



**Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Westons Farm  
Cottage, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex**

January 2015

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

***This document sets out the results from an archaeological evaluation carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd at Westons Farm Cottage, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex. The archaeological work was carried out from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012. It 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.***

***The evidence recovered from this evaluation was originally intended to inform decisions relating to a planning permission dating to 2011, which was never implemented. This evidence is instead being submitted to inform the determination of a new application (SDPA/14/04415/HOUS). It is suggested that while sufficient information is contained within this document to inform this determination, further archaeological work be undertaken, governed by condition, in association with any groundworks undertaken as part of the proposed scheme.***

## BACKGROUND

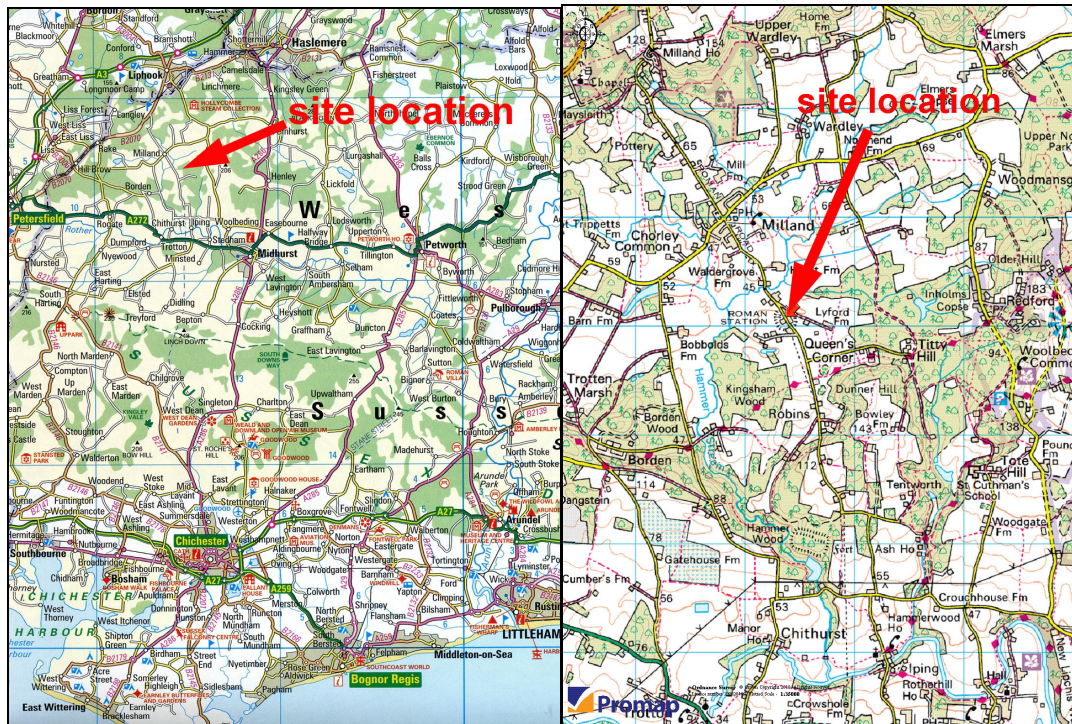


Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

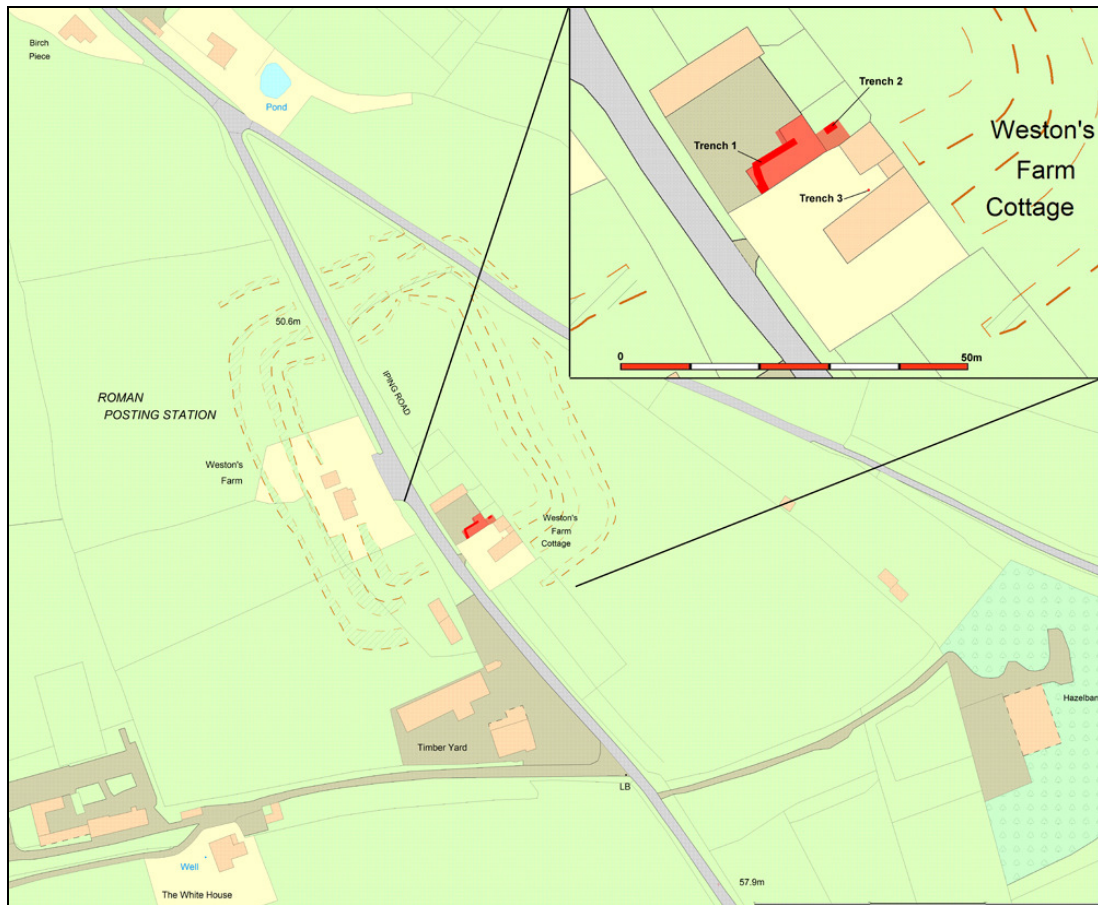
## Project Background

1. Westons Farm Cottage lies approximately 1 mile to the south-east of the village of Milland in West Sussex (Figs.1 & 2), 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 new owners of Westons Farm, Mr. & Mrs. Aves, have applied for planning permission for a side extension to the existing dwelling (SDPA/14/04415/HOUS). Since the house sits within the limits of a Scheduled Monument (No. 29242), the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) have requested further information with regard to the archaeological impact of the proposed development in order to inform their decision. In particular this is to include the results from an archaeological evaluation carried out with Scheduled Monument Consent (HSD 9/2/10383) as a response to conditions attached to two lapsed planning permissions granted to the previous owners of the property, Mr. & Mrs. Clark (11/01579/EXTNP & 11/04552/DOMNP). This archaeological evaluation was carried out from 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012 by George Anelay of West Sussex Archaeology Ltd. The project archive, which consists solely of paperwork, will be deposited with West Sussex Record Office.

## Historical Background

1. The property, now called Westons 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 the newly constructed property, now called Westons Farm, in the 1950s, with the original site renamed Westons Farm Cottage.
2. Both Westons Farm and Westons Farm Cottage sit within the enclosing ditch of the Roman *mansio* at Iping, lying 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. Previous archaeological work within the *mansio* included excavations associated with the construction of an extension to Westons Farm carried out in 2005. The results from these indicated 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, p2).

## RESULTS



**Figure 2** Plan of the *mansio* at Westons Farm, with inset showing the location of the excavated trenches. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068.

