

**Peterborough Cathedral Precincts**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

**ON 'WALL 17', EAST WALL OF BISHOP'S GARDEN, NORTHERN HALF**

Archaeological Contractor's Site Code: PC W17



**Prepared by Jackie Hall and Caroline Atkins  
for the Church Commissioners  
December 2016**

**Dr Jackie Hall FSA MCifA  
Peterborough Cathedral Archaeologist  
51 Back Road, Linton, Cambridge. CB21 4JF  
Tel. 01223 890197 Email [jackie.hall@riveyhill.co.uk](mailto:jackie.hall@riveyhill.co.uk)**



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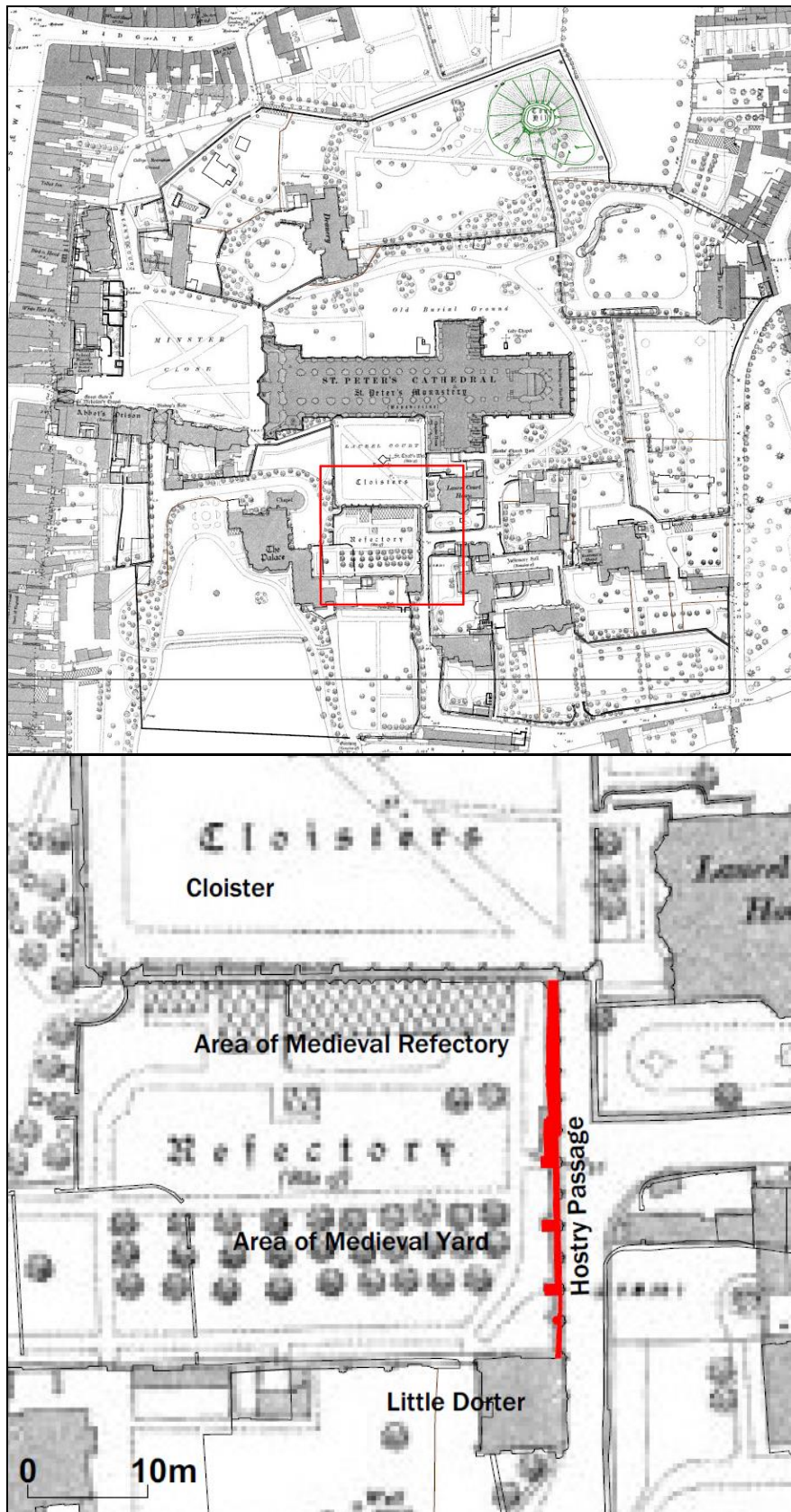


Fig 1: Location plan, within historic precincts, with 1886 OS as underlay

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## **1 Summary**

Archaeological recording took place on the west elevation of ‘Wall 17’ (east wall of Bishop’s Palace garden, northern half), before and during essential repairs in summer and autumn 2016. The extent of the surviving medieval wall – 13th-century refectory in the northern third, and the outside of the 14th-century covered wall in the southern two-thirds – was identified. Several other phases and sub-phases were identified, from domestic reuse of the refectory, to disuse and making good, to a series of modern blockings and repairs. Mortar samples were taken and used to help with the phasing; some reused architectural pieces were recorded before being replaced in the wall, one tiny fragment was retained; one small find (glass vessel) was also retained.

## **2 Site Location and Description**

The wall is centred on National Grid Reference 519410 298570 and runs southwards from the south-east corner of the cloister for *c.*38.5m (Fig 1). It originally belonged to three buildings: the refectory of the medieval Benedictine abbey, a covered way, and the so-called ‘little dorter’. Only the latter still stands; the rest of the wall now separates the gardens of the Bishop’s Palace on the west from Hostry Passage on the east. It is part of scheduled monument PE 140 and is a Grade I listed building. Due to the conservation work being split into different years, this report deals only with the northernmost *c.*31m, on its west face.

## **3 Planning Background**

The repairs did not require planning permission but did require scheduled monument consent. This was granted to the owners (Church Commissioners and Peterborough Cathedral) by Historic England, with the condition that archaeological recording be carried out, as detailed in the submitted Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3).

Orthophotography by The Downland Partnership took place in May 2015 and the archaeological recording took place on 22–23 August, 9th September and 3rd October 2016, according to the methodology set out in the WSI. The building contractor (John Lucas Ltd) also took photos and mortar samples on days when no archaeologist was in attendance.

## **4 Historical, Architectural and Archaeological Background**

‘Wall 17’ lies between the precincts of Peterborough Cathedral (formerly a Benedictine abbey) and the Bishop’s Palace gardens, south of the cloister (Fig 1). As a whole, all fourteen bays of the wall form the western wall of ‘Hostry Passage’. This was once a medieval vaulted covered way, itself of two different periods, which tied together two extant buildings on its west side, at the north and south ends, as well as the missing dormitory undercroft on its east side.

The five northernmost bays (1–5, counting bay divisions on the east elevation) are mid-13th-century and form the east wall of the refectory built by Abbot Walter of Bury St Edmunds (1233–45) (Sparke 1723, 119; Halliday 2009). What remains on the east side, with simple chamfered responds, moulded capitals and chamfered vault ribs (Fig 2), is clearly of the same date, when it was a vaulted passageway through the south claustral range (Peers 1906, 450). On its west face (Fig 3), the high end of the refectory, details of the richly moulded blind arcade, including elements carved in Alwalton marble, survive, especially at the north and south ends (Peers 1906, 452–53). The backs of six narrow arches and one trefoiled arch survive, the spacing



Fig 2: Northernmost five bays of 'Wall 17', east side, with 13th-century vault responds and wall ribs, looking north-west (taken July 2006)



Fig 3: Northernmost section of 'Wall 17', west side, interior of medieval refectory with details of blind arcade and later refacing and repairs (taken March 2015)

implying two further missing trefoiled arches. This was investigated further (below). Unlike some of the nearby monastic buildings, such as the cloisters, chapter house and library, the refectory is not recorded as having been sold during the Commonwealth period. In the early 18th century, it is shown roofless, but with its west wall still extant; Eayre's map of 1721 (Fig 4) confirms that the south wall is by now missing (Bailey 1996, 161; PCCHER, Image 1526, Image 1065). The north wall still retains most of its wall arcade, along with finely carved sunk roundels (Fig 5).

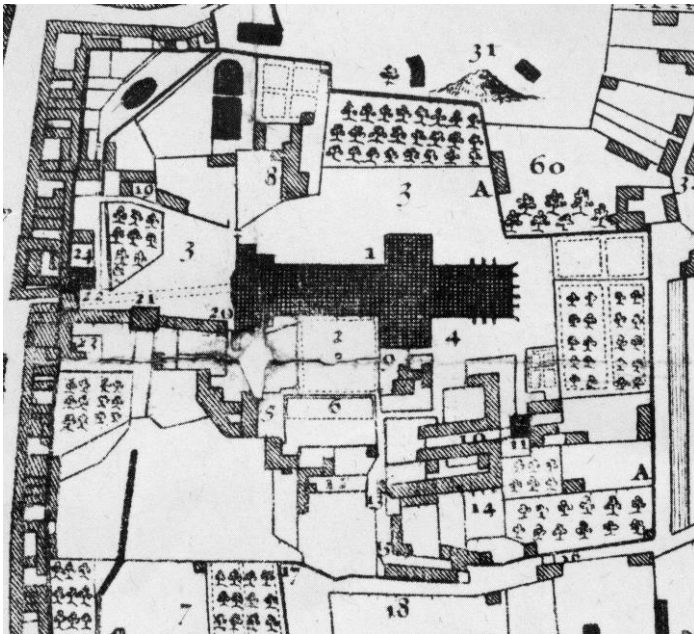


Fig 4: Detail from Eayre's map of 1721. '6' marks the area of the medieval refectory, here shown with its south wall missing and dotted in



Fig 5: North wall of refectory (taken March 2009)

South of the refectory (Fig 6–7), the next seven bays (6–12) are of early 14th-century date, dated by style, not documentary evidence, which is lacking. O'Brien and Pevsner (2014, 612), point out the discrepancy between the apparent late 13th-century date of the very fine naturalistic capitals and that of the decorated tracery which, on style alone, is a generation later. Much of the coursing, however, suggests that the tracery and the



Fig 6: Bays 12 and 11–9 bays of ‘Wall 17’, showing 14th-century door and tracery, looking north-west (taken July 2006).



