

SHAP/01



SHAP ABBEY, PENRITH, CUMBRIA

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

commissioned by English Heritage

March 2016

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project info

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PARISH Shap
LOCAL AUTHORITY Cumbria County Council
OASIS REF. headland1-244736

project team

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APPROVED BY Candy Hatherley – Project Manager



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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake historic building recording of a section of cemetery wall located at the river bank at Shap Abbey prior to stabilisation and consolidation repairs. In addition a dGPS survey and photogrammetrical record of the flooring of the cloister and paving within the nave was undertaken to assist with the on-going conservation work at the abbey.

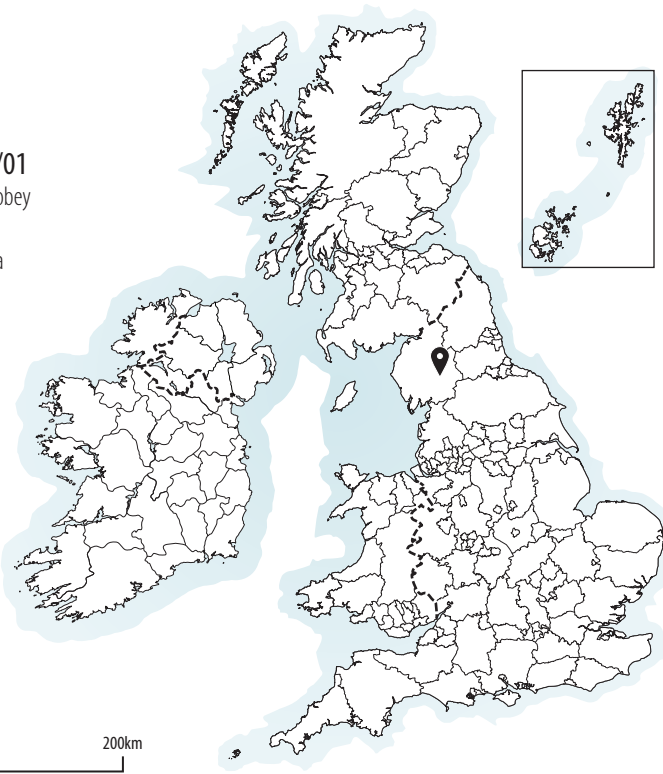
CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
3	AIMS & OBJECTIVES	1
4	METHODOLOGY	1
	4.1 SITE WORKS	1
	4.2 RECORDING	1
	4.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES	1
5	RESULTS	2
	5.1 CEMETERY WALL	2
	5.2 CLOISTER WALKS	2
	5.3 NAVE STONE PAVEMENT	2
6	BIBLIOGRAPHY	2
7	APPENDICES	2
	APPENDIX 1 PHOTO REGISTER	2

