



**Chris Butler MCIfA  
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief and  
Historic Building Survey at  
Rosehill Country Store, Isfield, East  
Sussex**

WD/2014/0882

Project No. CBAS0532

TQ 45979 16924

by

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### **Summary**

*The building survey at Rosehill Country Stores produced evidence for three major phases of development. First the store itself was built with, most likely at the same time, a detached single storey building to the south-west. The next phase was the garage/workshop which was built to the north-west of the country store building. The final phase was the construction of a flat roofed connecting range built between the main building and the detached structure to the south-west. The connecting wing also included a small part of the south-eastern corner of the garage workshop. The watching brief on the trenches excavated to locate and remove the redundant petrol tanks produced no evidence of archaeological features, and produced no artefacts.*

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## **1.0 Introduction**

**1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned by Snap Properties Ltd (The Client) to carry out a standing building survey and watching brief on the site of the Rosehill Country Store, Isfield, East Sussex (TQ 45979 16924) (Fig. 1), in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains on the site.

**1.2** A planning application has been made (WD/2014/0882) and its decision which states:-

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.<sup>1</sup>

**1.3** The site (Figs 2 & 3) is in the Rosehill Archaeological Notification Area (ANA), with six other ANAs in a 100m radius of the site. This area covers an area of 17th century settlement. Also within this area there are five associated monuments associated with the Rosehill ANA and all will be discussed, along with the rest of the historic environment record information in Section 2. The site is not in a Conservation Area and there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the vicinity of the site.

**1.4** The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey records no superficial deposits, however records the bedrock as the Weald Clay formation. This is a sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 125 to 134 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period<sup>2</sup>.

**1.5** The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprises an archaeological Watching Brief and a Historic Building Survey, as specified by the Archaeology Team at ESCC. A written scheme of investigation covering the Watching Brief and the Historic Building Survey was submitted to, and approved by, Wealden District Council. HER data was provided by ESCC (Ref: 186/14).

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<sup>1</sup> Wealden District Council, Notice of Decision, WD/2014/0038/F

<sup>2</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Viewed 09.06.2014

- 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 proposed development (Fig. 7). The aim of the Historic Building Survey was to create an understanding of the buildings' development and to create a record of the building prior to its demolition. Both these phases of work will help with the understanding of the development of the hamlet.
- 1.7** The Historic Building Survey was carried out by the author on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014, who also maintained an Archaeological Watching Brief during the location and removal of two petrol tanks on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Rachel Cruse monitored some work on electrical services on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler MifA.

## 2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 A full desk based assessment report<sup>3</sup> was produced for the site, and is summarised below. No Palaeolithic finds have been recovered from the area within the search radius.
- 2.2 There are no Mesolithic finds discovered within the 1000m search radius. However in the wider area there has been an axe (MES1911) recovered from Upper Stoneham Farm, on the lower slopes of the river valley, and a microlith (MES1910) discovered nearby at Lower Stoneham Farm on low lying land at the edge of the floodplain.
- 2.3 There are no Neolithic sites recorded in the 1000m search areas, suggesting there is low archaeological potential for this date in the area. Similarly there are no recorded Bronze Age sites within the search area. This possibly indicates a low potential for Bronze Age archaeological evidence on site.
- 2.4 During 2013 an excavation was carried out on a possible Late Iron Age enclosure to the north of Isfield. A geophysical survey identified an enclosure ditch, and fieldwalking found Roman pottery in the vicinity of the enclosure suggesting that the enclosure was of a Roman date<sup>4</sup>. The excavation recovered pottery of Late Iron Age date (25BC-50AD) from two pits in the enclosure<sup>5</sup>. There have also been pottery finds in the area (MES4510), however, it may be associated with a Roman site/ rubbish pit (MES4511), and possibly indicating continued occupation into the Roman period.
- 2.5 One find spot does not indicate a large Iron Age presence in the area so it is thought that there is a medium archaeological potential within the area.
- 2.6 At Barcombe, to the south of Isfield, there is significant Roman activity, with a large ditched settlement at Bridge Farm to the south of Barcombe Mills, and a villa and bathhouse adjacent to Barcombe Church. These sites are adjacent to the London to Lewes Roman road which runs to the west of the River Ouse, before crossing the river to the north-west of Isfield. A single roman site/ rubbish pit (MES4511) has been recorded to the north of the site.
- 2.7 The Wealden Iron Research Group reference a Roman Iron working site to the north-west of Isfield village close to the course of the Roman Road (TQ 4473 1796).<sup>6</sup> There is medium Roman archaeological potential at the site.

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<sup>3</sup> Cruse, R. 2014 *A desk based Assessment Report on Rosehill Country Store, East Sussex*. CBAS

<sup>4</sup> Chuter, G. 2010 *Archaeological Investigation at Foxearth Field, Isfield, East Sussex*

<sup>5</sup> Lyne M. 2013 *Pottery report on the Foxearth Enclosure at Isfield*.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.wirgdata.org/searchsites2.cgi>

- 2.8** According to the Domesday Book Isfield was called Sifelle. The Earl himself holds Sifelle, Godwine held it to King Edward in allodium. In the time of King Edward it was worth 100 shillings, now £4<sup>7</sup>.
- 2.9** There is a possible Saxon road (MES8478) aligned with the parish boundaries of Ringmere and Little Horstead. Other than this possible road there are no known Saxon sites or find spots located within the search area suggesting a low potential for discoveries of this date.
- 2.10** There seems to be a fairly well preserved medieval landscape opposite the site in the form of Plashett deer park, (Wymer N. 1949, pp. 34, 52).<sup>8</sup> It is possible that the location of the site immediately outside the pale, may have been the focus of activity relating to the deer park. This suggests a medium to high medieval archaeological impact on the site.
- 2.11** Yeakell and Gardner's map of Sussex, dated 1778-1783, shows several buildings along the road at Rosehill (A26), however there are none shown in the area of the site. The road in the area of the site slightly widens perhaps indicating an area of high animal movements for the farms. An 1820 map by William Figg (Fig. 9) depicts the entire parish of Isfield and the value of the land. On its southern boundary with the parish of Ringmer is a little collection of buildings along the A26 road. This is the first clear reference of the Rose Hill area being occupied, however it is thought to have been occupied for longer. The site possibly covers an old boundary, road and a building. Table 1 associated with the map described the plots and their owners. Many of the field boundaries have not changed since this map was produced.
- 2.12** The 1840 Isfield Tithe Map (Fig. 10) depicts the same plot divisions and buildings as those in the 1820 map. Charles Burgess now owns the land proposed for the development. It has been registered as land and shops with his cottage and garden next door. The Ordnance Survey Old Series 1" map of 1875 (Fig. 11) shows a different configuration of buildings within the site area. There is no longer a structure at the rear of the premises, but there is now a small building perpendicular to the road which looks to be part of the same plot as the smithy. The smithy (MES23878) is one of two detached buildings possibly just to the south of the site or just on the site boundary, the second being Rose Hill Farmhouse (DES4754). To the north of the site the plot of land contains a set of terraced houses.
- 2.13** Little has changed to the buildings on the 1899 OS map (Fig. 12). There have been some changes to the Smithy. There are several small out buildings to the rear, and the smithy building has possibly been extended. In the area of the proposed development there looks to be a small pond in addition to the previously discussed building. It is

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<sup>7</sup> <http://isfieldinfo.wordpress.com/category/sifelle/>

<sup>8</sup> Millum, D, 2011, Mapping the Archaeology of Ringmer Parish to AD1349.



thought that the current building on the site is this building, and there are several large in filled openings which would work as access to the forge. There are no significant changes on the 1910 OS map.

- 2.14** No further Ordnance Survey coverage was found of the area again until the 1961 map. This shows there has been no change since the 1910 map. The 1976-1977 map shows the addition of the workshop (Fig. 13). The old smithy building is still situated parallel to the road, adjacent to which is a square building. The boundaries have changed splitting the old smithy building in two and the site is now labelled as a garage.
- 2.15** Later OS maps only show one more change to the property which is the infilling extensions to the rear of the building. Temporary metal out-buildings have been added over time, but little has changed to the building since the mid 1970's.

### 3.0 Archaeological Methodology

#### Building Survey

- 3.1 A standing building survey, conforming to an English Heritage Level 3<sup>9</sup> survey was carried out. A full descriptive record was made, both externally and then internally room by room through the house, and forms the basis of the following report.
- 3.2 Measurements of both the exterior and interior of the property were taken to produce a drawing of the floor plan and cross sections (Figs. 4, 5 & 6). Each room was given an individual number which was prefixed by the letter G.
- 3.3 A selection of supporting digital photographs were taken of the building during the survey (these together with a full index are contained in the archive). A descriptive and photographic record of any original or early fixtures and fittings is also contained in the archive, and these are mentioned in the descriptive record where relevant. Some photographs taken at the time the desk based assessment site visit was carried out have been included where they are more informative.

