

SACL/01



SAWLEY ABBEY, CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

commissioned by English Heritage

March 2016

SAWLEY ABBEY, CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

commissioned by English Heritage

March 2016

project info

HA JOB NO. SACL/01
NGR SD 77658 46410
PARISH Sawley
LOCAL AUTHORITY Ribble Valley
OASIS REF. headland1-241741

project team

PROJECT MANAGER Candy Hatherley
AUTHOR Rafael Maya-Torcely
FIELDWORK Rafael Maya-Torcely
GRAPHICS Rafael Maya-Torcely
APPROVED BY Candy Hatherley— Project Manager



 **HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY**

© 2016 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd



SCOTLAND

Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705

scotland@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com

PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a Level 1 Historic building survey to record a programme of consolidation repair works at Sawley Abbey, Clitheroe. This work included recording the consolidation work undertaken on a series of walls in the north-west of the abbey and the current condition of the remains of a tiled floor located in the north and south chapels of the transept.

CONTENTS

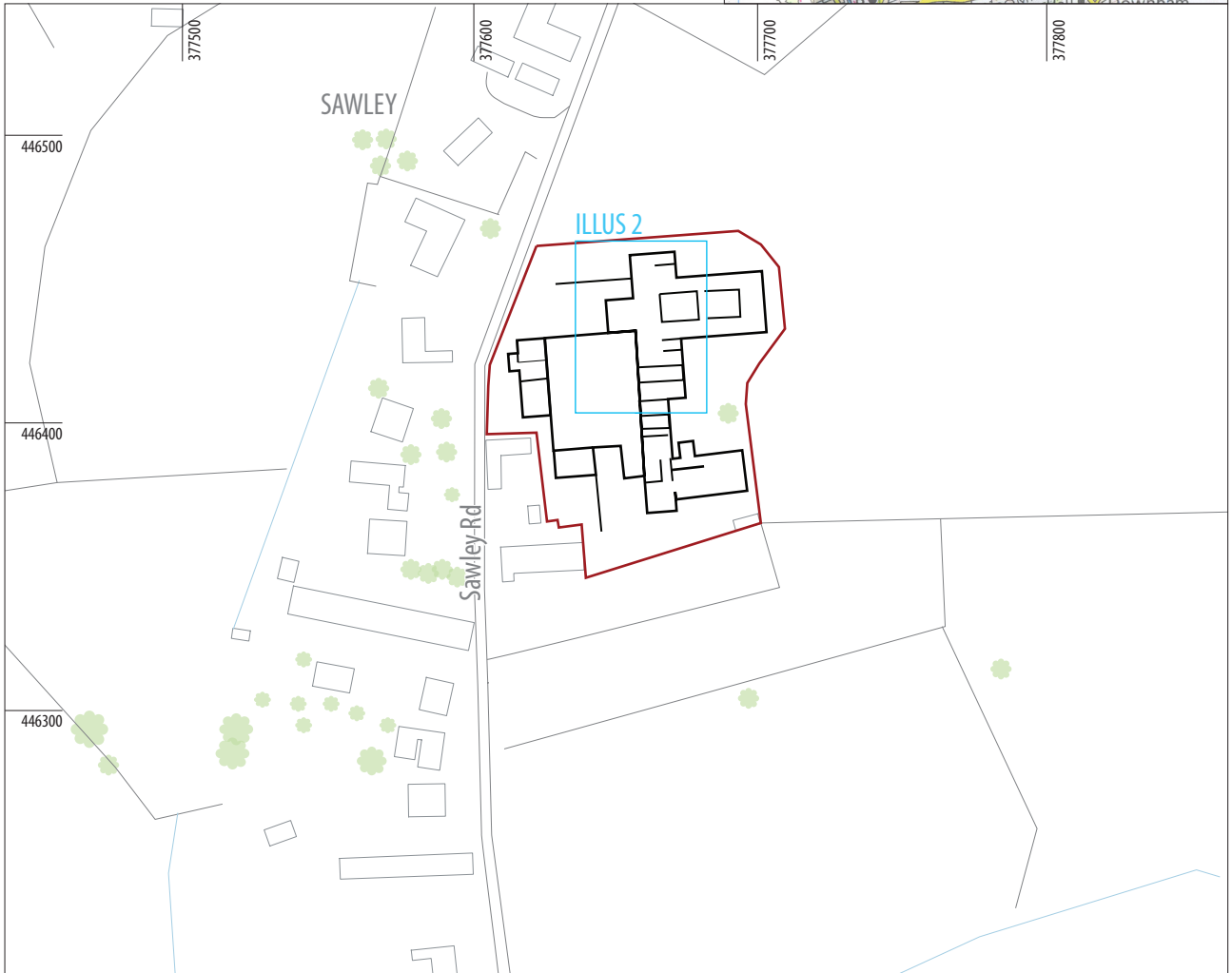
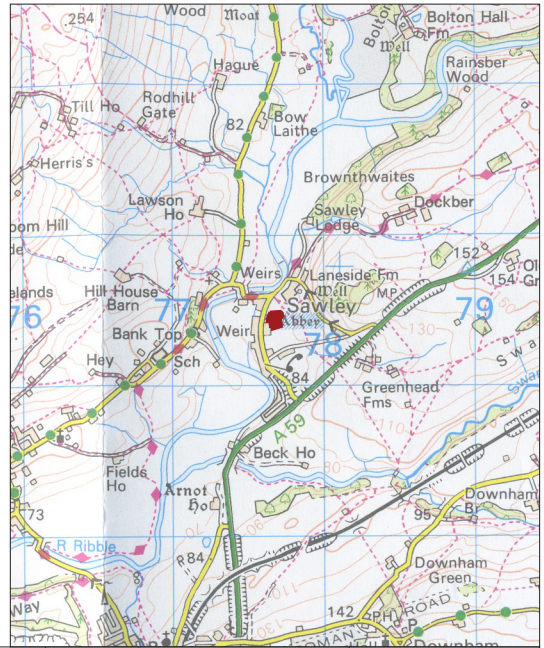
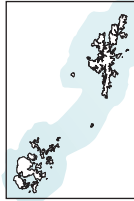
1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
3	AIMS & OBJECTIVES	1
4	METHODOLOGY	1
5	RESULTS	3
5.1	CONSOLIDATION WORKS MONITORING	3
	DCH/554/004– West Transept Wall– External Elevation (North Transept)	3
	DCH/554/005– West Transept Wall– Internal Elevation (North Transept)	3
	DCH/554/006– North Elevation of the Chapel Wall (North Transept)	3
	DCH/554/007– West Nave Wall–Internal Elevation	3
	DCH/554/008– Early Choir Wall– West Elevation	3
	DCH/554/009– Early Choir Wall– West Elevation	3
	DCH/554/010– West Transept Wall Internal Elevation (North Transept)	3
	DCH/554/011– South Early Choir Wall Existing South Elevation	3
	DCH/554/012– South Early Choir Wall Existing South Elevation	3
	DCH/554/013– West Nave Wall Internal Elevation	9
	DCH/554/014– West Transept Wall Internal Elevation (South Transept) & Night Stairs	9
	DCH/554/015– West Transept Wall External Elevation (South Transept)	9
	DCH/554/016– Sacristy Wall South Elevation	9
	DCH/554/017– South Transept Wall East Elevation (South Transept)	9
	DCH/554/018– South Transept Wall Internal Elevation (South Transept)	9
5.2	TILE FLOOR RECORDING	9
	Method	9
	North Transept Chapel	9
	South Transept Chapel	9
6	DISCUSSION	10
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY	10
8	APPENDICES	11
	APPENDIX 1 PHOTO REGISTER	11
	APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD	12

