



**Chris Butler MfA
Archaeological Services Ltd**

**An Archaeological
Evaluation Excavation
at Kithurst Lane,
Storrington,
West Sussex**



Project No. CBAS0388

by David Atkin

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a planning application for a new development at Kithurst Lane, Storrington, West Sussex. Four 20m by 1.5m evaluation trenches were excavated by an 8 tonne tracked excavator using a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were excavated down to the underlying sand natural. The only archaeological feature noted during the evaluation was a single modern post-hole and a small assemblage of material was recovered from the subsoil, all dating to early to mid-20th century with one single residual sherd of an unglazed earthenware vessel dating from the 17th to mid-18th century, and another possibly late 19th century.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services had been commissioned by Orpwood & Payne (The Client) to carry out an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation in advance of a development at Kithurst Lane, Storrington, West Sussex (Fig. 1).
- 1.2** The site is located on the south side of Kithurst Lane, centred on TQ 0828 1407, and is situated on the south-west side of the historic Medieval market town of Storrington. The plot has been utilised as a field since the earliest available mapping, and is outside, but adjacent to, the area defined as HEV1 in the Historic Character Assessment Report¹.
- 1.3** The underlying geology of the site according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 317/332) is Folkstone Formation (fine to coarse grained sandstones) of the Lower Greensand Group.
- 1.4** The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprised of an archaeological assessment excavation as the first phase of archaeological work at the site. The written scheme of investigation covered the first phase of works.
- 1.5** The assessment excavation was required to establish whether there are any archaeological remains surviving on the site and to enable further decisions to be made regards the mitigation strategy for either in-situ preservation of the archaeology, or its preservation by record.

2.0 Archaeological & Historical Background (Fig. 2)

- 2.1** An archaeological and historical background to the Site is available in the Written Scheme of Investigation².

¹ Harris, R. 2005 *Storrington: Historic Character Assessment Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey

² Butler, C. 2012. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Assessment Excavation at Kithurst Lane, Storrington, West Sussex*. CBAS0388.

3.0 Method Statement

- 3.1** The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with WSCC's *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation Work* dated February 2007 (Recommended Standards).
- 3.2** The trial trenches were marked out and a CAT scan was undertaken prior to any excavation taking place.
- 3.3** Four evaluation trenches were excavated by an 8t machine using a 1.5m flat bladed ditching bucket (Fig. 2). Each Trench was 20m long and 1.5m wide. All four trenches were excavated down to the natural sand formation, depths between 600-720mm at their respective maximum depths from the current ground level.
- 3.4** All exposed sections and surfaces were cleaned inspected for archaeological deposits, features, structures and 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 initially used to scan the location of the trenches however, no signals were noted. The metal detector was also used to scan the spoil heap during the evaluation.
- 3.5** All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards and to the WSCC Recommended Standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.7** All Four trenches were levelled and surveyed using a total station and were tied in and given an Ordnance Datum level value.
- 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 Ltd. A site reference of KLS13 has been allocated and after any further analysis will be deposited at Horsham Museum who have allocated the accession number 2013.201.

4. Results

4.1 The stratigraphy remained constant across the site, with the topsoil and subsoil deposits from all four trenches (Contexts **1/001**, **2/001**, **3/001**, **4/001**, **1/002**, **2/002**, **3/002**, and **4/002**) staying consistent in colour and consistency across site, with the only variation being the colour of the natural sands (Contexts **1/003**, **2/003**, **3/003**, **4/003**)

4.2 *Trench 1*

4.3 The topsoil was a sandy-silt deposit, with a strong sand component (Context **1/001**). It comprised of a firm to friable, grey deposit with very occasional sub-angular flints at <40mm. It was 300mm in depth across the trench.

4.4 Below the topsoil deposit was the subsoil, Context **1/002**. This was a mid, reddish-brown silty-sand deposit that was between 300-330mm in section. Inclusions amounted to sub-angular flints <60mm at 1%.

4.5 Below the subsoil was the natural sand formation, Context **1/003**. This was a very soft, light buff-grey fine sand, with no inclusions and was 120mm to the limit of excavation.



