

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
On Land at West Marden Water Treatment Works,
West Sussex**

(NGR 477161 113310)

**Project No. 4648
Site Code: WMW11**

**ASE Report No. 2011096
OASIS id: archaeol6-101612**

**By Alice Thorne
With contributions by Anna Doherty and Karine Le Hègarat**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by 4 Delivery Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the enlargement of the existing water treatment works at West Marden, West Sussex. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered. A single sherd of probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and a small assemblage of re-deposited struck flint was recovered from the topsoil.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology, were commissioned by 4Delivery Limited (hereafter 4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive ground works associated with the enlargement of the existing water treatment works at West Marden, West Sussex (NGR 477161 113310, Figures 1 and 2).

1.2 Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the edge of a dry valley bottom on the chalk downs. According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on head deposit overlying the Newhaven Chalk formations (web source 1).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Although most excavations (excluding temporary site access, main MCC kiosk, SAFF blower kiosk and washwater booster set kiosk,) are not subject to standard planning regulations, 4D and ASE have consulted John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC), regarding the impact of the entire proposed works. An archaeological watching brief has been recommended on all intrusive groundwork due to the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Archaeology South East for the watching brief and was submitted to WSCC for approval prior the commencement of groundwork (ASE 2011). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), as well as with reference to West Sussex County Council's, *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions (2007)*, henceforth referred to as The Standard Conditions.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor all intrusive ground works in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Alice Thorne and Sarah Porteus at intermittent stages during March and April 2011. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following information is drawn from a 1 km radius search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Chichester District Council (CDC) centred on NGR 477161 113310, and is reproduced from the WSI (ASE 2011). The results of the CDC HER search are summarised below (Table 1) with locations plotted on Figure 1.

HER No.	OS Grid Ref.	Description	Period
CD6155	477158 113598	Nos 1 & 2 Knights Cottages. Grade II Listed Building	Late 18 th century
CD6156	478083 113593	Locksash. Grade II Listed Building	18 th century
CD6157	477196 113636	The Victorian Inn. Grade II Listed Building	Early 19 th century
CD5949	477102 113585	West Marden Farmhouse. Grade II Listed Building	18 th -19 th century
CD5959	477097 113644	Barn at West Marden Farmhouse. Grade II Listed Building	18 th century
CD6153	477045 113554	Thatched Cottage, 1-2 West Marden. Grade II Listed Building	18 th century
CD6154	477168 113685	Nos 44 & 45 West Marden. Grade II Listed Building	18 th century
CD454	478056 113332	Lynchets at Malthouse Copse, Compton	Unknown
CD3042	478101 13373	Dew Pond at Malthouse Copse, Compton	Post-medieval
CD3045	477035 112620	Disused quarry near Big Busto House, Compton	Post-medieval
CD4619	477046 113530	Nos 21 & 22 West Marden. Grade II Listed Building	17 th century or earlier (No 21), 19 th century (No 22)
CD409	477200 113600	20-30 beads and a flint polisher found in a garden in West Marden	Bronze Age
CD411	477260 112670	Tessellated floor at Westergate Hanger, Compton	Roman
CD442	477300 113600	Bronze ceremonial hunting spear	c.AD1600-1650
CD449	477941 112917	Lynchets at Wheatcroft, Compton	Unknown
CD453	477300 112900	Lynchets at Nore Down, Compton	Unknown
CD391	477120 113530	Site of chapel of West Marden referred to in 1414, apparently secularised before 1585	Medieval
CD402	477200 113600	Pottery sherds, incense cup, jewellery and lead spindle whorl found in garden at Frontside Road, West Marden	Roman
CD404	477000 114000	Two sherds of pottery from Compton Area	Roman
CD375	477120 113530	Large pot found in a garden on site of CD391. Suggested as site of pagan Saxon but entry may relate to the finding of 12 th -13 th century vessel at almost identical grid reference	Early medieval
CD390	477328 113058	Flint mines on eastern slope of Nore Hill	Neolithic