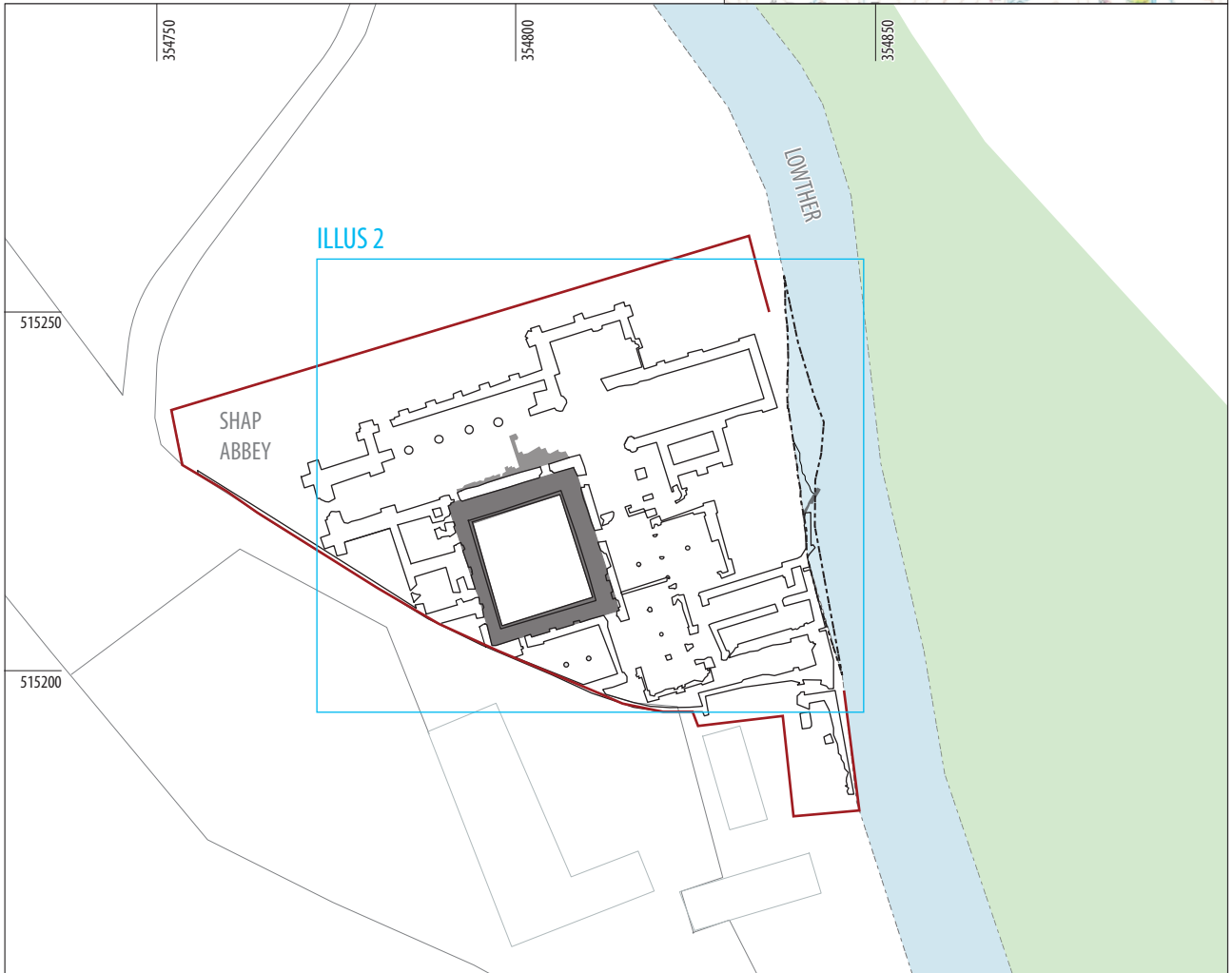
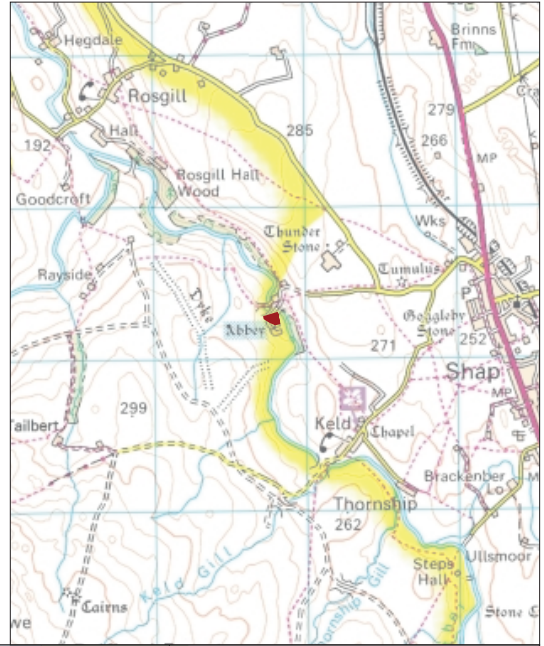
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION	VIII
ILLUS 2 SITE PLAN	3
ILLUS 3 CLOISTER WALKS FLOORING: CONCRETE AREAS	5
ILLUS 4 CEMETERY WALL RECORDED	7
ILLUS 5 STONE PAVEMENT IN NAVE WITH CIRCULAR MARKS	9
ILLUS 6 CEMETERY WALL	10
ILLUS 7 CLOISTER - PHOTOGRAMMETRY	10
ILLUS 8 NAVE FLOOR	11
ILLUS 9 INSCRIBED CIRCLE ON THE NAVE STONE PAVEMENT	11

