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**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at  
2, Roebuck Street, Hastings,  
East Sussex**

**HS/CA/10/00037 & 38**

**Project Number CBAS0171**

by  
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## ***Summary***

*During an archaeological watching brief at 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings, East Sussex, the remains of the foundations of one or two brick built buildings were discovered. These were most likely the remains of the buildings shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map (1873-5; a sample brick was taken and dated to the later 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. Also discovered were the remains of a cinder path between the southern boundary wall of the site and the southern end of the foundations. During the subsequent piling, a deposit of waterlogged blue-grey silty clay was encountered and interpreted as alluvium, possibly associated with The Bourne Stream which runs just to the east of the site.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned by Mr A. Moore (The Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land at 2, Roebuck Street, (TQ 8257 0974) to the rear of 28-31, High Street, Hastings, East Sussex (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site for the proposed development is located on the south side of Roebuck Street, and to the rear off Nos. 28-31 High Street. Roebuck Street connects the High Street with The Bourne, and is situated within Hastings Old Town. The site is situated at around 12m OD.
- 1.3 The planning policy for the site and area is contained in the Hastings Local Plan 2004<sup>1</sup>. The site is within a Conservation Area and appropriate policies apply concerning archaeological sites<sup>2</sup>. The site lies within a designated Archaeologically Sensitive Area, which covers the historic core of the Medieval and Post-Medieval town and port of Hastings.
- 1.4 As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority have required a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken during the demolition of an existing double garage with studio over, and erection of a new 3 bedroom house with integral garage (HS/CA/10/00037 & 38) (Fig. 5).
- 1.5 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 320/321), comprises Ashdown Beds with Wadhurst Clay to the east and west of the site.
- 1.6 The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprises an archaeological watching brief. A written scheme of investigation<sup>3</sup> covering was prepared and agreed with the archaeological team at East Sussex County Council, and submitted and approved by the local planning authority.
- 1.7 A watching brief was maintained during the groundworks on the 19th November 2010 and 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The fieldwork was carried out by the author, with the project being managed by Chris Butler for CBAS.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.hastings.gov.uk/local\\_plan/#local\\_plan](http://www.hastings.gov.uk/local_plan/#local_plan)

<sup>2</sup> Chapter 9b Historic Environment from page 167 including Policy C6 (page 176)

<sup>3</sup> Butler, C. 2011 *A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings, East Sussex*. CBAS.

## 2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background (Fig. 2)

- 2.1 There have been no discoveries of Palaeolithic artefacts in the immediate area of Hastings, and there are only a handful of artefacts known to have a provenance in the Weald<sup>4</sup>. Such discoveries are normally linked to specific geological conditions, such as tertiary deposits and gravels, isolated deposits of which can be found in this area.
- 2.2 There is no evidence for Mesolithic activity at the site, however the cliffs below the castle have produced numerous pieces of Mesolithic flintwork (MES872) from fissures in the rock, although the claim for these being middens<sup>5</sup> is almost certainly incorrect as the Mesolithic flintwork was intermixed with a broad range of material from different periods. Further Mesolithic flintwork has subsequently been found eroding from the same cliff face (MES7389). The evidence for this period suggests that there is a possibility of Mesolithic activity being present, although more likely as a secondary residual deposit.
- 2.3 Examples of Neolithic flintwork and pottery have been recovered from the fissures on Castle Hill and on East Hill, and hint at Neolithic activity in the area. Evidence for a prehistoric submerged forest dating to the later Neolithic period has been found on the beach at Bulverhythe to the west of Hastings, and at Pett to the east of Hastings<sup>6</sup>.
- 2.4 Amongst the Bronze Age flintwork recovered from Hastings was a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead from East Hill (MES881), whilst flintwork and pottery were recovered from the fissures below the castle. A single Bronze Age burial mound (Barrow) was recorded as existing at the south-west corner of East Hill (MES661), but has subsequently slipped over the cliff edge.
- 2.5 An Iron Age promontory hillfort (MES856) is located on East Hill, although both this and the enclosure on Castle Hill are currently undated<sup>7</sup>. Both of these hillforts/enclosures would have originally been located a little way inland from the coast, but from their hill top locations would have dominated both the coastal area, and some way inland. Iron Age pottery was found amongst the material coming from the fissures on Castle Hill, and a gold stater coin was also found nearby in 1946 (MES866).

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<sup>4</sup> Pope, M. 2003 'The Earliest Occupation of Sussex: Recent Research and Future Objectives', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 17-28, Fig. 2.8.

<sup>5</sup> Curwen, E.C. 1954 *The Archaeology of Sussex*, London, Methuen & Co. Ltd, 54.

<sup>6</sup> Marsden, P. 1987 *The Historic Shipwrecks of South-East England*, Nautical Museums Trust & Jarrold Colour Publications.

<sup>7</sup> Hamilton, S. & Manley, J. 1997 'Points of View: Prominent Enclosures in 1<sup>st</sup> Millennium BC Sussex' *Sussex Archaeological Collection* **135**, 93-112.

