

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
St John Sub Castro Church
Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2QA**

**NGR: 541483 110444
(TQ 41483 10444)**

**ASE Project No: 7941
Site Code: JTS16
ASE Report No: 2017409
OASIS id: archaeol6-296544**



By Gary Webster



LOTTERY FUNDED

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes, East Sussex between 24/07/2017 and 02/08/2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Carden & Godfrey Architects in advance of the installation of drainage in the churchyard.

Stone and ceramic building materials, most likely from the original church, possibly backfilling a crypt, and/or a low-set nave, were recovered from deposits at least 1 metre thick. In addition a pit, or the base of an early grave, were recorded and a piece of alabaster statuary, probably representing the Virgin Mary or St John the Baptist, was recovered.

CONTENTS

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

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

Appendix 1: CBM fabric descriptions

Appendix 2: Ceramic Building Material assemblage

Appendix 3: HER Summary

Appendix 5: OASIS Form

Appendix 5: Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2016)

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
- Table 3: List of recorded contexts in pipe trench
- Table 4: List of recorded contexts in Soakaway 1
- Table 5: List of recorded contexts in Soakaway 2
- Table 6: Finds quantification
- Table 7: Clay pipe assemblage from context [SA1/002]
- Table 8: Stone assemblage

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Watching brief location
- Figure 3: Watching brief location, GPR, results and putative location of earlier church
- Figure 4: Soakaway 1 - Sections and photographs
- Figure 5: Soakaway 2 - Sections and photographs

PLATES

- Plate 1: RF <1>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Carden & Godfrey Architects ('hereafter 'the architects') on behalf of St John Sub Castro PCC (hereafter 'the client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of drainage at St John Sub Castro Church, Lancaster Street, Lewes (NGR: 541483 110444; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online the site is situated on the boundary of the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk formations (BGS 2016).

1.2.2 The monitored area was in the churchyard directly to the north of St John Sub Castro Church, and is fairly level, though it is at the top of a significant slope, to the west, down to St Johns Street. The River Ouse is c.260m to the northeast of the site.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 It was proposed to install new drainage on the northern exterior of the church, with the addition of new soakaways located along an unmade path in the churchyard (see Appendix 3; Figure 2).

1.3.2 The scope of the works was discussed between the architect and Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA), who advised that a GPR survey should be undertaken along the route of the proposed new drain and soakaways to establish the presence/absence of burials. The route of the proposed new drain and soakaways was positioned to avoid any burials identified by the GPR survey in so far as is practical. In addition, the client requested that the GPR survey be extended northwards to identify any possible evidence of the Saxon minster church that was demolished in c. 1839 when the current church was built.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced (ASE 2016, reproduced in Appendix 3) and was submitted to the DAA for approval in advance of the commencement of ground works and the GPR survey. It outlined the methodology that was to be employed during both phases of the work.

1.3.4 Following approval of the WSI (ibid), ASE commissioned Arrow Heritage Ltd. to carry out the GPR survey (Arrow Heritage 2016) in advance of the watching brief.

1.3.5 Arrow Heritage produced a report on the results of the GPR survey in May 2016. Though some linear features were identified, possibly footings or foundations, there were no definitive indications of the Saxon church.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The main aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts exposed by, and therefore impacted upon, the drainage works.

1.4.2 The following research questions, as defined in the Lewes Extensive Urban Survey (Harris 2005), are considered:

RQ2: What was the location, form and construction detail (e.g. sculpture) of the Anglo-Saxon church(es)?

RQ3: Was there an identifiable minster precinct at St John-sub-Castro (or elsewhere), what was its nature, and how and when was it secularized and reduced to the present churchyard?

RQ4: What evidence is there for the location of the defences of the Alfredian burh?

RQ5: What evidence is there for Anglo-Saxon secular settlement (and its economy), both within and without the burh?

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the watching brief, carried out between 24/07/17 and 02/08/17. The work was carried out by Gary Webster (Archaeologist) and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist).

2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 St John Sub Castro Church is a Grade II Listed building described as follows in the list entry (Historic England 2016):

Parish church. 1839 by George Cheeseman. Flint with red brick dressings. Plain tiled roofs. West tower, nave with short chancel. Short tower with castellated turrets. Very large lancet side-windows with unarchaeological tracery divided by thin buttresses. West front with central tower projecting slightly with clasping buttresses and recessed sides, the roof hidden by sloping parapets. Central window with two lights, panelled below with rose above and hoodmould, above pointed arched doorway with doubled boarded doors, overlight and hoodmould. Side windows with two lights, over boarded doors. Doorway from original church, probably C10, attached in wall to east. Unmoulded arch flanked by three demishafts and demirolls. Slab capitals. Remains of chancel arch also, on south side of building with restored inscription which commemorates a certain Magnus of Danish royal stock who chose to become an Anchorite at this place. Interior: Galleries on simple columns on three sides and short apsed chancel. Tie-beam wagon roof. Painting: Christ and the Children, Venetian, circa 1600.

- 2.2 Lewes is an Anglo Saxon burh founded as part of the system of 31 fortresses that were built by King Alfred (871-99) and the site lies some 140m beyond the northern boundary of the burh based on current research. The present church and associated churchyard occupy a promontory overlooking the floodplain of the River Ouse with land to the north and west of the churchyard dropping away steeply. The present church was built in 1839, replacing an Anglo-Saxon foundation that was probably of minster status and may therefore have had a much more extensive precinct than the present churchyard, perhaps measuring a more typical 200m x 300m. It is possible that the Anglo-Saxon church was a pre-burh foundation. Documentary sources indicate that the churchyard probably initially served a large parochia and, more certainly, in the medieval period was the burial place for several Lewes parishes so one might anticipate very densely packed inhumations dating from at least the 9th century.
- 2.3 Eighteenth and nineteenth century cartographic, and other, sources show the location of the earlier church within the churchyard to the north of the existing church. However, the accuracy of these early sources do not conform to modern OS mapping and all three maps that were consulted show the former church in slightly different location with respect to the churchyard boundary. It is therefore difficult to *exactly* locate the earlier church from these sources; although it is suggested that the 1799 William Figg map is the most accurate.
- 2.4 Two mounds, possibly representing Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, or earlier, barrows were at one time located within the churchyard. One of these was destroyed when the present church was built in 1839 and was found to contain secondary inhumations, cremated human bone, boar and other animal bones, and an urn and spearhead. The second mound, in the south-east corner of the churchyard, had been destroyed in 1779 with no record of any finds. An antiquarian paper by Richard Gilbert (Stuart Billington pers comm) states that at this time material from the second mound was used to raise the level of the existing low-set nave which at that time was reached by going down 7 or 8 steps. Roman coins have been found in the churchyard in the 19th century.

Despite the lack of overt evidence, the site is still sometimes referred to as the location of a Roman fort, however, this is a theory now widely discounted by historians and archaeologist alike.

- 2.5 Archaeological fieldwork conducted from the 1970s has established the former existence of a substantial ditch that is roughly on line with the northern edge of Lancaster Street and dated to the 12th century which may relate to civil war defences. The medieval town wall is believed to have existed along the northern and western boundaries of the churchyard, although the topography at these locations probably negated the need for an associated ditch. The area to the south of Lancaster Street was a focus for residential and industrial activity, principally in the 13th century and was probably abandoned by the 14th century and ultimately reverted to agricultural land. Urban expansion led to the redevelopment of this area from the early 19th century (Harris 2005).
- 2.6 A previous watching brief was carried out in conjunction with the excavation of a service trench, in preparation for new toilet and upgraded kitchen facilities, in front of the south end of the church, in addition to an excavated area within the south-west corner of the church, which involved the careful removal of part of the existing floor structure to allow for connecting the proposed facilities. These monitored excavations revealed only subsoil and made ground deposits; the surface of the natural geological substrate was not reached and no archaeological deposits were encountered (ASE 2009).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The soakaway and pipe trench were excavated generally in the proposed locations though there were slight alterations to the placement of the soakaways, and two of the drain runs had not been included in the original plans (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Firstly, the turf was cut out by hand over the area of the soakaway and the pipe trench. The rest of the excavation down to the formation level was carried out under archaeological supervision using a mechanical mini digger fitted with a 0.4m or 0.8m wide flat-bladed bucket.
- 3.1.3 Where archaeology was encountered, sufficient time was given to investigate, excavate and record as required. Recording was undertaken in line with the WSI (ASE 2016). Both geological and archaeological deposits were recorded using standard ASE watching brief and context sheets. A digital photographic record was kept. Features were planned using both Digital GPS and by hand on drafting film. Section drawings in this report are representative, the excavation being too deep for safe entry.
- 3.1.4 The spoil heap was also scanned by eye for any unstratified finds.
- 3.1.5 Any uncovered human remains were gathered, placed in a finds bags and given to the church warden on the conclusion of the excavation.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 ASE informed Lewes Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Lewes Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	19
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	150
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	7
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	2 boxes
Registered finds (number of)	2
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Pipe trenches monitored between 24/07/17 and 02/08/17

Context	Type	Interpretation	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.30
002	Layer	Graveyard soil	0.30-0.40
003	Layer	Made ground	0.20-0.30
004	Layer	Made ground	0.30-0.35

Table 3: List of recorded contexts in pipe trench

- 4.1.1 The natural chalk geology was not encountered in the excavation of the pipe trenches which were 0.4m wide and a maximum depth of 0.6m deep. In the area directly adjacent to the church, made ground [003] was the lowest recorded deposit. This was a moderate, mid orangey brown silty clay with frequent pieces of chalk, from some 0.35m in diameter to much smaller fragments.
- 4.1.2 Made ground [003] was directly overlain by topsoil [001], a loose mid brownish grey clayey silt in which there were signs of bioturbation and occasional modern Ceramic Building Material (CBM).
- 4.1.3 As excavation continued, further from the church, a disturbed graveyard soil [002], was recorded beneath the topsoil. This was a loose, light greyish brown silty clay, containing frequent chalk pieces and flecks, as well as disarticulated human bone and medieval, and post-medieval CBM. RF<2>, a complete iron tool, probably a medieval reamer, a woodworking tool used to enlarge previously bored holes, was also recovered. All human bone was retained at the site for reinternment.
- 4.1.4 In the area between the two soakaways (Figure 2) a friable, mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent modern CBM [004] was recorded beneath the topsoil [001].

