

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Phoenix Industrial Estate, North Street  
Lewes, East Sussex**

**NGR: 541714 110490  
(TQ 41714 10490)**

**Planning Reference: SDNP/13/05555/PRE**

**ASE Project No: 6564  
Site Code: NSQ 15**

**ASE Report No: 2015349  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-224780**



**By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA**

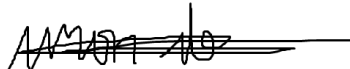
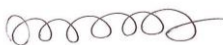
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<b>Date of Issue:</b>	October 2015		
<b>Revision:</b>			

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The Santon Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Phoenix Industrial Estate, North Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Owing to problems with buried services, an evaluation trench located on the presumed alignment of the medieval town wall could not be excavated. Subsequently two smaller trenches were mechanically excavated nearby.*

*Both trenches revealed a similar sequence. This consisted of apparently untruncated river alluvium at a depth of 2.2 to 2.5 metres below present ground level. Cut into this alluvium a 19<sup>th</sup> century brick, chalk and flint wall survived to a height of between 0.86 and 1.68m. The wall almost certainly pertains to the Phoenix Iron Works which remained in operation on the site until the 1970's. On either side of this wall distinct layers of dumped material up to 2.5m thick containing 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, glass, metal, CBM and clay tobacco pipe artefacts were recorded.*

*No earlier remains, finds, or elements relating to the medieval town wall were uncovered. Given the limited area of the site evaluated at this time, the results of the current project cannot be considered as indicative of the character of buried remains across the development site as a whole.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by The Santon Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Phoenix Industrial Estate, North Street, Lewes, East Sussex (centred on NGR 541714 110490; Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of the modern commercial centre of Lewes, on the western bank of the River Ouse. It is located close to the junction of North Street and Phoenix Way, the former position of an industrial unit used as a theatre and studio which was demolished following a fire in March 2014. It is currently a vacant plot.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is New Pit Chalk Formation. There are no recorded superficial deposits within the site, but there is alluvium associated with the River Ouse immediately to the north (BGS 2015).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning consent is currently being sought from the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for a major residential and commercial development in this part of Lewes (Planning Reference: SDNP/13/05555/PRE). The first stage of predetermination work, requested by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in the capacity as advisors to the SDNPA, was for an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) which was undertaken by ASE (ASE 2013).

1.3.2 Following the submission of the DBA and subsequent consultation between ASE and the ESCC Archaeologists (Casper Johnson and Greg Chuter), it was established that a programme of pre-determination evaluation would be required where practicable in order to inform the planning process.

1.3.3 A written scheme of investigation (ASE 2014) was prepared by ASE which allowed for undertaking a programme of archaeological and geoarchaeological investigations at various locations within the development site. Owing to problems with access to the land (principally in use as public car parks) this fieldwork was never undertaken.

1.3.4 Following comments received from the SDNPA, Historic England and the ESCC Archaeologist in the summer of 2015, and subsequent consultation between the client's archaeological consultant (The JESSOP Consultancy) and the ESCC Archaeologist (Casper Johnson) it was established that the only area available for pre-determination trenching lies at No. 1 Phoenix Place. The conjectured line of the medieval town wall passes through this area (Figures 3 and 5). A new WSI (ASE 2015) was issued for this work outlining the methodology to be used in the field and in the reporting and archiving of the results.

## 1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The research aims given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were to:

*'assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological remains and deposits*

*assess how they might be affected by the development of the site*

*establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site*

*assess what options should be considered for further investigation and/or mitigation'*

1.4.2 Investigation of this part of the town also offers the potential to address a number of the research priorities for the medieval period identified in the draft South East Research Framework and the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey for Lewes (Harris 2005). In particular it is intended that the trench establishes whether or not any evidence for the medieval town wall exists within the site and what evidence there for later activity, including post-medieval industrial activity.

## 1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching undertaken in September 2015. The on-site archaeological work was undertaken by Gary Webster (Archaeologist) and Nathalie Gonzalez (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Neil Griffin and Paul Mason (Fieldwork Managers) and by Dan Swift (Post-excavation Manager).

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## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 The Desk-Based Assessment

- 2.1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (ASE 2013) of the site was produced, based on an examination of documentary and cartographic sources and the use of the East Sussex County Council Historical Environment Record (HER).
- 2.1.2 The DBA (*ibid.*), which covered all of the area included in the proposed development, was undertaken before the fire at the current site. It concluded that:

*'The site is currently occupied by late 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial buildings and associated infrastructure. The proposed works would involve the demolition of most of the existing buildings and their replacement by new structures with new associated infrastructure and landscaping. Historically the site formed part of wet meadows, including the town brooks, used for common pasture along the valley floor of the Ouse, although the higher south-western corner may have supported outlying medieval settlement on the edge of the historic core of the town. The medieval town wall is thought to have run through this part of the town, although this is yet to be proven. From the early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, parts of the site were used for industrial purposes: the Phoenix Ironworks and timber yards in the eastern part of the site (with associated terraced housing), a tannery in the centre and a paper mill at the western end.'*

