

DEVELOPMENT ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICES Ltd

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT STUDY OF LAND WEST OF HOOK LANE, ALDINGBOURNE, WEST SUSSEX.

[Site Centred at National Grid Reference: SU 93385 04590]
Planning Application Reference: AL/79/20/OUT
West Sussex HER Reference Number: 2020.169

PREPARED FOR GENESIS TOWN PLANNING



By

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Summary

This archaeological desk-based assessment study has been prepared under instruction from Mr. Kris Mitra of Genesis Town Planning in advance of the proposed construction of a new residential development to comprise ten new residential dwellings with associated garaging and access on land to the west of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex.

Consideration of the assessment of the likely archaeological potential of this assessment site is dictated by the results of several previous and recent archaeological investigations that have taken place within the vicinity of this assessment site. The most significant of these was the archaeological evaluation that took place on land to the east of Hook Lane, to the west of Westergate and to the north-east of this assessment site in 2015. Assessment of the archaeological potential of this assessment site should also be tempered by the results of a second archaeological evaluation that was carried out on land to the immediate north of this assessment site in 2018, which yielded negative results.

*Based on these considerations, the following assessment of the likely archaeological potential to be encountered on this assessment site is as follows. The 2015 evaluation located a finds assemblage of residual Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints, but with limited associated archaeological features or deposits. The potential for archaeological activity and finds from these various earlier prehistoric periods to be made on this assessment site are considered to be **moderate to possibly low**.*

*The 2015 evaluation to the north-east recorded archaeological features that consisted of an enclosure, ditches, gullies and pits that were attributed to the Iron Age. Despite this, it is considered that the potential for similar such activity from this later prehistoric period to be made on this assessment site will be **moderate to possibly low**.*

*The 2015 evaluation did not record any archaeological activity of finds from either the Romano-British period or from the Anglo-Saxon period. So, it is concluded that the potential for archaeological activity and finds from these periods to be encountered on this assessment site will also be **low to possibly moderate**.*

*The 2015 evaluation to the north-east located a single medieval pit. On this basis and on the results of the adjacent 2018 evaluation, the potential for archaeological activity and finds from the medieval period to be made here is assessed as **low to possibly moderate**.*

*The map regression that was undertaken for this study has identified an east-west orientated parliamentary enclosure ditch that traversed the southern portion of this assessment site. Ridge and furrow possibly from this period have also been identified from an oblique aerial view in the field to the immediate north-east. On this basis, it is considered that the potential for post-medieval archaeological activity and finds from this period will be **moderate**, but are not considered to be more than locally significant.*

The potential for previously unknown and unexpected archaeological findings should also be taken into consideration.

The groundworks associated with this proposed development comprising the proposed erection of a new residential development with associated access can directly impact on any buried archaeological potential. This potential impact would come from the excavation of the foundations and services for the new build along with ground reduction associated with any landscaping including access ways.

*In the light of the identified archaeological potential, it is considered that the potential impact on the identified **low-moderate** archaeological potential will be **moderate**, based on the currently available data.*

It is considered following the review of archaeological data for the site there is no overriding reason, on heritage or archaeological grounds, why the application should be refused. Adequate mitigation may be put in place by applying an appropriate worded condition allowing for investigation of the site, post determination though prior to development.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment study was commissioned by Mr. Kris Mitra of Genesis Town Planning. Its purpose is to assess, without the use of intrusive methods, the archaeological potential of land to the west of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex. This will form the basis for a decision-making process that will seek to address the interests of the developer, while ensuring that archaeological resources, if present, are not needlessly compromised as a result of developing the site.

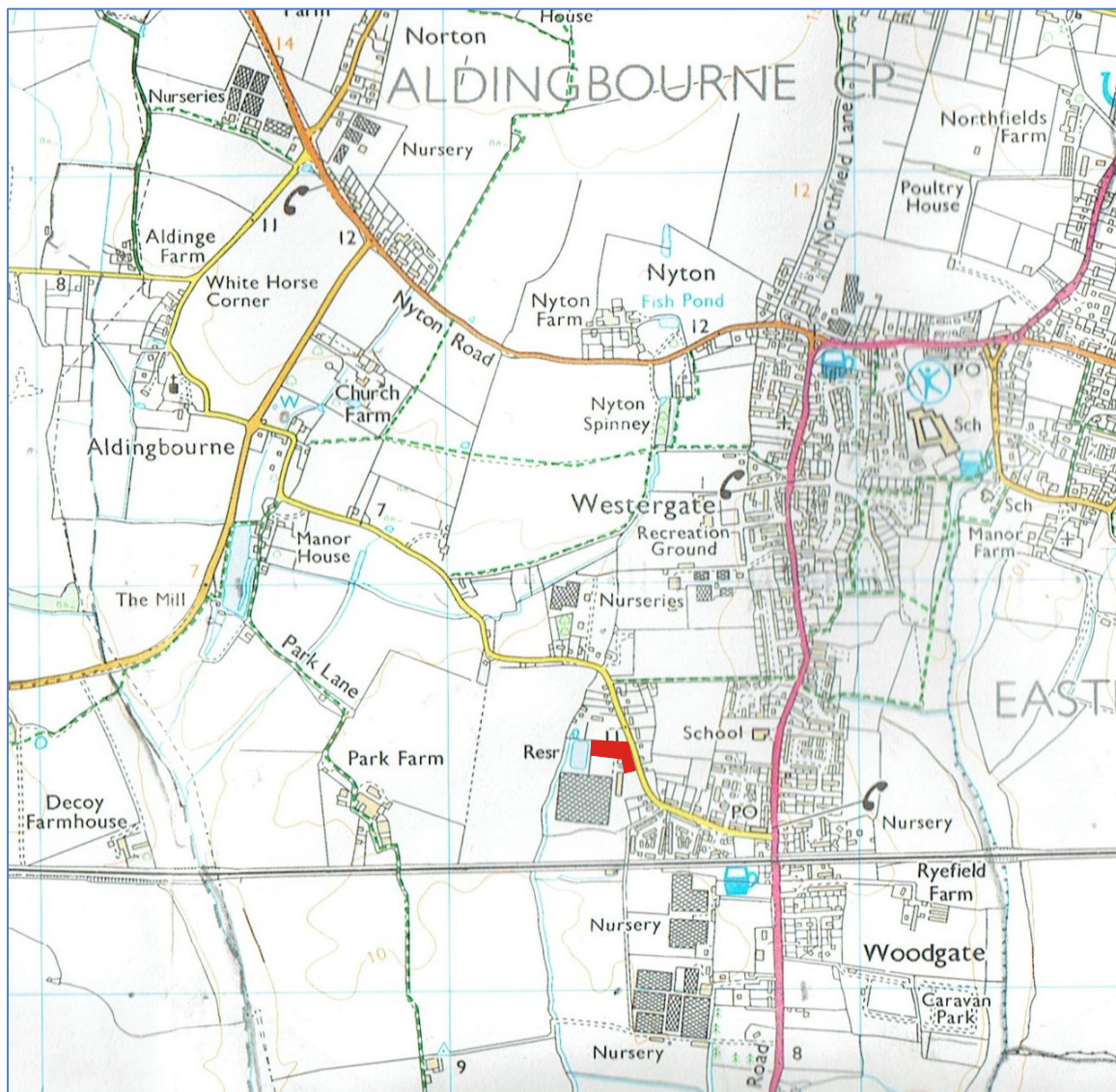


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The assessment site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence no. 100048723)

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 The assessment site is situated within a parcel of land that is currently under grass pasture to the west of Hook Lane, Westergate at National Grid Reference SU 93385 04590 and at a height of approximately 11mAOD. The assessment site is located within the modern civil parish of Aldingbourne, administrative district of Arun, county of West Sussex.
- 2.2 The assessment site is situated within an undulating upland area on the southern fringes of the Sussex South Downs. The assessment site is located on deep stoneless soils of the Park Gate Series, which have developed upon aeolian silty drift deposits of brickearth. These deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of London Clays of the Eocene [Soil Survey, 1983; BGS, 1996].
- 2.3 Central National Grid Reference: SU 93385 04590.

3.0 Objectives and methods

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to establish, with the use of non-intrusive investigation, the likely presence or absence of archaeological remains that may be vulnerable to the works associated with the proposed development and to assess their potential significance and the extent to which the proposed works are likely to affect them.

