



Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services



An Archaeological Watching Brief at Float Farm Udimore, East Sussex

RR/2008/3002

Project No. CBAS0070

by
Chris Butler

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Float Farm, Udimore as a result of a planning application for a new farm building on the site.

A desk-based assessment had established that there may be activity at the site from the Mesolithic period through to the Post Medieval period. There are numerous Roman iron-working sites in the vicinity, and during the Medieval period a barrier (the Damme) was constructed across the river valley and there was a quay at Float Farm (the name 'Float' derives from a dock).

However, the watching brief produced a single undated archaeological feature, which may have been a kiln or oven, and a range of unstratified later Post Medieval artefacts.

Chris Butler MIFA

Archaeological Services

Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd
Rosedale
Berwick, Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TB

Tel & fax: 01323 871021

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

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Corke to carry out an Archaeological watching brief on land at Float Farm, Udimore, East Sussex (Fig. 1), to monitor the groundworks during the construction of and agricultural building for the storage of agricultural produce and machinery (RR/2008/3002) (Fig. 2).
- 1.2 The site is located on the east side of Float Farm at TQ 8822 1805, to the north side of Winchelsea Lane, on the north side of the River Brede. The site is located at around 5m OD with steeply sloping ground which rises to about 68m OD at Cock Marling to the north of the site, and falls gently into the river valley immediately to the south of the site. Udimore village is located 1km to the north-west, and the settlements of Icklesham and Winchelsea are situated on the higher ground to the south of the site
- 1.3 The name 'Float' derives from the name for a dock; an indication of the presence of a quay here in Medieval (and earlier) times. Float Farmhouse, situated to the west of the site, is a late 15th century timber-framed house refaced in the 18th century, and is a Grade II Listed Building (DES3564). Two early 19th century square red brick oasthouses and a granary/barn situated to the north-east of the farmhouse at Float Farm are also Grade II Listed Buildings (DES3565).
- 1.4 The site is not a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is not situated within an Archaeological Sensitive Area (ASA). However, it is situated within a historic farm, and a wider landscape that was a focus for activity during the Roman, Medieval and Post Medieval periods.
- 1.5 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 320/321), comprises a thin band of Clay in Ashdown Beds, with Ashdown Beds immediately to the north, and Sand in Wadhurst Clay and Wadhurst Clay on the higher ground north of the Ashdown Beds. To the south of the site is Marine Alluvium, Clay in the river valley.
- 1.6 A Desk-based Assessment and Written Scheme of Investigation¹ for an archaeological watching brief was prepared and approved by the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council, and was then submitted to, and approved by, Rother District Council.
- 1.7 The first phase of the watching brief was carried out on the 31st March 2010 by the author, and by Jim Ball on the 1st April 2010, with the second phase being carried out by Jim Ball on the 26th May 2010.

¹ Butler, C. 2009 *A Desk-based Assessment and Written Scheme of Investigation for Float Farm, Udimore, East Sussex*. CBAS

2. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 2.1 There is little evidence for Mesolithic activity at or near the site, and very little Mesolithic flintwork has been collected in the surrounding landscape. An assemblage of c.200 flakes and blades was collected from Billingham Farm some 2km to the north-west².
- 2.2 Neolithic flintwork, including a leaf-shaped arrowhead, was found at Billingham Farm³. However, this is likely to be evidence for occasional hunting expeditions along the wooded high ground overlooking the floodplain. A few pieces of worked flint which may be Neolithic or Bronze Age have been recovered from Float Farm and Roadend Farm⁴.
- 2.3 Two barbed-and-tanged arrowheads were found at Billingham Farm⁵, and suggest that this area was still being exploited for hunting during the Early Bronze Age. At Pannel Bridge, the Alder-dominated fen continued to prevail until extensive forest clearance occurred at c.1700 b.c.⁶, although this is likely to have had little impact on the area around Float Farm. A few pieces of worked flint which may be Neolithic or Bronze Age have been recovered from Float Farm and Roadend Farm⁷.
- 2.4 A Roman ridgeway track, possibly originating as a prehistoric trackway, runs from Rye to Uckfield along the ridgeline to the north of Float farm (MES4994). The River Brede would have flowed eastwards into a broad expanse of small islands and a network of tidal inlets and salt marsh channels⁸, and would have been used as a means of transport and communication to the ironworking sites located in the surrounding landscape.
- 2.5 Although the Roman iron industry was concentrated further north in the High Weald, There are a number of ironworking sites in the immediate surrounding landscape. A bloomery site is situated at Lower Crutches on the high ground to the south of the River Brede (MES4047), with another site at Old Place, Icklesham⁹, immediately opposite Float Farm. Other, currently undated, bloomery sites are situated at Cinderbank, Telegraph Mill and Wickham Manor, all at Icklesham; and Newman's Farm and Roughter Wood, Udimore¹⁰, and are likely to be Roman.

² Wymer, J.J. 1977 *Gazetteer of Mesolithic sites in England and Wales*, CBA Research Report No. 22.

³ SN&Q 15 (1959) p141.

⁴ Charman, A. 2009 *Metal Detecting finds from Float Farm, Roadend Farm and Parsonage Farm, Udimore*.

⁵ SN&Q 15 (1959) p141.

⁶ Holgate, R. & Woodcock, A. 1989 'A Later Mesolithic site at Pannel Bridge, near Pett Level, East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 127, 1-10.

⁷ Charman, A. 2009 *Metal Detecting finds from Float Farm, Roadend Farm and Parsonage Farm, Udimore*.

⁸ Woodcock, A. 2003 'The Archaeological implications of coastal change in Sussex' in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd.

⁹ Cleere, H. & Crossley, D. 1995 *The Iron Industry of the Weald*, Cardiff, Merton Priory Press.

¹⁰ www.wirgdata.org

- 2.6** A number of Roman artefacts have been found in the immediate vicinity of Float Farm with the aid of a metal detector, including a sestertius of Vitellius (69AD), a barbarous radiate, and other undated coins¹¹. A number of other Roman coins have been recovered from the adjacent Roadend Farm.
- 2.7** There is no archaeological evidence for Saxon activity at Udimore, although the Domesday Book records that Algar held it from Earl Godwin, and it answered for six hides. In 1086 Udimore was in the fee of the Count of Eu, with Reinbert as the under-tenant. It had land for 10 ploughs of which one was in lordship. There were 22 villagers with 15 ploughs, a church, and two acres of meadow¹².
- 2.8** From the twelfth century onwards, the marshy valley floor began to be reclaimed for farming, starting with the parts nearer the valley walls and gradually extending closer to the river. However, severe storms during the latter part of the thirteenth century breached the natural shingle barrier across Rye Bay and created a large tidal area extending at high tide as far up the Brede Valley as the present Brede Bridge. Besides flooding much of the newly reclaimed farmland, this inundation also opened up the river for trade between the hinterland and the towns of Rye and the new Winchelsea¹³.
- 2.9** By 1309 an embankment had been built across the Brede Valley. A great wall (the *Damme*) was constructed for 1km. across the valley south of Float Farm (float = a dock). It protected over 400ha of farmland and excluded the sea by controlling the water with a sluice operated by pulleys. It was also a causeway and the tolls raised £5 a year in 1360s. The dock at the *Damme* loaded Wealden wood destined for London and the Continent. This structure may have been dismantled in 1357 by order of the king because of its implication in the silting of Winchelsea harbour¹⁴.
- 2.10** Marine inundations during the mid 14th century were reported at Udimore, along with many other places along the Sussex coast¹⁵, and must have had a significant impact on the reclaimed land in the river valley adjacent to Float Farm. The reduced scouring of the tides caused by the *Damme* on the River Brede was causing the silting of the port of New Winchelsea, so in the 1440's works were carried out on the River Brede to improve tidal flow and scour the port of Winchelsea for some four miles upstream of Float Farm the river was diverted into an entirely new channel, with a flooded tract some 165 yards wide, to increase the force of ebbing tides. This limited the navigation for ships to Brede Bridge, though the quay at Float Farm continued in use¹⁶.