- 2.6** The extensive iron working site and baths at Beauport Park situated just to the north of Hastings was operating between the late 1<sup>st</sup> century and mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, and appears to have had connections with the *Classis Britannica* due to the presence of numerous tiles stamped CL BR<sup>8</sup>. It has been suggested that due to the connections with the British Fleet, the iron from Beauport Park and other production centres was being shipped out through Hastings<sup>9</sup>. Roman pottery and the numerous discoveries of Roman coins at Hastings would seem to confirm that there may have been a settlement, trading centre, and perhaps a port located nearby.
- 2.7** There is virtually no archaeological evidence for Saxon activity at Hastings, although King Offa conquered the Hæstingas in 771, and Hastingecentre appears in the Burghal Hidage in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, assessed at 500 hides<sup>10</sup>.
- 2.8** After 1066 Hastings was granted to the Count of Eu who was considered to be a safe pair of hands to control this important port of passage to Normandy<sup>11</sup>. The town was granted a charter as one of the Cinque Ports in 1154 by Henry II. The Rape of Hastings remained in the Eu family until the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, and later passed to the Earl of Richmond, before being granted to Sir John Pelham in 1412, although the castle, lordship and barony were granted to Sir Thomas Hoo. Finally in 1591 these too were conveyed to the Pelham family<sup>12</sup>.
- 2.9** There has been some debate as to the location of the first motte, as portrayed in the Bayeux Tapestry, and it is not clear whether it was sited on Castle Hill or on lower ground now submerged, where it might have been better suited to protect the fleet<sup>13</sup>. A castle appears to have existed from the late 11<sup>th</sup> century on Castle Hill, and was added to and modified in the latter half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, but by the 14<sup>th</sup> century it was suffering from coastal erosion<sup>14</sup>.
- 2.10** During the 13<sup>th</sup> century Hastings suffered severely from inundations, with much of the town being washed away and many parishes being depopulated. In 1339, and again in 1377, the town was attacked and burnt by the French; the ashes relating to these two events possibly being discovered during excavations in the High Street in 1952<sup>15</sup>. It is not clear exactly when the town wall was built, but a date at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century seems the most likely. It had three gates onto the seafront; the Sea Gate, the Water Gate and Pulpitt Gate. The Bourne Stream pierced the wall at the Water Gate, and the place it entered the sea was called the Gutsmouth.

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<sup>8</sup> Brodribb, G. & Cleere, H. 1988 'The Classis Britannica Bath-house at Beauport Park', *Britannia*, **XIX**, 217-274.

<sup>9</sup> Hodgkinson, J. 2008 *The Wealden Iron Industry*, Stroud, Tempus Publishing.

<sup>10</sup> Salzman, L.F. 1973 *Victoria County History: Sussex* Vol. **9**. Folkstone, Dawsons.

<sup>11</sup> Morris, J. (Ed) 1976 *Domesday Book: Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore.

<sup>12</sup> Salzman, L.F. 1973 *Victoria County History: Sussex* Vol. **9**. Folkstone, Dawsons.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>15</sup> Baines, J.M. 1986 *Historic Hastings*, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Cinque Ports Press Ltd.

- 2.11** A harbour existed at Hastings until the eastward drift of shingle began to block its entrance at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when much of its trade passed to Rye and Winchelsea. This reduction in its importance is demonstrated by the reduction in ships Hastings was able to provide to the fleet of the Cinque Ports, which reduced from 21 ships during the 13<sup>th</sup> century to only three ships 100 years later<sup>16</sup>. It is not certain where the Medieval harbour was situated, but it is possible that the remains of this harbour, perhaps evidenced by wooden posts, have emerged in the past after storms below the shingle beach at the Stade. The houses of the Medieval town are likely to have extended further towards the shore than the later town wall.
- 2.12** Nos 31-32 and 88-89 High Street to the west of the site are both 15<sup>th</sup> century houses (MES950 & MES978). The town wall was definitely built by the 16<sup>th</sup> century, as it is mentioned in a number of documents of this date. Many small buildings were erected outside the wall, some of which abutted on to the wall itself, although these have now been replaced by the buildings of the various streets south of the town wall.
- 2.13** The earliest map evidence comes from Samuel Cant's map of Hastings dated to 1746/8<sup>17</sup> which appears to show buildings along the south side of Roebuck Street, some of which may be on the site. A map apparently of 1769<sup>18</sup>, also shows a building situated on the site, however the source of this map is unclear, and although credited to Hastings Museum, the Archivist was not aware of it.
- 2.14** The Bourne stream had continued to run through the town and into the sea as an open and increasingly polluted sewer in the area of the Stade, until the Hastings Paving and Improvements Act of 1820 stated that the Bourne should be contracted and paved, and run in a confined course<sup>19</sup>. The mouth of the Bourne was managed by the Pier Warden. By 1850 the Bourne had become a drain, flushed from a sluice near All Saints Church, but later reverted to its natural course.
- 2.15** In the 1870's a number of huge storms removed most of the accumulated shingle beach on the Stade, right back as far as the roads, and flooded the streets and houses around the town centre. Buildings were wrecked, and in one storm a number of net shops were knocked down and washed out to sea<sup>20</sup>. Further storms in the 1880's undermined the parade in front of the High Street, wrecked groynes and washed away more net shops. Temporary defences were constructed using stakes and faggots across the top of the Stade, and a wooden groyne at Rock-a-Nore<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> Baines, J.M. 1986 *Historic Hastings*, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Cinque Ports Press Ltd.

<sup>17</sup> Hastings Museum & Art Gallery (2003.53.208)

<sup>18</sup> Peak, S. 1985 *Fishermen of Hastings*, St Leonards-on-Sea, Newsbooks, Page 8.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

- 2.16** The 1st Edition OS map (1873-5) shows the site to be occupied by one or two small buildings, with buildings fronting onto the High Street on its west side, and other buildings to the south and east. Roebuck Street is little more than a narrow passageway at this date (Fig. 3). By the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS map (1909-10) these buildings have gone and have been replaced by a small building fronting onto Roebuck Street with some smaller buildings on its south side (Fig. 4). A large industrial building is situated on the east side of the site.
- 2.17** The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS Map (1929) shows a similar situation. The building still occupies the Roebuck Street frontage, although the small buildings on its south side have gone. Structures to the rear of 31 High Street extend into the west part of the site. The situation is unchanged on the 1956 OS map, with the adjacent building on its east side labelled a 'Garage'.
- 2.18** By the 1967 OS map major changes have taken place due to the house clearances in Old Town which removed many houses in Bourne Street and All Saints Street, during the 1930's, and the construction of The Bourne in 1955, following the course of the covered Bourne Stream to the east of the site<sup>22</sup>. The building occupying the Roebuck Street frontage has now gone and the site is shown as an empty space, with the building on its east side now labelled 'Engineering Works'.
- 2.19** Although no archaeological work has been carried out in the immediate vicinity of the house, excavations carried out by HAARG in 1987 in Courthouse Street recorded medieval features including a hearth, a kiln and a later cesspit, and tenement boundary walls (EES14242), while excavations at the Pheonix Brewery in Bourne Walk recorded 11th century features sealed beneath a clay layer attributed to a flood event (EES14239).

