



**Chris Butler MifA  
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
Grove Farm, Robertsbridge,  
East Sussex**

Project No: CBAS0531  
Site Code: GFR.14

by  
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### ***Summary***

*An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out at Grove Farm, Robertsbridge, East Sussex in advance of a planning application being submitted for a housing development. The excavation revealed evidence for occupation along the side of George Hill road dating from the medieval period through to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. House terraces can be seen on the ground, and excavation revealed boundary ditches and possible remains of a stone wall. Elsewhere on the site other ditches of possible medieval and post medieval date were found, together with 19<sup>th</sup> century. Historical evidence has confirmed that five houses were demolished on this site in around 1700, and may have originated as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The excavation found evidence for the house platforms going out of use in 1670-1690.*

*Any proposal to build on this site would require the prior excavation and recording of the house platforms which are of significant archaeological interest and local importance.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned by Mr Mark Bentley of Croudace Homes Ltd (The Client) to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation on land at Grove Farm, George Hill, Robertsbridge, East Sussex, in order to establish the likely presence or absence, and importance of any archaeological remains, in connection with a planning application for a proposed residential development.
- 1.2 The site is located on the east side of George Hill in Robertsbridge, west of the A21 (Fig. 1). Centred on TQ 73848 23388, the site is just under 0.36 hectares in size and is located between 35m and 40m aOD. The site is on the eastern slope of the Rother Valley. To the north, it slopes gently downhill towards Robertsbridge whilst its southern end falls steeply away to George Hill.
- 1.3 The site borders the Archaeological Notification area (ANA) of Robertsbridge to the north, and there are four other ANAs in the surrounding 1km<sup>2</sup> area. The site falls within Historic Urban Character Area 5 (George Hill), which has a Historic Environment Value of 2 (the highest value is 5).<sup>1</sup>
- 1.4 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey, comprises Ashdown Formation. This interbedded sandstone and siltstone was formed approximately 134 to 146 million years ago in the Cretaceous period<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.5 The appropriate programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a brief prepared by East Sussex County Council (ESCC), comprised an archaeological evaluation excavation. The purpose of the evaluation excavation was to assess the impact of the foundations and other groundworks on the potential below-ground archaeology. This evaluation was commissioned prior to a planning application being made, and is the second phase of evaluation at the site. The first phase comprised a geophysical survey<sup>3</sup>.
- 1.6 The evaluation excavation was carried out between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 by Rachel Cruse (Field Officer) and David Atkin (Assistant Field Officer), assisted by Paul Humm.

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<sup>1</sup> Harris, R.B. 2009 *Robertsbridge: Historic Character Assessment Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey

<sup>2</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 22/12/2014

<sup>3</sup> Klemenic, S. 2014 *Report on an Archaeological Geophysical Survey at Grove Farm Robertsbridge, East Sussex* CBAS0531

## 2.0 Archaeological & Historical background<sup>4</sup> (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 2.1 The site lies within the Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) of Salehurst and Robertsbridge, and there are four other ANAs within the HER search radius of 1km. There are 16 archaeological events recorded in the area, 87 results from the HER, and 52 Listed Buildings.
- 2.2 There have been no discoveries of Palaeolithic artefacts in the immediate area of Robertsbridge, and there are only a handful of artefacts known to have a provenance in the Weald<sup>5</sup>. Such discoveries are normally linked to specific geological conditions, such as tertiary deposits and gravels, isolated deposits of which can be found in this area.
- 2.3 There is no evidence for Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of the site. Neolithic activity in the area is evidenced by the discovery of a polished flint axe (MES2302) found at Robertsbridge (Neolithic - 4000 BC to 2351 BC).
- 2.4 Later prehistoric activity is also absent in the vicinity of the site. There is a possible Romano British settlement in the area (MES2377).
- 2.5 Salehurst: Saxon village (MES19253) known as 'Salhert' (sealh hyrst translates as Willow wood from the old English) 1086 Domesday Book: Count of Eu, half hide church, meadow 16 acres.
- 2.6 Robertsbridge is an early medieval town (MES2376). The name Robertsbridge simply means the 'bridge of Robert', apparently taking its name from Robert de St Martin, founder of Robertsbridge Abbey (MES2378), although Alured de St Martin (sheriff of the Rape of Hastings and steward to Richard I) is more commonly identified as the founder. The name in its Latinized form is recorded from c.1176. A Royal Charter was granted by Richard I in 1198, to what was then known as Rotherbridge.
- 2.7 The former site of Robertsbridge Abbey (MES2378) lies 1.4km east of the town. It has long been accepted that the location of the abbey when founded in c.1176 was in the centre of what became Robertsbridge, and it has been suggested that that location is now the site of the George Hotel (MES2385), and that it moved to its present site in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The abbey was dissolved in 1538 when only eight monks remained.

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<sup>4</sup> Klemenic, S. 2014. *Written Scheme of investigation for an Evaluation at Grove Farm Robertsbridge, East Sussex*.

<sup>5</sup> Pope, M. 2003 'The Earliest Occupation of Sussex: Recent Research and Future Objectives', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 17-28, Fig. 2.8.

- 2.8** The medieval town of Robertsbridge was a stopping and resting place for travellers from Hastings to London. The large numbers of late 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century Wealden hall houses in the town (e.g. MES2388, 2390, 2393, 2394, 2398 & 2402), particularly clustered around The High Street, show a period of wealth and expansion, possibly due to the weekly market that was granted the village by Henry III in the 13<sup>th</sup> century<sup>6</sup>.
- 2.9** The importance of Robertsbridge in the later medieval period may have brought about the decline of the nearby market at Salehurst, which had declined by 1349<sup>7</sup>. Fieldwork undertaken in advance of the construction of the Robertsbridge by-pass revealed a concentration of 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a ditch that may represent the rear boundary of a messuage or house plot (MES7201).
- 2.10** Grove Farm was created in the early to mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, which involved demolition of five houses. The farm is not visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (Fig. 4), however by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Fig. 5) a building is visible in the location of the building platform identified in a geophysical survey of the area<sup>8</sup>. There is little change from the 1930 OS map (Fig. 6) to the current OS map.
- 2.11** Grove Farm has a four-bay timber-framed and weather-boarded barn of c.1700, with a wagon-door opening on to the northern side of the threshing bay<sup>9</sup>. There is an 18<sup>th</sup> century cart shed attached to the rear of the barn. The site at Grove Farm has been identified as an important medieval tenement by David Martin's research<sup>10</sup>.
- 2.12** Robertsbridge Brick & Tile Works (MES2395) opened in the early 1870s and closed in 1915. The works comprised a double Scotch kiln and a typical long thin shed. It was owned by the Robertsbridge Brick Company Ltd and managed by J Pankhurst in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.13** The geophysical survey<sup>11</sup> revealed two linear features in the north field, and a single linear feature in the northern portion of the south field (Fig. 7). Although these are probably archaeological features, it is not possible to determine their function or date from the geophysical survey. In addition to these features, a possible building platform was noted in the south field, indicating that some evidence of this building should be found.

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<sup>6</sup> Harris, R.B. 2009 *Robertsbridge: Historic Character Assessment Report*, Sussex EUS

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Klemenic, S. 2014 *Report on an Archaeological Geophysical Survey at Grove Farm Robertsbridge, East Sussex* CBAS0531

<sup>9</sup> Martin, D., 20, *Barn at Grove Farm, Robertsbridge* (unpublished Rape of Hastings Architectural Survey report 0074, 1972).

<sup>10</sup> Greg Chuter pers. com.

<sup>11</sup> Klemenic, S. 2014 *Report on an Archaeological Geophysical Survey at Grove Farm Robertsbridge, East Sussex* CBAS0531

### **3.0 Archaeological Methodology**

- 3.1** The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with ESCC's *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation in East Sussex* (Recommended Standards) (April 2008) and *CifA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluation* (December 2014).
- 3.2** The evaluation excavation involved the excavation of thirteen evaluation trenches. These thirteen evaluation trenches were opened across the site in their pre-determined locations, chosen by the geophysics results (Fig. 8). The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) proposed that all trenches should be 20m long by 1.8m wide. However, due to the machine bucket being 1.5m wide and the very wet ground conditions, all trenches were excavated to a width of 1.5m. The length of 20m was retained.
- 3.3** The trenches were placed to avoid a large water or sewer pipe that ran across the site. Each trench was thoroughly CAT scanned prior to excavation to ensure no other service would be encountered.
- 3.4** The machine employed for the excavations was a 8 tonne 360° excavator on rubber tracks. It was fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless bucket for excavation of the trenches. All spoil was piled next to each trench for backfilling. During excavation, the spoil was visually searched for finds on a frequent basis, and a Garrett ACE150 metal detector was used throughout.
- 3.5** The site was surveyed with a TopCon total station, with the OS level transferred from a Bench Mark (BM) opposite the site in George Hill (36.237m OD) to a temporary bench mark on the site (30.827m OD). This was used for all levels recorded during the evaluation excavation (see Appendix 2).
- 3.6** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not with reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.7** A full digital photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd. A site reference of CBAS0531 was allocated.



## 4.0 Results

- 4.0.1 Although the weather conditions were fine during the evaluation excavation, the ground conditions were not. The natural ground water level on site is very high, making the site very wet and difficult to work on. Therefore, Casper Johnson, the County Archaeologist, made the decision that only basic excavation and recording should be carried out at site to confirm the presence of archaeological features. This would prevent any fine archaeological details from being lost and enable a more thorough investigation of the archaeological deposits at a later date when better ground conditions prevail.
- 4.0.2 Each trench containing archaeological remains is discussed separately below, with the generic topsoil, subsoil and natural descriptions being recorded prior to the trench results. Each trench sub-heading will contain a table of context numbers relevant to that trench. However, the four blank trenches (Trenches 2 to 4 and Trench 12) will not be discussed as they are covered by the generic soil horizon descriptions below.
- 4.0.2 The topsoil (Context /001) covers the entire site. It is a soft dark grey-brown clayey silt, loose in compaction. There are less than 1% inclusions across the site, comprising small to moderate angular flint pebbles and roots. The rarity of inclusions suggests that the land was grazed and has remained un-ploughed for a long period of time.
- 4.0.3 The subsoil (Context /002) across the site varies in thickness and was missing altogether in a few locations. Context /002 is a mid yellowish grey-brown clayey silt, loose in compaction. There is a sparse to moderate, up to 21% distribution of sandstone pebbles. The horizons between the subsoil and both the overlying topsoil and underlying natural are very diffuse. A high degree of bioturbation may explain why the subsoil is difficult to identify in some areas.
- 4.0.4 The natural (Context /003) across the site is a firm mid yellow and light grey clay with sparse (1%) deposits of small to large sandstone pieces (20mm-500mm).

#### 4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 10 and Plates 1 - 5)

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was aligned north-south parallel to the road. Trench 6 is located at its northern end with Trenches 2 - 4 to the east (Fig. 5, Plate 1). The archaeological deposits start at an approximate depth of 500mm. Table 1 contains a summary of all the contexts within this trench.
- 4.1.2 A boundary ditch (Context **1/008**) was exposed approximately 2.2m from the south end of Trench 1. This linear is orientated east-west and measured 1.20m wide x 300mm deep. The sides are moderately sloped with a gently concave base (Fig 10). A full profile was not achieved in the excavation due to the angle at which the excavated section was placed across the ditch to obtain its relationship with ditch **1/005**. No obvious recuts to the ditch suggest that it was maintained whilst in use and that there was no reason to reinstate it once it fell out of use.
- 4.1.3 The sole fill of the ditch is context **1/007**, which is a dark grey clayey silt of medium compaction. It has a medium to low distribution of inclusions, including 1% charcoal, pottery and CBM. The pottery in **1/007** indicates that this is a 17<sup>th</sup> century feature.
- 4.1.4 Ditch **1/005** cuts the east-west aligned ditch of **1/008**. This ditch measures an excavated width of 1m by 400mm deep. It has moderate to gentle sloping sides with a very slightly concave base. This feature has two fill deposits, contexts **1/009** and **1/010**.
- 4.1.5 **1/009** is a firm mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 300mm thick, containing less than 1% charcoal inclusions. This deposit seems to be a secondary fill. There is a moderately diffuse horizon between it and **1/010**. Context **1/010** is a firm mid grey-yellow silty clay, 100mm thick, with less than 1% charcoal inclusions. This deposit is interpreted as the primary fill of the ditch, derived from erosion of the sides of the cut.
- 4.1.6 In the centre of the trench, running along its eastern edge, are the possible remains of a wall. **1/011** is the foundation cut, measuring 6.6m long x 0.60m wide x 20mm - 30mm deep. The cut has a sharp break of slope at the top, with straight sides and a flat base. Within the fill of the cut, **1/012**, are worked blocks of sandstone within a soft mid grey, clayey silt backfill. There was pottery and CBM within this backfill, the dating of which suggests a 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date. The worked blocks of stone did not appear to have any mortar remnants.

- 4.1.7 The trench runs down slope with its lowest level at the north end. At this location, the trench flooded with ground water which could not be cleared. Just south of this flooding is the linear feature of Context **1/004**. This is an east-west aligned linear, measuring 1.15m wide x 350mm deep. It has moderately sloping sides and a reasonably flat base, and contains two fills, contexts **1/013** and **1/006**.
- 4.1.8 **1/006** is a medium compacted, mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 300mm thick with pottery of mixed 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date. It is the primary fill of ditch **1/004** and has a very diffuse horizon with the upper fill **1/013**. **1/013** is a mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 100mm thick and of medium compaction. It is likely that this deposit was washed in by the water running down slope.
- 4.1.9 Trench 1 contains evidence of medieval and early Post medieval occupation of the site. Ditches **1/004** and **1/008** run parallel to each other, possibly indicating plot boundaries. This interpretation is supported by the presence of wall **1/011** between the two. Inspection of the landscape suggests that there are at least three house platforms parallel to George Hill, and the archaeological features discovered correspond to these landscape features.

Trench 1: Summary of contexts in Trench 1

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Relationship</b>
<b>1/001</b>	Layer	Topsoil
<b>1/002</b>	Layer	Subsoil
<b>1/003</b>	Layer	Natural
<b>1/004</b>	Cut	Ditch Cut
<b>1/005</b>	Cut	Ditch Cut
<b>1/006</b>	Fill	Primary Fill of <b>1/004</b>
<b>1/007</b>	Fill	Fill of <b>1/005</b>
<b>1/008</b>	Cut	Ditch Cut
<b>1/009</b>	Fill	Secondary Fill of <b>1/008</b>
<b>1/010</b>	Fill	Primary Fill of <b>1/008</b>
<b>1/011</b>	Linear	Possible wall cut
<b>1/012</b>	Fill	Fill of <b>1/011</b>
<b>1/013</b>	Fill	Upper Fill of <b>1/004</b>



**Plate 1: South facing photograph of Trench 1**



**Plate 2: Southeast facing photo of 1/005 and 1/008**



**Plate 3: East facing section of ditch 1/004**



**Plate 4: Northeast facing photograph of wall 1/011**

**Plate 5: South facing photograph of wall  
1/011**



#### 4.2 Trench 2 (Plate 6)

4.2.1 Trench 2 was orientated northwest-southeast and located at the highest point of the site, close to two estate cottages. There were no archaeological remains discovered in this trench. Table 2 below lists all the contexts recorded in Trench 2.

