

1.0	PARISH	Westmeon (the parish spelling)
2.0	HUNDRED	Fawley
3.0	NGR	463970 124130
4.0	GEOLOGY	Upper Chalk; Alluvium; River Valley Gravels

5.0 SITE CONTEXT (Map 2)

West Meon is situated at a crossing point on the river Meon, and at a point where the river begins to bend southwards towards Warnford and Meonstoke. The principal road through the settlement is the north / south A32 but this is joined by two minor roads at West Meon centre, one from the east, the other from the west. The A 2 is a former turnpike road and the probable forerunner of this route enters the settlement from the north. West Meon, at c. 65m AOD is set within a downland context and the chalk hills climb to 152m AOD at Marlands, 1.5km to the north. South of the river the highest point is c. 189m AOD and this is reached via the Old Winchester Hill Lane.

6.0 PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION (Maps 3, 4 / 1, 4 / 2, 5 / 1 and 5 / 2)

Church & manor house + regular rows + regular agglomeration

6.1 *Church & manor house* The church and manor house are situated to the west of the settlement. Included in this group are the (manor) Court House (C16) and the barns of the manor farm. The Church of St John the Evangelist (C19) and the nearby site of the medieval church, are within an ovoid plot of land as defined by Church Lane and Floud Lane Lane. Floud Lane is of particular interest; it leaves Church Lane 150m north-west of the Church, heads due south to divide the manor buildings from the Church glebe, and continues south-east to rejoin Church Lane opposite the site of the mill. In this way, Floud Lane combines most of the elements of the Domesday estate of West Meon.

6.2 *Regular rows* On the east side of Church Lane, almost at the centre of the Modern settlement, there is a triangular plot of land that marks the beginning of the High Street. At the west end of the triangular plot, overlooking Church Lane, stands a stone cross, erected in 1901, supposedly on the site of one that was broken up in the C17. The inference here is that the triangular plot of land + stone cross = market place but there is no tradition of a market at West Meon, and Owen (1756) makes no mention of a fair. Whatever the case, a large portion of the putative market place is occupied by Springfield Cottage (C17). Most of the buildings in this part of West Meon are C17 or earlier, but as the High Street proceeds eastwards from this point, C18 and C19 buildings line both sides of the road. In other words, the High Street is a double regular row. It is probably a relatively late addition to the settlement, its development having been stimulated by the commercial potential of the A32 turnpike

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(late C18) that drives north-eastwards slicing diagonally through land parcels *en route* (OS 1: 10560 survey, 1872).

6.3 Regular agglomeration At the south end of West Meon there is a group of C17 cottages in neat rectangular order at the junction of the A32 with Love Lane. The neat

arrangement of C17 buildings alongside the C18 road indicates that the turnpike construction was an upgrade of a pre-existing route as it entered West Meon from the south.

6.4 Site visit conditions: strong sun (26.3.20002).

7.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL (Maps 5 / 1 and 5 / 2)

7.1 AsAP

7.1.1 The regular row represented by the High Street east of Springfield Cottage is probably C18 or later. This hypothesis requires confirmatory evidence (paragraph 6.2).

7.1.2 The triangular space at the west end of the High Street has the characteristics of a medieval market place and it is bounded by late medieval buildings (paragraph 6.2).

7.1.3 The regular agglomeration of late medieval buildings at the junction of the A32 and Love Lane is an area that is worthy of further attention. On balance, it probably dates to C17 (paragraph 6.3).

7.2 AsHAP

7.2.1 The group of manorial buildings described in paragraph 6.1 has implied links with the Domesday Book manor of West Meon. For this reason, the archaeological potential of this area is high (paragraph 6.1).

7.2.2 The demolished medieval church of St John the Evangelist can be confidently identified with the Domesday church that paid 50 shillings in revenues. The site of this medieval building is just to the south of the C19 church.

