

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Dominican Friary Ruins, Mill Road,
Arundel, West Sussex**

Scheduled Monument No.: 1005865

**NGR: 501960 107085
TQ 01960 07085**

**ASE Project No: 5218
Site Code: DFA11**

ASE Report No: 2013027

OASIS id: archaeol6-144028

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by Angmering Park Estate Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Dominican Friary Ruins, Arundel. The archaeological watching brief revealed a flint facing to the below ground remains of a particular wall, Wall G. This wall is interpreted as part of one of the buildings forming the medieval friary at Arundel. Brick and tile within the facing, along with the uneven flints, some split lengthways, towards the centre of the exposed section may indicate a later repair to the wall. Extensive modern overburden was revealed but the excavation did not reveal the full thickness of it. However, this material, which is likely to relate to work carried out at the site during the 20th century, has offered significant protection to the flint faced wall.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Site Plan
- Figure 3: Section and photographs – Wall G

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: List of recorded contexts

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 Angmering Park Estate Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Dominican Friary Ruins, Arundel, henceforth referred to as 'the site' (NGR TQ 01960 07085, Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey, (BGS 2013), the site lies over bedrock geology of Spetisbury Chalk Member. This is overlain by Raised Marine Deposits – clay, silt, sand and gravel.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Following the submission to English Heritage (EH) of a *Project Development Report* dated 5th September 2011 prepared by Alistair Hunt Chartered Architect (hereafter "the architect") EH approved a specification (hereafter "the specification") prepared by the architect (dated 21st March 2012) to carry out a programme of consolidation and stabilisation of above ground masonry, some general ground levelling, preparation of the ground for seeding and the erection of an interpretation panel. The approved works also include the removal of overgrowth, trees and shrubs, clearance of rubbish and accumulated debris and the like-for-like replacement of an existing inspection chamber cover and frame.

1.3.2 Although the approved works are taking place on a Scheduled Monument there is no requirement to obtain formal Scheduled Monument Consent as the project is grant aided by English Heritage. The specification outlines the requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during agreed key points. A brief for the archaeological watching brief outlining the general requirements of the watching brief was prepared by the architect (dated 1st June 2012) and agreed by English Heritage.

1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was prepared by ASE prior to the commencement of works (ASE, 2012).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor appropriate elements of the repair works in order to properly record and report on the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains exposed during such works.

1.4.2 Specific elements of ground works identified in the brief likely to require an archaeologist in attendance included:

- Removal of modern topsoil during general ground levelling

- Removal of modern topsoil to facilitate proper masonry repairs
- Excavation of modern topsoil to provide a buttressing support to Wall G