#### Watching Brief (Fig. 8)

- 3.4 After the demolition of the buildings on the site (**Plate 1**), a watching brief was maintained on the excavation of two irregular shaped trenches to locate and remove the redundant petrol tanks associated with the former garage at the site. The first trench was located over a vent pipe that was thought to be associated with the petrol tanks; however, no evidence for the tanks was discovered in this trench. A second trench was then excavated in the north-eastern corner of the site over an area of ground that appeared to be a darker colour. Two petrol tanks were discovered in this trench.



**Plate 1:** Site after Demolition of Buildings

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<sup>9</sup> *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practise* – English Heritage 2006.

- 3.5** In the process of excavating the second trench a drainage pipe was broken on the northern site of the trench which started to fill the trench with water. This was made worse when the first petrol tank was discovered, as the side of the tank was punctured with the excavators bucket. This produced a greater ingress of water, as the tank had been filled with water, and not the slurry that was suppose to have been used for the decommissioning of the tank.
- 3.6** A monitoring visit was also carried out during the excavation of new below ground service trenches for the electricity supply. However this work was abandoned due to the difficulties of excavating the trench, and a reversion to overhead cabling was undertaken. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were noted during this work.
- 3.7** The trenches were excavated in spits under archaeological supervision, using a 14ton 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a 800mm toothless bucket. The spoil was piled up beside the trench were it was visually inspected for artefacts and was also scanned with Garrett ACE150 metal detector.
- 3.8** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.9** Site levels were provided by the clients site plan (Fig. 2) which had been levelled into OD. The ground level adjacent to Trench 1 was 16.17m OD, ground level adjacent to Trench 2 was 16.21m OD, and at the rear of the site the ground level was 16.10m OD.
- 3.10** 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 RCS 14 has been allocated.

#### 4.0 Results of Building Survey (General External Description)

4.1 The building consists of three elements, comprising of the single storey country store on a north-eastern by south-western alignment, hereafter described as north to south. A small single storey building located to the south-west of the main body of the building, which was originally detached. This was later incorporated into the main part of the building, by roofing over the area between the two parts of the building with a flat roof. To the north-west is a tall rectangular building originally the garage workshop, which was only briefly surveyed.

4.2 The northern elevation of the Country Store is gabled (**Plate 2**), and brick construction. The brickwork is laid in a random bond with the majority of the bricks being laid in a stretcher bond. The brickwork has been painted white with a narrow band painted black at the base of the wall. There is a centrally positioned brick built chimney stack within the gable, which has four courses of over-sailing brickwork at the top, there are no chimney pots fitted. The main entrance to the interior of the building is located at the eastern side of this elevation, which is fitted with a two glazed panelled modern door. To the east of the doorway is a side window of two lights, divided by a horizontal timber housing the letter box. At the western end of the elevation there is a modern UPVC window with a single light below, and two opening lights above. The interior of the door and windows are fitted with metal security roller shutters.



**Plate 2:** Northern Elevation  
taken from the North-East

4.3 The eastern elevation is also of brick construction (**Plate 3**), which is laid in the random bond as noted on the northern elevation. At the northern end of this elevation is a modern metal sliding door of three elements. To the south of the metal sliding doors is what appears to be a small sealed chimney stack, the upper part of the chimney stack is sealed with clay tiles. To the south of this is a modern UPVC bay window, with two wooden framed windows of two lights with the upper part opening out from the base.



**Plate 3:** Western Elevation taken from the North-East



**Plate 4:** Sealed Chimney Stack

- 4.4** The southern elevation of the property is located very close to the southern boundary of the site. The gabled southern elevation has a cement rendered finish with a central brick built chimney stack projecting from the wall. This chimney stack has four courses of oversailing bricks at the top, with a further three courses of bricks projecting from the stack creating a decorative band approximately 1.5m from the top of the chimney (**Plate 5**).



**Plate 5:** Chimney Stack Southern Elevation

- 4.5** The building has the garage block incorporated into the northern end of the western elevation (**Plate 6**) and the originally detached building at its southern end (**Plate 7**). The garage block is constructed of painted cement blocks. The later part of the building joining the main body of the building and the detached building at the southern end is constructed of hard fired white bricks which are laid in stretcher bond. The building that was originally detached has a rough mortared finish which has been painted white. The central part of this elevation has the rear doorway at the northern end, with a large window to the south of it. The window has a large glazed southern side with a small wooden framed casement at the northern side. The originally detached part of the building at the southern end of this elevation is lit by a window in the northern and western walls. These are only apparent on the exterior of the

property, as they have been sealed by an inserted inner wall constructed of breeze block (Plate 8).



**Plate 6:** Northern End of Western Elevation taken from the South-West



**Plate 7:** Southern End of Western Elevation taken from the West



**Plate 8:** Window Sealed by Inserted Wall

- 4.6** The roof of the main body of the building is gabled at both ends and has a covering of Redland type 49 interlocking concrete roof tiles. The originally detached part of the building is also gabled at both ends and has a covering of the same type of concrete tiles as on the main roof of the building. The two gabled roofs are joined by a flat roof with a felt and gravel covering (Plate 9).



**Plate 9:** Flat and Gabled roofs

## 5.0 Results of Building Survey (Interior Description) Figs. 4, 5 & 6

- 5.1** The main body of the building consists of three room, with **G6** being the only room located in the originally detached part of the building in the south-western corner. The later connecting part of the building joining the main body of the building and the originally detached part in the south-western corner, housing two rooms and a short length of corridor.
- 5.2** **G1** is located at the northern end of the main part of the building, and measures 6.43m (21' 1") north to south by 4.9m (16' 1") east to west. The room is entered through a doorway in the eastern end of the northern wall, which is fitted with a modern two glazed panelled door (**Plate 10**). To the east of the door is a side light also of two glazed panels. There is a second doorway at the northern end of the eastern wall, which comprises a three element sliding door with a metal frame. All of the windows and doors have a metal roller blinds fitted on the interior of the room. Located between the door and window in the northern wall there is a small brick built chimney stack, which has been panelled over at room level. The upper part of the chimney stack is visible in the roof space above the room where the brick construction of the stack can be seen (**Plate 11**). The ceiling covering of plaster board had been removed above **G1**, revealing that the ceiling joists (which are on a north to south alignment) are supported by three timbers on an east to west alignment. All the timbers in the roof appear to be of a recent date. The walls are of a plaster over brick finish, and the room has a concrete floor, with the walls being fitted with a low skirting board with a chamfered top at the base of the north and eastern walls. There was an opening to **G2** in the centre of the southern wall. The floor was built-up to form a shallow ramp up to the floor level of **G2**, which had a slightly higher floor level. There was also an opening in the western wall of the room into **G7**.



**Plate 10:** North Wall from Interior **G1**



**Plate 11:** Brick Built Chimney Visible in Roof Space above **G1**



**Plate 12:** View from **G1** into **G2**

- 5.3** **G2** was located to the south of **G1**, and measured 8.1m (26' 7") north to south by 4.9m (16' 0") east to west. The walls of the room had brick walls which had a white painted plaster finish. The room was lit by a modern UPVC bay window at the northern end of the eastern wall (metal roller blind fitted to interior of window), and two modern wooden framed windows at the southern end of the wall. As in **G1** the ceiling covering had been removed to reveal the construction of the roof. The joists in the northern half of the room were on an east to west alignment, whereas those of the southern end of the room were on a north to south alignment (**Plate 13**). There were two openings in the western wall. The larger southern opening had an RSJ acting as a lintel above, and was open to the short length of corridor **G5**. The northern smaller opening in the western wall of the room gave access to **G7**. The south-eastern corner of the room had been partitioned off with plasterboard walls to form a WC. The southern end of the eastern wall of the WC was missing, and a hot water tank was visible from **G2**.



**Plate 13:** Exposed Joists in **G2**

- 5.4** The WC measured 2.2m (7' 2½") north south by 1.3m (4' 3") east west, and could only be accessed through an opening in the eastern wall of **G4** (**Plate 14**). The doorway was fitted with a modern flush door. The western and southern walls of the WC were of brick with a covering of modern ceramic tiles. The northern and eastern walls being of plasterboard, these also had a covering of ceramic tiles. The WC had a modern toilet with low level cistern to the north of the doorway in the western wall, and a wash hand basin adjacent to the centre of the eastern wall. In the south-eastern corner of the room there was a hot water tank, with the wall to the east of the tank having been removed. The floor was of concrete construction, with the ceiling having a plaster board covering, with a hatch to the roof space located in the north-eastern corner.