*The assessment has concluded that:*

*The site has potential for palaeo-environmental deposits of prehistoric and Romano-British date within the underlying alluvial silts; The site has localised potential for medieval deposits and 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial deposits; Elements of the built fabric of the Phoenix Ironworks survive as visible elements in the current landscape, and further elements may survive within later structures; All areas of the site have deep deposits of made ground ranging in depth between approximately 1 and 3m; Two archaeologically sensitive areas have been identified (the site of the former ironworks, and an area of possible medieval occupation between Brook Street and North Street) where the depth of overlying made ground appears to be shallower; The proposed development will damage or destroy any archaeological deposits in the identified areas of archaeological sensitivity; No significant setting issues relating to Designated Heritage Assets have been identified.'*

- 2.1.3 In terms of more detailed analysis of records relating to this specific part of the development site, cartographic sources suggest the alignment of the medieval town wall may have run through the site. Differing alignments of the wall from these sources are shown on Figure 3. Similarly buildings associated with a tanyard appear on or near the site in two maps published in 1799 (ASE 2013; Figures 4 and 5). Structures associated with the Phoenix Iron Works are shown at the site in all of the cartographic sources between the 1870s and the 1970s (*ibid.*).

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The position of a single trench measuring 12m x 4m (ASE 2104; Figure 2) was agreed between The Santon Group, the JESSOP Consultancy, ESCC and ASE. However, owing to the presence of buried services this had to be modified to two smaller trenches measuring 3.8m x 2.8m (Trench 1) and 3.0m by 2.5m (Trench 2) which were excavated in the same area as proposed (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Mechanical excavation, under constant archaeological supervision, using a flat-bladed bucket was taken in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the natural geology were manually cleaned to identify archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were collected, sampled and recorded to accepted professional standards (ClfA 2014a; WSCC *et al.* 2015) using standard Archaeology South-East recording forms.
- 3.1.4 The trenches and all features were planned using digital survey technology. The trench sections were recorded in sketches will be housed with the archive. A digital photographic record was maintained of both of the trenches.

#### 3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Lewes Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	34
No. of files/paper record	1
Digital photos	55
Trench Record Forms	2

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Following the detection of a number of buried services running across the site, the planned location of the trench could not be examined. Following consultation with Casper Johnson and Oliver Jessop two smaller trenches were excavated to the north.

4.1.2 The original trench that was proposed was to be 'stepped' to allow safe access for recording. Unfortunately this was not possible given the limited space available between services for the two smaller trenches, and therefore the excavated trenches could not be entered safely and detailed recording of the deposits (e.g. by measured sections) was impossible. However, the character and depth of the encountered deposits was recorded from ground level.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Maximum Deposit Thickness m	Level in m AOD
1/001	Layer	Tarmac	0.25	4.76-4.87
1/002	Layer	Made Ground	0.40	
1/003	Layer	Made Ground	0.22	
1/004	Layer	Made Ground	0.24	
1/005	Layer	Made Ground	0.24	
1/006	Layer	Made Ground	0.23	
1/007	Layer	Made Ground	0.89	
1/008	Cut	Construction Cut	0.46	
1/009	Masonry	Wall	0.46	3.16
1/010	Layer	Made Ground	0.15	
1/011	Layer	Made Ground	0.27	
1/012	Layer	Alluvium	0.10	
1/013	Layer	Alluvium	-	
1/014	Layer	Made Ground	0.30	
1/015	Layer	Made Ground	0.23	

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 3.8m by 2.8m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.5m below ground level (c. 2.3m AOD). The earliest deposit encountered in the base of the trench was an orangey brown alluvial clay, context [1/013]. It was overlain by context [1/012], another layer of orangey brown alluvial clay with a notable green tinge, suggesting disturbance/percolation from above.

4.2.2 A wall had been built onto the alluvial material, in an undetectable construction cut [1/008]. Wall [1/009] was 350mm wide and constructed from fragments of brick, chalk and flint, bonded with a strong grey mortar and ran from south-east to north-west across the trench. It appeared to form the foundation or lower part of a wall marked on maps of the 1870s (Figure 5), although there is clearly some discrepancy between the position of the wall as surveyed and that shown on the cartographic sources.

- 4.2.3 The deposits surviving on either side of the wall were notably different, suggesting the wall was left standing while the level of the ground surface was systematically raised prior to the construction of buildings in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This arrangement was also seen in Trench 2 (see below).
- 4.2.4 On the northern side of the wall, and therefore within a structure shown on the cartographic sources, the oldest deposit above the alluvium was a dark brownish grey clayey silt, context [1/004], which was overlain by a layer of brick rubble, context [1/003]. On the southern side of the wall (i.e. outside of the building), the oldest layer was an orangey brown clay, context [1/007], which was overlain by a layer of compacted chalk, context [1/006]. Wall [1/009], context [1/003] and context [1/006] were sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clay, which contained brick and chalk rubble, context [1/002], which was overlain by the current tarmac surfacing of the car-park, context [1/001]. Context [1/002] contained a layer of brick rubble, context [1/010].
- 4.2.5 Other deposits were recorded in the north section of the trench further away from the wall, where the surface of the alluvium was not revealed. The oldest deposit encountered in this part of the trench was a brick and chalk rubble, context [1/015], sealed by a layer of orangey brown clay, context [1/014]. This was in turn overlain by a deposit of crushed chalk, context [1/005], which was sealed by context [1/004]. Similarly in the southern section of the trench a deposit of darkish brown clayey silt, context [1/011] was located between contexts [1/012] and [1/007].
- 4.2.6 Context [1/001] contained the largest assemblage of domestic refuse recovered from any of the deposits encountered at the site including early 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, CBM, animal bone, iron, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe and 19<sup>th</sup> century glass items.

