

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
No. 32a The Mint, Rye, East Sussex**

NGR 591929 120367

Planning Reference: RR/2014/8/P

**ASE Project No: 6838
Site Code: TMR 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014404
OASIS ID: archaeol6-197684**

February 2015

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension at No. 32a The Mint, Rye, East Sussex (NGR 591929 120367).

Groundworks revealed a layer of demolition rubble dating from the 15th- to mid 16th-century sealed by garden soil, as well as a heavily damaged post-medieval brick-lined pit. The overburden contained a range of artefacts dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, including an interesting range of local and imported pottery, Flemish bricks and a group of closely datable clay tobacco pipes.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Louise Tillett to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an extension at No. 32a The Mint, Rye, East Sussex (NGR591929 120367; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The extension was planned for No. 32a The Mint, the rear element of No. 32, a former shop fronting onto The Mint (Figure 2). The street front structure has a Grade II listing shared with the next door property *The Bell Inn* and has been the site of a dwelling since at least the 15th century (Martin and Martin 2009, 181).

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock at the site consists of the Wadhurst Clay Formation of mudstone. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2014).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Rother District Council for the erection of an extension to the property (planning reference RR/2014/8/P). In the light of the listed status of the building and the archaeological potential of excavations adjacent to an historic structure, and following consultations between Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council, (Rother District Councils advisers on archaeological issues), the following condition (No. 3) was attached to the planning consent:

'No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The extensions shall not be occupied until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation.'

Reason: There is potential for the ground works to disturb archaeological remains, which need to be examined and recorded, having regard to policy GD1 (viii) of the Rother District Local Plan and policy EN2 (vi) of the emerging Rother District Local Plan - Core Strategy.'

- 1.3.2 Under the terms of the consent, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was prepared by ASE and duly approved by East Sussex County Council before the commencement of the work. It outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results (ASE 2014).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that would be impacted by the development in compliance with Condition 3 of the planning consent.

- 1.4.2 The site lies on the north side of The Mint, within Historic Urban Character Area 5 – High Street) considered in the *Rye Historic Character Assessment Report* (Harris 2009). The following research questions (RQ) that pertain to this area, as defined in the *Historic Character Assessment Report* will be considered during fieldwork:

Norman Town

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

Later Medieval Town

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

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of groundworks at the site in December 2014. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The site lies within an *Archaeological Notification Area* as designated by Rother District Council and within a Conservation Area. A Historic Environment Record (HER) search of entries within a 100m radius of the site is included as an Appendix, plotted on Figure 2.

2.1.2 This property is described in *Rye Rebuilt: Regeneration and Decline within a Sussex Port Town, 1350-1660* (Martin and Martin 2009). Nos. 32 and 33 (listed as part of the High Street) are described as:

'Phase 1 (c.1410). An exceptionally wide, two-cell hall house comprising on the ground floor a hall and services. Though the present structure is a complete frame, it is not certain that this represents the complete building; there could have been a separately-framed parlour crosswing at the high end. The house which now occupies the space behind the hall is aligned at right angles to the street in crosswing-like fashion.

Phase 2 (c.1545). The addition of a small range to the rear of the medieval services and the subdivision of the hall into two rooms during this phase probably coincided with the splitting of the house into two properties. It is thought that it was divided in the 16th century and then returned to single occupancy when population pressures reduced in the 17th century; on the first floor there is an intruded doorway between the two parts which is very obviously of later date (now blocked), indicating that at one time the two parts were once more amalgamated. The house was divided again as a result of the national population explosion which occurred in the 19th century.'

2.2 Rye - Historical and Archaeological Background

2.2.1 The town of Rye has been built upon a tiny, roughly teardrop-shaped outcrop of Wadhurst clay surrounded by clay marine alluvium, and connected to the nearest larger outcrop by a land-bridge of sand in Wadhurst clay and Ashdown beds. 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, and formed a large river estuary (Martin and Martin 2009, 2). These rivers allowed water-borne traffic to approach the town, and a quay was formed on the south-western side of the hill, where there is a more gradual slope to the ground, served by the River Tillingham.

2.2.2 The settlement at Rye has a long and well-documented history and is included in Aldsworth and Freke's study of historic towns in Sussex. Its medieval prosperity was based on the excellent natural harbour, and the town became one of the earliest members of the Cinque Port Confederacy in 1197.

The town received irregular murage grants for the costs of building a town wall from 1329 onwards, given urgency by French raids on the town. There were three main gates and a postern (Aldsworth and Freke 1976). The Rye Chamberlain's accounts record a number of instances where repairs to the Rye Town Wall were necessary during the late 15th and 16th centuries, principally during the years of conflict with France and, later, in response to the threat of invasion from the Spanish Netherlands (Mayhew 1984). However, by the 16th century silting of the harbour had become a major problem and by the 17th century the once prosperous and important south coast port of Rye had declined in stature to a small fishing village.

2.2.3 Potentially, Rye has existed since the compilation of the Domesday Book in 1086, but as it is not mentioned in the Book by name, there is some argument as to the exact identity of the *Novus Burgus* mentioned therein (Draper 2009). However, it is named in the Pipe Rolls for 1131 and 1164-5, and there is a charter of 1191 which confirms liberties which had already been granted to the town at a slightly earlier period. By 1190, Rye and its neighbouring town of Winchelsea, sited further along the River Brede to the south-east, had joined the association of Cinque ports as arms of Hastings. During the 14th century, by which time the growth and wealth of both Rye and Winchelsea had outstripped Hastings, they were awarded full Cinque Port status. Even so, Rye was lagging behind Winchelsea, fulfilling only a secondary role to that of its larger, richer sister town (Martin and Martin 2009, 4).

