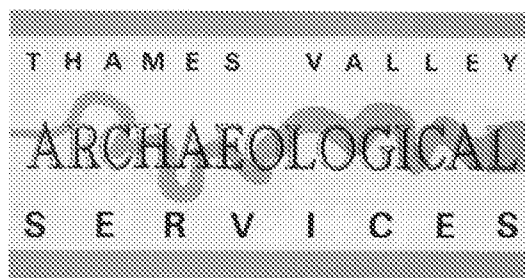


Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton, West Sussex

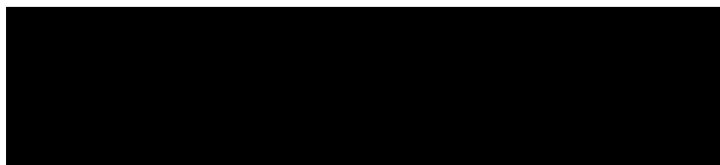
Project specification for an archaeological evaluation

Planning reference: WA/75/17/PL

1st November 2019



Ref: 19s109ev



Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton, West Sussex Project specification for archaeological evaluation

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The site is located to the west of Copse Lane, north-west of the historic core of Walberton, West Sussex (TQ 9639 0645) (Figs. 1 and 2). The development site consists of an irregular plot of land, most of which is currently covered in grass.

1.2 Thames Valley Archaeological Services has been commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the site by Mr Jason Osborn of Driftstone Homes, Ltd, 24 Palmerston Business Park, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 1DJ.

2.0 Planning Background

2.1 Planning permission (WA/75/17/PL) has been gained on appeal (APP/C3810/W/18/3210153) from Arun District Council to redevelop the site for residential housing. The consent is subject to a standard condition (3) relating to archaeology and the historic environment.

Condition 3 states that:

'No trenching or earthmoving in relation to the development hereby permitted shall take place until a written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of archaeological investigation will then be implemented in accordance with the approved details.'

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

2.3 A single component of work is therefore proposed at this stage; namely field investigation by means of machine trenching. The evaluation is to take place according to a written scheme of investigation approved by the Local Planning Authority (ie. this document). Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2019) will be followed.

2.4 Dependent on the findings of this evaluation, further archaeological work may be requested, as will be determined through consultation with the client and the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer who advises the District Council on archaeological matters. This document is concerned with the initial phase of archaeological works, and any additional work will be governed by a separate written scheme of investigation.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The village of Walberton has Saxon origins, and is first mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) as *Walburgetone*, which derives from the Old English for 'farmstead or village of a woman called Wealdburh or Waldburg'. The site is located on the Sussex Coastal Plain, which is a flattish area between the English Channel and the South Downs. The area is characterised by its underlying Brickearth geology, the soils of which are particularly fertile. Whilst numerous archaeological sites and monuments still survive as earthworks on the South Downs, any such features which may have been present on the coastal plain have usually been ploughed flat by centuries of agriculture. However, recent archaeological fieldwork projects have indicated that the coastal plain was heavily utilised in the past. Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age settlement activity was recorded at Woodgate, just over 3km south-west of the site, along with Roman field systems (Wallis and Ford 2014). Recent excavations on the other side of the River Arun, in Littlehampton, have revealed extensive areas of occupation, spanning the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods (Bray et al 2019; Wallis 2019).

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

4.2 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, or might be better studied under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

4.3 The work will be carried out in accordance with *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2019), and the relevant guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a).

4.4 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 from the prehistoric period are present.
- d) To determine if archaeological deposits from the Roman period are present.
- e) To determine if archaeological deposits from the Saxon period are present.
- f) The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in English Heritage Research Agenda (EH 2005), or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary.

5.0 Methodology

5.1 Trench Layout

5.1.1 We propose to six 25m long trenches across the site. The width of the trenches will depend on the size of the machine used, but is likely to be between 1.60m and 1.80m.

5.1.2 The trenches will be located as close as possible to the positions shown on Figure 3. The trenches have generally been positioned to target those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development, and to avoid protected trees and known buried services.

5.2 A contingency for the equivalent of an additional 20m length of trenching is included within the proposal should this be required to clarify any deposits found in the initial trenching. Any decision regarding additional trenching will be made following discussions with the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer and the client.

