

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Southridge, Gun Garden, Church Square  
Rye, East Sussex**

**NGR 592220 120300**

**Planning References: RR/2012/2092/P and RR/2012/2093/L**

**ASE Project No: 5906  
Site Code: SSR 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013118  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-151194**

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**August 2013**

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension to the rear of Southridge, Gun Garden, Church Square, Rye, East Sussex. The house is a Grade II listed building and lies within Rye's Conservation Area.*

*Although no archaeological features were disturbed a range of archaeological artefacts was recovered from a deep garden soil encountered during the monitoring. The most significant was the pottery assemblage which provided a sequence of material dating from the early 13th century onwards. It included imported material from France, The Netherlands, Germany and possibly Spain highlighting Rye's maritime trading heritage and included fabric types not seen in the town before.*

*Other material included a single struck flint, ceramic building material, clay pipe, metalwork, geological material, shells and a range of animal bone including cattle, sheep/goat, pig and domestic fowl.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Jonathan Gale Architects Ltd. on behalf of their clients, Mr & Mrs I. Webb-Wilson to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a rear extension to Southridge, Gun Garden, Church Square, Rye, East Sussex (NGR592220 120300; Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 Southridge was listed as a Grade II building on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1972. It is a substantial town house located directly opposite the parish church of St. Mary, occupying an elevated position with extensive views across Romney Marsh to the east. The property lies within a Conservation Area and a locally designated *Archaeological Notification Area*.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock at the site consists of the Wadhurst Clay Formation of mudstone. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2013).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission and listed building consent were granted by Rother District Council for the demolition of an existing extension and the erection of a new one (planning references RR/2012/2092/P and RR/2012/2093/L). In the light of the listed status of the building and the archaeological potential of excavations adjacent to a historic structure in an *Archaeological Notification Area*, and following consultations between Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council, (Rother District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), the following condition (No. 3) was attached to the planning consent:

*"No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority and the works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.*

*Reason: The development is likely to disturb features of archaeological interest, which need to be examined and recorded in accordance with Policy GD1 (viii) of the Local Plan and policy EN2 (vi) of the Core Strategy."*

1.3.2 Under the terms of the consent, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was prepared by ASE and duly approved by East Sussex County Council before the commencement of the work. It outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results (ASE 2013).

## 1.4 Aims and Objectives

### 1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological work given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were to:

*'to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that will be affected by the proposed groundworks are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.*

*Specific objectives relating to the groundworks will be to determine the presence, and if so, the nature of evidence for post-medieval activity, particularly related to the development of the building on the site. It will also be of particular interest to determine any evidence for, and the nature of, any medieval or earlier activity on the site.*

*The following research questions as set out in the Rye Historic Character Assessment Report (Harris 2009, see below).*

#### **Norman town**

**RQ6:** *What was the extent of the town in the 11th and 12th centuries, to what degree was the late medieval street plan established in this period?*

#### **Later medieval town**

**RQ12:** *How have tenements/burgage plots developed from the first built-up street frontages to the plots that survive today? Have the latter been subdivided as a result of commercial pressure between 1250 and 1350?'*

## 1.5 Scope of Report

### 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of groundworks at the site in May 2013. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following background (with additions) is taken from ASE 2009. The site lies within the *Archaeological Notification Area* of Rye Cinque Port as designated by Rother District Council and within a Conservation Area. A Historic Environment Record (HER) Search of entries within a 100m radius of the site was requested.

2.1.2 This property was not surveyed in *Rye Rebuilt: Regeneration and Decline within a Sussex Port Town, 1350-1660* (Martin and Martin 2009). No. 12 Church Square adjacent to the northwest did receive a brief summary stating that it was “a two-bay hall built parallel to the street with both bays of near equal length” and that it probably dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid.*). Many of the buildings on Church Square or of late Medieval or early Tudor date and the square itself seems to have been built by this time (*ibid.*).

### **2.2 Historic Environment Record Data**

2.2.1 The HER search identified seven events within 100m of the site, these included the monitoring of the replacement of a buttress at the Women’s Tower, Ypres Tower to the south of the site (Event ID EES14048), no significant archaeological deposits were encountered during this work. A previous archaeological investigation at Ypres Tower took place in 1953 (EES9364)

2.2.2 An archaeological investigation was also conducted to locate the former ammunition magazine at Gun Garden (EES14104), the foundations and floor surface of the magazine were identified as well as a pit containing medieval pottery. A watching brief on an extension to 12 Church Square (EES14374) identified finds dated from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries within a Victorian Garden soil. The remaining event numbers relate to interpretive buildings surveys within the locality and the extensive urban survey of Rye.

