

**Westergate Community College
Aldingbourne**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for

West Sussex County Council

November 1996

**Westergate Community College, Aldingbourne, West Sussex
An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Alan Ford

Report 96/64

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Westergate Community College, Aldingbourne, West Sussex ((SU 9412 0547) Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by West Sussex County Council. The evaluation was required in accordance with *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16, 1990) as part of a scheme of archaeological investigation prior to the construction of an access road, youth community centre, car parking area and footpath on land off Nyton Road, Westergate (Fig.2). The proposed works represent Phase 1 of a larger scheme to build a new Westergate Community College on land to the south of Nyton Road, Westergate, to replace the existing College buildings and annexe. The scheme was granted outline planning permission by West Sussex County Council in July 1994 (Planning Application Ref. AL/30/94). The field evaluation was carried out according to a specification approved by Mr. John Mills, Archaeologist for West Sussex Planning Department.

The field evaluation took place between 28th and 30th October 1996 and was carried out with the assistance of Nicky Clarkson and Jamie Preston. The site code is WCCC96 and the Chichester District Museum Accession Number is 72/ 75.

Location, Topography and Geology

The application area is located within the grounds of the existing Westergate Community College bordered by Nyton Road to the north, the present buildings and annexe of the college to the west and football and hockey pitches to the east and south (Fig. 2). The site lies on relatively level ground which rises gently to the north. The underlying geology consists of Valley Gravels (BGS 1981) with brown earth soils derived from the underlying brickearth drift deposits above. Test pits carried out by Archibald Shaw Ltd. on behalf of West Sussex County Council indicated 0.8-1.2 m of reddish-brown silty clay overlying gravel. This was corroborated by the 8 trenches excavated for the archaeological field evaluation which uniformly had 0.1-0.2 m of turf and topsoil overlying a 0.2 m horizon of silty clay with flints above brickearth, gravel was seen to outcrop in the base of several trenches.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposal area is situated on a part of the coastal plain rich in archaeological remains. The underlying head gravels are thought to have been laid down c. 200,000 BC and flint tools of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic date have been recovered from these deposits elsewhere within the county. Roman pottery was recovered during the excavation of a pipe trench at OS map reference SU941 053 (County Sites and Monuments Record no. 4847). This location could refer to a trench for a water main to the south-east of the proposal area or to a gas main at the south-west corner of the site.

Yeakell and Gardener's map of part of Sussex (1778-1783) shows buildings at several locations along the southern side of Nyton Road to the west and east of the proposed junction with the new access road. None of the maps consulted ((see Appendix 4) Fig. 3) indicated there to be any buildings or features lying within the proposal area.

Objectives and Methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. To this end a total of 8 trenches were excavated varying from 10-25 m in length, the total length of trenching was 135 m (Fig. 2). The trenches were excavated by a JCB-type machine fitted with a 1.6 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Initially the turf and topsoil was removed and the exposed surface inspected to ascertain if concentrations of flintworking debris were present, machine excavation was then continued down to the surface of the brickearth natural. The excavation of the trenches was closely monitored and the spoil-heaps checked for the presence of artefacts. Finally the trench locations were surveyed in relation to the OS national grid using a Total Station.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

The trench was located at the north of the proposal area adjacent to the boundary with Nyton Road. The trench was L shaped extending 10 m west-east parallel to Nyton Road with a further 10 m extending north-south from the western end. No features were observed and no artefacts recovered from the trench or spoilheap.

Trench 2

The trench was located towards the north of the proposal area and extended for 15 m on a north-west to south-east alignment. No features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the trench or spoilheap.

Trench 3

The trench was located towards the centre of the proposal area and extended for 25 m on a north-south alignment. A single struck flint and a concentration of pot sherds were recovered from midway along the trench lying on the horizon between the stony subsoil and brickearth natural. The remains of at least 3 separate vessels of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date were represented, their position in the ground suggesting they had been lying in an upright position and subsequently crushed. The pot sherds were not deposited in a discernible feature nor were any related features observed within the trench. The trench was opened out for a 20 m² area around the pottery concentration but no features or further artefacts were revealed.

