



**Chris Butler MCIfA  
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Evaluation  
Excavation at  
Dittons Villa,  
Polegate,  
East Sussex**

WD/2015/2403/F &  
WD/2016/0469/FA

TQ 60125 04687

Project No. CBAS0867

By  
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### **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out in connection with a planning application for a new house at Dittons Villa, Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex.*

*Three evaluation trenches were opened across the Site, two targeting the footprint of the proposed new house and one within the lawn at the front of the Site. The evaluation revealed topsoil, subsoil and natural silty sand, as well as a deposit of modern made ground partially covering the topsoil at the southern end of the Site. A former brick-lined service trench was found cut into the natural, and a possible cut feature or area of natural disturbance was seen within the subsoil. The evaluation found no archaeological evidence relating to the nearby Roman road or Medieval activity at Ditton's Farm.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned by Raymond Langhurst and Henry Devall (the Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation excavation at Dittons Villa, Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex (Figs. 1 and 2) in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains, in connection with planning decisions (WD/2015/2403/F and WD/2016/0469/FA) for the construction of a three bedroom detached house alongside the pre-existing house of Dittons Villa (Fig. 3). The results of the evaluation excavation are to inform the need for any further archaeological mitigation on Site. The following condition has been applied to both planning approvals:

*No development shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological works has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. AR01*

*REASON: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, in accordance with the requirements of SPO2, SPO13 and WCS14 to the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and paragraphs 129, 131 and 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.*

- 1.2 The Site is a rectangular plot located south side of Dittons Road, within the eastern fringes of Polegate town, centred at TQ 60164 04507 (Figs. 1 and 2). The Site is bounded to the north by the B2247 road (Dittons Road), and to the south by the Chaucer Business Park. Beyond Chaucer Business Park is; a dismantled railway line and the Cuckoo Trail to the south, which overlook the Willingdon Levels.
- 1.3 The Site lies on ground sloping gently to the southeast at a height between 13m and 15m OD<sup>1</sup>. According to the British Geological Survey, the geology of the Site comprises mudstone of the Weald Clay Formation<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.4 The Site is located within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA No. 896) covering the Roman road from Pevensey to Arlington (Fig. 4). Archaeological monitoring in 2013, during construction of Chaucer Business Park Phase I to the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://en-gb.topographic-map.com/places/Polegate-8205132/>; accessed 19/06/2017

<sup>2</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> ; accessed 19/06/2017

immediate west of the Site, uncovered no archaeological features<sup>3</sup>, although this site had previously been heavily ploughed to remove any former areas of concrete hardstanding and hard core.

- 1.5 The land to the north of Dittons Farm was evaluated in 2014<sup>4</sup> and 2015<sup>5</sup>, which revealed the presence of Medieval features which probably suggest that this Medieval farm once extended north of the current farm.
- 1.6 A Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>6</sup> covering the evaluation excavation was prepared, and approved by the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council (ESCC).
- 1.7 The evaluation excavation was carried out by the author and Emily Walsh on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

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<sup>3</sup> Russell, C. 2013. Archaeological Monitoring at land adjoining Chaucer Business Park, Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex. Unpublished report. Project No. CBAS0397.

<sup>4</sup> Butler, K. and Bradshaw, A. 2015. An Archaeological Excavation on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex. Unpublished report. Project No. CBAS0505.

<sup>5</sup> Russell, C. 2015. An Archaeological Excavation (Phase 2) on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex. Unpublished report. Project No. CBAS0562.

<sup>6</sup> Watters, J. 2017. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Dittons Villa, Polegate, East Sussex. CBAS0867

## **2.0 Aims and Objectives**

**2.1** The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation excavation were to establish whether any archaeological remains were present on Site. The results are to inform whether archaeological mitigation work is required, which will ensure that any archaeological remains under threat of the proposed development are either excavated and recorded or preserved *in situ* and protected, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

**2.2** The specific research aims were to establish whether:

1. The Pevensey to Arlington Roman road runs west-east through the Site, and to record its extent and nature;
2. The Site contains any other evidence of Roman activity, possibly associated with the Roman road, and to record its extent and nature; and
3. Any Medieval features are present on Site which may be associated with Dittons Farm, and may reveal the southwestern extent of this Medieval settlement, and to record its extent and nature.

### **3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 3.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd. have been commissioned to carry out a number of projects within the Polegate area. This section of the Archaeological and Historical Background has made use of earlier Historic Environment Record (HER) data from other sites in the area (Fig. 4), particularly the background for the land adjoining Chaucer Business Park (CBAS0719, HER No: 077/13) and information taken from the HER Consultation Report for the Site (HER Ref. No: 272/15).
- 3.2** No Palaeolithic flintwork has been recovered within the locality of the Site. Scatters of Mesolithic flintwork has been recovered during fieldwork for the construction of the A22 (EES9625), the A27 Polegate Bypass and the Bluebells residential development site to the north of Dittons Road, for example. These finds reveal that low level Mesolithic activity appears to have taken place along the approach route onto the promontory overlooking the Wilmington Levels. A few Neolithic flints have been found within the locality of the Site, from the A22 watching brief (EES9625) to the east and south of the Site, and from fieldwork at the Bluebells residential development site.
- 3.3** Bronze Age activity in the area of the Site is represented by the unstratified Bronze Age pottery found to the south during groundworks for the A22 (EES9625), and by the two Bronze Age timber trackways (MES15464 and MES15465) discovered further to the south within the Willingdon Peat.
- 3.4** The Willingdon Levels were formed in the Iron Age/Roman periods when this former lowland was flooded and then buried in alluvial deposits. This flooding may have led to a decrease in activity within the area or more probably a retreat to higher ground. Ditches, gullies and post-holes revealed the remains of an enclosed Late Iron Age/Early Roman farmstead at the Bluebells residential development site. This was associated with a field system and droveways, but no domestic structures were uncovered.
- 3.5** During the Roman period the sea breached inland to flood the Pevensy Levels, leaving a large peninsula jutting eastwards into an expanse of open water. Access onto the peninsula would have passed close to the Late Iron Age / Early Roman farmstead. A Roman road (MES4753) linked Polegate and Arlington with the Saxon Shore Fort at Pevensy (MES4712), located on the very east tip of the peninsula.

- 3.6** In his 1948 publication of ‘Roman Ways in the Weald’<sup>7</sup>, I.D. Margary could not define the route of the Roman road leading away from the fort to Polegate. Fieldwork to the north and south of Dittons Road may instead suggest that the Roman road ran along the line of Dittons Road, which runs to the north of the Site. No evidence of the Roman road or related activity was found during this evaluation.
- 3.7** The Willingdon area contains a number of Early Saxon cemetery sites<sup>8</sup>, which implies that a contemporary settlement was located nearby. Excavations at the Bluebells residential development site uncovered Mid-Saxon pits rich in charcoal<sup>9</sup> but no structures were found associated with them to indicate the presence of a settlement. Willingdon was a hundred meeting place in the Late Saxon period<sup>10</sup>. A 10th century lead casket (MES4534) was found in a cutting for the Polegate to Eastbourne railway. It was described as having been found at Willingdon.
- 3.8** Dittons (MES21389) is the site of a Medieval and Post Medieval farm that can be referenced back to 1292. Whilst the farmhouse survives, the west side of the farmstead was demolished to make way for Dittons Business Park. The land to the north of Dittons Farm was evaluated in 2014<sup>11</sup> and 2015<sup>12</sup>, which revealed the presence of Medieval features, severely truncated by ploughing, dating from the early 13th century through to the first half of the 14th century. The features comprised a number of ditches and an area of very degraded metalling. It seems likely that the Medieval farm extended north to include the area investigated. By 1350, this site had been abandoned, implying that the farm settlement had either shrunk in size or had moved a short distance to the south.
- 3.9** The Westham Tithe Map (1839; Fig. 5) shows the Site located in Plot 111, an arable field named ‘Ten Acres’ which belonged to Dittons Farm. The apportionment describes Plot 111 as owned by Lord Burlington and occupied by John Turner Filder. The rest of Dittons Farm is recorded under the same ownership.

