



# **Chris Butler MfA Archaeological Services Ltd**



## **Archaeological Recording at the Site of the former Meridian Public House, Lewes, East Sussex**

**Post-Excavation Assessment and  
Project Design for Publication**

**Planning Ref: LW/10/0264 & LW/09/1156  
Project No. CBAS0105**

**NGR: 540691 110093 (centred)**

by  
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### *Summary*

*An archaeological evaluation and subsequent strip and map excavation was undertaken at the site of The Meridian, Western Road, Lewes in advance of residential redevelopment, whilst a Level 1 survey of the standing structure of The Meridian was completed before its demolition.*

*The excavations showed that the earliest occupation on the site was during the period c.1250 – c.1400, when two buildings fronted onto Western Road, which may have been on a slightly different alignment to that taken today. Occupation appears to have continued through to c.1450 – c.1550, when there was also industrial activity going on in the area to the rear of the buildings. The evidence from the Meridian site seems to support the idea of a shift in focus away from the town centre in the High Medieval period. After the 16<sup>th</sup> century the site appears to have been abandoned, and was an open area until the construction of the Meridian in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

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## **Contents:**

	<u>Page</u>
<b>1.0</b> Introduction	4
<b>2.0</b> Historical & Archaeological Background	6
<b>3.0</b> Aims and Objectives	10
<b>4.0</b> Archaeological Methodology	11
<b>5.0</b> Archaeological Results	13
<b>6.0</b> Building Survey	25
<b>7.0</b> Finds and Environmental Assessment	33
<b>8.0</b> Significance and Potential	44
<b>9.0</b> Recommendations for further work	52
<b>10.0</b> Publication and Archiving	55
<b>11.0</b> Acknowledgements	56

## **Figures:**

Fig. 1	Site location map and Archaeologically Sensitive Areas
Fig. 2	Site plan showing evaluation trenches and area excavation
Fig. 3	Monuments on HER
Fig. 4	James Edwards map of Lewes 1799
Fig. 5	J. Marchant map of Lewes 1824
Fig. 6	Tithe Map 1842
Fig. 7	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map (1873)
Fig. 8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Map (1899)
Fig. 9	3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition OS Map (1910)
Fig. 10	Plan and Elevations of The Meridian
Fig. 11	Excavation Plan – showing all features
Fig. 12	Phased Site Plan
Fig. 13	Sections D1, D2 & D3
Fig. 14	Sections A2, A3, A5, A6, A7 & A8
Fig. 15	Sections C1 & C2
Fig. 16	Sections B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7 & B9
Fig. 17	Section B1
Fig. 18	Possible Medieval buildings

## **Plates:**

Plate 1:	South Elevation of the Meridian
Plate 2:	Flint south wall of The Meridian
Plate 3:	Detail of the eastern end of south wall
Plate 4:	The two areas where the cement render had been removed
Plate 5:	Storeroom at the western end of northern elevation
Plate 6:	The bar taken from the west
Plate 7:	Hearth (99 & 107) with overlying 30
Plate 8:	Hearth (99 & 107)
Plate 9:	Sectioned hearth (99 & 107)
Plate 10:	Sectioned hearth (99)
Plate 11:	Pit 44
Plate 12:	Structure 47 & Pit 44
Plate 13:	Wall 2 and underlying features
Plate 14:	Terrace 58 and brick walls

## **Appendices:**

	<u>Page</u>
Appendix 1: Context List	79
Appendix 2: Summary of Artefacts and Spot dating	82
Appendix 3: HER Summary Form	85
Appendix 4: Costs for full analysis and publication	86

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd were commissioned by Lewis Watts of Creative Developments Ltd to carry out an evaluation excavation and building survey (Phase I) followed by a subsequent area excavation (Phase II) in advance of residential redevelopment on the former site of The Meridian, 109 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 A planning application for the demolition of the vacant public house and erection of five town houses (LW/10/0264, resubmission of LW/09/1156) was submitted to Lewes District Council, who on the advice of the Archaeology Section at ESCC acting in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Lewes District Council, requested that a programme of archaeological investigations and recording were carried out at the site.
- 1.3 The Meridian is located on the north side of Western Road, and was formerly a single storey public house with a residential property on its western side. There is a car park on the east side of the building, and hard standing to the rear with a footpath leading through to De Montfort Road. The site is centred on TQ 540691 11093, and is situated within the designated Lewes Conservation Area and is also within an Archaeologically Notification Area.
- 1.4 The initial programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a brief prepared by ESCC, comprised an archaeological evaluation excavation and building survey. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the foundations and other ground works on the potential below-ground archaeology, whilst the building survey was to provide a record of the standing building with a focus on the flint front wall of the property. A written scheme of investigation was prepared and subsequently approved by the local planning authority.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.5 Demolition of the vacant public house followed archaeological recording of the upstanding building. The principal evaluation (Phase 1) then comprised three trenches giving broad sample coverage across the site, with a cumulative length of 31m by 1.5m wide (Fig. 2). The excavation of these trenches indicated that significant archaeological deposits survived within the development footprint. Thus, in order to reduce both excavation and reporting costs, and in agreement with the County Archaeologist, a flexible approach was adopted whereby archaeological mitigation progressed straight from Phase 1 into a Phase 2 open area excavation, incorporating the area of the proposed residential development (Fig. 2). A supplementary written scheme of investigation was prepared and approved by the local planning authority.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Butler, C.2010. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation and Building Recording at The Meridian, Lewes, East Sussex*. CBAS Unpublished Report.

<sup>2</sup> Butler, C.2010. *Supplementary Written Scheme of Investigation for Phase 2 work at The Meridian, Lewes, East Sussex*. CBAS Unpublished Report.

- 1.6** The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 319), comprises Upper and Middle Chalk, with a small outcrop of Head Deposit to the north. The site lies between 44m and 46m Ordnance Datum.
- 1.7** The recording of the upstanding building was undertaken on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 by Keith Butler assisted by Jim Webster, whilst the evaluation and area excavations were carried out between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 and 28<sup>th</sup> December 2010 by Clive Meaton, assisted by Dave Atkin, Rob Wallace, Annalie Seaman and Keith Butler. The project was managed by Chris Butler MIfA and the drawings prepared by Jane Russell and Andy Bradshaw.

## 2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Figure 3 illustrates the location of sites discussed in the text below.

2.2 An unprovenanced Palaeolithic handaxe is said to have been found in Lewes (MES1631), and another was found in Mountfield Road (MES1656). A single possible Middle Palaeolithic or Early Upper Palaeolithic leaf-shaped point was found during the recent excavations at Lewes House.

2.3 There is no evidence for Mesolithic activity at the site. However, a small number of residual pieces of Mesolithic flintwork have been found during recent excavations at Lewes House and St. John's Street. The majority of the evidence for Mesolithic activity on the South Downs is found on outcrops of Clay-with-Flints, which tend to be found capping some of the highest points of the South Downs.

2.4 Evidence for Neolithic activity has been found around Lewes in the form of a fragment from a polished flint axe (MES1566), and a ground stone axe found in 1911 at Lewes Station (MES1657). Other Neolithic flintwork has also been found on recent excavations at Lewes House and St John's Street.

2.5 A large quantity of Bronze Age metalwork has been found in Lewes, including three looped palstaves found at Wallands (MES1569), a flat axe found in 1870 (MES1617), a bronze dagger (MES1618), palstaves (MES1621), a socketed spearhead (MES1633), and a founders hoard including axes and palstaves (MES1619). Bronze Age flintwork was also found on recent excavations at Lewes House and St John's Street. A possible barrow site was found at TQ 4079 1004 in 1834 when burials and pots were discovered (MES1623), and there are records of other possible burial mounds being removed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (MES1714). Iron Age activity, in the form of enclosure ditches and evidence for settlement was also found at the Lewes House site<sup>3</sup>.

2.6 There is also evidence for Roman activity in Lewes, mostly in the form of isolated artefacts<sup>4</sup>. These include coins (e.g. MES1568, MES1576, MES1610, MES1613, MES1620, MES1628, MES7176 and MES7179) and pottery (e.g. MES7180 and MES7182). A Roman road, the London to Lewes Way<sup>5</sup>, has been traced as far south as Hamsey and is presumed to continue to Lewes, although its exact course is unknown close to the town. Evidence for Roman activity has recently been found on excavations at Baxters, Lewes House and North Street<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Archaeology South East: *in prep*

<sup>4</sup> Rudling, D. 1987 'Archaeological Survey of Lewes', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

<sup>5</sup> Margary, I.V. 1948 *Roman Ways in the Weald*, London, Phoenix House.

<sup>6</sup> Chuter, G. *Pers. com.*

- 2.7** Lewes is one of the four Saxon burghs in Sussex mentioned in the 10<sup>th</sup> century Burghal Hidage, and was one of the six administrative units (Rape's) in Sussex, having a mint and a port<sup>7</sup>. The burgh was probably located at the most defensible part of the spur bounded by Westgate, Brack Mount and the top of School Hill, and then running between the High Street and Southover Road<sup>8</sup>. Despite a number of excavations around the town, there has been limited evidence found for the burgh defences, although a recent excavation at Baxters Printworks did locate the Saxon defences<sup>9</sup>.
- 2.8** 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 period<sup>10</sup>. Some inhumation and cremation burials were found in 1834 (MES7184) just to the south-east of the site, while 30 Anglo-Saxon burials were discovered during the building of a house in 1891 in Kingston Road (MES1668).
- 2.9** After the Norman conquest, Lewes was granted to William de Warenne<sup>11</sup>. He built a castle at the highest point in the town with two mottes, one of which was crowned by a Keep. Recent archaeological work elsewhere in the town has begun to unearth evidence for the Norman town, with numerous rubbish pits of this date excavated at Baxters Printworks, Lewes House and Lewes Library<sup>12</sup>.
- 2.10** 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 complex<sup>13</sup>. The Priory featured prominently in the Battle of Lewes 1264 as the King's army was encamped there before the battle<sup>14</sup>. The Priory subsequently became one of the largest monastic centres in southern England by the time of the Dissolution.
- 2.11** A Medieval hospital of St. Nicholas was founded in c.1085 and was situated just to the west of the site (MES1622). The hospital appears to have continued as an almshouse after the Priory was dissolved with 26 persons receiving aid in 1550. The site was in ruins in 1824 and all evidence for the buildings has now been removed. Excavations carried out at the site recovered evidence for a large number of Medieval burials.

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<sup>7</sup> Gardiner, M. 1999 'Late Saxon Sussex c.650-1066', *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore & CO. Ltd.

<sup>8</sup> Harris, R.B. 2005 *Lewes: Historic Urban Character Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.

<sup>9</sup> Chuter, G. *pers. com.*

<sup>10</sup> Houghton, J. 1987 'The Urban Landscape of Lewes', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

<sup>11</sup> Salzman, L.F. *The Victoria History of the County of Sussex Vol. 7*, London, Dawsons.

<sup>12</sup> Johnson, C. *pers. com.*

<sup>13</sup> Lewis, R.A. et al. 1987 'The Priory of St. Pancras, Southover', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

<sup>14</sup> Fleming, B. 1999 *The Battle of Lewes 1264*, J&KH Publishing, Hailsham.



- 2.12** There have been numerous finds of Medieval artefacts (e.g. MES1575), and features across the town, including 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pits at St Pancras House (MES7369), Evidence for Medieval activity has recently been found on excavations at Baxters, Lewes House and North Street<sup>15</sup>. Two Medieval pits dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries were found on excavations during the construction of two houses on land in East Street (MES7372)<sup>16</sup>, and an evaluation excavation at Nos. 1-2 Albion Street found residual sherds of Medieval pottery but no features of this date<sup>17</sup>. Recent excavations at 5 East Street have also found Medieval pits dating to the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Century<sup>18</sup>.
- 2.13** Very little recent archaeological work involving large scale open area excavation has been undertaken in this part of Lewes, and therefore little is known about the early development of this part of the town. In 1639 it was recorded that Western Road was in decay<sup>19</sup>. James Edwards' map of Lewes dated 1799 shows the site to be in an area of open ground (Fig. 4), and a map of Lewes by J. Marchant dated 1824 shows the same situation (Fig. 5). The Tithe map of 1842 also shows the site to be an area of open ground (Fig. 6).
- 2.14** The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (1875) shows a series of buildings now fronting onto Western Road. A larger building occupies most of the site frontage, with smaller buildings on either side (Fig. 7). The larger building was originally called 'The Canteen' and served the workers building Lewes Prison in the 1860s; later names included The Rifleman and The Pewter Pot. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map (1899) shows the site divided into two properties by a dividing wall, whilst a number of properties are now located to the north fronting onto De Montfort Road (Fig. 8).
- 2.15** By the time of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS map (1910) there has been little change, although the building on the west side of the site now appears to extend to the northern boundary of the site (Fig. 9). The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS map (1932) shows the same situation.
- 2.16** During the Second World War a number of civil defence installations were operated nearby. An air raid warden's post was established in Western Road<sup>20</sup>, and a first aid post was set up in St Anne's Hall<sup>21</sup>. A 50 person air raid shelter was situated to the rear of the County Library in St Anne's Crescent, and was recorded prior to its demolition in 2002 (EES13912).

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<sup>15</sup> Chuter, G. *Pers. com.*

<sup>16</sup> Griffin, F. 2002 Report: Archaeology South-East. no. 1561

<sup>17</sup> Griffin, N. 2004 *An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at land adjacent to Nos 1-2 Albion Street, Lewes, East Sussex*, Archaeology South-East Report no. 1880

<sup>18</sup> CBAS Report forthcoming

<sup>19</sup> Brent, C. 2004 *Pre-Georgian Lewes*, Colin Brent Books

<sup>20</sup> Butler, C. 2007 *East Sussex under Attack*, Tempus Publishing Ltd

<sup>21</sup> Elliston, R.A. 1995 *Lewes at War 1939-1945*, S.B. Publications

- 2.17** It is clear from the map evidence that the first buildings to be located on the site were constructed between 1842 and 1875, although it is possible that there buildings there prior to the first maps. The original 19<sup>th</sup> century building appears to have been largely replaced in the 1980's by the current building, although elements of the earlier building may be preserved within its fabric. Brewer Shepherd Neame, which owned the pub for 36 years, blamed its decline on changes in social attitudes, increase in beer tax and utility costs, as well as other licensing factors<sup>22</sup>.
- 2.18** The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) survey for Lewes<sup>23</sup> includes the site within Historic Urban Character Area 16 (Spital), and states that it comprises '18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development along the western continuation of High Street' and has a moderate archaeological potential giving this HUCA a Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 2.

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<sup>22</sup> Sussex Express 28/5/2010

<sup>23</sup> Harris, R.B. 2005 *Lewes: Historic Urban Character Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

**3.1** The initial aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits within the site that would be affected by the proposed development. Hence the evaluation trenches were targeted so as to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

**3.2** Furthermore, the evaluation was tasked with establishing the extent to which previous land use at the site has affected earlier archaeological deposits.

**3.3** The excavation of the evaluation trenches allowed more site specific aims and objectives to be formulated. These were agreed on site with Casper Johnson (ESCC County Archaeologist) prior to Phase 2 excavations commencing and were as follows:

- Clarify the extent, nature, date and character of the Medieval and Post Medieval remains.
- Determine what activities took place on site during the principle phases of Medieval and Post-Medieval activity.
- Establish the extent, nature, date and character of activity pre-dating and post-dating the Medieval and Post Medieval phases
- Determine the chronological framework of the site
- Establish a land use model within the chronological framework of the site, with specific emphasis on the urban development of the town and its suburbs.
- Place the site in its local context, with specific emphasis to the Medieval and Post Medieval economy of Lewes.

**3.4** In addition the Extensive Urban survey for Lewes outlines geographically discrete research frameworks for the town (Section 6) Those questions specifically pertaining to Historic Urban Character Area 16 (Spital) lay emphasis on the origins and form of the parish churches, as well as institutions such as the castle, priory, friary, hospitals, chantries and grammar school (Research Questions 13 and 18).

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Buildings Recording

4.1.1 The building survey conformed to an English Heritage Level 1 Survey<sup>24</sup> was carried out by Keith Butler PIfA and James Webster on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010, prior to the building demolition. A descriptive record was made, both externally and then internally room by room through the house, and forms the basis of the following report. Although dimensions were recorded, no drawings were made as current drawings exist for the building (Fig. 10). The designation of the rooms is that used on the architects drawings.

4.1.2 Supporting digital photographs were taken of the building during the survey (these together with a full index are contained in the archive). A descriptive and photographic record of any original or early fixtures and fittings is also contained in the archive, and these are mentioned in the descriptive record where relevant.

### 4.2 The Evaluation (Phase 1)

4.2.1 The evaluation phase of the fieldwork took place between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 following the demolition of the upstanding building. It comprised the excavation of three separate evaluation trenches (A, B & C), located so as to maximise the sample area across the site (Fig. 2). Trenches B and C measured 10m long by 1.5 m wide. Trench A was excavated in an L-shape so as to avoid a 13 tonne excavator which had been left on site after demolition was complete. Trench A measured 11m long by 1.5m wide. The 13 tonne excavator was removed shortly after the archaeological evaluation had taken place.

4.2.1 Before being excavated the area of the trenches was marked out in spray paint and then CAT scanned in order to detect any buried services, a Garrett Ace 150 metal detector was also used to scan the surface area of the trenches to retrieve metal artefacts. The excavation of the evaluation trenches was carried out using a 360 degree tracked excavator equipped with a 1.2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket.

4.2.3 Care was taken during the mechanical excavation of the evaluation trenches so as not to damage potential archaeological deposits through excessive use of the machine. All exposed sections and surfaces were inspected for archaeological features, structures or finds. Removed spoil was also scanned for the presence of unstratified finds.

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<sup>24</sup> *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practise* – English Heritage 2006

**4.2.4** Although some vertical truncation of sub surface deposits was identified during the course of the work, a number of significant archaeological features were also discovered, being present in all three trenches at shallow depths, above the formation depth of the proposed development. These features included both medieval and early post-medieval pits and post holes. Following an on-site meeting between Lewis Watts (Creative Developments Ltd), Casper Johnson (County Archaeologist for ESCC), and Chris Butler and Clive Meaton (CBAS Ltd), it was agreed that the site should be subject to an area excavation (Phase 2) encompassing the development footprint. It was decided to proceed immediately into the Phase 2 work.

### **4.3 The Excavation (Phase 2)**

**4.3.1** The area excavation was undertaken between 6<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December 2010. This second phase of work comprised mechanical excavation of the overburden down to the surface of the natural and any associated archaeological deposits. Ground reduction was carried out using a 5-tonne 360° tracked excavator equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. The excavated overburden was removed from site by lorry.

**4.3.2** Spoil from the excavations was visually inspected so as to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and a metal detector was used at regular intervals to scan spoil derived from the excavations.

**4.3.3** All archaeologically significant deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards and in accordance with the ESCC's *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation in East Sussex* dated April 2008 (Recommended Standards). Soil colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.

**4.2.4** Where appropriate, soil samples were obtained from secure contexts belonging to significant archaeological features. The samples were placed in either 5 or 10 litre plastic tubs with close fitting lids.

**4.2.5** A bench mark was located on the street facing wall of 101 Western Road, located close to the site. Its value of 45.45m Ordnance Datum was traversed onto site, and a temporary bench mark (hereafter TBM) established with a value of 45.10m Ordnance Datum. The traverse was closed with no error. All sections were levelled and are shown on the relevant sections.

**4.2.6** 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, after any further analysis as required by the ESCC County Archaeologist, will be offered to Barbican House Museum, Lewes. A site reference of MNL10 was allocated.

## 5.0 RESULTS

**5.01** The following section (5.1) provides a description of the general site stratigraphy along with a brief summary of the evaluation trenches with additional comment where the specific stratigraphy differs markedly from the norm. However a full description of the cut features along other significant archaeological deposits are discussed under the excavation results section (5.2) further below.

### 5.1 Evaluation Results

#### 5.1.1 *General Site Stratigraphy*

The overburden revealed a relatively consistent stratigraphic profile. A layer of very mixed demolition material was identified in all three trenches (Contexts **1**, **13** and **21**) measuring between 200mm and 650mm thick. These contexts related directly to the recent demolition of the former public house. For the most part the demolition material was recorded at a depth of up to 200mm below the ground surface, except where it impacted into grubbed out footing trenches relating to the recent upstanding building, in which case a depth of up to 650mm was attained. The demolition deposits overlay archaeological deposits and in places directly overlay the natural substrata, which was recorded as Contexts **7**, **20** and **25**. This formed an off white compacted chalk containing sub angular flint nodules to 200mm (1%), generally encountered from 200mm below the ground surface.

#### 5.1.2 *Trench A*

Trench A was located in the eastern half of the site (Fig. 2). It measured a total of 11m long by 1.5m wide with a maximum depth of 800mm below the ground surface and was excavated in an L-shape so as to avoid an on site obstruction. Its southern extent butted against the footing for the flint wall which formerly fronted Western Road. During the evaluation, the flint wall and its associated features were recorded as Contexts **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, and **6**. At the returning northern corner of Trench A, an undated post hole was recorded as Cut **8**, filled by **9** whilst at its eastern end a deep deposit of modern demolition material was identified, possibly relating to a former footing or service. This was recorded as Cut **10** and attained a maximum depth of 800mm below the ground surface. Otherwise, the overburden (Context **1**) was c.200mm thick and directly over the chalk (Context **7**).

Both Medieval and Post-Medieval artefacts were recovered from Trench A during the course of the evaluation.

