



Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services



An Archaeological Watching Brief at Hamsey Manor, Hamsey, East Sussex

LW/09/0987

Project No. CBAS0122

NGR: 541045 112915 (centred)

by
Clive Meaton

September 2010

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage at Hamsey Manor, Hamsey, East Sussex. The work comprised a general area of ground reduction and other associated groundworks. A single shallow pit was revealed during the course of the watching brief which contained pottery dating to the 19th century. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified and the overburden also revealed cultural material dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services

Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist

Rosedale
Berwick
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TB

Tel & fax: 01323 871021

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

Contents

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Historical & Archaeological Background	4
3.0	Archaeological Methodology	7
4.0	Results	8
5.0	The Finds	10
6.0	Discussion	13
7.0	Acknowledgements	14

Figures

- Fig. 1: Site Location Map (showing proposed and existing Conservation Areas)
Fig. 2: Map of Manor and Parish of Hamsey dated 1752
Fig. 3: Hamsey Manor Tithe Map 1840
Fig. 4: 1st Edition OS Map (1874)
Fig. 5: Site Plan
Fig. 6: Site Plan showing Monitored Areas
Fig. 7: Sections
Figs. 8 & 9: Photographs

Appendices

- Appendix I: Context Register
Appendix II: HER Summary Form

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr Stephen Pigott (The Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage at Hamsey Manor, Hamsey, East Sussex (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 541045 112917, and is situated within an archaeological sensitive area defining the Medieval and Post Medieval hamlet of Hamsey. Hamsey Manor is a Grade II Listed Building constructed in the early 19th Century, and may have replaced an earlier dwelling. The site is not currently within a Conservation Area, although it is within a proposed Conservation Area (Fig. 1)¹.
- 1.3 Hamsey is first referred to in the 10th century as Hamme, probably translated as ‘water meadow’. In the 12th century the Manor passed to the de Sais who held it for 200 years. The original Manor House, built in the 14th century, was located adjacent to the church, although there is no historical or archaeological evidence for an associated village.
- 1.4 The geology, according to the British Geological Survey sheet 319/334 is 3rd River Terrace Deposit of gravel and sand with silt and clay. Immediately to the south-west of the site is an outcrop of Gault Clay.
- 1.5 As a result of the site’s location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority put a condition on the planning consent for the development (LW/09/0987), requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.6 The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprised an archaeological watching brief. A written scheme of investigation was prepared and subsequently approved by ESCC². The work comprised monitoring the groundwork connected with the construction of the new garage (Fig. 5).
- 1.7 The fieldwork was undertaken by Jim Ball between the 23rd April 2010 and 8th May 2010. The project was supervised by Clive Meaton and managed by Chris Butler.

¹ <http://www.hamsey.net/ShowDoc.asp?DocNo=1738>

² Butler, C. 2010 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Hamsey Manor*,

2.0 Archaeological & Historical background

- 2.1** Although there is no record of prehistoric finds at the site, there have been numerous discoveries of prehistoric flintwork dating from the Palaeolithic period through to the Bronze Age in the wider landscape. A probable Middle Palaeolithic handaxe was recovered during recent fieldwalking near Hamsey Church³, whilst Lower Palaeolithic flintwork has been recovered a short distance to the north of the site at Barcombe, where it probably derives from the river terrace gravels.
- 2.2** A large quantity of Mesolithic flintwork was recovered during fieldwalking in 1999 at Sadlers Skirts and Four Acres a short distance to the east of the site. A wide range of pieces were found, including a tranchet adze, scrapers, piercers, truncated blades and evidence for microlith production. This appears to have been the site of a longer-stay camp, and is one of a number known from along the Ouse valley⁴.
- 2.3** Later prehistoric flintwork has been recovered during the fieldwalking around Hamsey⁵, and from the various test pits that have been excavated nearby. At Barcombe evidence for a later prehistoric field system and a possible Bronze Age barrow was found.
- 2.4** There is no Roman activity at the site, but there is a significant amount of Roman activity in the surrounding landscape. The Roman villa at Barcombe almost certainly sat at the centre of a large estate, which may have extended south as far as Hamsey. However, the recovery of small quantities of Roman pottery and tile during fieldwalking and excavations at Hamsey may indicate the presence of Roman settlement here.
- 2.5** A Roman road, the Greensand Way, crosses from east to west to the north of the site at Barcombe. The route of the London to Lewes Roman road, running north to south, is uncertain, although recent work at Culver Farm has suggested that it may run to the west of the River Ouse and along The Drove to Offham.

