



Chris Butler MCIfA Archaeological Services Ltd



An Archaeological Watching Brief at Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent

TQ 80600 32159

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by
Stewart Angell & Chris Butler

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent to monitor groundworks associated with a new byre building, the barn and a new car parking area. The monitoring work at found no evidence for prehistoric, Roman or early medieval activity at the site. The earliest activity at the site is represented by a small number of pottery sherds from refuse disposal in the late 15th or 16th centuries.

Monitoring of the ground reduction inside the barn identified the presence of sleeper walls which originally supported a wooden suspended threshing floor. The original 18th century threshing floor would have been supported on wooden joists, and the evidence from the monitoring suggests that these were replaced by brick sleeper walls in the later 19th century. It then seems likely that at some stage in the later 20th century the wooden floor was removed, the sleeper walls reduced in height and a concrete screed floor laid over the remains of the sleeper walls.

The groundworks for the byre revealed the brick wall foundations from the demolished building, together with a number of in-situ wooden posts. With the exception of Post A, the location of the posts found does not correspond with the recorded positions of posts in the demolished building, although some of the posts found do closely correspond with some of the partitions within the building, and may represent earlier locations of posts for those partitions, However the survey of the building noted that there was an earlier building which may have been larger. It seems likely therefore that some of the posts found may relate to the earlier building.

The monitoring of the car park area revealed only late post medieval features, including later 19th to 20th century land drains, and modern (20th century) drain runs. Four post holes recorded are also 20th century in date, and may relate to the small open fronted building shown on the 1956 OS Map.

Chris Butler MCIfA Archaeological Services Ltd

**Unit 12, Mays Farm
Selmeston
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TS**

Tel: 01323 811785

e mail: chris.butler@cbasltd.co.uk

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Maw (the Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent (Fig. 1) in order to excavate and record any archaeological remains that may be damaged or destroyed by the development: This comprises: (1) New parking area: a new parking area to the south of Stable Barn. (2) Lean-to byre: reconstruction of byre and change of use from agriculture to a mixed use as a multi-purpose meeting room for small events and an estate management office. (3) Threshers Barn: change of use of agricultural building to a multi-purpose events venue and extension to create kitchen and toilet area. (16/505552/LBC) (Fig. 2). The following archaeological condition was placed on the approval:

(3) No works shall take place or commence until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and:

the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works;

the programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication and dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

Reason: To safeguard the historic fabric, character and appearance of the listed building

1.2 The Site is situated to the west side of Iden Green Road, the road curving round the north side of the former farm before continuing on towards the village of Benenden (Fig. 1). The driveway leading from the west side of Iden Green Road sweeps round past the house on its northern side terminating in a central area of hard-standing. The farmhouse is situated to the southeast of the farm group, and to the northwest of the house lies the former threshing barn of late 18th century origin and opposite that is Weaver's Cottages, dated to 1607: the three structures form the historic core of the property.

1.3 The Site lies at a height of *c.*70m aOD, and sits at the boundary between the Ashdown Beds Formation and Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation¹. The Site is situated within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>; 10/03/2016

- 1.4** A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)², for an archaeological watching brief, was prepared by CBAS Ltd in response to a brief issued by Conservation Officer for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council³. This report outlines the results from an archaeological watching brief that monitored all groundworks associated with the proposed development and will be submitted to the Conservation Officer for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the local planning authority for approval. There was no requirement for any building recording to be carried out as part of this watching brief.
- 1.5** The archaeological monitoring was carried out over ten days, between September 2017 and May 2018. The first visits were undertaken in 2017, between the 11th and the 12th of September, followed by four visits between the 9th to the 13th of October, and a single visit on the 15th of November. In 2018 two visits were made on the 12th and the 13th of February, with a final visit made on the 3rd of May. The author carried out all monitoring, with the exception of the 15th of November, 2017 which was undertaken by David Atkin, and the 3rd of May, 2018, which was undertaken by Paul Connor. The project was directed by Chris Butler.

² Butler, C. 2017. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent. CBAS0828.

³ Mark Stephenson correspondence with Mackellarschwerdt Architects

2.0 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief were to:

1. establish the presence and nature of any archaeological features exposed within the footprint of the groundworks; and
2. ensure that any archaeological remains affected by the groundworks were excavated and recorded.

2.2 The specific research aims were to:

1. identify from the Farmstead Assessment⁴ and Heritage Statement⁵ any remains that may have related to the Farm's development over time;
2. establish whether any earlier building remains survived in the footprint of the proposed groundworks and to record and interpret these remains, which may have added to our knowledge of the history and development the Farm; and
3. record any features and artefacts which may have related to the earlier use of the Site, which may have added to the archaeological and historical knowledge regarding the Site and its surrounding area.

⁴ Furse Landscape Architects 2017 *Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Beneden, Kent, TN17 4EZ: Farmstead Assessment*

⁵ Henderson, M. 2016 *Barn At Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4EZ: Heritage Statement*

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1** A Farmstead Assessment⁶ and Heritage Statement⁷ have been prepared for the site and should be referred to for the archaeological and historical background to the site.

⁶ Furse Landscape Architects 2017 *Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Beneden, Kent, TN17 4EZ: Farmstead Assessment*

⁷ Henderson, M. 2016 *Barn At Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4EZ: Heritage Statement*

4.0 Methodology

- 4.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2014) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014), and the *Treasure Act* (1996).
- 4.2 Initially the ground reduction of turf and underlying soil over the car park area (Fig. 3) was monitored. Initially a small Kubota U50-3a tracked 360° excavator with a 1.5m wide flat bladed bucket was used, and then later a large Doosan DX140LC tracked 360° excavator, with a 1.8m wide flat bladed bucket (Plate 1), which removed all topsoil and subsoil down to the natural.



Plate 1: Ground reduction for car park

- 4.3 The existing byre building (Fig. 3) had been demolished and its existing floor had been broken up (Plate 2). After removal of the resulting rubble, foundation trenches were excavated using a Kubota 3 tonne tracked 360° excavator, and after inspection were immediately concreted (Plate 3). Trenches were up to 2.3m deep and 600mm wide.



Plate 2: Brye after demolition



Plate 3: Excavation of foundation trenches

- 4.4** Work on the barn (Fig. 3) comprised the removal of some existing brick wall and the excavation of foundation trenches up to 1m deep (Plate 4), underpinning work on the existing barn walls, lowering of the approach ramp to the barn (Plate 5) and lowering of the floor level. The existing concrete floor was broken up with a hand breaker, and then the ground level was reduced using a Kubota 3 tonne tracked 360° excavator (Plate 6). The final area of ground reduction was to the south and south west of the barn (Plate 7).



Plate 4: Barn foundation work



Plate 5: Lowering of ramp to barn



Plate 6: Reduction inside barn



Plate 7: Reduction to south of barn

- 4.5** All deposits were recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not with reference to a Munsell Colour chart. Any archaeological features revealed were excavated and sampled as appropriate and in accordance with the Recommended Standards. All archaeological features or deposits were assigned unique context numbers, prefixed **1/** for the car park reduction, **2/** for the brye excavations and **3/** for the work in and around the barn.

