

Report on an Archaeological Investigation of Lenton Priory, Lenton, Nottingham



East facing photograph of Trenches 2 through to 10 on Priory Street

Evaluative scheme, Watching Brief and mitigation strategy on Priory Street and Old Church Street, Lenton (LPX)

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Evaluative scheme, Watching Brief and mitigation strategy on Priory Street and Old Church Street, Lenton (LPX)

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1. Project Information

Site name:	Old Church Street LPG (LPX) – NET2 Work Package B6 Area 2.
YAT nominal code:	4247-181 (LPX)
NGR:	455151, 338755
Client:	Vinci Construction UK / Taylor Woodrow Alstom JV
WSI:	NET2, Lenton LPG. Old Church Street, Written Scheme for an Archaeological Evaluation. Trent & Peak Archaeology Report 04/2013.
Proposed Development:	Cable rerouting in advance of Extension lines to Nottingham Express Transit tram.
Geology/Soils:	Superficial alluvium and river terrace deposits above Lenton Sandstone Formation sandstone bedrock.

2. Summary

Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by VINCI Construction UK to undertake a programme of archaeological recording along the route of a proposed 33-kilovolt electricity cable, being extended as part of the NET2 tram works in Lenton. The proposed cable route passes through the eastern extent of the Scheduled Monument of Lenton Medieval Priory, Old Church Street, before turning west and bisecting the southern part of the Priory complex.

Fieldwork was carried out between the 18th of February and the 22nd of April 2013, and was split into two distinct phases. The first phase involved excavation and recording of the archaeological remains, reducing the ground level along the planned route of the cable down to the depth required to lay the cables. This phase of work was carried out solely by archaeologists working for Trent & Peak Archaeology, prior to the commencement of the construction works. As baulks separating these zones of investigation had to be left in where modern services were known to be present below ground, this in fact meant the opening of twelve separate trenches during this phase of the work (located on Fig. 3.1). A trench within the eastern, scheduled part of the Priory was conducted first, located on the footpath linking Old Church Street to Priory Street (Trench 1). English Heritage granted partial Scheduled Monument consent for this evaluation to occur, with the aim of ascertaining if a route for the proposed cable could be found. This evaluation strictly adhered to a WSI agreed with Dr Ben Robinson, Inspector of Ancient Monuments (East Midlands).

From here, the planned route of the cable crossed onto the south side of Priory Street and proceeded west underneath the pavement toward Abbey Street. Trenches 2 to 10 were, therefore, located along this line, from the corner of Nazareth Road to roughly 15m from the junction of Priory Street and Abbey Street. Another trench, Trench 11, investigated the area immediately north of the scheduled area on Old Church Street, and a final trench, Trench 12, investigated the area where the cable route crossed Priory Street itself.

Where sensitive archaeological features, such as human remains, were encountered, a strategy to allow *in situ* preservation was discussed, agreed upon, and then carried out. This phase of work demonstrated that in some places intact archaeological remains relating to the Priory survived as little as 0.46m below modern ground level. In one short stretch of cable trench, at the east end of Priory Street and outside of the scheduled area, the level of the surviving priory walls were reduced slightly to achieve the depth required to lay the cables. More of these walls still survive *in situ* below the impact depth of the cable trench, and the upper courses were fully recorded before their removal.

The second phase of work involved archaeological observation during the main excavation of the trench and the laying of the cables, allowing the previously uninvestigated gaps between the earlier trenches to be recorded. Along parts of Priory Street, this also involved adding to previously drawn plans where the trench had to be widened slightly in order to lay the ducts.

During these two phases of work substantial portions of Lenton Medieval Priory's floor plan, which had hitherto only been conjectural, were observed and recorded for the first time. These included the entire width of the cloister (now proven to be located on the south side of the coventual church), a good part of the south transept, probable parts of the apsidal east end of the church, as well as elements of a subsidiary chapel or chapels located on the south side of this apse.

The archaeological works were supervised by Mr. Paul Flintoft, Mr. Thomas Linington and Dr. Matthew Hobson, and the project was managed by Dr. Gareth Davies.

3. Introduction

Trent & Peak Archaeology, part of the York Archaeological Trust, were contracted by VINCI Construction UK Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation ahead of the creation of a new Nottingham Express Transit tram-line running from the Railway Station through Lenton to Toton (NET2 Line B).

As part of the ongoing groundworks, Vinci required a re-routing of the main 33 kilovolt electrical supply cable for the Queen's Medical Centre, away from the proposed track base. The proposed new cable route is located entirely on existing public highways which have seen a number of previous groundworks for modern services, but also passes through the area of Lenton Medieval Priory, a Scheduled Monument, SM 1019675 (Fig. 3.1).

Lenton Priory, founded AD 1106-1107 and dissolved in 1538, was one of the largest monastic houses in England. The Chapel of St Anthony is now the only remaining standing building, although a small portion of a column from the east end of the main priory can be seen extant at the junction of Priory Street and Old Church Street. The priory was founded by the Cluniac order, and became one of the wealthiest houses of an order particularly noted for the size and magnificence of its churches. Although the precise location of many of these buildings at Lenton Priory is unknown, the buried remains of some of these structures, particularly those to the north of the priory church are very likely to survive as significant sub-surface archaeological remains.

The proposed cable route passes through the eastern extent of the Scheduled Monument of Lenton Medieval Priory (Old Church Street), and this corresponds roughly with the eastern end of the main Priory building. Prior to the scheduling of this part of the priory complex, investigations in very close proximity to this area were conducted during the laying of services in the 1980s (Young 1984). The results of this work suggest that important buried archaeological remains survive only 0.5m below the modern ground surface, and include structural and architectural features that belong to the Priory church.

The current archaeological excavation and recording was carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology according to Written Scheme of Investigation approved by Gordon Young of Nottingham City Council and Dr. Ben Robinson of English Heritage (TPA Report 047/2012).

4. Archaeological Background and Previous Works

Lenton Priory, founded in AD 1106-1107 and dissolved in 1538, was one of the largest cluniac monastic houses in England. The best preserved Cluniac houses in England are Castle Acre Priory in Norfolk and Wenlock Priory in Shropshire. On the modern site of Lenton Priory the Chapel of St Anthony is now the only standing building, although a small portion of a column from the east end of the main Priory can be seen extant at the junction of Priory Street and Old Church Street. The priory was founded by the Cluniac order, and became one of the wealthiest houses of an order noted for the size and magnificence of its churches.

Despite its importance, relatively little accurate detail is known of the overall plan of a number of parts of the Lenton Priory site. As late as 1845, the *Monasticon Anglicanum Dugdale* summarised the state of knowledge pertaining to the priory rather well:

‘All vestiges of Lenton priory had long disappeared, when, a few years ago, the discovery of a brass plate of the Crucifixion (engraved in the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lxxvii. p. 281) drew attention to its site: subsequent to which a stone coffin, the bases of some pillars, and a large portion of the foundation walls, which had been uncovered by Mr. Stretton, the then owner, determined it more precisely.’

(Dugdale 1846)

In 1935-36 H. Green exposed the foundations of the apsidal east end of the choir, as well as a section of the ambulatory to the north and the north side chapel (Green 1936, 77-90). Later on, in the years 1943-51, Elliot and Berbank either undertook, or reported on, a number of small interventions and observations, which included investigation within the garden at the corner of Priory Street/Old Church Street (1943), the choir north aisle wall/north side of the chapel/arc of the foundations/piers (1945-6), a short section of the inner facing transept (1947), and the north aisle wall (1950). The building of a chapel to the east of the ‘chapter house site’, in 1951, exposed no remains of the monastic infirmary.

In the late 1970s M. Bishop demonstrated that the apsidal nave of the Conventual Church continues to the east of Old Church Street in the form of Lady Chapels, perhaps similar to those observed at St Pancras, London. One of these chapels included a burial in the wall (Bishop 1977).¹ In January 1984 the observation of a trench for being cut to lay replacement water mains at the west limit of Old Church Street, adjacent to the pavement, demonstrated that masonry of the priory survived at less than 0.50m below the present road level (Young 1984). The following month, another service trench excavated immediately to the east (34 inches from the kerb) revealed the remains of 3 human skeletons. Several skulls were also noted, immediately north of the Conventual Church. A plan of the walls revealed in January features was drawn (see Figure 6) The burials, of presumed medieval date, were observed and drawn by a planning officer and not an archaeologist and the alignments of the burials depicted on Figure 7 should be regarded as speculative. Further human remains were later

¹ Unpublished excavation report held by the Nottingham City Council SMR and soon to be digitized for their UAD/HER.

observed in a Diamond Cable trench on the opposite (east) side of Old Church Street by the police, but near to the previously identified skeletons. All the services now excavated in the Scheduled area are depicted on Figure 8.

The most informative and synthetic guide to the physical remains of the priory is that produced by Barnes (1987), based chiefly on historical sources and the excavations modern excavations just described. More recently, a stipulation for a Scheme of Works was prepared in advance of the NET-2 tram construction in Lenton by Kinsley (2009).

Ever since Stretton's work in the early 1800s, there has been general agreement that the Priory's cloister was probably located on the south side of the Conventual Church. Conjectural plans to this effect were produced by Barnes (1987: 84), Elliott and Berbank (1952: 47) and most recently by Kinglsey (2009). A recent archaeological evaluation carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology at Nazareth House, on the south side of Priory Street (McAree 2003), however, failed to find remains of the priory complex on this location due to supposed severe truncation. This cast some level of doubt over the validity of the conjectural plans of the Priory and cloister previously provided.

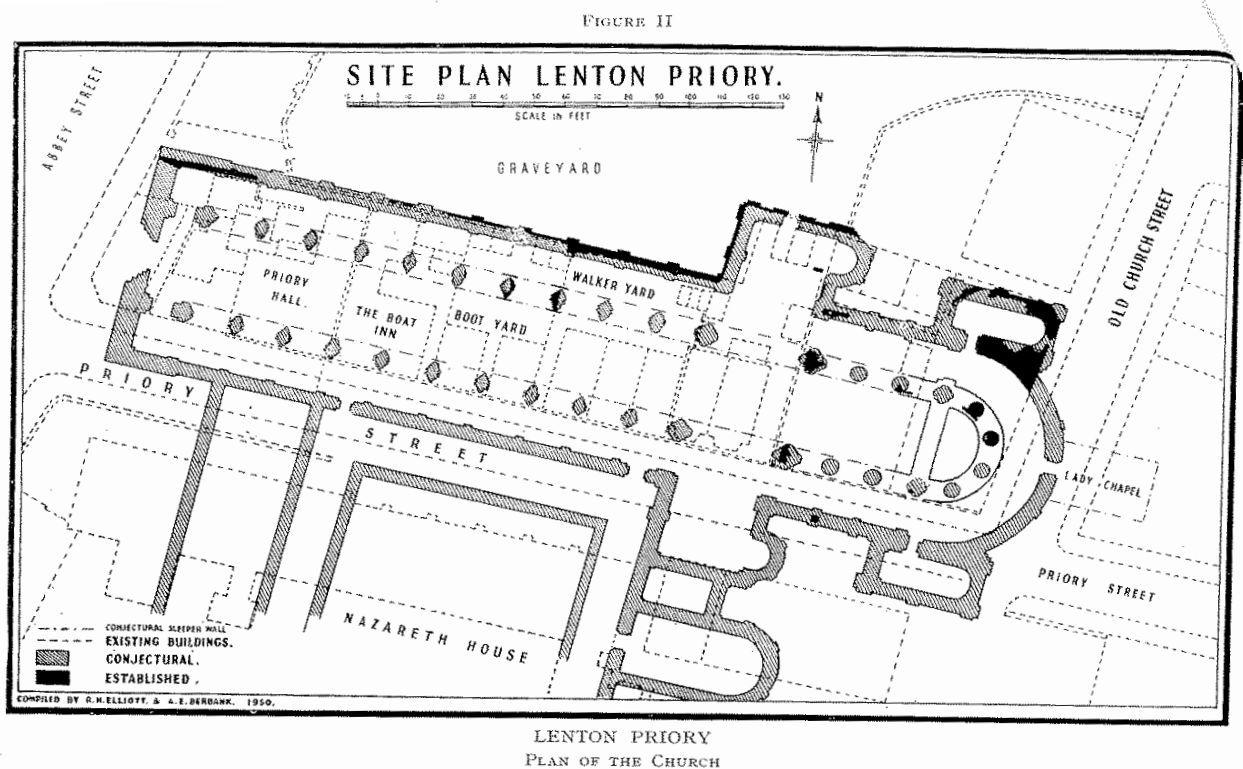


Figure 4.1. Plan of the Priory Church (after Elliot and Berbank 1952).

