



Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services



An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Hurst Green Primary School, Hurst Green, East Sussex.

TQ 73494 26738
by
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Summary

Three 10m x1.8m archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of the building of a new school at Hurst Green, East Sussex. Only a single Post Medieval feature was noted, and a small number of artefacts, mostly dating from the Post Medieval period, were recovered. The earliest finds were a few pieces of prehistoric flintwork, and a single sherd of possible 13th century pottery.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mansell Construction Services Limited (The Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a new school building at Hurst Green School, Hurst Green, East Sussex.
- 1.2** As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) put a condition on the planning consent for the development, requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3** The site for the proposed new primary school is located on the west side of the A21 London Road centred on TQ 73494 26738 (Fig. 1), which is situated on the southern edge of Hurst Green village. The site is currently the site of Hurst Green C of E Primary School, and is bounded by the road on its east side, houses on its south and north sides, and a field on the west side.
- 1.4** The site is located at around 75m OD on its east side and slopes gently down to its west side. Immediately beyond the west boundary of the site, the ground quickly drops with a steep slope into the adjacent field. The site is approximately 0.7ha in size, and currently has school buildings of various types and dates, a tarmac playground and parking area, with the proposed site for the new build being a grassed playing field on the north side of the site (Fig. 3).
- 1.5** The site is not within a designated Conservation Area or Archaeologically Sensitive Area, but is within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty¹. The school site is included within the Development Boundary of Hurst Green, with the field immediately to the west shown as part of a Site of Nature Conservation Importance, whilst Long Shaw a little further west is designated as Ancient Woodland².
- 1.6** The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 304), comprises Tunbridge Wells Sand, with Wadhurst Clay to the west, south and east of the site. The soil at the site is described as a slightly acid loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage, with a slowly permeable and seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soil further west³.

¹ ESCC 2004 *The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment*
(<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2006/landscapeassessment/download.htm>)

² Rother District Council 2006 Adopted Local Plan: Inset Map No. 20

³ <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

- 1.7** An Archaeological desk-based assessment⁴ has established that prior to having the current school built on the site in 1862 it was used as a nursery garden. There is no evidence for any previous activity at the site although there is evidence in the surrounding landscape for Roman and Post Medieval ironworking, and there is evidence for activity from the Mesolithic period through to the Post Medieval period in the wider surrounding area of the site.
- 1.8** Due to the non-intrusive nature of the desk based assessment it has not been possible to establish whether there is below-ground archaeology present on the site, although the presence of a sudden drop in ground level beyond the western boundary of the school field may be evidence for an earlier long-lived boundary. Any development at the site is likely to disturb and destroy any buried archaeology.
- 1.9** An appropriate programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a brief prepared by the Archaeology Team at ESCC, comprised a geophysical survey followed by an evaluation excavation.

2.0 Archaeological & Historical background

- 2.1** There have been no discoveries of Palaeolithic artefacts in the immediate area of Hurst Green, and there are only a handful of artefacts known to have a provenance in the Weald⁵. Such discoveries are normally linked to specific geological conditions, such as tertiary deposits and gravels, which are not normally found in this area.
- 2.2** There is no current evidence for Mesolithic activity at or near the site. However there is a great deal of evidence for Mesolithic hunter-gatherer groups exploiting the resources of the High Weald woodland for hunting and gathering throughout the Mesolithic period. Such sites, comprising scatters of flint debitage and tools, are sometimes extensive, suggesting either longer-stay camps or short-stay camps which were being visited repeatedly over a period of time⁶. The evidence for this period suggests that there is some likelihood of Mesolithic activity being present on the site, given its location and outlook.

⁴ Butler, C. 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Hurst Green Primary School, Hurst Green, East Sussex*, CBAS Report.

⁵ Pope, M. 2003 'The Earliest Occupation of Sussex: Recent Research and Future Objectives', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 17-28, Fig. 2.8.

⁶ Holgate, R. 2003 'Late Glacial and Post-glacial Hunter-gatherers in Sussex', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 29-38.

- 2.3** There are no local finds of Neolithic flintwork in the area of Hurst Green, however, it is possible that Neolithic artefacts could be present and if so may indicate the presence of underlying Neolithic features, although evidence for Neolithic settlement is very rare, and the likelihood of finding Neolithic artefacts is considered to be low. Similarly, no Bronze Age sites or artefacts are known from Hurst Green, and given the lack of evidence for Bronze Age activity in the area, there is a low probability that remains from this period will be found during work at the site
- 2.4** There are no finds or features from the site or its immediate vicinity that date from the Iron Age, although a ridgeway track that runs through Hurst Green via Etchingham to Heathfield was likely to have been in use during the Iron Age (MES4360). It was during the Iron Age that the Weald began to be exploited for iron production, with a relatively small number of sites known⁷, although no Iron Age iron working sites are currently known from the Hurst Green area.
- 2.5** Ironworking became a major industry during the Romano-British period, with large numbers of iron working sites across the Weald⁸. There are no Roman ironworking sites at Hurst Green, but a Roman bloomery site is situated at Brickhurst Wood (TQ752277) 1.5km to the east of Hurst Green⁹, and there have been other finds of slag near Little Iridge Farm, which may be of Roman origin.
- 2.6** Iridge was a tithing of Henhurst Hundred from 1248 onwards, and first appears as a manor in 1539 when Martin Brabon was in possession of it¹⁰; the Brabon family having been in residence since at least 1327¹¹. Iridge Place (DES4508), presumably the location of the original manor house, is situated 250m to the north-east of the site. The only archaeological find of Medieval date known from the immediate area is a coin of Henry III (1216-1272) found to the south of Little Iridge Farm. Given the location of the site and its relationship with Iridge Place it is possible that there will be some evidence for Medieval activity at the site.
- 2.7** There are a number of Post Medieval iron-working sites in the immediate vicinity of Hurst Green¹². Bugsell Forge (TQ724256) was in use during the later 16th century, and was working in 1653, but ruined by 1664¹³. Iridge Furnace was built in 1584 and is shown on the Iridge estate map of 1637¹⁴ together with the extensive system of ponds feeding it. It probably went out of use before the end of the 17th century¹⁵.

⁷ Hodgkinson, J. 2008 *The Wealden Iron Industry*, Stroud, Tempus Publishing.

