

2014

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT BUCKHURST
PARK, WITHYHAM, EAST SUSSEX.**

Archaeology Services, Lewes.

Project No: ASL 21/14



**Lisa Jayne Fisher, BA MA
Archaeology Services Lewes
2 St.Johns Close
Mill Lane
South Chailey
Lewes
East Sussex
BN8 4AX
01273 400174
Mobile: 07570 797497
Archaeology-services-lewes@hotmail.co.uk**

Planning ref:

WD/2013/2053/MAJ

Between 23rd January and March 5th 2014, an archaeological Watching brief was maintained on an intermittent basis at a development site for a Bio-mass project at Buckhurst Park, Withyham, East Sussex. A variety of archaeological approaches was adopted which included continuous monitoring of a small excavation area for the insertion of a subterranean hopper; a level 2 buildings survey and the intermittent monitoring of targeted pipe runs throughout the estate.

A few features were uncovered; two Victorian pits within the hopper area and a section of the demolished foundations were uncovered from the Victorian Wing, during the excavation of one of the pipe trenches. This enabled the recording of the foundations of the wing as well as identifying the materials used and also confirmed the footprint of the rooms, as laid out in a plan which was drawn up before the wing was demolished.

Finally, the presence of a couple of wall foundations adjacent to the racquet court could possibly be from an earlier period but no finds were associated firmly with these foundations.

1.0 Introduction and planning background

1.1 This report is the result of an archaeological watching brief which was maintained during the excavation of ground works associated with development of a Biomass converter at Buckhurst Park, Withyham, East Sussex, TN7 4BL (Fig.1) centred on TQ 550082 135038. (Fig.1 and 2).

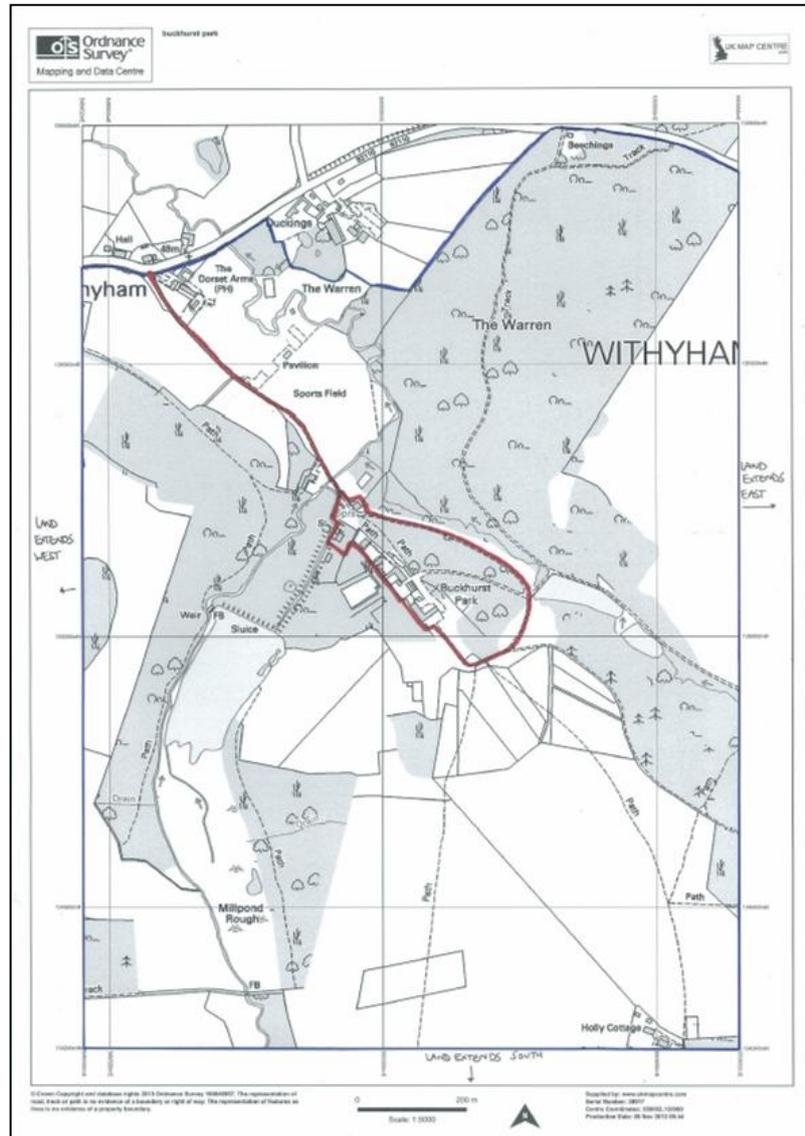


Fig.1 - Location map of site in (scale ??)

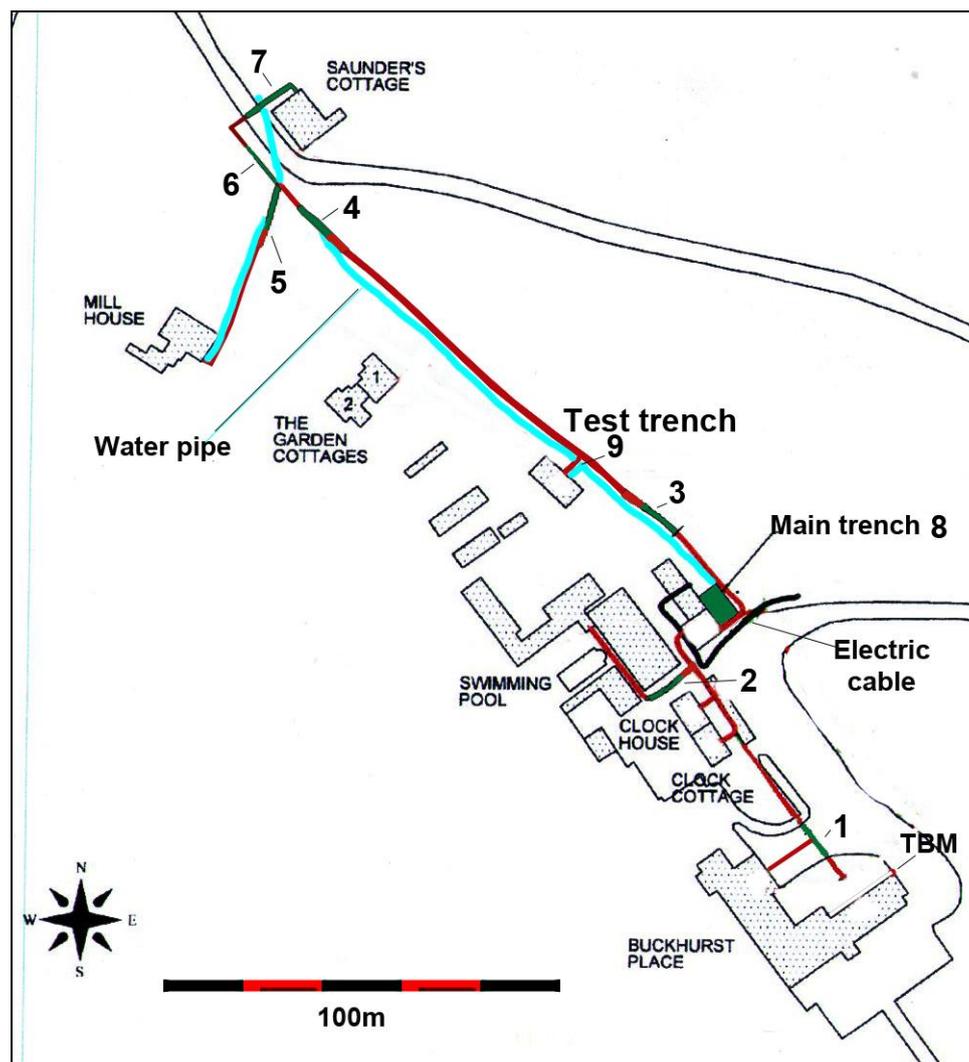


Fig.2 - Site plans showing pipe runs in red with monitored areas highlighted in green and numbered 1-9. The blue lines indicate areas previously excavated for water pipes.

