



**Chris Butler MIFA
Archaeological Services**



**An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
and Watching Brief
at 3a Fisher Street,
Lewes, East Sussex.**

LW/08/0528

TQ 4150 1015

by
Keith Butler PIFA

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation excavation and watching brief was carried out at the rear of 3a Fisher Street, Lewes during the groundworks for the building of a conservatory. During the reduction for this work the foundations of a small building were discovered, these were constructed with lightweight concrete, which might suggest it was a temporary structure. The chalk foundations of a wall or more likely a gully drain, with a soak away at its southern end were also found. The earliest feature was a rammed chalk floor, possibly of 17th or early 18th century date.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr Abu Taher (The Client) to carry out an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation and Watching Brief during the groundworks associated with the building work at 3a Fisher Street, Lewes, East Sussex.
- 1.2 As a result of the site's location within the Lewes Conservation Area (Fig. 1) and an Archaeologically Sensitive Area, the local planning authority placed a condition on the planning consent for the development, requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3 The site is located to the rear of 3a Fisher Street with the Crown Court building to the south and is situated within a courtyard, which is enclosed by the above buildings and brick walls (Figs. 2 and 9). The entrance to the site is from Castle Ditch Lane.
- 1.4 The geology, according to the British Geological Survey sheet 319, is Upper and Middle Chalk.
- 1.5 The fieldwork consisted firstly of the excavation of an evaluation trench, followed by an archaeological watching brief on the ground reduction over the footprint of the extension, and the excavations associated with the construction of a staircase to the lower storey of the property (Fig. 3).
- 1.6 The archaeological evaluation excavation took place on the 26th February 2009 and the watching brief was maintained on the 26th, 27th, 30th and a short visit to the site on the 31st March 2009. The fieldwork was carried out by the author, with the project being managed by Chris Butler MIFA.

2.0 Historical & Archaeological Background

- 2.1 There is little evidence for a settlement at Lewes during either prehistoric or Roman times, although stray finds from both of these periods have been made¹, and recent excavations at Lewes House have located Iron Age ditches. The finds include small groups of prehistoric flintwork, and some Roman coins and pottery. A Roman road, the London to Lewes Way², has been traced as far south as Hamsey and is presumed to continue to Lewes, although its exact course is unknown.

¹ Rudling, D. 1987 'Archaeological Survey of Lewes', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

² Margary, I.V. 1948 *Roman Ways in the Weald*, London, Phoenix House.

- 2.2** Lewes is one of the four Saxon burghs in Sussex mentioned in the 10th century Burghal Hidage, and was one of the six administrative units (Rape's) in Sussex, having a mint and a port³. The regularity of the town's layout, especially the section to the south of the High Street, has suggested that there was an element of deliberate town planning in the Saxon period⁴, and thus the site is located within the Saxon burgh⁵.
- 2.3** After the Norman conquest, Lewes was granted to William de Warenne⁶. He built a castle at the highest point in the town with two mottes, one of which was crowned by a Keep. Very little is known of the Norman town, although it is likely to have followed the plan of the earlier burgh. Recent archaeological work elsewhere in the town is beginning to find traces of settlement from this period.
- 2.4** The Cluniac Priory of St Pancras was founded by William de Warenne between 1078 and 1082, and may have been located on the site of an earlier Saxon monastic complex⁷. The Priory featured prominently in the Battle of Lewes 1264 as the Kings army was encamped there before the battle⁸. The Priory subsequently became one of the largest monastic centres in southern England by the time of the Dissolution.
- 2.5** The Medieval town was walled in the 13th century, and traces of this remain to be seen on the east side of Westgate Street. However this has been so repeatedly patched and repaired that little of the original Medieval wall is visible today. The lower parts of the northern bastion of West Gate itself and the adjacent wall survive inside, and below the floor of, the Freemasons Hall in the High Street, although the relationship of the wall with Fisher Street is unclear⁹.
- 2.6** The town has grown substantially throughout the Post Medieval period. James Edwards' map of Lewes dated 1799 shows the main settlement along the High Street, School Hill and down to Cliff High Street, with Fisher Street also being fronted with buildings on both sides. Fisher Street may have been the site of the town's fish market in the 16th century.
- 2.7** Ordnance Survey maps for 1878, 1899, 1911 and 1938 were consulted. The map regression exercise showed that there had been buildings either fully or partly fronting Fisher Street throughout the period covered, whilst the area of the current car park which was an open space in 1938 may have had buildings located there in the later 19th century.

³ Gardiner, M. 1999 'Late Saxon Sussex c.650-1066', *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore & CO. Ltd.

⁴ Houghton, J. 1987 'The Urban Landscape of Lewes', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

⁵ Harris, R. 2005 *Lewes: Historic Character Assessment Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.

⁶ Salzman, L.F. *The Victoria History of the County of Sussex Vol. 7*, London, Dawsons.

⁷ Lewis, R.A. et al. 1987 'The Priory of St. Pancras, Southover', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

⁸ Fleming, B. 1999 *The Battle of Lewes 1264*, J&KH Publishing, Hailsham.

⁹ Harris, R. 2005 *Lewes: Historic Character Assessment Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.

- 2.8** The Historic Environment Records show that there are some 90 sites and monuments (Fig. 2), together with 76 previous archaeological interventions within a 1km radius of the site. From the immediate vicinity of the site was the discovery of a francisca and a seax of 7/8th century date in 1899 whilst extending the Crown Court building (MES7001), perhaps indicating the presence of a Saxon cemetery.
- 2.9** An archaeological evaluation¹⁰ and subsequent excavation undertaken in Castle Ditch Lane, a short distance to the west of the site, located late Medieval, 15th – 16th century and Post Medieval features and deposits, including a ditch and a number of rubbish pits¹¹.

