



**Chris Butler MfA
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at 7 The Street, Kingston,
East Sussex**

SDNP/13/04030

Project No. CBAS0446

by
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Summary

During the reduction of the ground surface on a site to the rear of 7, The Street, Kingston, no archaeological features were noted and very few artefacts were recovered. The artefacts consisting of pottery and glass were all later Post Medieval in date. The lack of evidence for archaeological activity could be due to the shallow impact of the ground works which had a maximum depth of 300mm. The south-western boundary wall of the property was recorded. The wall was un-datable but the south-eastern end which was to be demolished to provide an entrance for the parking appeared to be a later extension to the wall or an extensive repair. This was evidenced by the lack of capping bricks and the use of brick in its construction.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned Mrs E Grebbell (The Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new parking space at 7 The Street, Kingston, East Sussex, centred at TQ 3927 0819 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2** As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority have put a condition on the planning consent for the development, requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3** 7 The Street is a Grade II Listed Building, and is described as an 18th century or earlier building, refaced with cement on ground floor and tile-hung above. Tiled roof. Horizontally sliding sash windows, two storeys and four windows. It is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area defining the medieval and Post Medieval village centre (Fig. 2), and is within the Kingston Conservation Area
- 1.4** The site lies on the south side of The Street, which is the original main street through Kingston Village, with the Parish Church and Manor House situated a little further west along The Street. 6 The Street adjoins the site to the north, and a small lane runs along the west side of the site.
- 1.5** The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 319), comprises Head Deposit overlying Lower Chalk.
- 1.6** The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprised an archaeological watching brief and historic building recording as specified in a brief issued by the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council. A written scheme of investigation covering the watching brief was submitted and approved by the local planning authority¹. The HER data was provided by ESCC (001/14).
- 1.7** The watching brief was required to monitor the excavation of the ground reduction for the new parking space (Fig. 7) and any other associated groundworks, and also undertake a Level 1 Historic Building Recording of the wall to be demolished. The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological remains which may be damaged or destroyed by the development, and to determine whether there are any archaeological remains relating to the medieval and early Post Medieval village which may shed any light on its extent and development.

¹ Butler, C. 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 7 The Street, Kingston, Lewes, East Sussex*. CBAS

1.8 The watching brief on the groundworks and Level 1 Historic Buildings Recording of the boundary wall was carried out by the author on the 7th April 2014, with the project being managed for CBAS by Chris Butler MifA.

2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background (Fig. 3)

- 2.1 There is limited activity from the Palaeolithic period through to the Neolithic period. A single Palaeolithic handaxe (MES1683) was found to the north of the site. Although there was some potential for hunting and gathering activity taking place around the edge of the flood plain to the east of the site during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, there have been no discoveries of artefacts from these periods close to the site.
- 2.2 During the Bronze Age there is an increase in activity evidenced by the round barrows situated on the higher ground to the west of the site (MES1555 & MES1556), and cremation burials to the north (MES1685). A Bronze Age rapier (MES1686) was also found to the north of the site. The Downland landscape was probably being farmed during the Bronze Age and this continued into the Iron Age with evidence for field systems on the Downs e.g. MES2007). This activity almost certainly continued into the Roman period as well. A Roman Road (MES489) probably ran along Kingston Ridge and Juggs Road.
- 2.3 The earliest evidence for drainage and meadow in the Lower Ouse valley comes from a 10th century charter (AD957) for South Heighton, and it is likely that the levels at Kingston were also managed in a similar manner for grazing and hay prior to the Norman Invasion. Kingston does not have its own entry in the Domesday Book, but probably comes under the entry of *niworde* (Iford)², and the settlement appears to have been divided up between a number of different manorial holdings³.
- 2.4 Evidence for the Medieval Village (MES19814) can be found in the Church of St Pancras, the earliest surviving part dating to the 14th century (MES1549), and evidence for a dovecote (MES16604) found at Kingston Farm. Swanborough was probably a grange belonging to Lewes Priory, and dates from the 12th century (MES1525).
- 2.5 The landscape around Kingston village comprised strip fields which may have originated in the Medieval period or earlier⁴. They certainly existed in the 17th century, and are first shown on Marchant's Plan of 1773 (Fig. 4), and continued in use until the Inclosure Award of 1830 (Fig. 5). The building at 6 & 7 The Street appears to be present on both of these maps.

