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Southampton Archaeology Unit

Report 1108

Desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of land at The Vinery, Poling, West Sussex.

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2012
Client: Fargro Limited



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By PR Cottrell BA & AD Russel BA PhD MIfA

Archaeology Unit report	1108
Ordnance Survey grid reference	TQ 025056

1. Summary.

The site is located on the south side of the main A27 road, east of Arundel, north-east of the medieval settlement of Poling and north-west of Angmering. It lies in a wider area of prehistoric activity with finds and sites dating to the Mesolithic, the Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. The area around the site has produced archaeological finds from the Mesolithic period onwards. Aerial photographs show cropmarks, probably indicating archaeological features, close to the east of the site. The line of a Roman road runs close to the north of the site, the site of Angmering Roman Villa lies one kilometre to the south and a medieval priory was located c450m to the west.

Given the distribution of archaeological finds in the vicinity there is potential for archaeological remains to be present.

2. Introduction

2.1. The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council was commissioned to carry out a desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of land at The Vinery, Poling, West Sussex (fig 1) on behalf of Fargo Limited.

2.2. A Desk-based assessment is defined as follows: *a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate. (Institute for Archaeologists 2011).*

3. Aims of the assessment.

3.1 The aims of the assessment were to identify the likely heritage assets, their significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance was to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context.

4. Assessment methodology.

4.1 The Historic Environment Record (HER) held by West Sussex County Council was searched for relevant information. Copies of historic photographs and maps were consulted. Selected secondary historical works were also consulted. The results of archaeological investigations of sites located within 1km of the assessment area were also consulted.

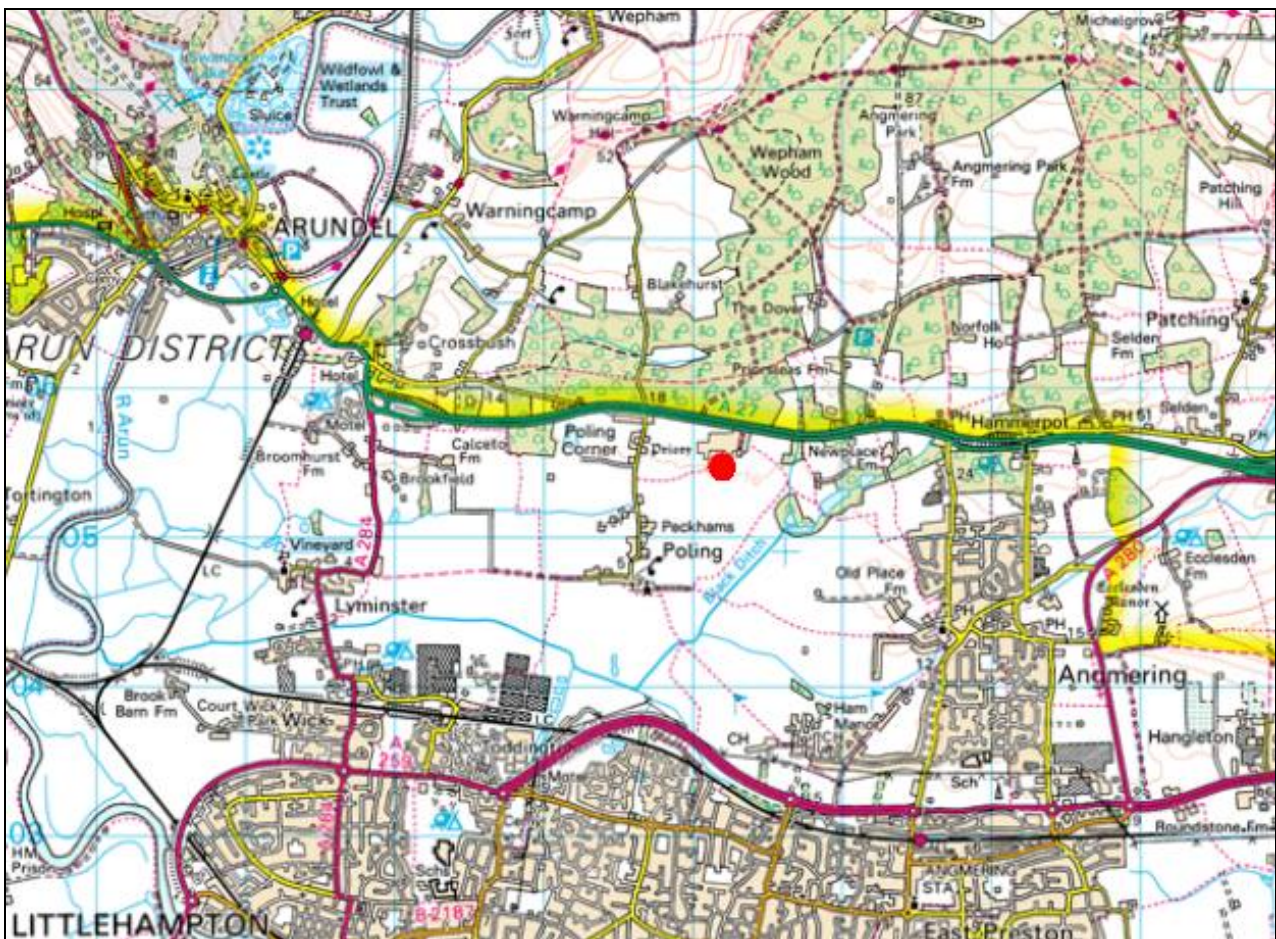


Figure 1. Site location (red).

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5. Site location and topography.

5.1 The site (figs 1 & 2) lies to the south of the A27 trunk road, 4km east of Arundel, 2km north of Littlehampton, c800m north-east of the village of Poling and 1.2km north-west of Angmering.

5.2 The natural topography of the area slopes gently down to the south. The 10 metre contour runs across the south side of the site and the 15 metre contour runs through the Vinery site to the north. A number of streams and drainage ditches in the area flow to the south to feed the Black Ditch, a formerly tidal tributary of the River Arun.