³ <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/h-arch397.php>

⁴ <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/h-arch291.php>

⁵ <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/h-arch397.php>

- 2.6** The first record of a settlement at Hamsey is in 925AD when Athelstan held a court of enquiry to settle a local dispute ‘at Ham near Lewes’. Saxon artefacts have been found at Hamsey⁶, and recent metal detector finds of brooches and spearheads suggest the presence of a Saxon cemetery, although subsequent excavation at the findspot found no evidence for graves.
- 2.7** Hamsey is mentioned in the Domesday Book, when it was assessed at 14 hides. It had a church and 200 acres of meadow, a wood of 10 hogs and 13 shillings of herbage. There was arable of 13 plough lands, with 2 ploughs in the desmesne, and 16 villains and 14 bondsmen with 10 ploughs⁷.
- 2.8** Hamsey was held by Ralph de Cheyney in 1080, and in 1189 it passed to the de Says through marriage. The de Says held the Manor for some 200 years and in 1321 built a Hall measuring 60 feet by 30 feet to the east of the church⁸, and now under the extended graveyard (MES1481). There is no evidence for a Medieval village (MES1485) adjacent to the church and Hall, and fieldwalking here recovered only a few sherds of Medieval pottery⁹. St Peter’s Church was built in the 12th century and was extended in the 14th century (MES1488).
- 2.9** It is likely that any Medieval settlement at Hamsey was located in the area between Hamsey Place and Hamsey House. Excavations at Great North Barn in 2005 recovered a large assemblage of Medieval pottery dating from the early to mid 13th century¹⁰, whilst test pitting at Hamsey House recovered pottery dating from the 11th century through to the 14th century¹¹.
- 2.10** The first map evidence is from a Map of the Manor and Parish of Hamsey dated 1752¹² (Fig. 2) which shows the location of the site to be within a large field called ‘Stone-hams’ (CW16). A building may be situated in the south-west corner of the field, and there are buildings situated to the north, west and south of the site. A map of 1787¹³ showing land belonging to Stephen Weller by Thomas Marchant shows Stonehams to be 4 acres and 26 perches. Two properties are now shown to the north of the site.

⁶ Thomas, G. 2001 ‘Hamsey near Lewes, East Sussex: The implications of recent finds of Anglo-Saxon metalwork for its importance in the Pre-Conquest period’, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **139**, 123-133.

⁷ Morris, J. 1976 *Domesday Book: Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore

⁸ <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/>

⁹ <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/h-arch397.php>

¹⁰ <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/h-arch392.php>

¹¹ <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/h-arch303.php>

¹² ESRO MOB 1699

¹³ SAS/SH 395

- 2.11** George Shiffner was appointed Parson of Hamsey in 1818. His father Sir George Shiffner appointed a builder (Mr Keal of Tunbridge) in 1820 to build a house for his son. The foundations were marked out in Stonehams in May 1821¹⁴, and the new parsonage was completed by 1822.
- 2.12** The 1840 Tithe map¹⁵ (Fig. 3) shows the new Rectory with an entrance road to the west. The apportionments show that the landowner and occupier was the Rev. George Shiffner. The 1841 Census¹⁶ tells us that the Rectory was occupied by George, his wife, five children, his mother-in-law and eight servants.
- 2.13** The 1st Edition OS map (1874) shows the Rectory, now with an approach drive from the north (Fig. 4). The situation is unchanged on the later 2nd Edition (1899) and 3rd Edition (1910) OS maps. The name has changed from the Old Rectory to Hamsey Manor in the 20th century.

¹⁴ <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/h299build.php>

¹⁵ ESRO TD/E/111

¹⁶ <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/h-census.php>

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1** The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the excavation of new groundwork in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the groundwork were recorded and interpreted to appropriate professional standards, and in accordance with ESCC's *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation in East Sussex* dated April 2008 (Recommended Standards).
- 3.2** The monitored groundwork comprised a general episode of ground reduction across the footprint of the new garage measuring approximately 16m by 12m, and subsequent excavation of the foundations. All excavations were undertaken using a 6 tonne 360 degree mechanical tracked excavator equipped with a 1.2m wide toothless grading bucket.
- 3.3** Other groundworks, including the removal of the existing below ground LPG tank, and the replacement hole for the new LPG tank, were also monitored during the watching brief.
- 3.4** Ground reduction was undertaken in careful spits. All relevant intrusive excavations were under constant archaeological supervision and exposed sections and surfaces were inspected for archaeological features, structures or finds, and were also scanned with a Garrett ACE 150 metal detector for the recovery of metallic finds.
- 3.5** Removed spoil was placed in the adjacent field, and was also scanned visually and with a Garrett ACE150 metal detector for the presence of unstratified finds.
- 3.6** 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.
- 3.7** 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 HMH10 was allocated.

