

Land to the rear of No. 102 High Street Ramsey, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



May 2015

Client: Mr De Havilland

OA East Report No: 1777

OASIS No: oxfordar3-211558

NGR: TL 2892 8513

Land to the rear of No. 102 High Street, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

On the 23rd of April 2015, Oxford Archaeology East undertook an evaluation comprising a single trench on land to the rear of 102 High Street, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire. The earliest deposit identified in the trench (at a depth of 1.65m) contained pottery broadly datable to the medieval period alongside other domestic and culinary waste. An environmental sample from this deposit demonstrates that charred remains are present, and that there is some potential for the survival of waterlogged remains. This deposit may have been related to the Little Whyte lode, a ditch or channel that would presumably have been located to the immediate north of the site and from which the current road takes its name. The lode was a subsidiary watercourse that linked with the Great White lode to the west and together would have formed an integral part of the medieval abbey and town.

The overlying layers represent the remains of later medieval to post-medieval garden soils and/or levelling deposits. Modern features comprised a robbed out wall and a live water pipe.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology east (OA East) on land to the rear of No.102 High Street, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire (TL 2892 8513; Figs. 1 & 2) in advance of the proposed construction of a small detached dwelling.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 1201337FUL), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA East (Brudenell 2015).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Ramsey lies on Marsh gravels (British Geological Survey 1995), on what was effectively an island surrounded by Bury Fen to the south and Stocking Fen to the north. The site is located at a height of c.5m OD between High Street to the south and Little Whyte (a former lode) to the north, within the historic town core.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

The following section is largely based on the WSI (Brudenell 2015) and a recent publication (Spoerry *et al.* 2008), and utilises information from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

- 1.3.1 The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential within the historic core of the town, c.75m west of the nationally important site of Ramsey Abbey (Scheduled Monument 141). It occupies a position within the projected line of the Abbey precinct enclosure, to the rear of High Street, which was a principal route to the Abbey (Fig. 3).
- 1.3.2 Jonas Moore's map of 1684 shows the general shape of the settlement extending along two main roads, linked to Ramsey Mere via two artificial watercourses (or lodes). The map records the Great Whyte running north to south (Fig. 3) but not its subsidiary, the Little Whyte - a later road of this name forms the boundary to the north of the current site. The Great Whyte, now a wide road, once incorporated a lode that discharged into the High Lode which then connected to the Nene to the north. Dating back to at least the 13th century, it was culverted in the 19th century and survives beneath the present road (Spoerry *et al.* 2008 173).
- 1.3.3 Previous investigations to the west of the site along the High Street have revealed evidence for Saxo-Norman occupation (ECB1915; Nicolson 2006), while high medieval activity has been encountered at several sites in the vicinity, revealing evidence of levelling and the reclamation of wet, low lying ground (ECB1862 and MCB 16326; Atkins 2004a and 2004b; Cooper 2003 and 2005; Hickling 2006; O'Brian and Crank

2002; Membery and Hatton 1996; Pearson and McDonald 2000). Remains of structures have been found to lie above some of these levelling layers (e.g. Atkins 2004b).

