

# Chris Butler MIfA Archaeological Services Ltd



An Archaeological Watching Brief at 30 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex

SDNP/13/04659

Project No. CBAS0472

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#### **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey rear/side extension at 30 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex. The excavation for the footings and ground reduction was carried out by hand. Part of a medieval feature, probably a 13<sup>th</sup> century pit, was encountered in the westernmost footing during the watching brief, with the remainder of the feature lying outside the area of excavation and under the floor of the old kitchen.

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## Appendix

Appendix 1: HER Summary Form

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr Philip Rowland to carry out an archaeological watching brief at 30 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex (Fig. 1), in order to excavate and record any archaeological remains that would be damaged or destroyed by the erection of a single storey side/rear extension at the site. A planning application (SDNP/13/04659), was submitted to South Downs National Park (SDNP), who have requested that a programme of archaeological work be put in place.
- The site is located on the south side of Western Road, and is a 19<sup>th</sup> century house, and is 1.2 opposite the Black Horse Hotel, which is dated to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The site is centred on TQ 4081 1005, and is situated within the designated Lewes Conservation Area and is also within an Archaeologically Notification Area (Fig.2).
- 1.3 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 319), comprises Upper and Middle Chalk, with a small horizon of Head Deposit to the north of the site.
- The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) survey for Lewes<sup>1</sup> includes the site within Historic 1.4 Urban Character Area 16 (Spital), and states that it comprises '18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development along the western continuation of High Street' and has a moderate archaeological potential giving this HUCA a Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 2.
- 1.5 The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprised of an archaeological watching brief as specified in a brief issued by the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council. A subsequent written scheme of investigation<sup>2</sup> covered the watching brief was prepared and was submitted to and duly approved by the local planning authority.
- The watching brief was required to monitor the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new extension and any other associated groundworks. The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological remains would be damaged or destroyed by the development, whilst also determining the extent of the adjacent burial ground and the history of development along the street frontage of Western Road.
- The fieldwork was undertaken by the author on the 16<sup>t</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2014. 1.7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Harris, R.B. 2005 Lewes: Historic Urban Character Report, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Butler, C. 2014 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 30 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex

### **2.0** Archaeological & Historical Background (Fig. 2)

- **2.1** An unprovenanced Palaeolithic handaxe is said to have been found in Lewes (MES1631), and another was found in Mountfield Road (MES1656). A single possible Middle Palaeolithic or Early Upper Palaeolithic leaf-shaped point was found during the recent excavations at Lewes House.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Evidence for Neolithic activity has been found around Lewes in the form of a fragment from a polished flint axe (MES1566), and a ground stone axe found in 1911 at Lewes Station (MES1657). Other Neolithic flintwork has also been found on recent excavations at Lewes House and St John's Street.
- 2.4 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). Bronze Age flintwork was also found on recent excavations at Lewes House and St John's Street. A possible barrow site was found at TQ 4079 1004 in 1834 when burials and pots were discovered (MES1623) immediately to the east of the site, and there are records of other possible burial mounds being removed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (MES1714).
- 2.5 There is also evidence for Roman activity in Lewes, mostly in the form of isolated artefacts<sup>3</sup>. These include coins (e.g. MES1568, MES1576, MES1610, MES1613, MES1620, MES1628, MES7176 and MES7179) and pottery (e.g. MES7180 and MES7182). A Roman road, the London to Lewes Way<sup>4</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>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Chuter, G. Pers. com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Rudling, D. 1987 'Archaeological Survey of Lewes', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Margary, I.V. 1948 Roman Ways in the Weald, London, Phoenix House.