4.2 Soakaway 1 monitored on 25/07/17 and 26/07/17

(Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Deposit Thickness m
SA1/001	Layer	Topsoil	1.8	1.3	0.15-0.17
SA1/002	Layer	Made ground	1.8	1.3	0.40-0.48
SA1/003	Deposit	Buried soil	1.8	1.3	0.10-0.12
SA1/004	Deposit	Chalk nodules	1.37	0.9	0.2
SA1/005	Layer	Subsoil	1.8	1.3	0.25
SA1/006	Layer	Subsoil	1.8	1.3	0.27
SA1/007	Deposit	Sand backfill	1.8	1.3	0.26
SA1/008	Cut	Grave cut	N/A	0.45	1.15
SA1/009	Fill	Disturbed grave fill	N/A	0.45	1.15
SA1/010	Cut	Pit	0.5	0.3	0.3
SA1/011	Fill	Fill, single	0.5	0.3	0.3
SA1/012	Layer	Pale orange clay	1.8	1.3	N/A

Table 4: List of recorded contexts in Soakaway 1

- 4.2.1 The soakaway measured 1.8m by 1.3m, and was excavated to a depth of 1.5m.
- 4.2.2 Several different deposits were identified during the excavation of Soakaway 1. Chalk geology was not reached, though plenty of redeposited chalk was identified within the layers identified.
- 4.2.3 At the base of the excavation there was a pale orange clay [SA1/012] which *potentially* comprises an undisturbed natural deposit.
- 4.2.4 A pit [SA1/010] was identified in the vertical face of the soakaway and sharply cut into [SA1/012]. It was not fully excavated as it mostly lay outside the soakaway. It was filled by [SA1/011], a moderately friable mid greyish brown silty clay that contained occasional chalk flecks, charcoal flecks and burnt CBM. There was a single piece of 11th or-12th century medieval pottery recovered.
- 4.2.5 A deposit of sandy backfill [SA1/007] overlay [SA1/012] in the northeast corner of the soakaway. This was a moderately compact, orangey yellow sand overlay [SA1/012]. A piece of probably late-medieval or early post-medieval Horsham stone roof slab and a large fragment of a, probably late-medieval, fragment of painted stone statuary RF<1> of the Virgin Mary, or possibly St John the Baptist, was recovered from this deposit.
- 4.2.6 This was overlain by a compact but friable, mid orangey brown sandy clay, with occasional charcoal flecks [SA1/006]. This contained a mixture of late-medieval and later-post-medieval CBM and Horsham stone fragments.
- 4.2.7 This was overlain with a friable, off white grey, chalky silty clay [SA1/005]. A deposit of chalk nodules within [SA1/005] was recorded at 0.65m below ground level. It was initially thought to possibly be a part of a wall or surface, but is most likely a deliberate backfilling or levelling event. The chalk nodules are variable in size, but were roughly 0.2m by 0.2m. Fragments of late-medieval and later-post-medieval CBM were recovered.

- 4.2.8 There was a buried soil deposit [SA1/003] over the chalk nodules, which was a moderately friable mid orangey brown silty clay, with small pebble inclusions. It contained later post-medieval CBM, glass and Horsham stone fragments.
- 4.2.9 This was overlain by a compact but friable mid to off-white brown silty clay, with frequent chalk flecks [SA1/002]. Eighteenth century pottery, late post-medieval - later post-medieval CBM, stone, slag and CTP were recovered.
- 4.2.10 A disturbed grave cut [SA1/008] was identified in the vertical face of the soakaway. It was sharply cut through [SA1/002], [SA1/003], [SA1/004], [SA1/005] and [SA1/006] and sealed by [SA1/001]. It was backfilled with [SA1/009] a loose, friable mid to pale greyish brown silty clay. It contained chalk nodules and disarticulated human bone.
- 4.2.11 The sequence was capped with [SA1/001] a moderately compact but friable mid grey clayey silt, with 14th-15th century CBM and daub, post-medieval Horsham stone, slag, frequent pebbles and pea grit. This was most likely the remnants of the gravel footpath.

4.3 Soakaway 2 monitored on 27/07/17 and 01/08/17

(Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Deposit Thickness m
SA2/001	Layer	Topsoil	1.5	1.5	0.20-0.29
SA2/002	Layer	Graveyard soil	1.5	1.5	0.20-0.33
SA2/003	Layer	Rubble	1.5	1.5	>0.9

Table 5: List of recorded contexts in Soakaway 2

- 4.3.1 The soakaway measured 1.6m by 1.6m, and was excavated to a depth of 1.5m.
- 4.3.2 At the base of the excavation, layer [SA2/003], a friable, orangey brown silty clay was at least 0.90m thick. This contained occasional mortar pieces, chalk fragments and a variety of probably later-medieval building stone including two large pieces of worked sandstone masonry, 1 piece of worked Caen stone, two pieces Horsham stone and a piece of Welsh slate.
- 4.3.3 This layer was overlain by [SA2/002], a graveyard soil which is a very similar deposit to [002] and included post-medieval Horsham stone and a variety of late-medieval and late post-medieval CBM.
- 4.3.4 The sequence was capped with a topsoil [SA2/001] which is a very similar deposit to [001].

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 6). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM/Morta	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Concrete	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
002			3	555										
SA1/001			2	579	2	193	7	160						
SA1/002	1	7	10	2053	8	710	3	262			2	9		
SA1/003			4	106	1	328							1	1
SA1/004					1	512								
SA1/005			5	1578										
SA1/006			7	1713	5	7447								
SA1/007					1	767								
SA1/011	1	10	1	28										
SA2/002			15	1570	2	788								
SA2/003			1	89	7	30412			3	201				
Total	2	17	48	8271	27	41157	10	422	3	201	2	9	1	1

Table 6: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered just two sherds of post-Roman pottery from the site. By far the earliest consists of a fresh 10g cooking pot bodysherd of Lewes Flinty Ware with chalk (Barber forthcoming, Fabric SNL 3c). The piece, which is oxidised but with a sooted exterior surface, can be placed between c. 1050 and 1150 (context [SA1/011]). The other sherd consists of a 6g sherd from a press-moulded dish in combed Staffordshire slipware (context [SA1/002]) that is of 18th- century date.

5.2.2 The pottery assemblage is very small and of types well known of in Lewes. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and is recommended for discard/teaching rather than long-term curation in a museum.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material and Mortar by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 A moderate-sized assemblage of brick, tile and mortar was recovered during the archaeological work. The material was in mixed condition, with the majority being notably fragmented and the earlier pieces showing more signs of abrasion than the later ones. The assemblage is summarised in Appendices 1 (fabrics) and 2 (quantification) as part of the visible archive.
- 5.3.2 Overall the ceramic assemblage appears to display a wide chronological mix, even within individual contexts. The earliest material appears to be of the later medieval and early post-medieval periods, but much of this may have been re-used later. This assemblage is dominated by floor tiles and, to a lesser extent, roofing tile. The vast majority of types appear to be of the later post-medieval period (C18th to 19th) and the relatively wide range of fabrics suggests several periods of roofing and/or repair work.
- 5.3.3 The ceramic building material assemblage is from open contexts with significant chronological mixing and no reliable associated pottery dating. Far better assemblages have been recovered from the town. As such the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. This material is recommended for discard rather than long-term curation in a museum.

5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 The archaeological work recovered just two pieces of clay pipe from the site. The material has been fully listed in Table 7 as part of the visible archive.

Element	Date	No	Weight (g)	Bore diameter	Combined stem length	Comments
Stem	1700-1750	1	4g	2.1mm	40mm	fresh
Stem	1750-1900	1	6g	1.6mm	90mm	Fresh – spur broken off

Table 7: Clay pipe assemblage from context [SA1/002]

- 5.4.2 The clay pipe assemblage consists of purely C18th – 19th stem fragments and is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. The material is recommended for discard.

5.5 The Glass by Luke Barber

- 5.5.1 Context [SA1/003] produced a 1g fragment of colourless 1.1mm thick window glass. The surface of the glass has moderate corrosion, with notable rainbow hue and surface flaking. An 18th- century date is suspected. The shard is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard.

5.6 The Stone by Luke Barber

5.6.1 The evaluation recovered 28 pieces of stone from the site. The material has been fully listed in Table 8 as part of the visible archive. The stone assemblage is composed of building materials covering a wide chronological range. The massive blocks from context [SA2/003] are not particularly diagnostic of a close date in regard to form, but are all likely to be of medieval date. The Caen stone is suggestive of a post-Conquest date, but the local chalk and sandstone could have been used earlier. The Purbeck Marble slag could also be medieval, though a post-medieval date cannot be ruled out. The roofing material includes just one scarp of West Country slate, most common in the late 12th to early 14th centuries, but is dominated by fragments of Horsham stone slabs. These become most common in Lewes from the 15th to 16th centuries, though they can still be found on some buildings in the town today. However, many of the pieces show signs of having been re-used so their final deposition, and indeed definite original source, remains uncertain.

Context	Type	No	Weight	Comments
SA1/001	Chalk	1	92g	Amorphous
SA1/001	Horsham stone	1	100g	Buff-grey
SA1/002	Chalk	1	3g	Weathered. Amorphous
SA1/002	West Country slate	1	32g	Re-used: mortar on breaks
SA1/002	Horsham stone	6	674g	To 20mm thick. Buff grey
SA1/003	Horsham stone	1	330g	20mm thick. Buff grey
SA1/004	Purbeck marble	1	514g	30mm+ thick slab with polished top face and oblique saw marks on edge
SA1/006	Horsham stone	6	3076g	To 25mm thick. Buff grey. Remains of x2 peg holes (4 & 8mm diameter). Adhering off-white lime mortar
SA1/007	Horsham stone	1	768g	Tapering narrow roofing slab (to 100mm wide) with 8mm di peg hole at top/thin end. Re-used: covered both sides with off-white fine mortar
SA2/002	Horsham stone	2	788g	To 20mm thick. Off-white gritty lime mortar adhering on both faces. Buff grey
SA2/003	Dull yellow fine Hastings Beds sandstone	1	16,500g	Chamfered block 280+ x 300+ x c. 150mm. Chamfer 55mm long, oblique 45mm wide adze marks on rough faces
SA2/003	Chalk	1	15,500g	Roughly faced block 350 x 190 x 160mm. Traces of beige lime mortar with flint grits to 4mm
SA2/003	Caen stone	1	13,000g	Double chamfered block (c. 270+ x 280+ x 125mm) with 30mm deep rebate cut into one of the chamfered faces. The chamfers are symmetrical, each 50mm long and separated by a 50mm wide flat face. Fine oblique tooling.
SA2/003	Dull yellow fine Hastings Beds sandstone	1	3500g	Spalled front from shaped block with 30mm wide squared fillet leading into a concave face. 200+ x 250+ x 64mm+. Part of door/window reveal?. Patchily burnt (post removal)
SA2/003	Horsham stone	1	54g	13mm thick. off-white fine sandy mortar on x1 face
SA2/003	Horsham stone	1	300	10mm thick: off-white mortar on both faces
SA2/003	Welsh? Slate	1	58g	Off-white mortar on base

Table 8: Stone assemblage

5.6.2 The stone is of well-known types for the area and lacks particularly distinctive pieces that can be closely associated with an original building phase. The Caen and Hastings Beds sandstone are unlikely to derive from a single building phase. As such, and at this stage, the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and is therefore not recommended for long-term curation in a museum. The three most distinctive shaped blocks (x2 sandstone, x1 Caen stone) could be retained on the site if the PCC wish to curate the pieces themselves.

5.7 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Contexts [SA1/001] and [SA1/002] both produced quite dense aerated flat 'cake' fragments of fuel ash slag. The material is dark grey to black, hard but brittle with a sandy rear and glossy semi-vitrified face. The thin form of these pieces (e.g. 10-12mm thick) suggests them to be accumulation of coal-derived fuel-ash slag from the interior of a boiler. A late post-medieval date is probable.