- 1.3.4 The church of St Thomas of Canterbury (HER 02832), the later Parish Church, was originally built about 1180. It was dedicated to Saint Thomas a Becket and was almost certainly built as a Benedictine hospital that was dissolved after 1291. The churchyard contains a medieval cross and a 13th century Barnack stone grave slab reused as a stile (MCB17092).
- 1.3.5 Medieval, post-medieval and modern features, layers and finds have been recorded at a number of sites in the vicinity, including during a community dig (MCB19219), and during evaluations (e.g. MCB20202; CB15414).
- 1.3.6 There are a number of historic buildings in the vicinity, including a 15th century timber framed hall house with 19th century brick façade (MCB17337). More modern remains include a series of Second World War structures, including a pillbox, searchlight battery and spigot mortar base (MCB 16456 and CB15171).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thanks are extended to Mr De Havilland who commissioned the evaluation. Andy Thomas of Cambridge County Council HET, issued the Brief and provided the HER data. The project was managed by Dr Matthew Brudenell, Michael Webster carried out the fieldwork and wrote this report. Thanks are also extended to the illustrator and various specialists for their contributions.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the proposed development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that an archaeological evaluation trench was to be excavated across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, in addition to further study of the HER records.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out manually, using 30m tapes measured from existing buildings.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 A single 20L bulk sample was taken from the basal water logged layer exposed in the base of the trench.
- 2.2.7 The weather was dry and sunny.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A single 5.5m long x 1.5m wide trench was excavated diagonally within the footprint of the proposed new building (Fig 4). The trench was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.9m, avoiding a water pipe that was encountered. Two hand dug sondages were then excavated at the north and south ends of the trench, reaching depths of 1.7m and 1.45m respectively.
- 3.1.2 The water table was encountered at a depth of 1.65m in the north sondage, but natural was not encountered in either sondage, and for safety reasons the trench was not excavated any deeper. The trench revealed a series of layers and modern features (Fig. 4; Plate 1) that are described stratigraphically below, supplemented by specialist reports included as Appendices B and C.

3.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Plate 1)

- 3.2.1 In the base of the north end of the trench a waterlogged deposit (7) comprising a very dark greyish brown clayey silt with large flint inclusions was exposed at a depth of 1.65m. This deposit, which produced pottery and fragments of window glass dating broadly to the medieval period, may have been related to the infilling of a large ditch or lode, known as Little Whyte (see Section 1.3 and Discussion). An environmental sample from this deposit contained domestic and culinary waste including charred cereals, fish scales and bones along with fragments of molluscs (see Appendix C.2).
- 3.2.2 The layer was sealed by a possible early garden soil or levelling layer (6) made up of a dark greyish brown clay silt with flint and pebble inclusions. It was 0.45m thick and was exposed in hand dug sondages at the north and south ends of the trench. Pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) dating to the medieval period were recovered from this deposit.
- 3.2.3 Overlying this was another deposit (5), 0.43m thick, which consisted of a mid/dark greyish brown silty clay with flint and pebble inclusions. This contained pottery and CBM dating to the late medieval period.
- 3.2.4 The uppermost layer (4) consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay with flint and pebble inclusions. This layer was 0.42m thick and contained pottery and CBM dating to the 18th/19th centuries.
- 3.2.5 Above this, a rubble deposit (3) comprising a mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent brick and tile dating to the 20th century may have been within a cut (unnumbered). This possibly represents the infill of a robber trench for a wall which formerly ran parallel to the rear street frontage. The rubble layer had been cut by the trench for a modern water pipe (2) connected to the property at No.102 High Street. These modern deposits were sealed by (1), which was 0.36-0.42m thick and formed the existing ground surface.

3.3 Finds Summary

- 3.3.1 The pottery assemblage of pottery is small (20 sherds weighing 0.269kg) but domestic in nature, indicating use in the preparation of food. The medieval pottery is abraded and has most likely been deposited or scattered as rubbish across the site. There are a small number of post-medieval fragments (recovered from deposit 4) that may have originated from the rubble layer (3) above.

- 3.3.2 Thirteen fragments of CBM were recovered, most of which is medieval tile, although three fragments of post-medieval brick were also recovered. Miscellaneous finds include a single piece of undiagnostic slag and shards of window glass from layer 7, dating to the medieval period. A large fragment of mortar from 20th century rubble deposit (3), a fragment of coal and a hard fired pink red tile from context 6.

