

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on land  
at the rear of 27 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex.**

**Planning Refs: LW/11/0439/NP & LW/11/0440/NP**

**NGR: 542182 110361  
(TQ 42182 10361)**

**Project No: 4912  
Site Code: MSL 11**

**ASE Report No. 2011195  
OASIS id: archaeo16-107358**

**Dylan Hopkinson MA  
With contributions by  
Luke Barber, Sarah Porteus, Elke Raemen, and Lucy Sibun**

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***Abstract***

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South East at 27 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex. The work was undertaken on 20th and 21st of June 2011 on behalf of Jo Lamb during the groundwork for the construction of a studio / workshop in the rear garden of the property and on the site of a former dilapidated ancillary outbuilding that had been demolished and removed.

The underlying natural substrate was encountered within the deeper foundation trenches at a depth of 0.80m below current ground level in the east and 0.50m below current ground level in the west of the site.

Part of the foundations of the demolished outbuilding were identified but no further archaeological features were identified.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), was commissioned by Jo Lamb (property owner and developer) to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at 27 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex, henceforth referred to as 'the site'. The site was centred at NGR 542182 110361, (Fig. 1.)

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site was located in Cliffe, immediately to the east of the chalk cliffs through which the Cuilfail Tunnel is cut and is bounded to the north and south by residential properties, immediately to the west lies the main property to which the site formed the gardens.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 sheet (319/334 Lewes and Eastbourne) shows that the site lies on Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, composed of hard to very hard nodular chalks with interbedded soft to medium hard chalks and marls. It is bordered to the west by New Pit Chalk Formations - principally blocky, white firm to moderately hard chalk with bedded marls.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning applications have been submitted for the alterations to the existing dwelling on the site, including the demolition and reconstruction of a brick outbuilding to the rear (Planning References LW/11/0439/NP; LW/11/0440/NP).

1.3.2 An archaeological Interpretive Survey of the existing buildings has already been undertaken (ASE in prep.).

1.3.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist at East Sussex County Council, in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Lewes District Council, stipulated that archaeological monitoring and recording of intrusive groundworks associated with the development was required (watching brief).

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for this archaeological monitoring was compiled by Archaeology South-East with reference to the East Sussex Standards (ESCC 2008) and was submitted to the Assistant County Archaeologist ESCC for his approval prior to commencement of works (WSI 2011). All work was carried out in accordance with these documents and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was:

- To properly record and report on all archaeological remains and deposits

exposed during the work.

1.4.2 Specific aims were:

- To identify any features relating to the post-medieval occupation of the house
- To identify any earlier phases of land-use such as prehistoric field systems, Roman roadside settlement and Anglo-Saxon burials

**1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation and watching brief undertaken by Dylan Hopkinson, between the 20th and 21st of June 2011. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Prehistoric**

- 2.1.1 A complex of prehistoric sites, comprising barrows dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age are located to the east of Lewes. There are no known prehistoric sites in Cliffe.

### **2.2 Roman**

- 2.2.2 Lewes is located near two major Roman roads and several excavations within Lewes have revealed Roman remains although there are no known sites within Cliffe. In the Ouse Valley is the site of a Roman villa (Barcombe villa, approximately 4km north of the site), the eastern most one of three located just south of Greensand Way between Hassock and the Ouse Valley. The villa seems to have its origin in the Late Iron Age or early Roman period and started with timber built circular houses of typical indigenous styles. This is followed by the construction of rectangular building with masonry foundations which in turn was replaced by a more elaborate masonry structure in the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD. The site was abandoned about 300 AD perhaps as a consequence of being vulnerable to coastal raids extending up the Ouse.

### **2.3 Saxon and Medieval**

- 2.3.1 In the 10<sup>th</sup> Century Lewes was created as a Burghal Hidage fort, one of a series of forts forming a defensive line against Viking raids. Lewes was also the home of Lewes Priory founded in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century and of Lewes Friary established about 150 years later on the banks of the River Ouse. The town and its religious houses would have had considerable influence on the surrounding area. Soon after the Norman Conquest, Sussex was divided into four administrative units known as Rapes, one of which was centred on Lewes. Lewes Castle was one of eleven sites fortified by AD 1100. There are no known sites of this period in the immediate vicinity. Lewes developed as three administratively separate towns during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries: the High Street, the Southover district and Cliffe. A bridge is recorded crossing the River Ouse at Lewes in 1159. It is likely that by the 14<sup>th</sup> century Cliffe High Street was fully built on a rammed chalk causeway.

