



# Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services



## A Desk-based Assessment for Churchwood Primary School, Hollington, Hastings, East Sussex

by  
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### ***Summary***

*An archaeological Desk-based Assessment has been carried out at Churchwood Primary School, Hollington, Hastings, East Sussex, which has been proposed for an extension to the existing school.*

*The desk-based assessment has established that the school site was woodland prior to the construction of the school, and the associated terracing of the school into the slope has probably removed any archaeological remains at the site. The playing field site was built up at the same time, although there may be surviving Medieval and Post Medieval remains at its south-east end.*

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Front Cover: Churchwood Primary School: view from rear across playground

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services has been commissioned by Adams Johns Kennard Ltd for East Sussex County Council to carry out an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of the proposed site for a new primary school extension at Churchwood Primary School, Hollington, Hastings, East Sussex, in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed construction, as part of an initial feasibility study.
- 1.2 The site is located on the south side of Church Wood Drive, adjacent to Church in the Wood Lane and on the northern edge of Church Wood, and is centred on TQ 7868 1149 (Fig. 1). The site is currently the site of Churchwood Community Primary School, and is bounded by Church Wood Drive on its north side, Church in the Wood Lane on the east side, St. Leonard, Church in the Wood to the south-east and Church Wood on the western side. The school playing field is located on the east side of Church in the Wood Lane.
- 1.3 The site is located at around 53m OD on its east side (Church in the Wood Lane) and has been terraced into the west facing slope dropping some 2m to the level of the current school buildings and further down to the level of the playgrounds on its west side. The ground level then drops down to around 44m OD from the west edge of the property to a stream which flows from north to south through Church Wood.
- 1.4 The site is approximately 0.7ha in size, and currently comprises the original school building which was opened in 1975<sup>1</sup>, and some later additions. The Churchwood Children's Centre has recently opened at the north-east corner of the site. On the east side of Church in the Wood Lane is the school playing field which is about 0.8ha in size.
- 1.5 The site is not within a designated Conservation Area but is within the Archaeologically Sensitive Area of Church Wood (Fig. 2), and has been designated in the Hastings Borough Plan as lying within an area of archaeological interest<sup>2</sup>. Church Wood has been designated a Local Nature Reserve, and is described as having 'ancient semi-natural woodland, gill woodland, freshwater streams and semi-improved meadow'<sup>3</sup>.
- 1.6 The existing Churchwood Primary School was originally opened in 1975 to replace an earlier school built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, due to the redevelopment of the Hollington area. It has been proposed that new accommodation be built on the site with a new car park that will be located in the north-west corner of the playing field.

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<sup>1</sup> ESRO (E/SC/245)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.hastings.gov.uk/local\\_plan/#lp\\_areapolicies](http://www.hastings.gov.uk/local_plan/#lp_areapolicies)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.hastings.gov.uk/countryside\\_nature\\_conservation/default.aspx#sites](http://www.hastings.gov.uk/countryside_nature_conservation/default.aspx#sites)



- 1.7** Hollington is mentioned in the Domesday Book<sup>4</sup>, and is in the Hundred of Baldslow, which is part of the Rape of Hastings. Referred to as Holintun and Horintone in the Domesday Book, it became Holyngton in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and finally Hollington in the 16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>5</sup>.
- 1.8** The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 320/321), comprises Wadhurst Clay with outcrops of sand and Ashdown Beds. The soil at the site is described as a slowly permeable and seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soil<sup>6</sup>. Local observation at the site suggests that there are seams of sandstone and pockets of hard calcareous 'Tilgate' stone, which during the construction of the Churchwood Primary School, needed to be blasted with dynamite<sup>7</sup>.
- 1.9** The ground falls away to the west into a valley formed by Combe Haven, a small stream which enters the sea at Bulverhythe. Before the mouth of this stream was blocked by the beach, this area would have formed a tidal inlet, into which boats may have been able to enter to load and unload cargos. It is therefore possible that this may have had an influence over past activities carried out at Church Wood, which would have overlooked this tidal inlet.
- 1.10** The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) survey for Hastings has designated the site as being settlement, with the playing field as unimproved, with Church Wood being woodland<sup>8</sup>. The HLC dating gives the school site and playing field a late 20<sup>th</sup> century date, whilst the woodland is assigned an Early Medieval date. The Land Utilisation Survey 1931-1935 shows the site to be deciduous woodland with the playing field being meadowland and permanent grass<sup>9</sup>.
- 1.11** This report initially covers the objectives and scope of the survey, then discusses the methodology used in the Desk-based Assessment, and then reviews the archaeological heritage of the area. Finally a conclusion assesses the potential impact of the development. A full listing of all the known archaeological sites from the HER is contained in Appendix 1 to this report, whilst other sites are listed in Appendix 2.

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<sup>4</sup> Morris, J. (Ed) 1976 *Domesday Book*, Chichester, Phillimore

<sup>5</sup> Bullock, F.W.R. 1949 *A History of the 'Church in the Wood', Hollington, Sussex*, St. Leonards on Sea, Budd & Gillatt.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

<sup>7</sup> Padgham, D. 2006 *Church Wood, Hollington: An Archaeological Desk-Top Study*, HAARG unpublished report.

<sup>8</sup> HLC data provided by ESCC

<sup>9</sup> <http://landuse.edina.ac.uk/>

## 2. Objectives & Scope of Report

- 2.1 The objective of this report is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource of the site and its immediate area. This will include information relating to the presence or absence of any archaeology, its character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation, and the relative quality of the potential archaeological resource.
- 2.2 This will allow an assessment of the merit of the archaeology in context to be made, leading to the formulation of a strategy for the recording, preservation and management of the resource or, where necessary, the formulation of a strategy for further investigation where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be defined.
- 2.3 The report will consider the archaeological resource within a radius of 1km around the site, whilst also taking into account sites further afield where these may be considered to have an impact or relevance to the site in its landscape setting.
- 2.4 It should be noted that this report can only take into account the existing known archaeology, and by its nature cannot provide a complete record of the archaeological resource of the site. Its intention is to provide an overview of the known archaeology in the area of the site, from which judgements can be made about the potential archaeological resource of the site itself.

## 3. Methodology

- 3.1 This Desk-based Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001), and the *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post Excavation Work in East Sussex* (ESCC 2008). A brief for this Desk-based Assessment was prepared by the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council.
- 3.2 The research for this Desk-based Assessment has included an analysis of the following resources:
  - ESCC Historic Environment Record (HER)
  - Historic mapping (including that provided with ESCC HER)
  - NMR records and aerial photographs
  - Portable Antiquities Scheme database
  - Hastings Museum & Art Gallery
  - East Sussex Record Office (ESRO)
  - Sussex Archaeological Society Library

- Defence of Britain database
- WIRG iron site database
- British Geological Survey
- Aerial Photograph search (Cambridge & Sussex Universities)
- Personal & Public library resources

### 3.3 The following maps were used:

- Speed 1610
- Morden's Sussex 1695
- Samuel Cant's map of Hastings dated to 1746/8
- Kitchen 1763
- Cole's Sussex 1808
- Moule's Sussex 1837
- Dugdale's Sussex 1840
- 1843 Hollington Tithe map (ESRO – TD/E/4)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map (1873)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Map (1899)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS Map (1910)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS Map (1929)

William Gant's 'Survey of Hastings' of 1852<sup>10</sup> does not extend far enough westwards to encompass the Hollington area.

Information gained from the map regression exercise is contained in the Post Medieval section below.

- 3.4** The Sites and Listed Buildings recorded on the HER and other sources are listed in Appendix 1 to this report and mentioned in the text where relevant. The Monuments are shown on Fig. 3. Historical and other sources are given as footnotes as appropriate. A single aerial photograph (1947) was provided by ESCC, but otherwise there were no other relevant aerial photographs available from other sources.
- 3.5** A site visit was undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2008. This confirmed that the site (Fig. 4) comprises an access road from Church in the Wood Lane to the front of the original 1975 school building, and which continues down to a small car park. On the north side of the building are tarmac paths with planted raised borders leading to steps down to a play area with a climbing frame and two small trees, with a bank on its north side. The ground drops again to another level with steps down onto a large tarmac playground, which extends across the back (west side) of the school.