Plate 1: Trench 1

- 4.6** Context **1/004** was a sub-square cut in Trench 1 for a modern post-hole that cut **1/003**. It was approximately 300mm by 300mm and 150mm deep and was filled by Context **1/005**.
- 4.7** Context **1/005** was the fill of Context **1/004** and was a mid-grey, silty-sand with a small silt component. It was 150mm deep and contained a single piece of modern CBM.
- 4.8** *Trench 2*
- 4.9** The topsoil was a sandy-silt deposit, with a strong sand component (Context **2/001**). It comprised of a firm to friable, grey deposit with very occasional sub-angular flints at <40mm. It was 150mm to 420mm (at the north-east end) in section and had a very diffuse edge with the underlying subsoil, **2/002**.
- 4.10** Below the topsoil deposit was the subsoil, Context **2/002**. This was a mid, reddish-brown silty-sand deposit that was between 180-240mm in section. Inclusions amounted to sub-angular flints <50mm at 1%. At the north-eastern end of the trench any distinction in either colour or texture between the topsoil and subsoil had disappeared and the topsoil (Context **2/001**) appeared to extend down to above the natural.



Plate 2: Trench 2

4.11 Below the subsoil was the natural sand formation, Context **2/003**. Context **2/003** was a natural deposit that was also present in Trench **4**. It was a soft to firm deposit (when compared to Contexts **1/003** and **3/004**) and was a fine to medium sand, red-brown in colour, between 90-170mm to the limit of excavation and contained no inclusions.

4.12 *Trench 3*

4.13 The topsoil was the sandy-silt deposit, with a strong sand component (Context **3/001**). It comprised of a firm to friable, grey deposit with very occasional sub-angular flints at <40mm. It was 300mm in depth across the trench.

4.14 Below the topsoil deposit was the subsoil, Context **3/002**. This was a mid, reddish-brown silty-sand deposit that was between 200-240mm in section. Inclusions amounted to sub-angular flints <50mm at 1%. At the north-eastern end of the trench any distinction in either colour or texture between the topsoil and subsoil had disappeared and the topsoil (Context **3/001**) appeared to extend down to above the natural.



Plate 3: Trench 3

4.15 Context **3/003** was a natural deposit that was also present in Trenches **2** and **4**. It was a soft to firm deposit (when compared to Contexts **1/003** and **3/004**) and was a fine to medium sand, red-brown in colour, between 100 to 200mm to the limit of excavation and contained no inclusions.

4.16 The same light buff-grey fine sand that was present in Trench 1 (Context 1/003) was also present in Trench 3. This same context was present at the northern end of the trench (Context 3/004), where it butted up to another natural sand deposit (Context 3/003). The subsoil in Trench 3 (Context 3/002) was slightly deeper immediately above Context 3/004 becoming slightly shallower over Context 3/003 at the junction between the two natural deposits.

4.17 Trench 4

4.18 The topsoil was the sandy-silt deposit, with a strong sand component (Context 4/001). It comprised of a firm to friable, mid-grey deposit with very occasional sub-angular flints at <40mm. It was 350-400mm in depth.

4.19 Below the topsoil deposit was the subsoil, Context 4/002. This was a mid, reddish-brown silty-sand deposit that was between 220-400mm in section. Inclusions amounted to sub-angular flints <50mm at 1%.

4.20 Context 4/003 was a natural deposit that was also present in Trenches 2 and 3. It was a soft to very soft deposit and was a fine to medium sand, red-brown in colour, between 280mm to the limit of excavation and contained no inclusions.



Plate 4: Trench 4

5. Finds by Luke Barber and Chris Butler

5.1.1 A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the evaluation excavation at Kithurst Lane and is summarised in Table 1.

5.1.2 The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. Essentially it is composed of late post-medieval/modern unstratified building materials. The unstratified pottery sherd is of a general type common to a wide area of Sussex during the early post-medieval period. As such the whole assemblage is recommended for discard.

