

2013

**EVALUATION REPORT ON A SECTION OF THE ROMAN
GREENSAND WAY AT THE OLD RECTORY, STREAT LANE,
STREAT, HASSOCKS, EAST SUSSEX BN6 8RX**

Archaeology Services, Lewes.

Project No: ASL9/2013



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LW/11/1417/NP &

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REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT THE OLD RECTORY, STREAT LANE, STREAT, HASSOCKS, EAST SUSSEX BN6 8RX

Project No.ASL9/2013

1. Introduction and planning background

- 1.1 This report concludes an archaeological investigation which was maintained over a three week period from June 11th to July 2nd 2013 on existing ground works associated with development at The Old Rectory, Streat Lane, Streat, Hassocks, East Sussex BN6 8RX centred on TQ 35032 15394.

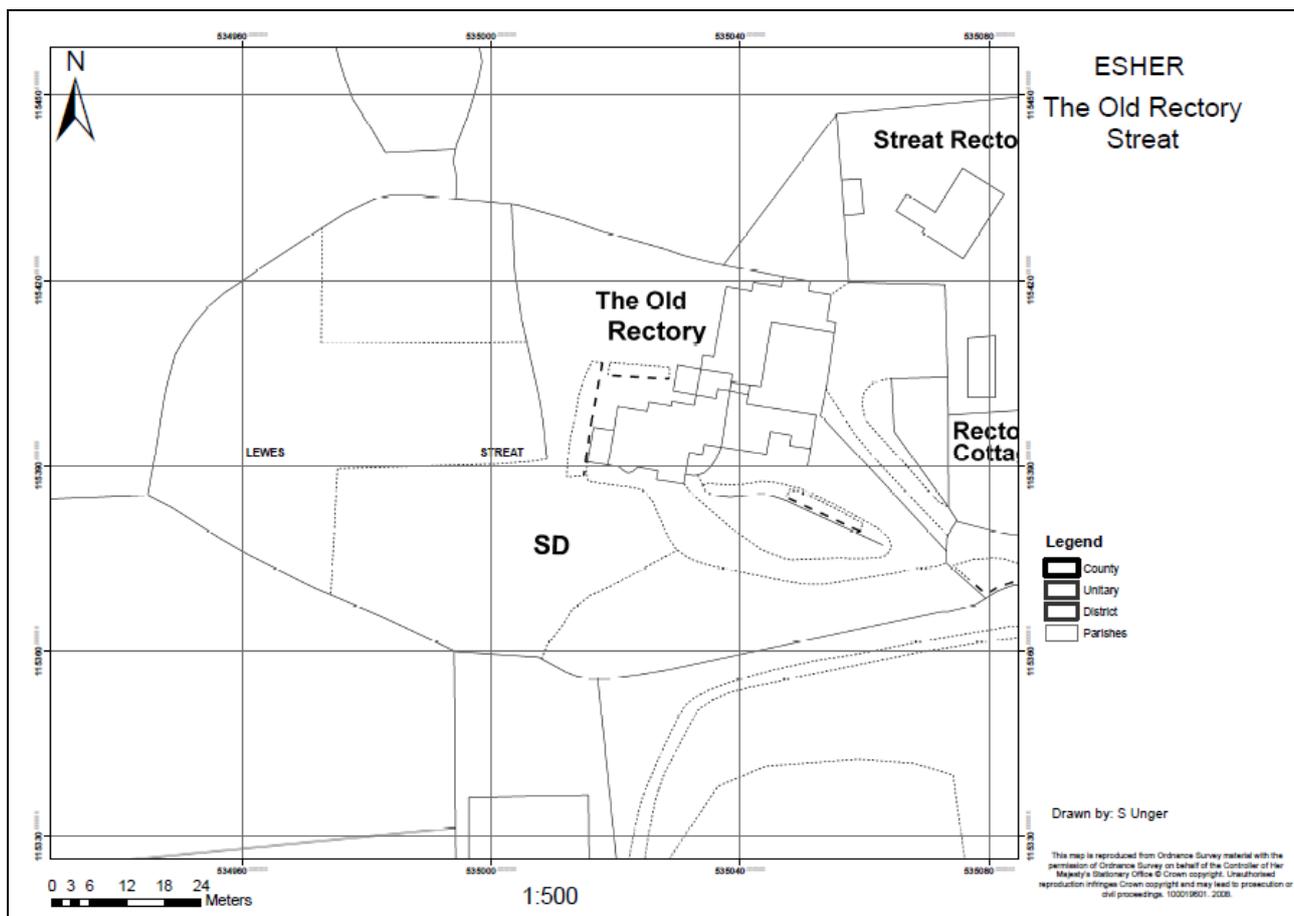


Fig.1. Location of The Old Rectory, Streat

- 1.2 This report has been produced for the site manager, Nicholas Wilkinson, by Lisa Jayne Fisher, Principal Archaeologist from Archaeology Services Lewes. The archaeological monitoring, as specified below, follows the recommendations made by the Archaeology Section at East Sussex County Council to Lewes District Council in response to planning application No; LW/11/1417/NP & LW/11/1418/NP and after a site inspection on 11/6/13 (see 1.7 – 1.11 below).
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation involved the evaluation of the impact of already conducted groundworks through the excavation of a swimming pool which was excavated without an archaeologist present. This was done by placing an evaluation trench alongside the footprint of

the pool. Also associated groundworks involved with the complete renovation of the house which was already under way were monitored and recorded (see 5.1- 5.7 below).

1.4 The investigation was continuous in terms of attendance throughout the excavation process of the evaluation trench.

1.5 The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place 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, including a timetable for the 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 Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

1.6 During a recent visit by the planning officer in charge of this case, it was noted that an archaeological watching brief had not been maintained by the project manager for the excavation of the swimming pool, which has already been excavated and lined with breeze blocks, plus other service groundworks already excavated.

1.7 The Assistant County Archaeologist, Mr.Greg Chuter, was contacted immediately by the planning officer and Mr.Chuter wrote to the project manager requesting that all building works cease immediately until an archaeologist had been on site to assess the situation.

1.8 Greg Chuter visited the site with Lisa Fisher from ASL and the Landscape contractor Matthew Morton on 11/6/13 for a site inspection of the groundworks already carried out and requested that the following mitigation measures be put into place immediately before further development can take place at the property as follows:

An inspection of the site with the landscape contractor (Matt Morton) and Archaeology Services Lewes (ASL) has confirmed that a lot of groundwork has taken place without the required archaeological monitoring, this includes the digging of a swimming pool, footings for a side extension, ground reduction on the eastern and northern sides of the house and a utilities trench. Some of these impact are still open and examination of the sections has identified archaeological features; these exposed sections will need to be cleaned up and recorded by ASL. It is unfortunate that the swimming pool excavation has already been bricked up as these sections cannot now be examined and of course any archaeological remains within have been totally destroyed. However there is an area immediately adjacent on the east side that can be targeted for an archaeological evaluation trench that will provide an indication of what may have been lost. There will also be an opportunity for archaeological monitoring on the west side when a drainage ditch is dug.