5.3 Excavation Methodology

5.3.1 Topsoil and any other overburden will be removed by a 360° type machine. A toothless ditching bucket will be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Machine excavation will be undertaken in spits, to enable the recovery of artefactual and eco-factual remains from individual layers. The excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

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

5.3.3 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 4.2. The proportion of deposits investigated will be discussed with the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer.

5.3.4 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.

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

5.3.6 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. Sampling will take place according to Historic England guidance (HE 2015a).

5.3.7 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.

5.3.8 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. 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 (7th edition 2011). Any human bone recovered of archaeological significance will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course, and will not be reinterred in earth.

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

5.3.10 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.

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

5.4 Recording Methodology

5.4.1 A single context recording system will be used in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording Manual (7th edition 2011). Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets.

5.4.2 All archaeological deposits exposed will be planned digitally, with sections drawn at a scale of 1:10 on drafting film. Where appropriate, archaeological features will be planned by pencil on drafting film at a scale of 1:20.

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

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

5.4.5 The location of the trenches, and of all plans and sections will be tied into the National Grid.

5.4.6 A full photographic record will be made of the evaluation project, consisting of high resolution digital photographs. 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 the District Council for training and outreach purposes if requested.

5.5 Post-fieldwork

5.5.1 Finds processing, sieving of bulk samples (including flotation and the sorting of residues) and analysis will commence immediately following the completion of the fieldwork in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE, 2015b). Post-fieldwork will be completed according to TVAS post-fieldwork manual (6th edition 2013).

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

5.5.3 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.

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

Pottery	Dr J Timby, Ms S Anderson, Mr L Barber (consultants) or Mr R Tabor (TVAS)
Stone	Dr D Williams (Southampton University)
Bone	Ms S Hamilton-Dyer, Dr M Holmes,(consultants) or Dr C Falys (TVAS)
Human bone	Dr C Falys (TVAS)
Post-glacial struck flint	Dr S Ford (TVAS)
Palaeolithic struck flint	Professor N Barton (Oxford University)
Charred plant remains/environment	Professor M Robinson (Oxford University), Ms R McKenna (consultant) or Ms J Pine (TVAS)
Metalwork	Dr R Taylor (consultant) or Mr A Colyer (Oxford University)
Brick and tile	Mr L Barber (consultant) or Ms D Milbank (TVAS)
Slag	Mr. S Crabb (Oxford University) or Professor J Allen (Reading University)
Soils/sediments	Dr. S Colcutt (Oxford Archaeological Associates)
Pollen	Mr D Young (Quest, Reading University)
Radiocarbon	Queens University , Belfast
Conservation	Wiltshire County Council Conservation Centre
Archaeomagnetic dating	Bradford University

6.0 Report and Dissemination

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

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

6.3 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.

6.4 The report will include a frontsheet 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

6.5 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

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

6.7 Any findings of academic merit will be published in an appropriate journal such as *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, the CBA South East newsletter, or as part of the TVAS Occasional Papers Series. Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download on the TVAS web site.

6.8 The results will be supplied to the West Sussex HER in digital form on a CD. The CD will include a copy of the report in (.pdfA) format, along with a selection of photographs and any relevant GIS data. A copy of the report will also be forwarded to the local planning authority. A selection of digital images documenting the project will also be supplied to the HER if requested.

6.9 Details will be supplied to the OASIS project. A completed OASIS form will be included as an appendix to the evaluation report.

6.10 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, 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.

7.0 Archive Deposition

7.1 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015b). The guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b) will also be followed.

7.2 The preferred depository for the site and finds archive is Littlehampton Museum. The museum will be contacted prior to the commencement of fieldwork to confirm that they will accept the archives, and to issue an accession number if necessary.

7.3 With the consent of the landowner, the site finds will be deposited with Littlehampton Museum, or another suitable depository, in due course.

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

8.0 General Items

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

8.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014c).

8.3 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. A risk assessment for the project will be prepared prior to commencement of fieldwork. If the site is accessible to the public deep trenches will be fenced with barrier mesh/bunting and road pins or Heras fencing as necessary.

8.4 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.

8.5 The fieldwork and post-fieldwork will be monitored by the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer who advises the District Council, 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.