SHAP/01
 Shap Abbey
 Shap
 Cumbria

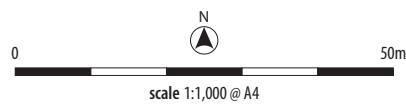


0 200km



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- KEY
- site boundary
 - recorded area
 - river bank erosion



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ILLUS 1 Site location

SHAP ABBEY, PENRITH, CUMBRIA

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake historic building recording of a section of walling located at the river bank at Shap Abbey prior to stabilisation and consolidation repairs. In addition a dGPS survey and photogrammetrical record of the cloister and nave flooring was undertaken to assist with the on-going conservation work at the abbey.

This report provides the descriptive and photographic record of this work (ILLUS 2-7). The results of the survey have been placed onto an accompanying CD.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located at National Grid Ref NY 54789 15261 (Illus 1) and is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (No. 23690).

Shap Abbey is located in the valley of the river Lowther, around 1.5km west of the village of Shap, Cumbria. It was dedicated to St Mary Magdalene and founded in the late 12th century as a Premonstratensian house, enjoying a prosperous existence until the suppression of monastic orders on the 16th century. Since then belonging to the Lowther family who in 1948 placed the site into the Guardianship of the state.

Some relevant features of the site are the 15th century tower at the west end of the church and the fragments of stone pavement surviving in the nave, with traces of incised circles related to the location of the canons for Sunday liturgy. (ILLUS 5)

3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

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

- to fully record the masonry located along the existing river bank to comply with the conditions of the Scheduled Monument Consent.

- to fully record with dGPS and photogrammetry the cloister and nave flooring. The methodology of recording was agreed with English Heritage's Property Curator on site.
- on completion of the project, produce detailed CAD drawings, written report and photographic record.

4 METHODOLOGY

Using the general standards set out by English Heritage (2006), a Level 1 historic building survey was undertaken. This report 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 and present the results of the dGPS survey and photogrammetrical record. The work was undertaken to a methodology set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (English Heritage 2015). Plans of the building were provided by the client which have been used as base for the illustrations produced here. In the case of the cemetery wall, due to the dangerous conditions of the collapsed river bank, measurements were taken from a safe distance.

4.1 SITE WORKS

Site work was undertaken by the author on the 8th of February 2016.

4.2 RECORDING

All aspects of the work were undertaken in accordance with the current relevant Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures of the CIfA.

4.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

The results of the works are presented below. Geo-referenced CAD files of each area detailed below are included in an accompanying CD.

A summary report has been prepared for submission to English Heritage and an entry has been made in the OASIS database (headland1-244736).

5 RESULTS

5.1 CEMETERY WALL

Part of the abbey's cemetery wall to the east of the Chapter House has been affected by the continuous erosion of the bank of the River Lowther (ILLUS 4). A section of approximately 2.66m in length is now located immediately adjacent to the river and is severely affected by the water and stability of the bank (ILLUS 6).

The wall was recorded as a photogrammetric model and the measurements added from the survey data, thus obtaining a geo-referenced model which served to produce the illustrations presented here.

5.2 CLOISTER WALKS

Concrete located between the stone paving along the cloister walks is deteriorated. The walk was recorded with dGPS and a photogrammetrical record produced (ILLUS 3 & 7)

5.3 NAVE STONE PAVEMENT

Inscribed circles surviving on the stone pavement of the nave were also recorded by dGPS survey and photogrammetry (ILLUS 5 & 8).