4.0 Results

- 4.1 An area of general ground reduction was monitored in advance of the construction of a new garage (Fig. 6). The area measured approximately 16m by 12m. Due to the presence of a bank across the eastern third of the area the excavated depth below the ground surface varied from c.400mm to c.1200mm.
- 4.2 The top soil (Context **100**) was up to 300mm thick, comprising a friable mid brown silty sandy loam with occasional sub angular flints to 100mm and occasional chalk flecking and nodules to 50mm. Beneath the top soil, the sub soil was up to 200mm thick and recorded as Context **101**, a firm light to yellowish-brown sandy silt clay containing occasional small natural flints throughout.
- 4.3 Context **102** was generated to record a metal bar that was recovered from within the sub soil during a metal detector sweep. The sub soil overlay the natural substrate, Context **109**, a firm mid brownish-yellow sandy silty clay containing occasional sub angular and sub rounded flints to 100mm. Only the surface of the natural was exposed during the ground reduction, and it was found to be heavily impacted by root action. The upper surface of the natural was achieved between 400mm to 1200mm below the ground surface.
- 4.4 Across the eastern third of the footprint an upstanding bank was excavated down to the top of the natural so as to provide a level area for the raft footing. The upstanding bank was approximately 1m higher than the adjacent ground surface. Its upper deposit was recorded as Context **103**, a compact mid brown sandy silty clay containing occasional chalk nodules and flecking to 50mm, occasional natural flints to 100mm and rare charcoal. Context **103** wedged thicker to the north and was up to a maximum of 550mm thick (Fig. 7: Section A).
- 4.5 It overlay Context **106**, a loose deposit of building demolition material including CBM (predominantly tile), concrete and mortar pieces contained within a reddish-brown sandy silty clay matrix. Context **106** wedged thicker to the south and ranged from 100mm to 400mm in thickness. The primary bank deposit was Context **107**, a firm light to medium yellowish-brown silty clay containing occasional small gravels which, like Context **106**, it wedged thicker to the south, from 100mm thick to a maximum of 400mm thick. Context **107** directly overlay the sub soil, Context **101**.
- 4.6 A single cut feature was recorded during the watching brief which was located in the northeast corner of the monitored ground reduction (Fig. 6). Pit **104** was

sub rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 660mm by 700mm by 260mm deep with steep concave sides and a rounded base (Fig. 7: Section B).

- 4.7** The pit was lined by Context **108**; a compact off-white crushed chalk c. 70mm thick. The chalk was described as ‘compacted and solidified chalk granules of uncertain date that appear to have been deliberately compacted, e.g. to make a floor’¹⁷. The pit was filled by Context **105**, a loose light to mid yellowish-brown clayey silt containing occasional small sub angular flints. Pottery recovered from the pit fill (Context **105**) was of 19th century origin.
- 4.8** Similarly pottery and CBM recovered from the overburden Contexts **100** (top soil) and **103** (upper made ground in the bank) were also strongly indicative of 19th and early 20th century activity.
- 4.9** The monitoring of the other excavations revealed the same stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (Context **100**), over a subsoil (Context **101**) and the natural (Context **109**). Excavation into the natural was monitored to ensure that it was not re-deposited.
- 4.10** The only other features noted during the watching brief were 19th/20th century ceramic land drains and modern services.

¹⁷ Barber, L. pers. com.

5.0 The Finds

5.0.1 The archaeological work recovered a small quantity of finds. The assemblage is quantified in Table 1. The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard.

Table 1: Quantification of Finds Assemblage.

Context	Pottery (by date bracket)	CBM	Glass	Other	Comment
100	1550-1750: 1/56g 1750-1925: 10/365g	Brick 6/193g Peg tile 4/151g Wall tile 1/43g Drain 4/885g	5/400g	Ceramic electric fittings 4/265g Stone 2/112g Metal 4/319g Bone 1/42g	1875-1925 (a little residual earlier material)
101	-	-	-	Flint 2/68g	Prehistoric
102	-	-	-	Metal 1/42g	-
103	1750-1925: 2/134g	-	2/353g	Metal 5/811g	Late 19 th /early 20 th century
105	1750-1925: 2/68g	-	5/559g	Oyster 2/86g Slag 2/268g Bone 2/38g	c.1825-1875
108	-	-	-	Chalk 11/1,366g	-

CBM = Ceramic Building Material

5.1.0 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The small assemblage of pottery from the site is all of post-medieval date. The earliest sherd was recovered from Context **100** and consists of a slightly abraded body sherd in green glazed earthenware of probable mid 16th to 17th century date. The remainder of the assemblage is notably later than this piece, being essentially of unabraded sherds of mid 19th to early 20th century date.

