

Land South of Water Lane Angmering West Sussex

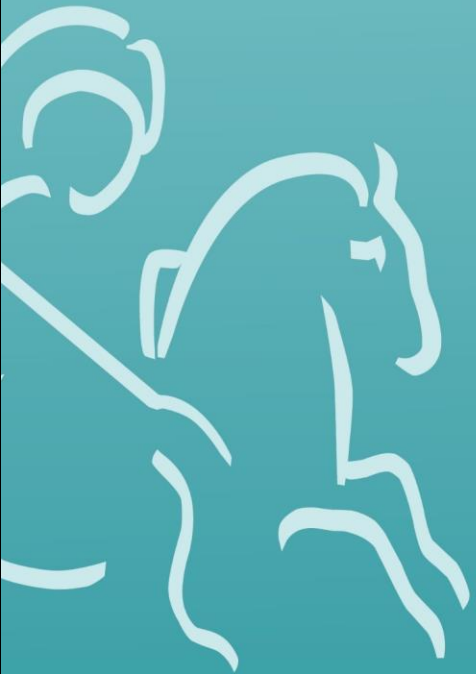
Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Barratt David Wilson Homes
Southern Counties

CA Project: AN0269
CA Report: AN0269_1

December 2021



Land South of Water Lane Angmering West Sussex

Archaeological Watching Brief

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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Project name: | Land South of Water Lane |
| Location: | Angmering, West Sussex |
| NGR: | 507544 104454 |
| Type: | Watching brief |
| Date: | 6-9 & 13-15 September 2021 |
| Planning reference: | A/179/20/RES |
| Location of Archive: | To be deposited with Littlehampton Museum (TBC) and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) |
| Site Code: | AGWB21 |

In September 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of culverted access route to the adjacent, new residential development.

No archaeological features were exposed during this phase of works. The limited area of construction work revealed alluvial deposits containing a sparse amount of worked flint, suggesting low-level activity in the area during prehistory. A possible blade/flake core was attributed to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In September 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Land South of Water Lane, Angmering, West Sussex centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 507544 104454 (see Figure 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Barratt David Wilson Homes Southern Counties.
- 1.2. Arun District Council (ADC) has granted outline planning permission for the reserved matters application (planning ref: A/179/20/RES) for the construction of a culverted access route across the Black Ditch (hereafter referred to as “the site”), which forms the northern boundary of the wider development site. The culvert will form part of the access route to the approved residential development due to be constructed (planning ref: A/99/17/OUT). A condition of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved WSI.
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by James Kenny (Chichester District Council), the archaeological advisor to ADC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2020) and approved by James Kenny.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also in line with *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (Chichester District Council *et al.* 2019), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The development site is approximately 9ha in extent. and comprises pastoral land around Avenals Farm, on the eastern periphery of Angmering. It is bounded by Water Lane to the north, residential properties to the south, the A280 to the east and Weavers Hill to the west. The site lies at approximately 8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north of the site, rising to 15m aOD in the south.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as the Lambeth Group of Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 56 to 66 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period (BGS 2021).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The following background information is derived from the WSI (CA 2020) and represents a summary of the results of a desk-based assessment carried out by CgMs Heritage (now RPS) in 2016, a geophysical survey report carried out by GSB in 2016 and archaeological evaluations carried out by ASE in 2016 and Cotswold Archaeology 2020.

Prehistoric

- 2.2. Evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is limited to a findspot of a Neolithic flint axe, c. 500m north-west of the site, and pottery and flintwork from postholes and ditches dating to the Neolithic period at Pound Nursery, c. 375m east of the site. Evidence of Bronze Age activity in the vicinity of the site is plentiful. The evaluation at Pound Nursery also revealed evidence for systematic land organisation, possibly dating to the Late Bronze Age, and an archaeological evaluation west of the site at 24 Water Lane revealed Late Bronze Age pottery, burnt flint, worked flint and plant macro remains.

Iron Age and Roman

- 2.3. Works on the Angmering bypass recovered Iron Age and Roman artefacts from upper fills of ditches, including a La Tène I brooch and Roman pottery. A substantial Middle to Late Iron Age grain storage and processing site was recorded c. 120m south of the site. Early Roman ditches were also identified at Pound Nursery, c. 375m to the east.

