

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Priory Barn, Behind 25 Priory Street
Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1HH**

NGR: 541416 109677

Planning Ref: SDNP/15/01849/FUL

ASE Project No: 7889

Site Code: PRY 15

ASE Report No: 2016109

OASIS id: archaeol6-251187



By Chris Russel

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Peter and Louise Wingate-Saul to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on land to the rear of 25 A-C Priory Street, Lewes, East Sussex.

Works monitored included excavations associated with underpinning the eastern boundary wall, excavations associated with foundation works for the new dwelling and the excavation of a service trench. The site is situated close to the northern boundary of Lewes Priory and the potential for the ground-works to reveal archaeology was considered high. Two evaluation trenches excavated at the site by ASE revealed the remains of chalk block wall foundations and for that reason the ESCC Archaeologist advised that any excavations undertaken subsequently be monitored by an Archaeologist.

A pit was partially revealed by the ground-works which contained pottery dating from the earliest phases of the Priory as well as a single fragment of Roman brick. This was sealed by a mortar surface and a layer of masonry waste consisting of both Quarr stone and Caen Limestone which may have been deposited by the re-working of stone robbed from the Priory post dissolution. All other features noted on site were cut down through the mortar surface and waste stone deposit including the chalk wall foundations noted in the evaluation carried out at the site.

Although there was evidence of extensive post-medieval activity at the site in the form of wall foundations and made ground earlier features and deposits were little disturbed and it is reasonable to assume that any archaeological remains still present at the site will be preserved in-situ. The natural chalk geology was observed across the site at 9.73m AOD in the south and 10.11m in the north.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Peter and Louise Wingate-Saul to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on land to the rear of 25 A-C Priory Street, Lewes, East Sussex (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 541416 109677 and its location is shown on Figure 1.

1.2 The site is located on the southern outskirts of Lewes, and is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area which defines the medieval and post-medieval suburb of Lewes known as Southover, as well as the Cluniac Priory of St Pancras (hereafter 'the priory').

1.3 A planning application for the demolition of the existing building and erection of a new dwelling was approved by South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in April 2015 (Planning Ref. SDNP/15/01849/FUL). Planning permission was granted subject to conditions, including a requirement for a programme of archaeological work (Condition 4):

4. No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with 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

1.4 The site is within the priory precinct immediately to the north of the priory church, and an area that may have been used for human burial. There is, therefore, a high potential for medieval and post-medieval remains to exist below the current ground surface. Consultation with Greg Chuter, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Assistant Archaeologist established that a trial-trench evaluation and Level 2 Historic Building Recording Survey of Priory Barn would be required. These two elements of fieldwork were undertaken by ASE in July and September 2015 respectively in compliance with the above planning condition (see below; ASE 2015b & 2015c). The results of the trial trench evaluation (carried out post-demolition of the standing structure) confirmed archaeological remains were present. The ESCC Archaeologist advised that an archaeological watching brief was to be maintained during excavation of foundation trenches (assuming that general ground reduction, service trenching and general landscaping will not impact below c. 0.55m below existing ground level) in further compliance with the above planning condition.

1.5 All work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015d), the *Sussex Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork* (WSCC, ESCC & CDC 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist Standard

and Guidance for Field Evaluation (ClfA 2014a) and Code of Conduct (ClfA 2014b).

1.6 Geology and topography

1.6.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online (BGS 2015), the site lies on Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation. Overlying this are head deposits consisting of clay, silt, sand and gravel. These superficial deposits were formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

1.6.2 The site is bounded by residential buildings to the north, east and west and open fields to the south. The site is generally level at approximately 11m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

1.7 Research aims and objectives

Aims

1.7.1 The broad aims of the watching brief, in keeping with previous similar projects are:

- To enable any archaeological deposits and features disturbed during the proposed works, to be adequately recorded, interpreted and reported on.

1.7.2 Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research questions (RQ) derived from the Lewes *Extensive Urban Survey* (Harris 2005):

RQ11: What archaeological evidence is there for the origins of the priory?

RQ18: What evidence is there for the development of institutions, such as the castle, priory, friary, hospitals, chantries, and grammar school?

1.7.3 Furthermore the following research questions should also be considered:

- Does the chalk foundation and associated robber trench identified in evaluation trench No. 2 relate to the priory and subsequent post-dissolution clearance of this area of the site?
- Does any evidence of Dissolution activities (e.g. demolition deposits) and subsequent secular land use survive?
- Although not identified in the evaluation is there any evidence for human burials within the site?
- Can the route of the former priory precinct wall be established during excavations close to the street frontage (e.g. during service trenching) and, if present:
 - at what depth does it survive
 - what are its dimensions

- what is its method of construction
- how does this compare with recent exposures of the feature during the construction of the Lewes Community Football Club all-weather 3G pitch approximately 375m to the south-east

