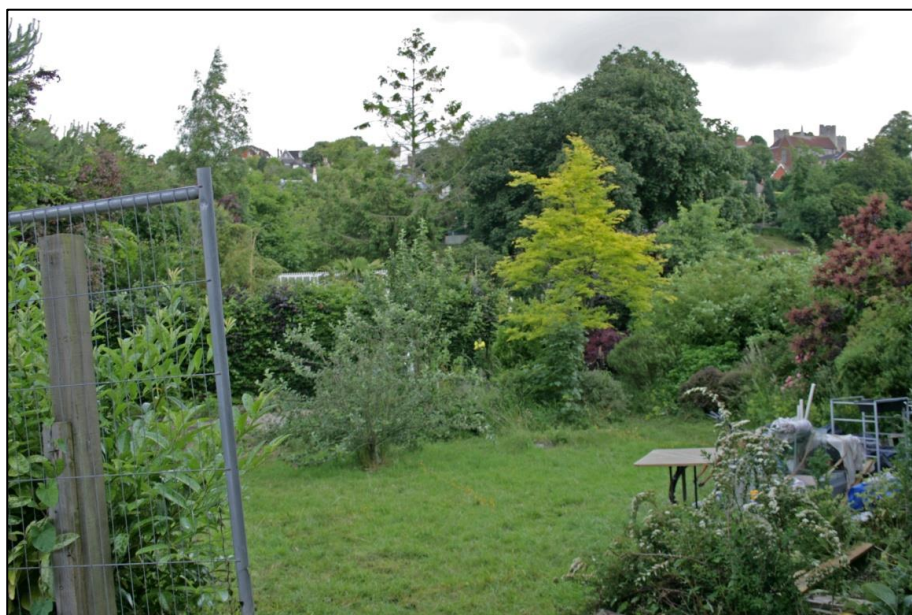




**Chris Butler MfA
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Archaeological Monitoring
at land to the side of
56, Southover High Street,
Lewes, East Sussex.**

LW/10/0641

Project No. CBAS0241

by
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Summary

During archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the footprint for a new dwelling at land to the side of 56 Southover High Street, a ditch dating to the late Saxon period was discovered. A possible post hole was located to the east of the ditch, and two further irregular shaped features were discovered to the west of the ditch, these were interpreted as root disturbance. Surprisingly, only a single piece of Medieval pottery was recovered from the excavations. All the rest of the pottery dated to the late Post Medieval period except for two sherds dating to the early Post Medieval. The presence of a late Saxon ditch hints at settlement on Southover High Street at a much earlier date than previously thought.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Darren Judd (The Client) to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring during the groundworks associated with the construction of a detached two-storey three bed house on land to the side of 57 Southover High Street, Lewes, East Sussex (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority had put a condition on the planning consent for the development (LW/10/0641), requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3 The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area, defining the Medieval and Post Medieval suburb of Southover (Fig. 2). The lack of modern development on the site raises the possibility of well preserved archaeological deposits at a relatively shallow depth. The Lewes EUS¹ stated that "the antiquity of the suburb, the inclusion of part of the medieval priory precinct, and the survival of historic buildings (and some plots) suggest that the archaeological potential of this HUCA is high. The survival of the medieval and post-medieval buildings, the completeness of historic streetfront, and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a high Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 4."
- 1.4 The site is at c.9m OD, and the geology, according to the British Geological Survey sheet 319, is Chalk with Alluvium to the north and Head deposit to the south. To the north is a stream known as the Winterbourne.
- 1.5 The appropriate programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a brief prepared by ESCC, comprises an archaeological strip-and-map operation to monitor the groundworks connected with the construction of the new house (Fig. 7). A written scheme of investigation² covering the monitoring was submitted and approved by the local planning authority.
- 1.6 The archaeological strip and map was carried out by the author between the 1st and 5th July 2013 by the author, David Atkin assisted with taking levels, and the project being managed by Chris Butler MifA for CBAS.

¹ Harris, R. 2005 *Lewes: Historic Character Assessment Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.

² Butler, C 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring at land to the side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes, East Sussex*. CBAS

2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background (Fig. 3)

- 2.1 There is no firm evidence for a settlement at Lewes during either prehistoric or Roman times, although stray finds from both of these periods have been made³. These include small groups of prehistoric flintwork, and some Roman coins and pottery. A Roman road, the London to Lewes Way⁴, 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.
- 2.2 Although archaeological evidence for a Saxon settlement is limited, Lewes is one of the four Saxon burghs in Sussex mentioned in the 10th century Burghal Hidage, and was one of the six administrative units (Rape's) in Sussex, having a mint and a port⁵. 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 period⁶. Some 30 burials of a 6th to 7th century date were discovered in 1891 during the building of a house in Kingston Road (MES1668)
- 2.3 After the Norman Conquest, Lewes was granted to William de Warenne⁷. He built a castle at the highest point in the town with two mottes, one of which was crowned by a Keep. Very little is known of the Norman town, although it is likely to have followed the plan of the earlier burgh. Recent archaeological work elsewhere in the town is beginning to find traces of settlement from this period.
- 2.4 The Cluniac Priory of St Pancras was founded by William de Warenne between 1078 and 1082, and may have been located on the site of an earlier Saxon monastic complex⁸. The Priory featured prominently in the Battle of Lewes 1264 as the Kings army was encamped there before the battle⁹. The Priory subsequently became one of the largest monastic centres in southern England by the time of the Dissolution¹⁰.
- 2.5 A Franciscan Friary of Grey Friars was founded before 1241 and dissolved in 1538. 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.

³ Rudling, D. 1987. 'Archaeological Survey of Lewes'. *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

⁴ Margary, I.V. 1948. *Roman Ways in the Weald*, London, Phoenix House.

⁵ Gardiner, M. 1999. 'Late Saxon Sussex c.650-1066', *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore & Co. Ltd.

⁶ Houghton, J. 1987. 'The Urban Landscape of Lewes', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

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

⁸ Lewis, R.A. et al. 1987. 'The Priory of St. Pancras, Southover', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

⁹ Fleming, B. 1999 *The Battle of Lewes 1264*, J&KH Publishing, Hailsham.

¹⁰ Poole, H. 2000 *Lewes Priory: The Site and its History*, Lewes Priory Trust.

- 2.6** The Medieval town of Lewes was walled in the 13th century, and traces of this remain to be seen on the west side of the town. An excavation at Keere Street revealed a defensive ditch filled with debris (MES1756), which is thought to have come from the Town Wall repairs or demolition¹¹. There have been numerous finds of Medieval artefacts and features across the town, including 12th-13th century rubbish pits at St Pancras House (MES7369), Evidence for Medieval activity has recently been found on excavations at Baxters, Lewes House and North Street¹², and at 5 East Street¹³.
- 2.7** Southover High Street begins to develop in the 12th century as a suburb clustered at the gate of the priory. It appears to have had two foci by the 13th century, at Westport and Eastport¹⁴. After the dissolution of the Priory, the population of Southover went into decline, before beginning to grow again in the later 18th and 19th centuries. There are 62 listed buildings in Southover High Street, of which 24 date to the 18th century and 21 date to the period 1800-40, reflecting this later growth.
- 2.8** James Edwards' map of Lewes dated 1799 shows the ribbon development along Southover High Street, with houses on both sides, although the location of the site appears to be open ground (Fig. 4), with only sparse occupation between here and the main part of Lewes town.
- 2.9** The 1st Edition OS map (1875) shows the site to be gardens, with some buildings to the south-west of the site and to the rear of the street frontage (Fig. 5). By the 3rd Edition OS map (1910) the situation is largely unchanged with a number of greenhouses along the northern edge of the site (Fig. 6), and this situation is unchanged on the 4th Edition OS map of 1932.

¹¹ *Sussex Archaeological Society Newsletter* 8, December 1972. 30

¹² Chuter, G. *Pers. com.*

¹³ Butler, C. et al. 2010 *An Archaeological Excavation at 5 East Street, Lewes, East Sussex*, CBAS0105

¹⁴ Brent, C. 2004 *Pre-Georgian Lewes c890-1714*, Colin Brent Books

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1 Due to the compact nature of the site, the excavation (**Plate 1**) of the footprint of the house for the strip-and-map had to be carried out in two stages. The footprint of the proposed house was first marked out in spray paint. The northern end of the site was excavated first, this measured 4.5m east to west by 8.0m north to south. The spoil from this part of the excavations was piled up to the western side of the trench. After the northern area had been excavated and fully recorded it was backfilled. The southern half of the foot print of the house was then excavated. This measured 11.1m east to west by 4.5m north to south. The spoil from this part of the excavation was piled up on the backfilled earlier part of the excavation.



Plate 1: The Site Taken from the South

- 3.2 Before the excavations were started, the area to be excavated was visually inspected and scanned with a Precision Gold metal detector for the recovery of artefacts. The metal detector was also used to scan the spoil heaps and any archaeological features discovered.
- 3.3 All of the excavations were carried out using a 2.8 ton 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.5m toothless bucket. After the turf had been removed the ground was excavated in shallow spits under archaeological supervision.
- 3.4 A site plan was drawn at a scale of 1:50, with archaeological features being transferred onto the site plan. All features discovered were half sectioned, and then recorded. The features were then fully excavated for artefactual recovery. These features were also drawn at a scale of 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.