- 2.6 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>6</sup>. The burgh was probably located at the most defendable part of the spur bounded by Westgate, Brack Mount and the top of School Hill, and then running between the High Street and Southover Road<sup>7</sup>. Despite a number of excavations around the town, there has been limited evidence found for the burgh defences, although a recent excavation at Baxters Printworks did locate the Saxon defences<sup>8</sup>.
- 2.7 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>9</sup>. Some inhumation and cremation burials were found in 1834 (MES7184) just to the south-east of the site, while 30 Anglo-Saxon burials were discovered during the building of a house in 1891 in Kingston Road (MES1668).
- **2.8** After the Norman conquest, Lewes was granted to William de Warenne<sup>10</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.
- 2.9 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>11</sup>. The Priory featured prominently in the Battle of Lewes 1264 as the King's army was encamped there before the battle<sup>12</sup>. The Priory subsequently became one of the largest monastic centres in southern England by the time of the Dissolution. A windmill, mentioned in the account of the Battle, was situated immediately to the east of the site (MES1624) and still appeared on 17<sup>th</sup> century maps.
- **2.10** A Medieval hospital of St. Nicholas was founded in *c*.1085 and was situated just to the west of the site (MES1622). The hospital appears to have continued as an almshouse after the Priory was dissolved with 26 persons receiving aid in 1550. The site was in ruins in 1824 and all evidence for the buildings has now been removed. Excavations carried out at the site recovered evidence for a large number of Medieval burials. There also appears to be some evidence for burials immediately adjacent to the site, which may also be connected with the Battle of Lewes<sup>13</sup>.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Gardiner, M. 1999 'Late Saxon Sussex *c*.650-1066', *An Historical Atlas of Sussex*, Chichester, Phillimore & Co. Ltd.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Harris, R.B. 2005 *Lewes: Historic Urban Character Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Chuter, G. pers. com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Salzman, L.F. *The Victoria History of the County of Sussex Vol.* **7**, London, Dawsons.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Lewis, R.A. et al. 1987 'The Priory of St. Pancras, Southover', *Aspects of Archaeology in the Lewes Area*, Lewes Archaeological Group.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Fleming, B. 1999 *The Battle of Lewes 1264*, J&KH Publishing, Hailsham.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Historic Environment Record Consultation Report

- **2.11** There have been numerous finds of Medieval artefacts (e.g. MES1575), and features across the town, including 12<sup>th</sup>-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 Street<sup>14</sup>. Two Medieval pits dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> centuries were found on excavations during the construction of two houses on land in East Street (MES7372)<sup>15</sup>, and an evaluation excavation at Nos. 1-2 Albion Street found residual sherds of Medieval pottery but no features of this date<sup>16</sup>. Recent excavations at 5 East Street have also found Medieval pits dating to the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Century<sup>17</sup>.
- **2.12** Closer to the site, excavations at the Meridian in 2010 showed that the earliest occupation on the site was during the period c.1250 c.1400, when two buildings fronted onto Western Road, which may have been on a slightly different alignment to that taken today. Occupation appears to have continued through to c.1450 c.1550, when there was also industrial activity going on in the area to the rear of the buildings. The evidence from the Meridian site seems to support the idea of a shift in focus away from the town centre in the High Medieval period. After the 16<sup>th</sup> century the site appears to have been abandoned, and was an open area until the construction of the Meridian in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- **2.13** James Edwards' map of Lewes dated 1799 shows the site to be in an area of open ground (Fig. 3). Marchant's map of 1824 shows development starting along the north side of Western Road, but the site is still open at this time (Fig. 4). The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map of 1875 (Fig. 5) shows a series of buildings now fronting onto Western Road, including No. 30. The later OS maps show there has been little change.
- **2.14** During the Second World War a number of civil defence installations were operated nearby. An air raid warden's post was established in Western Road<sup>18</sup>, and a first aid post was set up in St Anne's Hall<sup>19</sup>. A 50 person air raid shelter was situated to the rear of the County Library in St Anne's Crescent, and was recorded prior to its demolition in 2002 (EES13912).

<sup>15</sup> Griffin, F. 2002 Report: Archaeology South-East. no. 1561

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Chuter, G. Pers. com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Griffin, N. 2004 An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at land adjacent to Nos 1-2 Albion Street, Lewes, East Sussex, Archaeology South-East Report no. 1880

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> CBAS Report forthcoming

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Butler, C. 2007 East Sussex under Attack, Tempus Publishing Ltd

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Elliston, R.A. 1995 Lewes at War 1939-1945, S.B. Publications

