



# **Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services**



## **An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at 10, Stanley Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex.**

LW/10/1509

CBAS0204

by  
Keith Butler PIfA

May 2011

### ***Summary***

*An evaluation trench, measuring 1m by 2m, was excavated by hand at 10, Stanley Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex, in a flower bed to the west of the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, due to the limited space available. The trench proved to be sterile of any archaeological features, however prehistoric activity was indicated by the discovery of two pieces of humanly struck flint.*

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by P. L. Projects Ltd (The Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation excavation in advance of the construction of a new house at 10 Stanley Road, Peacehaven, 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 have put a condition on the planning consent for the development (LW/10/1509), requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3** The site lies within a designated Archaeological Notification Area defining an area of extensive Prehistoric and Romano-British activity. The existing house and double garage at 10 Stanley Road was constructed in the late 1990's (LW/98/1712).
- 1.4** The geology, according to the British Geological Survey sheet 319/334 is Newhaven Chalk (part of the Culver Chalk Formation), overlain by an outcrop of Woolwich and Reading Formation.
- 1.5** The appropriate programme of archaeological work was an evaluation excavation designed to establish the likely presence of archaeological remains at the site A Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>1</sup> for this work was agreed with the Archaeology team at ESCC, and approved by Lewes District Council.
- 1.6** The archaeological evaluation excavation took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The fieldwork was carried out by the author with the assistance of Mr Anthony Stevens of P.L. Projects Ltd, with the project being managed by Chris Butler for CBAS Ltd.

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<sup>1</sup> Butler, C. 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at 10 Stanley Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex*, CBAS Ltd

## 2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The earliest finds from Peacehaven are an Acheulian handaxe (MES1828) and a flint flake and Levallois core (MES1826), possibly dating to the Lower to Middle Palaeolithic period. Recent archaeological work to the east of the site has produced a number of pieces of flintwork that may date to the Upper Palaeolithic period.
- 2.2 Mesolithic flintwork has been found in large quantities close to the site, with a number of groups of Mesolithic flintwork recorded as found around the site<sup>2</sup> (MES1830). Elsewhere three adzes (MES7248) were found to the east of the site, and another adze and other flintwork (MES7414) was found at Chatsworth Park to the south-west of the site, and a group of Mesolithic flintwork was recovered in 2008 during a watching brief in Dorothy Avenue<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.3 Recent archaeological fieldwork undertaken to the east of the site produced an extensive assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork associated with a possible remnant Mesolithic land surface<sup>4</sup>, whilst the excavation of a Bronze Age barrow at Friars Bay in 2008 also produced a large assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.4 Other prehistoric artefacts include a Neolithic polished flint axe (MES1831) found in Ambleside Avenue, and Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery found in excavations to the east of the site. Bronze Age barrows are known at Telscombe Tye (MES2055) and at Friars Bay<sup>6</sup>, whilst a Bronze Age flint sickle (MES2043) was found at Telscombe, and a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead (MES1829) was found to the south of the site.
- 2.5 There is little evidence for Iron Age or Roman activity in the immediate area of the site, although Romano-British pots were recovered nearby<sup>7</sup>. A probable prehistoric cross dyke/earthwork on Telscombe Tye (MES2045) has been previously interpreted as a Roman Camp, although this is unlikely. Fragments of Iron Age pottery and animal bone were found in two small pits at Telscombe (MES2054).

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<sup>2</sup> Bernard Calkin, J. 1924 'Pigmy and other flint implements found at Peacehaven'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 65, 224 – 241.

<sup>3</sup> Greatorex, C. 2009 *Archaeological Recording undertaken at 46 Dorothy Avenue, Peacehaven, East Sussex*, CG Archaeology Report

<sup>4</sup> Butler, C. 2009 'The Prehistoric Flintwork' Peacehaven Water Treatment Works in ArchSE Report

<sup>5</sup> Birks, S. Forthcoming MSFAT Report

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>7</sup> Bernard Calkin, J. 1924 'Pigmy and other flint implements found at Peacehaven'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 65, 224 – 241.