**Plate 14:** WC taken from Doorway  
in the Western Wall

- 5.5** **G4** was a kitchen which was located to the west of the WC (**G3**), and was located in the southern end of the later connecting range of the building. The room measured 1.7m (5' 7") north to south by 2.95m (9' 8") east to west, and was entered by a opening in the eastern end of the northern wall. The northern and western walls were of breeze block construction, with the breeze blocks having a covering of plaster board on the northern wall. The southern wall had a plastered finish over bricks, with the eastern wall being plaster over brick. The ceiling is of exposed joists which were on a north to south alignment, and had fibre board sheet fixed to the upper face of the joists (**Plate 15**). There was a modern sink unit fitted, which was located adjacent the eastern end of the southern wall, with a ceramic tiled splash back. This room had a concrete floor.



**Plate 15:** Ceiling of **G4**

- 5.6** **G5** was a short length of corridor located to the north of **G4**, with an opening at the south end to **G4**. The corridor measured 3.95 (12' 11½") north to south by 1.17m (3' 10") east to west. The northern end of the corridor was open to **G7** and two openings to **G6** in its western wall and a single opening **G2** in the eastern wall. The walls had an 'Artex' finish. The ceiling had exposed joists which were on a north to south

alignment, with the wooden boards of the flat roof of the connecting range being visible above the joists. The floor was of concrete.

- 5.7** **G6** is located to the west of the short corridor **G5**, and is entered from **G5** by two openings in the eastern wall. The room measured 3.65m (12' 9") north to south by 6.1m (20' 0") east to west. The walls have a plastered finish over breeze blocks. In the north wall there is an entrance into **G7** with a serving hatch to the east of this doorway (**Plate 16**). **G6** is the only room in the originally detached part of the building. Both the northern and western projecting part of the building had an inner lining of breeze blocks to the brickwork which can be seen through the blocked windows (**Plate 8**). In the centre of the southern wall of the room there was a simple modern brick built fireplace with a modern coal fire fitted. The fireplace had a hearth and mantle shelf of modern red ceramic floor tiles (**Plate 17**). The floor was of concrete construction, with the remnants of the adhesive for vinyl tiles still evident.



**Plate 16: North Wall G6**



**Plate 17: Modern Brick Built Fireplace G6**

- 5.8** **G7** is located to the north of **G6** and is at the northern end of the connecting range between the originally two detached buildings. The room measured 8.9m (29' 2") north to south by 4.97m (16' 4") east to west, with the garage workshop building projecting into the north-western corner of the room. In the southern wall of the garage there is one of a row of four metal framed windows (**Plate 18**), which have four rows of four lights (**Plate 19**). The southern wall has the opening and hatch as noted in description of **G6**, but it was noted during the survey that this wall had the same painted pebble dashed finish as the exterior wall of the originally detached building in the south-west. Both the eastern and western walls are of breeze block construction. At the northern end of this wall is the doorway to the exterior, which is fitted with a flush door which has had a sheet of steel attached to its out face. To the south of the door there was a modern wooden framed window with a casement at the northern end. The floor is of concrete construction, and there was a base of a brick built counter (**Plate 20**). The floor of **G7** was 150mm lower than those in **G2** and **G6**. The roof is of the exposed roof joists of the flat roof over the connecting range part of the building.



**Plate 18:** Garage Workshop Window in **G7**



**Plate 19:** Row of Metal Windows taken from Interior of Workshop



**Plate 20:** Brick Built Counter in **G7**

**5.9** The construction of the roofs of the three elements of the building could all be seen due to most of the ceilings having been removed leaving only the exposed ceiling joists. The roof of the main body of the building was gabled at both ends with the gables being of brick construction. The north end of the roof over **G1** was panelled in with horizontal wooden planks (**Plate 21**). Only the side purlins and the three mid set collars were visible. The inner face of the roof of the southern end of the main body of the building had not been panelled over, and the construction of the roof was visible. The roof was of common purlins with side purlins, at the apex of the roof there was a ridge plate (**Plate 22**). There were also three mid-set collars which braced the purlins. This part of the roof had a covering of Redland 49 ceramic tiles.



**Plate 21:** Roof Structure North End of main body of the Building



**Plate 22:** Roof Structure South End of main body of the Building

- 5.10** The roof of the originally detached part of the building to the south-west of the main body of the building was visible in **G6 (Plate 23)**. This was of common rafters without side purlins, but with a central ridge plate. The original eastern gable of the detached part of the building had been incorporated into the roof structure, and was constructed from breeze blocks. This part of the roof had a covering of plain ceramic tiles.



**Plate 23:** Roof Structure of the Originally Detached part of Building **G6**

- 5.11** Between the main body of the store and the originally detached building to south-west, the connecting wing had a flat roof of roofing felt with a light covering of gravel (**Plate 24**).



**Plate 24:** Flat Roof over Connecting Range

## **6.0 Brief Survey of Garage/Workshop**

- 6.1** The garage workshop was located to the north of the country store building, with its north-western corner being slightly incorporated into the store building. The garage workshop measured 8.65m (28' 4") north to south by 14.7m (48' 3") east to west, with an area of 2.5m (8' 2") north to south by 6.8m (22' 4") east to west partitioned off for an MOT Bay in the north-western corner (**Plate 25**). The eastern elevation of the workshop is of bricks which have a painted finish, and are laid in stretcher bond. The main entrance to the workshop is in this elevation and consists of a five element sliding doors. These are of tongue and groove vertical planks in their lower parts with the upper parts have two rows of three lights above.



**Plate 25:** Interior of Workshop  
taken from the East

**6.2** The northern, southern and western walls were of concrete block construction. The building was lit by a row of four metal framed windows in the northern wall, with the window at the western end be set higher up on the wall (**Plate 26**). There was a single high set metal framed window in the western elevation with a modern flush door below. There was a row of three metal framed windows in the southern elevation, with a fourth having been incorporated into the interior of the country store (see description of **G7**). The roof of the workshop has a covering of corrugated asbestos sheets and slopes to the south.



**Plate 26:** Garage taken from the west end

## 7.0 Results of Watching Brief

7.1 On the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 a watching brief was maintained during the excavation of two trenches to locate and remove the redundant petrol tanks to the former garage. At the time of this visit all the buildings on the site had been demolished and the ground level reduced to the natural silty clay (**Plate 1**).

7.2 Trench 1 was located 13.4m in from the south-eastern boundary and 19.1m in from the south-western boundary (Fig. 8). This area was chosen to investigate the location of the petrol tanks because of a capped metal pipe which was possibly thought to be a vent. The trench measured 2.2m in length by 800mm in width. There was only one deposit apparent (Context 1), which was a silty clay of a dark orange colour with bands of mid grey, and having a firm consistence. The natural was apparent to the full depth of this trench at 2.3m. This deposit had no inclusions and no artefacts were recovered from it.

7.3 Trench 2 was located adjacent to the south-eastern boundary to site and 18.4m in from the south-western boundary (Fig. 8). This trench was irregularly shape and measured at it widest points 4.1m south-west north-east by 3.8m south-west north-east and had a depth of 2.9m in depth. There was only one deposit apparent in this trench Context 2, which had the same matrix but was slightly darker in colour with a looser consistence. This deposit was interpreted as the back fill for the petrol tanks which were discovered at a depth of 950mm depth (**Plate 27**). No inclusions were noted in this deposit and no artefacts recovered from it.



**Plate 27:** Petrol Tank in Trench 2

7.4 As the demolition of the existing buildings had reduced the ground level to the natural and the subsequent monitored excavation had confirmed that the site now comprised only natural deposits, no further monitoring of the development was required.

- 7.5** The earlier monitoring visit on the 7<sup>th</sup> November to oversee the excavation of service trenches for a new electricity supply (Fig. 8) did not produce any results as the attempted excavation through the hardened surface was abandoned due to being unable to break through it (**Plate 28**). The electricity supply was subsequently arranged as an overhead supply.



**Plate 28:** Abandoned service trench

- 7.6** No archaeological deposits or features were noted during the watching brief and no artefacts were recovered.

