

**An Archaeological Investigation at  
Lewes Priory, Lewes, East Sussex**

**NGR 541367 109530**

**Scheduled Monument Consent No. S00004974**

**Project No: 4197  
Site Code: LPR 10**

**ASE Report No. 2010189  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-91252**



**Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by**

**Luke Barber, Elke Raemen, Sarah Porteus,  
Trista Clifford and Lucy Sibun**

**January 2011**

**An Archaeological Investigation at  
Lewes Priory, Lewes, East Sussex**

**NGR 541367 109530**

**Scheduled Monument Consent No. S00004974**

**Project No: 4197  
Site Code: LPR 10**

**ASE Report No. 2010189  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-91252**

**Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by**

**Luke Barber, Elke Raemen, Sarah Porteus,  
Trista Clifford and Lucy Sibun**

**January 2011**

**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the restoration work at the site undertaken in order to re-open the Priory to the public. Groundworks for new pathways, steps, information boards and benches for visitors, a rabbit fence and general landscaping were monitored and recorded. Test-pits were also excavated at a number of locations to facilitate the accurate laying out of buried archaeological features.*

*Masonry and tile remains of some of the Priory buildings were encountered and recorded, and a range of finds were recovered from the topsoil and layers of rubble encountered, mostly during monitoring of the excavations for the laying of the new footpaths.*

*Closely datable material included an assemblage of pottery dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, a small assemblage of clay pipes and other material including small quantities of metalwork, glass, animal bone and oyster shell.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results – The Test-Pits**
- 5.0 Results - The Watching Brief**
- 6.0 The Finds**
- 7.0 Discussion**
- 8.0 Conclusion**

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**Appendix 1 – List of Guard Rail Post-Holes**

**HER Summary Sheet**  
**OASIS Form**

## FIGURES

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Figure 1  | Site Location Plan  |
| Figure 2  | Site Plan   |
| Figure 3  | Test-Pit Plans, Sections and Photos                                 |
| Figure 4  | Location of Marked-Out Walls of Infirmary Hall and Chapel           |
| Figure 5  | Location of Paths, Benches and Information Panels                   |
| Figure 6  | Detail of paths A and C   |
| Figure 7  | Detail of paths C and D   |
| Figure 8  | Detail of path D  |
| Figure 9  | Detail of path E  |
| Figure 10 | Detail of path F  |
| Figure 11 | Detail of path G  |
| Figure 12 | Detail of path I  |
| Figure 13 | Location of Guard Rail Post-Holes and Steps                         |
| Figure 14 | Location of Rabbit Fencing, Herb Garden Extension and Planting area |
| Figure 15 | Site Plan published in 1906 showing walls uncovered in 2010         |
| Figure 16 | Finds Illustrations   |

## TABLES

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Table 1     | Quantification of Site Archive  |
| Table 2     | List of recorded contexts: Test-Pit 1   |
| Table 3     | List of recorded contexts: Test-Pit 2   |
| Table 4     | List of recorded contexts: Test-Pit 3   |
| Table 5     | List of recorded contexts: Test-Pit 4   |
| Table 6     | List of recorded contexts: Test-Pit 5   |
| Table 7     | List of recorded contexts: Test-Pit 6   |
| Table 8     | List of recorded contexts: Action 1   |
| Tables 9-17 | List of recorded contexts: Actions 2-4 (paths A – I).                                   |
| Table 18    | List of recorded contexts: Action 5 (guard rails)                                       |
| Table 19    | List of recorded contexts: Action 6 (steps)   |
| Table 20    | List of recorded contexts: Action 13 (herb garden)                                      |
| Table 21    | List of recorded contexts: Action 14 (planting shrubs)                                  |
| Table 22    | List of recorded contexts: Groundworks within the Tower                                 |
| Table 23    | List of recorded contexts: Installation of rabbit fencing                               |
| Table 24:   | Summary of CBM by date, count and weight  |
| Table 25:   | Medieval forms by count and weight.   |
| Table 26:   | Medieval tile fabric descriptions and date ranges                                       |
| Table 27:   | Medieval brick fabric descriptions and date ranges                                      |
| Table 28:   | Medieval floor tile fabric descriptions and date ranges                                 |
| Table 29:   | Medieval stove tile fabric descriptions and date ranges                                 |
| Table 30:   | Summary of later medieval to early post-medieval tile forms                             |
| Table 31:   | Later medieval to early post-medieval fabric descriptions with provisional fabric codes |
| Table 32:   | Summary of post-medieval tile forms   |
| Table 33:   | Post-medieval and unknown date fabric descriptions with provisional fabric codes        |
| Table 34:   | Animal Bone - NISP counts by phase  |
| Table 35:   | Overview of the shell assemblage  |
| Table 36:   | Overview of the Registered Finds  |

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Cragg Management on behalf of their clients, The Priory Trust, to undertake a programme of archaeological work at Lewes Priory during restoration at the site (NGR 541367 109530) (Fig. 1)

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site lies to the south of the commercial centre of Lewes and includes the upstanding and buried remains of the Cluniac Priory of St. Pancras. It is bound to the north by the cutting for the Brighton to Lewes railway, to the west by Cockshut Road and *Priory Cottage* and garden, to the south by the tennis courts of Southdown Sports Club and to the east by Lewes Bowls Club and the playing fields of Convent Field. The site lies on the 5m contour.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50 000 map of the area (Sheet 319, *Lewes*), the underlying geology of the site comprises Head Deposits which overlie Upper and Middle Chalk.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 28890). The Priory Trust has secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to fund a major programme of restoration at the site with a view to reopening the Priory to the public. As well as repair and consolidation of the upstanding fabric of the Priory remains, the scheme includes the provision of new pathways, steps, information boards and benches for visitors (Scheduled Monument Consent No. S00004974). In addition planning permission was also required for the work and was duly granted by Lewes District Council (ref. LW/09/0869).

1.3.2 Following liaison between Paul Roberts, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, East Sussex County Council (Lewes District Council's advisers on archaeological issues) and Cragg Management a programme of archaeological fieldwork at the site was implemented include two main elements:

- The manual excavation of archaeological test-pits
- The maintenance of an archaeological watching brief during manual and mechanical groundworks at the site.

1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was produced by ASE outlining the methodologies to be used during the work at the site (ASE 2010). It was duly approved by Paul Roberts and by Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council before the commencement of archaeological work at the site.

## **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 The current report provides results of the manual excavation of test-pits and of the watching brief undertaken at the site by a team comprising Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), Liane Peyre and Chris Russel (Archaeologists) Nina Olofsson and Chris Crabbe (Archaeological Assistants) and Lesley Davidson and Rob Cole (Archaeological Surveyors) during the second half of 2010. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (taken from ASE 2009a with additions)

### 2.1 Historical Background

- 2.1.1 William de Warenne, a Norman baron and brother-in-law of William the Conqueror took a leading role in the Norman Conquest, and was rewarded with extensive lands in Sussex (Mayhew 2008, 1). Following a pilgrimage to the abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul at Cluny, Burgundy, de Warenne and his wife Gundreda persuaded its abbot, Saint Hugh, to send Prior Lanzo and three monks to establish a Cluniac Priory at Lewes. The house was founded sometime between 1078 and 1082 on a promontory overlooking the Ouse valley, apparently on and around the site of an earlier Late Anglo-Saxon church. Lewes Priory was the first monastic house in England to belong to the reformed Benedictine Order of Cluny.
- 2.1.2 The Priory, dedicated to St. Pancras, became one of the wealthiest monasteries in England, largely due to the great lands presented to it by the founders and their descendents. Yet the Priory had no significant role in national, political or religious affairs, except during the Second Barons' War when it was occupied by King Henry III both before and after the Battle of Lewes in 1264. The king sought refuge within the priory, which was besieged by Simon de Montfort's men. During the process, the church was set on fire by flaming arrows but the overall structural damage to the Priory was small (Poole 2000, 27). The subsequent royalist defeat made de Montfort the uncrowned King of England until the following year when he was killed at the Battle of Evesham.
- 2.1.3 The Priory expanded through the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> century. However, from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century the monastery was rarely free of debt (caused in part by the French wars), 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).
- 2.1.4 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 (Mayhew 2008, 6). As recompense, its monks received pensions, whilst the Prior acquired several benefices, including the treasurership of Chichester Cathedral.
- 2.1.5 Thomas Cromwell (who organised the dissolution of the monasteries in England) contracted the Italian military engineer Giovanni Portinari and his men to totally destroy the churches at Lewes Priory in March 1538 (Mayhew 2008, 6). This was achieved in a matter of days by excavating trenches to undermine the walls, so that the masonry could be propped up with timber and set alight for the stonework to crash down. The surviving domestic buildings in the prior's lodgings complex were adapted as a home for Thomas Cromwell's son (*ibid*, 8).



- 2.1.6 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, built Southover Grange just beyond the north wall of the former Priory precinct. On the death of Anne in 1559, the manor of Southover passed to Sir Richard Sackville who used the prior's lodgings only sporadically (Poole 2000, 34; Mayhew 2008, 9).
- 2.1.7 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.
- 2.1.8 Later episodes of quarrying at the Priory site, including the extensive cross-shaped dovecot, are recorded as having occurred during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, in order to supply the construction industry or improve the pasturage (Mayhew 2008, 10).
- 2.1.9 In 1845 the cutting for the new railway line between Lewes and Brighton cut a diagonal section across the ruins of Lewes Priory (Fig. 2)

## 2.2 The Priory Buildings

- 2.2.1 The walled sub-rectangular precinct of the Priory enclosed c. 39 acres of land. The Priory stood within the northwest quadrant of the precinct whilst its non-claustral buildings lay predominantly to the west, beyond the present day churchyard of St John the Baptist (a building which incorporated the former hospitium).
- 2.2.2 In terms of layout Lewes Priory had a very marked resemblance with Cluny, its mother church (Godfrey 1927, 22). It had a 12<sup>th</sup> century cruciform church (measuring 137m long) that was flanked to its south by claustral buildings. The monks both worked and walked in the cloister, which measured 44m by 30m and was built up against the Priory church. A chapter house, the administrative and disciplinary centre of the priory, adjoined the cloister to its east and a frater (or refectory) attached the cloister to its south. The dorter (or dormitory) was constructed to run south between the frater and infirmary hall. The reredorter (a latrine wing) was built to the south of it, whilst the infirmary chapel was sited between the church and infirmary hall.
- 2.2.3 The railway cutting has divided the Priory in half: the north half comprises the Priory church and cloister and the south half comprises the frater, dorter, infirmary hall and reredorter. The railway line ran through (and is likely to have completely destroyed) the whole of the chapter house, the chancel end of the church, the southeast side of the cloister and nearly all of the frater.

Most of the Priory exists as buried remains, including the church (with the exception of the extant southwest tower) and the northwest half of the cloister with its underground vault beneath the lavatorium. Other parts of the Priory survive as upstanding ruins, up to 5m high and over.

- 2.2.4 Only the buildings located within the Site, to the south side of the railway, shall be discussed below. Information has been obtained from a number of published sources (Godfrey 1927, 16-23; Godfrey 1971, 31-34; Mayhew 2008, 12; and Poole, 2000, 43-55).

*Infirmary Chapel*

- 2.2.5 The late 11<sup>th</sup> century infirmery chapel was built on the site of an Anglo-Saxon church and is thought to have been the first monastic church on the site. It was enlarged by the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was superseded later on in the same century when the large Priory church was built. The chapel has a square chancel and apsidal ended side chapels, which all still stand today along with part of the north wall. The north side chapel still retains the stone step of the altar-pace. A crypt with 30 burials was discovered below the chapel floor.

- 2.2.6 The following description of the chapel was provided by St John Hope (1906, 68; Fig. 5). The nave is

*'29-ft wide and 68½- ft long, with north and south doorways and probably a principal entrance on the west, but the wall here has been completely destroyed.'*

- 2.2.7 No high-resolution Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey was undertaken of the infirmery chapel area (Archer 2008).

*Frater (Refectory)*

- 2.2.8 The frater is late 11<sup>th</sup> century in date. Only part of the south and east walls survive (they stand to over 2m high in places). The walls belong to the undercroft below the refectory proper, which was located on the first floor. The refectory was directly entered by an external spiral staircase, which still partly stands in the southeast corner, whilst the undercroft was accessed from the refectory by another staircase in the northeast corner.

*Dorter (Dormitory)*

- 2.2.9 The dorter was one of the largest in England. It was initially built in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century as far south as the original reredorter (the ruined building that projects to the west). In the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, it was extended further to the south, to within 3m of the new reredorter. It then stood about 71m long by 24m wide. The north end of the dorter would have had covered access to the church. The building survives today as a series of undercrofts (originally vaulted) that supported the first floor dormitory and may have served as the monks' warming-house in winter.

*Reredorter (Latrine Block)*

- 2.2.10 The first reredorter was built in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century, to the south of the frater and to the west of the infirmery hall. It measured about 32m long by 8m wide. When the dorter was extended to the south, part of this reredorter was demolished and the remaining ground floor became an undercroft.

- 2.2.11 The replacement reredorter was built further to the south in c. 1180. It measured 47.5m long by 7m wide and contained 60 cubicles along its south side on the first floor. This reredorter was accessed from the dorter by a stone bridge, the presence of which can still be seen. Its walls survive standing to all sides, along with traces of the partition walls for the cubicles and the entrance and exit to its open sewer.
- 2.2.12 The Upper Cockshut stream was diverted to channel away the waste from each reredorter through vaulted drains.

#### *Infirmary Hall*

- 2.2.13 The infirmary hall is where sick, convalescent or aged monks were housed. It was built between 1180 and 1200, with latter additions constructed in c.1219. A good account is recorded by Graham Mayhew (2008, 12-13). It is a summary version of St John Hope's (1906, 70-72) and is extracted here in full. The infirmary hall:

*'ran approximately east-west and was 145 feet [44m] long and 63¼ feet [19m] wide. It was divided along its length into a hall and side aisles by a double row of composite piers, creating five bays of 29 feet each, the westernmost one of which appeared to form a vestibule. There were doorways to the west and northeast, the latter opposite the doorway of the south transept of the infirmary chapel. Subsequent to its original construction, Hope found that fireplaces had been added to the corners of the north alley. East of the hall he found three further chambers, one of which he identified as the infirmary necessarium as it was directly over the drain of the first reredorter, another of which he identified as the infirmary kitchens. These buildings, which appeared to have been taken down in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, abutted eastwards onto what Hope identified as the infirmary garden. To the north he identified two more chambers as the infirmarer's lodgings, to the west of which, extending along the whole of the north side of the hall, he found a covered passageway with branches extending northwards to the south transept door of the chapel and another along its west front, linking the infirmary hall with the south-east transept of the Great Church. There was also a passage from the west door of the chapel, linking to the main cloister.'*

- 2.2.14 The covered passageways make no appearance on any plan of the Priory observed other than that drawn by Brakspear for St John Hope (referred to hereafter as the 1906 site plan). St John Hope (1906, 72) records that

*'there seems to have extended westwards along the whole length of the hall a covered alley or pentise, no doubt with branches to the two south doors of the chapel. At some late date, probably in the fifteenth century, this arrangement was altered by building a wall across the interval between chapel and hall from between the two doorways; another wall was also built from the flying buttress at the east end of the chapel to the corner of the infirmarer's checker.'*

- 2.2.15 A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the Infirmary Hall and associated buildings, clearly shows an arrangement of walls to the north of the Infirmary hall (Archer 2008).

*The Tower*

- 2.2.16 A 19<sup>th</sup> century tower is located close to the railway line adjacent to the garden wall of *Priory Cottage*, but within the site. The structure appears to be built from material quarried from the monastic buildings, presumably when the railway was constructed. It is a Grade II Listed Building (ESHER LBS No. 293052).

## **2.3 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 2.3.1 This section relates solely to archaeological work on Lewes Priory (both to the north and south of the railway) and excludes investigations elsewhere within the precinct, of which there have been several (e.g. ASE 2000, 2002, 2007, 2009b, Butler 2005). Much of the information here has been obtained from a summary of past excavations as outlined by Richard Lewis (Lyne 1997, 2-4). Additional information derives predominantly from writings by Graham Mayhew on the topic (2008, 9-18).
- 2.3.2 Various parts of Lewes Priory, including what was probably part of prior's lodgings, were excavated in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by Woolgar, a local antiquarian (Mayhew 2008, 9-10). Gideon Mantell, a renowned geologist, dug up a number of tiles and carved capitals in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.3.3 The first organised excavation of the Priory however began in 1845 in advance of the construction of a railway line (from Brighton to Lewes) through the church, chapter house, cloister and frater (the discoveries are reported in Lower 1846; East Sussex Historic Environment record (ESHER) Event ID: EES9015). An entrance was exposed on the south side of the cloister which led into an underground chamber, referred to as the 'Lantern'. This had been buried during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Graves were discovered in the chapter house, including the re-interred bones of the founders of the priory, the interest generated from which led to the creation of Sussex Archaeological Society in the following year. According to Lower, over 100 graves were also found, to the east of the church within the monks' cemetery.
- 2.3.4 The west end of the church was excavated further in c. 1850 by John Blaker but the findings were never published (ESHER Event ID: EES9016). Likewise, the results of the other excavations carried out at the Priory during much of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.3.5 In 1882 William St John Hope (1886) surveyed the existing buildings (ESHER Event ID: EES9017). This plan was the first serious attempt to map the Priory (Mayhew 2008, 11). He also uncovered the southeast corner of the cloister in the railway embankment, and the area just outside the east wall of the dormer where he found a possible post-dissolution drain (*ibid*, 11). His main finding however was that the late 11<sup>th</sup> century domestic buildings had been extended within half a century of their construction, which was necessitated by a large increase in the number of monks (*ibid*, 11-12). The dormer was lengthened and widened, the chapter house and frater were extended east and west respectively, the square cloister was lengthened into a rectangle, and a new reredorter was built.

- 2.3.6 Between 1900 and 1902 (ESHER Event ID: EES9019), William St John Hope (1906) excavated the east side of the site. He discovered an 11<sup>th</sup> century church which Richard Lewis interpreted on re-excavation as the first monastic church, which was only later to become an infirmary chapel when the larger 12<sup>th</sup> century church was built. The ground around the infirmary chapel was levelled subsequent to its excavation (Mayhew 2008, 12). Hope also uncovered, along with Harold Brakspear, the remains of the infirmary hall and its subsidiary buildings (*ibid*, 12). He dated these to the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century, the same time as the extensions to the dorter and frater.
- 2.3.7 In 1902 Harold Brakspear uncovered the remains of a circular lavatorium above the 'Lantern'. Other areas of the Priory to the north of the railway were limited to the sinking of a number of shafts as the east side was already a nursery, or to the tracing of some of the church and cloister walls as the west side was a private garden (Mayhew 2008, 13).
- 2.3.8 Walter Godfrey opened a number of trenches on the site between 1923 and 1926 (Mayhew 2008, 13). In a publication from the following year (Godfrey 1927), he identified the church of St. John the Baptist as the original Priory hospital.
- 2.3.9 The prior's lodgings were further examined in 1954 and 1955 by Norman Norris, curator of Barbican House Museum, Leslie Davey, a local historian, and William Rector (Mayhew 2008, 13; ESHER Event ID: EES9406). They uncovered evidence indicating that the house had been destroyed by fire in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.3.10 Excavation recommenced for two years in 1969 when local archaeologist Richard Lewis cleared out and partly excavated the dorter extension undercroft and trench excavated the 12<sup>th</sup> century reredorter. Over a ten year period from 1972, Lewis excavated the eastern two-thirds of the infirmary chapel. During this time a probable 10<sup>th</sup> century church, likely to have been modified in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, was found beneath the infirmary chapel, thus possibly implying the existence of an earlier Saxon monastery on the site (Mayhew 2008, 16). Between 1975 and 1976, Lewis excavated the east end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century reredorter and opened trenches in and around the dorter extension and 12<sup>th</sup> century reredorter. Excavations continued in these areas up to 1982. Ill-health meant that Lewis could not process the material and write up the results of the excavations before he died in 1989. Malcolm Lyne (1997) did so instead at the request of the Sussex Archaeological Society and Lewes Priory Trust.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Manual excavation of test-pits and the maintenance of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks were undertaken at the site by personnel from ASE. Six test-pits were excavated in order to investigate various elements of the site to facilitate the opening of the site to the public. The watching brief was maintained during groundworks for paths, steps, sign posts, removal and erection of fencing and all associated landscaping.
- 3.2 The test-pits were excavated either to identify/clarify the location of buried archaeological remains, or to ascertain the depth of archaeological deposits at other locations. Test-pits of varying sizes were manually excavated and recorded (See Section 4.0 below)
- 3.3 During the watching brief phase personnel from Archaeology South-East monitored the mechanical (by Takeuchi TB016 excavator) and manual excavations, examined all sections for the presence of archaeological features, and scanned all available spoil for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.4 During both stages of archaeological work, all encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. All features were levelled to the Ordnance Datum
- 3.5 All groundworks monitored at the site (including the position of individual post-holes) were surveyed by Differential Global Positioning Systems (DGPS), survey grade equipment that will work to an accuracy of typically +/- 10mm positional accuracy and a +/-20mm height accuracy. ASE use the Leica System 1200 DGPS configured as a reference station and a RTK rover.
- 3.6 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to Lewes museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Number of Contexts          | 140   |
| No. of files/paper record   | 1   |
| Plan and sections sheets    | 2   |
| Bulk Samples                | -   |
| Photographs                 | c.200 digital photos<br>2 B&W films<br>2 Colour Slide films |
| Bulk finds                  | 8 Boxes   |
| Registered finds            | 10  |
| Environmental flots/residue | -   |

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

## 4.0 RESULTS : The Test-Pits (Fig. 3)

### 4.1 The Infirmary Hall

| Context | Type    | Description        | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|---------|---------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 100     | Deposit | Topsoil            | 120mm                  |
| 101     | Deposit | 'Rubble'           | unknown                |
| 102     | Cut     | ?Excavation Trench | unknown                |
| 103     | Fill    | " "                | unknown                |
| 104     | Deposit | ?Weathered Masonry | 300mm                  |
| 105     | Masonry | Masonry            | unknown                |

Table 2: List of recorded contexts; test-pit 1

- 4.1.1 The first test-pit was located in order to accurately locate the south-eastern corner of the Infirmary Hall (Fig. 2), so it could be laid out on the surface, and to ensure the proposed path alignment would avoid this element. An 'L'-shaped test-pit (Test-Pit 1) was manually excavated. A number of deposits were encountered and recorded (Fig 3, S1)
- 4.1.2 The uppermost layer was context [100], a 120mm thick humic mid-brown turf/topsoil deposit forming the current surface in that part of the site. It overlay context [101] a deposit of mid-greyish brown clayey silt with numerous chalk fragments, which was more than 540mm in thickness (i.e. it extended below the base of the test-pit). This 'rubble' layer appeared to result from the demolition and/or levelling and landscaping of the area and was a commonly encountered deposit during the watching brief.
- 4.1.3 Context [101] had been partially truncated by a poorly defined feature, Cut [102], which appeared to be evidence of previous archaeological work at the site. It extended to the base of the trench and had been filled/backfilled with context [103], which was similar in colour and texture to context [101], hence the difficulty in clearly defining the extent of the feature, which was not seen in plan at any point, only in section.
- 4.1.4 The previous intervention had uncovered solid masonry at a depth of 670mm below the current surface. Masonry [105] consisted of chalk/clunch blocks (typically measuring 230mm by 230mm with an unknown depth) bonded with a strong creamy yellow mortar containing small flint pebbles/gravel. It was overlain by context [104] a soft creamy white deposit made up of chalk and mortar. This was a maximum of 300mm in thickness and may represent the weathered surface of underlying masonry [105], following its exposure in Cut [102].
- 4.1.5 Results from the test-pit confirmed the measured position of the corner of the Infirmary Hall and allowed it to be accurately plotted on the ground for marking in concrete. A small assemblage of artefacts was also recovered from the test-pit.

