

Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services



An Archaeological Watching Brief at Baldwins, Keymer, West Sussex

TQ 3143 1519

by Keith Butler PIFA

October 2009

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was maintained at Baldwins, Keymer, West Sussex, during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling, after the demolition of three existing outbuildings. A large quantity of pottery and glass were recovered most of which dated to the late Post Medieval period. A modern brick built soak-away was discovered but no other archaeological features were noted.

Chris Butler MIFA **Archaeological Services**

Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist

Rosedale Berwick Polegate East Sussex BN26 6TB

Tel & fax: 01323 871021

e mail: chris@reltub.fsbusiness.co.uk

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services (CBAS) was commissioned by Mr L Watts to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the demolition of existing outbuildings and the construction of a new house at Baldwins, Keymer, West Sussex (TQ 3143 1519).
- As a result of the sites location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority has put a condition on the planning consent for the development (HA/08/935), requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3 The site is located on the south side of Keymer Road in Keymer village, 1·25km north of the north scarp slope of the South Downs (Fig. 1). The property is set back from Keymer Road, and is situated behind the Greyhound Inn and a row of 19th century cottages, with an access drive opposite the Church of SS Cosmas and Damian.
- 1.4 The site itself has walls of brick and flint construction to the north and west, with the property 'Baldwins' to the south, and access to the site to the east (Fig. 2). The site is on slightly sloping ground to the south, where the house is positioned at a lower level. Access to the house from the garden is via a flight of brick built steps.
- 1.5 At the time of the fieldwork, the original outbuildings had all been demolished with the exception of the building at the south of the site, of which the two side walls remained, as this building was going to be rebuilt using the side walls as a garage.
- 1.6 The underlying geology according to the British Geological Survey (Sheets 318/333) is the Folkstone Beds, part of the Lower Greensand. To the south of the site is the Gault Clay, with an overlying Head deposit located to the southeast of the site.
- 1.7 The archaeological watching brief was maintained on the 3rd, 8th and 15th September 2009. The fieldwork was carried out by the author, with the project being managed for CBAS by Chris Butler.

2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The Lower Greensand ridge running east-west through Hassocks and Ditchling has produced a large number of Mesolithic sites, including large sites at Lodge Hill, Ditchling¹, Keymer² and Hassocks³, whilst a watching brief during the laying of a new water pipe-line between Ditchling and Wivelsfield Green located three large concentrations of Mesolithic flintwork (MES 7390-2).
- 2.2 Later prehistoric activity is represented by finds of Later Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork, a Late Bronze Age cauldron (MES1306) and a possible Bronze Age barrow on Lodge Hill (MES1305) to the west of the site. Recent assessment excavations at Keymer Burial Ground located a ditch, the fill of which contained flintwork and sherds of prehistoric pottery which range in date from the Late Bronze Age through to the Iron Age⁴. Two Iron Age coins have been recovered from fields around Ditchling (MES1313 and Rudling⁵).
- 2.3 The Roman road the Greensand Way⁶ runs to the north of the site, and a short distance to the west along the Greensand Way is the Roman settlement at Hassocks, whilst to the east there are a number of Roman villa sites, and finds of Romano-British pottery, coins and Roman tile have come from the fields to the north-east of Ditchling.
- 2.4 Keymer appears in the Doomsday Book of 1086 when it was held by William de Watteville from William de Warenne. It had 25 ploughlands worked by 47 tenants, demense of two ploughlands, a church and two mills⁷. Previous to 1066 it was held by Azor from King Edward.
- 2.5 The assessment excavation in the adjacent Keymer Burial Ground revealed Medieval activity dating to the 12th to 14th centuries along the frontage with Keymer Road⁸, which may have been associated with properties now buried under the current road. Activity appears to have continued here into the 15th century.

Garrett, S 1976. A Mesolithic Site at Lodge Hill, Ditchling, Sussex Archaeological Collections 114, 326

² Garrett, S 1976. Mesolithic and Neolithic finds from Keymer, Sussex Archaeological Collections 114, 326

³ Butler, C 1986. An Early Mesolithic Site and Later Flintwork from Hassocks West Sussex. Sussex Archaeological Collections 127, 230-234

⁴ Butler, C. 2004. An Assessment Excavation at Keymer Burial Ground, Keymer, West Sussex, MSFAT Interim Report.