3.4 Environmental Summary

- 3.4.1 A small assemblage of animal bone (20 fragments weighing 0.154kg) was recovered from layers 4, 5, 6 and 7. The majority was recovered from medieval deposit 7 and included sheep, cattle, rabbit, bird and two unidentified mammal long bones.
- 3.4.2 A single sample taken from medieval deposit 7 contained domestic refuse that included culinary waste (fish scales and bones; eggshell) and charred plant remains from cereals representing burnt food remains that have been discarded with general waste. The degree of degradation of the grains indicate that the refuse was collected in a midden prior to disposal. The presence of elderberry and dead-nettle seeds that have not been transformed suggest the deposit has remained wet or damp. The quantity of seeds recovered may indicate that elder was growing on the bank of the ditch/lode.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 Although the evaluation at No.102 High Street was restricted to a single 5.5m trench, it did locate a waterlogged deposit that may have been part of the large ditch/lode (the Little Whyte) located to the immediate north of the site. The lode was a subsidiary watercourse which formed an integral part of the medieval town and abbey, aligned east to west and linking with the north to south aligned Great White to the west (Fig. 3). Due to the restricted area available for evaluation, the presence of live services in the trench and health and safety considerations, it has not been possible to further define this deposit (7) and its extent or establish whether it might have been a backfill within the lode/ditch or a medieval levelling deposit.
- 4.1.2 The artefactual and ecofactual evidence from layer 7 in particular, which is only broadly dated to 1200-1500 AD, indicates the presence of domestic occupation in the vicinity. In addition to pottery sherds with sooting and limescale residues, analysis of the environmental sample from this deposit demonstrates that charred remains are present, and that there is potential for the survival of waterlogged remains at or below a depth of 1.65m from the current ground surface. The quantity of seeds in the sample may indicate that elder was growing on the bank of the ditch/lode (see Appendix C3).
- 4.1.3 The layers overlying 7 represent the remains of later medieval and post-medieval garden soils and/or levelling – similar evidence has been found at other nearby sites within the town (e.g. MCB16326).

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 This small evaluation has shown that there is survival of medieval and later deposits within the proposed development site, the former possibly associated with the adjacent Little Whyte lode. It has also demonstrated that there is some potential for the survival of environmental remains, albeit at depths at or exceeding 1.65m.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | N-S |
| Trench contained modern surfaces, service trench and robbed wall. A series of garden soils dating from the late medieval to post-medieval periods sealed a possible ditch or lode infilling dating to the medieval period. The natural deposits were not encountered within the trench. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 1.7 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 5.5 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1 | Layer | - | 0.36-0.42 | Modern ground surfaces | | 20th century |
| 2 | Cut and fill | 0.70- | 0.55 | Modern trench for water pipe | - | 20th century |
| 3 | Cut and fill | 2.35+ | 0.46 | Rubble backfill to robbed out wall | | 20th century |
| 4 | Layer | 5.50+ | 0.42 | Possible former garden soil | CBM, Pottery and Bone | 18/19th century |
| 5 | Layer | 5.50+ | 0.43 | Former plough or garden soil | CBM, Pottery and Bone | Late Medieval |
| 6 | Layer | 5.50 | 0.45 | Former plough or garden soil | CBM, Pottery and Bone | Late Medieval |
| 7 | Layer | -0.80+ | - | Fill of possible ditch or Lode | Pottery | Medieval |

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

- B.1.1 The trench produced a pottery assemblage of 20 sherds, weighing 0.269kg. The assemblage was all recovered from layers, and spans the mid 11th to the end of the 19th century. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded and the mean sherd weight is low-moderate at approximately 0.013kg.

Methodology

- B.1.2 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 for the post-Roman pottery.
- B.1.3 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 Roman, medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

- B.1.4 Layer 4 produced a single abraded sherd from a porcelain drinking vessel highly decorated with both what appears to be both under-glaze and over-glaze painting and gilding. Also present is a base sherd from a Staffordshire white salt-glazed vessel, which may be a drinking vessel or a small jar, and a rim sherd from a bichrome bowl. The remaining fabrics are residual medieval wares.
- B.1.5 Context 5 produced four sherds of pottery, which include a sherd from a glazed red earthenware jar and an internally glazed base sherd from a medieval Ely ware bowl. Also present is a sherd from a Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware jug or handled jar, sooted around the rim and handle, and an unglazed sherd of Late Medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware.
- B.1.6 Layer 6 produced six sherds of pottery including a rim sherd from an Early Medieval ware jar and sherds from several Grimston Glazed ware jugs, one sherd of which is sooted and two sherds have internal deposits that are most likely limescale. The rim sherd from a Late Medieval Reduced ware bowl is also present, suggesting a late medieval date for the context.
- B.1.7 Layer/fill 7 produced five sherds of pottery, the majority of which were recovered from sample 1. These include three sherds from Grimston ware jugs alongside coarseware sherds. The context is broadly medieval.