### 4.2 The Infirmary Chapel

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| 200            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 130mm                  |
| 201            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | 360mm                  |

|     |         |          |         |
|-----|---------|----------|---------|
| 202 | Deposit | 'Rubble' | unknown |
|-----|---------|----------|---------|

Table 3: List of recorded contexts; test-pit 2

- 4.2.1 A second test-pit (Test-Pit 2) was positioned in order to locate the alignment of the walls forming the western end of the Infirmary Chapel (Fig. 2), so that the walls could also be laid out on the surface. An irregularly-shaped test-pit was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 800mm but failed to reveal any discernable masonry/wall alignments (Fig 3, S2).
- 4.2.2 The uppermost layer was the humic turf/topsoil surface layer, context [200], which was a maximum of 130mm in thickness. It overlay context [201] which was similar in character to 'rubble' layer context [101] found in Test-Pit 1, but with a higher concentration of chalk pieces, some measuring 150mm by 150mm by 150mm. This layer was a maximum of 360mm in thickness and in turn overlay the earliest deposit encountered in the test-pit, context [202], a layer of loose chalk/clunch and mortar rubble. Many of the chalk/clunch blocks measured as much as 250mm by 250mm by 250mm. It is possible that this deposit consists of masonry fallen into a sap dug at the dissolution (see Paragraph 2.1.5 above). However, it is impossible to prove this from archaeological evidence alone.
- 4.2.3 Nevertheless, previous reports on the site also concluded that the western wall of the church had been destroyed, presumably at the Dissolution (see Paragraph 2.2.6 above).
- 4.2.4 It was not possible to accurately define the location, and/or thickness of the Infirmary Chapel walls at this point, and its position was plotted by reference to 1906 site plan. However, a small assemblage of finds was recovered from this test-pit.

### 4.3 The East to West Wall

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| 300            | Masonry | Wall Face   | -                      |
| 301            | Masonry | Wall Core   | -                      |
| 302            | Masonry | Wall Face   | -                      |
| 303            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 200mm                  |
| 304            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | unknown                |

Table 4: List of recorded contexts; test-pit 3

- 4.3.1 A third test-pit was manually excavated at the request of the site architect (and with the agreement of Paul Roberts, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage). Test-pit 3 was located to investigate the character of a wall foundation at the extreme eastern end of the site, and to see if an opening in the wall represents the remains of a former doorway. The completed test-pit was 2.9m long, 400mm wide and a maximum of 950mm deep (Fig 3, S3).
- 4.3.2 The humic topsoil in the area was recorded as context [303]. It was a maximum of 200mm in thickness and directly overlay context [304], the 'rubble' layer at this point, which extended to the bottom of the trench. Small assemblages of artefacts were recovered from both of these contexts.
- 4.3.3 Examination of the wall showed that the current above-ground facing



consisted of knapped flints (typically 200mm in diameter) set in a strong grey mortar with flint pebble/gravel inclusions, recorded as context [300]. Exposures of the core of the wall, context [301] showed that it was made up of flint nodules (typically 200mm in diameter) and chalk rubble (some pieces had visible edges measuring 300mm by 300mm) set in a similar mortar.

- 4.3.4 The below ground element of the wall was noticeably different in character. Masonry [302] consisted of roughly coursed chalk/clunch blocks (typically measuring 200mm by 200mm) set in a strong grey mortar with numerous flint pebble/gravel inclusions, which obscured much of the surface of the wall. It was exposed to a depth of 800mm at which the test-pit was halted on grounds of safety (Fig. 3, S4).
- 4.3.5 It appears that the above ground masonry had been rebuilt/repointed in the recent past and that the below ground element represents the more 'original' character of the masonry. There was no evidence that the current opening was the upper part of a doorway at any stage, and it appears that the break in the wall is more likely to have been caused by action of sizeable roots from the local trees.

#### 4.4 The Reredorter

- 4.4.1 Further test-pits were located to establish the character of buried deposits within the *Reredorter* (latrine block) to allow mitigation measures if necessary (e.g. realignment of the path or repositioned of a bench and information panel). Three test-pits were excavated within the *Reredorter*, one to assess the impact of an information panel, and two others to investigate deposits on the planned alignment of the pathway.

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| 4000           | Deposit | Topsoil     | 450mm                  |
| 4001           | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | unknown                |

Table 5: List of recorded contexts; test-pit 4

- 4.4.2 Test-Pit 4 was manually excavated close to the north-west corner of the building at the intended location of *Informational Panel 8* (Fig. 2). It measured 500mm by 500mm by a depth of 450mm (the maximum depth of disturbance caused by the information panel's concrete base). The encountered deposits consisted of a 450mm thick layer of mid-brown humic topsoil mixed with chalk rubble, Context [4000], which directly over Context [4001], a deposit of chalk rubble found at the very base of the test-pit.

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| 5000           | Deposit | Topsoil     | 250mm                  |
| 5001           | Deposit | masonry     | unknown                |

Table 6: List of recorded contexts; test-pit 5

- 4.4.3 Test-Pit 5 was manually excavated on the planned alignment of the pathway. It measured 500mm by 500mm by a depth of 250mm (the maximum depth of disturbance during pathway construction at the site). Again the uppermost deposit was a mixture of topsoil and chalk rubble, Context [5000] which

overlay another deposit encountered at the very base of the test-pit. However the lower deposit encountered at this point consisted of masonry made up of chalk rubble bonded with a yellowish grey mortar, Context [5001].

| <b>Context Number</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Description</b> | <b>Max. Deposit Thickness</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6000                  | Deposit     | Topsoil            | 230mm                         |
| 6001                  | Deposit     | 'Rubble'           | unknown                       |

Table 7: List of recorded contexts; test-pit 6

- 4.4.4 Test Pit 6 was also manually excavated on the planned alignment of the pathway, further to the west. The dimensions were the same as those of Test-Pit 5. The uppermost deposit was the familiar mixture of topsoil and chalk rubble, Context [6000], which was 230mm thick at this location. It directly overlay chalk rubble, Context [6001].

## 5.0 RESULTS : The Watching Brief

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The elements of the scheme which necessitated groundworks are listed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2010). They were numbered 1-17 in previous documentation (ASE 2009a). Of these, 14 elements were identified as requiring archaeological monitoring. In addition the breaking out of a concrete slab in the Tower and excavations for the installation of a rabbit fence were also monitored. Results from monitoring of each of the activities are given below.

### 5.2 Action 1 - Marking out Walls of the Infirmary Hall and Infirmary Chapel (Fig. 4)

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness | Max. Width |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| 568            | Deposit | Topsoil     | unknown                | -          |
| 569            | Deposit | Topsoil     | unknown                | -          |
| 570            | Deposit | Topsoil     | unknown                | -          |
| 571            | Deposit | Topsoil     | unknown                | -          |
| 572            | Masonry | Wall        | unknown                | unknown    |

Table 8: List of recorded contexts; Action 1

- 5.2.1 The position of the buried walls of the Infirmary Hall were identified from the GPR survey undertaken at the site (Archer 2008), with confirmation of the position of the south-eastern corner by the discovery of masonry in Test-Pit 1 (see Section 4.1 above). The position of the walls and pier bases was also broadly visible in a range of parchmarks brought out by a long period of dry weather during the summer of 2010.
- 5.2.2 The positions of the walls were laid out using DGPS, and then the edgings were manually excavated and filled with concrete. The edgings were a maximum of 75mm wide and 150mm deep and the only deposit disturbed during the operation was the humic topsoil seen elsewhere at the site.
- 5.2.3 Three separate context numbers were given to the topsoil across the area of the Infirmary Hall ([568]; western end, [569]; middle section and [570]; eastern end). A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the monitoring.
- 5.2.4 The position of the west end wall of the Infirmary Chapel could not be ascertained from the deposits encountered in Test-Pit 2 and the GPR survey was not undertaken in this part of the site, so the location of the wall was ascertained from the 1906 site plan (see Section 4.2 above). Much of the trench was occupied by mid-brown humic topsoil (recorded as 571).
- 5.2.5 Adjacent to the standing remains of the Chapel, masonry [572] was encountered at 50mm below the surface, sloping to the maximum depth of the trench (i.e. 150mm) c.1m to the west. From this point westwards the masonry was not encountered. Characterisation of the masonry was difficult within the narrow confines of the trench, but it appeared to be constructed from chalk/clunch, and clearly formed a continuation of the south wall of the Infirmary Chapel.

### 5.3 Actions 2, 3 and 4 - Installation of Resin-Bound Gravel Paths, Information Boards and Benches (Fig. 5)

5.3.1 The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the installation of the paths provided the opportunity to examine a number of areas at the site, from parts relatively remote from the claustral buildings to new pathways within the location of partly standing or buried buildings. The locations of the new signs and benches were within the stripped area for the pathways and therefore it is appropriate to present the results from each area of the site together rather than from the individual *Actions* in isolation.

5.3.2 In order to aid the programme of archaeological recording the pathways were divided up into a number of separate sections. The division was based on the physical location of the path between obvious junctions and was in no way intended to reflect any attempt at spatial analysis of land use at the Priory, or sections of equal length. The results are given below in the order in which they were excavated/monitored. Assemblages of artefacts were recovered in all of the pathway areas.

5.3.3 The pathway trenches were 1.2m in width and a maximum of 250mm in depth, with an increase in width to accommodate Information Panels and benches at various locations. The Information Panels were excavated to a maximum of 450mm by 450mm to 450mm below the current ground surface (i.e. 200mm below the level of the pathway strip). The bases for the benches were excavated to a maximum of 1.8m wide by 600mm long to 250mm below the base of the path. All mechanical excavation was undertaken by a Takeuchi TB 016 rubber-tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

#### ***Herb Garden to the Battle of Lewes Memorial: Path A (Fig 6)***

5.3.4 This stretch of pathway ran downhill from the Herb Garden towards the Battle of Lewes Memorial, terminating immediately to the east of the Memorial, incorporating Information Panel IP2.

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness | Max. Width |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| 500            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 250mm                  | -          |
| 501            | Masonry | Wall        |                        | 780mm      |
| 502            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | unknown                | -          |
| 582            | Layer   | ?Natural    | unknown                |            |

Table 9: List of recorded contexts; Path A

5.3.5 The layer of humic topsoil in this part of the site, context [500] varied in thickness between 120mm and 240mm (the full depth of excavation at that point near the Herb Garden). It directly overlay context [502], a mid-greyish brown clayey silt with numerous chalk fragments of unknown depth. Hence the deposits in this part of the site matched those previously recorded as contexts [100] and [101] in Test-Pit 1.

5.3.6 The excavation for the base of Information Panel IP2 (located close to the Herb Garden) was taken deeper (see Paragraph 5.3.3 above). At that point context [500] was 160mm in thickness; context [502] was only 130mm in thickness and overlay context [582], an orangey brown silty clay with flint and chalk pieces, which was 310mm in thickness to the base of the excavation. It

is possible that this deposit was the 'natural' Head Deposit, but this was impossible to verify in the narrow confines of the excavation.

- 5.3.7 The only masonry recorded in this part of the site was Wall [501], a 780mm wide section of stonework which ran east to west across the pathway on the same alignment as the upstanding section of masonry immediately to the west. It was encountered only 50mm below the current surface. It consisted of chalk/clunch blocks (typically measuring 250mm by 250mm by an unknown depth) bonded with a yellowish grey mortar with flint pebble/gravel inclusions. This element of the Priory fabric is marked on the 1906 site plan.

***Battle of Lewes Memorial to Reredorter: Path B***

- 5.3.8 This length of path ran on fairly level ground between the Battle of Lewes Memorial and the former fenceline adjacent to the Reredorter, incorporating a thickening of the usually 1.2m wide path to accommodate Information Panel IP9 and Bench 2.1.

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| 503            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 130mm                  |
| 504            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >380mm                 |

Table 10: List of recorded contexts; Path B

- 5.3.9 Only two deposits were encountered in the area. Context [503], the humic turf/topsoil layer, had a maximum thickness of 130mm at this point. It overlay context [504], a mid-greyish brown clayey silt with numerous chalk fragments ('rubble'), which extended to the base of the path and also to the bottom of the Bench 2.1 (which was no deeper than the pathway strip) and Information Panel IP9 excavations, showing that it was more than 380mm in thickness.

***Herb Garden to North-West Corner of Infirmary Hall: Path C (Figs. 6 and 7)***

- 5.3.10 This stretch of the pathway ran broadly from east to west passing between the upstanding remains of the Infirmary Chapel and the buried masonry of the Infirmary Hall, incorporating Information Panels IP1, IP3 and IP3A.

| Context Number | Type    | Description     | Max. Deposit Thickness | Max. Width |
|----------------|---------|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| 505            | Deposit | Topsoil         | 150mm                  | -          |
| 506            | Deposit | 'Rubble'        |                        | -          |
| 507            | Masonry | Wall            | -                      | 1.1m       |
| 508            | Masonry | Wall            | -                      | -          |
| 509            | Masonry | Wall            | -                      | -          |
| 510            | Deposit | 'Rubble'        | 50mm                   | -          |
| 512            | Deposit | Tumble/Collapse | -                      | -          |
| 513            | Cut     | ?seating base   | -                      | -          |
| 514            | Masonry | " "             | -                      | -          |
| 515            | Fill    | " "             | -                      | -          |
| 516            | Masonry | Quoin           | 100mm                  | 200mm      |
| 517            | Cut     | Water Pipe      | -                      | -          |
| 518            | Fill    | " "             | -                      | -          |
| 576            | Masonry | Wall            | -                      | -          |
| 577            | Cut     | Excav. Trench   | -                      | -          |
| 578            | Fill    | " "             | -                      | -          |
| 579            | Deposit | ?Degraded Wall  | -                      | -          |

|     |      |            |       |       |
|-----|------|------------|-------|-------|
| 580 | Cut  | Water Pipe | 300mm | 300mm |
| 581 | Fill | “ “        |       |       |

Table 11: List of recorded contexts; Path C

- 5.3.11 The humic mid-brown silty clay topsoil in this part of the site was recorded as context [505]. It was a maximum of 150mm thick, and therefore formed the majority of the material mechanically removed for the laying of the pathway. However, the underlying chalky ‘rubble’, context [506] was also disturbed and produced a small assemblage of artefacts. It extended to a depth of more than 450mm below the current surface. The monitoring of the deeper excavations for Information panel IP1 showed that ‘rubble’ context extended to a depth of 450mm below the current surface (this deposit was seen to be more than 500mm in thickness as context [101] in test-pit 1)..
- 5.3.12 A number of features of archaeological interest were encountered and recorded in this area. Wall [507] was encountered at the eastern end of this section, 50mm below the current surface (it had been visible as a localised parchmark prior to exposure). It was 1.1m in width and ran from north to south across the stripped area. It comprised chalk/clunch blocks (typically 200mm by 200mm by a unknown depth) and small pieces of green sandstone bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar with flint pebble/gravel inclusions. The eastern face consisted of Quarr Stone. The wall was marked on the 1906 site plan.
- 5.3.13 The masonry was breached by a water pipe, laid in a 300mm wide trench of unknown depth, cut [517]. The backfill was a mid-greyish brown silty clay, context [518]. The pipe was also encountered when the base for Information Panel IP1 was excavated. It was found to be 300mm wide and 300mm deep, and was recorded as cut [580], filled by context [581], which was similar in character to context [518]. It had been cut into ‘rubble’ context [506].
- 5.3.14 Although the alignment of the path had been planned to avoid ‘obvious’ features, it clipped the end of a buried wall, clearly visible as an earthwork running southward from the east end of the Infirmary Chapel. Only the end of one chalk/clunch quoin was exposed 40mm below the current surface, and was recorded as context [516]. It measured 200mm by 100mm by 150mm, with tooling marks visible on the exposed surfaces.
- 5.3.15 To the west there was a discrete spread of larger pieces of masonry within context [506]. This was recorded as context [512] as it was clearly distinct in character. It was in the stretch of pathway closest to the Infirmary Hall, and may represent demolition debris and/or collapse from its northern wall.
- 5.3.16 This deposit had been partially truncated by the base for a late post-medieval feature of some kind. Cut [513] was of unknown extent, and was filled by frogged bricks laid in a strong grey sandy mortar, context [514]. The backfill around the bricks was a mid-greyish brown silty clay, context [515]. It is possible that this feature forms the remains of a seat, or perhaps signpost. It is clearly relatively recent in origin.
- 5.3.17 Further to the west another area of masonry was identified 50mm below the surface. There were two distinct areas of masonry arguably forming an outer face and the core of a wall, which appeared to terminate in the path trench. The outer ‘face’ was masonry [508], which was 300mm in thickness and

made up of chalk/clunch, green sandstone and Quarr stone bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar. The 'core' was masonry [509], which consisted of the same materials bonded in similar manner, but with a 'rougher' appearance. The overlying 'chalky rubble', which was only 50mm in thickness was part of [506], but was recorded as context [510] as it contained a notable concentration of nails, presumably associated with the encountered structure.

- 5.3.18 This masonry appears to be an element of the covered walkway known to have extended along the northern side of the Infirmary Hall. It is possible that the configuration found in the pathway trench is the corner of this passageway and another leading northward to the Infirmary Chapel, another previously recognised component of the site layout (see Paragraph 2.2.14 above).
- 5.3.19 Another possible part of this arrangement of passageways was encountered during the excavation for the base of Informational Panel IP3, the closest to the Infirmary Chapel (Fig. 7). Masonry [576] was encountered at the very bottom of the excavation for the base, which was completed after the path strip. It was of uncertain extent and orientation but comprised chalk/clunch blocks and flint nodules bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar with numerous flint pebble/gravel inclusions. It was overlain by context [579], a 360mm thick deposit of crumbly chalk in a mid-greyish brown silty matrix, a similar arrangement to that seen in test-pit 1, suggesting degraded masonry.
- 5.3.20 Also similar to test-pit 1 was the apparent presence of an excavation trench adjacent to the masonry. Cut [577] was an intervention of unknown extent, filled with context [578], a dark brown 'composty' loam deposit. (Fig. 7, S5)

***North-West Corner of Infirmary Hall to Steps to the East of the Dorter: Path D (Figs.7 and 8)***

- 5.3.21 This area consisted of the pathways at their highest level on the site, offering views over much of the standing remains. This area had by far the highest concentration of encountered masonry and other features and included Information Panels IP4 and IP5, and Benches B1.1 and B1.2.

| Context Number | Type    | Description     | Max. Deposit Thickness | Max. Width |
|----------------|---------|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| 521            | Deposit | Topsoil         | 110mm                  | -          |
| 522            | Deposit | 'Rubble'        | 190mm                  | -          |
| 523            | Masonry | Wall            | -                      | -          |
| 524            | Cut     | ?Service Trench | -                      | -          |
| 525            | Fill    | ?Service Trench | -                      | -          |
| 526            | Masonry | Collapse        | -                      | -          |
| 527            | Masonry | Wall            | -                      | -          |
| 528            | Masonry | Doorway         | -                      | -          |
| 529            | Masonry | Doorway         | -                      | -          |
| 530            | Masonry | Floor           | -                      | -          |
| 531            | Cut     | Excav. Trench   | 720mm                  | 1.1m       |
| 532            | Fill    | " "             | 720mm                  | 1.1m       |
| 533            | Masonry | Wall            | -                      | 2.1m       |
| 534            | Cut     | Excav. Trench   | unknown                | 1.1m       |
| 535            | Fill    | " "             | unknown                | 1.1m       |
| 536            | Masonry | Floor           | -                      | 1.7m       |

|     |         |               |         |         |
|-----|---------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 537 | Masonry | Wall          | -       | unknown |
| 538 | Masonry | Wall          |         | 1.7m    |
| 539 | Deposit | Mortar Skim   | <10mm   | -       |
| 540 | Masonry | Wall          |         | unknown |
| 541 | Deposit | Mortar Skim   | <10mm   | -       |
| 542 | Masonry | Floor         | -       | -       |
| 543 | Deposit | Chalk Rubble  | -       | -       |
| 544 | Masonry | Floor         | -       | -       |
| 559 | Masonry | Wall          | -       | 2.1m    |
| 560 | Cut     | Excav. Trench | unknown | unknown |
| 561 | Fill    | “ “           | unknown | unknown |
| 573 | Masonry | ?Floor        | -       | -       |
| 574 | Cut     | Excav. Trench | 720mm   | 1.1m    |
| 575 | Fill    | “ “           | 720mm   | 1.1m    |
| 583 | Deposit | Backfill      | 50mm    | -       |

Table 12: List of recorded contexts; Path D

- 5.3.22 The humic turf/topsoil layer in this part of the site was recorded as context [521]. It was a maximum of 110mm in thickness. The underlying mid-greyish brown chalk-rich ‘rubble’ was context [522], which was seen to have a maximum thickness of 190mm in the excavation for the base of Information Point IP4 (see Paragraph 5.3.30 below).
- 5.3.23 Part of the western wall of the Infirmary Hall was exposed close to the top of the steps to the east of the Dorter as the pathway veered slightly westward (Fig. 8). Masonry [523] comprised chalk/clunch blocks (typically 250mm by 250mm by an unknown depth) bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar with numerous flint pebble/gravel inclusions. It was encountered 60mm below the surface.
- 5.3.24 It appeared to have been disturbed by a possible service trench. Cut [524] was of unknown width and depth, and was filled by context [525], a mid-greyish brown clayey silt. This anomaly was encountered at the very base of the path trench so remains somewhat enigmatic.
- 5.3.25 Further to the north an isolated pocket of tumbled masonry, context [526] was recorded within context [522]. It was made up of a more solid arrangement of masonry than the surrounding ‘rubble’ arguably suggesting more solid masonry survived below the formation level for the path.
- 5.3.26 More solid masonry did survive immediately to the west. Masonry [527] was irregular in shape at the formation level. It comprised chalk/clunch blocks set in a yellowish grey mortar with numerous flint pebble/gravel inclusions. The mortar obscured the size of the individual chalk/clunch components. The masonry appears on the 1906 site plan and was re-examined during the excavation of post-holes for the new guard rails in the vicinity (see Paragraph 5.4.9 below).
- 5.3.27 Two stumps of masonry were recorded as the pathway continued northwards, both with only a thin covering (c.50mm) of context [522]. Masonry [528] lay partially under the eastern edge of the trench. The exposed element measured 1.2m from north to south and 800mm from east to west. It comprised clunch/chalk rubble bonded with a strong yellow grey



mortar containing numerous flint pebbles/gravel, and appeared to have been robbed of any facing stones.