¹¹ Charman, A. 2009 *Metal Detecting finds from Float Farm, Roadend Farm and Parsonage Farm, Udimore*.

¹² Morris, J. 1976 *Domesday Book: Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore.

¹³ http://www.bredevalley.info/the_brede_valley/history.php

¹⁴ Gardiner, M. 1995. 'Medieval farming and flooding in the Brede Valley', in J. Eddison (ed.), *Romney Marsh: The Debatable Ground*, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology 41. Oxford.

¹⁵ Brandon, P. 1971 'Agriculture and the effects of floods and weather at Barnhorne, Sussex, during the late Middle Ages', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **109**, p81 N3.

¹⁶ Gardiner, M. 2007 'Hythes, small ports and other landing places' in Blair, J. (ed) *Waterways and Canal-building in Medieval England*, Oxford University Press.

- 2.11** Float Farmhouse is late 15th century in date (MES2545), and suggests the presence of a Medieval farm on the site of the current Post Medieval farm. In any event the presence of a quay or dock here may suggest the existence of associated facilities or storage buildings. A number of Medieval artefacts have been found in the immediate vicinity of Float Farm with the aid of a metal detector, including penny of King John (1199-1216), a penny of Edward I or II (1272-1327), a groat of Edward III (1351-1361), buckles, harness fittings, a seal matrix, a coin weight and fragments of copper-alloy vessels¹⁷. Other Medieval coins and buckles have been recovered from the adjacent Roadend and Parsonage Farms.
- 2.12** The farmhouse at Float Farm and the nearby house of Knellstone (MES2546) both date to the 15th century, whilst other local buildings at Beauchamps (DES3577), Roadend Farm (MES2549) and Tibbs Farm (MES2559) all date to the 17th century. This suggests that the dispersed settlement at Udimore was already well established in the early Post Medieval period.
- 2.13** Speed's map of Sussex 1610¹⁸ and Morden's map of Sussex 1695, both show a wide River Brede to the south of Udimore, broadening out into an estuary between Rye and Winchelsea containing a number of islands (Fig. 3). Yeakell & Gardiner's map of 1778-83¹⁹ shows Float Farm with fields between it and the River. The location of the site is an open field to the east of the farm buildings. A bridge, called 'Cradle Bridge' crosses the River Brede to the south of Float Farm (Fig. 4).
- 2.14** In 1818, William Filmer of Udimore, yeoman purchased part of Upper Barn Field, itself part of Float Farm, from Edward Skinner of Udimore, farmer²⁰. Other documents held at ESRO relate to Float Farm House and a barn at Lower Float Farm²¹. The Tithe map of 1838 (Fig. 5) shows the site to be located in the south-west corner of a large field to the east of Lower Float Farm (Apportionment 33). This field and the fields to the east; and those to the south up to the river are all part of Lower Float Farm. Adjacent to the road is a building whose location roughly correlates with the smaller building currently on the site.
- 2.15** To the west is Float Farm (Apportionment 36), which includes fields to the west and south, together with fields to the north of Lower Float Farm. According to the Tithe map apportionments, Lower Float Farm is owned by Mrs Millward and occupied by Thomas Cooper Langford, whilst Float Farm is owned by the heirs of George King, and occupied by William Filmer²². A letter from B[ernard] Husey Hunt to George Gatty of 7th April 1853 is held in ESRO²³, and concerns his agreeing to transfer money to rebuild Float Farm, Udimore, on behalf of his wife Frances Gatty.

¹⁷ Charman, A. 2009 *Metal Detecting finds from Float Farm, Roadend Farm and Parsonage Farm, Udimore*.

¹⁸ <http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussexmap/speed.htm>

¹⁹ http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussexmap/Yeakell_36.htm

²⁰ ESRO (AMS5681/16/1-2)

²¹ ESRO (HBR/1/481 & HBR/1/480)

²² ESRO (TD/E76)

²³ ESRO (SAY/3072)

- 2.16** The 1st Edition OS map (1878) shows the field to now be divided up, with the south-west part in which the site is located now shown as a small field to the south of the farm buildings of Lower Float Farm (Fig. 6). A small square building is now shown on the site of the earlier buildings, shown on the Tithe map, and corresponds with the building currently on the site. No bridge is shown over the River Brede, although the railway line crosses the river near this point.
- 2.17** There has been no change on the 2nd Edition OS map of 1900, and through to the 3rd Edition OS map (1910), although a footbridge is shown on both maps across the River Brede. However, by the 4th Edition OS map (1938), a number of smaller buildings have been added to the farm complex to the north of the site, and the field immediately to the east of the site now appears to now be an orchard (Fig. 7).
- 2.18** An aerial photograph taken in 1947 shows there to have been little change from the 1938 OS map, and confirms the presence of an orchard in the field to the east of the site. The area of the site appears to be partly covered in trees.

3. Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1** On arrival at the site on the 31st March 2010 some groundworks had already commenced with most of the turf and topsoil having been removed from across the footprint of the new building. Due to the sloping ground up to 1m depth was removed at the north side of the site, whilst only a minimal amount (*c.* <100mm) was removed along the south side to level the site. The remaining topsoil strip was monitored, although at this stage the overburden was not being removed down to its full excavated depth.
- 3.2** On the 1st April 2010 the watching brief continued with the monitoring of the excavation of 16 post holes for the new building (Figs. 2 & 8). Each post hole was approximately 1m x 2m in size and was excavated to a depth of up to 1.3m. Only post holes 1 to 10 were monitored as the remaining six holes along the north side of the building were excavated only through the natural, and there was no archaeological impact. A Trial Trench record form was completed for each monitored post hole.
- 3.3** The spoil from the excavation was initially dumped at the western end of the site, and will in due course be spread on other parts of Float Farm. The spoil and the revealed surface were inspected for artefacts. A Minelab Explorer SE metal detector was used by Alan Chapman to scan the unexcavated and excavated surfaces during the initial topsoil strip on the 31st March 2010. Once the spoil has been spread Mr Chapman will scan it with a metal detector, and report any discoveries to the Sussex Finds Liaison Officer.
- 3.4** The final phase of the watching brief was carried out after the building had been erected, and comprised the excavation of the remaining topsoil from within the interior of the new building.
- 3.5** All excavation was carried out using a 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator using a flat bladed ditching bucket. Weather conditions were poor throughout the first phase, with much of the site quickly flooding, which made recording problematic.
- 3.6** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell colour chart.
- 3.7** A 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, after any further analysis, will be offered to Rye Museum. A site reference of FFU09 has been allocated.