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report documents the findings of the archaeological watching brief. The project was conducted by John Cook; project managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and by Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In June 2011, ASE was commissioned by Angmering Park Estate Trust, to undertake an earth resistance survey and ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey at the site in an attempt to identify buried remains potentially relating to the Dominican Friary Ruins.
- 2.2 Both the GPR survey and the earth resistance survey successfully identified evidence for archaeological remains, although this evidence was limited to areas with associated surviving above ground structural remains. Both surveys also indicated disturbance across the site relating to the construction of buildings, roads and footpaths that limit the effectiveness of geophysical survey techniques.
- 2.3 The following account is reproduced from ASE's recent report on the above mentioned geophysical survey undertaken at the site (ASE 2011).
- 2.4 The site has traditionally been thought to be the location of the medieval hospital of the Holy Trinity, or Maison Dieu, founded in 1395 on the orders of Richard, earl of Arundel to care for the physical and spiritual needs of the aged and poor (Page, 1905, 97-98). However, recent research has provided compelling evidence that the site is actually that of the town's Dominican Friary, occupying a low-lying position typical of the order's urban houses (Hudson 1993).
- 2.5 The early thirteenth century saw the emergence of a new group of monastic orders, the mendicant friars (Platt 1995, 123), an attempt 'to return to the austere lifestyle of earlier religious groups', with teaching and preaching as important aspects, hence the need to site the friaries near centres of population rather than in 'traditional' monastic rural isolation (Aston 2000, 96). The orders included the Dominicans (Black Friars or Friars Preacher), the Franciscans (Grey Friars or Minorites), the Carmelites (White Friars) and the Austins (Hermit Friars of St. Augustine) (Platt op. cit.).
- 2.6 The Dominican order was founded by a Spanish monk, St. Dominic in southern France, and had established a friary at Canterbury in the 1220s (Greene 1992, 167). Some of their other early establishments include London (by 1224), Northampton (1226), York (1227), Shrewsbury (1232) and Exeter (also 1232) (Aston 2000, 97). The order had arrived in Arundel by 1253, when a friary is mentioned in the will of St. Richard of Chichester (Page 1905, 93). It was the earliest Dominican foundation in Sussex, to be followed by houses at Chichester and Winchelsea (*ibid.*, Taylor 2003)
- 2.7 Further documentary references to royal visitations in 1297 and 1324, suggest that there were twenty-two and twenty brethren respectively at the Arundel establishment at those dates (*ibid.*). Despite some known modest gifts the house always appears to have been relatively poor (in keeping with the aspirations of the Dominicans), and when the friary was dissolved in 1538 the establishment was found to be inhabited by three brethren and was too poor to pay the expenses of the visiting Bishop of Dover (*ibid.*).
- 2.8 As noted by Greene (1992, 169), the paucity of documentary record is

problematic in any study of the mendicant orders, as is the scarcity of published excavation reports, and (as at Arundel) the vulnerability of buildings to urban development (Butler 1984, 126). Clearly the scant above- and below-ground remains at Arundel fit the known relatively simple layout of friaries, with buildings laid out around a central cloister (cf. Linlithgow, a Carmelite house; Greene 1992, Fig. 77; Butler *op. cit.*). The results of the geophysical survey partially confirm the layout evident from the standing remains, especially the alignment of the buildings of the northern and western ranges, as previously seen during a small-scale excavation in the 1960s (Evans 1969).

- 2.9 In this formalised pattern it is expected that the church would occupy the north range, with the other ranges 'commonly consisting of separate two-storey blocks' (Greene 1992, 171), a phenomena noted from a drawing dating from 1780 of the now mostly demolished west range (Hudson 1993, 114 and Fig. 2). The intriguing possibility that there are burials to the north of this range (Evans 1969, 70) also fits the known friary blueprint as at Linlithgow (Greene *op. cit.*). This area is now occupied by the Norfolk Centre car-park. It is also possible that benefactors could be buried within the church itself (*ibid.*). Unfortunately the geophysical survey results were not able to confirm this.
- 2.10 However, there are other potentially significant results from the north range, obviously the most important building at the site, reflected in its comparative grandeur. The church had a high and a low altar in 1382 (Hudson 1997, 100), but little is known of the building's history, liturgical layout or even full extent. It would undoubtedly have been relatively simple in plan with a chancel containing the high altar at the eastern end, but with adequate space for a lay audience in the nave, drawn by the friar's reputation for preaching (Greene, *op. cit.*). The frustratingly limited excavations in the 1960s showed the presence of decorated tiles (Evans 1969, 75; Fig. 2), and it is possible that the geophysics showed evidence of such a floor within the church, although it is equally likely to be tumble from the collapsed walls, located both within and also outside of the building.
- 2.11 Unfortunately friary ranges did not always follow the long-established monastic pattern of regulated positions for the other claustral buildings e.g. refectory to the south (Greene *op. cit.*), so the identification of the role of individual elements would be unwise on currently available evidence. The geophysics shows an internal division in the south range, but is not indicative of function.
- 2.12 The question of the east range is potentially difficult. The geophysics results show that it was either systematically robbed with some thoroughness or that it actually never existed. Arguably, based on sites such as Linlithgow and elsewhere (Butler *op. cit.*) there was presumably an east range to complete the enclosure of the cloister, an area needing a degree of privacy and seclusion. There is also clear evidence for the presence of the cloister-walk on the north wall of the south range. Hence it would appear, based on currently available evidence, that the range was methodically removed prior to, or during the construction of the road in the 1890s (Hudson 1993, 114).