2.2.4 From the end of the fifteenth century, the watercourse which connected Winchelsea to the English Channel was silting, and the trade which could no longer reach this town moved to Rye, whose quay was unaffected. This was the beginning of the town's Tudor boom years, when its fortunes suddenly experienced meteoric growth. The inhabitants undertook ambitious schemes of new building work; the houses which they built were initially mostly spacious and of excellent quality, though as the population increased, the houses were subdivided and added to, with extra structures squeezed into gaps on the street frontages (*ibid.*). There could be no outwards expansion of the town, as it already occupied the only land in the vicinity available for development, being surrounded by mud flats and marsh. The town's growth continued for the best part of a century, when the silting of the rivers' estuary finally cut Rye off from the sea, and the short-lived economic boom years came to an end. There was little new development throughout the following centuries, which has resulted in many of the Tudor houses surviving to the present day.

2.3 Recent Archaeological Work in Rye

2.3.1 Although there has been previous archaeological excavation in the town, much has been on a small-scale and little has been fully published. Much of the work has been targeted at, or has fallen close to the town wall, and its associated features. An excavation in Tower Street revealed the presence of a substantial ditch on the outside of the wall, which had been backfilled c.1750, although the date of its construction could not be established (Hadfield 1981).

2.3.2 Evaluation and subsequent open area excavation at a site in Cinque Port Street uncovered features containing a range of pottery dating from the 12th

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

- 2.3.3 More recent archaeological evaluations have uncovered the course of the town wall to the immediate west of that site during investigations before and after the demolition of the Central Garage (SEAS 1993; ASE 2004; ASE 2005). Following a hiatus owing to problems with the development of that site, an archaeological impact assessment was undertaken (ASE 2009). Subsequently an archaeological excavation was undertaken which led to the discovery and recording of buried archaeological features inside the town wall, mostly intercutting pits dating from the 13th century (ASE 2013a).
- 2.3.4 Investigations on sites fronting Market Street have also uncovered the alignment of the wall, as well as other medieval features (SEAS 1994; ASE 1999). Extensive medieval and post-medieval remains have also been uncovered further to the west behind the Cinque Ports Street frontage (ASE 1998).
- 2.3.5 A recent watching brief on an extension of comparable size to that at the current site in Church Square resulted in the recovery of a range of artefacts. The most significant was the pottery assemblage which provided a sequence of material dating from the early 13th century onwards. It included imported material from France, The Netherlands, Germany and possibly Spain, highlighting Rye's maritime trading heritage and included fabric types not seen in the town before (ASE 2013b).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

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

Number of Contexts	9
No. Of files/paper record	1
Finds	Detailed in section 6.0
Digital Photographs	42

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for the new extension. Mechanical ground reduction and mechanical and manual excavation of two pad foundations and a substantial trench foundation were monitored (Figure 3).

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
01	Layer	Topsoil/Overburden	450mm
02	Layer	Topsoil/Overburden	620mm
03	Layer	'Natural'	-
04	Layer	Topsoil/Overburden	940mm
05	Masonry	?Victorian Ash Pit	Unknown
06	Fill	Backfill	Unknown
07	Layer	Topsoil/Overburden	310mm
08	Layer	Rubble	470mm
09	Layer	Topsoil/Overburden	260mm

Table 2: Recorded contexts

Ground Reduction

4.2.1 Initial groundwork at the site consisted of the mechanical removal of 0.45m of overburden corresponding to the footprint of the extension. The only context encountered was a humic mid-brown silty clay topsoil, context [01] from which a substantial assemblage of artefacts was recovered.

Pad Foundation A

4.2.2 A pad foundation measuring 0.75m by 0.75m was subsequently excavated within the reduced footprint, close to the current doorway of the existing building. It was excavated to a depth of 0.62m at which the underlying clay was encountered and excavation ceased. The only contexts encountered in the excavation were context [02], actually the lower part of context [01], and the yellowish orange 'natural' Wadhurst Clay, context [03]. The area was found to have been disturbed by the laying of services.

Pad Foundation B

4.2.3 A second pad foundation was excavated, again within the reduced footprint. It measured 1.10m by 0.80m and was located adjacent to the existing building. Similarly the only layer of overburden encountered was context [04], which was 0.94m thick, and was actually the lower part of context [01]. It directly overlay the 'natural' clay, context [03]. Context [04] contained a significant quantity of material including an interesting group of clay pipes. Following a collapse of material from below the existing building, the remains a partially demolished apparently square brick-built structure became visible, the highest element being 0.32m below the existing building.

- 4.2.4 The feature could not be recorded in detail owing to its position, but consisted of poorly-fired red bricks bonded with a strong grey mortar, masonry [05]. It had clearly been partially demolished/disturbed before the overlying building was constructed (a brick-built, apparently 20th century extension), and subsequently backfilled with brick and tile rubble, timber and concrete, context [06].
- 4.2.5 It is suggested that much of the material recovered from context [04] probably originated within the original backfill of this feature, filled with rubbish when it fell out of use in the 19th century and disturbed at a later date during the partial demolition of the brick-lined pit and spread around the adjacent area of the site, i.e. the location of Pad B. The feature appeared similar in character to refuse-filled brick-lined pits excavated at the Ropetackle site in Shoreham-By-Sea (Stevens 2011, 70-71), which contained substantial assemblages of late post-medieval material.