1.9 At this point a priority WSI was prepared by ASL and submitted to the County Archaeologist for approval, prior to the excavation of an evaluation trench and other monitoring activities on site which included:

- Cleaning up and recording exposed sections on currently open groundworks
- Mapping areas of ground disturbance that was not subject to archaeological monitoring

- Monitoring and recording of groundworks still to be carried out e.g. swimming pool drain
- Preparation of a report on the findings and archiving of project material

2 Topography and geology

- 2.1 The site is situated on the Greenstone Ridge to a height of approx. 60m above sea level.
- 2.2 The British Geological Survey records the natural geology of the site consisting of Lower Greensand Group – silty sandstone and mudstone

3 The Archaeological Potential

3.1 The development is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area defining the medieval and post-medieval settlement at Streat and the Roman Greensand Way. A full HER search has been provided by the Archaeology section at County Hall, search request No 106/13, which has been summarised below, by period, to within ½ km of the development site. Very little recorded archaeological excavation has been maintained within the area apart from watching briefs which include ground works for an extension to Streat Place which revealed the remains of a mortared brick drain which probably dated to the 17th century. Two sherds of pottery were found in association with the drain but few other artefacts were located during archaeological monitoring (1). Another archaeological watching brief during intrusive ground works associated with the enlargement of the existing water treatment works was carried out at Streat (NGR TQ 3515 1500). No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the groundworks although three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the plough soil indicating activity of this date nearby (2). See also 3.4 below for excavations by Worthing Archaeological Society.

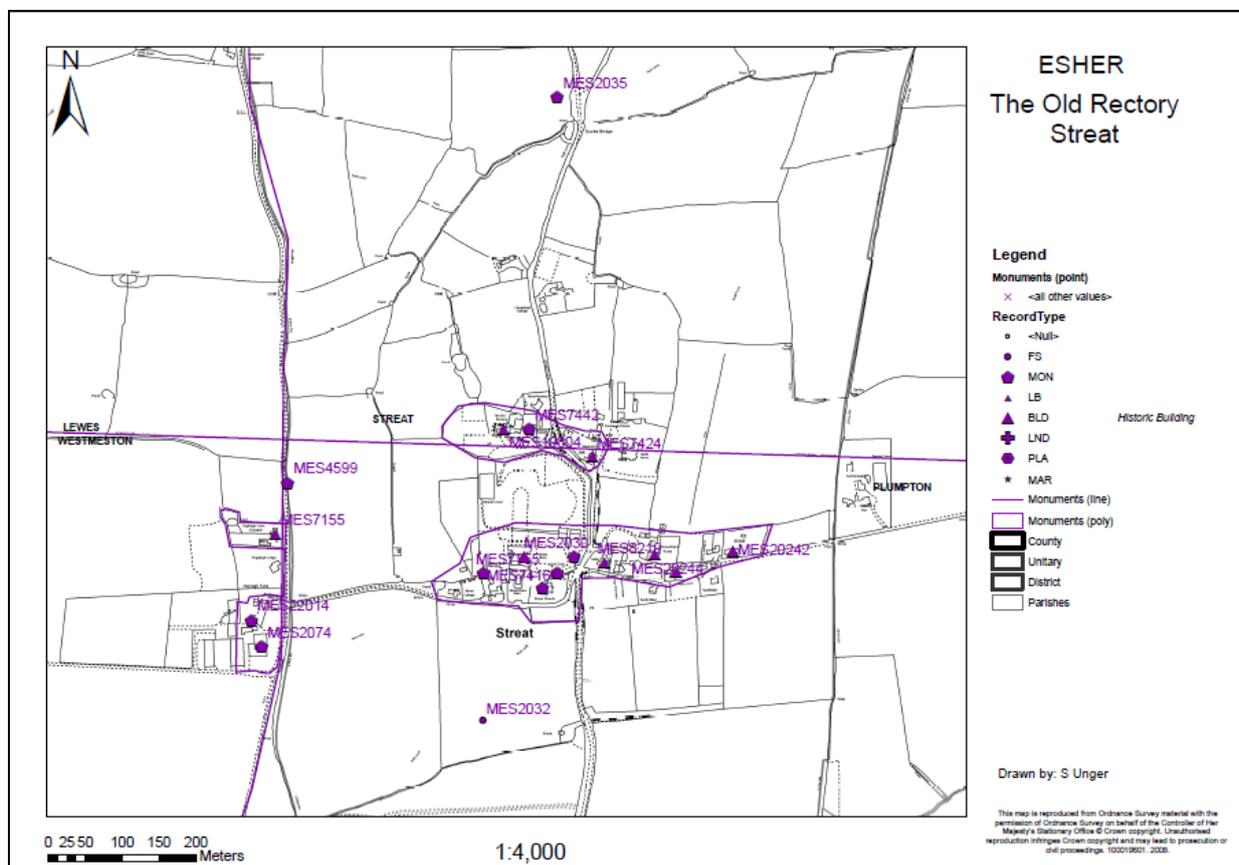


Fig.2. East Sussex Historic Environment Record map of finds and monuments

3.2 Prehistoric period

MES2032 a Mesolithic flint core was found 500m to the south of the Old Rectory (hereafter referred to as 'the site').

MES4599 the Titsey to Westmeston trackway exists approx. 300m west of the site which was originally thought to be Neolithic in age but is now thought likely to be Post Medieval although no excavations or finds have been recovered to prove definite dates here.

3.3 Roman period

MES7393 the route of Margery's Roman Road 140 (Fig.3) is shown by various Ordnance Survey maps as following the modern footpath between Ditchling and Keymer. Outside of the 500m search radius, two excavations have taken place. A watching brief during the construction of the Ditchling-Wivelsfield Green pipeline (1993) located metalling some 100m to the south of the assumed route (as shown on OS maps) following the modern footpath between Ditchling and Keymer. The pipeline should therefore have cut across the Roman Road at approximately 260-280m from its start at the Ditchling Pumping Station. No road surface or flanking ditches were observed at this location. However at around 160-180m there was a substantial deposit of a flint and sand mix with layers of compacted ironstone fragments, and it is assumed that this is the metalling for the Roman Road.[3].