- 1.2 This report has been produced for the developers, Buckhurst Estate (Project managed by CLM), by Lisa Fisher, Principal Archaeologist at Archaeology Service Lewes (ASL). The archaeological monitoring, as specified below, follows the recommendations made by the Archaeology Section at East Sussex County Council to Wealden District Council in response to planning permission number: WD/2013/2053/MAJ.
- 1.3 The archaeological watching brief involved the monitoring of the excavation of the underpinning and excavation of a subterranean boiler room to the east of the existing building, monitoring of sections of the service trenches for the Biomass cables as well as a level 2 EH Standing Buildings Survey for the structure (Fig. 3). The watching brief also involved the monitoring of any other associated ground-works over a period of time in January and February 2014. A separate report has been drawn up for the Standing Buildings Survey.

- 1.4 The watching brief was intermittent throughout the process, with a series of targeted trenches laid out over the route of the pipe runs throughout the estate, highlighted in green on Fig.2. and representing a 25% sample of the completed pipe run.
- 1.7 The underlying geology of the site is Ashdown Formation - Sandstone And Siltstone, Interbedded. In addition there Wadhurst Clay, Ardingly Sandstone and Tunbridge Wells Sandstone deposits all lying within 0.5 km of the site (Source; British Geological Survey web-site). The development site itself lies at an approximate height of 77m above sea level.
- 1.8 A full historical Environment Record (HER) search within a 500m radius has been obtained from County Hall, reference number 10/14 and is summarised below.

2.0 The Archaeological background

- 2.1 The development is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) defining both park and gardens known as Buckhurst Park which contains several listed buildings and monument sites. These include a 16th century furnace site (DES9102), an 18th century country house, parkland and ice house (DES5703), a 16th century farm complex (DES10018), a Millpond Rough & Wood (DES9992) and a Medieval and post-medieval shrunken village (DES9540). The full Historic Environment Record conducted especially for this project highlighted several monuments many of which have been recently listed since 2011, see 2.4 and 2.5 below (Fig.6). The Historic Landscape Characterisation (project number HES30657) defines Buckhurst Park as a Post-medieval designed park (Fig.3 and 4) c.1600 AD to 1799 AD surrounded by woodland and fieldscapes (Bannister, N. 2008. Historic Landscape Characterisation of Sussex.). This was once referred to as Bocherst in 1199 or 'Beech Wood Hill' [EPN] Repton. The estate is marked on the 1799-1810 Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drafts and the 1869-1875 Ordnance Survey - Historic Maps - Epoch 1.

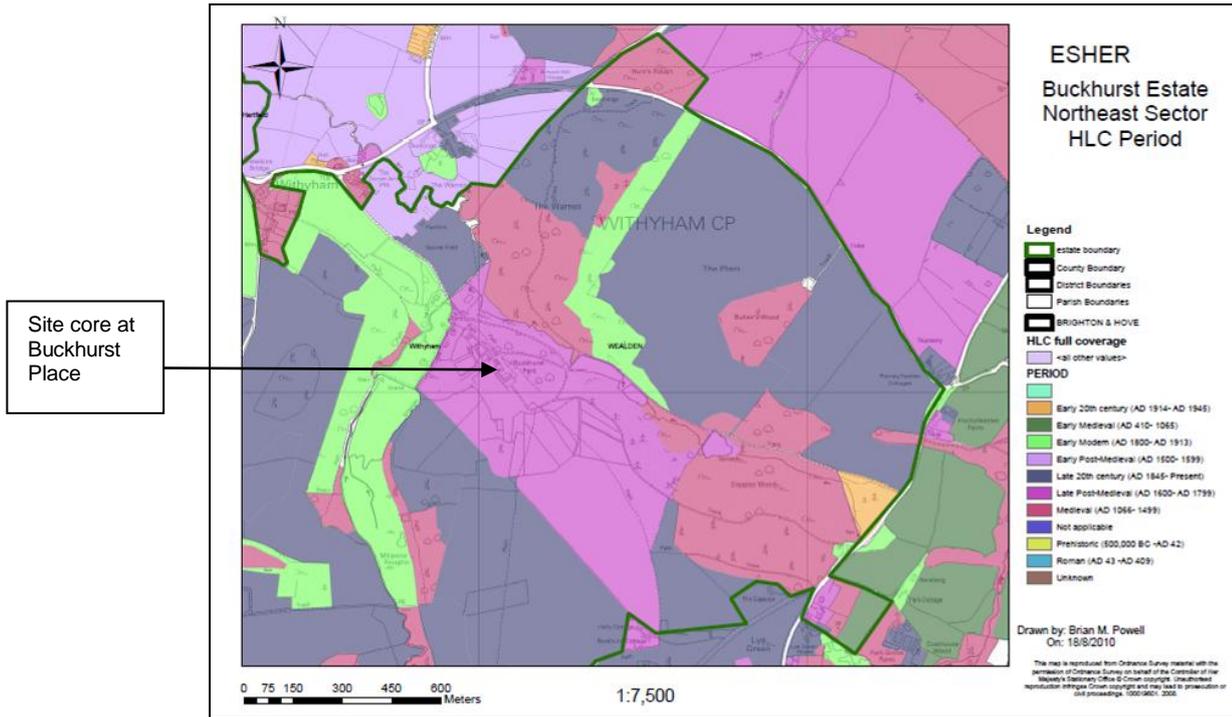


Fig.3. Historic Landscape Characterisation map of the site by period, defining the core of the site as Late Post-Medieval (1600-1799 AD).