Foundation Trench C

- 4.2.6 A substantial foundation trench was dug within the footprint. It was a maximum of 1.0m wide and a maximum of 1.4m in depth from the former ground surface. The stratigraphic sequence was straightforward. As elsewhere at the site, the uppermost layer, context [07] was in reality the lower part of context [01], and contained a large assemblage of material. It overlay context [08], a deposit of brownish grey clay containing pieces of chalk and generous quantities of brick and tile rubble of 15th- to mid 16th-century date. The character of this deposit suggests demolition of a structure at b this date.
- 4.2.7 The rubble layer sealed a deposit of greyish brown silty clay, context [09]. Much of this deposit was shovelled directly into bags to be removed from site, hampering attempts to date the deposit. No datable material was recovered from the examined element of the layer, which directly overlay the 'natural' clay, context [03].

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A medium-sized assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at The Mint in Rye (Table 3). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. Finds were all packed and stored according to IFA guidelines (2008). None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Lead	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Cement	Wt (g)
01	63	672	10	238	1	26	14	324	4	120	2	36	4	102	1	22	54	202		
02	4	44	2	76	1	22	1	48									4	16		
04	53	1040	1	20	2	66	1	54				3	244				18	148		
07	42	722	4	118	2	24	2	152	1	32		1	6				40	228	1	148
08			5	3170																
Total	190	2448	21	3555	6	138	18	575	5	152	2	36	8	352	1	22	118	594	1	148

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 190 sherds of pottery, weighing 2448g, from four individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 4 as part of the visible archive. Archaeological work in and around Rye over the last few years has enabled the establishment of a provisional local fabric series, though more fabrics are likely to be added to this in the future. As a result the local series has yet to be integrated into the county series. The current report therefore uses brief descriptions or currently used names for the medieval assemblage and common names for the post-medieval assemblage. As can be seen from the chronological spread in Table 4, the encountered deposits are essentially mixed ceramically, but despite this the overall assemblage is of interest in summarising the periods represented and in adding some new fabrics to the local series.

5.2.2 Medieval pottery is not well represented in the assemblage: just six sherds weighing 34g. All show signs of abrasion to differing degrees and are clearly residual. The earliest consists of the abraded Sandy-Shelly sherd from context [07] that could be of late 12th- to mid 13th- century date. The remaining sherds sit comfortably in the High Medieval period and include a single imported French jug sherd from France. Surprisingly no Late Medieval sherds are present – these are usually well represented in assemblages from Rye.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments
01	Medium quartz with rare flint to 0.5mm	HM	2	10	C13th oxidized cooking pot
01	High-fired Earthenware (reduced/calcareous)	EPM	1	22	?jar rare/sparse calcareous incl. C16th/17th
01	Border Ware (yellow/clear glazed)	EPM	1	22	Bowl
01	Tin-glazed Ware (late)	EPM	7	64	Plateschargers x4, x1 hollow ware. Late glaze with blue floral designs
01	London Stoneware	EPM	1	8	Tankard
01	Staffordshire Slipware	EPM	2	62	Dishes x2
01	Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware	EPM	2	20	Tankards x2 with iron-dipped rims
01	Refined Redware	EPM	1	4	Cup with internal white slip
01	French Martincamp-type Whiteware	EPM	3	70	Dish with internally stepped rim & another with clear/green glaze. C17/18th
01	German Frechen Stoneware	EPM	1	12	Bottle
01	German Westerwald Stoneware	EPM	1	6	Tankard with cobalt blue bands
01	Nottingham Stoneware	LPM	2	4	Rouletted jar
01	English Stoneware	LPM	5	78	Water closet x1; bottle x1; insulator (marked 'British Made') x1
01	Unglazed Earthenware	LPM	3	24	Flower pots x2
01	Glazed Red Earthenware (late)	LPM	4	36	Dish x1; bowl x1; uncertain x2
01	Creamware	LPM	3	34	Chamber pot x1; saucer x1
01	Pearlware (plain)	LPM	3	28	Plate (late blue shell-edge) x1; bowl & bowl with black sponging
01	Pearlware (hand-painted)	LPM	8	64	Tea bowls x3; saucers x3. All blue Chinese landscapes
01	Pearlware (transfer-printed)	LPM	8	70	Plates x3 (willow x2 & wild rose x1 designs)
01	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	2	18	Plates x2. Pale/late floral designs
01	Refined whiteware (plain)	LPM	4	18	Jug x1 (mocha dec); bowl x1 (annular industrial slip); cup x1 (blue sponged); mug x1
01	English Porcelain	LPM	1	12	Saucer
02	Wealden Buff earthenware	EPM	1	26	Chamber pot, all over green glaze
02	Tin-glazed Ware (early)	EPM	2	12	Bowl x1
02	North French Sandy Whiteware	HM	1	4	Green glazed jug. C13th
04	Glazed Red Earthenware (early)	EPM	2	126	Uncertain form x2. C17th-18th
04	Glazed Red Slipware	EPM	1	8	Plate. Simple trailed white slip. C18th
04	Tin-glazed Ware (late)	EPM	6	100	Plates x2 (blue decoration); bowl x1; tea bowl x1 (polychrome)
04	Jackfield-type Ware (black glazed)	EPM	8	144	Jug x1
04	Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware	EPM	2	22	Tea bowls x2