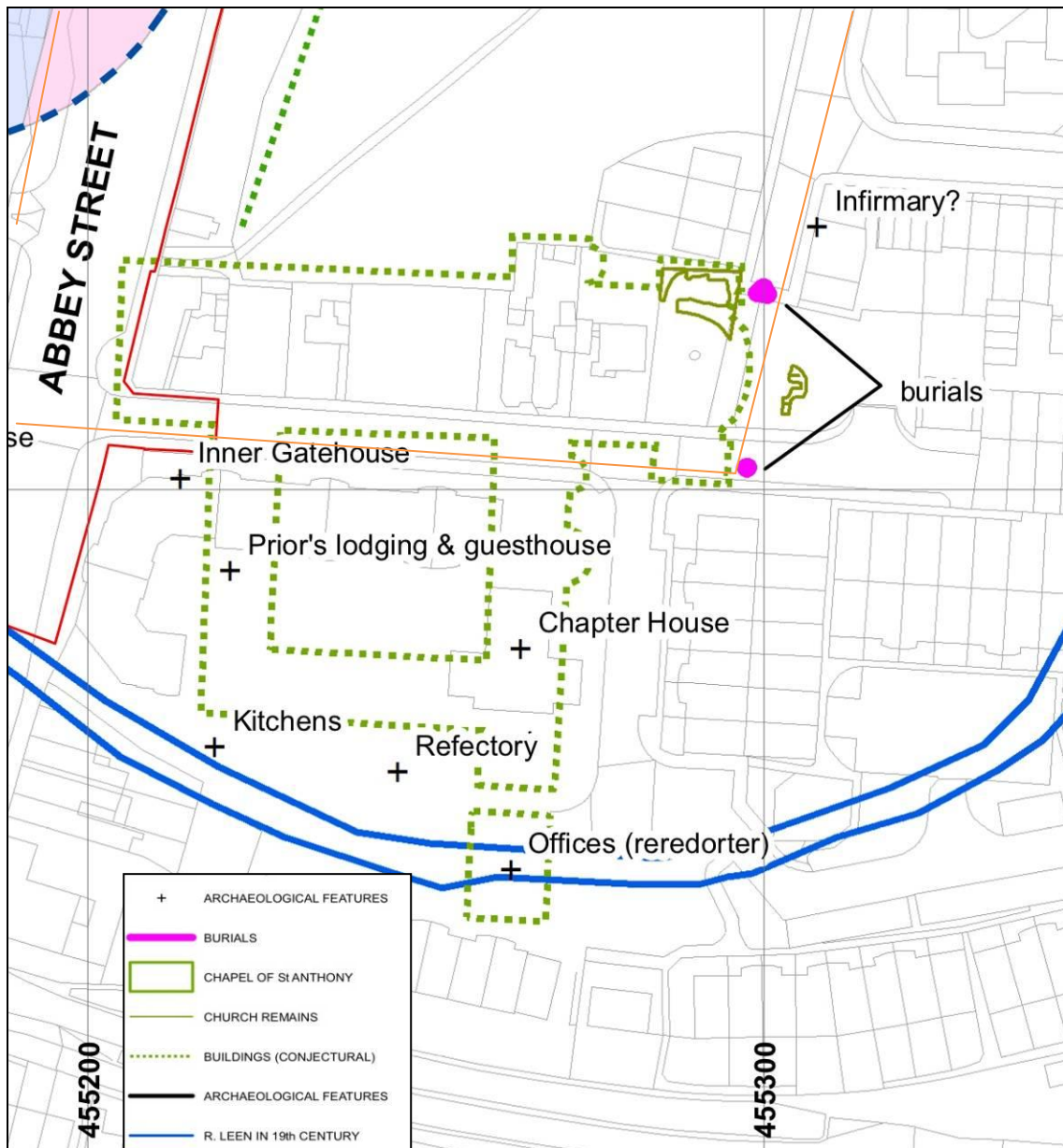


Figure 4.2 Conjectural Plan of the Priory Church, including known wall lines. North at top of page (after Kinsley 2009).

The results of the work carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology from mid-February to mid-April 2013, and reported on here, now prove these conjectural plans to be substantially correct (see Section 6 of this report).

5. Methodology

Outline

As already stated in the summary (Section 2), the fieldwork was carried out between the 18th of February and the 22nd of April 2013, and was split into two distinct phases. The first phase involved excavation and recording of the archaeological remains, reducing the ground level along the planned route of the cable to the depth required to lay the ducting and cables. This phase of work was carried out solely by archaeologists working for Trent & Peak Archaeology, prior to the commencement of the construction works. As baulks separating these zones of investigation had to be left in where modern services were known to be present below ground, this in fact meant the opening of twelve separate trenches during this phase of the work (located on Fig. 1). A trench within the eastern, scheduled part of the Priory was conducted first, located on the footpath linking Old Church Street to Priory Street (Trench 1). English Heritage granted partial Scheduled Monument consent for this evaluation to occur, with the aim of ascertaining if a route for the proposed cable could be found. This evaluation strictly adhered to a WSI agreed with Dr Ben Robinson, Inspector of Ancient Monuments (East Midlands).

From here, the planned route of the cable crossed onto the south side of Priory Street and proceeded west underneath the pavement toward Abbey Street. Trenches 2 to 10 were located along this line, from the corner of Nazareth Road to roughly 15m from the junction of Priory Street and Abbey Street. Another trench, Trench 11, investigated the area immediately north of the scheduled area on Old Church Street, and a final trench, Trench 12, investigated the area where the cable route crossed Priory Street itself. Where sensitive archaeological features, such as human remains, were encountered, a strategy to allow *in situ* preservation was discussed, agreed upon, and then carried out.

The second phase of work involved archaeological observation during the main excavation of the trench and the laying of the cables, allowing the previously uninvestigated gaps between the earlier trenches to be recorded. Along parts of Priory Street, this also involved adding to previously drawn plans where the trench had to be widened slightly in order to lay the ducts.

Objectives and standards

The objectives of the archaeological evaluation can be stated as:

1. To identify the uppermost surface of preserved archaeological deposits along the route of the proposed cable trench and to ascertain whether there might be a route for the proposed electricity cable trench at a depth of up to 0.6m, within the scheduled area, and 1.05m outside the of the scheduled area, that would not impact upon archaeological deposits.
2. To characterise the archaeological and/or palaeoenvironmental potential of these deposits. This will provide the basis for an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource and provide an accurate reference point for any future development proposals.

3. To recover small palaeoenvironmental samples or artefacts which could contribute to an understanding of the nature of the landscape and the uses to which it was put. The results of such processing and analysis were to be assessed in the light of regional research objectives including East Midlands Updated Research Agenda point 7.7.4: 'What can environmental remains teach us about diet and living conditions in urban, rural and coastal communities?' (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012: 94).

4. For Trench 1, within the scheduled area, a single 2.5m by 22m area was stripped of Tarmac by a machine in order to maintain existing cycle path access. Within this area hand cleaning of exposed archaeological deposits proceeded. Where later service trenches were present, hand excavation proceeded to a maximum depth of 0.65m (the depth required by VINCI / Western Power to insert a concrete trough in which the cable would run). Elsewhere (Trenches 2-12), the cable trench was to be excavated to a width of 1.05m.

All machining was carried out with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Prior to excavation the area of the trench was scanned with a CAT Scan to locate any services that were not shown on the services plan supplied by the client.

The trenches and any archaeological features were located by GPS, Leica CS15/GS15 RTK Differential GNSS prior to excavation.

Trenches were excavated to a level at which archaeological deposits were present, or to the maximum depth stipulated above (under objective 1). All fieldwork was then carried out in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute for Archaeologists. Features were hand-cleaned and planned to determine their plan and form. Feature fills were not removed, as stipulated by English Heritage. Spoil was searched for artefacts, including the use of a metal detector.

5. Recording: Plans of all contexts, including features, were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20, and showed: context numbers, all colour and textural changes, principal slopes represented as hachures, levels expressed as O.D. values, sufficient details to locate the subject in relation to OS 1:2500 mapping. Sections drawings included the same information, with leveling information given in the form of a datum line with O.D./arbitrary value; all section locations were shown on the plans. Digital images and B&W photos of each context were taken together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations. Written records were maintained as laid down in the TPA recording manual.

6. Results

Summary of Results

Although the results of the two-phase scheme of archaeological investigation are set out in detail separately below, it is felt useful to include a summary of the results of both phases of the work here as an introduction. Some readers may wish to then skip directly to the final discussion of the results at the end of this section, before examining the individual site drawings and descriptions more closely.

The *circa* 60m-long run of trenches underneath the pavement on the south side of Priory Street (Trenches 2-10) revealed a thin slice (0.7-0.9m wide) of the extensively-preserved remains of the cloister and south transept of Lenton's Medieval Priory. Thanks partly to chance, and the fact that the medieval priory was aligned, more or less, exactly with the modern orientation of Priory Street, the positioning of the cable trench meant that almost the entire length of the northern inner wall of the cloister walkway was observed. This cloister wall proved to be approximately 30m in length, with a possible threshold within it 9m from its east end. This east-west aligned stretch of wall was flanked by two very substantial north-south walls, each roughly 2.5m thick. The first of these was probably the main west wall of the cloister, while its partner (positioned 36m metres away to the east) may have functioned as both the east wall of the east side of the cloister and the west wall of the south transept simultaneously.

Immediately adjacent, on the eastern side of this wall, a surface of large horizontally-laid stones had the appearance of being a rough make-up layer for a floor within the south transept. The widening of the trench during the second phase of the watching brief revealed an east-west section of wall butting up to the semi-circular recess of the south transept. The beginning of the arc of this recess was just visible within the trench, curving away to the south (Fig. 6.11). The positioning of this arc, which is noticeably paralleled by the now existing Nazareth Road which curves to the south, is certainly genuine and is not a reflection of the later road construction.

Further to the north-east, where the cable trench crossed Priory Street (Trench 12), a further N-S aligned, 2m-wide section of wall was recorded, which may well have been part of a subsidiary chapel attached on the south side of an apsidal Chapel on end of the Conventual Church. It is not unfeasible suggestion that this wall continued south to the river Leam and may have acted as the eastern limit of the Priory's precinct wall.

In the trenches located directly east of the main apse (Trenches 1 and 11), human remains and further structural features were recorded reconfirming the character of the archaeological material present in this area.

Phase 1: The Pre-construction Interventions

Trench 1

Following machine removal of the Tarmac which forms the current footpath (0037), a deposit of hardcore make-up (0034/0005) was observed covering the whole trench and reaching a maximum depth of 0.28m at its southern extent. This deposit was removed largely by machine and excavation then proceeded by hand. The open trench measured a maximum of 19.03m (N to S) by 2.2m (E to W) in plan, and the eastern side of the trench was defined by the modern kerbstones defining the path of Old Church Street which were left *in situ* (0010).

Below the modern make-up deposit (0034), a series of modern services (aligned N to S) were observed (some of which had been inserted in 1983-84 or later). These were laid into two groups, cut (0003) to the north and cut (0011) to the south. At least five cables had been laid into the area of the services, two to the north (0012) and three to the south (0013). The cable trenches had then been backfilled with a number of localised tips of chippings/hardcore (e.g. 0004, 0006), some characterised by a high content of concrete (0008, 0009). As Figure 3 demonstrates, the modern cable trench fills were up to 0.3m in depth. The cables were left *in situ*.

Following the removal of the cable trench fills, a number of deposits were observed. An isolated deposit of dark-gray black, silty sand (0002), up to 0.18m deep with brick fragment inclusions, was truncated by the service cuts in the eastern part of the trench (not depicted). This was interpreted as a Victorian demolition layer. Also directly truncated by the cable trenches was a small area of cobbled surface (0007) in the southern extent of the trench, which perhaps dated to the earlier part of the 20th century. The cobbled surface was located at a depth of 0.31m below ground level and was 0.12m thick. It was observed extending a maximum of 3m N of the S extent of the trench and c. 0.9m E of the W extent of the trench. This surface ran beyond the S and W extent of the trench and gives an accurate impression of an earlier ground level.

Following the removal of any Victorian demolition deposits and the cobbled surface, a single deposit was observed to extend across the whole trench.² This deposit was a mid-dark brown soft, sandy silt, with occasional rubble fragments, and is interpreted as a large deposit associated with the demolition of Lenton Priory. The deposit (0035) in was observed to have a maximum depth of c.0.23m, but was not fully excavated away in any part of the trench (Fig. 6.2).

At a depth of c.0.6m (roughly the depth required by the client for the laying of a new cable), partial removal of demolition layer (0033) revealed a number of medieval/post medieval features and deposits relating to the east end of Lenton Priory. These features, comprised at least two wall lines (0014-0015-0016 and 0020-0027) and three or four areas of demolition rubble/surfaces (0017-0027, 0030, 0031 and 0032). These features represented the first sensitive archaeological horizon - the target of the evaluation - and were not excavated into. As a result no cuts for walls were observed as later deposit (0033), which abutted the medieval walls, was left partially *in situ*. However, cleaning

² Each section of this deposit that had been stratigraphically separated by modern truncation was given a unique number: (0018, 0019, 0021, 0022, 0023, 0024, 0025, 0026, 0031, 0033, 0035, 0036).

of these deposits in plan allowed for a number of observations to be made. The features are now discussed from north to south.

Two metres south of the northern extent of the evaluation trench a roughly east to west aligned portion of masonry, a maximum of 1.75m wide, was identified (0014-0015) and interpreted as a wall (Fig. 6.1). The western extent of the wall was truncated away by the modern service cuts and the wall continued beyond the eastern extent of the trench. No facing stones were present, but upon cleaning, two distinct types of construction make-up within this thick portion of wall were identified. Wall 0015, to the south, was a compacted yellow-white deposit containing degraded sandstone and mortar with angular stone fragments. Abutting wall 0014 was a demolition deposit of mid-yellow/white degraded sandstone and mortar containing angular stone fragments and rounded pebbles (less than 1%). This deposit is interpreted as an area of demolition infill relating to the disuse of the priory. Wall 0015 was 0.95m wide. A further point of interest is a possible 'internal curve' to the southern face of wall 0015. Beyond the western side of the truncating service cuts, wall 0015 reappeared as wall 0016. Wall 0016 was a maximum of 1.27m wide and extended beyond the western extent of the trench. Wall 0015=0016 is best interpreted as relating to either the northern main wall of the east end of the Conventual Church of Lenton Priory, towards the apsidal end, or, as a wall relating to a radiating Lady Chapel projecting from the east end of the church.

Approximately 1.8m south of wall 0016 a stony deposit, (0017) was observed over maximum dimensions of 1.4m N to S by 0.4m E to W (the deposit extended beyond the W extent of the trench. Layer (0017) comprised angular stone fragments up to 0.25m across that, although disturbed, in places appeared to be lain near flat. This deposit is interpreted as either a discrete area of demolition infill or a heavily disturbed portion of remnant surface relating to the east end of the priory church.