- 3.5** A soil sample of 60 litres was taken from the linear feature (Cut 6), care was taken that the soil was taken from the eastern side of the feature which had a good edge. The soil samples were put into 10 litre plastic tubs with tightly sealing lids. Dr Mike Allen visited the site during the excavation and has provided a description of the deposits.
- 3.6** A bench mark was located at the top of the eastern side of Potters Lane opposite Southover Manor (12.17m OD). This was transferred to the site with a temporary bench mark (8.815m OD) being established on the north-eastern corner of The Gables Annex located at the southern end of the site.
- 3.7** 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
- 3.8** 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 for the archive is agreed with the County Archaeologist. A site reference of SHS 11 has been allocated.

4.0 Results

- 4.1** During the excavation of both the northern and southern parts of the site there were three deposits apparent. Context **1** was the topsoil, which was a dark greyish-brown silty clay loam, with a depth of up to 500mm. This deposit had inclusions of small pebbles (<1%), chalk flecks and pieces up to 25mm (<1%), small flint pieces up to 25mm (<1%) and light rooting (<1%). The rooting was mainly concentrated at the southern end of the site. Artefacts recovered from this deposit were of pottery (mainly flower pot), bone, ceramic building material and metal. It was noted that the deposit of topsoil was exceptionally deep at 500mm. This could suggest that that at least some of the topsoil had been imported onto the site, with a possible source being the garden of the properties to the east and west which were noticeably lower than the site, or from the construction of 56a, Southover High Street, situated to the south of the site.
- 4.2** Context **2** was the subsoil below Context **1**; this was a mid orange-brown silty clay with a friable consistence (Colluvial Deposit¹⁵) with a thickness of up to 400mm but thinner than this over most of the site. The interface with the topsoil was sharp but the one with the natural was much diffused, with patches of this deposit being still apparent as patches within the marl of the natural. This deposit had inclusions of very occasional flint nodules up to 90mm (<1%) and chalk flecks and pieces up to 30mm (<1%). Artefacts recovered from this deposit consisted of pottery, flintwork and ceramic building material.
- 4.3** The Natural was Context **3** which was below Context **2**, and was a Head Deposit. This was made up of 75% chalk marl which consisted of an orange-brown silty clay with inclusions of chalk flecks and pieces up to 40mm (75%), within this were patches of the colluvium with the same matrix as Context **2**. Contained within this deposit there were also inclusions of occasional flint nodules up to 110mm (<1%). This deposit contained no artefacts and was excavated to a depth of up to 200mm where the limit of excavation was reached.
- 4.4** Context **4** was a small pit cut into the base of the topsoil (Context **1**) and the upper part of the subsoil. The pit had an irregularly circular shape in plan, with rounded corners. The pit measured 550mm north to south by 500mm east to west, and had a depth of 300mm. The break of slope at the top of the feature was sharp, with near vertical sides. The break of slope at the base of the feature was also fairly sharp, with the base itself being slightly dished and was stepped up on the northern side.

¹⁵ Pers.Comm. Mike Allen on visit to site



Plate 2: Small Pit (Context 4) after Excavation

4.5 Context 5 was the single fill of Context 4, this was a mid brown silty clay loam with a very similar matrix to the topsoil but being slightly lighter in colour. The fill had inclusions of ceramic building material (50%), chalk flecks and pieces up to 30mm (<1%), and flint pieces up to 20mm (<1%). Artefacts recovered from this fill comprised pottery, ceramic building material and glass. The feature was interpreted as a small Victorian or slightly later rubbish pit.

4.6 Context 6 was the cut of a linear feature running on a north south alignment, and was first noted in the excavation of the northern part of the site, and was picked up again in the southern part of the site. The feature was 450mm wide at the northern end with a depth of 170mm (**Plate 3**), this increased to 615mm wide with a depth of 300mm at the southern end of the site (**Plate 4**). The linear feature had a diffused break of slope at the top leading into sloping sides. The break of slope at the base of the feature was gradual, with a slightly dish base. The feature was cut into the Head Deposit (Context 3).



Plate 3: North End of Ditch (Context 6)



Plate 4: South End of Ditch (Context 6)

- 4.7** Context **7** was the single fill of the linear feature Context **6**; this was the same composition as the colluvial deposit subsoil (Context **2**). This was a mid orange-brown silty clay with inclusions of chalk flecks and pieces up to 40mm (1%) and sub angular flint pieces up to 40mm (<1%). The fill had a depth of 170mm at the northern end and was deeper at the southern end of the feature where it was 315mm deep. The fill produced artefacts of animal bone and two sherds of pottery. A soil sample of 60 litres was taken from the fill of the linear feature.
- 4.8** At the same level as the ditch three other possible features were noted, these were also cut into Context **3** and appeared as areas of darker soil. Context **8** was a cut, which was roughly square shaped in plan, with rounded corners, located to the west of the ditch in the southern excavation. The feature measured 400mm north to south by 400mm east to west, with a depth of 140mm at its deepest point. The break of slope at the top of the feature was sharp, with irregular slightly sloping sides. The break of slope at the base of the feature was sharp with the majority of the base being very slightly dished with a depth of 80mm, but falling sharply away in the north-eastern corner to a depth of 140mm.
- 4.9** Context **8** had a single fill (Context **9**), which was a mid greyish brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence. This fill had inclusions of chalk flecks and pieces up to 50mm (<1%), sub angular flint pieces up to 30mm (<1%) and rooting (<1%). The only artefact recovered from this fill comprised a single piece of modern pottery. This feature was interpreted as a possible truncated post hole but more likely a tree root or animal disturbance. The single sherd of modern pottery would also suggest the former, but alternatively the sherd of pottery was possibly in association with the rooting apparent in the fill.



Plate 5: Possible Post Hole Context **8**

- 4.10** Two cuts were apparent on the eastern side of the ditch (Contexts **10** and **12**). Context **10** was an irregular shape in plan, with rounded corners (**Plate 6**). Measuring 400mm east to west by 340mm north to south, with a depth at its deepest point of 200mm. The break of slope at the top of the feature was sharp with almost vertical sides except for the northern side which was slightly sloping. The break of slope at the base of the feature was diffused with the north side stepping down to a depth of 200mm. At the base of the northern side there was a void, mostly likely a root run.



Plate 6: Root Disturbance Context **10**

- 4.11** Context **11** was the single fill of Context **10**, and was a mid greyish-brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence. The fill was 200mm deep at its deepest point and had inclusions of chalk flecks and pieces up to 20mm (1%) and rooting at (1%). The fill produced artefacts of flower pot, bone and a piece of clay pipe stem. The irregular shape of the feature in both plan and section, with the presence of moderate rooting would suggest that this was an area of tree root disturbance. This is further suggested by the presence of modern artefacts.
- 4.12** Context **12** was located to the east of Context **10**, and was a cut which was irregular oval in plan, measuring 600mm north south by 700mm east west (**Plate 7**). The feature had rounded corners with a sharp break of slope at the top. The sides were nearly vertical and had a diffused break of slope at the base of the feature, which was irregular with root disturbance at the western end. The depth of the feature was up to 140mm deep.
- 4.13** Context **13** was the single fill of Context **12**, and was a mid brown silty clay loam with a loose consistence. The fill had inclusions of chalk flecks and pieces up to 60mm (<1%), charcoal flecks (<1%) and rooting (<1%). The fill produced artefacts of flower pot, ceramic building material and a piece of oyster shell. As with Context **10** this was interpreted as root disturbance for the same reasons.



Plate 7: Root Disturbance Context 12

4.14 No other archaeological features or deposits were noted during the monitoring.

5.0 The Geology by Michael J Allen

5.1 Excavations at 56 Southover High Street, Lewes were visited on 3 July 2013 following reports of colluvium and a possible prehistoric ditch beneath. Topographically the site lies on the north side of the ridge of Southover High Street, just below the crest and overlooking the Cockshut stream. Topographically the colluvium comprised either plateau edge deposits¹⁶ or a lynchet. The sequence was observed from trench edge and description follow standard pedagogical notation¹⁷.

5.2 The observed sequence

The parent material had been exposed by machine and comprised pale yellow soft calcareous marl with many small and medium chalk pieces with patches of buff (light yellowish brown) silty loam with some flints (Context 3). This is mapped as Head which here is periglacial solifluction (or gelifluction) deposits locally known as coombe deposit.

5.3 Overlying this, with an abrupt contact, was an undifferentiated yellowish brown to dark yellowish brown unsorted silty loam to silty clay loam with common small and medium subrounded and subangular chalk pieces, with possible large weak subangular blocky structure (Context 2). As is typical of colluvial deposits, no basal paleosol was obviously present¹⁸.

5.4 Unconformably above this, with a sharp to abrupt boundary, was a dark greyish brown unsorted massive humic silt loam with some small and medium stones including chalk, flint and ?brick/tile (Context 1). This is heavily bioturbated, and many vertical macropores (c. 5mm) were evident (earthworm burrows).