#### 3.0 Method Statement

- **3.1** The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with ESCC's *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation in East Sussex* dated April 2008 (Recommended Standards).
- 3.2 Excavation for the foundation trenches for the new extension (Fig. 6) began with the easternmost north-south footing and was excavated by hand under archaeological supervision to a length of 2.74m. The trench was then widened by the removal of the adjacent wall footing to 590mm wide and 700mm deep.
- **3.3** Ground reduction through the made ground then began on the footprint of the old kitchen down to a depth of 300mm below the existing floor level and stayed within the modern made ground matrix.
- 3.4 Two small footing trenches 1.1m by 700mm and 800mm by 650mm were excavated along the line of the old kitchen wall. The former was situated against the western party wall and the latter adjacent to the existing eastern wall of the current kitchen. Both exposed modern drainage running to the nearby drain cover and both were excavated down to a depth of 600mm. Any deposits in the footing by the old kitchen wall had been totally destroyed by the drains running from the drain cover.
- 3.5 All exposed sections and surfaces were inspected for archaeological features, structures or finds. The spoil from the excavations was inspected on a regular basis to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A Garrett Ace 150 metal detector was initially used to scan the area of excavation, however, apart from a few signals from modern detritus, no material of note was recovered. The metal detector was also used to scan the spoil heap.
- 3.6 All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards and to the ESCC Recommended Conditions. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. Due to its location it was not possible to draw a section or sample the medieval cut feature (Cut 8).
- 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 CBAS. A site reference of WRL14 has been allocated. After any further analysis, the archive will be deposited in Lewes Museum.

#### 4.0 Results

4.1 The uppermost deposit on site (Context 1) was a soft, made ground deposit, mid to dark grey in colour, it was a gritty clayey-silt, with a small clay component. Inclusions amounted to modern ceramic building material (CBM) at 5%, chalk pieces <70mm at <1% and angular flints at <1%. It was interpreted as a post-medieval or modern made ground, it was 420mm at its maximum depth and sat above Context 2 (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Section of footing trench showing Contexts 1 to 5

- 4.2 Context 2 was a flint wall running on a north-south alignment, part of which was removed to widen the footing trench (Plate 2). It was of flint and lime mortar construction with occasional brick and laid on a chalk base which sat above Context 3. It had been reduced in height prior to archaeological monitoring starting. However, the wall survived to its full height outside the footing trench where it exhibited signs of a more recent rebuild with a different type of mortar above and topped off with several courses of modern brick.
- **4.3** Context **3** was an early post-medieval deposit above the natural (Context **5**). It was a mid grey-brown in colour and was a sandy-silty-clay. It contained CBM at <1% and larger chalk pieces <170mm in size at <1% and small chalk flecks and pieces <20mm in size and at 3% and was approximately 220mm in depth.
- 4.4 Context 4 was a modern intrusion into Context 3. It was mid-dark grey in colour and was a clayey-silt with a small clay component. It contained CBM at 1%, pot at 1%, and chalk pieces <140mm in size at <1% and smaller chalk pieces <70mm in size and at 5% and was approximately 500mm in width and 220mm depth (possibly deeper). It was very similar to Context 1 and had very diffuse edges.



Plate 2: Wall 2

- **4.5** Context **5** was the underlying Chalk natural and was not excavated as excavation ceased at this point.
- 4.6 Context 6 was a deposit in the western-most footing lying underneath the adjoining wall with neighbouring 32 Western Road. It was cut by modern drainage and sat immediately below the brickwork of the wall but above Context 7. It was a dark brown slightly gritty clayey-silt with a moderate clay component. It contained chalk flecks at <1%. It was 230mm at its maximum depth and was interpreted as an old topsoil or a made ground deposit (Plate 3).
- 4.7 Context 7 was earliest deposit in this footing and was cut by the same modern drainage. It was a firm mid grey-brown, clayey-silt deposit containing chalk flecks at 3% and pot at 1%. It was 180mm in depth and sat above the natural (Context 5) and was interpreted as a medieval deposit with intrusive material very similar to, or possibly the same as, Context 3. The later dating evidence from this context is probably down to the cut for the later drainage.
- 4.8 Context 8 was a cut for a medieval feature (Fig. 7). It unfortunately lay mostly outside the area of excavation under the party wall (Context 10) and directly under the supporting brick pillar (Context 11) and the floor of the kitchen. It was cut into the natural (Context 5) and appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan, with a near vertical cut on the south side, 300mm wide by 500mm in length by 200mm to the LOE and was not fully excavated. It was filled by Context 9.



