# ASE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report Isfield Place, Buckham Hill, Isfield East Sussex

> NGR: 554466 111845 (TQ 54466 11845)

WDC Planning Ref: WD/2017/1926/LB
ASE Project No: 170283
Site Code: IPI17
ASE Report No: 2019372

OASIS id: archaeol6-377446



**Pip Stephenson and Simon Stevens** 

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## **Abstract**

Archaeology South-East (ASE), was commissioned by Joanna Adams to undertake an archaeological watching during the installation of new services at Isfield Place, Buckham Hill, Isfield.

Two small possible pits of a Romano-British date were recorded as well as ditches, walls, post holes, a well and various drains / culverts relating to the post-medieval occupation and buildings of the Isfield Place complex.

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# **Archaeology South-East**

WB: Isfield Place, Buckham Hill, Isfield, East Sussex

ASE Report No: 2019372

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), was commissioned by Joanna Adams to undertake an archaeological watching during the installation of new services at Isfield Place, Buckham Hill, Isfield (NGR 554466 111845, Figure 1).

# 1.2 Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 Isfield Place is located a short distance to the north of the village of Isfield, in the Low Weald of Sussex, at a height of c.17m above Ordnance Datum. It is approached from the east off the main road (Buckham Hill) which runs north to Fletching, whilst the east bank of the River Ouse lies 600m to the west.
- 1.2.2 According to latest data available from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology at the site consists of the siltstones, mudstones and sandstones of the Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand, overlain by superficial head deposits of clays, silts, sands and gravels (BGS 2019).

# 1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Isfield Place was listed at Grade II\* on 26th November 1953 (National Heritage List for England, List Entry Number 1192811). The listing ascribes an early 17th century date to the house, describing it as a two-storey structure of red brick with a 19th century wing to north-east.
- 1.3.2 Planning consent was granted by Wealden District Council for various works at the site in November 2017 (planning reference WD/2017/1926/LB). Following consultation between Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council (East Sussex County Council's advisers on archaeological issues), a condition (No.2) was applied to the consent requiring that:

No development shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological works has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. AR01

Reason: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, in accordance with the requirements of SPO2, SPO13 and WCS14 to the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and paragraphs 129, 131 and 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.'

1.3.3 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ASE 2018) was produced which outlined the methodology to be used at the site, in this case the implementation of an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the provision of new services, and in the production of a report and a site archive. It was duly approved by East Sussex County Council on behalf of the Local Planning Authority before the commencement of work on site.

# 1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken at the site during August, September and December 2019.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

## Isfield Place

- 2.1 The following background to the site is reproduced from the WSI (ASE 2018) with all due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 The residence was established in the early 16th century by the Shurley family, and became the successor to the ancestral castle of the De La Warr family, the remains of which lie on the banks of the River Ouse by St Margaret's church, 600m to the south-west.
- 2.3 The original early/mid-16th century manor house at Isfield Place comprised a great hall with a parlour cross-wing at its 'high' southern end, and a service and kitchen range at its 'low' northern end. The service end was remodelled *c*. 1600 to form the main accommodation for the house; the demolition of the old hall and parlour was finally undertaken a century or so later, the west wall partially retained and extant as a garden wall (Figure 3).
- 2.4 The house was remodelled at various times throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. An estate map of 1789 shows the layout at this date, and a draft of the tithe map, the layout c. 1839 (Figure 4). Another version of the tithe map dated to 1844 (reproduced in ASE 1997) shows slightly different details of the site organisation (Figure 5). Around 1867 the north-eastern service range was constructed, the Phase 1 kitchen was extended, and an undated addition to the north end of the house demolished. The layout was reconfigured, and the principal entrance moved to the north elevation (Figure 6). Further alterations to the outbuildings across the site are known throughout the 1880s, and the western side of the house was extended to accommodate a billiard room before 1898. The walled garden in its current form, at the east end of the buildings, was established in the 20th century between 1910 and 1970 (Figures 7 and 8).
- 2.5 The curtilage of Isfield Place includes other buildings of note: an oast house located to the east of the main house and dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with later modifications, a gate house including stables and a butler's cottage. A wagon lodge or cart shed abuts the west of the oast house (Figure 3).

# Recent Archaeological Investigations

- 2.6 Reports on the building with the house complex were produced by ASE in 1997 (ASE 1997), 2007 (ASE 2007) and 2017 (ASE 2017), the former establishing a baseline survey of the property and the latter undertaking an updated assessment in advance of alterations to the gardens.
- 2.7 A watching brief was conducted during alterations to the gardens in 2018. The key results were summarised as follows (ASE 2019):

'The watching brief uncovered evidence for wall footings belonging to the original hall, thought to have been established in the early 16th century by the Shurley family, complementing evidence provided by preserved ruins and building elements incorporated into the current house at Isfield Place.

The identified wall footings tend to confirm the organisation of the 16th century hall proposed by previous research (ASE 1997), providing evidence for the location of the external walls to the east and south and therefore of the building dimensions. A narrow footing in line with the extant ruined western façade confirms the location of a door at the low end of the great hall adjacent to the demolished servant's cross-wing. The footings were mostly of dressed sandstone blocks.'

# Research Aims and Objectives

2.8 The aims and objectives given in the WSI (ASE 2018) were:

'The South East Research Framework (SERF) sets out a draft research agenda for improving the understanding of the post-medieval/modern and industrial period in the region (Barber 2013). The SERF recommends that 'it should still be a priority to collect data before it is lost thus accruing a full and balanced dataset for future researchers'. The research agenda highlights the importance of the study of post-medieval modification to existing structures and better dating thereof. Of particular relevance was the potential to learn more about the nature of the original dwelling on the site.

In addition, the general objectives were to ensure compliance with the requirements of the relevant planning condition and to make available the results of the work by publication of the results in accordance with the requirements of the WSI. Consideration will also be given to publication of the results in a local journal and/or presentation/s to local historical/archaeological societies should the results be deemed of sufficient interest.'

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figures 9 and 10)

# 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored:
  - narrow mechanical excavations for service trenches to the north of and within the potting shed;
  - trenches within the wagon lodge;
  - hand excavated narrow cable trenches in the garden area;
  - excavations for the placement of a concrete slab base for a fuel oil tank in and around the walled garden;
  - a north-south service trench in the eastern drive;
  - a north-south service trench through the drive where it passed through the gatehouse.
- 3.1.2 All mechanical and manual excavation was monitored by suitably qualified archaeologists in intermittent visits to the site. All stripped surfaces encountered and all sectional exposures were examined for archaeological deposits, and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms and drawn on drafting paper. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. A full photographic record of the monitoring was maintained.
- 3.1.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2018), the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020), and accepted standards for archaeological work in Sussex (CDC, ESCC, WSCC, 2019).

# 3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

3.2.1 There were no on-site constraints to the completion of the archaeological watching brief. All groundworks was safely monitored and all spoil was available for inspection. During the later phases of the ground works, ASE staff were unable to attend due to the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020. Two walls identified during this period have been located and commented on, based on information kindly relayed by the client.

# 3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Lewes Castle and Museum in due course. However it should be noted that the museum is not currently in a position to accept archaeological archives and is subsequently not issuing accession numbers. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	85
Section sheets	4
Plans sheets	2
Digital photos	257
Context register	4
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	19
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box	1 box
0.5 of a box )	
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk	0
samples	
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample	0
samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk	0
samples	

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

3.2.2 A countywide policy of selection and retention of archaeological finds is currently under review by the Sussex Archaeological Museum Group working party. Once the policy is agreed and in place, it will be implemented by Archaeology South-East. The finds archive will be revised in accordance with this policy in the event that it is implemented before deposition of the archive occurs.

## 4.0 RESULTS

# 4.1 Potting Shed to Oasthouse

North of and within the potting shed

- Three narrow mechanical excavations for service trenches were excavated to the north of the potting shed (Figure 10; Plate 1). These revealed a stratigraphic sequence consisting of layers of highly mixed made ground/topsoil of recent origin, contexts [201]/[205]/[214], which directly overlay an orangey brown clay, recorded as natural substrate, context [202]. A deposit of crushed chalk, context [203], lay below the topsoil to the immediate north of the wall, extending c 3.60m north of the wall, measuring an average of 0.30m thick, and was observed over a distance of c10m (east-west). The eastern and western limits of the chalk deposit [203] were not established. An additional upper subsoil deposit [214] lipped over its northern edge and extended away to the north. Another deposit of highly mixed made ground 0.30m thick, context [204], lay between contexts [201] and [202] in the eastern most trench. No dating was retrieved. The chalk deposit [203] probably corresponds to metalling of a path or circulation surface predating the present ground surface (Plate 2). Other sections of chalk deposit were observed in the larger trench to the south-east.
- The trench excavation also revealed structural details of the foundations of the potting shed, which were shown to consist of roughly hewn sandstone blocks, contexts [206] and [208], which had been repaired in brick, context [207] (Plate 3). The base of the wall was seated on the underlying substrate [209]. The sandstone blocks show signs of erosion. A previous service trench running to the immediate north of the potting shed wall had truncated any evidence of a construction cut and hence any potential for stratigraphic or artefactual information to date the wall's construction. The wall was also observed from within the potting shed where a sequence of floor deposits abut the exposed masonry courses (Plates 4 - 5). Observations at this location were constrained by the limited area of the excavation and poor light. A sandstone block, context [210], recovered from the trench 4m from the building was presumed to have been discarded during construction or repair work. Similar blocks of sandstone were seen in excavations for a soakaway, 5m from the standing building. These were contained within deposit [202], which was revealed as a layer of redeposited substrate.
- 4.1.3 The floor deposits exposed in the interior of the potting shed comprised a sequence of thin layers of chalk, charcoal and beaten earth, recorded as context [212], the latest of which was the current beaten earth surface, context [211]. Deposits were exposed to a depth of 0.35m (Plate 5). No dating material was recovered.

Potting Shed - north of the Oasthouse

Ditch ? [215] and [224]

4.1.5 Further to the north, where the trench widened to a maximum of 1.1m, context [202], the redeposited natural, sealed a ditch cut 1.20m wide and 0.55m deep

which traversed the north-south trench obliquely and was orientated north-west - south-east [215] and cut into the natural substrate [219] (Figure 11; Plate 6). The single fill of this feature, context [216], a light brownish grey silt, contained brick of potential 16th century date. The feature was also partially overlain by a made ground deposit 0.25m thick of mixed clay and chalk, context [217], which was observed along the length of the trench, and appeared to be a ground consolidation deposit capping the area disturbed by the ditch. An attempt was made to identify the continuation of this ditch to the north-west in the east-west segment of the service trench. A faint trace of a possible oblique ditch cut [224] was identified in the south-facing section, but the identification of this feature remains uncertain due its poorly differentiated fills, oblique angle and truncation to the east by a former service trench (Figure 11; Plate 7). Cut [224] was recorded as containing two fills, a basal fill of light grevish brown clavey silt, context [227], and an upper fill of a light brown clayey silt, context [228]. Brick and tile of probable late medieval or early post-medieval date was recovered from this feature. The dating of this material would tend to support the identification of [224] as a continuation of the ditch cut [215] and the 16th century date attributed to this feature. As such, a NW-SE ditch is proposed to traverse the landscape to the north of the north-east corner of the ornamental gardens. Given the prevalence of Tudor period CBM on the property, both in re-use contexts and as scattered building debris, the presence of CBM of this date within the ditch cannot be considered to provide firm dating.

# Pit [220]

- 4.1.6 A shallow ovoid pit, [220] with a diameter of *c*.1m and a recorded depth of 0.30m was cut into the natural substrate within the monitored trench (Figure 12; Plate 8). Pit [220] contained a single mid-yellowish brown silt fill, context [221], from which a small quantity of Romano-British pottery and residual fire-cracked flint were recovered. The firing of the sherds strongly suggests that they are of post-Conquest date but the sherds are not otherwise closely datable within the Roman period. A second small concave pit base [225], measuring 0.40m across and 0.20m deep was identified in section only, truncated horizontally by possible ditch cut [224]. This contained a firm, mottled light brown and yellow clay-silt fill [226] from which two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered. Given the mottled character of the fill this feature may in fact result from bioturbation. The presence of Roman pottery nonetheless provides further support for the evidence for Roman occupation provided by nearby pit [220].
- 4.1.7 There were also localised deposits of mixed made ground, context [222] and a layer of crushed chalk, context [223] near the site of the Romano-British pit [220]. To the north of the Wagon Lodge, a deposit [229], initially suggesting an extensive feature, was found on further investigation to correspond to a difference in natural substrate of no archaeological significance. It is, however, worth noting that the presentation of natural substrate within this trench showed significant variation and lensing within the dominant light brown claysilt matrix, which, in spite of close observation, proved difficult to assign to any recognisable feature. It cannot be excluded that sediments belonging to a palaeochannel or large, poorly defined water feature or features may have traversed this area.

