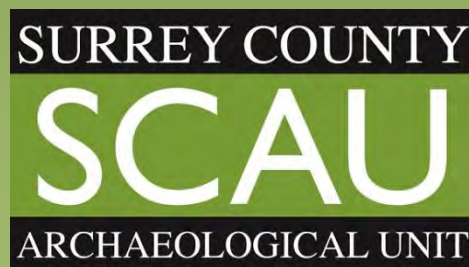


**GARAGE DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
OPPOSITE MULBERRY COTTAGE,
OFF HIGH STREET, LINDFIELD
WEST SUSSEX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**



**GARAGE DEVELOPMENT ON LAND OPPOSITE
MULBERRY COTTAGE, HIGH STREET
LINDFIELD, WEST SUSSEX**

An archaeological watching brief

Summary

This report documents the findings of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on the 17th and 18th December 2024 on a garage development located on land to the north of Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex.

The development site lies within the Lindfield Conservation Area, and the Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) for the Historic Core of Lindfield as identified through the Historic Towns Project (ANA Ref: DWS8637).

No definitive features earlier than the 20th century were discovered during the course of this watching brief, whilst the possible in-situ subsoil only survived within the northwest and southeast part of the excavation area.

A large irregular cut of 19th century date was noted, although its apparent absence on 19th and 20th century maps suggests its existence was relatively short lived, possibly excavated and infilled between cartographic surveys.

These observations are of minor interest, and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required in connection with the development.

Surrey County Archaeological Unit
Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road,
Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND

Tel: 01483 518777 Fax: 01483 518780
email: archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk
website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/SCAU

Checked by	Rob Poulton
Author	John Payne
Date of fieldwork	17 th & 18 th December 2024
NGR	535025, 125907 (centred)
Site code	LHS-24
Client	Graeme Ward



The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit and is not for publication to third parties, without the prior written consent of Surrey County Council, otherwise than in pursuance of the specific purpose for which it was prepared.

CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
2	Methodology	1
3	Geology.....	2
4	Results	2
	Introduction.....	2
	Stratigraphic sequence	3
5	The finds	5
6	Conclusions and recommendations.....	6
7	References.....	6

FIGURE LIST

Figure 1: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex. Location plan

Figure 2: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex. Existing site plan

Figure 3: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex. Plan and elevations of proposed new building.

Figure 4: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex. Extract from the Tithe map of 1845

Figure 5: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex. Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1875

Figure 6: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex. Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1909-10

Figure 7: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex. Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1937-38

Appendix 1: photo compendium

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report documents the findings of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on the 17th and 18th December 2024 on a garage development located on land to the north of Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex.

1.2 The archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU), to monitor the groundworks associated with the demolition of an existing single garage and construction of a two-bay car barn and one adjacent parking place (see figs 1-3 for site location, existing site plan and development plan).

1.3 The proposal lies within the Lindfield Conservation Area, and the Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) for the Historic Core of Lindfield as identified through the Historic Towns Project (ANA Ref: DWS8637). Therefore, in line with the current planning policy DP34 (Other Heritage Assets) of the Mid-Sussex District Local Plan (2014-2031) the proposed development was subject to a planning condition, specific to archaeological mitigation (No.5; Programme of archaeological work), which stated:

No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until a programme of archaeological monitoring has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, for approval by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: *The site is of archaeological significance, and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development and to accord with Policy DP34 of the Mid Sussex District Plan and paragraph 211 of the NPPF.*

1.4 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment produced by SCAU was previously submitted as a supporting document for the planning application (Payne 2023). This considered the potential archaeology of the proposed development, and proposed an appropriate mitigation strategy. The recommendations contained in that report were subsequently accepted by the Local Planning Authority (generally acting under the advice the West Sussex County Archaeologist).

1.5 The recommended condition was for an archaeological watching brief on the ground work excavations, the scope and standards of which were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Pattison 2024).

1.6 Mr Graeme Ward commissioned staff from the Surrey County Archaeological Unit to undertake the work.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 The groundworks' excavations comprised a ground level reduction, approximately 85m², and reached a maximum depth of 0.40m below existing ground level.

The work was undertaken using a 1.9-tonne tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.00m wide excavation bucket.

2.2 The area reduction, aside from a small area where a possible subsoil and geological horizon was revealed, encountered only modern or 19th century deposits.

2.3 The WSI associated with this project gives full details of the excavation and recording methods employed by the archaeological contractor during the course of the work (Pattison 2024).

2.4 The excavation work was monitored by the on-site archaeologist, whilst identified geological and archaeological deposits were recorded using pro-forma trench and context sheets, augmented where necessary by plans and/or sections. These were drawn at scales of 1:00 and 1:20.

2.5 Digital photographs were taken of the excavations at various stages, a sample of which have been reproduced in Appendix 1 of this document.

3 GEOLOGY

3.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain, Interactive Map, was consulted for the Geological background to the site.

3.2 The bedrock geology for this area is the Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation. This comprises interbedded sedimentary sand and siltstone, formed between 139.4 and 133.9 million years ago during the Cretaceous period.

