



# Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services



**Monitoring ditch clearance work at  
Middle Barn Farm,  
Pevensey Levels,  
East Sussex**

Project No. CBAS0162

by  
Clive Meaton

November 2010

<b>PROJECT CODE: MBF10</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME: Middle Barn Farm</b>
<b>NAME OF LAND HOLDING: Middle Barn Farm, Bexhill, East Sussex</b>	
<b>LANDOWNER: Mr Roger Verity</b>	
<b>LAND MANAGER: Mr Roger Verity</b>	
<b>LOCATION OF MONITORED DITCHES / AREA:</b> (ATTACH MAP / PLAN TO SHEET) See Attached Map: Hooe Level. Drainage Ditch located in fields approximately 1km south of Middle Barn Farm. Part of the ditch runs alongside the upstanding remains of the former sea defence bank.	
<b>GRID REFERENCE: From 569267 106675 to 569548 106790 (TQ)</b>	
<b>INVESTIGATIVE METHODOLOGY:</b> The spoil had been spread on the ground surface adjacent to the cleaned ditch. The surface of the spoil was inspected for artefacts and the exposed sections of the ditch were inspected for features and artefacts. A metal detector was used across the full extent of the up cast spoil  For practical purposes observation and recording was undertaken in three stages along the route of the drainage ditch, these are marked on figure 1 and referenced below (with NGRs) as Position 1 – 2, Position 2 - 3 and Position 3 - 4 (hereafter P.1-P.4). P.1 was the start position and P.4 the finish position.  The exposed the ditch was very steep and slippery, whilst the ditch was filled with water, thus on health and safety grounds visual inspection only was possible for the exposed sections.	

OBSERVATIONS / NOTES:

General

Along the extent of the route the up cast spoil comprised mixed alluvial deposits, varying in colour from brownish yellows to mid greenish greys. Very occasional animal bones and rare marine shells were identified in the spoil.

The bank edges had been recut, but for the most part appeared to have been compacted/consolidated by the machine bucket afterwards thus smearing the vast majority of exposed sections and making identification of archaeological deposits/cut features virtually impossible.

P.1 to P.2 (From 569267 106675 to 569291 106791) – See Plates 1 and 2

The edges of the ditch were completely smeared. No finds were observed within the spoil. At P.2 an area of burning was recorded in the side of the ditch, this was associated with several burnt tree stubs, and presumably related to the grubbing out of the adjacent hedge line.

P.2 to P.3 (From 569291 106791 to 569415 106879) – See Plate 3

Some clean ditch sides were observed, revealing approximately 300-400mm dark brown plough soil overlying a mid brownish-yellow alluvial clay. Most ditch sides however were smeared, and no features were identified. No artefacts were identified in the spoil.

P.3 to P.4 (569415 106879 to 569548 106790) – See plates 4, 5 and 6

This stretch of ditch was located alongside the remains of the former sea defences. Between P.3 and P.4 the upstanding bank survives to a height of up to c.2m. No artefacts were identified in the spoil.

Between NGRs 569493 106830 and 569522 106803 a marked topographic rise was noted in the ground surface, which was most clearly visible in the northeast facing ditch section. The exposed section appeared to comprise a darker mixed matrix, although it was too obscured to draw any firm conclusions concerning archaeological deposits or cut features.

It was most likely this topographic anomaly related to the course of a former, disused channel. It seemed to be orientated perpendicular to the ditch, but did not extend as far or interface with the sea defence bank to the southwest. Likewise, its trajectory to the northeast was unclear