8.0 CHURCH & CHURCHYARD

St John Evangelist, 1843-6 (*architect*: GG Scott)

- Domesday refers to one church in West Meon worth 50 shillings (paragraph 14.1). Unfortunately, there is a complication because there is documentary evidence to the effect that there was, by 1391, a chapel to the Holy Trinity in West Meon, and a chapel to St Mary the Virgin at the manor of Punsholt in the north of the parish (VCH 3: 344-5). The two chapels were probably attached to the manor houses of West Meon and Punsholt, whilst the Domesday Church was probably on the site of the later parish church in West Meon, assessed at £20 in 1291 (VCH 3: 344).

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- There are no visible remains of the medieval church that was situated just to the south of the C19 replacement. There are three picture prints of the old church that hang inside the C19 building. It appears to stand on a low knoll (perhaps caused by successive burials) at a point where it had commanding views of the Meon Valley. It can be seen to have had a C12 tower and chancel arch and, by repute, some pre-Conquest masonry. In addition, there were north and south aisles, and a south porch. It has to be the Domesday Church.
- The architect of the C19 church, GS Scott, has made no sensitive re-use of materials from the old church (*q.v.* RA Waterhouse's work at Twyford). This was a total replacement job. Two yew trees on the south side grounds of the present Church have been planted east and west as if they record the position and length of the old church. The age of the trees would be right at *c.* 150 years. If this was the intention, then it was an unrecorded gesture.
- The *new*, C19 church has an exterior of knapped, squared flints; it was constructed slightly up-slope of its predecessor. An early photograph that hangs inside the church shows it to be in a more open setting.

9.0 BUILDINGS (Maps 4 / 1 and 4 / 2)

PRN	Details	Dates	Grade
10966	Monument, Church Lane, to George Viningrocers	1901	II
10971	Cross Cottage, Church Lane (The Cross)	early C18, 20	II
10972	Benhams Cottage, Church Lane	early C18, 20	II
10973	Culverkeys, Church Lane	late C18	II
10974	Primary School, Church Lane	1864, C20	II
10975	Church of St John the Evangelist, Church Lane	1843-46	II
10976	Churchyard: boundary railings	mid C19	II
10977	Pansy Cottages, Church Path	C18, 19	II
10978	Fir Tree Cottage, Church Path	early C19	II
10979	The Court House, Church Path	late med., C16, 18, C19	II*
10980	The Cross, The Cross	C17, 18, 19	II
10981	Springfield Cottage, The Cross	C17, 19	II
10982	Sunnyside, The Cross	late C18, 19	II
10983	Yew Tree Cottage, The Cross	<i>c.</i> 1840, C20	II
10984	The Yews, The Cross	C19	II
10985	Beaconsfield, The Cross	C19	II
10986	Cross Roads Cottage, The Cross	C 17, 18	II
10987	The Rectory, Doctors Lane	early C18, 19	II
10988	Little Thatch, East Meon Road	C17, 19	II