Beyond the southern extent of demolition/surface deposit (0017) another wall was identified (0020N-0027-0024). Wall line 0020N was on a roughly parallel east to west alignment to wall (0014-0015-0016). This wall had also been truncated away in its central observed portion by the later service cuts and had no physical relationship with wall line (0027-0024) which seemed to have more of a NE to SW alignment (certainly at its W extent). To the east, wall section (0020N) was a maximum of 0.95m wide and extended beyond the eastern extent of the trench. To the west, wall section (0027-0024) was extremely truncated but was up to 1.2m wide and appeared to extend beyond the western extent of the trench. On the basis of the available data, wall (0027-0024) is best interpreted as either a portion of the main east wall of the east end of the priory church, whilst (0020N) as a wall(s) relating to a radiating apsidal chapel(s) projecting from the east end of the church and projecting . Unfortunately, this wall could not be investigated more fully and a degree of uncertainty remains when considering its interpretation.

Approximately 0.7 south of wall (0027-0020N) four stony/rubbly deposits, (0020, 0030,0031 and 0032) were observed in the eastern half of the evaluation trench over maximum dimensions of 2.5m N to S and extending beyond the w extent of the trench. These layers comprised two discontinuous areas of angular stone fragments up to 0.25m across. These deposits are interpreted as an area of

demolition infill relating to the disuse of the priory and may obscure further areas of walling. Unfortunately, further excavation was not possible to resolve this issue.

In isolation, the walls and the demolition material/surface do not provide a group of particularly intriguing features. When these are viewed with a conjectural projection of the suspected apsidal Lady Chapels they become far more compelling as they may form part of the largely unascertained eastern end of the Conventual Church.

A context number was allocated for unstratified finds (0001), but no artefactual evidence was retrieved during the excavation

Trench 2

Trench 2 was the eastern-most trench beneath the pavement on the south side of Priory Street, closest to the junction with Nazareth Road. The archaeology revealed here was recorded in three phases: an initial phase of recording was followed by the decision to reduce the level of some the extant walls of the Priory down to the impact depth. A second plan and section were then drawn (Fig. 6.3). Finally, more archaeology was revealed when the trench was widened slightly during the watching brief (discussed below), and the newly exposed elements were planned (Fig. 6.10).

The initial stage of work revealed the south side of an E-W aligned section of wall 0046 in the centre of the trench, the top of which was only about 0.45m below the modern pavement. Preserved on the south side of this wall was a demolition deposit of large sub-angular stones (0045). To the east wall 0046 was mortared onto an E-W aligned stretch of wall, 0043, although two modern cuts³ that slightly truncated the wall at this point made observation of their relationship difficult. When the level of the trench was reduced, the foundations for these two walls were 0.4m apart. That is, the foundation for 0046 did not butt right up against 0043.

³ [0055] and [0057]



Plate 1. Trench 2, shot faces east (2m scale).

From its highest point, wall 0046 stepped down gradually by 0.4m as it progressed westward. It was difficult to discern precisely, but this may have been a real original feature of this wall rather than a factor of its preservation. Wall 0046 was then abutted by what appeared to be the make-up for a floor 0130 and 0131, constructed of roughly hewn angular stones, not mortared together, but horizontally laid. In places this layer of stones appeared to have been disturbed, presumably during the robbing of the nicer paving material or tiles that had once been laid on top of it. Finally, at the western extent of the trench this surface 0131 appeared to have been cut by [0133].



Plate 2. Trench 2 after level of priory walls had been reduced. Shot faces west (2m scale).

Trench 3

At the eastern extent of Trench 3 the western side of a large N-S aligned wall, 0121, was found (Fig. 6.4). It had an observed width of 0.5m, but was later found to be 2.5m wide. The western side of the construction cut for this wall [0152] was also observed. Two-and-a-half metres away to the west the corner or terminal end of another wall, 0056, and its construction cut, [0080], were observed. This wall was aligned E-W and extended beyond the western extent of the trench. Only the northern

edge of this wall was observed within the trench, and so its exact thickness remains unknown, but a width of at least 0.65m was observed.

Both construction cuts, [0152] and [0080], cut through a series of thin, horizontally laid construction deposits of beaten earth and compacted sand, which were very solid indeed. These deposits probably represent the leveling of the area and the preparation of the building platform for the Priory before its construction.

Trench 4

The same northern edge of the E-W wall identified in Trench 3 continued right the way across Trench 4, which was a distance of 6.7m (Fig. 6.5). About 4m from the eastern end of the trench, however, there was a drop in the level of the wall, and it seemed regular enough to perhaps once have been a doorway or threshold. There was a cut observed in plan, [0081], but this is thought perhaps to be indicative of a robbing event, removing whatever good-quality stone had once been in place across the threshold. Also, from this possible doorway westward, there was observable a distinct 'lip' in the mortar, as though paving slabs had once butted up to this mortar edge. At a right angle to this E-W lip running along the wall, were several faint lines in the mortar, which may have been traces of the edges of such paving stones. It seems likely that these are the remains of the northern edge of the walkway surrounding the cloister, and that the E-W wall is the northern wall of the cloister, more or less exactly where the conjectural plans of Barnes and others have predicted it to be.



Plate 3. Left, Trench 3, shot faces west (1m scale). Right, Trench 4, shot faces east (2m scale).

Abutting the wall (in this trench numbered 0071) was a demolition deposit (0079).



Plate 4. Trench 4, showing lipping in mortar on top of wall 0071 (North to top of photo, 2m scale).

Trench 5

This probable wall of the cloister was visible again in Trench 5 for the whole 3m length of the trench (Fig. 6.6). Here numbered wall 0085, it had the added feature of several ashlar stone blocks along its northern edge, and these presumably would have been above ground level and visible during the Medieval period. Another demolition deposit (0087) abutted and sealed the wall. A carved architectural fragment was retrieved from this deposit. It appears to have been a decorative column perhaps used on a façade or framing a doorway or window.



Plate 5. Trench 5, shot faces west (1m scale).

Trench 6

Trench 6 was 5.6m long and again had an E-W aligned wall of similar construction running along almost its entire length (Fig. 6.6). At the far eastern extent, however, there appeared to be, either a hiatus, or stepping down of the wall. An extremely large stone which had been dressed to have a flat circular top, could have functioned as a column base. Immediately south of this large stone was a mortared-in carved architectural fragment, although it was difficult to discern if this had been reused, or if it was in its original position. Also, if one regards the plan of Trench 6 closely, the northern edge of the wall which is present in trenches 3, 4 and 5, is also present in Trench 6 except at the western end. At the western end it runs into the section, indicating perhaps that there is an adjoining N-S wall directly to the north at this point. Frustratingly, this question could not be resolved during the widening of the trench during the watching brief. This is because the walls of the Priory get further below ground level as one proceeds towards Abbey Street, and at this point the wall falls below the depth required for laying the cables.

Trenches 7 and 8

The E-W wall was no longer visible in Trenches 7 and 8. Although the cut of a drain at the eastern end of these trenches had disturbed some stone, it was unclear if this was simply a demolition layer, or rubble from the truncation of the wall itself (Fig. 6.8). Either way, one can infer that this E-W aligned run of wall probably terminated or turned somewhere near this location. A series of thin construction deposits were again visible in the remainder of the trench, and one is tempted to link them with those observed in Trench 3, which were cut by the foundation cuts for the cloister and south transept walls.

Trench 9

At the eastern end of Trench 9 the western side of another substantial N-S wall, 0124 (Fig. 6.7), similar in design to that found in Trench 3, was recorded. Its construction cut truncated a friable, brown, sandy silt, (0147), most unlike the hard, imported and rammed construction layers described in Trench 3.



Plate 6. Trench 9, wall 0124. North to top of photo (1m scale).

A small sondage against the west side of the wall revealed that the lower stone courses of the wall were sitting upon layers of rammed gravel, filling the construction cut. The sondage also revealed in plan the southern edge of a cut pre-dating wall 0124. It had a straight edge and wall filled with frequent charcoal flecks and burnt daub fragments. This feature is difficult to interpret, but could easily be an earlier robbed-out wall predating the construction of 0124.



Plate 7. Left: Wall 0124. Shot faces west (1m scale). Right: Wall 0124. Shot faces east (1m scale).

Trench 10

Trench 10 was the western-most trench investigated along Priory Street during this phase of archaeological investigation. It revealed only a large, vertically sided cut [0153] of uncertain function, filled with rubble and yellow sand at its western extent (Fig. 6.8). The date of this feature was uncertain, but it did not appear to cut from high up in the section, making it of some considerable age.



Plate 8. Left: Trench 10, shot faces west (1m scale). Right: Trench 11, shot faces north (2m scale).

Trench 11

Trench 11 was 14m long, N-S aligned, and located directly north of Trench 1. In its southern half, a number of grave cuts and probable grave cuts were identified. Human bone observed in several of these gave the strong indication of W-E aligned Christian burials, laid out in a formal churchyard. In one part of the trench the grave cuts were probably inter-cutting (Fig. 6.9), or at least were so close together that the individual edges of grave cuts could not be discerned (0173). The ends of two tibia were visible in the section here, although one of those appeared to have been disturbed and turned through 180 degrees.

The southern edge of a grave cut [0168] could be clearly observed and contained a human cranium in the correct position to belong to an articulated, E-W aligned burial. Directly adjacent to the north, the pelvis and arm bone of another individual was visible within (0156), again in the correct position to suggest probable articulation. The ends of a tibia and fibula protruded from the section and corresponded with grave cut [0167], in the correct position to indicate an articulated skeleton. Adjacent to the north, [0166] was probably a grave cut, although with no human remains visible.

These articulated remains of skeletons were encountered 0.8-0.9m below the top of the modern road surface. The presence of many modern services just above this level (and in some cases cutting into articulated human remains), however, would have increased the impact depth, as the ducting would have had to be put in below these services. It was decided, therefore, that a direct-lay would be appropriate for this archaeologically sensitive area. As a result, the human remains were left *in*

situ with a covering of earth over them. They were not cleaned for photography or proper archaeological recording, or excavated in any way.

In the northern half of the trench a number of features were visible: [0185], [0186] and [0162] appeared to be E-W aligned boundary ditches, while [0181], [0179] and [0177] had the potential to be grave cuts, although no human bone was observed in them.



Plate 9. Trench 11, human remains. Shot faces west (50cm scale).

Trench 12

Trench 12 was a roughly E-W aligned trench, situated along the route of the proposed cable, directly beneath Priory Street. The trench revealed heavily truncated medieval archaeology. A modern brick culvert that ran along the entire length of the trench had cut away all earlier deposits in the northern half of the trench (Fig. 6.9). There were then a whole series of later N-S aligned service cuts, which were particularly densely packed, some of which were deeper than the required depth for laying the cables.

Surviving in little islands in the central-southern part of the trench was the remains of a 2m-wide, N-S wall, presumably of a subsidiary chapel attached to the south side of the main apsidal end of the Conventual Church of the Priory. On the eastern side of this wall was a series of horizontally-lying construction deposits, which appeared to butt up to the wall, and had perhaps functioned to build up the ground level. On the western side of the wall was a brown, sandy-silt layer (0206), which may have post-dated the use-life of the Priory.



Plate 10. Trench 12, Large wall bisected by drain. Shot faces north (1m scale).

Further to the west, and at a lower level, were the remains of some sort of construction, 0196, made from irregular, unbonded yellow-sandstone blocks. It is possible that this represents the remains of some sort of floor, or make-up for a floor. Unfortunately, the high level of truncation by modern cuts to the north, south and east, made this difficult to interpret precisely. To the west, 0196 was still sealed by a brown silty-sand layer (0195) containing disarticulated human bone. The relationship between the possible floor 0196, and layer (0206) was completely lost due to a very deep, modern N-S pipe cut.



Plate 11. Trench 12, shot faces east (1m scale).

Phase 2: The Watching brief

The initial phase of investigation was followed by the archaeological observation of the actual construction work. During this, the live services which had been left alone by the archaeologists during the initial phase of work were negotiated by the construction workers. The thin trenches 12 and 2-10 along Priory Street, already previously opened, were widened slightly to the north to

accommodate the cable ducts and linked together. This only happened in stages, however, during the course of several days

The most important results of this process were as follows:

1. Wall 0043, observed at the east end of Trench 2 was found to be part of an apse, possibly of the south transept, curving away to the south-east (Fig. 6.10).
2. The east side of N-S wall 0121, the west side of which had previously been observed at the east end of Trench 3, was found. This showed the wall to be 2.5m thick.
3. The east side of N-S wall 0124, the west side of which had previously been observed in Trench 9 , was found. This proved the wall to be 1.5m thick.
4. A stone, which had previously only been partially visible in the south-facing section of Trench 4, was found to be extremely large, c. 2m in length. Still only partially observed within the trench, the stone appeared to be tapering towards its eastern end, and is thus could potentially be the lid of a stone sarcophagus (Fig. 6.10).
5. Between Trench 12 and Trench 1, a substantial E-W aligned wall (was of similar build and proportions to (193) in Trench 12) observed in a N-S section of cable trench, as well as in a trial hole located several metres further east (Fig. 6.11).



Plate 12. Substantial E-W aligned wall between Trench 1 and 12 (1m scale)

The details of these new discoveries are illustrated in figures 6.10-6.11. Unfortunately, in the area between Trenches 5 and 6 the depth of the E-W Cloister observed in those trenches exceeded the depth excavated to during construction. The visibility of the medieval archaeology was also a problem west of Trench 6, and was further exacerbated by a leaking water main, which flooded the cable trench in this area. In spite of these problems, it is possible to now state with confidence that the previously illustrated conjectural plans were reasonably close to the mark, and that the cloister was indeed located on the south side of the Conventual Church, a typical layout for most monasteries (Fig. 6.10). In addition, it is reasonable to suppose that the excavations have identified the south wall of the northern cloister range.

