



**Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works at Westons  
Farm, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex**

September 2018

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

***This document sets out the results from a programme of archaeological works carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd at Weston's Farm, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex, during landscaping works associated with the front drive. The archaeological work was carried out in August 2010, February 2012 and April & July 2018.***

***Weston's Farm lies on the site of a Roman mansio situated upon the Chichester to Silchester Roman road. These works helped to define the spread of platform of re-deposited clay, noted in previous archaeological investigations, and probably associated with the construction of the modern Weston's Farm. No further evidence for any remains associated with the mansio itself were revealed.***

## BACKGROUND

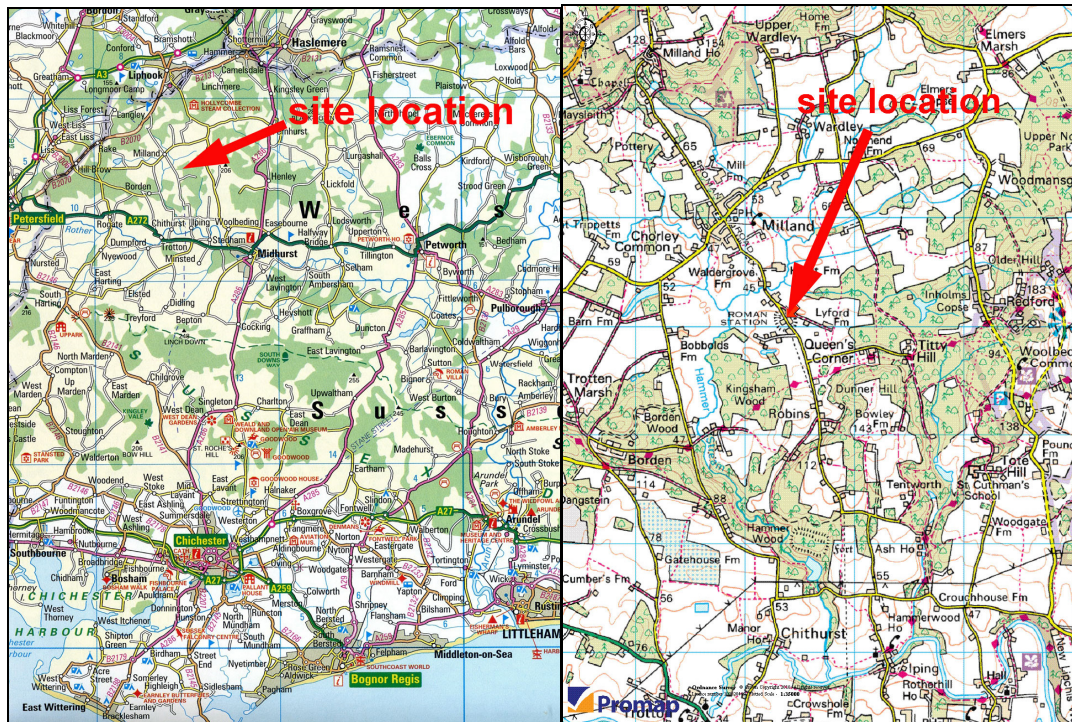
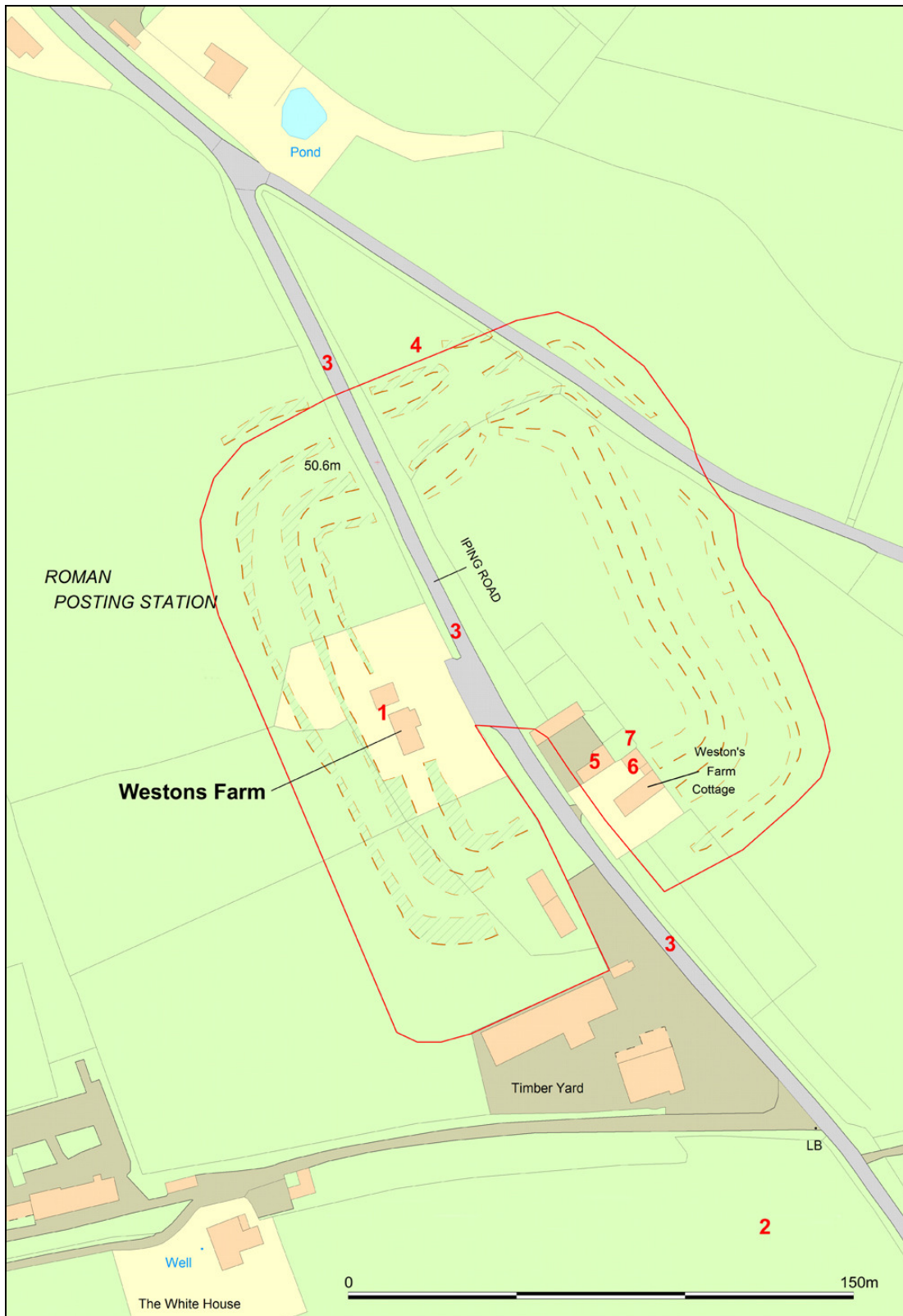


Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

## Project Background

1. Weston's Farm lies approximately 1 mile to the south-east of the village of Milland in West Sussex (Figs.1), at c. 55m aOD and OS grid reference SU 8436 2604. The underlying geology of the site was found to be the clays of the Weald Clay formation.
2. The owners of Weston's Farm, Mr. & Mrs. Lyons, received Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) (Ref. S00004559) from DCMS for the removal of surplus material and the reinstatement of original ground surface, together with improvements to an existing damaged driveway. The SMC included a condition (vi) for the works to be carried out under archaeological supervision.
3. West Sussex Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Mr. & Mrs. Lyons to carry out the archaeological supervision. This report details the results of that archaeological supervision, which was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010 (surplus material removal and ground reinstatement), 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 (northern part of the driveway), 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (southern part of the driveway), 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (eastern part of the driveway) and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (eastern part of driveway) by George Anelay of West Sussex Archaeology Ltd.



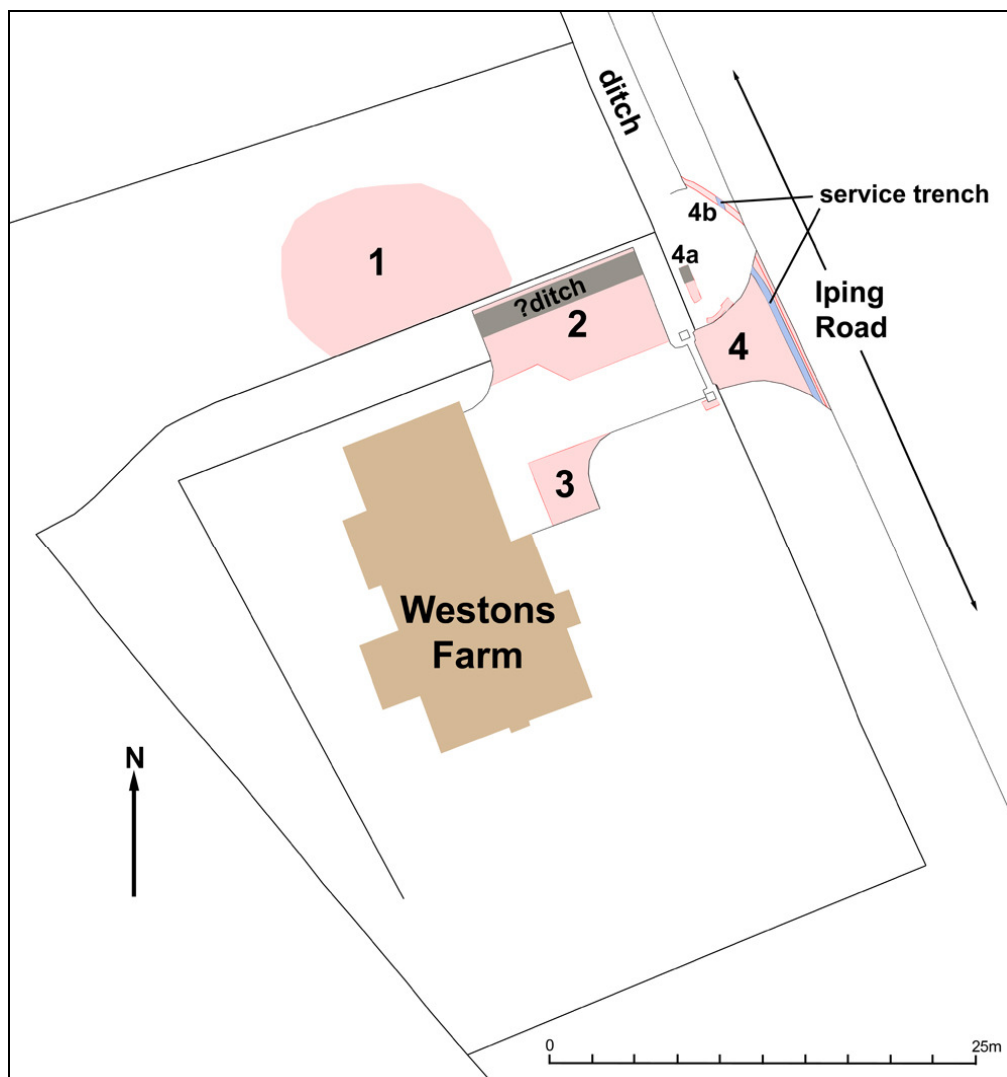
**Figure 2** Iping Mansio and Weston's Farm, marking previous archaeological work (Nos.1-7).  
 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