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

5.8 The Registered Finds by Trista Clifford

5.8.1 Two objects were assigned Registered Find numbers. RF<2>, a complete iron tool was recovered from context [002]. The tool is probably a reamer, a woodworking tool used to enlarge previously bored holes, with a solid square sectioned 'blade' and a thinner tang which would original have been fitted with a cross handle. The tool measures 124.5mm in length. Similar tools of medieval date have been found on several sites, including Bramber castle (Goodhall 2014, 38).

5.8.2 RF<1> was recovered from context [SA1/007]. The object is part of a large religious sculpture, carved in relief from a soft white crystalline limestone, probably alabaster, or white marble or some other calcareous rock measuring c. 180mm x 170mm x 60mm.

5.8.3 The reverse of the statue is roughly finished and the underside exhibits a drilled hole 17mm in diameter and 53mm deep to accept a stabilizing peg or dowel, suggesting the fragment forms part of a substantial relief frieze or panel rather than a three dimensional statue.

5.8.4 The piece depicts the bare right foot alongside folds of drapery. The toes are missing and the foot appears painted in a pinkish pigment while the top of the foot is covered with the hem of a dress or skirt, gilded over a mid- red ground. Parts of the cloak are painted in dark blue and/or gilded, and other colours may also be visible. This colouring suggests the sculpture originally depicted the Virgin Mary, or possibly St John the Baptist who is also often depicted wearing a blue cloak.

5.8.5 During the 14-16th centuries there was a considerable industry in carved and painted religious alabaster statuary from the Midlands and there is no reason to think that the fragment could not be of this date. The current church building was erected during the 19th century following the demolition of the original church, parts of which dated to the 11th century and which had been restored

during the 16th century. However, due to the small size of the fragment, dating cannot be certain without the help of a specialist in religious sculpture.

- 5.8.6 It is recommended that the fragment be both conserved (see 5.9) and also investigated by a specialist due to its significance to the history of St John sub Castro church. In addition, the object could be a rare example of surviving painted medieval alabaster sculpture; most remaining examples having lost their painted decoration.

5.9 Conservation Proposal by Elena Baldi

Visual analysis

- 5.9.1 RF <1>, recovered from context [1/007], is an architectural fragment, which measures 180mm x 170mm; its max thickness is ca. 60mm. The piece is made of a soft white crystalline limestone, probably alabaster, or white marble or some other calcareous rock, the texture of which appears to be granular. The decorative carving shows five toes and a small part of the right foot which protrude from tunic (Plate 1). The fragment shows evidence of blue paint and gilding on the robe, possibly a light terracotta/pink pigment on the foot and green paint in the area below the foot. The blue pigment appears to be applied both on an orange-red bole (a fine, smooth, reddish clay containing iron oxide, used especially as a ground for oil painting and gilding) and also on the gilding (on the curvature next to the foot). The gilding is always applied on orange-red bole and the green pigment is instead overlaying orange-red as well as black bole. The layers of paint, particularly the gilding and the green are very flaky, with some parts peeling from the surface (red arrows). No salt efflorescence is visible.

Conservation proposal

- 5.9.2 The first step of the conservation process would be that of removing the layer of soil/dirt from all the surfaces, particularly from painted layers. This would be carried out under a x20-40 binocular microscope. Superficial cleaning will reveal the extent of the pigmented areas and reveal which shade was used for the foot. Several painted parts, particularly around the carved edges and below the foot, already appear to be quite fragile and flaky: some are peeling from the surface and a few have already separated from the stone, mixed with the soil/dirt. Further intervention includes adhesion of loose layers and consolidation of fragmentary edges.

Potential

- 5.9.3 This object is extremely important and has great potential for further analytical work, since painted and especially gilded decorative stones recovered from the archaeological record are quite rare. Knowing the media used to paint the stone will allow to increment our knowledge about local or imported materials and their trade and will create a record for comparison with similar finds in England.

Pigment analysis

- 5.9.4 Visual analysis prior to cleaning registers at least three pigments: blue, green,

terracotta and two types of bole: red-orange and black. The blue was applied both on the bole and also above on a small area of the gilding.

The analysis could include a combination of the following methods:

- Portable X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) for superficial elemental analysis. This is a non-destructive method that gives basic results.
- X-ray Diffraction (XRD) will reveal the molecular structure of the pigments used. It is a destructive method, even if the sample required for this is minimal (as low as 1 mm³). Even in this case, it might be difficult to obtain permission to remove samples for this type of analysis.
- Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) will provide quantitative and qualitative results and will also enable to differentiate the diverse layers of paint, bole, organic media and gilding. This is a destructive method, but the sample required is minimal.
- Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) might instead reveal which organic binder was used when mixing the pigments. This is a destructive method which requires a minimal sample.



Plate 1: RF <1>

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 Natural chalk geology was not encountered during the excavation, however layer [SA1/012] at the base of Soakaway 1, *might* be a naturally occurring silt deposit. This was recorded at a depth of c.16m AOD. The sequence across the entire site was mixed, with several areas of made ground, demolition rubble, and disturbed graves. Due to the history of the site, this is not entirely surprising.
- 6.1.2 Excluding the grave cut [SA1/008], there was only a single discreet feature, pit [SA1/010] visible in section at the base of Soakaway 1. There was a variety of finds and deposits encountered throughout the excavation, primarily in SA1 and SA2.
- 6.1.3 Interesting finds, especially RF<1> were retained for further investigation and conservation if required.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 The use of the churchyard as a cemetery and the previous demolition and construction of the older church have obviously played a part in the formation of the revealed stratigraphy.
- 6.2.2 Archaeology older than the Saxon church may have been truncated as a result of this use as a cemetery as evinced by the pit [SA1/010] sealed beneath made ground/demolition deposits in Soakaway 1.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Medieval

(Figures 2-5)

- 6.3.1 The single medieval pit partially exposed in Soakaway 1, dating to between AD1050-1150, is difficult to interpret, but is doubtless a significant feature. It was apparently situated beneath/within the Anglo-Saxon church and could therefore represent activity before the construction of this part of the church, or after it. It could also potentially represent the base of a burial within the church.
- 6.3.2 The horizons containing large worked sandstone blocks, other building stone and CBM that were recovered from Soakaways 1 and 2, are likely to represent a mixture of material possibly deriving in part from the second mound (Stuart Billington pers comm see 2.4 above) which was purportedly used to raise the level of the existing low-set nave in the later 18th century and later post-medieval material from elsewhere within the footprint of the earlier church. Given the thickness of these deposits (between > 0.9m and c. 1.25m) and the fact that they are below the present level of the churchyard, they may be backfilled within the crypt, and/or a low-set nave of the original church.
- 6.3.3 The alabaster statuary, RF<1>, part of a larger scene, is thought to be of a 14th – 16th century date, though it may be older still. It is possible that an attempt to

remove the entire relief prior to the demolition of the church failed and that further pieces are buried among the demolition rubble.

- 6.3.4 The medieval reamer, RF<2>, could represent a casual loss, or could be a tool that was broken during repairs or construction of the Anglo-Saxon church.

Post-medieval

- 6.3.5 The large quantity of post-medieval CBM found most likely represent repairs and additions to the medieval church prior to its final demise in 1839.

- 6.3.6 The grave [SA1/008] identified in Soakaway 1 is clearly post late 18th century as it was visibly cut through all of the recorded deposits (excepting the gravel footpath [SA1/001]).

6.4 Consideration of research aims

- 6.4.1 **RQ2:** *What was the location, form and construction detail (e.g. sculpture) of the Anglo-Saxon church(es)?*

The location of part of the original church and possibly its crypt, and/or a low-set nave, not identified by the GPR survey (Arrow 2016), can be approximated.

The worked sandstone and other building materials recovered from the demolition material most likely give some indication of the materials used in the construction of the earlier church. The painted stone statuary fragment also provides evidence of sculpture within the church, though it would likely be a later addition.

- 6.4.2 The watching brief cannot address the other research questions.

6.5 Updated Research Agenda

- 6.5.1 It is recommended that the painted stone statuary, probably part of a larger work, be further conserved and studied by a specialist in medieval church statuary to address questions relating to its date, form and origins. Should this work be required, estimated costs can be provided upon demand.

6.6 Conclusions

- 6.6.1 Stone and ceramic building materials, most likely from the original church, possibly backfilling a crypt, and/or a low-set nave, were recovered from deposits at least 1 metre thick. In addition a pit, or the base of an early grave, were recorded and a piece of alabaster statuary, probably representing the Virgin Mary or St John the Baptist, was recovered.

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Appendix 1: CBM fabric descriptions

Fabric	Description	Comments	Suggested date
B1a	Purple red. Sparse fine quartz, moderate black iron oxides to 3mm (most to 1mm), rare marl streaks	Well formed, well/hard fired	?C17th – 19th
T1a	Orange red. Moderate fine quartz, sparse red iron oxides to 1mm	Well formed, medium/well fired	C15th-17 th ?
T2a	Orange red. Moderate/common 'marl' streaks, medium/common orange/red iron oxides to 0.5mm	Well formed and fired	C18th – 19th
T2b	Red orange. Moderate marl streaks, moderate/common black and red iron oxides to 1mm	Well formed and fired	C17th – 19th
T2c	Pale/mid orange. Common-abundant marl swirls, clay pellets/lumps to 3mm, no/very rare iron oxides	Quite well formed, well fired	C17th – 18th
T3a	Buff. Common/abundant marl streaks, moderate calcareous peppering	Quite well formed, well fired	?C15th – 16th
T3b	Dull purple/yellow. Poorly mixed. Very abundant 'marl' streaks and areas, rare/sparse black iron oxides to 0.5mm	Quite well formed, well fired	?C17th – 18th
T4a	Orange red – red orange. Lumpy ill-mixed fabric with siltstone/grog sub-angular lumps to 3mm, sparse black iron oxides to 1mm	Quite well formed, well to hard fired	Mid C18th – 19th
T5a	Orange red. Very occasional fine quartz grains. Smooth virtually untempered	Very neatly formed, well fired	Mid C18th – 19th
T6a	Red orange. Moderate orange (and occasionally black) iron oxides to 0.5mm, rare marl streaks	Well formed and fired	C18th – 19th
T7a	Grey-purple grey (eg overfired). Moderate – common black iron oxides	Well formed, well/hard fired	C18th – 19th
F1a	Red orange. Common fine quartz, occasionally with rare shell to 2mm	Well formed, medium fired	C14th – 15 th (some possibly extending later)
F2a	Red orange. Abundant fine quartz, occasional medium quartz grains, sparse/moderate white/calcareous speckling	Well formed, medium/well fired	C15th – 16th
D1a	Very fine quartz in a silty matrix with moderate organic inclusions (chaff?) to 6mm	Daub. Reduced core	Medieval?
M1a	Off-white fine sandy lime mortar with common sub-rounded chalk to 6mm	Mortar	?
M2a	Light grey mortar with moderate fine quartz, moderate flint grits to 3mm and sparse coal to 9mm (most to 3mm)	Mortar	C18th-19th