Plate 3: Contexts 6 to 11, and showing Cut 8

- 4.9 Context 9 was the fill of Context 8. It was a soft, mid-brown deposit, clayey-silt with a low clay component with chalk pieces and flecks <100mm at 1% along with pottery and CBM and was excavated to 200mm to establish its character and recover any dating evidence before excavation ceased.
- **4.10** Context **10** was a surviving subsoil in the soakaway excavation that sat below the topsoil, Context **1** and above the natural, Context **9**. It was a mid grey-brown silty-clay containing shingle at 1% and occasional CBM at <1%.
- **4.11** Context **10** was the dividing garden wall with no. 32 Western Road and was of modern construction that was laid directly onto Context **6**. It butted up against Context **11** which was the modern brick pillar that was constructed directly onto and cutting into the top of Context **8**. It of modern brick construction and was built upon a chalk footing of some 300mm (Plate 3).
- **4.12** No other archaeological features or deposits were found during the watching brief.

#### 5.0 Finds

**5.0.1** A moderate assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the watching brief and is summarised in Table 1.

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

Context	Context Pot Ceramic Building Other Date						
Context	Pot	Ceramic Building	Other	Date			
	(by period)	Material					
1	1225-1350: 1/2g	-	Clay pipe 1/4g	Mixed: c. 1300-1900			
	1350-1550: 2/6g						
	1750-1900: 1/14g						
2	-	-	Mortar 1/128g	C18th-19 <sup>th</sup>			
3	1225-1350: 6/58g	Peg tile 2/88g	Clay pipe 4/22g	Mixed: pot mainly c.			
	1350-1550: 1/1g		Flint 2/29g	1225-1300 but clay			
				pipe c. 1640-80			
4	1550-1750: 1/4g	Brick 1/138g	Clay pipe 1/3g	c. 1750-1900			
		Peg tile 2/14g	Stone 1/3g	(residual pot)			
			Bone 1/18g				
			Iron 1/12g				
7	1050-1225: 2/10g	Peg tile 1/5g	Clay pipe 2/2g	Mixed: pot mainly c.			
	1225-1350: 7/67g		Stone 1/2g	1225-1300 but C18th			
	1750-1900: 1/1g			clay pipe			
9	1050-1225: 5/38g	Ridge tile 1/188g	Bone 1/2g	c. 1225-1300			
	1225-1350: 7/128g	Peg tile 23/530g	Glass 1/2g				
		Hearth tile 2/132g					

**5.0.2** The current assemblage of finds is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. The pottery is all of types/fabrics well known in the town, with the current assemblage containing no new forms. The ceramic building material is also better represented by more secure assemblages from both the town and ecclesiastical establishments in the vicinity. The other finds hold no potential for study. As such the overall assemblage is not considered to be justified for long-term curation and will be dispersed for teaching and/or discarded.

#### **5.1 The Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The archaeological work recovered 34 sherds of pottery from the site, most of which are of medieval date. The assemblage consists of small to medium-sized sherds (to 50mm across) with slight to moderate signs of abrasion. As such the material appears to have been subjected to some reworking, a point strengthened by the mixed nature of a number of the contexts. The earliest pottery consists of sherds tempered with moderate/abundant fine flint and sand (SNL 5 in the Baxters/Lewes house fabric series: Barber forthcoming) that almost certainly derives from Clay Hill/Ringmer in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The two sherds from Context 7 include a cooking pot with hollowed rim while those from Context 9 are all from the same oxidised vessel, probably another cooking pot. All of the current sherds are notably abraded suggesting that they are residual in their contexts, but despite this, they attest to activity in the later 12<sup>th</sup> century.