During an excavation to evaluate the location at Ashurst Farm in 2009, preservation and structure of a Roman road (Margary 140) between Streat and Plumpton was uncovered. The 16m x 1m trench was determined following a resistivity survey in February 2009. The three week dig revealed an 8m wide band of loose flint cobbles precisely on Margary's proposed road-line. The northern section suggests a road of layers of flint cobbles, gravel and sand steeply cambering to the centre from a small gutter (Figure). There was no evidence of a roadside ditch but a small boundary ditch was located 4.5 metres to the north. Mesolithic flint flakes and cores were scattered over the general area and Early Medieval pottery sherds found in disturbed soil and in 2 pits exposed in the road [4]

MES7755 a possible Romano-British settlement at Streat Place, was identified by Chris Butler in his contribution to the ALSF desk-based assessment for the Folkestone Beds area 2008 [5] p 36, which is 200m south of the site and the projected line of the Roman Greensand Way.

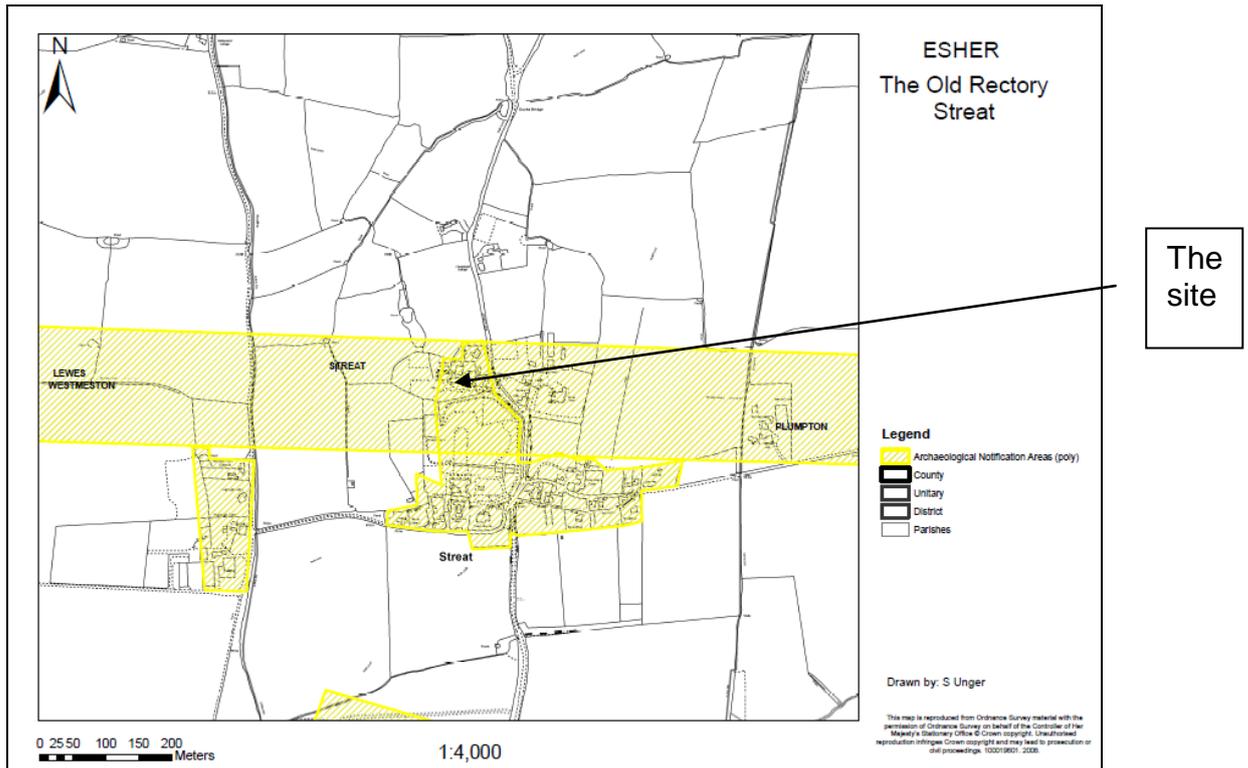


Fig.3. Location of the projected route of the Roman Greensand Way (Margary 140) and the Shrunken Medieval Village in relation to the site

3.4 Medieval period

MES2031 the church at Streat is a grade II* listed C12th building which lies approx. 225m from the site.

MES2035 charts the location of C13/14th house platforms, three in total with the most southern one excavated by Worthing Archaeological Society in 1983 which produced late C13th and early C14th century pottery.

MES2074 Hayleigh Farm was once a C14th deer park which was in use until the C16th when it was converted into a farm, with existing grade II listed farmhouse which possibly has C16th origins.

MES7416 evidence for a Shrunken Medieval Village (SMV) was recorded from the OS Surveyor's Draft c.1805-1810 for the 2007 Historic Environment Resource Assessment of the Folkestone Beds geology (between Novington and Ditchling) which lies just 200m to the south of the site (Fig.3 and 4).

MES7442 another Shrunken Medieval Village boundary (Fig.3 and 4) has been defined just 100m to the north of MES7416 immediately surrounding the area of the site. However, it is likely, although unproven, that these two SMVs are one and the same with the later estate of Streat Place re-defining the previous medieval landscape boundaries. This earlier boundary area has been defined as a medieval manorial hamlet (HES10905) in the Historic Landscape Characterisation records with a likely date ranging from the early medieval period up to the C15th.

MES22014 is a large medieval farmstead 400m SW of the site.

MES2034 is the site of C12th or C13th kilns is located approx. within 500m north of the site.

