



**Chris Butler MIFA
Archaeological Services**



**An Archaeological Watching Brief,
at
Church Farm Cottage, Church Lane,
Climping, West Sussex**

TQ 0034 0254

by
Keith Butler PIFA

May 2009

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Church Farm Cottage, Climping, during the groundworks for an extension on the east side of the property. During the excavations of the footings, two features both of a modern date were noted, the foundations of a flint wall and a service trench, no features of an earlier date were noted.

The earliest artifacts recovered from this watching brief date from the 13th century through to the 17th century. It is likely that all evidence for any associated activity was removed during the rebuilding of the house in the late 19th century.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr John Baird to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with a two storey extension to the north and east elevations of Church Farm Cottage, Church Lane, Climping, West Sussex, TQ 0034 0254 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Church Farm Cottage was rebuilt in 1878 by Christ's Hospital, a former landowner, as is attested by a date stone and a crest on the western elevation on the building. The thirteenth century church of St Mary's is to north-west of the site, with open fields to the south. The ground slopes slightly down to the south and west.
- 1.3 The groundworks to be monitored comprised the excavation of the footings for the new extension. The extension was situated on the north and east sides of the property; this area was previously under concrete with an area in the south under tarmac.
- 1.4 The underlying geology according to the British Geological Survey sheet 317/332 is 1st Raised Beach Deposit, with alluvium further east adjacent to the River Arun, and Brickearth over Upper Chalk to the west.
- 1.5 The archaeological watching brief took place on the 12th and 13th February 2009. The fieldwork was carried out by the author, with the project being managed by Chris Butler MIFA.

2 Historical & Archaeological Background

- 2.1 Evidence for Prehistoric and Roman activity has been found during excavations at the nearby Ford Airfield, with settlements dating from the first millennium BC to the second century AD¹ recorded.
- 2.2 Church Farm Cottage lies within the suspected shrunken Medieval village of Climping, although it has been suggested that Climping was a dispersed settlement². Evidence for the possible nucleated settlement can be seen in form of earthworks in the field to the south of the house.

¹ Place, C. 2004 *Excavations at Ford Airfield, Yapton, West Sussex, 1999*. Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing and Publications Ltd.

² Hudson, T.P. 1997, *A History of the County of Sussex*, Vol. 1, VCH, Oxford.

- 2.3** The earthworks in the adjacent field were investigated in the early 1960's, with trial trenches being excavated, these produced evidence for both Romano-British and Medieval activity³. The earthworks were designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the 1970's (SAM No. 424).
- 2.4** The church of St Mary's, which lies to the north-west of the site, is dated to 1220 and was probably built by John de Clymping, who later became the Bishop of Chichester⁴, and replaced an earlier church which is mentioned in the Domesday Book⁵.
- 2.5** An archaeological watching brief was maintained by CKC Archaeology, during the groundworks to west of Church Farm Cottage for an earlier extension to the property in 1999⁶. Mostly Post-Medieval features were discovered, comprising a possible post hole and in the north-east corner of the trenches a series of three intercutting pits.
- 2.6** Two more cuts were found surviving on the north edge of the pit, the earliest of the cuts producing a sherd of Late Medieval glazed pottery. Other residual sherds of earlier Medieval ceramic may suggest possible Saxo-Norman activity at the site.

3 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1** On arrival at the site on the 12th February the concrete and an area of tarmac to the south of the site had already been removed. A flint boundary wall, which incorporated a small amount of brick, running from the north-east corner of the house had been demolished; a length of this wall remained standing to the south of the house.
- 3.2** A watching brief was maintained while the footings for the extension were excavated by a 360° 1.6 ton digger with a 800mm wide toothless bucket. The three interconnecting trenches for the footings of the extension, describing three sides of a rectangle (Fig. 2), measured 800mm wide and were excavated to a depth of 1m.
- 3.3** The spoil from this process was loaded into a dumper truck and piled up along the side of the drive leading to the farm buildings to the east of the site. This was visually inspected for artefacts, and a metal detector was also used to recover artefacts.

³ WSCC HER Record TQ00SW55

⁴ Nairn, I & Pevsner, N. 1965. *The Buildings of England; Sussex*. Yale University Press.

