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Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An
Archaeological Evaluation at
The Roundel, Spring Steps,
Winchelsea, East Sussex**

(RR/2011/2283/P)

CBAS0271

by
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at The Roundel, Spring Steps, Winchelsea, East Sussex as a condition of planning approval for the construction of a single storey extension and separate summerhouse.

The test pit on the footprint of the proposed extension showed that the natural slope of the terrain had been levelled up with a layer of made ground. A possible revetment wall had been cut into this made ground. The wall retained two layers of made ground, which helped to create a raised terrace upon which an early 19th century building was built on. This building was replaced in the 1950's by The Roundel, for which a side patio was built that extended beyond the eastern extent of the earlier terrace. The second test pit at the edge of the garden, and within the footprint of the proposed summerhouse, uncovered topsoil and subsoil above the remains of a possible low garden wall, or dump of stone, which was situated above two deposits which may date to the 15th-16th centuries, possibly representing accumulated rubbish against the rear of town wall.

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Contents

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Historical & Archaeological Background	5
3.0	Archaeological Methodology	7
4.0	Results	8
5.0	Finds	11
6.0	Discussion	15
7.0	Acknowledgements	17

Figures

Fig. 1	Archaeological Notification Areas
Fig. 2	Sites on the HER
Fig. 3	Map of Winchelsea 1768
Fig. 4	1 st Edition OS Map (1874)
Fig. 5	4 th Edition OS Map (1929)
Fig. 6	Site Plan Showing the Location of the Proposed Developments and of the Test Pits
Fig. 7	Plan of Test Pit 1
Fig. 8	Test Pit 1 Sections
Fig. 9	Test Pit 2 Plan and Sections

Plates

Cover Plate	Site: looking northwest
Plate 1	Test Pit 1, looking east-southeast
Plate 2	Test Pit 2, looking west
Plate 3	Test Pit 2, looking north
Appendix 1	HER Summary Form

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned by Mrs L. White (The Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation in connection with a planning application (RR/2011/2283/P) associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the house, and of a separate summerhouse, at The Roundel, Spring Steps, Winchelsea, East Sussex (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority requested that an appropriate programme of archaeological work be undertaken as a condition of approval.
- 1.3 The site lies within the historic medieval and Post-Medieval town of Winchelsea and is located within a designated Archaeological Notification Area and a Conservation Area (Fig. 1). The house (The Roundel) was built in the late 1950's and stands on top of the extreme northeast edge of the Hill of Iham, where the slopes are steep and tree covered. A footpath bounds the west side of the site whilst the gardens of two residential properties bound its south side.
- 1.4 The site has a high archaeological potential, particularly in relation to the town defences and medieval / Post-Medieval occupation and activity. The original medieval town walls were of robust construction, principally due to their intended purpose, and although the 1950's building work may have caused some damage, it is highly likely that significant remains survive under The Roundel.
- 1.5 Winchelsea is located on a hilltop some 1.5 km inland, with the River Brede on its north side. The ground falls rapidly on all sides into the Pett Levels to its south and Rye Bay to the east. On the west side, a ridge takes the A259 through Icklesham and on to Hastings.
- 1.6 The geology, according to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 320 / 321), is Wadhurst Clay overlying Ashdown Beds Sandstone, mainly Cliff End Sandstone. The upper seams contain horizons of Tilgate Stone, a calcareous sandstone frequently used in the past as a building stone in Winchelsea.
- 1.7 The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprised an archaeological evaluation excavation that involved the excavation of two test pits. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)¹ for the evaluation excavation was prepared and agreed with the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council (ESCC).

¹ Bradshaw, A. 2012. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at The Roundel, Spring Steps, Winchelsea, East Sussex*. CBAS.

1.8 The evaluation excavation was required to:

1. Establish the presence / absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development areas.
2. Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
3. Establish the ecofactual / environmental potential of any archaeological features.
4. Assess the possible effect of the development on any surviving archaeology.

1.9 The evaluation excavation was carried out on the 9th February 2012 by Caroline Russell (Field Officer) and Andy Bradshaw (Archaeological Assistant).

2.0 Archaeological & Historical background

- 2.1 The new town of Winchelsea was laid out in 39 ‘quarters’ between 1283 and 1292, by the order of King Edward I. Initially the new town seemed to prosper, but in the 14th and 15th centuries it suffered some seven major attacks by the French, who pillaged the town on almost every occasion.
- 2.2 The changing coastline hastened the decline of the town as a port, as a shingle bar spread across the river outlet. By the end of the 15th century, the town had declined and the last merchant had left, and for the next 300 years Winchelsea was in decay. In the last half of the 18th century textile manufactory was undertaken with cambric and crepe being produced.
- 2.3 The site is located at the northeast corner of the 15th century town defences; the name ‘Roundel’ was probably transferred to this area of the town from the tower of the Stone Mill after its demolition. A defensive wall extended across the north side of the town, from the Pipewell Gate, around the northeast corner of the site and then down the east side of the town.
- 2.4 New defences were proposed in 1415 and short stubs of wall, 810mm thick, extend eastwards from Pipewell Gate and northwards from Strand Gate. A scar at Strand Gate, to the south of the site, suggests a height of approximately 2m, most of the currently exposed wall being of roughly hewn Tilgate Stone². The course of the town wall (MES4096) is projected to run through the site (Fig. 2).
- 2.5 The site is to the immediate east side of Quarter 1. Modern development has modified the ground level along the northern side of this quarter, which contained an above average number of small plots. Plots were often merged to increase their size and Five Chimneys, the house which occupies the southwest corner of Quarter 1, was constructed upon what had been two tenements in 1292³.
- 2.6 The site is not shown on Thorn’s 1767 map of Winchelsea⁴, as the northeast corner of the town is omitted from the map. The 1768 map of Winchelsea (Fig. 3)⁵ shows the area of the site to have been open ground, with some houses and gardens having occupied the land to the northeast of the site, at the base of the hill. A number of 17th and 18th century buildings currently stand within Quarter 1 and other nearby quarters.

² Martin, D. & Martin, B 2004. *New Winchelsea Sussex*, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ ESRO AMS 5778/1/2

⁵ ESRO AMS 5806/3

- 2.7** The 1st Edition OS map of 1874 (Fig. 4) shows no buildings or features on the site, other than trees on its east edge. The 3rd Edition OS of 1909 (not reproduced) shows the same situation, although the trees have disappeared. Some buildings are now evident to the south of the site, at the corner of Cook Street. The 4th Edition OS map of 1929 (Fig. 5) shows a building to have been built in the north corner of the site, on broadly the same footprint as the current property. A number of boundaries have been constructed to divide the site into plots.
- 2.8** Numerous sites within Winchelsea have either been excavated or had watching briefs undertaken on them. Almost all the finds recovered date from the period immediately following the foundation of the town, on through to the present day. However, little work has been undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the site. The nearest sites to The Roundel are: a watching brief at Salutation Cottage (MES19019), which found possible 13th-14th century wall footings, and a watching brief at Boundary House (MES19758), which uncovered the remains of 14th and 16th century buildings.