- 4.6** The spoil from the excavations was visually inspected for artefacts. The spoil and excavated surfaces were also scanned with a Garrett ACE 250 metal detector to recover any metallic artefacts of archaeological interest, although none were recovered.
- 4.7** A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) had been established by the client's surveyors using GPS⁸, and was used to provide levels for the archaeological monitoring.
- 4.8** A digital photographic record of the fieldwork was taken and will be kept as part of the Site archive, along with the onsite paperwork (Table 1). Ownership of all finds will be transferred to CBAS Ltd by the Client. The archive will include all finds, and is presently held by CBAS Ltd, prior to being deposited in Tunbridge Wells Museum. A site reference of FFB 17 was allocated. The HER at Kent County Council will be provided with a CD containing the report in PDF Archive format and a selection of digital photographs.

Sheets	No. of Pages
Watching Brief Record Sheet	10
Context Register	1
Context Record Sheet	25
Levels Record Sheet	1
Photographic Index	7
Drawing Index	1
Total	45

Table 1: Paper archive.

⁸ Frame Farm, Iden Green, Topographical Survey. Perceptum Design

5.0 Results

5.1 New Car Parking Area (Fig. 4)

- 5.1.1** The new car parking area was positioned to the south of the Stable Barn (Fig. 2), and measured c.40 metres long x 18 metres wide. The original area to be stripped was abridged by a 6m x 6m area in the north eastern corner where a Liquid Propane Storage Tank has previously been buried. This supplies gas to the boiler in the event of an emergency breakdown of the farms Biomass Boiler system.
- 5.1.2** The topsoil (Context **1/001**) across the Site comprised a soft dark brown silty clay, with small root networks, up to 120mm in depth and contained late medieval and Post medieval pottery, together with Post medieval ceramic building material (CBM), metal, glass and a clay tobacco pipe stem.
- 5.1.3** The subsoil (Context **1/002**), recorded below the topsoil, comprised of a soft, mid-brown clayey silt which measured up to 90mm in depth with occasional charcoal flecks and contained Post medieval pottery and CBM.
- 5.1.4** The natural deposit (Context **1/003**), was recorded below the subsoil as a soft orange-brown clay with occasional ironstone pieces. Excavation ceased on reaching the natural, so there was limited excavation into this deposit.
- 5.1.5** Cut into the natural deposit, a number of linear features were clearly seen running across the car park area (Plate 8). These comprised four land drains (LD1, LD2, LD3 & LD4) and three waste pipes (WP1, WP2, WP3). The land drain trenches average a width of 200mm and the waste pipe trenches average 350mm in width. Waste pipes WP1, WP2 & WP3 all lead to the farm installed Sewage Treatment Works. Two further waste pipes (WP4 & WP5 – not shown on Fig. 4) continue downwards to the south-west beyond the Site towards a small stream; WP5 has smaller width of 150mm. As these were all clearly modern features, none were archaeologically investigated.
- 5.1.6** Four post holes were revealed (PH1, PH2, PH3 & PH4). These are all circular in shape and measured 520mm in diameter. PH1 (Context **1/004**) was excavated and found to be 230mm in depth with straight sides and bottom (Plate 9), and contained a firm light orange clay fill (Context **1/005**). Within this was a post pipe (Context **1/006**) representing the original post, part of which was found in the bottom of the post pipe. The post pipe was 115mm in diameter and 340mm deep, extending deeper than the surrounding post hole. The fill of the post pipe was the same soft, mid-brown clayey silt as the subsoil. No artefacts were recovered from the posthole or post pipe. The other postholes were not excavated as they were clearly of the same date and structure.

5.1.7 The consistent shape and size of these suggest they have been created with an ‘Auger Drill’ rather than dug by hand. The position of these post holes may relate to the small open fronted structure first seen on the 1956 OS map (Fig. 8).



Plate 8: PH1 & PH2 (truncated by WP 2) with LD1, WP1 and WP3 behind, looking south-west.



Plate 9: PH1, showing south-east section.

5.1.8 Beyond the features identified above, no other archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the work on the car parking area.

5.2 Byre Building Reconstruction (Figs. 5 & 6)

- 5.2.1** The former lean-to byre building had been taken down and its concrete floor broken up for removal prior to commencement of the watching brief (Plate 2).
- 5.2.2** The western part of this area had a topsoil (Context **2/001**) and a subsoil (Context **2/002**) up to a depth of up to 180mm and 200mm respectively, both are the same as Contexts **1/001** & **1/002**. Context **2/002** was seen to contain Post medieval CBM.
- 5.2.3** The remaining part of this area, below the concrete floor, had a loose rubble made ground (Context **2/003**) up to 520mm depth, containing Post medieval CBM (roof tiles, whole & part bricks) and occasional small patches of rounded shingle pieces (< 25mm in diameter). This was mixed with a mid-brown clayey silt with orange clay patches.
- 5.2.4** Excavation of the new foundation trenches revealed the lower foundation of the former wall of the byre (Context **2/004**), which extended to a length of 6m on the north side (Plate 10), 8m on the south side and 13m on the east side. At the northern end of this wall its cut was encountered at a depth of 800mm, containing a dry monk bond of bricks 400mm in width, sitting directly on the natural clay (Context **2/005**), which was the same as Context **1/003**. A ceramic pipe was noted at the base of the wall foundation, running on the same orientation.



Plate 10: Wall of Byre on northern edge
of excavation



Plate 11: Deposit **2/006**

- 5.2.5** Another deposit (Context **2/006**) was seen above **2/005** between the former walls of the byre. This was a soft dark grey/black silty clay up to 220mm in depth containing well-rotted grass fibres and straw, with a smell of pond mud. This combination suggests it was the areas original surface of former bedding material that had periodically been covered by water as the area is known to flood easily and has two ponds adjacent to it.

5.2.6 The new foundation trenches also revealed the lower portions of seven former wooden posts/supports (A, B, C, D, E, F, G & H) that would have supported the buildings sloping roof (Plates 12 – 14). These ranged in size between 500 to 720mm in length and 200 to 360mm in diameter, A, B, C & E being simply unworked sawn off tree branches. F, G & H were seen to be made of prepared timber, with G being an additional packing post for F.



Plate 12: Post A in-situ



Plate 13: Post D in-situ



Plate 14: Examples of the wooden posts (A, C, E & G)

5.2.7 No other archaeological features or deposits were noted during the monitoring work in and around the byre.

5.3 Threshing Barn - Ground Reduction (Fig. 7)

5.3.1 Initially the level of the ramp leading into north-east side of the Threshing Barn was reduced (Plate 5) prior to any reduction within the barn itself. The tarmac surface (Context **3/001**) was a hard black/dark grey mix of sub angular igneous rocks < 5mm in diameter, and was 90mm thick.

5.3.2 Below **3/001** was an irregular layer of brick cobbles (Context **3/002**), to a depth of 70mm (Plate 15), however this did not extend as far as the entrance to the barn. The bricks were unfrogged and hand made, and measured c.235mm x 105mm x 70mm. There was no bonding material, although some of the bricks had a sandy mortar adhering to them. It is not clear whether these formed an earlier surface or were re-used bricks providing a hard core base for the tarmac, although the latter seems more likely.



Plate 15: Tarmac and underlying bricks forming ramp

5.3.3 Below the bricks, and extending below the tarmac where the bricks are not present, was a compact layer of dark orange-brown ironstone pieces (<c.30mm) 80mm thick (Context **3/003**) overlying the light orange-brown natural clay (Context **3/004**).