5.1.2 Context **100** contained the largest assemblage including two bowl fragments in local glazed redware, two unglazed earthenware flower pot sherds, two English stoneware preserve jar sherds and four transfer-printed plate sherds. The latter include blue willow pattern types as well as a polychrome Chinese floral pattern plate.

5.1.3 Context **103** contained two sherds from a mid 19th century large serving dish in blue willow pattern transfer-printed ware while Context **105** contained a plain refined white earthenware paste pot lid and part of the handle from an English stoneware tankard of mid/late 19th century date.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The earliest ceramic building material from the site consists of three (26g) abraded lumps from low-fired bricks, of probable 16th to mid 18th century date, tempered with moderate fine sand with iron oxides to 1mm. The remaining brick from Context **100** consists of well formed and fired types, tempered with sparse/moderate fine sand, and of mid 18th to 19th century date.

5.2.2 A similar date can be ascribed to the well formed and fired peg tile fragments from the site. A single white glazed late 19th to 20th century wall tile fragment was recovered from Context **100** as well as a number of later 19th to mid 20th century salt-glazed drain fragments.

5.3 Glass by Chris Butler

5.3.1 A small group of similar glass bottles was recovered from Context **105**, and comprised one complete aqua octagonal moulded bottle with a long neck and applied lip, a second similar bottle was missing its neck and lip, and there were two different neck/applied lips and a base. None have any evidence for having been embossed. These bottles, which probably all originally held the same contents, date to the latter half of the 19th century.

5.3.2 From Context **100** there was a complete clear glass sauce bottle, and four other fragments of glass of 20th century date. Context **103** produced two complete bottles. The first was a brown machine-made beer bottle of later 20th century date, and the second was a small clear glass bottles and one fragment were embossed FOSTER CLARK LTD/MAIDSTONE/EIFFEL TOWER/LEMONADE. Foster Clark & Co started producing Eiffel Tower label products in 1895, and became a limited company in 1910, finally ceasing production in 1965¹⁸. The form of bottle found here suggests a date between 1910 and the late 1930's.

¹⁸ <http://fosterclark.info>

5.4 Prehistoric Flintwork by Chris Butler

5.4.1 Two pieces of worked flint were recovered from Context **101** during the excavation of the garage foundations. The first was a hard hammer-struck flake, and the second was a side scraper also on a hard hammer-struck flake with cortical backing on the opposite lateral edge. Both of these pieces are likely to date from the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age.

5.5 Other Finds by Chris Butler & Luke Barber

5.5.1 Most of the metal finds came from Context **100** or **103** and were recovered with the aid of a metal detector. The majority were iron objects including a nail, a key, a chain and various fittings. Some alloy fittings and an aluminium Schweppes Sweet Lemonade drinks can were also found. A copper-alloy piece (Context **102**) may have been a furniture or carriage fitting, perhaps of 19th century date.

5.5.2 Animal bone was found in two contexts. Context **100** produced a single chopped fragment of cattle scapula, whilst from Context **105** there were two chopped fragments of cattle ribs. Two fragments of oyster shell were also found in Context **105**.

5.5.3 Context **100** produced two fragments of Welsh roofing slate as well as a number of ceramic wall-mounted insulators for early 20th century light switch fittings. Two fragments of slag were found in Context **105**, and were probably the result of a fire or hearth rather than indicating iron-working.

