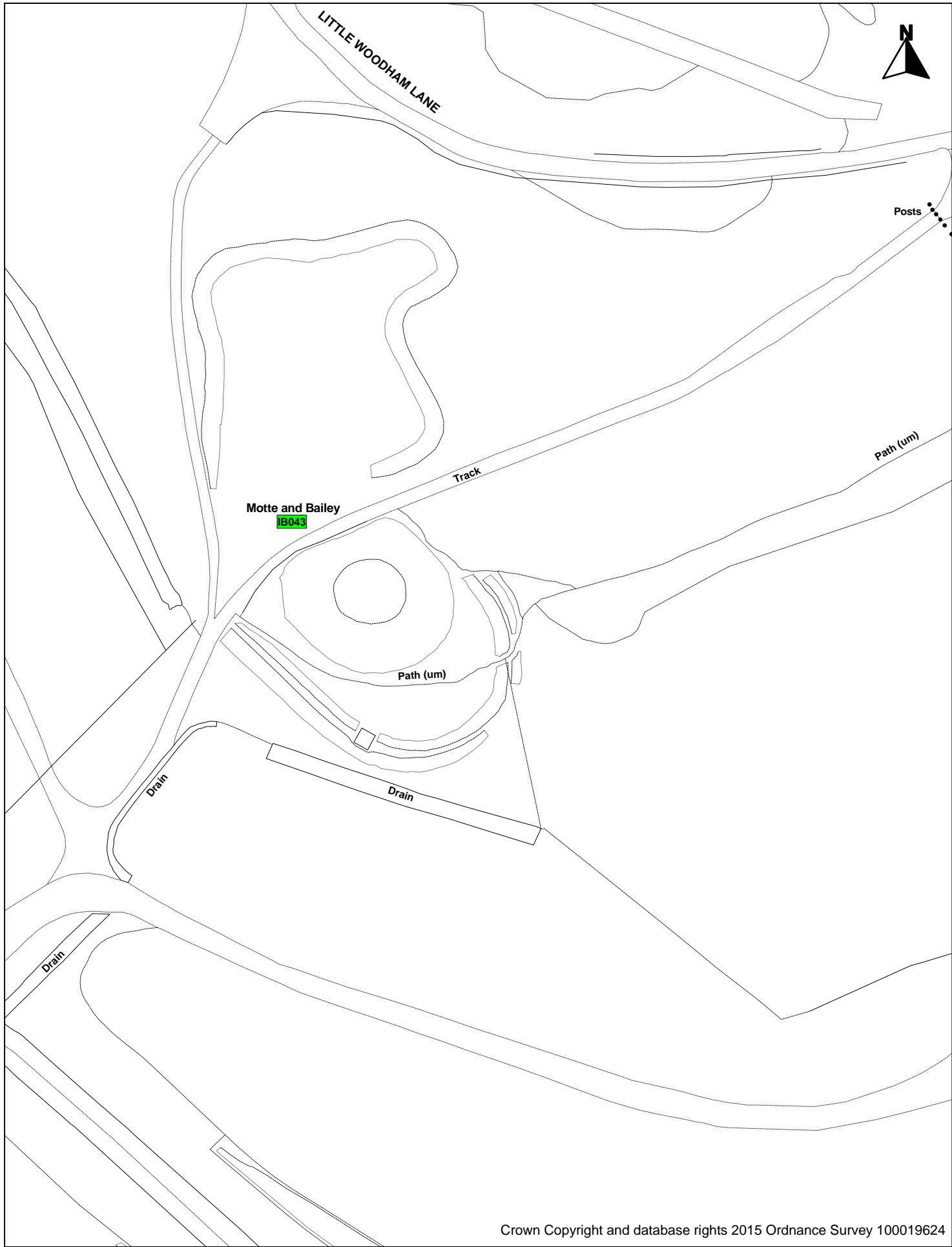
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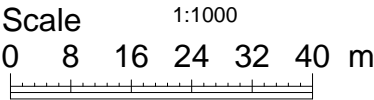




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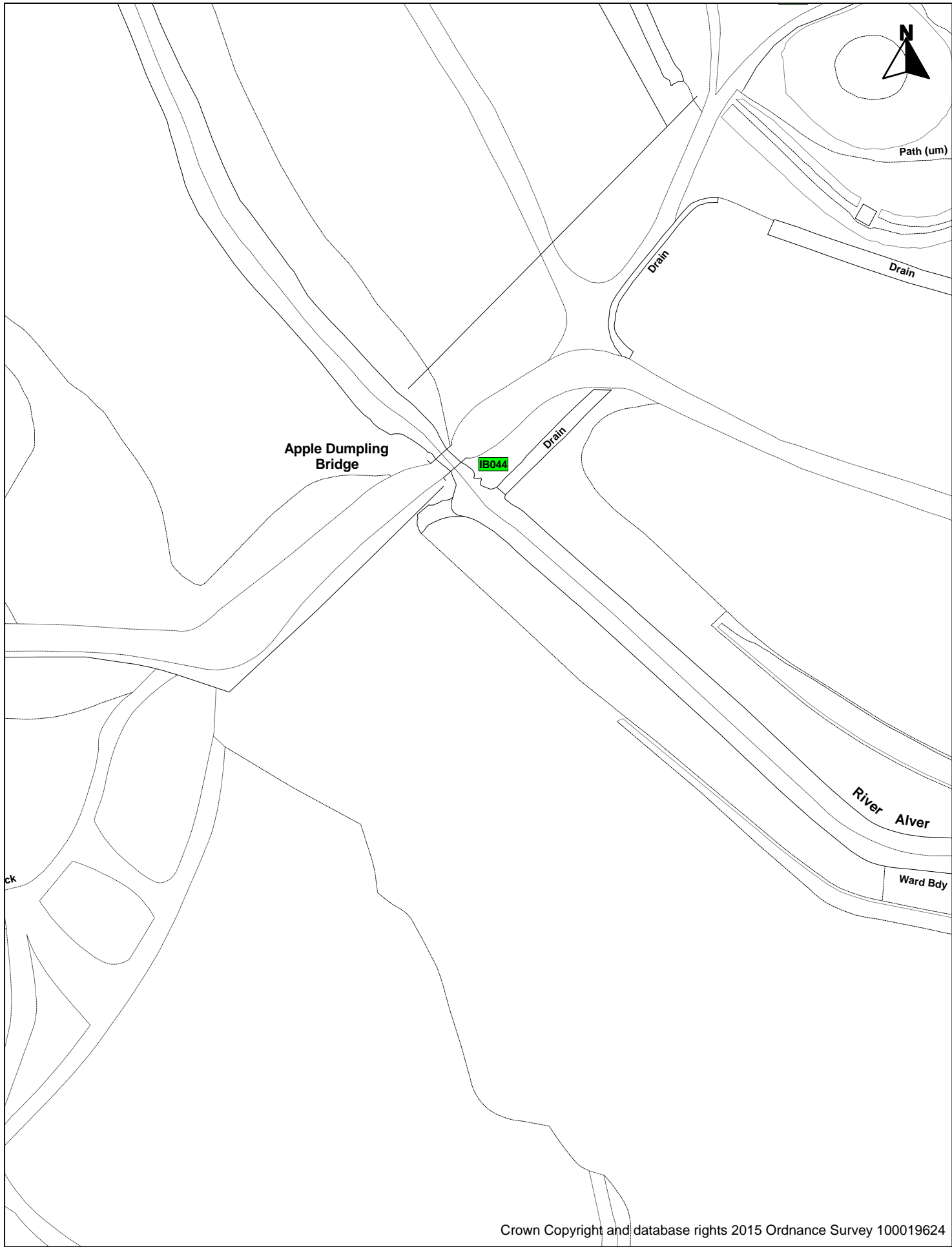
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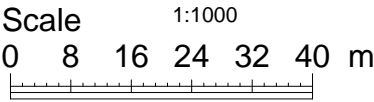




