7 - 8 Market Way Broad Street Reading

Post Excavation Assessment

Oxford Archaeology

6th May 2003

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Prudential Property Managers Ltd

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7-8 BROAD STREET MARKET WAY, READING

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH DESIGN

by Dan Stansbie and Alan Hardy

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1 SUMMARY

Excavations at 7-8 Broad Street (Market Way) Reading revealed two major phases of activity. A horizon of buried soil, possibly of Saxon date and only surviving in patches was overlain by a horizon of medieval buried soil. Cutting the buried soil horizons were sequences of medieval and post-medieval rubbish pits, the latest of which were contemporary with a flint-lined cess pit and a flint-lined cellar. Truncating the medieval and post-medieval deposits in many places were Victorian basements, which were infilled with modern rubble. Cutting these deposits were various concrete foundations relating to modern buildings.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation prior to redevelopment of a site to the rear of nos 7-8 Broad Street, Reading (SU 7164 7346), by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Prudential Property Managers Ltd. The mitigation conformed to the requirements of the brief prepared by Babtie for Reading Borough Council (1.3.2002). The following document details the summary results of the fieldwork and recommended further post-excavation analysis work leading to publication.

2.2 Location and geology *(Fig. 1)*

The site is situated in the medieval centre of Reading, behind the modern frontage to the west side of Market Way and the north side of the east end of Broad Street (NGR SU 7164 7346). The site lies on the riverine silts, gravel terraces and underlying chalk north of the north bank of the river Kennet at approximately 40 m OD.

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

In 1996 Oxford Archaeology produced a desk-based assessment of the site (OAU 1996) to assess the archaeological potential of the area of development.

The assessment identified that there is "background noise" of prehistoric and Roman evidence from the gravel terrace on which Reading has developed, but other than a general clustering of material in the area of Reading Abbey (where archaeological investigations have also been focused), no specific prehistoric or Roman sites have been identified within the town centre.

From documentary and cartographic sources, the desk-top study identified that the Broad Street frontage can demonstrate continuous development from at least the early 17th century (Fig. 2) and given its location close to one of the medieval centres of Reading (Market Place), it is likely to have been occupied at least since the layout of the town's street plan in the late 12th or early 13th century. To the rear of the Broad Street and Market Place frontages, the area has been less intensively developed, although cartographic evidence indicates that this area has contained buildings since at least 1761.

More recently, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations on the site (OAU 2001). As a result of this work (and

examination of structural engineering drawings of the existing structure) it was clear that the Broad Street frontage was occupied by two modern infilled basements that have removed archaeological deposits across most or all of this frontage. Within the central portion of the site the geotechnical pits showed some archaeological survival above the general level of the undisturbed natural gravel at *c*2 m. below present ground level. The deposits included a flint and mortar wall provisionally dated to the medieval/post-medieval periods. Around the perimeter of the site a zone of destruction associated with wall and basement construction was recorded.

2.4 Excavation strategy and methodology

Provisionally archaeological excavation was limited to the areas affected by the pile caps of the proposed building (Fig. 3). Where significant remains were encountered, and after consultation with Paul Chadwick of CgMs and Kevin Beachus of Babtie, selected excavation areas were expanded to clarify the character of the archaeology.

Each trench was broken out by mechanical excavator, with removal of all undifferentiated material (slab and formation materials) down to the first significant archaeological horizon. Archaeological deposits were excavated by hand, and recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson, 1992).

3 QUANTIFICATION OF THE ARCHIVE

3.1 Stratigraphic

Record type	Quantification
Context records	201
Matrices A1	2
Matrices A4	2
Plans A1	5
Plans A4	19
Sections A1	7
Sections A4	22
Black and white films	5
Colour films	5

3.2 Quantification of Artefactual and Ecofactual Material

Material	No. of pieces
Pottery	528
Clay Pipe	23
Glass	19
CBM	214
Iron Objects	48
Copper Alloy Objects	1
Slag	2
Animal Bone	1311
Shell	96

4 THE RESULTS

4.1 Stratigraphic *(Fig.3)*

4.1.1 General Summary

Apart from 19th- and 20th-century basement and building activity, two major phases of activity appear to be evident. A horizon of buried soil, possibly of late Saxon/early medieval date and only surviving in patches was cut by sequences of medieval rubbish pits. After an apparent lull in the later medieval period, the post-medieval

period is characterised by sequences of post-medieval rubbish pits, contemporary with a flint-lined cess pit and a flint-lined cellar.

Overall, the medieval and post-medieval deposits and features in many places were truncated by a series of brick built basements of probable Victorian date, later infilled with rubble and truncated by modern concrete foundations.

4.1.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 contained a layer of made ground overlain by a layer of bonding material for the brick floor of a modern basement, which lay at a depth of 2.80 m below the modern concrete floor. Brick walls belonging to the same basement were seen in elevation in both the northern and the southern sections. Overlying the brick floor was a layer of modern backfill containing concrete and CBM.

4.1.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 revealed a sequence of six pits containing multiple fills of sandy silt with inclusions of flint, charcoal and chalk, producing pottery dating from the 11th to the 13th century. One of these pits contained the partially articulated skeleton of a horse. The pits were sealed by a dumped deposit of similar sandy silt material. These deposits were cut by a brick lined well in the eastern corner of the trench and a wall with a concrete foundation running along the south-eastern edge.

4.1.3 Trench 3

In Trench 3, natural brickearth was overlain by a deposit of buried soil, possibly of late Saxon/early medieval date. This in turn was overlain by a late medieval/post-medieval dump of soil, cut by a single pit. Later activity was represented by a brick wall footing, probably dating to the 19th century. This was cut by a modern basement wall, itself overlain by later rubble infilling.

4.1.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 contained five post-medieval rubbish pits containing 16th-century pottery. Four of these were in sequence and sealed by a 0.20 m thick layer of post-medieval garden soil, which was cut by a single shallow rubbish pit.

4.1.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 contained the remains of a cess pit predominantly lined with flint, with inclusons of a few brick blocks and tile fragments, bonded with an ashlar/lime mortar containing some crushed brick. The lower backfill of the pit contained a few sherds of 15th- and 16th-century pottery. To the south of the pit a remnant medieval soil horizon was overlain by building rubble, which was cut by a modern brick wall.

4.1.6 Trench 6

In Trench 6 a sequence of four substantial medieval rubbish pits were overlain by a

flint built wall consisting of irregular flint nodules and pieces of chalk bonded with a light yellow limestone mortar. A short stretch of brick wall that was later built onto the footing appeared to be associated with a brick floor, and a partially revealed robbed drain.