- 2.6** The only evidence for Saxon or Medieval activity comes from a scatter of medieval pottery at Telscombe Tye (MES7321), and two probable Medieval field lynchets (MES2057 & MES2058).
- 2.7** The 1778-83 Yeakell & Gardiner map shows the area between Telscombe and Piddinghoe to be open farmland, with much of the ground covered with strip fields, possibly under cultivation. The 1813-19 Ordnance Survey drafts show Warren Farm to the south-west of the site, but the area of the site itself is open Downland.
- 2.8** The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (1873) shows the site to be in the southern part of Heathy Brow, an area of scrub with sheep pens and a pond in the south-east corner (Fig. 2), surrounded by fields, with a chalk pit to the west and a sand pit and Warren Farm to the south-west. The parish boundary between Peacehaven and Telscombe runs just to the west of the site.
- 2.9** By the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS map (1910) a pattern of roads has been laid out to the west of the site, and the sheep pens are now shown to be separate to the rest of Heathy Brow, but the remainder of the area is still fields.
- 2.10** A Landing Ground was established at Telscombe Cliffs, a short distance to the south of the site, in late 1916. It comprised 1,500 feet of grass with two Bessoneaux hangars and tented accommodation whilst No 78 Squadron was in residence. Later two aeroplane sheds replaced the Bessoneaux hangars, and in 1918 No 514 Flight was based there<sup>8</sup>.
- 2.11** The town of Peacehaven originated in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as a planned town set-out on a gridded street plan, with the first houses being built in 1920 when the Sussex War Agricultural Committee handed the land back to the South Coast Land and Resort Co. Ltd<sup>9</sup>. The town expanded rapidly and by 1926 had a population of 3,000<sup>10</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS map shows the entire area to now be laid out with roads including Stanley Road, whilst Heathy Brow is now divided up into a number of rectangular plots, some of which contain houses (Fig. 3).
- 2.12** The 1955 OS map shows the north side of Stanley Road to have five large rectangular plots, three of which appear to contain houses. By the 1983 OS map, there are seven plots, all of which contain houses, whilst most of the Downland to the east of the site is now covered with housing.

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<sup>8</sup> Ashworth, C. 1985 *Action Stations 9: Military Airfields of the Central South and South-East*, Wellingborough, Patrick Stephens Ltd.

<sup>9</sup> Bernard, S. 2009 *Peacehaven & Telscombe through time*, Amberley Publishing

<sup>10</sup> Harris, R.B. 2004 'Peacehaven historic character assessment report', *Sussex Extensive Urban Survey*.

- 2.13** The 1995 OS map shows the density of housing to have increased, with most of the plots along Stanley Road now sub-divided into smaller plots each containing one or more houses. The site appears to have a house set back from the road and a row of smaller houses on the road frontage across this and the adjacent plot (Fig. 4). The existing house and double garage at 10 Stanley Road was constructed in the late 1990's.

### **3.0 Archaeological Methodology**

- 3.1** A single evaluation trench measuring 2m by 1m was excavated in the flower bed to the west of the current double garage and adjacent to the site of the proposed new house. This was due to the limited space available at the site because of the existing garage, driveway, services and the roots from a number of trees covered by Tree Protection Orders.
- 3.2** The trench was first marked out, and then was subjected to a CAT scan to make sure the area was free of services. The area was also scanned with a Precision Gold metal detector, which was also used at various times during the course of the excavations.
- 3.3** The trench was excavated in spits using hand tools, with the spoil from this process being piled up on the sides of the trench. The spoil was visually inspected and metal detected for artefactual recovery.
- 3.4** The trench was excavated to a depth of 500mm, with the natural being reached at a depth of 400mm. To confirm that this was the natural, a 700mm square sondage with a depth of 700mm was excavated in the north-west corner of the trench.
- 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 Ltd. A site reference of SRP 11 has been allocated.