2.2.3 Two scheduled monuments lie within 100m of the site; Ypres Tower (DES8345), the medieval fortification to the south of the site, and the water tower within the churchyard to the north of the site (DES8247), date to the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> centuries. A total of 35 monuments were identified during the HER search as well as 52 listed buildings, most of these entries are not described due to their lack of relevance to the site itself. The entry for Southridge itself (DES3646) (MES20340) describes the building as “originally four cottages, 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier, refronted with cement on ground floor and tiles above”. St Mary’s Church (MES2193) is dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century with 15<sup>th</sup> century and later alterations.

### **2.3 Cartographic Evidence**

2.3.1 Jeake’s Town Map of 1667 (East Sussex Records Office, ESRO RYE 132/15) shows a building occupying the site with a lane (Baddings Lane) running immediately to the north of the property on an east to west alignment. The building and the lane are still visible in 1771 map of the town (Rye Castle Museum).

2.3.2 By the 1861 map (ESRO DR/B/28/1), the lane has disappeared and the building has been divided into four smaller plots described as all being owned by the 'heirs of Russell' and each having a gross estimated rental value of £5 and a rateable value of £3:07:06d (ESRO PAR 467/38/1). By the time of the 1929 Ordnance Survey Map the buildings appear to be depicted as one property.

## **2.4 Sussex Extensive Urban Survey**

2.4.1 The Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Sussex EUS) is a study of 41 towns undertaken between 2004 and 2009. As part of this process the Rye Historic Character Assessment Report was produced (Harris 2009) and should be referred to for more detailed background to the origins, economy and development of this historic town. The following extract is reproduced with due acknowledgement and helps to put the site into a wider historic urban context.

### **Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA) 4 Mermaid and Watchbell Streets (Historic Environment Value 5 - high)**

2.4.2 HUCA 4 comprises much of the intra mural town, extending west-east from The Mint (i.e. the western continuation of the High Street) to the eastern side of Church Square. In the absence of detailed medieval documentation, excavation or clear topographic or architectural evidence, the likely progressive development of this area is uncertain: it is likely that elements of the roughly gridded layout of the HUCA were established and occupied in the early Norman period, and, equally, it is probable that this was extended and more densely realized during the 13th and early 14th centuries. Today, the HUCA includes some commerce (mainly shops, pubs and hotels), but is largely residential in character.

2.4.3 There are 103 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, and structures (seven Grade II\*; and 96 Grade II) of which seven are Period 6 (1150-1349), 16 are Period 7 (1350-1499), 36 are Period 8 (16th century), four are Period 9 (17th century), 21 are Period 10 (18th century), 12 are Period 11 (1800-40), one is Period 12 (1841-80), and two are Period 13 (1881-1913). Two buildings were inaccessible (and have not been otherwise dated) and two listed 'buildings' comprised cobbled roads and are not closely datable. HUCA 4 contains several notably early examples of surviving townhouses. 40 Church Square has been identified as one of the buildings occupied by the Sack friars, although no documentary grounds have been advanced for this: the importance of the building is that it is a late 13th or early 14th-century stone-built townhouse.

2.4.4 Evidence of other early townhouses survives, although less visibly. Within the later houses at 8-9 West Street and 62 Church Square are remains of a stone wall lying parallel to the street frontage, and returning rearwards, probably originally separating shop units from a domestic hall perhaps of c.1300. Stone-vaulted undercrofts from the late 13th or early 14th centuries survive at 4-5 Market Street (The Flushing Inn: Grade II\*); The Mermaid, Mermaid Street (where the doorway and associated spur walls are an addition, probably of the late 14th or early 15th century: Grade II\*); and 32



Mermaid Street.

