



**Chris Butler MfA  
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Church Cottage,  
Sandhurst,  
Kent.**

By  
David Atkin

13/02567/HOUSE/TW

Project No. CBAS0451

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### ***Summary***

*An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the footing trenches and a drainage run associated with the construction of a new two storey extension at Church Cottage, Sandhurst, Kent. The excavations were 650mm wide and 900mm deep with a straight forward stratigraphy of topsoil, subsoil and natural. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Fagg to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief during the groundworks associated with the construction a new extension at Church Cottage, Sandhurst, Kent (13/02567/HOUSE/TW).

1.2 The site is located at TQ 7903 2737 to the South-West of the village of Sandhurst. The site is situated immediately to the north of St. Nicholas Church which appears to have its origins in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but could be earlier.

1.3 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey website, comprises of Tunbridge Wells Sand.

1.4 As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority put a condition on the planning consent for the development, requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken. The condition states:

*No Development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

1.5 The archaeological potential relates to evidence of Iron Age and Medieval activity close to St Nicholas Church. Recent evaluation excavations located some Iron Age ditches within the burial ground extension to St Nicholas Church<sup>1</sup>.

1.6 The appropriate programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Specification<sup>2</sup> prepared by the Archaeology Team at KCC, comprised of an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was required to monitor the excavation of any ground-works carried out during the development.

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<sup>1</sup> Martin, J. 2012, *Archaeological Evaluation at St. Nicholas's Church, Church Road in Sandhurst, SWAT*  
Archaeology.

<sup>2</sup> KCC, 2011 *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent*

- 1.7** The objectives of the watching brief were to record any archaeological features which may have been damaged or destroyed by the groundworks, and to determine whether there was any archaeological evidence present on site.
  
- 1.8** The fieldwork was carried out by the author between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

## 2.0 Method Statement

- 2.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the KCC Specification and the CIfA Standards and Guidance
- 2.2 Ground works began with the excavation of the drainage run from an existing man-hole before moving onto the excavation for the footing trenches, some 650mm wide by 900mm deep and were excavated under archaeological supervision to a depth of 230mm by a Volvo EC25 with a toothless ditching bucket.



Plate 1: Excavated footing trenches

- 2.3 The exposed surface was inspected for archaeological features, structures or finds. The spoil from the excavations was inspected on a regular basis to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A Garrett Ace 150 metal detector was used to scan the spoil, but no archaeological finds were recovered.
- 2.4 All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards and to the KCC Recommended Conditions. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart
- 2.5 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 CCS14 has been allocated.

### 3.0 Results

- 3.1 Context 1 was topsoil deposit. It was a soft black, sandy-silt, 260mm thick and containing roots at 3% and two sherds of late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century china (not retained). This sat immediately above the subsoil, Context 2.



Plate 2: South facing section of the drainage run-Contexts 1 to 3.

- 3.2 Context 2 was the underlying subsoil and was a soft black, sandy-silt, 300mm thick and was sterile apart from roots at 1%. This sat immediately above the natural, Context 3.
- 3.3 Context 3 was the natural sandstone bed. It was a soft deposit and a mix of dark and light yellows and buff in overall colour. It contained very occasional sandstone at 1% and was 230mm to the limit of excavation.
- 3.4 No archaeological deposits or features were found during the watching brief

## **4.0 Discussion**

- 4.1** The watching brief achieved its objectives and ascertained the depths of deposits across the area under examination.
  
- 4.2** This watching brief was required to see if any archaeology was present on the site, most notably any medieval or Iron Age remains due to the close proximity of the church and the known Iron Age features from the nearby evaluation to the south of the site.
  
- 4.3** No archaeological remains were noted during the watching brief, suggesting that any earlier human activity was perhaps focused around the church and to the south of Church Cottage, although it should be noted that the footing trenches were only 650mm wide and very shallow, so that archaeology may lie outside the small area that was monitored on this occasion.