Early medieval and Medieval

- 2.4. Immediately adjacent to the south-east of the wider development site, early Saxon and medieval evidence was recorded during works on the Angmering Bypass South, consisting of ditches, pits and postholes.

Previous Archaeological Investigation

- 2.5. A geophysical survey carried out on site by GSB in 2016 identified several ditches forming complex enclosures and trackways across the south-east part of the wider development site. A 3% evaluation was then undertaken by ASE in 2016, with a subsequent 2% evaluation carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in 2020. The evaluations were able to confirm the results of the geophysical survey, noting a series of complex enclosures dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, that appeared to continue in use into the Roman Period. The enclosures were in the south-east part

of the wider development site. In addition, the evaluations revealed evidence of a medieval field system in the western part of the wider development site and a small assemblage of residual flint from the later deposits indicated probable transient early prehistoric activity within the vicinity.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:

- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data; and
- at the conclusion of the project, to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.

3.2. As the site had the potential to contain remains associated with the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age, the watching brief had the potential to contribute to the South East Research Framework (Champion 2019).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development. These works comprised the machine excavation of foundation of culvert for crossing the Black Ditch (Figure 2).

4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3. Deposits were assessed for their paleoenvironmental potential, with no deposits identified that required sampling.

4.4. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.5. CA will make arrangements with Littlehampton Museum (TBC) for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology

Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).

- 4.6. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.

- 5.2. The watching brief was split into five areas (see Figure 2). Some of the recorded layers are therefore continuations of the same layers.

Area 1

- 5.3. The natural geological substrate **103** comprised mid grey-brown silt/gravels and was revealed at an average depth of 1.1m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by alluvium **102**, averaging 0.2m in thickness, which was covered by subsoil/alluvium **101**, averaging 0.75m in thickness. **101** was sealed by 0.15m of topsoil **100**. The area borders The Black Ditch (**Areas 2 & 5**) and has most likely been flooded repeatedly in wet seasons. Alluvium **102** produced five worked flint articles, scattered across the area.

Areas 2 and 5

- 5.4. **Areas 2** and **5** are extensions of the water-logged area bordering the Black Ditch on the north side. The areas were opened with a week's gap between and are therefore recorded separately. **Areas 2 & 5** were not sampled or investigated closely due to risks to health and safety concerning the ground conditions. The natural geological substrate **202/502** comprised blue-grey silt/clay and was revealed at an average depth of 0.9m bpgl. This was overlain by subsoil **201/501**, averaging 0.2m in thickness, which was sealed in turn by 0.74m of alluvial topsoil **200/500**.

Area 3

- 5.5. **Area 3** comprises a service trench, excavated to locate an underground service route. The recorded depth was 0.2m bpgl and dug through made ground **300**, bordering Water Lane, to the immediate north-west.

Area 4

- 5.6. **Area 4** comprised a wide, shallow area excavated to the east of **Area 5**, removing topsoil **400** to a depth of 0.05m bpgl. The area was excavated to use the compacted yellow/brown clay/sand, soil to backfill the water-logged **Area 5**. During the excavation, deposited modern building material was exposed.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material dating to the prehistoric period was hand-recovered from one deposit (alluvium **102**). Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B.

Lithics

- 6.2. Five worked flints, in an edge damaged condition, were recorded from alluvial deposit **102**. These comprise four flakes, one of which is broken, and a multiplatform core (Ra. 1). The core has been well used for the manufacture of flakes and possibly blades – it displays two potential blade scars. The flakes are not chronologically diagnostic types and only broad prehistoric dating is possible. If the blade scars are genuine, the core most likely dates to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period.

Discussion

- 6.3. The small lithics assemblage provides evidence of prehistoric activity, with the core indicative of knapping. This activity may date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period, however, it is not possible to be certain from the recovered lithics.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. The limited areas covered by the archaeological watching brief contains little activity through time, The alluvial deposit in **Area 1** contained four flint flakes and a core, suggesting low-level activity in this area during prehistory and possibly datable to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. The finds could alternatively have been relocated by flooding events. The archaeological deposits observed during the archaeological evaluation in 2020 do not extend as far north or were not exposed during the watching brief.
- 7.2. In modern times the area around the river appears to have been used for disposal of modern waste, as identified in **Areas 2, 4 and 5**.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Majbritt Trim & Pawel Jablonski. This report was written by Majbritt Trim. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The report illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The project archive has been compiled by Majbritt Trim and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Tony Brown.