4.1.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 revealed the remains of a rectangular flint walled structure, incorporating the remains of an arch or doorway defined with ashlar limestone block. The majority of this structure had been robbed out, but it possibly represented the remains of a cellar. Partly robbed flint wall footings alongside appeared to define part of the superstructure. The backfill of the cellar contained a large quantity of brick fragments, flint and rubble, along with a large assemblage of 16th- and 17th-century pottery. These deposits were truncated by modern concrete features.

4.1.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 contained a sequence of seven pits cut into a 0.20 m layer of medieval buried soil. The earlier pits contained no finds, in contrast to the later (post-medieval) pits which contained building debris, rubbish and cess. These pits were overlain by a dump of made ground composed of flint and chalk which infilled to the level of the contemporary concrete floor.

4.1.9 Trench 9

In Trench 9 the natural brickearth was cut by a substantial sub-circular medieval pit that was backfilled with a mixture of dark clay/silt and redeposited natural. Two post-medieval brick walls were identified, one overlying the pit. Modern rubble infilled the space between the walls. Cutting one of the walls was a modern concrete foundation.

4.1.10 Trench 10

In Trench 10 the natural brickearth was overlain in places by a layer of (undated) buried soil, although this did not extend throughout the trench. A large pit full of 19th-century rubble and a brick wall of similar date cut the brickearth. The buried soil was overlain by a levelling deposit of stone, which was cut by a modern wall.

4.2 Artefactual

4.2.1 Pottery

Aside from a single sherd of Romano-British pottery, all the material was medieval or later. The range of ware types present suggests that there were two main phases of activity, one in the earlier medieval (11th – 12th centuries) and one in the early post-medieval period (mid 16th to 17th century). In the case of the latter phase of activity, a considerable proportion of the pottery comprised vessels associated with the storage, serving and consumption of drink.

4.2.2 Clay pipes

A small assemblage of pipes, almost all of 17th- to early 18th-century date, was recovered. The largest group within the assemblage, from the cellar backfill, produced a closer date range of *c* 1610-1670.

4.2.3 Metalwork

Two very corroded knives were recovered from post-medieval contexts. A number of iron nails were recovered, mostly from post-medieval contexts. One small piece of Cu alloy sheet was also recovered.

4.2.4 Slag

Two small pieces of slag were recovered from the backfill of the cess pit.

4.2.5 Window and Vessel Glass

A quantity of mostly vessel glass was recovered, the majority deriving from the backfill of the cellar. The material included fine Venetian decorated vessels and beakers, dating to the late 16th to early 17th century. Two window quarries were also identified.

4.2.6 Ceramic Building Material

A small assemblage of principally post-medieval tile and brick was recovered, along with isolated medieval pieces.

4.3 Environmental

4.3.1 Animal Bone

A quantity of animal bone was recovered, mostly from datable contexts in two broad groups corresponding to the principal chronological phases of activity on the site - the 11th to 12th century and the 16th to 17th centuries.

4.3.2 Charred and waterlogged plant material

Of the seven samples assessed three (from medieval contexts) contained abundant cereal grain, principally oats. Other food taxa present included elderberry, fig and blackberry. All samples contained fish bone and, overall suggest the result of domestic waste disposal. A single waterlogged sample from the cess pit lower backfill contained abundant organic material, fruit seeds, and fly puparia.

4.3.3 Shell

A total of 96 fragments of oyster shell were recovered from 8 separate contexts. One significant group (62 fragments) was recovered from a post-medieval pit in Trench 4. The presence of this assemblage in the context of the likely inn or tavern is not unexpected.

5 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

5.1 Provisional interpretation

The earliest activity appears to be characteristic of backyard domestic rubbish disposal, presumably associated with developed street frontages. This could date to as early as the 11th century, although provisionally we appear to be looking at market-side development in response to the new abbey, so a date of the 12th century may be more realistic, given the foundation date of the abbey of 1121. There is evidence that this activity lessens through the medieval period, and the area behind the frontages may have become gardens or orchards; this may be what was depicted on Speed's map of 1610 (Fig. 2).

From the artefactual dating, it appears that early in the 17th century a building (or buildings) incorporating a cellar and a large cess pit was in use. The fabric of both structures suggests they could well have been constructed using material from the derelict abbey buildings, and given the date of Speed's map, may have been built in the early 17th century. The character of the finds assemblage in addition to the structures themselves suggest these structures could have been part of a tavern. Interestingly, the dating of the finds suggests that the building was demolished before the end of the 17th century. The distribution of the archaeological deposits and features could suggest that the buildings were within a plot fronting Market Way, although at present this is by no means clear.

5.1.1 Stratigraphy

The scope for further investigation of the stratigraphy of the excavation is limited, both by the degree of truncation and disturbance of the significant deposits by later building, and the nature of the excavation itself, largely restricted as it was to the footprints of the proposed pile caps. However, a close examination of the relative levels of the surviving buried soil horizons should enable the sequence of pits to be refined, which should add detail to the artefactual impression of a hiatus of activity in the later medieval period. Further stratigraphic study should also clarify the pottery dating of certain fabrics (see Appendix 2).

5.1.2 Artefactual

The medieval finds are limited in their scope for further study, appearing to be fairly representative of an urban tenement. Arguably their chief significance may lie in their comparability to other contemporary sites within Reading sites, of which two, that at 91-93 Broad Street (OA forthcoming) and the Oracle (OA forthcoming) could provide an interesting contrast, and highlight the different influences on different parts of the town at this time.

In contrast, the significance of some categories of the post-medieval artefactual assemblage lies both in the fairly close typological dating possible, and the functional character of the assemblages. Together they support the contention that the principal structural remains discovered may well be parts of a tavern or inn that flourished in the 17th century.

5.1.3 Ecofactual

There is some scope for further work on the environmental samples, to set the results in the context of contemporary activity at nearby sites like the Reading Oracle and 91-

93 Broad Street.

Further analysis of the animal bone is considered to have little potential to enhance understanding of the site as a whole, due to the small size of the assemblage.

The presence of a dump of oyster shell in the context of the post-medieval activity on the site is not unexpected, but further analysis is not considered necessary.

5.1.4 Documentary

Such documentary evidence for the early post-medieval period as has already been scanned does not appear to indicate a building or buildings of the character suggested by the archaeology. There is scope, therefore, to apply a more targeted approach to the history, with a view to possibly identifying the establishment.

5.2 Excavation aims

Broadly, the original excavation aims were to characterise the surviving archaeology under threat from the development, and seek to clarify the medieval and post-medieval development of the area. Specific aims were to:

(i) Identify range and types of medieval and post-medieval activity with particular attention to street frontages.

(ii) Establish dates of sites and associated activities.

(iii) Examine changes in the nature of activity from the early 12th century when Reading Abbey is founded nearby.

(iv) Recover ceramic evidence to help to develop pottery chronology and typology.

(v) Seek to recover evidence for the economy of the site (see vi-x)

(vi) Identify local and non-local resources, eg pottery, for indications of exploitation of those resources.

