Investigation of the effect of rabbit burrowing at the site of Swavesey Priory Swavesey Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Investigation

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Investigation of the effect of rabbit burrowing at the site of Swavesey Priory, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Investigation

By Rachel Clarke BA MIfA

With contributions by Rob Atkins BSocSci MIfA, Nina Crummy BA FSA, Chris Faine MA AIfA, Carole Fletcher BA AIfA and Anthony Haskins BSc PIfA

Editor: Stephen Macaulay BA MPhil, MIfA

Illustrator: Stuart Ladd BA MA PIfA and Gillian Greer BA MIfA

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Prepared by:	Rachel Clarke
Position:	Project Officer
Date:	28/02/13

Checked by:	Stephen Macaulay
Position:	Senior Project Manager
Date:	7/3/13
Signed:	.....

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

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Summary

In July 2012 OAE undertook a small open area excavation, on behalf of and funded by Cambridgeshire County Council and English Heritage, on the earthwork remains of Swavesey Priory (SM 38; TL36262 69429). The scheme was designed to determine the extent of disturbance caused by rabbit burrows to a building platform within the scheduled monument, record the archaeology in the affected area and reinstate it for use as grazing pasture for horses.

Little is known about Swavesey Priory, which was a small monastic house founded soon after the Conquest by Count Alan of Brittany and given to the Benedictine Abbey of Saints Sergius and Bacchus at Angers in France. In the 14th century its ownership passed to the Carthusian Priory at Coventry, after which it seems to have largely been reduced to the status of a rectory and manor until the Dissolution.

Machine excavation followed by limited hand excavation revealed an area of possible medieval floor/hearth and probable pits (not excavated), truncated by ditches and pits of late medieval date. Probable post-Dissolution evidence was represented by ditches and dumped deposits; later features include a brick drain of 18th century date. Rabbit burrowing was evident across much of the excavated area, although was most notable where the sandy natural was exposed and/or on the edges of features. Some 'historic' burrows had filled up naturally while voids and tunnels elsewhere were investigated and then infilled prior to backfilling.

Numerous finds including roof tile, pottery and animal bone were recovered during the excavation, in addition to many metal and stone 'small finds', several of which may have originated from the priory kitchen. The latter includes pieces from three stone mortars (mixing bowls), parts of a large copper-alloy bowl that had been patched and repaired, fragments of quernstone and a broken honestone. An iron key, probably from a cupboard rather than a door, in addition to part of a silver 'fede' ring with a clasped hand motif are other finds of note. The pottery assemblage provides evidence for shifting trade patterns from the medieval to late medieval periods and a possible change from more domestic/culinary activities to processes associated with dairying.

Despite the limited nature of the archaeological investigation, the work has demonstrated that, while the rabbit disturbance was extensive, the area was not as eroded or unstable as had been feared. As well as enabling the field to be returned to grazing that will aid the long term preservation of the site, this project has shown that well-stratified deposits and associated finds assemblages survive within this part of the scheduled area.

An open day held during the course of the excavation attracted a lot of interest from local people, with around 150 people attending tours. The site presents a good candidate for future non-intrusive and/or community work, particularly detailed earthwork survey, which may help to define which areas of the monument have been affected by quarrying and other later intrusive activities.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological investigation was conducted at the site of Swavesey Priory in July 2012, a scheduled monument (SM No.38) comprising a complex of earthworks in a pasture field adjacent to St Andrews church at the northern end of the village (TL 36262 69429; Fig. 1; Plate 3).

1.1.2 This archaeological work was commissioned under the Cambridgeshire Monument Management Scheme by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and English Heritage (EH) and was undertaken in accordance a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2012).

1.1.3 The project arose due to the need to assess an area of the Scheduled Monument which was heavily affected by rabbit burrows, making this area unsafe for animal (horse) grazing and to determine the impact these burrows have had on the buried archaeology. The investigation was designed to assess the extent of this damage and record the archaeology in the most badly-affected area, a possible building platform, which appeared in plan to measure approximately 10m x 10m. Once this was completed to the satisfaction of CCC and EH, the area was then in-filled with the intention of making it safe for horses, as grazing of the field forms part of the conservation management plan to protect the earthworks within the field.

1.1.4 This work was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).

1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course, although some of the artefacts may form part of a display within the parish church of St Andrews, which lies adjacent to the site.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The parish of Swavesey lies in the southwestern hinterland of the fens, *c.*16km to the north-west of Cambridge. The two-mile long village developed on two 'islands' of terrace gravels which cap a peninsula of Ampthill clay (BGS 1975, sheet 187). These 'uplands' extend into the fen where the Great Ouse valley joins the fen basin. Extensive alluvial deposits exist on either side of the peninsular and define the former extent of the fen prior to drainage. On the eastern side the fen would have formed a wide basin between the villages of Swavesey and Over to the north-east, which occupies a similar topographical position. This basin narrows from *c.*900m wide to around 100m where the current Swavesey/Over road runs past the church, manor and the priory.

1.2.2 Swavesey Priory (and the current site) is located on the more northerly (and smaller) of the two islands in an area that would have been a prime fen-edge location for occupation from prehistoric times onwards. A number of major water management features and drains around the village and priory are testament to the effects of

flooding in this area. In the medieval period, Swavesey was an inland port served by a dock with a canal that linked to the river Great Ouse to the north.

1.2.3 The site lies at *c*.6.6m OD and is currently a pasture field, adjacent and to the north of the parish church of St Andrews; the site of the manor is located to the south-east on the other side of Station Road. Within the field there are many upstanding earthworks, which are the remains of the medieval Benedictine Priory and associated features. To the north the site is now bounded by the Guided Busway, while to the east the boundary is formed by Station Road and to the south and west by the parish church and former vicarage (Fig. 1).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background (Figs 1, 3 and 4)

Note: This background section is a summary based on a number of published and unpublished sources, notably the Victoria County History (VCH; Salzman (ed) 1948; Wright and Lewis (eds) 1989), *Swavesey Priory (The Remains)* by M. Bousfield, the draft *Historic Towns of Cambridgeshire Extensive Urban Survey* (CCC 2001) and the Cambridgeshire Heritage Environment Record (CHER). More detailed accounts of the village, priory and manorial development can be found in these documents.

1.3.1 Despite its Anglo-Saxon name, derived from the prefix Swaef (a personal name which occurs again in Swaffham) and the suffix meaning 'landing-place' (Reaney 1943, 172), the first documented reference to Swavesey occurs in the Domesday Book.

1.3.2 At the Norman Conquest it appears that much of Swavesey was held by Edeva the Fair, then passing to Count Alan of Brittany:

> *In Papworth Hundred, the Count holds Swavesey himself. 13 hides. Land for 4 ploughs. In lordship 6 hides; 3 ploughs there; a fourth possible.*
> *10 villagers with 19 smallholders and 8 Freemen hold 3 hides of this land. Together they have 10 ploughs.*
> *17 cottagers; 2 slaves*
> *1 mill at 40s; from fisheries 4,000 eels less 250;*
> *meadow for 14 ploughs; pasture for the village livestock.*
> *Total value £16; when acquired £8; before 1066 £18.*

1.3.3 In addition to this central manor, two smaller holdings were recorded that were formerly the lands of Robert Gernon and a thane named Ulf; afterwards passing to Picot the Sheriff and Gilbert of Gand.

1.3.4 As well as being a port town, Swavesey was an administrative centre for a large estate; a weekly market was granted to the lord, Alan de la Zouche, and his heirs in 1244, which was extended to include an annual fair in 1261. It was probably at this time that the town defences and streets were laid out. A complex system of docks and a wharf stretching from Swan Pond into the middle of the village at Market Street (Town Pond/dock) was also constructed, with a canal connecting the port to the Great Ouse, which in the medieval period was a major transportation route. Although no borough charter is known to have been granted to Swavesey, burgesses are mentioned in the Hundred Rolls of 1278-9. Swavesey Castle is thought to have been built in the late 11th or early 12th century, although there are no documentary references before 1476; its

site (now represented by earthworks; CHER 1772) appears to have subsequently been incorporated into the town defences.

1.3.5 There have been a number of archaeological investigations within and around the medieval village, notably at Black Horse Lane (MCB11949; Spoerry 1996 *etc*) where a considerable density of archaeological features, including settlement remains dating to the Late Iron Age, Late Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval periods, was revealed.

1.3.6 The priory (CHER 3488), which some believe may have replaced a Saxon minster as a church was in existence on the site in 996, was founded by Alan of Brittany who gave the church at Swavesey, along with other holdings, to the Benedictine Abbey of Saints Sergius and Bacchus at Angers in France. Buildings for the priory appear to have been constructed between 1080-1086. Further documentary references to the priory, which was never a large establishment housing just four or five brothers (although see below), include grants, suits and acquisitions during the 12th and early 13th centuries. However, after 1259, when the king of England abandoned claim to sovereignty of Anjou following the Treaty of Paris, there is no evidence that a priory was ever maintained, instead just a single vicar, usually styled ‘prior’, appears to have been in residence.

1.3.7 It has been suggested (Palmer and Parsons 1903, 29-31) that it is 'by no means certain that there ever was a priory at Swavesey in the same sense as there was one at Ely', especially given the lack of specific documentary evidence. These authors suggest that it is more probable that the French mother abbey instituted a monk as Rector at Swavesey to administer the estate, and that there never was a community of monks living under the rule of a Prior here, but rather it was more a 'cell' to the French abbey.

1.3.8 The Priory estate is listed in 1279 and in a rental of 1467 but neither source throws any light on the site. The house, along with other alien priories, was briefly seized in the 1350s and again in 1369, when a survey was made that showed how poor the priory was at that time. In 1393 Richard II licensed the abbot of SS Sergius and Bacchus to alienate the manors of Swavesey and Dry Drayton and the advowson of the church of Swavesey to the Carthusian Priory, recently founded in Coventry. The incumbent prior of Swavesey, John Thorndon, released his rights in the priory estates to St Anne's in return for a pension of £10. By 1411 the priory or church of Swavesey was finally appropriated, with the rest of its possessions, by the Carthusians at Coventry who ran the estate as a manor until the Dissolution. In 1539 the king granted the Swavesey and Drayton estates to the Bishop of Ely in exchange for the manor of Hatfield in Hertfordshire (Palmer and Parsons 1903, 31).

1.3.9 By 1200, the northern island of Swavesey, where the priory, church and manor were located, was known as 'The Eye'. Although the origin of this name is unclear, it may also derive from the word meaning 'landing-place' (see 1.3.1. above). In later centuries this area, which includes the manor to the east of Station Road, is shown as Church End on 19th century maps. The church of St Andrews (CHER 3419) lies to the south of the priory earthworks (Figs 1 and 3), in what may have been a central location within the moated enclosure/precinct. It is considered to have Saxon origins, with a Saxon nave and chancel visible in the south wall, thought to date to *c.*1000AD. The church is built of field stones, ironstone conglomerate and coarse limestone rubble with ashlar dressings. The nave was rebuilt in 1200 and the church was repeatedly enlarged during the 13th century.

1.3.10 Little is known of the fate of the priory after the Dissolution. A building on the north side of the church is shown on the 1836 OS 1" map (Fig. 3), adjacent to which is the legend 'ruins'. This building may have been the Priory house, mentioned in 1401 when a complaint of theft was lodged by the Carthusians of Coventry. The VCH (1989, 384) indicates that in the 18th century a rectory may have stood to the north of the church and that in about 1800 there was still a fragment of a Gothic building surviving on the north side of the church. No buildings were present in this location in 1838. More recent research by Bousfield (1993), however, suggests that the rectory may actually have been a building seen on the 1838 Enclosure maps, immediately adjacent to the intersection of the main road and the navigation channel to the south of the church. The rectory was mentioned in 1648 as a dwelling house with barn and outhouses attached; this was bounded along one side by a flood bank which still exists today.

1.3.11 A local history private publication by J. Shepperson provides a transcript of conversations with local residents recorded by Charles Wood in the early part of the 20th century, relating their memories of Swavesey (many presumably from the 19th century) and includes a couple of points of interest for the current project. A tithe barn is recorded as once standing near to the church tower: a former church warden, Harry Wells, recalled that some of its foundations were revealed when a grave was being dug on that side of the church. A rickyard stood on the other side of the barn and timber from the 'old barn' was taken for use elsewhere by one of the well known 'village worthies' at that time, Robinson Mitham (Wood 2009, 8; 18).

1.3.12 All that remains now (besides the church) are a series of fairly well-preserved earthworks within Priory Field, forming a large channel or moat with a northern entranceway, surrounding a central platform within which there are a number of probable building platforms and associated banks. Other more denuded earthworks exist within the garden of the Priory House (a Victorian vicarage) along with the remains of a former dock and canalised watercourse (Church Brook) leading around the former priory site to the south and west, linking to the Ouse to the north. It is worthy of note that some of the earthworks in the Priory Field may be the result of quarrying, probably undertaken during the later part of the 19th century when the Swavesey-Over road (Station Road) was constructed/improved, and possibly during World War 2. A note provided to the author by J. Shepperson records gravel being dug out of the field next to the church in the 1920s or 30s, on the site of the vanished priory. At a depth of one foot the diggers came across a cobbled flooring, a foot below which was another floor, below which were what appeared to be cement tanks filled with ashes. A terracotta-coloured jug was found in amongst the ash; it is apparently now in one of the Cambridge museums.

1.3.13 As yet there has been no detailed survey or systematic analysis of the earthworks, (which are shown on the early editions of the Ordnance Survey and on the 1976 OS 1:2500 map), however a geophysical survey undertaken in 1999 apparently indicated the presence of at least one rectangular building on the site, although the results of this survey are unpublished. There have been very few archaeological investigations within the scheduled area or its environs, making the current project all the more significant. One of these was located close to the vicarage (Priory House) and the other in advance of the construction of the Guided Busway at the northern edge of the site. The Priory House evaluation (CB15286; Cooper and Kenney 2001) revealed a bank likely to have been associated with the priory, perhaps relating to a canal and a docking area, in

addition to undated and post-medieval features; a fragment of architectural stone was also recovered. Work associated with the construction of the Guided Busway route (CB15757) revealed the undated remains of what may have been a timber building to the north of the track; no archaeological features were identified to the south of the track.

1.3.14 Related records in the CHER include analysis of aerial photographs which identified possible enclosures, tracks, ponds and moats/ditches that may have been associated with the priory (CHERs 8897 and 9128), but are outside the scheduled area. An aerial photograph taken by the Air Ministry and reproduced in Bousfield's account of the priory apparently shows the remains of a 'circular base which supported an extern Calvary cross' to the immediate north of the church (CHER 3488; Bousfield 1993, 3). Photographs of two carved stone corbels or gargoyles thought to have come from the priory which are now in private gardens in the village are also present within the Cambridgeshire Collection; if these are from a priory building it must have had buildings of some substance.

1.3.15 Other finds possibly associated with the priory are also documented. A bone spindlewhorl was found in the churchyard (CHER 3421), while stones known to have been taken from the priory site were re-used when the church was restored in 1867. At the time of the 1840 enclosure award the Swavesey-Over Road was made permanent, utilising the causeway from the village to the south and a track to the north of the bridge. These works formally separated the manor to the east (CHER 1289) and the church to the west, and also encroached upon the churchyard. As a result of these works, three stone coffins were uncovered; the most complete of which dates to the early 13th century. Other reported finds include pottery, tile, stone and bone found in 1993; the former includes a tubular spouted jug, probably Stamford Ware (late 12th-early 13th century), sherds of Orange Sandy ware (mid 14th-16th century), and parts of a pancheon (medieval-post medieval) (CHER 3488).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The excavation was funded by Cambridgeshire County Council via a grant from English Heritage, provided as part of the management agreement with the site owners, Mr and Mrs Newsum. Thanks are due to the site owners for enabling access to the site and allowing use of an outbuilding for storage of equipment, and to Quinton Carroll (CCC) and David Kenny (EH) for their advice and input during the excavation. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and directed by Rachel Clarke (who also conducted the site survey) and Nick Gilmour, assisted by Nick Cox, Stuart Ladd and Jemima Woolverton. Particular thanks are due to Steve Critchley for undertaking the metal-detecting survey and Rob Atkins for coming out to rapidly record the CBM, and to Anne and John Jarzebek for processing the finds. Thanks are also due to John Shepperson for his local knowledge and historical insights and to the Revd Dr John-David Yule for allowing access to the church roof and tower to take photographs, and also to the staff of the Cambridgeshire Collection for their assistance.

1.4.2 Machining and backfilling was undertaken by Mark from Lattenbury Services. Various specialists warrant acknowledgement for their contributions, notably Nina Crummy (small finds), Chris Faine (animal bone), Carole Fletcher (pottery and glass) and Rob Atkins (CBM and stone tiles); thanks are also due to Pete Boardman for identifying the copper ore and Anthony Haskins for commenting on the struck flint.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this excavation was to determine the extent and nature of damage caused by rabbit burrowing to a possible building platform enclosed to the north and east by a moat ditch within the scheduled site of the priory. The rabbits had been exterminated *c*. 2 years prior to the investigation and a rabbit-proof fence had been erected around the perimeter of the scheduled area to prevent re-occupation.

2.1.2 In addition to assessing the extent of the damage and recording any buried archaeological remains affected, the project aimed to reinstate the area by infilling where practicable any obvious voids prior to backfilling and levelling of the area to make it safe for horses to graze the site.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Following a site meeting between CCC, EH and OA East, it was agreed that an area initially measuring *c*.10m^2 would be machine-excavated. This was to target the zone of most disturbance where numerous holes and depressions were visible and clumps of nettles and thistles had developed. The 10m^2 area would be extended as necessary to establish the extent of the main damage/burrowing.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a rubber-tracked 360º excavator using a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 2). Spoil was stored on a layer of terram to protect the underlying grass; terram was also laid in the base of the excavated features and/or burrows and was also used to cover the base of the trench prior to backfilling (Plate 11).

2.2.3 Once initial machining to remove the topsoil down to the upper archaeological horizon was completed over the 10m^2 area, and a slightly deeper area was machined along the western edge, a meeting was held on site with OA East, CCC and EH. This led to a strategy being agreed to:

a) enlarge the machined area by extending northwards towards the moat ditch by a further *c*.9m (Plates 3 and 4)
b) the targeting of heavily burrowed areas through a combination of hand-excavated test pits and the excavation of a machine-cut trench through the exposed deposits within the main 10m^2 area

2.2.4 A large quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) was present within the upper exposed deposits and it was decided that this would be recorded on site and then used as 'hardcore' to infill various voids and burrows that had been investigated by hand. Where stratified deposits were obviously not affected by burrows, these were recorded in plan and left *in-situ*; finds (where present) were recovered from the surface of these deposits to assist in developing a dated sequence for the occupation of the site.

2.2.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales (1:20 and 1:10) and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. The site was located onto the Ordnance Survey grid using a Leica 1200 GPS with live correctional data feed supplied by SmartNet ®.

2.2.7 Due to the very disturbed nature of the exposed stratigraphy, presence of numerous modern rabbit bones/skeletons and absence of suitable deposits, no environmental samples were taken.

2.2.8 Additional areas of burrowing were investigated after strimming of the grass and nettles to determine whether further excavation of these areas would be required (Fig. 2; Plates 13-14). Following inspection of these by the English Heritage HEFA, David Kenny, it was decided that the burrows were stable and did not warrant any archaeological intervention and permission was given to the current owners to have the burrows infilled with sand, terram and topsoil and then reseeded. Following recording of the main excavation area, the exposed burrows were lined with terram and packed with the CBM mentioned above, before infilling of any deep holes by hand; a photographic record of all stages of the investigation and backfilling was maintained, examples of which have been included as figures to accompany this report (see Plates 10-11). The 360º tracked excavator undertook the final infilling and levelling of the excavation area (Plate 12) in advance of it being re-seeded for pasture.

2.2.9 The excavation area was located within a pasture field covered with long grass intermingled with large patches of nettles and thistles (Plate 1). Weather conditions varied over the seven days of excavation from unsettled/showery to very hot and dry.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Due to the limited nature of the investigation, the full archaeological sequence was not investigated across the excavated area, although a number of phases of activity have been identified that span the medieval to modern periods. These are described in stratigraphic order below, supplemented by a context list by phase included as Appendix A. Where pertinent, pottery and other finds data is incorporated within the stratigraphic text, with full reports included in Appendix B.

3.1.2 Two slightly deeper areas were machine-excavated to investigate deposits/disturbance along the western (Trench A) and northern (Trench B) parts of the main 10m^2 area, in addition to which three test pits were hand-excavated in areas identified as being most disturbed by burrows (Test Pits 1-3; Plates 7-9).

3.1.3 The natural, a yellowish orange slightly gravelly sand, was revealed at a depth of *c*.0.6m (*c*.5.96mOD) below ground level in the base of Trench B, where it was cut by a number of features and disturbed by numerous burrows (Plate 6).

3.2 Unphased/Prehistoric

3.2.1 The earliest evidence for activity on the site is indicated by the presence of three struck flints of possible Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, from contexts 1 (topsoil) and 14 (dump). Although no contemporary features or deposits were revealed, the presence of the flints hints at some early prehistoric activity on this fen-edge location.

3.3 Phase 1: Medieval

(c.12th-14th century) (Figs 5-7; Plate 5)

3.3.1 Only a very few features or deposits have been assigned a possible medieval date, based on their stratigraphy and, to a lesser extent, datable finds. This may, however, reflect the fact that it was mainly the upper/later deposits that were investigated as these had been most affected by burrowing, with the earlier undisturbed levels being left *in-situ.*

3.3.2 Most deposits assigned to this phase were revealed in plan only (and not excavated) at the base of the machine-excavated trench (B) and in the base of Test Pit 1; as such their full extents are not known. Some of the features and deposits assigned to Phase 2.1 may also be medieval, but have been assigned to the later phase largely due to the presence of demolition rubble (mortar and/or CBM and stone fragments) which may indicate a post-Dissolution date.

Trench B

3.3.3 The earliest deposits identified comprise a possible spread or fill of mid yellowish grey brown silty sand (65) beneath possible floor 54 (see below) and cut by a possible pit (**76**), and a patch of slightly greyish brown silty sand. The latter (62) was located at the east end of the trench, and may simply have been a 'dirty' natural. A small quantity of abraded medieval (12th-13th century) pottery was recovered from the surface of 65, while 62 remains undated.

3.3.4 An area measuring in excess of *c*.3m x 1.4m in plan of mixed yellow red and brown sandy clay (54) with occasional small angular stones, frequent lumps and flecks of fired clay may represent part of a heat-affected surface. Possibly part of this was a patch of slightly less burnt mid greyish brown silty clay (55), to the north of which was a probable hearth (**59**). The latter was only part-exposed against the north baulk and contained a fill of mixed but fairly compact dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt with black, orange and yellow mottles (58). Two small sherds of medieval (mid-14th century or later) pottery and fragments of possible hearth lining were recovered from layer/floor 54.

3.3.5 To the west of floor 54, a small ?sub-rectangular possible pit (**76**) was revealed that cut the natural and was truncated by Phase 3 ditch **74** (see below). Although unexcavated, the fill of the pit was recorded as being a pale grey silty sand; no finds were recovered. A small patch of pale yellow sandy clay (77) was present to the west of, and cut by, ditch **34**; this may have been a natural lens or pocket of clay rather than a feature.

Test Pit 1

3.3.6 Two stratigraphically early deposits (42 and 43) identified at the base of several burrows in Test Pit 1 may be medieval, although they were not further investigated and no finds were recovered. Layer/fill 42 comprised a compact yellowish orange gravelly sand that was not dissimilar to Phase 2.1 layer 78 revealed at the base of Trench A to the west (see below). Deposit 43, a dark greenish brown silty sand, may be the fill of a feature, although too little was exposed to enable further interpretation.