**NEGATIVE RESULT LEVEL 1 WATCHING-BRIEF REPORT SHEET**

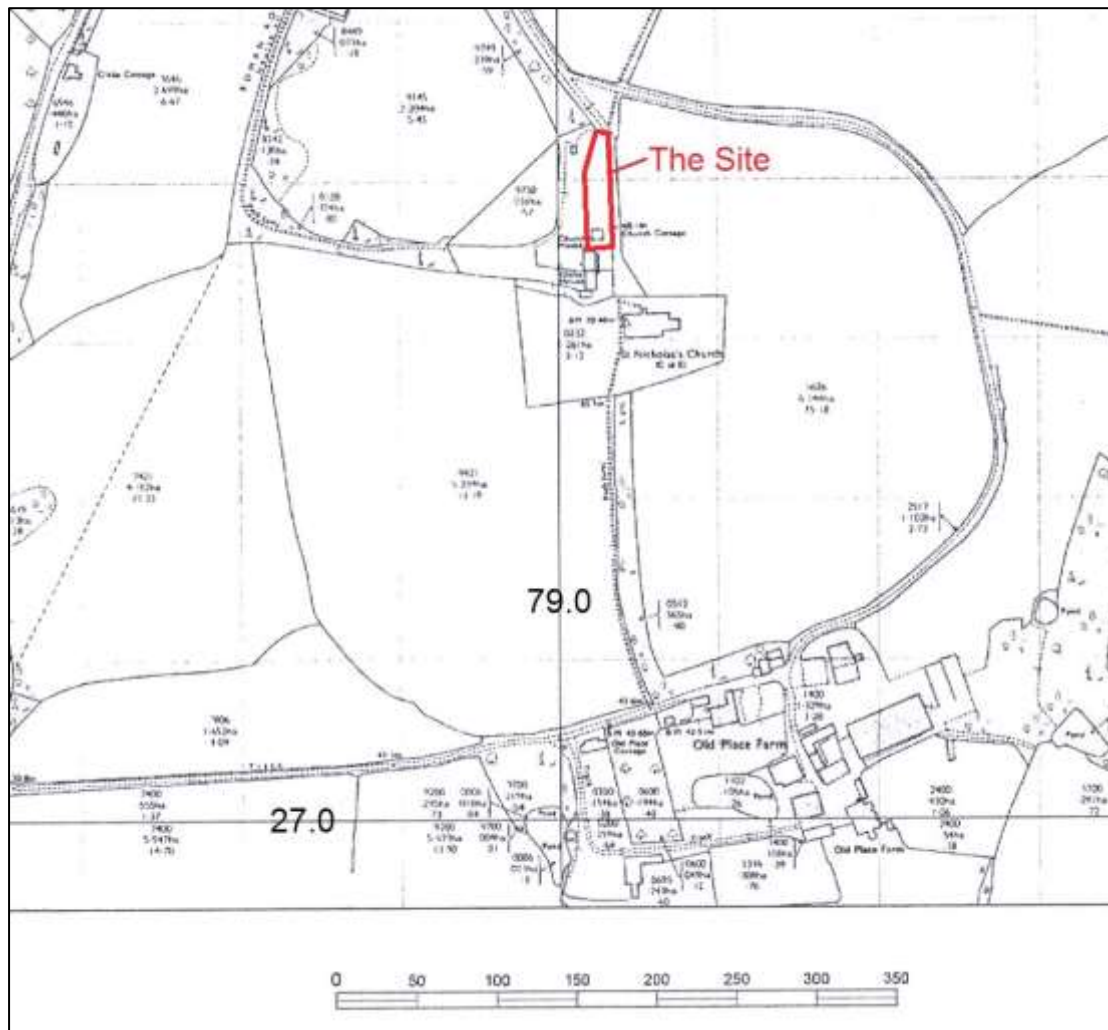
<b>Site Name &amp; Location</b> Church Cottage, Church Road, Sandhurst, Kent.		<b>Grid Ref. (8 Figure)</b> TQ 7903 2737	
<b>Planning Ref. 13/02567/HOUSE</b>			
<b>ESCC Monitoring Officer</b> Wendy Rogers		<b>District Tunbridge Wells District Council</b>  <b>Parish Sandhurst</b>	
<b>Archaeologist Details</b> CBAS Ltd, Unit 12 Mays Farm, Selmeston, East Sussex. BN26 6TB		<b>Date of visits:</b> 2 <sup>rd</sup> May to 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2014  <b>Author of Report: David Atkin</b>	
<b>Developer</b> Mr. and Mrs Fagg		<b>Nature of development</b> Extension	
<b>Land Owner/Tenant</b> (if different from above)  N/A		<b>Site contact</b>  Owner	
<b>Geology</b> (solid & drift)  Tunbridge Wells Sandstone		<b>Soil</b> (general)  Sandy-silt (see contexts below)	
<b>Archaeological Potential</b> (if known)  <b>Relevant ESHER Refs.</b> (if known)  N/A		<b>Nature of groundworks</b> (Refer to development plan) Footings for new extension.  <b>Site topography – Land use</b>	
<b>Topsoil levels</b> N/A		<b>OS Benchmark</b> N/A	
<b>Recording Checklist</b> (tick) – Attach to this sheet	<b>Context Register</b> X See attached.	<b>Findings Record</b>	<b>Drawn Record</b> X <b>Photographic</b> X
<b>Stratigraphic Descriptions</b> (Describe all deposits exposed by the groundworks)			
Context 1 was a soft black, sandy-silt, 260mm thick and containing roots at 3% and two sherds of recent china (not retained). This sat immediately above the subsoil, Context 2.			
Context 2 was the underlying subsoil and was a soft black, sandy-silt, 300mm thick and was sterile apart from roots at 1%. This sat immediately above the natural, Context 3.			