- 2.13 In conclusion, although there is 'no such thing as a typical monastery' (Coppack 1990, 12), the geophysical survey has highlighted some facets of the site which place it firmly within the tradition of Dominican houses in Britain.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE; 2012), the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008) and West Sussex County Council (2007)
- 3.1.2 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.
- 3.1.3 A full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.
- 3.1.4 An elevation/section drawing of the exposed Wall G was drawn at a scale of 1:10.

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Arundel Museum and History Centre. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1 File
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheet
Photographs	71 digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Buttreassing trench (Figures 2 & 3)

4.1.1 A trench measuring 3.45m long by 0.44m wide was excavated by hand on 7th September 2012, to a depth of 0.53m along the length of the southern elevation of Wall G, exposing the surviving flint faced lower section of the wall (Figure 2).

4.1.2 A layer of overburden [001] was excavated to the limit of excavation, 3.96mOD. This overburden both overlay and abutted a section of flint faced wall [002] and clunchstone inner core [003] (the latter two contexts being present both above and below ground). Context [002] consisted of a flint facing within a light grey pebbly lime mortar with ashlar quoins on the south western extent. Many of the flints forming the flint facing had been split lengthways and a single tile and two bricks were observed within the facing. Clunchstone [003] overlay [002]. No other archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	Modern Overburden	Made ground	Trench	Trench	-
002	Masonry	Flint Faced Wall	Trench	Trench	-
003	Masonry	Clunchstone Wall	Trench	Trench	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief revealed a flint facing to the below ground remains of Wall G. Wall G is interpreted as part of one of the buildings forming the medieval friary at Arundel. The presence of quoins at the south-western extent of the surviving wall suggests that this was the corner of building. Brick and tile within the facing, along with the uneven flints, some split lengthways, towards the centre of the exposed section may indicate a later repair to the wall.
- 5.2 Extensive modern overburden was revealed but the excavation did not reveal the full thickness of it. However, this material, which is likely to relate to work carried out at the site during the 20th century, has offered significant protection to the flint faced wall.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Angmering Park Estate Trust for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Kieran Neuner of Nimbus Conservation Limited for his on site assistance.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	DFA11					
Identification Name and Address	Dominican Friary Ruins, Mill Road, Arundel, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 01960 07085					
Geology	Raised Marine Deposits – clay, silt, sand and gravel over Spetisbury Chalk Member					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5218					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Friary Ruins		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 07/09/12	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Angmering Park Estate Trust					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	John Cook					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM	Other Modern		
100 Word Summary						
<p><i>Archaeology South-East were commissioned by Angmering Park Estate Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Dominican Friary Ruins, Arundel. The archaeological watching brief revealed a flint facing to the below ground remains of a particular wall, Wall G. This wall is interpreted as part of one of the buildings forming the medieval friary at Arundel. Brick and tile within the facing, along with the uneven flints, some split lengthways, towards the centre of the exposed section may indicate a later repair to the wall. Extensive modern overburden was revealed but the excavation did not reveal the full thickness of it. However, this material, which is likely to relate to work carried out at the site during the 20th century, has offered significant protection to the flint faced wall.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-144028

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Dominican Friary Ruins, Mill Road, Arundel, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East were commissioned by Angmering Park Estate Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Dominican Friary Ruins, Arundel. The archaeological watching brief revealed a flint facing to the below ground remains of Wall G. Wall G is interpreted as part of one of the buildings forming the medieval friary at Arundel. Brick and tile within the facing, along with the uneven flints, some split lengthways, towards the centre of the exposed section may indicate a later repair to the wall. Extensive modern overburden was revealed. The excavation did not reveal the full thickness of the overburden. However, this material has offered significant protection to the flint faced wall. This overburden is likely to relate to work carried out at the site during the 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 07-09-2012 End: 07-09-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	5218 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DFA11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	MONASTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN ARUNDEL Dominican Friary Ruins, Mill Road, Arundel, West Sussex
Postcode	BN18 9PA
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 45290 10780 50 0 50 52 39 N 000 03 55 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Angmering Park Estate
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	John Cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Angmering Park Estate Trust

Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Arundel Museum and History Centre
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Arundel Museum and History Centre
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

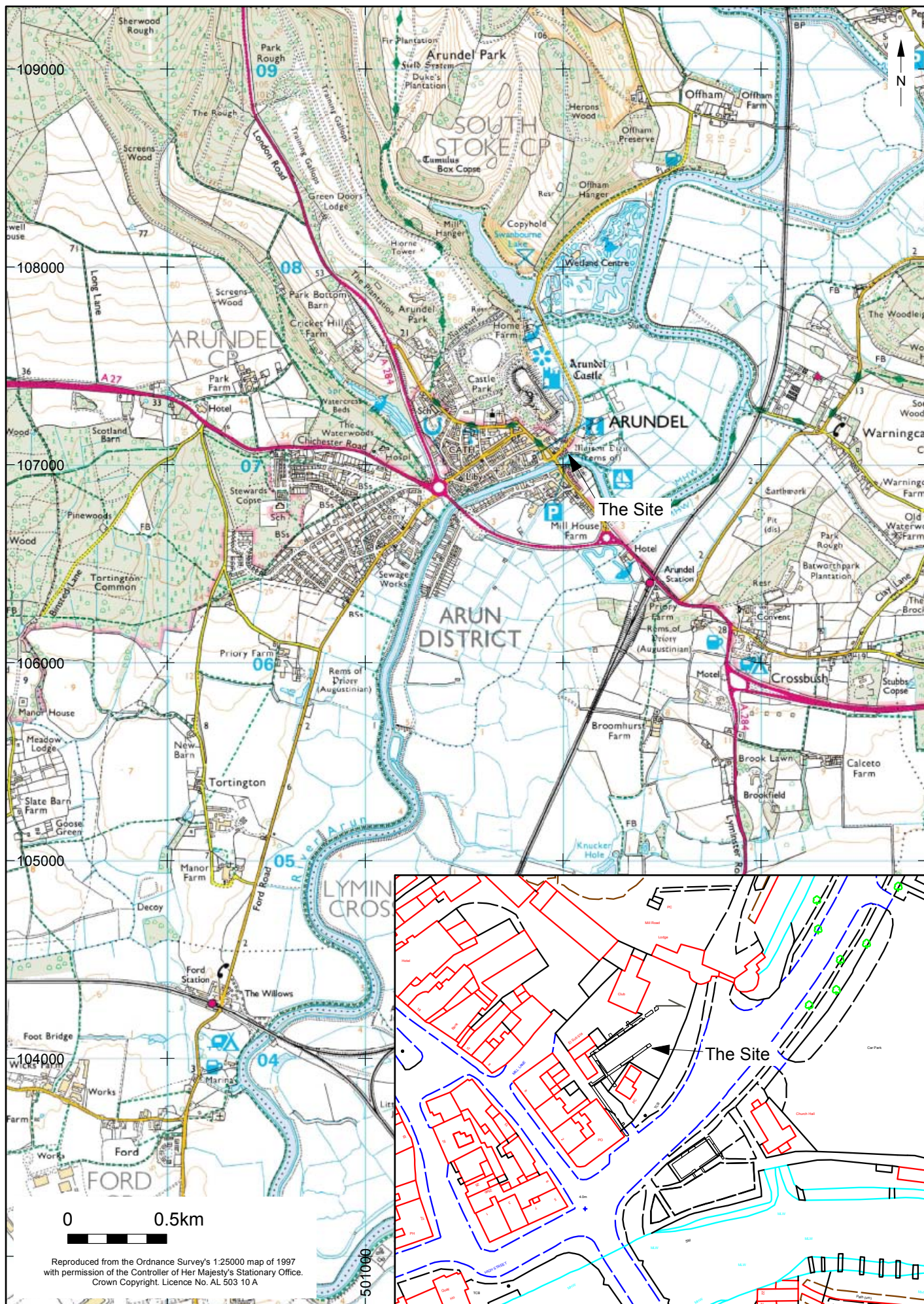