### 5.1.3 *Trench B*

Trench B was orientated broadly northwest to southeast being located roughly in the middle of the site (Fig. 2), and measuring 10m long by 1.5m wide with a maximum depth of 600mm below the ground surface. An additional made ground deposit was identified below the demolition material (Context **13**) in Trench B. This was recorded as Context **14**, being between 300mm-400mm thick and comprising a friable mid brown sandy silty clay containing chalk nodules and flecking to 100mm (5%), sub-angular flints to 100mm (2%), occasional ceramic building material (hereafter CBM) and charcoal (<1%). Made ground deposits were generally deeper across the middle portion of the site, and the chalk was exposed from 450mm below the ground surface.

At the southeast end of Trench B a single post hole was recorded as Cut **15** (same as Cut **70**), filled by **16**. The opposite end of the trench revealed a truncated pit, Cut **44** (same as Cut **17**), filled by Contexts **18** and **19**, as well as a modern square brick structure, subsequently recorded as Context **43**.

During the course of the evaluation, both Medieval and Post-Medieval artefacts were recovered from Trench B, whilst Cut **44** was clearly identified as a Medieval pit feature.

### 5.1.4 *Trench C*

Trench C was orientated broadly northeast to southwest, measuring 10m long by 1.5m wide with a maximum depth of 1.3m (Fig. 2). Across the southwest half of the trench, demolition Context **21** was found to be up to 200mm thick and directly overlying the natural chalk, Context **25**.

At the northeast end of the trench, a large feature was revealed extending the width of the trench. It was later recorded as Cut **58**, filled in its upper levels by Context **24**, with a truncated burnt brick wall identified in its base, Context **77**. This feature was clearly impacted by modern services, recorded as Cut **23** (Same as Cut **72**) filled by Context **22**.

Finds from Trench C were of both Medieval and Post-Medieval origin, and although the large feature at its northeast end was not characterised, the pottery and CBM recovered from its fill indicated a late Medieval, or early Post-Medieval date.

## 5.2 **Excavation Results: Introduction**

5.2.1 The excavations revealed a number of features, including pits, post holes as well as several possible structures or activity areas (Fig. 11). Based on a combination of both the artefactual and stratigraphic evidence a tentative phasing plan has been established as follows; Phase I – High Medieval (c.1250 - c.1400 AD), Phase II - Transitional (c.1350 - c.1550 AD), and Phase III – Late Post-Medieval (c.1750-1925 AD). The phased site plan is shown in Figure 12 the basis for which is discussed in greater detail in Section 8 below. For the High Medieval and Transitional phases (I and II) three discrete areas of temporal and spatial conformity have been identified and the following discussion is set out in separate sections so to reflect these different areas. These are also shown on Figure 12. Late Post-Medieval and undated deposits are then discussed in their own sections, with specific features described from east to west.

## 5.3 **Excavations Results: Activity Area A - (Phase I: High Medieval c.1250 -c.1400)**

5.3.1 During the general reduction in the central area of the site it was quickly noted that a significant amount of Medieval pottery was being uncovered from just beneath the demolition layer, Context **1**. No cut features were obviously apparent and later Post Medieval material was also being recovered. Therefore, Context **26** was recorded to delineate an area of mixed, but noteworthy, finds recovery. However, continuing machine excavation revealed increasing quantities of Medieval pottery and it was decided to hand dig a 800mm wide slot through the area to try and establish any stratigraphical relationships.

5.3.2 Context **29** was up to 300mm deep, and formed a friable mid greyish brown silty clay, containing very frequent small chalk pieces to 10mm (15%). It overlay Contexts **30** & **33**, together with Cut **32**. Context **30** was up to 90mm thick, being a dark greyish brown silty clay containing frequent charcoal (2%). It was in an uncertain relationship with linear Cut **32**, which was filled by **33** a friable mid orange brown silty clay containing very frequent chalk pieces to 10mm (40%). Context **30** may be the upper disturbed part of the underlying hearth (Feature **99/107**) – See Plate 7. Finds from Contexts **29**, **30** and **33** were all dated between c.1275 – c.1400.

5.3.3 Contained to the east of linear cut feature **32** and sealed beneath Context **30**, which covered an area measuring approximately 2.3m long by 1.7m wide, an *in situ* hearth was exposed. Figure 13: Section D4, illustrates a section through the long axis of the hearth. It revealed two marked cut events, that were cut into the natural chalk (Context **7**). The earliest of which was recorded as Cut **107** measuring c.680mm long, by 500mm wide with a maximum depth of 150mm and steep shallow sides to a flat lightly irregular base. Its upper fill was Context **101**, a firm very dark yellowish red silty clay up to 50mm thick. Beneath this top burnt layer, Context **108** was recorded, up to 100mm thick and comprising a firm dark yellowish grey silty clay. Contained within Context **108** was Context **109**, a friable mid greyish brown silty clay containing sub angular flints to 50mm (50%) and very frequent pottery sherds.



- 5.3.4** The later hearth cut event was recorded as Context **99**, being sub-circular in plan with steep sides, a flat irregular base, a diameter of c.620mm and a maximum depth of 150mm. Its surface deposit comprised a series of upturned tiles set vertically, burnt to varying degrees, and laid so as to function as a grate. These were recorded as Context **98** and between the tiles a firm dark yellowish red silty clay was recorded, Context **100**. The tiles attained a maximum depth of 100mm and beneath them Context **106** was identified, being a mid yellowish grey silty clay.
- 5.3.5** The pottery recovered from Fills **101**, **108** and **109** was exclusively dated to between c.1275 and c.1375 AD, although it should be noted that the ceramic tile recovered from Contexts **98** and **100** was dated markedly later, between c.1400 – c.1550/1600 AD. However, this date range for the tile fails to conform to all other dating evidence within area A, and as such the hearth has been placed within the High Medieval period (Phase I – c.1250 – c.1400 AD).
- 5.3.6** To the east of the late Post-Medieval Context **28** (Fig. 13: Section D1), Context **31** was recorded, measuring up to 280mm deep and comprising a friable light greyish brown silty clay containing small chalk pieces to 50mm (50%). It is thought likely that Context **31** had formed a continuation of Context **29** before being impacted by the late Post-Medieval activity. Certainly Context **31** was cut by post hole Context **84**. This was sub-circular in plan measuring c.380mm in diameter and 500mm deep, with steep sides to a flat base. It was completely filled by Context **85**, a friable mid grey-brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 10mm (25%). Pottery recovered from fill Context **85** was dated between c.1300-c.1400 AD.
- 5.3.7** Once an understanding of the stratigraphy in Area A had been achieved the remaining deposits were removed by hand so as to expose any further features cut into the underlying chalk.
- 5.3.8** Linear Cut **32**, revealed in the long slot section (Fig. 13: Section D1) was found to measure up to 700mm wide, by 7000mm long and a maximum of 130mm deep. However, its edges and the depths of its deposits were frequently ephemeral and irregular, often no more than a trowel scrape deep, having been almost entirely truncated. However, its western edge was clearly noted as contiguous during the original phase of machine reduction. An additional slot was placed through the feature close to its north extent (Fig. 14: Section A7). Here the linear was recorded as Cut **86**, with a surviving width of 450mm and depth of c.150mm. The fill was Context **87**, a friable mid orange-brown sandy silty clay containing chalk pieces to 70mm (20%), sub-angular flints to 100mm (1%) and charcoal (<1%). Pottery recovered from the fill was dated to c.1275 – c.1375 AD.

- 5.3.9** At its most northerly point, the linear appeared to bulb out in a possible terminus. Although it was impossible to fully ascertain the morphology at this location as the linear was truncated by both a post medieval brick structure, Context **47** (see section 5.6.4 below) and a large pit, recorded as Cut **44** (same as **17** exposed in Trench B).
- 5.3.10** Pit **44** was sub-circular in plan with an approximate diameter of 2.2m and minimum depth of 2.2m, although the feature was not bottomed. It had steep regular sides and Figure 15: Section C1 illustrates the excavated half section through the pit. The section was recorded in three discrete episodes, following which fill deposits were 100% excavated so as to allow for deeper investigations to be undertaken safely. Its upper fill was recorded as Context **18**, which was truncated on its southern edge by brick Structure **47**, but measured up 300mm thick and formed a loose light grey brown sandy silty clay containing sub angular flints to 200mm (50%) and chalk nodules to 100mm (10%). Pottery from Context **18** was dated between c.1250 – c.1350 AD and overlay Context **40**.
- 5.3.11** Context **40** was cut on its northern side by a modern ceramic drain pipe (Context **49**). Context **40** was up to 300mm thick and comprised a friable mid brown sandy silty clay containing chalk pieces to 50mm (5%), sub-angular flints to 100mm (1%) and charcoal (<1%). Below Context **40**, Context **19** was exposed, measuring c.200mm thick and comprising a friable mid orange-brown sandy silty clay, containing chalk pieces to 50mm (5%), sub-angular flints to 80mm (1%) and charcoal (<1%) c.80mm thick. Context **41** lay below Context **40**, measuring c.200mm thick and forming a friable mid grey-brown sandy silty clay containing chalk pieces to 100mm (2%), sub-angular flints to 100 (1%) and charcoal (1%). Below **41**, Context **46** was a friable greenish grey-brown sandy silty clay containing sub-angular flints to 100mm (10%), chalk pieces to 100mm (5%) and charcoal (1%). Below **46**, Context **73** was a loose light grey-brown sandy silty clay, up to 400mm thick and containing chalk pieces to 150mm (70%), sub-angular flints to 100mm (1%) and charcoal (1%). Also below **46** was Context **45**, which attained a maximum thickness of 950mm, comprising a loose light brown sandy silty clay containing chalk pieces to 150mm (50%), and sub-angular flints to 150mm (10%).
- 5.3.12** Below **45**, Context **74** was up to 700mm thick, a loose mid grey-brown sandy silty clay containing chalk pieces to 50mm (5%), sub-angular flints to 50mm (1%) and charcoal (3%). The base of the pit was excavated no deeper than fill Context **75**, a loose mid brown sandy silty clay containing sub-angular flints to 150mm (5%) chalk pieces to 70mm (25%) and charcoal (2%). Stratigraphically, the earliest fill was Context **110**, a loose off white chalk with pieces up to 200mm (80%) and sub-angular flints to 200mm (10%). This context was between 100mm and 200mm thick, and may have formed a deliberate lining to the pit, although it may equally have represented a degraded chalk edge.

- 5.3.13** Although Pit **44** was not bottomed, probing in its base with a road pin indicated a minimum additional depth of 1.2m, which would give a minimum overall depth of 3.4m below the excavated ground surface. Furthermore, pottery recovered from Contexts **18, 40, 19, 41, 46, 73, 45, 74** and **75** all fell comfortably into the Phase I c.1250 – c.1400 AD date range.
- 5.3.14** To the east of Pit **44**, an irregular linear feature was identified (Fig. 12). This was assigned Cut **63**, being aligned broadly east to west, and notably perpendicular to the north-south linear, recorded as Contexts **32** and **86**. Cut **63** measured up to 600mm wide, by 2.2m long and up to 170mm deep. Excavation revealed it to have a deeper, more rounded terminal at its east end, with a shallower more irregular profile as it continued to the west. Figure 14: Section A6 and Figure 16: Section B5 illustrates the changing profile, although in plan Cut **63** clearly appeared as a continuous feature. It was filled by Context **64**, a compact light grey-brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 50mm (4%), sub-angular flint to 45mm (2%) and charcoal <1%). Pottery from Fill **64** was dated from c.1275 to c.1375 AD.
- 5.3.15** At the southern end of Area A, the north to south linear cut (Contexts **32/86**) was found to return to the east, forming part of the upstanding site baulk at this point. A separate cut context was generated to represent this return; Context **111**, although combined Contexts **32, 86** and **111** were almost certainly a single cut event, presumably demarcating the area of the hearth to the north and east (Fig. 12). Moreover the Medieval deposits hand excavated in Area A were also contained within the area outlined by these cuts.
- 5.3.16** The surviving depth of Cut **111** was greatest at its interface with Context **32**, on the southwest corner of Area A. At this point it was 400mm deep, and curved away for 4m towards the northeast becoming increasing shallower before becoming indistinguishable from the chalk natural. Post hole Cut **84** excavated in the hand dug slot (Fig. 13: Section D1), appeared to be a continuation of the curving Cut **111**. Similarly, post hole Cut **70** (same as Context **15** recorded in Trench B), also seemed to be on the same alignment. This post hole was sub-circular in plan, measuring c.250mm in diameter and c.100mm deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 16: Section B7). It was filled by **71** (same as **16** recorded in Trench B); a friable mid grey-brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 40mm (3%). No dating material was recovered from fill **71**, however its spatial conformity with Cuts **111** and **84** would strongly indicate a Phase I High Medieval date.
- 5.3.17** Several other features were contained within Area A, and although lacking finds had a high level of spatial correspondence with the Phase 1 c.1250 – c.1400 AD activity. Two shallow and small irregular features were identified in close proximity to Cuts **111** and **84**. These were recorded as Contexts **96a** and **96b** and were interpreted on the ground as possible truncated stake holes (Fig. 12). Similarly, immediately to the west of Cut **70**, another irregular cut was recorded as Context **68**. This was sub-rectangular in plan, with uncertain edges measuring approximately 200mm long by 100mm wide and up to 40mm deep. Although shallow its fill was recorded as **69**,

being a friable light grey-brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 30mm (2%). Approximately 3.3m to the northwest, Cut **102** was excavated. This measured 160mm wide by 180mm long by 140mm deep. It had steep sides, a rounded base and was filled by Context **103**, a loose mid brownish-grey silty clay containing chalk pieces to 15mm (1%). Further west post hole Context **104** was identified. This feature was sub-oval in plan measuring 260mm long by 210mm wide and up to 80mm deep. It had irregular step sides, an irregular flat base and was filled by Context **105**, a loose mid brownish-grey silty clay containing chalk pieces to 20mm (1%).

- 5.3.18** Interestingly, between Cuts **102** and **104**, and contained within the late Post-Medieval deposit **39** (same as Context **28**), a large number of pottery fragments were found. These sherds appeared to derive from a single pot and were recorded as Context **34** for secure finds recovery. It is possible that that they were disturbed from the upper fills of Pit **44**, becoming up cast into younger deposits during excavations of the late Post Medieval brick structure, Context **47**. Indeed, as mentioned above, Medieval artefacts were frequently mixed throughout the Post Medieval overburden within Area A.

#### **5.4** *Excavations Results: Area B - (Phase I High Medieval c.1250 - c.1400)*

- 5.4.1** Area B is located on the east side of the site (Fig. 11), where there is less dense evidence for cultural activity. However, several post holes point to the possible presence of a former building. Indeed, post hole Cuts **3**, **54**, **56** and **65** potentially form the four corners of a rectangular structure, whilst surrounding features, including several beneath the flint wall footings formerly fronting Western Road which may also form part of this phase of activity or building.

- 5.4.2** Together, post hole Cuts **3**, **54**, **56** and **65** may represent the four corners of a broadly rectangular structure, measuring between 3.5m and c.3.7m on its long axis and c. 1.9m on its short axis (Fig. 12). Cut **3** was sub-circular in plan, measuring c.350mm in diameter and 200mm in depth, with steep sides to a flat base (Fig.14: Profile A2). It was filled by Context **4**, a loose light brownish-grey silty clay containing to 20mm

(10%), sub-angular flints to 40mm (1%) and charcoal (1%). To the north-east post hole Cut **54** was sub-oval in plan measuring 470mm long by 400mm wide with a maximum depth of c.170mm and steep sides to a flat irregular base (Fig. 16: Section B3). It was filled by Context **55**, a friable mid brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 50mm (30%), sub angular flints to 50mm (2%) and charcoal (1%). To the northwest post hole Cut **56** was sub-oval in plan measuring c.280mm long by c.250mm wide and 90mm deep (Fig. 16: Section B4). It had steep sides, an irregular flat base and was filled by Context **57**, a friable mid brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 50mm (25%) and charcoal (1%). To the south-west post hole Cut **65** was sub oval in plan measuring up to 450mm in length, c.250mm wide and 150mm deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 16: Section B6). Its lower fill was

recorded as Context **67**, a friable orange-brown sandy clay. The upper fill was Context **66**, a compact light grey-brown silty containing chalk pieces to 40mm (1%) interpreted on site as modern impact or disturbance into the feature.

- 5.4.3** Whilst there are some morphological differences between post hole Cuts **3**, **54**, **56** and **65** it should be noted that a significant level of late Post Medieval activity had taken place in the area, impacting the underlying archaeological deposits in the area. In fact, owing to truncation, it was not possible to establish the full extent of this feature, and some degree of overcut was involved in its original excavation. Moreover, it should also be noted that no dating was recovered from any of the four post holes forming the possible outline of a rectangular structure and thus their geometric correspondence must remain largely conjectural. Contrastingly however posthole Cut **8**, located approximately 3.2m to the northwest of Cut **56**, produced good dating evidence. Cut **8** was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of c.420mm and depth of c.100mm (Fig. 14: Section A3). It had steep sides, a flat base and was filled by Context **9**, a loose mid to dark brown sandy silty clay containing chalk pieces to 40mm (3%) and sub-angular flints to 50mm (1%). Pottery recovered from Fill **9** was dated between c.1275 and c.1375 AD.
- 5.4.4** Dateable material was also recovered from a feature identified beneath the surviving footing for the flint wall which had until recently fronted Western Road. Figure 17 illustrates the footing and underlying features. The footing itself was recorded as Context **2**, which formed one or possibly two irregular courses of sub-angular flint to 200mm by 100mm bonded in a hard creamy-buff sandy lime mortar containing 10% flint gravel aggregate to 5mm. Its surviving depth was variable being between 170mm and 60mm below the ground surface, being shallowest to the east where it overlay a deposit of 20<sup>th</sup> century disturbance relating to modern services and subsequent wall repairs, recorded as Context **53**. Directly beneath the footing to the west, Context **5** was recorded, a layer between 20mm and 100mm thick, forming a friable mid grey-brown silty clay horizon containing chalk pieces to 30mm (5%), sub-angular flints to 30mm (2%) and charcoal (1%).
- 5.4.5** Several cut features were recorded below Context **5**, all of which were only partially excavated due to their location beneath the footing adjoining the pavement and adjacent services. Cut **42** was 660mm wide and 330mm deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by Context **43**, a friable mid grey-brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 50mm (6%) and sub-angular flints to 110mm (3%). Pottery from the fill of Cut **42**, indicated a date between c.1250 – c.1350 AD. On its eastern side Cut **42** partly truncated an earlier feature recorded as Cut **12**. This was up to 180mm wide and c.100mm deep with steep side and a flat base. It was filled by Context **50**, a friable mid grey-brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 40mm (5%).
- 5.4.6** Further to the east another cut feature was recorded. Cut **11** had steep irregular sides to a rounded base, measuring c.250mm across and 150mm deep. It was filled by Context **6**, a loose light greyish-brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 70mm (20%), sub-angular flints to 100 (1%) and charcoal. Adjacent to the east cut feature

**51** was recorded revealing steep sides and a flat base with an uncertain edge at its interface with the modern disturbance, Context **53**. It measured c.200mm across by c.150mm deep and was filled by Context **52**, a friable light grey brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 120mm (30%) and sub angular flints to 80mm (1%).

## **5.5** *The Excavations: Area C (Phase II Transitional c.1350 - c.1550)*

**5.5.1** The upper levels of the Medieval deposits identified in Area C were significantly impacted by modern services (Fig. 11). These were recorded as Cut **72** (same as **23** in evaluation Trench C) filled by **22** and Cut **81** filled by Contexts **79**, **80**, **82** and **112**. The modern impacts predominantly comprised drainage trenches and pits containing ceramic drainage pipes, which presumably functioned as part of the Meridian Public House when it was an upstanding building.

**5.5.2** The Medieval deposits encountered appeared to comprise the back fill to a single cut event, or terrace, recorded as Context **58**. However, the deposits had originally been exposed in Trench C and a slot cut through them in respect of their apparent orientation and relationship to the evaluation trench. However, the evaluation slot proved to be set tangentially to the true alignment of the terrace, and thus a pragmatic approach was required for the placement of subsequent slots during the main excavation phase.

**5.5.3** Figure 13: Section D2 and Figure 16: Sections B2, B8 & B9 illustrate excavated sections through the terrace feature, Context **58**. It was found to form a broad rectangular shape, and its excavated extent measured c.3600mm in length by c.1900mm in width and between a maximum of 800mm and 1000mm in depth. It had steep sides which were generally regular, with a very flat almost smoothed base. The most northerly third of the cut feature was badly truncated by an east to west drain run (Context **81** and its associated Fills **79**, **80** and **82**). However, it did appear that the terrace feature continued beneath the unexcavated baulk further to the north.

**5.5.4** The upper fill of terrace Cut **58** was recorded as Context **24**. This was up to 600mm thick and formed a loose mid brown-grey silty clay containing chalk pieces to 20mm (1%) and sub-angular flints to 100mm (1%). Below **24**, Context **76** was excavated. This material comprised a firm mid to light brown clayey silt containing frequent charcoal (5%), chalk pieces to 150mm (3%) and sub-angular flints to 100mm (1%) and measured up to a maximum of 450mm thick. Context **59** lay beneath **76** and was up to 300mm thickness, comprising a firm mid brown clayey silt containing chalk pieces to 250mm (3%). Contexts **60**, **61** and **62** lay below Context **59**, appearing as tip lines or slumping episodes against the southern edge of the terrace cut. Context **60** was a firm light greenish-brown clayey silt containing chalk pieces to 20mm (20%) and charcoal (<1%) which measured up to 130mm thick. Below, Context **61** was recorded as a 30mm thick horizon, forming a soft dark brown humic silty clay containing chalk pieces to 100mm (1%). Below **61**, Context **62** comprised loose off white chalk deposit, interpreted as a probable slumping episode up to 280mm thick.

