



**Chris Butler MCIfA
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at
10 Montfort Close,
Westham,
East Sussex**

Planning Ref. WD/2016/2982/F

CBAS0901

By

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 10 Montfort Close, Westham, East Sussex to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of a parking area and ramped access drive onto the High Street.

Limited evidence of Roman activity was found including a single sherd of East Sussex Ware along with some pieces of ceramic building material, all probably residual in nature. These could have been robbed out from the nearby Roman Fort and reused in the medieval period, or may be evidence for the remains of Roman occupation in the vicinity of the site.

A northwest to southeast orientated medieval ditch running diagonally off the High Street could have originally been a tenement boundary ditch, The ditch includes a possible post hole, and also has an offset on its north east side, which could be a continuation of the same ditch or another feature. The pottery places the infilling of this ditch at the end of the 12th or early in the 13th century, and the presence of earlier pottery dating to the mid 11th to earlier 12th centuries provides a possible timeframe for this activity. The filling in of the ditch and a lack of later medieval activity may indicate that the settlement of Westham was contracting at this time, or that the site had seen a change in its use.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr and Mrs J. Humphrey (the Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief at 10 Montfort Close, Westham, East Sussex (the Site; Fig.1), in connection with a planning application (WD/2016/2982/F) for a new vehicular access into High Street including footpath cross over, ramped access drive, parking area and associated fencing and planting works (Fig.2). The development is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA no.250; Fig.3) defining both the historic core of the medieval/post-medieval village of Westham and the route of a major Roman road with associated settlement.

1.2 The following archaeological condition was attached to planning consent for the proposed development of the Site at the request of the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council (ESCC):

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. 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.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework

1.3 The Site is located to the north of High Street in a residential area of Westham, and comprises a sub-rectangular residential plot occupied by a house and gardens, centred at TQ 63874 04504; Fig.1). The Site is surrounded by residential housing to the north-west, north-east and south-west.

1.4 The Site lies at c.6.82m aOD. According to the British Geology Survey¹, the underlying geology of the Site comprises siltstone, mudstone and sandstone of the Tunbridge Wells Sand formation.

1.5 The programme of archaeological work comprised an archaeological watching brief, as requested by the County Archaeologist for East Sussex County Council². The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (December 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014), East Sussex County Council's *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (2017); and the *Treasure Act* (1996).

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

² Email dated 21/12/16 from Greg Chuter (ESCC) to Kelvin Williams (Wealden District Council). Brief for Archaeological Work.

- 1.6 The watching brief was carried out by the author on the 13th, 14th, 16th & 17th November 2017, with assistance from Sarah Vine on the 17th November.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

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

1. Establish whether there are any archaeological features present within the footprint of all groundworks; and
2. Ensure that any archaeological remains which may be affected by the proposed groundworks are excavated and recorded.

2.2 The specific research aims were:

1. To record any archaeological remains that may relate to prehistoric activity at the site;
2. To record any archaeological remains relating to Roman activity at the Site to add to the archaeological knowledge of the Roman settlement at Westham;
3. To record any medieval remains at the Site which may clarify the western extent of Medieval Westham.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1** The East Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted for a 1km search area (the Study Area) around a nearby site (HER Ref. 169/16; Fig. 4), and East Sussex County Council have given permission for its re-use. The HER entries are discussed below where relevant to the Site.
- 3.2** A large amount of material dating to the Mesolithic Period has been recorded within the Study Area. The largest assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork (MES5033) was recovered around 1939 from two areas *c.* 400m to the south of the Site. Surface finds of Mesolithic cores and flakes were made on both sides of Eastbourne Road, and on the eastern side of the road excavation revealed a further 375 flakes and cores, thought to be a flaking floor. Finds included 10 microliths, 6 microburins, a petit tranchet derivative arrowhead, the end of an axe, 4 scrapers, 2 cores and a flake with a faceted butt.
- 3.3** Mesolithic implements (MES5056) were found on the Pevensey Levels *c.* 250m to the south of the Site, including around 30 cores and 300 unretouched blades or flakes, 2 tranchet axe sharpening flakes, 11 microliths, and around twelve scrapers. Further evidence of Mesolithic activity in the Pevensey Levels was found *c.* 700m to the northwest of the Site in the form of flintwork (MES25494) comprising a core, adze sharpening flake, and some debitage. Finds of Mesolithic flint are fairly common around the Pevensey Levels, and often found at the 5m contour (Fig. 5). They represent hunting and gathering activity around the edges of the levels.
- 3.4** A smaller range of finds provide information from the Neolithic to Bronze Age. A single worked flint dated to the Neolithic to Bronze Age was recovered during a watching brief *c.* 250m to the east of the Site (MES26135). A Late Bronze Age/Iron Age transition occupation site was discovered in 1943 (MES5032) in a garden *c.* 230m to the east of the Site. A quantity of flints and pot in close association, including Bronze Age scrapers and fragments of Iron Age pot were recorded. A small amount of suspected residual Bronze Age pottery was recovered from Eastbourne Road (MES5033) and an Early Bronze Age flat axe (MES4738) is thought to have come from Pevensey.
- 3.5** More information is available for the Iron Age to Romano British Periods. Three uninscribed Iron Age silver coins and a gold 1/4-stater were found in Pevensey (MES4736). A number of Iron Age/Roman finds were recovered during an evaluation at Peelings Lane (MES25493) including a sherd of pottery and a piece of briquetage. In 1965 part of a Roman shale table top was discovered during building works in a field north of the old almshouses *c.* 300m to the west of the Site (MES5036).

- 3.6** The Roman 'Saxon Shore' fort of Anderida (MES4712) was built at the end of the third century at Pevensey. The outer walls comprise an irregular oval of nearly 10 acres and are built of sandstone rubble with coursed facings of stone cut in imitation of bricks with bonding courses of brick. They are about 3.65m thick and nearly 7.62m high and survive nearly complete except on the south side.
- 3.7** The Pevensey-Selmeston-Glynde Roman Road (MES4753), originating from The Greensand Way, runs into the Saxon Shore fort from the west. The nearest exposure of this road to the Site lies at 92 High Street, *c.* 420m to the east. A second Roman Road (MES5037) has been recorded running north-west to south-east, and is exposed *c.* 200m to the west of the Site.
- 3.8** Archaeological interventions have identified a number of Roman remains within the Study Area. During an archaeological evaluation on land at Rattle Road a Romano British ditch (MES7356) was recorded. Further pits were identified during a watching brief at the same location (MES8120). Two Roman pit/ditches (MES19496) were recorded during a watching brief at 25 Pevensey Park Road, and an assemblage of Roman finds was found at 44 Pevensey Park Road (MES23071).
- 3.9** Pevensey Castle (MES4712) was founded at the start of the Medieval Period. Within the Roman walls, at the south-east corner Robert deMortain built a Castle enclosed by a ditch on the north and west sides. Either he or his successor, Richer de Aquila, built a masonry Keep in the extreme south-east corner at the end of the 11th century or the beginning of the 12th century. The ground floor of this survives, and is of stone rubble and flints faced with ashlar. The Gatehouse on the west side with its twin bastions date from *c.* 1220. The curtain walls or inner bailey connecting this with the Roman walls, including 3 half-round towers, were added in the middle of the 13th century.
- 3.10** A Mint (MES4737) was extant through the reigns of William I, II and Stephen. Domesday gives its annual payment as a mere 20/- which shows its output was small and accounts for the rarity of its coins. Pevensey was known as 'Pefenesel' in the Domesday Book 1086 (MES21388) when it was held by the Count of Mortain and included 60 Burgesses and the Church of St Nicholas. The Site may have been located within the medieval village of Westham (MES18966).
- 3.11** The possible locations of two Medieval Hospitals are situated within the Study Area. The hospital of the Holy Cross (MES5030), whose only historical mention comes from a Pevensey rental of 1292 is thought to have been situated *c.* 325m to the east, and the Hospital of St John Baptist, known to have been founded before 1302 (MES5047) is thought to have been located *c.* 200m to the west of the Site.