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<sup>10</sup> Hastings Museum and Art Gallery (2003.53.237)

- 3.6** At the south end of the playground there is a concrete retaining wall, and access ramps and steps up to a gate which leads through to the car park. Steep banks rise up on the south side of the site where the school has been terraced into the slope. On the west edge of the playground, the ground drops away steeply into the woods, with the school perimeter fence situated part way down the slope, and the ground finally falls away into the stream at the bottom of the slope.
- 3.7** To the south-east of the school is the 20<sup>th</sup> century extension of the graveyard of the Church in the Wood, whilst on the south-west side of the school, there is coppiced woodland, before the slope falls away steeply to the stream. Church in the Wood Lane leads down to the church where there is a car park; a hollow way was noted heading south into the woodland from the south side of the church.
- 3.8** On the east side of Church in the Wood Lane is the playing field surrounded by a tall metal fence. The field slopes down to the south, and falls away rapidly on the south-east and south sides where there is a drop of some 2m to the hedge, and beyond that scrub and open rough grassland. A number of mature trees are located in the south-east corner of the field, whilst in the north-west corner of the field there is a raised area recently planted with trees, and along the northern boundary a low bank; these appear to be the result of levelling off of this part of the field.
- 3.9** At the gate into the field are two concrete blocks, one on each side of the entrance and 3.1m apart, with a hole pierced horizontally through them to take a metal pole barrier. These blocks resemble large pimples which were used during the Second World War to form anti-tank roadblocks, and conform to imperial measurements, being 3' square at ground level, rising to 3' in height where they are 2'6" square, however these dimensions are not typical of Second World War blocks<sup>11</sup>.
- 3.10** A number of flowerbeds and areas of bare earth around the site were inspected for artefacts, but only a few small pieces of Post Medieval pottery, ceramic building material and glass were noted.

#### **4. Archaeological & Historical Background**

- 4.0.1 This section considers each archaeological period in turn, reviewing the known archaeological resource of the area, defining its location and extent, character, date, integrity, state of preservation, and quality.
- 4.0.2 There has been no previous archaeological work carried out in the area of Church Wood, although two desk-based assessments have been carried out. The first was on the adjacent Churchwood Children's Centre<sup>12</sup>, whilst the second was at Drury Lane (EES14078).

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<sup>11</sup> Lowry, B. (Ed) 1996 *20<sup>th</sup> Century Defences in Britain*, CBA Handbook 12.

<sup>12</sup> Padgham, D. 2006 *Church Wood, Hollington: An Archaeological Desk-Top Study*, HAARG unpublished report.

- 4.0.3 The review of each period will also bring in evidence for that period from a wider area, especially where there is little known archaeological evidence locally. This will enable a more accurate judgement to be made about the archaeological potential for the site. This evidence will include that taken from similar landscapes and geologies.

#### **4.1 Palaeolithic Period (750,000BC – 10,000BC)**

- 4.1.1 This period covers a huge period of time, during which early hominid occupation of Southern Britain was intermittent. The period is divided into warm and cold periods, with the evidence suggesting that hominid occupation occurred during some of the warm periods. Apart from a small number of exceptional sites (e.g. Boxgrove), most of the evidence for human activity in this period comes from isolated finds of stone tools, often in secondary deposits.
- 4.1.2 There have been no discoveries of Palaeolithic artefacts in the immediate area of Church Wood, and there are only a handful of artefacts known to have a provenance in the Weald<sup>13</sup>. Such discoveries are normally linked to specific geological conditions, such as tertiary deposits and gravels, which are not normally found in this area.
- 4.1.3 The likely impact of in-situ Palaeolithic archaeology being present on the site is considered to be low.

#### **4.2 Mesolithic Period (10,000BC – 4,000BC)**

- 4.2.1 The start of the Mesolithic period sees Britain largely covered by pine and birch woodland, which was gradually replaced by a mixed deciduous woodland that provided an ideal environment for the bands of hunter-gatherers who were exploiting the resources on a seasonal basis<sup>14</sup>.
- 4.2.2 There is no evidence for Mesolithic activity at the site, however the cliffs below Hastings Castle have produced numerous pieces of Mesolithic flintwork from fissures in the rock, and further Mesolithic flintwork has subsequently been found eroding from the same cliff face.

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<sup>13</sup> Pope, M. 2003 'The Earliest Occupation of Sussex: Recent Research and Future Objectives', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 17-28, Fig. 2.8.

<sup>14</sup> Holgate, R. 2003 'Late Glacial and Post-glacial Hunter-gatherers in Sussex', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 29-38.

- 4.2.3 There is a great deal of evidence for Mesolithic hunter-gatherer groups exploiting the resources of the Weald throughout the Mesolithic period. These include sites associated with rock outcrops, which are thought to have been short-stay hunting camps, and are mainly associated with the Later Mesolithic<sup>15</sup>.
- 4.2.4 Other sites are known in open sandy ridgetop locations across the Sussex Weald and the discoveries at Hastings are likely to fall into this latter category, as during the Mesolithic period the hilltop on which the castle is located was situated some distance from the coast<sup>16</sup>.
- 4.2.5 Such sites, comprising scatters of flint debitage and tools, often preserved in fissures in the ground, suggest either longer-stay camps or short-stay camps which were being visited repeatedly over a period of time<sup>17</sup>. The evidence for this period suggests that there is a possibility of Mesolithic activity being present.

### **4.3 Neolithic Period (4,000BC to 2,500BC)**

- 4.3.1 A number of changes occur during the Neolithic, some of which may have had an impact on the local area. Environmental evidence suggests that some of the woodland was being cleared and small scale agricultural activities are likely to have started. However, it is likely that hunting and gathering will have continued in the High Weald where the woodland probably remained dominant<sup>18</sup>.
- 4.3.2 Other changes in the earlier part of the Neolithic period include the construction of large-scale monuments and the first industrial activity. However, all of these sites are located on the South Downs which suggests that they had little influence over this area<sup>19</sup>.
- 4.3.3 Examples of Neolithic flintwork and pottery have been recovered from the fissures on Hastings Castle Hill and on East Hill, and further west at Bexhill, and these hint at Neolithic activity in the area.

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<sup>15</sup> Jacobi, R.M. & Tebbutt, C. F. 1981 'A late Mesolithic Rock-shelter site at High Hurstwood, Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **119**, 1-36.

<sup>16</sup> 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, 1-16

<sup>17</sup> Holgate, R. 2003 'Late Glacial and Post-glacial Hunter-gatherers in Sussex', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 29-38.

<sup>18</sup> Drewett, P. 2003 'Taming the Wild: The first farming Communities in Sussex, in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 39-46.

<sup>19</sup> Oswald et al. 2001 *The Creation of Monuments*, Swindon, English Heritage.

- 4.3.4 It is possible that Neolithic artefacts could be present and if so may indicate the presence of underlying Neolithic features, although evidence for Neolithic settlement is very rare, and the likelihood of finding Neolithic artefacts is considered to be low.

#### **4.4 *The Bronze Age (2500BC to 800BC)***

- 4.4.1 The Bronze Age saw continued clearance of the woodland in the Weald, although there is little evidence for complete clearance or widespread agriculture. The period of greatest exploitation appears to have been in the Later Neolithic and early Bronze Age, which may suggest that the soils became exhausted and settlement retreated subsequently<sup>20</sup>. Elsewhere in Sussex, such as the South Downs and Coastal Plain, there is extensive evidence for the landscape being densely populated by small farming settlements in the Middle and Later Bronze Age.
- 4.4.2 Although there is growing evidence for agriculture in the Weald during the Bronze Age, hunting was presumably continued in parallel with farming<sup>21</sup>. Amongst the flintwork often recovered are Early Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, which appear to confirm the continued use of the landscape for hunting.
- 4.4.3 Another feature of the Bronze Age landscape are the burial mounds (Barrows). A single example was recorded as existing at the south-west corner of East Hill at Hastings, but has subsequently slipped over the cliff edge. The possibility of locating Bronze Age features or artefacts at the site is considered to be low.

#### **4.5 *The Iron Age (800BC to 43AD)***

- 4.5.1 During the Early Iron Age it seems likely that the pattern of settlement and agriculture seen in the Later Bronze Age continues. A number of field systems and enclosures are known from the Weald, which suggest that the area was being used for agriculture (perhaps grazing rather than growing crops) with the enclosures being farms.
- 4.5.2 One major feature of the Iron Age is the hillfort, of which 25 are known from Sussex. Many of these also appear to have originated in the Later Bronze Age, but become important centres of control and redistribution in the Middle and Later Iron Age. A promontory hillfort is located on East Hill at Hastings, although both this and the enclosure on Castle Hill, Hastings are currently undated<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> Needham, S. 1987 'The Bronze Age' in *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*, 97-137 Guildford, Surrey Archaeological Society.

<sup>21</sup> Gardiner, M. 1990 'The Archaeology of the Weald – A Survey and a Review', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **128**, 33-53

<sup>22</sup> Hamilton, S. & Manley, J. 1997 Points of View: Prominent Enclosures in 1<sup>st</sup> Millennium BC Sussex' *Sussex Archaeological Collection* **135**, 93-112.

