



Chris Butler
Archaeological
Services Ltd



**Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
at
34 Hurst Road,
Hassocks,
West Sussex,
BN6 9NL**

TQ 29590 15656

Planning Ref: DM/25/0310

Project No: CBAS1600

By
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July 2025

Summary

An archaeological evaluation excavation was undertaken at Twinham, 34 Hurst Road, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 9NL in association with planning application DM/25/0310, for erection of a single storey self-build dwelling house, with new access and parking on garden land to the east side of Twinham.

Two 'L' shaped evaluation trenches were opened on the footprint of the proposed development. The trenches measured approximately 7m x 7m x 2m wide and up to 0.5m in depth (Trench 1), 7m x 7m x 2m wide and up to 0.45m in depth (Trench 2).

Only one notable feature of archaeological interest was recorded, a Romano-British pit in Trench 2 containing a moderate assemblage of mid-2nd to 3rd century pottery with some residual mid-1st to 2nd century. The subsoil immediately above the pit was the only area to also produce Romano-British pottery possible suggesting that the deposits and cut for the pit may have survived higher up into the subsoil.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS Ltd) was commissioned by John Bullivant (the Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation excavation at 34 Hurst Road, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 9NL (hereafter the Site; Figs. 1 & 2), in connection with a planning application (Ref: DM/25/0310) for the proposed erection of a single storey self-build dwelling house, with new access and parking on garden land to the east side of Twinham (Fig. 3).
- 1.2** The Site (centre point: TQ 29590 15656) is located on the north side of Hurst Road, in the western outskirts of Hassocks and comprises a rectangular garden plot to the east of Twinham. The site boundaries are defined by hedges and fencing, while a cluster of trees stands in the southern part of the Site. Houses and gardens stand to the west, north and east of the Site.
- 1.3** The Site lies on a north-facing hillslope at the northern edge of the South Downs and slopes from a height of c. 67m aOD in the south to c. 65m aOD in the north¹. According to the British Geological Survey² the geology of the Site is sandstone of the Folkestone Formation.
- 1.4** The Site lies just north of a confluence of multiple Roman roads running through Mid Sussex, which are denoted by Archaeological Notification Areas (ANAs; DWS8607, DWS8680 & DWS8725; Fig. 4). This confluence of roads is surrounded by an area of multi-period activity (DWS8193) including Roman building remains to the southwest of the Site (MWS7316 & MWS883) forming part of a Roman settlement site (MWS4415). A cemetery associated with this settlement has also been uncovered (MWS3204), which included the discovery of Bronze Age (MWS891) and Saxon burials (MWS892), suggesting occupation in this area for a substantial period of time.
- 1.5** All ground reductions associated with the development hold potential to impact upon any archaeological horizons present within their footprint. For this reason, the following condition was placed on the planning permission³:

5. *Archaeological trial trenching and mitigation*

- i. *No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until a programme of archaeological investigation has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted by the applicant, for approval by the Local Planning Authority.*

¹ <https://www.daftlogic.com/projects-find-elevation-on-map.htm>

² https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?_ga=2.170632741.484708419.1739982008-1590086387.1739982008

³ Permission: Reference DM/24/2505. 26th March 2025.

ii. No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the completion of the programme of archaeological investigation identified in the WSI defined in 1 above, and any subsequent mitigation has been agreed.

iii. The applicant will submit a final archaeological report or (if appropriate) a Post Excavation Assessment report and/or an Updated Project Design for approval by the Local Planning Authority. This shall be submitted within 6 months of the date of completion of the archaeological fieldwork unless otherwise agreed in advance by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: The site is of archaeological significance, and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development and to accord with Policy DP34 of the Mid Sussex District Plan 2014 - 2031 and para 218 of the NPPF.

- 1.6** A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining a programme of archaeological works comprising of an archaeological evaluation excavation to determine the archaeological potential of the Site and its implications for the proposed development. The WSI was produced in response to a brief issued by the Historic Environment Consultant to Mid Sussex District Council⁴. The WSI was then submitted to Mid Sussex District Council for formal approval.
- 1.7** This report outlines the results from an archaeological watching brief that monitored all groundworks associated with the proposed development. This report will be submitted to the local planning authority, and the archaeological advisors at MSDC for approval.
- 1.8** The fieldwork was carried out by the author and Mark Denham from the 9th to 12th of June 2025.

⁴ Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation at Twinham, 34 Hurst Road, Hassocks. 11/04/2025.
Planning Ref: DM/25/0310.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation excavation are to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains on Site and determine their extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date. The results will inform whether archaeological mitigation work is required, which will ensure that any archaeological remains under threat of the proposed development are either excavated and recorded or preserved *in situ* and protected.

2.2 The specific research aims are to recover evidence relating to:

1. the identified Roman settlement activity to the south; and
2. the Roman industrial activity identified to the west; and
3. any other settlement activity.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1** The results of a previous Historic Environment Record search (HER Ref. No: 117413-018-025; Fig. 5) are summarised below and supplemented with information from the CBAS archive. The locations of fieldwork discussed in the text are presented in Figure 6.
- 3.2** A fragment of a Palaeolithic handaxe is recorded as being found in Hassocks (MWS745). Large quantities of Mesolithic flintwork have been found at Hassocks in the past⁵. The Greensand seems to have been an environment which attracted the hunter gatherer groups, leaving evidence of their activities. Possible pits of Mesolithic date were recorded by Toms in the Hassocks sandpit⁶. Mesolithic flintwork was also recovered at Friars Oak to the north-east of the Site⁷.
- 3.3** A leaf-shaped arrowhead and fragment of a polished flint axe were recovered at Friars Oak⁸ indicating continued activity in the area. Neolithic clay spoons have also been found at The Dell, close to Belmont Lane c. 400m northwest of the Site.
- 3.4** Six large cordoned cinerary urns, one "Ashford" type urn and cups of Middle Bronze Age date (MWS891) were found during works in the Hassocks sandpit, which covers an area between London Road and Belmont Lane to the south of Hurst Road. Bronze Age flintwork has been recovered from Friars Oak and other sites close to the Site. The hilltop enclosure on Wolstonbury Hill, 2km to the southwest was constructed in the later Bronze Age⁹. There is little evidence for Iron Age activity around the Site.
- 3.5** Two Roman roads cross at Hassocks. The Greensand Way is an east-west orientated road running along the Greensand ridge which passes to the south of Hurst Road to the south of the site. The London-Brighton Roman Road approaches Hassocks from Friars Oak where it was found in 1994¹⁰. It passes to the east of the Site and enters a roadside settlement at Ham Farm¹¹.

⁵ Butler, C. 1989 'An Early Mesolithic Site and later Flintwork from Hassocks, West Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **127**, 230-235

⁶ Toms, H.S. 1907 'Pigmy flint implements found near Brighton', *Brighton & Hove Natural History and Philosophical Society* 1-10.

⁷ Butler, C. 2000 *Saxon Settlement and earlier Remains at Friars Oak, Hassocks, West Sussex*, BAR British Series **295**

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Russell, M. 2021 'Excavations at Wolstonbury Late Bronze Age hilltop enclosure' *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **159**, 47-64.