- 5.3.28 The other was Masonry [529], which lay partly under the western baulk of the pathway trench. The exposed element measured 750mm north to south and 400mm east to west. It was identical in construction to masonry [528].
- 5.3.29 An area of ?flooring, context [530] was uncovered immediately to the north. It consisted of a mixture of crushed chalk and yellowish grey mortar, with no obvious impressions from tiles or any other covering/surfacing. Mechanical excavation ceased at its surface so its thickness could not be ascertained. Its extent was also unclear as it lay partially under the eastern baulk of the trench and was apparently truncated on its western side by a ?Victorian excavation trench, cut [531], which was 1.1m wide but locally 720mm deep (encountered in adjacent post-holes; see Paragraph 5.4.11 below). The single fill was context [532], a dark brown humic loam. This excavation trench continued southwards and was located again during the excavation for the base of Information Post IP5, where it occupied the entire intervention below 120mm of topsoil and was recorded as Cut [574], fill [575].
- 5.3.30 The trench had apparently been excavated to trace the alignment of a wall to the west, masonry [533]. The wall ran north to south across the pathway trench as it turned westwards. It was 2.1m wide and consisted of chalk/clunch blocks (typically measuring c.150mm by c.150mm by an unknown depth) bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar containing numerous flint pebbles/gravel. The wall and trench were encountered in the pathway trench to the north, but they were revealed with more clarity during excavations for Bench B1.1 where they were found to be of similar character, and were recorded as masonry [559] and cut [560], fill [561]. The wall is clearly shown on the 1906 site plan.
- 5.3.31 The wall had also been investigated on its western side by Cut [534], another ?Victorian excavation trench filled with a humic loam, context [535]. The loose fill had been heavily disturbed by burrowing rabbits but the trench appeared to be of a similar width to its 'twin' cut [531]. The trench had truncated an area of loose chalk rubble, context [543] to the west. This deposit appeared to partly overlay another 'floor' deposit, context [536], more clearly exposed to the west. It was similar in composition to context [530]. Excavation for the adjacent Information Panel IP4 showed that it was more than 230mm in thickness, and overlain by [583] a 50mm thick lens of mid-greyish brown clayey silt (Fig. 7, S6). The ?floor also appeared to continue to the north where it was recorded as context [544] and perhaps [483] (see Paragraph 5.3.32 below).
- 5.3.32 This deposit was associated with a wall uncovered to the west, which ran north to south across the pathway trench. Masonry [537] was 1.7m in thickness and was constructed from clunch and chalk rubble bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar containing numerous flint pebbles/gravel. There was a limited exposure of a floor to the west, recorded as context [542], which was similar in composition to context [530].
- 5.3.33 Wall [537] appeared to thicken to the north (under the edge of the trench) to become masonry [540]. It consisted of chalk/clunch blocks (typically

measuring 200mm by 200mm by an unknown depth). This masonry (apparently within the footprint of the Warming House) is not shown on the 1906 Site Plan. It then returned to the thickness of wall [537] (1.7m) to the north where it was recorded as masonry [538], with adjacent floor [544]. The make-up of both of these deposits was identical to the corresponding features [537] and [536] respectively. Floor [544] might continue to the east as a similar deposit was encountered in the base of Bench B1.2, where it was recorded as context [573].

5.3.34 Both walls [537] and [540] were partially covered by a skim of mortar (contexts [539] and [541] respectively). The mortar was similar in colour to that which had been used to bond the walls, but contained noticeable larger pebbles. The purpose of this mortar remains unclear, although it is possible that it represents an attempt to stabilise the walls after their exposure during previous archaeological work at the site.

***The Old Site Boundary Fence to The Tower: Path E (Fig. 9)***

5.3.35 This area consisted of the gently curving path between the Victorian tower adjacent to the railway line (see Paragraph 2.2.16) and the point at which the new pathway crossed the old site boundary fence to the west of the Dorter. It incorporated Information Point IP10, and Benches B1.3 and B1.4

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness | Max. Width |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| 547            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 300mm                  | -          |
| 548            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >60mm                  | -          |
| 549            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >60mm                  | -          |
| 550            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >200mm                 | -          |
| 551            | Masonry | ?Wall       | -                      | 1.1m       |
| 552            | Masonry | Wall        | -                      | -          |
| 553            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | unknown                | 1.5m       |
| 554            | Masonry | Wall        | -                      | 1.8m       |
| 555            | Deposit | 'Floor'     | unknown                | -          |
| 556            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >300mm                 | -          |
| 557            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >350mm                 | -          |

Table 13: List of recorded contexts; Path E

5.3.36 The mid-brown humic turf/topsoil in this part of the site was recorded as context [547], it was a maximum of 300mm in depth, but was more usually 150mm in thickness. The underlying deposits were unusual in that there was considerable local variation.

5.3.37 Context [548] was a mid-greyish brown silty clay chalk-rich deposit which lay immediately below context [547] for c.10m from the old site fence westwards. Only 60mm of this deposit were disturbed. It merged into context [549], a deposit of similar colour and texture, but distinct from context [548] as it contained less chalk, but a much higher concentration of artefacts. This deposit occupied c.12m of the pathway trench and was only disturbed to a depth of 60mm. This in turn then merged into context [550], which was similar in character to context [548]. The base for Bench B1.3 was excavated into this deposit and showed it to be more than 200mm in thickness.

5.3.38 Masonry [551] was exposed within context [550]. Only part of the surviving surface of the stonework was exposed at the formation level of the pathway,

but it appeared to consist of chalk/clunch blocks bonded with a strong grey mortar containing numerous flint pebbles/gravel. The encountered masonry occupied 1.1m of the trench and probably represents a wall running north to south.

- 5.3.39 A more well-defined wall was encountered with context [550] to the west. Masonry [552] consisted of a 1.5m wide wall running north to south across the trench. It was constructed from chalk/clunch blocks and chalk rubble bonded with a strong grey mortar with numerous flint pebble/gravel inclusions. The 'usual' rubble deposit to the west of this wall was recorded as context [553]. The overlying topsoil [547] was 250mm in thickness at this point so only the surface of this deposit was exposed.
- 5.3.40 Another wall was encountered to the west. Masonry [554] was 1.8m wide and ran from north to south across the trench. It consisted of chalk/clunch rubble set in a strong yellowish grey mortar, and had part of an associated 'floor', context [555] to the west. This consisted of a highly disturbed intermittent deposit of grey mortar mixed with sand, which could arguably have formed the base for a tiled floor, although no tile impressions were observed. It was left *in situ*. This building lay outside of the western edge of the 1906 site plan, but in an area of the site in which the recent geophysical survey had detected evidence of buildings (Archer 2008, 4-5).
- 5.3.41 This deposit was overlain by context [556], a deposit of chalk rubble with some fragments measuring 250mm by 250mm by 250mm in size. The presence of a marked concentration of glazed floor tiles fragments within [556] perhaps supports the view that context [555] was the base for a tiled floor.
- 5.3.42 The excavation for the base of Bench B1.4 showed that [556] was more than 300mm in thickness. It extended c.5m to the west where it merged with context [557], a mid-greyish brown silty clay 'rubble' deposit with a noticeably lower concentration of chalk. Excavations for the base of Information Panel IP10 showed that this deposit was more than 350mm in thickness.

***The Old Site Boundary Fence to the Frater: Path F (Fig. 10)***

- 5.3.43 This short stretch of path ran from the old site boundary towards a doorway into the upstanding remains of the Frater. There were no panels or benches in this area.

| Context Number | Type    | Description   | Max. Deposit Thickness | Max. Width |
|----------------|---------|---------------|------------------------|------------|
| 562            | Deposit | Topsoil       | 190mm                  | -          |
| 563            | Deposit | 'Rubble'      | >80mm                  | -          |
| 564            | Masonry | ?Hardstanding | -                      | -          |
| 565            | Deposit | ?Dump         | >50mm                  | -          |
| 566            | Deposit | 'Rubble'      | -                      | -          |
| 584            | Masonry | Threshold     | -                      | -          |

Table 14: List of recorded contexts; Path F

- 5.3.44 The humic turf/topsoil layer at this point was recorded as context [562]. It was a maximum of 190mm in depth. Close to the fence it overlay context [563], the 'usual' mid-greyish brown silty clay chalk-rich 'rubble', which was disturbed to a maximum depth of only 80mm.

- 5.3.45 Between the Dorter and the Frater there was noticeable rise in the ground level, forming a roughly rectangular 'platform', which was found to be the result of a 'dump' of mid-greyish brown silty clay, (context [565]), the southern edge of which contained metal posts and chicken wire. Only 50mm of this deposit was disturbed and interpretation is therefore uncertain, although the area might be part of a post-medieval vegetable garden. Beneath [563] and [565] was an area of possible hardstanding [564]. This consisted of chalk, flint, occasional green sandstone, quarr and tile bonded with yellowish grey mortar with flint inclusions. The depth of this deposit is unknown.
- 5.3.46 The c.4m between the edge of the raised 'platform' and the Frater doorway contained the 'usual' 'rubble' deposit, recorded as context [566]. Only 50mm of this deposit was disturbed. The stonework threshold of the doorway was recorded as context [584]. It appeared heavily restored and consisted of chalk rubble with a step made from an imported limestone unlike that used elsewhere at the Priory (site Stone Masons *pers. comm.*). It was covered with gravel and left *in situ*. Excavations for the pathway did not continue into the Frater.
- 5.3.47 The groundworks for the installation of Information Panel IP6 were not archaeologically monitored as ASE were not informed that the work was taking place.

***The Reredorter: Path G (Fig. 11)***

- 5.3.48 This stretch of pathway ran from the old site gate immediately to the east of the Reredorter to the point at which the pathway ran northwards out of the structure, and incorporated the locations of Information Panel IP8 and Bench B2.2. The area had been investigated by test-pitting prior to the excavation for the path (see Section 4.4 above).

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness | Max. Width |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| 585            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 150mm                  | -          |
| 586            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >120mm                 | -          |
| 596            | Masonry | Wall        | -                      | 1.8m       |
| 597            | Masonry | Wall/Floor  | -                      | -          |
| 598            | Masonry | Wall/Floor  | -                      | -          |

Table 14: List of recorded contexts; Path G

- 5.3.49 The humic turf/topsoil in the area was recorded as context [585]. It was a maximum of 150mm in thickness. It overlay context [586], a layer of chalk rubble. This layer contained noticeably more chalk than the other 'rubble' layers encountered at the site, reflecting its position within a partially demolished building. It was exposed to a maximum depth of 120mm.
- 5.3.50 The buried element of the eastern wall of the reredorter was encountered between the upstanding parts at a depth of 210mm below the current surface. Masonry [596] consisted of chalk/clunch blocks and flint cobbles bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar with numerous flint pebble/gravel inclusions. The wall was 1.8m wide and had some remaining green sandstone facing on the outside (eastern face).
- 5.3.51 Further masonry was exposed to the west on the alignment of a parchmark noted before excavation began. Mechanical excavation ceased when the

stonework was first exposed and limited manual cleaning and probing showed that it occupied the entire base of the trench for much of its length. It was made up of chalk, clunch and green sandstone rubble bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar with numerous flint pebble/gravel inclusions. It was recorded as masonry [597] along the main axis of the path and as masonry [598] as it turned north. The masonry may represent the remains of a floor, although it is also possible that it is the remains of a spine wall and associated rubble/collapse. A similar masonry deposit was located at the base of TP 5 (see 4.4.3 above).

***West of the Dorter: Path H***

5.3.52 This stretch of path ran from the northern wall of the reredorter to the junction with the path to the Frater. It incorporated Information Panel IP7 and Bench B2.3.

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness | Max. Width |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| 599            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 200mm                  | -          |
| 600            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >250mm                 | -          |

Table 16: List of recorded contexts; Path H

5.3.53 The humic turf/topsoil in this area was recorded as context [599]. It overlay the mid-greyish brown chalky silty clay 'rubble' seen elsewhere at the site, context [600], which extended to the base of excavations for the panel and bench and was therefore more than 250mm in thickness. There was no evidence for the alignment of the north wall of the reredorter where the path crossed it.

***The Tower to the West Entrance: Path I (Fig. 12)***

5.3.54 This stretch of pathway ran from the south-eastern corner of the garden of Priory Cottage to the western entrance to the site, adjacent to Priory Cottage, and was the last part of the pathway strip to be completed.

| Context Number | Type    | Description   | Max. Deposit Thickness | Max. Width |
|----------------|---------|---------------|------------------------|------------|
| 558            | Masonry | ?Hardstanding | -                      | -          |
| 609            | Deposit | Topsoil       | 250mm                  | -          |
| 610            | Masonry | ?Hardstanding | -                      | -          |

Table 17: List of recorded contexts; Path I

5.3.55 The humic turf/topsoil in the area was recorded as context [609]. It was 250mm in depth so only the surface of the underlying deposit was only exposed intermittently. An area of chalk rubble with incorporated fragments of tile bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar with numerous flint pebble/gravel inclusions was encountered to the south of the Tower. Context [558] was of unknown extent as only limited areas of the masonry were exposed. Further to the south, Deposit [610] consisted of chalk, flint and greensand rubble, some bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar. This deposit, a possible continuation of context [558], may form part of a route into the Priory, or perhaps an area of hardstanding but this is pure supposition.

5.3.56 The excavation for the base of Information Panel IP11 was not archaeologically monitored as ASE were not informed that the work was taking place.

#### 5.4 Action 5 - Removal of Old and the Installation of New Guard Rails (Fig. 13)

5.4.1 The removal of the old wooden guard rails was monitored. Many were snapped just below ground level, others were set in concrete and some appeared to have no substantial base.

5.4.2 No significant archaeological deposits or finds were encountered during the monitoring of this activity. However, the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the erection of the new guard rails did result in the identification and recording of deposits and areas of masonry. The post-holes were manually excavated to a diameter of 300mm and to varying depths (given in Appendix 1), although double post-holes located where the guard rails changed direction were 450mm diameter to accommodate the second post. Post-holes containing significant archaeological deposits are described in this Section.

5.4.3 The majority of the post-holes were excavated adjacent to the pathways and hence most of the encountered deposits were identical to those in the neighbouring pathway trench. However some of the post-holes were excavated in parts of the site with no pathways.

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| 593            | Deposit | Backfill    | >500mm                 |
| 594            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 100mm                  |
| 595            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >700mm                 |
| 601            | Masonry | Wall        | -                      |
| 602            | Masonry | ?Pier       | -                      |
| 603            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 200mm                  |
| 604            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >600mm                 |
| 605            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 140mm                  |
| 606            | Masonry | Wall        | -                      |

Table 18: List of recorded contexts; Action 5, guard rails

5.4.4 Four post-holes (Nos. 27 to 30) were excavated in the area between the Dorter and the Reredorter. The maximum depth of the holes was 500mm and the only deposit encountered was context [593], a mixture of humic topsoil and mid-greyish brown silty clay containing chalk rubble, mortar and pieces of timber and metal scaffold board edging (not retained). Clearly this area had been disturbed during a previous campaign of masonry consolidation at the site.

5.4.5 Eight post-holes (Nos. 31 to 38) were excavated immediately to the west of the Dorter. These post-holes showed the 'usual' stratigraphic sequence encountered at the site; a humic turf/topsoil layer, context [594], which was 100mm in thickness, which overlay the mid-greyish brown chalky silty clay 'rubble' layer, context [595]. This was more than 700mm in thickness (the deepest post-hole was 800mm in depth).

5.4.6 Six post-holes were excavated between the bottom of the new north stairs and the north wall of the Dorter (Nos. 104 to 109). Again the post-holes revealed the familiar sequence of humic topsoil (context [603], which was 200mm in thickness) overlying the chalky 'rubble', context [604], which was

more than 600mm in thickness (the deepest post-hole was again 800mm in depth). Masonry was encountered in three of the post-holes (Nos. 106, 107 and 108, at a depth of 280mm, 330mm and 600mm respectively). It consisted of chalk/clunch and flintbonded with a yellowish grey mortar, recorded as context [606].

- 5.4.7 Three post-holes were excavated across the drain to the north of the Doter (Nos. 111 to 113). The area had been heavily disturbed by rabbit burrow and the only deposit encountered was context [605] a mixture of topsoil and 'rubble'. It was more than 600mm in thickness (the maximum depth of the post-holes).
- 5.4.8 A number of the post-holes excavated on the northern side of the new north stairs contained masonry. Following an on-site meeting with Paul Roberts, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, it was agreed that Post-hole Nos. 79 and 80 could be excavated into masonry [527], previously encountered during the pathway strip (see paragraph 5.3.25 above) Each post-hole was excavated to a depth of 750mm into the masonry.
- 5.4.9 To the west, post-hole Nos. 82, 84, 86 and 88 contained a ?continuation of this stonework, recorded as masonry [601]. It consisted of chalk and flint Masonry bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar encountered at a depth of 150mm below the surface, apparently linked to masonry pier [602] which consisted of chalk/clunch and flint rubble bonded with a strong yellowish grey mortar. Masonry [602] was encountered in post-holes Nos. 90, 92 and 94, almost at the surface.
- 5.4.10 No other masonry remains were encountered in the post-holes, even to the east of the dorter on the alignment of the south wall of the Infirmary Hall, or to the south of the complex of walls to the north. Post-hole Nos. 18 to 23 were excavated into context [532], the fill of ?Victorian excavation trench cut [531], which was found to be more than 720mm in depth.
- 5.4.11 A complete list of post-holes, with diameters and depths is appended below.

## 5.5 Action 6 – Removal and Replacement of Steps

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| 519            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 150mm                  |
| 520            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | -                      |
| 545            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 140mm                  |
| 546            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | -                      |
| 602            | Masonry | ?Pier       | -                      |

Table 19: List of recorded contexts; Action 6 - steps

- 5.5.1 The removal of the existing steps to the immediate east of the Dorter was monitored and caused only minor disturbance to the humic turf/topsoil layer in the vicinity, recorded as context [519]
- 5.5.2 This deposit was then mechanically removed (by a Takeuchi TB016 excavator) to facilitate the laying of new concrete steps. It was found to be a maximum of 150mm in thickness, and overlay context [520], the mid-greyish brown chalk-rich 'rubble' deposit seen elsewhere at the site. There was only

minimal disturbance to this deposit during the step construction, so its thickness at this point was not ascertained. No masonry was disturbed during the construction of the eastern steps.

- 5.5.3 A similar stratigraphic sequence was encountered during the removal of the existing steps on the northern side of the Dorter. Here the humic topsoil (recorded as context [545]) was 140mm in thickness and overlay the chalk 'rubble' context [546], which was only minimally disturbed during the groundworks. However, masonry [602] was encountered immediately below the surface and protruded slightly into the northern side of the intervention

## **5.6 Action 8 – Removal of Surrounding Fencing**

- 5.6.1 The removal of the chain-link fencing which formerly surrounded the above ground remains of the Priory was monitored. Many of the supporting posts were broken off at or slightly below ground level. Those that were lifted were set in large concrete bases. Much of the fence had become overgrown and there were substantial root systems at a number of locations.

- 5.6.2 No significant archaeological deposits or finds were encountered.