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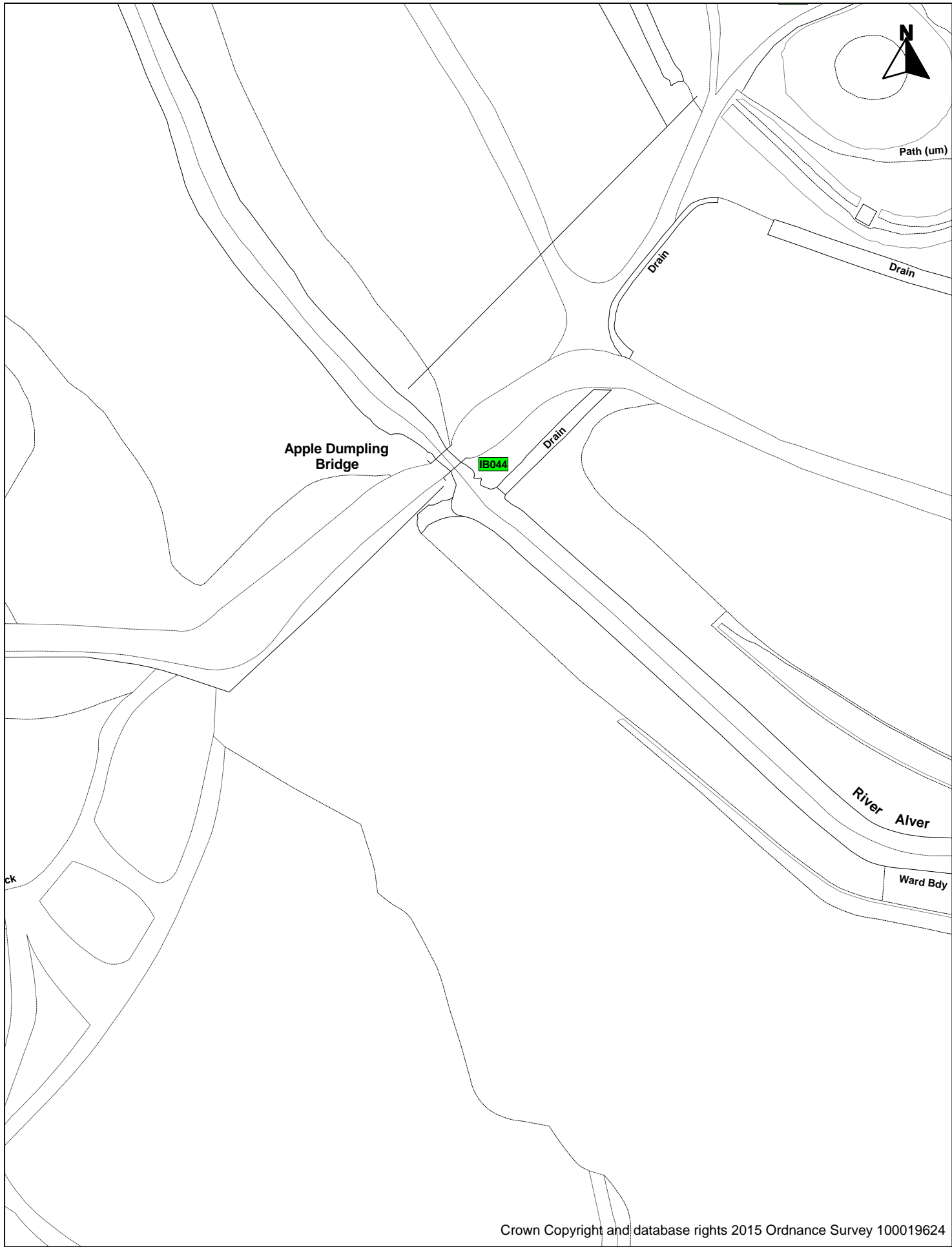
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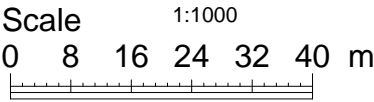




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...of the monks of Quarr
...
...from the very woodland
today... the wild apple tree,
... apple tree, *Amelanchier*, and
... of short valley running
... which coincidentally
... As old English evolved
... this old language...

In 1857 the War Department purchased the land here from the
Prideaux-Brune 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
Photo thanks to VC 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.

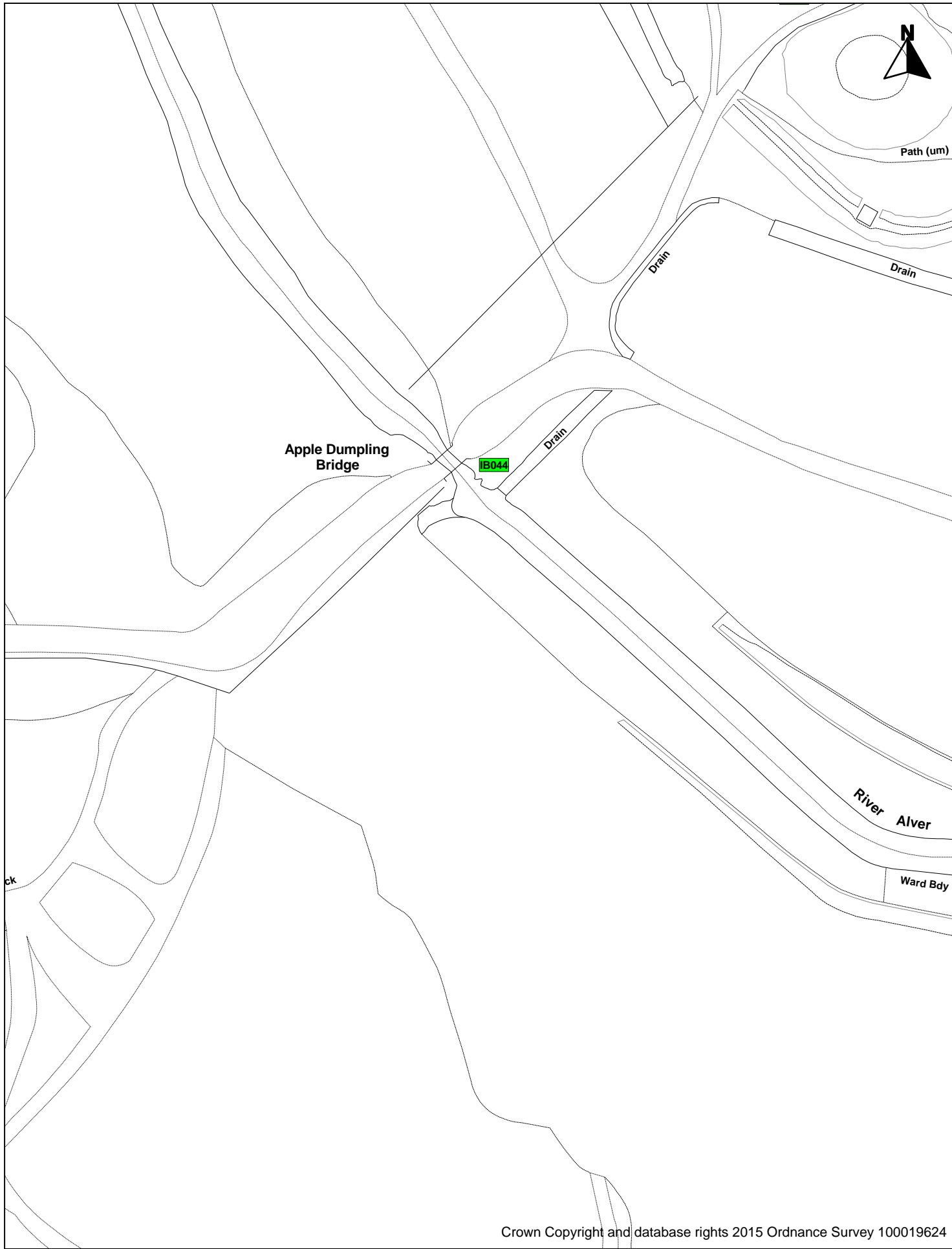
In 2003 The Ouse Environmental Trust sponsored the construction of the
new bridge, with funds generated from Landfill Tax. The design
includes a ramp for the first time, and the new handrails mimic former
wooden bridges.

