

An Archaeological Watching Brief  
At 161 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex

(NGR 541407 109962)  
(Planning ref: LW/06/0372)

Project No. 2537

By  
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## **Archaeology South-East**

*Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.*

*The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted worldwide, Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.*

*Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England Archaeology South-East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.*

*Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.*

## *Abstract*

*Archaeology South East was commissioned by Ms Mandy Egerton (on behalf of the property owners) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension (ref: LW/06/0372) to the rear of 161 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex (NGR 541346 110025). The work was undertaken between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2006. One cut archaeological feature was identified (Cut 12) as well as the remains of three walls, which are thought to be medieval in origin. The watching brief also recorded medieval occupation layers and post medieval made ground deposits. All archaeological features and deposits were hand excavated to depths no greater than development formation level.*

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### SMR Summary Sheet

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**Fig. 2:** Site Plan

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London, Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by Ms Mandy Egerton (on behalf of the owners) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a bathroom extension to the rear (north) of 161 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex (NGR 541346 110025) (Fig.1).
- 1.2 Outline planning permission has already been granted by Lewes District Council (ref: LW/06/0372), however, due to the archaeological potential of the site, the East Sussex County Archaeologist (ESCC) (Lewes District Council's adviser on archaeological issues) recommended that an archaeological condition be attached to the application requiring a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken prior to construction. The recommended programme was in the form of an enhanced archaeological watching brief (otherwise referred to, for example in the *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, as a watching brief).
- 1.3 A Method Statement outlining the requirements was prepared by Neil Griffin of Archaeology South-East and submitted to East Sussex County Council for approval. This document outlined a strategy for the archaeological watching brief.

*'The general objective of the archaeological work is to monitor the excavation of the new groundworks in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.'*

- 1.4 The British and Geological Survey Sheet 319 (1: 50 000 map) shows the site lies on Upper and Middle Chalk, Undivided.
- 1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Riccoboni (Senior Archaeologist) and Fiona Griffin (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential. 161 High Street lies within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval town of Lewes and is situated close to the scheduled remains of Lewes Castle (ES HER MES1577). Lewes is one of four Saxon *Burghs* in Sussex mentioned in the tenth Century *Burghal Hideage*.

- 2.2 Cartographic evidence suggests that a building has occupied the plot since at least 1620, although without undertaking more detailed research it is not possible to establish whether any elements of this structure are incorporated into the existing residential property at the site.
- 2.3 Archaeological observations within the town of Lewes have produced evidence for extensive medieval and post-medieval activity. This largely comprises domestic deposition in the form of rubbish pits, cess pits and wells, generally dating to the medieval period (e.g. Griffin, 2004, James & Barber, 2004, Riccoboni, 2004). Large quantities of medieval material were also recovered by Archaeology South East at the Hospital of St. Nicholas, prior to development in Spital Lane (Barber & Sibun, 1994). In a recent excavation at the Baxter Printworks development site, Archaeology South East discovered a Saxon dwelling (c. 900-1065AD) (*pers. comm*, Simon Stevens 2006). Other research suggests Lewes may have possible Roman origins (Bleach 1997).

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All excavations were undertaken by hand. Some reduction was managed by the use of a hand held pneumatic drill. The use of this drill was restricted to concrete/hard modern deposits.
- 3.2 The groundwork comprised the excavation of an L shaped trench. This trench reached a cumulative length of 5m. This involved removal of the current hard standing and then excavation through made ground deposits, up to 1m thick. Archaeological excavation did not exceed the depths of the formation level of the development.
- 3.3 Once the trench had reached archaeological deposits and/or features the ground reduction by the contractors stopped and appropriate time was made available for archaeological investigation.
- 3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification using standard Archaeology South-East Context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5 A full photographic record of the work was kept (*black and white prints, colour slides and digital*) and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditchling and will be offered to Barbican House Museum, Lewes.
- 3.6 An overall site plan was maintained at a scale of 1:20, sections were drawn at 1: 10.

