



**Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at Weston's Farm
Cottage, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex**

July 2016

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This document sets out the results from an archaeological watching brief carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd at Weston's Farm Cottage, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex. The archaeological work was carried out on the 13th and 14th April 2016.

Weston's Farm Cottage lies on the site of a Roman mansio situated upon the Chichester to Silchester Roman road, and the truncated remains of the mansio's south rampart were revealed within one of the monitored trenches. In addition further evidence, in the form of a buried soil layer and underlying circular feature, confirmed previous evidence for pre-mansio Romano-British occupation, and pushed forward the date for the construction of the mansio, or at least it's rampart, into the 3rd century AD or later.

BACKGROUND

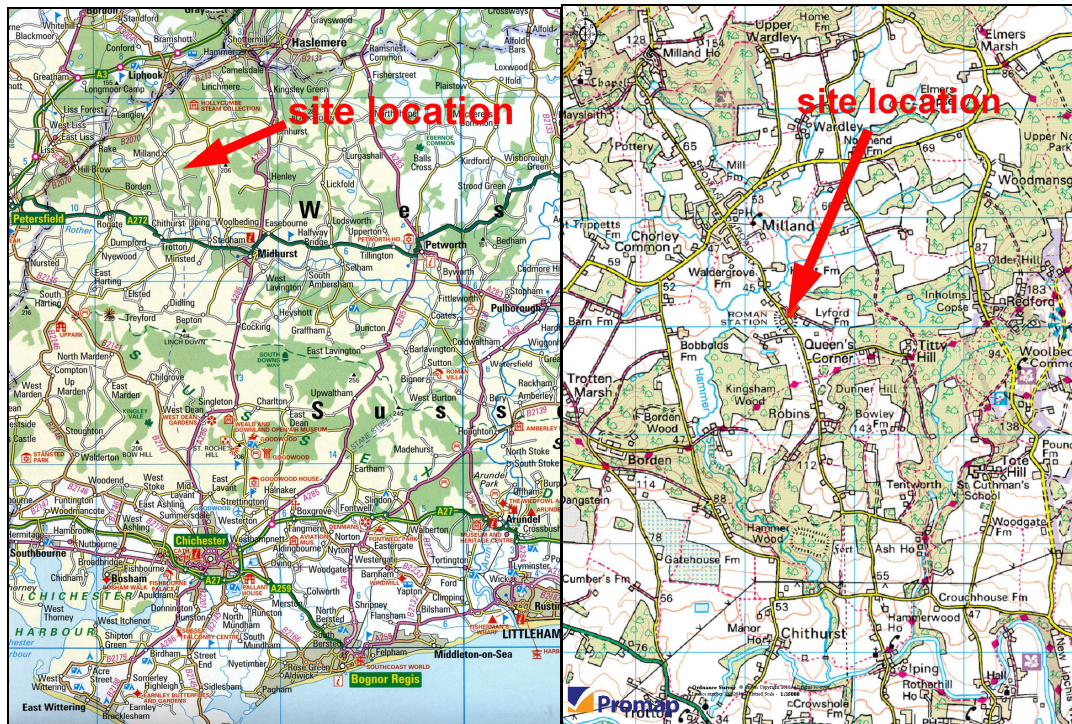


Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

Project Background

1. Weston's Farm Cottage lies approximately 1 mile to the south-east of the village of Milland in West Sussex (Figs.1), at c. 54m aOD and OS grid reference SU 8442 2602. The underlying geology of the site was found to be the sands and clays of the Weald Clay formation.
2. The owners of Weston's Farm, Mr. & Mrs. Aves, have received both Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) (Ref. S00125272) from Historic England (HE) and planning permission (SDNPA/14/04415/HOUS) from the South Downs National Park Authority for a side extension to the existing dwelling. Both the SMC and planning permission included conditions for archaeological works to be carried out in accordance with a specification to be agreed in advance with both HE and the SDNPA.
3. West Sussex Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Mr. & Mrs. Aves to write and submit such a specification (WSA 2105) and to carry out the ensuing archaeological works. This report details the results of that archaeological work, which was carried out on the 13th and 14th April 2016 by George Anelay of West Sussex Archaeology Ltd.