HER No.	OS Grid Ref.	Description	Period
CD362	477350 112656	Metalled area/track at Roman Villa	Post-Roman
CD371	477018 113510	Pits containing pottery revealed during construction work in 1963	Medieval
CD361	477440 112610	Former mound in field adjoin Watergate Hanger Roman villa	Roman
CD360	477348 112645	Small 'cottage' villa discovered in 1895 and excavated between 1907-1911 and re-excavated between 1984-1986	Roman
CD349	477515 112493	Inhumation burial found during intrusive repair works at Crabagh House, near Watergate Hanger in 1988	Unknown
CD358	477928 112603	Filed system at Fanny's Row, Compton	Unknown

Table 1: Summary of CDC HER records with 1km of NGR 477161 113310

- 2.2 Only two records relate to the prehistoric period. These comprise Neolithic flint mines on Nore Hill to the south west of the site (CD390) and the discovery of Bronze Age beads and a flint polisher in West Marden to the north (CD409).
- 2.3 The Roman period is represented by Westergate Roman villa to the south (CD360), and associated features (CD361, CD411). Two isolated finds spots have also been recorded in West Marden and the Compton area to the north (CD402, CD404).
- 2.4 The medieval period is less well represented and only three records of this date are noted. Pits containing medieval pottery were recorded to the north west of the site (CD371), whilst the site of the 14th to 15th century Chapel of West Marden is recorded to the north (CD391), along with the discovery of a large, possible 12th to 13th century pot in the same location (CD375).
- 2.5 With the exception of a dew pond to the east of the site (CD3042), a disused quarry to the south (CD3045), and the discovery of a bronze ceremonial hunting spear (CD442), the post-medieval records relate to listed buildings (CD4619, CD5949, CD5959, CD6153-7). A metalled track located at the villa site can only be dated to the post-Roman period (CD362) and a number of records refer to undated discoveries such as the inhumation (CD349) and field systems and lynchets (CD358, CD449, CD453, CD454).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor all intrusive groundwork in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 3.2 The groundwork comprised a topsoil strip over the site of the access road, compound area and the line of a drain run to the north of the site (Figure 2). Seven test pits (TP1-TP7) were also excavated. Four pits were designed to locate the line of an existing main drain (TP1-4), while three pits were centred upon the area of impact of a new septic tank, new saff distribution chamber and new humus tank (TP 5–7 respectively).
- 3.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the WSI using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.4 The locations of test pits and deposits were hand planned and a digital photographic record was maintained throughout.
- 3.5 The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.6 The site archive, quantified in the table below, is currently housed at the ASE offices in Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course.

Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	27 digital photos
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 2: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 2)

4.1 Topsoil strip

4.1.1 In the areas of the access road, compound and drain run, a mid to dark brown clayey silt turf and topsoil (Context 001) was removed to formation level at a depth of between 0.15m to 0.25m below ground surface. Below this level, the mottled and smeared surface of the underlying mid orangish-brown silty clay head deposit was exposed (Context 002).

4.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

4.2 Test pits

4.2.1 Seven test pits were excavated across the site. The sequence of deposits encountered comprised a mid to dark brown clayey silt turf and topsoil [001] overlying a mid orangish-brown silty clay head deposit [002]. The head deposit was observed to have a very irregular jagged lower horizon (thought to have been caused by processes such as root intrusion, frost shatter and solifluction) to the underlying off- white weathered surface of the underlying chalk bedrock [003].

4.2.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed. The dimensions and depths of the pits have been tabulated below, for ease of reference.