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1** The first stage of the fieldwork was the excavation of an evaluation trench (Fig. 4), which took place on the 26th February 2009. On arrival at the site, the tarmac had been broken up with a Kango electric drill, except for a small area to the north-east of the site. The spoil from this process was loaded into a wheelbarrow and then deposited into a skip.
- 3.2** Before the excavation began the cleared area was visually inspected for artefacts. A trench 6m in length by 600mm wide with an eventual depth of 450mm was excavated by hand, but because of the very compact nature of the MOT the Kango was first used to break this layer up. After a visit to the site by Chris Butler and Greg Chuter of ESCC, they suggested that the north end of the trench should be extended to 1m in width.
- 3.3** The watching brief began on the 26th March 2009, and comprised the reduction of the site by 200mm under archaeological supervision. Before this work could begin a deposit of concrete that had been dumped on this area was first transferred into the skip. The excavations were carried out using 1.5 ton 360° tracked digger with a 1m wide toothless bucket.

¹⁰ Barber, L. 2003 *An Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 1) on the former County Council store and adjacent land in Castle Ditch Lane, Lewes, East Sussex*, Archaeology South-East Report 1660.

¹¹ James, R. & Barber, L. 2004 *Castle Ditch Lane, Lewes, East Sussex: Post-excavation Assessment and Project Design*. Archaeology South-East.

- 3.4** On the 27th March 2009 a watching brief was undertaken whilst the remaining concrete surface and underlying MOT was removed under archaeological supervision, and the revealed deposits and features were cleaned. Greg Chuter visited the site and decided that there was no need to excavate any deeper because the concrete raft would protect any surviving archaeology below the 200mm level attained. He also gave the go ahead for two trenches for the supporting beams to be excavated, at the north and south end of the site under archaeological supervision.
- 3.5** On the 30th March the watching brief was maintained during the excavation at the north end of the site where a staircase to the lower floor of the property was to be constructed. The trench was excavated by machine, and was 2.6m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 2.6m. The west side of the trench was sloped to the east, with a brick retaining wall on the east side of the trench which was demolished in the area of the staircase. After breaking up a layer of concrete at a depth of about 250mm a plastic gas pipe and a ceramic drainpipe were discovered.
- 3.6** It was then decided by Mr Woodcraft (site foreman) that the rest of the trench should be dug by hand. At this point Greg Chuter was contacted and he agreed that due to the amount of disturbance the excavation of this trench needed no further archaeological supervision, other than it being recorded once the work had been completed.
- 3.7** A bench mark was located on the southern corner of the Prezzo Restaurant in the High Street (96.41m OD) and was transferred to establish a temporary bench mark (TBM) on the southern entrance gate post at the Castle Ditch Lane entrance of 95.91m OD.
- 3.8** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded using context record sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.9** A photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services and, after any further analysis, will be offered to a suitable local museum. A site reference of FSL 09 has been allocated.

4.0 Results

Evaluation Excavation

- 4.1** Context **1** was a 150mm thick layer of tarmac, with a narrow strip of MOT (Context **2**) some 300mm deep, approximately 1m in width, running along the west end below the tarmac. In places the MOT comprised two different coloured layers, with a grey layer over the red layer, but otherwise they were identical. Context **2** was above Context **3**, but across the majority of the site there was no MOT and Context **3** was directly below Context **1**.
- 4.2** Context **3** was a shallow layer, 90mm deep, of a dark brown silty clay loam with a compact consistence. It included chalk pieces up to 130mm (5%) and sandstone pieces up to 30mm (<1%). Artefacts recovered from this context comprised pottery sherds and glass, mostly of 19th century date, but with some earlier residual pieces.
- 4.3** Context **4** was a compact chalky layer, situated at the north end of the trench below Context **3**, and comprised a dark brown silty clay loam, containing frequent chalk pieces up to 40mm (80%), ceramic building material (CBM) up to 90mm (<1%), and pieces of natural flint up to 30mm (<1%). This context had the appearance of a floor, and contained fragments of 17th to mid 18th century bricks. Context **5** at the southern end of the trench was the same as Context **4**, but was very disturbed and partly overlain by Context **6** (Fig. 5: Section 1).
- 4.4** At the south end of the evaluation trench, and below Contexts **2** and **3**, was Context **6**. This was a thin layer 80mm deep of very dark brown silty clay loam with a friable consistence, containing numerous charcoal pieces and flecks (25%). The artefacts recovered from this context were of pottery, glass and CBM, all of 19th century date.
- 4.5** The excavation of the evaluation trench ceased at this point, and two sections (Fig. 5, Sections 1 & 2) were recorded.

Watching Brief

- 4.6** On opening up a larger area, the chalk floor (Context **4**) was seen to be an irregular shape, but covering an area of approximately 3m x 4m (Fig. 4). At its south end it was overlain by Context **8**, and did not extend any further east than Context **7**. Context **6** was seen to be much deeper, and was found to be up to 300mm deep at the southern end of the site.