- 3.12** Two Medieval saltworking mounds are located on Mountney Level (MES5035). These mounds are irregularly oval in shape, between 0.9-1.5m high and c.45m in average diameter.
- 3.13** The Westham Tithe map of 1839 (Fig. 5), shows the area of the Site to occupy the south-western corner of a large pastoral field owned by Lord Burlington and occupied by George Freeman. The area of the Site continues to occupy the corner of a field on the 1st Edition OS map of 1875 (Fig. 6) and the 2nd Edition OS map of 1899 (Fig. 7). However, by 1899 some residential development has occurred to the south of the Site. A brick field is recorded on the 1st Edition OS map (MES18972), later map additions show ponds, presumably old quarry pits, in this location.
- 3.14** Military activity during the Second World War is represented by anti-tank road blocks consisting of tank traps, which are now in the garden of no. 2 Pevensey Park Road, and concrete bases uncovered during excavation of the road (MES20390). These formed part of a road block at the road junction between Eastbourne Road and the High Street. The Drill Hall, located on Eastbourne Road, was used during the First World War for training, and as a reception for evacuated children during the Second World War³.
- 3.15** Map regression shows little change to the Site or surrounding area until the 1968 OS map Edition (Fig. 8). By this time a house had been built on the Site, and the surrounding area had undergone significant housing development. This occurred between 1927, the latest available preceding map, and 1968. The 1980 OS map edition (Fig. 9) shows an extension to have been built on the western elevation of the house.

³ Butler, C. 2007. *East Sussex Under Attack: Anti-invasion Sites 1500-1990*. The History Press.

4.0 Archaeological Methodology (Figs. 2 & 10)

- 4.1 Groundworks at the Site were monitored by the author on 13th November 2017 when a topsoil strip was carried out with a 3.5 tonne tracked excavator (Kubota KX71-3) fitted with a 1.2m wide flat bladed bucket (Plate 1). Monitoring then continued over the following days.



Plate 1: View across site during topsoil strip

- 4.2 The flat area of the site across the north side of the site measured 13m x 6m and was reduced by up to 300mm through the topsoil, exposing the underlying subsoil to the limit of excavation (LOE). The natural was only exposed intermittently across this area due to the LOE having been achieved. This area had suffered from a large sewage pipe positioned through an axis of north-east to south-east across, having a trench of 1.15m width excavated to accommodate it. Service pipes from the property were seen to run into this.
- 4.3 An access slope up onto the flat area from the adjacent High Street required excavation through the topsoil and subsoil, which formed a bank at the south end of the site, exposing the underlying natural clay (Plates 2 & 3). This area measured 8m x 3m, and was orientated from north-west to south-east.
- 4.4 Where archaeological features were encountered they were excavated by hand. All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards and to the *Sussex Archaeological Standards*. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not with reference to a Munsell Colour Chart.



Plates 2 & 3: Access slope reduction revealing natural clay deposit

- 4.5 The spoil from the excavations was visually inspected on a regular basis to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest. A Garrett ACE 150 metal detector was used to scan the spoil and exposed surfaces but no metal objects of archaeological significance were recovered.
- 4.6 A TBM (6.82m AOD) was established on site, and was linked in to the BM on St Mary's Church, Westham (6.90m AOD).
- 4.7 A full digital 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 but will subsequently be deposited with Eastbourne Museum, or such other repository as agreed with the ESCC County Archaeologist. The East Sussex Historic Environment Record will be supplied with a CD containing the report in PDF (archive) format and a selection of site photographs. A site reference of MCW17 has been allocated.

5.0 Results (Figs. 10 – 12)

- 5.1 The topsoil (Context **001**) across the Site comprised friable/soft dark brown silty clay, with small root networks, and was up to 110mm thick. Within the topsoil a mix of finds including ceramic building material (CBM), pottery, metal and glass were found, and were late 19th – 20th century in date with some residual medieval pottery.
- 5.2 Across the Site, the topsoil rested above a subsoil deposit (Context **002**). This subsoil comprised of soft light brown clayey silt up to 420mm thick, with very occasional rounded flint pebbles (< 15mm). Within the subsoil was a mix of finds with the pottery dating from the period c.1150-1350 AD but the CBM has residual Romano-British and 18th-19th century pieces.
- 5.3 Following removal of this subsoil the natural deposit (Context **003**) was recorded as firm/hard orange-brown clay, with very occasional ironstone and angular natural flint inclusions (< 2%) and were less than 40mm in diameter. This natural deposit was devoid of finds.
- 5.4 During excavation of the slope area a linear medieval ditch (Context **004**) was discovered cut into the natural clay (**003**) on an axis of north-west to south-east at a depth 0.67m from the surface (Plate 4). The ditch measured 3.86m in length x 0.60m wide x 0.19m deep, with a fill (Context **005**) similar to the make-up of the subsoil (**002**). Within this fill a mix of finds including CBM, pottery and natural stone were found, the pottery being dated to c.1175/1200-1250 AD, with the CBM being residual Roman. Two sections of the ditch were excavated; a 1.20m length at the north-west end (Plate 5) and a 1.30m length at the south-east end (Plate 6), the remainder was left unexcavated.



Plate 4: Medieval Ditch 004



Plate 5: North-west end of Ditch 004 **Plate 6:** South-east end of Ditch 004.

- 5.5 At the north-west end of this ditch another linear was seen joining from the east, and although given a different context number (Context 006), was assumed to be a continuation of the same feature. It measured 1.5m in length, 0.48m wide and was 120mm deep. It was not as distinct in plan, and its fill (Context 007) was only seen in section at the juncture with Ditch 004, and was the same as Context 005.
- 5.6 A possible post hole (Context 008) measuring 220mm x 190mm was seen within the north-west part of Ditch 004 however, it only had a depth of 80mm and was not seen within the ditch fill (005), being cut into the base of the ditch (Plate 7). Although the upper fill was the same as 005, the underlying fill at its base (Context 009) differed by having dusty charcoal and burnt CBM in its matrix, and contained a single sherd of medieval pottery dating to c.1050-1200 AD.



Plate 7: Ditch 004, with possible shallow post-hole feature.

- 5.7 No other archaeological features or deposits were noted during the monitoring work.

6.0 The Finds

6.0.1 A moderately sized assemblage of artefacts ranging from date from the Romano-British period through to the Post Medieval period was recovered during the monitoring work, and is described below.

6.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented)
1	Unglazed red earthenware	LPM	1	2	Flower pot x1
1	LM6a Silty Painted ware type	LM	1	30	Uncertain form x1 (oxidised, x1 spot of clear glaze internally)
2	SN1c Abbot's Wood-type flinty ware	EM/HM	2	10	Uncertain form x1 (oxidised)
2	HM2c Fine quartz with rare flint	HM	1	2	Uncertain form x1 (oxidised)
2	HM3a Medium/coarse quartz	HM	2	10	Cooking pot x1 (oxidised, externally sooted)
5	East Sussex Ware	RB	1	6	Uncertain form x1 (oxidised, very worn)
5	SN1a Saxo-Norman flinty ware	EM	18	110	Cooking pot x2 (reduced & oxidised.. X1 triangular club rim – Pocock's rim type C4a - with row of stabbing around rim top).
5	SN1c Abbot's Wood-type flinty ware	EM/HM	81	526	Cooking pots x7 (reduced & oxidised. Range of triangular and tapering club and folded over rims – Pocock's types C3a, C3b, C4b, C7a x2, C7b x2)
5	SN1d Abbot's Wood-type white flinty ware	EM	4	44	Cooking pots x4 (reduced & oxidised). Triangular club rim C4b x1
5	HM2d Ringmer ware with rare flint	HM	1	2	Uncertain form x1 (Bitone - probably a jug)
5	HM3a Medium/coarse quartz	HM	1	20	Cooking pot x1 (oxidised, sooted base)
5	HM3c Fine/medium quartz	HM	4	16	Uncertain form x1 (oxidised - probably a jug)
5	HM5d Well-fired sandy ware with black iron oxides	HM	1	8	Jug x1 (light grey, green glaze dribbles externally)
5 <1>	SN1a Saxo-Norman flinty ware	EM	1	1	Cooking pot - same vessel as hand collected material
5 <1>	SN1c Abbot's Wood-type flinty ware	EM/HM	13	14	Cooking pots - same vessels as hand collected material
9	SN1a Saxo-Norman flinty ware	EM	1	10	Cooking pot x1 (oxidised brown)

Table 1: Pottery assemblage (RB – Roman c. 43-410; EM – Early Medieval c. 1050-1200/25; HM - High Medieval c. 1200/25-1350/75; LM – Late Medieval c. 1350/75-1525/50; EPM – Early Post-Medieval c. 1525/50-1750; LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