5.3.4 Inside the barn the concrete floor (Context **3/010**) was between 50mm and 110mm thick, and was a light grey colour and contained rounded flint pebbles (<3mm). Below this was a layer of made ground c100-120mm deep comprising a dark grey sandy loam with numerous pieces of broken concrete and ironstone (Context **3/011**). This sat directly on the underlying natural.

5.3.5 Below the made ground were five parallel sleeper walls, extending from northeast to southwest across the centre on the barn (Fig. 7). The four longer walls (**3/005**, **3/006**, **3/008** & **3/009**) were all c.9m long and extended the full length of the floor. The central wall (**3/007**) did not extend to the north wall of the barn, and was interrupted by an inserted metal tank in its centre. All of the walls have been truncated by the insertion of the later concrete floor and only survived to a height of one or two courses, except for the two walls (**3/005** & **3/009**) adjacent to the east and west sides which survived to a maximum of six courses.

5.3.6 The walls (Plate 16) were formed of un-frogged bricks, each measuring c.235mm x 105mm x 58mm, in English Bond, and were bonded with a weak yellow-buff sandy mortar. The bricks in each of the walls appeared to be of the same type, which suggests they are all of the same phase, and originally supported the wooden threshing floor.



Plate 16: Sleeper walls supporting wooden threshing floor

5.3.7 A large metal tank (Plate 17) had been dug into the concrete floor of the barn and was covered with wooden planks. It measured c1.5m x 1m in size and was c1m deep, and had apparently been used as an inspection pit for servicing tractors. It had been cut through the central brick sleeper wall (3/007).



Plate 17: Metal tank

- 5.3.8** The excavations for foundations adjacent to the barn (Plate 4) found a 250mm deep layer of black silty clay made ground (Context **3/012**), containing 20th century artefacts, overlying the light orange-brown natural clay (Context **3/004**). The existing brick wall was formed of modern bricks in English Bond, bonded in cement, up to six courses deep and sitting on a concrete foundation.
- 5.3.9** The ground reduction to the south of the barn (Plate 7) revealed a topsoil (Context **3/013**) of soft dark brown silty clay loam up to 300mm thick with some shingle, CBM and other material of 20th century date mixed in it. This sat above the natural (Context **3/004**).
- 5.3.10** No other archaeological features or deposits were noted during the monitoring work in and around the barn.

6.0 Finds

6.01 A moderately sized assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the monitoring work, and is described below. The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and is not suitable for long-term curation in a museum.

6.02 Spot dating of Contexts

Context	Spot Date	Comments
U/S	C18th & mid C19th - early 20th mix	
1/001	Mixed: late C15th - mid 16th & mid C19th - early 20th	
1/002	Mixed C17th to 19th	
2/001	Mid C19th - early 20th	
2/002	Mixed: x1 late C16th - early 18th, x1 C18th - 19th	All CBM
2/004	mid C18th - 19th	
2/006	C18th - 19th	
3/002	C19th	Brick
3/006	C19th	Brick

Table 2: Spot dating

6.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

6.1.1 The archaeological work recovered 11 sherds of pottery, weighing 266g, from four individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed by common or descriptive ware names in Table 3 as part of the visible archive. Overall the pottery consists of medium-sized sherds with slight signs of abrasion. As such the material does not appear to have been subjected to any significant reworking.

6.1.2 The earliest pottery appears to represent refuse disposal in the late 15th or 16th centuries. Although clearly residual the assemblage contains a notable proportion of imported German stoneware in comparison with the local hard-fired earthenware. However, the assemblage is too small to draw conclusions from. There is nothing in this group that need post-date 1600.

6.1.3 There is a complete gap in the ceramic sequence until the mid 19th to early 20th centuries. This period accounts for the remaining ceramics and there is nothing in this group to suggest anything other than a low/middling status household.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented)
U/S	Unglazed red earthenware	LPM	1	28	Flower pot x1 (small - 37mm diameter base)
U/S	Refined whiteware	LPM	1	8	Bowl x1 (reverted thickened rim)
1/001	Hard-fired earthenware (silty/sparse quartz)	LM/EPM	1	10	Pitcher x1 (oxidised with thickened slightly everted rim. Worn)
1/001	Raeren stoneware	LM	1	34	Mug x1 (iron wash, salt glaze)
1/001	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	6	Dish x1 (willow pattern)
1/001	Refined whiteware	LPM	2	30	Bowl/dish x1 (simple everted rim); plate x1 (internal green glaze)
1/002	Frechen stoneware	EPM	2	68	Bottles x2 (iron wash, salt glaze with turned base)
1/002	Refined whiteware	LPM	1	18	?Dish x1
2/001	Refined whiteware	LPM	1	64	Platter x1 (blue rim edge)

Table 3: Pottery assemblage (LM – Late Medieval c. 1350/75-1525/50; EPM – Early Post-Medieval c. 1525/50-1750; LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

6.1.4 The pottery assemblage is small, mixed and of types well known of in the area. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and is not suitable for long-term curation in a museum. As such it has been added to the pool of material held for handling/teaching.

6.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipes by Luke Barber

6.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a single piece of clay pipe from the site (Table 4).

Context	Element	Date	No	Weight (g)	Bore diameter	Combined stem length (mm)	Comments
1/001	Stem	1700-1750	1	4	2.3mm	47mm	Very worn

Table 4: Clay pipe assemblage

6.2.2 The clay pipe fragment appears to be a casual loss in the first half of the 18th century. The piece is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and has been discarded.

6.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber & Chris Butler

6.3.1 A relatively large assemblage of brick and tile was recovered during the archaeological work (13719g). With the exception of whole brick samples the material showed signs of some abrasion, the earlier material having notably more.

6.3.2 Due to the mixed open nature of the deposits and late date of most of the ceramic building material the assemblage has been recorded by form and date rather than by fabric. The assemblage is summarised in Table 5 as part of the visible archive.

Context	Form	Suggested Date	Period	No	Weight (g)	Dimensions	Comments
U/S	Wall tile	m C17th - m 18th	EPM	1	24	6mm thick	Tin-glazed: Hand-painted design - ?boat on water
1/001	Peg tile	C17th - m 18th	EPM	4	100	11-13mm thick	Silty, calcareous. Worn
1/001	Peg tile	C18th - 19th	LPM	5	176	10-12mm thick	Iron oxides and 'marl' or iron oxides only. Well fired. Fresh
1/001	Land drain	C19th	LPM	1	58	9mm thick	
1/001	Drain	m C19th - e 20th	LPM	1	34		English stoneware salt glazed collared pipe
1/001	Mosaic tile	C20th	LPM	1	3	4mm thick	Refined whiteware, blue glaze
1/002	Brick	C17th - m 18th	EPM	1	18		Amorphous (with iron oxides)
1/002	Peg tile	C17th - m 18th	EPM	7	280	11-14mm	Silty, fine quartz. Worn
1/002	Peg tile	C18th - 19th	LPM	4	170	12-13mm thick	Diamond peg holes x2
2/001	Hearth brick	C19th	LPM	1	930	50mm thick	Has 45 degree chamfer. Refractory brick from fireplace. Burnt
2/001	Peg tile	C18th - 19th	LPM	5	204	10-11mm thick	
2/002	Brick	m C16th - 17th	EPM	1	1654	?x 112 x 55mm	Quite crudely formed. Top worn suggesting floor brick but re-used - off-white powdery mortar on worn face. Iron oxides and 'marl' in fabric
2/002	Brick	C18th - 19th	LPM	1	294	58mm thick	Iron oxides
2/004	Brick	m C18th - 19th	LPM	1	2802	230 x 110 x 60mm	90% complete
2/006	Brick	m C18th - 19th	LPM	1	1028	?x 115 x 63mm	Very neatly formed.
3/002	Brick	C19th	LPM	1	3020	235x105x58m	Hard fired, no frog. Yellow buff sandy mortar adhering
3/006	Brick	C19th	LPM	1	2924	235x105x58m	Hard fired, no frog. Yellow buff sandy mortar adhering