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1** Two test pits were excavated (Fig. 6): Test Pit 1 was opened on the patio, within the footprint of the proposed extension to the house, whilst Test Pit 2 was opened close to the boundary of the garden, within the footprint of the proposed summerhouse. The concrete-set paving slabs of the patio had to be lifted prior to the excavation of Test Pit 1. Until quite recently, a wooden garden shed appeared to have stood over the location of Test Pit 2. It had not been built on hard standing as the ground surface of Test Pit 2 was topsoil.
- 3.2** Each test pit was intended to be 1m x 1m, as proposed in the WSI⁶. However, the size of Test Pit 1 was restricted to 0.80m x 0.75m, partly because a modern brick wall was encountered to the east-southeast side of the test pit and partly because some of the surrounding paving slabs could not be removed. Test Pit 2, on the other hand, was lengthened to 1.30m to expose the full width of a possible garden wall.
- 3.3** Prior to hand excavation, the surface of each test pit was CAT scanned. No services were located. The spoil heap of each test pit was visually inspected for finds throughout the excavation.
- 3.4** A survey plan of the site, undertaken for the Client, records levels across the site. Levels for the evaluation excavation were taken using the top of the steps to the patio (49.31m OD) and the porch (50.01m OD) as Temporary Bench Marks for Test Pits 1 and 2 respectively.
- 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 with the use of a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.6** A digital photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by CBAS, and will be deposited in Winchelsea Museum in due course. A site reference of TRW12 has been allocated.

⁶ Bradshaw, A. 2012. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at The Roundel, Spring Steps, Winchelsea, East Sussex*, CBAS.

4.0 Results (Figures 7, 8 and 9)

Test Pit 1

- 4.1 Test Pit 1 (Plate 1) revealed several layers of made ground overlying the natural clay. The natural deposit and the earliest layer of made ground were cut by the footing for a red brick wall.
- 4.2 The stone paving slabs of the patio were laid in concrete up to 140mm thick (the paving slabs and concrete both comprise Context **1/001**). Below the concrete lay a layer of red brick rubble set within a friable dark greyish brown sandy silty clay matrix (Context **1/002**). This deposit contained frequent grit-sized stones (under 10mm³). It was 170mm thick maximum.
- 4.3 A thin layer of mortar (Context **1/010**), *c.*10mm thick, was recorded beneath the brick rubble, to the northwest corner of the test pit. Only about a 100mm length of the layer was exposed as it extended into the east-southeast facing section. Underlying the mortar, but mostly the brick rubble, was a second layer of made ground (Context **1/003**) which was similar in depth to Context **1/002**. This had the same consistence, colour and composition as the matrix of Context **1/002** but comprised extremely frequent grit-sized flints, as well as the occasional charcoal fleck and small fragment of Ceramic Building Material (CBM). The deposit had, at times, a dark grey ash-like appearance during excavation.
- 4.4 Beneath Context **1/003** were two further layers of made ground (Contexts **1/004** and **1/005**). Both were more substantial in depth, being up to 0.35m and 0.30m deep respectively. Context **1/004** was a friable mid brown clay that contained occasional patches of mid yellow-brown clay (up to *c.*50mm²), charcoal flecks and grit-sized stones. Context **1/005** differed in being a mid yellow-brown sandy clay. As with all layers of made ground except the brick rubble of Context **1/002**, Context **1/005** contained shell although this was not retained as it was generally too fragmented. Context **1/005** may have partly constituted redeposited natural.
- 4.5 The underlying natural deposit (Context **1/006**) was encountered at 570mm (49.11m OD) below the patio surface. It was a friable pale orange-brown clay (Wadhurst Clay) that had been mottled a mid greyish-brown in places due to root action. It contained the occasional sandstone inclusion (up to 75mm x 50mm x 25mm). The natural clay sloped sharply downhill to the northeast, to a depth of 990mm (48.61m OD) below the patio, and it is clear that the made ground of Context **1/005** had been laid to build up this decline.

- 4.6** The natural deposit (Context **1/006**) and the layer of made ground above it (Context **1/005**) were cut by the footing (Context **1/007**) for a red brick wall (Context **1/008**), which survived to a height of ten courses (or 800mm). The wall formed the east-southeast side of the test pit and was one brick width thick. It ran parallel to the house, 1.6m out from the building, and was seen to turn a 45° angle away from it at the northeast corner of the test pit. The bricks were solid, not having been frogged. The backfill (Context **1/009**) of the wall footing was a friable dark brown clay that contained frequent charcoal flecks and occasional grit-sized stones, CBM flecks and shell fragments. It was removed, along with Context **1/005**, when the gradient of the natural clay was followed downslope during excavation.

Test Pit 2

- 4.7** Test Pit **2** (Plates 2 and 3) revealed a topsoil, subsoil and one or two underlying layers of made ground, as well as the remnants of a possible garden wall. The natural clay was not reached.
- 4.8** The topsoil (Context **2/001**) was a friable dark brown silty clay with no visible inclusions. It varied in depth sloping down from 150mm at the south end of the test pit to 30mm at its north end, where the topsoil may have been slightly reduced for the erection of the garden shed.
- 4.9** The topsoil overlay a subsoil (Context **2/002**), which was a friable mid brown silt that contained frequent roughly cut Tilgate Stone from the collapse of the possible garden wall and sparse sandstone inclusions and shell. The subsoil was only fully removed to the south of the possible garden wall. Here it was between 370mm and 530mm thick, and lay above Context **2/003**. Most of the pottery dated to the period c.1400-1550, although there was possibly intrusive 19th century material found as well.
- 4.10** A possible garden wall (Context **2/005**) was exposed at about 180mm (48.92m OD) below the ground surface. It was built on top of Context **2/003** and ran west to east across the test pit. It measured 350mm wide and had a depth of just 300mm, so having perhaps been a low wall whose height was reduced through collapse. It was constructed of roughly cut Tilgate Stone, which varied in size up to 500mm x 300mm x 100mm. The wall had no coursing or bonding material.
- 4.11** Context **2/003** was a friable dark reddish-brown sandy silty clay between 160mm and 230mm deep. It had a burnt appearance, containing frequent charcoal flecks and small burnt clay inclusions, as well as frequent shell fragments. There was no evidence of burning in situ, however. The deposit may have been a dump of burnt material, which was perhaps used as made ground. Most of the pottery dated to the period c.1450-1575, but the context also included possible intrusive 19th material.

- 4.12** Below Context **2/003** lay made ground of Context **2/004**. This was a friable mid orange-brown clay that contained shell and sparse stone. It was exposed at 49.28m OD and was only excavated into by 30mm. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this context.
- 4.13** Test Pit 2 was excavated to a depth of between 660mm and 890mm, below the ground surface. At this point excavation ceased due to the restricted space available for further excavation.
- 4.14** No other archaeological features or deposits were noted during the evaluation excavation.

5.0 The Finds

5.0.1 The archaeological work recovered a moderately small assemblage of finds from the site, which are summarised in Table 1.

5.0.2 The current assemblage does not hold any potential for further analysis as it stands. However, if further work at the site produces more pottery, particularly imported wares, the current assemblage should be studied in conjunction with the new material.

Table 1: Quantification of finds assemblage

Context	Pottery (by chronological period)	Ceramic Building Material	Animal Bone & Marine Shell	Other	Comment
1/002	1750-1900: 2/100g	Peg/nib tile 5/598g	-	Stone 1/72g	C19th – early 20 th
1/003	1750-1900: 12/158g	Peg tile 3/92g	Shell 2/83g	Stone 1/18g Metal 2/23g Glass 1/6g	C19th
1/004	-	Brick 1/124g	Bone 4/54g Shell 15/626g	Stone 2/40g	C14th – 16 th (residual)
2/001	1225-1350: 1/12g 1350-1550: 3/18g 1550-1750: 1/2g 1750-1900: 10/38g	Peg tile 3/122g	Bone 3/13g Shell 2/1g	Clay pipe 3/4g Stone 2/24g Metal 2/32g Glass 2/26g	e/m C19th (residual c14th – 17 th)
2/002	1225-1350: 2/12g 1350-1550: 7/128g 1750-1900: 2/10g	Peg tile 4/354g	Bone 13/145g Shell 12/159g	Stone 1/28g Metal 6/49g Glass 2/21g	Most c. 1400-1550 (intrusive C19th)
2/003	1225-1350: 2/22g 1350-1550: 8/52g 1750-1900: 2/3g	Peg tile 1/54g	Bone 8/216g Shell 8/63g	Stone 8/286g Metal 3/106g	Most c. 1450-1575 (intrusive C19th)
2/004	-	-	-	Stone 2/68g	-
2/005	-	-	Bone 1/31g Shell 1/9g	Stone 1/84g Metal 1/10g	-

(Number/weight in grams)

5.1 *The Pottery* by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The archaeological evaluation recovered a small but significant assemblage of pottery with a wide chronological range. The assemblage is composed of small to medium sized sherds (to 40mm across) most of which show some signs of abrasion. As such it would appear that the pottery has been subjected to a certain degree of reworking. Contexts **2/002** and **2/003** appear to have seen a little reworking at an early date but do not appear badly affected by late post-medieval activity.

