



**Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works at  
Durford Abbey Farm, Rogate, West Sussex**

March 2020

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

***This document sets out the results from a programme of archaeological works carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd at Durford Abbey Farm, Rogate, West Sussex. The works were carried out from November 2016 to November 2017 as part of works to repair and redevelop a Threshing Barn.***

***The results revealed what are considered to be parts of the northern and eastern range of the medieval monastery of Durford, including a section of the abbey church with burials. All the remains exhibited signs of severe truncation due to later landscaping, both following the Dissolution and subsequently. No remains were found surviving to floor level or above. The existing large barn was also analysed as part of this project, by Joe Thompson (Sussex Oak & Iron), and was found to be of two builds, the earlier of probable 16<sup>th</sup> century date, the later of 18<sup>th</sup> century.***

## PROJECT BACKGROUND



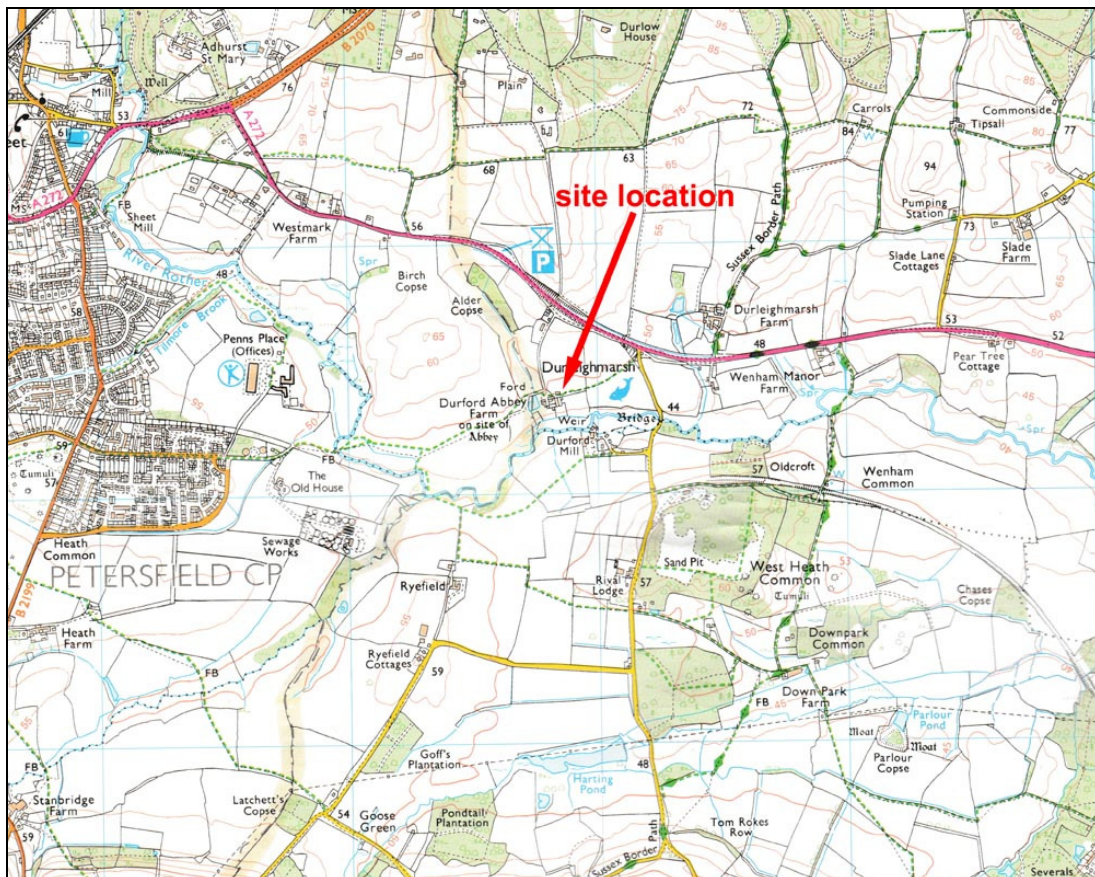
Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

1. Durford Abbey Farm lies in the parish of Rogate in West Sussex, approximately 1½ miles to the east of Petersfield, and c.300m south of the A272 (see Figures 1 & 2). The Farm sits upon the sands of the Sandgate Beds, just to the north of the River Rother, at 48m aOD and NGR SU 7779 2336.
1. Durford Abbey Farm lies upon the site of the medieval monastery of Durford, the remains of which are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as a Scheduled Monument (No: 29280).
2. The landowners of Durford Abbey Farm, received Scheduled Monument Consent (S00076914), Listed Building Consent (SDNPA/14/06616/LIS) and Planning Permission

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(SDNPA/14/06615/FUL) for the repair and reconstruction of the Threshing Barn, the construction of a greenhouse and repairs to the former Piggery and the creation of a kitchen garden. In addition to similar conditions attached to the Scheduled Monument Consent, Condition 6 or the Listed Building consent and Condition 8 of the planning permission both stated that: “The developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development and shall make suitable provision for publication of the results.”

3. West Sussex Archaeology Ltd (WSA) was appointed by the landowners to write and submit the Written Scheme of Investigation that set out the methodology for the archaeological works (Anelay 2016) and then to carry out those works. This report details the results of the archaeological works which were undertaken from November 2016 to November 2017 by George Anelay of WSA. In addition, Joe Thompson (Sussex Oak & Iron) carried out an assessment and analysis of the structural timbers of the barn.



**Figure 2** Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. The medieval Premonstratensian monastery of St. Mary and St. John the Baptist of Durford was founded by Henry Hussey, Lord of the Manor of Harting, c.AD1160 as a daughter abbey of Wellbeck, Nottinghamshire. The abbey was one of the smaller monasteries, possibly never with more than ten canons attached to it. Its nearest Premonstratensian neighbours were the Abbeys of Titchfield (Hampshire) and Bayham (Sussex), although the two houses of Austin Canons at Shulbrede (Sussex) and Selborne (Hampshire) were considerably closer. In AD 1536 Durford was suppressed, being gifted to William FitzWilliam, but then reverting to the crown shortly afterwards, upon his death in 1542. In 1544 it was purchased by Sir Edmund Mervyn, who resided there, and whose son retained the site until 1613, when it is sold to Thomas Bilson, who resided at Mapledurham. The Bilson family, and their descendants, continued to hold Durford until the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Page, pp.89-92).



**Figure 3** Extract from the 1793 Wyburd map of Buriton manor, showing Durford, correctly orientated with north at the top (HRO No.56M75/E/P1)



**Figure 4** The West Front of Durford Priory by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm dated 1782 (British Library Add MS 5675 f.29 no.47)



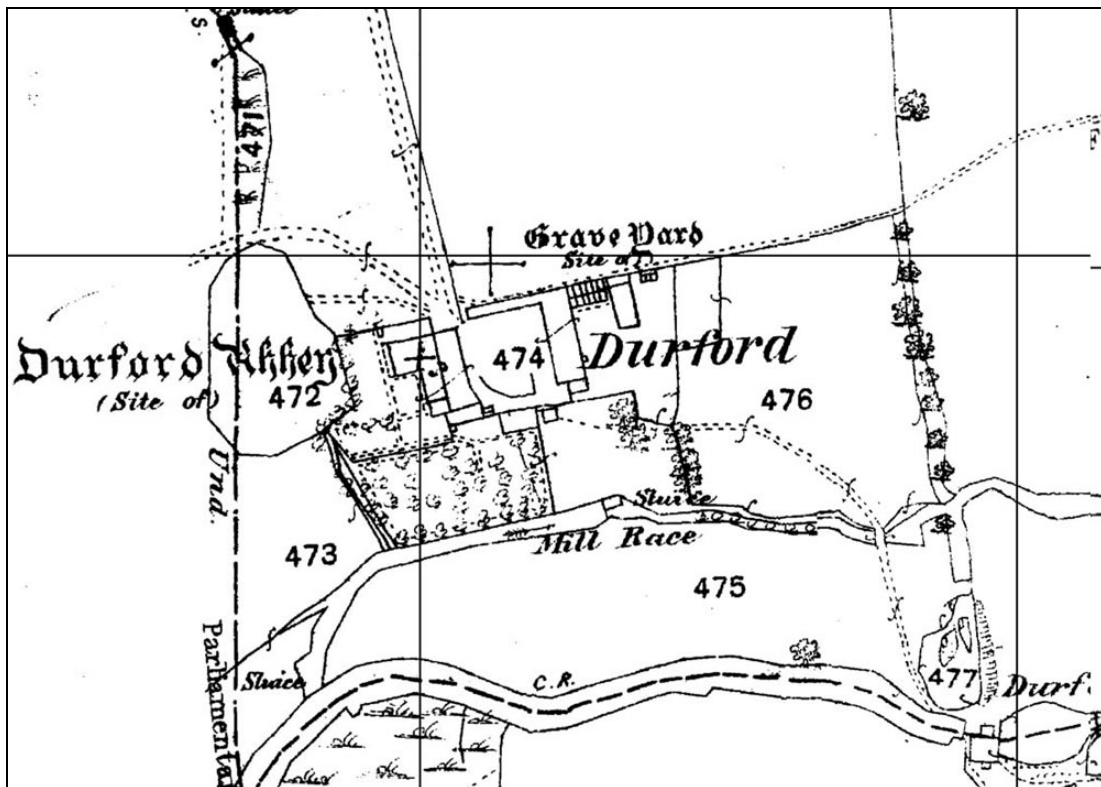
**Figure 5** The South Front of Durford Priory by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm dated 1782 (British Library Add MS 5675 f.28)



**Figure 6** The East Front of Durford Priory by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm dated 1782 (British Library Add MS 5675 f.28 no.45)

2. The earliest map showing Durford Abbey is one dated 1793, drawn up by James Wyburd, and entitled: "A Survey of the Paramountship of the Manor & Parish of Buriton in which is described the Boundaries of the Manor of Weston, West Mapledurham and Durford as also the Boundaries of the Manor and Borough of Petersfield in the County of Hants Wherein is Particularised the Property of the Right Honourable Lord Stawell" (HRO No.56M75/E/P1). This map would appear to show the farmhouse as it stood at the time of a series of watercolours by S. H. Grimm in 1782, shortly before its demolition and reconstruction, which is dated to 1784 by a plaque in the east wall of the current building. The date of 1793 may well relate to the map's completion date, rather than the date of the survey of Durford itself. A subsequent map of 1821, showing lands belonging to Lord Stawell at his death, appears to be a copy of the above (HRO No.30M69/3), with the old farmhouse shown once again. Even the Rogate tithe map of 1843 (WSRO No.TD/W101) is again probably a copy of either the 1793 or the 1821 map, since the farmhouse still retains its earlier form. It is not until the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 edition of 1873 that it is corrected.
3. Taken together the 1793 map and the three Grimm watercolours provide an unusually complete picture of what was clearly the western range of the abbey buildings, preserved as a post-dissolution farmhouse. The position of the demolished northern range of the abbey is indicated by a vertical line of three blocked doorways in the east face of this farmhouse (see Figure 6), but no indication remains of any link to a southern range.

4. It has been thought possible that the eastern of two buildings shown off the south-east end of the farmhouse is also a survival of the abbey buildings, judging by the arched opening that Grimm shows at its western end (see Figure 5). The other of these two is, however, clearly a timber structure. North of these, the position of the surviving large timber barn is shown on the 1793 map in its shorter, earlier form, before the addition of the southern three bays. Aside from this barn, it is unclear how many of the additional buildings shown on the map now survive. One to the south of the barn must have been demolished when it was enlarged shortly after the map was created, but another to the south-east, and others to the west and east at the barn's northern end, may indicate buildings later marked on the 1873 Ordnance Survey map, if somewhat inaccurately. Interestingly the field to the east of the farm buildings, marked as "Horse Pond Mead", was formerly called "The Church Yard", according to the map's reference book (HRO No.57M78/E/R1), and later "The Burial Ground", in the 1821 reference book (HRO No.57M78/E/R2).



**Figure 7** Extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1873

5. The 1873 Ordnance Survey map shows Durford largely as it is today, the most significant of the subsequent changes being: the appearance of the current cowshed to the north-west of the barn before 1898; the demolition of the outbuilding to the east of the current stables between 1944 and 1972; the concreting of the farmyard between 1950 and 1972; and the appearance between 1873 and 1898 of a small garden building to the west of the stables, which is then removed between



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1909 and 1972. This last building is likely to be the summer house, set into the floor of which are said to have been specimens of the encaustic tiles found from time to time about the property. It would appear that these were initially collected together by Mr. R. G. P. Minty, a local antiquarian, with some then being dispatched c.1856 to the Sussex Archaeological Society's Museum in Lewes (Blaauw, p.60-1), some retained by Minty, while the remainder would seem to have later ended up in the floor of this summer house (Ponsonby, p.37). At least some of those from the summer house, after its demolition, may have ended up amongst those now set into the hearth of one of the fireplaces in the farmhouse.

6. A number of accounts have been written of the history of the Abbey, the first being W. H. Blaauw's "Dureford Abbey – its fortunes and misfortunes" (Blaauw 1856). This was followed by a brief note by C. T. Phillips on some encaustic tiles from Durford (Phillips 1892). The Abbey's history was then summarised in the Victoria County History (Page 1907). Subsequent research has concentrated on the documentary evidence (Yates 1980 & Lloyd 1996), including the publication of the Abbey's cartulary (Stevenson 2006).
7. Six previous archaeological investigations have taken place at Durford Abbey Farm. In 1976 Fred Aldsworth visited the site and noted the presence of various medieval remains built into the current farm buildings (Aldsworth 1979). In 1992 a limited watching brief was undertaken within the stables, including an associated soakaway and drainage runs to the south-east, none of which penetrated below make-up layers (Adam 1992). In 2003 a watching brief was carried out on a new water main, which uncovered part of the cemetery to the north of the existing cow-house, together with two possible wall foundations (WSA 2003). In 2004 a further watching brief on repairs to the dam of the fishponds to the west of the farmhouse revealed evidence for two earlier sluices (WSA 2004). Finally in 2007 and 2013 two phases of investigative test-pitting were undertaken, as a precursor to the current works, which revealed evidence for buried medieval wall foundations (WSA 2008 & 2013). However, in spite of these archaeological investigations, at the time of this project's inception, little was still known of the nature and extent of the remains of Durford Abbey.

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**Figure 8** Plan of Durford Abbey Farm showing the locations of the previous investigation trenches

RESULTS

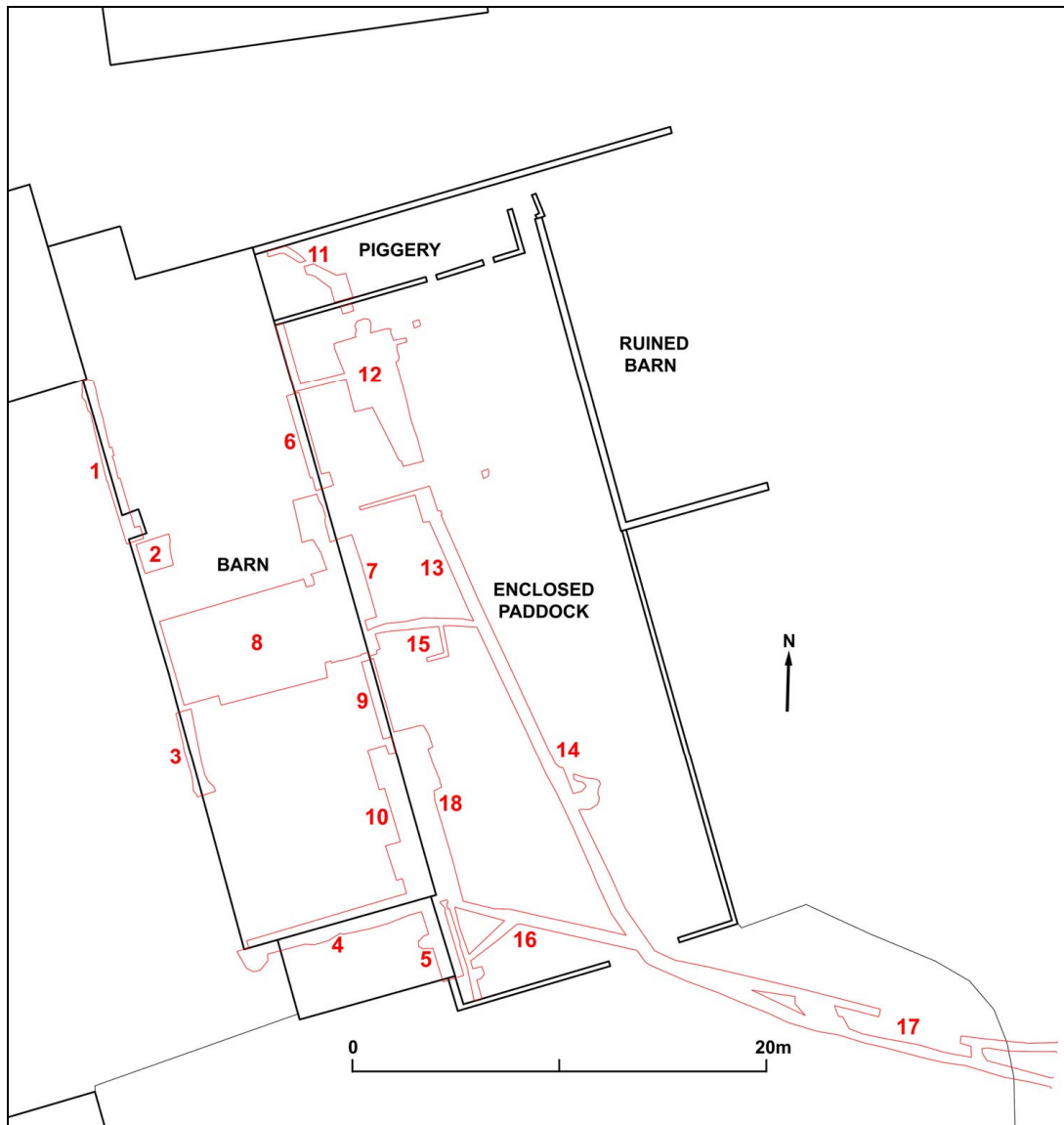


Figure 9 Plan of the 2017 trenches (numbered in red).