- 6.1.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 133 sherds of pottery, weighing 811g, from four individually numbered contexts. These totals include 14 small sherds (15g) from a single environmental residue. The material has been fully listed in Table 1 as part of the visible archive. Medieval fabrics have been allocated the area fabric code that covers the Eastbourne, Polegate, Hailsham, Pevensey area⁴ as well as a common name while post-medieval ones have been allocated common name only. Rim form codes are also those used at Pocock's Field, Eastbourne.
- 6.1.2 The earliest pottery consists of the heavily abraded Roman bodysherd that was residual in Context **005**. Actual activity on site appears to begin in the 12th century. The sherd from Context **009** is fresh and could be placed anywhere between the mid 11th and 12th centuries.
- 6.1.3 The much larger assemblage from Context **005** is also notably fresh and contains several rim types, nearly all of which can be matched at Pocock's Field, Eastbourne (Barber forthcoming a). The current assemblage contains one new form not previously seen (C7b). The flinty wares in Context **005** are mainly of the type ascribed Abbot's Wood type, but the current assemblage has a higher incidence of lower fired, oxidised brown vessels than is usually typical. There is also a scatter of the cruder SN1a vessels that are very close to the Lewes Flinty Wares SN1b but without any shell/chalk. Overall, and considering the rim forms present, the group may best be placed at the end of the 12th or early in the 13th century. This would be in keeping with the few sandy ware jugs present. Interestingly the distinctive HM5d fabric is a type not noted in the area previously, though it is present in Lewes ⁵(fabric HML4). The assemblage is too small to comment on the social status of its owners but its fresh condition, without the affects of an acidic subsoil, is unusual for the area.
- 6.1.4 Later material is scarce and includes just residual sherds of mid 15th- to mid 16th- and later 19th- to 20th- century date.
- 6.1.5 The pottery assemblage is small, mixed and generally of types known of in area. The later material and isolated medieval sherds are not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. However, the assemblage from Context **005** is unusually fresh, free of significant residually and contains several rim sherds. This group is considered worth long-term curation in a museum.

⁴ Barber, L. forthcoming 'The Post-Roman Pottery', in G. Dawkes, Excavations at Pocock's Field, Eastbourne, East Sussex. Spoil Heap Monograph Series/Archaeology South-East

⁵ Barber, L. forthcoming 'The Pottery' in Excavations at the Lewes House and Baxter's Printworks Sites, Lewes, East Sussex. Archaeology South-East Monograph.

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 but overall most pieces show moderate to extensive signs of abrasion. The assemblage is summarised in Tables 2 (fabrics) and 3 (quantification) as part of the visible archive.

Fabric	Description	Comments	Suggested date
RC1	Dull orange (sometimes reduced grey). Moderate medium/ coarse quartz, moderate red iron oxides to 3mm (most to 1mm)	Quite well formed, well fired	Roman
RF1	Grey to dull orange. Fine silty matrix, rare quartz in some, rare black iron oxides to 1mm in some	Quite well formed, well/hard fired	Roman
RH1	Grey cores, dull orange surfaces. Moderate brown iron oxide pellets to 1mm, rare white inclusions to 1mm	Quite well formed, medium fired	Roman
BH5	Brick red. Slightly 'sugary' texture but no quartz grains visible. Sparse to moderate black (occ red) iron oxides to 10mm (most to 3mm), occasional traces of 'marl'	Quite well formed, medium fired	C18th – 19th
TB3	Dull orange to red orange. Sparse medium/coarse quartz, rare to sparse black iron oxides to 0.5mm	Quite well formed, medium/ well fired	?C15th – 17th
TD1	Dull red. Moderate to common fine quartz, rare/sparse 'marl' pellets and patches to 5mm, rare/sparse red/purple iron oxide pellets to 2mm	Quite well formed, well fired	C18th-19th
TD2	Dull orange red. Moderate to common fine quartz, moderate 'marl' pellets to 4mm and occasional streaks, sparse red/brown iron oxide pellets to 2mm	Well formed, well fired	C18th – 19th
TH7	Mid orange red. Sparse/moderate black iron oxides to 0.5mm, sparse marl streaks, rare clay/siltstone lumps to 3mm	Well formed, well fired	C18th-19th
M1a	Buff abundant medium/coarse sandy cement	-	mid C19th – 20th
D1a	Dull orange but grey/black when reduced. Silty clay with occasional/rare flint inclusions to 3mm	-	RB-Med

Table 2: Ceramic Building Material fabrics

Context	Form	Fabric	No	Weight (g)	Comments
1	Peg tile	TB3	1	28	14mm thick
1	Peg tile	TD2	1	22	11mm thick
1	Render	M1a	3	62	Friable. 10mm thick with one face painted red
2	Brick	RC1	1	776	38mm thick. Dog paw print (44mm wide, 60mm long)
2	Brick	BH5	2	22	Amorphous
2	Peg tile	TH7	2	18	11 & 13mm thick
2	Peg tile	TD1	1	10	10mm thick
5	Daub	D1a	8	106	Amorphous. Oxidised/reduced. x1 with flat face
5 <1>	Daub	D1a	18	40	Amorphous
5	Imbrex	RH1	3	52	13mm thick (apex)
5	Imbrex	RF1	1	82	16mm thick
5	Uncertain	RC1	1	36	No surviving dimensions
9	Daub	D1a	14	180	Amorphous. Most oxidised

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material assemblage

6.2.2 The ceramic building material assemblage has a wide chronological range. There is a significant element of residual Roman pieces in both medieval and post-medieval deposits. Whether this is simply a scatter from Roman activity or represents Roman material collected and re-used in the medieval period is impossible to say from the current small assemblage. The daub fragments are suspected of being medieval in date – it is very unlikely Roman daub would have had any reusable qualities in medieval times and the low-fired nature of the material means if Roman, they would have fragmented further during reworking. Later material is represented by a very sparse scatter of post-Roman brick and tile. Although the TB3 peg tile ‘could’ be of Late Medieval date there is no reason why such a fabric/finish could not still be in evidence in the early post-medieval period.

6.2.3 The ceramic building material assemblage is from open contexts or is clearly residual. As such the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. This material could be discarded but it is understood the owner wishes to retain all.

6.3 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

6.3.1 The archaeological work recovered 17 pieces of stone from the site. The material has been fully listed in Table 4 as part of the visible archive.

6.3.2 The presence of the West Country slate suggest a masonry building of some substance was situated in the vicinity, quite possibly the church. This slate type was in common use, particularly along the coastal fringe of Sussex, from the late 12th to 14th centuries. The Hastings Beds sandstone can be considered local to the site – the current pieces show no signs of deliberate working though most appear to have been burnt. The lava quern is of a type well known of in the medieval period.

Context	Sample	Stone type	No	Weight	Comments
1		West Country slate	1	12	Silver grey
5	1	West Country slate	3	1	Silver grey
5		Hastings Beds sandstone	9	142	Fine/medium grained, orange/red. Burnt
5		Hastings Beds sandstone	3	36	Ferruginous rind/seams
5		Mayen (German) lava	1	232	Rotary quern fragment. 25mm thick, widening to 30mm at outside edge. Probably an upper stone. Approx diameter of 400mm

Table 4: Stone assemblage

6.3.3 The stone is of well-known types for the area/period and is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. This material could be discarded but it is understood the owner wishes to retain all.

6.4 The Glass by Jan Oldham

6.4.1 A single glass bottle shard was recovered during the archaeological watching brief. From Context **001**, the top and partial neck of a clear moulded glass standard one pint milk bottle, weight 68g. This is of 20th century date and requires no further analysis.

6.5 The Metal by Jan Oldham

6.5.1 A quantity of corroded ferrous metal was recovered from three contexts. From Context **001**, a single jeans type stud button, weight 3g. From Context **002**, a round headed masonry nail with a rounded shaft, weight 21g. Context **005** produced an amorphous flat piece of highly corroded unidentifiable iron, weight 21g.

6.5.2 All of the metal is of 20th century date and requires no further scrutiny beyond the comments made for this report.

6.6 Flint by Chris Butler

6.6.1 No prehistoric worked flint was recovered during the monitoring, however two pieces of fire-fractured flint weighing 193g were recovered from Context **005**. Neither piece is extensively fire-fractured, but both are clearly burnt and heavily scorched due to having been in a fire.

6.7 Environmental sample

- 6.7.1 A 50 litre soil sample was taken from Context **005** for potential environmental analysis and artefact recovery. A 20 litre sub sample was processed by machine floatation and flot collected in a 300um sieve. The flot was scanned, and classes of ecofact were identified with their abundance estimated to assess their palaeoenvironmental potential and identify potential areas for further work.
- 6.7.2 The flot contained a moderate amount of small charcoal fragments (<5mm), and a small quantity of larger charcoal fragments (5-10mm). No charred seeds, insect remains, fish or animal bones were seen. The sample also contained a very large quantity of modern roots.
- 6.7.3 The residue was sorted and the remainder of the soil sample not processed by flotation was rapidly scanned for artefact recovery. Any artefacts (pottery and CBM) were sent for analysis with other finds.
- 6.7.4 Due to the limited potential for environmental remains in the sample, and large quantity of modern roots, the sample has a very limited potential for providing useful environmental evidence. Therefore the remainder of the sample was not processed, and the sample, residue and flot discarded.