Context	Туре	Description	Max thickness m
201	Layer	Topsoil	0.30
202	Layer	Redeposited Natural	- 0.00
203	Layer	Made ground	0.10
204	Layer	Made ground	0.30
205	Layer	Made ground	0.50
206	Masonry	Foundation	0.20
207	Masonry	Foundation	0.20
208		Foundation	0.10
	Masonry		0.11
209	Layer	?Natural	- 0.45
210	Masonry	Sandstone Block	0.15
211	Layer	Floor	0.08
212	Layer	Floor	0.09
213	Masonry	Foundation	0.30
214	Layer	Made ground	-
215	Cut	Feature	-
216	Fill	Fill, single	0.55
217	Layer	Made ground	0.25
218	Layer	Topsoil	0.40
219	Layer	Natural	-
220	Cut	Pit	-
221	Fill	Fill, single	0.30
222	Layer	Made ground	-
223	Layer	Made ground	0.15
224	Cut	Feature	-
225	Cut	Pit	0.20
226	Fill	Fill, single	0.20
227	Fill	Fill, basal	0.20
228	Fill	Fill, upper	0.30
229	Layer	Natural	-

Table 3: Deposits encountered in cable trench from Potting Shed to Oast House

# 4.2 The Wagon Lodge / Cart Shed

4.2.1 The wagon lodge or cart shed (recorded as 'oasthouse extension' in fieldwork notes) is an open fronted building with a concrete floor abutting the west wall of the oasthouse, and dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (ASE 2007) (Plates 9 and 10). Excavations within the wagon lodge comprised a rectangular trench measuring c1.80m x 1.10m, with a narrow trench 0.35m wide continuing southwards to the south wall of the building (Figures 13 - 14; Plate 11). A second narrow trench extended diagonally across the north-west corner of the floor of this building. A deposit directly below the floor of the western division of the building was exposed when the floor was lifted. Cable trenches were excavated to the north of the Wagon Lodge as shown in Figure 2. Excavations were conducted both manually and by machine.

Natural substrate [247] and stratigraphic sequence

4.2.2 Natural substrate [247] was identified at a depth of 0.35m in the northern part of the building, tipping away southwards and not attained at a depth of c 0.60m against the southern wall of the building. The deposits exposed by removal of the modern concrete floor correspond to a sequence of beaten earth / outdoor deposit c 0.35m thick [231] = [236] below a thin localised levelling deposit [230]. This sealed an earlier occupation horizon [240], a dark grey clay-silt c 0.15m which extended across the western side of the building, sealing natural substrate [247] in the northern half of the building, whilst in the south a lower occupation horizon [243] was identified, a soft mid-brown and yellow mottled clay-silt with occasional charcoal [243] which descended to a thickness of 0.40m. No cultural material was observed in these deposits.

Rear wall [248], [249], Construction Cut [244]

- 4.2.3 The rear wall of the wagon lodge dates to the 16th century (ASE 2007) when it represented the boundary between the formal gardens of the mansion to the south and a service yard/close to the north (See Figure 3: Plates 12 13). The service trench was excavated to a depth of 0.60m against the base of this wall. Three courses of masonry, [248], of roughly hewn sandstone blocks were observed (Plate 12). The base of the wall was not attained. The exposed courses, measured c 0.20m in depth, the largest block viewed measuring 0.36m in length. The bonding material was a loose yellow sandy mortar. Two phases of wall build were apparent, [248] and [249], marked by a significant rupture just above modern ground level (Plate 12). Several Tudor bricks formed a repair at the site of a former break-through. The elevation [249] is also built of large module sandstone blocks (c 0.60 x 0.18m thick).
- 4.2.4 The narrow excavation dimensions and poor lighting to the rear of the wagon lodge rendered observations difficult against the southern wall. However, a consistent difference was noted between deposits [242], [245], and [246] observed at the southern end of the service trench, and the main deposit [243] identified at the base of the stratigraphy in the southern half of the building. An east-west cut, [244], was inferred which would have measured 1.40m wide (north-south) and containing three fills corresponding to the deposits [242], [245] and [246]. This is assumed to correspond to a construction cut for the wall foundation (Figure 13). The lower deposit, [246] (not bottomed) was a

dark brownish grey clay with red patches, clay flecks and sandstone inclusions (Plate 14). This was sealed by [245], a soft dark brown clay-silt 0.15m thick with occasional chalk nodules and fewer gray clay inclusions. A soft, dark brown clay silt deposit 0.17m thick with greyish / blue traces and reddened patches, [242], formed the upper deposit of the sequence. It contained small fragments of sandstone. A single rim sherd of a medieval cooking pot typical of the locality and dated between c. 1225-1325 was recovered from within this deposit. It is slightly worn and has either been affected by an acidic burial environment and/or been reworked to some degree. This may reflect an original deposition within a medieval manuring deposit predating the Tudor occupation of the site, and redeposition within the proposed construction cut of the 16th century wall.

4.2.5 It is noted that the proposed construction cut is particularly wide, and that the deposits were lying horizontally within it. The reddened patches observed in [242] and [246] may also betray occupation activity. As such, it cannot be excluded, but nor advanced with confidence, that the layers observed in the south of the building correspond to an early activity phase on the site possibly medieval in date and predating the establishment of the south wall of the building, rather than the backfill of a wall construction trench.

Floor surface [240] and postholes [250] and [252] (Figure 13)

- A beaten earth or external ground surface [240] comprising a compact mixed 4.2.6 sandy-clay deposit 0.15m thick and varying between yellowish brown and grey extended across the building below the upper ground surface deposit [230] = [236], although this was generally harder to identify in the northern half. Two large post-holes [250] and [252] were observed in section in line with the modern threshold of the building to the north (Plates 15 and 16). Post hole [250] measured 0.60 across and 0.20m deep with steep sides and a flattish base. It was located to the immediate west of the north-east corner of the wagon lodge. It truncated the floor surface [240]. The single fill was a dark greyish brown clayey silt, context [251], from which post-medieval brick was recovered, possibly 16th century in date. A second posthole of similar diameter [252], measuring 0.55m across and 0.20m deep was identified to the immediate east of the modern post base set onto the hard standing west of the excavated trench. It contained a single fill of a soft, dark greyish-brown claysilt with charcoal flecks. No cultural material was recovered. Posthole [250] predated the upper earth floor [231]. Although the relationship was less clear for [252], this feature of similar dimensions and location to [250] was assumed to belong to the same phase.
- 4.2.7 These features appear to localise large posts predating the modern land use. Undated, it is possible that they correspond to an early phase of the wagon lodge: they lie close to the present locations of the upright supports for the granary loft of the current building which are now seated on tile plinths set on the modern hard standing. It has been assumed that the concrete floor is contemporary to the building (ASE 2007). Should there have been an earlier phase of construction, it is likely that the uprights would have been set into the ground, and these large cuts, may correspond to this purpose. Although floor deposit [231] is observed to seal the post hole cut [250] in section, this would not exclude the continued use of a post set within the large hole where it

extended further west. However, the off-set of the cuts from the current support-post locations may be too great to function structurally with regard to the upper storey (ibid). These features may therefore relate to the earlier enclosed yard believed to have predated the Wagon Lodge (Figure 5). This evidence would support the possibility that the wagon lodge occupies a similar footprint to the former yard.

Floor surfaces [230], [231] and [236] (Figure 14)

4.2.8 Directly below the modern concrete was a firm deposit of mottled dark-grey and yellowish brown clay silt [231] = [236] (Plate 17). A shallow deposit of dark brownish grey clay-silt with frequent charcoal inclusions [230], measuring c 1.65m by 0.95m wide and 0.05m thick occupied a slight depression in the upper surface of this deposit against the eastern edge of the trench. Deposit [231] = [236] corresponds to the most recent occupation of the ground surface prior to the laying of the concrete floor of the wagon lodge and represents a gradual build-up of use deposits. Deposit [230] would appear to correspond to a localised repair or levelling deposit in the upper surface of the poorly characterised use deposits / circulation surface.

Postholes [234], [237] and [239]

4.2.9 A series of small circular cuts [234], [237] and [239], apparently locating small postholes were identified within this upper surface of [231] = [236]. Two of the smaller postholes, [234] and [239] were again located towards the threshold of the building and the third, [237] was an isolated structure situated within the body of the building (Plates 18 and 19). Posthole [234], measuring 0.26m in diameter and 0.15m deep, was located c 0.85m west of the eastern wall and just south of the building threshold. No datable material was recovered from the single dark grey silty clay, context [235]. Posthole [239] also truncated this floor surface, corresponding to a second possible small post-hole [239], only 0.14m in diameter and 0.10m deep, with a single dark clayey silt fill, context [241]. Post hole [237] measured 0.24m in diameter and 0.18m in depth with steeply sloping sides and a flat base.

Beam slot [232]

4.2.10 A shallow linear cut, [232] measuring c 0.30m wide and 0.05m deep was observed over a distance of 0.63m. It continued to the east and west beyond the limits of the excavated trench (Plate 20). It was situated immediately north of the threshold of the current building, and truncated the upper northern edge of posthole cut [250]. It possibly corresponds to a wood-lined threshold set to the north of the earth floor of an earlier phase of the wagon lodge. Observations were however too limited by the scale of the excavations to be certain of this identification. It was not possible to ascertain if this continued any further to the west across the front of the building.

Post hole [257]

4.2.11 A separate trench was monitored in the western part of the wagon lodge, where a beaten earth surface recorded as context [259] lay below the current concrete and underlying make-up/levelling, context [260]. A third post-hole, [257], was

located in line with the open threshold of the building, truncating layer [259], the upper deposit below hard standing corresponding to floor deposit [231] further to the east. It was 0.28m in diameter, with a dark grey silt clay fill, context [258], which contained a blackish-grey sandy silt post-pipe 0.15m in diameter recorded as context [262] (Plates 21 and 22).

4.2.12 All the features observed in the upper horizon of the deposits below the concrete floor would correspond either to an earlier phase of the wagon lodge, or to the enclosed yard predating it.

Vehicle Inspection Pit

- 4.2.13 The floor of the western division of the Wagon Lodge was lifted in to expose a wall-lined void that had been infilled with brick hardcore (Figure 13; Plate 23). Metal brackets were inserted into the side walls of the below-ground void. No dating evidence for this structure was available. The western division of the Wagon Lodge is a narrow room separated by a wall from the open space to the east. It is proposed that the brick-lined void corresponds to a car inspection pit, the brackets intended for planking to support vehicles above the void.
- 4.2.14 A further trench excavated to the north of this area, revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence of asphalt/tarmac, context [267], rubble subbase/levelling [268], from which a single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered, over substrate context [269]. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Brick arch or culvert [264] (Figure 13)

- 4.1.15 The remains of a large possible brick-built culvert, recorded as masonry [264] were revealed below the tarmac to the immediate north of the western side of the wagon lodge (Plates 24 - 26). The structure was exposed by means of a narrow east-west mechanical trench and observations were severely constrained. On the eastern side it was observed to a depth of 0.25m and on the western side to a depth of 0.70m. The structure was not disturbed. It appears to correspond to remains of a buried brick arch oriented east-west, 1.20m wide, the eastern edge of the structure appearing to be intact. A demolition deposit abutting the structure on this side and visible in photograph, was not excavated. The western side was imperfectly preserved. The upper surface of the construction, which was poorly preserved, probably continued northwards from the arch. A brick which measured 248mm x 122mm x 60mm was retained and could date from as early as the 16th century. An associated deposit of dark greyish brown clayey silt, context [263] = [265], interpreted as silting up of the masonry feature, contained two clay pipe stems, the earliest dates to c. 1610-1660 and the later fragment dated to the period to c.1660-1750. This would suggest the structure to have been gradually falling out of use in the course of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.1.16 Based on the earlier study of the buildings in this area, it would appear to lie to the immediate east of an outhouse, the south-east corner of which corresponds to the northern end of the west wall of wagon lodge. A date of 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> century is proposed for the construction of the outhouse which is shown still extant in 1798 estate plan. As such, it would appear likely that the brick arch was

contemporary to the outhouse, and rain beneath it forming either a vaulted cellar space or conduit.

Context	Туре	Description	Max thickness m
230	Layer	Made ground	0.05
231	Layer	Made ground	
232	Cut	?Beam slot	-
233	Fill	Fill, single	0.05
234	Cut	Posthole	0.15
235	Fill	Fill, single	0.15
236	Layer	Floor	
237	Cut	Posthole	0.18
238	Fill	Fill, single	0.18
239	Cut	Posthole	0.1
240	Layer	Floor	0.15
241	Fill	Fill, single	0.10
242	Layer	Made ground	0.17
243	Layer	Buried soil horizon	0.40
244	Cut	Feature	
245	Fill	Fill, upper	0.15
246	Fill	Fill, basal	
247	Layer	Natural	
248	Masonry	Footing	0.20
249	Masonry	Wall	
250	Cut	Posthole	
251	Fill	Fill, single	0.20
252	Cut	Posthole	
253	Fill	Fill, single	0.20
256	Fill	Fill	0.10
257	Cut	Posthole	
258	Fill	Fill	0.25
259	Layer	Floor	
260	Layer	Made ground	
262	Fill	Post-pipe	0.25
263	Masonry	Wall	
264	Masonry	Brick arch	-
265	Layer	Made Ground	-
267	Layer	Tarmac	0.15
268	Layer	Made ground	0.25
269	Layer	Natural	

Table 4: Deposits encountered from The Wagon Lodge / Cart Shed

## 4.3 Garden Area

- 4.3.1 Three narrow cable trenches were hand excavated across the garden area to the rear of the east wing of the house and the oasthouse, as shown in Figure 9. They measured 0.30m across and were excavated to c 0.60m in depth.
- 4.3.2 Two features of potential archaeological significance were exposed, [254] and [261]. The remaining recorded feature [266] corresponds to one of the complex of Victorian drains observed in this area. A stone capped drain was observed in the north-west corner of this area.