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS


ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION	VIII
ILLUS 2 LOCATION PLAN OF AREAS OF CONSOLIDATION WORKS AND TILE FLOOR	2
ILLUS 3 TILE FLOOR IN NORTH TRANSEPT CHAPEL	4
ILLUS 4 TILE FLOOR IN SOUTH TRANSEPT CHAPEL	4
ILLUS 5 TILE FLOOR AT NORTH TRANSEPT CHAPEL	5
ILLUS 6 TILE FLOOR AT SOUTH TRANSEPT CHAPEL	7

SACL/01
land adjacent to Sawley Road
Sawley
Clitheroe

0 200km



KEY
 site boundary

0  100m
 scale 1:2,500 @ A4

HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY

SCOTLAND

13 Jane Street
 Edinburgh EH6 5HE
 0131 467 7705
www.headlandarchaeology.com

Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence no. AL 100013229

ILLUS 1 Site location

SAWLEY ABBEY, CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a Level 1 Historic building survey to record a programme of consolidation repair works at Sawley Abbey, Clitheroe. This work included recording the consolidation work undertaken on a series of walls in the north-west of the abbey and the current condition of the remains of a tiled floor located in the north and south chapels of the transept.

This report intends to provide a descriptive and photographic record of the consolidation works monitored as stipulated by the Written Scheme of Investigation (English Heritage, 2015).

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located at NGR SD 77658 46410 (ILLUS 1) and comprises some 16.1 hectares adjacent to Sawley Road. The building is Grade I listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (SM 23690).

The abbey was founded by the Cistercian order, dedicated to St Mary and St Andrew, by William de Percy in 1147/8. It was suppressed in 1536, after the reformation's dissolution of the monastic orders, and according to some documentary sources, shortly after the priory buildings were robbed for its stone (Coppack et al 2003).

Constructed in a combination of dressed sandstone and black shale, the extant structures are the ruins of the church and some of the conventual buildings, typical of Cistercian abbey layout.

3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In line with the WSI, the main objectives of archaeological works were to:

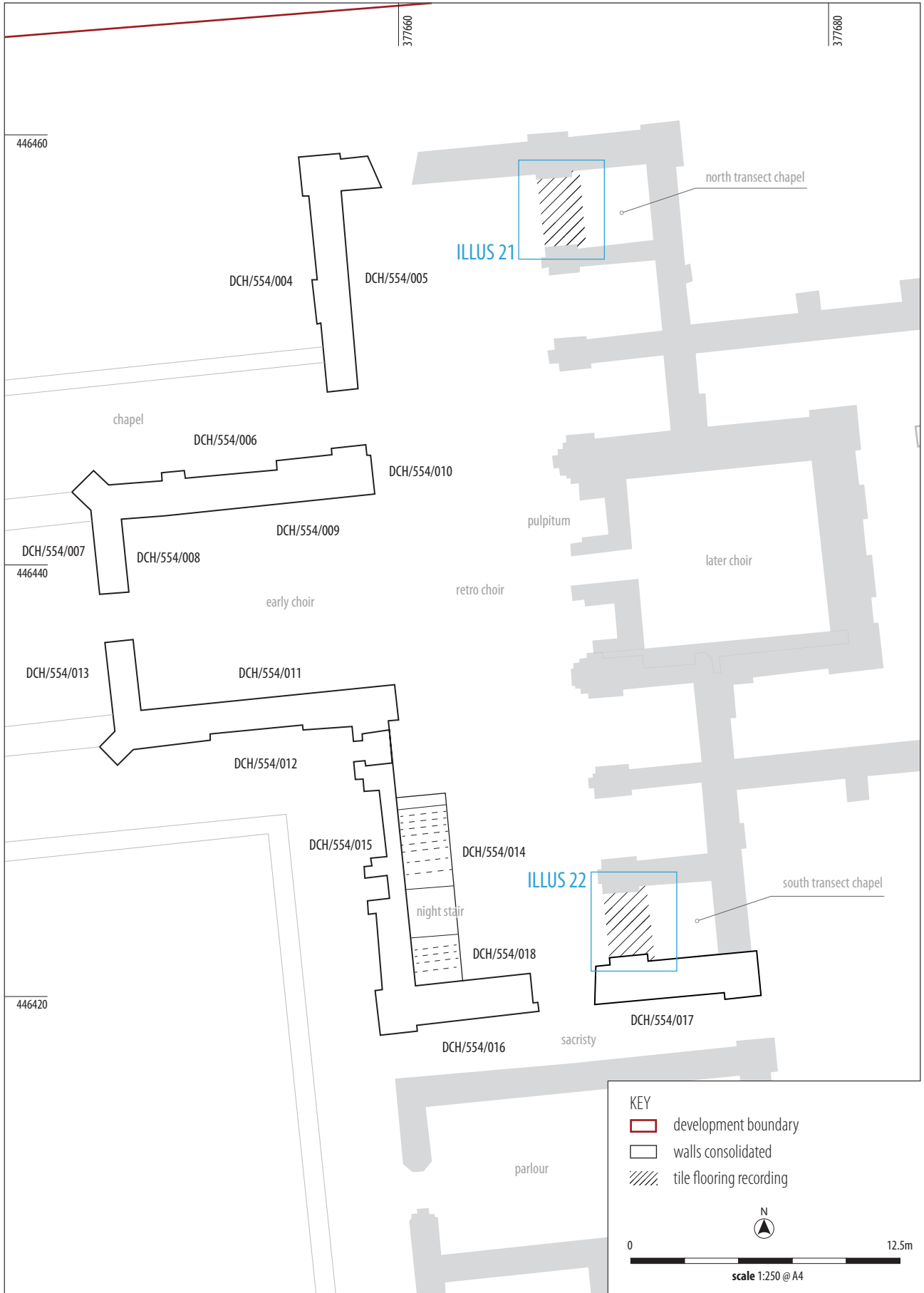
- Undertake a photographic recording of the works to comply with the conditions of the Listed Building Consent.
- Fully record areas where re-building/consolidation are undertaken.
- On completion of the project provide a full report detailing all photographic recording and areas of re-construction.

4 METHODOLOGY

Using the general standards set out by English Heritage (2006), a Level 1 historic building survey was undertaken. This aims to provide a descriptive record to help inform the understanding and scope of the remedial works to be carried out on the upstanding building on site. The work was undertaken to a methodology set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (English Heritage 2015).

Plans and elevations of the building were provided by the client. The areas monitored during consolidation have been further annotated and serve as base for the illustrations produced (ILLUS 2-4). This is complimented by a photographic record. In the case of the two sections of tile floor, measurements were taken on site and the floors fully recorded in photogrammetric models. A brief description of the condition of the tile floors is included in this report.

Site visits were undertaken on the 6th and 27th October, 2nd December 2015 and 19th January 2016.



ILLUS 2 Location plan of areas of consolidation works and tile floor

5 RESULTS

5.1 CONSOLIDATION WORKS MONITORING

The consolidation work on a series of walls in the northwest area of the abbey are described in detail below. The reference numbers given to each wall are from the WSI (ILLUS 2). The photo register and a selection of the full photo record (CD attached) can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

In general the consolidations works for each wall was a three stage process under the direct supervision of the curator:

1. All the walls were brushed down with a soft brush to remove loose debris prior to the process of removal of the existing cementitious pointing.
2. Once specifically assessed the necessity of consolidate/rebuild the areas in the walls, mud stone and lime mortar was used to match the existing profiles.
3. All wall heads hard capping were made ready for turf soft capping to be laid on.

DCH/554/004— West Transept Wall— External Elevation (North Transept)

Summary of consolidation works

The wall face presented areas of erosion so it was refaced. The centre and north corner buttresses of the wall were rebuilt following the existing profile, using mud stone and lime mortar, to be clearly distinguishable from the original fabric. The wall head was also rebuilt all along its length with new mud stone bedded in lime mortar. A turf soft capping was laid over the hard capping.

DCH/554/005— West Transept Wall— Internal Elevation (North Transept)

Summary of consolidation works

The wall face presented areas of erosion so it was refaced. No rebuilding of the wall face was required.

