

**Archaeological Watching Brief and
Historic Building Recording Report
The George Hotel, High Street
Rye, East Sussex**

NGR TQ: TQ 92079 20388

Planning Ref: RR/2009/1683/P, RR/2009/1684/L

**ASE Project No: 4127
Site Code: GHR09**

**ASE Report No: 2014144
OASIS id: archaeol6-179114**



By Andrew Margetts and Amy Williamson

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by SPM Ltd on behalf of George on High Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The George Hotel, High Street, Rye, East Sussex. The work was carried out in connection with proposals to convert adjoining buildings to hotel storage and accommodation as well as remodelling of existing elements of the hotel. The watching brief covered alterations to the actual structure of the building(s) in addition to associated ground-works.

The watching brief associated with the ground-works succeeded in revealing evidence of medieval activity at the site. Residual activity dating to the late 11th-early/mid-13th century was encountered, however, the earliest features dated to the early/mid-13th century– mid/late 14th century. This activity comprised pits and a well characteristic of medieval 'yard' activity, as well as a fenced (and possibly ditched) boundary, likely to relate to a medieval burgage plot. Later activity comprised deposits of remnant 'garden soil', probably associated with the backyard of the 'Wealden' hall that once occupied 12 Lion Street. Further remains comprised structural and service features related to the post-medieval development of the various properties that at one time or another occupied the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre of Applied Archaeology (CAA), University College London (UCL), was commissioned by SPM Ltd on behalf of George on High Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The George Hotel, High Street, Rye, East Sussex (NGR TQ 92079 20388; Figure 1), in connection with proposals to convert adjoining buildings to hotel storage and accommodation and remodel existing elements of the hotel. The watching brief was to cover alterations to the actual structure of the building(s) in addition to monitoring and recording any archaeology exposed during associated groundworks.

1.1.2 The site encompasses the no. 96 High Street, which was a shop leased out by the George Hotel Rye, associated rooms to the rear of the shop (behind 97 High Street), the covered garage area which forms the west part of the ground floor of the George Inn Hotel at 98 High Street (below the assembly room) and the hayloft within the yard to 98 High Street/12 Lion Street (Figure 2).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The work was carried out to satisfy conditions placed on planning and listed building consent by Rother District Council (planning references RR/2009/1683/P, RR/2009/1684/L). The proposed development is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area, within the historic core of the medieval town of Rye. In the light of the archaeological potential of the site, the following conditions have been attached to the planning and listed building consents:

RR/2009/1683/P Condition 3 states that:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a scheme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: The works are likely to disturb features of archaeological interest, which need to be examined and recorded in accordance of Policy GD1 (viii) of the Rother District Local Plan.

RR/2009/1684/L Condition 9 states that:

Any hidden historic features revealed during the course of investigative or further works to the listed building shall be retained in situ and work shall be suspended in the relevant area of the building while the local planning authority is notified immediately and given the opportunity to inspect. Any such features shall be retained and/or properly recorded in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure that special regard is paid to the interests of protecting the architectural and historic character of the listed buildings in accordance with Policy GD1 (viii) of the Rother District Local Plan.

- 1.2.2 A brief for the scope of work was provided by the East Sussex County Council Archaeology Section acting as advisors to Rother District Council. A Written Scheme of Investigation was subsequently prepared by ASE and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

1.3 Circumstances and Dates of Work

- 1.3.1 The watching brief was carried out between the 2nd of November 2010 and the 19th of January 2011 under the direction of Sam Whitehead (Archaeologist) with support from Ben Sharp, Gary Webster, Catherine Douglas and Chris Russell (Assistant Archaeologists). The watching brief comprised the monitoring of ground floor reduction in five separate areas of the site, as well as the recording of building fabric revealed during the soft strip within the interior of the buildings.

2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Topology and Geology

2.1.1 The town of Rye has been built upon a roughly teardrop-shaped, outcrop of Wadhurst Clay surrounded by clay marine alluvium, and is connected to the nearest larger outcrop by a land-bridge of sand in Wadhurst Clay and Ashdown Bed. The outcrop rises to a height of 20-25 metres above Ordnance Datum, and has a steeply-sloping cliff to the east. Until the end of the 16th century this promontory was surrounded on three sides by tidal mud flats and skirted by the Rivers Tillingham and Brede to the west and south as they joined the mouth of the larger River Rother to the east. These rivers allowed water-borne traffic to approach the town, and a quay was formed on the south-western side of the hill. The slope of the ground here is shallower, and is served by the River Tillingham.

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 There have been many archaeological interventions in the town of Rye, a selection of which are detailed below. These investigations have typically revealed medieval features and finds and nothing pre-dating this period has yet been discovered. The following interventions are listed in the Rye Extensive Urban Survey (Harris 2009).

2.2.2 A trenched evaluation in Cinque Ports Street in 1998 revealed undated remains of medieval stone and timber buildings and a rubbish pit which was broadly dated to between the 11th and 13th centuries (ASE 1998). Further work on this site in 1999 did not reveal any significant archaeology.

2.2.3 Evaluation trenches excavated to the rear of buildings that fronted on the south-west side of Market Street in 1994 revealed Saxo-Norman pottery sherds, however the contexts seemed mixed with some later sherds such as Rye ware (Greatorex 1994). This area is now known as Jarrett's Close

2.2.4 A single 12th century flint tempered sherd was found in a 13th - 14th century context at the Central Garage, Cinque Ports Street in 2003 (Knight 2004).

2.3 Historical Background

2.3.1 The George Hotel has been subject to two previous historic building surveys: one concentrating on 98 High Street (Martin and Martin 2006a), the other concentrating on 12 Lion Street (Martin and Martin 2006b). The building is listed at Grade II (ref. 1251726; Appendix 1).

2.3.2 The hotel occupies a prominent position within the town, with its principal elevation facing northwards onto High Street and its subsidiary elevation facing east onto Lion Street. The date at which the hotel was formed and subsequently rose to prominence has yet to be researched, but the structural evidence contained within the building indicates that as its importance grew, it took over and subsumed adjoining properties - the complex incorporating five or perhaps six separate structures (Martin and Martin 2006a).

2.3.3 The southernmost of the plots facing onto Lion Street (No. 12) appears to

have been the last to have been incorporated into the complex, but originated in the late-15th century as a two-bay 'Wealden' hall. There was also a substantial late 15th century house on the site of No. 98, although only the westernmost wall of this structure survives, retained within the party wall with the assembly rooms when the structure on each side of the wall was rebuilt (Martin, D. and Martin, B. 2006a). The plot on the corner of High Street and Lion Street was rebuilt c.1560 and extended westwards as far as the retained late-15th century wall c.1590. A further structure was built to the south (to the north of 12 Lion Street) c.1560. In the mid/late 18th century the historic parts fronting the High Street, and perhaps also the southern dwelling fronting onto Lion Street, were unified and the buildings re-fronted.

- 2.3.4 In 1818, tenements to the west of the hotel were rebuilt as part of the George incorporating an assembly room on the first floor. This part was excluded from the survey previously carried out (Martin and Martin 2006a).
- 2.3.5 No. 97 to the west of the assembly room does not form part of the hotel, but is listed (Grade II, ref. 1251725; Appendix 1) as having a late 18th or early 19th century facade. No. 96 to the west of this, which forms the focus of this report and is soon to form part of The George complex is listed at Grade II along with Nos. 92-95 to the west (ref. 1262637; Appendix 1). These are also described as having late 18th century or early 19th century facades, Nos. 92, 93 and 95 also having 19th century shop fronts. By the time the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1871/2 was produced, the building conformed largely to its present-day footprint.
- 2.3.5 The archaeological potential for the study area is high, it comprises a portion of the EUS (Harris 2009) HUCA 5. This relates to the northern part of the intra mural town. It is unclear as to what degree this area was occupied prior to or during the early Norman period, but it is likely that the High Street was established by 1200, and that by the late 13th and early 14th centuries the area was densely occupied forming part of the commercial heart of the town. The survival of numerous medieval and post- medieval buildings, partial survival of historic plots, and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a high Historic Environment. Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the extent of the Norman town, origins of the street plan and the development of burgage plots (RQ6, RQ12) (*ibid*, 46).

3.0 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

3.1 The general aim of the archaeological work is to ensure that any historic fabric revealed during the course of alterations to the buildings and 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 medieval and post-medieval activity, particularly related to the development of the buildings on the site. It will also be of particular interest to determine any evidence for, and the nature of, any pre-medieval activity.

3.2 The scope of works to the building were (Figure 3):

- Units 1-5: the conversion of No. 96 High Street to hotel bedrooms and back-of-house areas. The front part of the site (High Street) is to be retained as a shop; the first and second floors are to serve as residential accommodation
- Unit 6: conversion of the existing 'drive-through' garage to create an internal space, accommodate a new kitchen and extend the existing restaurant
- Unit 7: Conversion of the hayloft to three *ensuite* hotel bedrooms and a bin store

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Standing Buildings

4.1.1 A full list of the alterations to the standing buildings monitored is contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2010). The alterations generally involved the removal of some internal partitions and the stripping of wall, ceiling and floor finishes.

4.1.2 All significant fabric or features revealed during the course of the alterations has been recorded. A photographic record was made, along with written descriptions and annotations to existing measured survey drawings. All recording work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006).

4.2 Groundworks

4.2.1 The below ground works were generally related to the lowering of certain ground floor areas/rooms, other lesser groundworks included the monitoring of deeper footing/underpinning trenches and ground reduction of the rear terrace in order to accommodate new steps from Area 20.

4.2.2 All the groundworks were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist, and where a machine was necessary a flat bladed bucket was employed. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were hand cleaned, planned, excavated and fully recorded in line with advice given in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5). In addition, work was carried out in accordance with the Standards For Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex (2008).

4.2.3 In keeping with the Written Scheme of Investigation Casper Johnson (East Sussex County Archaeologist) was informed upon the discovery of archaeological features and subsequently monitored the various areas of the site.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Historic Building Record

96 High Street (Units 1-4)

- 5.1.1 No. 96 comprises four main phases of development which extend southwards from the High Street (Plate 1). The earliest substantially surviving phase is represented by Unit 1 on the street frontage which appears to date to the late 18th/early 19th century, although the building retains fragmentary structural elements which pre-date this. The three main phases represented by Units 1-3 seem to have been in place by the mid-19th century and were certainly in existence by 1871/2 when they appear on the Ordnance Survey Town Plan (not reproduced; see Martin and Martin 2006b, Drawing 1575/1). Unit 1 encompasses the shopfront (Room 1) on the ground floor, Rooms 11, 11a and 12 on the first floor and Rooms 13, 14 and 15 on the second floor.
- 5.1.2 Room 1 occupies the entire ground floor of Unit 1, and is to be retained as a shop. As such there was little work carried out in this area, and it largely retained its wood laminate flooring and plasterboarded walls and ceiling. Small glimpses of stud walling (west wall) and lath and plaster ceiling were observed which are consistent with the presumed 18th/19th century date for this part of the building. East-west aligned twin steel girders located roughly midway within the ceiling of Room 1 support a chimney stack at first floor level and denote the location of the original room division at ground floor level. The removal of modern plasterboard from the south end of the dividing wall between 96 and 97 High Street revealed seven courses of brickwork at its base (Plates 2 & 3). The bricks are laid in English bond and measure 140mm x 90mm x 70mm, although their fabric is indistinct owing to adherence of several coats of paint/lime-wash. It is possible that this formed the base for an earlier stud wall that would have preceded the red brick walling that now exists to the south; the other walls of the building originally having been of timber stud construction. The brickwork returns to the west for an unknown distance, indicating the location of the original rear wall of Unit 1. The short section of red brickwork within the east wall supports one end of a modern steel girder which has been introduced in relation to the removal of the southern end of the east wall and the south wall of Room 1 in order to open out the ground floor into adjoining Rooms 5 and 2.
- 5.1.3 Room 12 is located directly above Room 1 and fronts onto the street. It has a large bay window with a three-over-three pane double-hung sash flanked on either side by a sash of one-over-one pane, all sashes are without horns (Plate 4). The bay is a secondary feature of probably early to mid-19th century date. The east and west walls are plain, while the south wall has a central fireplace with a cupboard formed within the recess to the east of the brick stack (Plate 5). Prior to work being carried out, the fireplace was fitted with a small cast-iron grate and had a timber surround with simple moulding and plain mantel-shelf. The room was floored with softwood boards measuring 270mm wide; these were removed during the work, revealing east-west aligned deep-laid softwood joists supported on a central girder.