Table 5: Ceramic Building Material assemblage summary (EPM – Early Post-medieval (mid C16th – early 18th); LPM Late Post-medieval – C18th – 19th)

6.3.3 Fourteen pieces of brick and tile (2076g) are considered to be of Early Post-medieval date, most probably spanning the 17th to mid 18th centuries. Although some pieces may be contemporary with the earlier pottery from the site, on the whole the brick and tile is from a period not represented by the ceramics. A fairly standard range of brick and peg tile is present though the presence of the tin-glazed wall tile (U/S) hints at a household of some means during this period.

6.3.4 The Late Post-medieval assemblage is more varied in forms: as well as developed brick and peg tile there are drains, a refractory hearth brick and decorative mosaic tile. All could probably be placed in a similar range to the Late Post-medieval pottery.

6.3.5 The ceramic building material assemblage is from open contexts with significant chronological mixing. As such the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. This material has been discarded.

6.4 Glass by Jan Oldham

6.4.1 A small quantity of glass was recovered during the archaeological investigation, which has been recorded by colour, vessel type, if identifiable, and weight.

6.4.2 From Context **1/002**, a single piece of clear flat window glass weighing 4g. Context **2/001** produced a piece of clear 'obscured' type window glass weighing 6g.

6.4.3 A complete aqua coloured potted meat/shrimp type jar, no lid or seal present, was recovered as an unstratified find. The jar is undecorated apart from a plain ribbed edge just below the rim, weighs 138g and is of late 19th century date.

6.4.4 The glass is associated with domestic occupation and has been discarded on or close to the site of its use. It requires no further analysis and is recommended for discard.

6.5 Metal by Jan Oldham

6.5.1 A quantity of ferrous metal was retrieved from Context **1/001**, which has been recorded by artefact type, where identifiable, and weight.

6.5.2 A partial door hinge with two screw holes weighing 144g and part of a wall bracket with a weight of 129g.

A snap lynch pin from a trailer weighing 43g and a reinforcing band weighing 128g, likely to be from an agricultural hand tool.

A single round headed nail and three partial nails, with a combined weight of 80g.

A single cross headed Phillips screw, weighing 4g.

A household furniture caster weighing 88g.

A quantity of unidentifiable corroded iron fragments with a combined weight of 53g.

6.5.3 The metal is in poor condition and highly corroded, likely to be of late 19th century – mid 20th century in date and associated with occupation and agricultural activity on the site. No further analysis is necessary, and the artefacts are recommended for discard.

7.0 Discussion

- 7.1 The monitoring work at Frame Farm found no evidence for prehistoric, Roman or early medieval activity at the site. The earliest activity at the site is represented by a small number of pottery sherds from refuse disposal in the late 15th or 16th centuries. Although clearly residual this material includes a notable proportion of imported German stoneware in comparison with the local hard-fired earthenware.
- 7.2 Weaver's Cottages, situated opposite the threshing barn (Fig. 2) is a Grade II Listed Building, described as a weaver's house, converted to a granary and oast prior to reconfiguration as a series of cottages. It is dated to 1607 by a carved date in the tie-beam at the eastern end of the building⁹. The discovery of pottery of similar date ties in well with this early activity at the site.
- 7.3 There is then little archaeological evidence for any activity until the 18th and 19th centuries. This resurgence in activity ties in with the farmhouse, which is also Listed, and has been allocated a mid-18th century origin, while the barn is dated to the late 18th century¹⁰.
- 7.4 During the survey of the barn¹¹ it was noted that a possible sleeper wall may have supported a suspended timber threshing floor that was no longer *in situ*. The monitoring work has confirmed the presence of further sleeper walls which did indeed originally support a wooden suspended threshing floor covering this bay of the barn. The original 18th century threshing floor would have been supported on wooden joists¹², and the evidence from the monitoring suggests that these were replaced by brick sleeper walls in the later 19th century, perhaps at the time of other modifications to the barn¹³.
- 7.5 It then seems likely that at some stage in the later 20th century the wooden floor was removed, the sleeper walls reduced in height and a concrete screed floor laid over the remains of the sleeper walls. It seems likely that the tarmac surface to the ramp was created at the same time, as bricks from the demolished sleeper walls were used to create a hardcore base for the tarmac. This may have coincided with increased mechanisation, and to allow tractors to access the barn, as a galvanised metal tank was inserted into the floor at the same time, and was apparently used as an inspection pit for servicing tractors.
- 7.6 The groundworks for the byre revealed the brick wall foundations from the demolished building, together with a number of partly in-situ wooden posts. It was suggested that the

⁹ Henderson, M. 2016 *Barn At Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4EZ: Heritage Statement*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Martin, D & B. 2006 *Farm Buildings of the Weald 1450-1750*. Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd

¹³ Henderson, M. 2016 *Barn At Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4EZ: Heritage Statement*.

demolished building was created from a pre-existing fully enclosed building added to the farm group between 1876 and 1897, and then between 1932 and 1956 the earlier building was either replaced or substantially altered to create the demolished building¹⁴. With the exception of Post A, the location of the posts found during the monitoring work does not correspond with the positions of posts located on the building survey (Fig. 6).

- 7.7** Some of the posts found do closely correspond with some of the partitions within the building, and may represent earlier locations of posts for those partitions, however the survey of the building noted that there was an earlier building and that building may have been larger. It seems likely therefore that some of the posts found may relate to the earlier building.
- 7.8** The monitoring of the car park area revealed only late post medieval features, including later 19th to 20th century land drains, and modern (20th century) drain runs. The post holes are also 20th century in date, and may relate to the small open fronted building shown on the 1956 OS Map (Fig. 8).
- 7.9** The methodology adopted for this watching brief proved to be satisfactory, and the confidence rating should be considered reliable.

¹⁴ Henderson, M. 2016 *Barn At Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4EZ: Heritage Statement.*

8.0 Acknowledgments

- 8.1** I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Maw for commissioning CBAS Ltd to undertake the watching brief. Thanks are extended to the site contractors for their assistance and co-operation on site.
- 8.2** Luke Barber and Joan Oldham reported on the artefacts and Andy Bradshaw prepared the illustrations.