7.0 Discussion

- 7.1 An archaeological watching brief took place at the Site to monitor groundworks associated with the construction for a new vehicular access into the High Street. Given the high level of Roman and medieval archaeology known from the surrounding area, there was a high probability of finding archaeological remains from these periods.
- 7.2 There was no evidence of prehistoric activity at the site but limited evidence of Roman activity was found, all probably residual in nature. A single sherd of very worn East Sussex Ware was identified, along with some pieces of ceramic building material, including *imbrex* roofing tiles. These could have been robbed out from the nearby Roman Fort and reused in the medieval period, or may be evidence for the remains of Roman occupation in the vicinity of the site.
- 7.3 The presence of a Romano British ditch and pits identified during a watching brief at Rattle Road, two Roman pit/ditches recorded during a watching brief at 25 Pevensey Park Road, and an assemblage of Roman finds found at 44 Pevensey Park Road has suggested that Roman roadside settlement may have extended west from the Shore Fort at Pevensey, and it is possible that this settlement included the site at 10 Montfort Close.
- 7.4 The first activity on the site that has left physical features dates from the medieval period, and the pottery associated with it appears to be domestic in nature. A northwest to southeast orientated ditch running diagonally off the High Street could have originally been a tenement boundary ditch, and which may have mirrored the tenements, evidence for which still survives, opposite the site on the south side of the High Street. The ditch includes a possible post hole, and also has an offset on its north east side, which could be a continuation of the same ditch or another feature. All of these features have been heavily truncated due to their location on the upper slope above the High Street.
- 7.5 The pottery places the infilling of this ditch at the end of the 12th or early in the 13th century, and the presence of earlier pottery dating to the mid 11th to earlier 12th centuries provides a possible timeframe for this activity. The filling in of the ditch and a lack of later medieval activity may indicate that the settlement of Westham was contracting at this time, or that the site had seen a change in its use.

8.0 Acknowledgements

- 8.1 I would like to thank Mr & Mrs Humphrey for commissioning this archaeological watching brief. Thanks are also extended to the site contractors for their assistance and co-operation on site.

- 8.2 The project was managed for CBAS Ltd by Chris Butler MCIFA. Luke Barber and Jan Oldham reported on the finds. Andrew Bradshaw produced the drawings.

