



Medieval and Post-medieval Activity in the Grounds of Ramsey Abbey College, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Report

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Prepared by: Emily Abrehart (Fieldwork Supervisor)
Checked by: Patrick Moan (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by: Rachel Clarke (Post-excavation Editor)
Approved for Issue by: Elizabeth Popescu (Head of Post-excavation and Publication)
Signature:



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OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com

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Director and Chief Executive
Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIFA
Private Limited Company, No: 1618597
Registered Charity, No: 285627
Registered Office: Oxford Archaeology Ltd
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

Medieval and Post-medieval Activity in the Grounds of Ramsey Abbey College, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Report

Written by Emily Abrehart BSc PCIfA

*With contributions from Sue Anderson BA MPhil MCIfA
FSAScot FSA, Martha Craven BA, Carole Fletcher BA ACIfA,
Hayley Foster BA MA PhD and Denis Sami PhD*

*Illustrations by David Brown BA, Gareth Rees BA MA ACIfA
and Gillian Greer BSc*

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Summary

Between 24th March and 21st May 2021, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) carried out a strip, map and sample investigation followed by a watching brief in the grounds of Ramsey Abbey College, prior to the installation of a new 3G football pitch. The 0.83ha site was located within the school's playing fields, just to the north of the sports centre.

The site was known to be within the precinct of Ramsey Abbey, a medieval Benedictine abbey destroyed during the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century. This project is part of a wider body of work aiming to enhance understanding of the abbey and its relationship with the wider landscape. Previous works in the area had uncovered a system of long-lived ditches, originally dating to the medieval period, and evidence of post-medieval industry including a 16th-17th century brick clamp kiln.

The results of this excavation are consistent with the previous findings in this part of the abbey grounds, with the earliest features relating to a medieval field/drainage system and possible defensive ditch. Two large medieval boundary ditches were also uncovered which had been recut multiple times. Finds recovered from the uppermost fills of these ditches indicated that they had finally been backfilled in the 19th or 20th centuries. Several large pits and a rough stone surface, possibly associated with the brick kiln, were also found that relate to the later chapters in the history of Ramsey Abbey and its post-Dissolution use.

A range of artefacts was recovered that are similar in character to assemblages from previous investigations in the vicinity and are dominated by medieval pottery and ceramic building material; the latter including a fragment of an unusual roof finial similar to an example recovered from Ely.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Patrick Moan. The fieldwork was directed by the author, who was supported by Lexi Dawson and Will Lewis. The watching brief was carried out by Robin Webb. GPS Survey was conducted by Thomas Houghton and digitising was carried out by Thomas Houghton and the author. U.A.V survey was carried out by Gareth Rees, who also created and/or contributed to the production of several of the figures reproduced in this report. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton. Thanks are also extended to the various specialists and the editor for their contributions. Gillian Greer is thanked for producing the illustration of SF6.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by SIS Pitches to undertake a strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation within the grounds of Abbey College, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, ahead of the construction of a 3G artificial football pitch (Fig. 1; TL 29450 85100). The development area lies within the former precinct of Ramsey Abbey, a Benedictine abbey founded in the 10th century, the remains of which are now designated of national importance as a Scheduled Monument (CHER 02781, 12329; NHLE 1006838).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (Planning Ref. 18/02171/FUL) and followed an evaluation undertaken in 2020 (Clarke 2020). A brief was set by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) outlining the requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (Gdaniec 2020). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OAE detailing the methods by which they proposed to meet the requirements of the brief (Moan 2021).
- 1.1.3 The site archive is currently held by OAE and will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council stores under the site codes ECB6210 (evaluation) and ECB6483 (SMS excavation) in due course.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The development area is located to the north of the Ramsey Abbey College buildings within a turfed area used as the school playing fields (Plate 1). It is bounded to the north by a hedge and ditch which runs into a pond to the east. To the south is the sports centre car park and to the west are the school buildings and tennis courts. On the other side of the tennis courts, c.200m to the west of the development area, lies Abbey House. This mansion was originally constructed in the 16th century and is believed to be built on the site of the medieval abbey.
- 1.2.2 The town of Ramsey lies on March gravels (British Geological Survey 1995), on what was effectively an island surrounded by Bury Fen to the south and Stocking Fen to the north. Visitors approached it, as the chroniclers note, by a causeway on one side. The line of the streets has changed little since it was originally laid out (Page *et al.* 1932, 188-189).
- 1.2.3 The site is situated at a height of c.5m OD. The monks built the abbey and its precinct on a very slight rise, the abbey lying between 5m and 6m OD and the town between 4m and 5m OD, although there is a drop in level towards the north-west and west edges of the historic town. Most of the extensive fenland in the parish is near to sea level (Hall 1992, 41).
- 1.2.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the site comprises Oxford Clay Formation mudstone. Superficial deposits across the majority of the sports field are recorded as March Gravels Member (sand and gravel) with Head deposits (clay, silt, sand and