- 2.4.5 There are late medieval vaulted undercrofts at 46 Church Square (set back from the street frontage), 58-60 Church Square and 16 Watchbell Street. St Anthony's, 48 Church Square (Grade II\*) is a good early example of exposed timber framing from the late 15th or, possibly, the early 16th century, here forming an L-shaped complex with a contemporary Wealden open hall house at 1-2 Watchbell Street. 16th-century buildings include the substantial Mermaid Inn, Mermaid Street, purpose-built (albeit over the earlier stone undercroft – see above) as an inn c.1525, and including a covered wagon way (Grade II\*).
- 2.4.6 The 18th century saw widespread adoption of brick, with good examples at Lamb House, West Street (early 18th century: Grade II\*), and the unusual four-storied brick-built turret-like gazebo in the garden of Tower House, West Street. 19th-century buildings of note include the former Independent-Congregational chapel in Watchbell Street of 1817 (now The Studio Chambers).
- 2.4.7 Burgage plots are reasonably well preserved, especially on Mermaid Street, Watchbell Street and the south side of Church Square.
- 2.4.8 Although the only subsurface archaeological investigation in this HUCA (12 Church Square, 2008) was unproductive, the evident early occupation, and the extremely good survival of medieval and early post-medieval buildings (itself reflecting a lack of redevelopment), means that the archaeological potential of this HUCA is high.
- 2.4.9 The surviving historic buildings, the completeness of the historic street-fronts and the survival of early plot boundaries, combine with the archaeological potential to give this HUCA the highest Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 5.
- 2.4.10 There has been little development in HUCA 4 since 1945, with the garages to the rear of 15-16 Watchbell Street being something of an exception. The considerable Historic Environment Value of the area, however, means that vulnerability is medium, with the main threats being to redevelopment of unlisted 19th and 20th-century buildings, and to subsurface interventions through extensions and garden features.

## **2.5 Recent Archaeological Work**

- 2.5.1 Although there has been previous archaeological excavation in the town, much has been on a small-scale and little has been fully published. Much of the work has been targeted at, or has fallen close to the town wall, and its associated features. An excavation in Tower Street revealed the presence of a substantial ditch on the outside of the wall, which had been backfilled c.1750, although the date of its construction could not be established (Hadfield 1981).
- 2.5.2 Evaluation and subsequent open area excavation at a site in Cinque Port Street uncovered features containing a range of pottery dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards, including a substantial, partially waterlogged pond

backfilled in the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century from which a variety of artefacts and environmental evidence were recovered. A stretch of buried medieval town wall was also recorded. Deposits dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from the backfill of a ditch on the outside of the town wall (ASE 2001; 2004 Stevens forthcoming).

- 2.5.3 More recent archaeological evaluations have uncovered the course of the town wall to the immediate west of that site during investigations before and after the demolition of the Central Garage (SEAS 1993; ASE 2004). Following a hiatus owing to problems with the development of that site, an archaeological impact assessment was undertaken (ASE 2009). Subsequently an archaeological excavation was undertaken which led to the discovery and recording of buried archaeological features inside the town wall, mostly intercutting pits dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century (ASE *in prep.*)
- 2.5.4 Investigations on sites fronting Market Street have also uncovered the alignment of the wall, as well as other medieval features (SEAS 1994; ASE 1999). Extensive medieval and post-medieval remains have also been uncovered further to the west behind the Cinque Ports Street frontage (ASE 1998).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Manual excavation of footings for the new building and for underpinning of an adjacent wall were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade which has been offered to Rye Castle Museum; we await their reply. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	5
No. Of files/paper record	1
Finds	Detailed in section 6.0
Photographs	17

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks to the rear of the property. Given the limited access to this area, all excavation was carried out manually and involved ground reduction in the 'footprint' of the new extension and the underpinning of the garden wall to the north of the existing building.

### 4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Brick Rubble	210mm
002	Layer	Garden Soil	920mm
003	Layer	Concrete	190mm
004	Layer	'Natural'	-
005	Masonry	Garden Wall	-

Table 2: Recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 The encountered stratigraphic sequence was straightforward. The uppermost layer was the concrete floor of the newly demolished existing extension, context [003], which had been partially removed before the commencement of the watching brief. It overlay a deposit of brick rubble, context [001]. Below this deposit and outside of the new extension footprint there was a humic garden soil, context [002].
- 4.2.2 This deposit consisted of a highly mixed layer of mid-brown to mid-greyish brown silty clay containing a range of archaeological artefacts. It was removed to a depth of 650mm below the existing floor level within the building footprint, but was found to be 920mm in thickness as recorded in the underpinning of the north garden wall, where it directly overlay the brownish orange silty clay 'natural' Wadhurst Clay, context [004].
- 4.2.3 The garden wall was also recorded and was found to consist of red bricks measuring 220mm by 110mm by 60mm bonded with a hard grey sandy mortar arranged in a raking Flemish Stretcher Bond pattern, context [005]. It survives to a height of 2.4m, incorporating 30 courses of bricks, the lower two of which are splayed a total of 110mm from the surface of the wall.