## **5.7 Action 11 – Laying of Gravel within Frater and Dorter**

- 5.7.1 The importation and spreading of a layer of gravel in the two areas was monitored. No archaeological deposits were disturbed.

## **5.8 Action 12 - Exposure of Gravel within the Infirmary Chapel**

- 5.8.1 The clearance of a build-up of turf and the subsequent exposure of the former gravel surfacing in this area was monitored. No archaeological deposits were disturbed.

## **5.9 Action 13 - Extension of the Herb Garden (Fig. 14)**

| <b>Context Number</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Description</b> | <b>Max. Deposit Thickness</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 511                   | Deposit     | Topsoil            | >300mm                        |

Table 20: List of recorded contexts; Action 13 (herb garden)

- 5.9.1 The existing Herb Garden at the eastern end of the site was extended to the north by 3.2m to accommodate a raised bed and adjacent pathway. A new gate was also added.
- 5.9.2 The mechanical strip for the new flower bed was only taken to a depth of 250mm below the current surface. Two post-holes were manually excavated for the new gate; each was 300mm in diameter and 750mm deep. The only deposit encountered in this part of the site was Context [511], a mid-brown humic, loamy topsoil, which contained modern detritus.
- 5.9.3 The level of detritus and depth of humic soil suggests that the area had been used as a dump for soil from elsewhere, perhaps during construction and/or maintenance of the existing Herb Garden.



## 5.10 Action 14 –Planting of a Belt of Low Thorny Shrubs (Fig. 14)

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| 567            | Deposit | Topsoil     | >100mm                 |

Table 21: List of recorded contexts; Action 14 (planting shrubs)

5.10.1 A c.2m wide strip adjacent to the south wall of the site was mechanically stripped to a maximum depth of 50mm below the existing surface. This area was designed for the planting of thorny shrubs to discourage entry to the site by climbing the wall. The exposed surface was then loosened with a toothed bucket to facilitate planting, which resulted in disturbance to a depth of c.100mm.

5.10.2 The only deposit encountered was Context [567], a mid-brown humic loamy topsoil, which contained a variety of modern detritus, which had apparently accumulated in this part of the site (not retained). The presence of a length of timber edging strip suggests that this area had been an area of flower bed until relatively recently.

## 5.11 Action 15 - Grading out the edge of the Former Tennis Court Platform

5.11.1 This activity was restricted to the importation of topsoil into the area in order to level out the ground, and hence no archaeological deposits were disturbed.

## 5.12 Action 16 - Installation of a New 2m High Gate

5.12.1 A new gate was installed at the eastern end of the low hedge marking the southern boundary of the site. This was to replace an existing gate and to allow access to/from the adjacent tennis club. This activity was undertaken without archaeological supervision.

## 5.13 Action 17 - Installation of a New Metal Fence

5.13.1 A new 2m high metal fence was installed at the end of a ditch which runs into the south-eastern section of the site. This work had been undertaken before the implementation of the archaeological watching brief, and hence was not monitored.

## 5.14 Groundworks within The Tower

| Context Number | Type    | Description  | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|--------------|------------------------|
| 607            | Deposit | Concrete     | 70mm                   |
| 608            | Deposit | Brick Rubble | >150mm                 |

Table 22: List of recorded contexts; Groundworks within the Tower

5.14.1 Following the consolidation of the standing masonry, the badly cracked concrete floor of The Tower was removed to allow reconstruction and strengthening. It had been observed that a number of tiles apparently from the claustral buildings had been reused in this floor, and it was possible to recover a significant assemblage from within the 70mm thick concrete, Context [607].

5.14.2 The concrete overlay a deposit of brick rubble, Context [608], which contained timber off-cuts, plastic and glass. Only c.150mm of this material was removed and a new concrete floor was then laid.

### 5.15 Installation of Rabbit Fencing (Fig. 14)

| Context Number | Type    | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| 611            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 200mm                  |
| 612            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 300mm                  |
| 613            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >100mm                 |
| 614            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 400mm                  |
| 615            | VOID    |             |                        |
| 616            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 200mm                  |
| 617            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >200mm                 |
| 618            | Deposit | Topsoil     | 150mm                  |
| 619            | Deposit | 'Rubble'    | >250mm                 |

Table 23: List of recorded contexts; Installation of rabbit fencing

5.15.1 Rabbit fencing was laid along the entire northern boundary of the site. This involved the mechanical excavation by mini-digger of a trench measuring 300mm wide and 200mm deep and the excavation of four chambers (each measuring 600mm by 600mm by 600mm in depth) for rabbit traps.

5.15.2 Much of the area in which the trench was excavated was not surprisingly, heavily disturbed by rabbits, and hence only mid-brown humic topsoil was encountered and recorded as context [611]. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from this deposit. As the rabbit traps were deeper (600mm), the underlying 'rubble' familiar at the site was also encountered.

5.15.3 The hole for Catch Box 1 (CB1) contained humic topsoil, context [612], which was 300mm in thickness and overly the mid-greyish brown chalk-rich 'rubble', context [613]. In Catch Box 2 (CB2) the topsoil, context [614] was 600mm in thickness, and was hence the only deposit encountered. Context [616] was the topsoil in Catch Box 3 (CB3). It was 200mm in thickness and overlay 'rubble' context [617]. Catch Box 4 (CB4) contained topsoil [618] which was 150mm in thickness and overlay 'rubble' context [619]. No artefacts were recovered during excavations for the Catch Boxes.

## **6.0 THE FINDS**

### **6.1 The Pottery** by Luke Barber

- 6.1.1 The archaeological work recovered a relatively small assemblage of pottery from the site (99 sherds). The material generally consists of small (< 30mm across) to medium sized sherds (30mm-60mm across). Despite this, most material appears to be in relatively fresh condition suggesting that it has not been subjected to repeated reworking. However, the majority of the assemblage consists of well to hard-fired wares that are generally quite robust and not easily abraded.
- 6.1.2 No large context groups are present (the largest consisting of 15 sherds from [591]) and most numbered contexts contain either chronologically mixed assemblages or only one or two sherds. The material has been fully quantified onto an excel database for archive. All in all, the assemblage spans the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century.
- 6.1.3 The earliest pottery recovered is of the High Medieval period, which accounts for 31 sherds (345g). Of this group the earliest piece probably consists of a cooking pot with slightly thickened rim from [511]. This vessel is in a medium fired fabric tempered with sand and rare flint inclusions and is probably of 13<sup>th</sup>- century date. Better-fired wares more likely to be of the late 13th, 14th, or even early 15th, centuries characterize the remaining High Medieval assemblage.
- 6.1.4 These include Ringmer sandy wares with rare flint inclusions, most typically cooking pots (e.g. in [586]) but there is at least one square-sectioned unglazed jug rod handle with chevron slashing from [590]. Other wares include a range of purely sand-tempered types, ranging in coarseness from fine (a green glazed jug from [591]), to medium (including a range of jugs with green/orange glazes and slashed rod handles and crudely thumbled bases eg [563], [590] and [593]) to coarse (e.g. a cooking pot with internally glazed base from [549]). The well-fired nature of many of these vessels suggests most are of 14<sup>th</sup>- century date but the transition to the 15<sup>th</sup>- century hard-fired earthenwares is not well understood and it is probable vessels of this High Medieval type continued well into the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.1.5 Some 19 sherds (828g) of typical Transitional pottery attest to activity between the mid 15<sup>th</sup> and mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and represent the final period of the Priory. High-fired earthenwares dominate this assemblage; both oxidized and reduced vessels being present. These include jars with flaring rims (contexts [101] and [565]) as well as pitchers (an oxidized rim from [565]) and bowls/dishes (an out-turned rim from [506] and simple rim from [590]). The other main ware of the period consists of well-fired fine silty/sandy wares of a type associated with the painted ware tradition of the 15<sup>th</sup>- to early 16<sup>th</sup>- century. Few feature sherds are present but context [549] produced a pitcher handle and the internally green glazed base of a tripod pipkin.

- 6.1.6 The early post-medieval period (c.1550-1750) is represented by 17 sherds (274g) most of which consist of local medium-fired glazed red earthenwares. Although some of these could date to the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the general type does not extensively change throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and close dating is often problematic. Recognisable vessels include a pipkin foot from [563] and a bowl from [557]. There are also two examples that have white slip decoration (contexts [506] and [549]) although unfortunately the forms are uncertain. Very few other wares are present but two sherds of yellow glazed Border ware (1550-1700) were recovered (contexts [506] and [549]) as well as a black-glazed Staffordshire sherd of late 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>- century date (context [506]).
- 6.1.7 The late post-medieval period is represented by 32 sherds (269g) most of which appear to span the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Very few sherds that can definitely be ascribed a later 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century date are present. Although some glazed red earthenwares are present the largest group consists of unglazed earthenware flower pots (10/114g). The finewares of this period are dominated by creamware (4/9g), including plates, and pearlwares (11/55g), including a number of plates and teawares with blue transfer-printed decoration. The only potentially later 19<sup>th</sup>- century finewares consist of a little English porcelain and refined white earthenware.
- 6.1.8 The pottery assemblage from the site is interesting in that it evenly covers the later part of the Priory's occupation and subsequent post-Dissolution activity. There is a complete absence of pre mid 13<sup>th</sup>- century pottery. Although the assemblage includes a few interesting fabrics and feature sherds the majority comes from contexts of mixed dating and as such does not really add significantly to the pottery assemblage already published from the site. However, the assemblage is recommended for retention by a museum.

## **6.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen**

### ***Introduction***

- 6.2.1 A small-sized assemblage of 22 clay tobacco pipe fragments (wt 72g) was recovered from eight individually numbered contexts. The latter all consist of destruction layers of mixed date. The earliest bowls date to the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century; the latest example dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The assemblage has been fully recorded on pro-forma sheets for archive and data has been entered onto a digital register.
- 6.2.2 As Sussex largely follows London fashion, bowls were classified according to the London 'Chronology of Bowl Types' by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 177-180). Two bowls contain makers' marks. As such they were assigned unique Registered Finds numbers (RF <00>). In order not to split them from their functional type, they have been discussed along with the "bulk" clay tobacco pipe.

### ***The Assemblage***

#### ***Stems***

- 6.2.3 A total of 17 fragments were recovered during the archaeological work.

Stems have been dated approximately, based on the ratio between the bore diameter and the stem thickness. From the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, all periods have been represented. A fragment from [103] displays exterior burns. Layer [522] contained two conjoining stem fragments of mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century date.

*Mouthpiece*

- 6.2.4 A single mouthpiece was recovered from layer [201]. The fragment, finished with a collar, dates to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Plain Bowls*

- 6.2.5 Three unmarked bowls and bowl fragments were recovered. Included is a small heel fragment of type AO29 (ca. 1840-1880), found in layer [201]. A fragment of type AO 19/20 (c.1690-1710) was recovered from layer [506]. In addition, a near complete bowl of type AO19 (c.1690-1710) was recovered from layer [103]. The bowl is lightly burnished, with tool marks on the spur.

*Maker's Marks*

- 6.2.6 Of interest is a complete bowl (RF <1>) of type AO7 (c.1610-1640). The bowl is lightly burnished and displays a grid or woolpack incuse stamp underneath the heel. A similar stamp was recovered from Former Spitalfields Market, London (Museum of London, Clay Tobacco Pipe Makers' Marks from London, SQU94 <513>). Although a slightly different die, bowl type and finish are the same. Given the rarity of these early stamps and the similarity with the London example, the bowl from Lewes is likely to have originated from London.
- 6.2.7 In addition, the incomplete heel surviving with one of the stem fragments (RF <3>), displays a partial sun stamp. The stem again dates to c.1610-1640. Little survives of the mark but it is similar to an example from 63-64 New Broad Street, London (Museum of London, Clay Tobacco Pipe Makers' Marks from London, BRO90 <166>).
- 6.2.8 Marked pipes of this date are rare in Sussex and there are none known from Lewes (Atkinson 1977, 3). None of the Sussex marks display makers' names or initials, therefore rendering it impossible to establish the maker or even to establish whether the pipe is of local origin. A few marked Sussex pipes are known from Steyning (ibid, 40, Fig 1, nos. 4-7), some or all of which may have had a London origin.

### **6.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus**

#### **6.3.1 Introduction**

A total of 511 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 76 018g were recovered during the works. The material contains brick, roofing tile, decorated and plain floor tile, stove tile and roof furniture dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Some examples of probable imported Flemish brick and tile were also noted within the assemblage. The majority of the assemblage, 73% by weight, is medieval in date with some later material also present (Table 24).

| Period                  | Date   | Sum of Count | Sum of Weight (g) | % of total weight |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Medieval                | Broad medieval date C12 <sup>th</sup> to mid C16th | 144          | 13002             | 73                |
|                         | Medieval C12th-C14th                               | 40           | 19996             |                   |
|                         | mid C14th-midC16th                                 | 80           | 22646             |                   |
|                         | <b>Sub total</b>                                   | <b>264</b>   | <b>55644</b>      |                   |
| Late med-early post-med | C15th-C18th  | 41           | 3972              | 5                 |
| Post-medieval           | late C16th-C20th                                   | 193          | 13592             | 18                |
|                         | uncertain date                                     | 13           | 2810              | 4                 |
| <b>Total</b>            |  | <b>511</b>   | <b>76018</b>      | <b>100</b>        |

Table 24: Summary of CBM by date, count and weight.

### 6.3.2 Methodology

The assemblage has been quantified by weight, form and fabric on pro-forma recording forms and entered into an Excel database for archive. A provisional fabric series has been drawn up and fabric samples retained. Approximately 40% of the material is recommended to be retained for archive with the remaining material to be discarded or used for educational purposes. Dating of the assemblage was undertaken by comparison with fabrics and forms of known date from other excavations in the Lewes area (Pringle 2009, unpublished), and medieval forms were dated typologically using Drury (2000). The decorated floor tile assemblage was dated by comparison of design with Eames catalogue of medieval tiles (1980a, b) where possible.

### 6.3.3 Medieval Fabrics and Forms

The medieval assemblage consisted of a range of forms including peg tile, ridge tile, decorated and plain glazed floor tile, stove tiles and brick (Table 25). The most abundant form of CBM was floor tile, representing 77% of the assemblage by weight.

| Form                    | Sum of Count | Sum of Weight (g) | Percentage of total weight |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Brick                   | 12           | 3448              | 6%                         |
| ridge tile              | 12           | 1510              | 3%                         |
| floor tile              | 117          | 41408             | 77%                        |
| Glazed tile             | 4            | 422               | 1%                         |
| peg tile                | 84           | 6556              | 12%                        |
| Stove brick/floor tile? | 3            | 270               | 1%                         |
| Tile                    | 7            | 304               | 1%                         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>239</b>   | <b>53918</b>      | <b>100</b>                 |

Table 25: Medieval forms by count and weight.

#### *Roof Tile*

Medieval roof tile was represented by peg tile and ridge tile. Two fabric

types were identified (Table 26), provisional fabric T1 and T3. Splashes of lead glaze were identified on a number of fragments in fabric T3. Fragments of crested ridge tile were recovered from context [506] and [586]. An unusual fragment of tile with a knife cut scoop out of one edge may be a fragment of louvre, a form of medieval chimney, or shaped edge to a ridge tile. Tiles in both T1 and T3 retained examples of poorly formed circular peg holes with some retaining traces of glaze and others plain. The presence of glaze on the peg tile is usually a sign of tile made in the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century, though the glazing of peg tile dies out through the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the glazing of ridge tiles persists.

| Fabric | Description   | Date Range         | Contexts   |
|--------|---|--------------------|--|
| T1     | Fine fabric with moderate poorly sorted quartz and moderate fine voids  | C12th-mid<br>C16th | 101, 504, 506, 548, 549, 550, 557, 563, 565, 586, 600, 610           |
| T3     | Orange fabric with abundant medium quartz and sparse black iron rich inclusions, occasionally pinkish in colour | C12th-C15th        | 101, 201, 400, 502, 504, 506, 511, 550, 557, 563, 586, 590, 591, 600 |

Table 26: Medieval tile fabric descriptions and date ranges.

### *Brick*

A small assemblage of probable medieval brick was recovered in three fabrics (Table 27). The most abundant fabric, B4, was very sandy with abundant medium sized quartz, a single complete brick was identified measuring 208mm by 102mm by 52mm. All bricks in this fabric ranged in thickness between 45mm and 52mm and were unfrogged and slightly warped in appearance. Fragments of brick of probable broad medieval date were recovered from context [610] and [506] in fabric B1. The earliest possible brick fragments were recovered from contexts [400] and [556] in fabric B5, a soft, lightweight pinkish yellow fabric and most likely of Flemish origin. Dating of Flemish brick in monastic contexts in the south of England are noted as possibly occurring earlier than had previously been documented (S. Pringle, pers. comm.). It is generally considered that they first appear in England in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century (Drury 2000) but it is possible these bricks began to be used from the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards. A tentative date of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century is given for brick in fabric B5.

A possible floor brick in fabric FT7 was recovered with dimensions of 108mm width by 34mm thickness. The brick, which seems likely to be of 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date, had vertical edges and may have been used in the construction of flooring or structural components.

| Fabric | Description   | Date Range       | Contexts      |
|--------|---|------------------|---------------|
| B1     | Fine sandy fabric with sparse coarse iron rich inclusions   | C12th-mid c16th  | 506, 610      |
| B4     | sandy fabric with abundant moderate quartz                  | C14th-C16th      | 522, 550, 557 |
| B5     | fine soft pinkish yellow fabric, lightweight and fine sandy | mid C12th?-C15th | 400, 556      |
| FT7    | Orange sandy fabric with moderate to medium quartz          | 14th-C16th       | 556           |

Table 27: Medieval brick fabric descriptions and date ranges.

### *Floor Tile*

A range of floor tile fabrics and styles were identified (Table 28). The majority of the decorated floor tiles were recovered reused and mortared into surface [607] (RF<7>, <8>, <9>, <12>, <13>, <14>, <15>, <17>, <18>,

<19>) within the 'Tower'. Examples with identifiable designs recovered from within the tower [607] (RF<9>) and between the tower and old boundary [556] (RF <6>) retained traces of pattern of design 2346, Lewes Priory design from the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Eames, 1980 a, b). The design is of *fleur de lis* corners on a central diamond with internal line (Fig 16). Tiles in design 2346 were all in provisional fabric FT2, a very coarse fabric containing inclusions of flint and chalk, possibly indicating local production.

A second design, highly abraded, is likely to be design 2169 (Eames 1980a, b) also recorded as originating from Lewes Priory and being of 13<sup>th</sup> century date (RF<7>, Fig 16). Also from context [607] RF <13> was a single tile with an uncertain design though may be Eames design 2306. The remainder of the decorated registered find tiles with visible designs that could not be identified were also in fabric FT2, and four tiles in fabric FT2 had a large single central scoop keyed into the base.

A floral design on a tile in fabric T3 from context [504] (RF<11>, Fig. 16) was identified as design 2306 originating from Lewes Priory (Eames 1980). The floral tile is notably different in fabric and style to the majority of other tiles recovered from the site. It is in the same fabric as the ridge tiles T3, and noticeably thinner at 19mm.

A decorated tile with unidentified design was also present in fabric FT1 from context [201] (RF<16>) (Fig 16), the majority of tiles in this fabric were plain monochrome glazed tiles of either cream slip with lead glaze or lead glaze over the surface, giving typical yellow and green appearance respectively. Tile in fabric FT1 appears to have been used for large scale two tone pavements. Two distinct sizes of tile were noted a large tile of 250mm square and 30mm thickness with smaller tiles of 125mm square ranging between 27 and 30mm thick. An example of an intentionally cut triangular tile in fabric FT1 was also identified from context [506]. The tile had been scored with a knife pre-firing then appears to have been snapped along the line post-firing, to form the desired shape. Tiles in fabric FT1 are broadly thought to be of 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date and are by far the most common within the assemblage.

The origin of these tiles is uncertain, though some retain nail holes in the corners which may suggest a Flemish import. A second plain glaze over slip floor tile fabric was also identified, FT3. This fabric was more calcareous in nature and likely of different geographical origin to the other floor tiles. These are most likely of Flemish origin. No complete dimensions remain but one possible decorated example is present.

A plain glazed sandy floor tile fabric FT6 may be a variant of FT1 of mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century date with smaller dimensions. The tile from context [506] measures 108mm square by 19mm, with corner nail holes. The dimensions of the floor tile in FT6 are identical to those of tiles in similar fabrics recovered from archaeological excavations at St John the Baptist, Southover (ASE 2009b) and other medieval churches in Sussex, suggesting a widespread distribution of these tiles.

| Fabric | Description | Date Range | Contexts |
|--------|-------------|------------|----------|
|--------|-------------|------------|----------|



|     |   |                        |  |
|-----|---|------------------------|--|
| FT1 | Orange sandy fabric with sparse coarse quartz with sparse fine black iron rich inclusions and sparse white inclusions | C15th-C16th            | 101, 201, 400, 502, 506, 522, 556, 557, 558,, 563, 569, 586,607, 610 |
| FT2 | Orange fabric with moderate poorly sorted quartz inclusions and sparse very coarse flint and chalk inclusions         | C13th                  | 201, 504, 506, 556, 563, 586, 607, 610                               |
| FT3 | fine sandy fabric with abundant fine calcareous speckling   | C14th-C16th            | 270, 550, 553, 569   |
| FT6 | Orange fine sandy fabric  | mid C14th-<br>midC16th | 506  |

Table 28: Medieval floor tile fabric descriptions and date ranges.