Table 1: Artefacts (number/weight)

Context	Pottery	Ceramic Building Material	Other	Comments
1/002	1/4g	Peg tile 7/177g Cement tile 12/328g Wall tile 2/25g	Stone 1/6g	Early/mid C20th (resid C17th – 19 th)
2/002	-	Cement tile 6/275g	-	Early/mid C20th
3/002	-	Peg tile 1/20g Cement tile 2/54g	-	Early/mid C20th
4/002	1/6g	Brick 4/554g Cement tile 11/383g	-	Early/mid C20th

5.2 The Pottery

5.2.1 The evaluation recovered two sherds of pottery from the site. The first from Context **1/002** was a heavily worn base sherd from an oxidised unglazed hard-fired earthenware vessel, probably of 17th to mid-18th century date. The sherd is clearly residual in this context.

5.2.2 The second sherd from Context **4/002** is a hard-fired red-brown internally glazed earthenware sherd, which probably dates from the late 19th century.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of building materials, most being recovered from **1/002** and **4/002**. Context **4/002** produced four fragments of brick, three of which were the same fabric; a hard-fired orange sandy fabric with some large and small grog/fired clay inclusions. The fourth fabric was a hard-fired sandy dark red-brown sandy fabric with rare silica and small flint inclusions.

5.3.2 Overall, the earliest pieces of tile appear to be from clay peg tiles that probably date to the 18th to mid-19th centuries. These are well formed and fired but three different fabrics are present. Context **1/002** produced a single (53g) 14mm thick tile tempered with sparse fine sand only as well as six pieces (124g) from 13mm thick tiles tempered with sparse fine sand and abundant marl swirls. The only other clay peg tile (Context **3/002**) is 11mm thick and tempered with sparse fine sand and rare marl pellets to 1mm.

5.3.3 All four contexts that produced finds contained fragments of 13mm thick pinkish cement tiles containing abundant medium/coarse sand and having moulded interlocking edges. These are almost certainly of early to mid-20th century date. The only other tile recovered consists of white glazed fine red earthenware moulded wall tiles (5mm thick) of 20th century type.

5.4 The Geological Material

5.4.1 Context **1/002** produced a single piece of coal.

6. Discussion

- 6.1** Despite a number of flint implements been found in the area around the site, including some of Palaeolithic date and up the early Bronze Age, none were present on-site. Indeed, flintwork evidence for the Later Neolithic through to the Bronze Age was notable by its absence, even though Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity has been noted nearby, where flintwork was recovered at Kithurst.
- 6.2** Given the presence of find spots in close proximity to the site, this lack of evidence from early pre-history is moderately surprising, as is the lack of any evidence from the Roman to Medieval periods. This must be due to the lack of activity on the site and subsequent material evidence that that this leaves behind rather than any levelling or truncation or any other post-depositional factors coming into play.
- 6.3** The only dating evidence from the site, bar the pottery sherds of 17th to 19th date, is of a early to mid-20th century date, recovered from the subsoil. The location of the site on the edge of Storrington Common adjacent to a number of strip fields (Fig. 4) would suggest that the site has always been marginal land with limited agricultural use, hence a lack of artefacts from manuring activity. The concentration of material from the later 19th and 20th century coincides with the land becoming agricultural and the appearance of the windmill and other buildings in the immediate vicinity at this time.
- 6.4** The lack of evidence of human activity as suggested by the excavations here and at the Monastery Lane site, combined with the early mapping, suggest that activity in the immediate vicinity and on-site from pre-history to the present day has been limited, although it must be noted that all the trenches were located along the southern edge of the site and there is still scope for discoveries to made to the north where any excavations have yet to take place.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1** The evaluation excavation undertaken at Kithurst Lane was successfully completed and largely achieved its objectives. The depth of deposits across the site was established and, moreover, the potential for surviving archaeological deposits and features was also ascertained
- 7.2** The lack of any archaeological features in either trench means that it is unlikely that any archaeological deposits will be disturbed during the construction phase. However, the presence of early post-medieval pottery may suggest that there was activity on-site or nearby. It is therefore recommended that an archaeological watching brief is maintained during the ground-works phase of this proposed development.

8 Acknowledgements

- 8.1** I would like to thank the client, Orpwood and Payne, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Luke Barber and Chris Butler reported on the finds, and Andy Bradshaw digitised the drawings for the report. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler, and monitored for WSCC by John Mills.