## Historical Background

1. The property now called Weston's Farm was constructed in the early 1950s. It took its name from what was then re-named Weston's Farm Cottage, built between 1874 and 1897, on the opposite side of the Iping Road. Both Weston's Farm and Weston's Farm Cottage sit within the enclosing ditch of the Roman *mansio* at Iping, which itself lies astride the Roman road which runs from Chichester to Silchester. Little is known about the Iping *mansio*; it was only identified in 1949, despite the survival of substantial earthworks which represent the remains of the surrounding rampart and ditch. The *mansio* was protected as a Scheduled Monument (No. 29242) in 1955.
2. Seven previous archaeological investigations have taken place within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the *mansio*:
  - In 2005 an archaeological excavation was carried out associated with the construction of an extension to Weston's Farm (No.1 in Figure 2). The results from this suggested that the *mansio* was constructed after c.AD200 and had been preceded by an earlier settlement, possibly having its origins in the first century AD (Anelay 2006, p2).
  - A subsequent geophysical survey was undertaken in the field immediately to the south of the *mansio*, on the west side of the Iping Road (No.2 in Figure 2). This recorded a series of anomalies which may be linked to a possible *vicus* (Dicks & Haskins 2007) or the pre-*mansio* settlement.
  - In 2010 an archaeological watching brief was maintained on the laying of a replacement sewer main along the Iping Road, as it passed through the *mansio* and to the north (No.3 in Figure 2). During the course of this it was discovered that the majority of the trenched area had been previously disturbed by services already laid in the road. A fragment of amphora was found in the backfill of one of these service trenches (Killeen, p.i).
  - Also in 2010 a watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a service trench around the north-east corner of the *mansio* (No.4 in Figure 2). This recorded the line of the *mansio* ditch (Anelay 2010).
  - In 2012 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Weston's Farm Cottage (No.5 in Figure 2) which exposed a stretch of infilled ditch associated with a field boundary ditch visible on historic mapping, but no evidence for remains associated with the Roman *mansio*, save for a clay layer which may be the slighted remains of the *mansio* rampart (Anelay 2015, p.2).

- In 2016 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Weston's Farm cottage which demonstrated that the south rampart of the *mansio* survives to a height of at least 0.65m under Weston's Farm cottage (No.6 in Figure 2). In addition, sealed beneath the rampart, further evidence was found for the settlement pre-dating the *mansio*, or at least the latter's rampart. The date of the Roman pottery recovered pushed forward the construction of the *mansio*, or its rampart, into the third century or later (Anelay 2016, p.8).
- In 2018 a watching brief on fencing works at Weston's Farm Cottage (No.7 in Figure 2) noted again the spread of re-deposited clay seen in the 2012 and 2106 archaeological trenches, this time spreading across the old farmyard and into the field to the north-east. As before, it was thought to originate from the construction of Weston's Farm Cottage in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the *mansio* rampart was partially levelled and footing trenches presumably dug through it and down into the underlying Weald clay (Anelay 2018, p.11).

## RESULTS



**Figure 3** Plan of the areas subject to the watching brief (Nos.1-4)

### Surplus material removal and ground reinstatement (Area 1 in Figure 3)

1. The pile of recent building rubble to the north of the house was removed down to the surface of the ground, as it existed prior to previous construction works, and the remaining soil gently graded across the site to remove any undulations. Penetration into the modern topsoil was minimal and no archaeological features or artefacts were noted.



**Figure 4** Area 1 after the removal of modern building rubble, looking south



**Figure 5** Area 1 after grading, looking west

### **The northern part of the driveway (Area 2 in Figure 3)**

1. The modern ground was lowered by c.0.3m throughout the area, this exposed the line of a probable boundary ditch or service trench running northeast to southwest across the northern part of the trench, c.4.5 - 6m to the north of the current driveway. To the south of this ditch, immediately below 0.1m of topsoil, was a layer of re-deposited clay/soil containing occasional brick debris. To its north, the overlying topsoil thickened to beyond the depth of the trench. The re-deposited clay/soil layer was probably laid down when Weston's Farm was built – there is a noticeable rise in the ground level from the field to the north.



