

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
At Rusper Nunnery
Horsham Road
Rusper, Horsham
West Sussex RH12 4QT**

**NGR: 518846,136349
TQ 18846 36349**

Planning Reference: DC/11/0799

**ASE Project No: 5716
Sitecode: HRN 12**

**ASE Report No: 2012262
OASIS ID: 139653**

**By Philippa Stephenson
With contributions by Luke Barber
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Environmental Assessment Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at Rusper Nunnery Farm, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4QT.

No archaeology relating to the medieval Rusper Nunnery was identified. A small farm building, pit, drain and ditch of 18th or 19th century origins were recorded. The building had been in use prior to construction work.

The natural clay substrate deposit [05] to the east of the site and [20] to the south-east sloped down from an approximate altitude of 83.50m AOD at the south-west, to approximately 82.00m AOD at the north and east. A substantial modern landscaping deposit overlay the original land-surface across the southern and eastern parts of the site. Natural clay was exposed immediately below the modern buried soil across the eastern part of the site. To the west, the reduction revealed only hardcore rubble below the modern floors of the demolished farm building.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Environmental Assessment Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at Rusper Nunnery Farm, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4QT (NGR: 518846,136349; Figure 1).

1.2 The work at the site involved demolition of a machinery store, hovel and cattle buildings, restoration of a listed barn and use for agricultural purposes and the erection of a building to accommodate machinery and grooms accommodation, extend a former office building and use for staff rest room purposes, erection of three stable blocks, various ground works and the provision of a spur access and re-profiling/landscaping of immediately adjoining land (Figure 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site was located in the area previously occupied by the farmyard of Nunnery Farm and its associated out-buildings. The works for the new buildings extended to the east of the farmyard on pasture land some of which had been previously landscaped.

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2012) of the area the site lies on Weald Clay Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 121 to 132 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning consent was granted by Horsham District Council (Planning application no: DC/11/0799) with an archaeological condition amongst other conditions. Condition 27 states:

Prior to the commencement of development, the developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavations and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that shall be submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority.

Reason: to ensure that potential archaeological remains on the site will be adequately recorded.

1.3 Accordingly, a written scheme of investigation was prepared by ASE in accordance with planning requirements for a programme of archaeological works (watching brief) and was submitted to The Senior Archaeologist, WSCC (John Mills) for approval on behalf of Environmental Assessment

Services Ltd in advance of the commencement of any intrusive construction ground works.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 In general, the aim of the watching brief was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains exposed during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.
- 1.4.2 The watching brief would also assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 1.4.3 More specifically, the watching brief would look out for any remains or human remains pertaining to the medieval and post-medieval Benedictine Priory/Nunnery located 150m to the east.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work on the site. The work was undertaken over 7 days between the 24th and 30th October and the 7th-8th November 2012 by Philippa Stephenson (Archaeologist), Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist) and Antonio Reis (Archaeologist). Project Management was undertaken by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation management). The illustrations were prepared by Justin Russell.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A 1km radius search of the West Sussex HER centred on the site revealed the following entries. No Evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity is recorded by the HER.
- 2.2 The works are located in an area of historic parkscape (MWS51) of the post-medieval nunnery.
- 2.3 At the site, a 19th century brick kiln (MWS4833) is known to exist.
- 2.4 The site itself is c. 150 m west of the location of a medieval to post-medieval (1100 AD to 1599 AD) Benedictine Priory/Nunnery (MWS6660) and across the valley of a small stream which feeds into Porter's Gill. When a cellar was being excavated in 1840 at the site of the Nunnery itself, a number of skeletons and coffins were found suggesting the location of the monastic graveyard. From the contour map, the Nunnery sits on a spur of land with the aforementioned valley to the west and Porter's gill to the north. There is a series of ponds to the north which may well be the successors to medieval monastic fishponds. Because of the formulaic layout of Benedictine monastic precincts and conventual enclosures it would be necessary to build on relatively level ground but proximity to a water supply was very important. As the site of the proposed works lies across the valley, it is highly unlikely that any medieval monastic features or deposits associated with the nunnery itself will be disturbed by the works.
- 2.5 According to Dr. Annabelle Hughes assessment report a listed barn bounding the NW of the site is considered to date to the first half of the 17th century and served the equivalent of the 'home farm' to the Tudor/ Jacobean house. This was built by the Stones family when the surviving monastic buildings (ie those not deliberately destroyed by the Dissolution in 1536) were adapted to a high status private country seat. Thus the farmstead, to which the listed barn belongs, may date from the mid 16th century but it is possible that there was a medieval predecessor in the same vicinity which served as a home farm to supply the medieval convent.
- 2.6 The HER list the following summary regarding the site:

The Benedictine priory at Rusper was founded before 1200 and dissolved in 1537. <1> Sir William Burrell, writing in c. 1781, says "The Nunnery is reported to have been a religious house. There is a well called Nun's Well. On the N wing of the E front, towards the orchard, the foundations of additional buildings and the arch of a cellar are visible 58 ft in extent, E of the present house". <2> Found at Rusper Nunnery in 1840: chalice, copper gilt and enamel; lead pontifical seal; serecloth in which a body had been wrapped; rosary of amber and jet; small golden crucifix; inscribed circular silver brooch, found in an oak coffin. <3> "The Nunnery", a large private country residence, was built in 1795, and has no visible remains of any preceding building. There are a number of probable pieces of C13 and C14 carved stone in the garden, some built into a modern wall. The finds made in 1840 accompanied the burials of a prioress and four nuns. The burial ground was at TQ19023642 and was found during gardening work. The "Nun's Well"

is a natural spring, enclosed and arched over with modern brick, at TQ19073640.

