

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
A23 improvements  
Handcross to Warninglid  
West Sussex**

**NGR: 526164, 129537 (TQ261295)  
to 526692, 126230 (TQ266262)**

**ASE Project No: 5632  
Site Code: HWW 12**

**ASE Report No: 2013136  
OASIS id: archaeol6-152126**

**By Gary Webster**

**June 2013**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by Jacobs, on behalf of their clients Carillion, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on areas of the A23 improvement scheme between Handcross and Warninglid.*

*The areas monitored were either previously disturbed by the construction of the A23, or were devoid of archaeology. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified on any area of the scheme.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Jacobs, on behalf of their clients Carillion, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on areas of the A23 improvement scheme between Handcross and Warninglid, West Sussex, hereafter referred to as 'the site.'

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The area of the scheme that was monitored stretches from the village of Handcross in the north to where the B2115 to the south crosses the A23 near Warninglid. Crawley is further to the north and Haywards Heath is to the east.

1.2.2 The written scheme of investigation (WSI; Jacobs 2012) outlines the surrounding geology and topography:

*"The site lies in the ... Weald... between the two chalk escarpments of the North and South Downs. Geologically the Weald comprises the Wealden Clay Vales of Sussex and Kent, and the intervening Sandstone Ridge composed of the Hastings Beds."*

1.2.3 The British Geological Website lists the drift geology around to the south of Handcross as Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, formed of sandstone and siltstone. This is interspersed with areas of mudstone. The drift geology toward the south of the scheme is listed as Weald Clay formation, including mudstone.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Several investigations have already taken place along the area of the improvements, with specific regard to the geoarchaeological and archaeological potential of the area. They are listed in the WSI (*ibid.*) as follows:

- *Reporting on the geoarchaeological potential based on GI data and watching brief on Ground Investigation works (Hunter, P. and Pine, C.A. 2006)*
- *Geophysical survey at three locations along the scheme undertaken in 2006 (Pre-construct Geophysics 2007)*
- *Archaeology and cultural heritage technical report (Highways Agency 2008b)*
- *Geoarchaeological Borehole Survey (Pope et al 2009)*
- *Survey of a Type FW3/28A Pillbox near Slaugham Junction (Jacobs 2011)*

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological watching brief is to ensure that any potential archaeological remains that may be uncovered during the construction works are identified and recorded, to mitigate against the impact of the work (Jacobs 2012).

1.4.2 Specific aims also outlined in the WSI include:

- to identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in [the] specification
  - to determine (so far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of the deposits or features identified
  - to identify archaeological remains and undertake consultation in respect of such remains with all interested parties to determine and implement the appropriate nature and scope of mitigation works required
- and
- to disseminate the results through deposition of a detailed report at the Historic Environment Record, and publication at a level of detail appropriate to the significance of the results

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief which was undertaken by Gary Webster, Antonio Reis and Simon Stevens. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager, Fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, Post-Excavation). The work took place between 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.0.1 The following is a summary of the archaeological and historical background in the WSI (*ibid.*). A more detailed account can be found in that document. In summary, there are no known archaeological sites predating the post-medieval period in the vicinity of the route.

### **2.1 Post medieval (1540 – present)**

2.1.1 The Scheduled Monument the 'Remains of Slaugham Place' lie to the west of the site. It consists of the remains of a 400 year old Elizabethan Manor House. Slaugham Manor was built close to the monument, which now rests in its grounds, was built in 1901. The Manor is Grade II listed.

2.1.2 There are three listed buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century, two of them are located in Handcross and one to the south of Staplefield Village. There is a conservation area in Handcross, centred on the highstreet, with several buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

2.1.3 Three military installations were noted in the vicinity of the site, all of them dating from the second world war. These include some ant-tank blocks, a tank trap and a Pill-Box which has now been converted to a bat hibernaculum.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Excavations were monitored by an archaeologist until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present.
- 3.1.2 Wherever possible, machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.3 Adequate time was given by the contractors to examine all exposed surfaces. Deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets.
- 3.1.4 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive. The archive (quantified in Table 1) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 After seeing part of Area A it was apparent from its topography that the area had been subject to significant truncation relating to the construction of the A23. This area was therefore not monitored (Figure 2).
- 3.2.2 Not all of the areas were monitored and parts of Areas B, C, D, E and G were not seen.