⁵ Morris, J. (ed) 1976 *Domesday Book; Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore.

⁶ Currie, C.K. 1999, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Church Farm Cottage, Church Lane, Climping, West Sussex*. CKC Archaeology.

- 3.4** For a better understanding of the dispersal of artefacts the three trenches were each given an individual number, Trench 1 for the north footings, Trench 2 for the east side, and Trench 3 for the south (Fig. 2).
- 3.5** A temporary bench mark was established on the south-west corner of the concrete base of the wooden garage/storeroom.
- 3.6** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.7** A 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 CFC09 has been allocated.

4 Results

- 4.1** In Trench 1, two layers were apparent; firstly there was a very disturbed layer below the removed concrete, to a depth of between 300mm to 700mm in the western end of the trench (Context **1**). It comprised a dark brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence, having coarse components of flint pieces to 50mm (<1%), small rounded pebbles (1%) and chalk pieces to 80mm (<1%). Artefacts recovered from this layer were of pottery, oyster shells and metal.
- 4.2** Context **2** below Context **1** was a layer of orange-buff sandy clay with a firm consistence. This layer, which continued down to the bottom of the excavated trench, contained no coarse components and there were no artefacts recovered from this layer, most likely suggesting that it was the natural.
- 4.3** Context **3** was the foundation of the demolished wall, comprising flint nodules (up to 200mm) and incorporating a small quantity of ceramic building material, all bonded with a light grey mortar. The foundations were 600mm deep, and were within Context **1** and the top of Context **2**.
- 4.4** Context **4** was a cut of a trench approximately 500mm wide, with very steep sides, its associated fill was of a loose dark brown silty clay very similar to Context **1** combined with a small amount of Context **2**. This was not fully excavated as at a depth of 900mm, two blue plastic service pipes (water) were discovered. The pipes were running on a north-south axis, 2m from the east end of Trench 1 and were left *in situ*.

- 4.5** At 5.8m from the west end of Trench 1 was a manhole cover with associated ceramic drain pipes (Context **11**) which were running from the house on a north alignment, these were also left *in situ*.
- 4.6** Three layers were noted in Trench 2, the uppermost layer (Context **5**) was the same loose dark brown silty clay loam as Context **1**. However in Trench 2 this layer had a depth of up to 400mm although it was shallower at southern end of the trench. The coarse components were made up of flint pieces to 60mm (<1%), ceramic building material (5%) and mortar (1%), with the artefacts recovered being of pottery, glass, clay pipe stems and glazed tile.
- 4.7** Below Context **5** at the southern end of trench was Context **7**, a dark brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence. The coarse components were of flint pieces up to 30mm (<1%), with the artefacts being recovered of pottery, bone and metal.
- 4.8** Below Context **5** and Context **7** at the southern end of the Trench 2 was Context **6**, which was the same as Context **2** in Trench 1, a layer of orange-buff sandy clay with a firm consistence (the natural).
- 4.9** The same three Contexts as found in Trench 2 were also apparent in Trench 3. Context **8** was the same loose dark brown silty clay loam as found in Context **1** (Trench 1) and Context **5** (Trench 2). The same coarse components were noted, flint pieces up to 30mm, pieces of mortar (1%), with addition of pieces of tarmac (15%).
- 4.10** Below Context **8** was Context **9**, a thin layer up to 300mm in depth, of dark brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence, with a depth of up to 300mm. The coarse components were made up of flint pieces up to 60mm (<1%) and pebbles up to 20mm (5%), artefacts of pottery, clay pipe stems, shells and bone.
- 4.11** Context **10** was the same natural as Context **2** (Trench 1) and Context **6** (Trench 2), being an orange-buff sandy clay with a firm consistence, and no inclusions or artefacts. A representative section was recorded in Trench 3 (Fig. 3).
- 4.12** There were no features noted during the archaeological watching brief apart from the modern services noted in Trench 1.

5 Finds

5.0.1 The watching brief recovered a moderately 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, dominance by late Post-Medieval material and lack of good sealed context groups. All of the earlier material is small and residual in later contexts. The assemblage does not warrant retention in a museum.