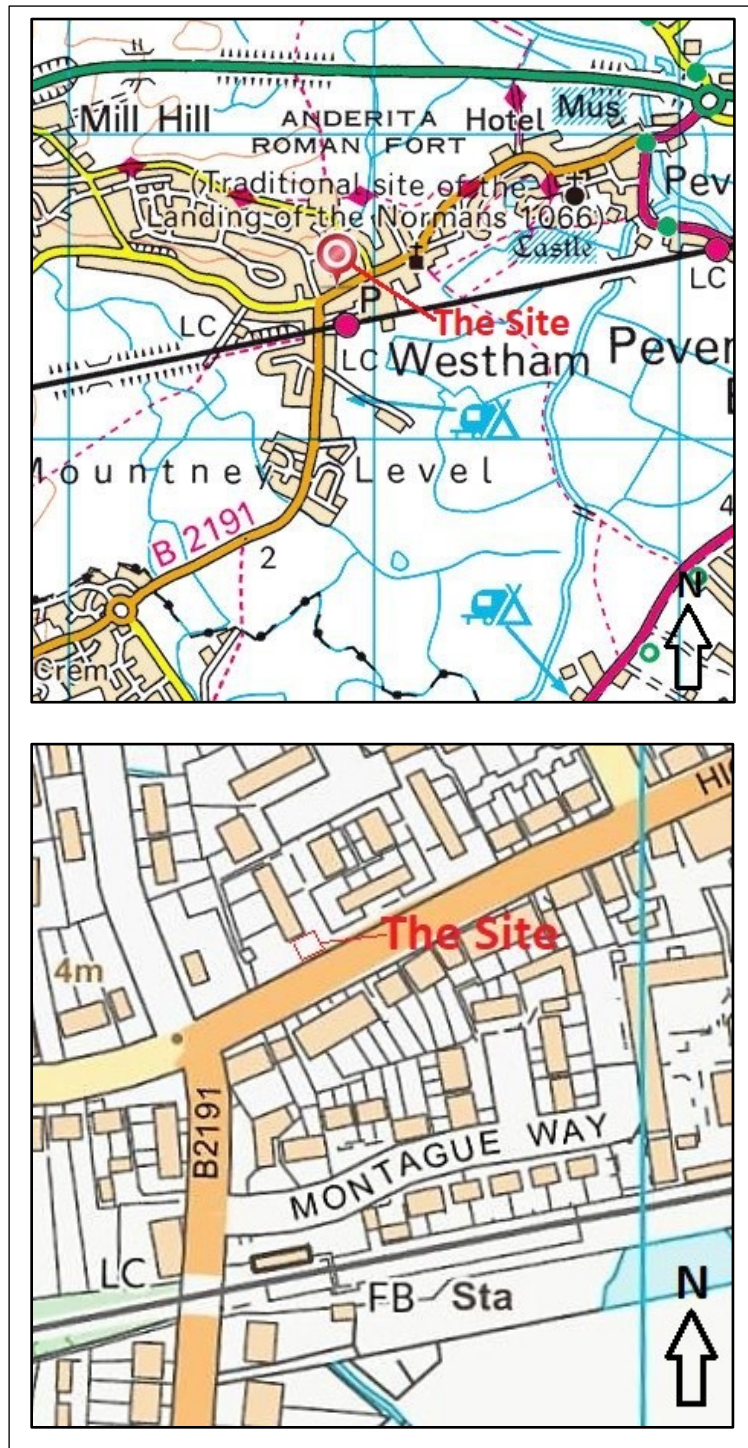


Fig. 1: 10 Montfort Close, Westham: Site location
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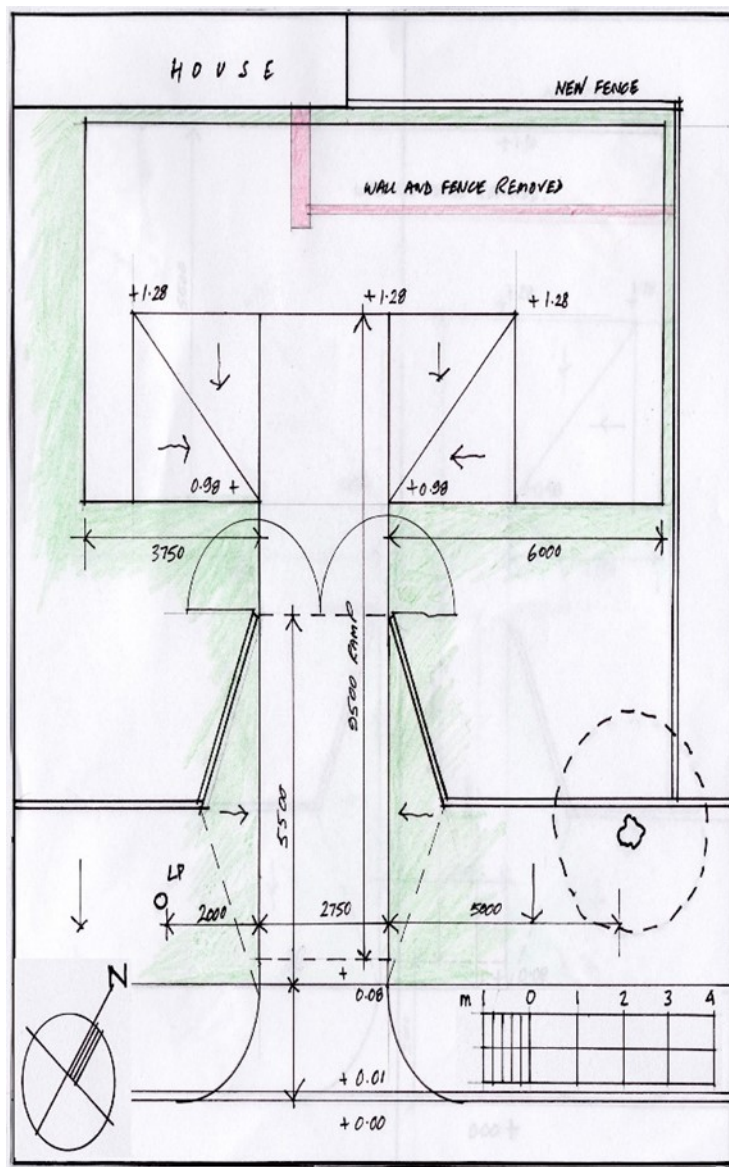
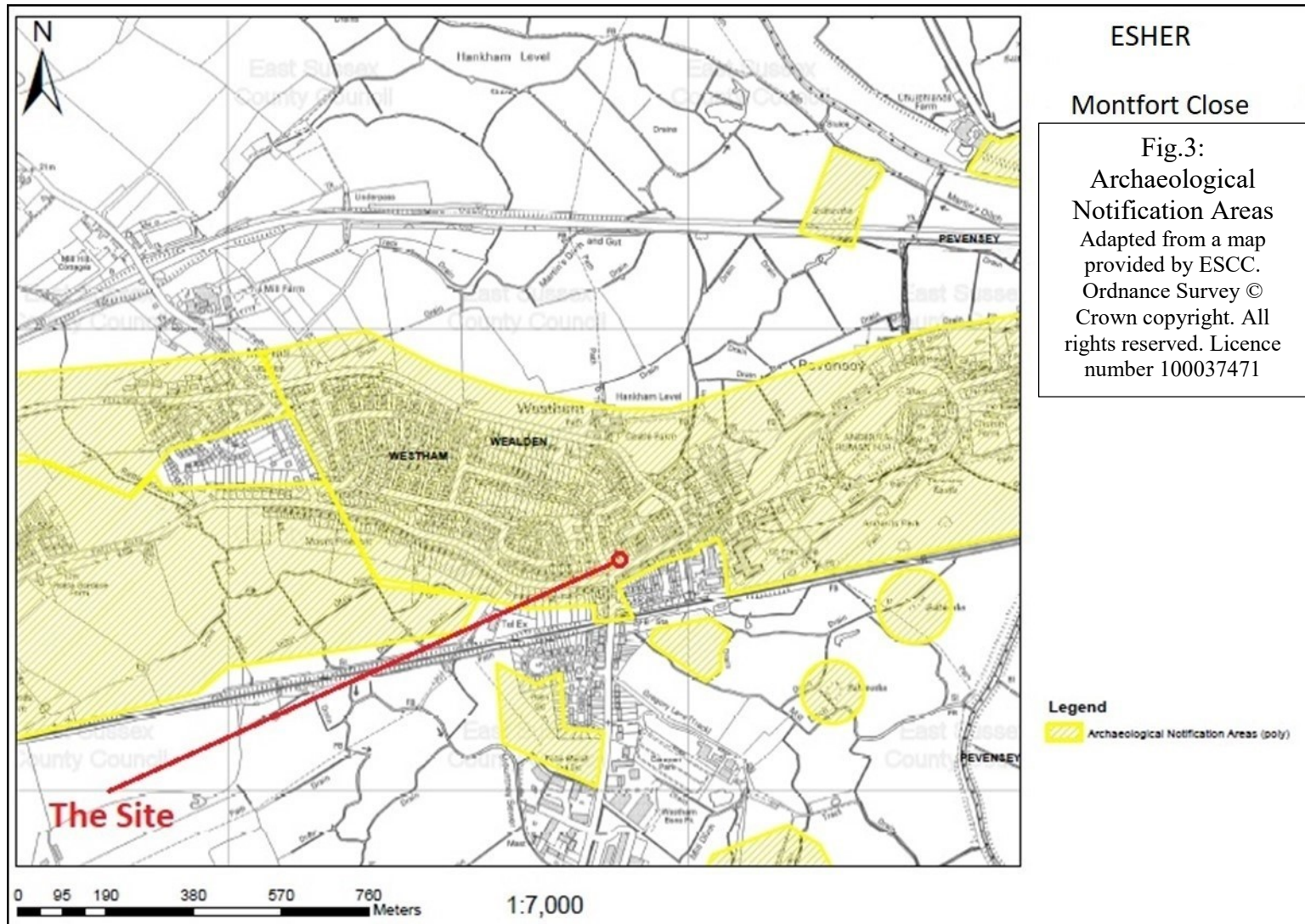
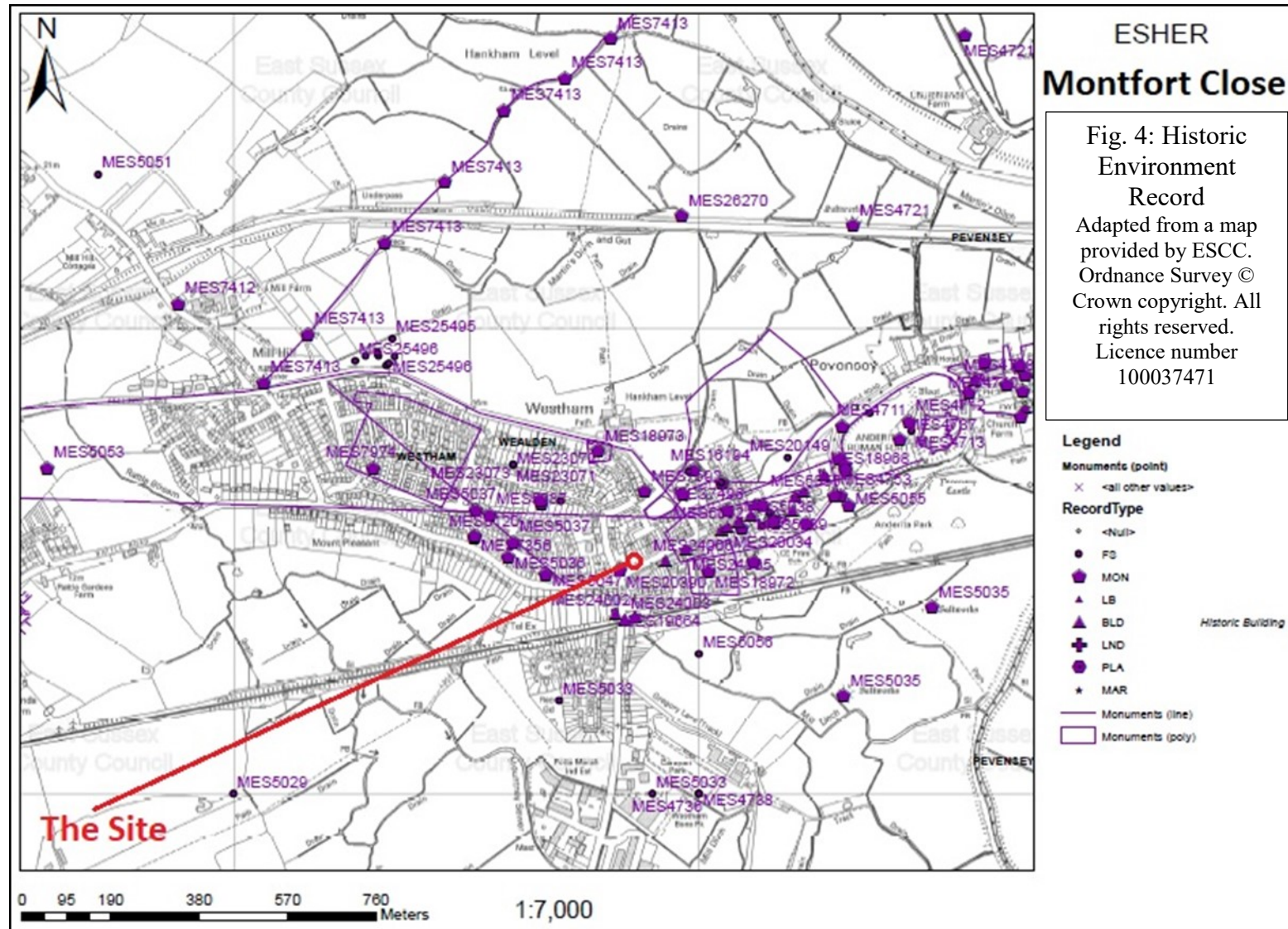


Fig. 2: Proposed Development
(Adapted from Architects Plans)