3.4 Phase 2: Late medieval to early post-medieval

(c. mid 14th- mid/late 16th century) (Figs 5-7; Plates 5-9)

3.4.1 The majority of features and deposits recorded have been assigned to this phase, which on ceramic evidence has been sub-divided into Phases 2.1 (1350-1500) and Phase 2.2 (*c*.1500-1550/1600). Features comprise a number of ditches largely revealed within Trench B in addition to several probable pits and a number of extensive layers or dumps identified within test pits and in plan across the site. NB: due to the limitations of the small areas excavated it has not always been possible to confidently assign features and associated layers to either of the sub-phases within this broad phase. In addition there is some overlap with the following phase

Sub-phase 2.1

Trench B: Pits **61** and **64**

3.4.2 Two probable pits (**61** and **64**) were recorded cutting Phase 1 surface 54 in the eastern part of Trench B, the largest of which (**64**) measured in excess of 3m long. Both contained similar mid yellowish grey sandy silt fills (60 and 63 respectively); that within the larger pit had notable gravel inclusions with a dump of broken roof tile and mortar fragments against its north-eastern edge. The latter might indicate that this was a demolition or Dissolution-phase pit (*i.e.* Phase 2.2), although it appeared to be sealed beneath extensive layers 3 and 26/47 (see below). A pottery sherd from the surface of fill 63 in pit **64** is datable to 1350-1500.

Test Pit 3: Pit **48**

3.4.3 A further pit (**48**; Plate 9) was investigated in the south-west corner of the excavation area, within Test Pit 3 which was placed to investigate a number of burrows. Pit **48** cut a layer of crushed mortar and tile (51) which overlay the natural and may be equivalent to layer 78 recorded in plan to the north (see below). It had steep to almost vertical sides with an irregular base and measured 0.67m deep. Three fills were present, the earliest of which was a 0.2m-thick deposit of yellowish grey sandy silt with mortar fragments, small stones and lenses of clay (49) that was overlain by a thin lens of yellowish orange silty sand (66). The uppermost/main fill (45) comprised a 0.4m-thick mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional mortar fragments and gravel which was overlain by a 0.18m-thick layer of crushed mortar, stones, CBM in a dark grey sandy silt matrix (44) that extended over the pit and earlier layer 51.

3.4.4 It is possible that the pit relates to post-Dissolution activity (*i.e.* Phase 2.2) given the frequent occurrence of mortar and CBM fragments, although it may also have been associated with the remodelling of buildings prior to the Dissolution. Small amounts of medieval (1175-1350) pottery were recovered from the upper fill of the pit, while slightly later pottery (1380-1550) was found within the sealing layer (44) suggesting that the pit relates to phase 2.1 and the layer to phase 2.2.

Trench B: Ditches (Plate 6)

3.4.5 Several ditches were identified within Trench B that span the two sub-phases within Phase 2. Only small parts of the earliest ditches (**36** and **74**) were exposed although both appear to have been aligned roughly east-west; **74** was not investigated and may conceivably have been part of a pit rather than a ditch. Ditch **36** was partially excavated and found to be at least 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep with a shallow concave profile. It contained a main/basal fill of mid-greyish brown silty sand (35) overlain by a gravelly silty sand (70) that did not extend across the width of the ditch. A small collection of finds was recovered from the basal fill, comprising fragments of CBM and sherds of pottery, the latter datable to 1350-1500.

3.4.6 A ditch (**32**) aligned *c.*1m to the east of and at right angles to **36** may have been contemporary, although any relationship between these was removed by later ditch **34** (see below). Ditch **32** was aligned approximately north-south and, like ditch **36**, had a shallow concave profile and contained two fills. The basal fill (31) was a soft dark brown grey silty sand that was heavily disturbed by burrows (Plate 6), overlain by a dark grey brown silty sand (30) which contained frequent gravel/small stones. Finds from the fills include moderate quantities of CBM, animal bone, shell and pottery. The pottery is mixed, comprising fabrics datable to 1350-1500/1600 and 1450-1650, suggesting that the ditch may have become disused and infilled in the mid-15th century or later; possibly into Phase 2.2.

3.4.7 Located to the east of ditch **32** was a narrow (0.5m wide) ditch (**57**) orientated on a different, more north-east to south-west alignment to the other late medieval ditches. It truncated Phase 1 probable floor surface 54 and possible ditch **74** and could conceivably belong to phase 2.1 or 2.2. The exposed fill consisted of a distinctive mixed greyish brown silty sand (56) with patches of ash; the only finds recovered comprise a small quantity of animal bone.

Sub-phase 2.2

Trench B: Ditch **34**

3.4.8 Phase 2.1 ditches **32** and **36** were truncated by a similar concave-profiled shallow ditch (**34**) which was aligned roughly north-south parallel to ditch **32**. This later ditch measured *c.*1m wide and was 0.24m deep; it contained a single dark brownish grey silty sand fill with occasional gravel and medium-sized stones (33). Both this ditch and earlier ditch **32** were severely affected by rabbit burrows and tunnels which had altered the profile and sides of the features and presumably disturbed and moved finds from their original locations. A similar range of finds was recovered to that from the earlier ditches, comprising pottery, animal bone and shell. Most of the pottery is late medieval (1350-1500), however the latest sherd is a Cistercian-type and is datable to 1500-1600. A twisted section of lead window came (SF28) was also recovered from the ditch fill, perhaps indicating a post-Dissolution date (see Phase 3) for its disuse.

Layers

3.4.9 Numerous, often extensive, layers were recorded across the site, although many were only partly revealed and are difficult to interpret or phase with any certainty.

Test-Pit 1

3.4.10 Overlying Phase 1 deposits 42 and 43 in Test Pit 1 was a 0.4m-thick layer of mixed dark grey/yellowish brown silty sand with moderately frequent gravel (25). This layer may have been the fill of a feature extending beyond the limits of the test pit or possibly a levelling layer; it was heavily disturbed by a burrow (**46**). In the northern part of the test pit, 25 was overlain by a 0.1m-thick layer of mixed random stones and mortar lumps (24; Plate 8), some of the stones were rounded and some angular. This is likely to represent demolition material possibly from a stone building located in the vicinity. No finds were recovered from 24, while layer 25 produced a small amount of residual medieval pottery, butchered animal bone, lava quern and mortar.

3.4.11 Above the layer of stone rubble was a mixed deposit (23) of mottled dark grey silty sand with yellowish brown patches that was up to 0.2m thick in places and contained frequent gravel in addition to occasional mortar and CBM fragments. This layer was very loose and disturbed by rabbit burrows where it was recorded within Test Pit 1. Its full extent was not determined but it may conceivably be the same as layer 41 revealed below ditch **40** to the east (see below) and may also have extended over the earlier features identified in Trench B to the immediate north, perhaps representing a general levelling or make-up layer. Finds from the layer include a small amount of animal bone, pottery, shell, lava quern (SF41) and a large iron nail (SF36). Much of the pottery is medieval and/or late medieval and may have been reworked from earlier deposits by rabbit activity or the assemblage may represent clearance of previously occupied areas of the site.

Layers 26/47 and 3

3.4.12 A distinctive very dark grey gravelly silty sand layer (26/47) up to 0.23m thick with frequent coal, mussel and oyster shell overlay layer 23 and extended for *c.*10m across the eastern part of the site, widening to the north. A moderate quantity of finds was recovered from within and around Test Pit 1 (47) and during machining of Trench B (26), including animal bone, pottery, mussel and oyster shell, coal, CBM, a worked stone piece (SF40) and a bent nail (SF 46). The pottery assemblage is mixed with

many residual sherds being present, although the latest pottery is Bourne D, with a date range of 1450-1650. The mixed nature of the deposit combined with the presence of animal bone, shell, coal and other items may indicate that this was an occupation layer or spread of midden material.

3.4.13 Overlying layer 26/47 was a 0.18m-thick yellowish brown grey deposit (3) with frequent gravel inclusions that was revealed in a *c*.2-4m-wide band extending for at least 10m across the site to the east of, and dipping slightly towards, ditch **34**. It was probably equivalent to deposit 28 recorded in the base of Test Pit 2 and contained a moderately large quantity of CBM (2.8kg; sample retained) and pottery (0.559kg), in addition to smaller amounts of animal bone, shell and coal. A small lump of copper ore (SF 53) was also recovered. As with other deposits, the pottery assemblage is mixed but is largely datable to 1470-1500, although a sherd of Cistercian-type datable to 1500-1600 is also present which may be intrusive from overlying layer 2 (see Phase 3 below). Notable within the CBM assemblage were fragments of medieval floor tile and a glazed ridge tile, in addition to limestone roof tiles, which are likely to derive from a nearby building.

Trench A: layers 78, 72 and 71

3.4.14 Several layers were recorded within the base and section of Trench A, a slightly deeper area located along the western edge of the excavation. The earliest deposit was an intermittent layer of compacted gravel (78) with frequent fragments of broken tile, occasional pottery sherds, animal bone and mussel shell. This may have been equivalent to one of the layers described above, although its compacted nature and the presence of an embedded stone block (left *in-situ*) suggests that it may have been the remnants of an external surface. Its relationship with pit **48** within Test Pit 3, was difficult to determine due to the presence of numerous burrows. Pottery recovered from the surface of 78 is datable to 1450-1600 but may be intrusive from one of the burrows in this area.

3.4.15 Physically overlying possible surface 78 was a 0.32m-thick layer of mid greyish brown silty sand (72) with frequent well sorted gravel, which was recorded in section and may have been equivalent to layer 3 or possibly 23 to the east. Above this was a thinner and less extensive layer or dump of mid grey silty sand with frequent chalk/clunch and limestone pieces and occasional mortar fragments (71). This layer, which is undated, was only visible for *c*.2.2m at the northern end of the section and was heavily disturbed by rabbit burrows. It appeared to pre-date layer/dump 69 and may represent a post-Dissolution deposit.

Ditch **40**

3.4.16 Layer 26/47 was cut by a narrow (0.75m) steep-sided ditch (**40**) that was aligned north-east to south-west and extended for *c*.5m across the eastern part of the site. Its western extent was obscured by layer 2 (see below) and burrows in the area of Test Pit 1. Measuring 0.28m deep with a concave profile, the ditch contained a single dark grey silty fill (39), which produced a small assemblage of pottery, animal bone and shell in addition to a fragment of lava quern (SF38) and painted window glass (SF47). Much of the pottery is small and abraded and likely to be reworked from earlier deposits, however the latest sherds are datable to 1450-1600.

3.5 Phase 3: post-medieval

(*c*. mid/late 16th-early 19th century) (Figs 5-7; Plates 6-7)

3.5.1 Dumped layers and brick features spanning the post-Dissolution to the post-medieval period were identified, indicating some low-level continuity of activity on the site.

Layers/dumps

3.5.2 A distinctive dumped deposit (2/29) was present infilling the upper parts of ditches **32** and **34** to the west, and extending over layer 3 to the east. This layer was notable for the large quantities of building material (see Appendix B6), small architectural stone pieces, numerous pottery sherds and animal bones that were present. The lower part of the layer was excavated by hand under context number 29, while the upper part (2) was machine-excavated and/or recorded in plan. It is feasible that the dump was infilling a shallow linear depression or cut to level it, possibly in advance of the construction of masonry features 4 and 20 (see below), although these may be much later. The layer dipped from east to west and was 0.5m thick at it deepest point overlying the ditches; it was visible in plan as a fairly linear, roughly north-south orientated swathe or band of broken tile extending for over 10m in length.

3.5.3 Most (over 50kg) of the large quantity of CBM and stone roof tile from the site was found in this layer (2/29), the majority of which was recorded and left on site (see Methodology above and Appendix B6 below). The assemblage includes numerous peg and occasional nib tiles with some ridge tiles (one glazed), floor tiles (one glazed) of medieval and/or late medieval date in addition to a small group of medieval and late medieval brick fragments. An 18th century brick fragment is likely to be intrusive from culvert **20** or masonry foundation **4**, although smaller fragments of a similar date were also present in addition to part of a flower pot. A substantial (relatively speaking) pottery assemblage (c.5.5kg) from both contexts 2 and 29 combined was recovered and is fairly mixed containing medieval and late medieval fabrics. One of the latest pottery types is Cistercian ware (including an almost complete cup (Fig.11), datable to *c*.1500-1600, although the latest sherd is from a black glazed ware ?jug which is likely to date to around 1600.

3.5.4 Other finds collected from this layer include several fragments of medieval window glass (SFs 43, 44 and 48), lava quern (SF37), iron nails (SF39), parts of two medieval stone mortars (SF35 and SF51), a faced stone or architectural fragment (SF31), a small fragment of clay pipe stem and oyster shell.

3.5.5 A 0.2m-thick layer of mid orangey-brown silty sand (69) was recorded in section overlying Phase 2 rubble deposit 70; the full extent of this layer was not discernible due to extensive burrowing along its southern edge.

3.5.6 A further dark greyish brown slightly gravelly sandy silt dumped layer (16), with less CBM and other finds, was present overlying layer 2/29 and layer 69. This was 0.15m thick at its most substantial and produced a small quantity of animal bone, pottery, shell and coal. The pottery is mixed and only broadly datable to 1500-1800; a complete 18th century brick is likely to be intrusive from culvert **20** or masonry foundation **4**.

Masonry features **4** and **20**

3.5.7 Overlying layer/dump 16 was a red brick culvert or drain (**20**) that was slightly concave in profile and extended for c.6m on a north to south orientation. It comprised unmortared bricks laid five-wide (*c*.0.55m wide in total) in stretcher bond that formed a shallow channel that dipped northwards towards, and presumably drained into, the surrounding moat ditch. The drain also utilised/followed the slight linear hollow formed by the presence of the underlying late medieval ditches in this area and which was present as a slight earthwork prior to excavation. A fine black silty deposit (19) was present filling the base of the culvert; this produced a small quantity of tile and a piece of clay-pipe stem. The bricks, which were left *in-situ* but recorded prior to backfilling are all 18th century and are the same as those used in masonry wall **4** to the south.

3.5.8 Wall/masonry feature **4** appeared to be constructed from unmortared red bricks laid lengthways (up to three wide) set on a sand bedding (5) within a construction cut (**6**) that was only partly-exposed. It was on a similar alignment and constructed from the same bricks as culvert **20** to the north, but was not as wide and did not have a concave or channel-shaped profile. It may have been a foundation or dwarf wall for a timber superstructure such as a barn, or perhaps a boundary or drainage feature. The unmortared nature of **4** and clear association with **20** suggests that a drainage-related function may be most likely. This element, which appeared to be constructed on layer 2, was much more damaged/intermittent than 20 and may have been robbed out at some point or disturbed by other later activity on the site. Finds from the damaged areas (context 79) includes a small quantity of post-medieval red earthenware (PMR) and tin-glazed earthenware pottery datable to 1600-1800 in addition to a small fragment of glass vessel rim (SF42) likely to date to the 16th century.

Tile/demolition dumps

3.5.9 Two layers (14 and 68) composed almost entirely of broken tile with occasional sherds of pottery were present at the extreme western edge of the site and may have been contemporary/part of the same deposit. Layer 14 was exposed partly in plan in the north-west corner to the west of culvert 20 and tipping down towards it. This layer was revealed immediately below the turf and was probably fairly recent although the CBM/tile was all similar in fabric and form to that recorded elsewhere on the site; a pottery sherd that cross-fits with a sherd in layer 29. Pottery recovered from the surface of 14 comprises a mixture of medieval and late medieval types; a broad date of 1450-1650 has been assigned. A large carved stone block with an incised groove (SF19) was found in this layer and may originate from a ?medieval building of some substance. Layer 68 was recorded in the main east-facing section only but appeared to be very similar to 14; both may belong to Phase 4 but in the absence of any modern material being present have been assigned to this phase.

3.6 Phase 4: later post-medieval to modern

(19th-century to present) (Figs 5-7; Plates 8-10)

3.6.1 Modern features and deposits are largely represented by topsoil layers along with rabbit burrows and their associated fills/voids, which penetrated through the topsoil, into underlying stratified archaeological deposits and into the sandy natural.

Topsoil layers

3.6.2 A well-developed humic and rooty topsoil and turf (67) up to 0.3m thick was removed by machine; finds from this and general machining were assigned context number 1. A possible later 0.3m-thick topsoil-derived layer or dump (80) was present at the western edge of the excavation, overlying tile dump 68. This may simply have been a higher area of topsoil or may be the result of upcast from an adjacent burrow or subsequent attempts to ameliorate the affects of burrowing.

Burrows

Trench A and Test Pit 3

3.6.3 Numerous burrows were identified and investigated along the western edge of the site within the slightly deeper Trench A; the extent of burrowing within overlying layers was also recorded in Section 7 (Fig.7). The bases of several of the burrows truncated possible surface 79 and/or the natural gravelly sand below, three of which were excavated (**8**, **10, 12, 38** and several that are unnumbered) and then backfilled (see Methodology Section above). Most were fairly shallow (*c*.0.16m), although **38** was deeper at *c*.0.35m below the base of the trench level. All were irregular in shape and profile and contained voids and/or fills of loose dark grey sandy silt with small stones and occasional tile and pottery that was presumably reworked from surrounding layers and fills.

3.6.4 One of these areas of voids/burrowing (**8**) was investigated within Test Pit 3 (Plate 9) at the south-eastern end of Trench A. These were found to penetrate to quite a depth (c.0.8m below the excavated trench base) into the fills of a large probable pit (**48**) and into the surrounding natural.

3.6.5 Finds from the burrows in this area are very similar in nature to those recovered from identified archaeological deposits and include small quantities of pottery, CBM and animal bone. The pottery is a mixture of medieval and late medieval types with most sherds being fairly small and abraded; CBM from burrow **38** was clearly introduced from elsewhere as it has been dated to the 18th or 19th century.

Trench B

3.6.6 An extensive area of burrowing was investigated in Trench B where numerous tunnels had penetrated through the fills of late medieval ditches (especially the western edge of ditch **32**) and the surrounding natural. Some had become infilled and others were voids; one tunnel extended for at least a metre from the edge of the section (see Fig.7). Shallower burrows were noted to the east of the ditch but had not caused as extensive damage to the exposed deposits (fill of ditch **57**) and were not further investigated. Finds from burrow **53** included small quantities of late medieval pottery and shell, presumably originating from one of the ditch fills.

Test Pit 1

3.6.7 An area of voids/collapsed burrows was also investigated by Test Pit 1 in the south-east corner of the excavation area. The burrows (**46**) in this area had also caused extensive damage to the underlying stratified deposits, extending to depths in excess of 0.8m below the machined level (c. 1.1m below ground level). Tunnels/voids also radiated out from the northern side of the test pit towards the area of burrows in Trench B described above.

3.6.8 These burrows (context 15) produced the largest quantity of finds, perhaps reflecting the nature of deposits in the vicinity that they had disturbed. The assemblage includes 0.4kg of animal bone, 0.25kg of lava quern (SF54) and nearly 0.6kg of medieval and late medieval pottery. The relatively high weight for the latter is largely due to the presence of part of a Grimston face jug datable to 1250-1350. Other finds comprise several fragments of a very corroded/fragile copper-alloy bowl or dish (SFs 20 and 26) that had been repaired more than once, and a concreted lump of iron (SF29).

Test Pit 2

3.6.9 This test pit targeted a disturbed burrow area at the north end of the site, to the east of culvert **20**. The burrow (**22**) was found to be relatively shallow (c.0.1m deep) and stable and was infilled with a topsoil-like fill indicating that the burrow was relatively old or 'historic' and therefore did not warrant further investigation. In addition to small sherds of medieval and late medieval pottery and some fragments of CBM, the most notable finds from the surface of the disturbed burrow were two fragments of carved stone (SF25). The latter have been identified as parts of a medieval stone mortar which may have originated from the priory kitchen. This may have been deliberately placed within the burrow to help fill in the void at some point in the past.

Topsoil and machining finds (context 1)

3.6.10 A wide range of finds were collected both by hand and by metal-detecting during the machine-excavation and subsequent cleaning of the site, all of which have been assigned context number 1. Several sherds of medieval and late medieval pottery similar to that from stratified deposits were recovered in addition to a small quantity of CBM and two ?Neolithic flints. Nearly half of the small finds (24, mostly metal objects) were found by metal-detecting and include several items of note. A number of bronze vessels are represented (SFs 4, 9, 14 and 22) which add to those fragments found in burrow 46. Other copper-alloy objects include two ?strap-ends (SFs 12 and 13), a ring (SF5), two buckles (SFs 1 and 2), part of a crotal bell (SF23), a thimble (SF6) and two other objects (SFs 3 and 34), all of which are of medieval or post-medieval date and some of which may originate from the priory. Several lead objects were also found including lead window came (SFs 11 and 27), lead blobs and dribbles (SFs 7 and 24), a spindlewhorl (SF 16) and a lead shot (SF8). Objects of iron comprise a nail or rove (SF13), a key (SF 15), a blade/object (SF21) and an amorphous lump of lead and iron (SF30). Another find of note is a fragment of a silver 'clasped hands' or fede ring (SF 17; Treasure number 2012T532) that is probably of 15th century date.

3.7 Finds Summary

3.7.1 Although the investigations at Swavesey Priory were limited, a fairly significant finds assemblage was recovered and/or recorded, comprising three struck flints, 48 metal/stone objects (see above), four shards of window and vessel glass, 9.9kg of pottery, 101kg of brick and tile, 6.98kg of animal bone and smaller amounts of shell, mortar, coal and clay tobacco-pipe. Despite largely coming from later deposits, most of these finds are likely to relate to the building fabric of the Priory as well as the activities, including cooking and dairying, undertaken within the buildings. Further detailed reports can be found in Appendices B1-7.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Features and deposits possibly associated with the Priory (Phases 1-2)

4.1.1 The earliest features and deposits recorded by the excavation are probably medieval and are likely to have been related to the priory. The presence of possible floor/hearth areas indicate that there may have been a building located here, perhaps a detached kitchen, although too little was exposed to allow further interpretation. Very few finds were recovered from these deposits; pottery indicates a 12th-14th century date for this phase, although residual early medieval sherds were also recovered from later contexts suggesting activity on the site possibly from the mid 11th century. Most of the medieval wares represented are from Grimston (including part of a face jug), Ely, Huntingdonshire and Essex.

4.1.2 At some point in the later medieval period (post-1350) there appears to have been a change in use on this part of the site, indicated by the digging of a number of ditches and possible pits that truncated the earlier deposits. This suggests a phase of reorganisation which in terms of the known history of the site may conceivably relate to the period after the priory was appropriated by the Carthusians in Coventry in the latter part of the 14th century (see Section 1.3). After this time the priory's function appears to have become more akin to a Rectory or estate manor (see Section 1.3 above).

4.1.3 A further phase of activity is represented by additional ditch-cutting, possibly to re-state an internal boundary and/or to improve drainage and perhaps indicating that flooding was an issue. This phase is most notable for the extensive deposits that contained significant finds assemblages, that are likely to derive from occupation and possibly remodelling and/or demolition-related activities.

4.1.4 There are a number of transitional medieval to late medieval wares in the pottery assemblage, suggesting continuity of occupation on the site. Many of the metal and stone objects, along with the window glass, lead came, pottery and brick/tile recovered from later/Phase 3 deposits are likely to relate to the latter phase of occupation of the priory. The presence of high quality stone mortars (mixing bowls) hints at a period of wealth, while a well-repaired copper-alloy dish perhaps points more to times of hardship. More than one medieval building was clearly located nearby given the notable quantities and range of roof tiles (including stone), and to a lesser extent floor tiles, recorded. Bricks of probable 15th century date suggest that some timber buildings may have been replaced at least in part by brick at this time.

4.1.5 Much of the pottery (including parts of a pipkin and dripping dish) and the metal/stone objects (such as the quernstones) relate to domestic activities, probably undertaken in a nearby kitchen. The animal bone assemblage shows that butchery of whole carcasses was being undertaken: cattle are the dominant taxon in Phases 2 and 3, although sheep and pig remains are also present. Analysis of the pottery suggests that supply of this commodity shifted westwards towards Everton in the late medieval period, away from Colne to the north or to Ely to the north-east. By the later medieval/early post-medieval period the pottery assemblage is dominated by bowls, which combined with the paucity of both jars and jugs is indicative of activities associated with dairying, rather than cooking, in the vicinity. This might in turn suggest that the buildings on the priory site were largely agricultural at this time, perhaps reflecting changes occurring around the time of the Dissolution.