¹⁰ Butler, C. 2000 *Saxon Settlement and earlier Remains at Friars Oak, Hassocks, West Sussex*, BAR British Series **295**

¹¹ Shields, G 1999 'The course of the London to Brighton Roman road south of Burgess Hill' *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **137**, 81-90

- 3.6** The Roman cemetery at Hassocks (MWS3204) was first discovered in the last decade of the 19th century when a sand pit was opened on the west side of the A273 London-Brighton Road¹², to the south of the Site. By 1949 the sandpit had extended to the south of Talbot Field recreation ground, and westwards beyond Crossways Lane, where the sand was extracted until the late 1950's. All of the burials appear to have been cremations and associated grave goods (predominantly pottery vessels) were found in an unsystematic way by the sandpit workers. The pottery vessels and other finds recovered from the cemetery have been fully reported on by Malcolm Lyne who established that the majority of the pottery vessels (60.1%) were from the period 150-270AD, with 32% from the period 43-150AD, and only 7.9% from post 270AD¹³.
- 3.7** Evidence for Roman settlement (MWS4415) in the form of wells and rubbish pits was found in the early 20th century to the south of Hurst Road, and the remains of a building was recorded in the garden of 29 Hurst Road¹⁴ (MWS7316 & MWS883). Small scale excavations to the west of Crossways Lane also located Roman rubbish pits. Excavations at Talbot Field in 1999 located the Greensand Way roadside ditch, which appeared to have been filled in and overlaid by Roman settlement activity including pits and post holes. A watching brief at Crossways Barn, to the east of the Site, in 1993¹⁵ found settlement evidence and overall, the evidence suggested the presence of a Roman settlement which may have existed into the 3rd century AD¹⁶. The settlement appears to have been situated along both sides of the Greensand Way. An excavation in the garden of 33 Hurst Road located the Greensand Way and finds of Roman pottery.
- 3.8** At 36 Hurst Road^{17 & 18} a large pit containing small quantities of Roman pottery was interpreted as a probable sand quarry. The pottery suggests the pit was infilled in the late 3rd into the 4th century. A ditch, which may be contemporary with the quarry, was also present. Until this discovery all the evidence for Roman settlement and activity had been found to the south of Hurst Road. This activity appears to be later than the main focus of Roman activity at Talbot Field and Crossways Barn.
- 3.9** A dozen Saxon urns (MWS892), several containing bones were also found during excavation of the sandpit c. 150m southeast of the Site. Occupation of the roadside settlement had ceased by this time and the Saxon settlement had shifted further north to Friars Oak, where sunken featured buildings and post hole buildings were found during archaeological monitoring at Friars Oak golf course¹⁹.

¹² Couchman, J.E. 1925 'A Roman cemetery at Hassocks', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **66**, 34-61

¹³ Lyne, M.A.B. 1994(2) 'The Hassocks Cemetery', *Sussex Archaeol Collect* **132**, 53-86

¹⁴ Couchman, J.E. 1925 'A Roman cemetery at Hassocks', *Sussex Archaeol Collect* **66**, 34-61

¹⁵ Wood, W. K. 1993 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Crossways, Ham Farm, Clayton, South Eastern*
Archaeological Services Project 1993/69

¹⁶ Butler, C. forthcoming *The Roman Settlement at Hassocks. BAR*

¹⁷ Butler, C. 2024. An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at 36 Hurst Road, Hassocks, West Sussex. Project No: CBAS 1493

¹⁸ Butler, Chris (2024) Archaeological Investigations at 36 Hurst Road, Hassocks, West Sussex (Chris Butler Archaeological Services) Project No. CBAS 1493

¹⁹ Butler, C. 2000 *Saxon Settlement and earlier Remains at Friars Oak, Hassocks, West Sussex*, BAR British

- 3.10** It has been suggested that the mound at Ham Farm is where the Saxon Hundred Courts were held in Buttinghill Hundred²⁰. When the adjacent farmyard was enlarged, in about 1856, part of the mound was cut away and revealed an urn and fragments of others, together with bones and the teeth of animals, however Couchman records that three or four holes excavated into it had shown it to be a natural mound²¹.
- 3.11** At Land at London Road multiple ditches that formed a large field system splitting into separate enclosures was recorded. Finds indicate the field system dates from the 12th-14th century. A small amount of medieval (MWS5199) and post-medieval (MWS5200) pottery was recovered during the monitoring works at Kings Garden Centre.
- 3.12** Yeakell and Gardner's map of Sussex, 1778-1783 (Fig. 7) shows the Site to be located in an open field to the west of Ham Farm. Hurst Road can be seen to the south of the Site, while more fields are shown to the west and north. The surrounding area of the Site is sparsely populated, although a settlement is shown at Hurstpierpoint to the northwest.
- 3.13** Ham Farm immediately to the east of the Site is recorded as a 19th century farmstead with extant buildings of this date (MWS11100).
- 3.14** The 1st Edition OS Map (1879; Fig. 8) shows the Site within a small field or enclosure to the west of Ham Farm. A pond is shown in the southwest corner of the Site, while the southern site boundary is lined with trees. The trees had been removed from the Site by the 2nd Edition OS Map (1899; Fig. 9) but no other changes are shown.
- 3.15** The 3rd Edition OS Map (1909; not reproduced) does not show any changes to the Site. The Site has the same appearance on the 1950 OS Map (Fig. 10). A possible house had been built on the plot to the west of the Site, and more houses are shown along Hurst Road. Several pits are shown in the area to the south of the Site, and the location of the Roman cemetery is labelled.

²⁰ VCH 1940

²¹ Couchman, J.E. 1925 'A Roman cemetery at Hassocks', *Sussex Archaeol Collect* **66**, 34-61

4.0 Methodology

- 4.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct²² and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs²³, Sussex County Council's Sussex Archaeological Standards²⁴; and the Treasure Act²⁵.
- 4.2 Two L-shaped trenches each measuring 2m wide and 7m x 7m in length were located as shown on Fig. 11. The trenches were located to target the footprint of the new house and the driveway. Both trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision, using a machine fitted with a flat-bladed bucket in accordance with the *Sussex Archaeological Standards*.
- 4.3 The ground sloped down towards the north from the road and the trench nearest the road was the first to be opened to a maximum depth of 550mm exposing the natural geology. Trench 2 was opened and subsequently extended due to the discovery of Romano-British feature. A simple stratigraphy of topsoil with some small area of subsoil/colluvium development (in Trench 2) above the geological natural was exposed.
- 4.4 The spoil was stored on site, adjacent to one side of each trench, and visually inspected on a frequent basis for the recovery of any artefacts of archaeological interest. A Garrett Ace 150 metal detector was used to scan the spoil, deposits and any features revealed.
- 4.5 All features and deposits were recorded in accordance with the *Sussex Archaeological Standards*. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not with reference to a Munsell Colour Chart.
- 4.6 The trenches were surveyed in by using an Emlid Reach GNSS receiver, which was also used to level in the trenches. The levels are recorded on the section drawings.
- 4.7 A full digital photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the Site archive, along with on-site paperwork and drawings. The archive is presently held by CBAS Ltd but will subsequently be deposited with a museum or other repository as agreed with the County Archaeologist. The West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) will be supplied with a CD containing the report in PDF/A format and a selection of site photographs. A site reference of HAS25 has been allocated.

²² Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2019. *Code of Conduct*.

²³ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.

²⁴ Chichester District Council, East Sussex County Council & West Sussex County Council 2019. *Sussex Archaeological Standards 2019*.

²⁵ UK Parliament 1996. *Treasure Act 1996*.

Type	Details	No. of pages
Paper archive (48 pages in total)	Context Register	1
	Context Record Sheet	12
	Trial Trench Register	1
	Trial Trench Record Form	2
	Photographic Index	1
	Drawing Index	1
	Levels Record Sheet	0
	Metal Detector Use Record	1
	Environmental Sample Sheet	1
	Drawings	1 sheet (A)

Table 1: Paper Archive.

5.0 Results

5.1 Trench 1



Plate 1: T1 Southern end



Plate 2: T1 S/E end

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was orientated east-west/north-south and measured 7m x 7m x 2m in size and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m.
- 5.1.2 There was well developed topsoil (Context **1/001**) that stayed consistent at 100mm at the west end of the trench becoming deeper at 200mm at the east end of the trench. The topsoil was a loose dark grey-brown sandy-silt loam with small to medium sized roots. A small assemblage of 19th to early 20th century material was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1.
- 5.1.3 Below Context **1/001** was a dirty, weathered, rooted natural (Context **1/002**). This was a mottled mid yellow and light grey sandy clay and was 80mm to 200mm in depth and produced no artefacts.
- 5.1.4 Below Context **1/002** and was the clean natural, Context **1/003**. This was the same firm mid yellow and light grey mottled sandy clay and was approximately 100mm to the limit of excavation (hereafter LOE). A few grey patches were noted, one of which could be directly attributed to the presence of a holly tree that had been removed immediately prior to the excavation of the trench.

5.2 Trench 2



Plate 3: T2 S/W end.