#### 4. RESULTS (Figures 3 & 4)

- 4.1 The general stratigraphy of the site was as follows (Fig 4; Section 1, 2 & 3). Brick block paving was the current ground surface supported by a c. 100mm thick layer of concrete. At the southern end of the trench the boundary wall foundations were located beneath the concrete and extending to the base of the trench. To the north, beneath the concrete layer was Context **1**. This was a c. 400mm thick deposit with a mid grey brown colour. It had a friable consistency with common tile fragments throughout. It also contained chalk nodules (<20-40mm) and occasional slate and charcoal flecks. Beneath Context **1** was Context **2**. This deposit had a maximum thickness of 280mm. It was a light-mid greyish brown colour of a silty clay texture and compact consistency. It contained chalk fragments (c. 50%) and occasional small angular flint pieces. This deposit was dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Context **3** had a maximum thickness of c. 120mm and was a mid yellow brown coloured, silty clay. It contained occasional charcoal flecks and common chalk flecks. This deposit contained post medieval brick and tile. Context **4** had a maximum thickness of 170mm. It was a mid orange brown colour of a slightly silty clay texture. This deposit also contained occasional chalk and flint pieces (<10-20mm), common tile and brick fragments (<10-25mm). The brick and tile recovered from this deposit provided a mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Century date.
- 4.2 Context **9** appeared to be a wall or wall foundation with a maximum width of 760mm and a thickness of 390mm. It was constructed of chalk rubble, was bonded with a hard lime mortar. Context **5** had a maximum thickness of 130-150mm and was a mid orange brown colour. It was of a silty clay texture and contained occasional sub angular flint nodules (<10-40mm). Beneath **5** was Context **7**. This was a minimum of c. 100mm thick (continued below base of trench) and was a mid greyish brown, silty clay. It contained common chalk flecks (10%), common charcoal flecks (5%) and occasional flint pieces (<10-20mm). This deposit merged with Context **6**, which contained pottery dated between the 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.
- 4.3 Beneath the overburden (**1-4**) described in 4.1 the south facing section (Fig 4; Section 2,) showed the following archaeological deposits and features: Context **17** was another wall footing constructed of chalk blocks (<150-200mm), placed into a steep sided cut with a flat base (Context **16**). It appeared to run across the western most corner of the trench and continue towards the chalk blocks visible between **5** and **7** (Figure 4, Section 1).
- 4.4 Context **10** (Fig 4; Section 2) was a mid yellow brown deposit, 160mm thick. It had a silty clay texture and friable consistency. Included within this deposit were common chalk pieces (<10-20mm), tile fragments

(<5-20mm) and occasional flint fragments (<5-10mm). The tile within this deposit was dated between the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The similarities between **5** and **10** suggest that they may in fact be the same layer, subsequently cut by wall foundation **16**. Beneath **10** was Context **15**. This was a c. 100mm thick deposit of a mid yellow grey colour. It had a silty clay texture and contained common charcoal and chalk flecks throughout. Tile fragments dated between the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries AD were recovered from **15**. Beneath this was Context **6** as described above. This was a minimum of c. 200mm thick and extended beneath the base of the trench. An environmental sample was taken from **6**. The finds and archaeobotanical remains in this sample suggested the Context was probably formed from domestic waste (see finds section). There was a diffuse boundary between **6** and Context **11**. Pottery from these two Contexts was dated between the 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Context **11** was very similar to **6**, and the two may in fact be the same deposit. Context **14** (beneath **15**) may also represent a localised variation within the same layer. This was a mid yellowish grey coloured, silty clay containing abundant chalk flecks and pieces (5-20mm), common tile and charcoal flecks. Pottery sherds dated to the later 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD were recovered from this deposit. A chalk block wall (Context **8**) was located at the eastern end of the trench beneath **15** but the relationship between **8** and layer **6/11/14** was uncertain and no foundation trench was visible. Wall **8** appeared to run north to south at an angle to the trench edge. It was constructed of roughly hewn chalk blocks (<180 x 250 X 20mm) with a yellow brown clay with common charcoal flecks used as mortar.

- 4.5 Layer **11/14** was cut by **12**, a steep sided cut 450mm in width, with a minimum thickness of 170mm. Cut **12** was filled by Context **13**. This had a mid-dark greyish brown colour and was a loose silty clay texture. It contained common tile, chalk and charcoal flecks and occasional flint fragments (<5-10mm). Pottery retrieved from this fill was dated to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.
- 4.6 In the west facing section (Fig 4; Section 3) beneath the overburden described in 4.1, Contexts **10** and **15** were recorded (see 4.4) above the continuation of Wall **8** (see 4.4).

## **FINDS**

Luke Barber, Trista Clifford & Elke Raeman

- 5.1 The watching brief recovered a moderate sized assemblage of finds. These are summarised in Table 1 below.

Context	Pottery	CBM	Stone	Bone	Metal	Slag	Flint	Shell	Charcoal	FCF	Daub
[2]/[4]	2/304	9/822		2/6							
[4]	4/44	16/834	2/130	4/22	1/2	2/76		1/20			
[5]		1/90	1/44	1/<2	1/7	1/5					
[6]	15/182	11/402	16/1521	6/12	3/20	1/62	1/34	5/276			27/390
[6]/[11]	2/120	1/4	¼								1/36
[6]/[7]	6/42	2/48	5/10	3/8	1/4				2/4		1/16
[7]	23/260	2/14	2/30	14/54	1/21	1/21		5/68		2/16	5/40
[10]/[15]		33/2094	3/192	1/8					9/4		
[13]	1/8	3/382		2/38				1/26			1/24
[13]/[14]	5/126	8/234	7/168	25/32	1/5	2/231		3/86	1/4	2/160	2/44
[14]	07/62	9/284	2/212	3/34	1/18						4/166
[15]		8/442	5/50					1/26			

Table 1: quantification of finds (count/weight (g))