Cut [254]

- 4.3.3 A narrow north-south trench with vertical sides and a flat base, [254] measuring 0.35m wide and 0.70m deep was located towards the east end of the trench, south of the rear wall of the wagon lodge (Plate 27]. The base contained a compact deposit of rounded chalk nodules [256] below fill [255], a deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay, [256]. No dating evidence was recovered. The form of this feature suggests a function as a possible land drain or early soakaway. Its location to the rear of the service wing of the later house suggests the latter possibility to be most likely.
- 4.3.4 A segment of linear brickwork [261] was located to the immediate east of [261]. It was oriented east-west and was viewed over a length of 0.90m in the southern section (Plate 28). It was preserved to a depth of two courses. A single course of brick formed a north-south return. The brick used in the construction appears to include both post medieval and (possibly) Tudor brick in re-use. Given the slight nature of its construction, this feature is unlikely to belong to a building, and is considered more likely to be remains of a post medieval drain, inspection pit, or other. The segment of brickwork available for observation was too small for a more definite conclusion to be drawn.
- 4.3.5 A brick-lined drain, recorded as masonry [266] was encountered to the immediate east of the main house wall running north-east to south-west across the trench (Plate 29). The construction and brickwork indicate a likely late post medieval date for this feature. Its insertion truncated any evidence of a construction cut relating to the east wall of the house. It was left *in situ*. The stone capped drain was a brick-built rectangular soakaway or collection chamber serving the Victorian downpipes in this area adjacent to the house heavily disturbed by Victorian ceramic pipes as well as modern plastic ducting (Plate 30).

Context	Type	Description	Max thickness m
254	Cut	Ditch / Drainage trench	
255	Fill	Fill, single	
261	Masonry	Structure	
266	Masonry	Drain	0.13

Table 5: Deposits encountered in the garden area

# 4.4 Monitoring in and around the walled garden

4.4.1 Excavations for the placement of a concrete slab base for a fuel oil tank were undertaken in the north-east corner of the walled garden and extended over an area measuring 6.25m by 2.35m and a depth of c 0.40m (Figure 10; Plate 31). The stratigraphic sequence comprised garden soil [271] directly above the light orange-brown clay natural substrate [272].

Well [270]

4.4.2 A brick-lined well [270] was exposed in the north-east corner of the walled garden. It lay beneath the raised border against the eastern wall of the garden and had been truncated by the northern garden wall (Figure 10. Plate 32). The exposed area of the preserved structure comprised a segment of curvilinear brick masonry measuring 1.10m by 0.34m located at a distance of 1.25m from the eastern wall. It was built of red brick and sandstone blocks bonded with lime mortar, the masonry preserved to a height of 0.21m. The upper brick course was of bricks measuring 0.23 x 0.11m and 0.07m thick. A layer of mortar on top of the bricks suggests the removal of the upper courses of the structure. The well had been capped using a plug of lime mortar.

Ditch?

4.4.3 In the western half of the area excavated for the slab, a deposit [273] of redeposited natural c 0.15m thick was observed over an area measuring 2.35 x 2.0m (Figure 10). This sealed a friable light grey deposit of light silt [274]. Deposit [274] was postulated by the excavator to correspond to a possible continuation of the linear feature observed to the north of the potting shed [215] = [224]. This deposit appeared at the limit of excavation and no further investigation was possible. Insufficient evidence was available to produce a plan.

Service trench north of potting shed and walled garden

4.4.4 An east-west service trench measuring 0.35m wide by 0.45m deep was excavated between the potting shed door (east side) and mid-way along the north wall of the walled garden (Figure 2; Plate 33). It then fed under the garden wall and around the western end of the slab. To the north of the potting shed / plant room, the stratigraphy was a simple sequence of topsoil above made ground. Further east, redeposited natural sealed a light grey deposit thought to be continuous with [274] observed to the south of the wall.

Culvert [275]

4.4.5 A short segment of brick culvert, [275], oriented east-west was identified to the north of the north-west corner of the walled garden. This was observed in the southern section of the trench over a distance of 1.10m. A short segment of north-south culvert was associated with this structure (Figure 10; Plate 34).

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Context	Туре	Description	Max thickness m
270	Masonry	Well	0.21
271	Layer	Topsoil	0.25
272	Layer	Natural	
273	Layer	Made ground	0.15
274	Layer	Natural ?	
275	Masonry	Culvert	0.40

Table 6: Deposits encountered in and around the walled garden

#### 4.5 The Eastern Drive

A north-south service trench was located in the eastern drive, north of the potting shed and towards the eastern pond / moat. (Figure 10). A segment of ditch [276] (below) was identified. A second north-south service trench, to the north of the eastern pond / moat (Figure 2), was also observed but no archaeological deposits were identified.

Ditch [276]

A north-east south-west ditch segment [276] was initially identified at the base of the excavation where it appeared to correspond to a gully. Inspection of the sections revealed a ditch c 1.0m wide and c 0.50m deep (Plates 35 and 36). It contained two fills, a loose, light grey fine silt at the base of the cut [277], sealed by a more plastic grey / brown mottled silt upper fill [278]. No finds were recovered. The ditch was sealed by redeposited natural [279] below made ground [280], an upper levelling deposit [281] and tarmac [282]. Contexts [284] and [285] were attributed to the subsoil and natural substrate deposits in this trench.

Context	Туре	Description	Max thickness m
276	Cut	Ditch	0.40
277	Fill	Fill, basal	0.20
278	Fill	Fill upper	0.30
279	Layer	Redeposited natural	0.15
280	Layer	Made ground	0.35
281	Layer	Made ground	0.15
282	Layer	Tarmac	0.1
283	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.25
284	Layer	Subsoil	0.25-0.30
285	Layer	Natural	-

Table 7: Deposits encountered in the eastern drive

#### 4.6 The Western Drive

Wall [290]

4.6.1 A north-south service trench was excavated through the drive where it passed through the gatehouse, roughly in line with the north-west corner of the house (Figure 15). This trench lay c 13m east of the octagonal tower at the north end of the garden wall to the north-west of the house. A segment of east west wall [290] was identified in line with the southern corner of the eastern edge of the tower (Plates 37 - 39). It was preserved to a height of c 0.64m below 0.16m of superficial deposits comprising made ground [287] and tarmac [286]. The wall [290] was built of a single width of dressed sandstone blocks measuring 0.30m. in length by 0.25m wide and 0.25 deep. No bonding was observed. After recording, the wall was protected with black plastic and sand prior to backfilling of the trench.

Moat?

- Rubbly made ground deposits [288] and [289] containing CBM and probable 4.6.3 Victorian pottery lay to the south and north of the wall respectively. A lower layer of made ground, [291] 0.40m thick, of probable redeposited natural, and also containing CBM fragments underlay deposit [289] to the north of the wall. This sealed a patch of dark greyish-black silty clay [292] observed to a depth of 0.06m at the base of the excavation.
- The lower made ground deposit [291] sloped down southwards from ground 4.6.4 level. Natural substrate [293] also sloped down southwards below [292]. Although no cut was identified which might have created the observed slope in the substrate, it was conjectured that the current ponds - probable remnants of a moat - to the south-east and south-west of the gatehouse might have formerly been more extensive, possibly continuous, and been subsequently infilled to create the modern access via the gatehouse. The blackish silty deposit [292] at the base of the stratigraphy suggested a waterlogged environment. The late 18th century estate map (1798; Figure 4) confirms that the pond / moat segment, now confined to the south-east of the gatehouse formerly extended further west along the south side of the building, but would not at this date have extended in front of the gatehouse. The gatehouse was certainly present by 1784. The earlier history of the building and site in this location has not been established (ASE 2017).

Context	Туре	Description	Max thickness m
286	Layer	Tarmac	0.04
287	Layer	Made Ground	0.12
288	Layer	Made Ground	0.80
289	Layer	Made Ground	0.30
290	Masonry	Wall	0.35
291	Layer	Made Ground	0.39
292	Layer	Silting?	0.06
293	Natural		-

Table 8: Deposits encountered in the western drive

# 4.7 North of the Main House

4.7.1 The works at Isfield Place continued during the suspension of ASE activity during the coronavirus pandemic, from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to a gradual resumption of business from early June. During this time, continuing groundworks revealed two segments of wall footing to the immediate north of the main part of the house (Figures 2, 16; Plates 40 and 41). A narrow eastwest segment of concrete footing traversed the ground in front of the entrance lobby. Below this, a second segment of stone-built wall, c 0.45m wide, was observed running north-south in line with the west side of the entrance lobby. The photographic evidence suggests a corbelled upper profile. A location plan and accompanying photographs, showing these features, were kindly supplied¹ on behalf of the client.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jamie Simmons, Hawk Builders and Shopfitters Ltd

# 5.0 THE FINDS

# 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at Isfield Place, Isfield, East Sussex. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 9. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2019).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	СВМ	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)
216			12	5109				
221	15	63	1	2993			2	27
226	2	21						
227			2	113				
228			1	66				
242	1	24						
251			2	828				
263					1	1		
264			1	3012				
265					1	5		
268	1	75						
275			1	3497				
Total	19	183	20	15618	2	6	2	27

Table 9: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

# 5.2 The Burnt Unworked Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Context [221] produced two fragments of unworked burnt flint weighing 27g. The fragments are calcined to a light grey colour. Fragments of unworked burnt flint are frequently associated with prehistoric activities, but in this instance, the small assemblage is likely to relate to more recent burning events.

# **5.3** The Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of Roman pottery amounting to 17 sherds, weighing 84g was recovered from fill [221] of pit [220] and fill [226] of pit [225]. The assemblage entirely comprises featureless bodysherds in well-fired grey or oxidised grog-tempered fabrics. The firing of the sherds strongly suggests that they are of post-Conquest date but the sherds are not otherwise closely datable

within the Roman period.

#### 5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The archaeological work recovered just two sherds of post-Roman pottery. weighing 100g, from two individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 10 as part of the visible archive. The medieval fabric has been allocated the Lewes fabric code (Barber in prep) as well as a common name while post- medieval one has been allocated common name only. Overall the pottery consists of medium-sized sherds with moderate signs of abrasion. As such the material appears to have seen some reworking.

Fabric	Period	No	Weight	Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented by type. ? = undiagnostic of form)
Ringmer sandy ware	МН	1	26a	Cooking pot x1 (Oxidised with thickened triangular rim)
English stoneware			- 5	Disc lid x1 (grey Bristol glaze)
E	Ringmer sandy ware with rare flint (HML 1b)	Ringmer sandy ware with rare flint (HML 1b) HM English stoneware	Ringmer sandy ware with rare flint (HML 1b) HM 1 English stoneware	Ringmer sandy ware with rare flint (HML 1b) HM 1 26g English stoneware

Table 10: Pottery assemblage (HM - High Medieval c. 1200/25-1350/75; LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+)

- 5.4.2 The single medieval sherd is slightly worn and has either been affected by an acidic burial environment and/or been reworked to some degree. The type is quite typical for products of the Ringmer industry and can best be placed between c. 1225-1325. The stoneware lid, originally from a straight-sided jar, is in fresher condition and can be placed between c. 1840 and 1925.
- The pottery assemblage is small and of types well known of in the area. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and is not suitable for long-term curation in a museum. As such it has been added to the pool of material held for handling/teaching.

#### 5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Rae Regensberg

- 5.5.1 Eighteen pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 12,524g were recovered from six contexts; [216, 227, 228, 251, 264 & 275]. The assemblage consisted of 10 pieces of brick, six fragments of roof tile, and a large piece of a ceramic gutter tile.
- 5.5.2 All the material gathered during the watching brief was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel table. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and recorded using site specific codes. These use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions (sparse, moderate, common, abundant); the size of inclusions, fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (0.25-0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric descriptions are described below in Table 11.
- 5.5.3 Brick fragments with a B3 fabric were the most common. These were found in

contexts [216 & 227]. The two fragments with dimensions available were between 108mm and 114mm wide, and 57mm to 58mm thick, these dimensions are consistent with the 16th century brick size legislation (Symonds 2013:16). They also had rounded arrises and bumpy irregular bases, which is consistent with bricks from this period. Dating with only two examples however, should be viewed cautiously. There were two pieces of brick with a B4 fabric found in context [251], one of which was 105mm wide and 65mm thick, indicating a similar date range as the B3 brick. There was one complete brick recovered from [264], with the following dimensions; 248mm x 122mm x 60mm. The arrises were sharp but irregular, and there was distinct creasing on the stretchers. A 16th century date range is also possible for this brick. The remaining brick pieces were small with no diagnostic features with which to date.

- 5.5.4 The roof tile consisted of six fragments in context [216], two of which were too vitrified to identify a fabric. One of the vitrified tile pieces had a square peg hole, which indicates a post-medieval date. In context [228], there was one piece of glazed tile, which suggests a medieval date as glazed tile faded out of use after the medieval period.
- 5.5.5 The incomplete piece of gutter tile had a flat base and side, and weighed 3,480g. This suggests that it was for use on the ground. It has a medieval to post-medieval date range.
- 5.5.6 Fabric samples and the gutter tile (as an unusual example of CBM) have been retained, the rest of the assemblage has been discarded in full.