- 5.1.4 Room 11 occupies the rear portion of Unit 1, with Room 11a, which includes the present staircase up to the second floor, located between the two main rooms (Plate 6). The partition between Room 11 and 11a was removed as part of the works to the building, but a related ceiling timber with redundant stud mortices remained *in situ*. The stair to the upper floor is situated against the chimney stack on north wall. There is a small cupboard on the east side of the stack, mirroring that in Room 12. A small square window situated close to the ceiling within the east wall which was intended to light the stair, has been made virtually redundant by the rear wall of the neighbouring property.
- 5.1.5 The removal of the floorboards in Rooms 11 and 11a revealed a similar floor construction as in Room 12 adjacent. Against the east wall a series of trimmed joists were exposed defining the location of a former stair, between ground and first floor level (Figure 3). Some of these joists exhibit Baltic merchant marks; a feature commensurate with the 18th/19th century date of this part of the building (Plate 7).
- 5.1.6 The majority of the south wall of Room 11/Unit 1 has been lost to later modifications involving the creation a single open area with Room 10 to the south. At approximately head-height a tie-beam is retained; this does not correlate with the existing (late 18th/early 19th century) upper floor/first floor ceiling level and is therefore of significance in terms of the phasing of the building - the implication being that it survives as a remnant of a pre-existing structure (Plate 8). Above the tie-beam, two rafters preserve the earlier roof-line. The structure to which the tie-beam relates may originally have extended both north and south as the lower leading edges of both faces of the tie-beam are chamfered. However, there are signs that the tie-beam, together with the post supporting its west end, has been reused from an earlier structure, and therefore it is unclear whether the chamfering relates to this structure. The present studwork extends up through the second floor and into the roof space. Within the room above, an opening created within the partition between Rooms 15 and 16 has revealed the upper end of one of the rafters (Plate 9). This has a redundant tenon with peg hole and indicates that the earlier roof did not incorporate a ridge-board, thus confirming a date prior to the late-18th century. The apparent inclusion of timber reused from an earlier structure suggests that the structure is not especially early in date, although the fragmentary nature of the truss and the absence of other diagnostic dating features prevent the ascription of a more precise date.
- 5.1.7 Partial stripping of finishes from the east wall, which forms the party wall with No. 97, revealed that it comprises several phases of brickwork and timber studwork (Plate 10). A small section of brickwork towards the northern end of the room close to floor level appears earlier than the presumed late 18th/early 19th century date for Unit 1 (Plate 11). It consists of relatively creasy orange bricks, some of which are over-fired, laid in a haphazard bonding pattern in lime-based mortar. To the north the brickwork is defined by a straight joint, beyond which the brickwork appears to be of later date, while to the south the adherence of plaster makes its extent indistinct. Its upper limit is marked by a horizontal timber, which appears to form the base for timber studwork of possible late 18th/early 19th century date. Insufficient of the wall fabric was exposed to attempt a fuller interpretation.

- 5.1.8 The layout of the second floor largely mirrors that of the first. The staircase from Room 11a is positioned against the chimney stack and leads to a small corridor positioned on the west side of the building which links Room 13 at the front with Room 15 at the rear. Room 14 lies to the south of the corridor.
- 5.1.9 Room 13 has an eight-over-eight pane unhorned sash window on the north wall and a fireplace on the south wall with early 20th century tiled chimney-piece (Plate 12). The walls and ceiling have a lath and plaster finish.
- 5.1.10 Room 14 is lit by a single three-over-six pane sash window on the east wall. Prior to the works, a small stair positioned in the north-east corner of the room gave access to the roof-space/attic. This was lit firstly by a small window in the east wall, which like that in Room 11a below had historically been made redundant by the extension to the rear of the neighbouring property, and secondly by a similar window (latterly blocked) in the north wall which borrowed light from a roof-light positioned over the first to second floor flight (Plate 13). Stripping of wall finishes revealed the partitioning to Room 14 to be formed of match-boarding. It is a secondary feature, probably of 19th or early 20th century and thus implies that the stair within Room 14 is also of later date. The walls elsewhere are of timber studwork with a lath and plaster finish.
- 5.1.11 Room 15 was in use as a kitchen at the time of the survey. The only feature of note exposed during the works was the rafter contained within the partition wall between this room and Room 16 (see Section 5.1.6).
- 5.1.12 The roof over Unit 1 is formed of common rafter pairs set at 0.40m intervals with a high collar and ridgeboard. The timber used in its construction comprises a mixture of regular sawn softwood, some of which exhibits Baltic merchant marks, and more rudimentary waney-edged timber; modern sawn softwood timbers had been introduced at the south end (Plate 14). The area over Room 13 is separated by a boarded partition with small doorway. Beyond the doorway is a set of simple shelves built up against the south side of the chimney breast.

Unit 2

- 5.1.13 Unit 2 encompasses the second substantial phase of building at No. 96 and comprises Room 2 on the ground floor, Room 10 on the first floor and Room 16 on the second floor (Figures 4-6). It represents an extension to Unit 1 having shared access on all floors. The outer walls are timber-framed and weatherboarded, with lath and plaster finish internally.
- 5.1.14 The ground floor (Room 2) has been heavily modified in the past; at ground floor level both the east and south walls have been removed to create an open plan with adjacent structures, while the north wall between this and Unit 1 is formed of modern materials. The removal of the south wall has been carried out with the aid of a pair of old-looking I-beams, and necessitated the removal of the fireplace/chimney that is located in this area on the floor above. The removal of the east wall has been carried out more recently and achieved by the addition of a substantial brick pier (Plate 15) at the junction

with the south-east corner of Unit 1, and a modern steel girder inserted to support the upper walls on that side and the associated floor joists on either side. To the south of the opening, a short section of earlier brickwork survives (Plate 16). This is orange-red in colour and laid in a haphazard bonding pattern which incorporates timber bearers at intervals, and which is probably 18th century in date. A clear straight joint indicates the original rear extent of Unit 2.

- 5.1.15 The west wall is formed of regular softwood studs, weatherboarded externally and partly clad with vertical boarding internally.
- 5.1.16 The first floor (Room 10) had similarly been heavily modified and the only walls substantially surviving are to the south and west. The remnant of a partition survives on the east side in the form of a timber girder with redundant mortices in its soffit for original studwork. The works in this area involved re-instatement of the partition with modern timbers. A short section of primary-braced studwork survives to the south: this is built against a pre-existing brick wall which forms the north-west corner of Unit 7 (Plate 17). The west wall is of timber studwork and houses a sash window of four over four tall panes. The south wall contains a fireplace, east of which is a doorway into Room 9 (Unit 3).
- 5.1.17 At second floor level (Room 16) all walls are of timber studwork. The west wall contains a sash window as that in the room below. The south wall contains a fireplace with timber chimney-piece typical of the early 19th century, east of which is an inserted doorway leading onto the roof over Unit 3 (Room 9) while to the west is a cupboard with four-panel door (Plate 18). The ceiling and floor levels of this room were higher than those of neighbouring Unit 1 (Room 15). Lifting of the floorboards in this room revealed deep-section softwood joists on an east-west alignment.

Unit 3

- 5.1.18 Unit 3 forms an extension to the south of Unit 2 and consists of a single room on each the ground and first floor (Rooms 3 and 9 respectively). There is little upon which to base a date for its construction although a structure appears to be present in this location by the time of the production of the 1871/2 map. The building makes extensive use of pre-existing structures within its construction, the east wall utilising the west wall of the adjacent hayloft building (Unit 7) which itself utilises an earlier boundary wall, and the west wall taking in a pre-existing property boundary wall at ground floor level. The building has a flat felted roof.
- 5.1.19 Room 3 on the ground floor is open to the north into Room 2 (Unit 2), and to the south into Room 4. The east and west walls both incorporate pre-existing plot boundary walling; with that on the east side having previously been incorporated into the hayloft structure. The boundary walls are predominantly of stone with patch repairs in brickwork, and stand between 1m and 1.5m in height. The west wall appears to have been raised in two stages (Plate 19): firstly up to the level of the first floor in orange red-brickwork in an indistinct bonding pattern, probably in the 18th/19th century, subsequently in brickwork laid in a raking stretcher bond, probably in the 20th century. The latter forms

the west wall of Room 9. At the north end a clear butt joint is visible at first floor level. Deep-section softwood joists aligned east-west form the flat roof structure. To the south, the building has been extended for a short distance at ground and first floor level in modern blockwork (Unit 4; Rooms 4 and 8).

Rear of No. 97 (Unit 5)

5.1.20 Unit 5 represents the 19th and 20th century in-filling of a former a yard area at the rear of No. 97. On the ground floor this encompasses Rooms 5 and 6, now an open plan room which form part of the ground floor of No. 96, and Room 10a on the first floor, also now part of No. 96 (Figure 3). The 1871/2 Ordnance Survey Town Plan depicts a building in the location of Room 6, while the area occupied by Room 5 largely formed a yard, although the building on the street frontage (No. 97) is shown to have extended almost as far back as the north wall of Room 6.

5.1.21 Stripping of the wall surfaces at both levels revealed English-bonded orange-red brickwork predominantly of 18th/19th century date relating to the adjacent properties: No. 97 to the north, No. 98 (Unit 6) to the east and the hayloft structure (Unit 7) to the south. Some of the phasing is difficult to interpret, although within the east wall of Room 5 there is a possible earlier doorway blocked in orange-red brickwork similar to that surrounding it (Plate 20), and within the north wall of Room 6 there is a former opening infilled with 20th century grey-red brickwork (Plate 21).

5.1.22 Prior to the works, Room 6 to the east contained a 20th century staircase positioned against its east wall. This wall is faced on its west side by a skin of modern concrete blockwork which extends up beyond first floor level. The insertion of a door aperture at ground floor level during the works revealed an 18th/19th century orange-red brickwork wall (west wall of Room 21) behind.

No. 98 (Units 6 and 7)

5.1.23 No. 98 comprises The George Hotel. Unit 6, located at ground floor level forms part of the western part of The George that was rebuilt in 1818, while Unit 7 encompasses three closely-dated structures known as the hayloft, within the yard at the rear. Historically, the entrance to this yard was accessed by a carriage entrance inserted through the southern end of 12 Lion Street (Martin and Martin 2006b).

Unit 6

5.1.24 Unit 6 (Room 21) lies at ground floor level within the rebuilt western end of The George (Figure 3). It forms a single open space of two distinct halves north and south. The two halves are linked by a broad opening, supported by substantial twin I-girders (Plate 22). Both parts have orange-red brickwork walls to east and west. At the southernmost end of the west (party) wall, a short section of primary-braced studwork survives at the upper level, possibly representing a remnant of an earlier (though not substantially earlier) phase of construction (Plate 23). The south end wall contains a wide doorway with sliding door opening onto the old stable yard, while the north end wall contains a wide doorway with two-leaf sliding door which opens directly onto

High Street. The upper floor is supported on chamfered timber girders reinforced beneath by later steel I-girders. Removal of a small area of lath and plaster revealed deep-section softwood joists (Plate 24).