- 4.5.3 Both of these hillforts/enclosures would have originally been located a little way inland from the coast, but from their hill top locations would have dominated both the coastal area, and some way inland, and probably controlled the area in which the site is situated.
- 4.5.4 It was during the Iron Age that the Weald began to be exploited for iron production, with a relatively small number of sites known<sup>23</sup>. Although there are a number of ironworking sites in the surrounding landscape, none of these have currently been dated to the Iron Age.
- 4.5.5 There are no finds or features from the site that date from the Iron Age. However, the presence of the two hillfort/enclosures may indicate that artefacts or evidence for Iron Age settlement may be encountered.

#### **4.6 *The Roman Period (43AD to 410AD)***

- 4.6.1 The Roman invasion of Britain in 43AD resulted in dramatic alterations to this island's social and economic environments<sup>24</sup>. It is likely that many of the rural farmsteads and associated field systems that were in existence in the Later Iron Age continued throughout the Roman period. Where they have been excavated elsewhere, they provide evidence for a mixed farming economy of crops and animal husbandry.
- 4.6.2 Villa's are unknown in the Weald, being almost entirely concentrated on the Sussex Coastal Plain and immediately to the north of the South Downs, or in North Kent. There is also little evidence for any larger settlements. It has been suggested that the Weald was set aside as an Imperial Estate for iron working, which may explain the lack of villas and larger settlements in the area.
- 4.6.3 Ironworking became a major industry during the Romano-British period, with large numbers of iron working sites across the Weald<sup>25</sup>. There are no known Roman ironworking sites in Hollington, but there are numerous Roman ironworking sites in the hinterland, including one at Crowhurst which was excavated in 1936<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>23</sup> Hodgkinson, J. 2008 *The Wealden Iron Industry*, Stroud, Tempus Publishing.

<sup>24</sup> Rudling, D. 2003 'Roman Rural Settlement in Sussex: Continuity and Change', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd.

<sup>25</sup> Cleere, H. et al. 1995 *The Iron Industry in the Weald*, Cardiff, Merton Priory Press.

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.wirgdata.org/searchsites>



- 4.6.4 The extensive iron working site and baths at Beauport Park situated just to the north of Hollington appears to have had connections with the *Classis Britannica*<sup>27</sup>. It has been suggested that due to the connections with the British Fleet, the iron from Beauport Park and other production centres was being shipped out through Hastings<sup>28</sup>.
- 4.6.5 The two finds of copper objects (see Appendix 1), and the numerous discoveries of Roman coins in the Hastings area, would seem to confirm that there may have been a settlement, trading centre, and perhaps a port located nearby.
- 4.6.6 There is limited evidence for Roman activity in the immediate area, but the presence of Roman ironworking in the area and other discoveries nearby means that the possibility of encountering Roman remains at the site is considered to be small.

#### **4.7 *The Saxon Period (410AD to 1066AD)***

- 4.7.1 In the early Post-Roman period there was a change in the economy and land-usage with any areas that had been previously cultivated reverting to woodland, although the Weald remained an important area of grazing for pigs and other animals<sup>29</sup>.
- 4.7.2 There is virtually no archaeological evidence for Saxon activity at Hastings, although King Offa conquered the Hæstingas in 771, and Hastingecentre appears in the Burghal Hidage in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, assessed at 500 hides<sup>30</sup>. According to the Domesday Book<sup>31</sup>, Hollington was held by Godwin and Alstan who ‘could go where they would with the land’. It answered for 4½ hides.
- 4.7.3 It is unlikely that any evidence for Saxon activity will be encountered during the fieldwork at the site.

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<sup>27</sup> Brodribb, G. & Cleere, H. 1988 ‘The Classis Britannica Bath-house at Beauport Park’, *Britannia*, **XIX**, 217-274.

<sup>28</sup> Hodgkinson, J. 2008 *The Wealden Iron Industry*, Stroud, Tempus Publishing.

<sup>29</sup> Gardiner, M. 1990 ‘The Archaeology of the Weald – A Survey and a Review’, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **128**, 33-53.

<sup>30</sup> Salzman, L.F. 1973 *Victoria County History: Sussex* Vol. **9**. Folkstone, Dawsons.

<sup>31</sup> Morris, J. (Ed) 1976 *Domesday Book: Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore.

#### 4.8 *The Medieval Period (1066AD to 1500AD)*

- 4.8.1 After 1066 the Manor of Hollington was granted to the Count of Eu<sup>32</sup>. In a charter of Count Henry of Eu (died 1139) it is stated that his grandfather, Count Robert of Eu (died 1090) had granted the chapel of Hollington and tithe to the prebend of Ralph Tayard between 1068 and 1090<sup>33</sup>.
- 4.8.2 In 1291 Hollington church was assessed at £4 6s 8d<sup>34</sup>, and there was a vicar, although we do not know his name; the first named vicar appears in 1344<sup>35</sup>. There were two relevant manors at this time, firstly the Manor of Horintune (Hollington), and secondly the Manor of Wilting. The latter continued as a separate manor until 1373 after which it follows the descent of the Manor of Hollington<sup>36</sup>.
- 4.8.3 By 1271 the Manor of Hollington was held by Matthew de Hastings, who was granted free warren in Hollington that year<sup>37</sup>. In the late 14<sup>th</sup> century the manor passed to Sir Edward Dalyngridge, and then in 1470 it passed to Thomas Pounce. It has been suggested that the site of the manor house may be located somewhere between the current Rectory (see MES891) and the church<sup>38</sup>.
- 4.8.4 It has also been suggested that Church Wood is the site of a deserted Medieval village (DMV), with associated earthworks, underlying the surviving woodland. Medieval pottery has recently been found on the southern edge of the wood (MES986), and slate has also been recovered<sup>39</sup>. However, it was not considered in a listing of possible DMV's in Sussex<sup>40</sup>, and it seems more likely that Hollington was always a dispersed settlement.
- 4.8.5 Given the location of the site and its relationship to the Medieval church of Church in the Wood, it is possible that there will be some evidence for Medieval activity at the site.

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<sup>32</sup> Morris, J. (Ed) 1976 *Domesday Book: Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore.

<sup>33</sup> Bullock, F.W.R. 1949 *A History of the 'Church in the Wood', Hollington, Sussex*, St. Leonards on Sea, Budd & Gillatt.

<sup>34</sup> Hastings Local History Group 2003 *Hollington: The Village Past and Present*.

<sup>35</sup> Bullock, F.W.B. 1949 *A Short Guide for Visitors to the Church-in-the-Wood*

<sup>36</sup> Salzman, L.F. 1973 *Victoria County History: Sussex* Vol. 9. Folkstone, Dawsons.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> Padgham, D. 2006 *Church Wood, Hollington: An Archaeological Desk-Top Study*, HAARG unpublished Report.

<sup>39</sup> Holden, E.W. 1989 'Slate Roofing in Medieval Sussex – A Reappraisal', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 127, 73-88.

<sup>40</sup> Burleigh, G.R. 1973 'An Introduction to Deserted Medieval Villages in East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 111, 45-83.

#### 4.9 *The Post Medieval Period (1500AD to the Present Day)*

- 4.9.1 In 1636 the manorial rights, free warren, free fishery etc of Hollington Manor were in the hands of Sir Thomas Pelham, probably during the minority of the heir, Thomas Pounce. By 1735 Hollington had come into the hands of James Pelham and have descended in the Pelham family subsequently<sup>41</sup>.
- 4.9.2 In 1642 Thomas Ponds (sic) demises his Manor of Wilting with appurtenances in Hollington to Thomas Haynes for 7 years at a peppercorn rent for payment of debts<sup>42</sup>. A land tax for the relief of the poor in the Parish of Hollington in 1663 at three pence in the pound lists 36 landowners with holdings of woodland<sup>43</sup>.
- 4.9.3 In 1639 the churchwardens recorded that there was no house within a quarter of a mile of the church<sup>44</sup>. By 1690 a 'house in Church Wood' is recorded as being attached to Tilekiln Farm for which a small parish rate was being paid<sup>45</sup>. The foundations of this house may have discovered in 1873 when the field, that now forms the school playing field, was first cleared of trees and ploughed.
- 4.9.4 Ironworking continued to be a major industry in the area, and although there are no known Post Medieval ironworking sites in the immediate vicinity, there is evidence for coppicing and possibly quarrying in Church Wood, associated with ironworking taking place.
- 4.9.5 The early maps of Sussex (Speed (1610) and Morden (1695)) show both Hollington, and although Bowen (1756), Cole (1808) and Dugdale (1840) do not show Hollington, other later Sussex maps (Kitchen (1763) and Moule (1837)) do. Yeakell & Gardner (1778-83)<sup>46</sup> show Church Wood in some detail with Tilekiln farm to the north of the wood, and fields beginning to encroach into the wood from the north. Houses can be seen along the north-south road to the east of the wood.
- 4.9.6 Samuel Cant's map of Hastings dated to 1746/8<sup>47</sup> shows Church Wood with the church placed within the wood, but little other detail around it apart from Priory House just to the north-east of the wood (Fig. 5).

