

A2300 Corridor Improvements West Sussex

*Archaeological Evaluation during
Geotechnical Investigations*



for
WSP

on behalf of
West Sussex County Council

CA Project: 770848
CA Report: 18700

November 2018



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SUMMARY

Project Name: A2300 Corridor Improvements
Location: West Sussex
NGR: 527200 120275
Type: Evaluation
Date: 11-16 November 2018
Location of Archive: To be deposited with appropriate local Museum
Site Code: DUAL18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during geotechnical investigations associated with the proposed A2300 Corridor Improvements, north-west of Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the geotechnical investigations, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation during geotechnical investigations at the site of the proposed A2300 Corridor Improvements, West Sussex (NGR 527200, 120275) for WSP on behalf of West Sussex County Council.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the creation of a dual carriageway for the A2300, a new junction and associated cycle path.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by John Mills (County Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council), the archaeological advisors to Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC), and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by WSP (2018) and approved by the MSDC acting on the advice of John Mills. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The Site

- 1.4 The Site is located immediately north of the east-west A2300 road north-west of Burgess Hill in Mid Sussex District of West Sussex (Fig. 2). The Site lies at approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and slopes slightly from north to south. In the western part of the Site, there is an outcrop of higher land at 32m aOD.
- 1.5 The Site is bounded by the A2300/A23 roundabout junction to the west, Job's Lane to the north and agricultural fields to the east. The north-south Stairbridge Lane crosses the A2300 in the eastern half of the Site.
- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Weald Clay, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 133.9-126.3 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in a local environment dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS Online, 2018). This matches the geological deposits encountered during the evaluation.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This section is informed by the archaeological background presented in the WSI produced by WSP (2018), which is outlined below:
- 2.2 There have previously been no known archaeological investigation within the Site, and relatively little archaeological work has been conducted in the immediate vicinity. Current understanding of the extent of past human activity is limited, in particular for the prehistoric, Roman and the early Saxon period, for which there is no documentary record.
- 2.3 The Job Brick Co. brickworks occupied the site from 1927 to 1938, and appear on aerial photography but are not shown on any Ordnance Survey (OS) map (John Mills, *per comms*). Job Cottages (which does not appear on the 1910 OS Map), may have begun life as brick makers' cottages, before the establishment of the more formal brickworks. The main brickworks building does not appear on the 1958 OS map (Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map of 1958), and may have closed down at the beginning of World War II due to a labour shortage, and did not reopen.
- 2.3 There have been two previous archaeological investigations along the route of the A2300 road, a geophysical (magnetometer) survey and a supplementary trial trench evaluation in 1996. The former was undertaken by South Eastern Archaeological Services in 1996, with the aim of identifying areas of archaeological potential prior to trial trenching. This survey was carried out adjacent to the east of the Site and did not cover the western extent of the current scheme (Job's cottages to the A23 road), which is the focus of the current works. Overall, the geophysical survey produced negative results for most of the route, other than a few rectilinear features thought to be ditches, but otherwise no clear evidence for settlement. It is noted by the County Archaeologist that magnetometer survey was chosen to pick up larger thermal 'hot spots' e.g. kilns/hearths.
- 2.4 The subsequent archaeological trial trenching undertaken by South Eastern Archaeological Services adjacent to the east of the Site, comprised a total of 26 trenches, each 20m (excepting one 10m trench) and 1.5m wide. The results of the trial trenching showed the topsoil was shallow, averaging 0.4m in depth. None of the trial trenches produced any significant archaeological finds or features with only

modern features recorded (e.g. modern field boundaries and ceramic drains). Only one find was recovered (from the topsoil), interpreted as a Mesolithic blade.

- 2.5 Based on these results along with a review of the WSCC Historic Environment Record, the archaeological potential for the Site is considered to hold moderate potential to contain post-medieval remains associated with brickworks noted on the HER. Such remains are likely to be of low heritage significance.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor geotechnical works, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the Site;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

3.2 Research aims comprise

- What evidence is there for former brickmaking activity on the site?
- What evidence is there for archaeological remains of any period? If present what is their nature, extent and significance?
- What are the nature and levels of natural deposits, and has there been any modern disturbance?

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (WSP, 2018). An archaeologist was present during the geotechnical investigations which comprised the excavation of 5 trenches. **Trenches 2, 3 & 5** were 25m long, **Trench 1** was 20m long, split in two 10m sections (**1a & b**), due to the presence of a live service; and **Trench 4** was 21m long. All trenches were 1.5m wide, apart from **Trench 1a** which was 2m wide. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using



Leica GPS (specify alternative setting out method if not by GPS) and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 Survey Manual.

- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.3 The archive from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the Site archive will be deposited with an appropriate local museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-3)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate of was encountered at varying depths between 0.15m and 0.8m. The natural varied from a mid-blue/yellow silt/clay in **Trench 1** to a mid-brown/yellow silt/clay in the remaining trenches. The natural was not encountered in **Trench 5**. The natural was overlain by made ground deposits in **Trenches 3, 4 and 5**, in turn sealed below subsoil and topsoil.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the trial trenching and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. All finds have been cleaned, quantified by material type in each context and recorded to an Excel spreadsheet. All of the recovered material is modern and will not be retained.
- 6.2 Two fragments of a modern building material, a cement-based conglomerate including pebbles and fragments of ceramic building material, were recovered from made ground layer **502**.
- 6.3 A single glass item, a colourless condiment bottle, was recovered from made ground layer **502**. The bottle is square, with mould-seems and an external screw thread closure, indicating a 20th or 21st century date (SHA 2018).

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed geotechnical investigations. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate a general lack of archaeological remains within the area, as suggested by the archaeological background above and the limited results of adjacent geophysical surveys and trial trenching.
- 7.2 Aerial photographic evidence (John Mills, *per comms*) indicates that the lack of archaeological material within **Trench 5** is due to this area being used for clay extraction, and being subsequently backfilled. Likewise the Western end of **Trench 4** appears on aerial photography to have been within the now demolished brickworks shed, but contained no evidence of brickmaking activity.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard. The report was written by Sam Wilson. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled by Adam Howard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

9. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2018, *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 21 November 2018

Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) 2017 *Bottle Finishes and Closures, Part II: Types or Styles of Finishes*
<https://sha.org/bottle/finishstyles2.htm#Small%20Mouth%20External%20Thread>
Accessed 21 November 2018

John Mills, West Sussex County Archaeologist, 2018, *per comms*

WSP 2018, *A2300 Corridor Improvements: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation during Geotechnical Investigations*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

