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An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Land adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield, East Sussex.

TQ 5878 2693

by
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Summary

Two evaluation trenches were excavated at Land adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield, East Sussex, between the 16th and 18th November 2009 prior to the development of the site. The excavations produced artefactual evidence for both Medieval and Post Medieval activity in the form of pottery and ceramic building material.

Features discovered in the excavations were a 19th century brick-built drain and a drain of sandstone construction. In addition, a pit or terminus of a ditch was partly revealed, and produced a primary fill containing 15th to 17th century material, although it appeared to have been filled in during the 19th century. The site had then been landscaped to form part of the gardens of Pound House, and later Sunnybank Mansion.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services (CBAS) was commissioned by Mike Stedman to carry out an archaeological evaluation excavation on land adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield, East Sussex, in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed construction of a new house.

1.2 The site is located at TQ 5878 2693, at the east end of the High Street and to the rear of Mayfield Garage, and is reached by a small passageway from the High Street directly opposite the Palace Gatehouse (Fig. 1). The site is a plot of open ground between the houses Atherden and Glen Cottage, with The Avenue immediately to its south. A spot height of 141m OD is recorded in the High Street to the north of the site, and the ground gently slopes down across the site, with a steep drop into The Avenue.

1.3 The site was reputedly the garden of the adjacent property 'Atherden' until recently, and has in more recent times become overgrown with brambles together with trees which grew around its boundary; all of these have now been cleared. Running along the north side of the site is a drop of 500mm onto the site, held by a low retaining wall. There are a number of possible garden features along the south and east side of the site.

1.4 A planning application has been made (WD/08/2457) for the construction of a single two-storey house on the site, with a layby and access steps from The Avenue. The application has been approved, subject to the completion of a programme of archaeological works.

1.5 The site is located within the Mayfield Archaeological Sensitive Area (Fig. 2), and is within the Mayfield Conservation Area. Wealden District Council have stated that their aim is to conserve the historic and residential character of the village and its sensitive landscape setting as well as to maintain its local service function[1].

1.6 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 303), comprises Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, with Wadhurst Clay to the south and to the north.

[1] http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Planning_and_Building_Control/Local_Plan/Adopted_Local_Plan/Chapter19.26.PDF

1.7 The archaeological evaluation excavation took place on the 16th, 17th and 18th November 2009. The fieldwork was carried out by the author and Clive Meaton, with the project being managed for CBAS by Chris Butler MIFA.

2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

2.1 There has been very little archaeological work in the vicinity of the site with only a single archaeological watching brief carried out at St Dunstans Church. A targeted historical and architectural study of the village centre at Mayfield was carried out in 2005[2]. A Desk-based assessment report was produced as the first stage of this project[3]. Known archaeological sites are shown on Fig. 3.

2.2 There is a great deal of evidence for Mesolithic hunter-gather groups exploiting the resources of the High Weald woodland for hunting and gathering throughout the Mesolithic period. These include sites associated with rock outcrops, such as those at Eridge (TQ554358)[4]. These sites are thought to have been short- stay hunting camps, and are mainly associated with the Later Mesolithic[5].

2.3 A number of scatter of later Neolithic flintwork and individual finds of Neolithic axes have been identified in the high Weald. These are unlikely to represent settlements or agriculture, but are more likely to be occasional exploitation of the natural resources available. The only Neolithic artefact found in area was a partly polished flint axe found near the River Rother[6].

2.4 There is very little evidence for Bronze Age activity in the Mayfield area, with the only Bronze Age artefact known from this area is a copper-alloy Middle Bronze Age plastave[7].

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[2] Martin, D & Martin, B. 2005 *A targeted historical and architectural study into the village centre at Mayfield, East Sussex.* Archaeology South-East Report **1914**.

[3] Butler, C. 2009 *A Desk-based Assessment and Written Scheme of Investigation for Land adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield, East Sussex*, CBAS Report.

[4] Greatorex, C. & Seager-Thomas, M. 2000. 'Rock Shelter Stratigraphy'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **138**, 49-56.

[5] Jacobi, R.M. & Tebbutt, C.F. 1981. 'A Late Mesolithic Rock- shelter site at High Hurstwood, Sussex'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **119**, 1-36.

[6] Tooth, S. 1933. 'Reports from Local Secretaries', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **34**, 224.

[7] Grinsell, L.V. 1946. 'Sussex in the Bronze Age'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **72,** 30-68.

2.5 One major feature from the Iron Age is the hillfort, of which 25 are known from Sussex. The nearest hillfort to the site is Saxonbury, which is located some 6km to the north of Mayfield. This is a contour hillfort which may have originated in the Middle Iron Age, but primarily dates to the Later Iron Age[8]. Evidence of iron working was also found at Saxonbury hillfort suggesting a connection between the hillfort and the iron industry in the surrounding landscape[9].

2.6 Ironworking became a major industry during the Romano-British period, with large numbers of iron working sites across the Weald[10]. There are a number of Roman ironworking sites in the Mayfield area, including Brickhurst Wood (TQ 5900 2776), together with numerous undated bloomery sites which may be Roman in date[11]. A Roman ironworking site has recently been excavated at Little Furnace Wood (TQ 5910 2430) to the south of Mayfield, revealing two furnaces and an ore roasting pit[12].

2.7 There is little evidence for iron working in the Saxon period, although the site at Millbrook in Ashdown Forest[13]. The lack of any adjoining settlement suggests that this part of the Weald was perhaps being exploited by people living closer to the coast.

2.8 The village of Mayfield was becoming established as a central place by 1260 when Archbishop Boniface obtained a charter to hold a market there, and by 1388 the market was well established as a memorandum attached to the accounts describes 'various houses and shops burnt in the town of Mayfield after 29th September 1388'[14].

2.9 The Archbishops Palace at Mayfield (MES4636) was built *c*.1350, although probably replacing an earlier building, and was used as a summer palace by the Archbishops of Canterbury for the following 200 years. After the dissolution the Lordship and Manor of Mayfield were granted to Sir Edward North who subsequently sold it to Sir Thomas Gresham[15]. The presence of the Palace appears to have stimulated the local economy as in 1388/9 a fire damaged 85 shop places[16].

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[8] Hamilton, S. & Manley, J. 1997. 'Prominent Enclosures in 1st Millennium BC Sussex'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **135,** 93-112

[9] Curwen, E.C. 1954. *The Archaeology of Sussex*, London, Methuen & Co. Ltd.

[10] Cleere, H. et al. 1995. *The Iron Industry in the Weald.* Cardiff. Merton Priory Press.

[11] WIRG Iron Site database (www.wirgdata.org/)

[12] Butler & Hodgkinson forthcoming.

[13] Tebbutt, C.F. 1982. 'A Middle Saxon iron smelting site at Milbrook, Ashdown Forest, Sussex. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **120**, 19-35.

[14] Martin, D. & Martin, B. 2005. *A targeted historical and archaeological study into the village centre at Mayfield, East Sussex.*. Archaeology South-East Report. **1914**.

[15] Mayfield Local History Society. 2005. *A short guide to Mayfield; Past and Present.*

[16] Harris, R.B. 2008. *Historic Character Assessment: Mayfair.* Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.

2.10 The settlement reconstruction for 1498 shows the site to fall within property 31 which has a small house on the High Street, and was owned by John Moter[17]. In 1498 William Wembourne owned the adjacent property 30; the property here (originally called Pound House, and now Yeomans) is an early 15th century four-bay, hall house of Wealden design, and is still extant today.

2.11 Mayfield continued to be an important place for ironworking, with some 20 ironworking sites known within a 2km radius of the village[18]. Although most of these are currently undated, and some are likely to be Roman, it is likely many, including Woolbridge, will have been in operation during the Medieval period[19].

2.12 Although there has been growth and development of the settlement ever since its initial foundation, by 1588 the settlement was shrinking, with properties being abandoned at the eastern end of town, away from the market area. At this date the reduction was not large, with the loss of between 3 and 8 houses only. However, by 1602 the palace was in severe decline, and this may explain the continued contraction of the settlement. The number of houses within the settlement declined from 46 or 47 in 1588 to between 41 and 43 by 1602.