5.3 The underlying geology is River Terrace Deposits of sand, silt and clay (BGS 2002).

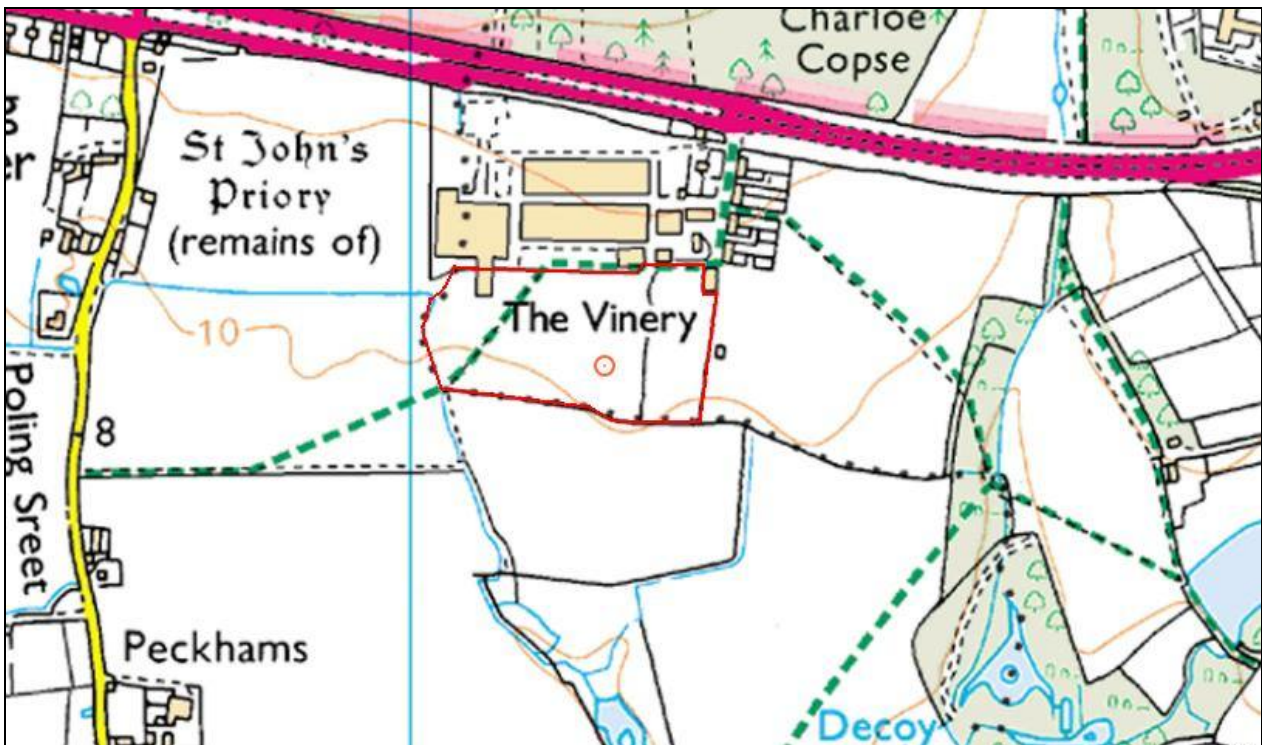


Figure 2. The extent of the assessment site.

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6. Description of the site.

The site is located on the south side of the existing mushroom farm at The Vinery (fig 3). It consists of two fields separated by a north – south drainage ditch. The west and south boundaries are marked by drainage ditches.

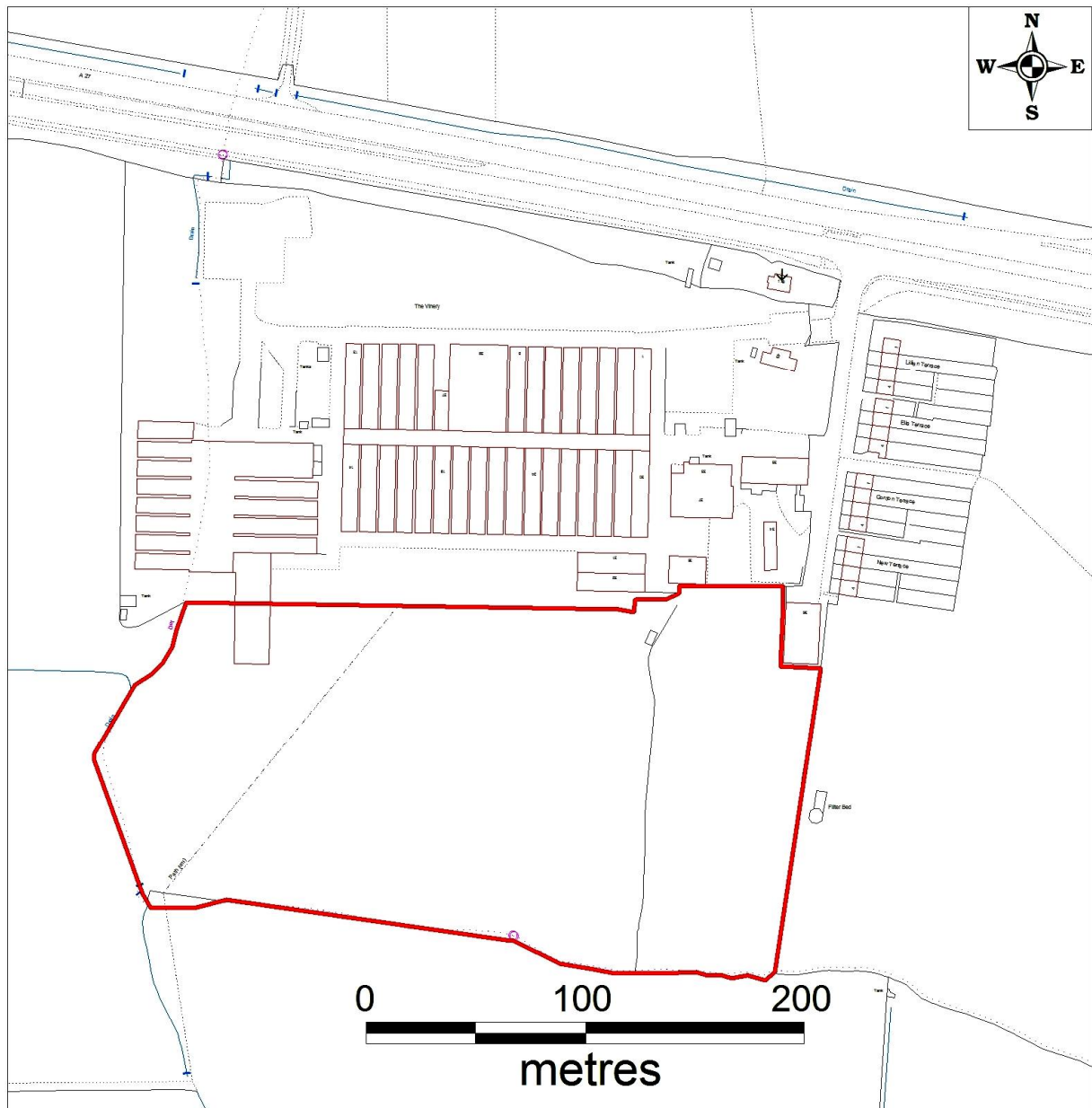


Figure 3. Plan of the assessment site (red outline).

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7. Historical background

Poling is in the Rape of Arundel, one of the traditional sub-divisions of Sussex. At the time of the Domesday Survey, each rape was in the hands of a single tenant-in-chief, that of Arundel being held by de Montgomery.

Poling is centrally located in the Hundred of Poling. In the Domesday Book this was called the Hundred of Rieberge or Risberg. The name *Pollinges* first appeared in 1166. Poling (or Risberg) Hundred was once largely a royal estate based on Lyminster, only gradually being broken down. Nunminster was a large manor that originally included Poling.

By 1338 the estate of Poling belonged to the Knights Hospitallers. The Preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers at Poling, also known as the priory of St. John of Jerusalem, was probably founded in the 12th century but was dissolved in 1540 (Knowles and Hadcock 1953, 245). After the suppression of the priory the estates at Poling were given to the college of Arundel in 1541.

The assessment site itself was formerly in the manor of West Angmering. The name is of Saxon origin, meaning "the followers or dependents of Angenmaer" (Hunter Blair 1966, 176). The Domesday Survey recorded two manors at Angmering, in Risberg Hundred, both held from Earl Roger. One was held by Warin and had been held by Earl Godwin before 1066. The other, held by Geoffrey, had been held by three free men. These two manors were probably the forerunners of the manors of East and West Angmering, although it is not certain which was which. The manor held by Geoffrey included woodland, suggesting that this was more likely to have become West Angmering, which included a deer park.

By the 17th century the site was part of Woodhouse Farm. A survey of the manors of East and West Angmering, produced in 1679, recorded it as 60 acres of land belonging to Sir Charles Shelley:

“freehold house Woodhouse. Allso One Messuage one barne one garden and orchard called Woodhouse with severall feilds and closes of Arrable Meadow and pasture Land containing by estimation Sixty Acres which lye intirely together and are bounded by the Highway Leading towards Arrundell on the North Newplace Land on the East Lands belonging to poling farme on the South and poling fair place ground on the West.”

