

**An Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Former Southlands Hospital Land St Giles Place  
Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham by Sea  
West Sussex**

**(NGR TQ 522600 105930)**

**ASE Project No: 4257  
Site Code: SSH10**

**ASE Report No: 2011224  
OASIS id: archaeol6-110272**

**By Alice Thorne**

**September 2011**

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was conducted by ASE over a thirteen month period during 2010-2011. The work was commissioned by CgMS Consulting. Groundworks associated with the residential development of the site were monitored in the archaeological watching brief.*

*A brick built well and chimney base relating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century/ early 20<sup>th</sup> century Steyning Union Workhouse were recorded. No archaeological remains were identified.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork relating to the redevelopment of the former site of Southlands Hospital, St Giles Place, Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham on Sea, West Sussex (NGR TQ 226 059; Fig. 1).

1.2 The site is located within the boundary of the former Southlands hospital, on the south side of Upper Shoreham Road.

1.3 Planning permission (Planning ref: ADC/0287/09) was granted to Crest Nicholson (South) Limited for the residential redevelopment of the site.

1.4 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, a condition was issued requiring that:

*No development, including any site preparation and works which will disturb the existing ground, shall take place until arrangements have been made for an archaeological "watching brief" to monitor development groundworks and to record any archaeological evidence revealed. These arrangements are to be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The development shall take place in accordance with the "watching brief" so approved. The "watching brief" shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: The site is potentially of archaeological interest and to comply with policy AB1 of the Adur District Local Plan*

1.5 Accordingly, a specification (Meager, 2010) outlining the requirements of the watching brief was prepared by CgMs Consulting.

1.6 The British Geological Survey Sheet 318/333 (Brighton and Worthing: 1984) shows the underlying drift geology of the study site to comprise Head deposits, typically silts, sands and clays. Geotechnical information obtained for the site in 2008 by JNP group indicated that substantial quantities of made ground exist across the site, ranging in depth from 0.20m to over 2m in thickness (Meager, 2010, Appendix 2).

1.7 The fieldwork was undertaken by Archaeology South-East with visits occurring between June 2010 and July 2011. Monitoring archaeologists included Nick Garland, Justin Russell, Diccon Hart, Giles Dawkes, Dan Swift, Rob Cole, John Cook, Chris Killeen, Simon Stevens and Alice Thorne. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment for the site was undertaken by Atkins Ltd on behalf of Crest Nicholson in 2009 (Atkins 2009). This document outlined the known archaeological and historic parameters of the site.
- 2.2 The western part of the site was originally developed between 1898 and 1901 as Steyning Union Workhouse, later known as the Steyning Poor Law Institution. In 1932 the entire site became Southlands Hospital, with the former workhouse buildings remaining in use until the mid 1990's. Since this time a significant proportion of the buildings have been demolished, and the remainder have fallen into dereliction (Atkins 2009: 1.1).
- 2.3 The report suggested that due to the rich archaeological context of the area the application site had potential to contain buried archaeological remains from "the medieval and all or any earlier periods" (Atkins, 2009: 5.3). The following periods were highlighted as perhaps containing the greatest potential:
- Prehistoric, particularly Bronze and Iron Age settlement and agricultural activity
  - Romano-British settlement, agricultural and industrial activity
  - Medieval or post-medieval agricultural or industrial activity
- 2.4 The report suggested that archaeological remains were most likely to survive in the undeveloped south-western portion of the site, and in open areas around and between the workhouse buildings. Truncation of the potential archaeological resource was expected in association with the workhouse and hospital buildings. There is also a suggestion that some land forming may have taken place prior to the construction of the workhouse, perhaps as a result of market gardening (Atkins 2009: 5.3).
- 2.5 The report (*ibid*) also records the presence of made ground outside the application site to the south-west, this most likely relates to levelling or disposal of excavated material following the construction of the workhouse.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The principle objective of the archaeological monitoring was to record any archaeological artefacts and ecofacts and their context (Meager, 2010, 6).
- 3.2 In addition, the following specific objectives were to be addressed:
- To determine the date of the earliest human activity in this area and the subsequent sequence of occupation;
  - To help further inform our understanding of past activity in this area of West Sussex;
  - To record any significant archaeological deposits which may be exposed during construction work.
- 3.3 The groundworks comprised the demolition of existing structures, including the removal of concrete surfacing, the grubbing out of foundations and the removal of tarmac road surfacing. Other phases of groundwork included ground preparation and the excavation of new foundation trenches. A programme of tree removal was also monitored.
- 3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the specification (*ibid*) using standard Archaeology South-East *pro forma* recording sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5 A full photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive which is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade and will be housed by Marlipins Museum, Shoreham in due course.

