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**A Desk-based Assessment  
and  
Written Scheme of Investigation  
for land at  
5 East Street,  
Lewes,  
East Sussex  
LW08/1364**

Project No. CBAS0105

by  
Chris Butler

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### ***Summary***

*An archaeological Desk-based Assessment has been carried out on land at 5 East Street, Lewes, East Sussex, where planning permission has been granted to build new properties.*

*The evidence from this Desk Based Assessment has shown that the site is located within the walls of the Medieval town, and although there is no early map evidence for buildings on the site, it is likely that the site was occupied during the Medieval period, and there may also be evidence for Saxon, Roman and prehistoric activity at the site.*

*During the Post Medieval period it is possible that buildings were located on part of the site up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a terrace of three properties occupied the street frontage. These were removed after the Second World War and replaced with the extension to the Library. It is likely that the foundations for these later buildings may have had some impact on any underlying archaeological remains, however there will potentially be significant areas of undisturbed ground remaining on the site.*

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services has been commissioned by Allum Estates Ltd to carry out an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at 5 East Street, Lewes, East Sussex, in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed development of the site, as part of an initial feasibility study.

1.2 A planning application for the erection of two semi-detached three bedroom houses and associated car parking (LW08/1364) on land to the rear of the Old Lewes Library at 5 East Street, Lewes, has been approved by Lewes District Council subject to the following condition.

“No development shall take place within the area indicated (this would be the area of archaeological interest) until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has/have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and carried out in accordance with that approval.

Reason: The development is likely to disturb remains of archaeological interest having regard to National Policy Guidance note PPG16.”

1.3 The site is located on the south side of East Street, with the Old Library on its west side and the Bus Station to its east, and is centred on TQ 4173 1027 (Fig.1). The site was previously occupied by an extension to the former library that was erected after the Second World War, and demolished in 2005<sup>1</sup>. The site is situated within the designated Lewes Conservation Area and is also within an Archaeologically Sensitive Area (Fig. 2).

1.4 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 319), comprises Upper and Middle Chalk, with Alluvium in the River Ouse valley to the east of the site.

1.5 The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) survey for Lewes<sup>2</sup> includes the site within Historic Urban Character Area 3, and states that ‘the survival and condition of the post-medieval buildings; the completeness of historic street front; the visibility of the historic fabric; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a high Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 4’.

1.6 This report initially covers the objectives and scope of the survey, then discusses the methodology used in the Desk-based Assessment, and then reviews the archaeological heritage of the area. Finally a conclusion assesses the potential impact of the development. A full listing of all the known archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity of the site from the HER is contained in Appendix 1 to this report, whilst similar archaeological events are listed in Appendix 2.

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<sup>1</sup> Mackellar Schwerdt *Design & Access Statement* Ref:8338/SG/DAS

<sup>2</sup> Harris, R.B. 2005 *Lewes: Historic Urban Character Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.

## **2. Objectives & Scope of Report**

- 2.1** The objective of this report is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource of the site and its immediate area. This will include information relating to the presence or absence of any archaeology, its character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation, and the relative quality of the potential archaeological resource.
- 2.2** This will allow an assessment of the merits of the archaeology in context to be made, leading to the formulation of a strategy for the recording, preservation and management of the resource or, where necessary, the formulation of a strategy for further investigation where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be defined.
- 2.3** The report will consider the archaeological resource within a radius of 500m around the site, whilst also taking into account sites further afield where these may be considered to have an impact or relevance to the site in its landscape setting.
- 2.4** It should be noted that this report can only take into account the existing known archaeology, and by its nature cannot provide a complete record of the archaeological resource of the site. Its intention is to provide an overview of the known archaeology in the area of the site, from which judgements can be made about the potential archaeological resource of the site itself.

### 3. Methodology

3.1 This Desk-based Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001), and the *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post Excavation Work in East Sussex* (ESCC 2008). A brief for this Desk-based Assessment was prepared by the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council.

3.2 The research for this Desk-based Assessment has included an analysis of the following resources:

- ESCC Historic Environment Record (HER)
- Historic mapping (including that provided with ESCC HER)
- NMR records and aerial photographs
- Portable Antiquities Scheme database
- East Sussex Record Office (ESRO)
- Sussex Archaeological Society Library
- Defence of Britain database
- British Geological Survey
- Aerial Photograph search (Sussex University)
- Personal & Public library resources

3.3 The following maps were used:

- George Randall's map of 1620
- James Lambert's Plan of Lewes of 1788
- The Borough of Lewes map of 1799 by William Lee & John Baker
- James Edwards' map of Lewes 1799
- William Figg's map of Lewes 1799
- J. Marchant map of Lewes 1824
- 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map (1873)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Map (1899)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS Map (1910)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS Map (1932)
- OS 1:1250 Map 1955
- OS 1:1250 Map 1988

Information gained from the map regression exercise is contained in the Post Medieval section below.

3.4 The Sites and Listed Buildings from the immediate vicinity recorded on the HER are listed in Appendix 1 to this report and mentioned in the text where relevant. The Monuments are shown on Fig. 3. Historical and other sources are given as footnotes as appropriate.

- 3.5** A brief site visit was undertaken on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 by Keith Butler. This confirmed that the site is clear of buildings and comprises an area of open ground fronting East Street between the Old Library and the bus station. The ground slopes very gradually down from west to east, and may have been terraced slightly into the natural slope.

#### **4. Archaeological & Historical Background**

- 4.0.1 This section considers each archaeological period in turn, reviewing the known archaeological resource of the area, defining its location and extent, character, date, integrity, state of preservation, and quality.
- 4.0.2 There has been a significant amount of archaeological work carried out in Lewes, and details of all the archaeological events in the immediate area are shown in Appendix 2.
- 4.0.3 The review of each period will also bring in evidence for that period from a wider area, especially where there is little known archaeological evidence locally. This will enable a more accurate judgement to be made about the archaeological potential for the site. This evidence will include that taken from similar landscapes and geologies.

#### **4.1 *Palaeolithic Period (750,000BC – 10,000BC)***

- 4.1.1 This period covers a huge period of time, during which early hominid occupation of Southern Britain was intermittent. The period is divided into warm and cold periods, with the evidence suggesting that hominid occupation occurred during some of the warm periods. Apart from a small number of exceptional sites (e.g. Boxgrove), most of the evidence for human activity in this period comes from isolated finds of stone tools, often in secondary deposits.
- 4.1.2 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.

- 4.1.3 Other Palaeolithic handaxes have been found on the South Downs, where it has been suggested that this material may derive from the Clay-with-flints deposits<sup>3</sup>. Other handaxes, together with debitage, have been found at Barcombe to the north of Lewes, where they have probably derived from the river gravel deposits on the edge of the River Ouse valley<sup>4</sup>. It is unlikely that evidence for Palaeolithic activity will be found on the site.

## 4.2 *Mesolithic Period (10,000BC – 4,000BC)*

- 4.2.1 The start of the Mesolithic period sees Britain largely covered by pine and birch woodland, which was gradually replaced by a mixed deciduous woodland that provided an ideal environment for the bands of hunter-gatherers who were exploiting the resources on a seasonal basis<sup>5</sup>. There is some evidence for Mesolithic hunter-gatherer groups exploiting the resources of the South Downs, either for hunting and gathering or to obtain flint with which to make their tools, especially during the Later Mesolithic.
- 4.2.2 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.
- 4.2.3 The evidence for this period suggests that there is little likelihood of any significant Mesolithic activity being present on the site, as the nearby Clay-with-flints deposit does not appear to extend onto the site, although it is possible that isolated artefacts and features may be found.

## 4.3 *Neolithic Period (4,000BC to 2,500BC)*

- 4.3.1 A number of changes occur during the Neolithic, some of which may have had an impact on the local area. Some of the woodland was being cleared and small scale agricultural activities are likely to have started. However, environmental evidence suggests that although the Downs may have been largely cleared of woodland by the end of the Neolithic, leaving an open landscape, there is little evidence for ploughing taking place<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Wymer, J. 1999 *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain*, Vol. 1, Wessex Archaeology & English Heritage, p171.

<sup>4</sup> Pope, M. 2003 'The earliest occupation of Sussex: recent discoveries and future objectives' in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 17-28.

<sup>5</sup> Holgate, R. 2003 'Late Glacial and Post-glacial Hunter-gatherers in Sussex', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 29-38.

<sup>6</sup> Wilkinson et al. 2002 'The Excavation of Six Dry Valleys in the Brighton Area: The Changing Environment', in Rudling, D. (ed) *Downland Settlement and Land-Use*, London, Archetype Publications Ltd.



- 4.3.2 Other changes in the earlier part of the Neolithic period include the construction of large-scale monuments and the first industrial activity. The nearest causewayed enclosure is located at Offham, a few kilometres to the north of the site; one of eight such sites in Sussex<sup>7</sup>. The site occupies a high position, overlooking the River Ouse valley, and may have exerted some influence over the area<sup>8</sup>.
- 4.3.3 The flint mines of the Early Neolithic provide the first evidence for industrial activity in Britain. Although there are a number of flint mines situated on the South Downs further west in the Worthing area, there is no evidence for any mines in this area<sup>9</sup>. There is however evidence for the continued use of Clay-with-flint outcrops during the Neolithic to procure flint and manufacture axes<sup>10</sup>.
- 4.3.4 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.
- 4.3.5 It is likely that Neolithic artefacts could be present and if so may indicate the presence of underlying Neolithic features, although evidence for Neolithic settlement is very rare.

#### 4.4 *The Bronze Age (2500BC to 800BC)*

- 4.4.1 The Bronze Age saw the final clearance of the last woodland on the South Downs, and environmental evidence suggests that the Downland was given over to an open grazed landscape with limited arable agriculture until the end of the period when arable land appears to increase<sup>11</sup>.
- 4.4.2 The evidence suggests that the surrounding downland landscape may have been quite densely populated by small farming settlements, surrounded by fields during the Middle and Later Bronze Age. Examples have been found on the South Downs, with an example fully excavated at Black Patch<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> Drewett, P. 2003 'Taming the Wild: The first farming Communities in Sussex, in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd, 39-46.

<sup>8</sup> Drewett, P. 1994 'Dr V. Seton Williams' excavations at Combe Hill, 1962, and the role of Neolithic causewayed enclosures in Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **132**, 7-24.

<sup>9</sup> Barber, et al. 1999 *The Neolithic Flint Mines of England*, Swindon, English Heritage.

<sup>10</sup> Butler, C. 2001 'A Mesolithic and later prehistoric flintworking site at East and West Hills, Pyecombe, West Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **139**, 7-26.