The Shelley estate also included Old Place, leased from the lord of the manor (Cecil Bishopp Bart. of Parham House), and the freehold of New Place, Angmering Park House, and the Decoy Cottage.

By c1780, Woodhouse farm was tenanted by Joseph Hopkins. In 1795 it was leased by Sir John Shelley to John Tompkins of Arundel, along with Poling Farm to the south-west.

By 1839, when the Angmering Tithe Map was compiled (fig 4) Woodhouse Farm belonged to the Duke of Norfolk and the tenant was the same John Tompkins, who died in 1853.

The two fields comprising the assessment site were plots 139 “Lower Nine Acres” and 140 “Green Field”. The Vinery site to the north was plot 138 “Upper Nine Acres”. Plots 141 and 142 comprised the house and gardens.

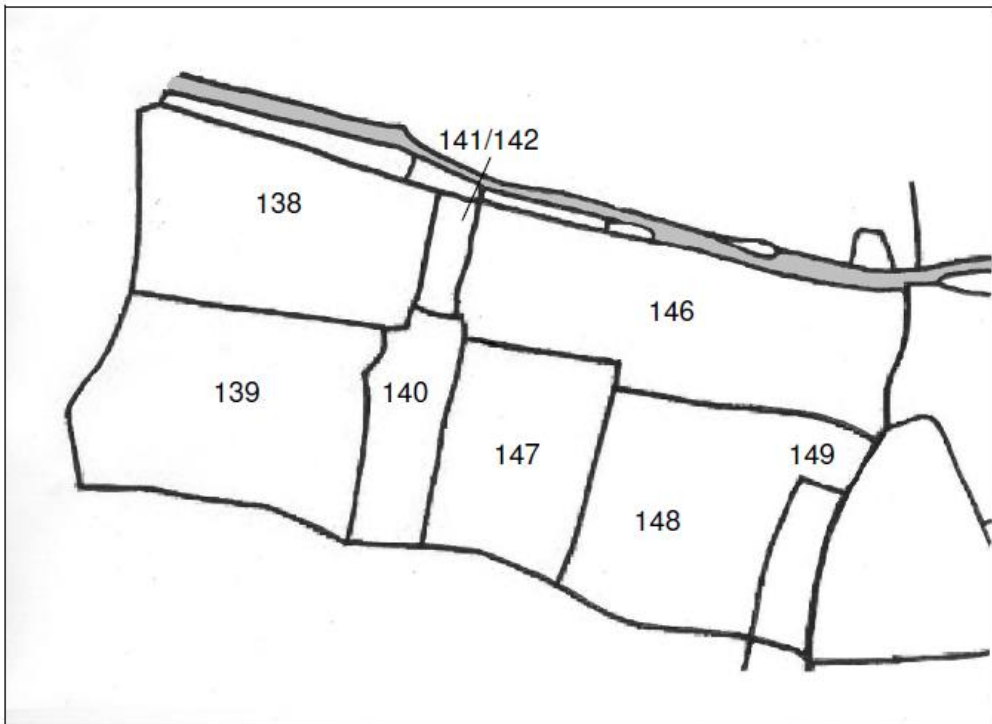


**Figure 4. Woodhouse farm in 1839, based on the Angmering Tithe Map.
(Numbers = plots of land; grey = the main road).**

8. Cartographic evidence

Speed's map of Sussex, dated 1611 (fig 5) is probably the earliest map showing Poling (as Powling). It appears on Morden's map of 1695 (fig 6) and Kitchen's map of 1763 (fig 7).



Figure 5. Detail of Speed's map of Sussex dated 1610



Figure 6. Detail of Morden's map of Sussex dated 1695



Figure 7. Detail of Kitchen's map of Sussex dated 1763

The first map to show the area in detail was the map of Sussex produced between 1778 and 1783 by Yeakell & Gardner (fig 8). This shows the site of Woodhouse Farm including the assessment site, watercourses with marshland or watermeadows, field boundaries, some of which can be traced on the modern Ordnance Survey map, and a possible pond at the east end of the site. The original 2-inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey drawing of 1806 (fig 9) shows similar detail, although some field boundaries are different.

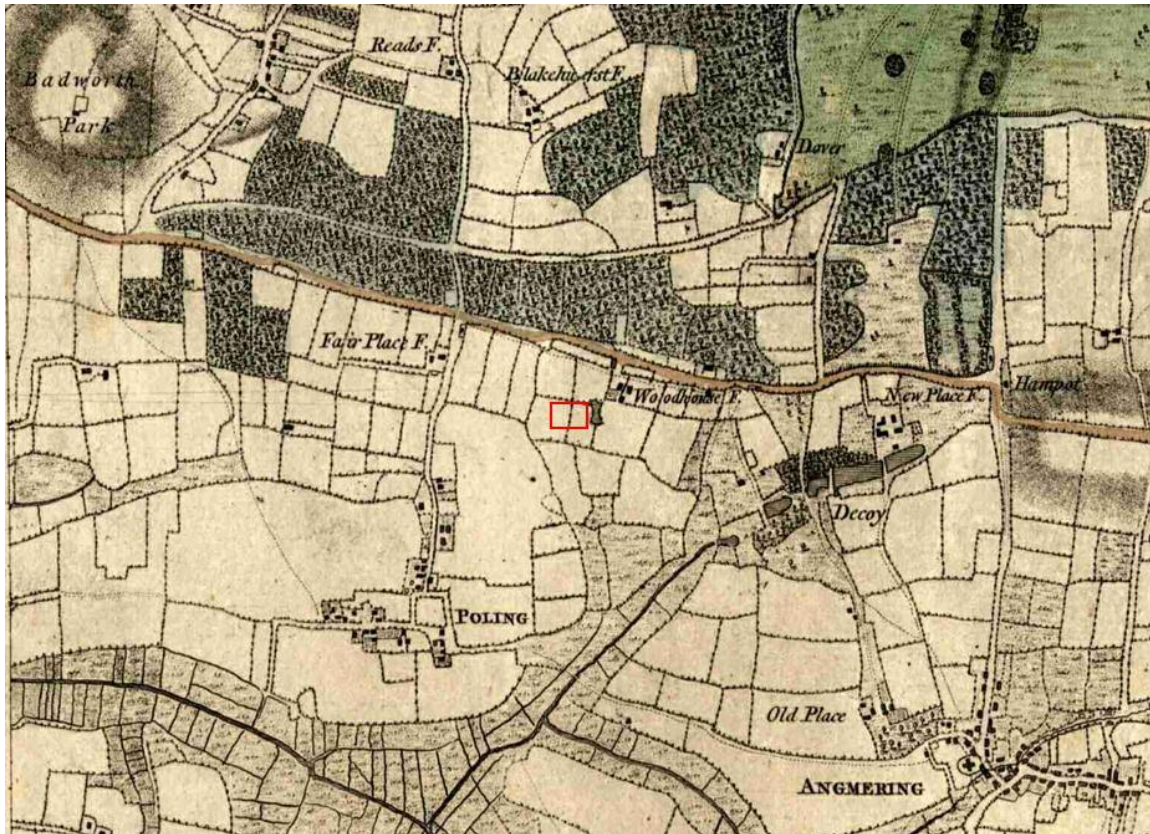


Figure 8. Detail of the map of Sussex by Yeakell & Gardner dated 1778-1783 showing the site location