1.8 Scope of the Report

1.8.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological watching brief which took place at the site between the 10th of December 2015 and the 25th of February 2016. The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Russel and Garrett Sheehan. The fieldwork was project managed by Neil Griffin and the post excavation was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1.1 The archaeological potential of the site is principally due to its location immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the priory precinct wall and immediately to the north of the priory church, an area that may have been used for monks' burials (Figure 1). The existing access into the site may cross the alignment of the former priory precinct wall.
- 2.1.2 The priory was founded sometime between 1078 and 1082 on the instruction of William de Warenne and his wife Gundreda on a promontory overlooking the Ouse valley, apparently on and around the site of an earlier Late Anglo-Saxon church. The priory was the first monastic house in England to belong to the reformed Benedictine Order of Cluny. The Priory expanded through the 11th and 12th centuries. The main buildings, including the great priory church, were built in Quarr limestone between c.1082 and c.1100 and in Caen limestone from c.1145 to the 13th century. However, from the late 13th century to the mid-15th century funds were limited which limited the scope of its later building projects to largely repair work and led to the reduction in the number of monks at Lewes from over 100 in 1240, to 50 by 1279, 40 by 1381 and just 29 by 1534 (Mayhew 2008, 5). At the time of its dissolution in November 1537, Lewes Priory was still one of the great English monasteries and the chief house of the Cluniac Order in England (*ibid.* 6).
- 2.1.3 Thomas Cromwell (who organised the dissolution of the monasteries in England) contracted the Italian military engineer Giovanni Portinari and his men to demolish the churches (i.e. the great priory church and the original priory church) at the priory in March 1538 (*ibid.* 6). The surviving domestic buildings in the prior's lodgings complex were adapted as a home for Thomas Cromwell's son (*ibid.* 8).
- 2.1.4 On Cromwell's execution in 1540 his Lewes land was in part retained by the crown and granted to King Henry VIII's divorced fourth wife, Anne of Cleves (Poole 2000, 34). The rest of the old precinct, c.20 acres of the original 39 acres, was leased for 21 years to Nicolas Jenney, a former priory servant (Mayhew 2008, 8). On his death in 1550, the remaining time of the lease was acquired by William Newton. Newton used stone from the priory to, for example, build Southover Grange just beyond the north wall of the former priory precinct. On the death of Anne in 1557, the manor of Southover passed to Sir Richard Sackville who used the prior's lodgings only sporadically (Poole 2000, 34; Mayhew 2008, 9).
- 2.1.5 His son later occupied Lord's Place (as it was known from the 1570s) for just a few days a year. Lord's Place and the borough of Southover passed to John Tufton, the second Earl of Thanet, and it was his son Thomas who in 1668 sold the ruinous house to local builders as a source of building material (Poole 2000, 35; Mayhew 2008, 9). He sold the manor of Southover and the priory lands to Nathaniel Trayton in 1705 (Poole 2000, 36-37). When Trayton's son died in debt in 1761, the estate was left to his chief creditor Samuel Durrant. On his death in 1782, the land was passed to his cousin, also Samuel Durrant.
- 2.1.6 Later episodes of quarrying at the priory, including the extensive cross-shaped

dovecot, are recorded as having occurred during the early 19th century, in order to supply the construction industry or improve the pasturage (Mayhew 2008, 10).

- 2.1.7 In 1845 the cutting for the new railway line between Lewes and Brighton cut a diagonal section across the ruins of the great priory church.
- 2.1.8 Historic mapping for the site (see ASE 2015a) illustrates that the general area south of Priory Street remained undeveloped until the early 18th century. Figure 1 shows a plan of the priory buildings produced following investigations in the late 19th and early 20th century and superimposed onto current Ordnance Survey mapping.
- 2.1.9 The former building on the site appears on 19th century maps and exhibits a number of phases of development, the earliest comprising a section of flint and lime mortar wall. The historic building survey carried out by ASE (ASE 2015b) confirmed that it was constructed in the late 19th century as a small industrial building on the back plot of a house. The building has seen several uses including as a possible coal store, a motor workshop and as general storage, and its form has been altered to reflect its various uses. The internal face of the southern gable wall incorporates a blind arcade comprising four unequal brick arches half way up the wall.
- 2.1.10 The trial trench evaluation (ASE 2015c) partially uncovered an east-west aligned wall foundation at 10.17mAOD (c. 0.83m below existing ground level) in Trench 2 (Figure 3). This was constructed of chalk-blocks and based on cartographic evidence (1750 Town Map of Lewes) is likely to be at least early 18th century in date and may be contemporary with the priory. However, the lack of a secure date for this structure could mean it relates to the late medieval or earlier post-medieval development of the town. The wall apparently turned northwards at its eastern end but could not be investigated further due to the depth of trench and limited confines of the site. A robber trench above the wall was also recorded, perhaps relating to the dissolution or systematic quarrying of the stone from the priory. No trace of the wall foundation was identified in Trench 1, <1m to the west, which showed evidence of deep truncation. Some of the foundations of the building erected between 1875 and 1899 (as evidenced by cartographic sources and the Historic Building Record undertaken by ASE in September 2015) were also identified.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY (Figure 2)

- 3.1 Foundation trenches associated with the construction of the new dwelling were monitored by an archaeologist unless otherwise agreed in writing with the ESCC Archaeologist. Any machine (tracked 360 excavator or similar) used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil was fitted with a toothless bucket. All hand and mechanical excavation and plant movement carried out 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, an 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, should this prove necessary.
- 3.3 The above approach enabled any archaeological deposits disturbed during the proposed works to be adequately recorded in line with the advice given in NPPF and in accordance with the appropriate condition/s of the planning consent.
- 3.4 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.5 The ESCC Archaeologist was kept informed of progress and findings in order to monitor the archaeological work and advise of any areas within the site where further archaeological monitoring may be curtailed as development progresses.
- 3.6 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features were planned at 1:20 and section drawings were made at 1:10. Drawings were produced on plastic film. Features and deposits have been described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record was kept recording the works on site.

3.7 The Site Archive

3.7.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Lewes museum in due course. Lewes Museum does / does not give out archive accession numbers.