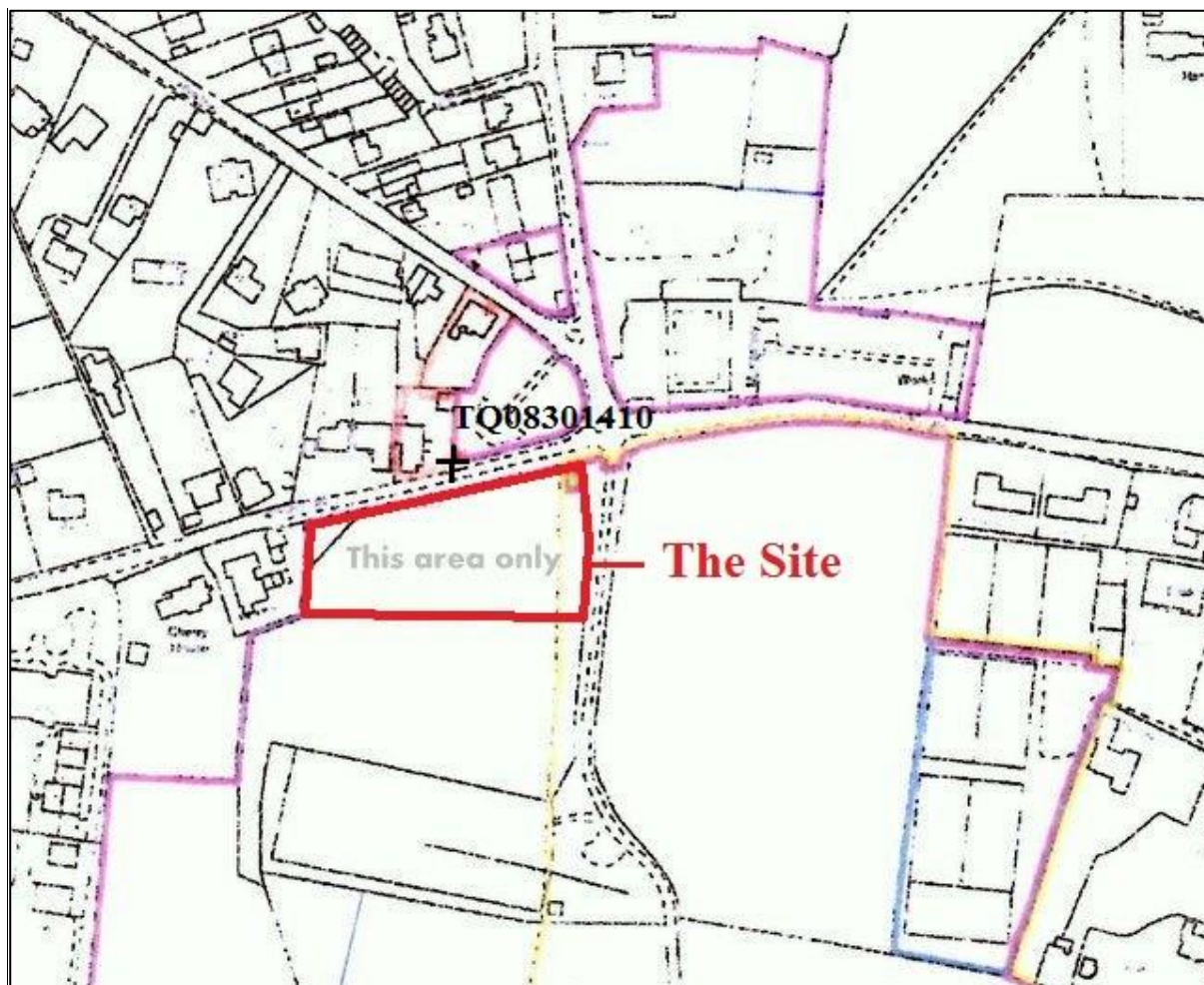


Fig. 1: Kithurst Lane, Storrington: Location of the Site