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.rootschat.com/history/hastings/content/view/162/26/>



### **3.0 Archaeological Methodology**

- 3.1** A preliminary site visit was made by Chris Butler on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 to inspect the site and to agree a schedule of works with the Client. On arrival at the site on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010, the garage had been demolished with only the concrete foundations remaining. During this work and the levelling of the site red brick foundations of an earlier building or buildings had been revealed. These were cleaned up using hand tools, and then recorded (Fig. 6).
- 3.2** A watching brief was maintained on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011 during the boring of the holes for the pilings for the foundations of the new house. The holes were bored using a tracked boring rig with an air compressor. The boring rig used 1m lengths of drill with a diameter of 350mm (Fig. 8).
- 3.3** Each piling hole was given an individual number (Fig. 6). The original plan was to bore 15 holes to a depth of 7m, but due to the underlying geology, which was a waterlogged deposit of blue-grey silty clay, only 6 holes could be bored. The sixth hole could only be excavated to a depth of 5m before it became impossible to bore any deeper. After a discussion between the piling contractor and the Client it was decided that the holes for the pilings would have to be sleeved, a process which does not create any spoil, making further monitoring of the process impossible.
- 3.4** A 5ltr sample of the blue grey-silty clay was taken and stored in a plastic tub with a tight fitting lid for wet sieving. A sample of a brick was taken from the exposed foundations. All the spoil from the initial piling was inspected for artefacts, and also scanned with a Precision Gold metal detector.
- 3.5** A temporary bench mark was established at ground level on the north-east corner of the ex-studio, situated in the south-west corner of the site.
- 3.6** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart
- 3.7** A full 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 Ltd, and will subsequently be deposited in Hasting Museum. A site reference of RSH 10 has been allocated.

## 4.0 Results

### *Initial Recording*

- 4.1 Context 1 was the red brick foundations at the southern end of the site (Fig. 6). The structure had a length of 5.7m east to west, with the return of the foundations adjacent to the eastern boundary wall of the site being 5.8m. There was a shorter return of the brick foundations at the western side of the building, with a north to south alignment for a length of 2.3m. The foundations were constructed from red bricks, a sample measured having headers measuring 110mm with the length of the stretchers being 220mm, and a thickness of 60mm, although other bricks had different dimensions (see finds report). The bonding material was a light yellowish grey mortar.
- 4.2 The foundations running along the bottom of the eastern boundary wall survived to a height of five courses, while three courses survived on the foundations running east to west. There was a section at the western end of the east to west foundations of approximately 950mm length, where the bricks were reduced to a single course possibly suggesting an original opening. All the foundations had been laid in header bond. The northern end of the foundations had been truncated on their northern side by Context 3.
- 4.3 Context 3 was located to the north of Context 1, and was the concrete foundation to the recently demolished garage. The foundation was constructed from concrete blocks, each measuring 450mm in length with a width of 240mm and a thickness of 100mm, and were bonded with mid-grey cement.
- 4.4 Preserved within the footprint of the demolished garage was Context 2, which was the foundation of a second building (Fig. 6); however the southern end of these foundations had been truncated by Context 3. The foundations formed an approximate 'H' shape, with the length of the eastern foundation being approximately 4m with a north to south alignment. The western foundation had a surviving length of 1.8m. Connecting these foundations on a north to south axis was a short length of foundation measuring 1.7m. The foundations were constructed from red brick and bonded with the same material as Context 1. The lower course of bricks in the western foundation is laid in three rows of stretcher bond with a second course above this of header bond. The remaining foundations were of stretcher bond two bricks thick.
- 4.5 Context 4 was situated against the western face of the eastern wall of Context 2, (Fig. 6). This was a brick built drain with three bricks laid flat to the south of it. The drain was constructed of the same materials as Contexts 1 and 2, however the three bricks to the south of the feature were not mortared together.

- 4.6** Context **5** was a deposit of mid greyish-brown sandy silty loam, with a firm consistence that covered the entire site except for a thin band of Context **6** located between the southern boundary wall and the southern side of Context **1**. The deposit had inclusions of pebbles (<1%), ceramic building material (1%), sand (1%), and concrete (<1%), and appears to be made ground. This deposit was not excavated as it was below the level of impact, and covered the whole of the site with the foundations (Contexts **1**, **2** and **3**) sitting on top of it or cut into its surface. It is likely that some reduction of this deposit had already taken place prior to our attendance at the site, with many of the unstratified finds having come from this context or Context **6**.
- 4.7** Context **6** was a deposit of sandy silty clay with a very dark brown colour, and a loose consistence. This deposit had inclusions of pebbles (<1%), ceramic building material (<1%), cinders (5%), and mortar (<1%). It produced artefacts of ceramic building material, glass, oyster shell, and clay pipe stem, and was most likely a cinder path running at the back of the southern wall of the building (Context **1**). This was most likely the remains of a cinder path running along the rear of southern building.

