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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT EYOT HOUSE, CHURCH STREET, SHOREHAM, SEVENOAKS, KENT TN14 7SB

Planning Reference: SE/20/00795

NGR: TQ 5208 6159

DAS Site Code: EH20-WB

OASIS Reference Number: TBC



Report prepared for Duncan MacRae (Client)

By Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd Company, No 12320658

Report Number DAS 006/20/EH20-WB

November 2020



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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. During September and October 2020, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd at Eyot House, Church Street, Shoreham, Kent TN14 7SB. The focus of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the planned extension to the property. All features of archaeological interest were correctly examined and recorded, under planning application SE/20/00795.
- 1.2. The archaeological watching brief recorded no structures but did reveal possible demolition evidence for a former outbuilding visible on the 1871 OS map. Rubbish deposits were revealed during the groundworks, demonstrating continuity of domestic use of the area from the early nineteenth to twentieth centuries. During the excavation/groundworks, two residual artefacts of note were discovered which, while not directly related to Eyot House, are indicative of Shoreham's past: firstly, a sherd of Surrey whiteware (c.1300 – 1500 AD), part of a fineware costrel or bowl, suggestive of medieval wealth, and perhaps associated with the nearby Church of St Peter & St Paul; secondly, a flint flake of possible Late Prehistoric origin, suggestive of Shoreham's Prehistoric settlements. No significant archaeological remains were discovered during the excavations.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. This report presents the results of the watching brief at Eyot House, Church Street, Shoreham, Kent TN14 7SB (Figures 1 & 2).
- 2.2. The property is a privately-owned residential property in the Parish of Shoreham, within the Sevenoaks district of Kent and lies on the south side of Church Street, on the south bank of the River Darent (TQ 5208 6159).
- 2.3. The property has no listing or HER number, is believed to date from c.1960 AD, lies within the Conservation Area of Shoreham (designated April 2006) and is close to several Listed Buildings.
- 2.4. The potential impact arising from the proposals to the surrounding heritage environment or archaeological remains are considered minimal. However, groundworks will take all necessary precautions owing to the proximity of known heritage assets (Figures 4 & 5).
- 2.5. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was submitted to the client and approved by the LA before the watching brief was undertaken. All subsequent reports will be forwarded to LA, KCC and archived to the local archaeological society or another suitable custodian.



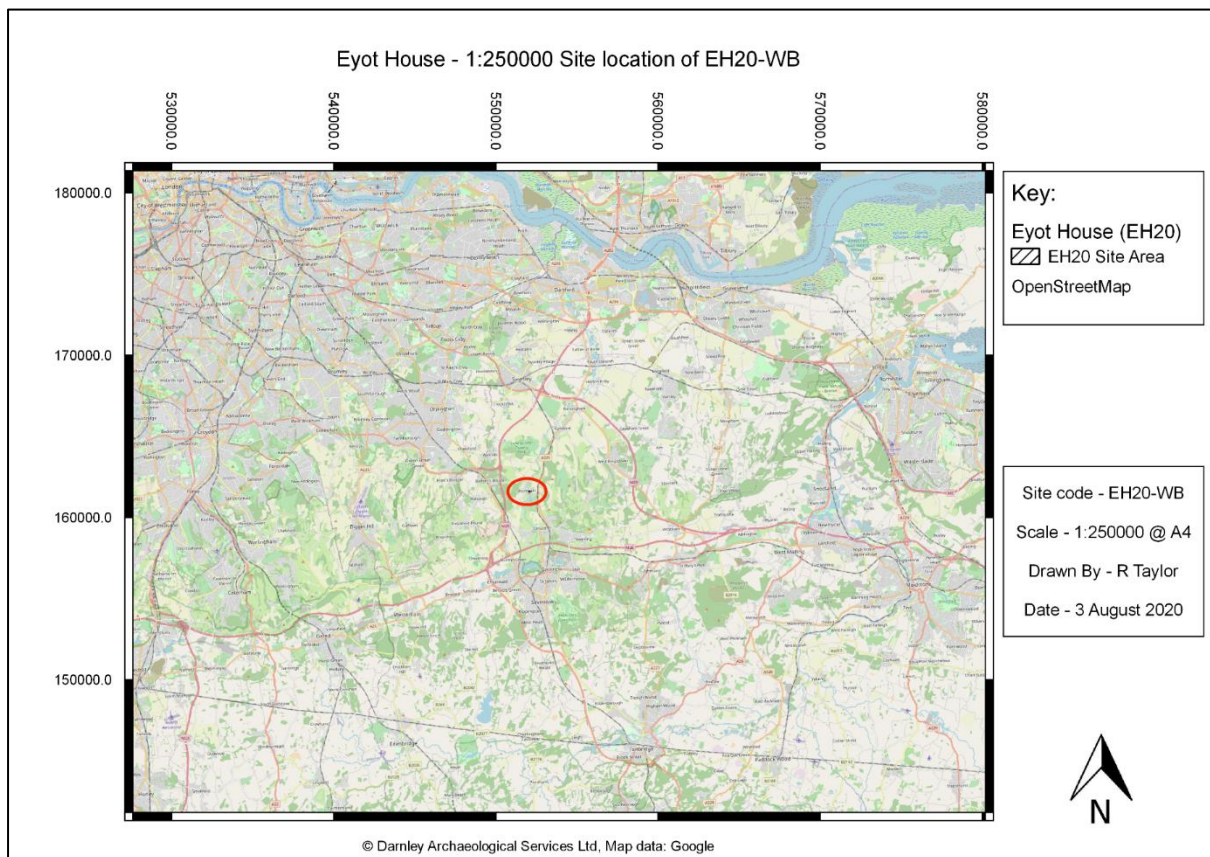
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3. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

3.1. The site is located at Eyot House, a residential property on the south side of Church Street in the village of Shoreham and the Sevenoaks District and lies within the Shoreham Conservation Area. The site is 2.4km due north of the village of Otford, approximately 1.7km due east of the M25 motorway, about 3.6km south of the village of Eynsford and approximately 5.3km west of the village of West Kingsdown (Figures 1 & 2).

3.2. The site is on top of alluvium of clay, silt, sand, and gravel. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago, sit on top of the Grey Chalk Subgroup, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The site is relatively level at a consistent 57m (+/- 1m) aOD with the site boundary.