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Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments
04	Chinese Porcelain	EPM	3	40	Saucer x2; lidded jar x1. Chinese blue designs
04	French Martincamp-type Whiteware	EPM	1	20	Plate with red trailed slip & clear & green glaze
04	Glazed Red Earthenware (late)	LPM	5	138	Jar x2; dish x1 (round club rim)
04	Creamware	LPM	37	220	Industrial-slipped (joggled) bowl x1; teapot x1; plate x1; bowl x2; tea bowl x1; saucer x1
04	Pearlware (hand-painted)	LPM	6	70	Saucer x1 (blue Chinese design - same vessel/set in [1]?)
04	Pearlware (transfer-printed)	LPM	3	66	Dish x1; plate x1. Floral & willow pattern
04	Black/brown transfer-printed Whiteware	LPM	1	56	Plate. Black floral pattern
04	Red/green transfer-printed Whiteware	LPM	2	10	Jar. Purple foliage pattern
04	Refined whiteware (plain)	LPM	1	6	Plate. Purple rim-edge line
04	English Porcelain	LPM	1	2	Egg cup with pink lustre rim band
07	Sandy-Shelly Wealden Ware	EM/HM	1	10	Worn oxidised cooking pot. Late C12th - mid 13th
07	Winchelsea Black (sparse shell)	HM	1	6	Reduced. C14th
07	Winchelsea Black (no shell)	HM	1	4	Reduced. C14th - mid 15th
07	Glazed Red Earthenware (early)	EPM	2	222	Large dish (simple rim); sooted pipkin with out-turned rim
07	Tin-glazed Ware (late)	EPM	14	110	Chamber pot x1 (plain); plates/dishes x2 (blue decoration); uncertain x1
07	London Stoneware	EPM	3	34	White with iron-dipped rim
07	Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware	EPM	3	90	Bowl x1; plate x1; saucer x1 (latter with scratch-blue decoration)
07	Refined Redware	EPM	2	32	Bowl internal white slip (as [1]). C18th
07	French Martincamp-type Whiteware	EPM	2	58	Plates x2. Same vessels as [1] & [4]: Hammer-head rim with trailed slip & internally stepped rim
07	German Frechen Stoneware	EPM	1	12	Bottle
07	Chinese Porcelain	EPM	1	2	Tea bowl. Blue Chinese design
07	Glazed Red Earthenware (late)	LPM	1	42	Large vessel
07	Creamware	LPM	3	16	Plate x1; mug x1; cup x1
07	Pearlware (hand-painted)	LPM	3	24	Tea bowls x2; saucers x2. Chinese designs
07	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	2	10	Plates x2. English landscape patterns
07	Black/brown transfer-printed Whiteware	LPM	1	4	Plate. Black seaweed sheet pattern
07	English Porcelain	LPM	1	16	Saucer hand-painted blue Chinese design. C18th

Table 4: Pottery assemblage archive (EM – Early Medieval c. 1050-1225; HM – High Medieval c. 1225-1350/75; LM – Late medieval c. 1375-1550, EPM – Early Post-medieval c. 1550-1750, LPM – Late Post-medieval c. 1750-1900+)

- 5.2.3 The early post-medieval assemblage is much larger; 74 sherds weighing 1348g. Although some pieces may be as early as the 16th century there is nothing that need be before 1600. Certainly the fabrics and forms would suggest the bulk, if not all, can be placed between c.1650 and 1750. The general trend is towards medium-sized sherds with slight signs of abrasion suggesting a little reworking. A fairly typical domestic range of forms is represented including kitchen, table, tea and sanitary wares. Local wares account for only 9.5% of the assemblage by sherd count and include a range of unglazed and glazed earthenwares including a piece with trailed slip decoration (context [4]).
- 5.2.4 English regional wares constitute 73% of the early post-medieval assemblage and include a good proportion of tin-glazed ware (probably from London), London stoneware, refined and black-glazed earthenwares from the Midlands and a range of Staffordshire products. Imported wares, at 17.6% of the assemblage, are notably well represented. Although the fairly typical German stonewares are present there is a notable quantity of French whitewares, though these appear to derive from just two plates. The four sherds of Chinese porcelain attest to the importation of more exotic material, probably via London. The early post-medieval assemblage has both a notable quantity of regional and imported wares, together with a reasonable amount of tea wares and, taken together, suggests a later 17th- to mid 18th- century household of some standing.
- 5.2.5 The late post-medieval period accounted for 110 sherds weighing 1066g. On the whole this assemblage consists of small to medium sized sherds with the majority showing slight signs of abrasion. The material can mainly be placed between c.1750 and 1825 but there is a scatter of later 19th- century pieces. The earlier material probably represents a continuation of the ceramics from a fairly well to do household. Certainly they appear to have acquired the latest finewares as produced by the Staffordshire industry. Creamware is well represented for dinner and tea wares (43/270g) as is early pearlware of the 1780s-1810s (the latter typically with blue Chinese designs) (31/322g). The presence of the 18th- century English porcelain saucer from [07] would also confirm a reasonable status. The later 19th century is represented by a range of plain and transfer-printed refined whitewares and scatter of English stoneware, none of which suggest any particular status. These wares could easily be from a low or middle class household. The absence of imports and dominance of regional English wares (88%) is typical for this period.
- 5.2.6 The pottery assemblage is essentially from unstratified/open deposits with a high degree of mixing and residuality. The vast majority is of fabrics/wares already well known of from the town, though the assemblage contains a couple of early post-medieval fabrics not noted before. As such the assemblage is not recommended for long-term curation in a museum. Fabric samples will be extracted to add to the local fabric series with the remainder of the sherds being used for teaching.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Elke Raemen

Introduction

5.3.1 A small assemblage comprising 21 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 3555g was recovered from five individually numbered contexts. A fragment of 19th-century cement (147g) with drain imprints was recovered from [07] and has not been considered further.