Number of Contexts	37
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	12
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	279
Permatrace sheets	12
Trench Record Forms	0
Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0.5 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Underpinning trenches monitored 10/12/15-18/12/15

- 4.1.1 The first phase of work at the site comprised the hand excavation of a series of pits along and partially under the eastern boundary. These were approximately 1.0m wide and 1.5m long. These pits eventually formed a continuous trench 8.5m long along the eastern boundary of the site. Natural Chalk geology [005] was observed in every pit at 9.73m AOD in the north of the works and 10.11m AOD in the south.
- 4.1.2 The underpinning revealed two distinct stratigraphic sequences. The northern portion of the works (Pits 1, 5, 8 and 3) revealed chalk geology [005] overlain by friable, light grey fine silt [007] with common chalk block inclusions and containing medieval peg tile and abraded medieval pot sherds as well as animal bone and marine mollusc shell. Above this was a buried soil [002] made up of plastic, mid grey brown fine clay silt containing post-medieval clinker and pottery. A shallow gully [006] with gently sloping sides and a rounded base was observed in Pit 3. This was filled with flint cobbles of around 0.05 diameter bound with a dark grey brown fine clay silt [037].
- 4.1.3 Cut into these deposits were two walls. The earliest of these structures [009] formed the eastern boundary to the site and was constructed of bungaroosh (with a single course of sandstone blocks) built up from un-mortared chalk block footings. Butting up against this wall was a second north-south wall [003] which once formed the eastern elevation of Priory Barn. This was constructed of red brick bonded by mid grey mortar and built up from mortar or concrete foundations [004] (Figure 3; Section 4 and associated photo).
- 4.1.4 The sequence in the north was capped by ashy made ground [001] which contained a compacted chalk horizon towards its base.
- 4.1.5 The sequence in the south revealed a thin lime mortar deposit or surface [010] with pea grit inclusions immediately overlying the chalk geology [005]. A piece of worked Quarr stone was found embedded within the mortar layer. Directly above this was a light yellow brown sandy deposit [008] containing common stone block inclusions. Stone samples collected from this deposit showed it to be made up of a mixture of Caen and Quarr Limestone. This deposit was overlain by soily horizons [007] and [002] in turn with the sequence capped again by made ground [001]. These deposits were identical to those described above.
- 4.1.6 Pits 7 and 5 contained the remains of a chalk block and lime mortar wall foundation [013] which appeared to be running roughly east-west. This was cut into the sandy deposit [008]. The cut of a possible robber trench was visible in the east facing section of Pit 7. This was made up of a gentle sided cut [016] with an irregular base. This feature contained loose, dark grey brown fine silt fill [015] with pea grit tip lines and containing 12th-13th century pottery.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.30-0.40
02	Layer	Buried soil	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.40
03	Masonry	Eastern Wall of Barn	Trench	0.35	0.55
04	Masonry	Footing of [03]	Trench	0.55	0.12
05	Layer	Chalk Geology	Trench	Trench	-
06	Cut	Cut of Gully	Trench	0.10	0.10
07	Layer	Chalk Rubble Rich Layer	Trench	0.10	0.10
08	Layer	Sandstone Layer	Trench	Trench	0.30-0.65
09	Masonry	Upstanding Eastern Boundary Wall	Trench	-	-
010	Masonry	Lime Mortar Surface/Layer	Trench	Trench	0.05-0.15
011	Cut	Foundation/Robber Trench	Trench	-	0.30
012	Fill	Fill of [011]	Trench	-	0.30
013	Masonry	Chalk Block E-W Wall	Trench	1.0	0.15
014	Masonry	Post Med N-S Wall			
015	Fill	Fill of Robber Trench	Trench	1.3	0.50
016	Cut	Cut of Robber Trench	Trench	1.3	0.50
039	Fill	Fill of [006]	Trench	0.10	0.10

Table 2: List of recorded contexts for underpinning works.

4.2 Foundation works monitored 04/01/16 - 26/01/16

- 4.2.1 Nine pits were dug across the house footprint to accommodate concrete footing beams. These were excavated to the level of the chalk geology which was observed at between 10.07 in the north and 9.73m AOD in the South
- 4.2.2 The sequence seen in these excavations mirrored that seen in the underpinning works. The three northern pits (1, 8, and 9) contained the soily deposits [007] and [002] overlying the chalk geology with made ground [001] capping the sequence. The southern pits revealed the geological horizon overlain by a thin lime mortar deposit or surface [010]. This was overlain by the sandy deposit [008] with the sequence capped by the soily deposit [007]. These deposits were identical to those described above. Pit 5 contained only made ground directly overlying the chalk substrate.
- 4.2.3 Four archaeological features were observed during the course of the foundation works. Pit 2 partially revealed a deep pit. This was made up of a vertically sided cut [017] (Figure 3; Section 1). This was observed to a depth of 1.7m BGL when excavation ceased on safety grounds. Two fills were visible within this feature, the lowest of which [019] was made up of plastic mid grey fine clay silt with very frequent chalk and flint nodule inclusions and containing fuel ash slag and animal bone. The upper fill [018] consisted of plastic, mid grey brown fine clay silt with chalk block inclusions and containing 11th-12th Century pottery as well as a single fragment of Roman brick. This feature was observed to be sealed by the sandy layer [008].
- 4.2.4 Pad 6 also partially revealed a pit (Figure 3; Section 3). This was made up of a moderately sided cut [024] with a rounded, concave base. It contained two fills, the lowest of which [026] was made up of plastic, light grey fine clay silt with common flint and chalk inclusions. The upper fill [025] consisted of friable mid grey brown fine silt with pea grit and chalk fragment inclusions and contained 12th-13th Peg tile which had probably been re-used. This feature appeared to be cut into the sandy layer [008].
- 4.2.5 Pad 7 partially revealed the large pit noted in the evaluation phase. Only the base of the cut [038] was observed which appeared to be irregular in nature and becoming deeper from west to east. Three fills were observed, the lowest of which [029] consisted of a plastic light yellow grey fine clay. Above this a loose light grey clay silt [028] was seen with the top fill [027] made up of loose, light brown grey sandy clay. The footprint of an evaluation trench could be seen in the sections impacting on the upper fill. Unfortunately the excavation was too deep and the sides too unstable to allow detailed recording of this feature.
- 4.2.6 Pad 4 (Figure 3; Section 2) revealed a chalk block and mortar wall foundation [021] possibly the same section observed during the evaluation phase. This was only partially revealed and had been cut into the sandy layer [008]. The construction cut [022] had vertical sided and a flat base and appeared to have been back-filled with plastic, mid grey brown fine clay silt [023]. This feature was seen running roughly east-west.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.25-0.30
02	Layer	Buried soil	Trench	Trench	0.25-0.35
05	Layer	Chalk Geology	Trench	Trench	-
08	Layer	Sandstone Layer	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.25
010	Masonry	Lime Mortar Surface/Layer	Trench	Trench	0.05-0.25
017	Cut	Cut of Pit	0.85	0.28	1.00+
018	Fill	Top Fill of [017]	0.83	0.28	0.50
019	Fill	Lower Fill of [017]	0.85	0.28	1.00+
020	Masonry	Post Med N-S Wall	-	0.50	0.50
021	Masonry	Chalk Wall Foundation	1.20	0.30	0.20
022	Cut	Cut of Foundation Trench	1.40	0.30	0.25
023	Fill	Fill of [022]	1.40	0.30	0.05
024	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.30	0.50	0.65
025	Fill	Upper Fill of [024]	1.60	0.50	0.60
026	Fill	Lower Fill of [024]	1.60	0.50	0.30
027	Fill	Upper fill of [038]	1.50	0.50	0.40
028	Fill	Mid Fill of [038]	1.50	1.50	0.20
029	Fill	Lower Fill of [038]	1.50	1.50	0.40-0.70
038	Cut	Cut of Pit in Pad 7	-	-	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts for foundation works