Fig. 1: Site Location
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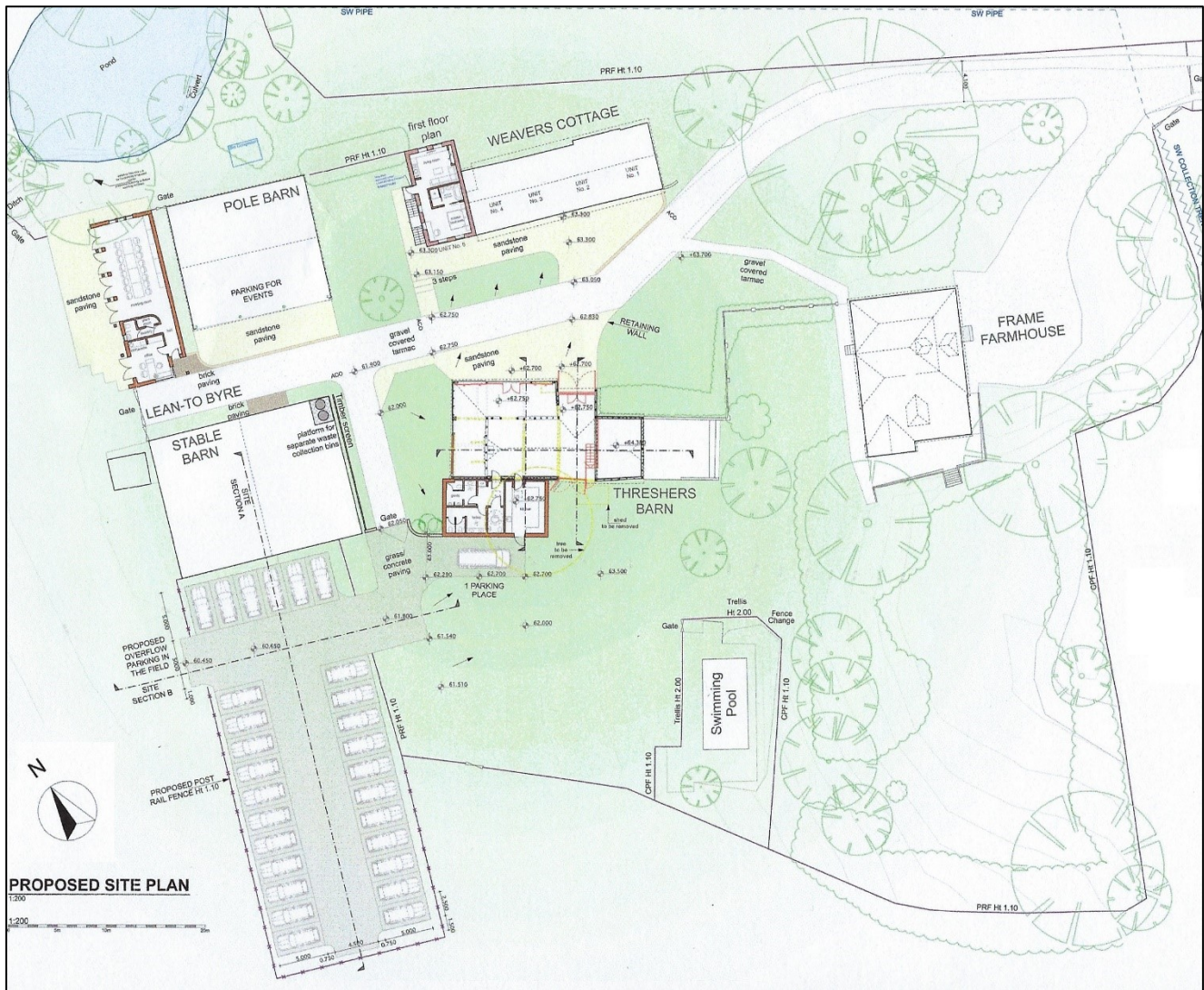


Fig. 2: Proposed Site Plan
(Adapted from Architects Drawing)

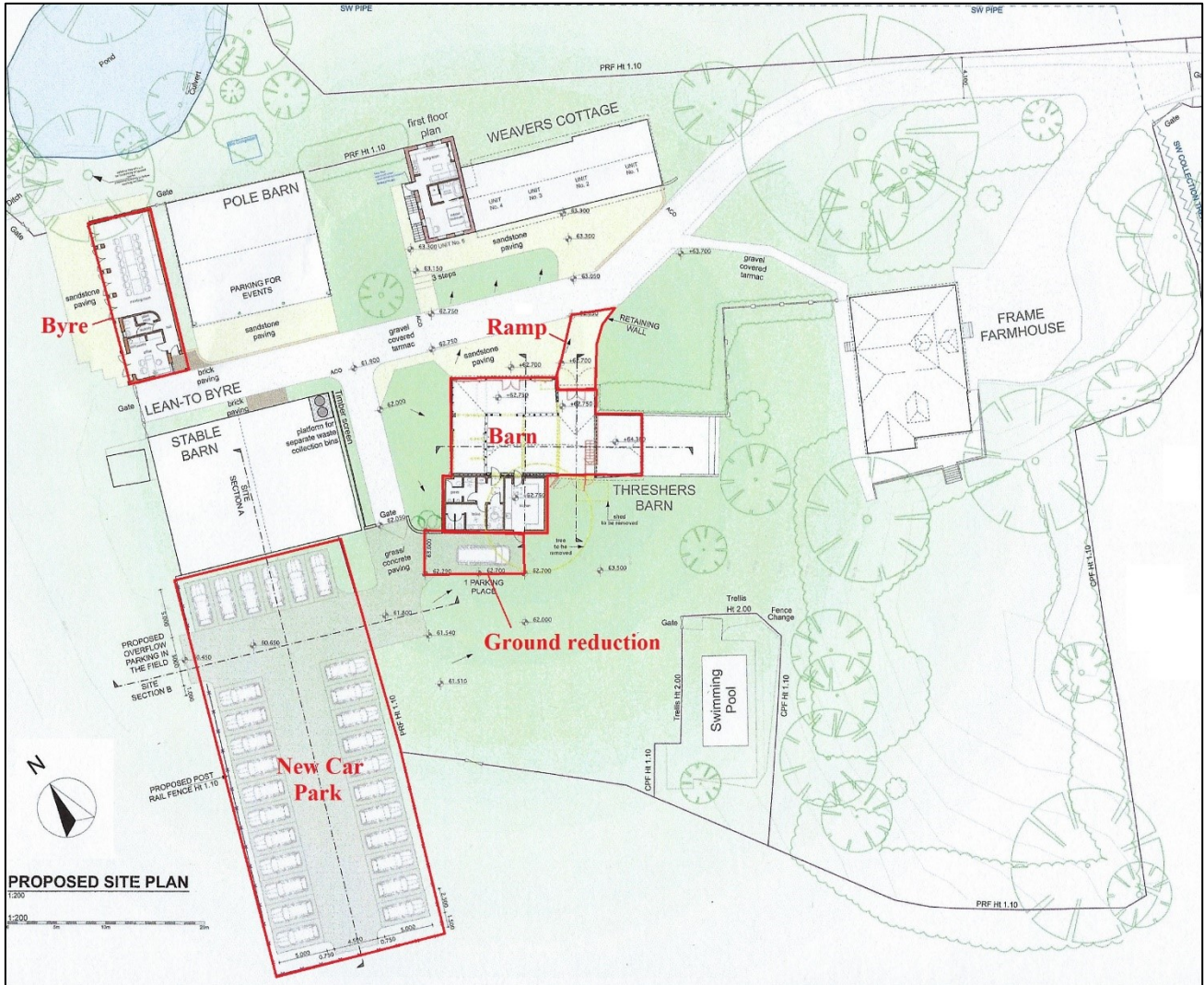


Fig. 3: Proposed Site Plan showing areas monitored
(Adapted from Architects Drawing)

