

Archaeological Watching Brief Report
The Lamb Inn, Wartling
East Sussex

NGR: TQ 6580 0921

Planning Ref: WD\2012\2184\F

Project No: 5901 Site Code: TLW 13

ASE Report No: 2013002 OASIS id: archaeol6-140645

lan Hogg with contributions by Philippa Stephenson

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ASE Report No. 2012262

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by James Braxton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches at The Lamb Inn, Wartling, East Sussex on 10th and 16th January 2013.

Four discrete hand-dug areas were observed: foundation trenches against the rear wall of the East range; a trench along the rear of the modern toilet block, and two small trenches against the rear wall of the early 19th range, within the modern toilet block. The natural substrate was attained across the site, sandstone to the rear of the East range, yellow silty-clay to the rear of the toilet block and stiff blue clay-silt below the toilet block floor.

To the rear of the toilet block, brick steps, probably early 19th century in date, associated with a possible garden soil deposit containing pottery dated 1790-1820 provided access to a raised area to the rear of the main building. Modern made ground extended across the area raising the ground level beneath the modern patio surface. To the rear of the East range the made ground was cut by a single, probable linear feature of modern date. The trenches within the building exposed the base of the brick foundations of the rear wall of the early 19th century range. These descended to 0.20-0.25m below ground level, the lower course being stepped-out towards the western end of the wall, the foundation remaining flush at the eastern end.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), University College London (UCL), were commissioned by James Braxton to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks associated with the construction of a new toilet block at The Lamb Inn, Wartling, East Sussex (NGR: TQ 6580 0921; Figure 1) henceforth referred to as 'the site'.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey of the area the site lies on the Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning consent has been granted by Wealden District Council (WDC) for the proposed single-storey extension to the rear courtyard, construction of a timber-framed lean-to wood store and the conversion of first floor residential flat to provide 5 B&B bedrooms with en-suite and staff accommodation (Planning Ref: WD\2012\2184\F).
- 1.3.2 WDC consulted Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and he advised that an archaeological planning condition be attached to planning consent (Application number: WD\2012\2184\F):

The condition states:

- 1] No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
 - Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework
- [2] The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [1] and that provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ASE 2013) was constructed to fulfil

this requirement within the planning condition. It was submitted to Greg Chuter, ESCC for his approval on behalf of WDC in advance of the commencement of any intrusive construction ground works.

1.3.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the ESCC Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex (2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the watching brief was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards, with particular attention to any structures or foundations associated with earlier phases of building
- 1.4.2 The watching brief was also to 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. Documentary sources relating to the property extend to the 16th century and this would be borne in mind during the works.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report outlines the findings of the archaeological watching brief, undertaken by Ian Hogg and Philippa Stephenson on the 10th and 16th January 2013. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following is summarised from Greg Chuter's recommendations, an archaeological interpretive survey undertaken by ASE (Martin and Martin 2012) and the East Sussex Historic Environment Records (HER).
- 2.2 The proposed development is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area defining the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval village of Wartling (HES31631). The Lamb Inn itself is a Grade II listed building (DES4958, MES21275) located in the centre of the village adjacent to the medieval church (MES5024).
- 2.3 The historic building interpretive survey report (Martin and Martin 2012) suggests the current building dates to the 17th century but is much altered, with at least seven phases of alteration and additions up to the end of the 19th century. The survey also records a number of former ancillary buildings in the rear yard of the inn.
- 2.4 A significant number of additional listed buildings are recorded in the village, including the Grade II listed Batts Hill House (DES6440, MES21277), Convent House (DES6540, MES5014) and Wheelwrights Cottage (DES6721). The area is surrounded by ancient landscapes including areas of woodland, farmsteads and fieldscapes.
- 2.5 Several find spots in the vicinity of the site include Neolithic flints (MES4999) recovered at TQ6609, a 16th century buckle (MES156195) at TQ65600 08900 and a large number of post-medieval lead tokens (e.g. MES15627-MES15636).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 All intrusive excavations associated with the new and existing toilet block were monitored. The foundations were hand dug by contractors and this process was monitored at all times by an archaeologist (Figures 2 and 3). The full methodology can be found in the WSI (ASE 2013) but is summarised below.
- 3.1.2 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

3.2 Recording Methodology

3.2.1 All deposits were recorded according to standard ASE practice on standard *pro forma* recording sheets. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record of the work was kept.