Table 2: Summary of contexts in Trench 2

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	400mm
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	130mm
1/003	Layer	Natural	100mm



**Plate 6: West facing  
photograph of Trench 2**

### 4.3 Trench 3 (Plate 7)

4.3.1 Trench 3 was broadly orientated east-west and was located in the east side of the site, running down slope. There were no archaeological remains discovered in this trench. Table 3 below lists all the contexts recorded in Trench 3.

Table 3: Summary of contexts in Trench 3

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	800mm
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	150mm
3/003	Layer	Natural	110mm



Plate 7: West facing photograph of Trench 3

#### 4.4 Trench 4 (Plate 8)

4.4.1 Trench 4 was orientated north-south and located in the east side of the site, running across a possible house platform. Although the area had been built up, there were no archaeological remains discovered in this trench. Table 4 below lists all the contexts recorded in Trench 4.

Table 4: Summary of contexts in Trench 4

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	300mm
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	190mm
4/003	Layer	Natural	100mm



Plate 8: South facing photograph of Trench 4

#### 4.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 11 and Plates 9 & 10)

- 4.5.1 Trench 5 was orientated east-west and located within the east edge of the site. Table 5 below lists all the contexts recorded in Trench 5 and Figure 11 depicts the trench.
- 4.5.2 A layer of dumped material (Context 5/007) was recorded at the eastern end of Trench 5, between the subsoil and natural. It included building demolition and lots of glass bottles, which have been dated to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This deposit may have been dumped to help drain the land surrounding the small open-sided barn / field shelter standing in this corner of the field. It has also helped to level the ground slightly.
- 4.5.3 Two brick culverts cut diagonally across the trench. 5/008 is narrow in width, being only two bricks wide, and looks to be more like a field drain. The more substantial of the two is a 19<sup>th</sup> century brick culvert, which was constructed in a large trench (Context 5/004) (Plate 10). The red bricks of this culvert were laid with lime mortar in a stretcher bond to form a flat base, vertical sides and a slightly domed roof. Upon construction of the culvert, the trench was backfilled with a firm gritty dark grey-yellow clay (Context 5/005), with 40% sandstone pebble inclusions and 2% CBM, slate and glass inclusions. The width ranges from 4.5m to 110mm exposed in the trench section.
- 4.5.4 The culvert appears to run from an area where water collects just to the east, uphill. The end of the culvert was identified in Trench 5 and is capped by a large sandstone bolder. This culvert was not maintained and allowed to silt up.

Table 5: Summary of contexts in Trench 5

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	800mm
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	150mm
5/003	Layer	Natural	110mm
5/004	Cut	Cut of Culvert	
5/005	Deposit	Backfill of 5/004	
5/006	Masonry	Brick Culvert	
5/007	Layer	Material Dump	
5/008	Deposit	Land Drain	





**Plate 9: West facing photograph of Trench 5**



**Plate 10: Brick culvert 5/004**

#### 4.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 11 and Plates 11 & 12)

4.6.1 Trench 6 was orientated east-west and located between Trench 1 and Trenches 7 and 8. It sloped towards the road. The east end of the trench contained no archaeological remains although it was just below the terraced slope thought to be a house platform. The western end of the trench revealed possible archaeological features; however these were not investigated due to the west end of the trench being flooded by a very high water table. Table 6 lists the contexts that were able to be recorded in Trench 6.

Table 6: Summary of contexts in Trench 6

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	220mm
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	240mm
6/003	Layer	Natural	120mm
6/004	Cut	Possible ditch cut	Not Investigated



Plate 11: East facing photograph of Trench 6



Plate 12: West facing photograph of Trench 6

#### 4.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 11 & Plates 13 & 14)

4.7.1 Trench 7 was located between Trench 6, the hedgerow and with the road to its west. Due to space constraints, the trench had to be angled northeast - southwest instead of parallel to the road.

4.7.2 This trench contained two tree throws at its south western end. Context 7/004 was excavated to confirm this. 7/004 had irregular sides and base, and its fill was a medium to firm red-brown blue-grey silty, clayey sand. The only inclusions were several pieces of pottery of mixed medieval date (c.1175-1550) and some charcoal flecks in small patches. These latter finds may date when this tree fell.

Table 7: Summary of contexts in Trench 7

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	220mm
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	340mm
7/003	Layer	Natural	6mm
7/004	Cut	Tree Throw	Max depth excavated 30mm



Plate 13: North-East facing photograph of Trench 7



Plate 14 South-West facing photograph of Trench 7

#### 4.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 11 & Plate 15)

4.8.1 Trench 8 was orientated north-south and located just to the east of Trench 7 and to the west of Trench 5. A linear feature was exposed at its southern end.

4.8.2 Context 8/004 is a 1m wide x 230mm deep linear feature orientated northeast-southwest. The sides and base are irregular and diffuse due to rooting and bioturbation, which may suggest that this feature was once a hedgerow. Context 8/005 fills 8/004, and is a soft to firm mid grey clayey silt with less than 1% small CBM inclusions. It is a mixed deposit possibly due to removal of the hedgerow. This field boundary is on a slightly different alignment to those which survive in the field today, possibly indicating the presence of an earlier field system, although no artefacts were recovered to be able to date this feature.

Table 8: Summary of contexts in Trench 8

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	150mm
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	180mm
8/003	Layer	Natural	200mm
8/004	Cut	Hedgerow	230mm
8/005	Fill	Back fill	230mm



Plate 15: North facing photograph of Trench 8

#### **4.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 12 and Plates 16 - 18)**

- 4.9.1 Trench 9 is located south of the house in the northwest corner of the field, east of the road and west of Trench 11. Due to space constraints, the trench was orientated northwest-southeast with the machine having to excavate upslope. This led to Feature **9/008** being partially truncated, although the historical terracing survived.
- 4.9.2 This trench had a topsoil different to the rest of the site, which appears to be more modern. **9/001** is a medium compacted, dark brown clayey silt, up to 340mm thick, with 1% CBM distribution. A lens of demolition debris was mixed into its base, at the northwest end of the trench.
- 4.9.3 Context **9/002** is a soft to firm, mid grey brown clayey silt, 340mm thick, which contains no inclusions. This layer is possibly an old topsoil or alluvial deposit.
- 4.9.5 The most noticeable feature in Trench 9 was the terracing. This would suggest that there was once domestic occupation of the site. The 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century dating of the features hints at occupation at this date.
- 4.9.6 There are four other features within Trench 9. One pit was excavated through the terraced slope but was unsafe to excavate due to the wet nature of the site. Pit **9/008** (Plate 18) also cut through the terraced slope but it was easier to excavate and record due to being sited on the edge of the terrace. This partially truncated sub-circular pit measured 1.2m x 0.5m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had been excavated from high up, just under **9/001**.
- 4.9.7 Pit **9/008** had a single fill **9/009**. This was a soft mixed yellow, grey and brown clayey silt, which contained less than 1% sandstone blocks, 1% CBM fragments and approximately 1% animal bone inclusions. The pottery suggests a Mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 4.9.8 There were two smaller features towards the southern end of the trench. Contexts **9/004** and **9/006** are 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century circular disturbances, measuring 230mm and 320mm in diameter respectfully.
- 4.9.9 Context **9/005** fills **9/004**. It is a soft, dark grey clayey-silt, 80mm deep and containing less than 1% CBM. Context **9/007** fills **9/006**. It is a soft, mid grey clayey silt, 20mm deep, with less than 1% CBM and charcoal inclusions. Both features produced brick of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century date.

Table 9: Summary of contexts in Trench 9

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	
9/003	Layer	Natural	
9/004	Cut	Disturbance/ Post Hole	
9/005	Fill	Fill 9/004	
9/006	Cut	Disturbance	
9/007	Fill	Fill of 9/006	
9/008	Cut	Pit	
9/009	Fill	Fill of 9/008	
9/010	Cut	Terracing	



Plate 16: Southeast facing photograph of Trench 9



Plate 17: Northwest facing photograph of Trench 9



Plate 18: Pit 9/008

#### 4.10 Trench 10 (Plate 19)

4.10.1 Trench 10 was located in the northwest part of the site. It ran parallel to the house in the northwest corner of the field, with Trench 11 to the south and Trench 13 to the east. The trench was devoid of any archaeological remains except for a 19<sup>th</sup> century land drain which ran down its centre for 7m. Table 10 below lists all the contexts recorded in Trench 10.

Table 10: Summary of contexts in Trench 10

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	210mm
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	190mm
10/003	Layer	Natural	90mm
10/004	Land drain	Cut into natural	-



Plate 19: North facing photograph of Trench 10

#### 4.11 Trench 11 (Plate 20)

4.11.1 Trench 11 was orientated northeast-southwest and located south of Trench 10, west of Trench 12 and east of Trench 9. There were several depressions along this trench which contained 19<sup>th</sup> century material. However, these depressions were not recorded as they had no obvious cuts. The material in them matched the subsoil above. There were no archaeological remains within this trench.

Table 11: Summary of contexts in Trench 11

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	200mm
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	150mm
11/003	Layer	Natural	30mm



Plate 20: Southwest facing photograph of Trench 11



#### 4.12 Trench 12 (Plate 21)

4.12.1 Trench 12 was orientated north-south and located in the east side of the site. No archaeological remains were discovered in this trench. Table 12 below lists all the contexts recorded in this trench.

Table 12: Summary of contexts in Trench 12

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	200mm
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	130mm
12/003	Layer	Natural	140mm



Plate 21: North facing photograph of Trench 12

#### 4.13 Trench 13 (Fig. 13 and Plates 22 - 25)

4.13.1 Trench 13 was orientated east-west and located at the north end of the field, east of the road and house and just south of the farm yard and barn. There were several natural disturbances across the trench, with two identifiable features diagonally crossing the centre of the trench.

4.13.2 **13/004** is a northeast-southwest aligned linear measuring 1.15m wide x 430mm deep. It had gentle sloping sides and a concave base. This ditch was filled with two fills; **13/005** and **13/008**. Fill **13/005** was a mid-yellowish grey silty clay of medium compaction. Its few inclusions were less than 1% pottery which dates to the medieval period (c.1250-1375). Fill **13/008** was identical to **13/005** except for being a darker grey. It may be the same deposit, with **13/008** having been affected by the changing water table. No artefacts were recovered from **13/008**.

4.13.3 The second feature in this trench was a slightly larger drainage feature (Context **13/006**). It was a northeast-southwest linear that ran parallel to **13/004**. It measured 0.98m wide x 200mm deep, and had moderate slopes and a flat base. Its sole fill, Context **13/007**, was a mid yellowish-grey silty clay, of medium to firm compaction, which contained 1% CBM inclusions. It seems to have been a 19<sup>th</sup> century drainage gully with artefacts dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

4.13.4 Towards the east end of Trench 13 was a lens of 19<sup>th</sup> century material within the subsoil.

Table 13: Summary of contexts in Trench 13

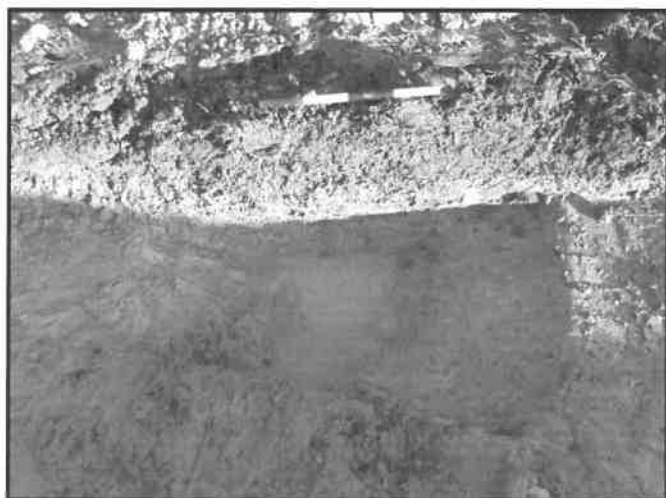
Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	170mm
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	100mm
13/003	Layer	Natural	40mm
13/004	Cut	Small ditch/ Gully Cut	430mm
13/005	Fill	Fill of 13/004	310mm
13/006	Cut	Ditch cut	200mm
13/007	Fill	Fill of 13/006	200mm
13/008	Fill	Fill of 13/004	120mm



Plate 22: East facing photograph of Trench 13



**Plate 23: West facing  
photograph of Trench 13**



**Plate 24: Gully 13/004**



**Plate 25: Ditch 13/006**

## 5.0 The Finds

**5.01** A moderately large assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the evaluation excavation, and is summarised in Table 14 below. Each artefact type is then discussed further.

Table 14: The Artefacts (number/weight (grams))

Context	Pottery	CBM*	Animal Bone	Glass	Other Finds	Dating
Unstratified	-	-	-	-	Metal 6/165g	-
1/006	2/30g	-	5/26g	-		mixed: x1 abraded 1300-1450, x1 fresher c. 1450-1550
1/007	84/2098g	Tile 6/280g Brick 3/210g	16/393g	-	Clay pipe 2/28g Stone 1/86g Metal 5/471g	c. 1670-1690
1/009	-	-	47/21g	-		Medieval?
1/012	7/222g	Tile 4/502g Brick 3/1684g	-	-	Clay pipe 1/2g	c. 1475-1575 but x1 ?intrusive worn C18th pipe stem
2/001	3/34g	-	-	1/5g		Mixed C16th & 19 <sup>th</sup>
3/001	4/152g	Tile 1/92g	-	-		Mixed Later C15th-mid 16 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>
4/001	5/58g	Tile 7/500g	-	1/12g		Mid C18th – 19 <sup>th</sup>
5/001	24/44g	-	-	-		Late C18th – early 19 <sup>th</sup>
5/002	22/64g	-	-	-	Clay pipe 1/2g	Mid C18th – 19 <sup>th</sup>
5/007	-	-	-	10/877g	-	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
7/004	6/34g	Tile 1/36g	-	-		Mixed: x3 c. 1175-1275, x2 c. 1275-1400, x1 c. 1450-1550
9/005	-	Brick 1/4g	-	-	Slag 1/6g	C16th – 17 <sup>th</sup> ?
9/007	-	Tile 2/8g	-	-	Slag 1/8g	C16th – 17 <sup>th</sup> ?
9/009	1/24g	Tile 5/674g Brick 5/2824g	14/292g	-	Slag 1/62g	Mid C16th – 17 <sup>th</sup>
11/001	6/52g	-	-	-		Mid C18th – early 19 <sup>th</sup>
11/002	6/50g	Tile 3/112g	-	-	Slag 1/62g	Mixed C18th & 19 <sup>th</sup>
13/002	-	Tile 35/2534g Brick 1/154g	2/314g	1/8g	Slag 2/46g	Mid C16th – early 18 <sup>th</sup> (CBM and glass)
13/005	10/136g	-	5/49g	-	Metal 5/27g	c. 1475-1575 (x1 worn/resid c. 1250-1375)
13/007	-	Tile 2/42g Brick 1/96g	-	-		Late C17th – early 19 <sup>th</sup> (CBM only)

\*Ceramic Building Material

**5.02** The finds assemblage from the site is from a mixture of open and stratified deposits. Condition is equally variable: although some material is abraded, a large proportion of the pottery is notably fresh. The pottery and CBM fabrics/types represented are not that well known for the area and are therefore of some interest. As a result all of the medieval and the stratified early post-medieval pottery have been retained for long-term museum curation. The unstratified early and late post-medieval pottery has been discarded.