Appendix 2: Ceramic Building Material assemblage

Context	Form	Fabric	No	Weight	Comments
SA1/001	Daub	D1a	1	28g	Reduced core with x1 flattish orange-red surface
SA1/001	Floor tile	F1a	3	572g	Unglazed with slightly bevelled edges. 123 x ?123 x 24mm. Bedded on off-white lime mortar
SA1/002	Floor tile	F1a	5	1254g	115 x 115 x 25mm unglazed with very slight bevelled edge. Others 23mm thick with slight bevelled edge, x2 24mm, thick with near vertical edges; 30mm thick with slight bevelled edge (all unglazed). Set in off-white lime mortar, including some on break – re-used
SA1/002	Peg tile	T1a	2	12g	14mm thick. Worn
SA1/002	Peg tile	T2a	5	310g	13mm thick
SA1/002	Peg tile	T2b	1	64g	14mm thick
SA1/002	Peg tile	T3a	1	24g	14mm thick
SA1/002	Peg tile	T4a	4	246g	11-13mm thick. Irregular rectangular peg holes on one example (8 x 6mm, tapering down to 4 x 4mm) set 6 and 16mm down from top edge and 75mm apart (all measurements to centre of peg holes)
SA1/002	Peg tile	T5a	2	68g	11mm thick
SA1/003	Peg tile	T2a	3	40g	11mm thick
SA1/003	Peg tile	T3b	1	62g	12mm thick. Square peg hole (7x7 > 6x6mm) set 24mm down from top edge and 34mm in from side
SA1/005	Floor tile	F1a	4	1444g	32-34mm thick unglazed. Vertical sided. X1 with mortar-filled indent
SA1/005	Peg tile	T2a	1	118g	12mm thick
SA1/006	Floor tile	F1a	1	240g	32mm thick, unglazed, slight bevelled edge
SA1/006	Floor tile	F2a	3	780g	25 & 32mm thick, vertical edges, plain green glaze
SA1/006	Brick	B1a	1	272g	105mm wide. Some self glazing
SA1/006	Peg tile	T3a	1	132g	11mm thick
SA2/002	Brick	B1a	1	20g	Amorphous
SA2/002	Peg tile	T2a	2	74g	12mm thick. Part of square peg hole
SA2/002	Peg tile	T2b	1	104g	15mm thick
SA2/002	Peg tile	T2c	2	108g	15mm thick
SA2/002	Peg tile	T3a	3	356g	12mm thick. Circular peg hole 8mm di, set 25mm down from top edge and 40mm in from side
SA2/002	Peg tile	T4a	1	96g	13mm thick
SA2/002	Peg tile	T5a	1	36g	11mm thick. Diamond peg hole 10 x 10mm
SA2/002	Peg tile	T6a	1	526g	13mm thick. Diamond peg hole (10 x 10mm). Rough face covered with cream fine sandy mortar with occasional chalk and flint grits to 0.5mm
SA2/002	Mortar	M1a	2	152g	Set on bed of 35mm wide chalk pieces
SA2/004	Peg tile	T7a	1	88g	12mm thick. Overfired/warped
SA2/006	Mortar	M2a	5	184g	Amorphous
2	Floor tile	F1a	1	424g	30mm thick, bevelled edges. Worn but with white slipped surface under a clear glaze (with some green glazed mottles in it)
2	Peg tile	T3a	1	6g	No dimensions
2	Peg tile	T6a	1	100g	12mm thick. Diamond peg hole (unclear dimensions) set 20mm down from top edge and 50mm in from the side

Appendix 3: HER Summary

HER enquiry no.					
Site code	JTS16				
Project code	7941				
Planning reference					
Site address	St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2QA				
District/Borough	Lewes				
NGR (12 figures)	541500 110300				
Geology	Lewes and Seaford Nodular Chalk				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	24/07/17 to 02/08/17				
Sponsor/client	Carden and Godfrey Architects				
Project manager	Neil Griffin				
Project supervisor	Gary Webster				
Period summary					
			Medieval	Post-Medieval	
Project summary	<p><i>A single discreet pit was identified, which contained pottery dating from AD1050-1150. Medieval worked stone was also identified, associated with the previous Anglo-Saxon church that stood here. Part of a painted alabaster relief was also recovered most likely dating from the 14th-16th Century, though which could be potentially earlier. There was a significant amount of demolition material. Other finds included disarticulated human remains, which were retained by the church, and a medieval reamer.</i></p>				
Museum/Accession No.					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Special	Alabaster	Medieval	1
Special	Metal	Medieval	1
Bulk	Sandstone	Med	4

Appendix 5: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-296544

Project details

Project name	An archaeological watching brief at St John Sub Castro, Lewes, East Sussex
Short description of the project	This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes, East Sussex between 24/07/2017 and 02/08/2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Carden and Godfrey Architects in advance of the installation of drainage in the churchyard. A single discreet pit was identified, which contained pottery dating from AD1050-1150. Medieval worked stone was also identified, associated with the previous Anglo-Saxon church that stood here. Part of a painted alabaster relief was also recovered, most likely dating from the 14th-16th Century, though which could be potentially earlier. There was a significant amount of demolition material alongside the graveyard soil. Other finds included disarticulated human remains, which were retained by the church, and a medieval reamer.
Project dates	Start: 24-07-2017 End: 02-08-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	JTS16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Significant Finds	ALABASTER RELIEF Medieval
Significant Finds	REAMER Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES LEWES St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes
Postcode	BN7 2QA
Study area	20 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 41400 10300 50.874303353014 0.009970280806 50 52
27 N 000 00 35 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 16m Max: 16m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator Archaeology South East

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Neil Griffin/ Paul Mason

Project supervisor Gary Webster

Type of sponsor/funding body Private

Project archives

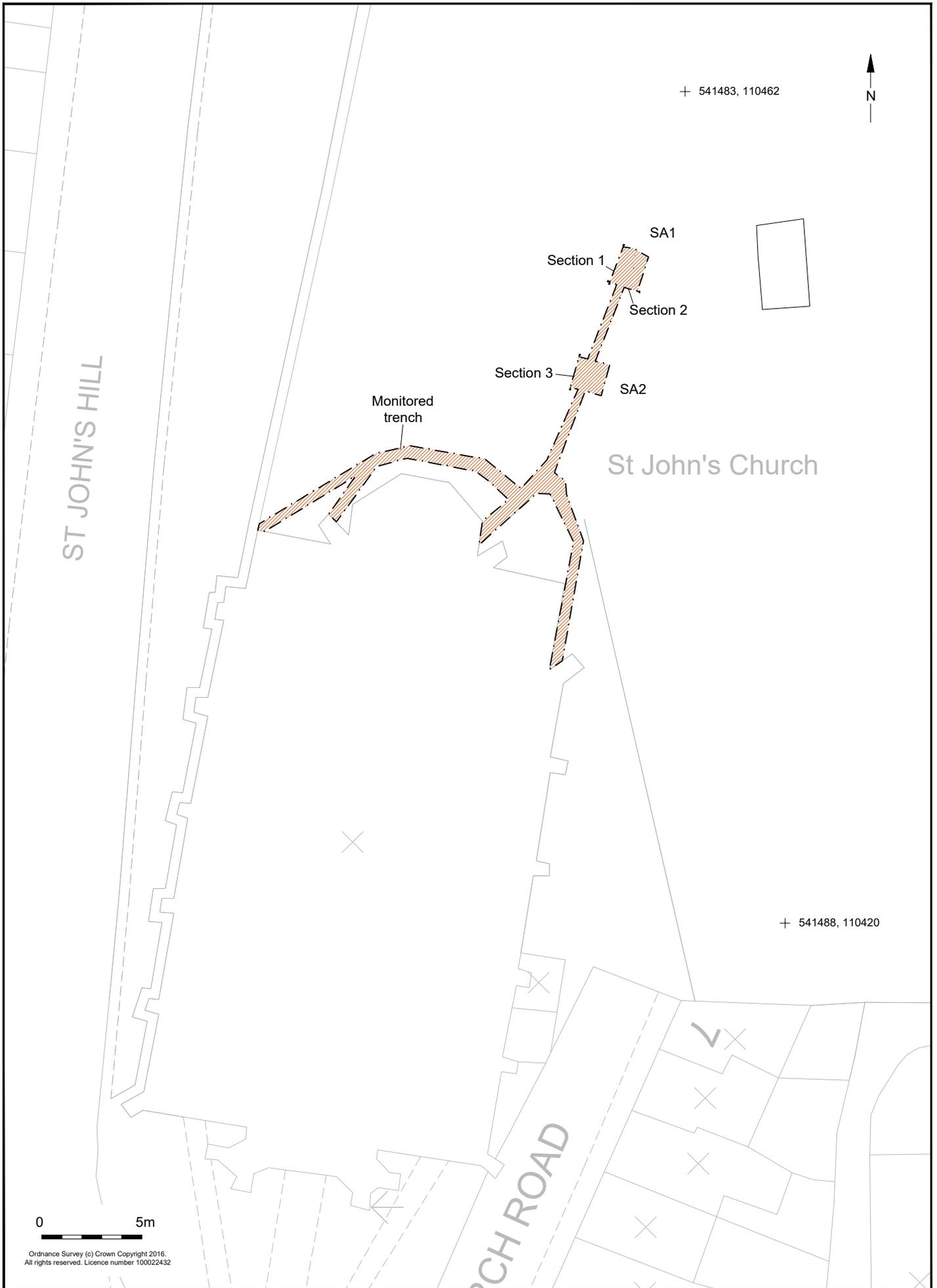
Physical Archive recipient Lewes Museum

Digital Archive recipient Lewes Museum

Paper Archive recipient Lewes Museum

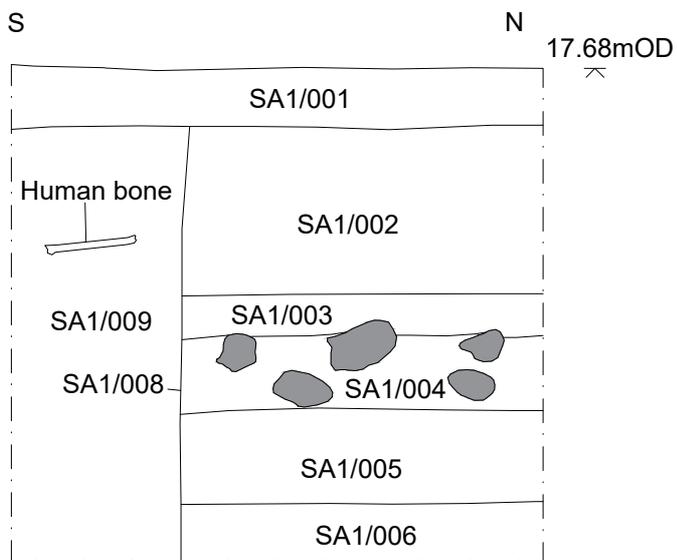


© Archaeology South-East		St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes, East Sussex		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7941	September 2017	Site Location		
Report Ref: 2017409	Drawn by: NH			



© Archaeology South-East		St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes, East Sussex	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7941	September 2017	Watching brief location	
Report Ref: 2017409	Drawn by: AR		