⁵ Rudling, D. 1987. An Iron Age Coin found at Ditchling. Sussex Archaeological Collections 125, 238

⁶ Margary, I. 1984. *Roman Ways in the Weald*. London. Phoenix House.

⁷ Morris, J. 1976. *Doomesday Book: Sussex*, Chichester, Phiooimore.

⁸ Butler, C. 2004. An Assessment Excavation at Keymer Burial Ground, Keymer, West Sussex, MSFAT Interim Report.

- A recent report on the outbuildings contains a summary of the more recent history of the site, and discusses the origins of the name 'Baldwins'⁹. No buildings are shown on the site on the 1845 Tithe map, although buildings occupy the footprint of the existing buildings on the 1874 and 1898 OS maps.
- 2.7 The building survey has confirmed that the existing outbuildings on the site are of 19th century date and, apart from one building, have no intrinsic value. The West Sussex County Archaeologist therefore decided that no archaeological watching brief was required during the demolition of these buildings, except where this may reduce the current ground level and potentially disturb buried archaeology.

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

- On arrival at the site on the 8th September 2009, all of the buildings on the site had been demolished, with the exception of the two side walls of the cowshed at the south end of the site. A deep hole had been excavated against the west wall, measuring 1.8m in length by 700mm wide and had a depth of 1.8m (Fig. 2). This had been excavated to see the depth of the foundations of the west wall.
- A watching brief was maintained on the first day during the reduction of the ground level by up to 300mm. The area of reduction was the site of the new house together with the garden between the new house and the access to the site (Fig. 2). The spoil from this process was piled up against the north wall, and was then taken by dumper truck to the east of the site from where it was removed by a grab lorry.
- 3.3 On the 8th September the watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a further reduction of up to 1·1m of the ground level. This took place in the southwestern corner of the site in an area measuring approx 7m by 5·5m where the new dwelling was to be constructed (Fig. 2). In the north-east corner an area of approximately 2m x 1·8m was left unexcavated.
- 3.4 The footings were excavated to a depth of 1m and a width of 600mm at the newly reduced level at the eastern side of the site (Fig. 2). After consultation with Chris Butler the watching brief was suspended on this footing because it was clear that at this level, only the natural was being disturbed.

⁹ Hughes, A.F. 2009. Baldwins, Keymer: An Evaluation of Nineteenth Century Outbuildings.

- On the 15th September the watching brief was maintained while the footings at the northern side of the site were excavated (Fig. 2). The footings on this side of the site were excavated to a depth of 1·2m and had a width of 600mm.
- 3.6 All the excavations were carried out using a 5-ton 360° tracked JCB with a 1.5m toothless bucket for the reductions, and a 600mm toothless bucket for the excavations of the footings.
- 3.7 All areas were subjected to a visual inspection for artefacts and a Precision Gold metal detector was also used to scan machined surfaces. The metal detector was also used for scanning the spoilheaps and the area of excavation before and during the course of the excavations.
- 3.8 A bench mark was obtained from the Church of SS Cosmas and Damian, with a TBM (temporary bench mark) being established on the south west corner of the building at the far eastern edge of the site.
- 3.9 All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart
- 3.10 A full photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services. A site reference of BWK 09 has been allocated.

4.0 Results

- 4.1 In the section of the test pit excavated by the contractor, four layers were apparent (Fig. 3; Section 1). Context 1 was a 250mm deep layer of topsoil, of a mid brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence, having coarse components of ceramic building material (5%), mortar (5%) and roots (1%).
- 4.2 Below Context 1 was Context 2 which was a layer of dark grey mortar (95%), mixed with a mid brown silty clay loam and having a depth of 100mm. This layer also contained a small quantity of flint fragments up to 30mm (<1%) and roots (<1%). This layer was most likely a floor layer from the demolished buildings.
- 4.3 Context 3 was below Context 2 and was a layer of mid orange-brown loose silty clay, with a few patches having a firmer consistence. The coarse components comprised chalk flecks and pieces up to 50mm (1%), flint pieces up to 40mm (<1%) and roots (<1%).
- 4.4 Below Context 3 was Context 4 which was a layer of mid orange-brown sand which had a loose consistence. This layer was very clean having no coarse components and was interpreted as the natural.
- 4.5 In the area of the first ground reduction, Context 5 was a layer of mid brown silty clay loam topsoil with a loose consistence up to 300mm deep. The coarse components were made up largely of building material from the demolition of the earlier buildings comprising ceramic building material (5%), mortar (5%) and flint nodules up to 100mm (5%); a large percentage of the pieces having mortar attached to them. The artefacts recovered from this layer were of pottery, glass, clay pipe stems and metal pieces.
- 4.6 Context 6 was within both Contexts 5 and 7, was a badly damaged circular structure constructed from red frogged bricks bonded with a yellow-grey mortar (Fig. 2). The external diameter of this structure measured 900mm with an internal diameter of 800mm. Originally this was thought to be a well but during the second reduction the whole of the structure was uncovered, which showed that it only had depth of 800mm, which would seem to imply that it was more likely a soak away. The interior of the feature had been lined in the same yellow-grey mortar, and in the bottom of this feature was a large black plastic sack containing modern bricks and a length of ceramic drain pipe.