Immediately to the north is a recorded geological boundary, beyond which the bedrock geology comprises the Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation. This comprises - interbedded sedimentary sand, silt and mudstone, which were also formed during the Cretaceous period.

3.3 No overlying superficial geology is recorded for the site.

4 RESULTS

Introduction

4.1 The excavation area measured approximately 7.00m north to south by 11.50m east to west and was sited to the north of an unnamed gravel road, which provides access to a number of properties which front the southern side of the same accessway. Both the eastern and western site boundaries were demarked by extant garages, whilst the northern boundary was defined by a garden wall.



Pre-excavation shot of site. View to the northeast

Stratigraphic sequence

4.2 The stratigraphic sequence for the deposits encountered is set out below.

Context 103 was the earliest deposit revealed and comprised a light orange-yellow silty mudstone and fine-grained sandstone, revealed within the northwest and southeast areas of the Site. The surface of this deposit essentially coincided with the required excavation depth, whilst the revealed extent measured approximately 2.50m north to south by 3.00m east to west within the Site's northwest corner, and 2.00m north to south by 6.00m east to west within the Site's southeast corner. This deposit represents the bedrock geology of the Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation.

Context 102 overlay 103 and comprised a mid yellowish-brown silty clay, which, as previously, was only revealed within the northwest and southeast areas of the Site. The deposit had a maximum thickness of around 0.32m whilst the revealed extent was essentially the same as that of underlying deposit 102 (see above). This deposit is thought to represent an in-situ remnant of the subsoil horizon.

Cut 104 was defined to the northwest and southeast by the revealed geological horizon, whilst the remaining extents were seen to continue beyond the limit of excavation. It comprised an irregular edged, incomplete cut, with a revealed extent of around 5.50m north to south by 8.50m east to west. The cut was only partly excavated to a maximum depth of around 0.30m, which essentially removed an upper fill deposit of

mixed dark grey and mid yellow clay (context 100), to reveal a lower deposit of mid brownish-grey silty clay containing ceramic building material (CBM) and 19th century pottery (context 105).

Context 101 overlay cut 104 and was only noted within the south facing trench section. It comprised a 0.34m thick layer of mid to dark grey silty clay, with CBM and stone fragments. Although the bulk of this deposit was removed prior to archaeological monitoring, its extent is likely to have coincided with the previously undeveloped parts of the site, although given the sloping topography of the area, it is unlikely to have extended as far as the southern limit of excavation. The deposit itself is likely to represent a buried topsoil.

Context 106 was again only noted within the south facing trench section, and comprised a 0.58m thick layer of dark greyish-black silty sand. As with the previous deposit, this too was removed prior to archaeological monitoring, although its extent is likely to have coincided with the previously undeveloped parts of the site, and represents the vegetated garden soil, as was, prior to the commencement of the works.

Context number	Length	Width	Thickness /depth	Interpretation
100	8.50m	5.50m	0.28m	Upper fill of 104: Mixed dark grey and mid yellow clay
101	11.00m	6.50m	0.34m	Probable buried topsoil: Mid to dark grey silty clay, with CBM and stone fragments
102	6.50m	2.20m	0.32m	In-situ subsoil horizon: Mid yellowish-brown silty clay
103	6.50m	2.20m	0.04m+	Geological horizon: Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation
104	8.50m	5.50m	0.28m	Incomplete cut: Filled by 100 and 105
105	8.50m	5.50m	0.28m	Fill of 104: Mid brownish-grey silty clay containing CBM and 19th century pottery
106	11.00m	6.50m	0.58m	Vegetated garden soil: Dark greyish-black silty sand

5 THE FINDS

5.1 A representative sample of finds was retrieved from context 105, collectively weighing 287g. The finds included ceramics, CBM, window glass and an iron button, which are all of 19th to 20th century date.

Representative sample of finds from Context 105



Finds Table LHS-24

Site Code	Context	Material	No.	Wt (g)	Date	Comment
LHS-24	105	Ceramic	6	205	19 th -20 th cent	Mixed assemblage of both glazed and unglazed pottery. Includes 3 fragments of REFW refined white earthenware, 2 with blue transfer print and a partially glazed red earthenware jug handle.
LHS-24	105	CBM	1	69	19 th -20 th cent	Single fragment of roof tile in a reddish orange fabric c13mm in thickness.
LHS-24	105	Glass	1	8	19 th -20 th cent	Single fragment of clear window glass c2mm in thickness
LHS-24	105	Fe	1	5	19 th -20 th cent	Small iron button 16mm diameter with dished upper surface.

5.2 No further work is recommended on the finds other than implementing a controlled discard policy prior to archive deposition.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 No definitive features earlier than the 20th century were discovered during the course of this watching brief, whilst the possible in-situ subsoil only survived within the northwest and southeast parts of the excavation area.

6.2 The large irregular cut is clearly of 19th century date, although its apparent absence from both the tithe map of 1845 and the Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of 1875 until 1938 (figs 4-7), suggests its existence was relatively short lived, possibly excavated and infilled between cartographic surveys.

6.3 These observations are of minor interest, and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required in connection with the development.

