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Woods Warren Ltd.

**MSA Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood  
Winchester, Hampshire**

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

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May 2000

Woods Warren Ltd.

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Winchester, Hampshire**

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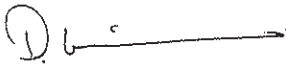
Woods Warren Ltd.

**MSA Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood  
Winchester, Hampshire**

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

**SU 5230 3575**

**Planning Application Nos: WO7492/03 and WO7492/04**

Prepared by: A Holmes Date: 31/5/00
Checked by: D Poore Date: 31/5/00
Approved by: D Wilkinson Signed:  Date: 1/6/00

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May 2000

# MSA Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood Winchester Hampshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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## SUMMARY

*In April and May 2000 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a watching brief at a site between Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood, Winchester, Hampshire; the site is bisected by the M3 motorway. The work was carried out on behalf of Woods Warren Ltd., and revealed ditches and a post-hole of possible prehistoric date, and a Roman chalk quarry.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In April and May 2000 the OAU carried out a watching brief at Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood, Winchester, Hampshire, on behalf of Woods Warren Ltd., in respect of a planning application for the construction of two motorway service areas, serving the north and southbound carriageways of the M3 (Planning Application Nos: WO7492/03 and WO7492/04). The work was carried out to a brief set by and a WSI agreed with Simon Thorpe of Winchester Museums Services (see Appendices 4 and 5). The development site is centred on SU 5230 3575 and is approximately 9.5 ha in area.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The majority of the site lies on clay-with-flints; the interface between the clay-with-flints and the Upper Chalk was seen at both the northern and southern limit of the area investigated. The site slopes gently from the south, at 110 m OD, to the north, at 92 m OD, and rises again at its northern limit, to 97 m OD. It lies between Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood (Fig. 1), both designated as Ancient Woodland in the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment. The area was ploughed until very recently.

### 1.3 Previous work

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study by Gifford and Partners for Swayfields Ltd (Martyr Worthy MSA: Environmental Statement), the results of which are summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The site has been previously evaluated by the OAU (OAU June 1999 and January 2000). The results of that fieldwork (carried out in two phases) are also summarised below.

### 1.4 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.4.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential. The Sites and Monuments Record indicates that Iron Age pottery, a cropmark of an Iron Age field system and a hollow-way, probably of medieval date, all lie within the southern section of the site (SRN 6217, 7229 and 7345). An undated linear cropmark has been observed in the northern

part of the site (SRN 7230). The surrounding area has also produced a number of archaeological sites and finds dating from the Palaeolithic through to the medieval period.

- 1.4.2 A Palaeolithic flint scatter was found to the north of the MSA site (SRN 7655 and 7656), and a Mesolithic scatter including flakes, scrapers, cores, blades and an arrowhead was recovered during fieldwalking some 700 m to the north-west (SRN 7619). A Neolithic flint arrowhead was found in association with sarsens dug up in the last century to the west of the southern MSA site and now under the M3 (SRN 7278 and 7307). Further Neolithic activity was revealed 500 m to the north in the form of pottery, flints and pits sealed beneath a Bronze Age barrow (SRN 7660). The barrow was a complex sequence of three mounds thrown up over urned and unurned cremations. There was also associated flint working. Documentary evidence indicates the presence of *Broken Barrow* or *Aethelwood's Barrow* just to the north of the site but no physical evidence has yet been found.
- 1.4.3 A banjo enclosure and a circular enclosure thought to be Iron Age in date still survive as earthworks on the eastern edge of Itchen Wood (SRN 7297 and 7205), some 800 m to the east of the site, and Iron Age settlements have been identified from air photographs overlooking the valley of the River Itchen. Iron Age field systems have been also been identified in the area (eg SRN 7306).
- 1.4.4 Documentary evidence indicates the presence of a Roman villa close to the Winchester to Silchester Roman road, west of the MSA site. Romano-British pottery was found near its suggested location during fieldwalking (SRN 7252). A complex series of earthworks including hollow-ways, banks, ditches and pits dating to the Roman period were exposed during tree clearance in Itchen Wood prior to the construction of the M3, c. 300 m to the north of the MSA site (SRN 7279) and remains of a field system also survived. In addition, several undated earthworks have been identified in the area.
- 1.4.5 Air photographs indicate a large number of possible sites in the vicinity, including the enclosures mentioned above. However, due to the presence of the ancient woodland, few cropmarks can be identified in the immediate area of the proposed development. A series of linear cropmarks can be identified to the south, all aligned approximately at 45° to the Roman road. Several areas of more intensive cropmarks are located to the west (the probable Roman villa site) and south of Bridget's Farm, and to the north of Abbots Worthy.
- 1.4.6 The earliest map which features the proposed development site is the Ordnance Survey 1 inch map of 1810, which appears to show the boundary between woodland and arable land to be as it is today.
- 1.4.7 The Phase I field evaluation revealed that the southbound carriageway site was largely devoid of archaeological features, with only a single undated pit containing burnt flint and a flint flake revealed in the southern-most trench excavated, Trench 1. The northern part of this area was obscured by landfill material derived from the

construction of the M3 motorway. Two small pits and two ditches, one running north-south, the other north-west to south-east, were discovered on the northbound carriageway site, as was a large, probably sub-circular, feature, measuring approximately 11.5 m across by at least 1.20 m in depth.

- 1.4.8 A walkover survey of Itchen Wood, north-east of the evaluation area, revealed four linear features running east-west, one running north-south and three irregular quarry-like features. The position of all these features has previously been recorded by the RCHME, although their precise nature, function and date(s) remain unknown at this time.
- 1.4.9 The Phase II field evaluation investigated an extension at the southern limit of the original development area, consisting of approximately 2 ha. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features.

## 1.5 Acknowledgements

- 1.5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Holmes, and managed by Dan Poore. The fieldwork would not have been possible without the co-operation of Paul Harris from P J Carey, and the on-site Site Manager and Foreman (Richard and Bob).

## 2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS

- 2.1.1 To record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the entire area affected by development, by means of a programme of archaeological monitoring comprising three different levels of watching brief.
- 2.1.2 If exceptional archaeological remains were discovered, for which the resources allocated were insufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard, the OAU was to signal to all parties that such an archaeological find had been made.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the watching brief.