## 5.2 The Pottery

Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The watching brief recovered a relatively small assemblage of pottery: 65 sherds, weighing 1148g, from nine individually numbered Contexts. The material consists of small to large sherds (up to over 100mm across) and exhibits no to low signs of abrasion suggesting that most has not been extensively reworked and residuality/intrusiveness appears to be low. Unfortunately no large Context groups are present, the largest being a mere 23 sherds (260g) from Context **7**. Although the pottery is of two periods, the vast majority relates to the 13th to 14th centuries.
- 5.2.2 The earliest pottery discovered on the site consists of two slightly abraded sherds of residual early/mid 13th-century cooking pot (Context **6**). These are medium fired vessels tempered with moderate medium sand with sparse shell and flint inclusions to 1mm. The lack of earlier pottery from the site is interesting as it is very common in many other parts of the town. The vast majority of the medieval assemblage can be attributed to a mid 13th- to 14th-century date range, with some material perhaps pushing into the early/mid 15th century. The ceramics of this 'High Medieval' period are dominated by medium/well fired vessels tempered with moderate fine/medium sand, often with very rare inclusions of shell or flint to 1mm. The vast majority of these sherds appear to relate to cooking pots though very few feature sherds are present in the assemblage: the most notable being a sherd from a large vessel with club rim and horizontal applied thumbed clay strip (Context [13]/[14]). These are all undecorated though a few late examples have glazing on their interior base (Context **6**). A large unglazed strap handle with complex slashing is likely to be from a pitcher or handled cooking pot (Context **6/11**). Jug sherds are surprisingly rare – only five sherds being present (Contexts **7** and **14**). These vessels are generally patchily glazed and are not of particularly good quality. At least two have thumbed bases (one in each Context) though no decoration was noted. These are likely to be local products, probably from the Ringmer kilns. A few of the vessels appear to have been fired to a higher temperature, suggesting some activity may have continued into the 15th century, though larger assemblages would be need to confirm this.
- 5.2.3 The post-medieval assemblage from the site is small, consisting of only three sherds. These consist of sherds from a mid 18th- to mid 19th-century glazed red earthenware jar (Context **4**), a large 19th- century shallow bowl/deep dish in similar fabric and a bodysherd of mid/late 19th-century stoneware bottle with Bristol glaze (both Context **2/14**).

### 5.3 Ceramic Building Material

Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 A relatively large assemblage of ceramic building material was recovered (Table 1). There appears to be a higher degree of residuality/intrusiveness in this assemblage than was noted for the pottery, however, some of this at least may be due to the difficulty in closely dating the building material fabrics and the longevity of use this material sometimes enjoys. The size range of the material runs from small (20mm across) to medium (up to 100mm across) and on the whole most pieces do not appear to be heavily abraded. No complete dimensions are present.
- 5.3.2 As with the ceramics, the vast majority of the ceramic building material appears to be of mid/late 13th- to early/mid 15th- century date. Material of this period exclusively consists of peg tile fragments varying in thickness between 10 and 14mm. Where present these utilise circular peg holes. The tiles are quite well made and fired. Most are tempered with sparse fine/medium sand, occasionally with rare/sparse iron oxide or, more rarely, chalk inclusions to 1mm. The fabric and manufacture of these suggests that most may relate to the 14th/15th centuries rather than the 13th century. Indeed, there are a few residual coarser sand tempered tiles, likely to be of 13th-century date, in some of the groups such as Context 4.
- 5.3.3 Later tile is far rarer and less securely dated by the pottery. Context 4 (dated 18th/19th century but with residual medieval material) contained a range of tile. Some is of the 13th- century and 14th-/15th- Century types already described, however, some finer, harder fired pieces may have been of the 16th- century and the majority were clearly very hard-fired virtually sand-free tiles of mid 18th- to 19th- century date. Similar hard-fired tiles were recovered from 19th- century Context 2/4 and possibly a single intrusive piece from Context 6. These all appear to have diamond-shaped, or more rarely square, peg holes.
- 5.3.4 Only four brick fragments were recovered, none of which had any complete dimensions. Context 2/14 produced two friable low fired fine sand tempered pieces with occasional iron oxide inclusions. These are likely to be of a 17th- to mid 18th- century date range. Context 15 produced the remaining two pieces. These are also low fired red bricks tempered with fine sand. These are not closely datable and the Context is undated by ceramics. They could be ascribed a later 14th- to 16th- century date range.

### 5.4 The Daub

Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 The watching brief at High Street, Lewes recovered 42 fragments of daub from six Contexts, tabulated above. Three fabric types were recorded. These are described below:

Fabric 1

This fabric type makes up the majority of the assemblage.

Oxidised, mid orange matrix with infrequent, poorly sorted angular flint, 8–10mm and infrequent, poorly sorted chalk, 2–10mm inclusions. Frequent, long striated organic voids indicate a high percentage of straw or grass temper.