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<sup>7</sup> Margary, I.D. 1948. *Roman Ways in the Weald*. London: Phoenix House.

<sup>8</sup> Gardiner, M. 1999. ‘Early Saxon Sussex c.410-c.650’, in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore and Co. Ltd, 28-29.

<sup>9</sup> Stevens, S. 2011. A Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design of Archaeological Excavations at The Bluebells Development, Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex. Unpublished ASE Report No. 2011101.

<sup>10</sup> Gardiner, M. 1999. ‘Late Saxon Sussex c.650-1066’, in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (Eds) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*. Chichester: Phillimore and Co. Ltd, 30-31.

<sup>11</sup> Butler, K. and Bradshaw, A. 2015. An Archaeological Excavation on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex. Unpublished report. Project No. CBAS0505.

<sup>12</sup> Russell, C. 2015. An Archaeological Excavation (Phase 2) on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex. Unpublished report. Project No. CBAS0562.



- 3.10** Looking at the historic maps for the area; there are some notable changes that take place in the last two centuries. The 1st Edition of the OS map dated 1875-6 does not have a building on the Site, with the area being taken up with field systems and the occasional cluster of buildings (Fig. 6). However there is a road which runs to the north of the Site, with the railway lying to the south of the Site.
- 3.11** By the second edition in 1899 (Fig 7) a house had been built on the Site, with gardens to the north, east and south. Another house is shown immediately to the west. From the 2nd edition of the OS map, up until the 3rd edition there is no change to the land layout, however by the 4th edition in 1928 (Fig. 9) the landscape around the Site has become much more crowded, with properties occupying both the north and south side of Dittons Road.

## 4.0 Archaeological Methodology

- 4.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2014) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014); East Sussex County Councils *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (2015); and the *Treasure Act* (1996).
- 4.2 As per the WSI<sup>13</sup>, three evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Fig. 10 & 11). Two of these trenches formed a T-shape over the footprint of the proposed house. The trenches were positioned to avoid existing services and the proposed foundations.
- 4.3 The locations of the trenches were CAT scanned prior to opening; no buried services were detected. The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision, using a mini-excavator (a Hitachi Zaxis 33U) with a 1m wide flat-bladed bucket. During excavation, the spoil was visually searched for finds on a regular basis. The spoil was also metal detected with the use of a Garrett ACE150 metal detector; a small number of unstratified metal finds was recovered. All machined sections and surfaces were inspected for archaeological features, deposits and finds.
- 4.4 All finds, deposits and features were recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not with reference to a Munsell colour chart.
- 4.5 Levels were taken from a Temporary Benchmark (TBM) established at the northeast corner of the existing house. The BM on Sheldrake House opposite no longer exists so the BM at Dittons Farm (14.91m aOD) was traversed to the TBM. The reduced levels are shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.6 A digital photographic record of the fieldwork was taken and will be kept as part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by CBAS Ltd, and has an allocated site reference of DVP17. The Historic Environment Record (HER) at The Keep, Brighton will be provided with a CD containing the report in PDF/A format and a selection of digital photographs. Eastbourne Heritage Service will be provided with a CD containing the report in PDF/A format, all digital photographs of the fieldwork, and a digitised copy of the site records. An accession number 2017.37 has been allocated.

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<sup>13</sup> Watters, J. 2017. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Dittons Villa, Polegate, East Sussex. CBAS0867

## 5.0 Results

5.0.1 The results of each trench are discussed below under separate sub-headings, with the contexts for each trench recorded in a table. The trench locations are shown in Fig. 10 and representative sections of the trenches are shown in Fig. 11.

### 5.1 Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the grass lawn at the front (north end) of the Site. This trench was repositioned in order to avoid a manhole, which left limited space to excavate the trench. Trench 1 measured 5.96m long and 1.50m wide in plan, and was excavated to a depth of 0.15m-0.25m (Plate 1).

5.1.2 The topsoil, Context **1/001**, was the first context encountered in Trench 1. Context **1/001** consisted of loose mid yellowish-brown sandy silt, and measured up to 0.25m thick. This topsoil contained occasional flint pebbles less than 50mm by 50mm in size, and moderate fine-medium roots.

5.1.3 Context **1/001** lay immediately above the natural, Context **1/002**. This context consisted of firm light yellowish-brown silty sand, occasionally mottled with red. The natural contained frequent manganese flecks, and occasional flint pebbles less than 100mm by 100mm in size. Context **1/002** was excavated to a depth of 0.10m to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.).

5.1.4 Trench 1 contained part of a former service trench, Context **1/004** (Plate 2), which was located 1.40m from the west end of the trench and cut into Context **1/002**. Context **1/004** measured 0.73m long by 0.20m deep, and was lined with a brick service casing, Context **1/003**. Context **1/003** measured 0.56m long by 0.22m wide and was made up of frogged bricks measuring 220mm by 110mm. The fill of Context **1/004**, Context **1/005**, consisted of loose mid-brown silty sand and covered Context **1/003**.

Context	Context Type	Interpretation
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil
1/002	Deposit	Natural
1/003	Masonry	Modern service
1/004	Cut	Cut for service trench
1/005	Fill	Fill of Context 1/004

**Table 1:** Trench 1 context table



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking east



Plate 2: Brick-lined service trench Context 1/004

## 5.2 Trench 2

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 ran north-south across the footprint of the proposed new house and measured 6.80m by 1.40m in plan, and 0.35m-0.60m deep (Plate 3).
- 5.2.2 At the south end of Trench 2, the topsoil (Context **2/001**) was covered by a modern deposit of made ground, Context **2/004**. This deposit was made up of mid yellowish-brown sandy silt containing frequent dark grey/black tarmac chips up to 50mm by 50mm, sub-angular flint pebbles up to 30mm by 30mm, and occasional concrete fragments up to 50mm by 50mm. Context **2/004** measured up to 0.10m thick.
- 5.2.3 Context **2/001** was the same topsoil as Context **1/001**, and contained frequent fine to medium roots. Context **2/001** measured 0.15m-0.28m thick.
- 5.2.4 Context **2/002**, the subsoil, lay directly below Context **2/001**. This context was made up of dark yellowish-brown clayey silt, containing occasional charcoal flecks up to 20mm by 20mm in size. The subsoil was not present in Trench 1.
- 5.2.5 The natural silty sand, Context **2/003**, was encountered at the base of Trench 2. This was light yellowish-brown in colour, occasionally mottled with red, and contained frequent manganese flecks and occasional rounded flint pebbles up to 50mm by 50mm in size. Context **2/003** measured 0.10m-0.20m thick to the L.O.E.
- 5.2.6 A darker area within the subsoil at the south end of the trench (visible in the north-facing section; Plate 4) was recorded as a possible cut feature and was given the context numbers **2/005** (cut) and **2/006** (fill). Context **2/005** measured 0.70m wide by 0.30m deep, but the edge was only faintly visible. Context **2/006** consisted of light greyish-brown clayey silt, containing occasional charcoal flecks less than 10mm in size. One sherd of early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found in Context **2/006**. This possible feature may in fact have been caused by natural disturbance such as rooting.