## 3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken on all areas of ground disturbance within the development area which were likely to destroy archaeological deposits. Different levels of monitoring were required by the brief set by Simon Thorpe of Winchester Museums Service (see Appendix 4), specifically:
- 3.1.2 A comprehensive watching brief, which was maintained over the northern half of the northbound carriageway site; for practical purposes this was defined as the area north of SU 36000N . The attending archaeologist was present during all groundworks in this area. Topsoil stripping took place using a toothless bucket in order to minimise

disturbance to archaeological deposits/features as they were exposed; contractor's plant also avoided tracking over such exposed areas wherever possible until the attending archaeologist had completed all necessary recording.

- 3.1.3 An intensive watching brief, which was maintained during groundworks to clear the access road through Itchen Wood, with a view to defining and recording those features recorded by the OAU and the RCHME. This was to be achieved by recording both in plan and section any and all features disturbed and/or destroyed by excavation and construction of the access road.
- 3.1.4 An intermittent watching brief, which was maintained across the southern half of the northbound carriageway site, and across the whole of the southbound carriageway site.

### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 Selected areas were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The site is located on natural clay-with-flints overlying chalk bedrock, with a silty loam topsoil and patches of a silty clay subsoil. The ground conditions were wet during the period of the watching brief though this did not affect the visibility of features on the ground or make excavation difficult.

### 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 Only five archaeological features were revealed during the watching brief and these were all concentrated in the area to the north of SU 36000N.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Description of deposits

- 5.1.1 For further detail refer to Appendix 1.
- 5.1.2 A friable medium brown clay loam (58) containing 15% chalk and 5% flint gravels formed the topsoil, which overlay a friable orange-brown clay subsoil (59) with flint nodules and gravel. This overlay the chalk natural (60).

- 5.1.3 A north-south aligned ditch terminus (50) with concave sides and a rounded base cut the chalk natural (60) and was filled by a single orange brown clay deposit (51) containing a single flint flake, 15% chalk and 25% flint nodules and gravel (Fig. 5).
- 5.1.4 To the west of ditch 50 was another north-south aligned ditch terminus (52) with concave sides and a rounded base cut into the chalk natural (60). Within this terminus was a posthole (54) with straight sides and a flat base. Both features were then filled by a tenacious orange brown clay (53) containing 40% flint nodules and gravel (Fig. 5).
- 5.1.5 A north-south aligned "V" shaped ditch (55 and 62) with slightly convex sides and a rounded base extended from the north limit of the site for over 90 m and was filled by a tenacious orange brown clay (56 and 63) containing two pieces of worked flint and 40% flint nodules and gravel (Fig. 5).
- 5.1.6 To the east of ditch 55 and south of ditches 50 and 52 was a 11.50 m diameter circular chalk quarry (64) with straight sides, a flat base and a 45° ramp sloping from the centre to the southern edge of the quarry (Fig. 4). This was filled by a loose, white chalk deposit (65) containing 2% flint nodules and was probably the result of wall erosion after the quarry was abandoned. This was overlain by another similar deposit of chalk with orange brown clay silt (66) containing 5% flint nodules and gravel. Overlying this was a friable orange brown clay silt (67) containing 1% chalk and a single fragment of Roman pottery. A friable grey black ash deposit (68) containing 30% burnt clay overlay this. These deposits were finally overlain by a friable medium brown clay loam (69) which contained a single flint flake, two fragments of tile, 5% flint gravel and 15% chalk, and was probably the result of ploughing.

## 5.2 Finds

### *Pottery by Paul Booth*

- 5.2.1 The watching brief produced a single sherd of Roman pottery, weighing 3 grammes, from context 67, which was the fill of a probable chalk quarry. This was in a reduced coarse ware fabric with moderate, well sorted quartz sand inclusions up to 0.5 mm across, and mica inclusions. The fabric, which has dark grey surfaces and a brown core, is very similar to that of two small sherds from evaluation context 27/4 (OAU June 1999), which was a fill of same feature as 67. These sherds differed only in that the sand inclusions were slightly larger. The sherd from context 67 was a simple, slightly outsloping rim. It was burnished on the interior surface but the exterior is eroded so the precise form is uncertain, though it is likely to have been a bowl or dish. A local source for the fabric seems likely, but close dating within the Roman period is not possible.

### ***Flint by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark***

- 5.2.2 A total of three flakes and a tested nodule were recovered from the watching brief. Ditch fill 51 contained a single flake; ditch fill 63 contained a flake and the tested nodule, and the final fill (69) of the possible Roman chalk quarry also contained a single flake. The condition of the material is mixed. Cortication is present on two of the flints (the flakes from fills 51 and 63) and some post-depositional edge damage is also present (on the flakes from 63 and 69). Due to the lack of any diagnostic artefacts only a broad Neolithic to early Bronze Age date is proposed for this material; the flake from fill 69 is clearly re-deposited. The evaluation of the site recovered a further 70 pieces of flint, all of which bar one were considered to be of this date, with the exception being an end scraper possibly dating from the final phase of the Palaeolithic (Bradley in OAU June 1999).

### **5.3 Palaeo-environmental remains**

#### ***Carbonized plant remains and charcoal by Dana Challinor***

- 5.3.1 Two soil samples were taken from burnt deposits in the upper fills of the chalk quarry; one, context 27/6, was sampled during the first phase evaluation (OAU June 1999) and one during the watching brief (context 68), for the recovery of charred plant remains. The volume of soil floated varied from 4 to 10 litres. The samples were processed by hand-flotation, with the flot collected onto a 250µm mesh. The flots were air-dried and scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification. The presence of any charred material was noted and an estimate of abundance was made. Fragments of charcoal were randomly extracted, fractured and examined in transverse section. While this provides a reliable method of identification of the ring porous taxa (e.g. *Quercus* sp.), identifications are tentative for the semi- to diffuse-porous taxa (*Maloideae*, *Prunus* etc.).
- 5.3.2 Identifications of the non-wood plant remains were made by Ruth Pelling of the Oxford University Museum. The flots were dominated by monocotyledonous rhizomes, which could indicate burnt grass. The presence of small burnt stones in the samples also supports the interpretation that the assemblage represents turf which was burnt *in situ*. A single fruit, cf. *Prunus* type (sloe, cherry), was recovered from context 68 but this was uncharred and assumed to be modern.