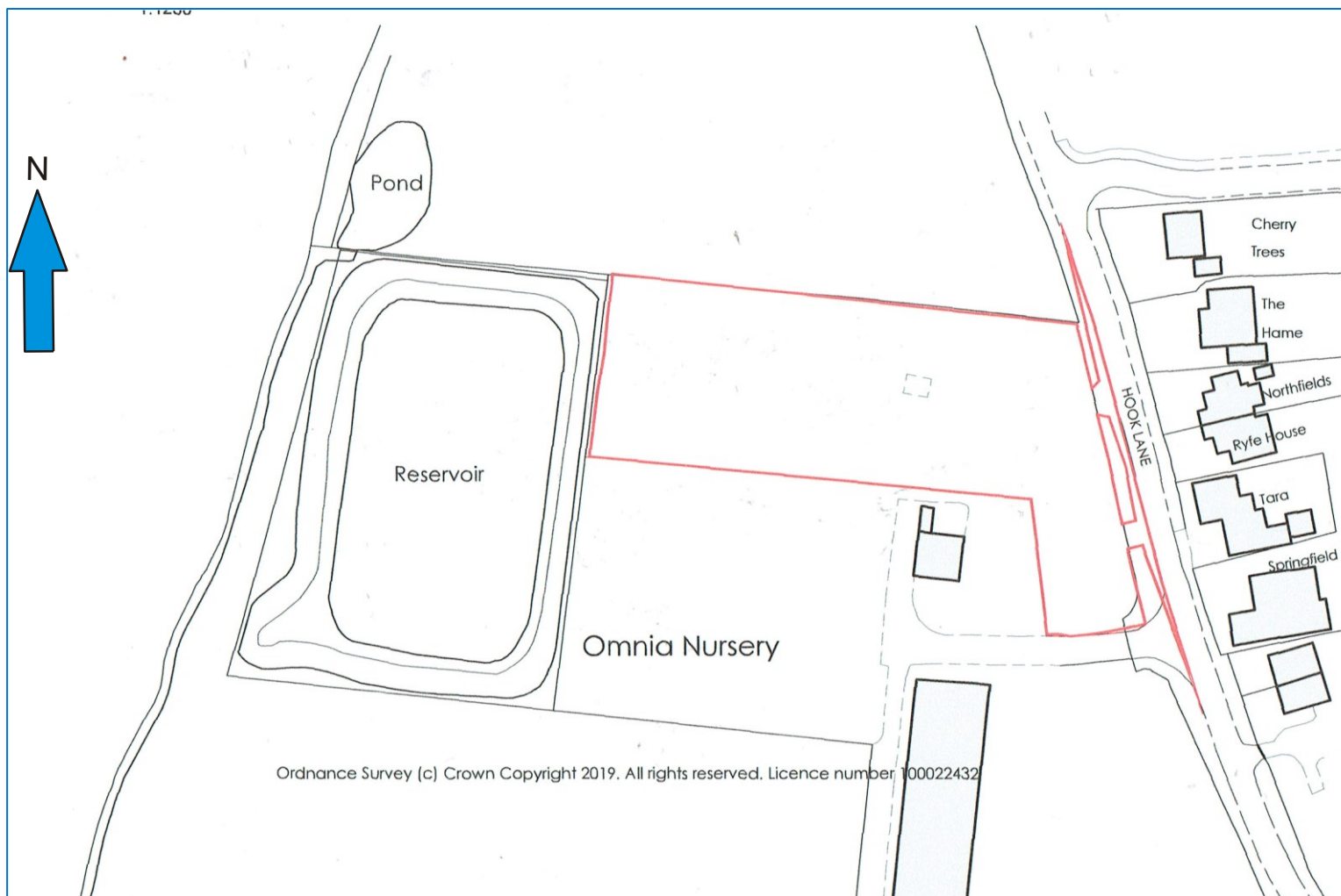


Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of 1:1,250, (extract from Architects plan)

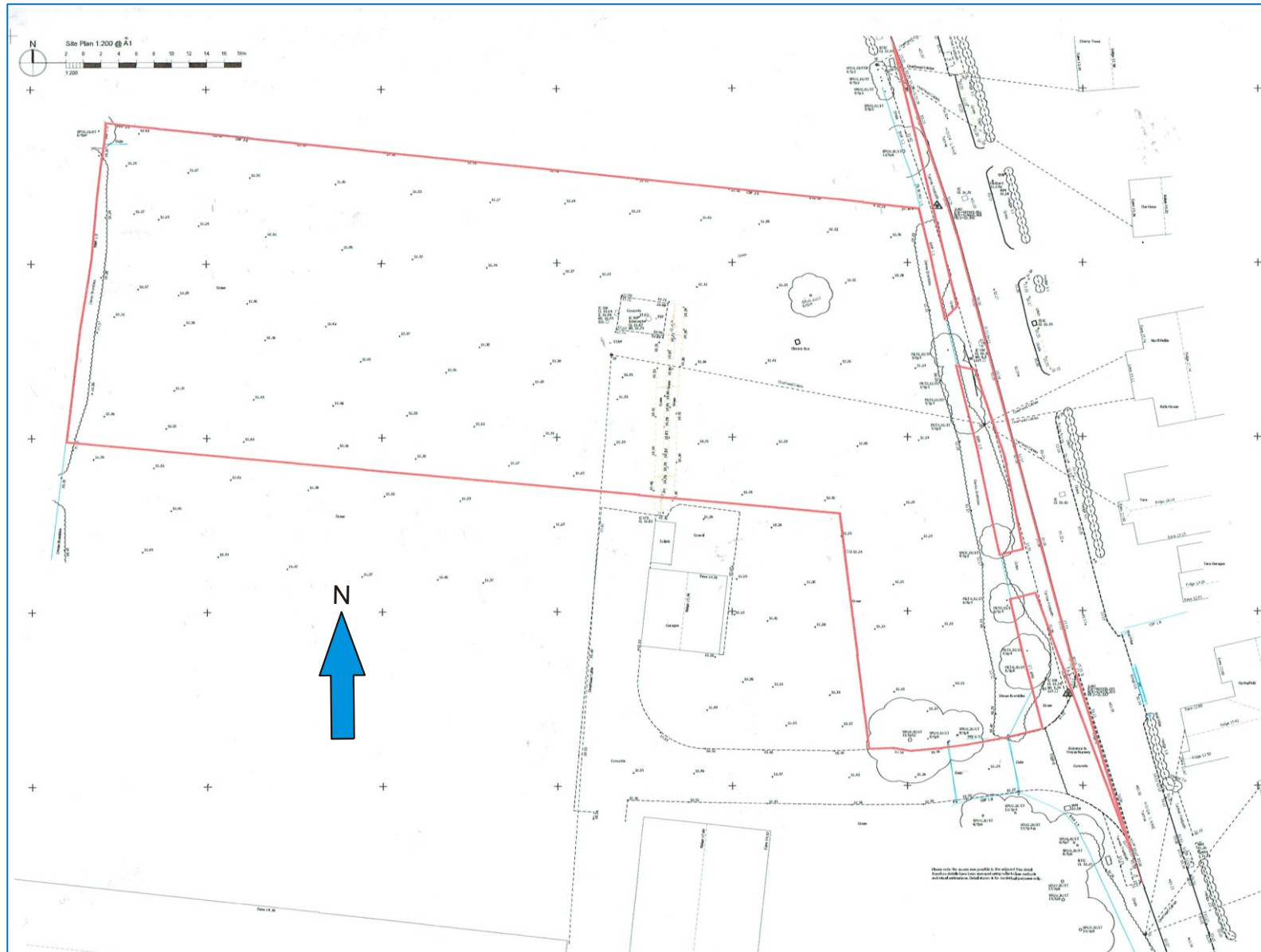


Figure 3: Plan showing the existing layout of the assessment site at an original scale of 1:200 at A1, (extract from Architects plan).