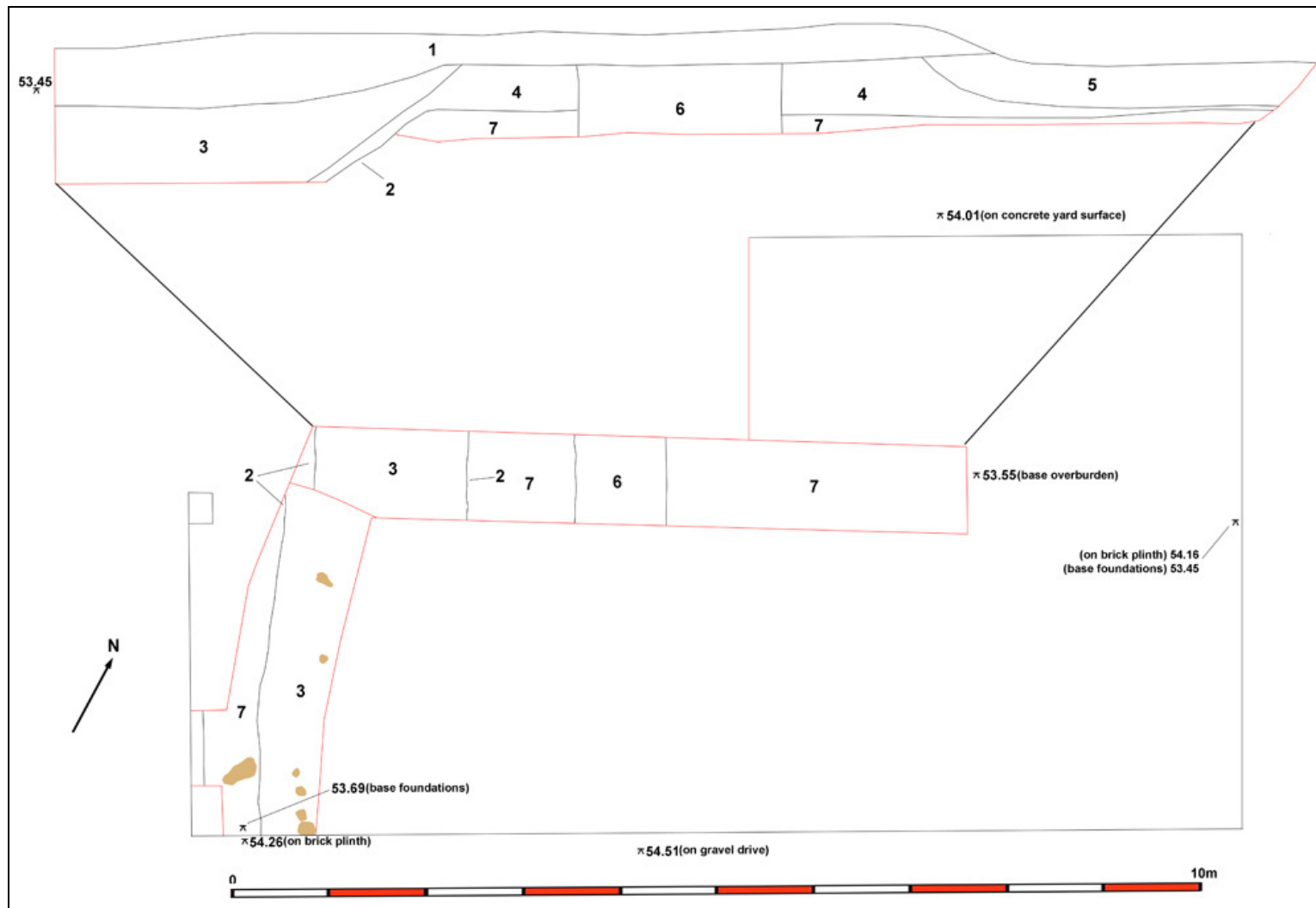
1. Three evaluation trenches were excavated at Westons Farm Cottage over the location of the proposed works in order to determine the nature, depth and extent of any archaeological deposits relating to the *mansio* which may be adversely affected by any intrusive groundworks associated with development (see Fig.2).
2. Trench 1 was positioned within a semi-derelict outbuilding of the 19<sup>th</sup> century farm. The modern overburden was stripped from the full footprint of this building, with a deeper “L” shaped trench excavated along its northern boundary, including within its extent the line of a proposed foundation trench.
3. Below the modern soil and rubble overburden (No.1 in Fig.4) was a grey/brown clay soil up to 30cm thick (No.4 in Fig.3), which would appear to be the old topsoil/ploughsoil before the current farm was built. This soil sat upon the undisturbed Wealden clay, here trending to a grey sandy clay (No.7 in Fig.4).
4. At the north-eastern end of the trench a layer of yellow/orange clay (No.5 in Fig.4) overlay and truncated the historic ploughsoil (No.4 in

Fig.4). This layer was also found in Trenches 2 & 3 and is likely to be a remnant of the *mansio* rampart, which was probably spread across the site in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to prepare the ground for the present buildings.

5. Two features were revealed which cut into the ploughsoil (No.4 in Fig.4), but which were overlain by the modern rubble (No.1 in Fig.4): towards the centre of the trench's northern arm a yellow/orange clay filled pit was seen in both sections (No.6 in Fig.4). The origin of this pit is not certain, but its vertical sides and regular shape suggest it may be a geotechnical test pit associated with a previous phase of development on the site.
6. To the west of this, and running north-west to south-east along the western arm of the trench was a ditch (No.2 in Fig.4) filled with a grey/brown clay soil (No.3 in Fig.4) overlying an earlier slump fill from the historic topsoil (No.4 in Fig.4). The upper fill contained occasional sandstones fragments, together with several sherds of highly degraded pottery and the fragmentary remains of a copper alloy coin. The size and condition of these artefacts prevented a positive identification, but they would not preclude a Roman date. The ditch itself is likely to be that associated with a field boundary visible exactly in this location on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1874.



