

Chris Butler MCIfA Archaeological Services Ltd

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for an Archaeological
Watching Brief
at
Mid Kent Golf Club, Singlewell Road,
Gravesend, Kent,
DA11 7RB**

TQ 64381 71611

Planning Ref: 20231115

Project No: CBAS1509

By
Emily Walsh

April 2024

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd
Unit 12, Mays Farm
Selmeston
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TS

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS Ltd) has been commissioned by Mid Kent Golf Club (The Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Mid Kent Golf Club, Singlewell Road, Gravesend, Kent, (hereafter the Site; Figs. 1 & 2), in connection with a planning application (Planning Ref: 20231115) for relocation of the 13th hole (Figs. 3a & 3b).
- 1.2 Mid Kent Golf Club is located in the south of Gravesend, and comprises an irregularly shaped plot enclosed by Wrotham Road, Singlewell Road, Dennis Road, and Harman Avenue. The golf club is surrounded on all sides by housing development and associated amenities. The area of the proposed alterations (centre point TQ 64381 71611) is located in the area of the current 13th hole, approximately 800m south-west of the clubhouse.
- 1.3 The Site lies on a gentle north-east facing slope at a height of c. 47-38m aOD¹. According to the British Geological Survey the geology of the Site is chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation. A band of clay, silt, sand and gravel head runs north-west to south-east across the centre of the Site².
- 1.4 The Site lies within an area of multi-period archaeological potential and remains including settlement and burial remains from the prehistoric to the present day and the route of a major Roman Road have been identified in the surrounding landscape.
- 1.5 Groundworks associated with the proposed development including those for an attenuation basin, soil stripping and cut and fill landscaping (Fig. 3b) hold potential to impact upon any archaeological horizons present. For this reason, the following condition was placed on the planning permission³:
4. *A) Prior to any below ground works the applicant (or their agents or successors in title) shall secure an archaeological watching brief so that excavations and other development works are observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*
- B) The archaeological watching brief, recording, post excavation assessment, analysis and reporting shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed specification and timetable.*

¹ <https://www.daftlogic.com/sandbox-google-maps-find-altitude.htm> accessed 15/04/2024.

² https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?_ga=2.75540240.468835885.1713175434-593027101.1713175434

³ Notification Of Grant Of Permission To Develop Land. Application: 20231115.

C) Within 6 months of the completion of the watching brief a Report shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Policies CS19 and CS20 of the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (September 2014).

- 1.6** This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers an archaeological watching brief to monitor all groundworks associated with the development. The WSI will be submitted to Gravesham Borough Council for formal approval.
- 1.7** The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*⁴ and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*⁵, *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent* 2016 (Recommended Standards); and the *Treasure Act*⁶.
- 1.8** The project will be managed by Stewart Angell. The Post-excavation assessment will be managed by Jan Oldham. The field officer allocated to the project will be notified to the County Archaeologist at least 24 hours in advance of the watching brief commencing.

⁴ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2019. *Code of Conduct*.

⁵ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.

⁶ UK Parliament 1996. *Treasure Act* 1996.