4.3 Service Trench monitored 11/02/16 - 25/02/16

4.3.1 The final phase of work at the site involved the excavation of a trench for service pipes northwards from the house footprint towards the property boundary on Priory Street. This trench was approximately 0.60m wide and dug to around 1.0m deep and was 16.90m long.

4.3.2 Chalk geology was seen at around 10.11m AOD in the south of the trench and 10.51m in the North. This was overlain by the chalk rich soil deposit [007] with a maximum depth of 0.30m. This deposit came to an end roughly 3.5m north of the trench end. Above this was a buried soil [002] which was capped by ashy made ground with a chalk base [001]. These contexts were identical to those described above. The sequence was capped by an un-mortared cobbled surface [030].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.40
02	Layer	Buried soil	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.40
05	Layer	Chalk Geology	Trench	Trench	-
07	Layer	Chalk rubble Rich Layer	3.40	Trench	0.25
030	Masonry	Modern Cobbled Road	Trench	Trench	0.20
031	Cut	Cut Of Pit	2.70	0.80	1.20
032	Fill	Upper Fill of [031]	2.60	0.80	0.40
033	Fill	Mid Fill of [031]	1.10	0.50	0.50
034	Fill	Lower Fill of [031]	1.80	0.50	0.60
037	Fill	Rubble fill of [031]	1.60	Trench	0.20

Table 4: List of recorded contexts for service trench works

4.3.3 A single large pit was seen towards the northern extent of the service trench. This was made up of a steep sided cut [031] which had been excavated through the soil deposit [002] and into the solid chalk geology. This pit contained four fills. The lowest fill [034] consisted of a red brown silty clay with chalk fleck inclusions and contained clay tobacco pipe. Above this was a redeposited chalk fill [033] with the upper-most fill [032] consisting of mid red brown fine clay silt with very common chalk block inclusions. Visible in the east facing only was a shallow chalk rubble layer [037] which contained post-medieval brick and slag.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A moderately large assemblage of finds was recovered during the current archaeological work at land to the rear of 25a Priory Street, Lewes. 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 5). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Mortar	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt(g)
2/007					3	22	1	44								
3/007	1	4														
4/007							1	27								
6/007			1	51												
6/008									3	141						
002	7	76	1	3	2	23							2	5		
010									1	1644	1	37				
015	3	40	4	300												
018	5	201	2	195					1	20						
019					2	20							3	40		
025			1	12	1	3										
034															1	3
037			1	4348									1	105		
Total	16	321	10	4909	8	68	2	71	5	1788	1	37	6	167	1	3

Table 5: Finds quantification table

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 15 sherds of pottery, weighing 300g, from three individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 6 as part of the visible archive. Medieval fabrics have been allocated the Lewes fabric code (Barber forthcoming) as well as a common name while post-medieval ones have been allocated common name only.

5.2.2 The medieval pottery is in mixed condition. The sherd from [3/007] is heavily abraded, those from context [15] are only slightly so, but those from context [18] are notably large and fresh. All of the medieval material is of quite early date, most notably the flinty wares from [18] which can be placed between c. 1075 and 1150. The sandy sherds are also early, probably belonging to the 12th century or earlier part of the 13th. There are none of the better made, thinner walled and higher fired types typical of the early 13th to 14th centuries. The post-medieval assemblage consists of a scatter of 19th- to early 20th-century material, largely related to horticultural waste.

5.2.3 Although the medieval pottery assemblage is small and the fabrics are well known from the town most of the ceramic groups related to the priory and its immediate surrounds are from early excavations where context is not always reliable. Added to this the storage jar is not a common form in the town. As such it is recommended the medieval assemblage be retained for long-term curation in a museum. The post-medieval pottery has no potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and has been discarded.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight	Comments
3/007	Abundant medium sand (SNL 11)	EM	1	4g	Uncertain form x1. Worn, oxidised
2	Unglazed earthenware	LPM	5	66g	Flower pots x2 (thickened rim)
2	Glazed red earthenware	LPM	2	10g	Uncertain form x2 (clear internal glazes)
15	Abundant medium sand (SNL 11)	EM	2	18g	Cooking pot x1. Oxidised, sooted
18	Lewes Saxo-Norman Flinty Ware (SNL 3a)	EM	3	152g	Storage jar x1. Oxidised with horizontal applied thumbed strip around shoulder and vertical applied thumbed strips down body. Inturned squared flaring rim with weak pie-crust decoration
18	Lewes Saxo-Norman Flinty Ware, calcareous variant (SNL 3c)	EM	2	50g	Cooking pots x2. Reduced

Table 6: Pottery assemblage (EM – Early Medieval c. 1050-1200/25; LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 A relatively small assemblage of brick and tile was recovered during the archaeological work. The material was in mixed condition, with the earlier types being notably abraded and the later ones quite fresh. The assemblage is summarised in Tables 7 (fabrics) and 8 (quantification).