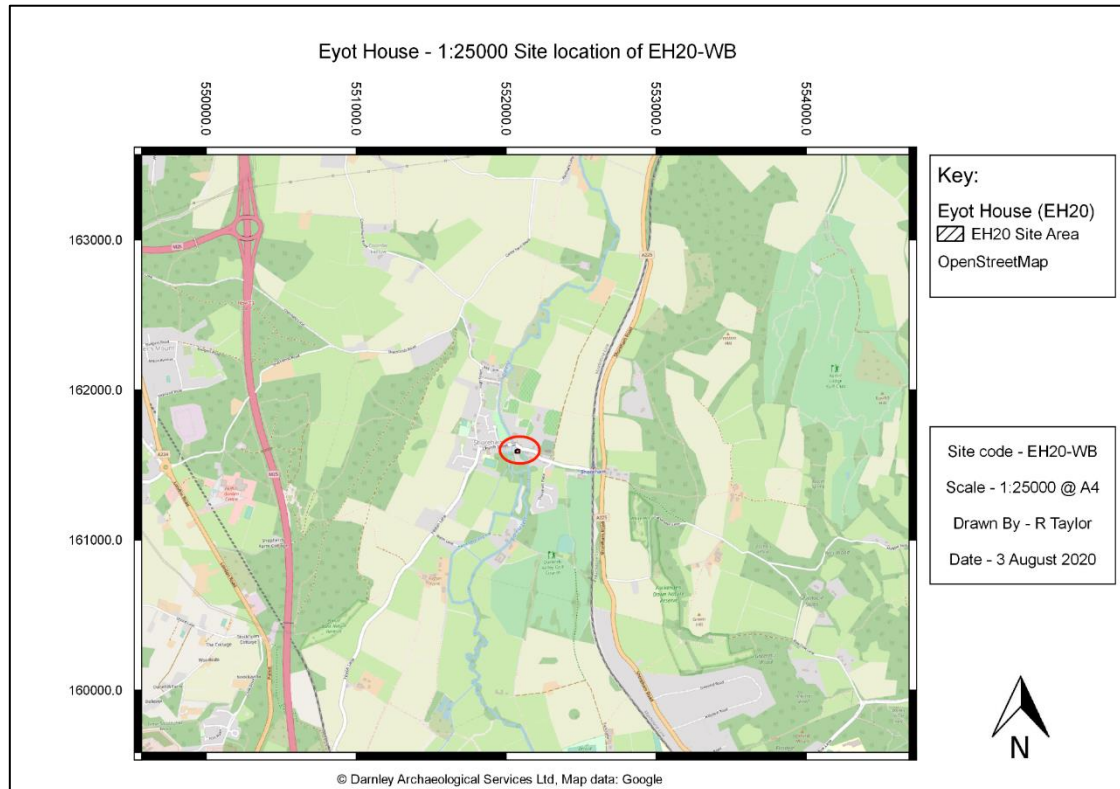
3.3. There are no known existing disturbances on the site.



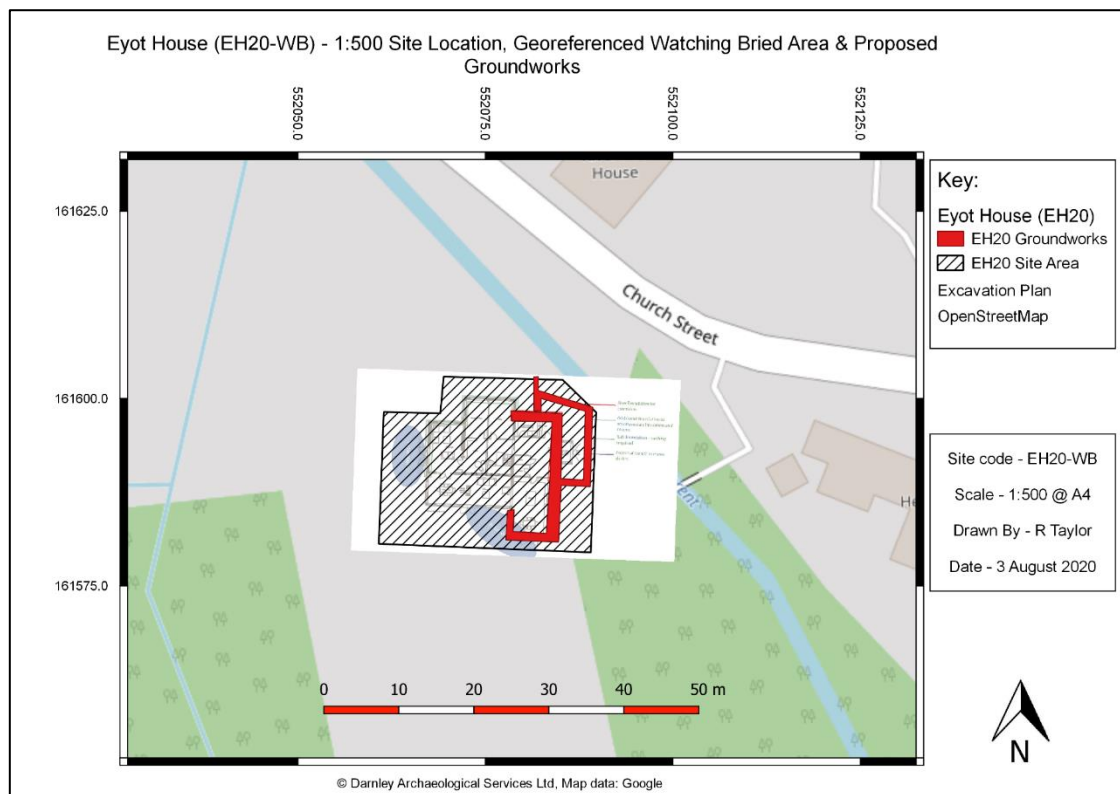
(Figure 1 – 1:250000 Site location of EH20-WB)



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(Figure 2 – 1:25000 Site Location of EH20-WB)



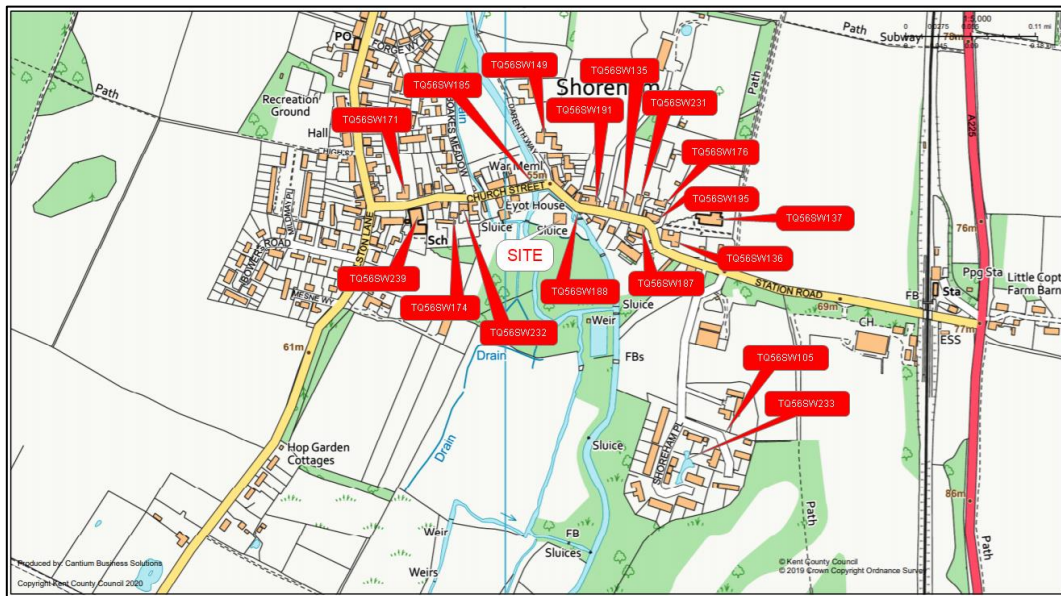
(Figure 3 – 1:500 Site Location and proposed groundworks)