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 village back behind Number Two
Battersea Park. 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
water vole nests in the river-bank, although flooding and mink
have contributed to its decline.

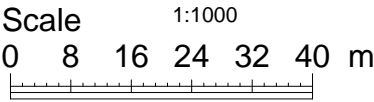




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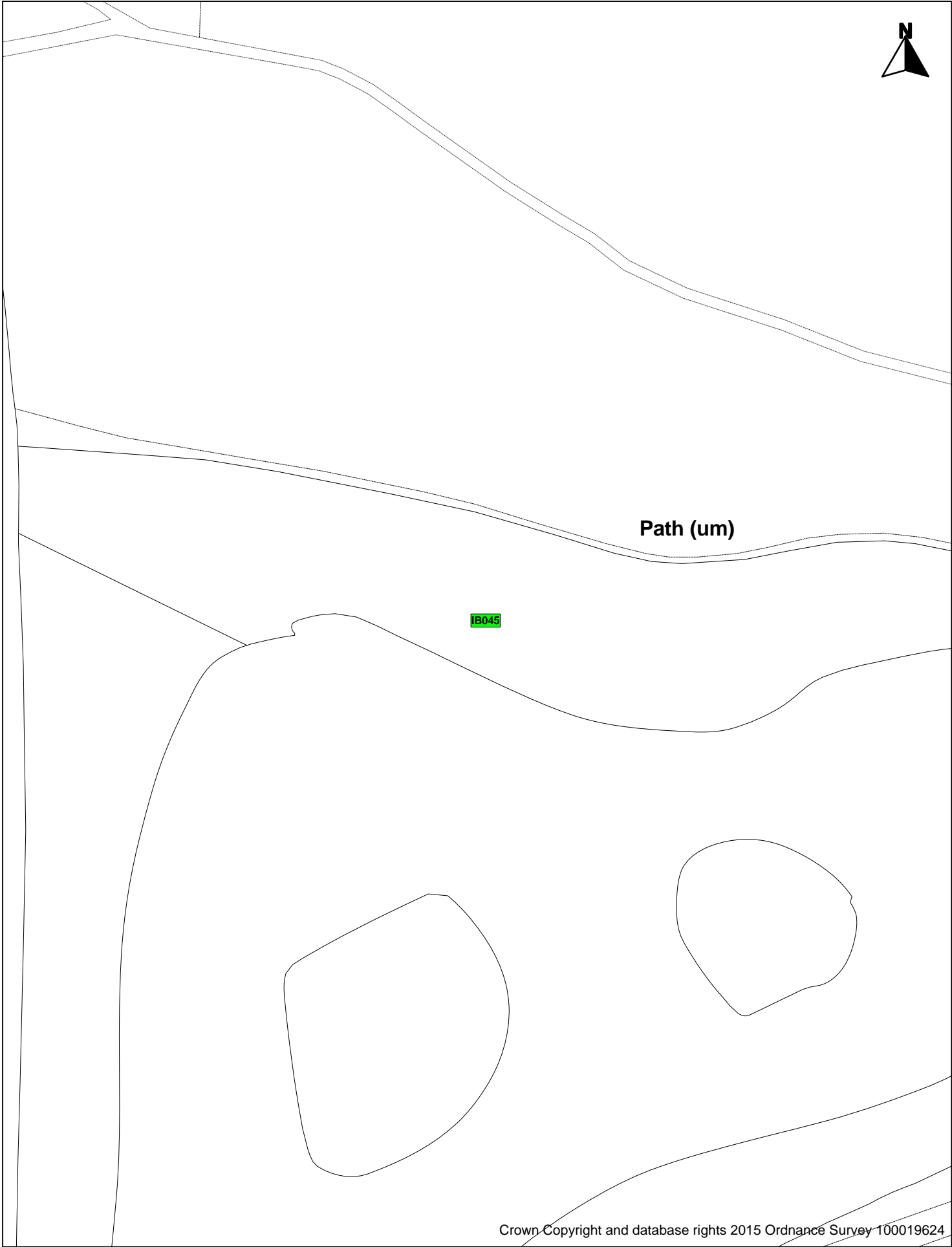
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IB045 – NOAH LAKE – CONSERVATION AREA