Contexts **89** and **90** are not shown in section, but also lay beneath Context **59** and made up the deposits forming the base of the terrace cut. Context **89** was a soft dark brown silty clay up to 30mm thick and described by the excavator as a very humic deposit, it was interpreted as a possible continuation of Context **61**. It directly overlay the base of the terrace which was recorded as Context **90**, a firm off white sterile chalk.

- 5.5.5** A collectively large number of finds were recovered from Contexts **24**, **76**, **59**, **62**. These backfill deposits to the terrace, all produced pottery dating from c.1450 – c.1550AD.
- 5.5.6** In the base of the terrace cut, two almost parallel walls were exposed, running broadly south to north approximately 1400mm apart (Fig. 11), but with a possible convergence noted in their trajectories to the north, although this was impossible to verify as both structures had been fully truncated at the point of contact with the drain Cut **82**. It is highly possible that both walls continued to the north beneath the unexcavated baulk, although neither returned to connect at their southern ends. The most easterly wall was recorded as Context **77** and the westerly as Context **78**.
- 5.5.7** Wall Context **77** measured 300mm wide with a surviving length of 800mm. It was built predominantly from brick, with 5 courses noted and a flint facing to the east, presumably an exterior wall element. The wall was bonded in a buff lime mortar, and the brick themselves seemed to display a green glaze, although they were highly fired, and in fact appeared to have been heavily burnt *in situ*, thus hampering their detailed recording. Similarly the flint facing was fire cracked across its extent. Against the flint side of the wall, Context **88** was recorded (not shown in section), comprising a soft mid grey chalk, possibly discoloured by water retention derived from the overlying drains.
- 5.5.8** Wall structure **78** measured 300mm wide with a surviving length of c.1100mm and height of 250mm. As with wall Context **77** it also comprised a double thickness, with three courses of brick facing inwards towards Wall **78**, and an irregular laid external flint facing. The flints were all found to be fire cracked and the bricks also appeared to have been burned *in-situ*, measuring approximately 150mm by 100mm by 70mm. Context **83** lay on the eastern western side and was interpreted as a footing cut for Wall **78**. It had a steep single side with a flat base measuring c.300mm wide by c.250mm long and filled by Context **97**, a fine re-deposited chalk deposit, with pieces up to a maximum of 50mm.
- 5.5.9** Bricks recovered from both walls were placed between c.1475 – c.1625, although being so heavily burnt they were difficult to date with any precision. Interestingly pottery recovered from Context **97**, being the fill of the possible footing Cut **83**, was dated to between c.1350 – c.1450. Which as might be expected trends slightly earlier than the date for pottery recovered from the back fill deposits of the terrace.

Although it is possible that Cut **83** may represent an earlier feature which was partially truncated by the construction of wall line **78**.

## **5.6** *The Excavation: General Features (Phase III – Late Post Medieval c.1800-present day)*

- 5.6.1** All the late Post Medieval features are thought to relate to the Public House that was recently demolished on site. The cartographic evidence shows that late Post Medieval buildings were probably first erected on site between 1842 and 1875.
- 5.6.2** Late Post-Medieval deposits were recorded high in the stratigraphic sequence (Figure 13: Section D1). These were recorded as Context **27** which lay immediately below **26** and was partly machine excavated, and also Context **28**. In fact Contexts **26, 27, 28, 14** (recorded in evaluation trench B) and **39** (not shown in section) were very likely part of the same depositional event, possibly associated with the recent demolition of the Meridian public house. Context **28** which formed the larger part of the late Post-Medieval overburden was up to a maximum of 350mm deep and comprised a friable mid to dark greyish orange brown silt clay containing chalk pieces and flecking to 100mm (1%) and sub-angular flints. It was a relatively extensive deposit, and may have even been contained within a cut event, possibly relating to the recent demolition activities. It had significantly truncated underlying medieval deposits, causing older artefacts to become mixed into the late Post Medieval contexts.
- 5.6.3** Context **10** was a mixed deposit recorded in evaluation Trench A. It contained demolition material, as well as plastic pipe and was thought to back fill a service trench pertaining to the recently upstanding building. A metre or so to the south-east of Area A, Cut **94** was recorded. It measured c.1000mm long by c.700mm wide and c.250mm deep with steep sides and an irregular base which was more rounded and deeper to the south (Fig. 15: Section C2). The edge around its north-west corner was uncertain and it was filled by Context **95**; a loose mid brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 55mm. Finds from **95** included asbestos tile, as well as three sherds of medieval pottery. However, it seems likely, given the amount of modern disturbance in this area that this feature is of late Post Medieval origin.
- 5.6.4** Brick structure **47** was located within Area A. It partially truncated both Pit **44** (Fig. 15: Section C1) and the north to south linear Feature **86**. The structure measured c.1500mm by c.1250mm with a surviving depth of c.500mm. The walls were constructed from irregularly coursed concrete, chalk and sub-angular flints, with an internal brick face on the north wall. Six courses of brick were recorded, possibly relating to a consolidating repair as this part of the structure overlaid Pit **44**. The bricks measured 220mm by 100mm by 70mm and the structure was bonded in a hard grey cement mortar with 10% gravel aggregate to 10mm. The internal deposits were half sectioned (Fig. 14: Section A8). The upper fill was recorded as Context **91**, measuring up to 400mm thick and comprising a re-deposited chalk back fill.



Below, Context **92** measured up to 100mm thick, being a friable mid greenish-brown sandy silty clay containing chalk pieces to 10mm (1%), sub-angular flints to 50mm (1%), charcoal 3% and sand (1%). The base was assigned Context **93** formed of a compact off white chalk with crushed tile flecking (3%) and charcoal (3%). Context **93** was interpreted as a possible crushed chalk floor, or impacted natural chalk. Finds recovered from fill Context **92** were dated to c.1840 to c.1900 or later.

**5.6.5** To the west and north of Area A, Cuts **48**, **49** and **72** were recorded as drainage cuts containing ceramic pipes from the recently demolished building.

## **5.7** *The Excavation: Undated Features*

**5.7.1** Two undated features were recorded to the south of Area C. Cut **37** was sub-oval in plan, measuring c.300mm long by c.200mm wide and c.20mm deep. It had a flat base and was filled by Context **38**, a loose dark brown sandy silty clay containing chalk pieces to 20mm.

**5.7.2** In the south-west corner of the site, beneath the wall footings Cut **35** was observed in the north facing site baulk. It was rectangular in plan measuring c.800mm long by c.500mm wide by c.400mm deep, with steep sides, a flat base (Fig. 14: Profile A5) and was filled by Context **36**, a friable light greenish-brown silty clay containing chalk pieces to 30mm (5%), sub-angular flints to 20mm(1%) and charcoal (1%).

**5.7.3** The undated postholes **3**, **54**, **56** and **65** are discussed in Section 5.4.3.

## 6.0 THE MERIDIAN PUBLIC HOUSE – BUILDING SURVEY

- 6.1 The Meridian Public House is a single storey building on an east west alignment, with its southern elevation fronting Western Road (A 277) (Plate 1 & Fig. 10). There is a single storey annex (with first floor accommodation being built into the roof space) connected to the western end of the main body of the building. Both the original building and the later annex are roofed in modern slate type tiles, with the ridges and the hipped ends of the annex of red ceramic tiles.



Plate 1: South Elevation of the Meridian

### 6.2 *Southern Elevation (Plate 1)*

The southern elevation is 27.5m in length in total, with the lower parts of the western and eastern ends of the building being constructed of coursed unknapped flint nodules, with red brick above. The flint nodules are bonded with a mid grey mortar, with the red brick being bonded with a yellowish grey mortar. The brick work of the western wall shows signs of having been repaired; this work also included the repair of the flintwork using smaller flint nodules at its junction with the brickwork (Plate 2).



Plate 2: Flint  
south wall of The  
Meridian

The far eastern edge of the brickwork of the east wall had a narrow area of flintwork between the edge of the bricks and the quoin (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Detail of the eastern end of south wall

The central section of this elevation measuring 16.5m is covered in a cement render which has been painted white, with a black band at the bottom of the wall. In two areas the cement render had been removed (Plate 4) revealing the wall was constructed from a mixture of red brick, breeze blocks and flint nodules, bonded with various types of mortar. Both of the flint constructed ends had quoins of red brick construction, with a string course of red bricks at 1.25m above the base of the wall.



Plate 4: The two areas where the cement render had been removed.

Centrally placed in the southern elevation was the main entrance to the building, which had a column of red brick on either sides of the door and a moulded concrete lintel above. The door was of wooden construction with decorative horizontal wooden beading; on its eastern edge were two metal decorative strap hinges. To the east and west of the main entrance were two windows, the inner windows on each side of the door being small. All the windows in this elevation were metal framed casement windows, with fixed wooden shutters on the sides of each window. Each shutter having an inverted heart shape cut out near the top.

### 6.3 Eastern Elevation

The eastern elevation was of red brick construction bonded with a yellowish-grey mortar. The bricks were laid in stretcher bond. Centrally placed on this elevation was an entrance with two brick built steps leading up to the door. The door was of wooden construction with decorative panels. The entrance doorway was slightly recessed. Either side of the entrance were two metal framed windows of four lights, with the upper two panes opening.

### 6.4 Northern Elevation

The northern elevation was of red brick with a covering of cement render, with the three courses of bricks at the base of the wall and the brick quoin on its eastern end exposed. A small enclosed porch was located 7.05m from the eastern end of the building. There were two metal framed windows of four lights between the eastern end of the building and the porch. At the western end of this elevation is the location of the storeroom, this projects from the main body and is finished in the same cement render as the rest of this elevation (Plate 5). The only opening in the store room is a set of wooden double doors in the eastern wall.



Plate 5: Storeroom at the western end of northern elevation

## **6.5 Western Annex**

The both the eastern and southern elevations of the annex were covered in horizontal weatherboarding, whereas the northern elevation was of red brick construction. The external entrance to this part of the building was via a doorway in the eastern wall. There were three wooden framed casement windows in this elevation, with one situated on the south side of the entrance, the other two windows being on the northern side. There were no openings in the northern wall of the annex.

## **6.6 The Interior of the Public House**

The accommodation of the public house is all on the ground floor consisted of the bar of the public house, a storeroom, and two toilets.

## **6.7 Lobby**

The access from the exterior of the building is via the centrally position entrance in the south wall. The entrance leads in to a lobby, measuring 2.05m north-south by 1.85m east-west. The walls of the lobby are plaster covered, with a wooden skirting board with a moulded top, running at the base of all the walls. The ceiling is also of plaster with a central vent. There was a double wooden framed window on the south wall, with each window consisting of two rows of three lights of patterned glass. Below the window was a metal radiator. In both the western and eastern walls were the doors into the bar, the west door being of three rows of five lights. The eastern door was a four panel wooden type.

## **6.8 The Bar (Plate 6)**

The bar was rectangular in plan, and measures 16.37m in length north-south by 6.42m in width east-west. Both the ceiling and wall have a plaster finish, with the ceiling having decorative wooden beams (not structural). The walls having a wooden moulded picture rail near to their top and a wooden shirting board with a moulded top at the base. There was a moulded wooden dado rail running around the walls at a height of 900mm above the floor level. The floor was of concrete which had been covered in carpet. The bar was heated by seven metal radiators. At the eastern end of the bar a low stage had been constructed, the level of the stage had been raised by being built on top of a dwarf brick wall, three courses high. A post and rail fence was situated along the western edge of the stage.

The bar counter was located on the south wall of the room; both the counter and canopy were constructed of wooden panelling. The end panel of the western and eastern sides of the bar opened to provide access to the bar. At the base of the bar counter was a brass foot rail. Lighting for the bar was provided by ten halogen lights fitted into the base of the canopy. Storage comprised wooden shelves and cupboards at the rear of the serving area against the southern wall.



Plate 6: The bar taken from the west

All of the windows were located on the northern wall, two either side of the main entrance; all were metal framed casement windows. The outer windows were double windows consisting of two rows of four lights, while the inner two were triple windows with only the outer two windows opening, each window of these was also of two rows of four lights.

## 6.9 Toilets

The toilets were located at the eastern end of the building through a wooden four panelled door, centrally positioned in the eastern wall of the bar. The northern and southern toilets were divided by a passageway providing access from the building to the exterior via a door at the eastern end of the passageway.

The southern toilet was entered via a wooden four panelled door at the western end of the southern wall. The toilet consisted of three urinals attached to the eastern wall, above these centrally placed was a square window of four lights. A cubical was situated in the north east corner of the room housing a WC with a low level water cistern, with a metal framed square four light window above. At the western end of the south wall two enamel wash hand basins were fitted to the wall. Both the walls and the floor had been covered in ceramic tiles measuring 150mm square.

The northern toilet was entered by a wooden four panelled door at the western end of the southern wall. This room had two cubical built in the north eastern and south eastern corners, each housing an enamel WC with a low level cistern. Both of the cubicles were lit by a square four light metal framed window in their eastern walls. There were two enamel sinks attached to the northern wall each with a metal framed window above of four lights. The walls and floor were covered in the same type of tile as seen in the southern toilet.



## **6.10 Storeroom**

A storeroom, rectangular in plan, measuring 5.8m east-west by 2.9m north-south was accessed from the bar via a wooden four panelled door located at the eastern end of the southern wall of the room. From this door there was a single step down to the floor of concrete construction. This room was largely devoid of any features, having a plastered ceiling and walls, with simple wood shelves against the western wall of the room. The entrance to the building was via double doors of wooden plank construction. This storeroom had no other openings, with light being provided by a florescent strip in the middle of the ceiling.

## **6.11 The ground floor accommodation of the Annex**

The annex to the west of the public house was superficially surveyed. The ground floor of the annex housed the public house kitchen with associated storage room, the staff WC, sitting room and a second kitchen. The entrance connecting the annex with the main body of the building was a four panel wooden door at the southern end of the western wall. This entrance leads into the public house kitchen, which measured 2.67m north south by 4.88m east west. The walls of the kitchen were covered in white tiles measuring 150mm square, with the floor being tiled in red ceramic tiles of the same dimensions. At approximately the mid point of the kitchen it is partially divided by a square shaped arch, which was also covered in the same ceramic red tiles. Most of the kitchen equipment had been removed leaving just a hand washbasin on the eastern wall, and an extractor vent located in the south east corner.

At the western end of the public house kitchen was the entrance to two rooms; the southern room being a storeroom for the public house kitchen and the northern room being a staff WC. Only the WC had a door fitted, this was a modern panelled type. The store room measured 1.16m north south by 2.27m east west, with plastered ceiling and wall, a low wooden plain skirting ran around the base of the walls. The floor was linoleum covered, with wooden shelving against the southern wall.

The northern room was a staff WC, measuring 1.15m by 1.32m east west, with plastered walls and ceiling, with a low plain wooden skirting board running around the base of the walls. There was a ceramic wash hand basin, and ceramic WC positioned against the western wall, and a metal radiator on the northern wall. The floor was covered in linoleum, the same type as seen in the storeroom.

At the western end of the north wall of the public house kitchen was an entrance to a second kitchen. The door was of a modern single panelled type. This kitchen measured 4.06m east west by 2.71m north south, with both the walls and ceiling being plaster covered, the walls having a plain low wooden skirting board running around there base. The floor was covered in a mixture of carpet and linoleum. Adjacent to the eastern wall was a sink unit with a wooden framed window above. Heating to the room was by a metal radiator on the southern room. There were two modern single panel doors in the northern wall, the one at the eastern end leading into the lobby, and the one at the western end leading into the sitting room.

A small lobby was located between the second kitchen and sitting room, at the western end of the room was a staircase of 11 stairs, to the first floor (rooms built into the roof space). The entrance to the lobby from the exterior was located in the eastern wall, and was a modern door wooden framed door with ten narrow vertical glass panels. Adjacent to the entrance doorway was a side panel of the same type of construction as the door but with only six narrow vertical panes of glass. At the eastern end of the north wall was the entrance to the sitting room.

The sitting room measured 5.85m north-south by 4.06m east-west, with both the walls and ceiling being plaster covered, and the floor being of concrete construction. There was a plain low wooden skirting board at the base of the walls. The room was heated by a metal radiator located between the two doors in the southern wall. The room was lit by two wooden framed windows in the east wall.

## **6.12 The accommodation in the roof space of the Annex**

The accommodation in the roof space consisted of three bedrooms and a bathroom, all accessed from a small landing. The stairs from the ground floor lobby were located in the centre of the eastern side of the landing, with the entrances to Bedrooms **1** and **2** located on the northern side and the entrances to Bedroom **3** and the bathroom on the southern side. All the doors on this floor were of a modern single panel wooden type.

Bedroom **1** measured 2.47m north-south by 2.95m east-west, walls and ceiling were both plastered. Because the room was built into the roof space the ceiling sloped sharply to the east, with a Velux window inserted into the roof. Heating was by a metal radiator located on the east wall. The floor was bare floor boards.

Bedroom **2** measured 3.38m north-south by 3m east-west, walls and ceiling were both plastered. A low plain wooden skirting board was located at the base of the walls, with the floor being covered in hardboard panels. Heating was by a metal radiator on the eastern wall, with a metal framed casement window above.

Bedroom **3** measured 2.27m north-south by 3m east-west, wall and ceiling both plastered, with a plain wooden skirting board at the base of the walls. Metal framed casement window in the eastern wall, with metal radiator below.

Bathroom measured 1.4m north-south by 2.26m east-west, walls and ceiling both plastered. The floor was of bare floor boards. There was a bath adjacent to the eastern wall, with a sink and W.C. attached to the southern wall. Both the bath and the sink having white ceramic tile splash backs, and above the sink was a Dormer window inserted into the roof. Heating was by a metal radiator on the western wall.



### 6.13 Discussion

The oldest part of the building comprises the flint built southern wall. The flints are laid in regular courses, and bonded with a hard creamy-buff lime mortar containing flint gravels, with an external facing of mid grey mortar inscribed with horizontal lines. The flints used are un-knapped downland flints, except in the lower few courses at the eastern end where the flints appear to have been knapped (Plate 2). On excavation the wall (Context 2) had shallow footings, with just two courses below current ground level. The flint utilised in the footing was generally a larger size than in the wall itself, and mostly un-knapped.

The excavation showed that the wall footings, which were c250mm wide and 300mm deep, sat directly on top of Medieval deposits and post holes, perhaps from an earlier building. The wall shows some signs of repairs, and the external face of the wall appears to have been refaced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The lower courses of knapped flint at the eastern end of the wall may suggest the survival of an earlier wall, with the knapping of wall flints being introduced in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>25</sup>. It is difficult to be certain when dating flint walls, but it is possible that it has its origins in the later Medieval period, but has been subjected to rebuilding, repair and then most recently re-facing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps when it was incorporated into the wall of the Meridian public house in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The annex to the west of the public house appears to date to 1960/70s, with nothing of any earlier date noted during the course of the survey. The lack of features in this building and simple appearance of the rooms suggests it provided simple accommodation and services to the occupants.

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<sup>25</sup> Dawson, B. 1998 Flint Buildings in West Sussex, WSCC

## 7.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**7.0.1** A large assemblage of finds was collected during the evaluation and excavation at the site, and is summarised in Appendix 2. Each artefact type is discussed in detail below, and the potential for further analysis is assessed.

### 7.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

**7.1.1** The excavations at the site produced some 1,213 sherds of pottery, weighing 22.5kg from 38 individually numbered contexts (excluding material from the environmental samples). The overall assemblage is of variable condition with a great range of sherd sizes: although the general trend is toward medium-sized sherds (ie 30 to 60mm across) larger sherds (over 60mm across) and smaller sherds (less than 30mm across) are also present. Most of the pottery is in good condition with no or very low levels of abrasion. As such most sherds do not appear to have been subjected to extensive reworking.

**7.1.2** Residuality is generally non-existent or low. However, the longevity of some of the sherds is uncertain making the isolation of late 13<sup>th</sup>/early 14<sup>th</sup> century material in later 14<sup>th</sup> century deposits difficult. The same can be said for late 14<sup>th</sup> to early 15<sup>th</sup> century material in later 15<sup>th</sup> century features. Feature **58**, dated to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries is quite typical in that 9% of its 288 sherds are of later 14<sup>th</sup> to early 15<sup>th</sup> century types which could have still been in use later in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the late post-medieval deposits contain high levels of residual High Medieval and Transitional pottery and there is a little late post-medieval intrusive material in some deposits. The assemblage is derived from a series of cut features (pits, post-holes and ditches) and hearths/layers.

**7.1.3** The overall site assemblage is totally dominated by High Medieval (c. 1225-1350/75) and Transitional (c. 1350/75-1550) wares with a chronological range covering the late 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Saxo-Norman (c. 1050-1225) and Early/Late post-medieval (1550-1750 and 1750-1900+) pottery is present in negligible quantities. The assemblage is characterised in Tables 1 (Appendix II) and 2.

#### *Periods and Fabrics*

##### **7.1.4** *Saxo-Norman: mid 11<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries*

A single slightly abraded residual sherd was recovered from layer **31**. The piece consists of an oxidised cooking pot body sherd in medium flint tempered ware. Considering how common such wares are at the St Nicholas hospital site and from within the town it is surprising not more sherds of this period were recovered.

**Table 2:** Characterisation of pottery assemblage. (No./weight in grams).

Period	No./weight	Notes
Saxo-Norman c. 1050-1225	1/3g	Slightly abraded sherd. Probably C12th
High Medieval c. 1225-1350/75	859/17,616g	Most are of 1275/1300 to 1375
Transitional c. 1350/75-1550	348/4,849g	There is some merging with the earlier period. Most sherds likely to be before 1500/25
Early post-medieval c. 1550-1750	1/7g	Slightly abraded sherd
Late post-medieval c. 1750-1900	4/25g	All can be placed within a C19th date range

NB. Totals include all residual/intrusive and unstratified material but exclude sherds from the environmental residues.

