

# Lewes

## Historic Character Assessment Report

March 2005



Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)

*Roland B Harris*



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in association with Lewes District Council



The Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Sussex EUS) is a study of 41 towns undertaken between 2004 and 2008 by an independent consultant (Dr Roland B Harris, BA DPhil MIFA) for East Sussex County Council (ESCC), West Sussex County Council (WSCC), and Brighton and Hove City Council; and was funded by English Heritage.

Guidance and web-sites derived from the historic town studies will be, or have been, developed by the local authorities.

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*Cover photo: The inner gateway, Lewes castle.*

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the project

This report is an archaeological, historical, and historic urban character assessment of Lewes. It is part of the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (henceforth Sussex EUS) that examines 41 towns across the ancient county.<sup>1</sup>

The Sussex EUS forms part of a national programme of such surveys initiated by English Heritage in 1992. The national programme is already well underway, with roughly half the English counties having been completed or currently undergoing study.

As the surveys have progressed, the approach has developed. In line with recent surveys, the Sussex EUS includes more modern towns, the main significance of which stems from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Another recent innovation is the introduction of the characterization concept, comparable with the map-based techniques adopted by historic landscape characterization. This approach was developed in Lancashire (2000-4), and is further refined in Sussex.

The Sussex EUS has been funded by English Heritage, and supported in kind by the commissioning authorities: East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton and Hove City Council. A wide range of stakeholders (including district and borough councils, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) has supported the project.

In West Sussex the Sussex EUS forms part of the *Character of West Sussex Partnership Programme*,<sup>2</sup> aiming to provide guidance and advice on the protection and enhancement of all aspects of character in the county. Other historic environment projects come under this umbrella:

- Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of Sussex
- Intensive Urban Survey of Chichester and Fishbourne
- Local Distinctiveness Study of West Sussex.

### 1.2 Aims and objectives

#### 1.2.1 Aims

The aim of the Sussex EUS is to deliver a unique and flexible tool to aid the understanding, exploration and management of the historic qualities of 41 of the most significant towns in Sussex with a view to:

- archaeological and historic environment research and management.
- informing strategic and local policy.
- underpinning urban historic land and buildings management and interpretation.
- encouraging the integration of urban historic characterization into the wider process of protecting and enhancing urban character.

#### 1.2.2 Objectives

Key objectives of the project include the:

- synthesis of previous archaeological and historical work.
- creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) that maps and allows the analysis of archaeological events, monuments and urban plan components using information obtained from a variety of sources.
- analysis of the origins and development of each town by establishing and examining its principal plan components and existing standing structures.
- identification of county-wide Historic Character Types and attribution of the types to different areas within each town.
- preparation of a Statement of Historic Urban Character for each town, to include assessment of archaeological potential and Historic Environment Value.
- identification of gaps in the understanding of the past occupation and historical development of character of each town through the development of a Research Framework.
- advice to local authorities on the development of guidance derived from the town studies.

### 1.3 Outputs

The principal outputs of the project comprise:

- Historic character assessment reports. Documents (of which this is one) that, separately for each town, summarize the setting and pre-urban activity; synthesize current archaeological and historical research; describe the development from origins to the present day; assess the surviving historic character and historic environment value; and set out a framework for future research on the historic environment of the towns.
- Geographical Information System (GIS) for the historic environment of each town. The GIS underpins the analysis and mapping of the town

reports, and is available to local authorities as a unique tool to support their decision making. The EUS-generated GIS data includes historic buildings and archaeological data, and mapping of areas for which Historic Character Type, historic land use, and Historic Urban Character Areas have been defined. The GIS data will be maintained and updated by the West Sussex County Council *Sites & Monuments Record* (SMR) and the East Sussex County Council *Historic Environment Record* (HER).

- Informing historic environment management guidance specific to each local planning authority, for the 41 EUS towns and Winchelsea, produced under the new Local Development Frameworks, and subject to formal consultation procedures.
- Background papers for the Sussex EUS project. Documents that include the project design, a summary of the methodology and an overall bibliography.