DCH/554/006— North Elevation of the Chapel Wall (North Transept)

Summary of consolidation works

The wall face presented areas of erosion under the remaining sandstone course. This was consolidated with lime mortar after the piscina was protected to avoid any damage during the repair works. The rest of the wall face was also refaced with lime mortar. Wall head was slightly repaired as indicated and soft capping was laid on.

DCH/554/007— West Nave Wall—Internal Elevation

Summary of consolidation works

After identified the areas of eroded wall face, mortar was applied to reface to ensure the structural integrity of masonry. This unit was not in need of extensive re-facing. Some loose stones in the upper part of the upstanding wall were consolidated.

DCH/554/008— Early Choir Wall— West Elevation

Summary of consolidation works

Same applies to this external side of DCH/554/007 in reference to the wall head. There is a good state of conservation of the historic fabric in this corner of the choir with dressed sandstone surviving in place. Minor treatment of the face was undertaken.

DCH/554/009— Early Choir Wall— West Elevation

Summary of consolidation works

The whole wall face was repointed with mortar to avoid the decay of the masonry. Wall head received soft capping as the aforementioned DCH/554/006, the external side of this structural unit.

DCH/554/010— West Transept Wall Internal Elevation (North Transept)

Summary of consolidation works

Part of DCH/554/006 and DCH/554/009. See these for description of the works carried out on this wall.

DCH/554/011— South Early Choir Wall Existing South Elevation

Summary of consolidation works

The wall head was inspected to assess the state of the stonework. The whole extent of the wall face was repointed with mortar to avoid the decay of the masonry and some areas were rebuilt with new mudstone and mortar. Wall head received soft capping.

DCH/554/012— South Early Choir Wall Existing South Elevation

Summary of consolidation works

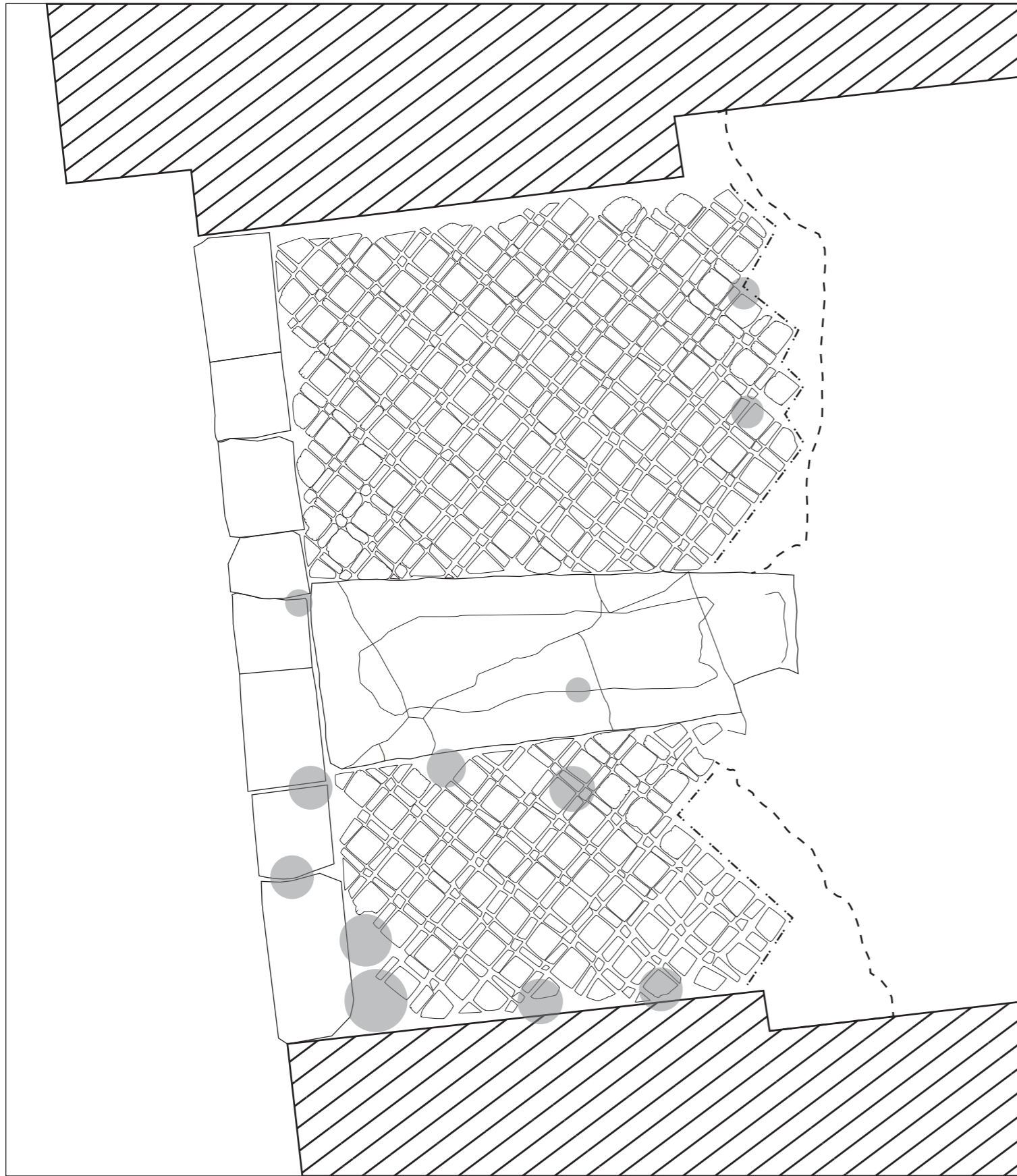
Re-facing with mudstone in the eastern areas of the wall to consolidate the fabric. Wall head treatment as stated in DCH/554/011.