Fabric 2

1 fragment, Context **13**

Oxidised pink-orange matrix, with fine chalk and sand inclusions. Softer than fabric 1, with less frequent organic voids.

Fabric 3

4 fragments, Context **6**

Soft, silty fabric which is low fired with infrequent chalk inclusions, <2mm. No organic voids.

- 5.4.2 The majority of fragments have no distinguishing features. However several, from Context **6, 7, 13/14, 14** exhibit one smoothed flat surface, indicating a possible wall surface. Two fragments from Context **6** have shallow, longitudinal impressions which may be wattle impressions.
- 5.4.3 The daub assemblage is consistent in date with the medieval pottery recovered from the same Contexts.

## **5.5 The Metalwork**

Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A small assemblage consisting of ten pieces of metalwork from seven different Contexts was recovered. The ironwork (9 pieces) is badly corroded with stone adhering to the corrosion products. Apart from two post-medieval nails (Contexts **4** and **5**), all material is medieval. The medieval ironwork consists of five general purpose nails or nail fragments, a strip fragment with suspension loop (Context **6**) and a bolt fragment from a clench bolt (Context **14**).
- 5.5.2 Only one copper-alloy object was recovered SF1 Context **5** possibly dating to the early post-medieval period. This consists of a tear-shaped leather-mount or horse decoration with a rivet hole in the middle.

## **5.6 The Metallurgical Remains**

Elke Raemen

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5.6.1 Only a small number of 'metallurgical' remains (7 pieces) were recovered, from five individually numbered Contexts. The majority was found in association with material of medieval date (four pieces from Contexts **5, 6, 7, 13/14**) and consists of undiagnostic iron slag, but probably derived from forging. Context **4** (mid 18th- to mid 19th-century) produced a piece of oven or hearth lining.

## **5.7 The Geological Material**

Luke Barber

5.7.1 The watching brief recovered a small assemblage of stone (Table 1). Two main stone types are represented, both deriving from roofing materials. A small quantity of West Country slate was recovered, all from medieval Context **7**. This material probably relates to 12th- to early 13th-century roofing in the area and is likely to be old, or residual, roofing material in these Contexts. A single piece of intrusive 19th-century Welsh slate was recovered from Context **6**. The other stone type comprises Horsham stone. This material was in common use for roofing from the mid/late 14th to 16th centuries and its presence here in such quantities (over 20 pieces) suggests a date no earlier than the 14th century for the medieval Contexts investigated. Other stone consists of a single burnt piece of ferruginous sandstone (Context **6/7**).

## **5.8 The Bone**

Lucy Sibun

5.8.1 A small assemblage of bone was recovered from the site (approximately 60 fragments). The majority, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century Contexts (**7, 13, 14, 13/14**) consisted of sheep, cattle and bird. Sheep fragments included ribs, longbones and teeth. The few cattle fragments present included ribs, cranium and innominate. Minimal ageing data was present for either species. The fifteen bird fragments (**13/14**) likely represent a single bird.

5.8.2 Fourteenth to 15<sup>th</sup> Century **6** contained a cattle incisor, a sheep incisor and rib and fish vertebrae. Medieval **10/15** contained a sheep tarsal. No further information was available.

5.8.3 Post-medieval Contexts **2** and **4** contained sheep mandible, rib and longbone fragments and a single cattle cranial fragment.

5.8.4 No butchery was noted on any fragments.

## **5.9 The Shell**

Elke Raemen

5.9.1 A small assemblage of shell was recovered (20 pieces), virtually all of which is oyster. All shell is from medieval Contexts except one lower valve from Context 4 (dated mid 18th- to mid 19th-century). The medieval oysters are in good condition and consist entirely of mature individuals. Both upper valves (5) and lower valves (10) were recovered, some showing parasitic activity. Context 7 also produced four fragments of mussels.

## 5.10 Miscellaneous Material

Luke Barber

5.10.1 In addition to a few small pieces of hand-collected charcoal the watching brief recovered two pieces of lime mortar from Context 9. The mortar is off-white with common flint grits/pebble inclusions to 6mm. It would not be out of place in a medieval Context and must predate the 17th-century but close dating is not possible.

5.10.2 The finds assemblage from the site is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. The pottery and a selection of the other finds will be retained for long-term curation, but the majority will be discarded.

## 5.11 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE

Lucy Allott

5.11.1 One bulk sample <1> was taken from a charcoal and pottery rich deposit (Context 6) exposed within the small foundation trench. The sampling aimed at establishing the presence of charred botanical remains and other environmental remains in addition to the charcoal fragments visible in the section. Only a small area of this charcoal rich deposit could be exposed in the trench and the function of the feature was therefore unknown. It was hoped that the sample would provide further evidence to help interpret the feature.

5.11.2 The sample was processed using tank flotation and the residue (heavy fraction) and flot (light fraction) were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively. The flot and residue were air dried and passed through graded sieves and further sorted into artefact categories. The sample was small (10 litres) due to the limited area exposed and available for sampling.