FFB.17 - Car Park Area Plan

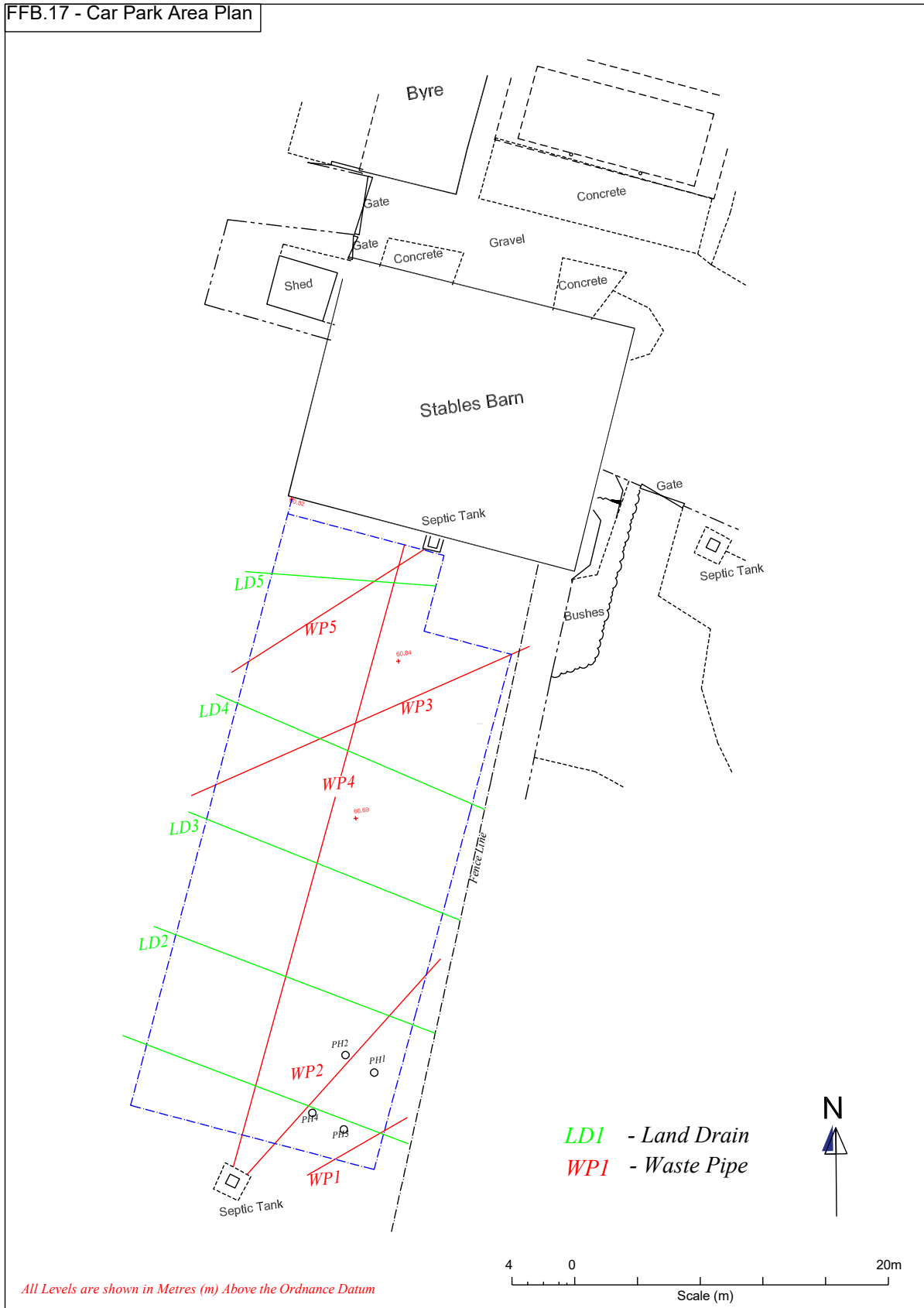


Fig. 4: Plan of the features found in the car park area

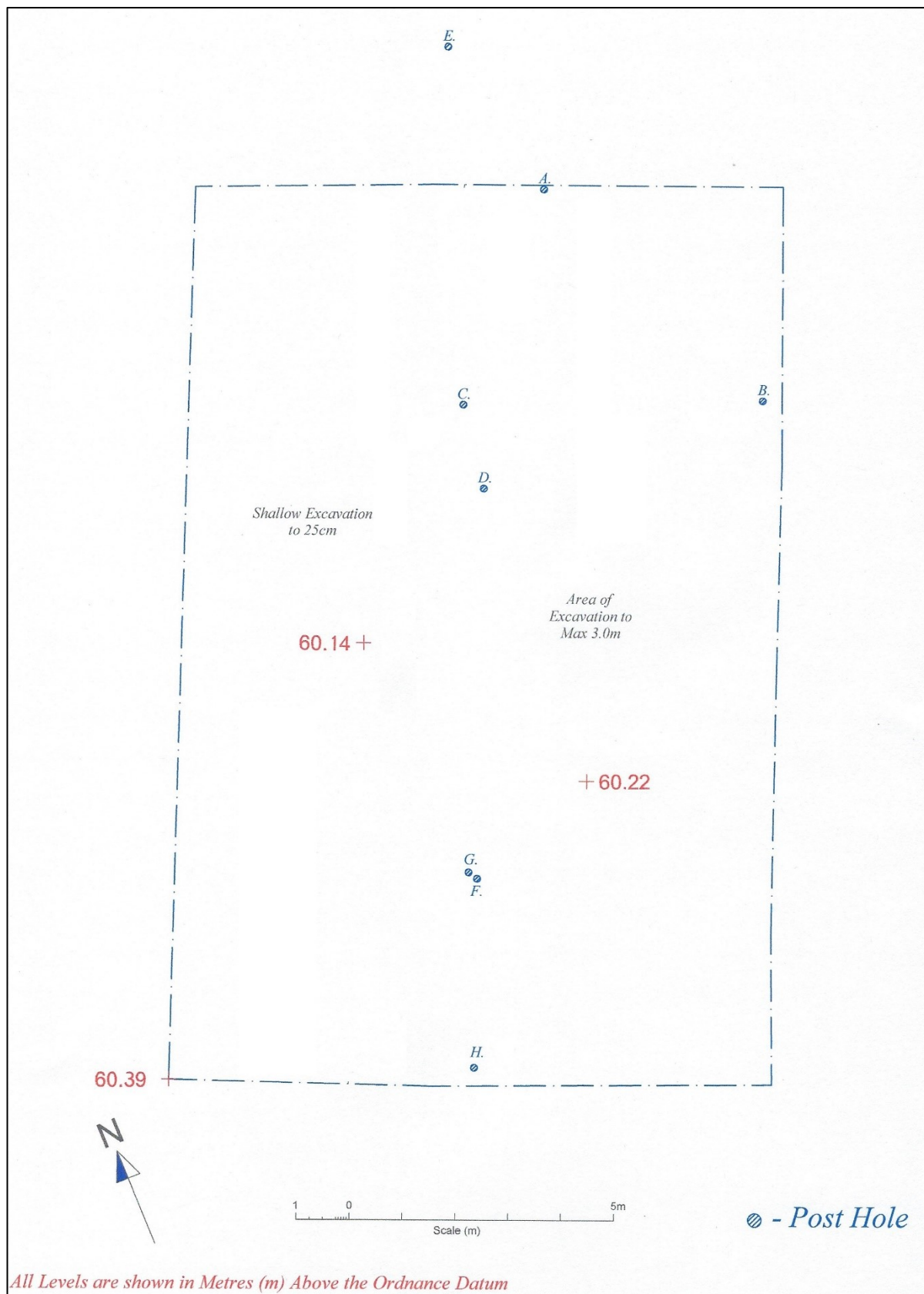


Fig. 5: Plan of the postholes found in the Byre excavations

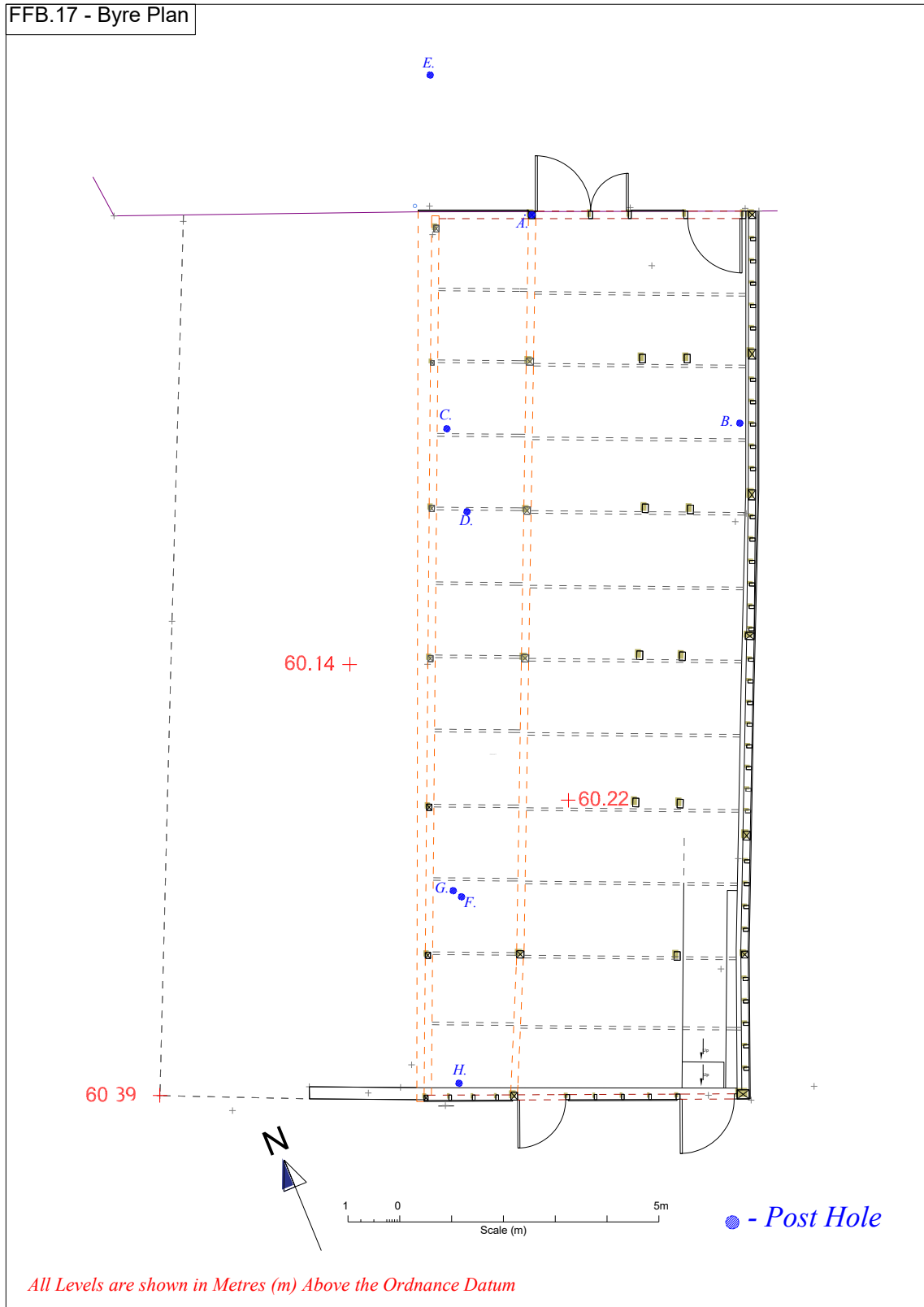