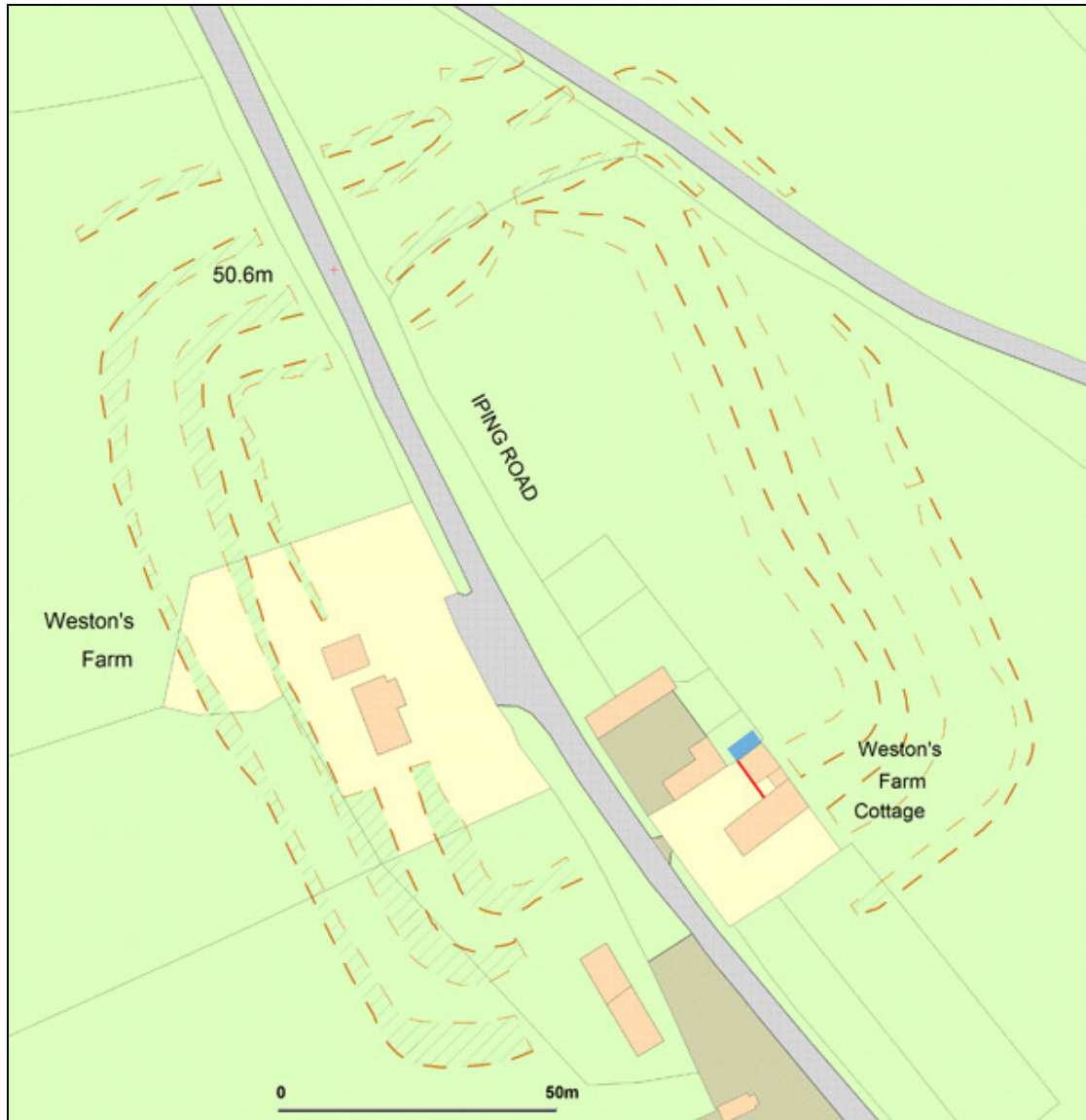


Figure 2 Weston's Farm Cottage and the Iping *Mansio*. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

Historical Background

1. The property, now called Weston's Farm Cottage, was constructed between 1874 and 1897, when it was named Weston's Farm. The name appears then to have moved across the road to a newly constructed property, now called Weston's Farm, in the 1950s, with the original site renamed Weston's Farm Cottage (see Fig.2).
2. 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* is protected as a Scheduled Monument (No. 29242).