- 2.7 Some 750m to the south of the site, at Upper Rapeland Wood, an undated minepit (MWS5042) is recorded.
- 2.8 At the site, a small listed C16 timber-framed building (DWS5809) with plaster infilling, ground floor rebuilt in red brick and a barn to the SE is an 18th century listed building (DWS5154).
- 2.9 Further afield c. 750m to the southeast a small L-shaped C16 or earlier timber-framed building with plaster infilling, ground floor rebuilt in red brick (DWS5037) and an early C19 farmhouse (DWS6530) are recorded.
- 2.10 To the northeast c. 500m several other buildings are listed. Two 16th century buildings, one a cottage (DWS5024), the other a house (DWS5025) and two 17th century houses (DWS5023 and DWS6567) are recorded.
- 2.11 Cripplegate farmhouse (DWS5027) lies c. 600m to the WSW. This is 16th century.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Ground works associated with the development were monitored by an archaeologist. Any machine (as restricted access permits) used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil was fitted with a toothless bucket where practicable. Any hand excavation undertaken by the ground work contractor was undertaken with due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains.
- 3.2 Where new excavations revealed archaeological remains, opportunity was made for careful hand excavation and the collection of samples by the archaeologist in attendance taking site health and safety into account. Adequate time was made available for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works in order to extract archaeological and environmental information.
- 3.3 All archaeological deposits disturbed during the proposed works were recorded in line with the advice given in NPPF, which has replaced PPS 5.
- 3.5 The spoil from the excavations were also be inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or eco-facts of archaeological interest and routinely scanned with a metal detector.
- 3.6 The Senior Archaeologist WSCC (John Mills) was kept informed of progress so that he could monitor the archaeological work.
- 3.7 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features were planned at 1:20 and section drawings were at 1:10. Drawings were on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits will be described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. A photographic record was made in both monochrome and colour transparency.
- 3.8 ASE has been in contact with Horsham District Museums regarding the long term repository for this site but they are unable to accept at present due to lack of storage space. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable repository in due course.

Number of Contexts	19
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	4
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	76
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 3 and 4)

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The excavations did not reveal the presence of any archaeology related to the mediaeval Nunnery, nor to the 17th century barn to the north of the site. A recently demolished farm building, in use as a pig sty in the modern period, was built of unfrogged 18th or earlier 19th century brick. Also identified were a short segment of stone-lined drain, probably functioning with this building and of the same period, a late post-medieval or modern pit and a segment of a large NNW-SSE ditch of the same date traversing the southern part of the site.

4.2 Landscaping

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth m	Altitude m a OD
03	Construction	Clay land drain	-	-	0.07	82 - 83.20
04	Deposit	Re-deposited natural	-	-	0.70	83.65
05	Deposit	Natural clay	-	-	>0.20	83.24

Table 2: Contexts recorded at the east of the site

4.2.1 The land at the eastern limit of the site had been landscaped, probably at a recent date. A thick layer of re-deposited light-brown natural clay [04], 0.70m thick, overlay the natural light brown and blue mottled clay substrate [05]. The landscaping deposit [04] was thicker to the south, sloping down-hill to taper away towards the northern limit of the site. Tubular clay land-drain segments, 0.05m in bore and 0.07m in outer diameter were observed in section at the interface of these two deposits, 1.0m below the present ground surface at the southern limit of the site.

4.2.2 The natural clay substrate deposit [05] to the east of the site and [20] to the south-east sloped down from an approximate altitude of 83.50m AOD at the south, to 82.00m AOD at the north.

4.3 Brick Building: The “pig-sty” (Figure 4)

Length : 5.20m

Width: 5.10m

Depth: 0.56m

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth m	Altitude m a OD
07	Construction	Brick-paved courtyard	5.80	2.40	0.11	83.65
08	Construction	East and south wall	4.40	0.20	0.24	83.24
09	Cut	Construction cut for building foundations	-	-	0.45	83.55
10	Construction	North wall	1.20	0.20	-	-
11	Construction	Partition wall	4.0	0.20	0.45	83.54
12	Construction	Wall footing	2.0	0.10	-	-
13	Deposit	Floor/levelling	-	-	0.30	-
14	Deposit	Levelling	-	-	0.30	-
15	Construction	West wall	-	-	0.40	-

Table 3: Contexts recorded for the brick building

- 4.3.1 A brick building located immediately to the south of the “hovel” and known as the “pig-sty” was demolished prior to the watching brief. The original date of the construction was not known. A brick-paved courtyard and the wall footings of the building were preserved *in-situ* and recorded. Constructed of 18th to earlier 19th century un-frogged brick, its may have predated the second half of the nineteenth century and certainly pre-dated the construction of the “hovel” which abutted it to the north. At least two phases of building were observed, the original western wall [15] having been demolished to allow the construction of the courtyard [07]. Used as a pig sty in recent times, the building may have had an earlier function, but probably also as a farm out-building.
- 4.3.2 A levelling deposit [14], 0.30m thick, pre-figured the construction of the building and provided the ground surface into which the foundations were cut. A compact dark brown clay it contained frequent fragments of 18th to earlier 19th century brick fragments which derive from an earlier demolished building phase on the site.
- 4.3.3 The surviving elements of the original building correspond to the eastern, and northern outer wall footings, [8] and [10] and the central partition wall footing [11]. These appeared to be identical in construction, although only [11] was fully exposed and observed to the base of the footing. Built of stretchers, two courses wide, it was 6 courses in depth (0.45m), the base of the footing stepped out 0.08m. The bricks were 0.21 x 0.11 x 0.07m, the bonding a soft yellow, coarse lime mortar. It extended over a distance of 4.0m, its junction with the eastern wall having been truncated. To the west, it was observed below the emplacement of a removed concrete wall-footing

belonging to the modern use of the paved area [07]. It continued under the unexcavated modern ground surface to the west.