Table 1 Summary of artefacts (Number / weight (gms))

Context and Trench No.	Pottery	CBM*	Glass	Bone/shell	Others
1 Trench 1	59 / 841g	8 / 844g	2 / 283g	6 bone / 150g 9 shell / 254g	Metal 4 / 372g Flintwork 3 / 61g
4 Trench 1	2 / 17g				
5 Trench 2	34 / 444g	19/ 1.168g	6 / 105g	8 bone / 146g 9 shell / 180g	Clay Pipe 5 / 23g Party popper 1
7 Trench 2	52 / 691g	2 / 3.153g	6 / 273g	2 bone / 52g 3 shell / 155g	Clay Pipe 1 / 2g Metal 4 / 342g
9 Trench 3	32 / 713g		6 / 465g	3 bone / 159g 2 shell / 21g	Clay Pipe 2 / 27g Metal 2 / 130g

* CBM = Ceramic Building Material.

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The earliest pottery from the site consists of three small Medieval cooking pot bodysherds from Context **9** (Table 2). All show slight signs of abrasion from reworking but not extensively so. The earliest consists of a medium/coarse sand tempered sherd (8g) of probably later 13th to mid 14th century date. The other two are tempered with finer sand and notably harder fired suggesting a mid 14th to early/mid 15th century date.

5.1.2 Context **9** was the only deposit on site to produce material of the early Post-Medieval period. The earliest consist of two sherds of probable 16th to 17th century glazed red earthenware, one from an internally green glazed jar, the other from a brown glazed jug. A little early/mid 18th century material is also presents. This consists of a slightly abraded jar sherd of late tin-glazed earthenware and three large London salt-glazed stoneware sherds from a large bottle. All of the 18th century material is likely to belong to the middle of the century if not a little later.

Table 2 The Pottery

Context and Trench No,	Pot: Medieval	Pot: early post-medieval	Pot: late post-medieval	Deposit Date
1 Trench 1	-	-	59/841g	Later C19th – early 20 th (Residual C19th)
4 Trench 1	-	-	2/17g	Mid – late C19th
5 Trench 2	-	-	34/444g	C20th (High residual C19th)
7 Trench 2	-	-	52/691g	Early C20th (High residual C19th)
9 Trench 3	3/21g	6/250g	23/442g	Early C20th (High residual C14th – 19 th)

- 5.1.3** The majority of the pottery from the site can be ascribed to the late Post-Edieval period, principally between the mid 19th to mid 20th centuries though some earlier material is present. A few sherds of plain creamware plates and bowls, of later 18th to early 19th century date, are present in most contexts (Context 1, 4/25g; Context 5, 1/7g; context 7, 1/6g and context 9, 3/66g) suggesting some continuation of activity at this time, or the presence of old vessels in the later assemblage.
- 5.1.4** There are also a few transfer-printed pearlware sherds of the early 19th century (most notably part of the lid of a vase with blue Chinese landscape design from Context 7 but these are less common than the creamware. The majority of the late Post-Medieval material appears to be a typical domestic assemblage spanning the mid 19th to early 20th centuries.
- 5.1.5** Kitchen wares include local glazed red earthenware jars and dishes, Sunderland-type slipware bowls and baking dishes and yellow ware bowls (including one with encrusted decoration from Context 1. There are also a number of fragments of English stoneware bottles, including a two-tone example from Context 9 with Bristol glaze and partial black transfer-print which is likely to be of the late 19th to early 20th century.
- 5.1.6** Of similar date are at least one stoneware preserve jar and an ironstone china Dundee marmalade jar from the same context. Table and teawares make up the bulk of this late assemblage with dinner plates, side plates, bowls, serving dishes, cups and saucers appearing in plain refined white earthenware (china), blue, red, black and green transfer-printed wares and just on the teawares, English porcelain.

5.1.7 The transfer-printed wares are mainly in blue with willow pattern, wild rose and Asiatic pheasant designs being noted. Other forms include a blue transfer-printed ware wash basin (Context 7), a brown transfer-printed nursery plate (Context 1) and a polychrome transfer-printed commemorative coronation mug of 1911 (Context 5).