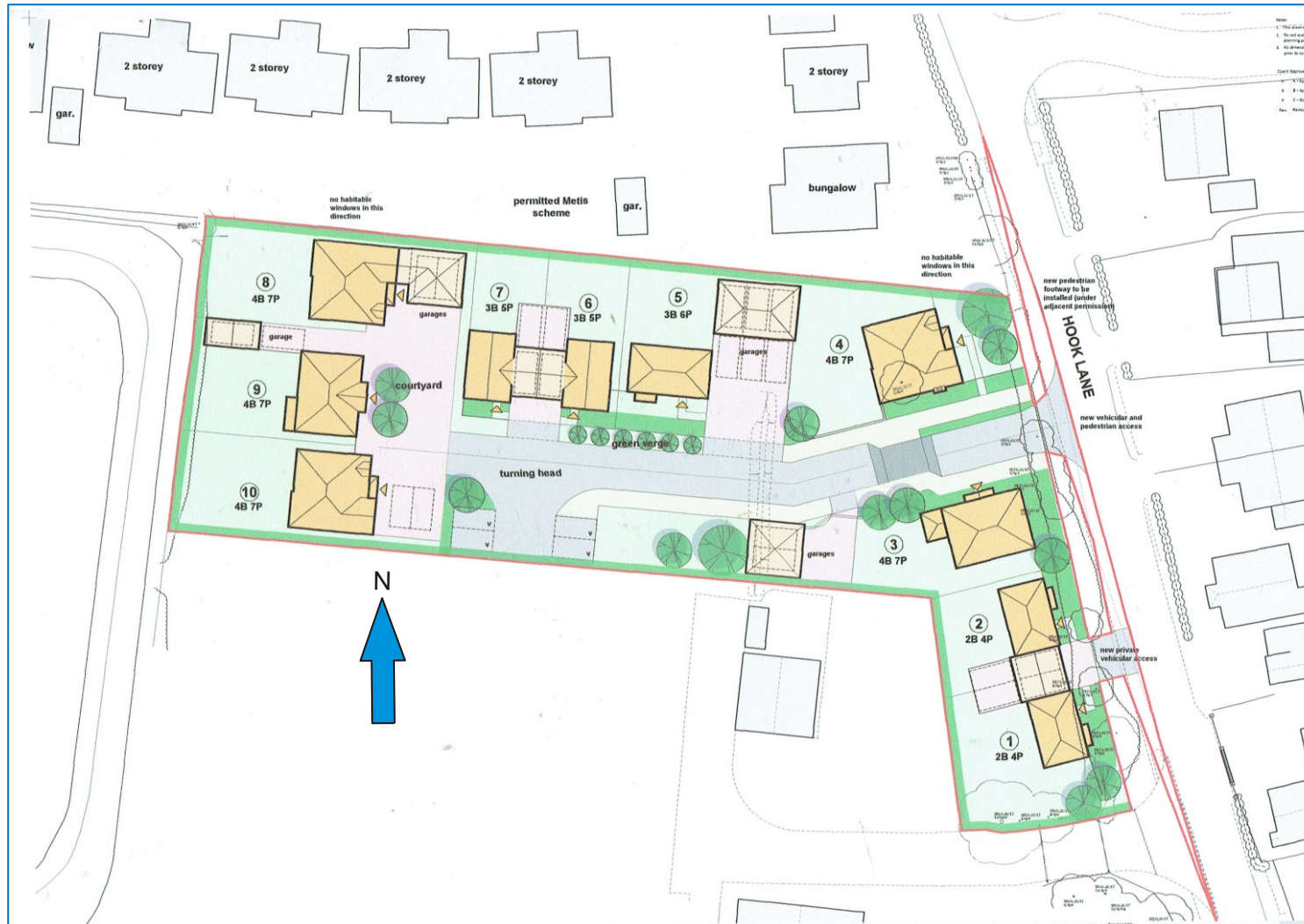


Figure 4: Plan showing the proposed layout of the assessment site at an original scale of 1:200 at A1, (extract from Architects plan).

3.2 The report is based on information derived from the following sources: -

- The West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER);
- The National Heritage List of Historic England (NHL);
- Published early Edition Ordnance Survey maps from the online National Library of Scotland; and
- A walkover survey of the area of the assessment site by Christopher Pine of Development Archaeology Services Limited.

3.3 A search of the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) was undertaken for listed buildings, archaeological sites, findspots and previous archaeological investigations within a 0.75km radius centred on National Grid Reference SU 93385 04590. The results of this search are presented below as **Appendix 1** and their respective locations are shown on **Figure 12**.

3.4 Copies of manuscript and published Ordnance Survey maps of the area of the assessment site were obtained from the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) and from the online National Library of Scotland and comprise **Figures 5-11** in this study. The results of an historical map regression are presented in **Section 6.1** of this assessment.

3.5 An oblique aerial photograph of the area of the assessment site and of its environs was obtained from Google Earth. The results of the analysis of this image is presented in **Section 6.2** of this assessment.

3.6 A number of digital photographs of the area of the assessment site were taken during the walkover survey, which was undertaken on the 23rd November 2020. The results of the walkover survey are presented in **Section 6.3** of this study.

4.0 Planning background

4.1 This archaeological desk based assessment study has been for Genesis Town Planning to accompany and to inform a current planning application for outline planning consent, which has been submitted to Arun District Council, the Local Planning Authority for the proposed construction of ten new residential dwellings with associated garaging and access on land to the west of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex [**Figures 3 and 4**].

4.2 The assessment site lies within the bounds of an Archaeological Notification Area (HER DWS8446).

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

5.1 A search was undertaken of the West Sussex County Historic Environment Record (HER) for a 0.75km radius which was centred on National Grid Reference SU 93385 04590. The online National Heritage List of Historic England (NHL) was also consulted.

- 5.2 A Mesolithic flint working site is located at Norton Spinney (**Site No. 5**, HER MWS6802). This was identified as a concentration of flintwork in a ploughed field to the south-west of Norton Spinney. The assemblage included scrapers, cores, core rejuvenation flakes, waste flakes and blades.
- 5.3 A further Mesolithic flint working site was found in the back garden of 1, Croft Cottages, Westergate in 1999 (**Site No. 6**, HER MWS7101).
- 5.4 The earliest documentary reference to the nearby settlement of Westergate dates from AD1230 when it is referred to as *Westgate*. The place name itself is derived from the Old English *westerra* and the Old English *geat* and denotes 'the more westerly gate or gap'. [Mills, 2003].
- 5.5 Timbers, Westergate Street is a Grade II listed 16th century timber framed cottage (**Site No. 3**, HER DWS683, NHL 1027706).
- 5.6 Milliards Manor Farmhouse, Westergate Street is a Grade II listed 18th century building (**Site No. 1**, HER DWS684, NHL 127707).
- 5.7 The Old Manor House, Westergate Street is a Grade II listed 17th century building (**Site No. 2**, HER DWS682, NHL 1027705).
- 5.8 Park Farm at Aldingbourne is a partially extant 19th century historic farmstead that was arranged around an E-planned regular courtyard with a detached farmhouse that was set away from the yard (**Site No. 7**, HER MWS13291). The farmstead is within an isolated location and has undergone a significant loss of traditional buildings.
- 5.9 The Homestead at Aldingbourne is a partially extant 19th century farmstead that was arranged around a 'U'-plan regular courtyard (**Site No. 8**, HER MWS13727). There were detached elements to the main plan. The farmhouse was also detached and was set away from the yard. The farmstead was in a village location and only the former farmhouse survives.
- 5.10 The Old Farm at Aldingbourne is a partially extant 19th century double sided loose courtyard farmstead with a detached farmhouse that was set aside onto the yard (**Site No. 9**, HER MWS13733). The farmstead was within a village location and only the farmhouse survives.
- 5.11 The Old Manor House at Aldingbourne is a partially extant 19th century double sided loose courtyard farmstead with a detached farmhouse that was set side on to the yard (**Site No. 10**, HER MWS13736). The farmstead was within a village location and has undergone a partial loss of traditional buildings.
- 5.12 Woodgate Farm at Aldingbourne is a partially extent 19th century regular courtyard farmstead with a detached farmhouse that was set away from the yard (**Site No. 11**, HER MWS14028). The farmstead was within an isolated location and has undergone a significant loss of traditional buildings.