Test Pit	Dimensions	Depth (Context 001)	Depth (Context 002)
1	2m x 1.8m x 0.80m deep	0.20m	0.15m
2	5m x 3.5m x 1.0m deep	0.20m	0.20m
3	3.5m x 2.5m x 0.80m deep	0.20m	0.15m
4	2m x 1.8m x 0.90m deep	0.20m	0.20m
5	5m x 3m x 0.40m deep	0.15m	to 0.33m
6	6m x 5m x 0.50m deep	0.15m	to 0.40m
7	4m x 3m x 0.50m	0.23m	0.22m

Table 3: Dimensions of Test Pits

5.0 FINDS

A very small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief. An overview can be found in Table 4.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)
001	1	2	3	202
002			6	114
TP2 001			1	14

Table 4: Quantification of the Finds

5.1 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.1.1 A single flint-tempered bodysherd, weighing 2 grams, was recovered from the topsoil [001]. Flint-tempering occurs across a very broad range of prehistoric periods in the South-East and the sherd cannot therefore, be dated with any certainty. The moderately large size range (c.0.5-2mm) and ill-sorting of the flint inclusions, together with the relatively thin-walls of the vessel, are traits which would be most commonly associated with the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, post Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) tradition, dated to around 1150-600BC. Earlier Neolithic pottery is much less common locally, but some Neolithic fabrics can be difficult to distinguish from PDR ones and, given that possible Neolithic flintwork was also recovered, it is not impossible that the sherd is of this date.

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.2.1 A very small collection comprising ten struck flints weighing 230g was recovered during the course of the watching brief on Land at West Marden Water Treatment Works as detailed in Table 5. The small assemblage was recovered from topsoil [001] and [TP2/001] as well as from subsoil [002]. Most of the pieces display moderate to extensive edge modification implying that the pieces had undergone substantial post-depositional disturbance. They are manufactured from fine light to dark grey flint with infrequent inclusions. Most of the artefacts are entirely or partially recorticated light blue or white, and iron rust marks were also noted on seven pieces. The small assemblage consists entirely of pieces of flint debitage including eight complete flakes and two broken flakes. The technological traits of the bulk of the assemblage indicate a Neolithic - Bronze Age date for this flintwork, although no diagnostic pieces were recovered which would help refine the dating.

Context	Context type	Flake	Broken flake
001	Topsoil	2	1
002	Subsoil	5	1
TP2 001	Topsoil	1	
		8	2

Table 5: The flintwork

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 A watching brief was undertaken during works associated with the enlargement of the existing West Marden Water Treatment works. Despite the archaeological potential of the site, which is located under 1 km north of a cottage villa discovered in the late 19th century, no archaeological features or deposits were identified during the programme of works.
- 6.2 The finds recovered from the topsoil comprise a single sherd of probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and a small assemblage of redeposited struck flint, of probable Neolithic - Bronze Age date. The unstratified nature of the finds severely limits their value but they do add to the scarce evidence of prehistoric activity previously recorded in the area.

References

ASE, 2011 Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation: Land at West Marden Water Treatment Works, West Sussex, Project 4648.

WSCC, 2007 *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions*

Web source 1: (<http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/bgsmapper/map.action> accessed (03/5/2011)).

Acknowledgements

Archaeology South-East would like to thank 4D for commissioning the work and John Mills of WSCC for his guidance throughout the project.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	WMW11					
Identification Name and Address	West Marden Water Treatment Works					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	477161 113310					
Geology	Newhaven Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4648					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. March - April 2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4 Delivery Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Alice Thorne					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East were commissioned by 4 Delivery Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the enlargement of the existing water treatment works at West Marden, West Sussex. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered. A single sherd of probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and a small assemblage of re-deposited struck flint was recovered from the topsoil.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-101612

Project details

Project name	West Marden WTW
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East were commissioned by 4 Delivery Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the enlargement of the existing water treatment works at West Marden, West Sussex. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered. A single sherd of probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and a small assemblage of redeposited struck flint was recovered from the topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 29-03-2011 End: 13-04-2011
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	4648 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WMW11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Uncertain
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	SMR enhancement

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER MARDEN WEST MARDEN
Postcode	PO18 9EP

Study area	90.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 477161 113310 50.8989294189 -1.321393781730 50 53 56 N 001 19 17 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	4 Delivery Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Alice Thorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	4D Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	4D Ltd