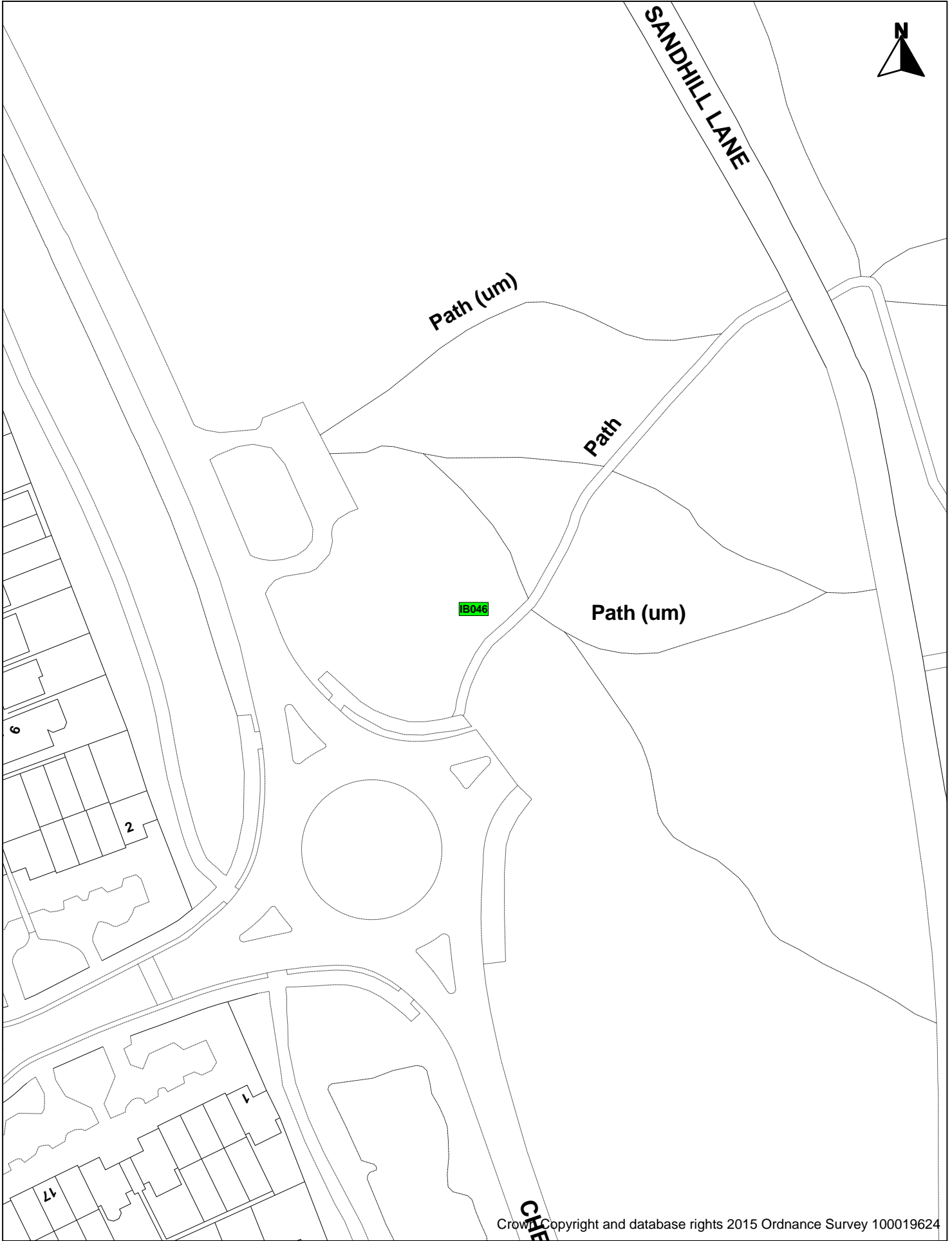
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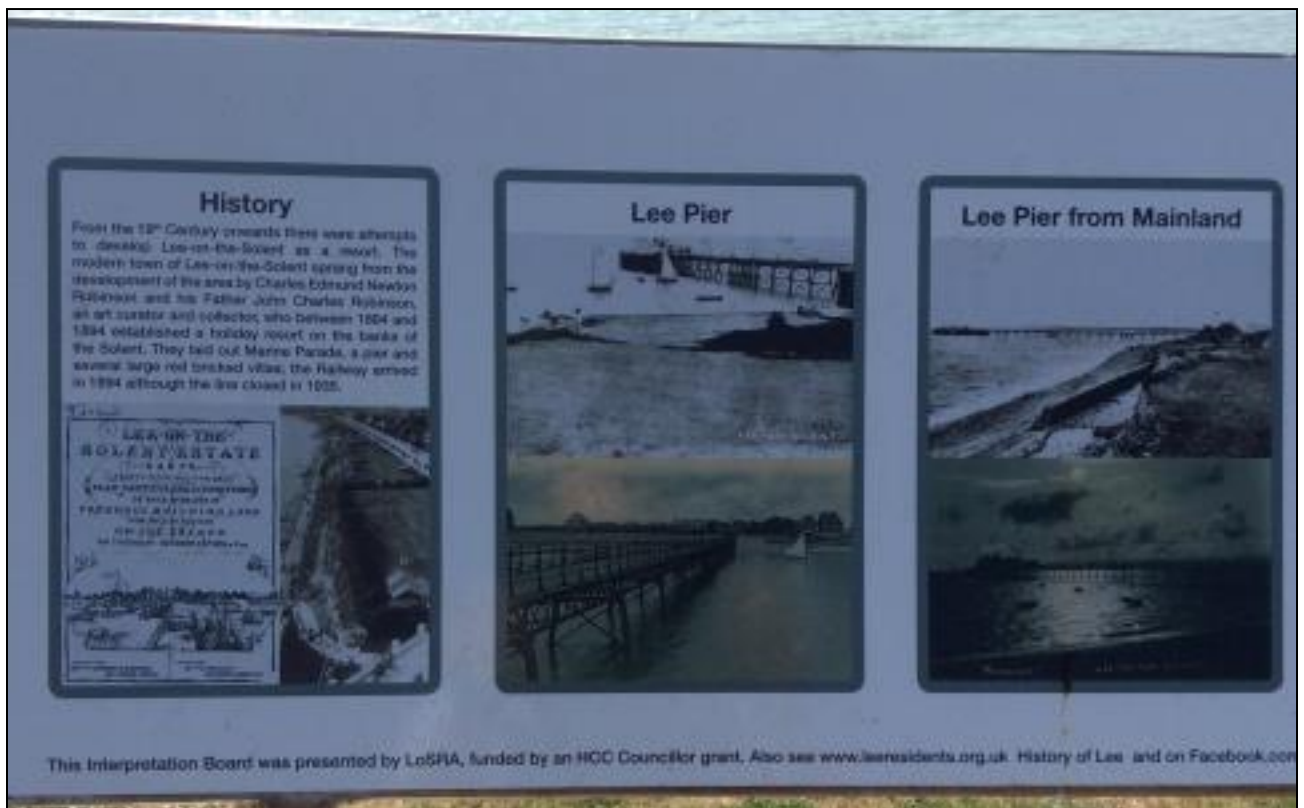


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History of Lee Pier and the Surroundings

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



from @LeeResidentsAssociation 

Building 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 demolished in 1971.

Play Hotel, only the first five floors remain in the Lee Pier 1935.

