

Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services



A Standing Building Survey and Evaluation Excavation at 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford, East Sussex

LW/09/0672
Project No. CBAS0089

by
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with a contribution from Keith Butler

December 2009

Summary

A building survey to English Heritage Level 3 standard was carried out on the existing property at 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford, East Sussex prior to its demolition in advance of the construction of new houses on the site. The survey recorded the external fabric and internal arrangement of rooms, and has helped to establish the history of this unusual house which was originally built in 1892.

Two archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated in the garden to the south of the house. These encountered a wide range of artefacts ranging including prehistoric flintwork, a Roman coin and Medieval pottery. The excavations revealed a deep stratigraphy, which included possible 17th century in-fill of the silted-up harbour, together with a chalk block constructed drain, and an area of chalk hardstanding, both undated, but possibly also of 17th century date.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services was commissioned by Simon Wiley (the Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation excavation and Building Recording in advance of the demolition of the existing building and construction of new houses at 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford, East Sussex.
- 1.2** As a result of the site's location, the local significance of the existing building, and the archaeological potential of the area, Lewes District Council (LDC) have put a condition on the planning consent (LW/09/0672) for the development, requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3** The site is situated at TV 4858 9878 (Fig. 1), and is located at around 5m OD. The ground slopes gently up to the north of the site, and slopes down to the south. It is situated on the corner of Cricketfield Road and Steyne Road, and to its east side is the playing field for Seaford Head Community College. The site is within an Archaeologically Sensitive Area.
- 1.4** There is currently an unoccupied two-storey 19th century house in a timber frame construction with a three-storey tower, occupying the northern part of the site with a grassed garden occupying the southern part of the site (cover photograph). The proposed development comprises 4 two bed houses, 1 three bed house, together with 1 garage, 5 parking spaces and 4 cycle spaces.
- 1.5** The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 319/334), comprises Culver Chalk on the northern part of the site, with a band of alluvium (clay, silt and sand with gravel) to the south. There is a large outcrop of Woolwich and Reading Beds to the south and east, and a smaller outcrop of the same to the north overlying the Chalk.
- 1.6** An appropriate programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Specification (the Specification) prepared by the Archaeology Team at ESCC¹, comprises a building recording survey together with an evaluation excavation. A Written Scheme of Investigation was initially prepared². This report covers the recording of the standing building and the evaluation excavation.

¹ *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Works at 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford, East Sussex.* 2009, Archaeology Team, ESCC.

² Butler, C. 2009 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation and Building Recording at 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford, East Sussex.* CBAS Report.

2.0 Archaeological & Historical background

- 2.1 A number of Palaeolithic handaxes have been found to the north of Seaford³ whilst others have come from East Blatchington and the Cuckmere Valley. It has been suggested that this material may derive from local tertiary deposits⁴. Some Mesolithic flintwork has been found close to the site (MES1702) and much of the evidence for Mesolithic and Palaeolithic activity in the area has come from tertiary outcrops such as the Clay-with-Flints and Woolwich & Reading Beds, such as those close to the site..
- 2.2 Evidence for Early Neolithic activity has also been found close to the site (MES1702) and at other sites nearby (e.g. MES1718). At Rookery Hill, Bishopstone⁵ there may have been a settlement, and near Alfriston⁶ flintwork was recovered around the Early Neolithic *Long Burgh* long barrow. Later Neolithic flintwork was also found at Valley Dip⁷, and in the area of Seaford Head⁸, and between South Hill and Cuckmere Haven⁹.
- 2.3 Bronze Age flintwork and pottery has been found in the immediate vicinity of the site (MES1702, MES1706 & MES1718). The presence of these finds would suggest that a Bronze Age settlement may be located nearby. Other finds of Bronze Age date have been made to the north of Seaford at Rathfinney Farm where flintwork was recovered¹⁰, whilst flintwork was also found at Valley Dip and around Seaford Head. Another feature of the Bronze Age landscape are the burial mounds (Barrows). None are recorded at the site, although at least one is noted on Seaford Head, with others on the Downs to the north of the site¹¹.
- 2.4 Pottery dating to the Iron Age has been found close to the site (MES1702), and there is a possibility that artefacts or evidence for settlement could be present at the site, especially given its location close to the Iron Age hillfort on Seaford Head.

³ Woodcock, A 1981 *The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Periods in Sussex*, Oxford, BAR **94**.

⁴ Wymer, J. 1999 *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain*, Vol. **1**, Wessex Archaeology & English Heritage, p171.

⁵ Bell, M. 1977 'Excavations at Bishopstone', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **115**.

⁶ Butler, C. 2001 'Horned scrapers and other prehistoric flintwork from Alfriston, East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **139**, 215-223.

⁷ Butler, C. 1996 'Later Prehistoric flintwork from Valley Dip, Seaford, East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **134**, 219-224.

⁸ *Sussex Notes & Queries* 1950-3 Vol. **13**, 193-7

⁹ Holden, E.W. 1979 'Flint artefacts from Seaford', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **117**, 224-7.

¹⁰ Butler, C. 2001 'Horned scrapers and other prehistoric flintwork from Alfriston, East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **139**, 215-223.

¹¹ Grinsell, L.V. 1931 'Sussex in the Bronze Age', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **72**, 66.

- 2.5** There has also been evidence for Roman activity nearby (MES1702), and cremation burials of probable Roman date were found at Hawks Brow c.1900 (MES1714). The possibility of a Roman road connecting Seaford with Firle and Glynde (MES2667) may suggest the presence of farmsteads in the area¹².
- 2.6** There is no evidence for Saxon activity at the site, and evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement is difficult to find, with the discovery and excavation of larger settlements, such as Bishopstone¹³, being comparatively rare, as is the occasional discovery of isolated Saxon buildings, such as the Sunken Featured Building at Itford Farm to the north of Newhaven¹⁴. It is therefore considered unlikely that any evidence for Saxon activity will be encountered.
- 2.7** Seaford is located in Flexborough Hundred, but was not mentioned in the Domesday Book. It may well have been connected to the settlement and Minster Church at Bishopstone, or the Manor at Sutton¹⁵. Seaford was located at an important strategic position at the mouth of the River Ouse, controlling access up river to Lewes, and seems to have been a settlement prior to 1058¹⁶.
- 2.8** The Medieval coastline was very different to that of today, with the mouth of the River Ouse located close to Hawks Brow to the south-east of the Medieval town¹⁷, and it has been suggested that a harbour or quay was situated in the area of Steyne Road.
- 2.9** Evidence for Medieval settlement has been found in the immediate vicinity of the site (MES14). An excavation in Steyne Road in 1977 located a Medieval floor, well and fence line that dated to between the 12th and 14th centuries, and challenges the idea that Steyne Road was the site of the Medieval harbour quay¹⁸. Excavations in Church Street located pits and a well dating to the 13th and 14th centuries¹⁹, and a recent excavation in Saxon Lane discovered a timber frame building and rubbish pits dating to the 13th-14th centuries (MES7341).

¹² Bedwin, O. 1986 'Excavations at Seaford Head Camp, East Sussex, 1983' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **124**, 25-33.

¹³ Bell, M. 1977 'Excavations at Bishopstone', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **115**.

¹⁴ James, R. 2002 'The excavation of a Saxon *grubenhaus* at Itford Farm, Beddingham, East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **140**, 41-7.

¹⁵ Combes, P. 2002 'Bishopstone', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **140**, 49-56.

¹⁶ Drewett, P. & Freke, D. 1982 'The Medieval Farm on Bullock Down c.1250-1550' in Drewett, P. *The Archaeology of Bullock Down, Eastbourne, East Sussex*, Sussex Archaeological Society.

¹⁷ 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,

¹⁸ Freke, D.J. 1979 'Excavations in Steyne Road, Seaford, 1977', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **117**, 233-4.

¹⁹ Freke, D.J. 1977 'Excavations in Church Street, Seaford, 1976', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **116**, 199-224

- 2.10** In 1347 the Poynings family took possession of Seaford and its adjacent lands. As Seaford had been ravaged by pestilence and French raids in 1357, Lord Poynings decided to build a new town to the west of Seaford on high ground overlooking Cuckmere Haven. It is likely that the new settlement of Poynings Town would have been located adjacent to the current Chyngton Farm, and may itself have succumbed fairly quickly to French raids, with the town then being re-established on its original site at Seaford²⁰.
- 2.11** The River Ouse was diverted through Newhaven in the 16th century, but there were extensive floods recorded in 1579, and again in 1703 when the floodwater reached within 40 metres of the church, and would therefore have almost certainly covered over this site.
- 2.12** An Estate Map of 1772²¹ shows that the area of the site appears to be open ground on the south side of a track (the later Steyne Road), and well to the south-east of the town. The 'Old Fort' is shown to the south of the site, and is presumably either the Battery constructed in 1760 or the earlier 16th century battery²². A drawing dated 1821 from Splash Point looking west to Seaford Town shows the Martello Tower built in 1808 on the seafront, and the apparent remains of the early harbour on the low ground to its rear²³.
- 2.13** The Seaford Tithe map (1839) shows the site to be still located in an area of arable land (136) called Lower Brook, which was owned by John Fitzgerald and occupied by a Miss Smith. The area to the west (161) is Common and owned by the Corporation of Seaford. Corsica House (142) to the south is also owned by John Fitzgerald and occupied by Miss Smith.
- 2.14** A drawing showing the Great Explosion at Seaford in 1850 shows a panorama of the area between Seaford Head and the Downs beyond Seaford Town. This clearly shows the area of the site, which is situated a field to the north of Corsica Hall²⁴.
- 2.15** The 1st Edition OS map (1875) shows the field now divided into smaller sections, and the Common is now called 'Beame Lands'. By the 2nd Edition OS map (1899) a row of houses has been constructed on a north-south axis, the northernmost one of which is the current property on the site. The 3rd Edition OS map (1911) shows a road running north-south on the west side of these houses, and by the 4th Edition OS map (1938) it is referred to as Cricketfield Road.

²⁰ Burleigh, G.R. 1973 'An Introduction to Deserted Medieval Villages in East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **111**, 45-83.

²¹ ESRO (AMS 3430 EB)

²² Butler, C. 2007 *East Sussex under Attack*, Stroud, Tempus Publishing Ltd.

²³ Taylor, D. (Ed) 2001 *A Seaford Sketchbook: The drawings of H.H. Evans 1849-1926*, S.B. Publications

²⁴ *Ibid.*

- 2.16** The Great Flood of 1875 flooded the whole of the seafront as far north as the church gate, apart from the shingle bank along the seafront itself. A drawing made at the time shows Corsica Hall sitting on higher ground above flood level, and the area of the site is flooded²⁵.
- 2.17** The Seaford Bay Estate Company was established in 1886 in order to transform the town into a resort, and produced a plan with 12 roads running inland from the esplanade. Around the area of the Cricketfield there were plans for 22 bungalows, which were built at least two storeys high²⁶.
- 2.18** No 1 Cricketfield was built in 1892, and the original owner was a Mr F Kirk, and it may have been at this time that it was called 'Sunny Lodge'. The lease was subsequently returned to Carew Davies-Gilbert who was the main shareholder in the Seaford Bay Estate Company, and was then rented to a number of tenants. In 1929 the building became an annex to nearby Seaford College (based in Corsica Hall) and remained so until 1939 when the College was evacuated²⁷.
- 2.19** During the Second World War a number of bombs were dropped in the area around the site, with houses being damaged in Steyne Road and Marine Crescent²⁸. However there is no record of damage occurring to properties in Cricketfield Road.
- 2.20** English Heritage have recently considered an application to have 1 Cricketfield Road listed, but have decided that the building is not of special architectural or historic interest, and therefore it should not be listed²⁹. The building is currently unoccupied, and is due to be demolished as part of the proposed development at the site³⁰.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Information from Kevin Gordon

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Rowland, D. 2001 *Coastal Blitz*, S.B. Publications.

²⁹ English Heritage letter 27th August 2009.

³⁰ www.lewes.gov.uk/CMISwebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=2038

3.0 Method Statement

- 3.1** The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with ESCC's *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation in East Sussex* dated April 2008 (Recommended Standards), and in accordance with a specification issued by the Archaeology Team at ESCC.