1. The archaeological works at Durford Abbey Farm began in November 2016 with a watching brief on the reduction of the barn floor to the level required for the make-up of its new concrete surface. The existing slope required that 0.3m was taken from the floors northern end, gradually reducing southwards until the reduction petered out just to the south of the barn's south doors. The second element, from January to August 2017, involved an intermittent watching brief on underpinning works to the barn walls, which were to take in almost all of its eastern, southern and western foundations. The third element of works, which ran from May until November 2017, was an intermittent watching brief on surface water drainage runs, dug to the east of the barn through the enclosed paddock and across the southern paddock. The results from all these works are given below, starting with the medieval remains,

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first under the barn, and then in the paddocks, and then moving onto the post-medieval remains.

## THE MEDIEVAL REMAINS

### The Barn

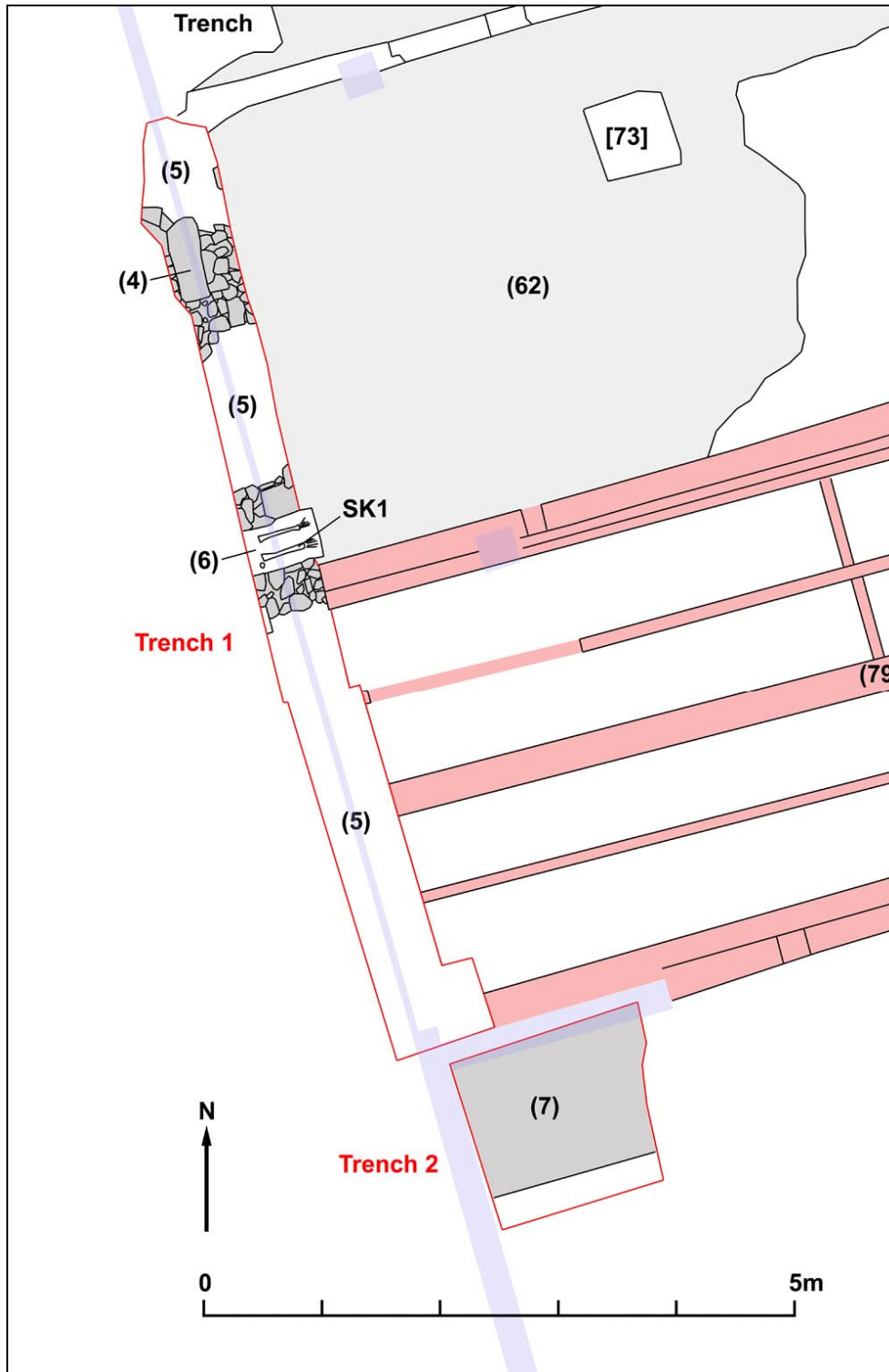


Figure 10 Plan of Trenches 1 & 2

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1. Trench 1 (see Figure 9), dug for underpinning at the northern end of the barn's west wall, revealed foundations (4 in Figure 10), running east-west, which were formed of un-mortared and un-dressed Upper and Lower Greensand blocks. While the southern edge of these foundations was well defined, with some faced blocks surviving, their northern edge would appear to have been largely lost. At their widest the foundations were 1.2m across, and at their deepest only 0.35m. They were cut into the underlying natural sand (5) to a depth of only c.0.15m, although it is probable that both the natural sand and the foundations have been truncated. Traces of a pale yellow mortar were visible under and adjacent to a single large Upper Greensand block, which sat at the highest point of the foundations; this may represent the level at which mortared stone coursing began. In the western baulk of the trench a single course of stone blocks extended c.0.5m to the south of the foundations, suggesting that there may have been a further section running in this direction, but which lies beyond the excavated trench.



**Figure 11** Trench 1, Foundation 4, looking west

2. Less than a metre to the south of the foundations lay the remains of an inhumation (SK1) enclosed within a stone-lined grave (6 in Figure 10). Only the lower legs remained intact, with the western end of the grave truncated by a feature composed of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century bricks, possibly a drain or soakaway, lying just beyond the trench edge. A number of disarticulated human bones found within the grave at its western end are likely to be from the same burial, replaced after being disturbed. The stones of the grave were of Upper Greensand, faced on their internal surface and laid without mortar. At its greatest height, the wall

survived to 0.6m deep, with its surface flush with the surrounding natural sand, although as noted above, it is likely that both have been truncated. The chamber enclosed was only 0.4m wide, with 0.75m of its length surviving before being truncated to the west. Filling the grave was a lower layer of yellow/brown silty sand containing frequent fragments of Upper Greensand, and an upper fill of mid brown silt with frequent stone, brick and tile rubble. This latter layer (3) extended throughout the trench, and indeed across much of the site, and is presumed to be that created when the abbey was demolished and the site levelled. The lower layer may be the remains of an original grave fill, although it is possible that the grave was originally an unfilled void below a capping ledger stone, since lost. The skeleton within the grave was probably male, c.5ft 8in in height, and with a suggested age of 20-24 years. The continuation of Trench 1 to the south revealed only the natural sand.



**Figure 12** Trench 1, Grave 6, looking east

3. Trench 2 (see Figure 9) contained a second east-west wall foundation (7 in Figure 10) with its inner face being 6.4m (21ft) from that to the north (4). This southern wall foundation was 1.35m wide and survived to a depth of 0.5m. It was composed of four rough courses, all undressed and un-mortared, the upper being of Lower Greensand blocks, above a single course of large flints, sitting upon two courses of mixed Upper and Lower Greensand and chalk. The courses were roughly squared-off on the outer faces of the foundation. As with the northern foundation it, and natural sand into which it was dug, would appear to have truncated. The upper stones of both foundations lay at approximately the same level.



**Figure 13** Trench 2, Foundation 7, looking north-east

4. The second section of underpinning to the west wall spanned the threshold to the south barn doors (Trench 3, see Figure 9). The undisturbed natural sand was encountered at a depth of 0.4m below the concrete ground surface of the farmyard. Above the natural sand was the usual brown silt and rubble (3). At both the northern and southern ends steep sided cuts (8 & 9 in Figure 14) into this natural sand were visible in the eastern face of the trench, with a gap of 2.3m between. The western face of the trench presented a more disturbed aspect. At both the northern and southern ends cuts were again apparent dug down into the natural sand, that at the northern end (10 in Figure 14) extending 1.4m into the trench, while that at the southern (11 in Figure 14) extending 1.8m into the trench. Both were filled with flint and stone chippings and occasional larger Lower Greensand blocks. At the northern end this layer was overlain by mortared Lower Greensand blocks (12 in Figure 14) extending 0.85m into the trench, which are probably the foundations of a wall. At the southern end a few large Lower Greensand blocks (13), with traces of mortar adhering, were found lying over the layer of flint and chippings, but they had clearly been disturbed. However it is probable that these too once formed part of the foundations for a mortared wall. In the extreme south-eastern corner of the trench the north face of a wall of faced Upper Greensand blocks was exposed, cut by the later barn wall foundations. It would seem likely that the remains exposed by this underpinning trench represent either the remains of two opposed buttresses, or the flanking walls of an entranceway. The latter is considered more probable, with the width of the entrance being c.2m (6½ ft).

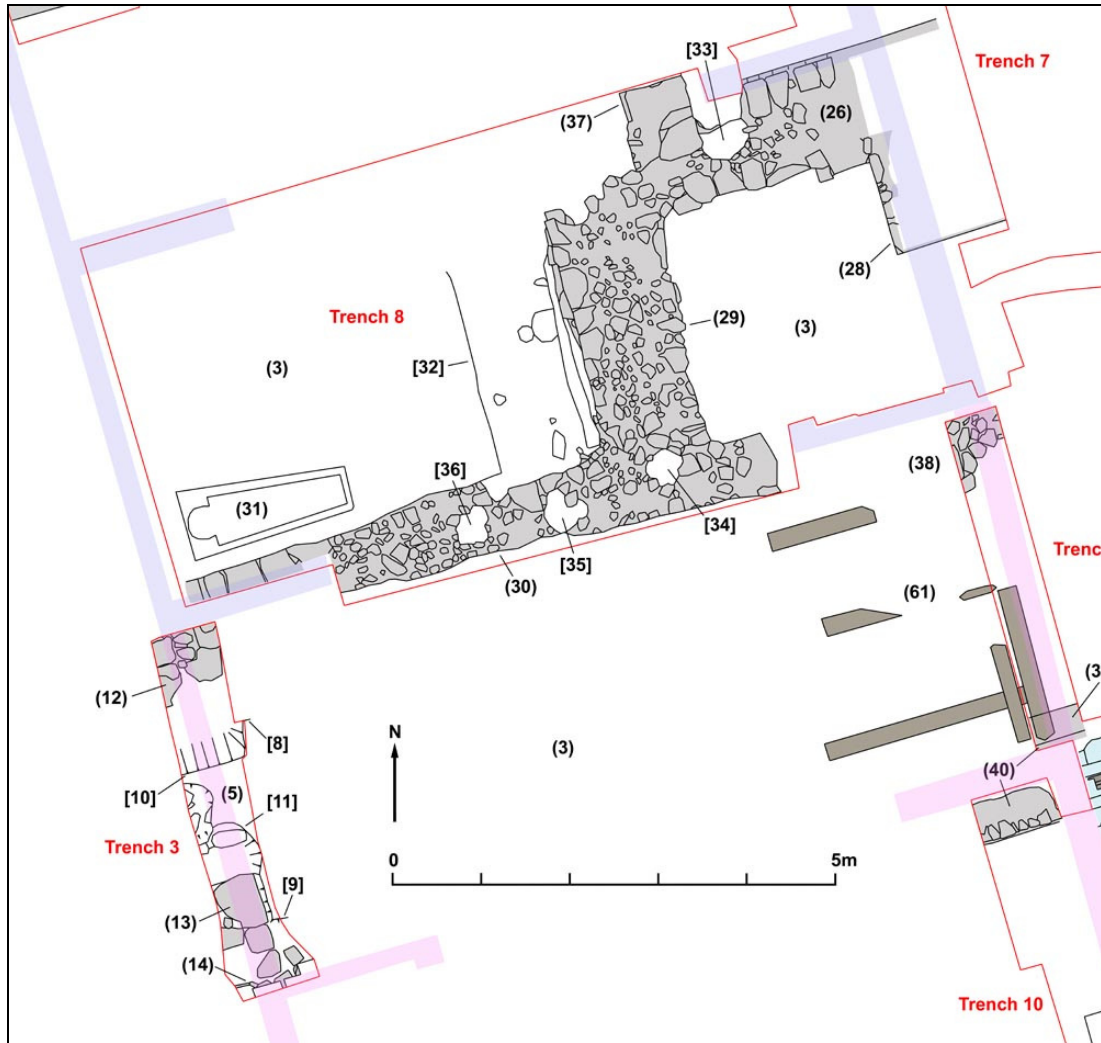


Figure 14 Plan of Trenches 3 & 8



Figure 15 Trench 3, Foundations 13 & 14, looking south





Figure 16 Trench 3, Foundation 12, looking east

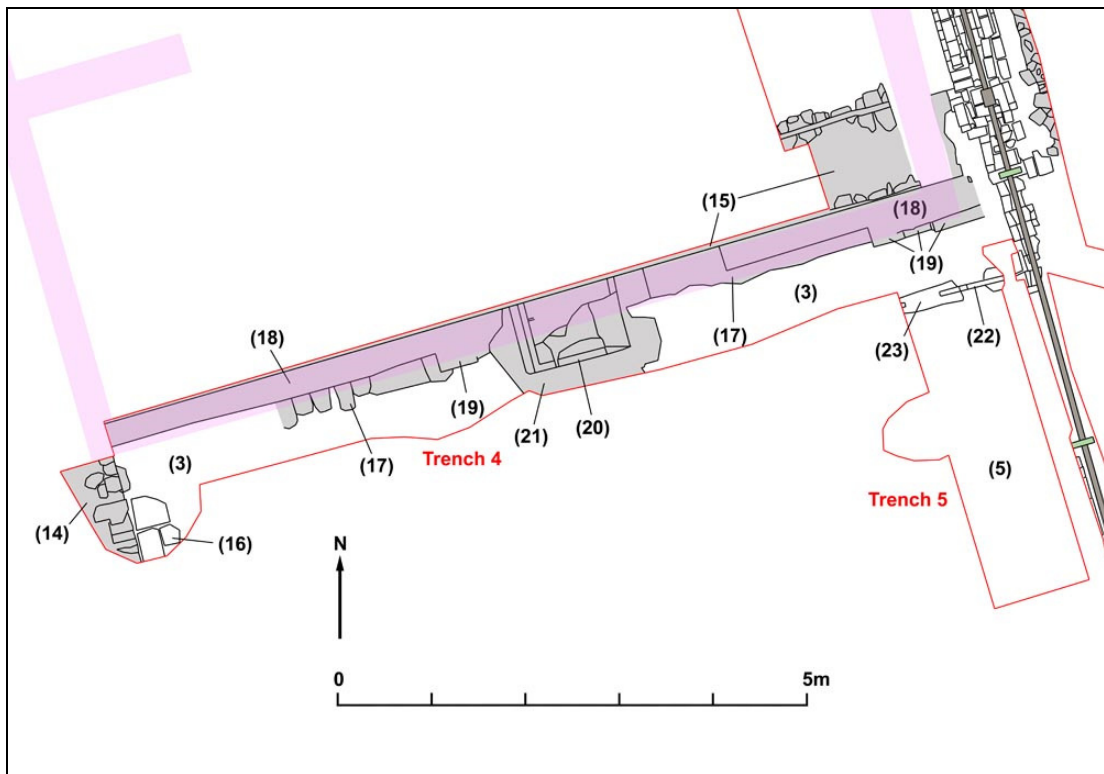


Figure 17 Plan of Trenches 4 & 5

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5. The southern wall of the barn was underpinned for its entire length (Trench 4, see Figure 9), and it was found to sit immediately to the south of a mortared and faced wall foundation (15 in Figure 17). At the western end of the barn wall a second wall foundation (14 in Figure 17) was found running at right-angles to the first and butted up against its southern edge, although the two courses of Lower Greensand quoins above were keyed into the east-west foundation (15). This latter was composed of un-dressed Upper and Lower Greensand blocks, roughly faced on the outer side and set in a white mortar, with evidence for the re-use of at least one architectural stone, a section of roll-moulding in Upper Greensand. A single Lower Greensand block was found mortared onto the top of the foundation with a vertical chamfer on its outer face and an internal rebate. This, together with the evidence of three Lower Greensand slabs (16 in Figure 17) laid flat to the immediate east, suggests that this may have been the position of a doorway, with the slabs acting as a doorstep. Below these slabs was a layer of dark brown silt (1) containing oyster shells, peg-tile and three sherds of pottery dating to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century or 16<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting a date for the laying of the slabs, and possibly the construction of the doorway and its foundation, late in the abbey's history.