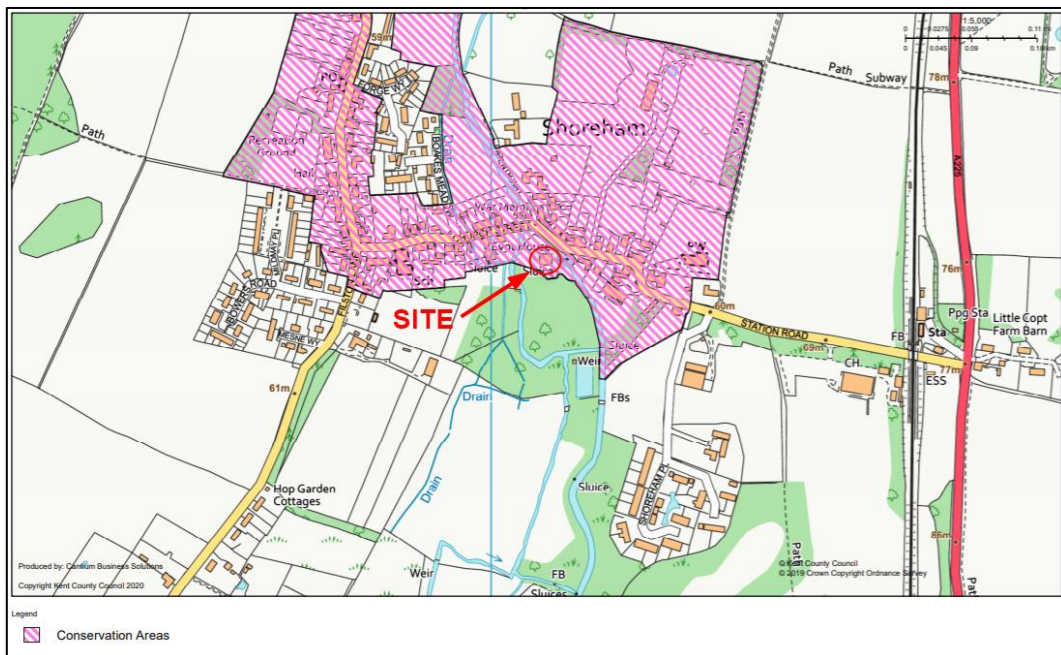
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4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. Shoreham's earliest history and archaeology show occupation from the Prehistoric Period. Occupants have included Iron Age farmers, Romans, Saxons and Medieval settlers. The site (Eyot House) lies within the Conservation Area of Shoreham, designated in April 2006. It is believed to have been a former garden/pasture area associated with nearby Shoreham House (Per Comms, D. MacRae 2020). A detailed study of the Kent Historic Environment Record database was undertaken to assist the written scheme of investigation (Figures 4 & 5). The following provides nearby entries on the HER with a brief description:



(Figure 4 - 1:3500 EH20 List of Nearby Heritage Assets – courtesy of KCC)



(Figure 5- 1:5000 Map showing Site within Shoreham Conservation Area, courtesy of KCC)



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Medieval

- TQ 56 SW 137 Listed Building (I) 1243786: CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL. Church sited on the edge of a village rich in historic buildings. The foundations of the Norman chancel were found under the nave in 1956-7. C14 N wall; N chapel early Perp; other features mostly late Perp; c.1775 W tower, rebuilt after a fire. Chancel rebuilt and the northeast vestry/organ chamber added in the 1860s restoration by Woodye; restoration in the 1950s. Main construction periods 1327 to 1775
- TQ 56 SW 136 Listed Building (II) 1243808. The irregular shaped building of varying dates, incorporating a C16 timber-framed structure. Main east elevation has two storeys, three window centre part of C18 appearance but with later rendering; moulded eaves cornice and tiled roof. At right a 2-storey canted bay of yellow brick and at left a similar bay of random rubble, both early C19 and with hipped tiled roofs. Various sash windows, some with glazing bars. Inside a good C16 beamed ceiling. Link on the south side to Vicarage Cottage, a 2-storey, two window building of flint rubble with red brick dressings, incorporating stabling on the ground floor. Brick dentil eaves cornice and tiled roof. Lean-to right extension. Various C19 casements and stable doors. Ornamental bust set in flint rubble panel at 1st-floor centre. Timber-framed core, possible C16.
- TQ 56 SW 171 Listed Building (II) 1272740: REED BEDS AND THE SAMUEL PALMER SCHOOL OF FINE ART. Private house, at one time four cottages. Probably C16 framed structure with two storey elevation facing east with exposed framing and brick infilling on the ground floor and plaster infilling above. South elevation facing the street of C18 painted brick with moulded eaves and gutter and hip ridge tiled roof brought down as lean-to at the side. Various modern square paned lattice windows and modern restoration. This house is probably the oldest in the village and was initially 2 "Hall Houses". Interior attic with King post.
- TQ 56 SW 135 Listed Building (II) 1243819: IVY COTTAGE AND TUDOR COTTAGE. C16 framed structure, L-shaped in plan, with weatherboarded elevation facing the street with an external projecting brick chimney stack and rendered plinth, east elevation with 1st floor oversailing and ground floor of flint rubble with red brick dressing and red brick above. West elevation with exposed framing and plaster infilling. Various C19 casements. 2 storeys with half dormer at the side. Tiled roof hipped at right, on left return two tiny paired gables. The building may be part of a hall house, some of which has disappeared.
- TQ 56 SW 195 Listed Building (II) 1243733: CHURCH COTTAGES. Timber-framed range, of 2 builds, probably of C16 but with C18 brick fronts. Nos 1 and 2 red brick, the others yellow brick. High pitched tiled roofs hipped at right end. Various C18 and C19 casements. Five plain boarded doors under bracketed hoods.



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Post-Medieval

- TQ 56 SW 105 This site is no longer identified on recent OS maps, but the icehouse is known to have existed.
- TQ 56 SW 233 Shoreham Place was used as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Hospital by Kent/114 from May 1915 until July 1916 in World War 1. The original house has been demolished to make way for housing.
- TQ 56 SW 187 Listed Building (II) 1272682: THE OLDE GEORGE INN. L-shaped corner building of C16 and earlier, with C18 additions. North elevation Painted brick with exposed framing in places. 1st floor partly oversailing with exposed framing and plaster infilling. Corner bracket supporting 1st floor and projecting boxed eaves and gutter. Ridge tile roof half-hipped at one end. C18 2 storey addition at the side with the ground floor painted brick and weather-boarding above. Large tripartite sash window on the ground floor under flat segmental arch with panelled shutters. Small sash window above. East elevation rendered elevation of 2 storeys with tiled gabled end and small attic window. Ridge tile roof to the left, stopped and brought down as lean-to at the side. Tile hanging on 1st floor to the left. Various odd C18 and C19 sash windows and casements and 2 C19 public house doors. Inside left end shows remains of an open hall with mutilated crown post and collar-purlin roof. The gabled right part of C16. Dragon beam visible in a public bar; and much heavy exposed timber throughout the building.
- TQ 56 SW 188 Listed Building (II) 1272684: GARDEN WALL OF SHOREHAM HOUSE. Long early C19 brick wall running from a stream in the centre of the village near the bridge as far as the Olde George Inn. This is file garden boundary wall of Shoreham House with greenhouses to rear and ornamental arched opening at the end with weir.
- TQ 56 SW. 232 Myrtle Cottage, formerly Myrtle House, was used as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Hospital by Kent/114 VAD from May 1915 until July 1916. The building still in use.
- TQ 56 SW 174 Listed Building (II) 1272741: OLD DARENT COTTAGE. Late Medieval timber-framed cottage. Two storeys, two windows. Hipped, tiled roof with small ridge gables and projecting end stacks. Tile hung 1st floor, visible framing, with painted brick filling on the ground floor. C19 casements. Modern wide glazed front porch with hipped tiled roof.
- TQ 56 SW 239 The former National School for boys and girls in Shoreham is shown on the 1862-75map. The building continued to be used as a school, as shown on 1897-1900, 1907-23, 1929-52 and current O/S maps. It is now Shoreham Village School.