- 4.7** Below Context **3** in the north and east parts of the site was Context **10**. This was a layer of orange-brown sandy clay with a firm consistence. The coarse components were made up of natural flint nodules up to 120mm (1%) and chalk pieces up to 100mm (5%), with the artefacts comprising pottery sherds and CBM of mid 18th century to early 19th century date.
- 4.8** A line of irregular chalk blocks forming either a wall foundation or a drain (Context **7**) was found below Context **3** and cutting into Context **10**. (Fig. 4). The feature was running on a north- south axis and was 5.4m long and 400mm wide, and when the northern beam trench was excavated it was seen to be at least 230mm deep (Fig. 5; Section 3). The chalk blocks varied in size, between 90mm and 300mm. Although the chalk blocks were not mortared, at the south end a quantity of dark grey mortar was noted lying on top of them, but may have been associated with Context **8** (Fig. 8).
- 4.9** Below Context **6** and above Context **4** at the southern end of the site, and was the remains of a floor or area of hard standing (Context **8**). This was constructed of dark grey concrete, 150mm thick, measuring 3.3m east to west and 1.2m north to south, and butting up to Context **7** at its eastern edge (Figs. 4 and 8). Similarly constructed floor levels were noted within the building at 3a Fisher Street.
- 4.10** Below Context **3** and cut into Context **10** was the foundation of a three-sided rectangular structure (Context **9**) constructed of lightweight concrete (coke or clinker used instead of the usual aggregate). The foundations on the east side were 2.4m in length, 3m long on the west side, with the south end 1.4m long (Fig. 4). The foundations varied between 240mm and 320mm in width, and when the northern beam trench was excavated, they were seen to be at least 220mm deep (Fig. 5; Section 3). The imprint of bricks could be seen on the surface of the foundations, and a lip of the concrete could be seen in places around the outer edge. There was no evidence for a floor within the structure, this area being filled by Context **10**.
- 4.11** A cut (Context **11**) was found when the southern beam trench was excavated and was below Contexts **6** and **8** and cut into Context **10**. The cut was 1m wide, but extended below Context **8** and the unexcavated part of Context **6**, so its overall dimensions could not be determined (Fig. 4). It had steep sides, and a fill of dark brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence, having coarse components of chalk flecks and pieces up to 30mm (5%). No artefacts were recovered from the fill, but is probably 19th century in date.
- 4.12** Excavation of the main trench ceased at this point as the depth had been reached for the concrete raft. Therefore no further archaeological investigation of the features encountered was possible, apart from the sections revealed by the excavation of the two beam slot trenches (Fig. 5; Sections 3 & 4).

- 4.13** In the trench that was excavated for the staircase at the north end of the site, three layers were apparent. The upper layer (Context **12**) was a layer of concrete 300mm thick. Below this was Context **13**, a 600mm deep layer of dark grey-brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence. This layer had coarse components of late 19th and early 20th century ceramic building material (20%), but no other artefacts were recovered from it.
- 4.14** Context **14** was below Context **13**, and was a dark grey-brown silty clay layer with a friable consistence, having coarse components of chalk flecks and pieces up to 300mm (95%) and ceramic building material (1%). No artefacts were recovered from this layer. All of these contexts appear to be late 19th or early 20th century made ground.
- 4.15** No further features were noted during the evaluation excavation or watching brief.

5.0 The Finds

- 5.0.1** The archaeological work produced a small assemblage of artefacts, these are summarized and quantified in Table 1.
- 5.0.2** The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. This is due to the assemblage's overall small size, late date and general lack of secure context. The assemblage does not warrant retention in a museum.

Table 1

Context	Pot	CBM*	Stone	Glass	Bone/shell	Other Finds
Surface Finds	6/92g Clay pipe 2/4g	Brick 1/1,306g	1/26g	-	-	Iron 1 24g
Context 3	77/1,577g	Brick 2/1,776g Tile 8/752g	5/249g	17/332g	Bone 5/57g Shell 4/32g	Render 3 233g Iron 2/17g W. flint 1/43g
Context 4	-	Brick 2/787g	-	-	-	-
Context 6	91/2,945g Clay pipe 1/8g	Brick 2/22g Tile 3/191g	1/35g	10/928g	Bone 3/134g Shell 2/88g	Iron 1/31g W. flint 1/43g
Context 10	5/116g Clay pipe 1/3g	Brick 2/2,434g	1/90g	-	Bone 1/5g	Iron 1/5g W. flint 1/10g

*CBM = Ceramic Building Material

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The archaeological work recovered a moderately sized assemblage of pottery from the site. The assemblage is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2

Context	Pottery	Date
Surface Finds	6 92g	1820-1830 1900-1910
Context 3	77 1.577g	Mixed 1840-1910 with low residual 1780-1830.
Context 6	91 2.945g	1830-1900
Context 10	5 116g	C1750-1830

5.1.2 The assemblage consists of generally medium to large sized sherds (to 80mm across) most of which are quite fresh, though this is probably due to the hard-fired nature of much of the pottery. Surprisingly all of the material is of the late Post-Medieval period (after 1750) with no earlier pottery being present.

5.1.3 The earliest sherds consist of two pieces of late creamware from Context **3** and five sherds of glazed red earthenware from Context **10**. These sherds can be placed in a *c.* 1770/80 to 1820 date range. The creamware is either residual or represents old vessels in use later in the 19th century though the glazed red earthenware jars from Context **10** are all of one period.

5.1.4 There are also a few blue transfer-printed pearlware plate sherds from surface collection (2/6g), Context **3** (7/39g) and Context **6** (2/51g). These can be placed in an 1810-1830 date range but may have still been in use much later in the 19th century.

5.1.5 The vast majority of the pottery can be placed in an 1840-1900/10 date range with such material dominating the assemblages from surface collection, Context **3** and Context **6**. Indeed some individual vessels appear to have sherds in both these latter contexts.

5.1.6 The most common fabric is English stoneware. Context **3** produced 51 sherds (1,166g) from various early necked mineral water bottles as well as inks and large handled 'beer' bottles with iron (tan)-dipped tops. Most vessels have either all over Bristol glaze or Bristol glazed interiors with salt-glazed exteriors. Context **6** produced 56 sherds (2,180g) of English stoneware in an identical range of vessels.