### 4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Maximum Deposit Thickness m	Level in m AOD
2/001	Layer	Tarmac and concrete	0.33	4.63
2/002	Layer	Made Ground	0.12	
2/003	Layer	Made Ground	0.20	
2/004	Cut	Construction Cut	1.8	
2/005	Masonry	Wall	1.8	4.08
2/006	Layer	Made Ground	0.29	
2/007	Layer	Made Ground	0.28	
2/008	Layer	Made Ground	0.18	
2/009	Layer	Made Ground	0.24	
2/010	Layer	Made Ground	0.29	
2/011	Layer	Alluvium	0.10	
2/012	Layer	Alluvium	-	
2/013	Layer	Made Ground	0.40	
2/014	Layer	Made Ground	0.35	
2/015	Layer	Made Ground	0.25	
2/016	Layer	Made Ground	0.63	
2/017	Layer	Made Ground	0.09	
2/018	Layer	Made Ground	0.28	
2/019	Layer	Made Ground	0.24	

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 3.0m by 2.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.2m (c. 2.40m AOD). The oldest deposit encountered in the trench was a greyish brown alluvium, context [2/012], which was overlain by another level of alluvium with a more greenish tinge, context [2/011], as seen in Trench 1.
- 4.3.2 Wall [2/005] almost certainly the continuance of wall [1/009] as recorded in Trench 1. Similarly, here wall [2/005] also sat on the upper deposits of alluvium, context [2/011], with no visible construction cut again visible. Again, the deposits either side of the wall, which ran from south-west to north-east were noticeably different.
- 4.3.3 To the north of the wall (i.e. inside a former structure), there were three distinct layers. The earliest, which directly overlay alluvial context [2/011] was a dark brownish orange gravel-rich silty clay, context [2/019]. It was overlain by a mid-greenish grey sandy silt, context [2/015], which was sealed by a layer of crushed chalk, context [2/014]. The most recent deposit on that side of the wall was a layer of brick rubble, context [2/013].
- 4.3.4 On the southern (outside) of the wall, there was clear evidence of the tipping of material, with a marked sloping of layers downwards away from the masonry. The earliest deposit, tipped directly onto alluvial layer [2/011] was a dark brown clayey silt, context [2/018]. It was sealed by a deposit of mid-brownish grey sandy silt, context [2/010], in turn overlain by a layer of chalk rubble, context [2/009], sealed by a deposit of ash containing brick rubble, context [2/008].

4.3.5 The next layer to be deposited was crushed chalk, context [2/007], then a deposit of orange clay, context [2/017] was tipped. Next a layer of oyster shells and other detritus, context [2/016] was deposited, followed by another layer of orange clay, context [2/006]. Both of those deposits were sealed by a layer of ash, context [2/003], which was partially overlain by a mid-greyish brown clay, context [2/002]. Contexts [2/13], wall [2/005] and contexts [2/003] and [2/002] were then sealed by the levelling, concrete and tarmac car-park surfacing, context [2/001].

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014b). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
1/03	2	48	6	582					1	4		
1/05			1	398								
1/011	21	237	1	94	1	<2	1	7	1	2	2	546
1/015			2	690								
2/006			1	1380								
2/008			1	860	1	3					1	247
2/010			1	135								
2/016			1	425							4	575
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4564</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1368</b>

Table 4: Quantification of the finds

### 5.2 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Only two contexts produced post-Roman pottery during the evaluation. The assemblage is fully listed in Table 5 as part of the visible archive.

Context	Ware/fabric	No/Weight	Comments
1/003	Unglazed earthenware	1/42g	Flower pot x1 (with club rim)
1/003	Glazed red earthenware	1/26g	Uncertain form x1
1/011	Glazed red earthenware	2/92g	Uncertain form x2
1/011	Yellow ware	3/78g	Oven dish x1 (illegible stamp), small carinated bowl x1, jug x1
1/011	Creamware	4/32g	Late bowl x1
1/011	Pearlware (transfer-printed)	7/66g	Plate x2 (Chinese and floral designs), bowl x1 (landscape design), teabowl x2 (Chinese designs), saucer x1 (floral design)
1/011	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	5/28g	Plate x2 (willow pattern), saucer x1 (floral design)
1/011	Brown transfer-printed whiteware	1/1g	?bowl x1 (floral design)

Table 5: Summary of post-Roman pottery (showing estimated number of vessels represented by form)

5.2.2 Overall the pottery is in fairly good condition and does not show signs of extensive reworking. Both assemblages can be placed in the late post-medieval period: that from [1/003] dating generally to between 1800 and

1900, with that from [1/011] being placed between c.1800-1830. The assemblages are too small for reliable comment, but they appear to be of fairly typical domestic types of the lower/middle classes.