4.2 Post-Dissolution features and deposits (Phase 3)

4.2.1 A notable aspect of the site was the presence of extensive layers or dumps (14, 2/29) containing a range of objects including large quantities of CBM, pottery and other material. The quantities and nature of these finds are strongly suggestive of the demolition and clearance of more than one building of medieval and late medieval date in the vicinity. Some of the buildings may have been of reasonably high-status/construction given the presence of occasional glazed floor and roof tiles, late medieval bricks, stone tiles and architectural stone fragments, window glass and lead came *etc*. This clearance may not have occurred in the immediate post-Dissolution period, given the mixed level of abrasion of the pottery in particular, but may have happened in the later 16th or even early 17th century, although most of the finds belong to the end of the life of the Priory (15th/16th century). The material may in part have been used to infill or level a depression along the line of the infilled Phase 2 ditches, although at some point in the 18th century a brick culvert or drain was then constructed along the same alignment.

4.2.2 The large finds assemblages from these post-Dissolution deposits probably mostly derive from the priory and associated buildings (?including the church). The lack of many definitely monastic objects and the general domestic nature of the assemblages may support the view that the priory did not contain a religious community of any note, and indeed was run more like a Rectory or estate centre in its later years (see Section 1.3 above)

4.3 Post-medieval to modern features and deposits (Phase 4)

4.3.1 It is feasible that the brick culvert and wall foundation related to the construction of an agricultural building on the site, probably in the 18th century. This may possibly have been the 'tithe barn' that was apparently still standing to some degree in the early 20th century (see Section 1.3) but which does not appear on any available contemporary maps. The ruins of parts of the Rectory/former priory, as shown on the 1836 map (Fig. 3) to the north of the church, may still have been standing at this time but the lack of domestic material datable to the 17th/18th century onwards suggests that the site was no longer occupied in this period.

4.3.2 A note of caution might be warranted given that this field would have been an obvious place to dump unwanted rubble and other material, for example following the refurbishment/'Victorianisation' of the church, especially if holes were present as a result of quarrying (possibly as recently as during WW2), and as such it is feasible that some of the dumps recorded within the excavation may be relatively recent.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The significance of this project lies in the fact that it is the first 'open area' investigation within the scheduled area of the former priory and, despite the necessary limitations, it has succeeded in demonstrating the survival of stratified deposits spanning the medieval to post-medieval periods. Although only a small area was investigated, it has been possible to suggest a chronology for the site, based on the significant finds assemblage, which to a greater and lesser extent can be tied into the known historical development of the site.

4.4.2 Rabbit burrowing has clearly had a notable impact on the buried remains and it is clear that finds have been moved from their original locations; the integrity of palaeo-environmental remains also appears to have been compromised. Hopefully the

extermination of the rabbits and construction of a rabbit-proof perimeter fence will insure against the further disturbance of the remains in the near future.

4.4.3 The site provides a very good candidate for future research, particularly detailed earthwork and geophysical surveys, that would not only enhance the understanding of the monument but possibly provide the opportunity to involve the local community.

Appendix A. Context Inventory

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Breadth	Depth	Other Comments	Phase
1	1		finds unit	machining /topsoil finds					General number given to machining and metal-detected finds	0
2	2		layer	demolition		10	2	0.1	dumped dark grey brown layer full of building material and pottery, animal bone etc indicative of domestic activity - possibly demolition of priory buildings or clearance of material in the ?17-18th century	3
3	3		layer	occupatio n/make-up		0			yellowish brown grey layer (0.18m-thick) identified on E side of site/ditches, poss contemp with ditch 34? Affected by burrows.	2.2
4	6		masonry	wall	boundary	7	0.33		Fragmentary and intermittent unmortared brick foundation up to 3 bricks wide laid in irregular stretcher bond; 1 course survives. Bricks are 18th to early 19th C, recorded on site. Poss contemp with 20.	3
5	6		fill	foundation trench					Dirty orange sand fill / bedding of construction cut for wall 4, not exc	3
6	6		cut	foundation trench		0			construction cut for wall 4; not exc. Poss cuts layer 2 but rel uncertain as wall quite fragmentary	3
7	8	TP3	fill	natural (burrow)	disuse	0			topsoily mixed fill of burrow in SW corner of site	4
8	8	TP3	cut	natural	rabbit burrow	0			irregular group of tunnels and holes in SW corner, contained various finds from surrounding deposits; mainly truncates layer 78	4
9	10	A	fill	natural (burrow)	disuse	0			topsoily fill of burrow - included modern rabbit bones (not kept)	4
10	10	A	cut	natural	rabbit burrow	0			rabbit burrow of unknown length/extent that tunnels through layer 16 and 78 etc at W end of site	4
11	12	A	fill	burrow	disuse	0			topsoily fill of burrow/tunnel that connects with 10, contained modern rabbit bones and redeposited pot and cbm from 16 and 78	4
12	12	A	cut	natural	burrow	0			rabbit tunnel/burrow linking with 10, cuts through 16 and 78	4
14	14		layer	dump	demolitio n dump	0			dump of broken tile, pottery and other finds tipping from west to east in NW corner of site towards culvert 20. Could be fairly recent as immediately below turf	3
15	46	TP1	fill	burrow	disuse	0			mixed fill/voids in burrow investigated by test pit. Finds recovered including bits of bronze vessel	4
16	16		layer	levelling		0			Dark greyish brown layer overlying dump 2/29 and sealed by dump 3 and culvert 20, early post-med?	3
17	18	A	fill	burrow	disuse	0			mixed fill of rabbit burrow; see 9 etc	4
18	18	A	cut	burrow		0			rabbit burrow at W end of site	4
19	20		fill	culvert		0			dark silty fill infilling culvert 20	3

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Breadth	Depth	Other Comments	Phase
20	20		masonry	culvert	drainage	0			red brick unmortared drain or culvert base comprising five bricks laid in stretcher bond forming a shallow channel. Bricks same as in 4: prob 18th C	3
21	22	TP2	fill	burrow	disuse	0			fill of burrow to E of culvert 20; stone 'stoop' fragments may have been put in fill hole?	4
22	22	TP2	cut	burrow		0			rabbit burrow in area to E of culvert 20 - fairly compact and no voids or dead rabbits - investigated in shallow test pit	4
23	23	TP1	layer	make-up/levelling		0			Mixed layer below layer 47/26 and truncated by ditch 40 and disturbed by burrow 46, revealed in section only. Possibly late medieval layer?	2.2
24	24	TP1	layer	demolition		0			layer of mixed random stones and mortar lumps, some rounded some angular, revealed in area of test pit round burrow 46 only. Med or later Possible demolished wall or rough surface? No associated finds; stones not worked. Late med or early post-med (3 or 4)	2.2
25	25	TP1	layer	levelling		0			Thick silty gravel layer or fill similar to 23, revealed in Test pit/burrow 46 only. Late med? Part of platform/leveling?	2.1
26	26	B	layer	dump	midden	0			dark grey layer with frequent coal, shell, bone and pottery - late med/post-med occupation layer/spread? See 47 also	2.2
28	28	TP2	layer	levelling		0			Layer in base of burrow 22, probably same as 3	2.2
29	29	B	layer	levelling		0			Dark brownish grey silty sand layer with frequent CBM recorded in section- base of layer 2 dipping down and sealing ditch 34	3
30	32	B	fill	ditch		0			upper dark grey brown silty sand fill in ditch 32 truncated by ditch 34	2.2
31	32	B	fill	ditch		0			lower soft dark brown grey silty sandy basal fill in ditch 32 very disturbed by burrows	2.2
32	32	B	cut	ditch	drainage or boundary	0	1.4	0.28	linear shallow ditch much disturbed by burrows, aligned roughly N-S parallel to later ditch 34. Late med? Or med? (2 or 3) Unknown length	2.1-2
33	34	B	fill	ditch		0			Sole fill of ditch very similar to fill of earlier ditch 32	2.2
34	34	B	cut	ditch	boundary/ drainage	0	1.04	0.24	Linear ditch with shallow but disturbed concave profile, contained single silty fill. Cut two earlier ditches 32 and 36	2.2
35	36	B	fill	ditch		0			Basal mid greyish brown silty sand fill of E-W ditch 36. Other poss fills recorded in section above (69 and 70) but burrowing obscured relationships	2.1
36	36	B	cut	ditch		0		0.3	Possible E-W ditch cut by ditch 34, too little exposed to be certain; rels with fills/layers 69 and 70 also uncertain due to burrowing. May have been contemporary with ditch 32 to W, possibly subdividing interior of precinct/platform? Cuts natural	2.1

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Breadth	Depth	Other Comments	Phase
37	38	TP3	fill	burrow		0			rabbit burrow in SW corner disturbing pit 48	4
38	38	TP3	cut	burrow		0			rabbit burrow around pit 48	4
39	40		fill	ditch		0			dark grey silty fill in E-W ditch 40, disturbed by burrow 46 - early post-med?	2.2
40	40		cut	ditch		5	0.75	0.28	linear ditch with concave profile thought to be a burrow, aligned approx E-W, disturbed by burrows	2.2
41	41		layer	levelling		0			mid brownish grey sandy gravely silt layer at base of ditch 40, possibly equivalent to layer 23? Overlies natural, only seen in small area	2.2
42	42	TP1	layer	levelling		0			Yellowish compact orange gravelly sand deposit in base of test pit/burrow 46 - poss equivalent to 78?? Surface? Uncertain rel with 43, poss overlies natural	1
43	43	TP1	layer	layer		0			dark greenish brown silty sand revealed in base of burrow/test pit 46. Not further investigated. Could be med	1
44	44	TP1	layer	demolition		0			0.18m-thick layer of crushed mortar, stones, CBM in a dark grey sandy silt matrix sealing layer 51 and infilled pit 48 in SW corner. Uncertain rel with layer 72, possibly later? Mortar is a yellow grey hard sandy lime with small angular stone inclusions	2.2
45	48	TP3	fill	pit		0			mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional mortar and gravel - upper 0.4m-thick fill in possible pit 48, disturbed by burrow 8	2.1
46	46	TP1	cut	burrow		0			area of burrowing in TP 2, cavities extend up to 1.3m from edges of TP	4
47	47	TP1	layer	levelling	midden?	0			layer of very dark grey with frequent coal, mussel shell, oyster, animal bone and stone inclusions that spreads across the eastern part of the site, cut by ditch 40; could be late med or post-med	2.2
48	48	TP3	cut	pit		0		0.67	Steep-sided possible pit with irregular (burrows?) base containing 3 fills and leveled by mortar layer 44. Demolition pit given amount of mortar? Cuts natural, could be medieval or late medieval	2.1-2
49	48	TP3	fill	pit		0			Yellowish grey sandy silt primary pit fill with mortar fragments and small stones and lenses of clay; no datable finds	2.2
50	0					0			not used	0
51	51	TP3	layer	levelling		0			layer of compact pale yellowish grey sandy silt with mortar flecks cut by pit 48 and overlying natural, only small area exposed - poss same as 78?? No finds	2.1-2
52	53	B	fill	burrow		0			fill and void within burrows through ditches 32, 34 and 36	4
53	53	B	cut	burrow		0			burrows and voids within ditches 32, 34 and 36 causing extensive damage and mixing of finds	4

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Breadth	Depth	Other Comments	Phase
54	54	B	layer	surface (internal)	use	3	1.4		Area of mixed yellow red and brown sandy clay with occasional small angular stones, frequent lumps and flecks of fired clay; rare pottery. Possible floor area with evidence of heat/burning; cut by several features. Possible hearth (59) assoc. Not Ex.	1
55	55	B	layer	unknown		0			splodge of silty clay similar to 58 but less burnt, poss same as 58 or part of ?floor 54	1
56	57	B	fill	ditch		0			mixed greyish brown silty sand and ash fill of narrow ditch, some burrowing. Not excavated, possibly below 47 or 23	2.1
57	57	B	cut	ditch		3.5	0.5		narrow ashy-filled ditch cutting across medieval deposits to E of ditch 36 etc revealed in machine-cut trench. Not excavated as only minor rabbit disturbance	2.1
58	59	B	fill	hearth		0			mixed - possible hearth associated with floor? 54, or all part of same burnt layer. Kitchen/industrial area? Possible below 23 or 47	1
59	59	B	cut	hearth or pit		0			unexcavated burnt area only part-exposed; could be a pit, hearth or general mixed layer. Not exc; some finds from surface	1
60	61	B	fill	pit		0			mid yellowish grey sandy silt fill of unexcavated pit, some pot from surface	2.1
61	61	B	cut	pit		0			Possible pit only part-exposed and not investigated so shape and dimensions unknown; cuts clay ?floor 54	2.1
62	62	B	layer			0			patch of slightly greyish brown silty sand at E end of area, only part exposed; could be dirty natural, a layer or fill of a feature. Not exc	1
63	64	B	fill	pit		0			mid yellowish grey silty sand fill of large ?pit with moderate gravel, occasional tile frags and mortar frags. Not excavated, only part-exposed	2.1
64	64	B	cut	pit		3			Large possible pit part-exposed close to E edge of site, unknown shape or plan; some finds recovered from surface. Cut clay layer/floor 54 so probably late medieval?	2.1
65	65	B	layer	unknown		0			mid yellowish grey brown silty sand - possible spread or pit fill pre-dating clay floor 54, poss overlying natural. Not excavated	1
66	48	TP3	fill	pit		0			lens of orange yellow silty sand between fills 45 and 49 in pit 48	2.2
67	67		layer	topsoil		0		0.36	Layer of dark grey brown topsoil and turf covering the site, result of pasture use not arable	4
68	68		layer	dump		0		0.12	Dump of broken tiles and loose gravel recorded in section, possibly same as 14, could be fairly recent (even 1970s?)	3
69	69		layer	levellling		0			layer of mid orangey-brown silty sand overlying infilled ditch 36 but probably a lot later. Recorded in section only, disturbed by burrows so relationships	3

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Breadth	Depth	Other Comments	Phase
									not clear	
70	36	A	fill	ditch		0		0.12	upper fill/slump of mid grey brown gravelly silty sand in ditch 36, recorded in section only; no finds	2.2
71	71	B	layer	dump	demolition material	0			mid grey silty sand layer with frequent chalk/clunch and small limestone fragments, occasional mortar fairly isolated dump/patch to S of ditch 36, recorded in section only. Area very disturbed by burrows so relationships uncertain	2.2
72	72	B	layer	make-up/build up		0		0.32	Thick layer of mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent well sorted gravel, recorded in section and extends to E, possibly equivalent to 23??	2.2
73	74	B	fill	ditch		0			mid greyish brown silty sand fill of possible ditch cut by 32 and 57. Only part-exposed; not excavated and no finds	2.1
74	74	B	cut	ditch		0			Truncated ditch or pit - not excavated	2.1
75	76	B	fill	pit		0			pale grey silty sand fill of possible pit truncated by ditch 74. Not excavated	1
76	76	B	cut	pit		0			Small ?sub-rectangular possible pit truncated by ditch 74 and cutting natural - one of earliest features revealed. Not excavated	1
77	77	B	layer	unknown		0			spread/fill of pale yellow sandy clay cut by ditch 34. Could just be a natural lens within sand gravel natural.	1
78	78	A	layer	surface (external)		0			Intermittent layer of compacted gravel with frequent broken tile, occ pottery, bone and stone (odd block), mussel shell etc. Compact. Possibly equivalent to 51? Very disturbed by burrows, overlain by 72	2.1-2
79	79		layer	robbing		0			area of disturbance/robbing of wall/foundation 4, over and around it; finds prob gone under context 5	3
80	80		layer	topsoil		0			dump/layer of modern topsoil over tile dump 68	4

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A small assemblage comprising three flints (0.025kg) was submitted for analysis.

B.1.2 For the purposes of this report the flints were rapidly scanned and assigned to categories within a basic classification scheme. Unmodified flakes were assigned to an arbitrary size scale in order to identify the range of debitage present within the assemblage. Edge retouched and utilised pieces were also characterised.

Quantification

Context	1	14	29	Totals
Flake (>50mm)			1	1
Broken flake (>25mm <50mm)	1			1
Retouched blade		1		1
Totals	1	1	1	3

Table 1: Flint Quantification

Conclusion

B.1.3 All of the recovered flints are of an opaque dark brownish grey flint with lighter grey inclusions with a thin mid grey to light greyish-white cortex. The form of the cortex suggests the flint has been recovered from secondary sources. The flake from levelling layer (29) has a partial fossil echnoid on the dorsal surface.

B.1.4 The small amount of flint recovered from the site is not diagnostic. The struck flake and blade from topsoil (1) and demolition dump (14) were heavily abraded and damaged as would be expected from material from secondary deposits. Neither of the items was particularly diagnostic although both are from well structured cores aimed at producing blades and narrow flakes suggesting Mesolithic or Early Neolithic flint working but without a larger assemblage this remains uncertain. A number of Mesolithic flint scatters have been found along the Fen Edge, and so the examples from Swavesey add to this general distribution.

B.2 Metal and stone objects

By Nina Crummy

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 The group of objects from Swavesey is not large, but is dominated by household equipment (mainly from the kitchen) and structural fittings (mainly nails), which represent 27 and 23 per cent of the assemblage respectively (Table 2). Building materials, consisting of stone- and leadwork, form a further 17 per cent.

Functional group	No	%
dress accessories	5	*10.5*
textile-working	1	*2*
household equipment	13	*27*
weighing equipment	1	*2*
transport	1	*2*
tools	1	*2*
structural fittings	11	*23*
structural stonework	4	*8.5*
structural leadwork	4	*8.5*
metal-working	3	*6*
miscellaneous metalwork	4	*8.5*
Total	**48**	*100*

Table 2: The metal and stone objects by function

B.2.2 The majority of items therefore derive from the fabric of the building and its fittings, followed by kitchen equipment used in the preparation and serving of food. Dress accessories are few in number and in some cases post-date the Dissolution, and there are no book-fittings or styli representing time dedicated to devotions, teaching or administration. Similarly, with the only tool present being a broken hone, there is little evidence for crafts or food production, although a much-repaired copper-alloy bowl and a piece of debris attest to small-scale bronze-smithing. A few fragments of lead-working debris probably relate to construction work, repairs or the melting down of any structural lead removed from the Priory buildings at the Dissolution. Not all the functional groups listed in Table 2 need necessarily represent life at the Priory. A thimble used in textile-working is certainly post-Dissolution in date and a small weight may also be later. Despite this paucity of material, the mortars, querns and hone are evidence for access to trade goods, and in the case of a mortar of Caen stone, also point to some degree of wealth.

B.2.3 It is very noticeable that the heavier items in the assemblage came from stratified levels – the fragments of structural stonework, mortars, quernstones and a hone, together with a substantial part of a copper-alloy bowl, while the smaller pieces of metalwork, such as the dress accessories, were from the topsoil. Those smaller pieces that are contemporary with the Priory and its destruction were probably brought to the surface by later ground disturbance, but others are of more recent date and were presumably the result of casual loss or were brought the site in midden waste.

Dress accessories

B.2.4 There are only five dress accessories from Swavesey Priory and all come from topsoil. Two buckles (SFs 1 and 2) and two folded sheet strap-ends (SFs 12 and 33) are of late medieval and early post-medieval forms and may all be of post-Dissolution date. The fifth item (Fig.8, SF 17) is part of a silver 'fide' (or 'fede') finger-ring with clasped hands on the bezel. In the Roman period the motif of clasped right hands (*dextrarum iunctio*) represented commitment and faithfulness in all forms of contract; it was occasionally used on finger-rings as a symbol of eternal love, shown either in repoussé on the bezel or on intaglio or cameo settings (Johns 1996, 62-4). It became popular again across Europe in the 15th century, with fide rings being given at the time of betrothal or

marriage, the name taken from the Italian *le mani in fede* (hands in faith/trust). The hands on medieval examples are usually moulded in relief and most are shown with sleeve cuffs; in some cases the hands are surmounted by a crown. The hoop may be plain, decorated with geometric designs or carry a devotional inscription intended as a protective or curative device (*Treasure Report* 2002, nos 101-2; 2003, no. 193; Wise 2004, 222, no. 19). The same motif was also used on gold brooches (Allason-Jones 2000; Brewer 1930). Despite the association of the Swavesey piece with the Priory, there is no positive evidence that any fide finger-rings were tokens of commitment to a religious order. They occur in a wide range of contexts, both urban and rural. Over fifty examples have been reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and although they are not common on excavated sites, stratified examples come from 15th century domestic contexts at Ely and Norwich, the former silver, the latter gilded copper alloy (PAS database; Mould *et al.* 2003, 157, fig. 23, 3; Margeson 1993, 5, fig. 1, 4).

Fig. 8, SF 17. (1), machining/topsoil. Fragment of a silver 'fide' finger-ring with a bezel in the form of two clasped hands. The hoop was made from a strip of metal with the ends soldered together at a butt joint. The hands were soldered on top of the joint, both masking and reinforcing it. Sleeve cuffs and folds are represented by mouldings and grooves. Internal diameter about 17mm, width of hoop 5 mm, width at bezel 8 mm.

SF 1. (1), machining/topsoil. Copper-alloy double oval buckle, missing the tongue. Length 40 mm, width 37 mm.

SF 2. (1), machining/topsoil. Rectangular copper-alloy buckle with triangular-section tongue. Length 22 mm, width 34 mm.

SF 12 (1), machining/topsoil. Plain copper-alloy folded sheet strap-end with one of the two corner rivets surviving. Length 15 mm, width 26 mm.

SF 33. (1), machining/topsoil. Plain copper-alloy folded sheet strap-end, with both corner rivets surviving. A large off-centre perforation is probably a secondary feature added as a repair or reinforcement; it retains part of an iron rivet or nail. Length 27 mm, width 22 mm.

Textile-working equipment

B.2.5 A thimble from topsoil is of post-medieval date and probably English manufacture (SF 6).

SF 6. (1), machining/topsoil. Machine-made copper-alloy thimble with low domed top. The rim is a plain band flanked by mouldings. Height 26 mm, diameter 19 mm.

Household equipment

B.2.6 Apart from a drape ring (SF 5), all the household items are associated with the preparation and serving of food. The ring has the typical polygonal section seen on similar rings from London and (Egan 1998, 62-4).

B.2.7 Most of the metal vessel fragments came from topsoil, and most were cast (SFs 4, 9, 14 and 22). As several items from topsoil are of post-Dissolution date, there is a possibility that at least some of the smaller vessel pieces also post-date the Priory. At least one (SF 9) is from a cauldron, and a small fragment with slightly thickened lip (SF 14)

probably comes from a bowl similar to examples from York and Norwich (Ottaway & Rogers 2002, 2809, fig. 1394, 14197; Huddle 2007, 154, fig. 5.50, SF 2258). The exception is a large part of a much-repaired copper-alloy bowl made of wrought sheet metal found in burrow 46 (Fig. 000, SF 26). The wall of the largest fragment has a particularly large patch that is overlapped by three smaller patches; all the repairs are attached by folded sheet rivets. Patching a metal vessel in this way is far from unusual, with mended vessels or detached patches occurring on both urban and monastic sites, such Winchester, York, London, Southampton, Battle Abbey, in secular households and Greyfriars in Norwich and in Austin Friars in Leicester (Rees *et al.* 2008, fig. 140, 2785, fig. 141, 1779; Ottaway and Rogers 2002, fig. 1399; Egan 1998, 176-7; Harvey 1975, fig. 243, 1810; Geddes 1985, fig. 54, 104; Margeson 1993, fig. 59; Huddle 2007, 154-5; Clay 1981, 130, figs 46-7). The multiple repairs on the Swavesey example imply that obtaining a replacement was beyond the finances of the Priory, which seems never to have been very wealthy (*VCH Cambridgeshire* 2, 315-18), while the recovery of copper-alloy working debris from the site suggests that such repairs were done locally on an *ad hoc* basis and probably used metal collected for recycling.