Fig 7: General view of west side, with 13th-century refectory in foreground, then bays 6–12, 14th-century covered way with gabled buttresses and numerous blockings and refacings (taken March 2015).



capitals are contemporary. Bays 6–11 held huge glazed (or glazed and shuttered) windows and the bay 12 had a doorway that once led to another vaulted covered way running east–west across the north side the ‘little dorter’. All are now blocked. Many of the details of this passage are fine, including the 3-light mullioned and transomed windows, with reticulated tracery above, and the very fine naturalistic leaves on the capitals of the doorway (Fig 8). Most of the tracery elements and capitals are visible on the east side. On the exterior, west, side, details only survive in bays 11 and 12, including two splendid corbels supporting the east–west vault, a head and one with two birds holding acorns (Fig 9). Substantial gabled buttresses between each bay supported the vault (Fig 7), although two of these have been removed.



Fig 8: Naturalistic foliage capitals of doorway from Hostry Passage, north of Little Dorter (north side of doorway)



Fig 9: Vault corbels of east-west covered way north of Little Dorter, on west side of Hostry Passage

The final two bays (13–14) comprise the 14th-century vault of the covered way inserted into the early 13th-century vaulted building called the ‘little dorter’ (date based on interior moulded capitals). These did not form part of the 2016 repair programme.

The later history of ‘wall 17’ is complex and includes many areas of blocking and refacing, in ragstone, ashlar and brick, including a small blocked door in bay 1, and a large opening into the ‘little dorter’ in bay 13. Together, these represent several phases, some of which are unpicked further below.

Without question, ‘wall 17’ is of exceptional significance, as indicated by its scheduling and listing. It is, or was, of fine architectural quality; it represents three different medieval periods and buildings (two examined

here), including a notable example of a covered way surviving outside a cloister. This played an important part in the flow of people around the abbey precincts, as it does around the cathedral precincts today.

## 5 Archaeological Observations

Archaeological observations, as recorded on site, with phasing, and one reconstruction can be seen in Figs 10–16.

### 5.1 Overall Phasing and Mortar Samples

During the building works, mortar samples were collected where possible (Figs 13, 16, 18, Appendix 1), especially where areas of loose stone and brick were temporarily removed. This enhanced the characterisation of different phases, helping to both connect different areas, especially of repair, and also to distinguish between different phases. The full description of the mortars is given in Appendix 1, and a summary of the phasing in Table 1. This is shown graphically in Figs 14, 17, 19.

### 5.2 The 13th-Century Refectory (Phase 1)

A brief architectural description has been given in section 4 above. During the building works, further details were observed. At the bottom of the wall, the rough coursed rubble re-facing at the bottom the wall (Fig 13), especially when compared with the height of ashlar work on the north wall, strongly suggested that along the east wall, the tables at the high end of the refectory were raised on a permanent masonry platform, removed after the Dissolution.



Fig 10: Third lancet from north, showing mortars behind facing. The pale lime-based mortar of the lancet is clearly visible against the darker, clay-based mortar of the re-facing.

Removal of one of the lancets (Fig 10) clearly showed the off-white lime-based mortar of the original build, as against the dark clay-based mortar of the post-dissolution re-facing (Table 1 and Appendix 1). It was also possible to see cut-back voussoirs of the blind arcade. Some voussoirs were turned around and reused as facing stones in the refacing. Two were removed and fully recorded before being replaced in the wall (Appendix 2). The voussoirs, in better condition than the extant examples at the north and south ends of the wall, have a complex series of mouldings (Fig 11). From the soffit, they are fillet and three-quarter hollow; fillet and roll; hollow; keeled roll; hollow and fillet. This is almost an exact match for the extant voussoirs in the north wall of the refectory; however, the order of the moulding there is slightly different (soffit; fillet and three-quarter hollow; roll and fillet; hollow; keeled roll; hollow and fillet).



Fig 11: Photo of reused voussoir

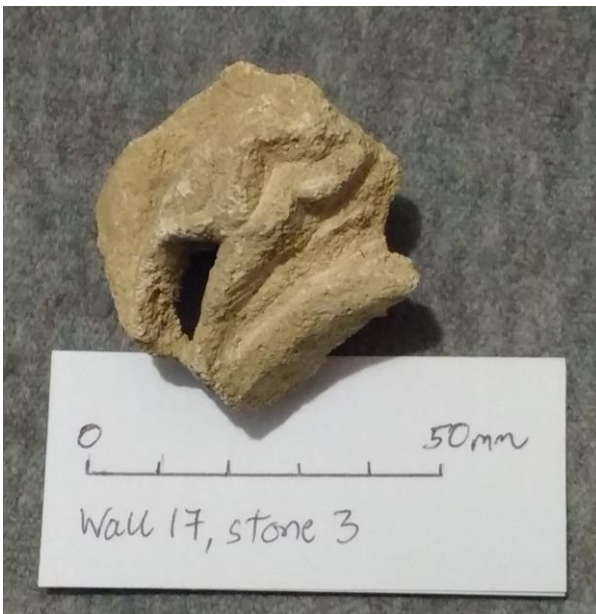


Fig 12: Tiny fragment of stiff-leaf sculpture, probably from one of the capitals of the blind arcade

A possible explanation for this is that this difference was thought to further enhance the high end of the refectory, already emphasised by the raised platform; the central three arches of the blind arcade, with their trefoiled heads, only one of which survives (Figs 3, 13); and the Alwalton marble hoodmoulds and abaci (on the north wall, only the abaci are Alwalton). The eastern arcade also appears to have stiff-leaf capitals, as visible in the eroded north and south ends, rather than the moulded ones of the north wall; a tiny fragment, in fine condition (Fig 12 and Appendix 1) was found in the blocking/refacing of the later window (phases 3 and 4, below).

Other remnants of the blind arcade can also be made out, notably the cut-off capital blocks, and cut-off keyed jambs between each arch. Keying of these jambs only took place *c.* 1.10–1.30m above the raised platform, showing that the wall was built to this height before the carved material arrived.

Charles Peers (1906, 453) suggests that the many pinholes visible on the wall relate to hangings or panelling, but this cannot be proved; many iron and iron and lead, and galvanised nails remain, the recent one at least used for later gardening (ie to retain plants against the wall). He also notes the presence of a painting of the Majesty on the east wall, as recorded in the 14th-century customary. This is now completely lost to us.

### 5.3 The 14th-Century Covered Way (Phase 2)

Externally, the most prominent feature of the covered way are the gabled buttresses (Figs 7, 16, 18). Three of these survive, each with a single sloping offset. The southernmost example projects less than the others