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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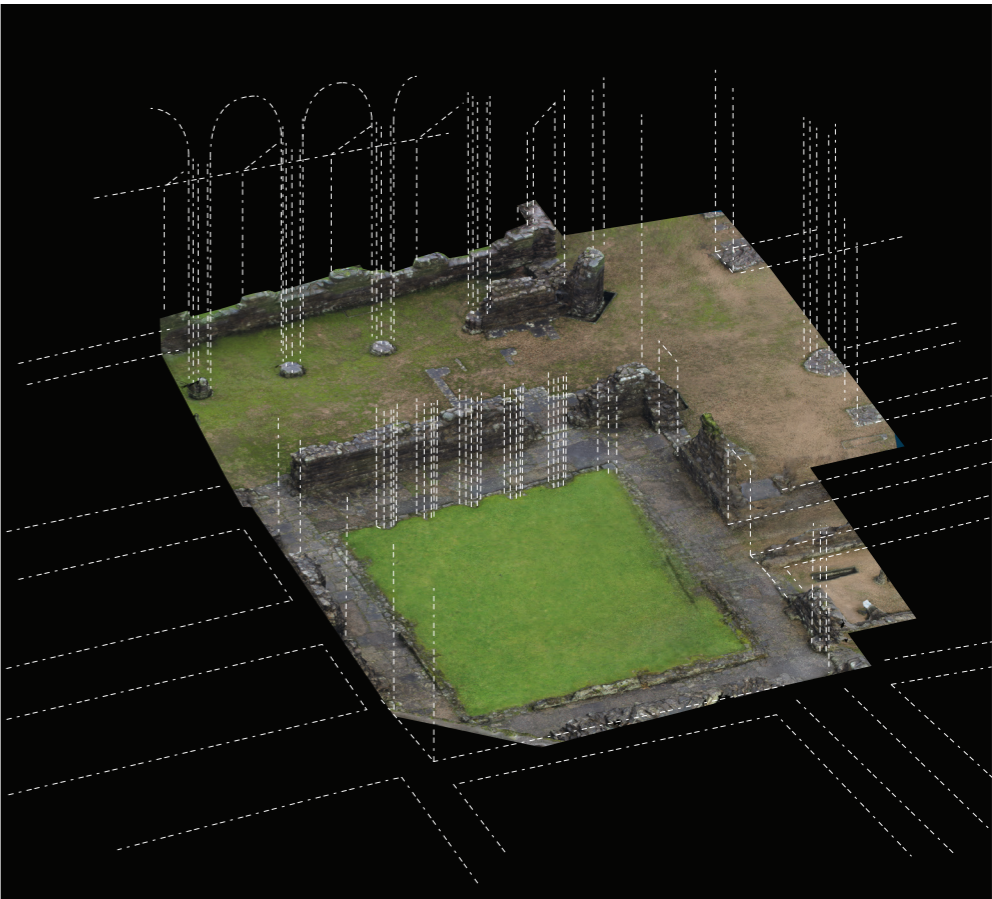
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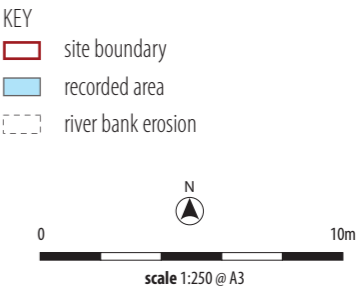
7 APPENDICES