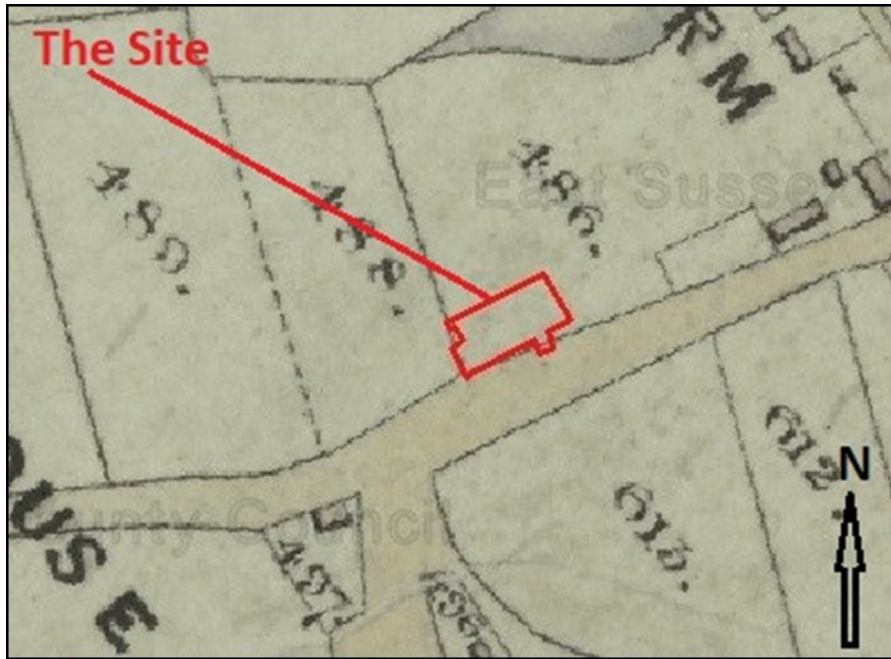


Fig. 5: Westham tithe map (1839)
© ESCC TD/E84

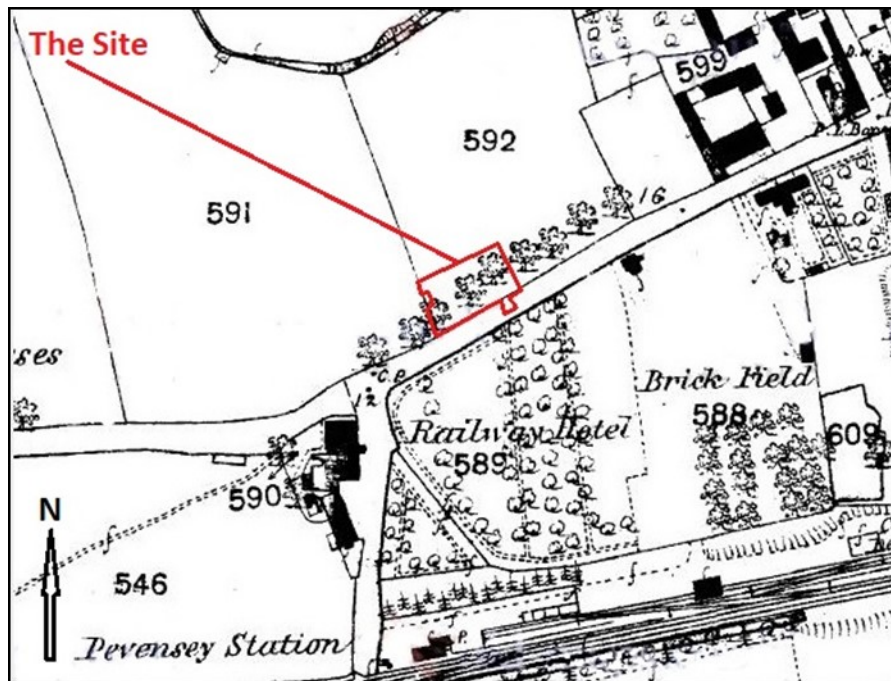


Fig. 6: 1st Edition OS map (1875)

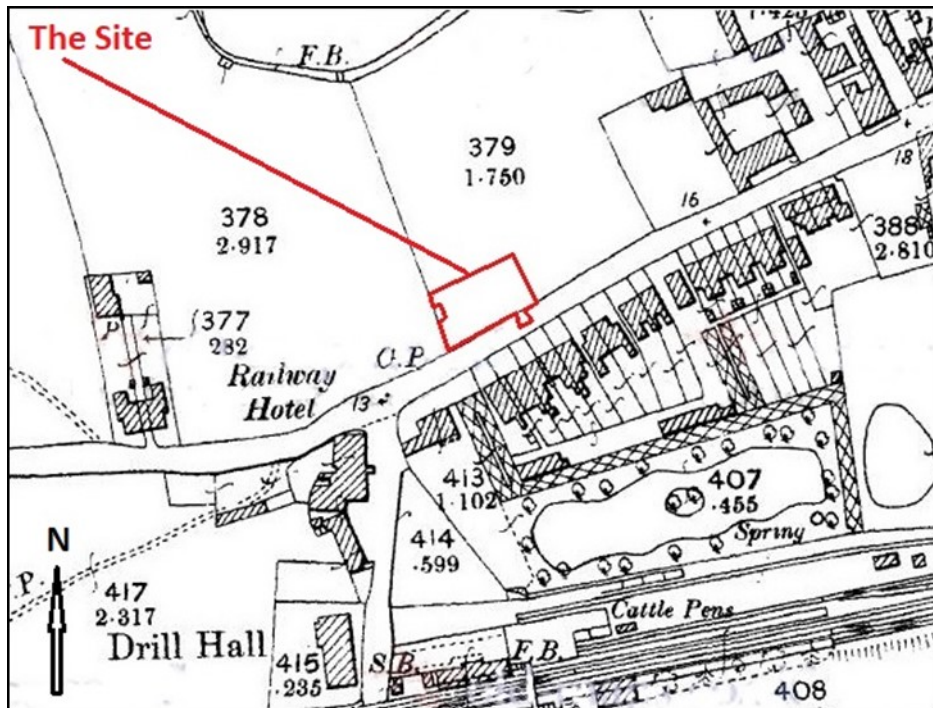


Fig. 7: 2nd Edition OS map (1899)