3.3 Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive, which is quantified in the table below, is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Barbican House Museum, Lewes in due course.

Number of Contexts	10
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photograph	34 digital
Bulk finds	1 x small box
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Area 1: Foundation Trenches for new toilet block (Figure 4)

4.1.1 The foundation trenches were located to the south of the main building and immediately to the east of the rear restaurant. The foundations were excavated by hand. A total of four contexts were recorded in this area and these are tabulated below.

			Max.	Max.	Deposit Thickness
Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	(m)
01	Layer	Made Ground	3.60	3.05	0.10m - 0.42
02	Layer	Natural	3.60	1.00	0.35m
	_	Deposit			
03	Fill	Fill of Linear	1.20	0.72	0.42
04	Cut	Cut of Linear	1.20	0.72	0.42

Table 2: Area 1, List of recorded contexts

- 4.1.2 The natural mottled yellowish grey sandstone [02] was observed throughout the trenches; it was sealed by a modern made ground deposit [01] which consisted of dark grey clayey sand with frequent inclusions of wood, Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and plastic and was between 0.10m and 0.42m thick. The made ground got thicker towards the south and west suggesting some attempt at levelling out the slope present on the site.
- 4.1.3 The made ground was cut by a single feature [04] in the south of the trenches. The feature appeared to be linear with steep sides and a curved base and measured 1.20m in length, 0.72m in width and 0.42m deep. The fill [03] consisted of soft dark grey clay with occasional inclusions of CBM and wood.

4.2 Area 2: Damp course trench to rear of Toilet Block (Figure 5)

4.2.1 A trench 6.30m x 0.65m was excavated to a depth of 1.05m against the full length of the rear wall of the modern toilet block abutting the early 19th century rear range. A total of four contexts were recorded in this area and these are tabulated below.

Context	Туре	Description	Max. Length (m)	Max. Width(m)	Thickness/height (m)
05	Layer	Made Ground	6.30	>0.30	0.60
06	Layer	Natural Deposit	6.30	>0.30	0.25
07	Constr.	Brick steps	1.32	>0.40	0.45
08	Natural	Clay-silt substrate	6.30	0.65	>0.25

Table 3: Area 2, List of recorded contexts

4.2.2 Natural substrate, comprising stiff yellow silty-clay with blue mottling, was uncovered along the length of the trench at a depth of 0.85m below ground

surface.

- 4.2.3 A block of brick steps [07] 1.32m wide and present to a depth of 0.45m were situated 0.90m from the SE angle of the toilet block. Their foundations lay in the natural substrate to a depth of 0.25m and were constructed of un-frogged brick (0.21m x 0.11m x 0.07m). Two end stanchions two courses wide enclosed two rises/steps, 0.96m wide. The lower step was built of stretchers, the upper step of a row of headers placed on their side, overlain by a row of headers placed flat. The structure was bonded by a hard white lime mortar.
- 4.2.4 Structure [07] was truncated to the north by the construction cut, 0.30m wide, for the installation of the toilet block. It was abutted to the east and west by a compact, light brownish-grey clay-silt deposit 0.25m thick with occasional inclusions of pot, clay pipe and CBM fragments [06], and was sealed to a depth of 0.60m by a modern loose dark-grey clay-silt deposit [05] containing frequent frogged brick fragments. The former deposit [06] probably corresponds to a garden soil contemporary to the use of the steps, the latter [05] being made-ground deposited prior to the installation of the toilet block. The construction trench for the toilet block is cut from just below present ground level and undisturbed natural was observed between the base of the step structure and the toilet block.
- 4.2.5 The steps, which are not situated opposite an obvious access to any phase of the building, ascend from the level of the natural substrate rather than serving an underground structure or cellar and are therefore presumed to provide access to a raised garden area to the rear of the house. The pottery retrieved from deposits [05] and [06] together suggest a deposition date between 1790 and 1820 for layer [06]. The clay pipe fragments date from 1750 to 1910. The upper deposit, layer [05] is more probably 20th century in origin. From this dating evidence it appears possible that the brick steps belong to the early 19th century additions to the property
- 4.2.6 As their destruction was not required, the steps [07] are preserved *in-situ* beneath the back-fill of the damp course trench.
- 4.3 Area 3: Trench in West room of Toilet block (Figure 5)
- 4.3.1 A small trench, 1.0m x 0.54m, was excavated to a depth of 0.40m within the west room of the toilet block. Situated against the south wall of the 19th century range, it extended 0.30m into the modern doorway in line with the external edge of the wall. This work was undertaken in order to enable the underpinning of the wall. A total of five contexts were recorded in this area and these are tabulated below.