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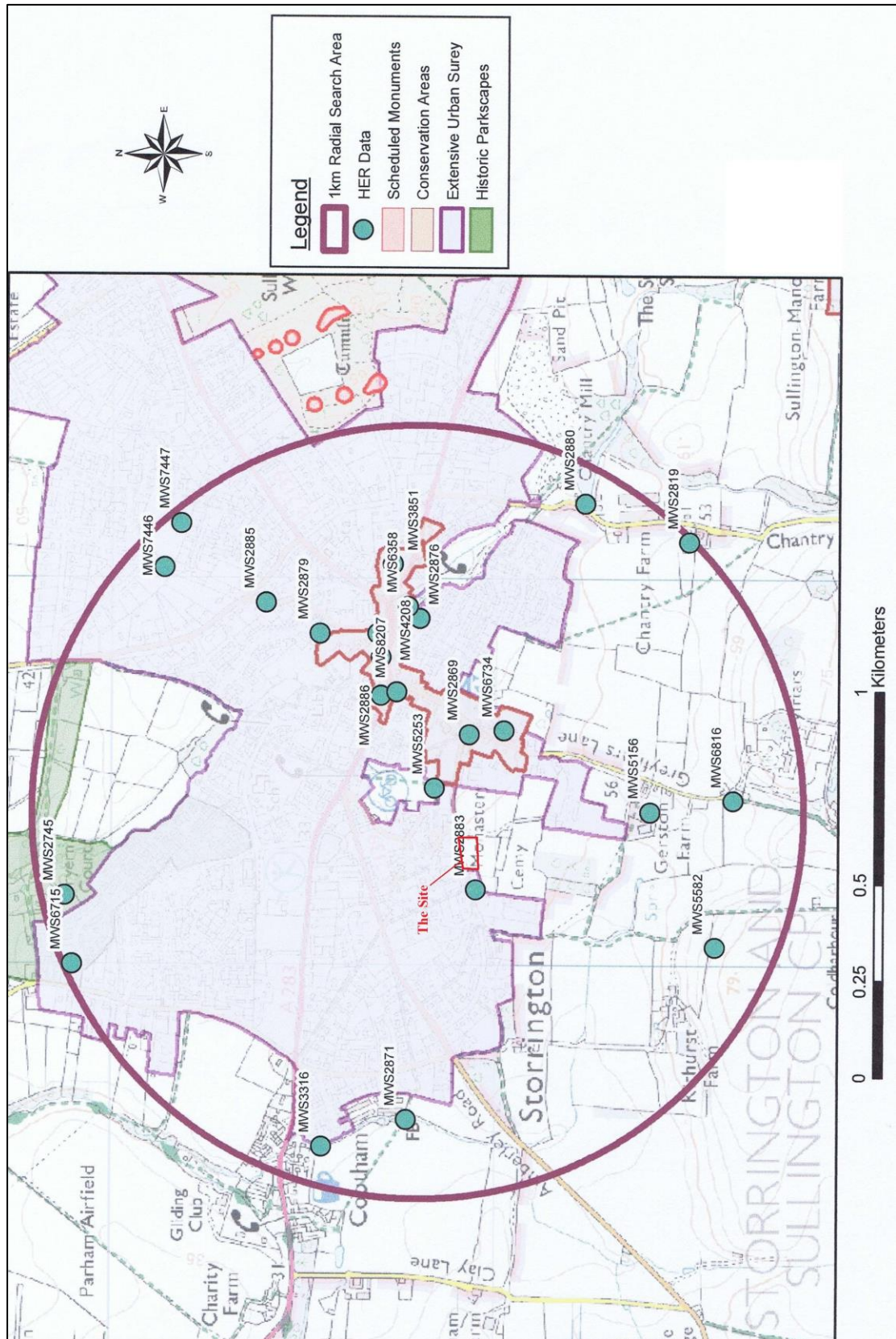


