

Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services



An Archaeological Watching Brief at 86, East End Lane, Ditchling East Sussex. (LW/09/0117)

> TQ 32981510 by Keith Butler PIFA

> > October 2009

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was maintained at 86 East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex during the reduction of the ground surface and the excavation of the footings in association with the construction of a extension to the house. A short length of mortar was discovered, most likely the lower foundation to a wall and probably dating to the Post-Medieval period. No other archaeological features were found.

The earliest artefact recovered was a prehistoric flint flake, with all the remaining artefacts recovered dating to the Post-Medieval period; the earliest sherd of pottery being a red earthenware dating to between the 16^{th} and early 17^{th} centuries.

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 R. Orme (The Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of an extension at 86, East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex.
- As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority have put a condition on the planning consent for the development (LW/09/0117), requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3 The site lies within the historic core of the Medieval and Post Medieval village of Ditchling and is also known as an area of Prehistoric activity. The site is within a designated Archaeological Sensitive Area (ASA), and is also located within a Conservation Area.
- 1.4 The site is located on the west side of East End Lane, Ditchling, towards its eastern end (TQ32981510). The watching brief was maintained during the groundworks, which comprised a reduction of the ground level, and the excavation of the footings for the walls to an extension. The area being reduced gently sloped to the north and was under grass, with a brick built path running between the building and the grass, on the north and east sides.
- 1.5 The geology, according to the British Geological Survey sheet 318/333 is Folkstone Beds with the Lower Greensand immediately to its north. The Gault Clay lies to the south of the site, and there is an outcrop of Head deposit to the east.
- 1.6 The watching brief was undertaken on the 3rd, 4th and 8th June 2009. The fieldwork was carried out by the author, and the project was managed by Chris Butler MIFA.

Ditchling

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 a large site at Lodge Hill¹, 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). 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 Late Iron Age⁴. Two Iron Age coins have been recovered from fields around Ditchling (MES1313 and Rudling⁵).
- 2.3 The Roman period is represented by finds of Romano-British pottery, coins and Roman tile (MES1311) in fields to the north-east of the site, and a fragment of tegula roofing tile was found in Ditchling cemetery (TQ33301505) in 1994⁶, whilst recent work at 52 East End Lane has recovered further pieces of Roman tile⁷. The Roman road the Greensand Way⁸ also runs to the north of the site, and was located during a recent watching brief (MES7393). 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.
- 2.4 The nucleus of the present village was established during the Saxon period. The name Ditchling refers to Diccel's people (oe. *Diccelingas* \rightarrow aet Diccelingum c. 880 \rightarrow Dicelingas $1121 \rightarrow \text{Dicheling } 1230 \rightarrow \text{Dichlinge } 1589$. The village was owned by Aelfred the Great, whose palace is believed to have stood opposite the Church of St. Margaret, and was the administrative centre of a large Saxon royal estate⁹.
- The Will of King Alfred 880 A.D. bequeathed the Manor of Ditchling to his relative, 2.5 Osferth. The manor reverted to the Crown to form part of the demesne land of Edward the Confessor. Following the Norman Conquest the Doomsday Survey of 1086 showed that the manorial lands had been divided up, William de Warenne acquiring the demesne lands.

¹ Garrett, S. 1976. 'A Mesolithic Site at Lodge Hill, Ditchling', Sussex Archaeological Collections, Vol 114. p326.

² Garrett, S. 1976. 'Mesolithic and Neolithic Finds from Keymer'. SussexArchaeologial Collections. Vol 114.p.326.

³ Butler, C. 1989. 'An Early Mesolithic Site and Later Flintwork from Hassocks, West Sussex'.Sussex Archaeological Collections. Vol 127.p.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. Vol 125.p.238.

⁶ Rudling, D. 1994 'A Roman tile from Ditchling Cemetery' MSFAT Newsletter 23.

Butler, K. 2008 An Archaeological Watching Brief at Menival, 52 East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex. CBAS Report.

Margary, I. 1948. Roman Ways in the Weald. London. Phoenix House.

Glover, J. 1975 The Place Names of Sussex, pps.47-8. Batsford, London.