Plate 4: T2 N/E end showing extensions.

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 was orientated north-south/east-west and was 7m x 7m and 2m wide. It was extended to the north and east by approximately a 1.8m each way to try and establish an edge to the feature encountered at its northeastern corner.
- 5.2.2 There was a very well developed and thick topsoil (Context **2/001**) varying from 300mm in the eastern section of the trench to 600mm in depth in the northern section of the trench. The topsoil was a loose dark brown-grey sandy-silt loam, very heavily rooted with medium to very large tree roots.



Plate 5: Working shot. N/E Corner showing **2/002** in section & **2/004** under excavation.

- 5.2.3 Beneath Context **2/001** and across most of the trench was a dirty, weathered, and root-affected natural deposit, recorded as Context **2/003**. This consisted of a firm, mid-yellow and light grey mottled sandy clay, identical to Context **1/002**. It measured between 200mm and 400mm in depth and exhibited decreasing bioturbation towards the limit of excavation (LOE).
- 5.2.4 In the northeastern corner of the trench there was a change in the stratigraphy with a substantial subsoil (Context **2/002**). This subsoil may have been colluvial in nature or was possible the upper part of a large Romano-British pit as the only finds from this deposit came from immediately above the pit and there was a possible continuation of the cut for the pit cut further up in the section. although this wasn't very definite. The deposit was c.420mm in depth and produced sherds of mid-2nd to 3rd century Roman pottery.



Plate 6: Pit **2/004** – South facing section.



Plate 7: Close-up of pit deposits **2/005** to **2/009**.

- 5.2.5 The cut for the large pit (**2/004**) was c.2.45m in diameter and 0.85m deep from the machined surface with a concave base and moderate to steep sides and was filled by contexts **2/005** to **2/009**. The full extent of the feature was revealed once the trench had been extended, and the remainder of Context **2/002** had been removed.
- 5.2.6 The main upper fill of the pit was Context **2/005**, a dark grey sandy-silty clay. This deposit contained Romano-British pottery dating from the mid-2nd to 3rd century. Occasional fragments of charcoal were present throughout the layer, with one particularly concentrated deposit prompting the collection of a soil sample (<1>) from that deposit.
- 5.2.7 Beneath **2/005** lay Context **2/006**, a similar dark grey sandy-silty clay. However, this layer exhibited mottled orange-yellow patches not present in the deposit above and contained a lower density of pottery.
- 5.2.8 Beneath Context **2/006**, excavation revealed a firm, mid-grey deposit (**2/007**), which contained no inclusions other than two small flecks of charcoal. This was directly overlying a thin, firm to compact layer (**2/008**) characterised by a mid-mauve-pinkish grey hue. Context **2/008** formed a thin, crusty deposit that survived primarily around the edges of the pit. At the time of excavation, it was interpreted as a possible primary fill, likely resulting from fine soil particles gradually washing into the open pit.
- 5.2.9 Below this was a more substantial deposit (**2/009**), thought to represent the primary fill of the pit. It consisted of a soft to firm sandy-silt with a mixed composition of dark and light greys interspersed with dark yellow tones. The deposit was irregular and possibly indicated trampling activity or a variation in the natural substrate. No artefacts were recovered from this layer.
- 5.3 No other features or deposits were noted during the evaluation.

6.0 Finds

6.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

6.1.1 The archaeological work recovered 98 sherds of pottery, weighing 731g, from four individually numbered contexts. All of the pottery was collected by hand in the field – no material from environmental residues being present. The assemblage has been fully listed in Table 2 as part of the visible archive. Overall, the pottery consists of medium-sized sherds with no or limited signs of abrasion (though some affect from an acidic subsoil). As such the material does not appear to have been subjected to any significant reworking.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented by form. ? = undiagnostic of form)
1/001	Glazed red earthenware	LPM	1	54	Cream dish x1 (bulbous club rim, internal clear glaze).
1/001	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	4	19	Saucer x1 (Chinese design, pale/late).
2/002	R1b Grog tempered	RB	2	30	Jar x1 (reduced, thickened everted rim).
2/002	R1b Grog tempered	RB	1	16	Jar x1 (oxidised).
2/002	R1b Grog tempered	RB	2	21	Jar x1 (oxidised, simple in-sloped rim).
2/002	R1b Grog tempered	RB	9	36	?x6 (oxidised & reduced).
2/002	R5a Arun Valley oxidised medium type	RB	1	2	?x1 (oxidised) worn.
2/002	R7c Misc oxidised fine quartz	RB	1	3	?x1 (oxidised, worn).
2/002	R8g Misc reduced fine quartz	RB	5	12	?x3 (reduced) worn.
2/002	R11b ?Central Gaulish Samian	RB	1	1	?x1 (very worn).
2/002	R15a Wickham Barn white/pale grey	RB	1	14	Jar x1 (reduced, simple flaring rim).
2/002	R16c Fine quartz Wickham Barn?	RB	2	10	Jar x2 (reduced, squared everted rim).
2/005	R1b Grog tempered	RB	3	73	Colander x1 (foot-ring base, holes on base, oxidised/reduced).
2/005	R1b Grog tempered	RB	3	23	Jars x2 (oxidised & reduced, both simple everted rims).
2/005	R1b Grog tempered	RB	21	84	?x8 (oxidised & reduced).
2/005	R1c Grog tempered with common hard white/grey grog	RB	4	30	Jars x2 (oxidised/reduced, both simple tapering everted rims).
2/005	R5c Misc medium oxidised quartz	RB	3	10	?x3 (oxidised, worn).
2/005	R6a Wickham Barn medium quartz	RB	1	26	?x1 (reduced, hard fired).
2/005	R6k Misc reduced medium quartz	RB	6	26	?x6 (reduced, worn).
2/005	R7c Misc oxidised fine quartz	RB	1	45	?x1 (oxidised base).
2/005	R8a Wickham Barn -type fine	RB	2	9	?x2 (reduced).
2/005	R8g Misc reduced fine quartz	RB	2	16	?x2 (worn).
2/005	R10b Misc silty reduced	RB	5	19	Jar x1 (reduced, simple everted rim); ?x2 (reduced).

2/005	R15a Wickham Barn white/pale grey	RB	2	38	Jar x1 (reduced).
2/005	R16a Wiggonholt buff fine sandy	RB	1	1	?x1
2/005	R16b Oxfordshire whiteware	RB	1	41	Mortarium x1 (coarse quartz grits, flanged rim).
2/005	R16b Oxfordshire whiteware	RB	1	14	?x1 (worn)
2/005	R16c Fine quartz Wickham Barn?	RB	8	29	Bowl x1 (reduced, D-club rim).
2/006	R1b Grog tempered	RB	2	12	?x2 (oxidised/reduced)
2/006	R7c Misc oxidised fine quartz	RB	1	11	?x1
2/006	R15a Wickham Barn white/pale grey	RB	1	6	?x1

Table 2: Pottery assemblage (RB – Romano-British 43-410; LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

- 6.1.2 The vast majority of the assemblage is of Roman date and 15 different fabrics are represented. The majority of material has a local/Sussex source. The most common fabric type is grog tempered wares (R1b and R1c) which account for a combined total of 47 sherds (325g) from at least 24 different vessels. Most consist of jars with simple everted rims but context **2/005** also produced the foot-ring base of a colander. The assemblage also includes a range of more Romanised fine to medium quartz tempered fabrics, most of which are of uncertain local source. However, there are 17 sherds (132g) in what appear to be four Wickham Barn kiln fabrics of different grades (Butler and Lyne 2001). Where diagnostic sherds are present they derive from jars (x4), including one with a characteristically late flaring rim, and a bowl. There also appear to be single small sherds of Arun Valley greyware and Wiggonholt-type sandy ware hinting that some residual 1st to mid-2nd century material is within the group. Nonlocal wares are limited to a little Oxfordshire-type whiteware mortarium and a scrap of very worn samian, probably of Central Gaulish origin. Taken together the group suggests a mid-2nd to 3rd century deposition though with some earlier residual material. The assemblage is in keeping with wares noted in Hassocks previously (Lyne 1994; Biddulph 2010).
- 6.1.3 The remaining pottery is all of the late post-medieval period and was recovered from context **1/001**. The sherds, which are in fresh condition, suggest a 19th- century date but the assemblage is too small to draw conclusions from (Table 2).
- 6.1.4 The pottery assemblage is small, mixed and of types well known of in the area. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report at the present time. However, the material's potential ought to be reviewed in the light of any future pottery that may be recovered from the site if Stage 2 mitigation measures are undertaken. As such, although the late post-medieval material has been discarded, all of the Roman pottery should currently be retained.