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- Cotswold Archaeology. 2020a. *Land South of Water Lane, Angmering, West Sussex: Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Project No. AN0135.
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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

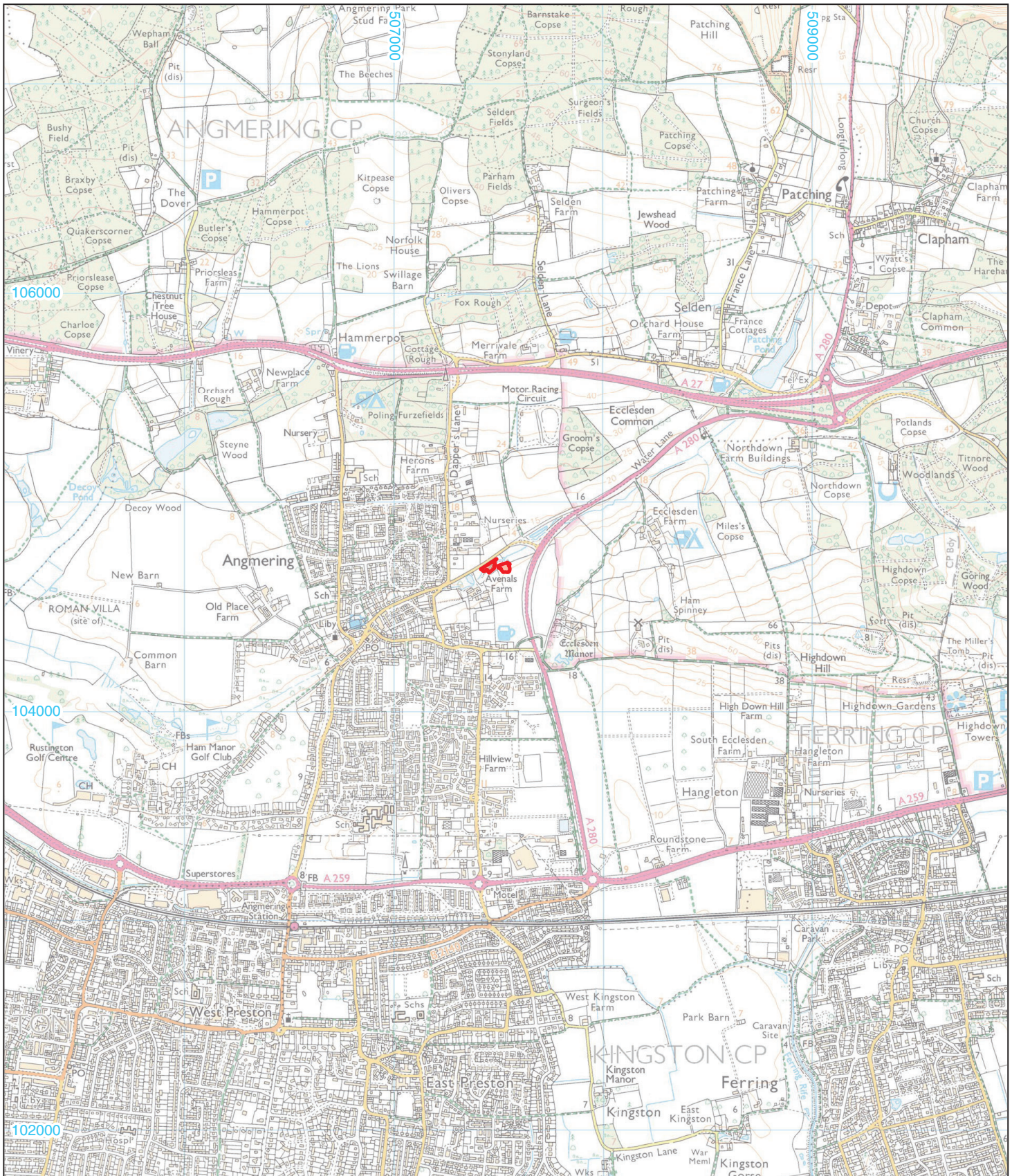
| Area | Context No. | Type | Fill of | Interpretation | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------------|-------|---------|----------------|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 100 | Layer | | Topsoil | Dark grey, silt with infrequent subrounded flint. | 70 | 20 | 0-0.15 | |
| 1 | 101 | Layer | | Subsoil | Mid grey, silt with mid sorted rounded flint gravel. | 70 | 20 | 0.15-0.9 | |
| 1 | 102 | Layer | | Alluvium | Mid grey silty gravel, subangular flint. | 50 | 20 | 0.9-1.1 | |
| 1 | 103 | Layer | | Natural | Pale grey-brown silty clay, disturbed by bioturbation. | 50 | 20 | 1.1-1.2 | |
| 2 | 200 | Layer | | Alluvium | Boggy dark grey organic material, rubble, metal and CBM. | 10 | 8 | 0.0-0.74 | |
| 2 | 201 | Layer | | Deposit | Light grey, mid sorted gravel with silt. | 10 | 8 | 0.74-0.9 | |
| 3 | 300 | Layer | | Made ground | Made ground, dark grey, silt with infrequent subrounded flint. | 70 | 0.3 | 0.0-0.2 | |
| 4 | 400 | Layer | | Topsoil | Yellow-brown, clayey sand, covered in grass | 55 | 45 | 0.0-0.05 | |
| 5 | 500 | Layer | | Alluvium | Boggy dark grey organic material, rubble, metal and CBM. | 25 | 13 | 0.0-0.74 | |
| 5 | 501 | Layer | | Deposit | Light grey, mid sorted gravel with silt. | 25 | 13 | 0.74-0.9 | |
| 5 | 502 | Layer | | Natural | Waterlogged blue-grey silty clay. | 25 | 13 | >0.9 | |


APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

| Context | Category | Description | Count | Weight (g) | Spot-date |
|---------|----------|-------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| 102 | Flint | Flake | 4 | 26 | - |
| | Flint | Core, Ra. 1 | 1 | 200 | |

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|---|--|
| Project name | Land South of Water Lane, Angmering, West Sussex | |
| Short description | <p>In September 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of culverted access route to the adjacent, new residential development.</p> <p>No archaeological features were exposed during this phase of works. The limited area of construction work revealed alluvial deposits containing a sparse amount of worked flint, suggesting low-level activities in the area during prehistory. A possible blade/flake core was attributed to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods.</p> | |
| Project dates | 6-9 & 13-15 September 2021 | |
| Project type | Archaeological Watching Brief | |
| Previous work | Geophysical survey (GSB 2016) Archaeological evaluation (ASE 2016; CA 2020) | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site location | Land south of Water Lane, Angmering, West Sussex | |
| Study area (m ² /ha) | 9ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | NGR: 507544 104454 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project brief originator | N/A | |
| Project design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Tony Brown | |
| Project Supervisor | Majbritt Trim | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | None | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | None | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) |
| Physical | Littlehampton Museum (TBC) | Worked flint |
| Paper | Littlehampton Museum (TBC) | Trench sheets |
| Digital | ADS | Database, digital photos, Survey |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| Cotswold Archaeology. 2021. <i>Land South of Water Lane, Angmering, West Sussex: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report AN0269_1 | | |



 Watching brief area boundaries



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land south of Water Lane. Angmering,
 West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| DRAWN BY | RP | PROJECT NO. | AN0269 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 02.11.21 | 1 |
| APPROVED BY | TB | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000 | |