**Figure 6** Area 2, looking east



**Figure 7** Area 3, looking southeast



### **The southern part of driveway (Area 3 in Figure 3)**

1. The modern topsoil was lower by less than 0.3m in this area, with the underlying re-deposited clay visible in patches. No archaeological features or artefacts were noted.

### **The eastern part of driveway (Area 4 in Figure 3)**

1. A short stretch of trench (c.2.25m long, c.0.5 wide and c.0.6m deep), for an extension to an existing boundary wall (4a in Figure 3), revealed the continuation of the boundary ditch or service trench seen in Area 2. This was again cutting a layer of re-deposited clay/soil, and was itself filled with bands of clay and topsoil.



**Figure 8** Trench 4a, look west

2. To the north-east a second short trench (c.4m long, c.0.4m wide and c.0.35m deep) was excavated to take rainwater off the road into an existing road-side ditch (4b in Figure 3). Below c.0.2m of topsoil, the undisturbed Weald clay was reached. No features were noted cut into it, save for a modern service trench running parallel to the road.



**Figure 9** Trench 4b, looking northwest

3. The main part of Area 4, to the south, over the location of the new drive and its gate piers, revealed the same sequence of layers. At the base was the undisturbed Weald clay, only observed between the edge of the Iping Road and the continuation southwards of the service trench noted in Trench 4b, where a deeper cutting was made to take a new curb. Above this were layers of re-deposited clay soil, containing varying quantities of building rubble, as noted in Areas 2 and 3 and Trench 4a. The total depth of this layer would appear to be as much as 1.4m at its highest point, by the current house, sloping steeply up from the road to c.1m deep by the new gate piers; presuming that the underlying clay does not slope up to the west to any marked degree, a slope not suggested by the local topography, which instead falls from north to south.



**Figure 10** Area 4, looking west

4. No trace of the Roman road was observed at the eastern edge of Area 4, where it met the western edge of the modern Iping Road, merely successive layers of modern tarmac on a thin bed of gravel, c.5cm thick. While it is possible that this gravel is a survival of an ancient road surface, its comparative cleanness suggests that it is modern. It would instead seem likely that the wear of centuries of traffic, and/or the groundworks associated with the creation of the modern road, have removed all trace of the Roman road.



**Figure 11** The edge of the modern Iping Road, looking east

## CONCLUSION

1. Despite the lack of any archaeological features observed or artefacts recovered, the results from this programme of archaeological works has been of value in confirming the findings of previous investigations on the site, in particular the supposition that the current Weston's Farm sits upon a mound of re-deposited clay and soil.
2. This mound would appear to be up to c.1.4m thick under the house itself, thinning to c.1m by the new drive gates. Allowance should, perhaps be made for the survival of an historic topsoil buried beneath, but that would still leave a substantial thickness of made ground.
3. The evidence from the 2005 excavations indicates that, when Westons Farm was built, the upper part of the *mansio* rampart was flattened and the area inside raised up (Anelay 2006, Figure 4). This may well have been done in order to create a flat platform for the new house and its grounds. A similar operation would seem to have been carried out in advance of the construction of Weston's Farm Cottage to the south-east (Anelay 2018, p.11).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anelay, G. 2006. ***Report on an Archaeological Excavation at Westons Farm, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex.*** Unpublished.
- Anelay, G. 2010 ***Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief on land near Lyfords, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex.*** Unpublished.
- Anelay, G. 2015 ***Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Westons Farm Cottage, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex.*** Unpublished.
- Anelay, G. 2016 ***Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at Westons Farm Cottage, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex.*** Unpublished.
- Anelay, G. 2018 ***Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works at Westons Farm Cottage, Milland, West Sussex.*** Unpublished.
- Dicks, J. & Haskins, N. 2007. ***The Vicus at Iping/Milland. A Geophysical Survey.*** Unpublished.
- Killeen, C. 2011 ***An Archaeological Watching Brief at Iping Road, Milland.*** Archaeology South-East. Unpublished.
- West Sussex Archaeology 2018 ***Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works at Westons Farm Cottage, Milland, West Sussex.*** Unpublished.