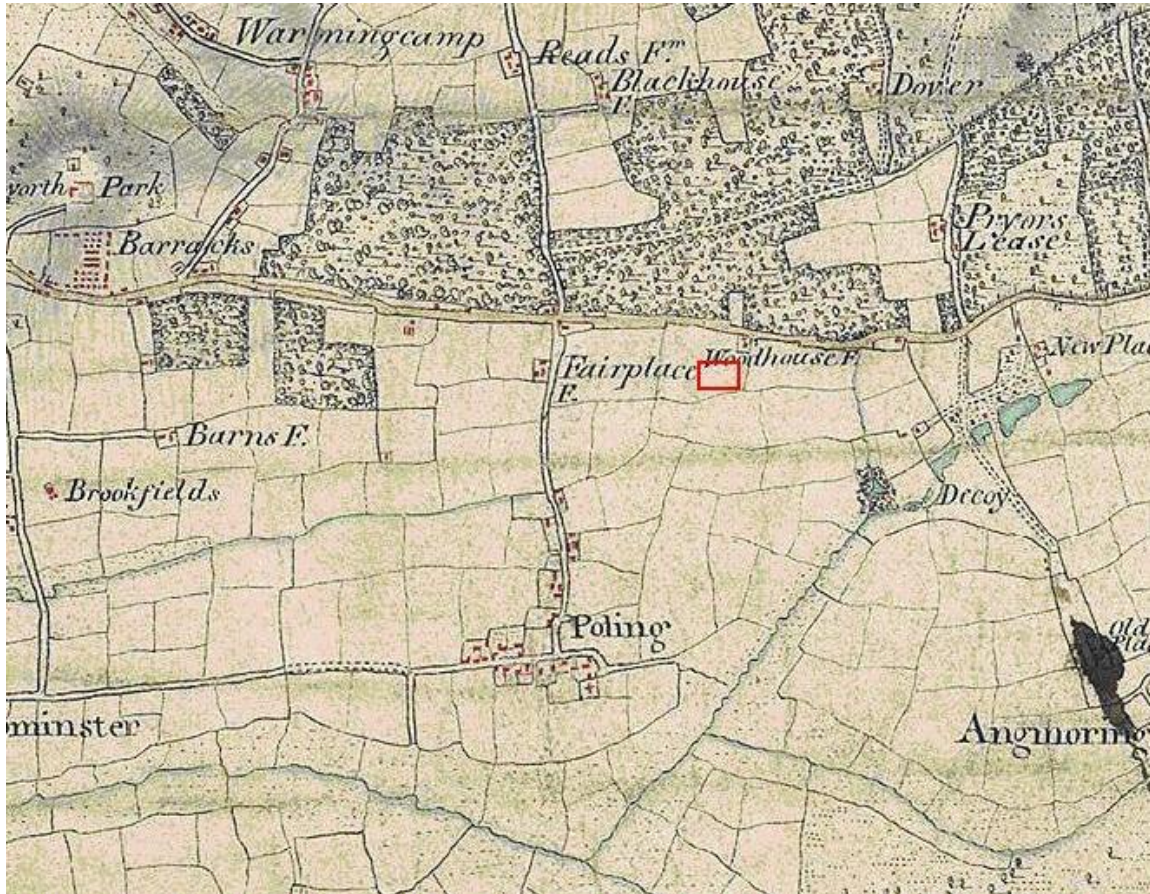


Figure 9. Detail of the Ordnance Survey drawing of 1806 showing the site location

The first edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1810 (fig 10) shows less detail but includes the watercourses. The revised version dating from the 1850s (fig 10) shows the railways.

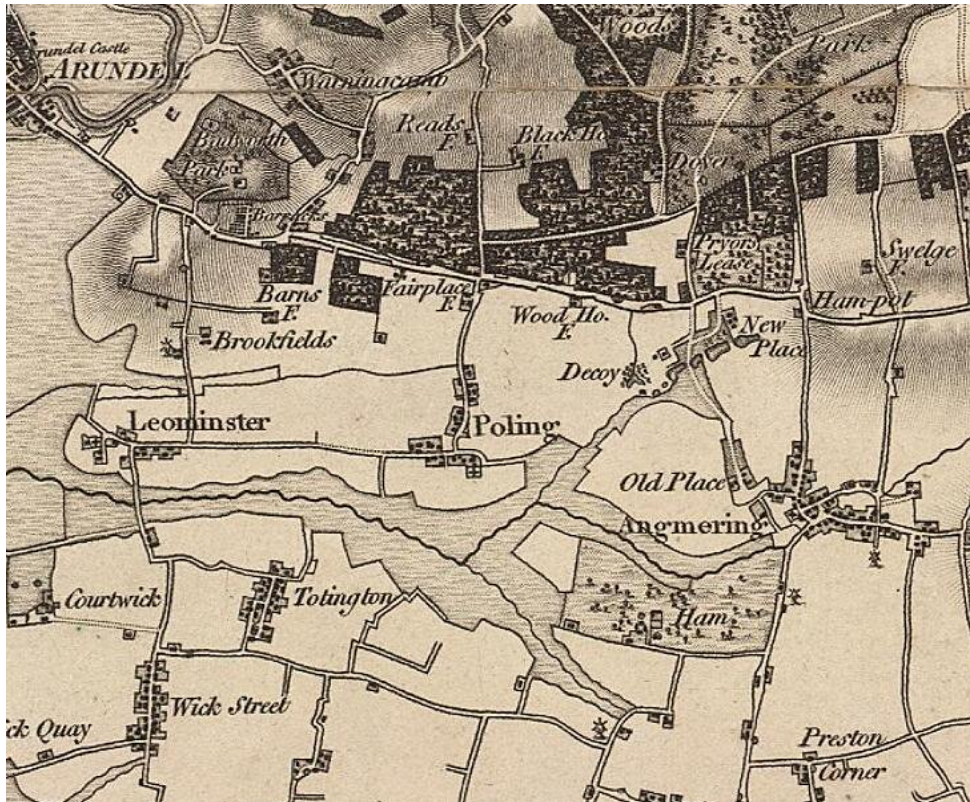


Figure 10. Detail of the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map, dated 1813

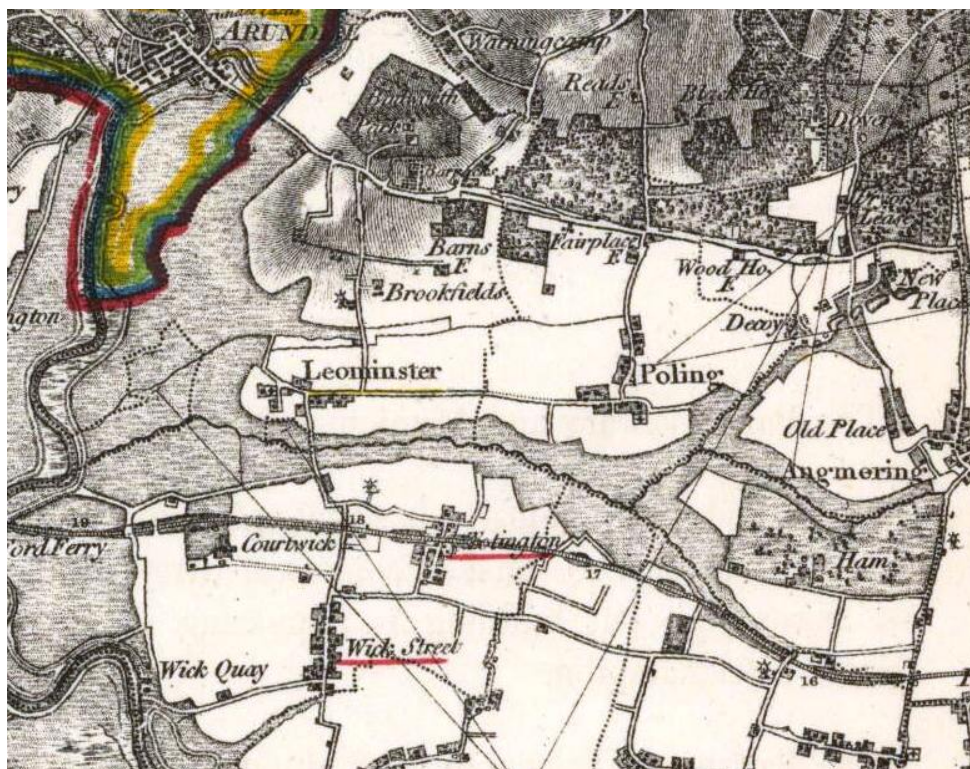


Figure 11. Detail of the Boundary Commission map of 1865, based on the revised 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey