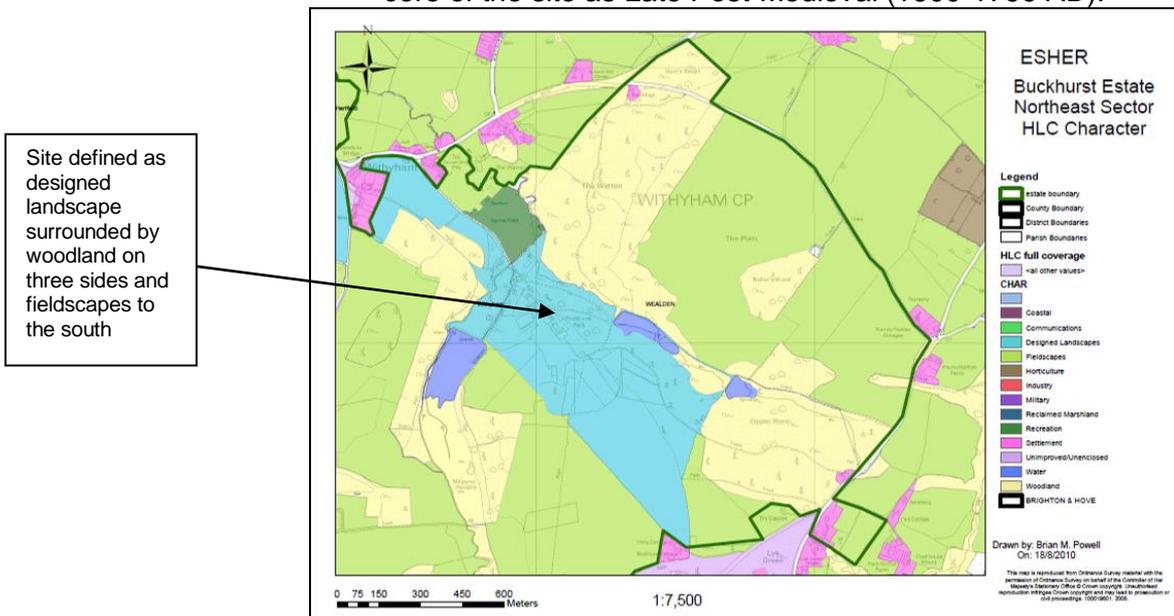


Fig.4. Historic Landscape Characterisation map of the surrounding landscape

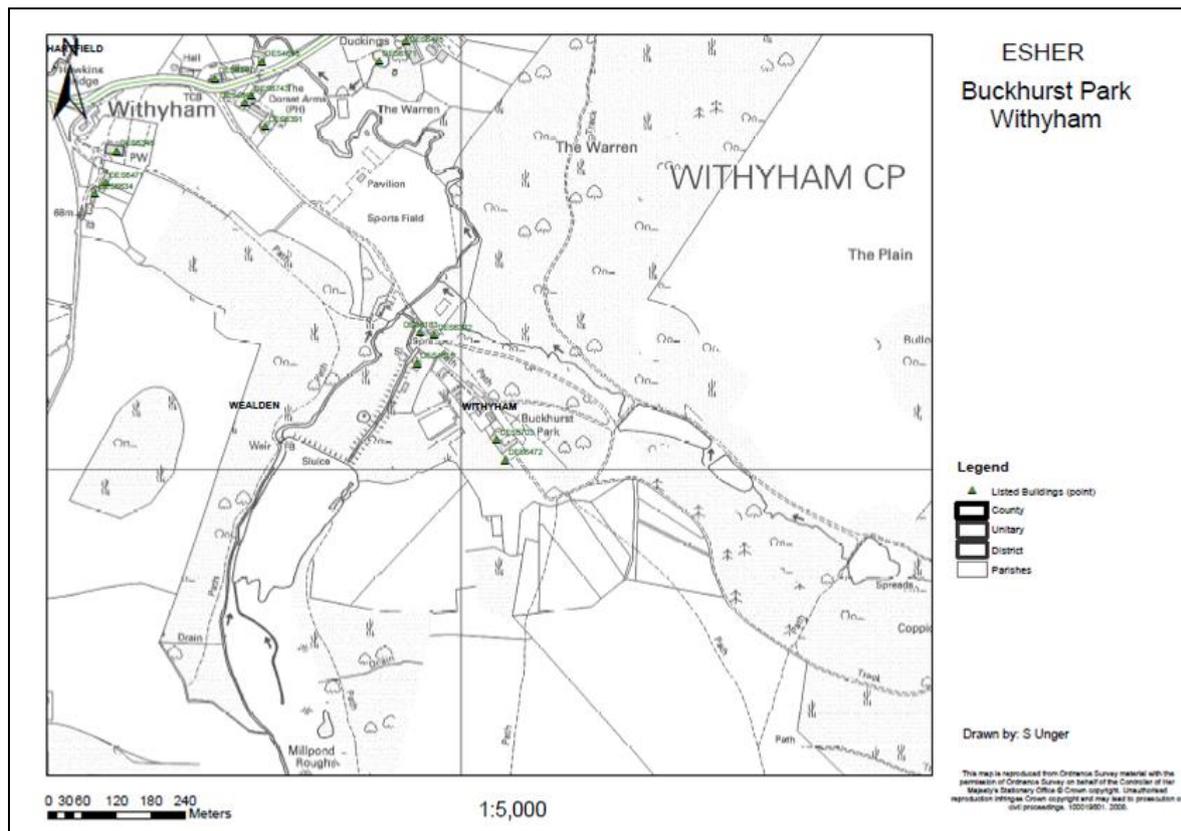


Fig.5. Listed buildings within 500m radius of Buckland Park

- 2.2 There are 5 listed buildings/monuments within the core of the Buckland Place estate, which are all post medieval in date and are listed below, by period, alongside other monuments (Fig.5).
- 2.3 There is no evidence for any settlement activity from the Prehistoric period up to the medieval period.
- 2.4 Medieval period – there are just two entries in the HER data, MES18808 a medieval shrunken village as well as MES5106 a medieval church.
- 2.5 Post medieval period. This is the main period of occupation at Buckhurst Park, with numerous buildings and monuments sites which have been listed below as follows:
 - MES5108 Monument: C16 furnace
 - MES5111 Monument: Early post-medieval farmstead
 - MES22874 Building: C17 building
 - MES23339 Monument: C17- C18 pillow mound
 - DES4616 a listed C18th or earlier house
 - DES6392 Saunders, a listed C18 or earlier house. Date: from 1650 to 1799
 - DES5703 Buckhurst Park Country house is a grade II* listed building constructed during the 18th century remodelled circa 1830-35; architect Humphrey Repton. Enlarged in 1903 by Sir Edwin Lutyens in the tudor Gothic style.
 - MES23341 Monument; charcoal burning platforms

- MES23342 Monument: clay quarry
- MES17332 Monument: C19 watermill & ice house
- MES5098 Monument: PM forge
- DES6183 a listed C19th well house over the Chalybeate spring. Date:1800 to 1899
- MES5121 Landscape: C19 park
- MES17323 Monument: bloomery
- MES17324 Monument: bloomery
- MES17325 Monument: bloomery
- MES17326 Monument: bloomery
- MES17329 Monument: bloomery
- MES17330 Monument: bloomery
- MES17331 Monument: bloomer
- MES5121 Landscape: C19 park
- MES23338 Building: ice house, C19
- MES23340 Monument: lynchets
- DES6472 – a listed terrace and garden designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1903. A formal garden with stone terrace, steps and walls leading down to pergolas.