Context	Туре	Description	Max. Length (m)	Max. Width (m)	Thickness (m)
09	Deposit	Made ground	>1.00	>0.54	0.16
10	Natural	Blue clay-silt substrate	Tr.	Tr.	>0.20m
11	Masonry	Stepped brick footing	0.70 +	·	0.23
12	Deposit	Modern tile	Tr	Tr	0.05

		and concrete floor			
13	Deposit	Modern concrete plinth	0.32 +	-	0.15

Table 4: Area 3, List of recorded contexts

- 4.3.2 Natural substrate [10] comprising stiff blue clay-silt, was reached at a depth of 0.16m below the present floor surface of the toilet block. It was truncated along its length by a modern drain associated with the functioning of the toilet block, to a depth of 0.40m.
- 4.3.3 The brick footing of the rear wall of the building [11] was laid on the substrate at a depth of 0.20m but the foundation trench was not observed. A lower course was constructed of headers 0.12m wide and 0.07m deep, and was stepped out from the wall by 0.05m. The joints were narrow with little bonding material apparent. The upper foundation courses were constructed of stretchers, bonded with light grey lime mortar. The full brick dimensions were obscured by the residue of a mortar revetment.
- 4.3.4 The toilet block floor (not illustrated) consisted of tiles laid on a concrete base 0.05m thick [12], and this was supported by rubbly made ground [09] measuring 0.10m thick.
- 4.3.5 The door was a modern addition (see photograph, Figure 5) replacing an earlier phase window and the threshold was supported by a modern concrete plinth [13] where the original brickwork has been truncated.

4.3 Area 3: Trench in East room of Toilet block (Figure 5)

4.3.1 A trench, 0.78, x 0.45m was excavated to a depth of 0.40m within the east room of the toilet block. Situated against the south wall of the 19th century range, it extended 0.30m into the modern doorway in line with the external edge of the wall. A total of four contexts were recorded in this area and these are tabulated below.

Context	Туре	Description	Max. Length (m)	Max. Width (m)	Thickness (m)
10	Natural	Blue clay-silt substrate	Tr.	Tr.	>0.20
12	Deposit	Modern tile and concrete floor	Tr.	Tr.	0.16
14	Masonry	Brick footing	0.37 +		0.23
15	Deposit	Modern concrete floor			0.05

Table 5: Area 4, List of recorded contexts

- 4.3.2 Natural substrate [10] was located directly below the modern tile and concrete floor [12] (not illustrated), which measured 0.16m thick.
- 4.3.3 The base of the brick footing of the rear wall of the 19th century range was

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The Lamb Inn, Wartling, East Sussex. ASE Report No. 2012262

laid on the substrate at a maximum depth of 0.25m below the present floor surface. The wall footing [14] was built of headers bonded by dark grey lime mortar but was not stepped-out at the base. An irregularity in the coursing was observed in the construction of this foundation (photograph, Figure 5) but this is thought to represent a simple construction irregularity. No complete bricks were observed to establish full dimensions but they were 0.06-0.07m thick.

4.3.4 Like the west room of the toilet block, the modern door was broken through the original wall with the threshold underpinned by a modern concrete plinth [15] which appeared to have been laid on the lowest course of the original brick footing [14].

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of finds, consisting of pottery and clay tobacco pipe, was recovered during the excavations. An overview can be found in table 5. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by material and by context.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	СТР	Wt (g)
05			2	10
06	8	90	8	12
Total	8	90	10	22

Table 6: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered eight fresh sherds of pottery from context [06]. Coarsewares are represented by a 14g fragment from an unglazed earthenware flower pot with thickened rim and a 30g bodysherd from a glazed red earthenware bowl. Tablewares consist of four sherds (38g) from at least two creamware plates, one with scalloped rim, and two sherds (10g) from two different transfer-printed willow pattern pearlware plates. Taken together a deposition date between 1790 and 1820 is probable.