- 5.1.2** The earliest material consists of five residual sherds of probable 14th century date. Context **2/002** produced a well-fired oxidised late Rye bodysherd with horizontal incised line decoration and a well fired fine sandy Brede-type sandy greyware. Context **2/003** produced a fragment of late hard-fired Rye jug with internal white slip on its neck and patches of clear externally and a further Brede-type sandy greyware. A similar sherd, but with rare shell, was recovered from **2/001**. All of these vessels are late and it is not impossible they were still in contemporaneous use with some of the later Transitional wares.
- 5.1.3** A significant assemblage of Transitional pottery was recovered from the site suggesting the most intense refuse disposal was taking place between the early/mid 15th and mid 16th centuries. Context **2/001** produced a reduced fine sandy ware bodysherd and two fragments of imported Raeren stoneware. A larger group was recovered from **2/002** which included local hard-fired earthenwares and a high proportion of imports spanning the 15th to mid 16th centuries. The earliest of these consist of two fragments of Langewehe stoneware (56g), including the frilled base from a jug. There is also a costrel handle from a Merida-type (Iberian) costrel and a couple of probable later 15th to mid 16th century Dutch redware sherds. Context **2/003** produced a similar mix of Transitional wares, being dominated by local hard-fired fine sandy earthenwares (reduced/oxidised: 5/32g) and glazed wares (1/2g) but containing sherds of Raeren stoneware (1/3g) and Beauvais double sgraffito (a bowl: 1/8g).
- 5.1.4** The only early post-medieval pottery recovered was from **2/001** but the one small sherd of glazed red earthenware is not particularly diagnostic and could easily be pushed back into the first half of the 16th century. The absence of Frechen stonewares and local glazed earthenwares would suggest no or little refuse disposal was occurring between 1525/50 and 1750.
- 5.1.5** A small late post-medieval assemblage is present. Context **2/003** produced tiny ?intrusive chips of early transfer-printed pearlware and industrially-slipped yellow ware (both probably c. 1800-1830). The tiny sherds of 19th- century unglazed earthenware flower pot and English porcelain from **2/002** may equally be intrusive. Context **2/001** produced a better group of wares spanning the late 18th to 19th centuries though all sherds are notably fragmented. The earliest pieces include creamware and pearlware, suggesting activity between 1760/70 and 1830 but blue transfer-printed wares of the later 19th-century are also represented. Trench 1 only produced late post-medieval pottery. Context **1/002** contained two 19th- century unglazed earthenware flower pot bases but a more typical domestic range of wares was recovered from **1/003**. These included unglazed earthenware (flower pots), English stoneware (a cream jug and preserve jar), a highly decorative English porcelain tea cup and a plain refined white earthenware bowl. This latter sherd, together with the ribbed stoneware preserve jar suggest activity into the late 19th or early 20th century.

5.2 *Clay Tobacco Pipe* by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Three slightly abraded stem fragments of mid 18th to 19th century date were recovered from **2/001**.

5.3 *The Ceramic Building Material* by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The site produced a small assemblage of ceramic building materials. Only one fragment of brick was recovered. This consists of the end from a 45mm high crude dull yellow medium-fired Flemish-type brick of 14th to mid 16th century date (Context **1/004**). This was the only datable find from this deposit.

5.3.2 Roofing tile was much more common. The earliest pieces are quite crudely made, tempered with sparse fine sand and sparse/common calcareous inclusions to 1mm and hard-fired. These types, of probable 15th to 16th century date, were recovered from Context **2/001** (2/94g), **2/002** (2/138g) and **2/003** (1/54g). Context **2/002** also produced two fragments of much thicker (15mm) well made tile with a moderate fine sand granular fabric. The date of this piece is uncertain, but is probably of early post-medieval origin. A tile of generally the same period, though of more normal thickness, was recovered from Context **1/003**. The remaining tile is all of well formed and fired 19th century types tempered with sparse fine sand and rare iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. These include plain peg tiles (Context **1/003**: 2/64g) and peg/nib combination tiles (all of those from Context **1/002**). These have neat 9mm diameter peg holes adjacent to neat 24 x 14mm nibs.

5.4 *Animal Bone* by Chris Butler

5.4.1 The small assemblage of animal bone came from five contexts, and comprised predominantly sheep/goat, with some cattle and a single possible pig bone. Some of the bone was eroded, and had been gnawed, but little had any butchery marks. Two fragments of sheep bone from Context **2/002** had been burnt.

5.4.2 Sheep/goat bone included a fragment of skull with part of a horn from Context **1/004**. A fragment of a sheep jaw came from Context **2/002**, but most of the remaining sheep/goat bones were either fragments of ribs or leg bones. A single possible fragment of pig leg bone came from Context **2/002**.

5.4.3 The cattle bone included a tibia fragment and vertebra fragment from Context **2/003**, vertebra fragments from Context **2/002** and a rib fragment from Context **1/004**. The tibia fragment may have been prepared for boiling the marrow, although it had been chapped and snapped rather than sawn.

5.5 *Marine Molluscs* by Chris Butler

- 5.5.1 Marine molluscs were recovered from most contexts during the evaluation. Most pieces were eroded and weathered. Oyster shells were the most common, but Common Whelk shells/fragments were found in Contexts **1/004**, **2/002** and **2/003**, and Cockle shells/fragments were found in Contexts **2/001**, **2/002** and **2/003**.
- 5.5.2 The oyster shells comprised both upper and lower halves, with some being very large. However many of the oyster shells from Context **1/004** were noted as being small, perhaps suggesting less care was being taken in their harvesting at this time. Infestations were noted on one or two of the larger examples from this context, but was largely absent elsewhere in the assemblage. This suggests a later Post Medieval date for this deposit.

5.6 *Geological Material* by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 The majority of the stone from the site consists of pieces of medieval West Country roofing slate (Contexts **1/002**, **1/004**, **2/003** (3/142g) and **2/005**). The next most common stone is the local Tilgate stone, the main medieval building stone of Winchelsea. Pieces were recovered from Contexts **2/001**, **2/002**, **2/003** (3/130g) and **2/004**). The only other stone consists of local ferruginous Wealden sandstone and coal shale. The latter piece (from Context **1/003**) will have been imported with domestic coal in the 19th century.

5.7 *Metal* by Chris Butler

- 5.7.1 All of the metal recovered was iron, apart from a large alloy ring with a suspension loop found in Context **1/003**. This was machine made and dated to the late 19th or 20th century. Most of the remaining pieces were iron nails, many of which were probably roofing nails.
- 5.7.2 An iron hook was recovered from Context **2/002**, the size and shape of which would suggest its purpose was for hanging items and not a fishing hook. A fragment from an iron knife or cleaver was found in Context **2/003**. Neither item can be dated.

5.8 *Glass* by Chris Butler

- 5.8.1 A small assemblage of glass was found during the evaluation. Most of the glass can be dated to the late 19th or early 20th century, and comprised small fragments of dark green mineral water bottles from Contexts **1/003** and **2/002**, a blue poison bottle from Context **2/001**, and a clear bottle neck and applied rim from the same context. The base of a brown coloured decorated bowl, possibly from a drinking glass, found in Context **2/002** has fluted surface decoration, and may date to the 17th or 18th centuries.