- 5.13 The Shoreham-Chichester railway, which extends through the study area for this assessment from east-west was opened through the parish of Aldingbourne in 1846 with a station at Woodgate (**Site No. 15**) [VCH, 1997].
- 5.14 A former railway crossing keepers' cottage is situated at Woodgate (**Site No. 4**, HER MWS5682). This building dates from the construction of the adjacent railway in 1846 and now survives as a private house as does the well-preserved railway station building to the east.
- 5.15 There have been several previous archaeological investigations within the study search area and in close proximity to the study site. In 2015, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the west of Westergate and also to the north-east of this assessment site (**Site No. 12**, HER MWS13955, EWS1765). The trenches contained archaeological features that were attributed to four periods. Quantities of residual later prehistoric flints were recovered on the site. The bulk of this assemblage were dated from the Middle Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. In addition, a Mesolithic core flint core was also identified. A large sub-square shaped enclosure with internal ditches, pits and postholes was attributed to the Middle to Late Iron Age. External to the enclosure were possible field boundary ditches of contemporary date along with two possible parallel trackway ditches. Sherds of Mid-Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from three of the ditch fills, from three enclosure ditch fills, from two gully fills and from a pit fill. A single medieval pit as located and was dated by finds of two fragments of roof tile of 13th-14th century origin. Post-medieval artefacts were recovered from four ditch fills. Two west north west-east south east aligned ditches were dated to the 17th and 18th centuries. Two further parallel north-south orientated ditches along with two other ditches were dated to the 18th century.
- 5.16 An archaeological evaluation took place in 2018 on land to the west of Hook Lane and also to the immediate north of this assessment site (**Site No. 13**). This did not identify any archaeological features or finds. There was evidence of modern activity, which was present within made ground deposits and associated finds within overburden horizons.
- 5.17 Between 2007 and 2008, an archaeological evaluation followed by an open area excavation took place at the Lidsey Landfill site, Woodgate (**Site No. 14**, HER MWS14730, EWS1890-1891). This identified multi-period archaeological activity and finds that consisted of predominantly prehistoric occupation from the Middle Bronze Age through to the Middle Iron Age being the principal periods, which were represented by pits clusters and postholes followed by enclosures and small areas of fields. The area was then overlain by a series of Roman field boundaries which commenced in the early Roman period, but which had gone out of use by the end of that period. Subsequent archaeological activity was only represented by a few sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, a medieval pit and post-medieval and modern field boundaries.

6.0 Site specific search/investigation results

6.1 Cartographic and documentary information [Figures 5-11]

- 6.1.1 Copies of a manuscript map was obtained from the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) and published Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps were obtained from the online National Library of Scotland. The earliest map consulted in this study comprised an extract from the tithe map for the parish of Aldingbourne of 1847. This map comprises **Figure 5** of this study. This map shows the area of the assessment site as straddling portions of two enclosures to the west of Hook Lane, with an east-west orientated enclosure ditch traversing the southern portion of the assessment site. A livestock pond is shown to the west of the assessment site.
- 6.1.2 An extract from the First Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1880. This map forms **Figure 6** of this study. This map shows the same layout to the area of this assessment site and of its environs and that no change to this layout took place between 1847 and 1880.
- 6.1.3 An extract from the Second Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1899 forms **Figure 7** of this assessment. This map similarly shows the same layout to the area of this assessment site and of its environs and that no change to this layout took place between 1880 and 1899.
- 6.1.4 An extract from the Third Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1914 comprises **Figure 8** of this assessment study. This map similarly shows the same layout to the area of this assessment site and of its environs and that no change to this layout took place between 1899 and 1914.
- 6.1.5 An extract from the Fourth Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1938 forms **Figure 9** of this study. This map similarly shows the same layout to the area of this assessment site and of its environs and that no change to this layout took place between 1914 and 1938.
- 6.1.6 An extract from the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1961 forms **Figure 10** of this study. This map similarly shows the same layout to the area of this assessment site and of its environs and that no change to this layout had taken place between 1938 and 1961.
- 6.1.7 An extract from the 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1980 comprises **Figure 11** of this assessment. This map shows that the east-west orientated former enclosure boundary, which had traversed the southern portion of this assessment site had gone by 1980, leaving the whole area of this assessment site as being situated within one larger and thus amalgamated enclosure to the west of Hook Lane.
- 6.1.8 **Figures 2 and 3** show the current layout of the assessment site.

6.2 Aerial Photographs

- 6.2.1 An oblique aerial photograph of the assessment site and of its environs was obtained from Google Earth. This image shows the area of this assessment site as being under grass pasture. In the field to the north are faint traces of the earthwork cultivation earthworks of ridge and furrow, which may possibly be post-medieval in origin.

6.3 Site walkover survey

- 6.3.1 A walkover survey of the area of the assessment site was made by Christopher Pine of Development Archaeology Services Limited on Monday 23rd November 2020 for the purpose of recording the present appearance and environs of the assessment site and noting any features which might indicate surviving archaeological remains. This included undertaking a 'surface' digital photographic record. The weather conditions were overcast but fine.
- 6.2.2 The site area was at the time of walkover grass covered. The ground surface was predominantly flat with no significant surface features or anomalies visible. No surface finds were made.

7.0 Assessment of archaeological potential

- 7.1 Any consideration of the assessment of the likely archaeological potential of this assessment site is dictated by the results of several previous and recent archaeological investigations that have taken place within the vicinity of this assessment site. The most significant of these was the archaeological evaluation that took place on land to the east of Hook Lane, to the west of Westergate and to the north-east of this assessment site in 2015 [MWS13955, EWS1765]. However, this assessment of the archaeological potential of this assessment site should also be tempered or modified by the results of a second archaeological evaluation that was carried out on land to the immediate north of this assessment site in 2018 [HER entry pending], which yielded negative results.
- 7.2 Based on these considerations, the following assessment of the likely archaeological potential to be encountered on this assessment site is as follows. The 2015 evaluation located a finds assemblage of residual Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints, but with no associated archaeological features or deposits. The potential for archaeological activity and finds from these various earlier prehistoric periods to be made on this assessment site are considered to be **moderate to possibly low**.
- 7.3 The 2015 evaluation to the north-east recorded archaeological features that consisted of an enclosure, ditches, gullies and pits that were attributed to the Iron Age. Despite this, it is considered that that the potential for similar such activity from this later prehistoric period to be made on this assessment site will be **moderate to possibly low**.

- 7.4 The 2015 evaluation did the north-east did not record any archaeological activity of finds from either the Romano-British period or from the Anglo-Saxon period. So, it is concluded that the potential for archaeological activity and finds from these periods to be encountered on this assessment site will also be **low**.
- 7.5 The 2015 evaluation to the north-east located a single medieval pit. On this basis and on the results of the adjacent 2018 evaluation, the potential for archaeological activity and finds from the medieval period to be made here is assessed as **low to possibly moderate**.
- 7.6 The map regression that was undertaken for this study has identified an east-west orientated parliamentary enclosure ditch that traversed the southern portion of this assessment site. Ridge and furrow possibly from this period have also been identified from an oblique aerial view in the field to the immediate north-east. On this basis, it is considered that the potential for post-medieval archaeological activity and finds from this period will be **moderate**, but are not considered to be more than locally significant.
- 7.7 The potential for previously unknown and unexpected archaeological findings should also be taken into consideration.

8.0 Impact on archaeological resources

- 8.1 The groundworks associated with this proposed development comprising the proposed erection of a new residential development with associated access can directly impact on any buried archaeological potential. This potential impact would come from the excavation of the foundations and services for the new build along with ground reduction for the new access etc.
- 8.2 In the light of the identified archaeological potential, it is considered that the potential impact on the identified **low-moderate** archaeological potential will be **moderate**, based on the currently available data.
- 8.3 **Proposed mitigation:** It is considered following the review of archaeological data for the site there is no overriding reason, on heritage or archaeological grounds, why the application should be refused. Adequate mitigation may be put in place by applying an appropriate worded condition allowing for investigation of the site, post determination though prior to development.

9. Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Development Archaeology Services Ltd. would like to thank Mr. Kris Mitra of Genesis Town Planning for commissioning this archaeological desk-based assessment study. Thanks, are also extended to Rachael Salter of the West Sussex Historic Environment Record for her kind assistance in compiling reviewed data and to James Kenny for his advice and comment throughout.

10.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, (1996), *Chichester & Bognor, Solid & Drift, 1:50,000 scale map sheet nos. 317/332.*

Extract from the tithe map for the parish of Aldingbourne of 1847.

Extract from the First Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1880, map sheet no. Sussex 62NW.

Extract from the Second Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1899, map sheet no. Sussex 62NW.

Extract from the Third Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1914, map sheet no. Sussex 62NW.

An extract from the Fourth Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1938, map sheet no. Sussex 62NW.

Extract from the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1961, map sheet no. SU 90 NW.