Trench 4 (Plate 2)

The trench was located towards the centre of the proposal area and extended for 10 m on a south-west to north-east alignment. A struck flint and a small fragment of pottery were recovered from within the stony subsoil towards the south-west end of the trench. No other artefacts were recovered nor were any features observed.

Trench 5

The trench was located towards the centre-east of the proposal area and extended for 20 m on a north to south alignment. No features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the trench or spoilheap.

Trench 6

The trench was located towards the centre-east of the proposal area and extended for 15 m on a north to south alignment. No features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the trench or spoilheap.

Trench 7

The trench was located towards the south-west of the proposal area and extended for 15 m on a south-west to north-east alignment. No features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the trench or spoilheap.

Trench 8

The trench was located towards the south-east of the proposal area and extended for 15 m on a west to east alignment. No features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the trench or spoilheap.

The Finds

The pottery by Steve Ford

46 sherds and 22 fragments (less than 20 mm) of calcined flint tempered pottery of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date were recovered from subsoil deposits in trench 3. At least three vessels were represented of two fabric types (A and B). Of the 46 sherds, 12 were base sherds, 31 body sherds and 3 rims. Fabric A (17 sherds) was tempered with poorly-sorted flint in moderate quantity up to 8 mm across. The sherds mainly had oxidised surfaces and cores. Fabric B (29 sherds) was tempered with well sorted flint in dense quantity up to 1 mm across. The rim sherds were of a simple rounded type. One of the rims was decorated with diagonal finger nail impressions. Two of the base sherd types had pinched bases with relatively vertical sides whilst the other indicated a more globular profile. Two of the body sherds probably belonging to the same vessel had traces of a carbonised residue remaining.

A single fragment of pottery of fabric B was recovered from subsoil deposits within trench 4.

The struck flints by Steve Ford

A possible scraper was recovered from trench 3 and a broken flake from trench 4.

Neither of the flints could be closely dated other than to the Prehistoric period.

Conclusion

The presence of a significant quantity of Prehistoric pottery in one of the evaluation trenches suggests that some sort of activity of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date is represented within the proposal area. The lack of archaeological features within any of the trial trenches and absence of artefacts except in trench 3 and to a very limited extent in trench 4 suggests, however, that any archaeology present may be concentrated towards the centre of the proposal area and is perhaps of low density and ephemeral in nature.

References

- BGS: 19 81 **British Geological Survey**, 1:50,000, Sheet 317. Keyworth.
- PPG 16, 1990 **Archaeology and planning**. Department of the Environment
Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (HMSO)

APPENDIX 1 - Trench Details (0 m. at S or W)

Trench No.	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	10m x 10 m.	1.6 m.	0.5 m.	L shaped trench. 0.1 m. topsoil over 0.3 m. stony brickearth subsoil horizon. Brickearth natural in base. No features or artefacts. Height AOD on base=11.89-11.691 m.
2	15 m.	1.6 m.	0.4 m.	0.18 m. topsoil over 0.2 m. stony brickearth subsoil horizon. Brickearth natural in base with gravel outcropping at S end. No features or artefacts. Height AOD on base=11.697-11.614 m.
3	23 m.	1.6 m.	0.45 m.	0.15 m. topsoil over 0.2 m. stony brickearth subsoil horizon. Concentration of pot-sherds between 9 and 11 m. Flint at 7 m. Trench expanded to 5.6 m. width for 5 m. in centre. Brickearth natural in base. No features. Height AOD on base=11.493-11.479 m.
4	10 m.	1.6 m.	0.5 m.	0.2 m. topsoil over 0.2 m. stony brickearth subsoil horizon. Flint and pot-sherd at 2.3 m. Brickearth natural in base with gravels outcropping towards E end. No features. Height AOD on base=11.302-11.26 m.
5	20 m.	1.6 m.	0.5 m.	0.18 m. topsoil over 0.2 m. stony brickearth subsoil horizon. Brickearth natural in base with gravels outcropping along length. No features or artefacts. Height AOD on base=11.317-11.214 m.
6	15 m.	1.6 m.	0.45 m.	0.15 m. topsoil over 0.2 m. stony brickearth subsoil horizon. Brickearth natural in base. No features or artefacts. Height AOD on base=11.234-11.102 m.
7	13 m.	1.6 m.	0.5 m.	0.16 m. topsoil over 0.2 m. stony brickearth subsoil horizon. Brickearth natural in base with gravels outcropping at W end. Trench realigned to avoid live electricity service. Height AOD on base=10.928-10.921 m.
8	15 m.	1.6 m.	0.6 m.	0.12 m. topsoil over 0.2 m. stony brickearth subsoil horizon. Brickearth natural in base with gravels outcropping at E end. Trench realigned to minimise damage to football and hockey pitches. No features or artefacts. Height AOD on base=10.86-10.76 m.