Fabric	Description	Comments	Suggested date
R1	Fine fabric with sparse/common medium quartz grains and sparse iron oxides to 0.5mm	Quite well formed and fired	Roman
B1	Rare/sparse fine quartz, common fine iron oxides to 0.5mm	Well formed and fired	C19th
T1	Abundant medium quartz with occasional sub-rounded flint sand	Quite well formed, medium fired	C13th – 14th
T2	Sparse/common fine/medium quartz	Well formed and fired	C14th – early 16th
F1	Abundant fine/medium quartz with common/moderate chalk to 1mm	Quite well formed, medium fired	Later C12th – 13th
D1	Fine sandy clay with sparse chalk flecks to 0.5mm	Low fired	Uncertain

Table 7: Ceramic Building Material fabrics

5.3.2 The majority of the assemblage (by count) consists of medieval floor/hearth and roof tile. Both late 12th/13th- century types as well as better fired finer late medieval types appear to be represented though there appears to be much re-use of materials. The earliest deposit contains a Roman brick fragment clearly showing the utilisation of Roman ceramic building materials before the onset of contemporary production. The only post-medieval piece is the coping brick that is almost certainly of the 19th century.

Context	Form	Fabric	No	Weight	Comments
6/007	Floor/hearth	F1	1	50g	19mm thick. Worn/unglazed. Re-used – set in an off-white lime mortar with 60% sub-rounded flint to 3mm
15	Floor/hearth	F1	1	124g	19-20mm thick. Re-used – mortar traces
15	Peg tile	T1	1	22g	10mm thick. Worn
15	Peg tile	T2	3	172g	10-11mm thick. Re-used – in off-white lime mortar as in [6/007]
18	Brick	R1	1	174g	34mm thick. Set in fine off-white lime mortar though no signs of it on broken edge
18	Daub	D1	1	12g	Amorphous
25	Peg tile	T1	1	12g	11mm thick
37	Coping brick	B1	1	4330g	100% triangular profile coping brick 114mm thick with profile 228mm (base) by 132mm tall. Set in a buff fine sandy mortar with notable black glauconite/iron oxide grains

Table 8: Ceramic Building Material assemblage

5.3.3 The ceramic building material assemblage is small and contains a high proportion of pieces that appear to have been re-used. As such it offers little opportunity to refine the date of different fabrics. Far larger assemblages have already been recovered from the priory. As such the current assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. With the exception of some retained fabric samples for the county series the assemblage has been discarded.

5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipes by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The archaeological work recovered just five pieces of clay pipe from the site. The material has been fully listed in Table 9.

Context	Element	Date	No	Weight (g)	Comments
34	stem	c. 1690-1750	1	2g	32mm long. Worn.
37	stem	c. 1800-1900	4	10g	140mm long combined. Fresh. x1 example stamped across stem: 'L. Fiolet // a S. Omer // Depose'. Signs of repair to broken stem

Table 9: Clay pipe assemblage

5.4.2 The clay pipe fragment from [34] is worn and may well be intrusive/residual. The pieces from context [37] are much fresher and include two conjoining pieces from an imported French pipe of good quality. Such pipes are not uncommon finds in the second half of the 19th century in the south-east.

5.4.3 The French pipe fragments may be of interest to future researchers on imported pipes and will be retained. All other fragments have been discarded.

5.5 The Mortar by Luke Barber

5.5.1 A small mortar sample was taken from context [10]. This consists of an off-white lime mortar with abundant (60-70%) sub-angular and sub-rounded grey, white and grey-blue flint to 4mm. The type would be very much in keeping with a medieval date.

5.5.2 The mortar sample has been retained as future phasing work across the Priory buildings may find the sample useful in correlating building phases.

5.6 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Context [2] produced two small pieces (2g) of matt black aerated clinker from coal burning. These are certainly of late post-medieval date. Context [19] produced three pieces (40g) of fuel ash slag that are slightly more ambiguous. The pieces are dark grey/black and have a similarity to clinker in the main, but have some vitrified areas, yet no coal waste inclusions. Although they are suspected of being late post-medieval waste from coal burning this cannot be proven and an earlier date cannot be ruled out.

5.6.2 The slag assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.7 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.7.1 The stone sample taken from context [6/008] consists of two pieces (112g) of Caen stone and a single piece (28g) of Quarr shelly limestone. Context [10] produced another stone sample – this time a 1640g fragment from a faced ashlar block in Quarr stone. The latter has a few traces of mortar on one of the broken faces so may be re-used. Quarr stone, from the Isle of Wight, was a common building stone at Lewes Priory up until c. 1140, when it was largely replaced by the Caen stone from France (Lyne 1997). As such the presence of these types is to be expected. The only other stone consists of a 20g piece of ferruginous fissure fill from the local chalk (context [18]).

5.7.2 The stone assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and, with the exception of a small sub-sample of the Quarr stone from [10], has been discarded.