2.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1** The Kent Historic Environment Record (Fig. 4) was consulted for a 1km radius from the Site (the Study Area). The results are discussed below where relevant to the Site.
- 2.2** An *in situ* fine pointed Lower/Middle Palaeolithic handaxe (TQ 67 SW 369) was found in association with several waste flakes on a paleo-land surface during an evaluation c. 750m to the south-east of the Site. A second possible Palaeolithic flint tool (TQ 67 SE 284) was recorded during evaluation c. 750m to the east-southeast. Residual Palaeolithic flints (TQ 67 SW 621) have also been found c. 750m to the south-west of the Site.
- 2.3** Prehistoric flint flakes (TQ 67 SE 1235) were found during clearance of ground at Kings Farm School c. 870m to the south-east of the Site, and a re-deposited "pyramid" flint core (TQ 67 SE 283) of probable Mesolithic or Neolithic date was recovered from the subsoil in Ifield School c. 740m to the south-east. A range of residual Mesolithic flint (TQ 67 SW 1808) was found during the A2 scheme excavations c. 990m to the south-west of the Site.
- 2.4** Residual flints of Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age date (TQ 67 SW 622) were recorded during archaeological monitoring at the A2 Activity Park c. 730m to the south-west of the Site.
- 2.5** A Neolithic polished flint axe (TQ 67 SW 22) was found c. 1929 in allotments c. 720m to the south-west of the Site. A Neolithic Long Barrow (TQ 67 SW 418) has been excavated at Tollgate c. 680m to the south of the Site.
- 2.6** A programme of archaeological monitoring at Coldharbour Road c. 560m to the west of the Site recorded a pit and flint scatter (TQ 67 SW 521) which were assigned a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. A posthole (TQ 67 SW 1377) was also of possible Neolithic/Bronze Age date. A rectilinear feature, parallel ditches, and possible gullies dated to a single phase of occupation, possibly the Late Bronze Age (TQ 67 SW 177) were also recorded. The largest of the parallel ditches are interpreted as a driveway, the remaining features representing attached settlement. Flints of a probable Bronze Age date (TQ 67 SW 508) were collected during fieldwalking in a nearby field.
- 2.7** Two Beaker flexed adult inhumations and the disturbed remains of an infant (TQ 67 SW 542) are known c. 730m to the south-west of the Site and Bronze Age features (TQ 67 SW 1060) were located at Northumberland Bottom c. 710m to the south-west. Early Bronze Age pits and possible field system (TQ 67 SW 525) were present at Tollgate. A Late Bronze Age cremation (TQ 67 SW 544) was found c. 960m to the south-west of the Site.

- 2.8** During works associated with the A2 road scheme multi-period activity was discovered (TQ 67 SW 488). An Early Bronze Age Beaker Pit (TQ 67 SW 461), later Bronze Age enclosure ditches and unaccompanied cremations, and early Iron Age storage pits and post structures were present. A series of Middle Iron Age enclosure ditches, an inhumation burial and several cremations were found. Roman field boundaries and a Roman cemetery (TQ 67 SW 464), an early medieval Grubenhaus and medieval sunken featured buildings, sub-rectangular pits, kilns and deneholes were also present.
- 2.9** A Late Iron Age/Roman field system (TQ 67 SW 123) is present to the west of Tollgate, and a Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pit (TQ 67 SW 1050) was found near Tollgate. Part of a small Early Iron Age site (TQ 67 SW 177) was found to the north of Coldharbour Road during archaeological works here, and Late Iron Age to Roman features including pits, ditches, slots and post-holes (TQ 67 SW 1061, TQ 67 SW 16) were present at Northumberland Bottom.
- 2.10** The proposed route of Watling Street Roman Road (TQ 86 SW 132) runs parallel to the A2 to the south of the Site. Excavations at Springhead Nursery, c. 3km to the west, have exposed what is believed to be part of Watling Street.
- 2.11** 2nd century Roman cremation burials (TQ 67 SE 6) were found in the garden of 27 Kings Drive c. 860m to the north-east of the Site in 1930. The findspot of a Roman coin (TQ 67 SW 32) is reported from Dennis Road to the north of the golf course.
- 2.12** A medieval ditch (TQ 67 SW 505) was identified during the archaeological works west of Tollgate and medieval features including an enclosure, possible Grubenhaus and oven (TQ 67 SW 552) were found at Northumberland Bottom.
- 2.13** Second World War activity is represented in the Study Area. An air raid wardens post (TQ 67 SW 1293) was located in the entrance area of the Mid-Kent Golf Course. It was built around 1939, decommissioned in 1945 and demolished around 1970. A Second World War Police Box (TQ 67 SW 1241) was located on Singlewell Road, and an air raid wardens and air raid siren post (TQ 67 SW 1262) was present on Wrotham Road.
- 2.14** A post-medieval Dene Hole is present at Golf Links Avenue (TQ 67 SW 465) c. 100m to the south of the golf course. Cropmarks of an undefined nature are present within the Golf Course, to the north-east of the Site (Fig. 5).
- 2.15** The 1st Edition OS Map of 1869 (Fig. 6) shows the Site to lie within a parcel of agricultural land to the east of Wrotham Road. A field boundary crosses the Site in an east to west direction. The county, municipal and parliamentary boundary is present to the south of the Site.