⁸ Cleere, H. et al. 1995 *The Iron Industry in the Weald*, Cardiff, Merton Priory Press.

⁹ Anon., 1976 'Inventory of sites visited by WIRG', *Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group*, 1st Series, **9**.

¹⁰ Salzman, L.F. 1973 *Victoria County History: Sussex* Vol. **9**. Folkstone, Dawsons.

¹¹ Vivian, P. (Ed) 1953 'The Manor of Etchingham cum Salehurst', *Sussex Record Society* Vol. **53**.

¹² Straker, E. 1931 *Wealden Iron*, London, Bell.

¹³ Cleer, H. & Crossley, D. 1995 *The Iron Industry in the Weald*, Cardiff, Merton Priory Press Ltd.

¹⁴ ESRO (ACC 6732-2)

¹⁵ Hodgkinson, J.S. & Houghton, R.G. 2000 'Iridge Furnace, Hurst Green', *Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group* 2nd Series, **20**.

- 2.8** As well as iron working, there were other industries in and around Hurst Green, including brickworks. A brick kiln south-east of Iridge Place (TQ740268) was listed on the tithe award of 1841, and may have been associated with building work at Iridge Place in 1717, whilst a second brick kiln is hinted at by the 1841 field name 'Brick Kiln Mead' on Grove Hill Farm (TQ733263)¹⁶. Hurst Green Foundry dates back to 1704, and continued to operate into the early 20th century¹⁷.
- 2.9** The 1841 Tithe map shows the site to be within a large field named the 'Nursery Ground' occupied by John Nash and owned by S.B. Peckham Micklethwait, and which was arable at the time. Nash also occupies two other fields to the south-west, which are also owned by Micklethwait. A yard and barn next to these fields are also owned by Micklethwait, but occupied by Henry Elphee. The adjacent field to the west is owned by George French, occupied by John Buss and is called 'Hop Field'. None of the nearby field names provide evidence for past land use, although the names 'Nursery Ground', 'Hop Field' and 'Fruit Plantation' provide evidence for the use of this land for market gardening.
- 2.10** The Hurst Green school was erected in 1862 on land that was originally a nursery garden, and had been given for that purpose by Henry Sharnborne Nathaniel Micklethwait. Accommodation was provided for 145 children, and a residence for the master adjoined the school¹⁸.
- 2.11** The 1st Edition OS map (1874) shows the school building confined to the south-eastern part of the site, with what appears to be a formal orchard/nursery garden covering the remainder of the site. A long thin strip of orchard runs west from Jacobswell Farm to the north of the site, and there are open fields to the west. Overall the layout of the fields and landscape has hardly changed at all from the tithe map apart from the building of the school. There is little change shown in the 2nd and 3rd Edition OS maps.
- 2.12** The 1947 aerial photograph shows one or more structures in the north-east corner of the adjacent field. The original school building can be seen, and very little change appears to have been made since its original construction. There is no obvious evidence for an air raid shelter, although much of the surrounding area is covered with trees. The area of the playing field is open ground and no features can be seen.

¹⁶ Beswick, M. 2001 *Brickmaking in Sussex*, Midhurst, Middleton Press.

¹⁷ ESRO (AMS6209 & 6214)

¹⁸ Hodson, L.J. 1914 *A Short History of the Parish of Salehurst*.

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

Geophysics survey

3.1 The geophysics survey was carried out by Chris and Rachel Butler using a Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter on the 29th July 2009 in sunny dry conditions, although there had been some rain over the preceding days. A grid of four 20m squares placed centrally in the playing field was set out (Fig. 2).

3.2 The grid was set out using tapes and canes, and then a grid of lines with markers set out at the correct intervals was laid out. The RM15 was traversed across the grid south-north, using a zig-zag pattern taking readings at 1m intervals. Each 20m grid square was surveyed in their numerical order, each starting in the south-west corner.

Evaluation excavation

3.3 The evaluation trenches were initially CAT scanned, which confirmed that there were no services present. Trench A was on an east west alignment, 10m in from the northern edge of the playing field and 7m from the eastern side, running parallel to the northern boundary of the playing field (Fig. 4). Trench B was positioned 12m away from the temporary classroom and 7m from the eastern edge of the playing field, on a north-west to south-east alignment. Trench C was positioned on the west side of the playing field on a north-south alignment, and was 30m from the east side of the playing field and 11m north of the temporary classroom. Each trench measured 10m in length, and was 1.8m in width.

3.4 The machine used for the excavations was a 6 ton 360° JCB 8060 tracked excavator, using a 1.8 wide toothless bucket. The resulting spoil from the excavation was piled on one side of each trench, whilst the turf was carefully laid on the other side for subsequent reinstatement.

3.5 Before the removal of the turf, the ground surface was scanned using a Garrett ACE 250 metal detector. The machined surface was then scanned after the removal of the turf, and was further scanned at regular intervals thereafter during the excavation. The spoilheaps were also scanned and visually inspected for artefacts.

3.6 A bench mark (77.11m OD) was located on the east side of the school building and was transferred to establish a temporary bench mark (TBM) close to the evaluation trenches.

3.7 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.

- 3.8** 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. A site reference of HGS 09 has been allocated.

4.0 Results

Geophysics survey

- 4.1** The results of the survey are shown in Fig 3. Overall, the survey does not show any obvious anomalies or features. There is a general increase in resistance towards the northern boundary of the playing field, which corresponds with the trees and harder ground noted above. This is unlikely to be archaeological in nature.
- 4.2** There is a small square area approximately 4m x 4m in the south-west corner of the survey area, which may be archaeological, although nothing was noted on the ground surface in this area. Just to the east of this there is a faint north-south linear feature which corresponds with the location of a foul drain.
- 4.3** The remainder of the survey area shows little variation in resistance, and therefore is not helpful in providing any indication of possible archaeological features.
- 4.4** In conclusion, it is clear that the geophysics survey has not revealed any potential archaeological features in the area of the development. However, the clayey soil with impeded drainage that exists at the site may mask any anomalies given the recent rain, as suggested by the generally consistently low resistance readings across the survey area. It is therefore quite possible that archaeological features may be present.

