

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Leiston Old Abbey Chapel (LCS 002; SAM 21404); Building Recording & Excavation

SCCAS Report No. 2008/90; Oasis No. suffolkc1-41038



The south side of the surviving building

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Environment and Transport

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Summary

Leiston, Old Abbey Chapel (TM 4732 6598; LCS 002) As part of a grant aided programme of consolidation works to the building variously known as Minsmere Chapel, Leiston Chapel or Old Abbey Chapel, English Heritage required that archaeological recording and interpretation would be undertaken as an integral part of the project.

The site, which lies within the coastal marshes now occupied by a RSPB bird reserve, was that of the original Premonstratensian Abbey at Leiston built by Ralph de Glanville in about 1182 with a dedication to St. Mary de Insula. Due to increasing inundation by the sea, in 1363 a new abbey complex was built by Robert de Ufford at a site further in land. However, documentary evidence suggests that a presence was maintained at the old site until the dissolution in 1537 and the building on the site is the only surviving evidence of this continuing occupation. Aerial photographs and geophysical survey also suggest that the building was constructed within the body of the original abbey church that itself lay immediately south of a cloister.

Three main phases of construction were recognised. The first, represented by the lower sections of the standing walls, included evidence for three contemporary windows, a doorway and an enigmatic internal niche. This initial phase was thought to date to soon after the abandonment of the abbey in 1363. The second phase was represented by the upper sections of the walls with their characteristic use of brick, evidence of two additional windows and the blocking of the earlier Phase I windows. This phase has tentatively been associated with John Green who, after retiring as Abbot of the abbey at the new site in 1527, lived out his years as a consecrated anchorite at the chapel. The third phase involved the insertion of a World War II pillbox into the eastern end of the structure which utilised the existing architectural openings.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council, RSPB & English Heritage)

SMR information

Planning application no:	N/A
Site code:	LCS 002 & SAM 21404
Date of fieldwork:	April-October 2007
Grid Reference:	TM 4732 6598
Commissioning body:	RSPB
SCCAS Rpt. No.	2008/090
Oasis No.	suffolkc1-41038

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The owners (RSPB) of the one standing building remaining on the original site of the Premonstratensian Abbey at Leiston (TM 4732 6598) (Fig. 1) were informed that in order to facilitate their English Heritage grant aided conservation and repair of the structure, a programme of archaeological recording and evaluation would first need to be undertaken.

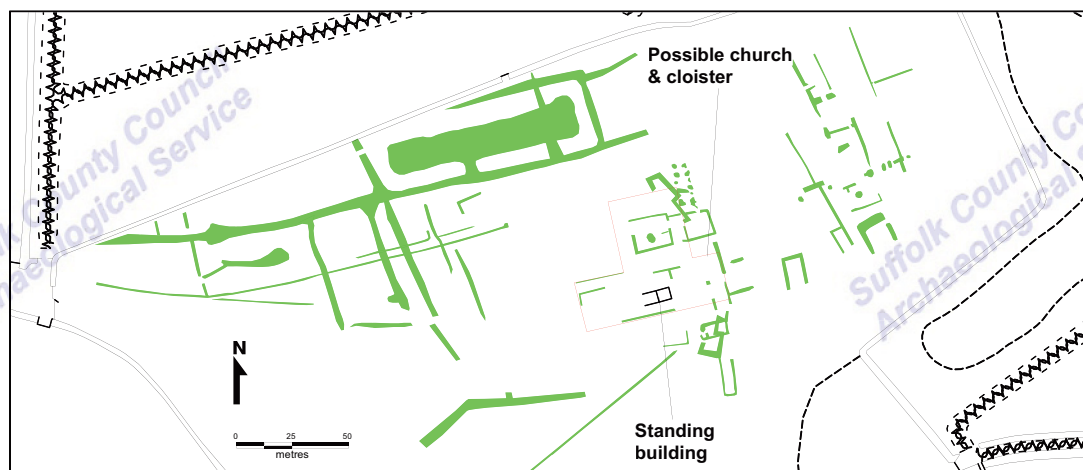


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Fig. 1 1:10,000 scale OS map extract showing the location of the site

Historically it had even been disputed whether the site was that occupied by the first abbey founded in about 1182, but any lingering doubts have been dispelled by the results of a recent coastal survey, part of which involved the recording of cropmarks in areas adjacent to the present coastline. Those in the field immediately around the standing structure, which together comprise SAM 21404, clearly show features entirely consistent with a monastic complex (Fig. 2) including buildings and water management features such as ditches and fishponds. A geophysical survey (magnetometry) carried out by David Sims reveals a similar pattern of features. In both surveys the standing building appears to have been constructed within the footprint of a larger building that has attributes which suggest that it was the original abbey church with a cloister to the north. This evidence clearly implies that the standing structure was not part of the original building complex, but was constructed sometime after the translocation of the abbey to its new site in c.1363.

A Brief and Specification document (Appendix I) was prepared by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Conservation Team) detailing the scope of the archaeological works. Subsequently, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Projects Team were commissioned to undertake the archaeological works programme, the bulk of the fieldwork for which was completed in the last week of May and first week of June 2007.



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Fig. 2 1:4,000 scale OS map extract showing identified cropmarks

1.2 Topographical Setting & Drift Geology

The standing building lies on a shallow sandy prominence, itself below the 5 metre contour line, and is surrounded by the low lying ground of the coastal marshes and reed beds, including the manmade landscape features that now form the RSPB Minsmere Bird Reserve.

2. Methodologies

2.1 Fieldwork

A Total Station Survey was undertaken to provide an accurate plan base on which to add detailed observations of the excavated areas and the building's architectural features. In addition, the opportunity was taken to record a series of relative levels in the area immediately surrounding the building from which a graduated colour elevation model could be plotted, using MapInfo Vertical Mapper, showing the position of the fallen wall debris around the structure.

The Total Station Survey was also plotted at a scale of 1:50 to be used as a base on which to record the position of significant pieces of fallen tooled masonry. These included those found on the surface within and around the monument, and those recovered from the excavated areas. Each fragment was given an 'Observed Phenomena' number under the site's SMR code LCS 002 and photographed digitally.

A copy of the 1:50 Total Station plan was also used as a base on which a plastic drafting sheet was placed to facilitate the drawing, in pencil, of a detailed overall plan.

Three main areas had been specified for excavation, along with general levelling along the north side of the building. The areas actually excavated

covered c.8.00 square metres around the buttress on the north-east corner, an area of c.7.50 square metres around the buttress on the north-west corner and a c.1.00 metre square internal to the building against its north wall, immediately below an existing opening. The two areas around the northern buttresses were designed to reveal any surviving below ground structure that could be used by the contractors as a solid base for the subsequent consolidation works. The trench internal to the building was essentially an evaluation exercise to see if any floor levels survived and to uncover evidence regarding the character of the adjacent architectural opening. However, this also left a clean surface to the wall which the contractors could consolidate.

Levels were all related to the concrete floor of the pillbox and are given as a positive or negative value above or below this.

A full photographic record, both digital shots and monochrome prints was made of the entire structure including details of the excavated areas. Subsequently, a photographic record of the completed consolidation works was also made.

Analysis of the building fabric was undertaken with observations recorded in a field notebook.

2.2 Post-Excavation

The photographs were added to Suffolk County Council's Photographic Archive at Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds under the codes FRZ 7-96, FTA 1-96 and FTB 1-76 for the digital shots and FTC 1-37, FTD 1-37, FTE 1-6, FTF 8-25 & FTG 1-37 for the monochrome prints.

A graduated colour elevation model of the rubble piles and the spatial distribution of the recorded masonry fragments were plotted for inclusion in this report (Figs. 3 & 4 respectively).

Digital elevation shots of the building, both internal and external, were combined to produce composite photographs of each wall (Plates 4 - 11). These composite elevations were then registered on MapInfo 8.5.0 and used as the base to construct elevation line drawings illustrating the different architectural phases recognised in the structure (Figs. 6 -13).

Context information, including the numbers allocated to the recorded masonry fragments and those subsequently attributed to the standing building and its architectural elements, were input into a Microsoft Access 2003 database and are presented in this report as Appendix II.

The notes made of the on site observation and analysis of the building structure were rationalised into a coherent text for inclusion in this report.

2.3 Desktop Survey

The majority of information presented in the desktop survey was gathered by Anthony Breen from collections held at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich. An additional photograph was provided by Andy Needle of the RSPB.

3. Results

3.1 Fieldwork

The original building would have been considerably higher than the surviving ruin, with the most obvious evidence for this being the mounds of rubble that now surround the structure. In addition, some window openings had been truncated before the springing point of their arches and would have continued on up beyond the present wall top, again an indication that the structure had once been higher. The MapInfo Vertical Mapper Graduated Colour Elevation Model (Fig. 3) illustrates this very well with the brightest red areas the highest and the darkest blue the lowest. The plot shows that the most extensive and highest mounds of debris are associated with the western and eastern ends of the structure, the former almost entirely reduced to rubble with one large bonded lump (0110). Two more, lesser, highs were recorded on the north side of the building and one to the south, these all coinciding with architectural openings through the wall.

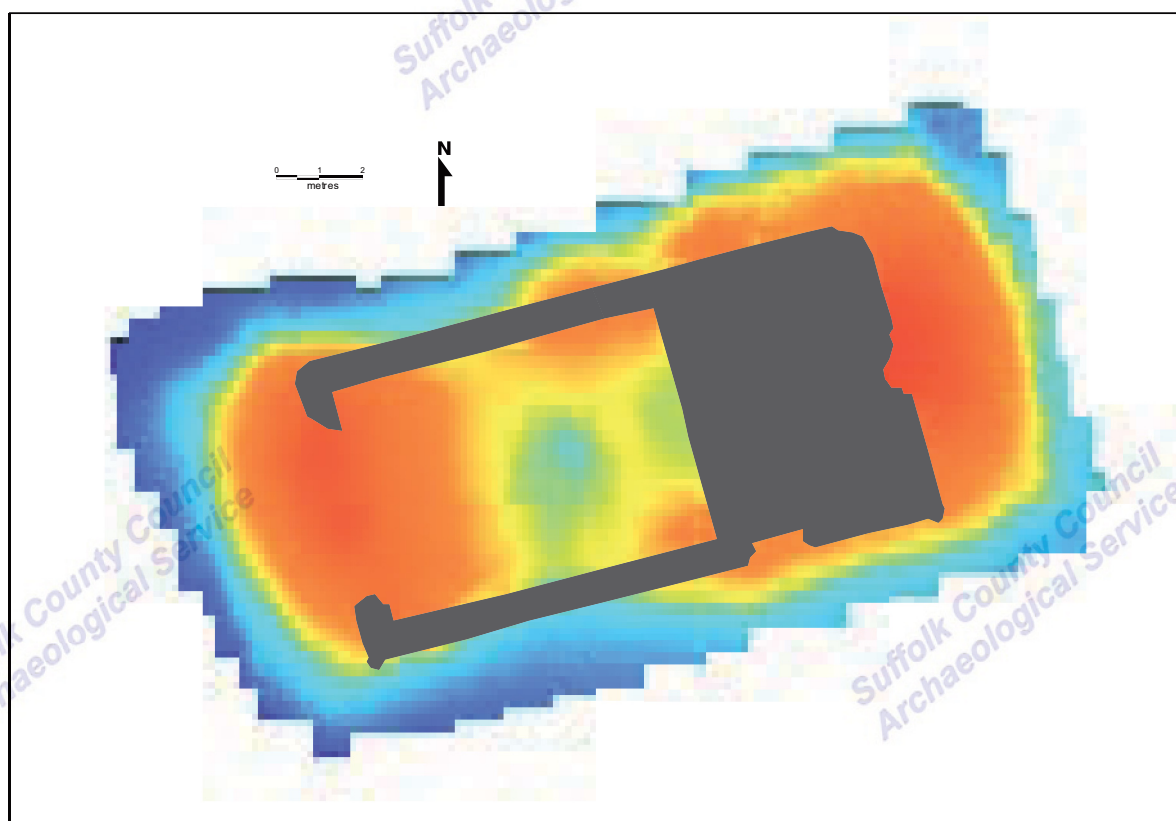


Fig. 3 Graduated Colour Elevation Model of the area adjacent to the standing building

A total of seventy two pieces of tooled masonry were recorded (Contexts 0002-0073, see Appendix II). The locations of these were all plotted on a groundplan (see Fig. 4). Some, for example 0061-0065 located centrally to the interior of the building, had clearly been deliberately moved. However, it was thought likely that the location of the remaining pieces, certainly in the majority of cases, would broadly have reflected the general area of the building from which they were derived.

Three stone types were represented; Caen-type limestone (61 pieces, red on Fig. 4; Plate 1), an unidentified grey silty limestone (10 pieces, green on Fig. 4; Plate 2) and one hard shelly fragment of a shaft, probably Barnack-type limestone (Blue on Fig. 4; Plate 3). The plot shows concentrations of material close to the north-west and north-east corners, a bias purely due to the fact that this coincides with the two main areas of excavation. The plot also shows the grey silty limestone only occurring on the north side of the building. However, this material was present as a component of the upper wall fabric on all four sides of the building, and the bias of the plot does not seem to signify any real difference in the structural composition of the walls. Also, given that the majority of the tooled masonry pieces in the standing structure appear to have been re-used from earlier buildings, mostly in the wall fabric rather than as dressings of architectural features, it seems unlikely that the distribution plot can provide worthwhile information regarding the architectural character of the building.



Plate 1 Caen-type limestone (LCS 002 0035)



Plate 2 Grey silty limestone (LCS 002 0022)



Plate 3 Barnack-type limestone (LCS 0058)

The building itself measured 13.60 metres long by 7.00 metres wide with a wall thickness of c.0.80 metres (Fig. 5). There were diagonal buttresses on all four corners. With the exception of that on the north-east corner, these had only survived as scars on the wall and as small stubs at ground level. The maximum surviving height of wall was 3.90 metres, measured from the top to its actual base as seen in the excavated trench at the north-east corner.