## **6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

### **6.1 Reliability of field investigation**

- 6.1.1 To the south of SU 36000N (Fig. 2) the depth of impact was minimal with only the upper part of the topsoil being removed. No features were visible in this area with the exception of the southern extent of the main north-south ditch, which itself was impossible to see once it had run significantly beyond SU 36000N. To the north of SU 36000N ploughing would probably have had a greater impact on the archaeological deposits due to the rising topography and the thinning of the topsoil.

However, as the subsoil and natural clay-with-flints gives way to the chalk bedrock and visibility becomes very clear while the depth of features increases allowing for better survival of archaeological features within the chalk natural.

## 6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 The largest feature found was a probable chalk quarry. This circular feature contained a ramp sloping 45° from its southern edge to the centre and may have been designed to allow a cart to take chalk directly from the quarry.
- 6.2.2 It is possible that this chalk was quarried for use in construction/repair. The Roman road (A33) to the west, or the possible Roman villa to the south-west (see section 1.4.4) are possible destinations, although both are at least one kilometre away and closer quarries extracting more suitable materials, such as flint and gravels, may well have been used.
- 6.2.3 It is also possible that this chalk may have been used to improve the soil in the area by reducing acidity within the plough soil (particularly where the topsoil overlay clay-with-flints, as seen throughout most of the site south of the quarry), as a high chalk content was apparent in the modern topsoil throughout the stripping process.
- 6.2.4 Pottery found within one of the earliest deposits filling the quarry dates it to the Roman period. Environmental soil sampling retrieved evidence of a turf layer that had formed in the quarry (context 68, Fig. 4), which was subsequently burnt (see 5.3). This may indicate that the feature was left to silt up naturally until it was only partially full. The burning and subsequent rapid infilling (context 69) may represent a period of land clearance, followed by ploughing, of the area around the quarry.
- 6.2.5 To the west a "V" shaped ditch, aligned north-south, ran the length of this area. To the east of the ditch were two north-south aligned ditches, both of which terminated. The western ditch terminus contained a single small posthole. The three ditches may be field boundary ditches contemporary with the quarry, or possibly related to an earlier, prehistoric field system. No dating evidence was recovered from the ditches, other than a small number of flint flakes.

**APPENDIX 1    ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No	Date
50	Cut	0.9	0.35	N/S Ditch			
51	Fill	0.9	0.35	Ditch Fill	Flint	1	
52	Cut	0.55	0.13	N/S Ditch			
53	Fill	0.55	0.13	Ditch Fill			
54	Cut	0.12	0.16	Post Hole			
55	Cut	1.5	0.5	N/S Ditch			
56	Fill	1.5	0.5	Ditch Fill			
57	Cut	1.1	0.24	N/S Ditch			
58	Layer	0.3		Top Soil			
59	Layer	0.15		Clay-with-flints			
60	Natural			Chalk			
61	Fill	1.1	0.24	Ditch Fill			
62	Cut	1.06	0.26	N/S Ditch			
63	Fill	1.06	0.26	Ditch Fill	Flint	2	
64	Cut	11.5	1.3	Quarry			
65	Fill	1.5	0.78	Chalk Fill			
66	Fill	2.3	0.27	Chalk Fill			
67	Fill	11	0.3	Silt Fill	Pottery	1	Roman
68	Fill	11.5	0.02	Ash Fill			
69	Fill	11.5	1.1	Loam Fill	Flint, tile	1, 1	
70	Cut	1.05	0.2	N/S Ditch			
71	Fill	1.05	0.2	Ditch Fill			

**APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

- OAU June 1999 MSA, Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood, Winchester, Hampshire  
Archaeological Evaluation Report
- OAU January 2000 MSA, Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood, Winchester, Hampshire  
Archaeological Evaluation Report
- Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August 1992)

**APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** MSA, Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood, Winchester, Hampshire

**Site code:** IV 99

**Grid reference:** SU 5230 3575

**Type of fieldwork:** Watching brief

**Date and duration of project:** April and May 2000

**Area of site:** 9.5 ha approximately

**Summary of results:** Three probably prehistoric ditches, one associated post-hole, one probable Roman chalk quarry

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OAU, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Winchester Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: IV 99. The archive will be security copied prior to deposition.

## APPENDIX 4    BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

**Site:** MSA, Itchen Wood, Itchen Valley, Winchester  
**Archaeology Reference:** 04-96-11  
**Archaeology Officer:** Simon Thorpe, Sites & Monuments Officer  
**Planning Reference:** W07492/0 & /04  
**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> July 1999

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## BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

### 1. Introduction

1.1 This brief for archaeological works has been prepared by the Sites & Monuments Officer of Winchester City Council. Planning consent has been granted for development of a motorway service area on the northbound and southbound carriageway of the M3 motorway (SU 5235 3575), subject to a condition for archaeological work in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE, 1990) and policy HG 3 of the Winchester District Local Plan.

1.2 The applicant will need to assure the local planning authority that the requirements of the brief will be met in full by submitting a written scheme of investigation (prepared on behalf of the applicant by an archaeological contractor) to the Sites & Monuments Officer prior to works commencing. The written scheme of investigation should include details of the number and qualification of staff provided for the project (including provision for specialist staff) and the project timetable. The written scheme of investigation will be approved in writing by the local planning authority.

1.3 It is strongly recommended that contractors consult the evaluation report and make a site visit before costing the project.

### 2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 The archaeological background to this site is contained within the Environmental Assessment submitted by Swayfields Ltd and prepared by Gifford & Partners.

2.2 An evaluation has been carried out by Oxford Archaeological Unit comprising a 2% excavated sample of the development area and a visual survey of Itchen Wood. The results are presented in a report dated June 1999. In summary the southbound carriageway site was largely devoid of archaeological features although the northern part of this area has been subject of landfill during construction of the M3 motorway. Within the northbound carriageway site an undated ditch, a sub-circular feature (pit) containing prehistoric flint and Roman pottery, a possible prehistoric occupation layer and ditch were recorded.

2.3 The evaluation recorded linear features and quarry-like depressions in Itchen Wood. The position of these features has previously been recorded by RCHME. However there appears to have been no investigation into their function and date.

### 3. Requirement for Fieldwork

3.1 This brief is for a programme of archaeological works in mitigation of disturbance caused by new development. These works will take place intra-construction in the form of an

archaeological watching brief during all ground disturbance associated with the development.