5.1.7 Other coarsewares include glazed red earthenwares, yellow ware, Sunderland-type slipware, Midlands-type butterpot, unglazed earthenware (flower pots) and a range of refined white earthenware (china) bowls. Dinner and tea wares are also present. These are dominated by transfer-printed plates, mainly in blue, but with green and brown examples also being present. Patterns consist of willow pattern, wild rose, various floral types and geometric designs. A little English porcelain is also present (7/40g) from Context **6**.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber.

- 5.2.1** A small assemblage of ceramic building material was recovered. This includes a complete brick sample from Context **10** as well as several brick fragments. The brick from Context **10** measures 225 x 110 x 47mm (2,410g) and is likely to be a flooring brick even though mortar on its upper and lower surface show it to have been used in wall construction. It is quite well formed, tempered with moderate fine/medium sand and well fired. An 18th to early 19th century date is probable.
- 5.2.2** A fragment from another floor brick was also recovered from the surface (1,306g). This piece is well formed, measures 107mm wide by 47mm tall, with a fine sandy fabric with moderate iron oxide inclusions to 4mm and hard fired. Its upper surface has notable wear. A 19th century date is probable.
- 5.2.3** Context **3** also produced a brick fragment measuring some 110mm wide by 60mm tall. The brick, a well formed and hard fired example with sparse fine sand and moderate iron oxide and slag inclusions to 6mm is of 19th- century date. The same context also produced a small (52g) fragment of a lower fired 17th to 18th century sandy brick with iron oxide and flint inclusions.
- 5.2.4** With the exception of a single fragment of 18th- century pan tile from Context **3**, all of the tile from the site consists of peg tiles. The earliest of these appear to be two pieces, quite crudely formed, tempered with moderate fine/medium sand and well fired (Contexts **3** and **6**). Both are of the early Post-Medieval period. The remaining tile is all of 18th to 19th century date and is characterised by hard-fired pieces tempered with sparse fine sand.

5.3 Foreign Stone by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1** A small assemblage of stone was recovered. The earliest piece is probably a fragment of Horsham stone roofing slab from Context **10**, though it is probably residual in this deposit. The other stone is all of 19th century date and includes Welsh slate (Context **3**: 5/249g, Context **6**: 1/35g) and a piece of coal (surface).

5.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1** A few undecorated clay pipe stem fragments were recovered. The earliest consists of an early 18th century piece from Context **6**, though Context **10** also produced a general 18th century example. Context **3** yielded two 19th century stems.

5.5 Glass by Chris Butler

- 5.5.1** A small assemblage of 27 pieces of glass was recovered. From Context **3** there were 15 pieces of dark green bottle glass, including kick-up bases and necks. These all appear to be from later 19th century mineral water bottles. Two fragments of frosted clear glass were also found in Context **3**, and may have come from glass tableware or a vase.
- 5.5.2** The glass from Context **6** comprised four base fragments from dark green mineral water bottles, four lighter green bottle fragments, a fragment from a clear glass bottle, and another fragment from the same frosted white glass item as found in Context **3**.

5.6 Bone and Shell by Chris Butler

- 5.6.1** Animal bone fragments were found in Contexts **3**, **6** and **10** (Table 1). These are from a number of small large ungulates and one bone is possibly from a large bird. Most have evidence for being sawn or chopped, and are likely to be kitchen waste.
- 5.6.2** Two fragments of oyster shell were found in Context **3**, along with two fragments of scallop. Another two fragments of oyster were recovered from Context **6**. These are also likely to be kitchen waste.

5.7 Prehistoric Flintwork by Chris Butler

- 5.7.1** Three pieces of worked flint were found during the excavation. These comprised a hard hammer-struck flake from Context **3**, a soft hammer-struck flake from Context **10**, and a possible core rejuvenation hard hammer-struck flake from Context **6**.
- 5.7.2** Although these are largely undiagnostic, the presence of a core rejuvenation piece and a soft hammer-struck flake would suggest they are more likely to be Early Neolithic in date, although they may derive from more than one period.

5.8 Metalwork by Chris Butler & Luke Barber

- 5.8.1** Three 19th century nails, a screw, and an unidentified piece of iron were found during the excavation (Table 1).

6. Discussion

- 6.1** It is surprising, considering the location of the site, that none of the artefacts recovered during the fieldwork dated to the Medieval period. Apart from the small number of residual pieces of prehistoric flintwork, all of the artefacts were dated to the later Post Medieval period, with the earliest artefacts being five pottery sherds, dating to between 1770 and 1820.
- 6.2** The lack of any earlier features or artefacts may be due to the excavation ceasing whilst still within later Post Medieval contexts, as the maximum depth of the intrusive work had been reached. The beam slot trenches also remained within later Post Medieval levels, thus possibly preserving any earlier features below this level. However it seems more likely to be due to the truncation of the ground surface during the building work undertaken in the 19th century, thus removing any evidence for earlier features.
- 6.3** Context **10** contained hints of earlier activity, producing an assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material that can be dated to the period *c.* 1750 to 1830. All of the other features are either on top of or cut into this layer, and are therefore likely to post date this timeframe.
- 6.4** Context **4** (and Context **5**) was first noted during the evaluation excavation, at which time it was thought that this was the foundation or floor of a building. When more of this layer was revealed in the later watching brief, it appeared to be a layer of rammed chalk (Fig. 6). This may have been associated with Context **8**, which it appeared to run underneath, however it is also possible that it is the remnant of an earlier building, as two fragments of 17th to mid 18th century brick were recovered from this context.
- 6.5** The line of irregular chalk blocks (Context **7**), are possibly the foundation of a wall, but are more likely to be a Post Medieval gully drain (Fig. 7), as this feature runs from the side of the house and stops at the possible soakaway pit (Context **11**). In any event this feature seems to be the eastern boundary of the concrete floor (Context **8**) and also the earlier chalk floor. However, as this feature was below the level of excavation, no artefacts were recovered from it to be able to date it.
- 6.6** The remaining features discovered during the fieldwork most likely date to the later 19th century. Context **9** was the foundation of a structure made from lightweight concrete which might suggest that it was a temporary structure (Fig. 7). This type of concrete is usually used for interior work, such as construction of floors as was noted within the property. Context **8** appeared to be the remnant of a concrete floor or surface, most of which had probably been removed when the tarmac was laid for the current car park.