Context	Context Type	Interpretation
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil
2/003	Deposit	Natural
2/004	Deposit	Modern made ground
2/005	Cut	Possible linear feature
2/006	Fill	Fill of Context 2/005

**Table 2:** Trench 2 context table



Plate 3: West-facing section of Trench 2



Plate 4: North-facing section of Trench 2

### 5.3 Trench 3

- 5.3.1 Trench 3 ran east-west 1.5m from the south end of Trench 2, forming a T-shape within the footprint of the proposed new house (Plate 5). Trench 3 measured 3.60m long and 1.30m wide in plan, and was excavated to a depth of 0.36-0.41m (Plate 6).
- 5.3.2 The topsoil in Trench 3 was recorded as Context **3/004**, and was the same as Contexts **1/001** and **2/001**. Context **3/004** measured 0.19m-0.25m thick, and extended up to 2.0m from the west end of the trench.
- 5.3.3 The modern made ground deposit, Context **3/001**, covered the topsoil (Context **3/004**) at the west end of the trench, and lay directly above the subsoil (**3/002**) at the east end of the trench. This context was the same as Context **2/004** and measured up to 0.26m thick.
- 5.3.4 The subsoil, Context **3/002**, lay immediately below Contexts **3/001** and **3/004**. This was the same subsoil as Context **2/002**, and measured 0.05m-0.16m thick.
- 5.3.5 Context **3/002** lay directly above the natural silty sand, Context **3/003**. The same natural deposit was present in all three trenches. Context **3/003** was excavated to a depth of 0.08m.
- 5.3.6 No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
3/001	Deposit	Modern made ground
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil
3/003	Deposit	Natural
3/004	Deposit	Topsoil

**Table 3:** Trench 3 context table



Plate 5: The Site looking northwest, showing Trenches 2 and 3



Plate 6: North-facing section of Trench 3



## 6.0 The Finds

6.01 A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the evaluation excavation and is discussed below. None of the finds hold any further potential for analysis or retention and have been discarded.

6.02 Spot Dates:

- 1/001 – c. 1900-1940
- 1/003 – mid C19<sup>th</sup> – mid C20<sup>th</sup>
- 1/005 – c. 1900-1940
- 2/001 – c. 1900-1940+
- 2/006 – c. 1900-1940
- 3/004 – c. 1850-1940

### 6.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

6.1.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 16 sherds of pottery, weighing 418g, from five individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 1 as part of the visible archive.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight	Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented)
1/001	Unglazed red earthenware	LPM	4	190g	Flower pot x2 (flat beaded and simple rims); large plant container x1
1/001	Refined brown earthenware	LPM	3	138g	Teapot (lid) x1 (clear glaze all over)
1/001	Refined white earthenware	LPM	1	10g	Plate x1 (moulded)
1/005	Refined white earthenware	LPM	2	6g	Plate x1 (red rim-edge line and thick wavy red line around rim); saucer x1 (x3 thin red rim-edge lines)
2/001	Unglazed red earthenware	LPM	2	34g	Flower pot x1 (flat bead rim); frog figurine x1
2/001	Refined white earthenware	LPM	2	36g	Plate x1, bowl x1 (collared tapering rim)
2/006	Refined white earthenware	LPM	1	2g	Uncertain form x1
3/004	English porcelain	LPM	1	2g	Saucer x1 (gold gilt rim-edge line)

**Table 1:** Pottery assemblage (LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

6.1.2 The whole pottery assemblage is of Late Post Medieval date and it is suspected all relates to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The material is quite fresh and does not appear to have been reworked to any great degree. It is assumed to represent a background scatter with a notable horticultural element to it.

6.1.3 The pottery assemblage is small and very late in date. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and has been discarded.

## 6.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

6.2.1 A relatively small assemblage of brick and tile was recovered during the archaeological work. The material was in mixed condition, with the earlier types being more abraded and the later ones quite fresh. The assemblage is summarised in Tables 2 (fabrics) and 3 (quantification).

Fabric	Description	Comments	Suggested date
B1a	Red orange. Rare fine quartz, moderate orange iron oxides to 3mm, sparse marl mottling	Well formed and medium/well fired	C18th – 19th
B1b	Brick red. Sparse/moderate fine quartz, common black iron oxides to 2mm, sparse marl mottling	Well formed and fired	C18th – 19th
B2a	Purple red/grey. Moderate ill-mixed slag temper	Crude formed but well fired	Mid C19th – early 20th
T1a	Red orange. Rare fine quartz, sparse black iron oxides to 1mm	Well formed and fired	Mid C18th – early 20th
T2a	Red orange. Moderate red iron oxides to 2mm, moderate marl pellets to 1mm	Well formed and fired	C18th – 19th
P1a	Purple brown. Rare/sparse black iron oxides to 0.5mm, rare marl streaks	Very well formed, very hard fired	Mid C19th – 20th

**Table 2:** Ceramic Building Material fabrics

Context	Form	Fabric	No	Weight	Comments
1/001	Brick	B1a	1	140g	Amorphous, worn
1/001	Peg tile	T1a	1	50g	12mm thick
1/003	Brick	B2a	1	2770g	100%. 235 x 105 x 70mm. Weak frog. Adhering buff sandy mortar with moderate chalk to 5mm
1/005	Brick	B1b	2	62g	Amorphous, worn
2/001	Brick	B1a	2	28g	Amorphous
2/001	Brick	B1b	1	650g	63mm thick. Set in buff fine sandy mortar
2/001	Peg tile	T2a	1	32	13mm thick
2/001	Drain	P1a	1	78g	15mm thick

**Table 3:** Ceramic Building Material assemblage

6.2.2 The ceramic building material assemblage is quite varied in types and fabrics considering its small size. All of the material is of the Late Post Medieval period and all could fit within a 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century date range. The material presumably represents a general background scatter.

6.2.3 The ceramic building material assemblage is late and mainly from open contexts. As such the material is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. The assemblage has duly been discarded.

### **6.3 Metal** by Jessica Butt

6.3.1 Context **1/001** contained three iron finds:

A large building tie, 450mm weighing 698g.

A 55mm washer weighing 43g.

A flat scrap of iron at 5g.

These could all date to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

6.3.2 Context **2/001** contained two metal finds:

A copper alloy wind up clockwork movement, 68g, likely to be from an early C20<sup>th</sup> mantle clock.

A heavily corroded 3" mortar round percussion cap, 35g, probably deposited in the 1940's.

### **6.4 Glass** by Jessica Butt

6.4.1 Context **2/001** contained 5 glass finds:

Three fragments of clear window glass, 42g, 20<sup>th</sup> C.

A clear moulded bottle base kick-up, 29g, mid-19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> C.

A pale green moulded glass marble with white swirl, 7g, likely early 20<sup>th</sup> C.

**6.5** No analysis beyond the scope of this report is required and so the metal and glass have been discarded.

## **7.0 Discussion**

- 7.1** The evaluation excavation revealed little evidence of activity earlier than the construction of Dittons Villa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The finds recovered from the Site all date to the Late Post Medieval and Modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) periods. The construction of the existing house, along with associated landscaping, is likely to have disturbed or destroyed any earlier archaeological remains that may have been present at the Site.
- 7.2** No evidence was found of Roman activity at the Site, particularly in relation to the proposed route of the nearby Roman road. The Site may have been located outside of the main areas of Roman activity, and Medieval – Post Medieval agricultural activities and construction work are likely to have destroyed any Roman archaeological remains.
- 7.3** Given the lack of evidence for earlier activity at the Site, it is likely that the Site remained as an open field before the construction of the existing house. This is supported by evidence from historic maps, which show no earlier buildings on the Site; and the 1842 tithe apportionment which records this land as pasture. While no archaeological remains relating to the Medieval farmstead at Dittons Farm were found, it is possible that the Site was once part of Dittons Farm.
- 7.4** There is a low likelihood of the groundworks for the proposed new building disturbing any archaeological remains at the Site.