5.5 Ditch

A straight-sided ditch was exposed cut into the coombe deposit and running perpendicular to the ridge and Southover High Street and perpendicular to course of the Cockshut Stream. At the time of the visit the ditch was exposed in the northern section (south-facing section (being machined back), and was clearly exposed in the overcut periglacial deposits which were pale yellow and calcareous to the east, and buff yellowish brown silts to the west. The ditch contained a colluvial infill and its upper profile could not be detected in the lower colluvial deposits.

¹⁶ Bell, M.G. 1981b. Valley sediments and environmental change, in M. Jones and G.W. Dimbleby (eds), *Environment of Man: the Iron Age to the Anglo-Saxon period*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports, British Series 87, 75-91.

¹⁷ Hodgson, J.M. 1976. *Soil Survey Field Handbook*. Harpenden: Soil Survey Technical Monograph No. 5

¹⁸ Allen, M.J. 1992. *Products of Erosion and the Prehistoric Land Use of the Wessex Chalk*, in Bell M.G., and Boardman J., (eds), *Past and Present Soil Erosion*, : 37-92. Oxford: Oxbow Monograph

5.6 The nature of the ditch fill, being predominantly colluvial, and the lack of weathered coombe deposit material suggests that the ditch was cut through the basal colluvial deposit at least. The cut cannot be detected by eye because it has been both cut through and infilled with colluvium, and the colluvium is the base of a colluvial brown earth which has suffered from pedogenesis, active weathering down profile, and bioturbation, all of which have obscured the distinction within the lower unit and the boundary demarking the cut of the ditch. This is common where archaeological features cut through soft parent material and pedogenesis and bioturbation are active.

5.7 The nature of the ditch, having a very straight course, being straight-sided, and perpendicular to the High Street and Cockshut is more reminiscent of historic or later historic land or allotment boundary ditch than a prehistoric ditch. The colluvial infills look more historic than prehistoric, but that is an entirely subjective opinion of the author.

5.8 Concluding comments

- 1) The upper material is a garden soil, the depth of which suggests that it has been enhanced by the addition of garden soil probably from the recent extension to 56 Southover High Street to the immediate south of the excavated area. The garden level here was noticeably higher than that to the east. The contact between the colluvium and garden soil indicated physical mixing and truncation to this point.
- 2) The ditch has been cut through the base of the colluvium and has a colluvial infill, and is later than the inception of colluvial deposition and co-eval with deposition, but prior to the deposition of the garden soils.
- 3) The colluvium presented plateau edge colluvium of a small lynchet.
- 4) The basal Head, is typical periglacial solifluction material, probably of late Devensian age (i.e. pre 10,000BP)

6.0 The Finds.

6.0.1 A moderately sized assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the monitoring and is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Quantification of finds (no./weight in grams)

Context	Pot (by period)	Ceramic Building Material	Flint	Bone and Shell	Other	Date
1	1550-1750: 1/8g 1750-1900+: 70/890g	Brick 1/22g Peg tile 5/150g Drain 4/228g	-	Bone 11/216g Shell 13/290g	Clay pipe 11/28g Glass 10/ 190g Stone 10/140g Metal 8/477g	c. 1850-1925 (moderate residual later C18th – mid 19 th)
2	1150-1250: 1/8g 1750-1900+: 7/78g	Brick 2/158g Peg tile 5/362g	Flint 3/31g	Bone 20/190g Shell 12/262g	Glass 1/2g Stone 2/54g Metal 1/7g	c. 1820-1900 (low resid late C12th – mid 13 th)
5	-	Brick 2/1526g	-	-	-	c. 1750-1900
7	900-1050: 3/14g	-	Flint 5/3g FF 11/31g	Bone 5/37g	-	C10th – 11 th
9	1550-1750: 1/10g 1750-1900+: 1/6g	-	FF 1/19g	-	Glass 1/16g	Mixed: x1 c. 1775-1900+; x1 c. 1725-1780
11	1750-1900+: 1/3g	-	-	Bone 1/7g Shell 1/3g	-	c. 1775/1800- 1900+
13	1750-1900+: 2/12g	Peg tile 2/40g	-	Shell 2/4g	Stone 1/20g	c. 1775/1800- 1900+

6.0.2 The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard. The Saxon and medieval pottery sherds are featureless pieces, some of which are residual. There are far better stratified assemblages of these periods from the town. The post-medieval pottery is all unstratified and consists of well-known industrial wares that can be expected anywhere in the country. The other assemblages contain nothing of particular interest – all being from mixed deposits and all being better represented by more secure contexts from elsewhere in Lewes.

6.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

6.1.1 The archaeological work at the site recovered a moderate-sized assemblage of pottery. On the whole the material consists of small to medium sized sherds (to 50mm across) but most show no, or limited, signs of abrasion. As such it would appear that the material has not been subjected to repeated reworking despite the obvious residuality present in most deposits.

- 6.1.2** The earliest pottery consists of two small bodysherds from Context **7** (and a further small fragment from the soil sample) from reduced black hand-made cooking pots tempered with moderate fine/medium flint grits and quite low-fired (County Fabric F/AS100). Despite their low-firing they do not show extensive signs of abrasion. Both can be placed between the 10th and mid 11th centuries.
- 6.1.3** Context **2** produced a residual fresh base sherd from a sand/flint tempered Clay Hill/Early Ringmer oxidised cooking pot. This sherd probably dates to between 1175 and 1225.
- 6.1.4** The early post-medieval pottery assemblage consists of just two sherds of Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware (plates) that belong to the very end of the chronological range and indeed continue into the late post-medieval period. These sherds can be dated to between 1725 and 1780.
- 6.1.5** The late post-medieval period produced a markedly larger assemblage to any preceding period. The earliest pottery within it may relate to a low-level continuation of refuse disposal from the middle of the 18th century. There are a small number of creamware sherds (a plate from Context **1** and tea bowl from Context **2**), together with a few pearlware pieces (Contexts **1** and **2**) that hint at activity in the later 18th to early 19th centuries. However, the bulk of the late post-medieval pottery can be placed between 1800/25 and 1900.
- 6.1.6** A fairly typical domestic mix of wares is present though horticultural wares (unglazed earthenware flower pots) are notably well represented (22/400g from Context **1**, 3/66g from Context **2**, single sherds from Contexts **9** and **11** and all sherds in Context **13**). The remaining sherds include a mix of kitchen wares (eg glazed red earthenware, Sunderland slipware and yellow ware) and table/tea wares. The latter include blue, grey/black, purple and polychrome transfer-printed whitewares.

6.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipes by Luke Barber

- 6.2.1** A small assemblage of relatively fresh clay pipe stems was collected from Context **1**. Amongst them is a slightly abraded stem fragment of the second half of the 17th century, with the remainder being of mid 18th to 19th century type.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

6.3.1 All of the brick from the site can comfortably be placed in a mid 18th to 19th century date range. Context **1** produced a quite well formed and well fired example tempered with fine sand and marl swirls, with a similar example being recovered from Context **2**. This same deposit produced a further similar brick, but with common iron oxide inclusions instead of marl. The two larger brick fragments from Context **5** are also well formed and medium/well fired. They are tempered with sparse/common fine sand and sparse iron oxides to 2mm. An 18th to mid 19th century date is probable.

6.3.2 The peg tile from the site includes one or two pieces that could be as early as the mid 16th to 17th century, though these examples (e.g. Context **13**) could run as late as the 18th century. They are all quite well formed, medium fired and tempered with moderate fine/medium sand with sparse iron oxides to 1mm. The remaining tile is all of fairly typical well-formed and fired examples of mid 18th to 19th century type. Context **1** also produced four fragments from later 19th to 20th century salt-glazed drains.

6.4 Prehistoric Flintwork by Chris Butler

6.4.1 Residual prehistoric flintwork was recovered from a number of contexts. Context **2** produced a soft hammer-struck white patinated flint flake with platform preparation, and from the interface of Contexts **2** and **3** came a truncated blade and a hard hammer-struck flake. The first two pieces probably date to the Early Neolithic, whilst the latter is probably later Neolithic or Bronze Age in date.

6.4.2 From the soil sample from the ditch fill (Context **7**), there were two small flakes, one hard hammer-struck and the other soft hammer-struck, and three chips. None are diagnostic, and together with the 11 small fire-fractured flints, are almost certainly residual in this context.

6.5 Glass by Chris Butler

6.5.1 The largest group of glass was from Context **1**. The earliest piece was from a large bottle, and was very decayed, and is either late 18th or 19th century in date. The remainder, including mineral water bottles fragments, other bottle fragments, a bottle stopper, a piece of window glass and a fragment from a decorated bowl are all likely to date from the late 19th or early 20th century. The neck and rim of a mid 20th century milk bottle was also found in this context.

6.5.2 Other glass comprised the neck from an aqua medicine bottle in Context **9**, which dates to the late 19th or early 20th, and a fragment of 19th/20th century window glass from Context **2**.

6.6 Animal Bone and Marine Shell by Chris Butler

6.6.1 Animal bone was recovered from both Contexts **1** and **2**, and comprised a mixture of predominantly sheep, but also pig and cattle bones. A probable chicken bone and the mandible from a small dog was also found. Many of the bones from these contexts were too fragmented to be identified. A single (sheep) tooth was found in Context **11**.