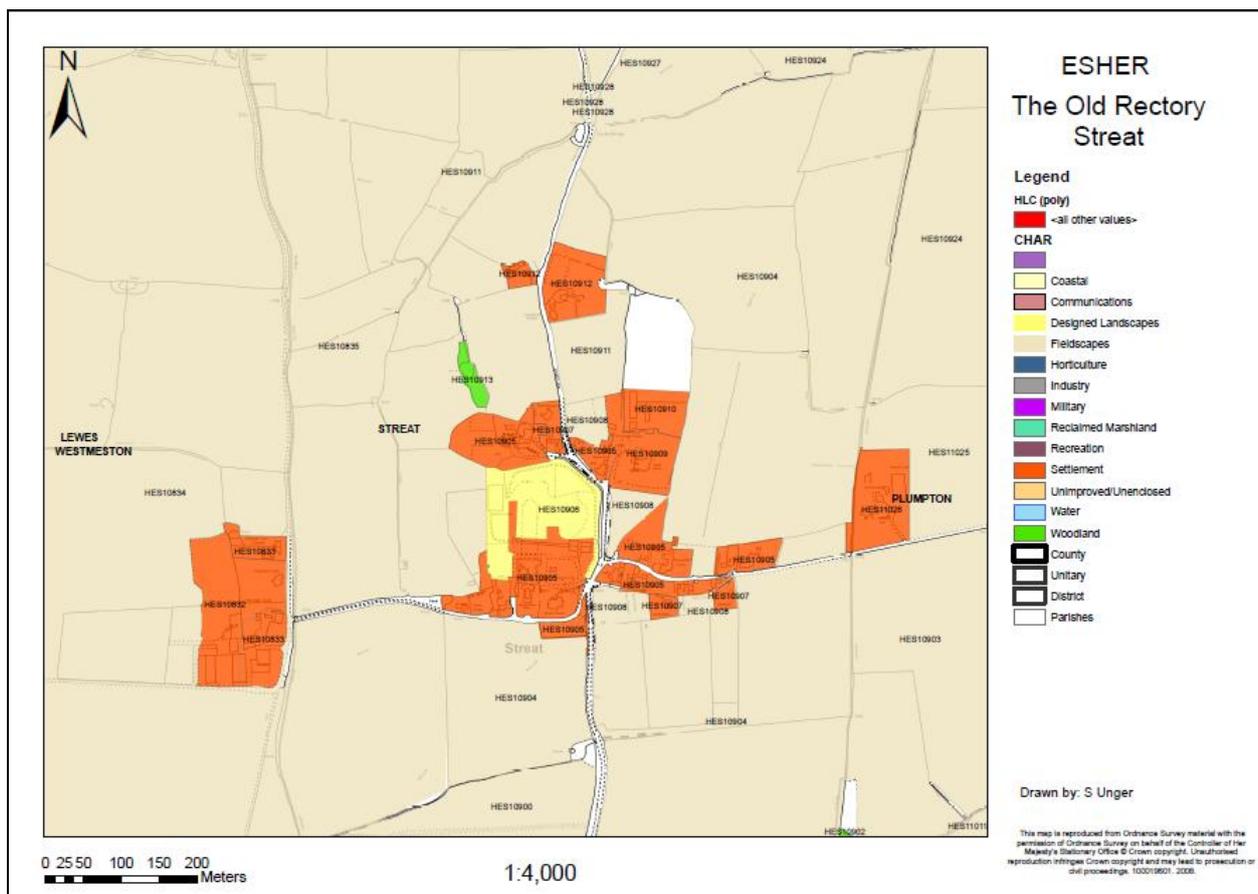


Fig.4. Historic Landscape Characterisation Map of Streat

3.5 Sixteenth and seventeenth Century

MES2030 Streat Place is a grade II* listed country house was built between 1607 and 1627 with evidence for limited remains of an earlier C16th building in outbuildings nearby. This estate lies approx. 150m from the site.

MES20242 Jockeys – a grade II listed timber-framed house probably early C17; altered late C18-early C19 and subsequently. Lies 300m SE of the site.

MES20243 nearby Streatwick is a grade II listed 17th century or earlier timber framed building.

3.6 Eighteenth and nineteenth Century

MES19804 The Old Rectory is a grade II listed vicarage with earlier associated outbuildings incorporated into it. The main portion of the house is early C19, since altered with two storeys. Three windows. North front partly stuccoed, partly red brick and partly tile-hung. Centre window bay projects with moulded cornice and pediment over. Wide eaves cornice on either side of this. Hipped slate roof. Glazing bars intact. Bay on ground floor at west end. The south front is of painted brick. Two bays on both floors and later bay between. Ground floor of east bay forms a portico with 4 pilasters flanking the doorway and a window on each side. Doorway contains a door of 6 fielded panels. To north-east is an out-house wing forming an L with the rest of the house. This is C18. [5] This Grade II listed property dates

from the 18th Century and has been subject to numerous alterations and additions over time, resulting in a complex of buildings of both domestic and agricultural character. The main elements of the building comprise the predominantly 19th main house, an subsidiary east wing with rear outshut dating from the 18th Century which comprises further domestic accommodation and stabling, and a north wing comprising storage barns, a workshop and billiards room. A Victorian lean-to glasshouse adjoins the west wall of the main house. To the eastern end of the east wing lie the remains of a 19th century L-shaped outbuilding which has now mostly collapsed. The north-east corner of the main house is thought possibly to subsume an earlier 18th century structure. Several phases of construction and modification can be identified dating from the 18th century onwards, while an earlier phase (or phases) is implied by anomalies in construction. Owing to later finishes, it is difficult to gauge the extent of survival of earlier fabric, but there is the possibility during any future building/renovation works that evidence for this earlier structure may be found.[7]

MES7424 Skynners is another grade II listed C18th building (may possibly be earlier) which lies just 100m to the south-east of the site.

MES8219 is a former school building of Victorian date lies within 250m SE.

MES20244 Crouchers farmhouse is a grade II listed 18th century or earlier building which is 225m SE of the site.

4 Objectives

4.1 This work was to mitigate the current construction work approved by the planning permission reference: LW/11/1417/NP & LW/11/1418/NP and in connection with the Written Scheme of work already approved.

4.2 The objectives of the archaeological investigation was to contribute to our understanding of the site through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground-works. Particular attention was made to the character, depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any deposits, finds or features.

4.3 Specific Research Aims

- To present a report of the findings to be used to inform future planning decisions with regard to the site, and;
- To make the results of the investigation publicly accessible through submission of a report to the East Sussex Historic Environment Record and the project archive to the local museum.
- To establish if any remains of the Roman road are evident and to discuss the likelihood of the impact of development already carried out on site
- To identify any medieval activity within the vicinity of the site
- To establish if any further features or finds are present.

5 Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological investigation included the excavation of an evaluation trench (trench 1) placed parallel to the east of the swimming pool directly in line with the excavation which has already taken place. The trench was excavated by machine with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket with continuous monitoring by an archaeologist. The length was 10.70m which extended to the length of the swimming pool, ensuring that the full ground profile was picked up with contexts number ranging from 100-108.
- 5.2 The evaluation trench was laid out using tapes and tied in to the National Grid in conjunction with a site plan. Levels were taken for relevant existing ground levels e.g. top of trench 1, as well as features and was measured into a temporary bench mark to give relative heights using a laser level. The Ordnance Datum spot height has yet to be set by the architect and so the TBM was used to level in the trench from the west corner of the sandstone doorstep of the French window in the front of the house. This was set at a relative height of zero and all relative heights for features have been added to the plan and sections (Figs 22,23 and 24).



Fig.5 Location of the main trench 1 in relation to the swimming pool (scales 2m and 1m)

- 5.3 A proposed drainage ditch has yet to be excavated and which will be dug around the side of the existing pool trench to the west. The owners are notified that this area will need to be monitored by an archaeologist when the time comes.
- 5.4 Exposed sections on currently open groundworks to the east of the building were cleaned up and recorded on a 1:10 section drawing. This constitutes trench 2 with context numbers ranging from 200-212 (Figs 6,8,9,10,27 and 28).