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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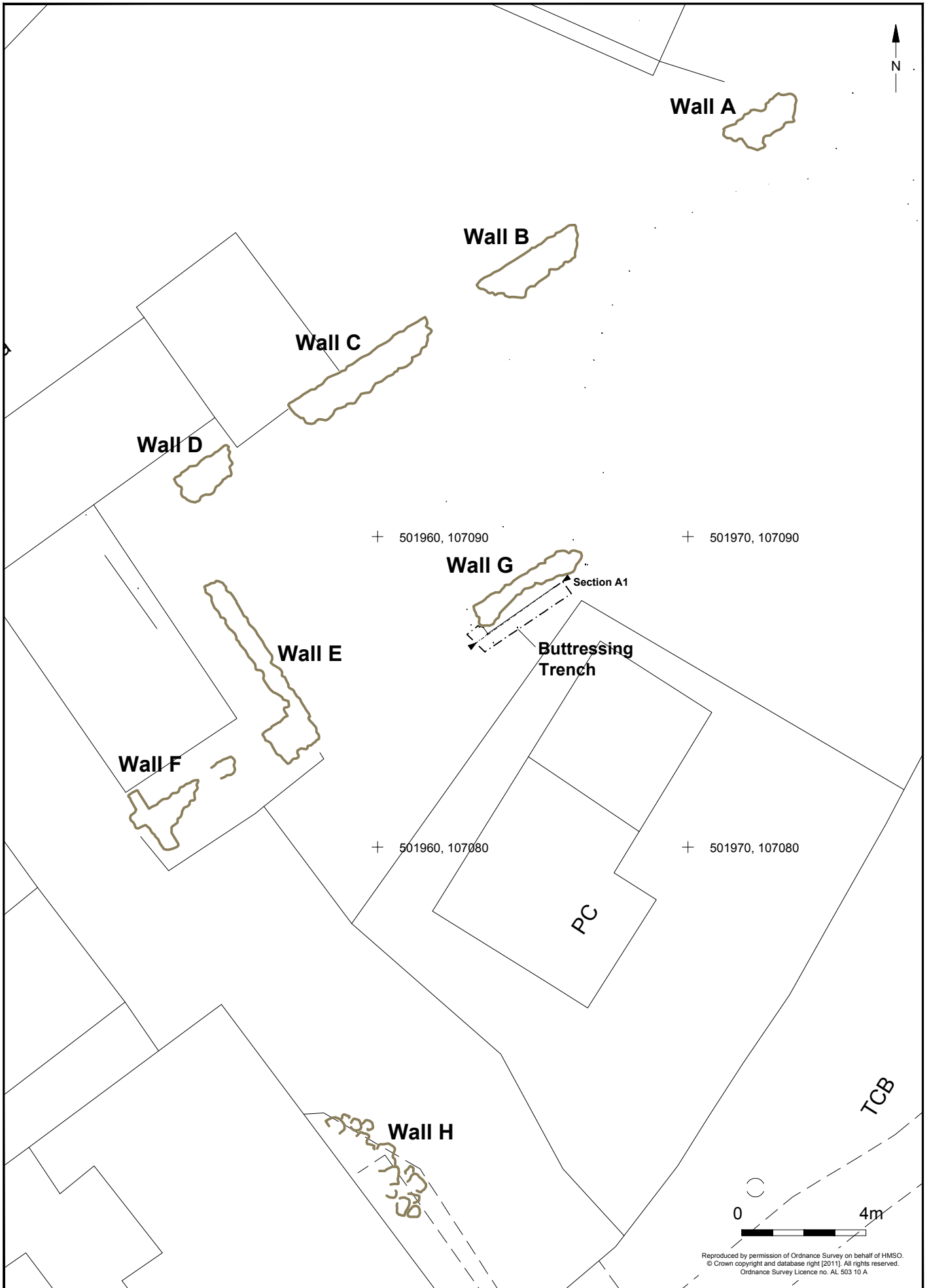
Place of issue or
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Entered on 19 February 2013