6.6.2 The soil sample from the ditch fill (Context **7**) produced five bones fragments (37g). Four were small unidentifiable fragments, whilst the fifth was a fragment from a sheep radius.

6.6.3 Four contexts produced marine shell. All of the shell, apart from one fragment of scallop in Context **1**, was oyster. Contexts **1** and **2** produced 12 fragments of oyster each, all very abraded, and a number showing indications of infestation. Context **11** produced a single small fragment and Context **13** produced two small fragments.

6.7 Geological Material by Luke Barber

6.7.1 Probably the earliest stone from the site, archaeologically, are the two pieces from Horsham stone roofing slabs (Contexts **1** and **2**). These appear to have been at their peak in the town during the 15th to 16th centuries, though a number of roofs of this type still survive to this day. Contexts **1** and **13** produced several fragments from 19th century Welsh roofing slates (Context **1** (7/106g) and Context **13** (1/20g)).

6.7.2 The only other piece of stone consists of a piece of coal shale (Context **1**: 2/14g), almost certainly brought in with coal during the post-medieval period.

6.8 Metal by Chris Butler

6.8.1 A small quantity of metal items were found in Contexts **1** and **2**. Contexts **1** produced iron nails, a nut and bolt, two washers (one iron the other an alloy material), iron wire and a large cylindrical fragment; all of which are likely to be 20th century in date. Context **2** produced a single iron roof nail, of probable 19th century date.

6.9 Environmental Samples by Chris Butler

- 6.9.1** A bulk soil sample was taken from the fill of the linear features (Context 7). The sample comprised approximately 60 litres of soil in soil sample bags and tubs. The entire sample was processed to assess whether the sample had any potential for organic or micro-faunal remains.
- 6.9.2** The sample was processed using bucket floatation, with the residue being washed through a 1mm mesh sieve. Once the residues were dry they were sorted by eye to extract material of archaeological and environmental interest.
- 6.9.3** The flot produced small quantities of small land snail, charcoal and one possible carbonised seed, together with a few modern roots.
- 6.9.4** The residue produced some prehistoric flintwork and fire-fractured flint, animal bone, a small fragment of pottery, all of which are described in the finds section above, and a few small (>5mm) fragments of undiagnostic fired clay.
- 6.9.5** The residue was scanned with a magnet which collected a small number of very small pellets of fired clay, and some other pieces of stone. No obvious pieces that could be associated with metalworking were noted.

7.0 Discussion

- 7.1** During the excavation of the footprint of the new house adjacent to 56 Southover High Street, the lower part of a truncated ditch was discovered. The ditch was on a north to south alignment and ran across the entire site slightly angled to the west. Two sherds of pottery dating to the Late Saxon period (between 900 and 1050 AD) were recovered from the ditch as well as a few pieces of animal bone. This could suggest that the ditch was open during the Saxon period. However, during the processing of the soil samples taken from the fill of the ditch pieces of Prehistoric worked and fire cracked flint were recovered possibly suggesting an earlier date. However, the straight course of the ditch suggests a Saxon date is the more, with the ditch serving as a land division boundary.
- 7.2** At the limit of excavation three other possible archaeological features were investigated. Context **8** was located to the west of the ditch and was interpreted as a possible truncated post hole. Although, some doubt must remain, due to the amount of rooting in the fill and the disturbance at the northern end of the feature, and late Post Medieval artefacts recovered from this feature. However this feature appeared to be of a more regular shape than the two features to the eastern side of the ditch. The features (Contexts **10** and **12**) were both irregular in plan and section and the fills produced evidence for significant bioturbation disturbance.
- 7.3** It was also noted that the topsoil was deeper than normally expected, with a depth up to 500mm. This suggests that some of this topsoil had been imported possibly from the garden to the east of the site whose ground level was approximately 1m lower, or alternatively from the construction of The Gables located to the south of the site. Cut into the topsoil was a small pit (Context **4**) containing late Post Medieval ceramic building material, and was interpreted as a small rubbish pit.
- 7.4** Apart from the two sherds of Saxon pottery discovered in the fill of the ditch (Context **7**), the rest of the pottery dated to the late Post Medieval period. The exception being of a single sherd of Medieval pottery found in the subsoil (Context **2**) and two pieces of early Post Medieval pottery found in the topsoil and in the fill of the possible post hole (Context **9**). This is surprising considering the sites location on the north side of Southover High Street, which began to develop from the 12th century.
- 7.5** It is possible that during the later medieval or early Post Medieval period there was severe truncation of the site, which removed all evidence for medieval activity and also truncated the late Saxon ditch. During the Post Medieval period the topsoil has been imported to build up the site, producing the stratigraphy found during the monitoring.

7.6 Previous evidence for Saxon activity at Southover comes from the burials found in Kingston Road in 1891, although these are of a 6th to 7th century date. The presence of the late Saxon ditch, found during this work, and probably representing a land division boundary, hints that Southover High Street may well have been a focus for settlement before its previously suggested development in the 12th century.

8.0 Acknowledgements

8.1 I would like to thank Darren Judd for commissioning this archaeological watching brief, and his on-site contractors from Performance Foundations Ltd who supplied the excavator and operator. Luke Barber and Chris Butler reported on the artefacts. I would also like to thank Andrew Bradshaw for preparing the drawings for this report, and David Atkin for his on-site assistance with taking levels. We are very grateful to Dr Mike Allen for visiting the site and commenting on the deposits and stratigraphy.