Fig. 6: Plan of the postholes found in the Byre excavations superimposed over plan of the Byre

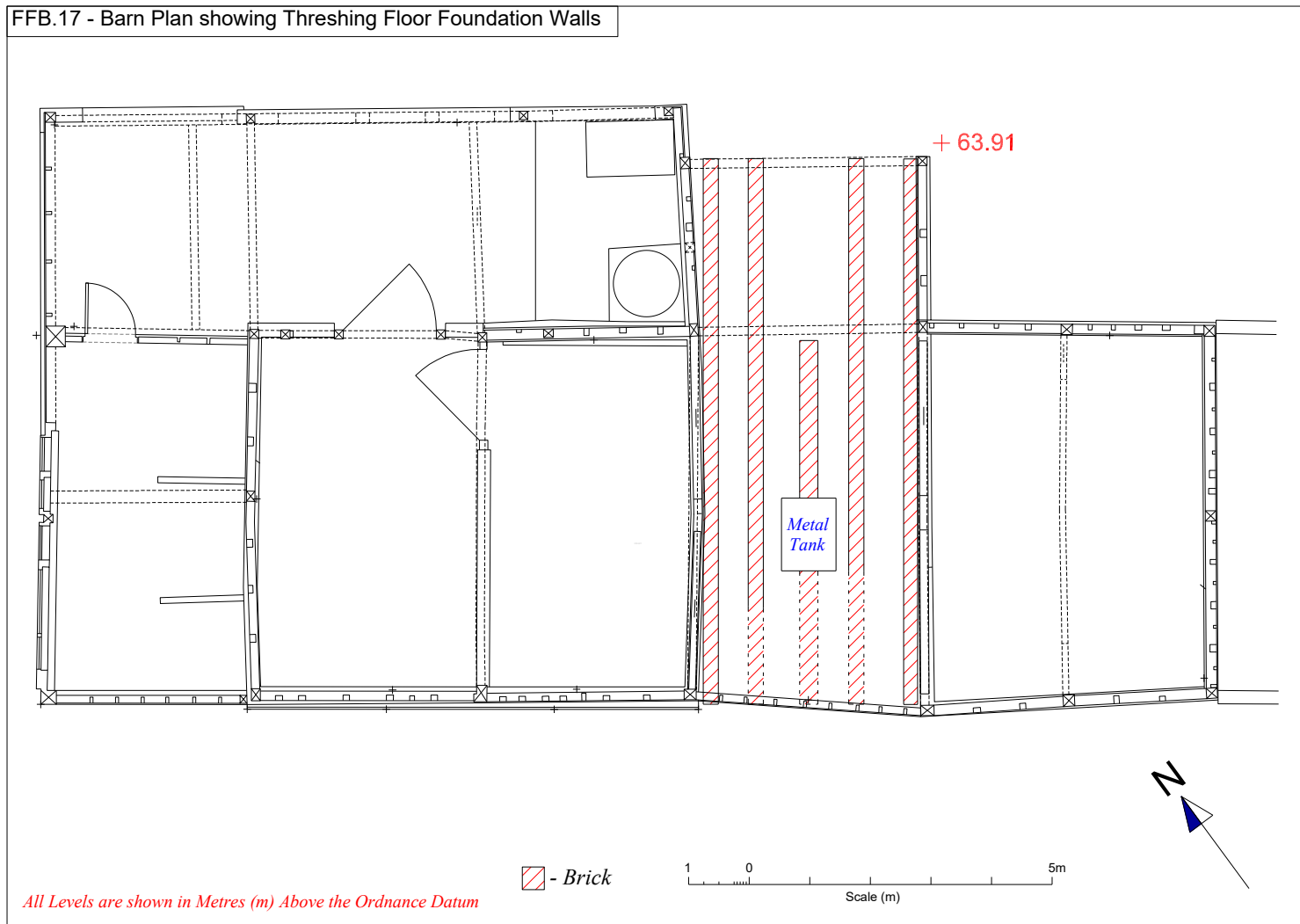


Fig. 7: Plan of the Barn showing the position of the sleeper walls for the original threshing floor