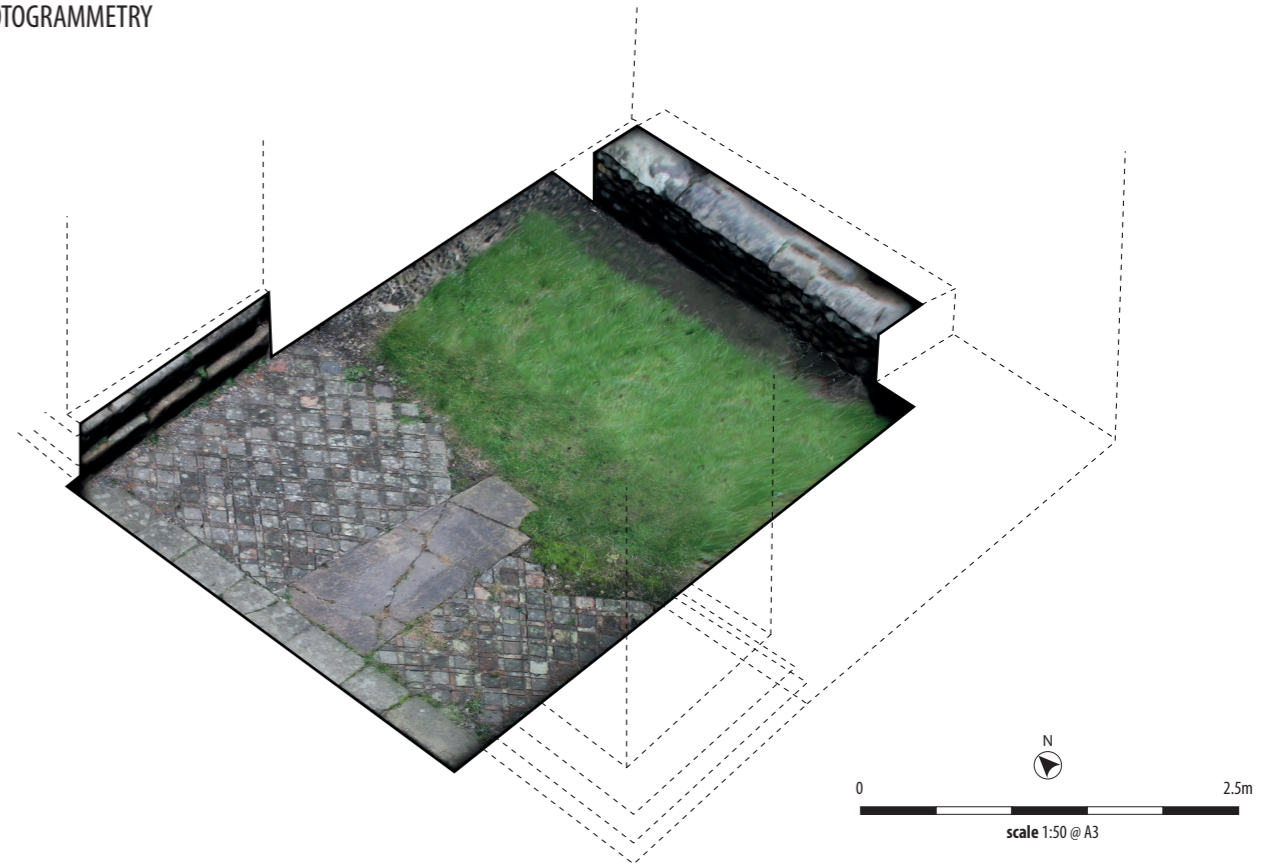
ILLUS 3 Tile floor in north transept chapel



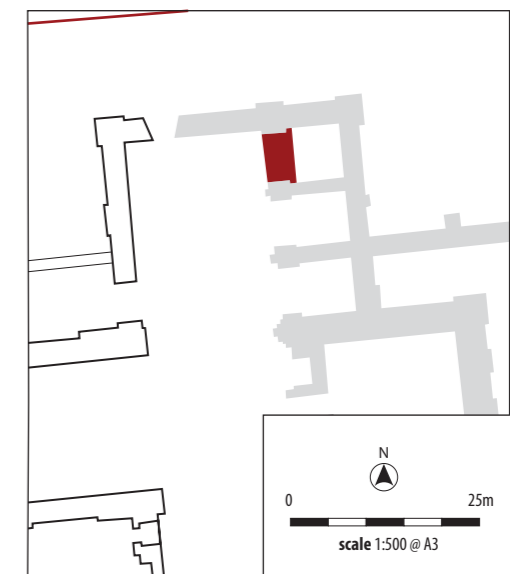
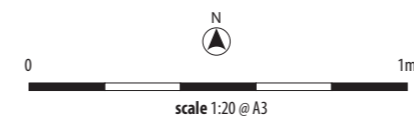
ILLUS 4 Tile floor in south transept chapel