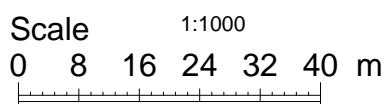






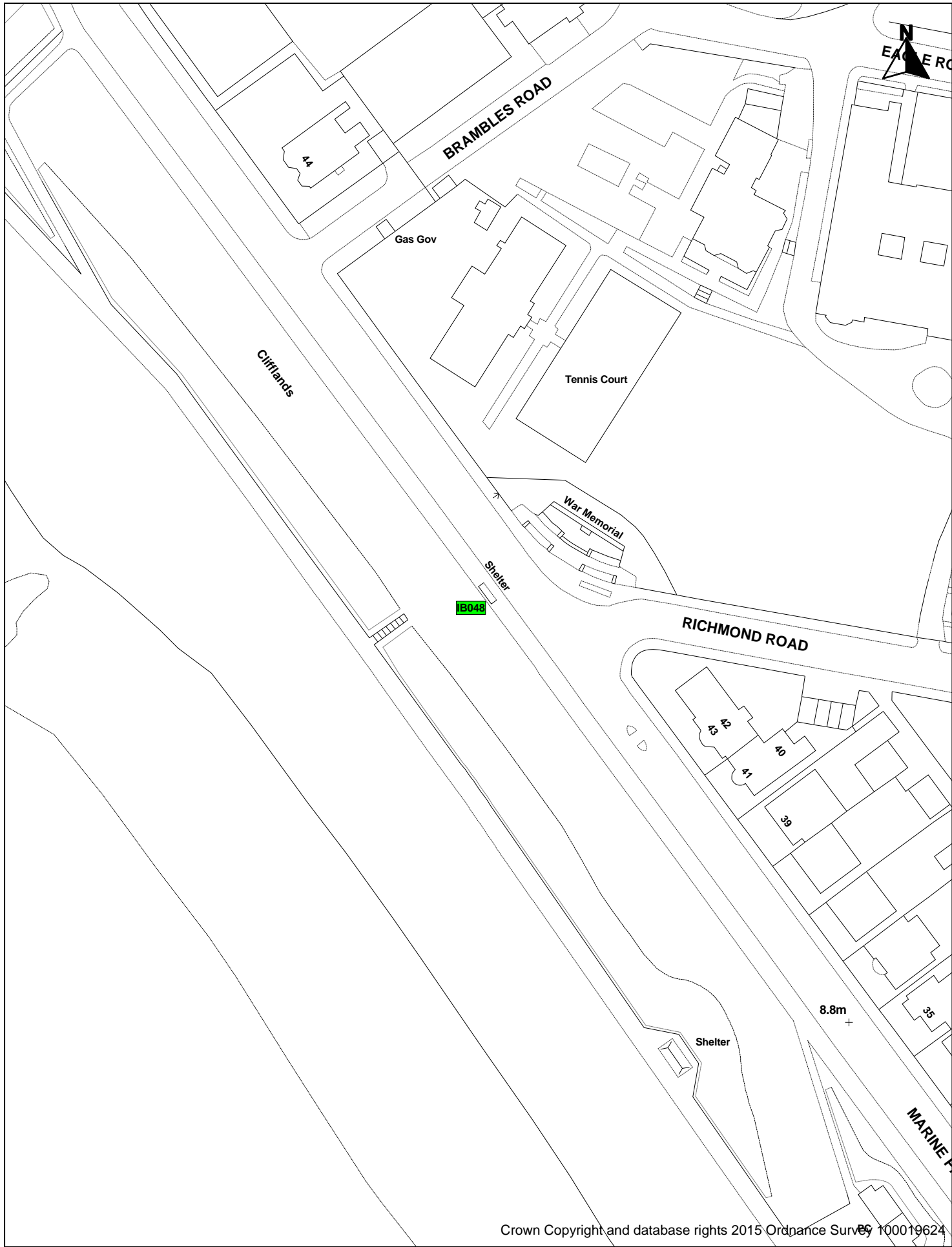
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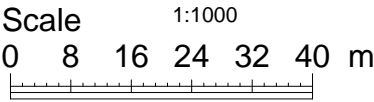




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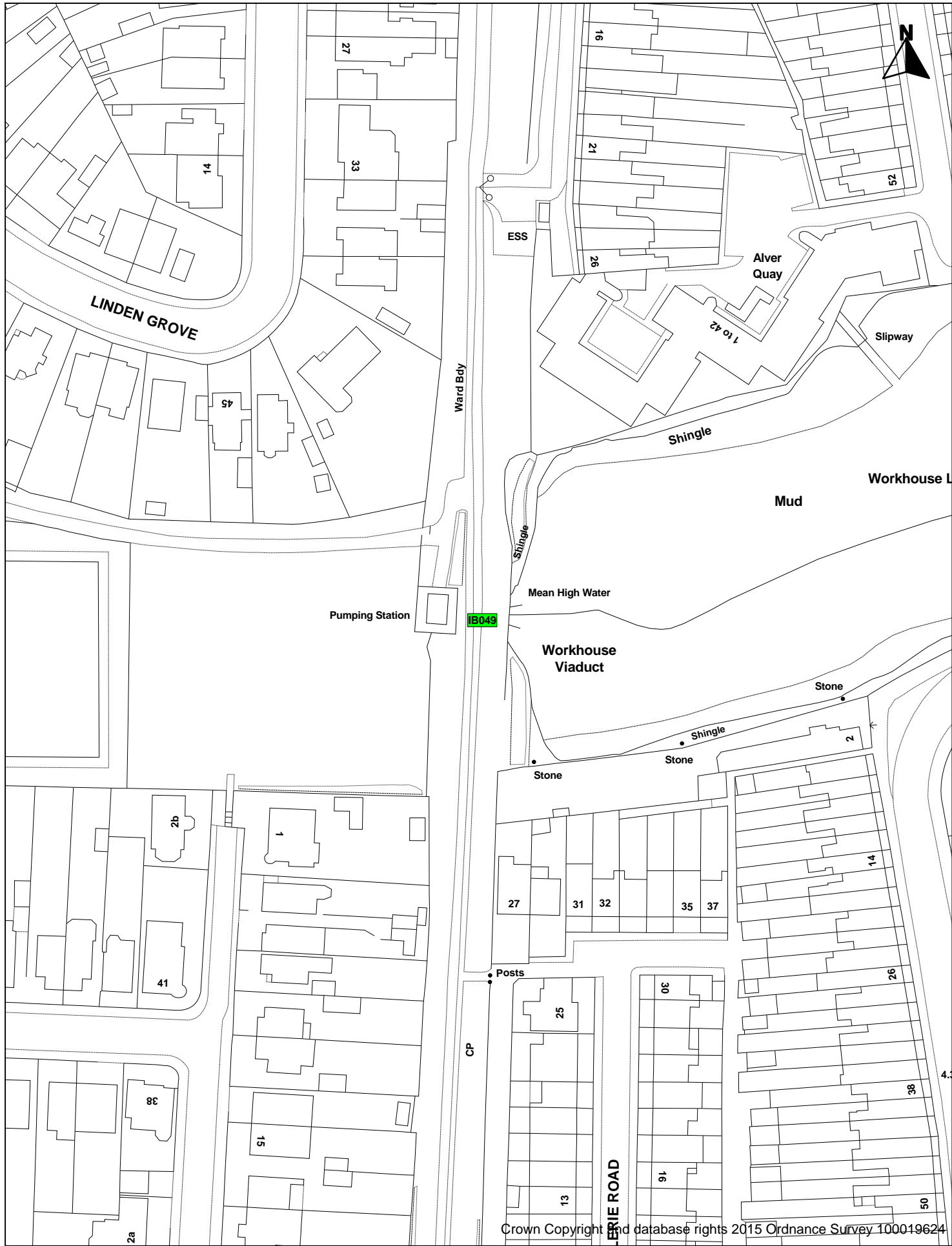
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IB049 – WORKHOUSE LAKE – CLEVELAND ROAD CYCLETRACK