Fig. 2: Kithurst Lane, Storrington: HER Map
(Adapted from map provided by WSCC)
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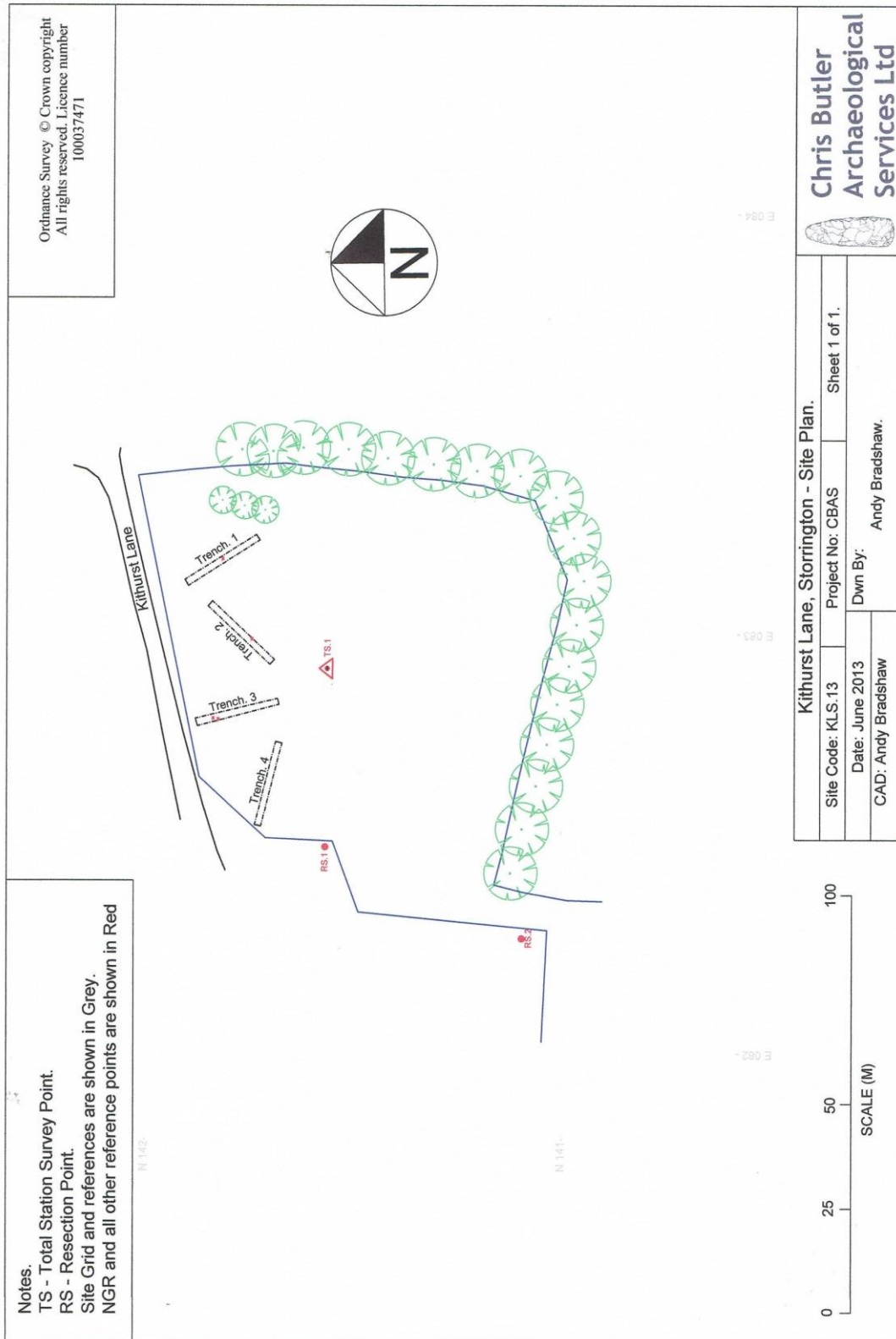


Fig. 3: Kithurst Lane, Storrington: Site plan showing location of the evaluation trenches