3. Five 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. The results from this suggested that the *mansio* was constructed 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. 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. 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*. This recorded the line of the *mansio* ditch (Anelay 2010).
 - In 2012 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Weston's Farm cottage 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).

RESULTS

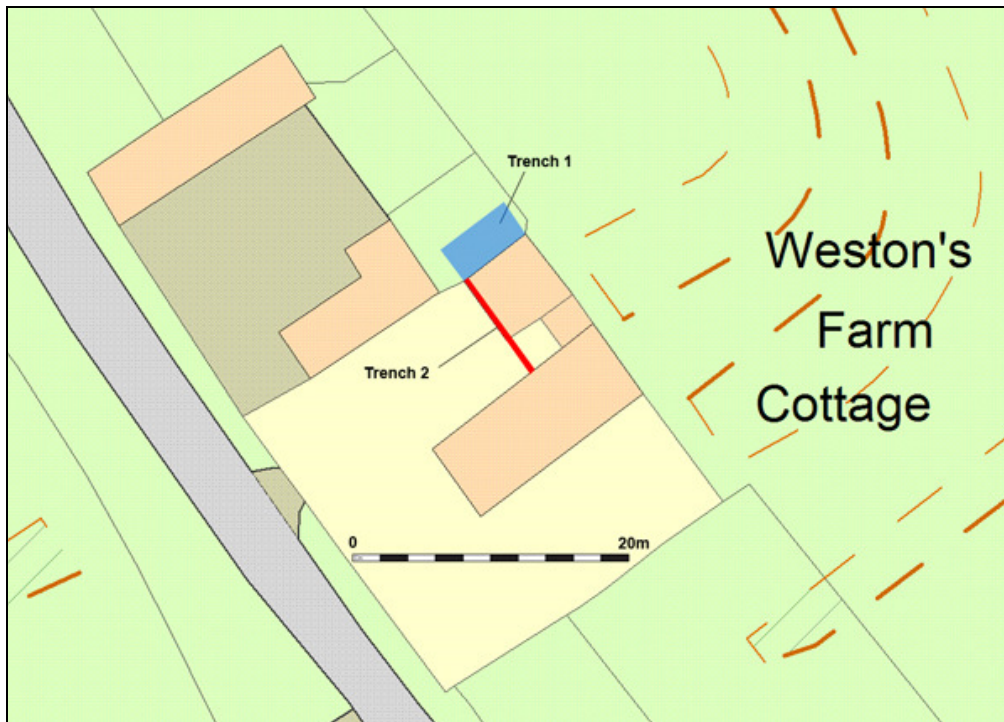


Figure 3 The watching brief trenches. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068.

1. Two trenches were archaeological monitored at Weston's Farm Cottage. Trench 1 was for the ground slab for a north-western extension, whereas Trench 2 was for a new south-west wall for the existing north-west block (see Fig.3). The ground in Trench 1 was not reduced to a level below the base of the topsoil and no archaeological features or artefacts were observed.



Figure 4 Trench 1, looking south-east.