Evaluation Excavation

- 4.5** Trench A was excavated first, and below the turf a thin layer of topsoil was noted (Context 1). This comprised a mid grey-brown loose sandy loam, with numerous grass roots, and varied in depth between 100mm and 200mm (Fig. 5).
- 4.6** Below Context 1 was Context 2 which was a layer of mid grey-brown firm sandy clay loam between 250mm and 500mm deep. This contained numerous charcoal flecks and pieces (8%), pieces of slag and clinker to 30mm (1%), natural flint pieces to 20mm (<1%), and occasional pieces of ceramic building material (<1%).

- 4.7** Below Context **2** was a layer of yellow-brown compact sandy clay (Context **3**) between 100mm and 150mm deep, which was intermixed with patches of Context **2** and formed the interface with the underlying natural (Context **4**). Context **3** contained occasional pieces of sandstone to 60mm (<1%). The natural (Context **4**) was a yellow-brown compact sandy clay with sandstone pieces to 100mm (2%).
- 4.8** At the east end of Trench A, a north-south orientated 20th century land drain cut Context **2** (Fig. 5; Section 1). It comprised a vertical cut some 400mm wide, with a concrete pipe of 100mm diameter at its bottom, and filled with rounded flint shingle pieces to 25mm (Context **5**). No archaeological features were noted in this trench.
- 4.9** The same layers were apparent in Trench B as had been found in Trench B (Fig. 5; Section 2). Context **1** was deeper throughout most of this trench, except at the north-west end where it became quite shallow. Below this was Context **2**, although this had less charcoal, slag/clinker and artefacts within it than had been found in Trench A.
- 4.10** Below Context **1** and above Context **2** in the central part of the trench was a horizon of yellow-brown firm sandy clay (Context **7**). This extended for 1.2m and was 100mm deep, and produced no artefacts.
- 4.11** Cutting Context **2** at the north-west end of Trench B was another 20th century land drain (Context **6**) also running north-south (Fig. 5; Section 2). It had a slightly narrower cut (320mm), with a concrete pipe of 100mm diameter in its bottom, and filled with rounded flint shingle pieces to 25mm.
- 4.12** Below Context **2** and above the natural was a thin layer of Context **3**. In some parts of the trench Context **3** was almost non-existent, and no artefacts were recovered from it.
- 4.13** Trench 3 also had the same three layers within it. Contexts **1** and **2** had a uniform depth across the entire trench (Fig. 5; Section 3), with Context **2** again having less charcoal and slag/clinker in it than was found in Trench A. Context **3** was once again found between Context **2** and the natural, and became shallower towards the north end of the trench.
- 4.14** Below Context **2** and cutting into Context **3** was a shallow cut feature (Cut **8**). This was 720mm wide and 200mm deep, and extended outside the trench on the east side (Fig. 5). It had steep sides and a dished bottom, and contained a dark grey-brown sandy clay loam fill (Fill **9**) with charcoal flecks (<1%) and sandstone pieces to 40mm (3%). Fragments of 18th-19th century CBM were recovered from this feature.

4.15 No other archaeological features were noted during the excavation. A service trench had been previously excavated between the school buildings and the west edge of the site. A brief walkover of the backfilled trench recovered a fragment of pottery and a small glass bottle, both of later 19th century date.

5.0 The Finds.

5.0.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavation, the vast majority of which were found in Context 2. The pottery, CBM and geological material is summarised in Table 1, and all other finds are summarised in Table 2.

5.0.2 The assemblage of finds from the site, although demonstrating past activity from prehistory, is small, mixed and from open contexts. As such the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard.

Table 1: Pottery, CBM & Geological material

Context	Pot: Medieval C13th – 14th	Pot: Early Post-medieval Mid C16th – mid 18th	Pot: Late Post-medieval Mid C18th – 19th	Ceramic Building Material	Other	Spot Date
Service trench	-	-	1/12g	-	-	c. 1850-1900+
Tr. A: 2	1/3g	2/11g	42/305g	Brick 19/627g Peg tile 22/594g Nib tile 1/31g Drain 1/19g	Stone 10/249g	c. 1850-1920 (Residual C13th – early 19 th)
Tr. A: 3	-	1/15g	2/23g	Brick 2/45g Peg tile 1/67g	Stone 1/28g C. pipe 1/3g	c. 1800-1875
Tr. B: 2	-	1/4g	26/136g	Peg tile 9/132g Ridge tile 2/59g	Stone 1/2g C. pipe 1/3g	c. 1850-1900+ (Residual C18th – e 19 th)
Tr. C: 1	-	2/28g	6/14g	Peg tile 1/52g	Stone 2/15g C. pipe 1/1g	c. 1850-1900+ (Residual C17th)
Tr. C: 2	-	2/46g	52/300g	Peg tile 8/192g Ridge tile 1/15g	C. pipe 6/11g	c. 1850-1900+ (Residual C17th – 18 th)
Tr. C: 9	-	-	-	Brick 1/3g Peg tile 1/6g	-	C18th – 19th

5.1 *The Pottery* by Luke Barber

- 5.1.1** The pottery from the site is in variable condition. On the whole, with the exception of the stonewares, the earlier pottery consists of heavily abraded small sherds (< 30mm across). Although the later post-medieval pottery assemblage is also characterized by small sherds they show less signs of abrasion. As such it is likely most of the pottery from the site has been reworked to some extent.
- 5.1.2** The earliest pottery from the site consists of a single heavily abraded cooking pot body sherd tempered with medium sand and shell (Trench A, Context **2**). A 13th century date is probable for this piece.
- 5.1.3** There is more early post-medieval pottery, suggesting an increase in activity during the 16th to mid 18th centuries in the general area. Trench A, Context **2** produced the earliest material from this period: an oxidised hard-fired earthenware bodysherd of mid 15th to 16th century date. The same deposit produced a heavily abraded post-medieval redware bodysherd with green internal glaze and probably of 16th- to 17th- century date (a sherd of similar type was also recovered from Context **3** in the same trench).
- 5.1.4** An abraded fine oxidised hard-fired earthenware plate rim of probable 17th century date was recovered from Trench C, Context **2** together with a chip of probable German (Frechen) stoneware. Context **1** in the same trench produced two larger sherds of Frechen stoneware bottles, dating between the mid 16th and 17th centuries. The latest sherd of early post-medieval pottery consists of a small fragment from a Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware plate, of early/mid 18th century date.
- 5.1.5** The vast majority of the pottery assemblage can be placed in the late post-medieval period. There are a few small sherds from late creamware plates (e.g. Trench B, Context **2** had two sherds weighing 4g and Trench C, Context **2** produced two more sherds weighing 3g) and pearlware plates/saucers (eg Trench B, Context **2** contained four sherds weighing 7g while Trench C, Context **2** contained another two sherds weighing 4g, including a green shell-edged plate) indicating low-levels of activity continued through the later 18th to early/mid 19th centuries.
- 5.1.6** However, the majority of the pottery can be placed in the later 19th century and/or the beginning of the 20th century. The quantities involved, and indeed larger size of the sherds suggests direct refuse disposal was occurring on the site. A typical range of domestic wares is represented. There is a spread of unglazed earthenware flower pots in most contexts, together with a number of large jars, jugs and bowls in locally produced redwares. Trench A, Context **2**, even produced a local redware with all over internal white slip below the glaze.