5.3.2 The assemblage was recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive and data was entered onto Excel spreadsheet. Fabrics were established with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope. The most interesting pieces as well as samples of the fabrics were retained; the remainder has been discarded.

Roof Tile

5.3.3 Five different fabrics were encountered. Fabrics T1A and T1B are of late medieval date (late 13th to mid 15th century). The remainder are of transitional to early post-medieval date (mid 15th to 17th century).

T1A Orange fabric with moderate medium quartz, rare coarse quartz and rare fine quartz. Rare red iron oxides to 1mm.

T1B Orange fabric with rare coarse quartz and lenses of moderate coarse quartz. Common coarse to very coarse red and black iron oxides.

T2 Orange fabric with marl swirls; rare fine quartz.

T3A Coarse purple/orange fabric with moderate abundant coarse to very coarse calcereous/marl inclusions. Common coarse to very coarse quartz. Rare coarse red iron oxides.

T3B Orange fabric with abundant fine to coarse calcereous white inclusions. Sparse fine quartz.

5.3.4 Only one fragment retained a partial (square) peg hole, however, it is likely the remainder represent peg tiles as well. Traces of intentional clear glaze were noted on a medieval tile fragment from [08]. A second medieval piece retains drops of clear glaze ([07]), however, the fragment is too small to establish whether glazing was intended.

Brick

5.3.5 Two complete Flemish bricks of 15th- to mid 16th-century date were recovered from [08]. Both are in a pale yellow fabric with orange patches/swirls and abundant fine quartz. Both display creased faces, and are crude and irregular. A sunken margin was noted on one example. Both are relatively small, measuring 200mm x 92mm x 42mm and 202mm x 98mm x 45mm.

Significance

5.3.6 The assemblage is small and contexts are mixed, limiting the potential of the assemblage; however, a fabric series for Rye has not yet been composed and as such samples of each have been retained. Flemish bricks are a regular occurrence within Rye, however, they have not yet been studied in detail. The two examples from The Mint have been retained to facilitate future research. The remainder of the assemblage has been discarded.

5.4 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 A small glass assemblage consisting of eight pieces of glass (weight 352g) was recovered from two different contexts. No window glass was recovered. Vessels are of mixed date. The earliest comprise wine bottle fragments dating between 1650 and 1750 (layers [01] and [07]). Too little survives to establish their exact form and thereby narrowing the date. Layer [07] also contained part of a circular ?foot with tubular rim (diameter c. 52mm). The fragment may be part of a 'second', or alternatively could be glass working waste. Too little survives to be certain. The fragment is likely to date between c.1600 and 1800.
- 5.4.2 The remainder of the assemblage is of 19th-to early 20th-century date. Included are a stemmed drinking vessel fragment, undiagnostic cylindrical vessel fragments, a complete bottle with "HEATHFIELD HOLLAMBY" embossed on the shoulder (height 130mm, base diam. 30mm) and a beer bottle fragment. The latter two, recovered from [01] and [07], may date was late as the early 20th century.
- 5.4.3 The assemblage is small and was recovered from mixed layers. Of potential interest is the 'second' or possible glass working waste fragment. Further work may establish whether it is glass working waste, and as such it is recommended to retain the object. None of the remainder of the assemblage is of intrinsic interest and it is recommended for discard.

5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A relatively large assemblage comprising 118 fragments of clay tobacco pipe (weight 594g) was recovered from four different layers. Included are 15 bowls and bowl fragments, 100 stem fragments and three mouthpieces. Fragments were all recovered from mixed layers.
- 5.5.2 Pipes were all recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive and data was entered onto Excel spread-sheet. Bowls were principally classified according to the London "Chronology of Bowl Types" (prefix AO) by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 177-180). This was complemented with the 'Simplified General Typology' (prefix OS, Oswald 1975), to refine dating of the 18th-century clay pipes.
- 5.5.3 Eleven bowls were signed or decorated and these were assigned unique registered finds numbers (Table 5; RF <1>-<11>). Stem fragments can usually only be dated broadly. The fragments from the site range in date between c.1680 and 1910, and of mixed date within each context. All three mouthpieces are formed by simply cutting the stem. All three date between c.1750 and 1910 (layers [01] and [04]).
- 5.5.4 The bowl assemblage is of particular interest. Four type AO21 bowls were recovered (c.1680-1710), and these represent the earliest bowls within the assemblage. Two of these were marked, both with crowned largely illegible initials on the heel sides (RF <3> and <6>). Crowning of initials is more common in London and given the early date of the pipes, they most likely derive from there. Six type OS10 bowls (c.1700-1740) were found, five of

which are signed. Although there are slight variations between the bowls, all five are signed MH (crowned) on the heel sides, and they are likely to be by the same maker. As mentioned above, these are usually by London makers, although the fact that five were found spread over two different contexts, which renders it equally likely that the maker was local.