7. The Artefacts

Glazed Floor Tile

Lee Elliott

The group comprises seven individual finds spots totalling ten tile fragments. Of these three are decorated with recognizable patterns from Nottingham tile groups, the remaining tiles are worn or represent plain glazed floor tile.

Decorated Tile

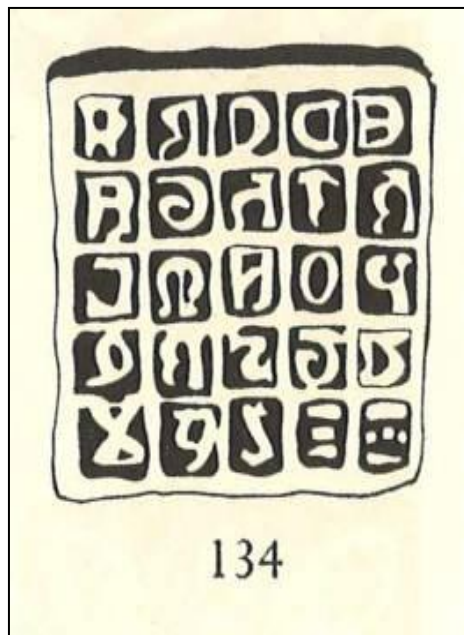
ABX- 0042. Corner fragment of tile. Part of heraldic design of the Arms of Lancaster after 1324. Includes shield containing a label of three points and three leopards (lion passant guardant). Three corners contain a small eight-petal rosette between two misformed three-lobed motifs. Details: Fabric 3. Sides bevelled and base sanded. Dimensions: 20mm thick. Weight (303g). The tile corresponds to L10 pattern from the Austin Friars in Leicester (Lucas 1981, 74). This is a variant of design previously recorded in Nottinghamshire at St.Mary's Nottingham, Lenton Priory, Thurgarton Priory and Beauvale Priory (Parker 1932, 98-99; Whitcomb 1956, 38). Date second half of the fourteenth century.



ADY – 0192. Part of a repeating design of a lozenge enclosing a circle containing an eight-petal rosette. Three lobed motifs are present at the corners of the lozenge, while six-petal rosettes lie at the tile corners within quadrants of a circle. Details: Fabric 3-3b. Sides bevelled and base sanded. Dimensions: 20mm thick. Weight (156g). Previously recorded in Nottinghamshire at the site of the potteries, Lenton Priory and Beauvale Priory (Parker 1932, 98-99; Whitcomb 1956, 74-75). Date second half of the fourteenth century.



AEO- 0079. Part of alphabet design with reversed lettering in five rows of five. Details: Fabric 3b. Sides bevelled and base sanded. Dimensions: 18mm thick. Weight (344g). Previously recorded in Nottinghamshire at Lenton Priory and Beauvale Priory (Parker 1932, 98-99; Whitcomb 1956, 93). Date second half of the fourteenth century.



Plain Tile

The remaining tile fragments comprises worn or plain tile with glazes running from dark green to brown and dark grey to purple/black in colour. Contexts comprise 0042, 0046 (x3), 0083 and 0094 (x 2). Dates could be fourteenth to fifteenth century. Two in particular are of note.

ADK-0094. Two fragments of same tile over-fired with damage to the glaze. Details: Fabric 1. Sides bevelled and base sanded. Dimensions: 24mm thick. Weight (514g).



AEA -0046. One complete triangular tile (175mm x 125mm and 21mm thick, 333g) and two fragments of a second with dark grey to purple/black glaze (20mm thick/78g). Both fabric 2. Part of probable chequerboard pattern.



Pottery

Paul Flintoft

The LPX pottery assemblage contains 92 sherds from across nine contexts. The majority of these are 18th-19th century examples with the exception of a single fragment of shelly ware and a solitary small piece of Cistercian/blackware. Apart from the fragment of shelly ware, which was discovered in a layer which predates Lenton Priory, the pottery appears to derive from modern service trenches, demolition layers, Victorian/post Victorian levelling layers or has been ascribed to the context reserved for unstratified finds.

Context 0001

Context No.	Type	Description	Date	Count

0001	Earthenware	Glazed inside	18th-19th century	47
0001	Brown salt glaze stoneware	Poor quality	19th century	8
0001	Yellowware	N/A	19th century	2
0001	Blue and white	N/A	19th century	3
0001	Cistercian/Blackware	N/A	16th-17th century	1

Context (0001) was taken for unstratified finds. The pottery assemblage is mainly 18th-19th century with a single piece of 16th-17th century Cistercian/blackware. This group does not appear to be particularly insightful and is indicative of more recent activities associated with the introduction of recent utility services and demolition/levelling layers.

Context 0002

Context No.	Type	Description	Date	Count
0002	Earthenware	N/A	19th century	4
0002	Whiteware	N/A	19th century	1
0002	Yellowware	N/A	19th century	1
0002	Yellowware	Industrial slip	19th century	1

The group of pottery from (0002) is from a very mixed layer in Trench 1. The dates gleaned from the pottery suggest that this was a Victorian demolition/levelling layer.

Context 0005

Context No.	Type	Description	Date	Count
0005	Grey ware	N/A	2nd-3rd century	1
0005	Blue and white	N/A	19th century	5
0005	Whiteware	N/A	19th century	1

An anomalous find of 2nd-3rd century grey ware was recovered from context (0005). A few sherds of Roman pottery were discovered on the LPM excavations just to the north of Lenton Priory

suggesting at least a low level of Romano-British activity within the vicinity of the priory. The other sherds of pottery from this context date to the 19th century.

Context 0011

Context No.	Type	Description	Date	Count
0011	Brown saltglaze stoneware	N/A	19th century	2
0011	Whiteware	N/A	19th century	1
0011	Yellowware	N/A	19th century	1

Context (0011) was the backfill of a modern service trench. The 19th century assemblage of pottery recovered from this context is probably largely redeposited.

Context 0012

Context No.	Type	Description	Date	Count
0012	Whiteware	N/A	19th century	1
0012	Earthenware	N/A	19th century	1
0012	Yellowware	N/A	19th century	2

The group of pottery from (0012), the fill of a 20th century service trench, is entirely 19th century and is likely to be redeposited.

Context 0042

Context No.	Type	Description	Date	Count
0042	Earthenware	N/A	18th century	3
0042	Whiteware	N/A	18th century	1
0042	Earthenware	Possible colander	18th century	1

Context (0042) has been identified as a demolition layer. Although the pottery from this context is entirely 18th century, a decorated tile of a 14th century design was also discovered in (0042). The compass in the chronology of finds bear testament to how mixed and disturbed this layer is.

Context 0072

Context No.	Type	Description	Date	Count
0072	Whiteware	N/A	18th-19th century	1
0072	Brown saltglaze	N/A	18th-19th century	1
0072	Earthenware	Underglaze transfer	18th-19th century	1

Interestingly, (0072) may be the backfill of a robber trench which removed large stone slabs from the northern cloister range. This 18th-19th century group of pottery hints at a commensurate date for the robbing.

Context 0147

Context No.	Type	Description	Date	Count
0147	Shelly ware	Rouletting along rim	10th-11th century	1

The shelly ware is a particularly intriguing find, possessing rouletting along the rim of the sherd. Similar examples are uncommon within South Nottinghamshire rural assemblages. It bears a close resemblance to the Lincoln Kiln Type Shelly Ware as found at Flaxengate, Lincoln. The sherd is from an orangy-brown sandy silt layer which was cut by 0124, the western most wall of the priory cloister. This suggests that (0147) pre-dates the construction of the priory, which is consistent with the 10th-11th century date associated with this style of pottery.



Shelly ware sherd from 0147

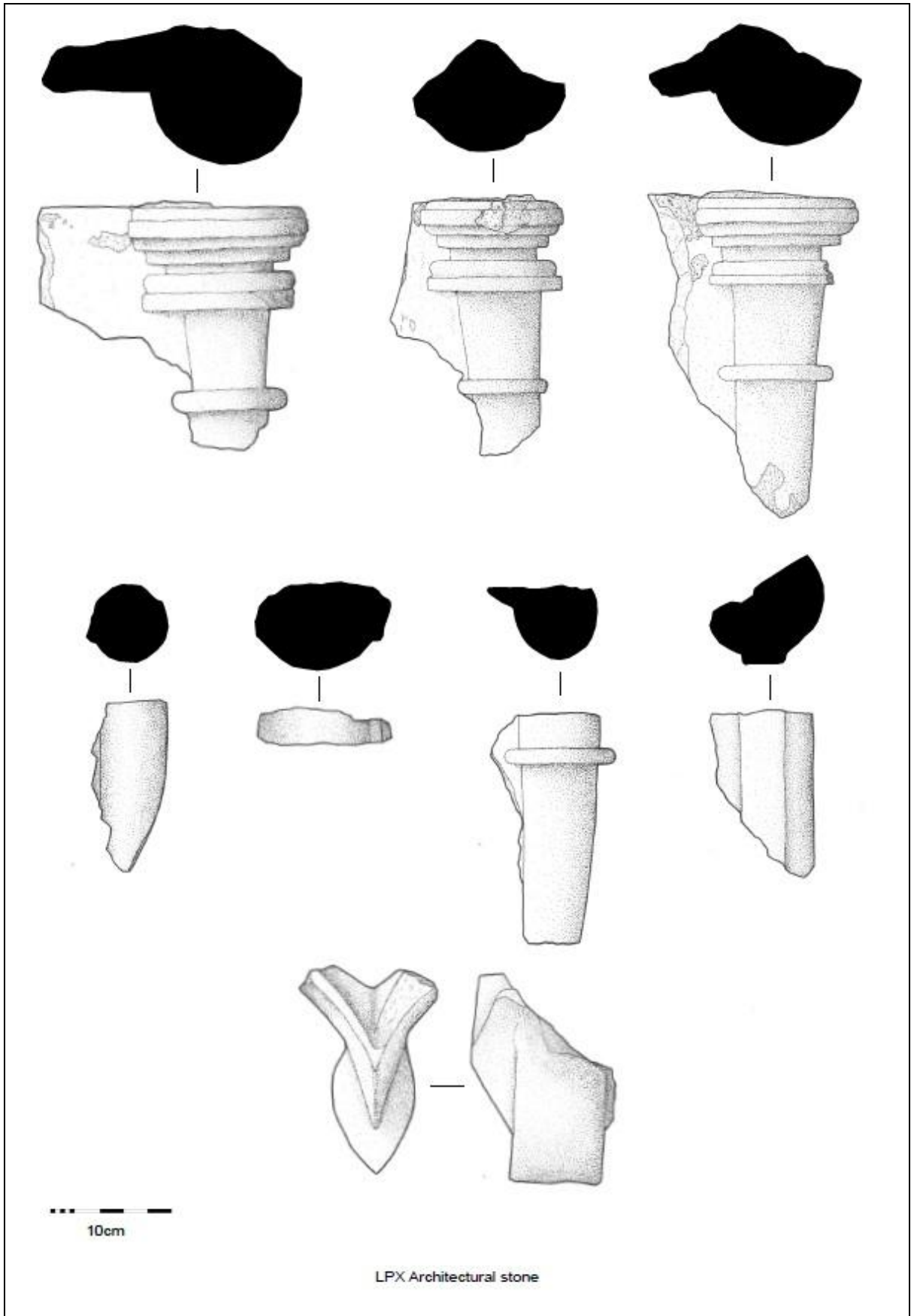
Architectural Fragments

Lee Elliott

A preliminary assessment was made of several pieces of architectural stone recovered residually from context 0079 within the area of the north cloister and south side of the church. All would appear to comprise yellow-brown fine grained sandstone with sparse sub-round clay like inclusions up to 10mm in size. Stonework previously recovered from excavations on the area of the church at Lenton Priory comprised Magnesian Limestone and Millstone grit (Green 1936, 83), this compares with the use of Carboniferous Sandstone within the local medieval churches of St.Peter's, Nottingham (13th Century) and St.Mary's, Nottingham (15th Century).

Amongst the recovered fragments were parts from five small circular capitals (120mm in diameter) with three-quarter round shafts cut out of the same stone as the rest of the work. The body of the stone work appears to be splayed at an angle of less than 90° from the shaft. The capitals were in varying states of damage, with mortar adhering to the upper surface of the abacus and on some parts of the surface of the splayed body of the stone. On the top of one abacus striated diagonal tooling and a setting-out line are visible. The shallow narrow mouldings of the abacus comprise a quarter-round, a fillet, quarter-round and slightly recessed fillet. A sunken fillet separates these from the top of the bell which comprise a quarter-round and further fillet. This lies above the (plain) bell, while the astragal comprises a plain round moulding around the shaft (which is 600mm in diameter).

Further fragments include part of a roll moulding with broad frontal fillet. Also present was a fragment of possible cusping ending with a pointed moulding. One side of the cusping and moulding is slightly elongated, perhaps indicating it to be viewed from this side, while a possible mason's/banker's mark is also present. Together the fragments would appear to be 13th to 14th century in date.



During the 13th century a period of significant rebuilding occurred at Lenton Priory following collapse of the tower in 1228, as indicated by donations of timber and quarrying rights (Jones & Chambers 1998, 24). This included stone from a quarry in the royal forest of Sherwood for rebuilding the tower in 1229 and 1242, with further quarry rights issued in 1256 for the construction Prior's chamber. Further building involved timber grants for roofing involving the dormitory (1229), refectory (1231), the infirmary (1238) and for the making of the chapter house (in 1244).