- 4.7 Context 7 was below Context 5 and was a mid orange-brown sandy loam layer with a depth of up to 800mm and having a loose consistence. The coarse components were made up of ceramic building material (1%), flint nodules up to 50mm (5%) and mortar (1%). Artefacts recovered from this layer were of glass, pottery, clay pipe stems and bone.
- 4.8 It was apparent that Contexts 5 and 7 had suffered a large amount of disturbance from the excavations for the foundations of the earlier buildings and their subsequent demolition. Both of these layers were encountered during the ground reduction and Context 7 was encountered during the excavations of the footings (Fig. 3; Section 2).
- 4.9 Context 8 was noted below Context 7 during the excavation of the footings (Fig. 3; Section 2), and was a layer of orange sand having a loose consistence. This was a very clean layer which had no coarse components and no artefacts were recovered from it. This layer was considered to be the natural.
- 4.10 There were no other features noted during the fieldwork, although further artefacts were collected from the ground surface and from the spoil heaps.

5.0 The Finds.

5.0.1 A large assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the work (Table 1). The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. This is due to the assemblage's late date and general lack of secure context. The assemblage does not warrant retention in a museum, but will be offered to Ditchling Museum with the archive.

Table 1 The Artefacts

Context	Pottery	Glass	Flintwork	Other
5	49 (2495g)	24 bottles (5,441g)	-	1 horn (102g)
				1 bone (22g)
7	54 (1986g)	22 bottles (4,000g)	3 flakes (16g)	4 CBM (524g)
		19 fragments (1,076g)		2 bone (47g)
				3 oyster (131g)
				6 nails (68g)
				1 horseshoe (420g)

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.1.1 The archaeological work recovered a relatively large assemblage of pottery, all of which were recovered from topsoil (Context 5) and the underlying layer (Context 7). The presence of vessel cross-joins between these deposits demonstrates a close association of the two and as their deposition date appears the same the assemblages are considered as one in the current summary.
- 5.1.2 The vast majority of finds consists of pottery (103 sherds weighing 4,481g, with some 54/1,986g of this total coming from Context 7). Most of the pottery is of late post-medieval date, however, there are a few pieces present which demonstrate a residual 17th/early 18th century element in the topsoil (Context 5). These consist of a single body sherd of probable yellow glazed Border ware (12g) and two clay tobacco pipe stem fragments (4g). Although clearly residual this material does not show extensive sign of abrasion suggesting it has not been subjected to repeated reworking.
- 5.1.3 The remaining pottery and five (13g) clay pipe fragments can be comfortably placed within a later 19th to early 20th century disposal date range, although the assemblage includes a few old vessels of the earlier/mid 19th century which were probably in contemporaneous use. On the whole the sherds are of a large size with a number conjoining, certainly indicating they have not been subjected to reworking. However, a number have adhering sandy mortar suggesting they were disposed of with other non-domestic waste.
- 5.1.4 The earlier wares, dating to the early/mid 19th century, consist of both plain, transfer-printed and sponged pearlwares (1/76g, 8/188g and 6/362g respectively). Probably only four vessels are represented, two chamber pots (plain and blue sponged decoration) and two pale/late pearlware plates (willow pattern transfer-printed). There is a single sherd (80g) from a late yellow ware mixing bowl with external moulded decoration and internal white slip as well as the remains of at least two tankards/measure jugs in industrial slipware (3/176g), one with black mocha decoration on a coffee-coloured central panel.
- 5.1.5 A number of pieces of English stoneware are present (12/1,192g), most notably from ink bottles with Bristol glazes (including a complete example 61mm in diameter and 118mm tall). There are also sherds from a large bottle with stamp on shoulder 'H. SAU..?' over WINE & SPIRIT...?' over 'NOR...?' The assemblage also contains an a number of glazed redware sherds from large jars and bowls (6/563g) and a notable quantity (27/745g) of refine white earthenware, principally preserve jars (including a Keiller marmalade) of late 19th to early 20th century type, but other forms such as jugs and jelly moulds.