### 7.1.5 *High Medieval: early 13<sup>th</sup> to late 14<sup>th</sup> centuries*

The flint and sand tempered wares that dominate the late Saxo-Norman period (c. 1150-1225) get finer throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> century with the increased dominance of sand and phasing out of the flint. The wares were also fired to a higher temperature and tend to come from better potted, thinner-walled vessels. Fine sand tempered glazed jugs were by now quite common, though many were still rather roughly made in quite coarse sandy fabrics. By the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century the wares are virtually exclusively sand tempered albeit very occasionally still with sparse flint inclusions.

Activity at the current site appears to have begun during this period, which constitutes the majority of the overall ceramic assemblage (Table 2). However, the low number of wares with sparse flint inclusions suggests activity did not begin until after c.1275 and possibly not until 1300. The pottery consists mainly of oxidised (occasionally reduced) sandy wares that are well potted and fired. Cooking pots with developed flat-topped rims dominate but some glazed jugs are also present, though the latter are quite plainly decorated. There is a green glazed rod handle from Fill **18** (Pit **44**), a strap handle from layer **26** with finger-impressed decoration and the large part of a sparsely glazed jug with thumb base from **34** and **39**.

Other vessels include socketed skillets (Fill **18**) and bowls (Fill **19**, Pit **44**). The vast majority of this assemblage is from Ringmer or other local sources though at least one probable Surrey whiteware jug is present (Fill **19**). No foreign imports were recognised during the assessment but this is quite typical for Lewes during this period.

By far the largest context group from the site is of this period: the fills of Pit **44** producing some 322 sherds. Layer **29** is also of interest in that it appears to contain an assemblage of well/hard-fired medieval type sandy ware cooking pots of probable 1325-1375/1400 range that cross the High Medieval to Transitional ceramic boundary. The deposit includes a few hard-fired earthenwares of Transitional types and some more classic High Medieval wares, including a jug decorated with applied scales.

#### **7.1.6** *Transitional: Late 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries*

The Transitional period is also well represented with the assemblage covering the entire chronological range, until at least 1500/25. Hard-fired earthenwares and hard-fired sandy earthenwares dominate the assemblage with both reduced and oxidised jars/bunghole pitchers being the most common form. Although decoration is typically rare, spots of glaze are apparent on many sherds and at least a couple of vessels have white slipped line decoration. The majority of the assemblage was recovered from Cut **58** whose fills produced 288 sherds, 26 of which are possibly residual. A further 56 sherds were recovered from the drain Cut **82** which truncated the fills of **58** and it appears most of these were originally derived from **58**. Non-local wares include at least one Tudor Green cup and a fragment of Raeren tankard (both from Fill **59** of Cut **58**).

#### **7.1.7** *Early/late post-medieval: mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries*

Activity appears to have suddenly come to an end at some point in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century as the lack of pottery of both the early and late post-medieval periods is notable. Most is from the latter part of the period when the Meridian was still standing, however, the quantities are so low that refuse disposal was clearly not occurring with the excavated area. A range of local and regional industrialised wares are represented but sherds are generally small.

### **7.2** **The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Luke Barber

#### **7.2.1** A small assemblage of 19<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe stems was recovered from the site (Table 1).

### 7.3 The Flintwork by Chris Butler

- 7.3.1** A small assemblage of seven pieces of worked flint, weighing 341gms, from seven different residual contexts, was found. The flint comprised four hard hammer-struck flakes (two with hinge fractures, and two cortical), a single soft hammer-struck flake, a fragment and a worked nodule.
- 7.3.2** The soft hammer-struck flake, may have been a miss-struck bladelet and, together with a light-blue grey patinated hard hammer-struck flake, may be Mesolithic in date. The remaining flakes are all probably later prehistoric in date, whilst the fragment is likely to be more recent, perhaps from wall knapped flint.
- 7.3.3** The nodule appears to be a faced flint perhaps deriving from a wall, and has an abraded edge around the flaked face, but little other evidence of working. Many other nodules with no indication of working also probably derived from flint walls.
- 7.3.3** A total of 43 pieces of fire-fractured flint, weighing 4.912kg, was recovered from 12 different contexts during the project. The average size of the pieces was quite large, with an average weight of 114g per piece.

### 7.4 The Animal Bone by Patricia Stevens

- 7.4.1** The animal bones from the excavations at the Meridian were recovered from 25 contexts, and amounted to 1,115 fragments from nine different species, weighing 12.789kg (Table 1). The identifications were supported by CS Reference Collections and Schmidt<sup>26</sup>.

**Table 3 The Animal Bone Assemblage**

Species	Fragments	%
Cattle	269	24
Sheep	644	58
Pig	33	3
Horse	2	<1
Deer	2	<1
Rabbit	4	<1
Bird	31	3
Fish	81	7
Small Mammal	1	<1
Unident fragments	6	<1
Total	1,115	100%

<sup>26</sup> Schmidt, E. 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones for pre-historians, archaeologists and quaternary geologists*, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam.

- 7.4.2** The animals identified with certainty are Cattle (*Bos* sp.); Sheep/goat (*Ovicaprid*); Pig (*Sus* sp.); Horse (*Equus* sp.); Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*); and Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*); together with Domestic Fowl (*Gallus gallus*); Bantam (*Gallus* sp.); and Goose (*Anser* sp.). Other birds include Crow (*Corvus* sp.); Pigeon (*Columba* sp.) and Blackbird (*Turdus* sp.). Fish bones were also identified including Cod (*Gadidae* sp.) and Plaice or Flounder (*Platichthys* sp.).
- 7.4.3** All bones were identified to species, examined for age, butchery, gnawing, burning and pathology. Fragments unable to be recorded to species were recorded by size and LAR (Large Animal Representation) – cattle, horse and deer size, and SAR (Small Animal Representation) – sheep, goat, pig size. Measurements were taken wherever possible using von den Dreisch<sup>27</sup>.
- 7.4.4** The assemblage is in fair condition, but with few complete bones, some erosion and an amount of fresh breakage. The bone from Pit **44** and the fill of Terrace **57** has evidence for butchery, gnawing, some burning and erosion, whilst that from the Phase 6A contexts (**29 & 31**) has no evidence for burning or erosion, and only a little evidence of butchery or gnawing.
- 7.4.5** Sheep are the most common species found across the site, represented by 58% of the assemblage (Table 3). Many of the sheep bones exhibit evidence for butchery, gnawing and burning, with a large number of mandibles coming from contexts in Pit **44** and Terrace **57**. Cattle are the second most common species present with many bones also exhibiting evidence for butchery and gnawing. Pig numbers are relatively small, and absent from the 14<sup>th</sup> century assemblage.
- 7.4.6** Most of the fish bone was retrieved from Contexts **59** and **76**, both of which were from the fill of Terrace **57**. Fish bones are mostly from sea water species, with virtually no fresh water species identified. Very few cranial bones were present in the assemblage, suggesting that the fish had not been whole when purchased, or the heads had been disposed of separately.

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

- 7.5.1** The excavations recovered a relatively large assemblage of ceramic building material: some 533 pieces, weighing a little under 51kg, from 34 different contexts. The assemblage is quantified on Table 1 where it is broken down by type. Ceramic building material is notoriously difficult to date. This is partly due to the longevity of many fabrics and forms, the variety in sizes, fabrics and finishes at different contemporary workshops and the longevity of the materials once in use. There is

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<sup>27</sup> Von den Driesch, A. 1976 *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, Peabody Museum Bulletin, Harvard University.

often a significant time-lag between a tile or brick being made and its disposal in refuse even if the piece has not been re-used for construction. The excavated assemblage is somewhat problematic in that there appears to be a significant degree of residual/old material in certain contexts. A range of types is present.

- 7.5.2** Some 40 pieces of daub were recovered from the site. All the pieces consist of amorphous fragments of low-fired silty clay pieces, occasionally with flint inclusions to 5mm. The daub is most common in later 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century deposits. All are likely to derive from building or oven structures.
- 7.5.3** Roofing tile makes up the single largest element of the CBM assemblage (358 pieces). The majority consists of peg tiles though a few ridge and hipped tiles are also present. The earliest pieces are of the later 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. These are quite crudely formed and tempered with moderate/abundant medium/coarse sand. No large context groups are present. The Transitional period is better represented with a significant assemblage of sparse fine sand tempered hard-fired peg tiles. Most are quite crudely formed and a number have the characteristic whitish surfaces. The best dated group was recovered from Cut **58**, Fill **59** and some overfired/waster examples were recovered from Fill **76** of the same feature. By far the largest group was recovered from hearth **98** (209 pieces weighing 7097g). These are thought to be of 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date. Later peg tiles, of definite post-medieval date, are not well represented at the site.
- 7.5.4** Brick makes up the second largest category of the CBM assemblage: 115 pieces (excluding the 20<sup>th</sup> century breeze block from Context **29**). The slightly mixed nature of the assemblages noted above also hampers the study of the brick, however, the earliest material would appear to belong to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. This consists of a number of fragments from crudely made and usually low-fired bricks varying in height between 40 and 55mm. Some examples are hard-fired/vitrified and the loose examples of these from within Cut **58** may derive from the brick structure within this feature. Samples of brick were removed from this feature (Walls **77** and **78**) but dating of them is more problematic than normal due to the fact all are heavily reburnt/vitrified. However, their apparent crudeness and 49 to 55mm heights suggests a probable 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date range. A number of late post-medieval bricks were also recovered from the site. These include slag tempered and granular fabrics of the later 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (eg layers **27** and **28**) as well as a sandy frogged example of similar date from Wall **47**.
- 7.5.5** A few floor tiles were also recovered (19 pieces) most of which appear to date between the mid/late 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. They are all well made and tempered with moderate/abundant fine/medium sand. Most have some traces of glazing remaining. The only earlier floor tile consists of a small fragment from a white slip printed encaustic tile of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date (residual in Fill **24** in Cut **58**).

## **7.6 The Mortar** by Luke Barber

**7.6.1** A small assemblage of Transitional/post-medieval mortar/cement was recovered from eight contexts during the excavation.

## **7.7 The Metal** by Chris Butler

**7.7.1** A reasonably large assemblage of later Medieval metal artefacts was recovered during the excavation (Appendix 2). Most were iron, but a small number were copper alloy, and they represented a wide range of artefact types of both domestic and commercial nature.

**7.7.2** Copper alloy finds include a small ring, from Context **10** possibly from a belt fitting or for suspension, and although found in a Post Medieval context is likely to be Medieval in date. A rectangular fragment from a belt mount or plate with a single hole came from Context **46**, and would fit the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date for this context.

**7.7.3** Context **59** produced two copper-alloy wire pins which would not be out of place in this context<sup>28</sup>, together with a fragment from a copper-alloy vessel, and a copper alloy folding balance with wire loops still *in-situ* at the ends of both arms.

**7.7.4** Iron objects included four knives dating to the period c.1450-1550; two from Context **24**, and two from Context **59**, all of which had most of their blade and tang intact. Two possible door, window or furniture fittings were also found in Contexts **24** and **59**, whilst a hinge pivot was found in Context **82**. Other pieces of iron may have included horseshoes and pieces of fittings or implements.

**7.7.5** Iron nails, of varying sizes and shape, were also found in a number of contexts, including Contexts **24**, **59**, **76** and **82**; all of these may date to the period c.1450-1550.

## **7.8 The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

**7.8.1** The excavations at the site produced 73 pieces of stone, weighing just in excess of 12.5kg, from 15 individually numbered contexts. The assemblage is mainly from High Medieval deposits, however, some material was recovered from Transitional and post-medieval contexts. The degree of residuality in these later deposits is hard

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<sup>28</sup> Margeson, S. 1993 *Norwich Households: Medieval and Post Medieval Finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-78*, East Anglian Archaeology **58**.



to assess. The assemblage has been fully listed for archive on pro forma as part of the assessment.

**7.8.2** The assemblage consists of both Wealden/local and regional/foreign imports. The latter include fragments from German lava querns in layer **39** and Fill **64** (ditch **63**), both likely to be of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. Other High Medieval stone includes a base fragment from a Purbeck limestone grinding mortar (layer **39**), Wealden sandstone (Fill **64**) and local flint nodules (Fill **18** in Pit **44**). Some of the stone in the Transitional contexts is also likely to represent residual medieval material. This includes fragments from Wealden sandstone ashlar blocks and West Country roofing slate (both Cut **58**, Fill **24**). Material likely to be of Transitional origin includes a few pieces of Horsham stone roofing slabs. The Welsh slate from Fill **92** (structure **47**) is certainly of 19<sup>th</sup> century origin.

## **7.9 The Glass** by Chris Butler

**7.9.1** A single piece of glass weighing 4gms was recovered from Context **29** during the excavation. The glass is a green colour with surface degradation and flaking, and probably derived from a bottle.

## **7.10 Coins and Jetons** by David Rudling

**7.10.1** Two copper-alloy ‘coins’ were submitted for identification and reporting purposes.

*A, Coin* Victoria, 1837-1901. Bronze penny dated 1889. Context **28**.

*B, German Jeton (or casting counter)* Germany, c. 1415-1500. Context **24**.

After Sigismund, Elector of Brandenburg (1378-1415) and King of Hungary (1387-1437) had been elected King of the Romans (ie King of the Germans) in 1410; later: Holy Roman Emperor (1433-1437). Early small size (20mm) brass jeton of ?Nuremberg. Die axes: 180°.

Obverse: Large letter “S” within a circle; margin: star and fictitious legend

Reverse: Jewelled mitre within a circle; margin: fictitious legend with letters alternating with rosettes.

Reference: Type not catalogued in Mitchiner<sup>29</sup>, but compare obverse with Mitchiner numbers 968-70; 977-983; and compare mitre reverse with Mitchiner number 1004 (Wurzburg types).

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<sup>29</sup> Mitchiner, M. 1988. *Jetons, medalets & tokens, The medieval period and Nuremberg, Volume One*. London: Seaby.

## **7.11 Marine Molluscs** by Rachel Butler

**7.11.1** A large assemblage of marine molluscs was recovered during the excavation, comprising 256 shells and 126 fragments weighing 12.718kg from 24 contexts. The majority of the marine molluscs were oyster, with approximately equal numbers of upper and lower shells across the whole assemblage and most appeared to be complete or almost complete. A small number showed evidence of infestation, but these were present in almost all contexts.

**7.11.2** The remainder of the shell consisted of 101 mussel fragments, 5 scallop fragments, 7 limpet shells and 10 unidentified fragments. Most of the shell was recovered from contexts containing Medieval pottery, with only a small proportion coming from Post Medieval features.

**7.11.3** It is interesting that the shell from 5 East Street in Lewes consisted predominantly of oyster and very little else, and was mostly recovered from Post Medieval features whereas the Meridian site assemblage contains a large amount of mussel and was mostly from Medieval contexts. Also in comparison, Lewes Priory produced shell from both Medieval and Post Medieval contexts with again the majority being oyster but with limpet and mussel only present in the Post Medieval contexts.

## **7.12 The Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber & Chris Butler

**7.12.1** A number of contexts produced crucible fragments. These may all be from a single vessel of 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century date but closer analysis is needed to confirm this. Sherds were located in several fills of Cut **58 (24, 59, 76)** along with the modern drain **81 (Fill 82)** that cut through it. Whether this vessel is related to the burnt brick structure **77** and **78** is uncertain but it certainly suggests non-ferrous metalworking in the vicinity during the Transitional period.

## **7.13 Environmental Samples**

**7.13.1** 15 soil samples were taken from various features across the site (Table 4). The size of each sample varied depending upon the quantity available for sampling, with most samples comprised 10 or 20 litres, although a few samples were smaller. A sub-sample of 50% from each larger sample, and 100% of samples below 10 litres, was initially processed to assess whether the samples had any potential for organic or micro-faunal remains.

- 7.13.2** The samples were processed by Rob Wallace using a floatation tank, with the residue being washed through a 1mm mesh sieve. The flots were scanned during the flotation process, and subsequently inspected by eye. 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. The results are shown in Table 4.
- 7.13.3** Most of the samples contained reasonable quantities of charcoal, which were recovered from the flots and the residues, with most samples producing at least a small quantity of charcoal from the flot. There was very little hand-picked charcoal recovered during excavation. Most of the charcoal was small sized (<1mm), but a small number of pieces were much larger. No seeds or other organic materials were noted in any of the samples, although it is possible that a more detailed inspection of the samples may produce carbonised seeds.
- 7.13.4** Quantities of animal bone were retrieved from the residues of most samples, including possible small mammal bones. Fish bones were noted in four contexts, with reasonable quantities being present in the residues of Contexts **59** and **76**.
- 7.13.5** Quantities of snail shells were noted in the flots of almost all of the samples, whilst others were recovered in the residues. Small quantities of small marine shell fragments were found in some residues. Magnetic material was found in almost every sample, with samples retained for analysis if required.
- 7.13.6** Most of the residues also contained quantities of small pottery fragments, CBM, including some possible daub fragments, fire-fractured flint, together with occasional pieces of metal, slag and stone. This material has not been analysed and will be incorporated into the artefact summaries for the final report.

**Table 4:** Environmental Samples

Context	Snails	Animal Bone	Fish Bone	Charcoal	Marine Shell	Magnetic	Residue
19	**	*	-	***	-	*	Daub, FF Flint, Stone
29	**	**	-	*****	*	*	Metal, Pottery, CBM, FF Flint
30	*	*	-	*****	-	*	CBM, Pottery
41	**	**	-	**	*	*	CBM, FF Flint, Pottery
45	**	*	-	*	*	*	Pottery, FF Flint,
46	*	**	*	**	*	*	Pottery, FF Flint, CBM, Metal
59	*	***	***	***	*		Pottery, Metal, CBM, Mortar
71	*	-	-	*	*	*	Slate
74	**	*	*	**	-	**	Pottery, Daub, FF Flint,
76	*	**	***	**	*	*	Pottery, CBM, FF Flint, Metal, Mortar
100	*	-	-	*	-	**	Pottery, CBM
101	*	*	-	*	-	*	Pottery, Daub, FF Flint, Metal, Slag
106	*	-	-	*	*	*	Daub, FF Flint, Slag
108	*	-	-	*	-	*	Pottery
109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Frequency Key: None - ; Very low \* ; Low \*\* ; Moderate \*\*\* ; High \*\*\*\*\*

## 8.0 SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL

### 8.1 The Significance

#### *Introduction*

**8.1.1** During the excavations at the Meridian a large assemblage of artefacts was recovered, these consisted mainly of pottery, CBM and bone. The pottery and CBM were allocated ceramic phases developed at other excavations in Lewes (Baxter's and Lewes House etc.), and a total of three phases were noted at the site.

**8.1.2** Therefore, based on the existing data for the town of Lewes, a tentative phasing model has been created breaking the site into three broad periods (Fig. 12). These are as follows: High Medieval (c.1250 – c.1400 AD), Transitional (c.1350 - c.1550 AD), and Late Post Medieval (c.1800 - present day). Using the archaeological phasing combined with historical evidence interpretative observations have been drawn relating to land use for the site from the Medieval period through to the modern era.

**8.1.3** There was limited evidence for Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, the small size of the assemblage was indicative of no more than the background noise normally associated with chalk Downland landscapes.

**8.1.5** There is a comparative paucity of both Romano British and Anglo-Saxon material found in archaeological deposits in Lewes. This was certainly the case for the Meridian site and no artefacts from the Iron Age, Roman or Saxon periods were found.

**8.1.6** All the archaeological features recorded on site belonged to the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods (Fig. 12).

#### *Phase I High Medieval*

**8.1.7** The comparatively high degree of resolution revealed by the material culture (c.1250 – c.1400) obtained from features within Area A combined with the equally notable degree of spatial conformity would strongly indicate a contemporary work area, or possible structure. The area is delineated to the south by Cut **111**, to the west by shallow, but continuous linear Cuts **32** and **86** and to the north by a short track of linear recorded as Cut **63**. It is thought possible that cuts **32**, **86** and **63** represent the truncated remains of beam slots and that where the terminal ends bulb out may indicate the location of upright timbers. Cut **111** is more problematic as a structural component. It was clearly a continuation of the cut event represented by **32**, but

returning to the east. However, morphologically it is quite different, surviving as a deep almost vertical cut which curves away to the northeast, becoming increasingly shallower as it progresses. It seems to have more in common with a shuttered raft style construction, or sunken building, than a post built structure.