Fig.6. Trench 2 already excavated but not monitored (shot facing east)

- 5.5 Areas of ground disturbance to the east end of the building (figs 7-16) and a side extension to the west end that was not subject to archaeological monitoring were mapped and photographed with a sketch drawing completed (not to scale) and added to the overall site plan (Fig.17). As these were excavated without archaeological monitoring no further comment is possible.

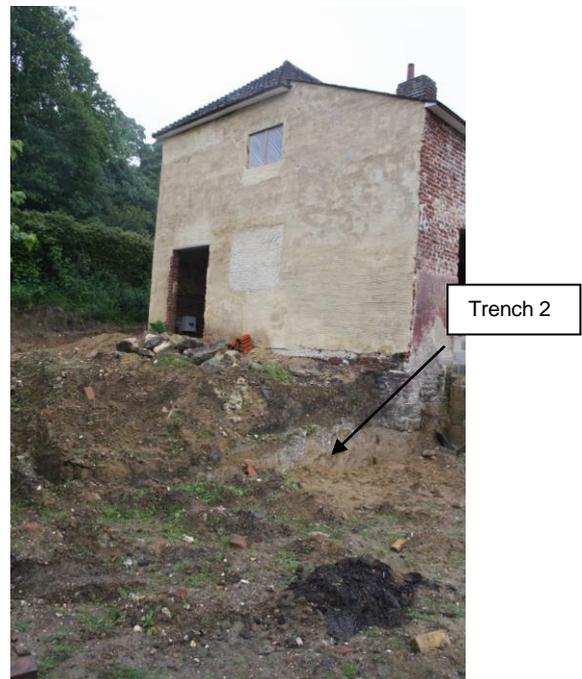


Fig.7 and 8. Groundworks already excavated at the east end of the house (shot facing east)



Fig.9. Demolished extension at east end



Fig.10. Stratigraphy underneath demolished extension in trench 2 (shot facing south)



Fig.11 and 12. Service pipe at east end of property (scales 2m and 1m) shot facing south-west



Fig.13 and 14. Service pipe extends to telegraph pole at eastern extent of the property (scales 2m and 1m).



Fig.15 and 16. Service trench excavated to the east end of the Victorian house showing former yard surface (scales 2m and 1m)

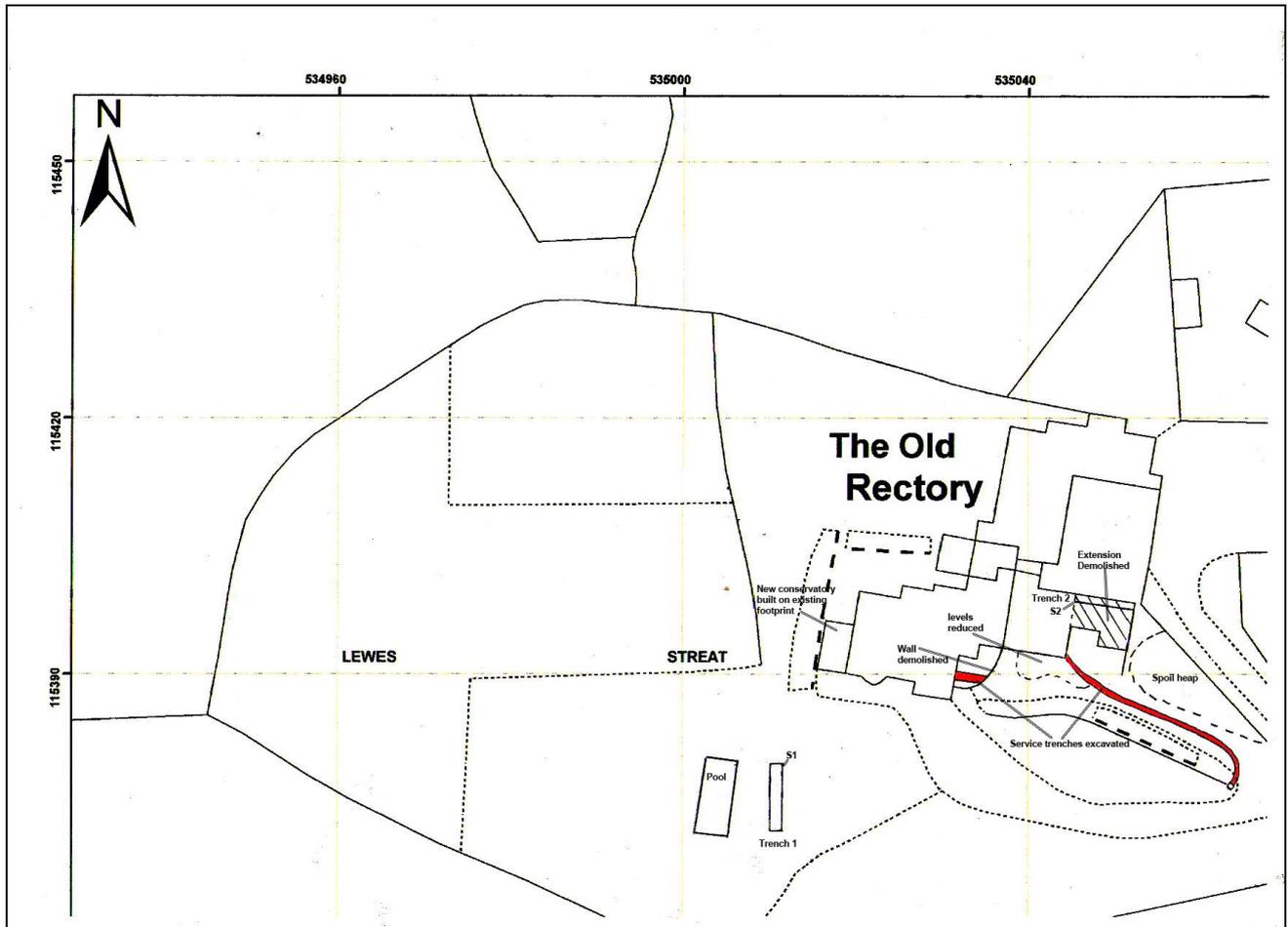


Fig.17. Site plan drawn at 1:200

5.7 Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine down to the archaeological layers in trench 1.

6.0 Contexts

6.1 Topsoil depth and thickness lay up to 30-50cm deep below current ground levels. All topsoil probably had moderate amounts of made up soil,

6.2 Natural Substrate depth varied across site and was exposed at between 30-80 cm below current ground levels. All trenches were dug to a maximum of 80cm below current ground levels as convincing natural geology was encountered in those areas.