5.2.3 The pottery does not hold any potential for further study beyond that undertaken for this report and has duly been discarded.

**5.3 The Ceramic Building Material** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 A small assemblage of 11 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 3977g was recovered from seven contexts. All the brick and tile was fragmentary and provided only minimal dating evidence. Two forms of peg tile were recovered from 1/015, one corner fragment revealing a square peg hole, the other a whole upper fragment with two diamond shaped holes; their relative thinness would suggest a post-medieval date. None of the brick was frogged, but most appeared well made and un-creased. This, in conjunction with the presence of lime mortar, would indicate a date of c.17-18<sup>th</sup> century.

5.3.2 One fragment of vitrified brick had a glazed header, common amongst bricks used in decorative brickwork. This again could indicate an original date of 17-18<sup>th</sup> century, but the presence of lime mortar covering this and other surfaces suggest this brick fragment was reused at a later time, possibly in later structural foundations. Sparse charcoal flecks are visible within the mortar, a practice that started in London after 1666, although possibly much later in East Sussex c.18<sup>th</sup> century.

5.3.3 One tile fabric and three brick fabric were identified (Table 6). Examples of fabrics and forms have been retained.

Fabric code	Description
T1	Dense orange matrix with sparse paler streaks. Sparse fine-medium quartz and Fe speckle; sparse very coarse Fe-rich deposits, sometimes fired to black, sometimes darker red. Sparse very coarse round pale silty deposits.
B1	Soft, granular matrix with abundant coarse (very coarse unsorted 'sugary' quartz) and sparse Fe-rich speckling.
B2	Fine, dense orange matrix. Clean (over-fired?) with fine-medium Fe speckle, sparse coarse Fe-rich inclusions and sparse medium white inclusions - calcareous material? If any quartz it is not visible through x20 microscope.
VITR / B3	Vitrified fabric, but clearly streaked with paler, silty material.

Table 6: Overview of the ceramic building material fabrics

**5.4 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A small assemblage including seven glass fragments (weight 1368g) was recovered from three different contexts. Included are two wine bottle base fragments from [1/011] comprising two base fragments of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. A brownish green beer bottle fragment of later 19<sup>th</sup>- or early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date was recovered from [2/016], which also contained two fragments from cylindrical mineral water bottles. Neither of the latter are embossed, and the date between the mid-19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century. Finally, [2/008] contained the base of a large, 19<sup>th</sup>-century tumbler.

**5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 Two plain stem fragments of clay tobacco pipe (CTP) were recovered from two different contexts ([1/003] and [1/011]). Both can only be dated broadly to between c.1750 and 1910.

**5.6 The Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 The iron rim fragment from a cylindrical tin was recovered from [1/011]. The fragment, from a food tin, dates to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**5.7 The Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

- 5.7.1 Two fragments of bone were recovered from two contexts including [2/008] and [1/011]. The specimen from [1/011] is unidentifiable, the bone from [2/008] may have formed part of a large-mammal hyoid. There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bones.

## 6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 6.1 Overview

6.1.1 The evaluation has shown that post-medieval remains survive in the area but there was no evidence of any earlier deposits or finds, or of the alignment of the medieval town wall or any associated features, or indications of the location of a tannery.

### 6.2 Deposit Survival and Existing Impacts

6.2.1 There has clearly been extensive demolition at the site resulting in the loss of potential later archaeological deposits. The presence of buried services also restricted attempts to locate the town wall, causing the trenches to be located away from the alignments provided on the cartographic sources.

6.2.2 The thickness of overburden deposits varied little between the two trenches at c.2m, with surface of the 'natural' alluvium encountered at 2.30m AOD in Trench 1 and 2.40m AOD in Trench 2. There appeared to have been no obvious truncation of the surface of the alluvium in either trench, arguably suggesting that there may be potential for the survival of archaeological deposits elsewhere in the development area.

6.2.3 The top of the masonry was encountered in both trenches immediately below the levelling for the modern car-park surfacing, suggesting that the demolition of post-medieval buildings had been taken to that level across this part of the site.

### 6.3 Post-Medieval

6.3.1 Although there has clearly been substantial demolition and subsequent levelling at the site, limited *in situ* masonry remains and domestic artefactual evidence from this period did survive at the site.

6.3.2 The wall identified in both Trenches 1 and 2 is clearly 19th century and undoubtedly forms part of the Phoenix Iron Works, which opened in 1832 and gradually expanded to cover much of the site (ASE 2013). Although a wall is not shown in this location on the 1841 tithe map (*ibid*; Figure 7), one is marked on the 1873 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5) and this provides a clear timeframe.