## 8.0 Discussion

- 8.1** The building survey revealed that there were three phases of development to the small complex of buildings making up Rose Hill Country Store and Garage. Originally the store part of the building was separate to a detached building to the south-west of it. Later after the garage/workshop had been built, the two buildings were joined together by a connecting building with a flat roof. The connecting range also incorporated the south-eastern corner of the garage/workshop. The western end of the enclosed part of the northern face of the northern wall of **G6**, has the same painted pebbledashed finish as the external northern wall of this building.
- 8.2** This evidence indicates that the garage/workshop was also detached from the store part of the building. It is also suggested from the materials used that at the time of the construction of the connecting range, the detached south-western building had an inner skin of breeze blocks inserted. Evidence that the inner skin of breeze blocks is not part of the original fabric of the building is that the inner wall blocks two windows. The windows were located in the northern and western elevations, and at the time of the survey were only apparent from the exterior.
- 8.3** The materials used in the construction of the main body of the building would suggest a late 19<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date of construction. The date of construction of the garage workshop, estimated by the materials used, would be in the late 1960s or 70s. The connecting wing would have been built later; most likely the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 8.4** A review of the map evidence shows an 1820 map by William Figg (Fig. 9) which depicts the entire parish of Isfield and the value of the land. On its southern boundary with the parish of Ringmer is a little collection of buildings along the A26 road. This is the first clear reference of the Rose Hill area being occupied, however it is thought to have been occupied for longer. The site possibly covers an old boundary, road and a building. Table 1 associated with the map described the plots and their owners. Many of the field boundaries have not changed since this map was produced.
- 8.5** The 1840 (Fig. 10) Tithe Map depicts the same plot divisions and buildings as those in the 1820 map. Charles Burgess now owns the land and it has been registered as land and shops with his cottage and garden next door.
- 8.6** The Ordnance Survey Old Series 1" map of 1875 (Fig. 11) shows a different configuration of buildings within the site area. There is no longer a structure at the rear of the premises, but there is now a small building perpendicular to the road which looks to be part of the same plot as the adjacent smithy. The smithy (MES23878) is one of two detached buildings possibly just to the south of the site or just on the site boundary, the second being Rose Hill Farmhouse (DES4754).



- 8.7** Little has changed to the buildings on the 1899 OS map (Fig. 12). There have been some changes to the adjacent Smithy. There are several small out buildings to the rear, and the smithy building has possibly been extended. In the area of the site there looks to be a small pond in addition to the previously discussed building. It is thought that the current building on the site is this building, and there are several large in filled openings which would work as access to the forge. There are no significant changes on the 1910 OS map.
- 8.8** No further Ordnance Survey coverage was found of the area again until the 1961 map. This shows there has been no change since the 1910 map. The 1976-1977 map shows the addition of the workshop (Fig. 13). The old smithy building is still situated parallel to the road, adjacent to which is a square building. The boundaries have changed splitting the old smithy building in two and the site is now labelled as a garage. Later OS maps only show one more change to the property which is the infilling extensions to the rear of the building. Temporary metal out-buildings have been added over time (these had been demolished by the time of the standing building survey), but little has changed to the building since the mid 1970's.
- 8.9** No archaeological features were noted during the monitoring of the two trenches to locate and remove the petrol tanks associated with the garage. At the time of the watching brief all the buildings had been demolished. It is thought that any archaeological features would have been destroyed by the construction of the three buildings on the site and their subsequent demolition. The installation of the petrol tanks in the ground at the south-western side of the site would also have destroyed any archaeological deposits. **Plate 29** shows the section at the east end of the site from the tarmac ground surface (16.21m OD) into Trench 2; it is very clear from this that previous impacts have removed any stratigraphy above the natural.



**Plate 29:** Section at east end of site into Trench 2

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1** We would like to thank Andrew Moxon of Helix Homes Ltd for commissioning this archaeological watching brief, and the on-site staff for their co-operation and assistance during the fieldwork. We would also like to thank Andrew Bradshaw for preparing the drawings for this report. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler MCIfA.

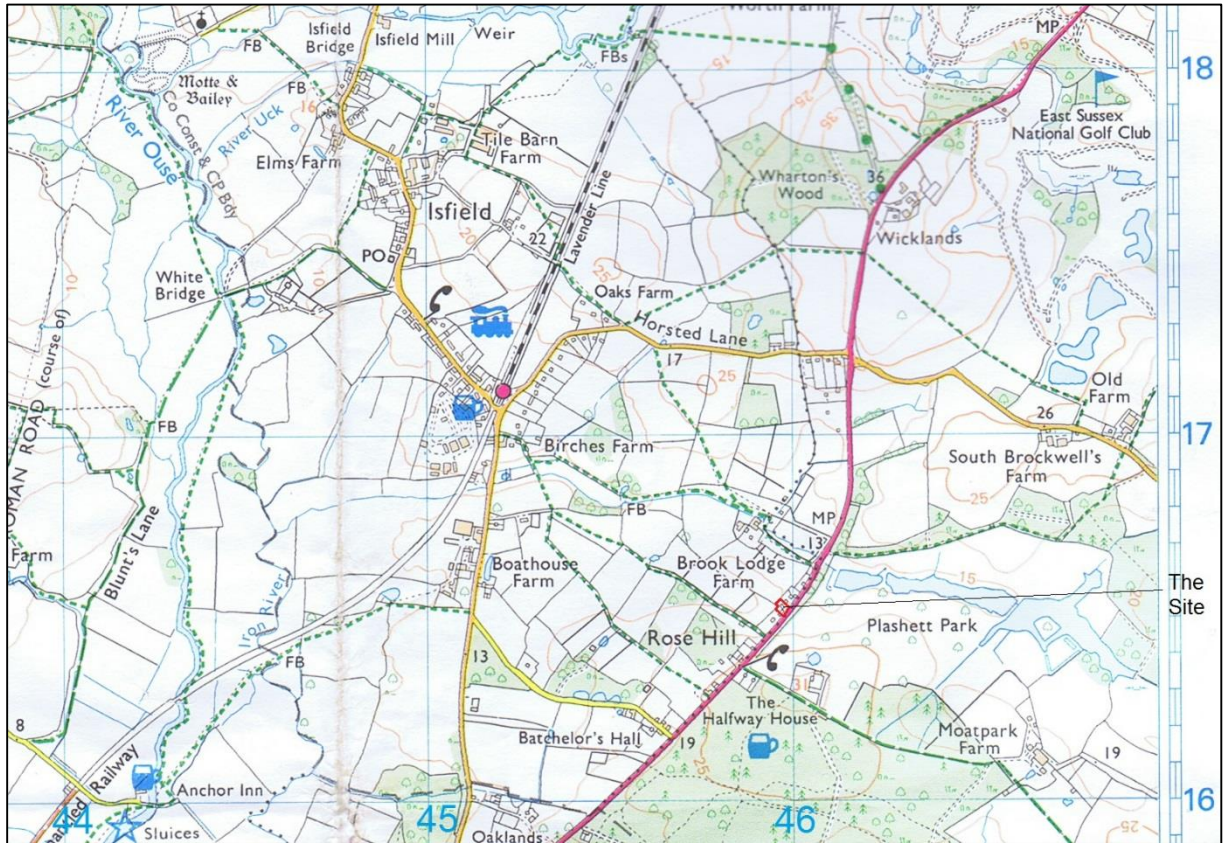


Fig. 1: Rosehill Country Store: Site Location Map  
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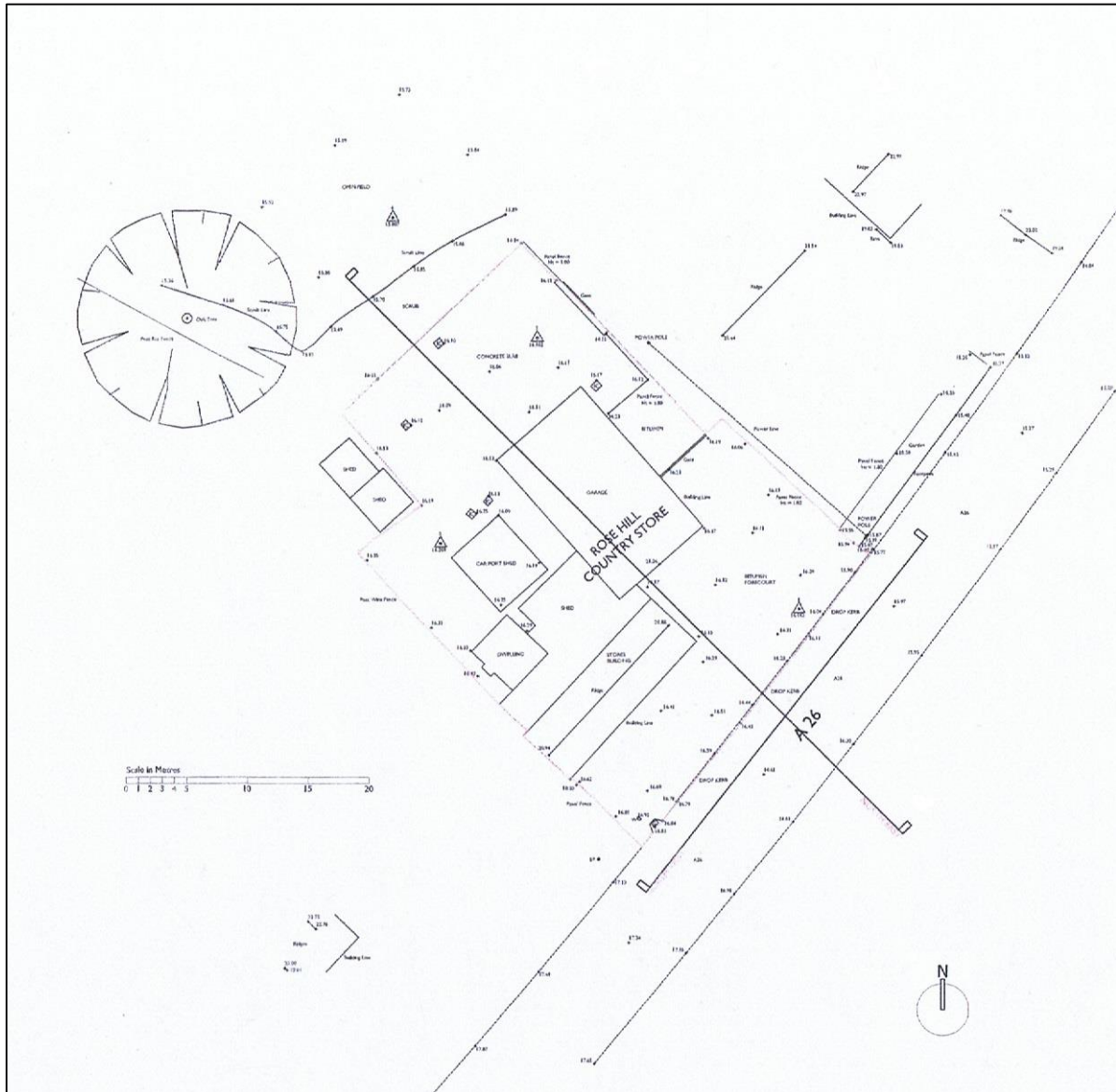