- 4.3.4 The eastern footing [08] was extant along its full length (5.10m), the northern half showing evidence of collapse. The east wall of the hovel abutted its northern end.
- 4.3.5 The northern wall was extant over 1.20m. It also served as the eastern end of the boundary wall of the modern farm courtyard situated about 1.0m below the level of the paved courtyard [07]. A modern build completed this construction to the west.
- 4.3.6 The upper courses of the western footing had been demolished prior to the installation of courtyard [07]. It was sealed by a light brown/yellow clay levelling deposit [13], 0.20m deep, with moderate inclusions of medium-small sub-rounded stone and occasional bricks.
- 4.3.7 The southern wall was of a different construction along the majority of its length. At the south-east corner of the building, a short segment (0.50m) of the original narrow construction survived. At the western end it was built of stretchers, 3 courses wide (0.30m) and five or six courses in depth (the base of the foundation was not clearly observed). This wider brick wall may belong to an intermediate building phase. A short segment of wall, 0.70m in length and 0.40m wide was situated towards the eastern end: it formed a junction between the narrow and wider wall elements and was constructed of both headers and stretchers. Abutting this segment, a narrow, irregular construction of single and half-bricks extended southwards [12], forming a yard wall.
- 4.3.8 The levelling deposit [13] was observed across the area occupied by the building. It may have raised the floor level of the entire building during the second building phase, although no later floor survived in the eastern half of the area. A small area of possible early floor, constructed of dispersed cobbles set into yellow clay was identified abutting the north side of the partition wall [11].
- 4.3.9 The courtyard [07] was built of a single layer of stretchers set on edge without bonding. Preserved over a length of 5.80m, it extended 0.70m beyond the southern wall of the building. Observed over a width of 2.0m, it continued to the west below the current ground surface. The bricks were set into a foundation deposit of dark silty clay with crushed CBM overlying the levelling deposit [13]. The bricks were of the same date as those identified in the original walls, and may have been in a re-use context.
- 4.3.10 The original wall elevations had been replaced in the area of the courtyard by concrete plinths, 0.40m wide, broken out to reveal the top of the brick footings. A further concrete pillar or stanchion base, 0.50 x 0.40m wide was observed set into the east limit of the yard surface. It is probable that these replaced the earlier elevations of the northern southern and partition walls still functioning with the yard surface, the wall trenches being widened to receive the poured concrete plinths.

4.4 Pit (Figure 3)

Length : 3.0

Width: 1.70

Depth: >0.60m

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Altitude (approx.) m a OD
01	Cut	Pit	3.0	2.50	>0.60	82.00
02	Deposit	Fill	1.20	1.50	0.40	82.00
06	Cut	Wheel-rut	-	>1.20	>0.60	82.00

Table 4: Contexts recorded for Pit [01]

- 4.4.1 The southern extent of a large pit, 3.0m wide, was exposed in the north-eastern part of the site, to the west of the location of the new stallion's stable. It was exposed at a depth of 350-400mm below present ground surface, where reduction ceased in this area (approx. 82,00m AOD).
- 4.4.2 Superficially truncated in plan to the north by traces of farm circulation [06] (wheel ruts), it was investigated over a distance of 2.50m by means of a N-S trench 0.60m wide to a depth of 0.60m. The ground works were not expected to descend to this depth in this area, and to the north, the feature was covered by new made-ground, levelling the sloping land surface. The remaining archaeology would therefore be preserved *in situ*.
- 4.4.3 The feature was a steep-sided cut, clearly extending further to the north beneath the superficial ground disturbance [06].
- 4.4.4 The pit contained a lower fill [02] of compact, light reddish-brown clay-silt containing CBM fragments and small charcoal lumps. It was stained red at the edge of the cut, probably due to natural processes. A sterile upper fill of re-deposited stiff blue and red mottled natural clay infills the wheel-rutting [06] to a depth of 0.40m. The retrieved material included brick, peg-tile and two types of paviour from garden paths or ancillary buildings. This material probably dates to the 18th-19th century and contains elements of earlier post-medieval material.

4.5 Ditch (Figure 3)

Length:12.0m

Width: 1.50m

Depth: 1.45m

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth m	Altitude (approx.) mAOD
16	Cut	Ditch	12.0m	1.50	>1.45	83.20
17	Deposit	Fill of [16]	12.0m	1.50	>1.45	83.20
19	Deposit	Buried soil	-	-	0.30	83.50
20	Deposit	Natural clay	-	-	>1.55	83.50
21	Deposit	Re-deposited natural / modern landscaping	-	-	0.50	84.00

Table 5: Contexts recorded for Ditch [16]

- 4.5.1 The reduction at the south of the site truncated the light brown and blue mottled natural clay [20] to a maximum depth of 1.55m.
- 4.5.2 A large NNW-SSE ditch segment [18] extended northwards over a distance of 12.0m from the southern baulk. Cut through the natural clay [20] it was observed in section to a depth of 1.45m. At the top it was 1.50m wide, tapering towards a narrow base with steeply sloping slightly convex sides. The in-fill was a compact, mid light-brown clay-silt with very occasional CBM fragments [17], lighter in colour towards the base, with a higher proportion of clay. It was sealed by a modern buried soil horizon [19] underlying a mixed over-burden of re-deposited natural [21], the result of modern landscaping. It was not observed further to the north where the ground was truncated by modern activity. Brick and roof-tile dating to the 18th-19th century were retrieved from the lower part of the fill [17].
- 4.5.3 A drainage or boundary ditch it post-dates 1700 and may be contemporary to the original construction phase of the “pig-sty” building, or more recent. It is sealed at the south of the site only by recent landscaping activity. It may have marked the limit between the area occupied by the farm buildings and the surrounding landscape.