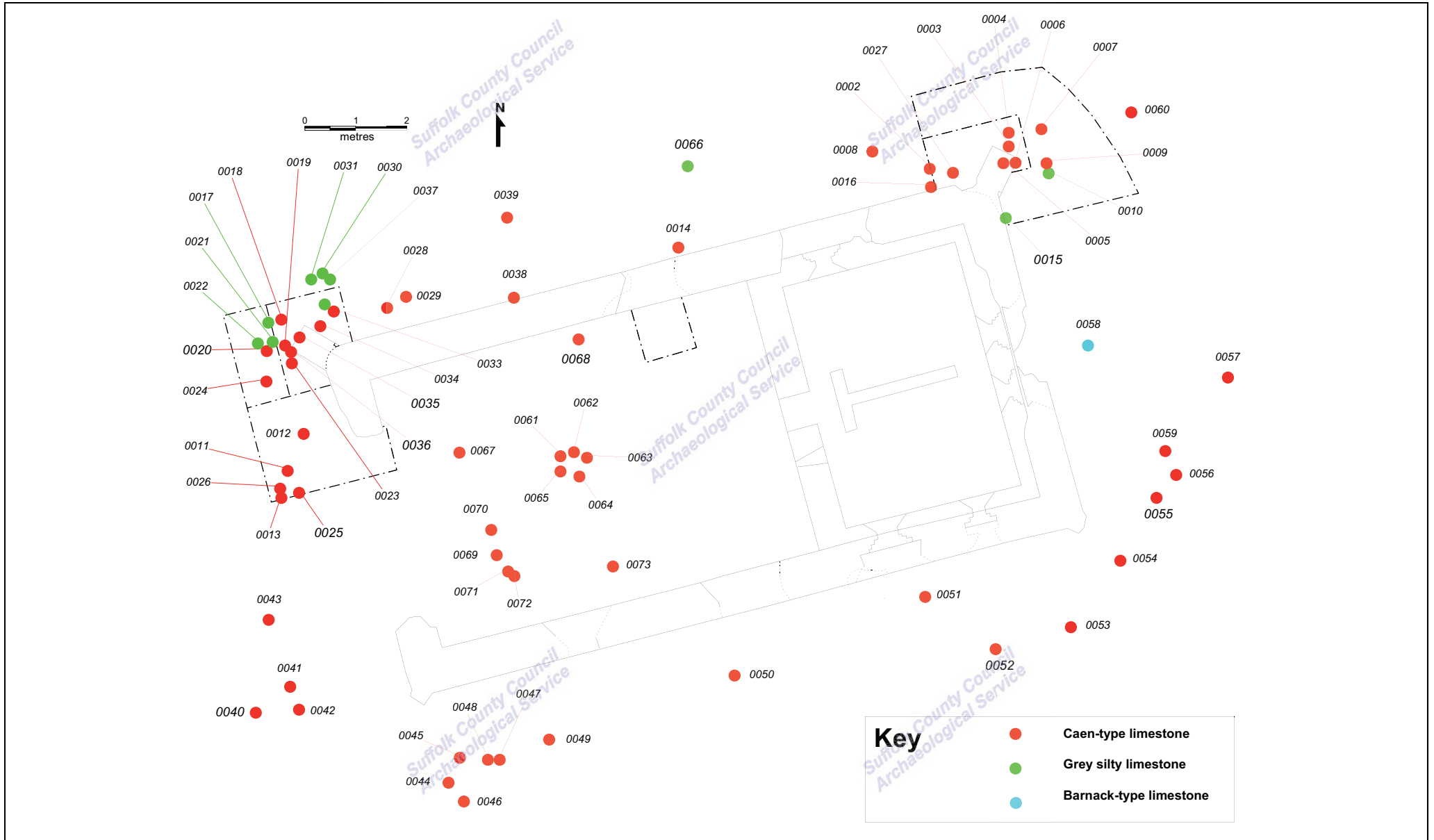


Fig. 4 1:100 scale plan showing the location of the recorded masonry fragments

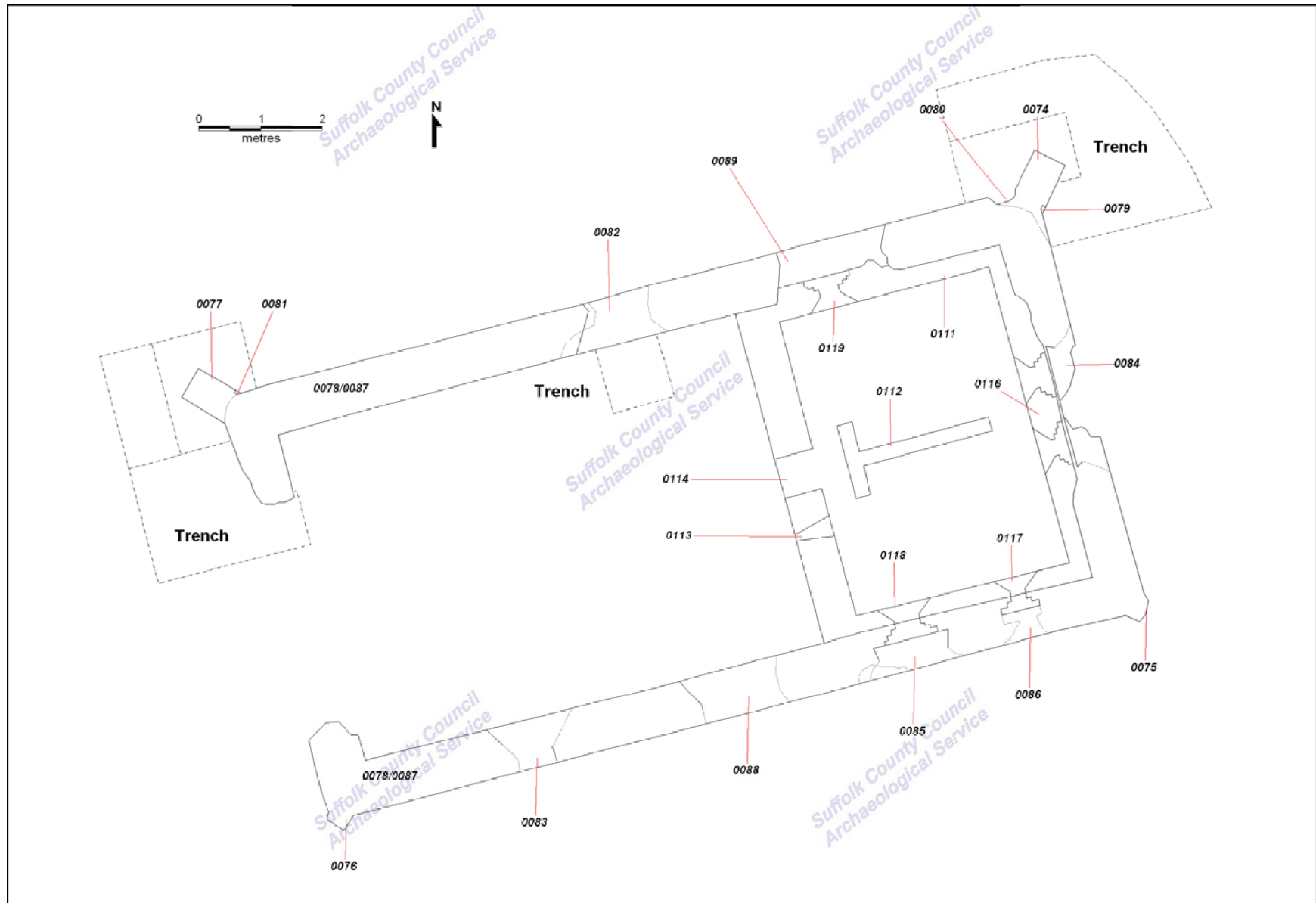


Fig. 5 1:100 scale plan of the building with context numbers



Plate 4 North exterior elevation, composite photograph

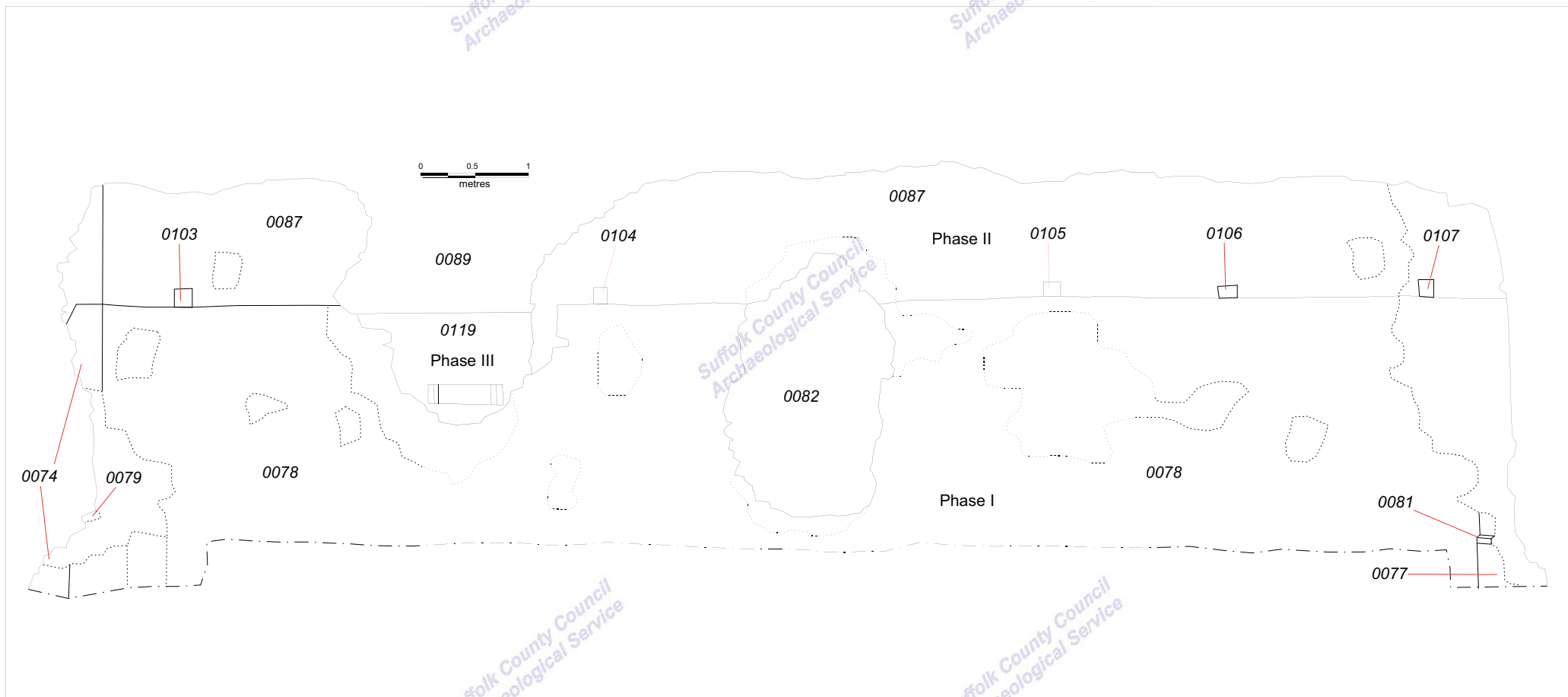


Fig. 6 Annotated north exterior elevation



Plate 5 North interior elevation, composite photograph

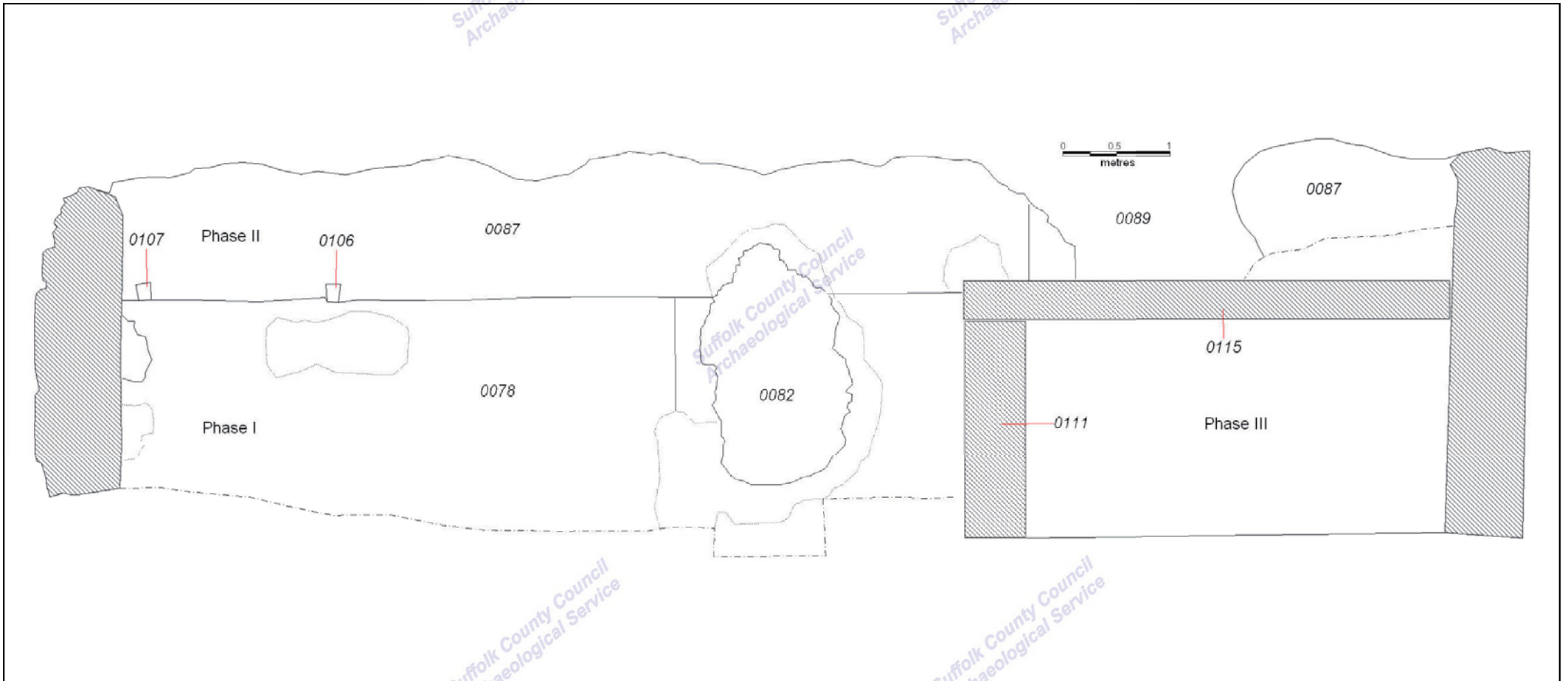


Fig. 7 Annotated north interior elevation



Plate. 6 South exterior elevation, composite photograph

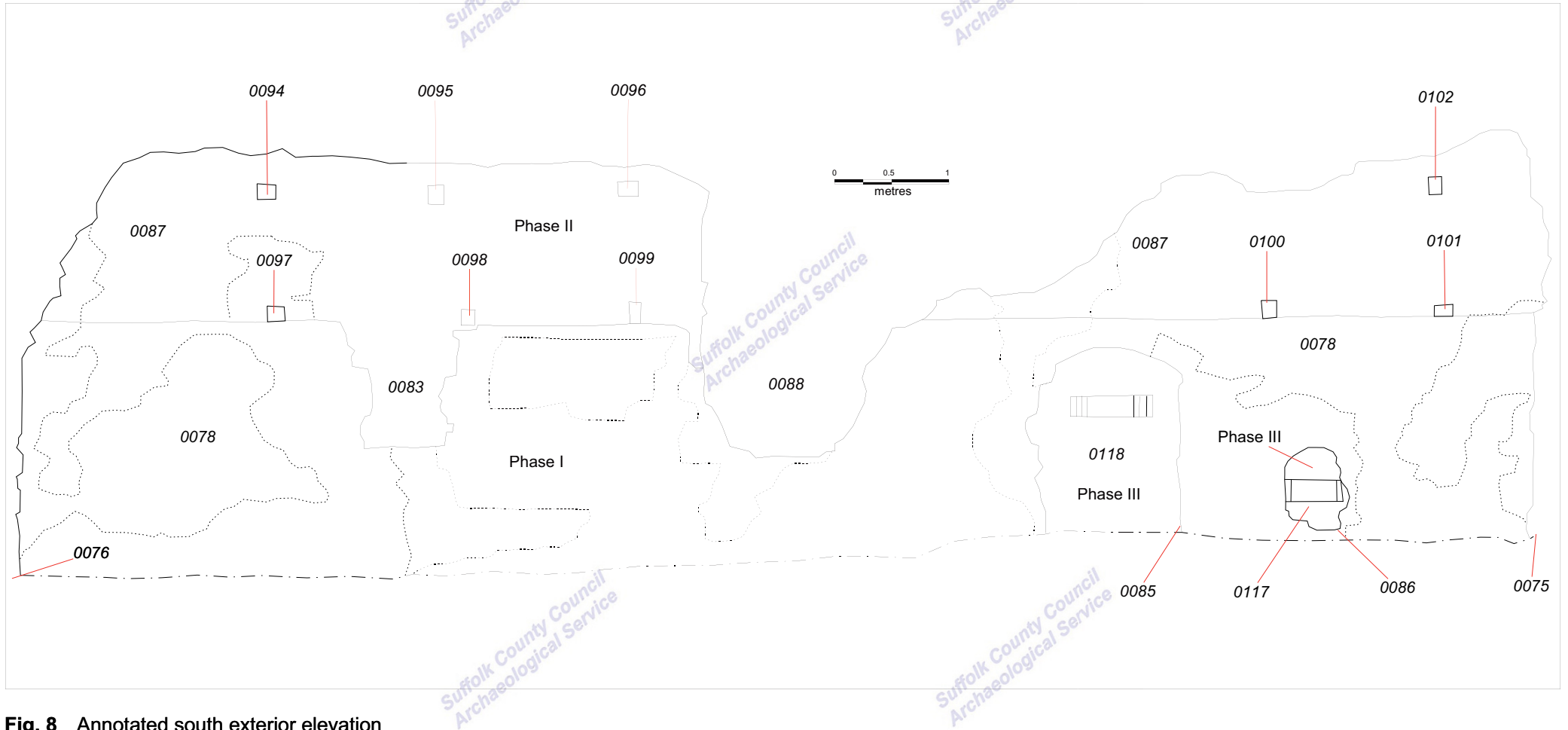


Fig. 8 Annotated south exterior elevation



Plate 7 South interior elevation, composite photograph

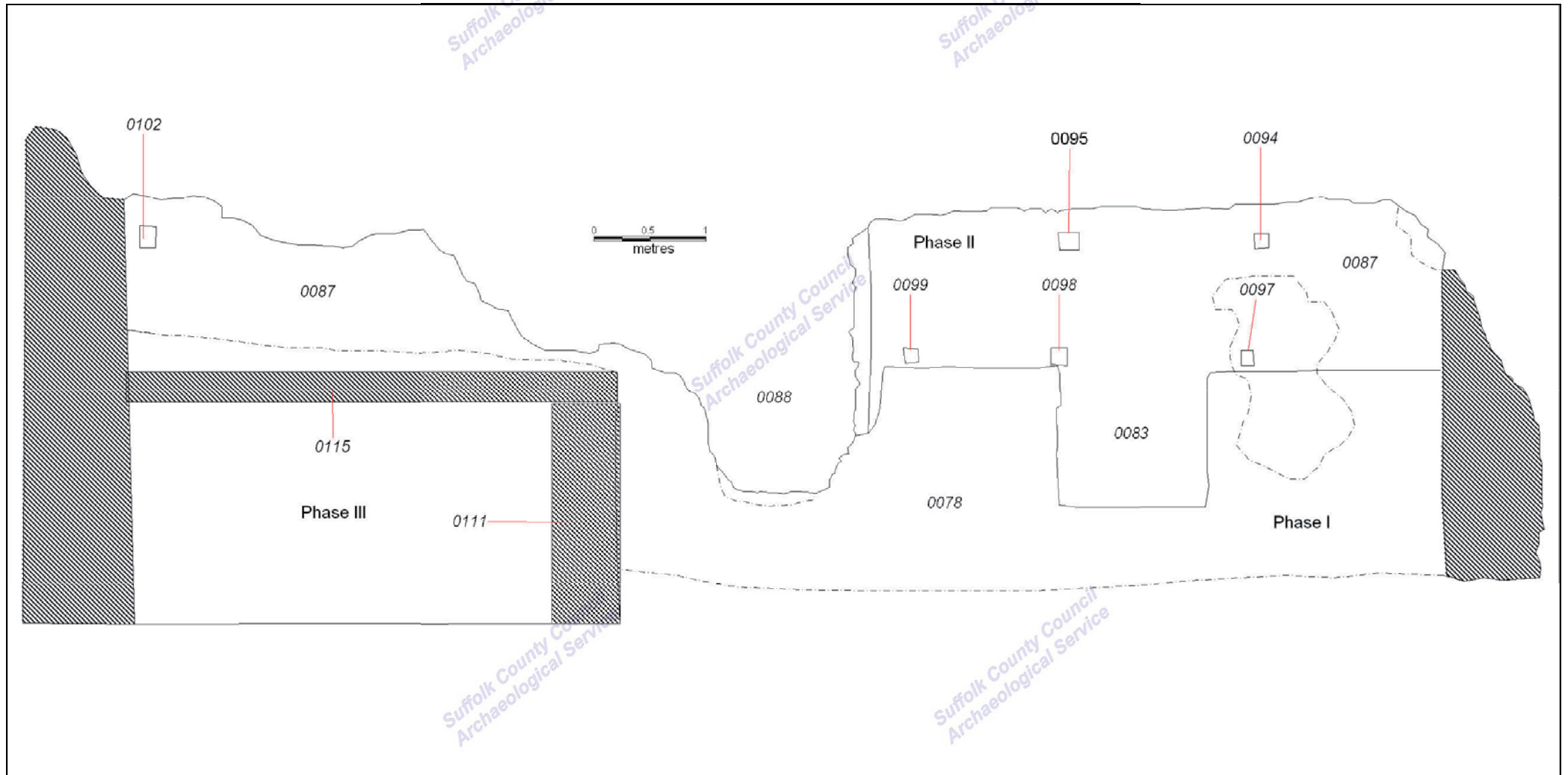


Fig. 9 Annotated south interior elevation



Plate 8 East exterior elevation, composite photograph

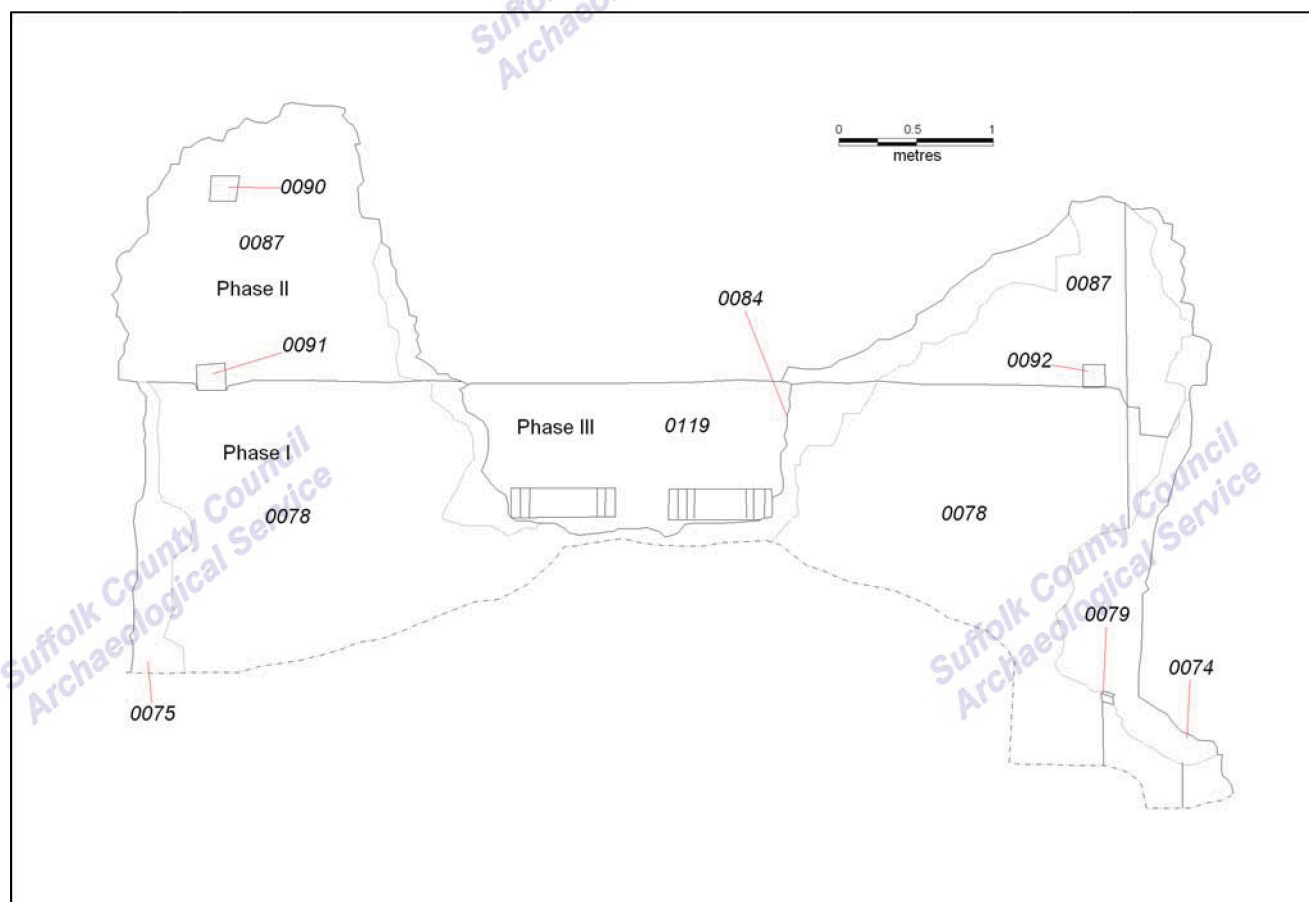


Fig. 10 Annotated east exterior elevation



Plate 9 West exterior elevation, composite photograph

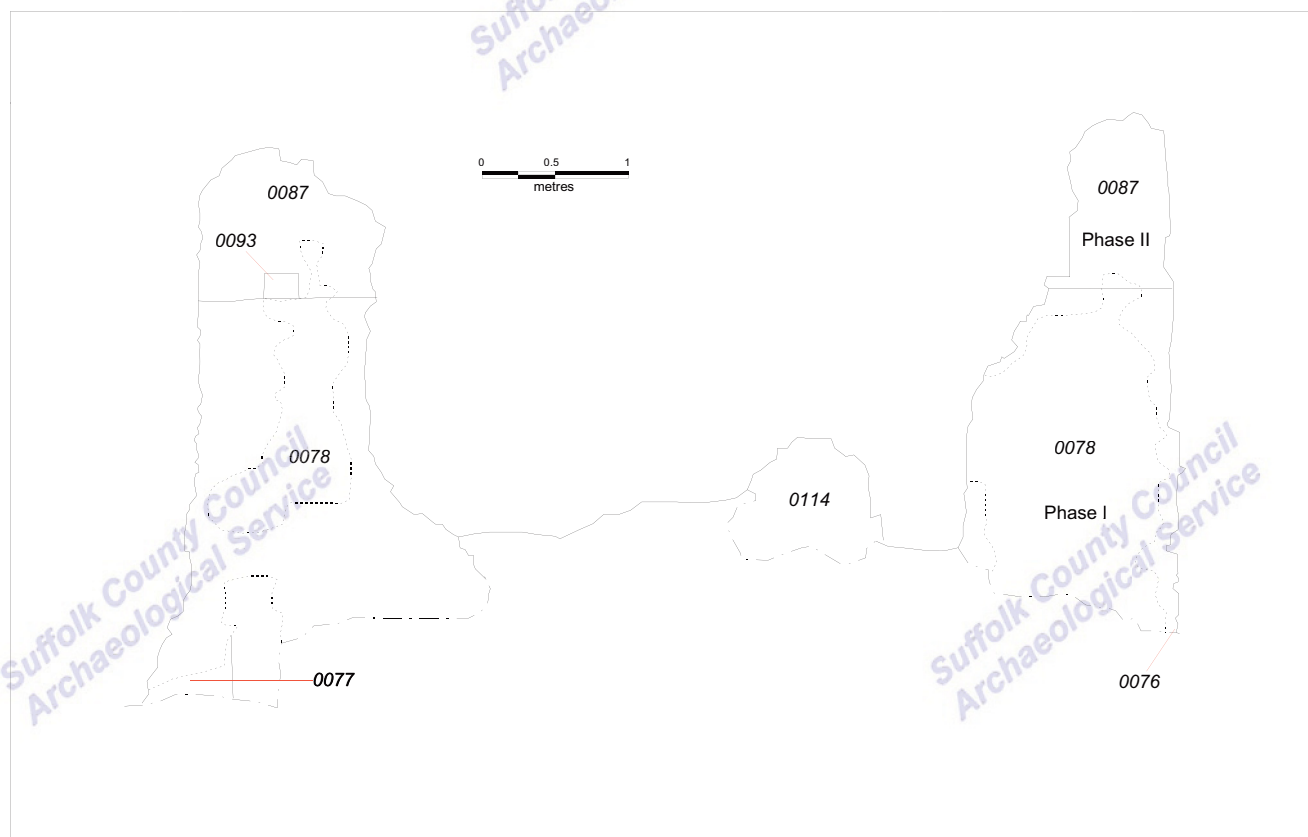


Fig. 11 Annotated west exterior elevation



Plate 10 West interior elevation, composite photograph

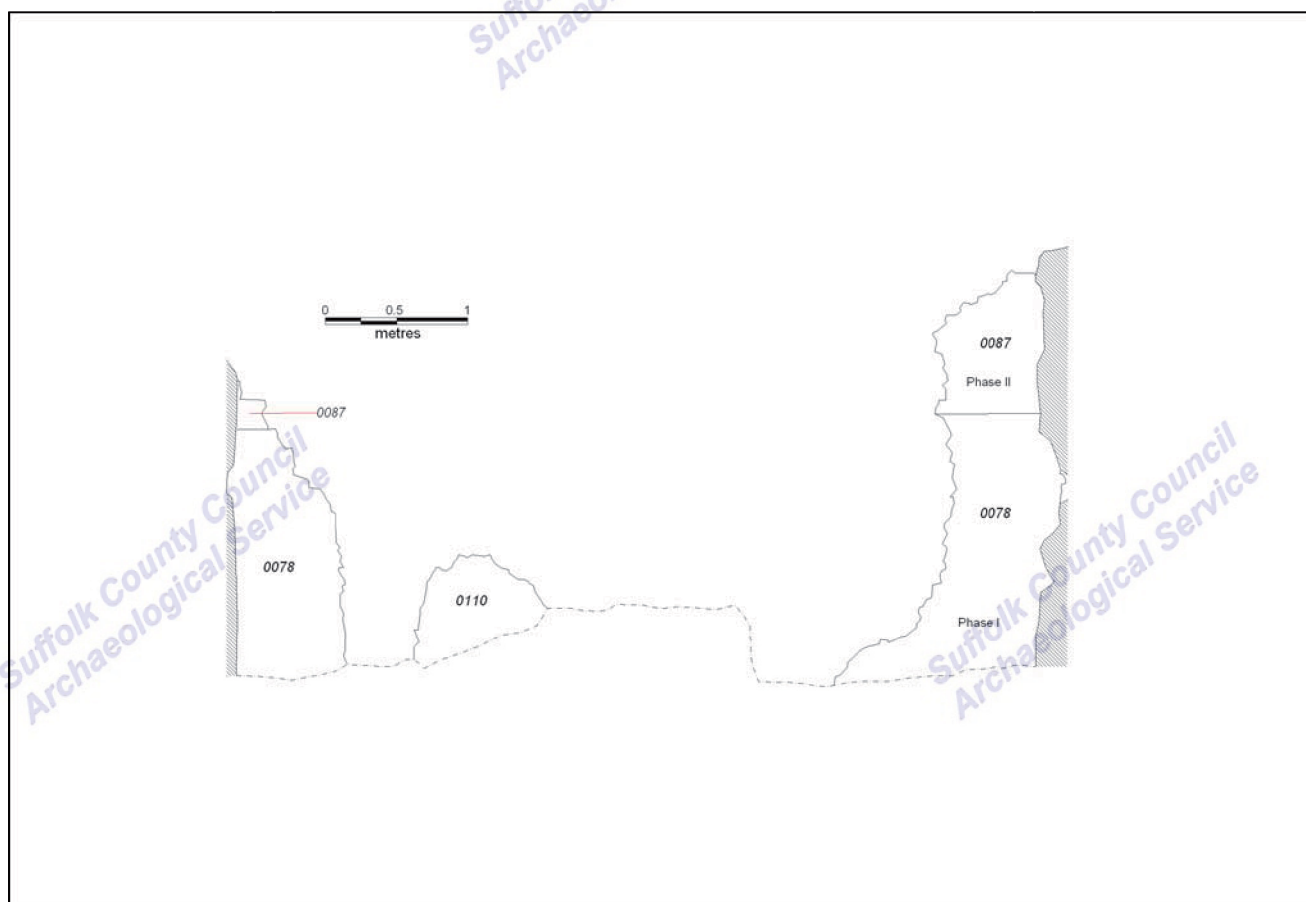


Fig. 12 Annotated west interior elevation



Plate 11 Pillbox west exterior wall, composite photograph

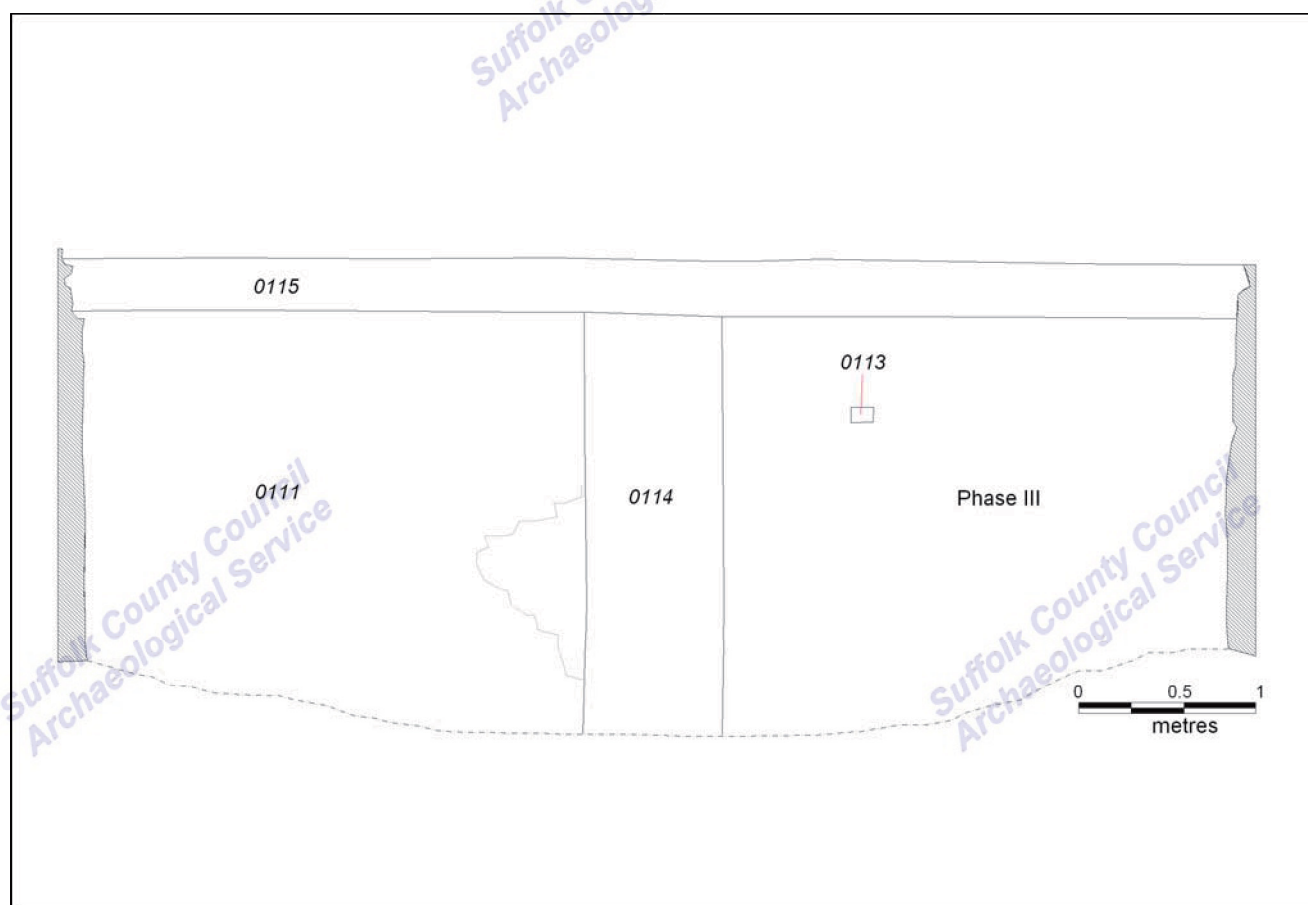


Fig. 13 Pillbox annotated elevation, west exterior wall

Generally, the wall was in the region of 3.50 metres in height measured from the level of the extant ground surface.

It was immediately recognised that the building exhibited just three, but very distinct, phases in its construction; these being the lower c.2.50 metres of the walls (Phase I), the upper c.1.00 - 1.50 metres of the walls (Phase II) and the inserted pillbox at its eastern end (Phase III) (Figs. 6 – 13; Plates 4 - 11). These are described in detail below. Phase IV has been allocated to the recent consolidation works.

Phase I

Comprising the lower c.2.50 metres of the building, this represented the earliest phase of construction. The Phase I wall fabric (0078) exhibited a well coursed facing comprising c.80% rounded closely spaced beach cobbles (5-20 centimetres in diameter, the majority c.10 centimetres). The remaining 20% comprised mainly of hard ferruginous sandstone, often as thin flat slabs and sometimes lain in discrete courses. Occasional exotic clasts were also present (igneous fragments, quartzite etc.) and a few brick fragments, the latter associated only with the buttresses and possibly later insertions. Locally some of the courses exhibited diagonally lain clasts. Where the corework was exposed it was possible to see that the external courses continued through the walls. The Phase I bonding mortar was generally buff coloured, although locally tinged with pink. Small chalky inclusions and gravel were present, the latter common throughout.

The base of the Phase I wall was encountered in all three of the excavated areas with no apparent underlying trenched footing. At its north-east corner the wall base was at -0.29 metres in relation to the pillbox floor, in the 1 metre square approximately halfway along the north wall it was at -0.42 metres and at the north-west corner it was at -0.61 metres. This suggested that the Phase I structure had been built with an incorporated marked slope down towards the west. It is not likely that, even without the considerable additional stability that would have been afforded by an underlying footing, this uniform tilt would have occurred due to post-constructional processes alone. A similar fall was seen between two surviving limestone masonry fragments, the vestiges of plinths on both the north-east and north-west buttresses, with levels of +0.37 metres and +0.08 metres respectively, a fall of 0.29 metres between the two.