gravel) recorded along its north-eastern edge (<https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain3d/>, accessed 17/09/21).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following section has been taken from the Ramsey Abbey College Community Project: Excavation Report (Rees 2021). The background collated by Rees is based on existing descriptions (notably the Victoria County History (VCH)), previous WSIs and reports (Gilmour 2018, Moan 2020; Clarke 2020) and research undertaken by Sperry *et. al* (2008) but also contains details of more recent work. It focuses on the Late Saxon and medieval periods, as these relate to the abbey and the formation of the current town of Ramsey.

Historical background

1.3.2 The historic town of Ramsey owes its existence to the Benedictine abbey created by Oswald, bishop of Worcester from AD960, and Aethelwine, the aeldorman of East Anglia. At Oswald's suggestion, Aethelwine founded a small wooden chapel for three hermits, reputedly after a vision of St Benedict appeared to his fisherman in Ramsey Mere (DeWindt and DeWindt 2006, 11).

1.3.3 Being suitably impressed by the story, Oswald sent 12 monks and a prior from the Benedictine house at Westbury; he made the journey to inspect Ramsey and described it as an island 'surrounded by marsh and bogs; with meadow, woods, and ponds; with all kinds of fish and a wide variety of birds; and cut off from the outside world' (Macray 1886, 38).

1.3.4 Oswald's investment in the site continued with the construction of a stone church and other buildings, which began in AD969 (DeWindt and DeWindt 2006, 11).

1.3.5 A series of substantial endowments made the house, one of the richest in the fens — 'Ramsey the Golden'. Its wealth enabled it to acquire an extensive library and the abbey rapidly developed a reputation for learning that continued until the Dissolution. In the 11th century, Ramsey bought a stone quarry from Peterborough Abbey and used it to rebuild the monastery, refashioning the church during the 12th century.

1.3.6 The estates were reorganised c.1100 with certain manors providing supplies to the cellarer while others, usually the more distant ones, provided money instead. Many of the detailed estate documents survive and the published records are extensive. The abbey not only supported almost 80 monks, a number that remained constant during the 13th century, but also daughter houses.

1.3.7 During Stephen's reign, the house suffered severely and was overtaken by Geoffrey de Mandeville in 1143 — he fortified the house and expelled the monks (Page *et al.* 1932, 191). The abbey was badly damaged and impoverished.

1.3.8 The late 13th and 14th centuries saw a succession of wealthy and worldly abbots — John of Sawtry, Simon of Eye and William of Godmanchester — each of whom embarked on costly building programmes. The Black Death added to these financial problems and by 1349 the house owed 2,500 marks (£1,666/13/4d). The visitation

returns at the end of the 14th century suggest that the abbey was both financially and morally decayed, but by 1431 all was restored. In 1535 Thomas Bedyll visited and reported to Thomas Cromwell that the monks would acknowledge the Supremacy and in 1538 they surrendered without complaint, receiving high pensions as a reward. The house was valued in 1535 at £1,715/12/3d, which included the abbey and the cells at Modney (Norfolk) and Slepe (St Ives, Cambridgeshire).

- 1.3.9 The abbey was dissolved in 1539, when the Cromwell family bought its land, titles and buildings and saw to its destruction. Several Cambridge colleges (Kings, Trinity, Gonville and Caius), as well as the gatehouse at Hinchbrooke House (Cambridgeshire) are known to have used much of the abbey stone. Some of the stone is likely to have been used in construction of the Abbey House, the original site of the Ramsey Abbey School.