4.6 Drain

- 4.6.1 A short length of stone and brick-lined drain trench was preserved over a distance of 1.30m. It was situated immediately to the east of the junction between the “hovel” and the “pig-sty” buildings and may have functioned with either building phase. It was truncated to the north by modern pitting and was not identified further to the south. The southern end was lined with limestone blocks 0.30m x 0.12m, the northern part being lined with stretchers set vertically and containing orange ceramic drainage pipe, semi-circular in section, open at the top. The brick construction probably represents a later extension northwards corresponding with the construction of the “hovel” which, abutting the pig sty, is the more modern building.
- 4.6.2 Its construction contained a semi-circular coping brick dated to between 1550 and 1850.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The finds comprised a series of ceramic building material samples taken from the various deposits and structures examined. This assemblage was predominantly 18th to early 19th century in date with some examples of possibly earlier material and of high status elements (coping stones and paviments). No pottery or metalwork was identified on the site, although a single small piece of slag was retrieved from deposit [02]. The building material assemblage is characterised in Table 5 below.

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Sue Pringle

5.2.1 The ceramic building material assemblage consisted of 40 fragments of post-medieval bricks, including wall coping and paving bricks, and roofing tile, weighing 25.726 kg. The material came from contexts 2, 11, 4, 17, 18 and 19, and included samples numbered <1>, <2>, <3> and <4>. The total weight and number of fragments in each category is set out in Table 6.

Material	No. of items	Weight kg.
Post-medieval peg tile	18	2.444
Post-medieval brick	14	17.272
Post-medieval brick pavement	3	1.022
Post-medieval coping brick	2	4.836
Ridge tile	1	0.106
Unidentified tile	2	0.046
Total	40	25.726

Table 6: Summary of building materials

Context	Context date (approx.)	Material
2	1700-1850, residual earlier post-medieval?	Brick and peg tile; hexagonal paving bricks
7	1700-1850	Unfrosted brick
11	1500-1800	Wall [11], peg tile, re-used
14	1700-1850	Sample <4>, post-medieval bricks, including burnt/vitrified material
17	1700-1850	Brick and roof tile
18	1550-1850?	Sample <3>, wall coping brick, burnt peg tile
19	1550-1850?	Sample <4>, wall coping brick
7	1700-1850?	Brick sample <1>, unfrosted bricks
8	1700-1850?	Brick sample <2>, unfrosted bricks

Table 7: Dating table with context date (approximate) and contents

5.2.2 All the ceramic building material has been recorded on a standard recording form. Tile has been quantified by fabric, form, weight and fragment count. The information on the recording sheets has been entered onto an Excel database. Samples of the tile fabric and items of interest have been retained.

5.2.3 Medieval and post-medieval roof tile

5.2.4 Peg tiles formed the majority of the roof tile assemblage; all of were in an cream-marbled orange fabric with moderate to common rounded cream siltstone and red iron-rich inclusions (fabric T1). All the tiles were fragmentary, with square nail-holes, crudely formed and placed diagonally. The only tile with a complete dimension was 169 mm wide, from wall [11], labelled 'pigsty construction'. A fragmentary ridge tile was in a redder, less silty, version of fabric T1, provisionally recorded as fabric T2 (context 17). The peg tile from drain <3> was reduced and vitrified (context 18).

5.2.5 Post-medieval brick

5.2.6 Three brick fabrics were present. Fabric B1 was a soft, light orange-brown fabric with moderate calcareous and red iron-rich inclusions (context 2). A harder fired orange fabric with inclusions similar to B1 was designated fabric B2 (contexts 2, 14 and 17). Fabric B4 was also orange with silty streaks, and prominent coarse calcium carbonate and dark red iron-rich inclusions. The frequency of quartz, which tended to occur in lenses, was variable (contexts 7, 14 <4>, samples <1> and <2>). The bricks in fabrics B2 and B4 were unfrogged with the flat sides and sharp arrises typical of 18th century products. The brick in fabric B1 was too abraded to provide information. Dimensions of the bricks are set out in Table 8.

Fabric	Context	ID	Dimensions mm	Date range
B2	2	Pit [01]	<73 x 98 x 62	1450-1830
B4	7		222 x 108 x 66	1700-1830
B4	8	<2>Brick sample, wall	225 x 108 x 68	1700-1830?
B4	8	<2>Brick sample, wall	226 x 106 x 67	1700-1830?
B4	7	<1> brick sample, floor	228 x 108 x 67	1700-1830?
B4	7	<1> brick sample, floor	231 x 113 x 69	1700-1830?

Table 8: brick dimensions

5.2.7 Coping bricks

5.2.8 Two half-round coping bricks were noted from contexts 18 and 19, both mould-made. Their orange fabric with fine cream silty streaks, white calcareous and red iron inclusions resembled fabric B2. The brick in context 18 had a diameter of c. 200 mm and was 63 mm thick, while the brick from context 19 was slightly larger, c. 240 mm, and c. 69 mm thick. They cannot be closely dated, although bricks were first used for wall-coping in south-east England in the later 16th century.

5.2.9 Paving bricks

5.2.10 Context 2 contained three hexagonal paving bricks, two with moulded sides and one with cut sides. The moulded bricks were 49 mm and 51 mm thick, the cut brick was somewhat thinner at 35 mm thick. The moulded bricks were

in an orange fabric similar to B2; the cut brick was in a fine red fabric with lenses of quartz-rich clay and silt and iron inclusions (Fabric B3). They were probably used to pave garden paths or possibly ancillary buildings. The presence of two types of paviour suggests that the paved area had been repaired or extended at some time.

5.2.11 Summary

5.2.12 The ceramic building material from the site was all post-medieval, probably dating from the period between the later 17th to the early 19th century. The peg tile assemblage is unexceptional and provides little information. The bricks in fabric B4 appear to be fairly uniform in size and features and are likely to be of similar date, probably 18th century. The brick in fabric B2 is less well-fired and may thus be slightly earlier, but it is too abraded to be certain. The coping bricks and hexagonal pavours are of interest as they would have been used in fairly high status garden or estate buildings.