Evidence survived for a number of contemporary architectural features including the four diagonal buttresses (0074, 0075, 0076 & 0077), three windows (one in each of the north, south & east walls; 0082, 0083 & 0084 respectively), a doorway on the south side (0085) and a low arched feature, also in the south side (0086).

The above ground component of the buttresses at the south-west (0076) and south-east (0075) corners had all but disappeared, but their presence was evidenced by the protruding stubs of wall at ground level and they appear on the groundplan (Fig. 5). The exposed corework in the vertical scars at these

two corners of the building had been found to be relatively sound and no consolidation work was considered necessary at that juncture.



Plate 12 Buttress 0074



Plate 13 Detail of surviving plinth 0079

However, the situation at the north-west and north-east corners was considerably different. Part of the upper component of buttress 0074 on the north-east corner, essentially all Phase II fabric, had survived, but the lower Phase I component had not, leaving a cavity with a dangerous overhang above. The excavation at the wall base, prior to the required consolidation works at this juncture, was intended to reveal any surviving below ground masonry that could be recorded then used as a solid base for the repair.

The bottom of the buttress was exposed in the excavation with *in situ* Caen-type limestone quoins forming the corners at the base of the structure (Fig. 5; Plate 12). At its base the buttress was 0.56 metres wide, but then stepped in by c.0.06 metres at a point 0.66 metres above the base of the wall. Here, the vestiges of a plinth, comprising a single piece of tooled Caen-type limestone (0079), was recorded at the junction between the buttress and the west wall (Fig. 5; Plate 13). A second step must have occurred higher up the wall as the surviving Phase II component of the buttress was only 0.30 metres wide.



Plate 14 Detail of feature 0080

The evidence for the exact height that this occurred had been lost and could not be inferred from any of the other corners of the building. At the junction of the buttress base with the building's north wall a rounded cut in the fabric was recorded (0080) (Fig. 5; Plate 14) surviving up to the height of the plinth. This feature did not seem to represent the simple removal of a few facing clasts, but appeared to have been

genuinely chipped out to that shape. The only explanation that could be offered was that it represented a socket for a post-hole, although why it needed to be actually cut into the wall is unclear.



Plate 15 Buttness 0077



Plate 16 Buttness 0077

At the north-west corner (0077), none of the above ground component of the buttness had survived. Indeed most of the corner formed by the junction of the west and north walls had also collapsed, at least some during the period between the submission of the proposal for the consolidation project and its subsequent commissioning. Similarly to the north-east corner, the intact base of the buttness was revealed with its Caen-type limestone quins forming the basal corners at the front of the structure which was c.0.55 metres wide (Fig. 5; Plates 15 & 16). In addition, there was also the vestiges of a plinth



Plate 17 Detail of surviving plinth 0081