#### *Watching brief during piling*

- 4.8** A watching brief was maintained during the drilling of six piling holes (Fig. 6). All the boreholes had a diameter of 350mm and a depth of 7m, except for Borehole **6** which could only be excavated to a depth of 5m. The depths of the various deposits are very approximate due to the small diameter of the boreholes (Appendix I), and the waterlogged nature of the underlying geology which smeared the sides of the boreholes.
- 4.9** Boreholes **1** and **2** were located in the south eastern corner of the site, 600mm in from the eastern boundary wall. The same three deposits were apparent in both of these holes (Appendix I). Context **7** was the subsoil, which was a dark brown silty clay loam, with a depth of approximately 1m. This deposit had inclusions of ceramic building material (<1%) and mortar (<1%). Below this was Context **8**; this was a firm but waterlogged deposit of mid brownish-orange silty clay. This deposit had no inclusions, and was apparent to a depth of approximately 6m. The lowermost deposit between approximately 6m and the limit of excavation was Context **9**, a deposit of orange-buff silty clay with a firm consistence, and less waterlogged than the deposit above. This deposit had inclusions of sandstone pieces up to 40mm (<1%).

- 4.10** Borehole **3** was located to the west of Borehole **2**, and had the same three deposits as in Boreholes **1** & **2**. Context **7** was the dark brown silty clay loam subsoil, with inclusions of ceramic building material (<1%) and mortar (<1%) with a depth of approximately 1.5m. Below this deposit was Context **8**, the waterlogged mid brownish orange silty clay with a thickness of approximately 3m. Context **9** was the deposit of orangey-buff silty clay.
- 4.11** Borehole **4** was located to the west of Borehole **1**, and had three deposits. Context **7** was the dark brown silty clay loam subsoil apparent in the earlier holes, with a depth of approximately 1.5m. Below this was Context **10**, to a depth of approximately 6m, and was a deposit of waterlogged blue-grey silty clay with a consistence of wet cement. At a depth of between 6m and 7m was Context **9**, the orangey-buff deposit as noted in the earlier holes.
- 4.12** Borehole **5** was located to the north of Borehole **4** and had the same three deposits. Context **7** the dark brown subsoil with a depth of approximately 1.5m to 2m. Below this was Context **10** the waterlogged blue-grey silty clay deposit, from 2m to approximately 6m, from 6m to the limit of excavation was Context **9** the orange-buff silty clay layer.
- 4.13** Borehole **6** was located in the west corner of the site with only two deposits apparent. The dark brown silty clay loam topsoil (Context **7**) with a depth of 1.5 to 2m depth, below this was Context **10** the waterlogged blue-grey silty clay layer, which was apparent from 2m to the limit of excavation at 5m depth.
- 4.14** No artefacts were recovered during the drilling of the boreholes, but a single soil sample was taken from Context **10** for processing. There were no other archaeological features or deposits noted during the watching brief.

## 5.0 The Finds.

**5.0.1** The archaeological monitoring recovered a small assemblage of artefacts, mostly from unstratified deposits, these are summarised in Table 1. The assemblage does not hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard.

**Table 1: The Finds**

Context	Pottery	Ceramic Building Material	Clay Pipe	Other	Comment
U/S	17/745g	-	4/15g	Vulcanite 1/17g Bone 1/1g Glass 4/397g Leather 1/450g Metal 6/>2kg	Later C19th – early 20 <sup>th</sup> but C17th- to 18 <sup>th</sup> - clay pipes
1	-	Brick 1/3470g	-	-	Late C18th – 19th
2	-	Peg tile 2/318g	-	Bone 1/2g Metal 2/38g	C18th – 19 <sup>th</sup>
6	-	Drain 1/25g	1/3g	Oyster 2/54g Glass 4/38g	C19th
10 (Soil sample)	-	Fragments 4/<1g	-	FF Flint 2/5g Charcoal (<1g)	Prehistoric?

### 5.1 The Pottery *by* Luke Barber

**5.1.1** On the whole the assemblage is characterised by quite fresh sherds, many of a large size (over 70mm across), suggesting they have not been subjected to repeated reworking. All of the material can be placed into a later 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date range. A typical domestic assemblage is represented with both coarsewares and, more notably, fine industrialized table, tea and sanitary wares. The latter include part of a water closet, a refined white earthenware wash basin and a green floral transfer-printed chamber pot.

**5.1.2** Coarsewares include sherds from a local glazed red earthenware jar and an English stoneware bottle. There is also a single sherd of yellow ware bowl, probably from the kitchen. Table ware includes seven sherds from blue transfer-printed plates with willow and Asiatic pheasant patterns. Three sherds of English porcelain are also present representing one tea cup and one miniature saucer (58mm diameter) stamped '10' on its base.

## **5.2 The Ceramic Building Material** by Luke Barber

**5.2.1** Two conjoining fragments from a well formed and fired peg tile with diamond peg holes was recovered from Context **2**. The tile is tempered with sparse fine sand and has fine off-white clay streaks and iron oxide pellet inclusions to 3mm. An 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date is probable. Context **6** produced a single piece of later 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century unglazed drain in a buff sandy fabric with iron oxide grits to 3mm.

**5.2.2** The brick sample from Context **1** consists of a well formed and fired frogless brick tempered with sparse fine sand and moderate iron oxide inclusions to 3mm (235 x 109 x 67mm - although others measured on-site had differing dimensions). The brick, which is covered in a dull yellow fine sandy mortar, is of probable later 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

## **5.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Luke Barber

**5.3.1** The earliest pipe fragments were recovered from unstratified deposits. These consist of two plain stem fragments of 17<sup>th</sup> century date and two more plain stem fragments of early/mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The single plain stem fragment from Context **6** is of mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

## **5.4 Metal Finds** by Chris Butler

**5.4.1** Two iron nails from Context **2**, and a number of unstratified other pieces of iron were recovered during the watching brief. One iron piece appears to be the end of a hinge strap from a door or gate, whilst the larger pieces are bars, possibly of constructional origin.