<sup>11</sup> Wilkinson et al. 2002 'The Excavation of Six Dry Valleys in the Brighton Area: The Changing Environment', in Rudling, D. (ed) *Downland Settlement and Land-Use*, London, Archetype Publications Ltd.

<sup>12</sup> Drewett, P. 1982 'Later Bronze Age downland economy and excavations at Black Patch, East Sussex', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **48**, 321-400.

- 4.4.3 Field systems have often been found associated with these settlements and others have been recorded from aerial photographs elsewhere on the South Downs. The absence of similar earthworks in the area of the site is due to the area already being covered in houses and the effect of modern agriculture.
- 4.4.4 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), in addition others have been found near Lewes (e.g. MES1611 & MES1629). Bronze Age flintwork was also found on recent excavations at Lewes House and St John's Street.
- 4.4.5 Another feature of the Bronze Age landscape are the burial mounds (Barrows). None are recorded at the site, although 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).
- 4.4.6 Given the evidence for substantial activity nearby on the South Downs during the Bronze Age, and the discoveries of Bronze Age material close to the site, there is a high probability that remains from this period may be found during work at the site.

#### **4.5 *The Iron Age (800BC to 43AD)***

- 4.5.1 During the Early Iron Age it seems likely that the pattern of settlement and agriculture seen in the Later Bronze Age continues, although house structures dating to this period are rare. The field systems continued in use throughout the Iron Age, whilst some of the settlements originating in the Late Bronze Age also appear to continue in use into the Early Iron Age.
- 4.5.2 One major feature of the Iron Age is the hillfort, of which some 20 are known from Sussex. Many of these also appear to have originated in the Later Bronze Age, but become important centres of control and redistribution in the Middle and Later Iron Age.
- 4.5.3 The Caburn hillfort may have originated in the late Bronze Age<sup>13</sup>, although it seems to have continued in use into the Middle Iron Age, but had probably been abandoned by the time of the Roman invasion<sup>14</sup>. This site would have dominated the local area from its prominent hilltop location, but its actual function is still a matter of debate today.

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<sup>13</sup> Hamilton, S. et al. 1997 'Prominent Enclosures in 1st millennium BC Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **135**, 93-112.

<sup>14</sup> Hamilton, S. & Drewett, P. 1999 'Marking time and making space', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **137**, 7-37.

- 4.5.4 There are no finds or features from the site or its immediate vicinity that date from the Iron Age. However, there is a possibility that artefacts or evidence for settlement may be found.

#### **4.6 *The Roman Period (43AD to 410AD)***

- 4.6.1 The Roman invasion of Britain in 43AD resulted in dramatic alterations to this island's social and economic environments<sup>15</sup>. On the South Downs many of the rural farmsteads and associated field systems that were in existence in the Later Iron Age continued throughout the Roman period. Where they have been excavated they provide evidence for a mixed farming economy of crops and animal husbandry.
- 4.6.2 Villa's are rare on Downland landscapes, and there is little evidence for Roman settlement in the immediate area of the site. However, a number of Roman villa's are known from the local landscape, with examples at Barcombe, Beddingham and Plumpton<sup>16</sup>, and suggest that the local area was extensively occupied.
- 4.6.3 There is also evidence for Roman activity in Lewes, mostly in the form of isolated artefacts<sup>17</sup>. These include coins (e.g. MES1576, MES1610, MES1613, MES1620, MES1628, MES7176 and MES7179) and pottery (e.g. MES7180 and MES7182). A Roman road, the London to Lewes Way<sup>18</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>19</sup>.
- 4.6.4 Although there is some evidence for Lewes having been a site of Roman settlement, the possibility of encountering Roman remains at the site is considered to be small.

#### **4.7 *The Saxon Period (410AD to 1066AD)***

- 4.7.1 In the early Post-Roman period there was a change in the economy and land-usage on the South Downs. Arable cultivation was replaced by a pastoral regime, and some regeneration of woodland and scrub<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> Rudling, D. 2003 'Roman Rural Settlement in Sussex: Continuity and Change', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Rudling, D. 1987 'Archaeological Survey of Lewes', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

<sup>18</sup> Margary, I.V. 1948 *Roman Ways in the Weald*, London, Phoenix House.

<sup>19</sup> Chuter, G. *Pers. com.*

<sup>20</sup> Gardiner, M. 2003 'Economy and Landscape Change in Post-Roman and Early Medieval Sussex, 450-1175', in Rudling, D. (Ed) *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Kings Lynn, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd,

- 4.7.2 Although archaeological evidence for a Saxon settlement is limited, 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>21</sup>. 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>22</sup>.
- 4.7.3 Saxon cemeteries and individual graves are often found. Burials are probably the most common form of evidence for Saxon settlement and provide us with good evidence for the social structure and nature of Saxon society. Some 30 Anglo-Saxon burials were discovered during the building of a house in 1891 in Kingston Road (MES1668), whilst in 1899 a francisca and a seax were found during building work at the Crown Courts, and probably derived from graves (MES7001).
- 4.7.4 There is no evidence for Saxon activity at the site, although evidence for later Saxon activity has recently been found on excavations at Baxters, Lewes House and North Street<sup>23</sup>. It is therefore possible that evidence for Saxon activity will be encountered.

#### 4.8 *The Medieval Period (1066AD to 1500AD)*

- 4.8.1 After the Norman conquest, Lewes was granted to William de Warenne<sup>24</sup>. He built a castle at the highest point in the town with two mottes, one of which was crowned by a Keep. Very little is known of the Norman town, although recent archaeological work elsewhere in the town is beginning to find traces of settlement from this period.
- 4.8.2 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>25</sup>. The Priory featured prominently in the Battle of Lewes 1264 as the Kings army was encamped there before the battle<sup>26</sup>. The Priory subsequently became one of the largest monastic centres in southern England by the time of the Dissolution.
- 4.8.3 A Franciscan Friary of Grey Friars was founded before 1241 and dissolved in 1538 (MES1616). Its walls enclosed c.18 acres extending on the west along Friars Walk to Pin Well and to the bottom of St Nicholas' Lane. A number of archaeological investigations have revealed buildings and artefacts associated with the Friary (e.g. EES9081).

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<sup>21</sup> Gardiner, M. 1999 'Late Saxon Sussex c.650-1066', *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore & CO. Ltd.

<sup>22</sup> Houghton, J. 1987 'The Urban Landscape of Lewes', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

<sup>23</sup> Chuter, G. *Pers. com.*

<sup>24</sup> Salzman, L.F. *The Victoria History of the County of Sussex Vol. 7*, London, Dawsons.

<sup>25</sup> Lewis, R.A. et al. 1987 'The Priory of St. Pancras, Southover', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

<sup>26</sup> Fleming, B. 1999 *The Battle of Lewes 1264*, J&KH Publishing, Hailsham.

- 4.8.4 The Medieval town was walled in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and traces of this remain to be seen on the east side of Westgate Street. However this has been so repeatedly patched and repaired that little of the original Medieval wall is visible today.
- 4.8.5 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>27</sup>.
- 4.8.6 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>28</sup>, and an evaluation excavation at Nos. 1-2 Albion Street found residual sherds of Medieval pottery but no features of this date<sup>29</sup>. Therefore the likelihood of finding Medieval remains at the site is considered to be High.

#### **4.9 *The Post Medieval Period (1500AD to the Present Day)***

- 4.9.1 The town of Lewes has grown substantially throughout the Post Medieval period. George Randall's map of 1620 (Fig. 4) shows East Street, but there are no houses shown on it, and the main settlement is shown located along the High Street, School Hill and down to Cliff High Street. James Lambert's Plan of Lewes of 1788 (Fig. 5) shows a building(s) on the frontage of East Street which may extend into the site.
- 4.9.2 The Borough of Lewes Map of 1799 by William Lee & John Baker (Fig. 6) also shows a property on the East Street frontage, which may be on the eastern part of the site. James Edwards' map of Lewes dated 1799 shows a similar situation, as does the map of William Figg, also of 1799 (Fig. 7). The building shown on these maps may be situated immediately to the east of the site.
- 4.9.3 A map of Lewes by J. Marchant dated 1824 (Fig. 8) does not show the property on East Street, but does show a number of property boundaries, one or two of which appear to cross the site.
- 4.9.4 The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (1873) shows a terrace of three properties set slightly back from the East Street frontage, which are wholly or partly within the boundaries of the site (Fig. 9). On the corner of East Street and Albion Street (the Old Library) is a building labelled 'School of Art' and built in 1868. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map (1899) shows no change from this (Fig. 10).

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<sup>27</sup> Chuter, G. *Pers. com.*

<sup>28</sup> Griffin, F. 2002 Report: Archaeology South-East. no. 1561

<sup>29</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

- 4.9.5 By the time of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS map (1910) there is little change (Fig. 11), and again the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS map (1932) shows virtually no change in the layout of the terrace of houses (Fig. 12), apart from the addition of a small extension on the south side of the western house in the terrace, which is shown on both maps. The bus station site to the east is still shown as open ground with some greenhouses on the corner with Eastgate Street.
- 4.9.6 During the Second World War Lewes occupied a strategic position on the GHQ Stop Line, one of the main defence lines constructed to block access to London and the rest of Britain from the south-east coasts. The line ran from Newhaven on the coast, along the River Ouse through Lewes and then northwards to the River Medway in Kent. The town was also designated a Nodal Point. None of the defence works appear to have been located in East Street<sup>30</sup>.
- 4.9.7 Numerous civil defence installations were built around the town<sup>31</sup>. A 5,000 gallon Emergency Water Supply (EWS) tank was located adjacent to the Library in Albion Street, with a water pipeline running up East Street. A BCF<sup>32</sup> communal air raid shelter, capable of taking 50 persons, was constructed in a garden on the south side of East Street, although the exact location is unclear.
- 4.9.8 The OS map of 1955 (Fig. 13) shows the terrace of three houses still present on the site, and the bus station is now located on the corner of East Street and Eastgate Street. By the 1988 OS map the terrace of houses has gone and has been replaced by the extension to the Library (Fig. 14).

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<sup>30</sup> Butler, C. 2007 *East Sussex under Attack*, Tempus Publishing Ltd, Stroud.