- 5.1.7** A number of English stoneware and refined white earthenware (ironstone china) vessels are present including inks, and more notably, preserve jars typical of the very late 19th/early 20th centuries. Other kitchen wares include fragments from late yellow ware mixing bowls with moulded external decoration and internal white slip.
- 5.1.8** Table and tea wares are also well represented. These consist of plain refined white earthenware plates and less commonly a range of transfer-printed wares decorated in blue (typically willow pattern). Tea wares are more typically represented by rather low-standard English porcelain pieces and the base of a Rockingham-type teapot.
- 5.1.9** At least two childrens' toys are represented, both in English porcelain: the leg of a doll and handle from a toy tea-cup (Trench A, Context 2).

5.2 *The Clay Tobacco Pipe* by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1** A small assemblage of clay pipe fragments is present. With the exception of a tiny chip from a later 19th century decorated bowl (Trench A, Context 2) all consist of undecorated stem fragments. The earliest pieces consist of two abraded early/mid 18th century fragments (Trench B, Context 2 and C, Context 2). The remainder are all much less abraded and belong to the 19th century.

5.3 *The Ceramic Building Material* by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1** A relatively small assemblage of ceramic building material was recovered. The majority of pieces consist of peg tile fragments of later 18th to early 20th century date. Most are well formed and in a hard-fired sparse fine sand tempered fabric, tempered with either white clay or iron oxide pellets to 2mm. The only fixing hole observed was square. A few pieces of ridge tile fragments, of similar fabrics/date, were also recovered.
- 5.3.2** The only other type of roof tile is represented by a single piece of machine-made nib/peg tile from Trench A, Context 2, almost certainly of 20th- century date. The same deposit also produced a salt-glazed drain fragment of later 19th to mid 20th century date.
- 5.3.3** A number of small pieces of brick were recovered. Only one complete dimension is present: a height of 62mm on a brick from Trench A, Context 2. Although there are a couple of low-fired silty examples from this context which could be as early as the 16th to early 18th centuries the vast majority can confidently be placed in the later 18th to 19th centuries. These types are usually tempered with sparse fine sand and contain sparse to moderate iron oxide inclusions to 3mm, occasionally with white clay streaks. Most are well formed and fired.

5.4 *Geological Material* by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1** A small assemblage of stone is present. Of note is the presence of a single piece (21g) of West Country roofing slate, a type characteristic of medieval buildings of some standing. With the exception of three pieces of unworked Wealden sandstone (76g) from Trench A, Context **2**, the remainder of the assemblage consists of 19th- century Welsh slate.
- 5.4.2** Most of this material is typically from roofing, however, five pieces (112g) from Trench A, Context **2** are polished school slates with ground edges. One example still has scored lines on one face.

Table 2: Other Finds

Context	Flintwork	Glass	Metal	Other
Service Trench	-	1 bottle (89g)	-	-
Tr. A:2	1 flake (<1g)	17 frags (197g)	2 (45g)	5 slag/clinker (80g) 1 coal (2g)
Tr. A:3	-	-	-	2 oyster (29g)
Tr. B:2	2 flakes (18g)	7 frags (38g)	2 (46g)	3 slag/clinker (15g) 1 bone (<1g) 1 oyster (3g)
Tr. C:1	-	2 frags (36g)	3 (18g)	1 coin
Tr. C:2	-	17 frags (112g)	-	2 slag (82g)
Tr. C:9	-	-	1 (<1g)	-

5.5 *Prehistoric flintwork* by Chris Butler

- 5.5.1** Three pieces of prehistoric flintwork weighing 18gms were found during the work. They comprised two small hard hammer-struck flakes, together with a single soft hammer-struck flake which had some evidence for platform preparation. These pieces are largely undiagnostic although the soft hammer-struck piece is likely to be either Mesolithic or early Neolithic in date.

5.6 *Glass* by Chris Butler

- 5.6.1** A total of 43 pieces of glass were found, together with a complete bottle (Table 2). The complete glass bottle was found in the backfilled soil to the service trench, and was a small clear glass perfume or medicine bottle. It was formed from two moulded halves with an applied lip, and dated to the latter 19th century.

5.6.2 The glass fragments were mostly from bottles, with most of the fragments being either pale green, dark green, clear or brown. Most are likely to derive from later 19th or early 20th century mineral water bottles, although a few pale green examples from Context 2 in Trenches A & B are perhaps mid 19th century in date. None of the fragments had makers marks or manufactures names.

5.6.3 In addition to the bottles there was also a single clear ribbed glass fragment, probably from a small bowl or drinking glass (Context 2, Trench A), and a few fragments of thin window glass in Context 2 (Trenches A & C).

5.7 *Other finds* by Chris Butler

5.7.1 The metal finds were mostly iron nails, however the topsoil (Context 1) in Trench C produced a 1983 £1 coin, and a foil bottle top. The fill of Cut 8 produced a small copper-alloy tack.

5.7.2 A number of fragments of slag or clinker were recovered from Context 2 in Trenches A & B, whilst some coal was also found in Trench A. These appear to be related to the burning noted in this Context, especially in Trench A. Two pieces of Post Medieval blast furnace slag were recovered from Context 2 in Trench C.

5.7.3 Two fragments of oyster shell were found in the top of Context 3 in Trench A, whilst another small fragment was found in Context 2, Trench B. A single small eroded fragment of bone was also found in Context 2, Trench B.