**5.4.2** Unstratified alloy finds included a large decorated gate finial, of a shallow pyramidal form with a 'squashed' disc mounted on the top; a tea strainer, 59mm diameter, with a decorative rest, but missing its handle, with a trace of silvering on surface; a desert spoon engraved WWW/STAINLESS STEEL/MANCHESTER on the handle. All of the metallic items are likely to date from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5.5 Other Material** by Luke Barber and Chris Butler

**5.5.1** Four fragments from a dark green mineral water bottle were found in Context **6**, whilst unstratified glass included the neck and lip from a dark green mineral water bottle, two thick pieces of window glass, and a light green glass jar stopper/lid. All of the glass is likely to date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> or earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**5.5.2** Sheep rib bones were recovered from Context **2** and unstratified, the former having been chapped at both ends. Two oyster shells were recovered from Context **6**.

**5.5.3** A single vulcanite internal screw stopper from a mineral water bottle was recovered from unstratified deposits. The moulded inscription is of W. FYSON & Co, Bohemia Works, St Leonards-on-Sea, a mineral water manufacturer based at the Bohemia works between 1915 and 1938.

**5.5.4** An unstratified find was the remains of a degraded leather shoe.

## **5.6 Environmental Sample**

**5.6.1** A single 5 litre soil sample was taken from Context **10** and placed in a 5 litre plastic tub with a close fitting lid. A 50% sub sample was initially processed.

**5.6.2** The sample was processed using bucket floatation, with the residue being washed through a 1mm mesh sieve. There was no flot. Once the residues were dry they were sorted by eye to extract material of archaeological and environmental interest. A magnet was also used to retrieve magnetic iron fragments from the residues.

**5.6.3** The residue produced two pieces of fire-fractured flint (5g), four small fragments of fired clay (<1g) and a small quantity of charcoal pieces and fragments (<1g). There were also a small number of very small magnetic oxide pieces.

**5.6.4** The contents of the soil sample suggest that the alluvial clay deposit represented by Context **10** contains evidence for human activity. The presence of magnetic oxide pieces suggests an Iron Age date or later, although the fired clay is too small to be dated with any confidence, and the fire-fractured flint would hint at a prehistoric date. The likelihood is that the recovery of this soil sample from the borehole represents an intermixed sample, providing only a broad dating for the activity represented.

## **6.0 Discussion**

- 6.1** The archaeological watching brief at 2 Roebuck Street produced evidence for the foundations of either one or two buildings. It is impossible to be sure as to the number of buildings, as the later cement block garage had cut through the earlier foundations destroying the evidence for the earlier building(s) in the central part of the site and therefore the relationship between the two sets of walling has been lost.
- 6.2** The brick sample taken from the wall (Context 1) suggests a date for these wall from the later 18<sup>th</sup> century to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which would suggest that these foundations belong to the buildings shown on Samuel Cants map of Hastings (1746-8) which shows some buildings on the south side of Roebuck Street that could extend on to the site, and also the map of 1769 which also shows a building there. Buildings are also shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (1873-5) and then different and more substantial buildings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS of 1909-10.
- 6.3** Whether the buildings shown on the OS maps are the same as those shown on the 18<sup>th</sup> century maps is not clear, but it is more likely that the foundations found during the watching brief are associated with the buildings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS map, which may of course have re-used earlier building materials or an older building was incorporated into the later one.
- 6.4** Between the southern boundary wall of the site and the foundations of the southern side of the foundations at the southern end of the site, there was an area of cinder rich ground this was most likely the remains of a cinder path (Context 6). This and Context 5 represent the ground surface and made ground, again probably relating to the very late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Any evidence for earlier buildings or activity at the site appears to have been removed during the building activity at this time.
- 6.5** The waterlogged deposit of bluish-grey silty clay (Context 10) would appear to be alluvium, perhaps from flooding episodes associated with the Bourne Stream which runs to the east of the site. The mixture of small artefacts and charcoal recovered from this deposit hints at prehistoric and later activity, albeit upstream of the site.



## **7.0 Acknowledgements**

- 7.1** I would like to thank Mr A. Moore for commissioning the watching brief and his on site staff for their assistance and co-operation during this project. I would also like to thank Luke Barber and Chris Butler for reporting on the artefacts. Jane Russell digitised the site plan. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler, and monitored for ESCC by Greg Chuter.