2.13 The population of Mayfield appears to have grown steadily at this time, with the average annual conception rate for 1621-1640 being 2.8, consistent with other market centres in the north-eastern Weald[20]. The decline in properties seems at odds with the increase in population, although by the latter part of the 17th century many of the properties in Mayfield had been subdivided up into two dwellings[21].

2.14 The largest industry of the area continued to be iron production, with iron works noted on the Archbishop of Canterbury's lands at Mayfield in 1545[22]. The Mayfield Furnace (TQ5930 2820) was acquired by Thomas Gresham by 1570, perhaps when he acquired the rest of the Archbishop's lands. It was still working in 1653 and was repaired in 1664[23]. Mayfield Forge (TQ 5940 2810) was probably associated with the Mayfield Furnace.

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[17] Martin, D. & Martin, B. 2005. *A targeted historical and archaeological study into the village centre at Mayfield, East Sussex.*. Archaeology South-East Report. **1914**.
[18] WIRG Iron Site database (www.wirgdata.org/)
[19] Cleere, H & Crossley, D. 1995, *The Iron Industry of the Weald,* Merton Priory Press.
[20] Brent, C.E. 1978. 'Rural Employment and Population in Sussex between 1550 and 1640: Part 2'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **116**, 41-55.
[21] Martin, D. & Martin, B. 2005. *A targeted historical and archaeological study into the village centre at Mayfield, East Sussex.*. Archaeology South-East Report. **1914**.
[22] Cleere, H & Crossley, D. 1995, *The Iron Industry of the Weald,* Merton Priory Press.
[23] *Ibid.*

2.15 There are numerous 16th and 17th century houses in Mayfield and the surrounding area, possibly reflecting an increase of wealth used to replace or rebuild earlier houses, rather than a real growth in population. The settlement reconstruction for 1558 shows the property boundaries to be largely unchanged, with the site falling within property 31, which was owned by Kath Kidder (Widow)[24].

2.16 The settlement reconstruction for 1602 shows that properties 31 and 32, along with properties 28 and 29, have been merged within property 30 (Pound House) which was located to the east of 31. This larger property had a single house and a barn, and was owned by John Penkhurst, who also owned property 27 to the east[25]. Penkhurst had purchased Pound House prior to 1591 and then presumably increased his holding by purchasing the adjacent properties, at which point the site probably became part of the garden to Pound House.

2.17 The settlement reconstruction for 1681 shows the site to be mostly within the grounds of Pound House (property 30), but also possibly extending into the property the adjacent property 32[26]. The owner of property 32 is not known.

2.18 A map of 1681[27] showing the 'Towne of Mayfield' clearly shows two properties on the High Street opposite the Palace Gatehouse, which correspond with properties 30 and 32 on the reconstruction. This map shows the area of the site to the rear of these properties down to The Avenue, but does not show any boundaries or other buildings here, which appears to agree with the recorded boundaries of the property in 1678[28] .

2.19 The 1st Edition OS map (1878) shows the site to be an open area with no buildings within it. On its eastern side is the house of Sunnybank and a formal gardens stretching for some 100m to the east. The area adjacent to the site on the west side is also open and presumably gardens. There is no change on either the 2nd Edition (1899) or 3rd Edition (1911) OS maps, whilst the only change on the 4th Edition of 1932 is that the adjacent house has had a name change from Sunnybank to Versyns.

[24] Martin, D. & Martin, B. 2005. *A targeted historical and archaeological study into the village centre at Mayfield, East Sussex.*. Archaeology South-East Report. **1914**.
[25] *Ibid.*
[26] *Ibid.*
[27] ESRO Acc 4656/7
[28] Martin, D. & Martin, B. 2005. *A targeted historical and archaeological study into the village centre at Mayfield, East Sussex.*. Archaeology South-East Report. **1914**.

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

3.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two archaeological evaluation trenches (Fig. 4); both measuring 10m x 1·8m. The trench locations were CAT scanned for services and also scanned with a Precision Gold metal detector before being excavated. A Precision Gold metal detector was also used at various times during the excavations to scan revealed surfaces, and was also used on the spoil heaps and to scan features, to aid the recovery of metal artefacts.

3.2 Both trenches were positioned to allow investigation of the possible garden features mentioned in the introduction. The first trench to be excavated was Trench A, which was located at the northern end of the site, and close to the eastern property boundary, on an east-west alignment (Fig. 5). The position had to be slightly adjusted from that shown in the WSI (written scheme of investigation), to avoid a number of large tree stumps. Trench A was also extended by 2m at the western end to allow for better understanding of a feature that was revealed at the end of the original 10m length. Trench B had a north-south alignment and was situated between Trench A and the western property boundary (Fig. 5).

3.3 Due to the limited access to the site via a narrow passageway from the High Street, a 850kg tracked mini-digger with a 750mm toothless bucket was used for the excavation of the trenches. The excavation of the trenches was carried out under archaeological supervision by the careful removal of shallow spits.

3.4 A bench mark (142.89m OD) was located on the south eastern corner of the Palace Gatehouse in the High Street and transferred to south-western corner of the garage to the north of the site, where a TBM (temporary bench mark) was established (139.755m OD).

3.5 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

3.6 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 after any further analysis will be offered to a suitable local museum. A site reference of ATM 09 has been allocated.

4.0 Results

Trench A

4.1 In Trench A the first layer encountered was Context **1**, which was a layer of dark brown silty clay loam topsoil with a loose consistence, with a depth of up to 300mm (Fig. 6). The coarse components were made up of pieces of sandstone up to 80mm (1%) and rooting (5%). Artefacts recovered from this layer were of pottery and CBM (ceramic building material) of a mixed 18th to early 20th century date.

4.2 Below Context **1**, and only apparent at the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 6), was Context **2**. This was a layer of mottled mid brown–orange silty clay with a firm consistence. This layer of made ground had a depth of up to 300mm and had a large quantity of CBM (5%) included in it, whilst other coarse components consisted of sandstone pieces up to 40mm and rooting (1%). Artefacts recovered from this layer dated to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

4.3 Below Contexts **1** and **2** was a layer of mid greyish brown silty clay made ground (Context **3**) with occasional patches of sand. This layer had a depth of between 600 to 700mm and had a soft consistence. The coarse components were made up of sandstone pieces up to 300mm (1%), charcoal flecking (1%) and rooting (1%). Artefacts recovered from this layer were glass, CBM, pottery, and were mixed in date.

4.4 Below Context **3** was Context **4**, which was the natural (Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand), having a mottled yellow-orange (60%) and light grey (40%) silty clay with clayey silts. The only coarse components in this layer were sandstone pieces up to 300mm (3%).

4.5 Below Context **3**, at the extreme south-west corner of Trench A, was Context **5** (Fig. 6). This was an area of desiccated natural, and was a mid grey silty clay with a firm consistence. The only coarse components were sandstone pieces up to 200mm (1%) and manganese pieces (<1%).

4.6 Context **6** was cut into Context **4** and was below Context **3** in the south-east corner of Trench A (Fig. 6). It was an irregular hollow with no geometric form, having a length of 1·3m, with a width of up to 300mm and a depth of 150mm cut into the natural. The feature was not fully excavated as it continued under the north facing baulk.

4.7 The fill of the feature (Fill **7**) was a light grey-brown silty clay with a loose consistence. Coarse components were of charcoal flecks (1%) and rooting throughout. Artefacts recovered from the fill were of ceramic building material (CBM). The feature was most likely to be animal burrows or caused by rooting.

4.8 Context **8** was small sub-oval feature to the north of Context **6** (Fig. 6), measuring 400mm in length by 300mm in width. It had a depth of 120mm, with steep sides and a flattish irregular bottom. The feature was cut in to the natural (Context **4**), and was below Context **3**.

4.9 The fill of this feature was a dark brown silty clay with a loose consistence (Fill **9**), having coarse components of sandstone pieces up to 80mm (<1%) and charcoal flecking (<1%), and rooting throughout. The artefacts recovered from the fill were of CBM and slate dating the late 18th or 19th centuries. As with Context **6** the most likely interpretation of this feature is animal burrowing or rooting.