Unit 7

- 5.1.25 Unit 7 consists of a north-south aligned two-storey range of late 18th/early 19th century date (Rooms 17, 18 and 22), with two parallel ranges of slightly later date attached to the east (Rooms 19, 20, 23 and 24) (Figure 3 & Plate 25). All were in existence by the time of the production of the 1871/2 map. The outer walls are constructed in orange-red brick, whose bonding pattern varies between English bond and header bond. The exception to this is at the east end where at ground floor level the building is open-fronted and the upper level formed of timber studwork which is clad with weatherboarding externally. Each gable end contains a high-set loading doorway. The eastern section of the north wall to Room 23 has been rebuilt in Fletton brickwork.
- 5.1.26 The three ranges have similarly constructed roofs, with wall-plates carried in level assembly. Each comprises softwood rafter couples to a ridge board, with a single purlin in each pitch clasped by occasional collars (Plate 26).
- 5.1.27 At ground floor level the east wall of Room 17 and parts of the east wall of Room 18 have been removed to create an open space with Rooms 19 and 20 to the east (Plate 27). The extant walling above is supported on a steel I-girder (Room 19).
- 5.1.28 The work in this area mainly entailed the introduction of new blockwork partitions. The removal of a plasterboard ceiling in Room 18 revealed the underlying structure to be of central girder type with deep-section joists (Plate 28).

5.2 Archaeological Results

Unit 3

5.2.1 Unit 3 forms an extension to the south of Unit 2 and comprised a single room at ground level (Room 3). Ground-works at this location comprised the removal of the existing floor (stone on a gravel bed) and ground-reduction to the archaeological horizon (15.56m OD). Archaeological features were encountered beneath the removed floor and were in the main truncated by the existing walls. The archaeological features were observed to cut the underlying natural geology, which comprised mid yellow brown Wadhurst Clay.

5.2.2 The walls of Room 3 utilise earlier boundary walls at ground floor level these relate to 96 High Street (Grade II, ref. 1251725; Appendix 1) which is largely of 18th/19th century date, thus the boundaries are of mid-late post-medieval date (or earlier).

5.2.3 The recorded contexts relating to Unit 3:

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Cut	Pit	1.1	0.95	-
2	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.2
3	Cut	Pit	1.9	1.5	-
4	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.55
5	Cut	Drain	4.7	0.33	-
6	Fill	Drain	-	-	0.45
7	Cut	Pit?	2.77	0.97	-
8	Fill	Pit?	-	-	0.05
9	Cut	Well	1.4	1.4	-
10	Fill	Well	-	-	0.45
11	Fill	Well	-	-	0.50+

Table 1: List of recorded contexts Unit 3

5.2.4 The earliest features encountered within Unit 3 comprised three rubbish pits and a well. These were of 13th to 14th century date. Pit [1] comprised a shallow sub-circular feature which had been truncated both horizontally and vertically (by the walls of Room 3). It was filled by dark blue grey clay silt with frequent charcoal and occasional shell inclusions. Pit [3] was again heavily truncated (including by late post-medieval drain [5]), and had moderately sloping sides onto a flattish base. It was filled by mid brown grey silt clay [4]. As well as pottery dating to the mid-13th – mid 14th centuries, the feature produced finds of medieval roof tile and an intrusive fragment of etched late post-medieval glass.

5.2.5 Shallow probable Pit [7] had been heavily truncated resulting in only the base remaining, this was filled by mid grey brown silt clay [8] which incorporated charcoal, shell, fired clay and sandstone inclusions as well as finds of 13th century pottery.

5.2.6 Well [9] was sub-circular in plan and measured c.1.3m in diameter. It had

sharply sloping, near vertical sides and was truncated on its western side by late post-medieval drain [5]. The feature was filled by at least two deposits (Contexts [10] and [11]) which produced 60 and 14 sherds respectively. The pottery indicates a deposition date between c. 1250/75 and 1350. In addition to the pottery, finds of medieval roof and floor tile were also recovered.

Unit 4

5.2.7 Unit 4 relates to a single room (Room 4) which comprises a further extension to 96 High Street. Upon removal of the existing floor it was soon apparent that the archaeological horizon had been truncated at this location. No archaeological remains were present and it is likely that shallower features had been removed by previous truncation. It is probable that deeper features (such as wells, large pits) never existed in this room as their basal deposits would have remained.

Unit 6

5.2.7 Unit 6 (Room 21) lies at ground floor level within the rebuilt western end of The George. The south end wall opens onto the old stable yard, while the northern half comprises a 'covered garage' opening onto High Street, this would have once comprised the northern stable yard access. Archaeological features were encountered beneath the removed floor and were truncated by the existing walls and modern services. The archaeological features were observed to cut the underlying natural geology (Wadhurst Clay) at 14.92m AOD.

5.2.8 Unit 6 was rebuilt with the rest of the western end of The George in 1818. The existing walls are largely of this date.

5.2.9 The recorded contexts relating to Unit 6:

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
43	Cut	Pit	1.8	1.5	-
44	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.3
45	Cut	Posthole	0.36	0.36	-
46	Fill	Posthole	-	-	0.1
47	Cut	Posthole	0.61	0.61	-
48	Fill	Posthole	-	-	0.35
49	Timber	Posthole		-	0.5
50	Timber	Posthole	-	-	0.2+
51	Cut	Posthole	0.36	0.36	-
52	Fill	Posthole	-	-	0.45
53	Timber	Posthole	-	-	0.50+
54	Cut	Pit	0.92	0.77	-
55	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.23
56	Masonry	Wall	2.8	0.22	-
57	Masonry	Wall	3.44	0.28	-
58	Layer	Demolition Debris	2.5	0.7	-
59	Cut	Pit	2.1	1.13	-
60	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.3
61	VOID		-	-	-

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
62	VOID		-	-	-
63	Fill	Drain	-	-	0.2
64	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.06
65	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.38
72	Fill	Wall	-	-	-
73	Cut	Wall	2.9	0.25	-
74	Cut	Drain	3	0.13	-
75	Fill	Wall	-	-	-
76	Cut	Wall	3.5	0.3	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts Unit 6

5.2.10 The earliest feature encountered both within Room 21 and on site comprised Pit [54], this was filled by mid-blue grey, clay silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. This was dated by seven sherds of cooking pot to the first half of the 13th century. The feature was truncated by construction cut [73] for Wall [56] as well as a post-medieval drain and modern concrete stanchion.

5.2.11 Further medieval pits encountered within Unit 6 (Room 21) included Pit [43]. Truncated by a modern service this feature had sharply sloping sides onto a rounded base, it was filled by a deposit of dark grey brown, clay silt with occasional charcoal inclusions [44]. This pit was dated by pottery to the mid-13th to mid-14th centuries. Situated to the east of Pit [43] was Pit [59]. This large but only moderately deep feature was filled by three distinct deposits [60], [64] and [65]. No dating material was encountered within the feature however the pit is presumed to be of 'High Medieval' date given the presence of similar activity encountered on site.

5.2.12 A line of three postholes (Contexts [45], [47] and [51]) with partial timbers remaining in-situ were encountered in the western half of Room 21. These varied in diameter from c. 0.45m [45] to 0.76m [47] and were filled by mid grey brown clay silt with cobble inclusions. It is likely that the uprights related to internal partitions within Room 21.

5.2.13 Within the eastern half of Room 21 was encountered a sequence of masonry remains. The earliest of these comprised a right-angled length of stone footing [56]. The construction cut for this footing, [76], was tight to the masonry, truncated earlier Pit [59], and was filled by mid brown grey clay silt [75]. Footing [56] was later re-used together with brick 'wall' [57] to form two sides of Drain [74]. This was filled by dark grey brown, clay silt [63] that contained occasional charcoal inclusions as well as finds of pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipe.

5.2.14 Truncated by construction cut [73] for brick 'wall' [57] was a layer of brick and stone demolition debris [58].

Unit 7

5.2.15 Unit 7 encompasses three structures known as the hayloft (Rooms 17, 18 and 19). This was situated on the west of the stable yard (Room 20). As well as the entrance onto High Street through Unit 6 (see section 4.2.7) a further

entrance intended for wagons/carriages was inserted through the southern end of 12 Lion Street sometime prior to 1860 (Martin and Martin 2006b).

5.2.16 The earliest part of the existing Unit 7 consists of a north-south aligned two-storey range of c. 1800 date (Rooms 17 and 18).

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
12	Layer	Garden Soil	-	-	0.15
13	Cut	Posthole	0.6	0.6	-
14	Fill	Posthole	-	-	0.22
15	Cut	Posthole	0.37	0.37	-
16	Fill	Posthole	-	-	0.2
17	Cut	Posthole	0.4	0.4	-
18	Fill	Posthole	-	-	0.2
19	Cut	Posthole	0.6	0.47	-
20	Fill	Posthole	-	-	0.2
21	Cut	Pit	1.24	1	-
22	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.25+
23	Layer	Disturbance/Construction Debris	-	-	0.65
24	Layer	Made Ground	-	-	0.52
25	Layer	Garden Soil	-	-	0.6
26	Cut	Pit	1.7	0.9	-
27	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.23
28	Timber	Posthole	-	-	-
29	Fill	Posthole	-	-	0.2
30	Cut	Posthole	0.76	0.53	-
34	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.3
35	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.35
36	Cut	Pit	1.55	0.93	-
37	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.22
38	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.4+
39	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.4+
40	Cut	Pit	2.8	2.7	-
41	Cut	Posthole	0.35	0.24	-
42	Fill	Posthole	-	-	-
66	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.3	-
67	Layer	External Surface	-	-	0.1
68	Layer	External Surface	-	-	0.1
69	Layer	Made Ground	-	-	0.12
70	Layer	Garden Soil	-	-	0.15
71	Cut	Pit	-	-	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts Unit 7

5.2.17 Archaeological features were encountered at 15.67m AOD beneath the removed floor of Room 17. Some features were seen to be truncated by the existing walls. Upon removal of the existing floor and bedding, a layer of construction debris was encountered [23]. This comprised dark grey brown clay silt with a moderate frequency of gravel, charcoal, shell, glass and ceramic building material inclusions. Although dating of this layer was relatively mixed (with a range of 1650-1810) it probably relates to the

construction of Rooms 17 and 18 of the hayloft as well as demolition of an earlier structure.

- 5.2.18 Underlying Layer [23] was encountered loose, mid grey brown clay silt [12]. This 'garden soil' contained charcoal and roof tile inclusions and was dated by pottery to the late medieval period. Although late 17th century clay tobacco pipe was also recovered from this deposit this is thought to be intrusively derived from Layer [23] which was seen to disturb [12] and was recorded at two locations cutting the natural horizon.
- 5.2.19 Three postholes [15], [17] and [19] were recorded on the western side of Room 17. These were all of fairly uniform size and depth with sharply sloping sides and rounded bases. They were filled by deposits of mid brown grey, clay silt which were similar to medieval fill deposits encountered elsewhere on site. Only one of the postholes [19] was dated by a single pottery sherd (date range 1200-1300) and although two tiny flakes of post-medieval CBM were also present these are thought to be intrusively derived from the construction of the hayloft. A medieval date is strengthened by the alignment of further medieval features to the north and south.
- 5.2.20 A single pit [21] was encountered in the north-west corner of Room 17 and was truncated by the walls of the hayloft. This feature was in alignment with the three postholes discussed above. It was filled by a deposit of mid brown grey, clay silt which produced 13th century pottery and medieval CBM. A single sherd of 15th century pottery was also recovered, however, this is thought to be intrusively derived from overlying 'Garden Soil' [12]. The pit was not bottomed as it extended deeper than the ground-works formation level.
- 5.2.21 Archaeological features were encountered at 16m AOD beneath the modern concrete floor of Room 18. Some of these features were cut by the walls of the standing building. Because these features are securely dated, a relative date for the construction of the later building elements can be therefore ascertained.
- 5.2.22 The earliest feature encountered within Room 18 comprised Pit [26]. This irregular feature was filled by mid brown grey, clay silt which produced a mixed assemblage of medieval pottery as well as post-medieval CBM. The feature was truncated not only by the existing walls of the hayloft but also by Posthole [13]. This feature was similar to, and in alignment with, the postholes encountered within Room 17. Fill deposit [14] produced a single sherd of medieval pottery along with a brick which is thought to have been intrusively derived from construction of the hayloft, the walls of which truncated the feature to the west. A further posthole in line with the rest of this group [41] was encountered to the south.
- 5.2.23 Pit [66] was filled by mid brown grey, clay silt. It produced a tiny sherd of medieval pottery as well as small fragments of medieval roof tile and a tiny scrap of bone.
- 5.2.24 A stone post housing and a post-medieval brick footing were encountered within Room 18, these are thought to relate to internal divisions within the hayloft (perhaps as stabling) prior to modern alterations and insertion of the

concrete floor. A single further posthole, [30], was also encountered. This was dated to the late post-medieval period and again probably related to partitions within the hayloft.