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<sup>41</sup> Salzman, L.F. 1973 *Victoria County History: Sussex* Vol. 9. Folkstone, Dawsons.

<sup>42</sup> 'Sussex Deeds in Private Hands' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 66 (1925) 111-122.

<sup>43</sup> Arnott, S. 1869 'Contributions towards a Parochial History of Hollington' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 21 138-158.

<sup>44</sup> Hastings Local History Group 2003 *Hollington: The Village Past and Present*.

<sup>45</sup> Padgham, D. 2006 *Church Wood, Hollington: An Archaeological Desk-Top Study*, HAARG unpublished report.

<sup>46</sup> [http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussexmap/Yeakell\\_36.htm](http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussexmap/Yeakell_36.htm)

<sup>47</sup> Hastings Museum and Art Gallery (2003.53.208)

- 4.9.7 The 1843 Tithe map (Fig. 6) shows there to have been little change in the layout of the area since Yeakell & Gardner. The church is situated within the wood, although there is no road or track leading to it. The wood is encircled by enclosed fields which are mostly pasture, but some are arable. Of interest are 'Butts Field' and 'Flax Field', both suggesting past land use.
- 4.9.8 The original Hollington school was opened in 1820/1, and replaced by a National School built in 1857 by Mr W.L. Longridge at a cost of £338 16s 1d, to be replaced itself by a State School for girls and infants in 1872 and for boys in 1880.
- 4.9.9 St Leonards Church in the Wood was repaired a number of times between 1845 and 1861, but was then fully 'restored' in 1865-6. This resulted in most of the original Medieval building being replaced, but some possible late Medieval features still remain<sup>48</sup>. A number of prints of the church dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries show the church in a woodland clearing<sup>49</sup>, but none provide any relevant information relating to the site.
- 4.9.10 The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (1873) shows a very similar layout to the Tithe map, although a few field boundaries have changed (Fig. 7). A number of tracks can be seen leading to the church from different directions through the wood, most of which are still in use today.
- 4.9.11 By the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map in 1899 woodland on the north-east edge of Church Wood has been removed and enclosed, including the area now used as the school playing field (see 4.9.3). An 'old quarry' is now shown on the northern edge of the field and was almost certainly present within the woodland before the latter was cleared. A spring is also shown on the eastern edge of the field (Fig. 8).
- 4.9.12 The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS map (1910) also shows that there has been little change (Fig. 9), although a new quarry has appeared in Church Wood to the south of the church. The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS map (1929) again shows little change with the quarry in the wood having been extended slightly, and the church yard having extended southwards (Fig. 10).
- 4.9.13 In 1924 the Housing and Improvements Committee of Hastings Town Council approved a scheme for building 86 houses at Hollington<sup>50</sup>. Hollington Parish ceased to exist as a result of the Hastings Extension Act 1937<sup>51</sup>, and it was incorporated into the Borough of Hastings.
- 4.9.14 The 1947 aerial photograph (Fig. 11) shows the area to be largely unchanged from the 1929 OS map, although the pre-war Hollington housing development can be seen in the north-east corner.

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<sup>48</sup> Bullock, F.W.R. 1949 *A History of the 'Church in the Wood', Hollington, Sussex*, St. Leonards on Sea, Budd & Gillatt.

<sup>49</sup> Bullock, F.W.B. 1949 *A Short Guide for Visitors to the Church-in-the-Wood*

<sup>50</sup> Hastings Local History Group 2003 *Hollington: The Village Past and Present*.

<sup>51</sup> ESRO (P380)

4.9.15 In 1962 the wholesale redevelopment of the area commenced with the demolition of earlier houses and a major construction programme which led to housing developments encircling Church Wood leaving it as an island of woodland within the built up area. The Churchwood County Primary School was opened in 1975, together with other new schools in the area to cater for the increase in population.

## 5 Impact of the Development

5.1 The proposed new school development is located within the current school grounds. The map and aerial photograph evidence shows that this area was woodland throughout the Post Medieval period, although the area of the school playing field was cleared of trees in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century..

5.2 There is no evidence for any earlier archaeological features or activity within the grounds of the school, and it appears that when the school was terraced into the slope any evidence for archaeological remains will have been removed from across the entire site. Only the area to the west and downslope of the playground on the west side of the school site is likely to be undisturbed.

5.3 As far as the playing field part of the site is concerned, it appears that during the laying out of the playing field the ground level was increased by up to two metres<sup>52</sup>, which accounts for the steep drop on its east side. This was carried out to level the playing field, and a corresponding cut-out may have occurred at the north-west end of the playing field. The south-east corner of the field appears to be at its original undisturbed level, and may be the site of the 'house in the woods'.

5.4 Given the evidence accumulated during this desk-based assessment, the probability of finding remains from each of the different archaeological periods is shown in Table 1 below:

**Table 1**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Probability</b>
Palaeolithic	Low
Mesolithic	Possible
Neolithic	Low
Bronze Age	Low
Iron Age	Low
Roman	Low
Saxon	Low
Medieval	Possible
Post Medieval	Possible

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<sup>52</sup> Padgham, D. 2006 *Church Wood, Hollington: An Archaeological Desk-Top Study*, HAARG unpublished report.

**5.5** It is considered that there will be limited potential for palaeo-environmental remains or geo-archaeological investigations at this site.

## **6 Conclusions**

- 6.1** This desk-based assessment has established that there is evidence for activity from the Mesolithic period through to the Post Medieval period in the wider surrounding area of the site, although there is very little evidence for past activity in the immediate area of the site.
- 6.2** It has not been possible to establish whether there is below-ground archaeology present on the site, due to the non-intrusive nature of this desk based assessment. However, it seems likely that the original 1970's school development is likely to have destroyed any buried archaeology, and therefore it is very unlikely that any archaeological remains will survive here.
- 6.3** The south-eastern end of the playing field is likely to have surviving Medieval or Post Medieval archaeological remains; however this appears to be outside the area earmarked for the new car park. Although the car park area appears to have been levelled, and this may have removed some of any surviving archaeology in this area, it may be prudent for a watching brief to be undertaken on this area during any further levelling that may be undertaken in connection with the construction of the new car park and access.

## **7 Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Fred Courtney Bennett and Casper Cummins of Adams Johns Kennard Ltd for commissioning this survey on behalf of ESCC. Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist at ESCC provided copies of the East Sussex HER. I would also like to thank Ann Upton at Churchwood School for arranging for me to make a site visit. The staff at the East Sussex Record Office provided help in obtaining the tithe map and other documents, and Rachel Butler recorded the tithe map information and viewed and recorded other sources. I would also like to thank Alison Hawkins at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery for her assistance in providing research material and the staff at the Sussex Archaeological Society Library for their help in locating other sources in their possession. David Padgham of HAARG provided some helpful background information.