Fig. 2: Rosehill Country Store: Site Plan prior to demolition.  
(Adapted from architects drawing)

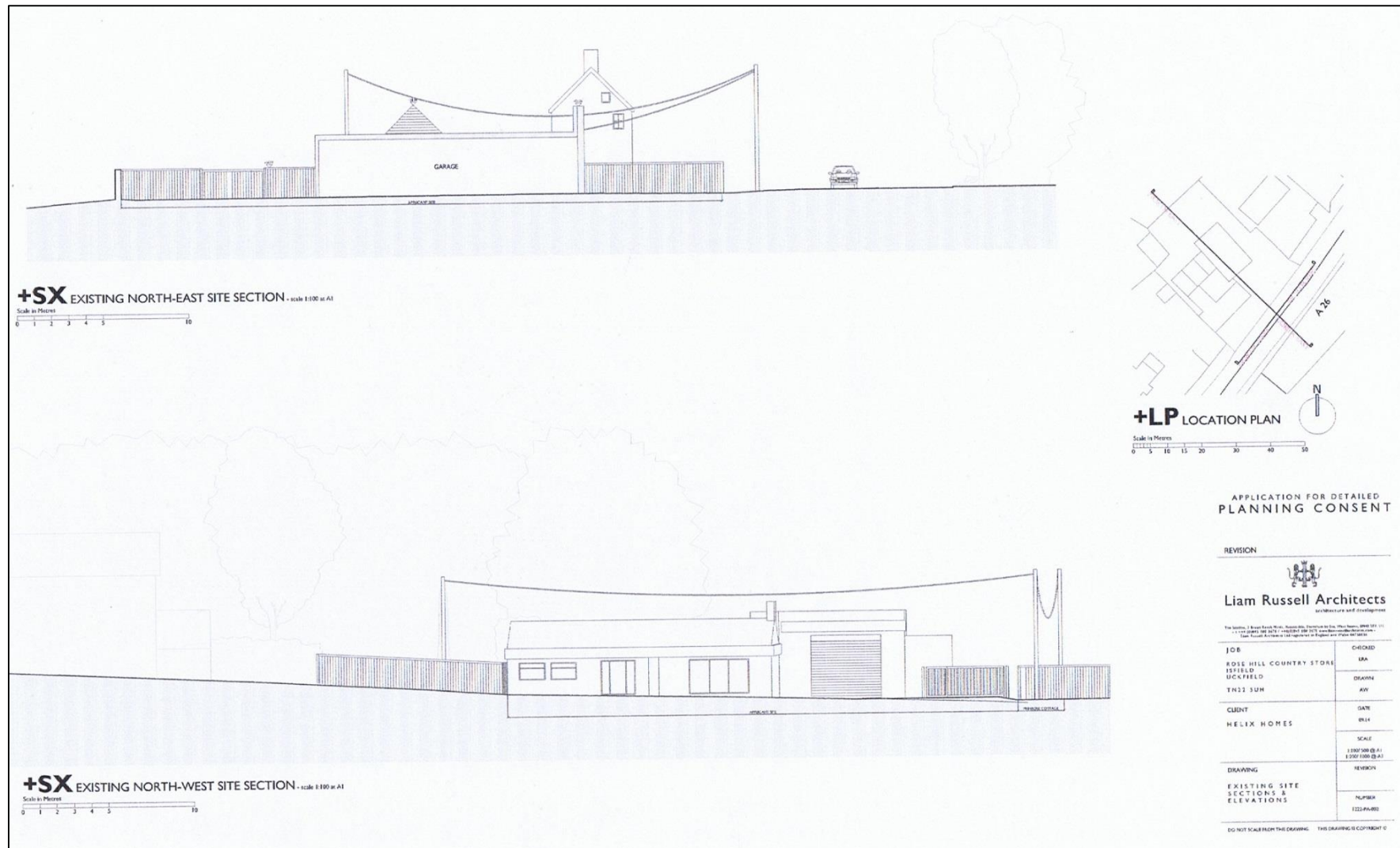


Fig. 3: Rosehill Country Store: Existing sections through site prior to demolition  
(Adapted from architects drawing)