## **8.0 Acknowledgements**

- 8.1** We would like to thank Raymond Longhurst and Henry Duvall (the Clients) for appointing CBAS to carry out the evaluation excavation and for their assistance on site. Luke Barber and Jessica Butt reported on the finds. This project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler.

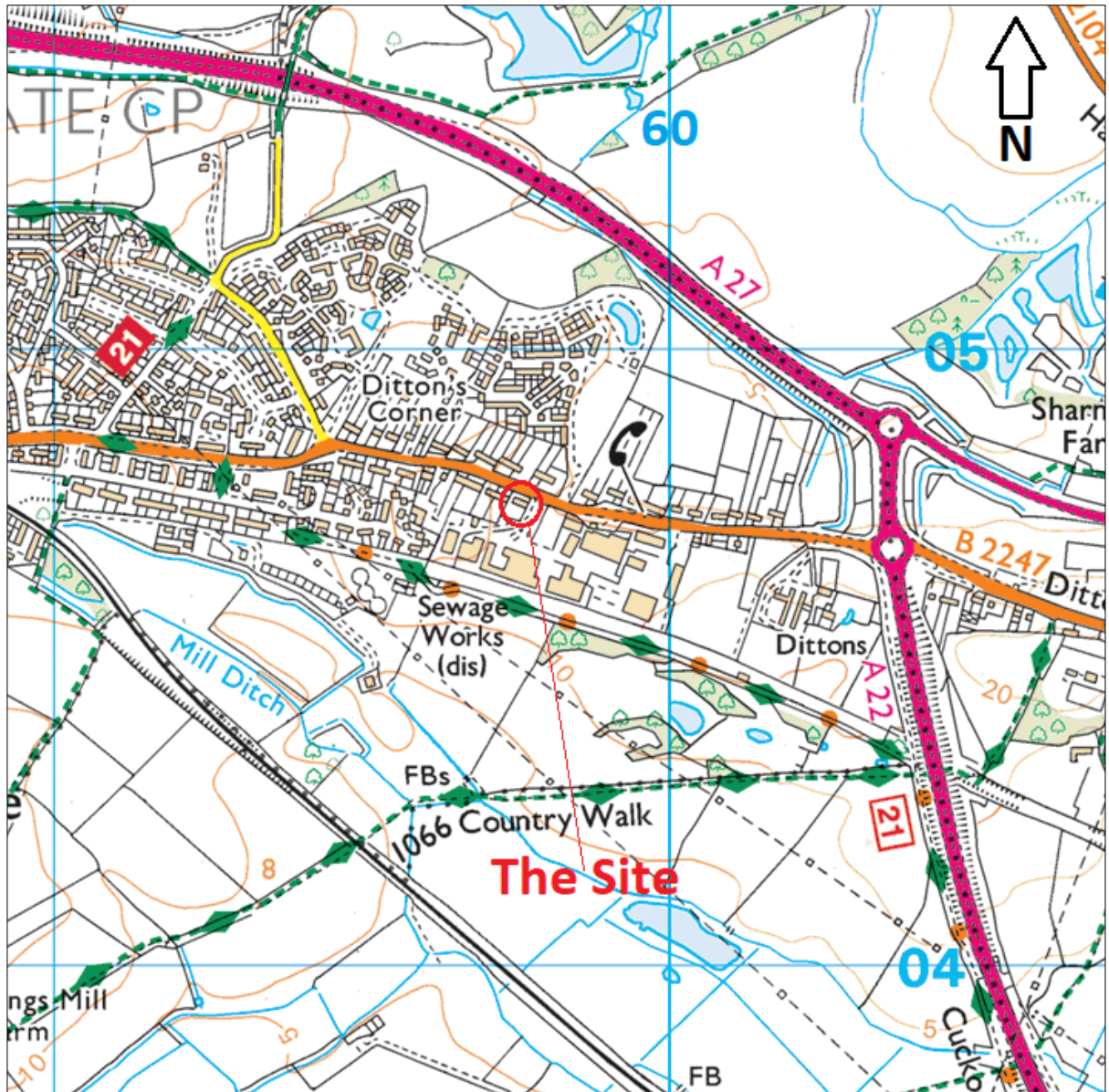


Fig. 1: Site Location Map  
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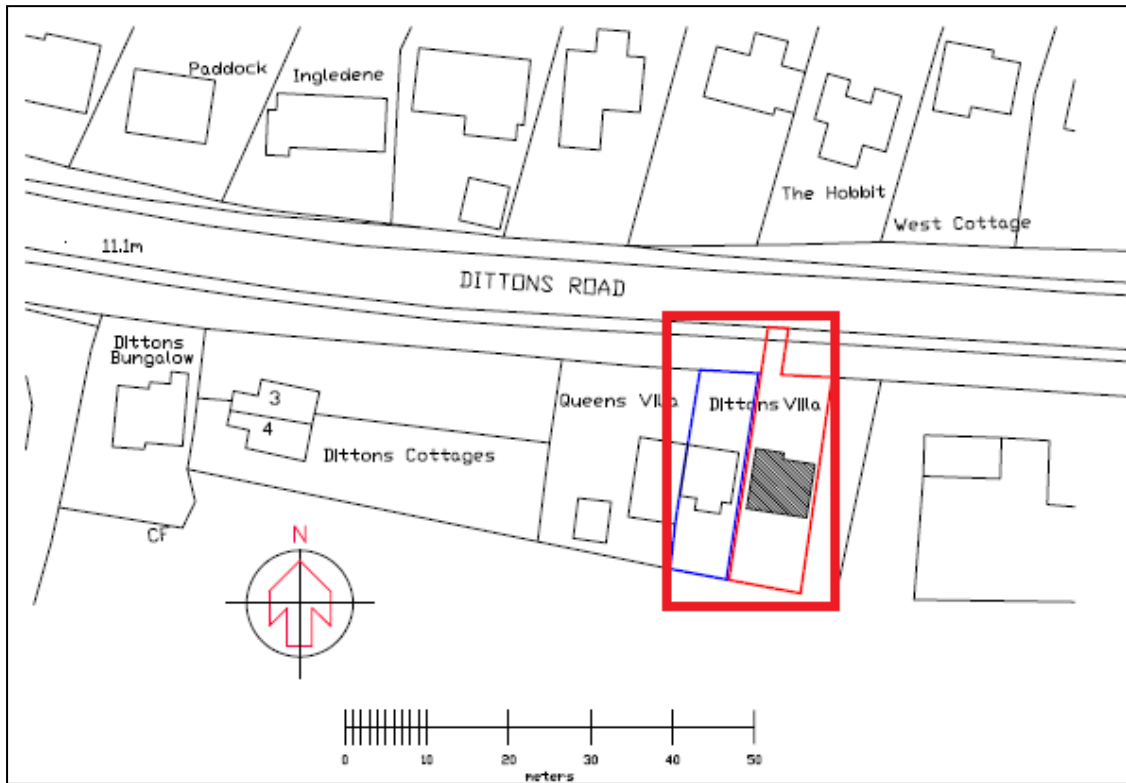


Fig. 2: Block plan- the existing property is highlighted in blue and the proposed in red  
(Adapted from drawings by Challinor Hall Ltd., dated: 27/10/2015)