Extract from the 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1980, map sheet no. SU 90 NW.

Mills. A., (2003), *The Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names.*

Ordnance Survey, (2008), 1:25,000 scale map, *Arundel & Pulborough, Worthing & Bognor Regis*, Explorer Sheet No. 121.

Soil Survey of England & Wales, (1983), *Soils of South East England*, map sheet no. 6, 1:250,000 scale.

Victoria County History, (1997), *A History of the County of Sussex, Vol. 5, Part 1, Arundel Rape.*



Figure 5: Extract from the tithe map for the parish of Aldingbourne of 1847. The boundaries of the assessment site are shown outlined in red.

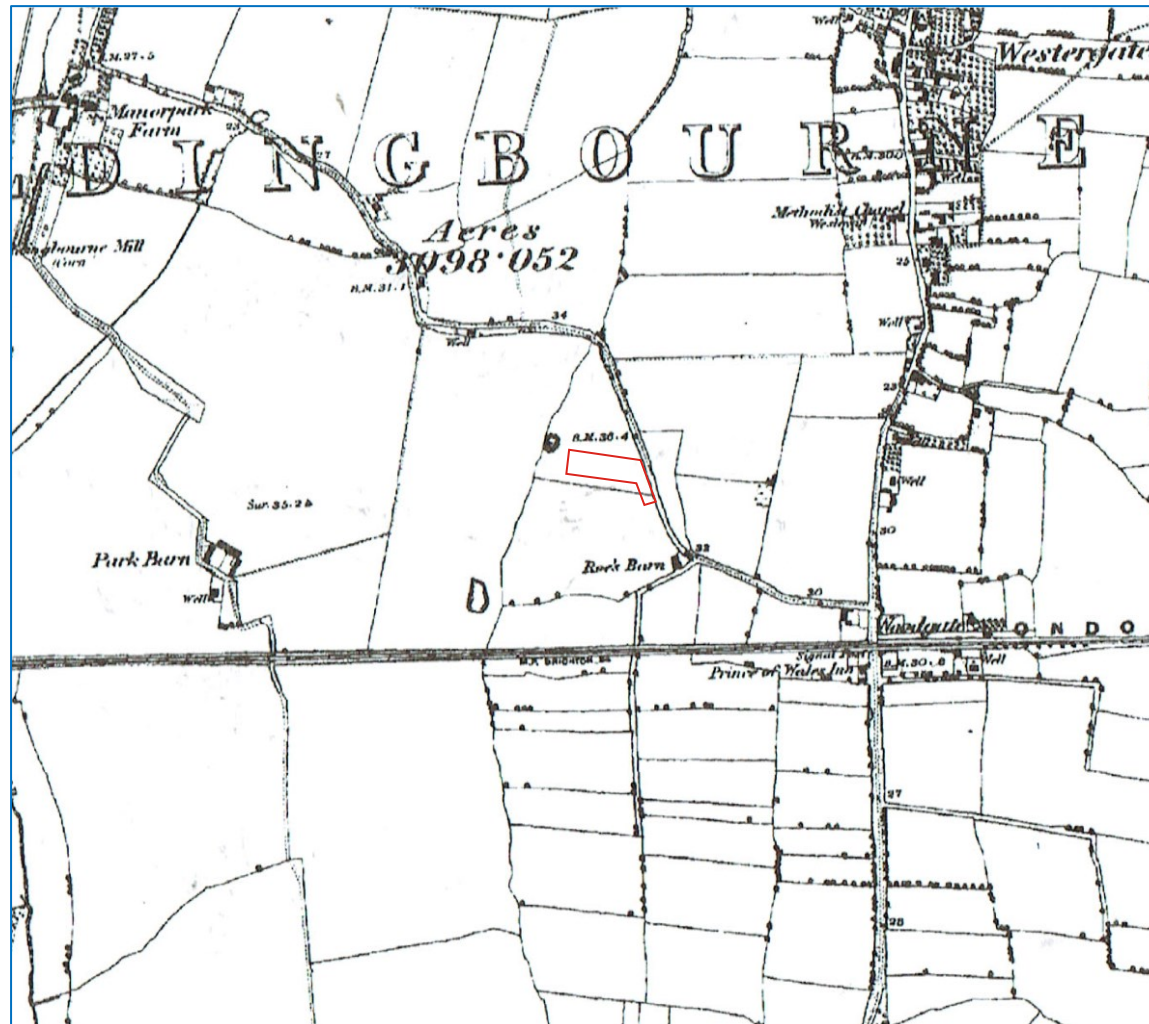


Figure 6: Extract from the First Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1880, map sheet no. Sussex 62NW. The boundaries of the assessment site are shown outlined in red.

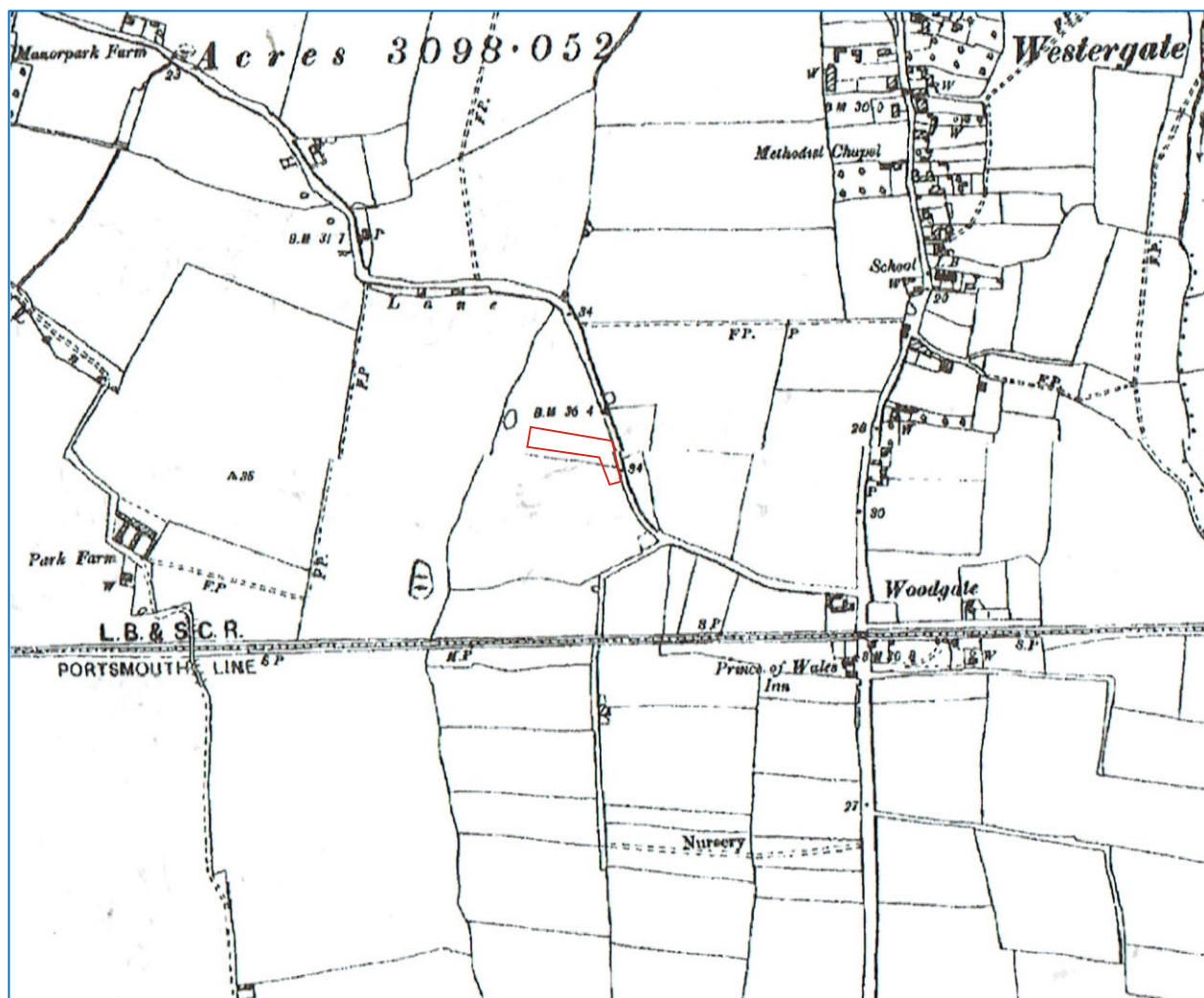


Figure 7: Extract from the Second Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1899, map sheet no. Sussex 62NW. The boundaries of the assessment site are shown outlined in red.