## 6.0 THE FINDS

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 An assemblage of finds was recovered from topsoil context [002] (Table 3). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	F. clay	Wt (g)	Mortar	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Lead	Wt (g)
2	116	3970	57	1640	349	9742	18	626	1	6	2	210	11	266	1	90	2	52	45	172	1	8

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

### 6.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

6.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered a relatively large assemblage of pottery from the site, all being recovered from unstratified deposit context [002]. The pottery spans a wide chronological range and is in variable condition. Generally the earliest sherds tend to be the smallest, often with moderate signs of abrasion. The average sherd size tends to increase, and signs of abrasion decrease, with the later pottery. As such the whole deposit appears to have been subjected to reworking throughout the last 900 years.

6.2.2 The assemblage is of interest as there have been few excavations in the town and those that have occurred have been small-scale with limited ceramic assemblages. As such Rye still does not have a substantive fabric type-series as the relatively small quantity of pottery excavated to date has come from small evaluations and watching briefs that have provided mixed assemblages that have not been studied in any detail. The recent excavations at Cinque Port Street have provided a good, if small, stratified assemblage that will form the basis of Rye's ceramic fabric series. Although good on the 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Cinque Port Street assemblage is much weaker on mid 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup>- century material (a gap partially filled by an assemblage from The George Hotel), and does not contain any post-medieval pottery.

6.2.3 The current pottery, together with other recent assemblages from the town (e.g. The Mint House and Tower House sites), are therefore important in providing examples of late medieval and early post-medieval sherds to extend and strengthen the expanding fabric series. Although stratified assemblages will ultimately be needed to check and/or refine the suggested chronology of many of the fabrics much can be done from parallels with other nearby sites such as Winchelsea.

6.2.4 To this end the current assemblage was sorted into the different fabrics that were quantified and then compared with those established from the Cinque Port Street site archive. Where the current assemblage contained better or

new fabric examples they have been extracted and added to the town series. It is hoped this series will be published with the Cinque Ports Street site.

6.2.5 The earliest pottery in the present assemblage is of the high medieval period, perhaps from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century onward. There are no definite 12<sup>th</sup>-century sherds. There are 13 high medieval fabrics, five of which (marked \* in Table 4) were not in the Cinque Port Street assemblage. As noted above, most of these sherds are small and somewhat abraded though some fresh material is also apparent. The assemblage is summarised in Table 2. What is notable is the relatively high proportion of French imports, suggesting that Rye also enjoyed good trade contacts even before its rise to prominence in the later 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight	Comments
Sand with rare flint/shell coarseware	8	187g	Bowl, club rimmed cooking pot, unglazed jug. Late 12 <sup>th</sup> to early 13 <sup>th</sup>
Medium sandy ware (general)	5	38g	?Cooking pots
Fine/medium sandy Rye Ware	14	208g	Cooking pots, x1 cauldron leg & glazed jugs
*Rye Sandy Ware (calcareous type)	2	6g	Jugs. White slip/green glaze, x1 applied thumbed strip
Uniform grey sandy ware	1	3g	
Winchelsea Black shelly	5	54g	Cooking pots
Brede/Winchelsea Greyware	1	36g	Cooking pot/bowl rim
*London-type Ware	1	1g	Jug. White slip under green glaze
North French Whiteware	2	10g	Green glazed jugs
Saintonge Whiteware	1	12g	Green glazed jug
*French Pink/buff fine ware	1	13g	Green glazed jug
*North French Gritted Whiteware	1	4g	Green glazed jug with incised lines (oblique)
*Rouen-type Whiteware	1	5g	Jug rim with red slip band on neck below clear glaze.

Table 4: Summary of the high medieval assemblage (\* new fabric at current site not seen at Cinque Port Street site).