Wall 17 Archaeological Recording

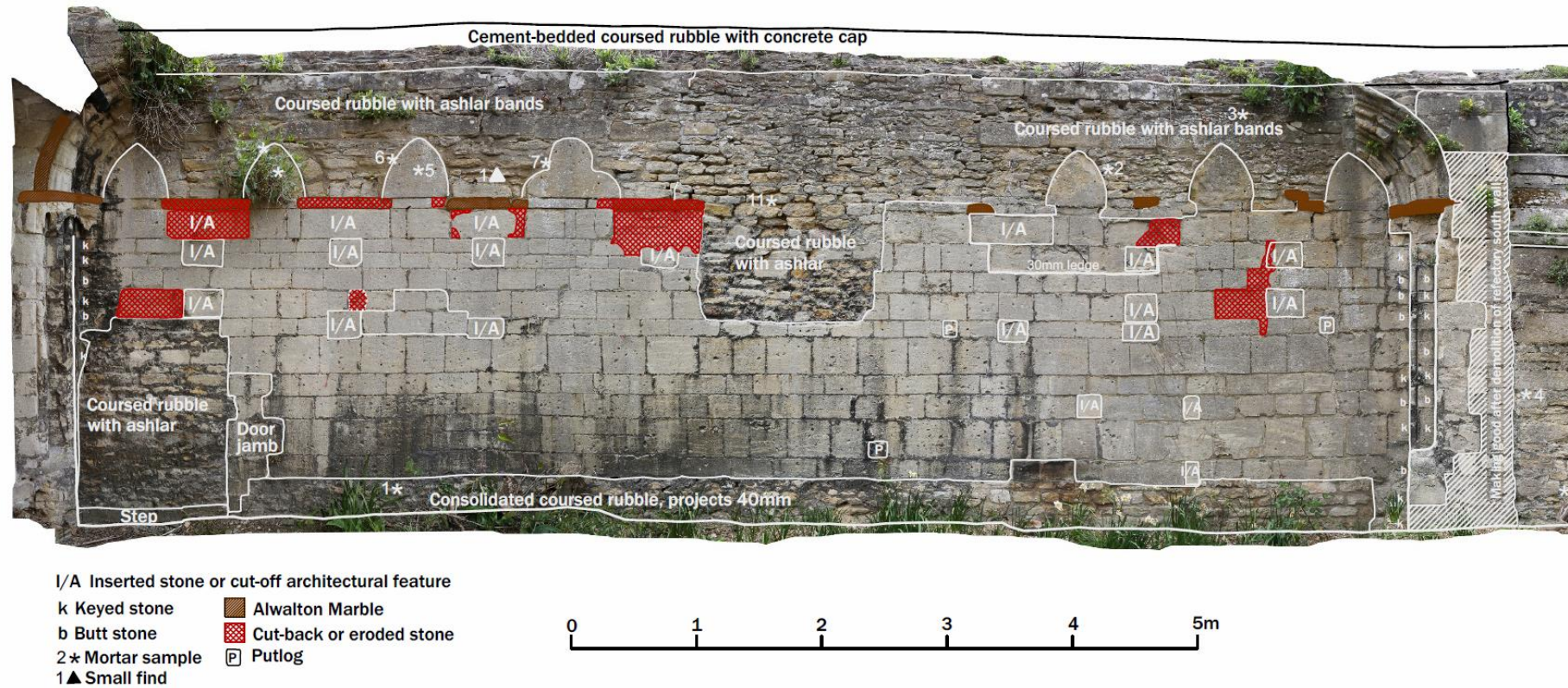


Fig 13: Features observed within north end (medieval refectory) of Wall 17, on orthophotograph approx. scale 1:50 (photography by The Downland Partnership Ltd)

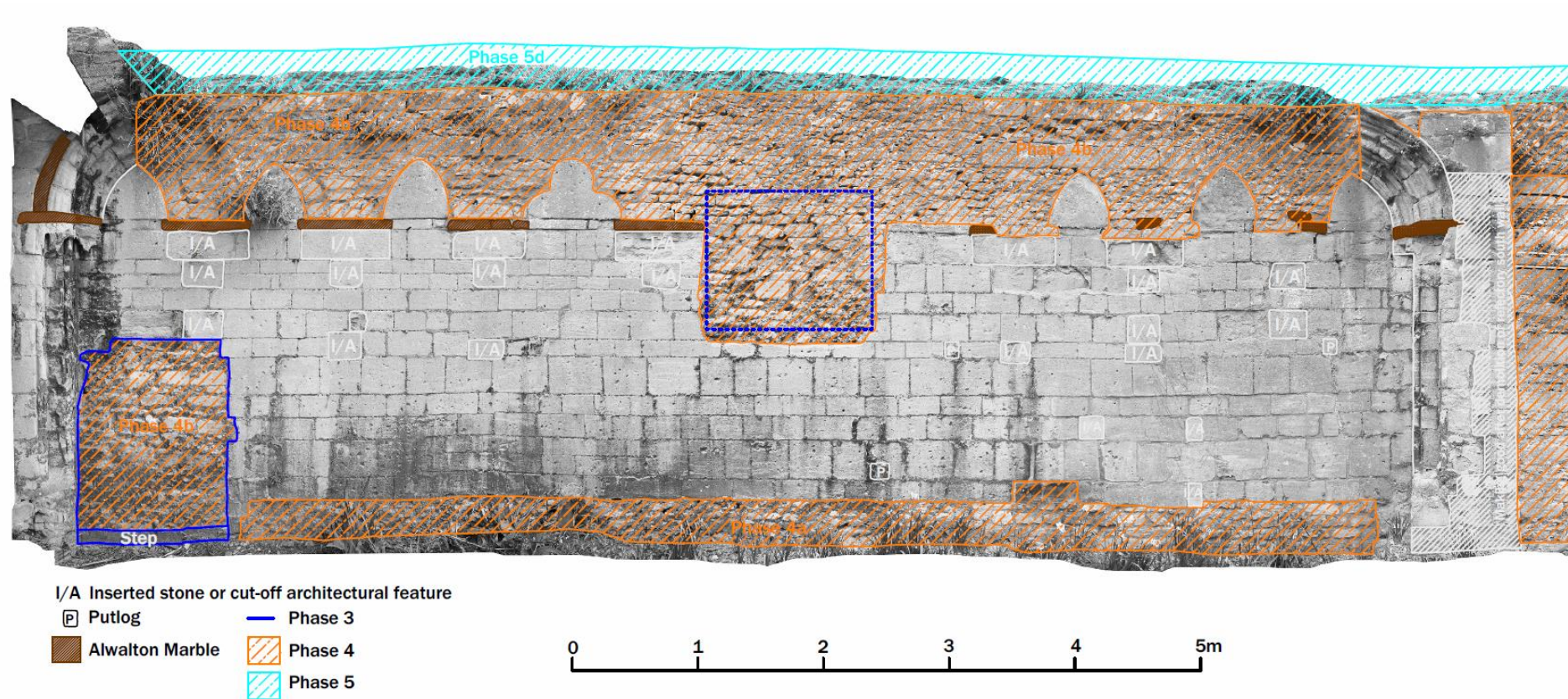


Fig 14: Archaeological phasing within north end (medieval refectory) of Wall 17, on orthophotograph approx. scale 1:50. The areas not marked up, and the Alwalton marble belong to Phase 1, the 13th-century refectory. Most of Phase 4 (with the exception of the blocking of the Phase 3 window and door) is only the outer face of the wall, not the core. (photography by The Downland Partnership Ltd)

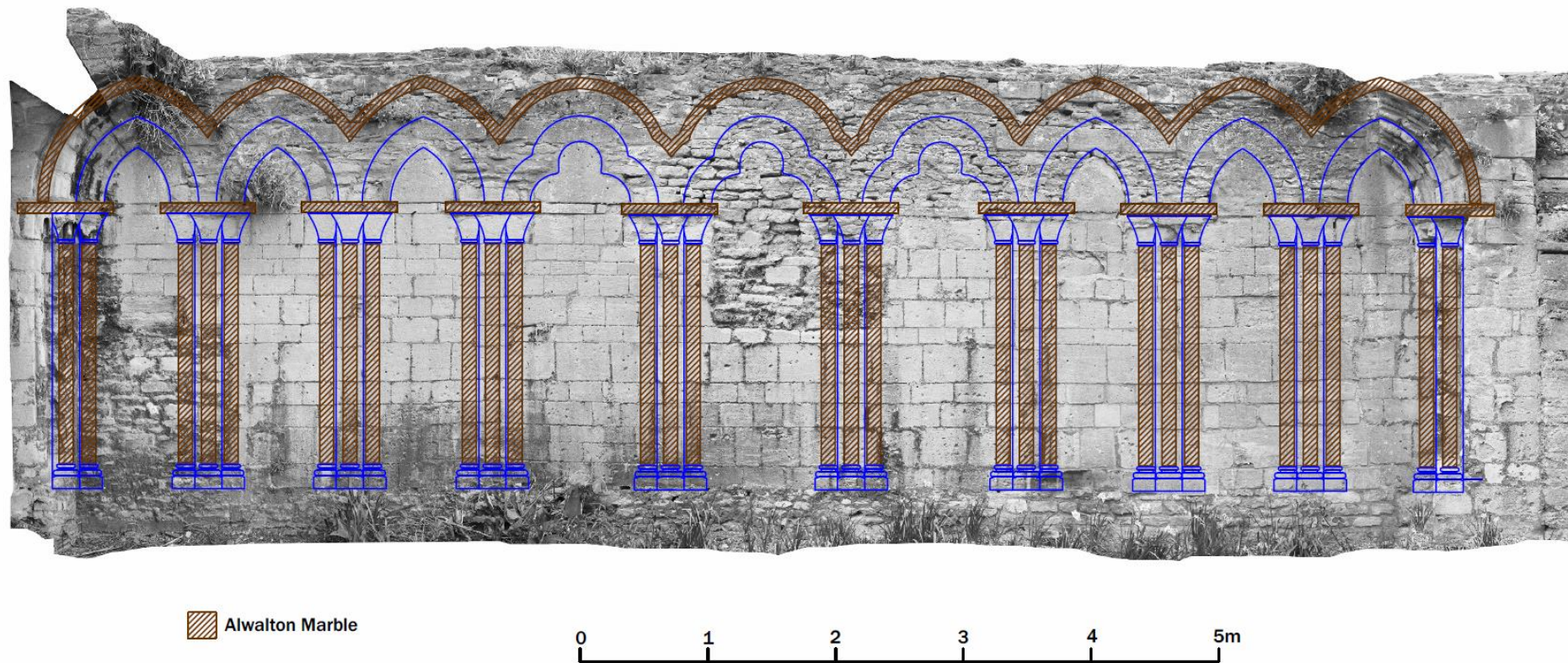


Fig 15: Diagrammatic reconstruction of 13th-century wall arcade, east wall of refectory, on orthophotograph approx. scale 1:50. Moulding details are not shown, and the capitals should be imagined as stiff-leaf foliage capitals. No original shafts survive on either the east or north walls, and Alwalton marble has been assumed based on the few survivals on the north side of the north wall (in the cloister), and also near-contemporary work on the west front. (photography by The Downland Partnership Ltd)