5.1.6 Table and tea wares are dominated by transfer-printed wares of late type (27/863g). Transfer decoration in blue (willow pattern, wild rose and floral patterns), green (floral) and polychrome colours (machine border patterns) dominate on the plates. Tea wares are principally in low-quality English porcelain (10/150g) though a late Rockingam teapot (1/74g) is also present. Of interest is the top of a small vase with a green and red transfer-print of the White Star Companies logo – a piece obviously 'borrowed' from an ocean liner.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The ceramic building material includes a fragment from a 65mm diameter land drain (241g), three pieces of 19th-/early 20th- century peg tile (283g) tempered with sparse fine sand and a piece of corrugated asbestos sheeting (26g).

Glass by Chris Butler

- 5.3.1 A large quantity of glass bottles and glass fragments was recovered from Contexts 5 and 7 (Table 1). As the types of bottle and their date of deposition appears to be contemporary they will be considered as a single assemblage in this summary.
- 5.3.2 The complete bottles include a variety of different types of bottle, ranging from mineral water bottles, through sauce bottles, jars, medicine bottles to bottles for household products, in a range of sizes, types and colours, and appear to represent a dump of used bottles that have been discarded.
- 5.3.3 One complete dark green coloured mineral water bottle, and fragments from others, was found. This complete bottle from Context 7 had an up-kick and applied lip, which would date it to the latter part of the 19th century. A small brown bottle from Context 5 was probably for beer, but has no embossing on it.
- 5.3.4 From Context 5 there were three BOVRIL 8oz brown jars (two with 'MADE IN ENGLAND' & one with 'MADE BY FORSTER'S GLASS Co' embossed on the base), and a single 4oz brown BOVRIL jar with a tall neck with 'BOTTLE MADE IN ENGLAND BY F G C' embossed on the base. Bovril was invented in 1886¹⁰, and quickly became a popular drink, being sold in pubs and grocers. Forster Glass Co Ltd was established around the turn of the 19th/20th century, and continued until absorbed into Rockware Glass in 1968¹¹. The embossing 'F G C' appears to have been used in the 1950's.

www.unilever.co.uk/ourbrands/foods/bovril.asp

¹¹ Forster, M.L. The history of Forster's Glass Co. Ltd. c. 1970

- 5.3.5 There were also one 8oz, two 4oz and one 1oz brown MARMITE jars found in Context 5. The 4oz jars have 'BOTTLE MADE BY F G C') embossed on the base. The Marmite Food Company was originally set up in 1902 and came in earthenware jars, with the glass jars being introduced in the 1920's 12. These jars must therefore post date 1920 and are unlikely to be later than 1960.
- 5.3.6 A number of Heinz bottles were also found, including a hexagonal clear sauce bottle with a screw top embossed with 'H.J. HEINZ CO', and a clear glass bottle with 'HEINZ LEMON [?] JELLY'. Heinz products first arrived in the UK in the last decades of the 19th century¹³, and the contents of these bottles were bottled in the UK as the bottles have 'MADE IN ENGLAND' embossed on their bases. A lemon jelly was not amongst the Heinz famous 57 varieties, but they also had many other products available at different times.
- 5.3.7 Other bottles include some square clear jars, one of which has 'CAMP COFFEE' on it. This product was produced in Glasgow in 1876 by Paterson & Sons Ltd¹⁴, and is still available today. A single Shippams paste jar was also found, and must post-date 1905, as this is when Shippams first used glass jars for their products¹⁵.
- 5.3.8 A few bottles that can be identified contain household products, and include two square clear glass bottles with 'RONUK' embossed on the base. RONUK was a household universal sanitary polish & cleanser, manufactured by Ronuk Limited, Portslade, Brighton from the late 19th century and into the 20th century 16. A brown bottle embossed with 'JEYES' contained Jeyes Fluid which was a disinfectant fluid first patented by John Jeyes in 1877, and which is still marketed today as Jeyes Fluid.
- **5.3.9** There was also a pale-green round ink bottle with an unidentifiable name embossed on the base, a number of medicine and poison bottles, some having a measure and the words 'TABLE SPOONS' embossed on the side. There were also some small brown jars with screw lids, which may have held pills. Other small bottles, none of which have any identification, probably held medicines, treatments or perfumes ¹⁷.
- 5.3.10 Amongst the glass fragments were pieces from two different decorated bowls, and a foot and stem from a wine glass. This assemblage of bottles and glass fragments represents a range of different vessels and content products that were available from the latter part of the 19th century and earlier 20th century. They could easily represent a dump of domestic waste, or possibly from the adjacent Greyhound Inn.