6.2.6 The assemblage also includes a good range of late medieval/transitional pottery, spanning the later 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (Table 5). More work needs to be done on a number of the fabrics of this period, both in confirming initial identifications and, more pressingly, on their chronologies. This is particularly the case with the early well-fired glazed earthenwares that clearly have their roots in the later 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries but continue, apparently unchanged, until at least the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

6.2.7 A similar problem is encountered with the Dutch redwares that probably start arriving in quantities from the later 15<sup>th</sup> century but continue throughout most of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As such, fabrics such as this will probably end up having two chronological entries in the final fabric series for the town, being allocated based on their associated finds. At the Cinque Port Street site these fabrics were stratified and clearly associated with late medieval types of the mid/late 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, but they have also been common finds at Camber castle. In the current assemblage these two particular fabrics were assigned to the early post-medieval group.

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight	Comments
Hard-fired Late Rye Sandy (early)	10	146g	Oxidised & reduced. X1 internal green glaze
Hard-fired Late Rye Sandy (developed)	21	330g	Oxidised & reduced pitchers
Hard-fired Late Rye Sandy (fine)	8	100g	Oxidised & reduced pitchers
*Hard-fired Late Rye Sandy (Fe ox type)	6	91g	Reduced & oxidised
*Unglazed Sandy Earthenware	2	9g	Oxidised bodysherds
High-fired Fine Earthenware (profuse calcareous)	3	45g	Reduced mainly
High-fired Fine Earthenware (common calcareous)	2	9g	Oxidised pitcher
High-fired Fine Earthenware (rare calcareous)	4	67g	Pitcher handles
Hard-fired Early Glazed Red Earthenware	5	36g	Metallic or clear/green glazes
*Proto Stoneware	1	16g	Possibly overfired Rye
*Siegburg Stoneware	1	15g	Bodysherd
Raeren Stoneware	5	68g	Mugs (fe wash & plain)
*?Spanish Lustreware	1	7g	Very worn foot-ring. Poss Dutch

Table 5: Summary of the Late Medieval/Transitional Assemblage (\* new fabric at current site not seen at Cinque Port Street site).

6.2.8 The site produced a reasonable assemblage of the early post-medieval period, the earlier part of which overlaps with the 16<sup>th</sup>- century element of the late medieval assemblage (Table 6). This is an important group in that it is the first to be subjected to formal fabric classification though more work remains to be done. Of interest is the continuance of reasonable levels of imported material, most notably during the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight	Comments
*Early well-fired Glazed Red Earthenware	7	137g	C16th? Overlap with Late Med
*Glazed Red Earthenware (abundant Fe ox)	2	61g	Green glazed. C16th – 17th
*Sandy Glazed Red Earthenware (local)	28	613g	Jars, mug, chaffing dish. Mid C16th – 17 <sup>th</sup> (some very close/sandy as Dutch type)
*Fine Sandy Glazed red Earthenware (local)	4	46g	Bowl. C17th – mid 18 <sup>th</sup> ?
*Border Ware (yellow glazed)	1	60g	Base. Mid C16th – 17th
*Border Ware (green glazed)	3	11g	Mid C16th – 17th
*Border Ware (rose quartz profuse)	1	7g	Green glazed. Mid C16th – 17th
*London Stoneware	2	23g	X2 tankards. Early/late C18th
*Beauvais Whiteware	1	19g	Green glazed plate
*Martincamp (French) stoneware	1	2	Flask bodysherd
*Dutch Redware	8	138g	C16th. Some poss late C15th
*Dutch Slipped Redware	1	81g	Cauldron handle C16th
*Dutch Tin-glazed Ware	1	4g	Alter vase
*Frechen Stoneware	16	577g	Bottles, jugs Mid C16th – 17th
*Westerwald Stoneware	3	25g	Cobalt blue and cobalt blue/purple decoration. C17th – early 18th
*Red slipware	1	11g	Uncertain date. Possibly Italian

Table 6: Summary of the early post-medieval Assemblage (\* new fabric at current site not seen at Cinque Port Street site).