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10989	The Grange, East Meon Road	late C18, 19	II
10990	Brook Lodge, East Meon Road	C17, 18, 19, 20	II
10991	Gobions, East Meon Road	C17, 18, 19, 20	II
10992	Eades Cottage, East Meon Road	C17, 20	II
10993	Shafts House, East Meon Road	C18 and earlier	II
10994	Hall Place, East Meon Road	late C17, c. 1720, 1900	II*
10995	1 Station Road	C16, 19	II
10996	2 Station Road	C16, 19	II
10997	3 Station Road	C16, 19	II
10998	West Meon House, Station Road	early C18, 19, 20	II
10999	Red Lion public house, Warnford Road	early C18, 19	II
11000	Graziers, Warnford Road	C17, 19, 20	II
11001	Hatch Cottage, Warnford Road	C17, 19, 20	II
11002	Mill House, Warnford Road	C18, 19	II
11003	Warnford Corner, Warnford Road	late C18, 19, 20	II
11004	Garden Cottage, Warnford Road	C17, 19	II
11005	Rose Cottages, 1 Warnford Road	C19, 20	II
11006	Rose Cottages, 2 Warnford Road	C19, 20	II
11007	The Old Forge, Warnford Road	C17, 19, 20	II
11008	Punsholt Farmhouse, Woodlands	late C18, 20	II
11009	Punsholt Farmhouse: farm buildings 10m east of	mid C19	II
11010	School House, Woodlands	C17, 19, 20	II
11011	Upper House Farm: 8 buildings	C18 to C19	II
1254	Westbury Manor: barn at	C18	II
14756	Westbury Manor: cart shed south-east of	C18	II
1549	Bridge House, Warnford Road	early C19	II
1677	Whitewool Farm, stable block and garage at	1781	II
1792	Riverside Cottage, East Meon Road	C18, 20	II
190	Whitewool Farmhouse	late C18, 20	II
660	West Lodge, Alton Road	C19	II
661	Cleverleys Farmhouse, Doctors Lane	late C18	II
662	The Store, High Street	C17, 19	II

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10.0 SMR DATA

SW 463640 123700, NE 464470 124360 (Maps 4 / 1 and 4 / 2)

SU62SW	No.		
	11	463920 123980	Medieval. The Court House. Late medieval timber-framed hall with C16 and later alterations and extensions. Formerly the manor house of West Meon.
	12	464060 123835	Medieval. Garden Cottage. Late medieval timber-framed building with later alterations and extensions.
	19	464070 133960	Post-medieval water mill (demolished) but the mill house is occupied as a private residence. The head and tailrace of the mill survive.
	42	464070 124040	Medieval cross reputedly set up in 1404-47 but destroyed during the Civil War. A replacement was set up on the same spot in 1901.
	76	464000 124040	Medieval. West Meon was first documented in 932.
	115	464240 124300	Undated. Circular enclosure with possible internal pit. A linear feature runs northwards from the enclosure. No known source for this information.

10.1 Hampshire Romano-British Settlements survey

Hants No.	NGR	Parish	NAR / NMR Nos
99	463200 124490	Westmeon	SU62SW6

10.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

SAM No.	NGR	Site
133	463200 124500	Lippen Wood Roman villa.
565	463300 123000 to 463300 123600	Earthwork and barrow on parish boundary with Westmeon.

11.0 ADDITIONAL SITES / FEATURES (Maps 4 / 1 and 4 / 2)

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| 1 | 463700 124220 | Reference point within a group of field lynchets. These features are now very low earthworks but they are eminently visible in good sunlight. |
| 2 | 4224285 163815 | Cottage within a quadrangular plot, lost since 1872 (OS 10,560 survey). |
| 3 | 463980 124100 | Site of demolished medieval church of St John the Evangelist. |
| 4 | 464190 124115 | Earthworks in the grounds of Grange Cottage. |
| 5 | 464180 123800 | Approximate central point of a group of buildings lost since 1872. |

12.0 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- Tithe Map 21M65/F7/245/2 (1839 / 1841)
- GSGB Alresford
- OS 1: 2500 SW 463640 123700, NE 464470 124360
- OS 1: 25000 Explorer 132: Winchester, New Alresford & East Meon
- OS 1: 10,560 464079 124033 (1872)

13.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Coates R 1989 *The Place-names of Hampshire* Southampton, Ensign
- HTS 1: 313-320
- Owen W 1756 *The Book of Fairs* London
- VCH 3: 342-5

14.0 PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES**14.1 Domesday Book**

2, 11 The Bishop (of Winchester) himself holds (West) Meon in lordship. It was always in the Bishopric. Before 1066 it answered for 20 hides; now for 12 hides. Land for 14 ploughs. In lordship 3 ploughs; 25 villagers and 17 smallholders with 11 ploughs. A church with 1 hide; 8 slaves; 2 mills at 10s. Meadow, 10 acres; woodland at 40 pigs; 8 sites in Winchester which pay 6s. Value before 1066 £20; later £16; now £30; however it pays £40 of revenue, but it cannot bear it for long. The church pays 50s.