Building Survey

- 3.2** A building survey, conforming to an English Heritage Level 3 survey³¹ and carried out in accordance with the Specification prepared by ESCC, was undertaken on the property on the 7th October 2009. Provision was also made for local community representatives to make a video record of the building, which will form part of the project archive.
- 3.3** Drawn plans were prepared for each floor level of the property (Figs. 3-6), and a single section through the building was also drawn (Fig. 2). All drawings are at a scale of 1:50. A full range of supporting digital, colour transparency and black and white print photographs were taken of the building during the survey (these together with a full index are contained in the archive).
- 3.4** A full descriptive record was made room by room through the house, and forms the basis of the following report. A description and photographic record of original or early fixtures and fittings is contained in the archive, and these are mentioned in the descriptive record where relevant.
- 3.5** The plans were created by measuring the dimensions of each room, and relating these measurements to the external dimensions of the building at ground floor level. The section was drawn from north to south through the tower and adjacent rooms, and was created by using the cumulative height for each room, plus the thickness of the intervening floors. The height of roof was not measured, but was estimated using the measured height of the loft interior and the thickness of the tiles etc, and checked against known measurements in photographs.

Evaluation Excavation

- 3.6** The two evaluation trenches were excavated on the 8th and 9th October 2009. Initially each trench was CAT scanned, which confirmed that there were no services present. Trench A was on a north-south alignment at the south end of the garden, and Trench B was on an east-west alignment adjacent to the house. Each trench measured 10m in length, and was 2m wide (Fig. 8).

³¹ *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* – English Heritage 2006.

- 3.7** The machine initially used for the excavation was an 8 ton 360° tracked JCB digger with a 1·8 wide toothless bucket. However due to space restrictions, this was replaced by a 3 ton 360° tracked digger with a 1·8 wide toothless bucket for the rest of the excavations. The resulting spoil from the excavations was piled to the side of the trenches.
- 3.8** A Precision Gold metal detector was used to scan the ground surface before excavation, and the machined surface was scanned at regular intervals thereafter during the excavation. The spoilheaps were also scanned and visually inspected for artefacts.
- 3.9** A spot height (5.0m OD) was located in Steyne Road to the north of the site (Fig. 1), and was used to take levels during the excavation.
- 3.10** 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.
- 3.11** A final site visit was made on the 26th November 2009 during the demolition of the house, to make a record of the stratigraphy exposed during the removal of the foundations.
- 3.12** A full photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services, and will be deposited in Seaford Museum in due course. A site reference of CFS 09 has been allocated.

4.0 The Building Survey

4.1 General external description

The building comprises a two-storey structure with an adjoining three-storey tower on the north-east corner, set within a corner plot at the junction between Cricketfield Road and Steyne Road. The ground slopes down to the south, although the building has been terraced into the slope, with steps down into the garden on its south side (Fig. 2).

The house construction comprises a terrace cut into the slope into which a concrete block foundation wall 1.5m high has been constructed on a concrete base. This provides a level foundation for the building on the slope, whilst also providing a basement below the building on the south side. The house has a maximum footprint of 9.4m from east to west and 10.2m from north to south, and is approximately 9.5m high, whilst the tower is approximately 10.5m high.

The walls of the house are formed by a timber frame structure with a regular framework of vertical studs and horizontal midrails forming a series of panels. The panels have an internal framework of wooden cross members to which close set horizontal wooden boards have been nailed on the internal walls, and then plastered (Fig. 16).

On the outside walls thin concrete panels have been used to fill the timber panel frame. These have been constructed by pouring concrete onto a framework of thin wooden horizontal laths which have been nailed to a wooden frame, and the completed concrete panel has then been inserted into the panel frame (Fig. 15). A wash of small pebbles has been applied to the outer surface of the concrete panels to create a pebbledash finish.

Although it has been suggested that this was done at a later stage, a photograph taken *c.*1936 (Fig. 7) shows the pebbledash to be present, and it is likely that this effect was part of the original construction. This is confirmed by the inspection of a fragment of a concrete panel (retained in the archive) during demolition, which shows the pebbledash surface to be contemporary with the concrete panel.

The hipped roof of the house has projecting eaves and a projecting gable roof over the west bay. The tower also has a hipped roof and projecting eaves. Both are covered with ceramic tiles. The current tiles appear to be un-weathered and relatively recent, and suggest that the roof has been re-tiled. The *c.*1936 photograph shows a ceramic tiled roof with decorated ridge tiles, which are no longer present.

4.2 West Elevation (Fig. 13)

The building originally had a small balcony at the first floor level on the west side over the front door, and accessed by a small door from the Bedroom 1. The balcony was supported by two wooden posts, the concrete base for one of these still being present on the south end of the top step (Fig. 17). The balcony is shown in the c.1936 photograph, and has a wooden railing along its edge. The balcony has been removed after 1936.

The garage situated on the north-west corner of the house has been added after 1936, and probably after 1950 as it does not appear to be present on the OS map of that date. The garage is a single storey rectangular structure measuring 5m x 3.1m, and is made from a single brick-thickness wall with brick pillars, and has been covered with a pebbledash finish externally. At the front the garage has a wooden frame and lintel which may have originally held a wooden door, but has been replaced with a modern up-and-over door. The front of the garage has a raised parapet formed from bricks, and the roof has been covered with felt.

The front door of the house is on the west side, and is reached by three original concrete steps, the uppermost step having a moulded round front top. A smaller additional step has been added at the bottom of the steps at a later date, the type of concrete being very different, having large shingle inclusions.

A conservatory style porch has been added around the front door, and comprises a wooden frame 2.9m x 0.87m with glazed upper panels and narrow wooden panels above. The roof was covered with felt. The lower panels have been replaced with PVC at a later date.

The former presence of the balcony can be determined by the door still present at first floor level, and cut timbers visible in the timber framework coinciding with location of the balcony floor and rail.

The rooms at the south-west corner of the building have a bay projection out to the west, which at ground floor level has three tall window panels on the west face and thin windows on each side of the projection. At first floor level there is a similar arrangement of windows, with the two outer window panels being shorter than the central panel. The two panels below the windows at the first floor have been replaced by a single PVC panel. Some of the windows are more recent PVC framed examples.

4.3 South Elevation (Fig. 14)

On the south elevation there is a chimney stack, which is built up from ground level, and narrows just before reaching the roof. The chimney stack is constructed from bricks and has a rendered surface. Some of the rendering is missing at the point where it narrows to show a well made and carefully constructed structure.

A greenhouse measuring 2.13m x 3.66m has been added to the central part of the south wall at ground level. It has a single width brick dwarf wall, with a wooden frame with glazed panels above, and a gently sloping clear Perspex roof. There is a door in its east side with two concrete steps, edged in brick, leading to the door. The greenhouse has a concrete floor, and inside there are the remains of wooden shelves.

On the south-east corner there is a single storey projection at the first floor, sitting on the foundation of concrete blocks. It is timber framed, and has small concrete pebbledashed panels with large window panels above on all three sides. One window has been replaced by a UPVC frame. The projection has two small roofs covered with ceramic tiles, of a different type to the main roof, and possibly original.

There is a small buttress on the southern corner of the projection that appears to be formed from the same concrete blocks that are used for the foundation, which suggests that the buttress is contemporary with the construction of the house.

There is a single window at the first storey level (Bedroom 2), which is probably original in location, but has been replaced by a UPVC frame and double glazed window.

4.4 East Elevation. (Fig. 11)

On the eastern elevation there is an entrance at ground level to the basement, whilst some steps rise up to the higher ground on the north side of the house. There is a single large window at ground floor level in the Kitchen, and a smaller one, with a circular vent, to the pantry in the ground floor of the tower.

At first floor level there are two windows, both now with UPVC frame and double glazed windows. A single window is present in the second floor tower room.

A chimney emerges from the roof on the east side of the house. Both chimney stacks have flat tops, whereas the c.1936 photograph shows them to have a number of ceramic chimney pots above the flat top.

On the north-east corner of the property there are two adjoined small buildings. The first is a brick built shed 1.18m x 1.64m in size with a steeply sloping tiled roof, and an entrance in its west side, which originally had a door. The second is butted on to the south of the first building, and is built from breeze blocks with a corrugated iron roof, and measures 1.13m x 1.68m. It has a square unglazed opening on its west side, and a small rectangular hole at the bottom of the south side, and is interpreted as a coal bunker.

4.5 North Elevation (Fig. 12)

On the north elevation there is a door to the property centrally placed on the ground floor of the tower, with windows on the first and second floors immediately above. A small window on the ground floor is placed at the extreme east corner, and provides light to the stairs to the cellar inside. The iron drain down pipe is probably original, as is the down pipe on the north-west corner of the house, with a pipe leading down from the top of the roof, which is also shown on the c.1936 photograph.

A rectangular oil tank sitting on breeze block pillars is situated in the small garden on the north side of the garage.

4.6 Basement (Fig. 18)

The basement is entered via an entrance on the east side of the property at ground level, and extends across the southern part of the house, excluding the tower, measuring 7m x 7.8m. It has a concrete floor, and concrete block walls. The ceiling is 1.5m above the floor and is formed by the joists and floor boards of the ground floor of the house. There are numerous concrete block constructed abutments and supports, and two wooden vertical posts to support the ceiling.

4.7 Ground Floor Hall (G1)

The property is entered from the west side where the front door is situated. The door framework is probably original, but the door is not the same as that shown on the c.1936 photograph. The first room entered is a hallway, 4.85m long and 2.64m wide, with stairs on the left side to the first floor, and doors to all the other ground floor rooms.

The hallway was originally floored with red ceramic tiles forming a herringbone pattern, which have been retained below the current red carpet. There is a plain high skirting board with a thin dado rail, with evidence for panelling between them. The ceiling is also panelled, with a pattern coving around the top of the walls. The walls are painted orange with all woodwork painted white.

The staircase has 14 stairs leading to the first floor, and has a wooden balustrade with an ornate column at the bottom and 27 rail posts on the open side, and a plain round wooden handrail on the wall side. Below the stairs is a cupboard with a wooden panelled door entered from the hall.

An electricity meter and fuse cupboard is located on the wall at the bottom of the stairs. Above the door to the Rear Room (G3) there are two bells and some other electrical boxes of unknown function.

4.8 The Front Room (G2)

This room is entered through a wooden door from the hallway, and measures 4.13m x 3.63m. It has a bay window facing west, with the window having three panels, the central one being wider than the outer ones. The window starts 0.92m above the floor and continues to the ceiling. Below the window, and built into the bay is a wooden panelled box seat with two hinged lids. Above the window is a wooden pelmet board.

The ceiling is plain, with a central light fitting, and has a deep un-patterned coving around the top of the wall, and below this is a plain picture rail. Running around the bottom of the wall is a deep patterned skirting board. The floor has a green carpet above wooden floorboards. The wall is currently painted a pale orange colour, with the gap between the picture rail and coving and all of the woodwork being painted white.

In the south wall there is a tiled fireplace set into the wall, with an external chimney. The fire itself has been recently removed, but the mottled brown tiles used in the fireplace measure 153mm x 153mm and are marked in the reverse with 'MARSDEN ENGLAND'. The Marsden Tile Co. was based in Hanley, Staffordshire, and was taken over by the Malkin Tile Works Co. who made use of the Marsden brand in the 1920's and 1930's³².

Electric plug sockets have been added to the walls at mid height level either side of the fireplace, with the wires tacked to the face of the wall rather than being inserted into the wall. A radiator was fixed to the east wall, but has been removed.

³² www.tile-heaven.co.uk

4.9 The Rear Room (G3)

This room is entered through a wooden door from the hallway, and measures 4.31m x 4.12m. It has a square bay window facing south-east and forming a projection out from this corner of the building. The main south-east face of the window has four glazed panels with the two side walls having two panels although the east facing side wall now only has a single PVC panel in it.

Below the window is a wooden panelled seat arranged along all three sides of the bay. There are three cupboard doors on the end seat, and hinged lids on the side seats. A radiator was fixed to the east wall, but has been removed.