## 4.0 Results

- 4.1 During the course of the evaluation excavation only two layers were apparent in the trench. Context 1 was a layer of dark brown vegetable rich topsoil. This layer was composed of a silty clay loam, with a loose consistence, with inclusions of sub angular flint pieces up to 100mm (<1%) and heavy rooting (5%). The depth of this layer was generally 400mm but reducing to 300mm at the western end of the trench.
- 4.2 Below Context 1 was Context 2, which was an orange-brown silty clay with a firm consistence. This layer had light rooting (<1%), but was otherwise sterile with no inclusions. This deposit continued to the full depth of the trench at 0.7m in the sondage, and was interpreted as the natural Woolwich and Reading Formation.
- 4.3 There were no other layers, deposits or archaeological features noted during the course of the excavation.

## 5.0 The Finds by Chris Butler

- 5.1 The only artefacts recovered from the excavation consisted of two pieces of worked flint, both of which were recovered from the topsoil Context 1.
- 5.2 The first piece of worked flint was a soft hammer-struck bladelet fragment, missing its bulbar end. This is likely to be Mesolithic in date, and is similar to the Type 1 flint recovered from nearby excavations at Peacehaven<sup>11</sup> The second piece was a larger cortical flake, also probably soft hammer-struck, and appeared to have been burnt or heat-treated. This could also be Mesolithic in date, but may be later.

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<sup>11</sup> Butler, C. 2009 'The Flintwork', Peacehaven Water Treatment Works, ArchSE.

## **6.0 Discussion**

- 6.1** The evaluation excavation revealed that the area investigated was undisturbed with no obvious archaeological features, and a lack of even modern artefacts. However, the discovery of two pieces of work flint in the topsoil confirm that there was prehistoric activity on the site, or in the immediate vicinity.
- 6.2** Unfortunately the artefacts were not associated with any archaeological features, but their presence does suggest that there may be prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the site, which would not be unexpected due the extensive prehistoric activity dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age that has been found nearby.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1** Due to the concrete path, hard standing and the existing garage the evaluation trench was located in a flower bed to the west of the existing garage, with the position further being limited by the roots of various trees that were covered by Tree Protection Orders. This was outside of the footprint for the proposed dwelling.
- 7.2** Any further mitigation such as a watching brief within the area of the new dwelling will depend upon the ground work design. However, due to the shallow depth of topsoil above the important interface with the natural, and given that fact that the existing garage and driveway may have truncated away any evidence for this in the area of the new development it is most likely that any archaeological deposits will have been destroyed.

## **8.0 Acknowledgements**

**8.1** I would like to thank Peter Leach and Bill Brock of P.J. Projects Ltd for commissioning this evaluation excavation and Mr Anthony Stevens for his assistance with the excavation.

**8.2** Chris Butler managed the project for CBAS Ltd and reported on the prehistoric flintwork, and Greg Chuter monitored the project for ESCC.