### **2.4 Post-Medieval**

- 2.3.1 There is very little information available regarding the development of the Cliffe riverside area. Early maps of the town of Lewes (1620) do not provide any details of buildings beyond Cliffe High Street. It is, however, likely that structures such as timber wharves would have lined either side of the river. Improvements along the River Ouse in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century included the construction of a 'New Haven' at the mouth of the river which acted as a catalyst for commercial activities along the riverside at Lewes. The River Ouse was canalised at Lewes in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Later 18<sup>th</sup> century maps demonstrate the earliest evidence for riverside buildings encroaching south-eastwards from the bridge crossing.
- 2.3.2 The watching brief is in the garden behind the 15<sup>th</sup> century house, and this is an area where features and finds relating to back-plot activity such as boundary ditches and rubbish pits are likely to be located.

- 2.3.3 The extensive urban survey of Lewes identified Cliffe as developing irregular land divisions or property plots in the late medieval period as ribbon developments along the road ways leading out of Lewes. This site appears to be first developed in the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century along with much of the eastern side of Cliffe (Harris 2005).



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Summary of methodology**

- 3.1.1 An archaeological watching brief strategy was adopted in accordance with the East Sussex Standards (2008).
- 3.1.2 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using standard pro-forma context record sheets.
- 3.1.3 Archaeological structures, features and deposits exposed or excavated were planned at 1:20 and in relation to Ordnance Survey maps. The stratigraphy was also drawn in section at 1:10. All site drawings were made on drafting film.
- 3.1.4 A full photographic record was maintained using digital cameras, and where significant features were encountered they were photographed on both colour and black and white film.

Watching Brief Record Sheets	2
Context Register Sheets	1
Number of Contexts	6
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheet
Photographic Register Sheets	1
Photographs	14 digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive.

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Ground reduction (Figs 2 and 4)

- 4.1.1 The topography of the garden was moderately sloping from the east down to the west, and over the 9.00m length of the excavation dropped by in height 0.45m.
- 4.1.2 Ground level was reduced by a maximum of 0.65m in the eastern extent of the development and the level acquired was carried to the west over a distance of 6.55m where the slope of the ground resulted in a level 0.30m below current ground level.
- 4.1.3 At this point the base level of the internal area was stepped down by 0.20m reaching 0.50m below ground level, and the new level of reduction was continued westwards for a distance of 2.45m; here the slope of the ground meant that the excavation ended 0.40m below the ground level in the west.

### 4.2 Foundation trench (Figs 2 and 4)

- 4.2.1 A foundation trench was excavated along the northern, eastern and western sides of the excavation. This was up to 0.60 wide and 0.35m deeper than the area reduction.

### 4.3 Summary of stratigraphic sequence (Figs 3 and 4)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
001	Deposit	Garden Soil	Trench	Trench.	0.55 m
002	Masonry	Brick Wall	4.20 m	0.22 m	0.065 m
003	Deposit	Disturbed Natural	Trench	Trench	0.52 m
004	Deposit	Natural	Trench	Trench	N/A
005	Masonry	Flint Wall Foundations	5.50 m	0.35 m	0.25 m
006	Cut	Wall Foundation Cut	6.50 m	0.35 m	0.48 m

Table 2 - List of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 The natural deposit was identified within the deeper foundation trenches at a depth of 0.80m below current ground level in the east and 0.50m below current ground level in the west. This was a compact mid brown silty clay with very frequent medium sized chalk pieces [004].
- 4.2.2 Overlying the natural was a deposit of disturbed natural or subsoil [003], this was a firm silty clay with common small limestone pieces and occasional flecks of CBM. This ranged in depth between 0.35m and 0.55m.
- 4.2.3 A final deposit of mid greyish brown sandy silt sealed the sequence [001]. This contained large quantities of brick and tile of 18th to 19th century date and occasional limestone pieces, a number of sherds of pottery were also recovered which suggest a date of between c.1800 and 1820. Butchered cattle bones and part of an early post-medieval bone comb were also recovered. This rubble levelling layer was up to 0.55m deep in the east and reduced in thickness to the west.