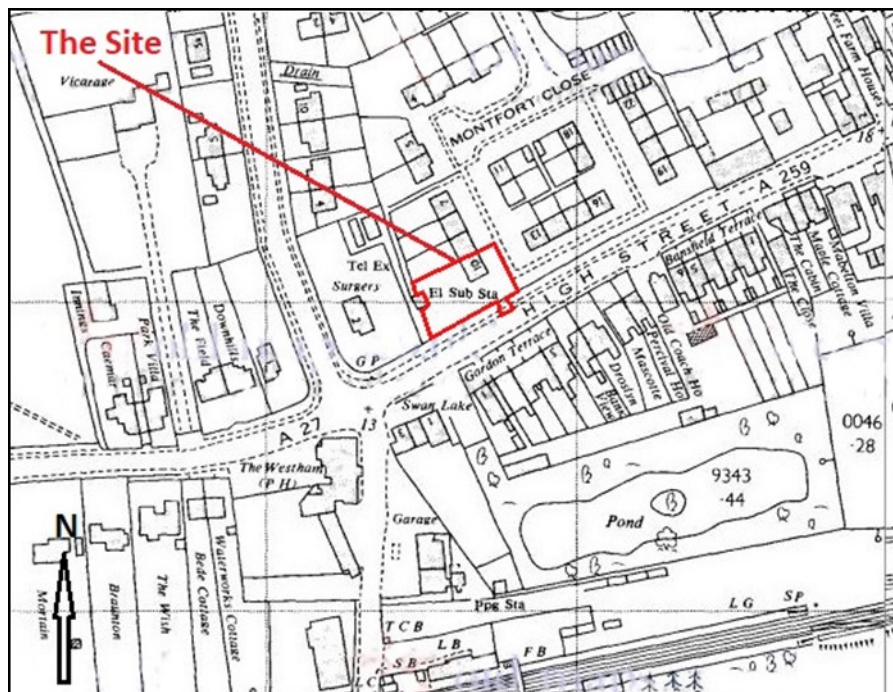


Fig. 8: 1968 OS map
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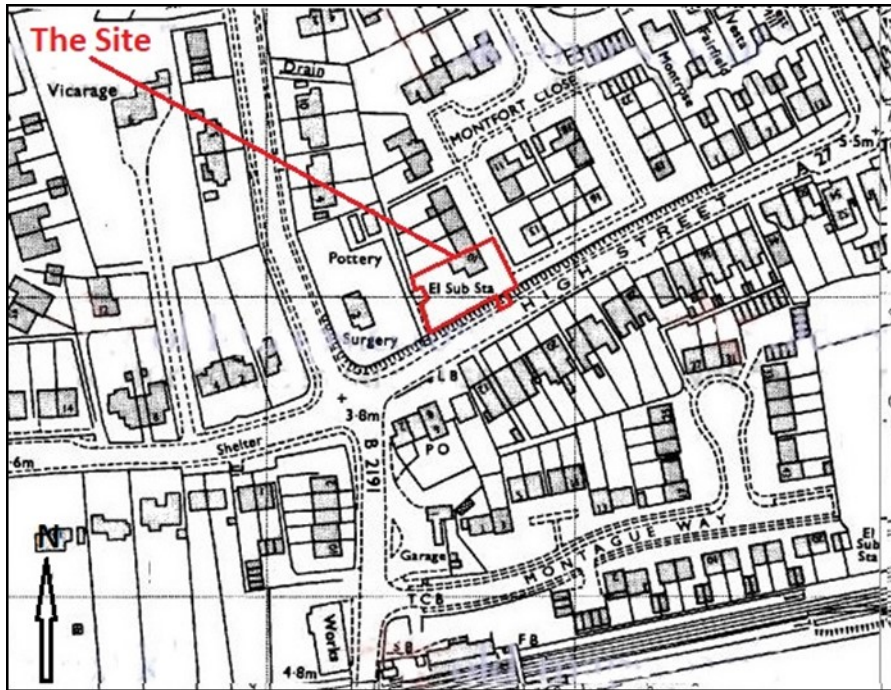
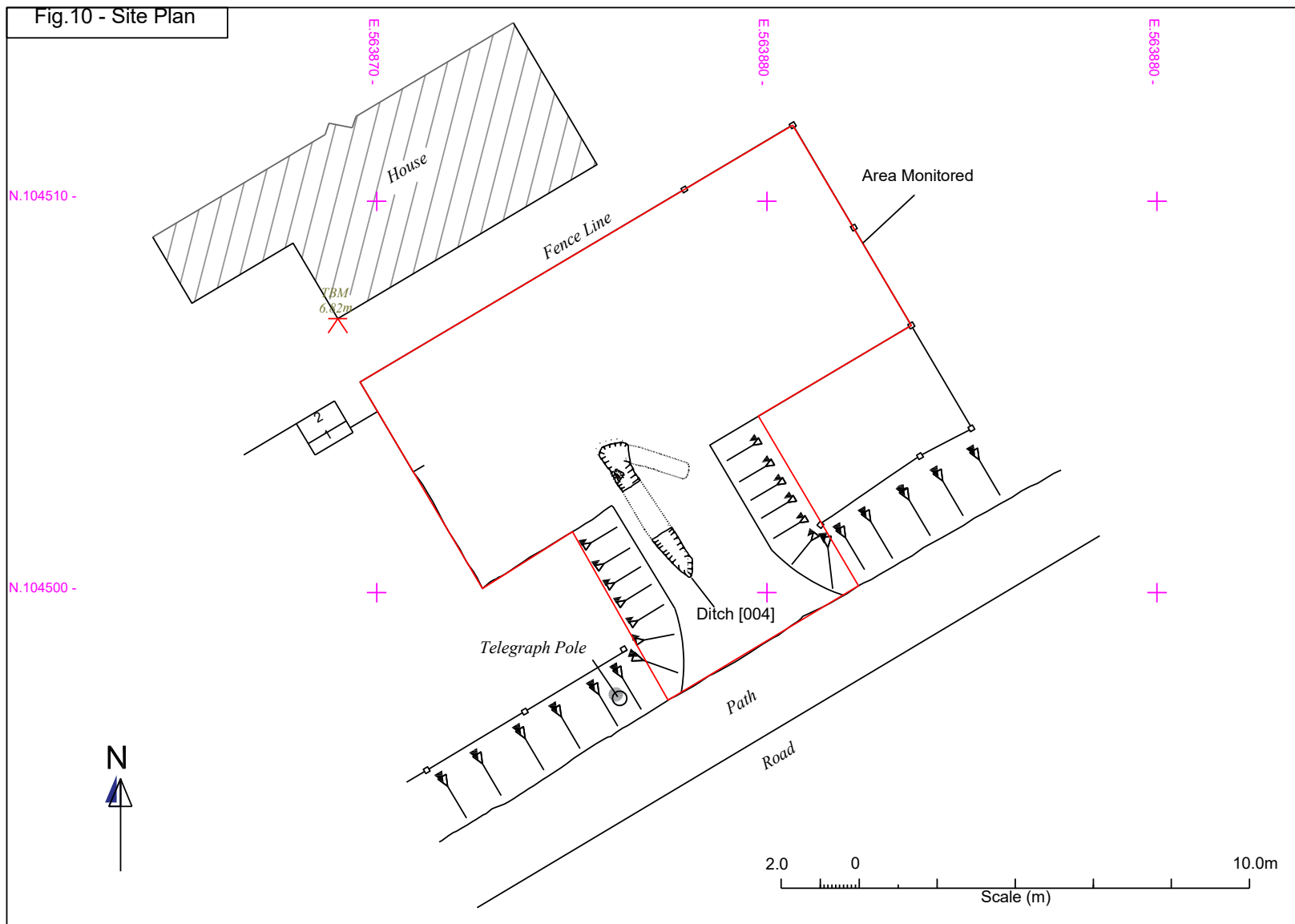
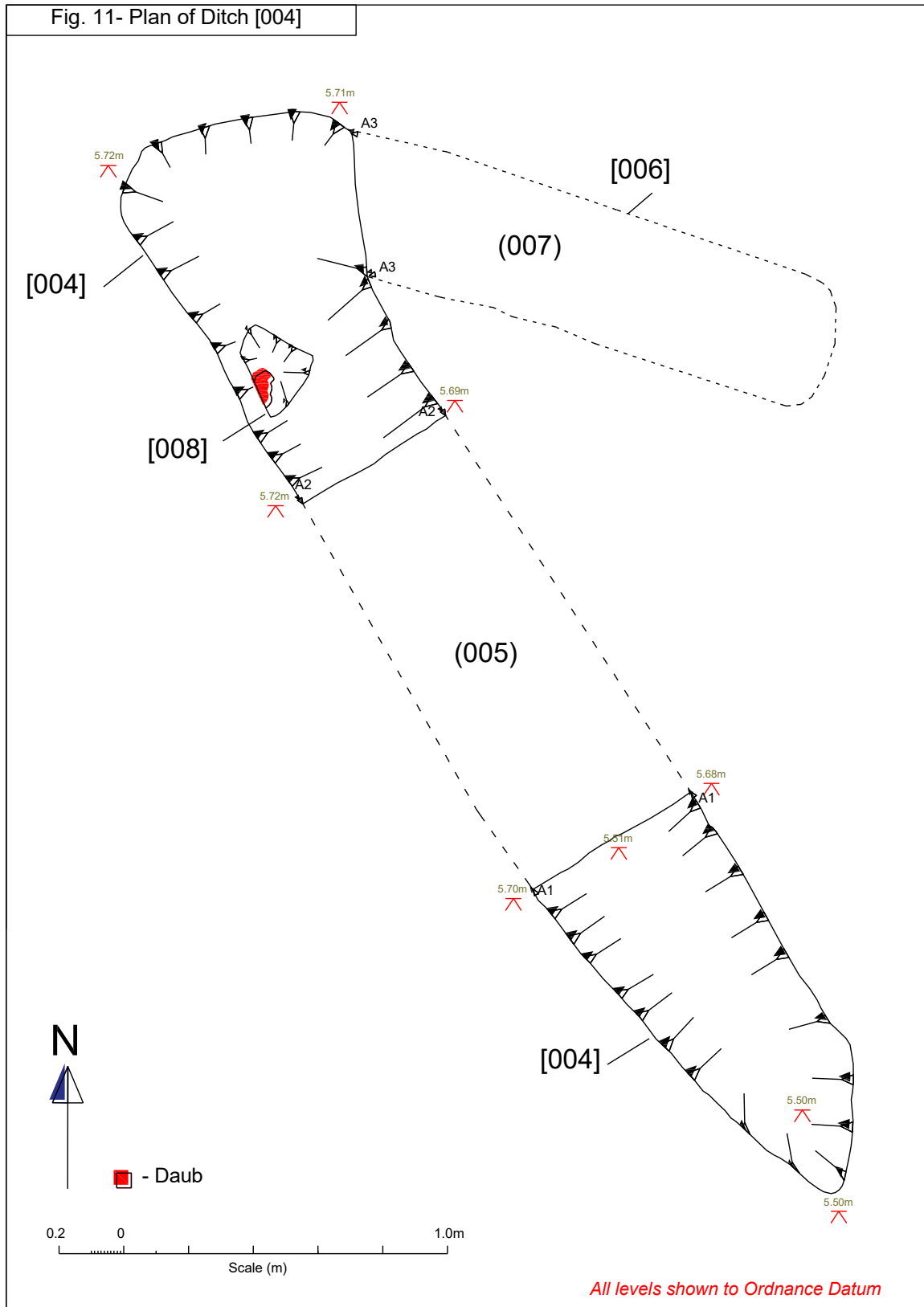
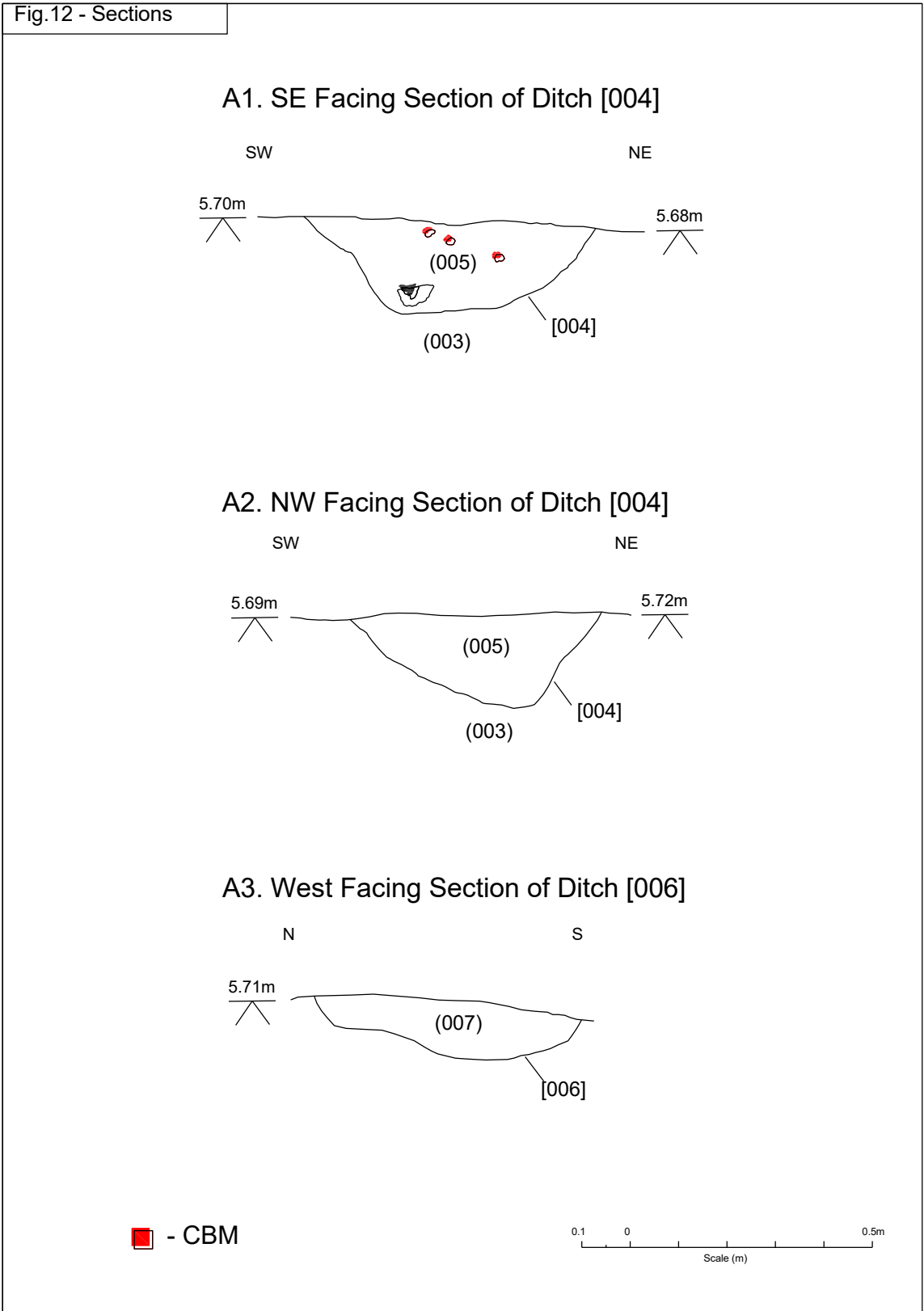