6.7 The 1st Edition OS map is not sufficiently detailed to be able to establish whether there was a building or structure on this part of the site during the later 19th century, however the evidence does suggest that one or more structures may have been present. The possibility of an earlier Post Medieval building below these hints at a long history of re-development on the site. The insertion of a concrete raft over these remains should mean that their long-term preservation has been assured.

7.0 Acknowledgements

7.1 We would like to thank Mr Abu Taher for commissioning this archaeological evaluation excavation and watching brief and his on-site staff for their assistance and co-operation. Ellen Burton of Nanu Design made all the necessary arrangements for the smooth running of the project. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler and monitored for ESCC by Greg Chuter.

7.2 We would also like to thank Mr A. Woodcraft for imparting his knowledge of Victorian building techniques and Luke Barber for reporting on the pottery, ceramic building material and clay pipe. Jane Russell prepared the site plan. Jim Ball assisted with the fieldwork and along with Rachel Butler processed the artefacts for analysis.

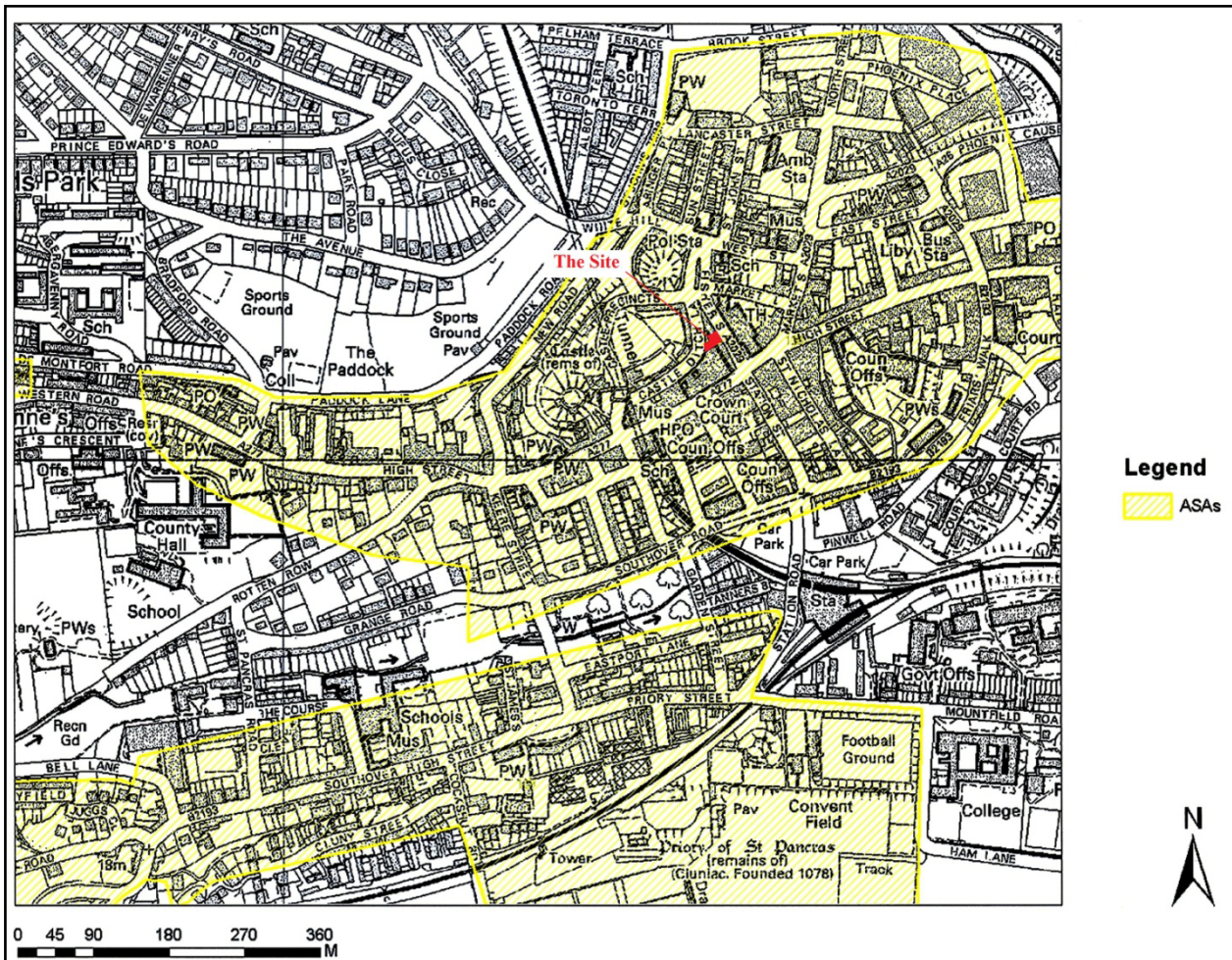


Fig. 1: 3a Fisher Street, Lewes: Site location and Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA).
Adapted from map provided by ESCC
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright
All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471