- 5.1.2 The High Medieval period is by far the best represented ceramically, though the emphasis is on the 13<sup>th</sup> rather than 14<sup>th</sup> Century. By far the most common fabric is medium sand tempered with sparse flint grits (HML 1a at Baxters) that is a Ringmer fabric of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. All vessels are cooking pots, usually oxidised brown, orange/brown.sand and rare flint/chalk inclusions. Sherds were recovered from Contexts 1, 2 (four different vessels being represented), 7 and 9. Feature sherds are confined to a slightly hooked expanded rimmed vessel with applied thumbed strips and a thickened out-turned rim (both from Context 9). Other High Medieval fabrics are all local and not well represented. Context 3 produced a 2g sherd of early plain sandy ware (HML 2) and a sandy Ringmer green glazed jug (HML 3b). Context 7 also contained a HML 2 sherd together with developed Ringmer (HML 3a). Context 9 produced a further HML 2 sherd together with a 22g expanded cooking pot rim fragment (22g) in HML3a and two green glazed jug sherds (32g) in HML3b (one of which has a thumbed base.
- 5.1.3 Later pottery is scarce at the site but its presence does show a continuation of activity after a short hiatus in the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two small sherds (6g) of oxidised fine earthenware (TL 3a) were recovered from Context 1 and a 1g scrap from a Tudor Green cup was located in Context 3. The nature of these sherds is suggestive of mid-15<sup>th</sup> to mid-16<sup>th</sup> century activity. Context 4 produced a single glazed red earthenware sherd of probable 17<sup>th</sup> to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century date, while Context 1 produced another glazed red earthenware sherd, but this time of mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century type. The only other sherd consists of a 1g scrap of unglazed earthenware flowerpot, probably intrusive in Context 7.

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

**5.2.1** The majority of clay pipe fragments from the site consist of mid/late 17<sup>th</sup>- century examples that exhibit only minor signs of abrasion. Contexts **1** and **4** produced a single stem fragment each while Context **3** produced three stem fragments and a complete bowl dated to between c. 1640 and 1680. The latest pipe fragments consist of two stem pieces of mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date from Context **7**.

## **5.3 Ceramic Building Material** by Luke Barber

**5.3.1** A small assemblage of tile and brick was recovered from the site. The only brick fragment is from a well formed and fired example, measuring 64mm thick and tempered with abundant slag to 5mm and occasional white calcareous angular fragments (Context **4**). The brick is of mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

- 5.3.2 Peg tile was recovered from Contexts 3, 4, 7 and 9. The pieces from Context 3 measure 12mm thick and are well formed and fired. They are tempered with moderate/abundant marl swirls and common iron oxides to 1mm and can best be placed in a 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date range. The peg tile from both 4 and 7 are in a similar sparse fine sand tempered fabric with occasional marl swirls that is likely to be of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Context 9 produced the largest and by far the oldest peg tile from the site: the pottery suggesting a 13<sup>th</sup> century date.
- **5.3.3** The peg tiles are crudely made, notably thick at 15mm and quite low-fired. Tempering consists of common medium sand and iron oxides to 1mm. Despite the low-fired nature of the sample no wasters were noted in the assemblage and it is possible most of the pieces come from a single shattered low-fired tile. The same context also produced some low-fired 22mm thick oven tiles tempered with abundant medium/coarse sand and a 13-14mm thick ridge tile. The latter is quite well formed, medium fired and tempered with sparse/common medium sand. Its glazing (green) is thick but notably patchy.
- **5.4 Other Finds** by Luke Barber & Chris Butler
- **5.4.1** Context **2** produced a sample of light grey mortar with common chalk to 15mm and coal to 10mm (most to 4mm). An 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date is probable. Contexts **4** and **7** produced small chips of Horsham stone.
- **5.4.2** Context **4** produced an eroded fragment of animal bone, and Context **9** produced a fragment of probable sheep tooth.
- **5.4.3** Context **3** produced two pieces of knapped flint. Both were in a fresh looking black coloured flint with white cortex. One was a hard hammer-struck flake, and the other was a small end scraper on a hard hammer-struck flake with abrupt retouch around the distal end. The flake may be the result of wall knapped flint, but the scraper is probably dated to the Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.
- **5.4.4** A fragment of an iron nail came from Context **4**, and a small fragment of intrusive modern window glass was recovered from Context **9**.