**5.03** Samples of the tile fabrics have been taken for integration into the county fabric series but the current contexts have not provided well-dated sealed groups. As such the remaining tile has been discarded. Except where mentioned elsewhere in this report, the remaining finds have no potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and have also been discarded.

## 5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

**5.1.1** The archaeological evaluation recovered 148 sherds of pottery, weighing 3038g, from 13 individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 1 as part of the visible archive. Common names for fabrics have been used where suitable. However, the majority of the assemblage consists of medieval and early post-medieval local wares that, due to the general lack of previous assemblages from this part of the Weald, have not yet been integrated into the county fabric series. These are given temporary codes in Table 1 and fabric samples have been retained for future concordance and integration with the county series.

Table 15: The Pottery Assemblage

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments
1/006	Oxidised fine/medium sandy ware	HM	1	24	C14th cooking pot. Worn
1/006	HFE1a: Hard-fired earthenware with sparse sand & iron oxides (reduced surfaces)	LM/EPM	1	6	Uncertain form
1/007	Border Ware (yellow glazed)	EPM	2	50	Bowl x1; pipkin x1
1/007	German Frechen Stoneware	EPM	4	74	Bottle x4
1/007	German Westerwald Stoneware	EPM	1	56	Tankard x1 (cobalt blue bands)
1/007	GRE1a: Medium/well fired earthenware with common fine/medium quartz	EPM	25	536	Dish x1; pipkin x1; bowl x1; jar/pipkin x2; jar x1. Clear or metallic glazes
1/007	GRE1b: Medium fired earthenware with moderate fine quartz	EPM	8	136	Bowl x1; jar x2. Metallic glazes internally or all over
1/007	HFE2a: Wealden buff earthenware with sparse fine sand & marl	EPM	1	34	Uncertain form
1/007	HFE2b: Wealden buff earthenware with moderate fine/medium sand	EPM	1	4	green interior glaze. Uncertain form
1/007	HFE3a: Hard-fired earthenware with rare fine sand and sparse fine calcareous temper (oxidized)	EPM	9	396	Jug x1; uncertain x7
1/007	HFE3b: Hard-fired earthenware with rare fine sand and moderate/abundant fine calcareous temper (reduced)	EPM	1	4	Uncertain form
1/007	HFE4b: Hard-fired earthenware with rare fine sand (reduced)	EPM	19	484	x5 uncertain, some with internal clear glaze
1/007	HFE1b: Hard-fired earthenware with sparse sand & moderate/abundant iron oxides	LM/EPM	2	94	tripod pipkin x1; x1 uncertain
1/007	HFSE1a: Oxidised well-fired earthenware with moderate medium sand	LM/EPM	10	278	Jar x1, x4 uncertain
1/007	Refined Whiteware	LPM	1	2	Uncertain form
1/012	HFE3b: Hard-fired earthenware with rare fine sand and moderate/abundant fine calcareous temper (reduced)	EPM	1	62	Jar with squared rim

1/012	HFE4b: Hard-fired earthenware with rare fine sand (reduced)	EPM	1	2	Uncertain form
1/012	HFE1a: Hard-fired earthenware with sparse sand & iron oxides (reduced surfaces)	LM/EPM	1	6	Uncertain form
1/012	HFSE1a: Oxidised well-fired earthenware with moderate medium sand	LM/EPM	4	152	Costrel x1; x1 uncertain
11/001	Creamware	LPM	5	48	Tureen lid
11/001	Pearlware	LPM	1	4	Plate, blue shell-edged
11/002	London Stoneware	EPM	1	14	Uncertain form
11/002	Glazed Red Earthenware (m C18th - 19th type)	LPM	3	22	x3 uncertain forms
11/002	Transfer-printed Ware (blue)	LPM	1	2	Cup. Floral
11/002	Unglazed Earthenware (late)	LPM	1	12	Flower pot
13/005	HFE3b: Hard-fired earthenware with rare fine sand and moderate/abundant fine calcareous temper (reduced)	EPM	2	6	Uncertain form
13/005	HFE4a: Hard-fired earthenware with rare fine sand (oxidised)	EPM	1	12	Uncertain form
13/005	HFE4b: Hard-fired earthenware with rare fine sand (reduced)	EPM	2	50	Jug x1; uncertain x1
13/005	Oxidised medium/coarse sandy ware	HM	1	38	Cooking pot base C13th - mid 14th
13/005	HFSE1a: Oxidised well-fired earthenware with moderate medium sand	LM/EPM	4	30	Uncertain form
2/001	HFE3a: Hard-fired earthenware with rare fine sand and sparse fine calcareous temper (oxidized)	EPM	1	12	Uncertain form
2/001	Glazed Red Earthenware (m C18th - 19th type)	LPM	1	10	Uncertain form
2/001	Transfer-printed Ware (blue)	LPM	1	12	Plate with landscape
3/001	Oxidised fine/medium sandy ware with common iron oxides	HM	1	2	C13th worn. Uncertain form
3/001	German Raeren Stoneware	LM/EPM	1	80	Mug
3/001	Glazed Red Earthenware (m C18th - 19th type)	LPM	2	70	x2 uncertain forms
4/001	Staffordshire Combed Slipware	EPM	1	8	Dish
4/001	Creamware	LPM	1	10	Mug
4/001	Glazed Red Earthenware (m C18th - 19th type)	LPM	1	8	Uncertain form
4/001	Pearlware	LPM	1	10	Plate
4/001	Transfer-printed Ware (blue)	LPM	1	12	Plate with floral pattern
5/001	Pearlware (hand-painted)	LPM	2	44	Bowl, early blue Chinese landscape
5/002	Staffordshire Combed Slipware	EPM	1	6	Dish
5/002	Creamware	LPM	5	20	Plate x1, mug x1
5/002	Glazed Red Earthenware (m C18th - 19th type)	LPM	1	10	Uncertain form
5/002	Pearlware (transfer-printed)	LPM	5	28	Plate x1; cup x1; sauceboat x1; condiment x1. Sheet patterns & landscapes
7/004	Oxidised medium sand with common/abundant iron oxides to 1mm	HM	1	4	Uncertain form
7/004	Oxidised medium sand with sparse iron oxides	HM	1	2	Uncertain form
7/004	Wealden Sandy-Shelly Ware	HM	3	18	x2 cooking pots (reduced)
7/004	HFSE1b: Reduced well-fired earthenware with moderate medium sand	LM/EPM	1	10	Jug
9/009	GRE1b: Medium fired earthenware with moderate fine quartz	EPM	1	24	Mug. Clear all over glaze

Note: (HM – High Medieval c. 1200/25-1350/75; LM – Late Medieval c. 1350/75-1525/50; EPM – Early Post-Medieval c. 1525/50-1750; Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

- 5.1.2** Just eight High Medieval sherds are present in the assemblage and all of these appear to be residual in their contexts. The earliest consist of the three quite fresh Wealden Sandy-Shelly Ware sherds from Context 7/004 that are probably of the early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining High Medieval sherds consist of a scatter of generally oxidised sandy wares of mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century type. The majority of these show moderate to heavy abrasion.
- 5.1.3** Although there is no definite material of the later 14<sup>th</sup> to later 15<sup>th</sup> centuries this is a notoriously difficult period to identify ceramically, particularly with only isolated sherds. The assemblage does contain 24 sherds (656g) that can be placed between the late 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The most distinctive of these is the frilled base of the Raeren mug from Context 3/001 where, though obviously residual, it is in quite fresh condition. The other Late Medieval/Early Post-medieval sherds are more ambiguous. These well-fired sandy earthenwares slowly develop out of the High Medieval wares in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century and merge with the true Early Post-medieval earthenwares in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. However, some of these sherds, often quite fresh, were recovered from the late 17<sup>th</sup>- century group (Context 1/007). Whether these are residual 16<sup>th</sup> century pieces or demonstrate a much longer chronological span than previously thought is uncertain.
- 5.1.4** The majority of the assemblage is of the Early Post-medieval period (83/1970g). The fabrics present are dominated by local unglazed and glazed earthenwares, many notably hard-fired. Such types have a long chronological span, beginning in the early/mid 16<sup>th</sup> century and continuing until the very early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The group from ditch 1/005, fill 1/007 stands out as a large and fresh group for the period. Although most of the sherds within this assemblage, including the Border Ware and Frechen stoneware, could be placed anywhere between the later 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries the Westerwald stoneware and fresh clay tobacco pipe bowl clearly point to a late 17<sup>th</sup> century date. Overall a fairly standard domestic assemblage of the period is suggested, though such groups are notably rare from Robertsbridge and the Weald in general.
- 5.1.5** The Late Post-medieval assemblage of 33 sherds (324g) is mainly derived from topsoil/subsoil contexts. Although some of the material shows signs of having seen some reworking there are a notable number of quite fresh sherds (eg the bowl base from Context 5/001). Overall the assemblage suggests continued refuse disposal throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, though peaking in the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The level of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century material is notably less and there is nothing in the assemblage that need be later than c. 1850/75.

## **5.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipes by Luke Barber**

- 5.2.1** The archaeological work recovered just four pieces of clay pipe from the site. The material has been fully listed in Table 2. The only significant pipes were recovered from Context 1/007 where they provide a crucial piece of dating for the ceramic group.

Table 16: Clay pipe assemblage

Context	Element	Date	No	Weight (g)	Comments
1/007	Bowl	1670-1690	1	22	Fresh, with long stem
1/007	Stem	1650-1710	1	6	Slight wear
5/002	Stem	1750-1900	1	2	Slight wear
1/012	Stem	1750-1900	1	2	Worn

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 A moderate-sized assemblage of brick and tile was recovered during the archaeological work. Although some is abraded, the bulk consists of fresh, albeit fragmentary, pieces. The assemblage is summarised in Tables 3 (fabrics) and 4 (quantification). It should be noted that to date the lack of studied brick and tile assemblages from this area has not allowed close dating/testing of the chronologies of different types and dates suggested in Table 3 are based on general types from analogies elsewhere.

Table 17: Ceramic Building Material fabrics

Fabric	Description	Comments	Suggested date
B1a	Sparse fine sand, moderate/abundant marl swirls/patches & iron oxides to 3mm	Crudely formed and low/medium fired	Mid C16th – 17th
B1b	Sparse fine sand with very mixed common/abundant marl & iron oxide smears/pellets to 6mm	Crudely formed and low fired	C16th – 17th
B2a	Sparse fine sand with moderate/abundant iron oxides to 2mm	Quite crudely formed but medium fired	Mid C16th – early 18th
T1a	Sparse fine sand, moderate marl swirls & pellets to 2mm, common iron oxides to 2mm	Quite well formed & fired	C16th – 17th
T1b	As T1a but only common marl temper	Quite well formed & fired	C16th – 17th
T1c	Sparse fine sand, common marl and rare iron oxides to 0.5mm	Quite well formed & medium/well fired	C18th – early 19 <sup>th</sup> ?
T2a	Sparse fine sand, common iron oxides to 0.5mm, rare marl	Quite well formed & fired	C17th – 18 <sup>th</sup> /19th
T2b	As T2a but abundant iron oxides	Quite well formed & fired	mid C16th – early 18th
T3a	Moderate/abundant medium sand	Quite well formed thick tiles. Medium fired.	C13th – 14th
T3b	As T3a but with sparse/common marl to 3mm & rare iron oxides	Quite well formed thick tiles. Medium fired.	C13th – 14th
T4a	Sparse fine sand, common/moderate marl pellets to 3mm and iron oxides to 1mm	Quite well formed and medium/hard fired	Mid C17th – early 19 <sup>th</sup> ?
T5a	Sparse fine sand with rare iron oxides & marl pellets to 0.5mm	Well formed and fired.	Mid C18th – 19th



Table 18: Ceramic Building Material assemblage

Context	Form	Fabric	No	Weight	Comments
1/007	Peg	T1a	2	102	12-13mm thick
1/007	Peg	T2a	4	178	11mm thick
1/007	Brick	B1a	3	210	
1/012	Peg	T1a	1	166	14mm thick. Square peg hole
1/012	Peg	T1a	2	254	11-12mm thick
1/012	Peg	T2b	1	82	12mm thick
1/012	Brick	B1a	2	502	45-48mm thick
1/012	Brick	B2a	1	1182	100+ x 106 x 55mm
3/001	Peg	T1b	1	92	13mm thick
4/001	Peg	T2a	3	210	11-12mm thick. Square peg hole
4/001	Peg	T2b	1	162	10-11mm thick
4/001	Peg	T1c	2	70	11mm thick
4/001	?Peg	T3a	1	58	15mm thick
7/004	?Peg	T3a	1	36	14-15mm thick
9/005	Brick	B2a	1	4	self glazed
9/007	Peg	B2a	2	8	
9/009	Peg	T1a	1	92	Warped
9/009	Ridge	T1a	1	58	
9/009	Peg	T1b	2	448	12-15mm thick
9/009	Peg	T2a	1	76	12mm thick
9/009	Brick	B1a	1	732	? X 100 x 44mm
9/009	Brick	B1b	4	2092	? X 106 x 47mm; ? X 112 x 49mm; plus 49 & 55mm thick
11/002	Peg	T2a	1	32	
11/002	Peg	T4a	1	62	10mm thick
11/002	Peg	T5a	1	18	11mm thick
13/002	Peg	T1a	4	192	12-13mm thick. Overfired
13/002	Peg	T1b	4	382	12-13mm thick
13/002	Peg	T1c	1	36	possibly T1b
13/002	?Peg	T3a	19	1110	13-16mm thick
13/002	?Peg	T3b	4	528	14-15mm thick
13/002	Peg	T2a	3	286	11-12mm thick
13/002	Brick	B1b	1	154	
13/007	Peg	T1c	1	16	10mm thick
13/007	Peg	T2a	1	26	10mm thick
13/007	Brick	B2a	1	96	

5.3.2 The presence of notable quantities of thick tile (either peg or nib types) in fabrics T3a and T3b demonstrates a significant medieval element in the assemblage. Although some of these pieces are abraded, many are notably fresh. The bulk of the tile is of the Early Post-medieval period and consists of a range of fabrics likely to be of the 16<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**5.3.3** However, some fabrics such as T2a are similar to types known to run well into the 18<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. Their presence in Context 1/007 is an early incidence of this type. Similarly it is possible some of the cruder marl-rich fabrics (eg T1a) may begin slightly earlier than the range given in Table 3. A larger dated assemblage will be needed to ascertain what the 15<sup>th</sup>- century fabrics at the site look like.