#### 3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 ASE informed Lewes Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated and they have accepted the site archive. The archive will be deposited with them in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	14
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	157
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

As discussed in section 3.2.1 above, Area A (Figure 2) was not monitored.

### 4.1 Area B (Figure 2)

4.1.1 The works in Area B comprised the reduction and landscaping of an already heavily landscaped bank along the side of the A23. Up to 0.4m of topsoil [01] overlay the natural geology, comprising Upper Tunbridge Wells sand formation [02]. Construction of the original A23 layout and the landscaping of this bank meant that the area was already heavily disturbed.

4.1.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during these excavations.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Topsoil	Area B	Area B	0.05 – 0.4
02	Layer	Natural geology	Area B	Area B	-

Table 2: Area B list of recorded contexts

### 4.2 Area C (Figure 2)

4.2.1 Area C consists of a triangle of land between the A23, Staplefield Road and the slip road joining the two. A large amount of the area was used to landscape a pond. The ground exposed was a disturbed natural geology [03]. Trees that used to exist in this area and the construction of the surrounding roads are most probably the cause of this disturbance.

4.2.2 A small pipe trench was also excavated in Area C, away from the larger works mentioned above. A small skim of topsoil [05] was seen overlying a layer of made ground [04].

4.2.3 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
03	Layer	Natural Geology	Area C	Area C	-
04	Layer	Made Ground	c. 1m	c.0.5m	c. 0.2m
05	Layer	Topsoil	c. 5m	c. 5m	c. 0.1m

Table 3: Area C list of recorded contexts

### 4.3 Area D (Figure 2)

4.3.1 The works in Area D (landscaping of a pond and the stripping of topsoil) were monitored revealing disturbed natural geology [06].

4.3.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
06	Layer	Natural Geology	Area D	Area D	-

Table 4: Area D list of recorded contexts

### 4.4 Area E (Figure 3)

4.4.1 This area is also the location of a landscaped pond. 0.3m of topsoil overlay the natural clay [08]. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
07	Layer	Topsoil	Area E	Area E	0.3m
08	Layer	Natural Geology	Area E	Area E	-

Table 5: Area E list of recorded contexts

### 4.5 Area F (Figure 3)

4.5.1 This is the long track from Staplefield Ln which leads up to Stanbridge farm. The track was excavated to a depth of c 0.3m, with the natural geology occasionally seen in patches. The natural geology [11] was overlain by a thin subsoil interface [10], and c.0.3m of topsoil. Around a beck running across the track there was a build-up of clean alluvium [12]. The excavation of a small trench was also monitored in this area, and showed the same stratigraphy.

4.5.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified in this area.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
09	Layer	Topsoil	Area F	Area F	c.0.3m
10	Layer	Subsoil	Area F	Area F	c. 0.1m
11	Layer	Natural	Area F	Area F	-
12	Layer	Alluvium	c. 4m	c. 3m	>0.2m

Table 6: Area F list of recorded contexts

### 4.6 Area G (Figure 3)

4.6.1 Area G was a landscaped pond, but included a track leading up to it from Staplefield Lane. The natural clay [14] was identified underneath 0.3m of topsoil [13].

4.6.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
13	Layer	Topsoil	Area G	Area G	c.0.3m
14	Layer	Natural Geology	Area G	Area G	-

Table 7: Area G list of recorded contexts

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 No archaeology was identified in any of the areas monitored.
- 5.2 The lack of any identified archaeology can probably in part be attributed to the fact that the monitored areas were in close proximity to the A23, the construction of which would have had a negative impact on any potential archaeology.
- 5.3 Additionally, some areas only saw the partial exposure of the natural geology, as deeper excavation was not required to complete the works.
- 5.4 No new conclusions about the archaeological landscape of the surrounding areas can be drawn from the findings of this site.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

British Geological Survey Website ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)) accessed on 03/06/2013

MoLAS 1994. *Site Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork*

Jacobs 2012. A23 Handcross to Warninglid Improvements. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Jacobs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, specifically Adam Brossler. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Justin Russell who produced the figures for this report; Andy Leonard who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson who project managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary Form**