5.3 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A total of ten clay tobacco pipe (CTP) fragments (wt 22g) was recovered from two different contexts. Eight plain stem fragments dating to c. 1750-1910 were found in [06]. No maker's marks survive and none of the fragments conjoin. Another stem fragment of the same date was recovered from [05]. The same context also contained a bowl fragment moulded in the shape of an acorn. This type was popular in Sussex between c. 1850 and 1880.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- In Area 1, to the rear of the modern eastern range, natural degraded limestone was observed throughout the foundation trenches, it was overlain by modern made ground which appeared to have been used to level the area. The made ground was cut by a single modern linear feature. No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the groundworks.
- In Area 2, to the rear of the modern toilet block, a natural yellowish clay-silt substrate was reached at a depth of 0.85m below the present ground level. A structure consisting of two brick steps 1.32m wide was preserved to a height of 0.45m, at a depth of 0.60m below ground level. The base of this structure was founded in a shallow construction cut into the natural substrate. It is likely that the steps, built of unfrogged brick, provided access to raised ground or a garden to the rear of the main wing. The steps are not sited opposite any apparent doorway so cannot be attached with certainty to any of the identified phases, but they certainly predate the construction of the post 1849 toilet block by which they are truncated. The deposit that abuts them [06] has been dated to the early nineteenth century so it seems likely that they form part of the early nineteenth century additions to the property.
- 6.3 The two small trenches (Areas 3 and 4) excavated within the modern toilet block permitted observation of the foundations of the rear wall of the early 19th century range to the rear of the original building. The foundations continued to between 0.20 and 0.25m below the floor level, the western end having a stepped-out lower course that was absent to the east. A natural stiff, blue clay-silt substrate was reached at a depth of 0.16-0.17m below the modern floor. No significant archaeological strata were present.

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ESCC, 2008, Standards For Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex.

Martin, D and Martin, B, 2012, An Archaeological Interpretive Survey of the Lamb Inn, Wartling, East Sussex. ASE Rreport no.5561.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank James Braxton for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring.

The Lamb Inn, Wartling, East Sussex. ASE Report No. 2012262

HER Summary Form

Site Code	TLW 13						
Identification Name and	The Lamb Ir	nn, Wartling, E	East Sussex				
Address							
County, District &/or	Wealden, Ea	Vealden, East Sussex					
Borough							
OS Grid Refs.	NGR TQ 65	NGR TQ 6580 0921					
Geology	Tunbridge V	Vells Sand Fo	rmation				
Arch. South-East	5901						
Project Number					_	_	
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. 10 th and 16 th Jan. 2013	Other			
Sponsor/Client	James Brax	ton					
Project Manager	Andy Leona	rd and Jim St	evenson				
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg						
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB	
	AS	MED	PM	Other			

100 Word Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by James Braxton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches at The Lamb Inn, Wartling, East Sussex on 10th and 16th January 2013.

Four discrete hand-dug areas were observed: foundation trenches against the rear wall of the East range; a trench along the rear of the modern toilet block, and two small trenches against the rear wall of the early 19th range, within the modern toilet block. The natural substrate was attained across the site, sandstone to the rear of the East range, yellow silty-clay to the rear of the toilet block and stiff blue clay-silt below the toilet block floor.

To the rear of the toilet block, brick steps, probably early 19th century in date, associated with a possible garden soil deposit containing pottery dated 1790-1820 provided access to a raised area to the rear of the main building. Modern made ground extended across the area raising the ground level beneath the modern patio surface. To the rear of the East range the made ground was cut by a single, probable linear feature of modern date. The trenches within the building exposed the base of the brick foundations of the rear wall of the early 19th century range. These descended to 0.20-0.25m below ground level, the lower course being stepped-out towards the western end of the wall, the foundation remaining flush at the eastern end.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-140645

Project details

Project name The Lamb Inn, Wartling

Short description of the project

The watching brief comprised the monitoring of hand dug foundation trenches to the north-east of the current building. Natural sandstone was observed throughout the trenches, it was sealed by a layer of modern made ground probably used to level out the natural slope on site. The made ground was cut by a single probable linear of modern date. No archaeology was observed

during the work. No further work is recommended.