6.3.3 It appears that the area was levelled for the construction of the building by the demolition of the wall and the importation of material containing domestic rubbish (the dating of the material in the layers of made ground is consistent with this). There was no obvious trace of the later building in the trenches.

### 6.4 Consideration of Research Aims

6.4.1 The evaluation has met the stated research aims insofar as post-medieval archaeological remains were identified at the site, and their '*character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality*' have been established.



6.4.2 However, given the limited area available for archaeological evaluation at this time, the results of the current project cannot be considered as indicative of the character of buried remains across the development site as a whole.

## **6.5 Conclusions**

6.5.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of *in situ* post-medieval archaeological remains at the site. Clearly few conclusions can be drawn from such small evaluation trenches, especially as their locations were away from the presumed alignment(s) of the town wall.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank The Santon Group for commissioning the archaeological work. Thanks are also due to Casper Johnson and Greg Chuter, County Archaeologists, East Sussex County Council and to Oliver Jessop of JESSOP Consultancy for their input at various stages of the project.

**HER Summary**

Site Code	NSQ 15					
Identification Name and Address	Phoenix Industrial Estate, North Street, Lewes					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	541714 1104910					
Geology	New Pit Chalk Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6564					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓					
Type of Site	Deep Urban ✓					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 23.09.2015 – 25.09.2015					
Sponsor/Client	The Santon Group					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary						
			PM ✓			

*Summary*

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The Santon Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Phoenix Industrial Estate, North Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Owing to problems with buried services, an evaluation trench located on the presumed alignment of the medieval town wall could not be excavated. Subsequently two smaller trenches were mechanically excavated nearby.*

*Both trenches revealed a similar sequence. This consisted of apparently untruncated river alluvium at a depth of 2.2 to 2.5 metres below present ground level. Cut into this alluvium a 19th century brick, chalk and flint wall survived to a height of between 0.86 and 1.68m. The wall almost certainly pertains to the Phoenix Iron Works which remained in operation on the site until the 1970's. On either side of this wall distinct layers of dumped material up to 2.5m thick containing 18th and 19th century pottery, glass, metal, CBM and clay tobacco pipe artefacts were recorded.*

*No earlier remains, finds, or elements relating to the medieval town wall were uncovered. Given the limited area of the site evaluated at this time, the results of the current project cannot be considered as indicative of the character of buried remains across the development site as a whole.*

**OASIS Form****OASIS ID: archaeol6-224780****Project details**

Project name	Phoenix Industrial Estate, North Street, Lewes, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The Santon Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Phoenix Industrial Estate, North Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Owing to problems with buried services, an evaluation trench located on the presumed alignment of the medieval town wall could not be excavated. Subsequently two smaller trenches were mechanically excavated nearby. Both trenches revealed a similar sequence. This consisted of apparently untruncated river alluvium at a depth of 2.2 to 2.5 metres below present ground level. Cut into this alluvium a 19th century brick, chalk and flint wall survived to a height of between 0.86 and 1.68m. The wall almost certainly pertains to the Phoenix Iron Works which remained in operation on the site until the 1970's. On either side of this wall distinct layers of dumped material up to 2.5m thick containing 18th and 19th century pottery, glass, metal, CBM and clay tobacco pipe artefacts were recorded. No earlier remains, finds, or elements relating to the medieval town wall were uncovered. Given the limited area of the site evaluated at this time, the results of the current project cannot be considered as indicative of the character of buried remains across the development site as a whole.
Project dates	Start: 23-09-2015 End: 25-09-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	NSQ 15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SDNP/13/05555/PRE - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	6564 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	MASONRY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES LEWES Phoenix Industrial Estate, North Street
Postcode	BN7 2PQ
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 41714 10490 50.875933959097 0.014504429967 50 52 33 N 000 00 52 E Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Gary Webster
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	The Santon Group

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report -Phoenix Industrial estate, North Street, Lewes, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2015349
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos

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Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	8 October 2015