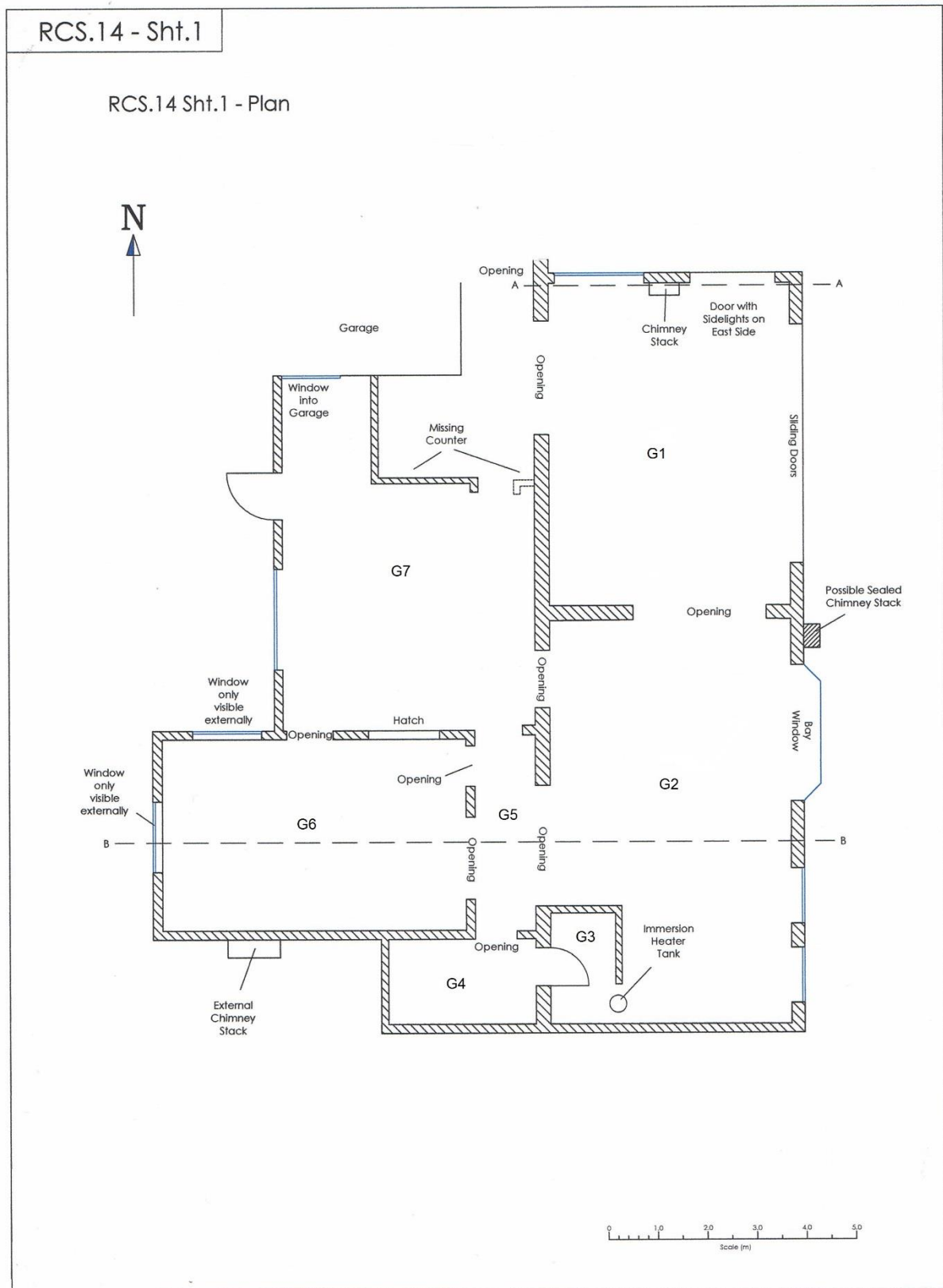


Fig. 4: Rosehill Country Store: Plan of main buildings at the site

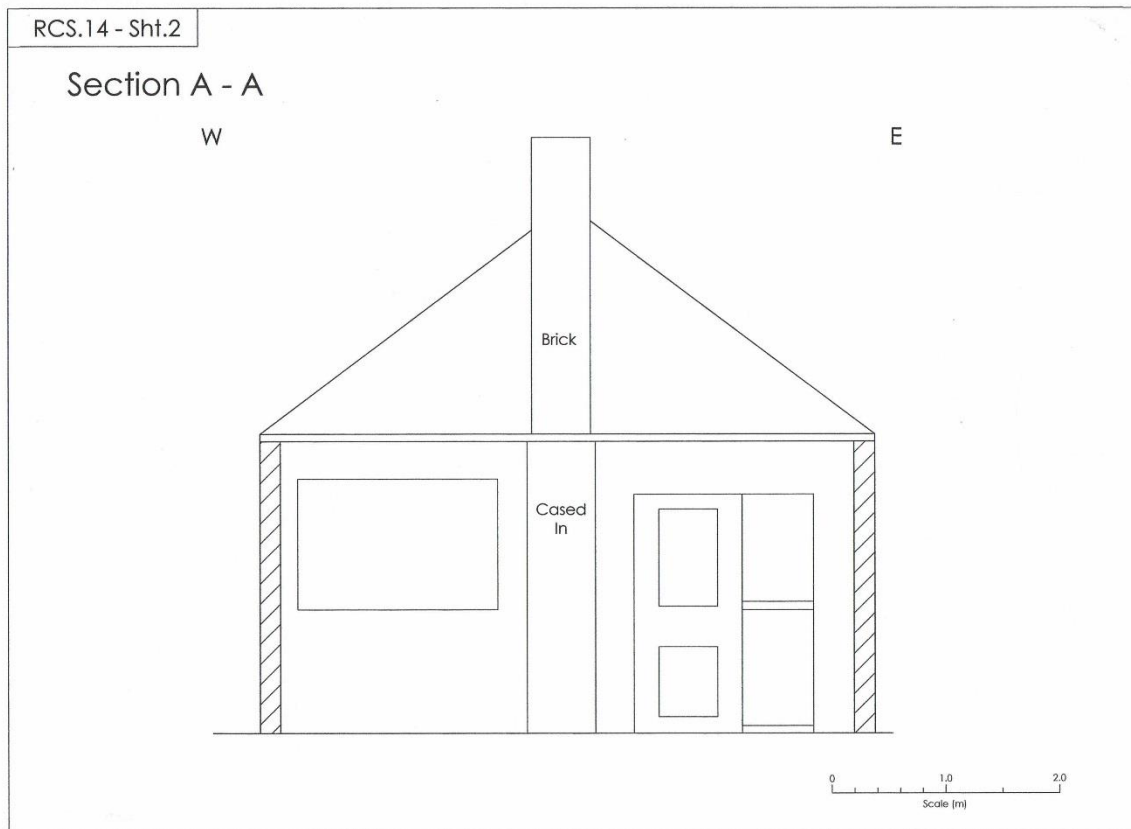


Fig. 5: Rosehill Country Store: Section through north end of building  
(See Fig. 4 for location)

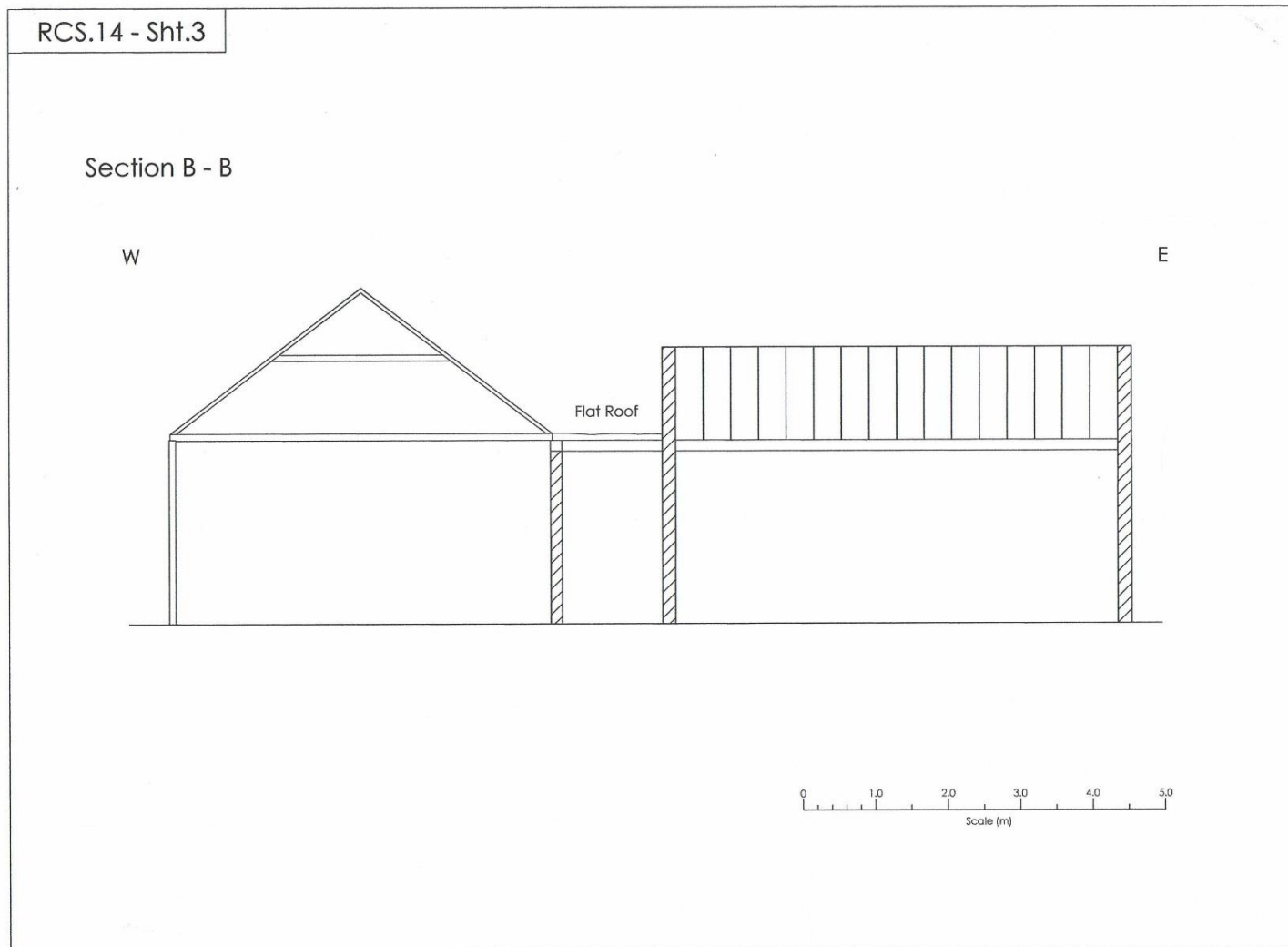


Fig. 6: Rosehill Country Store: Section through south end of building  
(See Fig. 4 for location)