Fig. 9: 1980 OS map
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Appendix 1: Levels Register

Level Number	Reduced Level	Notes
1	6.37m	Top of north-west corner of Trench 1
1a	6.13m	Bottom of north-west corner of Trench 1
2	6.43m	Top of north-east corner of Trench 1
2a	6.17m	Bottom of north-east corner of Trench 1
3	6.36m	Top of south-east corner of Trench 1
3a	6.22m	Bottom of south-east corner of Trench 1
4	6.29m	Top of south-west corner of Trench 1
4a	6.21m	Bottom of south-west corner of Trench 1
5	6.44m	Top of south-west return of Trench 1
5a	6.03m	Bottom of south-west return of Trench 1
6	6.44m	Top of north-west return of Trench 1
6a	6.03m	Bottom of north-west return of Trench 1
7	6.43m	Top of north-west corner of Trench 2
7a	6.12m	Bottom of north-west corner of Trench 2
8	5.11m	Top of north-east corner of Trench 2
8a	4.96m	Bottom of north-east corner of Trench 2
9	5.07m	Top of south-east corner of Trench 2
9a	4.97m	Bottom of south-east corner of Trench 2
10	5.72m	Top of south-west corner of Trench 2
11	5.48m	Bottom of south-west corner of Trench 2
12	5.70m	Top of south-west corner of south-east end of Ditch 004
13	5.68m	Top of north-east corner of south-east end of Ditch 004
14	5.50m	Top of south-east end of Ditch 004
15	5.51m	Bottom of north-west end of south-east end of Ditch 004
16	5.50m	Bottom of south-east end of south-east end of Ditch 004
17	5.72m	Top of north-east corner of north-west end of Ditch 004
18	5.69m	Top of south-west corner of north-west end of Ditch 004
19	5.72m	Top of north-west corner of north-west end of Ditch 004
20	5.71m	Top of north-east corner of north-west end of Ditch 004
21	5.54m	Bottom of south-east end of north-west end of Ditch 004
22	5.59m	Bottom of north-west end of north-west end of Ditch 004
23	5.58m	Bottom of the middle of north-west end of Ditch 004
24	5.47m	Bottom of feature 008

Appendix 2: HER Summary Form

Site Code	MWC17					
Identification Name and	10 Montfort Close, Westham, East Sussex BN24 5HJ					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 63874 04504					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Formation (siltstone, mudstone, and sandstone)					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 13-17 Nov 2017	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr & Mrs J. Humphrey					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MCIfA					
Project	Stewart Angell					
Period Summary	Palae	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB X
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 10 Montfort Close, Westham, East Sussex to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of a parking area and ramped access drive onto the High Street.</i></p> <p><i>Limited evidence of Roman activity was found including a single sherd of East Sussex Ware along with some pieces of ceramic building material, all probably residual in nature. These could have been robbed out from the nearby Roman Fort and reused in the medieval period, or may be evidence for the remains of Roman occupation in the vicinity of the site.</i></p> <p><i>A northwest to southeast orientated medieval ditch running diagonally off the High Street could have originally been a tenement boundary ditch, The ditch includes a possible post hole, and also has an offset on its north east side, which could be a continuation of the same ditch or another feature. The pottery places the infilling of this ditch at the end of the 12th or early in the 13th century, and the presence of earlier pottery dating to the mid 11th to earlier 12th centuries provides a possible timeframe for this activity. The filling in of the ditch and a lack of later medieval activity may indicate that the settlement of Westham was contracting at this time, or that the site had seen a change in its use.</i></p>						

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Pottery	Fired clay	Roman	1 ESW
Pottery	Fired clay	Medieval	131
Pottery	Fired clay	Post Medieval	1
CBM	Fired clay	Roman	6
CBM	Fired clay	Medieval	40
CBM	Fired clay	Post medieval	10
Building material	Stone	Unknown	16
Quern frag	Mayen lava	Medieval	1
Glass	Glass	Post Medieval	1
Metal	Iron	Post medieval	3
FF Flint	Flint	Unknown	2

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 of Field Archaeologists, a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Field Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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