 $^{^{12}\ \} http://www.marmite.com/love/history/origins-of-the-design.html$

http://www.heinz.co.uk/content/our_company/history.aspx

¹⁴ http://www.information-britain.co.uk/food/foodlegends/Camp%20Coffee/

¹⁵ http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1899

http://bjp.rcpsych.org/cgi/issue_pdf/advertising_pdf/53/220.pdf

¹⁷ Hedges, A.A.C. 2000 *Bottles and Bottle Collecting*, Shire Publications Ltd.

5.4 Prehistoric flintwork by Chris Butler

5.4.1 Three pieces of worked flint weighing 16gms were found in Context 7. One was a hard hammer-struck flake, and two were soft hammer-struck flakes, one of which had evidence for platform preparation. These pieces are largely undiagnostic, although the presence of soft hammer-struck pieces would suggest a Mesolithic or early Neolithic date.

5.5 Bane and Shell by Chris Butler

- 5.5.1 Two unidentified fragments of bone were found in Context 7, one of which (rib?) appeared to have been chopped, and one fragment of chopped bone came from Context 5. Also from Context 5 was a small cow horn measuring 180mm in length, and weighing 102gms.
- 5.5.2 Three pieces of oyster shell weighing 131gms were recovered from Context 7, two of these were single shells, but the third comprised both upper and lower shells fused together.
- **5.6 Metal objects** by Chris Butler
- **5.6.1** A small group of metal objects was found, mostly comprising nails (Table 1). The exception was a large horseshoe which was found in Context 7, and probably dates to the latter 19th or early 20th century.

6.0 Discussion

- 6.1 Considering the close proximity of the site to known Medieval activity, it is surprising that no archaeological features or artefacts of this period were noted or recovered during this watching brief. The most likely reason for this is that the foundations of the demolished outbuildings would have destroyed any archaeological evidence when they were originally excavated.
- A large assemblage of pottery, glass and other artefacts were recovered during the watching brief. Most of the artefacts date to the late Post Medieval period and the majority were discovered in the area of the outbuildings at Baldwins. The artefacts are also broadly contemporary with the demolished outbuildings which date to the second half of the 19th century.
- 6.3 The majority of the artefacts date from the late 19th to early 20th century and comprise a range of items that could easily derive from ordinary domestic rubbish from an adjacent house, or given the presence of items such as the tankards/measuring jugs, and many of the glass items, perhaps they may have come from the adjacent Greyhound Inn.
- 6.3 The only archaeological feature discovered during this watching brief was the circular brick built soak-away. This had been constructed with 20th century frogged bricks, and the modern date of construction was confirmed with the discovery of a large black plastic sack containing modern building material within it.

7.0 Acknowledgements

7.1 I would like to thank Mr L Watts for commissioning this archaeological watching brief and the co-operation and assistance of his on-site contactors. Luke Barber reported on the pottery and CBM, and Jane Russell prepared the section drawings. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler and monitored for WSCC by John Mills.