4.10 Context **10** was a structure running across Trench A with a north-south alignment (Fig. 6), within Context **3**, and was constructed of hard fired, frogless, red bricks with no bonding agent. The bricks had the dimensions of 220mm in length by 110mm in width with a depth of 60mm. The structure was located approximately 5m from the eastern end of Trench A and roughly aligns with the western corner of the garage building to the north of the trench. The construction comprised two courses of stretchers on the eastern side and one on the western side, the top course of bricks was laid across the courses with the headers facing outwards. The courses of stretchers are laid so that they create a channel which is covered by the course of headers. No cut was identified, in the made ground (Context **3**) suggesting they are of similar date. The structure slopes to the south and appears to be a covered drain.

4.11 Context **11** was the cut of a rectangular pit with vertical sides with rounded corners and having a flat bottom, cut into the natural (Context **4**). The feature was not fully excavated as it continued under the north facing baulk, with the excavated measurements being 1.3m in length by 650mm in width and having a depth of 550mm.

4.12 Cut **11** had two fills with the upper (Fill **12**) having a depth of 400mm, and being a dark brown silty clay with a loose consistence. The coarse components were of charcoal flecking (<1%) and sandstone pieces up to 40mm (1%). The artefacts recovered from this fill were of CBM, pottery and metal, of late 19th to early 20th century date.

4.13 Below Fill **12** was the primary fill of Cut **11** (Fill **13**). This fill had a depth of 150mm, and a very similar matrix to Fill**12** comprising a dark brown silty clay with a loose consistence. But the fill had more frequent sandstone pieces up to 40mm (5%) and occasional patches of the orange-yellow re-deposited natural. Other coarse components were of charcoal flecking (<1%), artefacts recovered from this fill were of CBM and pottery of 15th to 17th century date.

Trench B

4.14 The first layer encountered in Trench B was Context **15** and was the same as Context **1** in Trench A; comprising a layer of very dark brown sandy silty clay with a loose consistence. The layer slightly thickens down slope were it had a thickness of 300mm (Fig. 7). The coarse components were of rooting throughout (5%), charcoal flecking (<1%) and sandstone pieces up to 100mm (1%). Artefacts recovered from this layer were CBM and pottery dating from the mid 15th-16th century through to the late 19th century.

4.15 Below Context **15** was Context **16** which was the same made ground as Context **3** in Trench. It comprised a mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional sand. This layer had a loose consistence and a depth of 500mm at the north end of the trench and thickens down slope to the south to 600mm, where it forms a terrace (Fig. 7). The coarse components were made up of sandstone pieces up to 300mm (1%), charcoal flecking (<1%) and rooting throughout. Artefacts recovered from this layer were of CBM, pottery and clay pipe stem dating from the mid 15thcentury through to the late 19th century.

4.16 Below Context **16** was the natural; a layer of mottled yellowish orange (60%) and light grey (40%), of silty clay with clayey silts (Context **17**), having a compact consistence. The coarse components in this layer were of sandstone pieces up to 300mm (3%). A sondage was excavated at the southern end of the trench to a depth of 1.4m below ground surface (Fig. 7), which exposed a depth of 600mm of Context **17**.

4.17 Context **18** was below Context **16** and within Context **17**, and was a layer of light yellowish buff clayey silt with a compact consistence (Fig. 7). The coarse components were of sandstone pieces up to 150mm (5 to 10%). On investigation this layer was a sterile and compact natural clay. The colour variation could possibly be due to the differential water retention of this area of natural which seemed to conform to topographical undulations on the surface.

4.18 Context **19** was within Context **16**, and comprised two alignments of sandstone blocks with a gap of approximately 100mm in between. A single course of sandstone blocks survived in-situ with one or two pieces surviving as a possible second course above it. The blocks making up this structure have a maximum size of 200mm by 150mm, with a depth of 80mm. The structure was only noted in the north-eastern corner of Trench B and was orientated on a north-south alignment running downslope, and may possibly have been a culvert (Fig. 7). This feature was not fully investigated as it continued outside the trench into both the north and eastern baulks.

4.19 Context **20** was a cut in the natural (Contexts **17** & **18**), describing a sub-oval pit with a length of 900mm, with a width of 800mm and having a depth of 300mm. The cut had a sharp break of slope at the top with steep sides which taper into an irregular bottom (Fig. 7).

4.20 Context **21** was the single fill of Context **20**, and was a mid bluish grey silty clay with a loose consistence. The fill had coarse components of sandstone pieces up to 20mm (<1%), occasional charcoal flecking (<1%) and rooting throughout. No artefacts were recovered from this fill.

4.21 Context **22** was a cut in the natural (Context **17**), sub-oval in shape with a length of 500mm and a width of 400mm (Fig. 7). The sides of the cut were steep with a flat bottom; both the sides and the bottom were irregular in shape. The feature was slightly deeper at the south west end with a depth of 100mm.

4.22 Context **23** was the fill of Context **22**, and was a light grey-brown silty clay with a loose consistence and a depth of up to 100mm. The coarse components were sandstone pieces up to 20mm (<1%), charcoal flecking (<1%) and rooting throughout. Artefacts recovered from this fill were of CBM dating to the 14th - 15th century.

4.23 There were no other features or deposits noted during the excavation.

5.0 The Finds.

5.0.1 The archaeological work recovered a moderate sized assemblage of finds from the site. These are summarized in Table 1.

5.0.2 The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. This is due to the assemblage's small size and lack of good sealed context groups. The assemblage does not warrant retention in a museum.

Table 1 The Finds

Context	Pottery	Ceramic Building Material	Glass	Bone	Others
1	3/18g	Peg tile 8/566g Brick 3/172g	-	-	-
2	2/624g	Peg tile 15/1,894g Brick 4/3,329g	5/1,056g	4/88g	Stone 1/438g
3	30/644g	Peg tile 11/592g	1/140g	-	Oyster 1/3g Clay pipe 1/4g
9	-	Peg tile 1/32g	-	-	Stone 1/40g
12	13/164g	Peg tile 2/158g Wall tile 1/36g Drain 1/182g	4/94g	19/142g	Stone 3/2,676g Metal 2/311g Clay pipe 1/2g
13	2/42g	Peg tile 4/196g	-	-	Carbon rod 1/4g
15	2/8g	Peg tile 6/350g Brick 1/2,570g	-	1/14g	-
16	2/36g	Peg tile 6/596g	-	3/68g	Clay pipe 1/4g
19	-	Brick 1/2,670g	-	-	-
23	1/4g	-	-	-	-

Quantification of finds (no./weight in grams)

5.1 **The Pottery** by Luke Barber

Table 2 The Pottery

Context	Pot: medieval	Pot: Transitional	Pot: early post-medieval	Pot: late post-medieval	Dating
1	-	-	2/6g	1/12g	Mixed: C18th – e 20th
2	-	-	-	2/624g	Late C19th – e 20th
3	-	3/228g	4/90g	23/326g	Mixed: Mid C15th/e 16th – l 19th
9	-	-	-	-	Late C18th – 19th
12	-	-	-	13/164g	Late C19th – e 20th
13	1/36g	1/6g	-	-	Mid C15th – 17th (based on tile)
15	-	-	-	2/8g	Mixed: Mid c15th/m 16th – l 19th
16	-	-	-	2/36g	Mixed: Mid C15th – 17th tile; later C17th clay pipe; m/l C19th pot
19	-	-	-	-	Later C18th – 19th (brick only)
23	1/4g	-	-	-	C14th – 15th (if not residual)

Quantification of finds (no./weight in grams)

5.1.1 The earliest pottery from the site is represented by two sherds of Medieval date (Table 2). The sherd from Context **13** consists of a wide flat-topped club rim from a bowl in reduced sand and shell tempered ware of late 13th to 14th century date. Although the fabric is not dissimilar to Winchelsea Black Ware it is more likely to be a local Wealden product. Despite the large size of the sherd it is clearly residual in this context. The other sherd, from Context **23**, is isolated and much smaller though not heavily abraded. It consists of an oxidised bodysherd in a well fired fine/medium sand tempered fabric which could be placed in the 14th to 15th centuries.