8.2 The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler MifA, and it was monitored by Greg Chuter for ESCC.

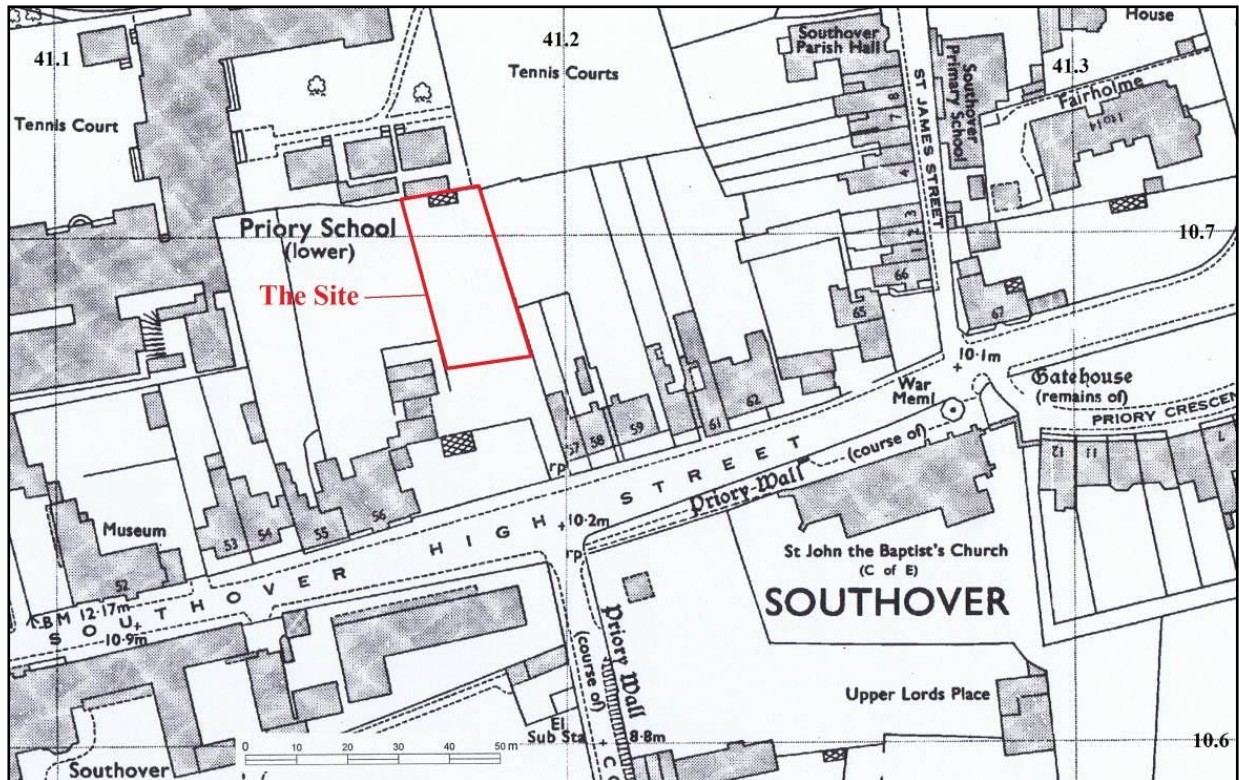


Fig. 1: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes:
Site location map
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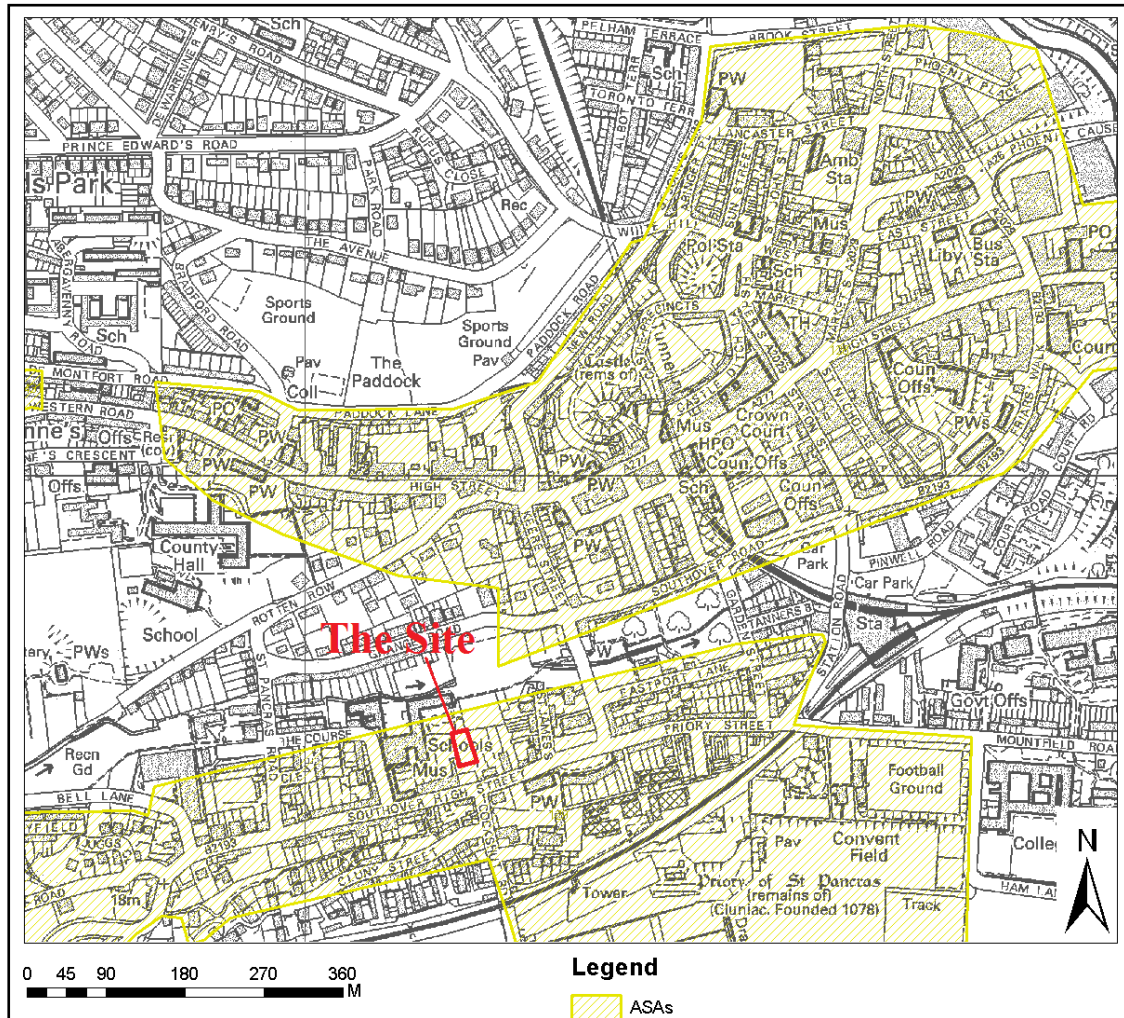


Fig. 2: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: Site location and Archaeologically Sensitive Area

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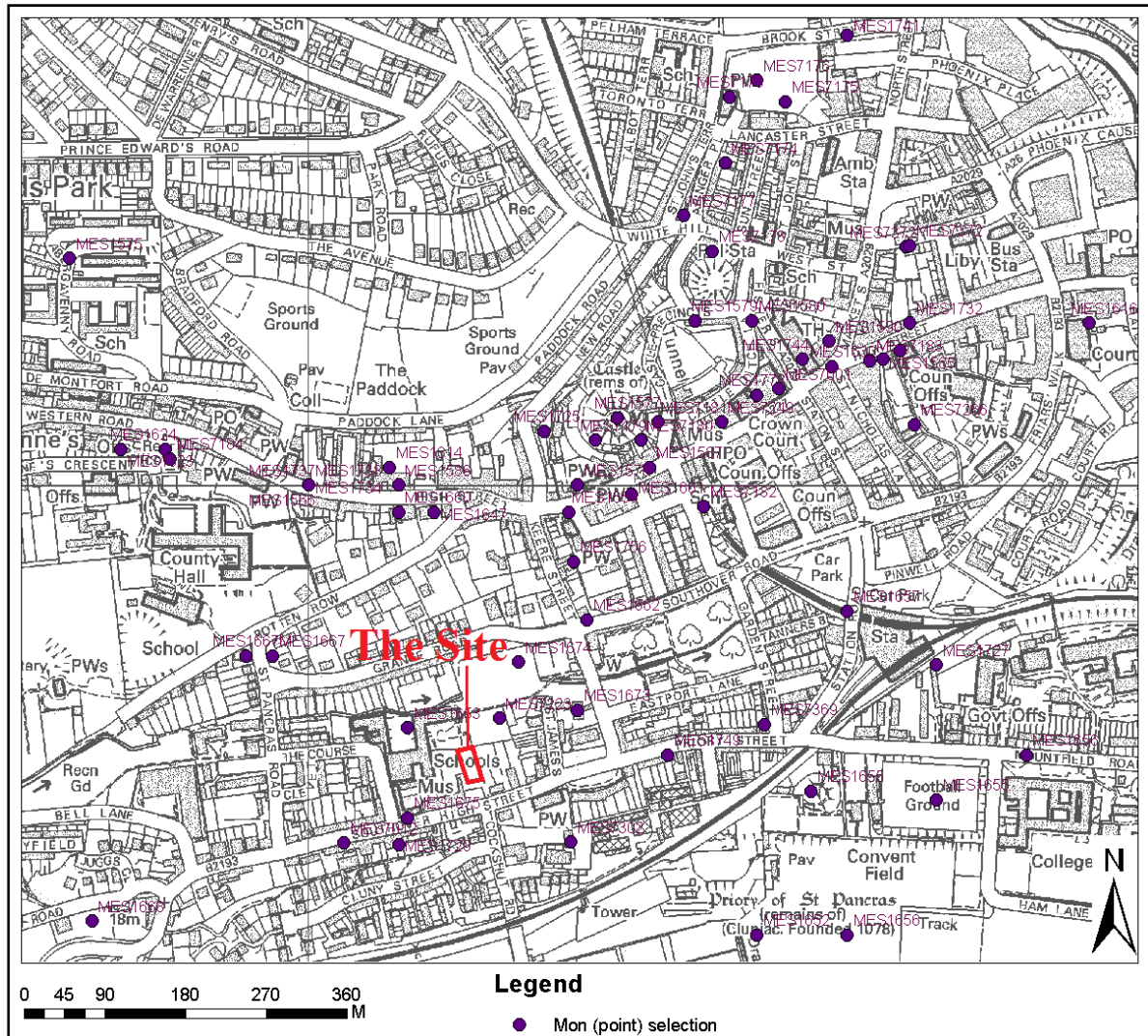


Fig. 3: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: Site location and sites from the HER

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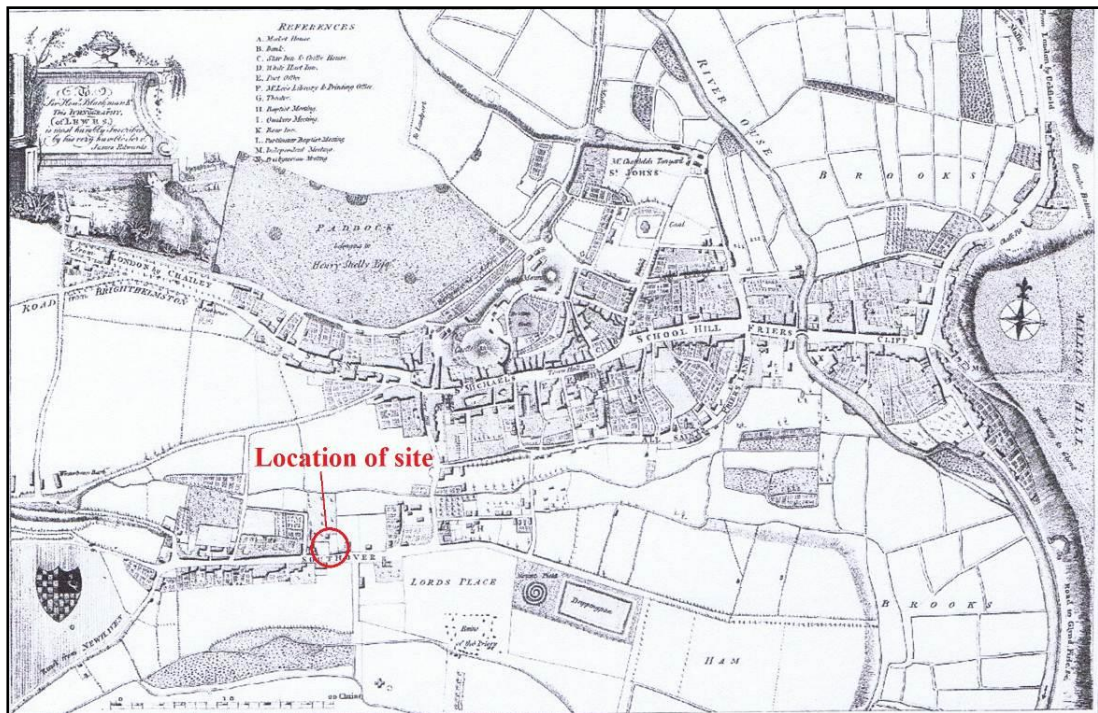