6.0 Discussion

- 6.1 This archaeological evaluation uncovered no evidence of earlier medieval occupation or activity, and no direct evidence for the expected town wall. Excavation of Test Pit 1 established that the side patio to the house was built on a raised terrace. The made ground of this terrace has a depth of at least 380mm above the natural Wadhurst Clay although it deepens sharply, to exceed 800mm, as part of the patio and the adjacent northeast end of the house were constructed over the edge of the hillslope.
- 6.2 The footing for a brick wall cut into the natural clay and the earliest layer of made ground which had been deposited to level up the slope. The wall may have served as a revetment for a terrace on which the earliest known building on the site was at least partly built upon sometime between 1909 and 1929; the exposed wall is likely to be that which is recorded on the 1929 OS map as running broadly north to south through the footprint of the proposed extension. The surface of this early terrace was presumably removed, to leave just part of the mortar bedding, when the larger house of The Roundel was built in the 1950's. The patio of this house required the eastern extension of the terrace. The brick rubble layer, which began just below the brick wall, may have derived from the demolition of the first building.
- 6.3 Test Pit 2, located at the edge of the garden, uncovered the remnants of a possible garden wall beneath topsoil and subsoil. This was of drystone construction and had little surviving height having collapsed or been partly dismantled, and having perhaps been low in the first instance. It is unlike the present garden walls which are a tumble of concrete blocks. The wall was built on a layer of burnt material, which rested above a layer of made ground which was only just exposed. The natural was not reached in this second test pit.
- 6.4 The initial 13th century defences of Winchelsea Town appear to have been a 'bank made of earth' to the 'height of a man'⁷. A stone wall was built after 1415, and is shown on maps of 1572 and 1597. Archaeological evidence suggests that this was between 2m and 2.4m high, and between 0.6m and 1m wide, constructed of Tilgate stone, in places clay-bedded rather than mortared⁸. There would have been no need of a ditch on this north-east side due to the steep slope outside the wall.
- 6.5 The remains of a possible wall (Context 2/005) found in Test Pit 2 do not resemble the expected town wall, being too narrow and without any foundation or structure as has been found elsewhere around the town wall circuit⁹. It is possible that this may not be a wall, and instead could be debris from dismantling the town wall. It also sits on a layer (Context 2/003) of redeposited material, probably largely refuse, which seems likely to date to the period 1450-1575, although the presence of later material within this context suggests it has been subjected to bioturbation or other disturbance.

⁷ Martin, D. & Martin, B 2004. *New Winchelsea Sussex*. Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

- 6.6** The location of Test Pit 2 (and therefore the summerhouse) appears to be in a position to the rear of the town wall, which logical position would be up against the edge of the slope, and therefore situated slightly to the east of the summerhouse. The deposit **2/003** may be rubbish accumulating against the rear of the town wall, with the possible wall (**2/005**) being constructed later, possibly in the 19th century; hence the intrusive material found in Contexts **2/002** & **2/003**), perhaps reusing stone from the now disused town wall. An alternative scenario is that the 'wall' is simply a dump of debris from the dismantled town wall.
- 6.7** The proposed summerhouse will have a shallow raft foundation which has a maximum impact depth of 400mm, and will not have any impact on any important archaeological deposits. Likewise, the service trenches can all be excavated to the same depth. It is therefore proposed that no further archaeological work is required during the construction of the summerhouse, although it may be prudent to monitor the excavation of the service trench as this will follow a route which has not been investigated by an evaluation trench.
- 6.8** The wall foundation trenches for the extension on the patio will be a strip foundation 1m deep, possibly deeper where the ground dips away on the north-east side. Although it is more likely that this will be on the site of the town wall, it appears that all potential archaeology may have been removed when this area was terraced in the 20th century, and therefore it is suggested that no further archaeological monitoring is necessary here.

7.0 Acknowledgements

- 7.1** I would like to thank Mrs L. White for commissioning this archaeological evaluation, and Dominic Manning for making the arrangements for the excavation. The project was monitored for ESCC by Greg Chuter, the Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 7.2** The project was managed by Chris Butler. Luke Barber and Chris Butler reported on the finds. Andy Bradshaw assisted on site, and prepared the plans and section drawings for the report.

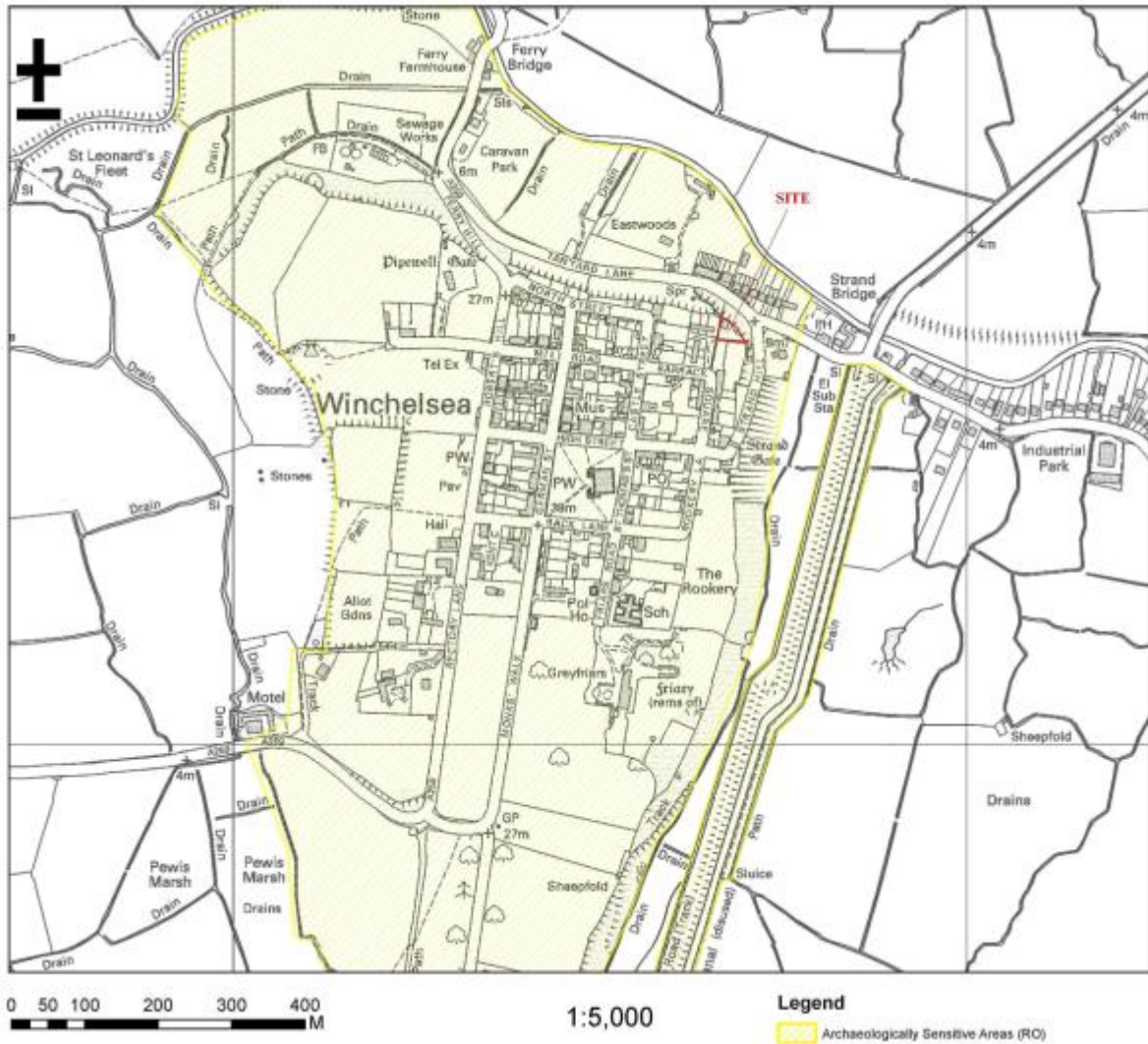


Fig. 1: The Roundel, Winchelsea: Archaeological Notification Areas
(Adapted from map provided by ESCC)