Figure 12. Detail of the Ordnance Survey map dated 1876 showing the site location

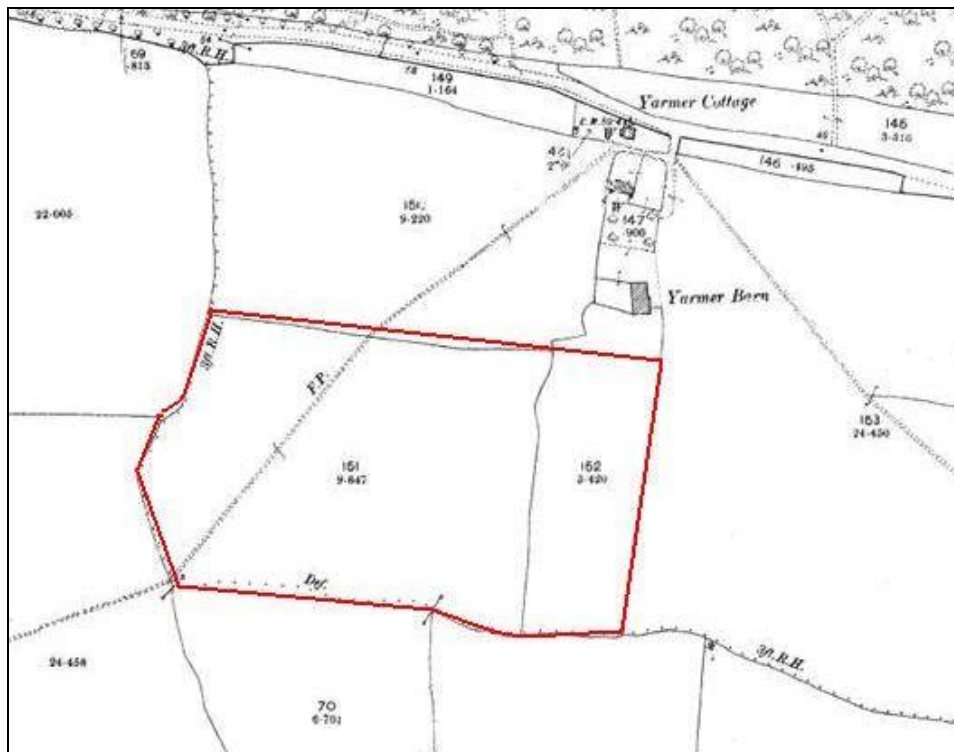


Figure 13. Detail of the Ordnance Survey map dated 1897 showing the site location

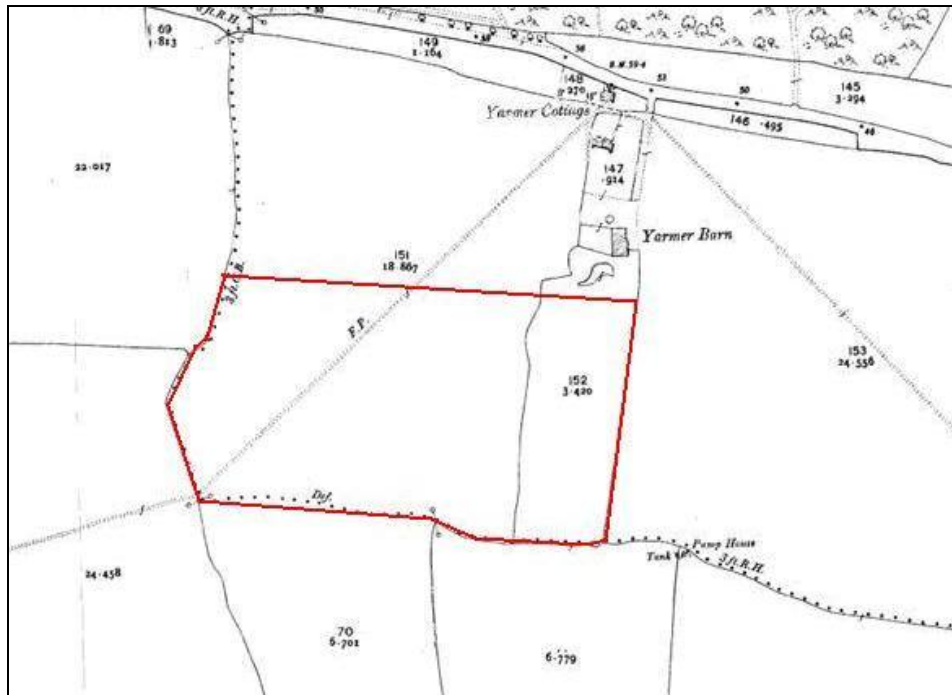


Figure 14. Detail of the Ordnance Survey map dated 1912 showing the site location

The 1937 edition of the Ordnance Survey (fig 15) shows the Vinery site partly developed as Worthing Vineries. The 1972 edition (fig 16) shows the full extent of the Vinery site with a row of houses to the east. The A27 road had become a dual carriageway.

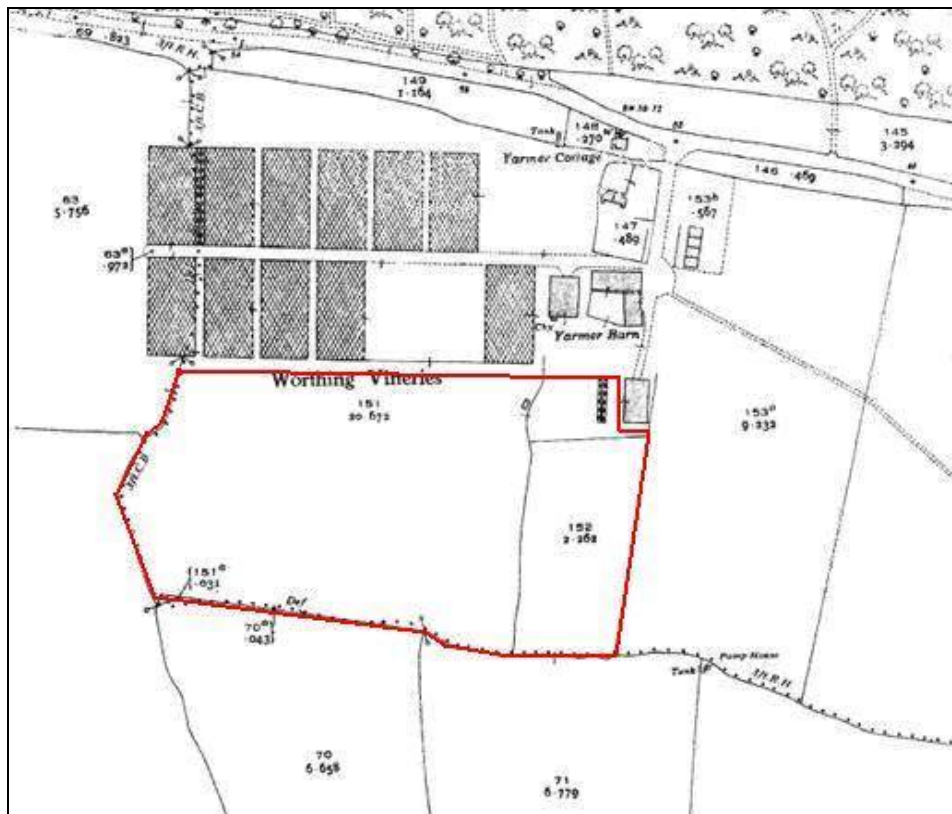


Figure 15. Detail of the Ordnance Survey map dated 1937 showing the site location



Figure 16. Detail of the Ordnance Survey map dated 1972 showing the site location

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9. Archaeology

9.1. Introduction.

The West Sussex County Council's HER records a number of monuments, find spots, and archaeological investigations within 1 kilometre of the site.