3.2 The aim of this programme of archaeological work is to record such evidence that may add to our understanding of patterns of land-use in this area, and present such evidence in a format for public dissemination.

## **4. Fieldwork**

### **Site specific methodology**

4.1.1 A *comprehensive* watching brief will take place over the northern half of the northbound carriageway site. It may be appropriate for the archaeologist to be authorised to directly advise the contractor on certain aspects of site works to ensure archaeological deposits are not unnecessarily disturbed. This may involve stripping topsoil using a toothless ditching bucket and avoiding backtracking over stripped areas.

4.1.2 An *intensive* watching brief will take place during the clearing of the access road through Itchen Wood. This should pay particular attention to recording in plan and in section any features disturbed by the clearing and formation of the access road.

4.1.3 An *intermittent* watching brief will take place over the southern half of the northbound carriageway site, and the southbound carriageway site.

### **General methodology**

4.2 A metal detector should be used to assist in the retrieval of metal artefacts from the site. The involvement of local metal detectorists in such exercises is encouraged. The Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer should be contacted for advice on metal detecting policy.

4.3 Where archaeological remains and evidence are encountered, the archaeologist should be given reasonable opportunity to record (and remove as appropriate) that evidence.

4.4 As far as possible the archaeologist should record the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of the archaeological evidence.

4.5 Appropriate written, drawn and photographic records should be made on site, accountable to the time and conditions.

4.6 All finds from the site will be retained. They will be removed from the site for processing and conservation where necessary, in preparation for further analysis and archiving. Provision must be made for specialist treatment of finds by a conservator.

## **5. Post-Fieldwork**

5.1 Following completion of archaeological fieldwork an A4 page summary of results should be submitted to the Sites & Monuments Officer within 5 working days.

5.2 A report will be produced which should describe the nature of the fieldwork undertaken, the circumstance and conditions under which it occurred and the results that were obtained. Included in this format should be:

- a site location plan at an appropriate scale
- details of the archaeological organisation and personnel involved

- the date of works
- a site centred national grid reference
- a concise non-technical summary of the results
- any specialist reports should be contained within this one report
- a summary of the archive contents
- a copy of this brief and the written scheme of investigation as appendices

5.3 Two copies of this report should be submitted to the Sites & Monuments Officer.

5.4 Depending on the nature and importance of the archaeological evidence produced, further written and illustrative material may be prepared for publication in a suitable place.

5.5 Provision should be made for the assembly of a site archive which should be prepared and deposited with a relevant museum. The archive will need to conform to the relevant standards for deposition set out by the receiving museum. It is preferable to keep archives from fieldwork in Winchester district at Winchester Museums Service and in the first instance contact should be made with the Museums Curator/Archives Assistant.

5.6 If the finds are to remain with the landowner then a copy of the non-artefact archive should be deposited with a museum.

## 6. General

6.1 The archaeological contractor is expected to work to the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and to follow the Code of Conduct of the IFA.

6.2 The archaeological contractor will be bound by the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, IFA.

6.3 All current Health and Safety legislation must be followed on site.

6.4 The archaeological contractor will inform the Sites & Monuments Officer of the start date and progress of work, so that provision can be made for monitoring. The contractor will also inform when fieldwork finishes.

6.5 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and the appropriate licence from the Home Office will be sought for their removal.



**Winchester**  
City Council

For more information on this document contact the Sites & Monuments Officer at  
Historic Resources Centre, 75 Hyde Street, Winchester, SO23 7DW.

T: 01962 848269 F: 01962 848299 E: [sthorpe@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:sthorpe@winchester.gov.uk)

*As part of our commitment to curatorial services we welcome comments on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief.*

**APPENDIX 5 WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION****Proposed Motorway Service Area, Itchen Wood, Itchen Valley, Winchester.  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Written Scheme of Investigation  
NGR SU 5235 3575****1. Introduction.**

- 1.1. It is proposed to construct a motorway service area on the northbound and southbound carriageway of the M3 motorway (Planning Application No. WO7492/03 and WO7492/04). An archaeological watching brief is required in accordance with PPG 16, and policy HG 3 of the Winchester District Local Plan, due to the presence of sites of archaeological interest within the development area. A brief for this archaeological fieldwork was prepared by the Sites & Monuments Officer of Winchester City Council.
- 1.2. The development site is located to the north of Winchester, between Itchen Wood and Shroner Wood, at NGR SU 5235 3575; both woods are classed as Ancient Woodland in the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment. The MSA site is bisected by the M3; the northern site (west of the motorway) being 4.5 ha in area and the southern site (east of the motorway) being 3 ha in area. The underlying geology is chalk (GSGB sheet 299/300) and the site lies at approximately 110 m AOD at its southern end, sloping down to approximately 95 m at its northern end.
- 1.3. The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, and has been the subject of an environmental assessment by Gifford & Partners for Swayfields Ltd. and a field evaluation by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU), on behalf of Woods Warren Ltd. Consulting Engineers, the results of which are summarised below. The Archaeological Evaluation Report of that exercise contains a full archaeological background for the site and its environs, and this document should be read in conjunction with it.
- 1.4. The field evaluation revealed that the southbound carriageway site was largely devoid of archaeological features, the northern part of this area being obscured by landfill material derived from the construction of the M3 motorway. Two small pits and two ditches, one running north-south the other northwest-southeast were discovered on the northbound carriageway site. A large, probably sub-circular, feature was also found, measuring approximately 11.5 m across by at least 1.20 m in depth. These lay in the northern part of the development site.
- 1.5. A walkover survey of Itchen Wood, north-east of the evaluation area, revealed four linear features running east-west, one running north-south and three irregular quarry-like features. The position of all these features has previously been recorded by the RCHM, although their precise nature, function and date(s) remain unknown at this time.
- 1.6. This Written Scheme of Investigation details how the Oxford Archaeological Unit would implement the required watching brief. The first part is site specific while the Appendices detail general OAU standards and procedures.

**2. Aims.**

- 2.1. To record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the entire area affected by development, by means of a

programme of archaeological monitoring comprising three different levels of watching brief.

2.2.If exceptional archaeological remains are discovered, for which the resources allocated are insufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard, the OAU will signal to all parties that such an archaeological find has been made.