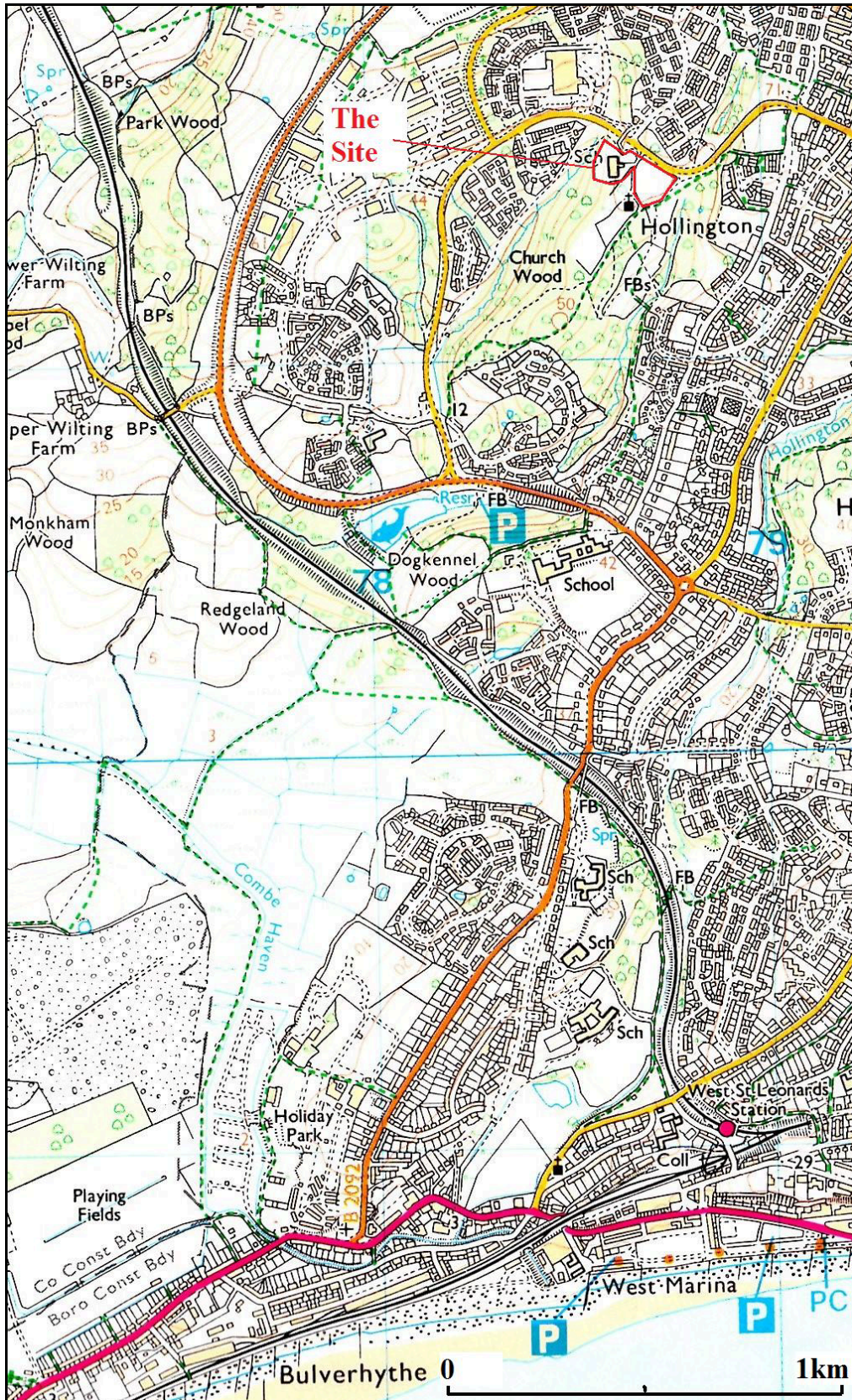
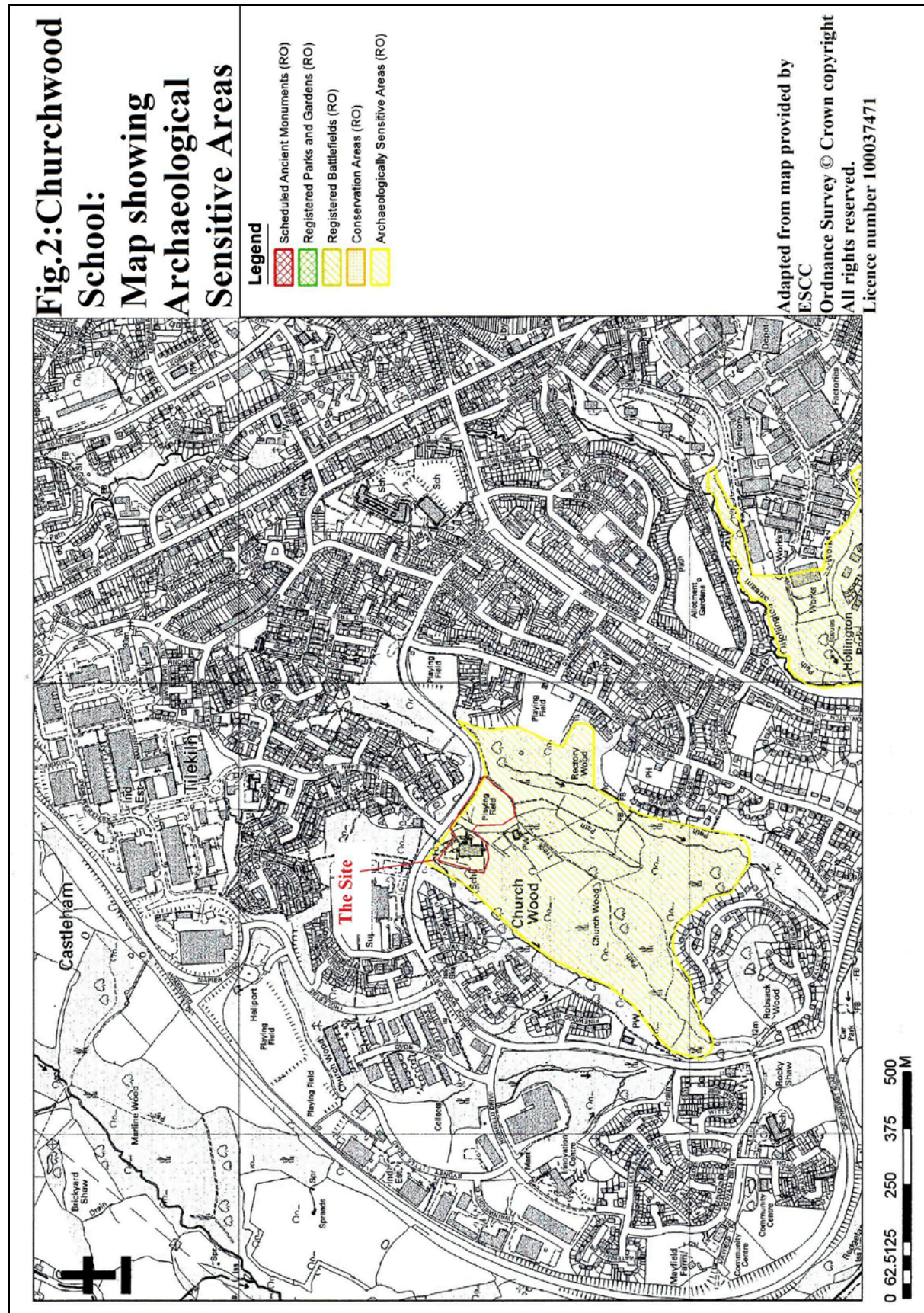


Fig. 1: Churchwood School: Location Map  
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**Fig.3:Churchwood  
School: Sites and  
Events on HER**

**Legend**

- Mon (point)
- Event (point)
- Event (line)
- ▨ Event (poly)



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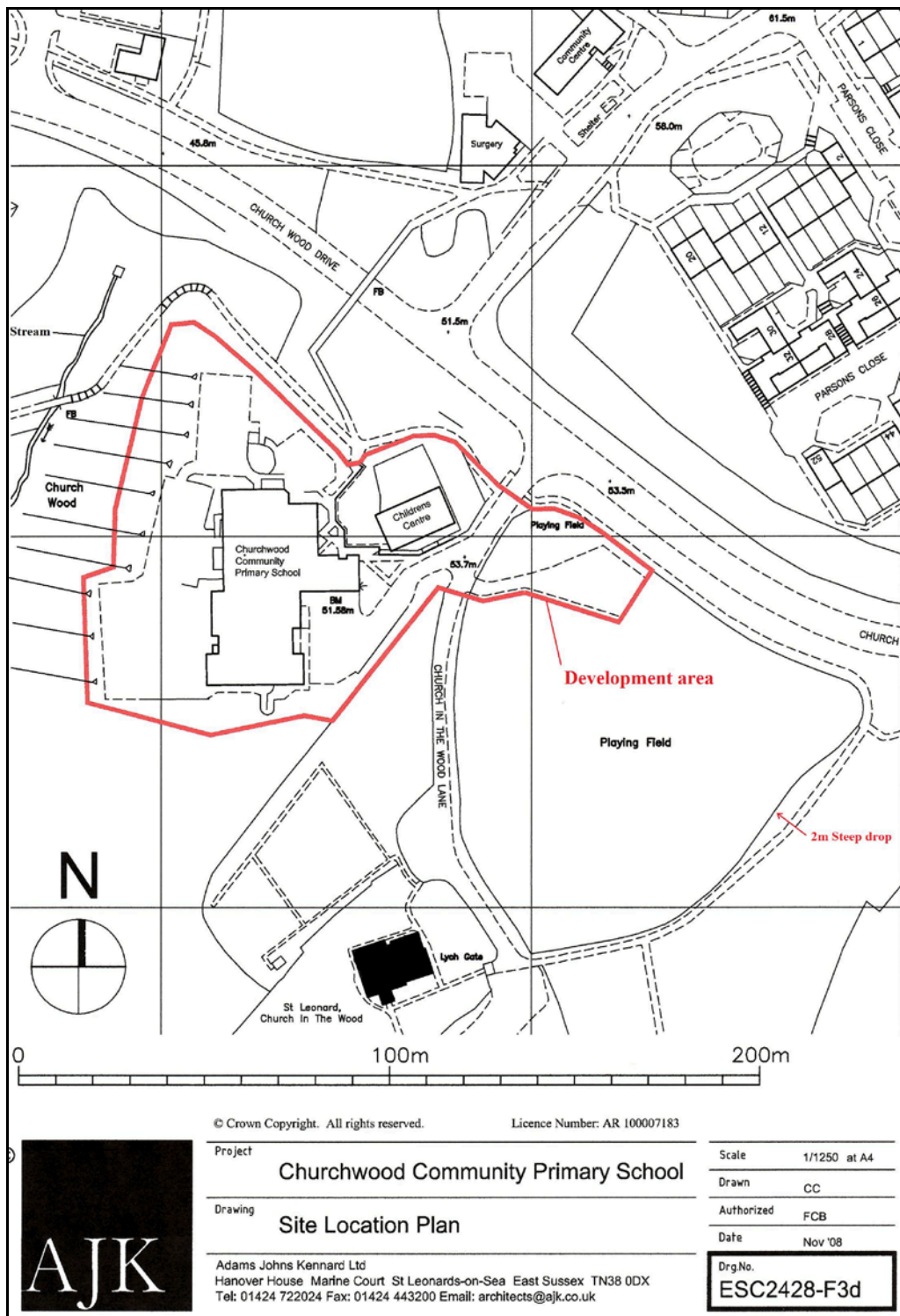