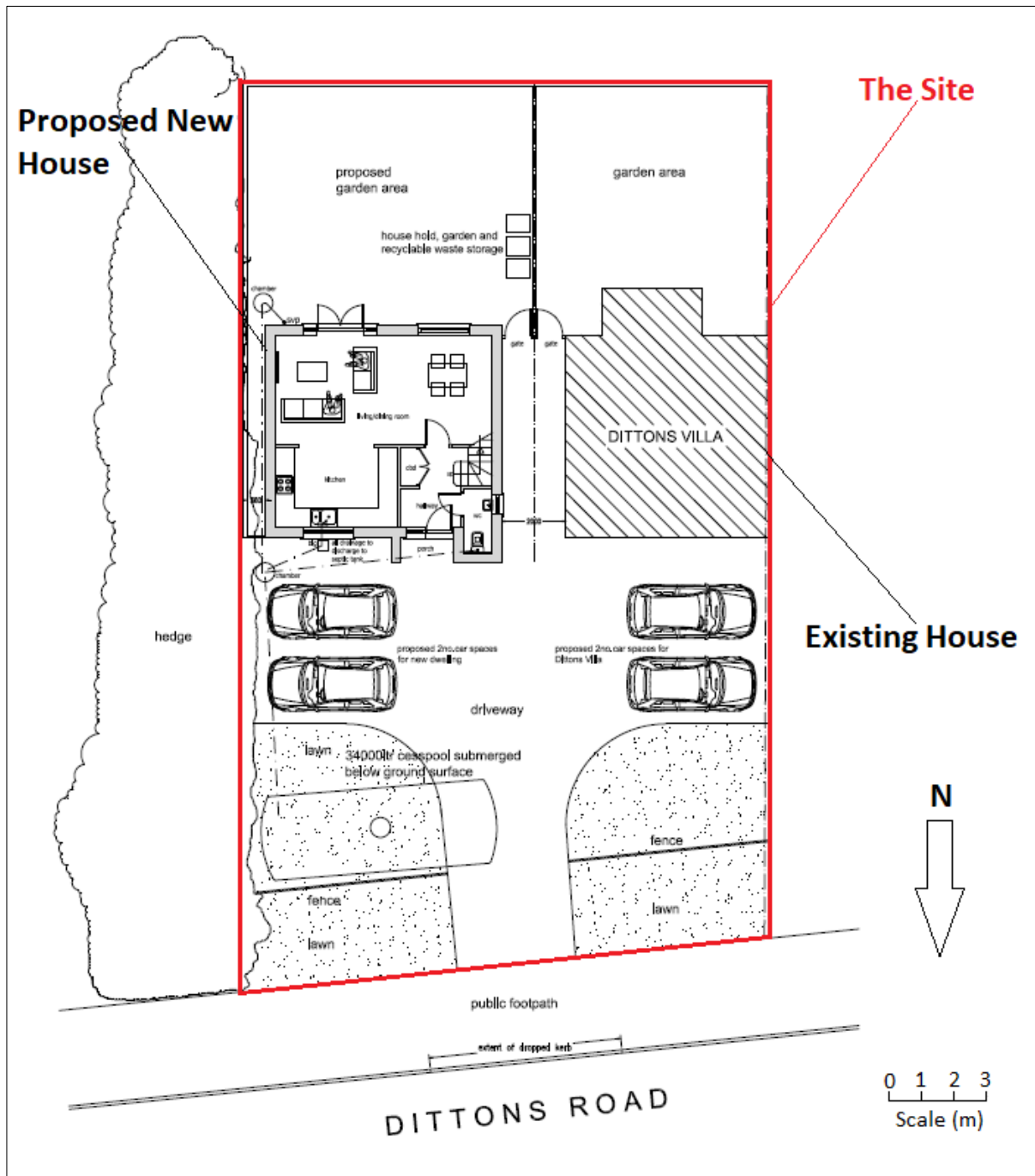
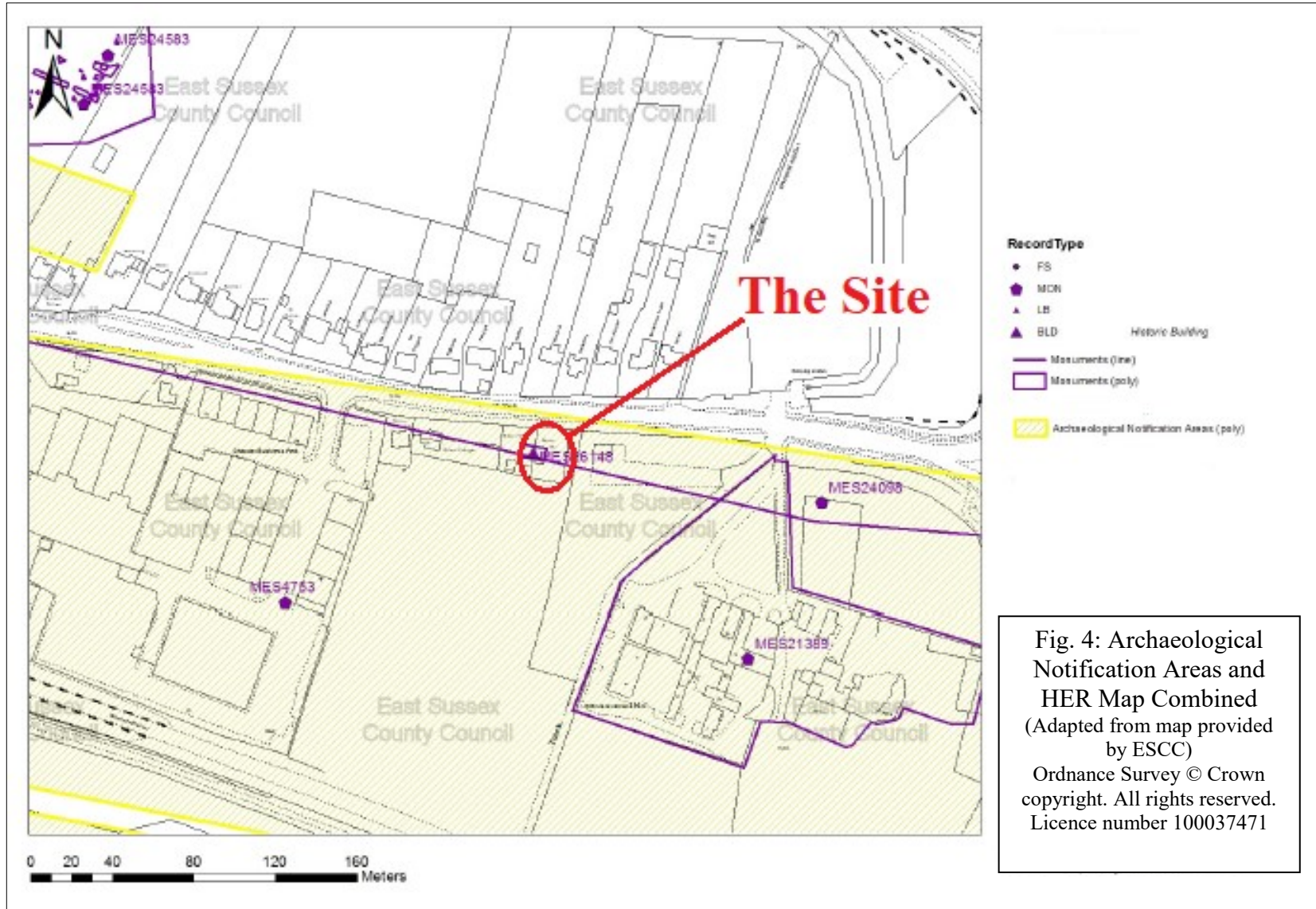


Fig. 3: Proposed Site Plan  
(Adapted from drawings by Challinor Hall Ltd., dated:  
27/10/2015)