#### *Stove Tiles/ Hearth Tiles*

A small quantity of unglazed floor tiles or possible stove or hearth tiles were recovered in fabrics FT4 and FT5 (Table 29). These tiles were unglazed with stabbed nail hole keying in the base and were generally 20mm thick, though a single example in FT4 was of 32mm+ thickness. These tiles are similar in style and fabric to those recovered elsewhere in Lewes (Pringle, Unpublished) of probable 13<sup>th</sup> century date. These tiles are likely to have been used to form a heat resistant base for hearths such as those used in the domestic buildings of the Priory.

| Fabric | Description   | Date Range  | Contexts |
|--------|---|-------------|----------|
| FT4    | Coarse orange sandy fabric with abundant fine quartz and sparse coarse black iron rich inclusions and fine cream silt | C13th-14th  | 563, 568 |
| FT5    | Coarse sandy fabric with abundant moderate quartz, nr B4 fabric   | C13th-C14th | 522, 548 |

Table 29: Medieval stove tile fabric descriptions and date ranges.

### **6.3.4 Later Medieval to Early Post-Medieval Fabrics and Forms**

A small quantity of material could not be categorised into either medieval or post-medieval date. The persistence of various forms of ceramic building material from the medieval to early post-medieval period can make distinction between the two periods difficult, particularly for brick and peg tile. Material which is not obviously from either period is given a later medieval to early post-medieval date range, 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, and comprises brick, peg tile and unidentified tile fragments (Table 30).

| Forms        | Sum of Count | Sum of Weight (g) | Percentage of total weight |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Brick        | 49           | 6240              | 86%                        |
| peg tile     | 20           | 988               | 14%                        |
| tile         | 1            | 16                | <1%                        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>70</b>    | <b>7244</b>       | <b>100%</b>                |

Table 30: Summary of later medieval to early post-medieval forms.

#### *Brick*

Two brick fabrics were identified (Table 31). Marbled brick fabric B2 retained four complete dimensions, two of 55mm and two of 60mm. All the examples were unfrogged with some vitrification of headers. Fabric B3 was also moderately abundant and retained three complete dimensions of 55mm, 55mm and 57mm thickness. Fragments in this fabric also retained vitrified headers and were unfrogged with some indented margins. Peg tile

in fabric T2 retained a well formed diamond peg hole with a consistent thickness of 12mm.

| Fabric | Description   | Date Range      | Contexts                               |
|--------|---|-----------------|--|
| B2     | Pale orange and cream fine silt fabric  | C15th-mid C18th | 201, 270, 400, 502, 504, 506, 557, 563 |
| B3     | Reddish coarse sandy fabric with sparse very coarse quartz and sparse coarse black iron rich inclusions | C15th-mid C17th | 101, 201, 511, 522, 549, 550, 563, 569 |
| T2     | Fine pinkish orange fabric with abundant fine calcareous inclusions                                     | C15th-mid C18th | 270, 504, 506, 522, 549, 550, 586, 610 |

Table 31: Later medieval to early post-medieval fabric descriptions with provisional fabric codes.

### 6.3.5 *Post-Medieval and Undated Fabrics and Forms*

The post-medieval assemblage consisted almost entirely of peg tile fragments, 96 percent of the assemblage (Table 32). The peg tile of broad post-medieval date is largely well formed with square peg holes. A total of three different post-medieval fabrics were identified (Table 33) and may represent phases of reroofing of structures prior to the final demolition of the remaining Priors Lodge. A fragment of pipe or curved tile in a cream fabric, and fragments of heavily vitrified peg tile are undated.

| Forms              | Sum of Count | Sum of Weight | Percentage of total weight |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| curved tile        | 1            | 32            | <1%                        |
| peg tile           | 186          | 13104         | 96%                        |
| pipe?/ridge tile   | 1            | 128           | 1%                         |
| ridge tile         | 4            | 350           | 3%                         |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>192</b>   | <b>13614</b>  | <b>100%</b>                |

Table 32: Summary of post-medieval forms.

| Fabric | Description  | Date Range      | Contexts   |
|--------|--|-----------------|--|
| T4     | fine fabric with sparse fine calcareous speckling and sparse fine quartz, fabric mix between T1 and T2 | Mid C16th-C18th | 101, 201, 270, 400, 502, 504, 506, 522, 536, 548, 550, 553, 557, 563, 565, 568, 569, 586, 600, 611 |
| T5     | Orange sandy fabric with sparse black iron rich inclusions   | Mid C16th-C19th | 502, 506, 522, 563, 611  |
| T6     | Cream and orange silt streaked with sparse black iron rich inclusions                                  | C17th-C19th     | 101, 504, 506, 522, 550, 556, 563, 566   |
| T7     | fine cream silt fabric with sparse fine black iron rich inclusions and fine micaceous speckling.       | Unknown         | 550  |

Table 33: Post-medieval and unknown date fabric descriptions with provisional fabric codes.

### 6.3.6 *Discussion*

The ceramic building material assemblage recovered during the works gives a broad overview of the materials used in the construction of the Priory of St Pancras, Lewes. The location of a number of fragments also hints at the involvement of the antiquarians in the post-medieval period and their impact upon the reuse and recording of the ceramic building materials.

During the construction of the railway in 1845 an ornamented tile floor to the Chapter House was uncovered and recorded by the antiquarians of the day (Mayhew 2008). In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Gideon Mantell appears to have excavated tiles and carved stone known to have been handed to the British Museum (G. A. Mantell 'A day's ramble' 1846, cited in Mayhew, 2008). His involvement in observing the excavations for the railway may also have ensured that good examples from the Chapter House were donated to an appropriate museum. It is likely that the examples illustrated in the Eames (1981b) catalogue used to identify the tiles from the present work may have originated from the excavations observed by Mantell. It seems likely that the best examples from the ornamental floor with more or less complete decoration were retained as part of a museum collection with the highly abraded examples used to create the new floor in the 'Tower' (context [607]).

It is also noted that during improvements to pasture made by the proprietor of the Priory '*a few Norman tiles, bearing stars, flowers, stags, knights on horseback, &c.*' were excavated in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Supplement to History and Antiquities of Lewes, 1832, cited in Mayhew 2008). A possible example of such a floral design was recovered from context [504], and corresponds to design 2306 also originating from Lewes Priory (Eames 1980a, b).

In addition to the well-documented decorated tiled pavements it is also probable that sections of the precinct were tiled in plain lead glazed tiles, some glazed over slip, giving the two tone green and yellow chequered effect. The plain tiles are more common from the mid 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that the later additions to the precinct, such as the long gallery added to the prior's lodgings in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, may have been fitted with such a floor.

The small quantities of medieval roof tile recovered may suggest that in the early stages only the ridge tiles were ceramic, with the remainder of the roof perhaps tiled with slate, stone or perhaps lead as suggested by the discovery of lead cam (Conant 1993). The presence of peg tiles certainly indicates that at least some of the early Cluniac structures of the Priory had ceramic tiled roofs.

The location of the kilns used to supply the tiles to the Priory are uncertain. The same fabric appears to have been used for both floor tile and roofing tile (fabric T3). Perhaps these tiles are of similar manufacture location, and the same pottery was providing more than one form of ceramic building material to the Priory. Certainly some of the tiles contain inclusions common to the geographical area, in particular FT2, containing both chalk and flint inclusions. Some fabrics however have possibly been imported and are of Flemish origin. Brick fabric B5 and floor tile fabric FT3 are both similar to fabrics attributed to the low countries.

A flourishing trade in ceramic building materials from the continent is known from the medieval period with monastic structures amongst the first to receive the new building materials. The assemblage recovered from the Priory of St Pancras suggests that the Priory was constructed from both local and imported building materials as would be expected for monastic

buildings of the time.

### **6.3.7 Conclusion**

The ceramic building material assemblage from the archaeological works at the Priory of St Pancras, Lewes, illustrates a typical assemblage of a medieval monastic precinct, with examples of fine decorated floor tiles and two tone tiled floors with some tiled roofs. Evidence was also found of possible local production and imported ceramic building materials suggesting that a wide range of sources was available to the builders of the Priory. A slight change in floor style is suggested during the later 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century to more plain flooring.

Comparison of antiquarian documentary sources and recorded decoration of floor tiles have enabled greater credence to be added to the suggestion that the Tower was constructed from materials reclaimed during the construction of the railway. The lack of well preserved tiles suggests a degree of selection as to which tiles to use in the floor and which to retain for archive. The ceramic building material assemblage reflects both the medieval, post-medieval and continuing history of the Priory of St Pancras.

## **6.4 The Metalwork** by Trista Clifford

### **6.4.1 The Nails**

A small collection of twenty seven iron nails was recovered from eleven individual contexts, primarily redeposited destruction layers with pottery dating ranging from from 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The assemblage consists almost entirely of general purpose circular headed nails of square section. These are largely complete with a fair degree of corrosion present. Nails from this group range in size from 34-65mm in length. Only three 'heavy duty' nails were recovered, from redeposited destruction layers [506], [522], and natural soil [568]. These range in size between 60-76mm in length.

Unfortunately, the nails are not easily dateable beyond the broad range already supplied by the pottery and CBM, although the heavy duty nail from context [568] appears to be later in the range.

### **6.4.2 Other Metalwork**

A group of ironwork, comprising a total of nine objects weighing 1.5kg, was recovered from topsoil layer [568]. The group includes a coathook, a pair of scissors and a square grille or draincover. The objects are in a fair state of preservation and all exhibit a similar degree of corrosion. None of the objects predate the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the majority appear to be 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

### **6.4.3 Modern Objects**

A number of non-ferrous objects of 20<sup>th</sup> century date were also recovered,

including a lead alloy golf hole cup cutter from topsoil [511] and a white metal alloy jam jar lid from [568]. Debris layer [522] contained a modern rubber stopper.

## **6.5 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

### ***Introduction***

- 6.5.1 A small assemblage consisting of 14 fragments (wt 362g) was recovered from seven individually numbered contexts and both vessel and window fragments are included. The earliest piece consists of a window pane fragment recovered from layer [303] and dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century. Most pieces are, however, of 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date. All glass has been recorded on pro forma sheets for archive and data has been entered onto a digital register. Fragments were all recovered from destruction layers of mixed date.

### ***The Assemblage***

#### ***Bottles***

- 6.5.2 The usual wine and mineral water bottles are absent from this assemblage. The remaining four bottles are all fairly undiagnostic of content. The form of only two could be established. Destruction debris [522] contained the body sherd of a colourless panelled bottle, dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the bottle would have contained for example medicinal or household products. A second diagnostic piece consists of fragments of a clear glass Schweppes bottle, dating to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The latter was recovered from layer [568].

#### ***Other Vessels***

- 6.5.3 A clear glass jar rim, of late 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date, was recovered from destruction debris [502]. Demolition layer [506] contained an undiagnostic body sherd from an aqua, cylindrical vessel dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### ***Window Glass***

- 6.5.4 As mentioned above, the earliest piece (layer [303]) is of 16<sup>th</sup>- to 17<sup>th</sup>-century date and consists of a green pane fragment (2.7mm thick). The only other fragment consists of a 20<sup>th</sup>-century clear pane fragment from layer [549].

#### ***Miscellaneous***

- 6.5.5 Layer [502] contained a small, moulded possible figurine or lamp fragment in colourless, slightly milky glass, dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A thin fragment (1.1mm thick) from [557] could represent either a window pane or prismatic bottle fragment. The piece dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **6.6 The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

- 6.6.1 The archaeological work recovered a large assemblage of stone from the site: 197 pieces weighing over 66kg. Eleven different stone types are represented of which seven are of Sussex origin with three deriving from

other parts of England and one from France. The complete assemblage has been listed for archive on pro forma with the data being entered into an excel database.

- 6.6.2 Although the stone comes from 26 individually numbered contexts of different dates it is quite clear that virtually all can be seen as building materials deriving from the Priory buildings themselves. Unfortunately the mixed or ambiguous dating of most of the contexts producing stone, together with the presence of re-used stone pieces in the assemblage, do not allow any comment on the chronological introduction of any of the stone types to the site.
- 6.6.3 The majority of the assemblage, by weight, can be related to wall construction. The largest group consists of 14 pieces of Caen stone (51,430g). Most of these consist of ashlar blocks, sometimes with chamfered edges, with vertical or oblique tooling marks. Few complete dimensions are present but the block from [201] is 130mm tall and those from [556] measure 160mm tall, 235mm x 155mm x >165mm and 270mm x 175mm x 128mm. The latter block has a tenon cut out of one face to allow it to be interlocked to the next block.
- 6.6.4 Some of these blocks clearly show medieval lime mortar on the tooled/chamfered faces, indicating re-use. There are a few architectural fragments too, although none are chronologically datable. These include a chamfered corner with small, attached shaft (context [522]), half a 115mm diameter shaft (context [546]) and part of a central column with step scar from a spiral stair (context [600]). The other building stone consists of small pieces from ashlar or roughly faced blocks.
- 6.6.5 Typical Sussex building stones are represented including Lower Greensand (1/146g), Sussex Marble (7/458g), Eastbourne Upper Greensand (6/1,402g) and Wealden sandstone (3/358g). The piece of calcite seam (10g) from [522] will have derived from local chalk and the ferruginous breccia (1/576g from [502]) is also a rough local Tertiary stone put to use in rubble walling. Non-local walling stone includes Quarr stone (2/1,786g) from the Isle of Wight and a single piece of dark grey fine limestone, possibly Lias (50g) from [569] although this could be of later origin.
- 6.6.6 The rest of the stone relates to roofing material from the Priory. By far the most common is West Country slate that was imported in significant quantities during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two variants are present – the most common being the grey/silver grey type (133/5,852g) but some of the lilac type is also present (4/834g). A few circular or rectangular nail holes are present but only one lilac piece has any complete dimensions: a slate some 250mm long by 155mm wide and 6mm thick, with an 8mm diameter nail hole.
- 6.6.7 The other roofing material consists of fragments of Horsham stone slabs (24/3,239g). These are always of the suspected earlier grey/brown coloured stone type as opposed to the cleaner grey types. Although this roofing material is normally considered to increase in the later 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries the current assemblage is of uncertain date.

6.6.8 The stone assemblage from the site is considered to be of interest in that it demonstrates nearly the full range of types used in the Priory construction. However, there is nothing independently datable and the current contexts in which the assemblage derives do not offer the opportunity to refine the date of introduction of any of the types to the site. As the material has been fully listed for archive already no further work is proposed but some of the more interesting pieces have been retained for long-term curation.

## 6.7 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

### *Introduction*

6.7.1 The watching brief produced animal bone from nineteen contexts. All nineteen contexts were of a mixed nature and recorded as either topsoil, rubble or a probable dump deposit. The assemblage was in a moderate to good state of preservation.

### *Methodology*

6.7.2 Wherever possible, bone fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. The bone was identified using the in-house reference collection and Schmidt (1972). Where bone fragments were not identifiable to species they have been recorded as cattle or sheep-sized. The elements have been recorded according to the part and proportion of the bone present.

6.7.3 A few complete elements were present and these have been measured according to Von Den Dreisch (1976). Each fragment has been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology.

### *Results*

6.7.4 The assemblage has been fully quantified and recorded in an excel spreadsheet. The Table below shows the Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) divided by context type. For the purposes of this report, fragments recorded as cattle or sheep sized have been included in the cattle and sheep totals respectively. Due to the disturbed nature of the bone producing contexts, statistical analysis of results was not undertaken and general observation have been made instead. Full details are housed with the site archive.

|              | Topsoil  | Rubble deposits | Dump deposit |
|--------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Cattle       | 2        | 158             | 8            |
| Sheep        | 1        | 54              |              |
| Pig          | 1        | 11              | 1            |
| Red Deer     |          | 1               |              |
| Rabbit       |          | 1               |              |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>225</i>      | <i>9</i>     |

Table 34: NISP counts by phase

### *Topsoil [511], [568]-[570]*

6.7.5 Only four fragments of animal bone were recovered from topsoil deposits. These were identified as fragments of cattle rib and innominate bone, a sheep radius and a pig tibia that had been sawn through at the distal end.

*Dump deposit [565]*  
6.7.6 This deposit produced nine fragments of bone identified as cattle longbones, metatarsals and a molar. Pig was the only other species identified, represented by a phalange.

*Rubble layers [101], [201], [502], [504], [506], [510], [522], [549], [550], [553], [557], [563], [586], [600]*  
6.7.7 The animal bone from the rubble layers formed the majority of the assemblage and cattle were the predominant species. The 158 cattle fragments included both meat bearing and non-meat bearing elements of the skeleton. The minimum number of animals (MNI) was calculated as four. Butchery was evident on longbones, vertebrae, an innominate fragment and a tarsal. The chop and saw marks recorded are consistent with the splitting, dismemberment and jointing of the carcass. No evidence for pathology, burning or gnawing was noted.

6.7.8 All parts of the sheep skeleton were represented, comprising both meat bearing and non-meat bearing elements. The MNI was calculated as four. No butchery was evident on the bones and no pathology was noted. A single fragment of sheep radius was partially charred.

6.7.9 Pigs were represented by longbones and loose teeth and the MNI of two included a male and female. No butchery evidence was noted and no other information was available.

6.7.10 Red deer and rabbit were both represented by single elements. Context [502] contained a red deer radius and [510] a rabbit humerus.

### **Discussion**

6.7.11 It is very difficult to draw any conclusions from this assemblage, due to its mixed nature and probable wide date range. It is, unsurprisingly, dominated by those domestic species which would have been farmed and consumed throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. The presence of the skeletal extremities as well as evidence of the later stages of butchery suggests that all butchery practices may have been carried out in the vicinity of the site. However, with a lack of closely dated contexts, trends in husbandry activity cannot be assessed.

## **6.8 The Shell** by Trista Clifford

6.8.1 A small assemblage of shell, wt 3550g, was recovered from seventeen separate contexts during the evaluation at Lewes Priory. The assemblage consists of 94% oyster, *Ostrea edulis*. Common whelk, *Buccinum undatum* and edible cockle, *Cerastoderma edule*, are also represented. An overview of the assemblage is presented in Table 35.

| Context | Species              | L valve count | U valve count | Min. no individuals |
|---------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 101     | <i>Ostrea edulis</i> | 4             | 1             | 4                   |
| 201     | <i>Ostrea edulis</i> |               | 1             | 1                   |



|     |                           |    |    |    |
|-----|---------------------------|----|----|----|
| 400 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 1  |    | 1  |
| 502 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 1  | 2  | 2  |
| 504 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      |    | 2  | 2  |
| 506 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 1  | 2  | 2  |
| 522 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 1  |    | 1  |
| 549 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 7  | 7  | 7  |
| 549 | <i>Cerastoderma edule</i> |    |    | 2  |
| 549 | <i>Buccinum undatum</i>   |    |    | 3  |
| 550 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 1  | 2  | 2  |
| 556 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      |    | 1  | 1  |
| 557 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 2  |    | 2  |
| 563 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 3  | 3  | 3  |
| 565 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 1  | 1  | 1  |
| 570 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 1  |    | 1  |
| 586 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      |    | 5  | 5  |
| 590 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 2  | 2  | 2  |
| 591 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i>      | 13 | 12 | 13 |
|     | <i>Total</i>              | 38 | 41 | 55 |

Table 35: Overview of the shell assemblage

6.8.2 The majority of the assemblage consists of only one or two individuals per context and derives from redeposited destruction debris of mixed date. The largest group contains a minimum of only thirteen individuals, therefore although the assemblage is broadly in keeping with the local framework of marine resource utilisation (Dunkin, forthcoming) it is not proposed that further work be carried out on this material.

## 6.9 Registered Finds by Trista Clifford

### 6.9.1 Introduction

Registered finds are washed, air dried or cleaned by a conservator as appropriate to the material requirements. Objects have been packed appropriately in line with IFA guidelines (2001). All objects are assigned a unique registered find number (RF<00>) and recorded on the basis of material, object type and date (shown in Table 36). Clay tobacco pipe and decorated floor tiles are discussed within the relevant sections above.

| Site Code | Context | RF No | OBJECT     | MATERIAL  | PERIOD   | Wt (g) | Comments                      |
|-----------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| LPR10     | 101     | 1     | PIPE       | CERA      | PMED     | 8      | maker's mark - 17th century   |
| LPR10     | 550     | 2     | KEY        | IRON      | PMED     | 8      | complete                      |
| LPR10     | 506     | 3     | PIPE       | CERA      | PMED     | 10     | maker's mark - 1st half C17th |
| LPR10     | 549     | 4     | HORSE SHOE | IRON      | MED/PMED | 54     | Incomplete; right branch      |
| LPR10     | 563     | 5     | BUTT       | LEAD/COPP | PMED     | 8      | complete                      |
| LPR10     | 556     | 6     | TILE       | CERA      | MED      | 384    | incomplete - white slip deco  |
| LPR10     | 607     | 7     | TILE       | CERA      | MED      | 436    | incomplete - white slip deco  |

|       |     |    |      |      |              |      |                              |
|-------|-----|----|------|------|--------------|------|------------------------------|
| LPR10 | 607 | 8  | TILE | CERA | MED          | 2162 | Complete - white slip deco   |
| LPR10 | 607 | 9  | TILE | CERA | MED          | 670  | incomplete - white slip deco |
| LPR10 | 586 | 10 | CAME | LEAD | MED/PM<br>ED | 46   |                              |

Table 36: Overview of the Registered Finds

### 6.9.2 Objects of Personal Adornment or Dress

A copper-lead alloy button, RF<5> was recovered from redeposited destruction debris layer [563]. The button is undecorated with a separate copper alloy attachment loop and is probably 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.

### 6.9.3 Security Equipment

A small iron box or casket rotary key box or casket, RF<2> came from redeposited destruction debris layer [550]. The key is complete with a round, flat sectioned bow and asymmetric bit. The stem is circular sectioned and possibly hollow. No direct parallel for this key could be found but an early post-medieval date is probable.

### 6.9.4 Horse Equipment

A branch fragment from a small horseshoe came from redeposited destruction debris layer [549], RF<4>. No calkin is present, and the toe is severely worn. There are a minimum of three rectangular nail holes along the outer edge. Similar horseshoes from London are dated to 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century (Egan 2005, 180).

### 6.9.5 Fixtures and Fittings

A short length of lead window came, RF<10>, was recovered from redeposited destruction debris layer [586]. The came does not appear to be reeded therefore cannot be closely dated beyond a broad medieval to post medieval date.