No evidence of this rebuilding has been found in previous excavations, with recovered material confined to 12th century examples (Green 1936, Elliott 1952). The architectural fragments found in 0079 therefore possibly represent the first evidence recovered by modern excavation for later phases of building. An exception to the evidence would appear to be some of the material recorded by Godfrey in 1884, including a section of window tracery and a respond capital with nailhead decoration. Of note was a moulded shaft and capital of similar profile to those found in 0079. Whereas the splayed body of the shaft and capitals found in 0079 may have helped anchor the stone within a wall such as blind arcading, the surviving example published by Godfrey was more substantially complete and was interpreted as part of a screen. The capitals appear to have been hacked from the body of the stone and discarded as unusable probably following demolition of the priory after the Dissolution. Further analysis is planned prior to any publication.

Human and Animal Bone

Karen Deighton

A total of 3.3kg of animal bone, stored in 1 archive box, was collected by hand during the course of excavation. This material was assessed to determine its potential to contribute to the understanding of the site.

Bones were identified, where possible, to taxa with the aid of Schmid (1972), downloads from the Max Planck institute and the author's small reference collection. Prummel (1987) was consulted for neonates of the major domesticates. The presence of ageing data (i.e. status of epiphyseal fusion (Silver 1969) and tooth eruption and wear (Payne 1973, Halstead 1985), sexing data and metrical data (after von den Driech 1976) was noted. The state of preservation was also considered.

Fragmentation was moderate and largely the result of old breaks, although a single fresh break was noted. Surface abrasion varied from moderate to heavy with context. In contexts where abrasion was heavy this could have resulted in the loss of evidence of butchery and canid gnawing.

Evidence of canid gnawing was seen in eight contexts. Along with attesting to the presence of dogs or foxes, the incidence of canid gnawing could suggest the bone was left exposed before final incorporation into the burial matrix. Evidence of butchery was noted in 5 contexts and appears to be consistent with chopping.

Taxa present

Table1: summary of taxa present

Context	Feature	Period	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Deer	L.ung	S.ung	Bird	Amph	Total
002		PM	1	1								2
005		PM						1				1
0042		MED						1				1
0050					1		1					2
0051		PM	3					1				4
0072		PM						1				1
0079		MED		1								1
0084		MED	4	2		1		1				8
0093				1								1
0094				1				2				3
0100		MOD	2	1		1		1		1		6
0105			1									1
0119		MED	3						1			4
0122								1				1
0156										1	11	12
0158			4		1							5
0164		PM	3		1			2				6
0192		MED		1								1
0195			2	1								3
Total			23	9	3	2	1	11	1	2	11	63

Key: L. ung=large ungulate, S. ung=small ungulate, Amph=amphibian

Taxa are those expected for the medieval and post medieval periods. Amphibians could be intrusive as they burrow in order to hibernate. The deer bone present is probably from red deer although fallow cannot be ruled out.

Table 2 Human bone

Context	Feature	Period	Element
0105			Tibia, fibula, metatarsal, calcaneum, proximal metatarsal
0158			Tibia
0164			2 mandibles, clavicle, skull fragment, vertebra, 7 metapodia, rib, 2 phalanges
0175			Clavicle
0192	MED		Skull fragment, radius, humerus, scapula fragment, tooth, metapodial

Ageing, sexing and metrical data

Table2: ageing and metrical data by taxa

Taxa	Epiphyseal fusion	Tooth eruption and wear	Measurements(number of bones)
Cattle	8	1	6(5)
Sheep/goat	8		5(3)
deer	1		
horse			3(1)
Total	17	1	14(9)

Ageing data is limited to largely to epiphyseal fusion with the exception of a cattle 3rd molar in context 0002. This data is less reliable than tooth eruption and wear due to many gaps and underlaps in modern comparative data. No sexing data were available. The lack of measurements is due to the nature of fragmentation as it relies on epiphyses being present.

The potential for further work on the animal bone to provide any insights into the nature, function or economy of the site is limited. This is due to the paucity of material and the poor state of preservation.

It is therefore recommended that further work is limited to a short report describing the finds included in the final report to provide comparanda for future sites in the local area or region.

On the other hand the human bone should be examined by an osteologist

Assessment has revealed a small moderately preserved assemblage of the common domestics plus deer and amphibian. The most striking aspect of the assemblage is the presence of human bone within the same contexts as the animal bone.

Small Finds

Nicola Rogers

Introduction and Methodology

Twelve metal small finds from the area designated LPX were studied for this report. None had been X-rayed or had received any investigative conservation, so all comments are made from a visual examination only.

What the finds are

Five of the finds were made of iron, and all comprised nails or nail fragments, three of which came from levels associated with the priory and its demolition (ADE, ADU). The three copper alloy objects comprised a 19th – 20th century button (ABC), a perforated terminal from an unknown object (AAA) and an undiagnostic fragment (AEQ). An apparently modern perforated strip was made of an unidentified metal (AEB). Two of the three lead alloy finds appeared to be roofing strips (AEU, ADL); the third comprised three medieval window came fragments (AER) which were recovered from modern levels.

Catalogue

Lead alloy window came fragments x 3, compressed, medieval. Also two undiagnostic sheet fragments. Largest window came fragment: Length. 57mm, Width. 8mm, Thickness. 3mm

The Significance of the assemblage

Little can be said about this small assemblage, apart from the likelihood that the medieval window comes (AER) originally came from a window or windows within the priory buildings; three of the nails (ADE, ADU) are phased to levels associated with the priory, and may similarly derive from priory buildings. The roofing lead fragments (AEU, ADL) could also have originated from priory buildings.

SF	Context	Context Type/Date	Assessment
ADM	0084	demol layer	Fe ?large nail shank/bar, curved
ADE	0002	Vict demol layer	Fe ?nail
ADU	0024	?assoc with priory demol	Fe ?nail frags x 2
AEL	0164	layer sealing grave cuts	Fe ?nail frags x 2
ABP	0051	Soil layer	Fe ?nail frags x 2
ABC	0089	Modern disturbed layer	Cu A discoidal button, integral loop lost
AEQ	0041	Modern pit/trench fill	Cu A undiagnostic fragment
AAA	0001	unstratified	Cu A flat rounded perforated terminal
AEU	0079	Layer sealing wall	Pb A strip - ?roofing
ADL	0042	demol layer	Pb A perforated strip - ?roofing
AER	0041	Modern pit/trench fill	Pb A window comes x 3, compressed, medieval. (Also 2 x sheet fragments)
AEB	0195	demol layer	?metal type perforated strip (?modern)

Discussion

The Old Church Street evaluation trench demonstrated that, where modern services are absent, the archaeological horizon relating to the top of the demolition of Lenton Priory church and complex is located at 0.6-0.65m below present ground surface.

In the scheduled zone (Trench 1), two potentially important wall lines were identified as well as discrete patches of possible surface or demolition rubble. The wall lines appear to relate to either the northern (0015-0016) and eastern (0020-0027) main wall of the east end of the Conventual Church of Lenton Priory towards the apsidal end or, perhaps, to parts of two radiating apsidal chapels projecting from the east end of the church. The apparent coherence between the aforementioned features and the masonry discovered in the area to the east of Trench 1 during the 1970s do certainly make for a compelling case for the inclusion of apsidal Lady Chapels. Using this admittedly fragmentary evidence it is possible to extrapolate a symmetrical pattern to the south which hints at the possible past existence of three chapels (Fig 6.12). Comparative examples of this form of architectural design can be seen at Lewes Priory, East Sussex and St Pancras, London (Green, H 1936). Further work plotting the location of previous (1930's) excavations might help to resolve these uncertainties.

The discovery of a particularly substantial north to south aligned wall in Trench 12, (0193) and another wall of similar dimensions further north located during the Watching Brief, provide fragmentary evidence for the continuation of the Church complex towards the south. When viewed with the partial length of wall observed in 1984 it presents further evidence for the existence of a further structure protruding from the southern extent of the apsidal end of the main church/lady chapels. Although much of the building fabric of the walls was in good condition, many of the modern services had impacted on these structural elements which impedes on a conclusive interpretation of this area. Despite this partial damage, it appears as if a reasonably sizable corner chapel has existed here. This layout does once again appear to be consistent with that hypothesized by Elliot and Berbank and paralleled at Lewes. The considerable size of the north-south wall could be explained by it also acting as the eastern limit of the precinct wall or part of a larger complex of buildings to the south. Interestingly, the location of the precinct wall in this area has never been identified and the significant size and positioning of wall (0193) makes it a possible candidate for the outer boundary wall.

Observations from Priory Street revealed a wealth of information which have increased the understanding of the layout of Lenton Priory by an unprecedented amount. Not only has a very convincing southern transept been discovered, but also the southern wall/inner ambulatory of the northern cloister range. Trench 2 contained a range of incredibly well preserved masonry within the southern transept. Understanding some of these remains, especially 0046, is made particularly complicated as it is difficult to ascertain whether this material is deliberately stepped or if it deceptively appears so due to differential preservation. The stone work of this particular feature is of such a quality it does seem somewhat unlikely that this would be restricted from view as part of a wall or other structural facet. Comparative examples from other Cluniac examples can be sought in due course in an attempt to deduce what this enigmatic feature represents. This trench also revealed a stone floor surface which, despite its partial robbing, was very convincing. The surface

terminates at the western wall of the southern transept (Trench 3) which provides a clear transept across the internal space of the transept.

The cloister range which was identified along Priory Street was also another fortuitous discovery. The length of heavily mortared masonry visible in the majority of trenches along Priory Street fits the suspected location of the southern wall of the northern cloister range almost uncannily. The distinct mortar lip indicates that a now robbed wall was perhaps bonded to the mortar and the lip was a stylistically ornate addition suggesting it was visible to observers on the northern side. The apparent doorway or threshold into the cloister observable in Trench 4 adds weight to the suggestion that this was once a wall which required an entrance for access and egress as opposed to an open walkway. This wall perhaps only stood at waist height and then would have had thin pillars supporting a short length of angled roof protruding from the larger outer cloister wall creating a roofed walkway.

The apparent symmetry of space between the east to west wall of the cloister range and the western wall of the southern transept along with the outer cloister wall in Trench 9 is striking. Judging from other examples of cloister, this space would be expected for the roofed ambulatory (outer walkway around the cloister). Although no paved surface was found in association with this suspected walkway, the suggestion that this is the ambulatory appears to be valid.

To the east of Trench 2, the stone work which curves to the south may be the arcing apsidal wall of the chapterhouse. The chapterhouse is traditionally located to the east of the cloister and the south of the southern transept. Further evidence for this being the chapterhouse is scant and the current hypothesis is based largely on comparative examples.

The artefacts recovered from the investigations are interesting in their own right but, as the majority of items were recovered from later deposits, they mainly offer no further interpretative insight. The majority of the pottery cannot be securely attributed to a medieval context for example. Nevertheless, the glazed tile assemblage offers an exciting opportunity to learn more about the local tile industry and potential decorative renovations which occurred during the lifetime of the priory. Further analysis of the tile group would no doubt reveal more about local industry and daily life within and around the priory complex.

Evidence of a feature (0147) predating the priory is of particular interesting, and is something which has not encountered in the immediate environs of the priory before. The narrow nature of the Abbey Street trench unfortunately limits the interpretative potential of this feature, but it certainly indicates that there was some form of occupation during the 10th or 11th century on the land which became the priory grounds.

The archaeological campaign reported upon in this report is the first time that credible evidence for parts of the Conventual Church and the wider Priory complex have been found and further analysis of these newly discovered features – including a study of comparative examples - would result in a greater understanding of the Priory.

It is intended to undertake further analysis of the finds and features reported upon here in advance of a synthetic publication of excavations undertaken as part of the NET 2 tram works on the west side of Abbey Street (the outer precinct of the priory).

The evaluation established that the client, VINCI UK, has enough depth and width between the existing modern services (inserted in the 1980's before the site was Scheduled) to insert the 33KV electricity cable re-route without further impacting upon any buried archaeology.

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Plate 13. Trench 1, north west facing shot of wall 0020 (1m scale)



Plate 14. Trench 1, west facing shot of wall 0031 (1m scale)

8. Appendices

Appendix 1: Context register

Context	Trench	Type	Description
0001	1	Layer	Context for unstratified finds
0002	1	Layer	Victorian demolition layer
0003	1	Cut	Modern service trench
0004	1	Fill	Modern service trench backfill
0005	1	Layer	Dark grey/black compacted silty sand
0006	1	Fill	Modern service trench backfill
0007	1	Layer	20th/21st century Cobble surface
0008	1	Fill	Concrete
0009	1	Fill	Concrete
0010	1	Fill	Kerbstones defining path of Old Church street
0011	1	Cut	Modern service trench
0012	1	Fill	20th century services
0013	1	Fill	20th century services
0014	1	Layer	Outer wall, possible buttress
0015	1	Layer	Wall foundation (? equivalent to 0016)
0016	1	Layer	Wall foundation (? equivalent to 0015)
0017	1	Layer	Possible surface, or demolition deposit from Priory
0018	1	Structure	Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0019	1	Layer	Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0020	1	Structure	Wall foundation of Priory
0021	1	Layer	Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0022	1	Layer	Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0023	1	Layer	Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0024	1	Layer	Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase

0025	1	Layer	Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0026	1	Layer	Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0027	1	Layer	Truncated surface or deposit, (? Equivalent to 0017)
0028	1	Layer	Soft Yellow-white mortar, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0029	1	Layer	Angular stone fragments, within a matrix of yellow white mortar
0030	1	Layer	Angular stone slabs, set into yellow white mortar, possible surface
0031	1	Layer	Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0032	1	Layer	Angular stone slabs, set into yellow white mortar, possible surface
0033	1	Layer	Dark grey brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0034	1	Layer	Tarmac
0035	1	Layer	Dark Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0036	1	Layer	Dark Brown soft sandy silt, possibly associated with Priory demolition phase
0037	1	Layer	Tarmac
0038	1	Void	-
0039	1	Void	-
0040	2	Layer	Demolition layer
0041	2	Fill	Fill of 0057
0042	2	Layer	Demolition later sealing 0046; possibly the same as 0045
0043	2	Structure	Wall: North-western part of apse?
0044	2	Structure	Wall: North-western part of apse? Same as 0043
0045	2	Layer	Demolition layer lying against 0046
0046	2	Structure	E-W aligned wall - butting up to 0043?
0047	2	Layer	Clay bedding for floor make-up 0130?
0048	2	Layer	Degraded mortar, demolition, deposited after robbing of floor. Seals 0131 and 0130
0049	2	Layer	Lower course of 0046
0050	4	Layer	Demolition layer lying against 0046
0051	4	Layer	Soil layer
0052	2	Cut	Base of small modern pit?