Fabric	Description
B1	Dark orange fabric with sparse medium quartz, and areas with sparse to common calcareous inclusions.
B2	Fine orange to red fabric with scatter of variably sized quartz, medium to coarse calcium carbonate inclusions and black iron oxide, and occasional very coarse flint fragments and small pebbles. Very similar to MOLA 3033.
В3	Light orange fabric with moderate to common very coarse dark red to black oxidised material, sparse medium quartz, and occasional very coarse black oxidised inclusions.
B4	Orange fabric with sparse to moderate coarse black oxidised material, cream flecks and streaks, and occasional very coarse cream pellets.
T1	Micaceous orangey red fabric with sparse white/calcareous streaks and moderate very coarse dark red to black oxidised material.
T2	Orange fabric with common fine to medium quartz, sparse cream streaks and sparse to moderate black oxidised material.

Table 11: Fabric descriptions for CBM

# **5.6** The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A small assemblage comprising two clay tobacco pipe stem fragments (weight 6g) was recovered from two different contexts. The earliest was found in [263] and dates to c. 1610-1660. The second fragment, from [265], dates to c.1660-1750.

# DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

# 6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

6.0

- 6.1.1 Most of the areas monitored were outside areas lying to the north, north-east and east of the main house. As such they demonstrate a relatively simple stratigraphic sequence varying between topsoil above a natural clay silt substrate, or with intervening deposits of made ground. Deposits of made ground were observed principally in the driveway areas and north of the main house. More significant made ground deposits were identified in the Western Drive area where it is conjectured they may have infilled a disused arm of the former moat.
- 6.1.2 Excavations within the eastern division of the Wagon Lodge / Cart Shed, an open fronted building to the west of the Oast House, revealed one or two phases of beaten earth floor or external ground surface deposits predating the modern concrete floor. Postholes identified probably relate either to an earlier phase of the extant building or to an enclosed yard which appears to have preceded it (ASE 2007).

# 6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.1 All the monitored areas lay within the immediate surrounds of the house, or within its gardens and in proximity to buildings. As such, there was significant truncation of deposits by service trenches and drainage features - most notably to the rear of the main house - and / or earlier landscaping for garden or driveway areas. The ground surfaces below the eastern division of the Wagon Lodge / Cart Shed were relatively undisturbed. Deposits below the western division of this building had been truncated by a probable car inspection pit.

# 6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by area and period

### Roman

6.3.1 A small pit [220] c 1m in diameter dating to the Roman period was identified north of the Oast House (Figure 10). It contained pottery possibly situating it in the post-conquest period, but only broadly attributable to wider Roman period with any confidence. A second small assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from a small nearby feature or bioturbated deposit observed in section only and heavily truncated by ditch [225].

# Wagon Lodge / Cart Barn (Figures 17 and 18).

6.3.2 The wagon lodge, and first floor granary, was built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (ASE 2007). It utilized the Tudor period garden wall as its southern side and the retained 16th / 17<sup>th</sup> century eastern wall of the outhouse as its western end wall, but was otherwise of timber-framed construction. The earliest extant elements of the Wagon Lodge / Cart Barn are the lower part of the southern wall, and the northern end of the western wall which have been attributed to **Period A** in an earlier study of the Oasthouse (ASE 2007). The lower part of the southern wall [**Period A1**] represents the boundary between the formal gardens of the mansion (south) and a service yard/close (north). This wall is

likely to represent work of the 16th century and is certainly no later in date than the 17th century (ASE 2007). The extreme northern end of the western wall of the Wagon Lodge has been attributed to period A2, also 16th or 17th Century in date (ibid).

# Wall Construction Cut [244] [Phase A1]

6.3.3 A possible construction cut [244] (Figure 13) for the southern wall was observed in the deposits below the south end of the concrete floor of the building. The presence of a cut was postulated based on a repeated difference in sediments over a distance of c 1.40m against the wall. Constraints on the quality of observations at this location mean that the presence of this cut remains uncertain, and the level from which it may have been executed was not observed. A single sherd of medieval pottery dating to c. 1225-1325 was recovered from the uppermost of the differentiated deposits or fills within the area of the proposed cut [244]. It showed significant signs of wear and is likely to be in a secondary location, possibly deriving from agricultural manuring deposits in the vicinity. As such, monitoring in this area can add little to our understanding of the earliest building phase. However, the presence of abraded medieval pottery does suggest possible medieval agricultural use of the land prior to construction of the hall, and possibly the proximity of occupation activity.

# Brick Arch [264] [Phase A2]

- 6.3.4 The extreme northern end of the western wall of the Wagon Lodge has been previously attributed to period A2 (16th or 17th Century) (ASE 2007). This fragment of wall represents the fragmentary remains of the south-eastern corner of a now destroyed (assumed detached) outhouse. This structure would have extended northwards in line with the west wall of the building, and westwards from a position c 0.66m south from the present north end of the wall. The presence and size of which has been inferred from which an extant structure at this location shown on the 1798 estate plan which, if drawn accurately, indicates a rectangular structure aligned north- south.
- 6.3.5 A brick arch, [264], and possible associated path / floor was identified to the immediate north of the west wall of the extant building (Figure 13). This feature was exposed by the excavation of a narrow east-west service trench which was then redirected the incompletely exposed structure conserved *in situ*. As such, observations were limited. The main body of the underground structure appears to correspond to a brick arch oriented east west measuring at least 0.70m in height and at least 1.20 wide. The upper brickwork of the structure may continue to the north, forming a path or surface. There was no evidence of the structure continuing to the east. To the west, the ground surface dropped away and the structure is likely to have been truncated when the ground was lowered in the late 19th century for the addition of the new wing of the mansion (ASE 2007). Brick recovered from the structure has a possible 16th century date. Two clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recovered from two probable disuse deposits relating to the structure. The earliest dates to c. 1610-1660. The second fragment dates to c. 1660-1750.
- 6.3.6 The dating evidence retrieved from this structure suggest a possible 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>

century construction date, the structure falling gradually into disuse in the course of the later 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century. As such the structure potentially belongs to the same 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century construction phase as the former outbuilding. The location of this arch would correspond to a position immediately east of the outhouse localised on the 1798 estate plan (Figure 4). It may represent the remains of an east-west oriented culvert running beneath the outhouse. Alternatively it may correspond to a below ground structure associated with the outhouse, cellar or other, perhaps accessed from the east.

# Period A3/ A4 (17th Century) - Period B (1798 - 1840)

- 6.3.7 According to the map evidence the two-storeyed granary/wagon lodge building was constructed between 1798 and 1840 within what, in 1798, had been a small enclosed yard (ASE 2007) (Figure 5). The new structure comprised four bays in length and measured approximately 10.25 metres x 6.00 metres (33'8" x 19'8") overall. Along the northern side on the ground floor the three western bays were open so as to allow easy access to the wagon lodge. The building report of 2007 appears to have understood the concrete floor of this building to be a contemporary feature: it is not commented, and the extant support posts are described as in a primary position.
- 6.3.8 Monitoring within the eastern two bays of this building has identified two possible phases of ground surface predating the concrete floor of the building, each phase apparently associated with evidence of postholes. However, observations were complicated by the use of machine excavation in the northern side of the building, and there was some uncertainty in stratigraphic observations. Evidence for two large relatively shallow postholes, [250], [252] was observed in proximity to the present locations of the north-east corner of the open hangar and the central support post within the northern façade. These features were observed in section, and their extents estimated. It is considered possible that these features may have belonged to an early phase of the current building predating the concrete floor. In this case, posts inserted into the lower deposit horizon, [240], may have continued in use during the deposition of the upper horizon.
- 6.3.9 However, it is considered more likely that structures within both floor / ground surface deposits represent structural elements belonging to the enclosed yard to the west of the outbuilding figured in the estate map of 1798 (ASE 2007) (Figure 4). This would include, three postholes located along the northern limit of the building, [250], [252] and [257], a possible linear beam slot [232] at the east end of the same alignment, and three further postholes within the internal area of the building, [234], [237], 239].

## North of the Oast House / Potting Shed and Within the Walled Garden

6.3.10 Several segments of a possible large ditch [215], [224] and [274], a segment of a second ditch [276], and a well [270] were identified in these peripheral areas. The dating indices are relatively poor for these features. The footing of the west end of the north wall of the potting shed, and associated floor deposits, were observed.

North-West - South-East Ditch

- 6.3.11 Possible ditch segments [215], [225] and [274] suggest the presence of a wide, north-east south-west oriented ditch traversing the north end of the walled garden and extending to a point north-east of the Oast House and beyond. This would have predated the walled garden, and brick fragments recovered from which segment [215] are consistent with a possible 16<sup>th</sup> century date. The evidence is too fragmentary and inconclusive to advance a confident interpretation, although the possibility that it corresponds to an early a branch of the moat has been considered.
- 6.3.12 A small segment of undated north-east southwest ditch [276] was identified below the east drive. This is a relatively small feature, possibly related to drainage. It predated the current phase of land use and has not been associated with any previously planned features.

Well [270]

6.3.13 The south-west segment of a brick-lined well [270] was exposed in the north-east corner of the walled garden. It had been dismantled and plugged and was truncated by the north wall of the walled garden. There is no evidence of this feature on the estate map of 1798, nor the draft tithe map of 1839 (Figure 4 ESRO ref. ACC 3412/3/798A). The tithe map reproduced from the baseline building report (ASE 1997) reproduced here as Figure 5 (ESRO TD 45) shows a building at this location. However the version of the tithe map as published by ESCC and available online (ESCC online data²; Plate 42) would appear to show the possible location of this feature which is situated in an irregular enclosure to the north-east of an L-shaped building

Potting shed wall

6.3.14 The west end of the north wall of the potting shed is a stone built wall: it was extended to the east at a later date, the elevation built of brick. The footings are of sandstone with evidence of brick, either forming part of the original build or as repair, the upper course. The sandstone blocks show considerable evidence of erosion and differ markedly from the elevation. The estate map of 1798 (Figure 4) shows no building at this location. The version of the tithe map of 1844 presented in this report as Figure 5 shows buildings to three sides of a walled garden. However the tithe map available online (Plate 42) shows another building organisation, most likely to correspond with the structural evidence recorded during this watching brief. As such, the west end of the current potting shed north wall corresponds to the north wall of an L-shaped building abutting the ornamental garden enclosure. It was present by the 1840s. If the estate plan of 1798 is accurate, it was built at some date after this map was produced. The heavily eroded state of the sandstone blocks suggests however that the footings may belong to a more ancient construction, perhaps dismantled in 1798, the north wall of which would have been in-line with the north wall of the garden, but the extent of which is unknown. The depth of the

<sup>2</sup> 

earth floor deposits locally observed within the potting shed also suggest possible longevity of occupation of this location.

# North and north-west of the Main House

- 6.3.15 Evidence of several demolished walls was identified in this area, two in close proximity to the building façade, one traversing the area now occupied by the western drive access in an east-west direction.
- 6.3.16 Of the two wall footings identified nearest the house and recorded by ground crew, the narrow east-west footing can be identified as likely to correspond to the north wall of the entrance porch shown in the plan of 1922 (Figure 19). The second more substantial north-south footing appears to correspond to the north-west corner of the house as it appeared in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 20). As such, it appears to correspond to a segment of the west wall of a lean-to extension dating to c 1870 since replaced (Figure 3).
- 6.3.17 The wall to the north-west of the main building, wall [290], is a narrow, single string width sandstone wall. It is aligned with the south-east corner of the northern turret of the garden wall. Overlying made ground dumps to either side appear to be Victorian in date. No wall figures at this location on any of the historical plans of the house, with the possible exception of the tithe map of 1844. The draft tithe map dating to 1839 (See Figure 4 ESRO ref. ACC 3412/3/798A) shows no building in this location and nor does that published on the East Sussex website (ESCC TD/E54 Plate 40). Details apparent on a version of the 1844 tithe map reproduced in this report (Figure 5) suggests the possibility of a walled enclosure. This version of the tithe map suggests a possible correspondence between the wall [290] and the north wall of this enclosure. Alternatively, the wall may be earlier in date. Its location to the east of the octagonal structure at the north end of the preserved curtain wall extending north of the house on this side of the building provides at least the possibility that it relates to an early phase enclosure wall to the north of property.

# 6.4 Conclusions

- 6.4.1 Monitoring conducted during the groundworks relating to the service trenching has permitted observations principally to the north of the house and limited observations within the garden to the south. Newly identified structural remains include a narrow east-west wall segment [290] to the north-west of the house level with the north end of the preserved curtain wall, a north-south wall to the immediate north of the house, a well [270] predating the walled garden at the north-east of the property and a brick arch [264] to the north of the west wall of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Wagon Lodge.
- 6.4.2 Monitoring has revealed evidence of Roman occupation to the north of the building in the form of two small pits.
- 6.4.2 A buried brick arch [264] is attributed to the early phase of the building, Probably Phase A2 as defined by the base line building report (ASE 1997) dating to 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is thought to have been contemporary to an outhouse situated immediately to its west and is interpreted as an east-west

culvert running below the outhouse and communicating with the service wing of the early building, or as a below ground space associated with the outhouse itself.