- 4.2.4 A wall foundation extended into the site from the east within a cut [006] that had been cut through deposit [001]. This was observed over a distance of 6.50m within the excavation and was 0.35m wide and 0.50m in depth.
- 4.2.5 Foundations lay at the base of the cut and comprised mid brown silty clay with frequent limestone pieces and common flint nodules 0.25m thick [005].
- 4.2.6 A brick wall base survived over the flinty foundations at the eastern extent of the excavation and continued to the east for 3.80m. The wall [002] was constructed from bricks measuring 0.22m long, 0.115m width and 0.065m in height and had been bonded with mortar; these were likely to be of 17th to 19th century date. The wall had been robbed within the excavation area and small pieces of masonry survived within the cut at the eastern edge of the excavation; while the rubble deposit [001] had collapsed in within the zone of robbing sealing the flinty foundations.
- 4.2.7 No archaeological features were identified cutting the natural within the newly excavated foundations. The natural was not observed over the main area of ground reduction within the building footprint and generally remained beneath 0.20 to 0.30m of the disturbed natural silty clay subsoil [003].

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from deposit [001] and also a brick sample from wall [002]. An overview can be found in Table 3. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently counted, weighed and bagged by context and by material. In addition, a fragmentary comb (wt <2g) was assigned a unique registered find number (RF <1>) and was recorded and packed individually. None of the finds require further conservation.

5.1.2 Table 3: Quantification of the finds

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	A. Bone	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
1	12	912	1	374	5	456	6	24
2			1	3560				

### 5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered 12 sherds of pottery from context [1]. The assemblage consists of large fresh sherds measuring up to 150mm across suggesting the material has not been subjected to repeated reworking. The material can all be placed between c. 1780 and 1820, however, the latest pieces suggest a deposition date of between c. 1800 and 1820.

5.2.2 The majority of the group consists of local glazed red earthenwares, all of which are finely glazed and finished (6/713g). Forms include a large dish (over 400mm diameter) with rounded club rim, a bowl/jar (base), a chamber pot base (with handle scar) and an out-turned rim from a steep-sided bowl (160mm diameter). There are two sherds (34g) of creamware, including a rim from a 180mm diameter bowl/chamber pot and a single sherd (39g) of plain pearlware, again, from a bowl/chamber pot. There is also the rectangular base from a transfer-printed tureen (52g) with willow pattern printing and a bodysherd from a yellow ware vessel with blue dendritic pattern on a white slipped band. The final sherd is from a Chinese porcelain plate decorated with hand-painted blue and orange/red floral design.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 Context [001] contained a single piece of peg tile with diamond peg hole and complete width of 150mm, the fabric of the peg tile was entirely vitrified and over fired the fragment is of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A brick sample from wall [002], was unfrogged with sharp arises and even fine sanding, a loose sandy lime mortar was adhering to the brick. The brick was in a red sandy fabric with sparse coarse quartz and was of 230 by 110 by 64mm dimensions and likely to be of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### 5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 Six unmarked and undecorated clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments were recovered from deposit [001]. The three earliest fragments date to c. 1660-1720. The remaining pieces date between c. 1750 and 1910.

**5.5 The Bone Comb** by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A one-piece double-sided bone comb was recovered from deposit [001]. The piece is incomplete with one straight end surviving. Only one tooth remains in situ but as the end tapers towards the teeth, it is likely the teeth would have tapered towards the middle. The comb, which is undecorated, could date anywhere between the late medieval and later post-medieval period, however, an early post-medieval date is likely (MacGregor 1985, 81-82).

**5.6 Animal Bone** by Lucy Sibun

- 5.6.1 The watching brief recovered five fragments of bone all identified as cattle or cattle-sized. These included rib shafts and longbone fragments from both adult and immature animals. A rib shaft had been sawn through, the distal articulation had been chopped off a juvenile distal humerus and the distal articulation of an adult femur had been chopped through.