Section 1



Section 2



0 0.5m

Chalk



SA1/008, grave cut, looking west



SA1/004, compact rubble looking south



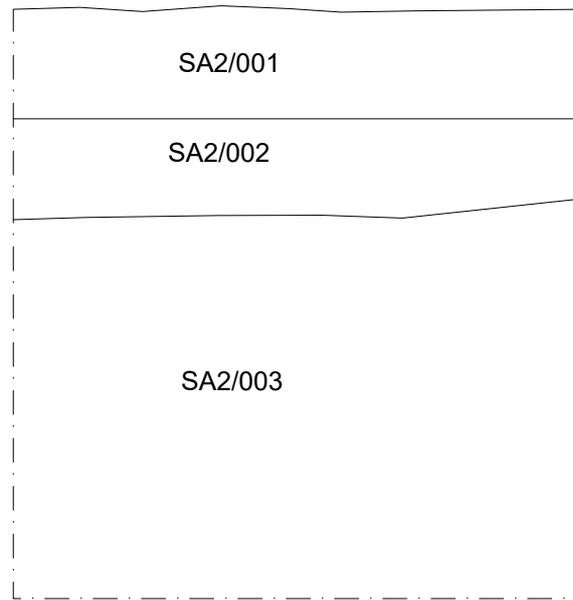
SA1/010, pit, looking south

Section 3

N

S

17.68mOD
↗



0 0.5m



SA2 Masonry within backfill, looking north



SA2 backfill deposits

Appendix 5: Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2016)

**St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes,
East Sussex, BN7 2QA**

NGR: 541400 110300

**Written Scheme of Investigation for a
Ground Penetrating Radar Survey and an
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Site Code: JTS16

ASE Project No: 7941

**Prepared by
Garrett Sheehan**

April 2016

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**St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes,
East Sussex, BN7 2QA**

NGR: 541400 110300

**Written Scheme of Investigation for a
Ground Penetrating Radar Survey and an
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Site Code: JTS16

ASE Project No: 7941

Prepared by:	Garrett Sheehan	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Neil Griffin BSc MCIfA	Project Manager	
Date of Issue:	13 th April 2016		
Revision:			

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, has been commissioned by Carden & Godfrey Architects ('hereafter 'the architects') on behalf of St John Sub Castro PCC (hereafter 'the client') to undertake a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey an archaeological watching brief at St John Sub Castro Church, Lancaster Street, Lewes (NGR 541400 110300; Figure 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.
- 1.2 It is proposed to install new drainage on the northern exterior of the church, with the addition of new soakaways located along the unmade path in the churchyard (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The scope of the works were discussed between the architect and Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA), who advised that a GPR survey should be undertaken along the route of the proposed new drain and soakaways to establish the presence/absence of burials. The route of the proposed new drain and soakaways will be positioned to avoid burials identified by the GPR survey in so far as is practical. All excavations associated with the proposed new drainage will be carried out under an archaeological watching brief in accordance with the anticipated requirements of the Faculty granted for the proposals. In addition the client has requested that the GPR survey be extended northwards to identify (if possible) any evidence of the original Saxon mister church that once stood on the site and demolished c. 1839 when the current church was built. The approximate extent of the GPR survey is indicated on Figure 3 subject to discussion on site at the outset and location of on-site constraints (principally grave markers and trees).
- 1.4 ASE have commissioned Arrow Heritage Ltd. To carry out the GPR survey on their behalf.
- 1.5 This document fulfils the requirement to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and has been submitted to the DAA for approval in advance of the commencement of ground works.
- 1.4 All work will be undertaken in accordance with this document and with the *Sussex Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork* (2015), hereafter the Sussex Standards and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (ClfA 2014a) and their Code of Conduct (ClfA 2014b). This document is sufficient to cover all eventualities but it should be noted that a final decision on site as to how to proceed in the event that *significant* remains are revealed during the course of the Watching Brief will be determined in agreement with Diocesan Archaeologist.
- 1.5 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online the site is situated on the boundary of the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk formations (BGS 2016).

2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background (largely derived from Harris 2005)**2.1** St John Sub Castro Church is a Grade II Listed building described as follows in the List entry (Historic England online source):

Parish church. 1839 by George Cheeseman. Flint with red brick dressings. Plain tiled roofs. West tower, nave with short chancel. Short tower with castellated turrets. Very large lancet side-windows with unarchaeological tracery divided by thin buttresses. West front with central tower projecting slightly with clasping buttresses and recessed sides, the roof hidden by sloping parapets. Central window with two lights, panelled below with rose above and hoodmould, above pointed arched doorway with doubled boarded doors, overlight and hoodmould. Side windows with two lights, over boarded doors. Doorway from original church, probably C10, attached in wall to east. Unmoulded arch flanked by three demishafts and demirolls. Slab capitals. Remains of chancel arch also, on south side of building with restored inscription which commemorates a certain Magnus of Danish royal stock who chose to become an Anchorite at this place. Interior: Galleries on simple columns on three sides and short apsed chancel. Tie-beam wagon roof. Painting: Christ and the Children, Venetian, circa 1600.

2.2 Lewes is an Anglo Saxon burh founded as part of the system of 31 fortresses built by King Alfred (871-99) and the site lies some 140m beyond the northern boundary of the burh based on current research. The present church and associated churchyard occupy a promontory overlooking the floodplain of the River Ouse with land to the north and west of the churchyard dropping away steeply. The present church was built in 1839, replacing an Anglo-Saxon foundation that was probably of minster status and may therefore have had a much more extensive precinct than the present churchyard, perhaps measuring a more typical 200m x 300m. It is possible that the Anglo-Saxon church was a pre-burh foundation. Documentary sources indicate that the churchyard probably initially served a large parochia and, more certainly, in the medieval period was the burial place for several Lewes parishes so one might anticipate very densely packed inhumations dating from at least the 9th century.**2.3** 18th and 19th century cartographic sources depict the earlier church sitting further north within the churchyard (Figures 4 to 6). However, the accuracy of these early sources do not conform to modern OS mapping and all three show the earlier church at slightly different location with respect to the churchyard boundary. It is therefore difficult to locate the earlier church with a high level of confidence from these sources although it is suggested that the 1799 William Figg map is most accurate (Figure 5).**2.4** Two mounds, possibly representing Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon, or earlier, barrows were located within the churchyard. One was destroyed by the building of present church in 1839 and found to contain secondary inhumations, cremated human bone, boar and other animal bones, and an urn and spearhead. The second mound was in the south-east corner of the churchyard, and was destroyed in 1779 with no record of any finds. Several Roman coins were also found in the churchyard in the 19th century. Despite the lack of overt evidence the site is still sometimes referred to as the location

of a Roman fort, a theory that has been largely discounted by historians and archaeologist alike.

- 2.4 Archaeological fieldwork from the 1970s has established the former existence of a substantial ditch roughly on line with the northern edge of Lancaster Street which has been dated to the 12th century and may relate to civil war defences. The medieval town wall is believed to have existed along the northern and western boundaries of the churchyard, although the topography at these locations possibly negated the need for an associated ditch. The area to the south of Lancaster Street was a focus for residential and industrial activity, principally in the 13th century and was abandoned by the 14th century and ultimately reverted to agricultural land. Urban expansion led to the redevelopment of this area from the early 19th century.
- 2.5 A previous watching brief was carried out in conjunction with the excavation of a service trench in front of the south end of the church, in addition to an excavated area within the south-west corner of the church, which involved the careful removal of part of the existing floor structure to allow for connecting the proposed facilities. These works were in preparation for new toilet and upgraded kitchen facilities. These monitored excavations revealed only subsoil and made ground deposits; the surface of the natural geological substrate was not achieved and no archaeological deposits were encountered (ASE 2009).

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The aim GPR survey is to identify a route through the graveyard which would allow the proposed drainage works to proceed with minimal impact on archaeological features, in particular human burials. In addition the GPR Survey will seek to identify the foundations of the original Saxon minster church of St John Sub Castro. The results of the survey will be presented in a report.
- 3.2 The aim of the archaeological watching brief is to record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that are impacted by the drainage works. The findings from the watching brief will be reported on in accordance with this document (see Sections 6 & 7 below).
- 3.3 Despite the small-scale nature of this project the following research questions, as defined in the Lewes EUS (Harris 2005), should be considered relevant:

RQ2: What was the location, form and construction detail (e.g. sculpture) of the Anglo-Saxon church(es)?

RQ3: Was there an identifiable minster precinct at St John-sub-Castro (or elsewhere), what was its nature, and how and when was it secularized and reduced to the present churchyard?

RQ4: What evidence is there for the location of the defences of the Alfredian burh?

RQ5: What evidence is there for Anglo-Saxon secular settlement (and its economy), both within and without the burh?

4.0 GPR SURVEY METHODOLOGY

4.1 The DAA Archaeologist will be provided with sufficient notice of the commencement of the GPR survey. The ESCC Archaeologist will also be informed as a courtesy.

4.2 Arrow Heritage proposes the following :

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) data will be collected using a cart-mounted MALÅ GeoScience RAMAC/GPR system consisting principally of a 500 MHz/250 MHz shielded antenna, CUII control unit and XV11 monitor. The GPR data will be collected across a regular survey grid at a station spacing of two centimetres and a profile spacing of 0.5 metre. All collected data will be processed and interpreted using various in-house programs and Geosoft Target.

4.3 The extent of the survey is indicated on Figures 3 to 6 and will be agreed on site with the architect and client. The survey grid will be tied in to an Ordnance Survey base plan to facilitate the relocation of any interpreted survey features.

4.4 The above survey parameters accord with the guidance supplied by English Heritage in "*Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*" (2008 Edition).

4.5 Whilst a survey is in progress, all data collected during the survey session is checked thoroughly before the field team is given permission to start again the next morning. Any quirks in the data are investigated and, if thought necessary, the affected section(s) will be resurveyed.

4.6 Ground penetrating radar surveys can be carried out across areas approximately accessible to a domestic lawnmower. Broken or obstacle-strewn ground and areas of steep topography will not be surveyed. Surface obstructions should be removed from the survey area wherever feasible.

4.7 Under reasonable site conditions, ground penetrating radar information can be obtained to approximately two metres below ground surface. The presence of conductive geology significantly reduces effective signal penetration. Close-spaced steel reinforcement and/or suspended flooring can render the technique completely ineffective.

4.8 For a 500 MHz centre frequency antenna operating on average surface soil, horizontal target resolution is approximately 40 centimetres at a depth of two metres below surface.

5.0 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

5.1 The DAA Archaeologist will be provided sufficient notice of the commencement of the watching brief. The ESCC Archaeologist will also be informed as a courtesy.

5.2 The anticipated extent of ground works is indicated on Figure 2. Any variation to this will be communicated to the DAA and updated plans provided to all parties by the architect. Any intrusive ground works associated with the excavation of the drains and soakaways will be monitored by an archaeologist unless otherwise agreed in writing with the DAA. **Any machine (tracked 360**

excavator or similar) used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil will be fitted with a toothless bucket of appropriate width whenever practicable. All hand and mechanical excavation and plant movement carried out by the ground work contractor must be undertaken with due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains.