6.4 The statements and recommendations in paragraphs 6.1 to 6.3 are the considered views of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, based on the evidence presented in the earlier part of this report. It must be emphasised, however, that whether further archaeological work is required, what form it should take and when it might be scheduled are decisions to be made by Mid Sussex District Council (usually acting under the advice of Historic Environment Consultant Places Services, Essex County Council, archaeological advisors to Mid Sussex District Council) and any further action in response to this report should await their opinion.

7 References

Pattison, G, 2024, Garage Development on land opposite Mulberry Cottage and Sundial Cottage, Old Place, High Street, Lindfield, Haywards Heath West Sussex. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. *Unpublished client report*.

Payne, J, 2023, Proposed New Garage at Old Place, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex, An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. *Unpublished client report*.

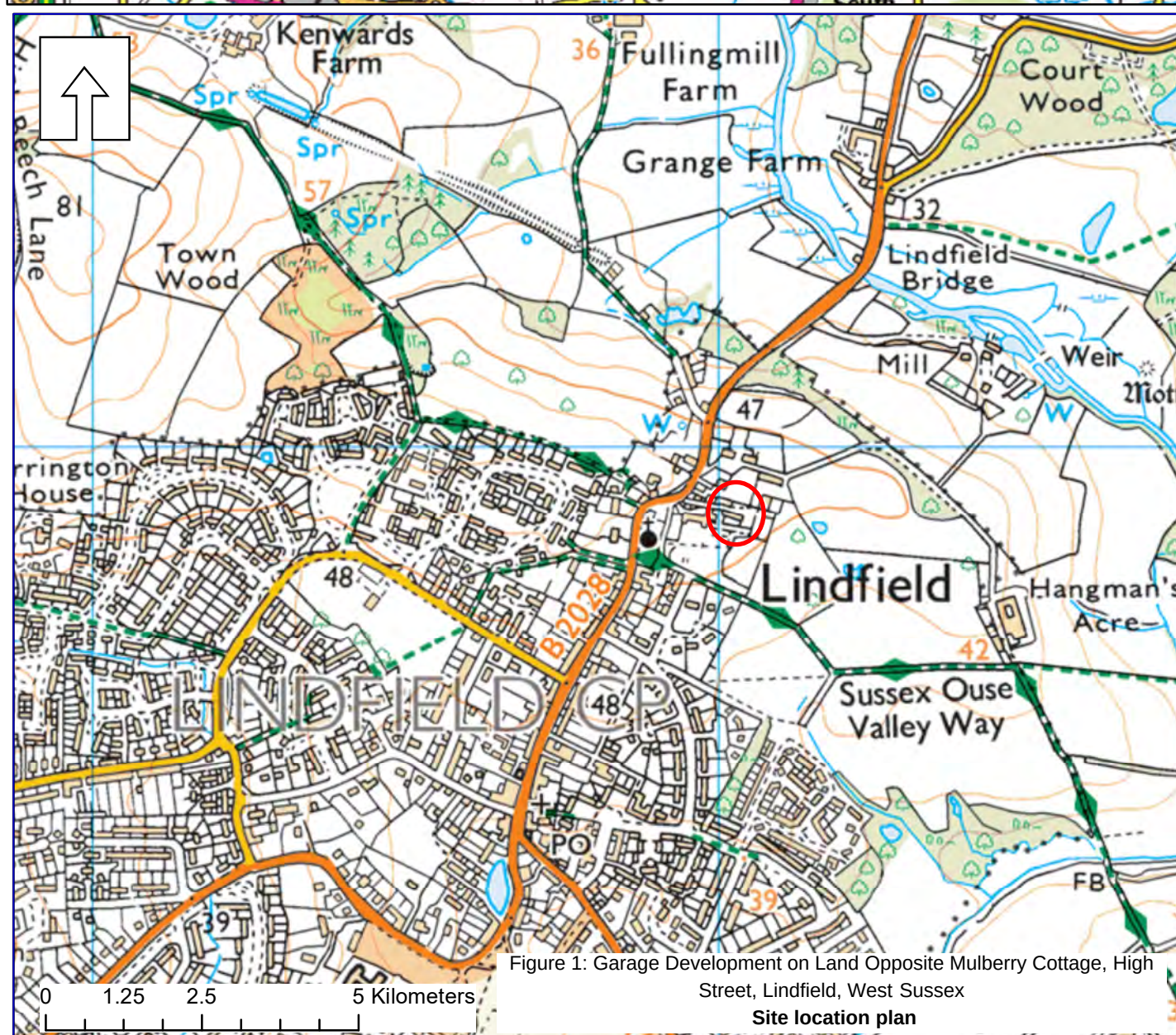
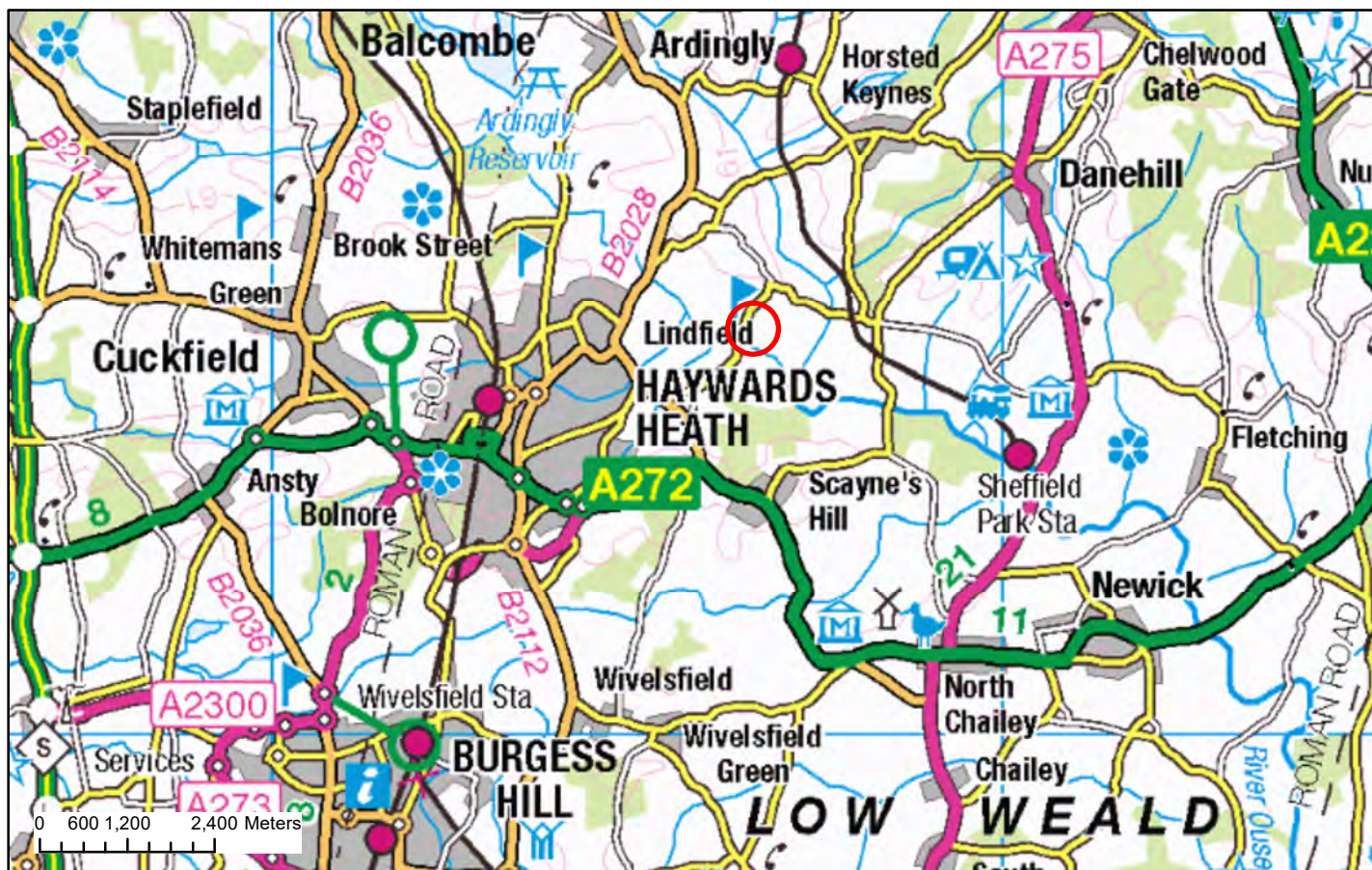