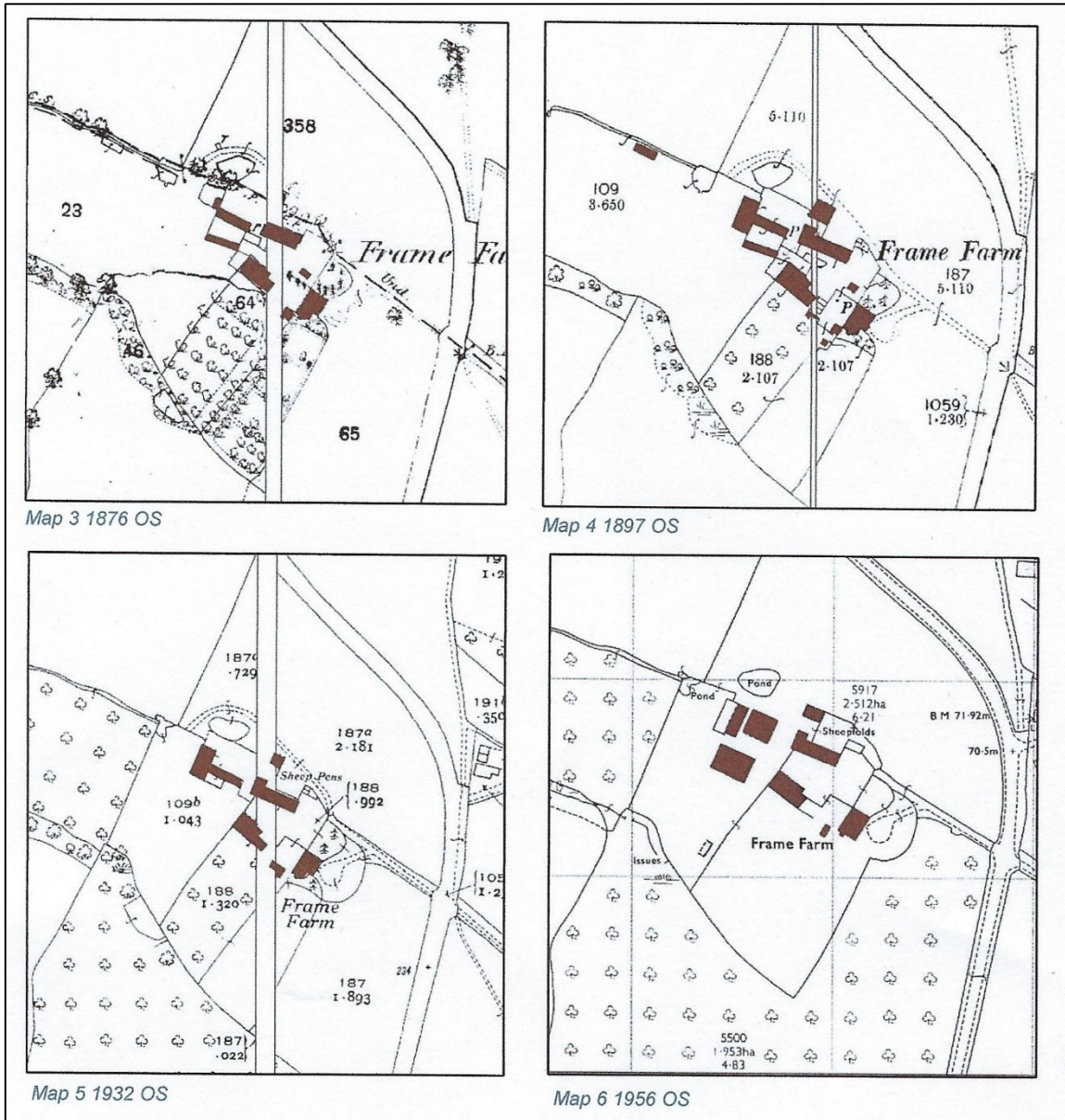


Fig. 8: OS Maps
 (Adapted from Furse Landscape Architects 2017 *Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Beneden, Kent, TN17 4EZ Farmstead Assessment*)

Appendix 3: HER Summary Form

HER enquiry number	N/A					
Site code	FBB17					
Project code	CBAS0828					
Planning reference	16/505552/LBC					
Site address	Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent					
District/Borough	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council					
NGR (12 figures)	TQ 80600 32159					
Geology	Ashdown Beds Formation/Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	WB X	HBR*	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	11 th and the 12 th of September 2017. 9 th , 11 th , 12 th and 13 th of October 2017. 15 th of November 2017. 12 th and the 13 th of February 2018. 3 rd of May 2018.					
Sponsor/client	Mr and Mrs Maw					
Project manager	Chris Butler					
Project supervisor	Stewart Angell					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval X	Other	
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden, Kent to monitor groundworks associated with a new byre building, the barn and a new car parking area. The monitoring work at found no evidence for prehistoric, Roman or early medieval activity at the site. The earliest activity at the site is represented by a small number of pottery sherds from refuse disposal in the late 15th or 16th centuries.</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring of the ground reduction inside the barn identified the presence of sleeper walls which originally supported a wooden suspended threshing floor. The original 18th century threshing floor would have been supported on wooden joists, and the evidence from the monitoring suggests that these were replaced by brick sleeper walls in the later 19th century. It then seems likely that at some stage</i></p>					

	<p><i>in the later 20th century the wooden floor was removed, the sleeper walls reduced in height and a concrete screed floor laid over the remains of the sleeper walls.</i></p> <p><i>The groundworks for the byre revealed the brick wall foundations from the demolished building, together with a number of in-situ wooden posts. With the exception of Post A, the location of the posts found does not correspond with the recorded positions of posts in the demolished building, although some of the posts found do closely correspond with some of the partitions within the building, and may represent earlier locations of posts for those partitions, However the survey of the building noted that there was an earlier building which may have been larger. It seems likely therefore that some of the posts found may relate to the earlier building.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring of the car park area revealed only late post medieval features, including later 19th to 20th century land drains, and modern (20th century) drain runs. Four post holes recorded are also 20th century in date, and may relate to the small open fronted building shown on the 1956 OS Map.</i></p>
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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 a 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 6th Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006.

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

Unit 12, Mays Farm
Berwick
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TS

Tel & fax: 01323 811785

e mail: chris.butler@cbasltd.co.uk