- 5.3 Where new excavations reveal archaeological remains, an opportunity will be made for careful hand excavation and the collection of samples by the archaeologist in attendance taking site health and safety into account. Adequate time will be made available for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works in order to extract archaeological and environmental information, should this prove necessary. The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, animal bone and obviously pre-Christian human burials) will be developed with reference to Environmental sampling will be undertaken in accordance with the Sussex Standards (2015). Environmental sampling of Christian burials associated with the use of the site as a burial ground will not be undertaken.
- 5.4 The spoil from the excavations will also be inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and routinely scanned with a metal detector.
- 5.5 The DAA will be kept informed of progress and findings so that he may monitor the archaeological work and advise of any areas within the site where further archaeological monitoring may be curtailed as development progresses.
- 5.6 All archaeological features will be recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features will be planned at 1:20 and section drawings will be at 1:10. Drawings will be on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits will be described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains will be levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record will be made in both monochrome and colour transparency.
- 5.7 Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology (HE 2011) and waterlogged wood (HE 2010) and in consultation with the Historic England regional advisor or relevant specialists. Samples will be collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features, sealed hearths, sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, water-logged or cess deposits.
- 5.8 Bulk soil samples (of 40 litres where possible or 100% of the context if smaller) will be taken to target the recovery of plant remains (including wood charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. Specialist samples may also be taken to target recovery of pollen (using monolith tins), fish and small bone, molluscs, foraminifera, parasites and insects (in small <20 litre samples) or large mammal bones and marine molluscs (in large samples of ~80-100 litres). When taken, large samples will be extracted wholesale from deposits to maximise the range of bone recovered. As a general rule waterlogged wood

specimens will be photographed and recorded in detail in their original location prior to being lifted or sampled for more detailed assessment. Other scientific dating and geoarchaeological techniques will be considered and employed where appropriate. In all instances deposits with clear intrusive material shall be avoided.

6.0 Treatment of Human Remains

- 6.1 Should visible grave cuts be encountered, the main contractor's excavations will cease and hand excavation will be undertaken by the archaeologist in order to expose the human remains and/or clarify their condition. Where an inhumation is exposed it will be hand cleaned to a basic level with small hand tools, photographed, levelled, surveyed, given a unique context number and brief description but more detailed recording and planning of the burials will not be undertaken. Each identifiable individual burial (and associated coffin furniture) will be placed in a separate bag (numbered by context) but body parts will not be bagged separately. Unusual or interesting features (e.g. grave goods, coffin plates etc.) will be recorded in greater detail as appropriate. As a general principal, articulated skeletons must be preserved in situ and where this is not achievable then the affected portion of skeleton should be appropriately recorded, lifted and placed in the custody of the church for reinterment in an appropriate location to be agreed with the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor. The practicality of lifting burials which extend beyond the limits of excavations will be considered on a case by case basis in consultation with the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor with reference to the English Heritage and Church of England Guidelines (2005, Annexe 5) as appropriate. Consideration will be given to the concentration of burials so as to avoid the situation whereby full exhumation of a single individual leads to disturbance of another, then another etc. Inhumations clearly associated with grave markers will be recorded as such and re-interred below the associated relocated grave marker.
- 6.3 Due to documentary evidence suggesting the presence of pre-Christian burials within the site consideration will be given to treating such remains as being of greater archaeological significance which may warrant more detailed recording and removal from the site for further study, which may include the application of scientific dating techniques (e.g. radiocarbon). Should suspected pre-Christian burials be encountered (e.g. not conforming to standard east-west alignment, crouched or urned burials, burials containing grave goods, etc) the DAA and ESCC Archaeologist will be contacted at the earliest opportunity. Until a decision has been reached such burials will be covered with suitable protective sheeting and left in-situ.
- 6.4 Disarticulated human bone will be collected and bagged separately before being passed to the church for reinterment. Any other specific requirements of the Faculty for the work will be observed. No detailed analysis of the Christian human remains or associated coffin furniture will be carried out.
- 6.5 If burial vaults are encountered by the ground works, a period of consultation would be required between the client, architect, DAA and ASE to discuss design solutions that would allow for them to be left in-situ. Should such a strategy not be possible a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy will need to be adopted that would cover breaching the tomb and dealing with the human remains contained therein. No provision for dealing with (i.e.

moving/removing) lead coffins (or any remains where tissue is present, including animal hair) is included within this document as specialist contractors would need to be commissioned should such a circumstance arise.

- 6.6 A burials licence will not be required as the work is being carried out under Faculty within the churchyard which falls under Church of England jurisdiction.

7.0 Treasure Trove

- 7.1 Any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 (amended 2003), shall be reported to the Finds Liaison Officer (based at Barbican House Museum, Lewes). Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the Coroner, the landowner and ESCC and Diocesan Archaeologists will also be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the County Archaeologist of the date and circumstances of discovery, the identity of the finder, and the exact location of the find(s) (OS map reference to within 1 metre, and find spot(s) marked onto the site plan).

8.0 Treatment of other Artefacts and Ecofacts.

- 8.1 Pottery, worked flint, metal and other finds of archaeological significance will be retained and treated according to standard Archaeology South-East procedures. Identification of retained finds will be undertaken by staff of, and specialists contracted by, Archaeology South East as necessary.
- 8.2 Bulk samples will be processed using tank flotation unless considered detrimental to the samples or recovery rate (such as for waterlogged samples). Waterlogged samples will be wet sieved through nested sieves and stored in wet, cool conditions or dried if considered an appropriate form of conservation for the remains. Flots and wet samples may be subsampled for assessment purposes. If waterlogged wood specimens are removed from site they will be cleaned, recorded, photographed and a thin section sample will be taken for identification (unless considered detrimental to the artefact preservation or status). These specimens will be stored submerged in water in cool conditions and assessment will establish whether appropriate for conservation. Specialist samples as well as sub-samples of bulk soil samples (taken to recover pollen, parasites, fish and small bone, foraminifera and insects for example) will be sent to appropriate specialists for assessment and analysis.

9.0 Reporting and Archive

- 9.1 In general, the report will present the results of the watching brief and will as a minimum standard contain sufficient detail to serve both future research and inform future planning decisions.
- 9.2 The watching brief reporting is to include as a minimum:
- 9.3 An **Abstract** summarising the scope and results of the archaeological watching brief.

- 9.3.1 An **Introduction** including:
- the location of the site including National Grid Reference;
 - an account of the background and circumstances of the work;
 - a description of the development proposals, planning history and planning reference together with the planning condition (where appropriate);
 - the scope and date of the fieldwork, the personnel involved and who commissioned it;
 - the nature of potential impacts arising from the proposals;
- 9.3.2 An account of the **Archaeological Background** of the development site including:
- geology, soils and topography;
 - any known existing disturbances on the site;
 - archaeological and historical background of the site.
 - summary of any previous phases of archaeological investigation at the development site;
 - any constraints on the archaeological monitoring.
- 9.3.3 The **Methodology** employed during the watching brief will be detailed in the report. Any **aims** and **objectives** will be included as will any further objectives identified during the course of the watching brief. The frequency of monitoring visits, ground works observed and any constraints experienced while carrying out the monitoring will be detailed.
- 9.3.4 The report will include a quantification of the archive contents, their state and future location.
- 9.3.5 A description of the **Results** of the archaeological monitoring. This description will include for each area observed:
- the dimensions of the area observed;
 - the nature and depth of overburden soils encountered;
 - description of all archaeological features and finds encountered in each area observed, their dimensions, states of preservation and interpretation;
 - a description of the geological subsoil encountered across the site;
 - heights related to Ordnance Datum (where practicable) will be provided for each feature and deposit.
 - for complex remains a Harris Matrix diagram will be provided.
- 9.3.6 The **Finds** recovered during the course of the watching brief will be described, quantified and assessed by artefact type within the report. The report will also provide an indication of the potential of each category of artefact for further analysis and research. For each category of artefact the report will describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling, conservation and assessment undertaken. Where appropriate, local reference collections will be referred to for descriptive and analytical consistency. Any implications for future archive, conservation or discard of the artefacts will also be detailed.
- 9.3.7 The report will include a table showing the contexts, classes and quantity of artefacts recovered, together with their date and interpretation.

- 9.3.8 The report will include an assessment of the **Environmental** potential of the site. Details will be provided of any environmental sampling undertaken in connection with the fieldwork and the results of any processing and assessment of the samples. The report will describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling and assessment. Any potential for future analysis of the samples or environmental remains recovered from the fieldwork will be described. Implications for future archive, conservation or discard of environmental samples or remains will be detailed.
- 9.3.9 The report will include, as appropriate, tables summarising environmental samples taken, together with the results of processing and assessment.
- 9.3.10 Any results from the watching brief involving the application of archaeological scientific techniques e.g. specialist dating will be included in the watching brief report.
- 9.3.11 An **Interpretation** and **Discussion** of the archaeology of the site, including its location, extent, date, condition, significance and importance. This will include, even if no archaeology is identified as present on the site, description of areas of disturbance, non-archaeological deposits and changes in geological subsoil where appropriate.
- 9.3.12 A **Conclusion** with a summary of the archaeological results and how any archaeology observed relates to the development site. The effects of the development works on the archaeological remains will also be described. The report will highlight any areas of significant archaeological deposits that remain preserved within the development site. Particular note shall be made of any variations in the depth of overburden covering any archaeological deposits revealed.
- 9.3.13 The report will include comments on the effectiveness of the methodology employed and the confidence of the results and interpretation.
- 9.3.14 Figures / illustrations – The report shall include sufficient illustrations to support descriptions and interpretations within the report text. Figures will be fully cross-referenced within the document text. As a minimum the report shall include the following figures:
- a site location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey at 1:1250 or in the case of larger sites at 1:2500. The plan will also include at least two National Grid points and show the site boundary;
 - a plan at 1:100 or 1:200 showing the layout of the development groundworks clearly indicating the areas observed. The plan will show significant archaeological features, coloured by phases or period as related to the development site. Where possible, projection of archaeological features outside of the areas observed shall be included on the plan. This plan will also include two National grid points;
 - plans of the features revealed in each of the excavation areas at a larger scale e.g. 1:20 or 1:50; such plans will also illustrate areas of disturbance, change in subsoil and location of sections; The location of significant finds and samples taken will also be indicated;
 - relevant section drawings and soil trench profiles as appropriate;

- illustrations and/or photographs of significant finds shall be included where appropriate.
- 9.3.15 All report illustrations will be fully captioned and scale drawings will include a bar scale. Standard archaeological drawing conventions shall be used. Plan and section illustrations will include the numbers of all contexts illustrated. North will be included on all plans and shall be consistent. Sections will indicate the orientation of the section and the Ordnance Datum height of the section datum.
- 9.3.16 Black & White or Colour photographs shall be included where appropriate to illustrate the archaeology of the site, the development operations or the range of soil profiles encountered. All photographs shall be appropriately captioned.
- 9.4 Following internal review by the client and architect a draft report will be submitted to the Diocesan Archaeologist for approval. Once any necessary changes have been made, the approved final report will be submitted to the client, architect and Diocesan Archaeologist. A report will be published in the Sussex Archaeological Collections or similar journal if the results are considered sufficiently significant. Details for publication in a journal will be agreed with the client, architect, Diocesan Archaeologists and ESCC archaeologist as appropriate.
- 9.5 A further bound and digital copy of the report in .pdfA format (including plans, illustrations and photographs) will be supplied to the East Sussex Historic Environment Record, The Keep, Falmer on CD-ROM.
- 9.6 The written and drawn archive will be offered to Barbican House Museum, Lewes although they are currently not accepting archives at the time of writing. Artefacts and ecofacts recovered during excavation form an important part of an archaeological site archive. Permission will be sought from the landowner to donate the finds from this project to Barbican House Museum, or other suitable repository for deposition with the rest of the archive. The archive will be prepared according the principles of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2006) and the requirements of the recipient museum. In the interim the entire archive will be stored at ASE's offices and/or storage facility.
- 9.7 Upon completion of the fieldwork an OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed for the project. A print-out of the form will be included as an appendix to the final report.