6.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

6.2.1 Just four pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from the site. The assemblage is summarised in Table 3.

Context	Form	Period	Date	No	Weight (g)	Dimensions	Comments
1/001	Drain	LPM	Mid C19-mid 20th	1	175	20mm thick	Well formed & fired. Fine, rare iron oxides. Worn.
2/005	Burnt clay	?	?	4	12	n/a	Amorphous. Silty or fine quartz.

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material assemblage summary (LPM - Late Post-medieval – C18th – 19th)

6.2.2 The four small pieces of burnt clay from context **2/005** are almost certainly of Roman date, however, all are amorphous in form and there is no proof that they are pieces of daub. The other piece is from a drain of mid-19th to mid-20th century date, a piece very much in keeping with its associated pottery.

6.2.3 The ceramic building material assemblage is small and either undiagnostic or of late post-medieval date. As such the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. This material is not suitable for long-term curation in a museum and has therefore been discarded.

6.3 Prehistoric Flintwork by Chris Butler

6.3.1 A total of four pieces of struck flint weighing 75gms. were recovered from the evaluation excavation trenches. All the flint was from a South Downs source. The assessment comprised a visual inspection of the flint with the worked flint being sorted by type, noting the technological attributes and extent of any retouch/utilisation. Details were also noted regarding the range and variety of pieces, their general condition, and the potential for further detailed analysis. Terminology follows Butler²⁶.

6.3.2 The topsoil (Context **1/001**) produced a fragment from a large flake, missing its proximal end, and the distal end of a bladelet. A small notch and break on this piece, although unconnected, may suggest it has derived from microlith production.

²⁶ Butler, C. 2005 *Prehistoric Flintwork* Tempus Publishing Ltd

- 6.3.3 The upper fill of the Roman pit (Context **2/005**) produced a small flake or bladelet fragment and a crested blade.
- 6.3.4 All of the flintwork is likely to derive from Mesolithic activity at the site and is residual in later contexts. Large quantities of Mesolithic flintwork have been found at Hassocks in the past²⁷, with the Greensand ridge providing an environment which attracted hunter gatherer activity, so the discovery of residual flintwork during this evaluation is not unexpected.
- 6.3.5 No further work is recommended on the assemblage, although it should be retained for consideration alongside any flint recovered in any subsequent phase of mitigation. It is not considered significant enough for long term curation and is recommended for discard if no further mitigation is undertaken.

6.4 The Environmental Sample by Emily Walsh

- 6.4.1 One bulk sample was processed by machine floatation. The flot was collected in a 300um sieve and the residue collected in a 500um mesh. The flot was rapidly scanned under 10x-20x magnification. Classes of macrofossil were identified, and their abundance estimated to assess their palaeoenvironmental potential (Table 1). The residues were fractionated into <2mm, <4mm and >4mm classes and sorted by eye. Finds from the residues are detailed separately in this report. The flot was composed almost entirely of charcoal (weighing 133g), although a quantity of woody material possibly representing subfossil twigs/branches was present.
- 6.4.2 The charcoal was, in the main, very fragmented but a small quantity of larger pieces < 10mm diameter were present. No roundwood was noted. The abundance of charcoal suggests this is an *in situ* or primary deposit, but whether this deposition is a result of domestic or industrial activity cannot be determined. Further study of the assemblage could provide information regarding woodland resources and fuel selection, but the value of this information may be rather limited given the lack of context regarding the nature of the activity it is associated with.
- 6.4.3 A very limited cereal assemblage of just three grains was present. Two of these were badly degraded but the third was well preserved. No chaff was noted. Due to the small size of the cereal assemblage further study is not recommended.

Sample no.	Context	Charcoal	Cereal Grain
1	2/005	*****	*

Table 4: The Flot. Key: * very rare; ** rare; *** moderate; **** abundant; ***** very abundant.

²⁷ Butler, C. 1989 'An Early Mesolithic Site and later Flintwork from Hassocks, West Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **127**, 230-235

7.0 Discussion

- 7.1** The aims and objectives of this project have been successfully met by the work undertaken, and this report has provided a record of the results. Two L shaped evaluation trenches were opened over the footprint of the proposed new build and driveway. Trench 1 was quite shallow before reaching the natural, with no artefacts being recovered other than a few late Post medieval topsoil finds and no archaeological features.
- 7.2** Trench 2 had a similar shallow depth at its southern end, becoming deeper towards the north as the site quickly slopes downwards in this direction. The large pit at the northern end of the Trench was investigated and was found to contain a small quantity of Roman pottery providing a date range of the mid-2nd century into the 3rd century AD.
- 7.3** The results of this evaluation, along with the recent investigation at 36 Hurst Road, are helping to construct a clearer picture of Hassocks in the Romano-British period. Until now, all evidence for Roman settlement had been found to the south of Hurst Road. The pottery recovered from 34 Hurst Road appears to be broadly contemporary with finds from Talbot Field and Crossways Farm, and earlier than the features and pottery recorded at 36 Hurst Road.
- 7.4** It is not clear exactly what the Roman activity to the north of Hurst Road is. The quarry pit from 36 Hurst Road and this pit, presumably a rubbish pit, at 34 Hurst Road hint at either domestic or industrial activity taking place here. Based on previous discoveries this activity is likely located on the outskirts of the Roman settlement at Hassocks, although this will only become clear with further archaeological investigation.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1** The methodology for the build involves concrete strip footings prior to construction of the modular house. These footings will most likely impact on any surviving archaeology in the northern part of the build.
- 8.2** It is noted that any further archaeological mitigation work required on Site is to be decided by the Historic Environmental Consultant to Mid Sussex District Council. However, it is recommended that any intrusive groundworks are monitored by a watching brief during excavation.
- 8.3** It is also recommended that the artefacts together with the flots from the soil sample is retained and considered for further analysis if further archaeology is found during the watching brief.

9.0 Acknowledgments

- 9.1** We would like to thank John Bullivant for commissioning CBAS Ltd to undertake the evaluation. FNR provided the machine and operator.
- 9.2** Thanks are extended to Luke Barber, Emily Walsh and Chris Butler for the specialist reports, and to Kirstie Riley for producing the illustrations.