5.3 The Slag by Luke Barber

5.3.2 Context [02] produced a single piece of iron slag. This consists of a dark grey, slightly aerated slag with some flow structure on its surface. Although not diagnostic of process, it is probably derived from bloomery smelting.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The natural clay substrate deposit [05] to the east of the site and [20] to the south-east sloped down from an approximate altitude of 83.50m AOD at the south-west, to approximately 82.00m AOD at the north and east.
- 6.2 The area occupied by the site had been extensively re-modelled since the medieval period, with modern landscaping extending over the east and southern part of the area. A buried modern soil [19] sloped downwards from the southern limit towards the middle of the site indicating the presence of a previous quite steeply N-S sloping land-surface to the rear and east of the old farm courtyard.
- 6.3 The area occupied by the farm courtyard was reduced only to the hardcore level immediately below the floor surfaces of the recently demolished farm buildings: trenching through this area revealed no archaeology. The area immediately to the east of the farm-yard buildings was occupied by modern pitting.
- 6.4 The foundations of a 18th-19th century farm building, re-used in the 20th century as a pig-sty, were uncovered in the south-west corner of the site, together with a short segment of stone-lined drain which probably served this building.
- 6.4 A substantial NNW-SSE ditch [16], postdating 1700, only observed towards the southern limit of the site formed a boundary ditch possibly defining the farm building area in recent times.
- 6.5 A large pit [01], at least 3.0m wide, with vertical sides was identified in the contemporary ground surface towards the northern limit of the site. Its full dimensions and possible function could not be ascertained. The ceramic building material retrieved proposes an 18th to earlier 19th century date although an earlier post-medieval date (1450 onwards) may be possible.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

Institute for Archaeologists 2009 *Code of Conduct*.

West Sussex County Council 2000 *Recommended Standard Conditions for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation work* (Development Control; Version 2b 18/1/2000)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank the Environmental Assessment Services for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. Also Dean Smith the Estate Manager and John Mills, Senior Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	HRN 12					
Identification Name and Address	Rusper Nunnery, Horsham Road, Rusper, West Sussex, RH12 4QT					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 18846 36349					
Geology	Weald Clay Formation - Mudstone.					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5716					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 24 th - 30 th Oct. 2012 7 th -8 th Nov. 12	Other		
Sponsor/Client	National Trust					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Philippa Stephenson / Giles Dawkes / Antonio Reis					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Modern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Environmental Assessment Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at Rusper Nunnery Farm, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4QT.</p> <p>No archaeology relating to the medieval Rusper Nunnery was identified. A small farm building, pit, drain and ditch of 18th or 19th century origins were recorded. The building had been in use prior to construction work.</p> <p>The natural clay substrate deposit [05] to the east of the site and [20] to the south-east sloped down from an approximate altitude of 83.50m AOD at the south-west, to approximately 82.00m AOD at the north and east. A substantial modern landscaping deposit overlay the original land-surface across the southern and eastern parts of the site. Natural clay was exposed immediately below the modern buried soil across the eastern part of the site. To the west, the reduction revealed only hardcore rubble below the modern floors of the demolished farm buildings.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-139653

Project details

Project name	Rusper Nunnery, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Environmental Assessment Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at Rusper Nunnery Farm, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4QT. No archaeology relating to the medieval Rusper Nunnery was identified. A small farm building, pit, drain and ditch of 18th or 19th century origins were recorded. The building had been in use prior to construction work. The natural clay substrate deposit [05] to the east of the site and [20] to the south-east sloped down from an approximate altitude of 83.50m AOD at the south-west, to approximately 82.00m AOD at the north and east. A substantial modern landscaping deposit overlay the original land-surface across the southern and eastern parts of the site. Natural clay was exposed immediately below the modern buried soil across the eastern part of the site. To the west, the reduction revealed only hardcore rubble below the modern floors of the demolished farm buildings.
Project dates	Start: 24-10-2012 End: 08-11-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HRN 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM RUSPER Rusper Nunnery, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham
Postcode	RH12 4QT
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 18846 36349 51 0 51 06 48 N 000 18 06 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 82.00m Max: 83.50m

Project creators

Name of	Archaeology South East
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Organisation

Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Philippa Stephenson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Environmental Assesment Services Ltd