APPENDIX 2 - Pottery catalogue

Trench 3

Base of trench 9-11 m.	46 sherds	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
	22 fragments	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

Trench 4

Base of trench 2.3 m.	1 fragment	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
-----------------------	------------	--------------------------------

APPENDIX 3 - Flint catalogue

Trench 3

Base of trench 7 m.	1 ? scraper	Undated (Prehistoric)
---------------------	-------------	-----------------------

Trench 4

Base of trench 2.3 m.	1 broken flake	Undated (Prehistoric)
-----------------------	----------------	-----------------------

APPENDIX 4- Map Research By Jamie Preston

Chichester Record Office

Enclosure Map 1776 (Ref. QDD6/W1)

<i>Plot</i>	<i>Tenant</i>	<i>Description</i>
17	Henry Digance	Cottage and garden
24	Thomas Fletcher Esq.	Land called Three Yard Lands
27	Hannah Moore	Land called Two Yard Lands

Tithe Map 1846 (Ref. TD/W1)

<i>Plot</i>	<i>Owners</i>	<i>Occupiers</i>	<i>Description</i>
313	Thomas Green Esq.	John Maidlow	House, garden, smiths shop and buildings
314	Mrs Daisy	Herself	Cottage and gardens
316	Joseph Cook (Trustees of)	William Shepherd	House, garden and smiths shop
317	William Collins (Devises of)	Themselves	The Nine Acres (arable)
318	William Collins (Devises of)	Themselves	The Nine Acres (arable)
319	William Watkins Esq.	Thomas Wooley Esq.	House, buildings, yards and gardens
412	John Bateman Esq.	Himself	Eastergate Croft (arable)

Ordnance Survey:

1875 First Edition LXI.6 (Ref. PAR 1/54/5) 25" (copy from fiche)

Land-use

331 Arable

332 Wood

337 Houses, sheds, gardens

366 Houses, gardens

368 Arable

1880 First Edition LXII (62) 6" (Photocopy taken, 17.5% reduction)

1897 Edition Sheet I.XII 6 25" (tracing)

1912 Edition Sheet LXII.6 25" (photocopy)

1937 Edition Sheet LXII.6 25" (photocopy)

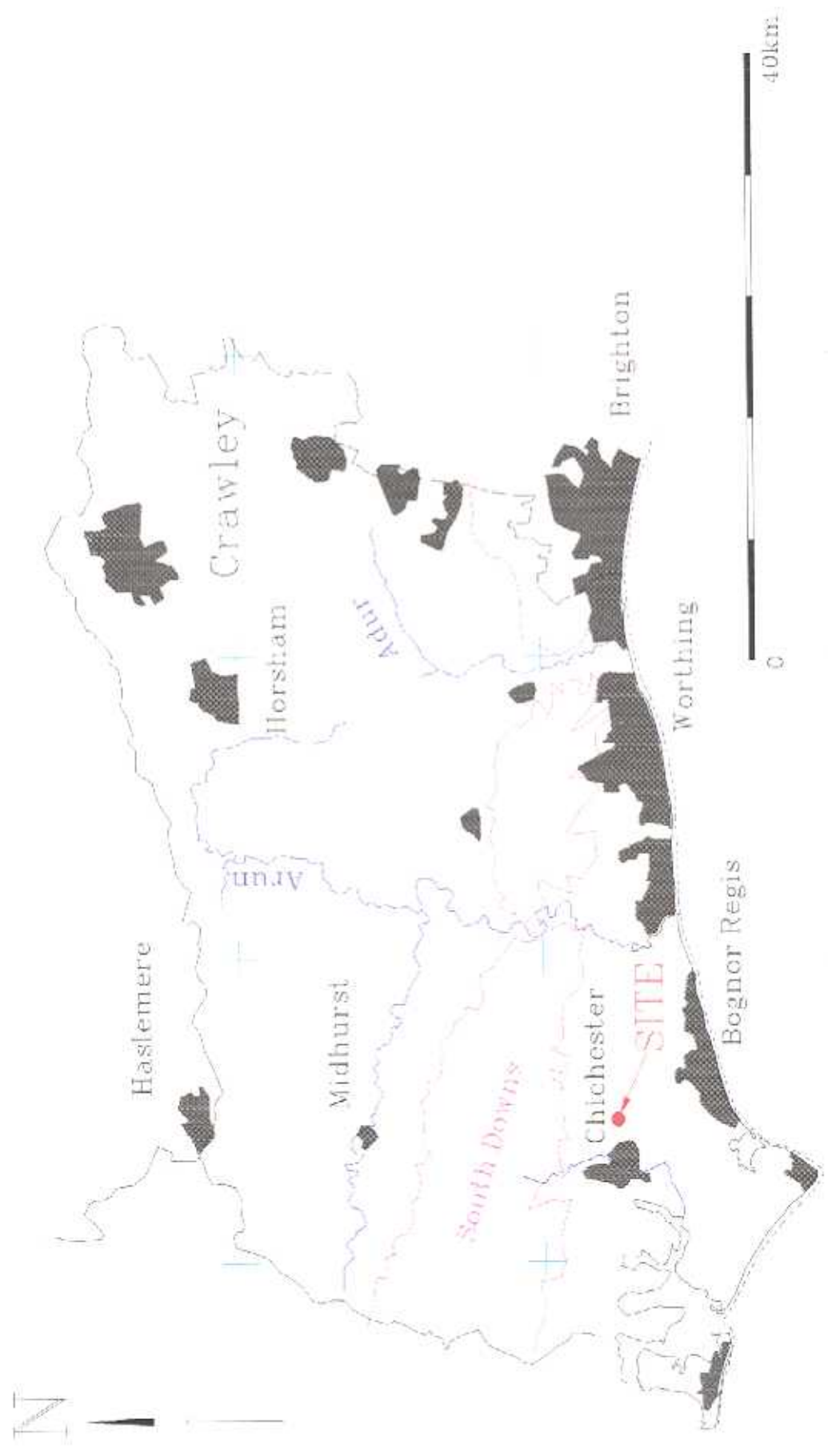


Figure 1. Location of site within West Sussex

Weslergate Community College,
Chichester, West Sussex, 1996

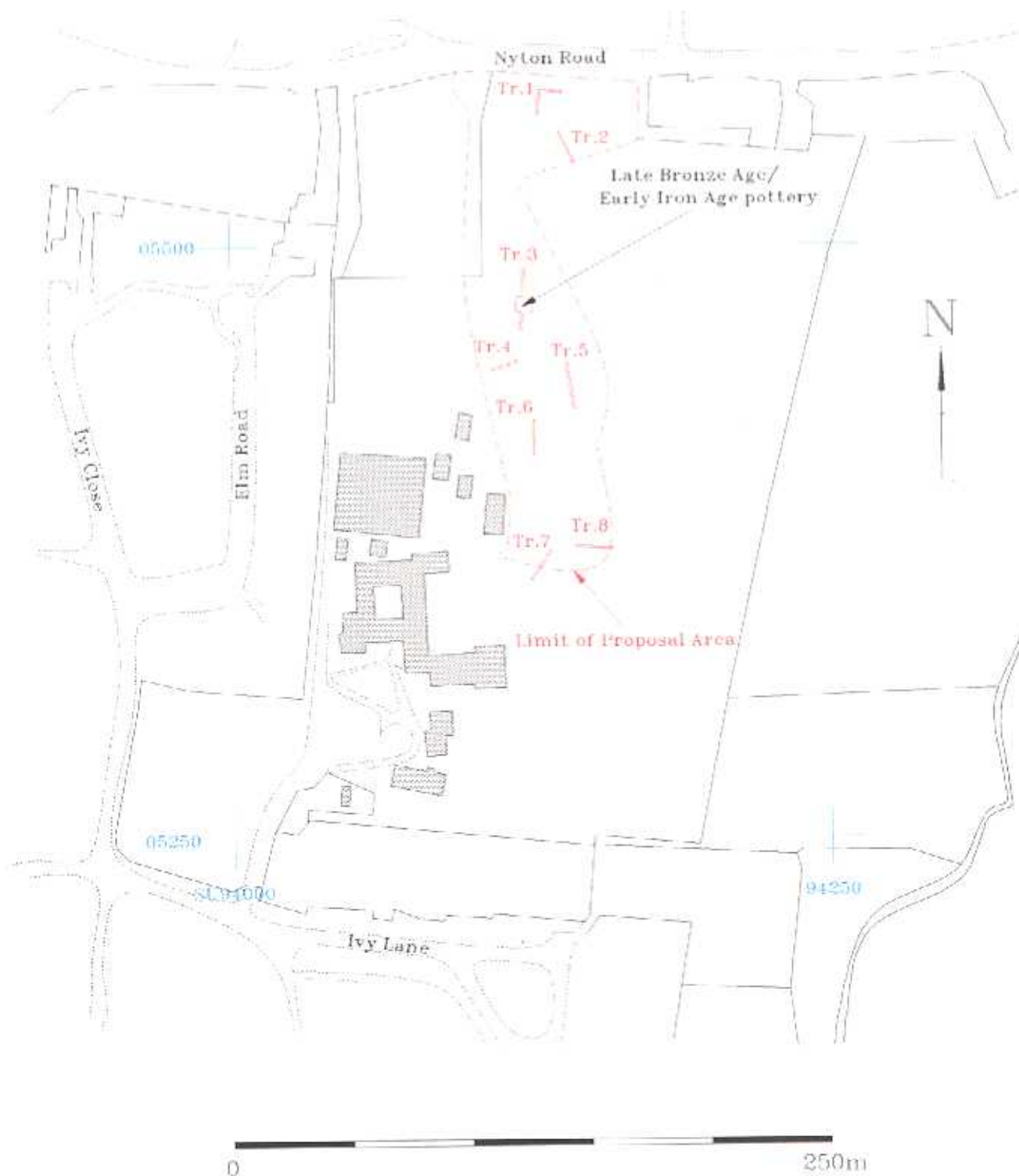
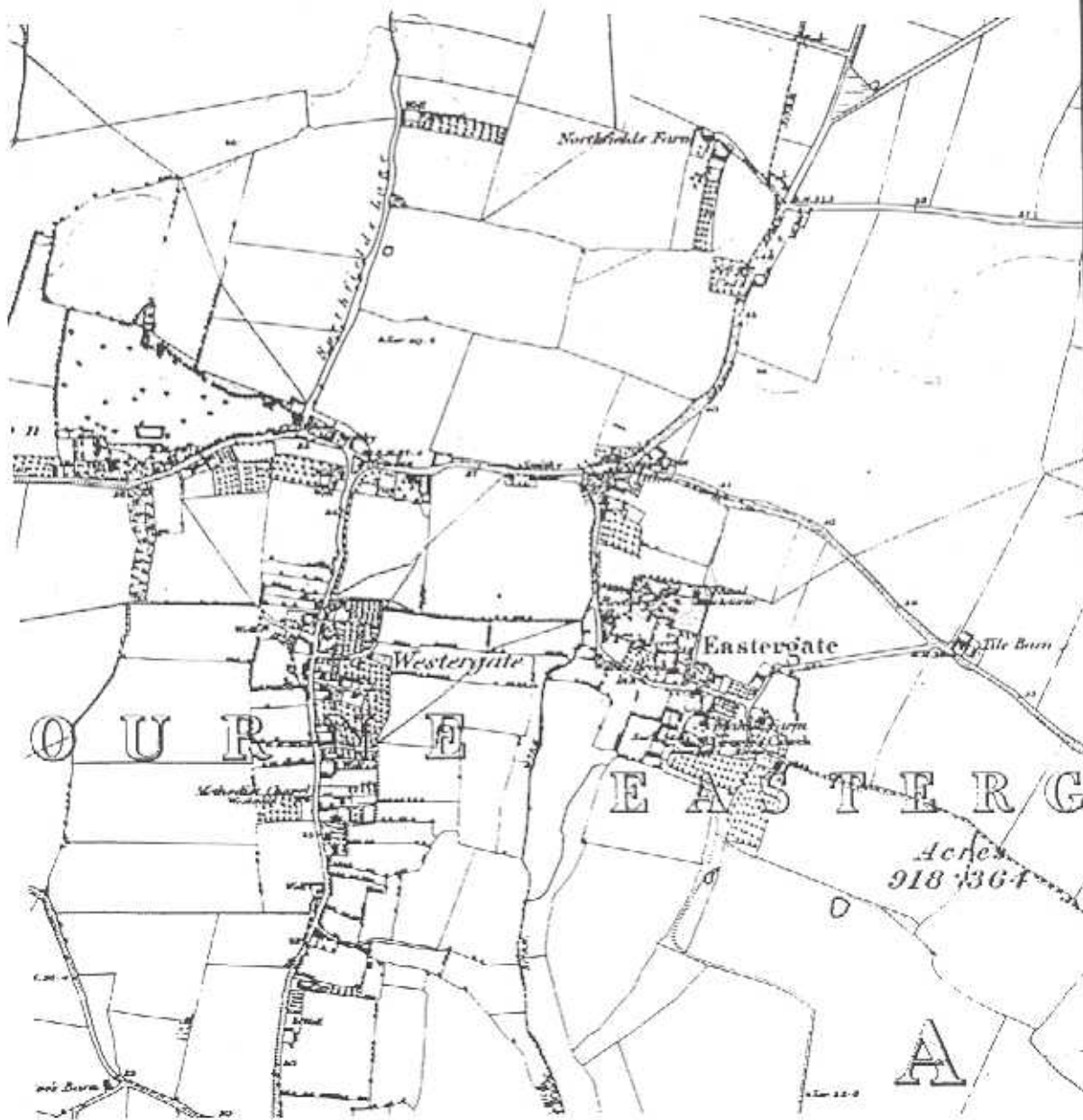