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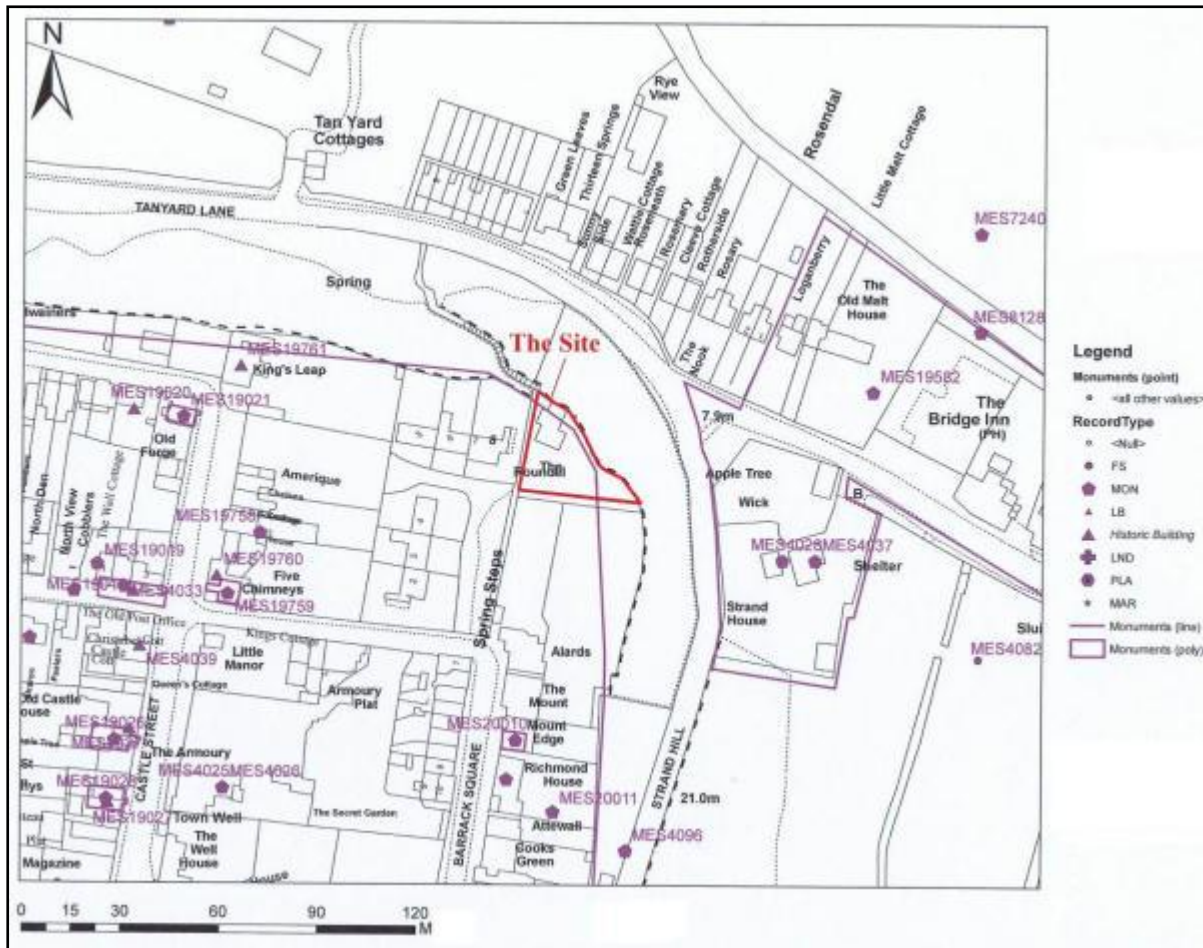


Fig. 2: The Roundel, Winchelsea: Sites on the HER
(Adapted from map provided by ESCC)
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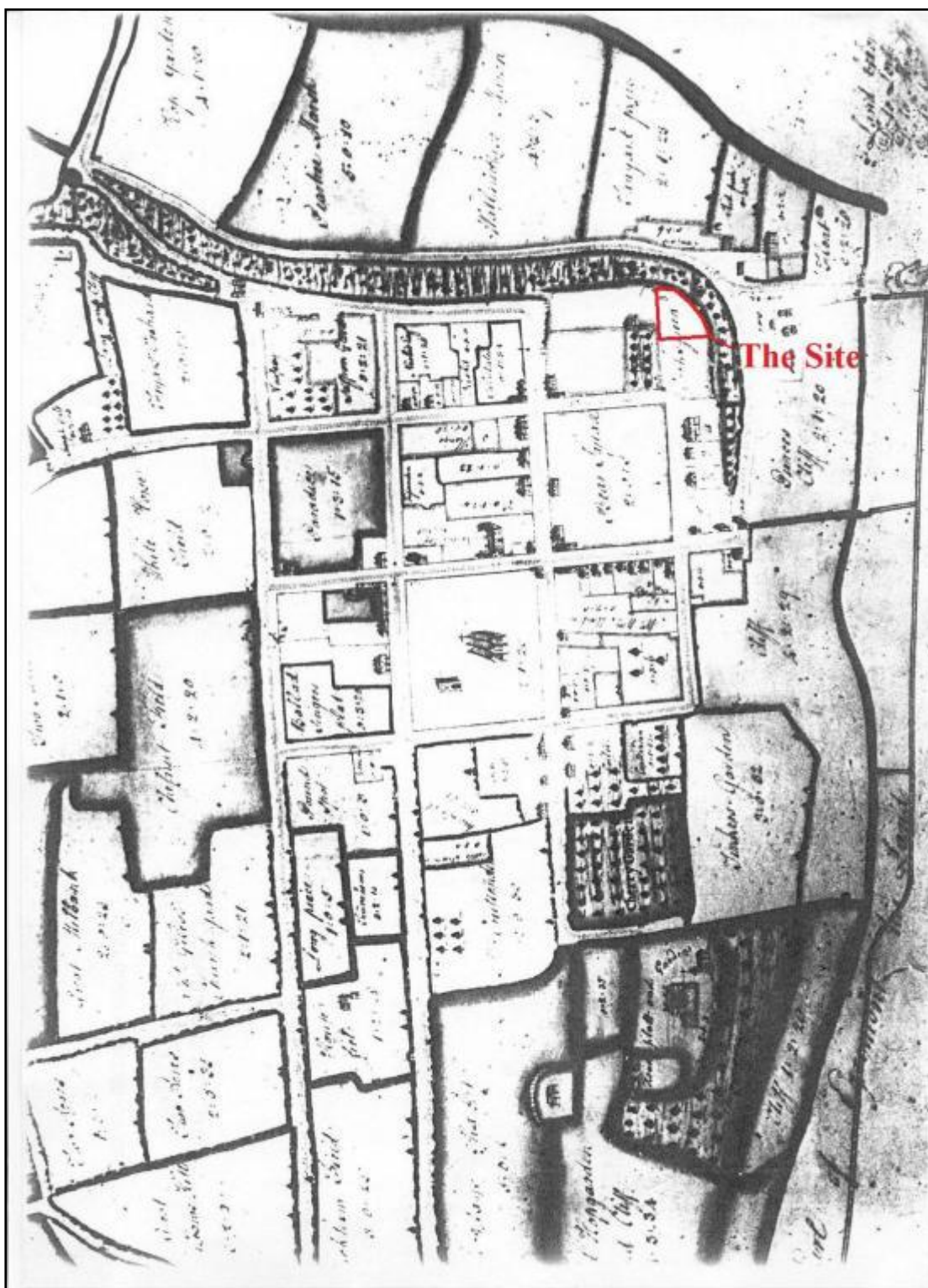