5.11.3 Some uncharred botanicals (including roots and *Solanum nigra* seeds) and intrusive modern land snails were present but on the whole contamination and disturbance was minimal.

5.11.4 Archaeobotanical remains present include charcoal, charred cereals

(*Triticum* sp. – wheat, *Avena* sp. – oat and *Hordeum* sp. – barley), charred weed seeds (currently unidentified), and mineralised seeds (including cf. *Pisum sativa*). Preservation was variable for example oat seeds tended to display clearer morphology than the wheat seeds which often had abraded surfaces and were highly fragmented.

5.11.5 Other remains include medieval pottery, burnt clay, CBM, fish and mammal bone fragments, marine molluscs, some hammerscale and iron objects. The archaeological remains within this sample are consistent with the hand collected finds.

5.11.6 The limited botanical remains are mixed and no evidence for processing (such as chaff or crop weed seeds) was found. The botanical assemblage can be interpreted as waste products from domestic Contexts after processing was completed. Based on the environmental remains and artefacts present in the sample it is likely that the feature represents a rubbish or disposal deposit.

	Flot	Residue
Volume (ml)	140	
Total Weight	32	
Uncharred %	<5	
Seeds Uncharred	* <i>Solanum nigra</i>	
Charcoal >4mm	**	**/8
Charcoal <4mm	*****	*** /2
Seeds Charred	*	
Cereals	* <i>Triticum</i> sp. <i>Avena</i> sp.	
Mineralised Seeds	*	
Bone		**/16
Fish Bone		**/<2
Land Snails	*	
Marine Molluscs		*/6
Pottery		*/14
CBM		*** /136
Burnt Clay		*/4
Worked Flint		1/<2
FCF		1/<2
Fe objects		5/18
Slag/Hammerscale Magnetic bits		*** /16

**Table 2: Environmental quantification (No./Grams)**

## 6.0 INTERPRETATION

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief proved that archaeological features and finds existed on this development site. Medieval deposits and features exceeded the depth of the excavations (1m beneath the present ground surface).
- 6.2 The earliest recorded deposits were medieval (Contexts **6**, **6/7**, **6/11**, **7**, **14**). These deposits contained domestic refuse from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The finds included pottery sherds, crushed building materials, slag and animal bones. Such items are commonly found in large concentrations within occupation layers and rubbish deposits from this period. The results from the environmental sample (Context **6**) support this theory. Although it is difficult to assess within the narrow confines of the trench, it is thought likely that contexts **6**, **7**, **11**, and **14** represent a single medieval occupation layer.
- 6.3 The only definite feature (**12**) cuts through deposits **11** and **14** and is likely to be the remains of a medieval rubbish pit dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century. The true depth of this feature was not known, as it was deeper than the formation depth of the works.
- 6.4 The earliest wall recorded on site was **8**, associated with the medieval deposits **6/7**, **11**, **14**. This wall was seen beneath the boundary wall of 161 High Street and the Panda Garden but on a more north-south alignment. This may indicate that the existing boundary had its origins in the medieval period.
- 6.5 Contexts **5**, **10** and **15** are thought to be demolition layers of probable mid 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century date. These are cut by the remaining two walls (**9** and **17**). Although easily recognisable in the east facing section **9** is thought to have been heavily disturbed by the house foundation and did not survive well across the trench. However, it was visible in a less substantial form in the opposing section and its probable orientation is shown on Figure 3. It has been suggested above that the chalk blocks visible between **5** and **7** (Section 1) may represent a continuation of **17** in which case the wall footing ran approximately north - south across the western corner of the trench as suggested in Figure 3. **17** appears to represent the base of the wall foundation and was not substantial enough to be recognised in plan.
- 6.6 From their apparent orientations it is possible that **17** and **9** represent the western and southern walls of the same building. The available dating evidence would place this building between the 14-16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

- 6.7 The watching brief has been successful in highlighting the presence of medieval and post-medieval deposits on the site. However, due to the constraints of the watching brief and the limited size of the trenches, it has not been possible to fully understand the nature of these deposits. Conversely however, as areas between the trenches remain undisturbed, some part of the archaeological record remains for the future.