5.8 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.8.1 A small assemblage of animal bone was hand-collected containing 8 fragments was hand-collected from 4 contexts including [2/007], [002], [019] and [025]. Context [2/007] and [002] contain bones from sheep/goat including a radius, scapula and ribs. Context [019] contains a pig and ulna and context [025] contains the shaft from a domestic fowl tarsometatarsus. There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The solid chalk geology at the site was revealed in all the excavations monitored at the site and this was noted at around 9.73m AOD in the south of the site and at around 10.51m in the north.
- 6.2 Despite a great deal of post-medieval activity at the site (as witnessed by the considerable made ground deposit and several wall foundations) the geological horizon was little affected and earlier deposits survived with minimal disturbance.
- 6.3 The earliest dateable artefacts were recovered from a partially revealed pit which was cut into the chalk geology and contained pottery dating from 1075-1150, roughly contemporary with the earliest phases of Lewes Priory. A fragment of Roman brick was also recovered from this feature suggesting material from a much earlier building was being utilised at the Priory. This pit was sealed by a lime mortar surface which was noted in all the excavations in the south of the site. The mortar surface sat directly on top of the natural chalk geology suggesting that the site had been stripped of topsoil before it was laid down. Above this surface was a layer of Caen and Quarr stone of varying thickness. This deposit appears to be formed almost entirely of stone working waste containing stone types from both phases of construction at the Lewes Priory; dumped on top of a specially prepared mortar surface.
- 6.4 The chalk block walls noted in earlier phases of work at the site were further revealed. These had been cut into the stone waste deposit and were bound with lime mortar. What appeared to be a 'robber trench' was noted in section above the eastern portion of the wall the fill of which contained medieval pottery which may have been residual. Although further sections were revealed it was still not possible to determine their full form or function. The large pit noted in the evaluation phase ([1/010]) was seen to its full depth although no datable material was recovered from it. A second pit was noted in Pad 6 and this too was cut through the mortar surface and masonry waste.
- 6.5 The remains of the chalk walls were sealed by a chalk rubble rich layer which may have been formed during another period of demolition and which contained abraded, probably residual, medieval pottery. Above this was a buried soil with the sequence capped by ashy made ground with a compact chalk layer at its base. This was probably formed during the construction of the recently demolished Priory Barn
- 6.6 No further excavations are planned in relation to the construction work at 25 Priory Street and it is reasonable to assume that any archaeological remains there will be preserved in-situ.

Relevant Research Aims

- 6.7 *RQ11: What archaeological evidence is there for the origins of the priory?*
- 6.7.1 A single partially revealed pit containing pottery dating to the earliest phases of Lewes Priory was recorded during the watching brief at the site. This pit contained a fragment of Roman brick suggesting that elements of a much earlier building may have been used during the initial phases of construction at the site. The presence of a refuse pit in this area may also imply that it was peripheral to

activity at the priory during this period.

- 6.8 *Does any evidence of Dissolution activities (e.g. demolition deposits) and subsequent secular land use survive?*
- 6.8.1 It is entirely possible that the mortar surface and overlying waste stone deposit were formed during the re-working of stone being robbed from the Priory after its dissolution. It may be that a formal processing area was created to work stone on site before transport elsewhere.
- 6.9 *Does the chalk foundation and associated robber trench identified in evaluation trench No. 2 relate to the priory and subsequent post-dissolution clearance of this area of the site?*
- 6.9.1 Further sections of the chalk wall noted during the evaluation phase were uncovered during the watching brief. These were observed to be cut through the mortar surface and stone waste and were therefore constructed after its formation. *If* the stone waste was formed during demolition of the Priory post-dissolution then the chalk walls must relate to structures constructed after this period.

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HER Summary

Site Code	PRY 15				
Identification Name and Address	Priory Barn, behind 25 Priory St, Lewes, BN7 1HH				
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex				
OS Grid Refs.	541416 109677				
Geology	Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation				
Arch. South-East Project Number	7889				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site		Shallow Urban			
Dates of Fieldwork			10/12/2015 To 25/02/2016		
Sponsor/Client	Peter and Louise Wingate-Saul				
Project Manager	Neil Griffin				
Project Supervisor	Chris Russel				
Period Summary					
		MED	PM		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on land to the rear of 25 A-C Priory Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Works monitored included excavations associated with underpinning the eastern boundary wall, excavations associated with foundation works for the new dwelling and the excavation of a service trench. The site is situated close to the northern boundary of Lewes Priory and the potential for the ground-works to reveal archaeology was considered high. Two evaluation trenches excavated at the site by ASE revealed the remains of chalk block wall foundations and for that reason the ESCC Archaeologist advised that any excavations undertaken subsequently be monitored by an Archaeologist.</p> <p>A pit was partially revealed by the ground-works which contained pottery dating from the earliest phases of the Priory as well as a single fragment of Roman brick. This was sealed by a mortar surface and a layer of masonry waste consisting of both Quarr stone and Caen Limestone which may have been deposited by the re-working of stone robbed from the Priory post dissolution. All other features noted on site were cut down through the mortar surface and waste stone deposit including the chalk wall foundations noted in the evaluation carried out at the site. Although there was evidence of extensive post-medieval activity at the site in the form of wall foundations and made ground, earlier features and deposits were little disturbed and it is reasonable to assume that any archaeological remains still present at the site will be preserved in-situ. The natural chalk geology was observed across the site at 9.73m AOD in the south and 10.11m in the north.</p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-251187

Project details

Project name An Archaeological watching Brief at Priory Barn behind 25 Priory Street, Lewes

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on land to the rear of 25 A-C Priory Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Works monitored included excavations associated with underpinning the eastern boundary wall, excavations associated with foundation works for the new dwelling and the excavation of a service trench. The site is situated close to the northern boundary of Lewes Priory and the potential for the groundworks to reveal archaeology was considered high. Two evaluation trenches excavated at the site by ASE revealed the remains of chalk block wall foundations and for that reason the ESCC Archaeologist advised that any excavations undertaken subsequently be monitored by an Archaeologist.