B.2.8 If the patched copper-alloy bowl points to a period of financial hardship at Swavesey, fragments of three stone mortars, used for grinding and mixing food, attest to comparative wealth and access to goods imported to the region both from the continent and from the south coast of England. The largest fragment is of Caen stone from Normandy (Fig. 000, SF 25). It has a pierced handle and distinct foot, features that are not entirely restricted to Caen mortars but when seen on mortars made of other stones are probably the result of copying Normandy products (Dunning 1977, 324-5). Mortars were by-products of the quarries at Caen, the hard cream-white limestone from which was used in high-status religious and secular buildings in both northern France and, from very early on after the conquest, in southern England.

B.2.9 Caen stone was used, for example, in the chapel of St John in the White Tower, the palace of Westminster, and in Battle Abbey, and in other buildings even a small quantity might be used for door and window surrounds and architectural detailing where the local stone, often recycled Roman material, was unsuitable (Tatton-Brown 1991, 361; Parsons 2001, 17; Jean-Marie 2010, 98-9; Renn 1958, 4, 6; Erskine 1981, 9, 16, 51; Wheatley 2004 133-4). Mortars seem not to have been introduced until later, perhaps the mid 12th century at the earliest and more likely in the 13th (Biddle and Smith 1990, 891). The trade in those of Caen stone is concentrated along the southern and eastern coast of England, not reaching as far west as Exeter nor further north than Yorkshire (Allan 1984, 294; Dunning 1977, fig. 152; Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2800). Swavesey is further inland than most findspots in the eastern region, and its mortar may have been acquired through donation rather than purchase. The most likely port of entry is on the Wash at King's Lynn, Norfolk, which has a substantial assemblage of Caen mortars, but other east-coast ports are credible alternatives (Dunning 1977, 331). Dunning interpreted individual mortars found in the sea off Great Yarmouth and in the river Orwell between Ipswich, Felixstowe and Harwich as galley equipment rather than lost cargoes, but the coastal distribution of Caen products suggests that they entered the country through many ports (*ibid.*, 336).

B.2.10 The other two mortars are of stones quarried on the south coast of England and they may also have reached the eastern region through King's Lynn or some other east-coast port. Both are rim fragments. One is a small piece of Quarr stone from the Isle of Wight (SF 51), with a typical void from a clam shell (Bishop 2001, 34, 276-7), the other

is of Purbeck marble, a hard gastropodic limestone from Dorset (SF 35). Mortars of Purbeck marble occur widely in southern England, including at King's Lynn and Norwich, and, while finds off the Suffolk coast attest to sea-borne trade, the numerous inland finds point to road transport also playing a part in their spread (Dunning 1977, 323-7, fig. 146; Mills 2007, 157). The Quarr industry was much smaller than that of the Isle of Purbeck, but its mortars have been found not only at nearby Winchester and Southampton but also at King's Lynn, Coton in Cambridgeshire and two Essex sites, Chelmsford and Great Easton manor (Biddle and Smith 1990; Rees *et al.* 2008, 259; Allum in Shaffrey 2009; Dunning 1977, 328). This scattered distribution suggests that merchants dealing in Purbeck marble mortars may have taken on Quarr products as a side-line.

B.2.11 Five fragments from Mayen lava rotary quernstones were found at Swavesey, two from demolition, one from make-up/levelling, one from ditch 40 and one from burrow 46. All their grinding surfaces are worn smooth from prolonged use. The two largest pieces are from demolition, as was the Purbeck marble mortar fragment, and while none retains any trace of mortar, it is possible that all three had been reused as building material. The Quarr mortar fragment came from levelling, and both it and the lava quern fragment from make-up/levelling, both very small, may represent reuse as hard core.

B.2.12 Rotary querns were used in food preparation, primarily for grinding wheat and other grains for bread-making and brewing; over twenty fragments from Coppergate in York were associated with a 12th-century bakery (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2799). Trade to Britain in Mayen lava querns, sourced from the Eifel Hills in Germany where the quarries were first used in prehistoric times, was rapidly established through ports on the mouth of the Rhine soon after the Roman conquest of Britain. It had ceased by the early Anglo-Saxon period but then re-commenced in the Middle Saxon period through entrepôts such as Hamwih on the south coast and London and Ipswich in the east (Buckley and Major 1983, 75-6; 1988, 38; Hockensmith 2009, 140-1). On a multi-period site distinguishing between small residual Roman and medieval fragments is difficult (*e.g.* Critchley 2010, 81-2), but the absence of Roman material from Swavesey makes it unlikely that any of these pieces is residual unless they had been deliberately collected as building material from a site nearby.

B.2.13 Rather than import finished quernstones, in the Late Saxon period roughly-shaped blanks were sometimes used as ballast and then worked up later at the port of entry (Freshwater 1996). There seems to have been some attempt in the 12th century to restrict the domestic use of hand-querns, no doubt to ensure that grain was taken to the windmills owned by the local feudal authorities, whose millers had the right to a mulcture tax of a 24th part of the grain that they ground (Biddle and Smith 1990, 882; Greenway and Sayers 2008, 53-4). The Abbot of Bury St Edmunds was able to insist on the demolition of a new windmill, built in the town without his permission, because it impacted upon the revenue due to the Abbey mills (*ibid.*). If used to produce flour for baking, all the Swavesey lava quern fragments may therefore predate the later medieval period, although there may have been no similar restrictions on the domestic grinding of malted grain used in brewing (Major 2004, 396).

SF 5. (1), machining/topsoil. Copper-alloy ring of flattened polygonal section. Diameter 22mm, section 3.5 by 3 mm.

Fig. 9, SF 26. (15), fill of burrow 46. Part of the wall of a large shallow copper-alloy bowl made from much-repaired sheet metal, together with thirteen detached fragments.

The profile is irregular but shows that the original form had a flat base, slightly splayed wall and simple turned-down rim. A large patch running the height of the wall is overlapped by three smaller patches, all attached by folded sheet rivets. Original diameter at rim approximately 330 mm, height averages 70 mm.

SF 4. (1), machining/topsoil. Wide everted rim fragment from a cast copper-alloy bowl or cauldron. Diameter 240 mm, width 34 mm.

SF 9. (1), machining/topsoil. Fragment from the upper part of a cast copper-alloy cauldron with slight neck and flaring rim (see Egan 1998, figs. 130-1). Diameter >220 mm, height 67 mm.

SF 14. (1), machining/topsoil. Small fragment from the rim of a cast copper-alloy vessel, probably a bowl, with thickened lip. 23 by 20 mm.

SF 22. (1), machining/topsoil. Fragment from the upper part of a cast copper-alloy bowl or dish with everted rim. Both body and rim are thinner than SF 4 above. Diameter greater than 180 mm, height 23 mm.

Fig. 10, SF 25. (21), fill of burrow 22. Fragment of a well-worn mortar of creamy-yellow Caen stone, with characteristic wear in the interior at the base/wall junction, leaving a slight dome in the centre of the base. Externally the mortar is worked to a smooth finish. It has a prominent base and the stump of a handle. Height 141 mm, external diameter at base >192 mm, wall thickness 27-37 mm.

SF 35. (2), demolition. Rim fragment from a Purbeck marble mortar. The lower part of the interior is very worn, the outside is slightly rough. Height 84 mm, external diameter at rim 280 mm, thickness at rim 34 mm, minimum thickness 19 mm.

SF 51. (29), levelling. Small rim fragment from a mortar of cream-white Quarr stone. Height 27 mm, external diameter approximately 260 mm, thickness 39 mm.

SF 37. (2), demolition. Two fragments from lava quern lowerstones: a) with worn grinding surface and irregular underside, 106 by 70 mm, 53 mm thick; b) with worn grinding surface and regularly pecked underside, 161 by 85 mm, 52 mm thick.

SF 38. (39), fill of ditch 39. Small irregular fragment from the lower-stone of a lava quern, with worn grinding surface and irregular underside. 73 by 72 mm, 49 mm thick.

SF 41. (23), make-up/levelling. Fragment of lava quernstone as SF 38. 81 by 59 mm, 52 mm thick.

SF 54. (15), fill of burrow 46. Fragment of lava quernstone as SF 38. 67 by 61 mm, 46 mm thick.

Weighing

B.2.14 A single lead weight (SF 16) may have come from the Priory kitchen, like the majority of the pieces of household equipment from the site, or it may be post-medieval scrap. A similar weight, 2.6 oz to SF 16's 1.3 oz, came from topsoil at Stansted (Major 2004, 498, fig. 325, 2).

SF 16. (1), machining/topsoil. Annular lead weight. Diameter 25 mm, height 11 mm; weight 38 g (1.3 oz).

Transport

B.2.15 Part of a rumbler bell from topsoil (Fig. 10, SF 3) is probably from horse harness, but its small size would also have been appropriate for use on clothing. It is similar in size to an example from London that may date to the 13th century (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 336-7, fig. 221, 1644).

Fig. 10, SF 3. (1), machining/topsoil. Upper half of a small copper-alloy rumbler bell with a suspension loop made from a wide strip of sheet metal, its ends soldered together inside the bell. A pair of grooves run asymmetrically along part of the rim. Height 16 mm, maximum diameter 19 mm.

Tool

B.2.16 The only tool recovered is a broken hone from occupation/make-up. Made from Norwegian Ragstone, it is an import that again points to the Priory having access to trade goods, but unlike the mortars such hones were imported to the eastern region in large numbers over a very long period and are not evidence for wealth or status. Sourced from Eidsborg, Telemark, in southern Norway, they seem to have been first brought to England in the 9th century and in many eastern and southern towns, such as York, Lincoln, Northampton, King's Lynn, Norwich, Thetford, Colchester and Winchester, they were the principal hones in use throughout the Late Saxon and medieval periods and they were perhaps still being imported into the early post-medieval period (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, table 299; Mann 1982, 30; Moore and Oakley 1979, 280-3; Ellis 1977, 317-20; Margeson 1993, 197-202; Mills 2007, 190; Moore and Ellis 1984, 107-11; Crummy 1988, 77-8; Rees *et al.* 2008, 325-6).

Fig. 000, SF 10. (3), occupation/make-up. Norwegian Ragstone hone, broken at one end. The rectangular section has worn down in places, and there are point-sharpening grooves on one face. Length 104 mm, maximum section 35 by 19 mm.

Fittings

B.2.17 A rotary key from topsoil (Fig. 8, SF 15) is of late medieval or early post-medieval date and probably derives from the Priory. The size of this example and its simple bit are more appropriate for a chest or cupboard than a door (Egan 1998, 111; Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2869, 2872). The ovoid bow is of unusual construction; instead of the top of the shank being split and opened out, it has been elongated, looped round and welded into position.

B.2.18 Few iron nails were recovered, but most are stratified, with four coming from demolition layers (Table 3). A stud with large fat head and short shank from topsoil may post-date the Priory.

Fig. 8, SF 15. (1), machining/topsoil. Iron rotary key with solid rectangular bit, solid shank and ovoid bow formed by looping round the narrow end of the shank. There is a slight channel between the end of the shank and the bit. Length 65 mm, diameter of bow 26 mm.

SF	Context	Context description	Description	Length (mm)
36	23	make-up/levelling	complete nail with round flat head	71
49	3	occupation/make-up	complete nail with small round convex head	42
46	26	dump	incomplete nail with damaged round flat head, shank clenched	46
45	44	demolition	incomplete nail with damaged slightly convex ?round head	60
39	2	demolition	3 complete nails: a) 2 x irregular rectangular head; b) pyramidal head	a) 60, 41; b) 43
52	56	fill of ditch 57	incomplete nail with round flat head	45
29	15	fill of burrow 46	incomplete nail with round flat head	51
13	1	machining/topsoil	complete stud with large round flat head and short shank	22

Table 3: Iron nails and stud.

Structural stonework

B.2.19 Only four fragments of architectural stonework were recovered, two from dump layers and two from demolition material. One of the fragments from dump is of coarse limestone and was probably part of a external plinth (SF 19). It has a bevelled edge and a keying slot to bond the adjacent piece. The other fragment from dump is of a fine limestone and probably came from an internal feature such as a pilaster or cornice (SF 40). The pieces from the demolition levels are a part of a limestone slab that probably came from a window embrasure or shelf (SF 31), and a small part of a hollow chamfer with traces of buff paint that may represent a fold of drapery from an internal statue (SF 50).

> SF 19. (14), dump. Weathered rectangular coarse buff-brown limestone block, missing one face. Two faces meet at a bevelled edge, and a deep chisel-cut keying slot runs across one at right angles to the bevel. 194 by 172 by 187 mm.
>
> SF 40. (26), dump. Fragment of a small white-grey limestone block with a rounded moulding butting onto a dowel slot on one face. There are traces of mortar on the face at right-angles to the slot. 65 by 57 by 48 mm.
>
> SF 50. (44), demolition. Fragment of limestone with part of a hollow chamfer retaining traces of buff paint; this may be a fold of drapery from a statue. 72 by 67 by 26 mm.
>
> SF 31. (2), demolition. Fragment of grey-buff shelly limestone with one face worked smooth and part of one edge. The underside has split. 103 by 93 mm, original thickness 32 mm, reduced to 12 mm in places.

Structural leadwork

B.2.20 Three came fragments and a lead stud with iron shank represent what was probably once a substantial amount of leadwork in the Priory buildings. One came was found in the fill of ditch 34, the other items are from topsoil.

B.2.21 The stud (SF 30) was probably used on sheet lead from a roof or on guttering. At least two of the cames (SFs 11 and 27) are not offcuts but pieces from completed windows with complex designs, while the fragment from ditch 34 may be a long offcut, as for much of its length it has been tightly twisted (SF 28). Each of the three pieces is of different section, pointing to at least three phases of glazing work done over the medieval and early post-medieval periods (King 1987, 39; 2007, 113-14). The fragments with sections of Types A and B (SFs 11 and 27) probably pre-date the Type C offcut SF 28.

B.2.22 At the Dissolution all lead from monastic buildings was considered to be royal property, and many were demolished or gutted so that their lead could be melted down on site, cast into ingots and removed. There is documentary and archaeological evidence to this effect from many places, such as the abbeys of Shrewsbury, Bordesley, Battle, Rievaulx, and Byland (Baker 2002, 32-3; Rahtz and Hirst 1976, 205; Hare 1985, 42; Dunning 1952, 200). Even the lesser monastic houses were stripped, such as the Gilbertine Priory at Fishergate, York, and where monastic churches also served as parish churches the lead could still be stripped from the roof and replaced with ceramic tiles, as was the case with the west end of London's Austin Friars (*ibid.*; Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2694; Schofield 1984, 140). Swavesey Priory is unlikely to have been exempt, and while these few scraps of leadwork do not come from dated demolition levels, there is a strong possibility that they derive from such activity rather than from

construction work, repairs or improvements. At Leicester's Austin Friars, for example, 70 per cent of the cames were from destruction levels (Clay 1981,49).

SF 11. (1), machining/topsoil. Lead window came fragment consisting of two conjoined curved strips. The section is of Type A (King 1987, 39), with lozenge-shaped transverse flanges and thick centre. Length 44 mm, section 6 by 5 mm.

SF 27. (1), machining/topsoil. Bent lead window came fragment of complex form, with a small fragment of decayed dark glass still fixed in one end. The section is obscured by debris but is probably of I-shaped Type B (*ibid.*). Length 51 mm, width 37 mm, section 6 by 5 mm.

SF 28. (33), fill of ditch 34. Bent and twisted lead window came fragment of H-shaped section, Type C (*ibid.*). Length 105 mm, section 6 by 5 mm.

SF 30. (1), machining/topsoil. Stud with roughly-shaped lead plano-convex head and the stump of an iron shank. Diameter 27 mm, height 10 mm.

Metal-working debris

B.2.23 A fragment of debris from occupation/make-up adds to the evidence for small-scale copper-alloy smithing on the site evident from the repaired copper-alloy bowl SF 26 (Fig. 9). Small scraps of refrozen lead from topsoil, like the lead cames and stud above, may come from small-scale lead-working associated with roofing or glazing work on the Priory buildings, or may represent scraps left over from melting down any leadwork removed at the Dissolution.

SF 53. (3), occupation/make-up. Fragment of debris from copper-alloy working. Weight 85 g.

SF 7. (1), machining/topsoil. Four small drips of refrozen lead. 24 by 16 mm, 27 by 15 mm, 29 by 16 mm, 26 by 14 mm; total weight 28 g.

SF 24. (1), machining/topsoil. Refrozen lead puddle. 67 by 59 mm; weight 109 g.

Miscellaneous metalwork

B.2.24 Of these four pieces the large copper-alloy folded sheet rivet SF 34 is probably contemporary with the Priory, as may be the broken copper-alloy strap SF 3 and iron strip fragment SF 21. The piece of lead shot SF 8 is most likely to be post-medieval or early modern.

SF 3. (1), machining/topsoil. Curved copper-alloy strap or fitting, broken at one end. Two rivet holes for attachment flank a smaller lozenge-shaped hole. Length 68 mm, width 22 mm.

SF 34. (1), machining/topsoil. Large copper-alloy folded sheet rivet with rectangular top. Length 34 mm, width 13 mm, height 15 mm.

SF 8. (1), machining/topsoil. Lead shot. Diameter 13 mm; weight 10 g.

SF 21. (1), machining/topsoil. Tapering iron strip fragment. Length 172 mm, width tapers from 16 to 10 mm.

B.3 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.3.1 Excavation produced a moderately large post-Roman pottery assemblage of 434 sherds, weighing 9.996kg. This total includes unstratified material and unphased contexts. Unstratified material and pottery recovered from unphased contexts have been excluded from the analysis of the assemblage within this report, however these are recorded in the pottery catalogue.

B.3.2 For the purpose of this report the total phased and stratified assemblage is 418 sherds, weighing 9.467kg.

B.3.3 A small number of early medieval sherds were recovered indicating some occupational activity on or close to the site in this period. The majority of the stratified assemblage is late medieval, suggesting the main phase of activity was the mid 14th to the end of the 15th century. A moderate number of medieval mid 12th/13th century to mid 14th century sherds were also recovered, along with several post-medieval sherds. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the average sherd weight is moderate at approximately 23g.

Methodology

B.3.4 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

B.3.5 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis.

B.3.6 The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Sampling Bias

B.3.7 The excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases.

The Assemblage

B.3.8 Ceramic fabrics, abbreviations and a summary catalogue by fabric, sherd count and weight for the phased and stratified assemblage are given in Table 4.

Fabric Name	No. Sherds	Weight (kg)	% by weight
Bourne D	16	0.390	4.12
Cistercian ware	10	0.185	1.95
Coarse Sandy ware	3	0.023	0.24
Colne C	7	0.095	1.00
Colne Late Medieval	6	0.210	2.22
Developed St Neots	2	0.009	0.10
Developed St Neots S	1	0.053	0.56
Early Everton type Late Medieval Reduced ware	11	0.250	2.64
Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	1	0.019	0.20
East Anglian Redware	12	0.183	1.93
Grimston ware	5	0.211	2.23
Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	5	0.019	0.20
Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	20	0.154	1.63
Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware	2	0.019	0.20
Late Grimston ware	1	0.019	0.20
Late Medieval Ely ware	5	0.029	0.31
Late Medieval Oxidised	1	0.012	0.13
Late Medieval Reduced ware	99	1.545	16.32
Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	118	3.208	33.89
Lyveden A type Shelly ware	5	0.062	0.65
Lyveden-Stanion ware	1	0.041	0.43
Medeival Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	4	0.030	0.32
Medieval Coarseware	3	0.016	0.17
Medieval Ely ware	5	0.203	2.14
Medieval Ely ware/Late Medieval Ely ware	1	0.051	0.54
Modern Red Earthenware	1	0.117	1.24
Orange Sandy ware	1	0.022	0.23
Post-Medieval Black Glazed ware	1	0.011	0.12
Post-Medieval Redware	25	1.465	15.47
Potterspury	1	0.003	0.03
Shelly ware	1	0.015	0.16
Sible Hedingham	2	0.016	0.17
Southeast Fenland Calcareous Buff ware	2	0.016	0.17
Southwest Cambridgeshire Sandy ware	2	0.026	0.27
Surrey Whiteware (Cheam)	2	0.058	0.61
Tin glazed Earthenware	1	0.008	0.08
Transitional Redware	15	0.539	5.69
Tudor Green	1	0.001	0.01
Unglazed Grimston-Blackbrough End ware	8	0.029	0.31
Unprovenanced Coarseware	10	0.101	1.07
Unprovenanced Glazed ware	1	0.004	0.04
Totals	418	9.467	100.00

Table 4: Summary by fabric, sherd count and weight for the stratified assemblage

Pottery by period

B.3.9 Early medieval fabrics form 0.7% of the phased assemblage by weight, represented by a single sherd from an Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware sooted jar, five sherds of Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware and two sherds of what has tentatively been identified as Southwest Cambridgeshire Sandy ware. In addition a further 0.7% of the assemblage is transitional between early medieval and medieval, this consists of two sherds of Developed St Neots and a rim sherd from a Developed St Neots S jar.

B.3.10 Medieval fabrics form a small part of the pottery recovered, comprising 80 sherds weighing 1.089kg; approximately 11% of the total assemblage by weight. The largest group of sherds by weight are Grimston type vessels from Norfolk (5 sherds, 0.211kg) comprising almost entirely jug sherds. The second group are medieval Ely ware sherds (5 sherds, 0.203kg). By sherd count the largest group is Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware, although by weight the fabric is the fourth largest group. Sherds from several Sible Hedingham jugs were present alongside a single sherd from a Lyveden-Stanion ware jug. A number of unglazed medieval coarseware vessels were also recovered including two sherds identified as Southeast Fenland calcareous buff ware and sherds of Lydeven type Shelly ware. Although present in relatively small numbers and recovered from a limited number of features, the medieval ceramics present suggest the survival of significant medieval deposits.

B.3.11 A small number of sherds were identified as being transitional between high medieval and late medieval, including a single sherd from a Potterspury jug and 11 sherds tentatively identified as Early Everton type Late Medieval Reduced ware. In addition a large sherd from a Medieval Ely Ware or late Medieval Ely Ware dripping dish was also recorded.

B.3.12 In contrast, 234 sherds (5.104 kg) of late medieval pottery were identified, approximately 54% of the phased assemblage by weight. Of these 217 sherds, (4.753 kg) or 50% of the phased assemblage, are Late Medieval Reduced wares from several different kiln sources. A small number of other late medieval fabrics are also present including Late Medieval Grimston ware, a small number of Surrey White ware sherds and the single sherd from a Tudor Green vessel.

B.3.13 A number of transitional late medieval/post medieval sherds were identified including Bourne D, Colne C and a number of Cistercian Ware vessels. Post-medieval pottery identified in the phased assemblage, forms approximately 16% of the assemblage by weight and consist almost entirely of Post-Medieval Redware.

Assemblage

B.3.14 The site stratigraphy was divided into four phases with Phase 2 then further sub-divided into 2.1 and 2.2. The assemblages from these phases are relatively small and only Phase 2 and 3 are suitable for limited statistical analysis, therefore an overall summary of the phases is offered before discussing the assemblage in relation to excavated features.

Phase			**No. Sherds**	**Weight (kg)**	**%**
Phase 1 (Medieval)			4	0.017	0.2
Phase 2 (*c*.mid 14th-mid/late 16th century)	*c*.1350-1500	2.1	20	0.169	1.8
	c.1500-1550/1600	2.2	129	2.668	28.6
Phase 3 (*c*.mid/late 16th-early 19th century			222	5.922	62.6
Phase 4 (19th-century to present)			43	0.691	7.3
Totals			**418**	**9.467**	**100**

Table 5: Pottery assemblage by stratigraphic phase

Residuality and Intrusiveness

B.3.15 The level of intrusiveness in Phase 2.1 is moderate, however the small numbers of sherds involved make the statistics unreliable. The levels of residuality in Phase 2.2 more accurately reflects the number of late medieval sherds, although these were possibly still in use at the beginning of the 16th century they most likely had ceased to be produced. The extremely high levels of residuality in Phase 3 at 62% again is due to the large numbers of Late Medieval Reduced ware sherds in the assemblage and a

number of medieval sherds. The residual levels in Phase 4 represent disturbance of earlier material caused by rabbits.