6.0 Discussion

- 6.1** The aims of the watching were successful in so far as they revealed a complete lack of significant archaeological features or artefacts within the footprint of the new garage. However, negative evidence also makes a valuable and positive contribution to the growing body of archaeological knowledge.
- 6.2** Initial excavation depths across the area ranged from c.400mm to c.1.2m below the ground surface, as a c.1m high bank was situated across the eastern part of the site.
- 6.3** Excavation was taken down to the top of natural (Context **109**) which was found to be heavily bioturbated and impacted by root action. This is unsurprising given that at least one large tree had been grubbed out prior to the ground reduction, leaving a substantial tree bole in its stead. Further excavation of garage footings and the fuel tank were almost entirely within the underlying natural.
- 6.4** Much of the artefactual material recovered during the course of the watching brief would fit well with the early 19th century construction and formative phases of the current upstanding building; Hamsey Manor. Moreover, it is likely that the pit (Contexts **104**, **105** and **108**) recorded in the northeast corner of the site is also of a contemporary mid 19th century date.
- 6.5** Conversely there was no evidence within the area of the watching brief for an earlier dwelling, although a single sherd of probable mid 16th to 17th century pottery was recovered from the top soil (Context **100**), and two pieces of prehistoric flintwork were recovered from the sub-soil.
- 6.6** In summary, the watching brief failed to find evidence for any significant archaeological artefacts or features and the general area of ground reduction was found to be heavily bioturbated. Dating evidence recovered from the site was largely of 19th and early 20th century origin.

7.0 Acknowledgments

- 7.1** We would like to thank Mr Stephen Pigott for appointing CBAS to carry out the watching brief, and Peter Grant and his on site team for their co-operation throughout the project.
- 7.2** Annalie Seaman processed the artefacts, and Chris Butler and Luke Barber reported on them. Jane Russell prepared the section drawing for this report.