Conclusion

- B.1.8 The assemblage is domestic in nature, with several sherds, including the Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware handled jar or jug, indicating use in the preparation of food. The sherds recovered are moderately abraded indicating some reworking. The levels of pottery across the site are low to moderate and the medieval pottery has most

likely been deposited as rubbish across the site. There are a small number of post-medieval fragments present, recovered from context 4, which lay directly below the rubble layer (3) and it is this rubble layer that the post-medieval material most likely originated from.

| Context | Fabric | Basic Form | Sherd Count | Weight (kg) | Pottery Date Range |
|--------------|---|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 4 | Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed ware | Jar or drinking vessel base | 1 | 0.002 | 1720-1780 |
| | Porcelain painted and gilded | Drinking vessel rim | 1 | 0.002 | 1745-1900 |
| | Bichrome | Bowl rim | 1 | 0.012 | 1550-1600+ |
| | Grimston-type ware | Body sherd (unglazed) | 1 | 0.012 | 1200-1500 |
| | Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware / Huntingdon Late Medieval Calcareous ware | Bowl rim | 1 | 0.012 | 1175-1450 |
| 5 | Medieval Ely ware | Bowl base sherd | 1 | 0.020 | 1150-1350 |
| | Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware | Jug or handled jar rim sherd | 1 | 0.053 | 1175-1300 |
| | Late Medieval Hertfordshire Glazed ware | Body sherd | 1 | 0.024 | 1350-1450 |
| | Post-medieval Redware | Jar body sherd | 1 | 0.023 | 1550-1800 |
| 6 | Grimston Glazed ware | Jug body sherd | 4 | 0.038 | 1200-1500 |
| | Early Medieval Ware | Jar rim sherd | 1 | 0.008 | 1050-1200 |
| | Late Medieval Reduced ware | Bowl rim | 1 | 0.017 | 1350-1500 |
| 7 | Grimston Glazed ware | Jug base sherd | 1 | 0.007 | 1200-1500 |
| | Grimston Glazed ware | Jug body sherd | 2 | 0.008 | 1200-1500 |
| | Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware / Huntingdon Late Medieval Calcareous ware | Body sherd | 1 | 0.013 | Late 12th-mid 15th century |
| | Unprovenanced | Jar body sherd | 1 | 0.018 | 1200-1500 |
| Total | | | 20 | 0.269 | |

Table 1: Pottery Catalogue

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Carole Fletcher with dating by Robert Atkins

- B.2.1 A total of 13 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 1.165 kg were recovered. Three pieces of post-medieval brick were identified, however the majority of the assemblage is medieval tile.
- B.2.2 The ceramic building material is moderately abraded and the low levels of material recovered are not enough to indicate buildings of any period within the area of archaeological works. The brick fragments from contexts 3 and 4 are part of a 20th century rubble infill, the tile recovered represents a low level rubbish scatter.