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- TQ 56 SW 185 Listed Building (II) 1243736: BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER DARENT. The bridge consists of 3 low brick arches with stone buttressing and solid balustrade of red brick and flint rubble. The old ford still exists at the side of the bridge. The present structure is probably C19 although there was a bridge here in the late C18 dating from medieval times.
- TQ 56 SW 149 Listed Building (II) 1243739: WATERHOUSE. Early C19 symmetrical stucco elevation of 2 storeys with moulded cornice and parapet masking older structure. Hip Welsh slate roof with two flat-roofed leaded dormers. Centre C19 panelled door with rectangular light over. Square panelled pilasters on either side of the door with projecting moulded flat hood over supported on heavy console brackets ornamented with foliage. 2 sash windows on either side of the door with closely spaced glazing bars and with stucco architrave moulded surrounds and projecting sills. Five similar sash windows on 1st floor. Bracketed cornice over the centre window. A plaque commemorates Samuel Palmer's staying here between 1827 and 1835.
- TQ 56 SW 191 Listed Building (II) 1272698: WATERFALL COTTAGE STUDIO AND WATERFALL COTTAGE TEA ROOM. Early C19 front but house behind probably older. 2 storeys, three windows in all Tiled roof. Painted brick. Sash windows with glazing bars. Plain panelled doors. Record and Little Record and Nos 1 and 2 (Waterfall Cottages) form a group. Nos 1 and 2 (Waterfall Cottages) shall be amended to read Waterfall Cottage Tea Room and Waterfall Cottage Studio. The group value note should now read Record, Little Record, Waterfall Cottage Tea Room and Waterfall Cottage Studio form a group.
- TQ 56 SW 231 Church House was used as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Hospital by Kent/114 VAD from Oct 1914 until May 1915. The building still in use.
- TQ 56 SW 176 Listed Building (II) 1272738: CHURCH COTTAGES. Small C18 farmhouse later subdivided. Two storeys, two windows. Flint rubble with red brick quoins and dressings to windows on the ground floor. Redbrick on 1st floor. C18 sash windows with glazing bars in exposed frames. One small dormer. Half hip tiled roof. Plain boarded door with a flat projecting moulded hood over. One storey addition to left of flint rubble.



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5. METHODOLOGY

5.1. An excavation strategy for the work was compiled by Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd, providing full details of the watching brief methodology.

5.2. The aims of the watching brief are to:

- **Ensure that the planned excavations at Eyot House are observed and that features of archaeological interest are correctly examined and recorded.**

5.3. The objectives of this development project are to:

- **View & record excavation of groundworks for the new building(s) & drains**

5.4. All work will be undertaken following the methods set out within the WSI, according to best practice as set out by ClfA. Any significant variation on these methods will be agreed with the Client, Sevenoaks District Council and KCC before excavation.

5.5. A Risk Assessment was drawn up for the duration of the watching brief and signed by those under the supervision of Darnley Archaeological Services.

Setting out the excavation areas

5.6. Excavation areas were set out according to Figure 6. Locations were recorded using GNSS.

Excavation

5.7. All groundworks were excavated using hand tools, by single context excavation. A suitably qualified professional archaeologist supervised all excavation areas.

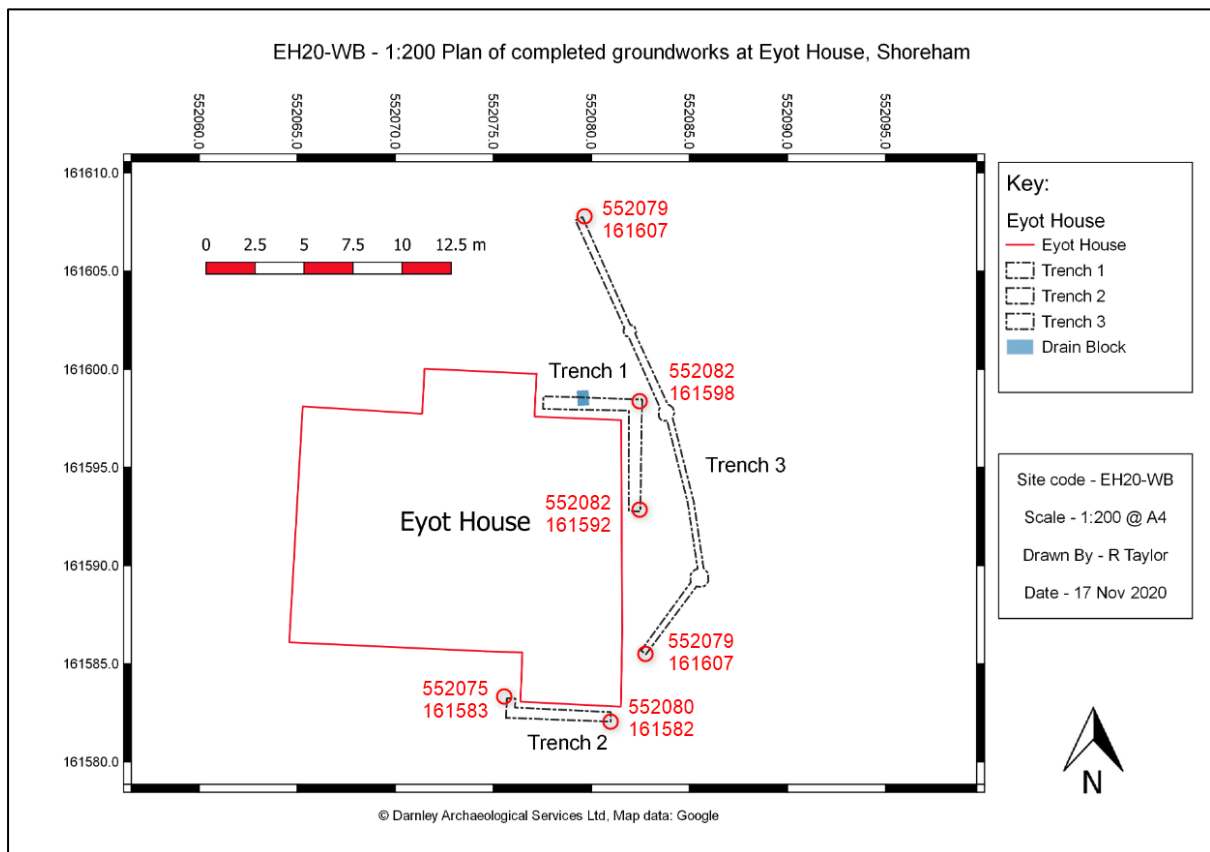
5.8. No constraints were experienced while carrying out the duties of the Watching Brief.