<sup>31</sup> Elliston, R.A. 1999 *Lewes at War 1939-1945*, S.B. Publications, Seaford

<sup>32</sup> British Concrete Federation

## 5 Impact of the Development

- 5.1** The evidence from this Desk Based Assessment has shown that the site is located in part of the town that was within the walls of the Medieval town, and although there is no early map evidence for buildings on the site, it is likely that the site was occupied during the Medieval period, and there may be evidence for Saxon, Roman and prehistoric activity at the site.
- 5.2** During the Post Medieval period it is possible that one or more buildings were located on part of the site up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a terrace of three properties occupied the street frontage. These were removed after the Second World War and replaced with the extension to the Library.
- 5.2** It is likely that the foundations for these later buildings may have had some impact on any underlying archaeological remains. However, it is almost certain that this impact will have been limited to the width of the foundations, as there do not appear to have been cellars associated with the properties<sup>33</sup>, and therefore there will potentially be significant areas of undisturbed ground remaining on the site.
- 5.3** Given the evidence accumulated during this desk-based assessment, the probability of finding remains from each of the different archaeological periods is shown in Table 1 below:

**Table 1**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Probability</b>
Palaeolithic	Low
Mesolithic	Possible
Neolithic	Possible
Bronze Age	Possible
Iron Age	Low
Roman	Possible
Saxon	Possible
Medieval	High
Post Medieval	Very High

- 5.4** It is considered that there will be limited potential for palaeo-environmental remains or geo-archaeological investigations at this site.

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<sup>33</sup> Chuter, G. *pers. com.*

## 6 Conclusions

- 6.1** This desk-based assessment has established that there is evidence for activity from the Palaeolithic period through to the Post Medieval period in the wider surrounding landscape, whilst in the immediate area of the site finds dating from the Mesolithic period through to the Post Medieval Period have been recovered. Lewes has been a centre of settlement since the Saxon period, and possibly before that, and the location of the site within the Medieval town walls, would indicate that there may be evidence for this long history surviving at the site.
- 6.2** It has not been possible to establish whether there is below-ground archaeology present on the site, due to the non-intrusive nature of this desk-based assessment. The impact of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century developments will have had some, but not significant, impact on the surviving archaeology. Any future development at the site is likely to disturb and destroy any buried archaeology.
- 6.3** It is therefore recommended that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken prior to the development. A Method Statement for these archaeological works is detailed below. The evaluation excavation is required to establish whether there are any archaeological remains surviving at the site. This will enable further decisions to be made regards the mitigation strategy for either in-situ preservation of the archaeology, or its preservation by record.

## 7. Method Statement

- 7.1** The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with ESCC's *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation in East Sussex* dated April 2008 (Recommended Standards).
- 7.2** The Client shall give Chris Butler Archaeological Services access to the site to undertake the evaluation excavation, and will provide information regarding existing services. A CAT scan will be undertaken prior to the excavation of any trial trenches, and in the event of services being detected the trench(es) will be repositioned accordingly.
- 7.3** A single T-shaped evaluation trench will be excavated across the site (Fig. 15), and will measure 10m x 10m, and will be 1.8m wide. All excavation will be in accordance with the Recommended Standards. In the event of any obstructions being encountered, the trench will be repositioned to avoid them. In the event of any archaeological features being encountered at the edge of the trench, or which cannot be adequately interpreted, the trench may be extended by up to 10%.



- 7.4** If any archaeological deposits or features are encountered, they will be archaeologically excavated and recorded in accordance with the Recommended Standards. Cut features and structures that are not being preserved in-situ will be excavated by hand and fully recorded prior to their removal. Mechanical excavation will be carried out down to the surface of the subsoil. In the event of the made-ground being unstable, any recording of features will be carried out from the ground level.
- 7.5** The spoil from the excavations will be inspected by archaeologists to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A metal detector will be used at regular intervals to scan spoil derived from the excavations. A record will be kept of which deposits/features are detected and the areas in which objects were found. The make and model of the metal detector will be noted in the final report.
- 7.6** Archaeological deposits or features of local or national significance will be reported to the County Archaeologist at the earliest opportunity. All finds that fall under the definition of the Treasure Act will be reported to the Coroner's Office and to the Sussex Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer.
- 7.7** In the event of human burials being discovered, a Licence will be required from the Ministry of Justice (in accordance with Section 25 of the *Burial Act 1857*) before the remains can be lifted. The need for a Licence applies to both inhumation and cremated remains. Inhumations and cremations will be excavated completely within 24 hours of their exposure. The Archaeological Contractor will submit details of the procedures for the excavation and recording of burials if these are encountered. The County Archaeologist will be notified immediately.
- 7.8** All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site are the property of the Client. They are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the *United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines No 2* and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the Client/Developer will arrange for them to be deposited in a museum or similar repository agreed with the County Archaeologist.

## **8. Recording Systems and Scales, and Finds Collection Policy**

- 8.1** Obviously modern features will only be recorded cursorily or not at all, unless of unusual intrinsic significance, except where it is necessary to do so to indicate their impact on features of archaeological interest. All other revealed features will be cleaned, planned, excavated and recorded in accordance with the Recommended Standards.
- 8.2** Palaeoenvironmental sampling will be undertaken in accordance with the Recommended Standards.
- 8.3** Archaeological features will be recorded at the scale of at least 1:100 in relationship to a fixed point, or temporary base lines, and related to the Ordnance Survey national grid. Further plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10 will be drawn as necessary. All plans and sections will be drawn on plastic tracing film.
- 8.4** All features will be photographed in colour transparency and digitally.
- 8.5** All significant archaeological remains will be levelled to the Ordnance datum, or from a Temporary Bench mark derived from the Ordnance Survey Bench mark where practicable. The position of plans will be planned on a copy of the Ordnance Survey base map of 1:2500 scale or greater.
- 8.6** All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using a standard Context record sheet. Soil colours will be recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour Chart.
- 8.7** All artefacts pre-dating 1900AD, except as detailed below, will be collected and retained, unless their size and number makes this impracticable.

The following artefact types will be identified and recorded (counted and weighed) and discarded on site or during post excavation work:

Burnt flint, Building material (except where worked), Burnt clay & Iron slag

- 8.8** All retained finds will be washed and marked prior to deposition in the chosen museum. Suitable conservation measures (e.g. packaging with silica gel or with water) will be used to ensure the stabilisation of finds where relevant.

## **9. Post-excavation Analysis and Report**

- 9.1** The Post-excavation analysis will follow the requirements of the Recommended Standards.
- 9.2** The report will be completed within 60 working days of the completion of the monitoring. The report and its associated plans, illustrations and photographs will be supplied to the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) in a digital format agreed, in advance, with the County Council.
- 9.3** In the event of complex archaeological features being encountered during the groundwork, then a programme of post-excavation analysis will be agreed and a final publication report will be prepared for submission in a suitable journal.
- 9.4** The site archive will be created in accordance with the requirements of the Recommended Standards, and will be deposited within the recipient museum within five years from the date of completion of the investigation.

## **10. Health & Safety**

- 10.1** Adherence to standard health and safety requirements, together with any constraints imposed by the contractor's health and safety practices, will be paramount. Recording of deeply cut trenches, including any which exceed 1.2m in depth or which are judged to be unsafe, shall only be undertaken from the ground level.
- 10.2** In the event of contaminated ground being found during the evaluation excavation, suitable protective equipment and clothing will be worn by all personnel working on the site.

## **11. Monitoring and Standards**

- 11.1** The project will be monitored by ESCC. The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the excavation work, by the County Archaeologist, or any designated representative of Lewes District Council.

**11.2** The project will be managed by Chris Butler, who will be responsible for ensuring that the works are implemented correctly in accordance with the following:

- a. all statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question, especially the Health and Safety at Work *etc* Act 1974;
- b. the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Conduct*; and
- c. the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

## **12. Insurance**

**12.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services is insured for public liability to the sum of £2,000,000 for any one occurrence.

## **13 Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Terry Allum of Allum Estates Ltd for commissioning this survey. Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist at ESCC provided guidance and copies of the East Sussex HER. The staff at the East Sussex Record Office provided help in obtaining the maps, and Rachel Butler recorded the map information.