Project archives

Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

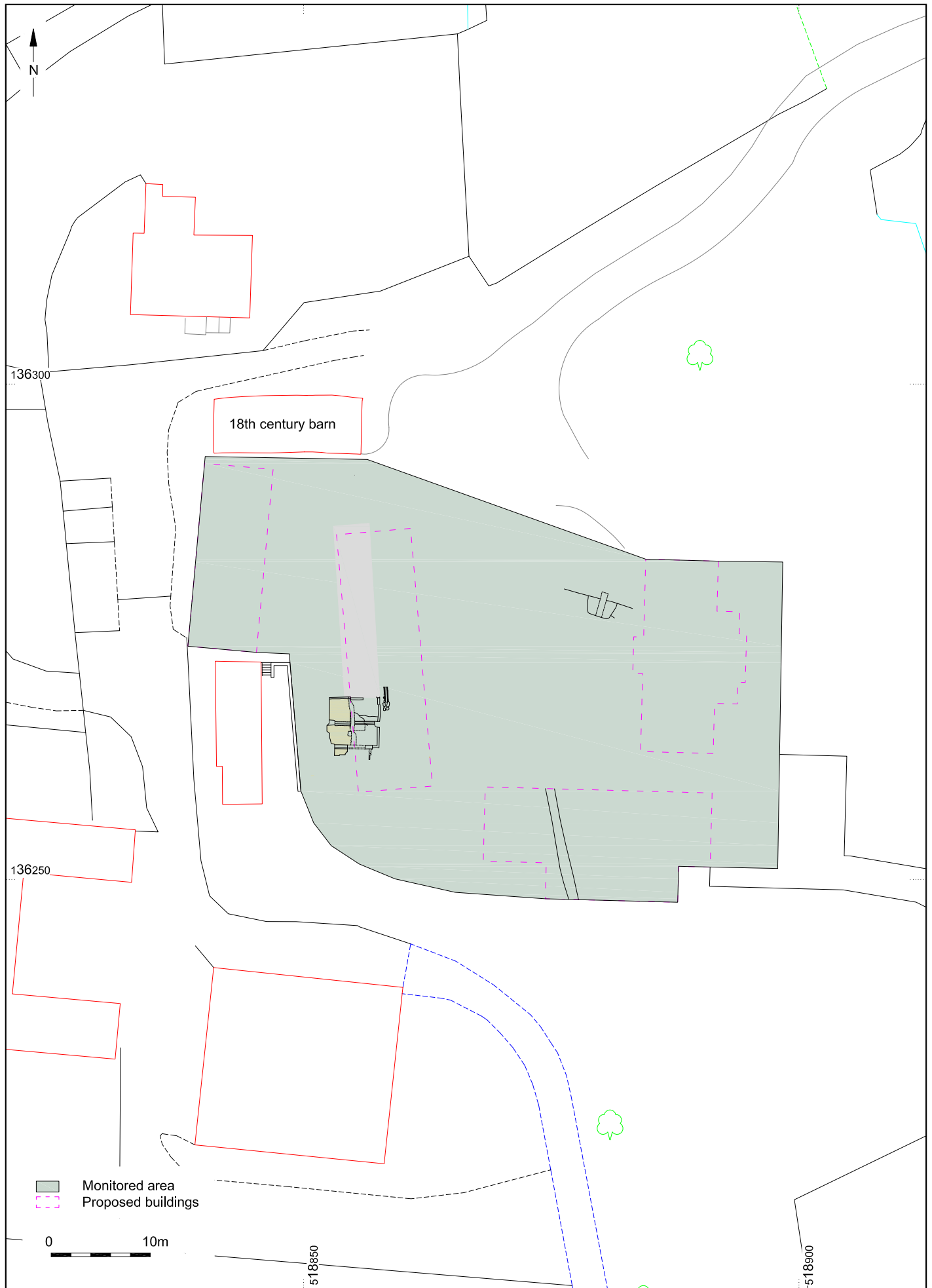
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological Watching Brief at Rusper Nunnery, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4 QT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Philippa Stephenson
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	A4