**5.3.4** The brick assemblage is entirely composed of Early Post-medieval types that can comfortably be placed in the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Despite the low-fired nature of the fabrics many of the bricks are unabraded suggesting they have not been reworked to any degree.

#### **5.4 The Glass by Chris Butler**

**5.4.1** The largest assemblage of glass came from the midden deposit **5/007**. This group comprised five bases, three neck & lips and two body fragments. All of the pieces were clear glass and appear to have been machine manufactured in single piece moulds. The neck/lips are of two types, one has a 44mm diameter rim, and the other two have 53-55mm diameter rims; all three have a groove below the lip. The bases are 77mm (2), 83mm (1) and 100mm (2) diameter.

**5.4.2** The only embossing is on the bases, and in one case on the lower side above the base. This latter bottle has [ ]ARE GLASS on the lower side and ® 4 on the base. Two other bases have ® and a serial number. One base has K. B. L<sup>p</sup>, whilst the final one has a smaller K. B. L<sup>p</sup> over C 8, these marks relating to the bottle manufacturer. These bottles are all milk bottles, and the two with makers marks appear to have been made by Kilner Brothers Ltd. As these milk bottle types only became popular in the later 1920's and Kilner Brother Ltd went out of business in 1937, it puts this deposit (**5/007**) into this time frame or shortly afterwards.

**5.4.3** The remaining glass comprised three fragments of green bottle glass, of which the examples from Contexts **2/001** and **4/001** were both 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the example from Context **13/002** is likely to date from the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **5.5 The Animal Bone by Patricia Stevens**

**5.5.1** The animal bone from the evaluation amounted to 94 fragments from 6 contexts (Table 14). The bone derived from only two species, with 20 fragments identified as cattle (Contexts **1/006**, **1/007**, **9/009**, **13/002** & **13/005**), and include two horn core fragments from Context **13/002**, and 10 fragments as sheep (Contexts **1/007** & **9/009**). The remaining 64 fragments were not identifiable.

**5.5.2** There is little that can be learnt from this small assemblage of bone. Two of the cattle bones have been chopped, and three have been gnawed by dogs. Several cattle fragments were eroded. The sheep bones showed no sign of butchery, but one bone was gnawed and one eroded. Seven of the unidentified fragments showed some evidence for perhaps having been scorched, but were not burnt. It is recommended that the bone is retained and considered for further analysis once any further work is undertaken at the site as part of a potentially larger assemblage.

## **5.6 The Metal Finds by Chris Butler**

**5.6.1** All of the metal finds were iron, apart from three artefacts retrieved with a metal detector. Metal detected finds came from the spoilheaps, and the non-iron items comprised an alloy ring and wall fixing (presumably from an animal pen), two fragments from a pipe/hose bracket, and an ELEY shotgun cartridge. Iron metal detected items comprised a D-shaped piece (probably part of a large buckle) and a ring (possibly from horse harness). All of these items were Post medieval.

**5.6.2** Context 1/007 produced a large unidentified oval lump of iron (375g), three iron nails, one of which appeared complete, having a square shaft and oval head, and was 72mm long (possibly originally a 3" nail). The final item was an iron knife of which the blade was 190mm long and the tang 37mm long. These items are consistent with the 17<sup>th</sup> century date for this context.

**5.6.3** Context 13/002 produced five iron items, which may all be fragments of nails. One had a circular nail head and a short length of shaft, and another may be a fragment of a square nail shaft, however the other three are too degraded to be certain of their origin. It is recommended that the metal items from 1/007 and 13/002 are retained and considered for further analysis once any further work is undertaken at the site as part of a potentially larger assemblage.

## **5.7 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber**

**5.7.1** All of the slag from the site consists of olive coloured blast furnace slag likely to be of 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date. Such material is a common find in the Weald, even away from the ironworks, as it was frequently utilised as metalling for roads and tracks. The generally worn condition of the current pieces would be very much in keeping with such a re-use.

## 5.8 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.8.1 The only stone collected from the site consists of a 10mm thick slab of buff non-calcareous fine-grained Wealden sandstone from Context 1/007 (86g). Some fragments of Welsh slate were noted in the topsoil and derive from Post medieval activity.

## 5.9 Environmental Evidence by Dr Mike Allen

5.9.1 Three samples taken from an evaluation of 13 trenches at Grove Farm Robertsbridge were passed for assessment. The samples (each 16 litres volume) were processed by standard flotation methods with the flots retained on 300/500µm mesh and the residues on 300µm to 1mm mesh. Due to the weather conditions and the nature of the features being sampled it was not possible to take larger un-contaminated samples

Table 19: The Soil Samples

Sample	Period	Context	Feature	Flot	Coarse charcoal
1	Medieval	1/009 secondary fill	Ditch 1/008	✓	✓
2	Medieval	1/006 primary fill	Ditch 1/004	✓	✓
3	Medieval	13/005 fill	Drainage gully 13/004	✓	✓

5.9.2 Three wet flots were provided together with larger charcoal fractions (from the flot or residues) for assessment (Table 19).

### *Aims and requirements*

5.9.3 Each sample flot and charcoal supplied was assessed for charcoal and charred plant remains (Table 20). The aims of assessment were to determine the presence, quantity, quality and diversity of palaeo-environmental remains to assist in determining the significance of the site, and assist in determining sample size and a sampling strategy should further field interventions be warranted. That latter aim should attempt to provide a sampling strategy able to yield material to aid in the understanding and interpreting the features, the activity and economy of the site, and to determine samples suitable for analysis of charred plant remains and charcoal analysis. The overall assessment aids in indicating the nature and significance of the data, and of the sites' importance in its local, regional and national setting. The significance of the assemblage and comments on further sampling are provided.

- 5.9.4** The site is located on the eastern slope of the Rother Valley at Robertsbridge on Ashdown Formation (interbedded sandstone and siltstone) which supports stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the Curtisden Association, with typical stagnogley soils of the Wickham 1 Association on the lower slopes above the floodplain<sup>12</sup>.

#### *Assessment Methods*

- 5.9.5** The three flots (Samples 1, 2 and 3) were provided wet with a large number of modern roots. All were examined under a stereo-binocular microscope at magnifications of  $\times 0.7$  to  $\times 45$  for the presence of waterlogged archaeological remains. None were noted so the flots were washed in a 300 $\mu$ m mesh sieves and dried at low temperatures in a laboratory drier before assessment.
- 5.9.6** All flots, together with charcoal and recovered from by the processors, were scanned under a  $\times 7$  -  $\times 45$  stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred plant and charcoal remains recorded in Table 20. The flots were sieved through 4mm sieves to recover charcoal  $>4$ mm which was recorded separately and added to quantities of the coarse charcoal. The volume of flot is the charred remains and the modern rooty material recorded separately. Notes were made of the presence of charred remains and charcoal, but none were sorted.

#### *Assessment Results*

##### **5.9.7** *Charred plant and charcoal remains*

The three flots were dominated by fine fibrous uncharred modern roots (Table 20) indicating modern intrusion, the shallow buried nature of the archaeological features sampled, and the potential for biotic reworking and instruction of material from higher strata. The flots were sparse in charred remains; no grain nor charred weed seeds were present and no chaff was recognised. There is a complete lack of cereal remains, foodstuffs despite sample sizes of 16 litres being processed from sealed contexts. One possible charred pulse (pea/bean) was present from the medieval cut (Context 13/004).

- 5.9.8** The occurrence of charcoal is ubiquitous with moderately large numbers of charcoal  $>4$ mm in the post medieval ditches (Table 20), but fewer in the smaller medieval gully. Most of the charcoal was larger wood fragments; that is pieces of trunk or large branch that were not obviously roundwood or twigs. Some roundwood was present.

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<sup>12</sup> Jarvis, M.G., Allen, R.H., Fordham, S.J., Hazelden, J., Moffat, A.J. & Sturdy, R.G. 1984. Soils and their use in South East England. Harpenden: Soil Survey of England and Wales, Bulletin No. 15

### *Other palaeo-environmental and archaeological remains*

- 5.9.9 No other palaeo-environmental material (bone, shell, snails) was present, but significantly a droplet of possible slag was present in post-medieval ditch 1/1004.

### *Potential And Significance*

#### *Charred plant remains*

- 5.9.10 The sampled ditches were sparse in charred plant remains; no charred cereals remains (charred grain and chaff), no charred weed seeds and just one charred pea/bean were present. This low level of cultural remains (grain etc.) tends to suggest that the sampled ditches lay away from the focus of any domestic settlement activity and away from any areas of burning and discard of fire and domestic refuse. The medieval and Post-medieval shallow drainage and field ditches might be expected to be poor in burnt domestic remains and this is the case here. The lack of these charred remain is consistent with medieval and post-medieval features sampled which lie outside the habitation and occupation areas.

#### *Charcoal*

- 5.9.11 Charcoal was present in moderate to large quantities in the post-medieval samples, and in even occurs as large piece (>4mm) in the small medieval drainage gully 13/005. Where present though most was >4mm and largely fragments branch, trunk and few roundwood elements. If this was all timber with high-temperature burning properties then its origin could be suggested to be an oven, furnace or kiln, but the general dispersed nature tends to suggest localised burning of small fires and bonfires. The presence of a few roundwood pieces would be suitable for radiocarbon dating but an assay of this date is probably of relatively little value.
- 5.9.12 The presence of charcoal indicates activity outside the occupation and habitation areas, and suggest that if further field intervention is undertaken a suitable sampling strategy should be implemented. The recovery of suitable charcoal samples has the potential to identify the wood species used as firewood and timber to aid in providing the nature of the local woodland, and possibly to identify management (pollarding coppicing) as well as selection for burning.

#### *Archaeological finds*

- 5.9.13 The droplet of slag or metal should be examined and reported upon as it may indicate post-medieval metalworking on the site or within the vicinity. The presence of this may therefore be significant, and excavation and sampling strategies should accommodate this possibility.

**Grove Farm, Robertsbridge (GFR 14)**

Table 20: Assessment of charred plant and charcoal remains from the processed bulk samples

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Sample vol</i>	<i>Flot vol Charred / roots+snails</i>	<i>Grain</i>	<i>Weed seeds/chaff</i>	<i>charcoal &gt;4mm</i>	<i>charcoal &lt;4mm</i>	<i>notes</i>	<i>analysis</i>
1/008	Ditch	1 / 009 2ndry	1	16 Litres	30 / 15	-	-	97	13ml	Mainly large wood frags some ? <i>Quercus</i> fine comminuted charcoal	
1/004	Ditch	1 / 006 Primary fill	2	16 Litres	5 / 15	-	-	19	5ml	Large wood, some branch wood <20 year and fine comminuted charcoal. ?slag drop	
13/004	Drainage gul	13 / 005 fill	3	16 Litres	10/ 3	-	1	4	4ml	Mainly large wood fragments, and fine comminuted charcoal 1 pea/bean	

### *Summary*

**5.9.14** The charred plant assemblages are negligible and of limited palaeo-environmental significance or potential. Further sampling of ditches of this type and date seems unlikely to yield charred plant remains assemblages because of the nature of the site. Charcoal is common in all features samples and has the potential to provide information about the type of burning activities (domestic vs semi-industrial), and of fuel selection and woodland management. A suitable sampling policy for the recovery of charred remains should be adopted if further field intervention is undertaken.

**5.9.15** The charcoal has the potential provide information about the fuel, the nature of the timbers and local woodland and of woodland management. However, the limited nature of the archaeological evidence for other activities might negate value of analysis of these from the evaluation phase.

### *Recommendations*

**5.9.16** If further field intervention is planned (i.e. excavation phase), then an appropriate sampling strategy should be implemented. Sampling should include the possibility of recovering metalworking waste, dependent upon the identification and reporting of the metalworking droplet from medieval ditch 1/006. If no further field work is planned then the palaeo-environmental remains should be archived; no further work or analysis is recommended.



## 6.0 Discussion & Recommendations

- 6.1 The thirteen evaluation trenches opened on site have revealed it to contain evidence for occupation and activity dating to the medieval and Post medieval periods (Fig. 14). There was no evidence of activity from earlier periods, with the first evidence for human activity corresponding with the growth of Robertsbridge in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest medieval pottery comes from a tree throw in Trench 7 and dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.2 Most of the medieval activity is concentrated along the western part of the site, fronting onto George Hill. On this part of the site a series of possible house terraces can be identified in the field and the excavation in Trench 1 showed that these were bounded by east-west orientated ditches on their northern and southern edges. Ditch 1/004 produced pottery dating to the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century, and this ditch and the adjacent ditch (1/008) are the earliest evidence for possible habitation on the site.
- 6.3 Although no remains of medieval features were found in Trenches 6, 7 and 9, the discovery of medieval pottery in the tree throw in Trench 7, and evidence for an earlier (undated) terrace in Trench 9 could indicate that there was also medieval occupation along the road frontage here. At the north end of the site in Trench 13 another medieval ditch (13/004) of 15<sup>th</sup> century date was found, although this may be a field boundary ditch.
- 6.4 Occupation continued into the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries with the discovery of the remains of a stone wall (1/012) in Trench 1 and an adjacent north-south orientated ditch (1/005). The finds from the infill (1/007) of ditch 1/005 can be dated very closely to 1670-1690, and provide a potential *terminus ante quem* for occupation at the site. Further north in Trench 9 a terrace cut and other features have produced 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century remains, perhaps confirming that there was occupation on this part of the site as well in this later period.
- 6.5 Research<sup>13</sup> has established that "In the early-mid 17<sup>th</sup> C. John Levets (Gent) caused considerable devastation within the town when he demolished 5 houses on the hill between the chapel and Kemsing Crossin order to form a consolidated farmstead called 'The Grove'.....the displaced tenants being housed in new dwellings or existing houses divided into separate tenements". The connection between this reference and the end date for occupation found in Trench 1 appears to confirm that five houses were located in the terraces alongside the road, and remains of these would be expected to survive.

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<sup>13</sup> Martin, D. & Martin, B. 1974 *An Architectural History of Robertsbridge*, Hastings Area Archaeological Papers No 5, p6.