(vii) Recover artefactual information, to clarify the nature of industrial and other activities, or domestic occupation.

(viii) Compare and contrast the evidence from the site with evidence for contemporary activity found locally and regionally.

(ix) Seek to recover evidence for industrial processes.

(x) Seek to recover palaeoenvironmental data to provide evidence for the utilisation of resources, and to establish the pattern of local environmental conditions.

5.2.1 Revised aims

The excavation results, despite the constraints imposed by the nature of the excavation will allow valid consideration of aims i to viii inclusive. In regard to aim viii specifically, comparison with recently investigated local sites at 90-93 Broad St, Reading, and the Oracle, Reading, will be important, shedding light on the differences in urban development through the medieval and post-medieval periods at three key parts of central Reading. The influencing factors on that development, principally the

abbey, the early Saxon core, and the river, may have left traces in the evolution of these three sites.

With regard to aims ix and x, no significant evidence for industrial activity was recovered, and the environmental evidence is limited, although, in the light of aim viii it to has potential for comparison with other local sites.

Given the character of the post-medieval structural and artefactual evidence, it is proposed to augment the archaeological evidence with a targeted documentary and cartographic study to attempt to identify the post-medieval establishment. Furthermore, the situation of the post-medieval structures - well to the rear of the Market Place frontage and the Broad Street frontage - raises the possibility that the putative inn may have been accessed along a forerunner of the back lane that appears on Coates 1802 map.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Stratigraphic

Matrices and digitised plans exist, but the nature of the excavation is such that the final phasing will largely be established through spatial analysis and detailed examination of finds assemblages. Descriptions of groups of features and structures will be generated. Drawing briefs will be prepared.

6.2 Artefactual

In categories where no further work is recommended, a summary of the assessment report will be included in the published report, and the full report will be retained in the archive.

Further work will be undertaken in the following categories:

6.2.1 Pottery

The uncertainties of the dating of some of the fabrics will be clarified once further stratigraphic analysis is undertaken. Once this has been done, it will be possible to carry out vessel use analysis and fabric occurrence.

6.2.2 Glass

An archive catalogue will be prepared of all the post-medieval vessels. A more detailed publication report will be prepared, considering the post-medieval glass in the context of its related status and use.

6.2.3 Ceramic Building Materials

The assessment report will be summarised for the publication.

6.3 Ecofactual

6.3.1 Animal bone

The assessment report will be summarised for the publication.

6.3.2 Charred and waterlogged plant remains

Full analysis of the four recommended samples and comparison with results from the Reading Oracle and 91-93 Broad Street sites will be undertaken to set the contemporary consumption patterns in context

6.3.3 Documentary research

Joan Dils, of the University of Reading and an authority on the local history of Reading, has agreed to research the documentary history of this part of the town in the early post-medieval period. The research may identify the postulated inn, and possibly clarify the layout of properties and property boundaries at the time.

7 PUBLICATION

It is proposed to publish the results of the fieldwork as an article in the journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society.

7.1 Publication synopsis:

Excavations at 7-8 Broad Street, Reading

	Word count
Summary	200
Project background	100
Archaeological and historical background	500
Archaeological description	1000
Artefactual evidence	1000
Ecofactual evidence	250
Discussion	1000

Figures:

Fig. 1: Site location

Fig. 2: Trench location

Fig. 3. Pit sections/structure elevations

Fig. 4. Pottery/Glass/Pipe drawings

Fig. 4. Reproduction of Speed's 1610 map

Plate 1: View of excavated cess pit

7.2 The archive

Oxford Archaeology's archiving standards will be adhered to at all times with regard to project documentation and archivally suitable materials will be used (Walker 1990). All post-excavation documentation will be filed, ordered and indexed as part of the research archive. This will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record for microfiching. After completion of the project the archive will be deposited with Reading Museum.

8 PROJECT PERSONNEL

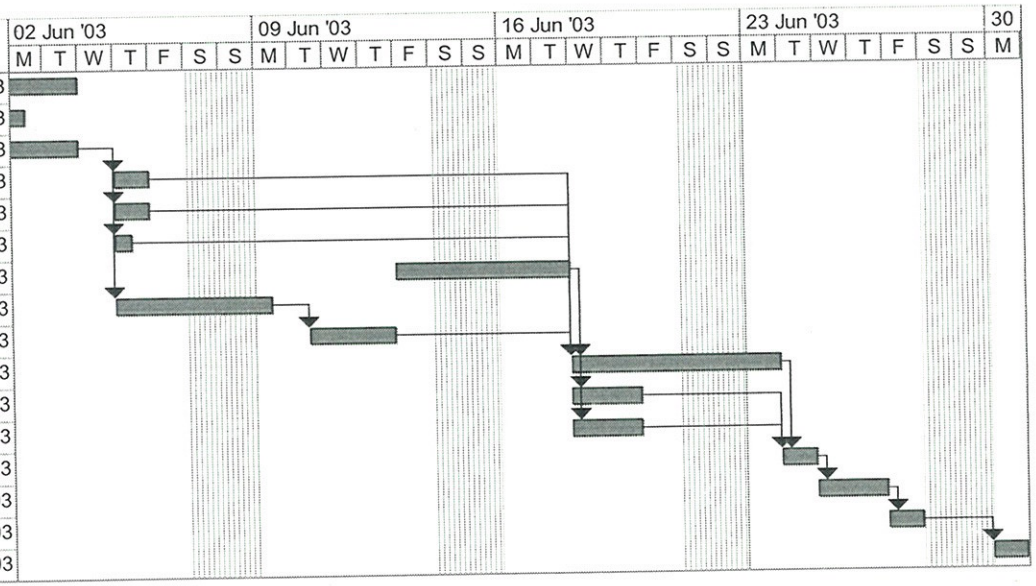
Name	Position	Employer
A Hardy	Senior Project Manager	OA
A Barclay	Publications Manager	OA
D Stansbie	Research officer	OA
P Blinkhorn	Pottery specialist	Freelance
R Tyson	Glass specialist	Freelance
T Smith	CBM specialist	Museum of London Specialist Services
E Huckerby	Environmentalist	OA
J Dils	Local Historian	Freelance
OA Illustrator		OA
J Coolidge	Research officer	OA
N Scott	Archivist	OA

9 TASK LIST

Task no.	Description	Performed by	Duration
01	Project management	A Hardy	2
02	Project monitoring	A Barclay	0.5
03	Stratigraphic analysis	D Stansbie	2
04	Pottery report	P Blinkhorn	1
05	Glass report	R Tyson	1
06	CBM report	T Smith	0.5
07	Documentary research and report	J Dils	3
08	Fish bone analysis	OA specialist	0.5
09	Environmental sorting	OA staff	2.5
10	Environmental report	E Huckerby	2.5
11	Report text	D Stansbie	4
12	Illustration	OA illustrator	2
13	Finds illustration	OA illustrator	2
14	Report assembly	D Stansbie	1
15	Editing	J Coolidge	2
16	Final archive	N Scott	1
17	Publication		