- 2.6 The de Warennes based themselves in Lewes, selling some of the demesne land and granting some to Lewes Priory which became the Manor of Ditchling Garden. This reverted back to the Crown on the dissolution of the monasteries. There was never a resident 'Lord of the Manor' and a great deal of demesne land was leased to tenant farmers with the result that Ditchling developed as an 'open' rather than 'closed' village¹⁰. The Manor of Ditchling passed through various hands to the Lords of Abergavenny who held the lands until 1939, when the estate was divided up and sold.
- 2.7 Sixteen timber framed houses have so far been identified and recorded by members of the Wealden Buildings Study Group ¹¹, with many other buildings recorded on the HER dating from the 17th and 18th centuries situated in the vicinity of the site.
- 2.8 Both the 1839/43 Tithe map and the 1st Edition OS map (1879) show the area of the site to be a field on the west side of East End Lane, although there are houses to the north and south of the site and opposite on the east side of the Lane. The site continues to be an open field through all the following editions up to and including the 1950 edition OS map, although the surrounding area is becoming progressively more built up.
- 2.9 Recent archaeological watching briefs have been carried out to the rear of former Sandrock Public House (EES13935) where a Medieval boundary ditch, two Post Medieval pits and three undated post holes were found 12, at North End Farm where all the artefacts dated to the 19th/20th century 13, and at 5 Fieldway where two very abraded possible Saxo-Norman pottery sherds were found 14. A watching brief at 6 East Gardens (EES14188) did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts.
- 2.10 Two recent watching briefs have revealed evidence for past activity. At 52 East End Lane Mesolithic flintwork, Roman tile together with Medieval and Post Medieval pottery was found, whilst a feature of 16th/17th century date was excavated 15. At 3 East End Lane a pit of probable late Medieval date produced pottery, bone and other finds, whilst a late Medieval glazed floor tile and other artefacts were also recovered 16.

¹⁰ Warne, H. Ditchling Parish Survey. unpublished.

Holt,M & Goodare. *Ditchling Timber Framed Buildings & Some Parish History*. Wealden Buildings Study Group.

¹² Archaeology South-East Report no: 1706

Butler, C. 2004 A Watching Brief at North End Farm, 3-5 East Gardens, Ditchling, East Sussex MSFAT Report

Cudmore, D. 2006 A Watching Brief at 5 Fieldway, Ditchling, East Sussex, MSFAT Report.

Butler, K. 2008 An Archaeological Watching Brief at Menival, 52 East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex, CBAS Report.

¹⁶ Butler, C. 2009 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at 3 East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex*, Forthcoming CBAS Report.

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

- An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the reduction of an area to the west and rear of the building for hard landscaping and the excavation of the footings for the construction of an extension to the property.
- 3.2 The area for the hard landscaping was reduced by 300mm in the south of the site, and graded to the north, were it was reduced by a depth of 150mm. The excavation where carried out using a Volvo 360° tracked digger with a 1·3 toothless bucket. The spoil was piled up on the western side of the site and moved later to the front of the building by wheelbarrow, where it was then disposed of by lorry.
- A balcony attached to the southern end of the house was demolished by hand; this used the north eastern corner of the planter as a support for the structure. The same machine was used for breaking up of the brick-built path running around the house and the planter but using a small toothed bucket. After the larger pieces of concrete rubble from the demolition of the planter were excavated, they were broken up using a Bosch electric drill.
- The 'L'shaped footings for the extension were first marked out by the building contractor, and then excavated to a depth of 1.5m and a width of 700mm. Because of the presence of the existing foundations of the planter, concrete and large amount of rubble in association with the brick built path, a 550mm toothed bucket was used for this task.
- 3.5 The subsequent spoil from this process was visually inspected for artefacts, and a metal detector was used to recover metallic artefacts.
- The watching brief was suspended with the agreement of Greg Chuter at ESSC after the excavation of the southern and a short length of the western footings due to the large amount of disturbance caused by the earlier construction of the path, and foundations of the planter and the laying of drains.
- 3.7 A temporary bench mark was established on the south eastern corner of the house.
- 3.8 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

3.9 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 and will be deposited in Ditchling Museum. A site reference EEL 09 of has been allocated.