## 1.4 The structure of this report

### 1.4.1 The Setting

This introductory section describes the topography, geology, communications, and pre-urban archaeology of the town.

### 1.4.2 History

The history of Lewes in this report can be a brief summary only. It aims to synthesize published research, and to provide a chronological overview of the development of the town as seen from documentary sources. The focus is placed on those matters – such as origins, economy, trade and institutions – that are most closely related to the urban historic environment today. Aspects of the town’s history – such as the ecclesiastical, jurisdictional and more recent social history – have been published elsewhere, most notably in the *Victoria County History* and in the works of Colin Brent.<sup>3</sup>

### 1.4.3 Archaeology

The archaeology section of this report draws on published and unpublished reports of excavations, archaeological assessments, and records of finds. This section also includes analysis of historic buildings and the topography, the latter drawing on maps of the town from 1620 onwards. Again, this section follows a chronological structure, and focuses on aspects of the material evidence of the town’s past that relate most closely to the historic environment today.

### 1.4.4 Statement of Historic Urban Character

Whereas sections on history and archaeology (above) explore the development of Lewes over time, this part of the report considers and defines the physical evidence of the past in today’s townscape. It does this by means of a character-based approach, operating at three different scales: areas of common Historic Character Type; larger and topographically familiar Historic Urban Character Areas; and the whole town. Assessment is made of the Historic Environment Value of each of the Historic Urban Character Areas, taking account of the archaeological potential.

## 1.5 Principal sources

The town of Lewes has stimulated considerable archaeological and historical interest. The principal sources drawn on during the writing of this report are listed below. Many other sources have been used too, and full references have been given by use of endnotes.

### 1.5.1 History

Lewes has been the subject of many local histories. That undertaken by **Sharp, Midgley** and **Godfrey**, under the editorship of **Louis Salzman**, for the *Victoria County History* (published in 1940), is perhaps most noteworthy for it represents a major advance in the scholarly use of primary documentary research in the study of the whole town.<sup>4</sup> More recent historical research has focused on discrete institutions, events, or periods: the works of **Colin Brent** are particularly valuable.<sup>5</sup>

### 1.5.2 Archaeology

Lewes is fortunate in having had numerous excavations within the historic town since the 1960s, of which many have been published. In chronological order they comprise:

**Naval Prison** – 1962-5<sup>6</sup>

**Green Wall** – 1967<sup>7</sup>

**Lewes Priory** – 1969-82<sup>8</sup>

**Edward Street** – 1971<sup>9</sup>

**Brook Street** – 1974<sup>10</sup>

**Lancaster Street** – 1974<sup>11</sup>

**North Street** – 1975<sup>12</sup>

**Friars Walk** – 1976<sup>13</sup>

**Brooman’s Lane (Clothkits)** – 1978<sup>14</sup>

**Brooman's Lane (garden)** – 1979<sup>15</sup>

**Lewes Castle** – 1985-8<sup>16</sup>

**Lewes Friary** – 1985-6 and 1988-9<sup>17</sup>

**Cliffe** – 1987-8<sup>18</sup>

**Friars Walk (Clothkits)** – 1989<sup>19</sup>

**St Nicholas's Hospital** – 1994<sup>20</sup>

**Lewes Library** (Friars Walk) – 2004<sup>21</sup>

**St John Street** – 2005.<sup>22</sup>

Several minor archaeological assessments have also taken place and comprise those at **Barbican House**,<sup>23</sup> **Brack Mount**,<sup>24</sup> **Castle Ditch Lane**,<sup>25</sup> **Castle Lodge** (Castle Precincts),<sup>26</sup> **Church Lane** (Westout),<sup>27</sup> **East Gate**,<sup>28</sup> **Keere Street**,<sup>29</sup> **East Street**,<sup>30</sup> **Lewes Castle** (floodlighting trench),<sup>31</sup> **Lewes Castle**,<sup>32</sup> **Lewes House** (High Street),<sup>33</sup> **Old Railway Station** (Friars Walk),<sup>34</sup> **Pipe Passage**,<sup>35</sup> **St Anne's church** (High Street),<sup>36</sup> **Lewes Library** (Friars Walk/Broomans Lane),<sup>37</sup> and **Wellington Street**.<sup>38</sup>

The **East Sussex Historic Environment Record** (HER) database has been invaluable for identifying such unpublished sites, and for providing the pre-urban archaeological context.