**Figure 18** Trench 4, Foundation 14, looking north-west

6. The foundations of the east-west wall (15) were composed of lower footing of undressed and un-mortared Upper and Lower Greensand rubble (17 in Figure 17), which projected c.0.5m, below an upper mortared footing (18 in Figure 17) of the same stone, c.0.3m high, faced upon the outside with dressed blocks (19 in Figure 17). These

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outer dressed blocks were only present at the eastern end of the exposed footing, for a distance of 1.3m, presumably having been robbed away to the west, with the exception of a single example to the immediate west of a central buttress (20 in Figure 17). Only the lower, un-mortared footing was cut into the natural sand, with foundation as a whole overlain by the usual spread of silt with rubble (3). The buttress (20) was approximately centrally placed to the east-west wall and was composed of a foundation of mortared Upper and Lower greensand blocks and peg-tile fragments (21 in Figure 17), upon which sat dressed blocks of Lower Greensand around a mortared core (20 in Figure 17). Two courses of these blocks survived, the lowest of which formed a rectangle 1.1m wide and projecting 0.8m from the wall behind. The course above was set back 0.05m on the outer three sides, with a chamfer in the course below bringing the face inwards. The buttress foundation cut into that of the wall behind, and the dressed stones above were butted up against it, with peg-tiles used as a spacer. The wall (15) behind the buttress, above its foundations (17–19), was formed of dressed Lower Greensand blocks, forming a single, but not continuous, course at the base, and then large flints and Upper and Lower Greensand rubble, all set in a pale yellow mortar. Traces of white mortar render survived in places on the wall face.



**Figure 19** Trench 4, Buttress 20, looking east

7. The underpinning holes beneath the east wall of the lean-to attached to the south end of the barn (Trench 5, see Figure 9) did not reveal any further features, save for a lead pipe (22 in Figure 17) running east-west 1.15m to the south of Wall 15. The pipe was 35mm in diameter and encased within a linear block of grey clay (23 in Figure 17), 0.2-

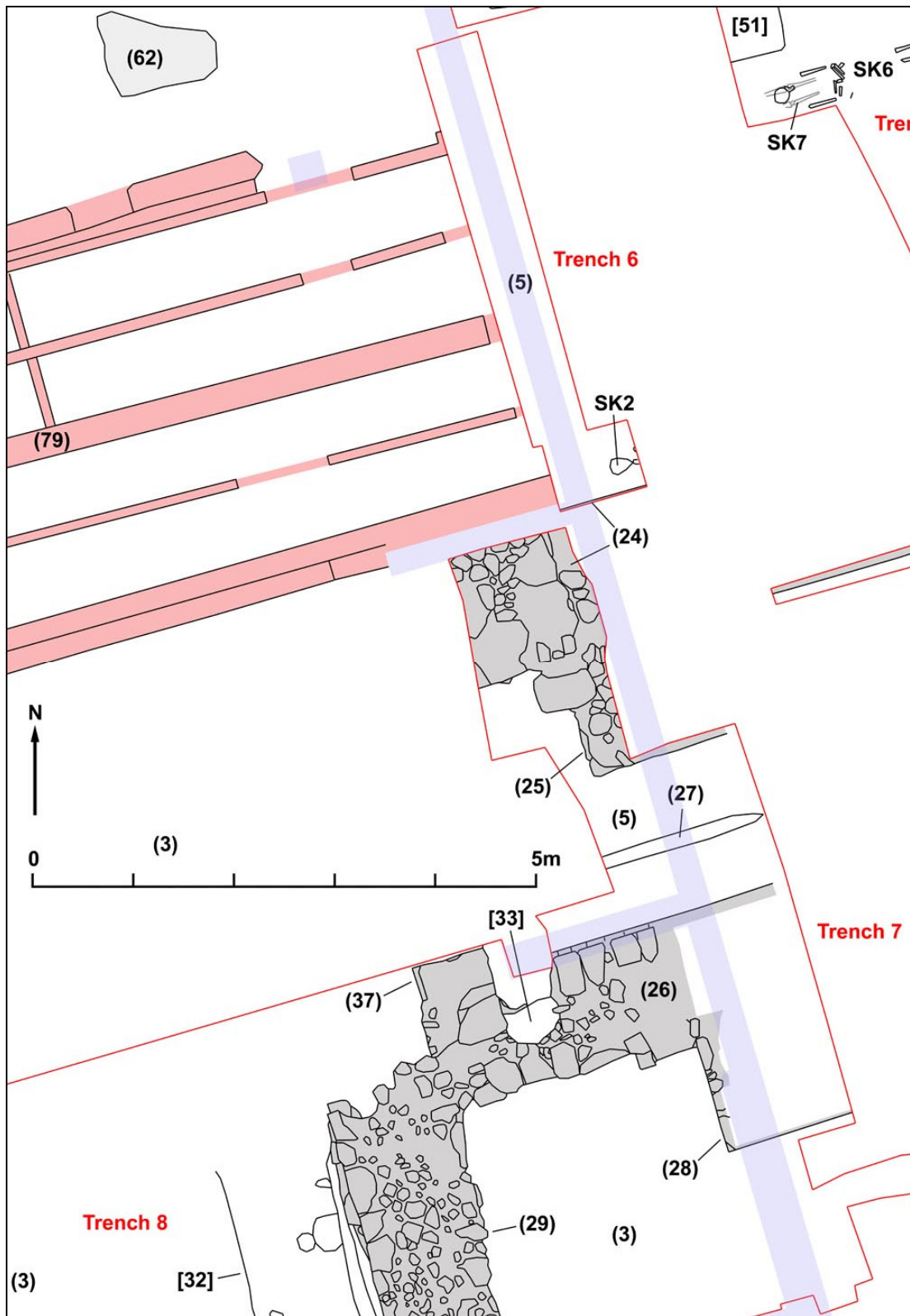
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0.25m wide and 0.1m high, which sat within a narrow trench cut into the natural sand, c.0.25m deep and c.0.45m wide. Overlying this and the natural sand was a thick deposit of the silt and rubble layer (3), c.0.9m deep.



**Figure 20** Trench 5, lead pipe (22), looking west

8. No evidence for any remains associated with the abbey were found in the northern section of the underpinning under the east wall (Trench 6, see Figure 9), merely a 0.4m thick layer of the usual silt and rubble (3) sitting upon the natural sand (5). However for much of this stretch any remains apart from the deeper wall foundations may well have been completely removed by the brick-lined trenches that filled the space between the two northern barn doors. At the southern end of this barn bay the northern edge of an east-west running foundation was exposed (24 in Figure 21). This was composed of Upper Greensand blocks set in a yellow mortar and surviving to a height of 0.85m from its base. It was cut into natural sand, the original surface of which it was not possible to record, since it would appear to have been truncated on all sides. In the eastern baulk of the trench the top of a human skull was observed, and a 0.3m wide extension was made to investigate further. This revealed that it formed part of an east-west aligned inhumation (SK2), surviving within a shallow cut only 0.12m deep and filled with a yellow/brown sandy silt, almost certainly truncated by later disturbance. These remains were left *in-situ*.



**Figure 21** Plan of Trenches 6 & 7

9. The rest of Foundation 24 was exposed within the next barn bay to the south (Trench 7, see Figure 9), being in total 1.45m (4¾ ft) wide. Here, however, it survived to a greater height and included Lower Greensand blocks within its make-up, possibly as a course above the Upper Greensand. Extending from its southern face, but seemingly all one

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build, was a rectangular block of masonry (25 in Figure 21) of the same construction, which almost certainly formed the base for a buttress. It was 1.2m north-south and at least 1.4m east-west, its eastern edge being truncated by a modern drain.



**Figure 22** Trench 6, SK2 & Foundation 24, looking south



**Figure 23** Trench 7, Foundations 24 & 25, looking east

10. To the south of (25) was the northern face of another east-running foundation (26 in Figure 21), lying at a distance of 1.5m (5ft). This foundation was again composed of Upper Greensand blocks in a yellow mortar, but with a complete course of Lower Greensand surviving at its highest level. It ran to the east beyond the barn wall until truncated by the same modern drain as the buttress foundation (25) to the north.
11. Between Foundations (25) & (26) was an east-west running line of grey clay (27 in Figure 21), 0.15m wide and 0.13m high, with a semi-circular groove in its upper surface. This is almost certainly the support for a lead pipe identical to (22) & (23) to the south, but in this case the pipe has been robbed from its setting. It lay within a 0.2m deep depression in the natural sand, but this too is likely to have been truncated and disturbed at the time of the demolition of the abbey, and the clay itself petered out 0.7m to the east of the barn wall.



**Figure 24** Trench 7, clay (27) for lead pipe with Foundation 26 behind, looking south-east

12. The bulk of Foundation 26 was exposed in the barn bay to the south. Here the top course of Lower Greensand blocks, found on its northern edge, had been lost, with the visible parts all of faced Upper Greensand. A turn in this foundation to the south may again represent the base for an integral buttress (28 in Figure 21), here projecting 1.1m and extending for 1.35m to the east under the barn wall. No further remains were found within this bay, the natural sand being overlain by 0.45m of the usual silt and rubble (3).



**Figure 25** Trench 7, Foundations 26 & 28, looking east

13. Due to issues over the finished barn floor levels, the decision was taken to reduce the surface within the bay immediately to the north of the southern doors to the lowest level possible, without disturbing any significant archaeological deposits (Trench 8, see Figure 9). The resulting excavation, while not reaching the base of the soil and rubble layer (3) that covers the natural sand, did expose the tops of several wall foundations (26, 29 & 30 in Figure 14), together with the chalk coffin (31) found in the 2007 evaluation, and a possible robber trench of an earlier wall (32). The most obvious feature was a wall foundation of undressed Lower and Upper Greensand blocks set within a pale yellow mortar, with only the exterior blocks faced (30). The foundation ran east-west across the barn, but with its southern edge lying unexcavated in the south door bay. Its western end appeared to run under the barn wall, to continue for an unknown distance, while its eastern end seems to have been truncated by one of the barn posts. Towards its eastern end the foundation turned north (29) to join with another running east-west (26), part of which had been revealed within the barn east wall underpinning (see above). The north-west corner formed by the junction of these latter two stretches of foundation (26 & 29) was badly truncated, and therefore it was not possible to determine whether either continued to the north or west. Both foundations (26 & 29) would appear to have been c.1.2m wide, with a slight projection (37 in Figure 14) of 0.3m off the northern side of the east-west foundation (26), possibly the base for a small buttress or other architectural feature.





**Figure 26** Trench 8, Foundations 30, 29, 26 & 37, looking east. The robbed out foundation trench [32] lies just beyond the ranging pole



**Figure 27** Trench 8, Foundations 29 & 30, looking west. The chalk coffin (31) is adjacent to the ranging pole.

14. Running parallel with north-south foundation (29) was a mortar and silt filled trench (32 in Figure 14), 1m wide, which appeared to run off the north side of the Foundation 30 for an unknown distance northwards. It is likely that this represents the robbed out remains of a foundation

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trench, possibly for a predecessor to Foundation 29. In the south-west corner of the bay, the chalk coffin (31 in Figure 14) revealed in 2007 was again exposed. With the advantage of improved lighting and a larger area exposed, it is now apparent that it is almost certainly *in situ* and not relocated as previously suggested, although its cover stone and contents have been lost. No other features were noted in Trench 8, but, as has been mentioned, only the surface of the highest of the archaeological deposits were exposed and the natural sands were not reached.

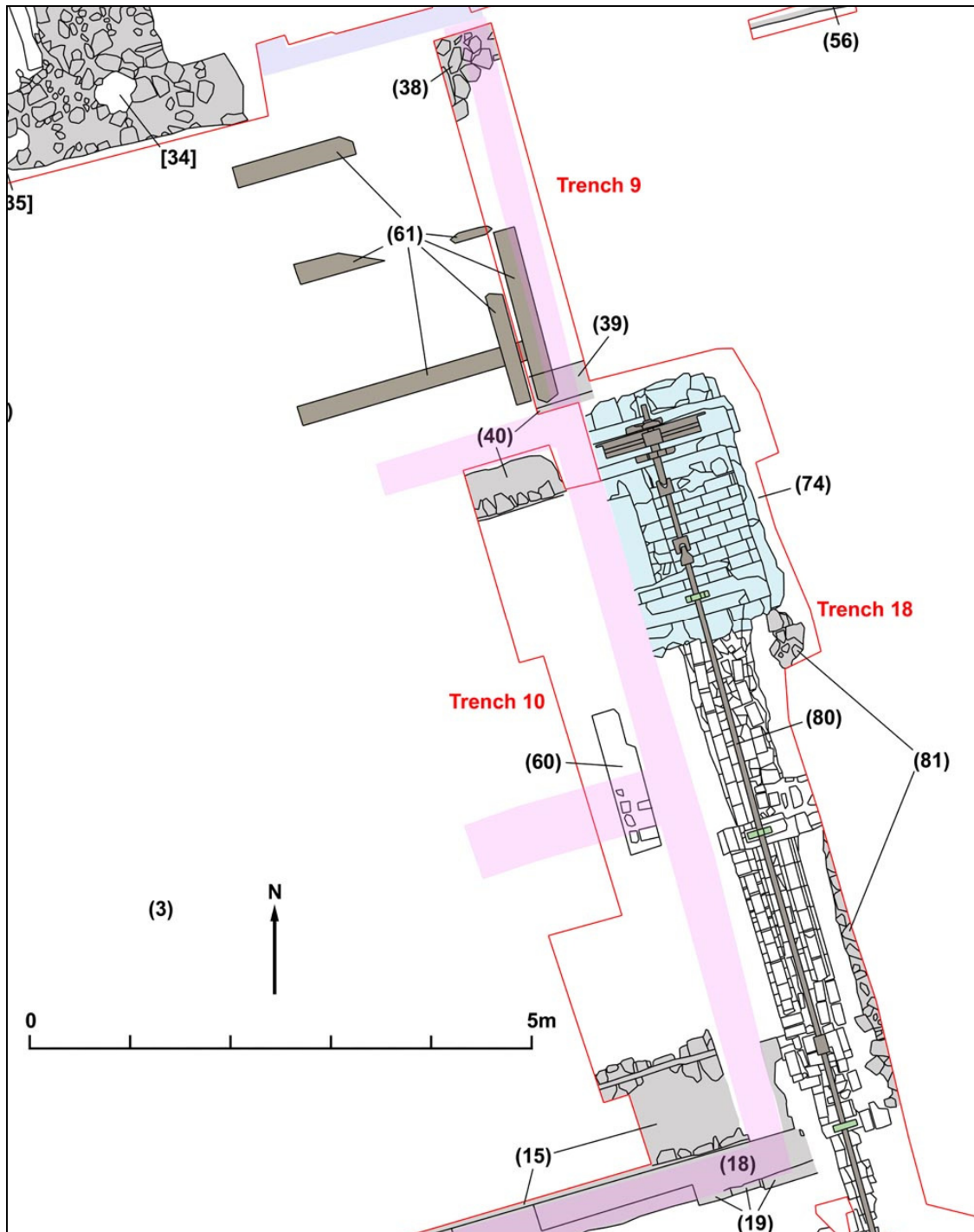


Figure 28 Plan of Trenches 9 & 10

15. The underpinning beneath the barn's eastern wall within the next bay to the south (Trench 9, see Figure 9), that housing the barn's south doors, revealed at its northern end a shallow trench running east-west and cut into the natural sand to a depth of 0.25m. At its base was a single course of undressed and un-mortared Lower and Upper Greensand blocks (38 in Figure 28), overlain by a layer of broken mortar and Upper Greensand fragments. It is probable that this is all that remains of a wall foundation, running east-west and probably a continuation of Foundation 30. Its northern edge was not observed in the southern face of the underpinning trench to the north, probably because it did not survive. Overlying the foundation was the usual soil and rubble layer (3).