PHOTOGRAMMETRY



- KEY
- weed
 - - - visible extent of mortar bedding
 - i. break of structural integrity



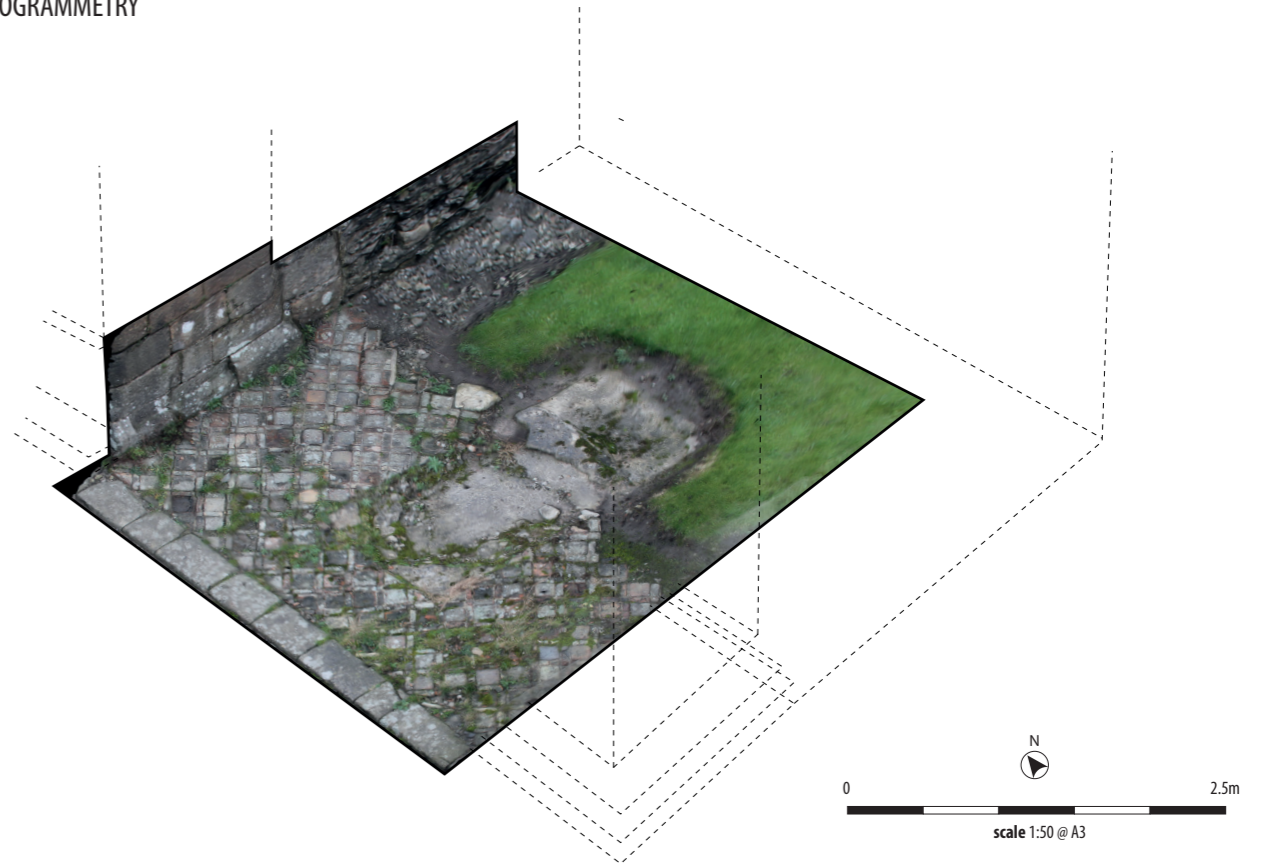
SIIRVFV

ILLUS 5 Tile floor at north transept chapel

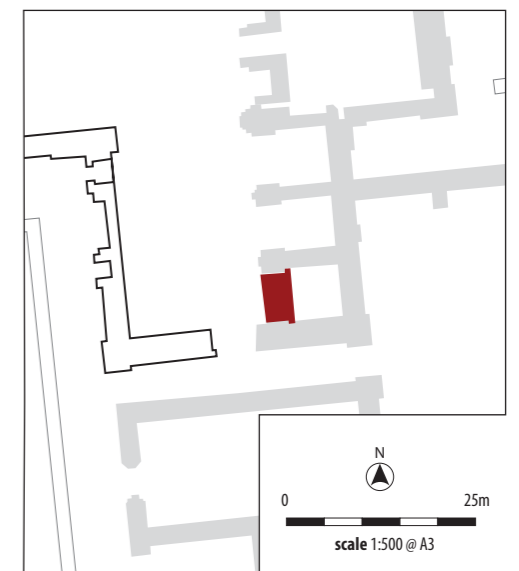
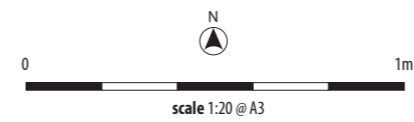


SURVEY

PHOTOGRAMMETRY



- KEY
- weed
 - - - visible extent of mortar bedding
 - ▬ break of structural integrity



ILLUS 6 Tile floor at south transept chapel

DCH/554/013— West Nave Wall Internal Elevation

Summary of consolidation works

Part of DCH/554/011 and DCH/554/012. See these for description of the works carried out on this wall.