No single archaeologist has dominated the study of Lewes and – perhaps as a result – there is no scholarly archaeological assessment of the whole town. There has been considerable archaeological excavation, however, with key figures including **David Freke** (several research-focused excavations in the 1970s), **Peter Drewett** (castle), **Mark Gardiner** (Grey Friars and hospital of St Nicholas), **David Rudling** (several minor excavations and a useful summary of many earlier sites) and **Richard Lewis** (priory).

### 1.5.3 Historic buildings

Lewes has 508 listed buildings, reflecting the unusual number of surviving historic buildings. There has been no systematic study of these buildings (for example, to identify timber-framed buildings hidden by Georgian and later re-fronting), although **Walter Godfrey** published many analyses of buildings between 1927 and 1960. English Heritage's statutory list of historic buildings is also of use, though many of the descriptions date from the 1950s and were necessarily produced without internal inspection. Very limited fieldwork only was possible during this assessment and focused on correcting dating derived from such sources, identifying hitherto ignored buildings of historic interest, and

re-evaluating the dating and function of key buildings and monuments.

### 1.5.4 Geology and topography

The contextual discussion of the solid and drift geology has principally derived from 1:50,000 British Geological Survey digital data. Ordnance Survey Historic 25" maps for Epochs 1-4 (1873 onwards) have proved invaluable, especially as these have been used in digital form, allowing overlaying with each other and with other data. Numerous large-scale maps capture the pre-railway town, the earliest being George Randoll's map of 1620, with other key maps including those by William Figg (1775, 1799 and c.1800), James Edwards (1799), and J. Marchant (1824). These maps have been digitized and rectified to fit the National Grid to allow comparison with other maps and data. Vertical air photo coverage of 2000 provides a useful snapshot in time. All analysis and maps utilize the most recent large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping (digital MasterMap data).

## 1.6 Area covered by the report

The Sussex EUS assessment of Lewes covers the historic core of the town. This includes the ancient borough, the historic suburbs of Cliffe and Southover, and such other development as had occurred by c.1800 (e.g. the barracks on the west of the town). The wider and more recent suburbs are covered by the parallel project of the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for Sussex.

Lewes is one of five towns in Lewes District that have assessments such as this. The others are Ditchling, Newhaven, Peacehaven and Seaford.