**Figure 29** Trench 9, Foundation 38, looking west

16. At the southern end of Trench 9, a second wall foundation was encountered, this time surviving to a much greater depth, with a gap of 2.8m between it and Foundation 38. The lowest visible part of these foundations consisted of undressed and un-mortared Lower and Upper Greensand rubble (39 in Figure 28) lying within a trench cut into the natural sand to an unknown depth. Stepped back 0.25m from the outer edge of this lower footing was an upper section (40 in Figure 28) extending 0.6m above the level of the lower footings. This consisted of a single course of faced Upper Greensand blocks, behind and then above which was Lower and Upper Greensand rubble set in a pale yellow mortar. It is probable that the single course of dressed blocks once continued upwards as the facing stones to this inner core of mortared rubble, but the former have been robbed away. This suggestion is supported by the observation that the usual overlying soil

and rubble layer (3) deepened from the north to meet the top edge of the single surviving course of these faced ashlar, at a depth of over 1m below the current ground surface.



**Figure 30** Trench 9, Foundation 38, looking south. The existing barn wall lies above

17. The south side of Foundation 40 was revealed at the northern end of the underpinning in the next barn bay to the south (Trench 10, see Figures 9 & 28). Here the Lower and Upper Greensand faced stones that formed the outer skin were all present down to its base, with no step in the footings as on the north side, and with eight rough courses of varying depth visible. The overall dimensions of this wall foundation, as it survived, were 1.15m thick at the base, 0.85m above the step and 0.6m at its highest surviving point, where the facing stones had been robbed off its northern side. The whole foundation survived to a height of 0.9m. Against the west baulk of the underpinning trench, at a distance of 0.9m from the east barn wall, the wall foundation appeared to be cut, ending in an uneven line. It is possible that this marks the position of an entrance, the quoin stones, which would once have formed its sides, having been robbed away.



**Figure 31** Trench 10, Foundation 40, looking north. The possible entrance lies to the left



**Figure 32** Trench 10, Foundation 15, looking south

18. On the south side of Foundation 40, the natural sand had been cut away to a depth of c.1m below its surface on the north side. The base

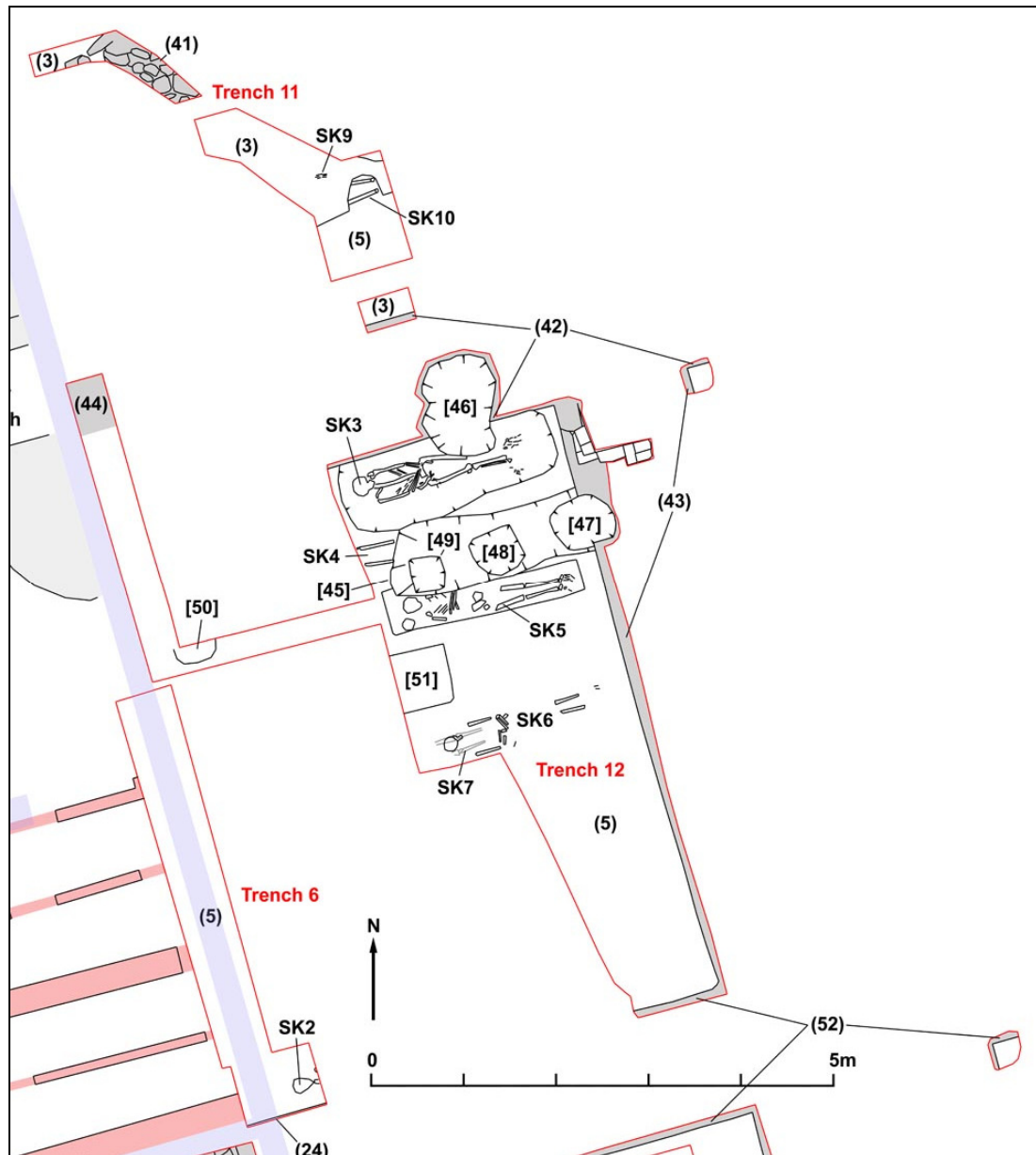
of the foundation sitting within a trench only 0.1m deep. The natural sand was then overlain by the soil and rubble of Layer 3, which continued until the north face of Foundation 15 was encountered to the south (see Figure 28), with a distance of 5.8m (19ft) between. Foundation 15 proved to be 0.9m wide, with a stepped-out footing (c.0.2m wide) of a single course of undressed and un-mortared blocks on this northern side. Above this lower footing the mortared foundation survived to a height of 0.75m, with the footing below being a further 0.15m deep.

19. It is probable that Foundations 15 & 40 enclosed a cellar or undercroft, with the level of the underlying natural sand dropping by 0.2m across the intervening space. This fall may well have been levelled by a sloping layer of Upper Greensand chippings and sand, found underlying the soil and rubble against the south wall. No trace of a floor survived above, although this may well have been robbed away. The probable eastern side of this cellar/undercroft was found c.1m to the east of the barn in Trench 18. Here the top of a foundation (81 in Figure 28) of Lower and Upper Greensand rubble set in a yellow mortar was found running north-south immediately below the topsoil.



**Figure 33** Trench 18, Foundations 51 (under the scale) & 81 (against the right baulk of the trench), looking north-west

**The Eastern Drain**



**Figure 34** Plan of Trenches 11 & 12

1. The trench for the surface water drainage began 0.5m to the east of the north-west corner of the piggery building (Trench 11, see Figure 9). Here, at a depth of 0.4m below the existing ground surface, the remains of what is probably a wall foundation (41 in Figure 34), running east-west, was revealed, composed of un-dressed Lower and Upper Greensand blocks. Traces of a pale yellow mortar were noted in places, but due to the narrowness of the trench (0.3m) and the decision to leave the stones *in situ*, it was not possible to ascertain how many of the stones were still in position, nor to define the edges of the foundation, and the surface of the natural sand was not reached at any point.



**Figure 35** Trench 11, Foundation 41, looking east



**Figure 36** Trench 11, SKs 9 & 10, looking west

2. The continuation of this drain trench to the south-east deepened as it passed under the south piggery wall, with the natural sand being encountered at the base of its foundation. Dug into this sand, 1m to the north of the piggery's south wall, parts of two inhumations were



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revealed, to the north-west the bones of a foot (SK9 in Figure 34), and 0.15m below and to the south-east, a pair of femur (SK10 in Figure 34). The grave cuts had clearly been badly truncated by later disturbance, particularly in the case of that associated with the foot, but c.0.3m of a yellow/brown silty sand fill appeared to survive over the femur in the trench section. Both inhumations were only partially exposed, and then re-buried and left *in situ*.

3. To the south of the piggery wall, the drain trench (Trench 12, see Figure 9) ran southwards to exit the enclosed grassed paddock through a gate to the south-east of the barn. In its northern section, at a distance of only 0.3m from the piggery wall, a substantial east-west running foundation (42 in Figure 34) was revealed, constructed of Lower and Upper Greensand blocks, set in a yellow mortar, the outer stones of which were faced. It was 1.4m (4½ ft) wide and survived from its base to a height of 0.7m. This foundation was traced for 4.3m along the southern edge of the piggery, with a further foundation (43 in Figure 34) projecting from it to the south. A shallow drain trench up against the barn wall to the west also picked up the surface of a foundation (44 in Figure 34) in the angle between the piggery and the barn whose position would suggest that Foundation 42 either turns or has a projection to the north at this point.



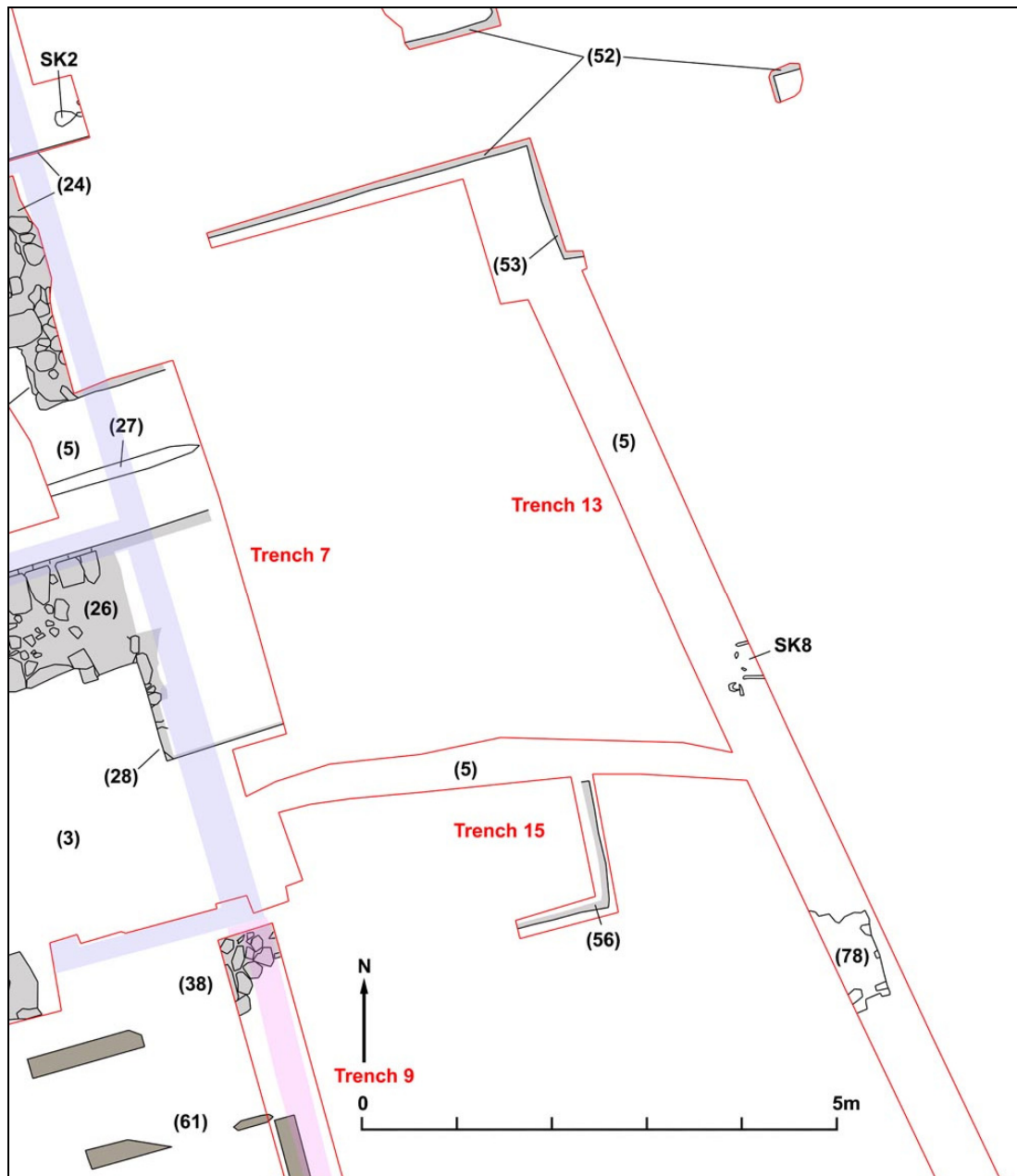
**Figure 37** Trench 12, SKs 3-7 and Foundations 42 & 43, looking west

4. Dug up against the southern face of Foundation 42 was a grave, cut into the natural sand, containing a single inhumation (SK3 in Figure 34). The grave, filled with a yellow/brown silty sand (2), was 2.35m east-west and 0.85m north-south, with its base 0.55m below the

existing ground surface. The skeleton was that of an adult male, 5ft 9½in in height and probably 30-45 years of age, who had suffered from osteoarthritis. A second (45 in Figure 34), similarly sized grave may have existed to the immediate south, but had been badly disturbed by modern post-holes (47-49 in Figure 34) associated with the piggery, and no human remains were found within it. However the remains of four other shallow burials were found to the south and west: to the west lay a pair of tibia (SK4 in Figure 34), with the feet cut by Grave 45, and the upper legs beyond the baulk at a depth of only 0.15m below the existing ground surface (these were left *in situ*); to the south lay the fragmentary remains of another east-west inhumation (SK5 in Figure 34), probably an adult of similar height to SK3, only 0.1m below the existing ground surface (this was lifted and re-buried, without further analysis, within the grave of SK3); a third skeleton (SK6 in Figure 34) lay 1.5m to the south of SK5, again probably an adult of similar size, but this time only fragments of the skull, arms, pelvis and legs survived, with the remains again only 0.1m below the existing turf (this was lifted and re-buried in Post-hole 47, without further analysis); a fourth inhumation lay immediately underneath (SK7), with its knees under the skull of that above (it was only partially exposed, and left *in situ*). The probable cut of another grave (51 in Figure 34) was noted against the western baulk of the trench between SK5 and SK6, but was left unexcavated. A drain trench connecting to the barn's east wall failed to find any further burials in this direction, merely what is almost certainly another modern post-hole (50 in Figure 34), although the trench was only 0.3m wide.