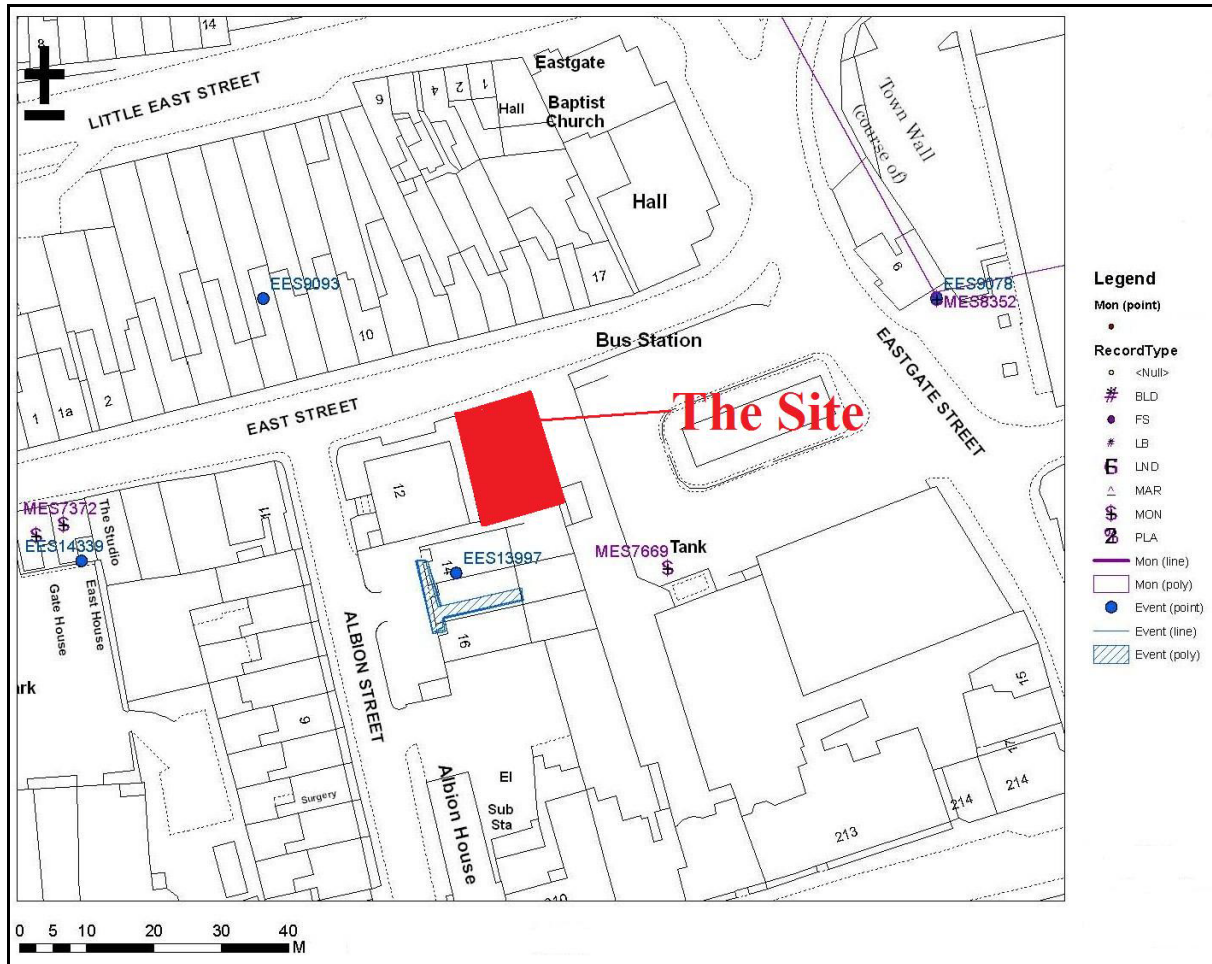


Fig. 1: 5 East Street, Lewes: Location of site  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)  
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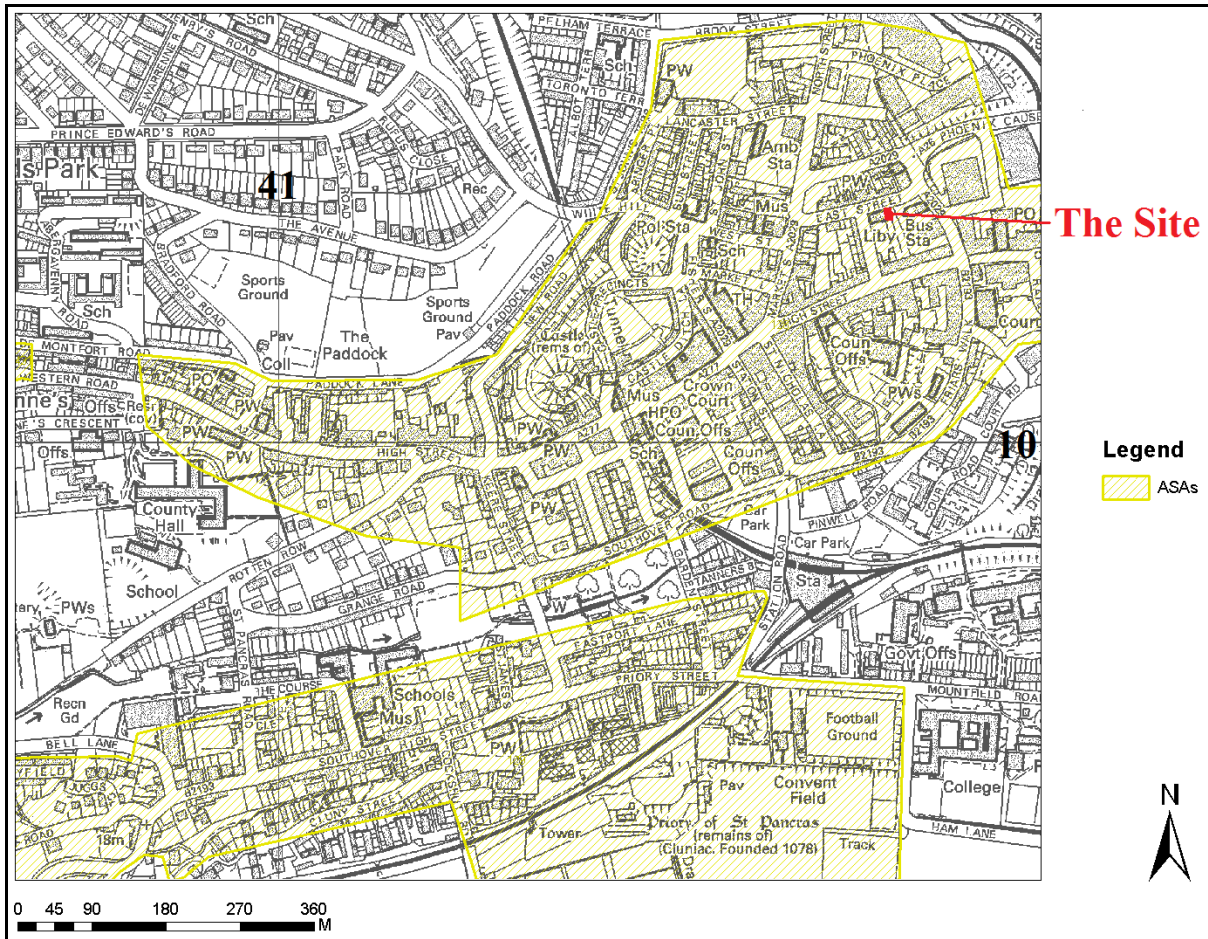


Fig. 2: 5 East Street, Lewes: Location of site and Archaeologically Sensitive Area  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)  
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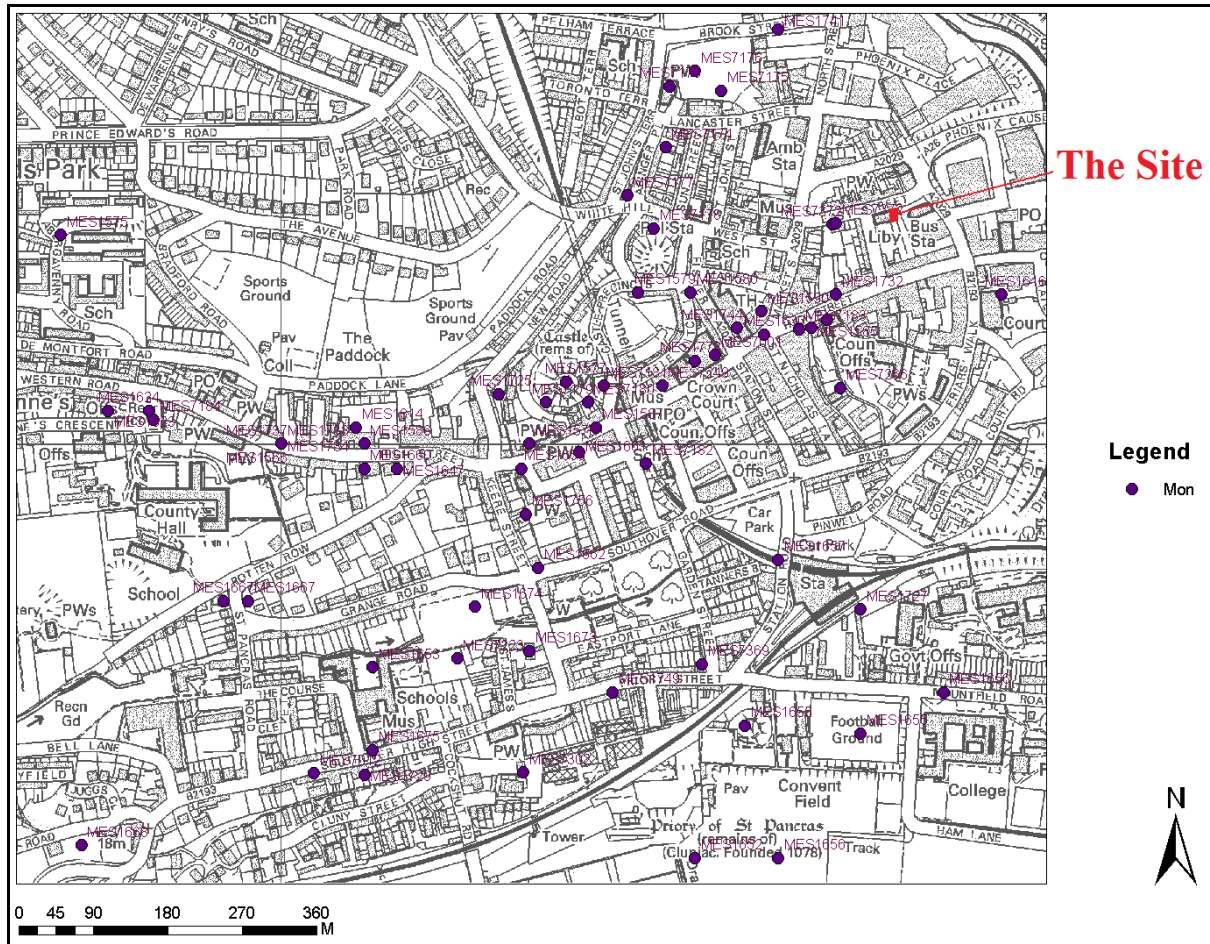


Fig. 3: 5 East Street, Lewes: Location of site and Archaeological sites on the HER  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)  
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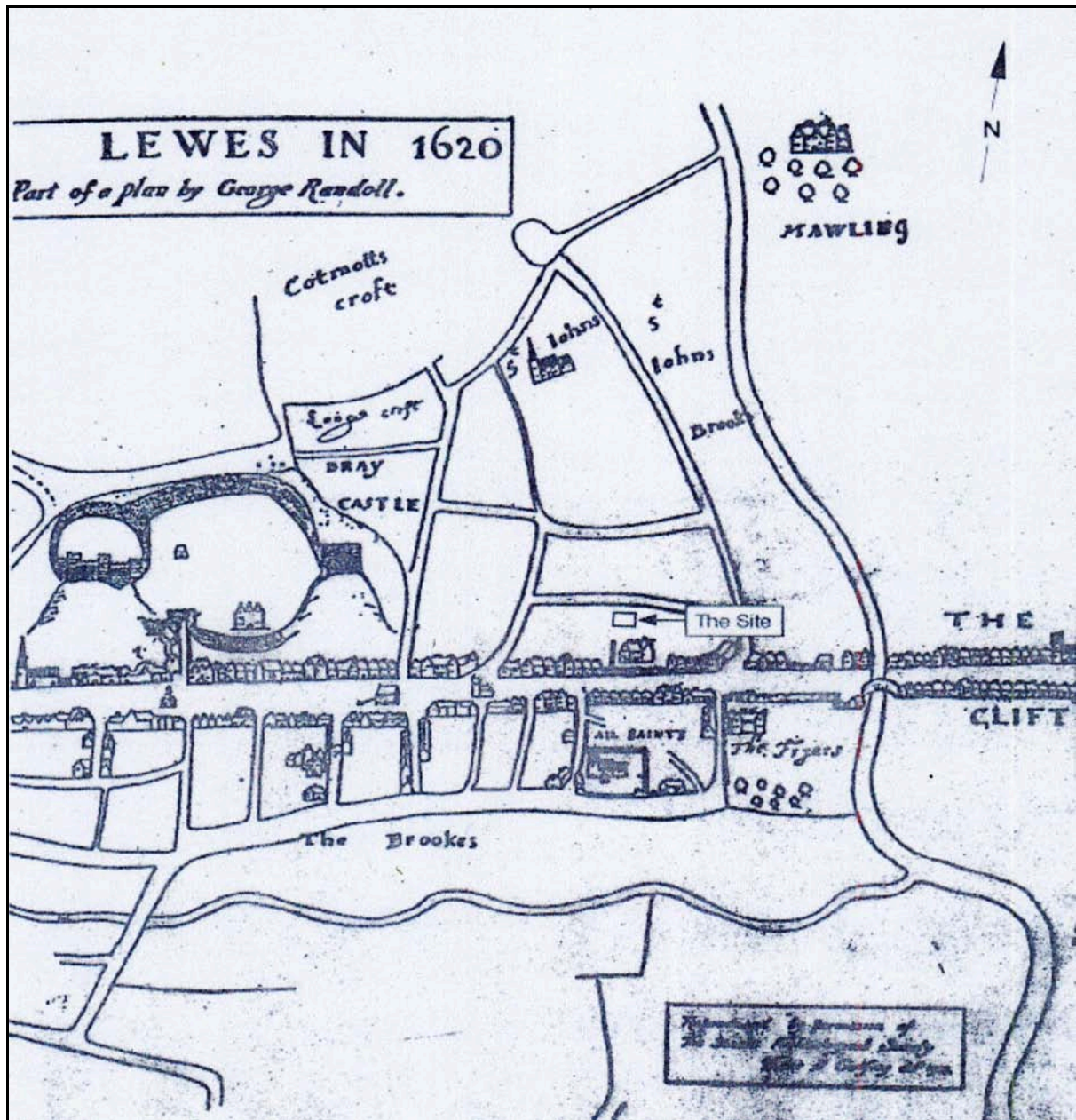