## **4.0 RESULTS**

- 4.1 Monitoring trips were made by ASE archaeologists over a 13 month period between June 2010 and July 2011. The details of these trips are recorded in Appendix 1 (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 The underlying natural geology [001] was found to comprise a mid orangish-brown silty clay head deposit containing occasional small to moderate flint nodules. Below this a stonier yellowish grey sandy silt natural horizon [002] was noted. In the north-east part of the site, the surface of a loose pale creamy grey weathered chalk [003] was also intermittently observed.
- 4.3 No archaeological remains were identified during the course of the watching brief. Substantial quantities of modern made ground were encountered across the site; contexts [006] and [007], which are thought to have derived from 20<sup>th</sup> century phases of construction, demolition and remodelling. These deposits included fragments of 20<sup>th</sup> century brick, plastic, and timber. No evidence of the 19<sup>th</sup> horticultural soil anticipated in the desk-based assessment (Atkins 2009) was noted.
- 4.4 Two sub-surface brick structures were observed during the course of watching brief (Fig. 3).
- 4.5 The first of these relates to a brick-built well, measuring 1.10m in diameter, with a depth in excess of 30m, located in the north-east part of the site. The structure was constructed of a red and yellow brick, bonded by a concrete mortar. Some evidence of corbelling at the top of the structure was noted (Fig. 3.1).
- 4.6 The second relates to a substantial brick built structure in the same north-east corner of the site (Fig 3.2). This comprised a very substantial squared structure in plan, with a NW-SE orientated stretch of adjoining wall in the northwest-corner. The structure measured c. 3.55m by c. 3.67m, with a depth of c. 3.10m exposed, and had been cut into the underlying natural. The outer skin was constructed of 19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century brick bonded with a cement mortar; context [004]. An inner 'lining' to the structure built of unfrogged machine made brick in a creamy yellow fabric was also noted. These bricks were of later-19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date, and had been bonded with a cement mortar; context [005]. An arched stokehole or culvert was visible towards the base of the structure, and at the base of the trench a concrete duct or manhole was noted. To the south and east, additional stretches of brick walling were partially exposed at depth, representing a continuation of the structure which is thought to represent the subterranean part of a substantial chimney, part of the boiler house used to provide heat and hot water for the workhouse/hospital. Due to the depth of the excavations, and the instability of the trench sides, the structure was not accessed, and was recorded from the trench edge only.



**5.0 FINDS**

**5.1 Ceramic Building Material** by Sarah Porteus

5.2 Two bricks were recovered during the work; both have been recorded on *pro forma* sheets for archive and discarded.

5.3 Context [004] contained a single brick in a hard fired red sandy fabric with abundant fine quartz and sparse white calcareous and black iron rich inclusions. The brick has fine sanded edges with sharp arises and a shallow but well formed frog. The brick is mortared with a grey sandy lime mortar and is of 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

5.4 Context [005] contained an unfroged machine made brick in a creamy yellow fabric with coarse chunky silt. The brick is likely to be later-19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 No archaeological remains were identified during the course of the watching brief. It is thought that substantial modern ground truncation has occurred within the site during 20<sup>th</sup> century phases of construction and remodelling of the Steyning Union Workhouse, later Southlands Hospital. Quantities of made ground were encountered, with no records of buried topsoil horizons, indicating that much of the site has been stripped or disturbed in the past. The level of truncation is unlikely to have been consistent across the site, but evidence from groundwork within the north-east corner has shown disturbance to a depth of 1.20m, while modern terracing of the underlying geology was observed in the south-east corner of the site.
- 6.2 Two brick built subterranean structures were noted during the programme of fieldwork. The well and chimney base were both observed within the north-east part of the site, within the core of the Steyning Union Workhouse complex. The chimney base is thought to be structurally associated with the boiler house which was located to the north of the main administration block (Morrison, 1999, 115). The boiler house building is shown on the 1912 12" Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3) and is still present on the 1984 Ordnance Survey, but had been demolished by 2001. Brick samples confirmed a late Victorian / early modern date for this structure.