2.3.To make available the results of the watching brief.

### **3. Strategy.**

3.1.The watching brief will be undertaken on all areas of ground disturbance which may disturb or destroy archaeological deposits, specifically:

- A comprehensive watching brief will be maintained over the northern half of the northbound carriageway site; for practical purposes this is defined as the area north of SU 36000 N. The attending archaeologist will be present during all groundworks in this area. Topsoil stripping will take place using a toothless bucket wherever possible in order to minimise disturbance to archaeological deposits/features as they are exposed; contractor's plant should also avoid tracking over such exposed areas wherever possible until the attending archaeologist has completed all necessary recording.
- An intensive watching brief will be maintained during groundworks to clear the access road through Itchen Wood, with a view to defining and recording those features recorded by the OAU and the RCHME. This will be achieved by recording both in plan and section any and all features disturbed and/or destroyed by excavation and construction of the access road.
- An intermittent watching brief will be maintained across the southern half of the northbound carriageway site, and across the whole of the southbound carriageway site, taking into account the earthmoving strategies of the developers.

3.2.Any archaeological features affected by the groundworks will be recorded to ascertain, as far as possible, the location, extent, date, character and relationships of the remains. Site recording and sampling levels for archaeological features will be as defined in Appendix 7.

3.3.The project will be carried out on a daily basis by a competent archaeologist and managed on a regular basis by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, registered with an appropriate area of Competence. Close liaison will be maintained with the site agent, foreman or other representatives as appropriate with regard to access, timing of visits and Health and Safety requirements.

3.4.Close co-operation will be maintained with Winchester's Archaeological Representative, to ensure adequate monitoring.

### **4. Report and archive.**

4.1.A report of the findings will be produced within three weeks of the completion of fieldwork. One A4 page summary of the results will be submitted to the Winchester Sites and Monuments Officer within five working days of the completion of fieldwork.

4.2. Copies of the report will be forwarded to the Winchester Sites and Monuments Officer. A full set of catalogued slides will also be sent to the SMR.

4.3. The site archive will be created in accordance with the guidelines published in Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage (UK Inst. for Conservation 1990) and standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections - see Appendix 8.

## 5. General.

5.1. OAU Appendix 11 is relevant.

### 11 GENERAL

11.1 The requirements of the Brief will be met in full where reasonably practicable.

11.2 Any significant variations to the proposed methodology will be agreed with the local authority's archaeological representative in advance.

11.3 The scope of work detailed in the main part of the Written Scheme of Investigation is aimed at meeting the aims of the project in a cost effective manner. The Oxford Archaeological Unit attempts to foresee possible site specific problems and resource these. However there may be unusual circumstances which have not been included in the costing and programme.

- Unavoidable delays due to extreme bad weather, vandalism, etc.
- Complex structures or objects, including those in waterlogged conditions, requiring specialist removal.
- Extensions to specified trenches or feature sample sizes requested by the archaeological curator.
- Trenches requiring shoring or stepping, ground contamination, unknown services, poor ground conditions requiring additional plant, specialist reinstatement of surfaces (i.e. tarmac, turf).

### HEALTH AND SAFETY and INSURANCE

11.4 All work will be carried out to the requirements of *Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974*, *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) H & S manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1991*, the OAU Health and Safety Policy, and any main contractors requirements.

11.5 A copy of the OAU's Health and Safety Policy is available on request. OAU will require copies of the H & S policies of all other contractors and operators present on site in compliance with *The Manual of H & S Regulations 1992*.

11.6 The OAU holds Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details will be supplied on request.

11.7 The OAU will not be liable to indemnify the client against any compensation or damages for or with respect to:

- Damage to crops being on the Area or Areas of Work (save in so far as possession has not been given to the Archaeological Contractor);
- The use or occupation of land (which has been provided by the Client) by the Project or for the purposes of completing the Project (including consequent loss of crops) or interference whether temporary or permanent with any right of way, light, air or water or other easement or quasi easement which are the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement;
- Any other damage which is the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement;
- Injuries or damage to persons or property resulting from any act or neglect or breach of statutory duty done or committed by the client or his agents, servants or their contractors (not being employed by the Oxford Archaeological Unit) or for or in respect of any claims demands proceedings damages costs charges and expenses in respect thereof or in relation thereto.