The ceiling is plain with a central light fitting, and has a coving around the top of the wall, although this is not as deep as the coving in Room G2. Below this is a plain picture rail. There is a deep patterned skirting board around the bottom of the walls, and the flooring is a light red carpet over lino over wooden floor boards. The wall is painted pale blue, and the wall between the picture rail and coving and all woodwork has been painted white.

In the north wall there is a tiled fireplace with a chimney breast. The original fireplace has been recently removed, and there is a gas/oil fire in the fireplace. The tiles comprise two colours; a light mottled beige, and a mid mottled brown, measuring 101mm x 101mm. Both types have 'T & R BOOTE LTD / MADE IN ENGLAND' on the reverse with a makers stamp comprising a greyhound below a crown and within a wreath, over Reg'd and England. T & R Boote can be traced back to the 1840's and were located in Burslem, Staffordshire. They started making tiles in 1875 and became a limited company in 1894. From 1906 they were mostly producing fireplace and plain wall tiles until absorbed by H & R Johnson in 1963³³.

4.10 Kitchen (G4)

The kitchen is entered through a door from the hallway, and measures 3.03m x 2.92m. It has chimney breast in the south wall within which there is a Hotspur oil-fired boiler, the controls for which are situated on the wall to the right of the boiler.

Cupboards fill the space on either side of the chimney breast, the cupboard on the left having four shelves, whilst the cupboard on the right has exposed pipework suggesting the former presence of a hot water tank.

³³ www.thepotteries.org

The ceiling is plain, and there is no coving, picture rail or skirting board present. The flooring is lino over wooden floorboards. The walls have been painted lime green over earlier wallpaper over hessian, and all woodwork is painted white. A radiator is still located against the west wall between the door and cupboard. All the kitchen fittings have been removed.

The window in the east wall has three panels with three smaller panels above, all replacement double glazed. A door leads from the north wall into a small passage (G5) to the back door.

4.11 Passage (G5), Pantry (G6) and Cellar

A short passageway measuring 1.86m x 1.04m leads from the kitchen to the back door. The west wall has been painted pale green over earlier wallpaper over hessian, and the east wall comprises exposed wooden vertical planks; all woodwork is painted white. A small rectangular frosted glazed window is set high in the west wall to provide light into room G7. The back door is at the north end of the passageway, and has bolts in addition to a lock, and an unusual wooden cat-flap has been added at the bottom of the door. The passageway has a carpet over wooden floorboards.

Two doors are set in the east wall of the passageway. The first provides access to a walk-in pantry (G6) which measures 1.35m x 1.09m, and has horizontal wooden planked walls on the south and east walls and a vertical wooden planked north wall, all painted pale blue. There is a window in the east wall, the upper panel of which has a small extractor vent fitted. There is exposed pipework and a single shelf on each of the north and south walls. The flooring is lino over wooden floorboards.

The second door provides access to the stairs down to the cellar. There are 10 wooden stairs turning a right hand corner to the concrete floor of the cellar which measures 2.5 x 3.9m and is 2.12m high. A shute 460mm wide and 800mm high is situated in the north wall, although the entrance to this could not be traced outside the house. Three pipes have been inserted through the east wall of the cellar.

Above the stairs to the cellar, and accessed from the passageway, is a wooden meat safe with two compartments; one above the other. Each has a metal mesh door in a wooden frame, and the back of the meat safe is also enclosed by metal mesh. The upper compartment is taller with a sloping back, and has a small shelf. The wood is unpainted, and the meat safe appears to have been added after the side walls were painted white.

4.12 Bathroom (G7)

A small ground floor bathroom is entered through a wooden door from the hallway below the stair case, and measures 2.95m x 1.5m. The entrance to the bathroom is initially narrow with a recess on the right hand side; it then opens out into the main part of the room.

It has a window in the west wall (now into garage, and boarded), and a second smaller window in the same wall at a high level with an extractor vent. This latter window can be seen in the c.1936 photograph as being a full length window, the lower part of which has been blocked up subsequently. The window noted in the section 4.11 above is situated high up in the east wall. All of the fittings have been removed.

There is a high skirting board, and the wall above this is covered with decorated wall paper. The ceiling is also covered with paper. On the north and east walls, above where the bath (now removed) was located, are white ceramic wall tiles. These measure 153mm x 153mm and have 'CARTER' on the reverse. Carter & Co were founded around 1850 at Poole, Dorset, and became Carter & Co. Ltd. in 1873. They were taken over in 1972 by Thomas Tilling Ltd.

4.13 Landing (F1)

At the top of the stairs there is a small landing with two steps on the left (north) side up to a small passageway to the stairs to the tower room, and four steps up on the right (south) side to the main landing. The landing measures 3.09m x 1.73m, and has a skirting board and wooden floorboards. The loft is reached through a hatch from the eastern end of the landing.

There are four doors leading from the landing to the first floor rooms, and the floor has wooden floor boards. A single large window is situated in the north wall above the staircase, and has 16 small glass panes, which match the window shown in the c.1936 photograph. The glass currently in the window is a frosted mid green colour.

A small fuse box is situated to the right of the door to Bedroom 1 just above the skirting board, and a small bell is located above the door to the bathroom.

4.14 Bathroom (F2)

A small bathroom measuring 2.6m x 1.65m is situated at the west end of the landing. It has a window in the west wall, with two small panels above two larger panels. The right hand smaller panel has a circular extractor vent in it, and all windows are frosted clear glass.

There is a low skirting board around the bottom of the walls, which are plastered over wooden planking. The walls are painted a light grey colour and all woodwork is painted white. The floor has carpet covering wooden floorboards. The ceiling is angled down on the west and north sides to conform with the slope of the roof.

There are remnants of blue wall tiles above the bath (now removed) and on the south wall. The tiles are 110mm x 100mm in size, and have 'H & R JOHNSON' on the reverse. H & R Johnson Tiles Ltd was founded in 1901 in Stoke on Trent. During the 1950's and 60's it dominated the UK tile industry, and is still producing tiles today³⁴.

There is evidence for other bathroom fittings on the walls, which have recently been removed.

4.15 Bedroom 1 (F3)

This bedroom is on the south-west corner of the first floor, and is entered via a doorway from the landing, and measures 4.3m x 4.2m. There is a bay window in the west wall with four window panels facing west with two smaller window panels above the central large panels, and a narrow window panel in each side of the bay.

On the north side of the bay there is a narrow door which originally led to the balcony. The door has ten small glass panels in the upper part forming two vertical columns. A built in wardrobe has been built against the east wall, and has two large doors, with two small cupboards above. There is a low skirting board, with a decorative moulding on the top, around the bottom of the wall. The floor is covered with a carpet over wooden floor boards.

The ceiling is plain with a central light fitting, and slopes down on the south side to conform with the slope of the roof. It is possible to see that where it slopes above the bay it has been constructed from parallel wooden laths with a concrete infill on the outside, and covered with plaster on the inside. There is no coving, but a plain picture rail runs around the wall. The wall has been painted pale blue, with the wall above the picture rail and all woodwork painted white.

³⁴ www.johnsontiles.com

A fireplace is located in the south wall, and has an external chimney breast. The fireplace has been removed, and the brickwork of the chimney breast and fire surround is now exposed. The bricks are typical late 19th century in a hard-fired red fabric, and bonded with a buff coloured cement.

A radiator was fixed to the east wall, but has been removed, and a sink or vanity unit was fixed to the west wall in the south-west corner, but has also been removed.

4.16 Bedroom 2 (F3)

This bedroom is located on the south-east corner of the first floor and is entered via a door from the landing. It measures 4.32 x 4.15m, and has two windows, one in the south wall and one in the east wall, both of which have replacement double glazing.

There is a low skirting board, with a decorative moulding on the top, around the bottom of the wall. The floor is covered with a carpet over wooden floor boards. There is no coving, but a plain picture rail runs around the wall. The wall has been painted pale pink, with the wall above the picture rail and all woodwork painted white.

A fireplace and chimney breast is positioned against the north wall. The fireplace has recently been removed exposing the bricks of the chimney breast. A radiator was fixed to the west wall by the door, but has been removed. Fixed above the skirting board are a number of black electrical boxes/sockets, all the other sockets in the house are white.

4.17 Bedroom 3 (F4) & En-suite (F5)

This bedroom is entered by a door from the east end of the landing, and measures 3.1m x 3.7m. It has a three panelled window in the east wall, now fitted with replacement double glazing. There is a fireplace and chimney breast on the south wall, although the fireplace has been recently removed. A cupboard has been built into the gap between the chimney breast and the east wall, whilst on the other side some pipework has been boxed in against the wall.

There is a low skirting board, with a decorative moulding on the top, around the bottom of the wall. There is no picture rail or coving. The floor is covered with carpet over wooden floorboards. The walls are painted pink, with the skirting boards and cupboard painted light green. There is no evidence for a radiator having been in this room. An early round light switch is mounted on the wall by the door.

At the north end of the room the ceiling slopes down and then levels off at a lower height to conform with the floor levels within the tower.

A wooden sliding door connects this bedroom with the en-suite room F5 which is at a slightly lower level and is reached by two wooden steps. It measures 2.93m x 1.87m, and there is a window in the north wall with three panels, and a second door opens out onto the passageway to the stairs to the tower room. The floor has lino tiles over wooden floorboards. There were numerous fittings, most of which have now been removed from the walls.

There is a low skirting board, with a decorative moulding on the top, around the bottom of the wall. The wall is painted white, and has an area of ceramic tiling on the north wall at the east end of the room. The tiles are 153mm x 153mm in size, and have 'H & R JOHNSON / 60 / MADE IN ENGLAND / S24A' on the reverse. H & R Johnson Tiles Ltd was founded in 1901 in Stoke on Trent. During the 1950's and 60's it dominated the UK tile industry, and is still producing tiles today³⁵.

4.18 Passage & Tower Room

The short passage from the landing to the tower room stairs has a window in its west wall, comprising four glazed panels, and fitted with replacement double glazing. The floor is carpet over wooden floorboards. The wall comprises horizontal wooden planks covered with hessian, over which there is a layer of wallpaper, which has then been painted. The wall has a low skirting board around its lower edge.

At the eastern end of the passage there is a staircase, comprising 13 open wooden steps which are covered with carpet. The staircase is edged on the right with a wooden handrail, and turns to the right half way up to enter the second storey tower room.

The tower room is entered from the staircase through a wooden door. It is a rectangular room measuring 3.1m x 2.85m, except for the north-west corner where the staircase is situated. The tower room has a window in each wall, centrally placed, except for the west wall where it is offset to the south side due to the staircase. All the windows have a white painted pediment above them.

A low skirting board with a moulded top is located at the bottom of the walls, and the floor is carpet over lino over wooden floor boards. A built-in wooden wardrobe is located in the north-east corner of the room, and has double doors. The walls are painted a pale orange, whilst all woodwork is painted white.

³⁵ www.johnsontiles.com

The ceiling is plain, and is angled on all four sides, to form a pyramid-shaped central area that conforms to the shape of the roof above. There is an electrical box situated on the south wall.

4.19 Loft

The loft is reached through a hatch in the ceiling of the landing, and measures 5.8m x 6.24m. It is un-boarded, and there is insulation material between the floor beams. The rafters form a standard arrangement of common rafters to a ridge, with hip rafters and jack rafters at each end. A purlin rail runs around all four sides, supported by a post in each corner.

The roof beams appear to be un-weathered and in good condition, and the presence of under-felt in good condition between the rafters and tiles confirms that the roof has been recently re-tiled. In the loft there is a water tank, piping and a TV aerial.

5. Evaluation Excavation Results

- 5.1** Trench A was positioned 1m in from the southern boundary of the property and measured 10m in length (north-south) by 2m wide (Fig. 8). Context **1** was a layer of mid brown silty clay loam topsoil with a loose consistence, which ran along the entire length of the trench, with a depth of up to 350mm (Fig. 9). The coarse components were rounded pebbles up to 50mm (1%), flint fragments up to 50mm (1%) and flecks and pieces of chalk up to 40mm (<1%).
- 5.2** Below Context **1** and Context **3** was Context **2**, which was only apparent at the north end of the trench (Fig. 9) and was a 500mm deep layer of mid yellow-brown sandy clay with a firm consistence. The coarse components were made up of chalk pieces up to 200mm (2%) and flint pieces up to 20mm (1%).
- 5.3** Context **3** was above Context **2** and below Contexts **1** and **4** and again only occurred towards the north end of the trench (Fig. 9). It comprised a mid yellow-brown sandy clay loam with a firm consistence. It was up to 500mm deep and had coarse components of rounded pebbles up to 25mm (10%), larger pebbles (2%), chalk pieces up to 20mm (2%) and large chalk blocks (10%). It is possible that this layer and Context **8** are the same, having been cut by a feature (Cut **13**) containing Contexts **4**, **5**, **6** and **7** (see Fig. 9).