- 5.2.25 Room 20 comprised the former stable yard to the east of the original hayloft building. Archaeological features and deposits were encountered at two locations in this area. The earliest feature in the northerly of these comprised Pit [71] this feature was heavily truncated on both the western and eastern sides by further medieval pits (Contexts [36] and [40]). It produced a single sherd of medieval pottery along with both medieval and post-medieval CBM.
- 5.2.26 Pit [36] was sub-circular in plan with gradually sloping sides onto a rounded base. It was filled by firm, mid-grey brown clay silt [37] that produced a mixed assemblage of finds. Pit [40] was filled by two distinct deposits, the lower of these [39] comprised mid grey brown, clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions and finds of pottery dating 1250-1350, the fill was not bottomed. The upper fill of Pit [40] comprised disturbed mid brown grey, clay silt [38]. Pottery from this deposit dated 1350-1500, however, a sherd of intrusive late post-medieval pottery was also recovered along with medieval and post-medieval CBM. It is likely that at least some of this fill may derive from the remnant late medieval 'garden soils' encountered elsewhere on the site.
- 5.2.27 A remnant 'garden soil' (Context [70]) overlay Pit [36] this was in-turn overlain by sand bedding (Context [69]) for cobble yard surface (Context [68]). A Cinder stable yard surface (Context [67] was encountered over the cobbles and was recorded on removal of the existing concrete and tarmac.
- 5.2.28 The southerly area to be investigated within Room 20 took place within the courtyard. Overlying the natural Wadhurst Clay, was loose, mid grey brown 'Garden Soil' [25]. This deposit was the same as Contexts [12] and [70] encountered elsewhere on site. It was overlain by post-medieval landscaping deposit [24] which contained residual medieval finds. This layer was in-turn overlain by the modern bedding, concrete and tarmac of the existing ground surface.

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Overview

6.1.2 A moderate assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavations. 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. Finds were all packed and stored according to IFA (2008) guidelines. None of the finds require further conservation. An overview is shown in Appendix 2.

6.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

Introduction

6.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 184 sherds of pottery, weighing 4017g, from 20 individually numbered contexts. The pottery was sorted into fabric groups on the basis of tempering and finish, each being given an archive code (eg M1) and subsequently a common descriptive name. The opportunity was taken to merge the current fabric series with a number of others from the town to create a single series for use in the future. This has resulted in a town series with some 87 different fabrics/wares spanning the 10th/11th to 19th centuries, but even this is unlikely to be the full range present within the town and will be added to in the future. Only those fabrics occurring at the George Hotel are considered in this report. The assemblage has been fully quantified on pro forma sheets by fabric and form, with that information being used to create an excel database as part of the digital archive. The pottery spans a wide chronological range but is predominantly of the High Medieval period. The assemblage is characterised in Table 4 and period overviews given below. Although there is some variability in the size and condition of the overall assemblage the High Medieval material is generally composed of medium to large unabraded sherds, undoubtedly the result of being derived from contemporary features. Although High Medieval pottery has frequently been found during archaeological work in Rye before, the vast majority of this consists of smaller abraded sherds from unsealed and/or mixed deposits and the current assemblage is one of the best from the town to date.

Period	No./weight	Average sherd size	No. of different fabric groups	No. of contexts spot-dated to each period (excludes unstratified/ heavily mixed contexts)
Early Medieval Late C11th – early/mid C13th	3/17g (ENV 3)	5.7g	Local - 3	1
High Medieval Early/mid C13th – mid/late C14th	145/3260g (ENV 61)	22.5g	Local - 10 Regional - 1 Imports - 3	12
Late Medieval Mid/late C14th – early/mid C16th	8/156g (ENV 8)	19.5g	Local - 3 Imports - 1	2
Early post-medieval Early/mid C16th to mid C18th	23/481g (ENV 14)	20.9g	Local - 2 Regional - 1 Imports - 5	0
Late post-medieval Mid C18th – C19th	5/103g (ENV 4)	20.6g	Regional - 3	1

Table 4: Characterisation of pottery assemblage. (No./weight in grams and Estimated Number of Vessels). NB. Totals include all residual/intrusive and unstratified material. Local equates to Sussex wares; Regional to other English wares.

Early Medieval (Late C11th – early/mid C13th)

- 6.2.2 There are just three sherds in the assemblage that can confidently be placed before the early 13th century. Each is in a different fabric:

Moderate Flint and Iron Oxides (M1) – Moderate multi-coloured flint grits and sparse/common iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. Probably later C11th to 12th century. A residual 4g sherd was recovered from pit [26].

Moderate Flinty Ware (M2) – Common multi-coloured flint grits to 1mm with occasional calcareous and/or iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. Probably 12th to very early 13th century. A 5g sherd was recovered from post-hole [13].

Sandy-Shelly ware (M5) – Moderate fine/medium sand with sparse/common shell to 1.5mm. Probably 12th to early 13th century. The 8g cooking pot sherd is unstratified.

- 6.2.3 The negligible group of Early Medieval sherds suggests only very limited activity at the site before the early/mid 13th century. Interestingly, this is in notable contrast to the assemblage from Cinque Port Street where this period was far better represented than the ensuing High Medieval one (Barber forthcoming).

High Medieval (Early/mid C13th – mid/late C14th)

- 6.2.4 The main activity at the site can probably best be placed between 1250/75 and 1375. The assemblage of this period is in notably fresh condition, a point

emphasised by the average sherd size of 22.6g. A fairly typical domestic range of vessel types is present though glazed jugs are particularly well represented. This may either be the result of the current refuse coming more from table, rather than kitchen, waste, or could be a chronological consideration – jugs usually becoming proportionally more common in the 14th century. The range of fabrics is summarised in Table 5. Although the exact source of some of the local wares is uncertain, products from Rye, and to a lesser extent Winchelsea/Brede, unsurprisingly dominate the overall group.

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight	Comments
Sand and Flint coarseware (M3/M8)	7	194g	Cooking pots. C 13th
Fine Sand with Flint (M9)	2	147g	Cooking pot. Late C12 th to early/mid 13th
Medium sandy ware (general) (M11)	10	135g	Cooking pots and jugs
Rye Ware medium (M14a)	43	1060g	Cooking pots, bowls & jugs
Rye Sandy Ware (calcareous type) (M14b)	7	169g	Cooking pots and jugs
Rye Ware silty (M14c)	1	2g	Jug
Winchelsea Black Shelly (M7a)	10	229g	Cooking pot
Winchelsea Black sparse Shelly (M7b)	5	229g	Cooking pot
Sandy Blackware (Winchelsea) (M13a)	1	3g	Uncertain form
Brede-type Fine Greyware (M13b)	1	141g	Pitcher
Scarborough Ware (Scar)	1	39	Glazed jug
North French-type Whiteware (M19)	1	3g	Green glazed jugs
Saintonge Whiteware (M18)	55	873g	Green glazed jug
North French Sandy Whiteware (NFSW)	1	36g	Green glazed jug

Table 5: Summary of the High Medieval fabrics

6.2.5 Non-local wares are also well represented. These are essentially composed of French imports: there is only a single English regional sherd from the Scarborough industry. Interestingly another Scarborough sherd was recovered from the Cinque Port Street assemblage (Barber forthcoming) and they are a relatively common find in High Medieval south coast assemblages (eg Barber 2011). It is probable these well-glazed jugs came back down the east coast with the fishing fleet. The current High Medieval assemblage has a notably large proportion of French imports (39.3% by sherd count) though the sample is admittedly small. Most of this material consists of Saintonge products from south-west France and is undoubtedly connected to the wine trade. This proportion of French wares is even higher than the 25% noted associated in the assemblage from Blackfriars Barn in Winchelsea, possibly a building actually associated with the wine trade (D. Martin *pers comm.*) (Orton 2004). The figure is also well above the 16% of French imports noted for Southampton at this time (Brown 2002) and is more in keeping with the 20-30% noted in Hull (Watkins 1983). However, as there is a notable number of conjoins in the current assemblage, particularly amongst the imported vessels, percentages based on estimated number of vessels may be a more reliable indicator of proportions. Of the 61 High Medieval vessels represented eight (13.1%) are from France. This is perhaps a more reliable percentage and is very much in keeping with the 12.3% noted at Cinque Port Street and 14% noted at Church Square (both based on sherd count in High Medieval

assemblages of 220 and 43 sherds respectively: Barber forthcoming and Barber 2013). This proportion of French imports puts Rye very much in the group of well-connected south coast ports such as Southampton though to what extent this reflects direct trade, or trade via Winchelsea, is uncertain.

6.2.6 Although the current assemblage has produced some notable groups they are unfortunately not large. The earliest assemblage is from pit [54], fill [55], probably dating to the first half of the 13th century. The seven sherds involved are from at least four different cooking pots in sand and flint wares (M3 x2, M9 and M11).

6.2.7 Well [9] produced 60 and 14 sherds from its upper and lower fills respectively (contexts [10] and [11]). Both fills contained similar pottery suggesting a deposition date between c. 1250/75 and 1350 (Table 6). The low quantities of the earlier 13th- century wares with notable flint inclusions is interesting, however, the sherd that is present (fill [10]) is large and almost certainly contemporary with the finer Rye jugs.

Fabric/Context	Well [9] Fill [10]	Well [9] Fill [11]	Pit [3] Fill [4]	Pit [43] Fill [44]
Sand and Flint coarseware (M3/M8)	1/45g (CP x1)	-	2/33g (CP x2)	-
Rye Ware medium (M14a)	4/145g (J x4)	12/72g (CP x1)	5/362g (J x5)	13/322g (CP x1, B x1, J x3)
Rye Sandy Ware (calcareous type) (M14b)	1/8g (? x1)	-	1/8g (J x1)	1/104g (CP x1)
Winchelsea Black Shelly (M7a)	10/229g (CP x1)	-	-	-
Winchelsea Black sparse Shelly (M7b)	5/229g (CP x2, J x2)	-	-	-
Sandy Blackware (Winchelsea) (M13a)	-	-	1/3g (? x1)	-
Brede-type Fine Greyware (M13b)	-	1/141 (? x1)	-	-
Scarborough Ware (Scar)	-	-	1/39g (J x1)	-
North French Sandy Whiteware (NFSW)	-	-	1/36g (J x1)	-
North French-type Whiteware (M19)	-	-	1/3g (J x1)	-
Saintonge Whiteware (M18)	39/680g (J x3)	1/56g (J x1)	-	-

Table 6: Quantification of High Medieval pottery from key assemblages (Key: CP – Cooking 6pot, J – Jug, B – Bowl, ? – Uncertain form)

6.2.8 The exact dating of Winchelsea Blackware is still not certain, but the presence of both the M7a and M7b shelly variants in [10] clearly indicate they were common in the late 13th to early 14th centuries. This would certainly be in keeping with the large quantities from New Winchelsea (Orton 2004) though how the fabrics changed throughout the 14th to 15th centuries remains to be proven. The Rye vessels from the well are dominated by well-made glazed jugs decorated with rilling or applied thumbled strips under clear or

green glazes (Cat. No. 1). One of the Saintonge jugs also has applied thumbed strips under a bright green glaze, while the other is plain but with radial incised mark on its base (No. 2).

6.2.9 The assemblage from pit [3] is very similar to that from fill [10] of well [9] in many respects though there is a notable absence of the shelly types of Winchelsea Black and a few earlier North French imports. The latter two observations are at odds chronologically but overall a slightly earlier deposition date may be implied, perhaps between c. 1225 and 1300. However, the assemblage is admittedly too small to be reliable.

6.2.10 The assemblage from pit [43] is composed entirely of medieval pottery. The group contains a higher proportion of kitchen wares and a total absence of imported jugs. Rye totally dominates the group and includes a slightly warped cooking pot (Cat. No. 3) and two slipped jugs (Cat Nos 4-5).