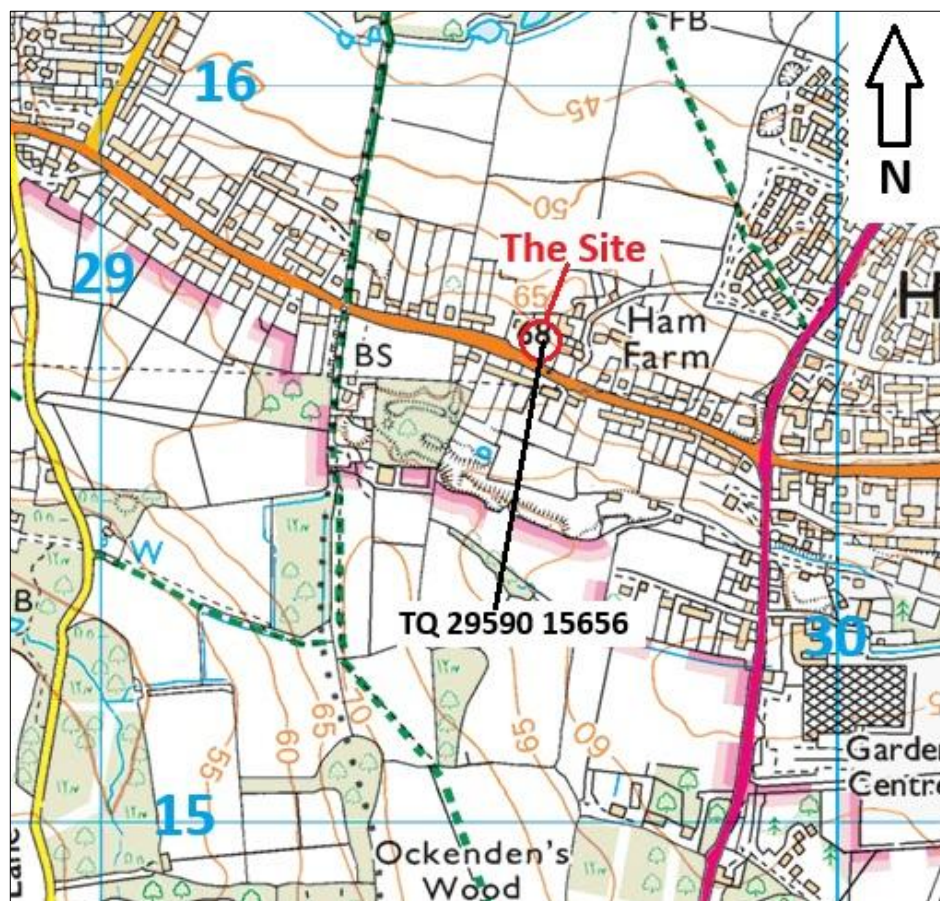


Fig. 1: Site location

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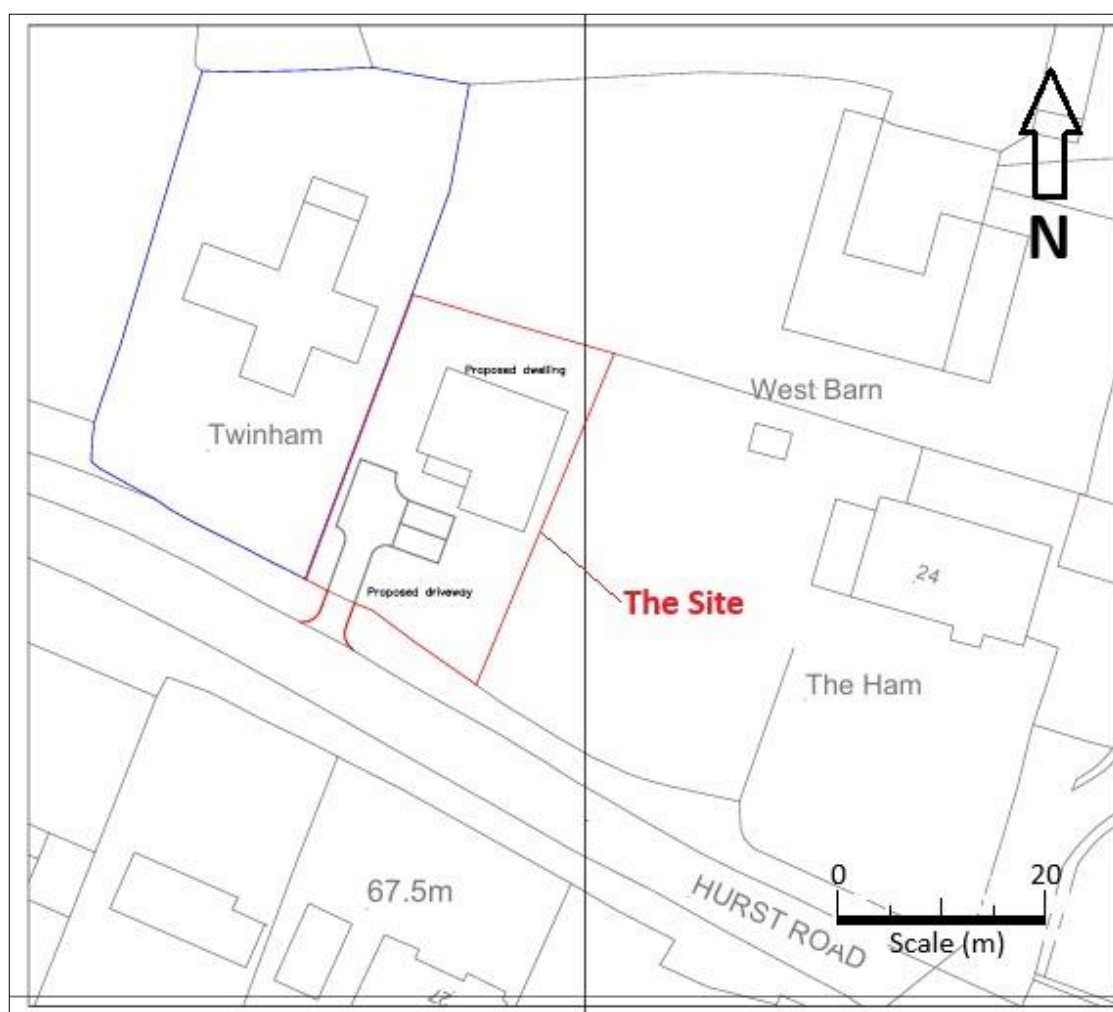