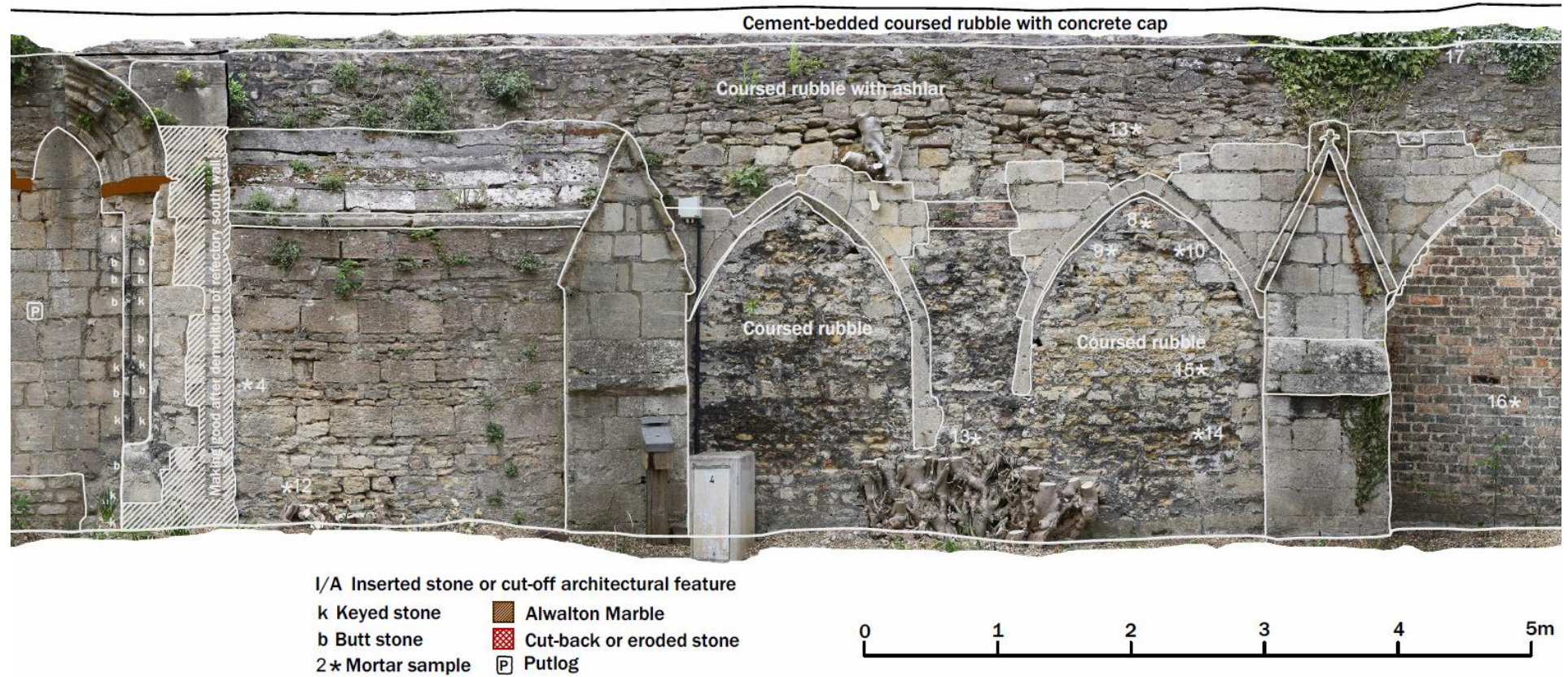


Fig 16: Features observed within central area (covered way) of Wall 17, on orthophotograph approx. scale 1:50 (photography by The Downland Partnership Ltd)

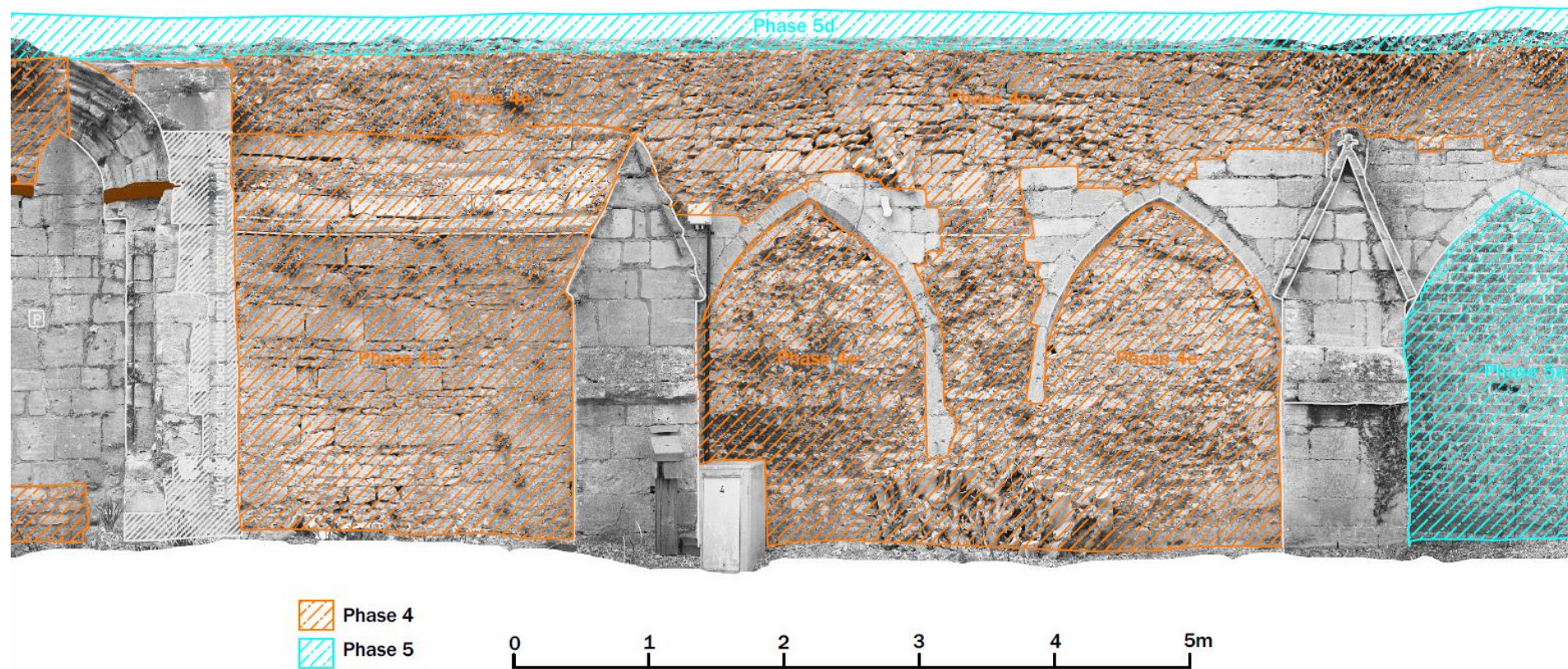


Fig 17: Archaeological phasing within central area (covered way) of Wall 17, on orthophotograph approx. scale 1:50. The areas not marked up belong to Phase 2, the 14th-century covered way. Much of Phase 4 (with the exception of the blocking of the tracery) is only the outer face of the wall, not the core. (photography by The Downland Partnership Ltd)



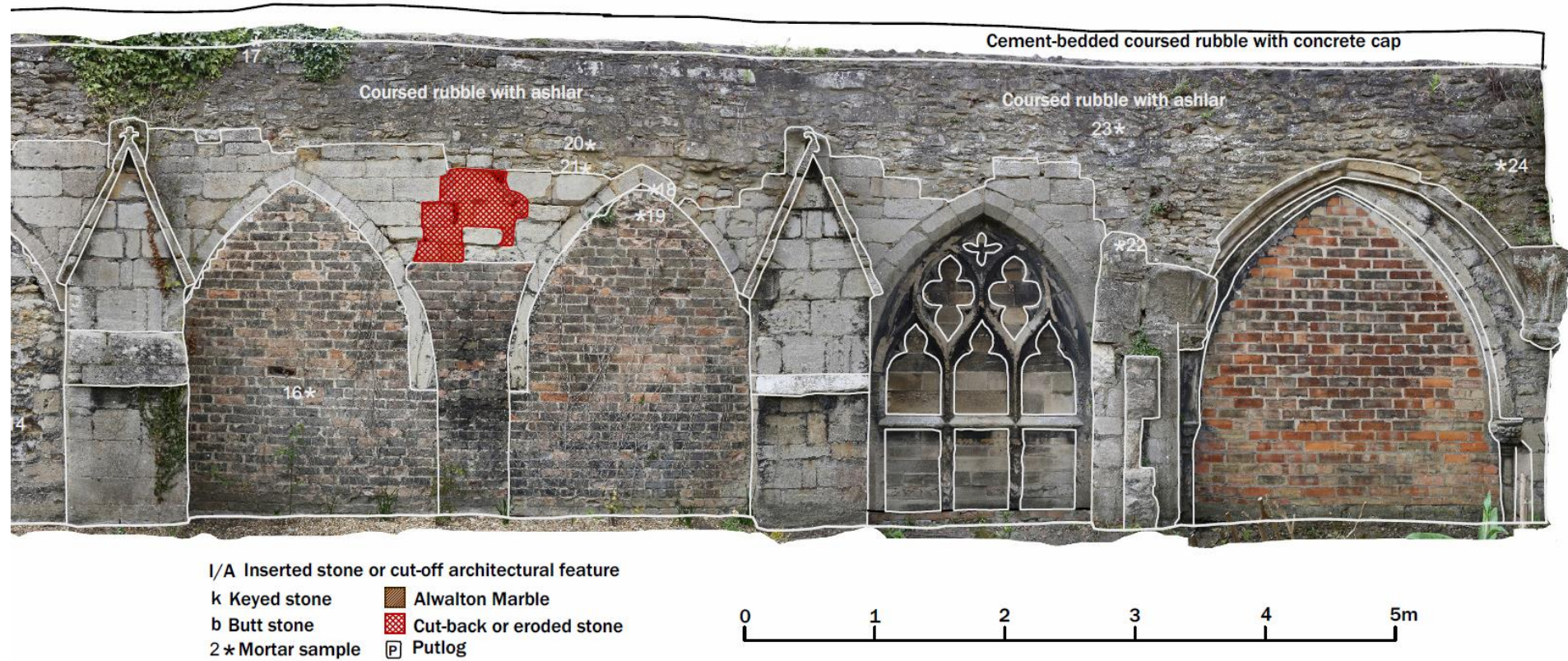


Fig 18: Features observed within southern area (covered way) of Wall 17, on orthophotograph approx. scale 1:50 (photography by The Downland Partnership Ltd)