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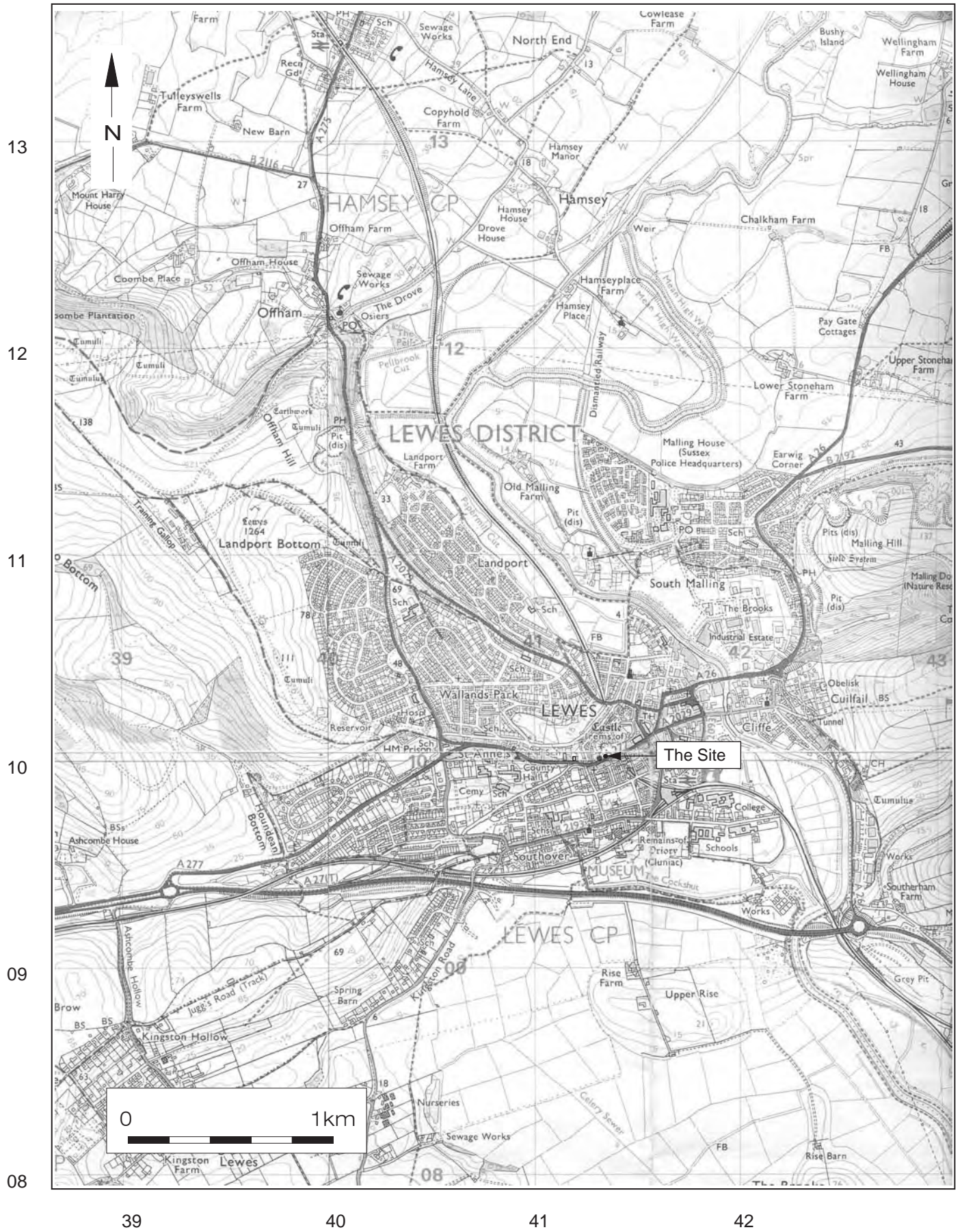
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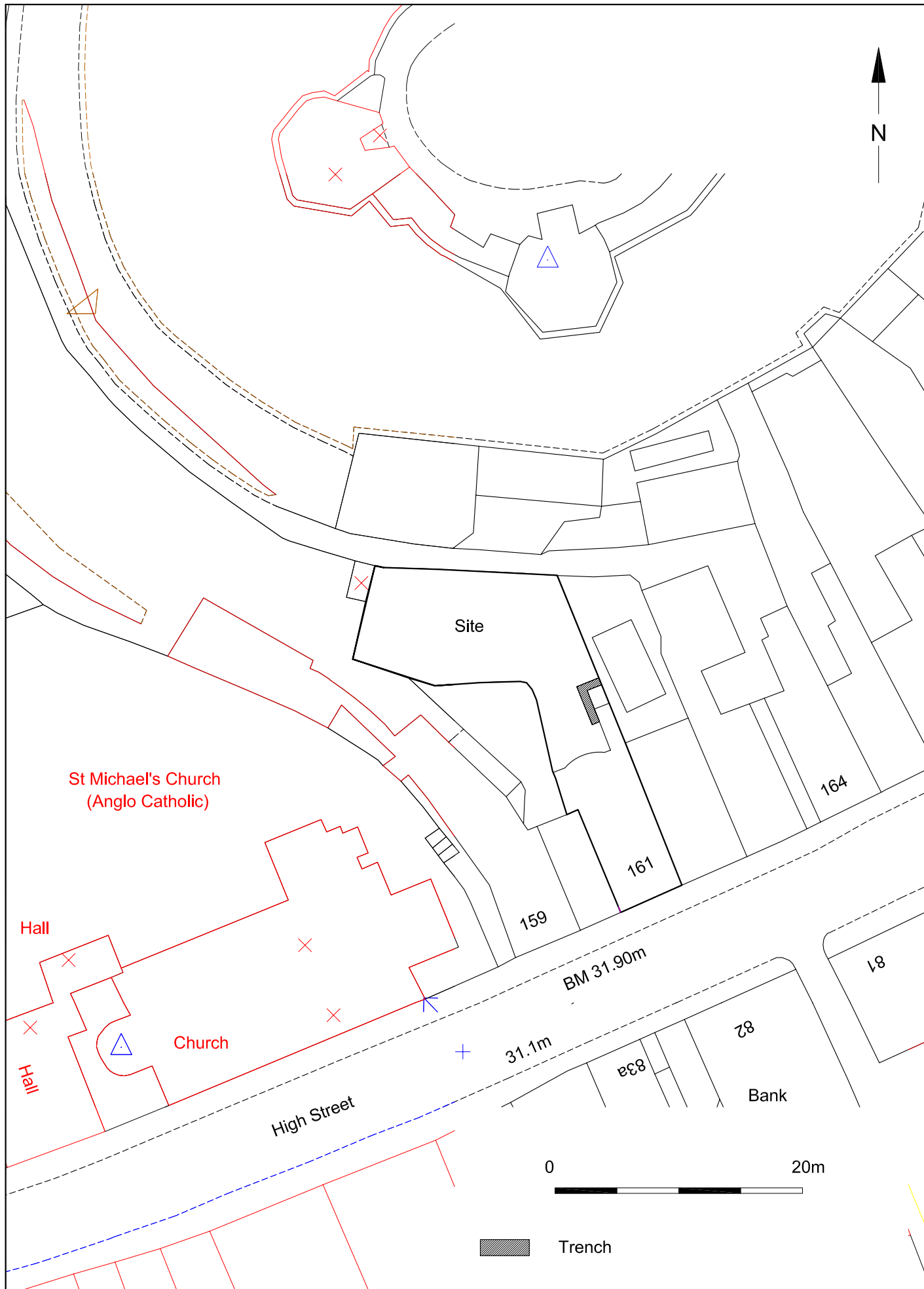
**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	LEW 06					
Identification Name and Address	161 High Street, Lewes					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 541346 110025					
Geology	Head deposits over chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2537					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban ✓	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. August 06	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Ms Mandy Egerton (on behalf of the house owners)					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Paul Riccoboni & Fiona Griffin					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.  <i>Archaeology South East were commissioned by Ms Mandy Egerton (on behalf of the property owners) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension (ref: LW/06/0372) to the rear of 161 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex (NGR 541348 110021). The work was undertaken between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2006. One cut archaeological feature was identified (Cut 12) as well as the remains of three walls, which are thought to be medieval in origin. The watching brief also recorded medieval occupation layers and post medieval made ground deposits. All archaeological features and deposits were hand excavated to depths no greater than development formation level.</i></p>						