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6. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 6.1. The observation comprised a series of groundwork trenches for building footings and drainage, focussed primarily on the east of the property. The excavation areas provided numerous artefacts and stratigraphy compatible with the occupation and role(s) (i.e. domestic/pasture) of the property and surrounding areas throughout the early nineteenth to twentieth centuries.
- 6.2. No structures or features were recorded during the watching brief, though the excavation did reveal possible demolition evidence for a former outbuilding visible on the 1871 OS map.
- 6.3. The final plan of the completed groundworks is shown below:



(Figure 6 - EH20-WB - 1:200 Plan of completed groundworks at Eyot House, Shoreham)



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6.4. During the watching brief. A total of ten were investigated and recorded (Table 1):

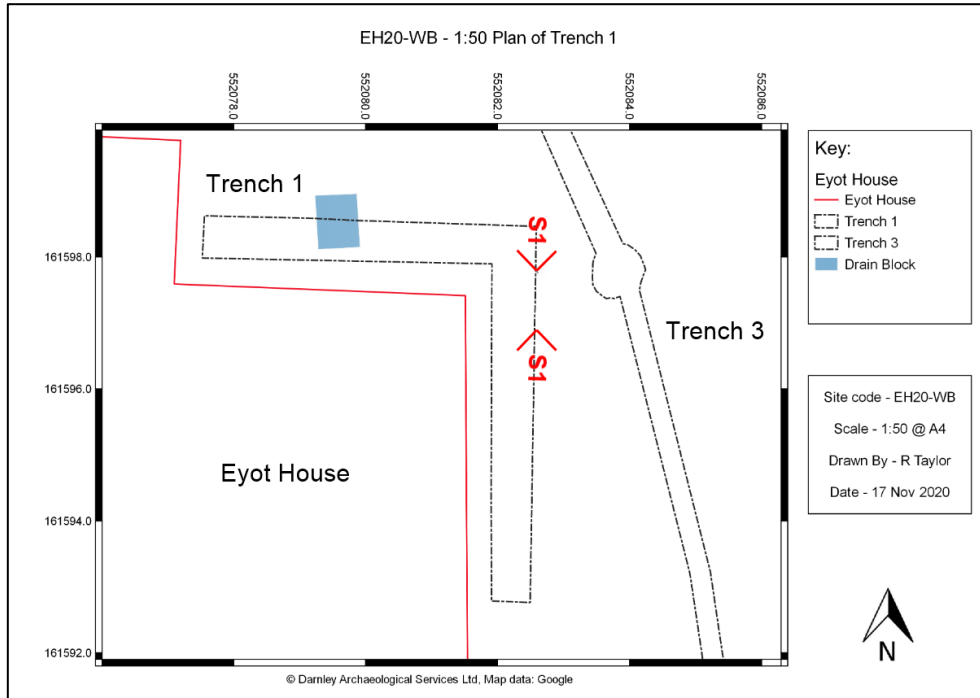
	Dimensions: 25.00m x 10m Land use: Residential			
Context	Category	Description	Depth / Thickness	Trench
1001	Topsoil	Dark brown humic topsoil.	0.05m – 0.1m	All
1002	Layer	Dirty brown sandy clay; numerous inclusion and concentrations of domestic rubbish (pottery, glass, metalwork and animal bone).	0.05m – 0.5m	1
1003	Layer	Brown sandy clay with numerous chalk, brick, roof tile and mortar pieces.	0.5m – undetermined	1
1004	Structure	Drain	n/a	1
1005	Layer	Brown sandy clay; moderate inclusions of domestic rubbish (pottery, glass, metalwork and animal bone).	0.05 – 0.4m	3
1006	Layer	Chalk dump made up of redeposited chalk pieces of varying sizes.	0.4 – 0.5m	3
1007	Layer	Demolition dump of compacted flint nodules, chalk, brick and tile pieces in a dirty brown sandy clay matrix; numerous inclusion and concentrations of domestic rubbish (pottery, glass, metalwork and animal bone).	0.5m – undetermined	3
1008	Layer	Same as 1005 but toward the south of Trench 3.	0.1m – 0.45m	3
1009	Structure	Concrete hard-standing	0.15m – 0.2m	2
1010	Layer	Coarse brown sandy clay with numerous irregular flints	0.2 – undetermined	2

(Table 1 – EH20-WB Contexts)

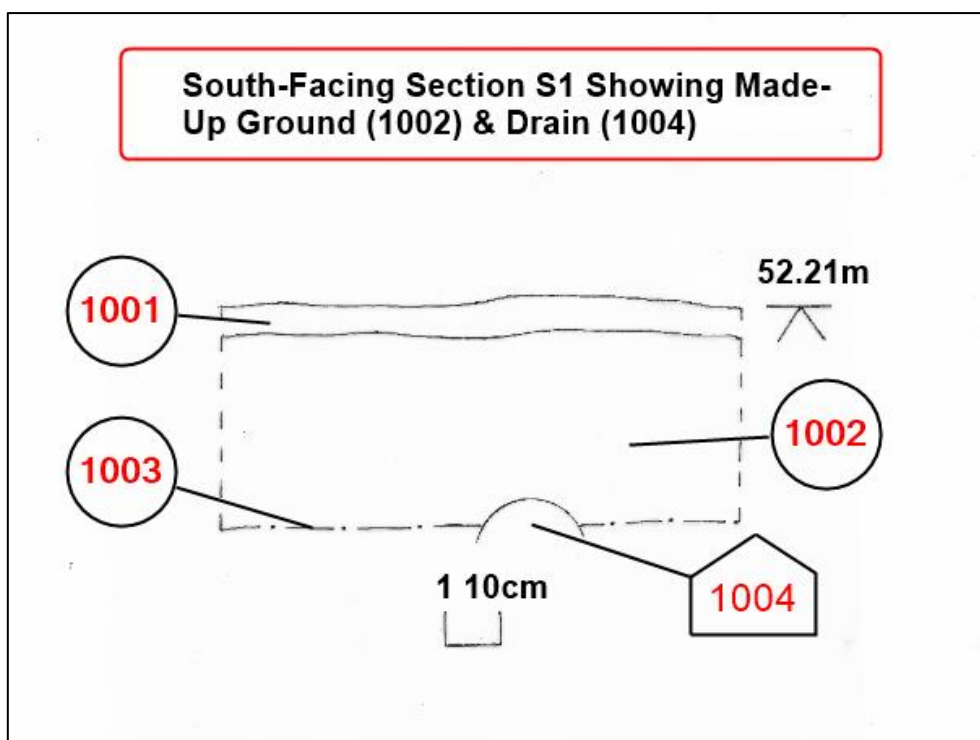


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6.5. Trench 1 – excavation revealed a total of three contexts, which are illustrated in Figures 7 & 8:



(Figure 7 – EH20-WB 1:50 Plan of Trench 1)



(Figure 8 – EH20-WB Section 1)

6.6. Trench 1 - Figure 7 shows an L-shaped trench close to the northeast existing exterior walls of Eyot House. Approximately 0.1m of 1001, a dark brown humic topsoil, sits