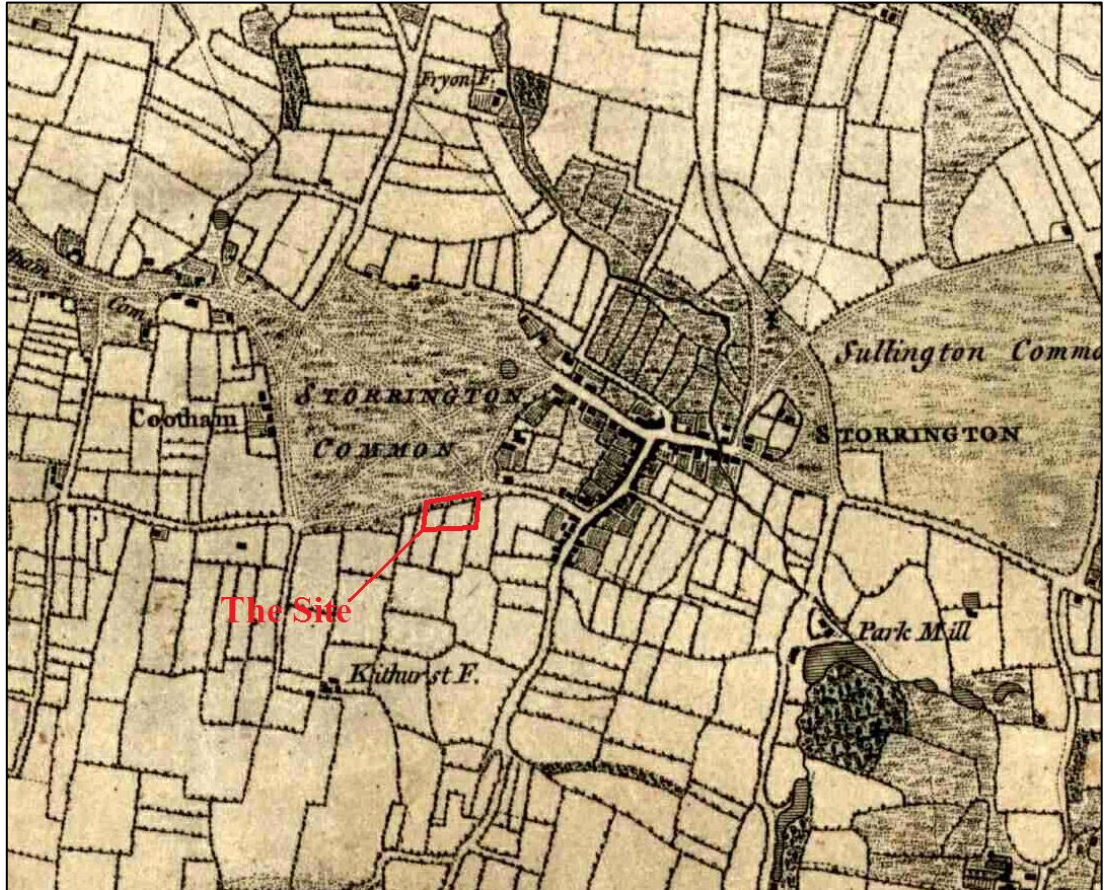


Fig. 4: Kithurst Lane, Storrington: Yeakell & Gardiner map 1778-83
<http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussexmap/Yeakelllarge21.htm>

Appendix 1 Levels Register

Trench (NW corner)	Level (m OD)
1	53.069
2	53.118
3	54.973
4	55.097

Note: Levels taken from Bench mark on Church (Level 44.52OD)

Appendix 2: HER Summary Form

Site Code	KLS13					
Identification Name and Address	Kithurst Lane, Storrington, West Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	Arun District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 0828 1407					
Geology	Folkstone Formation					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 30/05/13- 04/06/13	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Orpwood & Payne					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MfA					
Project Supervisor	Caroline Russell/David Atkin					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a planning application for a new development at Kithurst Lane, Storrington, West Sussex. Four 20m by 1.5m evaluation trenches were excavated by an 8 tonne tracked excavator using a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were excavated down to the underlying sand natural. The only archaeological feature noted during the evaluation was a single modern post-hole and a small assemblage of material was recovered from the subsoil, all dating to early to mid-20th century with one single residual sherd of an unglazed earthenware vessel dating from the 17th to mid-18th century.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, and a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society. He is a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and until recently taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006. 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. 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.

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