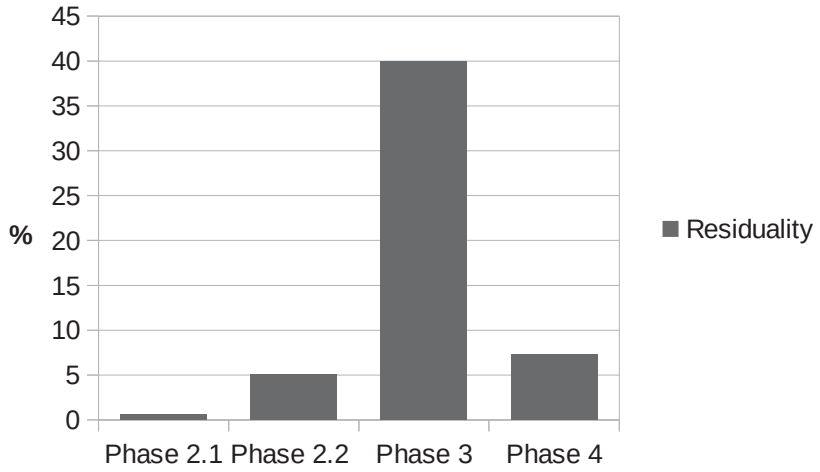

Chart 1:Residuality as percentage of total assemblage by weight (kg)

Provenance

B.3.16 The information detailing the statistics for the supply of pottery have been simplified to provide a clear picture of the generalised supply of pottery. Overall, fabrics from the Cambridgeshire-Bedfordshire border form the bulk of the assemblage forming 37% of the total assemblage by weight. In terms of unsourced Late Medieval Reduced wares, Bedfordshire fabrics make up a further 16% of the assemblage. Cambridgeshire fabrics comprise almost 9% of the assemblage while the wider East Anglian region (including Cambridgeshire) comprises 23% of the assemblage, including the East Anglian redwares present alongside transitional redwares and the Post-Medieval Redware fabrics, all of which were produced widely throughout the region.

B.3.17 The remainder of the assemblage is made up of small numbers of sherds from the surrounding countries which include Buckinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk.

B.3.18 There are no imported fabrics and it is unusual to excavate a site without finding a single sherd of Raeren or Frechen stoneware which is almost ubiquitous on most sites. This may indicate that by the late 15th century or earlier the site was not inhabited.

B.3.1 The provenance of the assemblage does demonstrate some change across the phases. In Phase 1 local products from Cambridgeshire, namely Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy wares and Ely wares, are present alongside Southwest Cambridgeshire Sandy ware, however the sherds present are too small to draw firm conclusions as the medieval deposits were in general not excavated. The residual medieval material in the later phases hints at a broad assemblage of pottery, including glazed jugs from Ely in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Essex. Coarsewares for food preparation and storage come from Essex, Ely and Norfolk with a small number of vessels from the Cambridgeshire-Bedfordshire borderlands. Many of these products would have reached the site via medieval waterways, since in the medieval period Swavesey was an inland port inked to the river Great Ouse by a canal that gave access to trade from the distant port at Kings Lynn, markets in Huntingdon and to trade from Bedfordshire. Road links to

other markets were also available and Swavesey lies close to two Roman roads, namely Ermine Street, and the Via Devana which forms one of the parish boundaries.

B.3.2 The provenance of Phase 2 ceramics is firmly rooted in the west of the county around the Cambridgeshire-Bedfordshire border and Bedfordshire. This is represented by the presence of Late Medieval Reduced ware, mainly as a residual element in Phase 2.2 and Phase 3 where it constitutes 18.5%, and 21.5% respectively of the total site phased assemblage by weight. More local wares were also present on site, including late medieval material from Colne, which lies less than 7 miles to the north; pottery may have reached Swavesey from Colne by either water or road.

B.3.3 Phase 3 is dominated by residual fabrics including small amounts of pottery from more distant counties such as the two sherds from a Surrey Whiteware vessel, most likely an example of a Cheam biconical jug. In Phase 3 contemporary pottery is supplied by the numerous redware potteries within East Anglia that survived into the post-medieval period. These include kilns in Ely and Essex, however it has not been possible to recognise the products of specific kiln groups in this assemblage.

B.3.4 Phase 4, although dated to the 19th century to present, contains no contemporary pottery and mainly relates to the rabbit burrows, which were full of pottery ranging from the early medieval to the post-medieval period.

Fabric

B.3.5 A number of different fabrics were identified in the assemblage, as indicated in Table 4, although more than 75% of these are represented by fewer than 10 sherds. The quantities of pottery present in Phase 1 and 2.1 are too small to discuss in detail except to mention that they contain a number of medieval sherds including Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware, medieval and late medieval Ely Ware alongside a small number of developed St Neots ware sherds including a single sherd of Developed St Neot S.

B.3.6 The most common fabrics by weight in Phase 2.2 are Late Medieval wares, these include 40 sherds (0.74 kg) of generic Late Medieval Reduced ware commonly thought of as being produced in Bedfordshire. In addition 39 sherds (1.031 kg), approximately 11% of the total phased assemblage by weight were tentatively identified as Late Medieval Reduced ware possibly originating somewhere in the vicinity of the Everton kilns in Bedfordshire, although the village lies less than a kilometre from the Cambridge border.

B.3.7 Everton is located on the Lower Greensands, part of the Lower Cambridgeshire Greensand, known in Bedfordshire as the Woburn Sands. It is these Greensands that are the most likely source of the iron-stained quartz found in the pottery matrix of these Late Medieval Reduced wares. The sherds are very distinctive with mainly black or near-black surfaces with red-brown margins and mid grey core. All contain moderate amounts of iron stained quartz, suggesting either Everton or another as yet unidentified kiln, located on the Greensand outcrops.

B.3.8 The material examined by Slowikowski from the Everton kilns and from the Everton field walking does not completely match the material recovered from Swavesey, however her description of the material from the Everton field walking when discussing colour and surface appearance closely resembles the material recovered from Swavesey. "Some of the sherds from the Everton field walking have a very distinctive surface appearance: black surfaces and a bright red margin. The core is normally grey throughout. It may only be a difference in the firing conditions but its frequency and evenness over the vessel suggest it may have been a deliberate attempt to dark grey or black surface, the

margins being incidental […] Unfortunately this was only picked up as a recordable trait halfway through the data collection so proportions cannot be determined. It does appear to be a characteristic of a large proportion of the field walked assemblage only" (Slowikowski 2011, 55). This information, when taken into consideration with that discussed by Spoerry in regards to Slowikowski's work and earlier pottery production at Everton now being recognised at Wintringham with a re-evaluation of the material published by Beresford and the recognition that the fabric "is very like that of Southwest Cambridgeshire Sandy Ware, from which it probably develops" (Spoerry forthcoming).

B.3.9 Small numbers of other fabrics are also present in the Phase 2.2 assemblage, these include a single sherd of Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware, Late Medieval Ely wares, a small fragment of Tudor Green and a small number of Colne Late Medieval ware sherds. Only a small proportion of the late Medieval pottery recovered from Swavesey Priory appears to have originated from the relatively local late medieval kilns identified by Healey at Colne. Located on a band of 1st Terrace River Gravels and Boulder clay (British Geological Survey 1993), there is no iron-stained quartz in the samples of pottery from the Colne kilns allowing any similar products to be separated from those possibly from Everton or elsewhere.

B.3.10 A small number of Bourne D sherds are also present in the Phase 2.2 assemblage, Spoerry (forthcoming) suggests that on consumer sites Colne C is usually indistinguishable from many Bourne D products and it might be surmised that much of the Bourne D found in southern Cambridgeshire Fenland was manufactured at Colne. Swavesey's proximity to Colne may suggest the small number of Bourne D sherds identified may in fact be Colne C sherds, however this can only be confirmed through thin section and/or chemical analysis (Spoerry forthcoming).

B.3.11 In Phase 3 the residual medieval fabrics form a minor element compared with the residual late medieval fabrics. Again Late Medieval Reduced wares form the largest group of sherds. These can be divided between those of relatively standard grey Late Medieval Reduced ware (50 sherds weighing 0.725 kg) and the dark surface with red-brown margins of the possible Everton material (69 sherds weighing 2.031kg). Also present are sherds of Colne Late Medieval which Spoerry describes as having a very matt surface which is extremely smooth (Spoerry forthcoming). A single rim sherd recovered from context 30 was tentatively identified as Colne C, this unglazed sherd in a mid-orange fabric has a matt yet slightly sandy feel with a pale grey-brown core. This sherd more closely matches the Colne C samples from the kiln site than Bourne D examples. The kiln examples of Colne C appear to be sandier than the Bourne D identified at Swavesey. Phase 3 also contains a number of residual sherds tentatively identified as Early Everton type Late Medieval Reduced ware.

B.3.12 Phase 4 produced a moderate range of fabrics similar to that of Phase 2 and Phase 3 all of which are residual.

Form

B.3.13 Bowls are the dominant form in the assemblage, comprising 41% of the assemblage by weight, a total of 3.895 kg. The majority of these bowls are in Late Medieval ware fabrics, supplemented by a number of Post-Medieval Redware bowls. The bulk of these sherds were recovered from Phase 3 contexts. A relatively small number of jars (9.5% of the total assemblage by weight) were identified in the assemblage, this is in part due to the lack of excavated medieval contexts where one would expect jars to be the dominant form. By the late medieval period more cooking of food was taking place in metal vessels and fewer jars are present in the general assemblage.

B.3.14 Jugs were equally under-represented, with the sherds divided between residual medieval material, including the rim sherd from a Grimston Ware jug and a single sherd from a Lyveden-Stanion ware jug, and late medieval material which includes rim fragments of Late Medieval Reduced ware jugs in contexts 26 and 29, a convex, obtuse, base sherd and a strap handle from context 47. In addition a rod handle from an Everton type Late Medieval Reduced ware jug, and a strap handle from an Early Everton type Late Medieval Reduced ware jug were also recovered.

B.3.15 A small number of vessels were identified to a specific form. These include a number of Late Medieval Reduced ware flared and rounded bowls from various contexts, a short strap handle from Colne Late Medieval pipkin from context 29, a Medieval Ely ware-Late Medieval Ely ware dripping dish form and a bunghole from a cistern in a Late Medieval Reduced Everton type ware fabric.

B.3.16 No industrial vessels were identified within the assemblage and approximately 29% of the assemblage could not be assigned a form. The bulk of the sherds were the Late Medieval Reduced ware body sherds, the majority of which, although possessing no diagnostic features, were almost certainly from bowls.

Assemblage in Relation to Phase and Excavated Features

Phase 1: Medieval

B.3.17 Few features were assigned to Phase 1, as the majority of the medieval features were not excavated, being left undisturbed and *in situ*. Those that were excavated (or had finds recovered from their surface) produced only small amounts of pottery. Two small abraded sherds were recovered from layer 54, one from a Potterspury jug, the other from a late Medieval Ely ware jug. Layer 65 produced a single sherd from a Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware vessel and a small sherd of Southwest Cambridgeshire Sandy ware, a possible precursor to the early Everton Late Medieval ware.

*Phase 2: c.*mid 14th-mid/late 16th century

B.3.18 Phase 2 is divided into two sub-groups. Group 2.1 (mid-14th to the end of the 15th century) consists of a series of pits, a ditch, and a levelling layer. Pit **48** produced sherds from two sooted Southeast Fenland Calcareous Buff ware jars, alongside residual Huntingdonshire Early Medieval and Fen Sandy wares. Pit **60** produced four undiagnostic sherds of Unglazed Grimston-Blackbrough End ware. The final pit **64** produced sherds of Late Medieval Reduced ware and sherds of early medieval and medieval Essex coarsewares.

B.3.19 Ditch **36** produced a flat base sherd from a Late Medieval Reduced Everton type ware bowl alongside a small residual sherd from Huntingdonshire fen Sandy Ware jar. Layer 25, contained residual sherds, including two sooted body sherds from a medieval Ely ware jar.

B.3.20 Phase 2.2 produced a much larger assemblage of material from a greater number of features, the majority of which appear to be ditches. Two fills from ditch **32** produced pottery, both contexts produced a similar range of fabrics including Late Medieval Reduced wares (mid-14th and 15th century) including sherds from a flared bowl and jars. A single sherd from a Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware jug and sherds of Bourne D were recovered from context 30. Ditch **34** produced a similar range of fabrics with the addition of the Post-Medieval Redware-Cistercian type drinking vessel, possibly from the Ely Redware kilns and dated to the 16th century. Ditch 40

produced a mix of residual material including small abraded sherds of developed St Neots and Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware, alongside contemporary sherds of Bourne D and a large rim and strap handle from a Transitional Redware jug dating from the 15th to the end of the 16th century.

B.3.21 Six of the layers identified in this phase produced pottery, of these context 3 produced a number of Late Medieval Reduced Ware sherds including an early Everton type Late Medieval ware strap handle from a jug. Also present were a small abraded sherd from a Grimston ware jug and a small sherd from a Cistercian ware drinking vessel dated to the 16th century.

B.3.22 Context 23 produced only residual material, including small fragments from a Grimston ware jug and a Late Medieval Ely ware bowl. Contexts 26/47 produced a moderate assemblage of finds, the majority of which were residual medieval and late medieval wares including the thickened strap handle from a Medieval Ely ware jug, rim sherds from a Late Medieval Reduced ware jar and jug and the strap handle from a Colne Late Medieval ware jug.

B.3.23 Context 44 produced three small sherds of pottery including an undiagnostic fragment from a Tudor Green vessel, while context 78 produced only a single unabraded sherd of Bourne D (mid 15th-mid 17th century).

***Phase 3: c.*mid/late 16th-early 19th century**

B.3.24 Context 2 (115 sherds weighing 3.709 kg) and equivalent context 29 (82 sherds weighing 1.476 kg) together represent the largest group assemblage from the excavation which together form approximately 55% of the total phased assemblage by weight. Much of the pottery is residual and this includes the largest group of sherds which again are the Late Medieval Reduced ware sherds. Both contexts contain a similar range of sherds; a small number of Post-Medieval Reduced ware sherds in both contexts have surfaces covered with what appears to be an iron-stained limescale. Similar sherds are also present in context 14. There are no direct cross-joins between the Late Medieval Reduced ware sherds in each contexts, however the presumption is that these sherds come from the same vessel.

B.3.25 Within the Late Medieval Reduced Ware Everton sherds from context 2 were three fragments from the bunghole of a bunghole cistern. The context also produced, alongside residual medieval fabrics such as Lyveden A type Shelly ware, Huntingdonshire fen Sandy ware and the residual late Medieval reduced ware fabrics, a number of Bourne D sherds, Transitional Redware sherds, Post-Medieval Redware sherds, a single sherd from a Post-Medieval Black Glazed ware jug and a semi-complete, Cistercian ware, two handled drinking vessel (Fig. 11).

B.3.26 Context 29, although similar to context 2, also produced a direct cross-join between two sherds which make up a complete base sherd from a Surrey Whiteware (Cheam) biconical jug, half of the base being in context 14, with the remainder in context 29. This is the only cross-joining recorded in the entire assemblage.

B.3.27 Context 14, apart from the cross joining Surrey Whiteware (Cheam) biconical jug sherd, also produced residual sherds from a Medieval Ely ware jug, sherds from a Bourne D jug and small moderate to abraded sherds from late Medieval Reduced wares and East Anglian Redwares. Context 16 produced a single fragment from a late Reduced ware Everton type vessel and three sherds of Post-Medieval Redware including two large sherds from a flared bowl. The culvert, 20, produced only two sherds of pottery, both residual. Context 79 produced a small number of sherds (nine sherds, 0.251kg)

including Post-Medieval Redwares and the only sherd of Tin-glazed Earthenware recovered from the site. This sherd is decorated internally but has suffered some loss of tin glaze from the outer surface.

Phase 4: 19th-century to present

B.3.28 Phase 4 relates to modern features, and most contexts relate to the rabbit burrows which were disturbing the site. The pottery these features contained is all residual and is a mix of medieval pottery of types seen in other features, the burrows having produced some of the larger numbers of medieval pottery recovered from the site, and also late medieval ceramics of types seen over the whole site.

Conclusion

B.3.29 The presence of medieval pottery indicates medieval activity on the site. The small number of medieval sherds may also indicate some domestic occupation or rubbish disposition from the mid 11th century as indicated by the presence of Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware. The excavations at Black Horse Lane, Swavesey in 1998 and 1999 produced a large medieval assemblage of pottery which Paul Spoerry described as split into two groups one dating to the 10th-mid 12th century, and the second to the mid 12th to end of the 14th century and that there is surprisingly little late medieval and early post-medieval pottery (Spoerry 2001). It would appear that the Phase 1 contexts of the excavations at Swavesey Priory relate most closely to the material recovered from the Blackhorse Lane excavations, however due to the small number of medieval sherds recovered from the Priory excavations no clear comparison can be made and unfortunately the lack of late medieval material on the Black Horse Lane site prevents any comparison with these elements.

B.3.30 A prominent role in the assemblage is played by the late medieval wares, both the standard grey ware types and more importantly the Everton types, which suggest strong trading links to the west of the county in the late medieval period, rather than to the settlement of Colne to the north or to Ely. The reasoning behind this is unclear and the author has not examined such a diverse range of Late Medieval Reduced ware fabrics outside of a Bedfordshire assemblage. Perhaps there are links with the Zouche family holdings outside the county, or perhaps the closeness to the navigable river routes made trade with the western reaches of the County easier.

B.3.31 The assemblage appears domestic, yet contains few jugs or jars, the later medieval pottery being represented mainly by bowls. There is little evidence for cooking vessels although a large number of sherds are sooted, these are mainly from bowls. There is a paucity of both jars and jugs and it seems most likely that although the pottery appears superficially domestic, what is present is material used in dairying processes, possibly for the production of the equivalent of clotted cream or cheese in the late medieval period. Continuing into the post-medieval period, although the Post-Medieval Redware bowls are unsooted, their use as kitchen mixing vessels and commonly in dairy processing suggest that the buildings which may be associated with these deposits were farm buildings and not used for domestic occupation.

Catalogue for phased and unphased pottery

Context	Fabric	Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight	*Context Date*	Phase
2	Transitional Redware		1	0.037	c.1600	3
	Bourne D	Bowl	1	0.019		
	Bourne D		1	0.042		
	Cistercian ware	Drinking Vessel	8	0.18		
	Colne Late Medieval	Bowl	3	0.097		
	Early Everton type Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	3	0.101		
	Early Everton type Late Medieval Reduced ware		6	0.066		
	East Anglian Redware	Jug	6	0.122		
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Jar	2	0.026		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	jar/jug	1	0.025		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	jar	1	0.014		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	6	0.154		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		12	0.244		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	jug/jar	3	0.021		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Jug	1	0.037		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Jar	3	0.147		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Bowl	21	0.903		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		16	0.16		
	Lyveden A type Shelly ware	Jar	1	0.033		
	Modern Red Earthenware	Plant pot	1	0.117		
	Post-Medieval Black Glazed ware	Jug	1	0.011		
	Post-Medieval Redware	Drinking Vessel	1	0.02		
	Post-Medieval Redware	Bowl	11	0.978		
	Post-Medieval Redware		1	0.017		
	Sible Hedingham	Jug	1	0.015		
	Transitional Redware	Jug	1	0.099		
	Bourne D	Jug	2	0.024		
3	Cistercian ware	Drinking Vessel	1	0.002	1470-1500	2.2
	Early Everton type Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jug	1	0.073		
	Grimston ware	Jug	1	0.002		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jar	1	0.008		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	1	0.038		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		2	0.016		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Bowl	3	0.103		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		12	0.324		
7	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.007	1175-1300	4
	Lyveden A type Shelly ware	Jar	3	0.021		
9	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.012	1350-1500	4

Context	Fabric	Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight	*Context Date*	Phase
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		1	0.007		
11	Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware		1	0.012	1350-1500	4
	Late Grimston ware	Jug	1	0.019		
14	Bourne D	Jug	2	0.075	1450-1650	3
	Bourne D		1	0.005		
	Early Everton type Late Medieval Reduced ware		1	0.01		
	East Anglian Redware		1	0.007		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		2	0.012		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		1	0.008		
	Medieval Ely ware	Jug	1	0.119		
	Surrey Whiteware (Cheam)	Jug	1	0.026		
15	Bourne D	Jug	1	0.01	1450-1650	4
	Bourne D		1	0.016		
	Grimston ware	Jug	1	0.175		
	Grimston ware		1	0.019		
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.002		
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware		1	0.006		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	jar/jug	1	0.02		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	1	0.038		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		2	0.009		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Jar	1	0.006		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Bowl	6	0.099		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		1	0.008		
	Lyveden A type Shelly ware		1	0.008		
	Lyveden-Stanion ware	Jug	1	0.041		
	Medeival Essex Micaceous Sandy ware		1	0.012		
	Medieval Coarseware	Jar	1	0.012		
	Medieval Ely ware/Late Medieval Ely ware	Bowl	1	0.051		
	Post-Medieval Redware	Jug	1	0.027		
16	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		1	0.008	1500-1800	3
	Post-Medieval Redware	Bowl	2	0.175		
	Post-Medieval Redware		1	0.009		
17	Late Medieval Reduced ware		1	0.002	1350-1500	4
19	Late Medieval Oxidised		1	0.012	1350-1500	3
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	1	0.02		
21	Coarse Sandy ware		2	0.018	1350-1500	4
	Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware		2	0.003		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		1	0.001		
	Medieval Coarseware		2	0.004		
	Sible Hedingham		1	0.001		

Context	Fabric	Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight	*Context Date*	Phase
23	Grimston ware	Jug	1	0.003	1350-1500	2.2
	Late Medieval Ely ware	Bowl	2	0.019		
	Late Medieval Ely ware		2	0.004		
	Unglazed Grimston-Blackbrough End ware	Jar	1	0.011		
25	Coarse Sandy ware		1	0.005	1150-1350	2.1
25	Developed St Neots		1	0.004		
25	Medieval Ely ware	Jar	2	0.044		
26	Bourne D		1	0.015	1450-1650	2.2
	Colne Late Medieval	Jug	1	0.023		
	Developed St Neots S	Jar	1	0.053		
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.016		
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware		4	0.045		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jug	1	0.017		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jar	1	0.008		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		2	0.051		
	Medieval Ely ware	Jug	1	0.03		
	Southwest Cambridgeshire Sandy ware		1	0.019		
29	Bourne D	Jug	1	0.04	c.1550	3
	Cistercian ware	Drinking Vessel	1	0.003		
	Colne C	Jug	3	0.022		
	Colne C		3	0.033		
	Colne Late Medieval		1	0.012		
	East Anglian Redware		2	0.023		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jug	1	0.006		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jar	1	0.004		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	2	0.046		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		23	0.2		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Jug	1	0.038		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Jar	1	0.014		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Bowl	5	0.376		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		16	0.319		
	Medieval Ely ware		1	0.01		
	Post-Medieval Redware	Drinking Vessel	2	0.033		
	Surrey Whiteware (Cheam)	Jug	1	0.032		
	Transitional Redware	Jug	3	0.061		
	Transitional Redware	Jar	1	0.044		
	Transitional Redware		5	0.103		
	Unprovenanced Coarseware		8	0.057		
30	Bourne D	Jug	1	0.007	1450-1550/1600	2.2
	Colne C		1	0.04		
	East Anglian Redware		1	0.011		
	Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware	Jug	1	0.006		

Context	Fabric	Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight	*Context Date*	Phase
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jar	1	0.047		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	2	0.032		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		4	0.07		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Jar	2	0.096		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Bowl	5	0.181		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		7	0.093		
	Transitional Redware		1	0.005		
	Unprovenanced Coarseware		1	0.029		
31	Bourne D		1	0.057	1450-1650	2.2
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware		2	0.007		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jar	2	0.052		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	5	0.195		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		10	0.089		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Bowl	1	0.068		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		1	0.014		
	Medeival Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.013		
33	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.006	c.1500	2.2
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware		1	0.009		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		2	0.05		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	jar/jug	1	0.007		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Jar	1	0.04		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		3	0.049		
	Orange Sandy ware		1	0.022		
	Post-Medieval redware	Drinking Vessel	1	0.013		
35	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.002	1350-1500	2.1
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)	Bowl	1	0.026		
39	Bourne D		1	0.023	1450-1600	2.2
	Developed St Neots		1	0.005		
	East Anglian Redware	Jug	1	0.002		
	Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	Jar	1	0.001		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		1	0.005		
	Transitional Redware	Jug	1	0.147		
	Unglazed Grimston-Blackbrough End ware		2	0.011		
44	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jar	1	0.002	1380-1550	2.2
	Tudor Green		1	0.001		
	Unglazed Grimston-Blackbrough End ware		1	0.002		
45	Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	Jar	1	0.003	1175-1350	2.1

Context	Fabric	Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight	*Context Date*	Phase
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.008		
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware		1	0.004		
	Southeast Fenland Calcareous Buff ware	Jar	2	0.016		
	Unprovenanced Coarseware	Jar	1	0.015		
47	Colne Late Medieval	Jar	1	0.078	1450-1550	2.2
	Grimston ware	Jug	1	0.012		
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.003		
	Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware	Jug	1	0.013		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jug	2	0.039		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	1	0.018		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware		4	0.043		
	Medeival Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.002		
	Shelly ware		1	0.015		
	Unprovenanced Glazed ware		1	0.004		
52	Late Medieval Reduced ware		1	0.011	1400-1600	4
	Transitional Redware		1	0.014		
54	Late Medieval Ely ware	Jug	1	0.006	1350-1500	1
	Potterspury	Jug	1	0.003		
60	Unglazed Grimston-Blackbrough End ware		4	0.005	1150-1400	2.1
63	Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.019	1350-1500	2.1
	Late Medieval Reduced ware	Jar	1	0.008		
	Late Medieval Reduced ware (Everton)		1	0.007		
	Medeival Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.003		
65	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware		1	0.001	1175-1250?	1
65	Southwest Cambridgeshire Sandy ware	Jar	1	0.007		
78	Bourne D		1	0.054	1450-1650	2.2
79	Bourne D	Jug	1	0.003	1600-1800	3
	East Anglian Redware		1	0.018	1600-1800	
	Post-Medieval Redware	Bowl/Jar	1	0.043	1600-1800	
	Post-Medieval Redware	Bowl	4	0.15	1600-1800	
	Tin glazed Earthenware	Bowl	1	0.008	1600-1800	
	Transitional Redware	Jug	1	0.029	1600-1800	

B.4 Window and Vessel Glass

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.4.1 Archaeological excavation produced a small assemblage of window and vessel glass.