represented by another single piece of tooled Caen-type limestone (0081) recorded at the junction between the buttness and the north wall of the building at a point c.0.69 metres above their base (Fig. 5; Plate 17). The plinths were seen on the buttnesses only and clearly did not continue around the main body of the building.

Approximately halfway along the north wall there was a large ragged opening (0082) (Figs. 5 – 7; Plates 4 & 5), which was badly in need of consolidation work as loose material was present throughout. Its identification as a Phase I window was based on three main observations; firstly, the surviving face of the angled splay on its west side did not include any of the characteristic brick



Plate 18 Detail surviving splay in window 0082

dressings of the Phase II openings (Plate 18), secondly, if the face of the splay was projected downwards it intersected with core fabric which would not have been possible if it had been a doorway and thirdly, there was no evidence for a door threshold when the wall at the base of the opening was cleaned back to intact corework. There was no evidence in the overlying Phase II fabric for the top of a window at this juncture and it seems likely that the Phase I window was truncated at that level and

blocked as part of Phase II in a similar manner to the more intact Phase I window (0083) on the south side of the building. Subsequently, this blocking must have been removed or fallen out. The excavated 1.00 metre square box adjacent to the opening inside the building revealed nothing more than the genuine base of the north wall with no evidence for internal floors or surfaces.

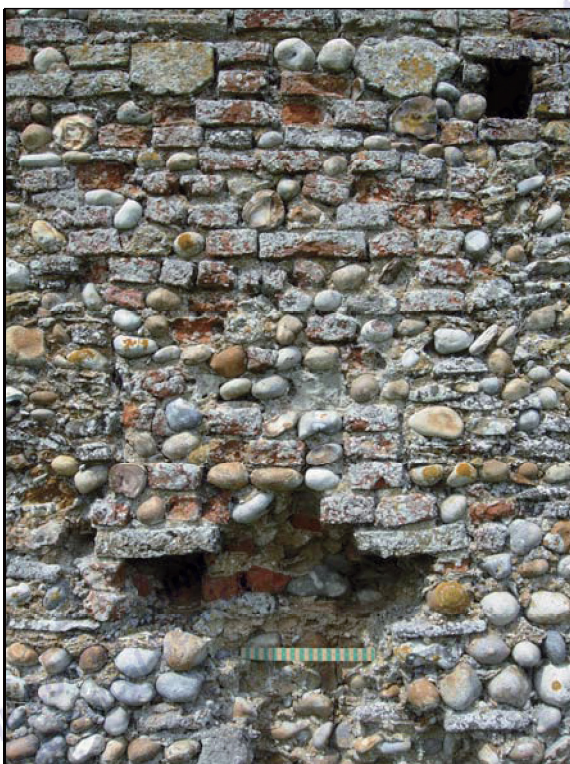


Plate 19 Blocked window 0083, external view



Plate 20 Blocked window 0083, internal view

A Phase I window (0083), subsequently blocked as part of Phase II, was also identified towards the western end of the south wall (Figs. 5, 8 & 9; Plates 6, 7, 19 & 20). The window would have been c.1.40 metres wide internally with an angled splay giving an external width of c.0.50 metres. The irregular

shape of the blocking in the external face of the wall suggests that there may have been dressings of some sort present in the Phase I window that were removed prior to the infilling. Internally the angles between the splay and the main wall face were constructed using flat slabs of hard ferruginous sandstone, a material also used to construct the internal corners of the building (Plate 21). The external base of the window was at +1.28 metres (measured above concrete floor of the pillbox) while the internal base was at +0.97 metres, a fall of 0.31 metres. A layer of pink coloured lime plaster was recorded lining the sides and base of the window where it was revealed at the edge of the Phase II blocking (Plate 22). While the complete profile through the window was not visible, the layer of plaster could be seen sloping down from the external wall face, but ran in horizontally from the internal wall face. If these continued until they intersected they would have formed a flat bench-like sill that, given its height from the ground, could have functioned comfortably as a window seat.



Plate 21 Detail of south-west internal corner



Plate 22 Detail of plaster layer in 0083 splay

A third Phase I window was identified central to the eastern wall of the building, surviving only as small areas of facing that formed part of its angled splay (Fig. 5). The projection of these faces to the external wall gives a window width in the region of 1.80 metres.