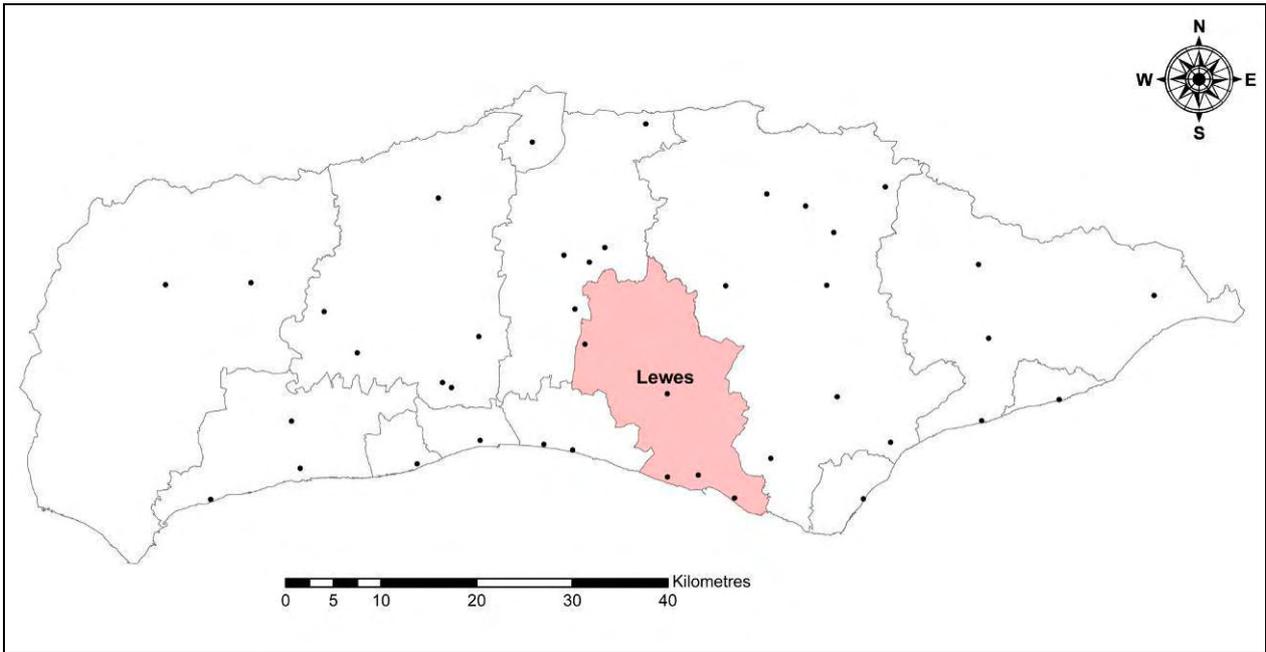


Fig. 1. Location of Lewes within Sussex. Lewes District is highlighted and points locate the 41 Sussex EUS towns.

## 2 THE SETTING



Fig. 2. View from Lewes castle looking westwards across The Wallands to the South Downs.

### 2.1 Topography (Map 2)

Lewes is located on the River Ouse at the point where it flows southwards through a gap in the South Downs. The river reaches the sea at Newhaven, 9km distant. The historic borough is located on a spur of the downs that projects into the west side of the river valley (favouring a crossing here), rising from c.4m OSBM near Lewes Bridge to c.62m OSBM by the prison. The suburb of Cliffe is located largely within the river valley, on the east side of the channel of the Ouse. To the south of the borough, Southover is another historic suburb, rising from c.8m OSBM near the Priory School to c.18m OSBM at the western end of Southover High Street.

The principal street of the town is the east-west High Street (known west of the West Gate as St Anne's Hill, and east of the war memorial as School Hill), which continues in the suburb of Cliffe as Cliffe High Street. This remains the focus for shopping.

Suburbs have extended the borough to the north-west, on the slope of the Downs. Likewise, Cliffe has expanded northwards both in the floodplain (a commercial area) and on eastern

slope of the valley, merging into South Malling. The town is at the centre of Lewes Civil Parish.

### 2.2 Geology (Map 2)

#### 2.2.1 Solid geology

Along with the whole of Sussex, the rocks in the vicinity of Lewes are sedimentary. The town lies on the South Downs, so that the entire area is underlain by the relatively pure White Chalk limestones of, from youngest to oldest, the Newhaven, Seaford, Lewes Nodular, New Pit, and Holywell Chalk Formations, and the older (Cenomanian) Grey Chalks of the Zig Zag Chalk Formation and West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. The uplifting and gentle folding of the chalk began 70-75 million years ago and continued beyond the end of the Cretaceous period (65 million years ago) until as recently as 1.8 million years ago.

#### 2.2.2 Drift Geology

The drift geology of the Lewes area shows that the scoured and embanked drainage channel that is the River Ouse today is surrounded by reclaimed marshland. Alluvium (flanked by river terrace deposits) marks the location of the former marshy estuary of the Ouse. As with the Adur and Arun rivers, the estuary widened to a tidal compartment north of the Downs, in this case 3.5km across. Given the staggered nature of the scarp of the Downs around Lewes, this area of brookland lies immediately south of the town and Mount Caburn. An arm of alluvium (marked by the course of a stream – the Winterbourne) separates Southover and the ancient borough, while Cliffe is almost entirely built on the alluvium itself.