## References

Atkins, 2009. *St Giles Place (Former Southlands Hospital): Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment*. Unpublished Atkins document

Meager, R, 2010. *Specification for an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise; St Giles Place (former Southlands Hospital), Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex*. Unpublished CgMs document

Morrison, K. 1999. *The Workhouse: A Study of Poor-Law Buildings in England*. English Heritage

## Internet resources:

Edina Digimap: <http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/ancientroam>. Accessed 15/09/2011.

## Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work, Crest Nicholson for funding the work and Paul Burnett of Crest Nicholson for facilitating the work.

### Appendix 1: Record of site visits

Date of visit	Type of groundwork	Archaeology noted?	Notes
30/06/10	Subsoil removal within footprint of small building to 0.20m depth. Monitoring of the removal of foundations.	No	Made ground to 1m depth
1/07/10	Building demolition, rubble extraction. Removal of floor of building facing upper Shoreham road.	No	Evidence of both substantial truncation of natural geology within footprint (to 1.20m) and build up of made ground (between 0.80 to 1m depth)
5/07/10	Removal of concrete and foundations for a building NE of site	No	Made ground between 0.50m to 0.80m depth
8/07/10	Removal of tree stumps	No	
9/07/10	Removal of building foundations, N of site	No	Topsoil or made ground to a depth of 0.45 – 0.50m.
13/07/10	Removal of concrete slab and foundations, two areas, N and S of site	No	Made ground to depth of 1m, evidence of substantial truncation of natural geology
14/07/10	Removal of concrete slabs in southernmost part of site, excavation of building footings	No	Evidence of modern terracing of site. Areas of made ground to depth of 1m
15/07/10	Continuation of work started 14/07/10	No	Made ground to 0.20m to 0.30m to north, evidence of modern truncation of natural geology.
19/07/10	Site visit abandoned, machine broken	No	
20/07/10	Removal of concrete slabs, southern part of site	No	Heavy truncation of natural geology by numerous modern structures/ services, to depth of 1m below ground level.
21/07/10	Continuation of work started 20/07/10	No	
26/07/10	Removal of existing tarmac road surface	No	Exposed modern made ground below
28/07/10	Walk-over area of ground reduction to formation level undertaken to north of site	No	
29/07/10	Continuation of work started 28/07/10	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> / early 20 <sup>th</sup> century brick built well	
10/09/10	Site visit to monitor some deep excavations which had been undertaken to the NE of site	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> / early 20 <sup>th</sup> century brick built chimney base	
14/09/10	Site visit to survey structure identified 10/09/10	As above	Recorded from trench edges
29/09/10	Site strip in advance of housing construction/ pipe trench. Plots 182 – 185, and 186 & 197	No	Substantial deposits of modern made ground encountered.
30/09/10	Continuation of work started 29/07/10. Monitoring of footing trenches.	No	Substantial deposits of modern made ground encountered.
13/10/10	Excavation of footing trenches, Plots 152 - 158	No	Made ground to depth, natural exposed between 1 – 1.40m.
27/07/11	Visit abandoned, no groundwork taking place	No	
28/07/11	Monitoring of footing trenches, Block 7	No	Made ground between 0.30 – 0.80m deep.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	SSH10					
Identification Name and Address	St Giles Place (Former Southlands Hospital), Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham by Sea,					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 522600 105930					
Geology	Head deposit					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4257					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. June 2010 – July 2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	N Garland et al.					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
100 Word Summary						
<p>An archaeological watching brief was conducted by ASE over a thirteen month period during 2010-2011. The work was commissioned by CgMS Consulting. Groundworks associated with the residential development of the site were monitored in the archaeological watching brief.</p> <p>A brick built well and chimney base relating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century/ early 20<sup>th</sup> century Steyning Union Workhouse were recorded. No archaeological remains were identified.</p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-110272**