0053	2	Fill	Fill of 0054
0054	2	Cut	Cut of N-S aligned service trench
0055	2	Fill	Pipe filling 0054
0056	3	Structure	E-W aligned wall
0057	2	Cut	Modern pit or service trench
0058	2	Fill	Upper fill of 0057
0059	2	Structure	Modern line of kerbstones for pavement
0060	2	Layer	Hardcore/gravel make-up for modern pavement
0061	2	Layer	Disturbed modern layer directly below 0062
0062	2	Layer	Charcoal-rich layer below 0060
0063	3	Cut	Pipe filling 0066
0064	3	Fill	Fill of 0066
0065	3	Fill	Fill of 0067
0066	3	Cut	Cut of modern drain
0067	3	Cut	Cut of modern post/pile hole
0068	3	Fill	Probably fill of construction cut 0080
0069	3	Fill	Fill of construction cut 0080
0070	3	Layer	Demolition layer sealing 0068 and 0069
0071	4	Structure	E-W aligned wall. Same as 0056
0072	4	Fill	Possible backfill after robbing of stone slabs across threshold/doorway 0081
0073	3	Layer	Demolition layer below 0074
0074	3	Layer	Demolition layer below 0076
0075	3	Fill	Fill of 0077
0076	3	Layer	Modern disturbed layer directly below 0060
0077	3	Cut	Modern service cut?
0078	3	Layer	Demolition layer below 0073
0079	4	Layer	Brown layer sealing wall 0071
0080	3	Cut	Construction cut for wall 0056
0081	4	Cut	Possible robbing event - removing stone slabs across threshold/doorway within

			0071
0082	3	Layer	Rammed earth and sand laid down before the cutting of 0080 and 0152
0083	5	Layer	Demolition layer below 0076
0084	5	Layer	Demolition layer below 0083
0085	5	Structure	E-W aligned wall - same as 0056 and 0071
0086	2	Layer	Same as 0048
0087	5	Layer	Demolition layer below 0084
0088	4	Layer	Demolition layer below 0076
0089	7	Layer	Modern disturbed layer directly below 0118
0090	5	Fill	Possible fill of construction cut for wall 0085
0091	5	Fill	Fill of 0092
0092	5	Cut	Cut of Posthole or small pit
0093	6	Layer	Demolition layer below 0076
0094	6	Layer	Demolition layer below 0103
0095	6	Structure	E-W aligned wall - in line with 0056, 0071 and 0085
0096	6	Structure	Part of 0095 - large stone possibly used as column base??
0097	7	Layer	Thin mortar layer
0098	7	Layer	Brown silt layer
0099	7	Layer	Demolition layer disturbed by modern service cut 0106
0100	8	Layer	Demolition layer
0101	8	Layer	Silt layer observed in plan
0102	8	Layer	Possible fill of cut?
0103	6	Layer	Dark-grey silt layer
0104	7	Fill	Pipe filling 0106
0105	7	Fill	Fill of service cut 0106
0106	7	Cut	Cut of modern drain
0107	7	Layer	Sand layer observed in plan
0108	8	Layer	Thin mortar layer observed in section
0109	8	Layer	Thin reddish-brown clay observed in section

0110	8	Layer	Thin brown-grey clay observed in section
0111	8	Layer	Demolition layer
0112	8	Layer	Demolition layer
0113	7	Layer	Demolition layer
0114	7	Fill	Fill of 0115
0115	7	Cut	Modern service cut
0116	8	Layer	Clay layer
0117	8	Layer	Modern disturbed layer
0118	7	Layer	Modern disturbed layer
0119	9	Layer	Brown sandy silt below 0120
0120	9	Layer	Reddish sand deposit below 0146
0121	3	Structure	N-S aligned wall
0122	7	Layer	Brown silt deposit
0123		Layer	Number given to allocate unstratified finds
0124	9	Structure	N-S aligned wall
0125	9	Fill	Fill of 0150
0126	3	Fill	Fill of 0128
0127	3	Fill	Fill of 0128
0128	3	Cut	Cut for modern ceramic drain
0129	3	Layer	Demolition layer
0130	2	Structure	Rough make-up of horizontally laid stones for floor?
0131	2	Structure	Same as 0130 but stepped down one course
0132	2	Layer	Construction deposit
0133	2	Fill	Fill of 0134
0134	2	Cut	Pit - post-dating the use-life of the Priory
0135	3	Fill	Lead piping filling modern pit
0136	10	Fill	Fill of 0153
0137	10	Layer	Silt layer
0138	10	Layer	Modern layer

0139	10	Layer	Modern layer
0140	10	Layer	Modern layer
0141	10	Layer	Modern layer
0142	10	Layer	Demolition layer
0143	10	Layer	Demolition layer
0144	10	Fill	Fill of 0153?
0145	9	Layer	Demolition layer
0146	9	Layer	Demolition layer
0147	9	Layer	Orangey-brown sandy-silt layer cut by 0159 and therefore pre-dating the construction of the Priory
0148	9	Fill	Thin demolition deposit of degraded yellow mortar
0149	9	Layer	Orangey-brown silty-sand layer cut by 0150
0150	9	Cut	Straight-sided cut possible robbing of early wall pre-dating the construction of wall 0124
0151	3	Fill	Fill of construction cut 0152
0152	3	Cut	Construction cut for wall 0121
0153	10	Cut	Cut of large vertically-sided pit
0154	9	Cut	Cut of modern service cut
0155	9	Fill	Fill of 0154
0156	11	Fill	Fill of grave cut 0169
0157	11	Layer	Modern tarmac
0158	11	Layer	Make-up for modern tarmac
0159	9	Cut	Construction cut for wall 0124
0160	11	Fill	Fill of grave cut 0167
0161	11	Fill	Fill of grave cut 0161
0162	11	Cut	Cut of E-W aligned linear
0163	11	Fill	Fill of 0162
0164	11	Layer	Brown silt layer sealing grave cuts in Trench 11
0165	11	Fill	Fill of possible grave cut 0172
0166	11	Cut	Cut of grave towards western extent of Trench 11

0167	11	Cut	Cut of grave towards western extent of Trench 11
0168	11	Cut	Cut of grave with cranium of articulated skeleton visible
0169	11	Cut	Cut of probably grave with human bone and pelvis of articulated skeleton visible
0170	11	Fill	Fill of grave cut 0166
0171	11	Fill	Fill of E-W aligned feature
0172	11	Cut	Cut of probable grave
0173	11	Fill	Area of fill probably representing several inter-cutting graves
0174	11	?	Void?
0175	12	Fill	Fill of 0176 - number given out for finds of human bone
0176	12	Cut	Cut of pipe trench observed during excavation of trial hole
0177	11	Cut	Cut of possible grave cut or pit
0178	11	Fill	Fill of 0177
0179	11	Cut	Cut of E-W aligned linear or possible grave
0180	11	Fill	Fill of 0179
0181	11	Cut	Cut of possible pit or grave cut
0182	11	Fill	Fill of 0181
0183	11	Cut	Cut of E-W aligned boundary ditch of unknown date
0184	11	Fill	Fill of 0183
0185	11	Cut	Cut of E-W aligned linear
0186	11	Fill	Fill of 0185
0187	11	Cut	Cut of small feature with 'V'-shaped profile- only observed in section
0188	11	Fill	Fill of 0187
0189	11	Layer	Demolition layer below 0190
0190	11	Layer	Demolition layer below 0158
0191	12	Cut	Cut of modern brick culvert/drain
0192	12	Fill	Fill of 0191
0193	12	Structure	Mass of mortared-together roughly hewn stones, 2m in diameter - thick wall or buttress?
0194	12	Cut	Cut for modern pipe/drain?

0195	12	Layer	Layer containing human bone beneath 0197
0196	12	Structure	E-W aligned? section of yellow sandstone wall, cut by 0191 and sealed by 0195
0197	12	Layer	Demolition layer above 0195
0198	12	Fill	Fill of 0194
0199	12	Cut	Cut for modern water pipe?
0200	12	Fill	Fill of 0199
0201	12	Cut	Cut for modern gas pipe
0202	12	Fill	Fill of 0201
0203	12	Cut	Cut for modern pipe/drain
0204	12	Fill	Fill of 0203
0205	12	Layer	Construction deposit
0206	12	Layer	Brown, sandy-silt layer sealing 0193
0207	12	Cut	Vertically-sided modern service cut?
0208	12	Fill	Fill of 0207
0209	12	Cut	Modern service cut
0210	12	Fill	Fill of 0209
0211	12	Cut	Modern service cut
0212	12	Fill	Fill of 0211
0213	12	Cut	Modern service cut
0214	12	Fill	Fill of 0213
0215	12	Cut	Cut for modern drain
0216	12	Fill	Fill of 0215
0217	12	Layer	Black, clayey-silt demolition layer
0218	12	Fill	Fill of 0207
0219	12	Fill	Fill of 0207
0220	12	Fill	Fill of 0207
0221	12	Layer	Construction deposit
0222	12	Layer	Construction deposit
0223	12	Layer	Construction deposit

0224	12	Layer	Construction deposit
0225	12	Layer	Construction deposit
0226	12	Layer	Same as 0221?
0227	12	Layer	Same as 0205?
0228	12	Layer	Same as 0222?
0229	3	Cut	Modern pit
0230	3	Fill	Fill of [0229]
0231	3	Fill	Fill of [0229]



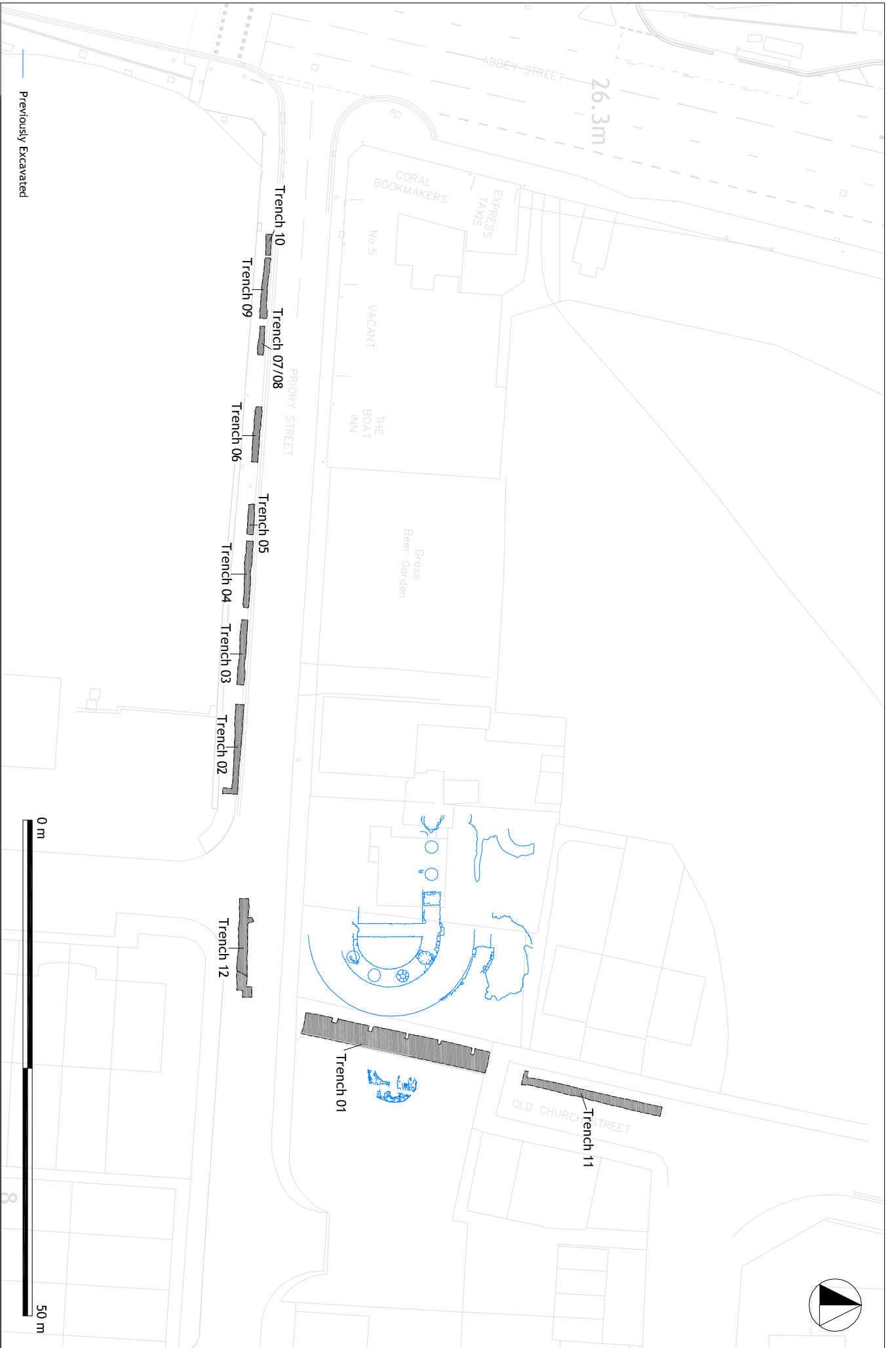
Newly-identified Priory Church walls
 Previously Excavated