Figure 1: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex
 Site location plan



© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS 100019613. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions (see below). Except A-Z Street Atlas © Copyright of the Publishers Geographers' A-Z Map Company Ltd. rights OS 100019613. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions, SCC

Figure 2: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex. Existing site plan

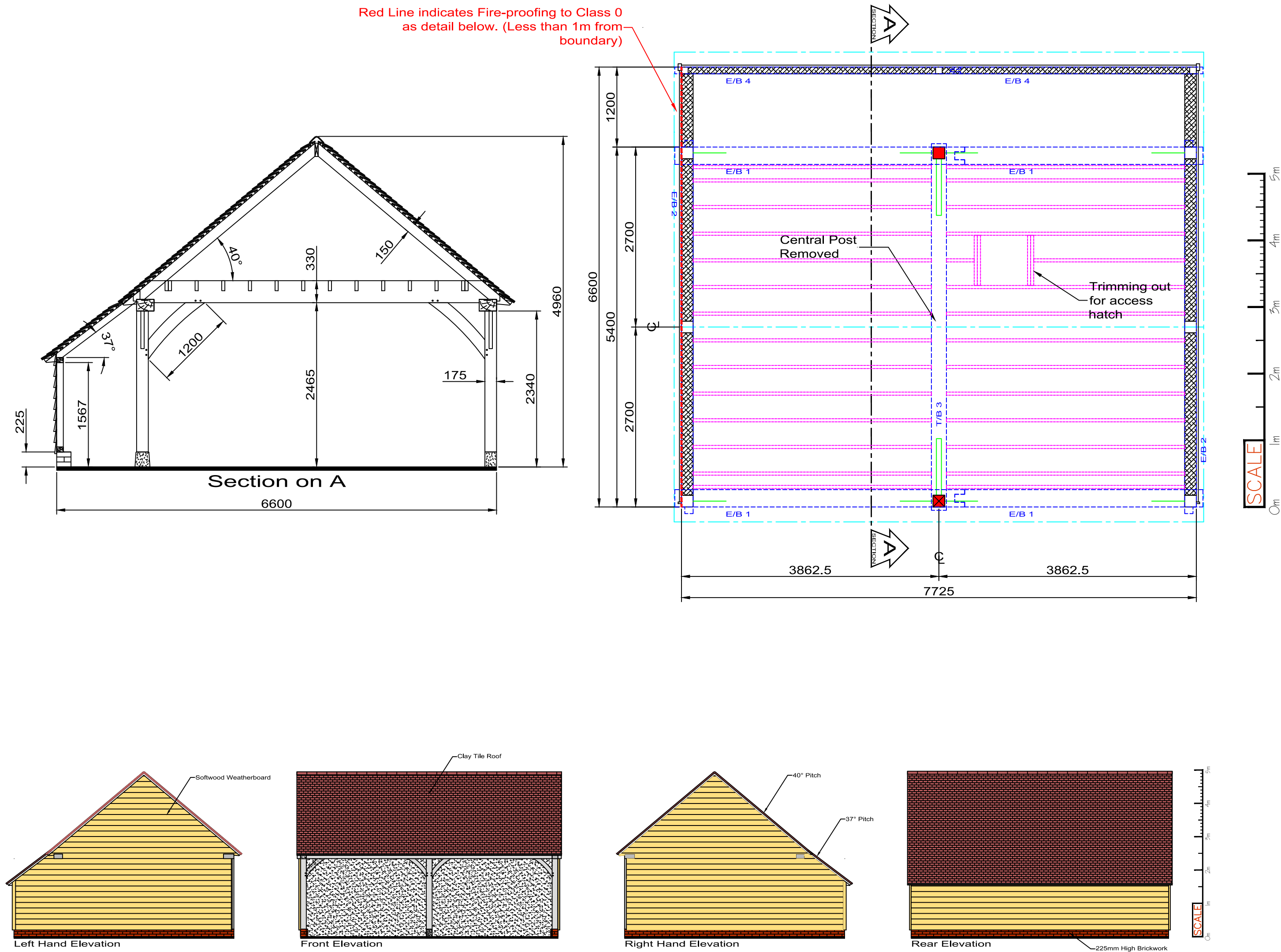


Figure 3: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex.
Plan and elevations of proposed new building.