| Context | Sample Number | Weight (kg) | Form | Description | Date |
|---------|---------------|-------------|-----------|--|-------------------|
| 3 | | 0.203 | Brick | Fragment of hard fired of pale red Fletton-type brick with a very hackly fracture where broken, appears to be the start of a frog on the upper face. | 20th century |
| 4 | | 0.140 | Brick | Fragment of hard fired brick orange-red in colour with deeper red swirls internally. | 18th century |
| | | 0.044 | Brick | Fragment of hard fired greenish-yellow brick with rare large flint inclusions | 18th/19th century |
| 5 | | 0.057 | Tile | Fragment of hard fired tile. The base is sandy and margins are orange-red with a pale buff-pink core the upper surface is buff and sooted | Medieval |
| | | 0.105 | Tile | Fragment of hard fired tile. The surfaces are mid buff as and margins with mid grey core. The base is rough and not well finished | Medieval |
| 6 | | 0.323 | Roof Tile | Roof tile, hard fired, dull pale orange fabric, surface and margins with pale grey core, sanded lower surface | Medieval |
| | | 0.061 | Tile | Two fragments of tile, hard fired, fully oxidised, pale dull orange-red, sanded base | Medieval |
| | | 0.027 | Tile | Tile, hard fired, dull pale orange fabric, surface and margins with pale grey core, sanded lower surface | Medieval |
| | | 0.061 | Tile | Fragment of hard fired tile. The surfaces are mid buff as and margins with mid grey core. The base is rough, not well finished. The tile appears curved or slightly distorted and is somewhat sooted | Medieval |
| 7 | | 0.086 | Tile | Tile fragment, hard fired, dull pale orange red, base appears to be sanded, some calcareous material and voids in the matrix and a certain amount of mica very thin pale to mid grey core in places otherwise relatively uniformly fired | Medieval |

| Context | Sample Number | Weight (kg) | Form | Description | Date |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|------|--|----------|
| 7 | | 0.032 | Tile | Small fragment of tile, dull red throughout, very hard fired, slightly hackly fracture. Some voids on matrix indicating something may have leached out. | Medieval |
| | 1 | 0.112 | Tile | Fragment of dull pink red tile, hard fired, a number of voids within the fabric suggest something may have leached out. Relatively uniform colour throughout, and the upper surface is sooted. | Medieval |
| Total | | 1.251 | | | |

Table 2: Ceramic building material catalogue

B.3 Miscellaneous Finds

by Carole Fletcher

- B.3.1 A single piece of undiagnostic slag (0.157 kg) was recovered from layer 7, sample 1.
- B.3.2 The evaluation produced small shards of what appears to be window glass, recovered from sample 1, context 7. The shards are all opaque and in very poor condition, extremely fragile and may have come from one or more panes of glass. Although not closely datable, the condition indicates that the glass is forest or potash glass and it is of some age, possibly medieval.
- B.3.3 A large fragment of mortar was recovered from context 3 and weighs 0.769kg. This material, alongside a piece of 20th-century ceramic building material recovered from this context, suggest a 20th-century or later date for the rubble from which it was recovered. Neither of these have been retained and they have been discarded.
- B.3.4 Context 6 produced a fragment of coal, weighing 0.008kg which most likely came from a domestic fire. The fragment has not been retained and has been discarded.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

Assemblage

C.1.1 One hundred and fifty four grammes of animal bone were recovered, comprising 20 fragments of which nine are identifiable. Faunal material was recovered from four contexts, with context 5 containing no identifiable fragments. Layer 4 contained a partial cattle mandible. A distal dog tibia was recovered from context 6. The largest number of fragments was recovered from medieval deposit 7, consisting of a partial sheep inominate and cattle ulna, along with a proximal rabbit tibia. An adult bird tarsometatarsus and maxilla were also recovered. Environmental sample 1 from this context also contained two unidentifiable small mammal long bones, along with low levels of small fragments of fish bone and fish scales (see Appendix C3).