Fig. 4: Churchwood School: Site Plan  
also showing features noted on site visit  
(Adapted from AJK drawing)

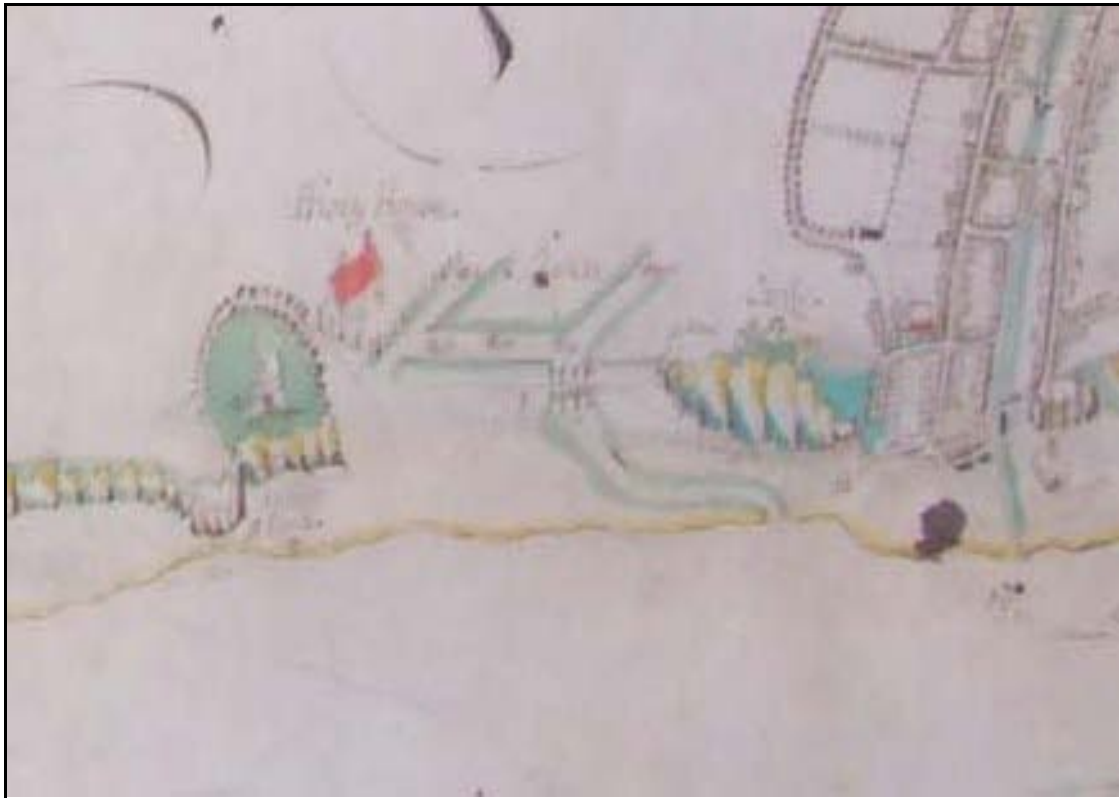


Fig. 5: Samuel Cant's map of Hastings dated to 1746/8  
2003.53.208 Courtesy of Hastings Museum and Art Gallery



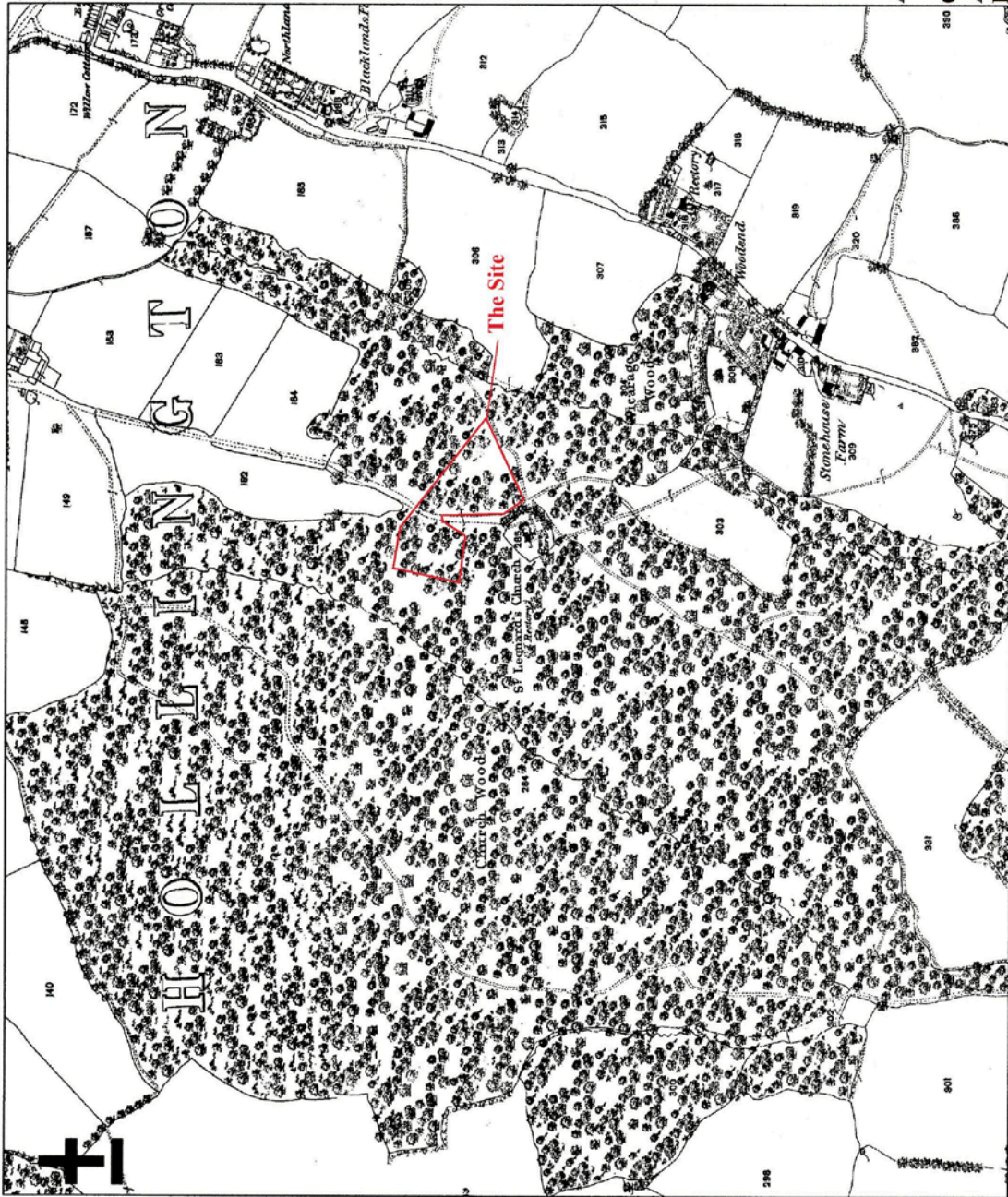
Fig. 6: Hollington Tithe Map 1843  
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### Apportionment

No.	Owner	Occupier	Name	Use
189	J. Buckland	J. Buckland	Butts Field	Arable
190	Mrs Mullward	J. Oliver	The Slides	Pasture
191	Mrs Mullward	J. Oliver	Broom Field	Arable
192	Mrs Mullward	Mrs Mullward	Vicarage Wood	Wood
193	Papillion	C Lane	Church Field	Arable
194	Rev J. Rush	Rev J.Rush	Church and Yard	-
195	Papillion	Papillion	Church Wood	Wood
196	Papillion	C Lane	Long Field	Pasture
197	Papillion	C Lane	Flax Field	Pasture
198	Papillion	C Lane	Barn Meadow	Pasture
200	T. Papillion	C Lane	Forstal Field	Pasture

