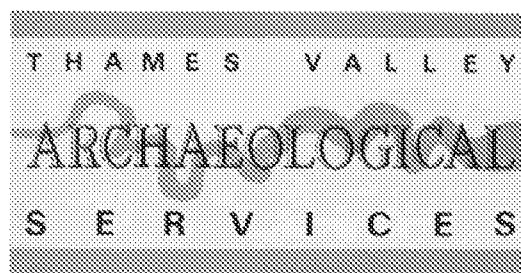


Land at Springfield, Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex

Project specification for an archaeological evaluation

Planning reference : AL/64/20/PL

7th January 2021



Ref: 21s03ev

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1.0 Background

1.1 The site is located to the east of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex (SU 9355 0455) (Figs. 1 and 2). The western part of the site is currently occupied by a house, Springfield, and its associated driveway and front garden. The rest of the site is largely covered with grass and includes the rear garden of Springfield.

1.2 Thames Valley Archaeological Services has been commissioned to carry out the necessary archaeological work in respect of the site by Mr Chris Southcott of Imperial Homes Southern, Paddock View, Calcot Mount Business Park, Calcot Lane, Curdridge, Southampton, SO32 2BN.

1.3 Planning permission (AL/64/20/PL) has been gained from Arun District Council to redevelop the site for residential housing, following the demolition of the existing house. The consent is subject to a planning condition (7) relating to archaeology and the historic environment.

Condition 7 states that:

'No development shall commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.'

Reason: The site is of archaeological significance in accordance with Policy HER DM6 of the Arun Local Plan. It is considered necessary for this to be a pre-commencement condition because archaeology can only be investigated before construction commences.'

1.4 Although the site lies about 1.2 km south-east of the historic core of Aldingbourne, it is actually closer to two of the settlements which subsequently developed within the parish (Woodgate and Westergate). The site lies within the Sussex Coastal Plain, which is an area thought to be archaeologically rich for most periods, largely due to its fertile soils. Numerous archaeological features were recently recorded immediately to the north of the present site, prior to a new housing development being built. Many of the features provided evidence for settlement in the Middle to Late Iron Age, although some early Roman and medieval activity was also noted. Slightly further afield, a large scale archaeological excavation at Lidsey Landfill recorded evidence of occupation spanning the period from the Middle Bronze Age to Late Iron Age. These features had been superseded by a Roman field system (Wallis and Ford 2014).

2.0 Requirement for Work

2.1 As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by proposed re-development of the site, it is proposed to carry out a field evaluation, as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Council's policies on archaeology, to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

2.2 One component of work is proposed at this stage; namely field investigation by means of machine trenching. Dependent on the findings of this evaluation, further archaeological work may be requested, as will be determined through consultation with the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer who advises Arun District Council on archaeological matters. This document is concerned with the trial trenching phase of archaeological works, and any additional work will be governed by a separate written scheme of investigation.

2.3 This is to take place according to a written scheme of investigation approved by the District Council, as advised by the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer who advises Arun District Council.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The aims of the investigation will be to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeo-environmental deposits within the proposed area of development.

3.2 This work will be carried out in a manner which will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ.

3.3 The specific research aims of this project are;

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- c) To determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Iron Age period are present.
- d) To determine if any archaeological deposits associated with features found on the site immediately to the north are present.
- e) To inform a strategy for mitigation if required
- f) The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Trench Layout

4.1.1 We propose to dig 6 trenches, each 26m long and 1.6m wide, as close as possible to the positions shown on Figure 3. If the trenches cannot be excavated as intended for any reason, such as the presence of trees or services, it may be required to sub-divide or re-position the trenches.

4.2 A contingency for the equivalent of an additional 15m length of trenching is included within the proposal should this be required to clarify any deposits found in the initial trenching.

4.3 Excavation Methodology

4.3.1 Topsoil and any other overburden will be removed by a JCB- or 360°- type machine. A toothless ditching bucket will be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. The excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision. TVAS staff will be particularly alert to the presence of worked flints within the soil horizons, as these could indicate the presence of Mesolithic occupation sites.

4.3.2 Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

4.3.3 Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed will be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the objective set out in 3.2. The exact proportion of deposits investigated will be discussed with the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer who advises Arun District Council, but the basic (by volume) minimum feature sampling levels will be as follows.