- 6.4.3 Correspondences to features appearing on various versions of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century tithe map have been identified for the east-west wall [290] to the northeast of the house and the well [274] and although these features remain insecurely dated, they are likely to belong to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. The location of the east-west wall on a level with the north end of the preserved curtain wall may allow the possibility of an original curtain wall lying north of the Tudor Hall House. The relatively small dimension of this wall however indicates that this suggestion be considered with caution.
- 6.4.4 A north-south wall footing identified to the immediate north of the house appears most likely to corresponds to a late 19<sup>th</sup> century refection, since replaced with the modern configuration of the house façade.
- 6.4.5 Of the remaining built remains observed, only the footing of the west end of the north wall of the potting shed has provided new information. This footing corresponds to the north wall of an L-shaped building predating the walled garden and figured on the Isfield tithe map (ESCC TD/E54 online: plate 42). The current elevation may be of this date. The heavily eroded nature of the sandstone blocks of the footing and the depth of floor deposits within this end of the potting shed suggest that an earlier wall may have stood at this location. Observation of the below ground portion of the south wall of the Wagon Lodge. already attributed to the original organisation of the property, has provided no significant additional information. A possible construction cut for this wall observed in deposits below the Wagon Lodge floor has yielded a small quantity of medieval material thought to be residual. A narrow east-west footing identified north of the house corresponds to the north wall of the entrance lodge figured on 1922 plan. The remaining built structures observed during monitoring comprise either confirmed or probable drainage features of no significance to our understanding of the property.
- 6.4.6 Monitoring beneath the floor of the Wagon Lodge has produced evidence of earthen floors or external surfaces and structural evidence in the form of cut features the majority of which are aligned with the northern limit of the present building, but are most likely to predate the Wagon Lodge. It has been proposed that these most likely correspond to the northern limit of an enclosed yard that predated the present building, belonging to the 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier organisation of the property.
- 6.4.7 There is some evidence for a large north-west south-east ditch running to the north of the Oast House, and across the north of the Walled Garden to the north-east of the property. Although the evidence is fragmentary and inconclusive, the possibility that this may correspond to a branch of the early moat is not excluded. Slight additional evidence of figures linear features adds little of further significance.

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## **HER Summary**

Site code	IPI17								
Project code	170283	70283							
Planning reference	WD/2017/19	26/LB							
Site address	Isfield Place	, Buckha	ım H	ill, Isfi	eld, Ea	st Su	ıssex		
District/Borough	Wealden Dis	strict							
NGR (12 figures)	554466 111	845							
Geology	Lower Tonb	ridge We	ells S	and					
Fieldwork type			WE	3					
Date of fieldwork	August, Sep	tember a	and [	Decem	ber 20	19			
Sponsor/client	Joanna Ada	ms							
Project manager	Amy William	son/Ron	Hur	nphre	/				
Project supervisor	Philippa Ste	phenson	/Chr	is Rus	sel				
Period summary									
						Pos Med	t- dieval		
Project summary	Adams to installation	Archaeology South-East (ASE), was commissioned by Joanna Adams to undertake an archaeological watching during the installation of new services at Isfield Place, Buckham Hill, Isfield (NGR 554466 111845).							
	Evidence of watching broccupation of	ief as v	vell	as po	st-med	lieval			

## **Finds summary**

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity (g)
Pottery	Ceramic	Roman, medieval, post-medieval	183
СВМ	Ceramic	Post-medieval	15618
СТР	Ceramic	Post-medieval	6

#### **OASIS Form**

OASIS ID: archaeol6-377446

Project details

Project name

Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Isfield

Place, Buckham Hill, Isfield, East Sussex

Project dates Start: 13-08-2019 End: 13-09-2019

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project

reference codes

170283 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project

reference codes

IPI17 - Sitecode

Any associated project

reference codes

WD/2017/1926/LB - Planning Application No.

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN ISFIELD Isfield Place,

**Buckham Hill** 

Postcode TN22 5XR

TQ 54466 11845 50.884835124602

Site coordinates 0.196214084238 50 53 05 N 000 11 46 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

Amy Williamson

Project supervisor Philippa Stephenson

Type of

sponsor/funding body

Client

Name of

sponsor/funding body

Joanna Adams

Project archives

**Physical Archive** 

recipient Lewes Museum

Physical Contents

"other"

**Digital Archive** 

recipient

Lewes Museum

Digital Contents "other"

### **Archaeology South-East**

WB: Isfield Place, Buckham Hill, Isfield, East Sussex

ASE Report No: 2019372

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive

recipient

Lewes Museum

Paper Contents "other"

"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous

Paper Media available Material", "Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', '

General Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Isfield

Place, Buckham Hill, Isfield, East Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Stevens, S.

Other bibliographic

details

ASE Report No. 2019372

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Place of issue or

publication

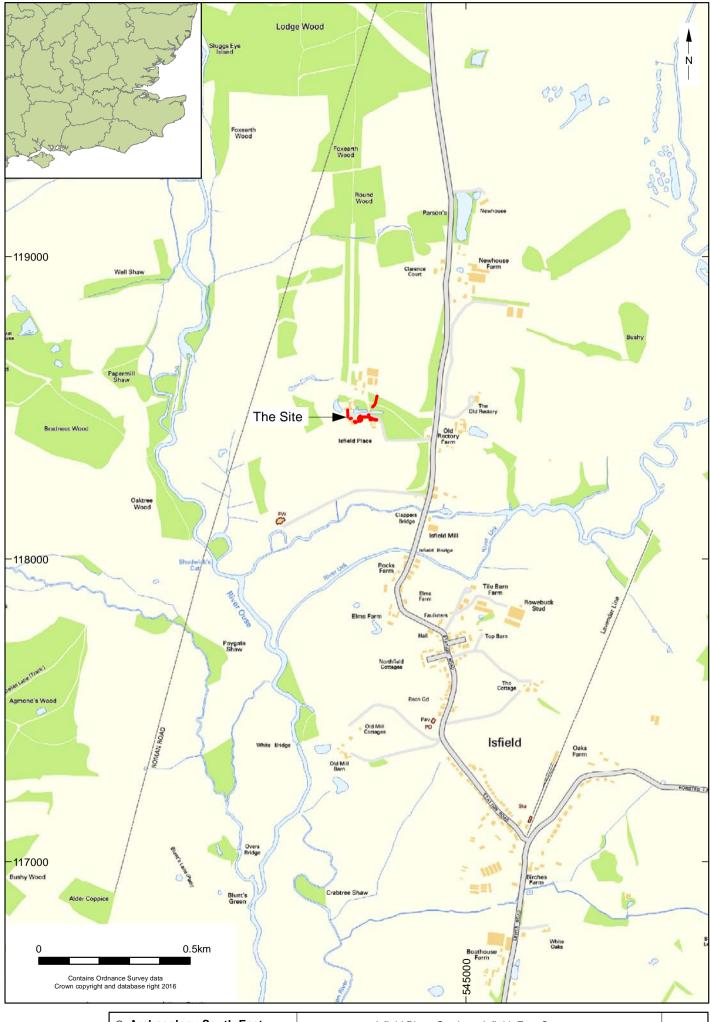
Portslade, East Sussex

Description Standard ASE client report, A4-sized with cover

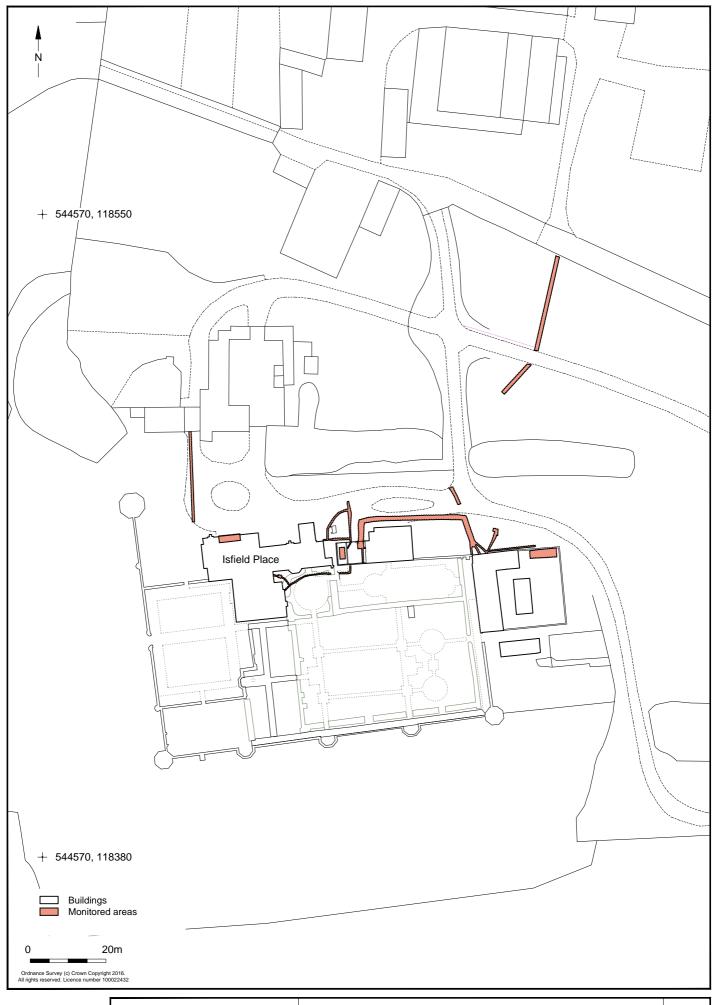
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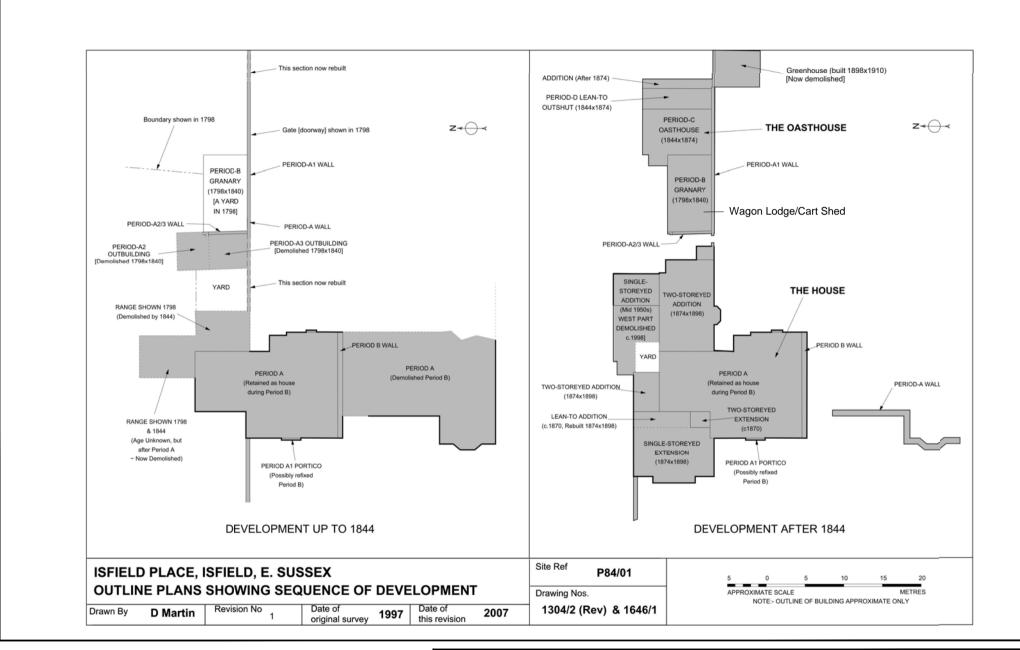
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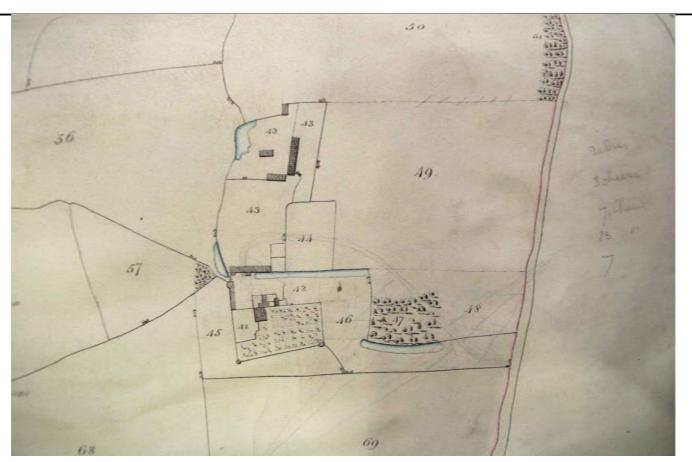
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Report Ref:	Drawn by: JR	Site location	



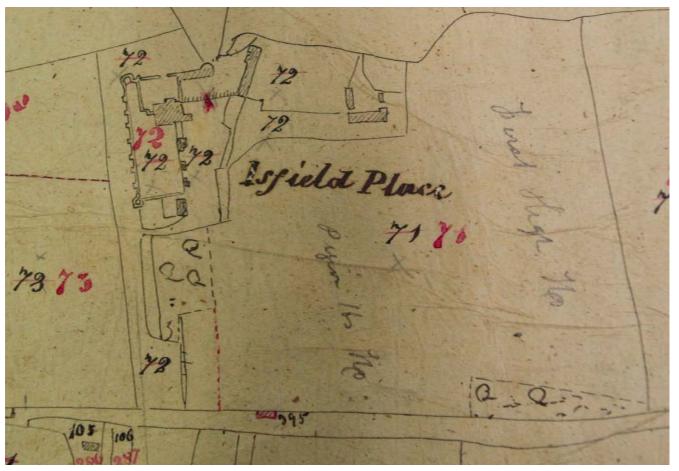
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Project Ref: 170283	Aug 2020		rig. Z	ı
Report Ref: 2019372	Drawn by: JR	Plan of monitored areas		ı