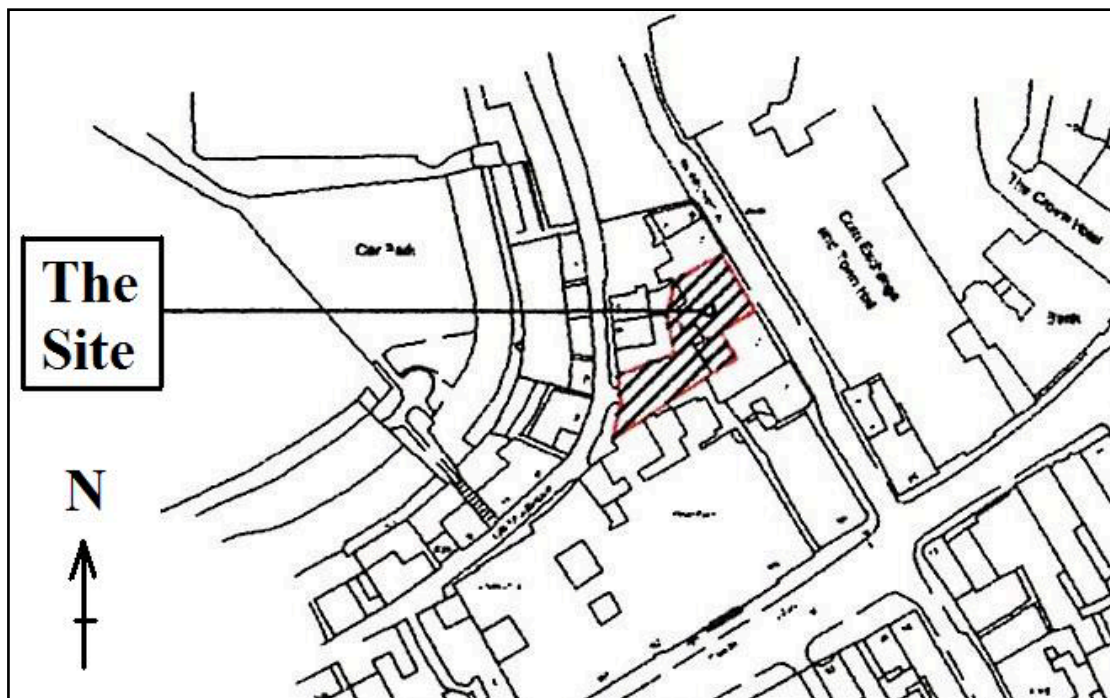


Fig. 2: 3a Fisher Street, Lewes: Site Location Plan
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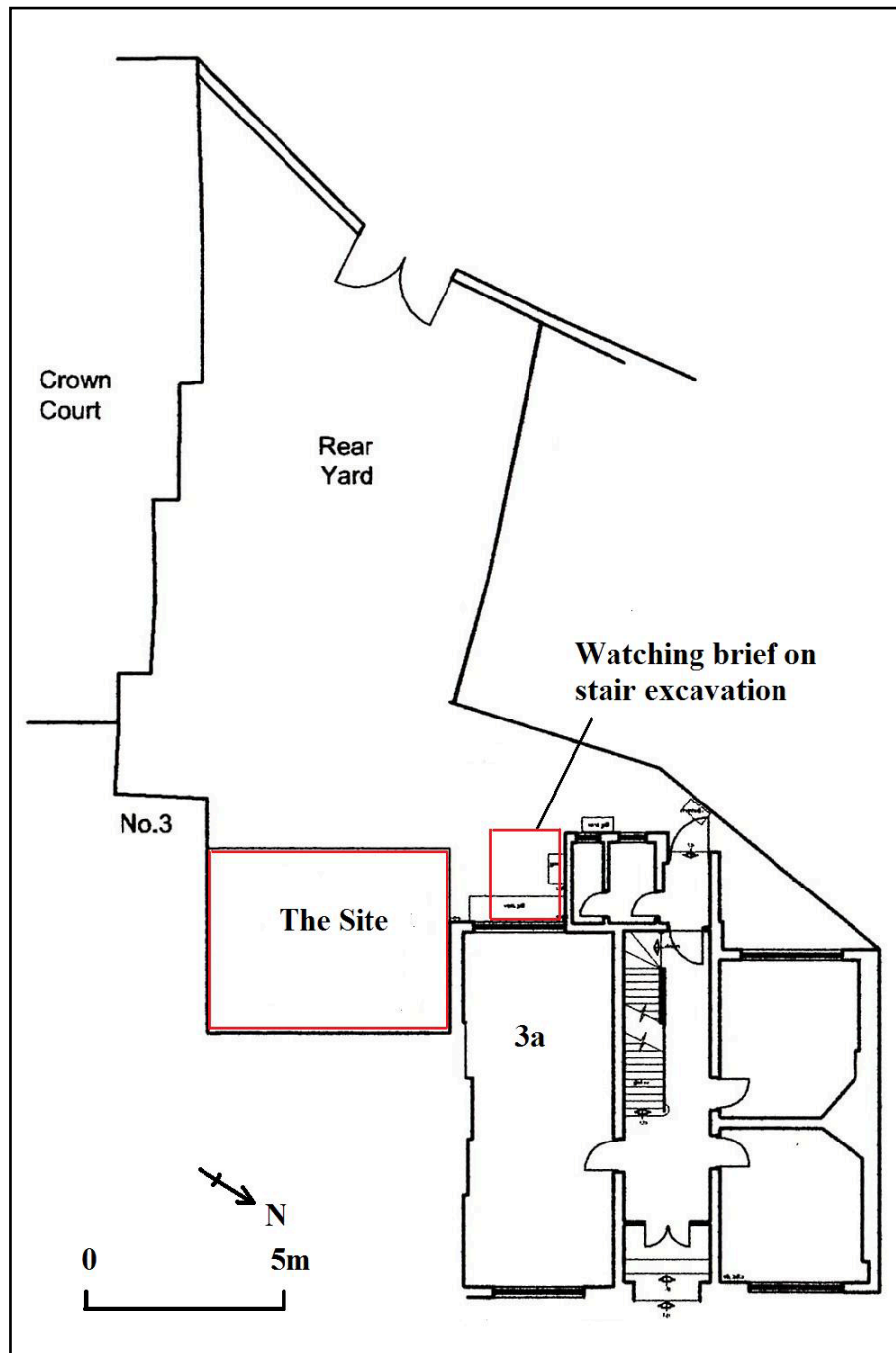