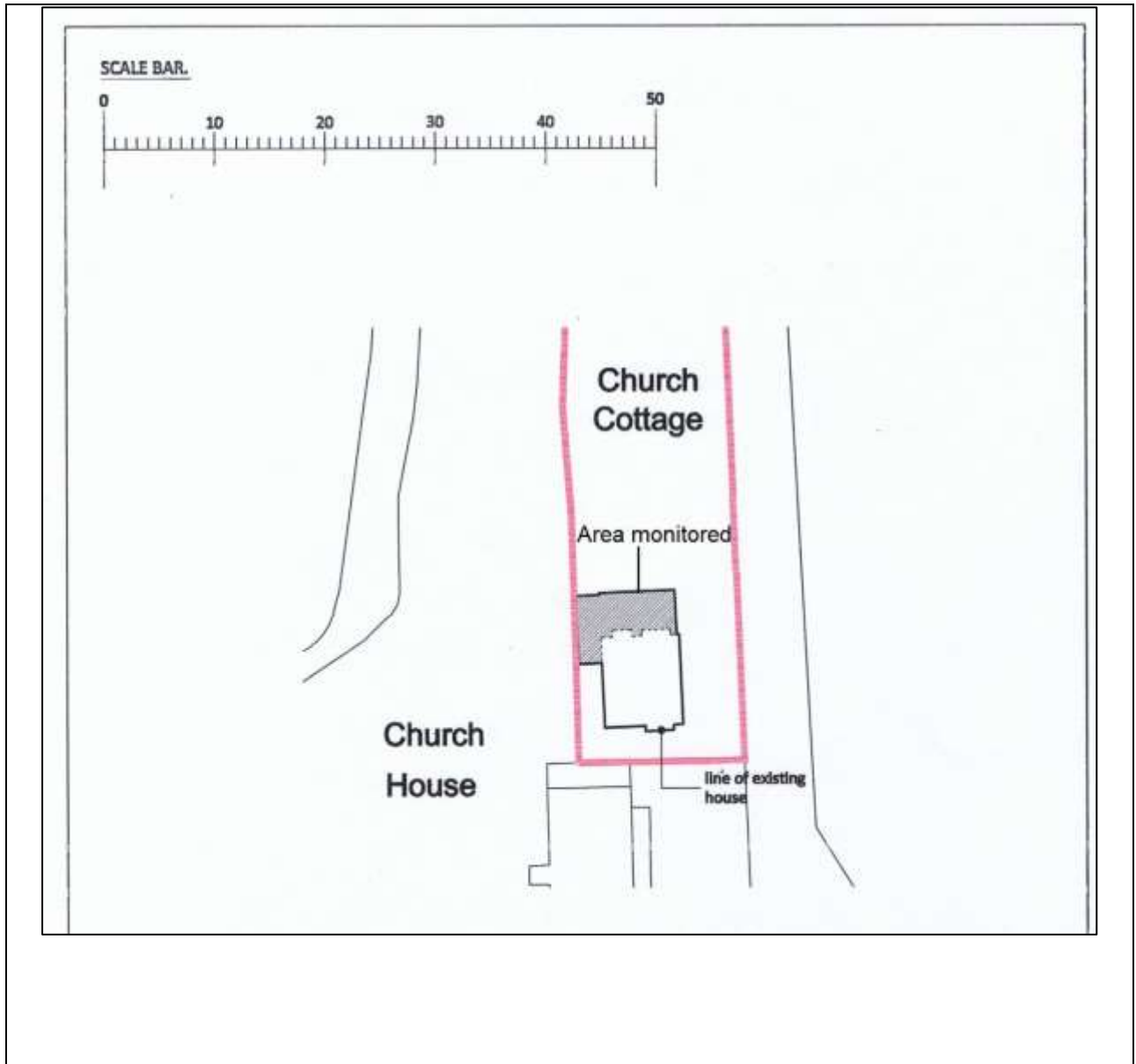


Context 3 was the natural sandstone bed. It was a soft deposit and a mix of dark and light yellows and buff in overall colour. It contained very occasional sandstone at 1% and was 230mm to the limit of excavation.

No archaeological features were recorded.

**Sketch Location Plan of site – areas monitored**  
(Attach developer plans etc.)





**Photographic Index.**

SDC13918 Drainage run looking south.

SDC13919 Drainage run looking east

SDC13920 General shot

SDC13921 General shot

SDC13922 Drainage run section looking north

SDC13924 Drainage run section looking north

SDC13925 Drainage run section looking east

SDC13926 Drainage run section looking east

SDC13927 Drainage run section looking north

SDC13928 Working shot

SDC13929 Working shot looking north

SDC13945 Working shot footing looking east

SDC13946 Working shot looking east

SDC13947 Working shot looking east

SDC13948 Working shot

SDC13949 Working shot

SDC13950 General shot

SDC13951 Footing shot looking south

SDC13952 Ground reduction

SDC13953 Footing shot looking east