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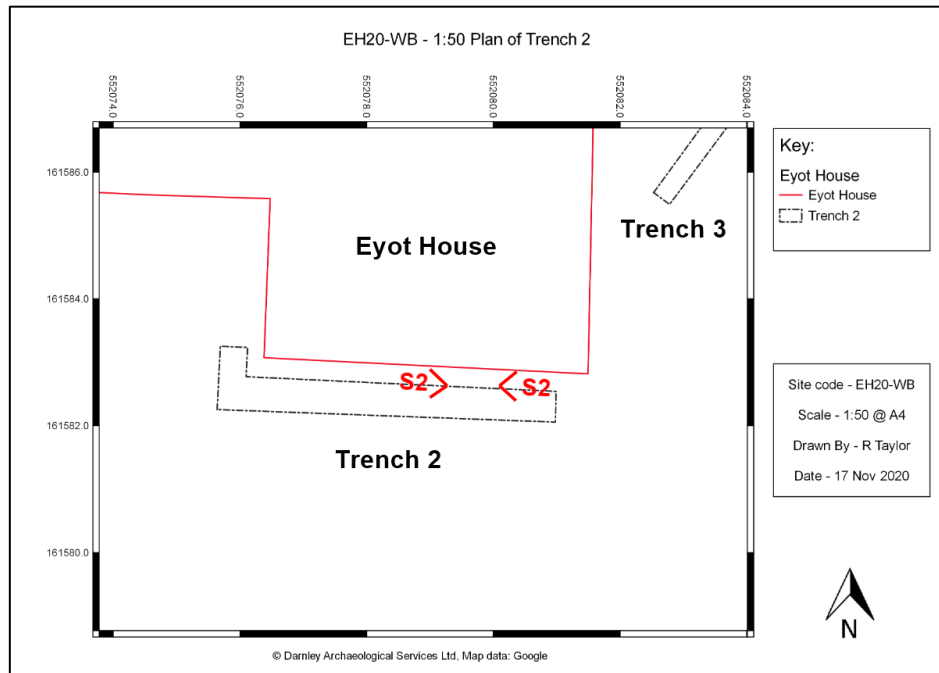
above 1002, a dirty brown sandy clay containing numerous inclusion and concentrations of domestic rubbish (pottery, glass, metalwork and animal bone). 1002 is approximately 0.45m deep and, as a layer, may be in part (lower portion), contemporary with the construction of the current building (c.1961 AD).

- 6.7. There are drains truncating Trench 1 (**12.1, 12.2 & 12.3**); the original soil pipe shows no sign of a drainage cut, implying this drain was installed during construction, and 1002 is, primarily, made-up group deposited during/after that event. It is difficult to see the cut profiles of the later (plastic) drains.
- 6.8. The mixture and date-range of domestic debris contained in 1002 would account for the likely residual earlier (late-nineteenth century) artefacts intermingled with more modern (early to mid-twentieth-century) artefacts. Therefore, 1002 has a likely date range from c.1900 AD to c.1960 AD.

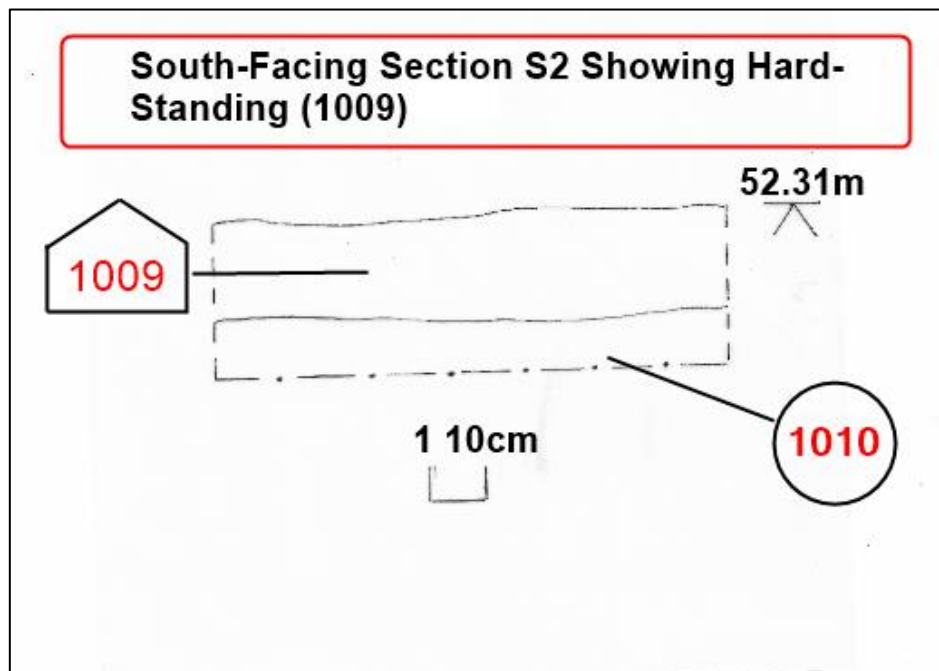


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- 6.9. Trench 2 – Figure 9 shows an L-shaped trench close to the south existing exterior walls of Eyot House. Approximately 0.2m of 1009, concrete hard-standing sites over 0.1m of 1010, a coarse brown sandy clay matrix containing numerous irregular flints, which likely serves as bedding for 1009 (12.4). Both 1009 & 1010 are considered modern, and no artefacts were found in Trench 2.



(Figure 9 - EH20-WB 1:50 Plan of Trench 2)

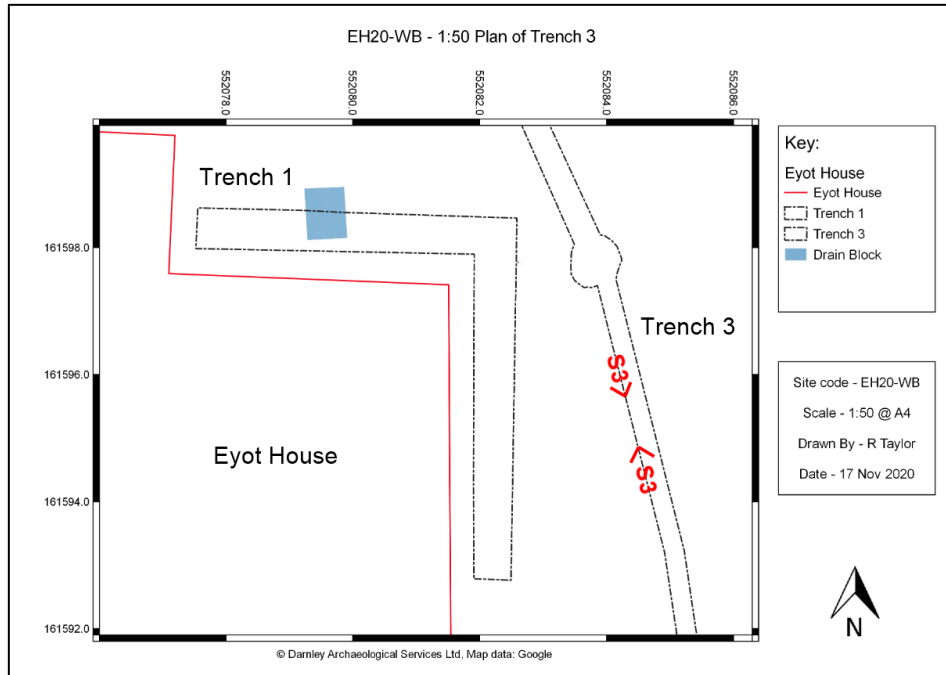


(Figure 10 – EH20-WB Section 2)