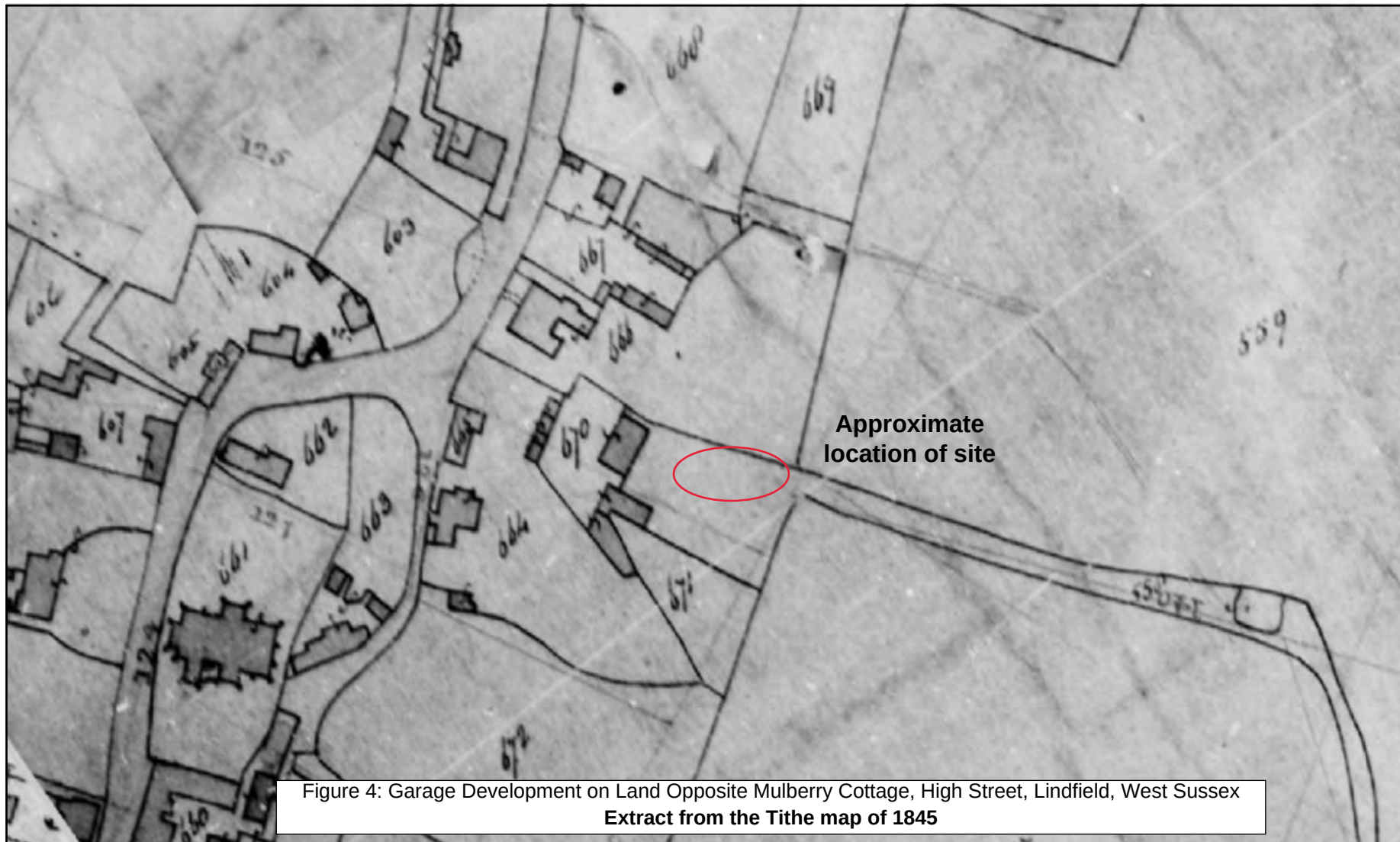


Figure 4: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex
Extract from the Tithe map of 1845

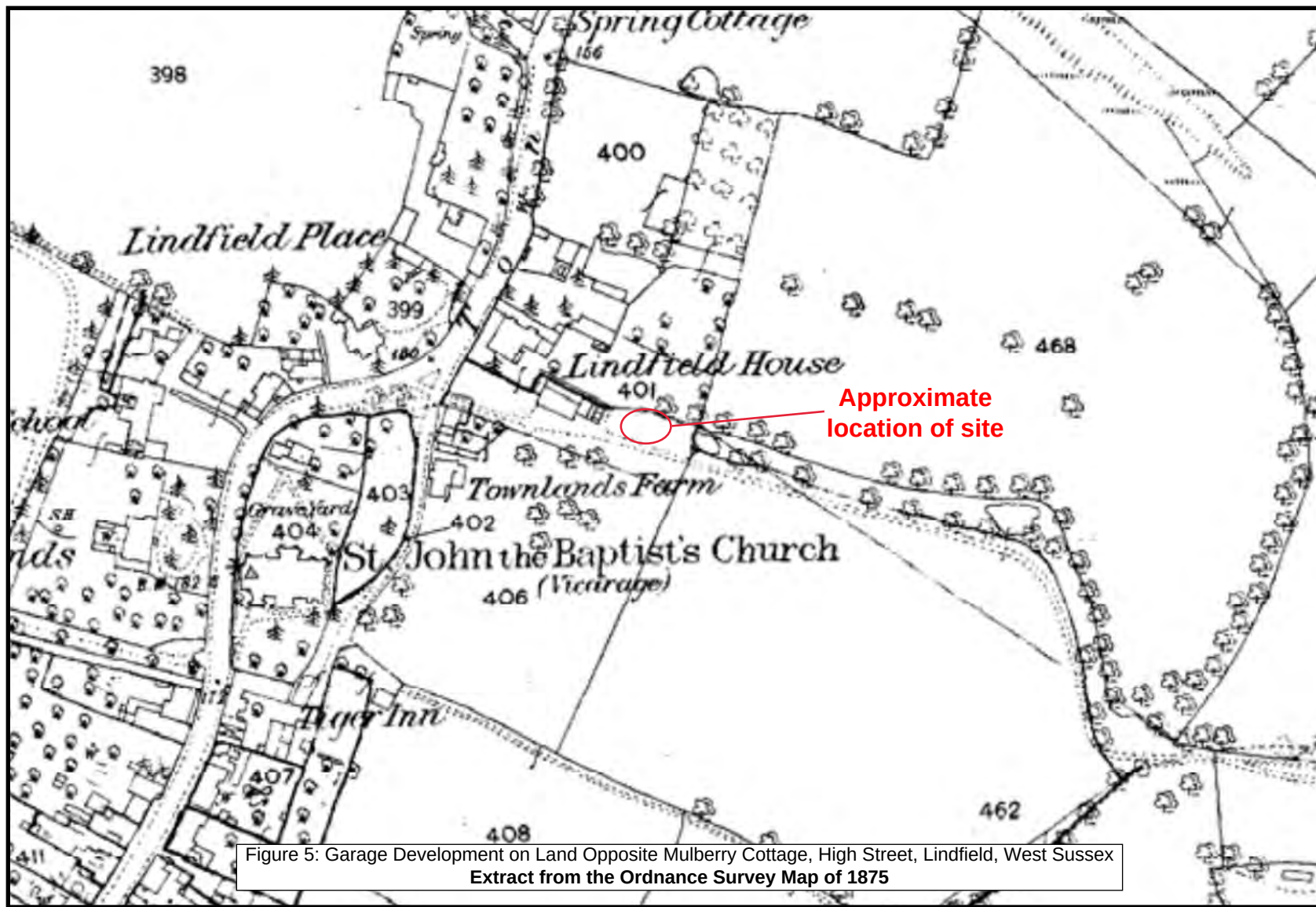


Figure 5: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex
Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1875