- 50% of each cut discrete feature (pits, postholes etc.)
- 25% of each linear feature's exposed area, plus all terminals and intersections.
- 50% of structural features (beamslots, ring ditches etc.). Actual structural elements (walls, collapse, debris etc.) will just require exposure, cleaning and preservation for excavation under more appropriate circumstances.
- 50-100% of domestic / industrial working features (hearths, ovens etc.), unless they would be better investigated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

4.3.4 Additional excavation, up to complete removal, may be required of any feature should the excavated samples fail to provide the necessary information as to enable their purpose or date to be ascertained.

4.3.5 At the post-excavation stage (see 5.5 below) the collection policy of the recipient museum will be followed and which may involve the discarding of some classes of building material, such as brick and tile or flint nodules after recording with only a representative sample being retained.

4.3.6 Conservation on site will follow guidelines in First Aid For Finds with any other specialist conservation work subcontracted to our conservation advisor (see below).

4.3.7 A programme of environmental sampling will take place should sufficient well stratified subsoil deposits be located. Typically this involves samples of up to 40L depending on the size of the feature examined. A programme of environmental sampling will take place, if any significant deposits are encountered. These will be sampled in consultation with our environmental consultants and the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer who advises Arun District Council. Sampling will take place according to Historic England guidance (HE 2015b).

4.3.8 It is not envisaged that unusual or important deposits (such as peat or waterlogged deposits) will be encountered. However, should these be present, a programme of sampling under the guidance of our specialists will take place in consultation with the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer who advises Arun District Council.

4.3.9 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the coroner but no further action will be taken as part of the evaluation exercise, unless too fragile to survive reburial or if requested as additional work by the client in consultation with the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer who advises Arun District Council. Any subsequent excavation of human remains will be carried out following receipt of the appropriate Ministry of Justice license. Recovery and recording methodologies for human remains will follow standard procedures identified by McKinley and Roberts (1993), Brickley and McKinley (2004), and the TVAS Field Recording Manual (8th edition 2018). Any human bone recovered of archaeological significance will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course, and will not be reinterred in earth.

4.3.10 Spoilheaps will be searched for finds including use of a metal detector.

4.3.11 Metal detectors will be used by in-house staff to enhance the recovery of metal finds as the overlying layers are removed. All gold and silver, prehistoric base metal and any associated objects will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner and county finds liaison officer according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act (1996) and subsequent amendments. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. No title will be assumed by the finder of any items of value. Metal detectors will primarily be used to search hand excavated spoil, although site surveys may also be undertaken, with a log kept of any features surveyed and the results.

4.3.12 Following completion of all excavation, recording and monitoring, the trenches will be efficiently backfilled but not resurfaced, re-turfed or reseeded.

4.4 Recording Methodology

4.4.1 A single context recording system will be used in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording Manual (8th edition 2018). Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets.

4.4.2 All archaeological deposits exposed will be planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. All site drawings will be by pencil on drafting film.

4.4.3 Heights above OD will be taken and recorded on plans and sections.

4.4.4 Where appropriate, significant finds will be recorded in 3D.

4.4.5 The location of the trenches, and of all plans and sections will be tied into the National Grid using a GPS system

4.4.6 A photographic record will be made of the evaluation project, consisting of digital image. It will record the principal features and finds discovered, both in detail and in their general context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. Digital working shots will also be taken during the evaluation, which will be forwarded to Arun District Council for training and outreach purposes if requested.

4.5 Post-fieldwork

4.5.1 Finds processing, environmental sample processing and analysis will commence immediately following the completion of the fieldwork in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), CIfA guidance (CIfA 2020a) and TVAS post-excavation procedures (6th edition 2013) with the results included within the report.

4.5.2 Artefacts/ecofacts will be cleaned, conserved and prepared for long term museum storage.

4.5.3 Specialist reports will be prepared on the artefacts recovered. Particular attention will be paid to correlating the pottery recovered with local or regional fabric type sequences that have already been established for this area.

4.5.4 Specialist analysis and reporting will be carried out by the following specialist staff or consultants as appropriate:-

pottery - Dr J Timby, Ms A Lyons, Dr B McNee, Ms S Anderson or Mr L Barber (consultants) or Dr R Tabor (TVAS)

stone - Dr J Williams (Southampton University)

bone - Ms S Hamilton-Dyer, Dr M Holmes, (consultants) or Ms C Falys (TVAS)

later struck flint - Dr S Ford (TVAS)

charred plant remains/environment - Professor M Robinson (Oxford University) or Ms R McKenna (consultant)

metalwork - Dr R Taylor (consultant)

brick and tile – Ms D Milbank (TVAS)

slag - Dr D Dungworth (consultant)

pollen - Mr Dan Young or Mr C Green (Quest, Reading University)

dendrochronology – Sheffield University

radiocarbon - Queens University, Belfast

conservation - Wiltshire County Council Conservation Centre

5.0 Report and Dissemination

5.1 A full report on the results of the evaluation should be available within 2-3 weeks of completion of the fieldwork.

5.2 The reports will follow our established format, comprising a descriptive text, illustrations and catalogues in appendices.