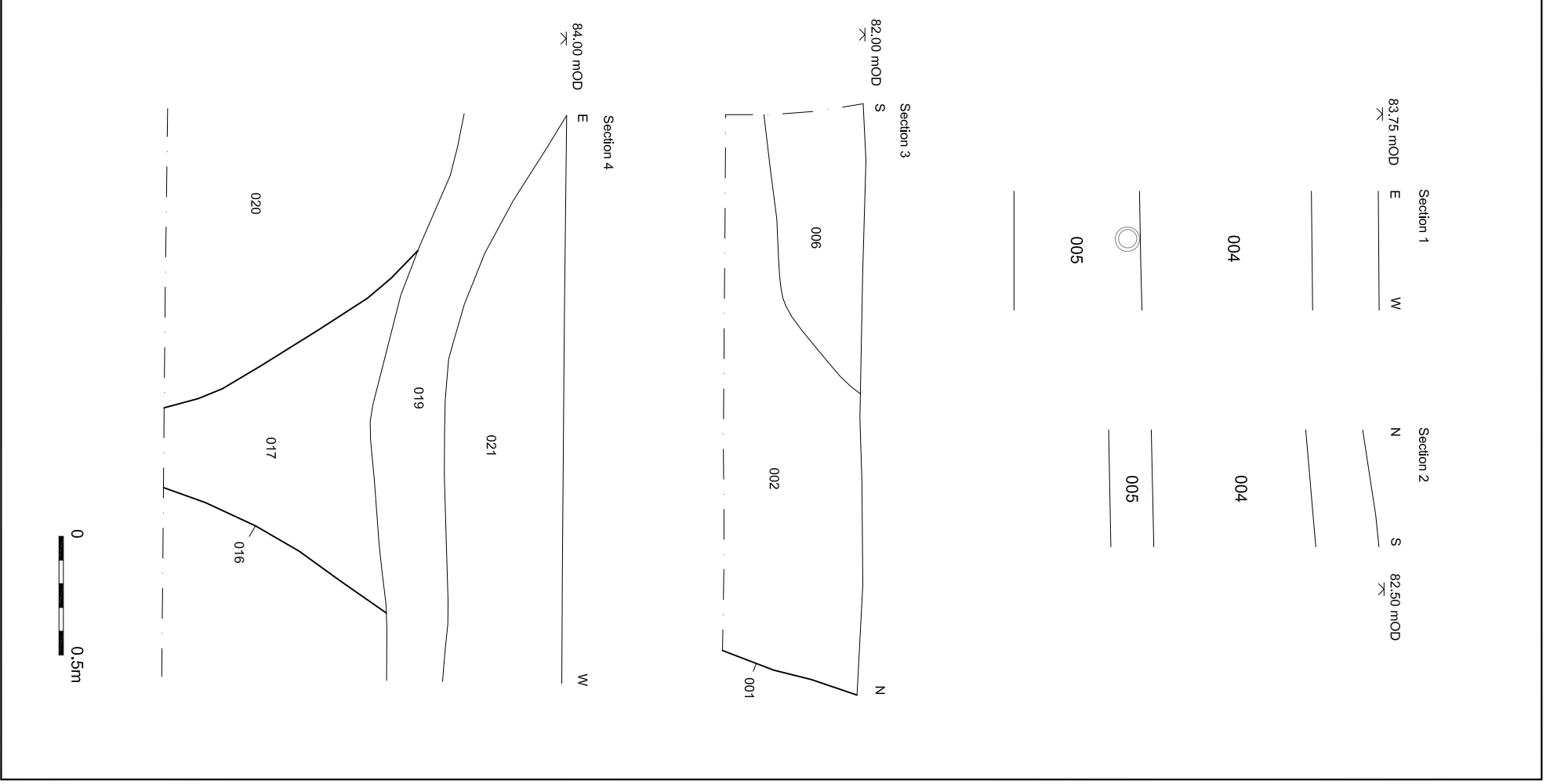
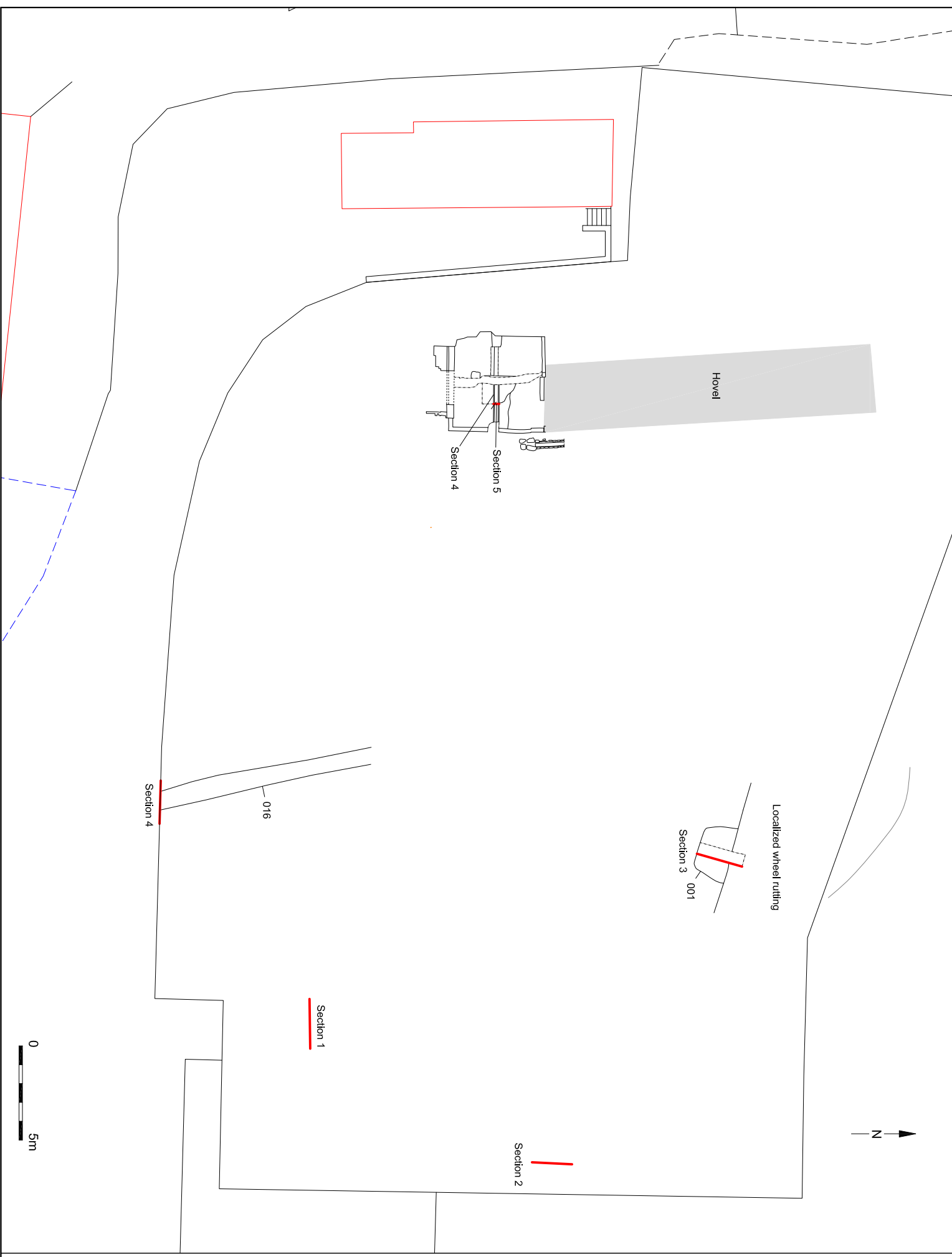
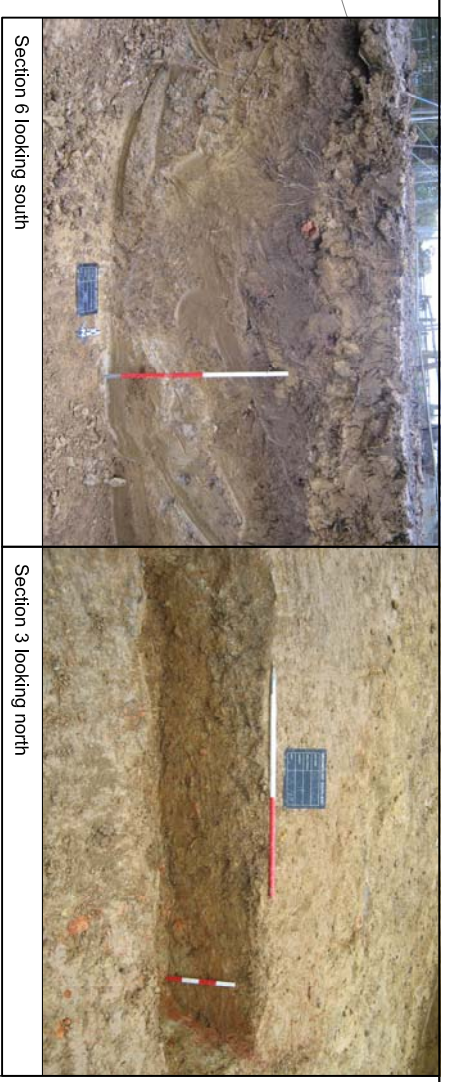
Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	11 January 2013