4. Results

- 4.1** The topsoil below the turf across the entire site was a firm mid brown silty clay loam (Context 1) which contained rare rounded flint pieces to 20mm (<1%) and ceramic building material (CBM) (<1%), and roots (2%). The depth of the topsoil varied across the site from 200mm at the north end to 380mm at the south (downslope) end. Although much of this layer had been removed by machine prior to monitoring commencing, it was recorded in section around the sides of the reduced area and in the posthole excavations.
- 4.2** Below the topsoil was a firm mid grey-brown silty clay loam sub soil (Context 2). This layer contained rare rounded pieces of flint to 20mm (<1%), and varied in depth from 300mm to 400mm across the entire site.
- 4.3** Below Context 2 was a compact deposit of yellow-brown silty clay with no inclusions (Context 3). This was the natural and corresponded to the Clay in Ashdown Beds recorded at the site.
- 4.4** The only exception to this stratigraphic sequence was seen in Posthole 4, where a blue-grey silty alluvial clay deposit (Context 9) some 200mm to 300mm thick was sandwiched between Context 2 and Context 3 (Fig. 10). This layer had no visible inclusions, and may represent a flooding event in the past, but was not observed in any of the other postholes.
- 4.5** The remaining postholes each had the same stratigraphy, namely topsoil (Context 1) above subsoil (Context 2) above the natural (Context 3). The monitored postholes are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 Monitored postholes

No	Length (N/S)	Width (E/W)	Depth	Context 1 depth	Context 2 depth	Context 9 depth	Context 3 depth
1	0.9m	1.2m	1.1m	380mm	320mm	-	400mm
2	1.6m	0.9m	1.15m	200mm	400mm	-	550mm
3	1.9m	0.9m	1.0m	200mm	350mm	-	550mm
4	1.9m	0.9m	1.3m	250mm	200mm	170mm	680mm
5	1.9m	0.9m	1.2m	300mm	150mm	-	750mm
6	1.9m	0.9m	1.1m	300mm	150mm	-	650mm
7	1.9m	0.9m	1.1m	300mm	150mm	-	650mm
8	1.9m	0.9m	1.2m	250mm	200mm	-	750mm
9	1.9m	0.9m	1.1m	200mm	250mm	-	650mm
10	1.8m	0.9m	1.1m	300mm	200mm	-	600mm

- 4.6** In the north-west corner of the site, exposed in the section, was a deposit of loose dark brown silty clay loam containing large quantities of brick and other CBM and building material (Context **6**). This deposit was 300mm thick and extended for one to two metres in the section, being sandwiched between Contexts **1** and **2**.
- 4.7** Within the central part of the reduced area of the building footprint a fired clay feature (Context **4**) was discovered at the interface between Contexts **2** and **3**. This comprised an oval area of fired clay measuring c. 1.2m x 1.4m, and was 80mm deep, possibly sitting in a shallow cut which was 960mm wide. The fired clay was an orange-red colour, and had pieces and flecks of charcoal on its upper surface.
- 4.8** Adjacent to the feature was a circular area of dark brown silty clay loam c. 250mm diameter, almost entirely composed of large charcoal pieces (Context **5**). Due to the weather and ground conditions this feature could not be excavated, but was sampled, with a 5% sample taken for wet sieving.
- 4.9** The feature had been cut by a 19th/20th century north-south orientated ceramic land drain but was sectioned (Figs. 9 & 12). No artefacts were found to provide a date for this feature. A further smaller area of fired clay was noted to the east of Feature **4**, but was flooded and could not be investigated, and could not be found subsequently.
- 4.10** During the second phase of the watching brief the only feature encountered was a sub-oval cut feature (Cut **7**). This cut measured 4.5m north-south and 2.5m east west, and was 0.4m deep, with gradually sloping sides into an irregular flat bottom.
- 4.11** It was filled with a loose mid yellow-brown silty clay (Context **8**) with occasional small flint pieces, and contained pieces of 20th century metal and CBM. The owner advised that this was a feature that had been created in the recent past, so no further recording was carried out, and no artefacts were retained from it.
- 4.12** No other features or deposits were noted during the watching brief.

5.0 The Finds

5.1 The watching brief recovered a small assemblage of finds from two unstratified contexts. The material is summarised in Table 2. The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard.

Table 2: Quantification of finds assemblage (Number of pieces/weight in grams)

Context	Pottery	Ceramic Building Material	Other	Comments
Spoil	2/36g	Wall tile 1/14g	-	Mixed: Late C18th – early 20th
Surface	4/15g	Brick 1/70g Peg tile 2/48g	Coins 2/- Slag 1/16g Flint 1/3g FF flint 2/5g Metal 23/665g	Mixed C18th – early 20th

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Two of the small pottery sherds from the surface comprised a small china sherd, probably from a tea cup, with a blue coloured line around the inside and outside of the rim, and an English stoneware sherd in a grey fabric with an outer glazed surface and an internal slip. Both of these pieces are likely to date from the later 19th century.

5.2.2 The remaining pottery from the site all consists of local red earthenwares typical of 18th to 19th century domestic coarsewares of the area. The two sherds from surface collection include an unglazed bodysherd and an internally pale brown glazed bodysherd both of which could be placed anywhere in the 18th to early 19th centuries. The two sherds from the spoilheap consist of an internally glazed bowl with triangular club rim and bodysherd with all over glaze. These pieces are more likely to be of later 18th to 19th century date.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Two peg tile fragments were recovered from surface collection. One fragment is tempered with sparse fine sand with common calcareous inclusions (voids) to 1mm and has a distinctive whitened surface. The piece is well formed and fired. Although very similar to some tiles of the later 15th to early 17th centuries the current piece is perhaps too well made and is more likely to be of mid 18th to 19th century date. Similar tiles have been noted in some definite 19th century Wealden contexts before by the author.

5.3.2 The other piece of tile is more typical of the later 18th to 19th centuries in being well formed/fired and tempered with sparse fine sand with sparse iron oxides to 2mm.

5.3.3 A brick fragment (65mm tall), tempered with sparse fine sand, and very well formed was also recovered from surface collection. A later 19th to mid 20th century date is probable for this piece. The only other piece of ceramic building material consists of a 20th- century white glazed wall tile from the spoilheap.

5.4 Prehistoric flintwork by Chris Butler

5.4.1 The only piece of worked flint found was a single undiagnostic fragment in a fresh mottled grey coloured flint. Two small fragments of fire-fractured flint were also recovered from the surface, perhaps indicating the presence of burnt flint mounds nearby.

5.5 Coins by David Rudling

1. George II 1727-60
Copper Farthing. Young Bust. Dated: 1739
Surface metal detected find
2. Victoria 1837-1901
Bronze Halfpenny. 'Bien Head' issue. Dated: 1875
Surface metal detected find

5.6 Metal finds by Chris Butler

5.6.1 A large number of metal finds were recovered with the aid of a metal detector (Table 1). Most were small fragments of iron or other metal fittings of unknown purpose. However, a small number of finds could be identified. Lead finds included a seal (10gms) possibly of 17th to 18th century date, and a large unidentified fragment of lead (118gms).

5.6.2 Copper alloy finds included a barrel tap (252gms) of 19th century date, a shoe clasp (1gm) of 18th to 19th century date, and a coin weight (2gms). Two buttons were found, the first of pewter with a loop (1gm) probably of 18th to 19th century date and an iron button with 'Suede' embossed on its face, which was probably 20th century.