C.2 Mollusca

By Carole Fletcher

Assemblage

C.2.1 A total of 0.053 kg of mollusc shells were collected, all are edible marine examples. The shell does not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed.

| Context | Sample No. | Type | Weight (kg) |
|--------------|------------|--|--------------|
| 6 | | Oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i> | 0.005 |
| 7 | 1 | Oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i> | 0.020 |
| | | Mussel <i>Mytilus edulis</i> | 0.022 |
| | | Mussel <i>Mytilus edulis</i> | 0.002 |
| | | Common cockle, <i>Cerastoderma edule</i> | 0.004 |
| Total | | | 0.053 |

Table 3: Mollusca

C.3 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.3.1 A single bulk sample was taken from the lowest identified layer – possibly the fill of a medieval ditch or lode in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of any further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

- C.3.2 The total volume (18 litres) of the sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

- C.3.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens ##### = 100+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

- C.3.4 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation (charring) and waterlogging. The charred remains consist of three barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains, a single wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain and two indeterminate grains. Charcoal is also present. The plant species that is in greatest abundance is elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and numerous seeds have been preserved. A single seed of field pepperwort (*Lepidium* sp.) and a nutlet of dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.) are also preserved by waterlogging.
- C.3.5 Fish scales were noted in the flot and fish bones occur in small quantities in both the flot and residue. The residue contains numerous finds including pottery, tile, slag, small and large animal bones, an iron nail, avian eggshell, a left and right valve of an oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and 14 apices of mussel (*mytilus edulis*)

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------|
| Sample No. | | 1 |
| Context No. | | 7 |
| <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. caryopsis | Domesticated barley grain | # |
| <i>Triticum</i> sp. caryopsis | Wheat grain | # |
| <i>Lamium</i> sp. nutlet | Dead nettle | # |
| <i>Lepidium</i> cf. <i>campestre</i> | Field pepperwort | # |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> L. seed | Elderberry | ### |
| Charcoal | | +++ |

Table 4: Environmental sample from layer 7

Discussion

- C.3.6 The sample contains domestic refuse that includes culinary waste. The charred plant remains consist only of cereals which are evidence of burnt food remains that have been discarded with general waste. The degree of degradation of the grains may indicate that the refuse was collected in a midden prior to disposal in the feature.
- C.3.7 The presence of elderberry and dead-nettle seeds that have not been transformed suggests that the deposit has remained wet or damp. Both plant species produce seeds with a tough outer coat that is resistant to decay and it is likely that their survival is the result of differential preservation with more fragile plant remains having decayed. The quantity of seeds recovered may indicate that elder was growing on the bank of the ditch/lode.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| OASIS Number | <input type="text"/> |
| Project Name | <input type="text"/> |
| Project Dates (fieldwork) Start | <input type="text"/> |
| Finish | <input type="text"/> |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | <input type="text"/> |
| Future Work | <input type="text"/> |

Project Reference Codes

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Site Code | <input type="text"/> | Planning App. No. | <input type="text"/> |
| HER No. | <input type="text"/> | Related HER/OASIS No. | <input type="text"/> |

Type of Project/Techniques Used

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Prompt | <input type="text"/> |
| Development Type | <input type="text"/> |

Please select all techniques used:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core | <input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

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 |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Project Location

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|---|
| County | <input type="text"/> | Site Address (including postcode if possible) |
| District | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Parish | <input type="text"/> | |
| HER | <input type="text"/> | |
| Study Area | <input type="text"/> | National Grid Reference <input type="text"/> |

Project Originators

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Organisation | <input type="text"/> |
| Project Brief Originator | <input type="text"/> |
| Project Design Originator | <input type="text"/> |
| Project Manager | <input type="text"/> |
| Supervisor | <input type="text"/> |