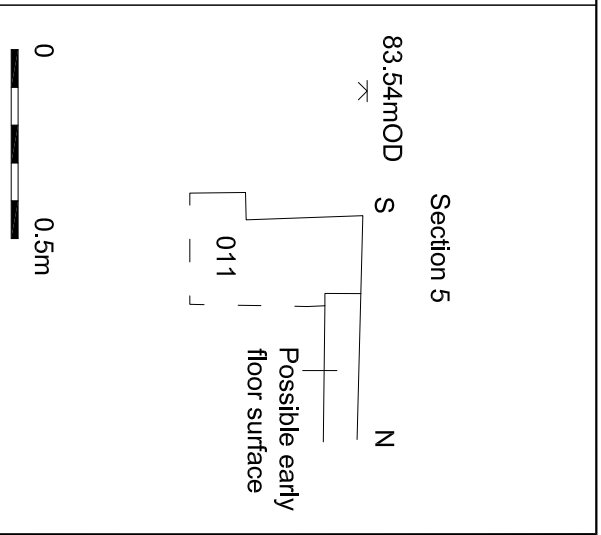
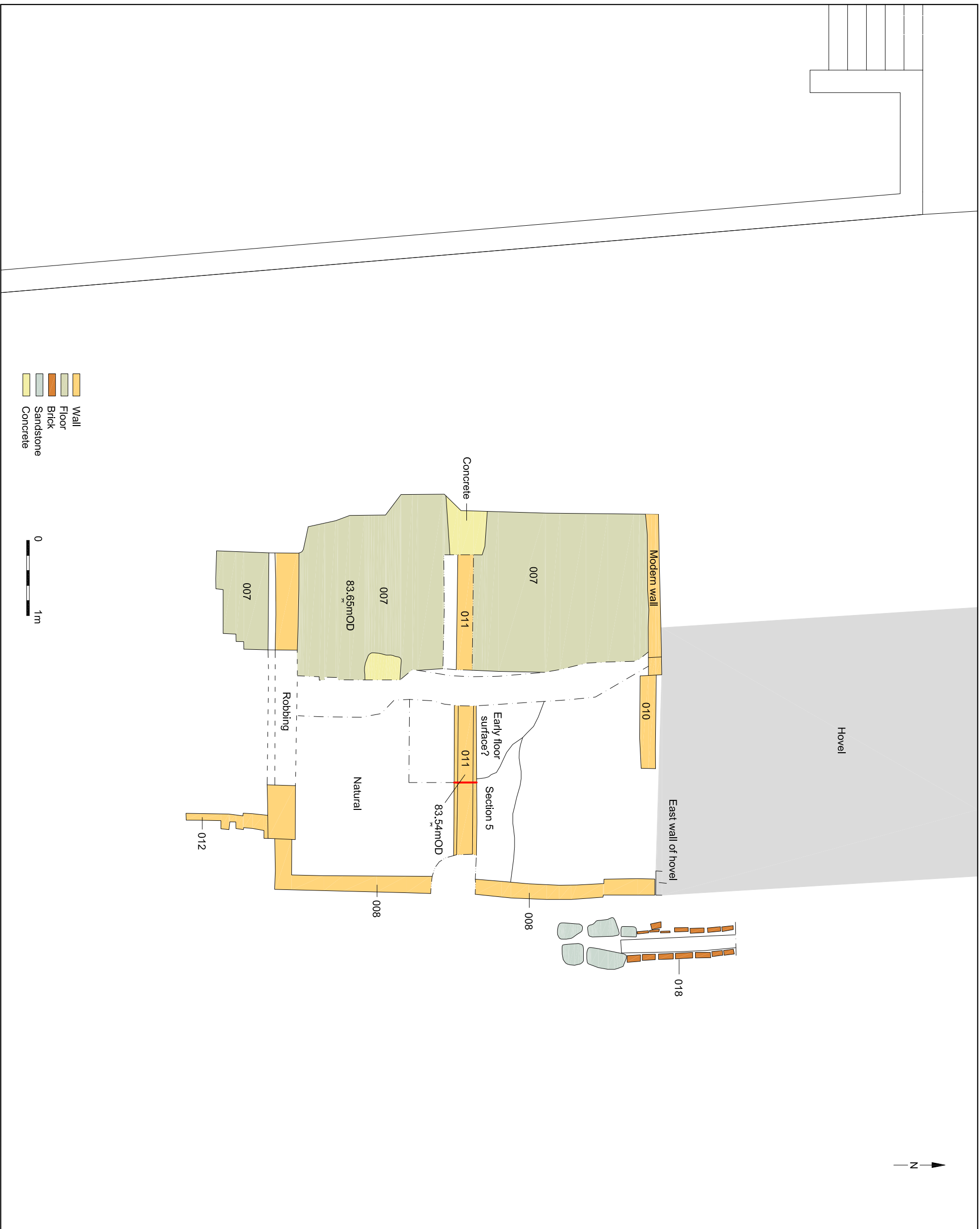
© Archaeology South-East		Rusper Nunnery, Horsham Road, Rusper		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5716	Jan 2013	Site location		
Report Ref: 2012261	Drawn by: AR			



© Archaeology South-East		Rusper Nunnery, Horsham Road, Rusper	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5716	Jan 2013	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2012262	Drawn by: AR		



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 Project Ref: 5716 Jan 2013 Rusper Nunnery, Horsham Road, Rusper
 Report Ref: 2012262 Drawn by: AR Plan of monitored areas Fig. 3



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