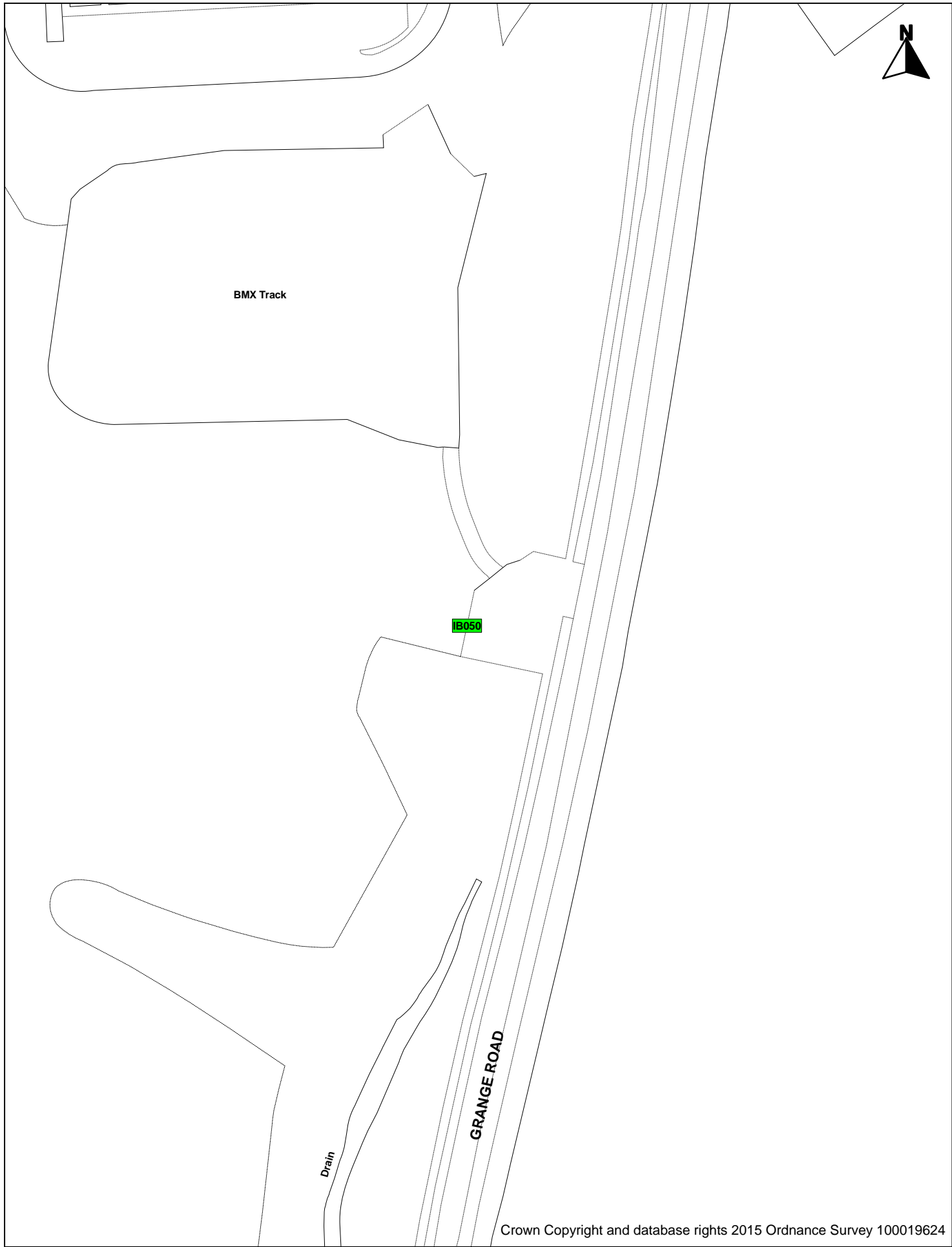
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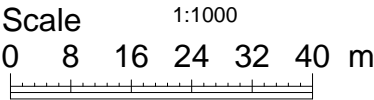




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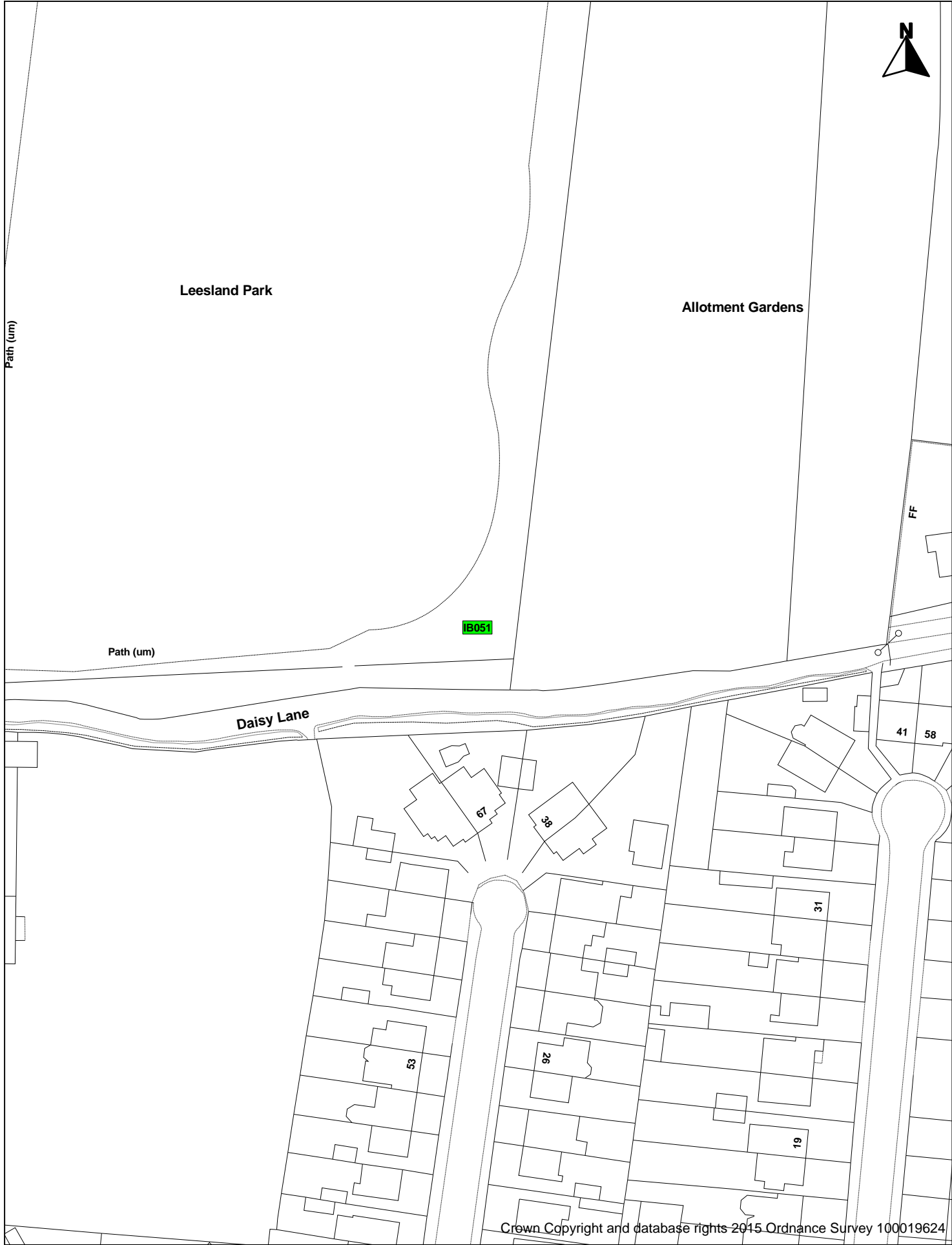
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the Alver Valley

Geopert's wildlife haven

The Alver Valley, a green space of over 200 hectares between the urban areas of Larnock, the Fobers and Geopert, contains a rich mosaic of habitats. It is part owned by Geopert Borough Council and the MOD, and is carefully managed by conservation groups and Geopert Borough Council's Conservation Section to enhance and interpret the wildlife interest and visitor experience.