6.2.9 The late post-medieval part of the assemblage (Table 7) is of less interest as most of the wares are industrialized ones that have a national distribution and as such can be found on most sites in the country. The material, which is fresh, suggests low-level activity at the site spanning the later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight	Comments
Unglazed Earthenware	9	156g	Flower pots
Glazed Red Earthenware	1	9g	Bowl?
English Stoneware	2	343g	Including near complete blacking bottle (165mm tall)
Creamware	3	17g	Including dish
Pearlware	1	18g	Tea bowl
Transfer-printed Whiteware (blue)	1	1g	Willow Pattern plate
Transfer-printed Whiteware (new colours)	1	2g	Bowl, green seaweed pattern

Table 7: Summary of the Late Post-medieval Assemblage

### 6.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

6.3.1 The assemblage of tile from the site (all from context [2]) consists of small and often abraded pieces. The material reflects the chronological range noted in the pottery and is summarized in Table 8.

Period	No.	Weight	Comments
Medieval	8	129g	Small, abraded peg tile. Sandy Rye types. Mid C13th – 14th
Late Medieval/Early Post-medieval	38	1152g	Well-fired sparse fine sand with rare/sparse calcareous inclusions. C15th to 16 <sup>th</sup> . All peg except x1 ridge tile
Late Medieval/Early Post-medieval	11	297g	Other fabrics with sparse sand and iron oxides. Peg tiles. C16th – 17th
Late Medieval/Early Post-medieval	4	439g	Floor tiles. White slip under clear or green glaze. X1 possibly sandy Dutch type.
Late Post-medieval	18	394g	Sparse fine sand peg tiles mostly. C18th – 19th

Table 8: Summary of Ceramic Building Material assemblage

### 6.4 The Mortar by Luke Barber

6.4.1 Context [2] produced two fragments of 19<sup>th</sup>- century grey sandy cement.

### 6.5 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

6.5.1 The watching brief produced a single piece of struck flint weighing 5g (topsoil [002]). It consists of a thin tertiary flake fragment. The proximal end exhibits recent edge nick. Overall, the artefact displays moderate degree of edge damage characteristic of finds recovered from disturbed deposits. The isolated find is not chronologically diagnostic.

### 6.6 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

6.6.1 A total of 41 plain clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments were recovered from the topsoil, as well as a mouthpiece and four partial bowls. Bowls were classified following the London “Chronology of Bowl Types” by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 177-180). None of the stems retain any decoration or maker’s marks. They are ranging in date from c. 1640 through to 1910, with the majority dating to c. 1680-1750. Both abraded and non-abraded fragments are present, as is typical for topsoil finds. The mouthpiece was formed by a straight cut and dates to c. 1750-1910. Bowls include a type AO14 (dated c 1660-80) with degenerated spur.



6.6.2 Two bowl fragments retain maker's marks. Included is a type AO27/28 (dated c. 1780-1840) marked "WA" on the spur. This may refer to William Apps (1), (2) or (3). All three were recorded on the census as living in Rye around 1851. William Apps (1), 86 at the time of the census, is perhaps the most likely candidate (Oswald 195). An AO21 (c. 1660-1710), marked with a crowned E and crowned ? on either side of the heel, was also recovered.

### **6.7 The Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

6.7.1 A total of 11 iron nails and one lead nail was recovered from the topsoil. Included are three iron heavy duty nails. The remainder are of general purpose.

### **6.8 The Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

6.8.1 A large quantity of moderately well preserved animal bone has been recovered from the topsoil. The assemblage has been scanned and remains of cattle, sheep/goat and pig have been identified alongside a small quantity of domestic fowl. The assemblage holds no potential as it was recovered from the topsoil.

### **6.9 Other Finds** by Elke Raemen

6.9.1 A single fired clay fragment was found. The fragment is amorphous, medium fired and in a moderate medium sand-tempered micaceous fabric. A mixture of stone consisting largely of Welsh slate was recovered from topsoil [002].

6.9.2 The same context also contained a total of 18 oyster shells, all in fair, unabraded condition. Both left and right valves are included. They largely derive from mature specimen; however, a few immature examples are also present. Parasitic activity can be noted on most shells, however, damage is fairly minor. A few show evidence of having originated from an overcrowded environment.

### **6.10 Overview**

6.10.1 The pottery assemblage is a mixed group from an unstratified deposit. The material is of interest for the reasons outlined above: essentially it provides sherds of pottery from which a town fabric series can begin to be made. The extraction of useful sherds for this series and further identification has been done during the current work. The remaining sherds are therefore not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that done for this report and can either be discarded or used by the local museum for a handling collection if so required.