- 2.16** The 2nd Edition OS Map of 1898 (Fig. 7) shows the Site to be located within a featureless agricultural field. This situation remains unchanged on the OS map of 1909 (Fig. 8).
- 2.17** The OS map of 1933 (Fig. 9) shows the golf course to have been established, although no associated features such as buildings or bunkers are depicted. The Site remains unchanged on an OS map published in 1950 (Fig. 10).

3.0 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief are to:

1. establish whether there are any archaeological features present within the footprint of all groundworks; and
2. ensure the excavation, environmental sampling and recording of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the groundworks.

3.2 The specific aims and objectives are to:

1. Identify, excavate and record any archaeological remains that may relate to Palaeolithic to Iron Age activity, as seen in the surrounding landscape;
2. Identify, excavate and record any archaeological remains that may relate to Roman activity, with reference to the Roman Road and other activity known in the Study Area;
3. Identify, excavate and record any archaeological remains relating to the medieval and post-medieval development and use of the Site.

4.0 Methodology

- 4.1** The archaeological work will be carried out on all groundworks associated with the development in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014); KCC's *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent 2016* (Recommended Standards) and the *Treasure Act* (1996). KCC's Recommended Standards will comprise a separate appendix to this WSI. A copy will be kept within the site folder. A site code of MKG24 has been assigned.

5.0 Health and Safety

- 5.1** Adherence to standard health and safety requirements, together with any constraints imposed by the contractor's health and safety practices, will be paramount. Recording of deep excavations, including any which exceed 1.2m in depth or which are judged to be unsafe, shall only be undertaken from the ground level.

6.0 Monitoring and Standards

- 6.1** CBAS Ltd is to allow the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer, or any designated representative of Gravesham District Council, to inspect and examine the Site's records at any reasonable time, during or after the excavation work.
- 6.2** The project will be managed by Stewart Angell who will be responsible for ensuring that the works are implemented correctly in accordance with the following:
1. All statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question, especially the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*;
 2. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2019); and
 3. KCC Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent (2016)

7.0 Insurance

- 7.1** CBAS Ltd is insured for public liability to the sum of £5,000,000 for any one occurrence.
- 7.2** CBAS Ltd is insured for professional indemnity to the sum of £1,000,000 for any one occurrence.