Fig. 4: 5 East Street, Lewes: Plan of Lewes in 1620 by George Randall



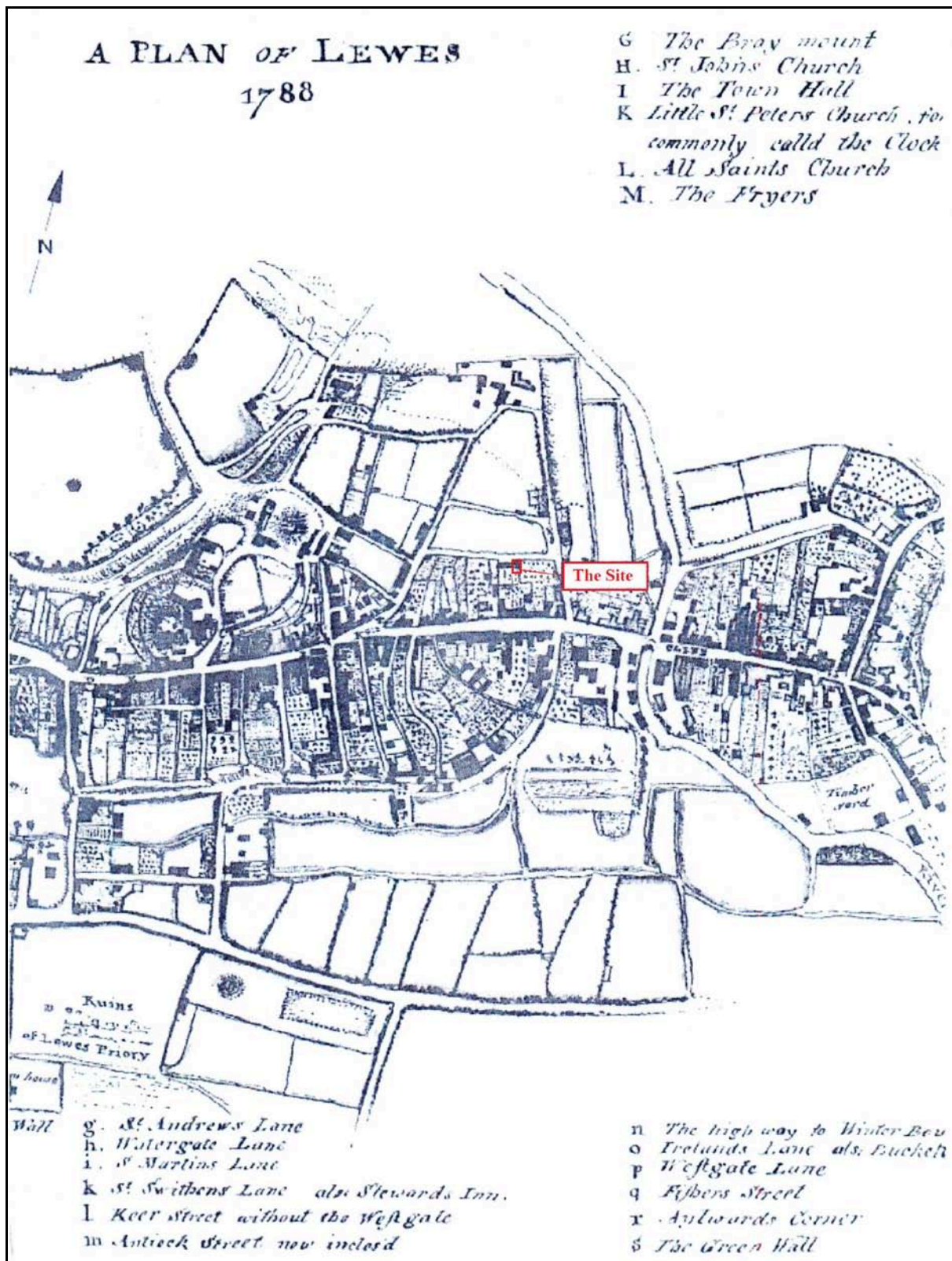


Fig. 5: 5 East Street, Lewes: Plan of Lewes 1788 by James Lambert

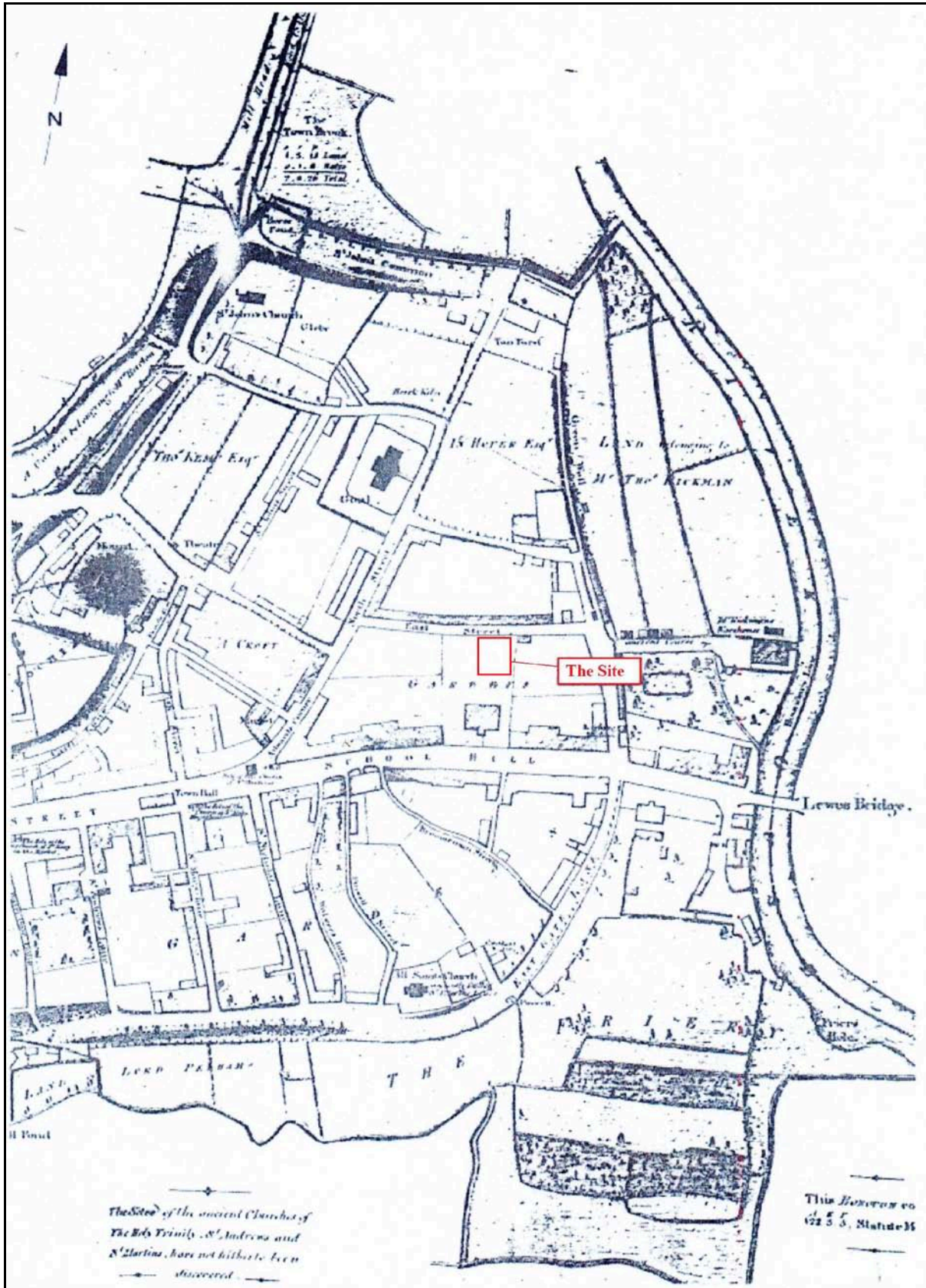


Fig. 6: 5 East Street, Lewes: Borough of Lewes Map in 1799 by Lee & Baker

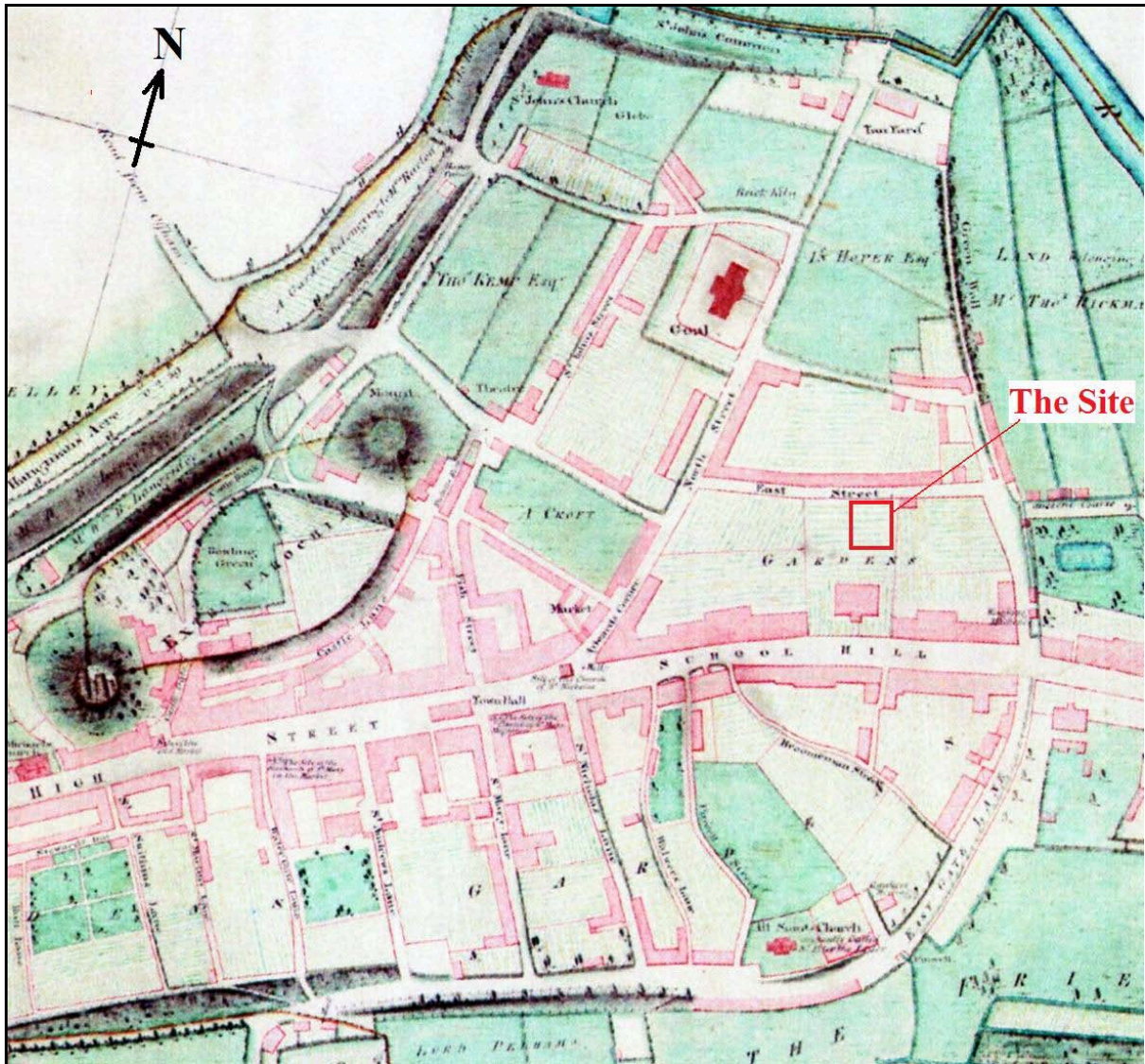


Fig. 7: 5 East Street, Lewes: Map of Lewes 1799 by William Figg  
