



Chris Butler MCIfA Archaeological Services Ltd



Archaeological Watching Brief at The Old Tiles Cottage Hellingly

WD/2014/0880/F

CBAS0511

By
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for a new extension at Old Tiles Cottage, Church Lane, Hellingly, East Sussex. Excavation of the footing trenches for the extension and a new northern boundary wall were monitored. No archaeological features were encountered and only a small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief.

The earliest finds dated to the mid 18th century. No evidence for earlier archaeological activity was found. It appears likely that the construction of Old Tiles Cottage in the 20th century created layers of made ground, and may have removed any evidence for earlier activity that existed on the site.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned by Mr David Richardson (The Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a two story extension to The Old Tiles Cottage, Church Lane, Hellingly, East Sussex TQ 558073 112410 (Fig. 1).

1.2 The planning application (WD/2014/0880/F) was subsequently approved and contained a condition requiring that an archaeological watching brief was to be maintained during the groundworks and stated that:-

3. *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. AR01*

REASON: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 129, 131 and 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.¹

1.3 The site lies within both an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) and a Conservation Area defining the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval village of Hellingly. There are four other ANA's within in the HER search radius of 1000m. There are seven archaeological events recorded in the area, 33 results from the HER Record, 26 Listed Buildings. HER data was provided by ESCC (Ref: 197/14).

1.4 According to the British Geological Survey the geology in the area is Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation. This is a combination of siltstone, mudstone and sandstone formation. This is a sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 134 to 140 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.²

1.5 The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprised an archaeological Watching Brief³, as specified by the Archaeology Team at ESCC. A written scheme of investigation covering the Watching Brief was submitted to and approved by Wealden District Council.

¹ Wealden District Council, Notice of Decision, WD/2014/0880/F

² <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, Viewed 29/7/2014

³ Cruse, R. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Old Tiles Cottage, Hellingly*. CBAS

- 1.6** The aims of the watching brief were to record any archaeological remains revealed, that may be damaged or destroyed by the works, or other structures and evidence for human activity taking place within the area of the development (Fig. 2), and to record any evidence for earlier occupation on the site which may provide evidence for the history and development of the site and its place within the medieval and post medieval village.
- 1.7** The fieldwork was undertaken by Keith Butler on the 27th November 2014 and the author on the 25th and 26th of March 2015.

2.0 Archaeological & Historical Background (Fig. 3)

- 2.1** There is minimal evidence for settlement in the vicinity of the site in prehistory. To the South-East of the site are two prehistoric finds spots. MES4365 is the location for a Neolithic polished flint axe. MES15528 is the location of a concentration of Mesolithic flints. To the west of the above find spots is another two lithic scatters dating to the early to late Bronze Age (MES7145).
- 2.2** There are no other recorded features or finds in the area until the Anglo-Saxon period. MES4368 is located to the south of Hellingly village and the site, and is the location of a Gold coin of Aethelred II from the Lewes mint.
- 2.3** There is another gap in the archaeological record until the construction of Hellingly village in the 12th Century. The HER records (MES21462) the village name as Hellingelegh, meaning clearing of the hill dwellers. To the east and north of the village there are some medieval farms which include Akehurst Barn (MES7080) and Leabridge Farm (MES21463).
- 2.4** St Peters & St Pauls Church (MES4372) is of rubble construction with stone dressings and tiled roofs. The Nave and aisles are of 13th century construction with 15th century windows and the tower was rebuilt in 1836. The church contains the remains of a Norman font and a brass lady dating to c. 1440.
- 2.5** To the south of Hellingly village and the site is a large medieval moated manor house, named Horselunges (MES4366). Horselunges was constructed in the late 15th century by John Davenish, died 1477, or by his son Sir John Davenish, died c.1518. This timber-framed building is parallelogram in shape, however it has been extended to the north and originally may have been a courtyard house. Walter Godfrey restored the building's 16th century appearance in 1925.
- 2.6** There are a large number of Post Medieval sites in and around the village. These include a 16th century pottery Kiln (MES6934), Horsebridge Tollhouse (MES4369), a 17th century water mill (MES4370) and an 18th century farm house (MES4373).
- 2.7** Old Tiles (MES23879) is 17th century or earlier in date. This Grade 2 listed building has two storeys, with the upper storey tile hung and the lower constructed from red brick. The roof is hipped with a small gable on the north side and a chimney stack with four shafts.