The distinctive dry valleys of the Downs (overlain by the north-western suburbs of the modern town) are largely a product of periglacial erosion.<sup>39</sup>

### 2.3 Communications

#### 2.3.1 Water

The River Ouse is tidal till 5km north of Lewes, at Barcombe. The present channel differs from the natural state of the former estuary with its multiple channels. Reclamation of the valuable alluvial soils of the river valley, the associated management of freshwater drainage in the Weald, and the prevention of tidal ingress (through creation of sea walls) increased silting so that the Ouse had ceased to function as a significant communications route for Lewes by

1400, the establishment of Seaford as an outpost in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century reflecting earlier difficulty with navigation (see section 3.3.1). From c.1539, Newhaven replaced silted up Seaford as the Lewes's outpost at the mouth of the Ouse. The river between Lewes and Newhaven was canalized rapidly after the formation of the Lower Ouse Navigation Company in 1791, and from Lewes to Upper Ryelands Bridge (2.5km south-east of Balcombe) in 1790-1812, by the Upper Ouse Navigation Company.<sup>40</sup> The most significant modifications to the river that this made in the Lewes area were the removal of slight meanders immediately north and south of Lewes Bridge.

### 2.3.2 Road

Since 1979 Lewes has been bypassed by the A26 (via the Cullfail Tunnel to the east of Cliffe) and by the A27(T), to the south of the town. Previously these routes to London, Brighton and Eastbourne passed through the town. The construction of the bypass and tunnel also involved creation of two new bridges across the River Ouse: one 1km south of the town, but the other within the town. This lies 150m north of Lewes Bridge, and carries a new road (Phoenix Causeway) into the town centre, forming an integral part of a one-way system that manages remaining traffic in the Market Street/North Street, Friars Walk and School Hill area.

On the south-west of the town Brighton Road connects to the A27(T), and to the north-west the A275 leads to Chailey, thence to London, and also provides access to the east-west scarpfoot road (from Offham to Plumpton, Ditchling and beyond).

### 2.3.3 Railway

The London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR) opened lines from Brighton to Lewes and from Lewes to Bulverhithe/St Leonards in 1846. This was followed in 1847, by the line from Lewes to Newhaven (extended to Seaford in 1864), and from Lewes to the Brighton-London line at Keymer Junction (Burgess Hill). In 1858 the Uckfield line opened (linking to Tunbridge Wells in 1868), to which (at Culver Junction) the East Grinstead line connected (1882).<sup>41</sup>

## 2.4 Evidence for pre-urban activity

### 2.4.1 Prehistoric

Within the EUS study area, several excavations and evaluations have revealed prehistoric archaeology (though mostly residual finds):

- Brook Street (south) – Mesolithic flints comprising a micro-core and flakes.<sup>42</sup>
  - Lancaster Street – Mesolithic flints comprising a roughed-out axe, flakes, and a retouched blade.<sup>43</sup>
  - North Street – probable Mesolithic scraper and flake, and 52 other indeterminate prehistoric flints (including three scrapers, 13 retouched flakes and 32 waste flakes) in disturbed medieval layers.<sup>44</sup>
  - Broomans Lane (garden) – six prehistoric flints, including four retouched flakes (one possibly a scraper), probably Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.<sup>45</sup>
  - Friars Walk (Clothkits) – four flint flakes, all residual and two retouched, probably Neolithic/Bronze Age.<sup>46</sup>
  - Lewes House (High Street) – worked flint including a scraper and a retouched flake or probable Late Bronze Age date, and, most remarkably for such early material at Lewes, a small assemblage of Late Iron Age (or possibly Early Roman) pottery from a contemporary pit.<sup>47</sup>
  - St Nicholas's Hospital – seven pieces of probable prehistoric worked flint were recovered (six waste flakes and one core with a single flake removed). Six flints were residual and one was within the colluvial (hill-wash) layer. An Iron Age coin (an Atrebatian attributed to Commius, c.45-30 BC) was recovered, also from the colluvium that appears to date from the Iron Age.<sup>48</sup>
  - Castle Ditch Lane – a single prehistoric hard hammer flake, retouched.<sup>49</sup>
  - Lewes Priory – 15 sherds of Iron Age or Roman pottery were recovered in excavations of the 'infirmary chapel' and reredorter.<sup>50</sup>
- Elsewhere in, or on the edge of, the town, there have been prehistoric find spots:
- Mountfield Road – a Lower Palaeolithic (500000 BC to 150001 BC) handaxe was found in an area of floodplain alluvium [HER reference: TQ 40 NW55 – ES1656].
  - Lewes station – a Neolithic (4000 BC to 2351 BC) ground stone axe, found in 1911 when abutments were being dug for Lewes railway