- 8.1.8** Pit **44** was located on the northwest corner of Area A and stratigraphically appeared to be later than the possible north to south beam slot Cut **86**. However, this relationship only appeared in plan and was not established in section as the upper fill for Pit **44** was removed during excavations within the evaluation Trench B and at this time Cut **66** had not been observed. Hence, it is possible that the shallow cut of **86** and its single fill **87** rose up over the surviving upper fills of **44** continuing to the east, where either it was not identified, or had been significantly disturbed or truncated by the late post-medieval brick structure, Context **47**. Furthermore, whilst the fills from Pit **44** produced a good quantity of material culture, the volume and composition of the assemblage was not indicative of the typical Medieval rubbish or cess pit normally found in Lewes. Certainly, the frequent large chalk pieces within most of its fill, seemed to point to a single deliberate episode of backfilling. Therefore, it is thought likely that Pit **44** was a well, or chalk quarry, or both. Probably backfilled in a relatively short space of time, possibly for ground consolidation, however the relationship with the possible building/activity area remains uncertain.
- 8.1.9** Prior to the late Post Medieval truncation it is that likely High Medieval deposits covered the approximate extent of Area A. The fact that the surviving layers are so clearly contained within the area circumscribed by Cuts **111**, **32**, **86** and to an extent Cut **63** it seems reasonable to assume that they either built up during the working life of the area during this period, or were constrained within a physical boundary (Fig. 18).
- 8.1.10** The two cut events recorded for the hearth, Contexts **99** and **108**, appear to reveal a single contemporary *in situ* hearth, whereby the fire would have been set on the upturned tiles contained within Cut **99**, and then when burnt down, the residue raked out in to the area delineated by Cut **108**. Although it may also be the case that the stratigraphically earlier Cut **108** may also represent a formative hearth cut.
- 8.1.11** Area B produced a group of post holes which due to their stratigraphical location and artefactual evidence are assumed to be of High Medieval date. Some of these (Cuts **11**, **12** & **42**) are sealed below the flint wall of the Meridian, fronting onto Western Road, and it is possible that this flint wall replaced an earlier, High Medieval, timber-framed building on the same footprint (Fig. 18). Four of the post holes (Cuts **3**, **54**, **56** & **65**) may form a rectangular structure on a different alignment, or alternatively may form part of the same building, later truncation having removed other postholes and relationships (Fig. 18).

**8.1.12** It seems likely that the excavation has revealed the presence of two High Medieval buildings fronting onto Western Road. Most of the artefacts recovered suggest that these buildings were domestic, with pottery, animal bone, shell and metal artefacts representing typical domestic waste. The buildings themselves appear to have been timber-framed, using either beams and/or posts, with a hearth surviving in only the western building. The orientation of these buildings may be different to the current street frontage, suggesting that the road at that time may have followed the southwest to northeast alignment of Western Road rather than the east-west alignment of Spital Road. Fig. 18 shows the possible alignment of the buildings, although this hypothetical reconstruction is only included to demonstrate the possible interpretation of the surviving remains. The degree of later truncation makes a full interpretation of the remains impossible, however it is clear from the stratigraphic and dating evidence that these represent a single phase of activity.

*Phase II Transitional (c.1350 - c.1550)*

**8.1.13** Modern features comprising drainage trenches and pits, which were presumably connected to the Meridian Public House, had heavily impacted the Phase II features, which were located in the north-west part of the site. The Transitional deposits encountered appeared to comprise the back fill to a single cut event, or terrace containing two parallel brick walls faced with flints, that had been heavily burnt *in-situ*. The backfill deposits to the terrace, all produced pottery dating from c.1450 – c.1550, whilst the pottery recovered from the fill of the possible footing Cut **83**, was dated to between c.1350 – c.1450.

**8.1.14** It is not clear exactly what these wall features and terrace represent, but the high levels of burning, and the presence of crucible fragments from the fill of the terrace, all perhaps from a single vessel of 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century date. Whether this vessel is related to the burnt brick structure is uncertain but it suggests non-ferrous metalworking in the vicinity during the Transitional period. There were also reasonable levels of magnetic material found in most of the soil samples taken during the excavation.

**8.1.15** Another alternative suggestion is that the brick feature may have been a lime kiln that was later filled in with rubbish and waste from adjacent industrial activity. In either case it can be suggested that industrial activity was taking place during this period to the rear of properties lying along the road frontage.

*Phase III - Late Post-Medieval (c.1750-1925)*

**8.1.16** Features from this phase almost certainly relate to the Meridian Public House. The Meridian was originally called ‘The Canteen’ and served the workers building Lewes Prison in the 1860s; later names included The Rifleman and The Pewter Pot. The earliest part of this building was the flint wall fronting Western Road, which may have had its origins in the later Medieval period. This wall has been subjected

to rebuilding, repair and then most recently re-facing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps when it was incorporated into the wall of the Meridian public house in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**8.1.17** The remaining Phase III features are considered to have limited significance.

### Conclusion

**8.1.18** Little is known of the early development of this part of Lewes, as apart from the excavations at the Medieval hospital of St. Nicholas, situated just to the west of the site, very little archaeological work has been undertaken here. The hospital appears to have continued as an almshouse after the Priory was dissolved with 26 persons receiving aid in 1550. The site was in ruins in 1824 and all evidence for the buildings has now been removed. Excavations carried out at the site recovered evidence for over 100 Medieval burials, some of which may have been fatalities from the battle of Lewes. Quarries dating to between the late 11<sup>th</sup> century and the early 13<sup>th</sup> century were also found<sup>30</sup>.

**8.1.19** The excavations on the site of the Meridian have shown that the earliest occupation on the site was during the period c.1250 – c.1400, when two buildings fronted onto Western Road, which may have been on a slightly different alignment to that taken today (Fig. 18). Occupation appears to have continued through to c.1450 – c.1550, when there was also industrial activity going on in the area to the rear of the buildings.

**8.1.20** It has been noted that in the centre of Lewes there is a marked decline in activity from the High Medieval period onwards, although the most plausible interpretation might be that the current data set is heavily skewed, as the vast majority of recent excavations have been undertaken across the eastern half of the Medieval historic core of the town, and the ‘thinning’ of evidence for the 14<sup>th</sup> century here, may indicate a changing focus of activity for the town rather than a decline<sup>31</sup>. The evidence for the Meridian site seems to support this idea of a shift in focus towards the western end of the town. However after the 16<sup>th</sup> century the site appears to have been abandoned, and was an open area until the construction of the Meridian in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**8.1.21** To summarise, the evaluation and subsequent excavation were entirely successful in achieving their aims and objectives. The extent, date, character and chronology of the deposits have been effectively established. Importantly, a continuous cultural presence on the site, including the presence of houses fronting onto the street and industrial activity to their rear, has been demonstrated through the later medieval period c.1250 – c.1550, with a hiatus from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>30</sup> Gardiner, M. 1994 ‘100 bodies at Medieval hospital’ *Sussex Past and Present* 73

<sup>31</sup> Meaton, C. Forthcoming ‘Archaeological excavations: 5 East Street, Lewes’ *Sussex Archaeological Collections*.



## **8.2 The Potential**

### *The Pottery by Luke Barber*

#### **8.2.1** *Potential of the Ceramic Assemblage*

The pottery from the excavations makes up a large proportion of the excavated artefact assemblage from the site; however, the quantity is small when compared to other assemblages from the town, most notably those from the Baxter's printworks and Lewes House sites. However, these assemblages are heavily weighted toward the Saxo-Norman period with only the Lewes House site producing significant groups of High Medieval wares.

**8.2.2** The current assemblage is therefore interesting not only in giving an insight on the pottery in a new ribbon development site outside the walled town but it supplements the few High Medieval assemblages from the town proper. The current assemblage also has the advantage in not containing significant quantities of residual pottery from earlier activity. It is also possible the current assemblage slightly post-dates that from Lewes House but further analysis on both assemblages will be needed to ascertain this. The assemblage from Pit **44** is of particular interest considering its size and it has the potential for cross-joins between the numerous fills shedding light on its infilling. The Transitional assemblage from Cut **58** is also considered to be of interest despite some disturbance to, and residuality within, this feature.

**8.2.3** Assemblages of this date are still quite rare in the town and the presence in the current group of a few regional/imported sherds offers an opportunity to confirm the dating of a number of the local high-fired earthenwares. The assemblages from the Saxo-Norman and post-medieval periods are not considered to hold any potential for further detailed analysis.

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

**8.2.4** The clay pipe has already been listed on pro forma for the archive is considered to hold no potential for further analysis due to the late date of the pipes. No further work on the clay pipe assemblage is proposed, and this material can be discarded.

### *The Flintwork by Chris Butler*

**8.2.5** Due to the residual nature and small size of the assemblage no further work is recommended for the flintwork or fire-fractured flint.

*The Animal Bone by Patricia Stevens*

- 8.2.6** The assemblage although relatively small has potential for further work. Reasonable assemblages of animal bone were recovered from the fills of Pit **44**, Cut **32**, and Terrace **57**, as well as from the 14<sup>th</sup> century deposits **29** and **31**. Further analysis of the animal bone from these contexts is likely to provide evidence for any changes in diet and site use over the period between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 8.2.7** The species abundance already shown in Table 1 indicates a strong preference for sheep throughout the site, followed by cattle, with all other species being present in relatively small numbers. Cattle are represented by a number of the major meat bearing bones, and the extensive gnawing of most of the bones present is of particular interest.
- 8.2.8** There is potential for further work on the sheep remains. The downland areas around Lewes are well known for their extensive sheep pasture. With this in mind, further work on the sheep remains and mandibles in particular would help to ascertain any trends in wear patterns on the teeth, as well as establishing the age at death of the animals. The somewhat low number of long bones identified is of interest, as they may be indicative of workshops in the town making use of the available materials.
- 8.2.9** The fish bones have been subjected to a brief assessment, which has identified mainly sea water species. The full identification and analysis of the fish remains will enable a comparison to be made in the diet of the different phases on the site and allow comparisons with other sites in Lewes.

*The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber*

- 8.2.10** The ceramic building material assemblage is either too mixed and/or lacks good associated dating to warrant further detailed analysis. However, little work has been done on the CBM from the town to date and as such very little is known of this aspect of Lewes's fabric through time. This severely hinders dating using CBM alone – something the current assemblage highlights all too well. It is hoped this will be in part rectified by the study of some of the larger assemblages from the Baxter's printworks, Lewes House and East Street sites. However, the collation of a specific fabric collection for the town is desirable and once a basis is established future work will be able to extend and refine it as assemblages allow. As such the current assemblage has the potential to at least add in part to such a fabric series.

***The Mortar by Luke Barber***

- 8.2.11** The mortar has already been listed on pro forma for the archive and is considered to hold no potential for further analysis due to the unknown origin of the mortar. No further work on the mortar assemblage is proposed. This material can be discarded.

***The Metal by Chris Butler***

- 8.2.12** An interesting range of later Medieval metal artefacts were recovered during the excavation. Further conservation, identification and analysis should be undertaken on the assemblage. The iron artefacts should all be x-rayed to assist in their identification and analysis.

***The Geological Material by Luke Barber***

**8.2.13** *Potential*

The geological material from the site is not considered to hold potential for further detailed analysis. The assemblage is small and even the worked pieces are not diagnostic enough to warrant illustration. There is also a degree of uncertainty regarding the degree of residuality in many of the contexts.

**8.2.14** *Methodology*

The stone has already been fully listed for archive as part of the assessment stage. No further analysis work is proposed for the material though the presence of the different stone types should be noted in the narrative text of the site. This data can be extracted from the current assessment and archive listing. No material is proposed for illustration and the assemblage is recommended for discard.

***The Glass by Chris Butler***

- 8.2.15** No further work required.

***Coins and Jetons by David Rudling***

- 8.2.16** No further work required, although the jetton should be drawn for the final report.

*The Marine Molluscs by Rachel Butler*

- 8.2.17** It is recommended that a full analysis of the marine molluscs is carried out, together with more detailed comparisons with assemblages from other Lewes excavations, and a report prepared for inclusion in the final published report.

*The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber and Chris Butler*

- 8.2.18** The crucible fragments are considered to hold potential as evidence for non-ferrous metalworking in Lewes at this time has not been located before. This may in part be due to workshops being located outside of the historic core, where few previous excavations have occurred.
- 8.2.19** A brief analysis of the magnetic remains from the soil samples is recommended, to determine whether there is any evidence present for metalworking at the site.

*The Environmental Samples by Chris Butler*

- 8.2.20** It is recommended that the remaining unprocessed soil samples for Contexts **45**, **74**, **59** and **76** are processed to recover additional remains. The artefacts recovered from the soil samples should then be incorporated into the respective artefact reports, whilst the ecofacts from selected contexts (animal & fish bone, and any seeds) should be submitted for full analysis and inclusion in the final report.
- 8.2.21** It is recommended that a small amount of analysis work is undertaken on the charcoal from certain deposits. Most of the charcoal is very small sized, and not suitable for identification. Selected samples from the hearths, Pit **44** and Terrace **57** can be analysed
- 8.2.22** There is a significant assemblage of land molluscs present in the soil samples recovered from the medieval features. Samples from Contexts **45**, **74**, **59** and **76** could be submitted for identification, and a brief report prepared on the likely landscape represented by these assemblages. The remaining samples should be retained in the site archive to ensure they are available for future research.

## **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK**

**9.1** The excavations at The Meridian, Lewes have provided an important addition to the increasing evidence for the development, settlement and land use in Lewes town during the medieval period, and together with other sites such as Lewes House, John's Street, Baxters, North Street and 5 East Street, form an important body of evidence.

**9.2** It is therefore recommended that the site should be worked up into a full published report which should be published in Sussex Archaeological Collections. Certain categories of artefact have been identified as requiring further analysis (see Section below), and the results of the excavation should be analysed and compared with other recently excavated sites in Lewes. A costing for this is laid in Appendix 4.

**9.3** The framework of the published report will follow the revised research objectives outlined above.

### **9.4 *The Pottery***

The pottery will be subjected to further targeted analysis. The entire assemblage has been recorded for the archive on pottery summary sheets by ware/form as part of this assessment. As such further work will focus on refining the town's fabric series and its dating. Further work is required on the stratigraphic relationships on the site in order to better understand how certain assemblages accumulated.

Following this analysis will concentrate on the assemblage from Pit **44**, Layer **29** and Cut **58** which taken together, represent the main chronological spread of material and the best groups from the site. Cross-joins will be sought between the pit fills to aid interpretation of the mechanics of the pits' infilling. A summary report will be produced for publication outlining the size and nature of the assemblage but concentrating on the above mentioned contexts. A range of forms will be illustrated (up to 30 vessels) and parallels be sought from elsewhere in the town.

### **9.4 *Animal Bone***

The further analysis of the bone assemblage from Pit **44**, Cut **32**, Terrace **57** and Deposits **29** & **31** will include the animal and fish bones retrieved from the soil samples, and will enable comparisons to be drawn between this site and other sites in Lewes (e.g. 5 East Street) where relevant, and should provide further information on diet and function on the site.

## **9.5**      *Ceramic Building Material*

As the CBM assemblage has been fully listed for archive on pro forma during the assessment stage little further work is proposed. However, fabric/brick samples will be extracted for the archive prior to the remainder of the assemblage being discarded (samples will be retained from Contexts **77/78**). No separate specialist report is proposed for publication though comments on both the brick structure (in **58**) and hearths should be extracted from the archive and this assessment for inclusion in the site narrative.

## **9.6**      *Metalwork*

All of the identified artefacts will need to be illustrated for the final report. Comparisons should be made with Medieval finds from other sites in Lewes and elsewhere, and a full identification listing produced for the report and archive. Special regard should be given to the relationship between the artefacts and possible activities being undertaken on the site.

## **9.7**      *Marine Molluscs*

It is recommended that a full analysis of the marine molluscs is carried out. This will include the measurement of complete shells from selected contexts for statistical analysis and a further inspection for infestation. This will allow comparisons to be made with other assemblages from recent Lewes excavations and with the assemblage from Lewes Priory, and a report prepared for inclusion in the final published report.

## **9.8**      *Crucible Fragments*

The crucible fragments should be subjected to some further analytical work. This will involve further work to try to establish how many crucibles are represented in the assemblage, scientifically test the interior surface in an attempt to establish the nature of the material held in the vessels and the finding of parallels. At least one rim is proposed for illustration.

## **9.9**      *Environmental samples*

It is recommended that the remaining unprocessed soil samples for Contexts **45**, **74**, **59** and **76** are processed to recover additional remains. The artefacts recovered from the soil samples should then be incorporated into the respective artefact reports, whilst the ecofacts (animal & fish bone, and any seeds) from any contexts should be submitted for full analysis and inclusion in the final report.

**9.10** Relevant information regarding all the remaining artefacts should be extracted from this report and re-worked into a format suitable for publication. The plans and sections should also be re-worked where necessary. The analysis and factual data regarding the results of the excavation should be extracted from this report and reworked into a suitable form for publication. A final conclusion will be written providing a comparison with other recently excavated sites in Lewes.

## **10.0 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING PROPOSALS**

### **10.1** Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) Policy HE12.3 states that

“Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset’s significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset’s significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.”

The publication of the results of this project, as specified in Section 9 above, in Sussex Archaeological Collections will satisfy the requirements of PPS5.

### **10.2** Additionally the publication will also ensure that the aims and objectives outlined above, together with those detailed in the Lewes Extensive Urban Survey have been fully addressed, and meets the requirement to analyse and disseminate the results of the work, with particular regard to the medieval economy and activity in this part of Lewes.

### **10.3** In determining the expected costs of the publication, the further analysis of artefacts and stratigraphic data has been focussed on the most important parts of the site. Less significant aspects of the site will receive a lower level of analysis and reporting, whilst ensuring that all available information is deposited in the archive for further study in the future. This ensures that the costs are both reasonable and in accordance with the significance of the heritage assets that have been destroyed as a result of the development. The costs of the publication and archiving are laid out in Appendix 4.

### **10.4** The archive will be deposited at the Museum of Sussex Archaeology in Lewes in due course.



## **11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 11.1** We would like to thank Lewis Watts of Creative Developments Ltd for appointing CBAS to undertake the archaeological work. We would also like to thank Bailey Brothers for their help and co-operation during the project.
- 11.2** The artefacts were processed by Annalie Seaman, and we would like to thank Luke Barber, Patricia Stevens, David Rudling, Chris Butler and Rachel Butler for the specialist reports. The drawings were digitised by Jane Russell. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler, and monitored for ESCC by Casper Johnson and Greg Chuter.

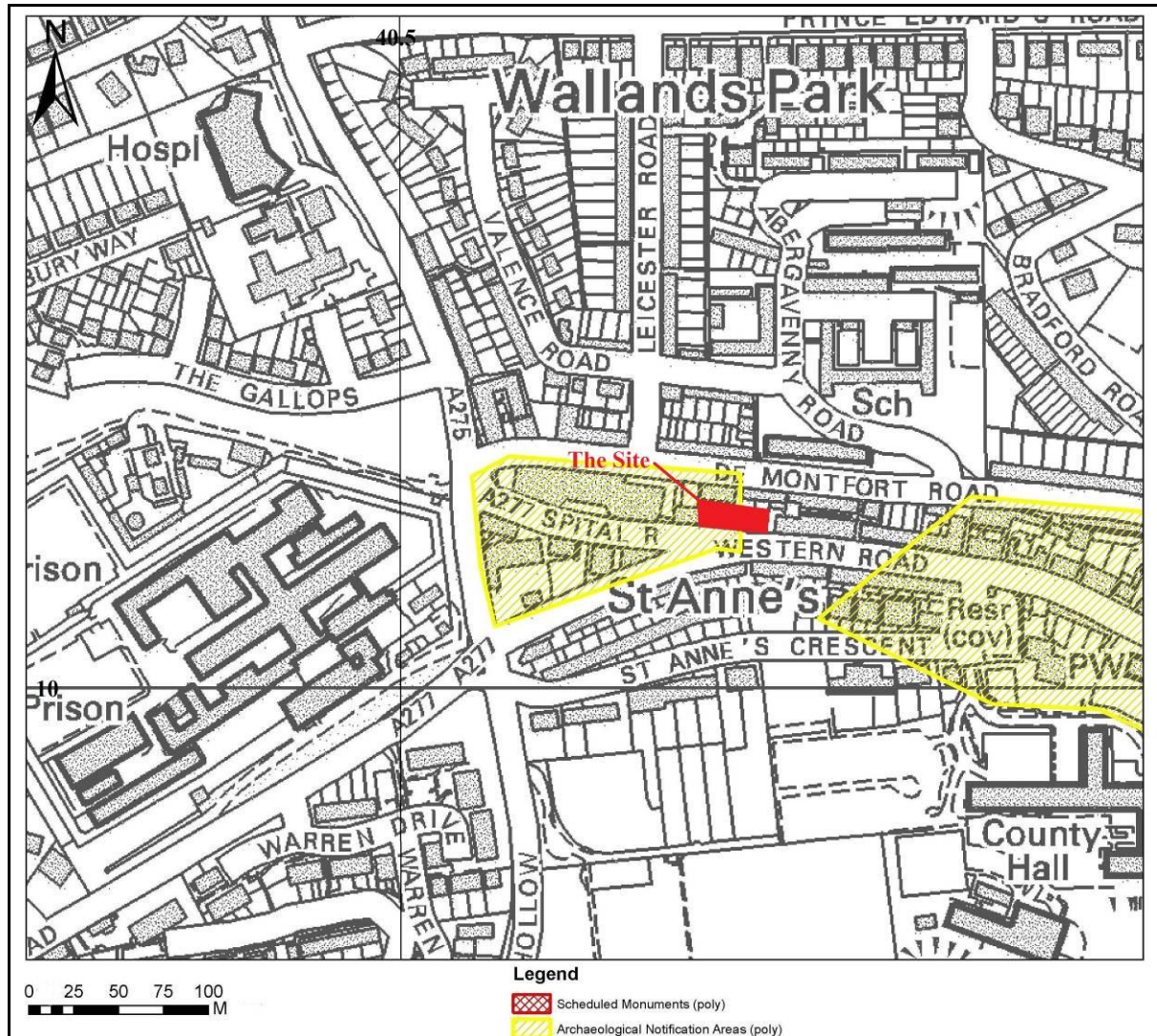


Fig. 1: The Meridian, Lewes: Location of site & Archaeological Notification Areas  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)