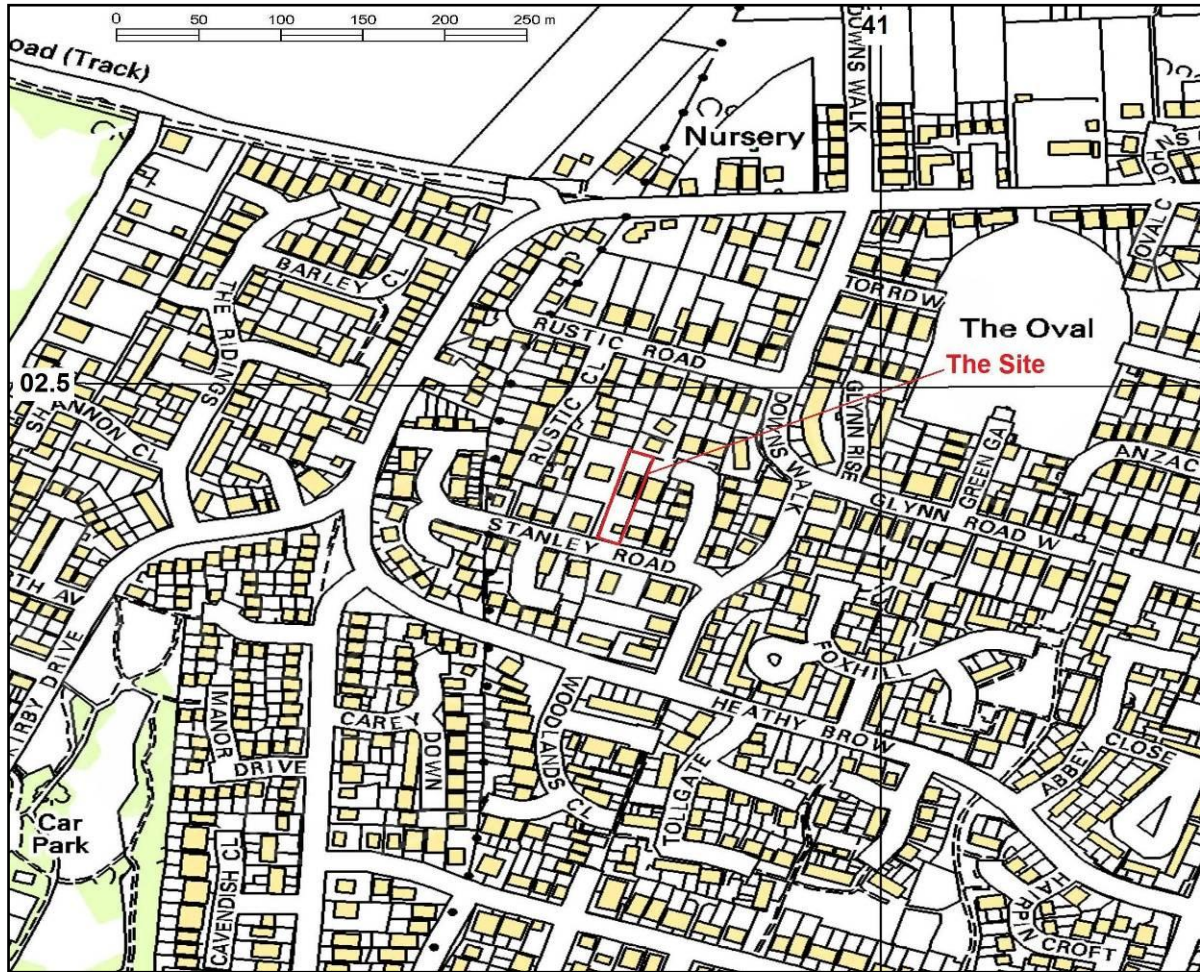


Fig. 1: 10 Stanley Road, Peacehaven: Location of the site  
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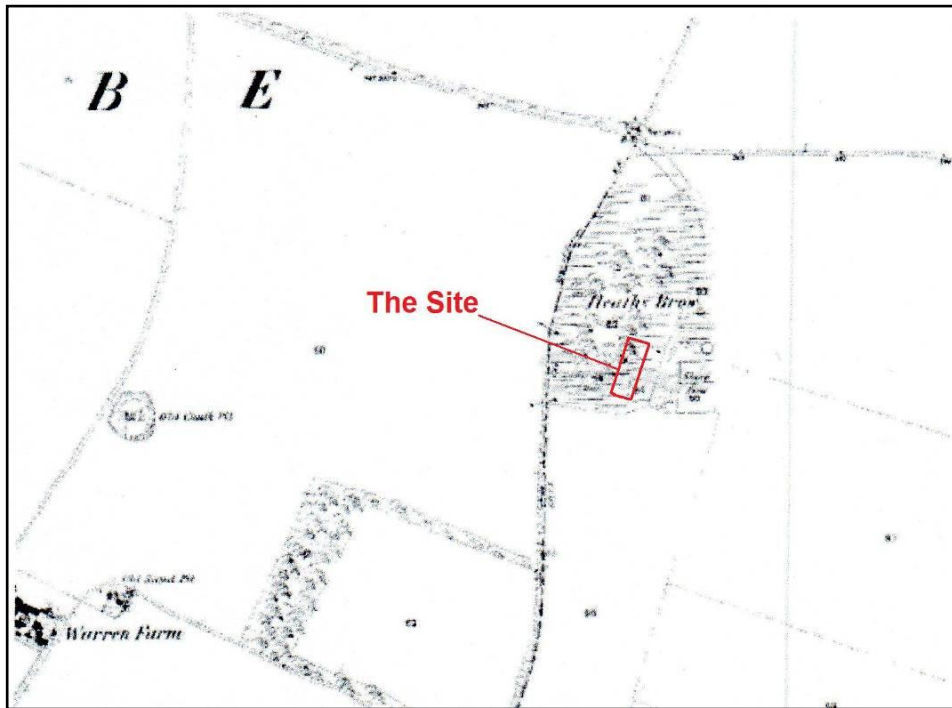