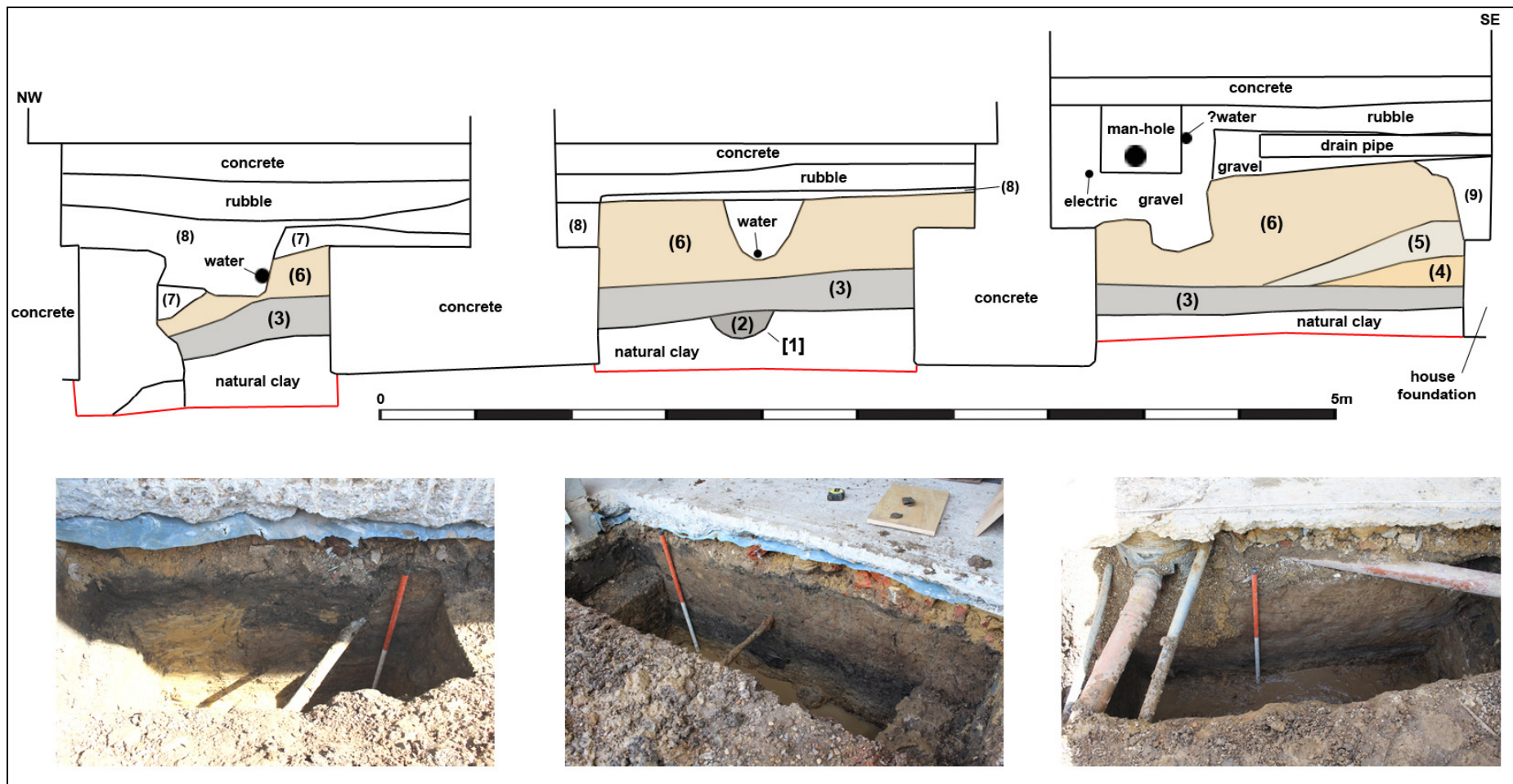


Figure 5 Trench 2, drawn north-east section and corresponding photographs.