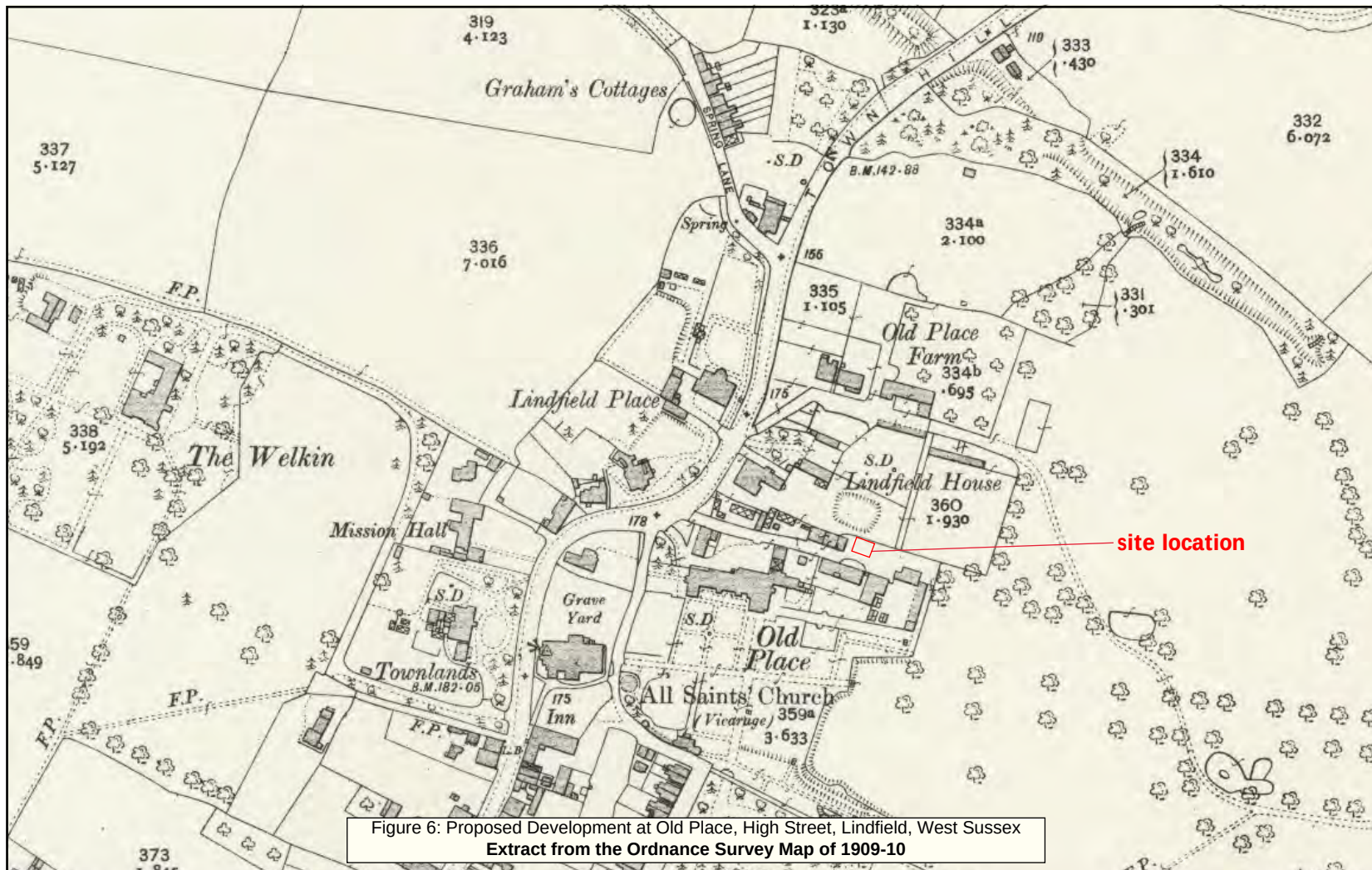


Figure 6: Proposed Development at Old Place, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex
Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1909-10