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### Project details

Project name	St Giles Place
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted by ASE over a thirteen month period during 2010-2011. The work was commissioned by CgMS Consulting. Groundworks associated with the residential development of the site were monitored in the archaeological watching brief. A brick built well and chimney base relating to the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century/ early 20 <sup>th</sup> century Steyning Union Workhouse were recorded. No archaeological remains were identified.
Project dates	Start: 01-06-2010 End: 31-07-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SSH10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ADUR SHOREHAM BY SEA St Giles Place, (Former Southllands Hospital), Upper Shoreham Road
Postcode	BN4363F
Study area	500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 522600 105930 50.8741706039 0.164351465480 50 52 27 N 000 09 51 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.00m Max: 17.00m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Nick Garland
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Marlipins
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Marlipins
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Map','Notebook - Excavation','Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report'

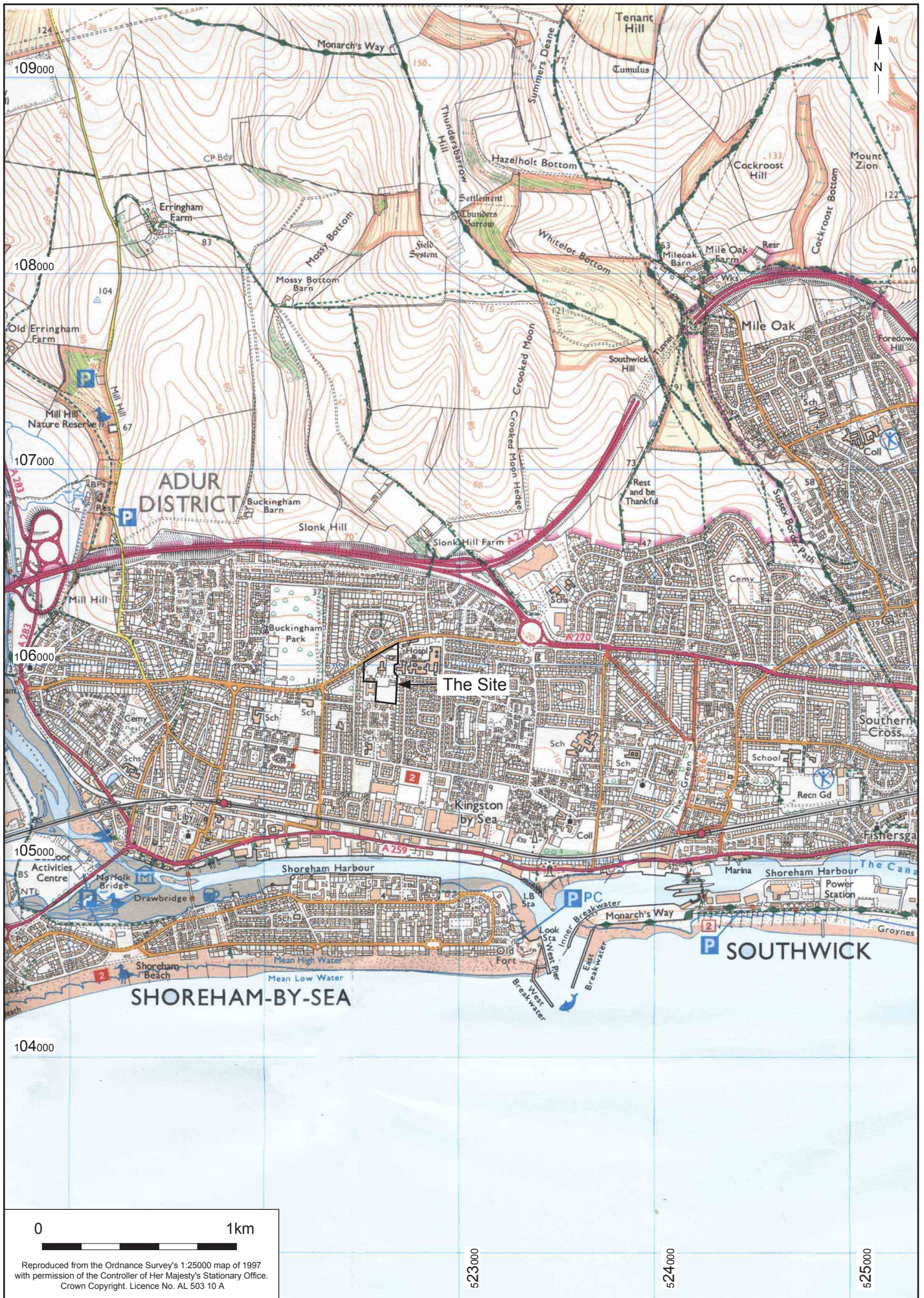
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**Project bibliography 1**