Figure 2. Trench location plan.



Westergate Community College,
Aldingbourne, 1996.

Figure 3. Ordnance Survey 1st edition
6 inch sheet LX11 1880.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 1. Westergate Community College Chichester. Trench 1. Looking west. Scale 2 m



Plate 2. Westergate Community College Chichester. Trench 4. Looking north east
Scale 2 m.

NMR EXCAVATION INDEX REPORT FORM: WEST SUSSEX

1. Type of recording: evaluation
(please tick) excavation
watching brief
other (specify)
2. Site name: WESTERGATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Address: WESTERGATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IVY LANE, WESTERGATE
Civil parish: ALDINGBOURNE
National Grid Refs: SU 9412 0547
3. Director/Supervisor: ALAN FORD
For (organisation): THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
Funded by: WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
4. Date fieldwork started: 28/10/1996 Date finished: 30/10/1996
5. Main periods and site types:
LATE BRONZE AGE/EARLY IRON AGE POT SCATTER
6. Location of documentary archive:
All/~~some~~ records ~~have been~~/will be deposited in the following
museum, record office etc.: CHICHESTER DISTRICT MUSEUM
Archive contains (please circle):
 NOT PLA PHO NEG SLI COR MSS
7. Location of finds:
All/~~some~~ finds ~~have been~~/will be deposited in the following
museum, other body: CHICHESTER DISTRICT MUSEUM
8. Bibliography: BGS 1981 BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
1:50,000 SHEET 317 (KEYWORTH)
PPG 16 1990 ARCHAEOLOGY & PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT PLANNING POLICY
GUIDANCE NOTE 16 (HMSO)
- Signature: Alan Ford
DATE: 19/11/1996