Wetland and the River Alver
The River Alver and its flood plain contain many areas of open water that also one of the biggest expanses of reed in the south coast attracting many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

1. Noah Lake - a small pond in the park owned by the Alver Valley Trust. It is a good place to see many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

2. Sandhill - a large sandy dune in the park, which is a good place to see many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

3. Junken, Hilbury & Sade's - a large area of open water, which is a good place to see many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

4. West of River Nature Reserve - a large area of open water, which is a good place to see many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

5. The Alver River - the river flows through the valley, providing a habitat for many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

6. Wildground's Nature Reserve - a large area of open water, which is a good place to see many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

7. Broadwater MOD - a large area of open water, which is a good place to see many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

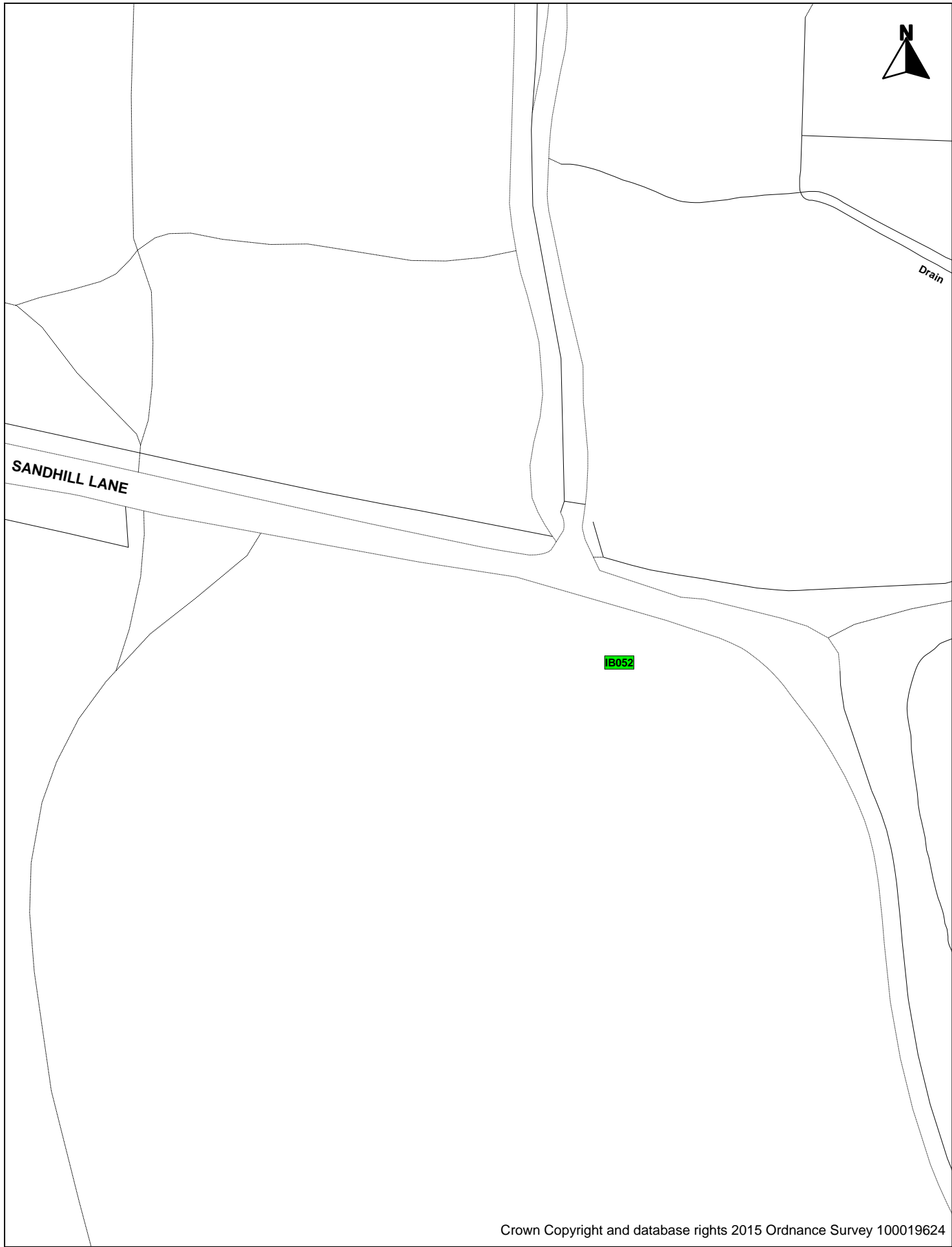
8. Carter's Copse - a large area of open water, which is a good place to see many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

9. Apple Dangling Bridge - a large area of open water, which is a good place to see many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

PLEASE - a large area of open water, which is a good place to see many species of water fowl, waders and particularly water lilies in the summer time. Apple orchards full of fruit of many kind to eat and some such water to enhance the valuable habitat and to help its natural decline into woodlands.

Geopert Borough Council
Conservation Section
Larnock, the Fobers and Geopert
01752 222222
www.geopert.gov.uk
info@geopert.gov.uk
geopert@geopert.gov.uk
geopert.gov.uk