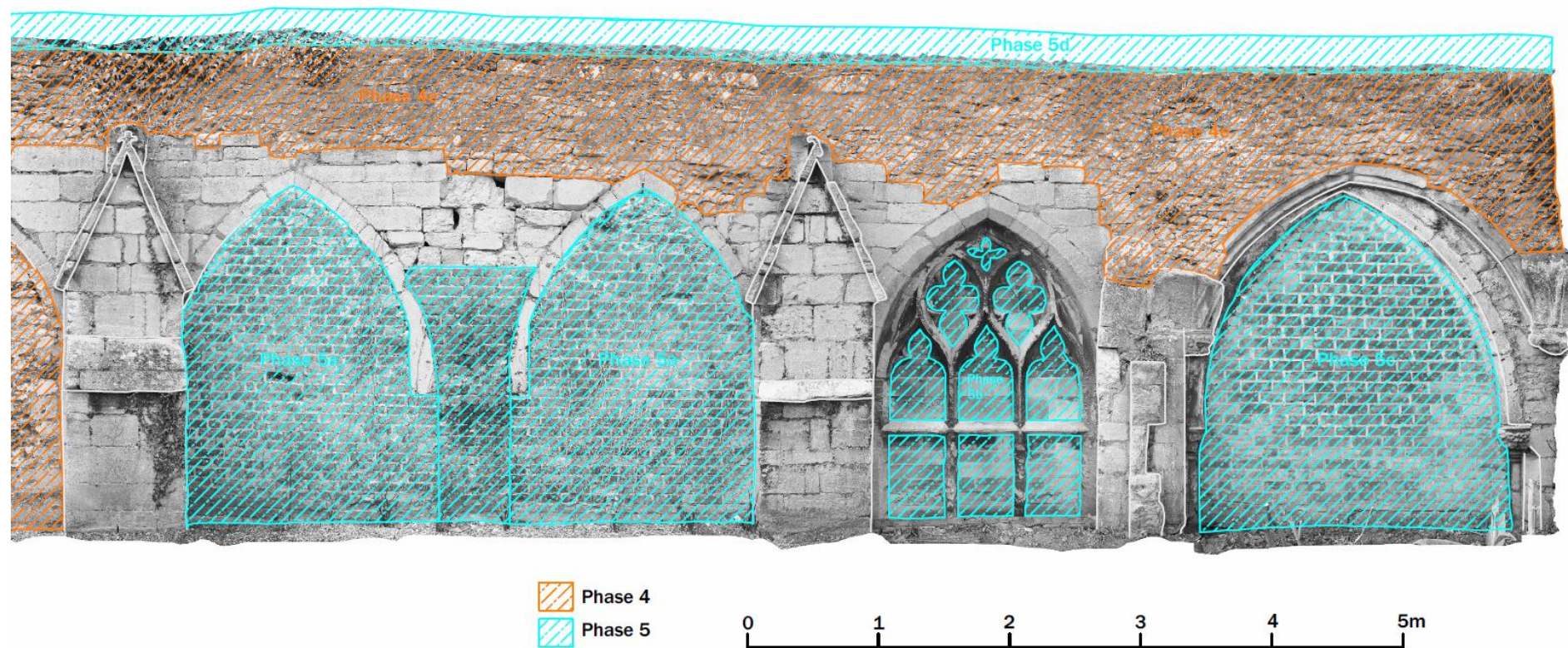


Fig 19: Archaeological phasing within southern area (covered way) of Wall 17, on orthophotograph approx. scale 1:50. The areas not marked up belong to Phase 2, the 14th-century covered way. Most of Phases 4 and 5 (with the exception of the blocking of the tracery) is only the outer face of the wall, not the core (photography by The Downland Partnership Ltd)

(0.87m compared with 1.02m), and has a corresponding smaller sloping offset, but the reason for this is not clear. Between the buttresses lie the paired arches of the glazed passage, all now blocked on the west side, with the blocked doorway to the south. It is clear that buttresses have been removed between pairs of arches, from their spacing, the way the vertical jambs cut through the springing of the arches and the roughly triangular shape of the blocking matching the gabled top of the surviving buttresses. The buttresses were clearly to support the vault of the passageway. The ashlar stonework does not course either side of each buttress, not each side of an arch, but this does not appear to be indicative of building breaks so much as, on this side of the wall, a lazy approach to building.

North of the doorway, instead of a buttress, there is a wall stub (Fig 21). Visible within it are the remnant of a window jamb matching those of the north-south covered way; the sill is below ground level on the west side. This adds to the body of evidence of a second covered way, this time east-west, leading from Hostry Passage towards the abbot's lodging. The vault corbels, the wall ribs above the doorway, and vault ribs on the south side of the wall stub itself, show that this covered way was also vaulted, like Hostry Passage.

A number of mortar samples were taken from deep behind the later refacing, including two above and below a building break (Fig 21; Appendix 1). These probably belong to the original 14th-century building phase here, and the mortar used was very fine, but appears to be more lime-based than clay-based.



Fig 20: Wall stub north of doorway, on west side of wall 17; rectified. Note the window jamb, vault corbel and vault ribs (The Downland Partnership)



Fig 21: Above bay 10, showing tilted horizontal building break; mortar samples taken both sides of break

#### 5.4 Re-use of the Refectory (Phase 3)

An early reuse of the refectory is indicated by the door at the north end of the refectory and window in the centre, both blocked. The window was partially unblocked during the current repairs (Fig 22) (though unfortunately no archaeologist was present), showing it to be a square-headed mullioned window, with rather plain mouldings. Since neither the window nor the door were taken apart, no mortar samples belong to this phase. Breaking through the east wall of one of the principal liturgical buildings of the monastery strongly suggests a post-Dissolution date, while the modest size of the window and door suggest some sort of domestic use. This use was clearly over before the early 18th-century, when the refectory no longer had a south wall or roof (see above), and could have been over some time before this.



Fig 22: Partially unblocked window in centre of refectory east wall (Julian Vosper)

#### 5.5 Making Good after post-Dissolution Dilapidations (Phase 4)

Probably over some period of time, after the refectory became roofless, and after the area firmly became part of the garden, repairs were made to block the openings, reface areas where wall arcade and wall face had been lost, remove the buttresses, and generally make the west side of the wall a garden wall, with increased privacy and an increasing expanse of flat wall. A number of different areas/episodes were identified, some contemporary with each other, and some probably not (see Table 1, and Figs 14, 17, 19).

**Phase 4a** is the refacing at the bottom of the refectory wall, making good after the removal of the raised platform (noticeably neater at the southern end, which may indicate another sub-phase). It is characterised by coursed limestone rubble set in a fine brown or grey-brown clay-based mortar. This is very similar to the higher level refacing in the refectory (**Phase 4b**), where the rubble is interspersed with reused ashlars (many of them recut moulded stone), including over the front of the post-Dissolution window and door (Figs 13, 14). A fragment of thick glass bottle was found in this refacing, (Appendix 3); this is likely to be of late 18th-century date, suggesting that the repairs took place rather later than one might expect.

The same mortar is used in bay 6, immediately south of the refectory, where the wall is thickened almost to the whole depth of the first buttress (**phase 4d**). This new wall is comprised of bands of coursed rubble and reused ashlar (Figs 16, 17), topped by a string-course and several sloping courses. The reason for this massive thickening is not known; although it might be assumed to be structural, the wall (as seen on the east side) appears to be sound. Identical mortar (and near identical to the refacing of the 13th-century refectory) is used in the coursed rubble refacing of the 14th-century wall, including the blocking of bays 7 and 8, refacing above the ashlars and above the vault over the doorway (**phase 4e**). This refacing also sometimes includes lines of reused ashlars.

Possibly belonging to the same works, but using a completely different mortar, are the deep blockings of the various openings. This was only seen in bay 8, where a small section of blocking at the top of the tracery was removed (Fig 23) (**phase 4f**), and was also collected by the contractor from the blocked window in the refectory (**phase 4c**), along with the familiar brown clay-based mortar of the refacing. The mortar was lime-based (Table 1 and Appendix 1) and exceptionally hard, suggesting that it might have been used as a structural element in the opening to which the new facing, using soft mortar, could be fixed. However, this is based only on two samples, and the stark difference between these and the clay mortars might instead suggest a different period altogether. This is not likely to be solved except by some serious (and unlikely) unblocking of the historic fabric at a future date.