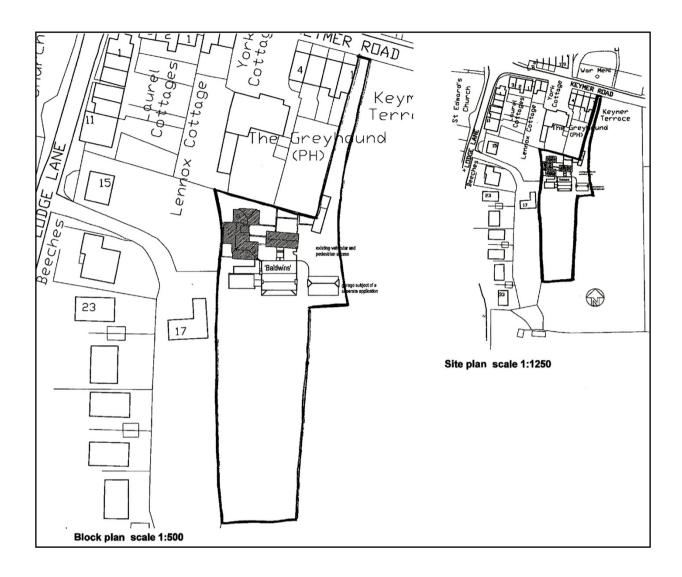


Fig. 1: Baldwins, Keymer, West Sussex: Location Map

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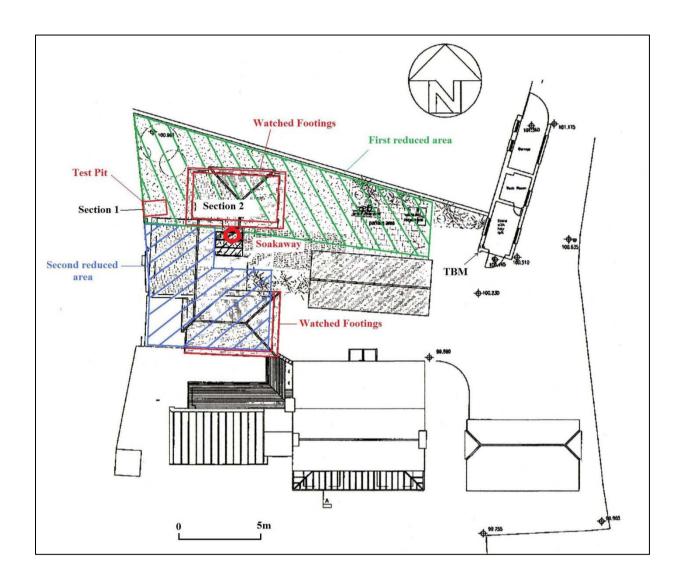


Fig. 2: Baldwins, Keymer, West Sussex: Site Plan
(Adapted from architects drawings)

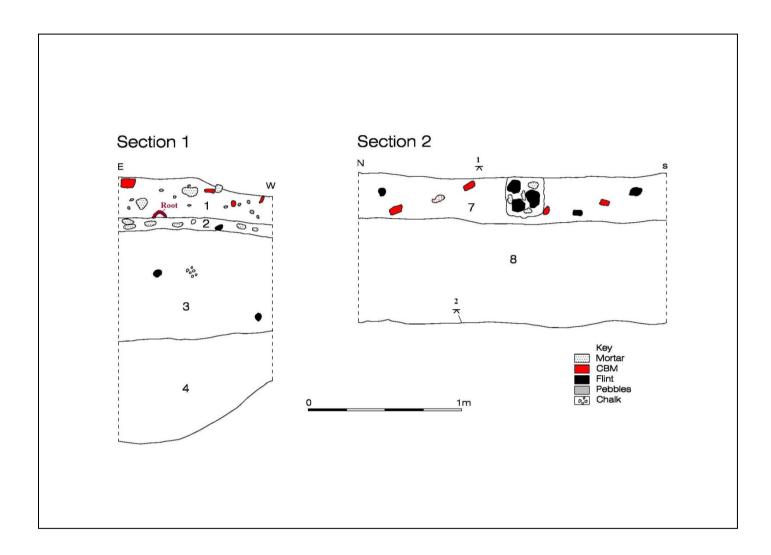


Fig. 3: Baldwins, Keymer, West Sussex: Section Drawings

HER Summary Form

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Site Code	BWK 09							
Identification Name and Address	Baldwins, Keymer, West Sussex.							
County, District &/or Borough	Mid Sussex District Council							
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3143 1519							
Geology	Folkstone Beds, part of the Lower Greensand.							
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other		
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other				
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 3 rd , 8 th , 15 th Sept.2009	Other				
Sponsor/Client	Mr L Watts.							
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIFA							
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PIFA							
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. X	Neo.	BA	IA	RB		
	AS	MED	PM X	Other				

100 Word Summary.

An archaeological watching brief was maintained at Baldwins, Keymer, West Sussex, during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling, after the demolition of three existing outbuildings. A large quantity of pottery and glass were recovered most of which dated to the late Post Medieval period. A modern brick built soak-away was discovered but no other archaeological features were noted.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society, and is a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex. He continues to run the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in his spare time.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Field Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services

Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist

Rosedale Berwick Polegate East Sussex BN26 6TB

Tel & fax: 01323 871021

e mail: chris@reltub.fsbusiness.co.uk