- 2.8** Hellingly expanded in the 19th century with the arrival of the train station (MES4376), Primary School (MES8280) and a Hospital (MES4389). The station is now a domestic dwelling. Hellingly hospital was constructed between 1899 and 1903 as an asylum for East Sussex. The Asylum was designed by G T Hine. As well as these institutions Hellingly had two quarries (MES7823 and MES7824).
- 2.9** Finally in the 20th century Hellingly had a World War two military camp (MES7913) situated to the east of the main village.
- 2.10** Map regression has shown that on the 1875/1876 OS map (Fig. 4) Old Tiles Cottage has not yet been constructed. However Old Tiles is present, and there are out buildings in the location of Old Tiles Cottage. Fig. 5 is the 1932-1937 OS map which shows no change to the area. The 1961 OS map (Fig. 6) is the first map to show the current Old Tiles Cottage adjacent to Old Tiles.

3.0 Method Statement

- 3.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with ESCC's *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation in East Sussex* dated April 2008 (Recommended Standards) and the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs November 2013.
- 3.2 Initial excavation on 27th November 2014 was commenced three metres to the north of the existing property to form the foundation for a dividing wall with the adjacent property. The trench was 21m long, 1.4m deep and 900mm wide, and was on an east-west alignment (Fig. 7 & Plate 1). This excavation was carried out using a 3 tonne excavator using an 800mm wide toothless bucket.



Plate 1: Excavated foundation trench for boundary wall

- 3.3 Excavation on the 25th March 2015 began with c.300mm ground reduction around the area of the new build followed by the excavation of the foundation trenches for the extension using a 3 tonne machine with a 700mm wide toothless bucket to a depth of 800mm and a width of 700mm (Plate 2).
- 3.4 All exposed sections and surfaces were inspected for archaeological features, structures or finds. The spoil from the excavations was inspected on a regular basis to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A Garrett Ace 150 metal detector was initially used to scan the area of excavation, however no material of note was recovered. The metal detector was also used to scan the spoil heap.



Plate 2: Excavated foundation trenches for extension

- 3.5** All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards and to the ESCC Recommended Conditions. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.6** 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 OTC14 has been allocated. After any further analysis, the archive will be deposited in Lewes Museum or such other repository as may be agreed with the County Archaeologist.

4.0 Results

- 4.1** During the excavation of the footing trench for the boundary wall to the north of the house (Fig. 7), three contexts were found (Plate 3). The topsoil (**14/001**) was a loose dark brown silty clay loam up to 600mm deep. This had been heavily disturbed by tree roots (>10%). A small quantity of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), metal and glass was found in this context.
- 4.2** Below the topsoil was a thin subsoil (**14/002**), comprising a loose mid brown silty clay, up to 200mm thick. This had been slightly disturbed by the tree roots (1%), and contained a few small flecks of CBM (<1%). No artefacts were recovered from this context.



Plate 3: Section through boundary wall trench

- 4.3** Context **14/003** was an orange-brown silty clay natural, which had grey streaks throughout, and was exposed to a depth of c 0.5m. There were no inclusions, and no artefacts were recovered from this context.
- 4.4** During the monitoring of the new extension works (Fig. 7), a total of five contexts were encountered (Plate 4). The uppermost deposit (Context **15/001**) was the lawn and associated shallow topsoil, and was a soft deposit, dark grey-black in colour and was a clayey-silt. The only inclusions were roots at 5%. It was 80mm at its maximum depth and sat above Context **2**.



Plate 4: S/W facing section showing Contexts 1 to 5.

