



**Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works at
Country Market, Kingsley, Hampshire**

April 2016

WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This document sets out the results from a programme of archaeological works carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd associated with the erection of a barn at Country Market, Kingsley, Hampshire. The archaeological work, which consisted of the excavation of two archaeological trial trenches, was carried out in March 2016. Although the site lies in the vicinity of a group of Roman kilns forming part of the Alice Holt/Farnham pottery industry, no archaeological features or artefacts were found.

BACKGROUND

Topographical Background

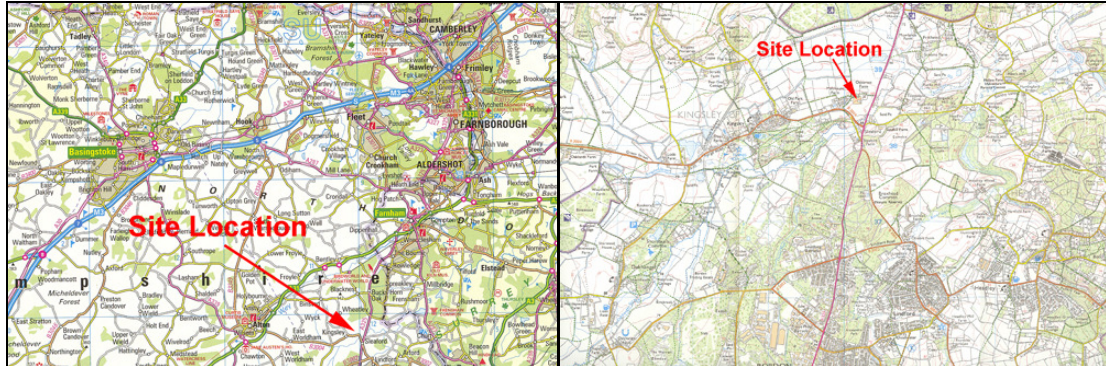


Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

1. Country Market lies adjacent to the A325 between Bordon and Farnham, 1.5km to the east of the village of Kinglsey, in Hampshire (see Fig.1). The site lies at c. 75m aOD and is centred at OS grid reference SU8020 3860. The underlying geology of the site is Lower Greensand.

Project Background

2. Country Market have obtained planning permission (24601/045) from East Hampshire District Council for the replacement of a poly-tunnel covered area and display with a traditional barn shaped structure. Condition 5 of the planning permission stated that: “No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological assessment in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority.”
3. West Sussex Archaeology Ltd (WSA) was appointed by Country Market to write and submit such a written specification, which set out the methodology used in order to fulfil the terms of the condition (WSA 2016). This report details the results of the ensuing archaeological work, which consisted of two investigation trenches excavated on the 7th March 2016 by George Anelay of WSA. The project archive, which consists solely of paperwork, with the landowner’s permission, will be deposited with Hampshire County Council’s Museum Service.