Short description of the project A pit was partially revealed by the ground-works which contained pottery dating from the earliest phases of the Priory as well as a single fragment of Roman brick. This was sealed by a mortar surface and a layer of masonry waste consisting of both Quarr stone and Caen Limestone which may have been deposited by the re-working of stone robbed from the Priory post dissolution. All other features noted on site were cut down through the mortar surface and waste stone deposit including the chalk wall foundations noted in the evaluation carried out at the site. Although there was evidence of extensive post-medieval activity at the site in the form of wall foundations and made ground, earlier features and deposits were little disturbed and it is reasonable to assume that any archaeological remains still present at the site will be preserved in-situ. The natural chalk geology was observed across the site at 9.73m AOD in the south and 10.11m in the north.

Project dates Start: 10-12-2015 End: 25-02-2016

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project codes reference PRY 15 - SM No.

Any associated project codes reference 7889 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds BRICK Roman

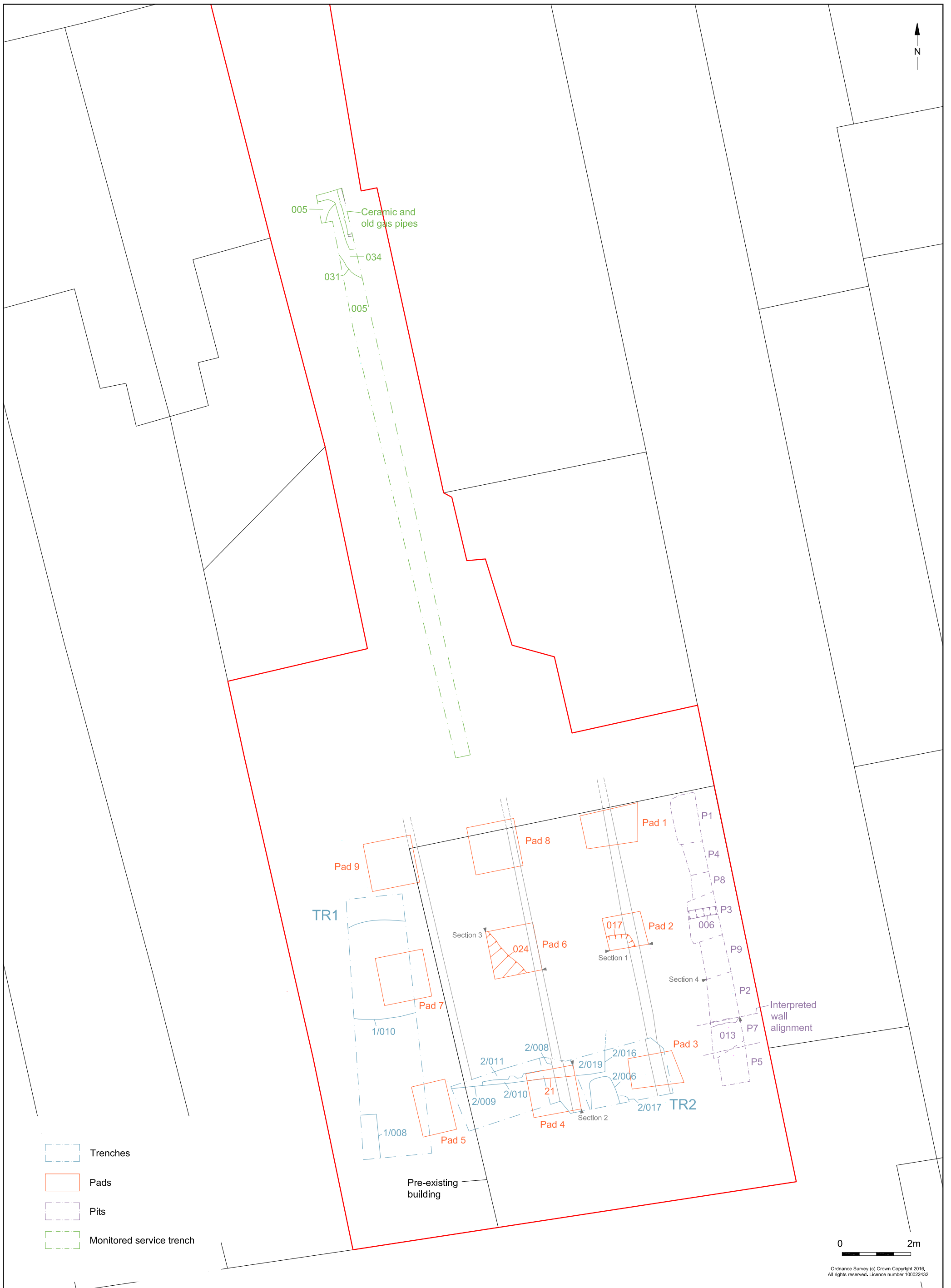
Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