² Cooper, C. 2006 *A Village in Sussex; The History of Kingston-near-Lewes*. I.B. Tauris

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

- 2.6** The Manor House was built in the 16th century (MES1547), whilst many of the other buildings along The Street appear to have been built in the 17th century (e.g. Holdings Farmhouse – MES1559) or the 18th century (e.g. Kingston Lodge (MES23246) and Hyde Manor (MES2575)), including Nos. 6 & 7 The Street (MES22872). Barn Cottage has been converted from an 18th century barn (MES22871).
- 2.7** The building is shown on the 1st Edition OS map of 1873 (Fig. 6), and the site is unchanged on the later OS maps of 1899, 1910 and 1930, with development along and around The Street becoming more established in the later 20th century. According to the map evidence, the garden to the south of 7 The Street does not appear to have had any building located on it for at least the last 200 years.

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1** The Level 1 Historic Building Recording on the boundary wall consisted of a visual inspection and written description. A selection of supporting digital photographs were taken of the wall (these together with a full index are contained in the archive).
- 3.2** The watching brief was maintained during the removal of the stumps of two large trees, located on the south-western side of the flint boundary wall. These were in front of the 5m length of wall that was to be removed. The trees had caused a large vertical crack in the wall at a distance of 1.9m from the south-eastern end of the wall.
- 3.3** The monitoring continued during the removal of the 5m length of the wall and the reduction of the ground surface by up to 300mm in the garden on the north-eastern side of the boundary wall. The build-up of soil on the south-western side of the wall was also reduced by 400mm to provide access from the track.
- 3.4** The garden was first metal detected with a Garrett ACE250 metal detector, the ground was then reduced in shallow spits under archaeological supervision. The south-eastern side of the garden was reduced first with the spoil being piled on to the far south-eastern side of the garden. The north-western side of the garden was then reduced with the spoil being piled on to the already reduced south-eastern side. The spoil was inspected and metal detected for artefacts.
- 3.5** The reduction of the ground level and the removal of the boundary wall were all carried out using a 360° tracked excavator with a 450mm toothless bucket fitted.
- 3.6** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.7** A full photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd, and will be retained until such time as a suitable repository can be agreed with the County Archaeologist. A site reference of TSK13 has been allocated.

4.0 Historic Building Recording of Boundary Wall & Watching Brief Results

- 4.1 The south-western boundary wall of the property was on a south-east by north-west alignment (Fig. 8) and had a length of 31.2m and a variable thickness of between 200mm and 250mm. The south-western wall of the house forms the far north-western end of the wall (**Plate 1**).



Plate 1: South-western Boundary Wall

- 4.2 The wall construction is of mostly unknapped flint nodules which are coursed, with some of the nodules being roughly faced. The exception to this is the last 4.2m from the south-eastern end of the wall which has the inclusion of red brick (c.5%) (**Plate 2**). The wall has various types of mortar used in its length reflecting extensive repair work that has taken place over time, some of the mortar repairs appear to be of a recent date. The main mortar used is a light grey sandy mortar, but at the south-eastern the mortar has the same texture but is slightly darker in colour.



Plate 2: South-eastern End of Wall

- 4.3** The wall has a capping of red clay semi circular bricks (**Plate 3**), which are present along the top of the wall except for the final 7.3m at the south-eastern end. The wall has an entrance between the south-eastern wall of the house and the start of the wall. The entrance is fitted with a gate constructed vertical wooden planks. The wall has a brick built quoin between the entrance and the north-western end of the wall. The wall has six buttresses supporting the wall located on the south-western side of the wall. The buttresses are of two different types. There are four buttresses constructed of flint nodules, which are located at 5.4m, 11m, 13.2m and 15.2m from the north-western end of the wall, these would appear to be of a later construction than the wall, evidenced by the use of a different mortar and the buttresses only butting up to the main body of the wall. To the north-west and the south-east of the first flint buttress there is a later brick built buttress, which are slightly narrower than the flint buttresses and are also lower. These buttresses are located at 2.6m and 6.1m from the north-western end of the wall (**Plate 4**).



Plate 3: Capping Bricks



Plate 4: Buttresses at North-western end of the Wall

- 4.4** At 9.5m from the north-western end of the wall there is a second wall attached to the north-eastern side of the boundary wall, which is on a south-west by north-eastern alignment. This wall is of the same coursed flint nodule construction and has semi circular capping bricks. Approximately 3m in from the south-western boundary wall, this wall incorporates the north-eastern brick-built gabled end of a small out-building (**Plate 5**). There were two metal plates that appeared to be strengthening the joint between the two walls (**Plate 6**).



Plate 5: South-Eastern Wall with Out-Building



Plate 6: Metal Plates

- 4.5** A length of the wall measuring 5m at the south-eastern end was demolished by the machine to provide an entrance for the proposed off-road parking spaces. This revealed that the south-eastern end of the wall had very shallow foundations and had a total height of 850mm. The different mortar and materials used in the construction of this part of the wall would suggest that the south-eastern end of the wall was either of a later extension, or alternatively a total re-build of this part of the wall.