Project archives

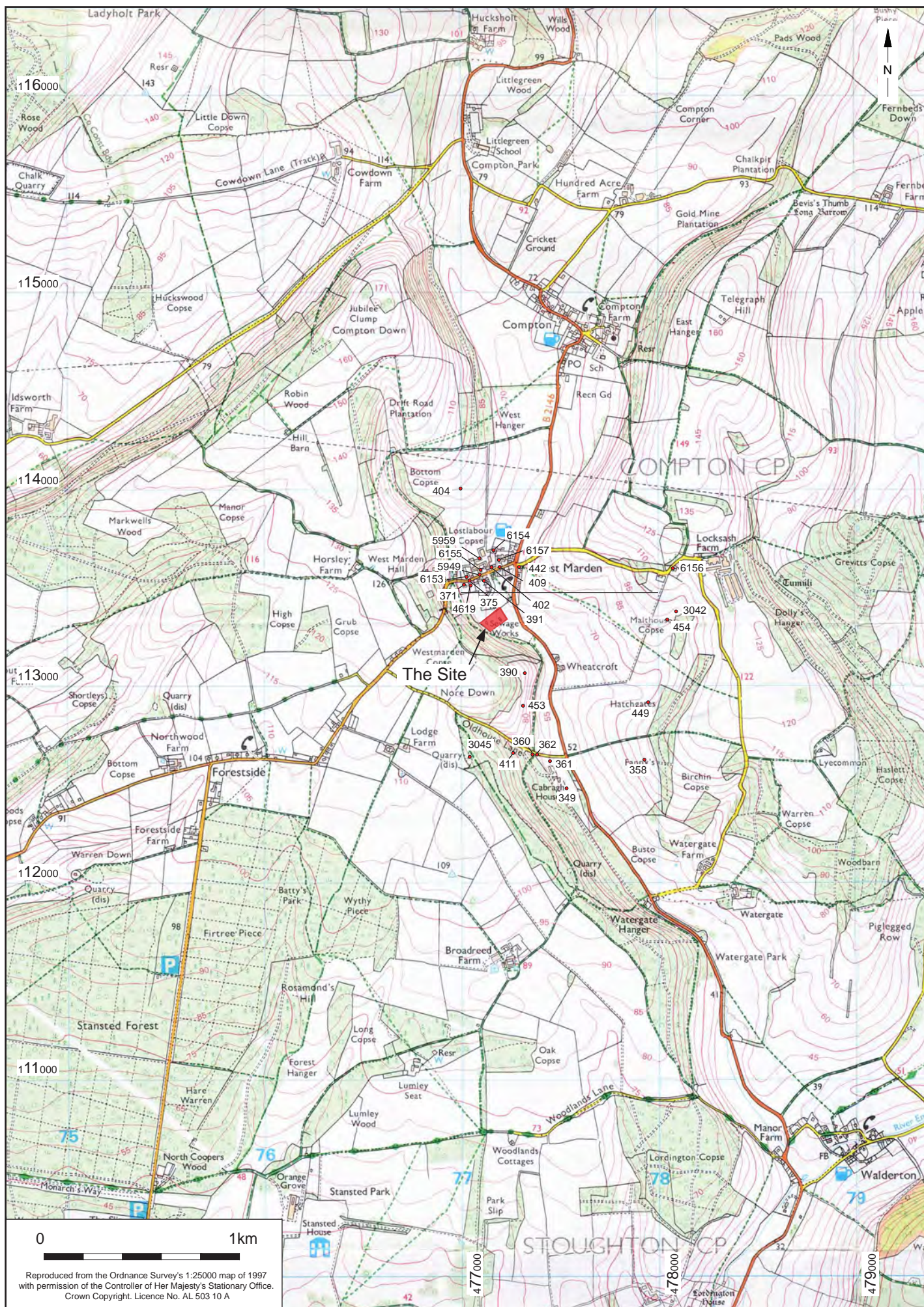
Physical Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Correspondence','Report'

Project bibliography 1

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Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief On Land at West

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Report Ref: 2011096	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 1