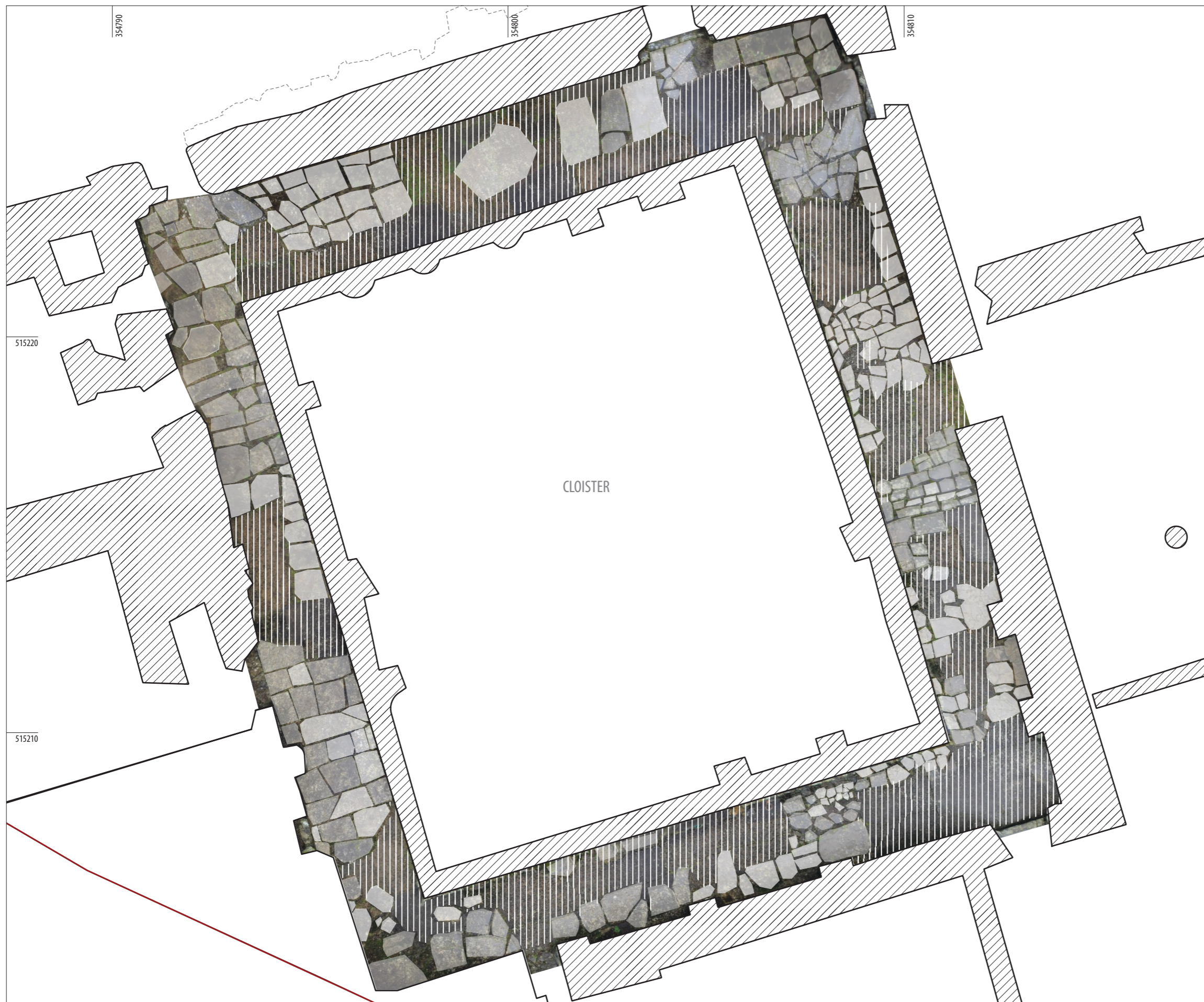
APPENDIX 1 PHOTO REGISTER

Photo	Facing	Description
SHAP-01-001	SE	Cemetery wall in the river bank
SHAP-01-002	E	Cemetery wall in the river bank
SHAP-01-003	SE	Cemetery wall in the river bank
SHAP-01-004	SE	Cemetery wall in the river bank
SHAP-01-005	NE	Alignment of the cemetery wall in the river bank
SHAP-01-006	NE	Alignment of the cemetery wall in the river bank
SHAP-01-007	E	General view of the river bank area
SHAP-01-008	S	East walk of cloister
SHAP-01-009	W	General view of the stone pavement in nave
SHAP-01-010	NE	Detail of the one of the inscribed circles on the stone pavement in nave
SHAP-01-011	NE	Detail of the one of the inscribed circles on the stone pavement in nave
SHAP-01-012	W	Detail of the one of the inscribed circles on the stone pavement in nave
SHAP-01-013	NE	Detail of the one of the inscribed circles on the stone pavement in nave
SHAP-01-014	W	Detail of the one of the inscribed circles on the stone pavement in nave
SHAP-01-015 to 580	NW	Photo serie for photogrammetry