Fig. 2: Site location plan
Adapted from architect's plan

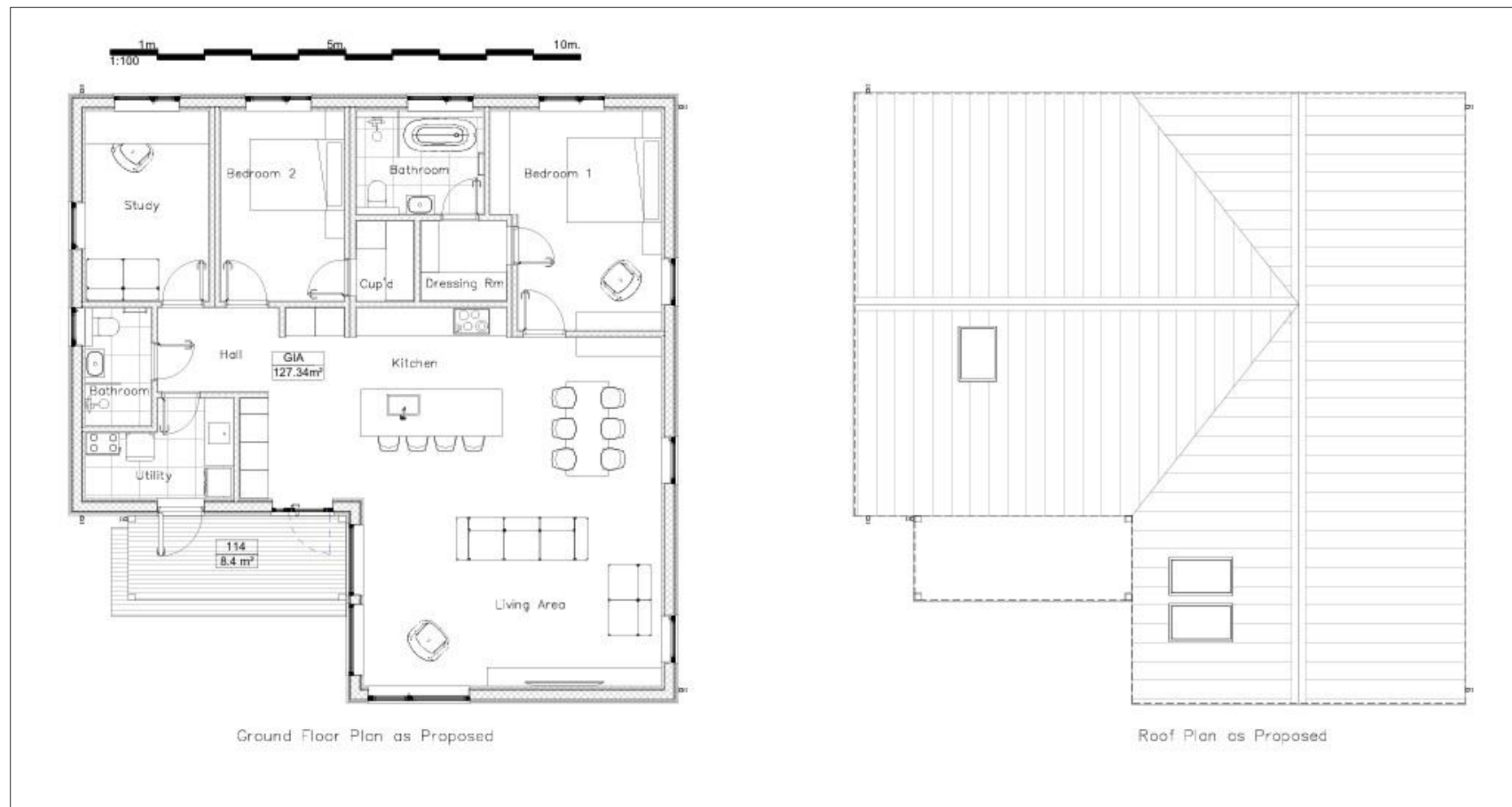


Fig. 3: Proposed Ground Floor and Roof plans
Adapted from architect's plan

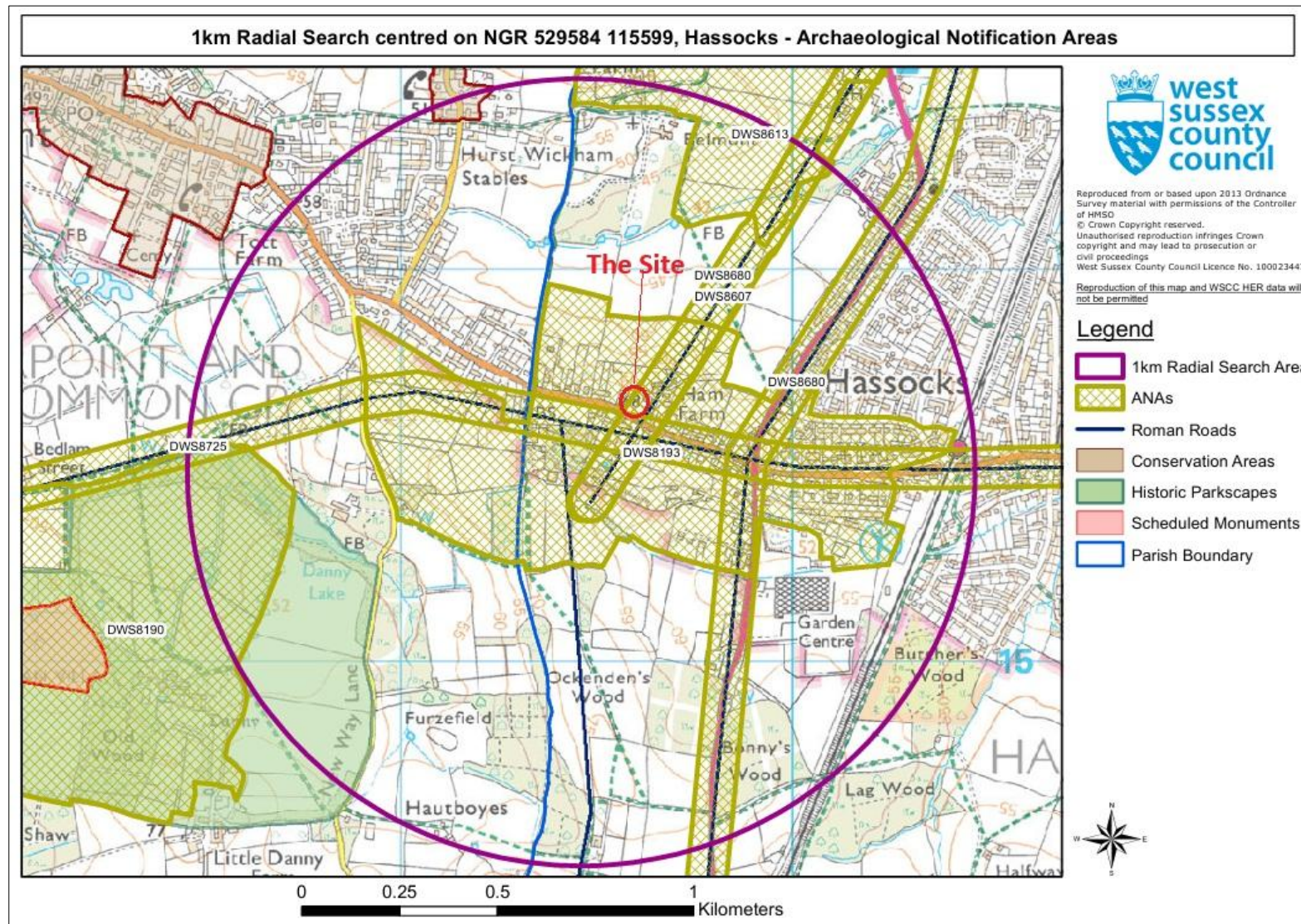


Fig. 4:
Archaeological
Notification Areas.
Adapted from a map
provided by WSCC.
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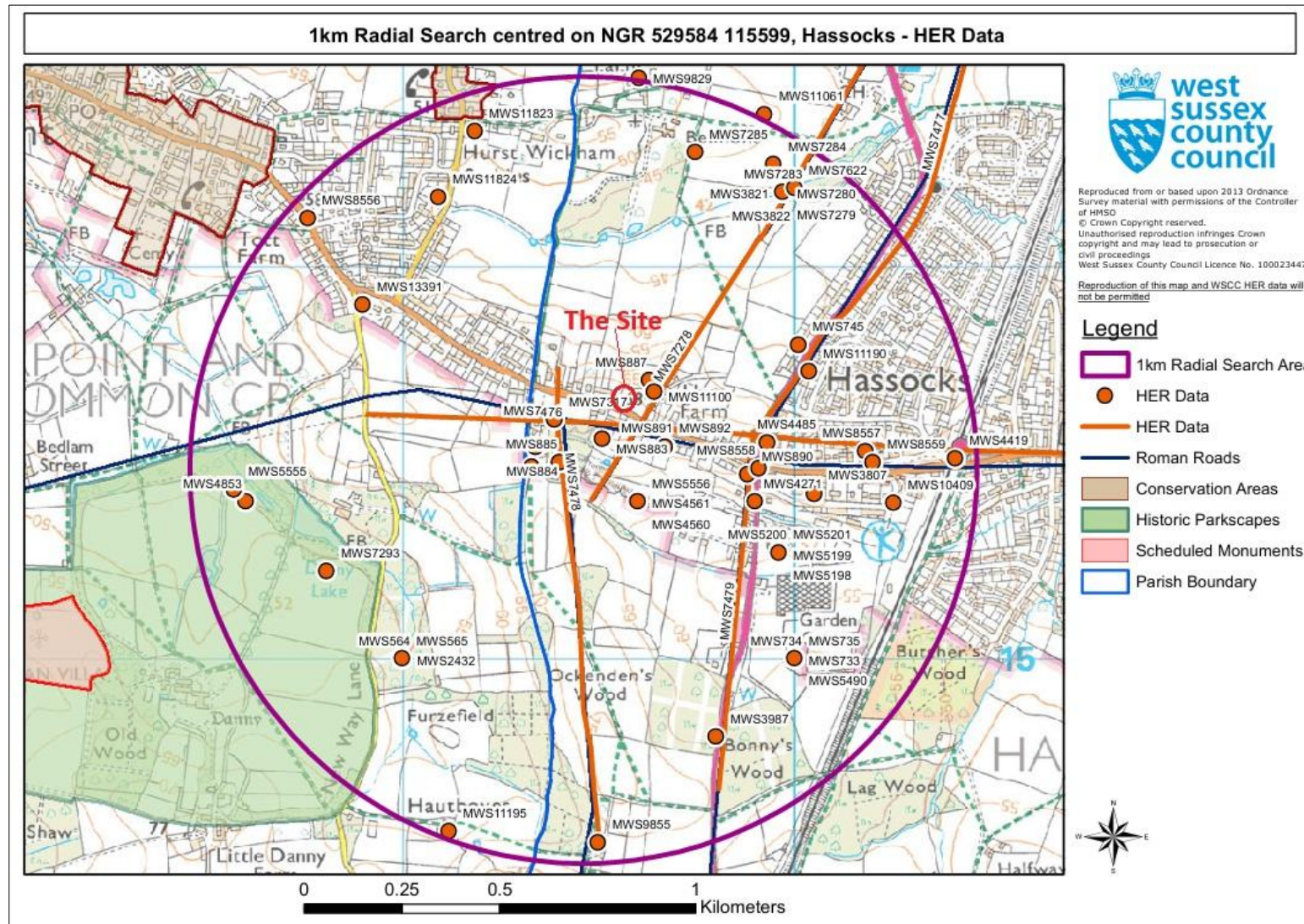