14.2 Subsidy Rolls

1334		£1.13.6	
1524	<i>1st survey:</i>	£6.14.6	(44 taxpayers)
	<i>2nd survey:</i>	£6.18.6	(42 taxpayers)

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14.3 Manors

West Meon; Hall Park (?); Coombe (?); Woodlands (?); Punsholt.

14.4 Hearth Tax 1665

110 hearths chargeable (39 houses)

24 hearths not chargeable (23 houses). Total: 62 houses.

15.0 PLACE NAME

15.1 932 (C12) (*æt*) *meone*. Derived from the name of the river as in 15.2.

15.2 786 x 793 (C13) *flumen quod appellatur Meonea*; 824 *etc.* (various prepositions) *meone*. The river name is obscure in origin, but probably related to that of the *Main* in Germany. The river gave its name to a *provincia* of the early English settlers (*c.* 750 *meanuarorum prouincia*; *Meonware* meant 'dwellers at / by Meon'). The historical significance of this people has been much debated, as has their apparent affinity with Sussex (Coates 1989, 116). The original estate or territory probably comprised both east and west Meon but this was subsequently divided (IH 2002).

16.0 PHOTOGRAPHS

None taken.

17.0 OTHER PROJECT ELEMENTS

17.1 Pre-Conquest Charters

- None listed for West Meon as a separate entity by Sawyer, 1968, but three charters are mentioned that appertain to the river Meon.

17.2 Other parish settlements include:

<i>Name</i>	<i>MSP No.</i>	<i>NGR / map ref.</i>	<i>First recorded</i>
Marldell	2476	463300 125200	1265
Marlands	2477	464500 125400	1327
Punshott Farm	2478	465300 127820	1167

17.3 Enclosures

Parliamentary:

<i>NEP No.</i>	<i>Act</i>	<i>Order</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
None.				

Formal Agreements:

<i>NEP No.</i>	<i>Agreement</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
No record of formal enclosure.			