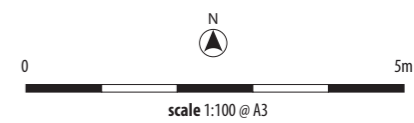
PHOTOGRAMMETRY/ CLOISTER & NAVE



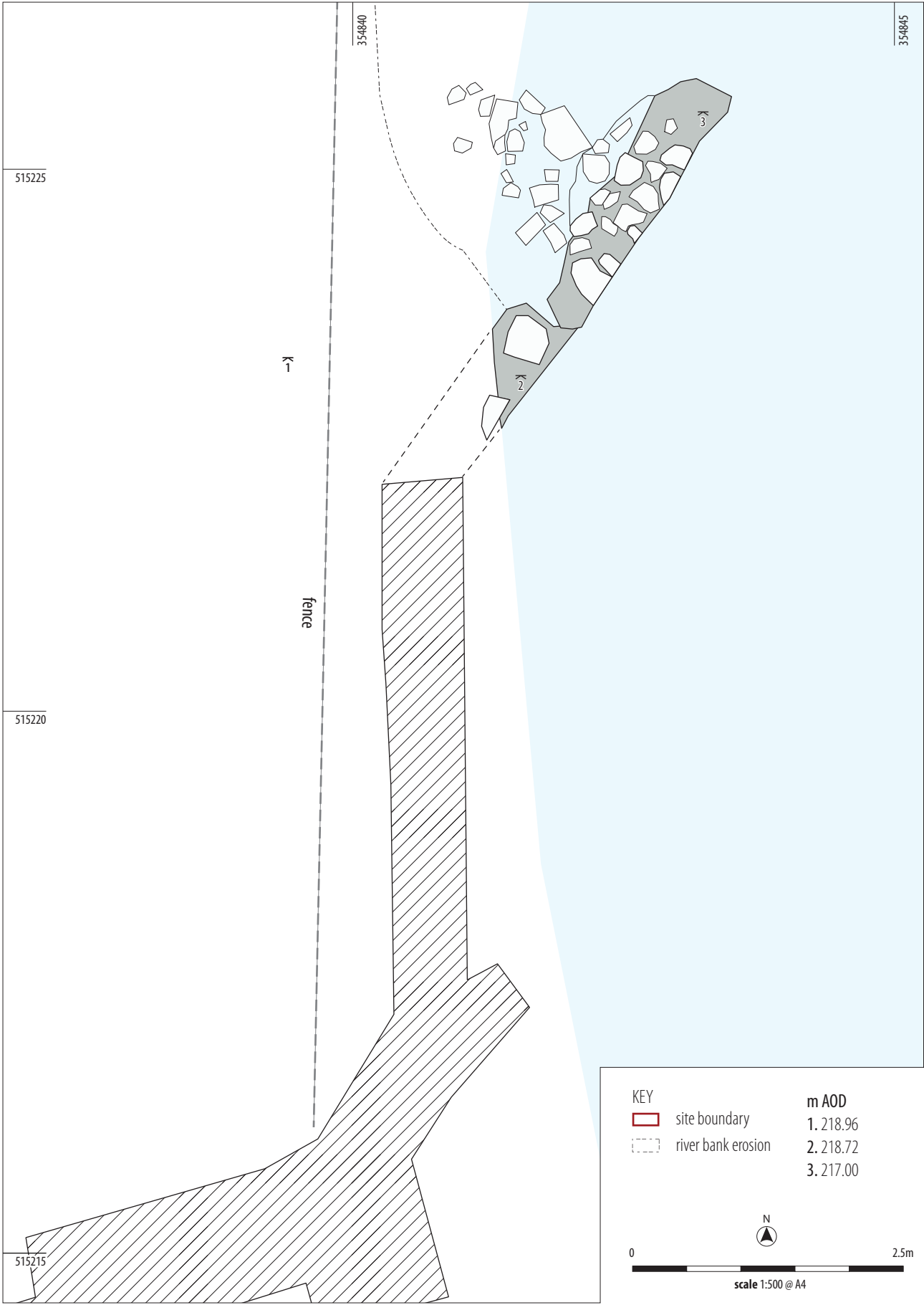