6.0 Discussion

6.1 The earliest finds recovered during the excavation were three pieces of worked flint, one of which may have been Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. This suggests that there has been some prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site.

6.2 A single sherd of 13th century pottery hints at possible activity in the area at this date, whilst a number of sherds of early Post Medieval date suggest an increase in activity during the 16th to mid 18th centuries in the general area of the site. The presence of the blast furnace slag of a similar date may indicate that all of these finds arrived at the site as a result of manuring.

- 6.3** The 19th century pottery includes a spread of unglazed earthenware flower pots in most contexts, which together with the window glass, and other pottery and glass of earlier 19th century date, may relate to the previous use of the site as a nursery before the school was built. The small feature in Trench C may also relate to this time.
- 6.4** Most of the artefacts recovered however probably relate to the period of time since the school was constructed. Some of these can be directly related to the school, for example the slate writing tablets and the pieces of porcelain children's toys. Much of the remaining pottery and glass items can be linked to this period in the late 19th and 20th century. The two land drains were probably inserted to improve the drainage of the school playing field in the later 20th century.
- 6.5** Apart from the single small feature in Trench C, no other archaeological features were encountered, and the artefacts recovered mostly date from the last 150 years. It is therefore considered unlikely that the development will affect any significant archaeological remains, and it is recommended that no further archaeological excavation or watching brief will be required before or during the development in relation to the construction of the new buildings on the school playing field.

7.0 Acknowledgements

- 7.1** I would like to thank Warren Terry of Mansell Construction Services Ltd for commissioning this archaeological evaluation excavation and their on-site staff for their assistance and co-operation. The machine was provided and operated by Royland Building & Civil Engineering.
- 7.2** The geophysics survey and evaluation excavation was undertaken by the author assisted by Rachel Butler. Luke Barber reported on the pottery, CBM and geological material, and Jane Russell prepared the drawings for the report. The project was monitored for ESCC by Greg Chuter.