Project dates Start: 10-01-2013 End: 10-01-2013

Previous/future

work

Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference

codes

TLW 13 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference

codes

5901 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Monument type LINEAR Modern

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN WARTLING The Lamb Inn

Postcode BN27 1RY

Study area 340.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 6580 0921 50 0 50 51 28 N 000 21 21 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Archaeology South-East

Project brief East Sussex County Council

originator

Project design

originator

Archaeology South-East

Project

Andy Leonard

director/manager

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Developer

Name of

sponsor/funding

body

James Braxton

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Physical Archive

recipient

Lewes Museum

Digital Archive

recipient

Lewes Museum

Digital Contents '

"Stratigraphic"

Digital Media

available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

Lewes Museum

Paper Contents

"Stratigraphic"

Paper Media

available

"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

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Entered on

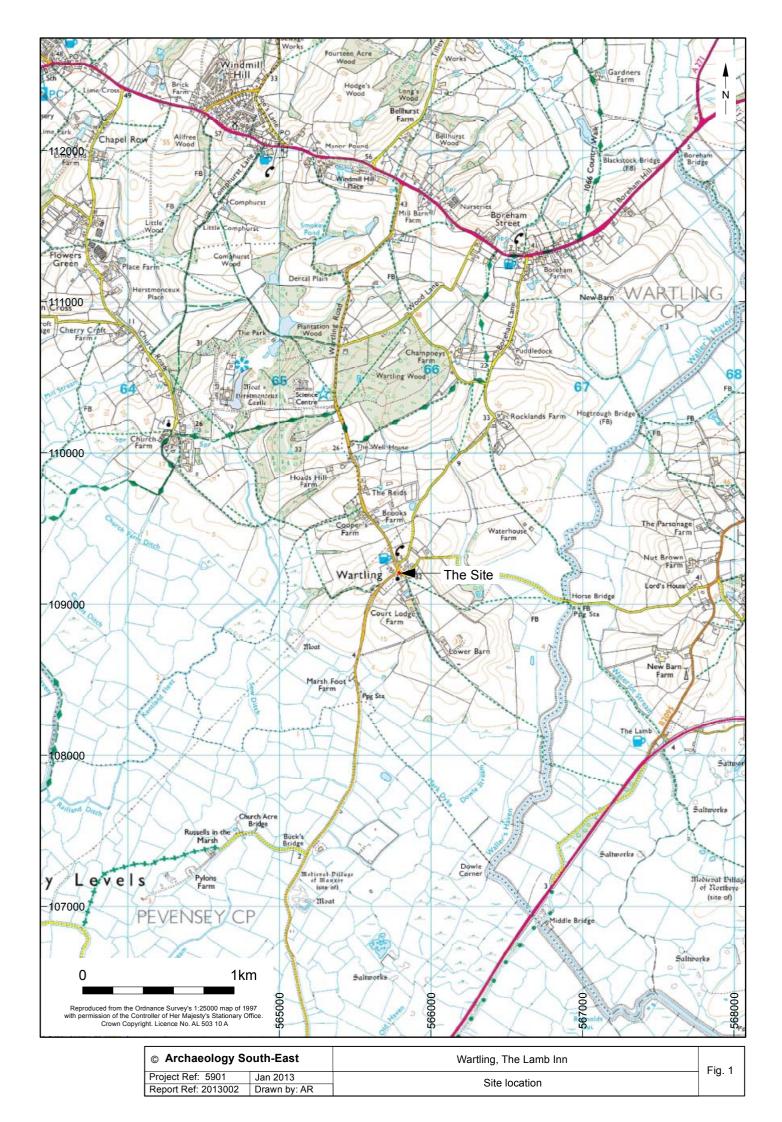
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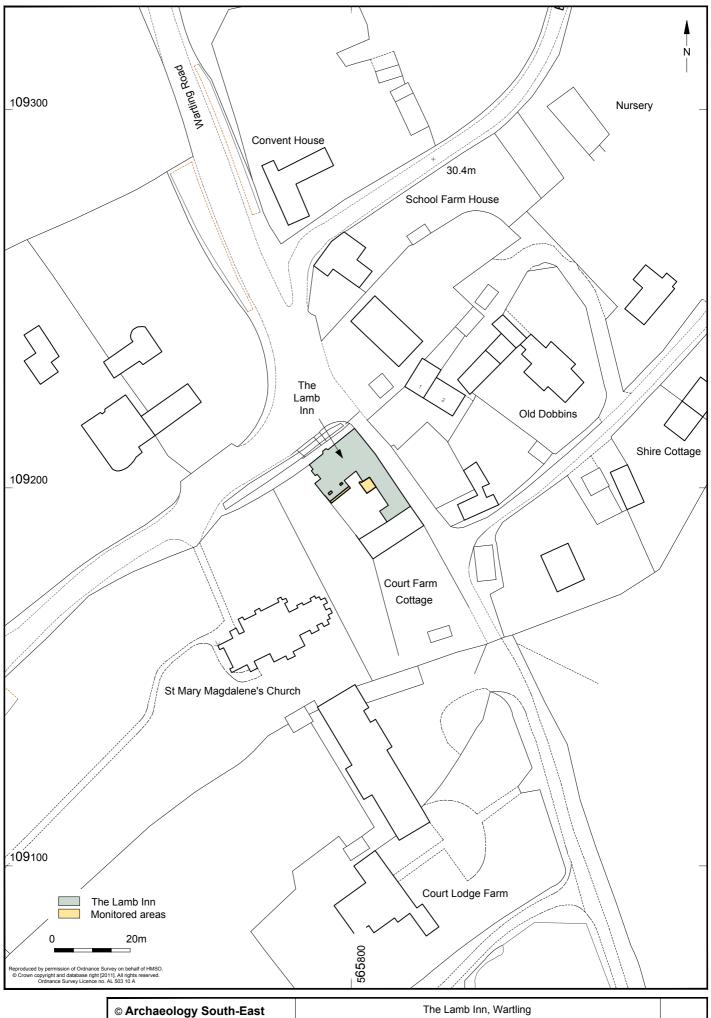
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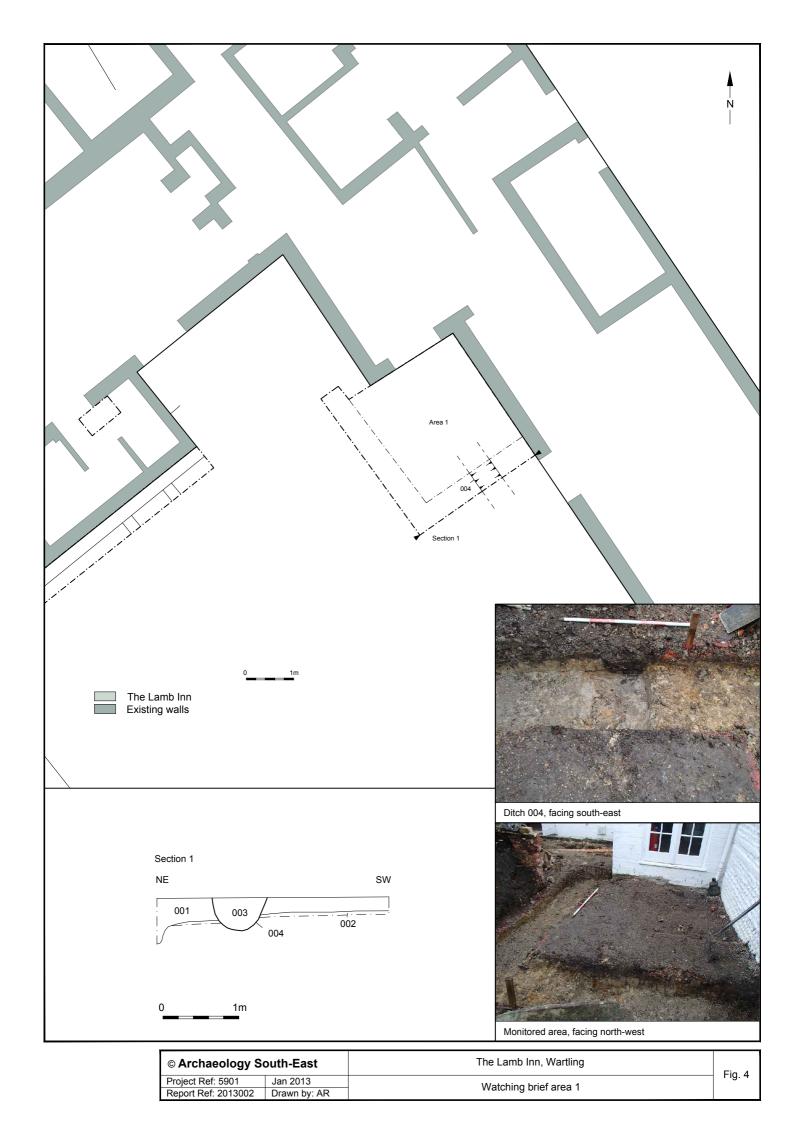