- 4.5** Context **15/002** was a soft mid yellow deposit 200mm in depth. It was a clayey-silt with no inclusions. It had a diffuse edge with Context **15/001** and was interpreted as made-ground associated with either the construction of the house or the patio. This context was above Context **15/003**.
- 4.6** Context **15/003** was interpreted as an old topsoil or possible subsoil deposit associated with the original lawn or garden. It was a firm, dark grey-brown clayey-silt deposit with no inclusions and was approximately 70mm in depth and was above Context **15/004**.
- 4.7** Context **15/004** appeared to be a subsoil deposit again, possibly associated with the original lawn or garden, and appeared to be the same as Context **14/002**. It was a soft to firm, dark mid brown clayey-silt deposit with no inclusions and was approximately 190mm in depth and sat above the natural (Context **15/005**).
- 4.8** Context **15/005** consisted of a soft and loose layer of sandstone at 50% within a mottled mid yellow and grey clayey-silty matrix with no other inclusions. This context was up to 900mm to the limit of excavation and represents the Tunbridge Sand natural.
- 4.9** No archaeological features or deposits were found during the watching brief.

5.0 Finds

5.0.1 No finds were recovered from the monitoring of the area of the new extension, but a small assemblage was recovered from the topsoil during the excavation of the boundary wall trench (Table 1).

Table 1: The Finds

| Context | Pottery | Clay Tobacco Pipe | CBM | Glass | Comments |
|---------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | 10/62g | 1/4g | Peg Tile 1/72g | 2/9g | Mid 18 th – 19 th century |

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site, all deriving from context 2. The earliest material is of the mid to later 18th century. These early sherds are composed of two fragments (26g) from different London stoneware tankards and three pieces (12g) of creamware (from a bowl and two plates). All of these sherds are quite fresh and have clearly not been significantly reworked. The remaining five sherds are best placed in the mid to late 19th century. These consist of two pieces (24g) from English porcelain cups (one with polychrome floral under-glaze transfer-print the other internally glazed green) and three plain refined whiteware sherds from a plate.

5.1.2 The pottery assemblage is small, unstratified and entirely composed of well-known mass-produced wares. It has no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Context 2 produced a single unabraded stem fragment (4g, measuring 83mm long) of mid 18th to 19th century date.

5.2.2 The fragment has no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Just one peg tile fragment was recovered from the site (Context 2: 72g). This consists of a well formed and hard fired 11mm thick example tempered with sparse fine sand and occasional iron oxides to 0.5mm. The piece can be placed in a mid 18th to 19th century date range.

5.3.2 The fragment has no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.4 Glass by Jessica Butt

5.4.1 From Context 2 there were two pieces of clear, flat window glass of modern type found, length 31-46mm, 2.2mm thick and weight 9g.

5.4.2 No further analysis required, finds discarded.

6.0 Discussion

- 6.1** The site is within an Archaeological Notification Area covering the medieval and post-medieval village of Hellingly, however no evidence for medieval activity was found. Old Tiles is adjacent to the site, and dates from the 17th century, and the earliest finds recovered during the watching brief date to the mid 18th century.
- 6.2** The line of the new boundary wall was heavily disturbed by tree roots, however a small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the topsoil. These probably represent refuse discarded along the property boundary, and suggests activity from the mid 18th century through to the present day.
- 6.3** The area of the new build was extensively investigated due to the total ground reduction and then excavation of the foundation trenches. No finds or features were noted. This area appears to have been subject to extensive landscaping at some stage in the past, with made ground deposits (**15/001** to **15/003**) sitting above the subsoil and natural. The complete lack of artefacts from these deposits makes this event difficult to date with any certainty, however Old Tiles Cottage first appears on the 1961 OS map, and it seems likely that the construction of the house may have created the made ground, and may have removed any archaeology present on the site.
- 6.4** The watching brief achieved its objectives and ascertained the depths of deposits across the area under examination, and confirmed that there were no archaeological deposits or features that were damaged or destroyed by the development. The methodology adopted for this watching brief proved to be satisfactory, and the confidence rating should be considered to be reliable.