Cartographic evidence

- 1.3.10 The earliest cartographic depiction of Ramsey is the very small-scale 1646 county map of Huntingdonshire by Blaeu, although this gives no indication of the layout of the abbey itself. Jonas Moore's map of 1684 is the first to show the town to any scale — it illustrates the general shape of the settlement along two main roads, linked to Ramsey Mere via two artificial watercourses (or lodes). The map records the Great Whyte but not its subsidiary, the Little Whyte: the Great Whyte, now a wide road, once incorporated a lode that discharged into the High Lode and thence the River Nene further north. Dating back to at least the 13th century, it was culverted in the 19th century and survives beneath the present road. The first detailed map of Ramsey abbey itself is the Silius Titus estate survey c.1704–9, which is a wonderfully eccentric depiction, showing the surviving parish church within the former abbey precinct and a few other buildings, probable ponds and many small fields, some of which may have been orchards (Huntingdon Record Office (HRO) 1737 RB 2/1). An extract of this map is included as Fig. 12. Later maps show the post-medieval layout of Abbey House, its grounds and surrounding parkland, which were subject to periods of remodelling as fashions changed (Figs 13-14).

Archaeological Background (Figs 2a and 2b)

- 1.3.11 There are a number of records held in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) which aid in identifying the wider archaeological background and potential of the area. A full search of the CHER of a 1km radius centred on the site was commissioned from CCC HET (under licence number 19-4197). The following is a summary based on the results of the CHER search, focusing on the Late Saxon and medieval periods, as these relate to the abbey and the formation of the current town of Ramsey.

Prehistoric (c.500,000BC-AD 43)

- 1.3.12 Prehistoric activity is recorded within 1km search area only in the form of findspots. A palaeolithic hand-axe was found at Ramsey Vicarage, c.400m to the west of the site (CHER 02877). A broken flint tool and perforated stone (MCB9425/CHER 07805) have

been found in fields between 500 to 800m south and east of the site. A broken flint tool was also recovered from an excavation at St Thomas of Canterbury's Church, c.200m to the west of the site (ECB3608).

Romano-British (c.AD 43-410)

- 1.3.13 Casual finds of Roman pottery have been found in flower beds of Ramsey Abbey School (MCB27819/ECB6174). Romano-British pottery has been recovered approximately 150m west and 200m south-west of the site (CHER 02874 and CHER 08016A). A complete samian bowl was found during groundworks at a residential property 800m west of the site (CHER 01550). Roman coins (CHER 02882) were found in a field c.450m to the west.

Anglo-Saxon (c.AD 410-1066)

- 1.3.14 In 1996 a test pit excavation within the school grounds revealed a pit and ditch which contained Late Saxon pottery (CHER 11953; ECB347; Macaulay 1996).
- 1.3.15 Excavations in advance of new school buildings c.100m west of the current site were undertaken in 1998 and 2002 (MCB16055/ECB735; Macaulay 1999; Spoerry *et al.* 2008) unearthed a wealth of medieval features and artefacts with two or three small timber framed buildings and an associated boundary ditch possibly dating from the Late Saxon period, which may therefore represent the early focus for the abbey. Late Saxon buildings of earthfast post construction, possibly used for iron smelting, were also recorded.

Medieval (c.AD 1066-1540)

Ramsey Abbey

- 1.3.16 The vast majority of CHER records relate to the medieval period and are associated with Ramsey Abbey. The abbey remains are a Scheduled Monument (DCB 81; NHLE 1006838; CHER 02781; CHER 02782) and located 150m west of the site. Saint Thomas of Canterbury's Church (CHER 02832/MCB17092) was probably the abbey infirmary before it became the parish church in the 13th century. A 13th century park was also associated with the abbey (CHER 12329).
- 1.3.17 The exact location of the monastic buildings, including the cloisters, abbey church and inner/outer court boundaries is not known, due largely to the scale of the destruction after the Dissolution. Over the years various works have been undertaken within the area of the Scheduled Monument with the aim of clarifying the abbey's layout.
- 1.3.18 There has also been a considerable amount of work undertaken within the wider area of the abbey precinct. Excavations in the Abbey Gardens to the west of the current site unearthed a late medieval rubbish pit (MCB17875/ECB2622). Medieval tile with a distinct image of a bull surrounded by two animal heads was also unearthed from the grounds of the school (CHER 06163), whilst casual finds of medieval pottery have been found in flower beds at the school (MCB27819/ECB6174). Parchmarks of a three-celled building associated with a ring ditch were surveyed c.200m to the south of the site. The earthwork remains of Booth's Hill, a small motte with moat, dated to c.AD1140, is

located c.350m south-west of the site and is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1004643/CHER 01777).