5.6.3 The final metal item was a large fragment from a probable German incendiary bomb, c.50mm diameter and weighing 241gms.

5.7 Other finds by Luke Barber

5.7.1 The only other find consists of a piece of post-medieval blast furnace slag. This material was frequently taken from the ironworks of the Weald to be used as road/track surfacing and as such it tends to have a wide distribution.

5.8 Environmental Sample by Chris Butler

5.8.1 A single soil sample was taken from Context **5** comprising a single bag of c.5 litres size. The entire sample of 5 litres was processed using bucket floatation, with the residue being washed through a 1mm mesh sieve. Once the residue was dry it was sorted by eye to extract material of archaeological and environmental interest. The results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Environmental Sample

Context	Modern roots	Animal Bone	Charcoal	seeds	Residue
5	-	-	****	-	None

Frequency Key: None - ; Very low * ; Low ** ; Moderate *** ; High ****

5.8.2 The sample contained very high quantities of charcoal, which were recovered from the flots and the residue. The charcoal pieces varied in size from small to very large pieces. No obvious seeds or other charred material was noted. None of this material has been assessed or analysed at this stage.

6 Discussion

- 6.1** Although the prior desk-based assessment had indicated that there may have been activity at the site from the Mesolithic period through to the Post Medieval period, very little evidence for this activity was revealed by the work connected with the construction of the barn. There are numerous Roman iron-working sites in the vicinity of the site, however the only evidence for ironworking was a single fragment of Post Medieval ironworking slag.
- 6.2** During the Medieval period a barrier (the Damme) was constructed across the river valley and there was a quay at Float Farm which appears to have remained in use until the end of the Medieval period. A number of Medieval artefacts have previously been found in the immediate vicinity of Float Farm including penny of King John (1199-1216), a penny of Edward I or II (1272-1327), a groat of Edward III (1351-1361), buckles, harness fittings, a seal matrix, a coin weight and fragments of copper-alloy vessels. The earliest find from the watching brief was a further coin weight, indicative of trading taking place here. Almost all of the artefacts recovered during the watching brief date to the later Post Medieval period, and therefore post date the presence of the quay.
- 6.3** The fired clay feature (Feature 4) resembled the base of a degraded kiln or oven, and may have been one of a number of similar features situated here. The lack of pottery wasters and iron working slag indicate that they were not associated with these industries. Unfortunately no dating evidence was found in association with this feature, although the fact that it was cut by the 19th/20th century ceramic land drain confirms that it is not a recent feature.
- 6.4** The adverse weather conditions did mean that the excavation and recording of this feature and our ability to identify any other features during the first phase of the watching brief was somewhat limited, however the second phase within the shelter of the newly constructed barn also failed to identify any non-modern features, which seems to confirm that there were no other features present. The presence of an experienced metal detectorist during the first phase meant that there was a good recovery of metallic artefacts, although the ability to recover other artefacts was restricted due to the weather and ground conditions.

7. Acknowledgements

- 7.1** I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Corke for commissioning CBAS for this watching brief. Alan Charman kindly provided details of his metal detected finds from Float Farm and the surrounding area and carried out the metal detecting during the topsoil strip.
- 7.2** I would also like to thank Luke Barber and David Rudling for their specialist reports, and Jane Russell who prepared the digitised drawings. Greg Chuter monitored the project for ESCC.