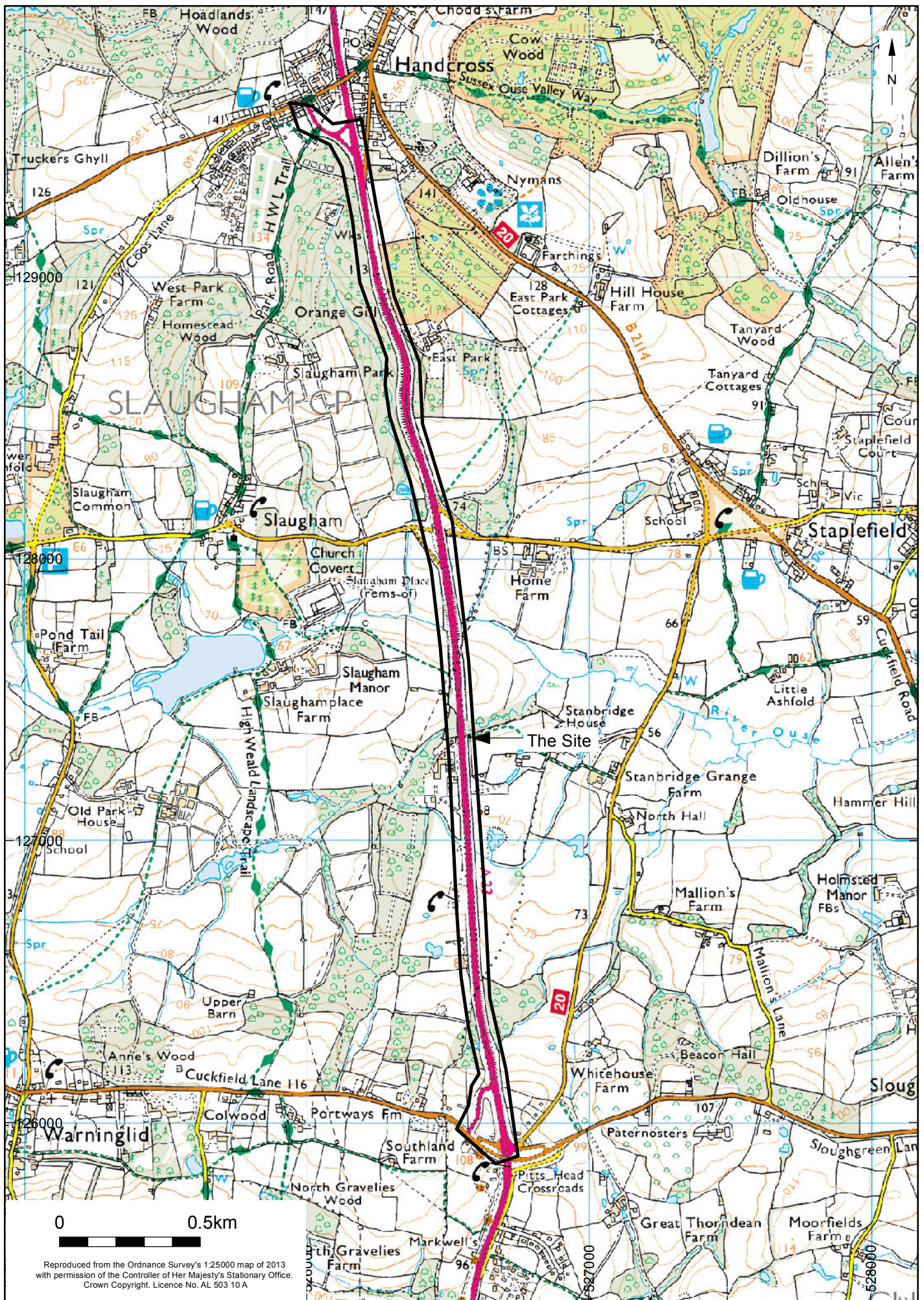
Site Code	HWW 12					
Identification Name and Address	A23 Improvements – Handcross to Warninglid					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ261295 to TQ266262					
Geology	Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand and Weald Clay Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2013136					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Varied Roadside		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 16/07/12 – 16/05/13	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Jacobs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Jacobs, on behalf of their clients Carillion, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on areas of the A23 improvement scheme between Handcross and Warninglid.</i></p> <p><i>The areas monitored were either previously disturbed by the construction of the A23, or were devoid of archaeology. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified on any area of the scheme</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