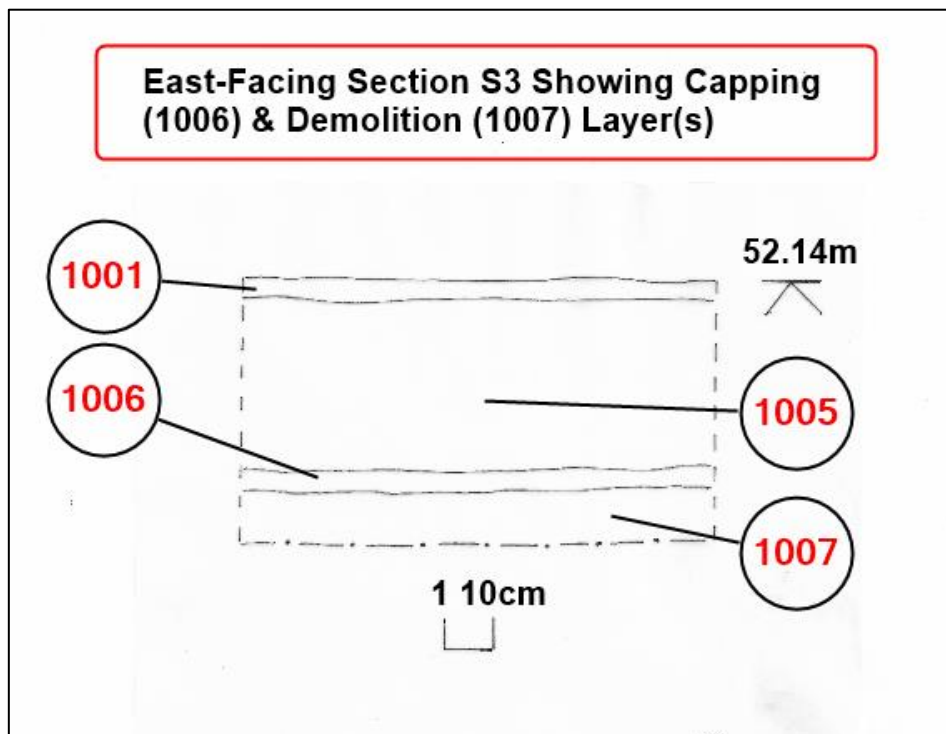


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6.10. Trench 3 revealed the most significant amount of archaeological information about Eyot House's past, and the surrounding immediate area. Figure 6 shows a linear drainage trench extending approximately 25m (north-south) on the east side of the property, and Figure 11, the recorded section.



(Figure 11 - EH20-WB 1:50 Plan of Trench 3)

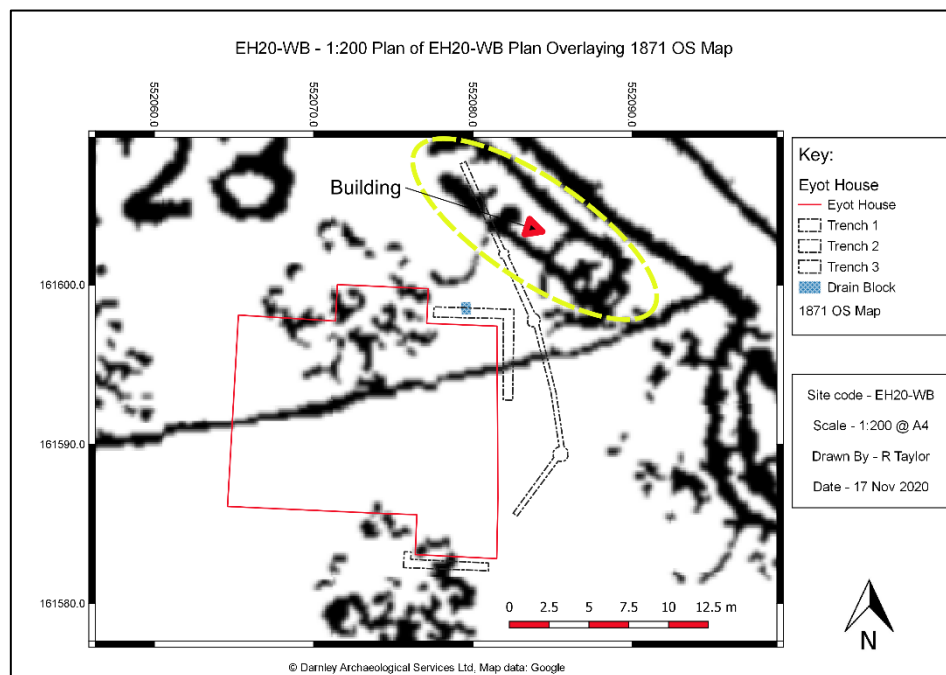


(Figure 12 – EH20-WB Section 3)



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- 6.11. Approximately 0.1m of 1001, a dark brown humic topsoil, sits above 1002, a dirty brown sandy clay containing numerous inclusion and concentrations of domestic rubbish (pottery, glass, metalwork and animal bone). 1005 is approximately 0.4m deep and, as a layer, is contemporary with 1002.
- 6.12. 1005 sits above 0.1m of 1006, a chalk dump made up of redeposited chalk pieces of varying sizes. 1006 caps 1007, a demolition dump of undetermined depth, composed of compacted flint nodules, chalk, brick and tile pieces in a dirty brown sandy clay matrix; numerous inclusion and concentrations of domestic rubbish (pottery, glass, metalwork and animal bone) (**12.5 & 12.6**).
- 6.13. 1007 contains numerous pieces of brick and roof tile, suggesting the demolition material was from a building. An examination of KCC's Historic Maps shows a building present approximately 5m to the northeast of Eyot House (Figure 13).

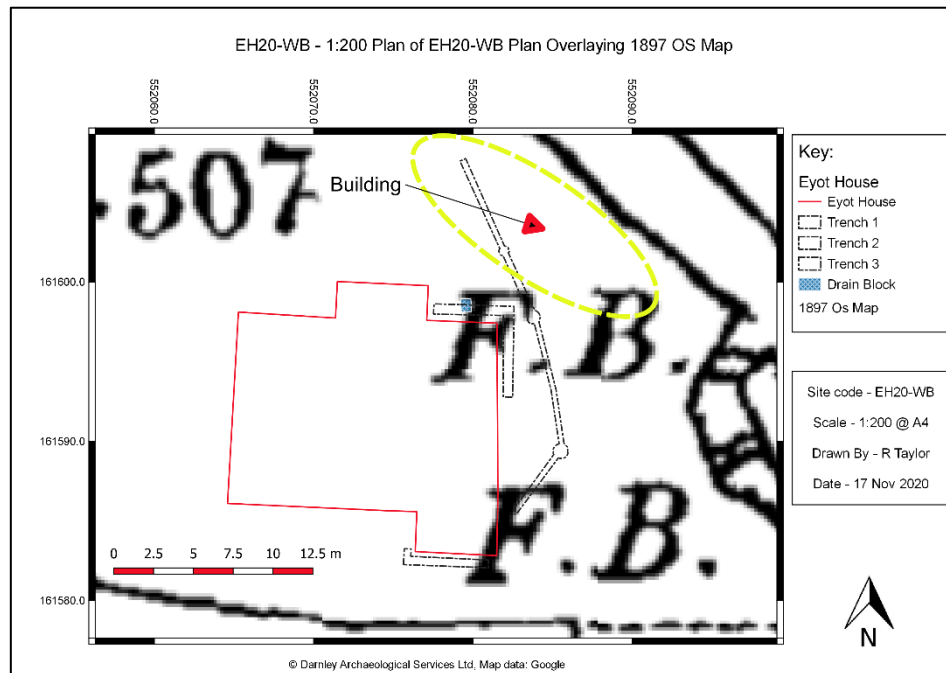


(Figure 13 – 1871 OS Map showing a building in relation to Eyot House)