Fig. 4: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: Map of Lewes 1799

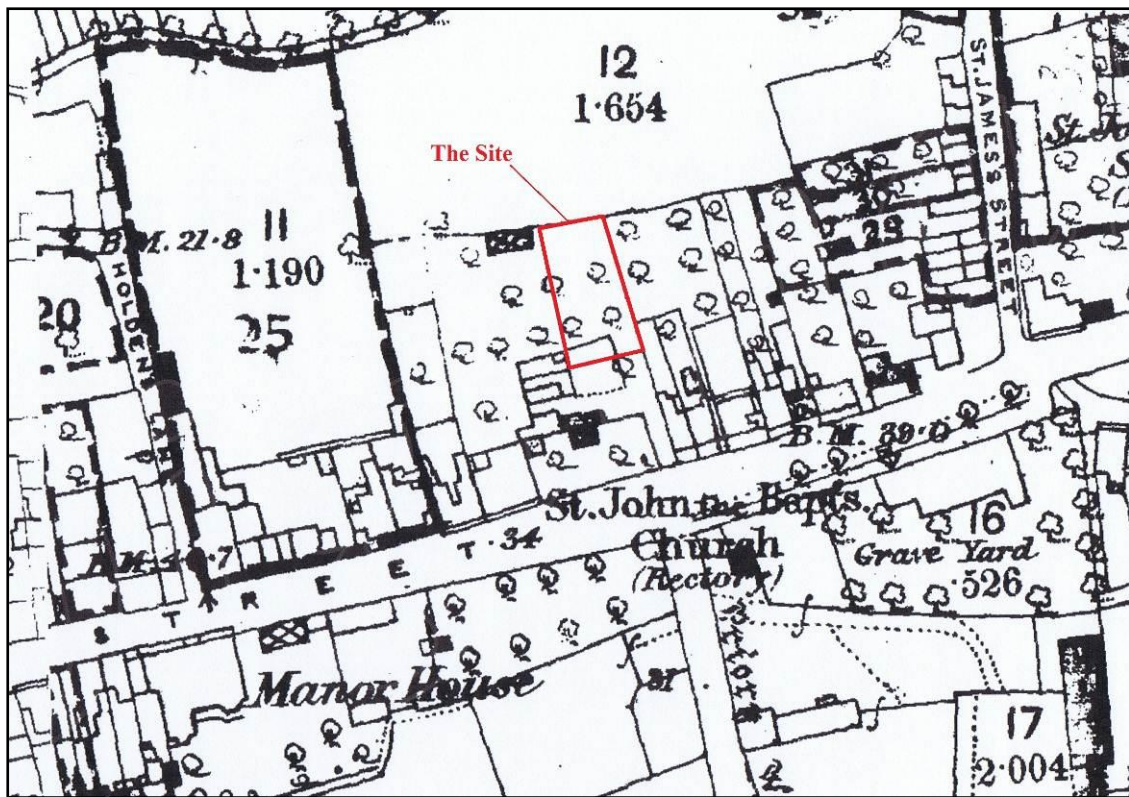


Fig. 5: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: 1st Edition OS Map 1875

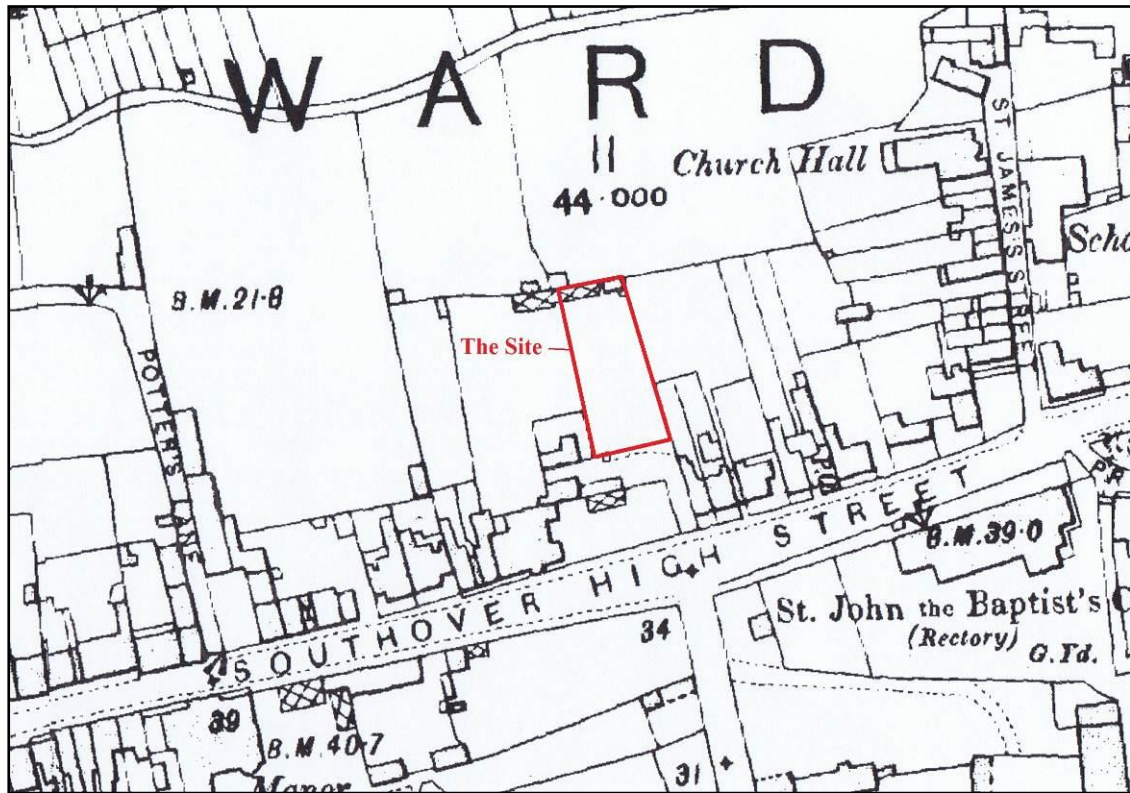


Fig. 6: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: 3rd Edition OS Map 1910