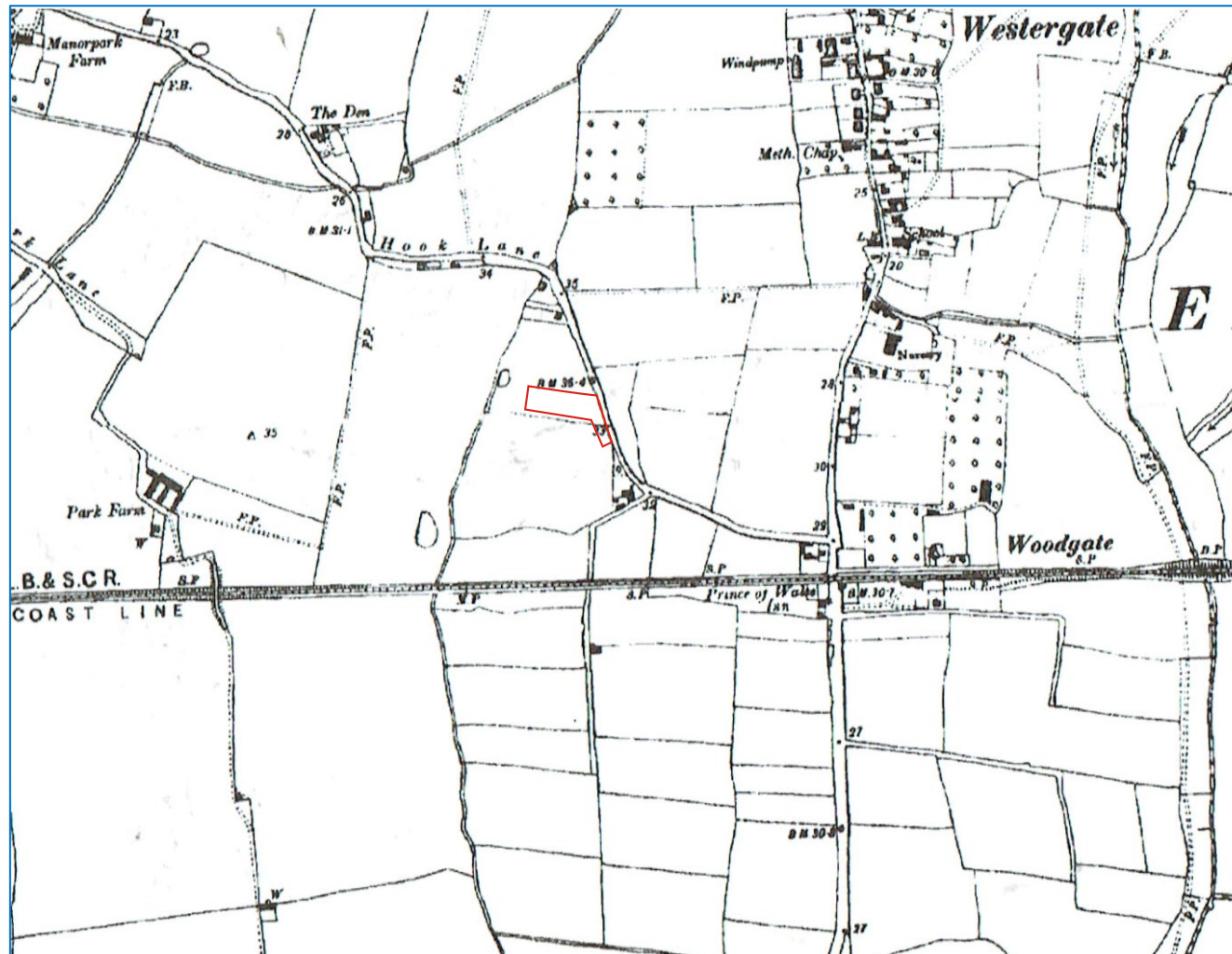


Figure 8: Extract from the Third Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1914, map sheet no. Sussex 62NW. The boundaries of the assessment sites are shown outlined in red.

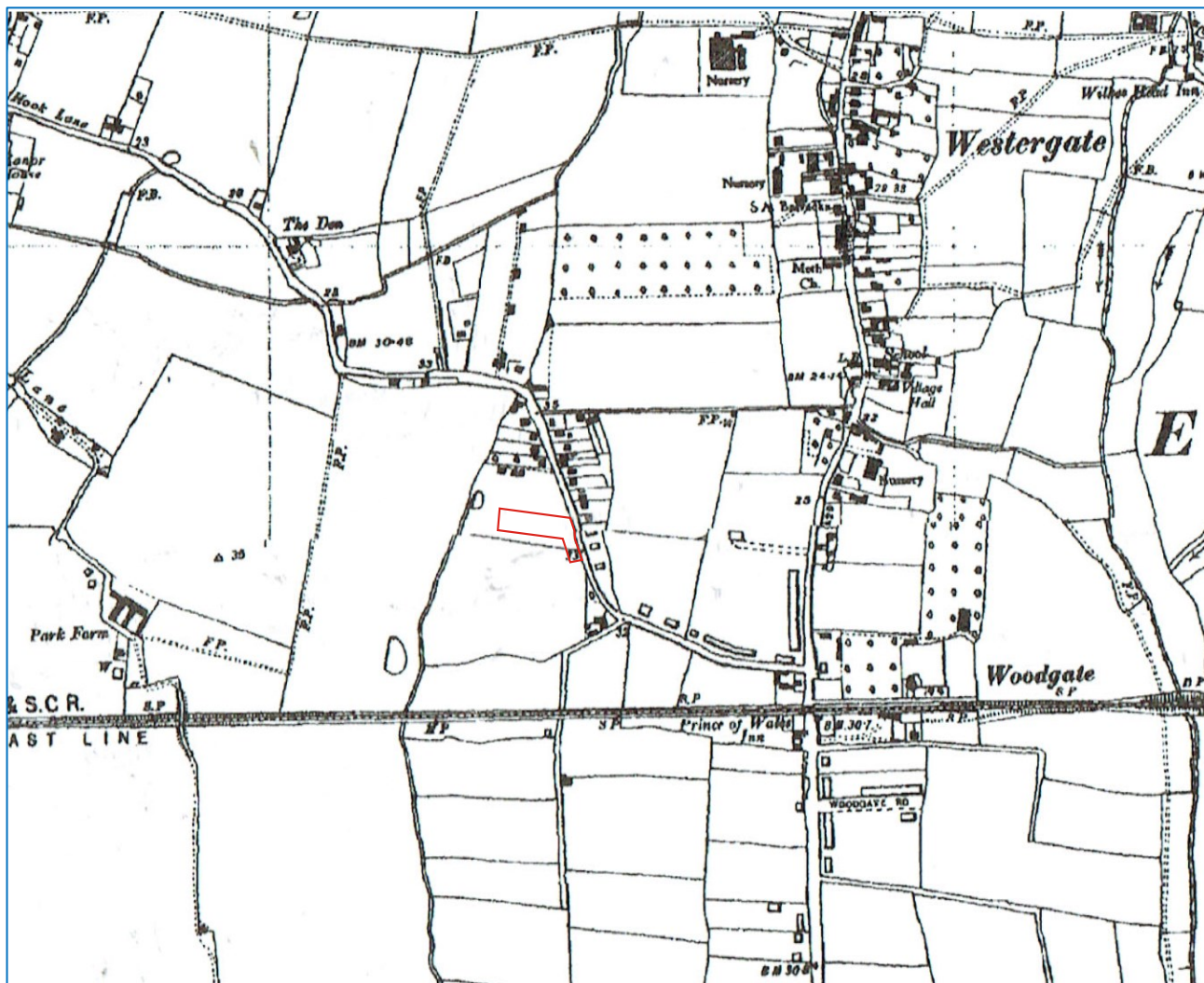


Figure 9: Extract from the Third Edition six inch to one-mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1938, map sheet no. Sussex 62NW. The boundaries of the assessment sites are shown outlined in red.