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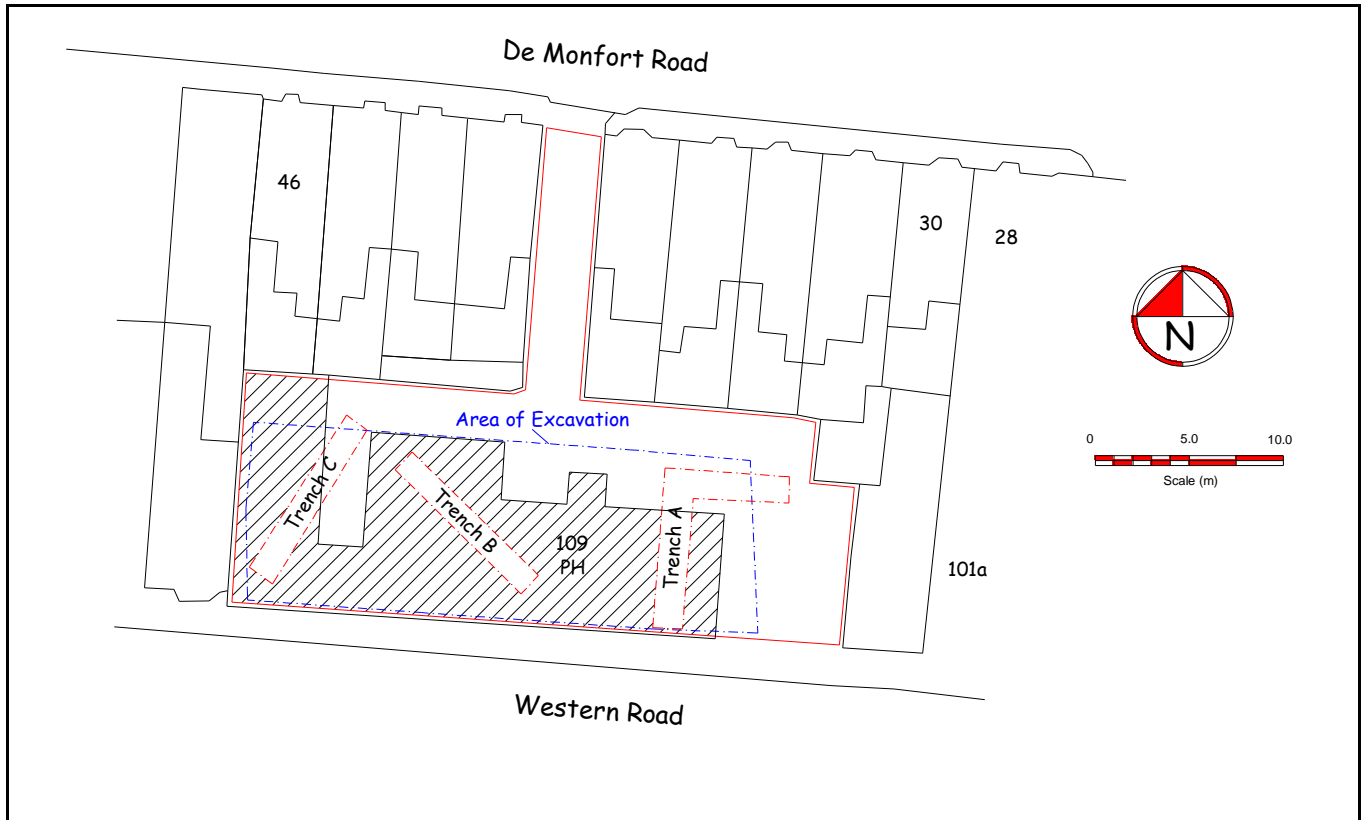


Fig. 2: The Meridian, Lewes: Site plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches and the area excavation

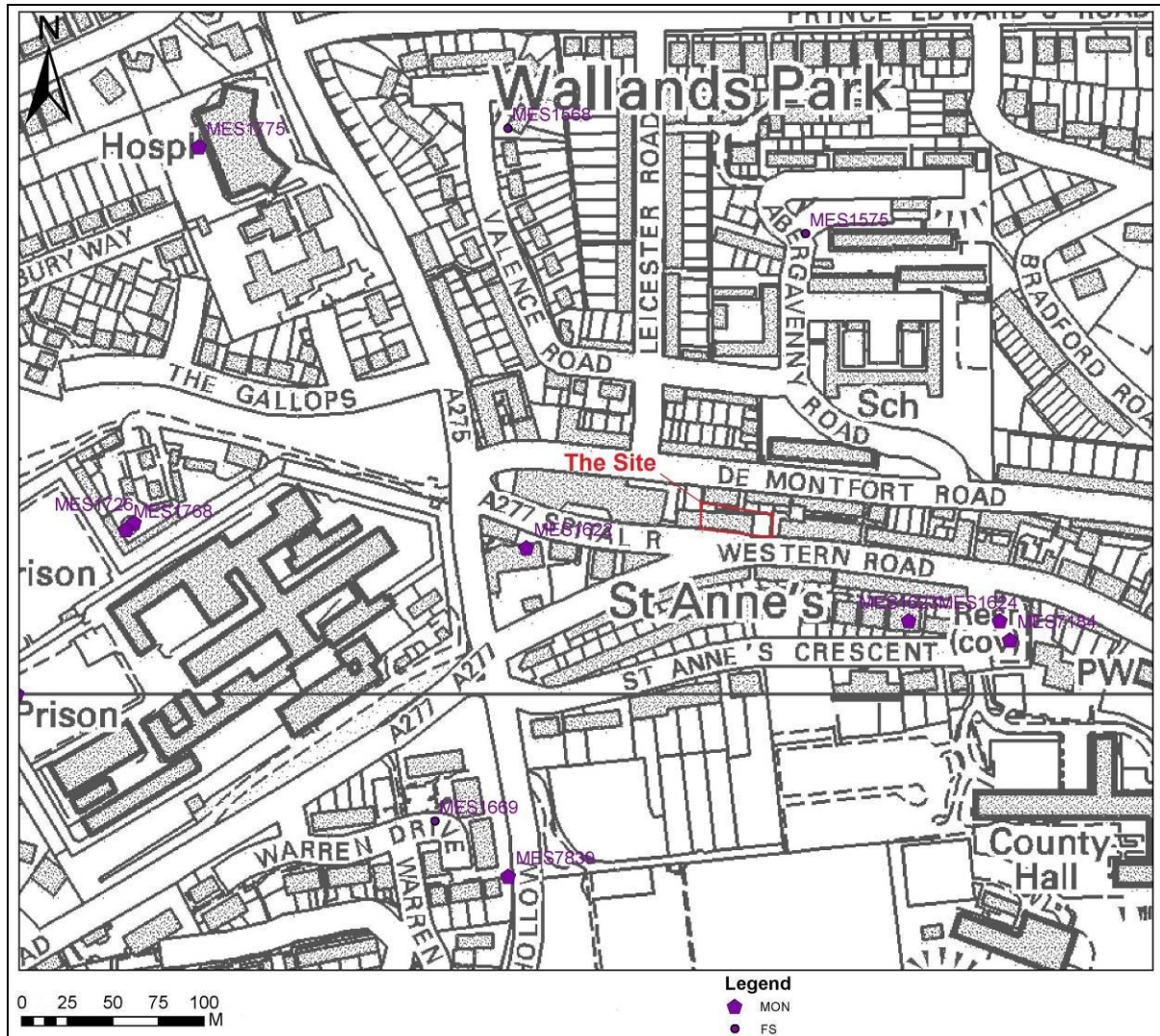


Fig. 3: The Meridian, Lewes: Monuments on the HER  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)  
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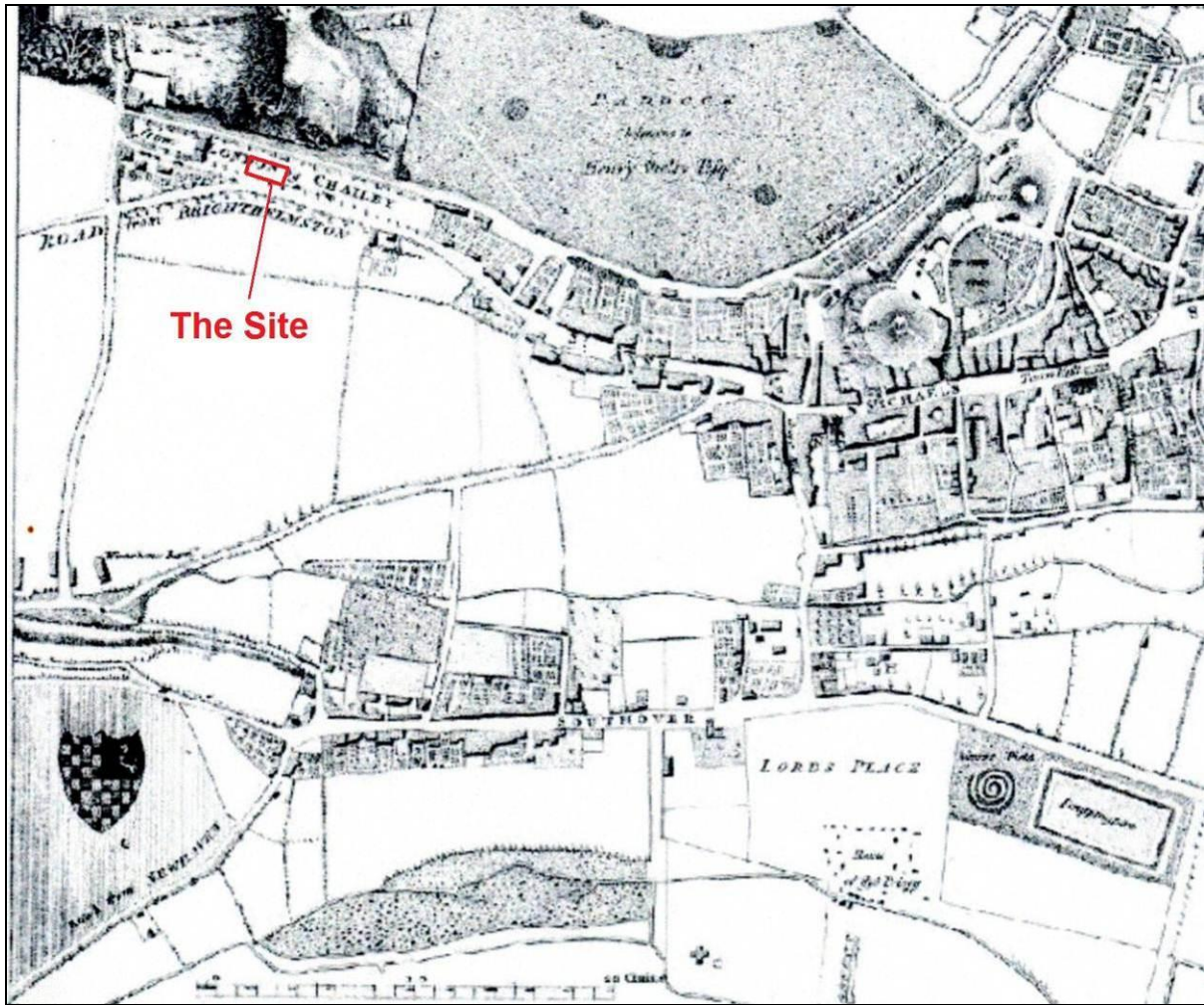


Fig. 4: The Meridian, Lewes: Map of Lewes by James Edwards 1799







Fig. 6: The Meridian, Lewes: Tithe Map 1842  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)

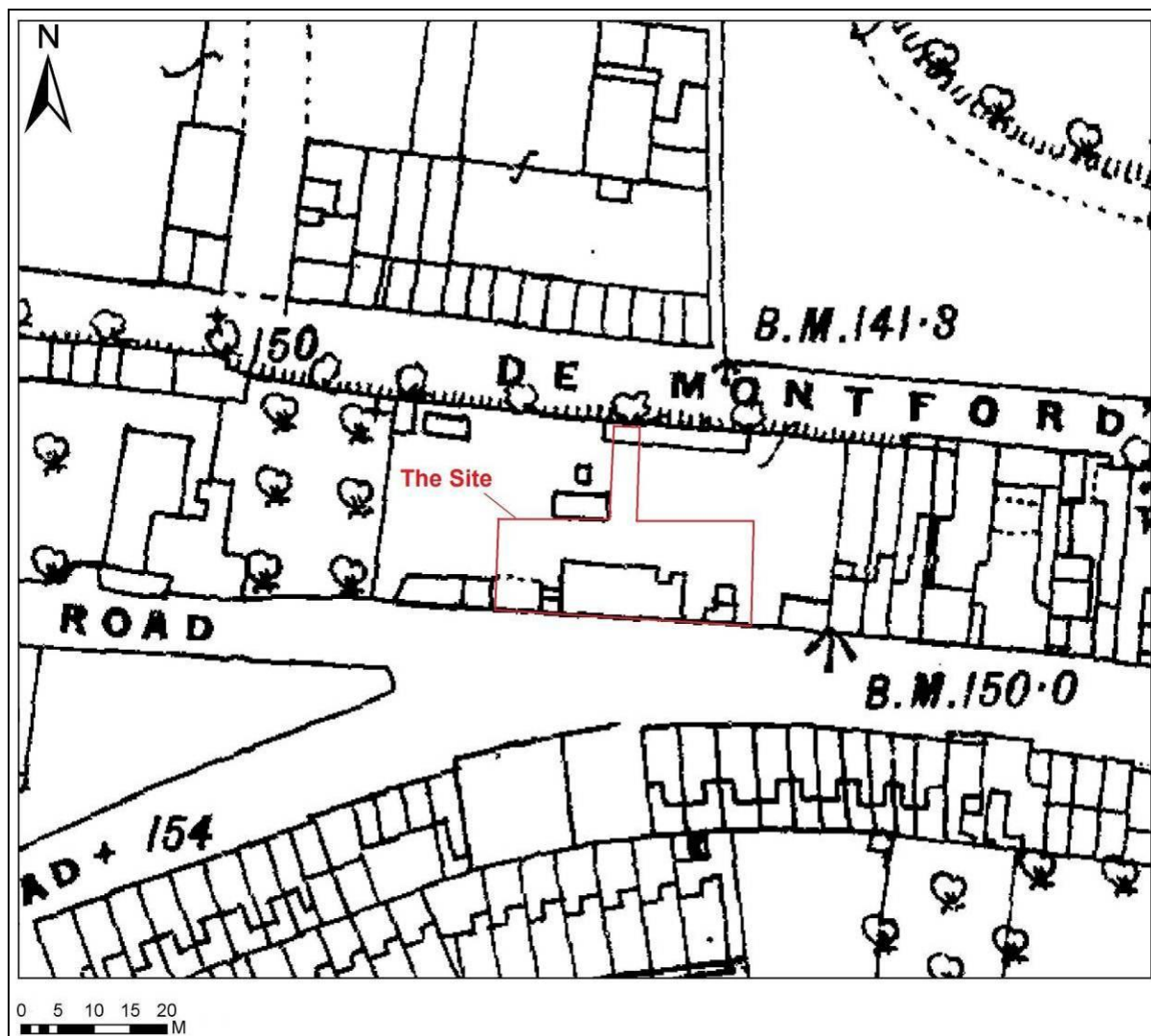


Fig. 7: The Meridian, Lewes: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (1875)





Fig. 8: The Meridian, Lewes: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Map (1899)



Fig. 9: The Meridian, Lewes: 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS Map 1910

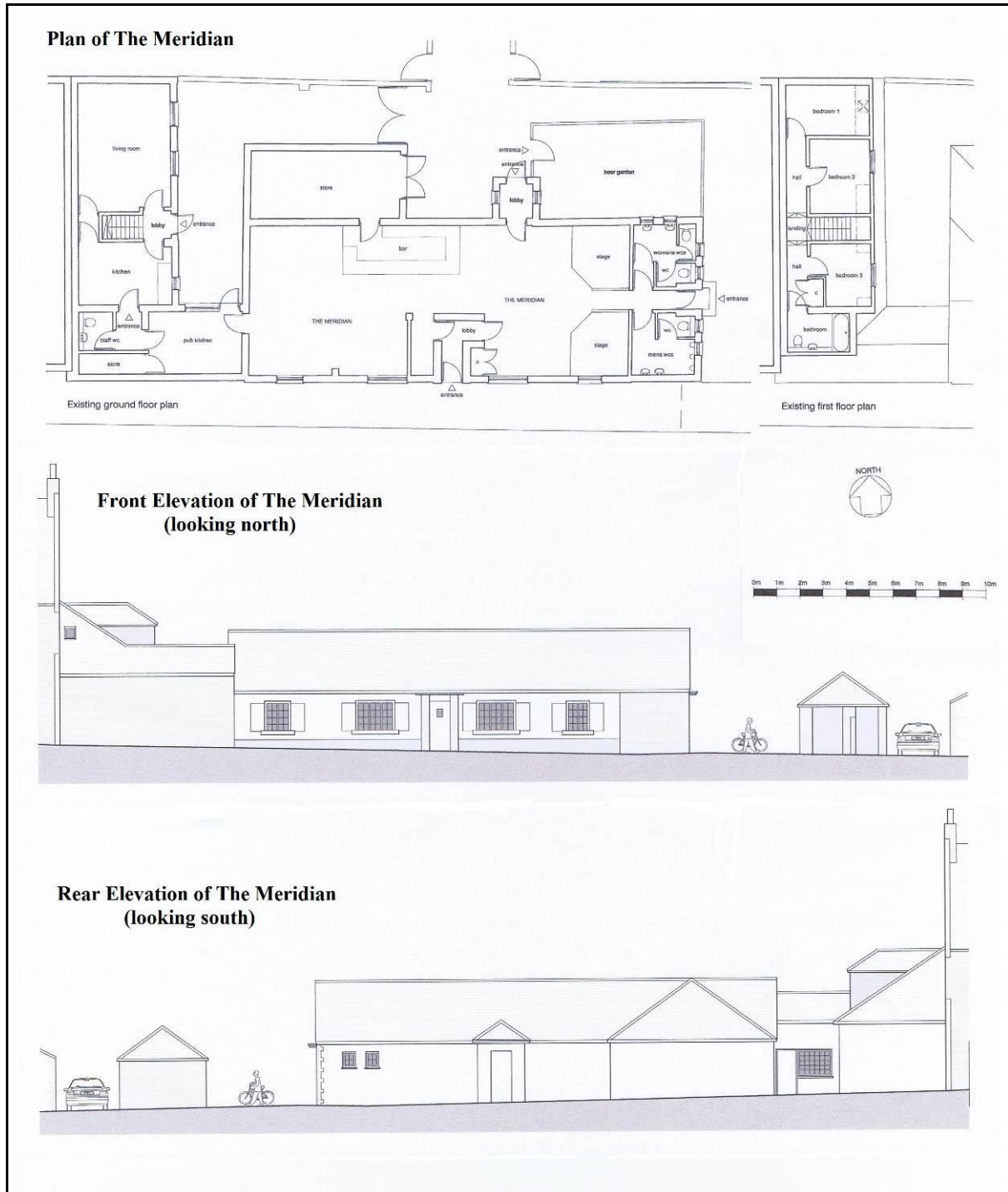


Fig. 10: The Meridian, Lewes: Plan and Elevations of The Meridian (adapted from architects drawings)



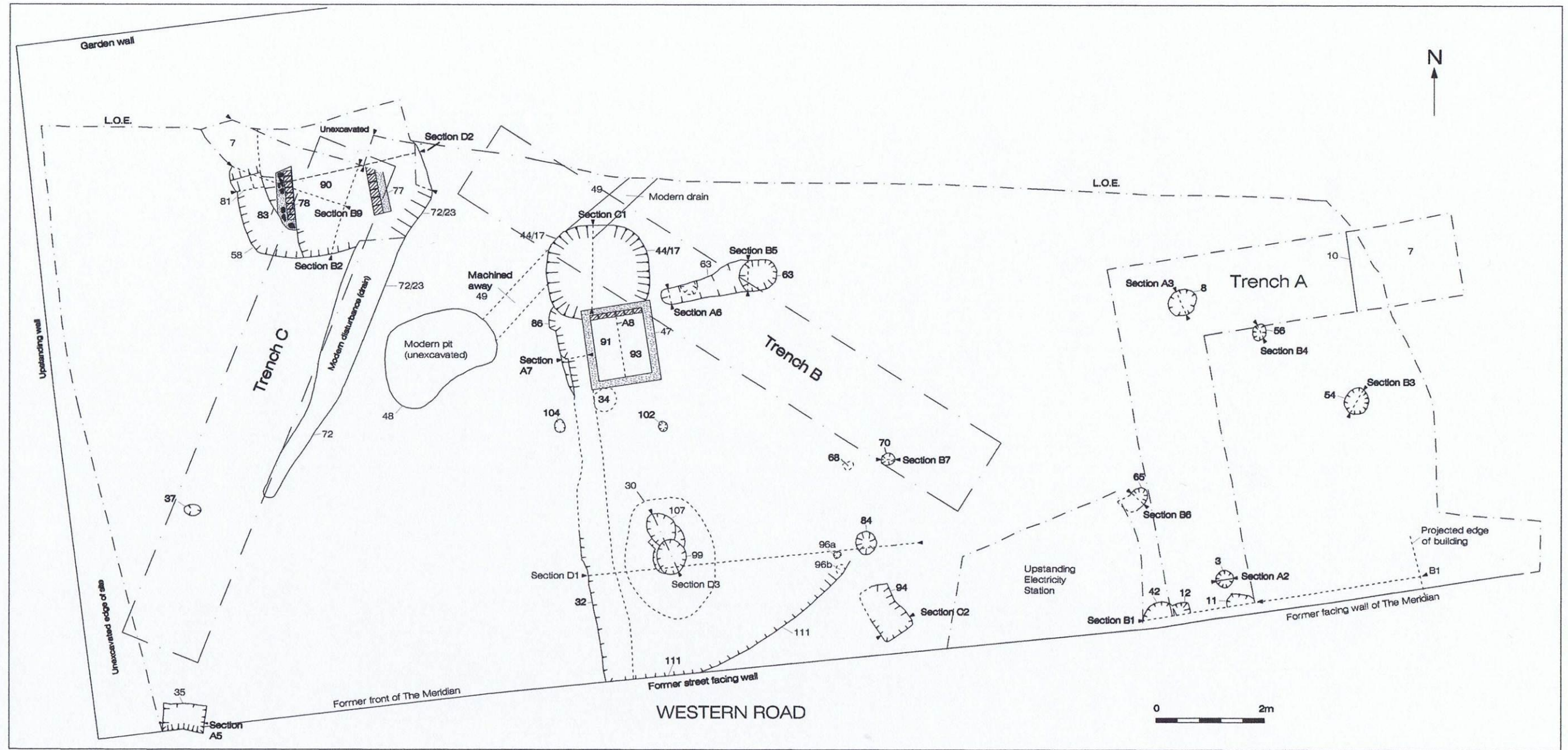


Fig. 11: The Meridian: Site Plan showing all features and the evaluation trenches