Plate 7: Tree Damage to Wall

- 4.6** The construction of the off road parking space involved the demolition of a 5m length of the boundary wall (Context 1) and a shallow reduction of the ground level on the south-western side of the wall and the garden on the north-eastern side. Context 1 was the flint south-western boundary wall of the property, which is described above.

- 4.7** Context **2** was the build up of soil on the south-western side of the flint wall (Context **1**), which was a dark brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence. This deposit had inclusions of flint nodules up to 120mm (<1%), and heavy rooting from the three tree trunks located on this side of the wall. The flint nodules in this deposit were most likely material from the large vertical crack in the boundary wall caused by the tree (**Plate 7**). This deposit had an exposed depth of 400mm, at which point the limit of excavation was reached. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.
- 4.8** Context **3** was located on the north-eastern side of the wall (Context **1**), and was a thick deposit of organically rich garden soil. This deposit was a very dark brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence. This deposit was reduced at the north-eastern end of the site by 300mm and by 200mm at the south-western end. The full depth of this deposit was not established due to the limit of excavation being reached. The only inclusions were heavy rooting at the south-western end of the site. Artefacts of pottery and glass were recovered from this deposit.
- 4.9** No archaeological features were noted in the reduction of the ground surface

5.0 The Finds.

5.0.1 A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from Context **3** during the watching brief. The assemblage is small, late and of industrially produced types common across the country. It offers no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 Context **3** produced a small late post-medieval domestic assemblage likely to have been deposited between c. 1890 and 1925. The material includes both small and large sherds (> 60mm across) most of which show only minor signs of abrasion. As such the assemblage does not appear to have been heavily reworked. There is a single Bristol glazed English stoneware preserve jar sherd (16g) with wide-set vertical grooves and a moulded and coloured planter pot in refined white earthenware (3/140g).

5.1.2 The remaining sherds consist of table and tea wares and include blue transfer-printed whiteware (1/12g: a plate with floral design); black transfer-printed whiteware (2/12g: a plate with medallion busts and a bowl with sheet pattern); plain refined whiteware (6/36g: a saucer, a cup and two plates) and English porcelain (3/26g: two plates and a bowl).

5.2 The Glass by Chris Butler

5.2.1 Two glass jars and a fragment from a glass bottle were recovered from Context **3**. The first jar was a machine made, screw top, clear glass jar 206mm tall and 95mm diameter, and weighing 560g. The lower third of the body has a swirling pattern, and the base is embossed 2 / W / I / 6864.

5.2.2 The second jar is a small paste jar 90mm tall and 48mm diameter, weighing 152g. It is decorated with vertical ribs apart from a diamond plain area on the side, where a label was placed. The base is embossed 4 / C.T.G / 0621. The final piece was the neck of a clear glass milk? bottle (51g). All of the glass dated to the 20th century.

5.3 Other Finds by Chris Butler

5.3.1 A single fragment of sheep? leg bone (26g), which had been sawn at one end, was recovered from Context **3**.

- 5.3.2** A large metal spring (175g) 128mm long and 22mm diameter with a 25mm long hook at each end was found in Context 3. This may have come from a piece of agricultural machinery, and is 20th century in date.
- 5.3.3** A piece of plastic capped piping 40mm diameter and weighing 22g was found in Context 3. This dates to the later 20th century.

6.0 Discussion

- 6.1** During the demolition of a 5m length south-eastern end of the south-western boundary wall and the reduction of the ground surface at 7 The Street, Kingston for an off road parking no archaeological features were revealed and a very small number of artefacts were recovered. The lack of any evidence for archaeological activity noted during the reduction of the ground surface can be attributed to the very shallow depth (up to 300mm) which was impacted by the construction of the off road parking. The area for the car parking had previously been used as a garden, thus the ground has been subjected to continuous cultivation.
- 6.2** All the artefacts recovered were of a recent date, and were small sized and domestic in nature.
- 6.3** In the recording of the south-western boundary wall of the property it is thought that the south-eastern end of this wall was either a complete rebuild or a later extension to an existing wall. This part of the wall also had brick inclusions which were not apparent in the rest of the wall construction. The wall appeared to have had four flint built buttresses constructed against its south-western face at some point after its construction, which were later augmented by two additional brick built ones. The main body of the wall was impossible to date due to its construction of flint nodules.

7.0 Acknowledgements

- 7.1** I would like to thank Mrs E Grebbell for commissioning this archaeological watching brief and recording of the wall, and her on-site contractors for the assistance and co-operation during the ground works for the off road car parking.
- 7.2** The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler MifA, and it was monitored by Greg Chuter for ESCC.