Fig. 2: 10 Stanley Road, Peacehaven: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map 1873

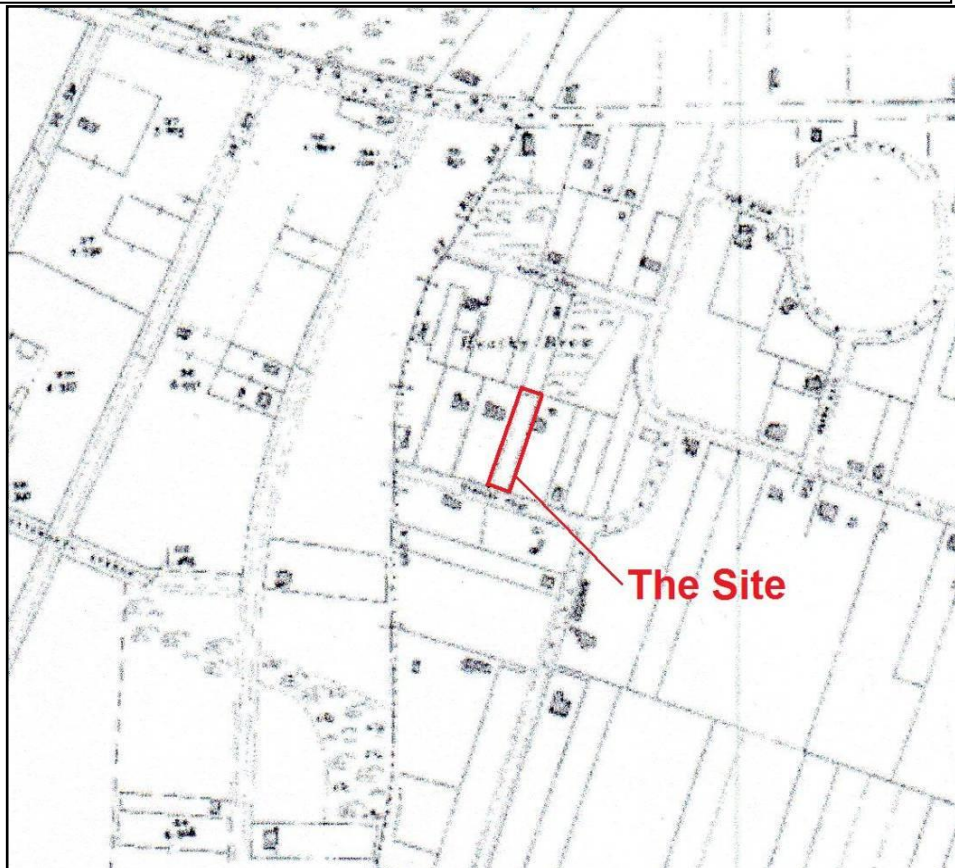


Fig. 3: 10 Stanley Road, Peacehaven: 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS Map 1928