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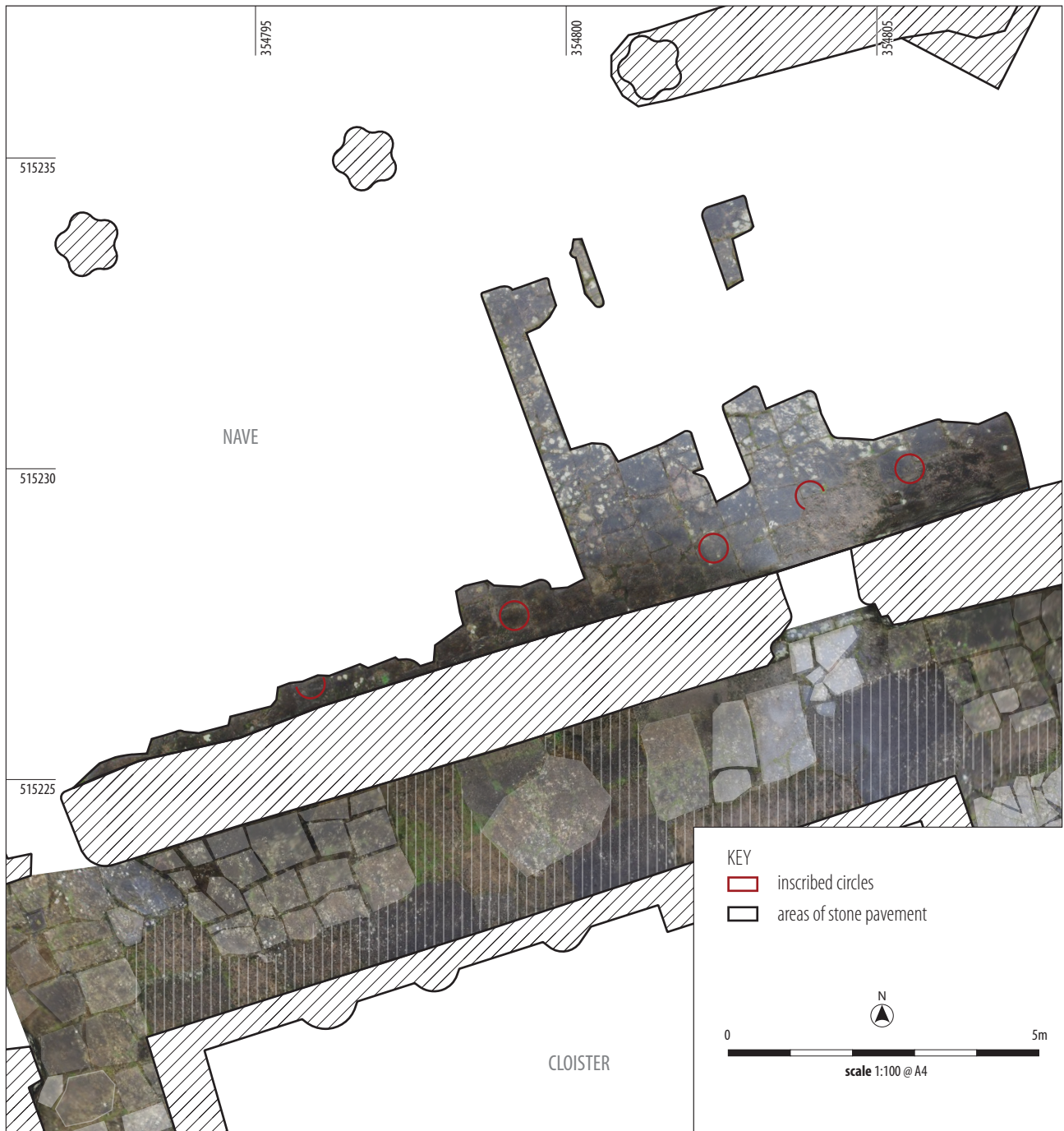
- site boundary
- concrete flooring
- nave stone pavement