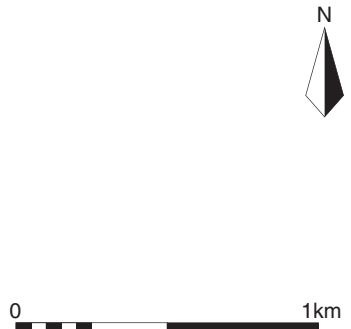
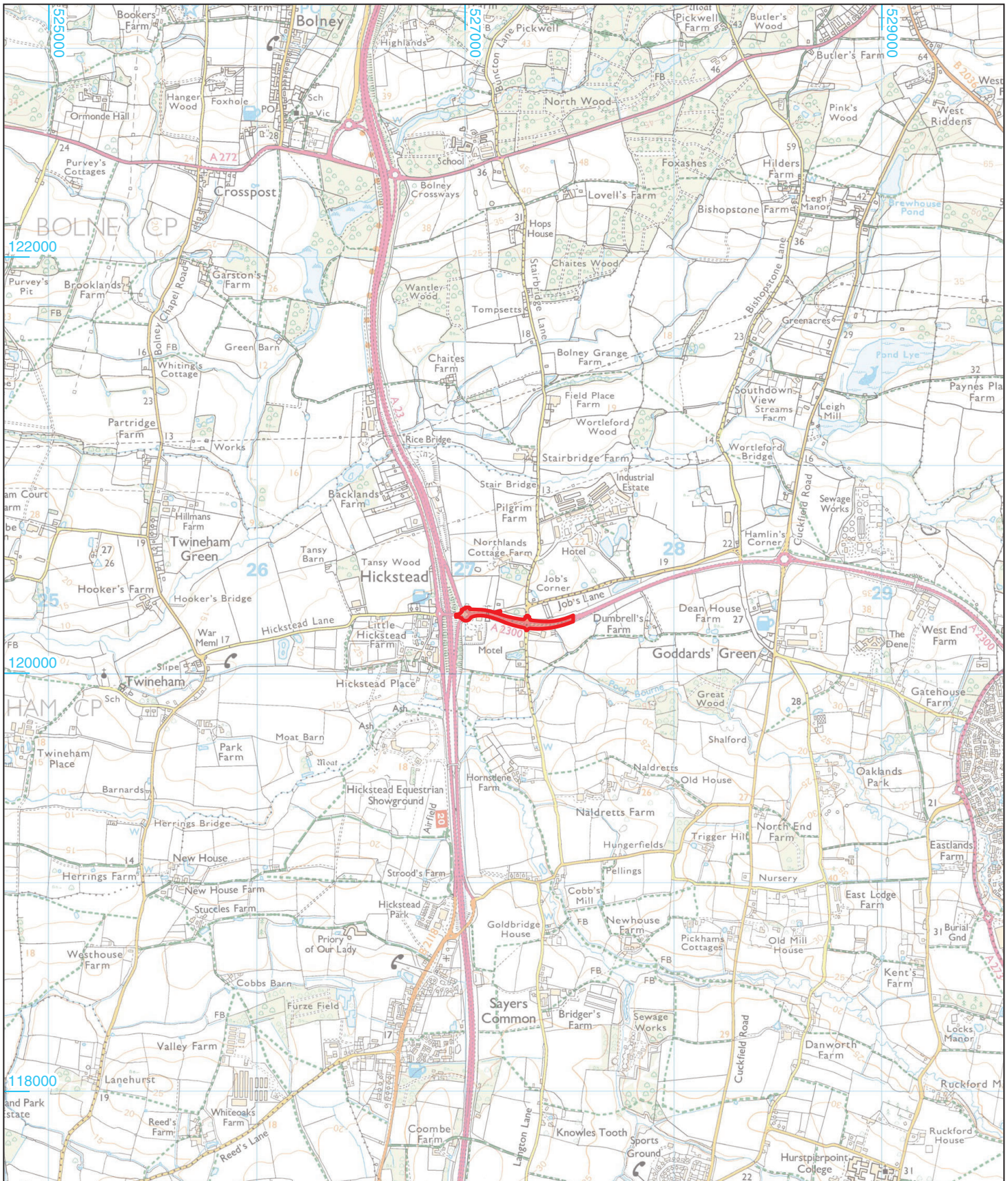
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1a	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey silty clay	10	2	0-0.12
1a	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow silty clay	10	2	0.12-0.44
1a	102	Layer		Natural	Mid blueish yellow silty clay	10	2	0.44-0.55+
1b	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey silty clay	10	1.5	0-0.12
1b	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow silty clay	10	1.5	0.12-0.44
1b	102	Layer		Natural	Mid blueish yellow silty clay	10	1.5	0.44-0.55+
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay	25	1.5	0-0.15
2	201	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow silty clay	25	1.5	0.15-0.2+
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish black silty clay	25.2	1.5	0-0.07
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	25.2	1.5	0.07-0.22
3	302	Layer		Made ground	Mixed topsoil and subsoil with CBM and wood	25.2	1.5	0.22-0.45
3	303	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish grey silty clay	25.2	1.5	0.45-0.53+
4	400	Layer		Levelling deposit	Compact yellow silty clay	21	1.5	0-0.07
4	401	Layer		Made ground	Dark black silty clay with concrete and CBM	21	1.5	0.07-0.8
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow silty clay	21	1.5	0.8-0.87+
4	403	Cut		Pit	Sub circular pit with steep straight sides and sub circular base	2.82	0.53	0.81
4	404	Fill	403	Pit	Dark black silty clay with concrete and CBM	2.82	0.53	0.81
4	405	Cut		Modern	Cut of concrete beam	1.81	0.31	-
4	406	Fill		Modern	Concrete beam	1.81	0.31	-
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid blackish grey silty clay	25.3	1.5	0-0.05
5	501	Layer		Redeposited natural	Mid yellow silty clay	25.3	1.5	0.05-0.21
5	502	Layer		Made ground	Mid blueish grey and yellow silty clay with CBM	25.3	1.5	0.21-2.41
5	503	Layer		Made ground	Concrete and bricks	25.3	1.5	2.41+

APPENDIX B: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
502	glass	Condiment style bottle	1	334	MC20-C21
	building material	Concrete-type conglomerate with pebbles and CBM frags	2	645	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	A2300 Corridor Improvements, West Sussex
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during geotechnical investigations associated with the proposed A2300 Corridor Improvements, north-west of Burgess Hill, West Sussex. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the geotechnical investigations, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.
Project dates	11-16 November 2018
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation
Previous work	None
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	A2300, West Sussex
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.6km in length
Site co-ordinates	527200 120275
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project Design (WSI) originator	WSP
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy
Project Supervisor	Adam Howard
MONUMENT TYPE	
None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	
None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Ceramics etc
Paper	Trench sheets, registers
Digital	Digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Cotswold Archaeology (CA), 2018, <i>A2300 Corridor Improvements, West Sussex: Archaeological Evaluation during Geotechnical Investigations</i> . CA typescript report 18700	