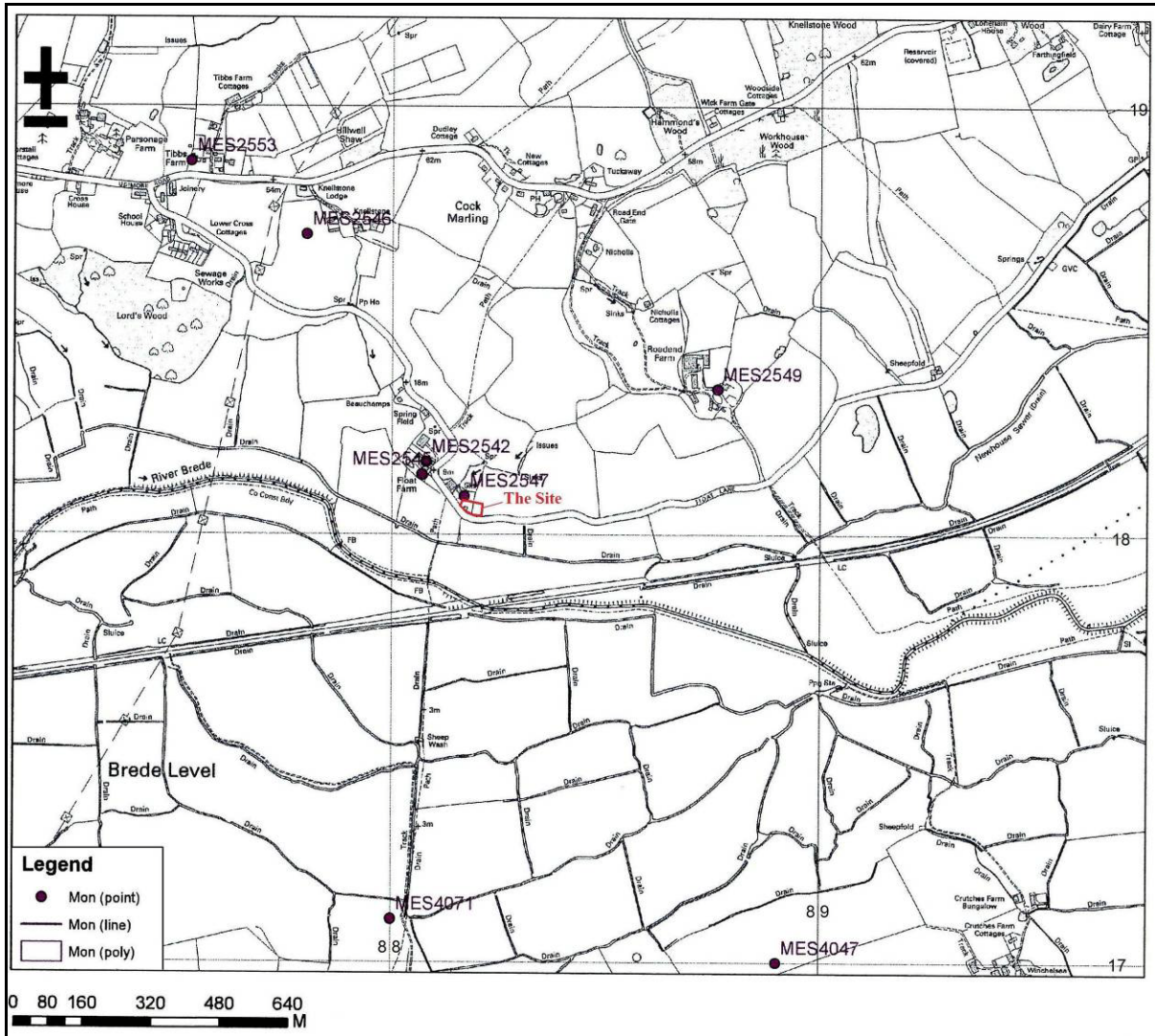


Fig. 1: Float Farm, Udimore: Location map showing monuments on the HER
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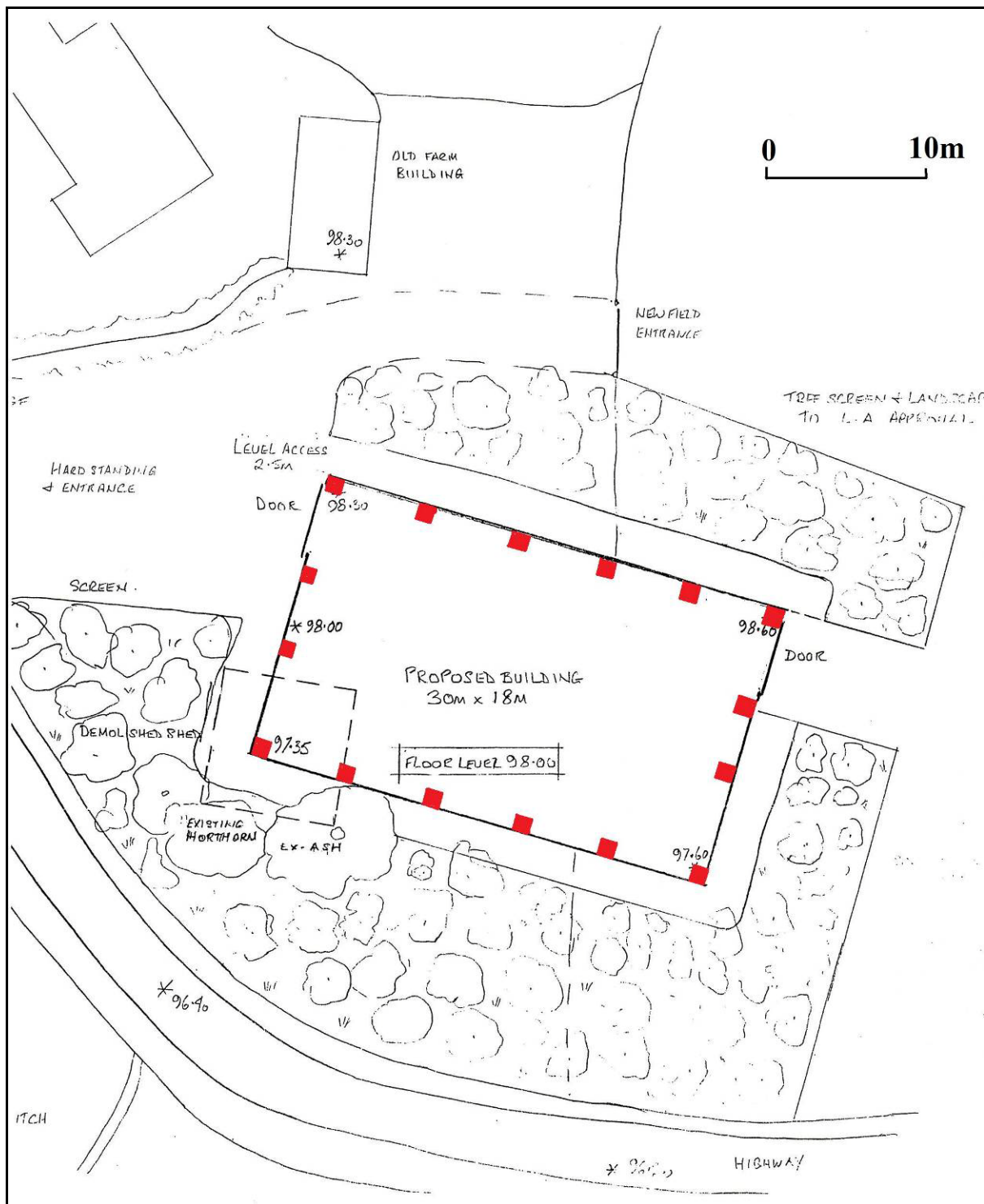


Fig. 2: Float Farm, Udimore: Site plan showing location of the proposed building and the position of the holes to be excavated (in red)
(Adapted from original architects drawing)



Fig. 3: Float Farm, Udimore: Extract from Speed's map of Sussex 1610 showing the Udimore area.

Source: <http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussexmap/speed.htm>



Fig. 4: Float Farm, Udimore: Yeakell & Gardiner map 1778-83 showing the site and the River Brede valley

Source: http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussexmap/Yeakell_36.htm