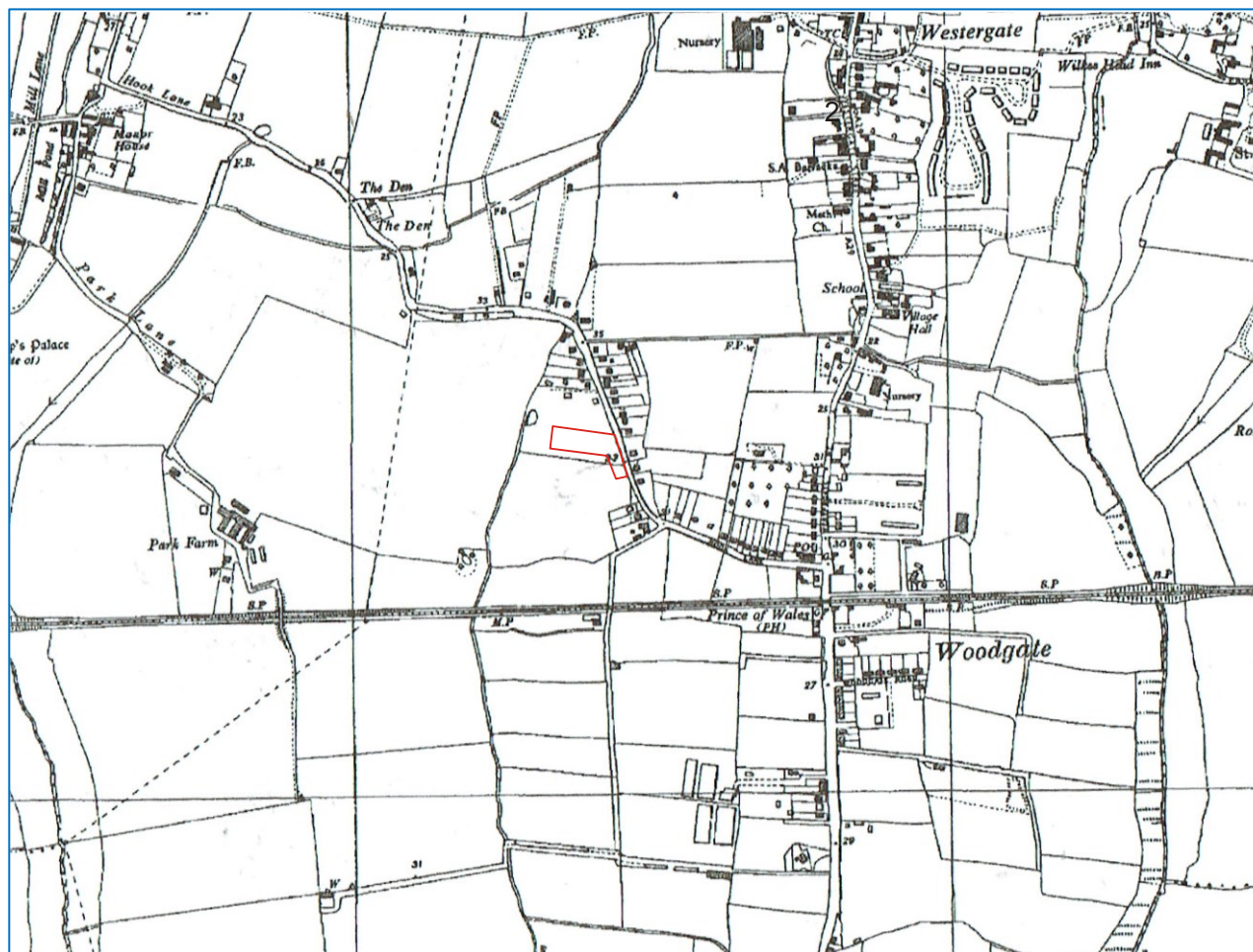


Figure 10: Extract from the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1961, map sheet no. SU 90 NW. The boundaries of the assessment site are shown outlined in red.

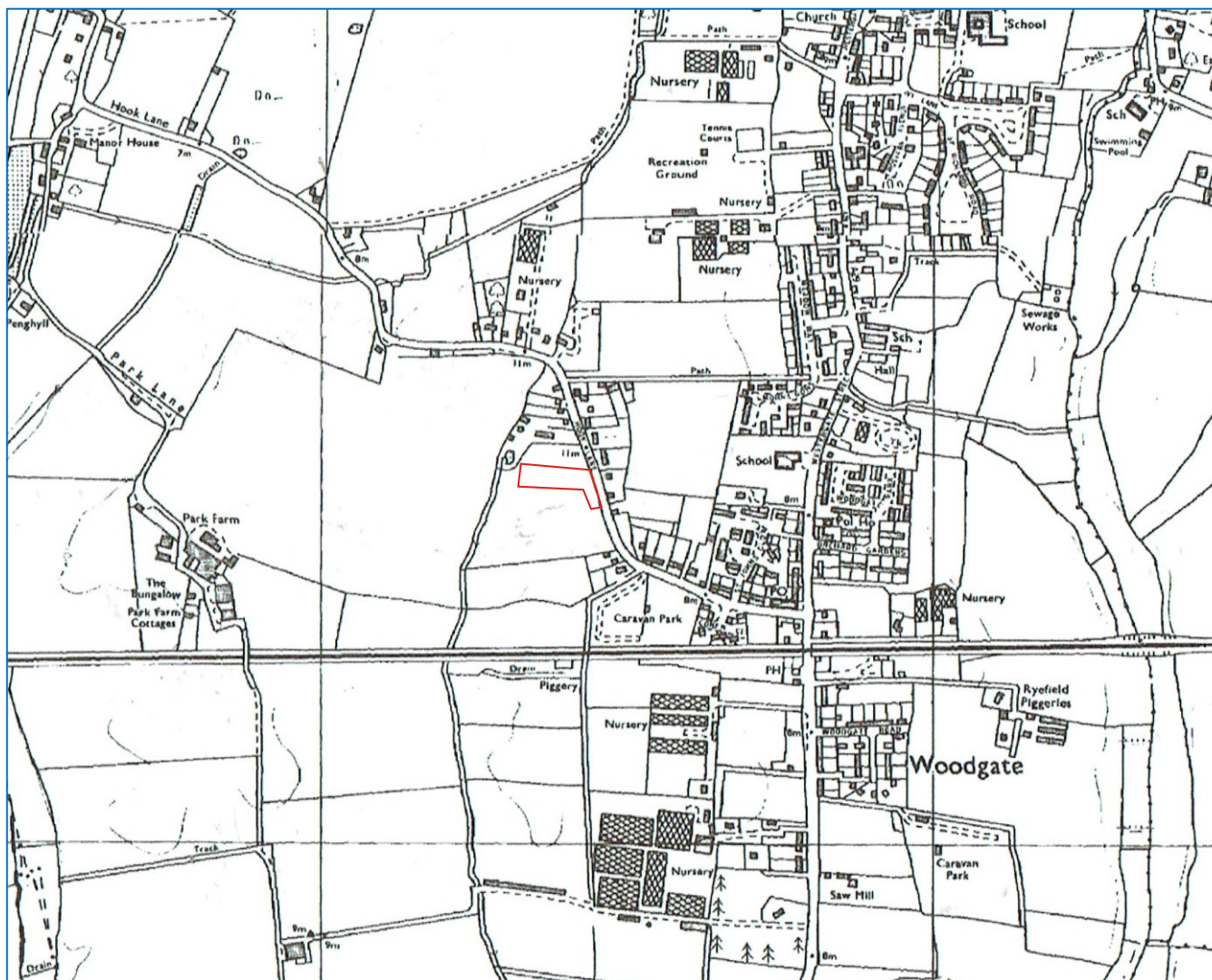


Figure 11: Extract from the 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1980, map sheet no. SU 90 NW. The boundaries of the assessment site are shown outlined in red.