Project Archives

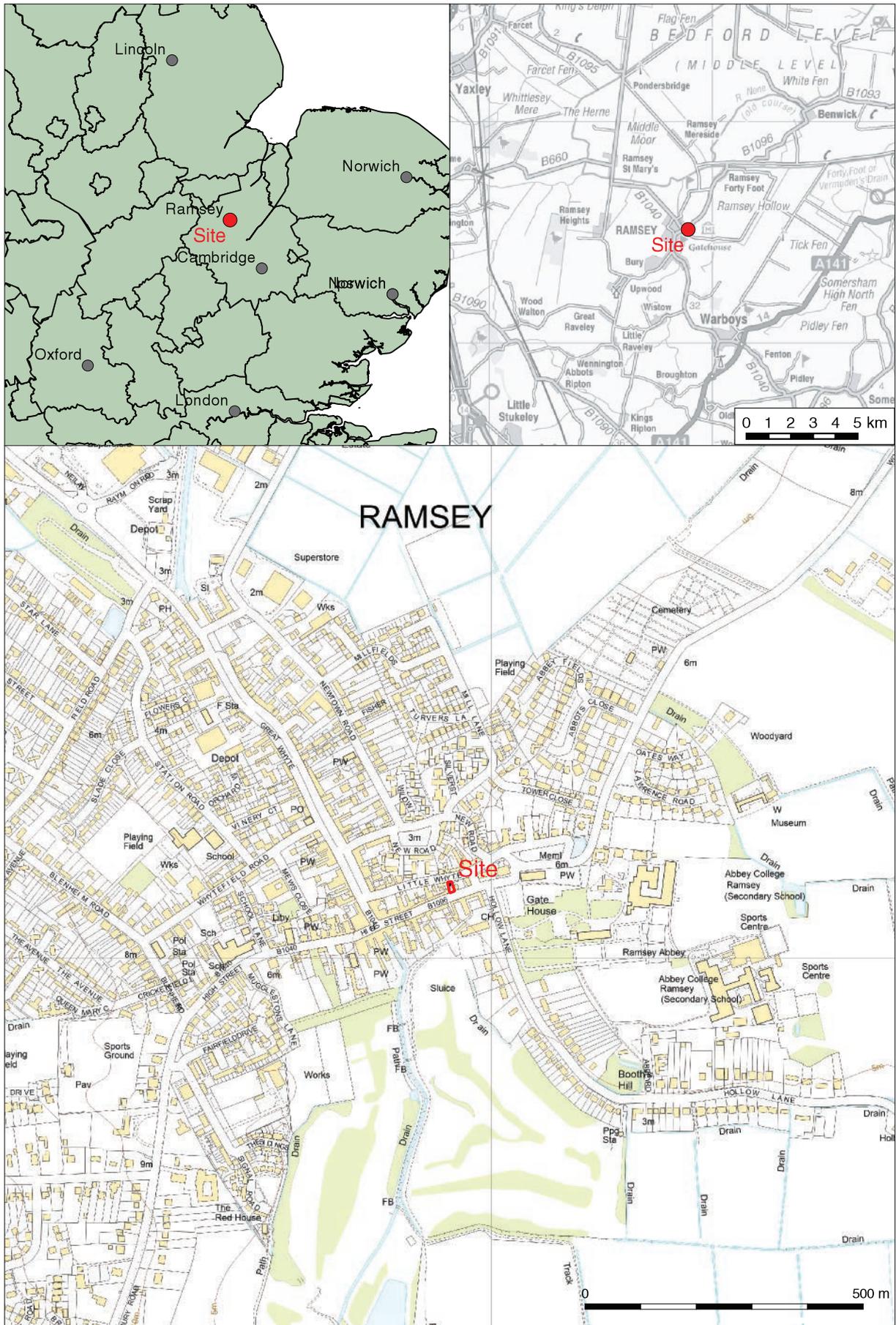
| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Archive Contents/Media

| | Physical Contents | Digital Contents | Paper Contents |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Animal Bones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ceramics | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Human Bones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Leather | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Metal | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stratigraphic | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Survey | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Textiles | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wood | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Worked Bone | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Worked Stone/Lithic | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Digital Media | Paper Media |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Database | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics | <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Images | <input type="checkbox"/> Diary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image | <input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Matrices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Text | <input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality | <input type="checkbox"/> Misc. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Plans |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Report |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sections |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey |

Notes:



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 Fig. 1 Site location showing archaeological trench and development area (red). Scale 1:10000



Figure 2: Site location showing archaeological trench (black) and development area (red). Scale 1:200