10.0 Health and Safety

- 10.1 A risk assessment will be prepared before the commencement of fieldwork. All relevant legislation will be followed.

11.0 Insurance

- 11.1 Archaeology South-East is insured against claims for: employer's liability to the value of £50,000,000 each and every loss, any one occurrence; primary public/products liability to the value of £50,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate for products liability, with an extension for no-fault

compensation up to £15,000,000 in the aggregate; professional indemnity to the value of £15,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate.

12.0 Project Management

12.1 This project will be managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

13.0 References

ASE 2009. *A Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief at St. John Sub Castro Church, Lewes, East Sussex*. Unpublished report No. 2009162. Project 3812.

BGS (British Geological Surveys) accessed 11/04/2016
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

ClfA 2014a. *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. University of Reading

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English Heritage 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation 2nd Edition* Swindon: English Heritage

Harris, R., 2005. *Lewes: Historic Character Assessment Report*. English Heritage.

Historic England 2006: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

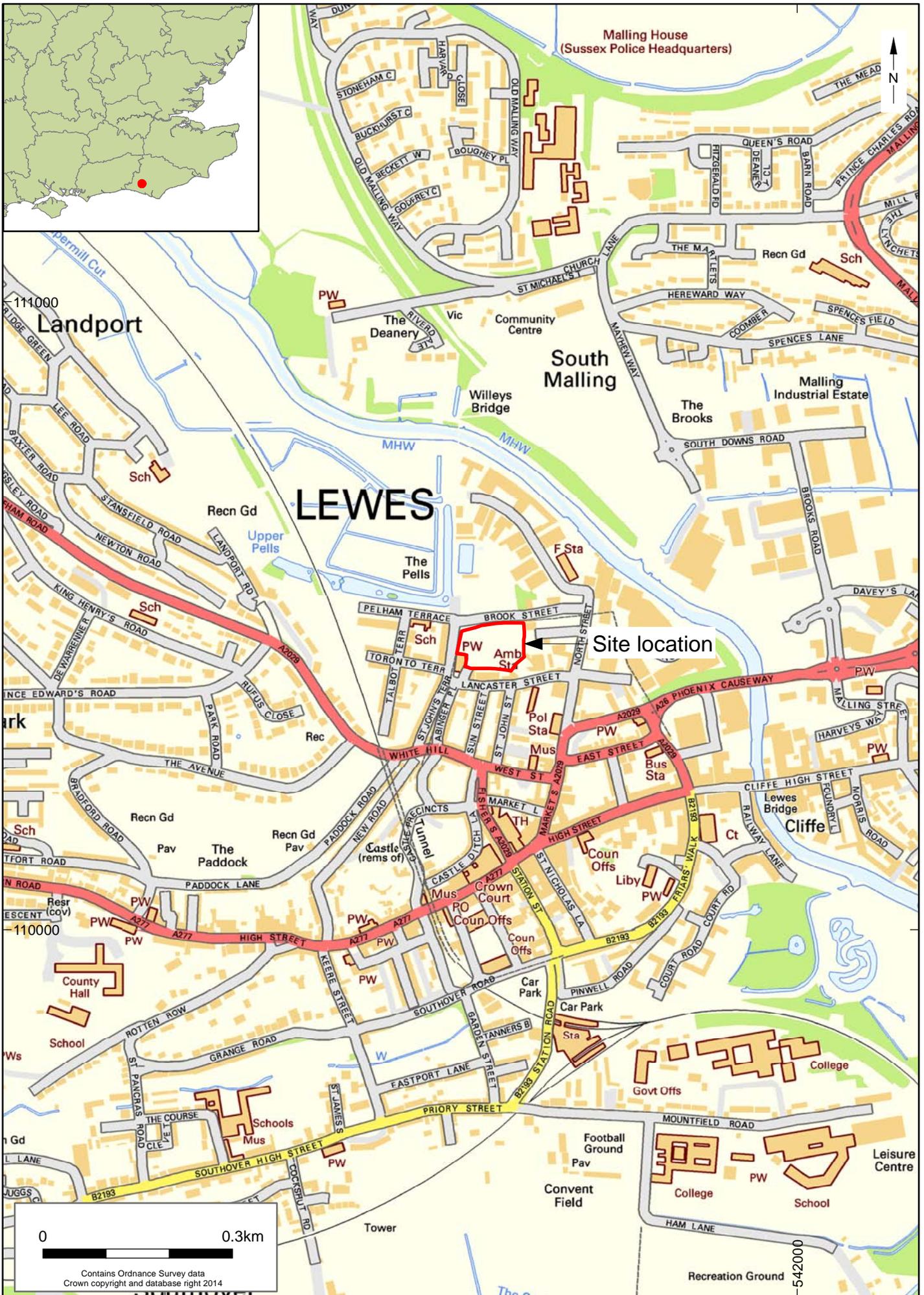
Historic England 2010: *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood*. Historic England

Historic England 2011: *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (second ed.)*. Historic England

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1043886> (accessed 13/04/2016)

WSCC, ESCC & CDC, 2015. *Sussex Archaeological Standards*

**Archaeology South-East
April 2016**



© Archaeology South-East		St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7941	April 2016	Site Location	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: JC		



Graves - Note that there are many graves north of the church. Locations indicative.

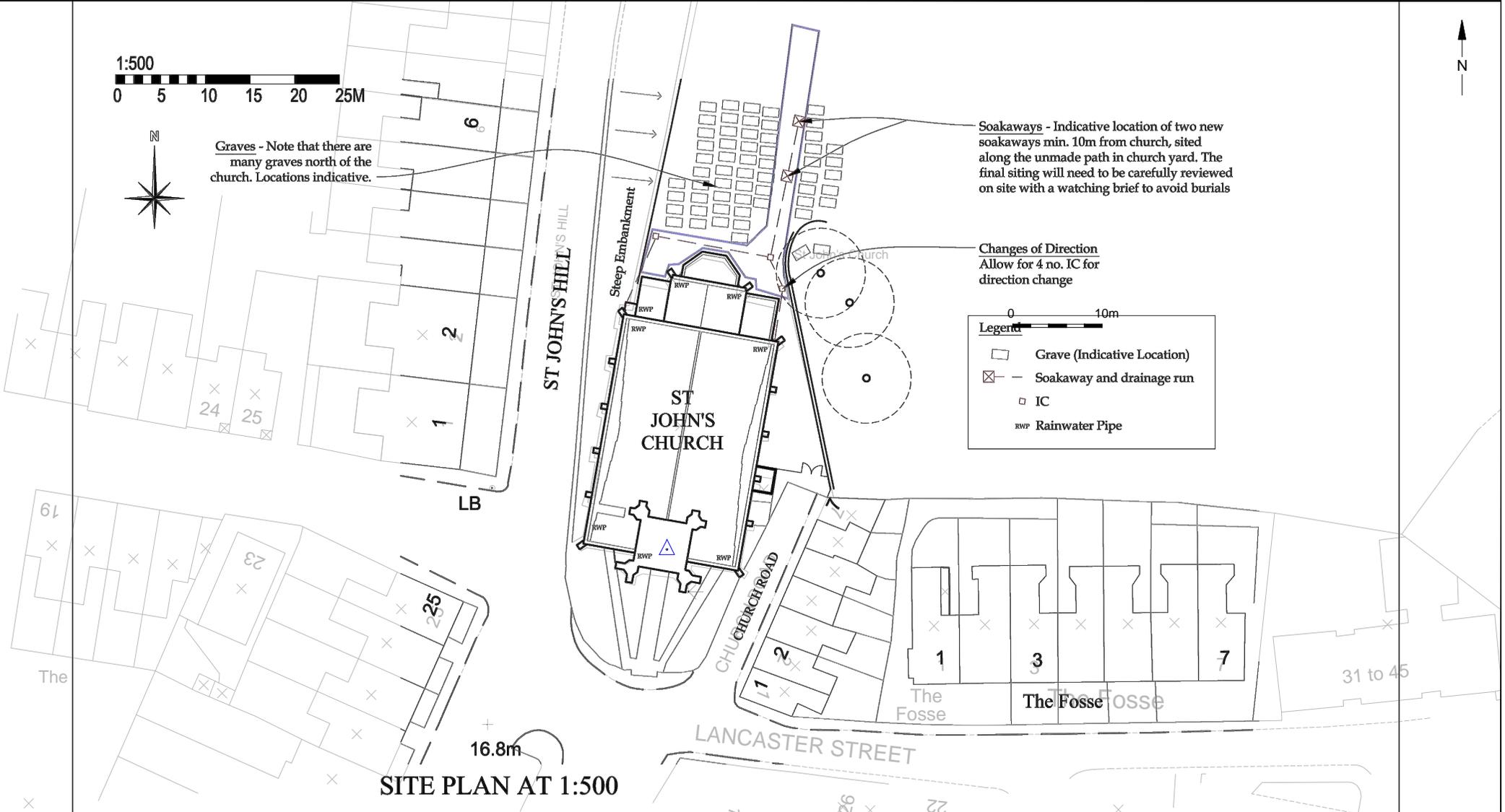
Soakways - Indicative location of two new soakways min. 10m from church, sited along the unmade path in church yard. The final siting will need to be carefully reviewed on site with a watching brief to avoid burials