10 GANTT CHART

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1	Project management	2 days	Mon 02/06/03	Tue 03/06/03
2	Project monitoring	0.5 days	Mon 02/06/03	Mon 02/06/03
3	Stratigraphic analysis	2 days	Mon 02/06/03	Tue 03/06/03
4	Pottery report	1 day	Thu 05/06/03	Thu 05/06/03
5	Glass report	1 day	Thu 05/06/03	Thu 05/06/03
6	CBM report	0.5 days	Thu 05/06/03	Thu 05/06/03
7	Documentary res and rep	3 days	Fri 13/06/03	Tue 17/06/03
8	Environmental sorting	2.5 days	Thu 05/06/03	Mon 09/06/03
9	Environmental report	2.5 days	Tue 10/06/03	Thu 12/06/03
10	Publication report text	4 days	Wed 18/06/03	Mon 23/06/03
11	Illustration	2 days	Wed 18/06/03	Thu 19/06/03
12	Finds illustration	2 days	Wed 18/06/03	Thu 19/06/03
13	Report assembly	1 day	Tue 24/06/03	Tue 24/06/03
14	Editing	2 days	Wed 25/06/03	Thu 26/06/03
15	Final archiving	1 day	Fri 27/06/03	Fri 27/06/03
16	Publication	1 day	Mon 30/06/03	Mon 30/06/03



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Wilkinson D, 1992 *OAU Fieldwork Manual.*

APPENDIX 1

Pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 359 sherds with a total weight of 10,148 g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 4.37.

Aside from a single sherd of Romano-British pottery, all the material was medieval or later. The range of ware types present suggests that there were two main phases of activity, one in the earlier medieval (11th – 12th centuries) and one in the early post-medieval period (mid 16th – 17th century). In the case of the latter phase of activity, a considerable amount of the pottery assemblage comprised vessels associated with the storage, serving and consumption of drink. The assemblage is therefore entirely consistent with the suggestion that the excavated structures may have been part of an inn in the early post-medieval period.

Fabric

The following fabrics were noted:

F202: East Wiltshire ware, AD1050 – 1350. 68 sherds, 915 g, EVE = 0.19.

F300: Local coarse sandy ware, ?L11th – 14thC. 48 sherds, 436 g, EVE = 0.04.

F301: Sand, limestone + flint ?L11th – 14thC. 2 sherds, 33g, EVE = 0.

F302: Local fine sandy ware, ?L11th – 14thC. 84 sherds, 2,084 g, EVE = 1.47.

F356: Surrey whitewares. Mid 13th – mid 15th C. 5 sherds, 974g, EVE = 1.00.

F401: LMT earthenware, 15th –16thC? 19 sherds, 736 g, EVE = 0.31.

F403: 'Tudor Green' type ware. 15th – 16th century. 4 sherds, 22 g, EVE = 0.11.

F404: Cistercian ware, 1475-1700. 7 sherds, 39g, EVE = 0.

F405: Frechen Stoneware, AD1550 – 1700. 18 sherds, 1,177g, EVE = 1.00.

F417: Tin-glazed Earthenware. 17th – early 18th century. 8 sherds, 159g, Eve = 0.

F420: Martincamp flask. *c*1475-1550. 7 sherds, 858g, EVE = 0.25.

F425: Red Earthenware. Mid 16th – late 18th century. 68 sherds, 2,321 g.

F448: Mass-produced white earthenwares. 19th – 20th century. 7 sherds, 68 g.

F451: Border Ware, 1550-1700. 13 sherds, 324g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Assessment

This group of pottery indicates that the main phases of activity at this site were during the earlier medieval (11th – 12th centuries) and early post-medieval periods (mid 16th – 17th century). In the case of the latter phase of activity, a considerable amount of

the pottery was vessels associated with the storage, serving and consumption of drink, such as German Stoneware beer mugs, Cistercian ware cups, Martincamp flasks, local transitional ware jugs and a large Surrey Whiteware costrel. The rest of the material comprised mainly redware pancheons, a vessel type primarily associated with the preparation and serving of food. The assemblage is therefore entirely consistent with the suggestion that the excavated structures may have been part of an inn in the early post-medieval period.

Further work is required, however. Some of the contexts have pottery assemblages which have a *terminus post quem* of the 15th century, but contain ware types which have a use-span which lasted into the 16th or 17th centuries. Refinement of this dating is crucial both to ascertain if the deposits pre- or post-date the Dissolution of the abbey, and to clarify the nature of the early post-medieval activity on the site. At this time, the stratigraphic matrix is not available, so it will be necessary to refer to this once it has been prepared, and, where possible, to adjust the dating of the context-specific groups accordingly. Once this has been done, it will be possible to carry out vessel use analysis and fabric occurrence, which has the potential to demonstrate that the assemblage is one that reflects the use of the structure as an inn, as the range of vessel types here would also not be out of place at a monastery. Thus, the chronology of the pottery is crucial to our understanding of the site.

Some of the vessels are worthy of illustration. A near-complete early medieval tripod pitcher was noted in context 2044; fragments of such vessels are common in Reading, but near-complete examples are extremely rare, and so illustration and publication will considerably enhance our understanding of this archaeologically important pottery type. Some of the post-medieval groups, such as the material from context 4015 will also need to be illustrated for publication. If, as suspected, this pottery is from an inn, then it will be an extremely rare snapshot of pottery consumption at such a site at Reading, and in the Thames Valley region generally, as very few groups of this type have been excavated and published.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	RB		F202		F300		F301		F302		F356		F401		F403		F404		F405		F417		F420		F425		F451		F448		
Cnt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
2001									1	4									1	215	4	25									17thC
2003																											1	46			M16thC
2016													1	16					1	3											15thC?
2018									1	38																					L11thC?
2019					2	15																									L11thC?
2020									26	237																					12thC?
2025									4	18																					L11thC?
2029					3	16																									L11thC?
2031					1	13			15	98							1	26													12thC?
2033			56	812	33	265			2	82																					L11thC
2036			5	62					5	34																					L11thC?
2042			4	31	4	82			7	37																					12thC?
2043									11	52																					12thC?
2044			3	10					1	1290																					12thC
3008											2	109																			M13thC
4004	1	2																													RB??
4009													1	83					2	13											15thC
4010																									2	18					M16thC
4012																									1	12					M16thC
4015							1	17			1	722	16	528			6	13	5	702			1	612	1	101					M16thC
5015									1	22	1	137													2	136					M16thC

	RB		F202		F300		F301		F302		F356		F401		F403		F404		F405		F417		F420		F425		F451		F448		
Cnt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
5016																			1	8											15thC
6011					2	12																									12thC
6029									1	74																					12thC
7006																									1	23					M16thC
7011															2	18			8	236	4	134	6	246	47	1681	12	278			17thC?
7024													1	109	1	2									8	162					M16thC
8002							1	16	2	21					1	2															15thC
8010																									4	173					M16thC
9003											1	6													1	8			2	8	19thC
9005																													5	60	19thC
9008																									1	7					M16thC
9009									2	53																					12thC
9010					3	33			5	24																					12thC
	1	2	68	915	48	436	2	33	84	2084	5	974	19	736	4	22	7	39	18	1177	8	159	7	858	68	2321	13	324	7	68	

APPENDIX 2

Clay Pipes

by David Higgins

Introduction

The pipes considered in this report were excavated by Oxford Archaeology at 7-8 Broad Street (Market Way), Reading. The author examined these pipes during December 2002, when this report was prepared.