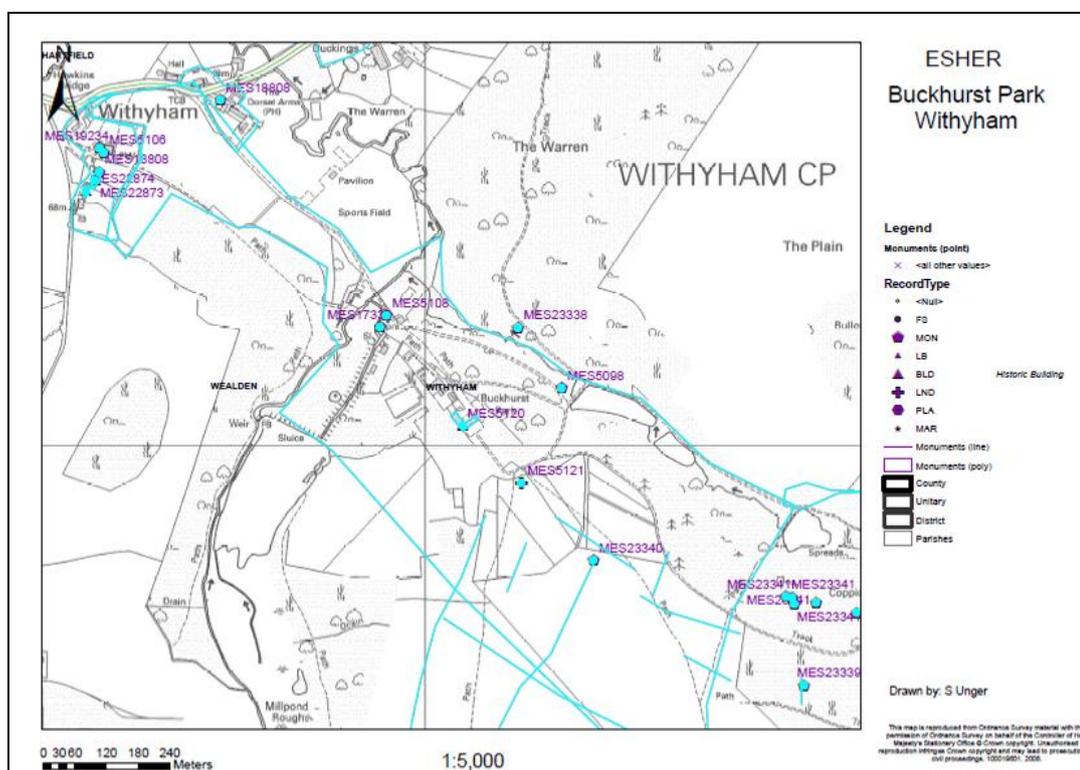


Fig.6. Monument sites within 500m radius of the proposed boiler house

3.0 Objectives

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to our understanding of the site through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground-works. Particular attention was made to the character, depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any

deposits, finds or features, with specific reference to the demolished footings of the northern wing of the main house.

- 3.2 In addition, an English Heritage level 2 buildings survey was conducted on the outbuilding scheduled for development which is currently being used as a garage but is due to be converted into the Biomass boiler room. This building is of historical interest but very little of the historical fabric of this building has been compromised so the survey stands as a lasting record which served to analyse and disseminate the results in accordance with EH guidelines.

4.0 Methodology

- 4.1 The archaeological investigation included the excavation of the site of a subterranean hopper and pipe runs associated with heating pipes for the boiler. The trenches were excavated in different phases on different days throughout January, February and March 2014. For the larger areas, a 1.6m wide toothless trenching bucket and mini-digger was used and for the pipe runs a machine equipped with a 35cm wide toothless bucket was employed under intermittent monitoring by an archaeologist. Seven trenches, 10m long and 40cm wide were targeted for the pipe runs and numbered 1-7 on the plan (Fig.2 highlighted green). In addition, the 'main trench' was numbered 8 and a small test area, trench 9, was also recorded.
- 4.2 The trenches were measured in after excavation by using tapes and tied in to the National Grid in conjunction with a site plan. Levels were taken for relevant existing ground levels e.g. top of trenches and relevant features, and were measured into a temporary bench mark to give relative heights using a laser level. An Ordnance Datum spot height was not set by the architect and so a TBM was set up using the north east corner of Buckhurst Place, at ground level set at the relative height of 100m. All relative heights for features have been added to the plan and sections.
- 4.3 Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine down to the archaeological layers across site.

5.0 Contexts

- 5.1 There were a total of nine areas watched throughout development as follows:
- Pipe trenches 1-7
 - Site of subterranean hopper, trench 8
 - Test Trench 9

Other ancillary areas observed included the replacement of a broken sewer pipe.

All contexts for the pipe trenches were recorded as PTR, followed by chronological numbers, starting with context 100 for PTR1 and 200 for PTR 2 and so on.

- 5.1 Topsoil depth, make-up and thickness was varied across site and at times did not exist, mainly due to the high level of ground disturbance from the demolition of the north wing of the main house. Where topsoil was in existence, it lay up to only 18cm deep below current ground levels. All topsoil probably had moderate amounts of

made up soil contained therein. The demolition rubble was not given a separate context but was referred to in the feature descriptions and recorded, as such.

5.2 Natural Substrate depth also varied across site and was exposed at between 10-18cm in the pipe trenches except in the main trench 8 where the natural was reached at depths of 2m plus below current ground levels. All trenches were dug to a variable maximum depth which has been discussed in the relevant sections below.

5.3 All archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets numbers 100-804. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. Soil contexts are as follows:

Context	Colour	Compaction	Characteristics	Inclusions	Size of inclusions	Depths of layer	Trench number
300	Mid-brown	Soft	Sandy, silty clay	5%, poorly sorted, angular, yellow sandstone	<3cm	12cm	PTR4
400	Mid-brown	Soft	Sandy, silty clay	5%, poorly sorted, angular, yellow sandstone	<3cm	18cm	PTR4
500	Mid-brown	Soft	Sandy clay	3% poorly sorted, sub-angular grey flint probably from road surface	<5cm	10cm	PTR5
600	Dark brown	Soft	Silty sand	15%, small brown and white, well rounded pea-gravel from road surface adjacent	<1cm	18cm	PTR6
601	Yellow-mid brown	Firm	Sandy clay	40% poorly sorted, sub-angular yellow sandstone	<12cm	Not bottomed	PTR6
700	Varied – browns to yellows	Loose-firm	Silty, sandy clay	Various deposited rubble including ash, CBM and sandstone made up ground		55cm. Some Victorian refuse pits within not recorded as separate contexts	PTR7
800	Dark brown	Soft	Silty clay	15%, poorly sorted, rounded, brown pea gravel (probably from driveway) 3% poorly sorted, angular sandstone 1%, poorly sorted, sub-angular grey flint	<15m <10cm <5cm	Up to 40cm	Trench 8
801	Light beige/brown	Loose	Sandy silt	40% poorly sorted, angular and sub-angular sandstone	<3cm	Up to 12cm	Trench 8
802	Mid-brown	Loose-firm	Sandy Silt	30%, poorly sorted, angular yellow sandstone	<5cm	80cm	Trench 8
804	Mid-brown	Loose-firm	Sandy Silt	30%, poorly sorted, angular yellow sandstone	<5cm	Up to 1m	Trench 8

In the main trench 8, it should be noted that the digger driver previously dug a small test pit which went down 2m alongside the foundations which also went this deep. This could be made up soil thrown up when the trackway was constructed. It did contain some fragments of ceramic drain pipe and brick.