5. The height of the underlying sand (5) within this section of the drainage trench, with only 0.1-0.15m of topsoil lying above, indicates that this whole area has been truncated in the past, a supposition supported by the presence of these extremely shallow and disturbed graves. It is likely that other burials, of which nothing survives, once existed here, particularly towards the south, where the truncation worsens. Foundation 43, running immediately past the eastern end of all these burials, forms the eastern limit of their spread. It was 1.5m wide (5ft) and of the same materials as Foundation 42. The southern limit of the burials would have been formed by an east-west foundation (52 in Figures 34 & 38) found at the lower limit of this drain trench section, and the northern edge of that to the south (Trench 13, see Figure in 9). The gap between the inner faces of Foundations 42 and 52 was 6.5m (21ft). Foundation 52 was 1.4m (4½ ft) wide and was traced running towards the east wall of the barn for 3.5m, it was however only 0.4m deep, suggesting again a high degree of truncation. It was again constructed of the same materials Foundations 42 and 43. A southwards projection (53 in Figure 38) of 1.25m (4ft) from Foundation 52 indicates the position of a possible buttress sitting upon foundations 0.75m deeper than the wall against which it is placed, although seemingly of one build. The eastern edge of this projection, as it reconnected with Foundation 52, was picked up 2.7m (8ft 10in) to the

east, which would either make for a very substantial buttress, or possibly the base for a stair turret built into the wall to the north (52).



**Figure 38** Plan of Trenches 13 & 15

6. No further wall foundations were encountered within the drain trench as it ran south to the paddock gate (Trench 14, see Figure 9), although the fragmentary remains of one further skeleton were exposed (SK8 in Figure 38), 4.8m to the south of the Foundation 53. These consisted of a fragment of skull, the lower jaw and the upper arms, within a severely truncated grave cut, c.0.1m deep and with only 0.1m of topsoil above. Further to the south, the lead pipe (22) encased in grey clay (23) found to the west under the east wall of the lean-to was again revealed. Here the clay (55 in Figure 41) only survived up to 8cm thick, with the pipe (54) sitting upon its surface. Above lay the soil and rubble layer (3),

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which was only present in the drain trench once the underlying natural sand began to dip away c.1.5m to the north of the lead pipe (54). This would suggest that the truncation of the natural sand had taken place only to the north of this point.



**Figure 39** Trench 13, Foundations 52 & 53, looking north



**Figure 40** Trench 13, SK8, looking east

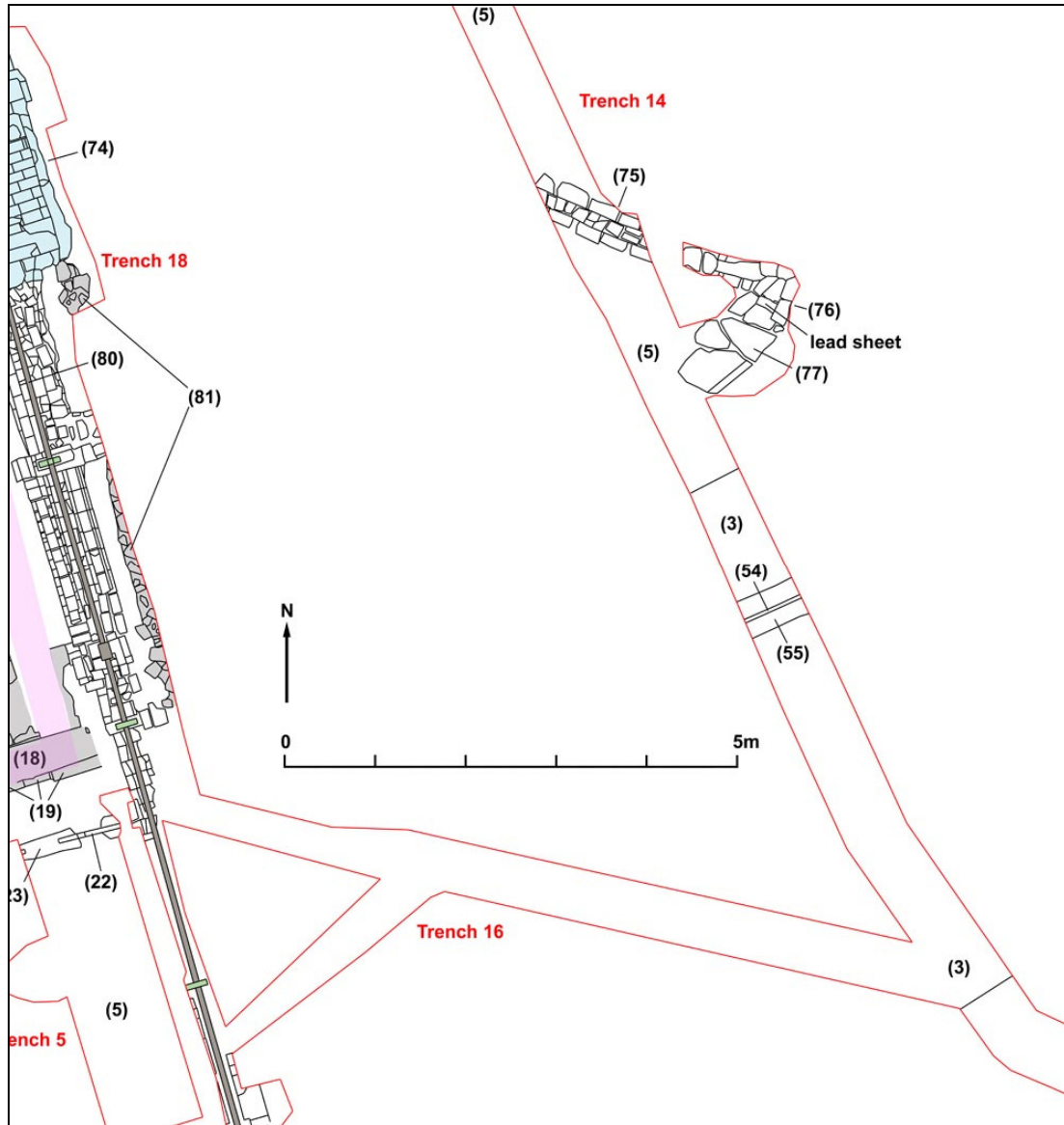
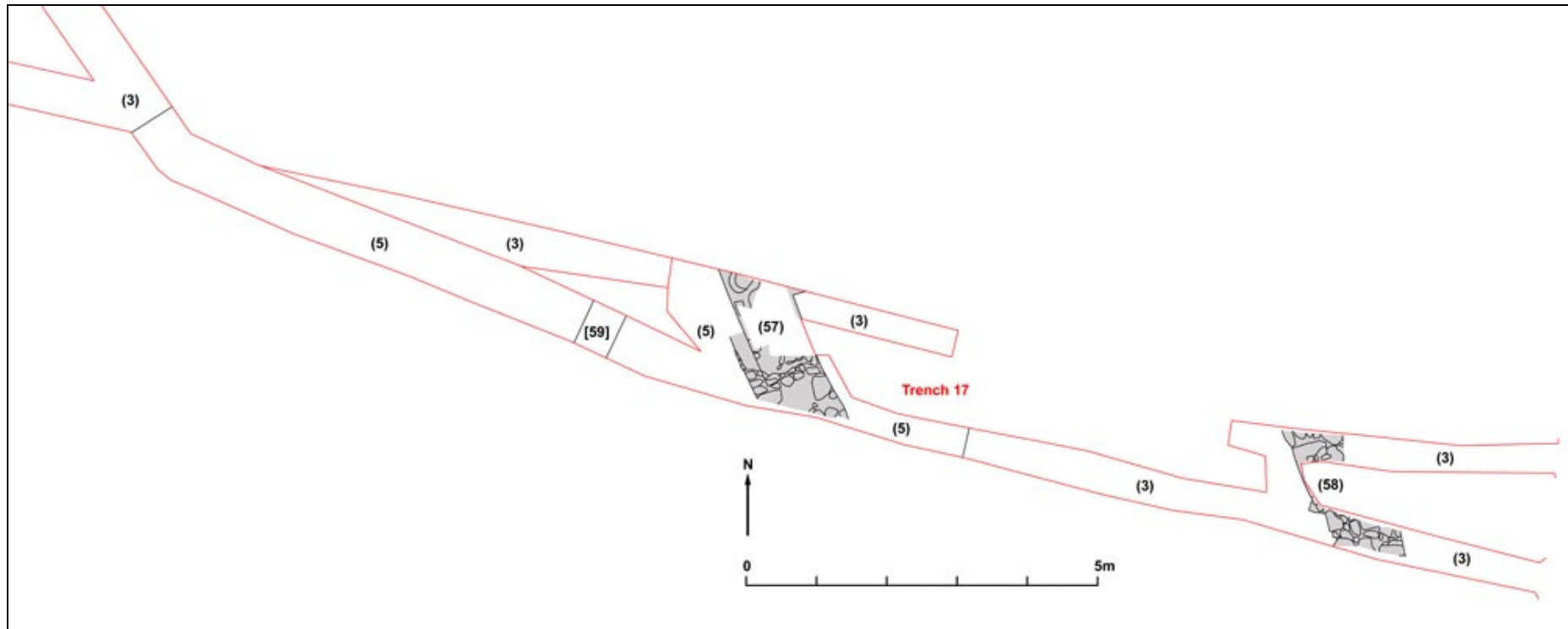


Figure 41 Plan of Trenches 14 & 16



Figure 42 Trench 14, lead pipe (54), looking north

7. A section of drain trench linking to the east wall of the barn immediately to the north of the south barn doors (Trench 15, See Figure 9) showed only that the shallow topsoil sat directly sitting upon the natural sand, although a line of Lower Greensand blocks to the south, which projected slightly above the ground level, were cleared of turf and appeared to be the end of an east-west foundation (56 in Figure 38), 1.35m (4½ ft) wide and lying 3.7m east of the barn wall. A second connecting section of drain trench (Trench 16, see Figure 9), running off the lean-to in two arms that linked before continuing eastwards to meet the main trench just inside the southern entrance to the enclosed paddock, did not penetrate below the soil and rubble layer (3) here over 0.7m deep.
8. Once the drain trench had passed through the paddock gate, it deepened and swung to the east and ran in an east-south-east direction to discharge into a wooded area beyond the fence enclosing the southern paddock (Trench 17, see Figure 9). Throughout this trench the soil and rubble layer (3) continued above the natural sand (5), unevenly varying in depth from 0.35 to 0.8m until at a point c.4.5m from the paddock fence it had deepened beyond that of the trench. It was evident from the undulating surface of the natural sand that this soil and rubble layer (3) had been used to both level and raise the ground surface. In only one place within the trench, towards its western end, a 1.5m long and 0.15m high patch of silty sand with frequent Upper Greensand chippings, might indicate a survival of an earlier topsoil, but otherwise the rubble layer sat straight upon the natural sand.
9. At a distance of c.10m along the trench from the gateway into the enclosed northern paddock, the foundations (57 in Figure 43) of a wall were uncovered. These foundations ran on a similar alignment to those found elsewhere on the site, and were, like them, composed of Lower and Upper Greensand blocks set within a pale yellow mortar, and faced upon their outer sides. On its western face the foundation stepped out, having a total width of 1.1m, while the section above narrowed to 0.85m. The base of this foundation was not exposed within the trench, but the upper narrower section survived to a height of 0.55m. The foundation as a whole sat within a trench cut into the natural sand, the surface of which appeared to lie at roughly the same level as the foundation's step. Built into the foundation was at least one re-used fragment of masonry, in this case the base of a column in a non-native stone, and parts of slate and ceramic roof tiles. The foundation had been badly truncated to the south, with only the lower section of footing surviving. To the north it would appear to turn to the east. At a distance of c.2m to the west of Foundation 57, the yellow/brown sandy silt upper fill of a north-east to south-west gully (59 in Figure ?), 0.55m wide, was exposed cut into the natural sand; it was not excavated.



**Figure 43** Plan of Trench 17



**Figure 44** Trench 17, Foundation 57, looking north

10. At a distance of c.6m (19½ ft) to the east lay a second wall foundation (58 in Figure 43), also of Lower and Upper Greensand blocks in a yellow mortar. Here it would appear that only part of one course of the upper section of footing survived, again truncated to the south, so that only the wider lower section survived. Overall it appeared to be of identical dimensions to the other foundation, although less was exposed since the drain trench ran over the top. No further features were observed within the trench beyond.



**Figure 45** Trench 17, Foundation 58, looking east

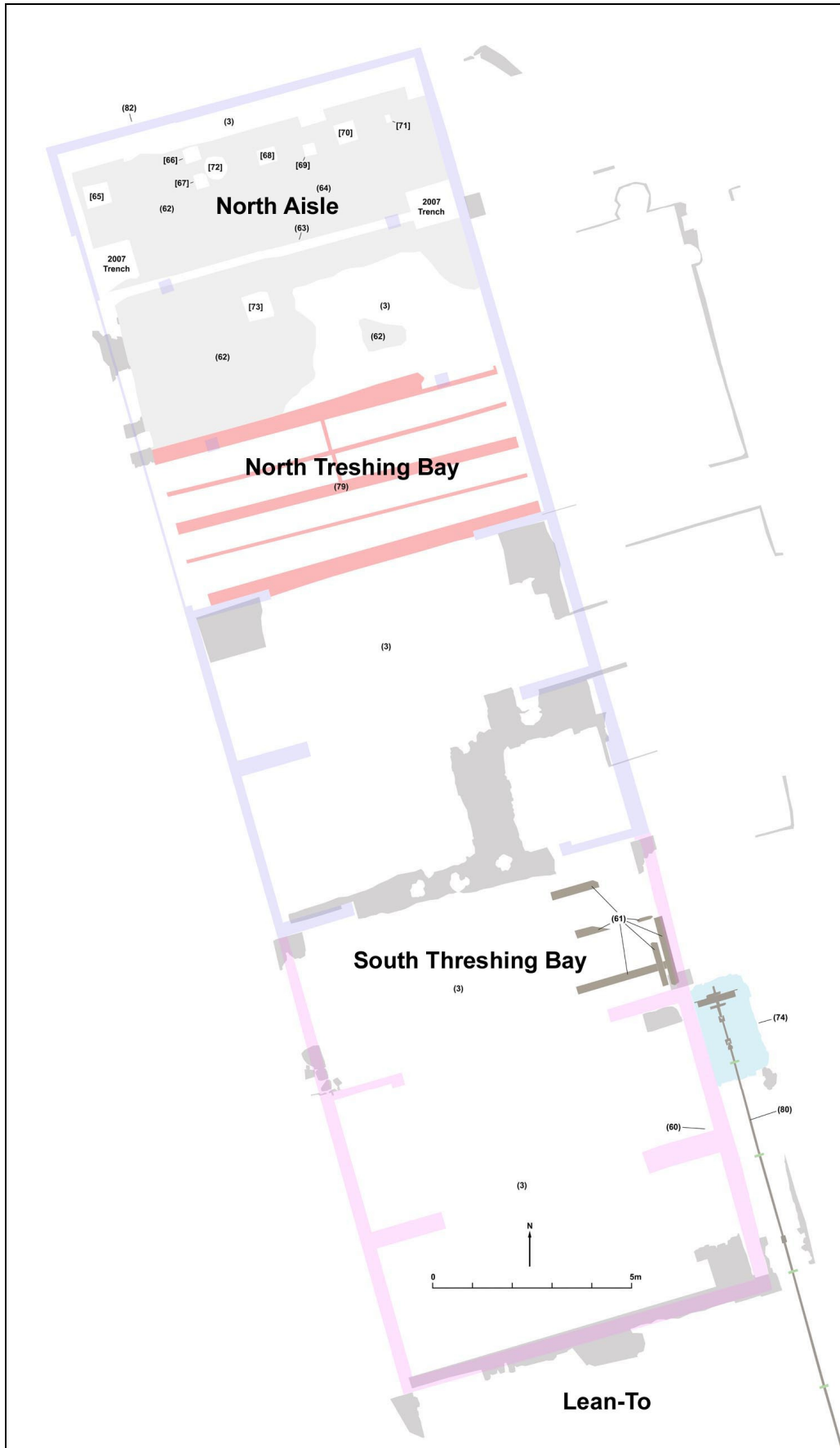


## THE POST-MEDIEVAL REMAINS



**Figure 46** The threshing barn before works, looking north-east

1. The barn which formed the principal subject of the re-development was originally constructed, in the 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century, as a three bay threshing barn, aisled on both ends and both sides (see Figure 47). The roof had hipped terminals with gablets and there was a porch on the west over double height doors, with a single-storey pair of doors opposite, on the east. The oak frame was clad with weather-boarding and sat on a roughly built masonry dwarf wall of Lower and Upper Greensand blocks, bonded in a very pale yellow/white mortar. The threshing floor, within the central bay, was probably oak boarded with the remaining bay floors being earth. The roof was almost certainly tiled.
2. The remains of the abbey buildings had clearly been previously demolished and the site levelled when the barn was built, with a layer of soil and rubble (3) lying over the truncated remains of its foundations and the natural sands. It is possible, however, that the builders were aware of the surviving medieval foundations below, since the southern end of the barn rests upon an east-west footing (Foundation 30) for its entire length, and the barn's eastern wall rests upon two north-south running buttresses (Foundations 25 & 28).
3. To the south of the barn the early historic maps show another smaller structure, sharing the same eastern wall line. This may explain a short length of masonry (60 in Figure 28), 1.5m long and 0.35m wide, which was found just below and inside the line of the current barn wall at the junction of its two southern bays. It was constructed of a single course of Upper Greensand dressed blocks, set in a pale yellow mortar. Traces of mortar on its northern and southern ends suggested that it once continued further, and it may well be all that is left of this earlier building.