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Repo	ort Ref: 2019372	Drawn by: JR	wagon Louge/Oan Oneu	

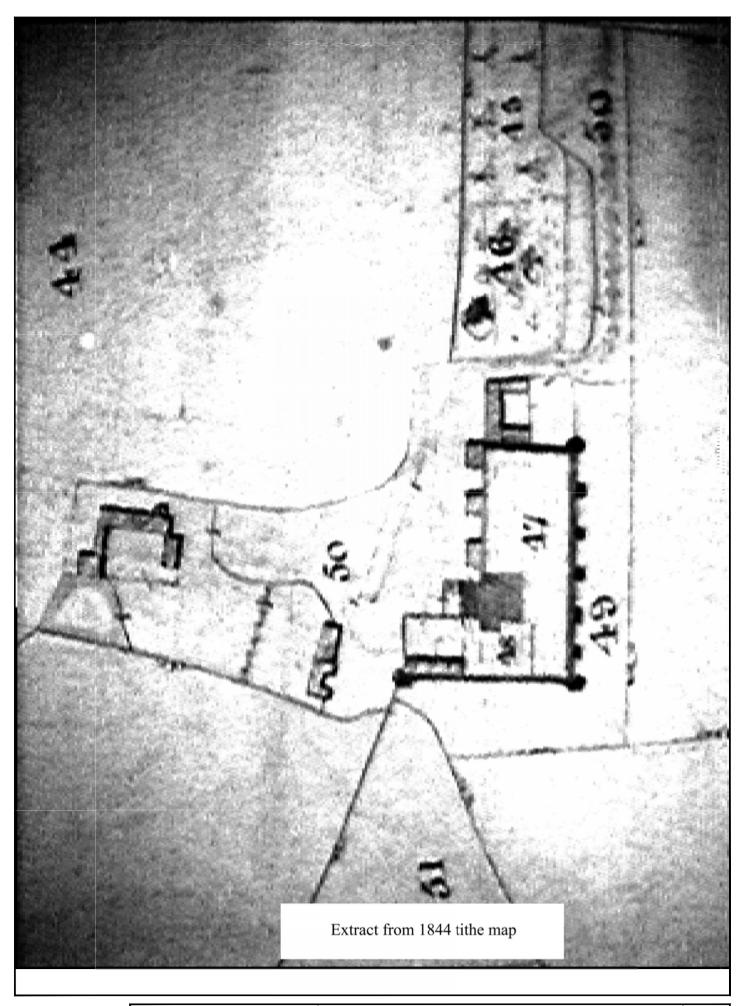


1798 Isfield Place Estate map

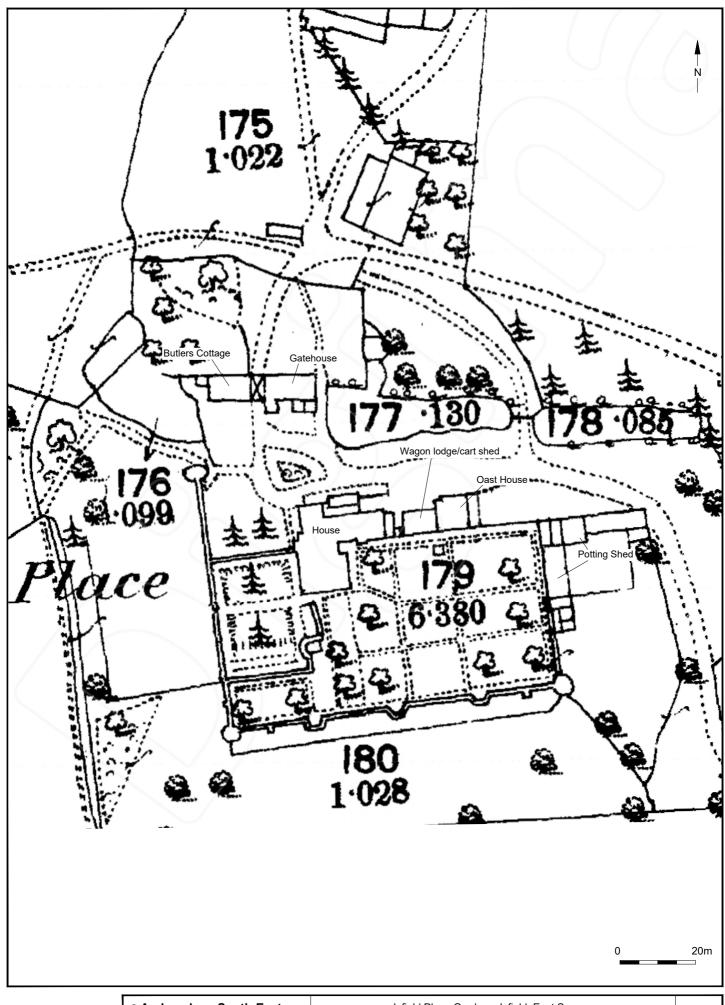


1839 Isfield tithe map draft

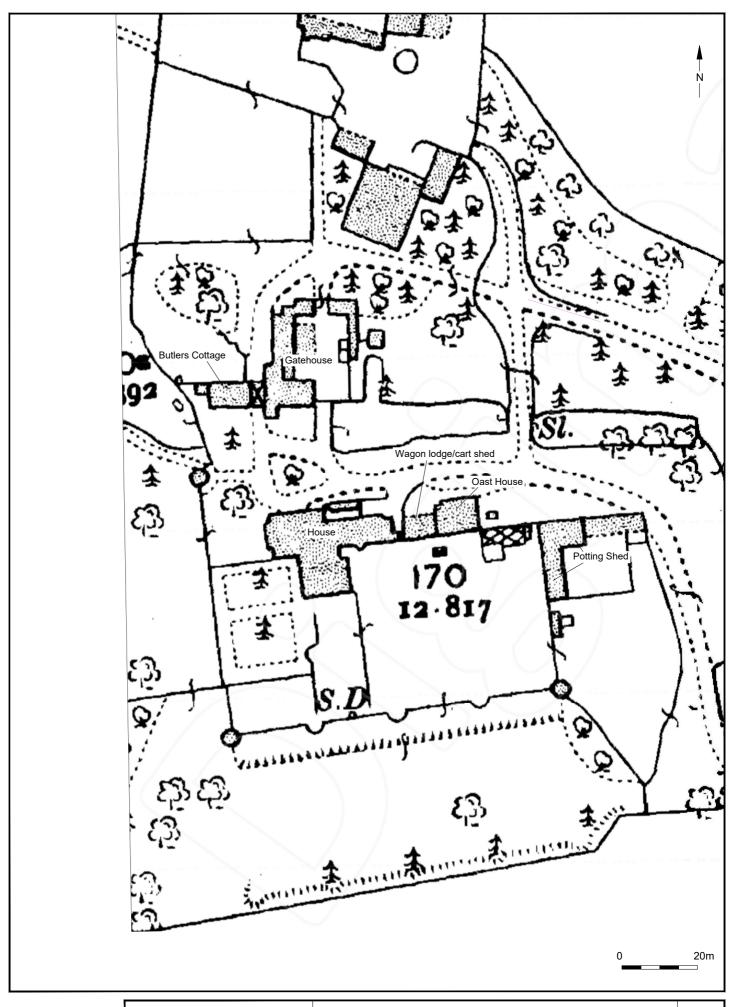
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Report Ref: 2019372	Drawn by: JR	Larry maps of site	



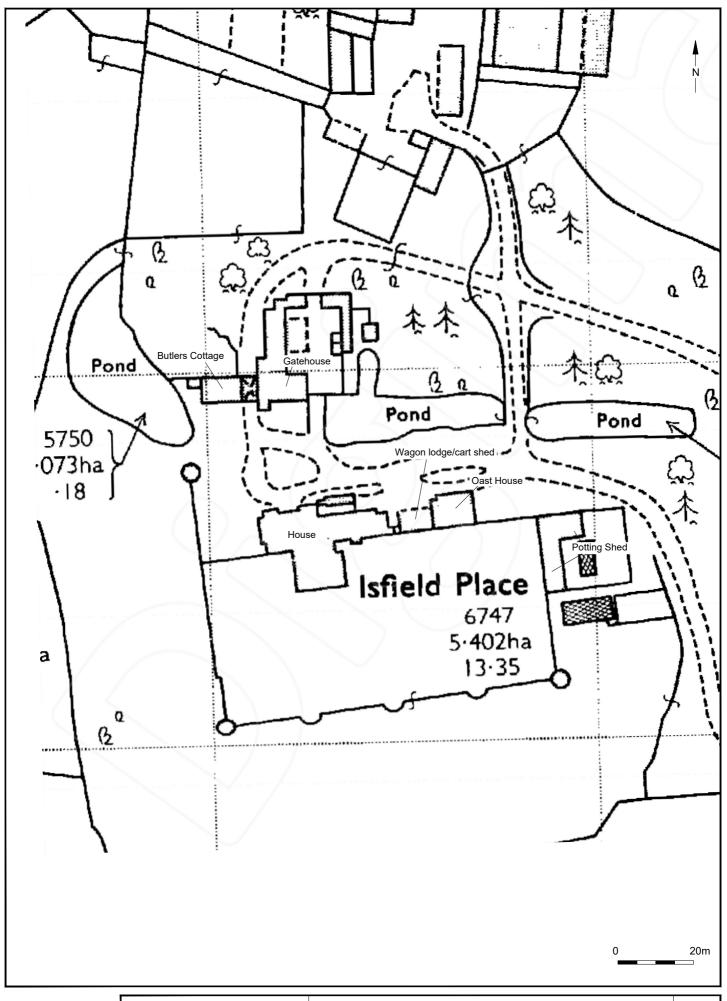
© Archaeology S	outh-East	Isfield Place Gardens, Isfield, East Sussex	
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Report Ref: 2019372	Drawn by: IR	Extract from Islied title map 1044	



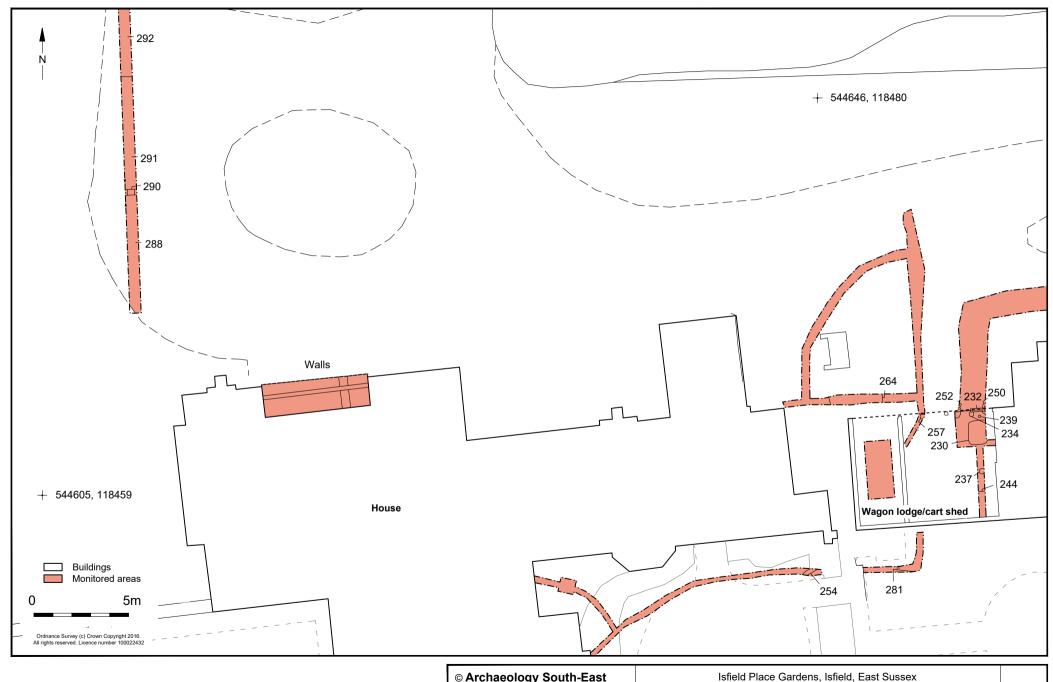
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Report Ref: 2019372	Drawn by: JR	1073 Ordinance Survey Map	