#### COPYRIGHT and CONFIDENTIALITY

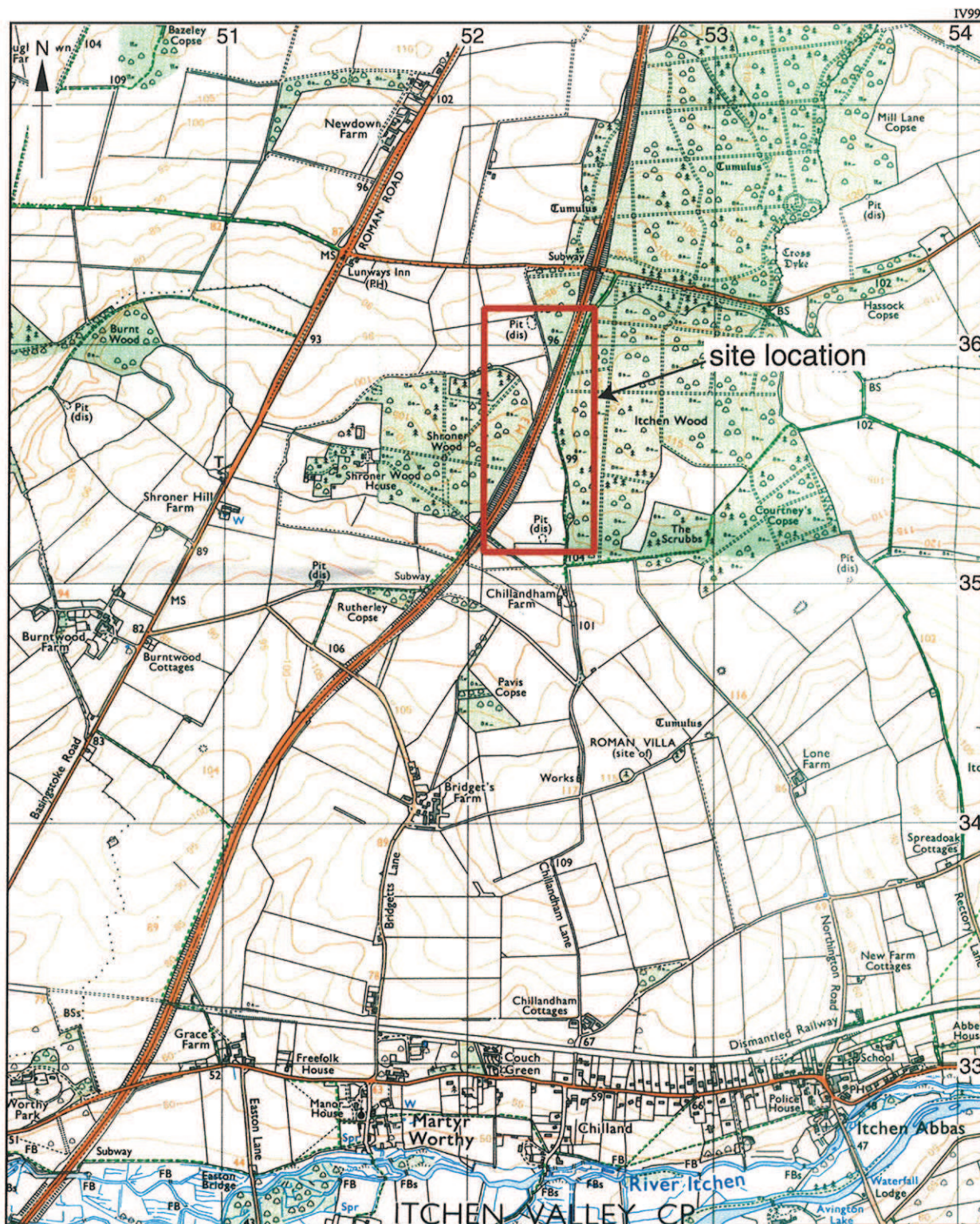
- 11.8 Oxford Archaeological Unit will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 11.9 Oxford Archaeological Unit will assign copyright to the client upon written request but retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (Chapter IV, s.79).
- 11.10 OAU will advise the client of any such materials supplied in the course of projects which are not OAU's copyright.
- 11.11 OAU undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the client's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that such conditions shall not unreasonably impede the satisfactory performance of the services required. OAU further undertake to keep confidential any conclusions about the likely implications of such proposals for the historic environment. It is expected that clients respect OAU's general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

#### OAU STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

- 11.12 OAU shall conform to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, the IFA Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, the IFA Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations, Desk Based Assessments, etc. and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice.
- 11.13 OAU is a member of the Institute of Environmental Assessment and the Council for British Archaeology.
- 11.14 Project Directors normally will be recognised in an appropriate Area of Competence by the IFA. For more extensive and complicated evaluation projects especially where they are part of large-scale programmes of work in historic urban centres, the procedures outlined in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* 2nd Edition

1991 (MAP 2) will be followed for immediate post-field archive preparation and initial assessment. Agreement to then be reached, in collaboration with the local authority's archaeological representative, about what aspects will need to be taken forward to provide a report in the required format containing the information needed for planning purposes.

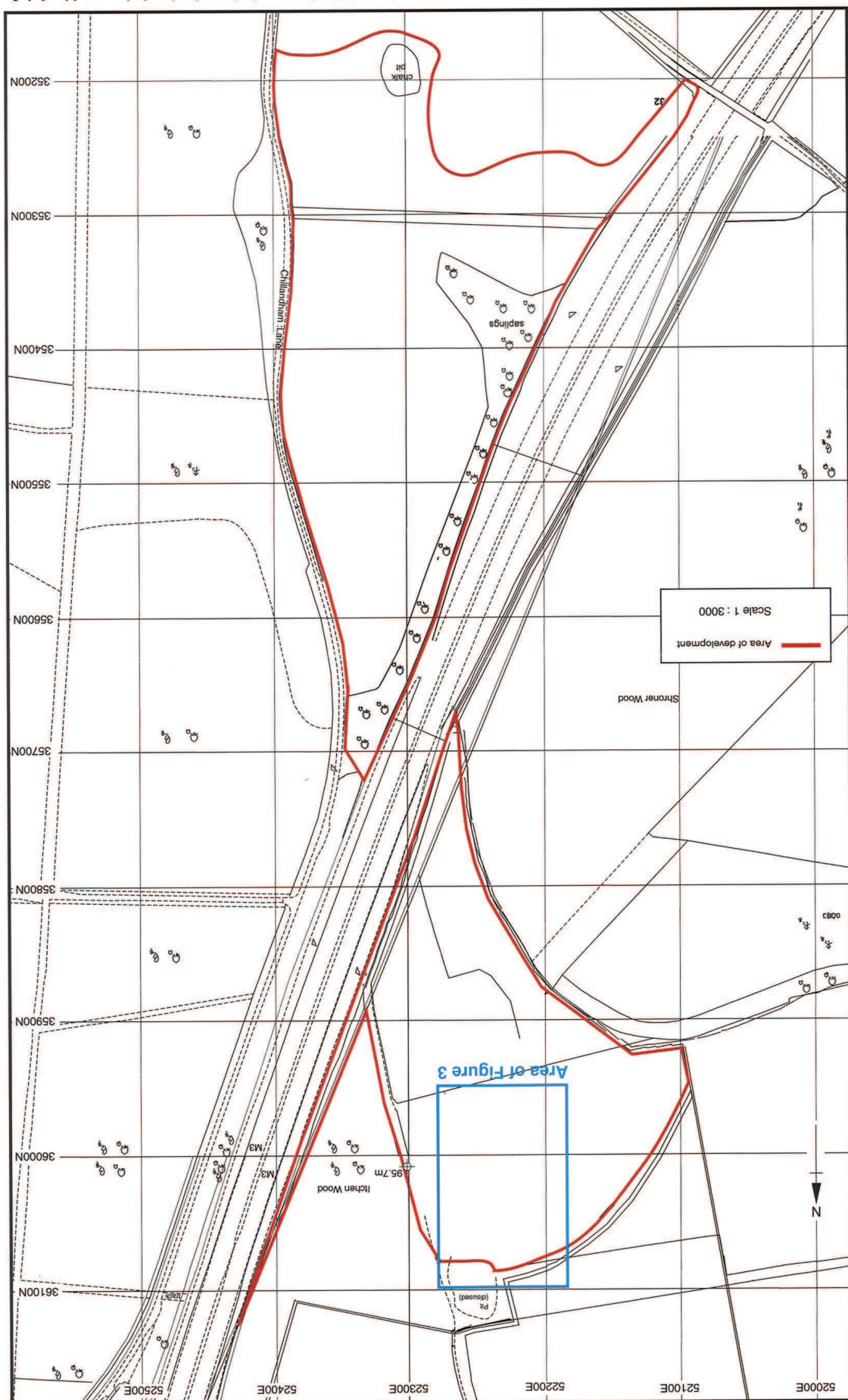
Oxford Archaeological Unit  
August 1999.