Catalogue (Figure 8)

1. Jug with thickened rim and oblique applied thumbed strips. Patchy external green glaze. Mid grey core with dull orange internal and orange/grey external surfaces. M14a Rye. Well [9], fill [10].

2. Base of jug with mottled green glaze and incised radial 'spokes' mark on base. M18 Saintonge. Well [9], fill [10].

3. Cooking pot with expanded rim. Slightly warped but used/sooted. Dark grey core, brick red margins and dark grey/black surfaces. M14a Rye. Pit [43].

4. Jug with bevelled rim. White slip on neck interior and painted in lines on exterior under a patchy clear glaze. Brick red throughout. M14a Rye. Pit [43].

5. Shoulder from jug with clear glazing on neck interior and all over white slip externally on which red slip lines have been painted. M14a Rye. A well-known type imitating contemporary French whitewares (Barton 1979). Pit [43].

Late Medieval (Mid/late C14th – early/mid C16th)

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight	Comments
Late Rye Sandy Ware (LM2a)	2	33g	No identifiable forms
Hard-fired Sandy Earthenware (Rye) (LM2b)	3	42g	No identifiable forms
Hard-fired Earthenware (Rye) (LM2c)	1	12g	No identifiable forms
Dutch Redware (LM5)	2	69g	Includes a pipkin

Table 7: Summary of the Late Medieval fabrics

6.2.11 Although this period is often well represented in other assemblages from the town the current site produced just eight sherds. This strongly suggests that refuse disposal was negligible between c. 1350/75 and 1525/50. This was a prosperous time for Rye, particularly toward the end of this chronological range when Winchelsea's harbour was suffering. The absence of refuse could be due to the plot remaining vacant after the Black Death or, more likely, the excavated area falling within a building and thus not being used for waste disposal. Very few contexts are of this period with the only 'clean'

groups coming from made ground and garden soils (contexts [24] and [12] respectively). The fabrics represented are fairly typical for the period with probable Rye hard-fired sandy wares dominating, accompanied by common Dutch Redwares (Table 7). The latter are well known from the area in the 15th to 16th centuries and it is clear trade contact had switched to the Low Countries by this time (Orton 2004; Whittingham 2001).

Early Post-medieval (Early/mid C16th to mid C18th)

6.2.12 As has been the case with previous excavations in Rye, the Early Post-medieval period is represented by a small but interesting assemblage (Table 8). Although locally produced redwares are well represented, including an example of a probable local copy of Dutch type, the majority of the wares are regional English or imported Continental types.

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight	Comments
Anglo-Dutch Sandy Redware (EPM5)	1	7g	No form identified
Fine Sandy Glazed Redware (EPM6)	2	58g	No form identified
English tin-glazed ware (TGW)	7	71g	Charger and plate
Martincamp-type (French) slipware (MART)	2	52g	Dish
Dutch Redware (EPM3)	1	14g	No form identified
Frechen Stoneware (FREC)	4	234g	Bottles
Westerwald Stoneware (WEST)	1	28g	Cobalt blue decorated chamber pot. C17th – early 18th
Chinese Porcelain (CHPO)	5	17g	Teabowls

Table 8: Summary of the Early Post-medieval fabrics

6.2.13 The Low Countries are still represented with increasing quantities of Rhenish stoneware, a fairly common trait for the period on most sites. However, there is some evidence to suggest a reasonable contact with France during the later 16th to 17th- century in the form of fragments from a white-bodied slipware dish. All of the Early Post-medieval assemblage was recovered from construction debris [23].

Late Post-medieval (Mid C18th – C19th)

6.2.14 The excavations recovered just five sherds of this date (Table 9) suggesting very limited refuse disposal on the site at this time.

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight	Comments
Pearlware	2	54g	Tea bowl and wash basin
Transfer-printed Whiteware (blue)	2	45g	Willow Pattern sauce boat
Yellow Ware	1	4g	Bowl

Table 9: Summary of the Late Post-medieval fabrics

6.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford

Introduction

6.3.1 A small assemblage of 52 fragments of CBM weighing 5024g was recovered from separate contexts. Medieval and post medieval brick, floor tile and roofing tile was recovered (Table 10). A total of 23 fabrics were identified (Table 11). Photographs of selected CBM are given in Figure 9.

Methodology

6.3.2 The ceramic building material has been recorded on a standard recording form and the information entered onto an Excel database. All the material has been retained.

Material	Count	Weight g.
Medieval - post medieval Roof tile	29	1568
Medieval brick	7	732
Medieval floor tile	2	380
Post-medieval brick	13	2334
Unidentified	1	10
Totals	52	5024

Table 10: Summary of the assemblage by period

Fabric	Comments
T1	Dark orange with iron rich seam and paler marls. Moderate coarse quartz; sparse very coarse iron rich inclusions; sparse very coarse siltstone and moderate coarse siltstone
T2	Pale orange reduced core, moderate coarse angular quartz; sparse very coarse rounded ironstone and medium/coarse calcareous inclusions.
T3	Sparse very coarse quartz, moderate coarse calc carb, sparse iron rich and sparse burnt material. Coarse moulding sand
T4	Mid orange sparse coarse paler clay pellets and red iron rich inclusions; moderate fine to medium quartz; sparse cream chunks and marls; poorly sorted.
T5	Sparse medium quartz; sparse coarse clay pellet/ calc carb and poorly sorted quartz in lense in centre
T6	Abundant coarse sub rounded quartz, moderate medium quartz and sparse very coarse calcareous inclusions.
T7	Moderate to abundant medium sub rounded quartz. Very sparse red/white inclusions of similar size

Fabric	Comments
T8	Abundant medium quartz; sparse coarse red/black iron rich inclusions
T9	Clean orange fabric with paler marls; fine calcareous speckle and occasional calcium carbonate coarse inclusions
T10	Yellow surfaces pinkish matrix with moderate calcareous speckle, occasional larger calcareous patches and sparse red clay pellets
T10	Marled orange/ cream/ pink; abundant calcareous speckle and sparser medium coarse calcareous inclusions; sparse fine quartz
T11	Mid- dark orange with very coarse cream clay pellets up to 8mm, background speckle of black iron rich material; sparse very fine quartz
T12	Clean orange fabric with sparse medium platy calcareous inclusions and v sparse coarse ironstone.
T13	Abundant medium to coarse quartz; sparse very coarse rounded ironstone (similar to T6 without calc carb incl)
B1	Pinkish or yellow powdery fabric with abundant calcareous speckle and v sparse black medium inclusions
B2	Yellow powdery fabric similar to MoL3073. moderate fine quartz and sparse pink clay pellets
B3	Dark red fabric with sparse cream marls. Moderate fine black speckle; sparse coarse rounded red inclusions.
B4	Dark orange moderate fine quartz, sparse medium and coarse black/red iron rich inclusions
B5	Yellow fabric with moderate CTP stem inclusions; moderate chaff/coarse flints/medium quartz/coarse iron rich and shell inclusions.
B6	Moderate to abundant fine quartz, moderate fine red speckle, moderate coarser red inclusions and frequent very coarse red iron rich rounded inclusions. Sparse yellow clay pellets, coarse calcium carbonate and flint pebbles up to 20mm.
FT1	Brownish orange fabric with stalky voids vertically through thickness (diam. 2.5mm) Moderate to abundant coarse angular quartz and sparse black inclusions of similar size
FT2	Mid orange fabric, moderate medium coloured quartz, sparse medium calcareous inclusions and sparse medium red iron oxide.

Table 11: CBM Fabric descriptions

Roofing tile

- 6.3.3 Twenty nine fragments of roofing tile were recovered weighing a total of 1568g. Thirteen fabrics could be distinguished. Most of the fabrics were not closely dateable beyond a broad 13th century to 17th century date however Fabrics T1-T3, and T8-T13 probably fall earlier in the range than the remaining fabrics.
- 6.3.4 The majority of the assemblage is undiagnostic however three fragments from pit fill [38] (Fabrics T9, T10, T12) exhibited square peg holes and it is likely that much of the roof tile is also peg tile. One of these fragments also

showed evidence of reuse in the form of mortar filled peg hole and mortared broken edge.

- 6.3.5 Pit fill [37] contained a fragment of roof tile in T13 with green glaze applied to the lower half and a fragment of roof tile in the same fabric with bevelled edges that has small splashes of green glaze on both surfaces, possibly part of a louvre or other roof furniture. The former piece has a slight curve and may be part of an early medieval curved tile utilised in a similar fashion to Roman imbreces.

Floor tile

- 6.3.6 Two fragments of medieval or early post medieval floor tile were recovered. Upper well fill [10] contained a fragment of unglazed tile 27mm thick with knife trimmed edges in fabric FT1. A fragment of glazed floor tile 29mm thick was recovered from pit fill [38]. Both brown and yellow glazes are visible in small areas and it is probable that it was originally decorated.

Brick

- 6.3.7 Small amounts of highly abraded 'Flemish' brick were recovered from unstratified, upper well fill [10], posthole [22] and pit fill [38]. The most complete, unstratified, example has a sooted stretcher and indented margins. Measurable thickness was between 41-45mm, with a width of 92mm. These are likely of 13th-14th century date.
- 6.3.8 Unfrogged bricks 60mm thick in fabric B2 were recovered from upper well fill [10] and pit fill [34]. The fabric is similar to MoL3073 and an early post medieval date up to 17th century is probable. An unfrogged brick from pit fill [38] in B6 is probably of similar or slightly later date. A fragment in fabric B5 from posthole fill [29] is dated by the clay tobacco pipe inclusions within the fabric to 19th century or later.

6.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

Introduction and Methodology

- 6.4.1 A small assemblage, comprising 13 bowl and stem fragments weighing 98g, was recovered from four individually numbered contexts (selected bowls photographed in Figure 10). Recording guidelines followed are those set out by Higgins and Davey (2004). Bowls have been principally classified according to the London 'Chronology of Bowl Types' by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 177-180), with prefix AO to the type numbers. This was complimented by Adrian Oswald's Simplified General Typology (1975, 37), in order to refine the dating of 18th-century clay pipe (prefix OS). Only one pipe displayed maker's marks; this was assigned a unique Registered Finds number (RF <00>). The assemblage has been recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive. A detailed tabulated register of the entire assemblage has been deposited as part of the archive, both in digital and hard copy format.

Overview of the Assemblage

6.4.2 Seven plain stem fragments are included, none of which are marked or decorated. The earliest, dating to c. 1640-80, was found in mixed context [23] and is abraded. The same context also contained four fragments dated to c. 1680-1800. Stem fragments dated to the mid-18th to 19th century were recovered from [37] and [63].

6.4.3 A total of six bowl fragments were found, most of which are near complete. The earliest two are both types AO15 (dated c 1660-80) and were found in [12] and [23]. Three of the long bowls dating to c. 1680-1710 were found in [23], including a type AO20 and 21. Finally, the same context also contained an OS12 (c 1730-80). The latter contained maker's marks moulded in relief on the heel sides and consisting of a rosette followed either by H or by I (*?H or *?I). The maker cannot be identified.

6.5 The Glass by Elke Raemen

6.5.1 A small assemblage of eight glass fragments weighing 54g was found across four individually numbered contexts, (selected fragments photographed in Figure 10). The earliest pieces comprise colourless window glass ([23] and [63]), both pieces of which date to the 17th- to 18th-century. The fragment from [63] retains a straight cut edge. A shaft and globe bottle body fragment from [23] is of mid 17th- to mid 18th-century date. Later material includes a wine bottle fragments as well as a colourless cylindrical bottle fragment, both from [23] and both dating to c 1750-1850. The remaining three pieces all date to the mid 19th to early 20th century and include an undiagnostic piece, probably from a cylindrical bottle, with etched decoration from [4], an opaque white lid fragment with plain knob from [23] and a green glass wine bottle fragment from [48].

6.6 Nails by Trista Clifford

6.6.1 Two iron nails weighing a total of 16g were recovered. Context [29] contained a square sectioned general purpose nail with missing head measuring 62.9mm in length. A second, fragmentary, nail of similar form was recovered from environmental sample <1>. The nails are in poor condition and are not inherently dateable; discard is recommended.