ILLUS 3 Cloister walks flooring: concrete areas



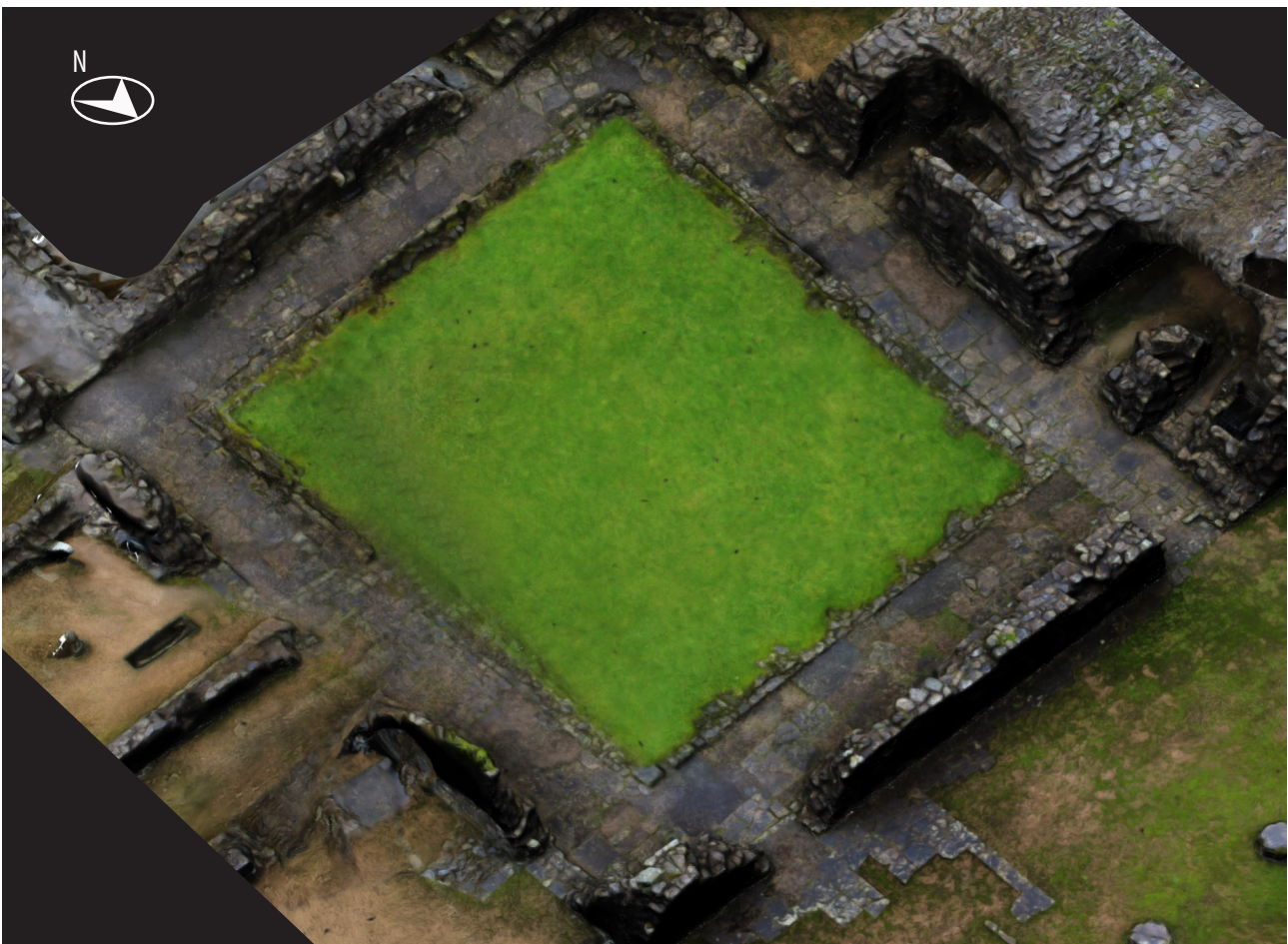
ILLUS 4 Cemetery wall



ILLUS 5 Stone pavement in nave with circular marks



ILLUS 6 Cemetery wall



ILLUS 7 Cloister - Photogrammetry



ILLUS 8 Nave floor



ILLUS 9 Inscribed circle on the nave stone pavement



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