- 6.6 A north-south orientated ditch in Trench 13 may also belong to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, but the dating material could be residual in a later post medieval feature. A north-south ditch in Trench 6 could not be excavated due to the trench flooding, but this may form an eastern boundary to the house plots found in Trench 1. A brick built culvert in Trench 5 is probably of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, and along with the early 20<sup>th</sup> century deposit with milk bottles from the same trench probably relate to later post medieval agricultural activities at the adjacent farm building which is shown on late 19<sup>th</sup> century maps.
- 6.7 Due to the very wet site conditions, only a limited amount of excavation was undertaken on site. It was decided by Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist, during a site visit that as given the discoveries made, further excavation would be required at the site, and the current ground conditions which made identification and excavation of features difficult, that no further intrusive excavation would be carried out and the trenches would be backfilled after recording had been completed.
- 6.8 Given the discoveries made during the evaluation, it appears that there were a series of house platforms along the side of George Hill, which may have been occupied from as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century through to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. These discoveries are of significant archaeological interest and local importance. The geophysics survey identified a number of possible linear features, although only those in Trench 13 were located during the evaluation. The features found along the west side of the site during the evaluation did not show up at all on the geophysics, and it seems that much of what shows up on the geophysics survey is geological, and/or masked by the modern drains that cross the site.
- 6.9 The evaluation has shown that there is a good chance of material culture remains in the form of pottery, building material and metal objects surviving, together with food waste in the form of animal bone. The potential evidence for environmental remains appears limited, although a specific sampling strategy may produce better results than was possible during the evaluation.
- 6.10 It is possible that evidence for buildings on the site may be quite ephemeral, comprising beam slots for wooden sill beams on timber-framed houses, although there is a hint that some stone may have been used in the later period. It is therefore advisable that any additional work be undertaken in the summer months when the water table is lower. This will allow for any delicate archaeological features, such as beam slots, to be identified.

## **7.0 Acknowledgements**

- 7.1** I would like to thank Mark Bentley of Croudace Homes Ltd for commissioning this archaeological evaluation. The project was monitored for East Sussex County Council by Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist.
- 7.2** The project was managed by Chris Butler. Luke Barber, Patricia Stevens, Dr Mike Allen and Chris Butler reported on the artefacts, and Andrew Bradshaw carried out the surveying and prepared the drawings for the report.

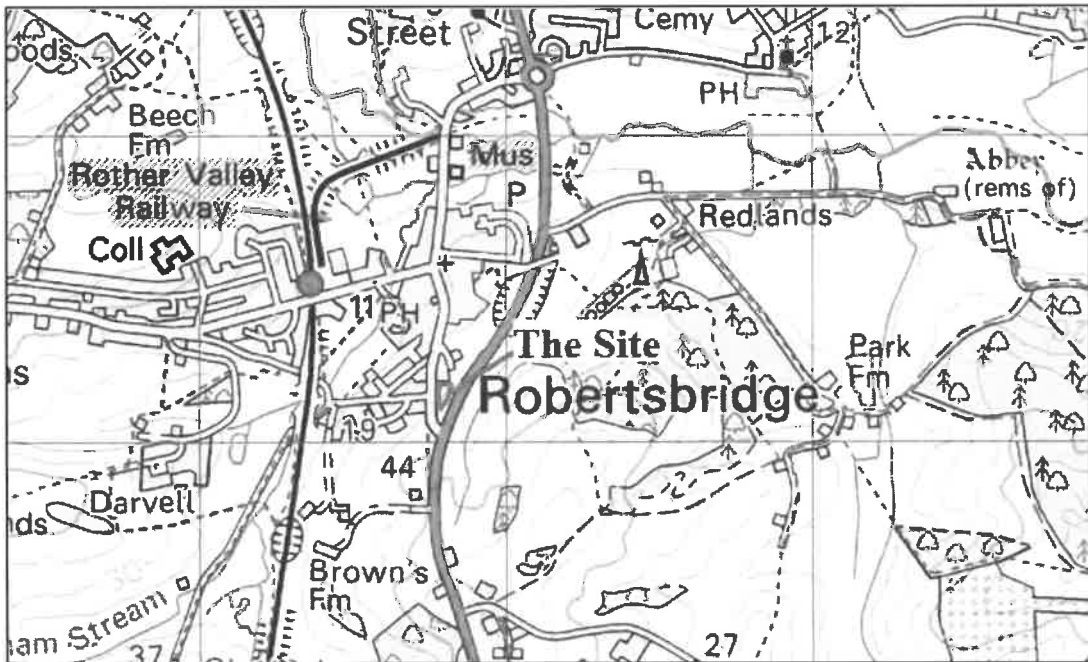
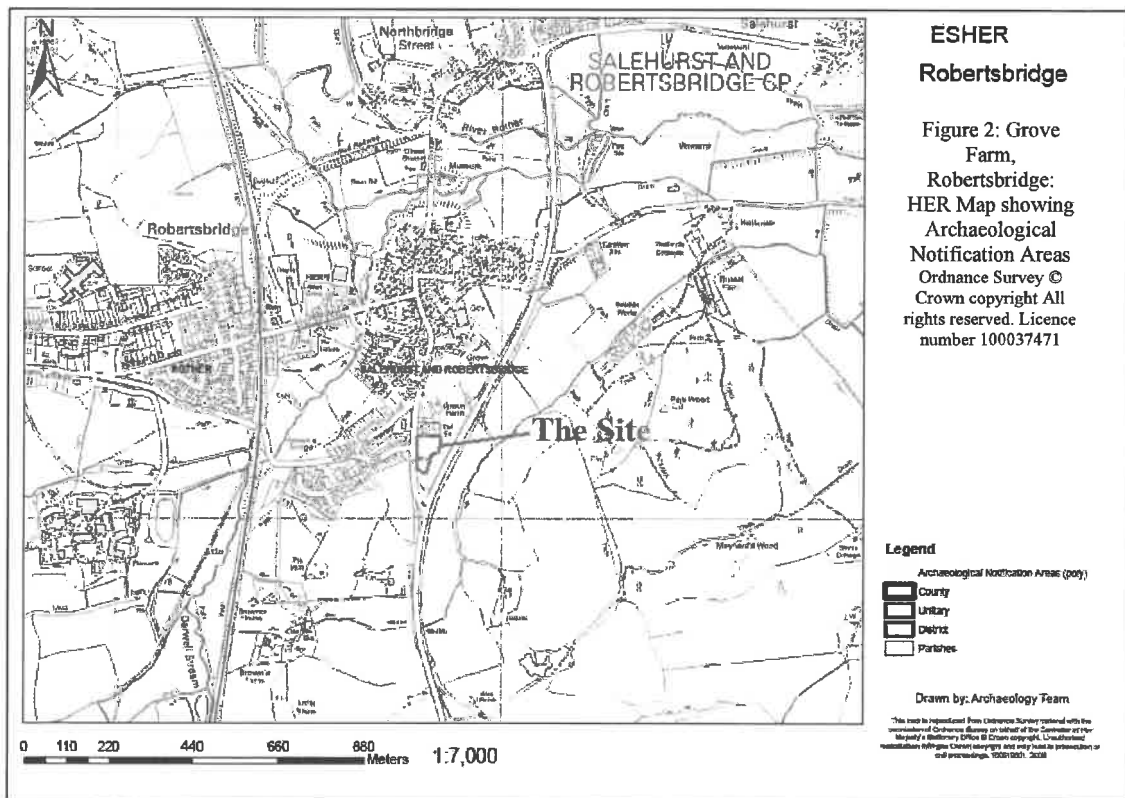
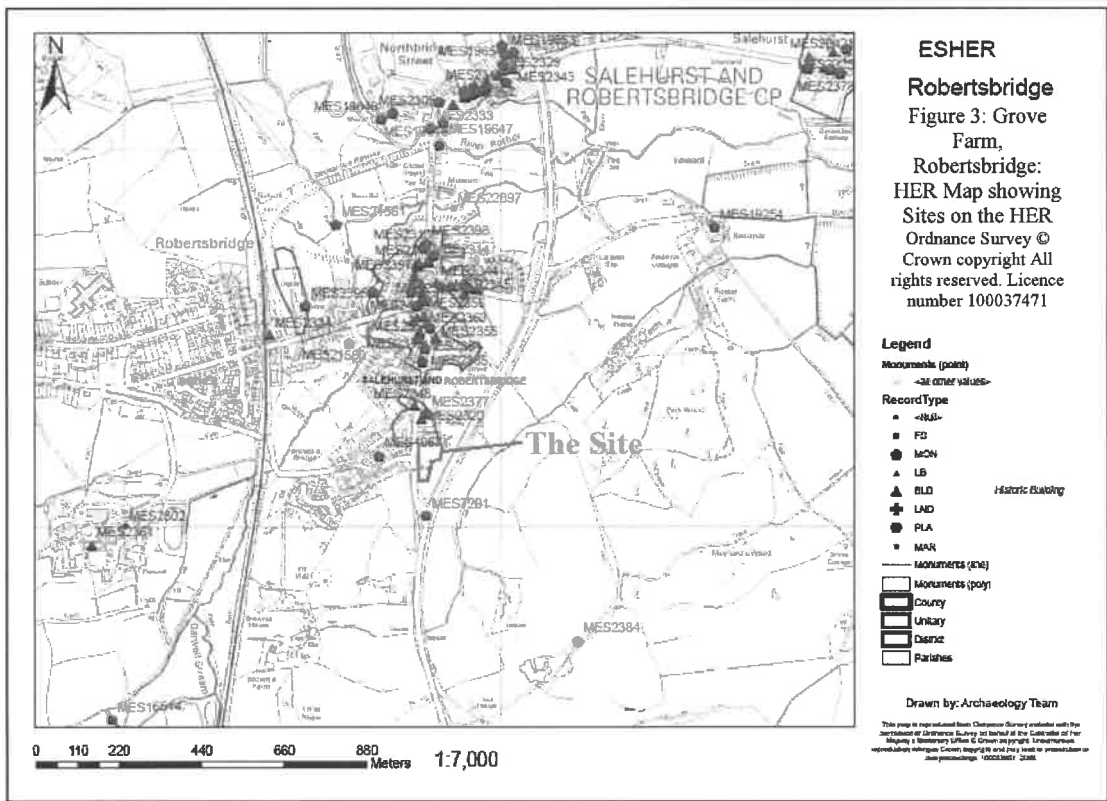


Figure 1: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: Site Location Plan  
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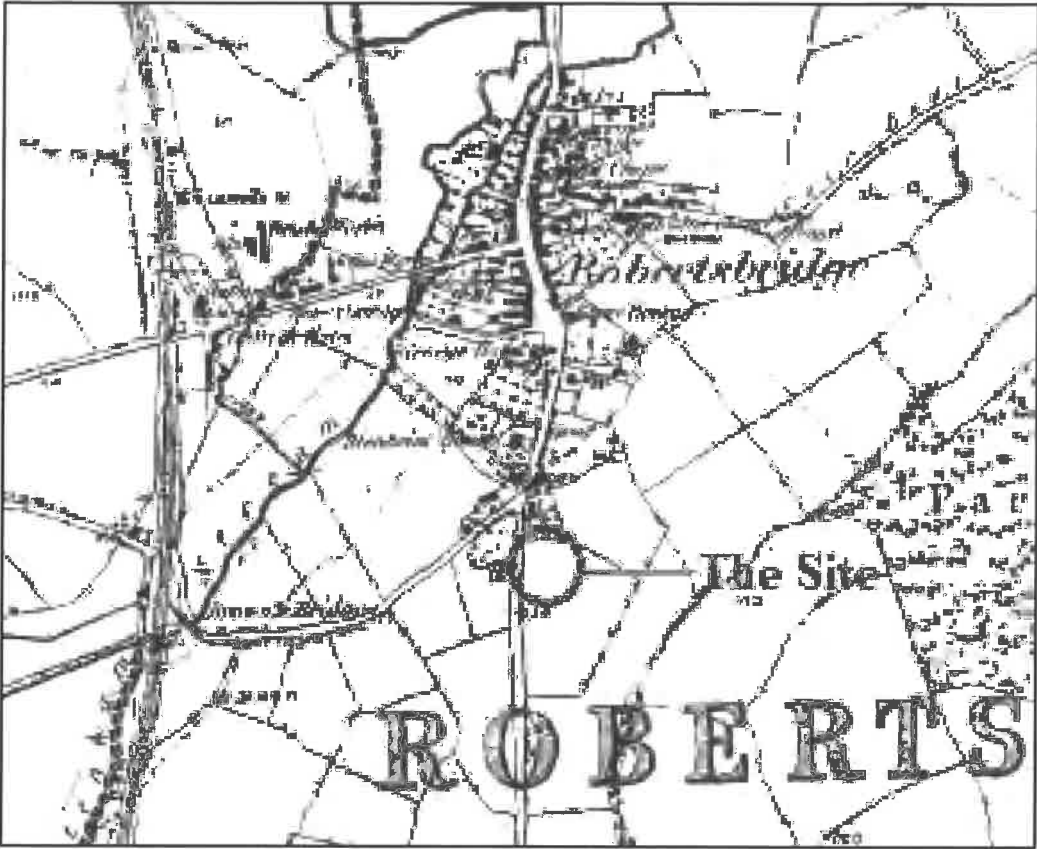