Description of the finds

The excavations produced a total of 24 pipe fragments comprising 5 bowl, 18 stem and 1 mouthpiece fragment from a total of 8 different contexts. A summary description and dating of the pipes from each context is provided below: -

802 1 small fragment of plain, cylindrical pipe stem with a bore of 5/64", dating from *c*1700-1780.

2001 1 plain stem fragment of *c*1650-1750 with a stem bore of 6/64". This is a reasonably large fragment (56mm) with fresh edges, suggesting that it has not been disturbed much since initial deposition, the most likely date for which is late C17th or early C18th.

2003 2 plain stem fragments dating from *c*1680-1750, one with a stem bore of 5/64" and one with a bore of 6/64".

4012 1 plain stem fragment of *c*1650-1730 with a stem bore of 6/64".

5016 1 plain stem fragment of *c*1610-1660 with a stem bore of 9/64" and a plain bowl of *c*1620-50. The bowl is complete, it is fully milled and of average finish. This piece has 88mm of surviving stem with a bore of 8/64" and. The other stem in 70mm long and the fresh condition of both pieces suggests that they come from a contemporary and undisturbed deposit of *c*1620-50.

6001 1 stem of *c*1700-1780 with a stem bore of 4/64".

7011 This is by far the largest group of pipes recovered from the site, even though it only comprises 14 pieces (4 bowls, 9 stem fragments and a mouthpiece). Although the fragments all date from the 17th century they are rather mixed in nature and the bowl forms range from *c*1610-1670 in date. The latest bowl dates from *c*1650-70 and could represent the date at which the pipes were deposited amongst demolition material in a pit. The individual elements of the group are as follows (the bowls have been identified by the letters A-D): -

A – Rather a roughly made local bowl of *c*1610-40 with a three-quarters milled rim and a heart-shaped heel. Stem bore 7/64".

B – Heel bowl of *c*1640-60 with a half-milled rim and stem bore of 7/64". This pipe is of a much better form and neater finish than A.

C - Heel bowl of *c*1650-70 with a one-quarter milled rim and stem bore of 7/64". Average form and finish.

D – Fragment of a spur bowl of *c*1640-60 with a stem bore of 8/64". The bowl is

completely missing with just a part of the spur surviving.

The context group also contains 9 plain stems, two with bores of 8/64", five with bores of 7/64" and two with bores of 6/64". There is one mouthpiece fragment with a simple cut end and a bore of 9/64". The walls of this fragment are extremely thin, generally less than 1mm, which must have made production very difficult.

9003 2 stems of 19th-century date, one with a stem bore of 4/64" and one with a stem bore of 3/64". The latter piece has been badly burnt in a fire after being broken with the result that the stem has warped slightly. It also has a lump of slaggy concretion adhering to it.

Discussion

This is a small assemblage of pipes with little opportunity to provide the close dating of deposits that pipes are capable of. The most notable feature of the assemblage as a whole is the dominance of early pieces – almost all of the fragments are of 17th- or early 18th-century date, with only two or three later pieces being present. There are no marked or decorated pieces and none of the fragments is burnished. The pipes are all typical of local products and there is no reason why they should not have all been manufactured in or near to Reading. The early bowl from Context 7011 is quite crudely designed and made and may well represent the early establishment of pipemaking in the area.

APPENDIX 3

Metalwork

by Leigh Allen

A small assemblage of metalwork comprising 50 iron objects and 1 copper alloy object was recovered from the evaluation at Broad Street. The identifiable iron objects include 2 knife fragments, a U-shaped staple and 28 nails (including a possible horseshoe nail). The single copper alloy object is only a miscellaneous fragment of sheet. The condition of the metalwork is poor the ironwork in

particular is very badly corroded.

The knife fragments from context 4015 are both tangs from whittle-tang knives with very little of the blade remaining.

Context	*Object*	*Material*	*No.*	*Comments*
2018	nail	iron	1	
2018	strip	iron	1	Modern
2019	nail	iron	1	shank only
2022	horseshoe nail	iron	1	
2022	nail	iron	1	
2033	strip	iron	1	
2036	sheet	iron	1	
4009	staple	iron	1	u-shaped
4009	sheet	iron	6	
4009	sheet	copper alloy	5	tiny fragments of sheet
4010	nail	iron	1	
4012	nail	iron	1	
4015	nail	iron	21	
4015	knife	iron	1	Tang and short section of a whittle tang knife
4015	knife	iron	1	Possible tang from a knife or other implement
7011	nail	iron	7	

No further work is recommended on this assemblage

APPENDIX 4

Window and vessel glass

by Rachel Tyson

A total of 66 fragments of glass were recovered from post-medieval and modern deposits at 7-8 Broad Street (Table 1). While the fragments are generally small and heavily weathered, they include some fine colourless tablewares of interest.

The Glass

Context dating

The glass dates all correspond with the broad context dates provided. The glass from 7011, the only context producing more than one glass vessel, can be dated more precisely to the second half of the 16th or early 17th century.

Condition of the glass

The condition of the glass, although fragile (especially the heavily weathered kicked base from 5015), is relatively stable.

Results

The majority of the glass came from cess pit fill 7011. This included body fragments of a fine colourless vessel decorated with alternate bands of *vetro a fili* and *vetro a retorti*, a decorative technique using white canes embedded into the surface of the glass, used by Venetian or highly skilled *façon de venise* craftsmen working in other European centres such as the southern Netherlands. It can be dated to c 1550-1600, possibly into the early 17th century. Willmott in his recent overview of post-medieval glass in England comments that *vetro a retorti* is one of the rarer decorative types found in excavations, and indicates a higher status site (Willmott 2002, 16-17). The vessel form cannot be determined from these fragments. Other Venetian or *façon de venise* glass includes two small fluted body fragments, and a plain base rim probably from a stemmed goblet.