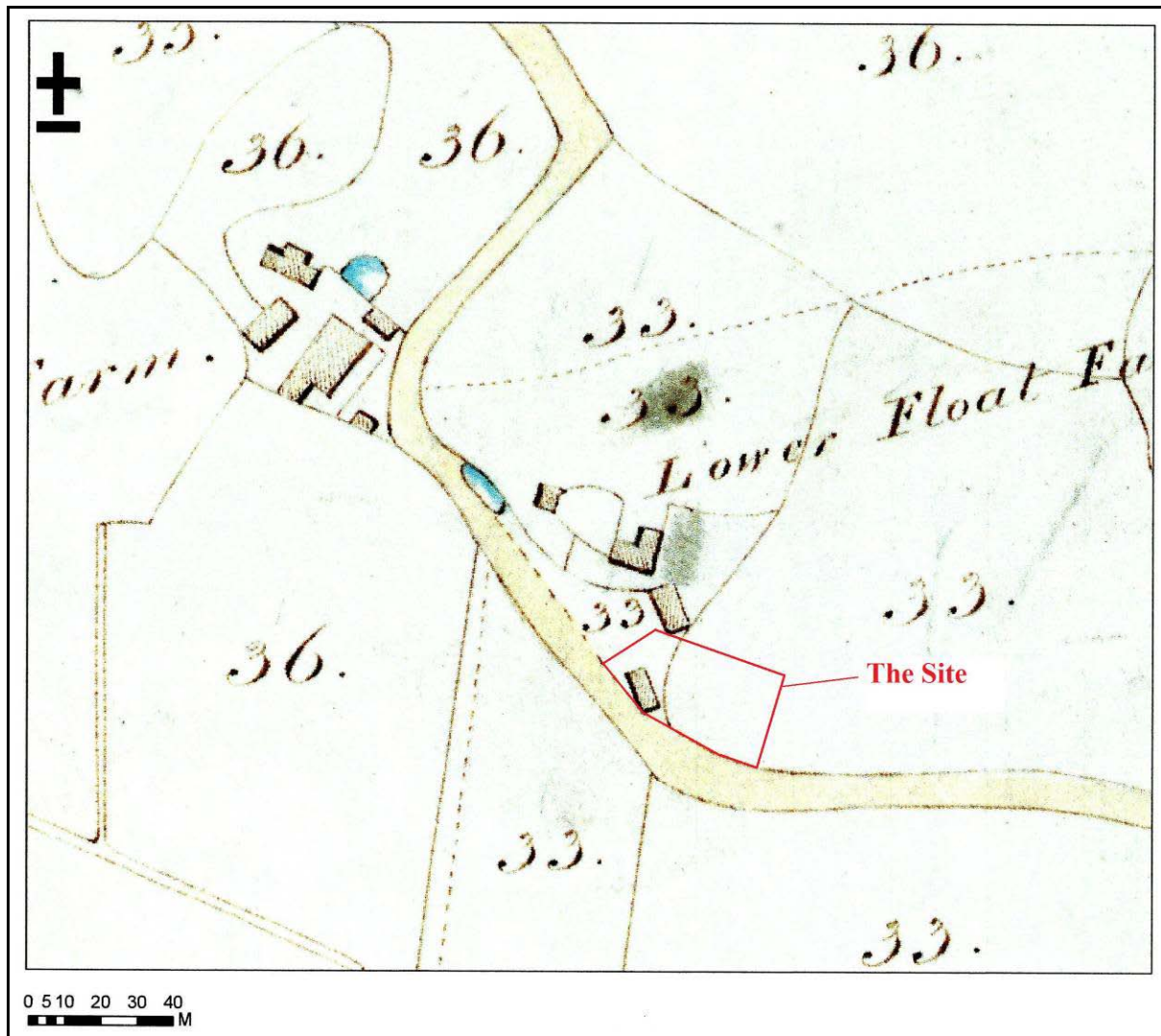
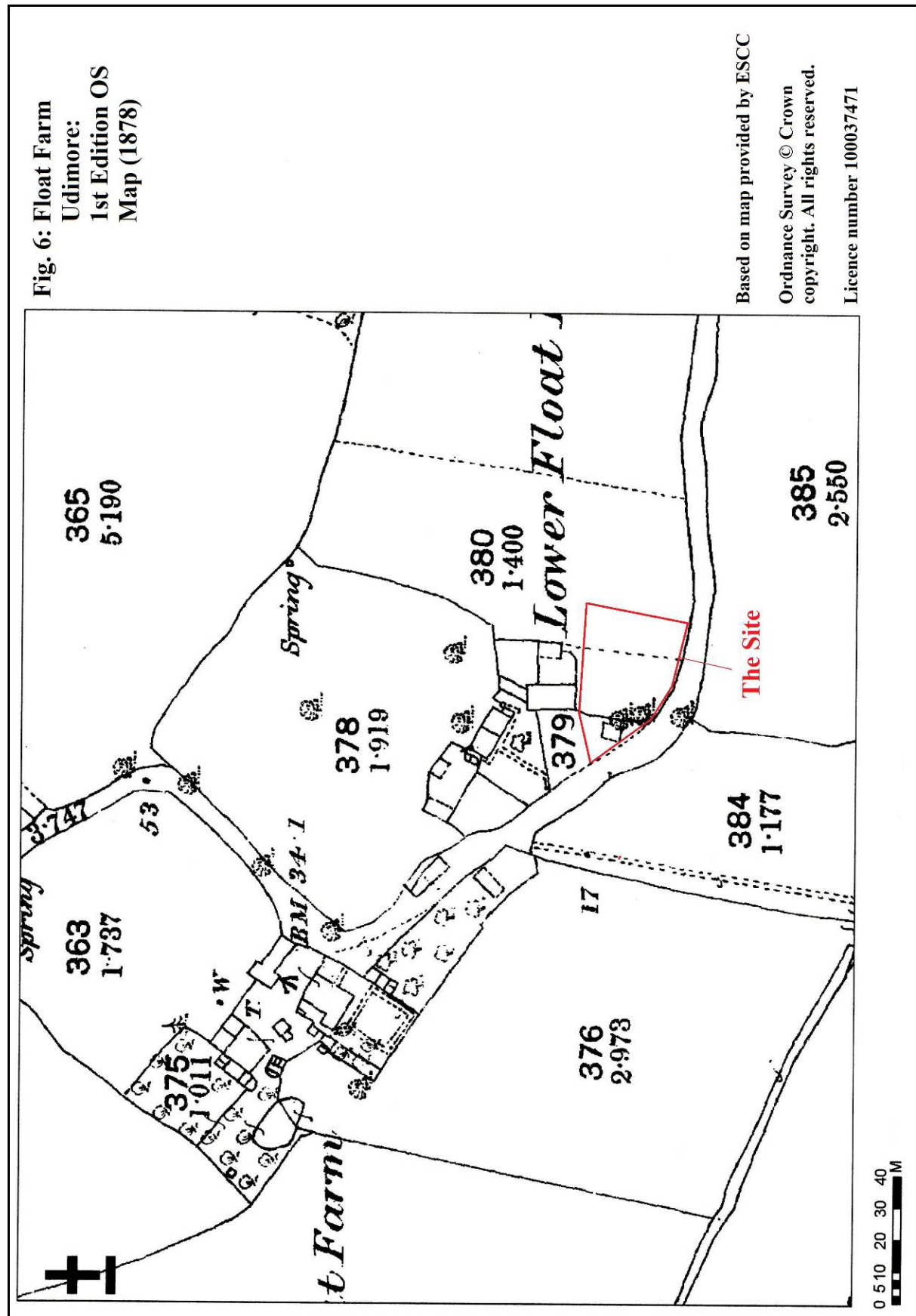
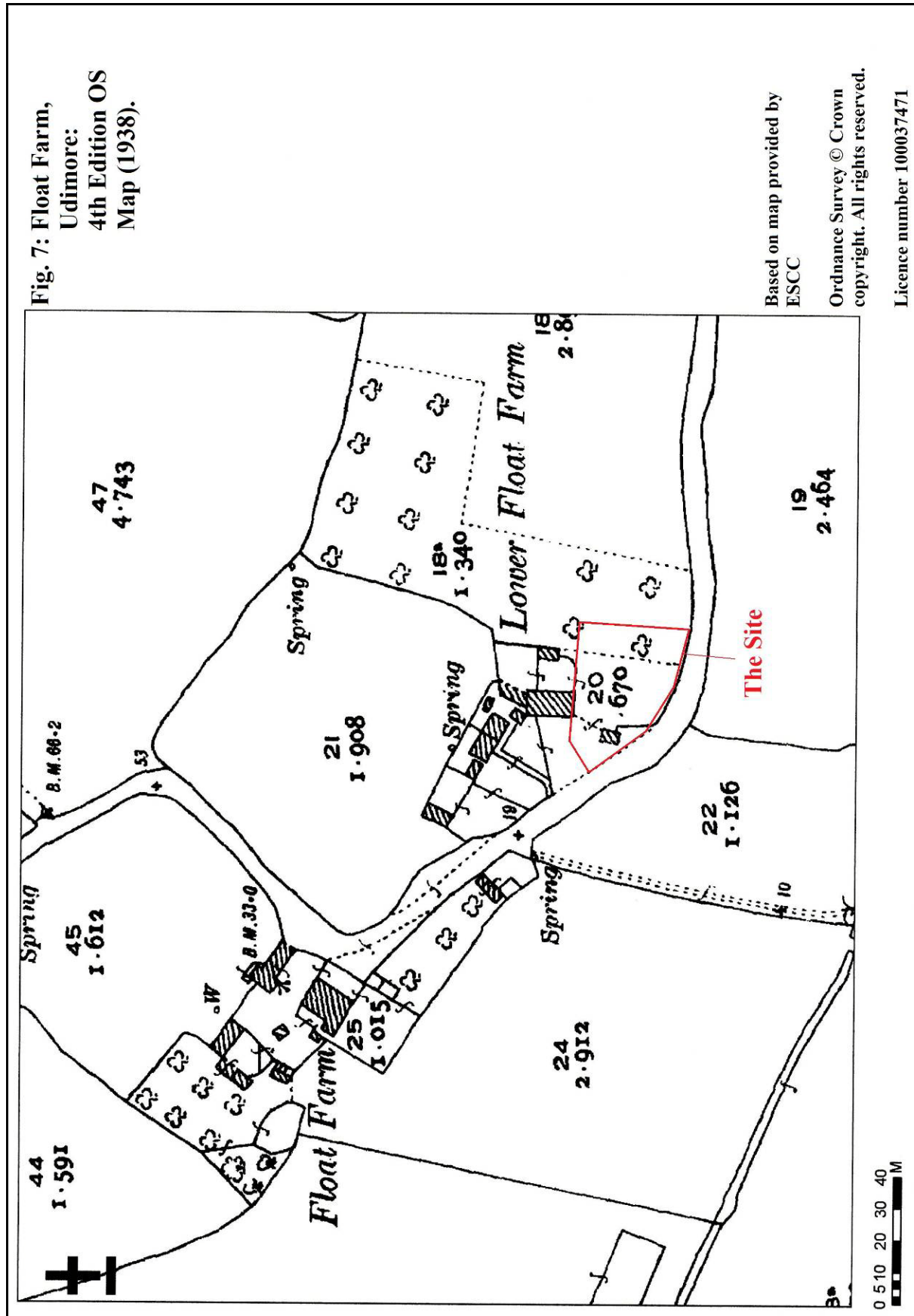