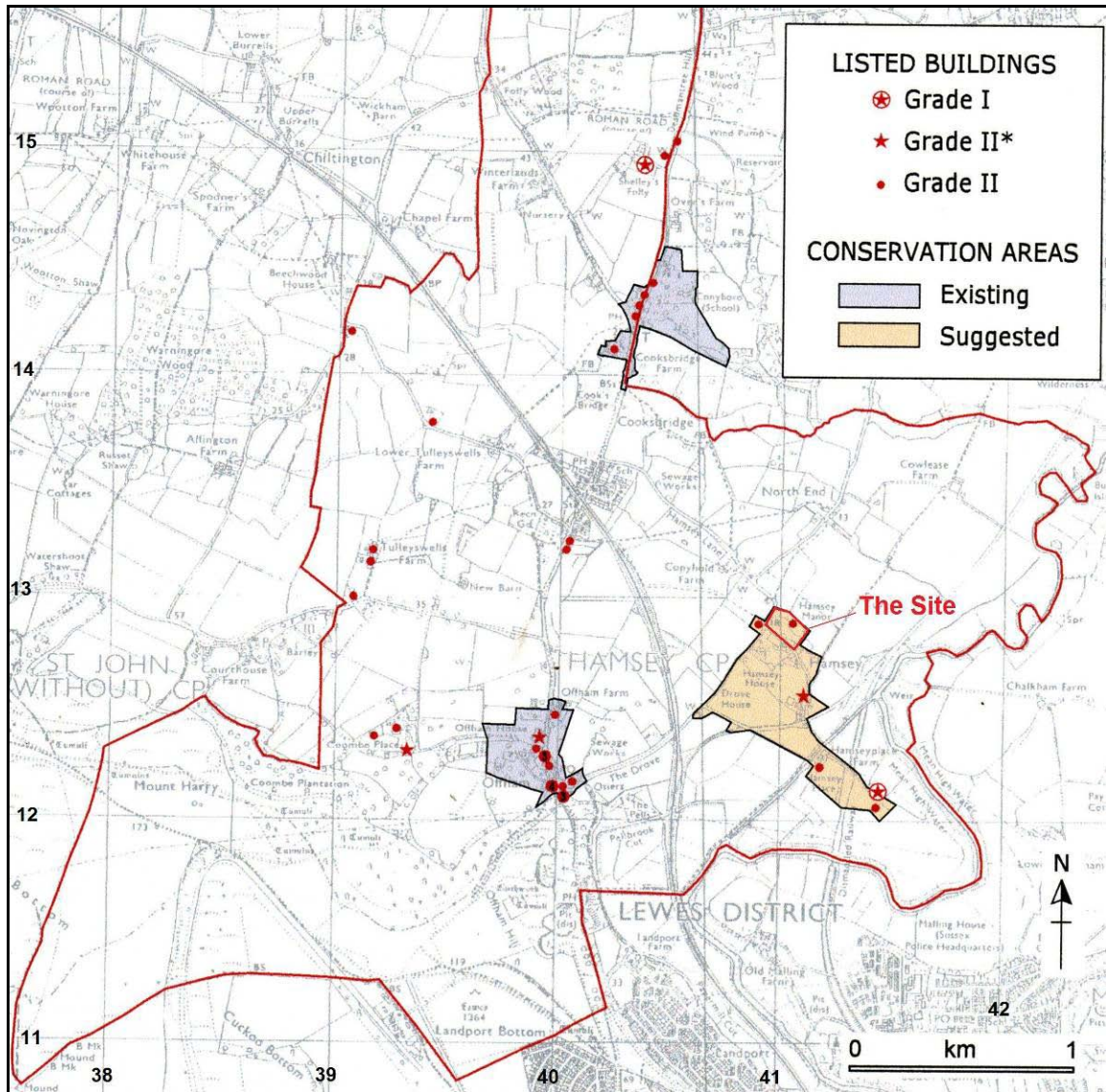


Fig. 1: Hamsey Manor, Hamsey: Site location & proposed Conservation Area
(From: <http://www.hamsey.net/ShowDoc.asp?DocNo=1738>)
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471



Fig. 2: Hamsey Manor, Hamsey: Map of the Manor and Parish of Hamsey dated 1752



Fig. 3: Hamsey Manor, Hamsey: Tithe Map 1840

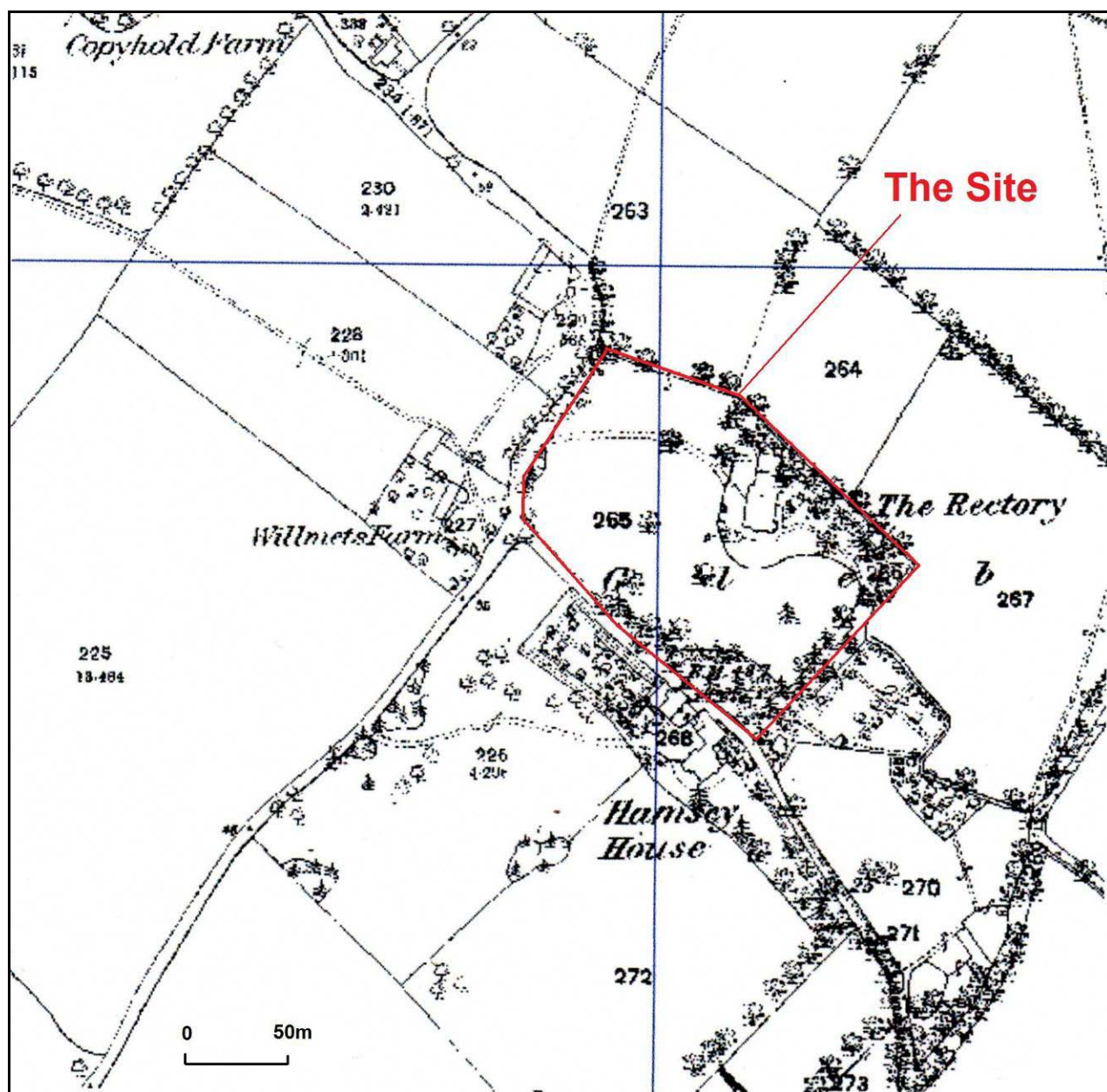


Fig. 4: Hamsey Manor, Hamsey: 1st Edition OS Map (1874)