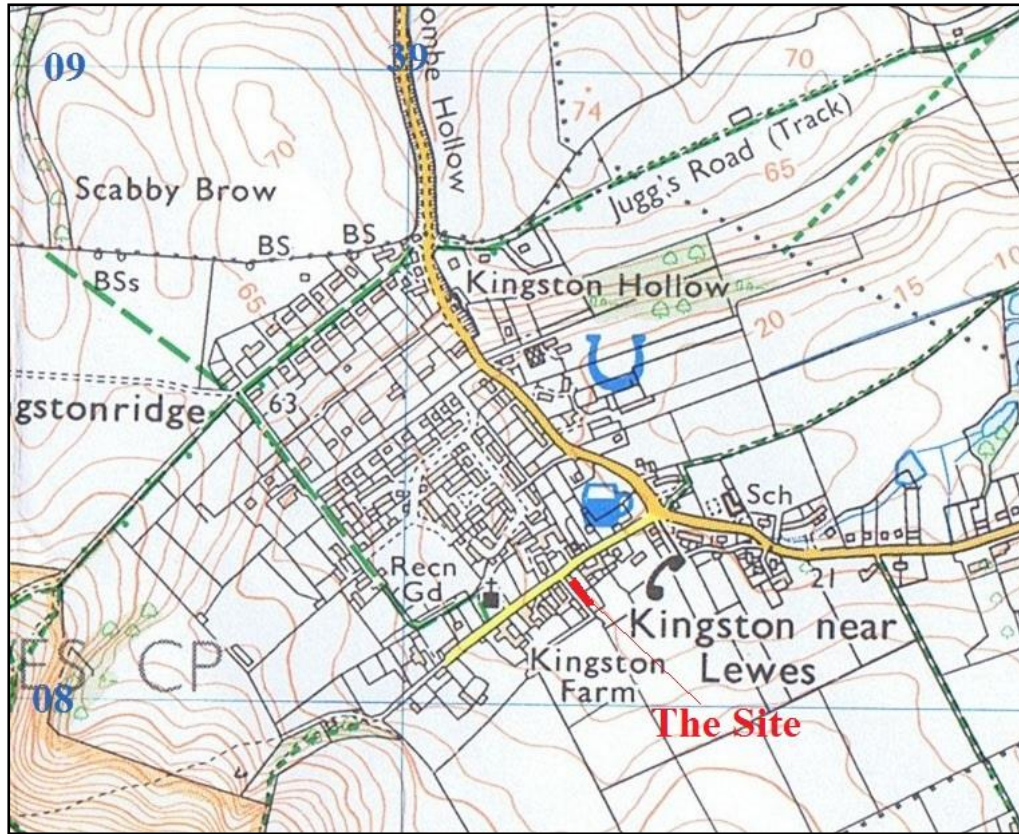


Fig. 1: 7 The Street, Kingston: Location of the Site
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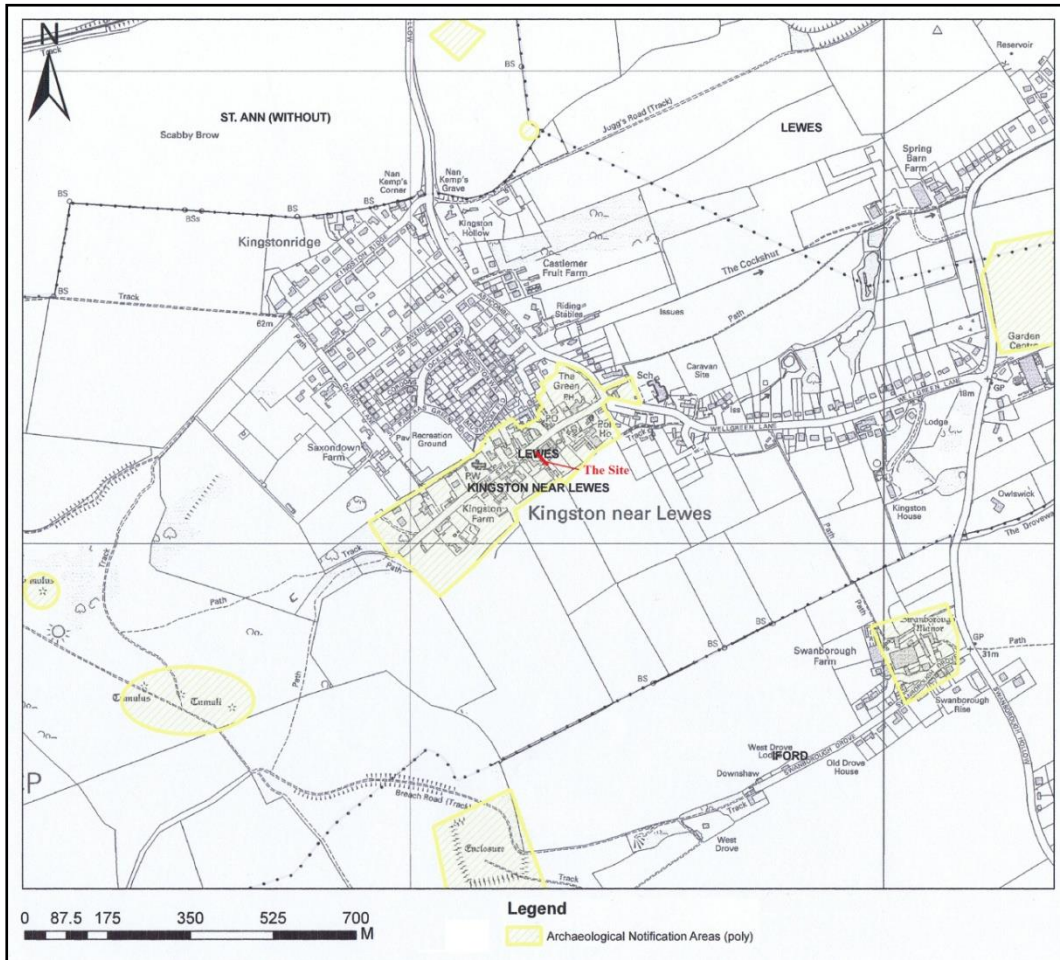