- 5.4** The next few contexts may all be in a cut (Cut **13**), although this was only seen in section (Fig. 9), and was not apparent during the excavation. Context **4** was above, or the primary fill of a feature cutting Context **3**, and below Contexts **1** and **5** and is the same as Context **7**. It comprised an orange-brown very sandy clay with a firm consistence and having no coarse components.
- 5.5** Context **5** was below Context **1** and **6**, and above Context **4** and **7**, and was probably the secondary fill of Cut **13**. This was a mid yellow-brown sandy clay with a firm consistence. The coarse components were of large chalk blocks (10%) and rounded pebbles up to 30mm (35%).
- 5.6** Context **6** was below Context **1** and above Context **5**, and comprised a small deposit of mid yellow-brown sandy clay loam in the top of Cut **13**, having a depth of up to 200mm and a firm consistence. It contained chalk pieces up to 20mm (1%) and flint pebbles up to 25mm (<1%).
- 5.7** Context **7** was below Contexts **1** and **5**, being a layer of up to 300mm depth of orange brown very sandy clay with a firm consistence. This layer had no coarse components and was a very similar soil to that of Context **4**, and was probably the same primary fill of Cut **13**.
- 5.8** At the bottom of Cut **13**, but possibly not part of the cut, was a large chalk block constructed drain running across Trench A on an east-west alignment (Context **14**). It comprised a cap of rectilinear chalk blocks, the largest of which measured 600mm x 400mm x 150mm, sitting on chalk blocks (100mm to 120mm thick) which formed the two sides of the drain (Section 1, Fig. 9). A number of smaller blocks had been placed on its northern edge, and smaller chalk pieces were used to infill gaps.
- 5.9** The cut for the drain was 580mm wide, and the chalk blocks had been fitted into the cut tightly against the sides, with no infill. The internal dimension of the drain was 300mm wide, with a 200mm void in the upper part, and a further 200mm of fill, making a total internal depth of 400mm (Fig. 20).
- 5.10** The fill in the lower part of the drain comprised a sterile loose to firm orange-brown sand (Context **15**) with no coarse components, and no artefacts were recovered from it. There was no chalk base to the drain, the bottom simply being the underlying layer (Context **3**) into which the drain had been cut.

- 5.11** Situated to the north of the drain, and within Context **2**, was a concentration of chalk blocks (Context **16**). The chalk blocks varied in size and shape, the largest being 700mm x 600mm and the smallest 100mm x 100mm (Fig. 9). These may have been the remnant of a base for something, or a floor, and appeared to be fitted together, with other large pieces of chalk within Context **2** possibly having originated from this feature.
- 5.12** Excavation of most of the trench ceased at the point at which these features were found (c.800mm depth), however a sondage was excavated to a deeper depth of 2.4m at the south end of Trench A, to investigate the deposits and to see if the natural could be reached (Fig. 19).
- 5.13** Context **8** was below Context **1** and probably cut by Cut **13**, and was above Context **9**. This layer, which was almost certainly the same as Context **3**, was a mid brown sandy clay with a firm consistence. The coarse components were mostly small pebbles up to 25mm with some being larger (20%) and chalk pieces (10%).
- 5.14** Context **9** was below Context **8** and above Context **10**, and was a layer of dark brown sandy clay loam with a firm consistence. The coarse components were made up of rounded pebbles up to 30mm (40%), chalk pieces some of these being large (10%) and ironstone pieces up to 100mm (2%). This layer contained numerous pieces of 19th century brick and tile.
- 5.15** Below Context **9** and above Context **11**, was Context **10**, and was a layer of mid brown sandy clay with a compact consistence. This layer was up to 400mm deep had coarse components of chalk flecks and pieces (2%), together with numerous pieces of tile and some brick of 16th to early/mid 17th century date. The finds from Context **10** are mixed with those from Context **11** as it was not possible to see that there were two different layers during the machine excavation of this deep sondage however, the same finds were recovered from both contexts so they are likely to be of contemporary date.
- 5.16** Context **11** was seen in section below Context **10** and above Context **12** and was a layer of dark brown sandy clay with a firm consistence and a depth of up to 600mm. Coarse components were made up of large rounded pebbles up to 150mm (20%), chalk pieces up to 120mm (5%) and chalk flecks (5%), together with numerous pieces of tile and some brick of 16th to early/mid 17th century date.
- 5.17** Below Context **11** was Context **12**, which was a layer of light brown silty clay with a compact consistence, with coarse components of chalky marl (5%). The water table was reached at a depth of 2.4m. Recording of the sondage was carried out from the ground surface due to the unstable nature of the deposits, and no further excavation was carried out in Trench A.

- 5.18** Trench B was situated at the northern end of the garden (Fig. 8) and ran on an east-west alignment, measuring 10m in length and was 2m wide. Context **17** was a layer of mid brown silty clay loam topsoil (same as Context **1**) with a depth of up to 300mm and had a loose consistence. The coarse components were made up of rounded pebbles up to 40mm (1%), flint fragments up to 50mm (1%) and pieces of chalk up to 40mm (<1%).
- 5.19** Below Context **17** was a layer of mid orange-brown sandy clay (Context **18**) with a firm consistence and a depth of up to 450mm. The coarse components were made up of flint nodules up to 150mm (1%) and chalk flecks and chalk pieces up to 40mm (<1%). This layer, which was similar to Context **2**, was only present at the east end of Trench B (Fig. 10).
- 5.20** Context **20** was below Contexts **17** and **18** through the centre and at the eastern end of the trench. This layer was a mid brown sandy clay with a firm consistence and having coarse components of rounded pebbles and cobbles up to 150mm (<1%). It contained ceramic building material (CBM) of late 18th to 19th century date.
- 5.21** Context **19** was below Contexts **20** and **21**, and above Context **22** (Fig. 10). It comprised a layer of mid orange-brown sandy clay with a firm consistence, and having a depth of up to 550mm. The coarse components in this layer were made up of chalk pieces up to 50mm (<1%) and flint pebbles up to 25mm (<1%).
- 5.22** Context **21** was below Context **17** and above Context **22**, and only occurred at the west end of Trench B (Fig. 10). This layer was a dark orange-brown very sandy clay with a depth of up to 900mm, and had a firm consistence although this was less firm than other layers in Trench B. The coarse components were made up of chalk flecks and pieces of up to 30mm (<1%). Artefacts recovered from this layer were of mid/late 17th to mid 18th century date, but included residual two sherds of Medieval pottery and a Roman coin.
- 5.23** A concentration of chalk pieces up to 200mm (90%), together with ironstone pieces up to 200mm (<1%) and flint nodules up to 200mm (<1%) was noted within Contexts **19** and **20**. As excavation continued, it was revealed that this feature (Context **23**) had a depth of almost 1m and extended 1.1m into Trench B from its northern edge (Fig. 10), and may have been a soakaway. No cut could be seen associated with this feature.
- 5.24** A sondage was excavated 3m from the western end of Trench B to an overall depth of 1.5m, and revealed a layer of mid brown sandy clay with a very compact consistence (Context **22**). This layer had coarse components of rounded pebbles up to 100mm (90%), and was 150mm deep. Below Context **22** was Context **24**, which was a layer of very firm chalk which was thought to be the natural (Fig. 10).

5.25 The watching brief during the demolition of the house revealed a 1m depth of yellow-brown sandy clay with chalk and pebble inclusions into which the house foundation had been cut. Below this was a 300mm deep layer of similar soil, but much more sandy and with frequent chalk pieces and pebbles, and below this was the chalky marl natural, which extended below the concrete base of the house. No other features were noted during the excavation or watching brief.

6.0 The Finds.

6.0.1 A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the evaluation excavation and is summarised in Table 1 below.

6.0.2 The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. This is due to the assemblage's small size, lack of good pottery dating and potential absence of good sealed context groups. The majority of the assemblage does not warrant retention in a museum, however, the pottery and a sample of the tile from Contexts **10/11** is recommended for long-term curation.

Table 1 Quantification of finds (no./weight in grams)

Context	Pottery	Flintwork	Bone/shell	Ceramic Building Material	Other	Deposit Date
U/S	1/3g	1/32g	Shell 1/60g	-	-	C19th – e 20th
9	3/39g	3/21g	Shell 12/274g	Peg tile 10/625g Nib tile 1/15g Brick 3/94g Drain 1/44g	Mortar 4/178g Glass 1/8g	C19th (low residual late C12th – 17 th)
10/11	-	1/12g	Bone 1/5g Shell 3/92g	Peg tile 48/5,614g Ridge tile 2/155g Brick 2/318g	Mortar 1/183g Stone 7/899g	C16th – e/m 17 th (CBM only)
20	-	-	Shell 16/858g	Peg tile 9/384g Brick 2/318g	Stone 1/3g Glass 2/23g	Late C18th – 19 th
21	2/17g	-	Bone 8/82g	Peg tile 1/41g Brick 1/296g	Clay pipe 2/4g Glass 1/4g	Mid/late C17th – mid 18 th (resid. 1 C13th – 1 14 th pot)
22	-	-	Shell 2/12g	-	-	-
23	-	-	Bone 2/32g	-	-	-

6.1 Pottery by Luke Barber

6.1.1 The pottery from the site is mainly represented by small to medium sherds (to 40mm across) with either no or slight signs of abrasion suggesting they have not been subject to repeated reworking. Despite this much of the material appears to be residual in the contexts in which it was found.

6.1.2 The earliest sherd from the site consists of part of the hollowed rim from an oxidised cooking pot of mid 12th to very early 13th century date (residual in Context **9**). The sherd, which is a little abraded, is tempered with moderate flint to 1mm and rare/sparse shell but no/little sand. The only other medieval pot from the evaluation is apparently residual in Context **21**.

6.1.3 This deposit produced two relatively fresh sherds tempered with fine/medium sand. One is from a cooking pot, the other from a glazed globular jug with shallow horizontal incised line decoration below an external green glaze. Both are likely to be of mid/late 13th to mid/late 14th century date.

6.1.4 A single early post-medieval sherd was recovered: part of a bottle handle in mid 16th to 17th century Frechen stoneware from the Rhineland (Context **9**). The remaining two sherds of pottery are both body fragments from 19th to early 20th century unglazed earthenware flower pots (unstratified and Context **9**).

6.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipes by Luke Barber

6.2.1 The site produced two fragments of clay pipe. These comprised fresh well made burnished stem fragments of mid to late 17th century date from Context **21**.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

6.3.1 A relatively large quantity of ceramic building material was recovered, most commonly peg tile. By far the largest, and earliest, group was recovered from Contexts **10/11**. The tile fragments in this deposit are frequently large (including a complete width of 156mm), still with adhering mortar with unabraded edges. As such they appear to be a dump of demolition material that has not been reworked by man or natural processes.