6.3 All archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets numbers 100-108 and 200 - 2012. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. Soil contexts are as follows:

Context	Colour	Compaction	Characteristics	Inclusions	Size of inclusions	Depths of layer	Trench number
100	Dark-mid brown	Soft	Sandy clay	None		25cm	1
101	Mid brown	Soft	Sandy clay	2%, sub-angular, poorly sorted orange river gravel flint	<5cm	25cm	1
102	Yellow/brown	Soft	Sandy clay	2% sub-angular, poorly sorted orange river flint and 2% charcoal and 1% sub-rounded, poorly sorted chalk.	Flint <9cm Charcoal <1cm Chalk <3cm		1
104	Yellow/brown	Soft	Sandy clay	2% sub-angular, poorly sorted orange river flint and 2% charcoal and 1% sub-rounded, poorly sorted chalk.	Flint <9cm Charcoal <1cm Chalk <3cm		
200	Mid-light brown	Firm	Sandy clay	3% sub-angular, brown river gravel with occasional brick and tile fragments	<5cm	65cm	2
201	Dark brown	Soft	Sandy clay	8% sub-angular mixed river gravel with occasional brick fragment	<6cm	37cm	2
202	Mid-light brown	Firm	Sandy clay	3% sub-angular, brown river gravel with occasional brick and tile fragments	<5cm	27cm	2
203	Beige-white	Hard to firm	Sandy clay soil and chalk	70% rounded chalk with one brick in section	<8cm	17cm	2
207 Fill of [204]	Beige-white	Hard to firm	Sandy clay soil and chalk	70% rounded chalk with one brick in section	<8cm		2
208 Fill of [205]	Beige-white	Hard to firm	Sandy clay soil and chalk	70% rounded chalk with one brick in section	<8cm		2
209 Fill of [206]	Beige-white	Hard to firm	Sandy clay soil and chalk	70% rounded chalk with one brick in section	<8cm	17cm	2
210	Mid-light brown	Firm	Sandy clay	3% sub-angular, brown river gravel with occasional brick and tile fragments	<5cm		2
211	Dark brown	Soft	Sandy clay	4% sub-angular mixed river gravel with occasional brick fragment	<6cm	14cm	2
212	Beige-white	Hard to firm	Sandy clay soil and chalk	35% rounded, poorly sorted chalk 35% sub-angular, poorly sorted downland flint	Chalk <8cm Flint <12cm	10cm	2

Other contexts:

Context	Category	Size	Description	Comments	Trench
103	Cut	15cm wide x 8cm diameter	Modern land drain cut		1
105	Feature	Approx. 10cm deep but varies	Top layer of Roman road surface	Larger flints <	1

106	Cut	N/A	Modern soakaway pit	Truncated road surface and filled with C18th-C19th debris	1
107	Feature	Approx. 5cm deep but varies	Second layer of Roman road	Smaller flints underneath larger flints <	1
108	Cut	N/A	Modern chalk filled ditch not fully excavated	Small section exposed	1
204	Cut	35cm wide x 35cm deep	Cut ditch or pit filled with (207)	Only seen in section not excavated by archaeologist	2
205	Cut	30cm wide x 25cm deep	Cut ditch or pit filled with (208)	Only seen in section not excavated by archaeologist	2
206	Cut	9cm wide x 15cm deep	Cut ditch or pit filled with (209)	Only seen in section not excavated by archaeologist	2

7.0 Features

7.1 Post medieval features within trench 1 included; context (103), a modern field drain (Fig.20) ; context (108) a chalk filled ditch (Fig.18); and context (106) a rubble filled soak-away (Fig.19) which ran parallel to the Roman road, truncating it width wise. These were all photographed with context records completed as well as drawn to scale on the trench plan but were not recorded on the section as they were not excavated on this side, except for the chalk filled ditch (108).



Fig.18. Chalk filled ditch in trench 1(scales 1m and 50cm)



Fig.19. Rubble filled soak away in trench 1(scales 20cm)



Fig.20. Modern field drain in the middle of trench 1(scales 50cm)

- 7.2. Post medieval features within trench 2 consisted of the remains of a flint wall from a demolished L-shaped building which was photographed (Fig.21) and drawn to scale on section drawing No.2 (Fig.22) and highlighted on the site plan. Also evident were three pits, truncated when trench 2 was excavated by the developers and so all of these have been given contexts and have also been drawn to scale on section drawing No.2. Their exact function and phasing is not evident as these were not excavated by an archaeologist. Consequently they have simply been recorded with no interpretation possible.



Fig.21. Photograph of north facing section of trench 2.

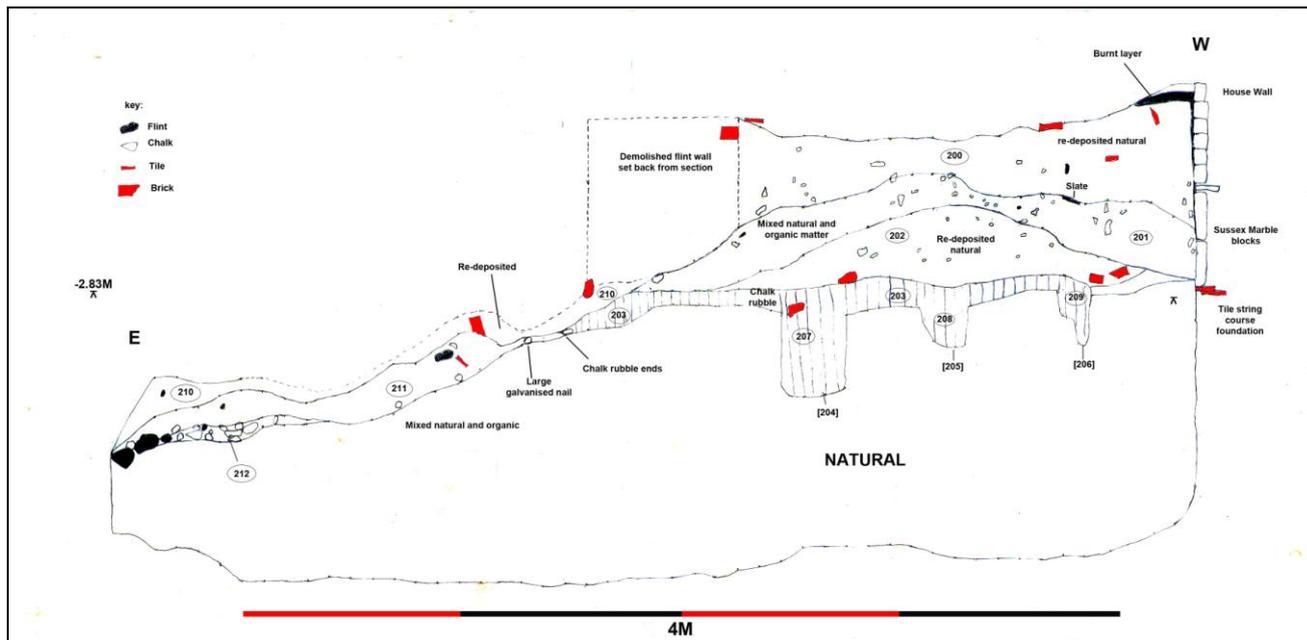


Fig.22. Scale drawing of north facing section 2 in trench 2.