Fig. 2: 7 The Street, Kingston: Archaeological Notification Area
(map provided by ESCC)
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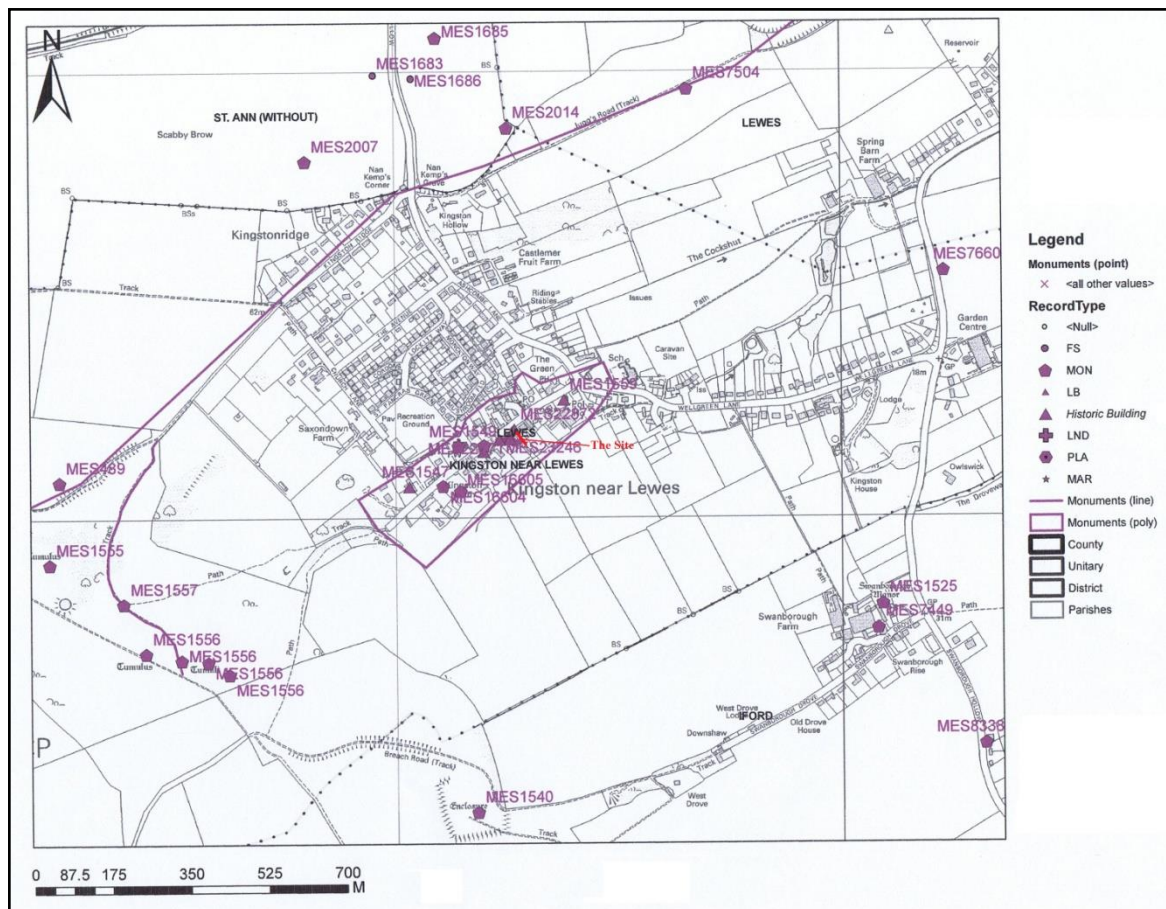