Fig. 5: Historic Environment Record.
Adapted from a map provided by WSCC.
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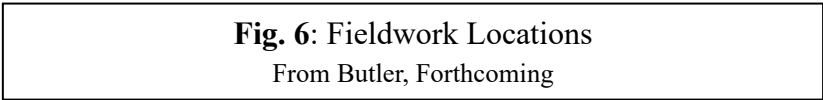




Fig. 7: Yeakell and Gardner's Sussex 1778-1783



Fig. 8: 1st Edition OS Map (1879)

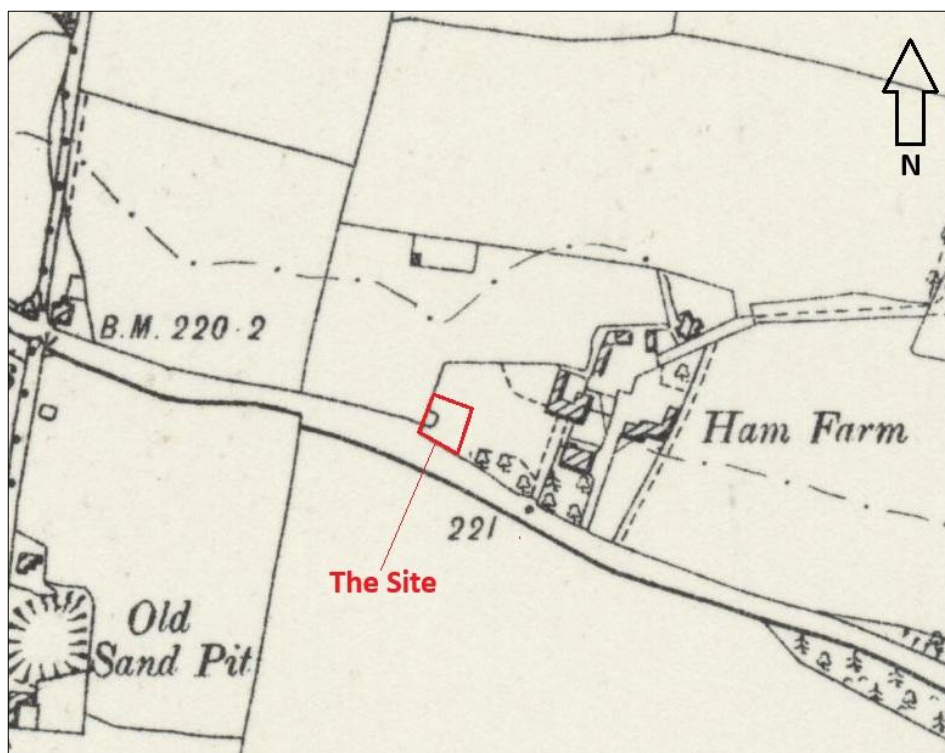


Fig. 9: 2nd Edition OS Map (1899)



Fig. 10: 1950 OS Map

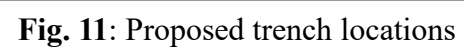


Fig. 11: Proposed trench locations

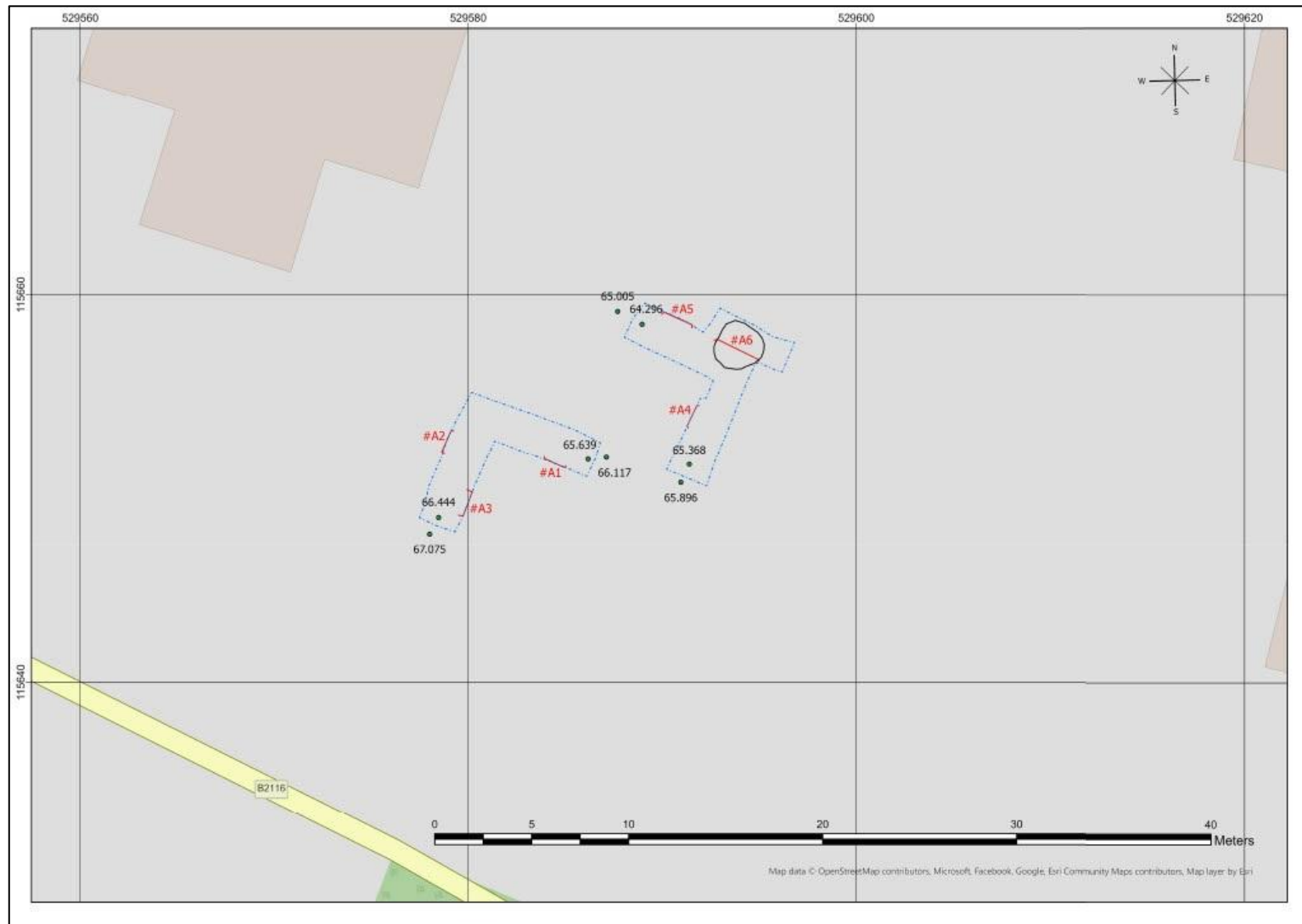


Fig 12: Trench locations & feature.