5.3 The text will address the aims and objectives of the evaluation, the methodology employed, describe the basic nature of the archaeological deposits discovered, and report on the artefacts recovered. It will then attempt to place the significance of the findings in their local, regional and national setting if appropriate.

5.4 The reports will include a front sheet providing the following information:

- *Site name
- *District and Parish
- *Planning reference
- *Grid reference
- *Site activity (eg. evaluation trenching, geophysical survey, fieldwalking, watching brief, excavation etc.)
- *Date and duration of project
- *Site code
- *Area of site
- *Summary of results
- *Monuments identified (referenced to the RCHME Thesaurus of Monument Types)
- *Location and reference of archive

5.5 The illustrations will include:

- a site location plan
- a trench layout plan
- trench plans and sections
- profiles/sections of a selection of excavated features
- a selection of colour photos of significant findings

5.6 Catalogues giving descriptions of trenches, archaeological features, and artefacts will be contained in a series of appendices.

5.7 Any findings of academic merit will be published as a note in an appropriate journal such as *Sussex Archaeological Collections*. Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download on the TVAS web site.

5.8 Copies of the results will be supplied to the West Sussex HER in both digital (.pdf) and paper copy as necessary. A copy of the report will also be forwarded to the local planning authority in due course. A selection of digital images documenting the project will also be supplied to the HER if requested.

5.9 Details will be supplied to the OASIS project.

5.10 A summary report of c. 150-300 words will be sent to the Chichester District Council archaeological officer on completion of the fieldwork, which will contain a brief description of the results of the project, with particular emphasis on the distribution of archaeological features found across the site.

5.11 Information will be made available to interested local historical or archaeological societies, along with members of the local community, including the opportunity to visit the fieldwork should this be requested. This is in keeping with the requirements of the recent *National Planning Policy Framework*, although due to health and safety considerations, and the possible issue of commercial confidentiality, any dissemination of information or arranging of site visits will only take place following consultation with the client and the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer who advises Arun District Council.

6.0 Archive Deposition

6.1 The finds and site archive will be prepared in consultation with the recipient museum.

6.2 The site and finds archive will be deposited with Chichester Museum (The Novium). The museum will be contacted prior to the commencement of fieldwork on the site to confirm that they are happy to accept the archives, and to issue an accession number if necessary.

6.3 With the consent of the landowner, the site finds will be deposited with Chichester Museum.

6.4 The records will be copied onto microfiche for the National Archaeological Record.

7.0 General Items

7.1 The project will be managed on a regular basis by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (S. Ford, J. Pine, A Taylor or S. Wallis) with an appropriate area of competence.

7.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with the CIFA Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation (2020b) and Code of Conduct (2019) and the quality control mechanisms set out in the TVAS fieldwork and post-fieldwork manuals.

7.3 Safe working practices as set out in TVAS health and safety manual will be adopted and current health and safety regulations will be adhered to. If the site is accessible to the public, the trenches will be fenced with barrier mesh/bunting and road pins or heras fencing as necessary.

7.4 Our insurance cover comprises £10 million for public liability, £10 million for employee liability, cover for any hired-in plant, and professional indemnity cover of £5m.