Figure 4: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map of 1878

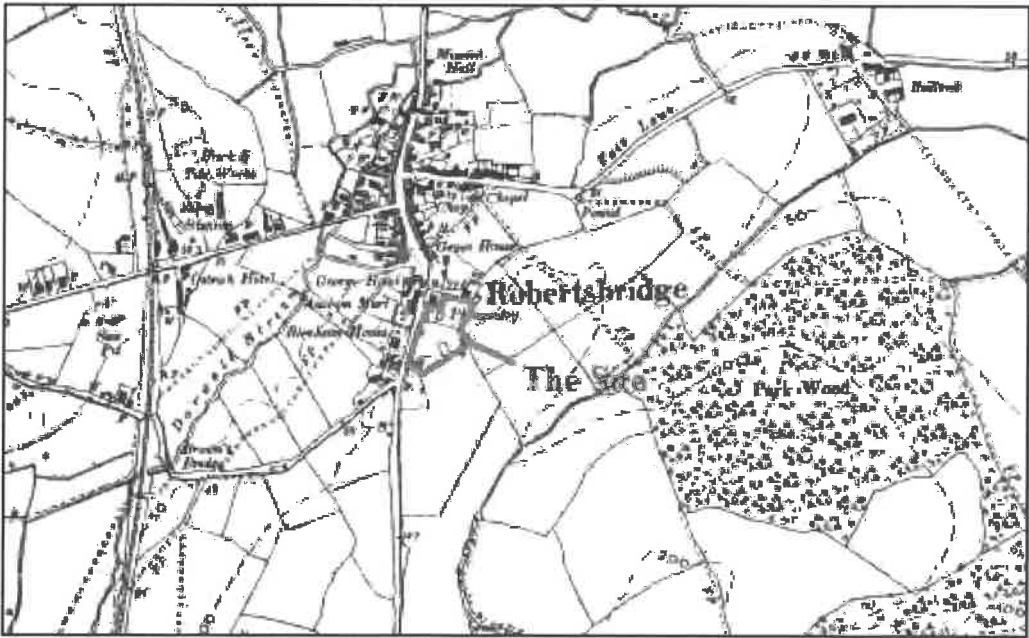


Figure 5: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Map of 1899

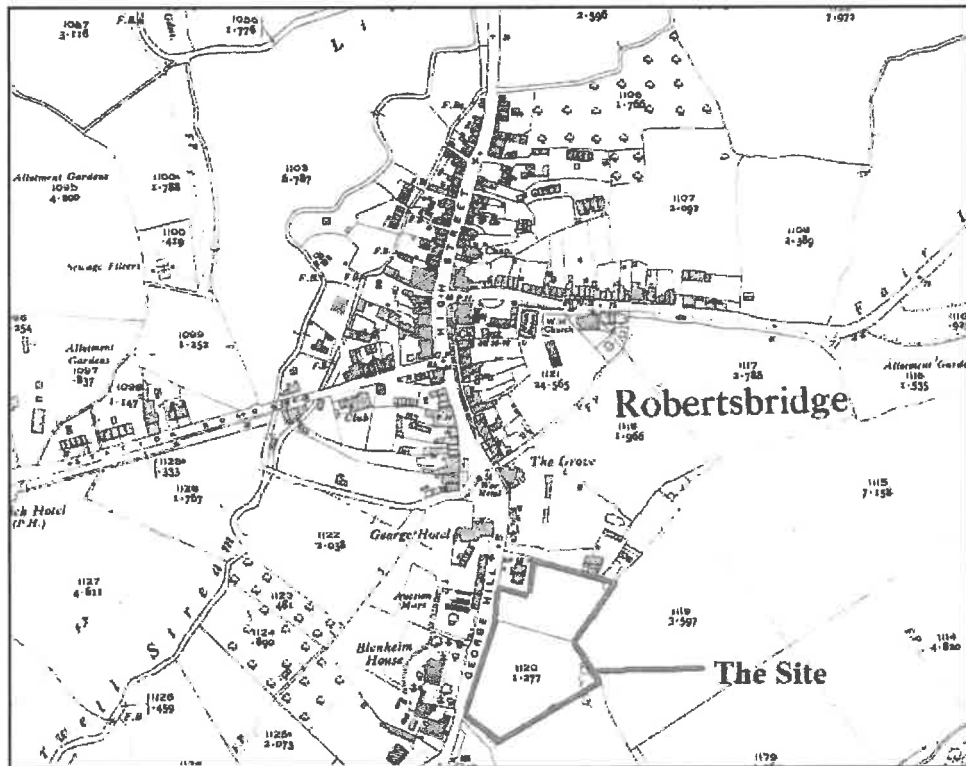


Figure 6: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: OS Map of 1930



Figure 7: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: Interpretation of geophysics results



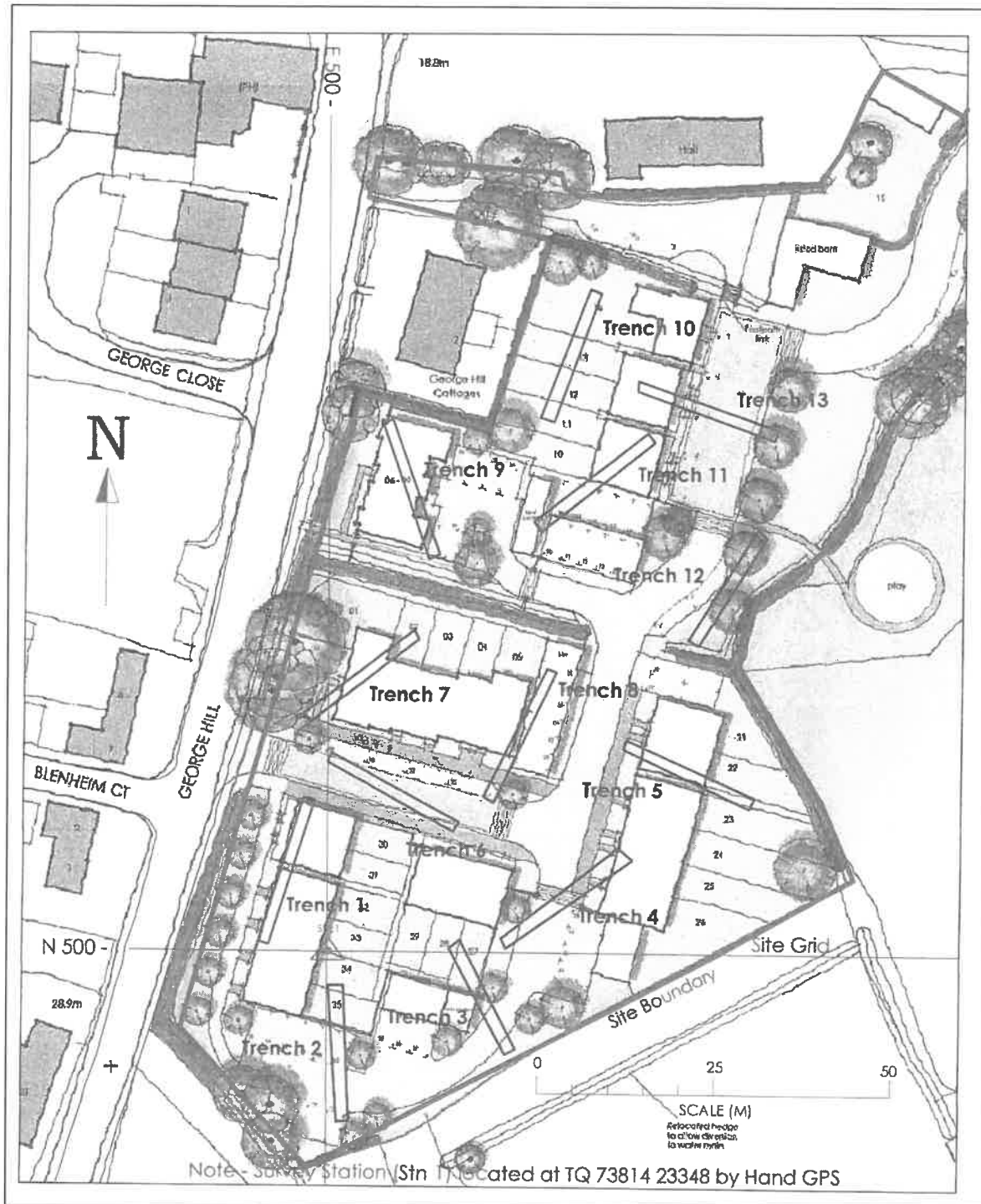


Figure 8: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: Site Plan showing trenches superimposed over development plan

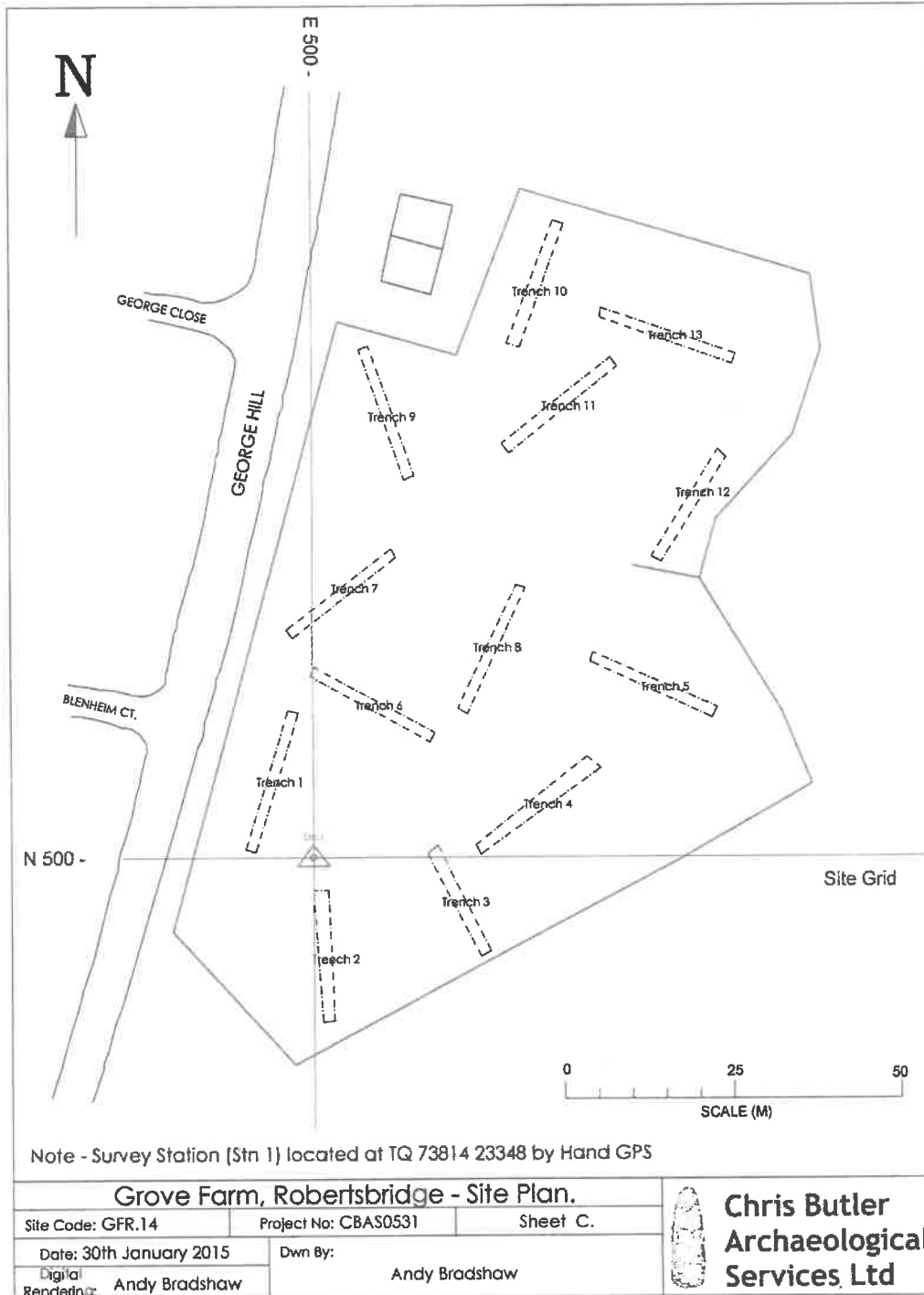


Figure 9: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: Site Plan showing trench locations

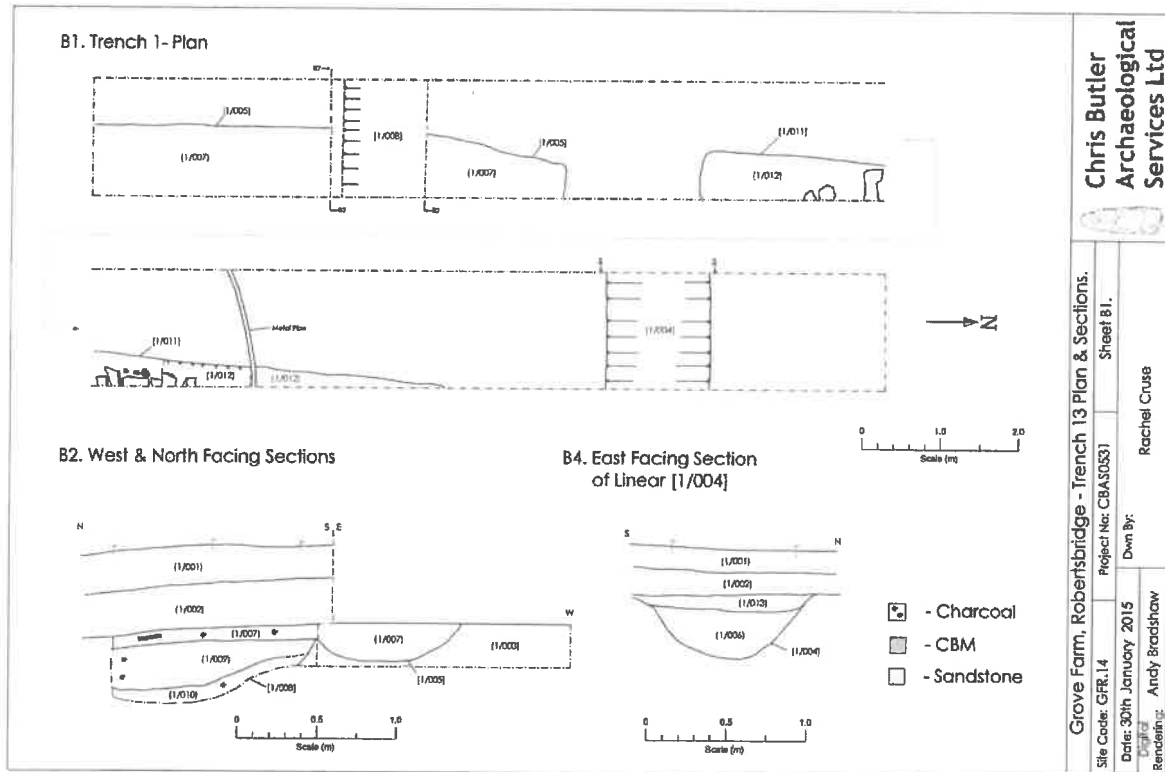


Figure 10: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: Trench 1 Plan and Sections

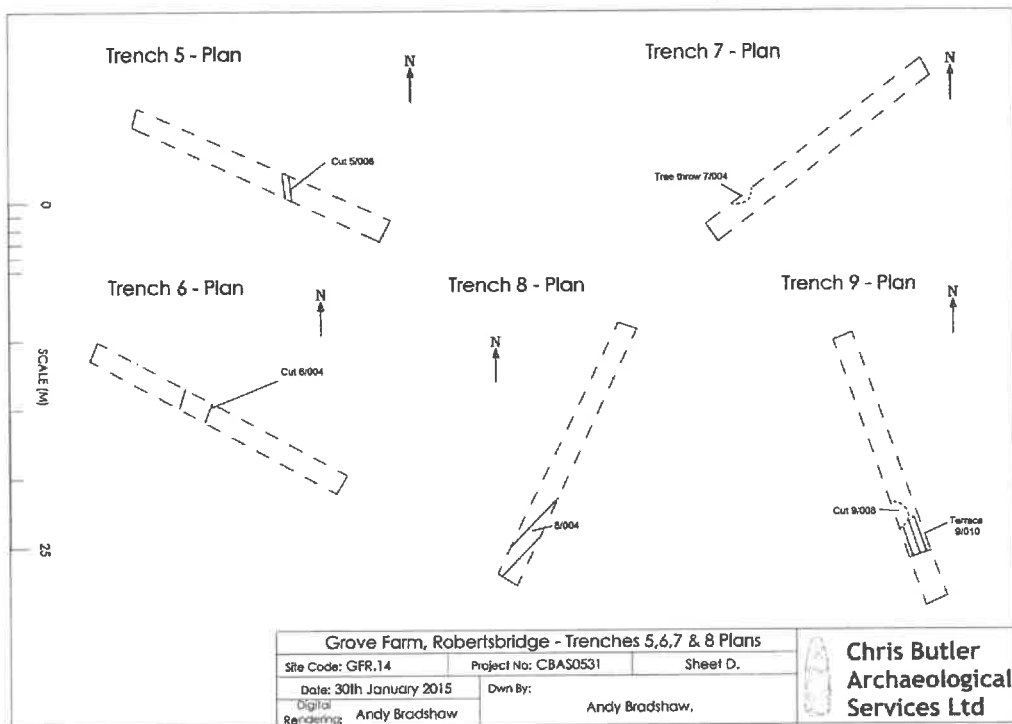


Figure 11: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: Trenches 5-9 Plans