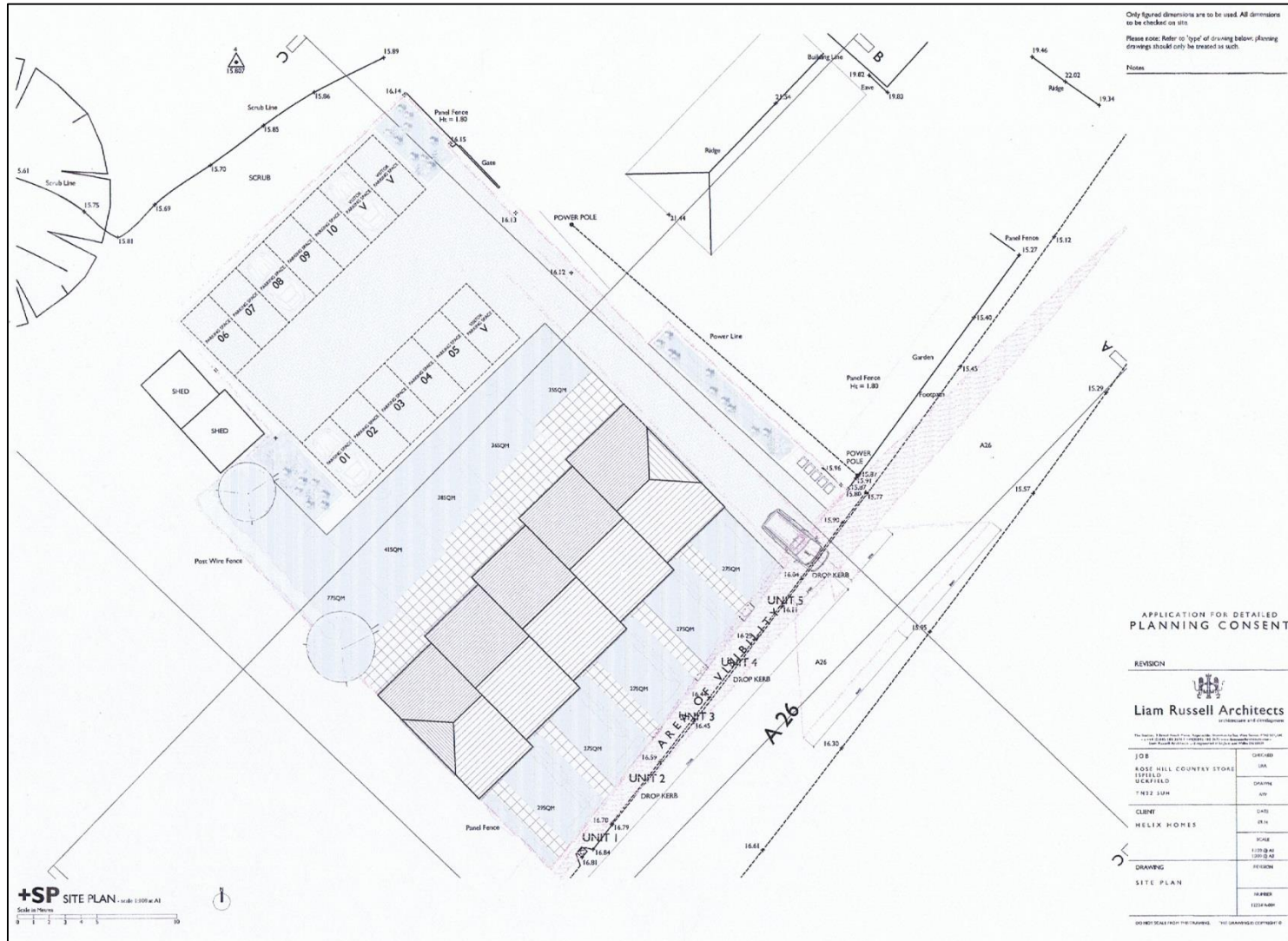


Fig. 7: Rosehill Country Store: Site development Plan  
(adapted from architects drawing)



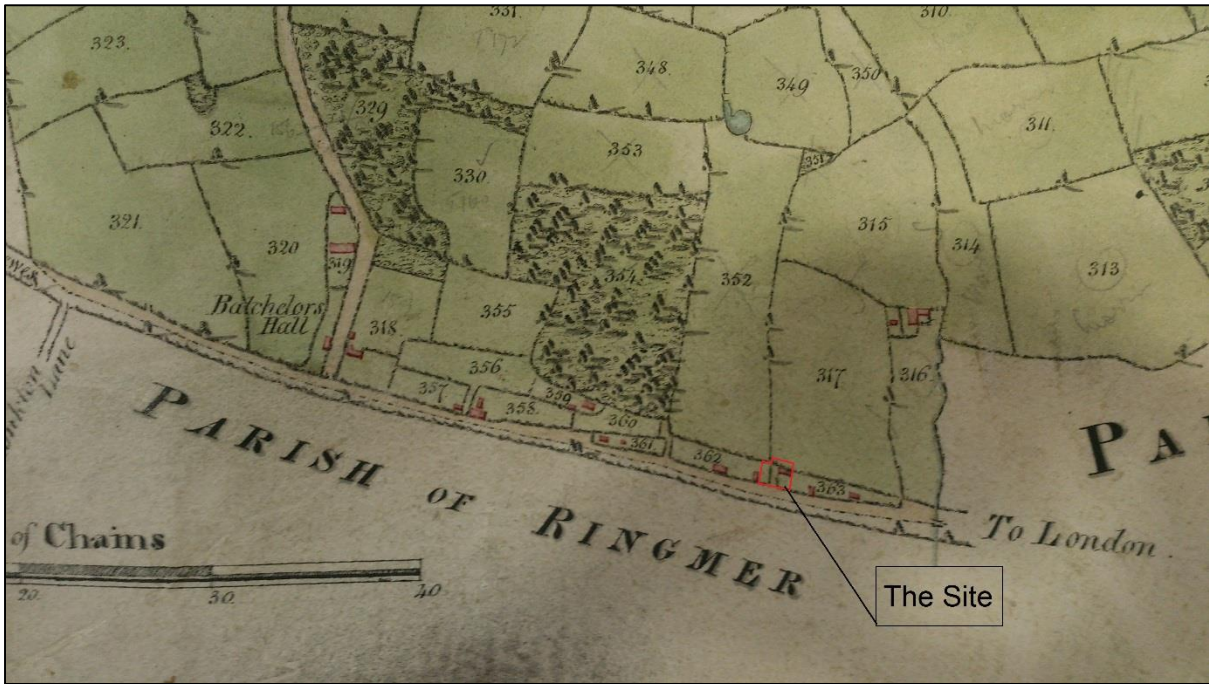


Fig. 9: Rosehill Country Store: W.Figg 1820 Map of Isfield Parish (North at right)