©Archaeology South-East		Dominican Friary Ruins, Arundel	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5218	Feb 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013017	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Dominican Friary Ruins, Mill Road, Arundel		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5218	February 2013	Site Plan		
Report Ref: 2013027	Drawn by: JC			



Figure 3a. Wall G, south east elevation



Figure 3b. Wall G,

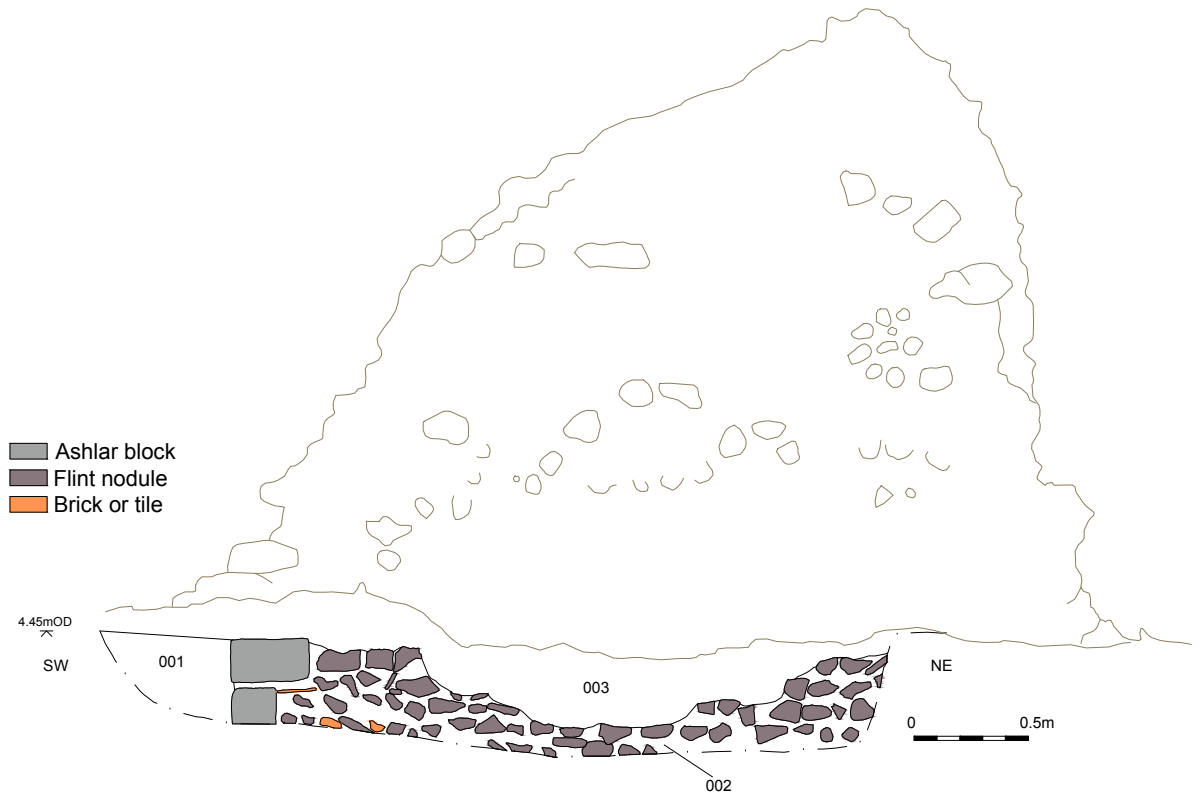


Figure 3c. Section A1 - surviving above ground remains shown faded best fit (Cliveden Conservation 2011)

© Archaeology South-East		Dominican Friary Ruins, Mill Road, Arundel	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5218	February 2013	Section and photographs - Wall G	
Report Ref: 2013027	Drawn by: JC		

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