There was a Phase I doorway (0085), with a blocking associated with the Phase III pillbox, in the south wall towards its eastern end (Figs. 5 & 8; Plates 6 & 23). The opening was 1.65 metres high and 1.20 metres wide, the latter possibly not an absolutely true reflection of its original width as some fabric may have been lost, particularly on the western jamb. The relatively flat, almost depressed arch retains most of its dressings which comprise thin slabs



Plate 23 Detail of doorway 0085



Plate 24 Detail of doorway arch 0085 of hard ferruginous sandstone lain face to face radially around the top of the feature (Plate 24). This pattern may have once continued down the jambs, but all facing at this juncture had been compromised.

Immediately to the east of doorway 0085, there was another architectural feature (0086), a 0.75 metre high, 0.50 metre wide opening just above external ground surface (Figs. 5 & 8; Plates 6 & 25). Similarly to the doorway to the west, this feature had been reused as part of the Phase III structure. Initially thought to represent an opening right through the wall, on more detailed examination this was found not necessarily to be the case. Within the core fabric of the wall was a well defined squared edge which may represent the impression left when tooled masonry blocks forming the back of an internal architectural feature had been removed, or even the genuine back of the feature itself (Plate 26). The adjacent outer facing of the wall had then subsequently been removed to form the opening right through the wall, possibly as part of the Phase III pillbox insertion. The base of the squared socket was found to be +0.48 metres



Plate 26 Internal detail of low feature 0086



Plate 25 Low feature 0086

above the concrete floor of the pillbox and given that we do not know at what level the contemporary Phase I floor had been, its position towards the eastern end of the south wall is consistent with the type of feature that might be found at this location in a chapel or church.

Phase II

Essentially, Phase II comprised the upper c.1.00 - 1.50 metres of the building and included two architectural features, both windows (0088 & 0089) and a series of eighteen putlock holes, three through the east wall (0090 - 0092), one through the west wall (0093), nine through the south wall (0094 - 0102) and five through the north wall (0103 - 0107) (Figs. 6 - 12; Plates 4 -10).

Levels taken at the Phase I/Phase II intersection at the four corners of the building suggested that the Phase I wall had been demolished down to a horizontal surface, which was in contrast to the inclined base of the Phase I structure. The measurements for the interface above the level of the concrete floor of the pillbox were as follows; NW +2.36 metres, SW +2.34 metres, NE +2.38 metres, SE 2.37 metres, a maximum variation of 4 centimetres which, given the dimensions of the building is negligible.

Two Phase I windows were truncated during the reduction of the Phase I walls, one on each of its north and south sides (0082 & 0083 respectively) (Figs. 5 - 9; Plates 4 - 7).

The Phase II wall fabric (0087) was totally different in character to that of Phase I, the most noticeable difference being the inclusion of between 20% and 50% bricks in the facing (highest % on the south side exterior face, see Plate 6), some in discrete courses and locally diagonally lain (particularly the internal north wall). The majority of the bricks were red in colour, unevenly fired with a coarse, poorly mixed fabric and measuring 9 inches by 2 ¼ inches by 4 ¼ inches. There were also some yellow coloured bricks measuring 9 ¾ inches by 2 inches by 4 ¼ inches. All of the bricks were unfrogged. The fabric also included between 10% and 30% reused limestone masonry fragments and large exotic pieces up to 0.30 metres in length (highest % on the north side, east end and south side adjacent to buttresses, see Plates 4, 6 & 8). The remaining clasts comprised rounded beach pebbles/cobbles averaging about 10 centimetres in length. While exhibiting coursing throughout, that in the facing of the south side was more pronounced than that in the north. The Phase II mortar was generally similar in character to that in Phase I, but slightly lighter in colour.

The evidence from the north-east buttress (0074) suggests that it had been remodelled and refaced down to a point at least 0.30 metres lower than the Phase I/Phase II interface (Fig. 10; Plate 8). While the buttresses on the other three corners have not survived to any great extent, it is likely that they had been treated in the same way.

Window 0088 on the south side of the building survived only on its western side as an angled splay dressed with brick (Plate 27). Its eastern side, top and wall fabric below the window were no longer present and, as a



Plate 27 Brick dressings of window 0085

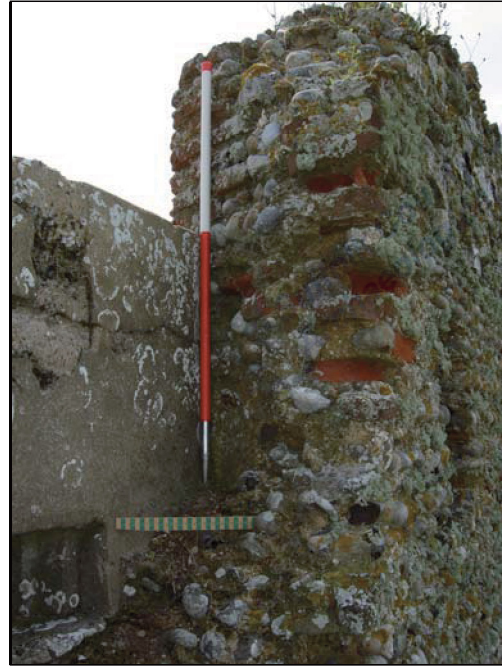


Plate 28 Brick dressings of window 0089



Plate 29 Brick dressings of window 0089

consequence, its overall dimensions were indeterminate. Assuming that this was not a replacement of an earlier window, then Phase I wall fabric must have been removed to accommodate it as the 0088 brick splay continued down for c.0.75 metres below the Phase I/Phase II interface.

Similarly, window 0089 on the north side of the building had also lost its top, eastern side and material from below its base with its angled brick splay only surviving, in part, on its western side (Plates 28 & 29). In this instance, assuming again that this was not a replacement of an earlier window, the Phase I fabric had been removed down to 0.71 metres below the Phase I/Phase II interface to accommodate the Phase II window. Subsequently, this opening was modified again during Phase III.

The only other structural features relating to Phase II were the eighteen putlock holes (0090 - 0107) that were recorded in all four walls. These were variously framed and lined slab-like stones and bricks (Plate 30) and continued right through the wall. Wooden poles would have been inserted through the wall to project both sides to take the horizontal scaffold boards. This system could have worked without the use of supporting uprights



Plate 30 Detail of brick lining in putlock hole 0097

difference suggesting that these were successive lifts not intended to be used at the same time.

(cantilever system). However, it is more likely that they would have been included in order to provide additional rigidity and reduce the stresses that would have been exerted on the freshly lain wall fabric if it alone had been holding the scaffolding in place. The putlock holes were in two horizontal lines representing two lifts of scaffolding, the first immediately above the Phase I/Phase II interface and the second 1.10 metres higher, this

Phase III

The third phase relates entirely to a World War II pillbox (0108) that was inserted into the eastern end of the structure and utilised the existing architectural openings (Figs. 5 - 10 & 13; Plates 4 -8 & 11).

A c.0.60 metres thick wall (0111), forming the west end of the pillbox, was constructed across the interior of the chapel with its exterior face c.4.50 metres west of the interior face of the extant building (Figs. 5, 7, 9 & 13; Plate 11). This wall continued around the sides of the rectangular space formed at the eastern end of the structure, effectively lining it and increasing its thickness to 1.00 metre. The interior of the pillbox measured 3.50 metres from east to west and 5.00 metres from north to south. The walls were faced in brick, but the core was concrete. The c.0.27 metre thick flat concrete roof (0115) was at a height of c.2.00 metres above the pillbox's concrete floor (0109). Additional support for the roof was provided by a T-shaped brick wall (0112) located centrally to the inside of the pillbox which also functioned as an obstruction to direct access through the 0.60 metres wide central entrance (0114) through the western wall (Figs. 5, 13; Plate 11).

The roof itself had a thick layer of rubble and soil over its surface, covered in well established vegetation. The quantity of material was considered to be over and above what would naturally have accumulated from the continued degradation of the surrounding walls and it seems likely that it was deliberately added during construction to provide camouflage from the air.

The west wall of the pillbox had one other architectural feature, an observation hole (0113) (Figs. 5, 13; Plate 11) located c.0.63 metres to the south of the doorway at a height of c.1.57 metres above the pillbox floor. The external opening was well disguised, effectively only the size of a single brick header, but splaying out to 0.35 metres wide internally to provide a wide field of vision.



Plate 31 Phase III opening 0119

All of the other openings into the pillbox (0116 - 0119) functioned as observation and gun-ports and had been constructed utilising existing Phase I and Phase II architectural features (Fig. 5). All had internal angled splays and external stepped splays, which provided a wide field of view/fire with a relatively small opening. The exterior face of fabric forming the openings had all been coated with a hard cement render.

On the north side of the building the Phase II window opening (0089) had been modified (Figs. 5, 6; Plates 4 & 31) with a single splayed opening constructed in rendered brick (0119). At a later date, presumably after the end of the World War II, when the pillbox had become redundant, the opening had been blocked with brick. Subsequently this was partially reopened.

At the eastern end of the building a double opening (0116) had been constructed within the surviving vestiges of the Phase I window splay 0084 (Figs. 5 & 10; Plates 8 & 31). Subsequently, the opening to the south had been blocked with brick. There was no evidence associated with the north opening to prove that it had been treated the same way.



Plates 32 & 33 Junction of Phase I window splay 0084 with Phase III fabric 0116

On the southern side of the building, the Phase I doorway (0085) had been blocked with rendered Phase III fabric with a central splayed opening (0118) (Figs. 5 & 8; Plates 6 & 23). In addition, the low Phase I feature to the east (0086) had also been utilised (Figs. 5 & 8; Plates 6 & 25). As this was an internal feature, it is not clear if the external wall face had already fallen away as part of the ongoing natural degradation of the building or whether it was punched through deliberately in order to construct the Phase III opening. Either way, a small, low, internally and externally splayed opening (0117) was created as part of Phase III. However, the opening did not continue right through the wall and had seemingly been blocked and rendered over as part of its original construction (Plate 25).

Phase IV

This phase effectively represents the consolidation works undertaken by R. & J. Hogg Ltd as part of this overall project. Essentially, the consolidation works were aimed at reducing the rate of the ongoing deterioration of the fabric and making safe those areas deemed liable to imminent collapse. Care had to be taken when removing and covering facing fabric as rare lichens and fungi had been identified.

Vegetation growing on then tops of the walls and in the areas where wall facing had fallen away to leave hollows was removed along with loose, unbonded fabric. Generally, the consolidation work was kept to a minimum, but some areas did require more attention than others.

As part of the works the turf and rubble material accumulated on the pillbox roof was removed and subsequently reinstated with an underlying membrane. Where water had been running from the roof and causing more serious localised damage (e.g. on the west side of the south doorway; Plate 34) more substantial consolidation was undertaken.

Areas that required more extensive modifications included the substantial rebuilding of the north-west corner (Plate 35) and north-east buttress (Plate 36), the large opening (0082) on the northern side of the building, where a new concrete lintel was inserted (Plate 37) and a significant hollow in the internal face of the south wall was furnished with a tile drip-course (Plate 38).



Plate 34 South doorway

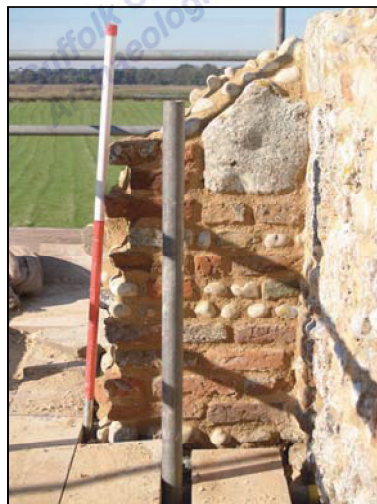


Plate 35 North-west corner



Plate 36 North-east buttress



Plate 37 Concrete lintel in 0082



Plate 38 Drip course in south wall

3.2 Desktop Survey (by Anthony Breen)

Introduction

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich.

The origins of the chapel on this site have previously been disputed. While it is now known for certain that this was the original site of the Premonstratensian Abbey of Leiston, this was not always the case. There was also certainly a chapel in the hamlet of Sizewell in the parish of Leiston which early writers often equated with the standing structure at Minsmere. However, it has now become clear that this was a totally different building, although it was linked to the abbey as is attested in a charter issued by John, archbishop of Canterbury in 1280 confirming the 'appropriation of the churches of Leystone with the chapel of Syswell' to the abbey (Copinger). The location of Sizewell Chapel remains unknown as it was lost to coastal erosion.

William White

William White describes Leiston, based on earlier antiquarian sources, in his 'Directory of Suffolk' published in 1844. Then the hamlet of Sizewell had 66 inhabitants and about 1000 acres, 'had a chapel as late as the reign of Elizabeth though no traces of it now remain'. The description of Leiston continues, 'The parish extends three miles north of the church, and includes part of the Minsmere Level'. 'The Abbey of Premonstratensian canons ... was founded in the parish about the year 1182 ... which stood originally in a marshy situation, near the sea, and the Minsmere river, where are still some small ruins, called Leiston Chapel, near Minsmere Haven, more than 2 miles N.N.E. of the village of Leiston. The situation of the first house being found unwholesome, Robert de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, about the year 1363, built a new abbey, on a larger scale, upon an eminence about a mile N. of Leiston Church, to which the monks removed'. Apart from the 'unwholesome' nature of the site at Minsmere, the abbey was suffering loss of revenues due to coastal erosion 'their lands were often inundated and destroyed' and in compensation the abbey was granted a licence 'in mortmain' to acquire land and rent to the annual value of twenty pounds in 1344.

Claude Morley

The antiquarian Claude Morley (1873-1951) collection of notes for a history of medieval Suffolk is divided into parishes. These notes are now at Ipswich (ref. HD 603/2/8). In his description of the abbey he mentions that earlier antiquarians had 'regarded the ecclesiastical structure still standing just 2 ½ miles NNE of our ruins as on the first site' it was "The Old Abbey by the sea: St Mary de Insula" of William de Valoins ... early grant'. William de Valoins was one of the early benefactors of the abbey. Morley's notes based partly on his visit to the site in September 1912 continue 'the obvious explanation is that St Mary de Insula is that "Chapel of Sizewell" held so long among our Abbey's property, which property and not the Abbey itself is said to have suffered from marine inundations during 1344; such a chapel could be utilised as a hermitage as usefully as if it were the Abbey's own former site. It consists of four bare walls, standing upon the summit of a slight elevation hardly fifteen

feet above the marshes which surround it for a mile on every side and are below sea-level; a drearier place in winter could not be imagined, lonely, treeless, wind-swept and forlorn. It is sixteen paces east and west eight the north and south; walls are some fifteen feet in height, the former towards the east end has a window four feet broad externally by six inside (doubtless Early English), west of it is a lower one blocked with brick and stone, while in the latter is a central window wider within than without and slightly broader than the above blocked one, and east of it a doorway or low window with a rather pointed hood of yellow-brown and very thin shale slabs. The east gable rises some twenty feet and that whole end is mainly rebuilt, pierced, by a perpendicular brick-topped window some ten feet high and externally seven feet broad though broader inside, with half a dozen hewn stones on either side below. The west end is also rebuilt, mainly coeval brick: its central window is four feet broad and wider inside with the wall broken away below it: while above it is a square that doubtless represents the lost belfry's base, externally bearing the only faced-flints left in the entire structure and surmounting a yet perfect hewn-stone string-course, Part of a buttress remains at each corner, with hewn-stone, top and cornice'.