5.4 Other contexts:

Context	Category	Size	Description	Comments	Trench
PTR 1 [100]	Masonry	Sandstone blocks are 72cm wide and the bricks are 22cm x 11cm x 6cm.	A sandstone and single coursed brick wall with a light beige, sandy mortar. The brick vary; some are laid on their back some on side. Slot dug alongside foundation which extends to 78cm below top of Tarmac.	The brick is not visibly bonded into the sandstone and abuts it, with a thin rubble infill between the stone and brick consisting of brick, mortar and sandstone. It is part of the main outside eastern wall.	PTR1- only 3.20m length revealed in trench.
PTR 1 [101]	Masonry	Sandstone up to 40cm x 23cm x 57cm and brick 23cm x 11cm x 5cm	Sandstone and brick keyed in and built together at the same time as linear rubble stone. Flush front to south where some of the original white painted render exists and is bonded with limestone mortar.	Adjacent to either side is very loose demolition rubble including breeze blocks and one fragment of worked stone column. Appears on plan as internal partition wall for the butlers pantry.	PTR 1
PTR 1 [102]	Masonry	Sandstone up to 35cm x 10cm but largest piece broken up during excavation	A rough, rubble stone wall with no discernable coursing in section. Possibly faces SW, lime mortar bonded with the overall width at 1m.	Once again, lots of demolition rubble to either side with no discernable evidence for direction of face. This appears to be the side of a fireplace between the housekeepers room and a storeroom.	PTR 1
PTR 2 [200]	Masonry	Bricks, 22cm x 11.5cm x 6cm in measuring 46cm in width	The footings of a wall laid on bed in English Bond, to a depth of at least three courses but not bottomed so could be deeper. Lies under demo. Rubble 35cm below Tarmac.	The bricks are bonded with lime mortar and likely constitute part of a stable block running east-west. However, not in line with existing Victorian buildings which run SE-NW	PTR 2
PTR 2 [201]	Masonry	Sandstone, largest measures 55cm wide x 20cm deep.	A substantial footing 1m in width and only 9cm under Tarmac. Rubble coursed but likely disturbed when demolished as difficult to ascertain facing side but possibly east. Lime mortar bonded.	This appears to be earlier than nearby Clockhouse cottages which are only 3m SE from this point and brick built. Nearby racquet court is sandstone built lying 3.10m NW.	PTR 2

[803]	Cut	1.80m x 2.60m x 1m deep but full extent not uncovered at top. Bottom appears fairly flat and it has gently sloping sides. Excavated by machine as modern but a good measured section sketch has been taken.	A sub-circular pit, not excavated as H+S issues. Some CBM in fill but fill mostly same as soil above (802)	Purpose of pit not clear; it lay 1.30m below ground already excavated and so fairly deep. Adjacent to other, smaller Victorian pit full of rubbish but this pit fairly sterile	Main trench 8
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6.0 Features

6.1 Pipe trench 1.

There were three features found within this 10m x 40cm trench, which consisted of demolished foundations for the Victorian north wing of the main house, for which an existing ground plan was consulted to place any foundations uncovered (Fig.10). As there was no topsoil and the trench opened straight onto demolition rubble, this layer was not given a context. The first foundation uncovered was given context number [100] and was the remains of the outside, north east facing wall which consisted of rough faced ashlar block on the inside face but the outside face lay under Tarmac and was not revealed. The top of the sandstone was covered in mortar and so it was not possible to draw each block individually and has been shaded in the scale drawing.



Plate 1. Pipe trench 1 with feature [100] Scales 2m and 30cm



Plate 2. Shot facing NE, view of the sandstone foundation once the bricks had been removed.
Scales 50cm.

To the inside of this wall was a single skimmed brick wall laid in a rather haphazard way with some bricks on edge and some on bed, which did not appear to be tied into the main sandstone wall although this is likely, so it was kept as the same context as it was not initially clear if the two foundations were one wall. It is unlikely that this was structural and its purpose is unclear. A slot was dug down the side of the footings to see if the base could be revealed, which was evident at a depth of 78cm below the top level of the tarmac driveway.



Plate 3. Shot facing south east, section across the brick and stone foundation of [100] scales
50cm.