5.1.2 The four Transitional sherds are of mid 15th to mid 16th century date and are typical of the hard-fired sparse fine/medium sand tempered wares of the local area. Both oxidised sherds (Contexts **13** and one from Context **3**) and reduced sherds (two in context 3) are present. Certainly the most notable are two large unabraded reduced sherds from a pitcher in Context **3**.

5.1.3 Significantly more late Post-Medieval pottery was recovered, which appears to be spread across the period from 1775/1800 to 1900/25 though there is a dominance of material in the second half of this range. The earliest pieces including a few creamware sherds (8/64g) and pearlware (4/46g, including a plate with blue shell-edged decoration) were recovered from Context **3** though Context **16** contained a banded tankard and attest to activity toward the end of the 18th century or beginning of the 19th century.

5.1.4 The bulk of the pottery of this period can be placed after 1830. A typical range of domestic wares is present including unglazed earthenware flower pots, glazed redware jars, English stoneware bottles and jars and a range of transfer-printed tablewares in blue and black patterns. Perhaps the latest pieces consist of two complete English stoneware preserve jars from Context **2**. Both types, including a necked example with plain body (356g) and a straight-sided example with groove below rim and feint vertical ribs on the body (268g), can be dated to between 1875 and 1925.

5.2 **Ceramic Building Material** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A moderate quantity of peg tile was recovered. The material is of two main periods though close dating is problematic, a situation not helped by the mixed nature of most contexts. The earliest material consists of a number of well/hard-fired peg tiles with quite a crude finish and varying between 13 and 15mm thick with square or diamond peg-holes. These pieces are tempered with moderate fine/medium sand with moderate iron oxide inclusions to 3mm (most to 2mm). Such tiles would be best placed between the later 16th and early 18th centuries. They were recovered from Contexts **3** (5/416g), **12**, **13**, **15** and **16**.

5.2.2 Some slightly coarser pieces, with occasional siltstone inclusions to 3mm and circular peg-holes (all from Context **15**) could be as early as the mid/late 15th to 17th centuries. The other period represented by the tile is the late Post-Medieval period – probably the later 18th to 19th centuries. All of the tile in Context **1** is of this type – well formed and fired peg tiles typically 11 to 13mm thick, with diamond fixing holes and tempered with sparse fine sand with moderate black iron oxides to 2mm and rare white clay pellets/streaks to 4mm. Similar tile (5.178g) was recovered from Context **3**.

5.2.3 A number of bricks/fragments of were recovered. The earliest of these was recovered from Context **2** and consists of a roughly made well fired example, measuring 105mm wide by 45mm tall, tempered with sparse fine sand and black and red iron oxides to 2mm and some siltstone pieces to 6mm. A 16th to 17th century date is probable.

5.2.4 The later bricks from the site are likely to be of mid/later 18th to 19th century date. They are typically well formed (often with sanded surfaces from the mould) and tempered with sparse fine sand with moderate iron oxide inclusions and white clay pellets and streaks to 4mm. Dimensions include a 65mm high example from Context **1**; 52, 57 and 63mm high from Context **2** (all 109-110mm wide); a nearly complete example from Context **15** (2,570g measuring 220 x 95-105 x 65mm) and a complete example (2,670g measuring 225 x 110 x 58-60mm) from Context **19**.

5.2.5 Of note is the brick from Context **15** which has heavy wear down its edge demonstrating it was originally set on edge within a brick floor or, perhaps more likely considering the sloped nature of the wear, a brick step.

5.2.6 Other building materials include a white wall tile and salt-glazed drain fragment from Context **12**. Both are likely to be of later 19th or early 20th century date.

5.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The three fragments of clay pipe from the site all consist of stem fragments. Context **3** produced an abraded piece of later 17th to early 18th century date. Context **12** contained a fresher fragment of mid 18th to 19th century date while Context **16** produced a fresh fragment of the mid/late 17th century.

5.4 Foreign Stone by Luke Barber

5.4.1 A small selection of stone was recovered. A fragment from a faced building block in fine-grained Wealden sandstone was recovered from Context **2**, with a larger unfaced piece being recovered from Context **12** (2,640g). Other Wealden stone is represented by a fragment from a roofing slab in Horsham/Tilgate stone in Context **12**. The remaining stone consists of imported 19th century Welsh roofing slate (Contexts **9** and **12**).

5.5 Glass by Chris Butler

5.5.1 Context **2** produced a complete bottle and one almost complete example together with three fragments. The complete bottle was a light green glass, 50mm square and 220mm high, with an applied rim, and weighed 412g. It was embossed PETERSON'S/ESS CAMP COFFEE & CHICORY/GLASGOW.

5.5.2 A round light green bottle, missing its rim, was 70mm in diameter and had been made in a two-piece mould, and weighed 465g. It was embossed THIS BOTTLE IS LENT/ BY T.FOORD WALDRON/& MUST BE RETURNED. The remaining three fragments from this context comprised two fragments of clear bottle glass and one piece of window glass.

5.5.3 A single neck & applied rim fragment of dark green bottle glass, probably from a mineral water bottle, was found in Context **3**. Four fragments of glass from Context **12** included pieces from a jam jar, a brown bottle and window glass. All of the glass dates to the late 19th or early 20th century.

5.6 Animal Bone by Chris Butler

5.6.1 A total of 27 fragments of animal bone was recovered during the evaluation excavation (Table 1), and were identified by Pat Stevens.

5.6.2 The largest group came from the secondary fill of Cut **11** (Context **12**), and of those that could be identified, the majority were sheep. The sheep bones included tibia, vertebra, rib and the upper right jaw and teeth of an adult. There were also two fragments of cow rib, and two bird humerus fragments, possibly pigeon. There was little evidence of butchery amongst this group of bones.

5.6.3 Four fragments of a cow maxilla (left side with P2, P3 & P4 teeth) and a lower (M1) tooth, all from a mature animal, came from Context **2**. Context **15** produced a chopped cow vertebra, and Context **16** produced three fragments of cow skull.

5.7 Other Finds by Chris Butler

5.7.1 Metal fragments were found in Context **12**, and included an iron hook and an iron fitting plate, both of late 19th or early 20th century date. An iron bucket of similar date was found in Context **3**, but was not retained.

5.7.2 A single small fragment of oyster shell was found in Context **3**.

5.7.3 A carbon rod (4g), probably deriving from a radio of earlier 20th century date was found in Context **13**, but may be an intrusive find in this context.

5.8 **Environmental sample** by Chris Butler

5.8.1 A soil sample was taken from Context **13** comprising a single bag of approximately 6 litres size. The sample was processed using bucket floatation, with the residue being washed through a 1mm mesh sieve. Once the residues were dry they were sorted by eye to extract material of archaeological and environmental interest.

5.8.2 The flotation and the residue contained reasonably large quantities of modern roots, and small charcoal pieces. Apart from some small fragments of CBM, there was no other archaeological or environmental material in the residue. The residue has been retained in the site archive at present.

6.0 Discussion

6.1 During the evaluation excavations artefactual evidence for both Medieval and early Post Medieval activity was recovered. The earliest artefact recovered was a rim sherd from a bowl dating to late 13th to 14th from the primary fill of Context **13** in Trench A**,** but may be residual in this context. A second sherd of Medieval pottery was in the single fill of Context **22**, most likely dating to the 14th to 15th century.

6.2 The excavations also produced four pottery sherds dating to the period between the mid 15th to mid 16th century. Three pottery sherds dating to this period were recovered from Context **3**, including two unabraded sherds from a pitcher, and one piece from Context **13**; both these contexts were in Trench A.

6.3 The Archbishops Palace at Mayfield was built *c.*1350, and appears to have stimulated the local economy, as by 1388/9 a fire damaged 85 shop places, and by 1498 a rental survey records the number of shop-places making up the individual holdings within the core of the settlement. At that time the site fell within property 31 which had a small house on the High Street, and was owned by John Moter. The presence of pottery from this period suggests that this area may have formed either a garden or a place where rubbish could be discarded.