**Figure 3** Trench 1, looking south-east. The scale is 2m.



**Figure 4** Trench 1 Plan and section.

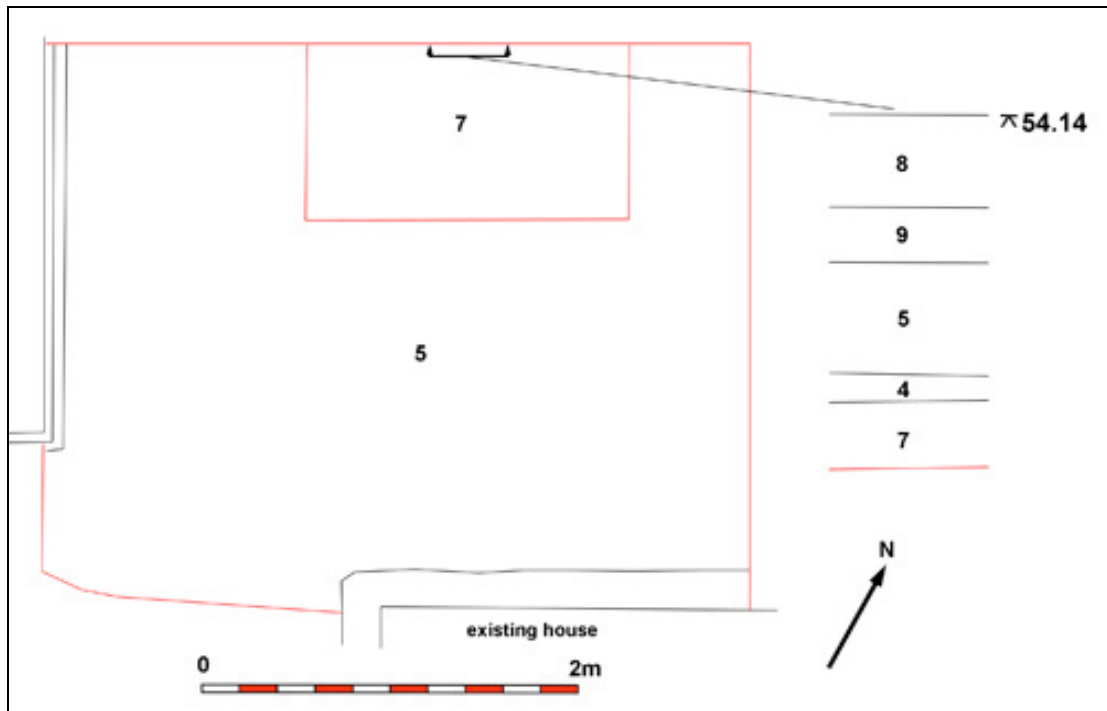


**Figure 3** Trench 1, Ditch 2, looking north-west. The scale is 2m.

4. Trench 2 was positioned to the north-west of the current house, between it and the outbuilding which contained Trench 1. It measured 3.6m north-east to south-west and 3m north-west to south-east. Again the modern overburden was stripped from across the trench and a deeper slot was then excavated against its north-western side to a depth of 0.95m.
5. No archaeological features were revealed, and below the modern topsoil (No.8 in Fig.6), and a grey/brown subsoil (No.9 in Fig.6), the same yellow orange clay layer seen at the north-western end of Trench 1 was exposed (No.5 in Fig.6). Beneath this clay the remnants of the historic ploughsoil was again observed, here less than 10cm



thick (No.4 in Fig.6), lying over the undisturbed Wealden clay (No.7 in Fig.6).



**Figure 4** Trench 2 Plan and section.



**Figure 5** Trench 2, looking west. The scale is 2m.

7. Trench 3 was positioned adjacent to the current house in order to examine its foundations. The trench was only 30cm square and 70cm deep. Below 25cm of modern gravel and hardcore the same three

layers observed in Trenches 1 & 2 were again exposed: a yellow/orange clay (25cm thick), over the old ploughsoil (20cm thick), which in turn overlay undisturbed grey Wealden clay.