He did consider that the 'Chapel of St Mary de Insula' was 'certainly the "Chapel of Syswell that had been confirmed to Leiston Abbey during 1280 ... and suffered from inundations of the Sea during 1344. Later it seems deserted by the Abbey and to have become a "Free Chapel", for it is described as such, endowed with one rood of ground, founded for the ease of the parish church of Leyston. During 1546 it was worth two shillings and stood "on the sea banckes, where the inhabitants be always ready to kepe watche and warde for the defence and saftie of the same towne and cuntrye", if this chapel might be preserved. But, strategically valuable as one would consider its position to be in Tudor times, it went with all such foundations in 1547 and we have nothing but the remaining shell, described above'. Later he crossed out this dedication of 'St Mary de Insula' and inserted 'Chapel of St Nicholas'.

He also collected newspaper notes on 'Sizewell Chapel' including pieces from East Anglian Miscellany; 'No 8,355 Sizewell Chapel' dated 21 February 1931, 'No 9,906 Minsmere Chapel' dated 12 January 1937 and 'No 9,915 Minsmere Chapel' dated 19 January 1937 together with a piece from the 'East Anglian Daily Times' dated 2 August 1943. These notes have been photocopied for this report. The historian and archivist Vincent B Redstone had signed one of these pieces and mentions 'Martin in his Suffolk Church Notes gives a sketch of the ruins as they stood in his days; he represents the four walls as standing without a roof'. Thomas Martin's (1697-1771) original 'church and monumental notes' are at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds (ref. E 2/41/8-9) though extracts have been incorporated in the work of later writers. All four volumes of Martin's original notes have been examined for this report and they contain no reference to Leiston, Sizewell or Minsmere.

Rannulf de Glanvill's charter granting his manor of Leiston to the Abbey simple refers to 'ecclesiae in honore beate Marie apud Leestun', that is the church in the honour of the Blessed Mary at Leiston' and William de Valeines was a witness to this charter. The references in Morley's notes to the grants of

William de Valeines mentioned 'Sancte Marie de Insula' appear in two early charters recording the gift of the church of Culpho to the abbey in about 1208. In the charters he refers to the abbey as 'ecclesiae sancta Marie de insula de Leeston'. Though some early charters simply refer to the abbey as St Mary of Leiston, others such as that of Pope Celestine III 1191-98, and John of Oxford, bishop of Norwich in his confirmation of the grant of Leiston and Aldringham churches dated 13 January 1186 refer to the abbey as 'sancte Marie de Insula'. Mortimer states 'The site of the first Leiston Abbey is repeatedly referred to as an island and once as a marsh. Precisely where this was I have not been able to discover: either in a belt of low-lying land by the sea now washed away, or somewhere in the vicinity of Minsmere. As Mr Clovin points out, 'the chapel of St Mary in the old monastery' still existed in the sixteenth century. A small rectangular building, now very overgrown, survives on a low eminence overlooking the marshes of Minsmere and the sea: it can hardly be the remains of the first monastery, as it is far too small for even a Premonstratensian conventual church, and quite the wrong shape: it could, possibly be a chapel, even the chapel of St Mary, but there is no sign if any other remains in the vicinity to represent 'the old monastery'. H. M. Colvin was the author of 'The White Canons in England' published in 1951.

The local historian Henry Montagu Doughty, author of the 'Chronicles of Theberton' was in no doubt that this chapel site was 'The Old Abbey by the Sea St Mary De Insula' and reproduced in his work a photograph with that caption showing this chapel site.

Maps

The Old Abbey Estate was sold in 1909 and a sale plan 'reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map'. There is a copy of the sale plan in the Edmund Farrar Collection (ref. HD78: 2671). This is a miscellaneous collection of newspaper cuttings, sale particulars, photographs and other documents. In Ipswich the collection is divided into separate files for each parish. Within the file for Leiston there is an undated pencil drawing mounted on a larger sheet of paper with the inscription 'One the back "Sketch, Ruins of Chapel, Leiston



Fig. 14 "Sketch, Ruins of Chapel, Leiston Abbey"

Abbey". The coloured sketch shows the building from the northern west end of the chapel (Fig. 14).

There is a full copy of the sale particulars amongst a collection of earlier estate maps (ref. HD 306/2/2). There is no separate schedule of the individual fields and the estate sold in lots was simply sub-divided into individual farms with a total acreage for each.



Fig. 15 Illustration on Estate Map of 1786

Neither the site of the abbey nor the chapel at Sizewell is shown in the 1841 tithe map. Though the original map is damaged it is clear that it did not show the entire parish. This is partly explained in the apportionment 'Whereas the said parish of Leiston contains by estimation Four Thousand and Five Hundred Acres more or less of which One Thousand and Seven Hundred acres or

thereabouts are subject to the payment ... of tithes'. This means that the remaining portions of the parish were not subject to tithes (ref. FDA164/A1/a & b). Doughty takes up this point 'For Leystone Abbey lands no tithe was payable, as the estates of the Premonstratensians had been then lately exempted by Innocent III and from that act of the Pope, who died seven centuries ago, our rectors still have to suffer! A statute of Henry VIII, having provided that persons who at the Dissolution should come into possession of dissolved Abbey's lands should hold them as free of tithes as their old monastic owners had held them'.

Amongst the estate maps there is a coloured illustration of chapel on a plan of an 'Estate lying in Leiston, Suffolk in the occupation of Geo Doughty gent and belonging to W. Tatnal esq' (ref. HD 306/1/1) (Fig. 15). The surveyor was Isaac Johnson of Woodbridge and according to an inscription at the bottom left hand corner of the plan he surveyed the estate in 1786. In the same collection is a rough drawing of the same estate plan without the illustration of the chapel.

There is another rough plan of 'The Old Abbey Estate W. Tatnal Esq' in the Isaac Johnson Collection (ref. HD11: 475/88) and dated 1814. On this rough plan there is an outline drawing of the chapel in the margin (Fig. 16). The acreages given in the legends of the two maps of 1786 and 1814 are different. The later map



Fig. 16 Illustration in margin of Estate Map of 1814

was produced after the drainage of 'Theberton Common Marsh' under the terms of an Act of Parliament 'For embanking and draining a certain level of marshes and fen lands called or known by the name of Minsmere Levels' dated 1810 (ref. HD 306/2/1) and the enclosure of the commons under a separate act passed on the same day (ref. EF5/1/2/1). The drainage act dealt with the 'Common Fens and Marshes called Rackford Bridge, ... Parish of Middleton cum Fordley ... and ... Leiston Wet Common, Theberton Common Fen and Theberton Bogs'. The enclosure act dealt with additional areas known as 'Leiston Wet Common, Leiston Dry Common, Wynter's Heath, The Valley Lands, Theberton Common Fen, Theberton Bogs, Theberton Dry Common, Little Green, Stone Hill and Tyler's Green'. There are two maps bounded into the enclosure award dated 1824. Neither map shows the site of the chapel. There is in the collection of estate maps a separate 'Plan of the marshes called "Minsmere Level"'. The original map was dated 1813, though this is a later tracing dated 1889 (ref. HD 306/1/3). There is a small rudely drawn illustration of the building on this map.

On another rough plan of the estate in the Isaac Johnson Collection (ref. HD 11:475/910 dated 1821, there are notes recording an exchange of lands between Mr Tatnal and his neighbour Lord Huntingfield dated 1817 and there are further exchanges noted in the 1824 enclosure award.



Fig. 17 Estate map of 1786

In 1786 the site of the chapel was within a field numbered in red as '19' and named as 'Chapel Yards' and measured at 15 acres 2 roods 38 perches (Fig. 17). In 1814 the same field is numbered in red as '11' and measured in the schedule as 17 acres 3 roods and 12 perches, though on

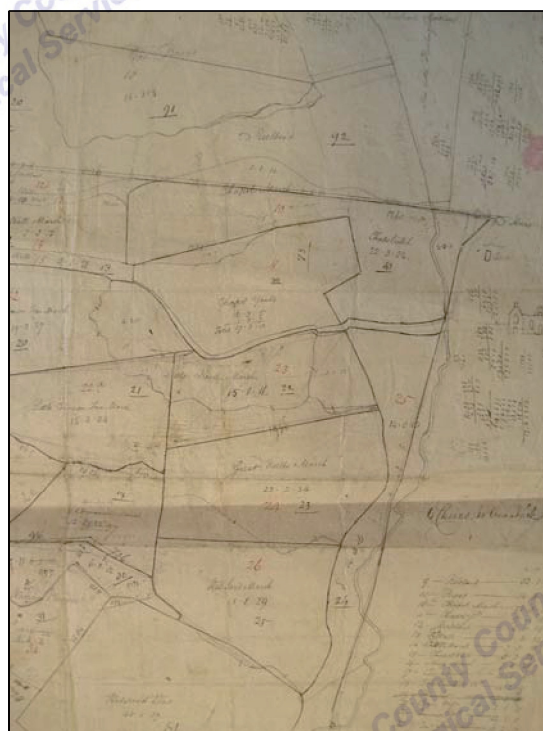


Fig. 18 Estate map of 1814

map there the sum of 16 acres 3 roods 5 perches added to this another of 1 acre 7 perches gives the same total as it appears in schedule (Fig. 18).

It should be noted that area of the hamlet of Sizewell is not distinguished from the parish of Leiston on these maps.

Illustrations

There are another two illustrations of this chapel both the work of Isaac Johnson. In William Fitch's 'Suffolk Illustrations' there is an undated drawing in pencil (ref. HD 480/7) entitled 'Chapel of Lower Abbey' (Fig. 19). The view is the same as the illustration on the map. The same view appears in Johnson's own 'Antiquities' dated 1820-21 (ref. HD 484/3) (Fig. 20). The setting and foreground in these various illustrations may not be accurate.

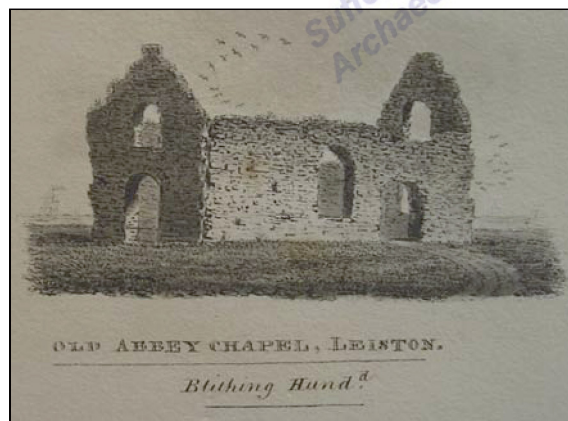


Fig. 19 Isaac Johnson drawing Ref. HD480/7 **Fig. 20** Isaac Johnson drawing Ref. HD 484/3

There is a pencil drawing of 'The original abbey of Leiston near the sea' pasted into a scrapbook of local history for the area of Aldeburgh, Leiston and Butley compiled in 1910. The scrapbook includes pages from C. R. Barrett's 'Round Aldeburgh' published in 1892. According to Barrett 'In 1362 Robert de Ufford determined to build a new Leiston Abbey, and for this purpose selected a site more inland than that occupied by the Abbey of 1182. But the old house remained, and was for years occupied by a few monks' (ref. HD 1064/1).

The same scrapbook contains a copy from White's Directory of Suffolk that notes 'The old abbey, near the sea, appears to have been used by some monks till the dissolution; and in 1531 "John Grene, relinquishing his abbaice by choice, was consecrated an anchorite at the chapel of St Mary, in the old monastery near the sea"'. There is also an undated account of the visit of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology to the Abbey site and W. H. St John Hope's account of the abbey site.

The date of the reference to John Grene retirement as abbot to become a hermit is incorrect. Alfred Suckling in his 'The History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk' published between 1846-48 records various legacies to our 'our lady of the old abbey' and that the penultimate Abbot was 'consecrated anchorite at the chapel of St Mary in the old monastery by the sea'. The original document is in the British Library's Manuscript Collection (ref. Add MS 19081). The abbot was 'John Green of 1527, the successor of Thomas Waite of 1504 and he was followed in the abbacy by our last superior George Carleton in office by 1531'. If this chapel was still in use as a religious building at the time of the dissolution of the abbey, there is no reference to it in the inventory of the abbey (Haslewood).

St John Hope a distinguished early archaeologist suggested that the chapel was not the original site of the abbey and instead offered a site 'near the coast at Goose Hill or the Rifle Range' though he also regarded the chapel at Minsmere as part of the earlier site. Morley therefore suggested 'Accepting St John Hope's opinion, the obvious explanation is that St Mary de Insula is that 'Chapel of Sizewell'', an assertion now known to be erroneous.

Photographs

A photograph of the building taken from the west that appeared in the East Anglian Daily Times in 1914 was provided by Andy Needle of the RSPB (Plate 39).



Leiston Abbey chapel in 1914 – EADT

Plate 39 Photo from the East Anglian Daily Times

Property Deeds

Two surviving property deeds for this estate are unhelpful in their description of the property. Sir Thomas Bedingfield acquired this estate on 29 November 1653.

The deed simply refers to '*All that messuage or tenement scituate lying and being neere the chappell of the blessed Virgin Mary commonly called or knowne by the name of the Lady Ould Abby within the*

lordshippe and Mannor of Layston in the countie of Suffolk and all and singular the oute houses barnes stables yards orchards gardens lands meadows marshes feedings sheepe pastures sheepe walks fould courses ... being in Laystone & Theberton ... now in the occupacon of Edmund Wincoppe & John Wincoppe' (ref. HD343/2).

In another deed between Lord Archibald Hamilton and William Tatnall dated 5 June 1792 (ref. HD 342/3) the same estate is described in similar terms as '*All that capital messuage or tenement situate lying and being near unto the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary commonly called or known by the name of the Lady Old Abby within the lordship or manor of Layston ... containing one thousand one hundred and sixteen acres one rood and twenty eight perches by the same more or less and also a large trail of reed land thereunto belonging and held therewith ... all of which Are now or late were in the occupation of George Doughty gentleman*'. Doughty had held the estate at lease dated 1 September 1772. William Tatnall purchased the estate in 1792 for £10,000.

Glebe Terriers

In some parishes the sites of former chapels or churches are described together with other parish lands in the later glebe terriers. The earliest terriers,

returned to the archdeacon at the times of their visitations, are dated 1604. Unfortunately no terriers had survived for this parish before 1678. The terrier returned in that year has the almost illiterate text '*Thes ar seartifie that glib landes we heave non pearsonag and vekirdg we heave not but only a parish church and churchyard and nothing eles*'. The later terriers reiterate the lack of parsonage or vicarage and glebe lands but in Standard English (ref. FF569/L17/1).

Manorial Records

The manorial records for Leiston are held at the record office in Ipswich. Unfortunately they do not include any geographic surveys of the manor. There is an undated extent or survey of the abbey's tenants (ref. HD371/5). This is not arranged in a geographic sequence instead the landholdings of each tenant are described together with occasional references to a field or former tenement. Occasionally the clerk has added the abbreviation 'Theb' or Theberton and 'Leyst' for Leiston. The document is probably late fourteenth century and some of the surnames can be identified in the earlier published subsidy returns of 1327.