station bridge [HER reference: TQ 40 NW58 – ES1657].

- Reservoir next to St Anne's church – Bronze Age (2350 BC to 701 BC) inhumation and cremation burials, possibly representing a barrow, were found during the excavation of the reservoir in 1834 [HER reference: TQ 41 SW49 – ES1623].
- Priory School (Ham Lane) – 200 fragments of La Tene (Iron Age: 800 BC to 42 AD) and Romano-British pottery were found c.1930 during preparation of foundations for the Boys' Secondary School. Also a coin and '3rd brass' of Gallienus [HER reference: TQ 40 NW53 – ES1654].

Several prehistoric finds have been made at unspecified 'Lewes' locations:

- Palaeolithic handaxe [HER reference: TQ 41 SW7 – ES1631].
- Bronze Age bronze dagger [HER reference: TQ 41 SW43 – ES1618].
- Bronze Age bronze founders hoard comprising axes and ingot pieces [HER reference: TQ 41 SW44 – ES1619].
- Bronze Age palstaves [HER reference: TQ 41 SW47 – ES1621].
- Bronze Age socketed spearhead [HER reference: TQ 41 SW9 – ES1633].

The Caburn (2km south-west of Lewes) is a major Middle Iron Age (450 BC to 40 BC) enclosure, or hillfort, although there was earlier (and indeed later) occupation of the site.<sup>51</sup>

### 2.4.2 Romano-British

Lewes is located near two major Roman roads: the north-south London-Lewes road has been traced to 1.3km north of Lewes, and the east-west 'Greensand Way' ran from Pulborough to Barcombe, joining the road to London c.4.5km north of Lewes. Minor Roman roads in the area include the Heighton Street-Glynde-Lewes road, but the Roman origin of such routes descending the Downs via terrace ways is questionable.<sup>52</sup>

Within the EUS study area, several excavations have revealed Romano-British archaeology in the form of residual finds:

- Friars Walk – four residual sherds of Roman pottery.<sup>53</sup>
- Friars Walk (Clothkits) – three Roman tiles were recovered from pits immediately north of Broomans Lane. Although residual, their

discovery within a small excavation is significant.<sup>54</sup>

- Brooman's Lane – a single residual sherd of Roman pottery was recovered in small-scale trial excavations in 1979.<sup>55</sup>

Elsewhere in, or on the edge of, the town, there have been Romano-British find spots:

- Churchyard of St John-sub-Castro – two mounds, possibly representing Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon, or earlier, barrows. That destroyed by the building of present church in 1839 contained secondary inhumations, cremated human bone, boar and other animal bones, and an urn and spearhead. The second mound was in the south-east corner of the churchyard, and was destroyed in 1779 with no record of any finds.<sup>56</sup> Several Roman coins were also found in the churchyard in the 19<sup>th</sup> century [HER reference: ES7176].