5.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A very small assemblage of clay pipe was recovered from the site, all of which consists of unmarked stem fragments. The earliest piece is from the second half of the 17th century (Context 9) though the remaining pieces in this deposit are of the 18th century. Context 5 produced five unabraded stems all likely to be of the first half of the 18th century while the single fragment from Context 7 is of probable mid 18th to 19th century date.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 All the ceramic building material from the site can be placed in a 19th (probably later) to mid 20th century date range. Only a few pieces of brick were recovered. The earliest of these is probably the unfroged example in Context 1 with is of a general 19th century date. The piece is tempered with moderate fine sand with moderate voids to 2mm and sparse iron oxides/slag to 3mm, well formed and medium/well fired.

5.3.2 Context 5 produced two fragments from a single quite crudely made froged brick tempered with moderate fine sand, sparse slag to 2mm and very rare flint pebbles inclusions to 10mm. A date in the middle of the 19th century is probable. Context 7 produced a single complete froged brick (227 x 107 x 65mm) which is well formed and hard fired. The frog is stamped 'Sussex Brick Estates Co Ltd' c. 1903-1927⁷.

5.3.3 The roof tile fragments from the site are all of 19th to mid 20th century date. Most are well made, tempered with sparse fine sand and well fired (eg Context 1). The example from Context 7 is poorly mixed with numerous yellow clay streaks in the body but is hard fired and likely to be of later 19th to 20th century date. A number of white ceramic wall tiles are also present, glazed dark blue, white, orange and red – a late 19th to mid 20th century date is probable.

5.4 Glass by Chris Butler

5.4.1 Twenty fragments of glass weighing 1,126gms were recovered during the watching brief (Table 1). The glass comprised 13 pieces of bottle glass and seven pieces of window glass.

5.4.2 An almost complete Codd bottle was recovered from Context 9, with 'CODD'S 4 PATENT' on the side; this dates the bottle to the later 19th century (post 1870).

⁷ Beswick, M. 1993 *Brickmaking in Sussex*, Middleton Press. Midhurst.

5.4.3 The remaining bottle glass included fragments from dark green and lighter green mineral water bottles, including three bases with up-kicks and two necks. One bottle fragment was in aqua and two were clear glass. These pieces of bottle glass all date to the 19th century, except for one piece which may be 18th century.

5.4.4 The window glass comprises a mixture of clear glass and light green glass, all of which are likely to date to the later 19th or 20th centuries.

5.5 Animal Bone identified by Pat Stevens

5.5.1 A total of 19 fragments of animal bone, weighing 507gms, was recovered during the watching brief from four contexts (Table 1).

5.5.2 Sixteen of the bones could be identified to a species, and those comprised cow, sheep, pig, horse and rabbit, with one of the unidentified fragments possibly being dog or fox. Sheep was the most common species present by bone count.

5.5.3 Three of the bones from Context **1** had cut marks (one each cow, sheep and pig), whilst one bone had been gnawed. The majority of the animal bone is likely to represent kitchen waste.

5.6 Marine Molluscs by Chris Butler

5.6.1 Twenty three marine mollusc shell fragments weighing 610gms were recovered from four contexts (Table 1). The shell assemblage comprised almost entirely of oyster, with just a single cockle shell being present. The shells are likely to represent kitchen waste.

5.7 Flintwork by Chris Butler

5.7.1 Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from Context **1**. A hard hammer-struck flake is probably the result of Post Medieval knapping for wall construction. The hard hammer-struck blade and a flake fragment are both possibly later prehistoric in date.

5.8 Metal finds by Chris Butler

5.8.1 Most of the 10 pieces of metal recovered during the watching brief (Table 1) were iron; mostly heavily corroded and unidentifiable. The items that could be identified comprised a nail, a spike and a hook.

5.8.2 Two items from Context **1** were not made of iron. The first was a strip of unidentifiable copper alloy, and the second was a spoon. The spoon has a makers mark 'J R & ?' on the handle, which probably relates to Joseph Rogers & Sons Ltd of Sheffield, one of the largest producers of cutlery, operating from the 18th century through into the later 20th century. The style of spoon suggests it is dated to the 19th century.