Indigenous green glass products from the same context include a base fragment of a pedestal beaker with vertical ribbing, dating to the 16th or early 17th century, a more common find in English excavations. The rim fragment of a urinal is again a widely used vessel, found up to the end of the 16th century. Window fragments include part of a triangular quarry, probably of the late 16th or 17th century.

Post-medieval glass was also recovered from pit fills 5015 and 4015: a kicked base and some undiagnostic body fragments. Neither of these can be dated very precisely.

Recommendations for further study

1. An archive catalogue should be prepared of all the Post-Medieval vessels.

2. The Post-Medieval glass, particularly that from context 7011, merits a more detailed publication report, particularly with regard to its indications of status and use.

3. The largest fragment of the decorated Venetian-style vessel should be illustrated.

References

Willmott, H, 2002 Early Post-Medieval Vessel Glass in England, *c* 1500-1670, *CBA Res Rep* 132

Table 1: Quantifiaction of vessel and window glass fragments by context

Context No.	Context date	No. fragments	Glass description	Glass date
802	Test pit context - post-medieval	1	Wine bottle base	Late 18th/early 19th C
2003	Modern	1	Undiagnostic colourless object	19th-20th C
4015	Post-Medieval	2	Undiagnostic green body fragments	
5015	Post-Medieval	16	Kicked base	
7011	Post-Medieval	17	*Colourless body fragments decorated with alternate *vetro a fili* and *vetro a retorti* canes	*c* 1550-1600, possibly early 17th C
7011	Post-Medieval	2	Colourless fluted body fragment	16th-17th C
7011	Post-Medieval	1	Colourless fragment	
7011	Post-Medieval	1	Colourless plain base rim fragment, prob from stemmed goblet	late 16th-17th C
7011	Post-Medieval	1	Pale green pedestal base with optic-blown vertical ribbing	16th-e 17th C
7011	Post-Medieval	19	Pale green window fragments including 1 from triangular quarry	Late 16th-17th C
7011	Post-Medieval	3	Undiagnostic green body fragments	
7011	Post-Medieval	2	Pale greenish urinal rim	Up to end of 16th C

* Recommended for illustration

APPENDIX 5

Ceramic Building Material

by Terry Smith

Methodology

It was agreed that the building materials should be scanned and material discarded if it was unlikely to contribute significantly to the overall understanding of the site. Most has been discarded following minimal recording during the course of the scan. Data concerning the building material have been entered into an Excel database.

The building materials

Roofing tiles

All the roofing tile fragments recovered are either of peg tiles or of ridge tiles. Most have a long date range, although a few show either splash-glaze or cover-glaze, mostly brown, sometimes green. This indicates a medieval date. Such tiles came from contexts (2022), (2033), (7006), (8002), and (9008). The last, however, has only a patch of green glaze which may be accidental. The tile may therefore be later, though perhaps not appreciably so: pottery in the context is dated to the mid 16th century.

Bricks

All the bricks recovered are in red fabrics. Dates, which should be regarded as to some degree tentative, have been assigned on the basis of thickness, sharpness or otherwise of arrisses, and general appearance. Thickness is a general guide to dating, with brick tending to become thicker over time. The dates are suggested in the Excel database, and are summarised in Table I.

Table 1: Suggested dates of bricks, by context

Suggested date	Contexts
15th/16thC	(1003); (6002); (6004); (7011); (9006)
18thC?	(802)

Dimensions of the bricks are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Brick dimensions

	Dimensions (mm)		
Context	Length	Breadth	Thickness
(802)	?	104	51
(1003)	230	110	54

(6002)	247	122	47
(6004)	?	120	55
(7011)	?	118	56
(9006)	245	114	56
(9006)	?	111	56

Some of the earlier bricks show characteristic features from their method of manufacture as 'place bricks', namely sunken margins and squodge marks. The least certainly dated brick is that from context (802). Its thinness of only 51 mm might suggest that it of early date, similar to all others from the site; but it has sharparrisses and may, therefore, be a later paving brick.

Floor tiles

A fragment of plain glazed floor tile was recovered from context (5015). It is 35 mm thick; other dimensions are not preserved. Its glaze is very dark green, virtually black. The tile probably dates from the 14th or 15th century. It is probably of English manufacture.

A further fragment of floor tile was recovered from context ((7013). It is 30 mm thick; other dimensions are not preserved. It has no glaze, but it is uncertain whether this is due to wear or whether the tile was originally of unglazed type. Its silty fabric indicates that it is of the type commonly referred to as 'Flemish' – though in fact they were imported from the Low Countries as a whole, not just from Flanders. If it was originally glazed then it probably dates from the 15th or 16th century, if originally unglazed then from the 17th or 18th century.

Salt-glazed ceramic tile

From context (2001) comes a fragment of salt-glazed ceramic bearing a maker's stamp. Its precise form is not clear. It is of modern (19th- or 20th-century) date

Potential of the material

The building material is for the most part in agreement with the pottery dates. They add little to those dates in the way of refinement. Discrepancies are few and slight: they are noted in Table 3.

Table 3: Discrepancies between pottery and CBM dates, by context

Context	Pottery date	CBM date	Comments
(2001)	17thC	19th/20thC	Salt-glazed ceramic: intrusive?
(5015)	M16thC	14th/15thC	Tile *may* be 16thC
(7006)	M16thC	Medieval	Glazed peg tile: residual?
(7001)	17thC?	C15/C16?	Brick: residual or reused?

The building materials do indicate, of course, what materials were being used on the site, although these are for the most part fairly commonplace, particularly the peg tiles. Given the nature of the site, too, the material has little potential.

Further work required

Little further work is required on the building material itself, much of which has been discarded following minimal recording.

Publication

For publication, the data presented above and in the accompanying Excel database may be incorporated into the principal text, as required, by the principal author(s). It would be useful to include a *short* appendix on the building materials present, summarising this assessment report. This should be written by a building materials specialist. The estimated time required is 0.5 day.

APPENDIX 6

Animal bone

by Bethan Charles

Introduction

A total of 1311 fragments of bone were recovered by hand during excavations by Oxford Archaeology at 7 - 8 Broad Street, Reading. The material was rapidly assessed in order to identify species and quantify the material. Many of the bones were quite fragmentary and re-assembly of the elements reduced the count to 680 it is likely that further analysis of the material may further reduce the number. In addition to the hand collected bone a small quantity of material was recovered from environmental samples sieved through meshes of >10mm, 10 - 4mm and 4 - 2mm.

Condition

The condition of the bone was graded from 1 to 5 using the criteria stipulated by Lyman, R.L. (1996), grade 1 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable. The majority of the bone was not in particularly good condition between grade 3 and 4. Much of it was chalky and fragmented. This will have increased the numbers of unidentified fragments of bone and obscured some of the butchery and gnaw marks.