Assemblage

Window glass

B.4.2 Little of what may have originally been an extensive glazing scheme was recovered by the archaeological excavation. Analysis of the lead came by Nina Crummy (see Appendix B2) suggests that there were phases of glazing during the medieval and early post-medieval periods, indicated by the presence of lead cames of types A, B and C. The surviving glass shards vary in thickness from 3.4mm to 1.7mm; glass as a general rule became progressively thinner during the medieval period (King, 1987, page 39). The condition of the glass varies, with some shards being extremely fragile while others remain relatively intact, but in all cases the glass has become completely opaque due to decay in the burial environment. Only a single small shard retained traces of decoration in a red-brown paint, the painting most likely representing strap work from a diamond grisaille quarry. No evidence of back painting or silver stain was identified on any of the shards and where modern breaks occur, the glass appears clear and is most likely English Forest or potash glass.

B.4.3 The majority of the glass (SF 43, 44 and 48) was recovered from context 2, which although rather mixed in date contains a number of residual medieval sherds alongside Late Medieval Reduced Ware and Post-Medieval Redware vessels. The context is most likely mid 16th century or later and the window glass itself is therefore residual, relating most likely to the dissolution of the monastery, when most reusable elements of the buildings were stripped and taken away. It is likely the shards of glass were damaged or misplaced during this phase activity and/or were redeposited within demolition material when the site was cleared.

B.4.4 Small find 47, the single shard of painted glass, was recovered from context 39 which contained residual medieval sherds and Late Medieval Reduced Wares, transitional Redwares and a sherd of Bourne D which dates roughly from the mid 15th to the mid 16th century. The glass is most likely residual and, as with context 2, was incorporated into the ditch fills during site clearance.

Vessel glass

B.4.5 A folded pedestal foot or folded foot ring from an ?undecorated pedestal beaker was recovered from context 79. The glass is almost completely opaque, except when held up to a very strong light source, when it can be seen that the glass was originally clear. The glass is English Forest or potash glass and the beaker most likely dates to the late 15th or early 16th century.

Discussion

B.4.6 Window glass is not an uncommon find in monastic assemblages and suggests the proximity of glazed buildings, however the paucity of decorated glass and the overall low levels of glass recovered suggest that the site was thoroughly stripped of all reusable material. The small and abraded nature of some of the glass fragments

suggests pieces were completely shattered and discarded (and possibly reworked). The larger fragments however suggest that some pieces were perhaps dropped as the window was dismantled. It is also possible that the site may have not been of particularly high status with perhaps only small areas of decorated glass, the remainder of the scheme being plain glazing.

B.4.7 Both Tyson (Tyson 2000) and Willmott (Willmott 2002) illustrate pedestal beakers with folded foot rings. This type of vessel is present in both late medieval glass and early post-medieval glass assemblages, although Tyson states that it is not certain whether any beakers of potash glass were made in England. The only beaker fragments that have been found on indigenous glasshouse sites are pedestal bases with folded rims which have been found at two 'early' (up to c.1550) sites in the Surrey/Sussex Weald, and it is likely that these bases are 16th century (Tyson 2000, 7).

B.4.8 Tyson indicates there is little evidence of table wares from monastic abandonment and dissolution deposits of the late 15th and early 16th centuries, stating also that glass tableware is found less frequently on all types of site at this date (Tyson 2000, 21). If this is still the case 12 years after the publication of Tyson's book then the shard from the pedestal beaker is at least an uncommon find and worthy of note.

Catalogue

SF 42, context 79: Base shard (a folded pedestal foot or folded foot ring) from a Forest or potash glass pedestal beaker. The vessel shows no evidence of decoration and it is suggested therefore that it is from a plain beaker. The folded foot is almost completely opaque, although when held up to a strong light, at those areas of the surface more recently damaged, the glass is clear.
Length 36mm, height 19mm, thickness 1.5mm, diameter 80mm.

SF 43, context 2: A roughly rectangular quarry of opaque window glass, with one complete surviving grozed edge and two partially grozed edges. The longest surviving edge is grozed at one corner, the remainder of the break or cut being clean. Patination over the grozing, the deliberately cut edge and the broken edge is very even suggesting that the shard was broken in antiquity. The edges of the shard and part of the upper surface in a narrow band appear to be covered in a white deposit which may be the remains of a lead cement or reaction between the glass and the lead came into which the shard was set.
It is possible to identify the external surface and the internal surface of the quarry the outer surface being pitted most likely due to weathering. The quarry is undecorated and may be from a plain glazing scheme or have formed part of clear glass glazier's strip around a decorated window. This strip was designed to allow the removal of a window, minimising the chance of damage to the coloured and/or painted glass.
The opaqueness of the glass and the granular nature seen in a small, more recent, break suggests the glass is potash glass, most likely English in origin. Although not closely datable the glass can be broadly dated to the medieval period.
43mm long, 37.5mm wide, 2.8-3.2mm thick.

SF 44, context 2: A rectangular quarry of opaque medieval window glass, with one surviving complete length of edge, partially grozed with the remainder of the edge being a clean break, and one partially grozed edge, the remainder having been broken. The complete edge is grozed neatly along half its length and the upper edge is grozed at one corner, the other corner having been broken off in antiquity. The third side of the rectangle is the clean break, however it is unclear if this is the original edge or a break that occurred in antiquity, since all of the edges and the surface of the glass are equally covered in patination and the glass is completely opaque.

The slight angle to the edge of the shard caused by the grozing helps to identify the upper and lower surfaces, however the surface that is likely to be the external shows no evidence of pitting The quarry is undecorated and may have formed part of a clear glass glazier's strip around a decorated window. This strip was designed to allow the removal of a window, minimising the chance of damage to the coloured and or painted glass. The opaqueness of the glass and the slight granular nature to a small more recent break suggests the glass is potash glass, most likely English in origin. Although not closely datable, the glass can be broadly dated to the medieval period.
45.5 mm long, 28.2mm wide, 2.4-2.6mm thick.

SF47, context 39: A small sub-rectangular fragment of opaque medieval window glass. A single short grozed edge survives covered in a white opaque material similar to SF 43, which most likely relates to the leading of the glass, the remaining edges are all broken, one in antiquity as it is covered in a similar patination to the rest of the glass, while the other two were broken more recently.
The upper surface of the glass is painted, the decoration that survives being two parallel painted lines, the narrow line is approximately 1.7mm wide and parallels the grozed edge (the first line being approximately 1.9 mm away from the edge of the glass). The thicker line, which is spaced approximately 1.2 mm away from the first line, varies in thickness, between 3.8 and 4.7 mm, although it is unclear if this is due to loss of the paint from the surface of the glass as it crosses the glass. These painted lines most likely represent strap work from a diamond quarry, possibly 14th or 15th century in date
Length 16.2mm, width: 14.7mm, thickness: 3.4 – 3 3mm.

SF 48, context 2:A small irregular fragment of thin, opaque window glass. A small section of original grozing survives on one short edge, parallel to this is a line of white opaque material similar to that seen on the other small fine shards, which may relate to leading, if this is near, or close to an original edge. This was a very narrow, possibly rectangular, shard of glass and a similar white material is visible on the other side of the glass against the grozed edge, suggesting that this was in fact a very narrow shard of glass. It is completely opaque, laminating, in very poor condition and most likely originally clear English potash glass. The short grozed side and the other edge displaying the white material both share the same level of patination as the surface of the glass, the other two edges are more recent breaks.
The thinness of the glass suggests a later date, unfortunately the lack of any painted design makes dating difficult and the shard can only be roughly dated to possibly the 15th or 16th century.
Length 17.2mm, width 15.4 mm, thickness 1.8– 1.7mm.

B.5 Miscellaneous finds

By Rachel Clarke

B.5.1 Small quantities of miscellaneous finds (coal/clinker (0.132kg), mortar (0.17kg), shell (0.885kg), fired clay (0.025kg) and clay-pipe (0.006kg)) were recovered from deposits spanning all phases of occupation.

B.5.2 The largest group, shell, is dominated by oyster (0.754kg), with smaller amounts of mussel (0.117kg) and cockle (0.011kg), indicating that shellfish, particularly oyster, was a notable but small part of the overall diet within the Priory.

B.6 Brick, Floor and Roof Tile

By Rob Atkins

Introduction

B.6.1 A moderate assemblage of brick, tile (ceramic and limestone), comprising 1104 fragments weighing 101.55 kg, was assessed. Brick from masonry features 4 and 20, which were recorded *in-situ*, are not counted in these figures. The brick, ceramic and stone floor and roof tile assemblage, which was largely recorded on site and weighed using basic scales (Tables 6-7), are catalogued by context and type in Tables 8-12.

Type	No. of contexts	No. Fragments	Weight (kg)
Brick (medieval to modern)	9	52	10.05
Ceramic peg tile	16	1010	86.6
Ridge and hib tile	3	8	0.5
Limestone tile	7	28	3.9
Floor	4	6	0.5
Total		**1104**	**101.55**

Table 6: Brick, floor, roof tile with no. fragments and weight

B.6.2 All complete lengths, widths and thickness of brick and tiles were recorded. The exception was ceramic tiles where the thickness was not measured. The presence of mortar was recorded on fragments to assess if they had been used before being discarded. The peg holes of the tiles were measured to try and differentiate between one and two peg hole types.

B.6.3 The brick and tile were recorded by colour. Difference in colour was partly affected by how much lime there was in the clay. It is notoriously difficult to say where tiles and bricks had been produced as individual kilns often made examples in a range of colours due to using different clays. In Ely, for example, Kimmeridge Clay, Gault Clay and alluvium clay were used with the three different clays respectively producing reddish-brown brick, white (yellow) and a range of brindled and mottled hues (Lucas 1993, 158).

B.6.4 The brick and ceramic tile (CBM) have mostly been left *in-situ* or backfilled into the burrows/voids within the excavated area except those fragments which were decorated, interesting or were complete/near complete examples and these were kept within the archive.

Results

B.6.5 In this section the CBM and limestone roof tile are discussed by phase (Table 7).

Material	No. of contexts	No. fragments	Weight of bricks (kg)	Phase
Brick	1	1	0.05	2.1
Ceramic peg tile	1	7	0.3	2.1
Brick	2	4	0.7	2.2
Ceramic peg tile	8	308	*c.*12.9	2.2
Limestone roof tile	4	7	*c.*0.8	2.2
Floor tile	1	1	0.1	2.2
Ridge tile	1	1	0.1	2.2
Brick	5	44 + 2*	7.6 + *	3
Ceramic peg tile	3	663	*c.*70.35	3
Ridge and hib tile	2	7	0.4	3
Limestone roof tile	2	20	c.3	3
Floor tile	1	3	0.2	3
Brick	3	3	1.7	4
Ceramic peg tile	4	32	1.15	4
Limestone roof tile	1	1	0.1	4
Floor tile	2	2	0.2	4

Table 7: CBM and limestone roof tile by phase

Phase 2.1 (c.AD 1350-1500)

B.6.6 The only CBM from this phase comprised a single small undiagnostic brick fragment and seven small ceramic roof tile pieces from pit **48**. The brick fragment may be contemporary as 14th to early 16th century documents refer to brick making occurring nearby and these products were easily accessible by river; at Ely in the 14th and 15th centuries (Lucas 1993), Wisbech in the 14th century (Sherlock 1998) and Ramsey Abbey in the very early 16th century (DeWindt and DeWindt 2006). Bricks of this period have also been found nearby in excavations *e.g.* at Cambridge (Atkins forthcoming) and Huntingdon (Atkins 2012).

Phase 2.2 (c.AD 1500-1550/1600)

B.6.7 There is a notable increase in the volume of CBM recovered from this phase. The four brick fragments (0.7kg) included a 1¾" thick brick with vegetative impressions (ditch **32**) and one 2" thick in a red sandy fabric from (ditch **34**). These bricks are comparable to a complete 1¾" thick brick with vegetative impressions recorded in a brick floor of a cess pit demolished in the 15th century within the lay settlement of Barnwell Priory, Cambridge (Atkins forthcoming). 15th and 16th century red bricks of 2" thickness have been recorded in 15th century contexts in Cambridge (Atkins forthcoming), from 16th century contexts at Ramsey Abbey (Ryan 2009, 52-3) and at New Inn Yard, Wisbech (Mortimer 2008).

B.6.8 A moderate quantity of ceramic peg tile, 308 fragments (c.12.9kg), was recovered from eight contexts in this phase. The very small size of the sherds at 41.74g per fragment suggests that after demolition from their former structures, they had probably been moved around over some considerable amount of time before final deposition. It is likely most, if not all of these tiles were made in the medieval period. Seven of the fragments had discernible sub-rounded peg holes with five being of 2 peg hole types and two 1 peg hole types.

B.6.9 Single examples of medieval floor tile and a glazed ridge tile are present, both found within layer 3. Seven limestone roof tile fragments (*c*.0.8kg) were recovered from within ditch **40** and layers 3, 23 and 26. Limestone roof tiles were expensive commodities and were presumably from former building(s) of Swavesey Priory. These tiles would have been imported into Swavesey either from Kings Lynn or from the vicinity of Rockingham Forest, where the Welland flows near Collyweston, Barnack, King's Cliff and Weldon, the famous medieval roof tile and stone quarries. This trade dates from the earlier medieval period, for instance in the 14th century, 3,000 slate (limestone) tiles were brought at King's Lynn and transported by river to Wisbech castle (Sherlock 1998, 64). Swavesey was well connected to this river trade network. It was probably a 13th century planned town (over an earlier settlement) with a 8m wide and 1m deep lode connecting it, including the priory, to the Great Ouse and there on to the wider river network (Ravensdale 1984; Spoerry 2005, 95-99).

Phase 3 (c.mid/late 16th-early 19th centuries)

B.6.10 A substantial increase in the quantity of artefacts was noted in Phase 3 contexts, mostly deriving from demolition layers. Forty-four brick fragments (7.6kg) came from demolition layers 2, 16 and 29 and two complete bricks were taken from masonry features 6 and 20. The bricks from the demolition layers are nearly entirely all medieval brick fragments. One very wide example 5" (121mm) in an orange sandy fabric is likely to have been made in Wisbech in the late 15th century. Examples of this brick have been found at Wisbech Castle (Atkins 2010) and on the extant Ely Palace built *c*.1486. Other medieval bricks included a 14th or 15th century example which was 115mm (4½") wide, very poorly made in a purple fabric, on a sanded base but with some vegetative impressions. There is only one definite late brick from these layers (18th/19th century in date). The two brick features (6 and 20) were constructed from bricks of *c*.18th century date.

B.6.11 Three demolition layers (2, 16 and 29) produced the largest group of peg tile (*c*.70kg), and which were of a moderate to large average size of 106g per fragment. Four tiles had complete widths surviving and these varied from 150mm (6"), 185mm (7½"), 190mm (7½") and 200mm (8"). There were several different fabrics represented as well as a mixture of 1 and 2 peg tile types. The evidence therefore collectively implies that the tile probably came from more than one structure. None of the tiles were machine made, although some may have been early post-medieval in date. There were four ridge and three hib tile, found within two demolition layers (2 and 29). The hib tile is early post-medieval in date (*c*.16th century). Two conjoining hib fragments have a sub-rounded peg hole to hold it to the roof (Fig. 11). Three late medieval floor tile fragments were also found in layer 29 including an example with green glaze on a hard red/sandy fabric with quartz inclusions (15th/16th century). Twenty limestone roof tile fragments (*c*.3kg) were also found in demolition layers 2 and 29.

Phase 4 (19th century +)

B.6.12 Small quantities of brick, peg tile, limestone roof tile and medieval floor tile (collectively 38 fragments) were found in modern contexts. There were no definite modern artefacts in this collection and all are likely to date to the medieval and possibly into the early post-medieval period.

Ctxt	Cut	No	Weight (kg)	Comments	Phase
2	**2**	30	*c.*2	Four with vegetative impressions including one in a purple fabric 115mm wide (4½") wide Sanded but with vegetative impressions on top and on two sides. It has mould impressions on top . Poorly made, arrises poor 14th/15th century. A small quantity of mortar also attached. Medieval. Several sanded examples are part bricks 1) in a hard orange fabric, 51mm (2") thick . Arrises ok ?late med. 2) and 3) Hard orange 50mm (2") thick 4) Orange sandy. Very uneven 50mm-54mm thick. Arrises extremely poor. 5) 121mm (5") wide, extremely uneven between 50-54mm thick. Arrises very poor Late medieval Probably Wisbech c.late 15th century.	3
4	**6**	++	-	An example taken from wall 4 : 230mm long (9"), 108mm (4 ¼") wide and 60mm (2½") thick c.18th century	3
7	**8**	1	0.2	Red part brick 50mm (2") thick.	4
15	**46**	1	1	1 part brick, 110mm (4½") wide and 47mm (1¾") thick	4
16	**16**	1	2.5	1 complete example c.2.5kg in weight is 230mm long (9"), 108mm (4 ¼") wide and 60mm (2½") thick c.18th century.	3
20	**20**	++		An example from culvert 20: 230mm long (9"), 108mm (4 ¼") wide and 60mm (2½") thick c.18th century	3
29	**29**	13	3.1	1 has vegetative impressions. Five part bricks- 1) c. 46mm (1¾") thick but is uneven 2) c. 54mm (2¼) thick. Uneven poorly made. 3) 50mm (2") Poorly made. 4) 50mm (2") 5) 74mm (3") thick. This fragment is well made (18th/early 19th century). Other fragments vary in date from medieval period +	3
31	**32**	3	0.5	One vegetative. Part brick is 45mm (1¾") thick. One on a sanded base and one uncertain.	2.2
33	**34**	1	0.2	Red fabric 50mm (2") thick	2.2
37	**38**	1	0.5	Mixed yellow/red clay. Well made 18th or 19th century	4
45	**48**	1	0.05	Undiagnostic	2.1
Total		**52**	**10.05**		

Table 8: Medieval to modern brick

Ctxt	Cut	No	Wt (kg)	Comments	Phase
2	2	431	c.49	Roof tile in four fabrics:- One hundred and fifteen fragments in a hard yellow fabric (*c.*17kg). Four have cut sides to create a curve. One has a complete width 185mm (7½") wide. 14 fragments have sub-rounded peg holes i) 17mm diameter, it is 60mm from side and 35mm from top (2 peg hole type) ii) peg hole 15mm by 10mm, it is 38mm from side and 11mm from top (2 peg hole type). iii) 1 sub-rounded 10mm from top. iv) Sub-rounded c.13mm diameter. 50mm from side and 10mm from top (2 peg hole type). v) 44mm from side and 13mm from top (2 peg hole type). vi) 18mm diameter. 55mm from side and 13mm from top (2 peg hole type). vii) 30mm from side and 18mm from top (2 peg hole type). viii) sub-rounded 33mm from side and 14mm from top (2 peg hole type). ix) 38mm from side and 31mm from top (2 peg hole type). x) Sub-rounded 43mm from side and 30mm from top (2 peg hole type). xi) 22mm from side and 20mm from top (2 peg hole type). xii) 56mm from side and 10mm from top (2 peg hole type) xiii) 11mm from top. xiv) sub-rounded. Twenty in a mixed yellow/red fabric (c.2kg). Three have sub-rounded peg holes 1) 75mm from side and 24mm from top (1 peg hole type). 2) 80mm from side and 26mm from top (1 peg hole type). 3) Sub-rounded Sixty-three fragments in a hard orange to red fabric (c.6kg) A and B Sub-rounded. C) 70mm from side and 8mm from top (?1 peg hole type) Two hundred and thirty-three fragments in a hard orange (c. 24kg) . One was nearly complete (*c.*.97%). 263mm in length (10½"), 150mm (6") wide. This tile has two sub-rounded peg holes c.11mm diameters which were 40mm and 35mm respectively from the sides and 16mm and 23mm from the top. Mortar on both sides of the tile. A	3