- 1.3.19 Ramsey Abbey is known from documents to have produced decorated and undecorated tiles and a tile kiln was discovered in the grounds of the Ailwyn School in 1966 — the following year Elizabeth Eames, John Cherry and the master and pupils of the school excavated it (DeWindt and DeWindt 2006, 188; Eames 1980). The precise location of the kiln is not known but recent geophysical survey by RACP (see Mould 2020a) identified a likely location close to the small copse to the south of the school tennis courts, placing it just within the projected course of the precinct boundary.
- 1.3.20 The development of the housing estate c.200m to the north of the site encountered the site of a midden, pond and other earthworks; the midden was probably waste from the abbey (CHER 10886).
- 1.3.21 In 1996 a test pit excavation within the school grounds revealed medieval features including the remains of medieval walls and foundations (CHER 11953; ECB347; Macaulay 1996).
- 1.3.22 Excavations in advance of new school buildings c.100m west of the current site undertaken in 1998 and 2002 (MCB16055/ECB735; Macaulay 1999; Spoerry *et al.* 2008) unearthed a wealth of features and artefacts including traces of timber framed buildings, a possible storehouse, a fish/eel pond, a lode, a trackway, boundary ditches and a (Anarchy period?) defensive ditch.
- 1.3.23 In 2015, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the medieval precinct on land opposite 11-17 Tower Close (MCB21084/ECB4524; Webb 2015), approximately 350m to the north-west of the site. It uncovered medieval pits and a watering hole whose fills produced a wealth of artefacts to evidence domestic activity in the near vicinity.
- 1.3.24 Other nearby excavations have been undertaken on land to the rear of 43 Hollow Lane (Kaye 2009), c.250m south of the site, and at Ailwyn School (Mortimer 2006), 170m south-south-east of the site (MCB17812/ECB3032 and MCB16933/ECB2097 respectively). Ditches and quarrying of medieval and post-medieval date were revealed on the sites along with medieval sculptural fragments.
- 1.3.25 A group of pottery/tile kilns was unearthed and excavated in 1967 at Bury Fen, c.750m to the south of the site (MCB16875/ECB3432). Although no information about these kilns is known, given the proximity to the abbey, the kilns are presumably medieval and associated with this major religious house (Spoerry *et al.* 2008).

An evaluation on Whytefield Road, c.750m to the west of the site, unearthed dressed stone dated as mid-14th to 15th century (MCB26947/ECB5116; Carlsson 2017). The worked stone was recovered from a pit and likely represents a dumping event during the post-medieval period. The stone was considered to probably originate from Ramsey Abbey and two pieces had well preserved masons marks.

The town of Ramsey and its hinterland

- 1.3.26 Numerous records detail medieval earthworks, and below ground remains encountered through excavation, located within the historic core of the town of Ramsey, (e.g. MCB21084, MCB26951, CB15006/ECB749, CB15308/ECB963, CB15414/ECB312, MCB16326/ECB1861-2, MCB16483/ECB1914-5, MCB16899/ECB2157, MCB17478/ECB2123, MCB19193/ECB3324 and MCB20434/ECB4440). In addition, the HEFA test pit exercise across the village produced medieval pottery sherds (MCB19218-19, MCB19221-6; ECB3303; Blinkhorn 2009).
- 1.3.27 Medieval surface findspots include pottery sherds found 250m north-west of the site (MCB16663). Medieval coins and other metalwork items (CHER 02882) were found in a field c.450m to the west of the site where many roof tiles were also observed.
- 1.3.28 A 15th century timber structure (MCB16664) was pulled down in 1980 within the town, c.900m to the west of the site. Extant 14th to 15th century buildings still stand long Great Whyte (MCB17332 and MCB17333) and the High Street (MCB17337).

1.4 Previous work

- 1.4.1 Several previous phases of work have overlapped with the current investigation area.

RACP Geophysical Survey (Mould 2020a; Fig. 3)

- 1.4.2 The RACP have carried out geophysical resistivity survey across an extensive area encompassing virtually all of the open ground around the Ramsey Abbey College (Mould 2020a, 9). The survey included the lawns to the south and east of the Ailwyn school building/Abbey House; this the fourth survey in this area revealing more walls not detected previously and potentially adding greater detail to the floor plan of the abbey church.
- 1.4.3 The fields to the north of the school, the subject of this report, also contained significant anomalies. The survey identified a series of linear low resistance anomalies as well as several discrete high resistance anomalies.