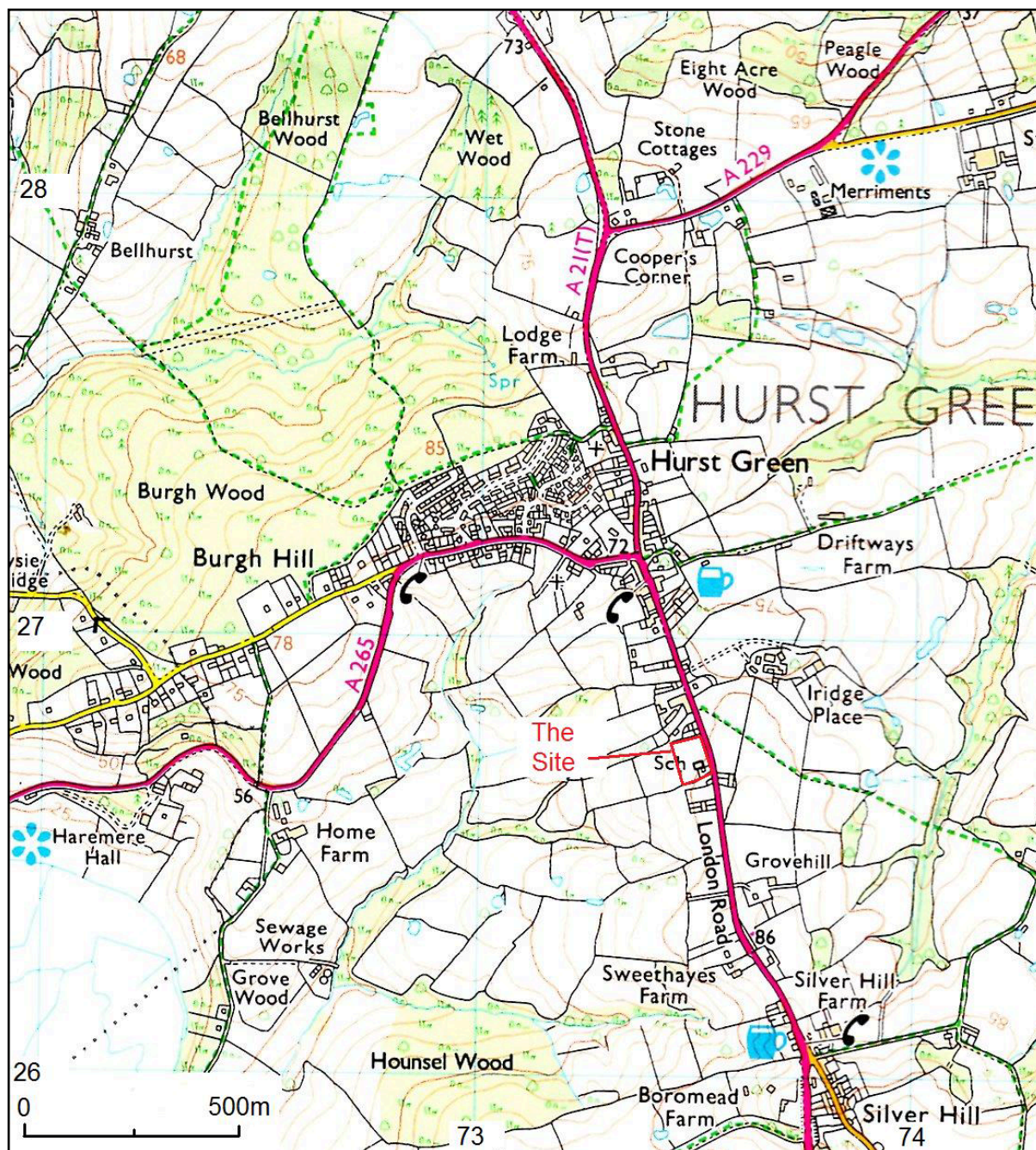


Fig. 1: Hurst Green Primary School: Location of the site.
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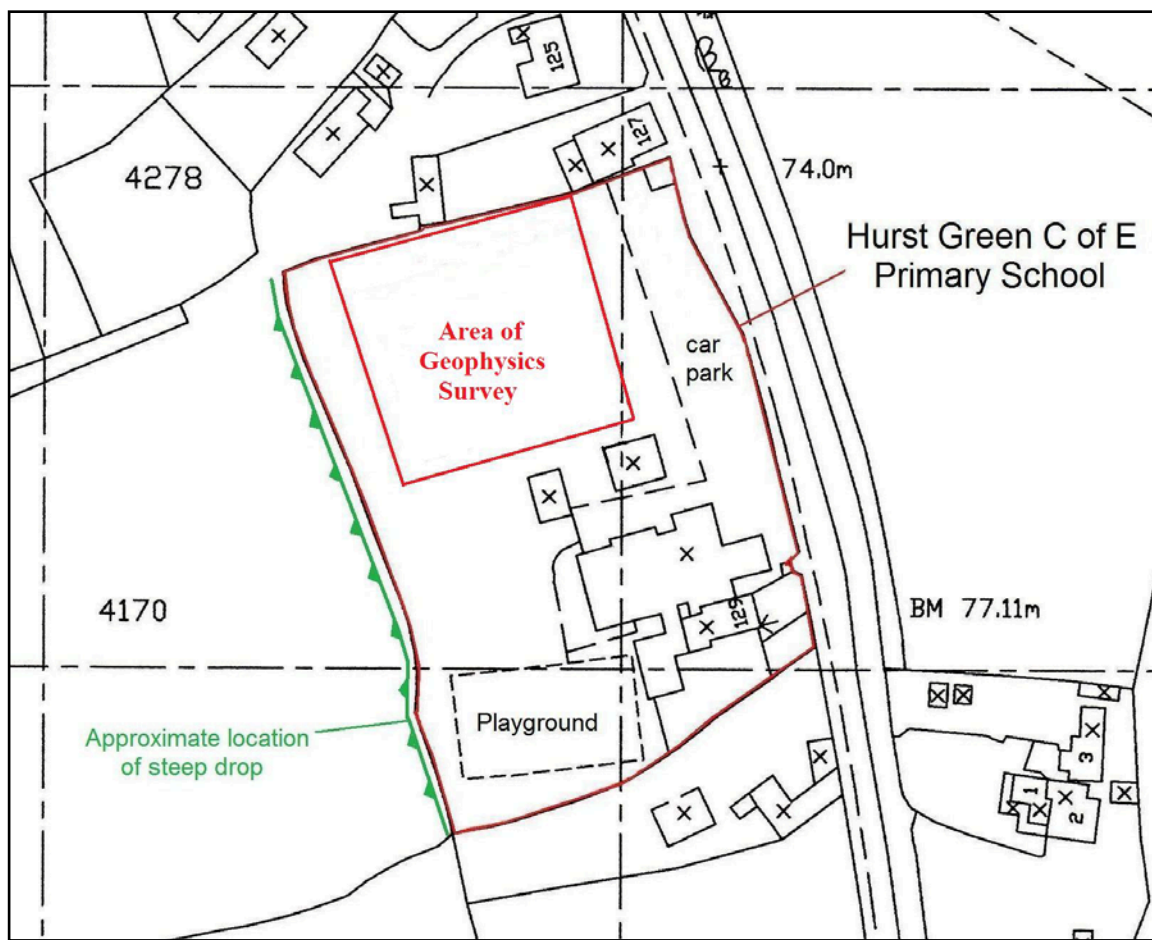


Fig. 2: Hurst Green School: Showing the location of the geophysics survey grid.
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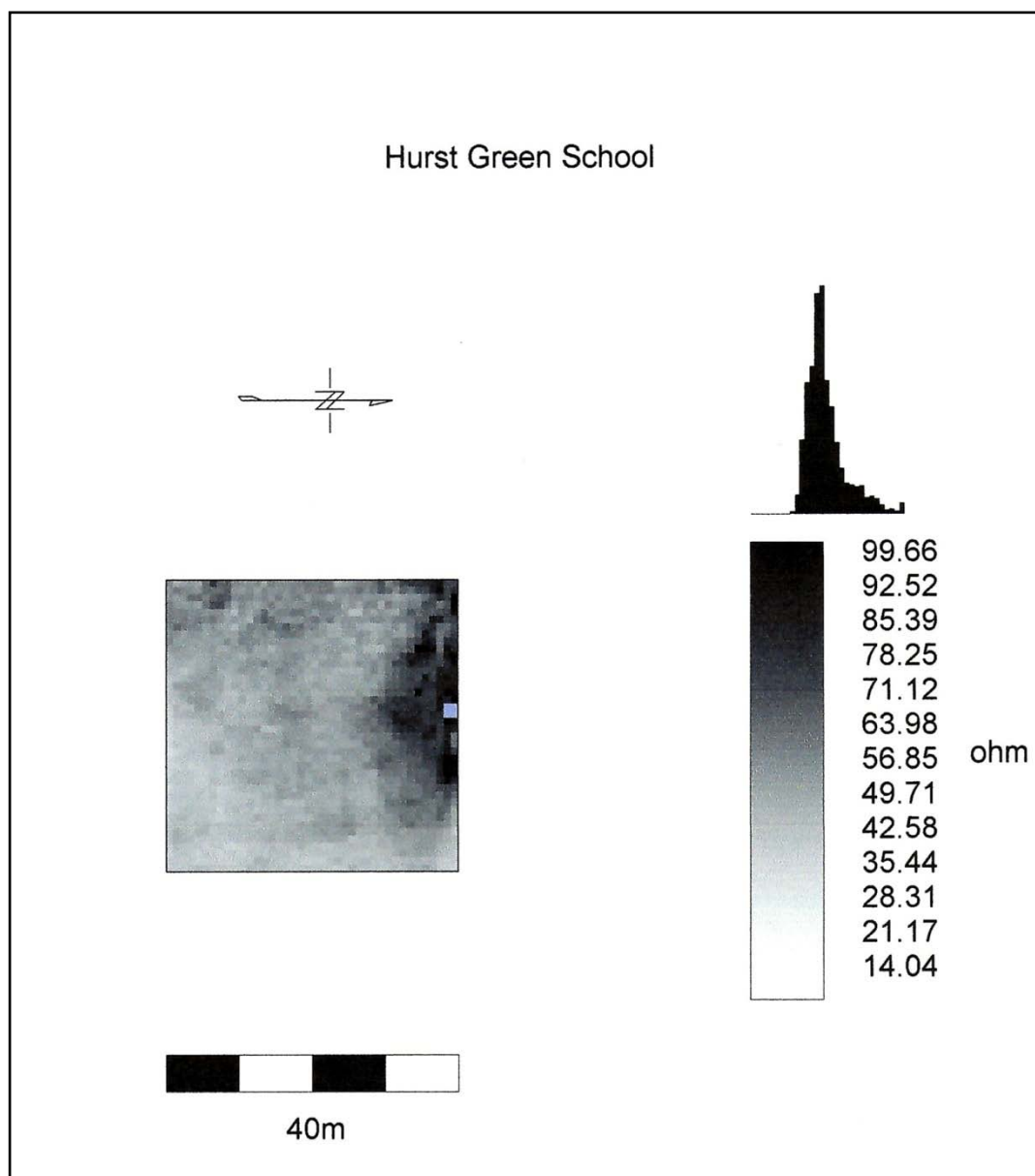