DCH/554/014— West Transept Wall Internal Elevation (South Transept) & Night Stairs

Summary of consolidation works

Re-facing with mortar in the north part of the wall (from the arched door to the night stair first step). Wall head consolidated as required although at the time of our 4th visit the wall was covered with textile to help the stabilization of the mortar and further recording was not possible.

DCH/554/015— West Transept Wall External Elevation (South Transept)

Summary of consolidation works

Re-facing with mortar in the north part of the wall (on the south jamb of the arched door and in the fabric between the remaining dressed sandstone quoin of this access). Also in the southern part of the structure. Wall head consolidated as required although at the time of our 4th visit the wall was covered with textile to help the stabilization of the mortar and we could not record further.

DCH/554/016— Sacristy Wall South Elevation

Summary of consolidation works

Re-facing with mortar in the north part of the wall (on the south jamb of the arched door and in the fabric between the remaining dressed sandstone quoin of this access). Also in the southern part of the structure. Wall head consolidated as required although at the time of our 4th visit the wall was covered with textile to help the stabilization of the mortar and we could not record further.

DCH/554/017— South Transept Wall East Elevation (South Transept)

Summary of consolidation works

Re-facing with mortar in the north part of the wall (on the south jamb of the arched door and in the fabric between the remaining dressed sandstone quoin of this access). Also in the southern part of the structure. Wall head consolidated as required although at the

time of our 4th visit the wall was covered with textile to help the stabilization of the mortar and we could not record further.

DCH/554/018— South Transept Wall Internal Elevation (South Transept)

Summary of consolidation works

Re-facing with mortar of the bed joints of the north part of the wall (on the south jamb of the arched door and in the fabric between the remaining dressed sandstone quoin of this access). Also in the southern part of the structure. Wall head consolidated as required although at the time of our 4th visit the wall was covered with textile to help the stabilization of the mortar and we could not record further.

5.2 TILE FLOOR RECORDING

Two areas of unglazed fired hand-made ceramic tiles floor survive in the north and south areas of the transept (ILLUS 2/3/4).

Method

The current condition of the floors was recorded and surveyed using photogrammetry and data collection on site, as required by English Heritage to assess the need for future consolidation.

The two surviving areas of tiling both form rectangular areas of approximately 3.20 m x 3.00 m each. The geometric design is formed from square tiles (0.12 m x 0.12 m) surrounded by rectangular tiles separated by smaller square shaped pieces of (0.03 m x 0.03 m). The tiles are c. 0.025 m. in height.

North Transept Chapel

The tiles in the north chapel are mostly well bonded to the bedding and each other. Weeds are breaking through the joints across the area. The areas where the tiles are against the walls and the edges are in the poorest condition, with abundant loose tiles and signs of disintegration in the bedding mortar. (ILLUS 05).

South Transept Chapel

The tile paving in this chapel presented a worst general state of preservation that that of the north transept chapel. The tiles are disintegrating at the edges and sides of the paving surface with very loose tiles in the north-west. The tiles are heavily worn out and weeds are badly cracking apart the tiles and bedding with abundant loose debris evident. (ILLUS 06)

6 DISCUSSION

The written and photographic record of the consolidation works reported here have recorded this phase of repair works at Sawley Abbey. The recording of the sections of tile floor will be used as a reference to determine the scope of future works to be carried out at the abbey.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Andrews, D Blake, B Clowes, M and Wilson, K 1995 *The Survey and Recording of Historic Buildings* Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors Technical Paper No 12, Oxford
- Curl, J S 1999 *Dictionary of Architecture* Oxford University Press Oxford
- English Heritage 2003 *Measured and Drawn Techniques and practice for the metric survey of historic buildings* English Heritage Swindon.
- English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings A guide to good recording practice* English Heritage Swindon
- English Heritage 2015 *Sawley Abbey – Written Scheme of Investigation for Consolidation Repairs Phase 2*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 *Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures* (revised edition)
- RCHME 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings – A Descriptive Specification* (3rd Edition) Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England Swindon
- Sawley Abbey, A Celebration of 850 Years* by The Heritage Trust for the North West, a booklet produced in 1997
- Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 'Sawley Abbey: the architecture and archaeology of a smaller Cistercian abbey', article by Coppack, G Hayfield, C Williams, R 155, 2003 pp 22–114
- Vol 5 No 15/2000, 54. Council for British Archaeology Group 5: *Archaeology north-west: the bulletin of CBA North West Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 20, 1909 pp 454–60