**Figure 47** Plan of the barn, with the original three bay building shaded in blue, and the later extension in purple

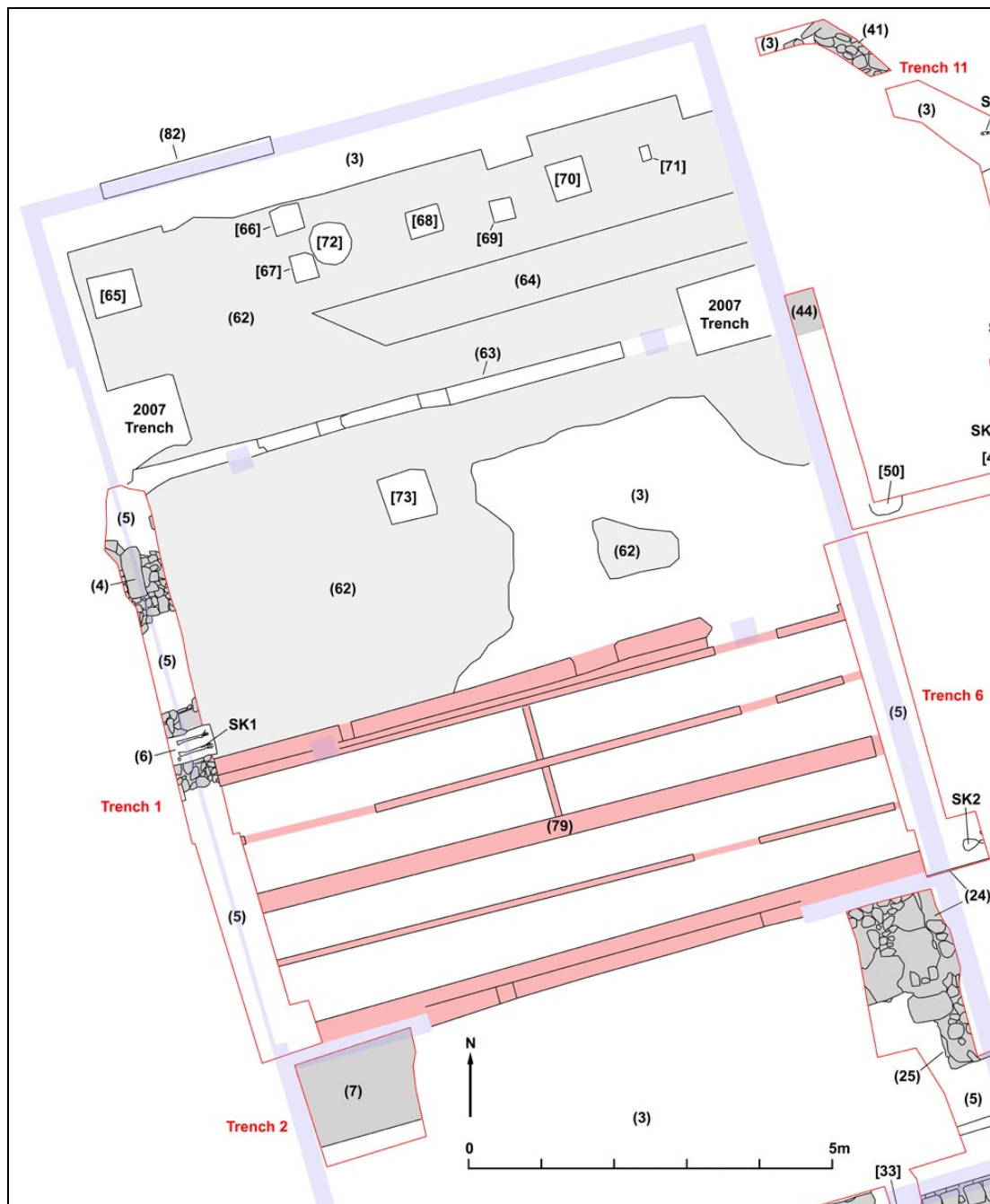
4. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century a three bay extension was added to the southern end of the early barn, with the original end aisle converted to become one of these additional bays (see Figure 47). It was aisled on both sides, but not on the end, resulting in the seven bay barn, with only a north aisle, that exists today. The new southern end of the barn had a half-hipped terminal and there were hipped porches on both the east and west sides over double height doors. The threshing floor between these southern doors was probably oak boarded, with the remaining bay floors of earth. The fragmentary remains of three lateral and two transverse timber planks (61 in Figure 28), each c.4.5cm thick and c.18cm wide, found within the southern threshing bay, adjacent to its east doors, may be survivals of this timber threshing floor. The oak frame as a whole sat on “Roman nailed” stone dwarf walls (Lower and Upper Greensand) with brick capping and brick piers, bonded in a white mortar, the northern ends of which were butted up against the earlier dwarf wall, which had been cut back to slightly different distances on the two sides. The roof over the extended barn was again tiled. Repairs in brick were probably also made to the earlier stone walls at the same time. The builders of this extension were almost certainly not aware of the medieval foundations below, which led to the unfortunate placing of the south wall just off the back of an east-west running abbey foundation (15), resulting in later differential settling and cracking.



**Figure 48** The timber planks (61) within the southern threshing bay

5. In the north aisle and north bay of the barn the remains of a chalk floor (62, shaded in grey, in Figure 49) were exposed under the existing modern brick and concrete structures, and overlying the soil and rubble (3) beneath. A line of brickwork (63 in Figure 49), incorporating some Lower and Upper Greensand blocks, is probably contemporary and marks a step down in level, since the chalk floor would seem to drop

slightly to the south of it. It is unclear at what date the chalk floor was inserted, but it is probably not original, and may date to the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Later a brick path (64 in Figure 49) was laid running east-west across the north aisle above the chalk, probably dating to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century judging by the machine made “panel” bricks used in its construction. A series of seven unexcavated square post-holes (65-71 in Figure 49) running east-west across the north aisle, and cut through the chalk floor, may be associated, but they could equally be earlier or later. A single round post-hole (72 in Figure 49) in the north aisle, and another square one (73 in Figure 49) in the north bay are both probably modern, the latter containing a concrete post-base.



**Figure 49** Plan of the north end of the barn



**Figure 50** The chalk floor within the north aisle, looking north-west

6. The existing piggery to the east of the north end of the barn is probably also of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. To the south of this brick and masonry building the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map shows a number of small pens, which match with the subdivisions of the piggery itself. These were clearly of timber, as testified to by the presence of the east-west row of post-holes (50, 49, 48 & 47 in Figure 34) found c.2.75m to the south of the piggery wall, and one (46 in Figure 34) cut through the medieval wall footing between. It is highly likely that the digging of these revealed not only the wall footings, but also human remains from the burials enclosed within.
7. Broadly of the same date, and definitely earlier than the later 19<sup>th</sup> century drive shaft, a brick and stone tank (74 in Figure 28) was placed against the east side of the barn just to the south of the southern threshing bay. It was 2.6m north-south and 1.4m east-west, with walls surviving c.0.4m high and constructed of Lower and Upper Greensand blocks in a white mortar. The base was of brick, again in a white mortar. It was probably a water trough. It may well be linked to a stone culvert (75 in Figure 41) found in the drain trench c.7m to the south-east. This culvert was composed of Lower and Upper Greensand blocks flanking a 0.15m wide channel floored with peg-tile. At its south-east end another channel (76 in Figure 41), at right-angles to it, ran off to the south-west and opened onto a flat platform (77 in Figure 41) of Upper and Lower Greensand slabs, at least one with roll moulding and clearly re-used. In front of the platform (77) the north-east to south-west running channel (76) was blocked by a barrier of lead sheeting resting on two small Upper Greensand blocks butted up against its sides. This

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clearly acted as a removable dam, controlling the water flow, which without it would have run down the culvert and onto the platform beyond. The platform was 1m x 0.7m across, but may have been truncated. It lay only 0.1m below the current ground surface, overlain only by the thin modern topsoil. Beyond being a means of controlling water flow, possibly taken from the tank (74) against the barn wall, it is not clear what function this arrangement might have fulfilled.



**Figure 51** Trench 18, the stone tank (74) under the later drive shaft, looking north-west



**Figure 52** Trench 14, the stone culverts (75 & 76) and platform (77), looking north

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- To the north of Culvert 75, c.5.5m back up the drain trench, a block of Lower and Upper Greensand masonry (78 in Figure 38), 1m across and projecting 0.5m from the west baulk, was revealed. It was composed of very rough and degraded Lower and Upper Greensand blocks and was only c.0.2m thick, with its surface less than 0.1m below the existing turf. A very pale yellow/white mortar clung to its upper face. It is probable that this block is post-medieval, since its mortar is similar to that found in the barn dwarf walls, but whether the footings to a building or the base to some other structure, it was not possible to determine.



**Figure 53** Trench 14, Foundation 78, looking south-west

- Between 1843 and 1873 a drive shaft, powered from an undershot water wheel in the river to the south, was run up to a cast iron drive wheel just to the south of the eastern door of the southern threshing bay. Power was then transferred into the barn via a leather flat belt, a fragment of which was found within the decayed bedding against the inside of the barn's eastern wall. The belt connected to a further two cast iron wheels housed within the roof space of the barn above the southern threshing bay. Initially it took power only to this southern bay, but it was later extended by lay shafts which took the power north along the barn to power machinery within the northern threshing bay from three overhead drive wheels. Additional collars and struts were fitted in to the existing barn roof to re-inforce it in the light of this extra vibration, and to gain access for inspection and maintenance high-level walkways with handrails, all in softwood, were fixed at roof level. It was probably at the same time that power was taken to the northern threshing bay that rows of parallel brick walling (79 in Figure 49) were inserted into its floor, dividing it into four equally spaced 0.5m deep compartments, with at least one drain at the south-west corner out under the farmyard. It is assumed that the brick compartments were originally empty, but subsequently were backfilled with soil and rubble. They presumably worked in conjunction with the machinery powered by the drive shaft.

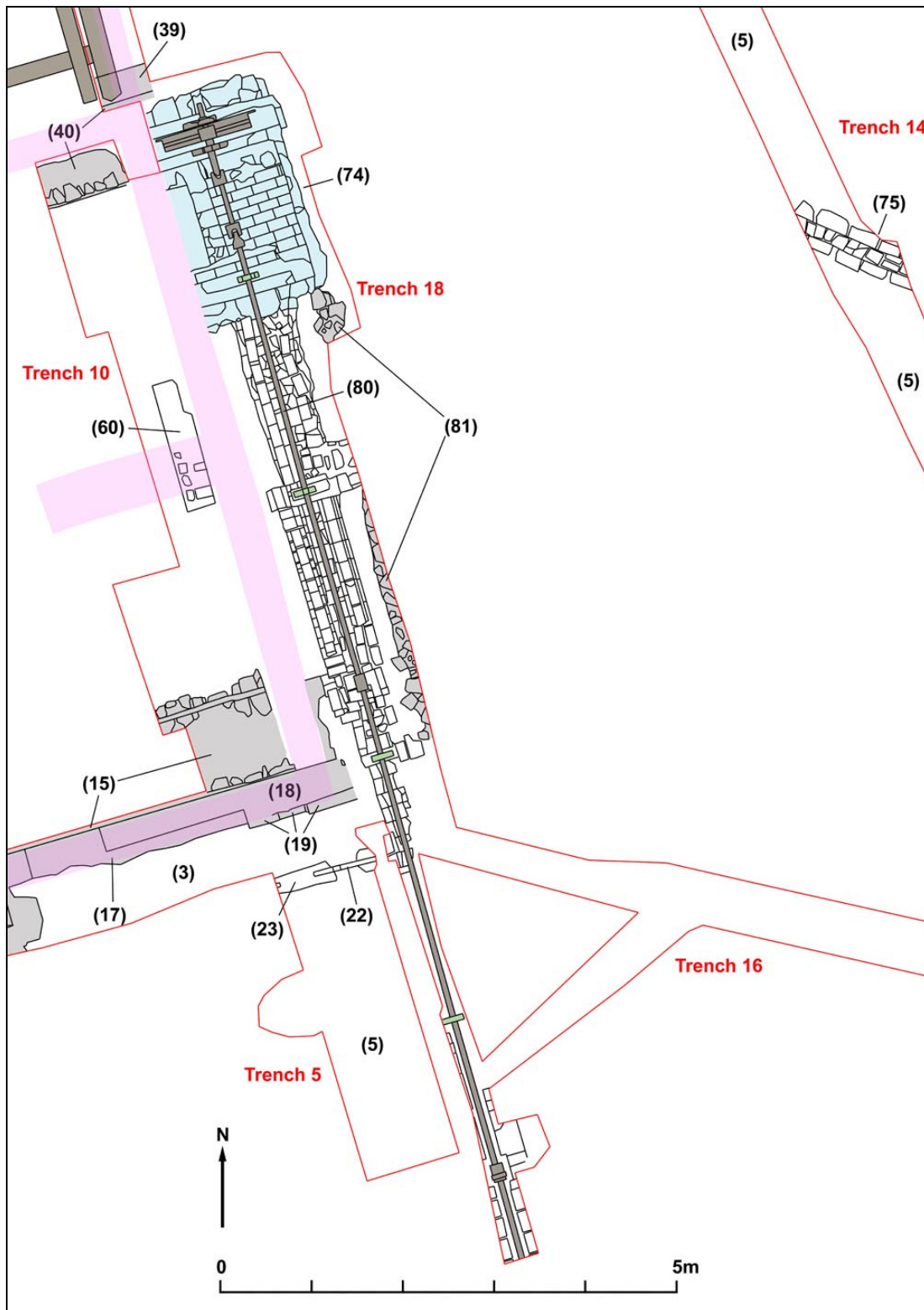


**Figure 54** The interior of the barn, looking north. The two cast iron wheels can be seen in the roof space to the right, over the southern threshing bay



**Figure 55** The northern threshing bay, looking east. The three later drive wheels can be seen in the roof space over the brick partitions set into the floor below





**Figure 56** Plan of Trench 18

10. The external drive shaft (80 in Figure 56) running along the east wall of the barn, and then on to the water wheel to the south, sat within a brick channel, floored with peg tiles (Trench 18, see Figure 9). At intervals of c.3m bronze clasps, held down with iron bolts, secured the shaft to the channel. In two places joints connected separate lengths of shaft, one

to the south of the barn and one part way along its length. At the northern end the shaft engaged with two universal couplings, before meeting the wheel, with no continuation of the shaft beyond the wheel.



**Figure 57** Trench 18, the external drive shaft (80), looking south



**Figure 58** Trench 18, the external drive shaft (80), looking north

11. At about the same time a lean-to was added to the southern end of the barn, constructed of soft-wood timbers, bolted to the existing end cross frame of the barn and covered with a slate roof. The floor, hidden under a layer of soil and decayed vegetation, was of large flint cobbles, with an internal brick drain along its south wall and the remains of at least one internal brick plinth wall. It is probable that it was originally internally divided into three stalls, c.0.9m wide (3ft). A later concrete trough survived in the eastern stall, but may also have existed in the other two.