Fig 23: Bay 8, with upper blocking removed, showing the blocking of three quatrefoils from which mortar samples were taken

Last in this phase is the pointing (occasionally render) extant over areas of the coursed rubble refacing, principally in bays 7 and 8 (**phase 4g**). This is lime mortar, but full of charcoal, and dark grey. It may have been meant to waterproof the soft clay mortar of the refacing from the weather, although it is not possible to say whether or not it is contemporary with that refacing, or rather later.

### 5.6 Modern Blocking and Repairs (Phase 5)

Like phase 4, phase 5 comprises a number of different elements, some clearly different in date from the others. It appears to represent a continuing desire for privacy in the Bishop's garden, as more of the openings from Hostry Passage are blocked. **Phase 5a** is the brick refacing of bays 9 and 10 (Figs 18, 19). The bricks are handmade, laid stretcher fashion with occasional headers, with pale pink to dark grey fabric c.224–30 x 60–63 x 113–20 mm, with a cream lime-based mortar. At the top where a small area of brick was temporarily removed, rubble fill was visible (Fig 24). Handmade bricks are also used between bays 9 and 10, where the buttress has been removed, very similar to the bricks to either side, but all over-fired, and the measured lengths were slightly longer (222–28 mm)



Fig 24: Bay 10, with upper brickwork removed, showing rubble core and back of tracery behind

Bay 11 (Figs 18, 19) is the only bay in which the tracery is still visible on the west side; a single thickness of ashlar (**phase 5b**), some of it sawn, divides the two elevations. Bay 12, the doorway, is blocked with modern red-orange Flettons, c.214–23 x 115 x 72–5 mm, laid stretcher fashion (**phase 5c**). It was not possible to collect mortar from either of these bays, without causing damage. They are sufficiently recent that the photographic record of this part of the precincts could be used to date them, although nothing came to light in the (admittedly brief) searches undertaken for this small project.

The final phase (**phase 5d**), probably contemporary with the blocking of bay 11 or bay 12 or both, is the cement-based capping of the wall top (now replaced with clay tiles, as part of the repair programme). Beneath this cap, a looser, possibly lime-based or hydraulic mortar was found, albeit very affected by invasive plant roots, that might represent an earlier capping phase.

As well as the nail holes and nails already mentioned in the northern third of the wall, there are many in the southern two-thirds ie over the 14th-century work and later refacing, suggesting that these are related to relatively recent gardening rather than panelling.

## 6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to John Lucas Ltd (especially Julian Vosper) and to the Bishop of Peterborough, for access to the site during building works; to the architect, Stephen Oliver for asking us to undertake the archaeological work, and to The Downland Partnership for their excellent orthophotography.

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### PCCHER Records (from the Historic Precincts GIS Project)

- 80011 – Refectory
- 80013 – Hostry Passage

### PCCHER Image and Document Records (from the Historic Precincts GIS, in preparation)

- 1065 – Eayre's map of 1721
- 1526 – Early 18th-century engravings around the precincts, including the medieval refectory

## 8 Appendices

### Appendix 1: The Mortar Samples


This table is of samples taken during the repairs to the west elevation. The old number refers to the site drawings, and the sample number to the CAD drawings (Figs 13, 16, 18). Both numbers appear on the mortar sample bags. The bay numbers refer to the covered way, counting from the north (on the east side ie the first bay visible in the west elevation is bay 6, immediately south of the refectory).


Sample no.	Old no.	Location	Description	Phase
1	A	Refectory; behind refacing at bottom of wall	Pale grey-brown fine clay-based mortar with moderate grit inclusions	4a
2	B	Refectory; behind refacing next to 3rd lancet from south	Mid-brown fine clay-based mortar with few grit inclusions	4b
3	C	Refectory; behind refacing above 2 southern lancets	Mid-brown fine clay-based mortar with few grit inclusions	4b
4	D	Covered way; behind pointing of thickening in bay 6	Mid-brown fine clay-based mortar with few grit inclusions	4d
5	E	Refectory; core behind back of wall arcade, 3rd lancet from north	Cream-buff lime-based mortar with moderate small pebble inclusions	1
6	F	Refectory; bedding on top of 3rd lancet from north	Cream-buff lime-based mortar with occasional small pebbles, frequent grits, occasional charcoal; firm	1
7	G	Refectory; behind refacing next to first trefoil from north	Pale brown fine clay-based mortar with few small pebble inclusions	4b
8	H	Covered way; bay 8, core of blocking, upper quatrefoil (Fig 23)	Off-white lime-based mortar, frequent grits and occasional charcoal and chalk, very hard; smeared with ?cement slurry from later repair	4f
9	I	Covered way; bay 8, core of blocking, north quatrefoil quatrefoil (Fig 23)	Off-white lime-based mortar, frequent grits and occasional charcoal and chalk, very hard	4f
10	J	Covered way; bay 8, behind facing of blocking, south quatrefoil (Fig 23)	Pale brown fine clay-based mortar with few small pebble inclusions	4e
11.1	AA	Refectory; blocking of later window, core (collected by builder)	Off-white-cream lime-based mortar, frequent grits and chalk, hard	4c
11.2	AA	Refectory; blocking of later window, core (collected by builder)	Pale brown fine clay-based mortar with few small pebble inclusions	4b
12	N	Covered way; bay 6 thickening, core close to face	Pale brown fine clay-based mortar with few small pebble inclusions	4d
13	P	Covered way; area behind removed buttress between bays 7	Very small sample: buff ?lime-based mortar, fine with few grit and chalk	?2

		and 8; deep core	inclusions	
14	Q	Covered way; bay 8, bedding mortar of blocking,	Pale brown fine clay-based mortar with few small pebble inclusions	4e
15	K	Covered way; bay 8 (also bay 7), pointing/ render,	Grey lime-based mortar with frequent charcoal and moderate chalk inclusions	4g
16	L	Covered way; bay 9, bedding (same as core) of brick facing,	Cream lime-based mortar with moderate grit and occasional chalk inclusions (sim to 11.1)	5a
17	Z	Covered way; bay 9, immediately below cement cap	Buff-grey, ?cement-based mortar, very gritty	5d
18	R	Covered way; bay 10, core at top of brick facing,	Cream lime-based mortar with moderate grit and occasional chalk inclusions (sim to 11.1)	5a
19	S	Covered way; bay 10, core near top of brick facing,	Missing	
20	V	Covered way; bay 10, above arch, core above clearly visible building break (Fig 21)	buff clay and lime-based mortar, fine with few grits, very occasional chalk and charcoal	?2
21	T	Covered way; bay 10, above arch, core below clearly visible building break (Fig 21)	Cream-buff clay and lime-based mortar, fine with few grit and chalk inclusions, very occasional charcoal, hard	?2
22	M	Covered way; bay 11–12, wall stub, core	Buff clay and lime-based mortar, few grit, very occasional chalk, hard	?2
23	Y	Covered way; bay 11–12, wall above wall stub, deep bedding mortar	buff clay and lime-based mortar, few grits, very occasional chalk and charcoal, hard	?2
24	W	Covered way; bay 12, refacing above vault of east-west covered way, deep bedding mortar	Mid-brown fine clay-based mortar	4e