7.0 Acknowledgements

- 7.1** I would like to thank the client, David Richardson, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler.



Fig. 1: The Old Tiles Cottage; Site Location Map.
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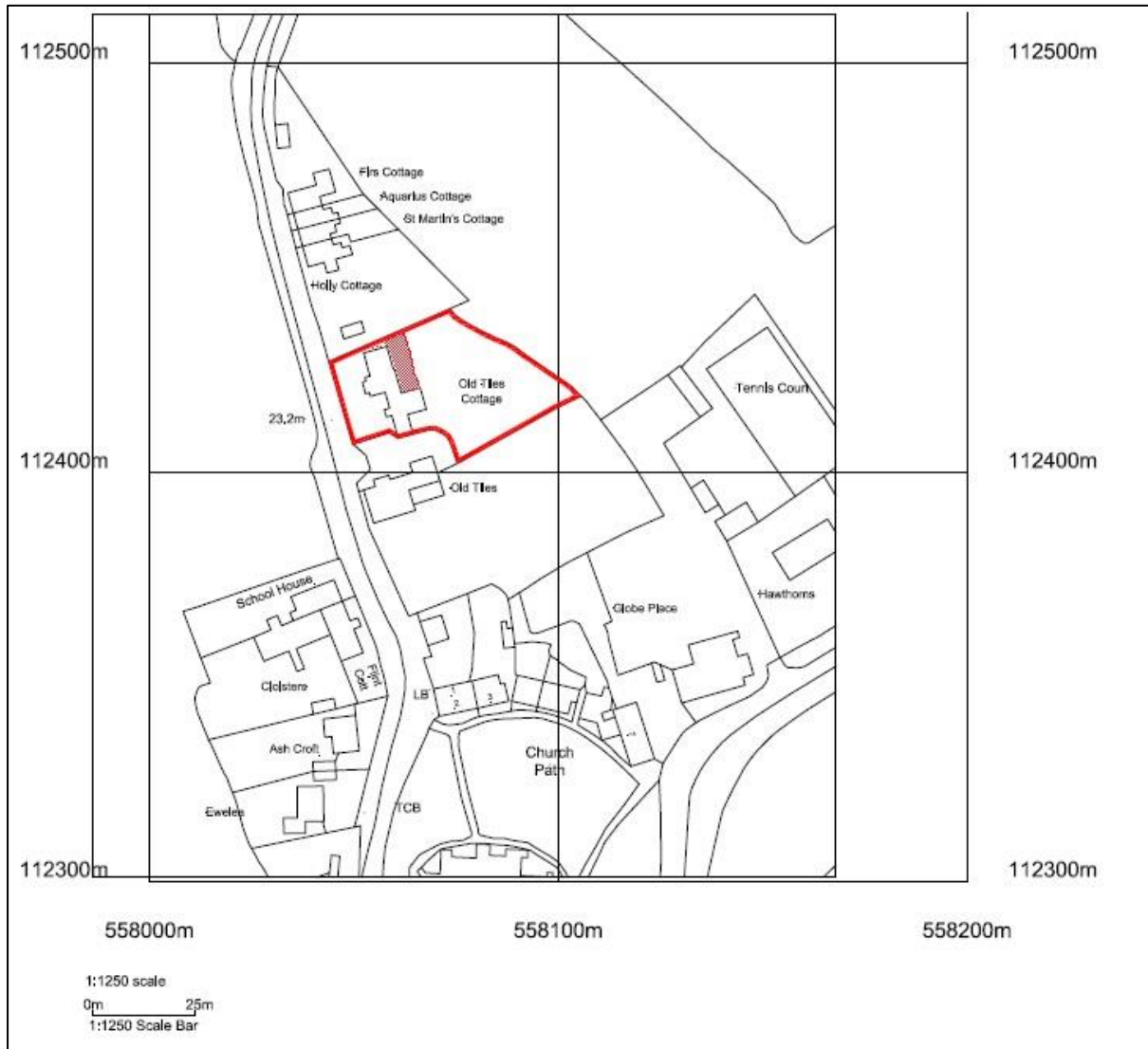