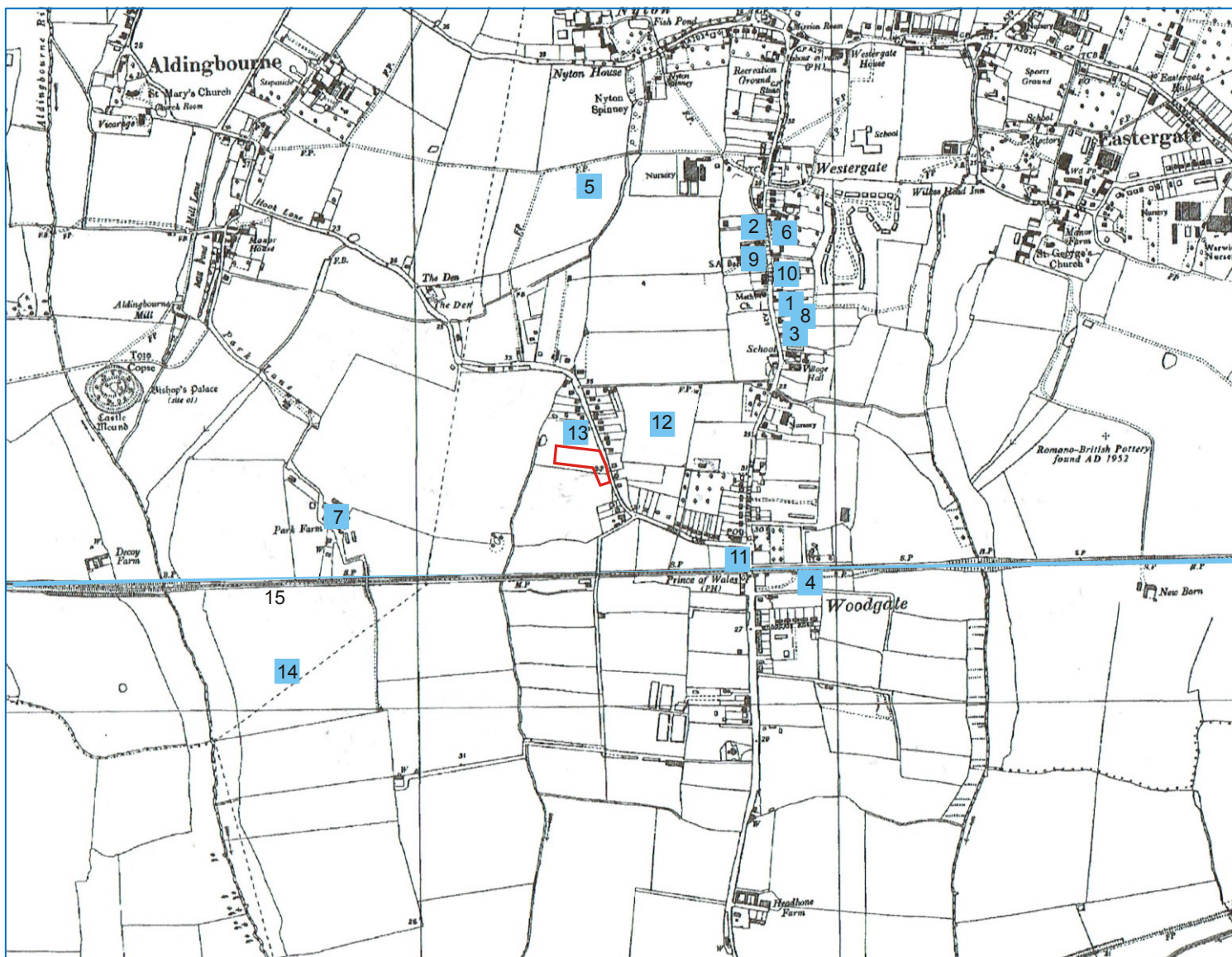


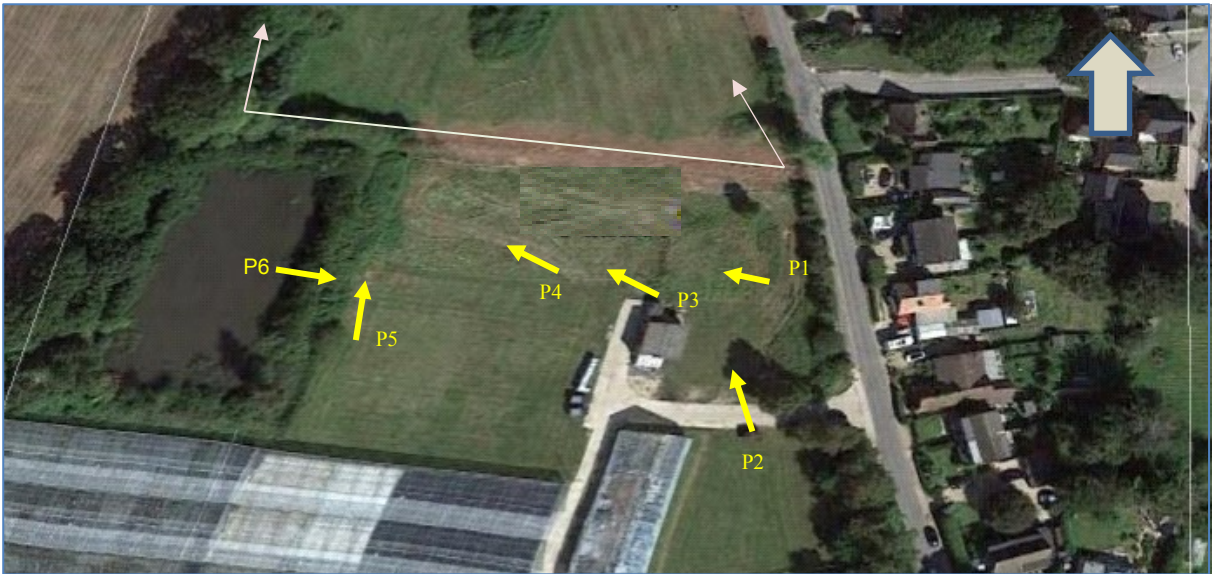
Figure 12: Cultural heritage sites from the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 0.75km radius of the assessment site. The assessment site is shown outlined in red.

Appendix 1: Cultural Heritage Data from the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (WSHER)

Site No.	HER No.	NGR (SU)	Description	Period
1	DWS684, NHL 1027707	9388 0494	Milliards Manor farmhouse, Westergate Street. Grade II listed 18th century house.	PM
2	DWS682, NHL 1027705	9381 0513	The Old Manor House, Westergate Street. Grade II listed 17th century building.	PM
3	DWS683, NHL 1027706	9387 0498	Timbers, Westergate Street. Grade II listed 16th century timber framed cottage.	PM
4	MWS5682	939 043	Site of a former railway crossing keepers' cottage, dated to the construction of the adjacent railway in c.1846. Now a private dwelling.	PM
5	MWS6802	9344 0526	Flint working site at Norton Spinney.	ME
6	MWS7101	9380 0507	Flint working site at 1, Croft Cottages, Westergate.	ME
7	MWS13291	9726 0446	Park Farm, 19th century historic farmstead.	PM
8	MWS13727	9389 0488	The Homestead, 19th century historic farmstead.	PM
9	MWS13733	9386 0503	The Old Farm, 19th century historic farmstead.	PM
10	MWS13736	9385 0509	The Old Manor House, 19th century historic farmstead.	PM
11	MWS14028	9375 0436	Woodgate Farm, 19th century historic farmstead.	PM
12	MWS13955, EWS1765	9358 0467	Evaluation in 2015 on land to the west of Westergate located multi-period archaeological activity and finds.	ME/NE/BA/ MD/PM
13	HER entry pending	9338 0464	Evaluation in 2018 on land to the west of Hook Lane did not identify any archaeological features or finds.	MO
14	MWS14730, EWS1890-1	9278 0396	Evaluation & excavation in 2008-9 at the Lindsey Landfill site identified multi-period archaeological activity and finds.	BA/IA/RO/EM/ MD/PM/MO
15		Linear	Chichester-Shoreham railway, opened in 1846.	PM/MO

ABBREVIATIONS

PA - Palaeolithic
 NE - Neolithic
 ME - Mesolithic
 BA - Bronze Age
 IA - Iron Age
 RO - Roman
 EM - Anglo-Saxon
 MD - Medieval
 PM - Post-medieval
 MO - Modern
 UN - Uncertain



Site area showing location and direction plates 1-6 were taken from



Plate 1:



Plate 2:



Plate 3:



Plate 4:



Plate 5:



Plate 6:

Plate 1: East end of site, viewed from the east looking west.

Plate 2: As Plate 1 though showing north south orientated 'spur'

Plate 3: Centre of main site area looking north west from the east

Plate 4: As Plate 3 though viewed from the south / centre of the site.

Plate 5: The west end of the site looking to the north

Plate 6: The site viewed from the west looking to the east