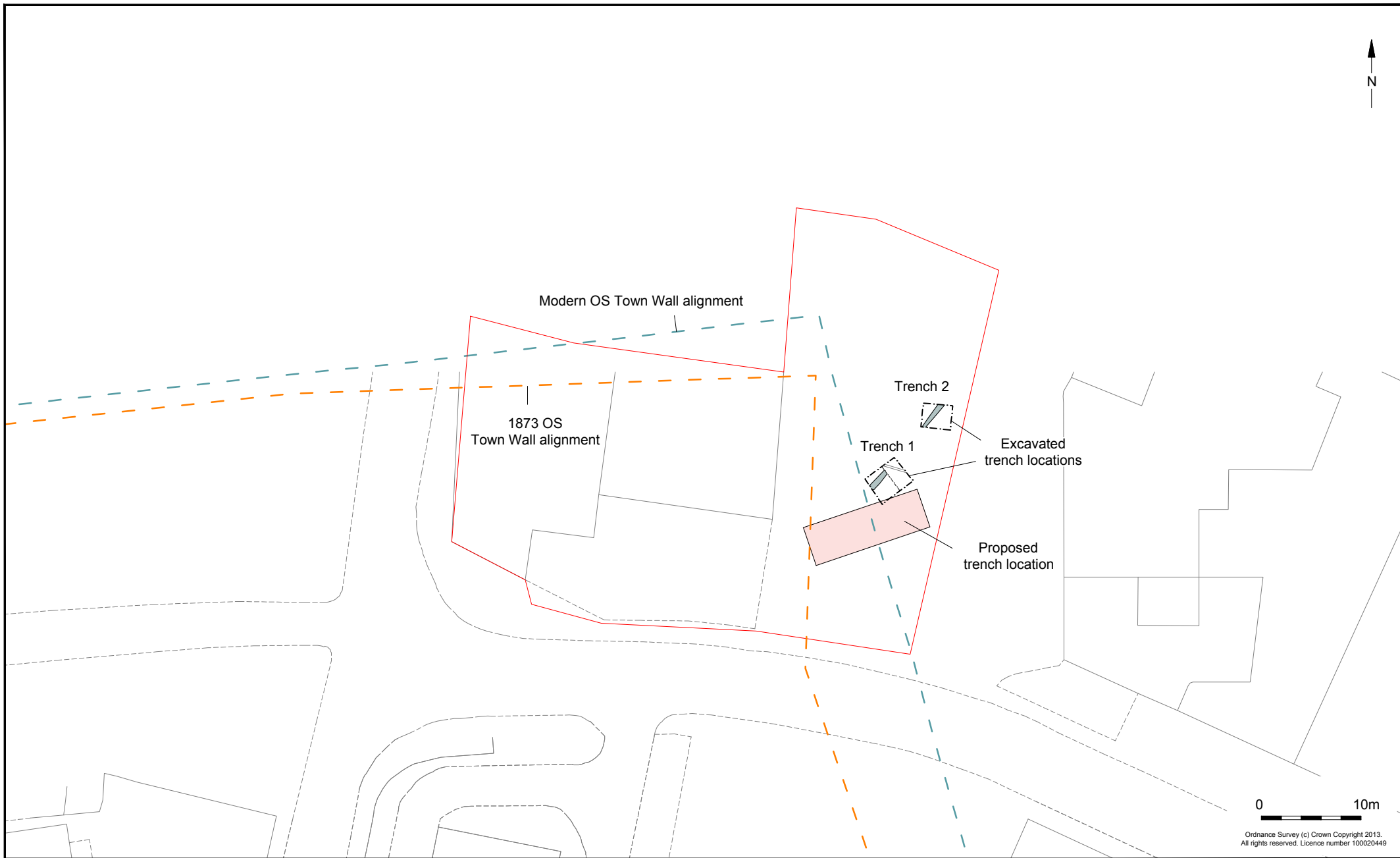
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© Archaeology South-East		Phoenix Industrial Estate, North Street, Lewes	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6564	Oct 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015349	Drawn by: JLR		