17.4 Commons & Greens (residual)

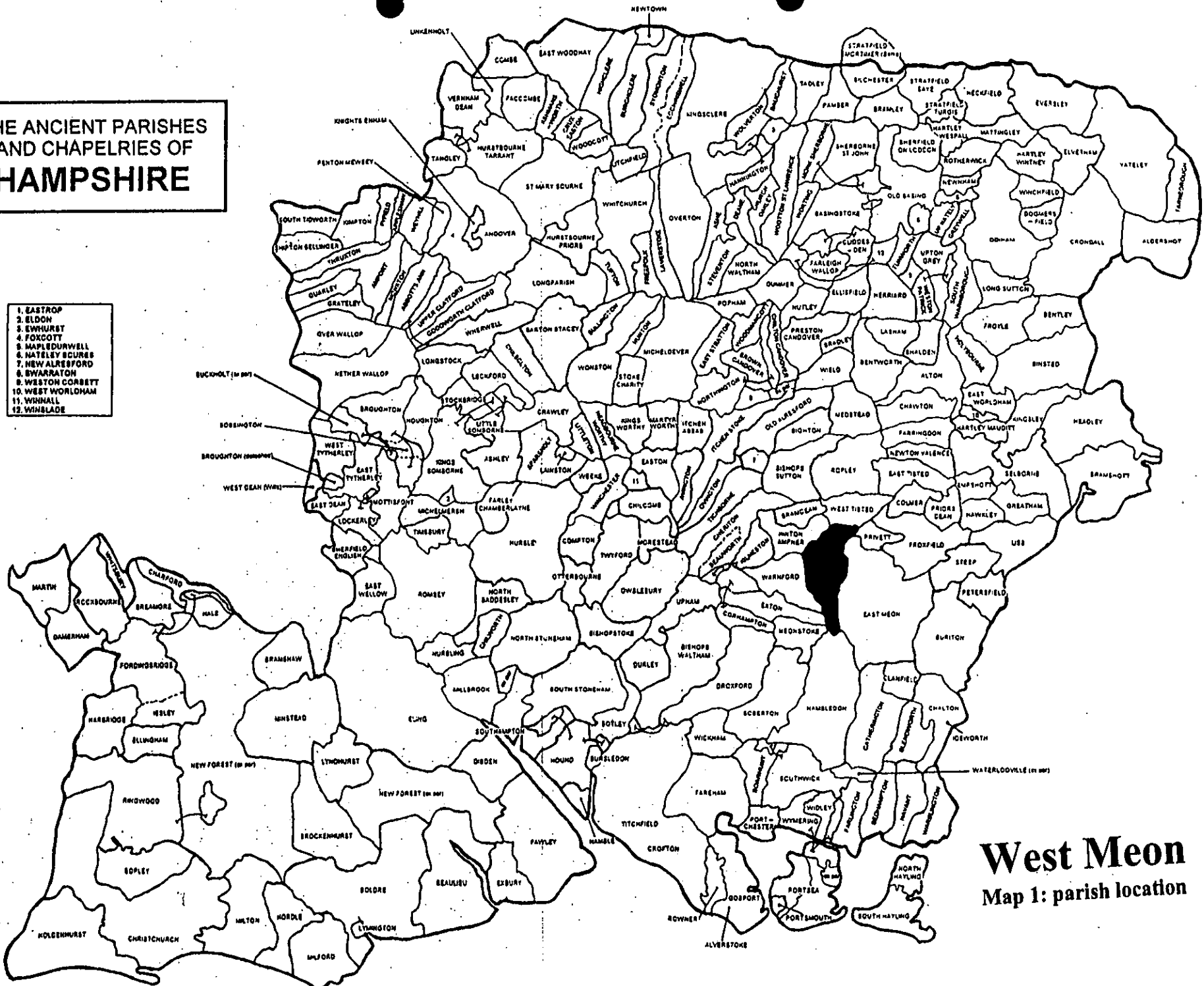
None recorded in 1874 but in 1867 a *village* green was granted by the lords of the manor for the use of the inhabitants (VCH **3**: 345).

18.0 ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 Map 1: Parish location (not to scale)
- 2 Map 2: General (settlement) location at 1: 25000
- 3 Map 3: Ordnance Survey First Edition County Series (*c.* 1870s) not to scale
- 4 Maps 4 / 1 and 4 / 2: Development & archaeological features at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%
- 5 Maps 5 / 1 and 5 / 2: Areas of archaeological potential at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%.