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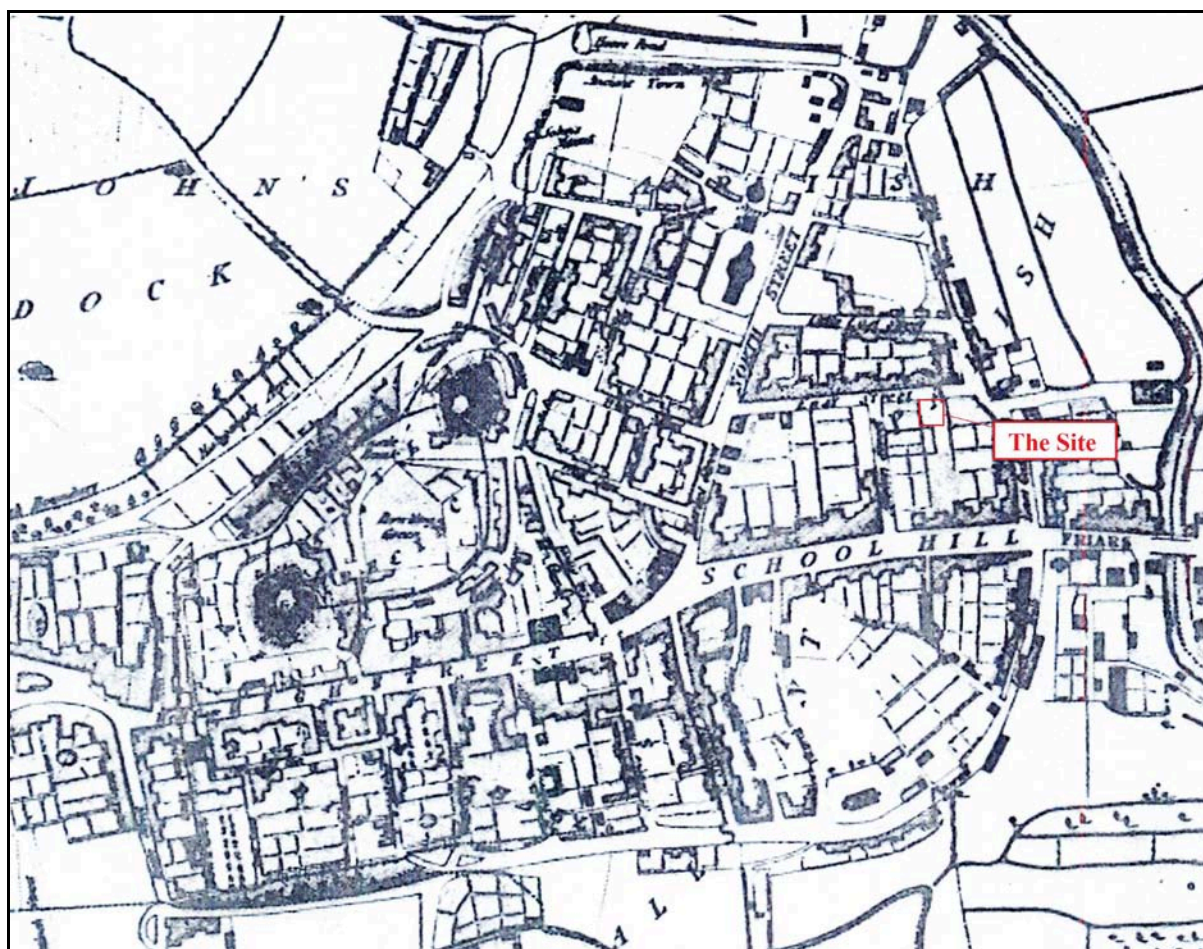


Fig. 8: 5 East Street, Lewes: Map of Lewes in 1824 by J. Marchant

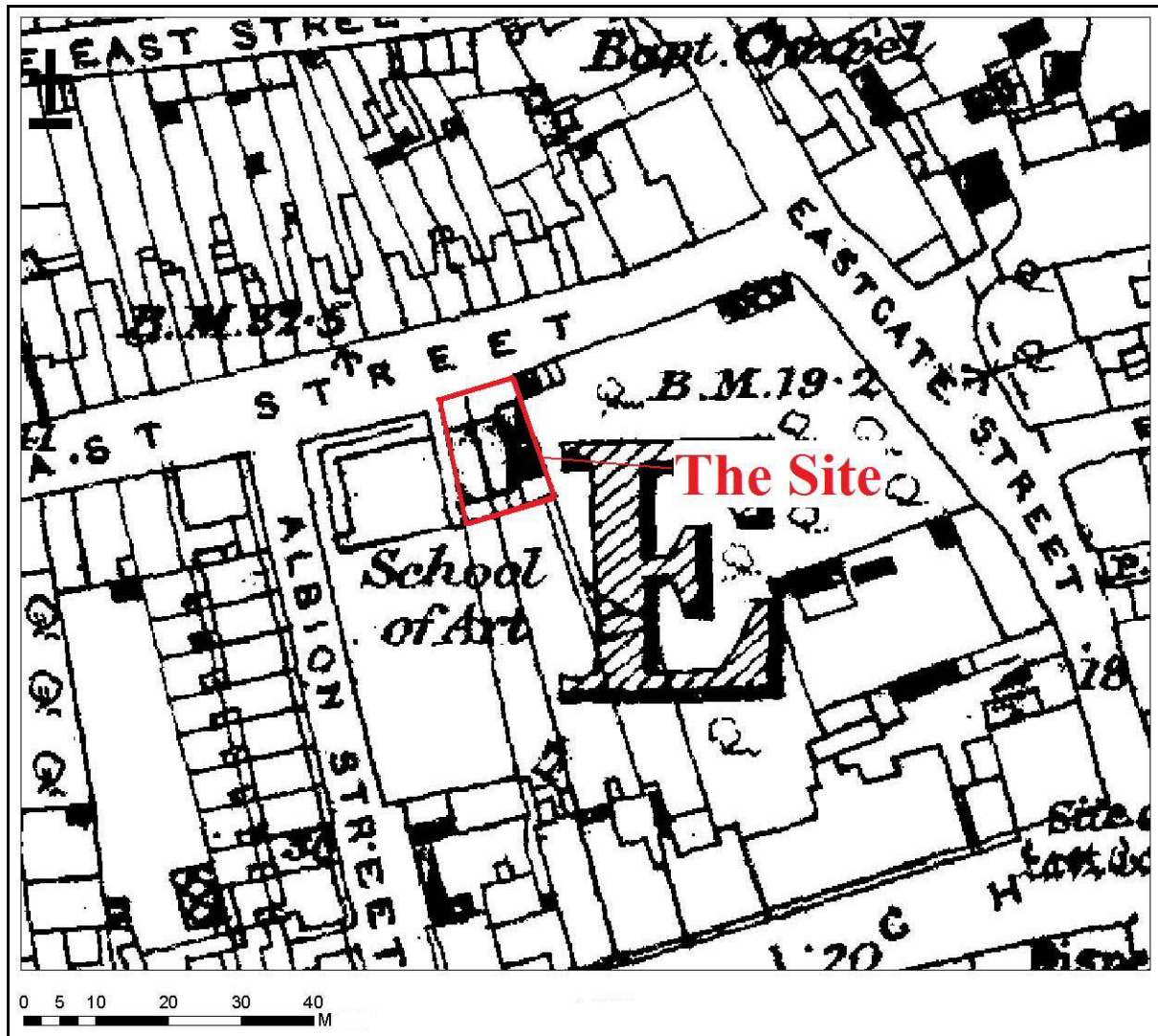


Fig. 9: 5 East Street, Lewes: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map (1873)  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)