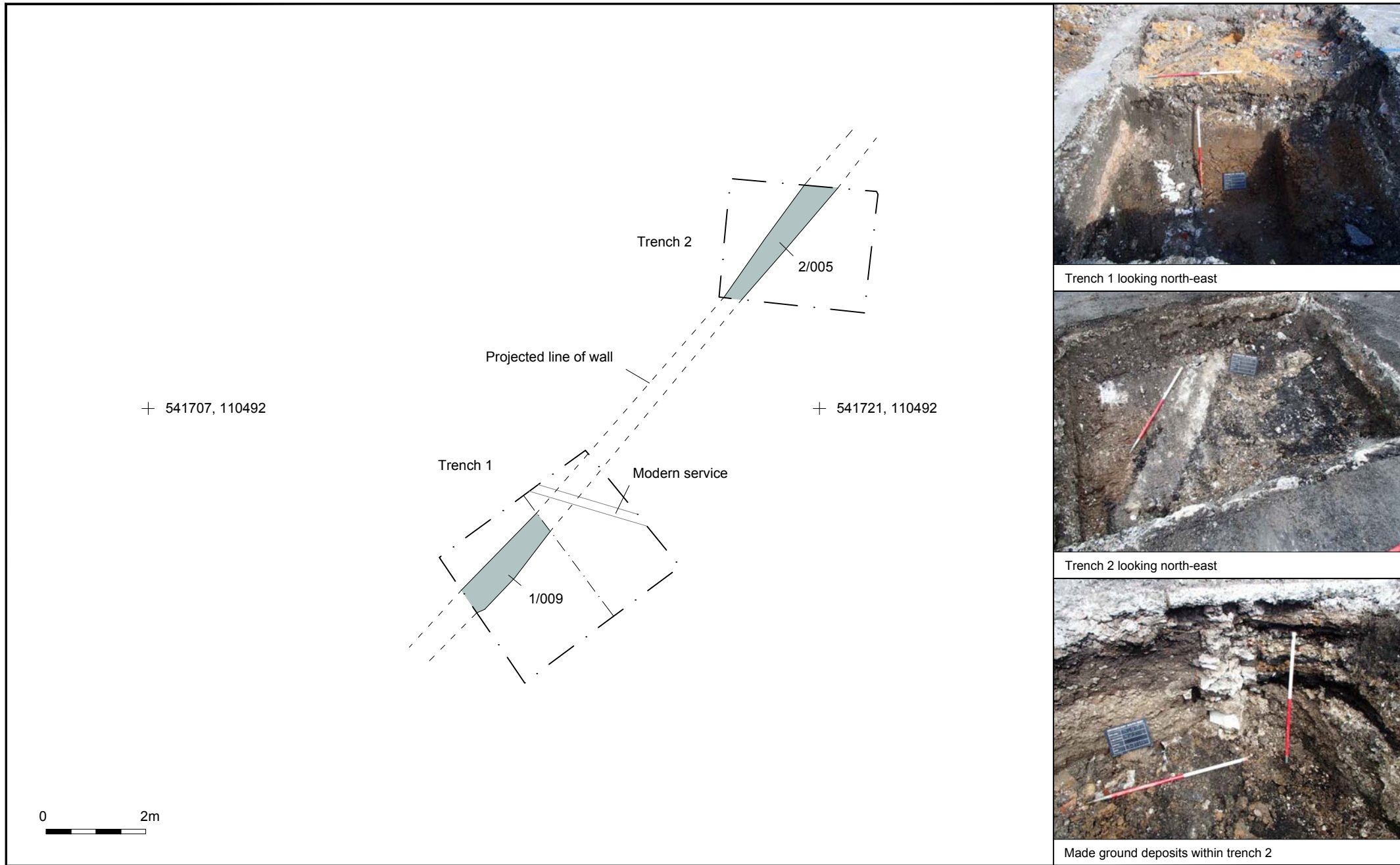




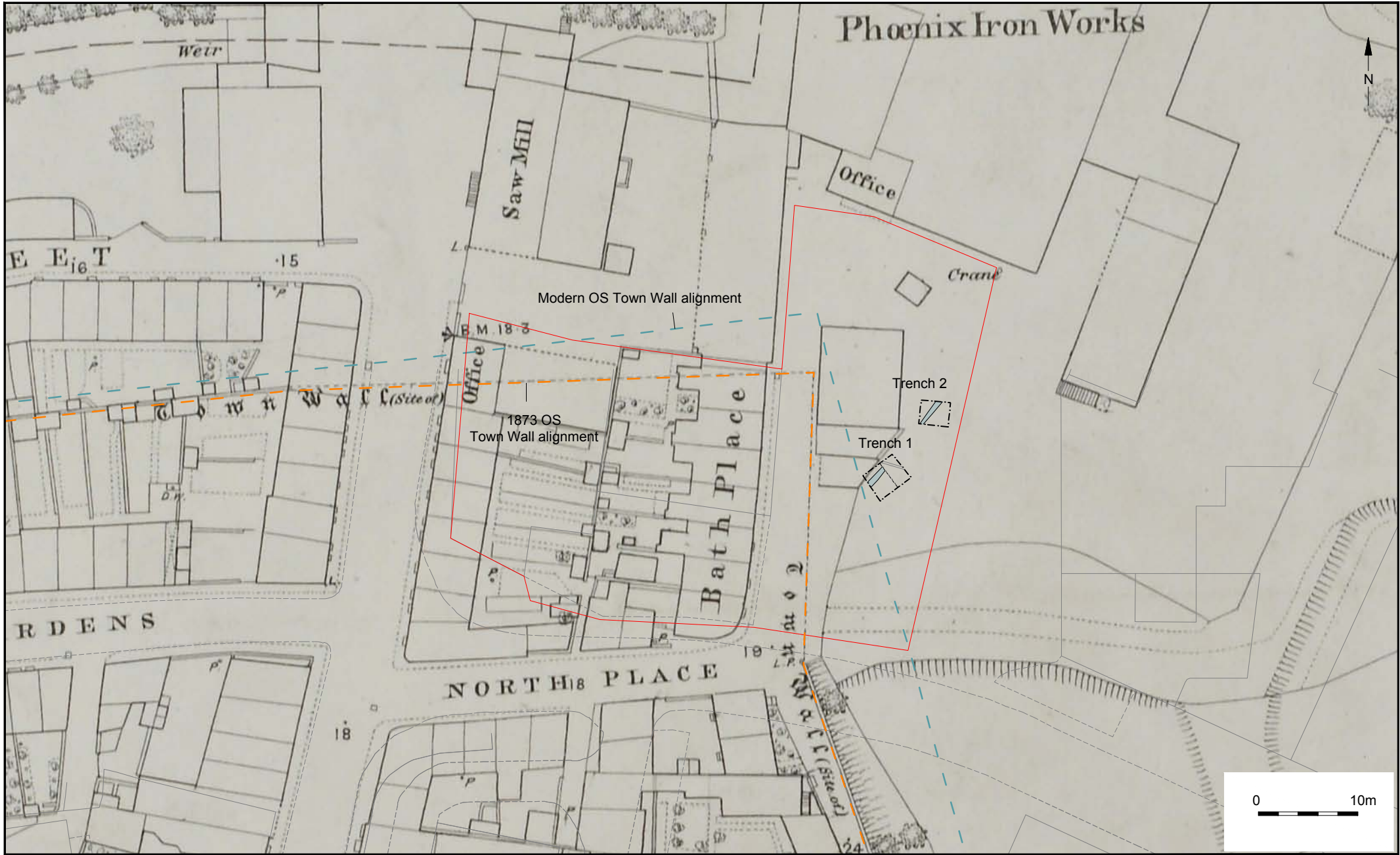


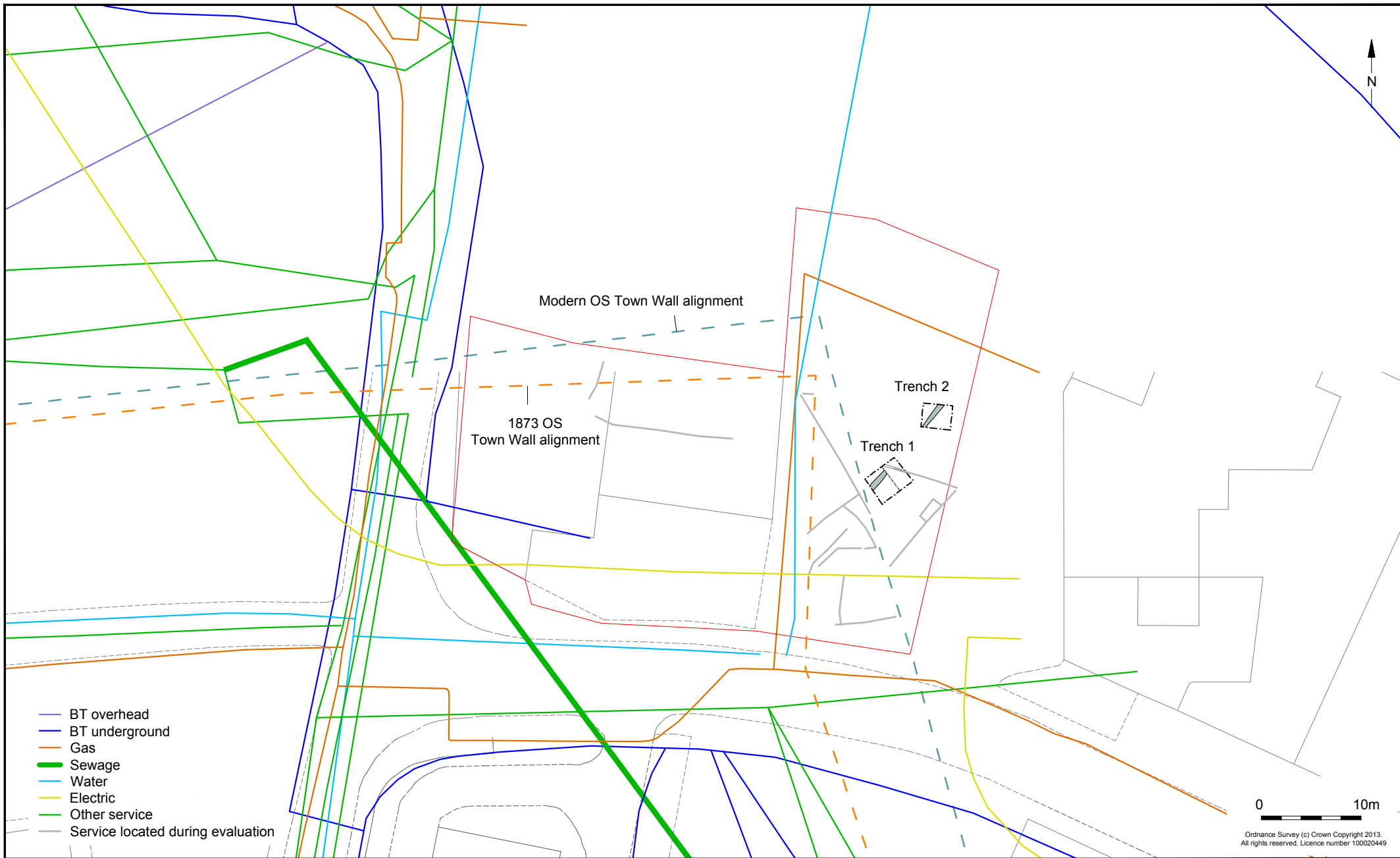


© Archaeology South-East		North Street Quarter, Lewes	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6564	Oct 2014	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2015349	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		North Street Quarter, Lewes	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 6564	Oct 2014	Trenches 1 and 2	
Report Ref: 2015349	Drawn by: JLR		





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Project Ref: 6564

Oct 2014

Report Ref: 2015349

Drawn by: JLR

North Street Quarter, Lewes

Trench location and known services

Fig. 6

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