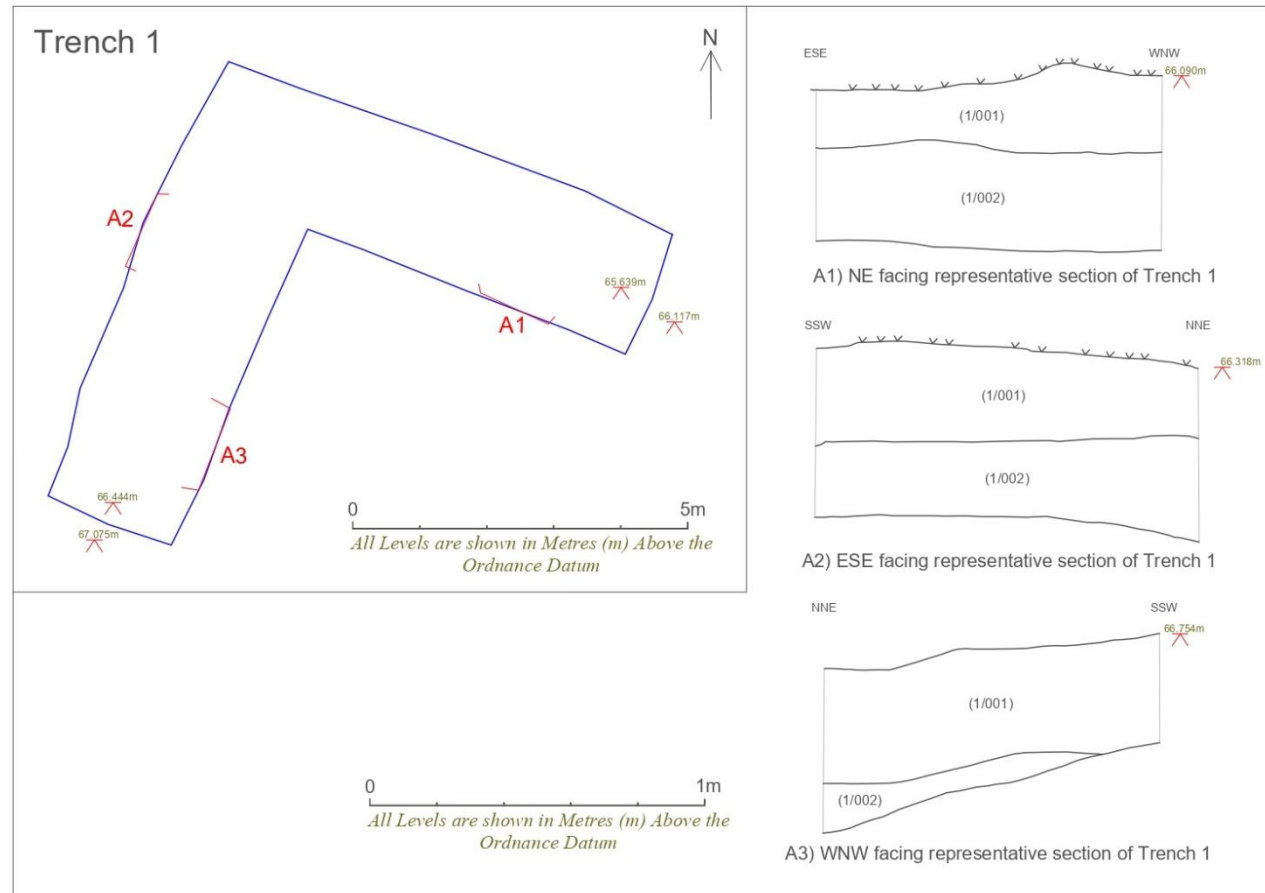


Fig 13: Trench 1 plan & sections

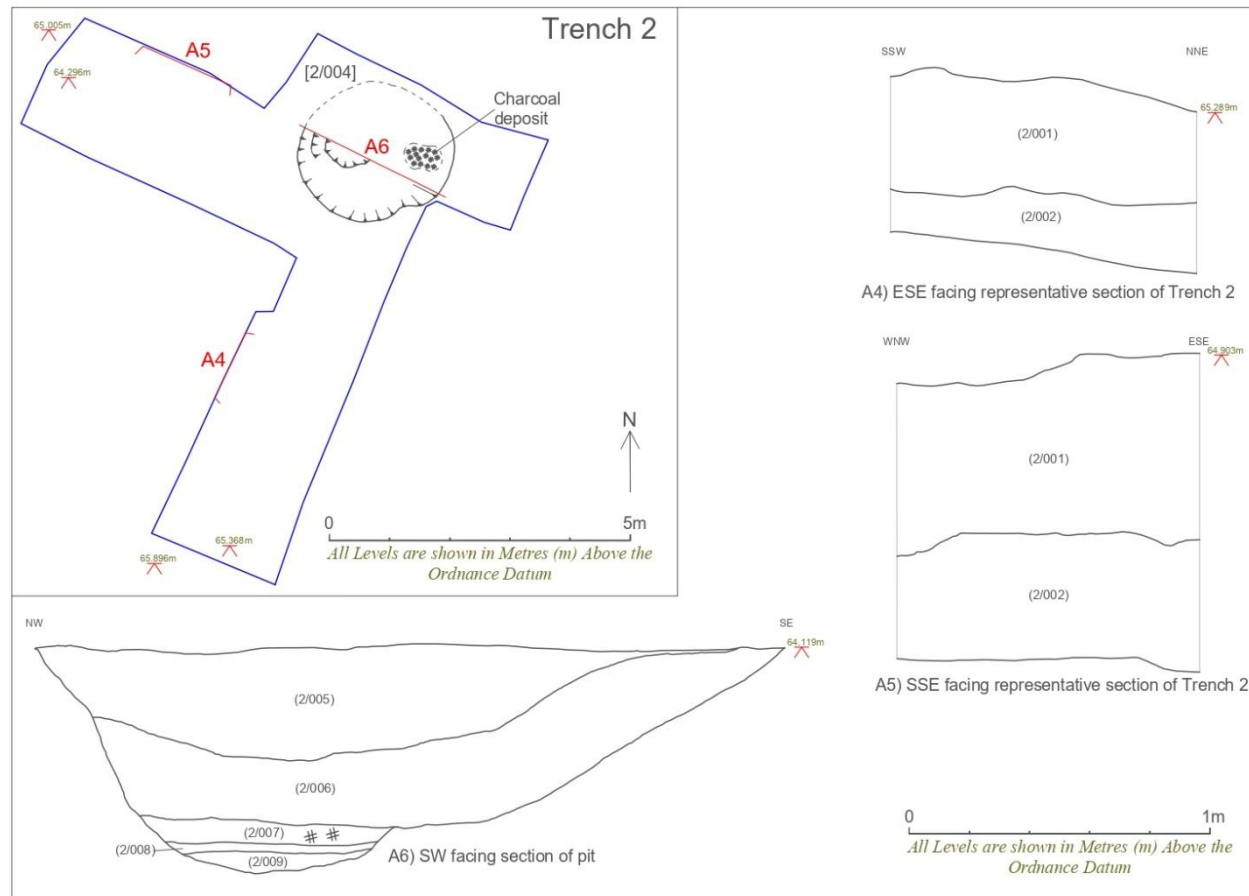


Fig 14: Trench 2 plan & sections

Appendix 1

CBAS Ltd HER Summary Report Form

HER enquiry number	N/A					
Site code	HAS25					
Project code	CBAS1600					
Planning reference	DM/25/0310					
Site address	34 Hurst Rd, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 9NL.					
District/Borough	Mid Sussex District Council					
NGR (12 figures)	TQ 29590 15656					
Geology	Sandstone of the Folkestone Formation.					
Fieldwork type	Eval X	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	9 th to 12 th June 2025					
Sponsor/client	John Bullivant					
Project manager	Stewart Angell					
Project supervisor	David Atkin					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman X	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other:	
Project summary (100 word max)	Two 'L' shaped evaluation trenches were opened on the footprint of the proposed development. The trenches measured approximately 7m x 7m x 2m wide and up to 0.5m in depth (Trench 1), 7m x 7m x 2m wide and up to 0.45m in depth (Trench 2). Only one notable feature of archaeological interest was recorded, a Romano-British pit in Trench 2 containing a moderate assemblage of mid 2 nd to 3 rd century pottery. The subsoil immediately above the pit was the only area to also produce Romano-British pottery possible suggesting that the pit may have survived higher up into the section/subsoil.					
Museum/Accession No.	TBC					

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

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

Chris is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork*, *East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

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

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