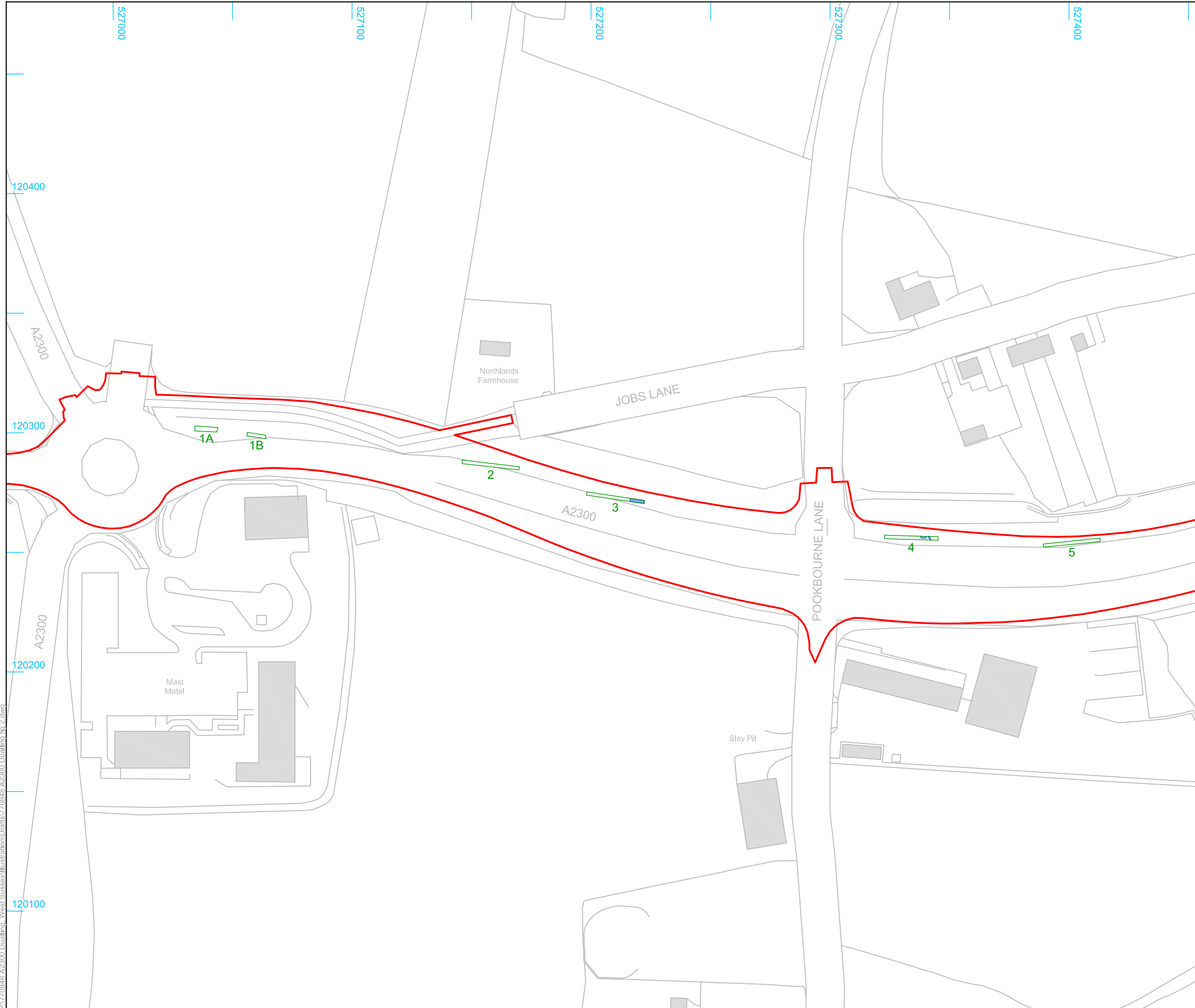
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PROJECT TITLE
 A2300 Dualling, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

DRAWN BY TB	PROJECT NO. 770848	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 26.11.18	
APPROVED BY RK	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- modern



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PROJECT TITLE
 A2300 Dualling, West Susses

FIGURE TITLE
 The Site, showing results

DRAWN BY TB	PROJECT NO. 770848	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 26.11.18	2
APPROVED BY RK	SCALE@A3 1:1500	

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Trench 1a, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 3, looking west (1m scales)



Modern pit 403, looking north (1m scale)

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