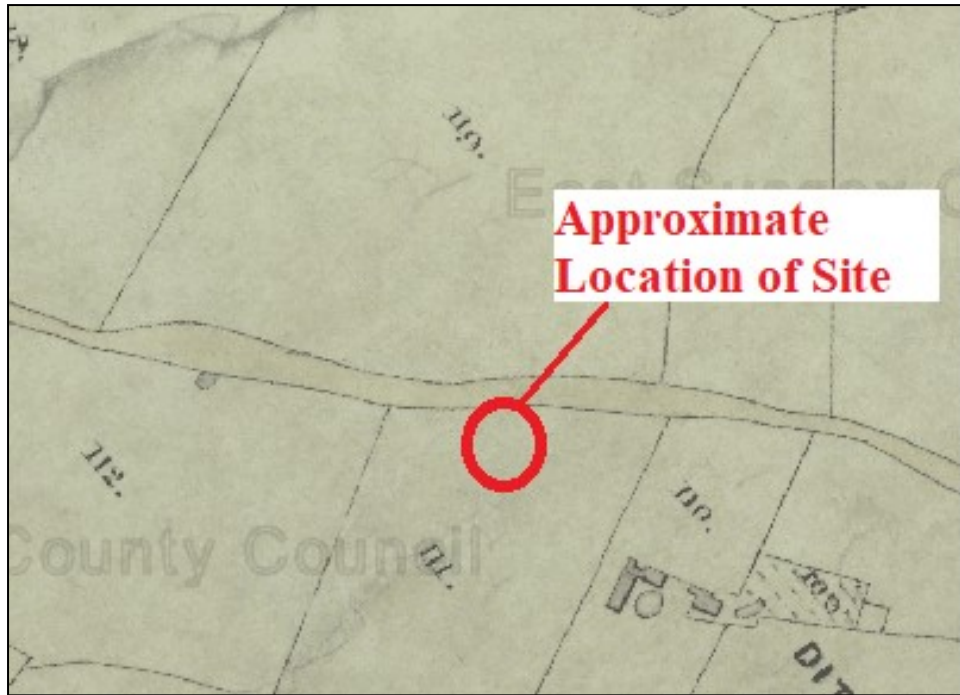


Fig. 5: Westham Tithe Map (1839)  
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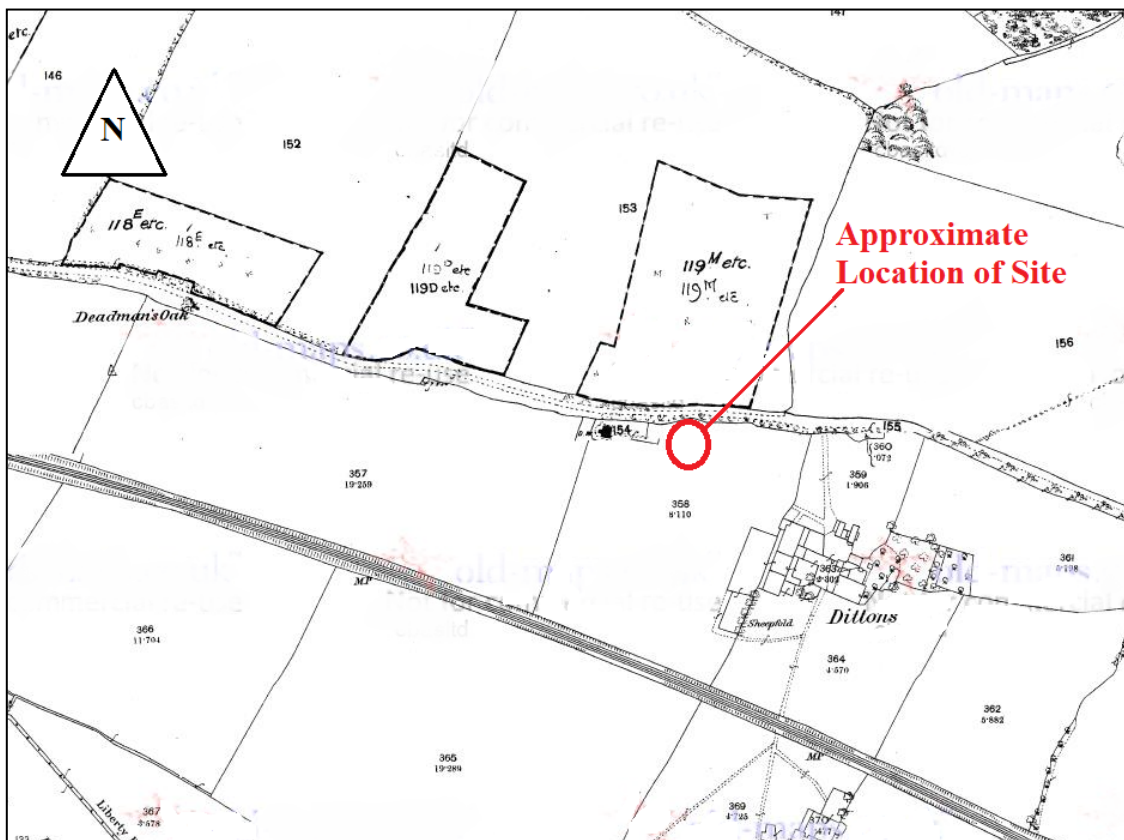


Fig. 6: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map (1875-76)

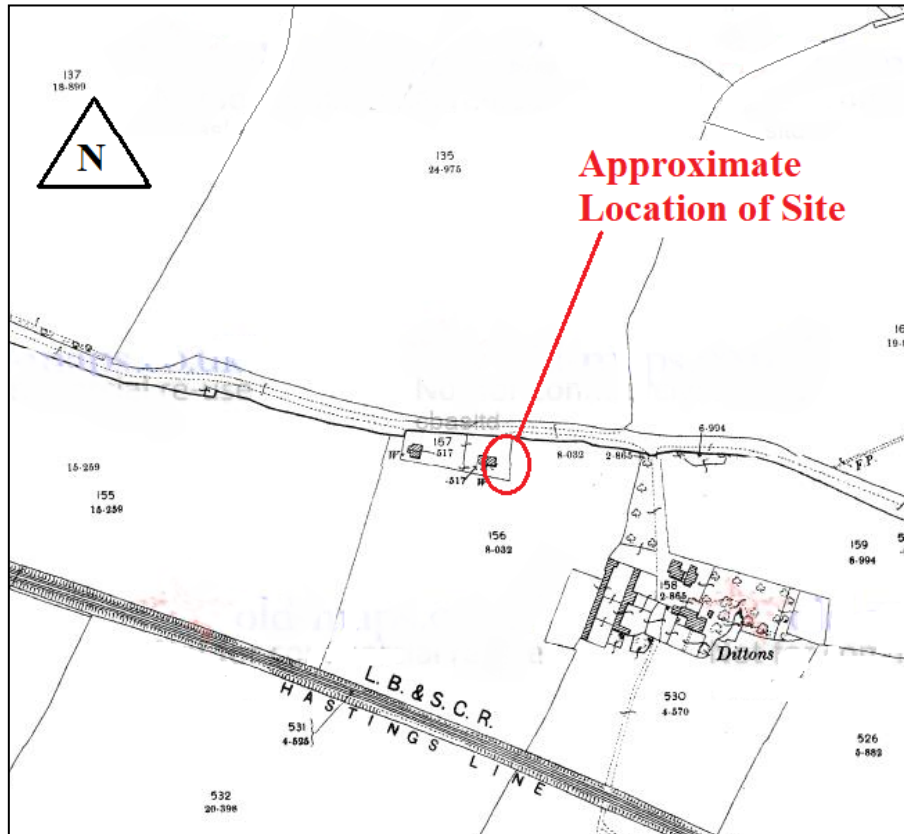


Fig. 7: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Map (1899)