5.5.5 An OS12 (c.1730-1780) from [01] is also marked MH (uncrowned), which could refer to the same maker. Layer [04] contained a type OS12 bowl (c.1730-80) marked IH. This is likely to stand for John Harman I or II, both in Lewes (working around c.1734 and 1768-1774; Oswald 1975, 195, Atkinson 1977, 13)), or potentially for John Holness who worked in Hastings (died 1798; Oswald 1975, 195). An armorial pipe (RF <1>) was recovered from [01]. The bowl, dating to the second half of the 18th century, is unmarked, and contains the Prince of Wales feathers beneath an illegible banner, and Hanoverian arms on the reverse. The seams are leaf-decorated. Compared to examples from London, the bowl is fairly poorly executed, which may signify a local maker. Sussex makers known to produce armorial pipes include Thomas Clarke of Horsham and Richard Neeve of Lewes (Atkinson 1977, 5). The latest decorated bowl comprises a spurless popular Sussex design, with seams covered by a leaf-decorated rib over a platform. The type dates to c.1850-80 (Atkinson 1977, 59).

Cxt	RF no	Form	ED	LD	Decoration	Mark	Comments
01	1	OS22	1745	1780	Armorial		near complete armorial pipe w/Prince of Wales feathers beneath illegible banner and Hanoverian arms on reverse. Seams are leaf-decorated. Possibly local copy; unsigned.
01	2	AO21	1680	1710		?? both crowned	
01	3	OS12	1730	1780		MH	unknown maker
01	4	AO21	1680	1710		E? both crowned	abraded, unknown maker
04	5	OS12	1730	1780		IH	near complete (chip missing) - prob John Harman, Lewes or John Holness, Hastings
04	6	OS10	1700	1740		MH both crowned	near complete bowl
04	7	OS10	1700	1740		MH both crowned	complete, a much more narrow example than RF <6>
04	8	AO30	1850	1880	leaf decorated rib over platform on seam		c 95% surviving; base largely missing; chipped rim. Common Sussex type
07	9	OS10	1700	1740		IH or MH both crowned	complete, very crisp condition; crisp looking I but possibly other leg of M visible
07	10	OS10	1700	1740		?MH both crowned	c 20% surviving
07	11	OS10	1700	1740		?H both crowned	Abraded

Table 5: Summary of the registered clay pipe bowls (maker's marks all relief moulded on the heel/spur sides)

5.5.6 The assemblage is relatively small, and the Sussex pipe making industry is reasonably well known, mainly through the research by David Atkinson which took place largely in the 1970s. Given the mixed nature of the contexts from which the assemblage derives, it contributes little to the site; however, the assemblage is of intrinsic interest, adding to the study of clay tobacco pipe industry in Sussex. Future research may make it possible to establish the makers of both the imported London pipes, thereby aiding the study of distribution from London, and enable to fill the gaps in the Sussex pipe maker lists. More recent research in other counties has demonstrated that the makers lists compiled by Oswald (1975; the Sussex section largely compiled by David Atkinson) only represent a small percentage of actual makers, and no doubt Sussex is no different. Furthermore, study of armorial pipes from other assemblages in Sussex may enable the maker to be identified.

5.6 The Bulk Metalwork by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 Layer [01] contained a lead triangular fragment with nail hole. The piece is incomplete and very crude, and probably represents an off-cut. Two iron general purpose nail shanks were recovered from the same context. The assemblage has been recorded in full on *pro forma* sheets for archive. Given the mixed context in which they occur and their undiagnostic nature, the bulk metalwork is recommended for discard.

5.7 The Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth

Introduction

5.7.1 The watching brief produced a small assemblage of hand-collected animal bone containing six fragments weighing 138g. Provisional dating from the pottery spot-dates indicates that the majority of the assemblage derives from the post-medieval period. The bones were retrieved from four contexts [01], [02], [04] and [07].

Methodology

5.7.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with the zoning system outlined by Serjeantson (1996). Wherever possible the fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. 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 or small mammal.

5.7.3 In order to distinguish between the bones and teeth of sheep and goats a number of criteria were used including those outlined by Boessneck (1969), Boessneck et al (1964), Halstead et al (2002), Hillson (1995), Kratochvil (1969), Payne (1969, 1985), Prummel and Frisch (1986) and Schmmid (1972). Metrical data has been recorded according to von den Driesch (1976). The state of fusion has been noted and each fragment has then been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology.

The Assemblage

5.7.4 The assemblage contains six identifiable fragments weighing 138g that have been identified to taxa (Table 6). The assemblage has been hand-collected and the majority of the bones are in good condition with minimal signs of

surface erosion.

Taxa	No. Fragments	NISP	Preservation		
			Good	Moderate	Poor
Sheep	3	3	100%		
Large Mammal	3	1	100%		
Total	6	4			

Table 6: Animal bone assemblage: The total number of fragments, NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) count and percentage preservation based on the NISP.

5.7.5 Limited varieties of mammalian taxa have been identified and include sheep as well as large mammal bones. Context [01] produced a complete adult sheep metatarsal with possible joint disease to the distal articulations. Metrical data was recorded producing a withers height of 64.5cm. Context [02] contained a single adult sheep tibia fragment. Context [04] contained a complete adult sheep metatarsal and a large mammal rib fragment with evidence of butchery marks; chops across the bone. Metrical data was recorded for the sheep metatarsal producing a withers height of 62.2cm. Context [07] produced two large mammal long bone fragments, one of which showed evidence of butchery marks with cuts to the bone surface and a chop midshaft.

5.7.6 The butchery methods suggest that carcass dismemberment and portioning for consumption was taking place at this site. No burning or gnawing was recorded. The majority of the bones within the assemblage were fused indicating that they were adults at the time of death.