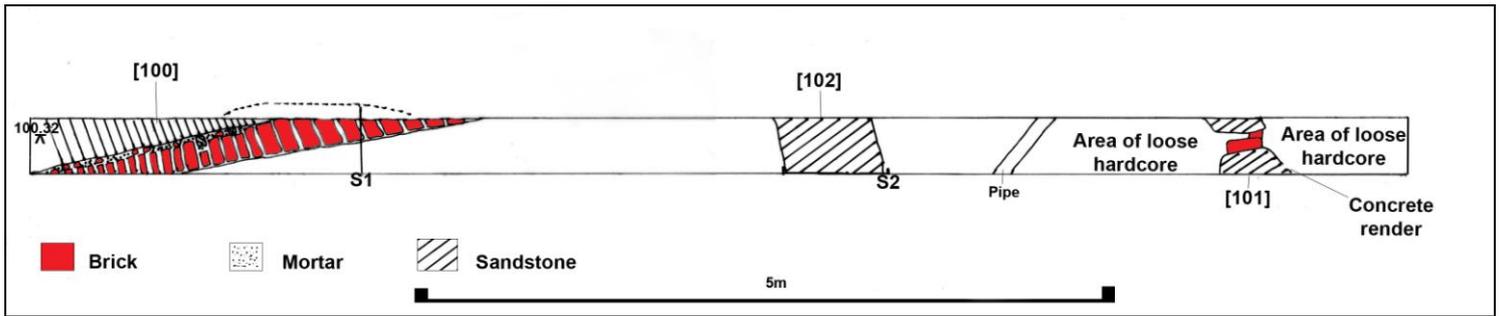


Fig.7. Plan of pipe trench 1 drawn at 1:20

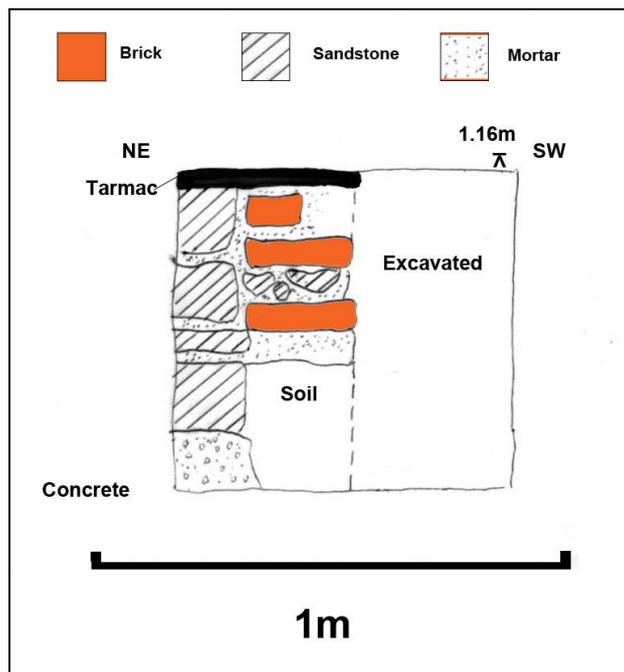


Fig.8. Section drawing of wall foundation [100] in pipe trench 1 drawn at 1:10

The second foundation wall [101] was equally odd in that a large gap lay between two substantial sandstone blocks which were effectively blocked brick only 20cm in width, with glimpses of some brick underlying the sandstone. It would appear to be a wall built from re-used materials and this wall is indicated on the ground plan drawn before the wing was demolished. There was a very loose area of hardcore and demolition rubble to either side of the wall. It was faced to the south with concrete render painted white. This was not drawn in section but on plan and photographed only. On the ground plan which was drawn up before the Victorian wing was demolished, this section of wall would appear to demarcate the internal north wall between the Butler's pantry and a corridor next to a store room. This would explain why it is not a substantial foundation.



Plate 4. Shot facing north west, foundation [101] scales 30cm



Plate 5. Shot facing west section through [101] with removed brick. Scales 50cm.

The third wall [102] was also sandstone but not bottomed but likely to be of a similar depth to the other foundations. This wall appears on the ground plan as the side of a fireplace in the Housekeepers room which would explain the width of it, at 1m wide which is effectively the depth of the flue. This is backed up by further work by the contractors who extended to the side of this trench and reported that the fill consisted of very sooty and burnt deposits with a solid concrete hearth further down trench where a second fireplace was positioned. This would nicely confirm that the ground plans for the north wing can be relied on to tie in the archaeology.



Plate 6, shot facing west showing [102] foundation. Scales 1m.

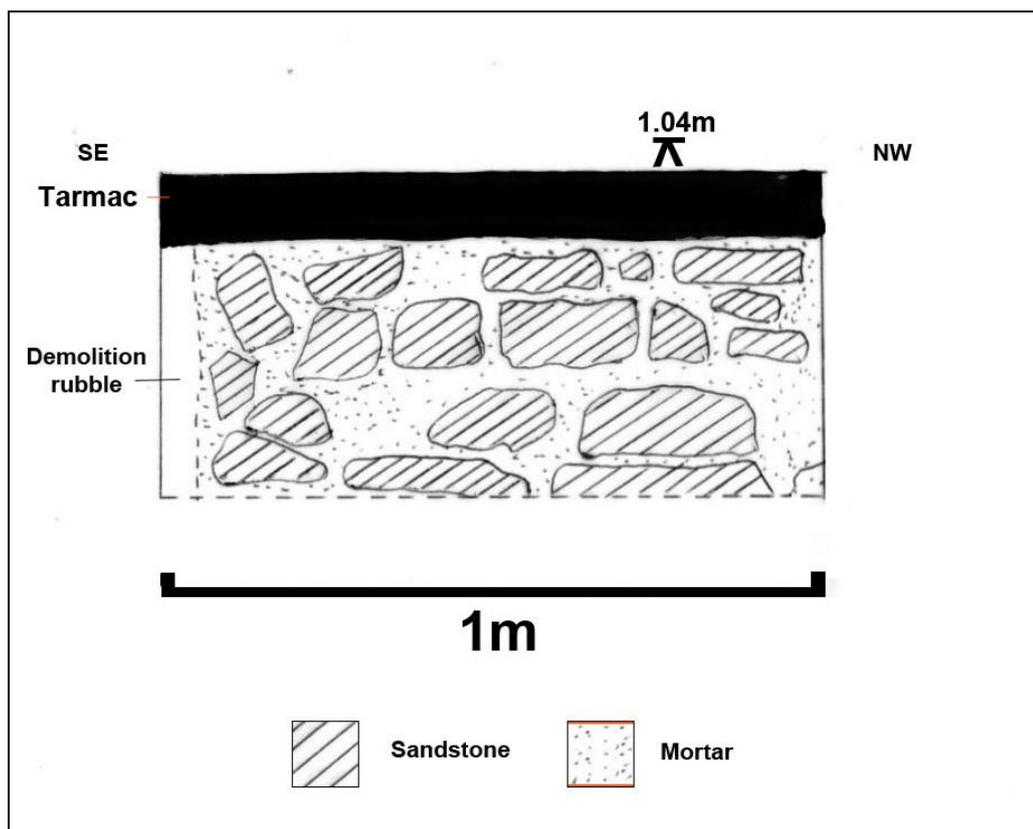


Fig.9. Section drawing of wall foundation [102] in pipe trench 1 drawn at 1:10.



Plate 7. Shot facing south looking at corner of [102] showing brick fireplace beyond. Scales 50cm.

6.2 Pipe trench 2.

This trench, also 10m x 40cm, revealed two features, also wall foundations but ones which were not included on the ground plans of the north wing so this potentially reveals buildings not recorded before. The first wall [200] was brick built in English Bond, laid on bed and 46cm in width. The orientation of this wall is interesting as it does not lie at right angles with any of the nearby buildings. Nearby Clockhouse Cottages is also English Bond brick built. However, if this wall continued for any distance it would effectively block off the NE gateway and entrance to the farm yard. This wall, therefore, potentially pre-dates the Victorian phase of the north wing construction. The size of the bricks would suggest a likely Victorian date though. One piece of painted white render was found adjacent to it.



Plate 8 .Wall foundation [200] Shot facing NE (scales 50cm)

The second wall [201] is very substantial, measuring 1m in width and constructed from rubble sandstone with no clear facing side. Both of these wall foundations were surrounded by Victorian demolition rubble, containing sandstone, broken brick and other CBM, Victorian pottery and fragments of iron and as this was not an in-situ soil worthy of recording this layer was not given a context number. The sandstone wall was only 9cm under the Tarmac which is consistent with the depth below ground levels of the foundations in pipe trench 1. This foundation has clearly been hacked at during demolition as it was not entirely clear which direction it faced and there were chunks which had previously been removed. With such a narrow trench it is difficult to interpret this further other than to say that as it lie in the middle of the entrance from the NE gateway to the farm yard, it probably pre-dates the Victorian phase. It lay equidistant between Clockhouse Cottages (3m) and the listed Racquet court (3.10m) which was built in the late C18th and is also made of sandstone. It would be logical to suggest that this wall perhaps formed a flanking boundary wall adjacent to the side of the building or some sort of porch to the entrance but there is no evidence on the outside of the building to suggest any kind of attachment.



Plate 9. Shot facing north west, showing foundation [201] scales 50cm.

6.3. Pipe trench 3.

This area contained no features except for a Victorian brick lined drain which lie on the surface at current ground levels. This surface drain ran all the way down the trackway to the bottom road surface. It was evident that the nearby, recently excavated water pipe (Nov. 2013) lie close by within a metre or so (westwards). Very little in-situ soils remain in this area and it became fairly apparent that the trackway had, in fact, been levelled to create the flat surface which had removed any in-situ soils that were once in existence. The story was similar all the way down the track way and so this area was watched but a cursory record made of the area due to the lack of stratigraphy or features. This trench was dug to a total depth of 75cm but in general was only 55cm deep.