2. Trench 2 was only 0.6m wide, but extended to below the surface of the natural Weald Clay, thus enabling the recovery of a full section through the overlying deposits for a distance of c.7.5m. As can be seen in Fig.3 this included the projected line of the rear slope of the *mansio* rampart, over which the current buildings sit.
3. Above the Weald clay was a layer of grey clay silt (3), 0.15-0.2m thick, which contained seven sherds of Roman pottery, two fragment of fired clay, one fragment of burnt bone and three Lower Greensand blocks, two of which may be from Lodsworth-type quernstones. This layer was sealed beneath three layers of clay of varying colours (orange (4), grey (5) & mottled orange/grey (6)), which sloped from south to north from 0.65m to only 0.1m thick. It is likely that this is the remains of the north slope of the south rampart of the *mansio*, truncated by modern development.
4. Beneath the buried soil (3) a single feature [1] was observed, 0.35m in diameter and 0.15m deep. It was filled with a dark grey clay silt (2), containing five sherds of Roman pottery and a block of Lower Greensand, which may be a fragment from a Lodsworth-type quernstone. The original form and function of this feature [1] could not be determined from the limited area visible.
5. Above the remains of the *mansio* rampart lay a series of what are all almost certainly modern layers, associated with the construction of the current house and its various phases of additions and alterations. Layer (7) was a mixed silt and clay deposit only 0.1-0.15m thick. Layer (8) was a dark silt, probably an earlier topsoil, perhaps laid down before the existing north-west block was constructed. Layer (9) was the soil and rubble fill of the foundation trench for the existing house. Above these was the rubble make-up and concrete floor of the current north-west block. A number of modern services ran through the trench, of which that in the central section, sealed under Layer (8) is probably the water supply for the existing house, before the north-west block was added; the others being more recent.

CONCLUSION

1. It is apparent from the results of these excavations that the south rampart of the *mansio* has not been completely destroyed by the erection of Weston's Farm cottage in the late 19th century. Indeed it would appear that a depth of 0.65m of rampart still survives, at least on its northern side.
2. In addition sealed beneath the rampart further evidence was found for settlement on the site pre-dating the *mansio*, or at least its rampart, to add to that found across the road at Weston's Farm (Anelay 2006). The date of the Roman pottery recovered (see Appendix 1 below) suggests a later date than previously thought for the construction of the *mansio*, or its rampart, pushing it forwards into the third century or later.

APPENDIX 1

POTTERY REPORT

(by Jane Timby)

1. The archaeological work at Westons Farm Cottage resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of 12 sherds of pottery weighing 321 g dating to the Roman period. Pottery was recovered from just two contexts. The sherds were moderately well preserved with an overall average sherd weight of 26.7 g suggesting the material was relatively undisturbed. The dating of such a small group must be regarded as provisional.
2. The pottery was rapidly scanned to assess its composition and likely chronology and quantified. The resulting data can be found in Table 1. Apart from one or two possible sherds of Alice Holt grey ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 138, ALH RE) there are no traded wares within the group and only three rimsherds. For the purposes of the assessment the possible sources of the local sandy wares was not pursued as it was felt the small size of the group did not warrant this.
3. Context (2) yielded five sherds: two sandy grey wares and three sandy grey wares with clay pellets or grey sub-rounded grog. Apart from a basesherd, the sherds are not featured or distinctive enough to date other than Roman.
4. Silt layer (3) produced seven sherds including three rims and a base all in grey (GY) or black (BW) sandy (SY) or sandy micaceous (MIC) fabrics. The group includes one basesherd from a closed form which has been modified by the creation of a central hole drilled after firing. The sherd, although large, is quite worn. The group also includes a bowl with two grooves around the rim and a basesherd, probably from the same vessel which has a burnished line squiggle on the underside imitating black burnished ware bowls/ dishes. There is also a flared rim jar and an Alice Holt ware jar with a flat rim, (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, type 3A), typical of the 3rd-4th centuries. The other jar is not closely datable other than 2nd-4th century but the bowl also suggests a 3rd - century date.
5. At this stage no further work is required.

Context	Fabric	Form	Wt	Body	Rim	Base	Comment	Date
2	GYSYCP		83	3	0	0	grog or clay pellets	Roman
2	GYSY	base	44	0	0	1	semi-vitrified	Roman
2	GYSY		9	1	0	0	finer sandy	Roman
3	BWSY	base	46	0	0	1	post-firing hole in centre	Roman
3	BWSYMIC	grooved rim bowl	51	0	1	1	sooted exterior	C3
3	GYSY		26	2	0	0	possible ALH RE	Roman
3	BWSYMIC	flared rim jar	8	0	1	0		C2/C3
3	ALHRE?	jar, Lyne & Jefferies type 3A	54	0	1	0		C3-C4
TOTAL			321	6	3	3		

Table 1 Pottery Data

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