9.2. Prehistoric.

MWS1039 Occupation layer - Old Blakehurst

An intense layer of burnt flint was found at plough depth beside a pond in Old Blakehurst Field, c1km north west of the site.

MWS3089 Flint Implements – Poling

Flint implements found at Poling are in Littlehampton Museum. They cannot be traced and their precise classification and provenance cannot be established.

MWS3099 Iron Age Coin – Poling

An Iron Age gold coin was found in the garden of Mr. Tomkins, of Poling in 1851. A wax impression of it is in Lewes Museum. It was a Gallo-Belgic *stater*, dated 65BC – 45.

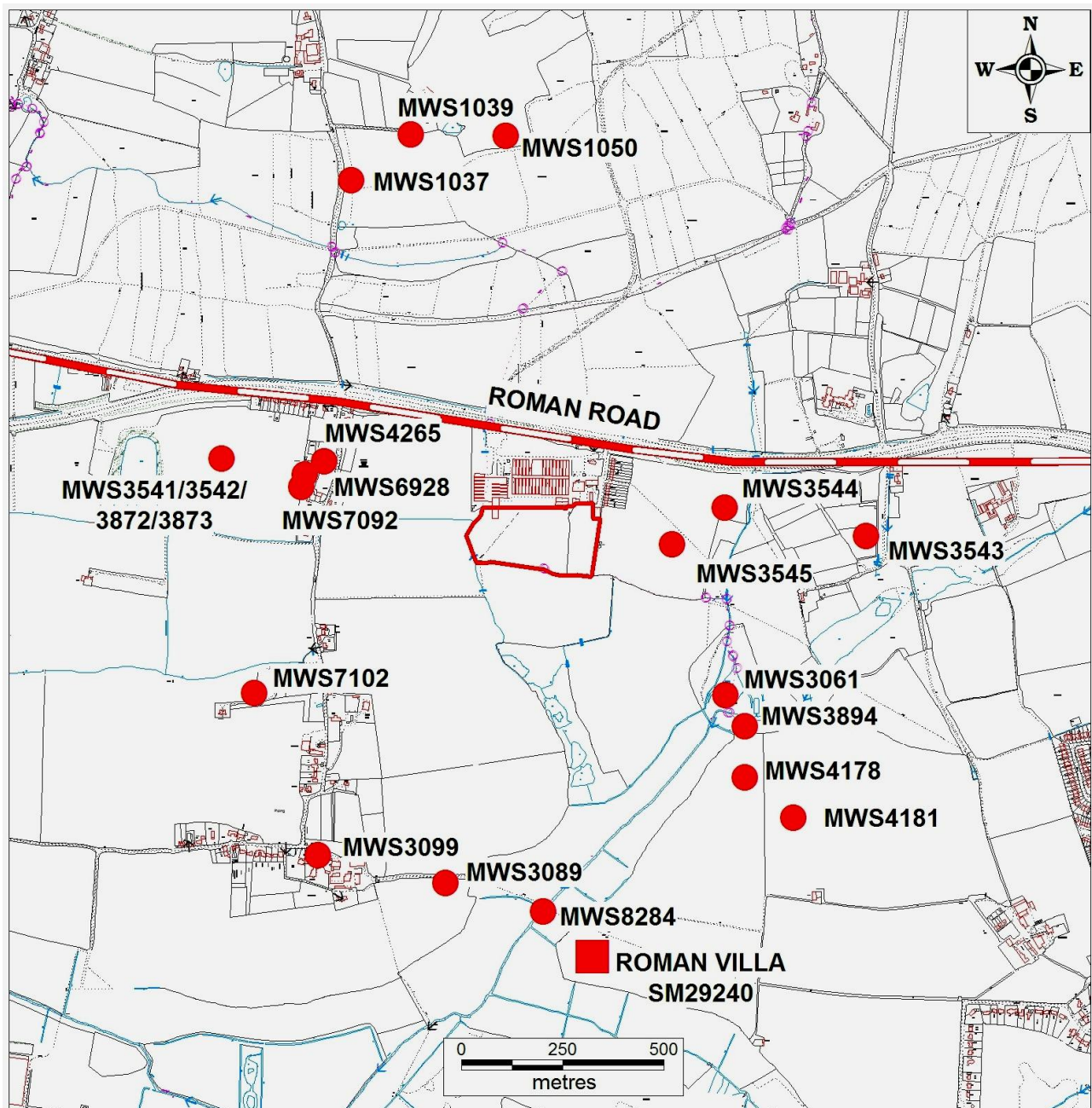


Figure 17. Map showing archaeological sites and find spots within a 1km radius.

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MWS3542 Neolithic Axe, Crossbush By-pass

A rough-out for a flint axe, probably Neolithic, was found in 1992 during excavation of Roman features during construction works on Crossbush By-pass, c750m west of the site (Graves 1992).

MWS3894 Worked flints, New Place Farm

A scatter of Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flints was found in a field some 575m south east of the site. Mesolithic material was also found. It is possible that it is a Mesolithic site, as 2-3kg of flint was collected during fieldwalking, including Mesolithic microlith cores, a small Mesolithic type axe/adze and a variety of flakes and scrapers (Graves & Hammond 1993).

MWS4178 Flint Scatters, Angmering Decoy Ponds

Extensive scatters of Mesolithic flint were found south of the Angmering Decoy ponds, c700m south east of the site.

MWS4181 Flint Scatter, New Barn, Angmering Decoy Ponds

An assemblage of over 200 pieces of worked flint of Neolithic or Bronze Age date was found in a field south of the Angmering Decoy ponds, c820m south east of the site. The implements were mainly scrapers, hollow scrapers, fabricators and blades made from locally available flint. A Mesolithic axe/adze and microliths were also found in this field.

A flint assemblage similar to those described was found on the site of the Angmering Roman Villa in the 1930s.

Mesolithic flints have also been found north of Angmering, about 1.2km east of the site (Wymer 1977, 291).

Excavations at Roundstone Lane, Angmering, about 3km south-east of the site, revealed a small cremation cemetery, earthworks, a field system and a well, all dated to the Late Bronze Age (Griffin, N. 2003).

9.3. Roman.

Roman road

The modern A27 road close to the site follows the route of the Roman road along the south coast from *Noviomagus Reginorum* (Chichester) to *Novus Portus* (probably Portslade near Brighton). Near Newplace Farm, about 1km east of the site, the modern road curves to the north and the line of the Roman road was still visible in the 1940s, although heavily disturbed by later use (Margary 1947; 1955, 69).