The court rolls are in a separate collection. The earliest roll is for the years 1299-1300 and the next roll begins in 1413. There are further gaps in the record sequence after that date. From 1638 there is a continuous sequence through to 1819. Apart from one rental for the years between 1796 and 1819, a sequence of later rentals begins in 1836. Amongst these records there is an 'Index to the Court Rolls' covering the years 1559-1620 (ref. HD 1032/15) that includes references to manorial customs. This document has been examined for references to the chapel. Most of the index is a list of names of the tenants of the manor. At the end of the index there are references to various manorial offences such as encroachments on waste, grazing animals on commons, taking rabbits from the warren and cutting rushes. The jurisdiction of this manor included the right to the goods of felons. The index includes references to all the parts of the former abbey's estate Leiston cum Sizewell, Theberton, Aldringham and Thorpe and others parts of the estate.

In the same collection there are records for the 'Hethewarmoot' court that held jurisdiction over the wrecks at Sizewell. The records of this court cover the years 1422-1481. There are further references to wrecks in the later court books.

Though the manorial records examined do not offer any details of the chapel, there are a number of wills for the former parishioners of the hamlet of Sizewell proved at the archdeaconry court at Ipswich. Their names appear in the published indexes and can be matched to those listed in the index of manorial tenants to develop a basis for further research.

References for Desktop Survey

Maps

Archdeaconry of Suffolk:

FDA164/A1/a & b Tithe map and apportionment Leiston cum Sizewell 1841

Leiston – Cum Sizewell Urban District Council

EF 5/1/2/1 Leiston and Theberton Enclosure Award dated 29 October 1824

Isaac Johnson Collection:

HD 11:475/88 The Old Abbey Estate, W, Tatnal 1814

HD 11:475/91 Wm Tatnal Esq Leiston Estate 1821

HD 78: 2671 Edmund Farrar Collection; Leiston Sale Plan 1909 and pencil drawing of 'Old Chapel' n. d.

Estate Maps:

HD 306/1/1 Estate Lying in Leiston, Suffolk in the occupation of Geo Doughty and belonging to W. Tatnall esq' Isaac Johnson surveyed 1786

HD 306/1/2 'Rough Plan Estate lying in Leiston, Suffolk ... Isaac Johnson surveyed 1786

HD 306/1/3 Plan of the marshes called "Minsmere Level" 1813

HD 306/1/4 'The Old Abbey Estate in Leiston, Suffolk, the property of Wm Tatnal esq' 1816

HD 306/2/1 Act of Parliament 'For embanking and draining a certain level of marshes and fen lands called or known by the name of Minsmere Levels' dated 1810

HD 306/2/2 Sale Particulars The Leiston Abbey Estate Leiston 1909

Illustrations

HD 480/7 'Chapel of Lower Abbey' Drawing by Isaac Johnson in William S Fitch (1792-1859) 'Suffolk Illustrations' Volume VII 'Blything Hundred' n.d

HD 484/3 Isaac Johnson 'Antiquities, consisting of architectural and monumental remains in ... Suffolk' 1820 – 1821 Old Abbey Chapel Leiston

HD 1064/1 Scrapbook compiled by Mrs B Howard 1910 containing pencil drawing of 'The original Abbey of Leiston near the sea'

Antiquarian Notes

HD 603/2/8 Claude Morley History of Medieval Suffolk Leiston

Deeds

HD 342/2 Henry Coke of Thorington to Sir Thomas Bedingfield 'messuage lying near chapel commonly called Lady Old Abbey' 29 November 1653

HD 342/3 Lord Archibald Hamilton to William Tatnall 'messuage lying near chapel commonly called the Lady Old Abbey' 5 June 1792

Manorial Records

HD 371/5 Manorial Extent Manor of Leiston n d Fourteenth Century

HD 1032/15 Index to court rolls incorporating index to references to customs and ordnances.

Published Sources

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Rev Francis Haslewood F.S.A. 'Inventories of Monasteries Suppressed in 1536' Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology Vol Viii pp 102-4 pub 1894

Dr Richard Mortimer 'Leiston Abbey Cartulary and Butley Priory Charters' Suffolk Records Society Suffolk Charters, Ipswich 1979

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William White's 'Directory of Suffolk' Sheffield 1844

4. Discussion

The fieldwork recording and analysis has clearly demonstrated that the standing building exhibits three constructional phases within its fabric. Even with this relatively simple structural progression, there were difficulties with attributing absolute dates. Other than the Phase III structure, which undoubtedly relates to the vast network of invasion defences put in place during World War II (1939 - 1945), the character of the building was not sufficiently diagnostic architecturally to date on stylistic grounds alone. However, when the known historical facts are taken into account, a chronological progression of the phases can be put forward with at least a reasonable degree of confidence.

Pre-Phase I

While some early Antiquarians and Historians had argued about the location of the original Leiston Abbey complex and the possibility that the standing ruin at Minsmere was in fact that of Sizewell Chapel, there is now overwhelming evidence placing the first abbey on the site. The cropmarks plotted during the recent coastal survey and the geophysical survey of the same undoubtedly show the presence of a major complex of monastic buildings and associated landscaping. Indeed, the evidence suggests that the present 'chapel' lies within the body of a larger building that, given its juxtaposition to a cloister-like feature to the north, was probably the church of the first abbey.

The known historic facts regarding the first abbey are that it was founded by the Earl of Suffolk, Ralph de Glanville in about 1182 with a dedication to St. Mary de Insula, and continued on the site until about 1363 when the site increasingly suffered inundations by the sea. As a result, Robert de Ufford, the then Earl of Suffolk, built a new abbey further in land, the extensive ruins of which can be seen today. Examination of the architectural styles exhibited in these buildings and the rubble used in the corework suggests that substantial quantities of building material were salvaged from the earlier abbey and transported the mile or so to the new site. This would partially

explain why there are no surviving above ground ruins relating to the first abbey still standing on the Minsmere site.

Phase I

If we accept that the standing building lies within the larger area once occupied by the first abbey church then, it follows, that the structure must post date the demolition of the earlier buildings during the second half of the 14th century, with the historically sound date of 1363 becoming a *terminus post quem* for Phase I.

While the surviving Phase I structure does not exhibit any stylistically diagnostic elements with which to date it securely, the constructional techniques employed are consistent with those of the later medieval period. Documentary sources suggest that even after the translocation of the first abbey to its new site, that a presence was maintained at the old site up to the dissolution in 1537 (Goult 1990). It seems reasonable then to suggest that Phase I of the standing building was constructed at about the same time or soon after the controlled demolition of the earlier buildings using materials salvaged from that process. It is also no coincidence that the new building was located on the highest point of the site as the surrounding low lying area had become increasingly wet.

It is difficult from the fabric alone to accurately deduce the overall character of the Phase I building as only its lower levels survived the subsequent Phase II truncation. However, a number of observations were made which at least provide clues to how it would have looked and while the lack of records for the post-1363 period regarding the occupation of the site makes it difficult to determine exactly what was happening at that time, the surviving building does have attributes which are consistent with its use as a chapel.

The Phase I wall fabric was characterised by the lack of re-used tooled masonry fragments in the facing, and only their limited use as genuine dressings on the buttresses at the corners and as a plinth. Clearly, tooled dressings were not used on the internal edges of the Phase I window splays and while inconclusive, the evidence, both physical and from the historic illustrations, tends towards there being no formal tooled dressings externally either. The arch over the south door was formed from the radially lain thin slabs of ferruginous sandstone and this pattern may have been continued with the windows.

There was no evidence to suggest that the building was ever anything more than a single cell measuring 13.60 metres by 7.00 metres with diagonal buttresses at the corners. No scars for cross walls were visible in the western end of the building and where the internal walls were obscured by the Phase III pillbox, no cross wall could have existed during Phase I due to the presence of the southern doorway and adjacent low feature. The height of the Phase I building cannot be ascertained from the surviving structure as the contemporary windows had been truncated before the springing points of their arches; the presumed late 14th century date for Phase I means that arches are likely, even if they were somewhat flattened in the perpendicular style.

Access to the Phase I building would have been through a doorway on the south side and possibly another in the west end. The latter no longer exists, but is shown on the late 18th and early 19th century illustrations and unless it was a later, Phase II, insertion through Phase I fabric, which it is now impossible to deduce, it must represent an original architectural feature.

There was evidence surviving for three original windows; one through each of the north, south and east walls. That to the south was clearly blocked during the Phase II alterations as the inserted material survives, also preserving a layer of pink wall plaster in the angled splay which may also have functioned as a window seat.

A similar blocking in the north window can be inferred by the presence of Phase II wall fabric continuing across the top of the window at the level of its truncation with no evidence for a remodelled arch in the later material. However, an undated sketch of the building (Fig. 14) contradicts the interpretation of this feature as a window (see p 22 - 23) and the fact that it was blocked during Phase II, appearing to show a low doorway on the north side at this location. This drawing clearly post-dates the Isaac Johnson drawings (Figs. 19 & 20), one of which is dated to c.1820/21 and equates better with the East Anglian Daily Times photograph of 1914 (Plate 39). By this time the building had become substantially ruined and the character of the north opening at this juncture remains open to question. Inaccuracies in the drawing, the result of 'artistic licence' employed by the artist, could explain this discrepancy as, on balance, the physical evidence recorded at the site points towards it representing a Phase I window subsequently blocked in Phase II. This interpretation is confirmed by the notes made by Claude Morley (see p. 31) during a visit made in 1912 where he describes the north wall as having *'towards the east end has a window four feet broad externally by six inside (doubtless Early English), west of it is a lower one blocked with brick and stone'* clearly then a blocked window rather than a door.

The Phase I east window survived only as small sections of its angled splay. This window did appear to have continued in use after the Phase II alterations.

One other Phase I architectural feature survived, the low arched internal niche towards the eastern end of the south wall. The interpretation of this feature is somewhat problematic. If the building did function as a chapel, the general location of the niche is consistent with a number of possible architectural features, although its position at the base of the wall and its limited height presents difficulties with these interpretations. With the likely position of the altar being in front of the east window, the niche feature in the wall immediately to the south may have been a Piscina (basin for washing the sacred vessels), or a simple Sedilia (recessed wall seat). Neither of these interpretations are entirely satisfactory as the true character of the feature was impossible to determine within the confines of the exposed area.

Phase II

Similarly to Phase I, the lack of surviving diagnostic architectural features made absolute dating of this phase difficult.

The Phase II fabric was characterised by the use of brick, a material almost totally absent within the Phase I fabric. The bricks themselves were relatively poor quality and were not entirely dissimilar from those used in the construction of the main gateway (c.late 14th early 15th century) into the precinct of Dunwich Greyfriars some 4.5 kilometres to the north. Certainly, bricks were being used locally from the later 14th century onwards and at the chapel site, the lack of surviving contemporary diagnostic architectural features means they are of limited use for dating purposes.

Interestingly, there does not seem to be any significant documentary references to the chapel after the dissolution of the abbey in 1537. It does then seem reasonable to assume that the major rebuilding occurred before that time. The construction techniques employed for Phase II are not inconsistent with a late medieval or early post-medieval date and given that Phase I has been attributed a late 14th century date then Phase II must have occurred within the c.one hundred and seventy year period between that and the dissolution in 1537.

Again we must look to the historical facts to provide the information which may help to narrow down the possibilities of a date for Phase II. The major Phase II alterations clearly involved a substantial investment of time and money and there is only one known historic occurrence relating to the site which could be said to merit these works. It is widely documented that on his retirement in 1527 (often stated as 1531, but this is incorrect; see p 35) Abbot John Green took up residence as a consecrated anchorite at the chapel. One possible interpretation involves the refurbishment of the Phase I building in the early 16th century to accommodate the said abbot on his retirement.

The surviving evidence provides one other possible reason for the major refurbishment. The Phase I plaster in the recess of the blocked window on the south side was pink in colour, often an indication of intense heat causing an alteration of the surface. If this was evidence of burning, it is possible that the Phase II rebuilding was the result of damage caused by a fire in the Phase I structure. However, if this were the case, there was no other evidence to support this interpretation, either in the form of other heat altered surfaces or charcoal deposits that could be expected if there had been a major fire at the site.

The character of the Phase II building is equally hard to deduce from the surviving structure, but the documentary sources do help somewhat. The groundplan remained the same as the earlier structure, with no apparent internal partitioning. As part of the alterations the Phase I walls were reduced down to a horizontal surface at approximately 2.50 metres above their base. As the interface between the two phases remains horizontal when it continues around the ends of the building, we must assume that the entire gable ends of the original structure were dismantled. This assertion is strengthened by

Morley's description (p 31) and by photographic evidence (Plate 39) where the western gable end is shown intact with what appear to be large light coloured stones incorporated. These almost certainly represent re-used pieces of limestone masonry, the inclusion of which in the rest of the building is characteristic of Phase II. At no point in the standing structure had the genuine top of the wall survived. The vertical side of the splay of the Phase II window on the south side of the building would have continued on up beyond the top of the wall as it is now. Historic illustrations show this as an arched window, if somewhat flattened, probably in the perpendicular style, with wall fabric above it. It is estimated that a minimum of 1.00 metre of wall fabric has been lost that would have been needed to accommodate both the window arch and wall fabric above.

It has already been ascertained that the Phase I windows on both the north and south side were blocked as part of the Phase II alterations. On the north side a new window was constructed towards the eastern end of the wall, while on the south side a new centrally placed window was constructed.

At the east end, the Phase I window continued in use, but with a new arch described as '*perpendicular*' and '*brick-topped*' by Claude Morley (see p 31).

The illustrations show a doorway at the western end of the building, possibly another Phase I survival, with a window above, again exhibiting a somewhat flattened, probably perpendicular style arch. The western gable was topped by a squared structure described by Morley as ... '*the lost belfry's base*'. This structure is clearly visible on the photograph of 1914 (Plate 39). The Phase I doorway on the south side of the building also appears to have been maintained as an access in Phase II.

The Phase I buttresses were also incorporated into the Phase II structure.

Generally then, the impression is of a major remodelling of the Phase I structure. Architectural features were in the perpendicular style with their dressings constructed predominantly in brick. In contrast to the Phase I fabric, architectural fragments from earlier buildings were commonly used in the wall face. While taking these alterations into account, the character of the Phase II building would still have been in keeping with its purported use as a chapel.

Phase III

As previously stated there are no dating issues regarding the Phase III structure which clearly relates to World War II. However, the marked reduction in the amount of historic fabric surviving between the 1914 photograph (Plate 39) and the present day suggests that the Phase III pillbox insertion may have involved some demolition as well as construction.

While the sides of the west doorway had already suffered some degradation and the wall fabric separating the window from the underlying doorway arch had collapsed, the remainder of the gable end was still intact. It is considered possible that in order to facilitate a clear access way to deliver materials

during the construction of the pillbox and provide an unobstructed view out to the west when it was in use, the majority of the west wall was demolished. It is less clear why the eastern gable would need to have been dismantled as part of the Phase III pillbox insertion, but its removal, in conjunction with that at the western end, would have had the effect of making the whole structure less obtrusive and reducing its area as a target when viewed from the sea. There may also have been a safety element, if the walls were in a dangerous condition, they may have reduced them down so that the construction team could work safely.