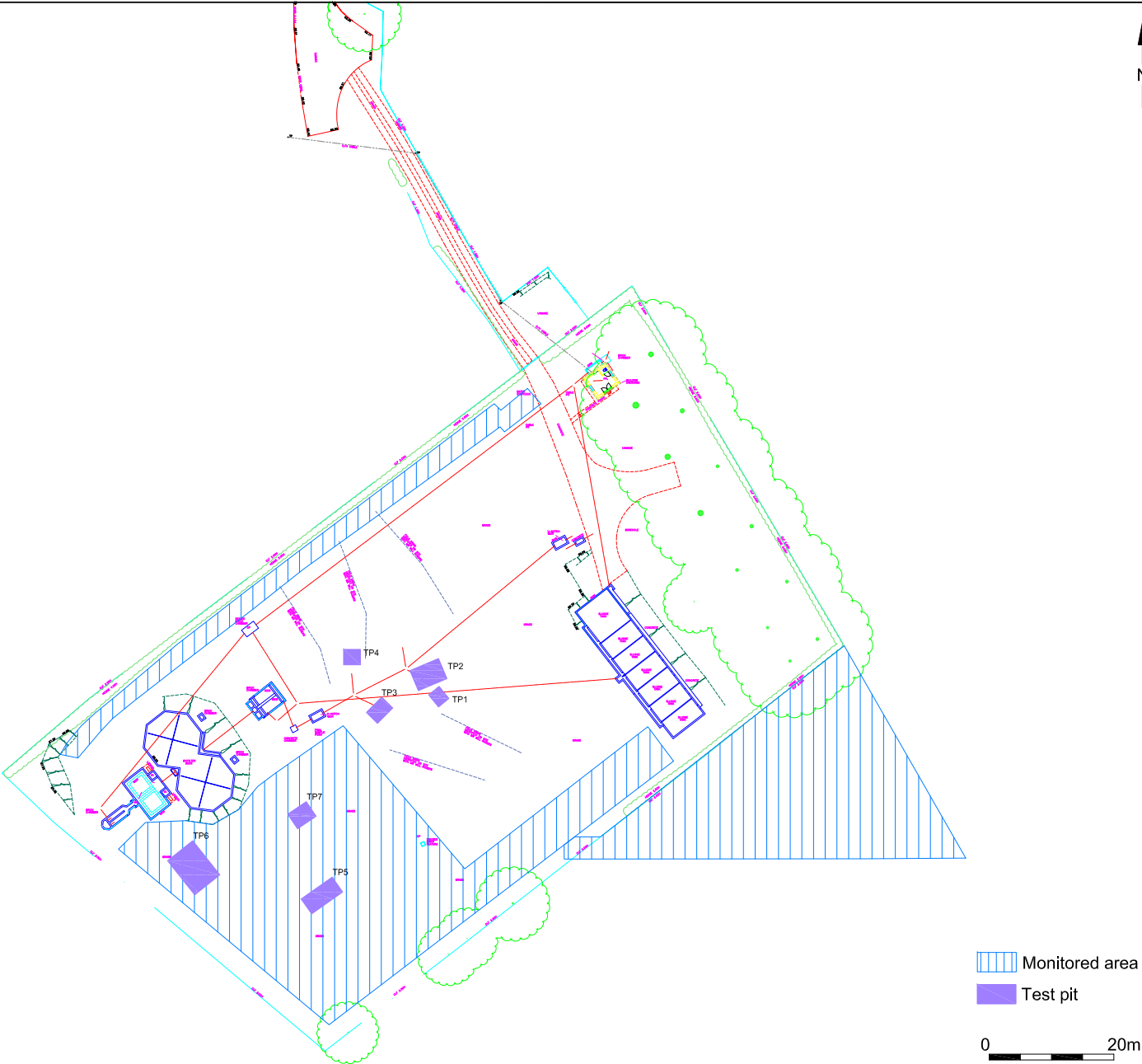
Fig. 2.1: General shot showing topsoil strip, facing east



Fig. 2.2: Test pit 1



Fig. 2.3: Test pit 6



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