**6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1** The foundations and wall identified correspond closely with the plan of the outbuilding that had been previously demolished prior to the archaeological monitoring.
- 6.2** Observations on site show that the outbuilding extended further to the east than identified in the survey presented in the WSI (ASE 2011), and that it was likely to have been constructed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.3** The strategy of archaeological monitoring was successful; however no archaeological remains were identified relating to earlier phases of land-use.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*ESCC 2008, Recommended Standard Conditions For Archaeological Fieldwork (Recording, and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control) in East Sussex*

Harris. R, 2005 *Lewes: Historic Character Assessment Report*, Sussex Extensive Urban Survey

MacGregor. A, 1985 *Bone, antler, ivory and horn. The technology of skeletal materials since the Roman period*, London: Croom Helm.

ASE 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Watching Brief – 27 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex*. Archaeology South-East

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The co-operation and assistance of Konrad Adamczewski and Jo Lamb is gratefully acknowledged as is the contribution of Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist at East Sussex District Council.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	MSL 11					
Identification Name and Address	27 Malling Street Lewes					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	542182 110361					
Geology	Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation an New Pit Chalk Formations					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4912					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief X</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	<del>Green Field</del>	<b>Shallow Urban X</b>	<del>Deep Urban</del>	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>WB. 20/06/11 to 21/06/11</b>	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Jo Lamb					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	<del>Palaeo.</del>	<del>Meso.</del>	<del>Neo.</del>	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	<b>PM X</b>	Other -Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South East at 27 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex. The work was undertaken on 20th and 21st of June 2011 on behalf of Jo Lamb during the groundwork for the construction of a studio / workshop in the rear garden of the property and on the site of a former dilapidated ancillary outbuilding that had been demolished and removed.</p> <p>The underlying natural was encountered within the deeper foundation trenches at a depth of 0.80m below current ground level in the east and 0.50m below current ground level in the west of the site.</p> <p>Part of the foundations of the demolished outbuilding were identified but no further archaeological features were identified.</p>						



**OASIS ID: archaeol6-107358**

**Project details**

Project name	Watching Brief at 27 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South East at 27 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex. The work was undertaken on 20th and 21st of June 2011 on behalf of Jo Lamb during the groundwork for the construction of a studio / workshop in the rear garden of the property and on the site of a former dilapidated ancillary outbuilding that had been demolished and removed. The underlying natural was encountered within the deeper foundation trenches at a depth of 0.80m below current ground level in the east and 0.50m below current ground level in the west of the site. Part of the foundations of the demolished outbuilding were identified but no further archaeological features were identified.
Project dates	Start: 20-06-2011 End: 21-06-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LW/11/0439/NP - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	MSL 11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LW/11/0440/NP - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Site status (other)	Site lies within the gardens of a Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES LEWES 27 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex
Postcode	BN7 2RD
Study area	65.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 42182 10361 50.8746592991 0.02110260139310 50 52 28 N 000 01 15 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.50m Max: 0.80m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	private client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Jo Lamb

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Worked bone'
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing'

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the rear of 27 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex

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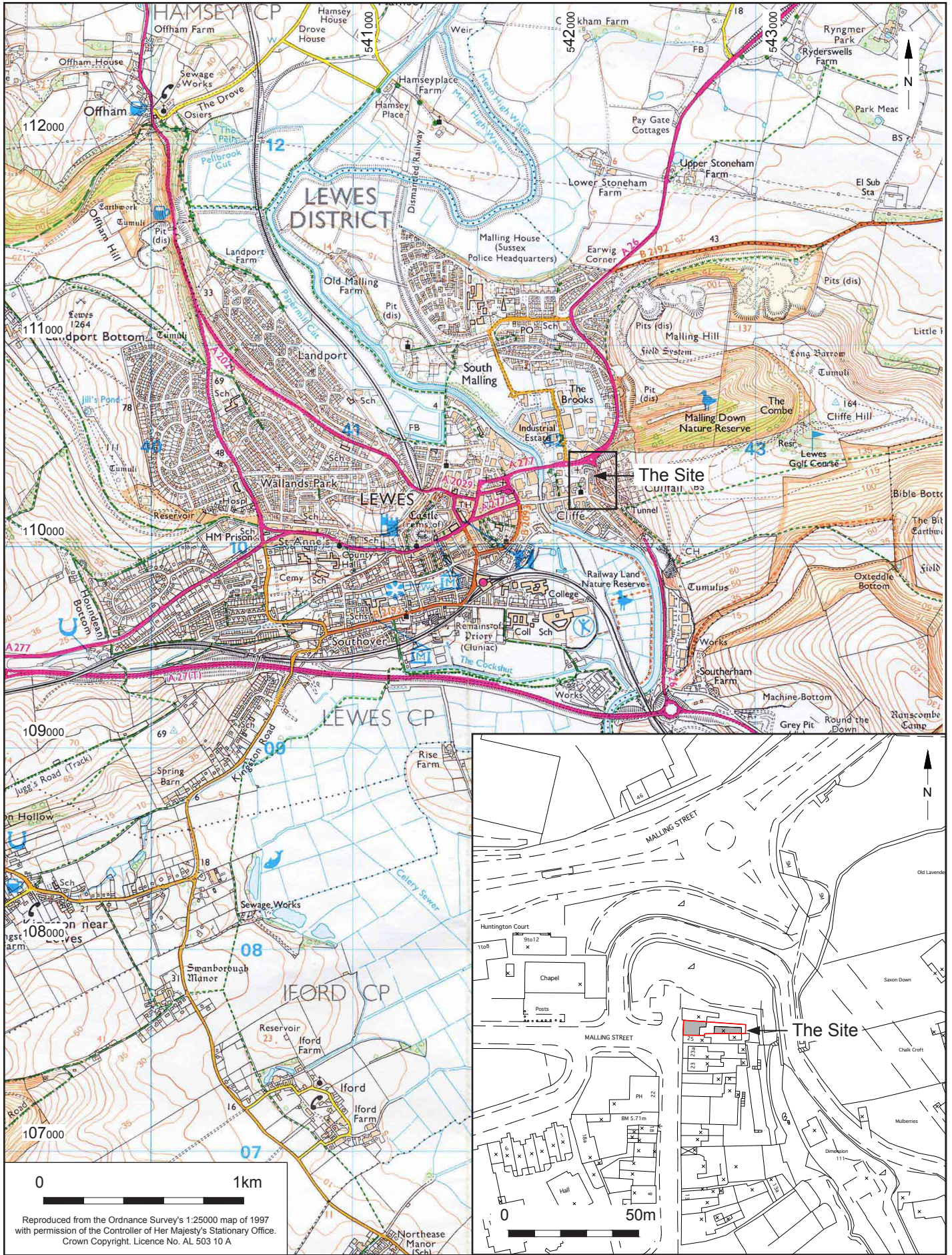
Description 18 page A4 bound with three additional illustration pages