Fig. 2: The Old Tiles Cottage: Site Plan
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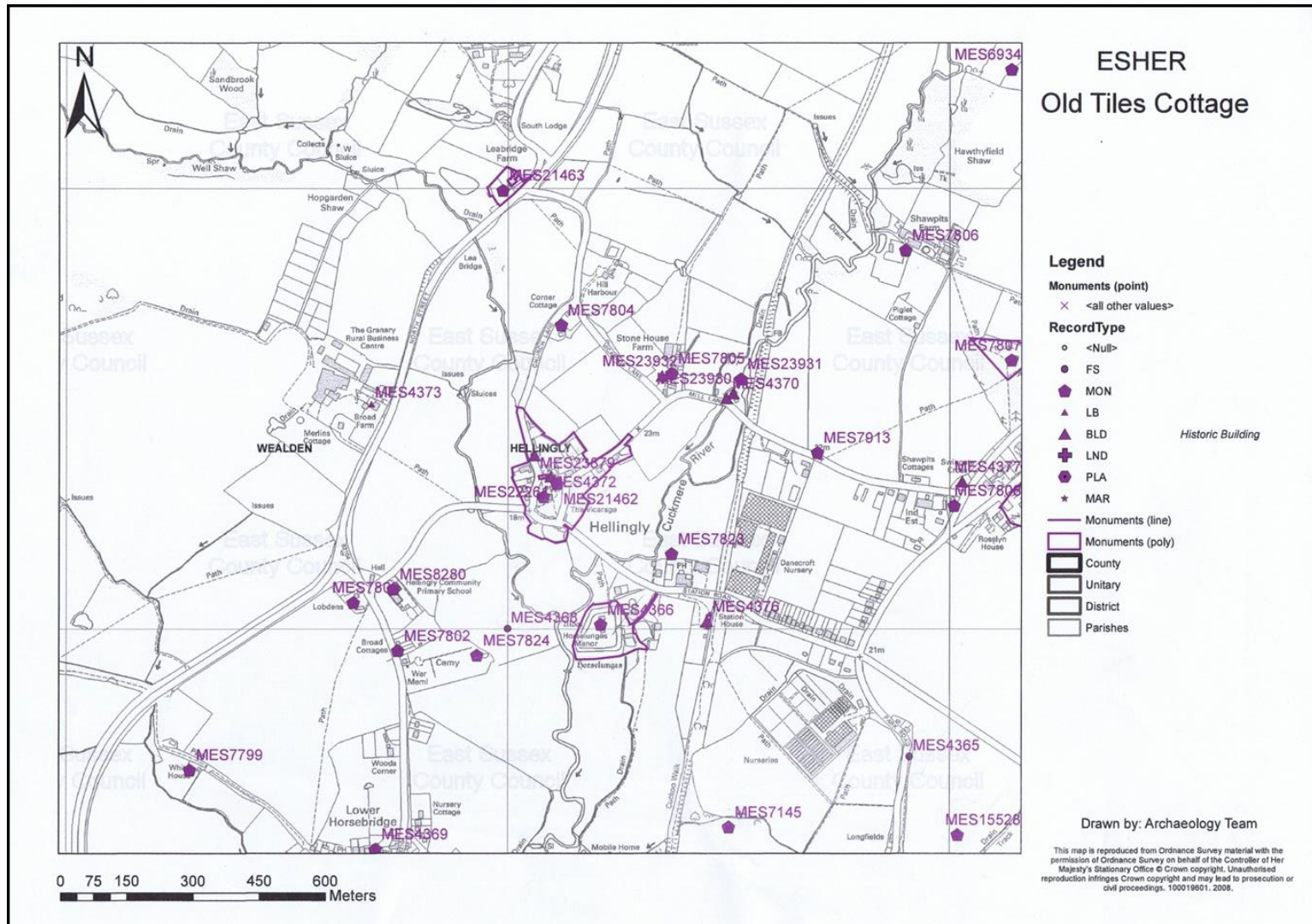