Changes of Direction
Allow for 4 no. IC for direction change

0 10m

Legend

- Grave (Indicative Location)
- Soakway and drainage run
- IC
- Rainwater Pipe



SITE PLAN AT 1:500

CARDEN & GODFREY
Architects

Carden & Godfrey Limited
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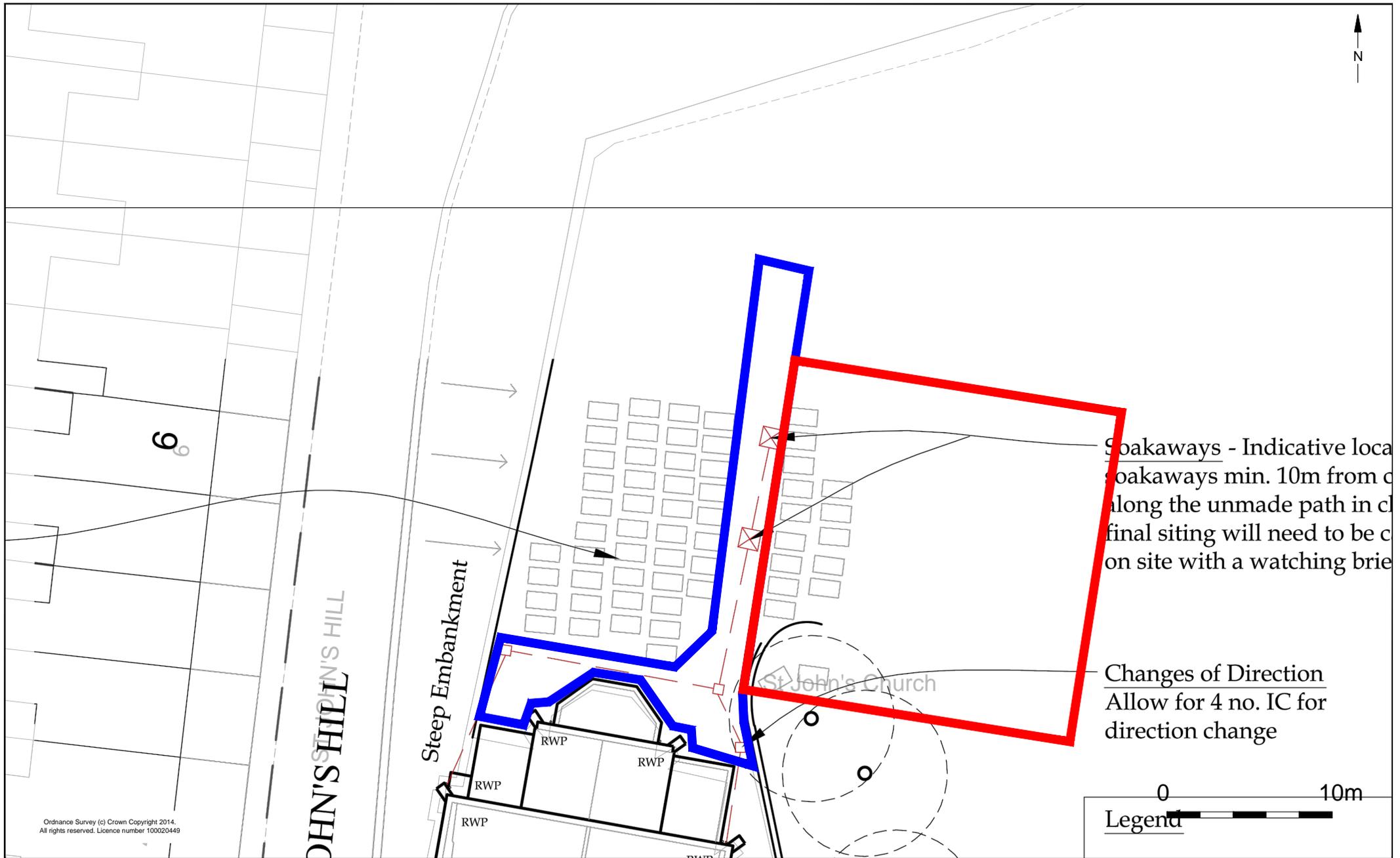
ST JOHNS SUB CASTRO, LEWES
Site Plan

Scale: 1:500 Date: Feb '14 Drawn: BJ No: 7015/00 Rev: -

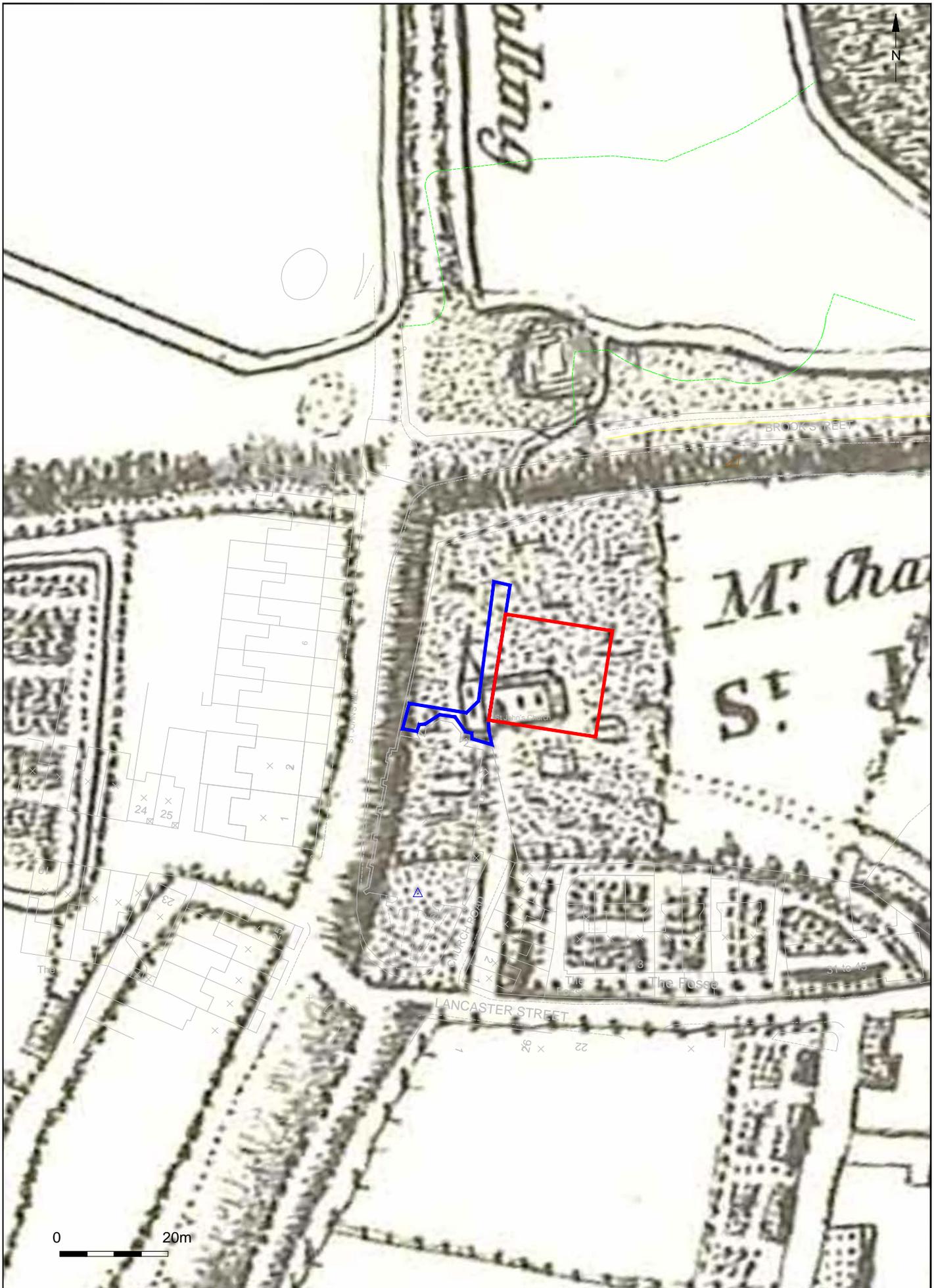
PCC OF THE CHURCH ST JOHNS, SUB CASTRO
HLF FUNDED ROOF AND MASONRY REPAIRS

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© Archaeology South-East		St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7941	April 2016	Plan of proposed drainage	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: JC		



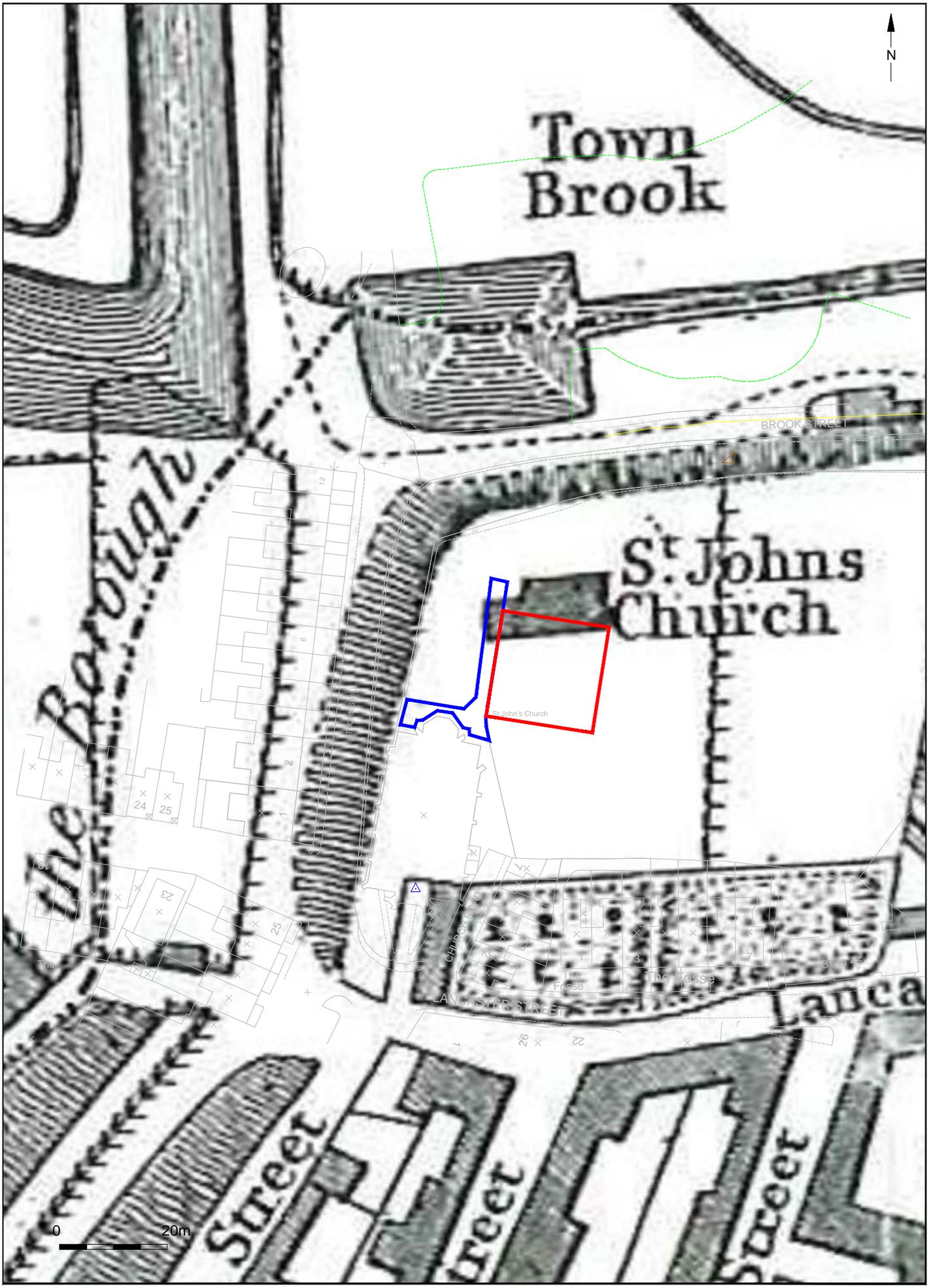
© Archaeology South-East		St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7941	April 2016	Approximate extent of GPR survey	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 7941	April 2016	Approximate extent of GPR survey over James Edwards map 1799	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 7941	April 2016	Approximate extent of GPR survey over William Figg map 1799	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		St John Sub Castro Church, Lewes	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 7941	April 2016	Approximate extent of GPR survey over William Figg map 1824	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: JC		

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