Methodology

Identification of the bone was done at Oxford Archaeology with access to the reference collection and published guides. The calculation of the species recovered was done through the use of the total fragment method. All fragments of bone were counted including elements from the vertebral centrum, ribs and long bone shafts. No goat bones were identified using the criteria of Boessneck (1969), Prummel and Frisch (1986) in addition to the use of the reference material housed at OA. Therefore all caprine bones are listed as sheep.

Results

Cattle sheep and pig

It is clear that cattle and sheep provided most of the meat to the inhabitants at the site. A large number of juvenile cattle mandibles were identified from within 16th/17-century deposit 4015. These may have been animals surplus to the dairy industry or animals specifically bred for meat supply to the towns. Pork would also have been an important part of the diet during the early medieval and post-medieval periods and the animals may have been kept within the settlement area.

Table 1. Total number of bones according to species and period.

Species	11th/12th C	15th/16/17th C	Undated	Total
Horse	4*	0	11	11
Cattle	17	71	17	105
Sheep	17	36	10	63
Pig	2	8	2	12
Fallow Deer	0	2	0	2
Hare	0	5	0	5
Cat	1	0	1	2
Rodent	6	0	0	6
Bird	7	16	2	25
Fish	0	55**	0	0
Frog	25	2	2	29
Unidentified	94	269	57	420
Total	169	409	102	680

* a large quantity of bone from context 2025 belonging to a single horse skeleton has been counted as 1.

**All of these fragments are vertebral fragments from context 7011.

Other species

Horse

The horse bone from the site included the remains of a horse skeleton from context 2025 (including limbs, vertebrae, ribs and the skull). A metacarpal from late 11th century deposit 2036 had evidence of spavin disease around the proximal articulation, observed as partial fusion of the metacarpal and a small amount of additional bone growth. None of the horse bone from the dated features had evidence of butchery. However, a horse metatarsal with articulating hock had a clear chop mark across the shaft.

Bird

The bird bone from the site appeared to be mostly domestic fowl and goose with some unidentified smaller species, probably pigeon.

Game

At least some wild species were included in the diet of the inhabitants during the mid to late medieval period including hare and fallow deer.

Fish

A quantity of fish bones were recovered from a 17th-century deposit (context 7011) which contained a large quantity of animal bone. The fish species was not identified.

Miscellaneous

The small number of rodent and frog bones are unlikely to have been eaten by the inhabitants of the site and are likely to have been natural fatalities.

Conclusions and recommendations

From the assessment of the material it appears clear that cattle, sheep and pig would have contributed the most to the meat diet of the inhabitants with bird, fish and some wild mammal supplementing and adding variety to the diet. The assessment will add to our understanding of the use of the animals at the site. However, the modest size of the entire bone assemblage, in the context of the limited excavation, renders the potential of further analysis of the bones assemblage of low value. Therefore, it is proposed that the assessment report (suitably edited) be included in the publication report.

References

Boessneck, J. 1969 Osteological Differences in Sheep (*Ovis aries* Linné) and Goat (*Capra hircus* Linné), in D. Brothwell and E. Higgs (eds) Science in Archaeology. *Thames and Hudson.* 331 - 358

Lyman, R. L., 1996 Vertebrate Taphonomy. *Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology. Cambridge University Press.*

Prummel, W and Frisch, H,-J. 1986 A Guide for the distinction of species, sex and body size in bones of sheep and goat. *Journal of Archaeological Science XIII. 567 – 77*

APPENDIX 7

Charred and waterlogged remains

by Elizabeth Huckerby

Introduction

Samples were taken from late medieval/post medieval cess pits and backyard urban deposits. Seven samples were assessed for charred plant remains and one for waterlogged ones. The assessment was undertaken in order to establish whether plant material was present, the state of its preservation and the relative abundance of the remains.

Methodology

The seven bulk samples, from 0.5l to 40 litres in volume, were floated using a modified Siraf machine, the flots were collected on 250μ mesh and air-dried. A kilogram from the waterlogged sample was hand floated and the flot collected on 250μ mesh. This flot was kept wet and scanned in water. Both flot types were scanned with a Leitz/Wild microscope and plant material was recorded and provisionally identified. The data are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Results of assessment of charred plant remains

The results of the assessment of charred plant remains are shown in Table 1. All samples contained some charred plant material including cereal grains and weed seeds. No cereal chaff was identified. There was very little modern contamination in any of the samples. Three samples 101, 102 and 106 from contexts 2044, 2046, and 6011 contained abundant charred cereal grains. The major cereal recorded was oats (*Avena*) but wheat including bread wheat (*Triticum*), and barley (*Hordeum*) were also identified. Charred remains from other food taxa were not abundant although some bean seeds, and hazel nut fragments were identified. Waterlogged remains were also identified in samples 101, 106 and 100 from contexts 2004, 6011 and 3010 and these included elderberry (*Sambucus*), fig (*Ficus carica*), and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus)*. Arable weed seeds eg corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), ruderals and cultivated weeds eg wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), nettles (*Urtica*), and spurge (*Euphorbia*), grassland weeds eg fairy flax (*Linum catharticum*) grasses, docks (*Polygonum* sp) and weeds from damp communities eg sedges (*Carex*) were identified. All samples contained fish bone and may suggest domestic waste.

Results of waterlogged plant remains

A single sample (105) context 5015 from a pit fill was assessed for waterlogged plant remains and the results are shown in Table 2. The flot contained abundant waterlogged organic material including clumps of hair. The identification of fly puparia suggested that the pit had remained open whilst the fill was accumulating. Seeds were abundant and well preserved and those identified included grape (*Vitis vinifera*), fig, blackberry, and apple/pear (*Malus/Pyrus*) pips. The data suggest that the fill probably includes faecal material.

Discussion

The assessment of samples from Reading Market Way for charred and waterlogged

remains demonstrated the presence of both charred and waterlogged plant remains on the site. Preservation of the plant remains was mixed and would allow further analysis to be undertaken. The Reading Market Way site lies on the drier gravel terrace further up the Thames valley than the site of Reading Oracle (ref). Both sites are from the late/post medieval periods. The Reading Oracle site was situated nearer to the river and samples from it contained well preserved waterlogged remains but few charred ones whilst some samples from Reading Market Way were rich in charred plant remains. Three samples 101, 102, and 106 contained abundant charred grains and weed seeds but no crop processing remains. They suggest that oats were the most important cereal on the site. Weed taxa suggest that a number of differing plant communities are represented. The flots from the samples processed for charred plant remains also demonstrated the presence of waterlogged seeds.

The assemblage of waterlogged plant remains from sample 105 context 5015 is similar to those recorded at Reading Oracle. This, along with information from the charred plant remains at Reading Market Way would complement that from the waterlogged plant remains at the Reading Oracle site for the late/post medieval period in Reading town centre.