6.4 By 1558 the settlement was shrinking, with properties being abandoned at the eastern end of town, away from the market area. The presence of sherds of mid 15th to mid 16th century date, hint at increase activity, possibly reflecting an increase of wealth of the area as evidenced by the numerous 16th and 17th century houses in Mayfield. The settlement reconstruction for 1558 shows the property boundaries to be largely unchanged, with the site still falling within property 31, which was owned by Kath Kidder (widow).

6.5 The settlement reconstruction for 1681 shows the site to be mostly within the grounds of Pound House, and a small amount of late 17th and early 18th century pottery and tile are from this period. The drain constructed of sandstone blocks, discovered in the north east corner of Trench B (Context **19**), although undated, may date from this time.

6.6 In 1831 Donald Barclay built a mansion called 'Sunnybank' within the grounds of Pound House, and it is from the later 19th century until the early 20th century that most of the features and artefacts found during the excavation derive. The red brick drain (Context **10**) discovered in Trench A, would appear to be of 19th century date, and possibly ran downslope from the west end of the mansion.

6.7 The landscaped appearance of the site (Fig. 5) and its location within the grounds of Pound House and Sunnybank Mansion, suggests that throughout the 19th and early 20th century it was part of a landscaped garden, and the numerous tree-bowls and extant tree rooting (e.g. Contexts **6**, **20** & **22**) found during the evaluation excavation appears to confirm this.

6.8 Of particular interest was the pit or possible ditch terminus (Cut **11**) which produced both Medieval pottery and 15th to 17th century tile. Although the upper fill was dated to the later 19th century, this could be the result of later infilling of an earlier extant feature such as a boundary ditch

6.9 The excavations suggest that below the later Post Medieval disturbance associated with the construction of the landscaped garden earlier features survive, although potentially much truncated and disturbed. It is therefore likely that the proposed development will damage and destroy any archaeological remains surviving at the site.

7.0 Acknowledgements

7.1 I would like to thank Mr Mike Steadman for commissioning this archaeological evaluation excavation. I would also like to thank Clive Meaton for his assistance with the fieldwork throughout the excavation. I would also like to thank Luke Barber for reporting on the pottery, clay pipe and ceramic building material, and Chris Butler who reported on the other artefacts.

7.2 The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler. The project was monitored for ESCC by Greg Chuter.

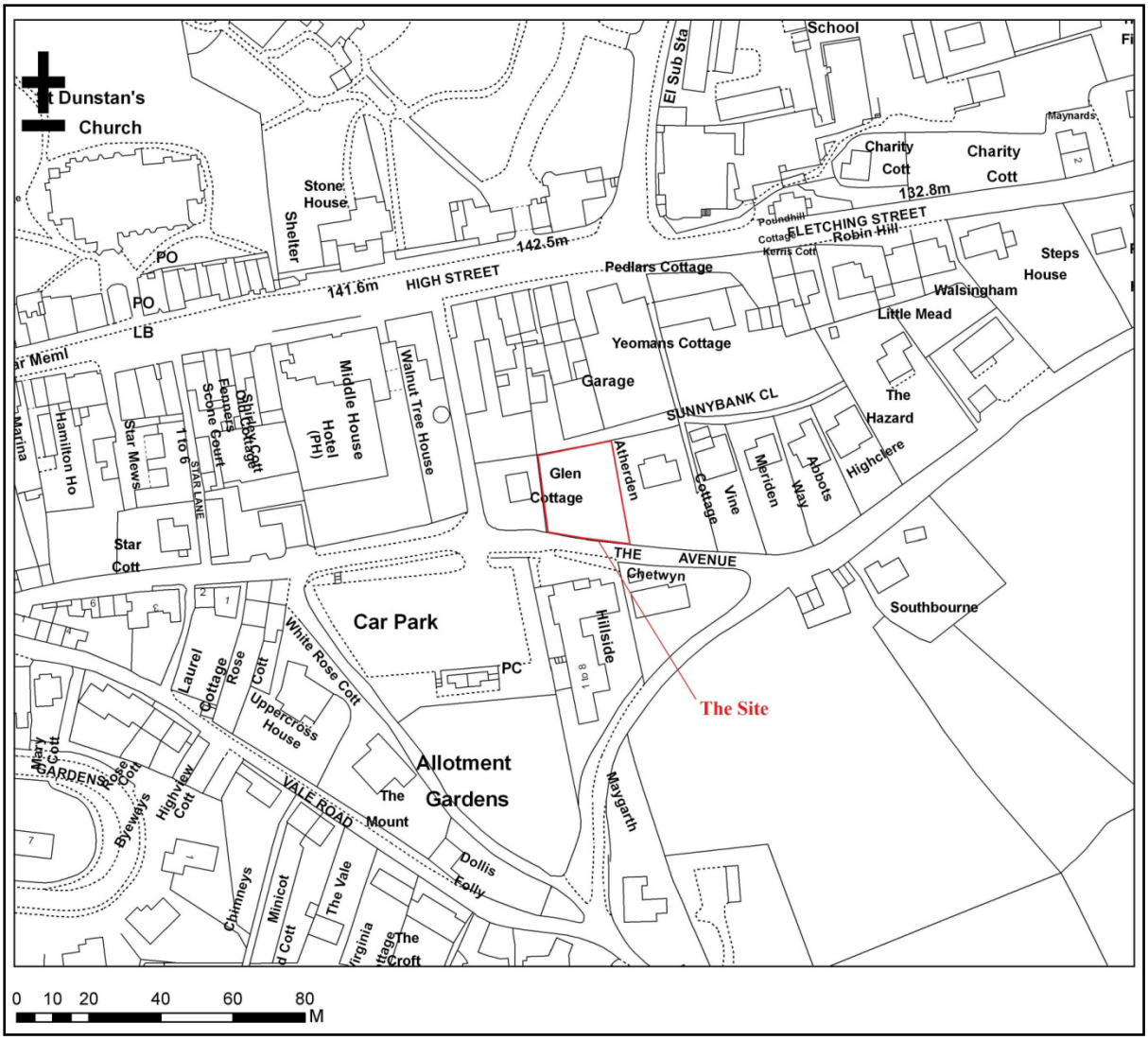
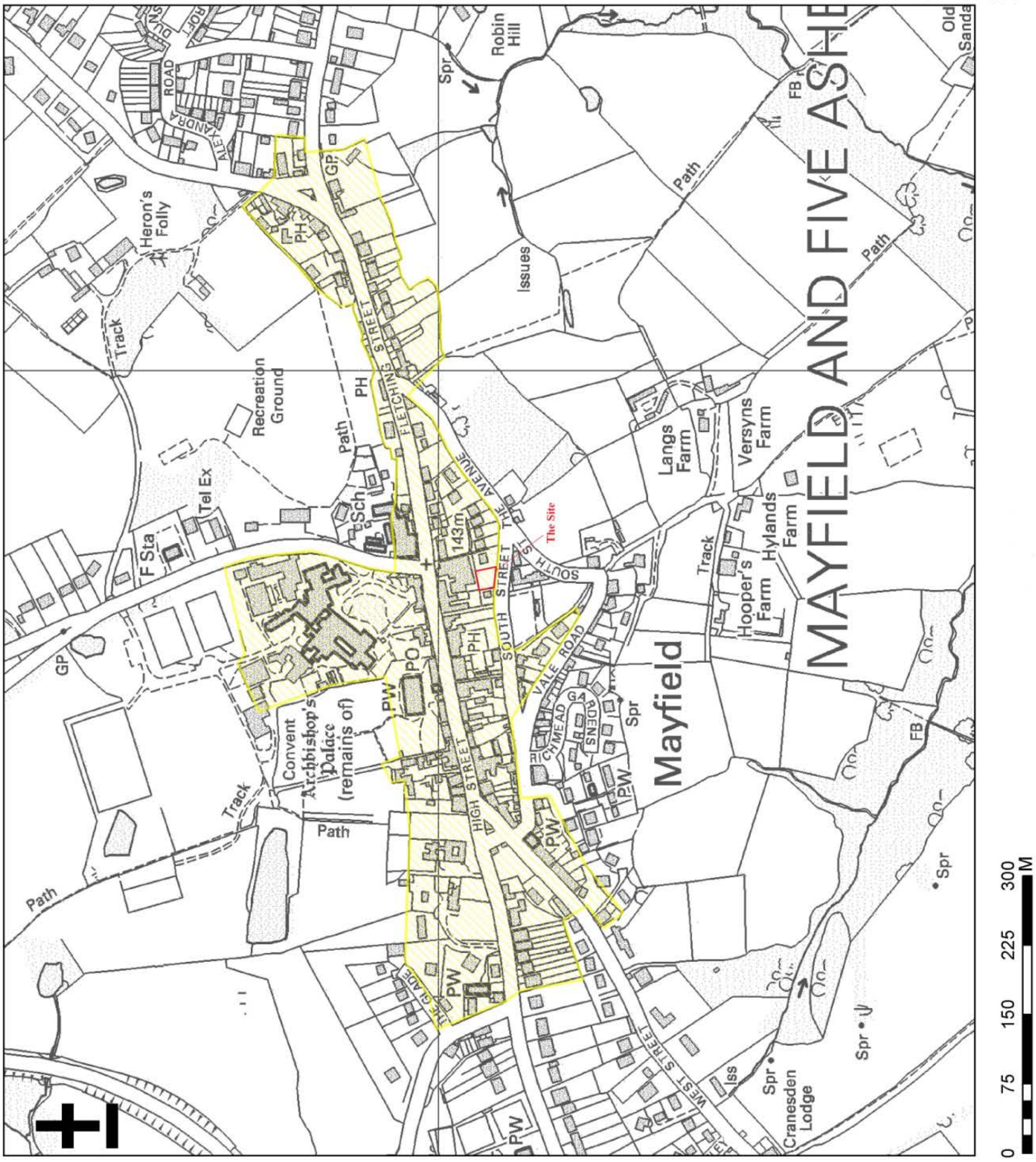