## 7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The archaeological work carried out at Lewes Priory allowed the examination of a number of hitherto unrecorded archaeological contexts within the confines of an internationally important monument. Although the groundworks were specifically designed to cause only minimum disturbance to buried archaeological horizons at the site, the laying of the new pathways and other associated facilities did necessitate limited excavation in a number of areas.
- 7.2 Alongside this monitoring, the manual excavation of test-pits to ascertain the alignment of walls, investigate buried layers, (and in the case of Test-Pit 3, the nature of a wall footing) also allowed recording of archaeological deposits. A large assemblage of artefacts was recovered during these operations providing an insight into various aspects of the Priory's fabric, including roofing and walling materials as well as masonry from a spiral staircase. The medieval tile assemblage was particularly fine and indicates that the builders of the Priory were using both local and imported sources. Limited evidence of domestic and other activities at the site was also forthcoming.
- 7.3 The absence of closely-datable deposits has limited the usefulness of the artefactual evidence and has meant that it has not been possible to build a picture of changes in activity at the site through time. For example, the assemblage of geological material recovered includes the full range of material used in the construction of the Priory, but it has not been possible to date the introduction of the new materials. However, despite this, the range of datable artefacts does provide artefactual evidence of the longevity of the monastic occupation at the site, coupled with evidence of post-dissolution activity and even proof of modern leisure activities.
- 7.4 The monitoring also highlighted the prudence of maintaining a watching brief on previously, apparently, fully-excavated sites. Although most of the *in situ* masonry encountered and recorded during the watching brief arguably added little to the published ground plan of the site, some previously unpublished masonry remains were encountered and recorded (Fig. 8). The lengths of wall uncovered in the Warming House may represent a spine wall, but interpretation is difficult given the limited available evidence. Similarly the masonry encountered near the south-western corner of site clearly represents the remains of a structure of some kind, but analysis is again problematic. Archer's (2008, 4) interpretation of the remains in this part of the site as part of a baking/brewery complex cannot be proven, but appears entirely plausible.
- 7.5 Similarly, the recovery of a wide range of artefacts did show the potential for adding significant information to the records from earlier interventions. Analysis of the CBM assemblage led to the conclusion that when the railway was constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the antiquarians were selective about the re-use of floor tiles, retaining the best preserved examples for the archive, whilst re-using the more abraded examples in the Tower construction. The watching brief was also able to shed light on the techniques used during previous archaeological campaigns at the site, which appeared to consist mainly of trenches aimed at 'wall-chasing', culminating in the production of the 1906 plan. Despite the arguably primitive methodology, the site plan was

shown to be highly accurate given the correlation of masonry drawn by hand more than 100 years ago with the modern satellite and computer generated data.

**8.0 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1** The implementation of a programme of archaeological work carried out during the renovation of Lewes Priory was a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent No. S00004974, and of Lewes District Council planning permission reference LW/09/0869. It was executed in order to allow the recording of archaeological deposits encountered during the groundworks, and the results from the monitoring show that this was carried out successfully.
- 8.2** Although the results obtained during much of the watching brief are not worthy of full publication, it is hoped that a short note will be submitted for publication in the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, which will mainly concentrate on the excellent tile assemblage recovered at the site.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Archer, T.** 2008. 'Section B: Ground penetrating radar survey at Lewes Priory', in G. Mayhew
- ASE** 2000. *An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Southdown Club, Cockshut Road, Lewes, East Sussex*. Unpublished client report 907, Archaeology South East.
- ASE** 2002. *An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Dripping Pan, Lewes Football Ground, Lewes, East Sussex*. Unpublished client report 1572, Archaeology South East.
- ASE** 2007. *An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Dripping Pan, Lewes Football Ground, Lewes, East Sussex*. Unpublished client report 2478, Archaeology South East.
- ASE** 2009a. *Lewes Priory, Priory Park, Lewes, East Sussex: An Archaeological Desktop Report*. ASE Report No: 2009139
- ASE** 2009b. *An Archaeological Watching Brief at St. John the Baptist Church, Southover High Street, Southover, Lewes, East Sussex*. ASE Report No. 2009017
- ASE** 2010. *Written Scheme of Investigation and Impact Assessment For Archaeological Works at Lewes Priory, Priory Park, Lewes, East Sussex*. Unpub. ASE document
- Atkinson D. R.** 1977. *Sussex Clay Tobacco Pipes and the Pipemakers*, Eastbourne.
- Atkinson D. R. and Oswald A.** 1969. London clay tobacco pipes, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **32**, 171–227.
- Butler, C.** 2005. *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Priory Cottage, Lewes, East Sussex*. Unpublished client report 2005/08/01, Chris Butler Archaeological Services.
- Conant, K.** 1993. (ed.) *Carolingian and Romanesque Architecture 800-1200*. Yale University Press.
- Drury, P.** 2000. Aspects of the Production, Evolution and Use of Ceramic Building Materials in the Middle Ages. *Medieval Ceramics* **24**, 56-62
- Dunkin, D.** in D. Swift, forthcoming
- Eames, E.** 1980. *Medieval lead-glazed earthenware tile in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities British Museum* British Museum Publications, 2 volumes
- Egan G.** 2005. Material Culture in London in an age of transition, *MoLAS Monograph* **19**, 179-181
- Godfrey, W. H.** 1927. *The Priory of St. Pancras, Lewes: A Short Historical Guide to the Ruins at Southover*.
- Godfrey, W. H.** 1971. *A History of Lewes*. Lewes: Lewes Borough Council.

IfA 2001. Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance* documents.

**Lower, M. A.** 1846. Report on the antiquities lately found at Lewes, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **1**, 346-357.

**Lyne, M.** 1997. *Lewes Priory: Excavations by Richard Lewis 1969-82*. Lewes: Lewes Priory Trust.

**Mayhew, G.** 2008. *Priory of St Pancras Lewes*. Unpub. Document

**Museum of London**, Clay Tobacco Pipe Makers' Marks from London, [http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/claypipes/pages/pipe.asp?sitecode=SQU94&context=70&acc\\_no=513&form=AO7](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/claypipes/pages/pipe.asp?sitecode=SQU94&context=70&acc_no=513&form=AO7) (last viewed 11/01/2011).

**Museum of London**, Clay Tobacco Pipe Makers' Marks from London, [http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/claypipes/pages/pipe.asp?sitecode=BRO90&context=188&acc\\_no=166&form=AO5](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/claypipes/pages/pipe.asp?sitecode=BRO90&context=188&acc_no=166&form=AO5) (last viewed 11/01/2011).

**Poole, H.** 2000. *Lewes Priory: The Site and its History*. Lewes: Lewes Priory Trust.

**Pringle, S.** The Ceramic Building Material in ASE 2009 *Post-excavation Assessment and updated project design on archaeological excavation at the Baxter's Printworks site, St. Nicholas Lane, Lewes, East Sussex*. Unpublished client report 2056, Archaeology South East.

**Schmidt, E.** 1972. *Atlas of Animal Bones- for pre-historians, archaeologists and quaternary geologists*. Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company.

**Swift, D.** forthcoming. *Excavations in Lewes*, ASE Monograph 1

**St John Hope, H. W.** 1886. The archaeological history of the Cluniac Priory of St Pancras at Lewes, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **34**, 71-106.

**St John Hope, H. W.** 1906. The Cluniac Priory of St Pancras at Lewes, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **49**, 66-88.

**Von Den Dreisch, A.** 1976, *A Guide To The Measurements Of Animal Bones From Archaeological Sites*. Peabody Museum Bulletin 1. Harvard University.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The input of Paul Roberts, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, and of Greg Chuter and Casper Johnson of East Sussex County Council at all stages of the project is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Barry Jones, Site Manager for Kier for his co-operation and hospitality, and to all the on-site contractors for their contribution to successful completion of the archaeological recording.

### Appendix 1 - List of Post-Holes

| Fencing Area | Post-Hole No. | Diameter (mm) | Depth (mm) | Fencing Area | Post-Hole No. | Diameter (mm) | Depth (mm) |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| A            | 1             | 300           | 800        | D            | 39            | 450           | 700        |
| A            | 2             | 300           | 800        | D            | 40            | 450           | 750        |
| A            | 3             | 300           | 800        | D            | 41            | 300           | 750        |
| A            | 4             | 300           | 800        | D            | 42            | 300           | 780        |
| A            | 5             | 300           | 800        | D            | 43            | 300           | 750        |
| A            | 6             | 450           | 750        | D            | 44            | 300           | 750        |
| A            | 7             | 300           | 750        | D            | 45            | 300           | 800        |
| A            | 8             | 300           | 750        | D            | 46            | 300           | 810        |
| A            | 9             | 300           | 750        | D            | 47            | 300           | 760        |
| A            | 10            | 300           | 750        | D            | 48            | 300           | 800        |
| A            | 11            | 300           | 1.1m       | D            | 49            | 300           | 750        |
| A            | 12            | 300           | 1.1m       | D            | 50            | 300           | 800        |
| A            | 13            | 300           | 1.1m       | D            | 51            | 300           | 690        |
| A            | 14            | 300           | 800        | D            | 52            | 300           | 750        |
| A            | 15            | 300           | 1.1m       | D            | 53            | 300           | 810        |
| A            | 16            | 300           | 1.1m       | D            | 54            | 300           | 820        |
| A            | 17            | 300           | 1.1m       | D            | 55            | 300           | 750        |
| A            | 18            | 450           | 750        | D            | 56            | 300           | 760        |
| A            | 19            | 450           | 800        | D            | 57            | 300           | 800        |
| A            | 20            | 300           | 800        | D            | 58            | 300           | 800        |
| A            | 21            | 300           | 770        | D            | 59            | 300           | 800        |
| A            | 22            | 300           | 800        | D            | 60            | 300           | 800        |
| A            | 23            | 300           | 790        | D            | 61            | 300           | 800        |
| A            | 24            | 300           | 800        | D            | 62            | 300           | 750        |
| A            | 25            | 450           | 800        | D            | 63            | 300           | 750        |
| A            | 26            | 450           | 600        | D            | 64            | 300           | 760        |
| B            | 27            | 300           | 500        | D            | 65            | 300           | 800        |
| B            | 28            | 300           | 500        | D            | 66            | 300           | 900        |
| B            | 29            | 300           | 500        | E            | 67            | 300           | 800        |
| B            | 30            | 300           | 500        | E            | 68            | 300           | 800        |
| C            | 31            | 300           | 800        | E            | 69            | 300           | 800        |
| C            | 32            | 450           | 800        | E            | 70            | 450           | 800        |
| C            | 33            | 300           | 750        | E            | 71            | 450           | 800        |
| C            | 34            | 300           | 750        | E            | 72            | 300           | 750        |
| C            | 35            | 300           | 750        | E            | 73            | 300           | 750        |
| C            | 36            | 450           | 750        | E            | 74            | 300           | 750        |
| C            | 37            | 300           | 750        | E            | 75            | 300           | 750        |
| C            | 38            | 300           | 610        | E            | 76            | 300           | 650        |



| <b>Fencing Area</b> | <b>Post-Hole No.</b> | <b>Diameter (mm)</b> | <b>Depth (mm)</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| E                   | 77                   | 300                  | 650               |
| E                   | 78                   | 300                  | 700               |
| E                   | 79                   | 450                  | 500               |
| E                   | 80                   | 450                  | 500               |
| E                   | 81                   | 450                  | 750               |
| E                   | 82                   | 300                  | 650               |
| E                   | 83                   | 300                  | 700               |
| E                   | 84                   | 300                  | 600               |
| E                   | 85                   | 300                  | 800               |
| E                   | 86                   | 300                  | 800               |
| E                   | 87                   | 300                  | 800               |
| E                   | 88                   | 300                  | 700               |
| E                   | 89                   | 300                  | 750               |
| E                   | 90                   | 300                  | 500               |
| E                   | 91                   | 300                  | 750               |
| E                   | 92                   | 300                  | 550               |
| E                   | 93                   | 300                  | 700               |
| E                   | 94                   | 300                  | 550               |
| E                   | 95                   | 300                  | 680               |
| E                   | 96                   | 300                  | 600               |
| E                   | 97                   | 300                  | 750               |
| E                   | 98                   | 300                  | 800               |
| E                   | 99                   | 300                  | 750               |
| E                   | 100                  | 300                  | 750               |
| E                   | 101                  | 300                  | 750               |
| E                   | 102                  | 300                  | 650               |
| E                   | 103                  | 300                  | 800               |
| E                   | 104                  | 300                  | 700               |
| E                   | 105                  | 300                  | 700               |
| E                   | 106                  | 300                  | 600               |
| E                   | 107                  | 300                  | 650               |
| E                   | 108                  | 300                  | 600               |
| E                   | 109                  | 300                  | 700               |
| E                   | 110                  | 300                  | 700               |
| F                   | 111                  | 300                  | 800               |
| F                   | 112                  | 300                  | 750               |
| F                   | 113                  | 300                  | 600               |

**HER Summary Form**

|   |  |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
|---|--|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code   | LPR 10   |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
| Identification Name and Address   | Lewes Priory, Priory Park                      |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
| County, District &/or Borough   | Lewes District, East Sussex                    |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
| OS Grid Refs.   | 541367 109530                                  |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
| Geology   | Head Deposits overlying Chalk                  |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
| Arch. South-East Project Number   | 4197   |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
| Type of Fieldwork   | Eval.  | Excav.        | Watching Brief ✓               | Standing Structure                 | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site  | Green Field                                    | Shallow Urban | Deep Urban                     | Other<br><i>Scheduled Monument</i> |        |       |
| Dates of Fieldwork  | Eval.  | Excav.        | WB.<br>08-07-10 to<br>12-11-10 | Other                              |        |       |
| Sponsor/Client  | Cragg Management on behalf of The Priory Trust |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
| Project Managers  | Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson                     |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
| Project Supervisors   | Simon Stevens                                  |               |                                |                                    |        |       |
| Period Summary  | Palaeo.  | Meso.         | Neo.                           | BA                                 | IA     | RB    |
|   | AS   | MED ✓         | PM ✓                           | Other                              |        |       |
| <p>150 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the restoration work at the site undertaken in order to re-open the Priory to the public. Groundworks for new pathways, steps, information boards and benches for visitors, a rabbit fence and general landscaping were monitored and recorded. Test-pits were also excavated at a number of locations to facilitate the accurate laying out of buried archaeological features.</p> <p>Masonry and tile remains of some of the Priory buildings were encountered and recorded, and a range of finds were recovered from the topsoil and layers of rubble encountered, mostly during monitoring of the excavations for the laying of the new footpaths.</p> <p>Closely datable material included an assemblage of pottery dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and a small assemblage of clay pipes. Other material including small quantities of metalwork, animal bone, glass and oyster shell.</p> |  |               |                                |                                    |        |       |

OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-91252**

**Project details**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | An Archaeological Watching Brief at Lewes Priory, Lewes, East Sussex   |
| Short description of the project       | An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the restoration work at the site undertaken in order to re-open the Priory to the public. Groundworks for new pathways, steps, information boards and benches for visitors, a rabbit fence and general landscaping were monitored and recorded. Test-pits were also excavated at a number of locations to facilitate the accurate laying out of buried archaeological features. Masonry remains of some of the Priory buildings were encountered and recorded, and a range of finds were recovered from the topsoil and layers of rubble encountered, mostly during monitoring of the excavations for the laying of the new footpaths. Closely datable material included an assemblage of pottery dating from the 13th to the 20th centuries, a small assemblage of clay pipes and other material including small quantities of metalwork, animal bone, glass and oyster shell. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 08-07-2010 End: 12-11-2010  |
| Previous/future work                   | Yes / Yes  |
| Any associated project reference codes | 4197 - Contracting Unit No.  |
| Any associated project reference codes | LPR 10 - Sitecode  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project  |
| Site status                            | Scheduled Monument (SM)  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 14 - Recreational usage  |
| Monument type                          | CLUNIAC PRIORY Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Post Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | CLAY PIPE Post Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | FLOOR TILE Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | ROOF TILE Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | STONWORK Medieval  |
| Investigation type                     | 'Watching Brief'   |
| Prompt                                 | Scheduled Monument Consent   |

---

### Project location

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Country           | England   |
| Site location     | EAST SUSSEX LEWES LEWES Lewes Priory  |
| Postcode          | BN7 3PR   |
| Study area        | 3.00 Hectares   |
| Site coordinates  | TQ 41367 09530 50.8673907453 0.00920383183501 50 52 02 N<br>000 00 33 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 5.00m Max: 10.00m  |

---

### Project creators

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name of Organisation         | Archaeology South-East                     |
| Project brief originator     | English Heritage/Department of Environment |
| Project design originator    | Archaeology South-East                     |
| Project director/manager     | Darryl Palmer                              |
| Project supervisor           | Simon Stevens                              |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Client                                     |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Cragg Management                           |

---

### Project archives

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Lewes Museum  |
| Physical Contents          | 'Ceramics','Glass','Metal'  |
| Digital Archive recipient  | Lewes Museum  |
| Digital Contents           | 'other'   |
| Digital Media available    | 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text' |
| Paper Archive recipient    | Lewes Museum  |
| Paper Contents             | 'other'   |

Paper Media available 'Aerial Photograph','Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

---

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at Lewes Priory, Lewes, East Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Stevens, S.

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No. 2010189

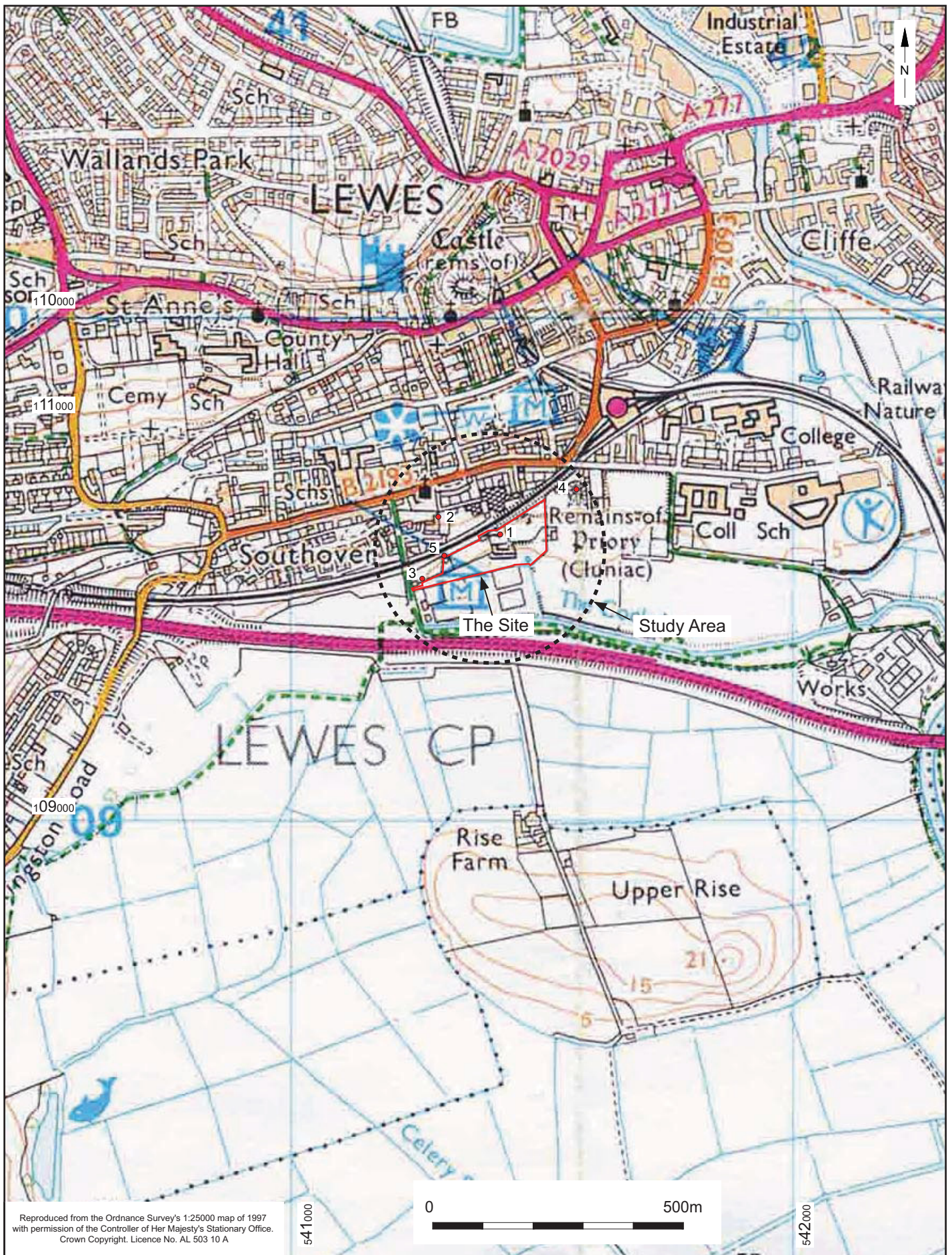
Date 2011

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

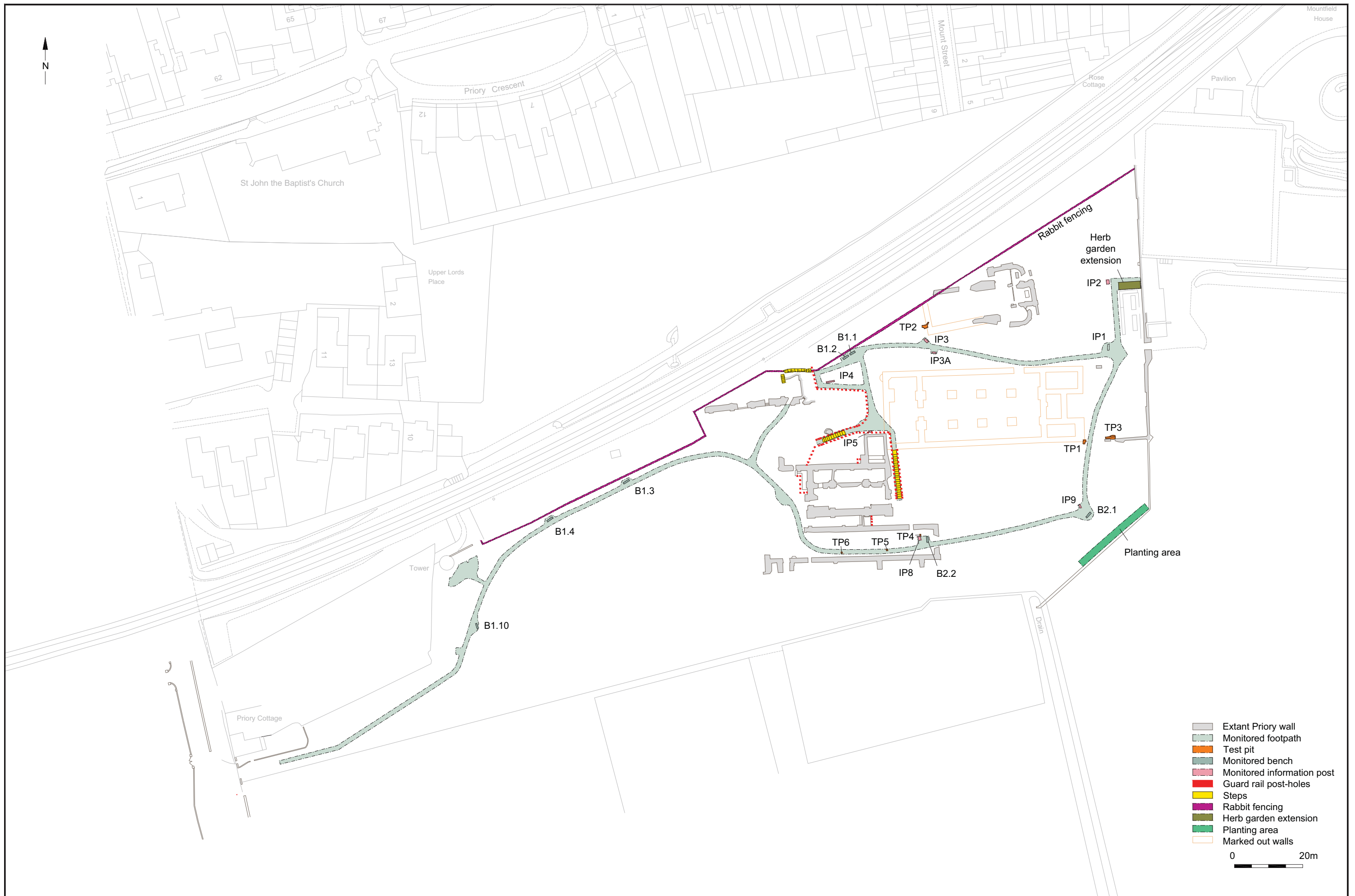
Place of issue or publication Portslade, East Sussex