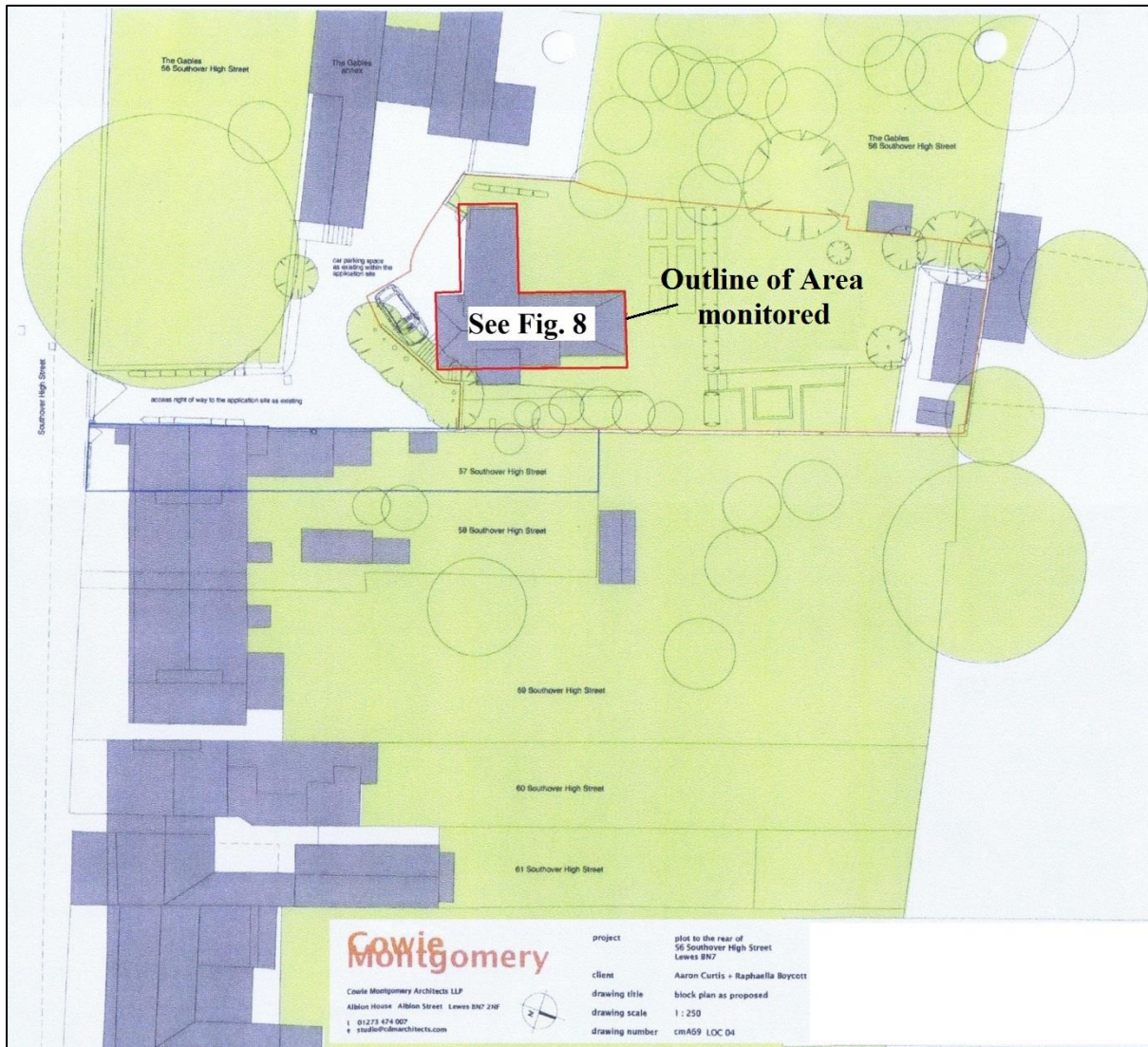


Fig. 7: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: Site plan showing the proposed new house (adapted from architects drawing)

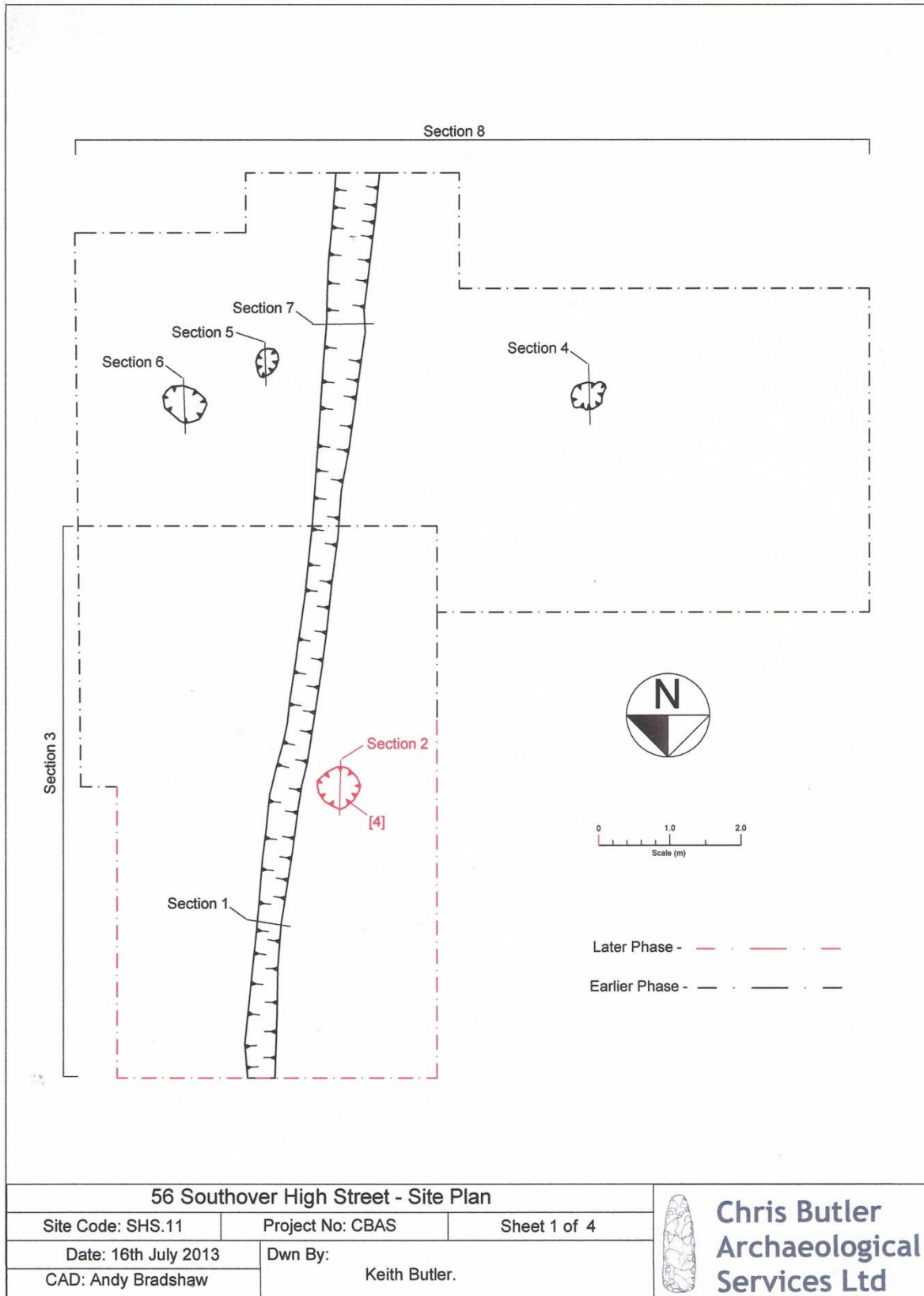


Fig. 8: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: Plan of site

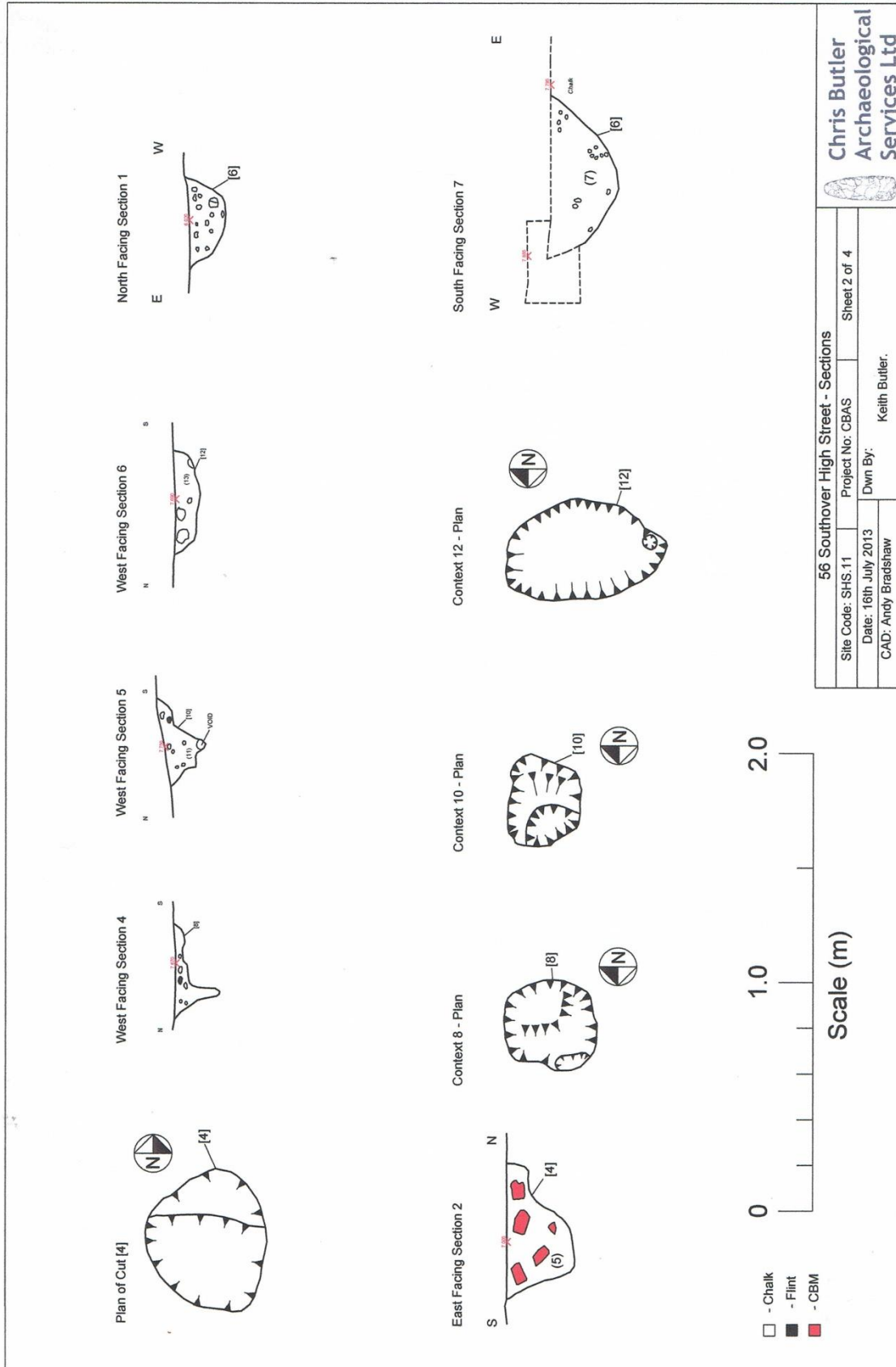


Fig. 9: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: Sections and plans of features