- 6.14. The building shown in Figure 13 appears to have been demolished by the time of publication of the 1897 OS Map (Figure 14), providing a potential date of c.1897 AD for contexts 1006 and 1007 (**12.7**). The diagnostic finds (**13.4, 13.6 & 13.7**) from 1007 confirm this hypothesis.



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(Figure 14 – 1897 OS Map showing the former location of building in relation to Eyot House)



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7. FINDS

- 7.1. Several finds were recovered during the watching brief, with a date range of c. 1500 BC to c.1960 AD, all of which are characteristic of domestic and/or pastoral occupation and consistent with the site's function over many years.
- 7.2. Pottery, bone, building materials and lithics provide objective diagnostic evidence and are subject to additional photographic illustration in Appendix B.
- 7.3. All finds were washed, bagged, recorded and photographed according to ClfA guidelines. Table 2 below details the type, quantity and location of finds according to context:

Find Type	Quantity	Context
Pottery	29	1002
Shell	1	1002
Metal	1	1002
Bone	5	1002
Pottery	5	1005
Bone	1	1005
CBM	2	1007
Lithic	1	1007
Pottery	3	1007
Pottery	7	1008

(Table 2 – Finds according to type, quantity, and context)

7.4. Analysis

- 7.4.1. 1002 - Pottery from context 1002 comprises late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century domestic porcelain and stoneware. The exception is **13.1**, a residual sherd of Staffordshire slipware c.1690-1830 AD. 1002 contains a quantity of animal bone, exhibiting butchery marks, along with oyster shell and the blade of a domestic knife, all of which indicate domestic life.
- 7.4.2. 1005 – Pottery from context 1005 is generally earlier than 1002, comprising late-nineteenth-century porcelain and stoneware. The exception is **13.2**, a residual sherd of Surrey Whiteware c.1350-1500 AD. A single and complete sheep metacarpal (**13.3**) is the only bone recovered from 1005, though it exhibits no butchery marks and may indicate sheep farming in the immediate vicinity.
- 7.4.3. 1007 – Pottery from context 1007 is likely earlier than 1005, comprising two sherds (**13.4**) of mid-nineteenth century Kentish redware with iron oxide glaze. Tobacco pipe stems of similar date are also present. Surprisingly, a flint flake (**13.5**), exhibiting bulb, striking platform and chalk patina to both ventral and dorsal faces, was recovered. The lithic is intrusive but is a stark reminder of Shoreham's prehistoric past. Brick (**13.6**) and roof tile (**13.7**) pieces were recovered and suggestive of demolition material associated with the building featured in Figure



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13. 1007 is a likely demolition spread, with much of the material (brick, tile & mortar) are crushed.

7.4.4.1008 – Pottery from 1008 is contemporary with 1005, comprising late-nineteenth-century porcelain and earthenware. **13.8**, a sherd of Red Earthenware bowl base with manganese/iron glaze c.1800-1850 AD is perhaps slightly earlier than expected.

8. INTERPRETATION

8.1. The results of the watching brief revealed a stratigraphic sequence confirming the Eyot Houses and site past, perhaps even from c.1500 BC to Present Day. A flint flake of possible Late Prehistoric origin is suggestive of Shoreham's Prehistoric settlement(s). A sherd of Surrey whiteware (c.1300 – 1500 AD), part of a fineware costrel or bowl, indicative of medieval wealth, is perhaps associated with the nearby Church of St Peter & St Paul or other building is similar standing/status. The remainder of the excavation pointed to the presence of demolition material associated with a former building – of unknown purpose - to the northeast of Eyot House. The stratigraphic sequences of the trenches confirmed the use of the land from c.1890s AD to the present day. Given the proximity of the River Darent, it is likely that, before Eyot House been constructed, the land was likely used for pasture.

8.2. No significant archaeological remains were discovered during the excavations.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1. The Watching Brief has fulfilled the aims and objectives of the KCC Watching Brief Specification and the Written Scheme of Investigation. The groundworks demonstrated the stratigraphy associated with the site as a domestic/pasture. Still, beyond this, no other archaeological features were viewed.

9.2. The archaeological significance of the site is low and recorded accordingly.

10. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

10.1. Sincere thanks are extended to Duncan MacRae (client) for his permissions to access the site and patience while the archaeological process took place.



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11. REFERENCES

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www.bgs.ac.uk

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>






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12. APPENDIX A – SITE IMAGES

Image	Number & Description
	<p>12.1</p> <p>Trench 1 - Looking north at drains and 1001 & 1002</p>
	<p>12.2</p> <p>Trench 1 - Looking west at drains cut into 1002.</p>
	<p>12.3</p> <p>Trench 1 - Looking west at S1.</p>




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Image	Number & Description
	<p>12.4</p> <p>Trench 2 - Looking north at 1009 & 1010</p>
	<p>12.5</p> <p>Trench 3 - Looking west at circular drain cut (mid-excavation) showing chalk capping layer 1006 and demolition layer 1007 emerging.</p>
	<p>12.6</p> <p>Trench 3 - Looking west at circular drain cut (mid-excavation) showing chalk capping layer 1006 and demolition layer 1007 emerging.</p>




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Image	Number & Description
	<p>12.7</p> <p>Trench 3 - Looking north at full extent; although 1006 & 1007 continue throughout trench extent, no further evidence of building featured in Figure 12 remain.</p>






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13. APPENDIX B - FINDS IMAGES

Image	Number & Description
	<p>13.1</p> <p>1002 - Staffordshire slipware c.1690-1830 AD.</p>
	<p>13.2</p> <p>1005 - Surrey Whiteware c.1350-1500 AD</p>
	<p>13.3</p> <p>1005 - Sheep metacarpal; exhibits no butchery marks and may indicate sheep farming in the immediate vicinity.</p>





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Image	Number & Description
	<p>13.4</p> <p>1007 – two sherds of mid-nineteenth century Kentish redware with iron oxide glaze.</p>
	<p>13.5</p> <p>1007 - flint flake exhibiting bulb, striking platform and chalk patina to both ventral and dorsal faces.</p>
	<p>13.6</p> <p>1007 – A brick piece from demolition layer.</p>



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Image	Number & Description
	<p>13.7</p> <p>1007 – Roof tile piece from demolition layer.</p>
	<p>13.8</p> <p>1008– Red Earthenware bowl base with manganese/iron glaze c.1800-1850 AD.</p>