Fig. 5: Float Farm, Udimore:Udimore Tithe Map 1838 (TD/E76)

(Adapted from map provided by ESCC)





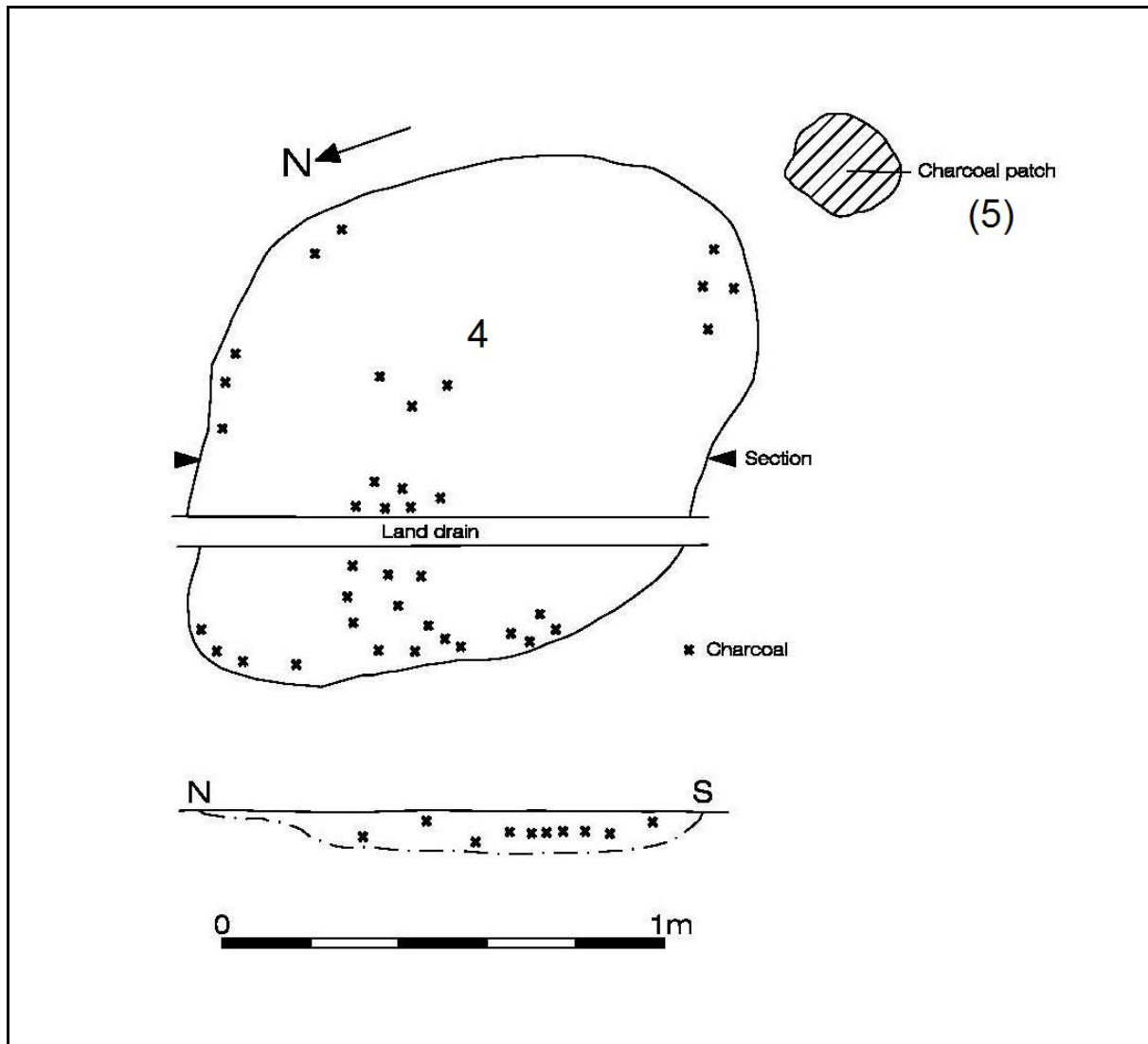


Fig. 9: Float Farm, Udimore: Plan and section (S1) of Feature 4.
(See Fig 8 for location)