Plate 10. Shot facing south. View looking up pipe trench 3, scales 50cm.



Plate 11. Drain feature which runs down extent of trackway. Scales 50cm.

6.4 Pipe trench 4.

This area was not watched during excavations but inspected after it had been excavated and it had a very shallow topsoil deposit. No features were evident and the bottom few metres of the targeted 10m stretch had previously been excavated for the insertion of the aforementioned water services which was visible for 3-4m in length down the trench. Half way uphill, solid, natural sandstone was encountered in the top 2m stretch of the trench and once more, very little surviving stratigraphy remained. No further action was taken, other than a cursory photographic record and context assignment for the topsoil.



Plate 12. Shot facing north, pipe trench 4, scales 50cm.



Plate 13. Shot facing east, natural sandstone in trench 4. Scales 50cm.

6.5 Pipe trench 5.

Pipe trench 5 was targeted on a run up to the old Mill House and was originally sited so that the area up to the foundations could be observed. A change of plan was actioned as the water services previously excavated were to be re-used to put the pipe into this trench, after the MOT had been removed. Consequently, the monitored area was moved back down the track to watch an area not thought to have been previously excavated for the water mains. As a consequence, pipe trench 5 was watched at the same time as pipe trench 6 which was at right angles to pipe trench 5. In this trench, previous disturbance was noted where the mains sewer ran though this area and had been diverted. In addition, a further service pipe ran up part of the trench. These service areas have all been sketch planned and kept in the archive. No other features were apparent in this area, top soil was very thin and came down very rapidly onto natural sandstone.



Plate 14. Pipe trench 5 running up to the Old Mill House. Scales 50cm.

6.6 Pipe trench 6.

This 10m trench area was watched at the same time as pipe trench 5 above and this too contained some element of mains sewer pipes which has also been sketch planned and kept in the archive. This trench was south west of the road which runs through the estate, with the recent water mains adjacent to the trench to the west. Once again, very little topsoil remained and it is very probable that this area was scraped flat in order to construct the road. Once the 'topsoil' was removed, it came down on to a very disturbed layer of natural sandstone mixed with CBM. Trench excavated to a total depth of 52cm.



Plate 15. Pipe trench 6, scales 50cm.



Plate 16. Pipe trench 6, scales 50cm.

6.7 Pipe trench 7.

The final pipe trench was targeted next to the listed building known as Saunders, in order to investigate any possible features which might lie adjacent to the building. This trench did uncover three pit features, filled with only Victorian rubbish which was subjected to finds retrieval only and a measured sketch plan for the archive. In general, this stratigraphy was once more a made up soil.



Plate 17. Pipe trench 7 showing pit feature. Scales 2m and 50cm.



Plate 18. Pipe trench 7 showing further pit feature. Scales 50cm.

6.8 Trench 8.

This area was the main trench and not one of the ancillary pipe trenches. This area lay adjacent to the garage, which had already been recorded by a standing building survey. The area to the east of the garage is now being filled with the hopper for the Biomass boiler, which is situated inside the garage. Trench 8 was watched over two separate days, initially to flatten the area in preparation for the arrival of the machine sheet metal piler. This first phase was conducted by using a mini-digger with a toothless 1.6m wide bucket to scrape back the topsoil to inspect the ground. Several services were found to run across this area and these a sketched and measured plan was made, which is in the archive. No features were found and the ground was a very disturbed and made up soil. Natural geology was not encountered during this first phase with the area excavated to a depth of approx. 55cm.



Plate 19. Main trench 8 before excavation, shot facing north west.



Plate 20. Excavation revealed the garage foundations and drainpipes. Scales 50cm and 1m.



Plate 21. Section through levelled trench 8, showing humic soil probably bought in to create garden bed in this area. Soil underneath still not reaching natural at the end of the day. Scales 50cm.



Plate 22. Trench 8 after day 1 excavation still in disturbed soil. Scales 2m.

A few weeks later, the remainder of this area was watched after the piling machine had been, creating a trench 8m x 5m. A cursory scout around the area retrieved a few unstratified finds as follows:

- 5 sherds creamware 287g
- 5 sherds of blue and white pottery 77g
- 1 piece clear glass 13g
- 1 ink bottle marked 11749 and A527 63g
- 1 flat sided medicine bottle fragment 116g
- 1 radio valve 48g
- 1 top of a brown glass medicine bottle 106g

The strategy was to section the area to give a cross section which could be recorded. Permission was sought from the Assistant County Archaeologist for the contractors to remove half of the trench prior to being watch. Once this section had been removed, the cross section was measured and sketched but not to scale for various reasons;

1. This trench was now over 2m metres deep (at 3.5m deep) posing numerous Health and safety issues
2. No features were apparent in the section, save the mains sewer pipe which runs straight down the track to the side of the garage.

Considering the health and safety issues, a contractor measured the section in the trench on the direction of an archaeologist at ground level who made a sketch plan for the archive.



Plate 23. Shot facing south. Section through trench 8 after excavation.

The next strategy was to remove all disturbed soil which had accumulated over the top of the trench since construction work began, down to the surface that was previously monitored. This being achieved, it was decided to section this area yet again, in order to save time as the remaining half of the trench had already been significantly compromised with the excavation of the main sewer pipe in previous years. By half sectioning the remaining area again, a further section would be provided. Very little undisturbed soil remained in this quarter of the trench; the original surface which had previously been watched was reached and excavations began afresh. Two pits were revealed in the lower half of this trench but again, for health and safety reasons they were not drawn to scale but only measured sketches taken for the archive as it would have been too dangerous in such wet conditions to enter this trench which was up to 3.50m deep.



Plate 24. The smaller Victorian pit which was sampled only and not given a context. Scales 50cm.

However, the pits, both oval in shape, were recorded and a sample of the smaller pit fill was taken in order to help date it. The artefacts all dated from the Victorian period and have been summarised below as this pit was not given an individual context in the circumstances ;

Victorian rubbish pit finds

1 cow tibia 225g

1 Cow tooth 23g

2 sherds of Sussex pottery 402g

2 sherds of creamware, 102g

1 sherd iron glazed earthenware 21g

3 sherds of blue and white pottery from the same bowl 50g

1 clay pipe stem 6g



Plate 25. A second pit [803] is revealed adjacent to the smaller pit.

Adjacent to this small rubbish pit was a larger and less straightforward pit [803] which was filled with the same soil that sealed it. It was only evident as a pit as it was cut into the natural around it. The full extent at the top of the pit was not revealed as it went under the baulk of the section that was not monitored, but it is unlikely that a substantial amount was missed. It was approx. 1.80 x 2.60m across, somewhat oval in shape and approx. 1m deep. Much of this was evident in section after the trench was excavated, thus enabling a measured sketch of this section which is in the archive. The fill did contain some pieces of CBM and a piece of fairly modern pottery but the purpose of the pit was not clear.



Plate 26. SW facing section showing pit [803] extending under baulk. Scales 2m and 50cm.