Description Standard ASE Client Report A4-sized with cover logos

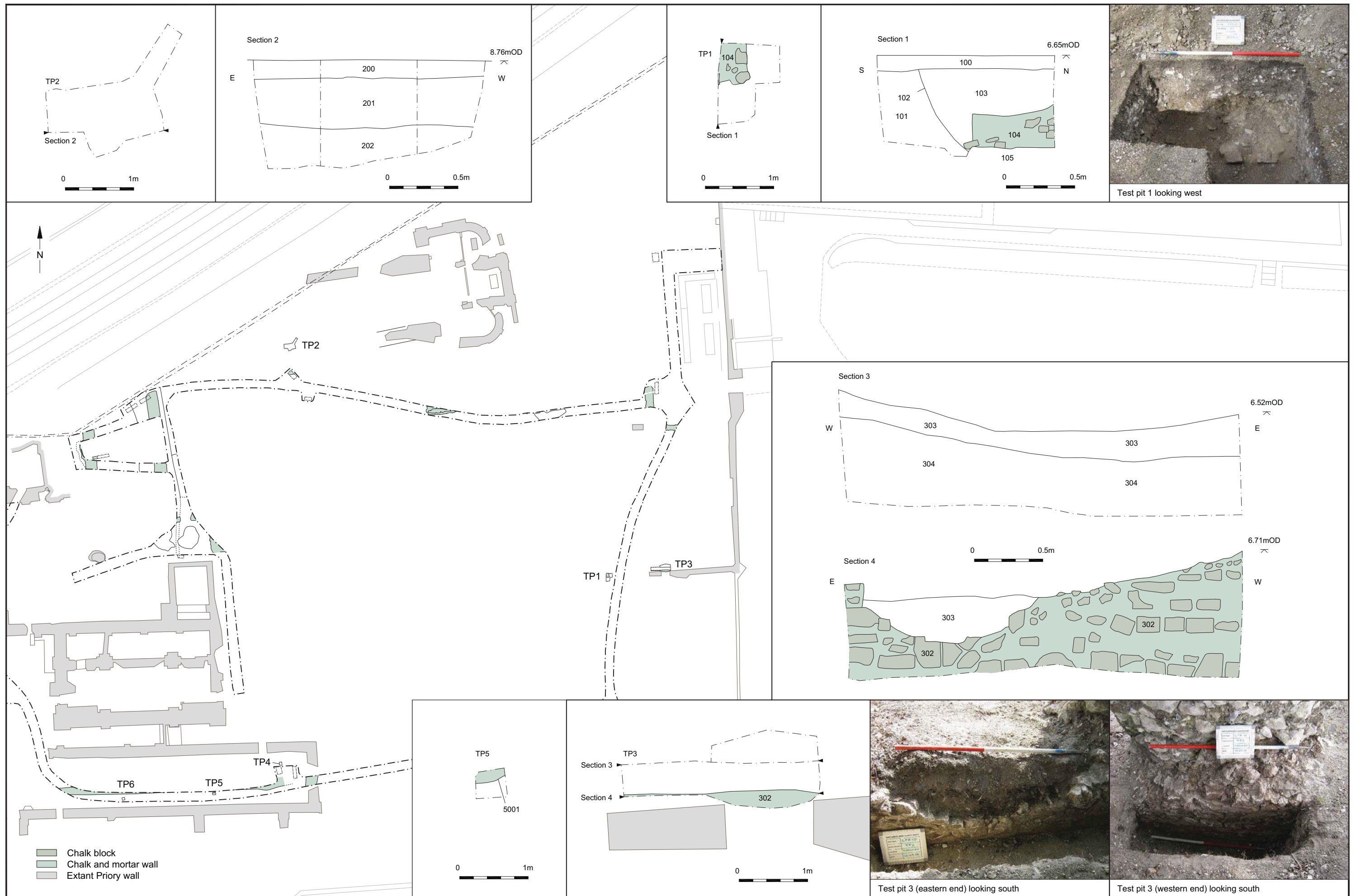
---



|                          |               |                                  |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory, Priory Park, Lewes | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Site location                    |        |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |                                  |        |

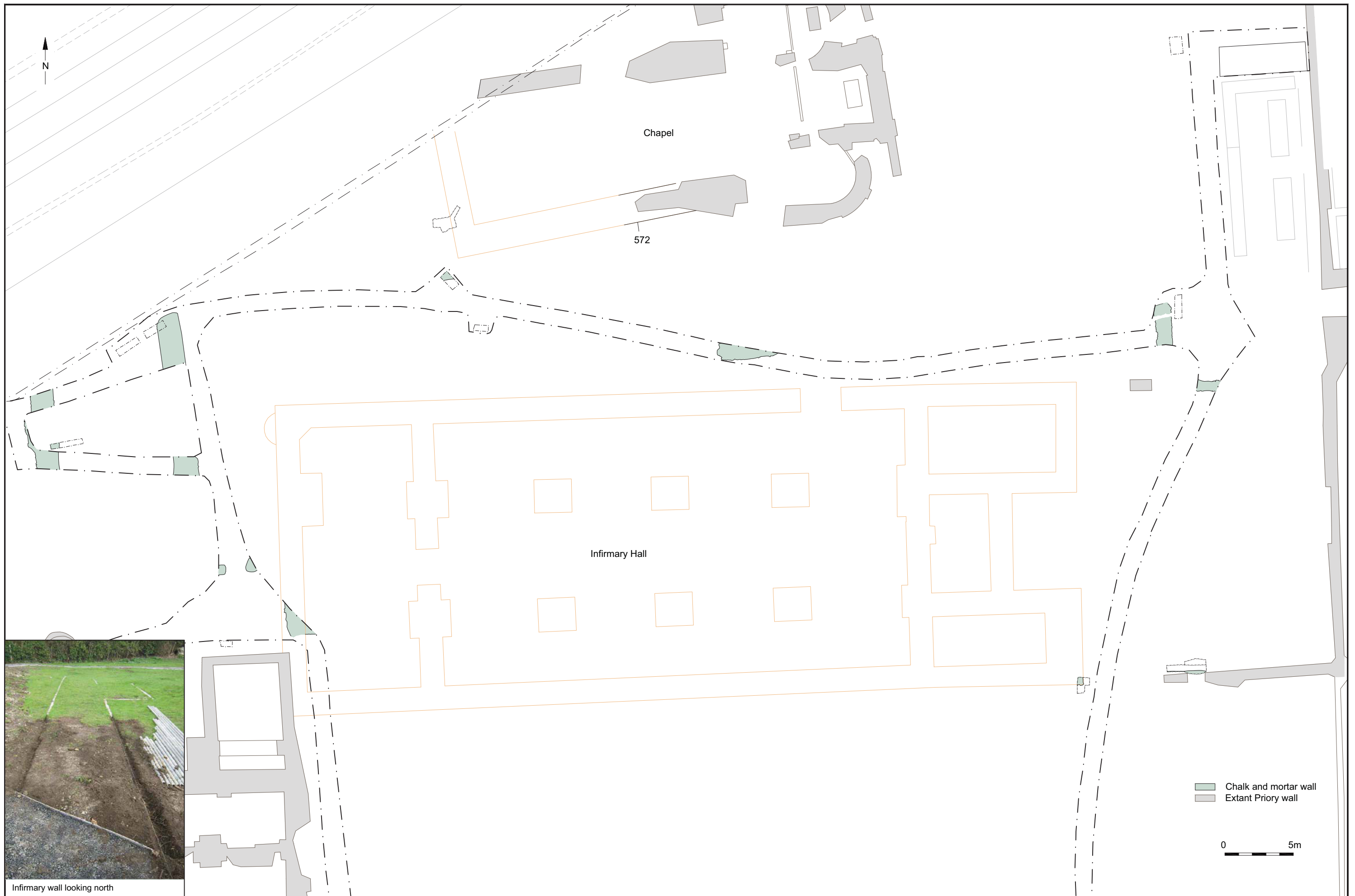


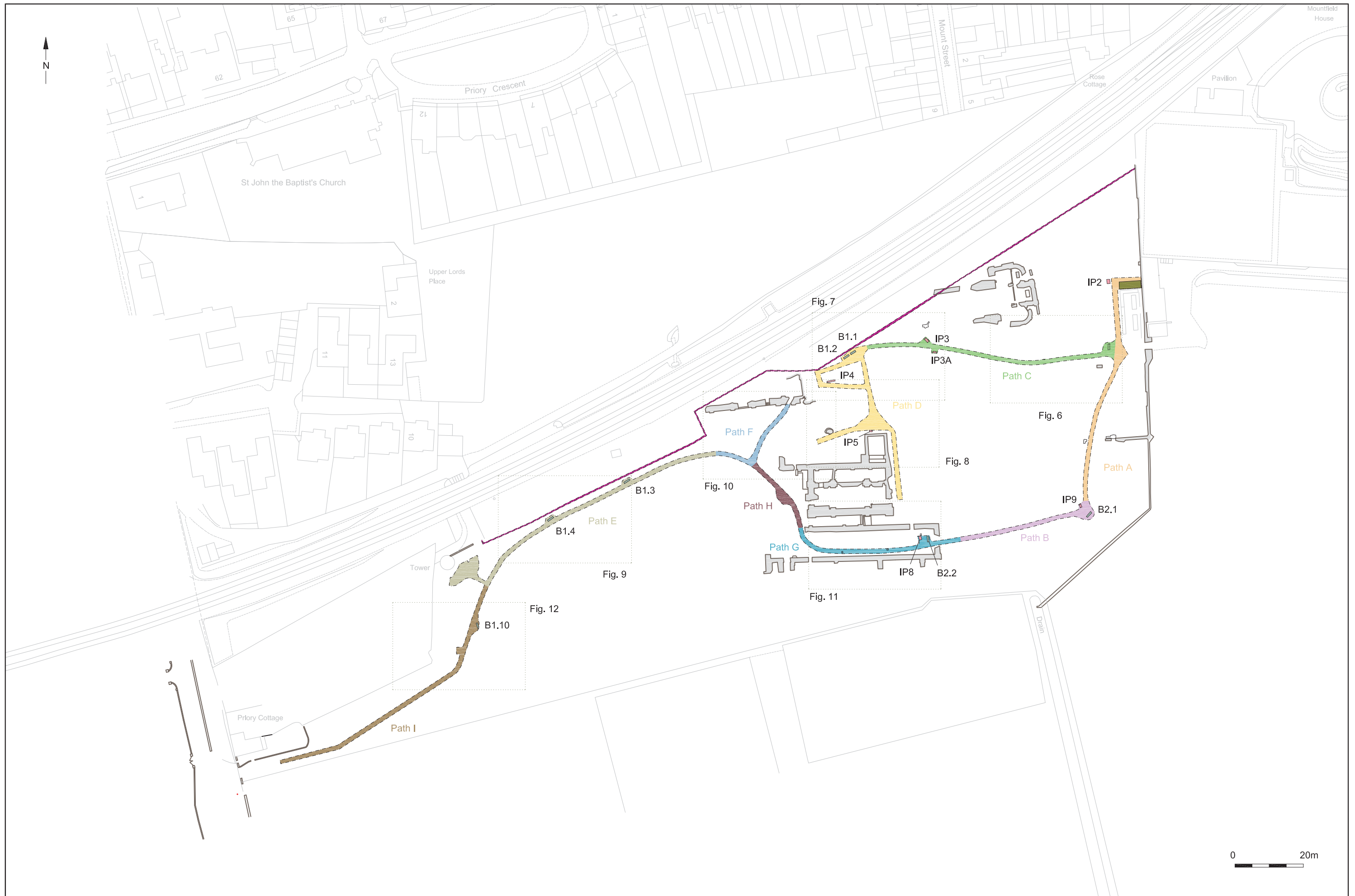
|                          |               |              |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Site plan    |        |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |              |        |



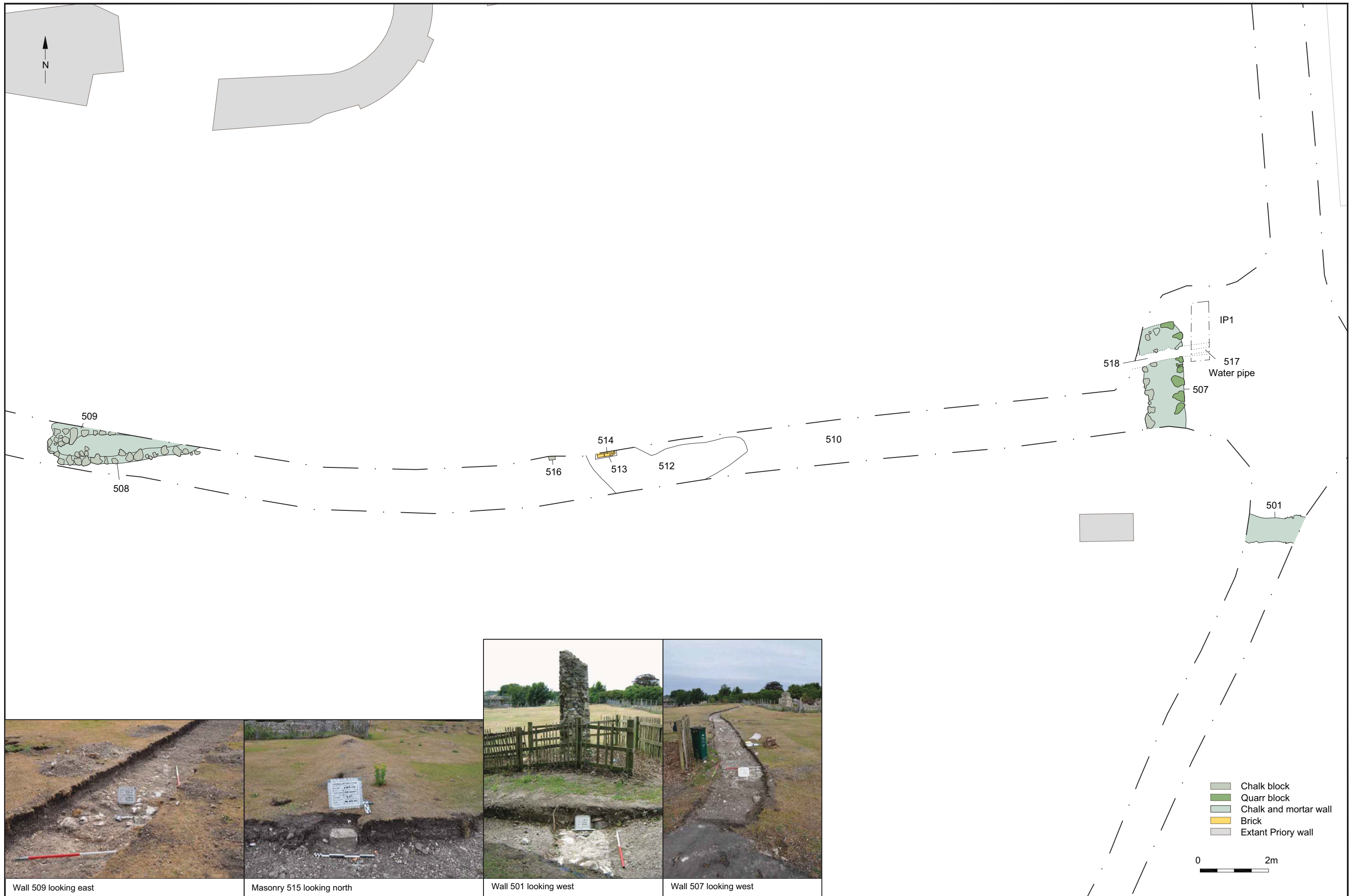
|                          |               |                                     |  |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory                        |  | Fig. 3 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Jan 2011      | Test pit plans, sections and photos |  |        |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |                                     |  |        |







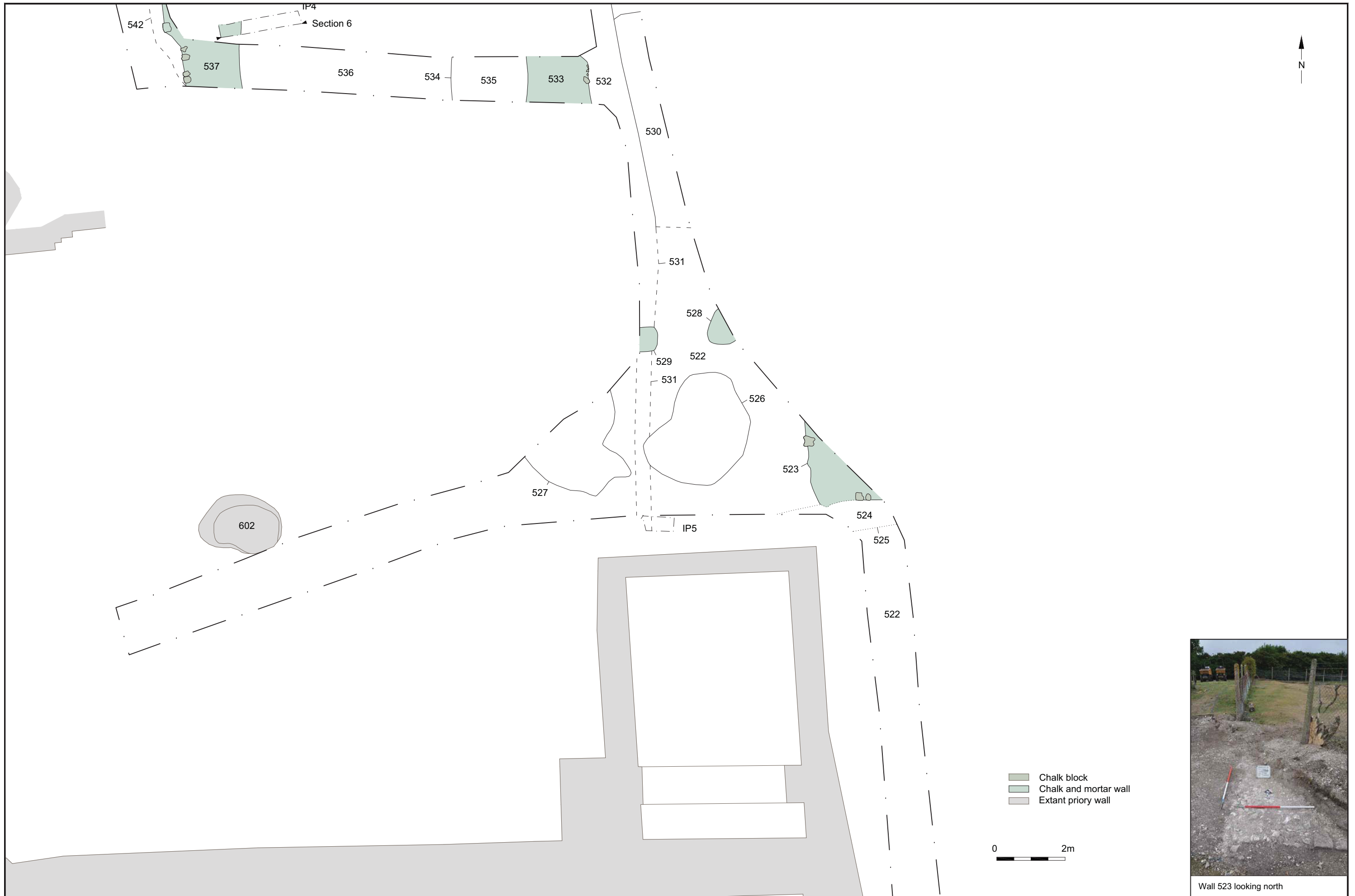
|                          |               |   |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory                                      | Fig. 5 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Location of paths, benches and information panels |        |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |   |        |



|                          |               |                         |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory            | Fig. 6 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Detail of paths A and C |        |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |                         |        |