5.8 Marine Molluscs by Elke Raemen

5.8.1 A total of 18 fragments of marine shell weighing 575g were recovered from four different contexts. Apart from a scallop fragment from [1], the assemblage is entirely made up of oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis*), with a minimum of ten different specimen represented. Three of these are juvenile. Parasitic species encountered include Bryozoa, Polydora ciliate and Cliona celata.

5.8.2 The assemblage is of little interest given it is very small and entirely derives from mixed contexts. It is recommended for discard.

5.9 Summary

5.9.1 The assemblage from the site is relatively small, including small quantities of ceramic building material (CBM), glass, metalwork, animal bone and marine shell. Slightly larger quantities of pottery and clay tobacco pipe were also recovered. Although some medieval material was present, the majority is of post-medieval date, and is entirely from mixed contexts, however, a number of finds are of intrinsic interest. Whereas the majority of the finds are proposed for discard, CBM fabric samples and marked or decorated pipe bowls are recommended for retention.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The overburden removed for the construction of the new extension contained an interesting range of archaeological artefacts. As at other sites in Rye (ASE 2013b) and in other towns in Sussex, where only limited assemblages have been published in the past (e.g. Midhurst; ASE 2012), this material is of great value in establishing dated pottery sequences.
- 6.2 The presence of medieval material hints at the location of a house fronting onto one of Rye's main thoroughfares. A layer of demolition debris dating from the 15th- to mid 16th-century date was also noted. This material dates from the period when a *'number of good quality houses under construction – or perhaps reconstruction – was increasing'* (Martin & Martin 2009, 7), and was interpreted as evidence of demolition (or collapse) of an existing structure prior to rebuilding. The pottery assemblage from the 17th and 18th century suggests that a prosperous household existed at the site by then.
- 6.3 In addition, the remains of a late post-medieval brick-lined pit were encountered (although Health and Safety issues hampered detailed recording). This feature had been heavily damaged and no material was left *in situ*, although the localised occurrence of complete clay pipe bowls suggests these may have originated in the feature, which had offered them some protection in the past.
- 6.4 Although much of the material recovered from the various layers of garden soil was of limited archaeological value given the circumstances of recovery, the pottery assemblage has added to the growing corpus of material from the town. The Flemish bricks are also of significance given the current ignorance of their distribution (see above). Lastly, the clay pipe assemblage is of some importance in its own right given the relative paucity of recovered datable bowls in Rye and across the county as a whole.
- 6.5 In conclusion, the results of the watching brief offered a glimpse into the vibrant past of Rye, one of the county's most vibrant, but as yet scarcely-investigated archaeological assets.

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APPENDIX 1: SELECT EAST SUSSEX HER DATA

Table 1: HER entries within 250m radius of site

HER no	Record Type	Name	Description
MES2226	BLD	C19 building	BUILDING, CARPENTERS WORKSHOP
MES2192	MON	PEACOCKS SCHOOL	HOUSE, WORKING MENS CLUB, POLITICAL CLUB, FREE SCHOOL, SITE
MES2193	MON	ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH	CHURCH
MES2194	MON	48 CHURCH SQUARE	HOUSE
MES2198	MON	C13 cellar	CELLAR
MES2199	MON	LAMB HOUSE	HOUSE
MES2201	MON	C18 water tower	WATER TOWER, PUMP, SITE
MES2202	BLD	C18 building	BUILDING
MES2248	BLD	C15 building	TIMBER FRAMED BUILDING
MES2197	BLD	C15 building	HOSPITAL, TIMBER FRAMED BUILDING
MES2216	BLD	C18 Inn/House	INN, HOUSE
MES2207	BLD	C15 building	BUILDING, HOUSE
MES2208	MON	medieval cellar & C14 house	CELLAR
MES2210	BLD	C15 building	TIMBER FRAMED BUILDING
MES2211	MON	C16 house	HOUSE, HOUSE, BANK (FINANCIAL), SITE
MES2215	BLD	14-15 MERMAID STREET	
MES2217	BLD	C18 building	BUILDING
MES2206	LB	C15 house	HOUSE
MES2233	BLD	Pm building	HOUSE, BUILDING, TIMBER FRAMED BUILDING
MES2235	BLD	L17C house	BUILDING, CELLAR
MES2236	MON	THE UNION INN	TIMBER FRAMED HOUSE, TIMBER FRAMED HOUSE, HOUSE, PUBLIC HOUSE, PUBLIC HOUSE, SITE
MES2234	BLD	C16 building	TIMBER FRAMED BUILDING
MES2238	MON	7-7A HIGH STREET	HOUSE, SHOP, SHOP, SITE
MES2241	MON	C18 house	
MES2242	BLD	C16 building	TIMBER FRAMED BUILDING
MES2244	BLD	C16 building	BUILDING
MES2245	MON	NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK	
MES2247	MON	FLETCHER'S HOUSE	
MES2249	MON	8-9 MERMAID STREET	
MES2253	MON	JEAKE'S HOUSE	WAREHOUSE, SCHOOL, HOUSE, SITE

HER Summary Form

Site Code	TMR 14					
Identification Name and Address	No. 32a The Mint, Rye					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	591929 120367					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6838					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban ✓	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 4.12.2014 – 9.12.2014	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Louise Tillett					
Project Managers	Paul Mason/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension at No. 32a The Mint, Rye, East Sussex (NGR 591929 120367).</i></p> <p><i>Groundworks revealed a layer of demolition rubble dating from the 15th- to mid 16th-century sealed by garden soil, as well as a heavily damaged post-medieval brick-lined pit. The overburden contained a range of artefacts dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, including an interesting range of local and imported pottery, Flemish bricks and a group of closely datable clay tobacco pipes</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-197684