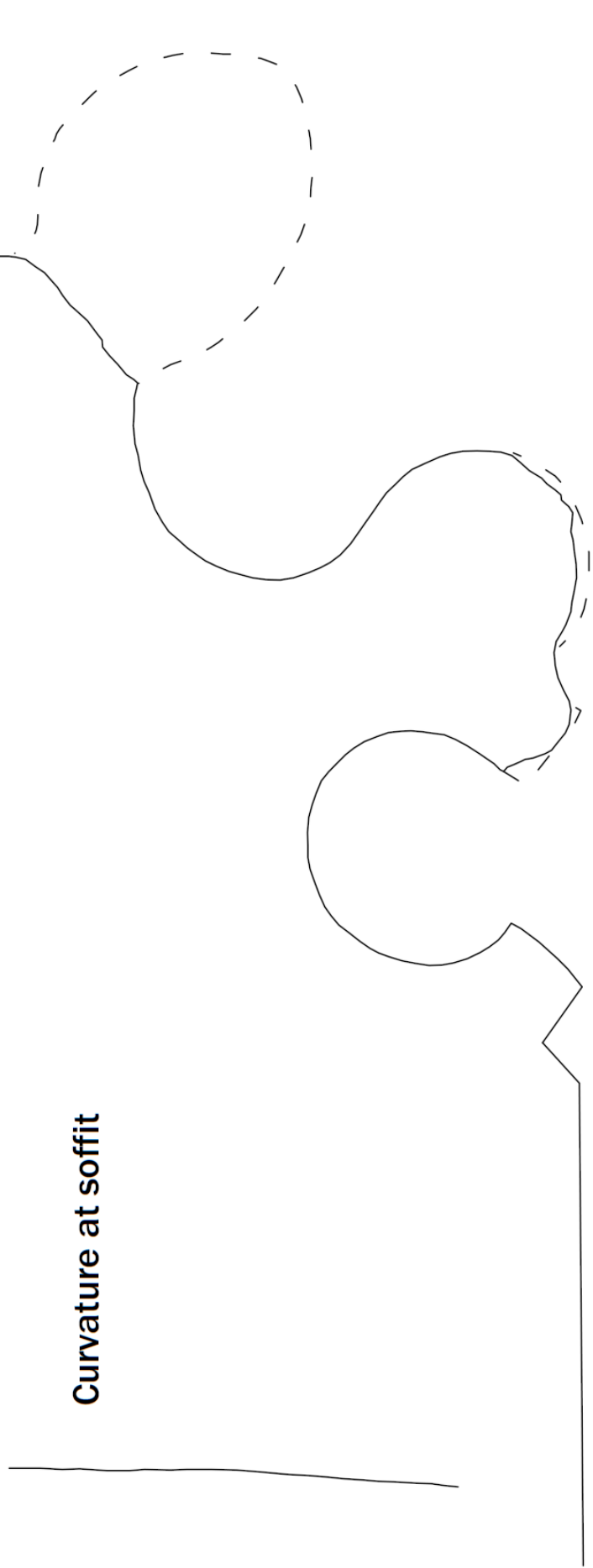


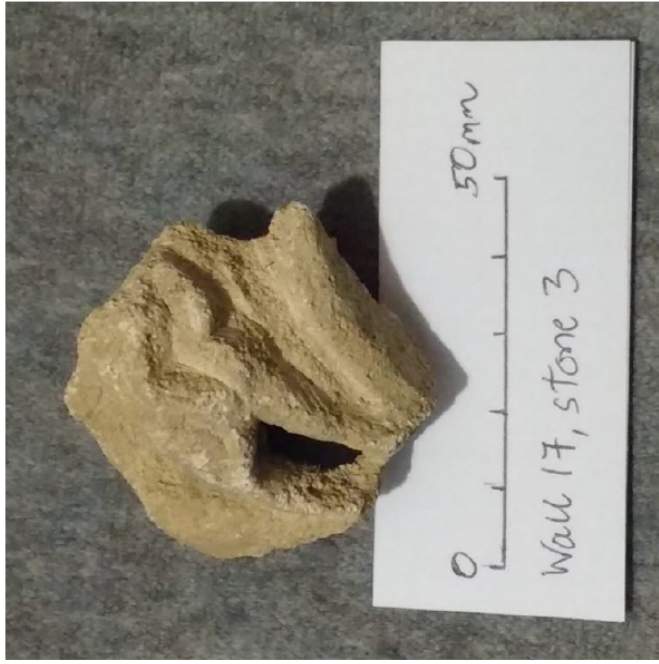
Appendix 2: Architectural Stones

SITE Peterborough Cathedral Precincts	STORE Rebuilt into wall	CONTEXT NO Wall 17 (Bishop's Palace Garden east wall)	SMALL FIND/OLD NO	STONE NO Wall 17 / ST 1
DESCRIPTION Voussoir Complex mouldings, with, from soffit, ¾ roll and two fillets, roll and hollow, broken off ?roll, hollow, broken off ?fillet				
CONDITION Average	COMPLETENESS Incomplete	DIMENSIONS H 97 W 193 D 285 mm	STONE TYPE Barnack	
STONE FINISH Ashlar	MASONS' MARKS	KEYING		
TOOL MARKS	MISCELLANEOUS	ATTACHMENTS		
PLASTER	MORTAR	REUSE	Turned round and reused south of lancet 3 from N end	
INTERPRETATION Originally part of wall arcade of east wall of medieval refectory. Reused after disuse of refectory during making good of wall into garden wall				
COMPARISONS Same as Wall 17 / ST 2	OBJECT DATE mid-13th-century	ORIGIN Medieval refectory		
DRAWINGS 1:1 profile (composite with ST 2)	PHOTOS ✓	DATE AND INITIALS JLH 09/09/2016		

SITE Peterborough Cathedral Precincts	STORE Rebuilt into wall	CONTEXT NO Wall 17 (Bishop's Palace Garden east wall)	SMALL FIND/OLD NO	STONE NO Wall 17 / ST 2
DESCRIPTION Voussoir Complex mouldings, with, from soffit, ¾ roll and two fillets, roll and hollow, broken off ?roll, hollow, fillet				
CONDITION Average	COMPLETENESS Incomplete	DIMENSIONS H 92 W 200 D 342 mm	STONE TYPE Barnack	
STONE FINISH Ashlar	MASONS' MARKS	KEYING		
TOOL MARKS	MISCELLANEOUS	ATTACHMENTS		
PLASTER	MORTAR	REUSE Turned round and reused south of lancet 3 from N end		
INTERPRETATION Originally part of wall arcade of east wall of medieval refectory. Reused after disuse of refectory during making good of wall into garden wall				
COMPARISONS Same as Wall 17 / ST 1	OBJECT DATE mid-13th-century	ORIGIN Medieval refectory		
DRAWINGS 1:1 profile (composite with ST 1)	PHOTOS ✓	DATE AND INITIALS JLH 09/09/2016		

**Peterborough Cathedral Precincts  
Wall 17, Stones 1 and 2 (voussoirs)  
Composite 1:1 Profile**



<p><b>SITE</b> Peterborough Cathedral Precincts</p>	<p><b>STORE</b> With site archive</p>	<p><b>CONTEXT NO</b> Wall 17 (Bishop's Palace Garden east wall)</p>	<p><b>SMALL FIND/OLD NO</b></p>	<p><b>STONE NO</b> Wall 17 / ST 3</p>		
<p><b>DESCRIPTION</b> Sculpture Tiny fragment of stiff leaf foliage</p>						
<p><b>CONDITION</b> Average - good</p>	<p><b>COMPLETENESS</b> Fragment</p>	<p><b>DIMENSIONS</b> H 46 W 44 D 27 mm</p>	<p><b>STONE TYPE</b> Medium oolitic, buff, Lincolnshire Limestone Suggests special stone type used for carved details</p>			
<p><b>STONE FINISH</b> Smooth - almost polished</p>	<p><b>MASON'S MARKS</b></p>	<p><b>KEYING</b></p>				
<p><b>TOOL MARKS</b></p>	<p><b>MISCELLANEOUS</b></p>	<p><b>ATTACHMENTS</b></p>				
<p><b>PLASTER</b></p>	<p><b>MORTAR</b></p>	<p><b>REUSE</b> In wall core of blocking of post-medieval window</p>				
<p><b>INTERPRETATION</b> Originally part of wall arcade of east wall of medieval refectory; slight remains at either end show that the capitals were carved with stiff-leaf foliage. Reused after disuse of refectory during making good of wall into garden wall</p>						
<p><b>COMPARISONS</b></p>	<p><b>OBJECT DATE</b> mid-13th-century</p>	<p><b>ORIGIN</b> Medieval refectory</p>				
<p><b>DRAWINGS</b></p>	<p><b>PHOTOS</b> ✓</p>	<p><b>DATE AND INITIALS</b> JLH 08/01/2017</p>				

### **Appendix 3: Small Finds**

Note on the glass fragment by Jenny Mann

‘It’s part of an olive green wine bottle; although very little of it remains, it appears to be the top and part of the side of a high basal ‘kick’. The bottle was almost certainly cylindrical in shape, and likely to be of late 18th-century date.’

## Appendix 4: Photographic Index

File Prefix	Image No.	Taken by	DATE	Camera facing	AREA	PART	Subject	DESCRIPTION
PC W17	1	Jackie Hall	17/03/2015	NE	Wall 17 W face	bays 1-4	refectory E wall W face	pre-works general view
PC W17	2	Jackie Hall	17/03/2015	E	Wall 17 W face	bay 6	refectory & yard wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	3	Jackie Hall	17/03/2015	E	Wall 17 W face	bays 7-9	yard E wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	4	Jackie Hall	17/03/2015	SE	Wall 17 W face	bays 8-12	yard E wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	5	Jackie Hall	17/03/2015	E	Wall 17 W face	bays 11 & 12	yard E wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	6	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bay 4	refectory E wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	7	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bays 4 & 5	refectory E wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	8	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bays 5 & 6	refectory E wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	9	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bay 9	refectory E wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	10	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bay 10	yard E wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	11	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bay 11	yard E wall W face	pre-works view
PC W17	12	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	SSE	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	pre-works oblique view
PC W17	13	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	NE	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	north vault corbel
PC W17	14	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	NE	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	north vault corbel
PC W17	15	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	NE	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	north capital
PC W17	16	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	NE	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	north capital
PC W17	17	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	NNE	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	north capital & vault corbel
PC W17	18	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	SSE	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	south vault corbel & S capital of doorway
PC W17	19	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	S capital of doorway
PC W17	20	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	SE	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	S vault corbel
PC W17	21	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	SE	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	S vault corbel
PC W17	22	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	S	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way E wall W face	S vault corbel
PC W17	23	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	SW	covered way	E bay	covered way S wall N face	cut-back vault corbel
PC W17	24	Caroline Atkins	22/08/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bay 12	covered way vault	oblique view of cut-back vault corbel in S wall & extant vault in E wall
PC W17	25	Jackie Hall	09/09/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bay 2	refectory E wall W face	unpicking of wall refacing around a lancet arch in the blind arcade
PC W17	26	Jackie Hall	09/09/2016	E	Wall 17 W face	bay 2	refectory E wall W face	unpicking of wall refacing around a lancet arch in the blind arcade, showing collection site of mortar sample 06