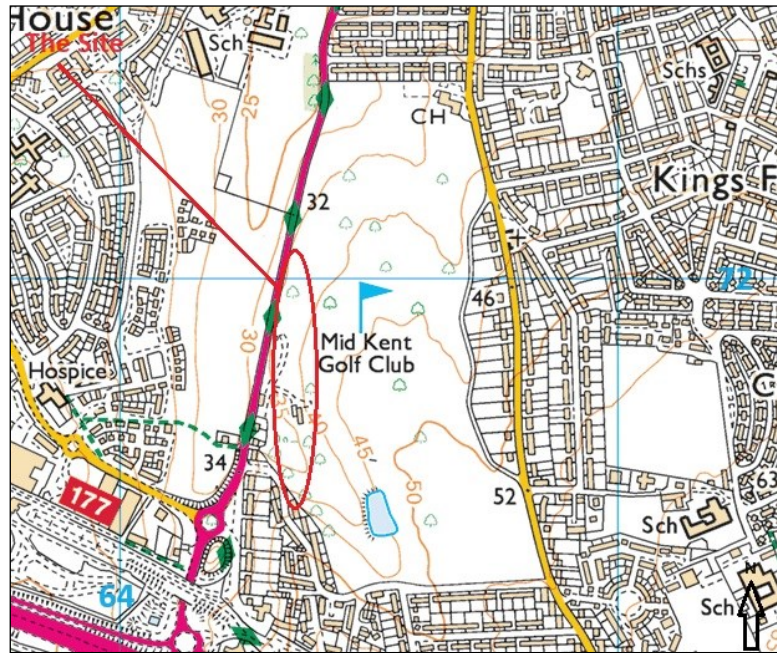


Fig. 1: Site location

Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471



Fig. 2: Existing Site Plan