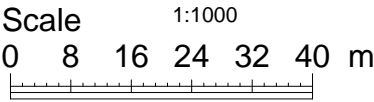




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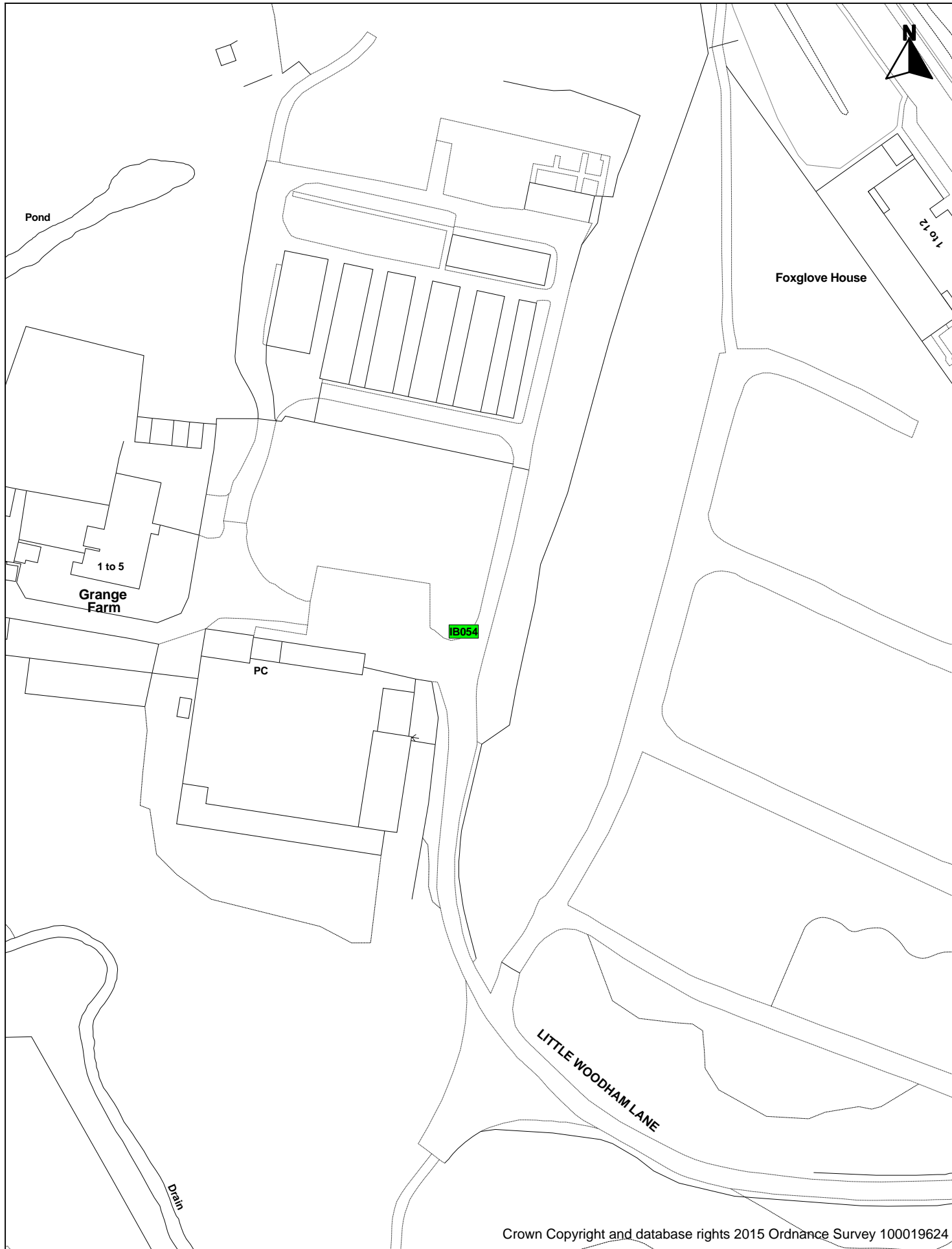
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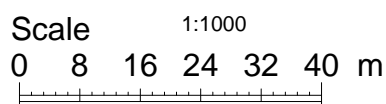




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**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INTERPRETATION BOARDS WORKING GROUP
HELD AT 16.00 ON MONDAY, 20 APRIL 2015**

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.

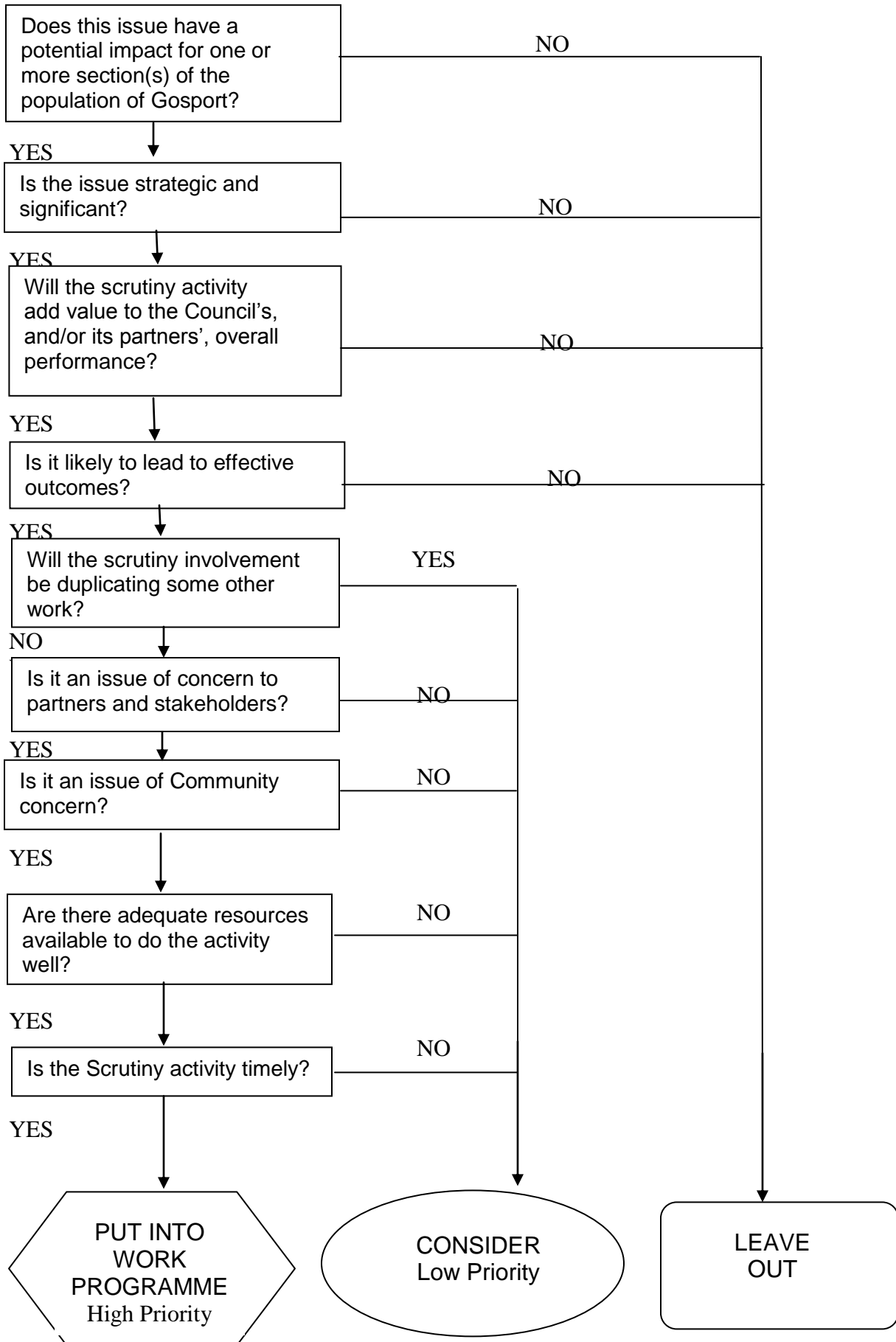
SV reiterated that the replacements, removal and installation of boards would require planning permission.

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.



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: WORK PROGRAMME

Work Area	Lead Member/Officer	Date to be reported to Committee
Single Equality Bill	Julie Petty	Annually: June 2016
Chairman's Annual Report 2015/16	Chairman	Annually: Mar 2016
Interpretation Boards	Councillor Mrs Forder	September 2015
Public Access and use of Fort Brockhurst	Linda Edwards	February 2016
Grounds Maintenance Contract	Ian Lycett	Sept 2015
Strategic Review of Allocate and Void Properties Process	Stuart Palmer	December 2015
Work areas: <i>Review at each meeting</i>		