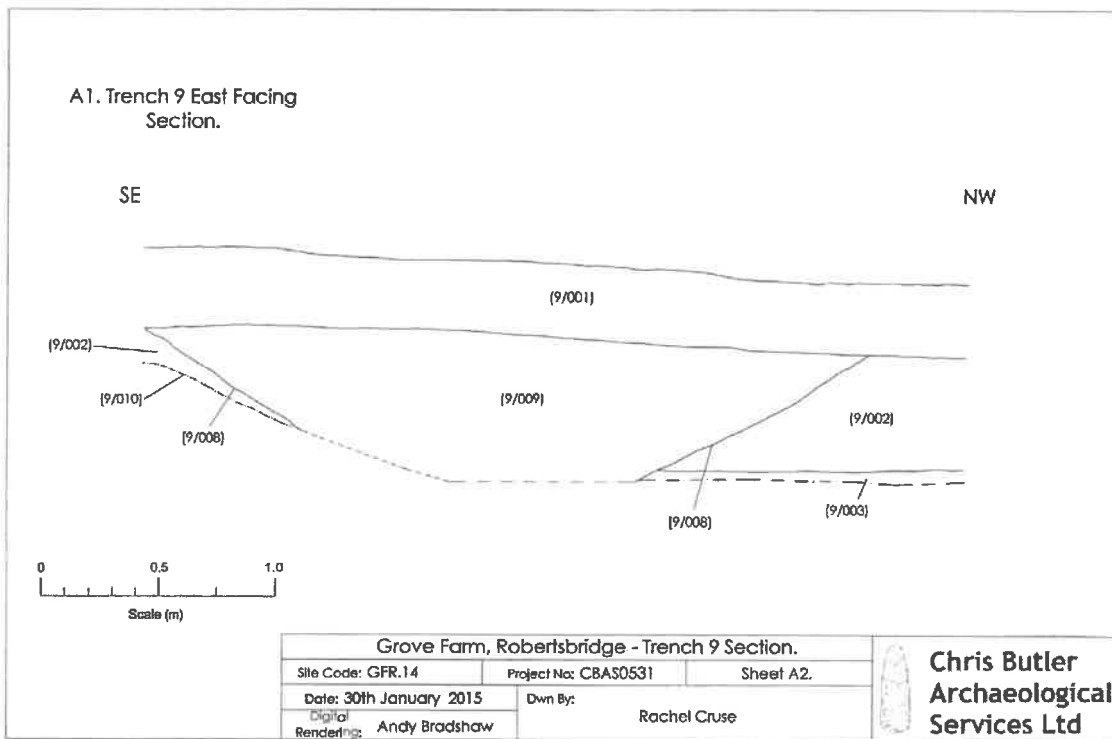


Figure 12: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: Trench 9 Section of Cut 9/008

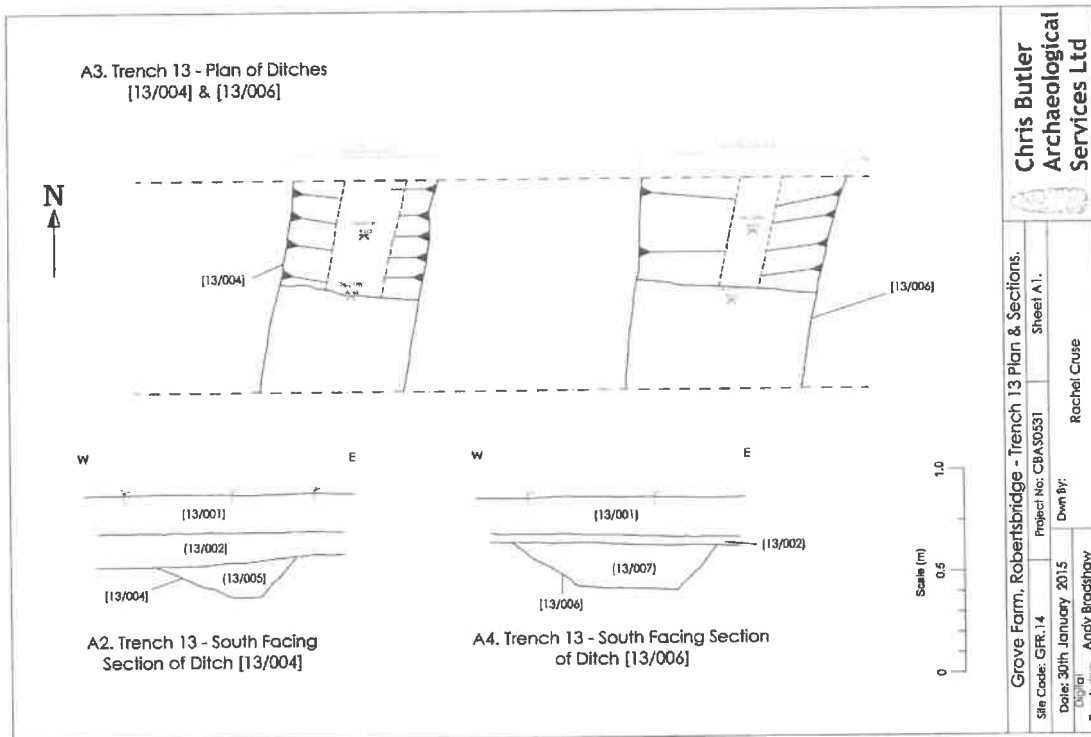


Figure 13: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: Trench 13 Plan, and Sections of Cuts [13/004 & 13/006]

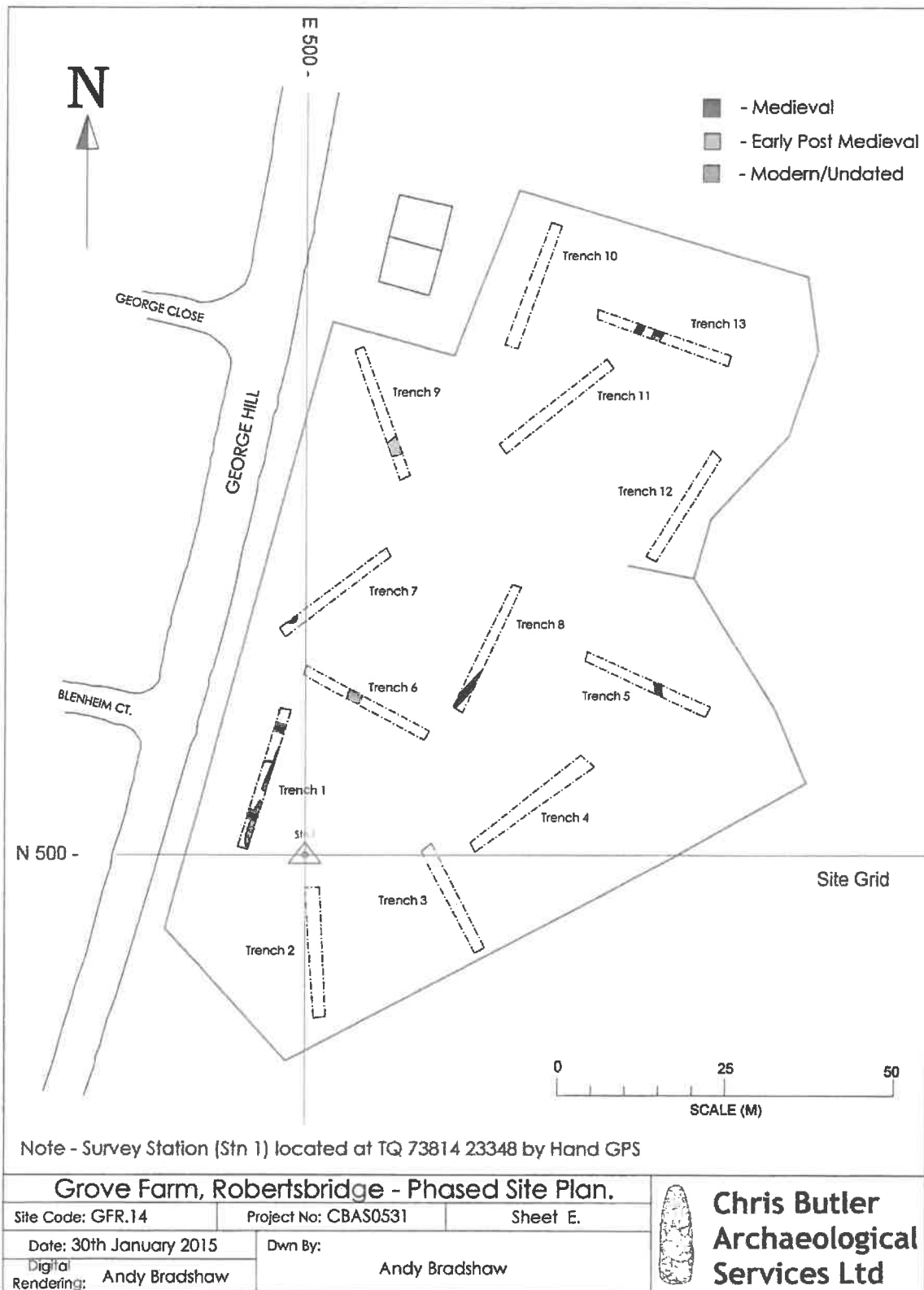


Figure 14: Grove Farm, Robertsbridge: Phased site plan

### Appendix 1 Levels

Grove Farm, Robertsbridge - Survey Data.  
GFR.14 CBAS0531

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
S/S.1	500	500	30.827	Drain Cover SW Area of Site.

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR1.1	491.519	500.905	30.478	SE Trench Top
TR1.2	490.083	501.364	30.342	SW Trench Top
TR1.3	496.313	521.828	28.016	NW Trench Top
TR1.4	497.887	521.501	28.083	NE Trench Top
TR1.5	491.639	501.357	29.231	SE Trench Base
TR1.6	490.341	501.684	29.832	SW Trench Base
TR1.7	496.328	521.476	27.747	NW Trench Base
TR1.8	497.728	521.511	27.87	NE Trench Base
Cut 1004.1	492.458	503.712	29.608	
Cut 1004.2	491.219	504.249	29.526	
Cut 1004.3	493.723	507.033	29.233	
Cut 1004.4	492.01	506.418	29.259	
Cut 1006.1	496.656	516.714	28.28	
Cut 1006.2	495.291	516.793	28.304	
Cut 1006.3	495.529	518.239	28.044	
Cut 1006.4	497.273	519.028	28.012	

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR2.1	503.064	475.962	32.671	SE Trench Top
TR2.2	501.375	475.776	32.782	SW Trench Top
TR2.3	500.021	495.143	31.286	NW Trench Top
TR2.4	502.209	495.17	31.232	NE Trench Top

Point is backfilled at time of survey

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR3.1	526.489	486.279	31.917	SE Trench Top
TR3.2	525.027	485.504	31.864	SW Trench Top
TR3.3	517.102	500.533	30.435	NW Trench Top
TR3.4	518.598	501.771	30.429	NE Trench Top

Point is backfilled at time of survey

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR4.1	525.021	500.542	30.83	S Trench Top
TR4.2	524.349	501.961	30.809	W Trench Top
TR4.3	540.639	514.943	29.917	N Trench Top
TR4.4	542.7	513.249	29.970	E Trench Top

Point is backfilled at time of survey

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR5.1	541.256	528.945	28.718	W Trench Top
TR5.2	541.603	530.297	28.608	N Trench Top
TR5.3	539.958	522.151	29.188	E Trench Top
TR5.4	539.169	520.618	29.276	S Trench Top
TR5.5	541.576	528.853	28.096	W Trench Base
TR5.6	542.003	530.054	27.997	N Trench Base
TR5.7	539.209	522.201	28.522	E Trench Base
TR5.8	538.500	521.107	28.603	S Trench Base
Cut 5006.1	532.796	533.844	28.652	
Cut 5006.2	552.571	525.525	28.546	

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR6.1	518.284	518.507	29.141	E Trench Top
TR6.2	517.491	517.176	29.255	S Trench Top
TR6.3	499.693	526.858	27.700	W Trench Top
TR6.4	500.208	528.205	27.666	N Trench Top
TR6.5	517.875	518.669	28.615	E Trench Base
TR6.6	517.081	517.511	28.679	S Trench Base
TR6.7	500.072	526.758	27.449	W Trench Base
TR6.8	500.535	517.999	27.373	N Trench Base

Cut 6004.1	508.600	523.994	27.672	
Cut 6004.2	508.086	522.765	27.780	
Cut 6004.3	506.384	523.703	27.326	
Cut 6004.4	506.611	525.045	27.229	

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR7.1	497.099	532.489	27.101	S Trench Top
TR7.2	496.185	533.747	26.948	W Trench Top
TR7.3	511.845	545.639	26.607	N Trench Top
TR7.4	512.501	544.377	26.739	E Trench Top
TR7.5	501.318	536.520	28.152	S Trench Base
TR7.6	497.193	532.757	26.617	W Trench Base
TR7.7	496.535	533.744	26.473	N Trench Base
TR7.8	511.815	545.666	26.614	E Trench Base
TR7.9	512.695	544.543	26.744	VOID READING

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR8.1	523.105	521.254	29.132	S Trench Top
TR8.2	521.705	522.115	28.997	W Trench Top
TR8.3	530.439	540.257	27.760	N Trench Top
TR8.4	531.766	539.822	27.763	E Trench Top
TR8.5	523.171	521.573	28.880	S Trench Base
TR8.6	521.894	522.205	28.623	W Trench Base
TR8.7	530.493	540.072	27.512	N Trench Base
TR8.8	531.551	539.497	27.543	E Trench Base



Grove Farm, Robertsbridge - Survey Data.  
GFR.14 CBAS0531

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR9.1	515.294	556.413	25.863	E Trench Top
TR9.2	513.799	555.709	25.876	S Trench Top
TR9.3	507.168	574.938	23.975	W Trench Top
TR9.4	508.525	575.48	24.004	N Trench Top
TR9.5	515.104	556.62	25.428	E Trench Base
TR9.6	513.643	556.376	25.326	S Trench Base
TR9.7	512.667	559.163	24.911	Mid Trench Step
TR9.8	512.046	561.334	24.000	Mid Trench Step
TR9.9	507.242	574.613	23.585	W Trench Base
TR9.10	508.56	575.068	23.596	N Trench Base
TR9.11	513.147	562.237	24.071	Mid Trench Step
TR9.12	513.997	559.612	24.96	Mid Trench Step

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR10.1	531.119	575.206	24.875	S Trench Top
TR10.2	529.197	575.818	24.798	W Trench Top
TR10.3	536.092	593.96	24.563	N Trench Top
TR10.4	537.634	593.396	24.700	E Trench Top

Trench Backfilled at 1:1 = 1:1 Survey.