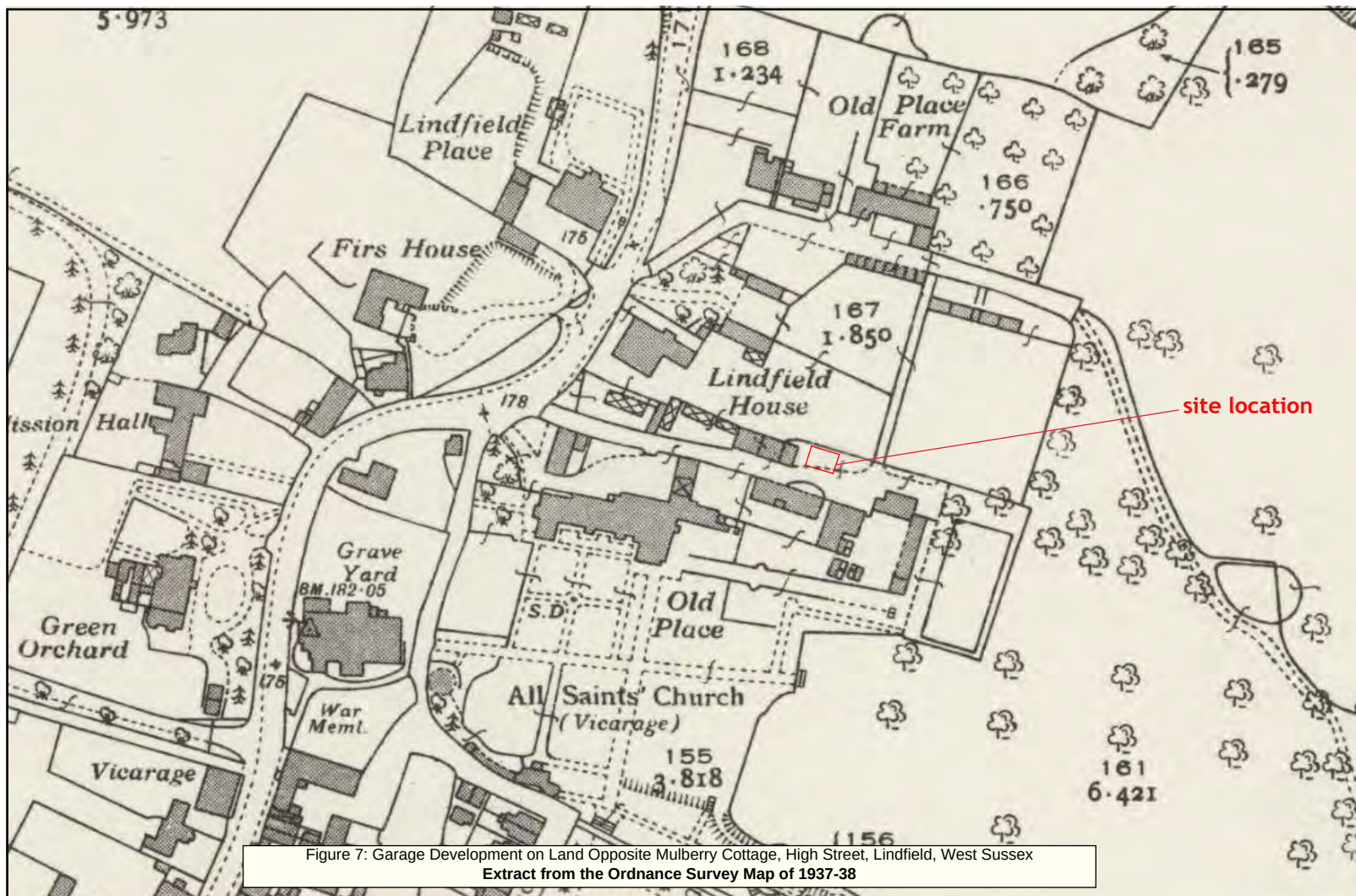


Figure 7: Garage Development on Land Opposite Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex
Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1937-38

Appendix 1: Photo Compendium



View to the northwest of site after initial clearance



View to the west of site after initial clearance



**Southern edge of Cut 104 (highlighted in white), within southeast corner of excavation
(machine buckets are resting upon the geological horizon)**

Appendix 1: Photo Compendium

**Northwest edge of Cut 104
(highlighted in white), within
northwest corner of
excavation**



**Revealed stratigraphic sequence within
northeast corner of site, showing fills of
cut 104, overlain by topsoil sequences
(view to the north)**

**Revealed stratigraphic sequence within northwest corner of site,
showing geology, subsoil and topsoil sequences, with Cut 104 in
Right of frame (view to the north)**

Appendix 1: Photo Compendium



View to the southwest of site excavated down to formation level



View to the northwest of site excavated down to formation level



View to the southeast of site excavated down to formation level (spoil stored on previously monitored area)

SURREY COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT



The Surrey County Archaeological Unit is a long-established provider of high quality, competitively priced archaeological services to both commercial and public sector clients.

We offer specialist services covering all elements of archaeology, from assessment through to fieldwork and post-excavation work and final publication. This provides seamless integration of an archaeological programme into your development project enabling you to satisfy all requirements of the planning process.

We can also raise the profile and public appreciation of archaeological projects through a wide range of educational and outreach services and the production of high quality heritage promotional material and publications.

Desk-based assessment

Archaeological fieldwork

Expert artefact analysis

Heritage Statements

Heritage promotion and publication

Archaeological project management

Community archaeology and education

Specialist photographic services

Tel: 01483 518779

Fax: 01483 518780

Email: archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk

Surrey County Archaeological Unit

Surrey History Centre

130 Goldsworth Road

Surrey GU21 6ND



SURREY HERITAGE
discovering preserving celebrating