**Figure 59** The floor of the lean-to, looking north-west

12. The construction of a new cowshed off the north-west corner of the barn in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century have been tied to the extension of the drive shaft into the northern threshing bay. This new building wrapped around the northern end of the barn, and was connected by removing the western end of the barn north wall. A surviving section of the foundations (82 in Figure 49) to its masonry dwarf wall was exposed when the modern concrete floor was lifted, the remainder having been removed by the foundations of the cowshed itself.



**Figure 60** The surviving section of the north aisle foundations at its north-west corner, with the late 19<sup>th</sup> century cowshed behind, looking north-west

13. Later alterations to the barn included, between 1860 and 1910: the insertion of skylights on the north and east roof slopes; repairs and alterations to the roofs of the southern doors; and new softwood doors hung on the western south door. Then between 1950 and 1970: the northern porch and doors were removed and replaced with a single storey pedestrian door and softwood studding; the western doors in the southern threshing bay were also replaced with four new softwood doors on a new oak doorframe and alterations were made to the porch above, including the fitting of a dovecote; both sets of eastern doors were removed and their doorways infilled with softwood framing and cladding; the skylights were renewed; the barn as a whole was re-clad in sawn softwood feather-edged boarding; the internal posts and aisles were painted with a brown staining timber treatment up to head height; and concrete internal partitions were added for livestock at the barn's northern end, with concrete and brick floors in the north aisle and the eastern part of the north bay. Then finally between 1985 and 1995: the southern wall of the barn was replaced using fresh sawn oak studs; the

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lean-to was repaired using treated softwood rafter and studs with a slate roof over; repairs and alterations were made to the eastern porch of the southern threshing bay; and the barn roof was re-tiled using sawn softwood battens, cast iron tile pegs and a large number of new machine-made clay tiles and the addition of new terracotta cocks-comb finials at each end.



**Figure 61** The west side of the barn before the removal of the north door, taken in the 1940's (Historic England Archive)



**Figure 62** The east side of the barn before the removal of the doors, taken in the 1940's. The piggy can be seen in the background (Historic England Archive)

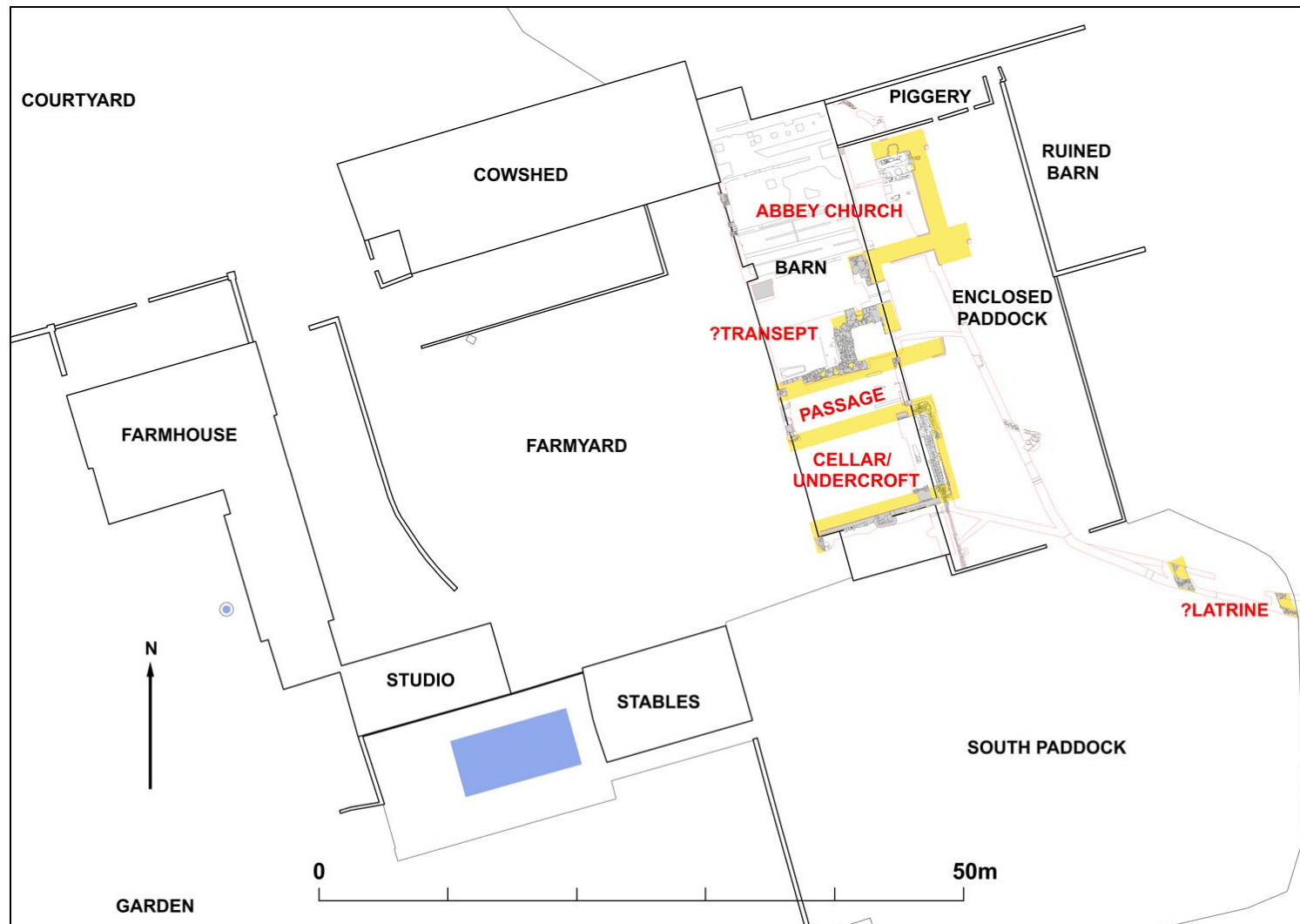


Figure 63 Site plan showing the layout of known walls (in grey) and probable walls (in yellow)

## CONCLUSION

1. The archaeological works carried out in 2016-7 during the renovation of the existing barn have provided the first major opportunity to investigate the below ground remains of the medieval abbey of Durford. Obviously the restrictions presented by the fact that this was not a research excavation, but one tied very much to the exigencies of a building programme, have meant that many of those remains revealed have only been but partially explored and many loose ends left untied, nevertheless some progress has been made in reconstructing the ground plan of this monastic site.
2. The positioning of burials across the site has been a key indicator for the location of the abbey church, working on the assumption that any graves, where found inside foundations, are likely only to have been interred within the church. It can therefore be fairly confidently stated that the church lies at the northern end of the site, with its axis running east-west across the northern two bays of the barn. Its eastern and western limits are less certain. It almost certainly extends considerably to the west of the barn, under the northern side of the present farmyard, but the precise location of its western façade is not known. To the east, the north-south foundation adjacent to the main group of burials in Trench 12, may mark the line of the east wall of the church as a whole, or an internal division within the building. If it were the former, then the foundations found to the east would be associated with buttresses.
3. The presence of a chalk coffin within Trench 8 would suggest that this area too forms part of the abbey church, possibly the south transept, or alternatively part of a south aisle or attached chapels. The building with the cellar or undercroft to the south may have been the chapter house, due to its position in relation to the church, with the intervening space possibly serving as a passage from the outside of the abbey buildings into a cloister to the west. The isolated structure to the south-east, in Trench 17, may possibly have been a latrine/washhouse. Other fragments of foundation are too isolated or partial to even be tentatively identified to a particular monastic structure.
4. Following the Dissolution in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, the site would have initially been stripped of its most portable assets, including the leadwork. It is curious that only one of the two lead pipes suffered this fate, perhaps suggesting that such below-ground assets were not automatically removed. Once such immediate gains had been made, the abbey buildings are likely to have been reduced over a longer time period, acting principally as a source of stonework for the communities around. It was probably under the ownership of the Mervyn family, from 1544, that much of the clearance work would have been undertaken, as they transformed the property from ruins, into their private residence and farm. The western range of the abbey would appear to have been retained for the house, with the others completely demolished. Those

buildings shown on the Grimm drawings to the east of the house are probably not survivals of the southern range, but instead may have re-used some abbey stonework in their construction.

5. The demolished ranges would appear to have been reduced to a level below their floors, with the site then levelled with a layer of soil and rubble (Layer 3). A three-bay threshing barn was then constructed over the abbey church, probably towards its eastern end, seemingly deliberately making use of at least some of its foundations, which were presumably still visible in the ground. This almost certainly took place within the Mervyn ownership, which lasted until 1613, and probably in the earlier part of their tenure. Other structures were then added, grouped around what became two farmyards, one to the west of the barn, and one to the east.
6. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the site underwent its next significant transformation, as the old west range of the abbey was finally pulled down, and the current farmhouse erected in its place. Probably at the same time, the original threshing barn was extended to the south. The site then continued as a working farm until the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with its buildings being modified or replaced according to the demands of the time. At some point in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, probably between the construction of the piggeries and the insertion of the drive shaft, the ground level within the enclosed paddock to the east of the barn was lowered, probably to help with the drainage of the barn. This led to further damage to the abbey foundations, and their associated burials.
7. Few artefacts were recovered as part of these works, partly due to the severe past truncation of the site, and partly to the limited scale of the interventions, but a small assemblage of late-medieval pottery was found, including fragments of a chimney pot (see Appendix 1), together with the human remains described in the text above (and in Appendix 2).
8. A more substantial collection of architectural stonework was recovered from Layer 3, a full report on which, by Dr John Crook, is included within the project archive. The total assemblage comprised 34 pieces, four in Purbeck marble, 15 in Upper Greensand and 15 in Lower Greensand. Three of the Purbeck marble pieces are likely to be from the same blind arcade, presumably from within the Abbey church, and dating to the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The final piece was part of a water stoup or *mortarium*. The Upper Greensand fragments are all probably from internal features and included parts of wall shafts and string courses. Two fragments, one from a stone bench, the other from a small internal arch, could form parts of the sedilia within the abbey chancel. Where datable, the Upper Greensand stonework would appear to be 13<sup>th</sup> century. The Lower Greensand fragments are more commonly external, with multiple sections of large window mullions and jambs. The mullions all appear to date to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century or later,



suggesting a major programme of works in enlarging the church's windows. The heads of two smaller window arches were also present, together with two sections of door jambs. It would appear that the division between Upper Greensand and Lower Greensand, in terms of internal and external use is not absolute, for a fragment of internal pilaster and part of a respond in the latter were also recovered.

9. A significant assemblage of encaustic tiles has also been recovered from Durford over the years since interest in recording such artefacts began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The opportunity presented by the 2016-7 works led to an assessment of those currently in the possession of the owner (see Appendix 3). The results indicate that at least two phases of encaustic tile pavements existed at Durford, one in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the other in the later 14<sup>th</sup> century, with close parallels to examples at the neighbouring monasteries of Shulbrede, Selborne and Titchfield.
10. It is to be hoped that future archaeological work might be carried out at Durford in order to further clarify the layout of this monastic site, but it is considered that a valuable start has been made. The indications from these works are that, while it is unlikely that any of its remains exist from its floor levels and above, sufficient will survive of its foundations to provide a fairly complete ground plan.

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## APPENDIX 1 Pottery Report by Duncan Brown

A total of nine sherds of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery was recovered from three contexts. They weigh a total of 492 grams, with a total rim percent of nine and a maximum vessel count of eight. All the pottery is of local, Sussex origin and is likely to be of the same date, probably in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. There are also two fragments of a single chimney pot, or louver, late or early post-medieval in date.

### METHODOLOGY

The pottery was sorted into ware types, on the basis of visual examination of the clay matrix and the range and character of inclusion types present. Different vessel types were identified and the pottery was recorded on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and quantified by rim percent, weight in grams, sherd count and vessel count. Sorting and recording took place in March 2020 and the spreadsheet has been sent to the project manager for inclusion in the project archive.

### THE ASSEMBLAGE

Table 1 quantifies the types of pottery present in each context. The assemblage is overwhelmingly comprised of late medieval sandy ware, 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century in date. The only diagnostic piece in terms of ware type is the everted rim of a West Sussex white painted jar. This falls into the category of Barton's 'Black and White Painted wares' (Barton, 122), which he identifies as successors to his West Sussex ware. The other late medieval sandy wares identified in the Durford Abbey assemblage are comparable in terms of fabric, being dense, fine and well-fired, and several sherds also show evidence for knife-trimming, which Barton identifies as a distinctive feature (*ibid*, 123). Cisterns, or bung-hole pitchers, are typical of this tradition and at least two such vessels are present here. The bulk of this assemblage therefore belongs within a well-defined late medieval or early post-medieval West Sussex tradition. Context 2 produced a single sherd of something later, however. Considering that this context is the fill of a grave within the abbey church, it is perhaps surprising that this should be the latest type of pottery present. The rich, internal reduction-green glaze is wholly typical of post-medieval, 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery, but this is a very small fragment and is likely to be derived from post-dissolution activity intruding into the fill.

Context 3, a rubble layer, also produced two fitting fragments of a cylindrical chimney pot with ventilation holes cut out before firing. Barton identifies chimney pots at several Sussex pottery-making sites including Orchard Street in Chichester, which is perhaps most relevant here (*ibid*, 163). Those are earlier and made in a coarser, flint-tempered fabric, with the pots themselves having only a single hole. The Durford chimney pot has evidence for six holes where the two sherds represent only a fraction of the whole object. The fabric is similar to the West Sussex late medieval sandy wares present here and is probably related and contemporary. It is likely therefore that this item pre-dates the dissolution.

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Context ID	Context description	Ware type	Vessel type	Rim diameter (mm)	Rim %	Weight (g)	Sherd count	Maximum vessel count
1	Layer	Late medieval sandy ware	cistern			151	2	2
1	Layer	Late medieval sandy ware	uncertain			83	2	2
2	Grave fill	Early post-medieval glazed ware	uncertain			3	1	1
3	Rubble sealing layer	West Sussex white-painted ware	jar	270	9	91	1	1
3	Rubble sealing layer	Late medieval sandy ware	uncertain			164	3	2
			Totals	270	9	492	9	8

Table 1: Types of pottery and their quantities in every context.

## APPENDIX 2 Human Bone Report by Martyn Allen

### Introduction

Excavation recovered the remains of two adults: skeleton 1 and skeleton 3. These were likely to be the remains of males and both skeletons were general well preserved. Each individual suffered from dental and post-cranial pathologies.

### Methods of analysis

The general surface condition of the remains was recorded following the criteria set out by McKinley (2004, 15-16) which categorises specimens on an increasing scale of erosion (i.e. Grade 0 = fresh appearance to bone with no modification; Grade 5+ = extensive penetrating erosion resulting in modification of profile). The completeness of the skeletons was recorded in general terms, with the presence of particular elements being noted. Sex estimations were determined by cranial and pelvic criteria set out in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). Age estimations have been based on timings of epiphyseal closure using the data published by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) and on dental wear patterns (Lovejoy 1985). Height estimations were calculated using the formulae of Trotter (1970).

### Skeleton 1

#### Preservation and completeness

Skeleton 1 was about 50% complete. Bones present included parts of the skull and mandible, the left humerus, both radii, shafts of both ulnae, bones of the left hand, one vertebral body, the left and right tibiae (both complete), both fibulae, one patella, and bones of both feet including both calcanei. The scapulae, most vertebrae, pelvis and femora were absent. Overall, the skeletal remains were moderately preserved (Grade 1-2), though several bones were affected by fragmentation and surface cracking.

#### Determination of sex

The supraorbital margin of the skull was fairly pronounced, assessed as a grade 4 or 5, though the nasal bone was missing making this test difficult. The mental eminence on the mandible was also pronounced, around grade 4. Overall, the individual is likely to have been a male.

#### Estimation of height

The only complete long bones were the tibiae, of which the right-sided element was measured. Its total length measured 37.1cm. Using Trotter's (1970) formula for white males, the stature of the individual is estimated as:  $2.52 \times 37.1 + 78.62 = 172.1\text{cm} \pm 3.37$ .

#### Estimation of age

All the epiphyses present are fully fused. The latest of these to close is the distal radius which fuses between 17 and 22 years. Tooth wear was difficult to assess owing to the pre-mortem loss of the molars. However, the mandibular incisors, one canine and two premolars were in an early stage of wear, around stage D following Lovejoy's (1985) criteria. This suggested an age of around

20-24 years, though some caution should be exercised given how few teeth remained.