Fig. 3: 7 The Street, Kingston: Sites on the HER
(map provided by ESCC)
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Fig. 4: 7 The Street, Kingston: Marchants Map 1773

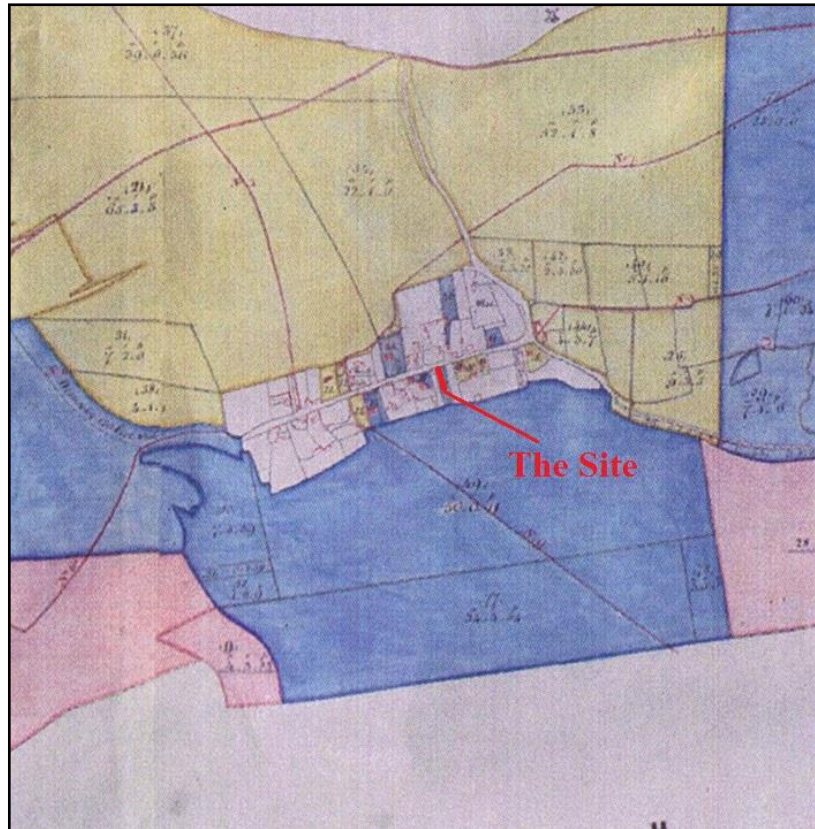


Fig. 5: 7 The Street, Kingston: Inclosure Map 1830

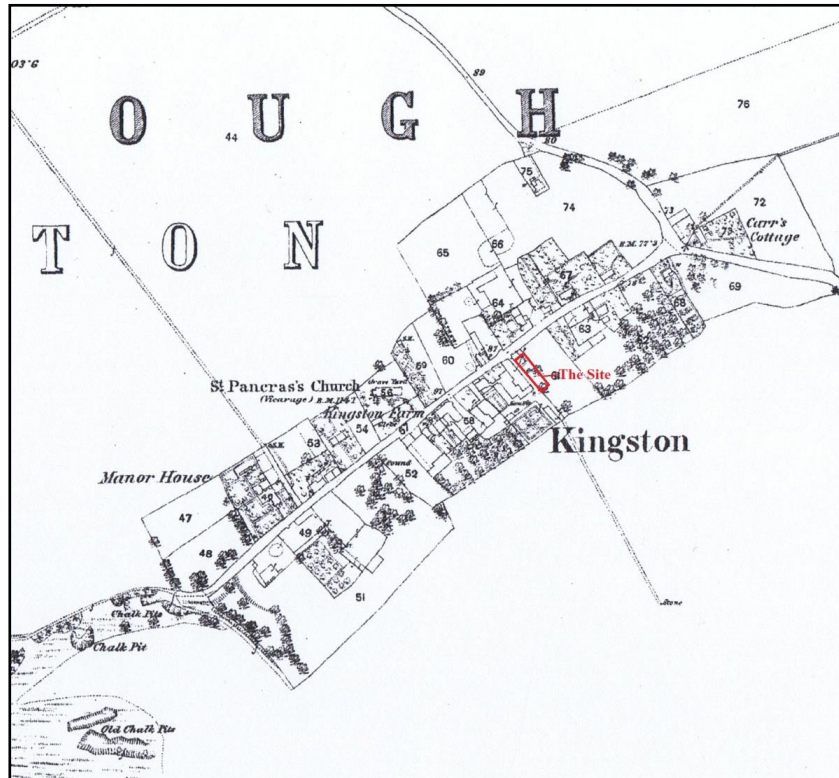


Fig. 6: 7 The Street, Kingston: 1st Edition OS Map 1873

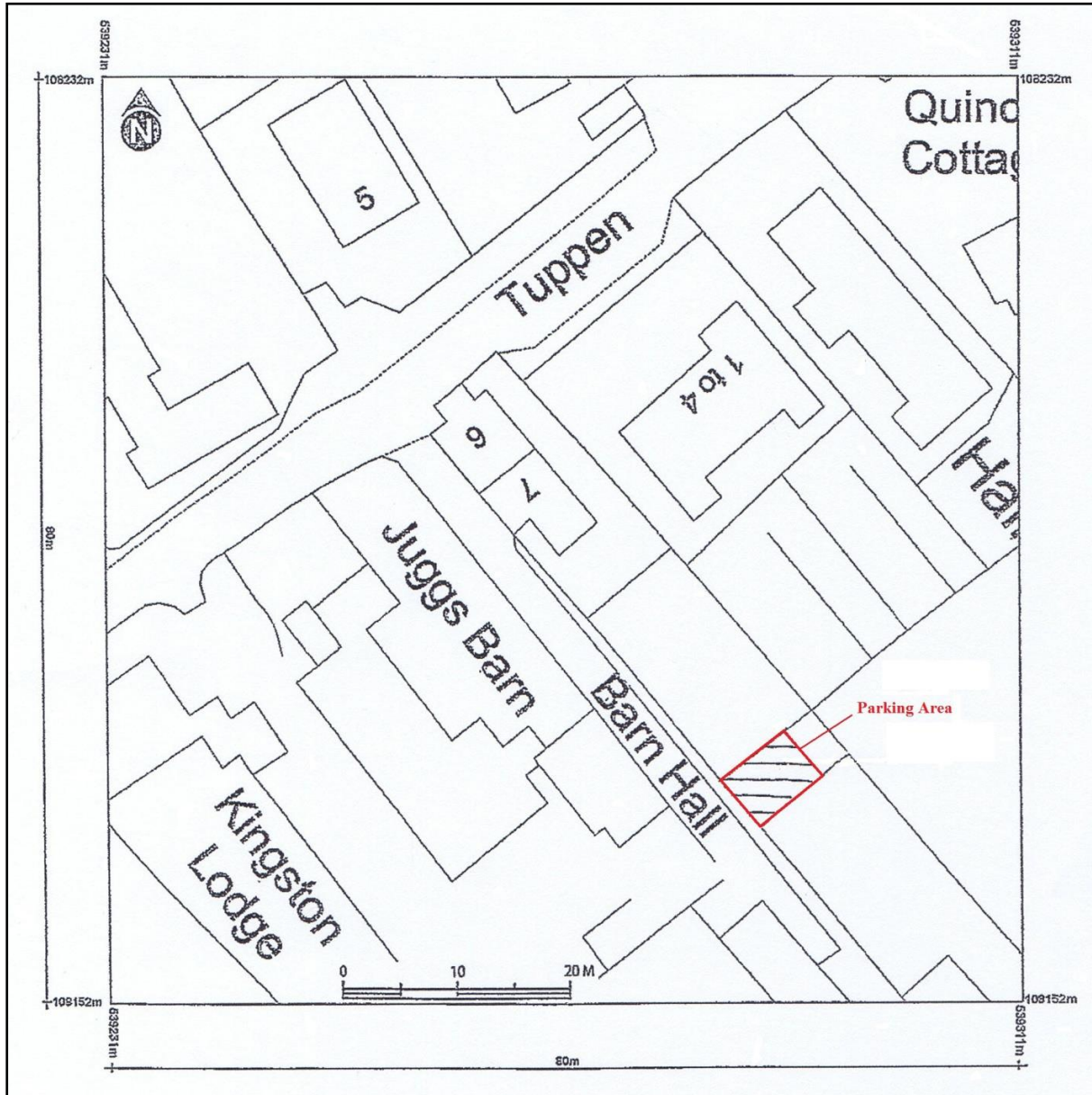


Fig. 7: 7 The Street, Kingston: Site Plan

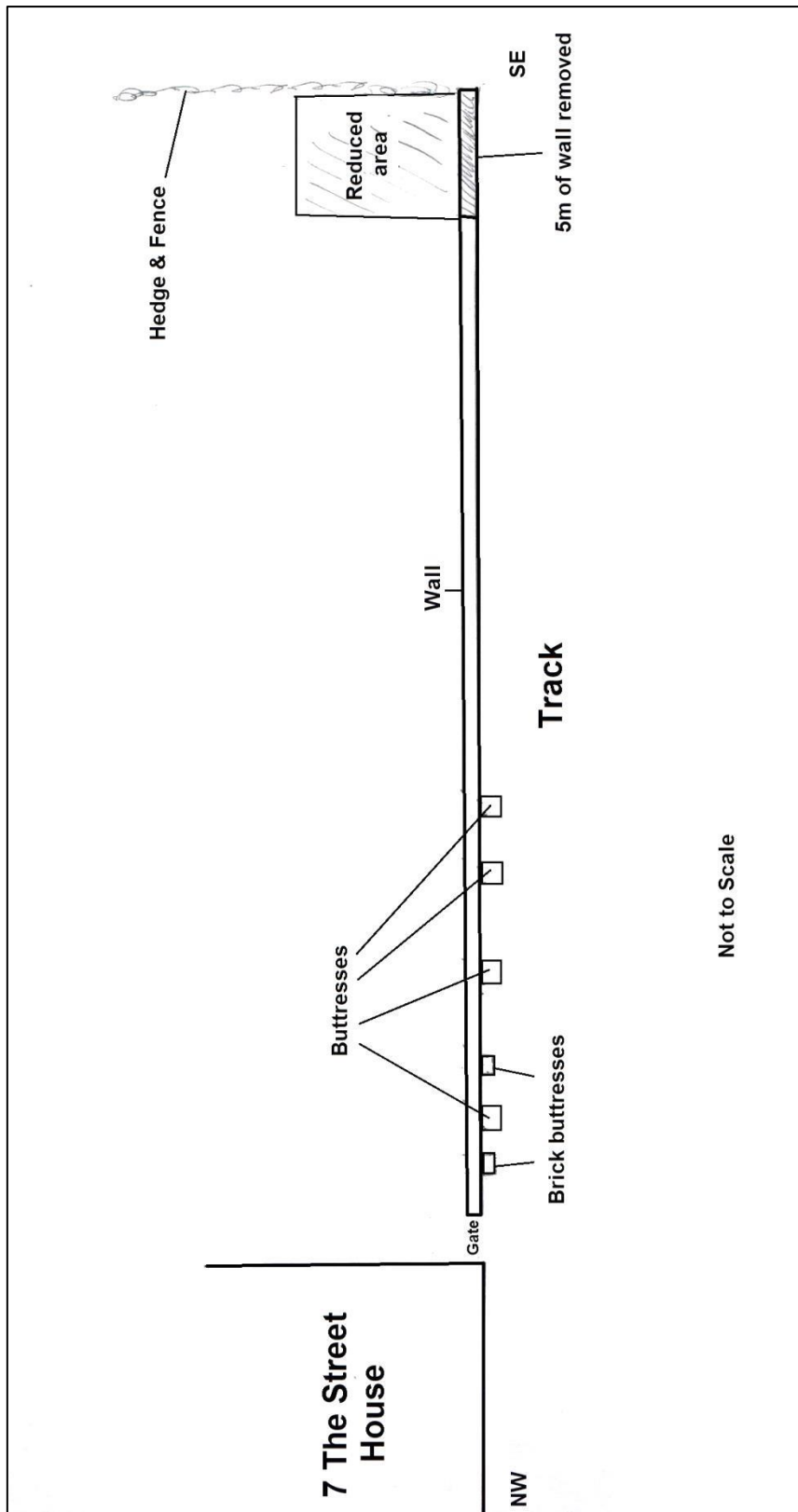


Fig. 8: 7 The Street, Kingston: Sketch plan of site showing the wall and area monitored

Appendix 1: HER Summary Form

Site Code	TSK 13					
Identification Name and Address	7 The Street, Kingston, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3927 0819					
Geology	The geology comprises Head Deposit overlying Lower Chalk.					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure X	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 07-04-14	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mrs S Grebbell					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MifA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PlfA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>During the reduction of the ground surface on a site to the rear of 7, The Street, Kingston, no archaeological features were noted and very few artefacts were recovered. The artefacts consisting of pottery and glass were all later Post Medieval in date. The lack of evidence for archaeological activity could be due to the shallow impact of the ground works which had a maximum depth of 300mm. The south-western boundary wall of the property was recorded. The wall was un-datable but the south-eastern end which was to be demolished to provide an entrance for the parking appeared to be a later extension to the wall or an extensive repair. This was evidenced by the lack of capping bricks and the use of brick in its construction.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

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

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 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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