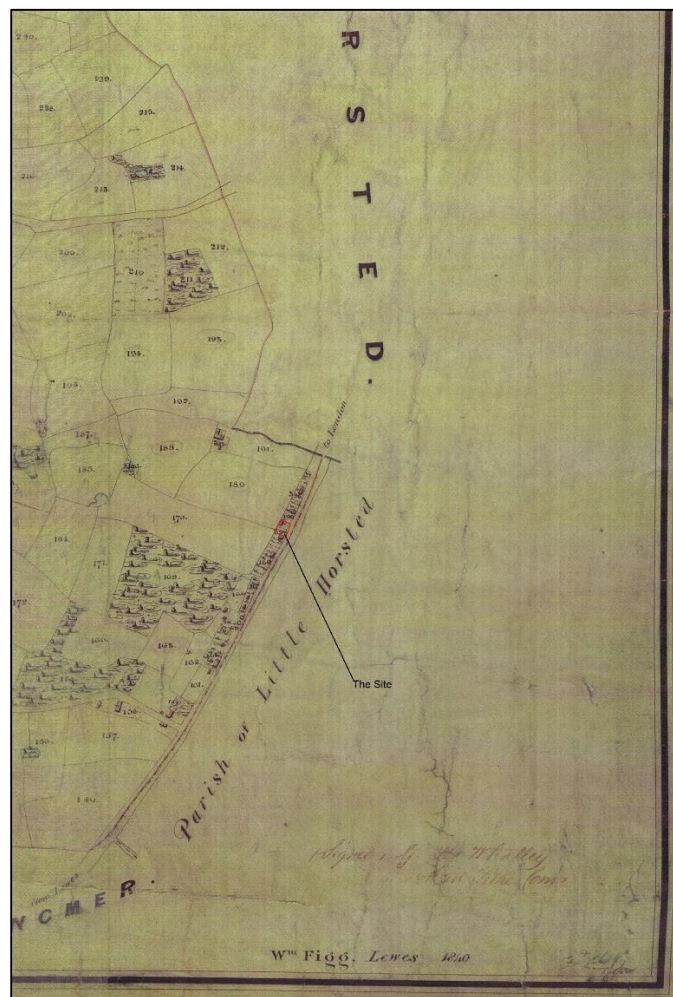


Fig. 10: Rosehill Country Store: 1840 Isfield Tithe Map

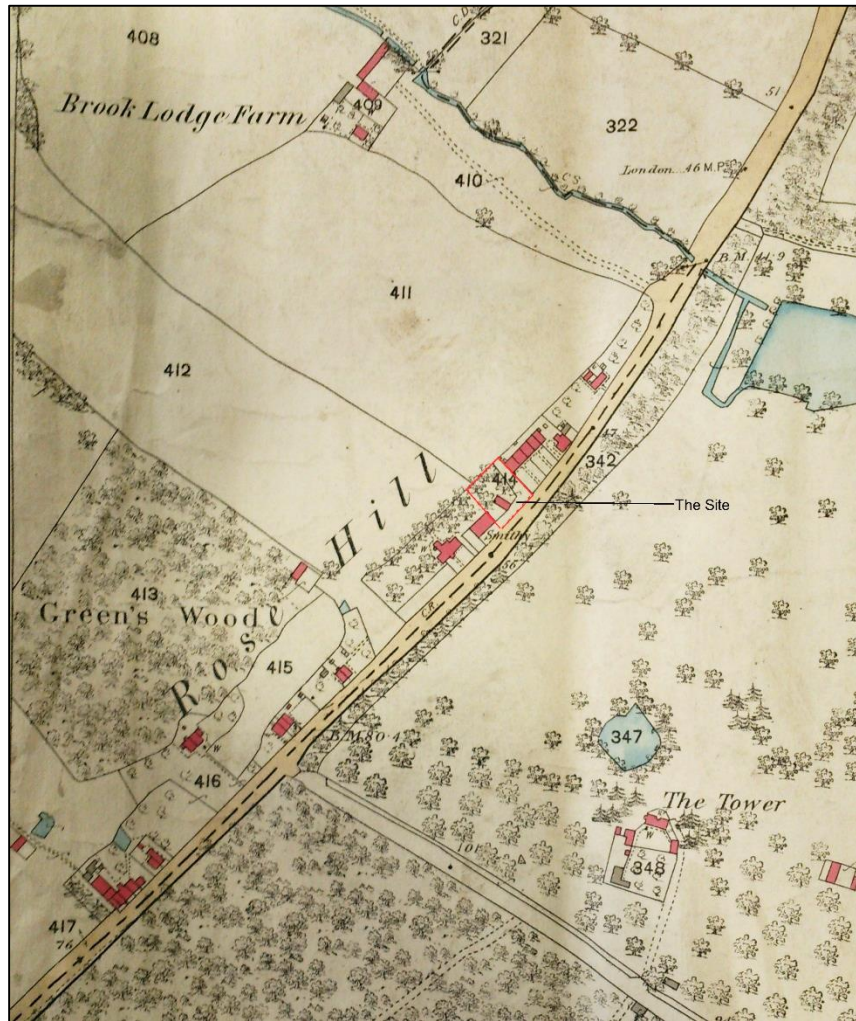
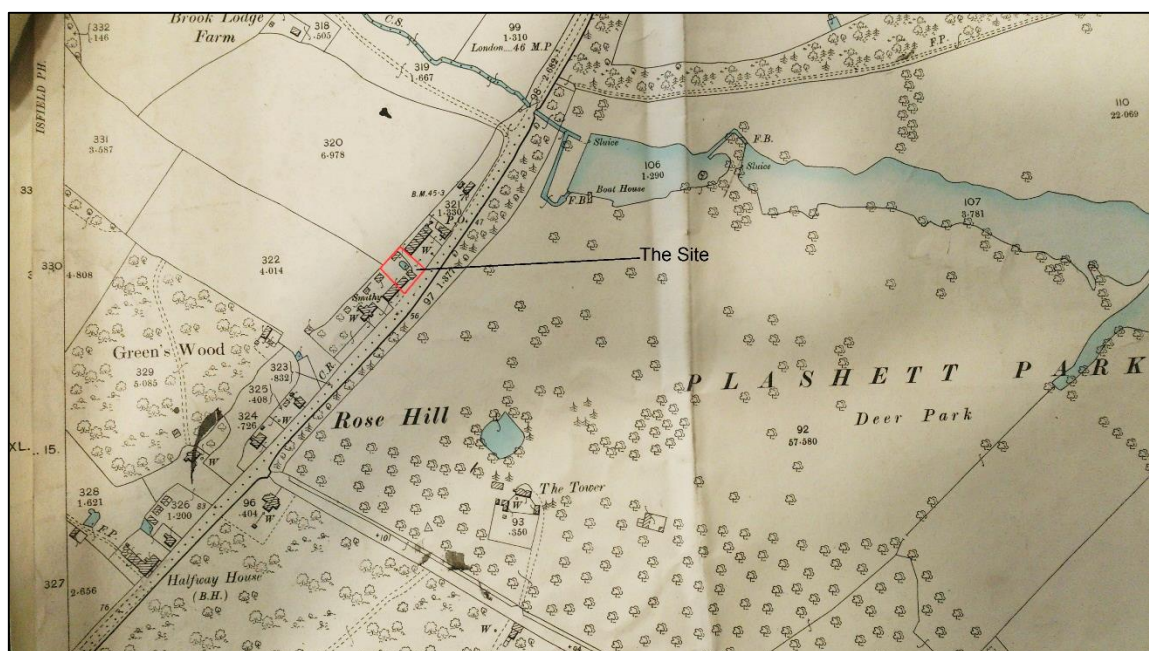


Fig. 11: Rosehill Country Store: 1st Edition OS 1874



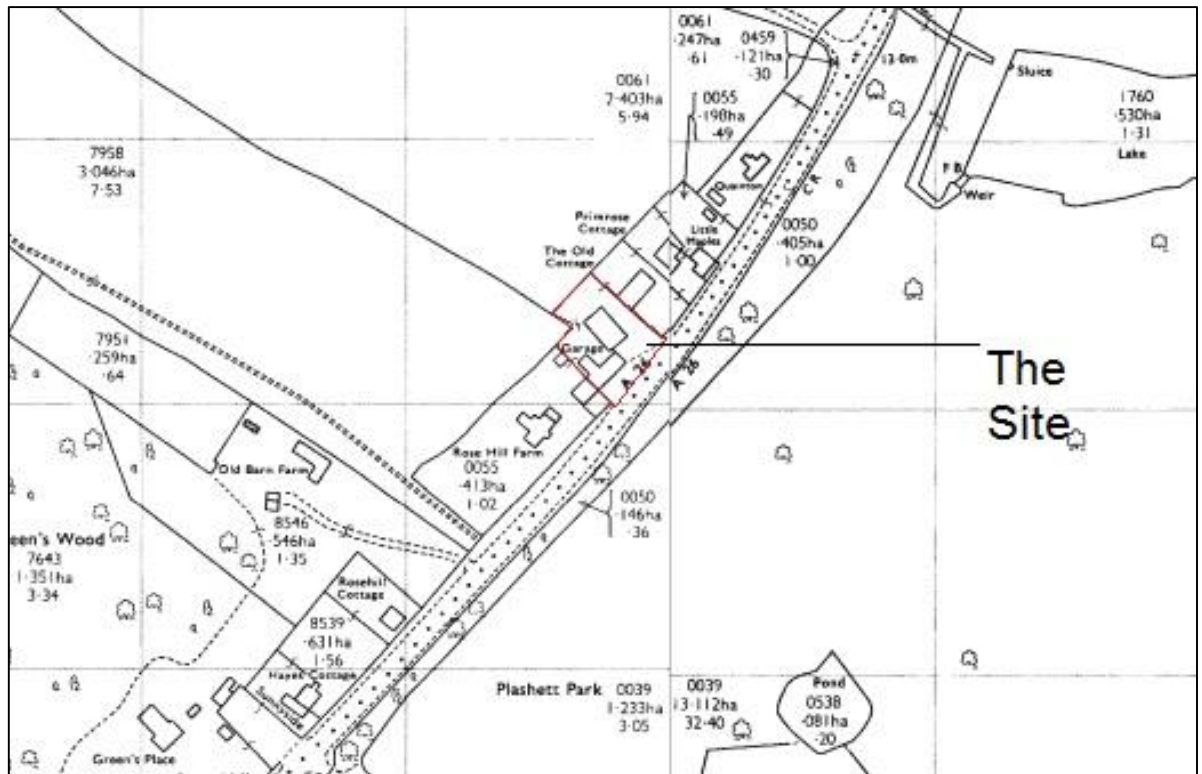


Fig. 13: Rosehill Country Store: 1976-1977 OS

### HER Summary Form

Site Code	RCS 14					
Identification Name and Address	Rosehill Country Store, Rosehill, Isfield, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 45979 16924					
Geology	Wealden Clay					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <b>X</b>	Standing Structure <b>X</b>	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban <b>X</b>	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 7-11-14 - 17-12-14	Other Building Survey 09-10-14		
Sponsor/Client	Helix Homes Ltd					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MCIfA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PCIfA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM <b>X</b>	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>The building survey at Rosehill Country Stores produced evidence of three major phases of development. First the store itself was built with most likely at the same time a detached single storey building to the south-west was constructed. The next phase was the garage workshop was built to the north-west of the country store building. The final phase was the construction of a flat roofed connecting range built between the main building and the detached structure to the south-west. The connecting wing also included a small part of the south-astern corner of the garage workshop. The watching brief on the trenches excavated to locate and remove the redundant petrol tanks produced no evidence of archaeological features, and produced no artefacts.</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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and taught A Level archaeology, having qualified as a teacher.

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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