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR11.1	529.464	559.641	25.545	S Trench Top
TR11.2	528.396	561.061	25.414	W Trench Top
TR11.3	544.369	573.674	26.318	N Trench Top
TR11.4	545.351	572.32	26.41	E Trench Top
TR11.5	529.611	560.153	25.244	S Trench Base
TR11.6	528.726	561.134	25.197	W Trench Base
TR11.7	544.272	573.495	26.108	N Trench Base
TR11.8	545.168	572.289	26.212	E Trench Base

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR12.1	551.777	543.641	27.838	S Trench Top
TR12.2	550.319	544.451	27.758	W Trench Top
TR12.3	560.17	560.138	27.61	N Trench Top
TR12.4	561.376	558.931	27.626	E Trench Top
TR12.5	551.872	544.081	27.429	S Trench Base
TR12.6	550.508	544.552	27.315	W Trench Base
TR12.7	559.818	559.166	27.326	N Trench Base
TR12.8	560.921	558.515	27.368	E Trench Base

Notes -

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
TR13.1	562.826	574.189	26.843	E Trench Top
TR13.2	562.379	572.658	26.904	S Trench Top
TR13.3	542.89	579.586	25.878	W Trench Top
TR13.4	542.987	581.025	25.904	N Trench Top
TR13.5	562.503	574.103	26.592	E Trench Base
TR13.6	561.961	572.764	26.635	S Trench Base
TR13.7	543.003	579.776	25.843	W Trench Base
TR13.8	543.28	580.842	25.797	N Trench Base

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
SB1	509.909	579.134	23.641	
SB2	521.727	574.135	24.444	
SB3	531.322	598.687	24.328	
SB4	574.111	585.884	26.132	
SB5	575.646	574.832	26.564	
SB6	571.412	562.295	27.734	
SB7	558.155	550.321	27.878	
SB8	554.126	541.752	27.667	
SB9	547.62	543.013	27.38	
SB10	555.965	537.728	28.125	
SB11	565.209	520.157	29.62	
SB12	554.484	501.789	30.587	
SB13	493.773	469.338	32.526	
SB16	479.191	489.059	29.462	

Point	E	N	OS Lvl	Note.
S.SEC1	527.08	485.109	30.875	Section taken from S - N along mid line of site
S.SEC2	527.909	496.627	30.062	
S.SEC3	533.096	515.317	29.423	
S.SEC4	535.481	525.858	28.067	
S.SEC5	541.501	530.979	26.649	
S.SEC6	551.061	557.738	26.223	
S.SEC7	561.051	578.051	25.494	
S.SEC8	564.526	588.036	24.973	

Abbreviations -  
 TS - Survey Station.  
 TR - Trench Point.  
 SLT - Slot.  
 SB - Site Boundary.  
 S.SEC - Site Section.

## Appendix 2 HER Summary Form

Site Code	GFR14					
Identification Name and Address	Grove Farm, Robertsbridge, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 73848, 23388					
Geology	Ashdown Formation					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. <b>X</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <b>X</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 08/12/14- 12/12/14	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Croudace Homes Ltd					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MfA					
Project Supervisor	Rachel Cruse					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED <b>X</b>	PM <b>X</b>	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out at Grove Farm, Robertsbridge, East Sussex in advance of a planning application being submitted for a housing development. The excavation revealed evidence for occupation along the side of George Hill road dating from the medieval period through to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. House terraces can be seen on the ground, and excavation revealed boundary ditches and possible remains of a stone wall. Elsewhere on the site other ditches of possible medieval and post medieval date were found, together with 19<sup>th</sup> century. Historical evidence has confirmed that five houses were demolished on this site in around 1700, and may have originated as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The excavation found evidence for the house platforms going out of use in 1670-1690.</i></p> <p><i>Any proposal to build on this site would require the prior excavation and recording of the house platforms which are of significant archaeological interest and local importance.</i></p>						

## **Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd**

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

Chris is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, and a 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 6<sup>th</sup> Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006. He continues to run the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in his spare time.

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

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

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

# **Chris Butler MfA Archaeological Services Ltd Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist**

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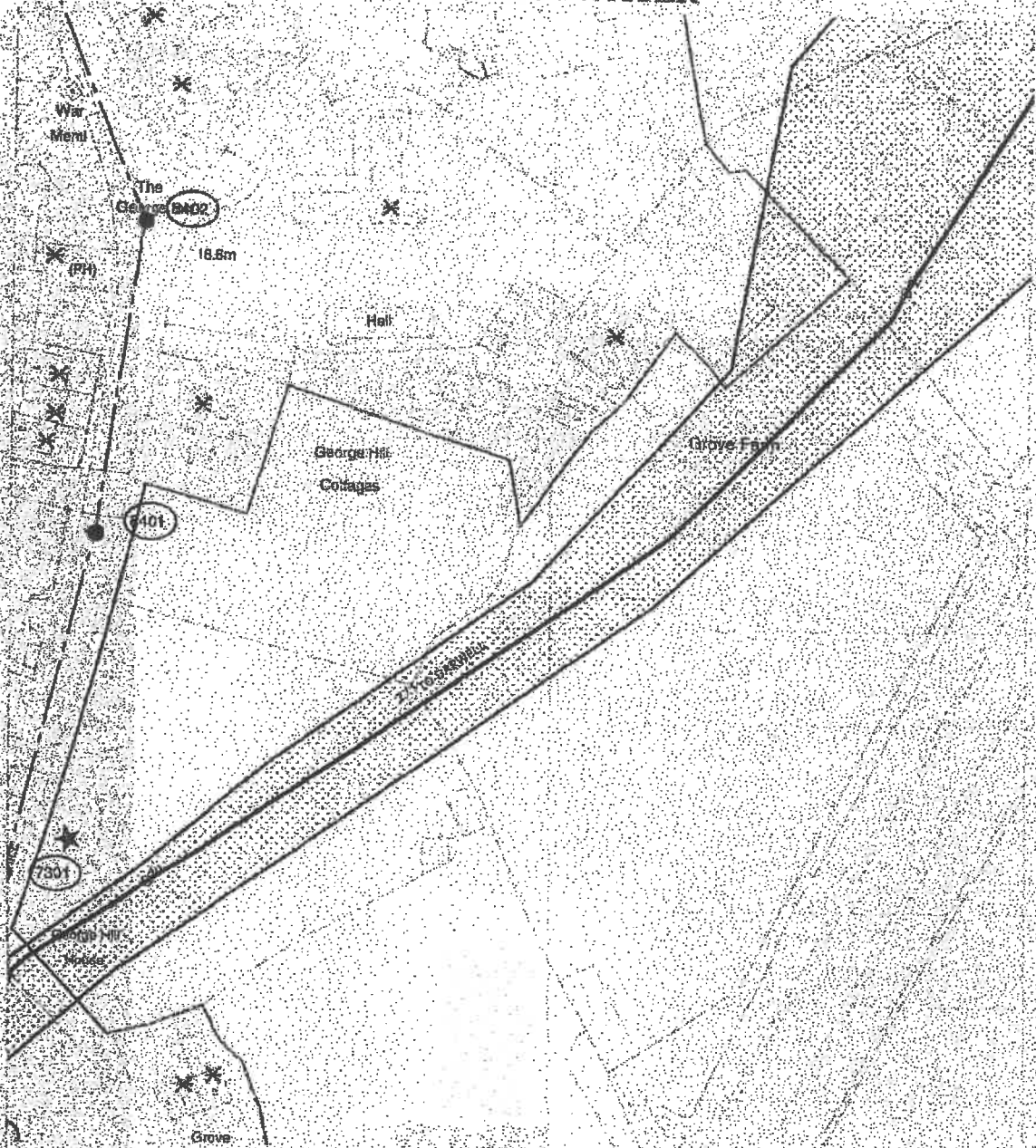








# SOUTHERN WATER



The position of pipes shown on this plan are indicated to be correct, but Southern Water Services Ltd accept no responsibility to the extent of inaccuracy. The actual positions should be determined on site.

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WARNING: Unknown to (UK) maps also may include Borden Asbestos Cement



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- 1) Do have cable drawings with you on site and check them before you start the excavation.
- 2) Do have a cable locator tool on site and use it to help you.
- 3) Do not cut the location of electricity cables 0.3m of electricity cables.
- 4) Do not use any tools that may damage the cables.
- 5) Never disturb electricity cables and joints or their protective covers.

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These basic safety precautions are explained in detail in the HSE booklet HGL04. A copy of this booklet is available from your supervisor. A copy of which may be obtained from your supervisor or HSE.

Please be aware that electric lines belonging to other owners or increased systems may be present and it is your responsibility to identify their location.

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Plotted On : 23/11/2016  
 Plotted By : Mark Ellis  
 Plot Description: GROVE FARM, GEORGE HILL, ROBERTSBRODGE, TH32 5AZ  
 2016/2239095  
 Map Centre : 107.2235E

UK Power Networks  
 Plot Provision  
 IPSS/CH/1  
 Suffolk  
 IP3 8BA  
 0855 855  
 Fax 0870 1 965782

For details of the mapmaking process visit: [www.ukpower.net/uk-power-networks/uk-power-networks](http://www.ukpower.net/uk-power-networks/uk-power-networks)

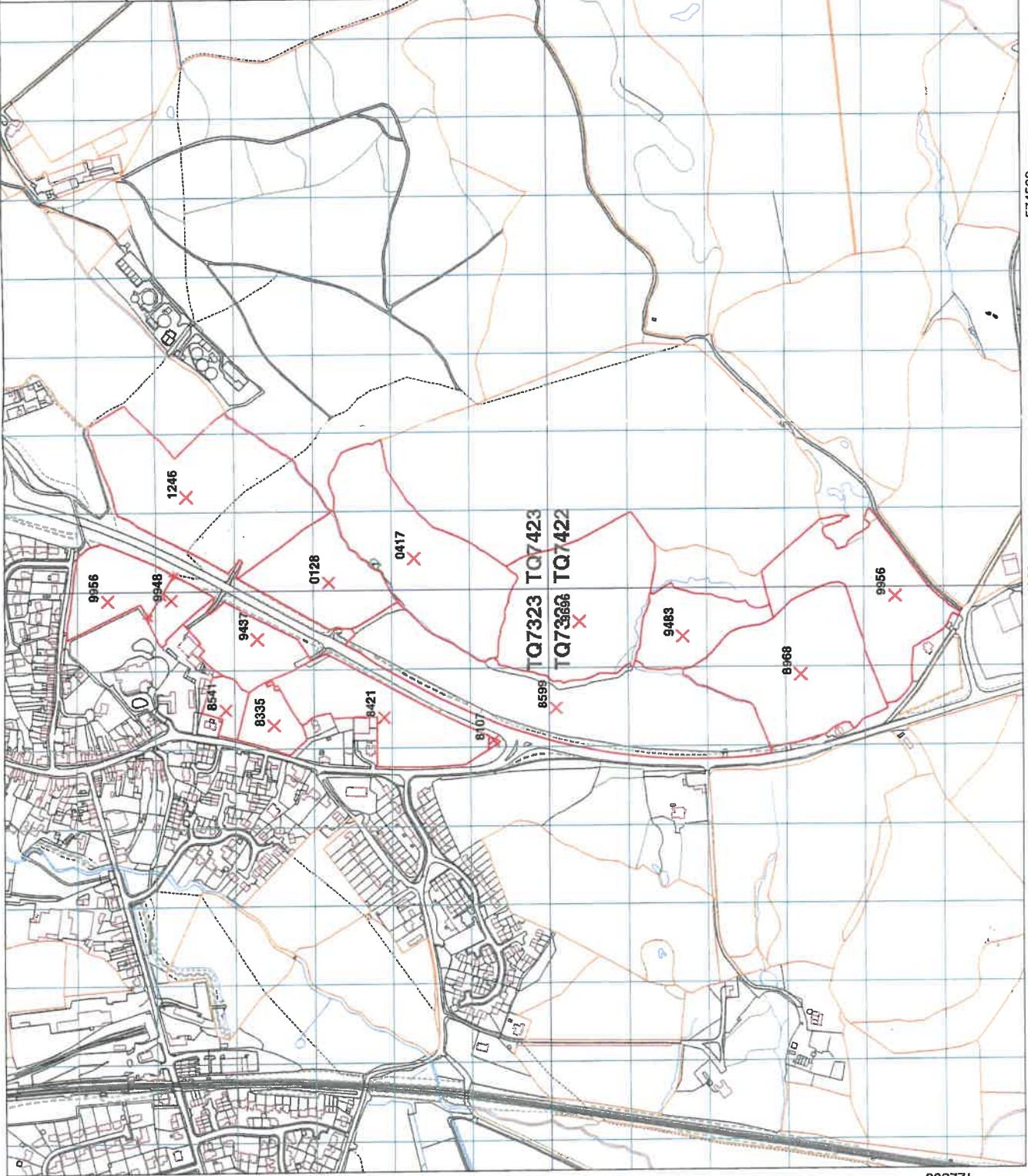
- Legends**
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  - SPS Permanent Ineligible Features
  - Adjacent Parcel Boundary
  - Unconfirmed Boundary

Sheet ID	RLR Information		English Region
	Parcel ID	SPS Recorded Eligible Area (ha)	
TQ7392	6589	4.39	N
TQ7392	8968	3.0	N
TQ7392	9463	1.11	N
TQ7392	9856	3.05	N
TQ7392	8956	2.41	N
TQ7392	8107	0.01	N
TQ7392	8335	0.51	N
TQ7392	8421	1.79	N
TQ7392	8541	0.29	N
TQ7392	9437	1.01	N
TQ7392	9948	0.35	N
TQ7392	8956	0.86	N
TQ7423	0128	1.56	N
TQ7423	0417	3.01	N
TQ7423	1246	3.76	N

**Scale 1:5000**  
 50m 0m 50m 100m 150m 200m

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573500

123500

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