Adapted from clients' plans



Fig. 3a: Proposed Site Plan
Adapted from clients' plans

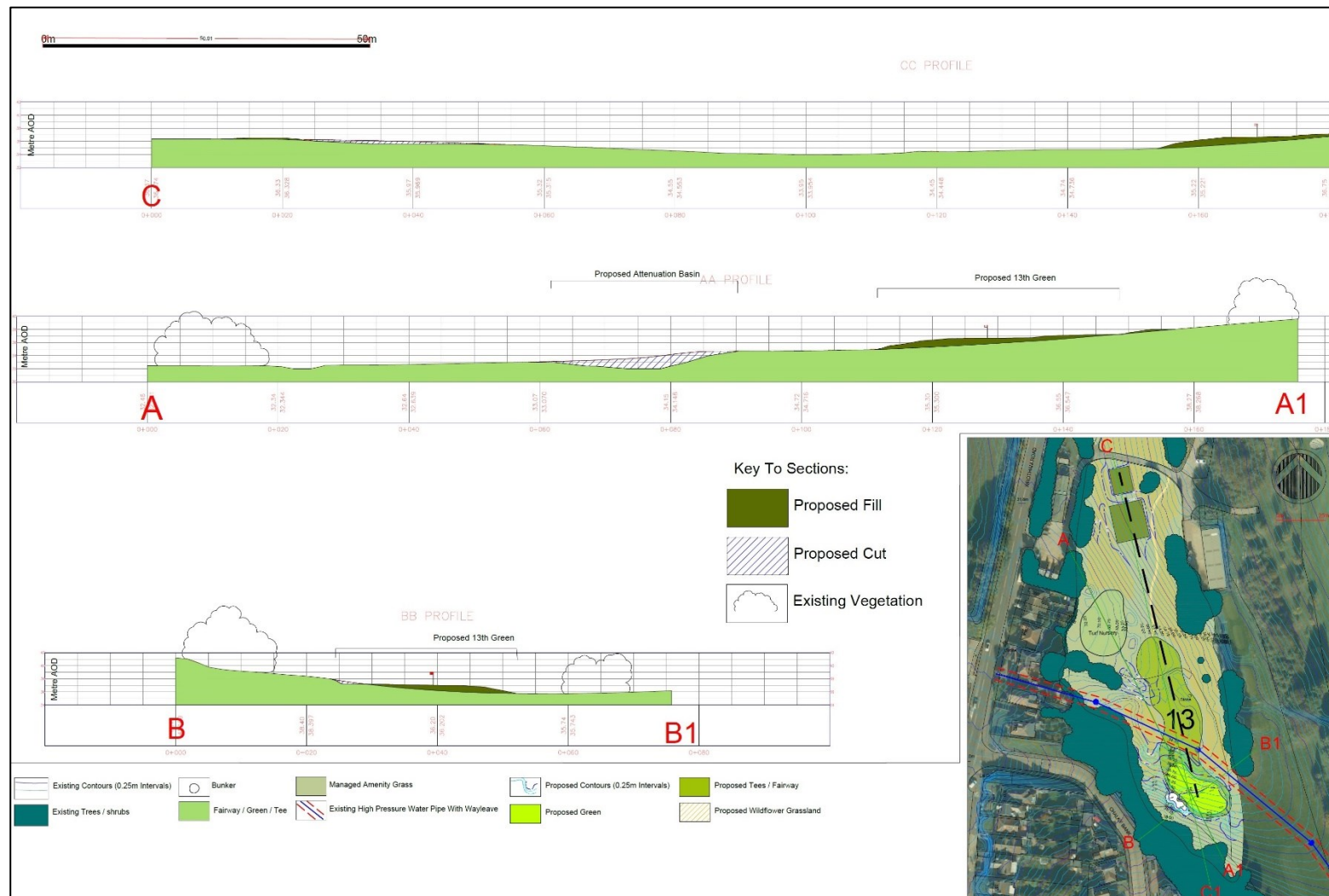