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Figure 1: Site location (area of Figure 2)

Figure 2: Total area under investigation during watching brief



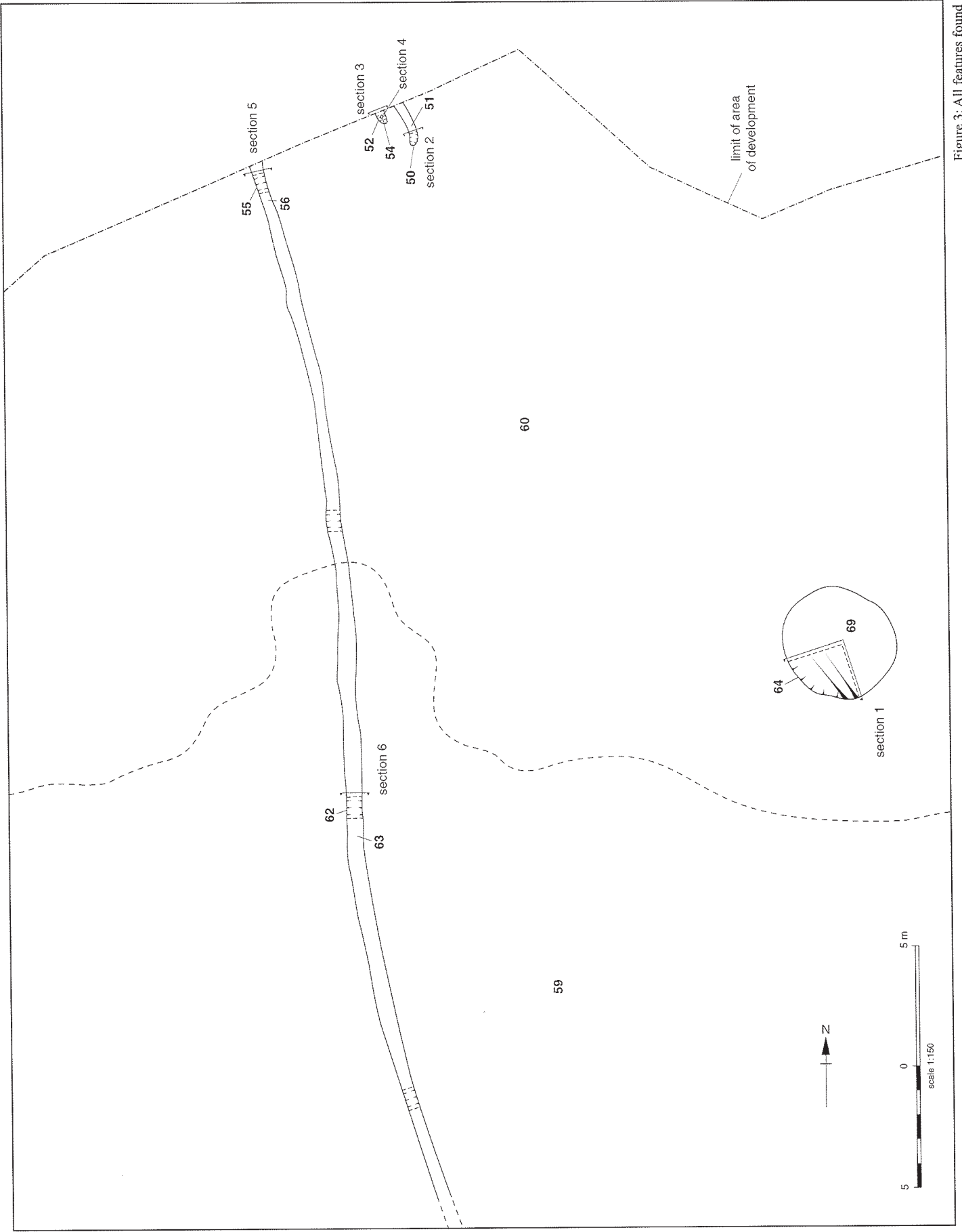


Figure 3: All features found

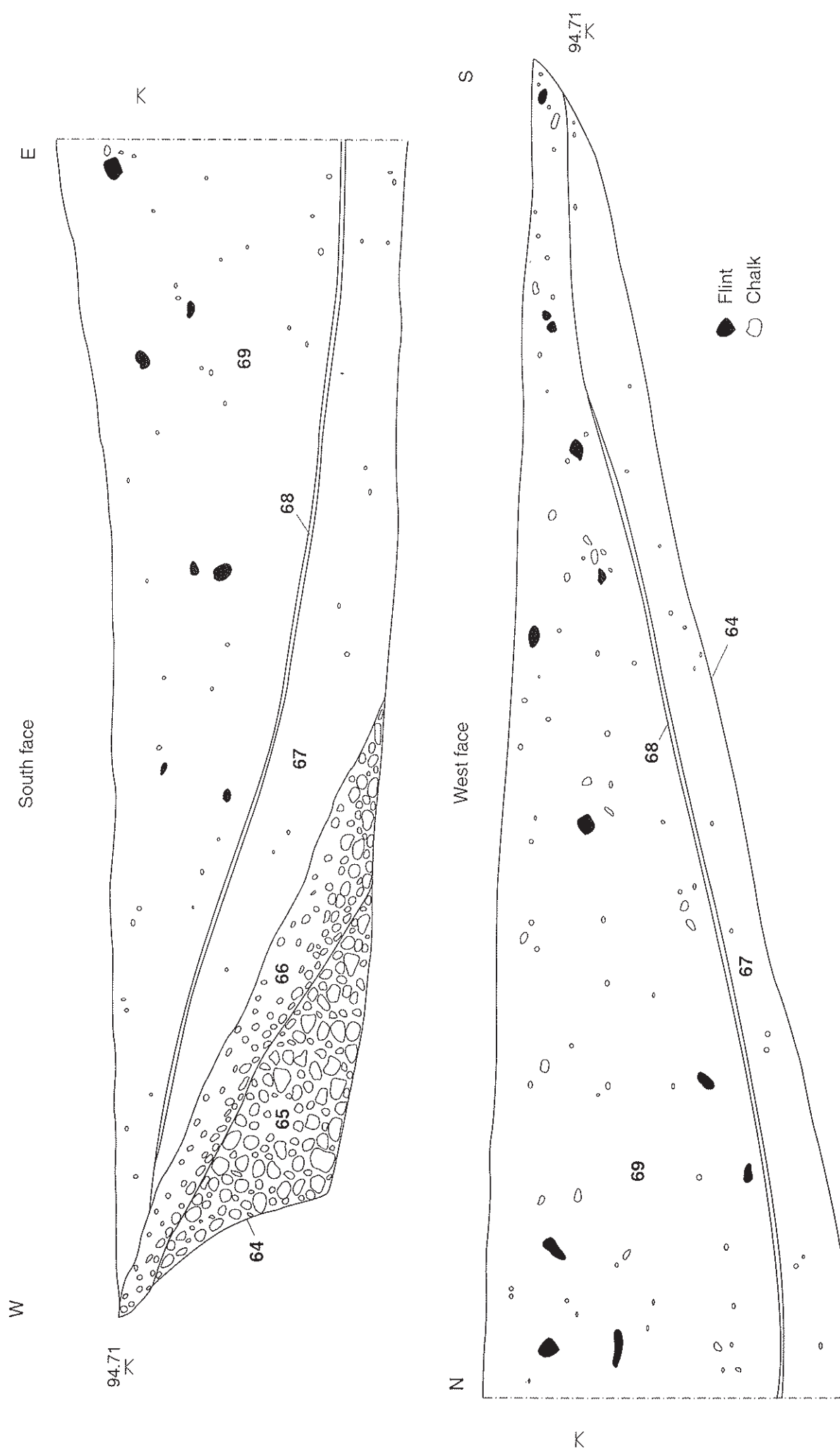