THE ANCIENT PARISHES AND CHAPELRIES OF HAMPSHIRE

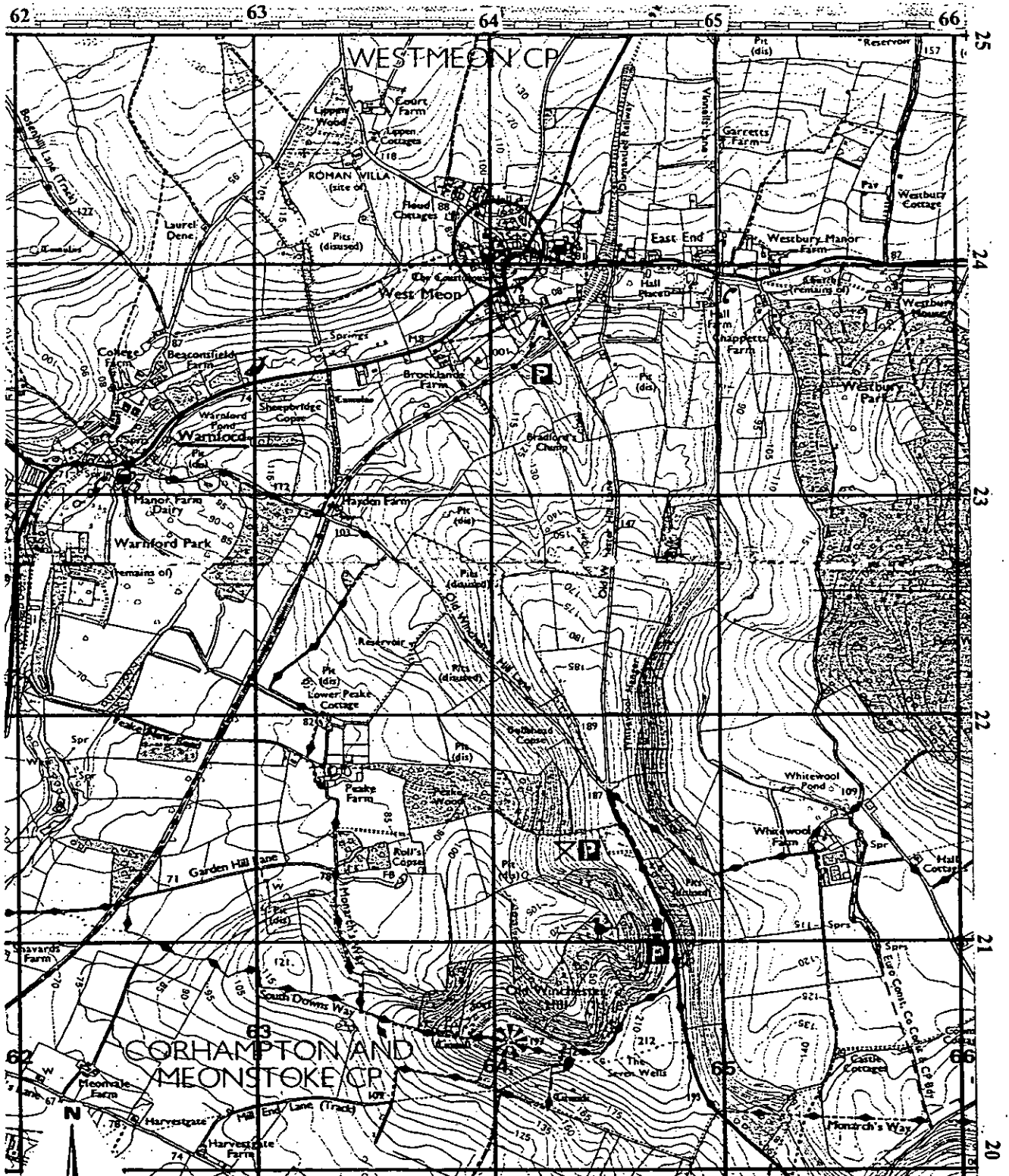
1. EASTROP
2. ELDON
3. EWHURST
4. FOXCOTT
5. MAPLEDURWELL
6. NATELEY SCURSE
7. NEW ALRESFORD
8. SWARFATON
9. WESTON CORBETT
10. WEST WORTONHAM
11. WINHALL
12. WINBLADE