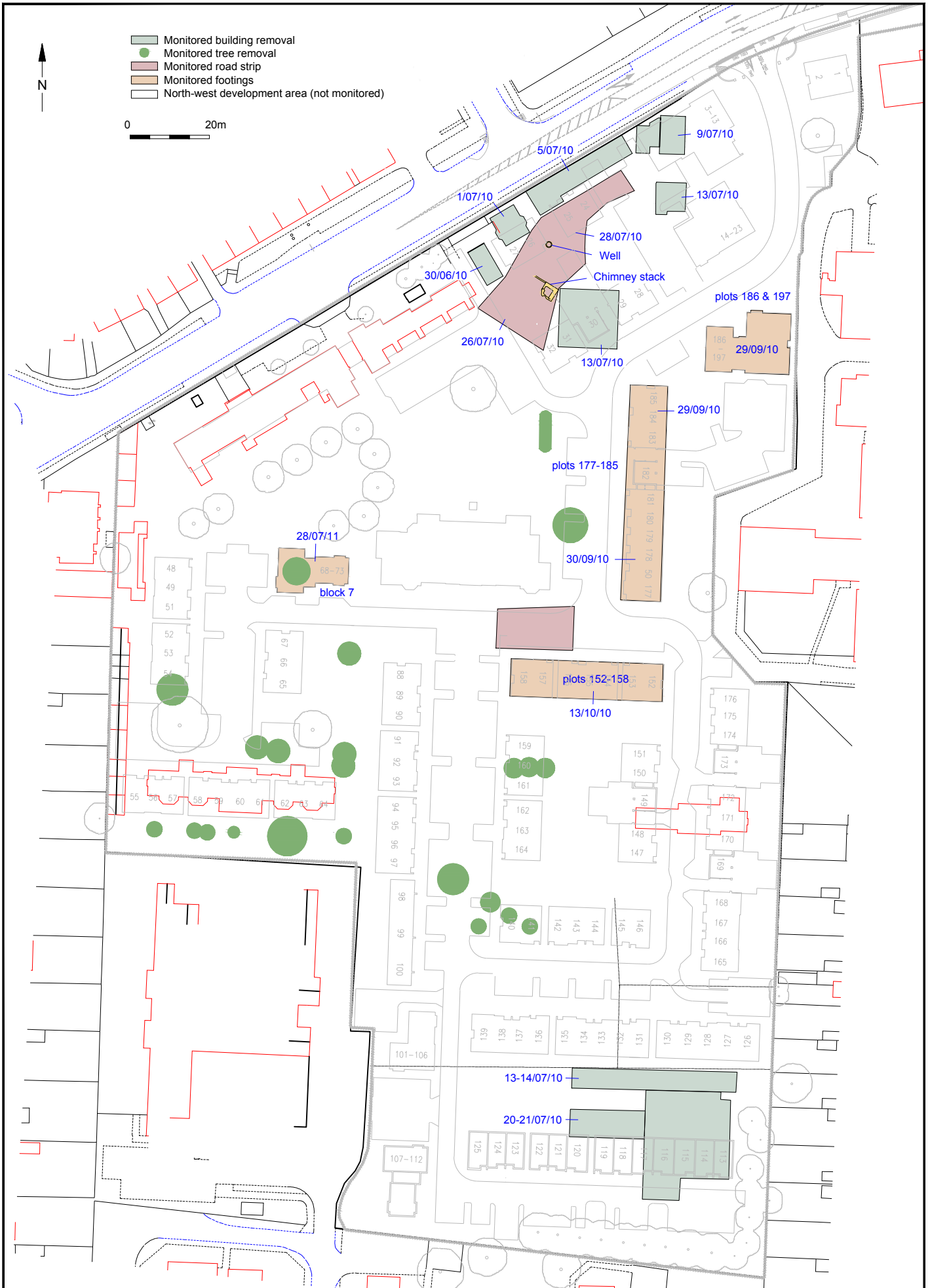
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief On Land at St Giles Place
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Thorne, A