Of course, there are other possibilities; firstly, the gables may already have collapsed in the intervening years between 1914, when the photograph was taken, and the 1930's – 1940's, when the pillbox was constructed or, albeit less likely, that they remained intact after the pillbox had been inserted and have since collapsed.

The idea of inserting a pillbox in the monument was well conceived and apart from the possible associated loss of the gables ends, its construction was not overly destructive to the body of the building. With the exception of the doorway and the small observation window in the west wall, all of its openings utilised existing architectural features with no additional major loss of fabric.

There were no obvious contemporary earthworks associated with the pillbox, although these may have been lost to deep ploughing after World War II. However, some of the features recorded during the cropmark and geophysical surveys could relate to Phase III.

Phase IV

The Phase IV consolidation and re-pointing is easily recognised by the fresh unweathered condition of the lime mortar and it stands out from the unaltered fabric. However, this will change in time and it will begin to blend in. The significant additions where modern materials have been used (concrete lintel, tile string drip course, rebuilt buttress etc.) are easily distinguished from the historic fabric and will remain so even after the mortar has weathered.

5. Conclusions

The chapel site at Minsmere has always been a somewhat enigmatic structure. Various antiquarians have debated the merits of its identification as either Sizewell Chapel or a chapel associated with the first site of Leiston Abbey. While it has now been proved beyond reasonable doubt that the Minsmere chapel does lie within the site of the first abbey, prior to its translocation inland, and probably retained its dedication to St Mary de Insula, there remain some difficulties with precise dating and interpretation of the building itself.

The documentary evidence specifically regarding the chapel rather than the abbey is sparse. The above interpretation, while fitting the observed evidence, does make a number of assumptions. If it is accepted that the chapel was constructed after the abandonment of the first abbey site (1363)

and that it went into decline after the dissolution of the abbey in 1537, then we are left with a period of one hundred and seventy four years for Phase I and Phase II. It seems reasonable to assume that Phase I and Phase II would have been separated by at least a few decades as the major Phase II rebuilding involved considerable changes to the Phase I fabric and it is hard to understand why these would have been necessary shortly after the chapel's initial construction. The Phase I fabric is entirely consistent with a later medieval date for its construction and if the documentary sources are correct in stating that there was a continual presence on the site even after the translocation of the abbey to its new location, then an earlier rather than later date for Phase I is likely. However, attributing the major Phase II alterations directly to the occupation of the building by the retiring Abbot John Green in c.1527 may be fanciful, but the constructional techniques employed and the architectural style are at least consistent with this date.

It is also unclear exactly how much of the Phase I and Phase II fabric was deliberately dismantled as part of the Phase III pillbox insertion, but the photograph of 1914 certainly proves that considerably more of the structure, particularly the gable ends, was still standing in the first decades of the 20th century.

6. Acknowledgements

The project would not have been undertaken without the input and cooperation of a number of different people and organisations.

Grant aided funding was provided by English Heritage and the RSPB and thanks are extended to English Heritage staff John Ette and Trudi Hughs, and Andy Needle of RSPB Minsmere for their involvement in the project.

In addition, thanks to Bob Carr of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Conservation Team for providing the Brief and Specification for the archaeological works and advice during the writing of this report and Brian Haward, the project architect. Anthony Breen was commissioned to undertake the documentary search. Additional documentary material was provided by Andy Needle of RSPB. David Sims should also be credited with allowing the writer to see the interim plot of his geophysical survey.

The archaeological fieldwork team from Suffolk County Council comprised John Duffy and Jonathon Van Jenniens (survey) and Roy Damant and Steve Manthorpe (excavation), all under the direction of Stuart Boulter who also undertook the photographic survey.

7. Bibliography

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

Appendix I *Brief and Specification for the Archaeological Record of a building.*

Leiston Old Abbey
(Minsmere)
Suffolk County Sites & Monuments Record LCS002

1. Background

- 1.1 There are proposals for repair works to conserve the above ground remains of this building (Scheduled Ancient Monument 21404). The owner has been advised that, in order to provide an objective record of the structure before conservation works begin, an archaeological survey of the building structure should be prepared. Such a record will be required by English Heritage as a necessary part of any conservation proposal.
- 1.2 The process of assessing a structure, assessing the potential for damage that may be caused to a structure by conservation, and using conditions to ensure programmes of work take place to mitigate damage are all integral to Planning Policy Guidance 15, "Planning and the Historic Environment", which itself informs practice when Scheduled Ancient Monuments area affected. This brief follows the substance of the advice of PPG 15 and "Informed Conservation: Understanding Historic Buildings and their Landscapes for Conservation", English Heritage 2001. This latter proposes that a programme of Conservation-Based Research and Analysis (CoBRA) is needed in this case in order to:
- i) Inform a programme of proposed works or repair.
 - ii) Record significant fabric to be removed or hidden during building work (normally as a condition of consent or grant).
- 1.3 Proposals include conservation of the historic fabric; removal of fallen building material in localised areas in order to allow building consolidation (NE and NW corners) ; lower accumulated debris at the east end of the N wall to deter access to the pill-box roof; examine and consolidate the sill area of the open access to the structure (N central side); expose by removing loose fallen debris and consolidate the line of the W wall of the building.
- 1.4 Although it is accepted that the intent is to minimise disruption and where possible to preserve *in situ*, it is important that a full analysis and record of the historic fabric is made before any development begins, this will both inform detailed development proposals and provide a context for recording and or archaeological excavation required by development within the body of the building; provide a detailed record to inform future assessments of the rate of deterioration of the external fabric and its long term conservation requirement.
- 1.5 All arrangements for the recording, the timing of the work, access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.6 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording of the Historic Structure

- 2.1 In the areas agreed on site (outlined at 1.3) remove fallen wall debris to expose standing fabric for consolidation. Set aside rubble wall material for reuse in consolidation. Any stone architectural detail recovered from excavation, and from the surface elsewhere on the site, to be recorded by photography and set aside pending a decision on disposal (likely to be covering with general rubble on site).

- 2.2 Excavate through the area of the entrance on the north side to establish the presence or absence of a threshold and, if present, surface levels and surfaces both within and without the building. Allow for an additional c2sq m. of excavation within the body of the building to establish levels and surfaces. Allow for removal of fallen debris at the west end to establish the size of any entry which may have existed (and been exposed by the surface debris clearing at 2.1)
- 2.2 Undertake systematic drawn and photographed record of the building fabric.
- 2.3 Provide a description and analysis of the building fabric.
- 2.4 Provide an archive of results and a written report.
- 2.5 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the recording stage.
- 2.6 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.

3 Minimum Standards of Recording

- 3.1 A measured ground plan of the building to be prepared to a minimum scale of 1:20.
- 3.2 Full face measured elevation of all wall faces to a minimum scale of 1:20. This need not be a stone by stone record (see below) but must include the limits of the wall, the external outline of windows, any cracks, any identified fabric joint lines or phasing lines, if lift lines showing fabric construction are present these are to be included. This may be achieved by, e.g. direct measurement, rectified photography or photogrammetry.
- 3.3 To accompany and complement the elevation drawing a photographic record using black and white negative stock and negative size of 6cm x 6cm or greater is to be made. Photographs are to be taken square on to the wall fabric; a wall length no greater than 5m is to be included in each frame; overlaps between frames of at least 2m are to be allowed. The wall face is to have a grid of a minimum of 2m square or fixed points at this approximate interval surveyed in to the outline elevation drawing, marked (e.g. by masking tape) on the wall face and related to a horizontal datum shown on the elevation drawing. A conventional 2m photographic scale should also be visible. The photographs to be suitable for orthogrammetry should this be required at a later stage.
- 3.4 Digital photography may be used to supplement the archive quality black and white images, they may be particularly appropriate to enable cost-effective rectification to overlay with the measured elevation outlines.
- 3.5 Alternatively, a full stone by stone elevation showing all features in detail to be prepared.
- 3.6 A descriptive text and linked analysis of results must be provided. The results should be set in the context of the building as a whole.
- 3.7 Standards of recording and archive keeping should be in general accord with "Understanding Historic Buildings a guide to good recording practice" English Heritage 2006. Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered by the "Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage" (May 2000, English Heritage, National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon).

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991.
- 5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.5 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.6 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.7 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.8 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual.

Specification by: R D Carr

Date: 29 August 2006

Reference: /Leiston Old Abbey 06.doc

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date.

CONSERVATION TEAM Archaeological Service SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR 01284 352443

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0001	0001	0001	U/S finds	Number allocated to all unstratified finds from the site						
LCS 002	0002	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, squared quoin?						
LCS 002	0003	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, two tooled faces						
LCS 002	0004	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, sill fragment or plinth						
LCS 002	0005	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, squared quoin?						
LCS 002	0006	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, window mullion fragment						
LCS 002	0007	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, one tooled face						
LCS 002	0008	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, quoin or sill						
LCS 002	0009	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, quoin, heat altered						
LCS 002	0010	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Grey silty limestone masonry fragment, one rebated area						
LCS 002	0011	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, sill fragment or plinth						
LCS 002	0012	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0013	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry	Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0014	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0015	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Grey silty limestone masonry fragment, rounded face, part of pillar?						
LCS 002	0016	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0017	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Grey silty limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0018	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0019	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, window mullion fragment						
LCS 002	0020	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, moulding fragment						
LCS 002	0021	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Grey silty limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0022	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Grey silty limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0023	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, window tracery						
LCS 002	0024	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0025	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, heat altered						

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0026	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, plinth?						
LCS 002	0027	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, moulding fragment						
LCS 002	0028	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0029	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, quoin						
LCS 002	0030	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Grey silty limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0031	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Grey silty limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0032	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Grey silty limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0033	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled on all sides						
LCS 002	0034	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, moulding fragment						
LCS 002	0035	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, moulding fragment						
LCS 002	0036	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0037	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Grey silty limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0038	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, quoin						

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0039	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, quoin						
LCS 002	0040	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, large tooled block						
LCS 002	0041	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0042	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0043	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment						
LCS 002	0044	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, quoin						
LCS 002	0045	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0046	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, large tooled block with angled rebate						
LCS 002	0047	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, voussoir						
LCS 002	0048	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0049	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0050	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0051	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0052	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0053	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0054	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0055	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0056	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0057	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, quoin						
LCS 002	0058	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Barnack-type limestone masonry fragment, curved pillar?						
LCS 002	0059	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0060	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0061	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0062	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block, curved face						
LCS 002	0063	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block, curved face						

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0064	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0065	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0066	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Grey silty limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0067	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0068	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0069	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block, curved face						
LCS 002	0070	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0071	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0072	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0073	0001	0001	Tooled Masonry Caen-type limestone masonry fragment, tooled block						
LCS 002	0074	0074	0074	Buttress Diagonal buttress on NE corner of building. Best preserved of the four buttresses			0080		L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0075	0075	0075	Buttress Diagonal buttress on SE corner of building					L.14th century	Phase I

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0076	0076	0076	Buttress	Diagonal buttress on SW corner of building				L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0077	0077	0077	Buttress	Diagonal buttress on NW corner of building				L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0078	0078	0078	Wall fabric	Overall number allocated to Phase I wall fabric. Forms basal c.2.5 metres of wall, comprises 80% rounded beach pebbles, mostly c.10 cm in diameter & c.18% hard ferruginous sandstone			0087	L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0079	0079	0079	Plinth	Vestiges of plinth around NE buttress 0074. Represented by a single tooled Caen-type limestone masonry block				L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0080	0080	0080	Cut	Semicircular cut into base of wall & buttress 0074	0074, 0078			p-med	?
LCS 002	0081	0081	0081	Plinth	Vestiges of plinth around NW buttress 0077. Represented by a single tooled Caen-type limestone masonry block				L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0082	0082	0078	Window	Phase I window central to N. wall of building		0087		L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0083	0083	0078	Window	Phase I window towards W end of S wall. Blocked by Phase II fabric		0087		L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0084	0084	0078	Window	Phase I E window, survives as vestiges of internal splay only				L.14th century	Phase I

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0085	0085	0078	Doorway	Phase I doorway in S wall, now blocked with Phase III fabric. Arch constructed using thin slabs of hard ferruginous sandstone				L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0086	0086	0078	Niche	Lower internal Phase I feature immediately E of 0085 in S wall				L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0087	0087	0087	Wall fabric	Overall number allocated to Phase II wall fabric. Forms upper section of walls. Includes much brick & reused limestone masonry pieces		0078		E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0088	0088	0087	Window	Phase II window in S wall. Has one surviving angles splay to west, dressed with brick	0078			E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0089	0089	0087	Window	Phase II window in N wall. Has one surviving angles splay to west, dressed with brick. Reused as opening in Phase III	0078			E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0090	0090	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through E. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0091	0091	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through E. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0092	0092	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through E. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0093	0093	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through W. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0094	0094	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through S. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0095	0095	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through S. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0096	0096	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through S. wall				E.16th century	Phase II

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0097	0097	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through S. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0098	0098	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through S. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0099	0099	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through S. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0100	0100	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through S. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0101	0101	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through S. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0102	0102	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through S. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0103	0103	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through N. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0104	0104	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through N. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0105	0105	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through N. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0106	0106	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through N. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0107	0107	0087	Putlock Hole	Putlock hole through N. wall				E.16th century	Phase II
LCS 002	0108	0108	0108	Pillbox	Overall number allocated to Phase III pillbox				1939-1945	Phase III
LCS 002	0109	0109	0108	Floor	Concrete floor of Phase III pillbox				1939-1945	Phase III
LCS 002	0110	0110	0108	Wall fabric	Fallen block of wall fabric on line of W wall. Probably Phase I wall				L.14th century	Phase I
LCS 002	0111	0111	0108	Wall fabric	Overall number allocated to walls of Phase III pillbox. Comprise brick skin with concrete core.			0115	1939-1945	Phase III

Appendix II LCS 002: Context List and Descriptions

SITE	OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	DATE	PHASE
LCS 002	0112	0112	0108	Wall fabric	T-shape brick wall central to pillbox, restricts entrance to interior	0109		0115	1939-1945	Phase III
LCS 002	0113	0113	0108	Window	Small half brick sized opening with internal splay to S of doorway 0114				1939-1945	Phase III
LCS 002	0114	0114	0108	Doorway	Doorway central to W wall of pillbox				1939-1945	Phase III
LCS 002	0115	0115	0108	Roof	c.0.3 metre thick reinforced concrete roof of pillbox	0111, 0112			1939-1945	Phase III
LCS 002	0116	0116	0108	Window	Double observation window/gunport through E wall of pillbox, uses window 0084. Stepped splay external, angled internally				1939-1945	Phase III
LCS 002	0117	0117	0108	Window	Small observation window/gunport in low opening 0086 in S wall				1939-1945	Phase III
LCS 002	0118	0118	0108	Window	Observation window/gunport in blocked S doorway 0085. Stepped external splay, angled internally.				1939-1945	Phase III
LCS 002	0119	0119	0108	Window	Observation window/gunport using N window 0089. Stepped external splay, angled internally.				1939-1945	Phase III