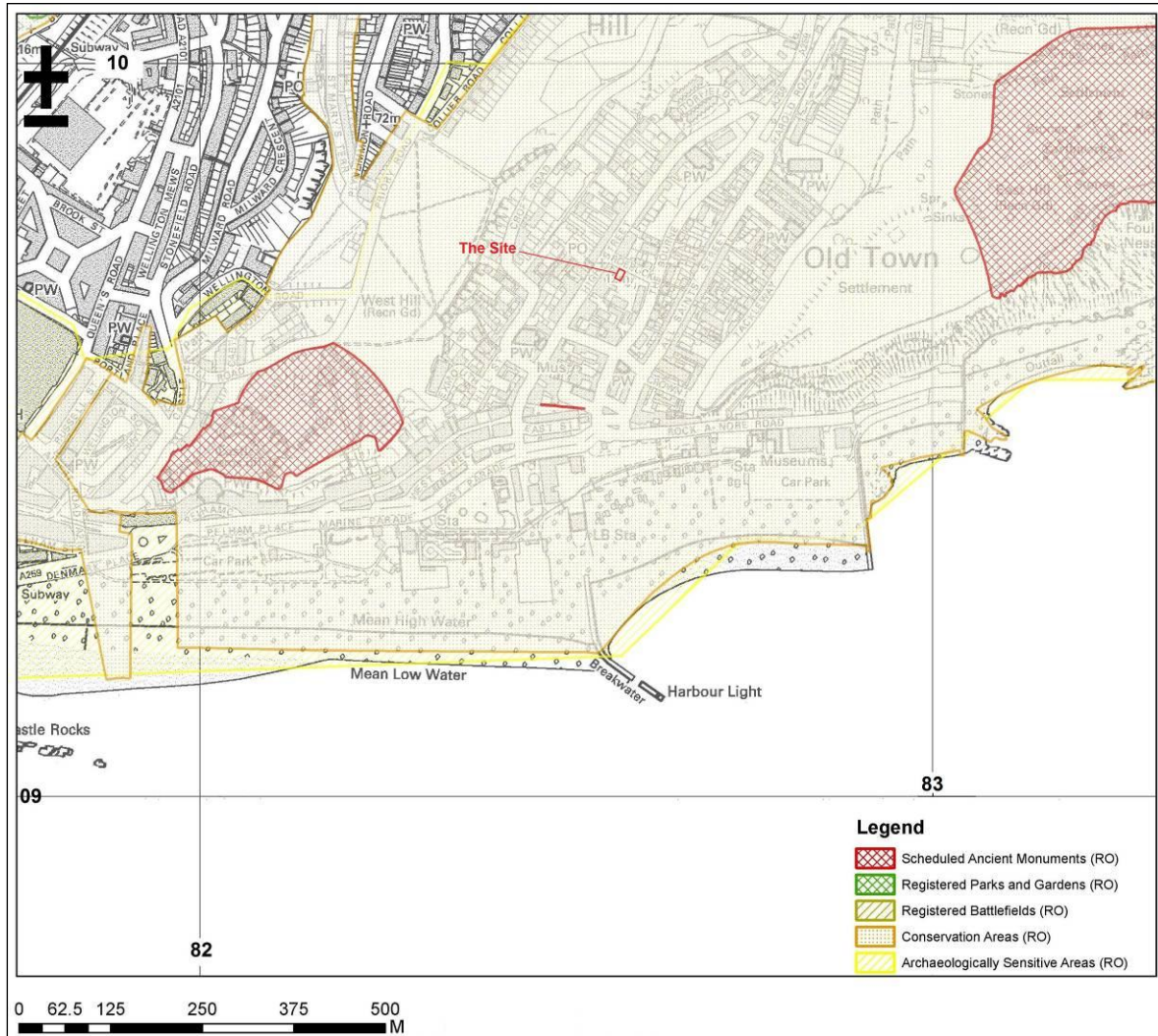


Fig. 1: 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings: Site location and Archaeologically Sensitive Areas  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)

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Fig. 3: 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map (1873-5)



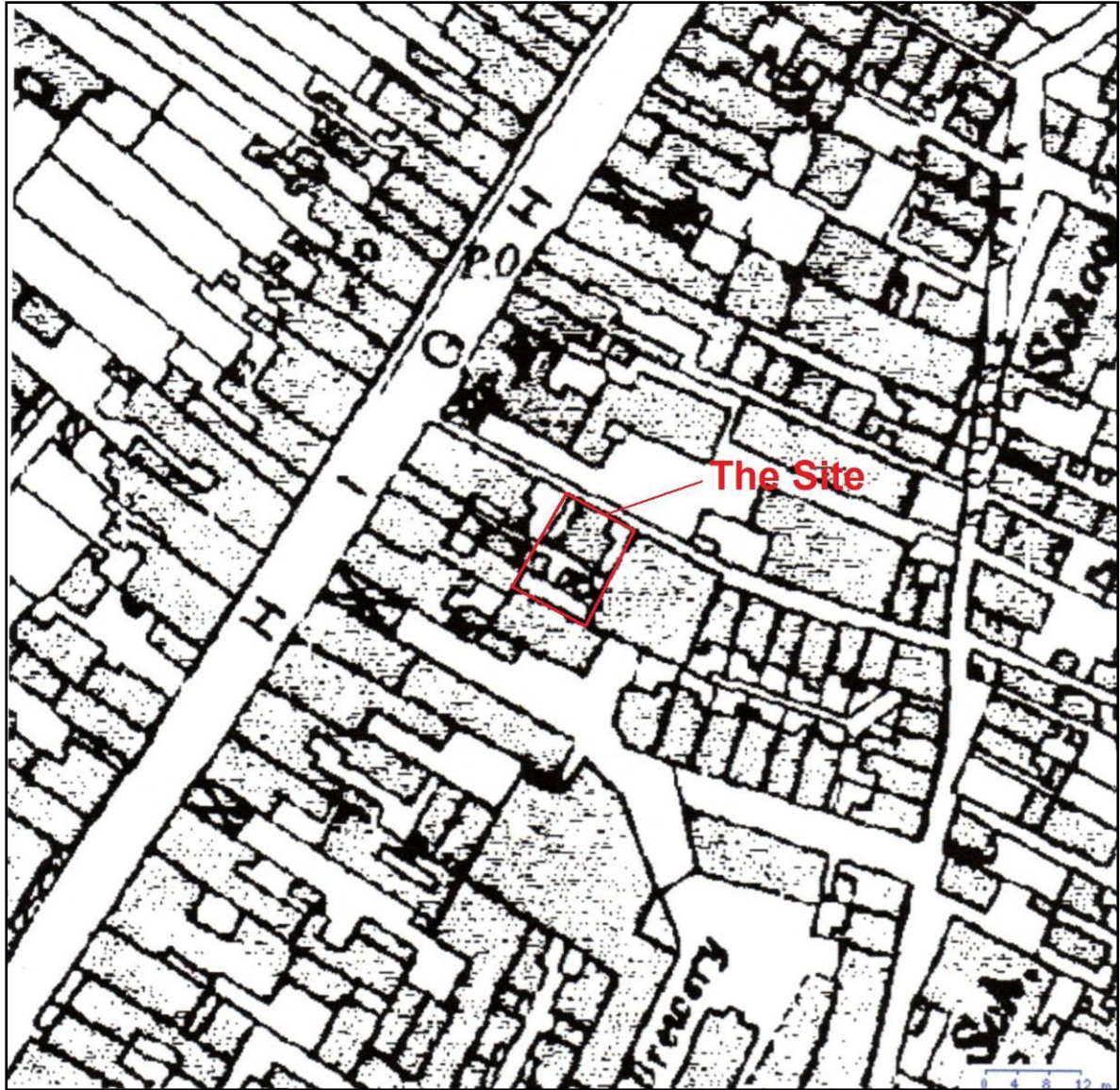


Fig. 4: 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings: 3rd Edition OS Map (1909-10)