6 Discussion

- 6.1 No archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief apart from the modern services in Trench 1. A moderate assemblage of artefacts was recovered, the vast majority of which date to the later 19th and 20th centuries.
- 6.2 The earlier watching brief carried out when the house was extended to the west side encountered a substantial post hole and three intercutting pits, the earliest of which was thought to be late Medieval or early Post Medieval in date⁸. The presence of other Medieval sherds found in this earlier watching brief together with the discovery of similar sherds during this watching brief confirms that there was Medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 6.3 It seems likely that the rebuilding of the house by Christ's Hospital in 1878 has removed any archaeological features relating to the Medieval activity in the area of this development. Apart from the residual items noted above, the surviving activity all probably dates from the time of this rebuild and as a result of later activity.
- 6.4 The methodology adopted for this watching brief proved to be satisfactory, and the confidence rating should be considered to be very reliable.

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1 I would like to thank Mr James Baird for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, and his on site contractors for their cooperation. I would also like to thank Luke Barber for reporting on the pottery and ceramic building material, and Pat Stevens for identifying and commenting on the animal bone. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler.

⁸ Currie, C.K. 1999, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Church Farm Cottage, Church Lane, Climping, West Sussex*. CKC Archaeology.



Fig. 1: Church Farm, Climping: Location Map

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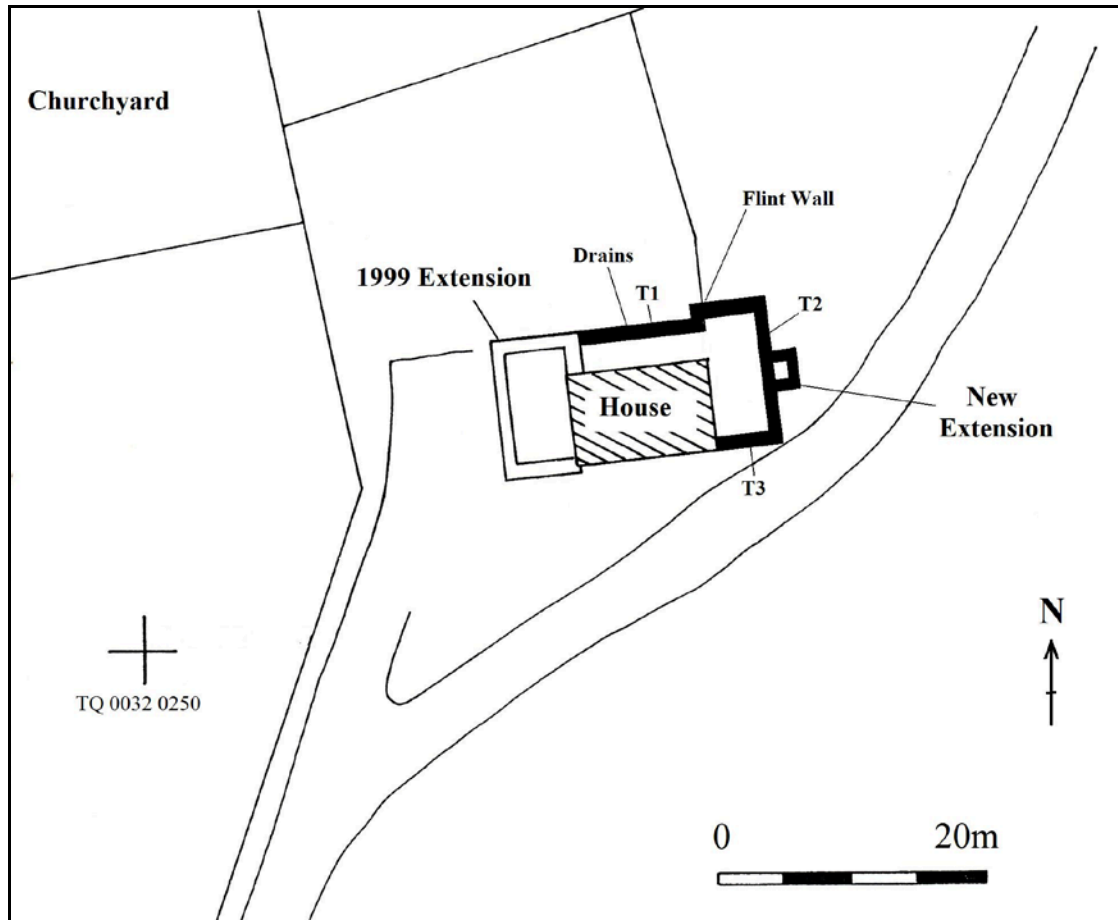