#### 6.0 Discussion

- 6.1 For a small excavation, the watching brief at 30 Western Road can be considered a success with good dating evidence obtained for the deposits on site and a medieval pit feature (Cut 8 and Fill 9) also being found.
- 6.2 No Saxon or early post-conquest material was present on site supporting the theory that this area of Lewes was undeveloped until the 12<sup>th</sup> century when it was developed and continued in use with possibly some sporadic use into the 16<sup>th</sup> century before falling out of favour until the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 6.3 As maybe expected, Context 1, immediately below the modern paving, contained dating evidence from c.1300-1900 suggesting that the initial interpretation of a mixed post-medieval made-ground/occupation, possible later plough soil deposit, was probably correct.
- 6.4 Context 3, a deposit immediately above the natural chalk, attests to activity during the period c.1250-1550 (with some later intrusive material) which broadly reflects the Meridian site close by and confirms that there was some activity on-site, although what sort of activity must be conjecture without any supporting evidence due to the small scale of the excavation.
- 6.5 Whether Contexts 3, 6 and 7 are related to domestic or industrial activity is not sufficiently reflected in the finds, although as most of the pottery is from local cookery vessels and there is limited evidence for any buildings, it could be tentatively suggested that, at least during the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the site was domestic in nature as unlike the Meridian site there is no evidence for industrial activity.
- 6.6 The medieval feature (Contexts 8 and 9) dating to c.1225-1300AD, is by far the best preserved as, unlike other contexts it was not cut later drainage work, although the foundations for the house had cut into the top of the feature which unfortunately limited further investigation. The evidence obtained from this feature also contains the some of the earliest CBM found on the site.
- 6.7 Unfortunately, as this feature lay under the house and party wall it was not possible to establish the exact nature of the cut but it probably represents a 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval rubbish pit with evidence for a building of some description, possibly a house, on or near the site due to the presence of early ridge, oven and peg tiles.
- 6.8 The methodology adopted for this watching brief proved to be satisfactory, and the confidence rating should be considered to be reliable.

## 7.0 Acknowledgements

- 7.1 I would like to thank the client, Phillip Rowland, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler and was monitored on behalf of the client, the SDNP and ESCC by Greg Chuter.
- **7.2** Luke Barber and Chris Butler reported on the finds.

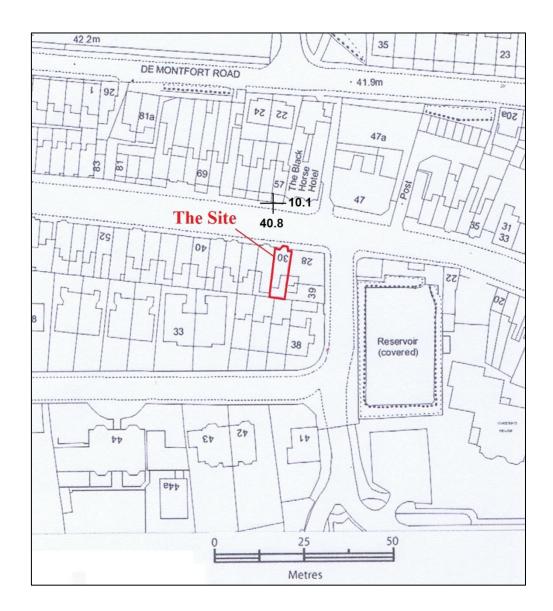


Fig. 1: 30 Western Road, Lewes: Location of site Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471

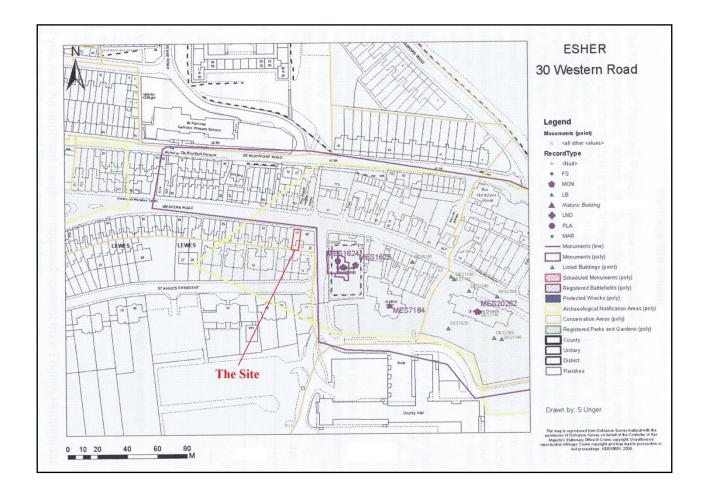


Fig. 2: 30 Western Road, Lewes: ANA and Monuments on the HER (adapted from map provided by ESCC)