Fig. 3b: Proposed Sections
Adapted from clients' plans

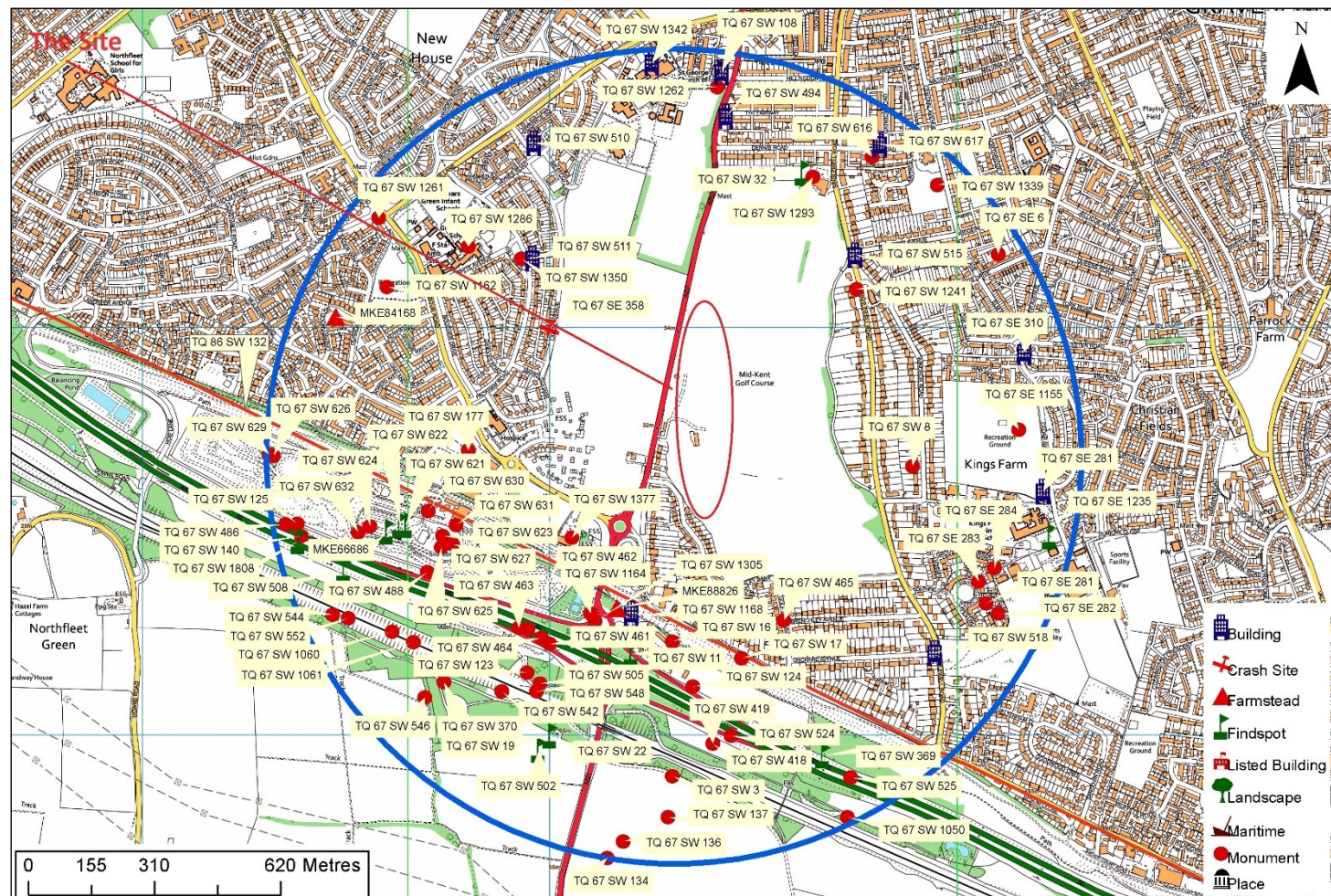
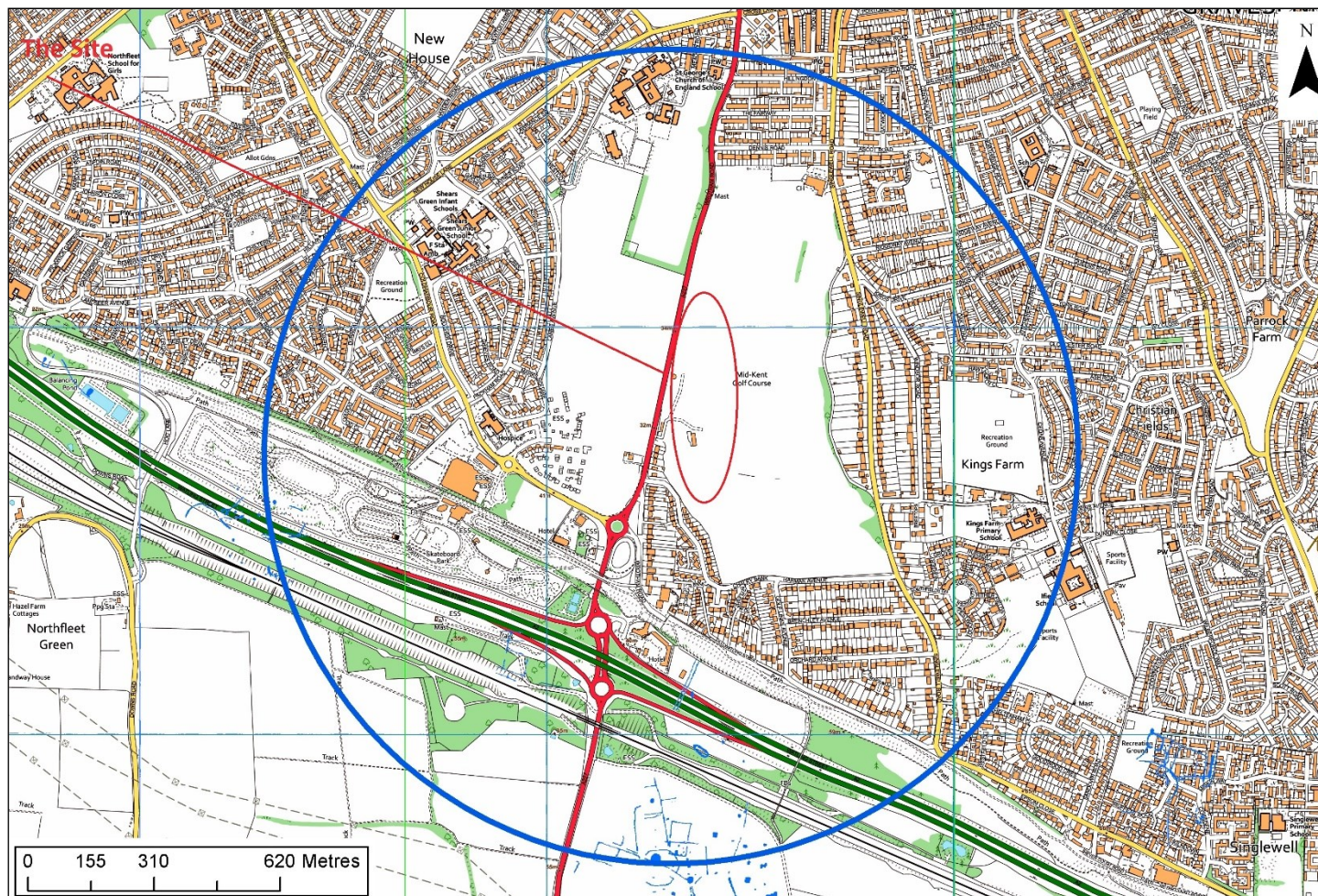