Fig. 3: The Old Tiles Cottage; HER Map
(Adapted from map provided by ESSC)
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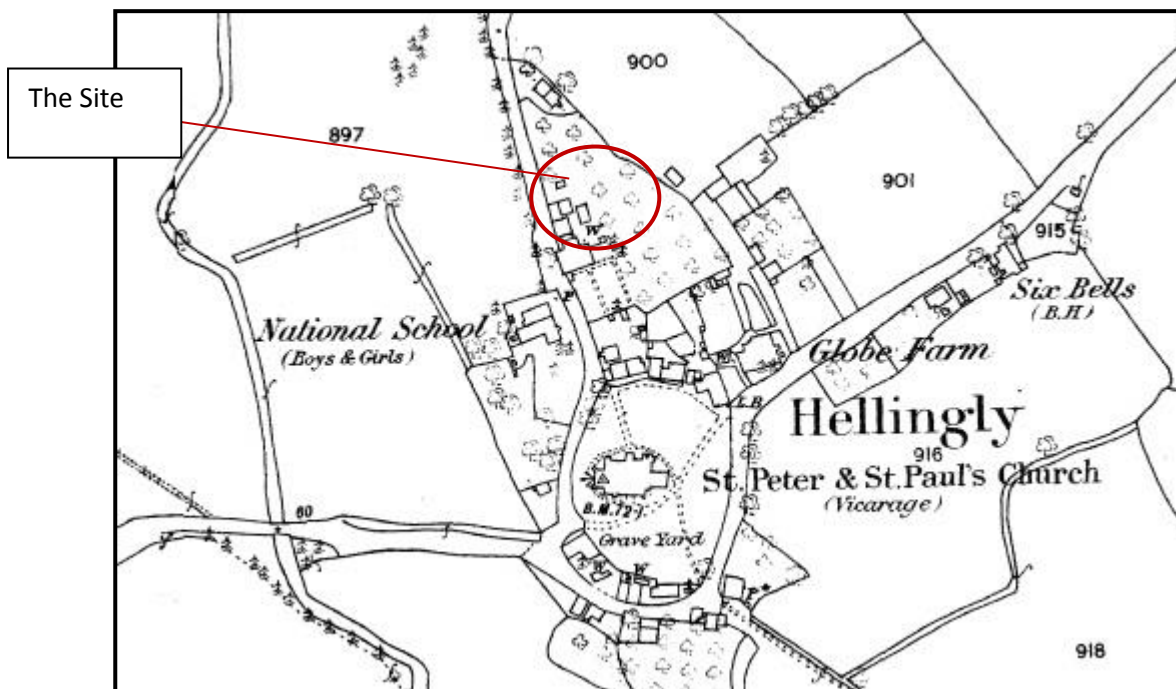