Fig. 3: Hurst Green School: Results of the Resistivity survey

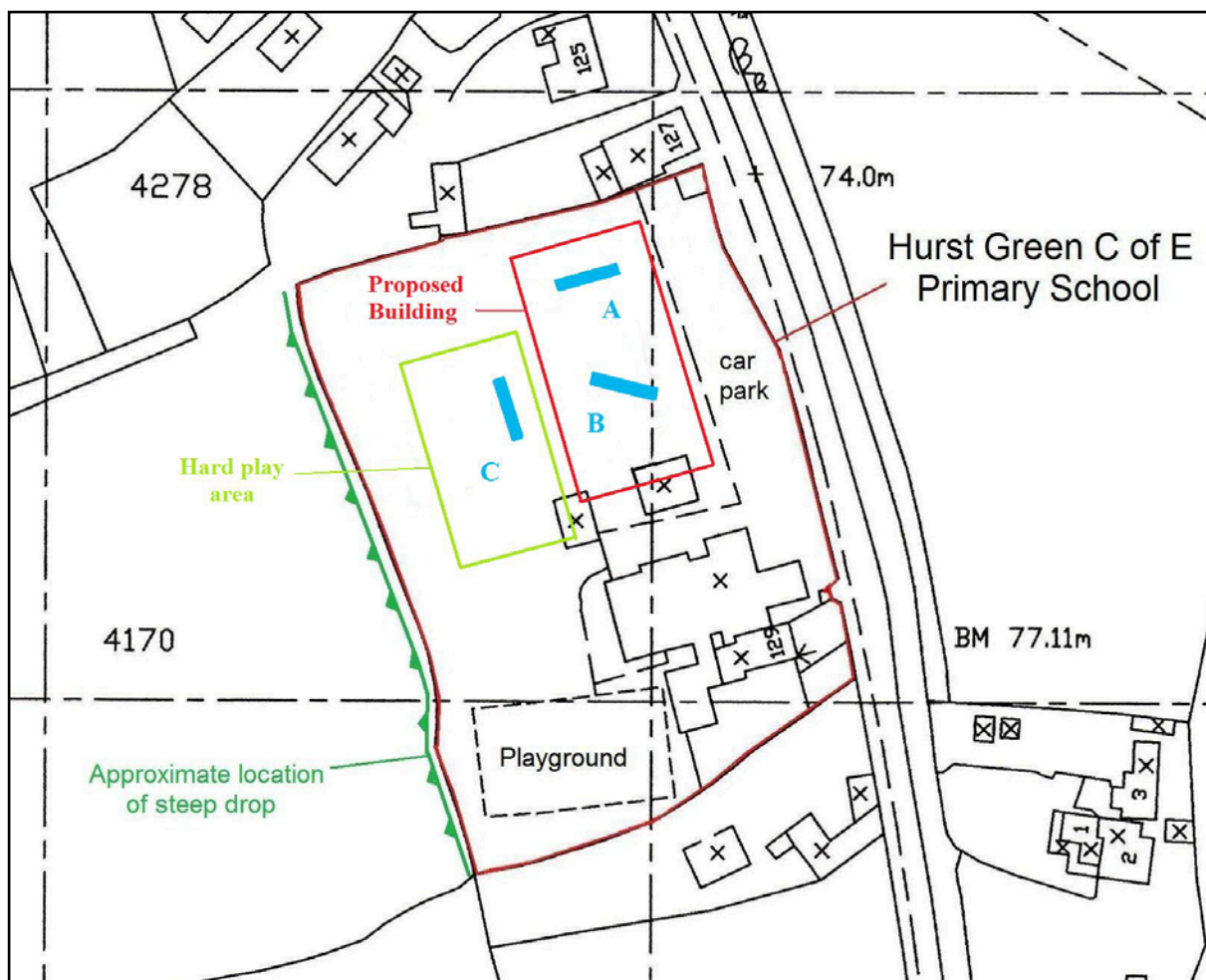


Fig. 4: Hurst Green School: New building location and the location of the evaluation trenches