6.7 Other artefacts by Trista Clifford

6.7.1 Context [23] contained a modern sink or bath plug weighing 20g. This has been discarded.

6.8 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

6.8.1 The excavations recovered 21 pieces of stone, weighing 4175g, from nine individually numbered contexts. The assemblage has been fully listed for archive on pro forma. The assemblage is mainly from High Medieval deposits, though a few pieces are associated with Late Medieval pottery. Five local stone types are represented, all of which are typical for the town. These include Wealden Clay Ironstone, fine Wealden sandstone, ferruginous Wealden sandstone, ferruginous shelly limestone and Tilgate stone. Although none are worked they have almost certainly been brought in for walling. The only other stone type consists of West Country slate, with eight pieces (370g)

being recovered from pit [36]. These include a small roof slate with complete width of 95mm.

6.9 Wooden artefacts by Dawn Elise Mooney

6.9.1 A single wooden artefact was recovered from the site, from construction debris [23]. This was a poorly-preserved short section of thick wooden planking, weighing 470g and measuring 188 mm long x 152 mm wide x 43 mm deep. The plank was tangentially converted and pierced with a single iron nail, and is likely to have been part of a floorboard or of a small structural timber. The preservation of the wood was too poor to give further information on woodworking techniques used, or to assign a taxonomic identification.

6.10 The Marine Mollusc by Trista Clifford

6.10.1 A small assemblage of marine mollusc weighing 188g was hand collected from six separate contexts. A further 590g was recovered from environmental bulk sample <1>, context [10]. The hand collected material was recorded on pro forma sheets for the archive. Material from the environmental sample was highly fragmented therefore was rapidly scanned for diagnostic fragments which were also recorded on pro forma sheets.

6.10.2 Three edible species are present: Common Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), Common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) and Common cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*). Parasitic activity was noted on one individual lower oyster valve from construction debris [23]. Two small fragments from unidentified species were noted from the environmental sample.

6.10.3 The assemblage is not statistically significant but does provide evidence for utilisation of marine food resources. The assemblage is recommended for discard.

6.11 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

6.11.1 Archaeological mitigation at the site of The George Inn, Rye produced a small animal bone assemblage containing 97 fragments of mammal, bird and fish bone from 14 contexts. The assemblage was recovered by hand and from whole earth samples alongside medieval and post-medieval pottery.

6.11.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spread sheet, the more complete specimens have been recorded in accordance with zoning system outlined by Serjeantson (1996). Wherever possible the fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. Mammalian elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size and identified as large, medium and small mammal. The state of fusion has been noted as well as evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology. The assemblage does not contain any measurable bones or recordable mandibles (those with two or more teeth in-situ).

6.11.3 The assemblage is in a good to moderate state of preservation with some large but no complete specimens remaining. Of the 97 bones recovered, 88 could be identified to taxa (Table 12).

Taxa	NISP
Cattle	18
Sheep	2
Sheep/Goat	3
Large Mammal	13
Medium Mammal	4
Goose	1
Haddock	2
Halibut	1
Sole	9
Whiting	2
Fish	32
Bird	1

Table 12: NISP (Number Of Identified Specimens) count

- 6.11.4 Cattle dominate the assemblage and fish are well represented, the unidentifiable fish assemblage is comprised of spines and rays that are not distinctive to species. The high ratio of fish bones recovered is unsurprising when we consider the town's location and the range of fish taxa identified are common on medieval sites (Serjeantson and Woolgar 2006).
- 6.11.5 The majority of the cattle bone was fused and butchery marks were noted on a distal humerus from context [10] and a distal, unfused femur from context [22]. Two charred, medium-mammal sized ribs were recovered from context [22]. No evidence of pathology or gnawing was noted.
- 6.11.6 The assemblage provides little information regarding animal husbandry regimes though it does reveal that fish were an important food source.

7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A single sample was taken from a shell rich deposit in the upper fill [10] of well feature [9] during archaeological work at the site. Sampling aimed to recover environmental remains such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca and to assist finds recovery.

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 The bulk soil sample was processed in a flotation tank, and the flot and residue were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively and air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 13). The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and an overview of its contents recorded (Table 14). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made using modern comparative material and reference literature (Jacomet 2006).

7.3 Results

7.3.1 This small sample was dominated by marine molluscs (see Clifford) with a lesser component of wood charcoal flecks in the flot measuring <2mm in size. Two charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopses were also recorded. These are not sufficiently well preserved to determine whether they are from a free threshing or non-free threshing wheat type. No further charred macrobotanical remains were present and although uncharred seeds were common these are not mineralised and given that the deposit was not waterlogged they have been considered a modern intrusive component of the deposit.

7.3.2 The assemblage holds no potential to provide further information regarding the processes of accumulation or deposition. The sample could be discarded prior to the site being archived.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Mineralised Botanicals	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	10	Upper backfill of well	10	10	**	8	**	<2	*	<2	*	4	**	4	****	590	Metal */8g - Pottery */12g - CBM */<2g

Table 13: Residue quantification

Sample	Context	weight g	Flot volume	Volume scanned ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Marine molluscs	lithics	Ind debris hammerscale	Potential	Further work	notes
1	10	<2	5	5	15	<5	** Sambucus nigra, cf. Conopodium sp., cf Aethusa sp.	***	* (2)	Triticum sp.	+	*** indet frags <2mm			D/D	NFW	NB also some frags of possible seaweed (uncharred) or uncharred plant remains indet. NB more present in the 2-4mm residue fraction

Table 14: Flot quantification

8.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Historic Building Recording

- 8.1.1 The above-ground element of the watching-brief focussed on No. 96 where alterations were most extensive. The street frontage of this building appears to have been constructed in the late 18th/early 19th century, with a series of additions made to the rear in fairly quick succession, so that by 1871/2 when the building was represented on the Ordnance Survey Town Plan, the building largely conformed to its present footprint. The truss retained within the south wall of Unit 1 survives from an earlier building which pre-dates the late-18th century, although given its extremely fragmentary nature it is not possible to refine this date satisfactorily nor reconstruct much detail concerning the previous building's form. The earlier-looking brickwork identified within the east wall of Room 11 could be related to this structure, although given that there is no direct physical relationship, this cannot be confirmed.
- 8.1.2 Unit 7, within the stable yard at the rear of 98 High Street/12 Lion Street is characteristically of late 18th/early 19th century date, but appears to predate Unit 2, which is of similar date, on the basis of physical relationships within the party wall. Its west wall also utilises a pre-existing plot boundary wall, although the date of this boundary wall has not been confirmed.
- 8.1.3 Other fabric exposed throughout the building was fairly typical and consistent with its predominantly 19th century sequence of development.

8.2 Groundworks Watching Brief

- 8.2.1 As would be expected in a confined urban environment, the encountered archaeological features showed a high degree of disturbance. This was derived from the many phases of building activity undertaken at the site as well as the insertion of modern and post-medieval services. This resulted in a great deal of residually, and indeed intrusively, derived finds. As such, dating remains tentative though some interesting conclusions may be drawn.
- 8.2.2 The earliest activity at the site dated to the late 11th- early/mid-13th century. This comprised a very small assemblage of pottery occurring residually in later features (pointing to at least limited activity at the site prior to the early 13th century). Although Rye had become a port of some significance by the 12th century (Martin *et al.* 2009, 3) and had gained Cinque Port status by A.D. 1154-89 (Harris 2009, 15), most previous excavations have lacked concrete evidence of the Norman period town (Harris 2009, 29). The limited activity of this date is in notable contrast to the assemblage from Cinque Port Street where this period was far better represented (Barber *forthcoming*); although again no features of this date were encountered at this location.
- 8.2.3 Early/mid-13th century– mid/late 14th century activity was far more extensive than for the preceding phase (described above). It comprises 'backyard' activity and a probable burgage boundary. The archaeological remains largely comprise rubbish pits, however, a well [9], and a group of postholes

were also encountered. 'High Medieval' features were spread across the excavated area and almost certainly relate to contemporary 'back-yard' activity. Interestingly, the group of postholes [13], [15], [17], [19] and [41]) form a line roughly on the division between no's: 96 and 97 High Street. Two further features [21] and [66] were also orientated on this axis and it may be that these features, which were not fully exposed, did not relate to pits at all, but rather sections of ditch along this boundary. As such it may be possible to suggest this group as relating to a burgage boundary. Rye is certainly of borough status by the 12th century (Harris 2009, 15) and the area of the site falls within the 'regular burgage plots' Historic Character Type recorded for the town (*ibid*, Map 7).

- 8.2.4 Late Medieval activity at the site comprised remnant 'Garden Soils' within the courtyard (Room 20) and Room 17 (Unit 7). It is probable that this layer represents a survival of deposits related to the yard of the two-bay 'Wealden' hall known at 12 Lion Street (Martin *et al.* 2009, 105; Martin and Martin 2006b). A further feature possibly dated to this phase (although this is extremely uncertain) is a short length of stone footing [56] later re-used as a drain. This feature does not relate to any known walls from the cartographic evidence, and the plot was likely vacant in the Late 15th century (Martin and Martin 2006b, 3). The most probable explanation for the feature is that it relates to an open hall or smokebay of 16th-17th century date built against the exterior wall of the late 15th century property once occupying 98 High Street (Martin and Martin 2006b). The wall to which [56] relates would have been demolished as part of the rebuilding in this area during the early 19th century. The Late Medieval activity is locally significant.
- 8.2.5 Early post-medieval activity relates to construction debris associated with the construction of the hayloft, extant boundary walls later utilized as footings during the extension of 96 High Street (Room 3) and various services and internal partitions. Postholes [45], [47] and [51] probably relate to stalls within Room 21, prior to the 1818 rebuild, as does a post housing and brick footing within Room 18 of the hayloft. This evidence certainly falls towards the later end of the phase range (1550-1850) and will probably be re-phased as late-post-medieval) at analysis (if appropriate).
- 8.2.6 Late post-medieval evidence relates to a partition within the hayloft [30], services and the various phases of re-modelling and construction of the various properties that make up the site. A previous cobbled and cinder yard surface was encountered in the courtyard (Room 20). The post-medieval evidence is not considered to be particularly significant.
- 8.2.7 The Watching Brief associated with the ground-works at the George Hotel, Rye succeeded in revealing evidence of medieval activity at the site. Residual activity dating to the late 11th- early/mid-13th century was encountered, however, the earliest features dated to the early/mid-13th century– mid/late 14th century. This activity comprised pits and a well characteristic of medieval 'yard' activity, as well as a fenced (and possibly ditched) boundary, likely to relate to a medieval burgage plot. Later medieval activity comprised deposits of remnant 'garden soil', probably associated with the backyard of the 'Wealden' hall that once occupied 12 Lion Street. Further remains comprised structural and service features related to the post-medieval development of

the various properties that at one time or another occupied the site.

8.3 Publication

- 8.3.1 It is suggested that the results of the historic building recording and archaeological watching brief should be integrated and discussed together in a short note in Sussex Archaeological Collections. The pottery report will be published in full with accompanying pottery drawings and photographs.

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APPENDIX 1: Relevant building list descriptions

[Source: English Heritage, National Heritage List]

92-96 High Street

List entry number: 1262637

1.
1578 HIGH STREET
(South Side)

Nos 92 to 96 (consec)
TQ 9220 1/84

II GV

2.
Late C18 or early C19 facades. 3 storeys. No 92 has 3 windows, the others have one window each. Stuccoed. Nos 93 to 96 have bay windows on the 1st floor and Nos 93 and 94, on the 2nd floor also. Most glazing bars intact. Nos 92, 93 and 95 have C19 shop fronts with iron glazing bars.

Nos 92 to 97 (consec) George Hotel and Nos 99 to 104A (consec) form a group.

Listing NGR: TQ9206420376

97 High Street

List entry number: 1251725

1.
1578 HIGH STREET
(South Side)

No 97
TQ 9220 1/84

II GV

2.
Late C18 or early C19 facade. 3 storeys, 2 windows. Bay windows on both upper floors with C19 sashes. Ground floor has a modern double shop window. The corner of the ground floor has been cut away and the upper floor is supported by a column.