### Project details

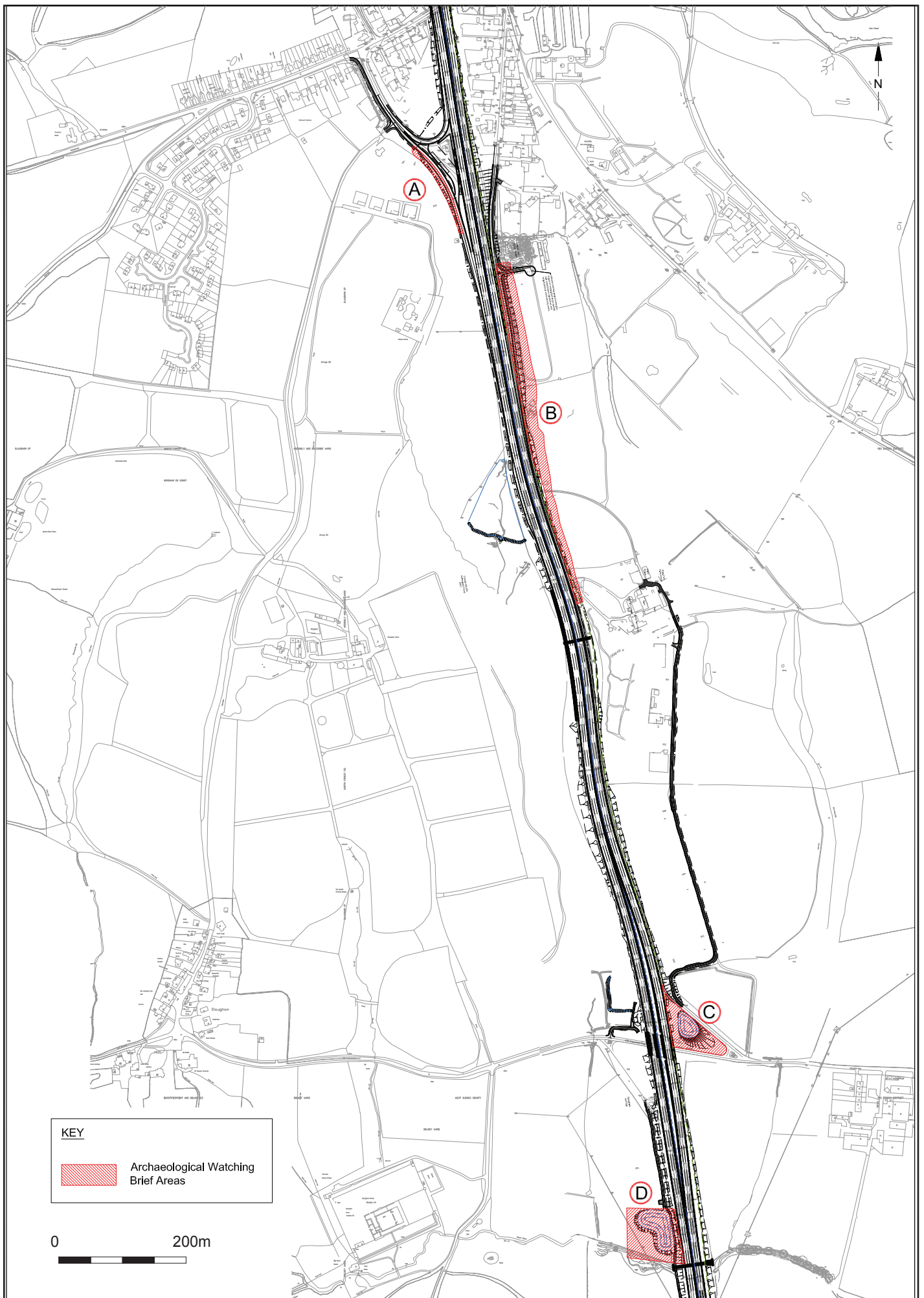
Project name	Watching Brief at the A23 Improvements, Handcross to Warninglid
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Jacobs, on behalf of their clients Carillion, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on areas of the A23 improvement scheme between Handcross and Warninglid. The areas monitored were either previously disturbed by the construction of the A23, or were devoid of archaeology. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified on any area of the scheme
Project dates	Start: 16-07-2012 End: 16-05-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HWW 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX HAYWARDS HEATH A23 Improvements - Handcorss to Warninglid
Postcode	RH17
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 526164 129537 LL - 50 0 (decimal) LL - 50 53 43 N 000 10 13 E (degrees) Line
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 526692 126230 LL - 50 0 (decimal) LL - 50 53 32 N 000 10 15 E (degrees) Line
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Jacobs UK Limited
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Paper Archive recipient	Lewes Museum