4.0 Results

- During the reduction of the area for the hard landscaping, two layers were apparent. Context 1 was a layer of dark brown silty clay loam topsoil, having a loose consistence and a depth of between 150mm to 300mm. The coarse components were made up of chalk pieces up to 30mm (1%), flint pieces up to 40mm (<1%), mortar up to 20mm (<1%), ceramic building material (<1%), charcoal flecks (<1%) and roots (5%). Artefacts recovered from this layer consisted of Post Medieval pottery and ceramic building material.
- 4.2 Below Context 1 was Context 2, which was a layer of mid brown sandy clay with a loose consistence, and containing chalk pieces to 30mm (1%). Artefacts recovered from this layer were of Post Medieval pottery and ceramic building material.
- 4.3 Context 3 was below Context 1, within Context 2, and was a length of thin yellow grey mortar running on an east west axis at the southern end of the site. This feature had a length of 1·8 metres and a width of 300mm, possibly describing the footing to a wall. No artefacts were found in association with this feature.
- In the area of the excavation of the footings, Context 6 was a layer of bricks forming a path round the edge of the house and having a depth of 65mm. The red bricks used in the construction of the path were frogged, and had dimensions of 120mm in length with a width of 100mm and a depth of 65mm.
- 4.5 Below Context 6 was Context 7, which was a 200mm thick layer of grey concrete. This layer was above Context 4, a very disturbed layer of mid brown sandy clay with a loose consistence in the north east of the site. This layer was very similar to Context 2 but with the addition of a large amount of building rubble, ceramic building material (20%), mortar (5%) and MOT (5%).
- 4.6 Context 5 comprised three orange-red ceramic drain pipes with an external diameter of approximately 120mm, two of which were running diagonally across the site from the house in a north-easterly direction and one running to the south.

- Context 8 cut into Contexts 1 and 4, and was a large planter, constructed of the same red bricks as the path, with a yellow grey mortar used as a bonding agent. The external dimensions of the planter were 3m in length with a width of 2·8m. The foundations of the planter were approximately 900mm deep, and were probably this depth because the north eastern corner of the planter had been used to support the demolished balcony.
- **4.8** Below Context **8** was Context **9**, this was an undisturbed mid brown green layer of natural sandy clay with a very firm consistence. This layer had no coarse components and no artefacts were retrieved from it.

5.0 The Finds.

5.0.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of finds. The material found is quantified in Table 1.

Table 1 The Finds

Context	Pottery	CBM* Glass		Other finds	
Unstratified	30 331g	1 13g	15 148g	Flintwork 2 20g	
				Clay Pipe 1 4g	
				Oyster 1 8g	
Concrete		1 195g			
removal					
Context 1		15 1551g		Mortar 1 55g	
				Stone 2 34g	
				Metal 5 99g	
Context 2		2 27g			
Context 4	7 111g	1 246g	1 59g	Stone 1 118g	
				Metal 1 26g	

*Ceramic Building Material

5.0.2 The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. This is due to the assemblage's overall small size, 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.

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

Table 2 The Pottery

Context	Pot: Early Post-	Pot: Late Post-	Spot Date		
	medieval	medieval			
	Mid C16th – mid 18th	Mid C18th – 19th			
U/S	2/41g	28/290g	Mixed: C16th – Mid 20 th		
Concrete	-	-	Mid-Late C19th – Mid 20 th		
removal					
1	-	-	Mid C19th – Early 20 th		
2	-	-	$C18th - 19^{th}$		
4	-	7/111g	Mid C19th – Early20th		

- 5.1.1 On the whole the pottery from the site (Table 2) is in quite good condition with either no, or only slight, signs of abrasion. Average sherd sizes range from small (< 20mm across) to medium (20-50mm across).
- 5.1.2 The earliest pottery from the site consists of the rim of a jar in early Post-Medieval red earthenware. The vessel is medium fired with dribbles of clear glaze on its exterior and is probably of 16th or early 17th century date. The other early Post-Medieval sherd, also from unstratified deposits, consists of a small bodysherd (1g) from a hollow ware vessel in Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware dated to between 1720 and 1780.
- 5.1.3 The remaining pottery is of the late Post-Medieval period, in this instance spanning the 19th to early/mid 20th centuries. A typical range of domestic wares are represented, most notably from unstratified deposits. These include a blue banded pearlware tankard/mug, yellow ware baking dish and bowl (the latter with white and black slipped line decoration), an unglazed earthenware flower pot, sherds from post-medieval redware storage jars, transfer-printed table wares, plain refined white earthenware plates and a preserve jar ('china') and a single piece from an English porcelain plate or saucer.
- 5.1.4 Context 4 produced a further small assemblage of late material. This includes sherds from a transfer-printed ware blue willow pattern jug and blue floral plate (2/18g), an English porcelain saucer (18g) and refined white earthenware plates, saucers and a Keiller marmalade jar.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1. A relatively small assemblage of ceramic building material was recovered (Table 1). The majority of pieces consist of peg tile fragments of 18th to 19th century date. Most are in a hard-fired sparse fine sand tempered fabric which has notably sanded surfaces (upper and lower). They are quite crudely formed, some 13mm thick and where noted (Context 1) with round peg holes. Similar tiles were recovered from all numbered contexts. Context 1 and unstratified deposits also produced peg tiles in a similar fabric but without the surface sanding (two and one pieces respectively). An 18th to 19th century date is considered likely.
- 5.2.2 Six brick fragments were recovered from Context 1. The earliest piece consists of a low fired silty/fine sand tempered fragment which may be of 16th to 17th century date but too little form is discernable to be certain. The majority are from quite crudely made, but well fired, frogged bricks of mid 19th to early 20th century date tempered with sparse fine sand and occasional iron oxide inclusions to 3mm. A single example measures 63mm in height. The same context also produced a well formed frogged brick with fine but granular fabric more typical of the second half of the 20th century.
- 5.2.3 A complete brown glazed decorative tile (77mm/ 3 inches square by 13mm thick) with central floral motif was recovered during the removal of concrete. This tile is probably from a fireplace surround and is likely to be of late 19th to early 20th century date.