## Pathologies and trauma

Signs of enamel hypoplasia were seen on the mandibular canine and two premolars. This is thought to indicate a period or periods of malnutrition in childhood (Skinner and Goodman 1992). Caries were also present on the right 3rd premolar, a sign of severe tooth decay. All the permanent molars plus the left canine and premolars were lost pre-mortem, and there was almost complete bone resorption on both sides of the mandible where the roots of those teeth had been, suggesting that the teeth had been lost for some time.

Three small cuts were observed towards the proximal end of the proximal humerus shaft. There was no sign of healing and it is uncertain whether these were peri-/post-mortem injuries or were caused during excavation.

Signs of minimal periostitis found to have affected the distal shafts of the tibiae and fibulae, suggestive of inflammations.

## Non-metric traits

Supra-orbital foramen were present on the left and right sides of the skull just above the eye sockets.

## Skeleton 3

### Preservation and completeness

Skeleton 3 was c. 95% complete. Levels of recovery were good as most of the carpals, tarsals and phalanges were present. Most of the skull was present but variably fragmented, and a largely full set of vertebrae and ribs were recovered. The tibiae were both broken but most of the long bones recovered were complete or near complete. In terms of preservation, there was some minor exfoliation on the left side of the cranium. Similar exfoliation was found on the humeri and the scapulae, but the bones were generally well preserved overall.

### Determination of sex

Sex determination was estimated from criteria observed on the skull and the os coxae. The skull exhibited a slight ridge on the nuchal crest, graded as 3 or 4. The supraorbital margin was reasonably wide and graded as 3. The supraorbital ridge was fairly pronounced and graded as 4. The mental eminence was clearly quite wide and graded as 4. The greater sciatic notch on both sides of the os coxae was notably narrow and graded 4/5. Given that scores of 4 and 5 are representative of probable male and definite male respectively, it is very likely that skeleton 3 was a male.

### Estimation of height

The complete right femur and humerus bones allowed for height estimations to be calculated following Trotter (1970). The total length of the right femur measured 48.6cm, from which the stature was calculated as:  $2.38 \times 48.6 + 61.41 = 177.1\text{cm} \pm 3.27$ . The right humerus was measured as 33.8cm and a stature estimation was calculated as:  $3.08 \times 33.8 + 70.45 = 174.5\text{cm} \pm 4.05$ . Although the level of error is greater, an estimated height between 174.5cm and 177.1cm seems reasonable.

## Estimation of age

All the bones of the post-cranial skeleton had undergone epiphyseal closure, indicating that the individual was aged 18 years+. Unfortunately, most of the molars had been lost pre-mortem (see below) but heavy wear on the upper 1st molar and minor wear on a lower 3rd molar suggested that the individual was an adult aged between 30 and 45 years old (cf. Lovejoy 1985). Most of the cranial suture sites on the skull were largely obliterated which suggested an older individual, while the pubic symphyseal surface was also heavily worn suggesting someone over 30 years old (cf. Todd 1920).

## Pathology

Almost all the mandibular molars had been lost premortem and there was a considerable degree of bone resorption in the root cavities suggesting that the tooth loss had occurred sometime before death.

The individual was suffering from osteoarthritis. There was excessive bone growth around the distal end of the first rib, osteophytes on the manubrium and several of the vertebrae (mostly the cervical and thoracic). Notably, two thoracic vertebrae had completely fused together where the cartilage appears to have completely disintegrated.

## Non-metric traits

Supraorbital notches were present on both sides of the cranium.

## Summary

The remains of two individuals were recovered. Both were males of similar height, though skeleton 3 was probably slightly taller. Skeleton 1 was only about half complete, which may have limited observations of pathologies or trauma, etc., while almost all of skeleton 3 was present. Ageing evidence was not clear, particularly for skeleton 1 who may have been in his 20s when he died. Skeleton 3 is likely to have been an older individual, perhaps in his 30s or 40s when he died. Both individuals had suffered significant tooth loss, particularly of the mandibular molars, indicating similar issues with dental hygiene. Skeleton 3 also exhibited significant evidence of osteoarthritis affecting the upper vertebrae, ribs and sternum.

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## APPENDIX 3 Floor Tile by George Anelay

1. While very few fragments of floor tile were recovered during the 2016-7 works, and all from Layer 3, the opportunity was taken to draw together all those found in the 2007 and 2013 evaluations, together with those held by the current owner. This did not include those set within one of the fireplaces of the existing farmhouse.

### Flint-tempered Tiles

1. Four fragments of tile with a flint temper, all from 2007 Trench 10 (7) (same as Layer 3). No visible keys. The largest fragment is 20mm thick and 140mm in diameter, the other three 25mm thick. All have traces of a yellow/light brown glaze. The three smallest are all off-cuts from a complete tile, presumably to fit smaller spaces. The use of flint tempering suggests an earlier date than the later encaustic tiles, possibly from the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### Encaustic Tiles (with parallels at Shulbrede, Titchfield, Selborne or previously at Durford))

1. One complete and two fragments, unstratified, of a tile with a fleur-de-lis set diagonally within chequered border on two sides, four tiles would make a complete pattern with an eight-petalled flower in the centre. It is 150mm in diameter and 28mm thick with 5 medium keys on the reverse and with chamfered sides. It is part of a group dating to the late 1380's (Baker, p.124). It occurs at Durford & Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.17), Titchfield (Green & Green No.7) and Selbourne (Baker No.62). It would appear that the Durford and Shulbrede tiles follow Selbourne in pre-dating the Titchfield examples, since the stamp is that of the former (Baker, p.124).
2. One near complete half-tile (triangle), from Tr10 (7) 2007 (same as Layer 3, here from adjacent to the chalk coffin). 140mm diameter and 37mm thick with four circular keys and with chamfered sides. This is an unskilled copy of a tile from Chertsey Abbey (No.2a), examples from Titchfield (Green & Green No.2).
3. Fragment of a tile from Tr10 (7) 2007 (same as Layer 3, here from adjacent to the chalk coffin). Decorated fleur-de-lis, with trefoiled pistils, springing from between petals. 24mm thick. Found at Selbourne and dated to 1260-1280 (Baker No.14).
4. Fragment, unstratified, of a tile with a section of cross floretty, trefoiled base to stem, trefoil decoration. 25mm thick. Found at Selbourne and dated to 1260-1280 (Baker No. 15).
5. Four fragments, unstratified, of a tile with intersecting circles with flowered centre, making a continuous pattern when joined together. Two are 27mm thick (one with five medium keys and one with small

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- keys), and two 30mm thick (one with large key and one with small key). Found at Durford (Blaauw No.6), Shulbrede (Ponsonby Nos. 7 & 19), Titchfield (Green & Green No.35) and Selborne, where dated to the late 1380's (Baker No.53).
6. One fragment of a tile, unstratified, with a quarter section floriated cross, with chequered border along two sides. 28mm thick. Found at Shulbrede, dated to the late 1380's (Baker No. 63, but for complete example see Knapp 60).
  7. One fragment of a tile, unstratified, of a tile showing a vine set diagonally under a canopy, forming a complete pattern of four tiles. 29mm thick. Found at Shulbrede & Durford (Ponsonby No.24), Titchfield (Green & Green No. 19) and Selborne, dated to the late 1380's (Baker No.61).
  8. Four fragments of tiles, three unstratified, one 140mm diameter and 26mm thick with five medium keys, one 26mm thick with medium key and one 30mm thick with small key, one from Tr2-5 (3) (same as Layer 3, here from under the cowhouse floor) 26mm thick with small key, showing a vine set diagonally under a canopy, forming a complete pattern of four tiles. 25-30mm thick. Found at Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.23, but more similar to variation 2).
  9. One fragment of a tile, unstratified, showing two lions rampant with tails joined within a series of five circles, with widest decorated with a running foliage design, the whole contained within a square, set diamond-wise, with foliage in the corners. 27mm thick with chamfered edge. Found at Selborne, dated to late 1380's (Baker Nos 46).
  10. One fragment of a tile, Tr4 unstratified, showing two lions rampant within a decorated double circle, oak leaves at the corners. 25mm thick. Found at Durford (Blaauw No.5) and Titchfield (Green & Green No.16).
  11. Three fragments of tile, all unstratified, showing a two-headed eagle, charged on the breast with a shield bearing the lion rampant (probably the arms of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans). 24mm, 25mm & 27mm thick with five medium keys and with chamfered edge. Found at Durford (Blaauw No.3), Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.27), Titchfield (Green & Green No.14) and Selborne, where dated to the late 1380's (Baker No.42).
  12. One fragment of a tile, unstratified, showing a two-headed eagle on a lozenge surrounded by birds. 25mm thick, with medium key. Found at Durford (Blaauw No.2), Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.26) and Selborne, dated to the late 1380's (Baker No.41).
  13. Two fragments of tile, unstratified, representing the arms of France (three fleur-de-lis) between two birds, contained in a quatrefoil within a

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cusped square set diamond-wise, with foliage decoration. One is 145mm diameter and 25mm thick with five medium keys, the other 27mm thick, both have chamfered sides. Found at Durford (Blaauw No.1), Shulbrede (Ponsonby No. 25), Titchfield (Green & Green No.13) and Selborne, dated to the late 1380's (Baker No.44).

14. One tile fragment showing a serrated circle, intersected by four semi-circles, in the centre is a cross, and in the spaces formed by the intersection of the circles two coats of arms repeated opposite each other, one being Clare, the other probably Hussey. 30mm thick, medium keys, chamfer. Found at Durford (Blaauw No.11) & Selborne, date late 1380's (Baker No.50).
15. Two-thirds of a tile with repeat gyronny pattern. 26mm thick and 152mm diameter, with five large keys and chamfer. Found at Durford (Blaauw No.14) and Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.37). A similar design at Selborne is dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Baker No.72).
16. Fragment of a tile with a looped scroll decoration, 32mm thick, large keys and chamfer. A very similar design found at Titchfield is suggested as dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Green & Green No.11).
17. Three tile fragments showing a grouped quatrefoils and chequers in a trellis. 25mm, medium key and chamfer. Found at Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.21), Titchfield (Green & Green No.33) and Selborne, dated to late 1380's (Baker No.56).
18. Fragment of a tile with grouped quatrefoils in a trellis, 27mm, medium key and chamfer. Found at Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.22), Titchfield (Green & Green No.32) and Selborne, dated to late 1380's (Baker No.55).
19. Three fragments from a tile with a design of nine roundels each containing a small design. 28mm, 30mm & 40mm thick. The thickest seems to have been made as a line of single small blocks c.50mm square, each containing one of the roundels, to be cut off as required. Found at Durford & Titchfield, where dated to late 14<sup>th</sup> or early 15<sup>th</sup> century (Green & Green No.30).
20. Five fragments probably all from letter tiles. One is 21mm x 45mm, the others all 30mm x 70-5mm. Found at Titchfield, where dated to the early 14<sup>th</sup> century (Green & Green A1).
21. Two fragments of tile with castellated towers, probably for the arms of Castile, 25mm, medium keys, chamfer. One of the fragments is unusual in having a right-angled bend at the top from which a second face clearly extended with the same design. Examples without the two faces were found at Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.18), Titchfield (Green & Green No.15) and Selborne, dated to late 1380's (Baker No.59).



**No.21** The two-faced tile with castellated towers

22. Complete scroll border tile, 150mm x 70mm x 30mm, three medium keys. Fragments previously found at Durford (Ponsonby No.16).



**No.22** Complete scroll border tile

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### Encaustic Tiles (not previously found at Shulbrede, Titchfield, Selborne or Durford)

1. SF1 Complete tile, with central circle within star and trefoils in semi-circles at the corners. Four large keys, 130mm square x 28mm thick, with chamfer, scored for diagonal cut.



**No.SF1** Complete tile with central circle within star

2. SF2 Two tile fragments, with design of flowers within circles. 25mm and 30mm, chamfered and with large keys.



**No.SF2** Tile fragments with flowers within circles

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3. SF3 Corner tile fragment, 2007 Tr2-5 (3), 24mm thick, with foliage in quarter circle.



**No.SF3** Tile fragment with foliage in quarter circle

4. SF4 Corner tile fragment, 30mm thick, with toothed quarter circle and adjacent cross.



**No.SF4** Tile fragment with toothed quarter circle and cross

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5. SF5 Corner tile fragment, no thickness recordable, with foliage in corner and bird and hare above.



**No.SF5** Tile fragment with bird and hare

6. SF6 Two fragments of one tile, unstratified, with a fleur-de-lis set diagonally within a dogs-tooth border on at least three sides. It is 140mm in diameter and 37mm thick with four circular keys on the reverse and chamfered sides.



**No.SF6** Tile fragments with fleur-de-lis within dog-tooth border

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7. SF7. Tile fragment, unstratified, with fleur-de-lis in corner, 25mm, with large central key. Similar, but not identical, examples are from Selbourne, dated to 1260-1280 (Baker No.17) and Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.11).



**No.SF7** Tile fragment with fleur-de-lis in corner

8. SF8. Tile fragment, unstratified, with fleur-de-lis in corner, 25mm, with large central key. Similar, but not identical, examples are from Selbourne, dated to 1260-1280 (Baker No.17) and Shulbrede (Ponsonby No.11).



**No.SF8** Tile fragment with fleur-de-lis in corner



9. Fragment, unstratified, of a tile with an eighth trefoiled twigs interlaced, quatrefoil in centre and quarter of serrated wheel in angles, 25mm thick. Not found at Titchfield, Selbourne or Shulbrede, but elsewhere (Knapp No.30).

### Later Tiles

1. Three fragments of pale green/yellow glazed un-patterned floor tiles with keys. One 27mm thick, from 2007 Tr13 (3), the others 30mm thick, from 2007 Tr13 (3). Probably earlier than those below, perhaps 15<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Fragment of what is probably a 15<sup>th</sup> century relief tile, 30mm thick and chamfered, no visible key, with one fleck of light-brown/olive-green glaze, of a very similar type to one from Selborne (Baker No.74).
3. Two complete probable 15<sup>th</sup> century relief tiles, 150mm diameter, 20mm thick, with no keys, diagonal band separating three fleur-de-lis on each side, green and brown glaze.



Two complete 15<sup>th</sup> relief tiles with fleur-de-lis design

4. Eight complete, and a further five incomplete, green and brown glazed un-patterned floor tiles of probably 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century date, irregular diameter from 155mm to 165mm, and widths of 20-25mm. Chamfered edges but no keys. Two from 2007 Trench 9 (6).

### Unidentified Floor Tiles (too worn or fragmentary)

1. The following tile fragments fall under this category, grouped according to tile thickness: two **22mm** thick with 5 medium keys, one is probably encaustic, but worn, the other is too worn to tell if plain or encaustic; two **24mm** thick both with medium keys, both worn, but one with traces

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of slip; five **25mm** thick, one very large, two medium and two small keys, too worn to see if encaustic; three **26mm** thick, one small and one medium key, traces of slip on these, other one from 2007 Tr13; three **27mm** thick, one medium-keyed triangle, worn, traces of slip on two, including the triangle; seven **28mm** thick, two medium key, one of which is triangle with traces of slip, the other with traces of slip is a five keyed example, and one other triangle, all worn; two **29mm** thick, one 5 medium keys and traces of slip and one medium key; thirteen **30mm** thick, 6 with traces of slip, of which two have medium keys, three more just medium keys, of which two come from 2007 Tr13 (3), and three with just large keys.

### Conclusion

1. It is clear from the tiles recovered that several phases of re-tiling took place at Durford during the course of its nearly 400 years of existence, which is perhaps unsurprising. The presence of some flint-tempered tiles might suggest that the earliest form of tiling, perhaps dating from the Abbey's founding, took this simple form. Should the dating suggested for Selborne be applicable also to Durford, the first use of encaustic tiles would seem to have been between 1260 and 1280. However, judging by their pre-dominance within the assemblage, the most significant installation of encaustic tiles took place in the 1380's. Later plain and relief tiles are also present from the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.
2. Multiple matches with tiles from the other local monasteries of Shulbrede, Selborne and Titchfield suggest that the same groups of tilers were working at all these sites, irrespective of their different patrons and their orders. This might suggest that it was the heads of the different monasteries that decided to engage these tilers, rather than it being the gift of a particular patron, indicating that fashion drove the installation of such encaustic tile pavements, rather than bequests.

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