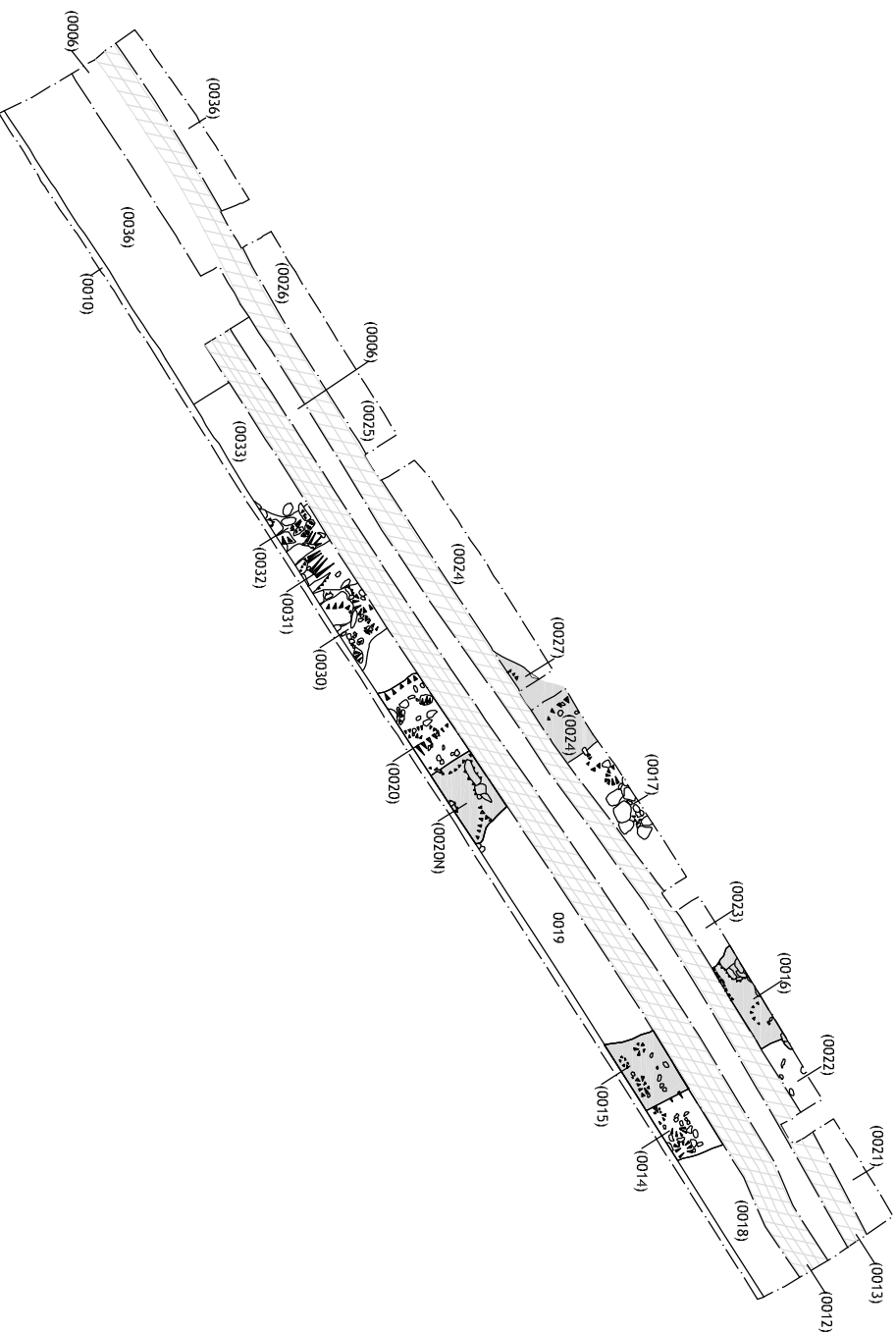






LPX
 Figure 3.2
 Scale at A4 - 1:500

Site Name
 Trench Location Plan Showing Newly Identified Priory Church Walls
 Initials:GM

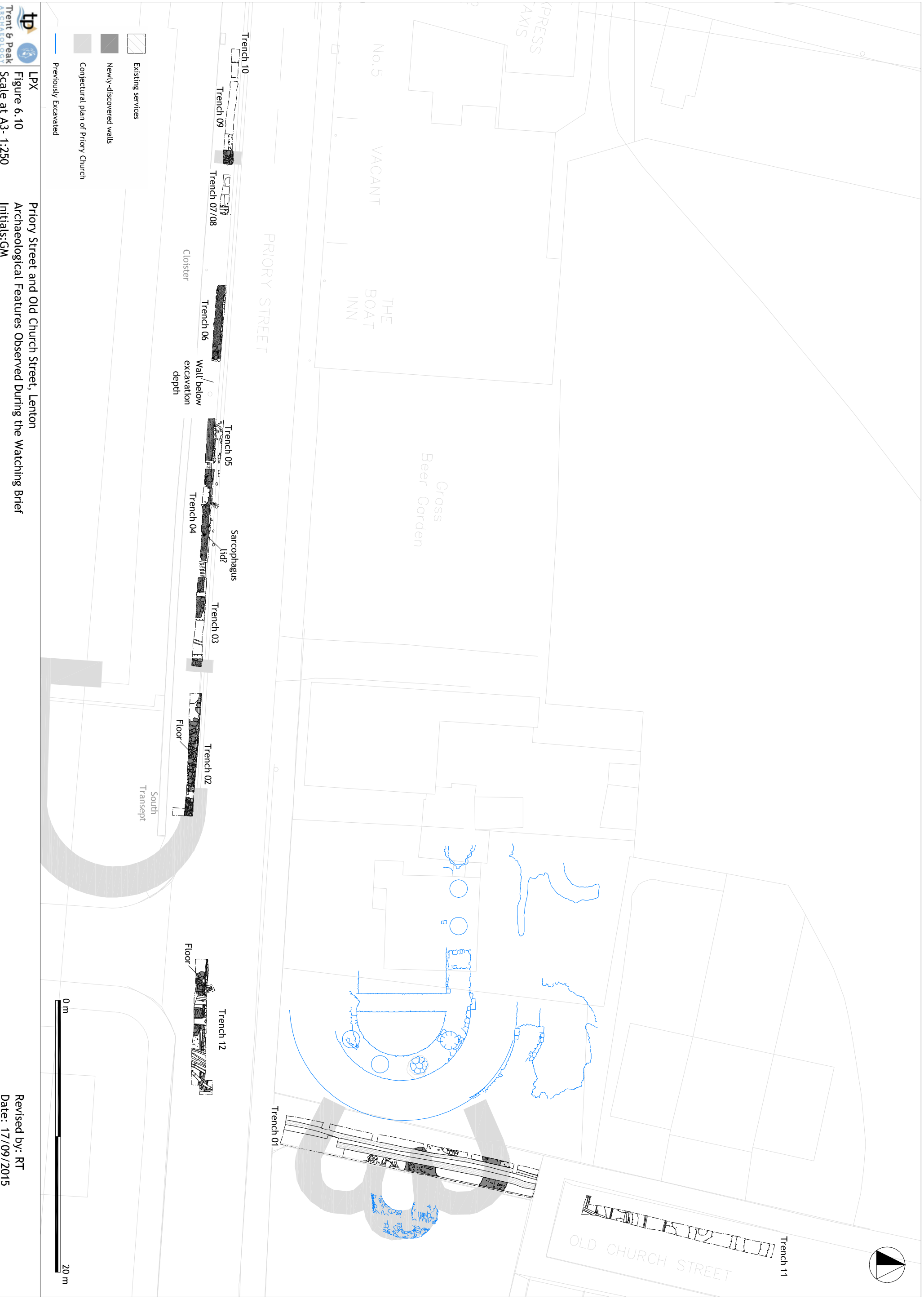
Revised by: RT
 Date: 17/09/2015





-  Existing services
 -  Walls
 -  Projected line of wall
 -  Surface edges
- 25.76m
Height A.O.D.



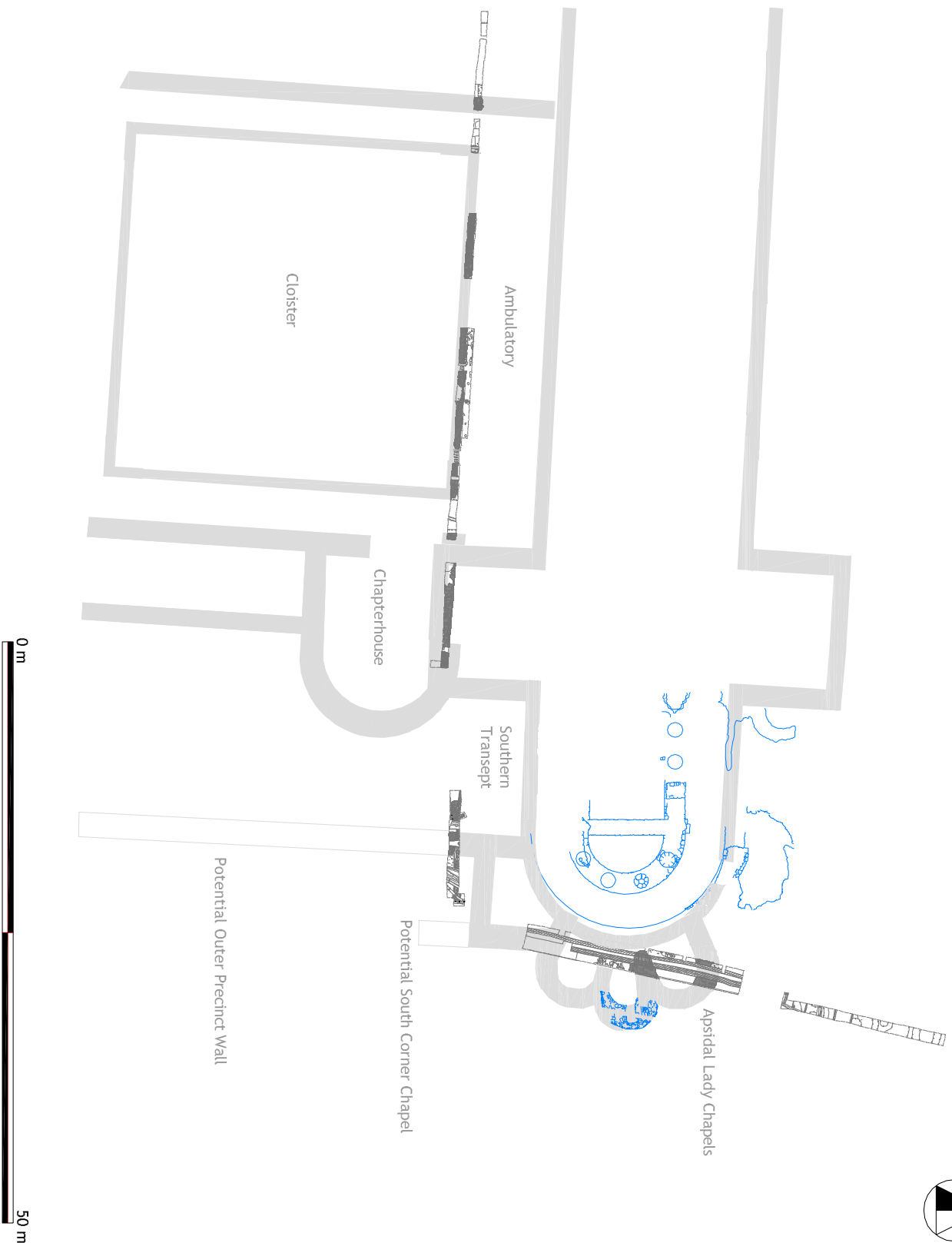







PRIORY STREET

- Existing services
- Newly-discovered walls
- Conjectural plan of Priory Church

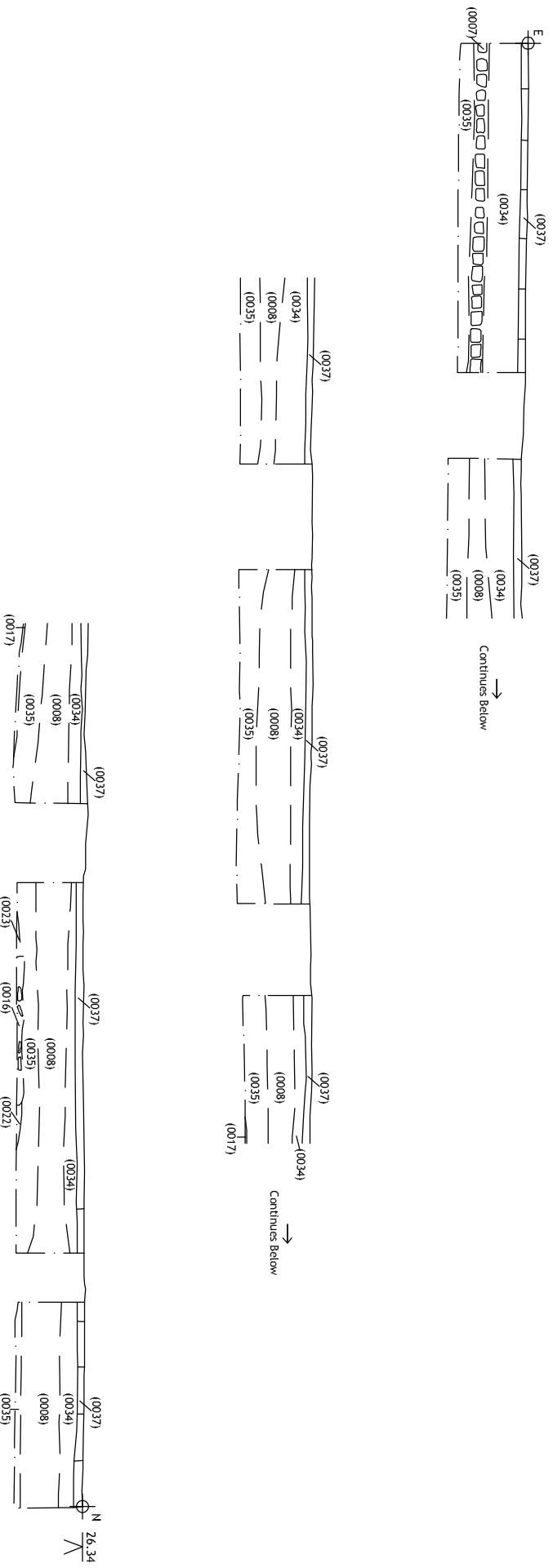
0 m 10 m



-  Watching brief trenches
-  Conjectural plan of Priory Church
-  Previously Excavated



East Facing Section of Trench 01



25:26m
Height A.O.D.