- Abinger House (Abinger Place) – mound, possibly representing Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon, or earlier, barrow. Destroyed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century without record, though apparently contained internments and pottery.<sup>57</sup>

- Elephant and Castle (Whitehill) – mound, possibly representing Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon, or earlier (e.g. Bronze Age) barrow, and possibly used as a medieval and later gallows mound. Destroyed when Elephant and Castle public house was built in 1838.<sup>58</sup>

- Brack Mount (Mount Place) – inhumation with charcoal and boar's head adjacent, discovered by workmen in 1838 on the north side of Brack Mount. Probably represents Roman or later burial in natural end to chalk spur (later built up as part of Norman castle).<sup>59</sup>

- 159 High Street – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>-century AD coins of Domitian and Antoninus Pius were found in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in a garden on south-west of castle keep (most probably 159 High Street).<sup>60</sup>

- 166 High Street – pit discovered in 1814 at base of (natural part of) castle motte, containing bones and teeth of a boar and horse, quantities of mussel and oyster shell and a Romano-British pot containing cock bones.<sup>61</sup>

- St Martin's Lane (possibly to rear of 74-5 High Street) – a Romano-British pot containing cock bones was discovered during digging of a cesspool.<sup>62</sup>

- 34-7 High Street – a 1<sup>st</sup>-century AD coin of Tiberius found with two boar tusks, prior to 1824.<sup>63</sup>

- Castle – Roman coins and the lower stone of a quern found at the base of Lewes castle motte

(before 1935), possibly in the gun garden area. The coins were of Domitian, Antoninus Pius and the Lower Empire [HER reference: TQ 41 SW70 – ES1576].

- Stone Pound Gate (possibly to be identified with the surviving stone pound in Southover High Street) – a coin of Vespasian, found before 1824 [HER reference: TQ 41 SW38 – ES1613].
- Houndean (immediately west of prison) – a 1<sup>st</sup>-century AD silver denarius (coined by T Carisius) dug up before 1890 [HER reference: TQ 41 SW54 – ES1628].
- Houndean Rise – a coin of Constantine found c.1956 [TQ 30 NE56 – ES1682].
- Warren Drive – a Roman glass unguentum (or lachrymatory) was found in the garden of Winterbourne Lodge, Brighton Road, before 1896, but may have been moved to the site with earth during construction in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century [HER reference: TQ 40 NW5 – ES1669].

Several Romano-British finds have been made at unspecified 'Lewes' locations:

- numerous Roman coins comprising examples of Marcus Antoninus, Maximinus, Gallienus, Tetricus, Constantine, Constans, and Magnentius [HER reference: TQ 41 SW46 – ES1620].

### **2.4.3 Early Anglo-Saxon**

One excavation has produced considerable evidence of Early Anglo-Saxon activity in the EUS study area:

- Saxonbury – 32 or 33 Anglo-Saxon inhumation graves excavated by builders in 1891 (and published in 1979) during the building of a house (later named Saxonbury). Weapons dominate the grave goods. Artefacts suggest the cemetery was 6 to 7<sup>th</sup> century in date.<sup>64</sup>

Elsewhere in, or on the edge of, the town, there has been only one Early Anglo-Saxon find spot:

- Crown Court (High Street) – a late 5<sup>th</sup>/early 6<sup>th</sup>-century throwing axe and a late 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>-century seax were discovered during extension of the building in 1899 [HER reference: TQ 41SW – ES7001].<sup>65</sup>

### **2.4.4 Undated finds**

Remains of an undated boat and adze were found during the construction of an extension to Southover County Grammar School for Girls (in the 1950s), c.27m south of the Winterbourne [HER reference: TQ 40 NW52 – ES1653].

### **2.4.5 Implications of pre-urban archaeology**

The implications of these pre-urban finds are clear: evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation in the vicinity of the EUS study area has been found and should be anticipated in any archaeological excavations in or near the town. The discovery in 2000 of an assemblage of Late Iron Age (or possibly Early Roman) pottery from a contemporary pit at Lewes House (High Street) is especially important since it shows the potential (here within a small evaluation only) for locating prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological features (as opposed to the predominant residual finds, and unstratified find spots) within the town centre. Moreover, although Early Anglo-Saxon pottery has been scarce, such finds are habitually so and, thus, there remains a possibility of locating a pre-burh and pre-minster settlement at Lewes. Burials attributable to this period at Southover (Saxonbury site – see above) certainly attest to 6<sup>th</sup>-century activity in the area.