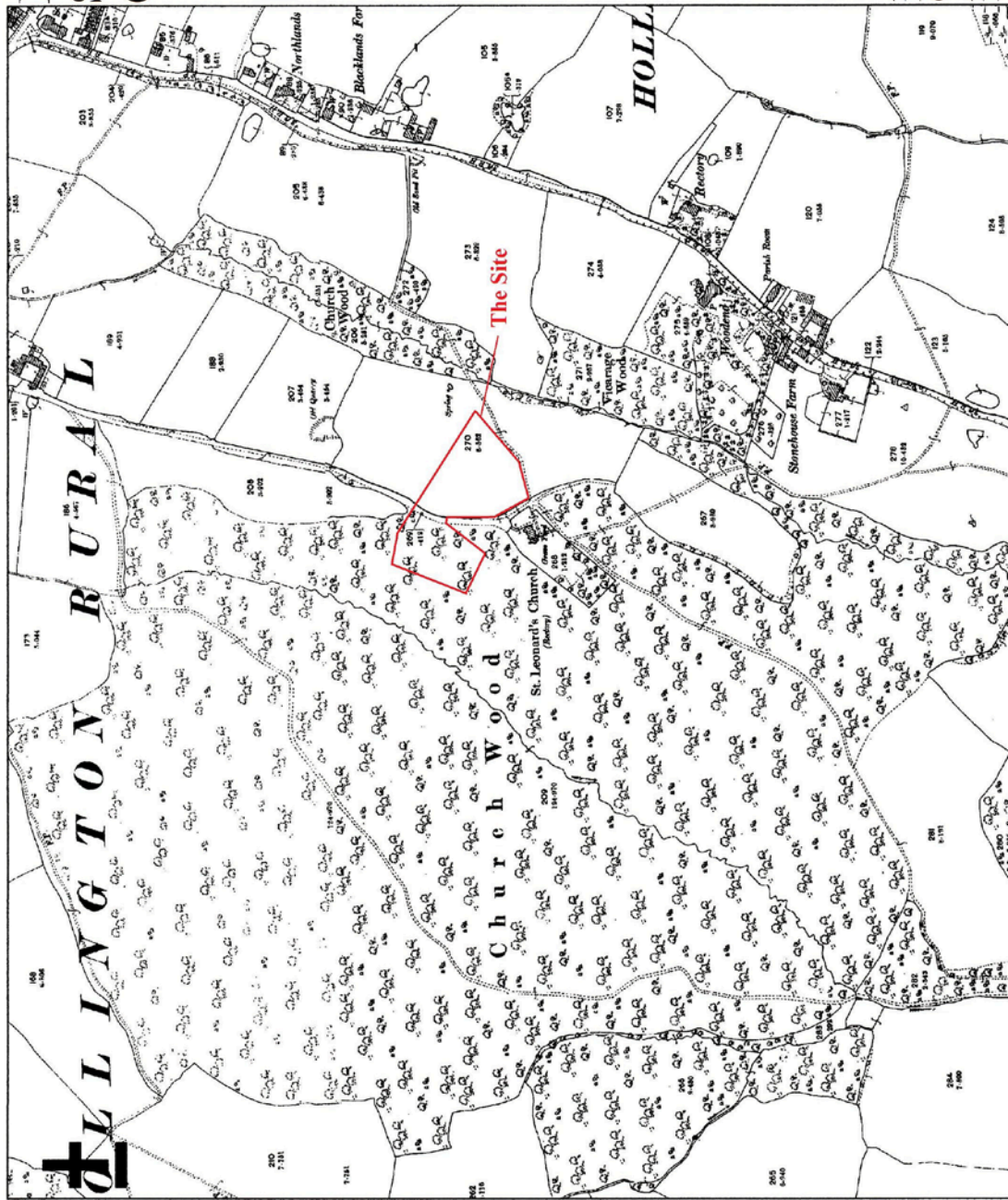


**Fig. 7: Churchwood  
School: 1st Edition  
OS Map (1873).**



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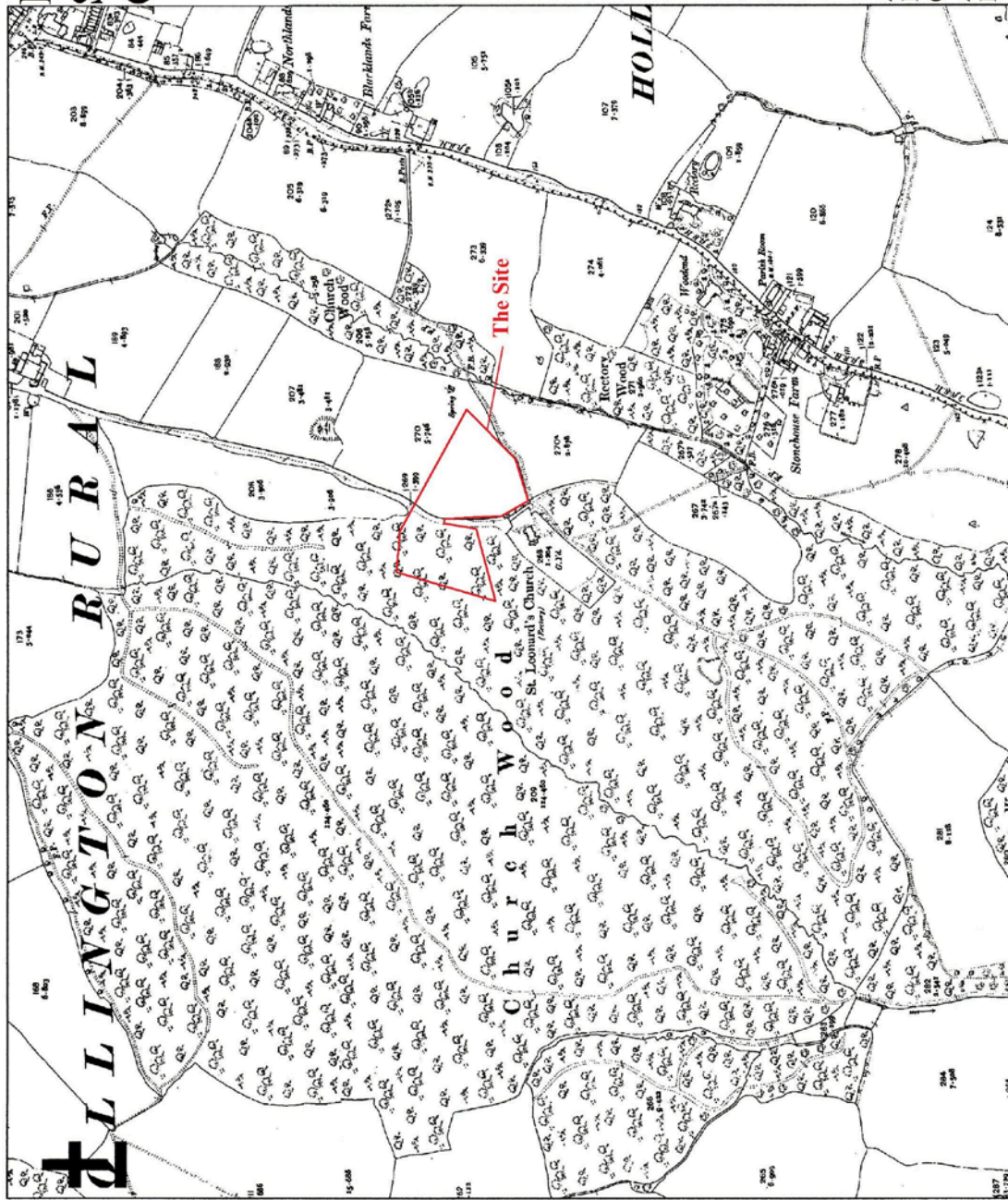
**Fig. 8: Churchwood  
School: 2nd Edition  
OS Map (1899).**