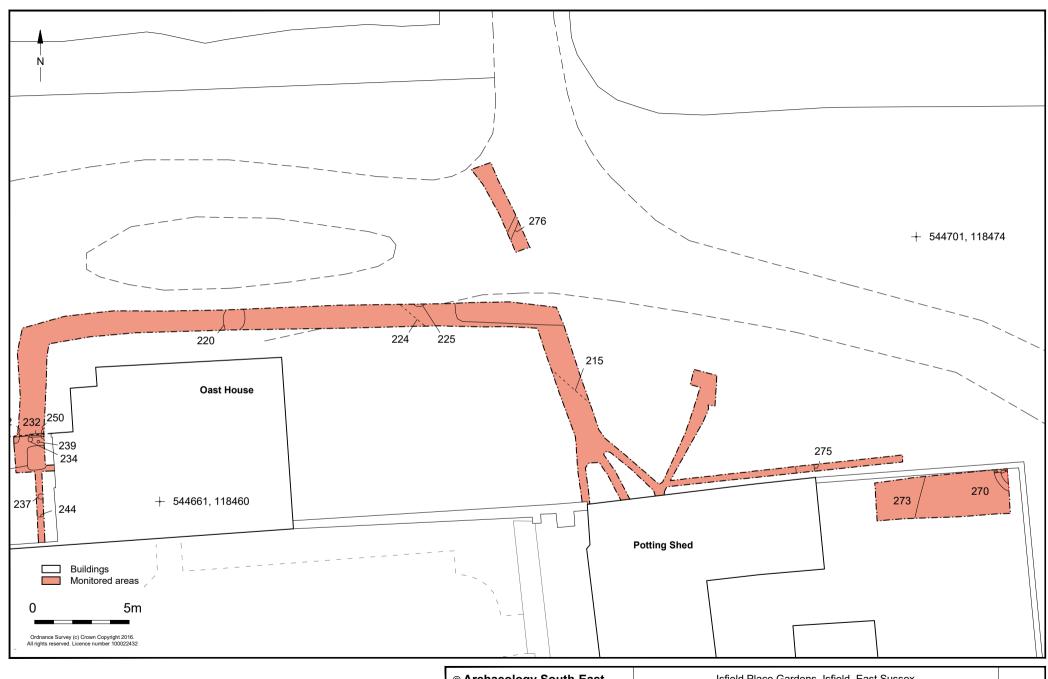
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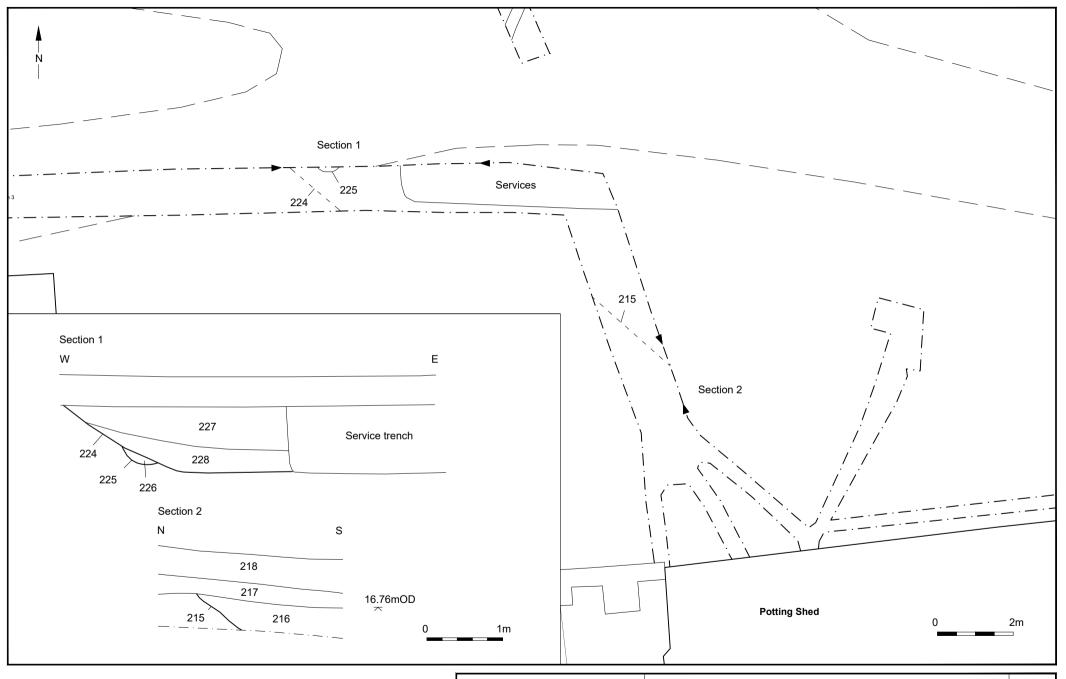
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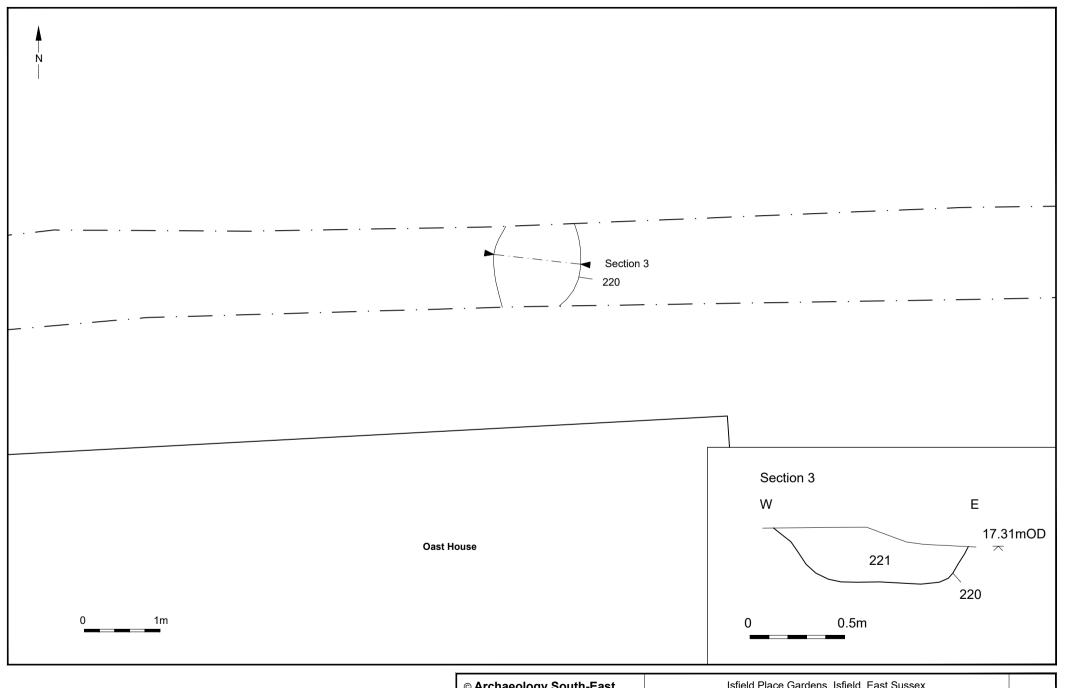
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Report Ref: 2019372	Drawn by: JR	Detail of monitored areas showing leadures (west)	



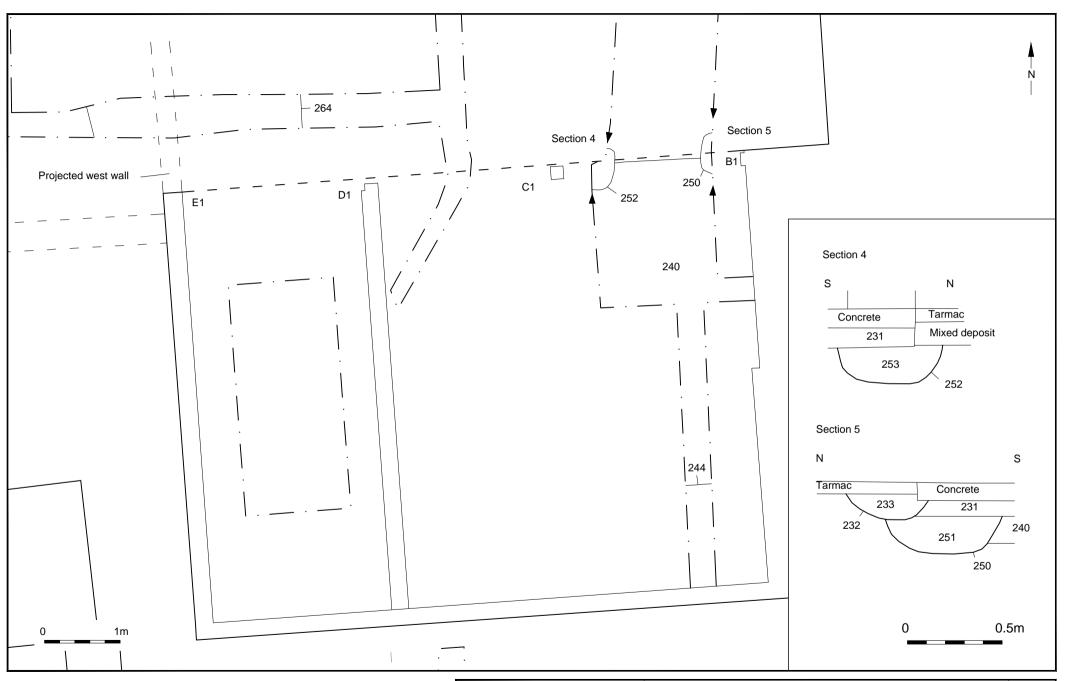
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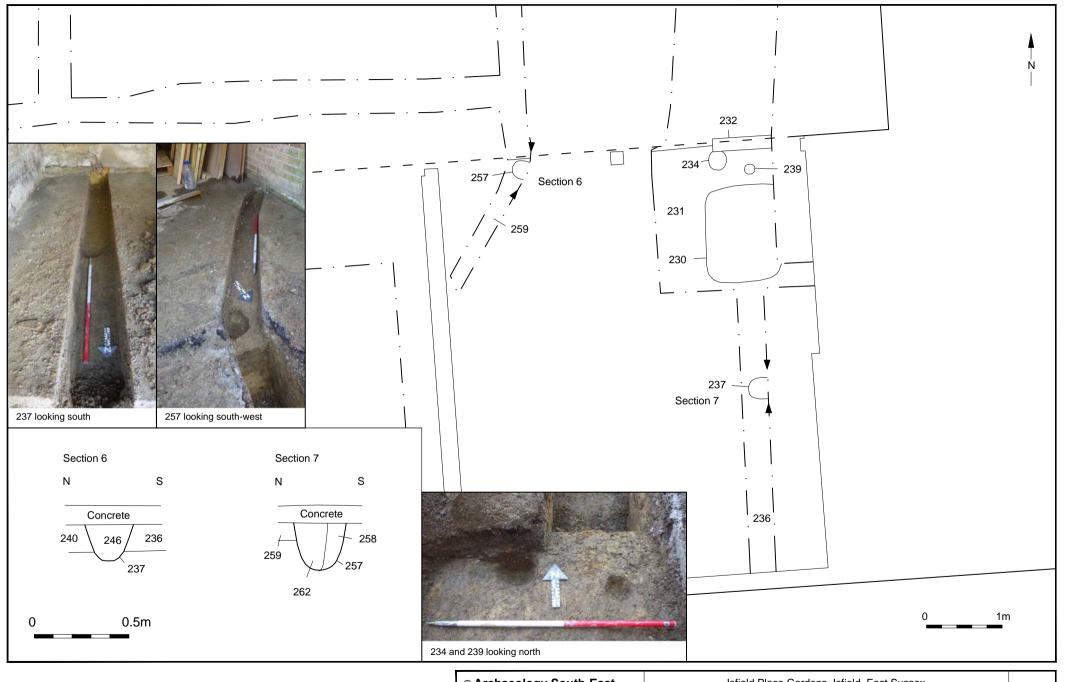
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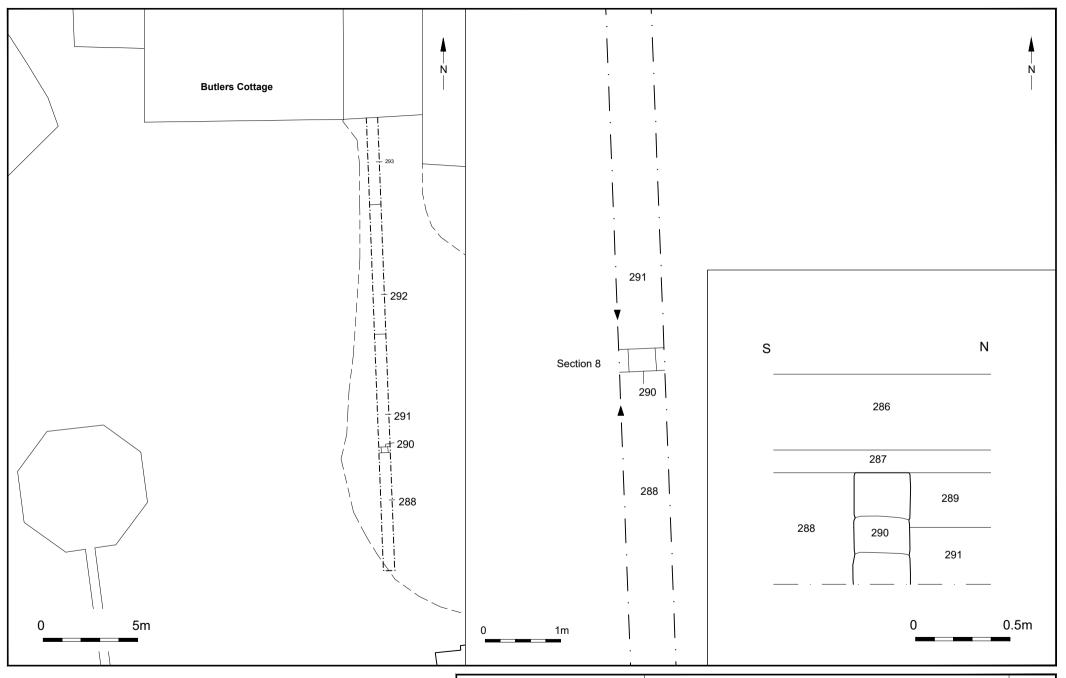
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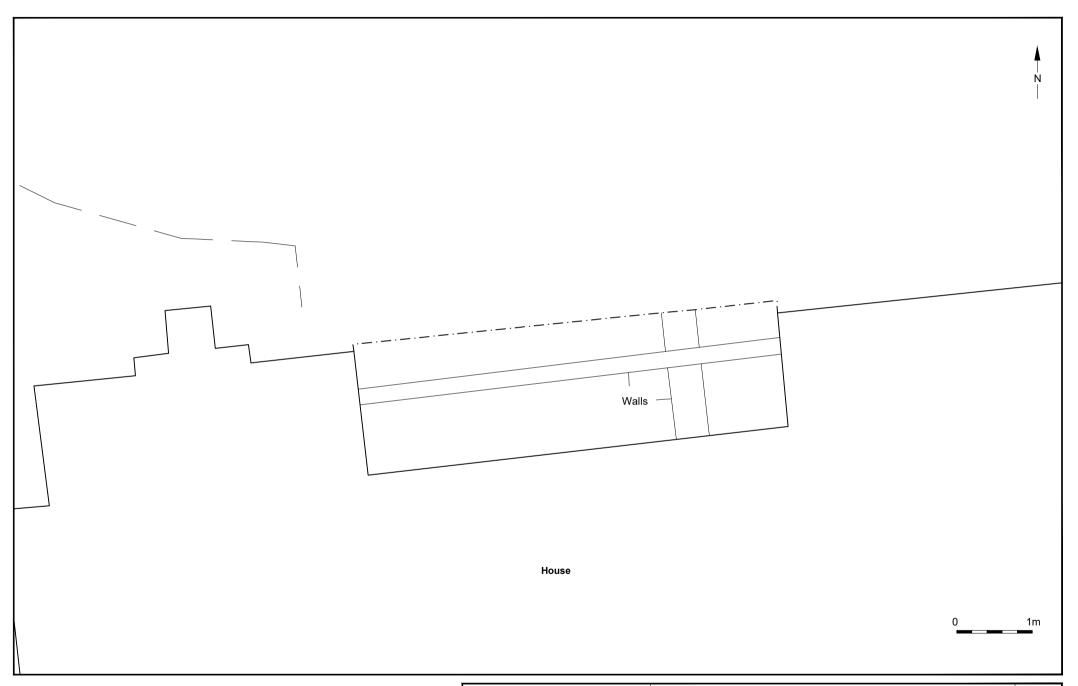
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Report Ref: 2019372	Drawn by: JR	Wagon Lodge and sections	