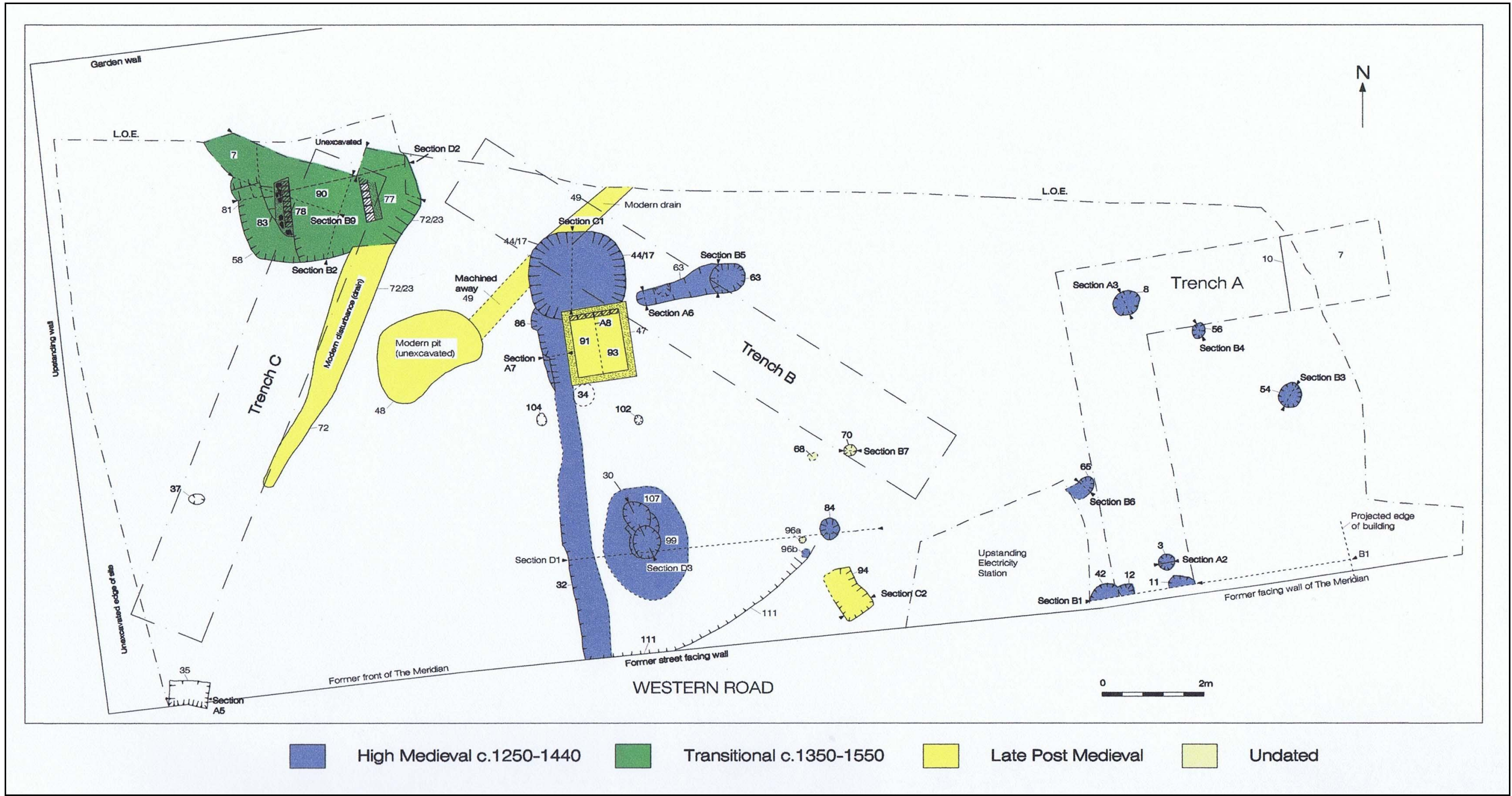
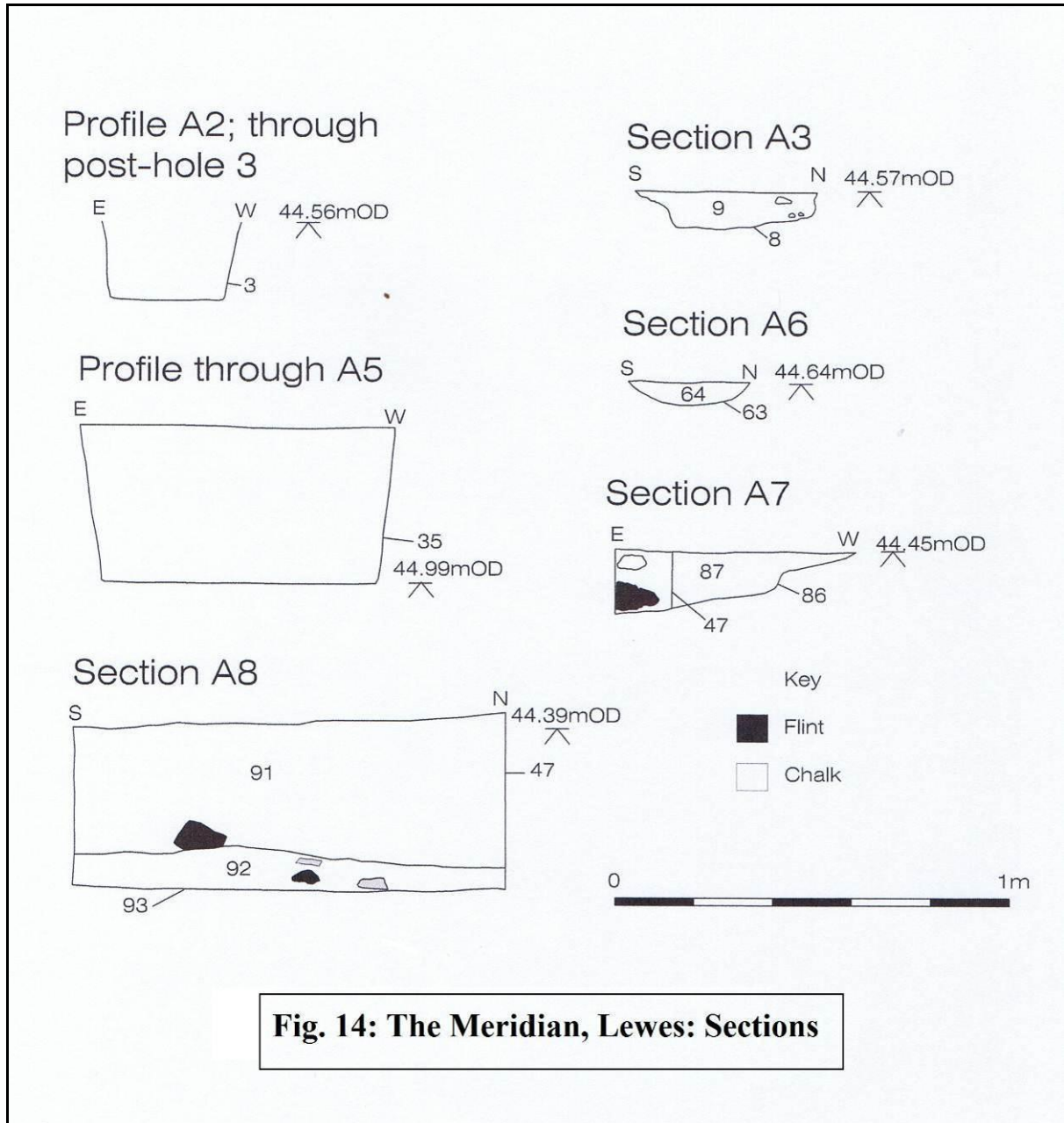


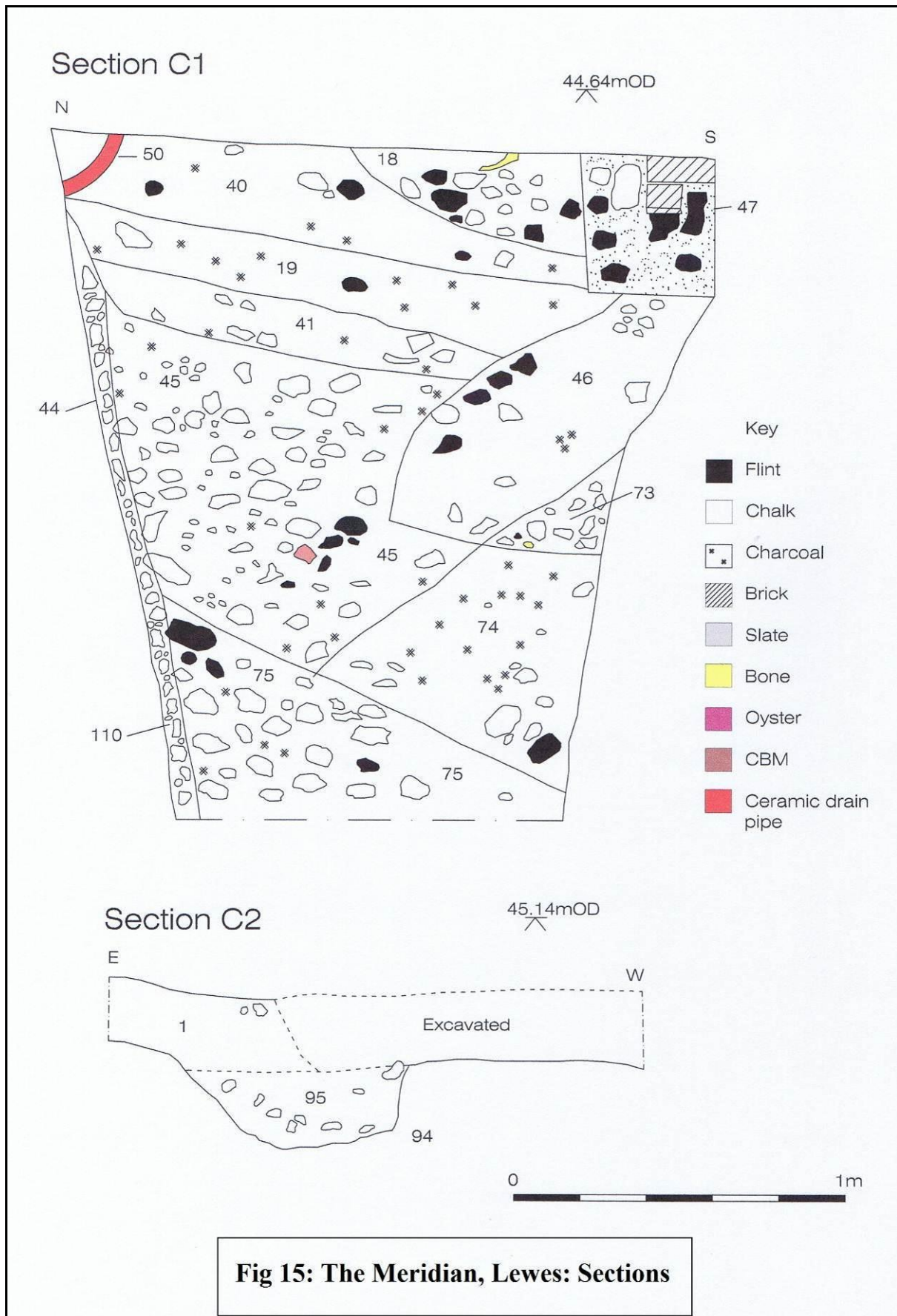
Fig. 12: The Meridian: Phased Site Plan



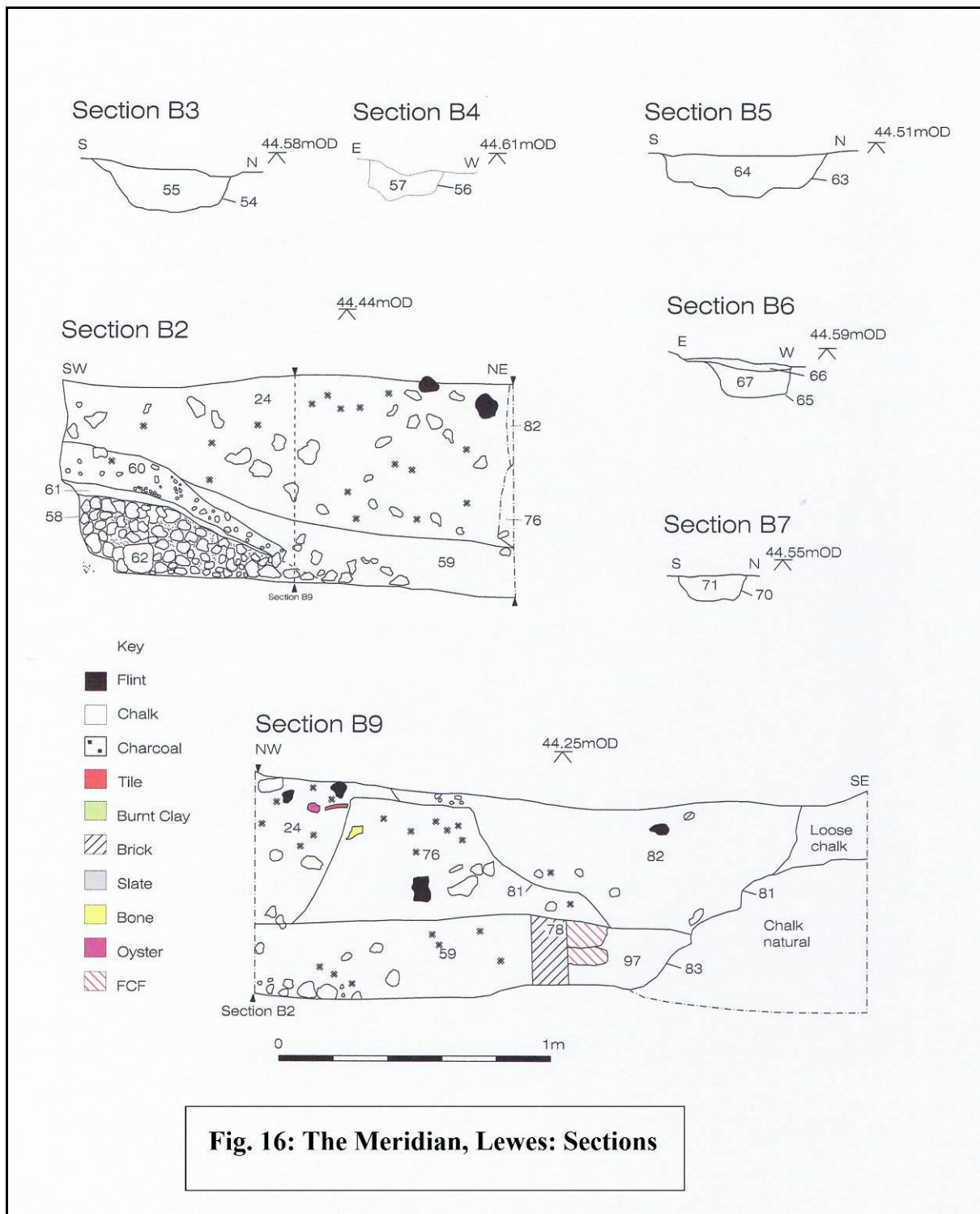


Fig. 13: The Meridian: Sections

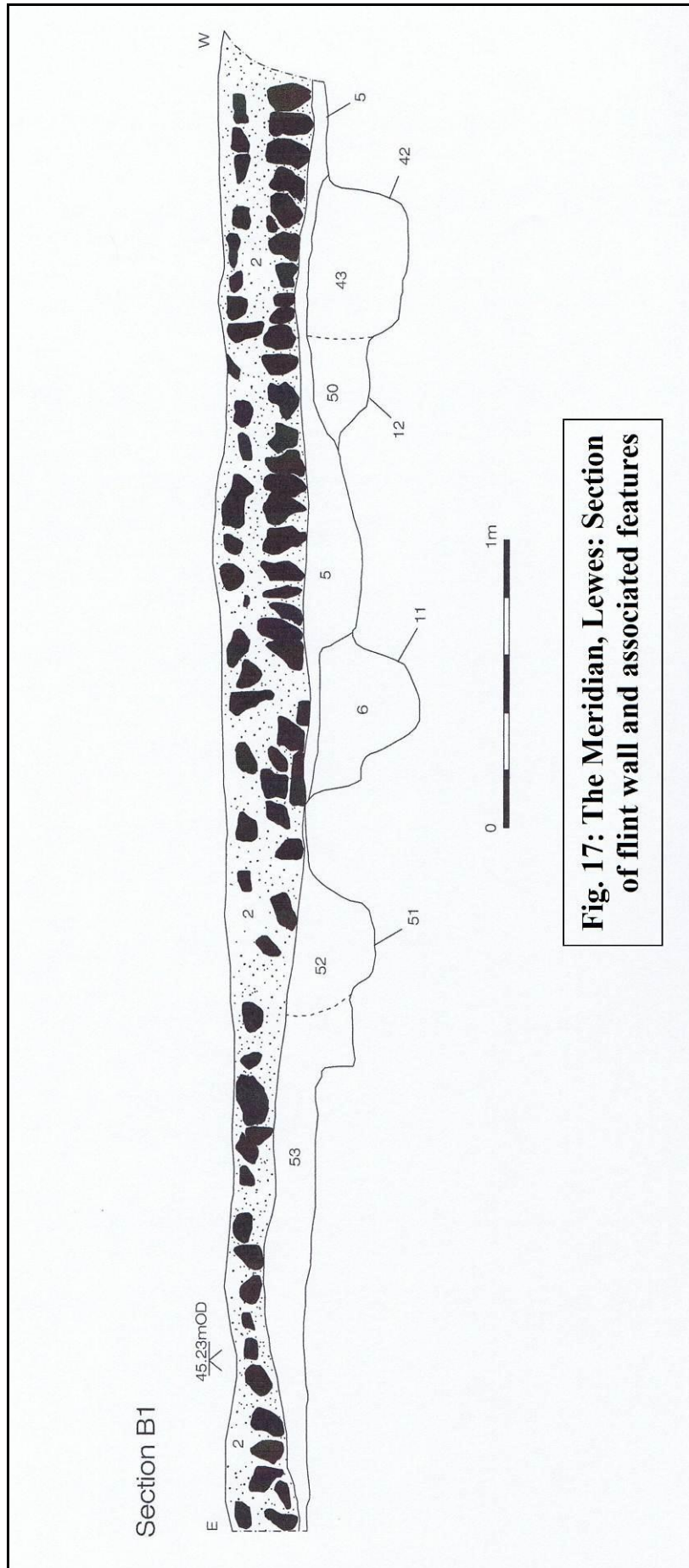


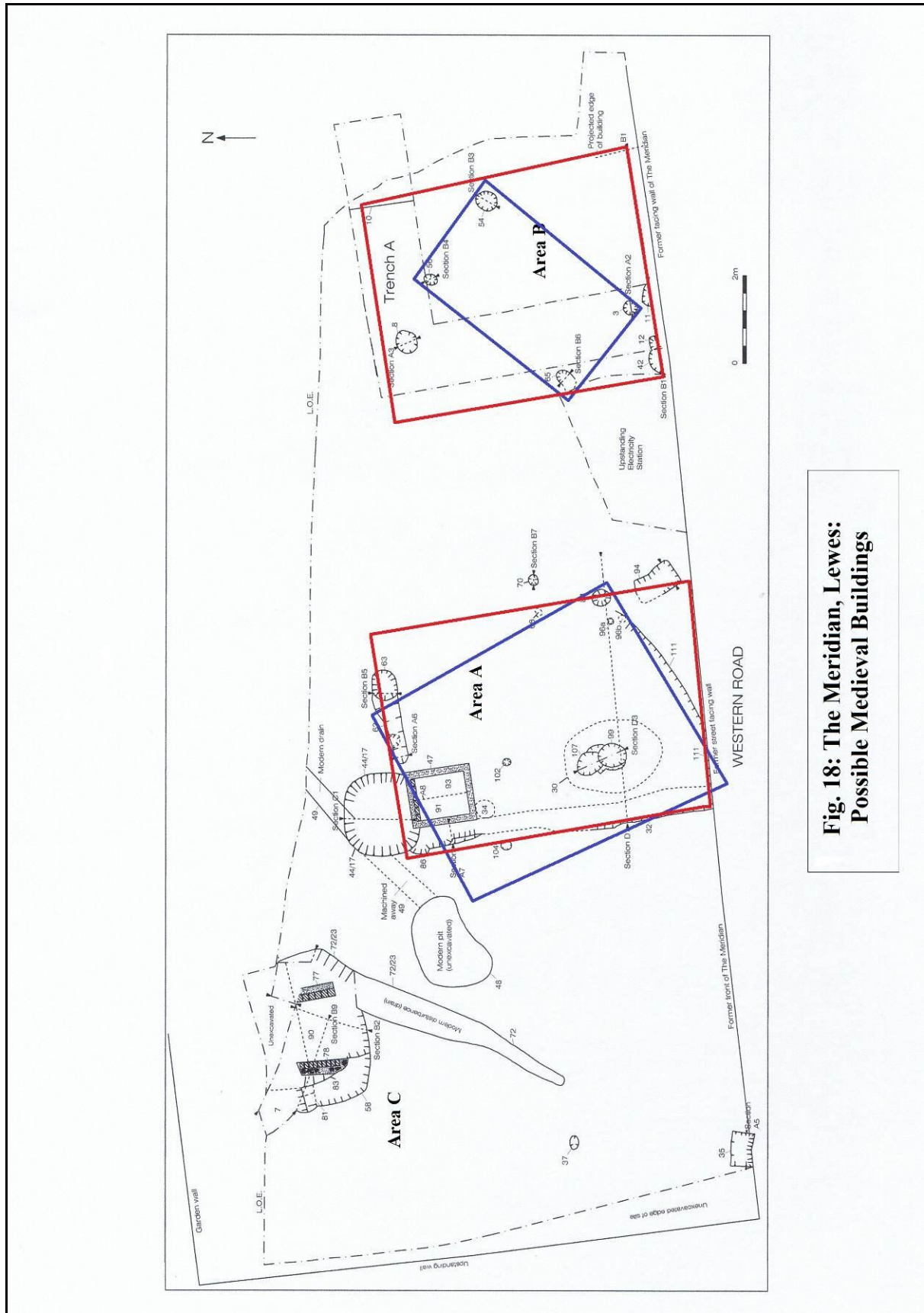






**Fig. 16: The Meridian, Lewes: Sections**





**Fig. 18: The Meridian, Lewes:  
Possible Medieval Buildings**





Plate 7: The Meridian, Lewes: Hearth (99 & 107) with overlying 30



Plate 8: The Meridian, Lewes: Hearth (99 & 107)