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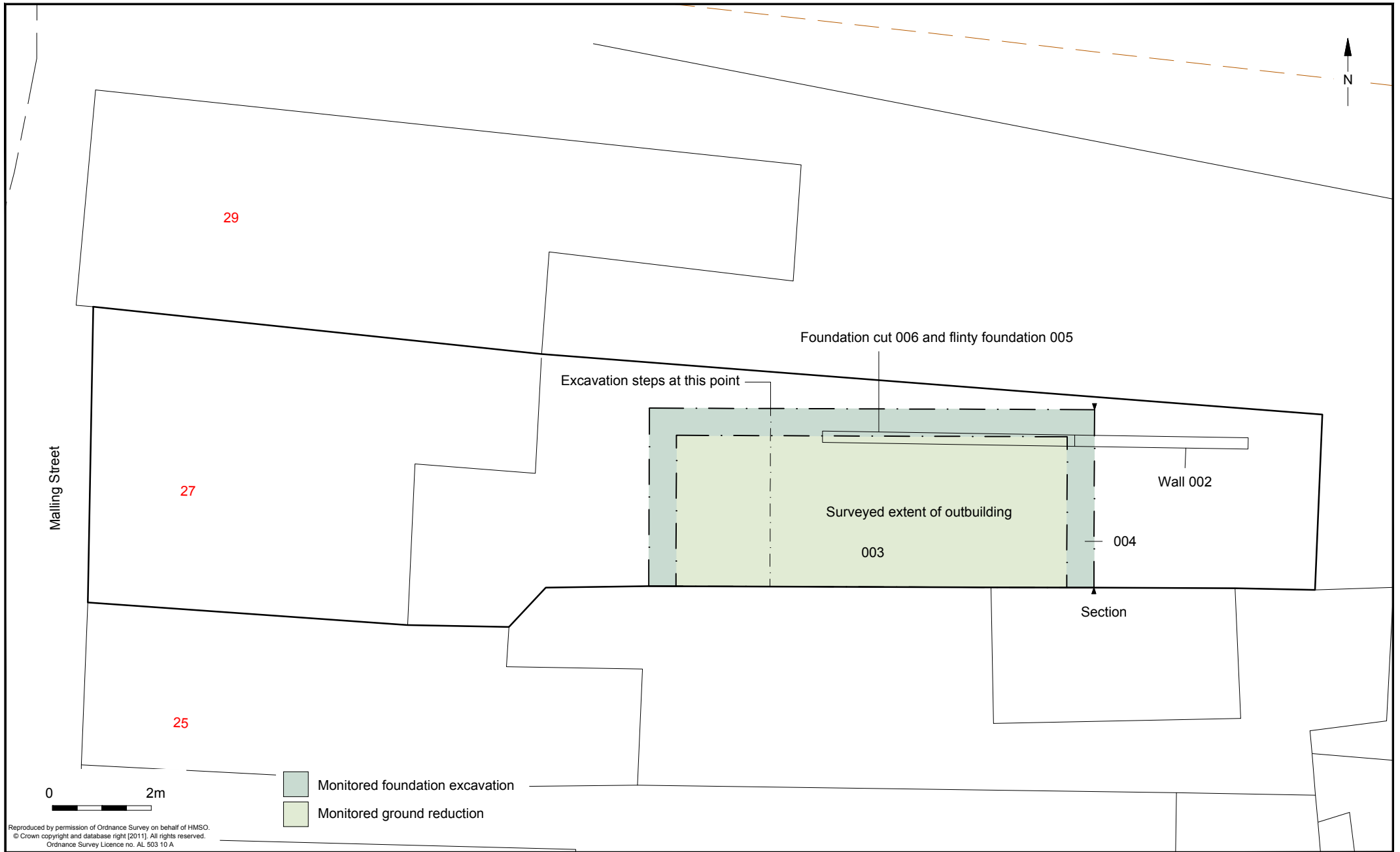




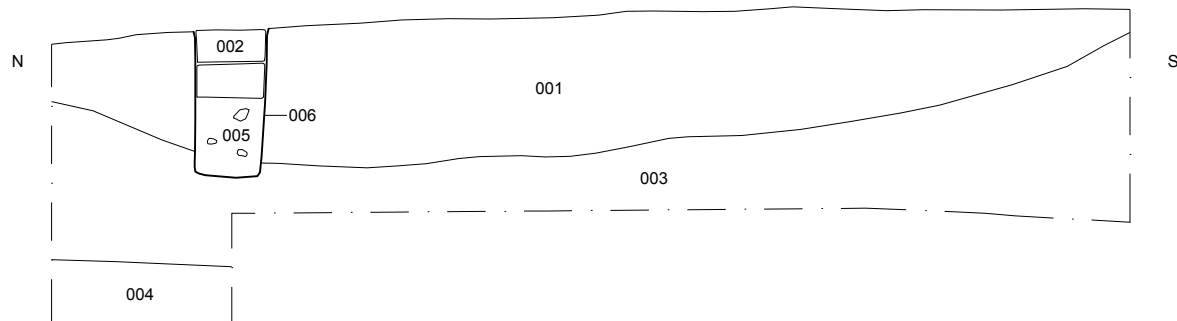
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© Archaeology South-East		27 Malling Street, Lewes		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4912	Aug 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011195	Drawn by: FEG			





© Archaeology South-East		27 Malling Street, Lewes	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4912	Aug 2011	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2011195	Drawn by: DJH		



0 0.5m

© Archaeology South-East		27 Malling Street, Lewes	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4912	Aug 2011	West facing section	
Report Ref: 2011195	Drawn by: DJH		



Wall 002 photographed looking east



Wall 002 photographed looking southeast showing continuation extending to the east



View of the eastern part of the site looking east



View of the western part of the site looking east

© Archaeology South-East		27 Malling Street, Lewes	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4912	Aug 2011	Selected photographs	
Report Ref: 2011195	Drawn by: DJH		

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