- Watching brief areas
- Modern
- Natural
- Watercourse



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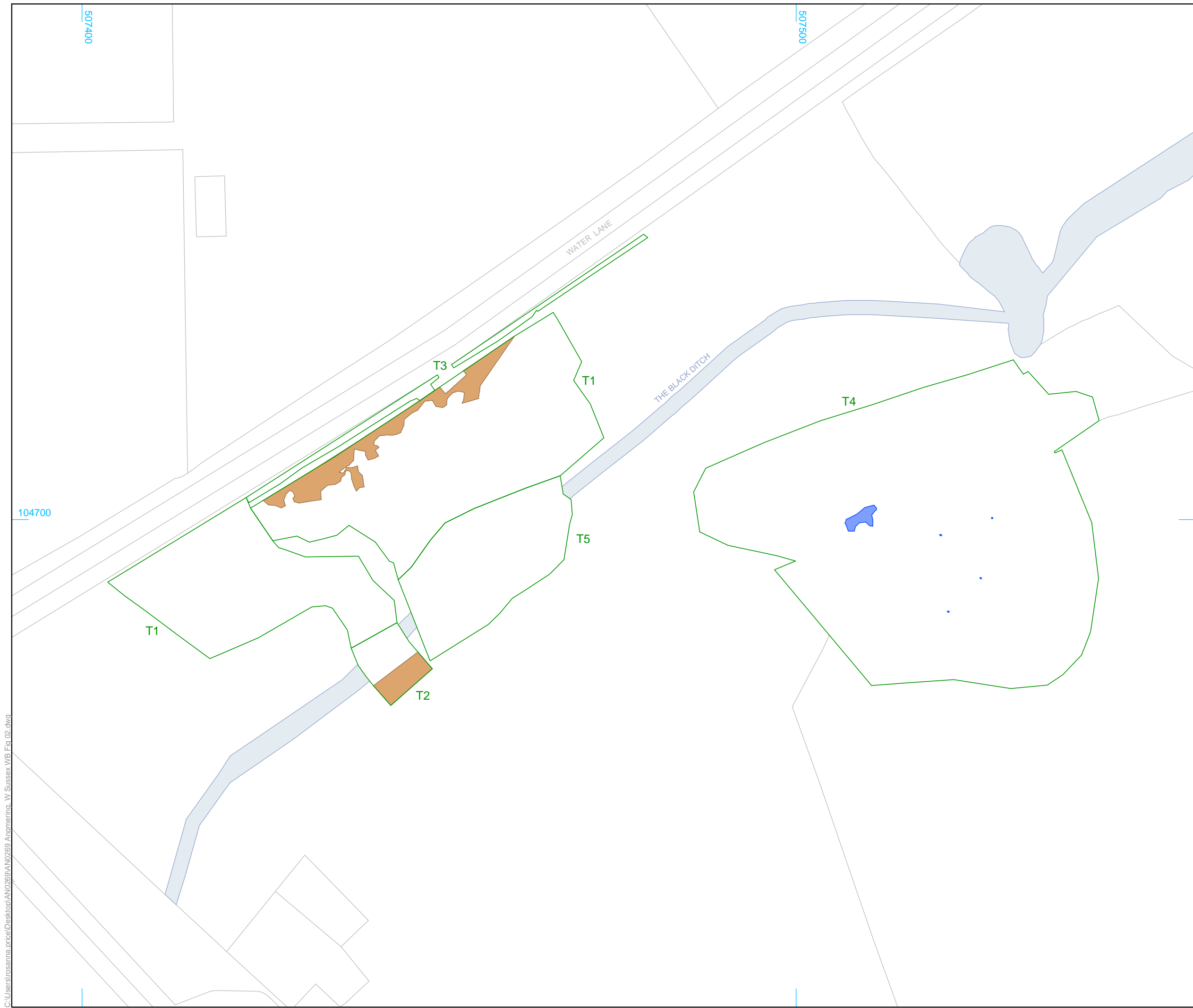
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PROJECT TITLE
Land south of Water Lane. Angmering, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
Location of watching brief areas

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|-------------|-----|-------------|----------|---------------------------|
| DRAWN BY | RP | PROJECT NO. | AN0269 | <small>FIGURE NO.</small> |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 02.11.21 | 2 |
| APPROVED BY | TB | SCALE@A3 | 1:500 | |



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Area 1, looking south-west (1m scales)



Section in Area 1, showing modern backfill – contexts 100, 101, 102 and 103; looking north-west (1m scale)



General view of Area 5



Foreground: The Black Ditch, Area 5. Background: Area 1, undergoing stripping


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
General photographs of Areas 1 and 5

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|-------------|-----|-------------|----------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | RP | PROJECT NO. | AN0269 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 03.11.21 | 3 |
| APPROVED BY | TB | SCALE@A3 | NA | |

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