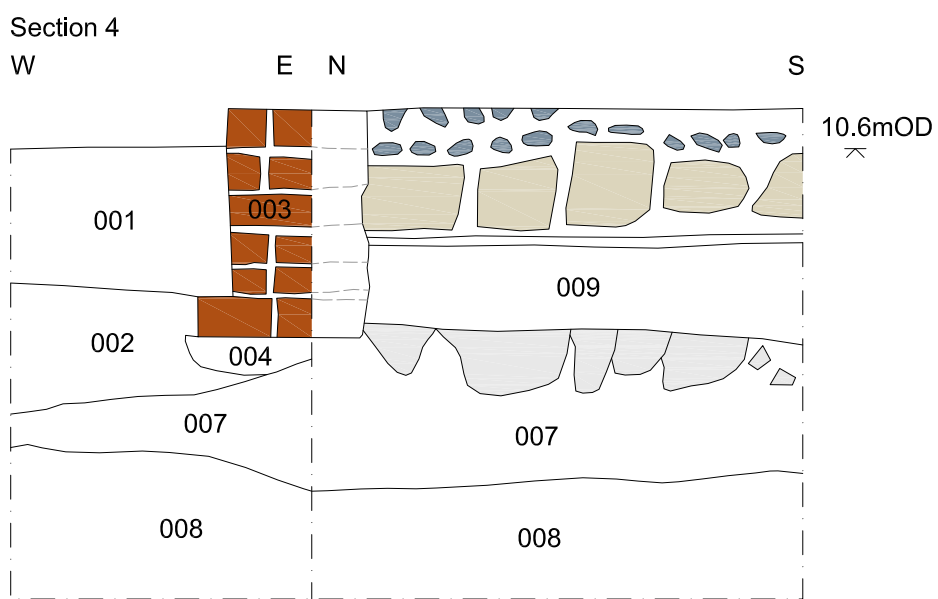
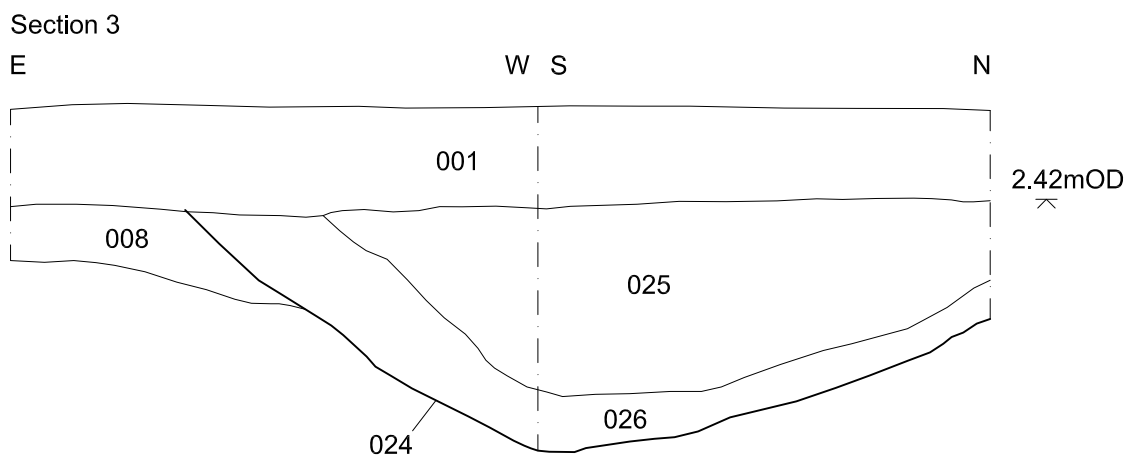
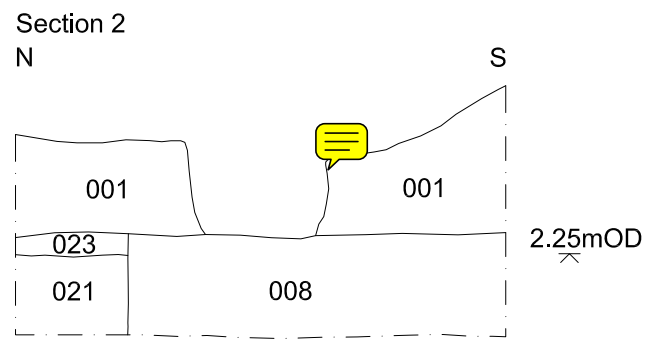
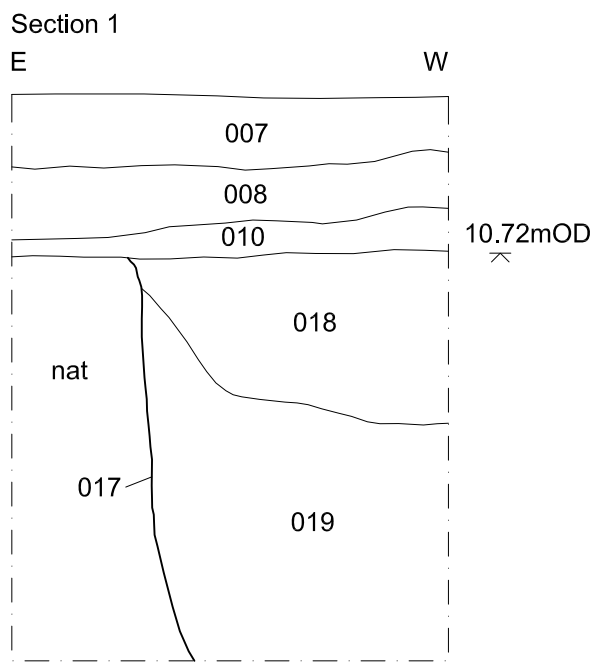
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES LEWES 25 Priory Street, Lewes
Postcode	BN7 1HH
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 541416 109677 50.877037845327 0.191235337179 50 52 37 N 000 11 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.73m Max: 10.11m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project originator	brief Peter and Louise Wingate-Saul
Project originator	design ASE
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Project archives	
Physical recipient	Archive Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","other"
Digital recipient	Archive Local Museum
Digital available	Media "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper recipient	Archive Local Museum
Paper available	Media "Context sheet","Drawing","Report"
Project bibliography	1
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russel, C
Other bibliographic details	Rep No:2016109







© Archaeology South-East		Land rear of 25a Priory Street, Lewes	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7889	May 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016109	Drawn by: LG		



© Archaeology South-East		Land rear of 25a Priory Street, Lewes	Fig.2
Project Ref: 7889	May 2016	Areas of Watching Brief	
Report Ref: 2016109	Drawn by: LG		



-  Flint
-  Sandstone
-  Chalk
-  Bricks

0 0.5m




017 looking south



024 looking south



021 looking east

Pit 2 showing representative stratigraphy

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