Fig. 3: The Roundel, Winchelsea: Map of Winchelsea 1768
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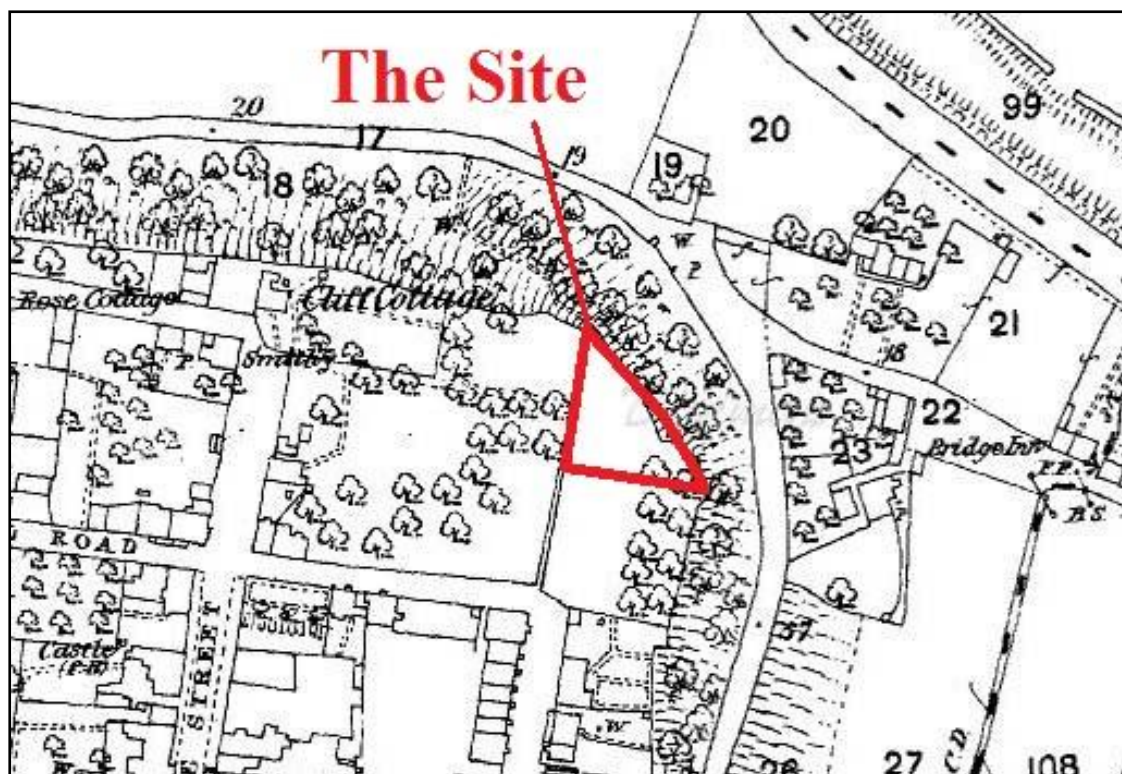


Fig. 4: The Roundel, Winchelsea: 1st Edition OS map (1874)

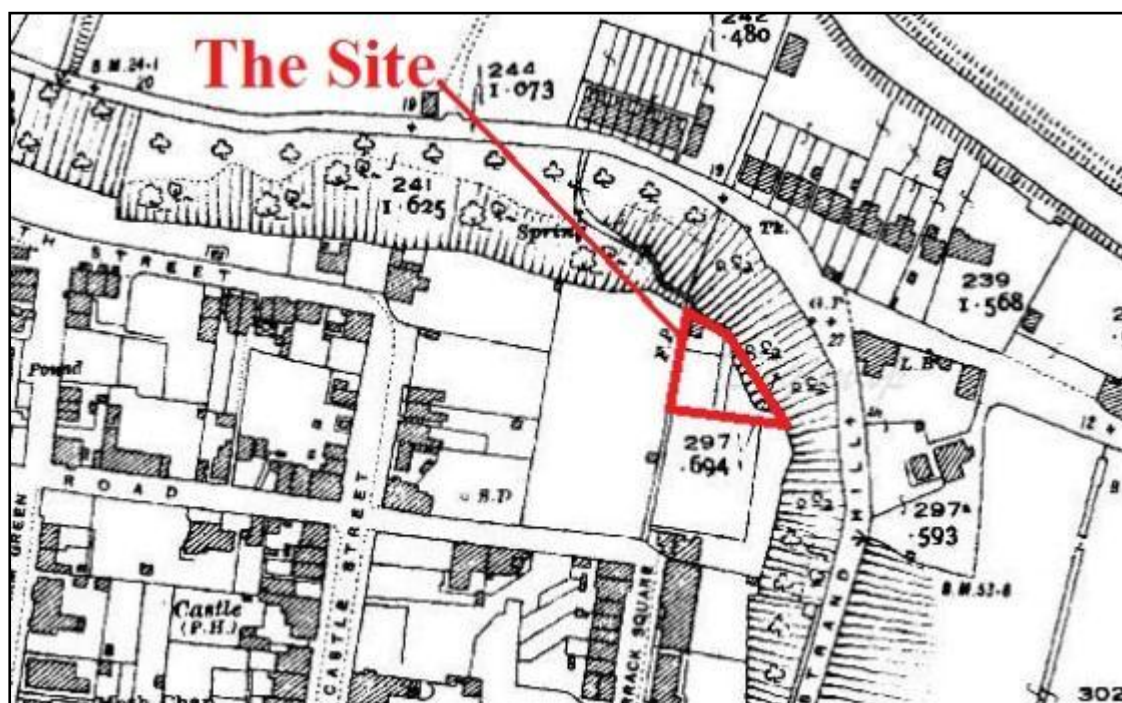


Fig. 5: The Roundel, Winchelsea: 4th Edition OS map (1929)