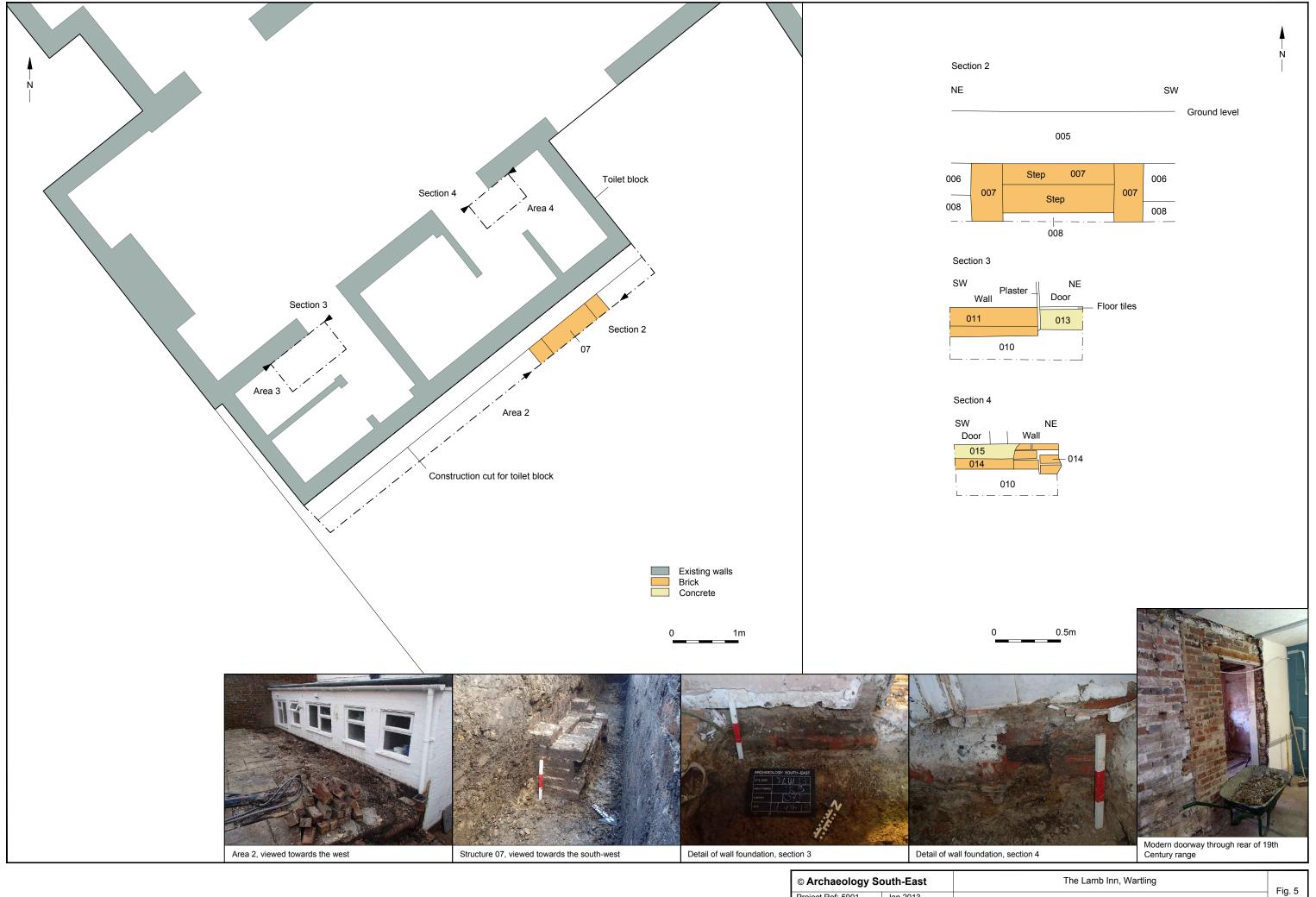


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Project Ref: 5901	Jan 2013	Site plan	Fig. 2
Report Ref: 2013002	Drawn by: AR	Site plan	



© Archaeology South-East		The Lamb Inn, Wartling	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5901	Jan 2013	Dian of maniform dianage	rig. 3
Report Ref: 2013002	Drawn by: AR	Plan of monitored areas	





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Project Ref: 5901	Jan 2013	Watching brief areas 2 - 4	Fig. 5
Report Ref: 2013002	Drawn hv. AR	Watching blief aleas 2 - 4	1

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