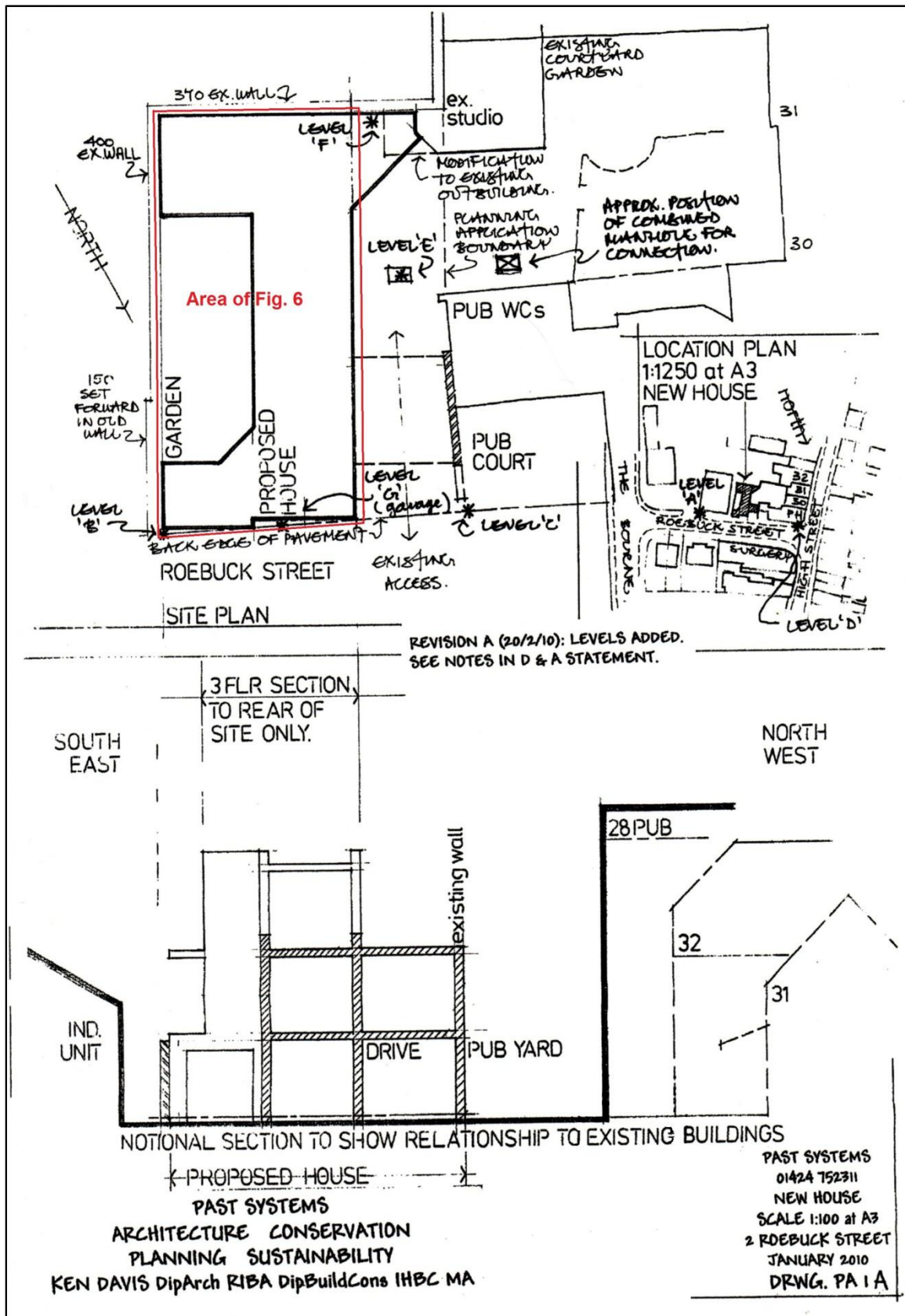


Fig. 5: 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings: Development plan showing location of Fig. 6 (adapted from architects drawing)