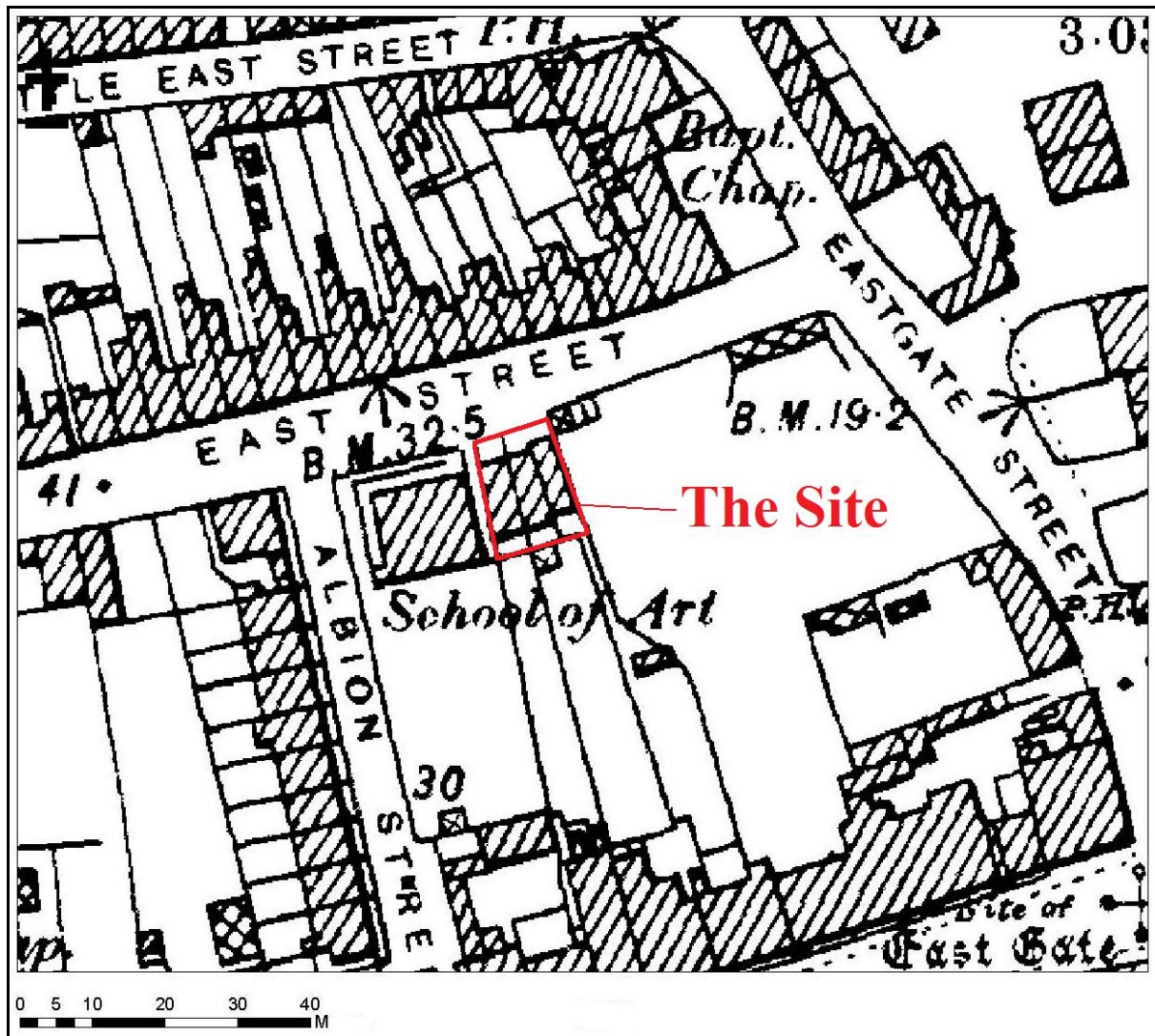


Fig. 10: 5 East Street, Lewes: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Map (1899)  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)

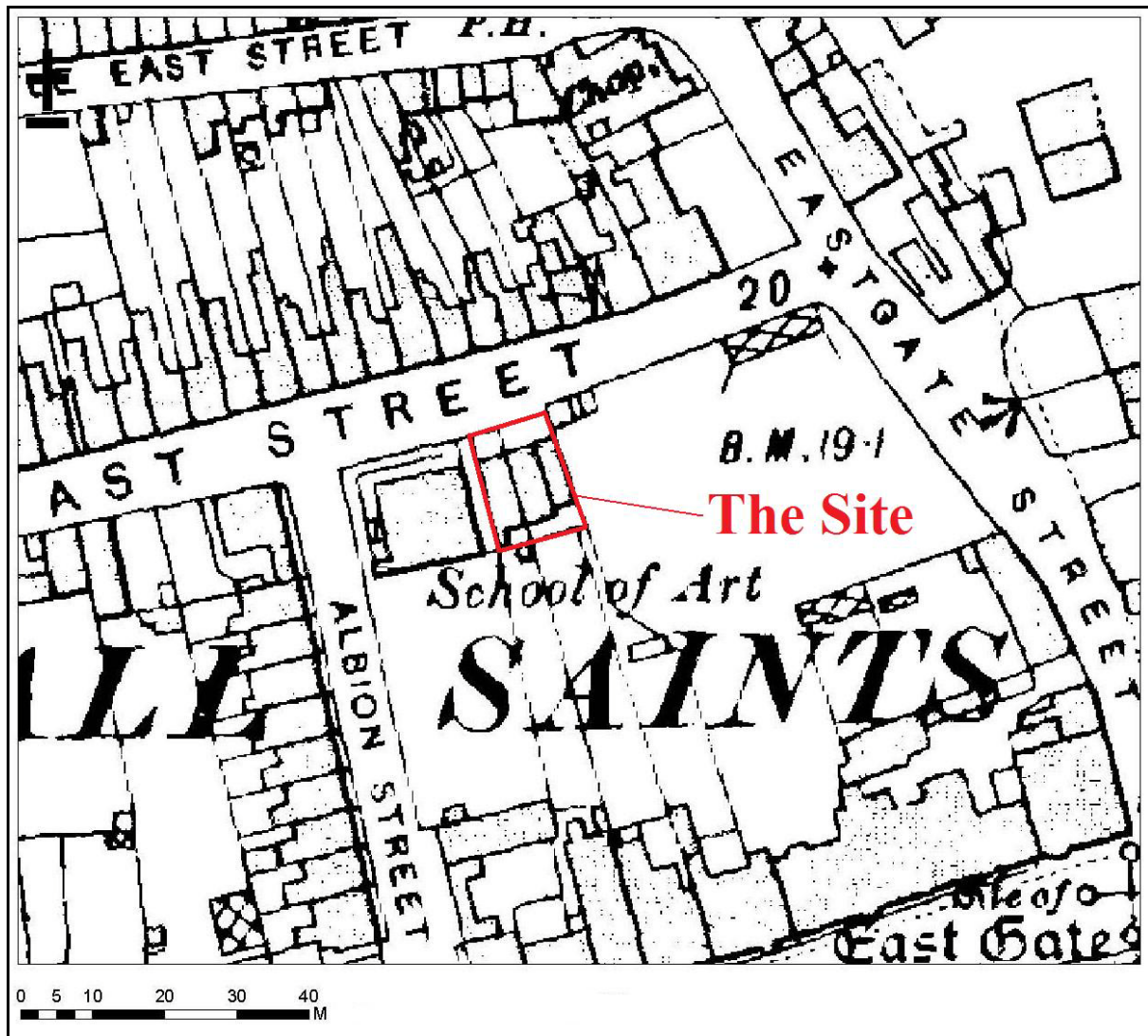


Fig. 11: 5 East Street, Lewes: 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS Map (1910)  
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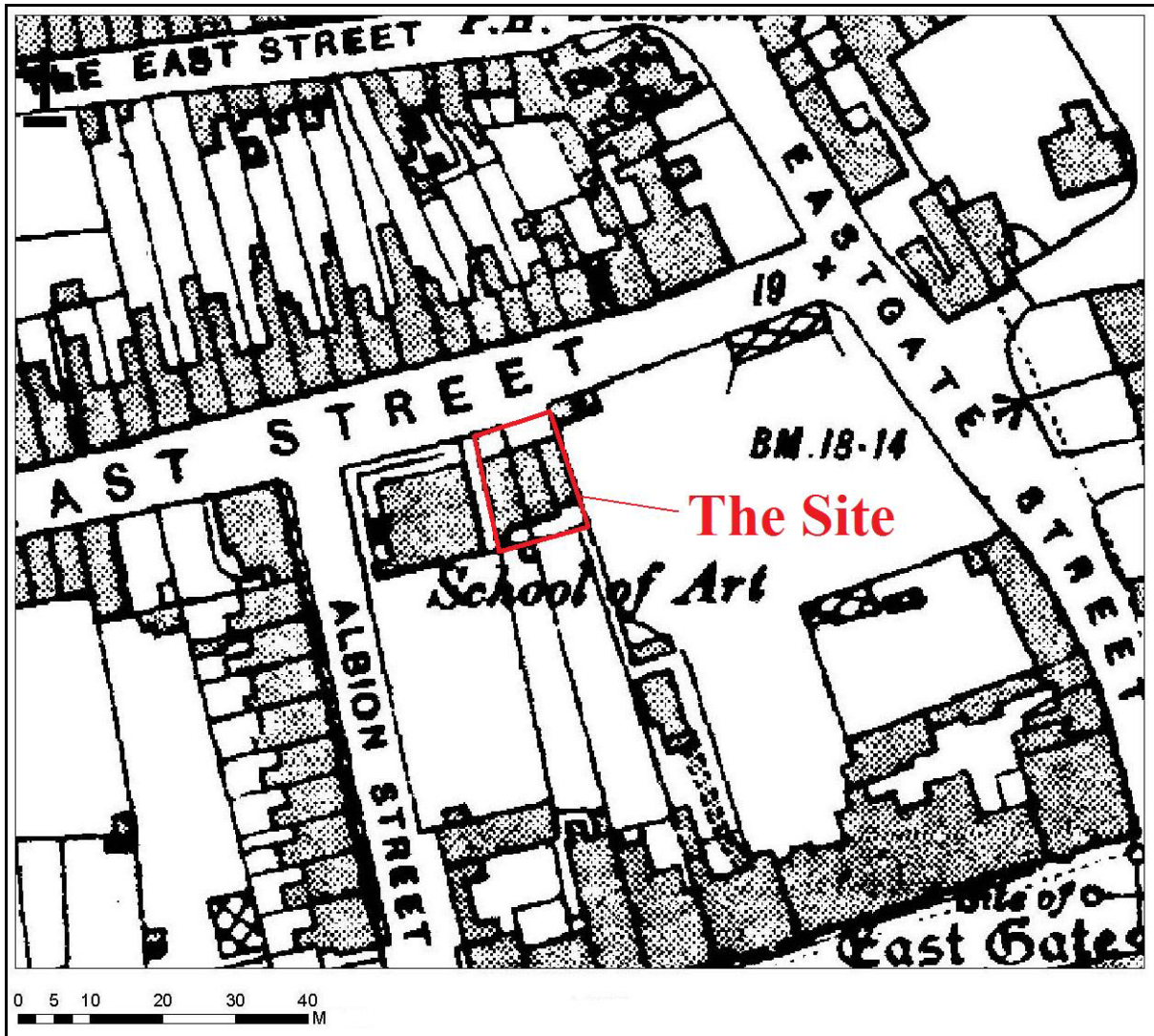