7.3 A small section of the Roman Greensand Way was exposed at a depth of 75cm below current ground levels and at its deepest extent was only 16cm from the top layer to the bottom which came directly down onto natural. This only survived in the north part of the trench with modern disturbances from both a soak away and field drains truncating the south section. This can clearly be seen in section and may even hint at the profile of the agger but without the full profile there is not a great deal of interpretation to be done. The line of the road is directly in line with Ivan Margary's projection within Streat (8). A small slot was placed through a section of the road but again (Fig.27 and 28), without a full profile the only detail this uncovered was that the flint cobbles came down directly onto natural clay. The road metalling consisted of two subtle layers; the top layer (105) consisted of larger downland flints with an average size being 10cm across and 8cm deep (Fig.25, 26 and 29). The lower layer (107) consisted mainly of orange river flints with some downland flints with an average size of 5cm wide and 3cm deep. These have all been drawn to scale on both section No1 (Fig.23) and plan (Fig.24). It is highly likely that some of the larger flints were dragged into the layers above in context (102) which consisted of a likely medieval plough soil which contained a small assemblage of medieval pottery sherds, discussed in 8.2 below. The condition of the metalling is intact but not very consolidated and the same sandy clay which exists in context (102) above would appear to form the matrix around the flints. No discrete sand layer was evident prior to the construction of the metalling and it is possible that the sandy clay was used to form a layer over the top of the road but subsequent bioturbation processes may have dragged it down through the profile of the road. As a consequence the road itself lacks integrity and if left exposed for any period of time would suffer from the effects of weathering. No evidence of road ditches were apparent but this is due mainly to the level of disturbance and the fact that a full profile was not excavated. Two small bagged samples of the different flint grades have been maintained in the archive but no further sampling was deemed necessary.

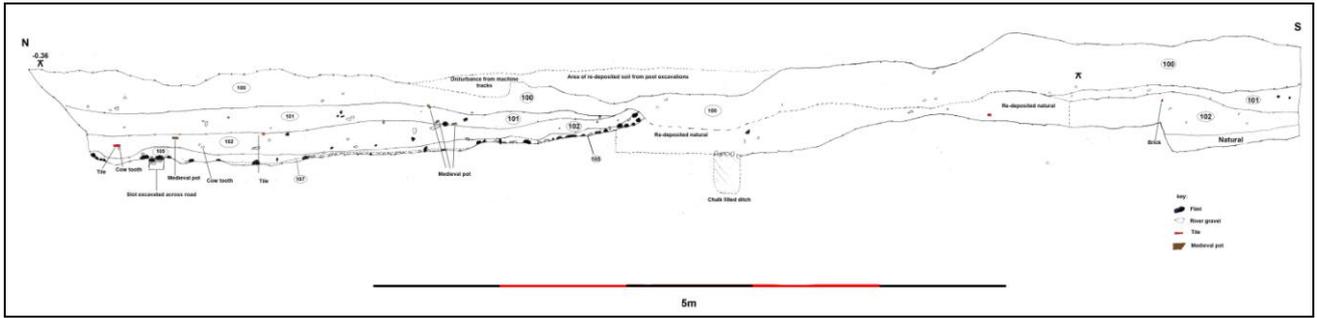


Fig.23. Scale drawing of west facing section 1 through the Roman road

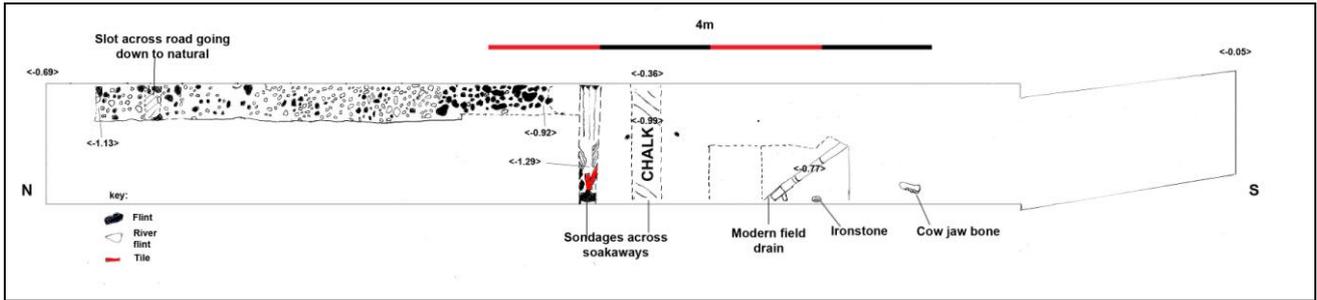


Fig.24. Scale plan of trench 1



Fig.25 and 26. Looking down the road surface to the north of the trench (scales 2m, 50cm and 20cm)



Fig.27. The north end of the road prior to slot dug



Fig.28. Slot cut through road (scales 20cm)



Fig.29. Section of the road clearly showing larger flints and smaller river gravel flints (scales 1m and 50cm)

8.0 The finds

8.1 The post medieval finds have been quantified in table three below and are typical of finds from the Victorian period, but no finds were evident from the earlier C18th phase of the site.

Context	Pottery	Glass	Metal	CBM	Plastic	Fire-cracked flint	Other	Total
Surface	2x Blue and white	1 green	2x square		Several	5 pieces -	1 piece	26

finds	willow 2x earthenware 1 piece Ditchling glazed sherd 1 saltglazed jug handle 1 iron glazed pancheon rim 2x stoneware 2x creamware 1 modern tile	bottle frag. 1 clear window frag. 1 clear Victorian (?) bottle rim	headed nails 1 copper alloy object of unknown function 1 brake shoe		pieces of broken drainpipes	170g	roof slate 1 piece concrete render	
100	10x earthenware flowerpots frags 1 blue modern tile frag 1 iron glazed frag	1 small clear 1 Victorian glass bottle base	1 iron bolt 1 corroded iron frag	10 x brick frag		4 pieces – 90g		26
101	9x earthenware flower pot frags	1 small green frag		6x brick frag 1 frag glazed drain pipe		2 pieces - 40g		19
102	2x creamware sherds		1 corroded clenched nail	6 x brick frags		2 pieces - 40g	1 piece roof slate	12
Total	35	6	7	23		9	3	83

8.2 The Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered 54 sherds of pottery, weighing 277g, from six individually labelled contexts. The assemblage consists of small sherds (most under 30mm across), the vast majority of which show moderate to heavy abrasion. As such the assemblage appears to have been subjected to notable reworking, a point in keeping with the slightly mixed chronological range of pottery in individual deposits.