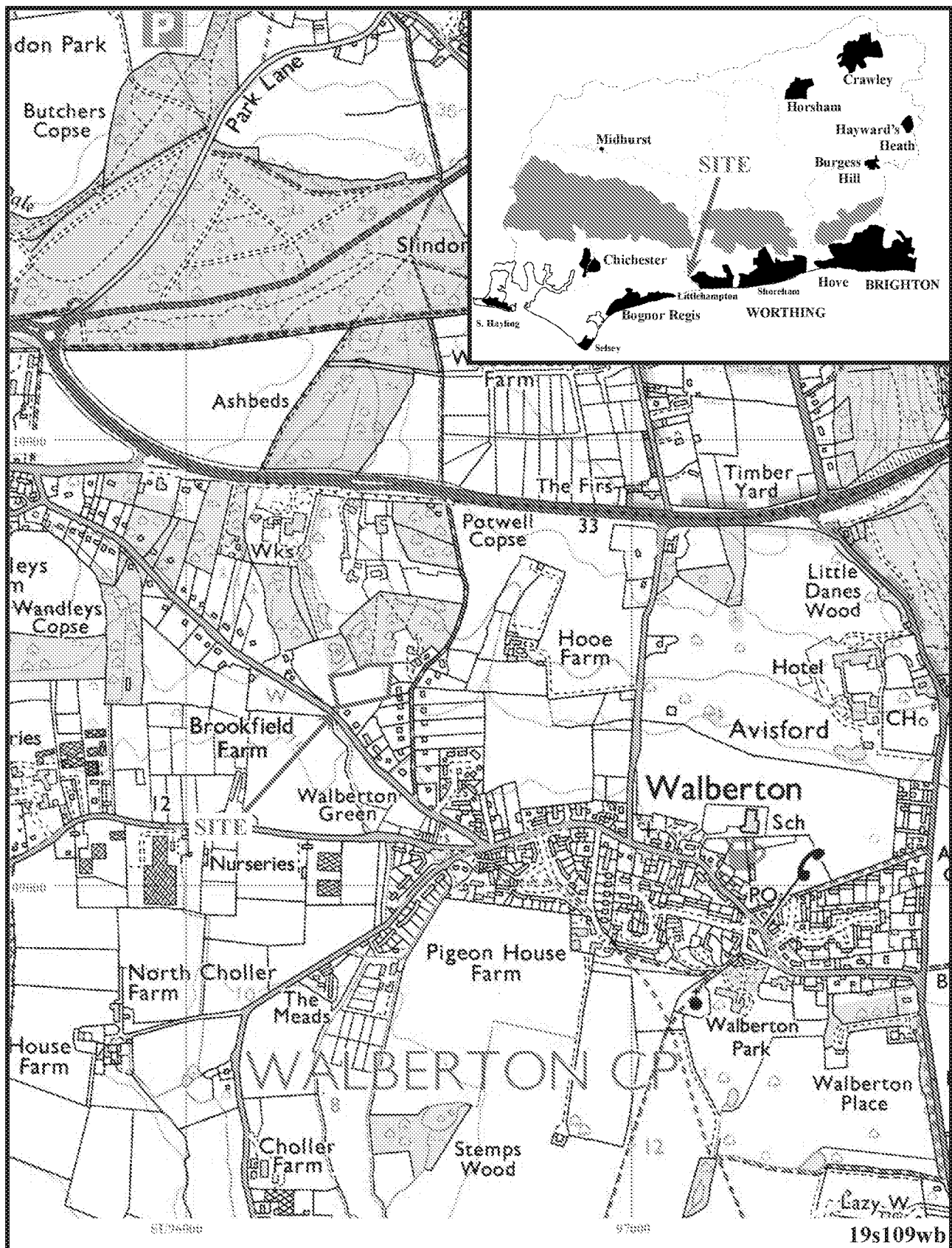
8.6 No liability is accepted for damage to any services unless a plan of these is provided in advance by the client or their agent.

9.0 Resources

It is anticipated that 4-8 man/days will be required on site with a similar number for post-fieldwork.

10.0 References

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- ESCC, 2019, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes.
- EH, 2005, *Research Agenda*, English Heritage, London.
- HE, 2015a, *Environmental Archaeology*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, Historic England, Portsmouth, 3rd edn.
- HE, 2015b, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MoRPHE project planning*, Historic England, London
- McKinley, J I and Roberts, C, 1993, *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*, IFA Techn Pap **13**, Reading.
- Mills A, D, 1993, *English Place-names*, Oxford.
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO).
- 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.
- Wallis, S, 2019, *Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex*, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Monograph **37**, Reading.



**Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton,
West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Walberton and West Sussex.

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Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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50m

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**Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton,
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Figure 3. Plan showing proposed development and
evaluation trenches.

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