Figure 4: Section 1, showing both faces of quadrant into possible Chalk quarry 64

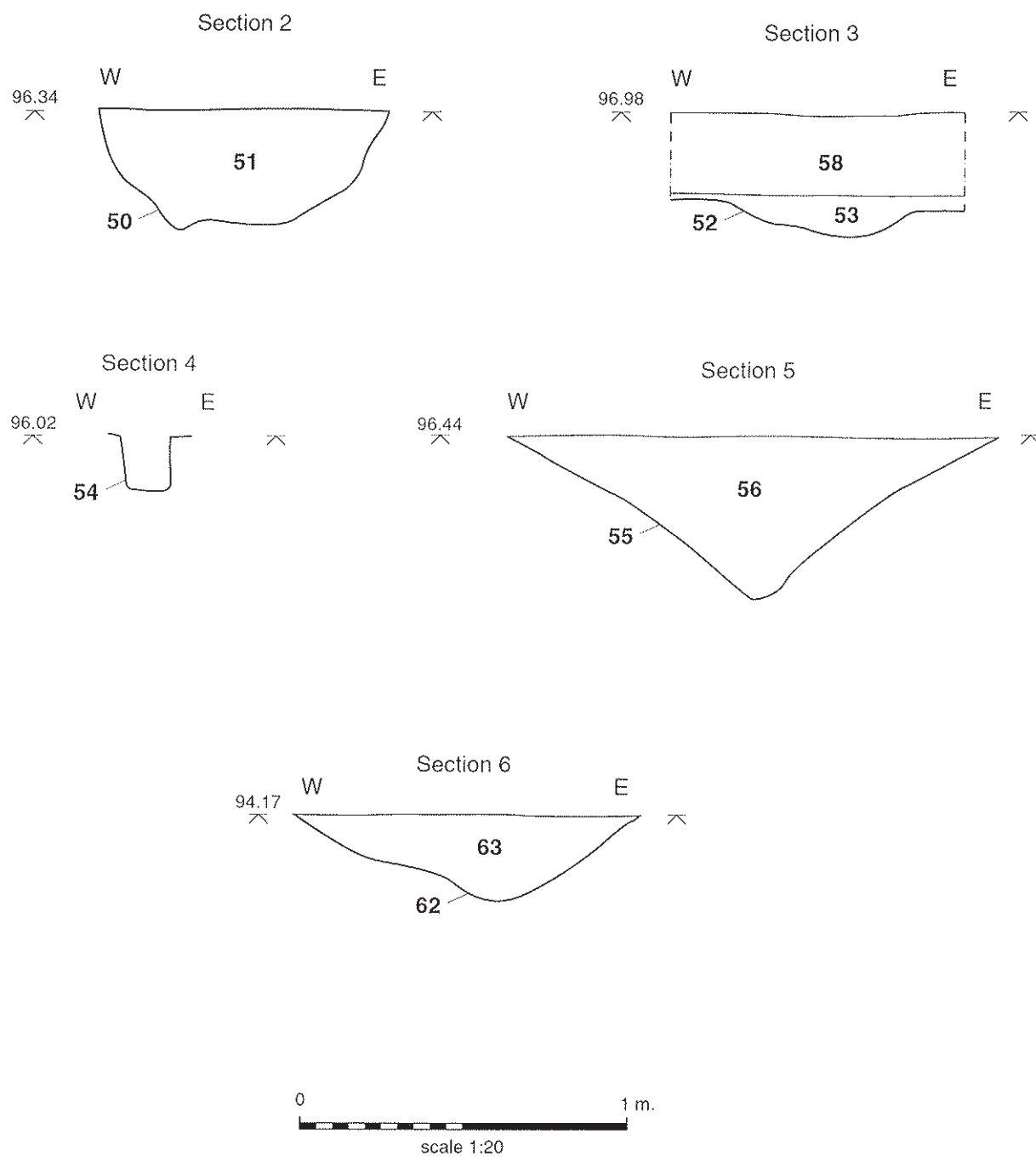


Figure 5: Sections across Ditches 50, 52 and 62, and Post-hole 54



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