By far the earliest sherd consists of an abraded reduced bodysherd in East Sussex Ware (4g), residual in context [104]. Only a general Late Iron Age to Roman date range can be assigned to this sherd. The other two sherds in this deposit are from abundant fine flint tempered ware oxidised cooking pots (8g) of the early/late 12th century.

These oxidised flint tempered wares, usually with no/negligible quantities of quartz, are well represented in the assemblage though the quantities of flint vary slightly. They represent the earliest medieval pottery at the site, being of a general early to late 12th- century date and were located in all deposits (surface 1/6g; [100], 1/2g, [101] 6/14g, [102] above flint surface 6/36g, [102] subsoil b 9/42g and [104] 2/8g). Most are somewhat abraded and consist of featureless bodysherds but a thickened flaring rim from [102] is of early 12th- century type and beaded flaring rims from [100] and [104] of early/mid 12th- century type. The source of these wares is unknown, but they are common in Lewes at this time and a source in that vicinity is suspected.

The next most common fabric is tempered with sparse moderate quartz and common/moderate fine flint grits (contexts [101] 2/3g, [102] above flint surface 10/68g and [102] subsoil b 7/38g). This is another fabric common at Lewes but is slightly later than the purely flint tempered wares. A mid 12th- to early 13th- century date is likely with the fabric being identical to those from Clay Hill and the early phases of the Ringmer industry. The current sherds consist mainly of oxidised cooking pots but only one rim, a thickened slightly hooked example, was recovered (context [102] subsoil b). The site also produced a couple of cooking pot sherds tempered with fine sand and sparse coarse flint (contexts [101] 1/8g and [102] above flint surface 1/6g) likely to be of a mid 12th- to mid 13th- century date range.

Typical High Medieval Ringmer ware, of the 13th century, was only recovered from surface deposits. These two sherds (14g) are from oxidised cooking pots tempered with moderate fine/medium sand and rare white flint inclusions. With the exception of a possible chip from [100] the only purely sandy wares were also recovered from surface collection. These consist of reduced medium sandy cooking pot sherds, one heavily abraded, the other a re-fired rim. Although Ringmer also produced similar wares from the early/mid 13th century, the current examples are a close match with reference sherds from the 1981 excavations at the Marchant's farm kiln, Streat and it is likely this is the source.

Taken as a whole the assemblage would suggest significant activity during the 12th to early 13th centuries. The abraded nature of the material suggests the pottery may derive from intensive manuring of arable land at this period, the densities involved suggesting the source of this domestic refuse is not far away. Activity appears to have significantly reduced in the early 13th century and there is no definite material that need be later than 1300.

9.0 General discussion

- 9.1 It is possible that the construction of the swimming pool which was excavated without an archaeologist present, did not cut through the section of the Greensand Way. The modern soak away which was present in trench 1 was not fully uncovered and lay to the west of the section which was excavated. It is possible that the construction of this soak-away destroyed the road in the area where the pool was situated and ironically, had the evaluation trench not been positioned where it was, this record of the road may not have been possible. The condition of the road is negligible; whilst being excavated the flint metalling was 'popping' out under the trowel and was surprisingly loose. Given that the condition of the road surface is so delicate, the best possible action would be to backfill it to protect it from further destruction from the elements.
- 9.2 The medieval aspect of the site gives a fairly clear indication that the road had fallen out of use by then and was under the plough, as indicated by the abraded nature of the pottery sherds from the assemblage.
- 9.3 The different phasings of the Rectory have been recorded and reported in a separate buildings report by Archaeology South-East and now these records are complete, it is recommended that development be allowed to continue (in line with the Written Scheme of Proposal) as all mitigation has been finalised by the present owner, provided that no 'new ground' is broken.
- 9.4 The likelihood that continued development will affect any existing archaeology is very likely, given that only a small area was sampled by one evaluation trench. Bearing this in mind, it is highly likely that further sections of the Greensand Way exist on site and that any further encroachment into the ground should be monitored by an archaeologist. This includes the proposed drain for the swimming pool area which is yet to be excavated to the west of the pool. It should be noted that if any plans for further ground reduction, such as additional services etc. are

planned, then the impact should be further mitigated with an archaeologist called back to watch these areas.

10.0 Archive

10.1 The full archive, including the finds, will be deposited at Barbican House museum in Lewes. However, space restraints are in place as the stores are full and so ASL will retain the finds until such a time as they can be placed with the museum stores, probably at The Keep in Falmer, with an accession number to be allocated. A paper copy and digital copy of the report will be sent to the Archaeology Department at County Hall, with a digital and hard copy sent to the owner, Mr. Brooke Lyndon-Stanford, plus a copy to the possible new owners solicitor, Mrs. Bowman at Adams and Remers LLP.

11.0 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Nicholas Wilkinson, project Director, and the owner Mr. Brooke Lyndon-Stanford for their co-operation. Also, the contractor Nick Morton who was very helpful, David Millum for his expertise and Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist for his advice throughout the project.

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APPENDIX 1 East Sussex County Council HER summary form

Site Code.	TRS13
Site identification and address	The Old Rectory, Streat, BN6 8RX
County, district and / or borough	East Sussex
O.S. grid ref.	TQ 35032 15394
Geology.	Lower Greensand Group – silty sandstone and mudstone
Project number.	ASL9/2013

Fieldwork type.	Evaluation excavation and recording of previous ground disturbance
Site type.	Single house development
Date of fieldwork.	June 11 th to July 2 nd 2013
Sponsor/client.	Mr. Brooke Lyndon-Standford
Project manager.	Miss Lisa Fisher
Project supervisor.	Ditto
Period summary	C18th and C19th phasing to house, medieval and Roman activity within the grounds
Project summary. (100 word max)	<p>This evaluation looked to uncover a section of the Roman Greensand Way at Streat, in the wake of heavy ground disturbance which was not monitored by an archaeologist. Medieval plough soil contained a small assemblage of medieval pottery. This lay directly over the top of a small section of the Greensand Way which contained evidence for two construction layers but was much disturbed. The top layer contained much bigger, downland flints whilst the bottom layer had smaller, river gravel flint which was laid directly onto the natural clay ground. Only one sherd of Roman pottery was found in the disturbed layers above.</p>