Community excavations and UAV earthwork survey (Rees 2021)

- 1.4.4 The RACP and OA East conducted two seasons of community excavations encompassing four excavation areas, Areas A1, A2 and C in 2019 and Area B in 2020 (Figs 2b and 3). Areas A1 and A2, were targeted over anomalies identified during a geophysical survey thought to represent a drainage ditch and an associated landscaped feature. The current excavation area overlaps with these. Area C was targeted over a sub-circular geophysical anomaly, whilst Area B was targeted on a linear high resistance geophysical anomaly, which test-pitting by RACP had shown to be a possible building foundation.
- 1.4.5 Excavations in Areas A1, A2 and B uncovered a series of intercutting ditches dating from the medieval through to the post-medieval periods, when they were filled in. These ditches appear to be the continuation of the Anarchy period 'defensive' ditch

uncovered in earlier excavations to the west and south, as well as a possible new course for the eastern precinct boundary. A large north-south ditch uncovered in Area B may be another lode channel, similar to that previously found to the west. A brick clamp kiln, dating from the 16th or 17th century was uncovered in Area C, whilst probable clay borrow pits were found in Area B. The kiln contained residues of unfired bricks, brick wasters and ash and is likely to relate to the post-dissolution remodelling of the abbey and surrounding grounds.

- 1.4.6 A U.A.V. (unmanned aerial vehicle) survey was carried out in February 2019. This survey, encompassing the 7.6ha of the college grounds, provided a high-resolution elevation model of the site (Fig. 4). This model showed previously unseen low earthworks in the grounds and provided more evidence for features that may be associated with the former abbey precinct.

Trial Trenching 2020 (Clarke 2020)

- 1.4.7 During the summer of 2020, after the completion of the community excavations, an evaluation comprising seven trenches was carried out by OA East as part of the planning application for the new 3G pitch (Fig. 2b). The trenches revealed two large boundary ditch alignments extending across the northern and eastern sides of the site which corresponded with linear anomalies shown on a previous geophysical survey of the sports field (Fig. 3). Their upper profiles had suffered a high degree of truncation from later post-medieval drainage ditches, with ceramic drains laid into them. A further ditch in the central part of the site that also extended into the water-table produced a richer assemblage of artefacts and ecofacts, which along with similarly dated ceramic building material, included early medieval pottery and a small assemblage of charred cereal grain and legumes. The remaining lower density of shallow ditches and pits uncovered in the western and southern parts of the site did not produce any artefacts.

2 EXCAVATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The overall aims of the investigation are to preserve by record any archaeological evidence contained within the footprint of the development area that could be damaged by development, and investigate the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, and significance of the remains revealed, and place these in their local, regional and national archaeological context.

2.2 Site specific research objectives

2.2.1 Based on the results of the evaluation, other archaeological investigations in the area, and recommendations as outlined in the brief, the following specific objectives were formulated:

- Map and investigate the archaeological remains associated with the abbey or its immediate post-Dissolution history
- Map, assess and record the deposition model of the area to identify the formation processes of the subsoil sealing medieval features.
- Provide further dating for the infilling of the large boundary ditches identified during the evaluation.

2.3 Fieldwork methodology

2.3.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the brief (Gdaniec 2020) and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Moan 2021).

2.3.2 To ensure the project was financially viable, the construction design of the 3G artificial pitch was altered to enable construction with a reduced excavation depth, therefore resulting in a reduced impact on the archaeological remains.

2.3.3 The construction methodology is detailed within the Method Statement for the project (SIS Pitches Method Statement for construction of new 106 x 70m 3G Artificial Grass Pitch at One Leisure Ramsey Revision A). The key construction points detailed in the Method Statement related to archaeological mitigation are:

- Existing topsoil/vegetation will be excavated to a maximum 200mm depth to allow for archaeological monitoring by Oxford Archaeology.
- No cut and fill operation will be undertaken, we will instead import of 100mm of MOT Type 1 stone to full pitch area to account for the variation in pitch levels and as to not disturb any items of archaeological significance below the 200mm topsoil strip.
- Flat drain system will be installed in lieu of traditional drainage system.
- Installation of a hydrobrake is required to restrict outflow to 5l/s

2.3.4 Once the pitch had been stripped of topsoil, the archaeological deposits at this level were cleaned, mapped, excavated and recorded. As agreed with the CHET, the large ditches that were excavated during the evaluation were only mapped and finds

recovered from the upper fills. Full excavation of the ditches was not undertaken as the features will be preserved *in-situ* underneath the 3G pitch.