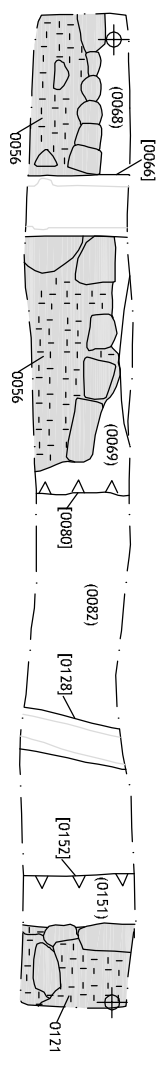
LPX
Figure 6.2
Scale at A4 - 1:50

Priority Street and Old Church Street, Lenton
East Facing Section of Trench 01
Initials: GM

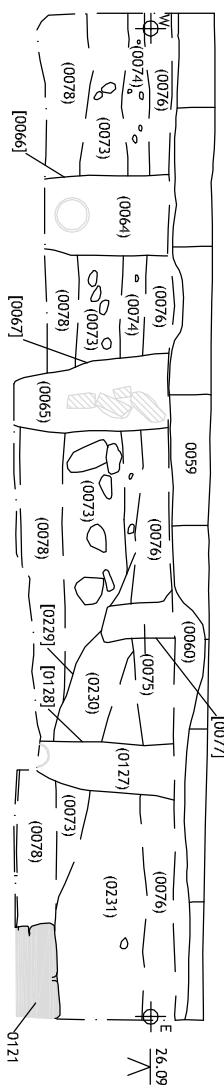
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Date: 17/09/2015








Trench 03 Plan



South Facing Section of Trench 03

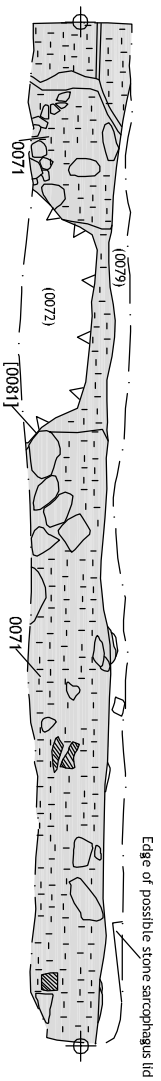


-  Existing services
-  Walls
-  Projected line of wall
-  Surface edges
-  25.26m Height A.O.D.

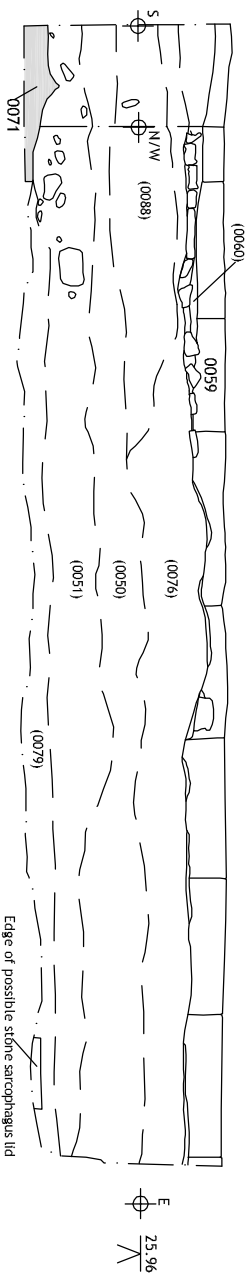










Trench 04 Plan



East/South Facing Section of Trench 04

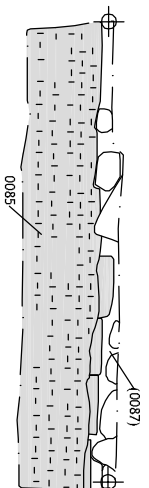


-  Existing services
-  Walls
-  Projected line of wall
-  Surface edges
-  25.26m
-  Height A.O.D.

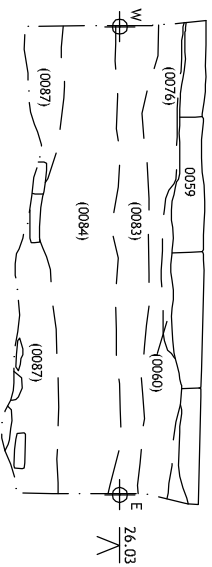




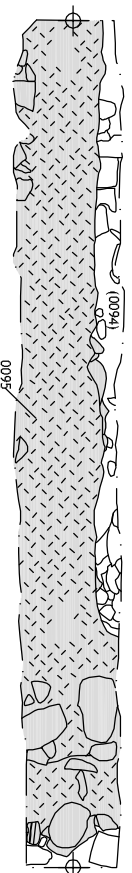
Trench 05 Plan



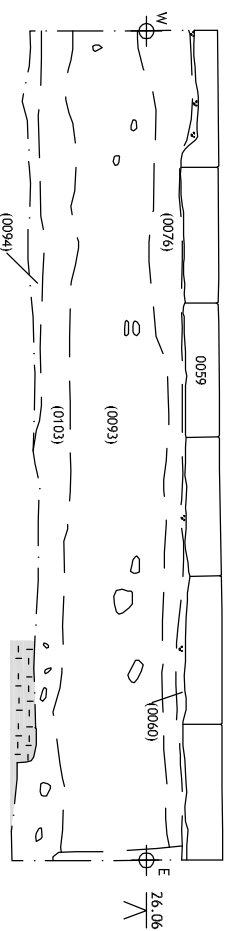
South Facing Section of Trench 05








Trench 06 Plan



South Facing Section of Trench 06

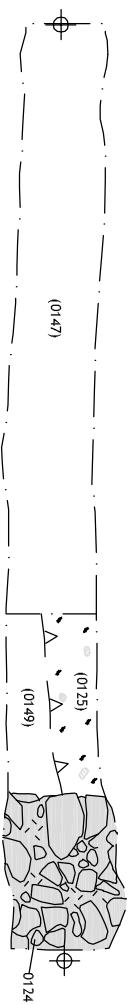


-  Existing services
-  Walls
-  Projected line of wall
-  Surface edges
-  25.76m Height A.O.D.

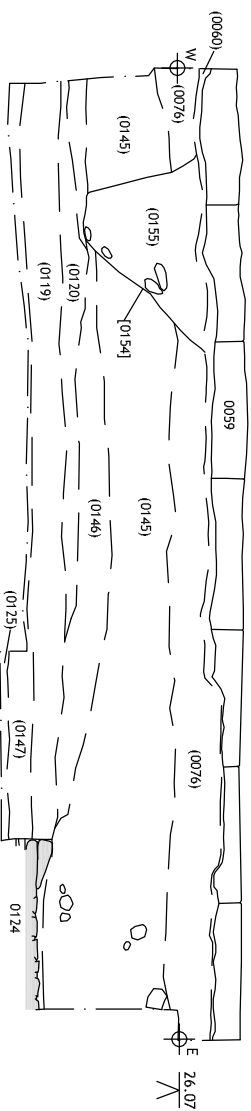









Trench 09 Plan



South Facing Section of Trench 09

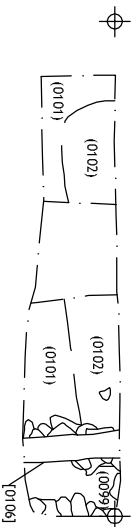


-  Existing services
-  Walls
-  Projected line of wall
-  Surface edges
-  25.26m Height A.O.D.

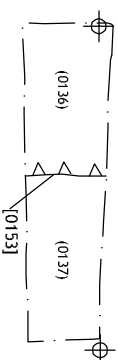




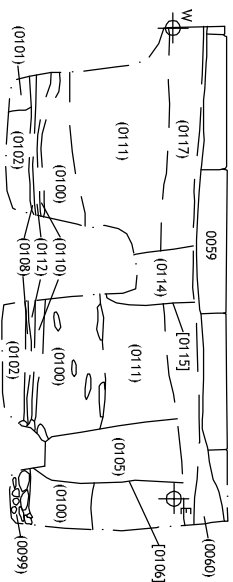
Trench 07/08 Plan



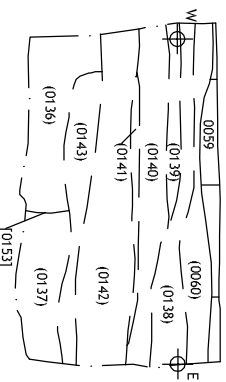
Trench 10 Plan








South Facing Section of Trench 07/08



South Facing Section of Trench 10

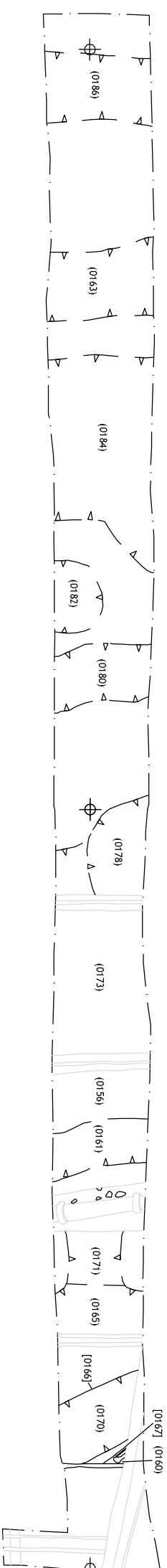


-  Existing services
-  Walls
-  Projected line of wall
-  Surface edges
-  25.26m
Height A.O.D.

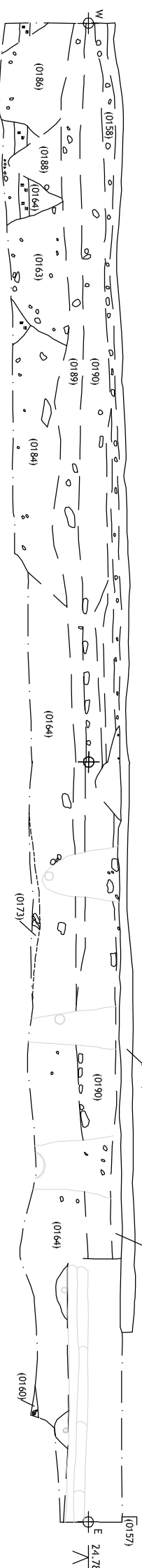




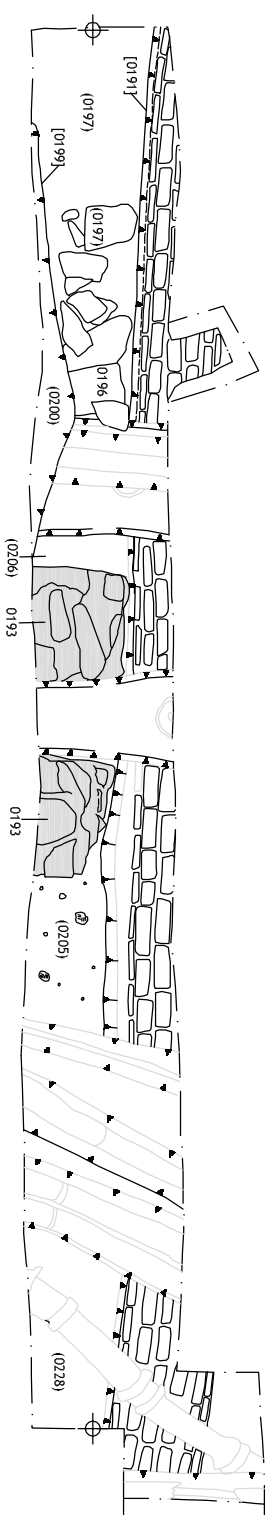
Trench 12 Plan



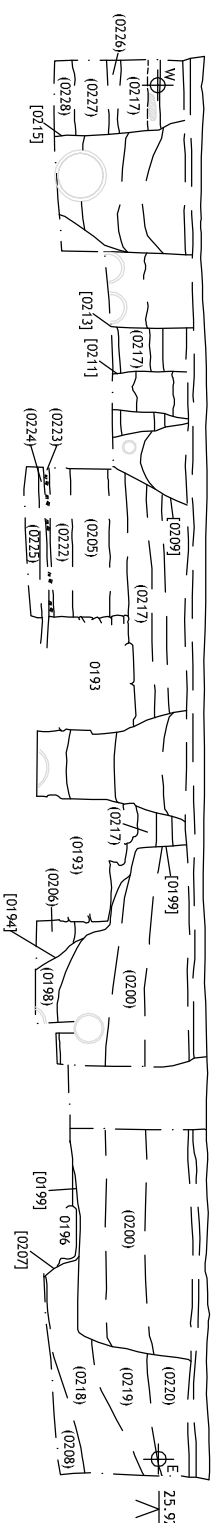
South Facing Section of Trench 11








Trench 12 Plan



North Facing Section of Trench 12



-  Existing services
-  Walls
-  Projected line of wall
-  Surface edges
-  25.76m Height A.O.D.