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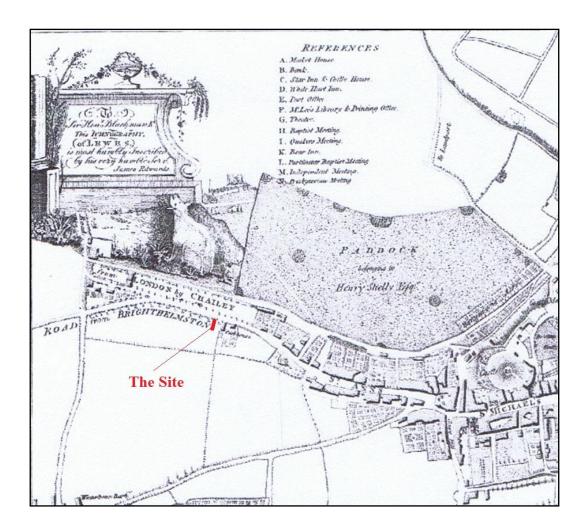


Fig. 3: 30 Western Road, Lewes: Map of Lewes by James Edwards 1799

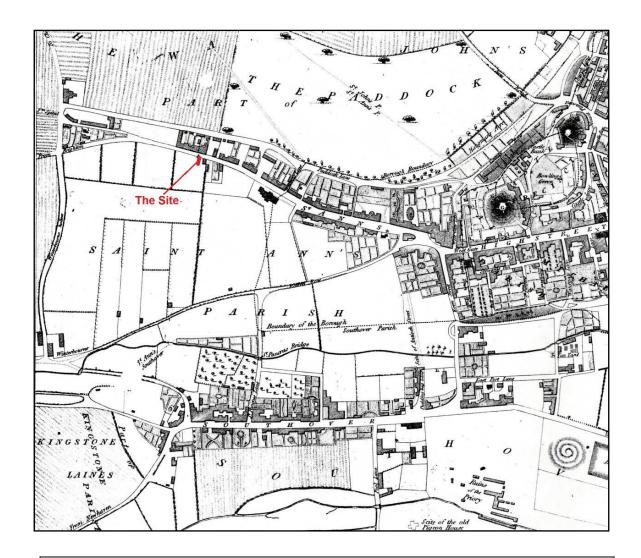


Fig. 4: 30 Western Road, Lewes: Map of Lewes by J. Marchant dated 1824

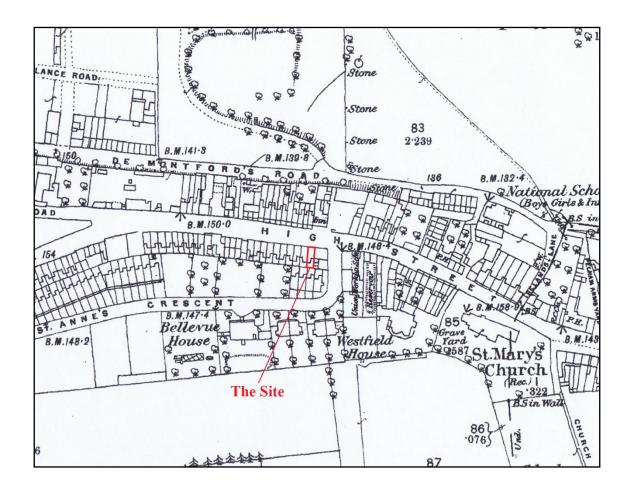


Fig. 5: 30 Western Road, Lewes: 1st Edition OS map (1875)