8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 PHOTO REGISTER

Photo	Facing	Description
SACL-01-001	E	DCH/554/004 West Transept Wall- External Elevation (North Transept), prior to consolidation works
SACL-01-002	N	DCH/554/005 West Transept Wall Internal Elevation (North Transept), prior to consolidation works
SACL-01-003	E	DCH/554/006 North Elevation of the Chapel Wall before consolidation works
SACL-01-004	W	DCH/554/007-01 West Nave Wall Internal Elevation before consolidation works
SACL-01-005	NW	DCH/554/008- Early Choir Wall West Elevation before consolidation works
SACL-01-006	E	DCH/554/009 North Early Choir Wall Existing North Elevation before consolidation works
SACL-01-007	NE	DCH/554/010 West Transept Wall Internal Elevation (North Transept) before consolidation works
SACL-01-008	NE	DCH/554/011 South Early Choir Wall Existing South Elevation
SACL-01-009	NE	DCH/554/012 South Early Choir Wall North Elevation before consolidation works
SACL-01-010	NE	DCH/554/013 West Nave Wall Internal Elevation before consolidation works
SACL-01-011	NE	DCH/554/014 West Transept Wall Internal Elevation (South Transept) & Night Stairs before consolidation works
SACL-01-012	W	DCH/554/015-01 West Transept Wall External Elevation (South Transept) before consolidation works
SACL-01-013	NE	DCH/554/016 Sacristy Wall South Elevation before consolidation works
SACL-01-014	W	DCH/554/017 South Transept Wall East Elevation (South Transept) before consolidation works
SACL-01-015	NW	DCH/554/018 South Transept Wall Internal Elevation (South Transept) before consolidation works
SACL-01-016	SE	General shot of the early stage of consolidation works
SACL-01-017	NW	General shot of the early stage of consolidation works

Photo	Facing	Description
SACL-01-018	–	DCH/554/004, removal of loose debris on wall head
SACL-01-019	–	DCH/554/004, removal of loose debris on wall head and rebuilding
SACL-01-020	–	DCH/554/004, first stages of wall head rebuilding
SACL-01-021	S	DCH/554/004, wall head prior to consolidation works
SACL-01-022	W	DCH/554/004, details of rebuilding in wall head
SACL-01-023	W	DCH/554/004, rebuilding works in south end of wall
SACL-01-024	SW	DCH/554/004, details of rebuilding in north end of wall
SACL-01-025	NW	DCH/554/004, details of rebuilding in upper area of buttress
SACL-01-026	–	DCH/554/005, rebuilding works in south end of wall
SACL-01-027	–	DCH/554/005, details of rebuilding in wall face
SACL-01-028	S	DCH/554/004, wall head ready to receive soft capping
SACL-01-029	S	DCH/554/004, detail of rebuilt facing in upper area of buttress
SACL-01-030	NE	DCH/554/004, detail of rebuilt facing in upper area of corner buttress
SACL-01-031	N	DCH/554/004, detail of rebuilt facing in upper area of wall.
SACL-01-032	W	DCH/554/004, consolidation works concluded
SACL-01-033	NW	DCH/554/006, late stage of consolidation works
SACL-01-034	E	DCH/554/007 & DCH/554/013 after the consolidation works
SACL-01-035	S	DCH/554/006- North Elevation of the chapel wall after consolidation works
SACL-01-036	NE	DCH/554/011 South Early Choir Wall Existing South Elevation after consolidation works
SACL-01-037	SW	DCH/554/009 North Early Choir Wall Existing North Elevation after consolidation works
SACL-01-038	W	DCH/554/007 West Nave Wall Internal Elevation wall head consolidated
SACL-01-039	W	DCH/554/016 South Transept Wall East Elevation (South Transept) after consolidation works
SACL-01-040	W	DCH/554/015-01 Detail of arch in West Transept Wall External Elevation (South Transept) after consolidation works

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

1



2



3



4

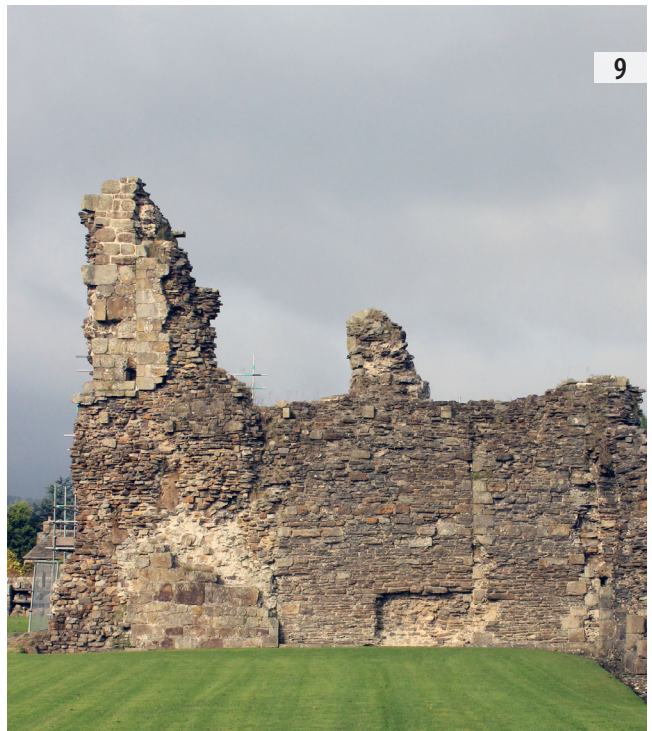


5



6













29



30



31



32



33







SOUTH & EAST

Headland Archaeology
Building 68C, Wrest Park, Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

01525 861 578

southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

MIDLANDS & WEST

Headland Archaeology
Unit 1, Clearview Court, Twyford Road
Hereford HR2 6JR

01432 364 901

midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

NORTH

Headland Archaeology
Unit 16, Hillside, Beeston Road
Leeds LS11 8ND

0113 387 6430

north@headlandarchaeology.com

SCOTLAND

Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705

scotland@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com