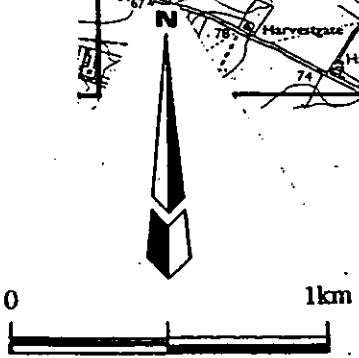
West Meon
Map 1: parish location

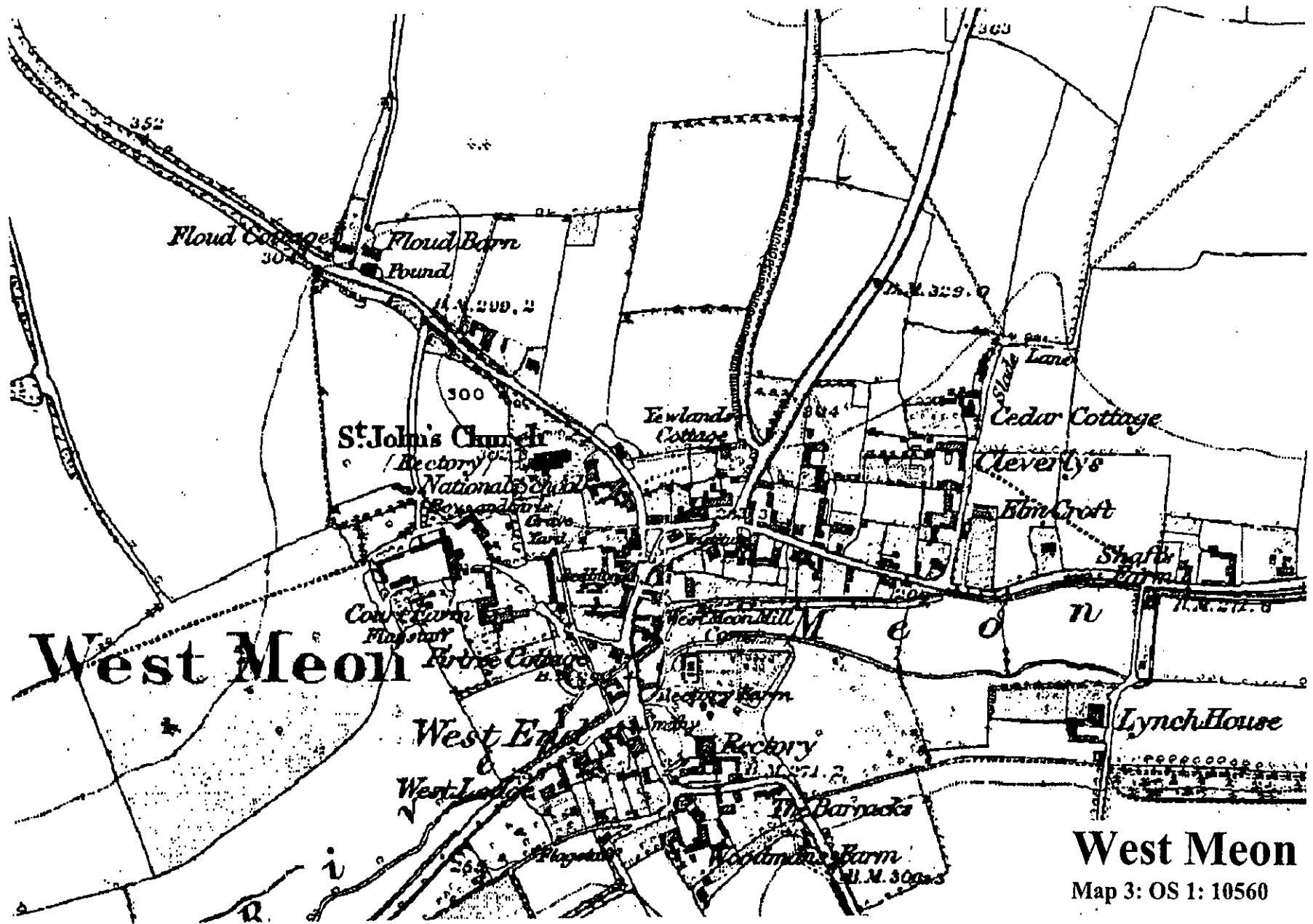
West Meon

Map 2: general location