Roman Villa, Angmering

The site of Angmering Roman Villa lies c1km to the south. It is scheduled as an ancient monument (English Heritage No. SM29240). Excavations in 1937 – 1939 revealed evidence of a substantial villa complex built between 65AD and 75AD (Black, 1987). The excavations revealed a bath house complex measuring 39.6m x 27.4m with eight heated rooms. It had been largely demolished by 160AD but there was evidence for occupation at the site into the 3rd century and possibly later. Further excavations in 1945 and 1947 revealed evidence of other structures. These included the main villa, in its own enclosure, and a cluster of four or five additional buildings. The extent of the main building is unknown.

MWS1050 Roman pottery and pit - Blakehurst Copse Field

Roman sherds were revealed by ploughing, c1km north of the site. Scraping away the ploughsoil revealed a clearly defined pit containing many potsherds, including Samian ware and grey and sandy wares.

MWS3541 Roman Occupation Site, Crossbush By-pass

A shallow Roman ditch and two hearths were partially excavated in 1992 on a cleared area associated with construction works for the Crossbush By-pass (A27) c750m west of the site. The features were centred at TQ 04414 05693. The shallow ditch contained 200 – 300 pottery sherds of 2nd and 3rd century date, a large fragment of quern stone and one large fragment of amphora (Graves 1992).

MWS3872 Romano British Pottery, Crossbush By-pass

The pottery fragments from the site comprised c200 – 300 sherds, weighing about 5kg, including one of Samian ware, several large pieces of grey ware type vessels (one with lattice decoration) and 2 fragments with evidence of lead repairs.

MWS3873 Romano British Settlement, Crossbush By-pass

The main feature was a shallow ditch aligned roughly NNE-SSW, c9.2m long, 1.0m – 1.2m wide and c400mm deep. Other features included two small hearths of burnt material, one of which included numerous pot sherds

Excavations at Roundstone Lane, Angmering, about 3km south-east of the site, revealed a small Romano-British agricultural settlement (Griffin, N. 2003).

9.4. Medieval.

MWS4265 St. John's Priory, Preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers, Poling

The 13th century chapel of the Preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers survives, incorporated in Fairplace Farm. The chapel now forms the east wing of Fairplace Farm and has had an upper floor inserted. The building is constructed of knapped flint and flint rubble, with stone quoins and dressings. High up in the north wall is a small 13th century window. The east end contains a large, blocked, pointed-arched window. The south side has been much altered; several windows and French windows have been inserted and no original features remain. There are no other visible remains of the Preceptory.

MWS6928 St. Johns Priory, Poling

A watching brief was carried out in 1994 on ground works to convert farm buildings into a dwelling. Post-medieval brick fragments were found in the topsoil and a chalk and hoggin make-up layer was revealed, possibly a yard surface (Kenny 1994).

MWS7092 Medieval Cemetery, Poling Priory

Skeletons buried in clay soil one foot deep, just outside the east wall of Poling Priory are thought to be of medieval date (SAC 1953).

Several aerial photographs dating from 1947 – 1954 held by the National Monument Record show parallel crop marks across the assessment site and the fields to the west of the site, either side of Poling Street. These show that these fields were cultivated by ridge and furrow in the medieval period. The ploughing would have disturbed surface deposits at any possible archaeological sites, thereby obscuring any archaeological features so they would not be visible as crop marks.

9.5. Post-medieval – early modern.

MWS1037 Tile kilns, Blakehurst Lane

The remains of two post-medieval tile kilns are located beside small, water filled clay pits, c1km north west of the site.

MWS3061 Decoy Pond, Angmering

The Decoy Ponds were originally created in the 16th century as fishponds by the Palmer family of New Place. By the early 18th century, the ponds were extended to create a series of decoy ponds for shooting wildfowl (Rogers-Davis 2007).

MWS3543 Possible Brick Kiln, Arundel Road

The place name 'Kiln Field' attached to a parcel of land (no 170) shown on the Angmering Tithe Map of 1838-9 may suggest presence of brick kilns nearby.

MWS7102 Radar station, Poling

Radar Barn was formerly the receiver block of the Second World War Poling Radar Station, one of the first 20 Chain Home radar stations planned before war broke out. The building formerly had a flat concrete slab roof, overlying a layer of gravel over 1 m. thick, above the ground floor rooms; these layers were used as protection against bomb blasts and shrapnel. Pock marks at the rear of the building and on the frontage of the nearby Radar Cottages (believed to be formerly officer's quarters) were caused by shrapnel from bombing c1941. A number of other buildings and the nearby radar transmitter towers were removed in the mid-1950's (Mace. 1997). Radar Barn has been converted into flats.

9.6. Undated

MWS3544 Cropmark, Arundel Road

An ovoid cropmark is visible on an aerial photograph taken in 1981 (Meridian 1981).

MWS3545 Linear Cropmarks, Arundel Road

Linear cropmarks are visible south west of MWS3544 on the same aerial photograph.

MWS8284 Wooden piles – Poling

Wooden piles were found during works on the Black Ditch following floods in 1961. They were oriented roughly east – west, not parallel with the ditch (SAC 1966).

9.7. Listed buildings

The West Sussex County Council's HER records six listed buildings within 1 kilometre of the Vinery site. A further six listed buildings in Poling village are located within approximately 1 kilometre of the development site (fig 17).

DWS563 Barn at Newhouse Buildings, Grade II, English Heritage Building ID: 298027.

A large early 19th century building, faced with cobbles with red brick quoins, a slate roof, blocked slit windows edged with brick and a central wagon entrance.

DWS690 Decoy Cottage, Grade II

A 17th century or earlier timber-framed building of two storeys with painted brick infilling, tiled roof, casement windows and a 19th century gabled addition in painted brick at the south end.