**REQUIRED ACTION:**

Add negative evidence to the HER database

FIELDWORKER: Clive Meaton

DATE OF FIELDWORK: 27<sup>th</sup>  
September 2010

TIME SPENT MONITORING: 3.5hrs

FORM CHECKED: C Butler

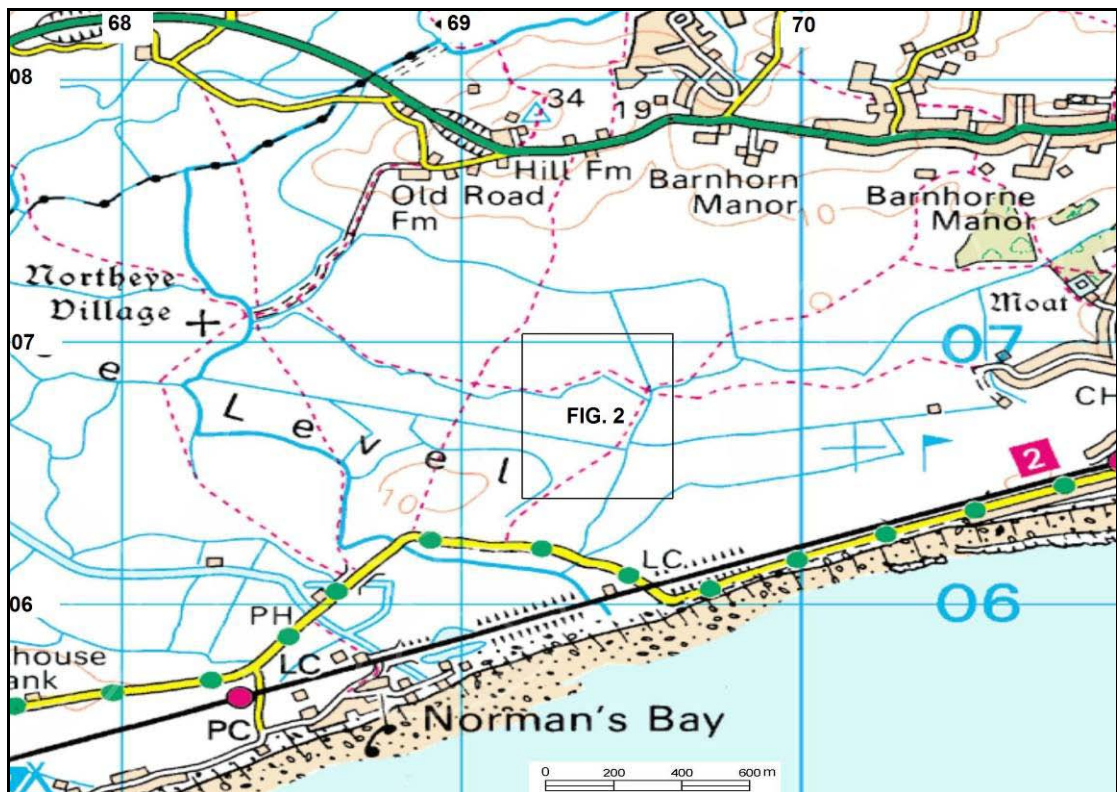


Fig. 1 Middle Barn Farm: Location of monitored area (Fig. 2)

Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471

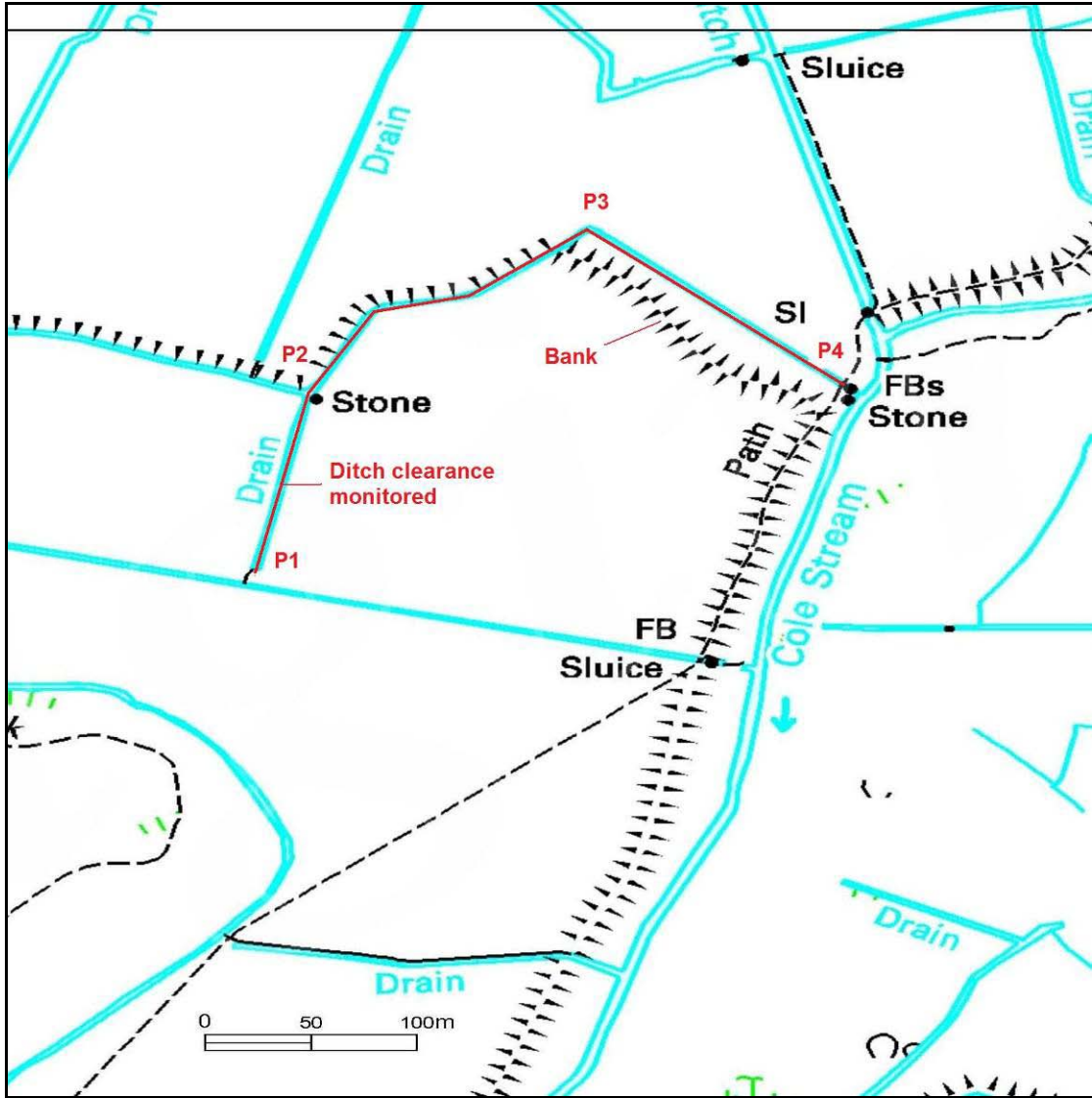


Fig. 2: Middle Barn Farm: Map showing area monitored and locations mentioned in the text.

Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471

Plate 1. From P.1 Looking North



Plate 2. Up Cast Spoil from Drainage Channel P.1 to P.2



Plate 3. From P.2 Looking Northeast



Plate 4: From P.4 Looking Northwest (sea defence bank in background)



Plate 5: Looking NW towards P.4 - P.3 Including Up Cast Spoil & Sea Bank



Plate 6: Looking at Topographic Rise in NE Facing Section (P.3 – P.4)