- 6.3.2** These tiles are of two main types. The dominant heavier type, often measuring between 13 and 16mm thick, are relatively crudely formed, tempered with sparse fine sand and rare/moderate iron oxides and/or chalk inclusions to 1mm and medium/well fired. The lighter type, often measuring only 11 to 12mm thick, are slightly better formed, similarly tempered, and often with cream surfaces. Both types are characterised by circular peg holes.
- 6.3.3** There are also two ridge tile fragments in similar fabrics in this deposit. A 16th to 17th century date is probable for this assemblage of tiles. Whether they derived from a close-by structure or were brought from the historic core of the town to perhaps infill parts of the silted harbour is uncertain. A few pieces of similar early Post-Medieval tile were recovered from Context **9** (x6) and Context **20** (x3) though all these pieces were small.
- 6.3.4** Context **21** produced several fragments of well formed and fired peg tiles tempered with moderate fine/medium sand with rare chalk flecks to 0.5mm. These tiles, which appear to have square peg holes, are probably of later 17th to 18th century date.
- 6.3.5** Peg tiles of the later 18th to 19th centuries, well formed, hard fired and tempered with sparse fine sand with occasional iron oxides, are represented by a few pieces in Contexts 9 and 20. The latter context contains a very hard-fired granular textured example with is probably of the later 19th to early 20th centuries.
- 6.3.6** Only a small quantity of brick was recovered from the site. The earliest piece was recovered from Contexts **10/11**. This consists of a crudely made low-fired red brick fragment tempered with abundant fine sand. A 16th to early/mid 17th century date is probable.
- 6.3.7** A fragment of brick, with surviving height of 65mm, of probable late 17th to 18th century date was recovered from Context **21**. The fragment is quite well formed, tempered with sparse fine sand and moderate iron oxides to 8mm and has been reused as mortar is adhering to its broken edges. A similar example, perhaps a little later in date, was recovered from Context 20.
- 6.3.8** This fragment appears to have been set on edge as flooring judging by the smooth worn nature of its side. The only other material consists of a single fragment of later 19th to 20th century salt-glazed drain.

6.4 Mortar by Luke Barber

6.4.1 Context **9** produced two fragments of off-white sandy lime mortar with moderate sub-angular/sub-rounded flints to 2mm as well as two very fine sandy cement fragments possibly used to seal two ceramic drain sections together. Contexts **10/11** produced a single fragment of buff fine sandy hard lime mortar with abundant sub-rounded flints to 5mm.

6.5 Stone by Luke Barber

6.5.1 Contexts **10/11** produced a 726g fragment of Tertiary ferruginous fissure fill (derived from the chalk) as well as 173g of West Country slate fragments. The latter are normally associated with buildings of some substance, typically between the 12th and 14th centuries.

6.5.2 Their presence in this deposit suggests they may represent part of an old Medieval roof covering being renewed in the 16th to 17th centuries – the waste being used for infilling the possible harbour area.

6.6 Prehistoric flintwork by Chris Butler

6.6.1 Five pieces of prehistoric flintwork were recovered during the fieldwork, four from Trench A and one un-stratified surface find during the watching brief. Four of the pieces are in typical Downland flint, whilst the other (from Context **9**) is from a beach pebble.

6.6.2 The flintwork is mostly debitage, with three hard hammer-struck flakes, one of which is blade-like (Context **10/11**), and a flake fragment. None of these have any evidence for platform preparation, and are therefore likely to date from the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age.

6.6.3 The final piece is an end scraper from Context **9**. This has been manufactured on a hard hammer-struck flake, and has been abruptly retouch around the distal end, although this has been done very roughly, which suggests that this is an expedient scraper, rather than a tool that would have been curated. This also dates to the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age.

6.7 Coin by David Rudling

6.7.1 A single coin was recovered from Context **21** with the use of a metal detector during the evaluation excavation, and is described below.

6.7.2 Constantine II . Ae 16 mm diameter. c. AD 330-334.

Obverse: CONSTANT[INVS IVN NOB C], Laureatte and cuirassed bust right.

Reverse: [GLORIA] EXER[CITV]S, Two soldiers standing facing one another, holding spear in outer hand, inner hand resting on shield set on ground; between them two standards. Mint-mark: missing.

Reference: Type as *Roman Imperial Coinage* Trier 520.

6.8 **Glass** by Chris Butler

6.8.1 Only four pieces of glass were recovered during the work. They comprised a fragment from a light green coloured bottle of 18th/early 19th century date from Context **21**, a fragment of brown bottle glass and clear window glass of 19th century date from Context **20**, and a fragment of clear bottle glass of 19th - 20th century date from Context **9**.

6.9 **Bone** by Chris Butler

6.9.1 A total of 11 pieces of animal bone were found. These comprised a single pig tusk from Context **10/11**, and two sheep? bones from Context **23**. The latter were both eroded, and one had been cut.

6.9.2 The remaining bones were all from Context **21**, and comprised a fragment of Cattle rib, various gnawed fragments of pelvis/scapula from a large ungulate, a rib, possibly from a dog, and a single leg bone from a bird.

6.10 **Shell** by Chris Butler

6.10.1 Most of the 34 pieces of marine shell recovered were oyster, mostly comprising complete or mostly complete shells. The largest group of oyster, comprising 16 pieces including both top and bottom shells, came from Context **20**. Other oyster came from Context **9** (9 pieces) and Context **10/11** (3 pieces). A single shell was found associated with the chalk drain.

6.10.2 Other shells included three limpet shells from Context **9**, and two Carpet shells from Context **22**.

7.0 Discussion

The Building

- 7.1** The building survey has provided an archive record of the building to English Heritage Level 3 as required by the WSI and specification. The results of the survey and the numerous photographs taken will be archived in Seaford Museum.
- 7.2** The survey of the house at 1 Cricketfield Road has confirmed that this building was of a unique design and construction for the area, although photographic evidence held in Seaford Museum suggests that there may have been other properties constructed at the time in Cricketfield Road and other roads nearby, of similar unique designs.
- 7.3** The survey has shown that the original building has not had any major structural changes or additions through its life, however there have been some minor changes and additions, mostly in the later 20th century.
- 7.4** It is clear from the buttress added to the south-east corner, that there may have been some structural concerns from an early date, as this buttress appears to have been added during or immediately after the construction of the house. A number of cracks were noted in the structure on this corner of the building. The balcony had survived until after 1936 (Fig. 7), when it was removed, perhaps at the same time as the front porch and garage were added.
- 7.5** The front porch and garage were probably added after the Second World War, and have probably been modified again more recently with the addition of a modern up-and-over garage door and UPVC panels to the porch. The construction of the garage meant that two ground floor windows on the west side of the tower were partly blocked up.
- 7.6** Other external features such as the greenhouse on the south wall, the coal store and a number of UPVC windows have all been added at a more recent date. The roof appears to have been re-tiled, at some date, although neither chimney seems to have been altered, apart from the chimney pots which have been replaced.
- 7.7** Internally, there has been much alteration, with very few original fixtures and fittings surviving. The evidence suggests that that redecoration and replacement/re-tiling of the fireplaces has taken place in the 1920/30's and again after the Second World War, and at these times many fixtures and fittings were replaced.

The Evaluation Excavation

- 7.8** The evaluation excavation has established that there is a deep sequence of archaeological deposits at the southern end of the site. The evidence suggests that Contexts **10** and **11** may have been deliberate in-filling of the silted-up harbour in the early 17th century, whilst Context **9** with its mixture of material ranging from prehistoric flintwork through to 19th century material may be evidence for a flooding event.
- 7.9** The chalk drain and the cut and fills above it, unfortunately provided no dating evidence, however the stratigraphical relationship of these to Context **9** suggest that they must date to the 19th century. The construction of the chalk drain does not appear to support this date, as this form of drain would be more typical of the 17th century, as later drains would almost certainly be ceramic or of brick construction.
- 7.10** It is therefore proposed that the chalk drain and the area of chalk ‘floor’ nearby are contemporary with the infilling of the harbour, and can thus be dated to the 17th century. Cut **13** and its fills must therefore relate to later events and it is just fortuitous that it is directly above the drain.
- 7.11** Evidence for early activity is evidenced by the Later Neolithic/Bronze Age flintwork, and Roman coin, together with the sherds of 12th to 14th century Medieval pottery. All of these combine to suggest that there has been a significant amount of activity along what may have been the edge of the harbour, or river during these periods.
- 7.12** Due the limited nature of the excavations, it has been difficult to establish the exact relationships between the different features and the deposits at the site. The northern part of the site has been severely affected by the construction of the 19th century house, and it is likely that no archaeology survives here, however it is clear that within the garden area there is good surviving archaeology.
- 7.13** If the development is to proceed, and the building foundations are likely to affect the underlying archaeology, further excavation of the features and deposits exposed during the evaluation excavation would be helpful to determine their true relationships, and would also assist in determining the past use of this site.

8.0 Acknowledgements

- 8.1** I would like to thank Simon Wiley for commissioning both the building survey and the archaeological evaluation excavation and for the assistance and co-operation of Simon and the on-site staff. FNR Plant Hire provided the machinery and operators.
- 8.2** The building survey was carried out by Chris Butler, assisted by Keith Butler and Rachel Butler, whilst the evaluation excavation was carried out by Keith Butler and Chris Butler. Rachel Butler processed the artefacts, and Jane Russell prepared the drawings for the report. I would like to thank Luke Barber for reporting on the pottery and building materials.
- 8.3** The project was managed by Chris Butler for CBAS, and was monitored by Greg Chuter for East Sussex County Council. Bob Sinclair, District Councillor for Seaford, co-ordinated the input of the local community representatives and Seaford Museum.