Fig. 3: 3a Fisher Street, Lewes: Site Plan, showing the location of the main trench and the watching brief on the excavation of the stairs.
(adapted from drawing provided by Nanu Design)

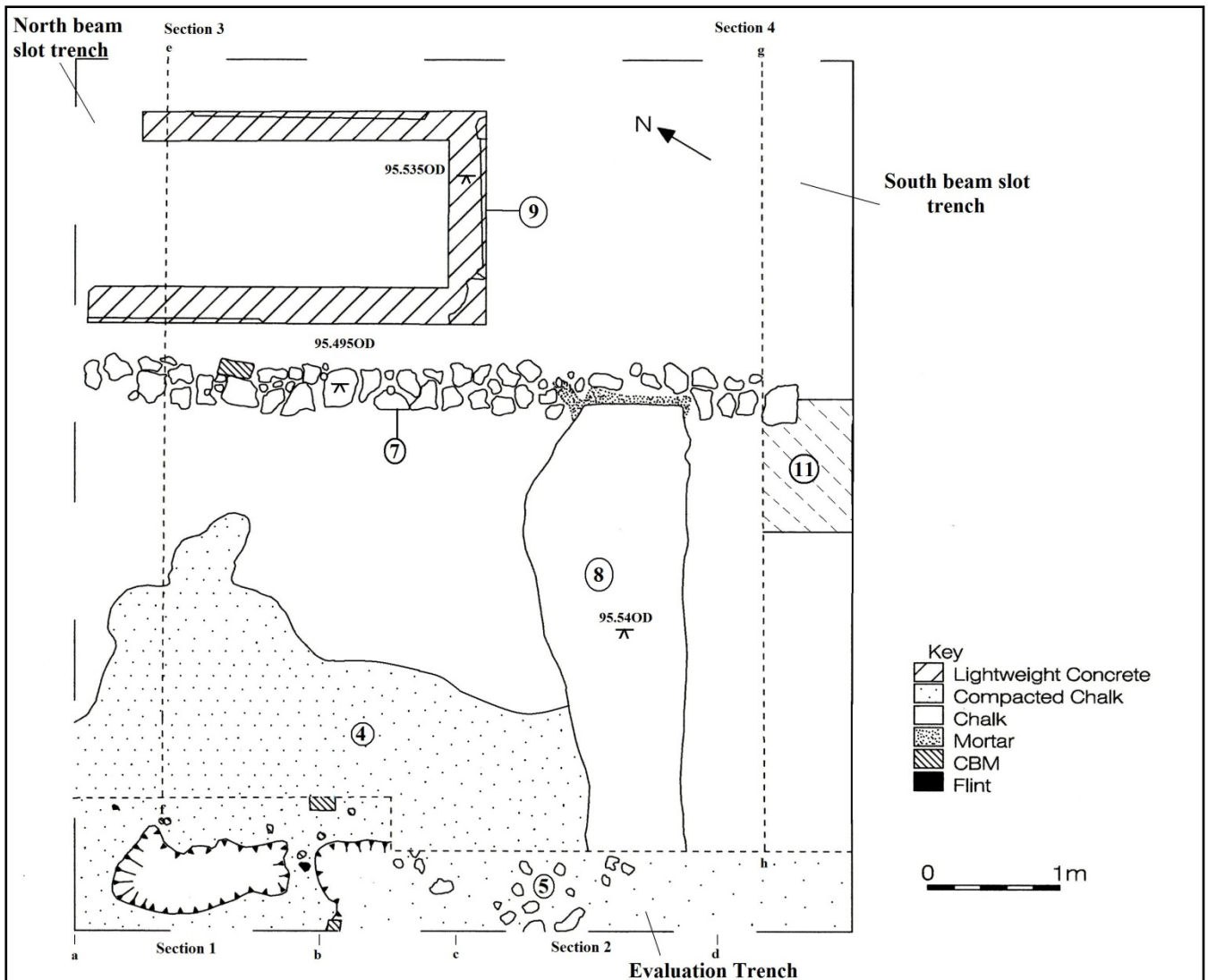


Fig. 4: 3a Fisher Street, Lewes: Plan of main trench, showing all features recorded and the location of the evaluation trench and the two beam slot trenches