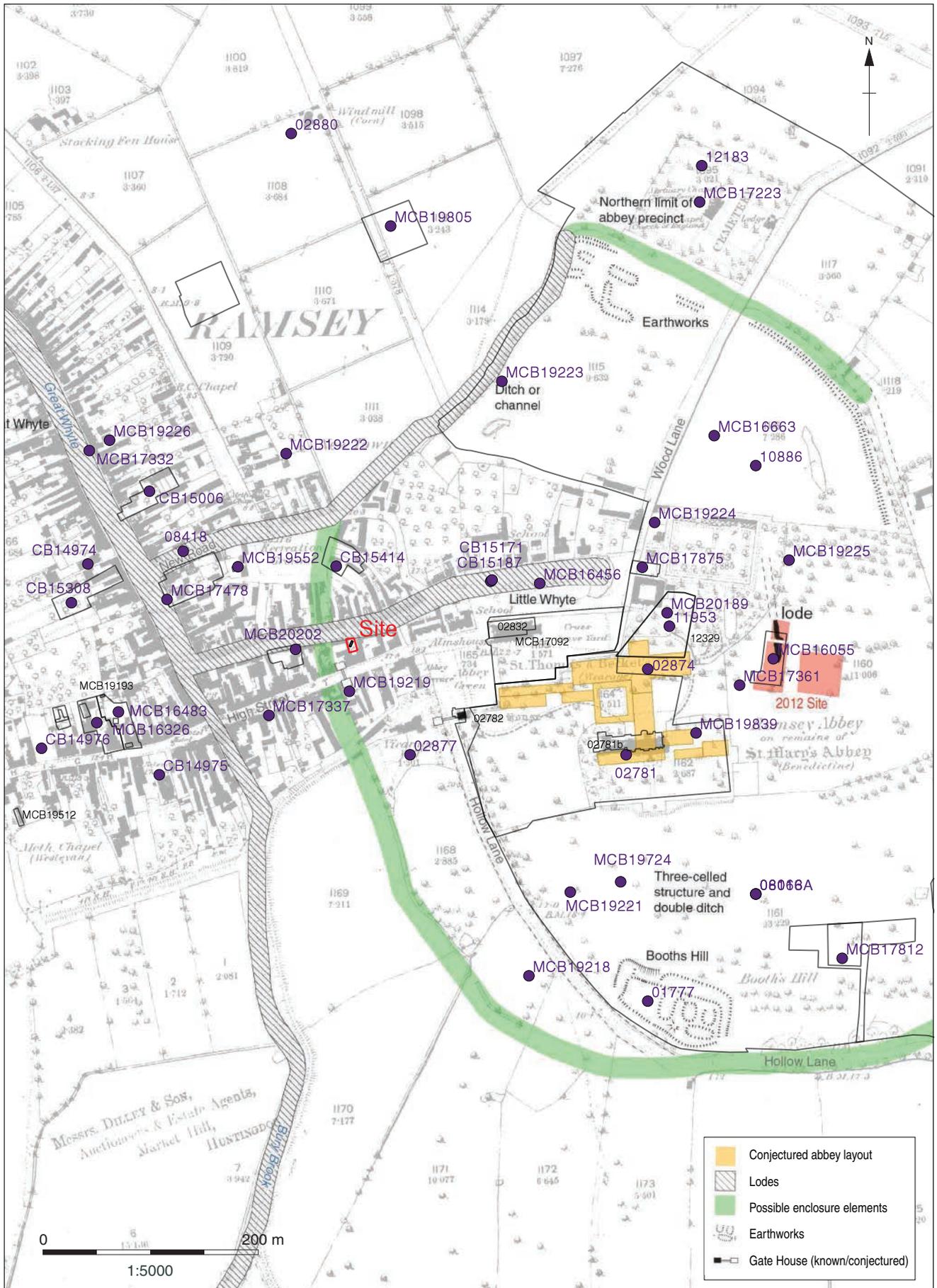


Figure 3: Ramsey Abbey Precinct overlaid on 1891 OS map (after Spoerry *et al.* 2008, fig.3) with HER plot



Figure 4: Plan 1 and Section 1



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