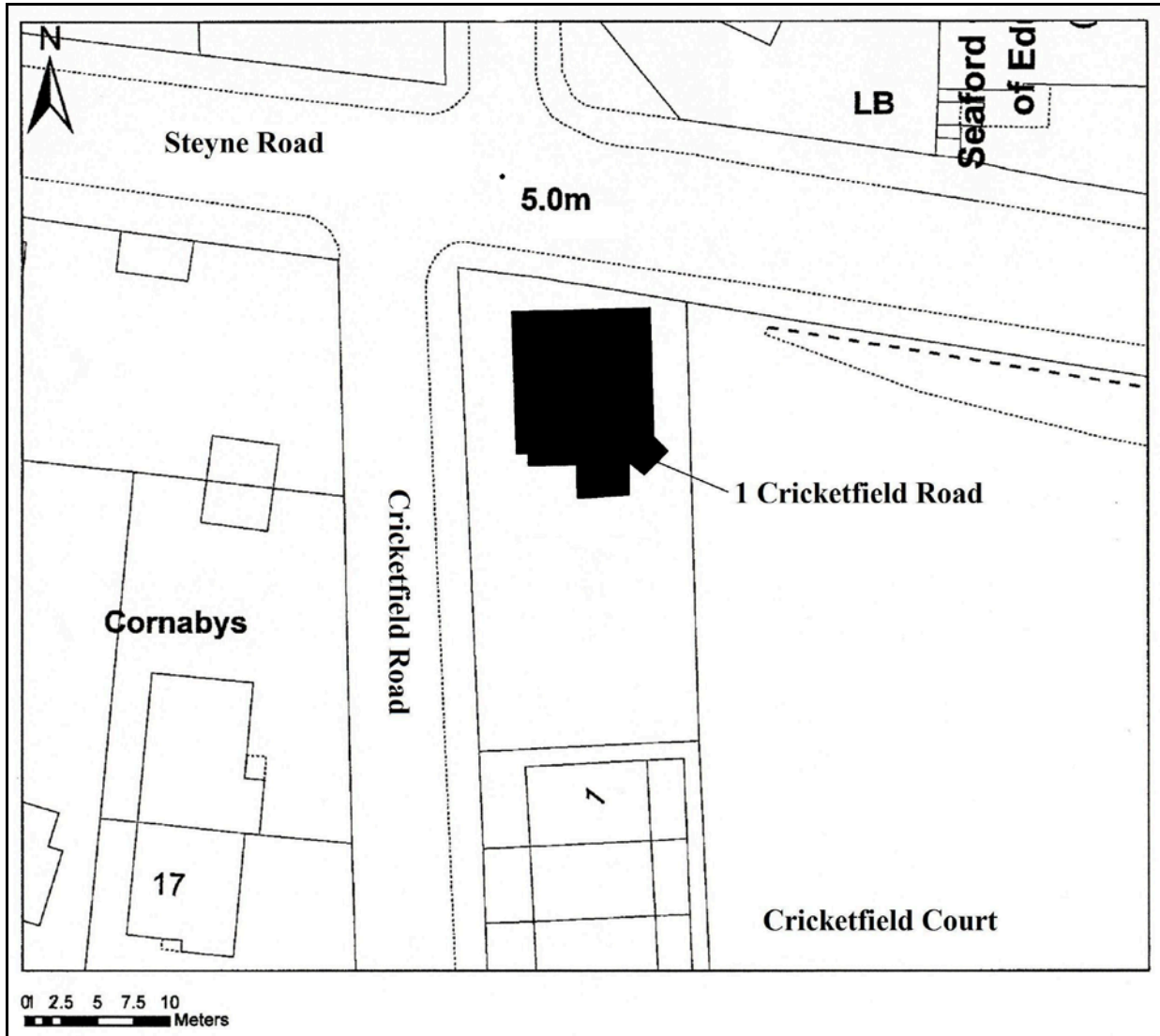


Fig. 1: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Site location plan

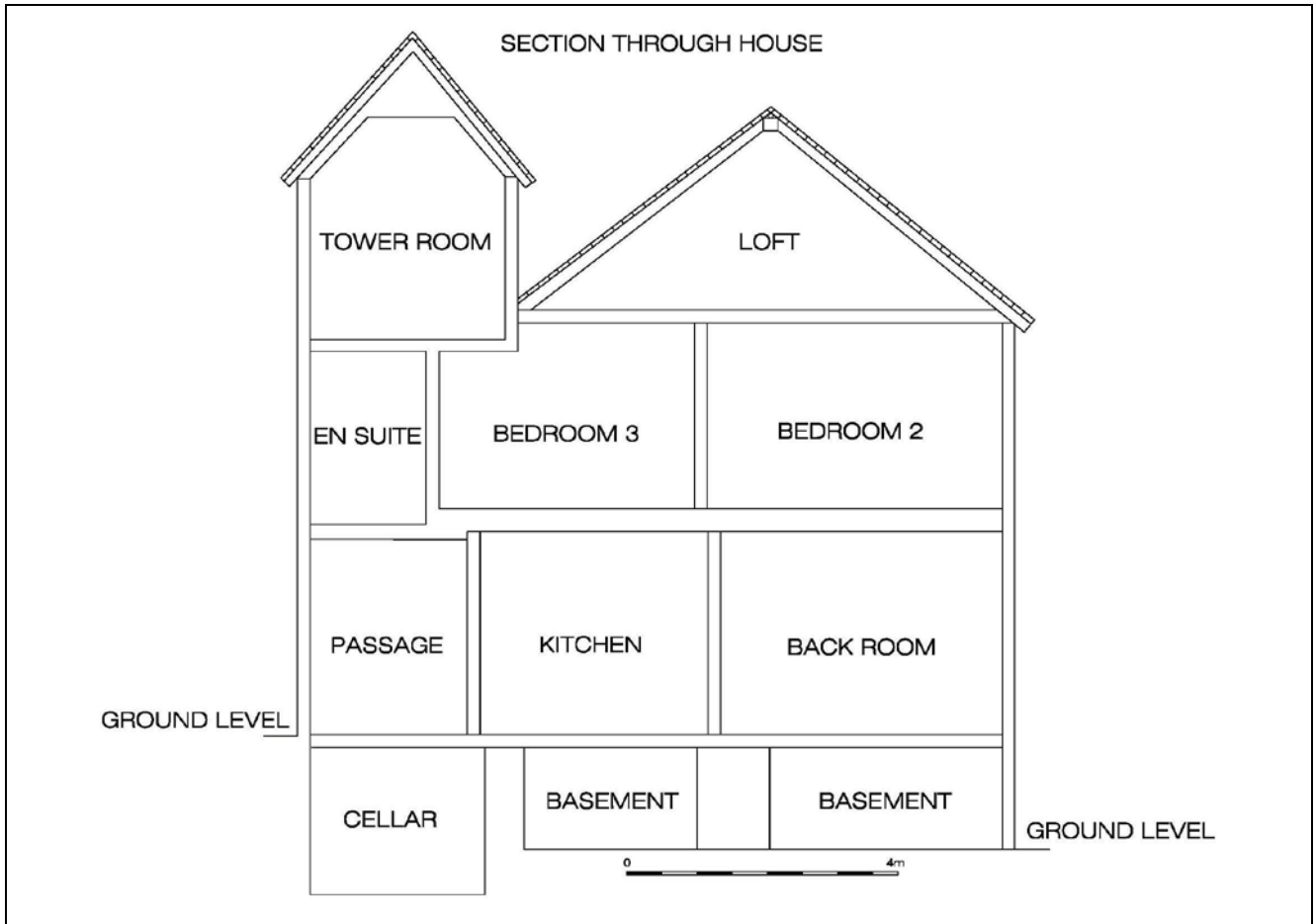


Fig. 2: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Section through house

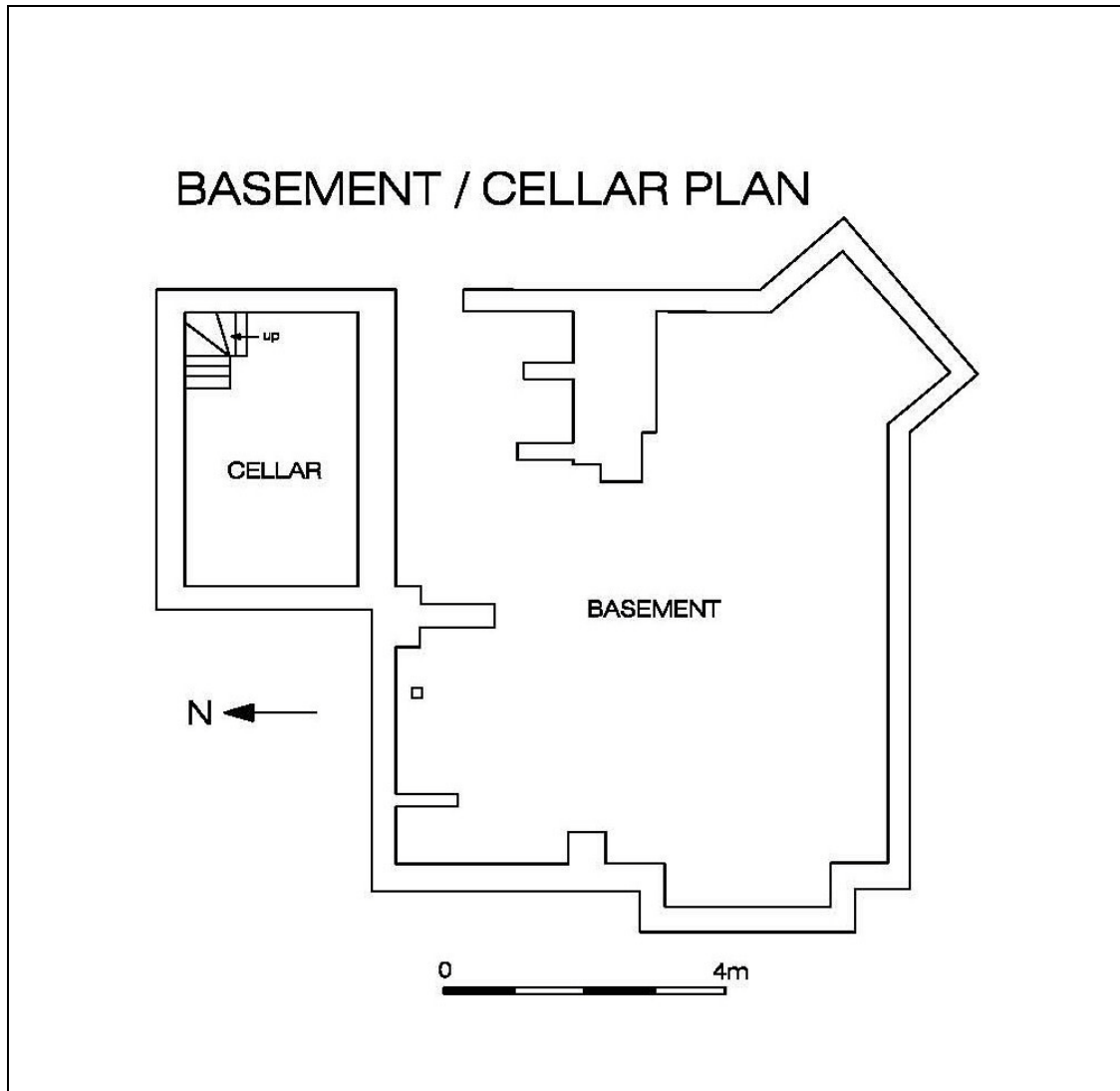


Fig. 3: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Plan of basement and cellar