Fig. 1: Land adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Location of Site
(Adapted from map provided by ESCC)

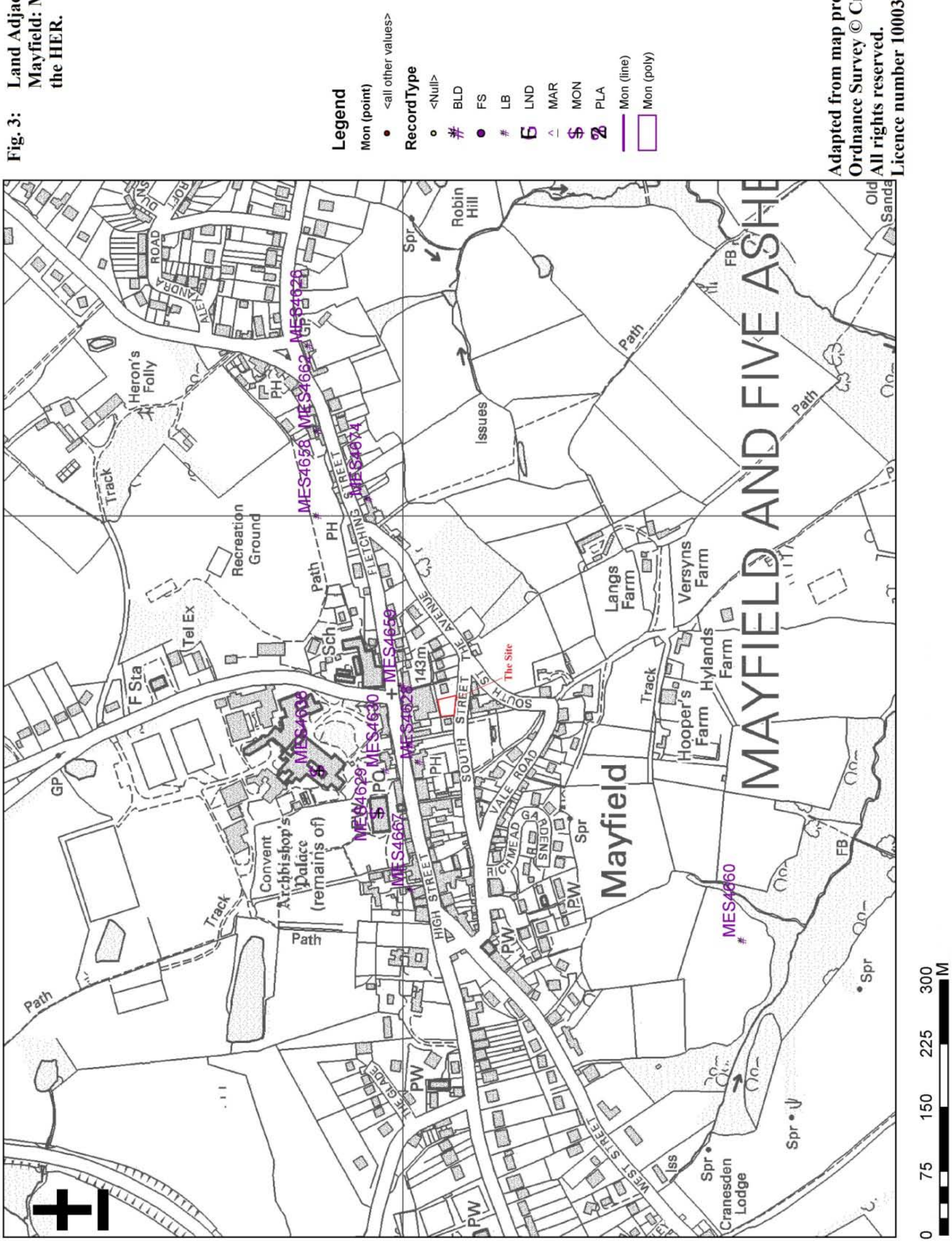
Fig. 2: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Archaeologically Sensitive Area

Legend
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments (RO)
- Registered Parks and Gardens (RO)
- Registered Battlefields (RO)
- Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (RO)



Adapted from map provided by ESCC

Fig. 3: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Monuments from the HER.



Adapted from map provided by ESCC Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright

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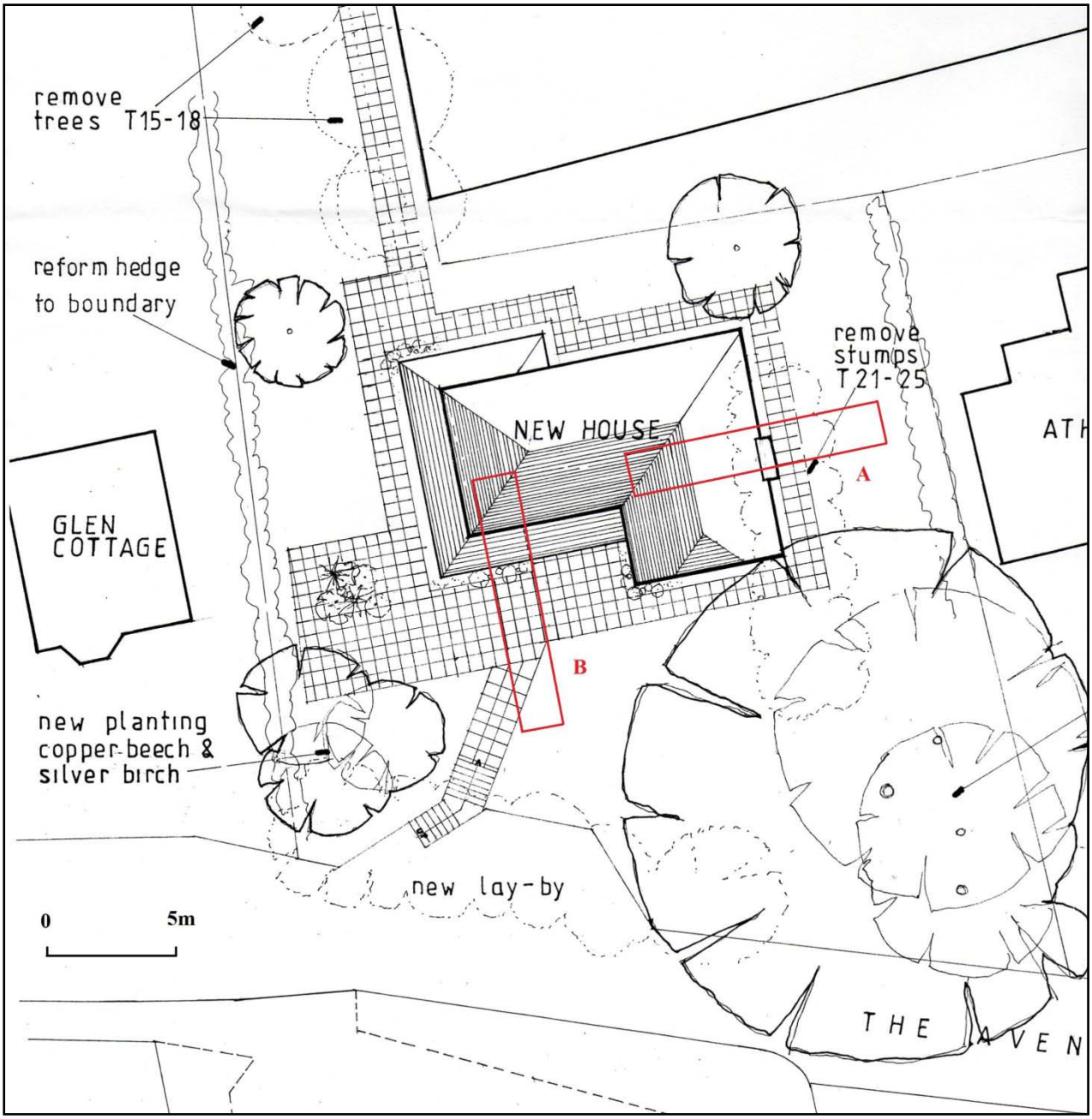

Fig. 4: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Development plan showing location of proposed evaluation trenches (Adapted from architects plan)

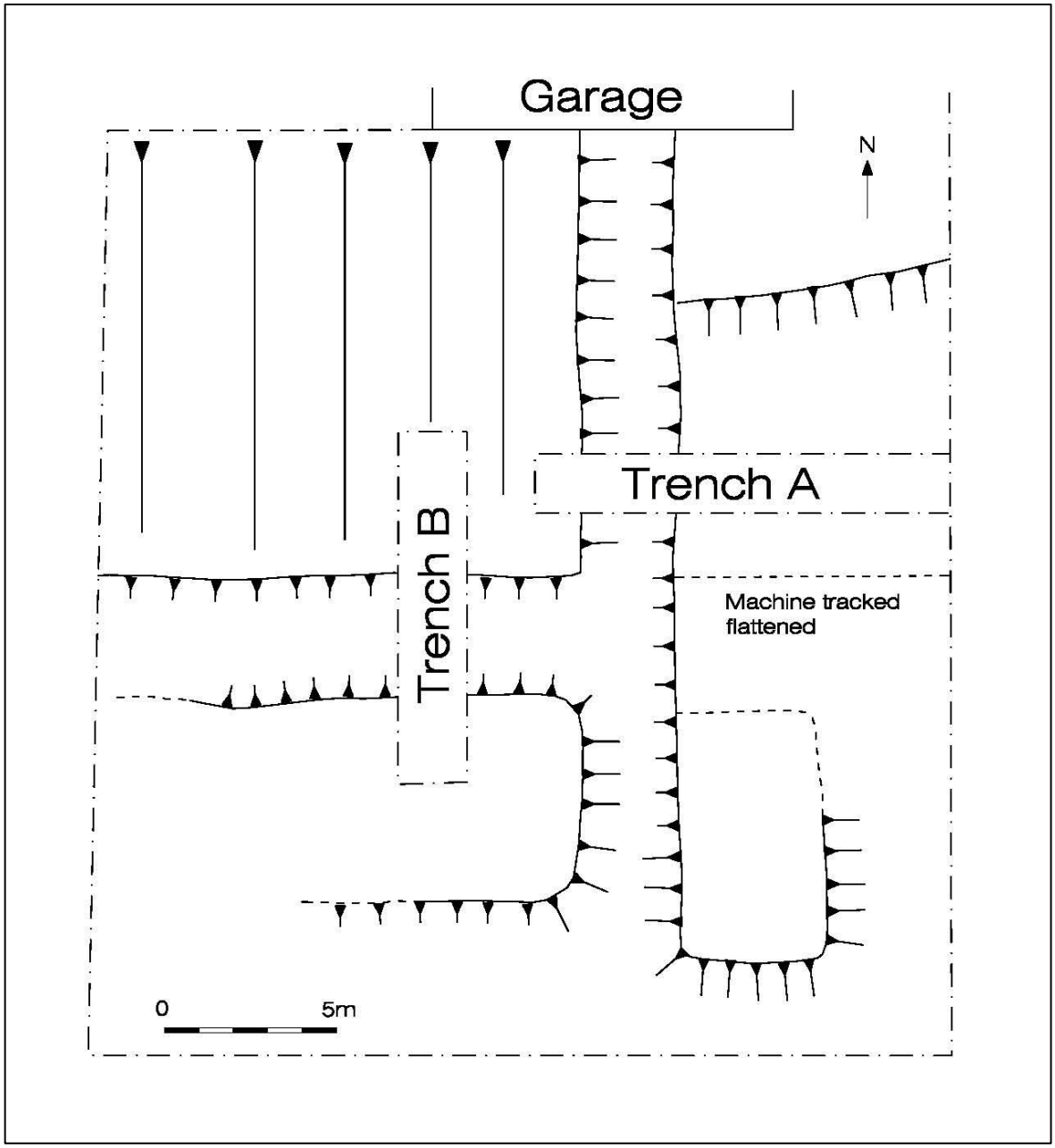

Fig. 5: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Site plan,
Showing landscaped nature of the site and the actual location of the two evaluation trenches