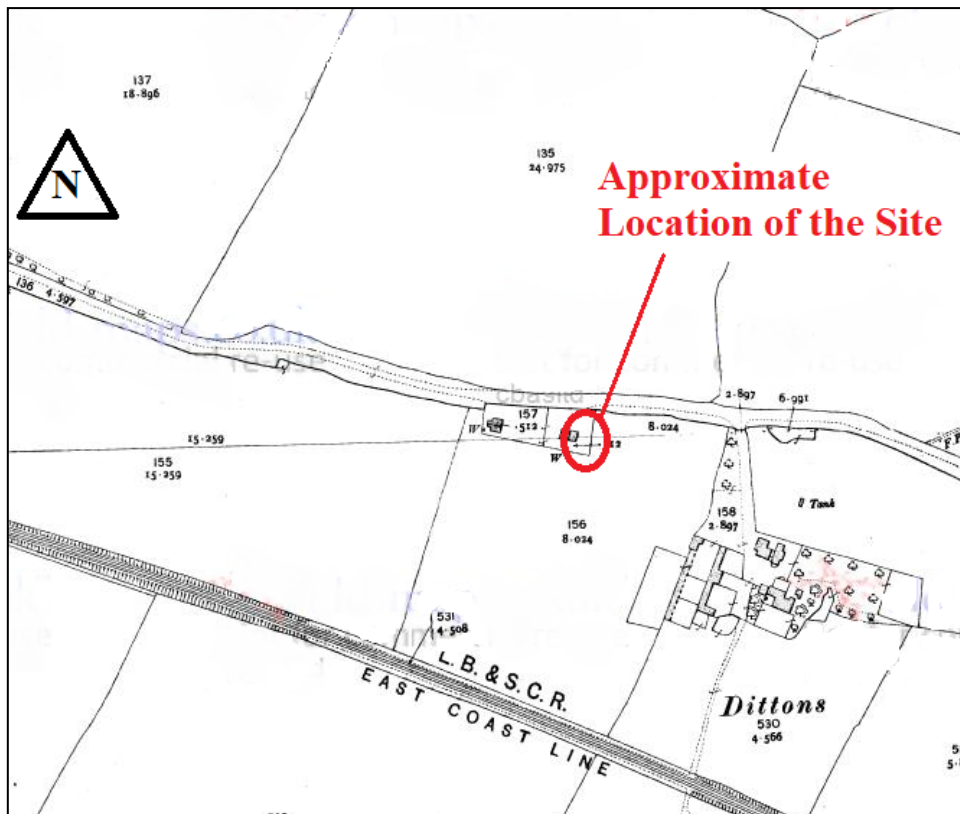


Fig. 8: 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS Map (1910-11)

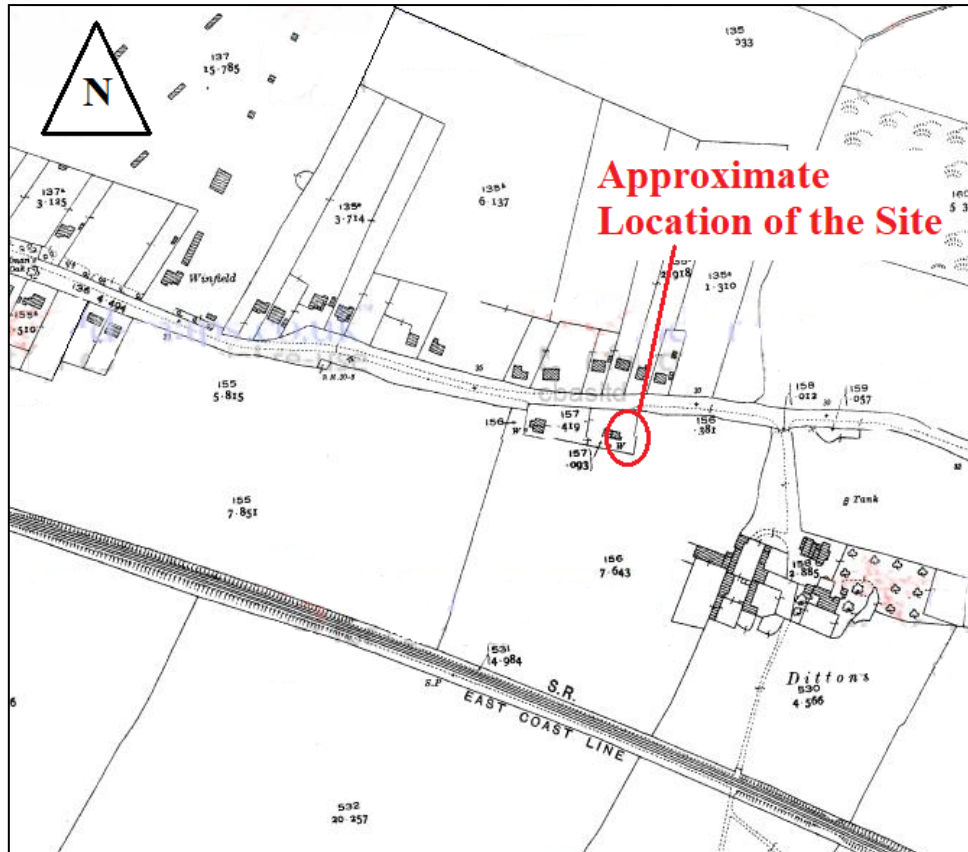
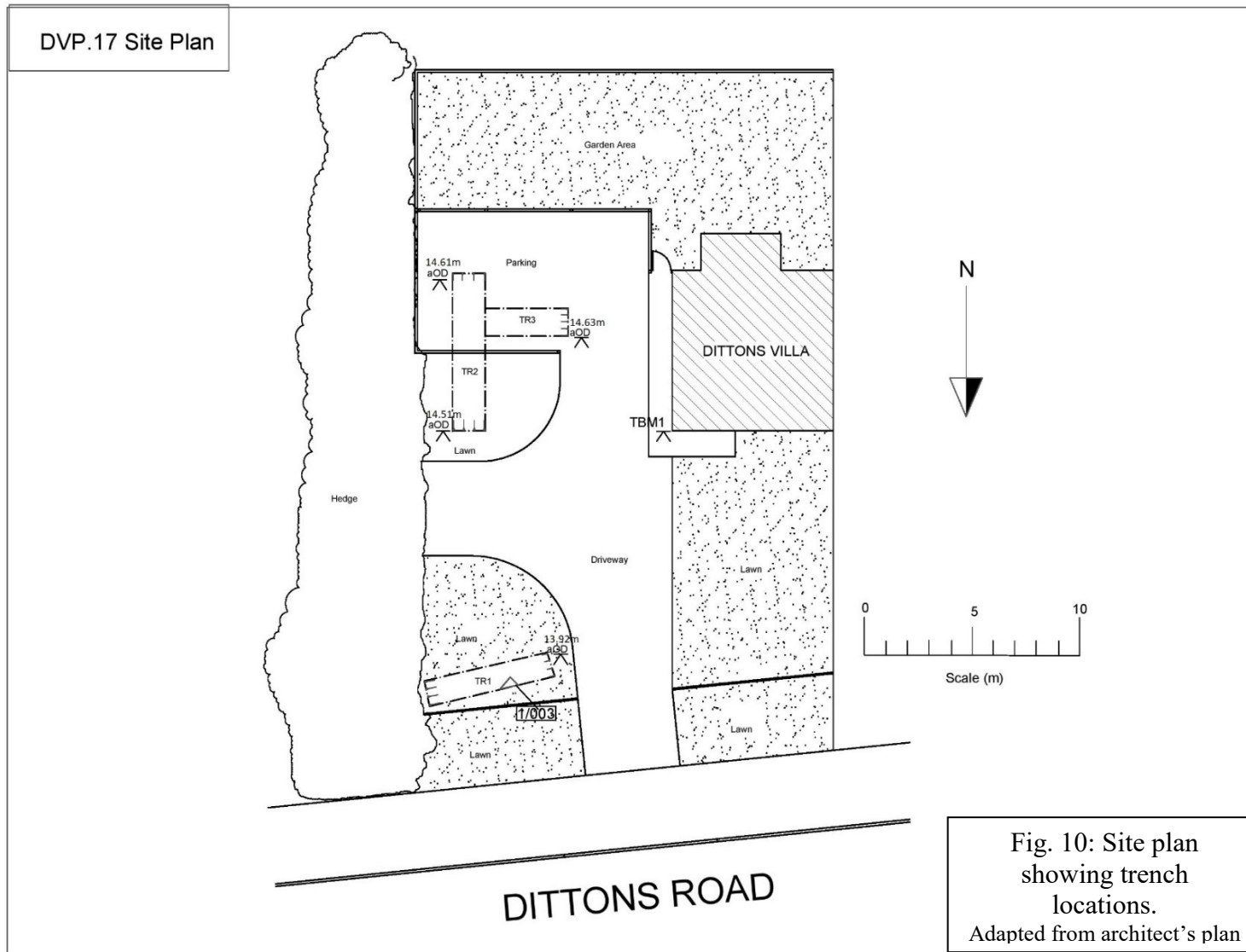