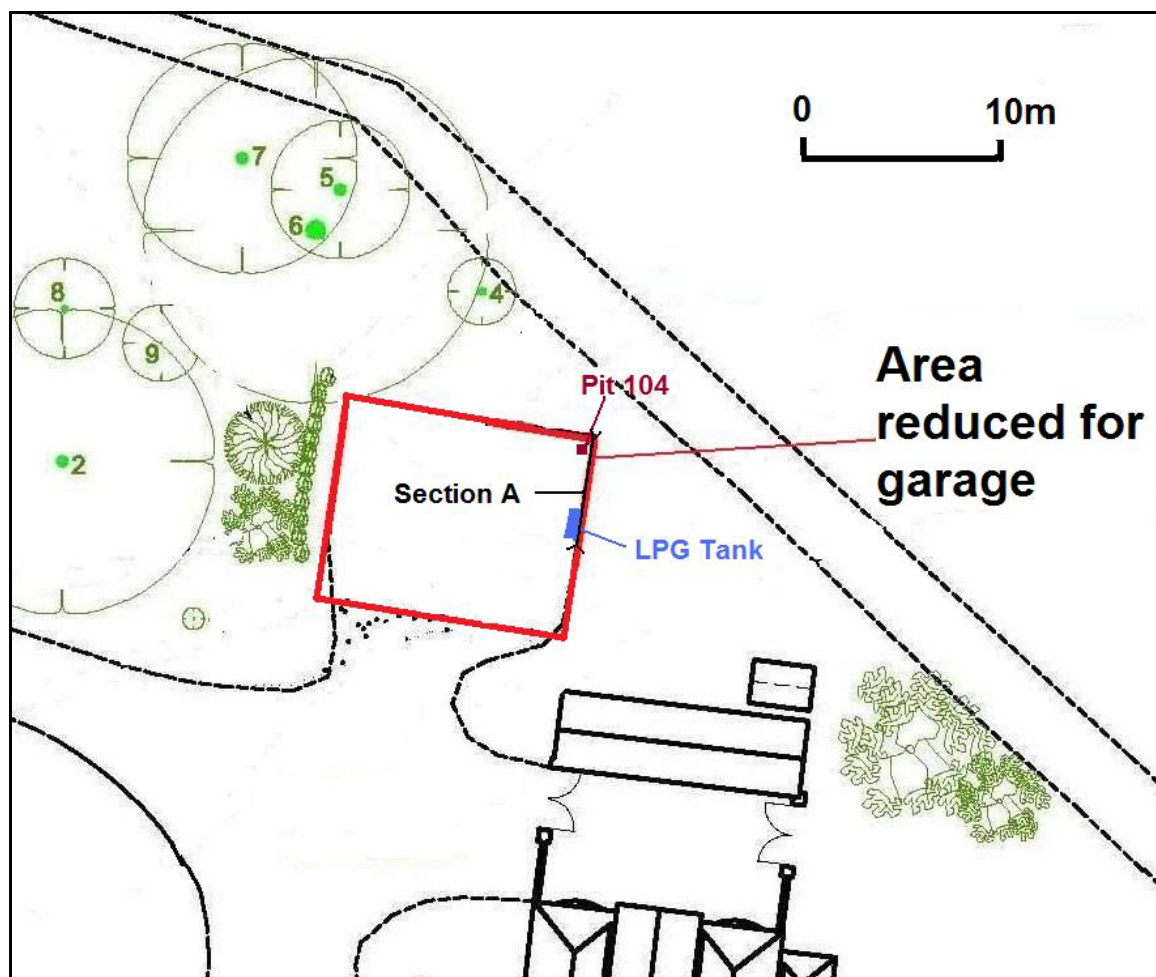


Fig. 6: Hamsey Manor, Hamsey: Site plan
(Adapted from architects plan)