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© Archaeology South-East		Southlands Hospital, Shoreham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4257	Sept 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011224	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Southlands Hospital, Shoreham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4257	Sept 2011	Site plan (showing proposed development) overlain by monitored groundworks (with dates of monitoring recorded)	
Report Ref: 2011224	Drawn by: JLR		

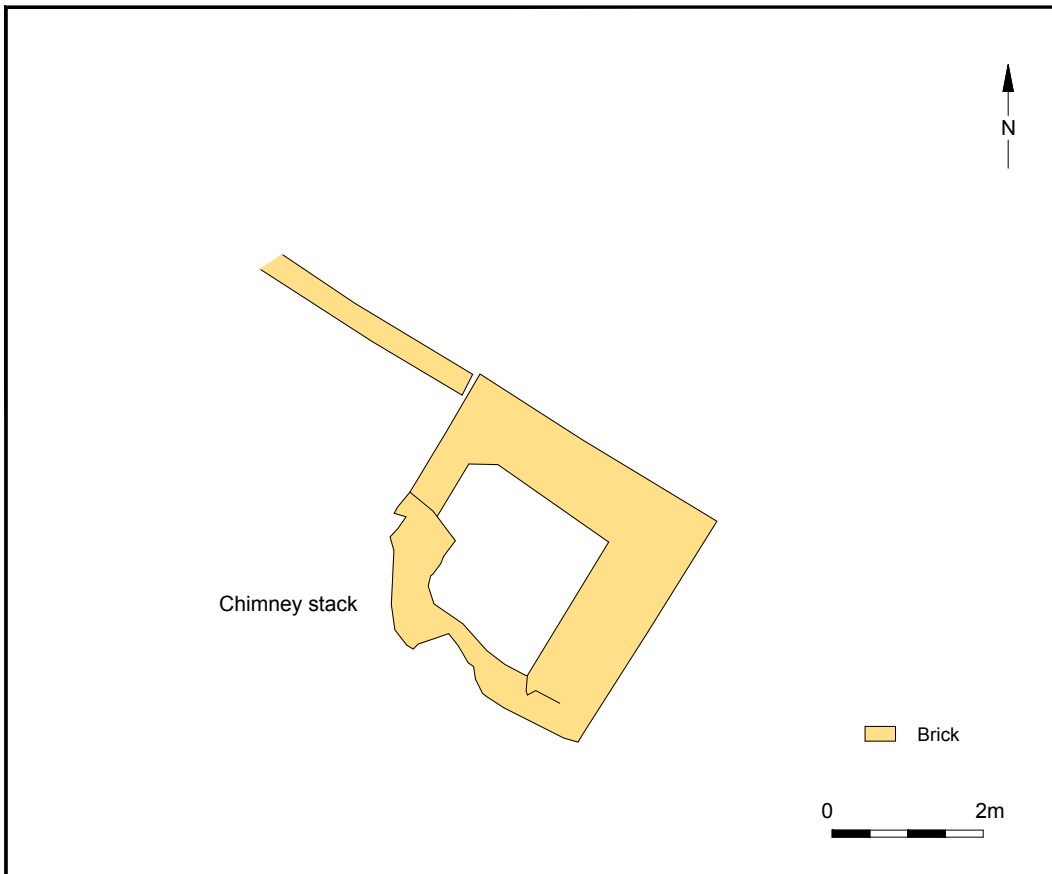
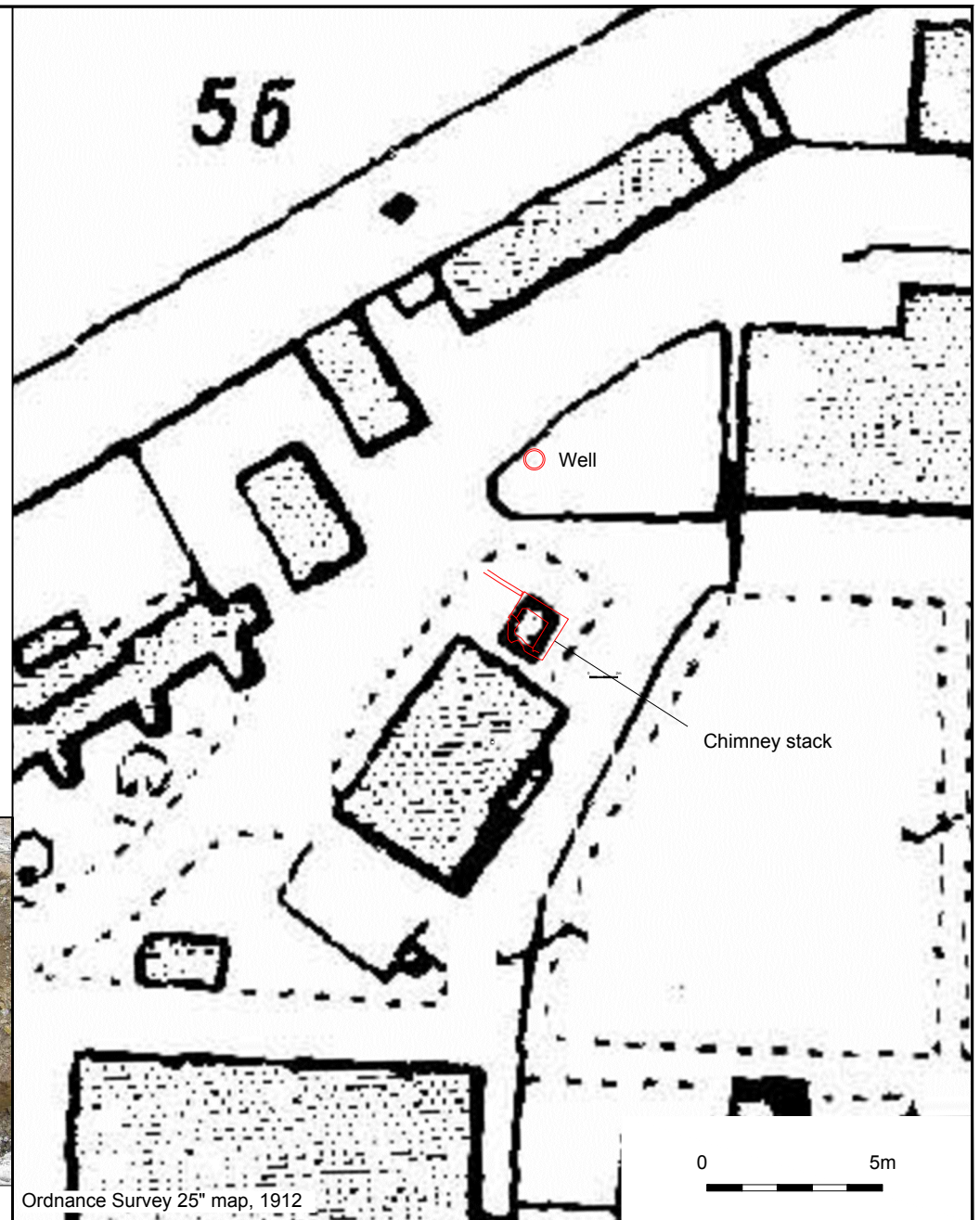


Fig. 3.1: Brick well



Fig. 3.2: Chimney stack



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