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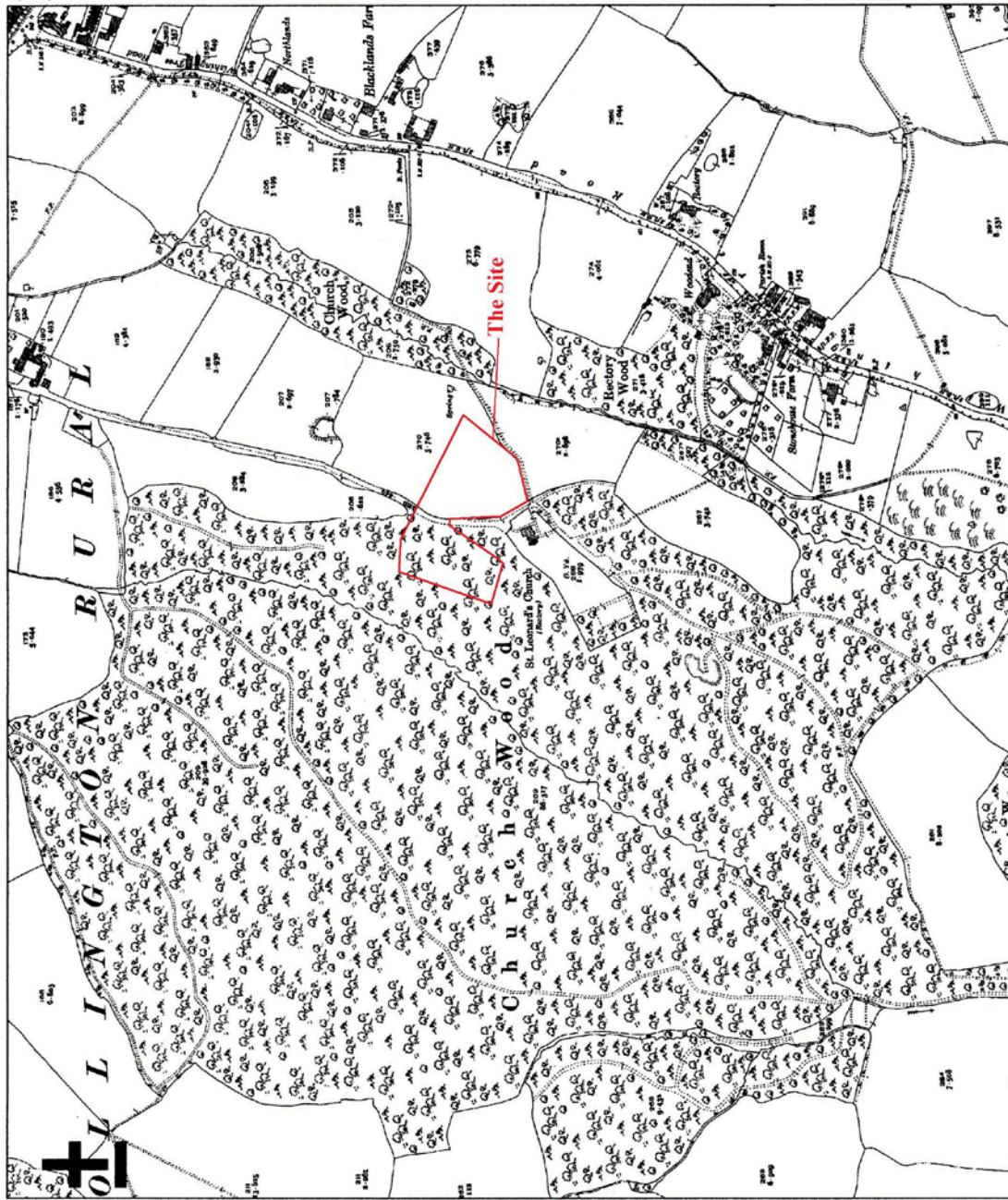


**Fig.9:Churchwood  
School: 3rd Edition  
OS Map (1910).**



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**Fig. 10:  
Churchwood  
School: 4th  
Edition OS Map  
(1929).**



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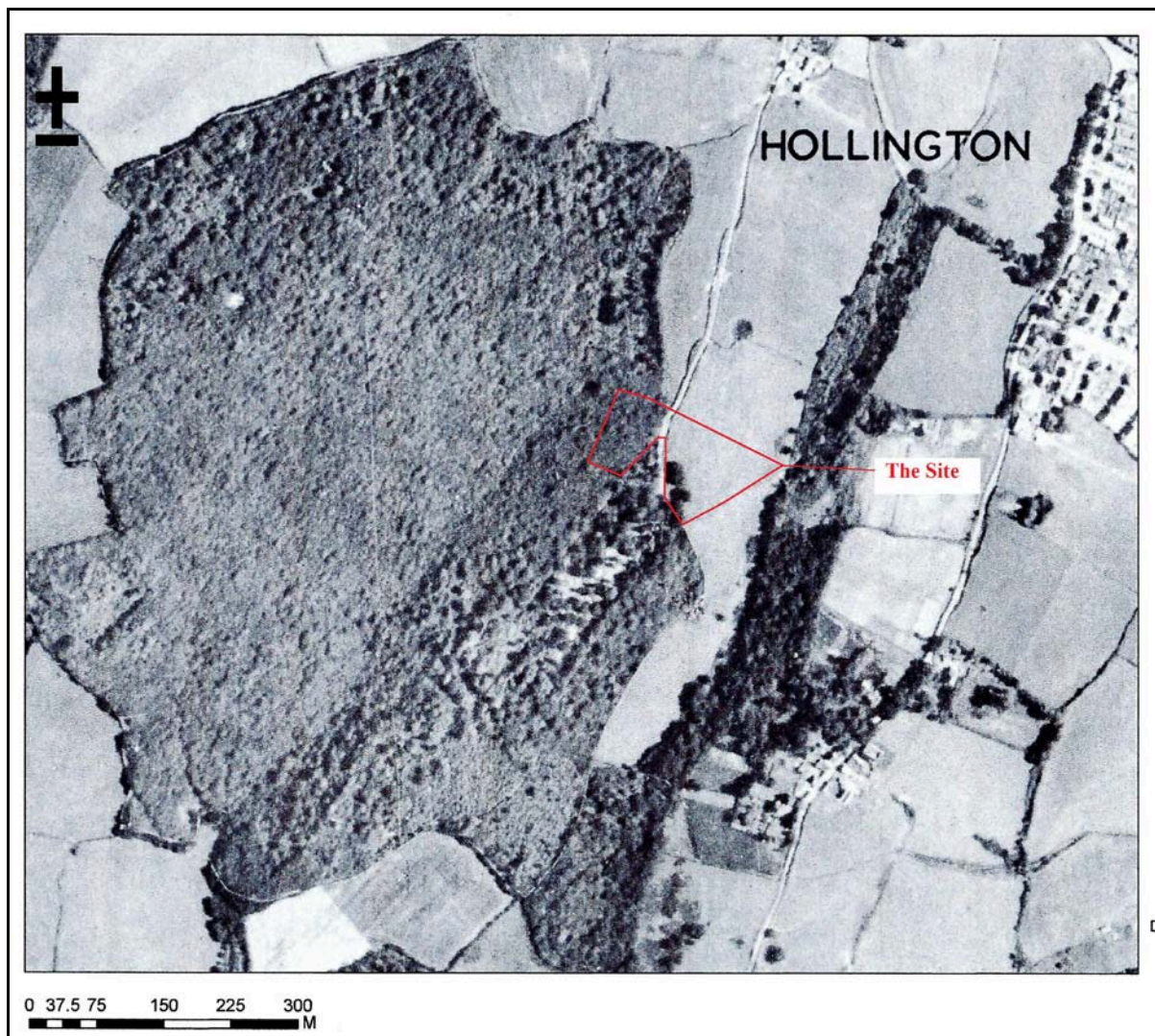


Fig. 11: Churchwood School: 1947 Aerial Photograph

(Adapted from photograph provided by ESCC)





Fig. 12: Churchwood School: NW side of school showing the terracing into the slope at different levels



Fig. 13: Churchwood School: West side of school, showing slope to stream at edge of playground



Fig. 14: Churchwood School: Playing field showing effect of in-fill at east end



Fig. 15: Churchwood School: Playing field looking west towards proposed car parking area



### Appendix 1: Archaeological Sites Recorded on HER

SMR No.	NGR	Period	Type of Site	Notes
MES890	TQ 7945 1205	Roman	Bronze vessel	Probable modern loss
MES891	TQ 7900 1124	Medieval	Site of vicarage	
MES957	TQ 7771 1099	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> /early 18 <sup>th</sup> century	Mayfield Farm	Listed Building (DES1043)
MES958	TQ 7776 1099	(see above)	Mayfield Farm	Listed Building
MES984	TQ 791 107	Undated	Ironworking site	Also recorded as MES995
MES986	TQ 7855 1120	Medieval	Deserted village	
MES994	TQ 7961 1148	Roman	Bronze figurine	
DES1015	TQ 78663 11384	Medieval/Post Medieval	Church of St. Leonard in the Wood	Listed Building

### Appendix 2: Archaeological Sites from other sources

Source	NGR	Period	Type of Site	Comments
Padgham (2006) <sup>53</sup>	TQ 787 114	Medieval	Coin of King Edward	
Padgham (2006) <sup>54</sup>	TQ 787 114	Post Medieval	Cottage	'house in Church Wood'
Yeakell & Gardiner map	TQ 788 119	Post Medieval	Tilekiln Farm	Place name evidence for tile kiln?
Tithe map	TQ 790 116	Post Medieval	Butts Field	Place name evidence for butts?

<sup>53</sup> Padgham, D. 2006 *Church Wood, Hollington: An Archaeological Desk-Top Study*, HAARG unpublished report.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

## **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, and teaches A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6<sup>th</sup> 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** 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.

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