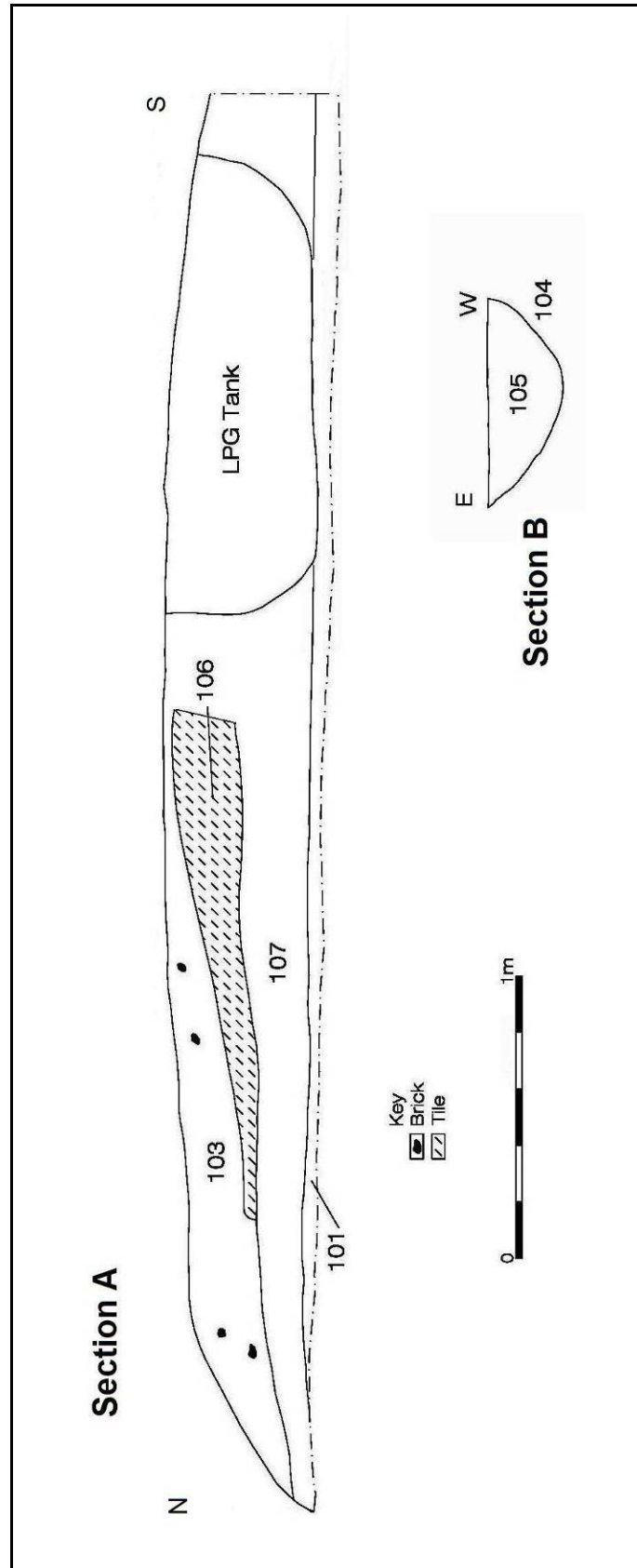


Fig. 7: Hamsey Manor, Hamsey: Sections



Fig. 8: Hamsey Manor, Hamsey: Bank section exposed during reduction



Fig. 9: Hamsey Manor, Hamsey: Pit 104 & chalk lining (Context 108)

Appendix I: Context Register HMM10

<u>No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Fill of</u>	<u>Filled by</u>	<u>Description</u>
100	Deposit			Top Soil
101	Deposit			Sub Soil
102	Deposit			Artefact
103	Deposit			Made Ground - Bank
104	Cut		105, 108	Cut of pit
105	Fill	104		Fill of 104
106	Deposit			Demo rubble, horizon in bank
107	Deposit			Made Ground - Bank
108	Fill	104		Chalk lining
109	Deposit			Natural Head/Drift

Appendix II: HER Summary Form

Site Code	HMH10					
Identification Name and Address	Hamsey Manor, Hamsey, East Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex County Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 541045 112917 (centred)					
Geology	Drift – River Terrace gravels with sands/silts/clays					
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.	Other.	WB. 23 rd & 26 th -27 th April 2010 & 8 th & 10 th May 2010		
Sponsor/Client	Stephen Pigott					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIFA					
Project Supervisor	Jim Ball					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary:</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage at Hamsey Manor, Hamsey, East Sussex. The work comprised a general area of ground reduction and other associated groundworks. A single shallow pit was revealed during the course of the watching brief which contained pottery dating to the 19th century. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified and the overburden also revealed cultural material dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

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 Ltd 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