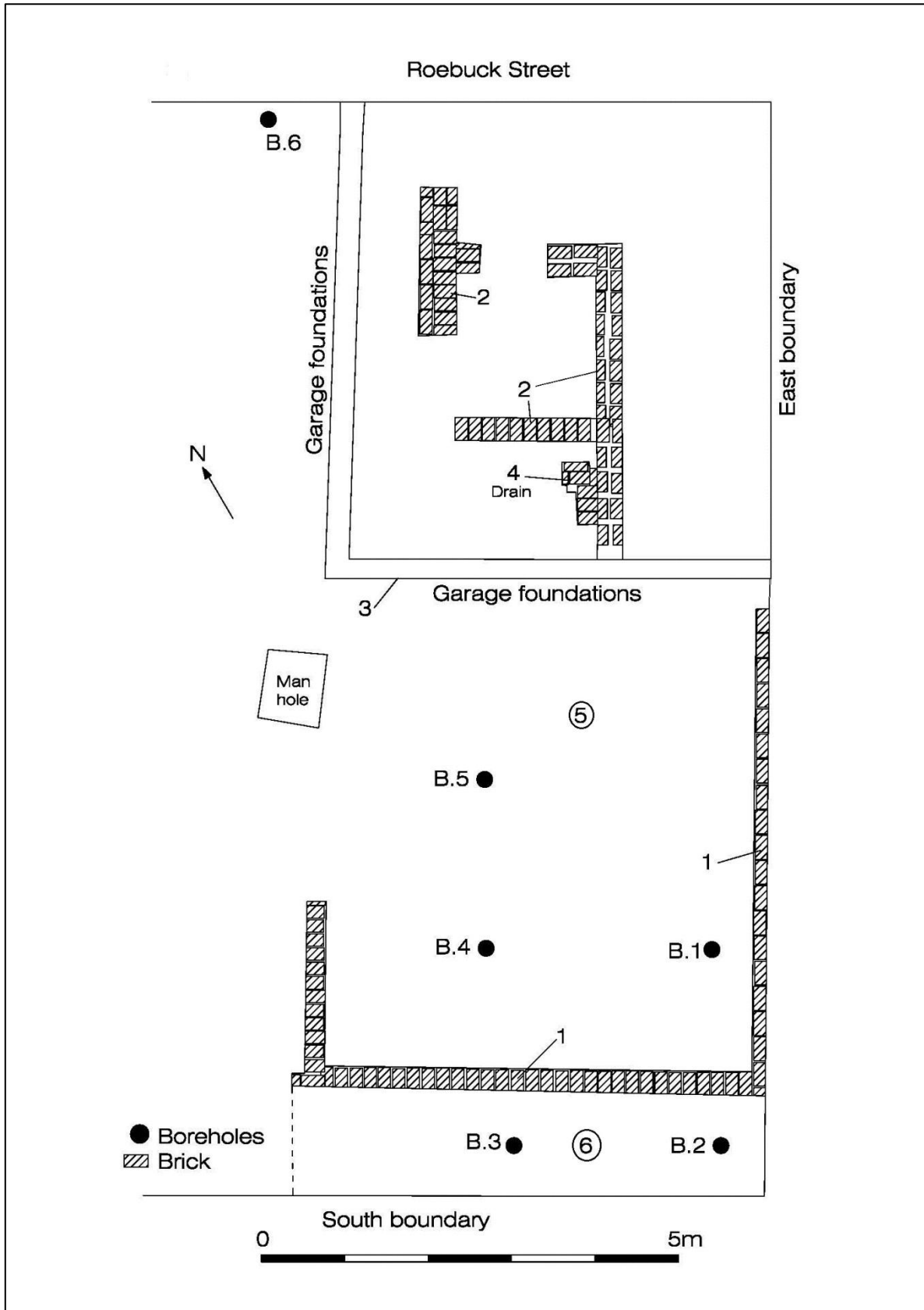


Fig. 6: 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings: Site plan showing the location of features found and the boreholes





Fig. 7: 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings: South end of site with concrete foundation of garage in foreground and brick wall (1) at rear



Fig. 8: 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings: Example borehole



**APPENDIX I Bore Holes for Piling** (See Fig. 6 for location)

**HOLE 1.**

Context	Description	Approx. Depth
7	Silty Clay Loam subsoil	0 – 1m
8	Mid orangey brown silty clay (waterlogged)	1m – 6m
9	Orange buff silty clay	6m – 7m

**HOLE 2.**

Context	Description	Approx. Depth
7	Silty clay loam subsoil	0 – 1m
8	Mid orangey brown silty clay (waterlogged)	1m - ?
9	Orangey buff silty clay	? - 7m

**HOLE 3.**

Context	Description	Approx. Depth
7	Silty clay loam subsoil	0 - 1m
8	Mid orangey brown silty clay (waterlogged)	1m – 4m
9	Orangey buff silty clay	4m – 7m

**HOLE 4.**

Context	Description	Approx. Depth
7	Silty clay loam subsoil	0 - 1.5m
10	Blue grey silty clay (waterlogged)	1.5m – 6m
9	Orangey buff silty clay	6m – 7m

**HOLE 5.**

Context	Description	Approx. Depth
7	Silty clay loam subsoil	0 – between 1.5 and 2m
10	Blue grey silty clay (waterlogged)	2m – 6m
9	Orangey buff silty clay	6m – 7m

**HOLE 6.**

Context	Description	Approx. Depth
7	Silty clay loam subsoil	0 – between 1.5 and 2m
10	Blue grey silty clay (waterlogged)	2m – 5m

## APPENDIX II Context List

<b>Context</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Sub division</b>	<b>Relationship</b>
1	Masonry	Reduction	South Foundations
2	Masonry	-//-	North Foundations
3	Masonry	-//-	Garage Foundations
4	Masonry	-//-	Drain in association with 2
5	Deposit	-//-	Subsoil after demolition
6	Deposit	-//-	Between <b>1</b> & south boundary
7	Deposit	Piling	Subsoil in all holes
8	Deposit	Piling	Below <b>7</b> in holes 1,2 & 3
9	Deposit	Piling	Below <b>8</b> in holes 1,2,3,4 & 5
10	Deposit	Piling	Below <b>7</b> in holes in 4,5 &6

## Appendix III HER Summary Form

Site Code	RSH 10					
Identification Name and Address	2, Roebuck Street, Hastings, East Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 8257 0974					
Geology	Ashdown Beds with Wadhurst Clay to east and west of the site					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <b>X</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban <b>X</b>	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 19-11-10 1& 4-2-11	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr A. Moore					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MifA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PifA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM <b>X</b>	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>During an archaeological watching brief at 2 Roebuck Street, Hastings, East Sussex, the remains of the foundations of one or two brick built buildings were discovered. These were most likely the remains of the buildings shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map (1873-5; a sample brick was taken and dated to the later 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. Also discovered were the remains of a cinder path between the southern boundary wall of the site and the southern end of the foundations. During the subsequent piling, a deposit of waterlogged blue-grey silty clay was encountered and interpreted as alluvium, possibly associated with The Bourne Stream which runs just to the east of the site.</i></p>						

## **Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd**

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 for 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.

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

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