Ctxt	Cut	No	Wt (kg)	Comments	Phase
				further much larger tile is mostly complete at more than 271mm long (10¾"+), 200mm wide (8"). This tile has two peg holes 55mm from each of the sides and 18mm and 25mm from the top respectively. Another tile fragment has a paw print, an a separate one has a nibb. Sixteen other tiles have peg holes. 3) 1 sub-square peg hole is 50mm from side and 18mm from top (2 peg hole type. 4) 1 sub-rounded 5) 1 sub-rounded 12mm in diameter, 20mm from side and 10mm from top (2 peg hole type). 6) 10mm diameter, 38mm from side and 25mm from top (2 peg hole type) 7) 20mm from side and 8mm from top (2 peg hole type) 8) 41mm from side (2 peg hole type) 9) 1 sub-rounded peg hole 10) 65mm from the side and 18mm from the top (? peg hole type). 11) Two 'adjacent' peg holes 50mm and 74mm from one side. Makes the tile odd - is one a mistake and is a 1 peg hole type? 12) and 13) 1 sub-rounded 14) 60mm from side and 16mm from top (2 peg hole type) 15) and 16) sub-rounded peg hole 17) 1 peg hole 48mm from side and 32mm from top. 18) 32mm from side and 25mm from top (2 peg hole type)	
3	3	54	*c*.2.8	Fifteen in an orange fabric (*c*.1kg) with one having a sub-rounded peg hole, 18 in a red fabric (*c*.1kg) with one sub-rounded peg hole (65mm from side and 30mm from top), 8 in a yellow fabric (c.0.3kg), 11 in a yellow/red mixed fabric (0.25kg) of which 1 has a sub-rounded peg hole; 2 tile (cut creating a curve) in an orange and orange/red fabric	2.2
7	8	5	0.2	All in an orange fabric. I sub-rounded peg hole.	4
15	46	16	c.0.5	Roof tile in three fragments: Four yellow tiles (small fragments) Four orange Eight red with one sub-rounded peg hole 45mm from side and 12mm from top (2 peg hole type)	4
16	16	32	c.2	Roof tile	3
21	22	3	0.15	All in a hard red with yellow clay lump inclusions. One heavily overfired.	4
26	26	50	c.2	Tile in four fabrics: Eleven yellow sandy (*c*.0.5kg). One sub-rounded peg hole 40mm from side and 18mm from top (2 peg hole type). Four red/yellow mixed Twenty-five (1kg) orange sandy with one fragment with a sub-rounded peg hole 18mm from side and 6mm from top (2 peg hole type). Ten red (0.5kg)	2.2
29	29	200	c.19.35	Tile in four fabrics: Sixty-nine fragments (*c*.6.5kg) in a hard orange fabric. 1 complete width 190mm (7½") width. 13 with peg holes: 1) 35mm from side and 10mm from top (2 peg hole type). 2) 65mm from side and 25mm from top (?1 peg hole type). 3) 50mm from side and 24mm from top (2 peg hole type). 4) Intercutting peg holes - mistake - 45mm from side and 20mm from top (2 peg hole type). 5) 38mm from side and 20mm from top (2 peg hole type). 6) 70mm from side and 20mm from top (1 peg hole type). 7) 40mm from side and 20mm from top (2 peg hole type). 8) 43mm from side and 20mm from top (2 peg hole type) 9) 40mm from side and 8mm from top (2 peg hole type). 10) 72mm from side and 15mm from top (1 peg hole type). 11) 55mm from side and 15mm from top (2 peg hole type). 12) 80mm from side and 15mm from top (1 peg hole type). 13) sub-rounded peg hole Sixty-five (*c*.7kg) in an orange/red to red fabric. Eight with sub-rounded peg holes. a) 42mm from side and 12mm from top (2 peg hole type). b) 60mm from side and 30mm from top (2 peg hole type). c) 36mm from side and 20mm from top (2 peg hole type). d) 48mm from side and 26mm from top (2 peg hole type). e) 55mm from side and 20mm from top (2 peg hole type). f) 80mm from side. Tile more than 240mm long (9½"). g) 54mm from side and 20mm from top (2 peg hole type). H) sub-rounded peg-hole Four fragments (c.0.35kg) in a mixed yellow/red clay. One has a sub-rounded peg hole 25mm from side and 12mm from top (2 peg hole type). Sixty-two fragments (*c*.5.5kg) in a yellow fabric. Six have peg holes 1) 48mm from side and 12mm from top (2 peg hole type). 2) 45mm from side and 11mm from top (2 peg hole type). 3) 2 peg holes on tile (not measured). 4) 52mm from side and 8mm from top (2 peg hole type). 5) Sub-rounded peg hole. 6) 55mm from side and 11mm from top (2 peg hole type)	3
30	32	45	c.2.5	Roof tile in 4 fabrics: 17 (c. 1.5kg) Hard orange. 1 sub-rounded peg hole, 30mm from side and 18mm from top (2 peg hole type) 11 (c. 0.5kg)in s mixed yellow/red fabric	2.2

Ctxt	Cut	No	Wt (kg)	Comments	Phase
				6 (0.5kg) in a yellow fabric 11 (0.5kg) in a hard red	
31	32	21	c.0.5	Tile in four fabrics - all relatively small pieces (6 yellow, 5 orange, 7 orange/red and 3 yellow/red).	2.2
33	34	59	c.3.5	Roof tile in 3 fabrics: 29 (c.1.5kg) in a hard orange. Two have sub-rounded peg holes 1) 40mm from side and 35mm from top (2 peg hole type) 2) 38mm from side and 15mm from top (2 peg hole type) 13 (c.1kg) Yellow sandy. 1 sub-rounded peg hole 61mm from side and 13mm from top (2 peg hole type). 17 (c.1kg) Red 1 sub-rounded peg hole 42mm from side (2 peg hole type)	2.2
37	38	8	0.3	Tile in four fabrics - all relatively small pieces (2 yellow, 3 orange, 1 red and 1 yellow/orange). Paw print on the latter.	4
39	40	22	c.0.5	Tile in four fabrics - all relatively small pieces (2 yellow, 6 orange, 12 red and 2 yellow/red).	2.2
44	44	55	c.1	Tile in four fabrics - all relatively small pieces (6 yellow, 22 orange (including 2 with sub-rounded peg holes) , 21 red and 6 yellow/red).	2.2
45	48	7	0.3	Tile in three fabrics - all relatively small pieces (3 orange, 3 orange/red and 1 yellow/red).	2.1
49	48	2	0.1	1 hard red covered in mortar. One orange sandy with lots of mortar attached	2.2
Total		**1010**	**86.6**		

Table 9: Ceramic peg and nib tile

Ctxt	Cut	No	Weight (kg)	Comments	Phase
2	2	5	0.3	Five fragments including a medieval glazed example. Two ridge and three hib tile - two conjoined hib tile fragments were in a hard orange red sandy fabric with a nail hole (photograph) Hib tile is ?early post-medieval c.16th century.	3
3	3	1	0.1	Hard orange sandy surface with a reduced grey core. Brown Lead glaze on exterior in the centre of tile	2.2
29	29	2	0.1	Red fabric	3
Total		**8**	**0.5**		

Table 10: Ridge and hib tile

Ctxt	Cut	No.	Weight (kg)	Comments	Phase
2	2	14	*c.*2.5	Between 10-19mm thick. One has a sub-rounded peg hole	3
3	3	3	*c.*0.5	1 has peg hole	2.2
15	46	1	0.1		4
23	23	1	0.1	13mm thick. Mortar.	2.2
26	26	2	0.1	16mm and 19mm thick respectively	2.2
29	29	6	*c.*0.5	One fragment has a peg hole	3
39	40	1	0.1	7mm thick	2.2
Total		**28**	**3.9**		

Table 11: Limestone tile

Ctxt	Cut	No	Weight (kg)	Comments	Phase
3	3	1	0.1	Floor tile	2.2
15	46	1	0.1	Hard orange. Unglazed. 21mm thick. Mortar on sides and base. Small fragment (?later medieval).	4
21	22	1	0.1	?floor tile. Two Conjoining small fragments in an Ely ware? Unglazed? Not complete thickness surviving .Medieval.	4
29	29	3	0.2	1) Green/brown glaze on a hard red/sandy fabric with quartz (15th/16th century). Slightly chamfered but only a small fragment survives with no complete thicknesses. Late medieval 2) 2x ?floor tile	3
Total		**6**	0.5		

Table 12: Medieval floor tile

B.7 Animal bone

By Chris Faine

Introduction

B.7.1 One hundred and six fragments of animal bone (c.6.98kg) were recovered from the investigation at Swavesey Priory, with 45 of these identifiable to species (42% of the total sample). All bones were collected by hand. Some level of residuality and intrusiveness is to be expected given the presence of post-Dissolution demolition layers and more recent disturbance by rabbits. Faunal material was recovered from features dating from the following periods:

Phase 2: Late medieval to early post-medieval
Phase 3: Post-medieval
Phase 4: Late post-medieval to modern

Methodology

B.7.2 All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella and Davis (1994). In brief, all teeth (lower and upper) and a restricted suite of parts of the skeleton was recorded and used in counts. These are: horncores with a complete transverse section, skull (zygomaticus), atlas, axis, scapula (glenoid articulation), distal humerus, distal radius, proximal ulna, radial carpal, carpal 2+3, distal metacarpal, pelvis (ischial part of acetabulum), distal femur, distal tibia, calcaneum (sustenaculum), astragalus (lateral side), centrotarsale, distal metatarsal, proximal parts of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd phalanges. At least 25% of a given part had to be present for it to be counted.

B.7.3 The presence of large (cattle/horse size) and medium (sheep/pig size) vertebrae and ribs was recorded for each context but not used in counts. Where practicable, these elements have been attributed to taxon and numbers present estimated on the basis of vertebra centra and the heads of ribs. This information is retained on the animal bone database. Each element was identified to species where possible using comparative collections and reference manuals. Siding was be noted for the purposes of calculating MNI's. Where applicable the number of diagnostic zones was noted for each element (after Serjeantson, 1996).

B.7.4 Epiphyseal fusion data was also noted (after Silver 1969). Tooth wear data for domestic mammal loose molars and mandibles (after Grant 1982) was recorded to provide further ageing data. In addition to adult molars the presence of any other teeth i.e. deciduous was also noted. Where possible sexing was carried out via morphological criteria (e.g. Hatting 1995, Armitage and Clutton-Brock 1976), or metrical analysis (e.g. Grigson 1982, Ruscillo 2006, Greenfield, 2002). Metrical analysis followed Von Den Driesch (1976), Grigson (1982) & Payne and Bull, (1988). This information was used to aid in species Differentiation between sheep and goat was carried out using Boessneck 1969 & Halstead *et al* 2002. No goats were identified therefore all ovid remains will be referred to as sheep for the remainder of this report. Identification of horse vs other equids was carried via morphological criteria after Baxter, 1998 and Eisenmann, 1986.

The Assemblage

B.7.5 Table 13 shows the species distribution for the assemblage. The largest number of identifiable fragments was recovered from Phase 3 along with smaller amounts from Phases 2 & 4. The assemblages from Phases 2 & 3 are dominated by domestic mammal fragments. Cattle are the dominant taxon in both phases along with smaller numbers of sheep and pig remains. No domesticate remains were recovered from Phase 4, this phase consisting of domestic fowl, goose and commensal mammal remains (dog/cat).

	Phase			
	2	**3**	**4**	**Total**
Cattle (*Bos*)	6	17	0	23
Sheep/Goat (*Ovis/Capra*)	2	5	0	7
Pig (*Sus scrofa*)	5	1	0	6
Horse (*Equus*)	1	0	0	1
Cat (*Felis sylvestris*)	0	0	1	1
Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)	0	0	2	2
Domestic fowl (*Gallus sp.*)	0	1	2	3
Domestic goose (*Anser sp.*)	2	0	1	3
Total:	**16**	**24**	**6**	**45**

Table 13: Species distribution for the assemblage

B.7.6 Cattle remains from all phases consisted largely of adult upper and lower limb elements along with fragmentary mandibles. Fifty five percent of the cattle assemblage showed evidence of butchery. A single sawn horncore was recovered from context 29 (Phase 3). Sheep remains were limited consisting of fragmentary lower limb elements and 2 mandibles (1 neonate and 1 6-8 year old from phase 3 contexts). Pigs were extremely scarce, consisting of 5 mandible and cranial fragments from phase 2, and a single radius from phase 3. Other mammal remains consisted of a single cat humerus and rabbit femur and tibia from context 15 (phase 4). As mentioned above no domestic mammal remains were recovered from phase 4 contexts, the remainder consisting of domestic fowl and goose remains. Domestic fowl remains consist of partial tarsometatarsi from phases 2 & 4 and a complete humerus from phase 3. Both tarsometatarsi were from male birds with the element from context 25 (phase 2) having the spur removed. Goose remains consisted again of 2 tarsometatarsi from phases 2 & 4.

Discussion

B.7.7 Despite its small size, in terms of species and body part distribution the assemblage follows patterns seen in other medieval samples from elsewhere in East Anglia. The faunal remains seen here represent processing of whole carcasses if not live animals, with individual elements then being taken elsewhere for secondary butchery or crafts such as tanning/tawying and bone working.

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Appendix D. OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-144742		
Project Name	Excavation at Swasesey Priory, Cambs (SM38)		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	16-07-2012	Finish	24-07-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SWASWP12	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	ECB 3813	Related HER/OASIS No.	03488

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Grant application (eg. management plan)

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Field Observation (periodic visits)	☒ Part Excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Full Excavation (100%)	☐ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Full Survey	☐ Recorded Observation	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☐ Test Pit Survey
☒ Open-Area Excavation	☐ Salvage Excavation	☐ Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
alien priory	Medieval 1066 to 1540	pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
drain	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	stone mortar	Medieval 1066 to 1540
ditches	Medieval 1066 to 1540	silver fede ring	Medieval 1066 to 1540

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Cambs	Field to the North of St Andrews Church, Swavesey, Cambs CB24 4QJ	
Parish	Swavesey		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	164 sq m	National Grid Reference	TL 36262 69429

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	(CCC/EH)
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	Rachel Clarke and Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC stores	OA East	CCC stores
SWASWP12	SWASWP12	SWASWP12

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☐
Ceramics	☒	☒	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☒	☒	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☒	☒	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☒	☐
Stratigraphic		☒	☒
Survey		☒	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☒	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☒ Aerial Photos
☒ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☒ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☒ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☒ Map
☒ Survey	☒ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☒ Research/Notes
	☒ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☒ Survey

Notes:

Some finds may go on temporary display within the parish church.
The work was undertaken as part of a management plan between EH and the landowners to investigate the damage caused by rabbit burrows and attempt to reinstate the area for grazing

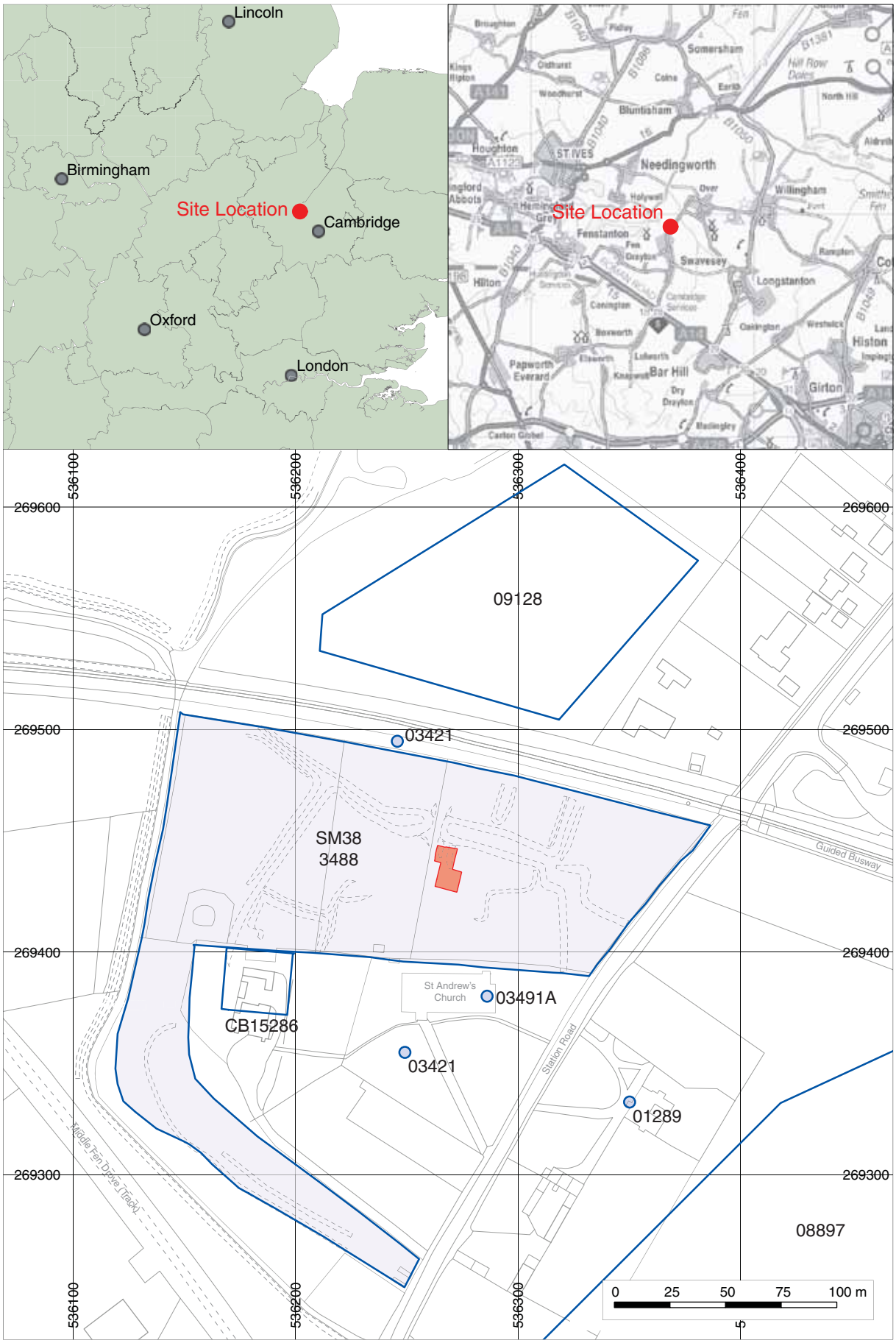


Figure 1: Site location (red) showing CHER records (blue) and scheduled area (purple)

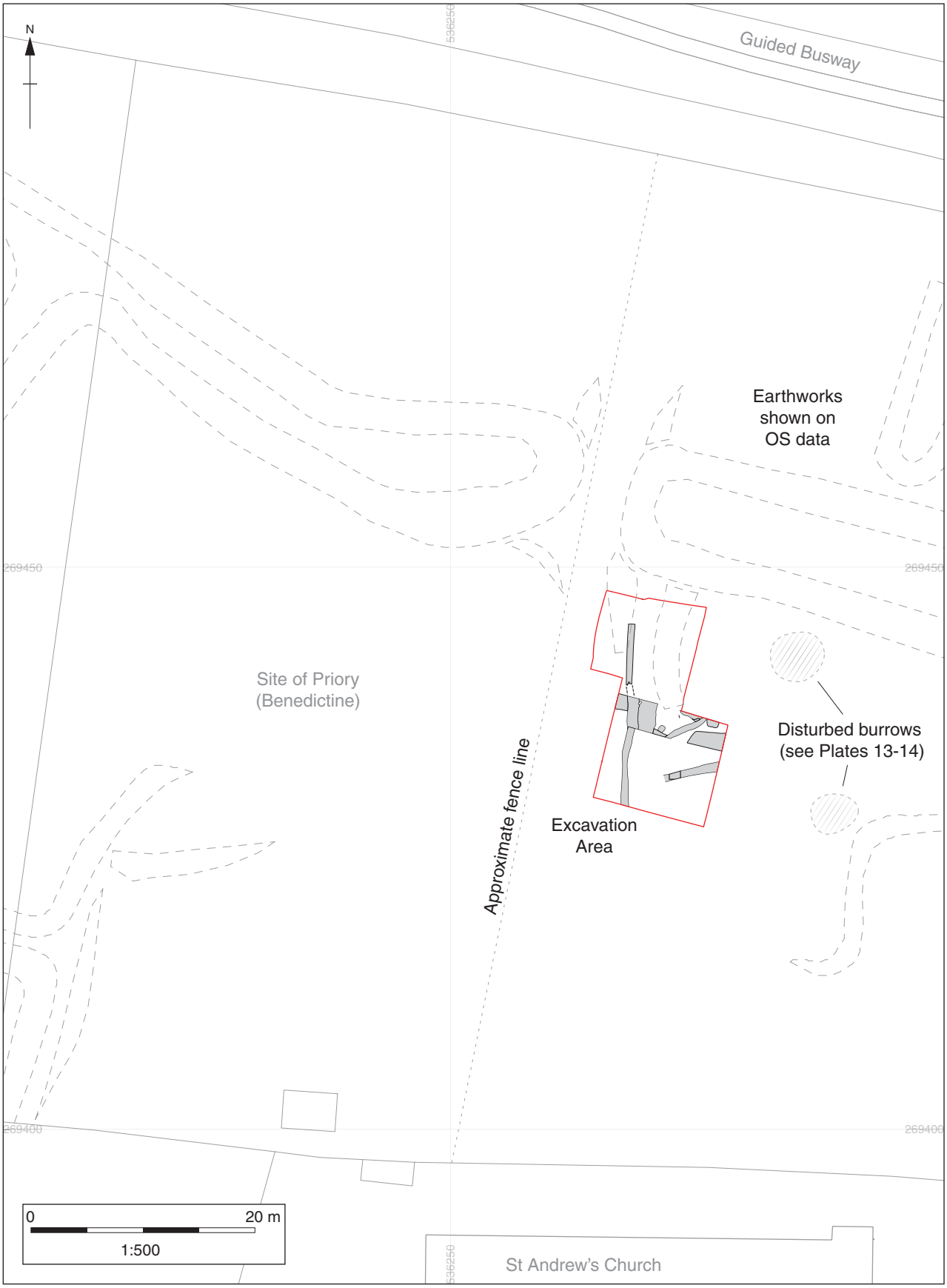


Figure 2: Trench Location

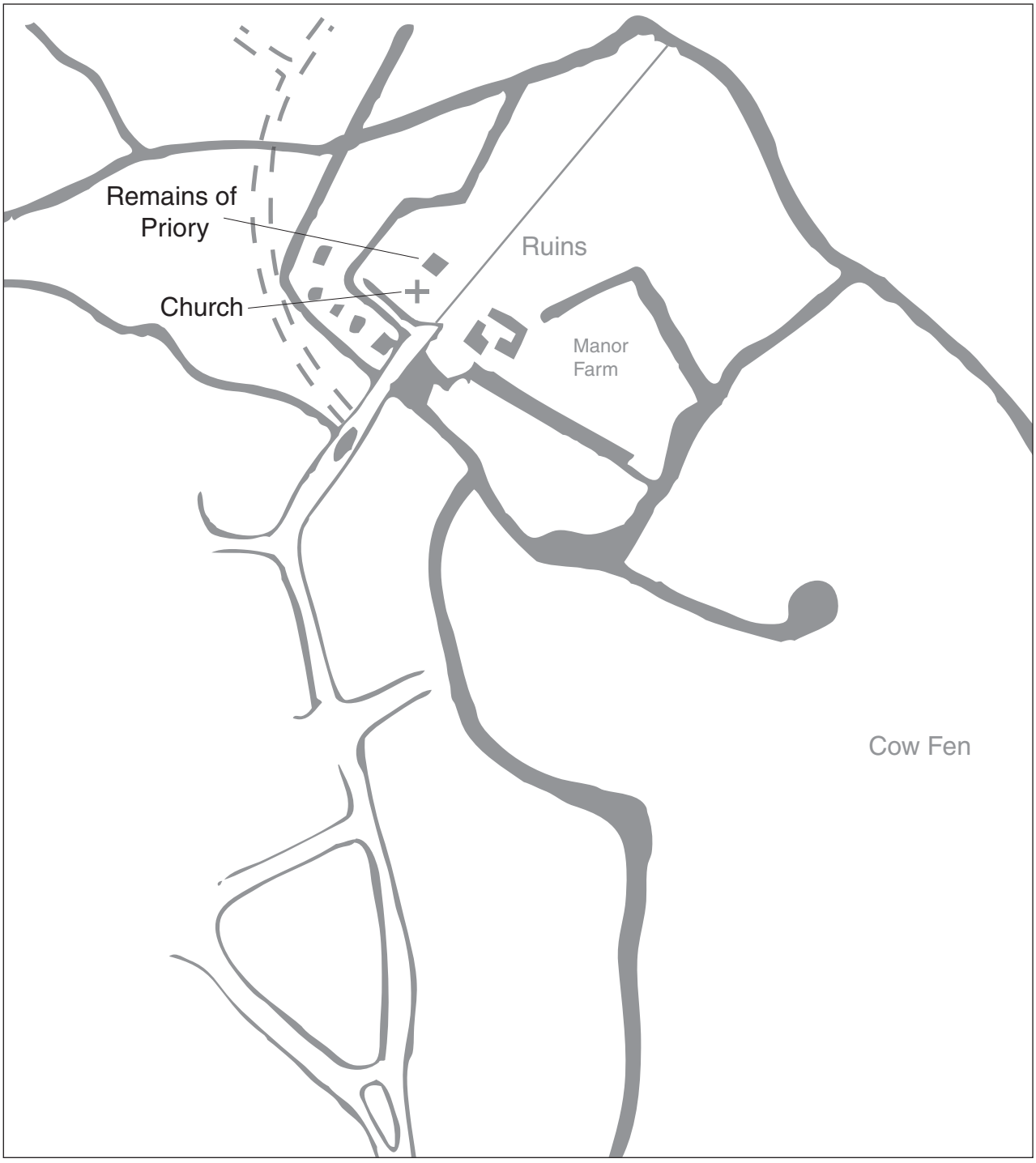


Figure 3: Trace of 1836 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1" map showing possible building remains to the north of the church