Historical Background

1. Fieldwalking in the 1970's by Lyne and Jefferies located seven possible kilns within what they termed the "Malthouse Farm Group" (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, p.9-10). In addition two more spreads of Roman pottery were located by Lyne & Jefferies, but not deemed as kiln sites in the report. These are given MF numbers for the purposes of this document These were:
 - **MF 1** (AHBR No.17204). No kiln found. An area of soot and wasters in field spreading south into bungalow garden, 15m in diameter. Dated to AD350-420. (Grid Ref. SU8000 3857).
 - **MF 2** (AHBR 22982). Large vague area of potsherds and kiln debris. Material very comminuted and abraded. Dated to AD60-420. (Grid Ref. SU8005 3870).
 - **MF 3** (AHBR 17205). An area of light pottery scatter extending south under Malthouse Farm. May be northern edge of MF5. Dated to AD350-420. (Grid Ref. SU7995 3865).
 - **MF 4** (AHBR 22988). Pottery scatter north and east of Osborne's Farm on ridge. Most intense behind barn. AD350-420. (Grid Ref. SU8012 3870).
 - **MF 5** (AHBR 17206). Waste dump found by Canadian soldiers in Malthouse Farm yard when digging a waterpipe trench in 1942. Dated to AD350-420. (Grid Ref. SU7970 3872).
 - **MF 6** (AHBR 22989). Heavily ploughed waste dump in field south of Osborne's Farm, 15m in diameter. AD350-420. (Grid Ref. SU8010 3858).
 - **MF 7** (AHBR 22991). Heavily ploughed waste dump in field south of Osborne's Farm, 15m in diameter. AD350-420. (Grid Ref. SU8015 3858).
 - **MF 8** (AHBR 17262). A 4th century Roman waster dump is located at this point. (Grid Ref. SU7980 3860).
 - **MF 9** (AHBR 22996). A scatter of Roman pottery is visible at this location. M. Lyne fieldwork record. (Grid Ref. SU8020 3860).
2. In 2011 a programme of archaeological works carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd at Country Market located and excavated three Romano-British pottery kilns, belonging to the Alice Holt industry, together with a pit containing an Iron Age saddle quern, an earlier prehistoric/Romano-British field boundary and a post-medieval trackway (Anelay & Timby 2012).
3. The site of the proposed barn lies c.50m to the east of the nearest known pottery scatter (see Fig.2).

WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

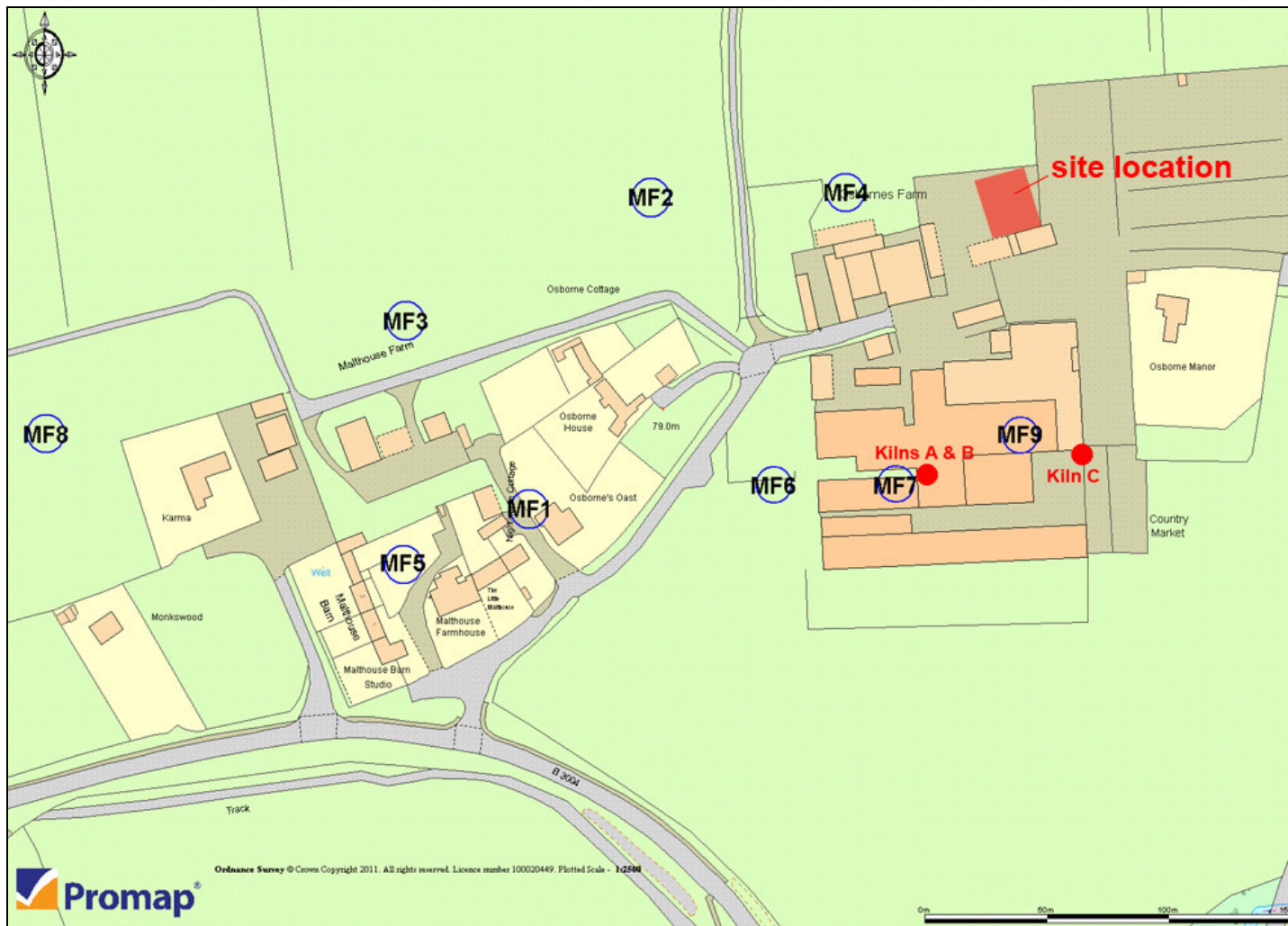


Figure 2 Location of the kilns located by Lyne & Jefferies and those excavated by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd (in red)
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RESULTS