Potential

This assessment demonstrated the potential for further analysis of charred plant remains from Reading Market Way relating to the late/post medieval period. It is recommended that three samples (101, 102, and 106) be taken to full analysis. for reasons of comparability it is recommended that waterlogged sample 105 is also analysed.

Time

Sorting of 3 samples (101, 102, and 106) for charred plant remains 1.5 days of OA specialist or technician

Analysis of charred plant remains from 3 samples (101, 102, and 106) and report 1.5 days of OA specialist

Sorting of waterlogged remains from sample 105 1 day of OA specialist or technician.

Analysis of waterlogged remains from sample 105 and report 1day of OA specialist.

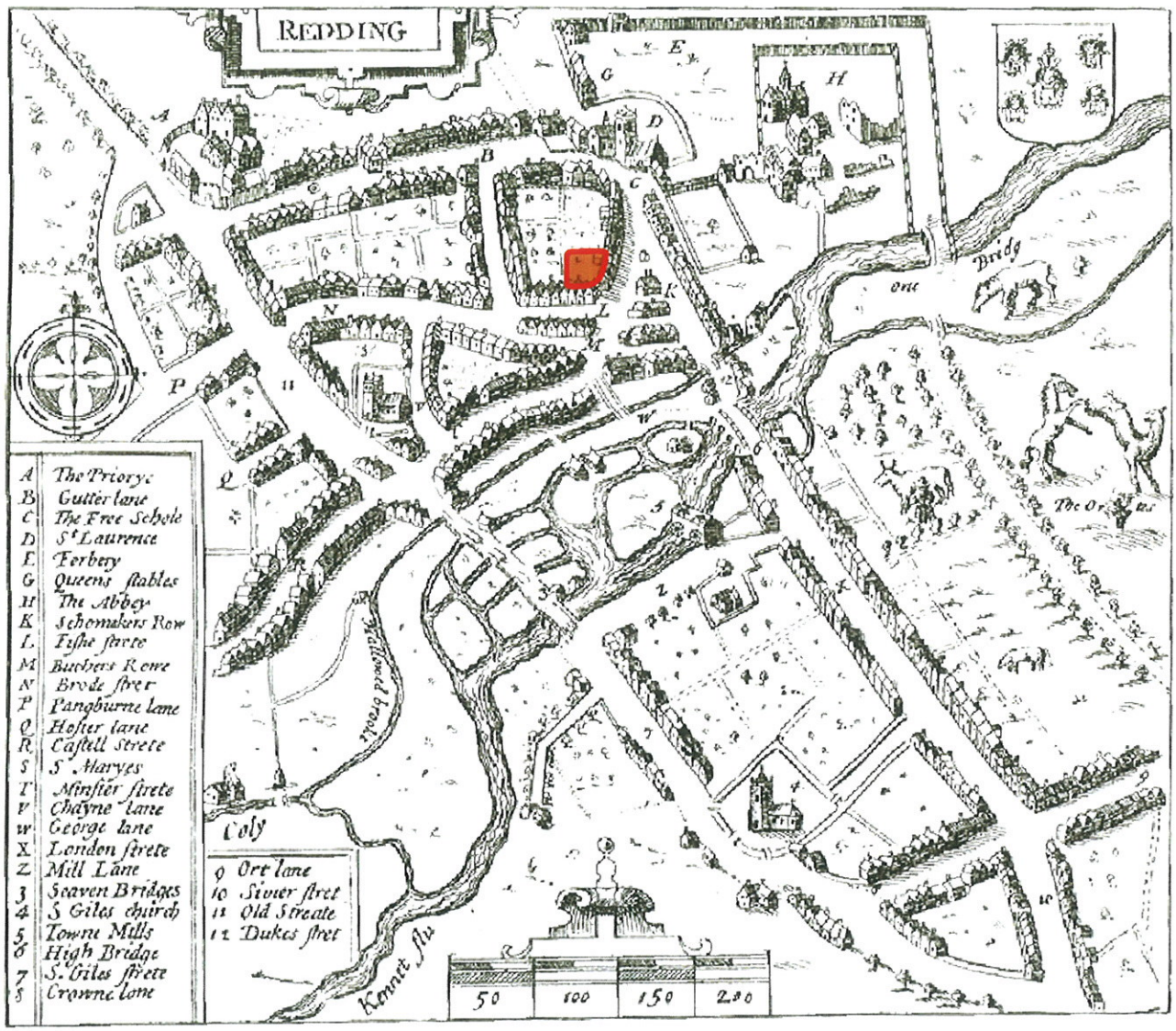
Table 1: Assessment of charred plant remains. Scored on a scale of 1-4 where 1=0-5, 2=5-25, 3=25-100 and 4>=100

Sample	Context	Feature and description	Sample size	Flot description	Plant remains	Potential
101	2044		40l	100ml, charcoal 4, fish, small mammal, and mammal bone	Cereals 4, wheat incl bread, rye, barley, oats, part germinated, tarry, hazel nut frags, ?beans, weeds 4	High
102	2046		40l	50ml, charcoal poor, fish, calcined, and mammal bone,	Cereals 4, oats (main type), barley, wheat, weeds 3, hazel nut frags	Good
100	3010		35l	30ml, larger charcoal, molluscs	Cereals 2, oats +wheat, weeds 1	Poor
107	6008		0.5l	75ml, charcoal, oak, pine?, other, bone frags 4	Cereals 1, weeds 1,	None
106	6011		40l	325ml, charcoal oak+other, round wood, fish, small mammal, and mammal bone	Cereals 3-4, oats, bread wheat, barley, weeds 4, charred and waterlogged, hazel nut frags	High
103	9010	Layer late/post medieval		<25ml, small charcoal, fish, calcined, and mammal bone, molluscs	Cereal 2, oats, barley frags, tarry, weeds 1,	Low
104	9010	Pit late/post medieval	11l	25-30ml, small charcoal, fish, small mammal, and mammal bone, molluscs, coal, cinder	Cereals 2, wheat, oats, barley, part germinated, weeds 1, hazel nut frags	Low

Table 2 Waterlogged plant remains from Sample 105 (+=present)

Sample number		**105**
Context number		5015
Feature type		Pit
Amorphous plant		++
Wood		+
Charcoal		+
Fly puparia		+
Insect fragments		+
Fish bone		+
Hair		+
Plant remains		
Charred *Secale*	Rye	+
Agrostemma gigatho	Corncockle	+
Ficus carica	Fig	++
Fragaria vesca	Wild/alpine strawberry	+
Malus/Pyrus	Apple/pear	+
Rubus fruticosus	Blackberry	+
Vitis vinifera	Grape	+
Unknowns		+

Figure 1: Site location plan



Approximate area of development site

Figure 2: Speed's map of Reading 1611

Figure 3: Trench Location Plan showing significant archaeological features

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