6.10.2 The ceramic building material and mortar assemblages are also unstratified and do not offer any potential for further refining the dates of the pieces involved. The material is generally abraded, lacking in complete measurements and diagnostic fragments. As such it does not hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard.

6.10.3 The clay tobacco pipe is overall of little interest, as it derives from an unstratified deposit and it lacks intrinsically important pieces. However, both

marked pipes are considered to be of note. They can aid in expanding and refining the current makers list. Few pipes from Rye have been published and as such, any marked pipes are of interest. It is therefore recommended to discard all pipe fragments apart from the marked examples.

- 6.10.4 The remainder of the finds are not intrinsically dateable and, as they derive from the topsoil, are not considered to hold potential for further analysis. They are recommended for discard.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 Although no archaeological features were disturbed during the groundworks, the garden soil removed for the construction of the new extension contained an interesting range of archaeological artefacts. As at other sites in towns in Sussex where only limited assemblages have been published in the past, this material is of great value in establishing dated pottery sequences (e.g. Midhurst; ASE 2012).
- 7.2 The Southridge pottery sequence offers material to enhance and expand the fledgling pottery series for the medieval and post-medieval town of Rye and is therefore of some significance in its own right. It includes fabric types not seen on other sites in Rye, and taken with material from the other sites, provides a sound footing for study of future pottery assemblages from the town.
- 7.3 Although much of the other collected material was of limited archaeological value given the circumstances of recovery, the pottery sequence clearly reflects Rye's significance in foreign trade, illustrated by the percentage of medieval French imported wares, and by later French, Dutch, German and possibly Spanish material. Therefore the recovered pottery not only acts as a bench mark for the study of other groups, but also sheds light on the vibrant past of Rye, one of the county's most vibrant, but as yet scarcely-investigated archaeological assets.

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Jonathan Gale Architects Ltd. (on behalf of Mr & Mrs I. Webb-Wilson) for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to the groundworks contractors for their co-operation and hospitality.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	SSR 13					
Identification Name and Address	Southridge, Gun Garden, Church Square, Rye					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	592220 120300					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5906					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban ✓	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 3.05.2013 – 14.05.2013	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Jonathan Gale Architects Ltd. On behalf of Mr & Mrs I. Webb-Wilson					
Project Managers	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension to the rear of Southridge, Gun Garden, Church Square, Rye, East Sussex. The house is a Grade II listed building and lies within Rye's Conservation Area.</i></p> <p><i>Although no archaeological features were disturbed a range of archaeological artefacts was recovered from a deep garden soil encountered during the monitoring. The most significant was the pottery assemblage which provided a sequence of material dating from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It included imported material from France, The Netherlands, Germany and possibly Spain highlighting Rye's maritime trading heritage and included fabric types not seen in the town before.</i></p> <p><i>Other material included a single struck flint, ceramic building material, clay pipe, metalwork, geological material, shells and a range of animal bone including cattle, sheep/goat, pig and domestic fowl.</i></p>						

**OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-151194**

**Project details**

Project name	Southridge, Gun Garden, Church Square, Rye, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension to the rear of Southridge, Gun Garden, Church Square, Rye, East Sussex. The house is a Grade II listed building and lies within Rye's Conservation Area. Although no archaeological features were disturbed a range of archaeological artefacts was recovered from a deep garden soil encountered during the monitoring. The most significant was the pottery assemblage which provided a sequence of material dating from the early 13th century onwards. It included imported material from France, The Netherlands, Germany and Spain highlighting Rye's maritime trading heritage and included fabric types not seen in the town before. Other material included a single struck flint, ceramic building material, clay pipe, metalwork, geological material, shells and a range of animal bone including cattle, sheep/goat, pig and domestic fowl.
Project dates	Start: 03-05-2013 End: 14-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	5906 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SSR13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	RR/2012/2092/P and RR/2012/2093/L - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

**Project location**

Country                      England

Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER RYE Southridge, Gun Garden, Church Square
Postcode	TN31 7HH
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 9222 2030 50 0 50 56 57 N 000 44 12 E Point

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Jonathan Gale Architects Ltd. On behalf of Mr & Mrs I. Webb-Wilson

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Rye Castle Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Industrial", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Rye Castle Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Rye castle Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

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**Project**



**bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Southridge, Gun Garden, Church Square, Rye, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2013118
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos

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Entered by	Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	5 August 2013