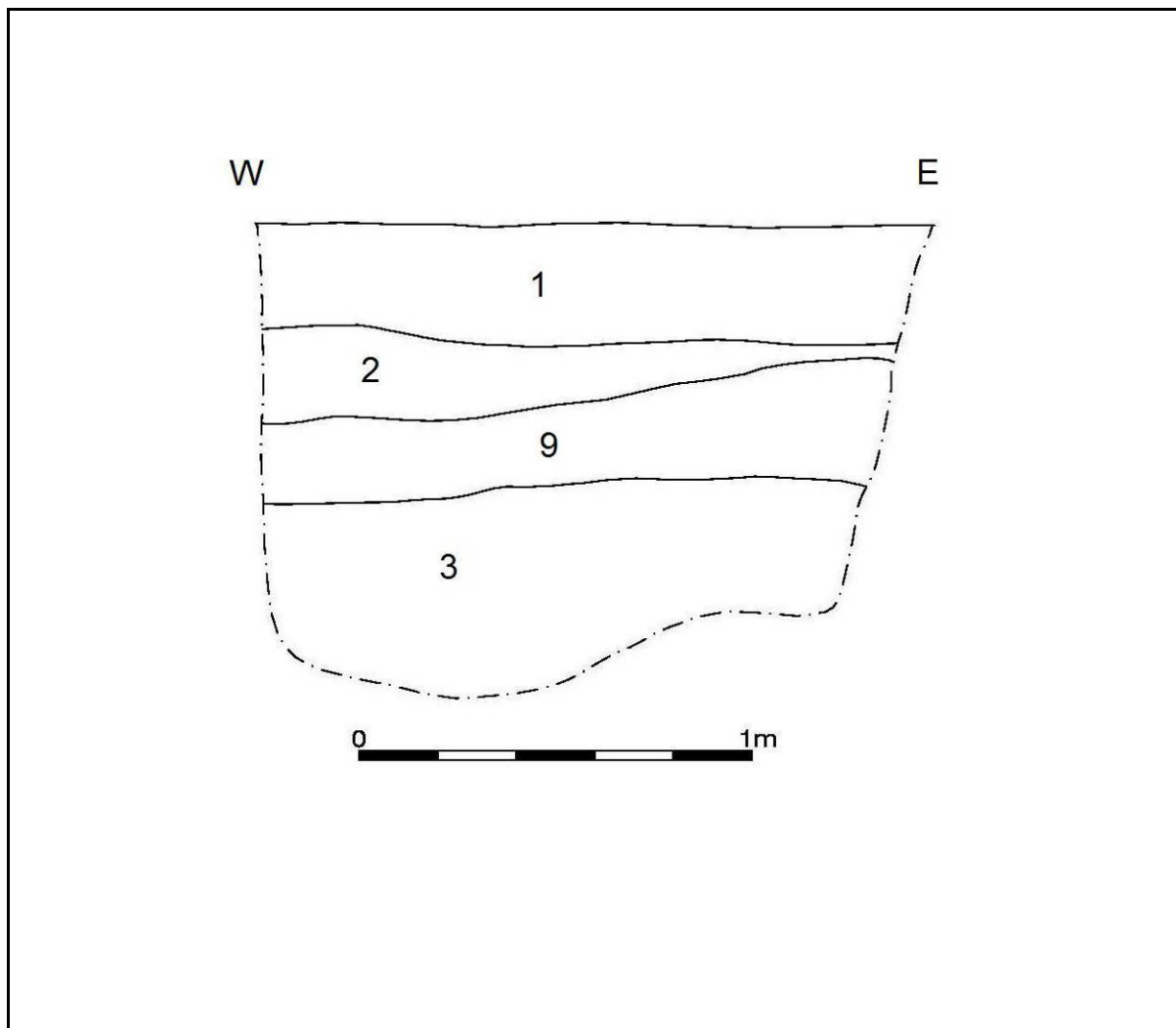


Fig. 10: Float Farm, Udimore: Section (S2) of Posthole 4.
(See Fig 8 for location)

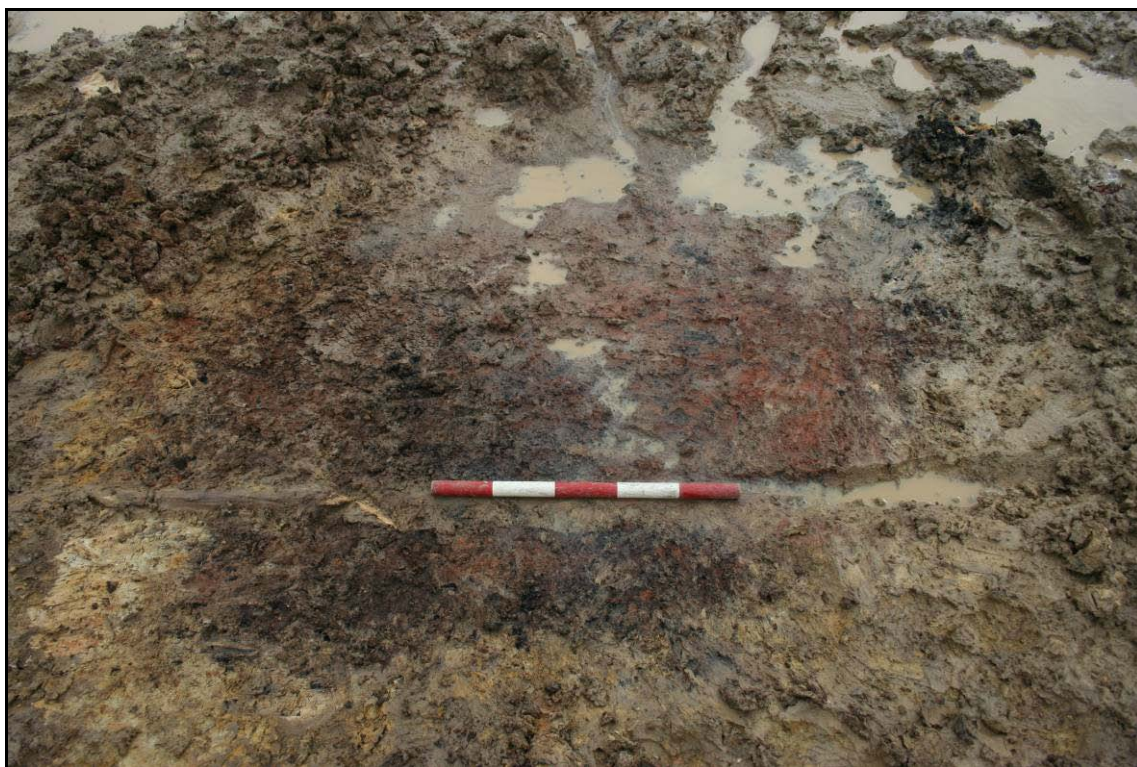


Fig. 11: Float Farm, Udimore: Feature 4



Fig. 12: Float Farm, Udimore: Feature 4 section

Appendix I HER Summary Form

Site Code	FFU09					
Identification Name and Address	Float Farm, Udimore, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 88193 18069					
Geology	Clay in Ashdown Beds					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 31/3/10 – 26/5/10	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr & Mrs Corke					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIFA					
Project Supervisor	-					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other:		
<p><i>100 word Summary:</i></p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Float Farm, Udimore as a result of a planning application for a new farm building on the site.</i></p> <p><i>A desk-based assessment had established that there may be activity at the site from the Mesolithic period through to the Post Medieval period. There are numerous Roman iron-working sites in the vicinity, and during the Medieval period a barrier (the Damme) was constructed across the river valley and there was a quay at Float Farm (the name 'Float' derives from a dock).</i></p> <p><i>However, the watching brief produced a single undated archaeological feature, which may have been a kiln or oven, and a range of unstratified later Post Medieval artefacts.</i></p>						

Appendix II: Archaeological Sites Recorded on HER

SMR No.	NGR	Period	Type of Site	Notes
MES2542	TQ 8808 1817	Early 19 th Century	Oasthouse & barn at Float Farm	Listed Building (DES3565)
MES2545	TQ 8807 1814	Late 15 th Century	Float Farmhouse	Listed Building (DES3564)
MES2546	TQ 878 187	15 th Century	Knellstone	Listed Building (DES3560)
MES2547	TQ 8817 1809		Lower Float Farm	Listed Building
MES2549	TQ 8876 1834	17 th Century	Roadend Farm	Listed Building (DES3566)
MES2559	TQ 8753 1887	17 th Century	Tibbs Farm	Listed Building (DES3574)
MES4047	TQ 889 170	Romano-British	Bloomery site	
MES4071	TQ 880 171	Undated	Banked & ditched enclosure	
MES4994	N/A	Prehistoric to Roman	Rye - Uckfield ridgeway (LIN 129)	
DES3577	TQ 88017 18310	17 th Century	Beauchamps	Listed Building
DES3936	TQ 87267 18806	18 th Century	Cross House	Listed Building
DES3926	TQ 88517 18042	19 th Century	Shepherds hut in Winchelsea Lane	Listed Building

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, and teaches A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys, watching briefs and evaluations, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. Chris is Co-Director of the Barcomvbe Roman Villa excavations. He has also recently undertaken an archaeological survey of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Fieldwalking, Landscape & Woodland surveys, 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@reлтub.fsbusiness.co.uk