Fig. 12: 5 East Street, Lewes: 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS Map (1932)  
(adapted from map provided by ESCC)





Fig. 13: 5 East Street, Lewes: OS Map extract from 1:1250 (1955)  
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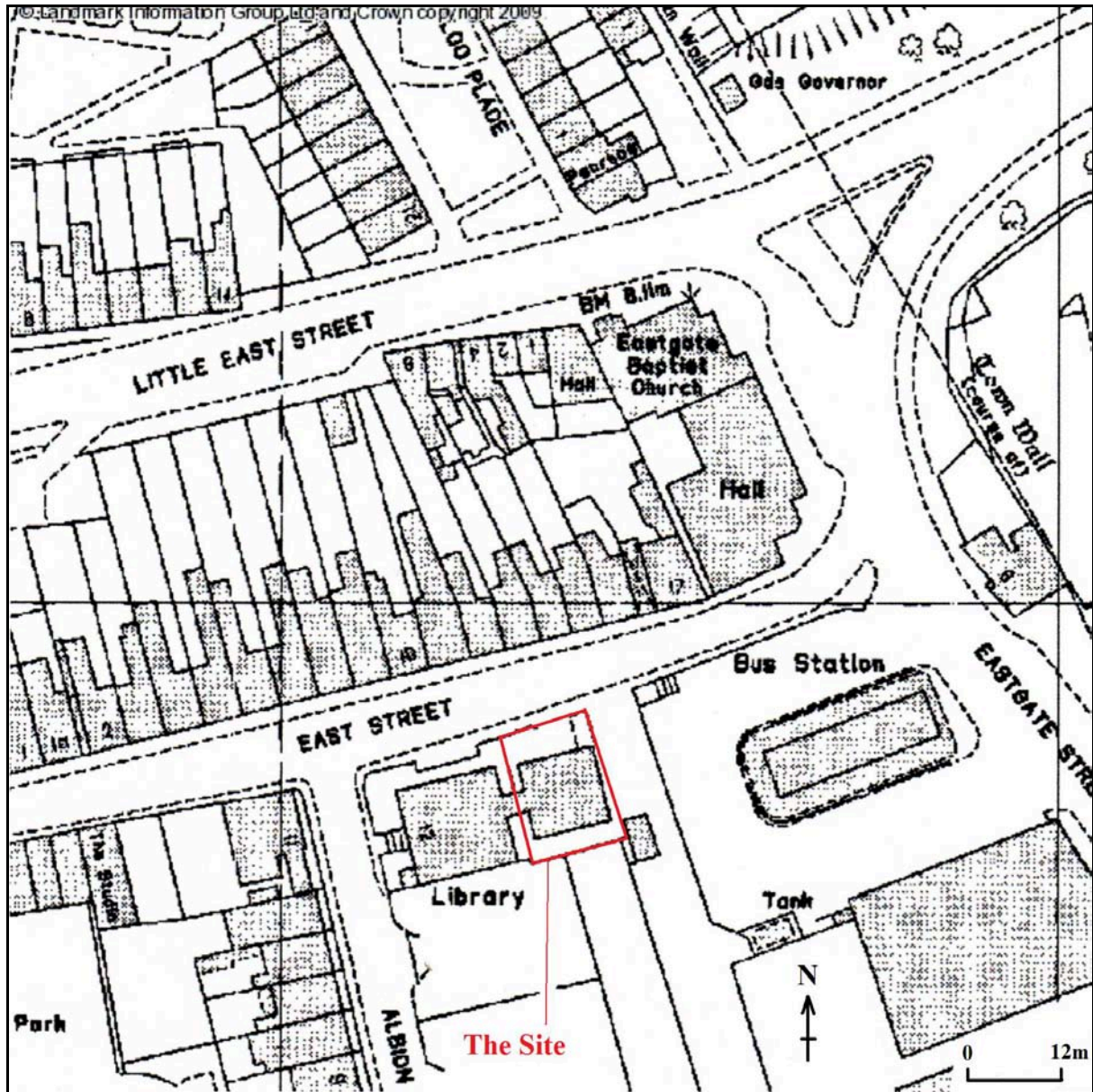


Fig. 14: 5 East Street, Lewes: OS Map extract from 1:1250 (1988)  
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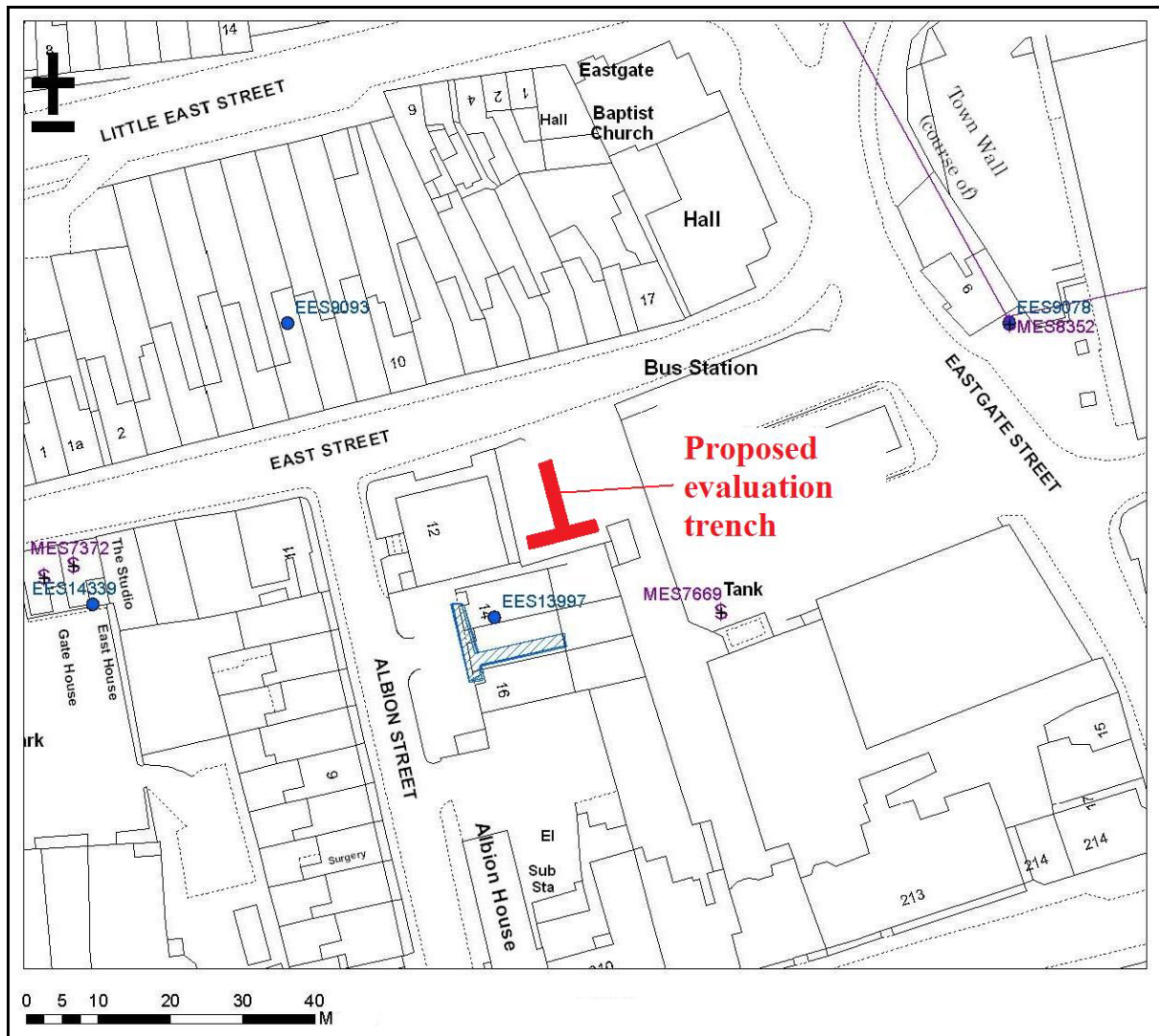


Fig. 15: 5 East Street, Lewes: Location of proposed evaluation trench  
(Adapted from map provided by ESCC)  
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### Appendix 1: Archaeological Sites Recorded on HER

HER ref.	NGR	Period	Type of Site	Notes
MES1616	TQ 4187 1018	Medieval	Site of Franciscan Friary	
MES1732	TQ 4167 1018		204 High Street	Listed Building
MES7372	TQ 41668 10266	Medieval/Post Medieval	Pits and well	Watching brief (EES14339)
MES7669	TQ 41760 10260	Second World War	Type 28 Pillbox	Removed at end of war
MES8352	TQ 41800 10300	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century	Eastgate Stoneworks	

### Appendix 2: Archaeological Events from the HER

HER ref.	NGR	Period	Type of Site	Notes
EES9078	TQ 418 103	Medieval	Town Wall	1977/78 excavation
EES9093	TQ 41700 10300	Post Medieval	Pheonix Ironworks	1975 excavation
EES13997	TQ 4172 1026	Post Medieval	Pits and linear features	2004 excavation
EES14339	TQ 41673 10261	Medieval/Post Medieval	Pits and well	Watching brief (MES7273)

## **Chris Butler Archaeological Services**

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

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society, and is a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and teaches A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6<sup>th</sup> Form College.

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

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

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