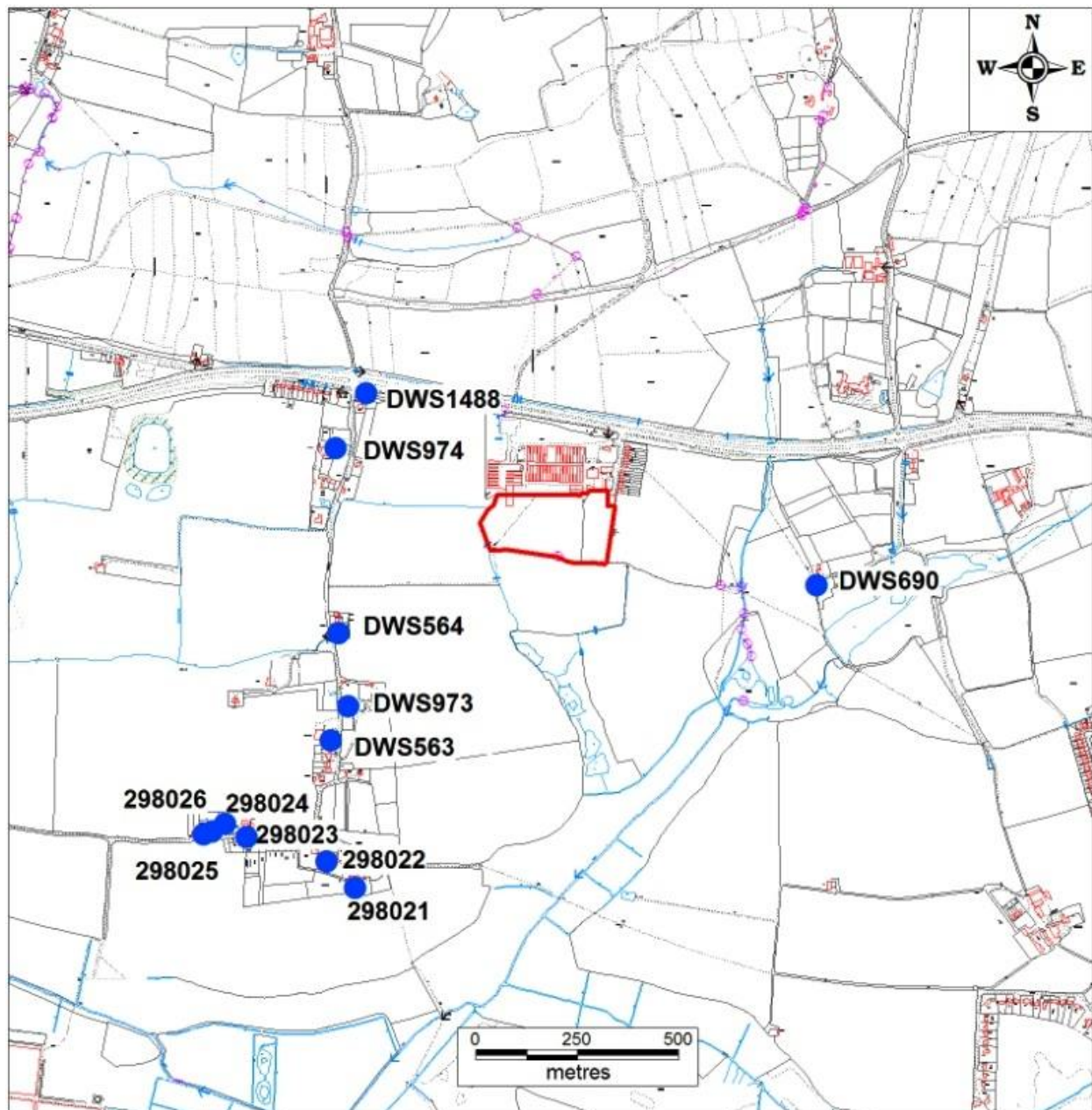


Figure 18. Map showing listed buildings within 1km radius of the site
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DWS1488 Old Forge Cottage and the former Poling Corner Post Office, Grade II, English Heritage Building ID: 298031

One building, originally three cottages but the centre and south one now form one house. Old Forge Cottage is dated 1729 and has two storeys, faced with flints with red brick dressings, quoins and modillion eaves cornice; a hipped tiled roof and casement windows. The former Poling Corner Post Office, no longer used as a Post Office, was an early 19th century addition of one window-bay in painted brick.

DWS973 Peckhams (formerly Peckhams Farmhouse), Poling Street, Grade II, English Heritage Building ID: 298028

A 17th century or earlier timber-framed building of two storeys, refaced in the 18th century with red brick and flints; a Horsham slab roof, the top section replaced with tiles; some casement windows, some sash windows with glazing bars; two large flint buttresses behind.

DWS564 St John's Cottage, Poling Street, Grade II, English Heritage Building ID: 298029

A probably 17th century cottage of two storeys, faced with flints and red brick with a hipped thatched roof with a pentice on the north side and casement windows.

DWS974 St John's Priory, Poling Street (formerly listed as Fairplace Farmhouse incorporating remains of St John's Priory) Grade I, English Heritage Building ID: 298030.

A Preceptory or Commandery of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem was founded here in the 12th century. In 1541 it was suppressed and the buildings granted to Arundel College, which was itself suppressed in 1546. The surviving buildings (fig 19) consist of the 13th century Chapel, which was converted into a dwelling in the 16th century and altered about 1830. It is built of stone rubble, flints and red brick with some exposed timber-framing at the rear, four stone buttresses to the front, a pointed stone doorway and a Horsham slab roof. The east wall has flanking buttresses and a blocked pointed window. To the west is an extension of 2 window-bays in red brick dating from about 1830.



Figure 19. St John's Priory, Poling
Photograph by John Armagh

There are several listed buildings in Poling village, approximately 1km from the site, that were not included in the HER search.



Figure 20. Church of St Nicholas, Poling
Photograph by Rjhfandclf

The Church of St Nicholas at Poling, Grade I, English Heritage Building ID: 298021.

The Church (fig 20) lies c1km SSW from the site. The nave is Saxon and dates from the mid-11th century. Part of one of the original wooden shutters has been preserved. The south aisle dates from c1190 – c1220 but the windows are mostly 15th century. The chancel dates from c1380 and the tower from 1420. After the Norman Conquest it belonged to the Norman abbey of Almanêches, and in the 13th century passed to its daughter house of Lyminster. It was still a chapel in 1374.

Bacon Hall, Poling, Grade II, English Heritage Building ID: 298024.

A 17th century house of two storeys, with a tiled roof, altered and enlarged in the 19th century, now faced with red brick and grey headers alternately on a coursed stone plinth. At the north end is an addition of one window-bay faced with flints with red brick dressings.

Christmas Cottage and Woodpecker Cottage, Poling, Grade II, English Heritage Building ID: 298023.

An 18th century L-shaped farmhouse of two storeys, divided into two dwellings, refaced and modernised with modern casement windows and two modern porches. Stuccoed with a hipped tiled roof. The east wall is faced with flints.

Thorn Tree Cottage, Poling, Grade II, English Heritage Building ID: 298025

A probably 17th century red brick cottage of two storeys, with a westernmost window-bay added later, hipped thatched roof with pentice behind, casement windows and a brick doorway with a depressed pointed head.

Waysend, The Thatches and Little Oak, Poling, Grade II, English Heritage Building ID: 298026.

A 17th century or earlier timber-framed building of two storeys, refaced in the C18 with flints with red brick dressings, quoins and flush stringcourse and a thatched roof.

The Manor House, Poling, Grade II, English Heritage Building ID: 298022

Formerly called Church Farm, an L-shaped building of two storeys with a tiled roof. In red brick and grey headers with a stringcourse; the south is faced with slates. The north-east

wing is 18th century, the south-west wing is early 19th century. The south front has a porch with a shaped gable.

10. Conclusions.

10.1 The aims of the assessment were to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance was to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context.

10.1. Heritage assets.

10.1.1 Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments

There are no listed buildings or scheduled monuments within the site. One scheduled monument, the site of Angmering Roman Villa, lies c1km to the south. Six listed buildings lie within 1km of the assessment site. The closest are St John's Priory and St John's Cottage, both on Poling Street, less than 500m from the site. The proposed development, adjacent to the existing structures at The Vinery, is unlikely to affect the setting of the monument or of any of the listed buildings.

10.1.2 Archaeological discoveries

A quantity of flint flakes and tools dating from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods and possibly the Bronze Age have been found at several locations in the area south-east of the assessment site. Flint implements have also been found at Poling village and at the Crossbush Bypass site to the west. The burnt flint deposit to the north probably represents a prehistoric occupation site. As a result there is a high potential for the presence of Mesolithic and /or Neolithic flints, and possibly other evidence such as features, at the assessment site. Any in-situ Mesolithic or Neolithic deposits would be of national significance.

The presence of the Roman road to the north, the evidence for a Romano-British occupation site to the west and the villa to the south show that the area was occupied in the Roman period. The Crossbush Bypass site is 1.5km north west of the villa. It may have been an agricultural settlement associated with the villa, or a roadside settlement partly dependent on passing traffic. There is moderate to high potential for the presence of

evidence of Romano-British agricultural activity and possibly for settlement evidence within the site.

10.2. The significance and the character of the study area

10.2.1 The study area has the potential to include remains of all periods of human activity from the palaeolithic to the more recent past. Any remains are likely to be of local significance. The lack of known archaeology within the site is probably related to a lack of disturbance and a lack of archaeological activity. The land use of the site over the last 1000 years is not known but there is no evidence of quarrying for gravel or other large scale works, so if archaeological remains do survive inside the site then they are likely to be well-preserved.

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