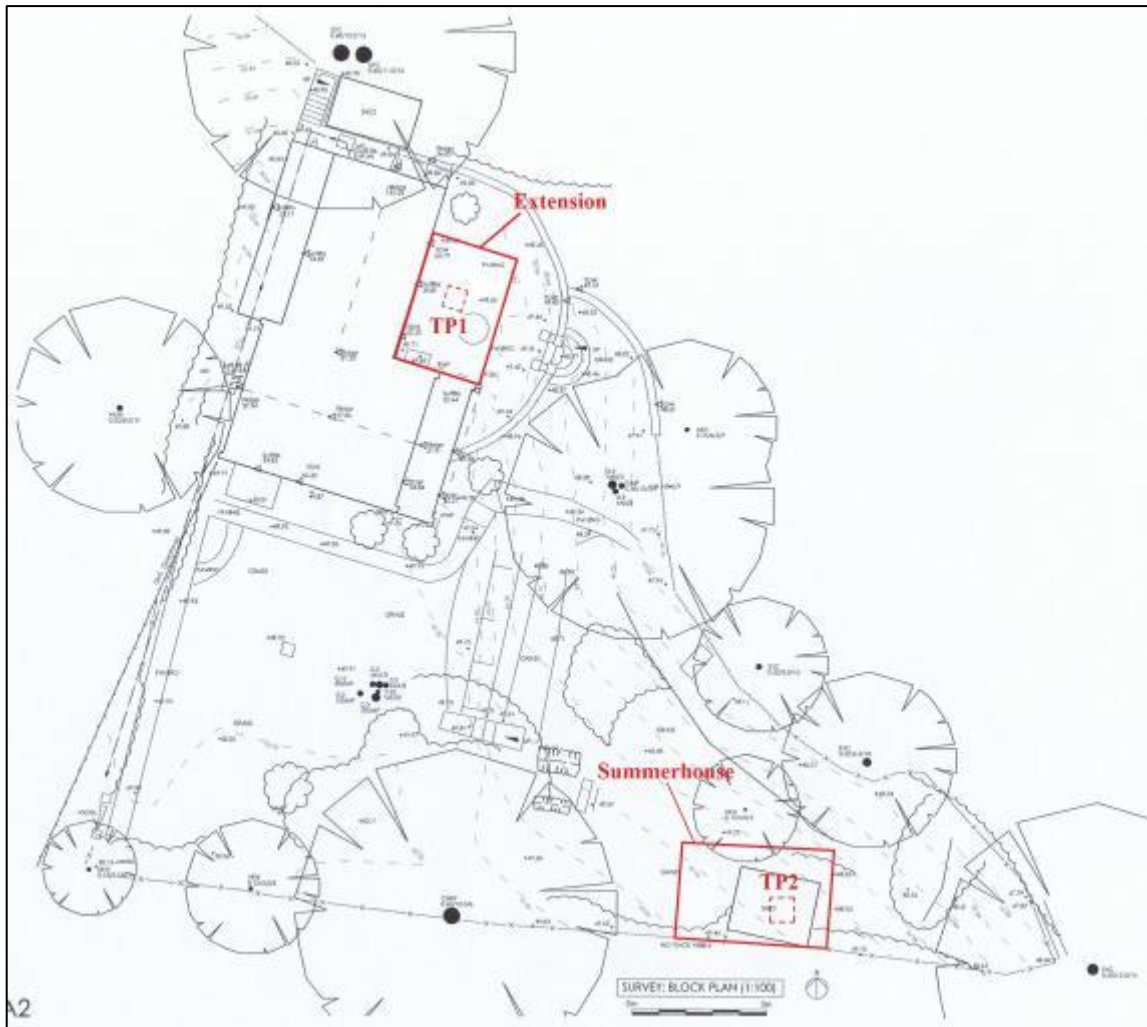


Fig. 6: The Roundel, Winchelsea: Site Plan Showing the Location of the Proposed Developments and of the Test Pits