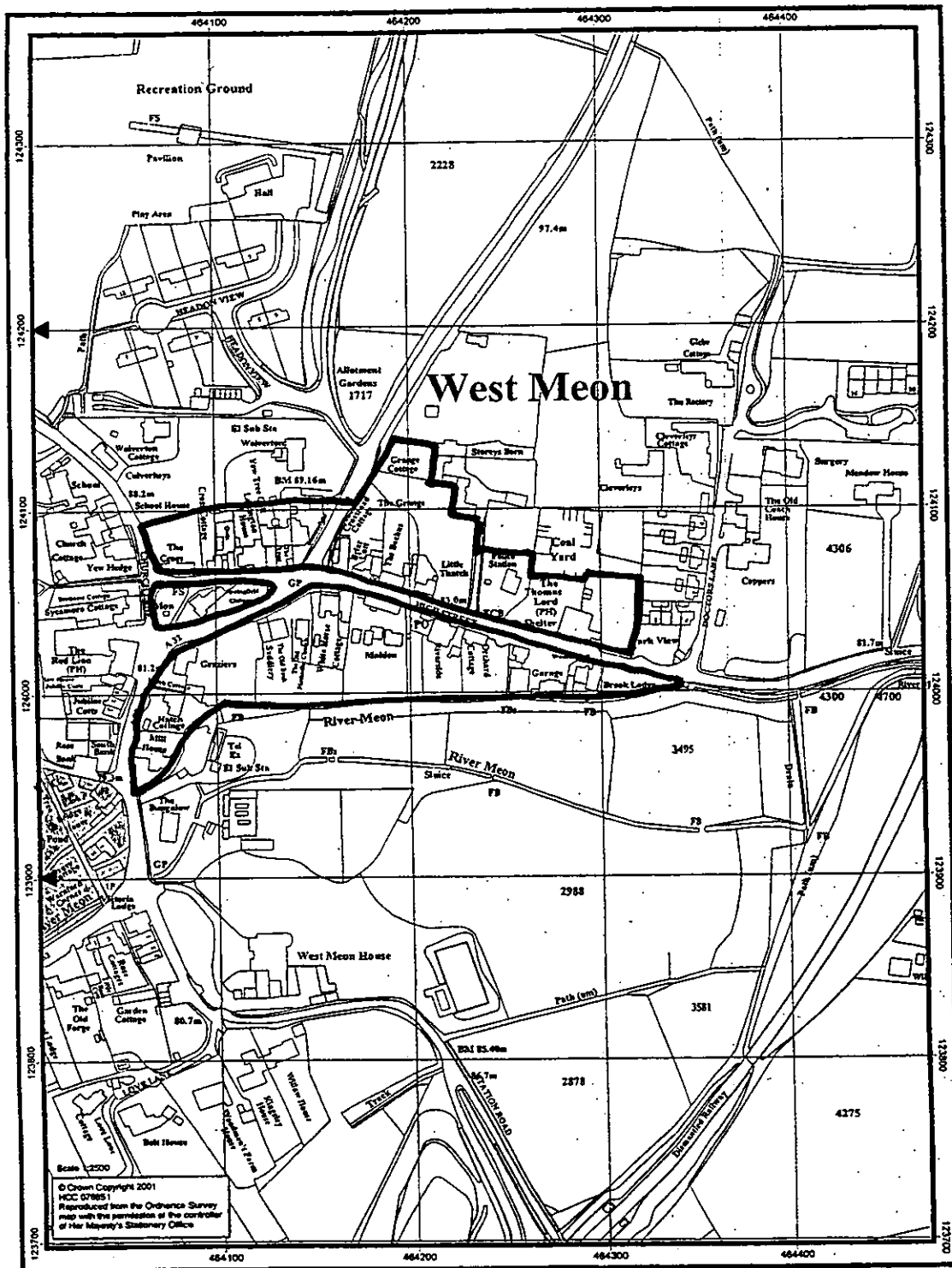
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Map 3: OS 1: 10560



West Meon (east)
 Map 5 / 2: areas of archaeological potential