Plate 9: The Meridian, Lewes: Section through Hearth (99 & 107)



Plate 10: The Meridian, Lewes: Section through Hearth (99)





Plate 11: The Meridian, Lewes: Pit 44



Plate 12: The Meridian, Lewes: Structure 47 & Pit 44





Plate 13: The Meridian, Lewes: Wall 2 & underlying features



Plate 8: The Meridian, Lewes: Terrace 58 and brick walls

## Appendix 1: Context List

<u>No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Deposit	Tr.A	Mixed demolition OB - same as (13)
2	Structure	Tr.A	Wall footing, formerly fronting Western Rd
3	Cut	Tr.A	P/hall, adjacent to wall footing (2) - filled by (4)
4	Fill	Tr.A	Single fill of [3]
5	Layer	Tr.A	Thin layer beneath (2)
6	Fill	Tr.A	Fill of irreg. feature [11]
7	Deposit	Tr.A	Natural Chalk - Same as (20) & (25)
8	Cut	Tr.A	Shallow p/hole - filled by (9) - Modern?
9	Fill	Tr.A	Fill of [8]
10	Deposit	Tr.A	Modern disturbance at east end of Tr. A
11	Cut	Tr.A	Partially exposed cut beneath (2) - filled by (6)
12	Cut	Tr.A	Cut beneath (2), filled by (50)
13	Deposit	Tr.B	Demolition - Same as (1)
14	Deposit	Tr.B	Modern disturbance – prob. same as (28)
15	Cut	Tr.B	P/hole cut -recorded as [70] - VOID NUMBER
16	Fill	Tr.B	Fill of [15] - recorded as (71) - VOID NUMBER
17	Cut	Tr.B	Medieval pit - recorded as [44] - VOID NUMBER
18	Fill	Ex.	Upper fill of [44]
19	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [44]
20	Deposit	Tr.C	Natural Chalk - same as (7) & (25)
21	Deposit	Tr.C	Modern Demo - same as (1) and (13)
22	Fill	Tr.C	Loose chalk b/fill of modern drain cut [23]
23	Cut	Tr.C	Modern drain- same as [72] - filled by (22)
24	Fill	Ex.	Upper fill in Medieval terrace cut [58]
25	Deposit	Tr.C	Natural Chalk - same as (7) & (20)
26	Layer	Ex.	Mixed machined horizon - incl. Med & post med
27	Layer	Ex.	Modern disturbance - below (26)
28	Layer/Cut	Ex.	Modern deposit/cut - truncates Med. Deposit
29	Layer	Ex.	Medieval horizon - overlying hearth deposits?
30	Layer	Ex.	Burnt horizon over Medieval hearth
31	Layer	Ex.	Medieval horizon?
32	Cut	Ex.	Forms part of large cut, incl. [111] and [86]
33	Fill	Ex.	Fill of (32)
34	Deposit	Ex.	Broken pot within (39)
35	Cut	Ex.	Rectangular pit, beneath pub wall fronting Western Rd
36	Fill	Ex.	Fill of (35)
37	Cut	Ex.	Shallow irregular feature - filled by (38)
38	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [37]
39	Layer	Ex.	Post Medieval layer - contemporary with (27)?
40	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [44] - below (18)
41	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [44] - below (19)
42	Cut	Ex.	Pit beneath footing (2), truncates [12]
43	Fill	Ex.	Fill of pit [43]
44	Cut	Ex.	Pit - filled by (18,40,19,41,45,46,73,74,75)
45	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [44] - below (41)
46	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [44] - below (41)
47	Structure	Ex.	Modern brick/flint square cornered structure
48	Cut/Fill	Ex.	Modern pit - unexcavated
49	Cut/Fill	Ex.	Modern drain, with ceramic pipe, truncates [44]
50	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [12]
51	Cut	Ex.	Cut partially exposed beneath wall footing (2)



<u>No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
52	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [51]
53	Deposit	Ex.	Modern disturbance below wall footing (2), at eastern extent
54	Cut	Ex.	P/holed, filled by (55), poss. form corner to rectangle - also [3,56,65]
55	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [54]
56	Cut	Ex.	P/hole, filled by (57), poss, forms corner to rectangle - also [3,54,65]
57	Fill	Ex.	Fill of (56)
58	Cut	Ex.	Cut of terrace - filled by (24,76,59,60,61,62)
59	Fill	Ex.	Fill in terrace [58] - below (76)
60	Fill	Ex.	Fill in terrace [58] - below (59)
61	Fill	Ex.	Fill in terrace [58] - below (60)
62	Fill	Ex.	Fill in terrace [58] - below 61) - primary chalk b/fill
63	Cut	Ex.	Irreg. linear to east of pit [44] - poss. Structural?
64	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [63]
65	Cut	Ex.	P/hole, filled by (66), poss. forms corner to rectangle - also [3,54,56]
66	Fill	Ex.	Upper disturbed fill of [65]
67	Fill	Ex.	Primary fill of [65]
68	Cut	Ex.	Irreg. feature adjacent to [70]
69	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [68]
70	Cut	Ex.	P/hole, originally [15] - filled by (71)
71	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [70]
72	Cut/Fill	Ex.	Modern drain - same as [23] - filled by (23)
73	Fill	Ex.	Fill of pit [44] - below (46)
74	Fill	Ex.	Fill of pit [44] - below (73)
75	Fill	Ex.	Fill of pit [75] - below (74)
76	Fill	Ex.	Fill of terrace - below (24)
77	Structure	Ex.	Brick structure in terrace - parallel to (78)
78	Structure	Ex.	Brick structure in terrace - parallel to (77)
79	Deposit	Ex.	Modern disturbance over [81] & [72]
80	Deposit	Ex.	Modern disturbance over [81] & [72], truncated by (79), fill of [81]
81	Cut	Ex.	Modern ceramic drain cut, filled by (80,82)
82	Fill	Ex.	Fill of modern drain cut [81]
83	Cut	Ex.	Cut for wall footing (78), filled by (97)
84	Cut	Ex.	Cut of p/hole, filled by (85)
85	Fill	Ex.	Fill of p/hole cut [84]
86	Cut	Ex.	Linear, north-south, continuation of cuts [32] & [111]
87	Fill	Ex.	Fill of (86)
88	Fill	Ex.	Fill of terrace [58] - floor deposit
89	Fill	Ex.	Fill of terrace [58] - floor deposit, below (88)
90	Fill	Ex.	Fill of terrace [58] - chalk floor, below (89)
91	Fill	Ex.	Redeposited chalk b/fill to brick structure (47)
92	Fill	Ex.	Thin layer on chalk base in brick structure (47)
93	Fill	Ex.	Crushed chalk floor in brick structure (47), or impacted natural chalk
94	Cut	Ex.	Truncated pit or p/hole
95	Fill	Ex.	Fill of [94]
96	Cut/Fill	Ex.	2 small possible stakeholes (96a) and (96b)
97	Fill	Ex.	B/fill for cut [83], wall footing for (78)
98	Deposit	Ex.	Upright tiles in hearth cut [99]
99	Cut	Ex.	Cut of hearth, filled by (98,100,106), truncates [107], earlier hearth
100	Fill	Ex.	Burnt soil layer between tiles (98) inn hearth cut [99]
101	Fill	Ex.	Darker burnt layer over earlier hearth cut [107]
102	Cut	Ex.	Post hole filled by (103)
103	Fill	Ex.	Fill of p/hole [102]
104	Cut	Ex.	Post hole filled by (105), poss. bioturbation

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
105	Fill	Ex.	Fill of poss. p/hole [104]
106	Fill	Ex.	Primary fill of hearth cut [99]
107	Cut	Ex.	Cut of earliest hearth, truncated by [99], filled by (101, 108, 109)
108	Fill	Ex.	Fill of earlier hearth [107]
109	Fill	Ex.	Primary fill of hearth [107], rich in pot
110	Fill	Ex.	Fill of pit [44], possible lining or degraded edge.
111	Cut	Ex.	Large rectangular cut, part of [32] and [86]

## Appendix 2 Summary of the Finds and Spot Dating

**Table 1:** Quantification of pottery (by approximate period), ceramic building material, stone, clay pipe, mortar and miscellaneous other finds with provisional spot dates

Context	Pottery (by period grouping)	Ceramic Building Material	Stone	Other	Initial Spot date (ASE Ceramic phase)	Comments
1	1225-1350: 6/160g 1350-1550: 1/19g 1550-1750: 1/7g	Peg tile 1/28g	-	Clay pipe 3/10g Bone 5/378g Shell 1/46g	Mixed: 1275-1775	-
9	1225-1350: 3/39g	Peg tile 1/10g	-	Bone 3/4g	c. 1275-1350/75 (5B)	
10	1750-1900: 2/5g	-	-	Clay pipe 1/3g Metal 1/1g	c. 1840-1900 (8B)	
14	1225-1350: 3/33g	-	-	Bone 1/3g Flint 1/4g	c. 1275-1350/75 (5B)	
18	1225-1350: 53/1018g 1750-1900: 1/13g	Daub 6/131g Peg tile 1/142g	5/2716g	Bone 31/416g Shell 24/1003g FF Flint 8/661g Metal 1/6g	c. 1250-1325/50 (5B)	Some intrusive C19th
19	1225-1350: 26/487g	-	2/15g	Bone 41/514g Shell 10/692g	c. 1275-1350 (5B)	
24	1225-1350: 9/176g 1350-1550: 145/2058g	Brick 16/2404g Daub 1/34g Ridge tile 2/111g Peg tile 38/1294g Floor tile 5/1301g	12/1591g	Mortar 2/246g Crucible 5/307g Bone 143/1820g Shell 23/683g Metal 4/134g	c. 1450-1550 (6B)	Low residual 1275- 1350
26	1225-1350: 16/537g	Peg tile 2/93g	-	Clay pipe 1/3g Bone 11/297g Shell 8/362g Flint 1/25g	c. 1250-1350 (5B)	Pot could be residual – C19th- clay pipe
27	1225-1350: 6/167g 1750-1900: 1/7g	Brick 7/1279g	-	Bone 12/182g Shell 13/696g Metal 1/34g	c. 1875-1925 (CBM) (8B)	All pot is residual medieval
28	1225-1350: 5/95g 1350-1550: 1/4g	Brick 6/3342g Peg tile 5/256g	3/128g	Clay pipe 1/2g Asbestos tile 1/30g Bone 18/282g Shell 17/888g Flint 1/2g Metal 1/19g	c. 1850-1925 (CBM) (8B)	Most pot and CBM residual medieval
29	1225-1350: 134/2550g 1350-1550: 16/210g	Brick 2/23g Breeze block 1/36g Daub 2/28g Peg tile 4/151g Pan tile 1/17g	4/1919g	Asbestos tile 1/6g Bone 58/480g Shell 90/3360g FF Flint 1/140g Glass 1/4g	c. 1300/25-1400 (6A)	Low intrusive C20th
30	1225-1350: 13/137g 1350-1550: 5/38g	Brick 1/6g Peg tile 4/26g	1/7g	Bone 3/8g	c. 1325-1400 (6A)	Low intrusive C19th
31	1100-1225: 1/3g 1225-1350: 33/582g 1350-1550: 11/104g	Brick 6/716g Ridge tile 1/75g Peg tile 3/96g Floor tile 1/161g	-	Mortar 3/192g Bone 35/497g Shell 22/1024g FF Flint 2/136g	c. 1300-1375/1400 (6A)	Intrusive C19th/20 <sup>th</sup> CBM
33	1225-1350: 18/219g	Daub 2/23g	-	Bone 7/62g	c. 1275-1375 (5B)	
34	1225-1350: 97/2898g	Daub 1/7g	-	Bone 8/89g	c. 1300-1400 (6A)	
39	1225-1350: 23/688g 1350-1550: 1/18g	Brick 15/2305g Peg tile 5/174g Floor tile 1/10g	4/1014g	Mortar 6/476g Asbestos tile 1/7g Bone 12/136g Shell 17/613g	c. 1800-1925 (CBM) (5B/6A pot) (8B CBM)	All pot residual? (1275-1400)

Context	Pottery (by period grouping)	Ceramic Building Material	Stone	Other	Initial Spot date (ASE Ceramic phase)	Comments
40	1225-1350: 62/1015g	Peg tile 1/39g	6/87g	Bone 61/559g Shell 10/377g FF Flint 2/194g	c. 1300-1375 (5B)	
41	1225-1350: 16/467g	Daub 4/66g	1/62g	Bone 50/387g Shell 20/307g Flint 1/9g FF Flint 1/21g	c. 1275-1350 (5B)	
42	1225-1350: 1/13g	Peg tile 1/8g	-	-	c. 1250/75-1350 (5B)	
43	1225-1350: 1/58g	Peg tile 1/4g	-	-	c. 1275-1350 (5B)	-
44	-	-	-	Shell 1/22g		
45	1225-1350: 83/1548g	Peg tile 6/303g	7/446g	Bone 187/2066g Shell 68/1870g Flint 1/3g FF Flint 12/1376g Metal 1/3g	c. 1275-1350 (5B)	
46	1225-1350: 49/2019g	Brick 1/28g Daub 4/164g	2/650g	Bone 58/666g Shell 20/652g Flint 1/287g FF Flint 6/919g Metal 2/7g	c. 1250-1325/50 (5B)	Low ?intrusive C18th – 20 <sup>th</sup> - brick
47	-	Brick 1/2475g	-	Mortar 2/411g	c. 1830-1900 (CBM) (8B)	
55	-	-	-	Bone 5/20g		
59	1225-1350: 13/130g 1350-1550: 74/1539g	Brick 17/3913g Ridge tile 3/1013g Peg tile 23/1279g Bonnet tile 2/398g Floor tile 9/2091g	10/989g	Mortar 1/240g Crucible 7/393g Bone 169/1743g Shell 16/555g FF Flint 2/301g Metal 19/260g	c. 1450-1550 (6B)	
62	1350-1550: 2/62g	-	-	-	c. 1425-1525 (6B)	
64	1225-1350: 2/20g	Daub 1/16g	-	FF Flint 2/57g	c. 1275-1375 (5B)	
73	1225-1350: 3/53g	Daub 2/13g	-	Bone 8/119g Shell 1/90g FF Flint 1/33g	c. 1325-1375/1400 (5B)	
74	1225-1350: 22/449g	Daub 13/362g	4/856g	Bone 41/655g Shell 9/602g FF Flint 5/407g	c. 1325-1375/1400 (5B)	
75	1225-1350: 7/252g	Daub 4/117g Peg tile 1/45g	-	Shell 2/140g	c. 1275-1350 (5B)	
76	1225-1350: 4/37g 1350-1550: 41/1008g	Brick 1/106g Ridge tile 2/183g Peg tile 13/442g Floor tile 2/199g	3/157g	Mortar 3/378g Crucible 1/41g Bone 135/729g Shell 12/439g Metal 9/162g	c. 1450-1550 (6B)	
77	-	Brick 6/4303g	-	Mortar 6/165g	c. 1475-1625 (CBM) (6B/7A)	Hard to date as heavily burnt
78	-	Brick 7/4300g	-	FF Flint 1/386g	c. 1475-1625 (CBM) (6B/7A)	Hard to date as heavily burnt
82	1225-1350: 7/90g 1350-1550: 49/734g	Brick 26/5302g Ridge tile 2/326g Peg tile 13/583g Floor tile 1/263g	10/1873g	Crucible 1/208g Bone 38/679g Shell 2/47g FF Flint 1/302g Metal 7/164g	c. 1450-1550 (6B) or c. 1750-1900 (CBM) (8B)	Notable C18th – 19 <sup>th</sup> - CBM so pot may all be residual
85	1225-1350: 2/9g	-	-	Bone 1/6g	c. 1300-1400 (6A)	
87	1225-1350: 2/14g	-	-	-	c. 1275-1375 (5B)	
92	1225-1350: 1/3g	Brick 3/922g	-	Mortar 4/157g Shell 3/48g	c. 1840-1900+ (CBM) (8B)	Pot residual

<b>Context</b>	<b>Pottery (by period grouping)</b>	<b>Ceramic Building Material</b>	<b>Stone</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Initial Spot date (ASE Ceramic phase)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>95</b>	1225-1350: 3/124g	-	-	Asbestos tile 2/33g Flint 1/11g	c. 1300/25-1400 (pot) (6A) or C20th (tile) (8B)	C20th- tile could be intrusive
<b>97</b>	1350-1550: 1/15g	-	-	-	c. 1350-1450 (6A)	
<b>98</b>	-	Peg tile 209/7097g	-	-	c. 1400-1550/1600 (CBM) (6B/7A)	
<b>100</b>	-	Peg tile 10/85g	-	-	c. 1400-1550/1600 (CBM) (6B/7A)	
<b>101</b>	1225-1350: 5/41g	Peg tile 1/16g	-	-	c. 1275-1350 (5B)	
<b>108</b>	1225-1350: 8/94g	-	-	-	c. 1250/75-1350 (5B)	
<b>109</b>	1225-1350: 123/1394g 1350-1550: 1/40g	Peg tile 2/41g	1/80g	-	c. 1300-1375 (5B)	

Note: With an allocated ceramic phase as used for the Baxter's and Lewes House excavations

### Appendix 3: HER Summary Form

Site Code	MNL10					
Identification Name and Address	The Meridian, Western Road, Lewes					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 40691 10093					
Geology	Upper & Middle Chalk					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. <b>X</b>	Excav. <b>X</b>	Watching Brief	Standing Structure <b>X</b>	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban <b>X</b>	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 10	Excav. 7 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10	WB.	Other Building survey 23/9/10		
Sponsor/Client	Creative Developments Ltd					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIfA					
Project Supervisor	Clive Meaton					
Period Summary	Palaeo. ?	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED <b>X</b>	PM <b>X</b>	Other		
100 Word Summary.						
<p><i>An archaeological evaluation and subsequent strip and map excavation was undertaken at the site of The Meridian, Western Road, Lewes in advance of residential redevelopment, whilst a Level 1 survey of the standing structure of The Meridian was completed before its demolition.</i></p> <p><i>The excavations showed that the earliest occupation on the site was during the period c.1250 – c.1400, when two buildings fronted onto Western Road, which may have been on a slightly different alignment to that taken today. Occupation appears to have continued through to c.1450 – c.1550, when there was also industrial activity going on in the area to the rear of the buildings. The evidence from the Meridian site seems to support the idea of a shift in focus away from the town centre in the High Medieval period. After the 16<sup>th</sup> century the site appears to have been abandoned, and was an open area until the construction of the Meridian in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</i></p>						

## Appendix 4

### Estimated Publication Costs

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Specialist</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Cost £</b>
Full analysis & archive recording of Pottery	Luke Barber	3	500
Full analysis of animal and fish bone & comparison with other Lewes sites	Patricia Stevens	2	300
Metalwork	CBAS staff	1	200
Processing of soil samples	CBAS staff	2	200
Sorting of remaining soil samples	CBAS staff	2	200
Assessment of environmental material	Mike Allen	3	750
Analysis of marine shell	Rachel Butler	0.5	50
Analysis of charcoal	Mike Allen	2	500
Drawings	Andy Bradshaw	3	600
Re-writing report for SAC including comparisons with other Lewes sites	Clive Meaton	4	800
Editing of report and management of project	Chris Butler	2	400
Contribution to SAC publishing costs	-	-	700
Archiving of site	-	-	250
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,450</b>

## **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 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.

**Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd** 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.

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