## Photographic Index cont.

File Prefix	Image No.	Taken by	DATE	Camera facing	AREA	PART	Subject	DESCRIPTION
PC W17	59	The Downland Partnership Ltd	07/05/2015	S	Wall 17 W face	bay 11/12	orthophotography	wall stub N face
PC W17	60	The Downland Partnership Ltd	07/05/2015	N	Wall 17 W face	bay 11/12	orthophotography	wall stub S face
PC W17	61	The Downland Partnership Ltd	06/05/2015	S	Wall 17 W face	bay 6/7	orthophotography	buttress N face
PC W17	62	The Downland Partnership Ltd	06/05/2015	N	Wall 17 W face	bay 6/7	orthophotography	buttress S face
PC W17	63	The Downland Partnership Ltd	06/05/2015	S	Wall 17 W face	bay 10/11	orthophotography	buttress N face
PC W17	64	The Downland Partnership Ltd	06/05/2015	N	Wall 17 W face	bay 10/11	orthophotography	buttress S face
PC W17	65	The Downland Partnership Ltd	06/05/2015	S	Wall 17 W face	bay 8/9	orthophotography	buttress N face
PC W17	66	The Downland Partnership Ltd	06/05/2015	N	Wall 17 W face	bay 8/9	orthophotography	buttress S face

**Appendix 5 (archive copy only): WSI****A Written Scheme of Investigation detailing a Programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording at Peterborough Cathedral Precincts and the Bishop's Palace Gardens, associated with repairs to 'Wall 17'**

Prepared by Jackie Hall for Oliver Architecture Ltd

**1 Summary**

This written scheme of investigation details an archaeological recording strategy prior to and during repairs to 'wall 17' in the historic precincts of Peterborough Cathedral.

**2 Site Location and Description**

The wall is centred on National Grid Reference 519410 298570 and runs southwards from the south-east corner of the cloister for c. 38.5m. It originally belonged to three buildings: the medieval refectory, a covered way, and the so-called 'little dorter'. Only the latter still stands; the rest of the wall now separates the gardens of the Bishop's Palace on the west from Hostry Passage on the east. It is part of scheduled monument PE 140 and is a Grade I listed building.

**3 Planning Background**

Planning permission is not required for the repairs, and this WSI forms part of the application for scheduled monument consent. The owners (Church Commissioners and Peterborough Cathedral) have undertaken to implement the proposed mitigation strategy, if it is approved by Historic England.

If approved, it is hoped that repairs will commence summer 2016. The Archaeologist will be notified of the precise start date and works programme when these have been agreed.

**4 Historical and Archaeological Background**

'Wall 17' lies between the precincts of Peterborough Cathedral (formerly a Benedictine abbey) and the Bishop's Palace gardens, south of the cloister. As a whole, all fourteen bays of the wall form the western wall of 'Hostry Passage'. This was once a medieval vaulted covered way, itself of two different periods, which tied together two extant buildings at the north and south ends (west side), as well as the missing dormitory undercroft on its east side.

The five northernmost bays (1–5) are mid-13th century and form the east wall of the refectory built by Abbot Walter of Bury St Edmunds (1233–45). What remains of the vault on the east side, with simple chamfered responds, moulded capitals and chamfered vault ribs, is clearly of the same date, when it was just a passageway through the south claustral range. On its west face, the high end of the refectory, details of the richly moulded blind arcade, including elements carved in Alwalton marble, survive, especially at the north and south ends. The backs/tops (ie no surviving voussoirs or jambs) of six narrow arches and one cusped arch survive, implying two further missing cusped arches.

The next seven bays (6–12) are of early 14th-century date; the first six were glazed and the seventh was a doorway leading to another vaulted covered way running east–west across the north side the 'little dorter'. Originally glazed, many of the details of this passage are good, including the 3-light mullioned and transomed windows, with quatrefoils above, and very fine naturalistic leaves on the capitals of the doorway. These are



all now blocked, although most of the tracery elements and capitals are visible on the east side. On the outer, west, side, details only survive in bays 11 and 12, including a splendid corbel-head supporting the east–west vault. Substantial gabled buttresses between each bay supported the vault.

The final two bays (13–14) comprise the 14th-century vault of the covered way inserted into the early 13th-century (date based on interior moulded capitals) vaulted building called the ‘little dorter’. The interior of the little dorter (west side of ‘wall 17’) does not form part of the repair programme.

The later history of ‘wall 17’ is complex and includes many areas of blocking and refacing, in ragstone, ashlar and brick; in general, stone has been used on the east side and brick on the west side of the wall. There are also post-medieval features such as the small blocked door in bay 1, and a large opening into the ‘little dorter’ in bay 13. Together, these represent several phases that require careful recording and analysis in order to understand the full history not just of this wall but this whole area of the abbey/ cathedral.

Without question, ‘wall 17’ is of exceptional significance, as indicated by its scheduling and listing. It is, or was, of fine architectural quality; it represents three different medieval periods and buildings, notably a rare example of a covered way surviving outside a cloister; and it played an important part in the flow of people around the abbey precincts, as it does around the cathedral precincts today.

## **5 Aims of the Archaeological Project**

For the repair works, the aim of the project is

- To confirm, characterise and record the major medieval phases of the wall, and to identify and record original features within in each phase, especially those difficult to see or access (such as the remnant of wall arcade at the east end of the refectory).
- To characterise and record the many areas and phases of blocking, refacing and repair, probably all post-medieval, and including inserted doorways and other features.
- To determine whether any of the stones to be removed during the repairs have been re-used and if so from what period of the abbey’s/ cathedral’s history, and to record them appropriately.
- To study (and, if appropriate, retain) any other finds from the wall repairs.

## **6 Methodology**

### **6.1 Site Work**

6.1.1 The owners and building contractor will allow adequate time and access for the archaeological contractor, who for this project is Jackie Hall, or her appointed replacement, Caroline Atkins, to make a full and detailed record of the wall prior to work beginning, and also during the repairs if further archaeological finds or architectural features are uncovered. The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the development timetable and will cause no delay to the development unless otherwise agreed.

6.1.2 A digital rectified photographic record has been made of the wall, and further photographs will be taken such as general views of the site and architectural details, especially hidden and inaccessible ones.

6.1.3 Areas with different materials or other features indicative of form, function, and stratigraphic sequence will be marked up and described on the rectified photographs at 1:20, and subsequently added to the digital record.

6.1.4 Moulding profiles will be taken of surviving medieval mouldings.

- 6.1.4 All finds made during the works will be collected, located and assessed for later analysis by appropriate specialists. Modern artefacts will be noted but not retained.
- 6.1.5 In the unlikely event that deposits relating to industrial activity are encountered, samples and/or assemblages of slags and residues will be submitted to the appropriate specialists for analysis. Even a small sample of any of these materials may have the potential to provide information on the industrial processes concerned.
- 6.1.6 Groundworks are not anticipated during the repair works, and thus human skeletal remains are also not anticipated. Should this change, the PCC Archaeologist, the Cathedral and their archaeologist and architect will be informed. *In situ* burials will be left undisturbed as far as is practical, and disarticulated bones will be saved for reburial. If preservation in situ is not possible, and the lifting of human skeletal remains is necessary, then a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and a detailed record will be made before the remains are lifted and before any further work is permitted on the site. Reburial will be the preferred option.
- 6.1.7 In the event that a major archaeological find is identified, the archaeological contractor will immediately inform Historic England and a site meeting will be convened with the Cathedral, the Church Commissioners, the architect, the archaeological contractor and relevant specialists at the earliest opportunity. Completion of the repairs in the relevant part of the site will not be permitted until a mitigation strategy has been agreed and implemented.
- 6.1.8 All relevant Health and Safety Legislation will be complied with throughout the period of the watching brief.
- 6.1.9 The supervising archaeologist will be covered by current Public Liability Insurance.

## **6.2 Analysis and Report**

- 6.2.1 All saved finds will be recorded and reported upon by appropriately skilled archaeologists, as identified in Section 6.1. The finds will also be assessed for their suitability for inclusion in the site archive.
- 6.2.2 Within six months of the completion of the architectural/archaeological recording and watching brief, a written description and analysis of the methods and results will be produced, incorporating specialist artefact and environmental reports where necessary and/or available.
- 6.2.3 Copies of the report will be supplied to the Historic England, the Cathedral Archaeologist, the Peterborough City Council Historic Environment Record, and the Church Commissioners.
- 6.2.5 Jackie Hall and/or Caroline Atkins will retain copyright of the report relating to the programme of archaeological investigation associated with the repairs to ‘wall 17’ but agrees that the Peterborough City Council Historic Environment Record has licence to reproduce any or all material contained in the report and archive for reference purposes on the understanding that this licence does not cover commercial use of the material by the PCC or any third party. In all cases Jackie Hall and/or Caroline Atkins retains the right to be identified as the originator of the work.

## **6.3 Archive Deposition**

- 6.3.1 A paper and electronic archive, ordered to MoRPHE PPN3 standards, and containing all primary and secondary written and photographic material will be prepared and lodged with the Peterborough Museum or another suitable repository agreed by Historic England, Peterborough Cathedral and the Church Commissioners.
- 6.3.2 Any finds judged suitable for inclusion in the site archive will be appropriately packaged, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery, with the

exception of architectural and sepulchral worked stone, which will stay with similar stones in the Cathedral.

- 6.3.3 A copy of the archive index, including the location of archive materials, will be supplied to Historic England and to the PCCHER.

Jackie Hall

2 June 2016

### **References**

PCCHER, Peterborough City Council Historic Environment Record