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at No. 32a The Mint, Rye, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension at No. 32a The Mint, Rye, East Sussex (NGR 591929 120367). Groundworks revealed a layer of demolition rubble dating from the 15th- to mid 16th-century sealed by garden soil, as well as a heavily damaged post-medieval brick-lined pit. The overburden contained a range of artefacts dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, including an interesting range of local and imported pottery, Flemish bricks and a group of closely datable clay tobacco pipes.
Project dates	Start: 04-12-2014 End: 09-12-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	6838 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TMR 14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	RR/2014/8/P - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	BRICK-LINED PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DEMOLITION RUBBLE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER RYE 32a The Mint
Postcode	TN31 7EN
Study area	25.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 91929 20367 50.950121701 0.7327679071 50 57 00 N 000 43 57 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Louise Tillett

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Rye Castle Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Rye Castle Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Rye Castle Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"

**Project
bibliography 1**

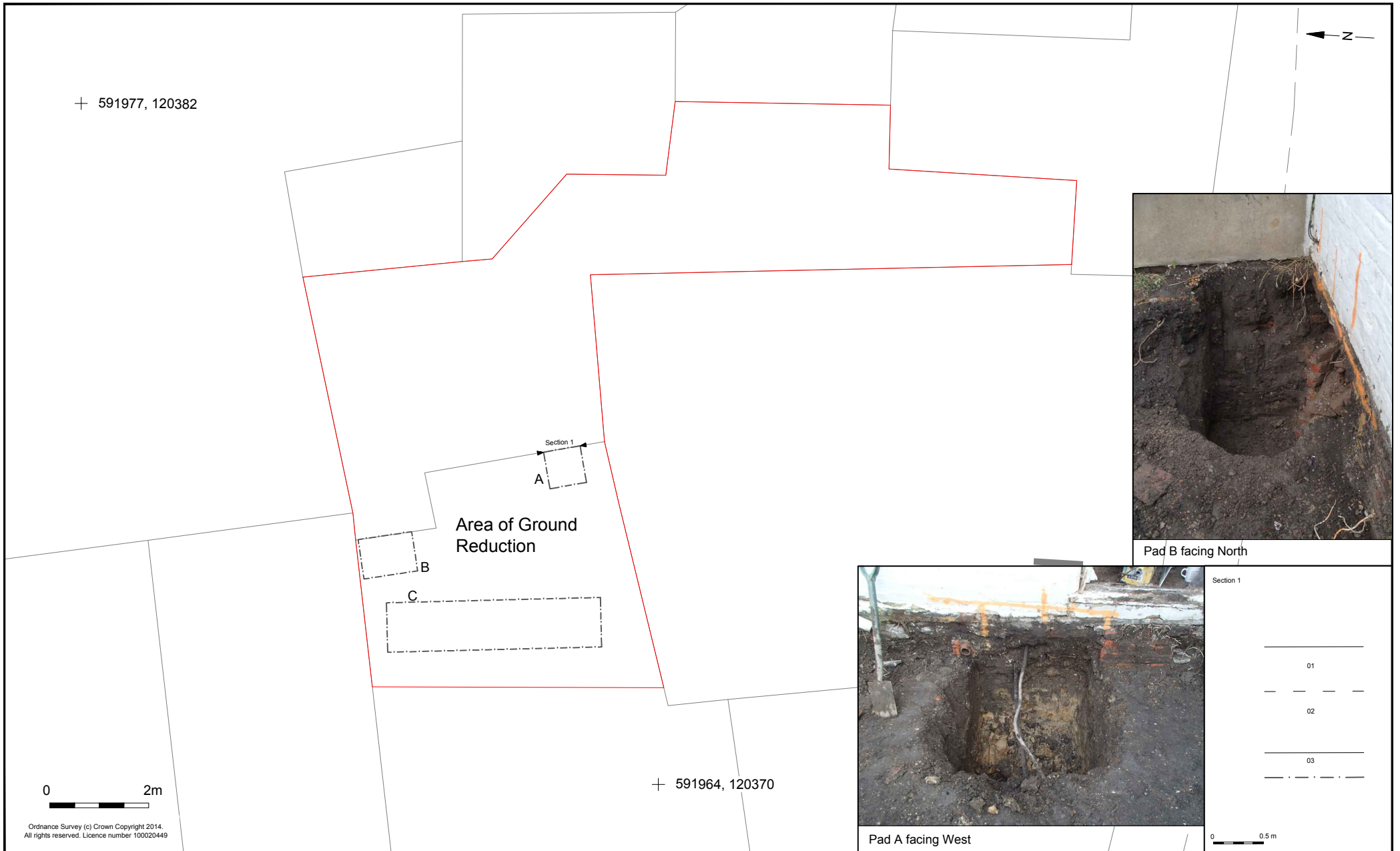
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© Archaeology South-East		32 & 32a, The Mint, Rye	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6838	December 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014404	Drawn by: NG		



© Archaeology South-East		32 & 32a, The Mint, Rye	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6838	December 2014	Select HER entries within 250m radius of the site	
Report Ref: 2014404	Drawn by: NG		



© Archaeology South-East		32 & 32a, The Mint, Rye	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6838	December 2014	Site plan showing monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2014404	Drawn by: NG		

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