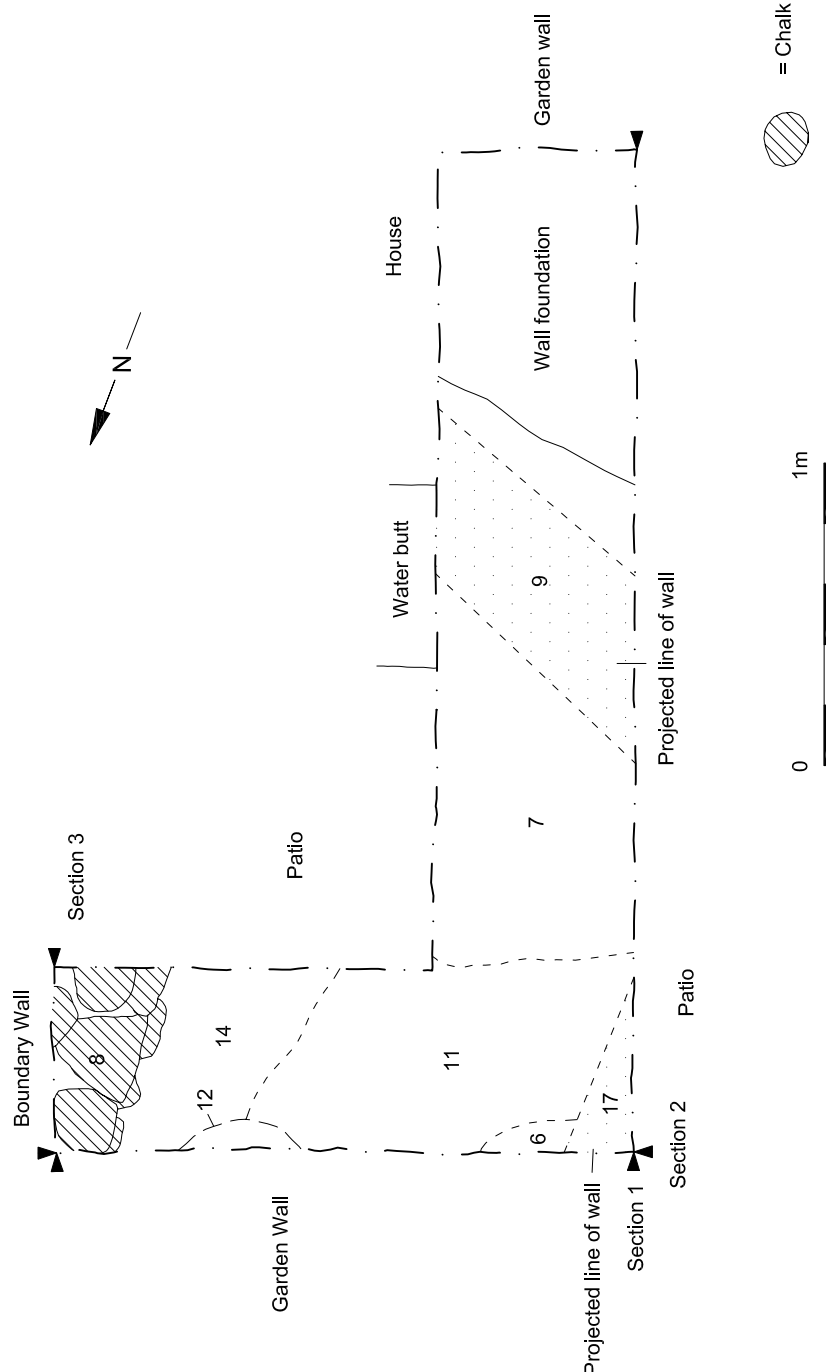


© Archaeology South-East		161 High Street, Lewes		Fig. 1
Ref: 2537	May 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST			161 High Street, Lewes		Fig. 2
Ref: 2537	May 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Plan		



© Archaeology South-East		161 High Street, Lewes	
Ref: 2537	May 2007	Drawn by: DW	Plan of trench

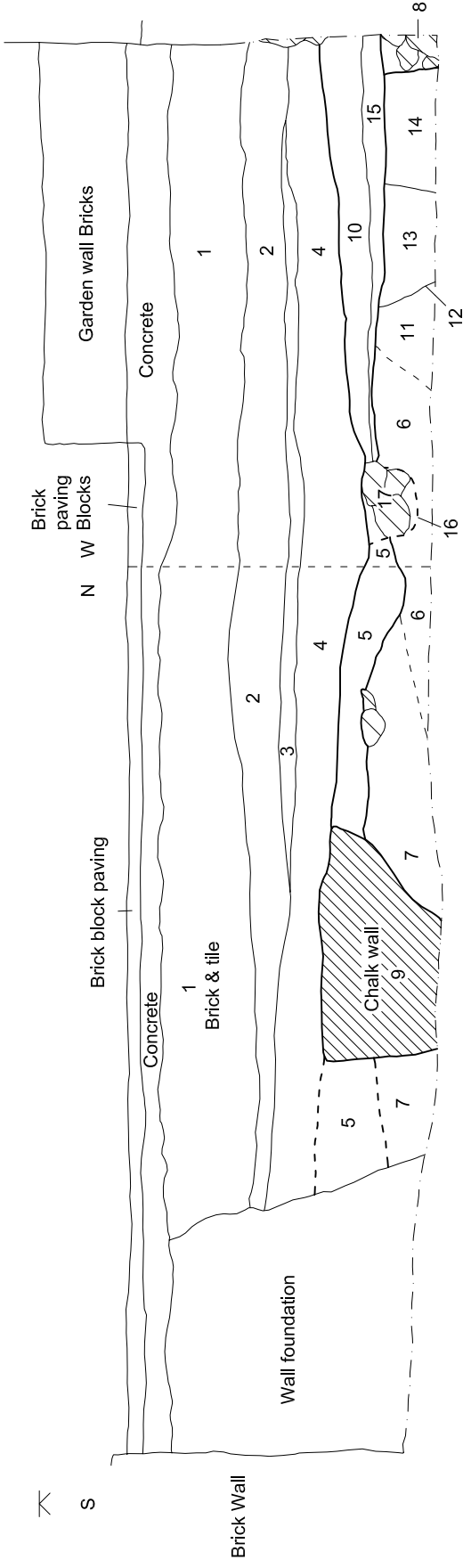
Fig. 3

Section 1

S

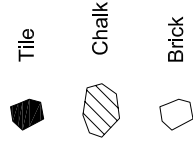
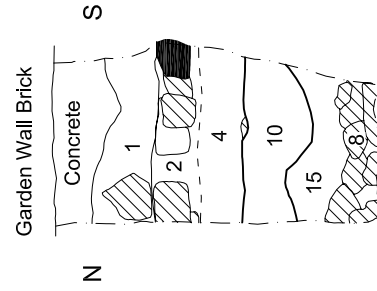
Section 2

30.65mOD  
E



Section 3

30.88mOD



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