Nos 92 to 97 (consec) George Hotel and Nos 99 to 104A (consec) form a group.

Listing NGR: TQ9208320388

The George Hotel (98 High Street)

List entry number: 1251726

1.
1578 HIGH STREET
(South Side)

The George Hotel
TQ 9220 1/85 12.10.51.

II GV

2.
The hotel included several originally separate buildings of various dates from C15 to early C19. The Lion Street frontage consists of 2 timber framed cottages. The southern cottage dates from C15, the northern one from about 1600. 2 storeys, 2 windows each. Upper floors have been reconstructed and heightened probably in C18 but the jettying is still evident. Tiled roof. Upper storey tile hung, lower storey underbuilt with brick, now stuccoed. Upper storeys have C19 sash windows. Lower storeys have bay windows, those of the northern cottage with original glazing bars. Southern cottage has central doorway and passage through southern end to the back of the hotel. The VCH says that this lower storey and gateway have C15 ceiling beams. The main hotel block facing High Street has been underbuilt and has an C18 facade. 3 storeys and attic. Painted brick. Wooden dentil eaves cornice. Tiled roof and 4 dormers. Windows with segmental heads, the centre one on the 1st floor surmounted by a heavy pediment. Porch with Doric columns and an iron railing above it in front of the pedimented window. The interior has open timbered ceilings and fireplaces and early C17 panelling. The western half of the High Street facade and the former Assembly Rooms (now the dining room) were built in 1818. Painted brick. 2 large, 3-light bow windows on the 1st floor. Later mansard roof with 3 dormers. Beneath the westernmost 1st floor window is the entrance to the Stable Yard now converted into a garage. The Assembly Rooms have a plastered ceiling and a Musicians' Gallery.

Nos 92 to 97 (consec) George Hotel and Nos 99 to 104A (consec) form a group.

Listing NGR: TQ9210920388

APPENDIX 2: Quantification of the Finds

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Iron	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Plug	Wt (g)	Wood	Wt (g)	Fired clay	Wt (g)
2	2	38							1	32												
4	12	486	3	52	2	74	1	6	1	8			1	4								
8	1	2																				
10	60	1340	9	1084	14	630	1	<2	5	1950												
11	14	266			2	146																
12	3	124	3	238	1	18	1	34							1	16						
14	1	6	6	532																		
20	1	14	2	14	1	26																
22	1	12	4	76	3	262	1	<2														
23	26	548	3	154	5	48	3	148					5	48	9	70	1	20	1	470		
24	1	6	1	14					1	144												
27	2	12							1	114											1	<2
29	2	6	3	96							1	10										
34			1	360																		
35	1	<2	2	38	1	<2													1	16		
36					1	52																
37	14	132	9	456	3	42	1	<2	8	370					1	<2						
38	7	52	9	1778	1	<2																
39	3	42																				
44	14	424			9	584																
48													1	2								
55	7	274			2	22																
63	2	56			5	60							1	<2	1	2						

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Iron	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Plug	Wt (g)	Wood	Wt (g)	Fired clay	Wt (g)
u/s	6	114	2	20					2	1918												
Total	177	3954	57	4912	50	1964	8	188	19	4536	1	10	8	54	12	88	1	20	2	486	1	0

SMR Summary

Site Code	GHR09					
Identification Name and Address	The George Hotel, High Street, Rye					
County, District &/or Borough	Rye, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 92079 20388					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4127					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief X	Standing Structure X		
Type of Site		Shallow Urban X				
Dates of Fieldwork			WB. 2 nd Nov 2010- 19 th Jan 2011			
Sponsor/Client	SPM Ltd on behalf of George on High Ltd					
Project Manager	Ron Humphrey					
Project Supervisor	Sam Whitehead					
Period Summary						
		MED X	PM X	Other Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by SPM Ltd on behalf of George on High Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The George Hotel, High Street, Rye, East Sussex. The work was carried out in connection with proposals to convert adjoining buildings to hotel storage and accommodation as well as remodelling of existing elements of the hotel. The watching brief covered alterations to the actual structure of the building(s) in addition to associated ground-works.</p> <p>The watching brief associated with the ground-works succeeded in revealing evidence of medieval activity at the site. Residual activity dating to the late 11th- early/mid-13th century was encountered, however, the earliest features dated to the early/mid-13th century– mid/late 14th century. This activity comprised pits and a well characteristic of medieval ‘yard’ activity, as well as a fenced (and possibly ditched) boundary, likely to relate to a medieval burgage plot. Later activity comprised deposits of remnant ‘garden soil’, probably associated with the backyard of the ‘Wealden’ hall that once occupied 12 Lion Street. Further remains comprised structural and service features related to the post-medieval development of the various properties that at one time or another occupied the site.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-179114

Project details

Project name	The George Hotel, High Street, Rye
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by SPM Ltd on behalf of George on High Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The George Hotel, High Street, Rye, East Sussex. The work was carried out in connection with proposals to convert adjoining buildings to hotel storage and accommodation as well as remodelling of existing elements of the hotel. The watching brief covered alterations to the actual structure of the building(s) in addition to associated ground-works. The watching brief associated with the ground-works succeeded in revealing evidence of medieval activity at the site. Residual activity dating to the late 11th- early/mid-13th century was encountered, however, the earliest features dated to the early/mid-13th century- mid/late 14th century. This activity comprised pits and a well characteristic of medieval 'yard' activity, as well as a fenced (and possibly ditched) boundary, likely to relate to a medieval burgage plot. Later activity comprised deposits of remnant 'garden soil', probably associated with the backyard of the 'Wealden' hall that once occupied 12 Lion Street. Further remains comprised structural and service features related to the post-medieval development of the various properties that at one time or another occupied the site.
Project dates	Start: 02-11-2010 End: 19-01-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GHR09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	BURGAGE PLOT Medieval
Monument type	YARDS Medieval
Monument type	BUILDINGS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England
Site location EAST SUSSEX ROTHER RYE George Hotel
Postcode TN31 7JT
Study area 100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 92079 20388 50.9502601703 0.73491215272 50 57 00 N 000
44 05 E Point
Lat/Long Datum Unknown
Height OD / Depth Min: 14.00m Max: 16.00m

Project creators

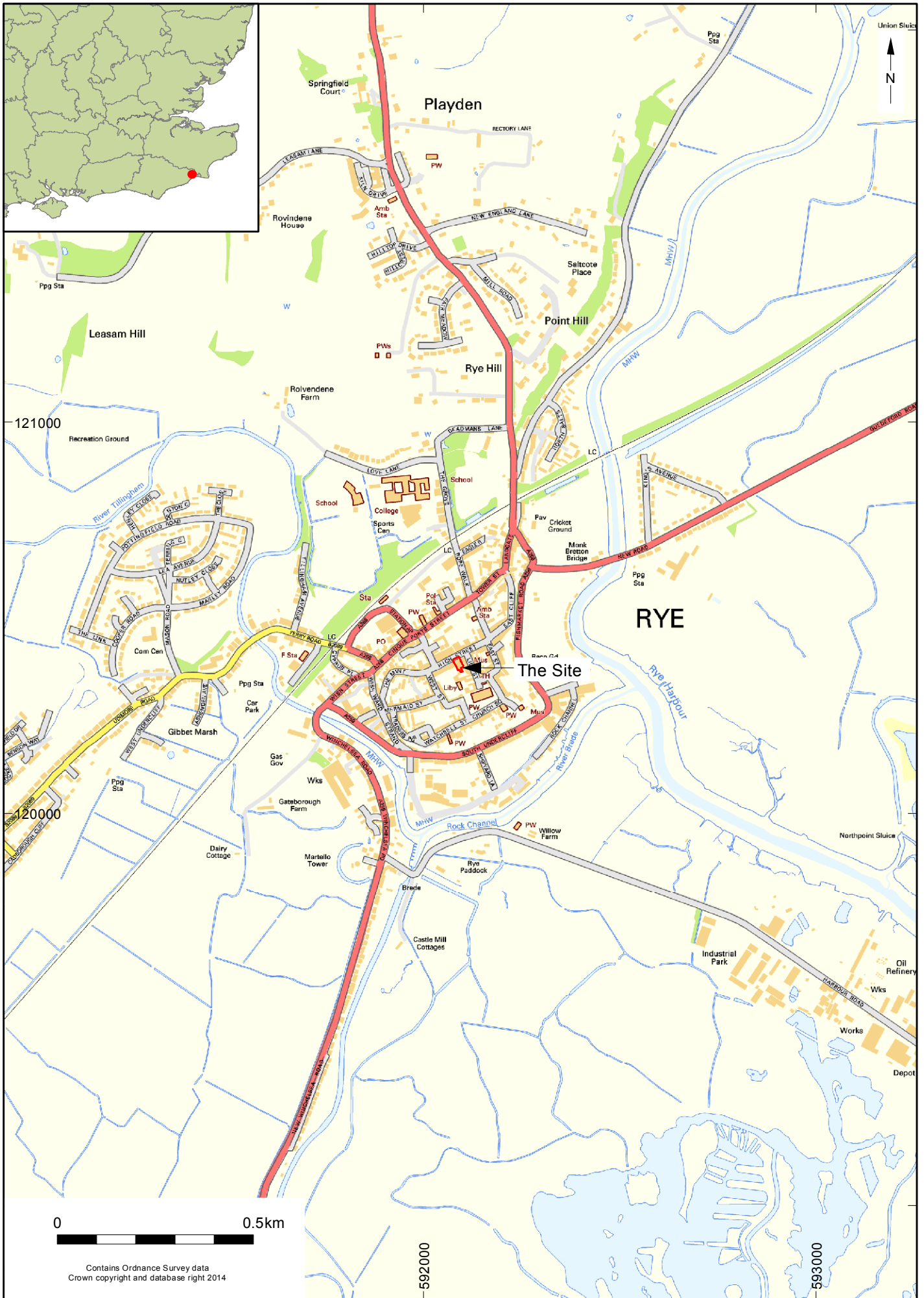
Name of Organisation Archaeology South East
Project brief originator East Sussex County Council
Project design originator Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager Neil Griffin
Project director/manager Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor Sam Whitehead
Type of sponsor/funding body Client
Name of sponsor/funding body SPM Ltd on behalf of George on High Ltd