Fig. 4: HER map

(Adapted from map
provided by KCC)

Ordnance Survey © Crown
copyright. All rights
reserved. Licence number
100037471



**Fig. 5: Cropmarks
map**

(Adapted from map
provided by KCC)

Ordnance Survey © Crown
copyright. All rights
reserved. Licence number
100037471



Fig. 6: 1st Edition OS Map 1869

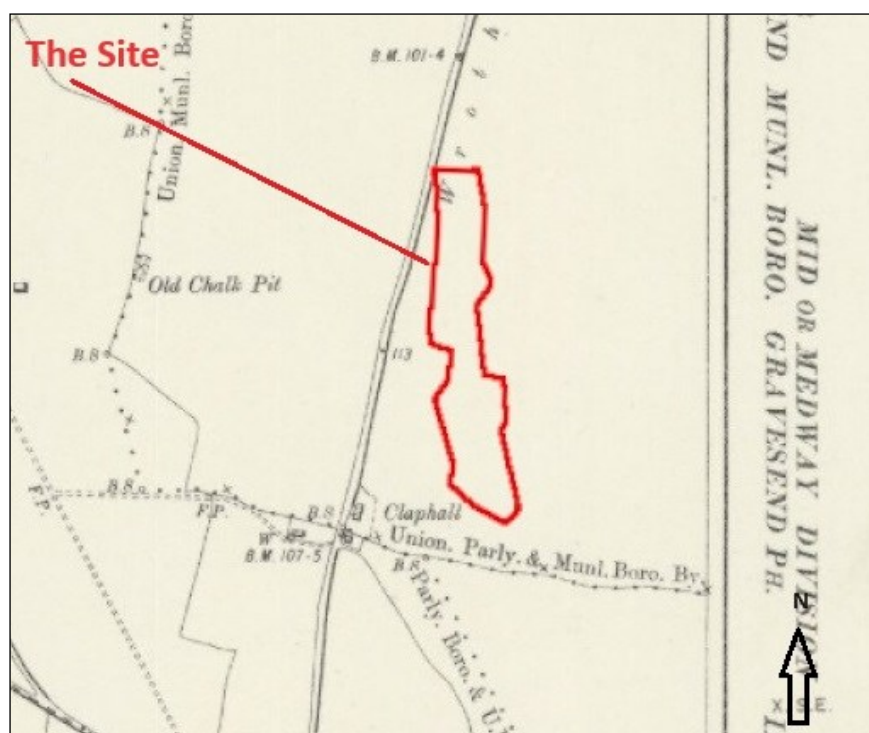


Fig. 7: 2nd Edition OS Map 1898



Fig. 8: 1909 OS Map



Fig. 9: 1933 OS Map



Fig. 10: 1950 OS Map

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.

Chris Butler MCIfA
Archaeological Services Ltd
Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist

Unit 12
Mays Farm
Selmeston
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TS

Tel & fax: 01323 811785

e mail: chris.butler@cbsltd.co.uk