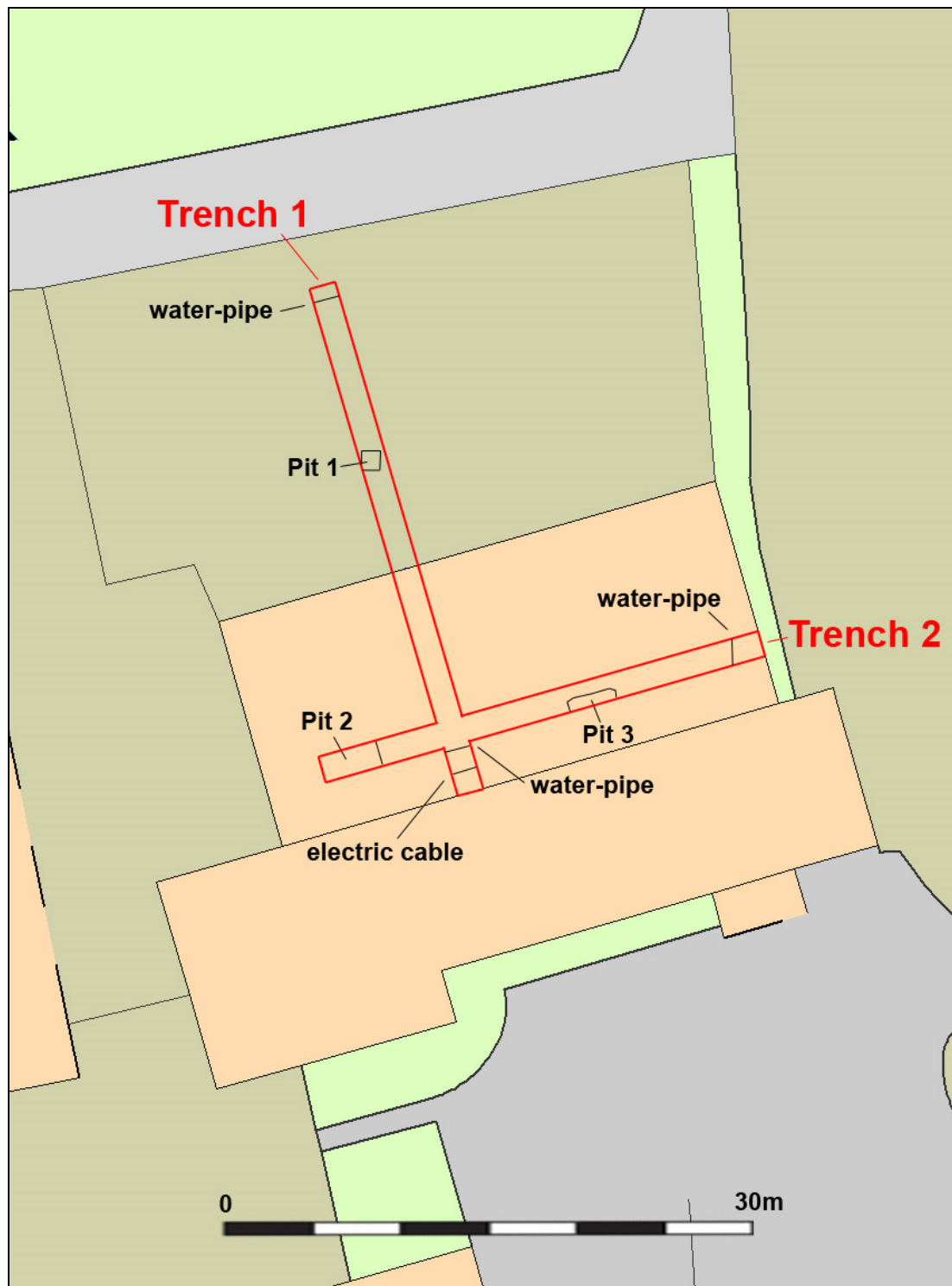


Figure 3 Plan of the trenches

1. Two archaeological investigation trenches were excavated on the site of the proposed barn, Trench 1 being 30m long and 1.5m wide and Trench 2 being 26m long and 1.5m wide.



Figure 4 Trench 1, looking north

2. The deposits within each trench were broadly similar, with a layer of modern hardcore and sand forming the top c.0.4 – 0.5m throughout. Below this lay a greyish/brown buried soil, which thickened towards the north, being c.0.3m deep at the west end of Trench 2 and c.0.5m at the north end of Trench 1. This soil is likely to be the historic ploughsoil, which existed in this area until the late 20th century. Its thickening to the north-east follows the contours of the underlying Lower Greensand geology, which slopes away in this direction, with the historic ploughsoil presumably eroding downslope. The surface of the Lower Greensand, increasing in its gravel content with depth, dropped by c.0.95m from south to north.
3. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from the layers within the trenches. Most notably none of the sherds of Roman pottery, so prevalent in the historic ploughsoil excavated during the previous archaeological works carried out in 2011, were seen.



Figure 5 Trench 2, looking west

4. Aside from modern services, of which two plastic water-pipes and one armoured electric cable were exposed, only three features were found within the trenches. Against the west side of Trench 1 a square pit was revealed (Pit 1), c.1m across and cut down through the historic ploughsoil. It had been back-filled with lenses of grey/brown silty sand and Lower Greensand. Towards the base of the pit a modern fence post was excavated. At the west end of Trench 2 a larger pit (Pit 2) was found, which extended beyond the limits of the excavation. This pit was back-filled with modern building debris. A third pit (Pit 3), c.2.75m in width, with identical fill material to that in Pit 2, was revealed in the south side of Trench 2. All three pits would appear to be of modern origin, Pits 2 & 3 almost certainly linked to the demolition of the buildings which once occupied this site.



Figure 6 East bank of Trench 1 at its north end. One of the modern water-pipes is visible at the base of the trench

CONCLUSION

1. The lack of any archaeological features or artefacts in the excavated trenches, suggests that the spread of Roman pottery kilns did not extend into the immediate vicinity of the development site. Since, at the time of the field-walking carried out in the 1970's, this area still lay within the same ploughed field as that which produced evidence for the pottery scatter MF4, it is to be assumed that had any similar pottery spread been present to the east and north it would have been noted. This, together with the results of these excavations, would tend to suggest that the northern of the double line of probable kilns, which seem to extend east-west across the ridge upon which Country Market now sits, ends with MF4.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anelay G and Timby J 2014 ***Three Roman Pottery Kilns from Osborne Farm, Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire*** in Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club Vol.69
- Lyne, M. A. B. & Jefferies, R. S. 1979. ***The Alice Holt/Farnham Roman pottery industry***. CBA Research Report No 30.
- West Sussex Archaeology Ltd 2016 ***Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works at Country Market, Kingsley, Hampshire*** Unpublished