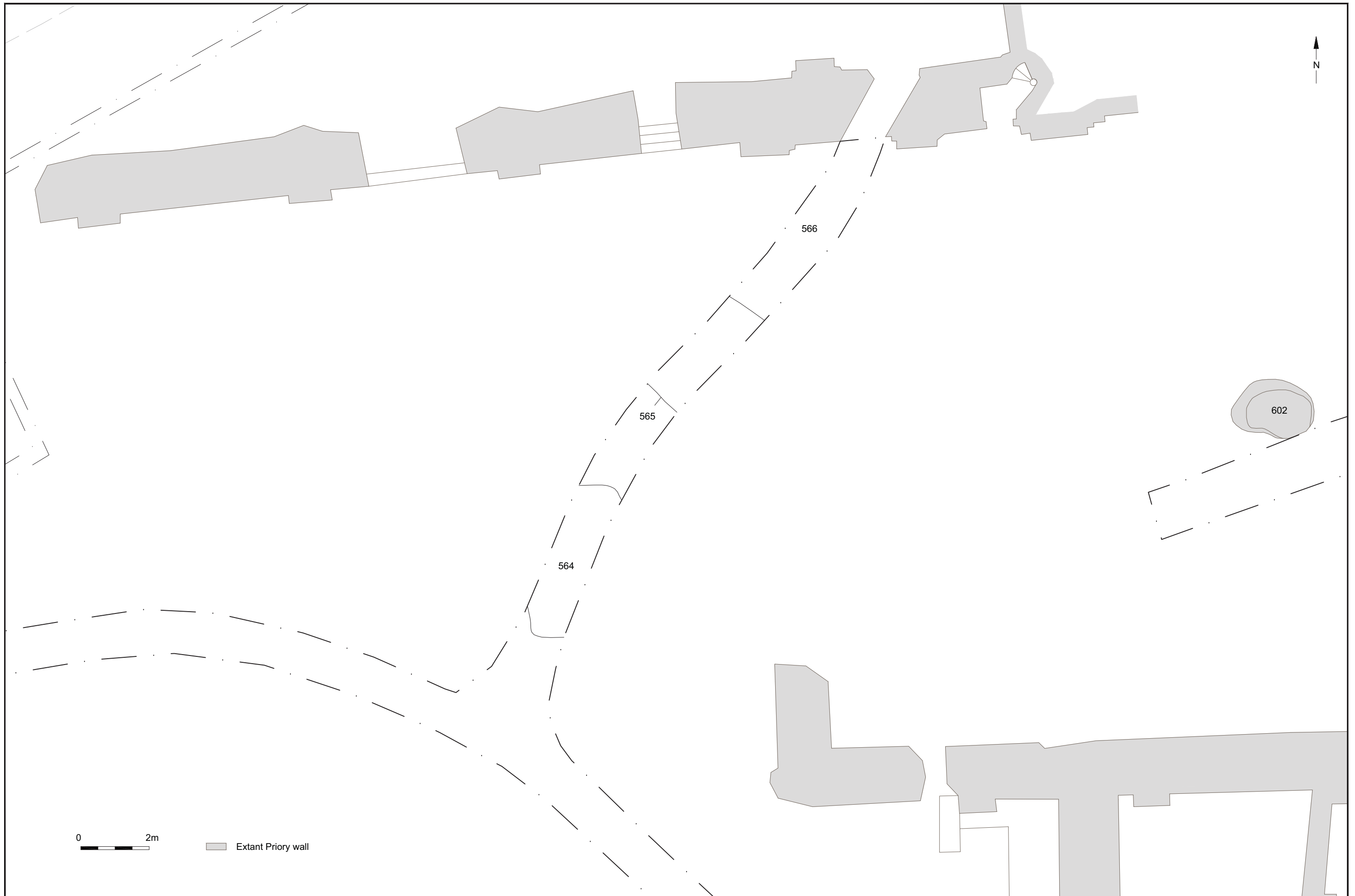
|                          |               |                         |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory            | Fig. 7 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Detail of paths C and D |        |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |                         |        |



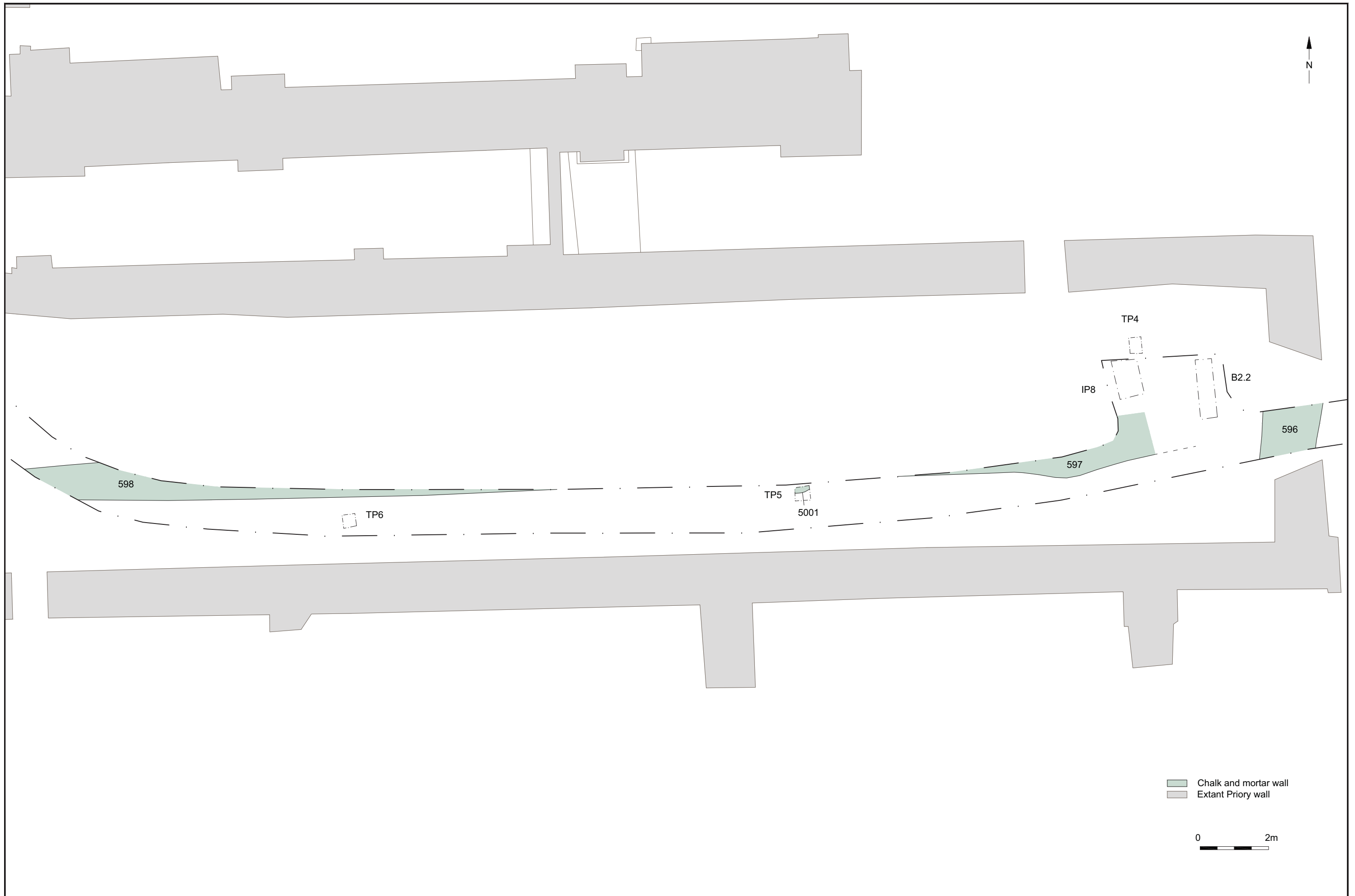
|                          |               |                |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory   | Fig. 8 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Detail of path |        |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |                |        |



|                          |               |                  |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory     | Fig. 9 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Detail of path E |        |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |                  |        |



|                          |               |                  |         |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory     | Fig. 10 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Detail of path F |         |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |                  |         |

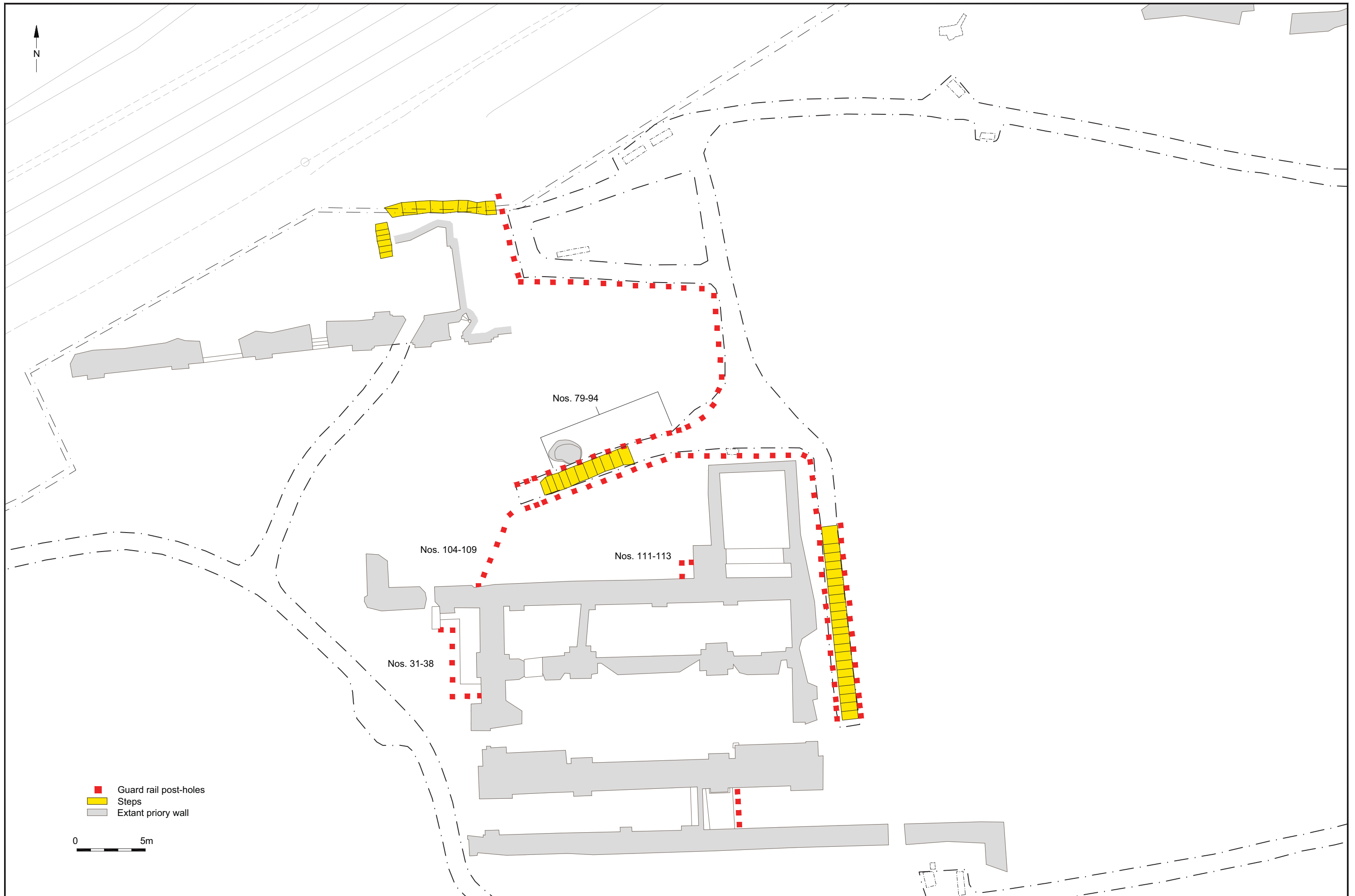


|                          |               |                  |         |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory     | Fig. 11 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Detail of path G |         |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |                  |         |





|                          |               |                  |         |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory     | Fig. 12 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Detail of path I |         |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |                  |         |



- Guard rail post-holes
- Steps
- Extant priory wall

0 5m

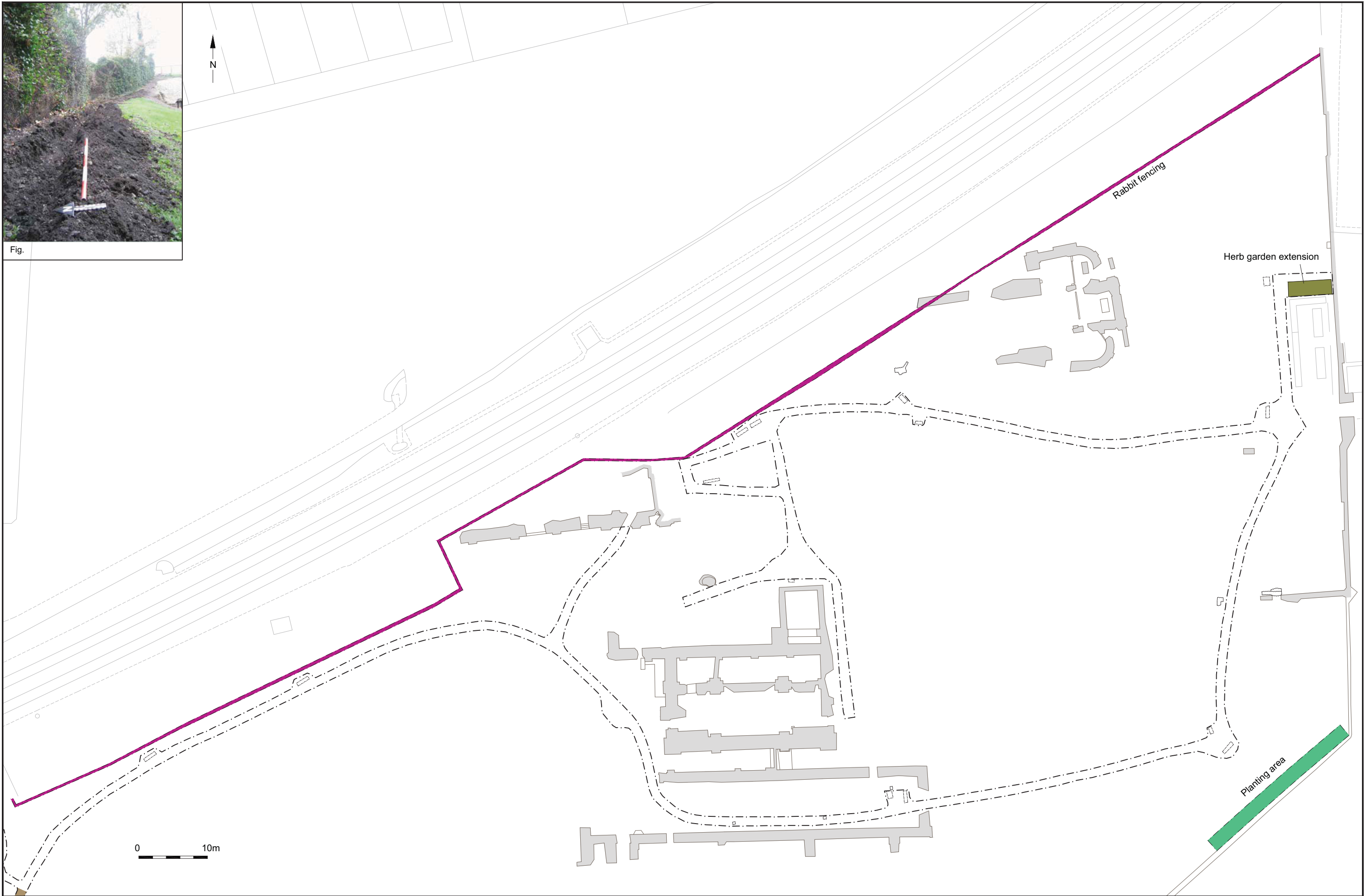
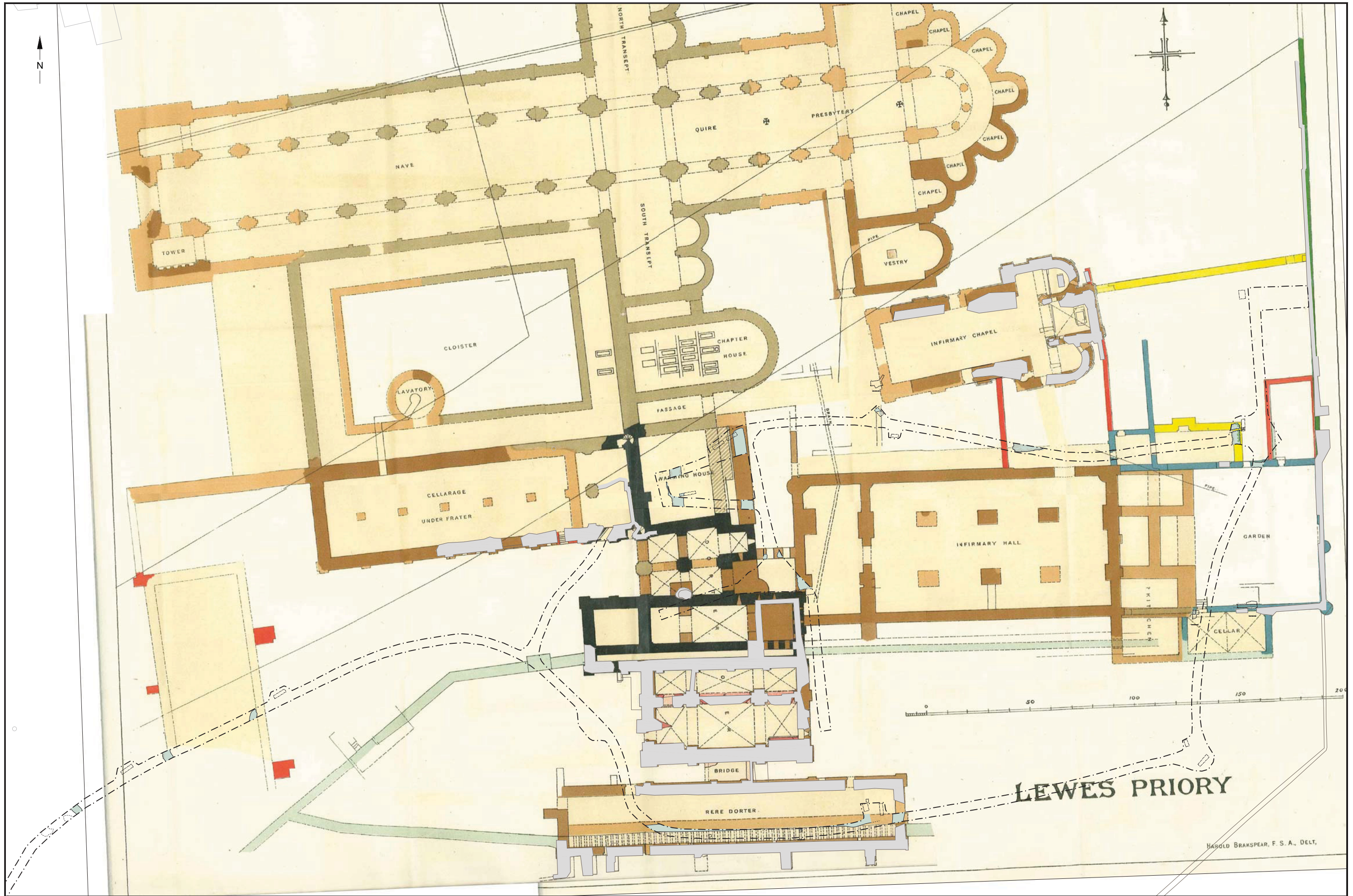


Fig.



|                          |               |   |         |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|---------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Lewes Priory  | Fig. 15 |
| Project Ref: 4197        | Feb 2011      | Site plan published in 1906 showing walls uncovered in 2010 |         |
| Report Ref: 2010128      | Drawn by: JLR |   |         |

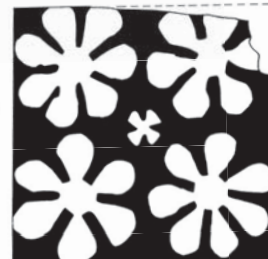
HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F. S. A., DELT.



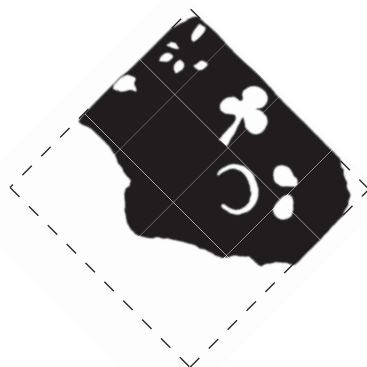
201



504



Example  
Pattern



607  
RF7



Example  
Pattern



607  
RF9



Example  
Pattern



Head Office  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)



London Office  
Centre for Applied Archaeology  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London  
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY  
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778  
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572  
Web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East