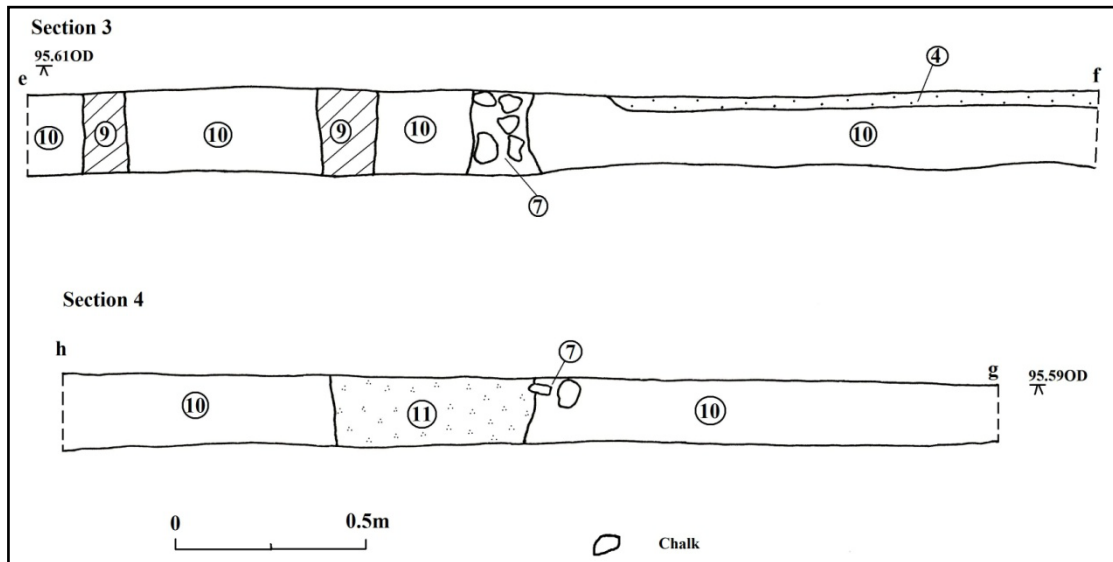
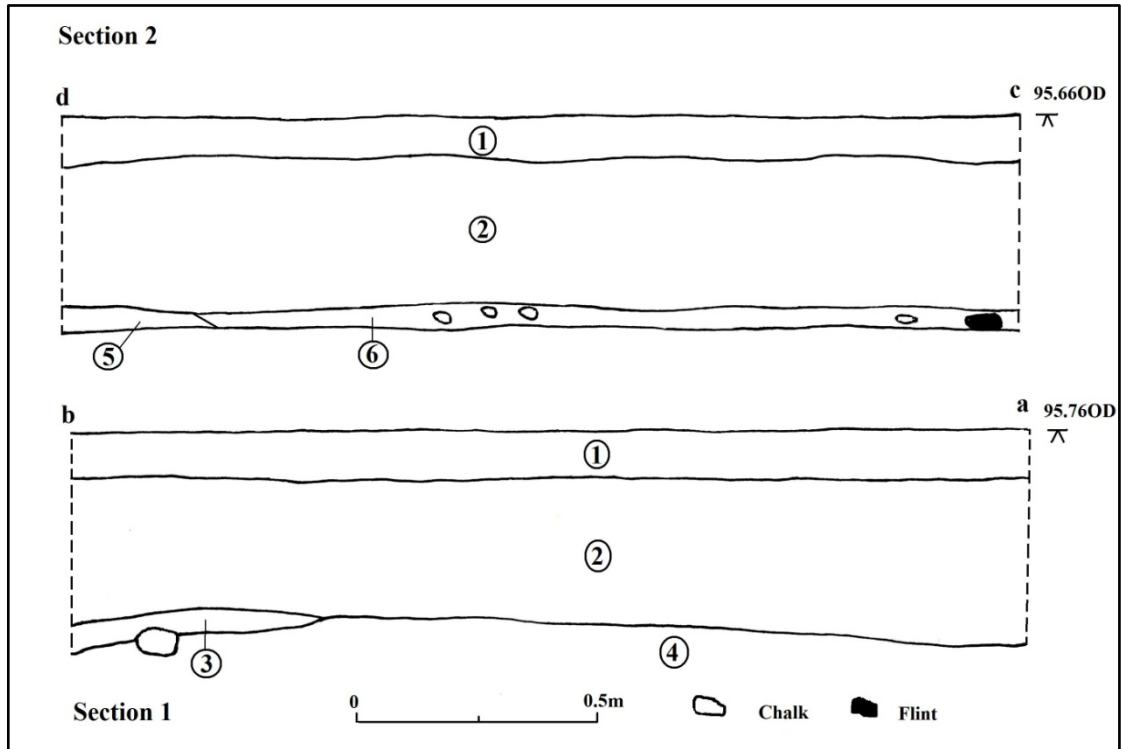


Fig. 5: 3a Fisher Street, Lewes: Sections. See text for details, and Fig.4 for locations of the sections



Fig. 6: 3a Fisher Street, Lewes: Part of the rammed chalk floor (Context 4) in the evaluation trench.



Fig. 7: 3a Fisher Street, Lewes: The chalk wall/drain (Context 7) and the foundation of the temporary building (Context 9).



Fig. 8: 3a Fisher Street, Lewes: Photograph showing the relationship between the chalk feature (Context 7) and the concrete surface (Context 8) and also showing the mortar partly overlying Context 7.



Fig. 9: 3a Fisher Street, Lewes: Location of the trench prior to the evaluation excavation

HER Summary Form

Site Code	FSL 09					
Identification Name and Address	3a Fisher Street, Lewes. East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 4150 1015					
Geology						
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 26.02.09	Excav.	WB. 26,27,30, 31.03.09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr Abu Taher					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIFA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PIFA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation excavation and watching brief was carried out at the rear of 3a Fisher Street, Lewes during the groundworks for the building of a conservatory. During the reduction for this work the foundations of a small building were discovered, these were constructed with lightweight concrete, which might suggest it was a temporary structure. The chalk foundations of a wall or more likely a gully drain, with a soak away at its southern end were also found. The earliest feature was a rammed chalk floor, possibly of 17th or early 18th century date.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society, and is a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex. He continues to run the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in his spare time.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has also recently undertaken an archaeological survey of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Field Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services

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