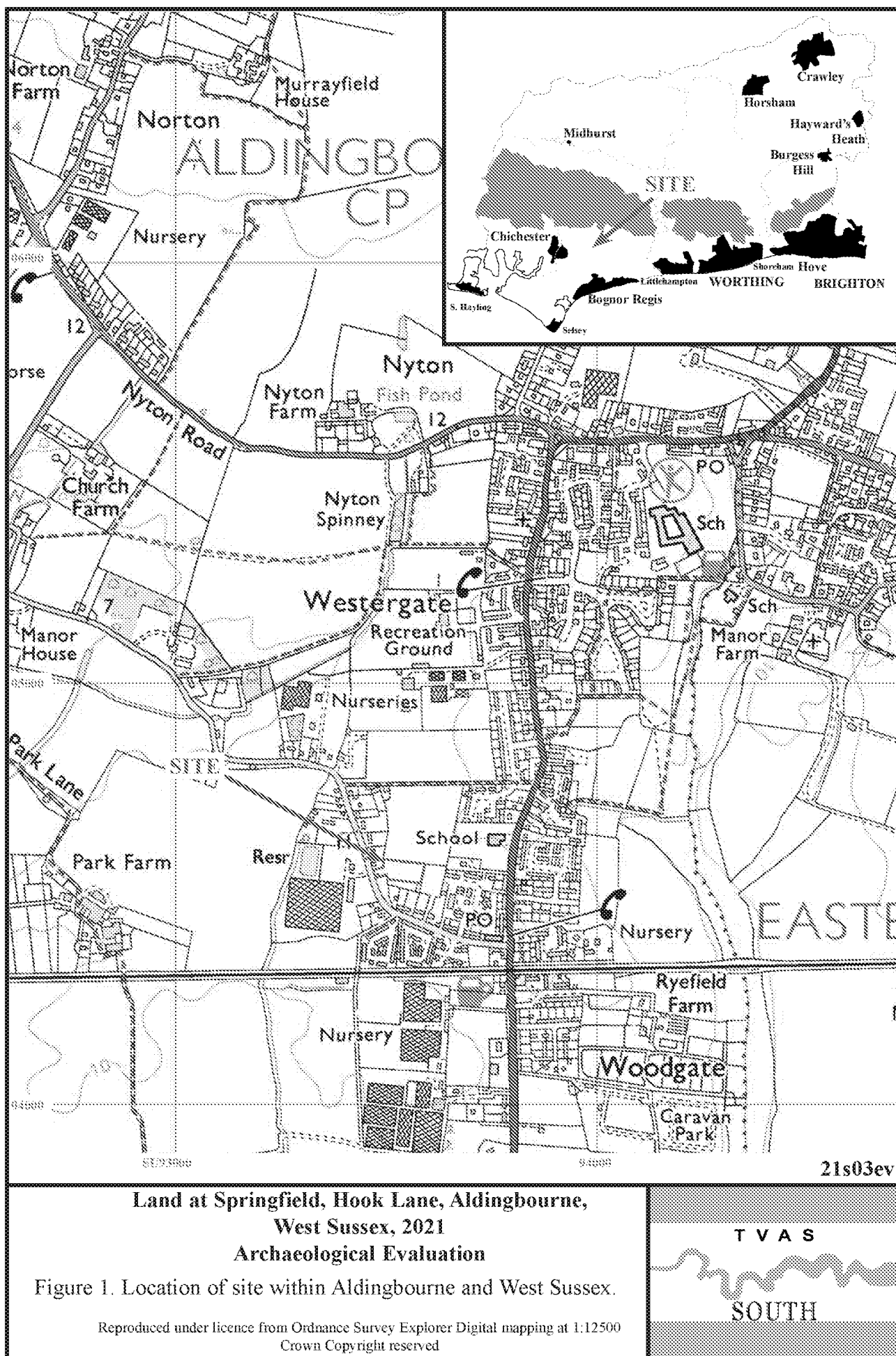
7.5 The fieldwork and post-fieldwork will be monitored by the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer and all reasonable access will be provided to the works. Any changes in the agreed project design will be discussed and agreed with the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer before implementation.

8.0 Resources

It is anticipated that 6-12 man/days will be required on site with a similar number for post-fieldwork.

9.0 References

- Brickley, M and McKinley, J (eds), 2004, *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, IFA Pap 7.
- CIfA, 2019, *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading.
- CIfA, 2020a, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading.
- CIfA, 2020b, *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Reading.
- HE, 2015a, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MoRPHE project planning*, Historic England, London.
- HE, 2015b, *Environmental Archaeology*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, Historic England, Portsmouth. (3rd edn).
- HE, 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London.
- McKinley, J and Roberts, C, 1993, *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*, IFA Techn Pap 13, Reading.
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London.
- Wallis, S and Ford, S, 2014, *Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age Occupation and Roman Fields at Lidsey Landfill, Woodgate, West Sussex*, Thames Valley Archaeological Services Occ Pap 5, Reading.





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**Land at Springfield, Hook Lane, Aldingbourne,
West Sussex, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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**Land at Springfield, Hook Lane, Aldingbourne,
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Plan showing proposed development and
evaluation trenches.