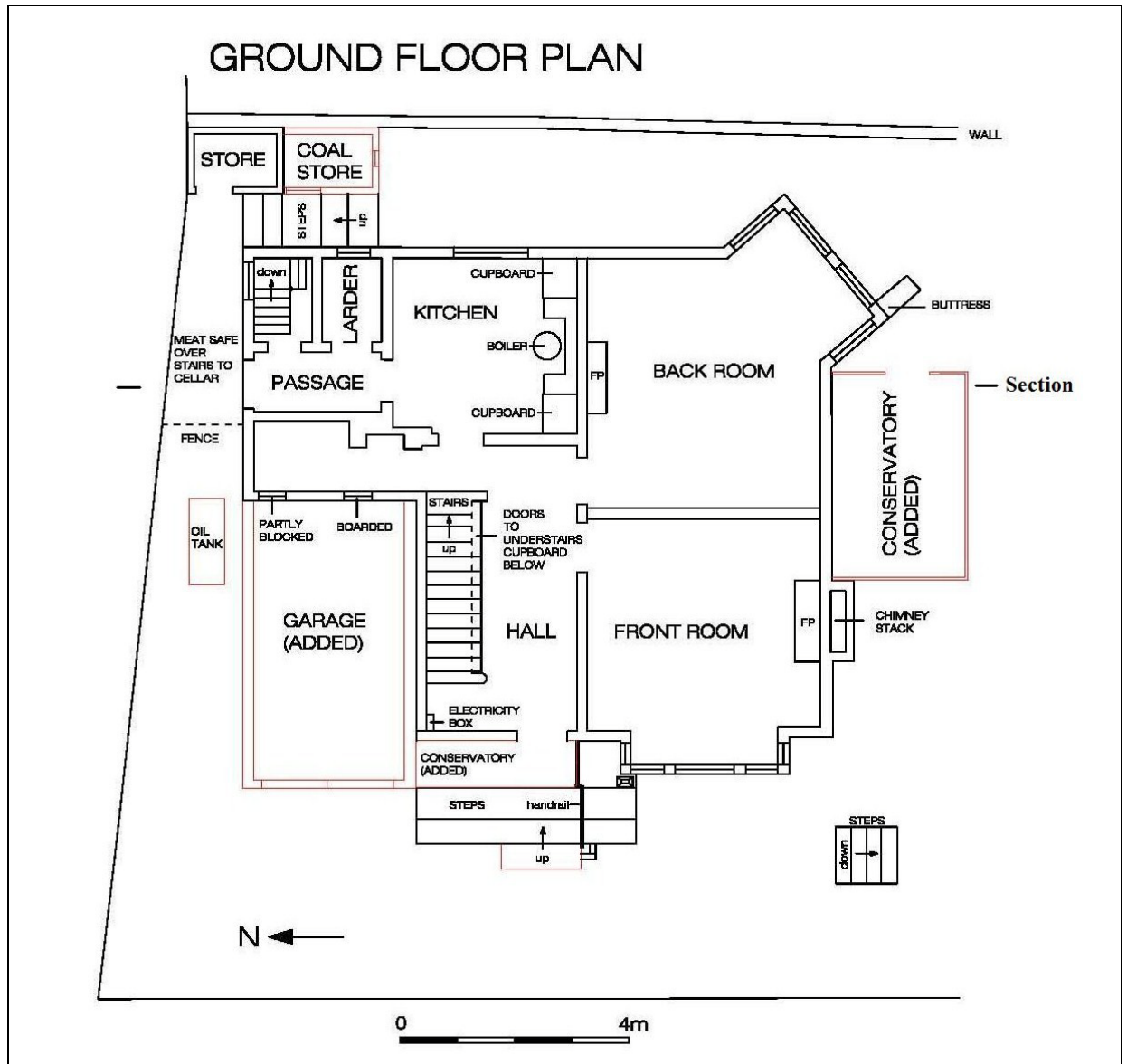


Fig. 4: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Plan of ground floor

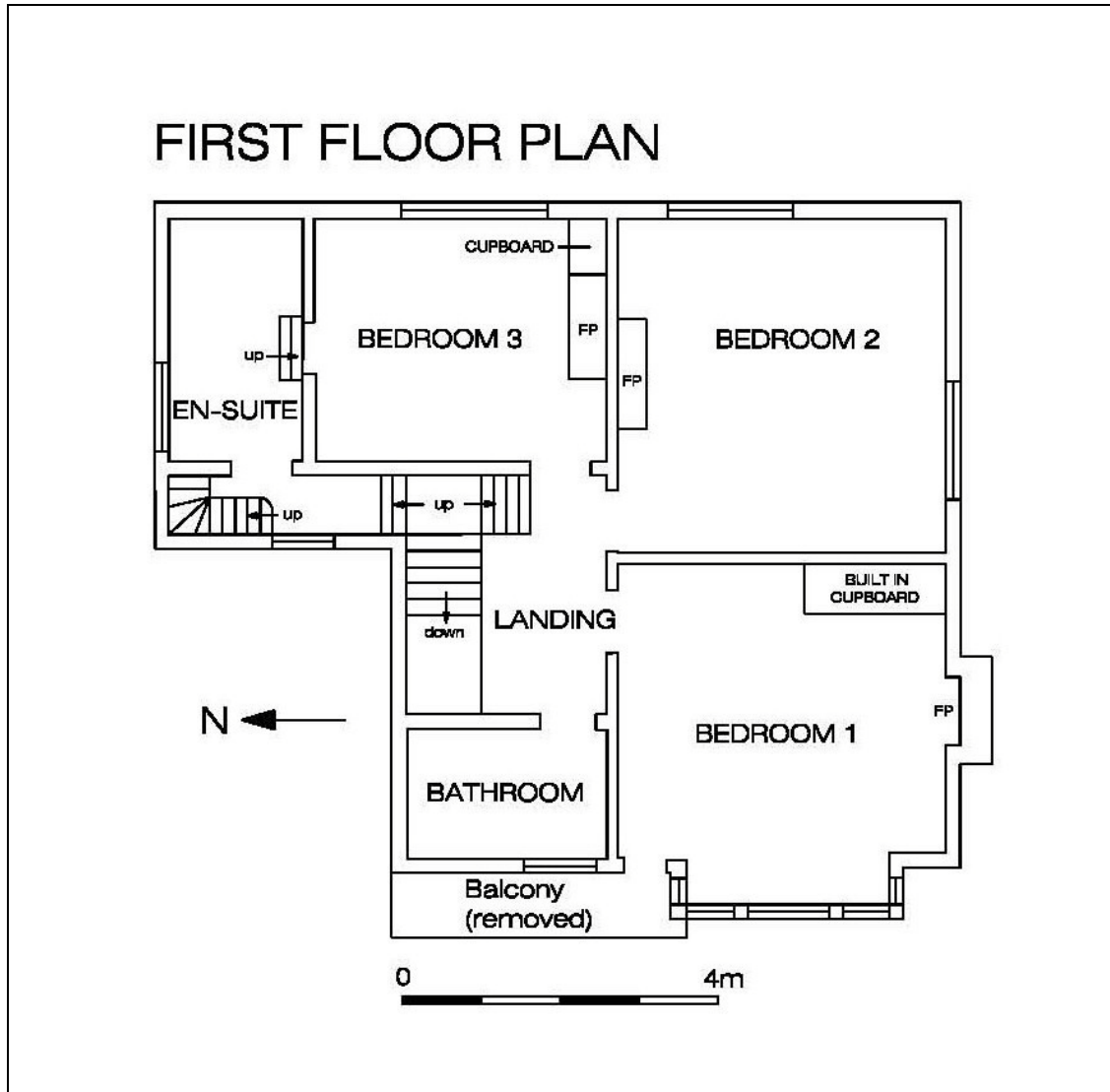


Fig. 5: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Plan of First floor

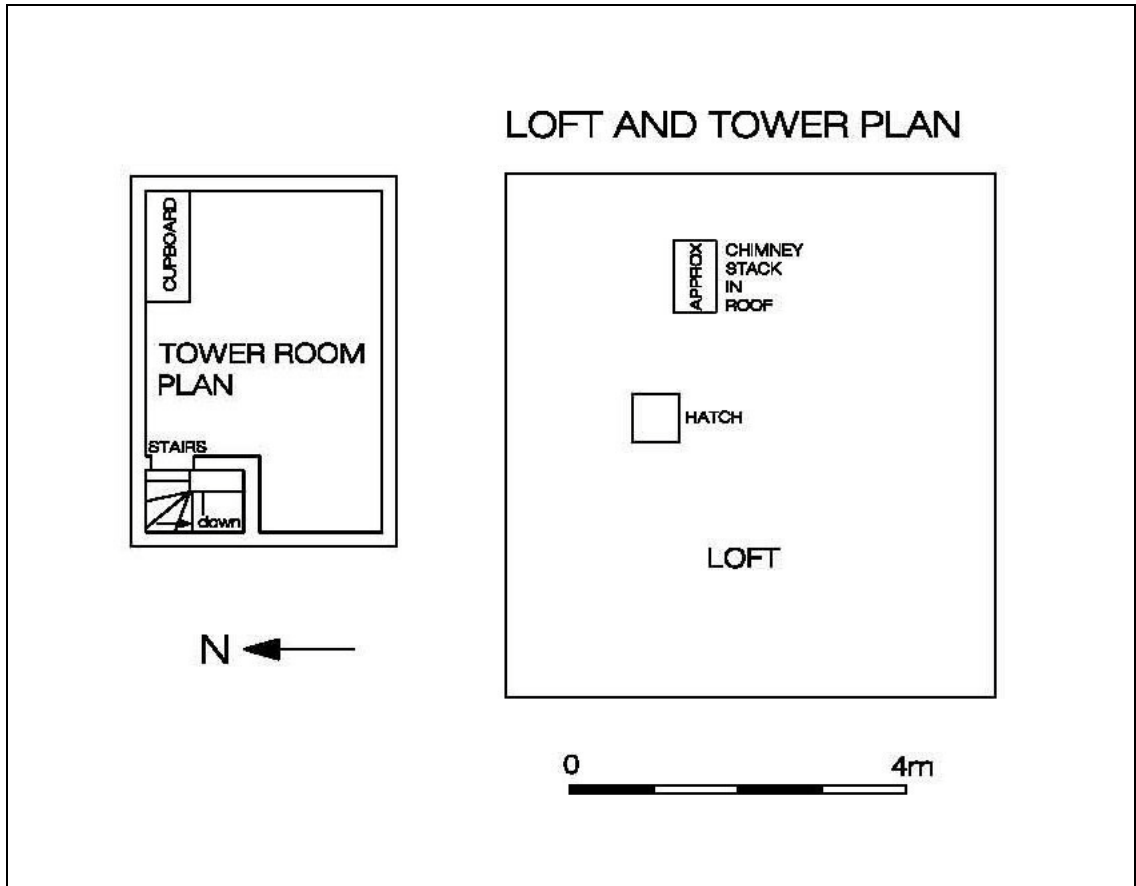


Fig. 6: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Plan of tower room and loft

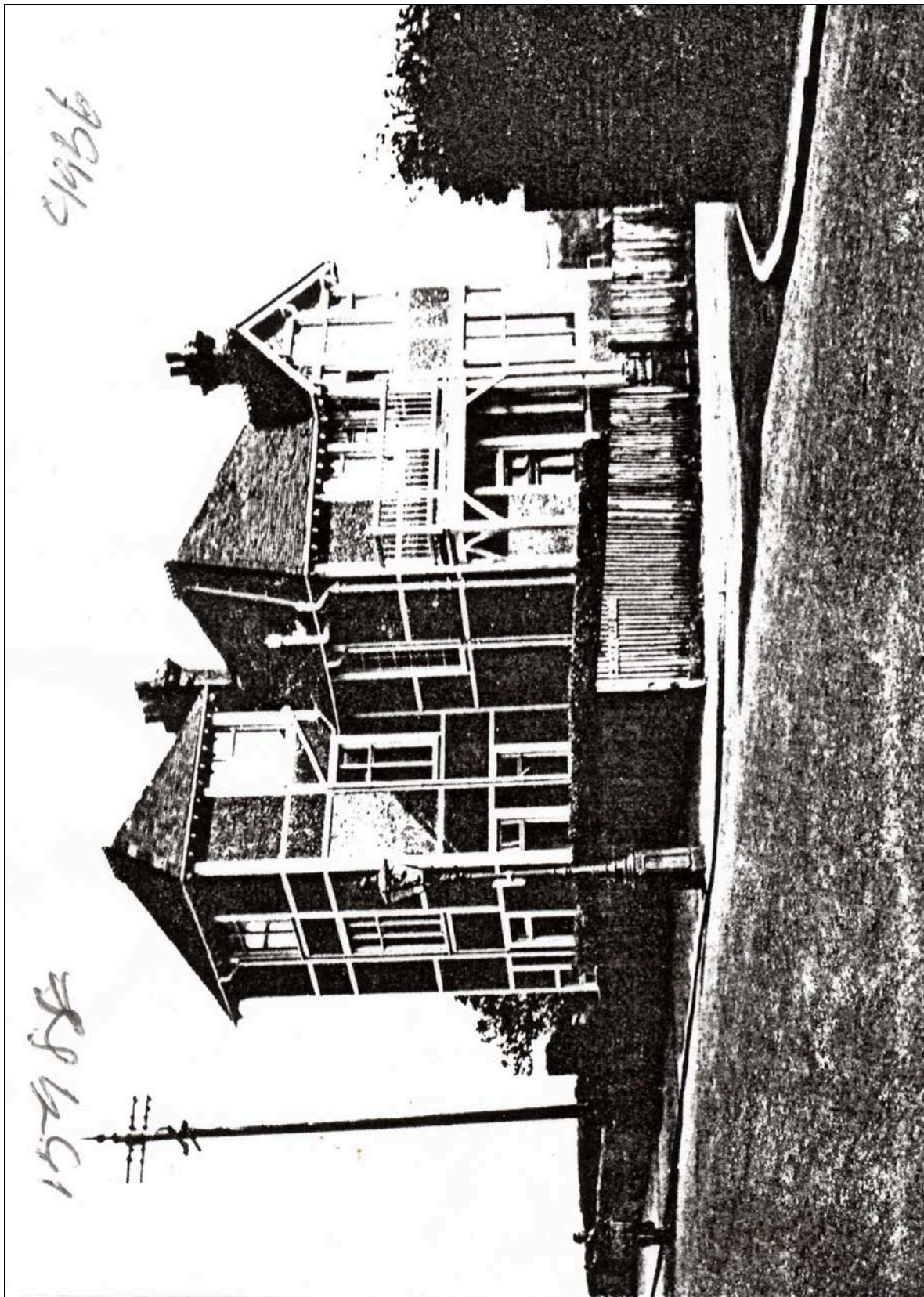


Fig. 7: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Photograph of House c.1936
(Copyright: Seaford Museum)