Fig. 4: The Old Tiles Cottage; 1875-1876 OS map

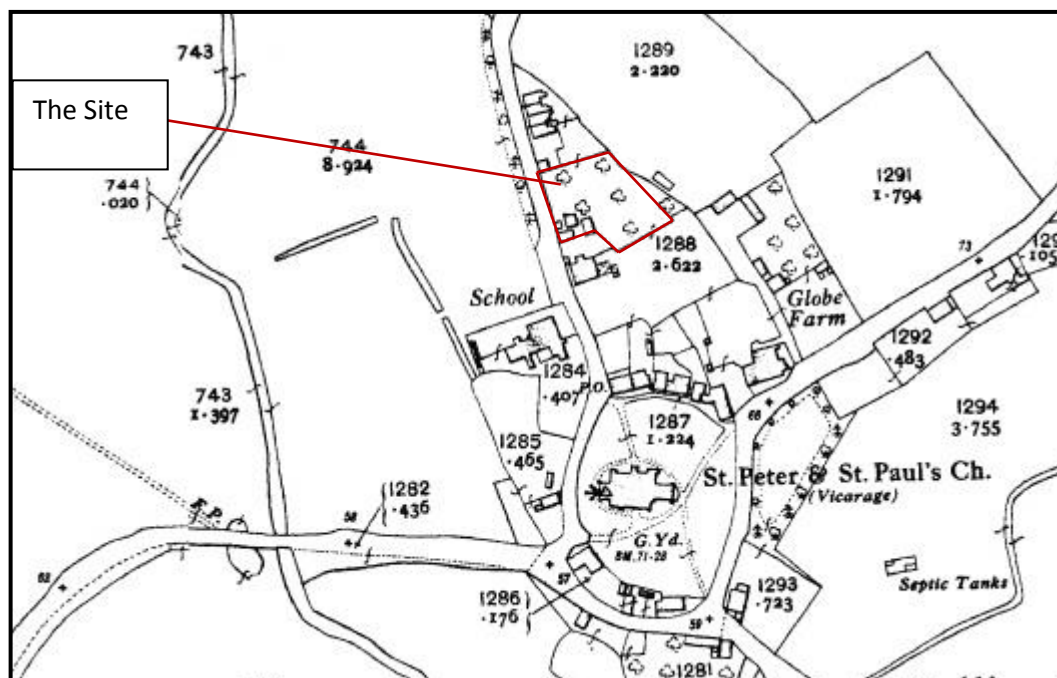


Fig. 5: The Old Tiles Cottage; 1932-1937 OS map

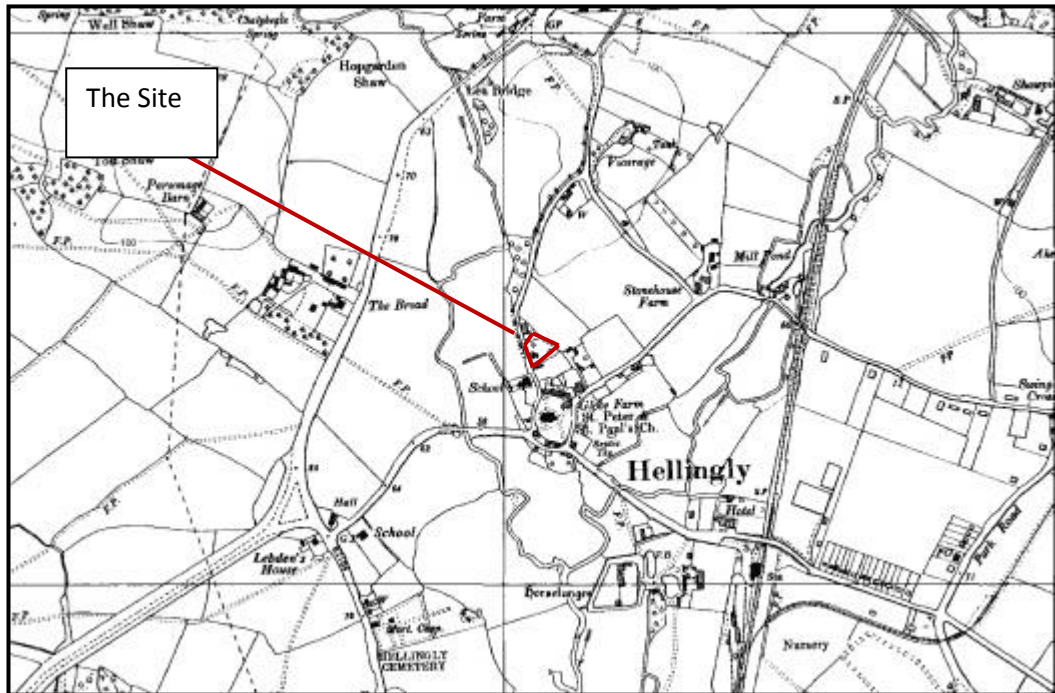


Fig. 6: The Old Tiles Cottage; 1961 OS map

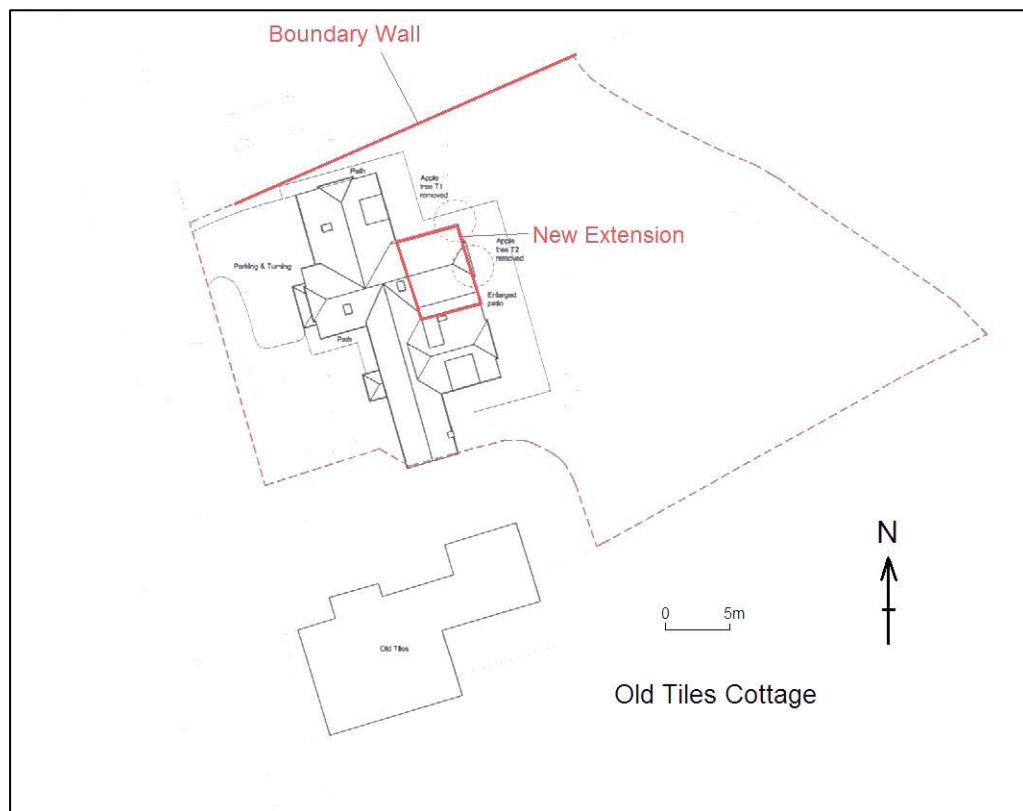


Fig. 7: The Old Tiles Cottage: Site plan showing areas monitored
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Appendix 1 HER Summary Form

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code | OTC14 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | Old Tile Cottage, Hellingly, East Sussex. | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Wealden District Council | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | TQ 558073 112410 | | | | | |
| Geology | Tunbridge Wells Sand | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | Watching Brief X | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site | Green Field | Shallow Urban X | Deep Urban | Other | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | WB. 21/11/14 25-26/3/15 | Other | | |
| Sponsor/Client | David Richardson | | | | | |
| Project Manager | Chris Butler MCIfA | | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | David Atkin | | | | | |
| Period Summary | Palaeo. | Meso. | Neo. | BA | IA | RB |
| | AS | MED | PM X | Other | | |
| <p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for a new extension at Old Tiles Cottage, Church Lane, Hellingly, East Sussex. Excavation of the footing trenches for the extension and a new northern boundary wall were monitored. No archaeological features were encountered and only a small assemblage of finds were recovered during the watching brief.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest finds dated to the mid 18th century. No evidence for earlier archaeological activity was found. It appears likely that the construction of Old Tiles Cottage in the 20th century created layers of made ground, and may have removed any evidence for earlier activity that existed on the site.</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 of Field 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 until recently 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, Historic Building Surveys, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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