Fig. 2: Church Farm, Climping: Site Plan

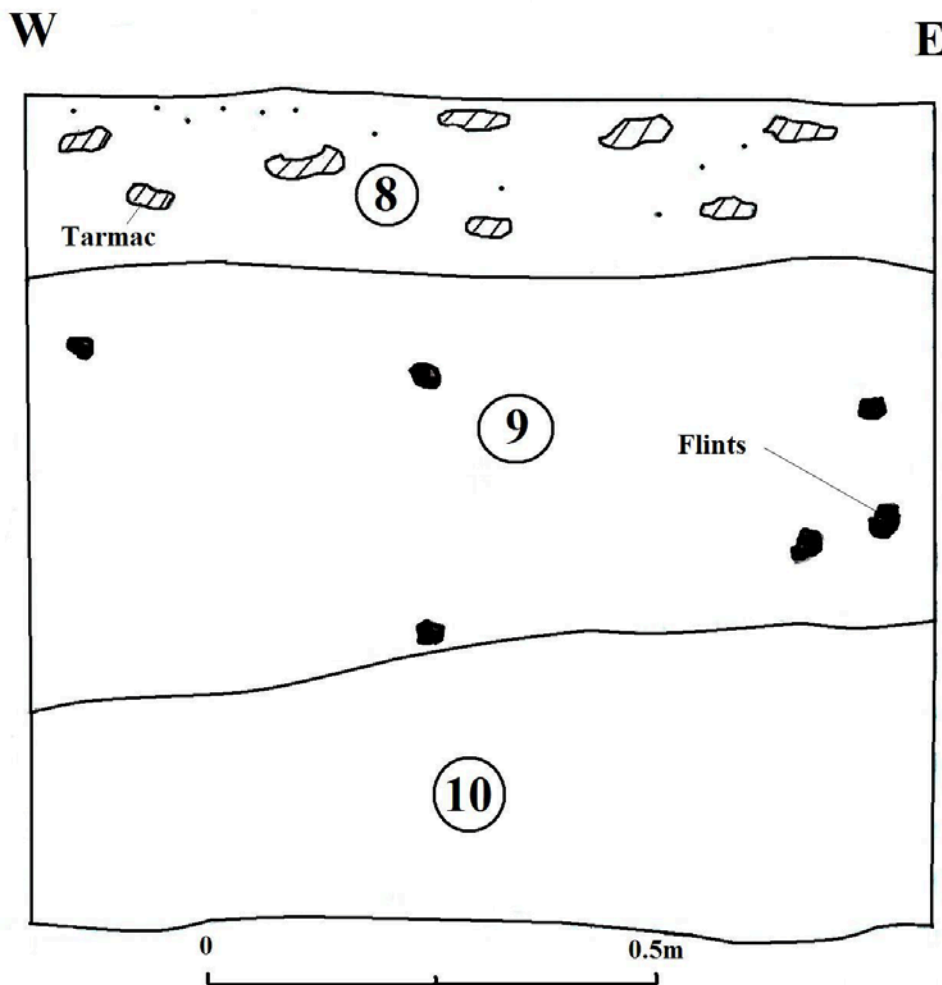


Fig. 3: Church Farm, Climping: Section in Trench 3

HER Summary Form

Site Code	CFC09					
Identification Name and Address	Church Farm Cottage, Church Lane, Climping, West Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	Arun District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 0034 0254					
Geology	1 st River Terrace Gravel					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. 12 02 09 13 02 09	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr J Baird					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIFA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PIFA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Church Farm Cottage, Climping, during the groundworks for an extension on the east side of the property. During the excavations of the footings, two features both of a modern date were noted, the foundations of a flint wall and a service trench, no features of an earlier date were noted.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest artifacts recovered from this watching brief date from the 13th century through to the 17th century. It is likely that all evidence for any associated activity was removed during the rebuilding of the house in the late 19th century.</i></p>						

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. He has also recently undertaken an archaeological survey of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren.

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

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