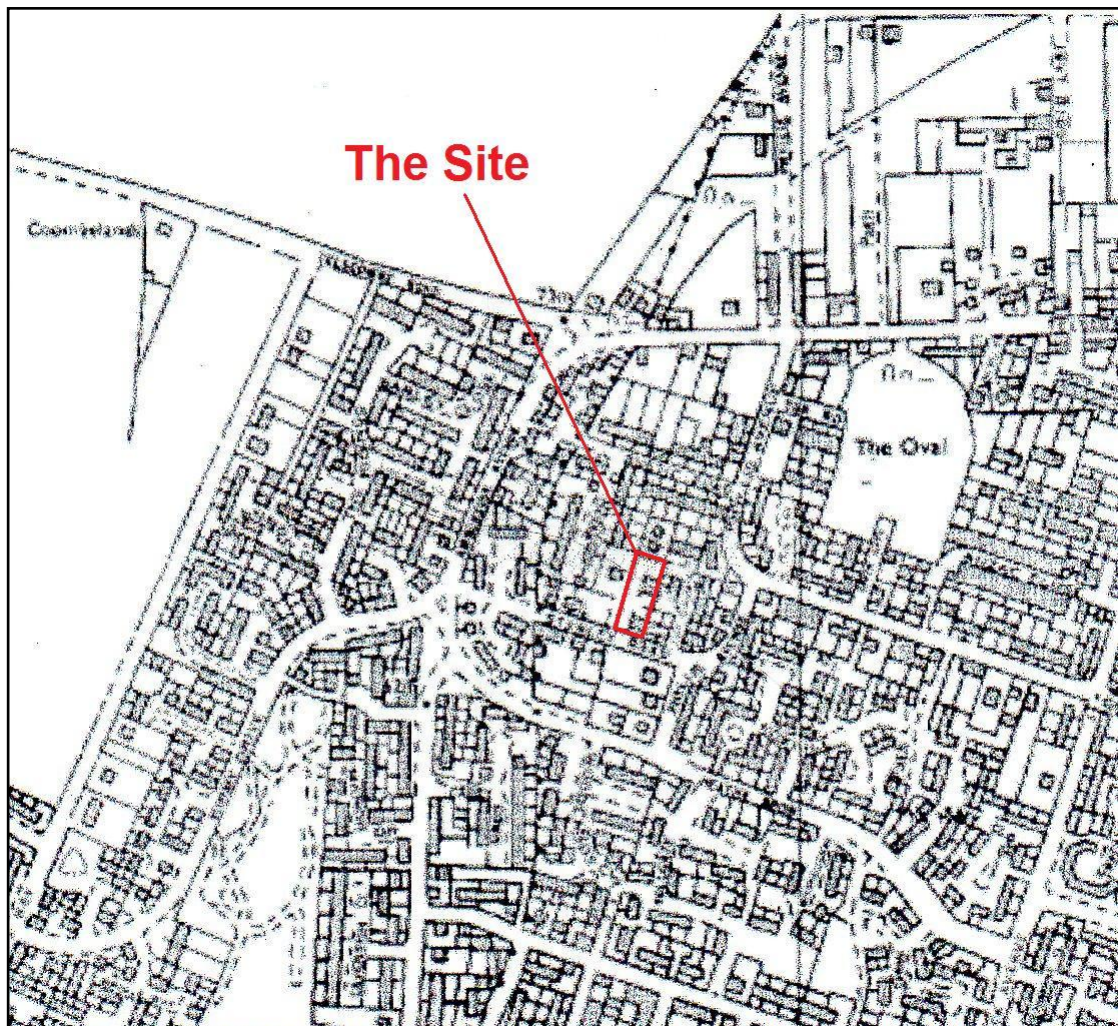


Fig. 4: 10 Stanley Road, Peacehaven: 1995 OS Map  
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Fig. 6: 10 Stanley Road, Peacehaven: Photograph of evaluation trench



Fig. 7: 10 Stanley Road, Peacehaven: Photograph of evaluation trench section



### Appendix 1: HER Summary Form

Site Code	SRP11					
Identification Name and Address	10 Stanley Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 4082 0241					
Geology	Newhaven Chalk overlain by an outcrop of Woolwich and Reading Formation.					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. <b>X</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban <b>X</b>	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 26.04.11	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	P.L Projects Ltd					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MifA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PifA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. <b>X</b>	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An evaluation trench, measuring 1m by 2m, was excavated by hand at 10, Stanley Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex, in a flower bed to the west of the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, due to the limited space available. The trench proved to be sterile of any archaeological features, however prehistoric activity was indicated by the discovery of two pieces of humanly struck flint.</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, 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 Ltd** 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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