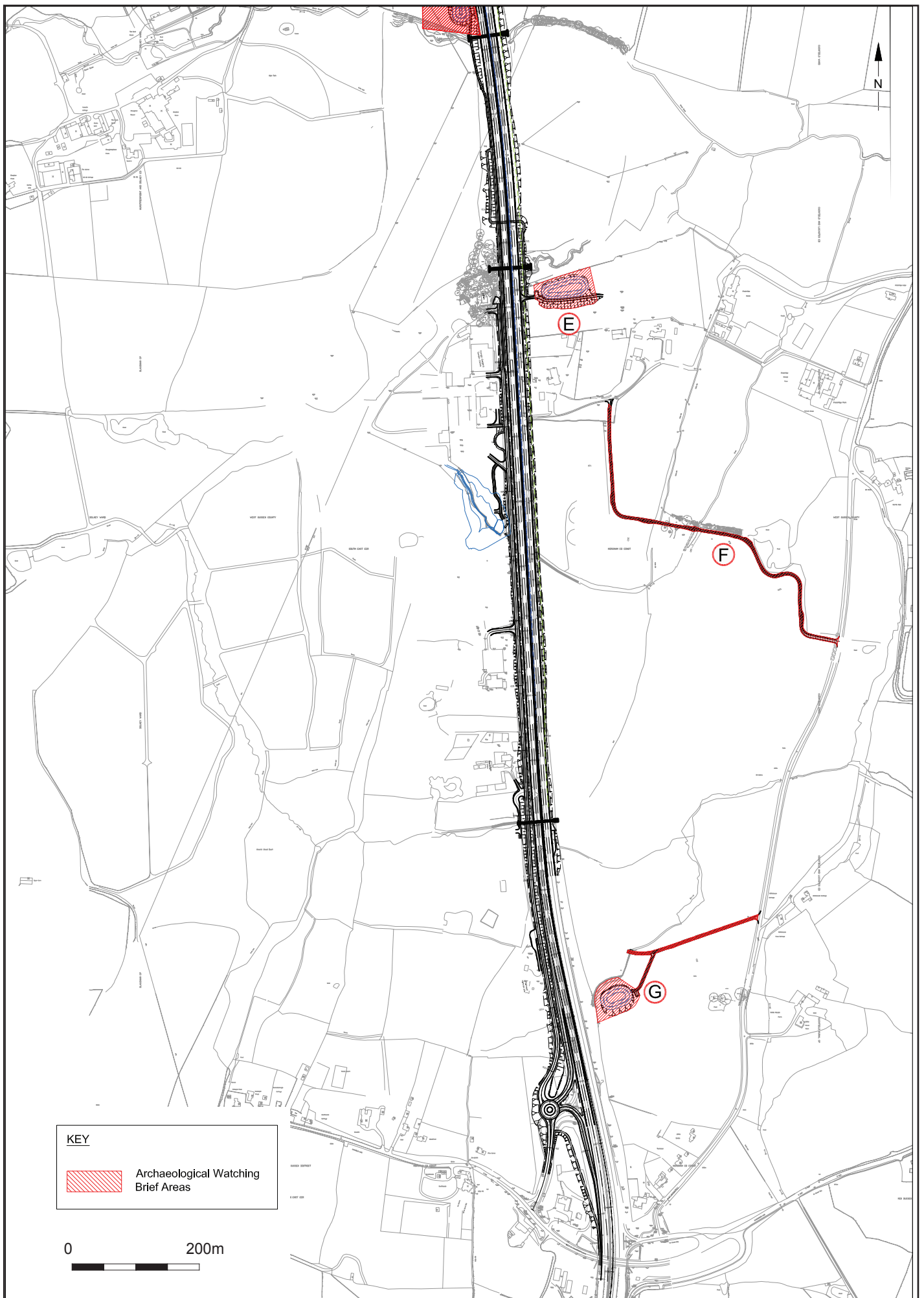


© Archaeology South-East		A23 Improvements Handcross To Warninglid		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5632	June 2013	Site location		
Report Ref: 2013136	Drawn by: RHC			





© Archaeology South-East		A23 Improvments Handcross To Warringlid	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5632	June 2013	Location of sites A - D	
Report Ref: 2013136	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		A23 Improvements Handcross To Warninglid	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5632	June 2013	Location of sites E - G	
Report Ref: 2013136	Drawn by: RHC		

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