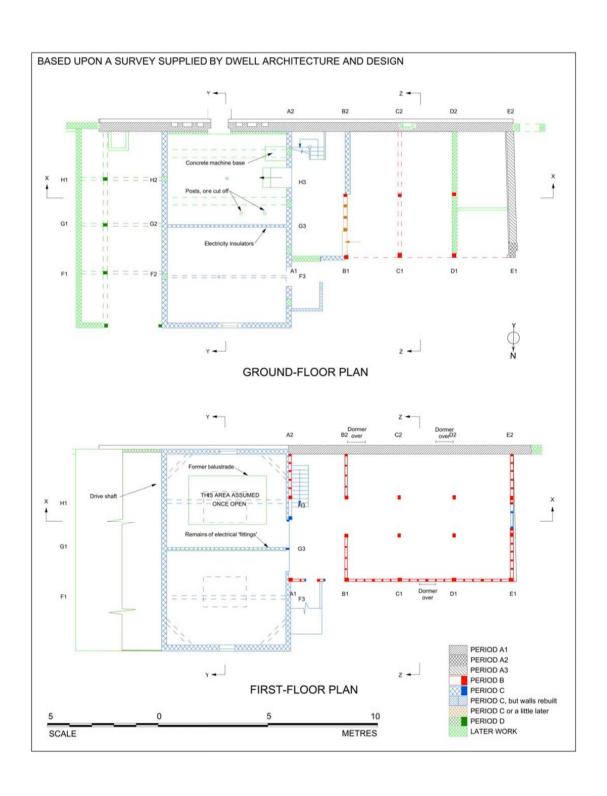
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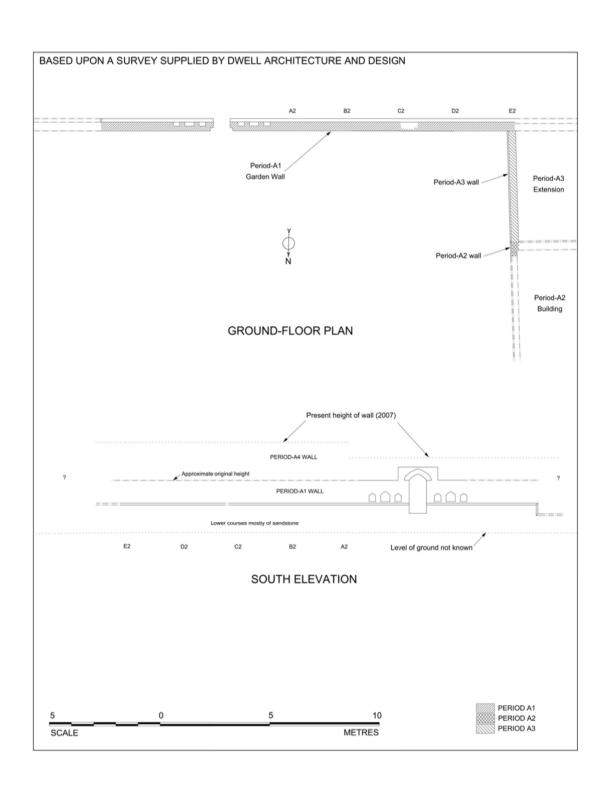
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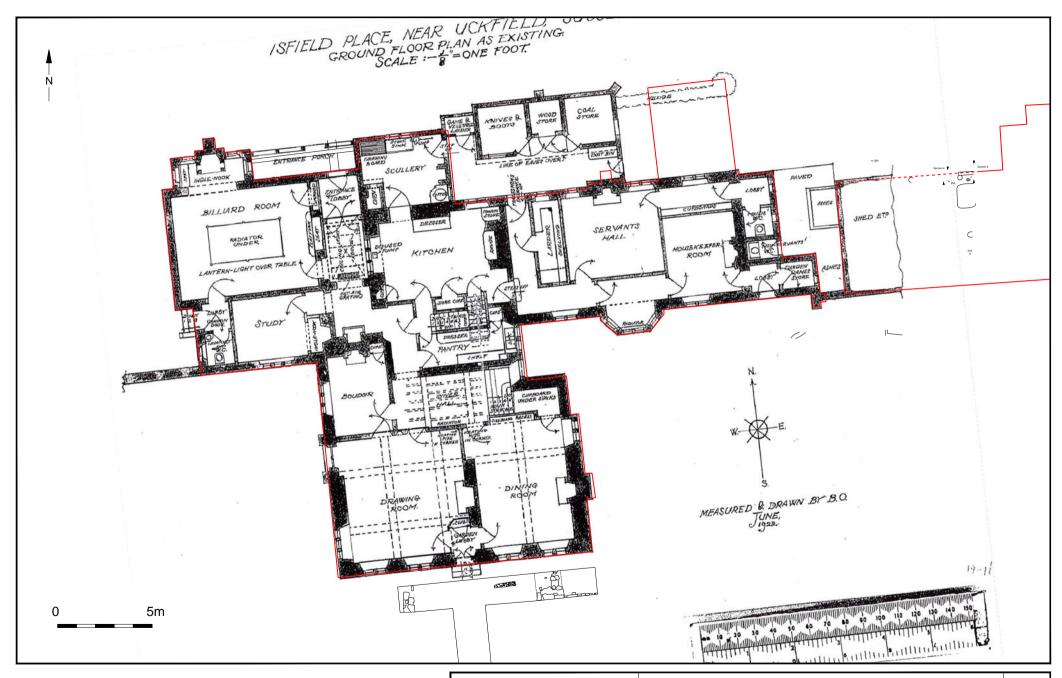
© Archaeology South-East		Isfield Place Gardens, Isfield, East Sussex	Fig. 16
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Project Ref: 170283	Aug 2020	Outbuilding in relation to west wall of lodge	1 lg. 10
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# **PLATES**



Plate 1: Potting Shed, looking south-east



Plate 2: Crushed chalk deposit



Plate 3: Wall footing contexts [206] and [207]



Plate 4: Wall footing below north wall of potting shed, from inside shed



Plate 5: Floor Deposits [211] - [212] within the potting shed



Plate 6: Ditch [215], facing east



Plate 7: Ditch [224], facing north-west



Plate 8: Pit [220]



Plate 9: Wagon Lodge / Cart Shed, looking south (2017)



Plate 10: General view of trenching around Oast House to Wagon Lodeg



Plate 11: Excavations in east side of the Wagon Lodge, looking south



Plate 12: Rear wall of Wagon Lodge, looking south, contexts [248] and [249]



Plate 13: Rear wall of Wagon Lodge, viewed from the garden looking north



Plate 14: Differentiated deposit [246] against south wall



Plate 15: Posthole [250] and beamslot [232] looking east



Plate 16: Post hole[ 252] looking south-west



Plate 17: Deposits [230] and [231], looking south

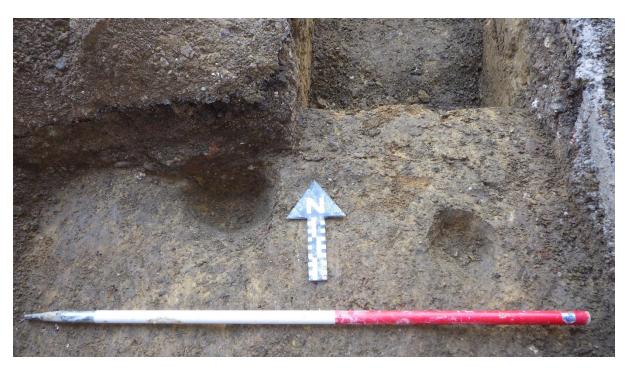


Plate 18: Postholes [234] and [239]



Plate 19: Posthole [237], looking north-east



Plate 20: Beam slot [232], looking south



Plate 21: Deposit [259] and posthole [257]



Plate 22: Posthole [257]



Plate 23: Hardcore beneath the concrete floor at the east end of the Wagon Lodge



Plate 24: Brick arch [264], viewed from the east



Plate 25: Brick arch [264], viewed from the west



Plate 26: Brick arch [264], viewed from above, facing north



Plate 27: North-south linear cut [254], viewed from above facing north



Plate 28: Brick structure [261]



Plate 29: Brick structure [266]



Plate 30: Stone capped drain, looking south-east



Plate 31: Laying of concrete in north-east corner of walled garden



Plate 32: Well [270] looking east



Plate 33: East-west service trench north of potting shed



Plate 34: Culvert [275]



Plate 35: Base of ditch [276]



Plate 36: Ditch [276] observed in eastern section



Plate 37: Wall [290], looking east



Plate 38: Wall [290], looking north



Plate 39: Deposits north of the wall [290]

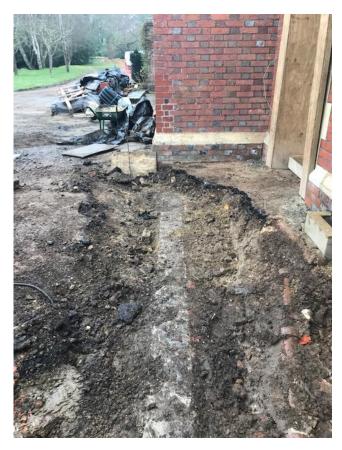


Plate 40: East-west wall footing in front of house



Plate 41: North-south wall footing in front of house

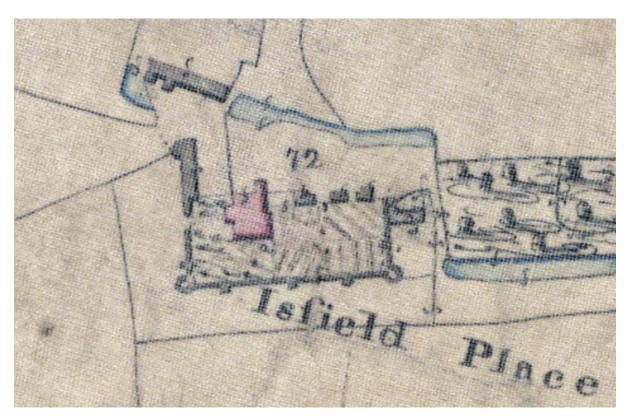


Plate 42: Isfield tithe map (from ESCC online data)

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