6.9 Test trench up bank (trench 9)

A small area of pipe run up to bungalows on the side of the trench was recorded in order to see if a section across the track was clear. Although this wasn't watched, it was photographed and a measured sketch made for the archive. A few finds were recovered from the spoil heap. It was fairly evident that the hill side had been subjected to landscaping over the years, with at least two episodes of terracing evident from the section. Also it was fairly clear that the track had been cut into the side of the hill with the topsoil removed at some point and seemingly thrown up the side of the bank. It is presumed that it was also thrown down the side of the hill as well but the section did not extend this far and could not be seen, although it is fairly likely, given the topology on site.



Plate 27. Test trench 9 showing level platform excavated into bank. Shot facing north, scales 50cm.

6.10 Replacement of sewer pipe

During excavations on site it became apparent that a mains sewer which appears to run down the trackway had been compromised and needed replacing. The old sewer pipe was dug up and removed, being replaced with a new pipeline. Although continuous watching of this area did not occur, it was intermittently observed and photographed but because it was not removing any previously undisturbed soil, this work continued unmonitored. No features were evident and only previously disturbed soil was excavated. Again, this area was subjected to a measured sketch for the archive.



Plate 28. Re-excavation of mains sewer pipe showing old sewer before replacement.



Plate 29. NE Section of mains sewer trench showing limited topsoil with previously disturbed sub-soil showing very sharp interface with topsoil and sub-soil.

7.0 The finds

7.1 Post medieval finds have been condensed into a table as follows:

Category:	PTR 1	PTR 2	PTR 3	PTR 4 400	PTR 5	PTR 6	PTR 7 700	Tr. 8 800	Tr.8 801	Tr.8 804	Tr. 9	T ot al
Sussex pottery							1 sherd 18g					
Blue and white ceramics		3 sherds 15g					5 sherds 14g	2 frags. Tile 52g				
Earthenware ceramics				1 sherd 15g				5 sherds			1 sherd flowerpot	
Saltglazed ceramics									1 sherd 9g			
Creamwares		12 sherds 75g	1 sherd 2				3 sherds 18g	2 sherds 7g	1 sherd 9g		3 sherds 70g incl. One 1950's ?	
Iron glazed ceramics		3 sherds 18g										
Modern ceramics							2 sherds white tile 15g			1 sherd green and white pot 16g		
CBM	19 pieces clay roof tile 992gs quare peg holes	1 roof tile frag.	2 roof tile frags 118g and one gully drain brick retained 979g	1 piece drain			10 pieces roof tile 453g 1 piece drain 101g	6 pieces roof tile	10 pieces roof tile (13mm), quarry tile (16mm) and drain (14mm)	5 brick frags. 207g 4 roof tile sherds 365g	1 piece roof tile	
Metal	1 Cu and cerami c electric socket 54g, 1 iom disc 52g, 1 smi- circular iron plate, 1 iron bracket , 3 iron nails, 1 screw	1 ox shoe 184g, 1 large round headed nail 20g					1 corrode d bolt 121g 1 iron plate 12g	3 pieces corrode d iron pipe		1 corrode d iron lump 10g		
Glass	1 piece clear 1g						1 piece brown 1g 1 decorat ed black button 1g	1 green, 1 clear peice	2 clear pieces		1 blue 1g	
Flint								1 piece debitag e 26g				
Other	2 pieces concret e, lime washe d	1 piece plastic, 1 piece concret e render					2 frags. Clay pipe stem 3g	4 pieces slate, 2 pieces plastic, 1 winkle	2 pieces of plastic and 1piece bakerlite 5g	1 lump lime putty		



Plate 30. Mesolithic flint debitage from the main trench 8 topsoil context.

8.0 Environmental potential

As no undisturbed contexts of any great age were uncovered, there is very little environmental potential for this project and no samples were taken.

9.0 General discussion

- 9.1 In general, given the amount of development occurring on site, the real lack of features and finds was surprising. The ground floor plan of the demolished Victorian wing was used to match up the wall foundations that were uncovered during excavations behind the great house. However, ancillary buildings adjacent to the racquet court were not on the ground floor plan which did not seem to extend down that far. Consequently, these foundations can only be recorded but not interpreted further.

pipes existing on the estate and there is now a better record of these which should serve to guide any future planning issues and archaeological investigations which may be conducted in years to come.

10.0 Archive

Considering the modernity of the finds retrieved on site (all Victorian or later save one piece of flint debitage), they have not been retained and will be discarded. A full copy of the paper report will be retained in accordance with the WSI as follows:

- the County Archaeologist
- the Local Planning Authority
- the project archive held by ASL
- East Sussex Records Office
- Lewes Museum

11.0 Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Lord and Lady De La Warr for their patience, and thanks to Phil Goscombe from CLM and Neil Farrance from BTF for their help, guidance and insight. Thanks also to Craig, Paul and Steve the digger drivers for their patience, humour and resilience in one of the wettest months on record.

APPENDIX 1 East Sussex County Council HER summary form

Site Name/Site Code: Buckhurst Park, Withyham BPW14	
Site Address: Buckhurst Park , Withyham, East Sussex, TN7 4BL	
Project Summary: <i>Between 23rd January and March 5th 2014, an archaeological Watching brief was maintained on an intermittent basis at a development site for a Bio-mass project at Buckhurst Park, Withyham, East Sussex. A variety of archaeological approaches was adopted which included continuous monitoring of a small excavation area for the insertion of a subterranean hopper, a level 2 buildings survey and intermittent monitoring of pipe runs throughout the estate.</i>	
District/Unitary: Lewes	Parish: Withyham
Period(s): Victorian	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): TQ 550082 135038 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work: (e.g evaluation trial trenching, Desk based assessment etc.) A Watching Brief for the groundworks and a Standing Buildings Survey to record the garage building.	
Date of Recording/Fieldwork: 23 rd January to March 5 th 2014	
Geology: Ashdown Formation - Sandstone And Siltstone. In addition there is Wadhurst Clay, Ardingly Sandstone and Tunbridge Wells Sandstone deposits all	

lying within 0.5 km.	
Client/Sponsor: CLM, Withyham, Project Managers; Earl De La Warr, owner	
Unit undertaking recording: Archaeology Services, Lewes Title and author of accompanying report: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT BUCKHURST PARK, WITHYHAM, EAST SUSSEX Project Manager: Lisa Jayne Fisher	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>The oldest artefact found on site was a piece of flint debitage, probably Mesolithic in date.</i> <i>A few features were uncovered, including a couple of Victorian pits within the hopper area but a section of the demolished foundations were uncovered from the Victorian Wing, during the excavation of one of the pipe trenches (1). This enabled the recording of the foundation of the wing as well as identifying the materials used and also confirmed the footprint of the wing, as laid out in a plan which was drawn up before the wing was demolished.</i> <i>Two further wall foundations were uncovered adjacent to the racquet court; one of which was brick and likely to be Victorian but a sandstone one could possibly be from an earlier period but no finds were associated firmly with these foundations.</i>	
Location of archive/finds: ASL. Finds discarded.	
Contact: Lisa Fisher	Date: 30/3/14