5.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.3.1 A single stem fragment, with part of the base of the bowl, was recovered from unstratified contexts. The stem is stamped J. DRAPE on one side with BRIGHTON on the other. The maker, John Drape was working in Brighton between 1832 and 1867.

5.4 Flintwork by Chris Butler

- 5.4.1 Two flint flakes were recovered from unstratified deposits during he watching brief. The first is a heavily patinated ochre-coloured soft hammer-struck flake, with evidence for platform preparation and regular removal on the dorsal side. This piece is likely to date from the Mesolithic period
- 5.4.2 The second piece is a grey coloured cortical hard hammer-struck flake, which could be later prehistoric, or may be the result of Medieval or later wall knapped flintworking.

5.5 Glass by Chris Butler

- 5.5.1 A total of 15 pieces of glass was found in unstratified deposits (Table 1) and comprised a mixture of types. Four pieces were brown glass bottle fragments, probably derived from later 19th century mineral water bottles, one of which had part of the name "[]TING/C°/LTD/LONDON" on it, unfortunately it was not possible to trace this manufacturer from this part name.
- 5.5.2 Two fragments were in a green tinted glass, one of which was also from a 19th century mineral water bottle, and one piece of blue glass was from a medicine bottle. The remaining pieces were all clear glass, one from a possible drinking glass, but the remainder were from bottles, and probably all were 20th century in date.
- 5.5.3 A large clear glass fragment from Context 4, probably derived from a bowl or jug, had been manufactured in conjoining moulds, with a rough join, therefore probably dating it to the later 19th century.
- **5.6 Other Finds** by Chris Butler & Luke Barber
- **5.6.1** A number of iron nails of different sizes were recovered from Context 1, whilst a copper-alloy bracket or latch frame, perhaps from a door or furniture fitting, was found in Context 4. These are all likely to be 19th century or early 20th century ion date.
- An abraded piece of sandy grey mortar was recovered from Context 1. Three pieces of stone were also recovered. Two of these are from Welsh roofing slates (context 1) while the other is a fragment from a 19th- century rectangular sectioned (39 x 24mm) whetstone in quartrose sandstone, possibly from the Midlands.
- **5.6.3** A single small fragment from an oyster upper shell was found unstratified, and probably derived from kitchen waste.

6.0 Discussion

- of mortar at the southern end of the site (Context 3), possibly marking the line of a wall. No artefacts to date this feature were discovered in association with it, but it contained the same mortar that had been used in the construction of the large planter (Context 8), which would suggest that it was contemporary with that.
- In the area of footings for the extension, due to the very disturbed nature of the ground (Context 4) any archaeological features are likely to have been destroyed. The discovery of a large amount of building rubble in this area would suggest that this was made ground used for levelling the area prior to the laying of the brick path, or possibly associated with the construction of the house. The laying of the three ceramic drains and the very deep foundations of the planter would also have had a detrimental effect on any archaeological remains.
- Apart from the single Mesolithic flint flake, all the artefacts recovered dated from the Post-Medieval period, with the earliest being a sherd of a red earthenware jar which most likely dates to the 16th or early 17th century. Besides one sherd from a piece of Staffordshire hollow ware dating to between 1720 to 1780 the rest of the artefacts recovered from the site were of a 19th to mid 20th century date.
- Both the 1839/43 Tithe map and the 1st Edition OS map (1879) show the area of the site to be a field with houses to the north and south of the site and opposite on the east side of the Lane. Many of these nearby houses have early origins, and it is likely that activity extended across the area of the site from an early date, as evidenced by the occasional early find. However, the construction of the house and associated groundworks appear to have removed all in-situ evidence for archaeological activity in the immediate vicinity of the house.