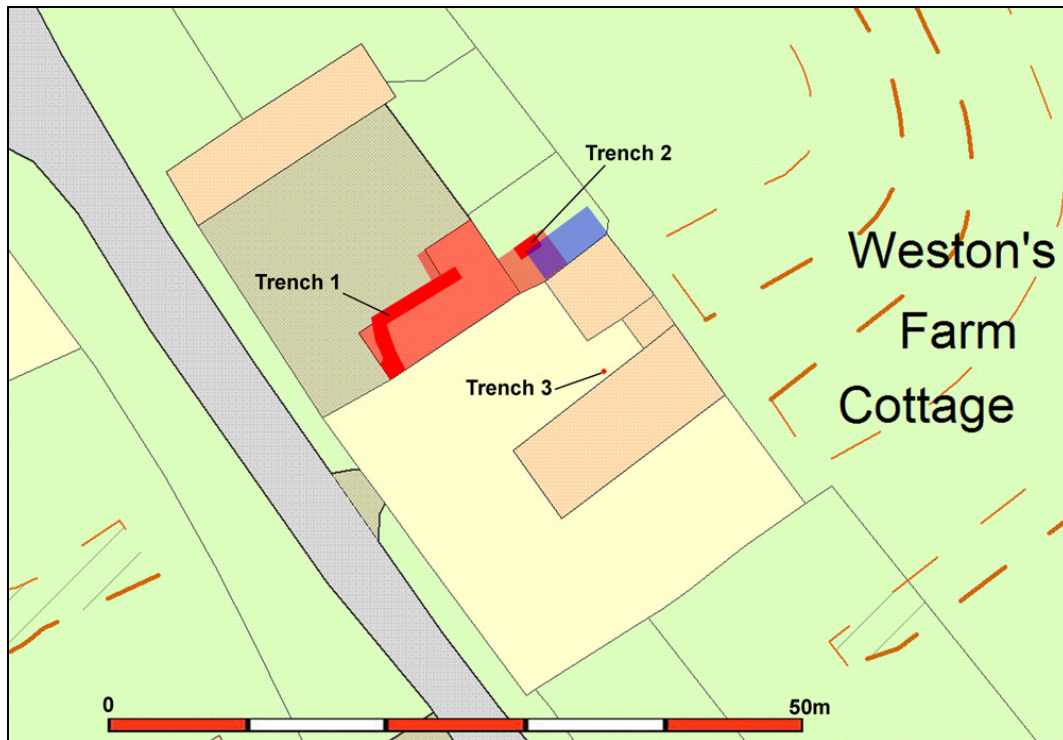


**Figure 6** Trench 3, looking east. The scale is 1m.

## CONCLUSION

1. The evaluation works carried out in 2012 failed to reveal any evidence for significant archaeological remains within the trenches excavated. That there was no evidence for structures associated with the *mansio* is perhaps less surprising when one considers that the current buildings were constructed largely over the footprint of its rampart and ditch rather than its interior and it is evident from the topography of the site that these features have been levelled. Indeed the consistent layer of yellow/orange clay across the trenches is most likely to be the remains of the rampart spread across the site, presuming that greater part of it was used to infill the ditch over which the majority of the current house sits. The only feature of any antiquity to be exposed was a ditch associated with a field boundary visible on late 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping.
2. The purpose of the 2012 evaluation was to recover data to inform decisions over the nature of any further mitigation work required on the site in association with the planning conditions attached to the 2011 permissions. Of particular concern was the design of the foundations, and whether the nature of any archaeological remains revealed would militate against the use of conventional strip foundations and instead necessitate a raft. In the event, since no significant archaeological remains were revealed on the line of the proposed foundations in the area of the derelict outbuilding (Trench 1) or those associated with the

proposed extension of the existing house to the north-west (Trench 2), it was decided that strip foundations would be permitted. However further archaeological works were to be undertaken during construction work, since the extent of the evaluation trenches did not exactly match those of the proposed groundworks. These further works did not take place, since the building works associated these planning permissions were not enacted.



**Figure 7** Site plan showing the location of the proposed extension in blue. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

3. Following a change of ownership of the property, a new planning permission has been submitted for determination (SDPA/14/04415/HOUS). This does not involve any works in the area of the outbuilding (Trench 1), but does include an extension to the north-west of the current house in the area of Trench 2 (see area shaded in blue on Fig.9). It is considered that the information recovered from Trench 2 as part of the 2012 evaluation is sufficient to inform this new application and demonstrates that there would appear to be a low potential for significant archaeological remains in the location of the proposed extension. However, as before, because the extent of the proposed new footings is greater than that of the evaluation trench, it is suggested that further archaeological work be undertaken in association with any groundworks linked to the present application. The architect engaged by the applicant has confirmed that all services required for the new works will utilise existing runs, with no new trenching undertaken.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Anelay, G. 2006. *Report on an Archaeological Excavation at Westons Farm, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex*. Unpublished.