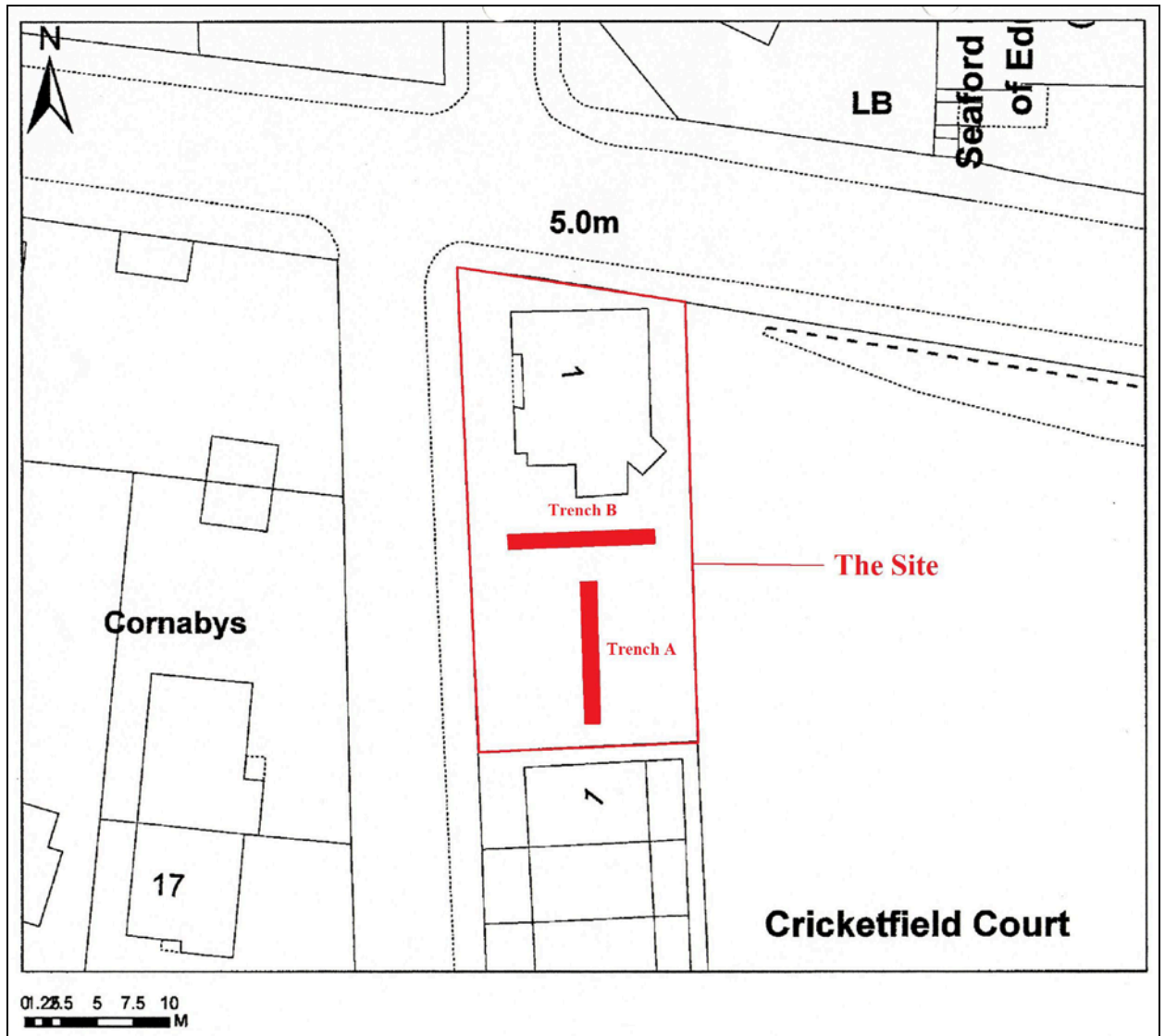


Fig. 8: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Site plan showing location of the evaluation trenches

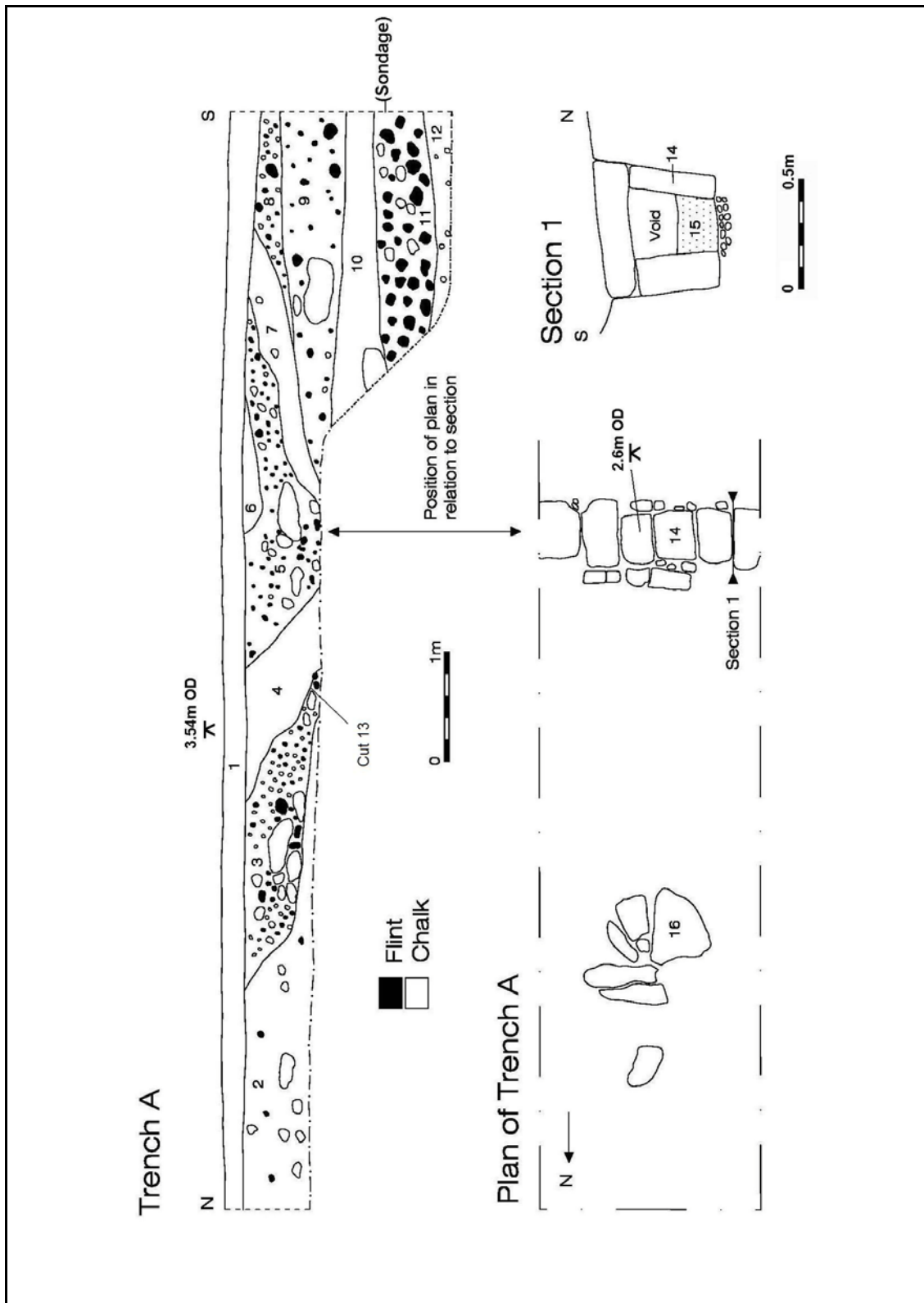


Fig. 9: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Trench A; section and plan, and section of the Chalk Drain (Context 14)

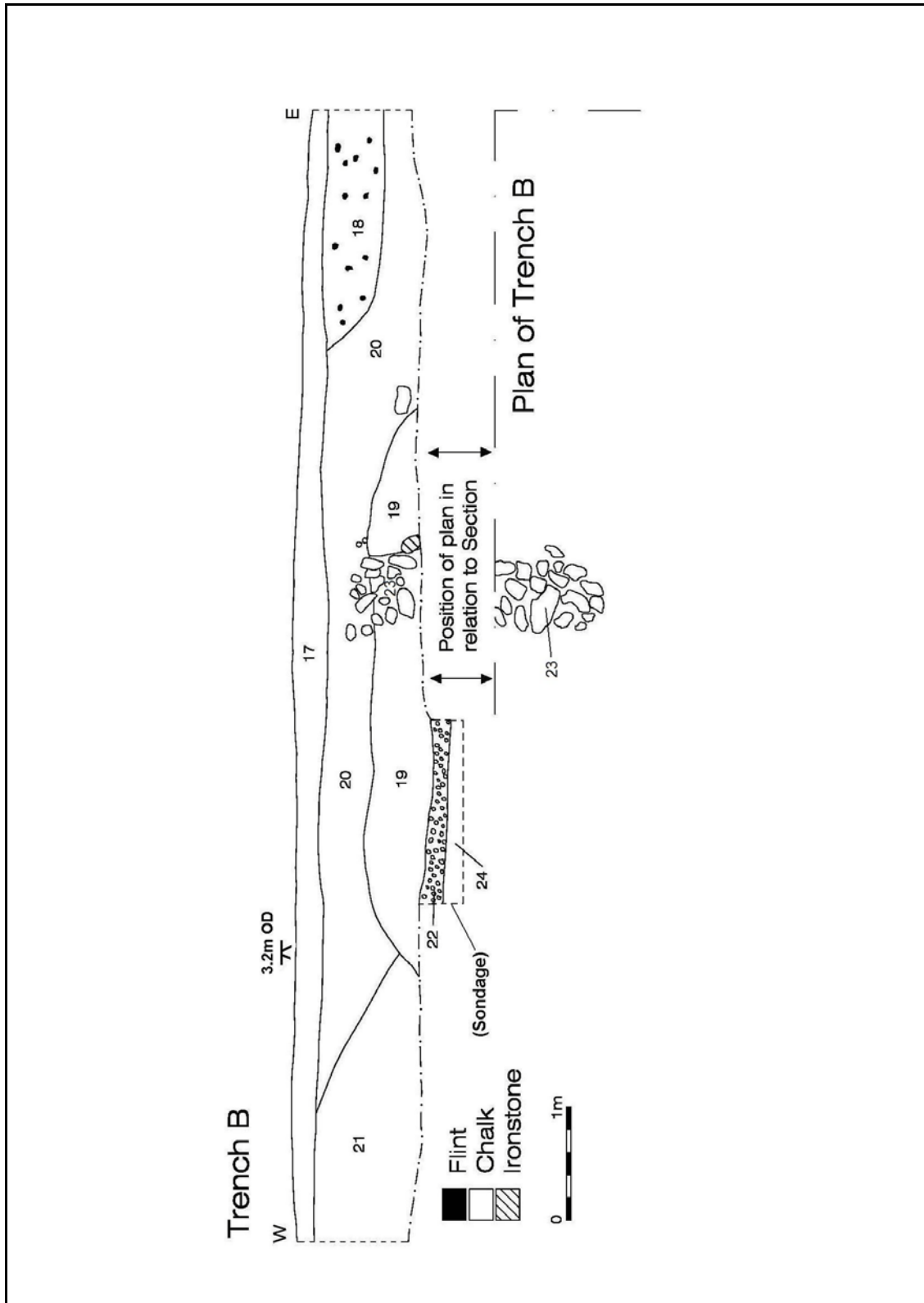


Fig. 10: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Trench B section and plan



Fig. 11: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: View of the house from the east



Fig. 12: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: View of the house from the north



Fig. 13: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: View of the house from the west



Fig. 14: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: View of the house from the south



Fig. 15: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: External view of construction showing missing concrete panel



Fig. 16: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Interior view of construction showing laths and wooden framework, and wooden plank walls



Fig. 17: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: External view of balcony area



Fig. 18: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: The basement



Fig. 19: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: Section of sondage in Trench A



Fig. 20: 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford: The chalk drain (Context 14)

HER Summary Form

Site Code	CFS 09					
Identification Name and Address	1 Cricketfield Road , Seaford, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex County Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TV 4858 9878					
Geology	Culver Chalk on the northern part of the site, with a band of alluvium (clay, silt and sand with gravel) to the south					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure X	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 8-9.10.09	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Simon Wiley.					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIFA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PIFA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA X	IA	RB X
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>A building survey to English Heritage Level 3 standard was carried out on the existing property at 1 Cricketfield Road, Seaford, East Sussex prior to its demolition in advance of the construction of new houses on the site. The survey recorded the external fabric and internal arrangement of rooms, and has helped to establish the history of this unusual house which was originally built in 1892.</i></p> <p><i>Two archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated in the garden to the south of the house. These encountered a wide range of artefacts ranging including prehistoric flintwork, a Roman coin and Medieval pottery. The excavations revealed a deep stratigraphy, which included possible 17th century in-fill of the silted-up harbour, together with a chalk block constructed drain, and an area of chalk hardstanding, both undated, but possibly also of 17th century date.</i></p>						