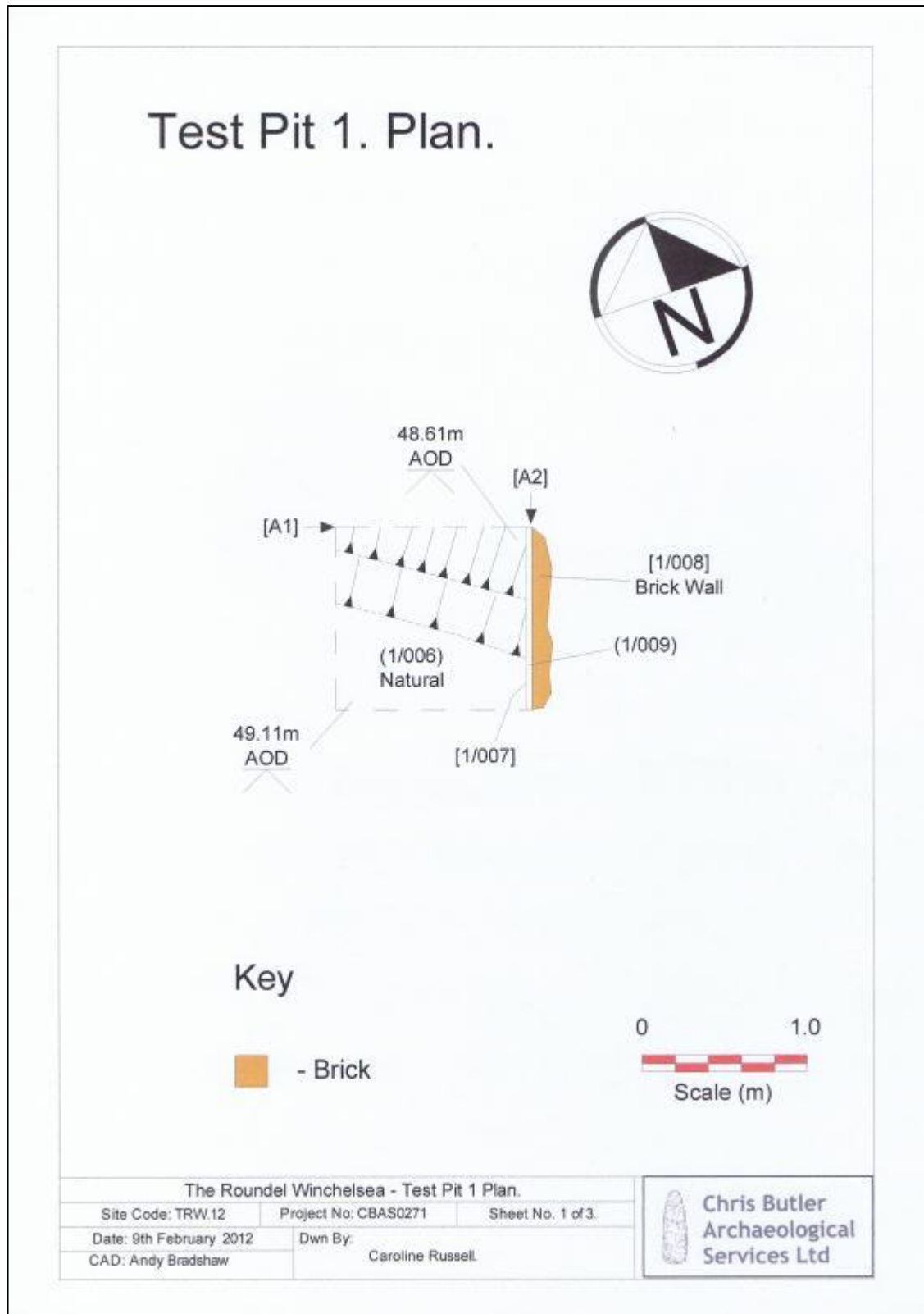


Fig. 7: The Roundel, Winchelsea: Test Pit 1 Plan

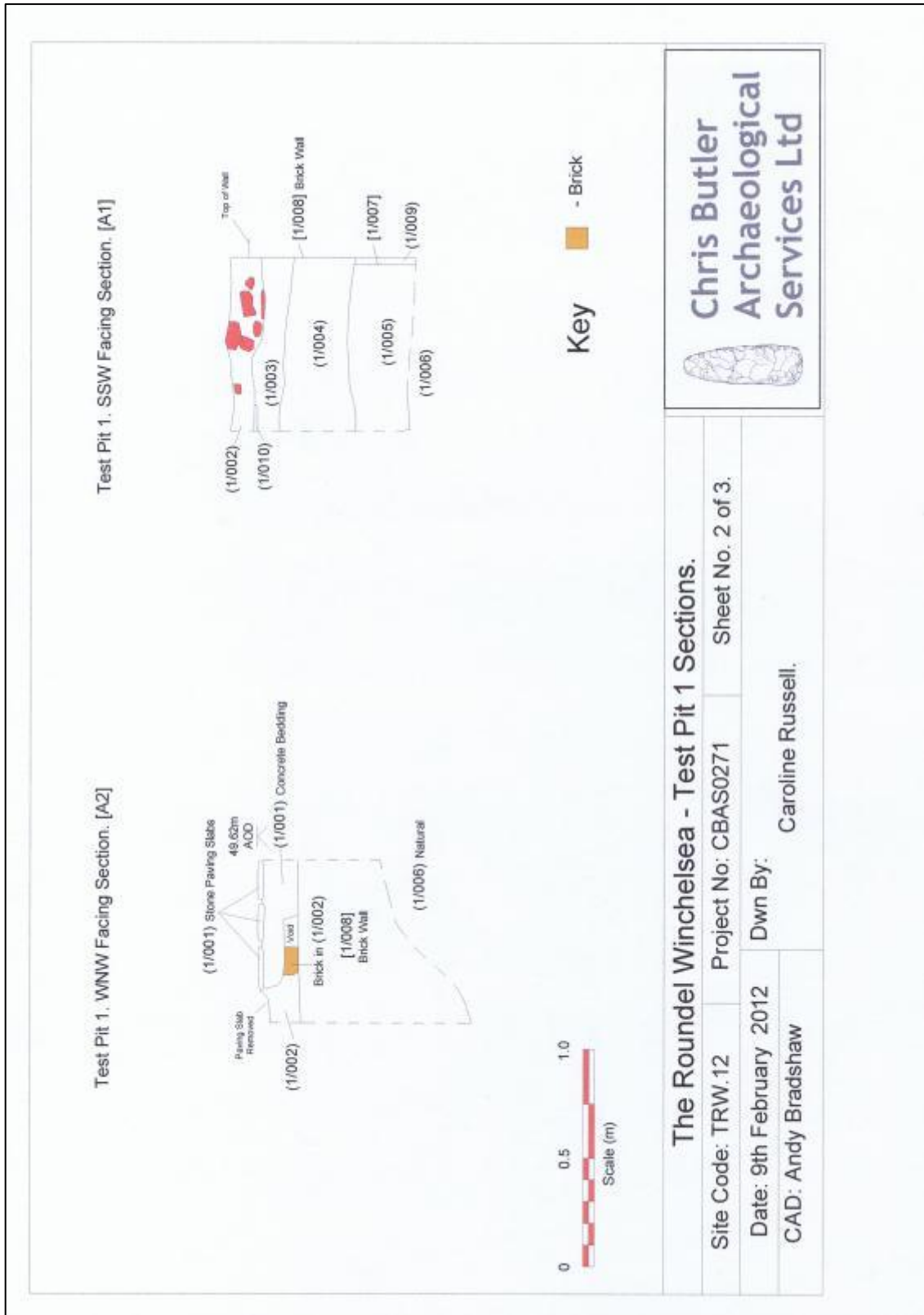


Fig. 8: The Roundel, Winchelsea: Test Pit 1 Sections

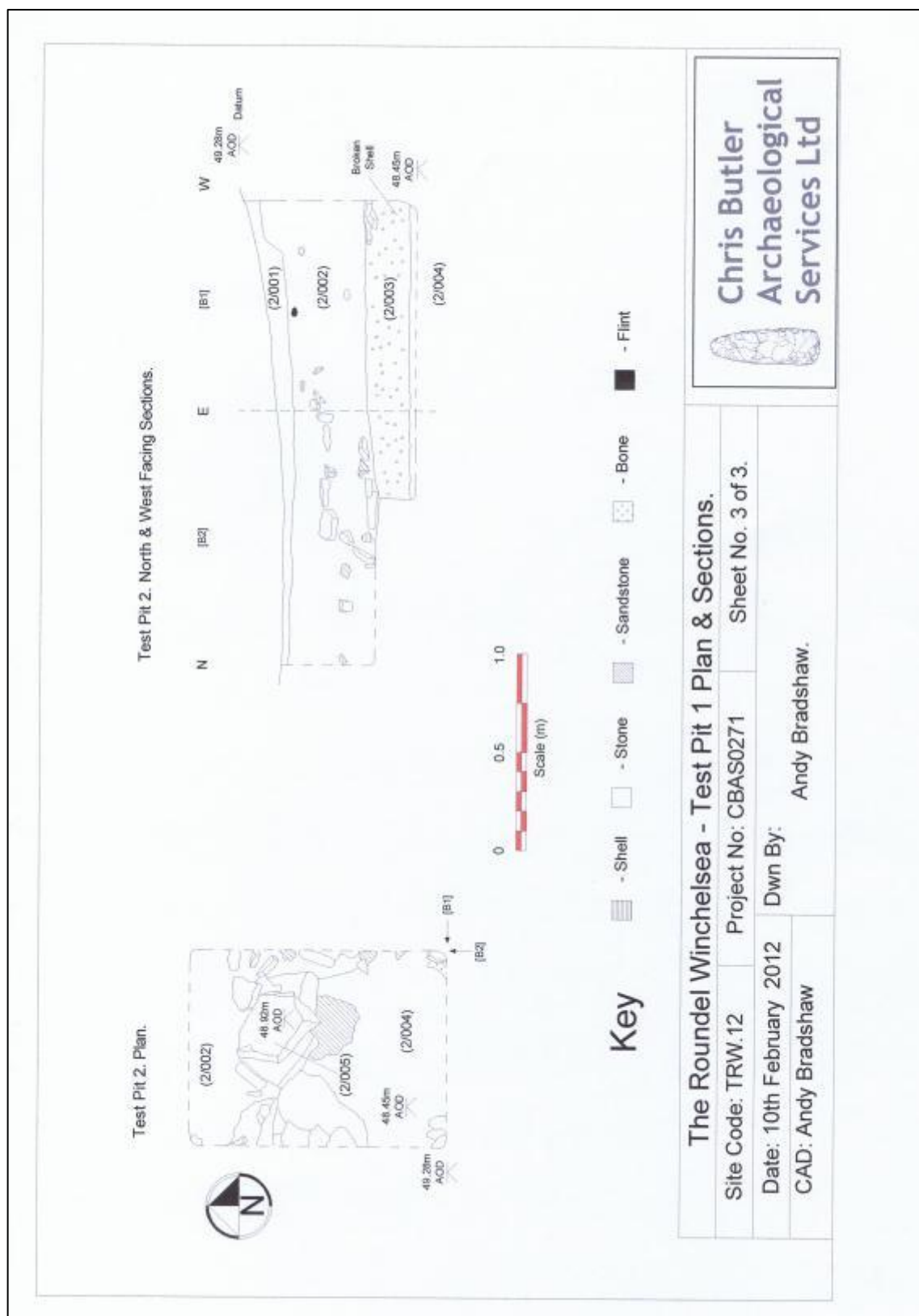


Fig. 9: The Roundel, Winchelsea: Test Pit 2 Plan and Sections



Plate 1: The Roundel, Winchelsea: Test Pit 1, looking east-southeast



Plate 2: The Roundel, Winchelsea: Test Pit 2, looking west



Plate 3: The Roundel, Winchelsea:
Test Pit 2, looking north

Appendix1 HER Summary Form

Site Code	NCW11					
Identification Name and Address	The Roundel, Spring Steps, Winchelsea, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 90674 17559					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay overlying Ashdown Beds Sandstone					
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. 9/2/2012- 13/2/2012	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mrs L. White					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIFA					
Project Supervisor	Dr Caroline Russell					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out at The Roundel, Spring Steps, Winchelsea, East Sussex as a condition of planning approval for the construction of a single storey extension and separate summerhouse.</i></p> <p><i>The test pit on the footprint of the proposed extension showed that the natural slope of the terrain had been levelled up with a layer of made ground. A possible revetment wall had been cut into this made ground. The wall retained two layers of made ground, which helped to create a raised terrace upon which an early 19th century building was built on. This building was replaced in the 1950's by The Roundel, for which a side patio was built that extended beyond the eastern extent of the earlier terrace. The second test pit at the edge of the garden, and within the footprint of the proposed summerhouse, uncovered topsoil and subsoil above the remains of a possible low garden wall, or dump of stone, which was situated above two deposits which may date to the 15th-16th centuries, possibly representing accumulated rubbish against the rear of town wall.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society. He is a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and until recently taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006. 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. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork*, *East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

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

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