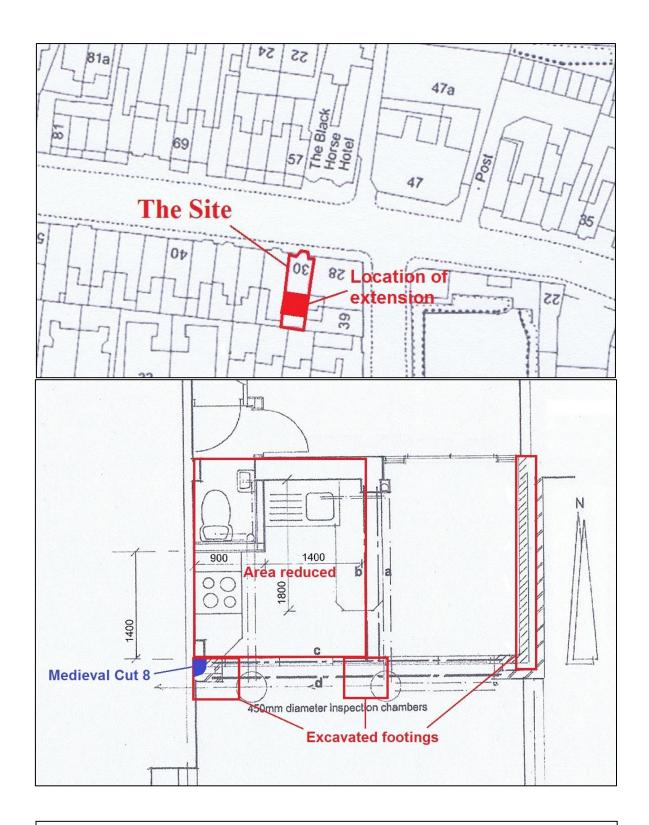


Fig. 6: 30 Western Road, Lewes: Site Plan showing the area monitored (Adapted from architects drawing)

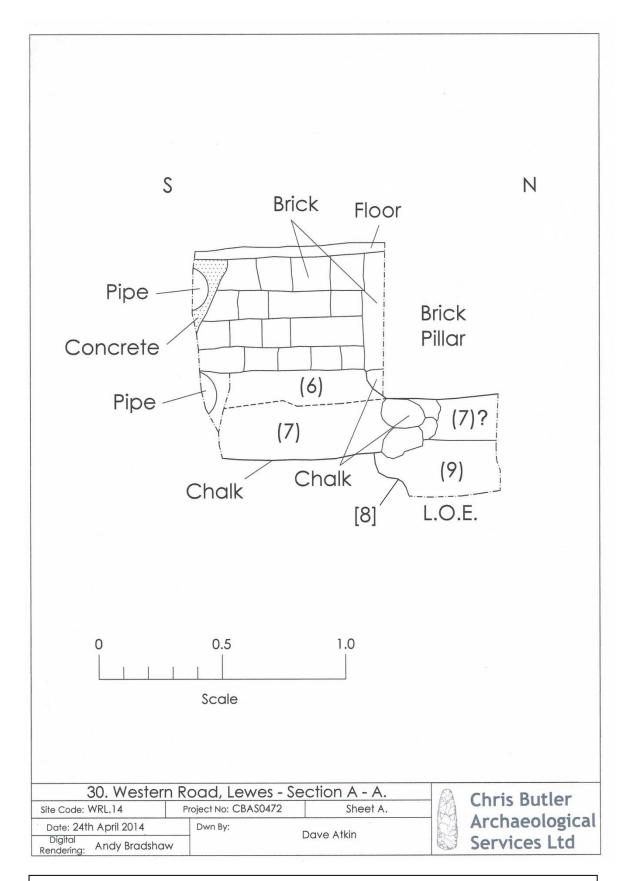


Fig. 7: 30 Western Road, Lewes: Section showing Cut Feature 8

## **Appendix 1 HER Summary Form**

Site Code	WRL14							
Identification Name and Address	30 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex.							
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District Council /SDNP							
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 409 095							
Geology	Chalk							
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <b>X</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other		
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban <b>X</b>	Deep Urban	Other				
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 16/04/14- 24/04/14	Other				
Sponsor/Client	Phillip Rowland							
Project Manager	Chris Butler MIfA							
Project Supervisor	David Atkin							
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB		
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other	1	_1		

## 100 Word Summary.

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey rear/side extension at 30 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex. The excavation for the footings and ground reduction was carried out by hand. Part of a 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval feature, probably a pit, was encountered in the westernmost footing during the watching brief, with the remainder of the feature lying outside the area of excavation and under the floor of the old kitchen

#### **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 and it became a limited company in 2010.

Chris is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and until recently taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6<sup>th</sup> Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006.

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. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork*, *East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

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

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