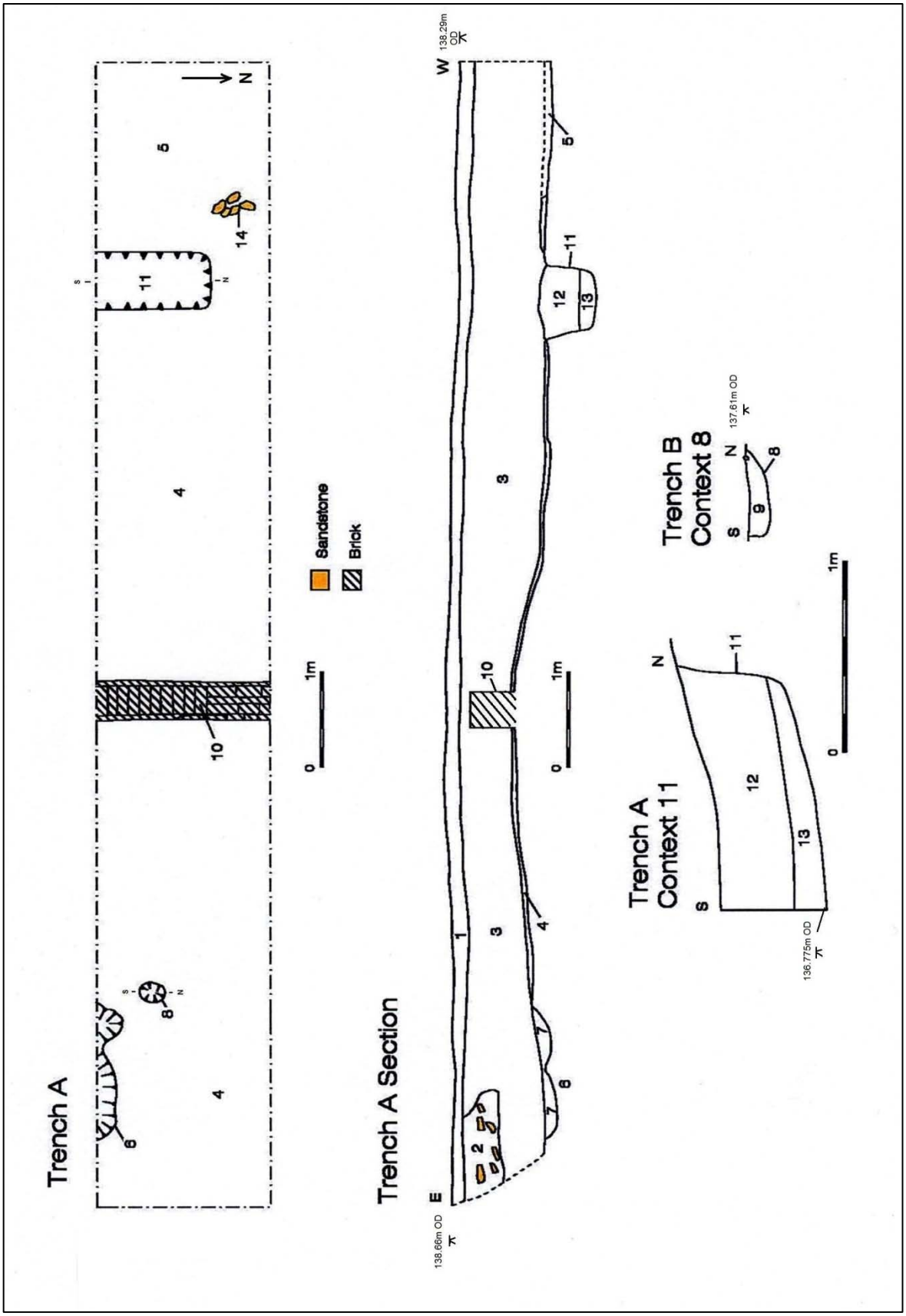

Fig. 6: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Trench A Plan and sections

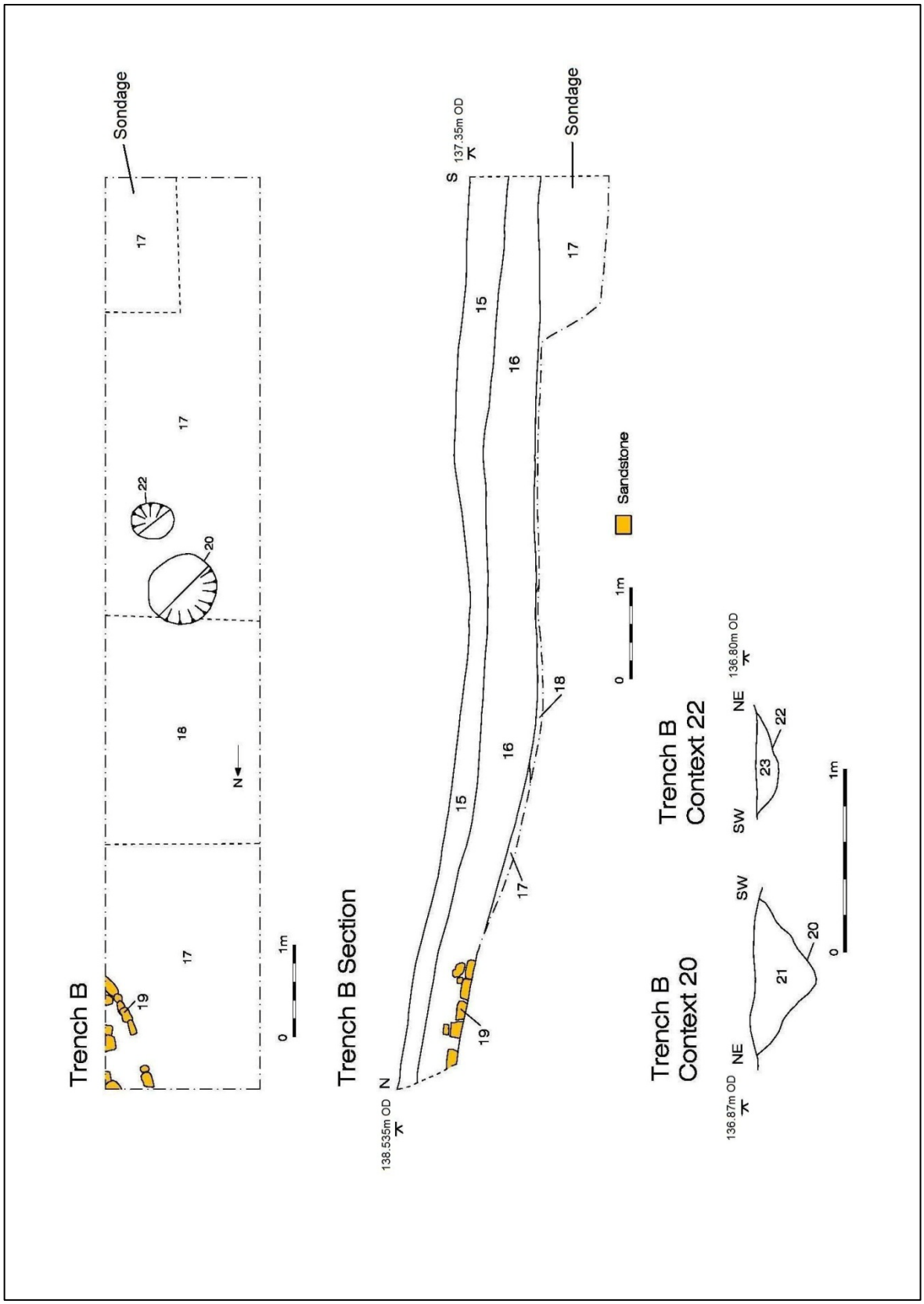

Fig. 7: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Trench B Plan and sections

Fig. 8: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Brick Drain (Context 10)

Fig. 9: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Sandstone culvert (Context 19)

Fig. 10: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Cut 11; Section

Fig. 11: Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield: Cut 20: Section

Appendix 1

Table of Contexts

Context No	Type	Trench	Comments
1	Deposit	A	Topsoil
2	Deposit	A	Re-deposited natural below 1
3	Deposit	A	Made ground
4	Deposit	A	Natural
5	Deposit	A	Natural
6	Cut	A	Filled by 7
7	Fill	A	Fill of 6
8	Cut	A	Filled by 9 – possible posthole
9	Fill	A	Fill of 8
10	Structure	A	Brick drain
11	Cut	A	Pit/ditch terminal filled by 12/13
12	Fill	A	Secondary fill of 11
13	Fill	A	Primary fill of 11
14	Structure	A	Sandstone blocks
15	Deposit	B	Topsoil
16	Deposit	B	Made ground
17	Deposit	B	Natural
18	Deposit	B	Natural
19	Structure	B	Sandstone culvert
20	Cut	B	Pit? Filled by 21
21	Fill	B	Fill of 20
22	Cut	B	Filled by 23
23	Fill	B	Fill of 22

HER Summary Form

Site Code	ATM 09					
Identification Name and Address	Land Adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 5878 2693					
Geology	Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, with Wadhurst Clay to the south and north.					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. **X**	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban **X**	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 16th-18th Nov 09	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr Mike Stedman					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIFA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PIFA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED **X**	PM **X**	Other		

100 Word Summary.

Two evaluation trenches were excavated at Land adjacent to Atherden, Mayfield, East Sussex, between the 16th and 18th November 2009 prior to the development of the site. The excavations produced artefactual evidence for both Medieval and Post Medieval activity in the form of pottery and ceramic building material.

Features discovered in the excavations were a 19th century brick-built drain and a drain of sandstone construction. In addition, a pit or terminus of a ditch was partly revealed, and produced a primary fill containing 15th to 17th century material, although it appeared to have been filled in during the 19th century. The site had then been landscaped to form part of the gardens of Pound House, and later Sunnybank Mansion.

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. He continues to run the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in his spare time.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Field Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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