Fig. 9: 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS Map (1928)



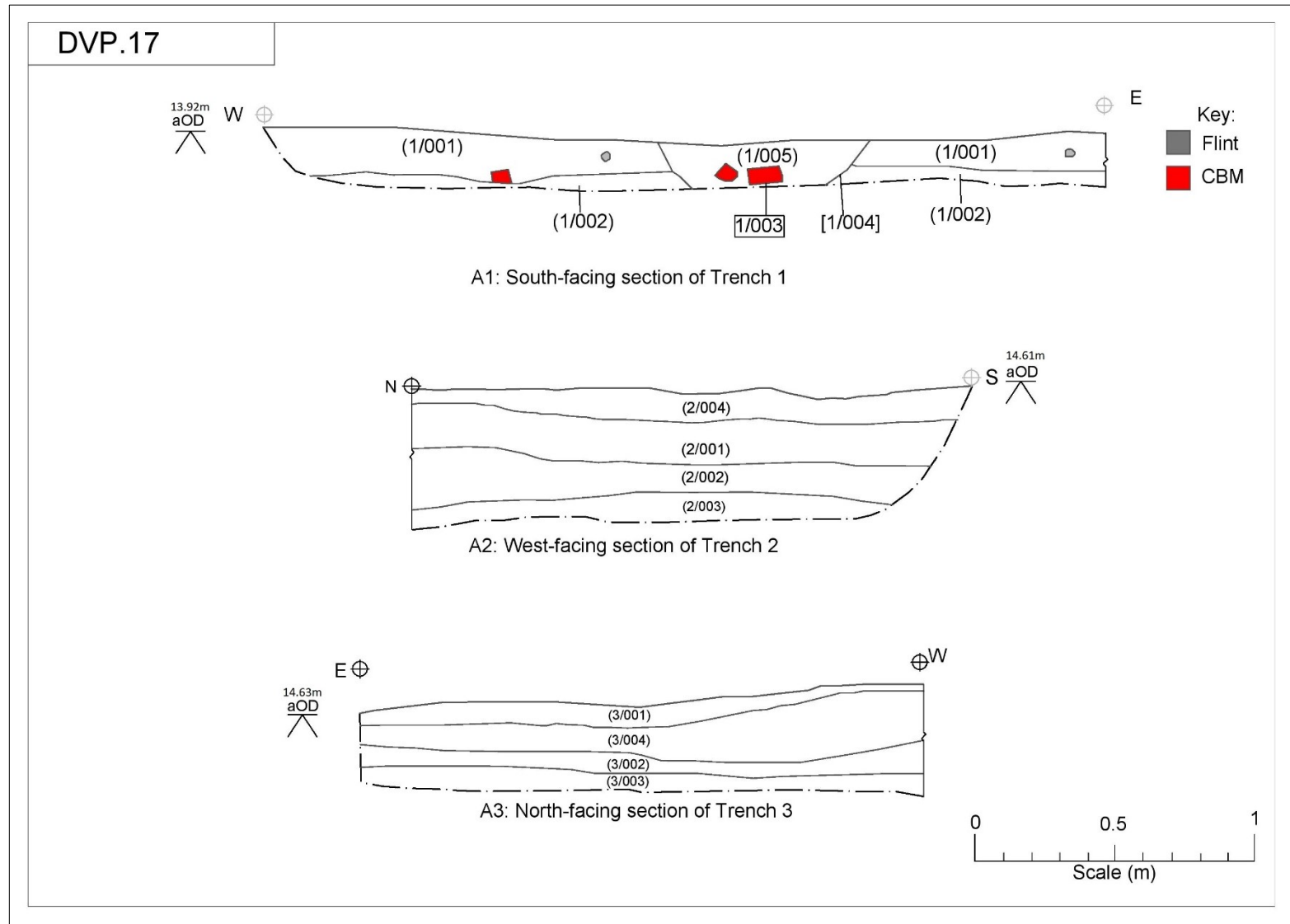


Fig. 11: Representative sections of trenches

## Appendix 1: Levels

<b>Location</b>	<b>Level (m)</b>
Top of Trench 1 west end	13.92
Bottom of Trench 1 west end	13.73
Top of Trench 1 east end	14.02
Bottom of Trench 1 east end	13.60
Top of Trench 2 north end	14.51
Bottom of Trench 2 north end	14.00
Top of Trench 2 south end	14.61
Bottom of Trench 2 south end	14.11
Top of Trench 3 east end	14.63
Bottom of Trench 3 east end	14.20
Top of Trench 3 west end	14.63
Bottom of Trench 3 west end	14.19

### Appendix 2: HER Summary Form

<b>HER enquiry number</b>	N/A					
<b>Site code</b>	DVP17					
<b>Project code</b>	CBAS0867					
<b>Planning reference</b>	WD/2015/2403/F & WD/2016/0469/FA					
<b>Site address</b>	Dittons Villa, Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HX					
<b>District/Borough</b>	Wealden					
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	560125 104687					
<b>Geology</b>	Weald Clay Formation					
<b>Fieldwork type</b>	Eval <b>X</b>	Excav	WB*	HBR*	Survey	Other
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	10/07/2017					
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	Raymond Longhurst and Henry Devall					
<b>Project manager</b>	Chris Butler					
<b>Project supervisor</b>	Sarah Vine and Emily Walsh					
<b>Period summary</b>	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval <b>X</b>	Other: Modern <b>X</b>	
<b>Project summary (100 word max)</b>	<p><i>An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out in connection with a planning application for a new house at Dittons Villa, Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>Three evaluation trenches were opened across the Site, two targeting the footprint of the proposed new house and one within the lawn at the front of the Site. The evaluation revealed topsoil, subsoil and natural silty sand, as well as a deposit of modern made ground partially covering the topsoil at the southern end of the Site. A former brick-lined service trench was found cut into the natural, and a possible cut feature or area of natural disturbance was seen within the subsoil. The evaluation found no archaeological evidence relating to the nearby Roman road or Medieval activity at Ditton's Farm.</i></p>					
<b>Museum/Accession No.</b>	Eastbourne Museum 2017.37					

### Finds summary

<b>Find type</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Pottery	Fired Clay	Modern (20 <sup>th</sup> century)	16
CBM	Fired Clay	Late Post Medieval	10
Glass	Glass	Modern ( early 20 <sup>th</sup> century)	5
Metal	Iron	Late Post Medieval	3
	Copper Alloy	Modern (early 20 <sup>th</sup> century)	1



## **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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6<sup>th</sup> Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006. In 2012 he set up the Sussex School of Archaeology.

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.

# **Chris Butler MCIfA**

## **Archaeological Services Ltd**

### **Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist**

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