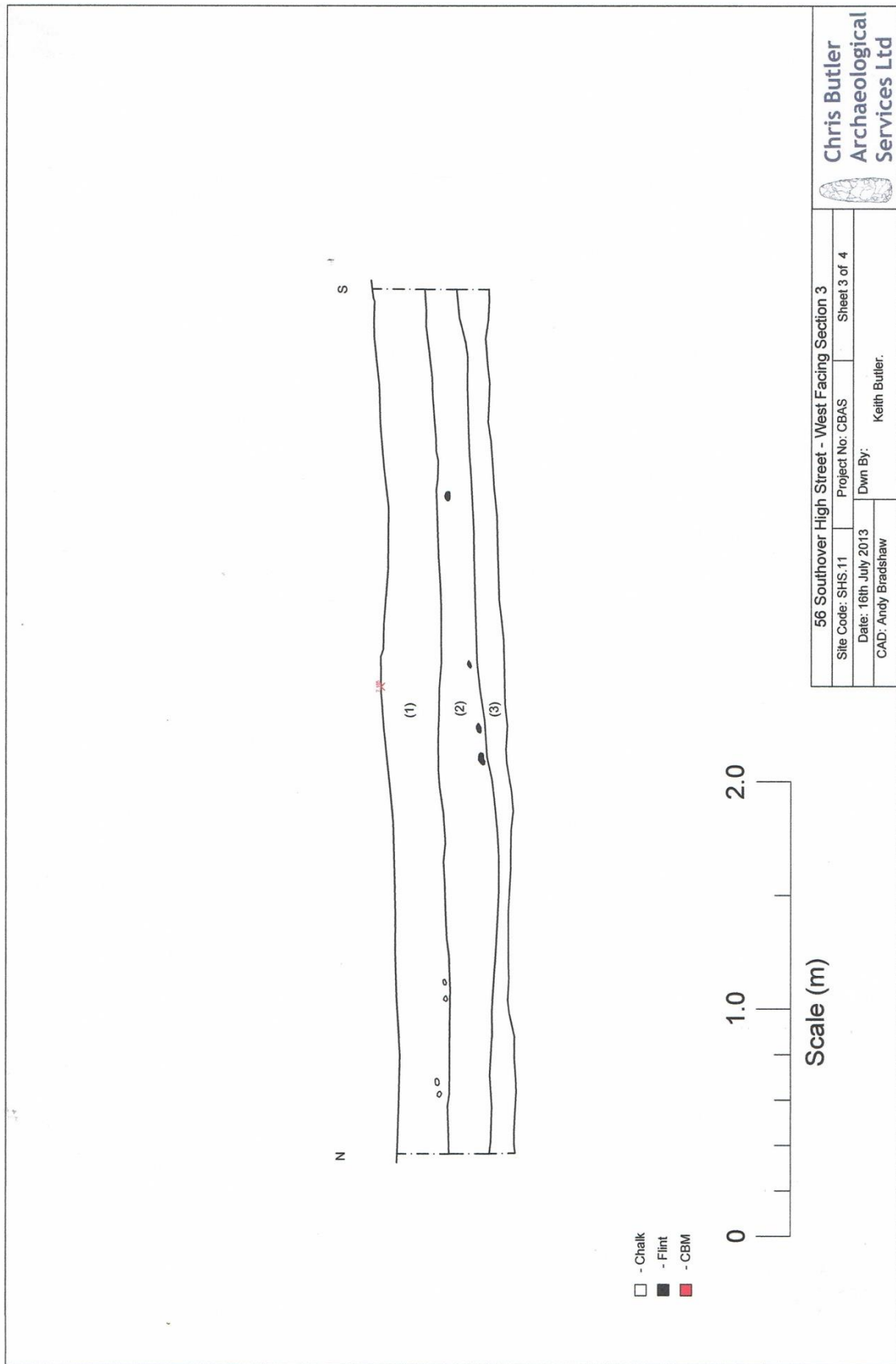


Fig. 10: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: Section 3
(See Fig. 8 for location)

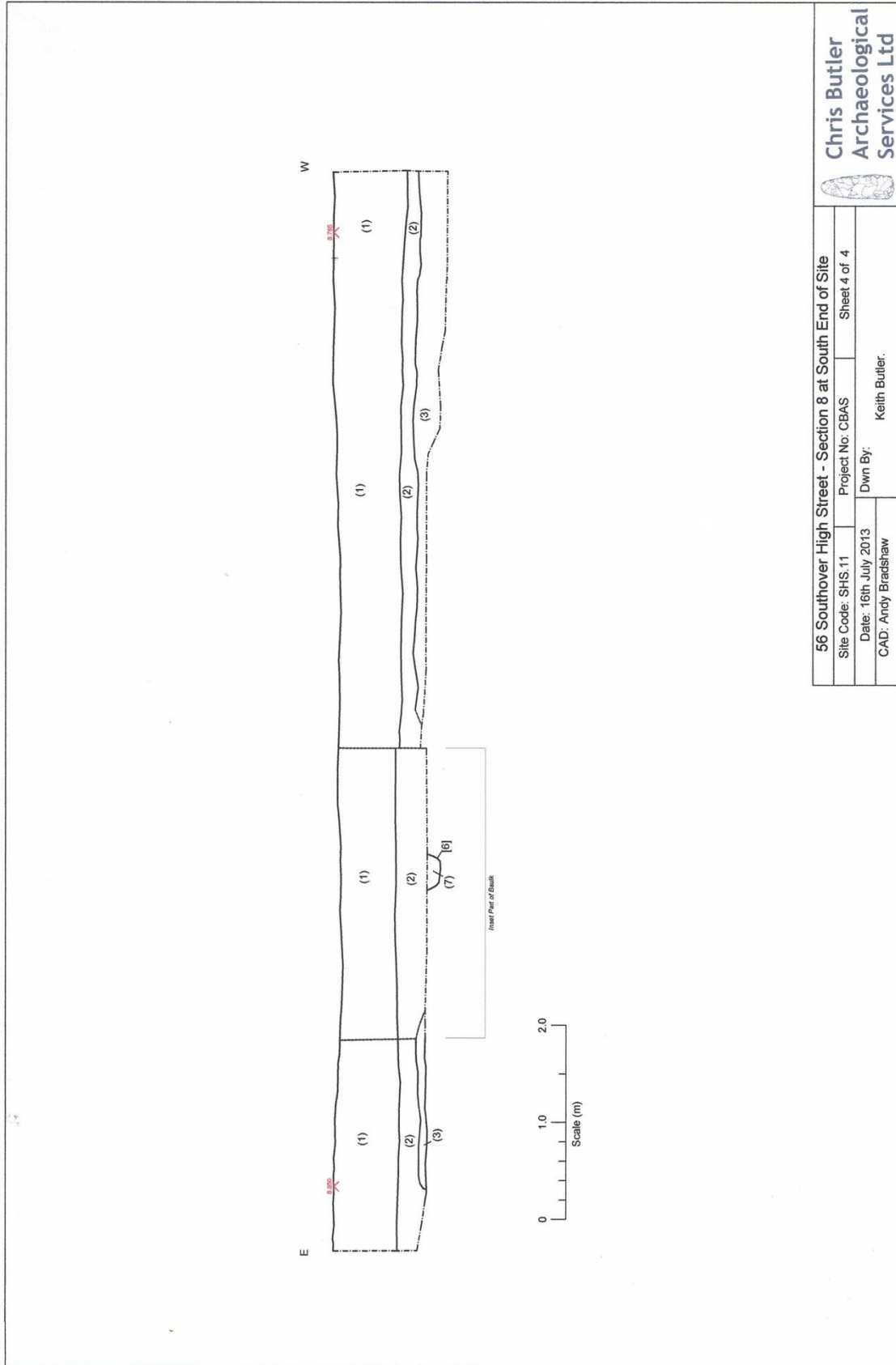


Fig. 10: Land at side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes: Section 8
(See Fig. 8 for location)

HER Summary Form

Site Code	SHS 11					
Identification Name and Address	Land to the side of 56 Southover High Street, Lewes, East Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 4117 0967					
Geology	Chalk with Alluvium to North and Head deposit to south					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. X	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB.	Other Strip and plan 1 st to 5 th July 2013		
Sponsor/Client	Mr Aaron Curtis					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MifA					
Project Supervisor	Keith Butler PifA					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS X	MED X	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>During archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the footprint for a new dwelling at land to the side of 56 Southover High Street, a ditch dating to the late Saxon period was discovered. A possible post hole was located to the east of the ditch, and two further irregular shaped features were discovered to the west of the ditch, these were interpreted as root disturbance. Surprisingly, only a single piece of Medieval pottery was recovered from the excavations. All the rest of the pottery dated to the late Post Medieval period except for two sherds dating to the early Post Medieval. The presence of a late Saxon ditch hints at settlement on Southover High Street at a much earlier date than previously thought.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

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

Chris is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society, and was 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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