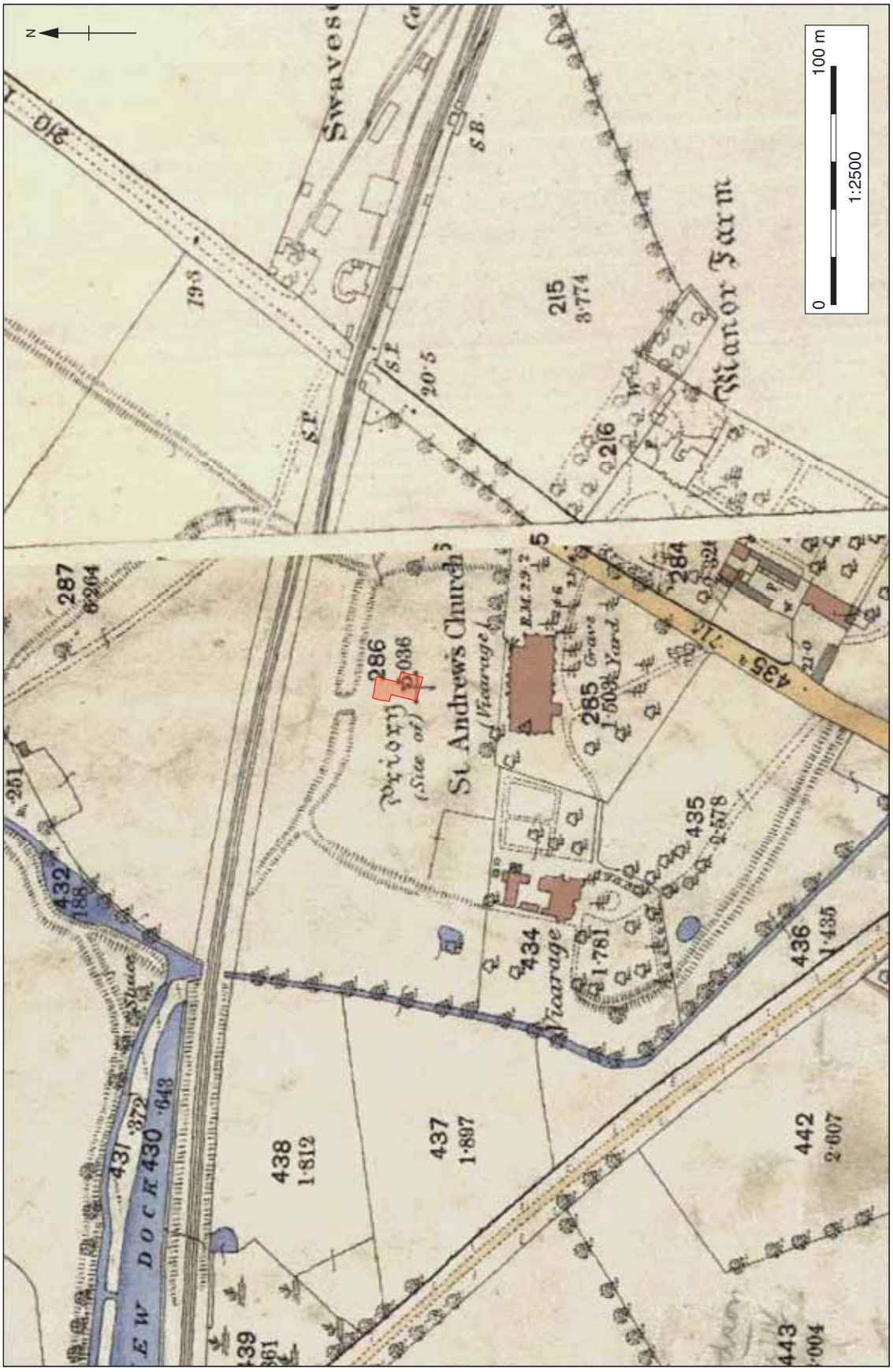


Figure 4: Site location overlain on 1885-6 Ordnance Survey 25" map

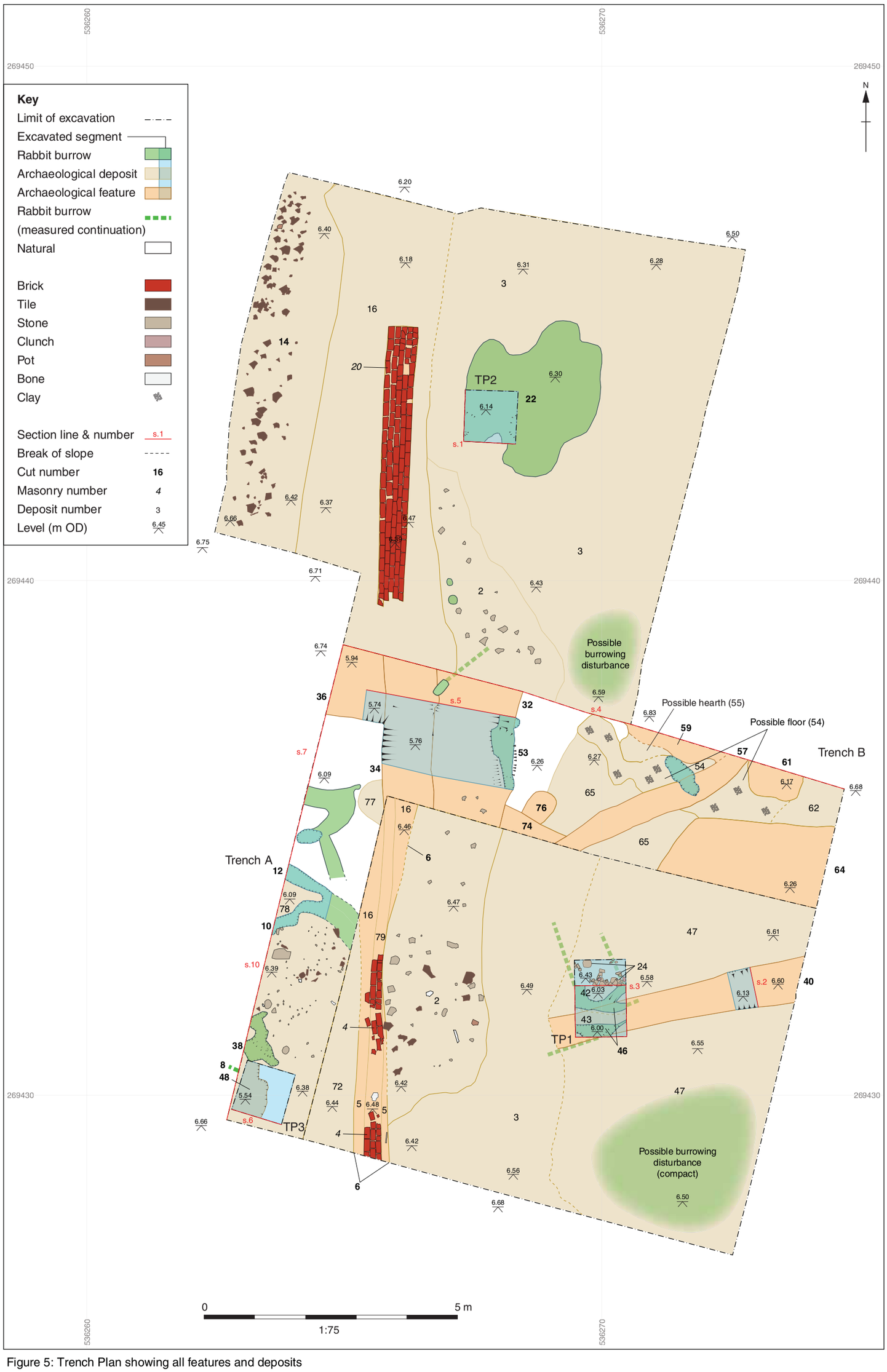


Figure 5: Trench Plan showing all features and deposits

Figure 6: Phase plan

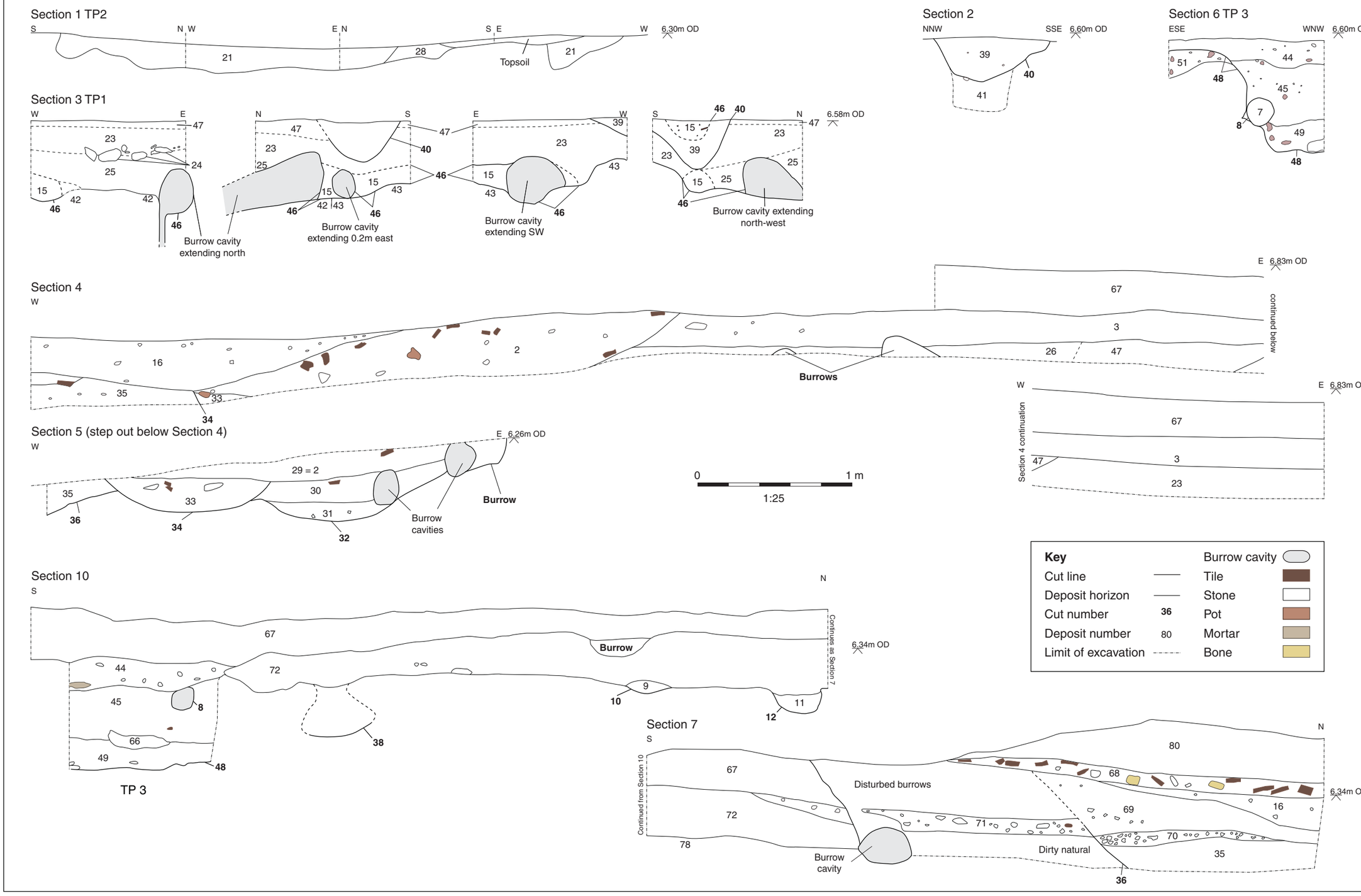


Figure 7: Selected section drawings

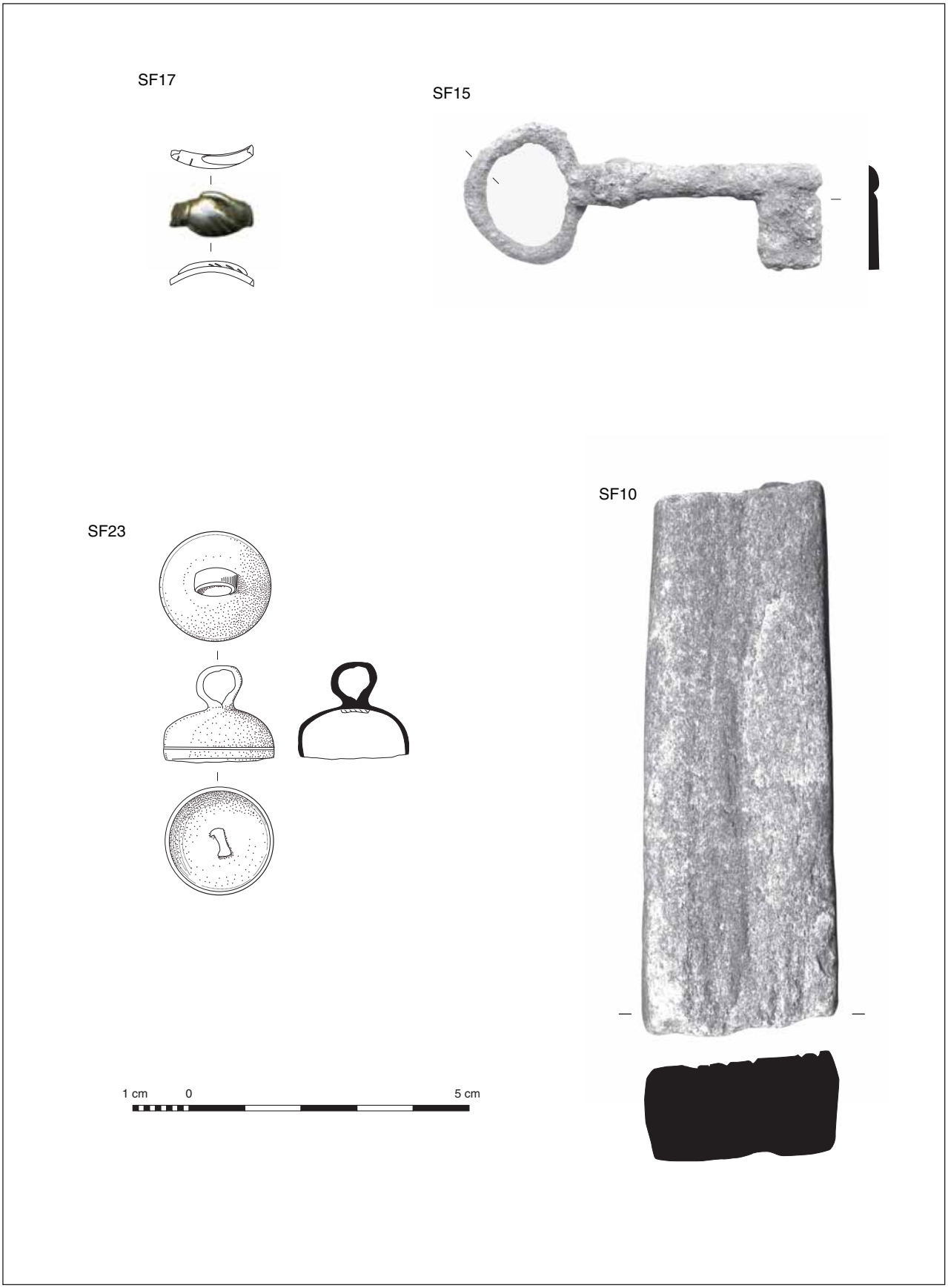
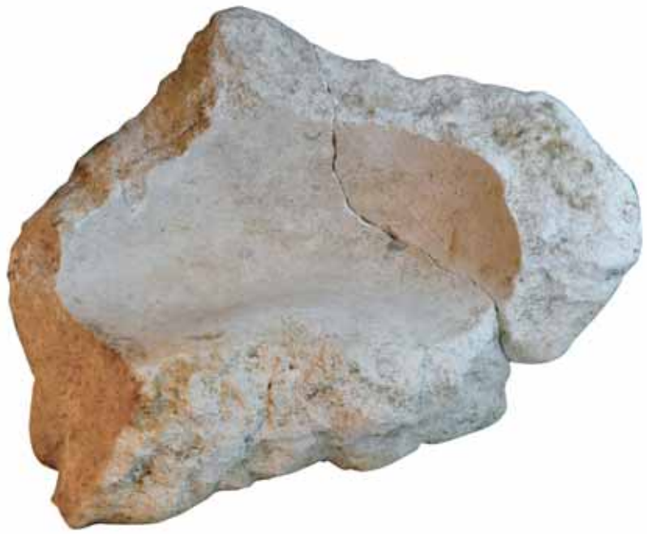
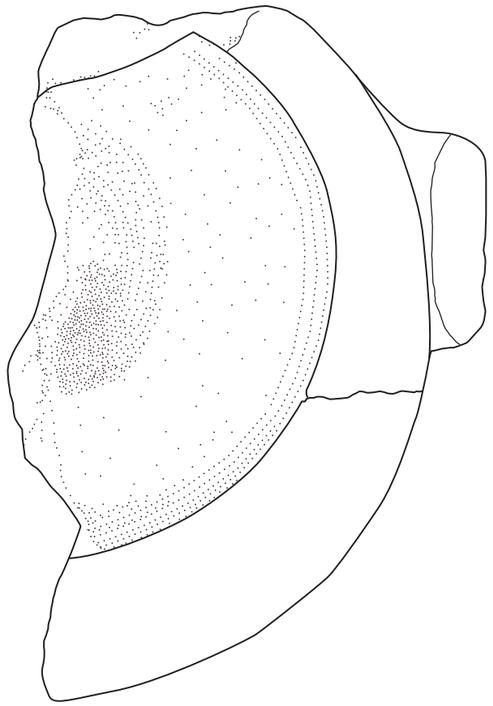


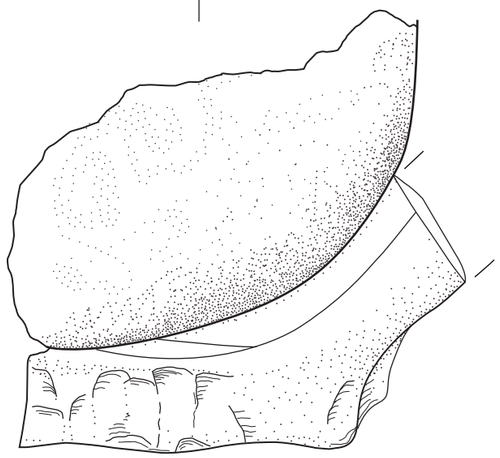
Figure 8: Finds illustrations (SFs 10, 15, 17 and 23)

Figure 9: Copper-alloy bowl (SF26)





plan view



section view

0 100 mm
1:2

0 100 mm
1:2

Figure 10: Caen stone mortar (SF25)

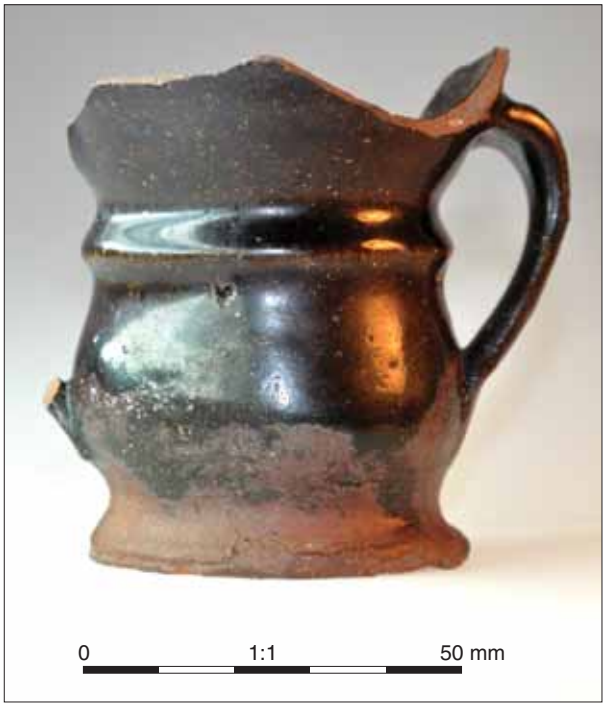


Figure 11a: Almost complete Cistercian ware two handled drinking vessel (c.1500-1600) from Phase 3 demolition dump 2

Figure 11b: Conjoining fragments of a medieval hib tile with central peg hole from Phase 3 demolition dumps 2/29. Scale shown at 1:2

Plate 1: View of the site before excavation (from north)

Plate 2: Machining, cleaning and metal-detecting (from south-west)

Plate 3: View of the site taken from the church tower showing the earthworks, Guided Busway and Over church in the distance (from south)

Plate 4: Detail view of the site taken from church tower (from south)

Plate 5: Trench B showing *in-situ* Phase 1 deposits cut by (unexcavated) Phase 2 ditches (from east)

Plate 6: Phase 2 ditches **32** and **34**, showing extensive burrowing on eastern side; wall 4, dump layer 2/29 and burrows in Trench A are shown in the background (from north-east)

Plate 7: Drain/culvert 20, Test Pit 2 and dump 14, with St Andrew's church in the background (from north)

Plate 8: Test Pit 1 showing burrows through Phase 1 and later deposits (from south)

Plate 9: Test Pit 3 showing burrows through Phase 2 pit **48** and later deposits (from south-west)

Plate 10: Detail of packing of one of the burrows/tunnels in Test Pit 1 and laying of terram prior to infilling by hand.

Plate 11: Laying of terram after infilling of test pits and burrows and prior to backfilling by machine (from south-east)

Plate 12: The site infilled and levelled with St Andrew's church in the background (from north)

Plate 13: Area of burrowing to immediate east of the excavation area after strimming (from south-west)

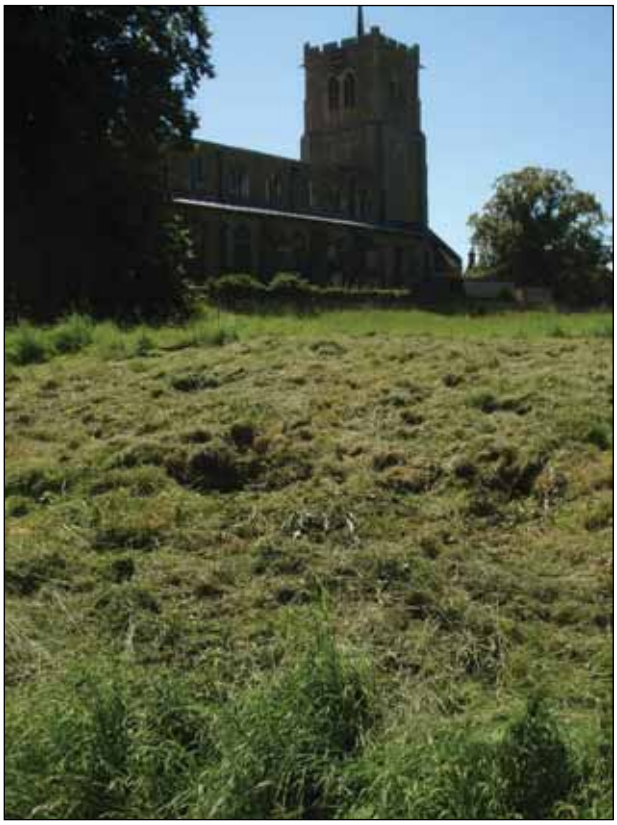


Plate 14: Small area of burrowing on edge of earthwork to south-east of the excavation, with St Andrew's church in the background (from north-east)

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com