7.0 Acknowledgements

7.1 We would like to thank Mr R. Orme for commissioning this archaeological watching brief and the assistance and co-operation from his on-site contractor. We would also like to thank Luke Barber for reporting on the artefacts recovered during the fieldwork. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler and monitored for ESCC by Greg Chuter.

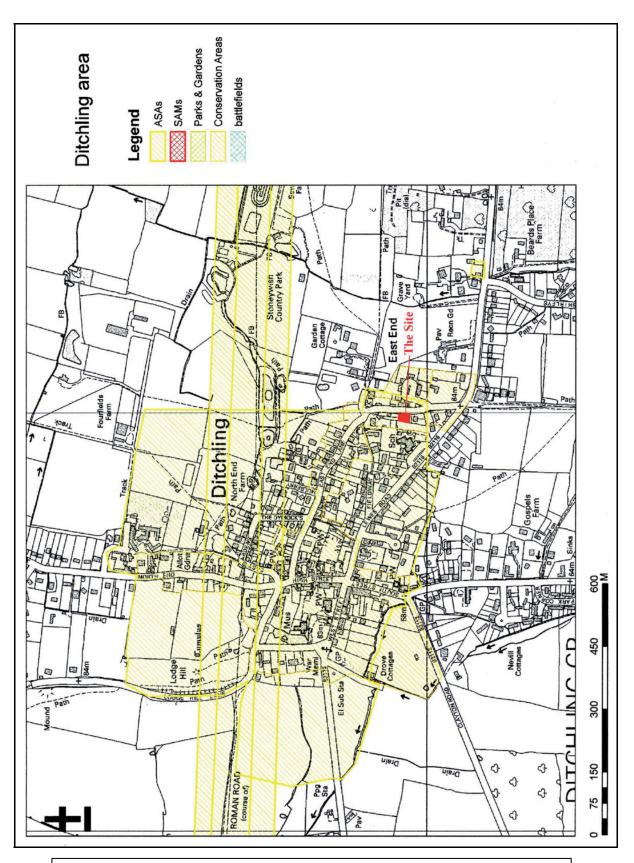


Fig. 1: 86 East End Lane, Ditchling: Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (Adapted from map provided by ESCC)
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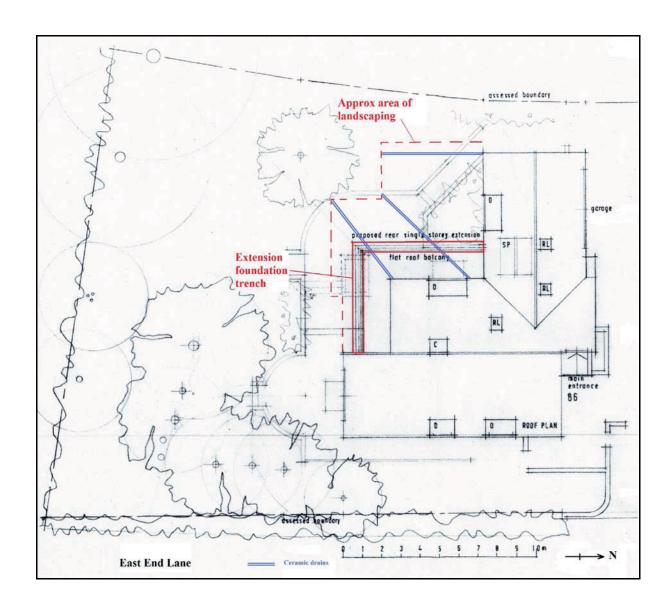


Fig. 1: 86 East End Lane, Ditchling: Site plan showing location of works monitored during the watching brief (Adapted from DK Architects drawing)

HER Summary Form

Site Code	EEL 09							
Identification Name and Address	86, East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex.							
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District Council							
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3298 1510							
Geology	Folkstone Beds with the Lower Greensand immediately to the north. The Gault Clay lies to the south of the site.							
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 ,4 th & 8 th June 2009	Other				
Sponsor/Client	Mr R Orme							
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 86 East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex during the reduction of the ground surface and the excavation of the footings in association with the construction of a extension to the house. A short length of mortar was discovered, most likely the lower foundation to a wall and probably dating to the Post-Medieval period. No other archaeological features were found.

The earliest artefact recovered was a prehistoric flint flake, with all the remaining artefacts recovered dating to the Post-Medieval period; the earliest sherd of pottery being a red earthenware dating to between the 16th and early 17th centuries.

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