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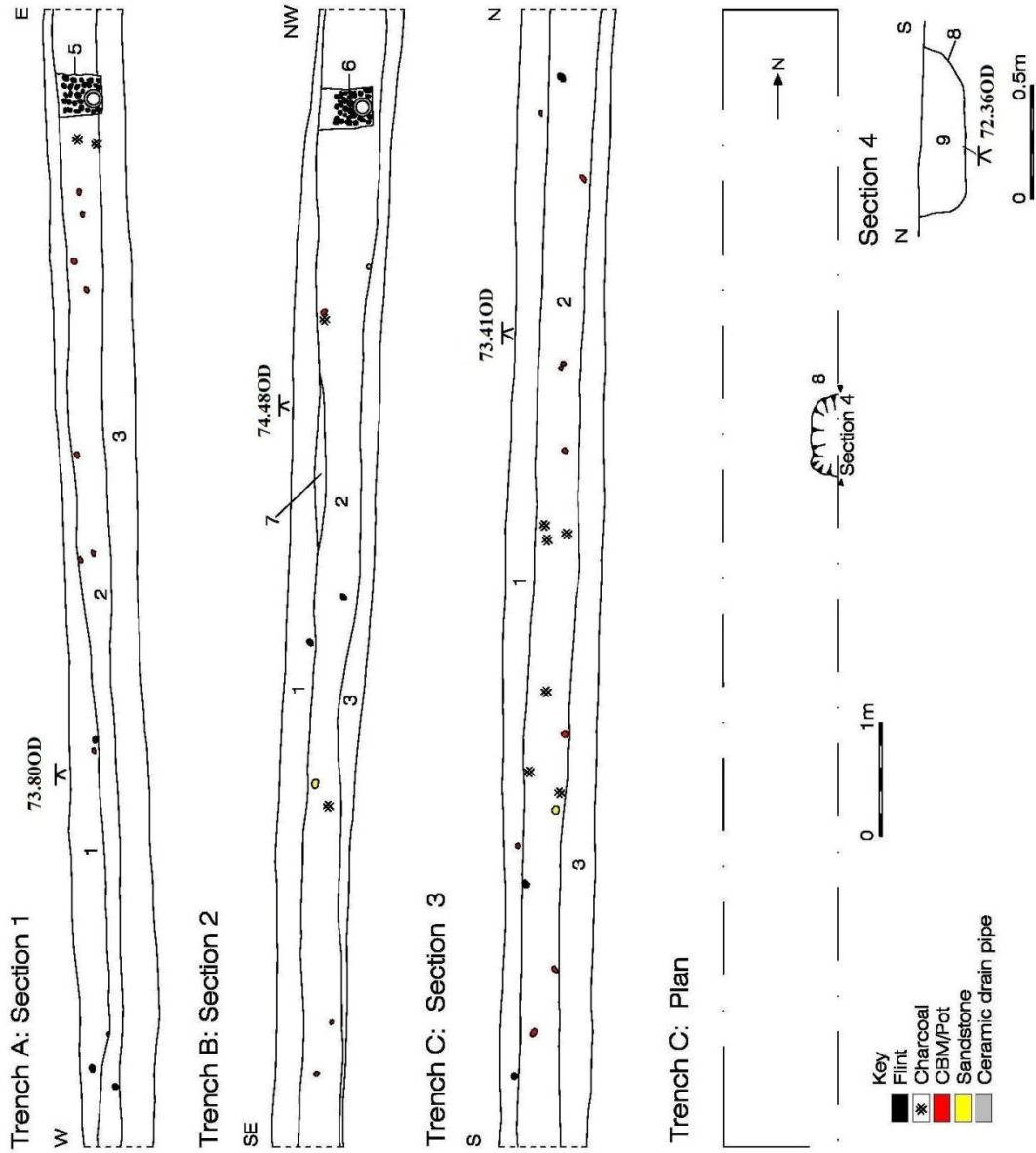


Fig. 5: Hurst Green School, Seaford: Trench Sections, Plan of Trench C and Section of Cut 8.



Fig. 6: Hurst Green School: Photograph of Trench A

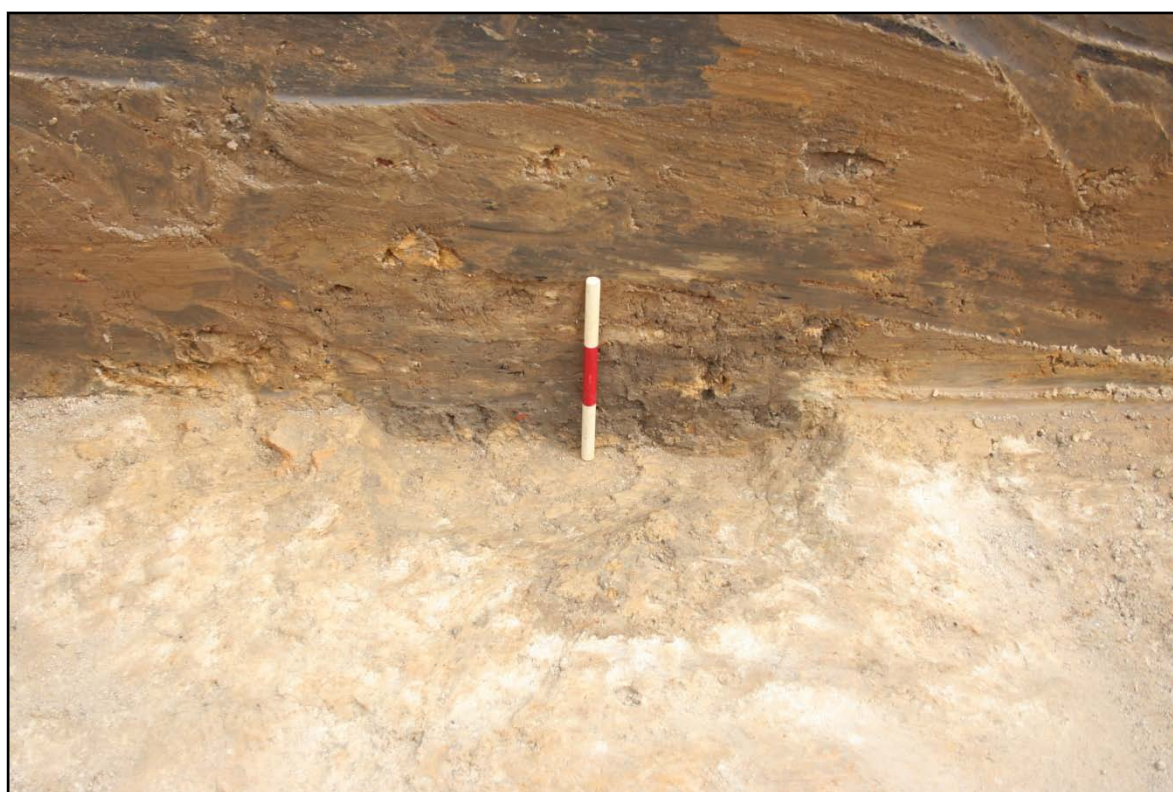


Fig. 7: Hurst Green School: Photograph of Cut 8 in Trench C

HER Summary Form

Site Code	HGS 09					
Identification Name and Address	Hurst Green School , Hurst Green, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex County Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 73494 26738					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey X	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 24-25 8/09	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mansell Construction Services Ltd.					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIFA					
Project Supervisor						
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ?	Neo. ?	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Three 10m x1.8m archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of the building of a new school at Hurst Green, East Sussex. Only a single Post Medieval feature was noted, and a small number of artefacts, mostly dating from the Post Medieval period, were recovered. The earliest finds were a few pieces of prehistoric flintwork, and a single sherd of possible 13th century pottery.</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.

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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