Project archives

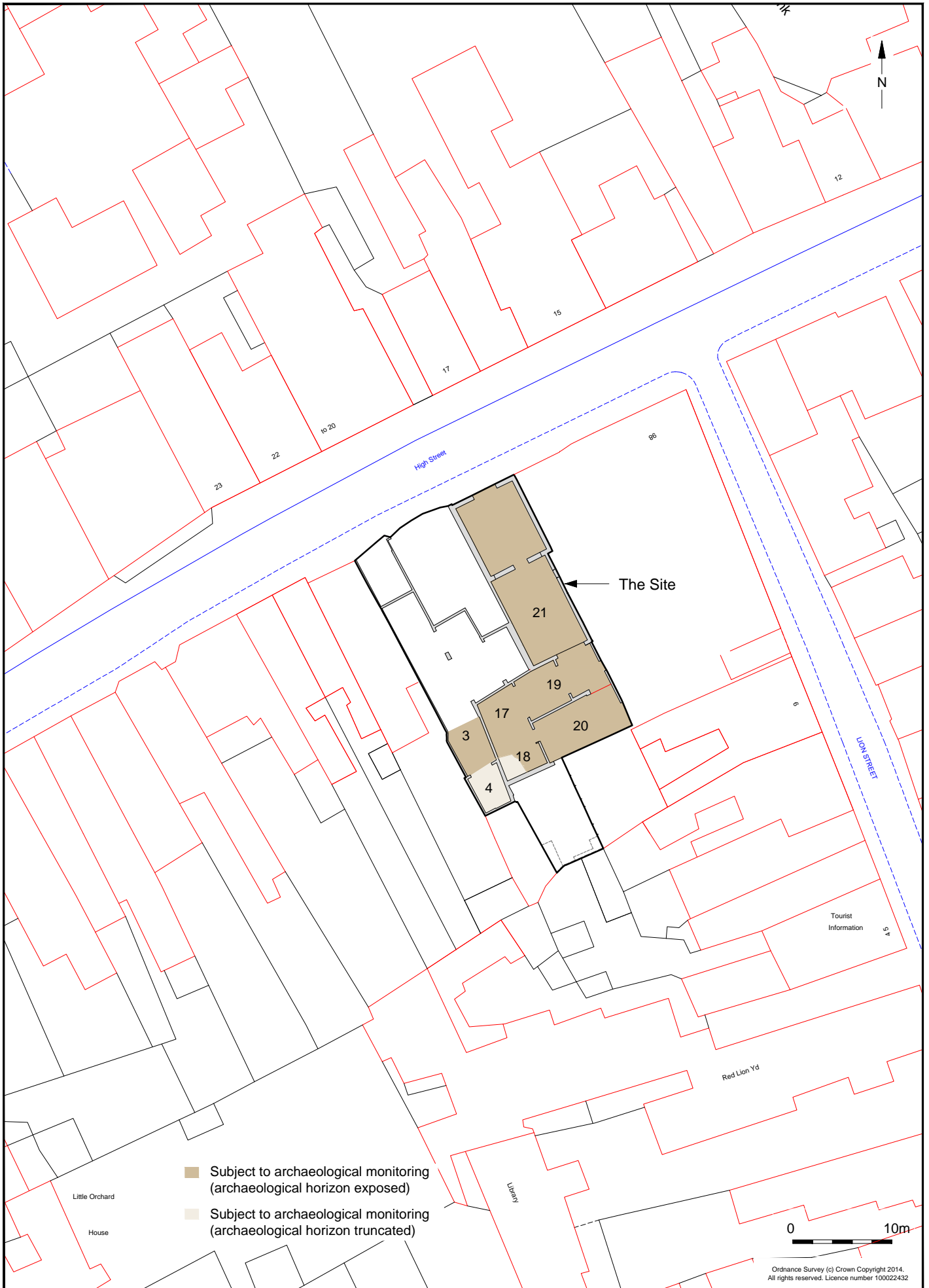
Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive Exists? No
Paper Archive Exists? No

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at The George Hotel, High Street, Rye
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Margetts, A.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Williamson, A.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2014144
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Final Report
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Entered by	andy Margetts (a.margetts@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	16 May 2014



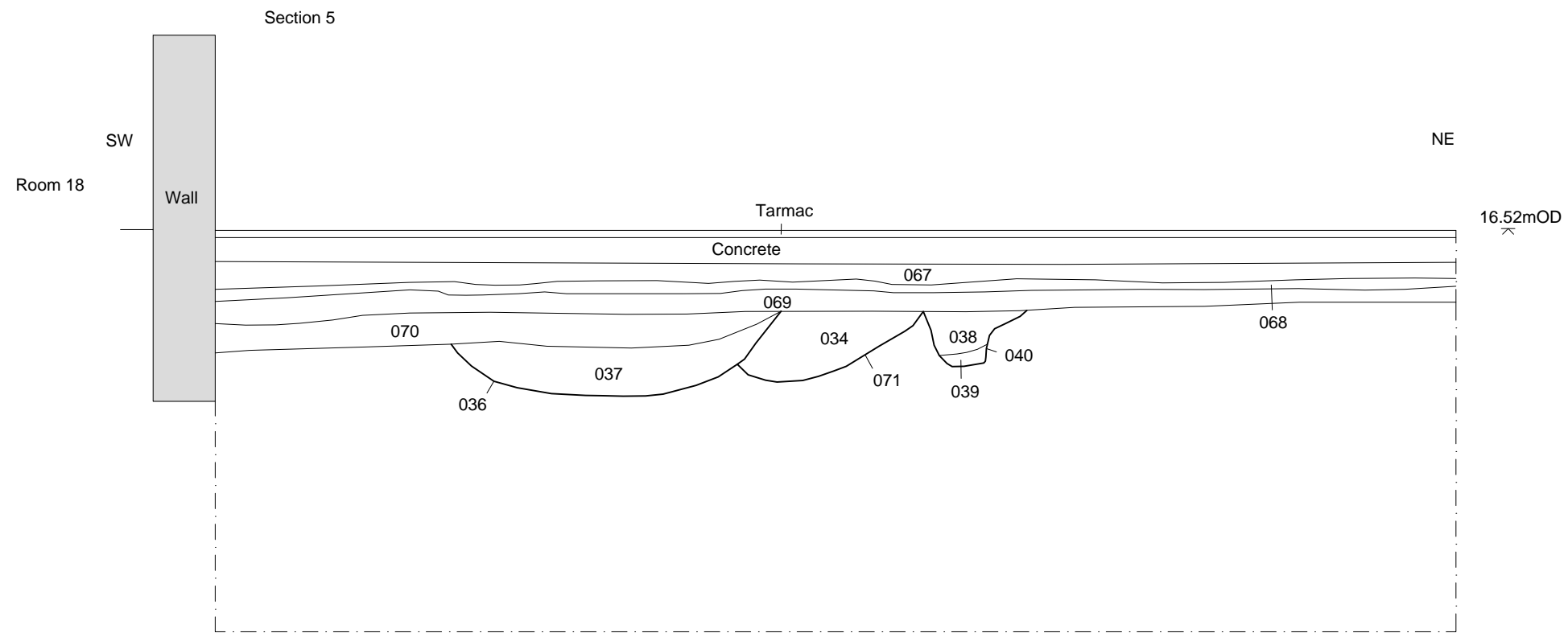
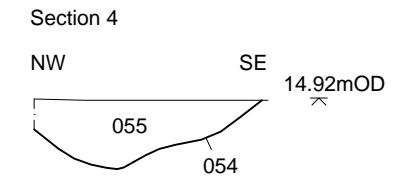
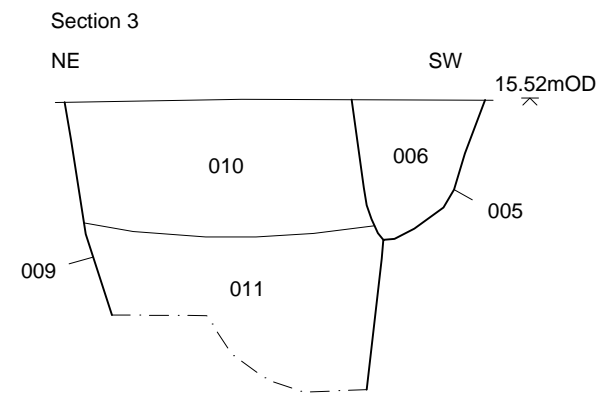
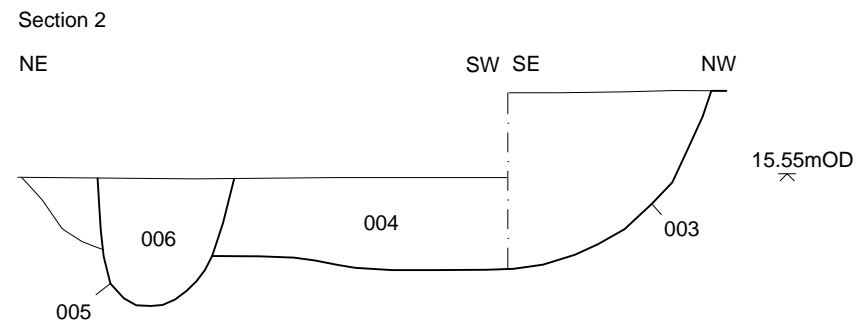
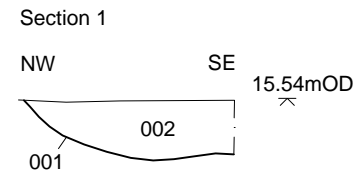
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Project Ref: 4127	May 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014144	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		The George Hotel, Rye	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4127	May 2014	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2014144	Drawn by: JLR		







003 looking south-east



009 looking south-east



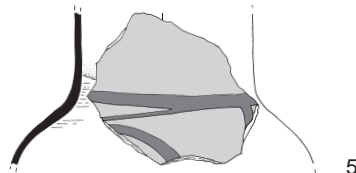
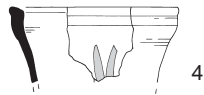
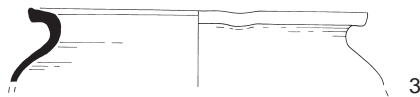
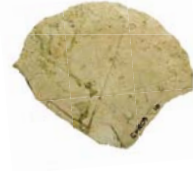
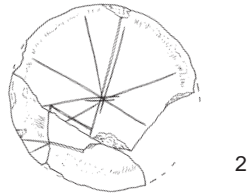
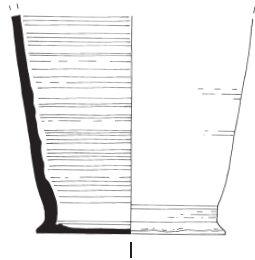
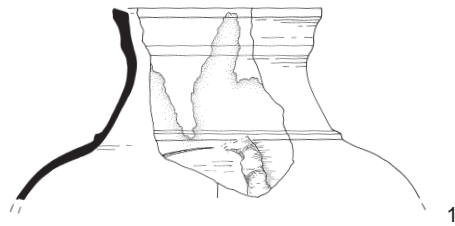


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Project Ref: 4127	May 2014	Later post-medieval activity: plan	
Report Ref: 2014144	Drawn by: JLR		

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© Archaeology South-East		The George Hotel, Rye	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 4127	May 2014	Modern intrusion	
Report Ref: 2014144	Drawn by: JLR		



■ Brown slip
■ White slip

0 5cm

Medieval -
post-medieval
glazed roof tile



Medieval brick



Early post-medieval
floor tile

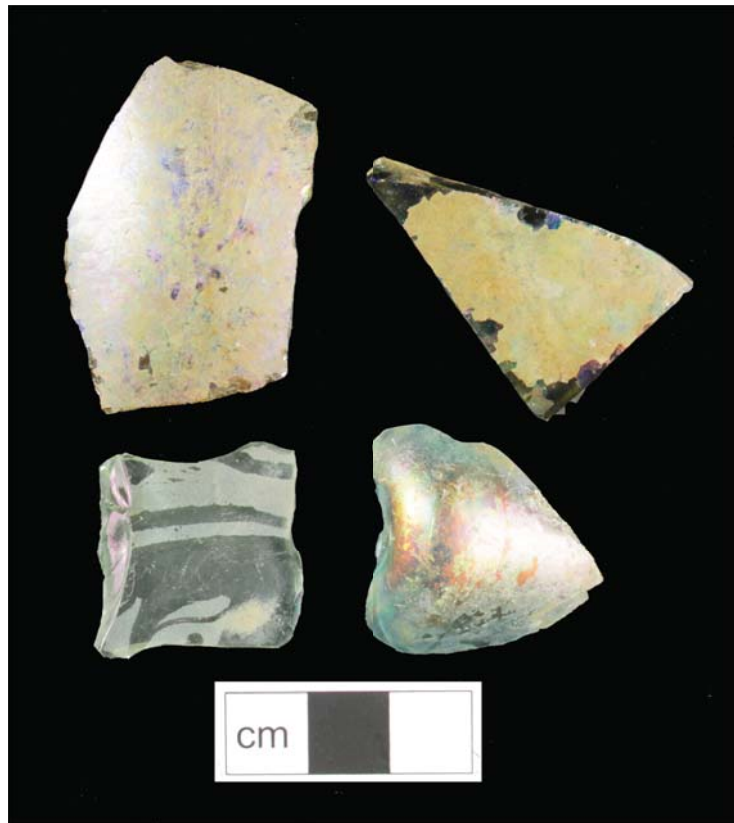


Medieval brick



Post medieval
brick with clay
tobacco pipe
inclusions





© Archaeology South-East		The George Hotel, Rye	Fig. 10
Project Ref: 4127	May 2014	Photograph of selected clay tobacco pipes and post-medieval glass	
Report Ref: 2014144	Drawn by: FEG		

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