- 2.3.5 Machine excavation was carried out by a 360 type excavator using a 2m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.3.6 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection.
- 2.3.7 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 photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.3.8 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 survey grade GPS using SMARTNET correctional data.
- 2.3.9 After the archaeological work was completed, the interventions were backfilled and a layer of the removed soil was reinstated to further protect the archaeology beneath. The pitch was then built up from this level with imported type 1 hardcore. This was monitored by OA East to ensure no cut and fill took place (Plate 2).
- 2.3.10 A few weeks after the main archaeological works were completed, OA East returned to monitor the following works:
 - Excavation for 6x flood light bases.
 - Excavation of the hydrobrake installation.
 - Excavation of an additional surface water drainage cut to connect to the extant manhole cover at the north of the proposed site.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation (henceforth 'excavation') and watching brief are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the archaeological remains by phase. Details of all contexts are included in Appendix A, with finds and environmental reports presented in Appendices B and C respectively.
- 3.1.2 Cut numbers appear in **bold** and numbers relating to the evaluation are prefixed with EV. Where possible, the results have been integrated with those of the evaluation and previous investigations in the immediate vicinity.
- 3.1.3 Features predominantly comprised ditches related to medieval and later field or drainage systems and long-lived boundaries, although a small number of discrete pits, natural features and a buried soil were also present (Fig. 6).

Site Phasing

- 3.1.4 The archaeological features and deposits have been categorised into the following phases. Where features were not excavated, phasing has been inferred where possible from the results of previous excavations, although an additional phase (late medieval) has been allocated for this investigation (Rees 2021).

Period 0: Unphased

Period 1: Medieval (1100-1350)

Period 2: Late medieval (1350-1539)

Period 3: Post-medieval (1539-1750)

Period 4: Modern (1750-present)

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The natural geology of Oxford Clay and March Gravel was overlain by a layer of buried soil (Section 3.4.1) which had previously been interpreted as a subsoil during the evaluation phase and into which archaeological features had been cut. This was overlain by a 0.2-0.3m thick, dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil with occasional gravel inclusions.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the excavation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Due to the nature of the project, only the topsoil was removed and the archaeological features were not well defined at this level. The natural geology was not reached at any point on the site during the machine strip. Areas which were originally perceived to be the natural were discovered, upon excavation, to be redeposited.

3.3 Period 1: Medieval (1100-1350) (Fig. 7)

Buried soil (700)

- 3.3.1 Exposed beneath the topsoil was a layer of silty clay 700 (707, 716, 753, 780, 785, 794) that extended across the entire site and through which all visible features appeared to have been cut. It was predominantly light yellowish brown in colour, with patches of darker brown, and was excavated in various interventions across the site where it was found to be c.0.3m thick. A large number of medieval finds were recovered from this layer (see Appendices B and C). This included 18 sherds (150g) of 13th-14th century pottery and the femur of a domestic fowl. In addition, 32 fragments (2314g) of medieval ceramic building material (CBM) including tile were retained and further 20g was weighed and discarded on site. This deposit contained one of the more unusual finds from the site, a medieval roof finial fragment with a tapered globular terminal (SF6, Fig. 15). A ridge tile with a broken area which would have held a similar finial was also recovered, although the two fragments do not join. The metal finds from this deposit consist of a key (SF4), a buckle (SF5), a horseshoe, 52 hand-forged nails and an unidentified copper-alloy coin or jetton (SF3). A single lead shot, dating from 18th or 19th century was also recovered from this deposit but is considered to be intrusive.

Field System

- 3.3.2 Extending across the south-western part of the site was a series of seven parallel ditches: Field System 1 (**738, 742, 747, 749, 751, 776**). The ditches were aligned north-east to south-west and terminated at the north-east end where they met ditch **754 (EV450)**, which extended on a perpendicular north-west to south-east alignment. Some of the ditches in this group were set very close together (**747** and **749**; Plate 3) but the gaps between the others ranged from between 3m and 14m. The ditches were between 0.7m and 3m wide and 0.15m and 0.45m deep. They were filled with similar deposits of mid brownish grey silty clay, from which five sherds (141g) of 12th-13th century pottery were recovered. A single sherd (5g) of 16th-18th century pottery was also found (in ditch **749**) that is considered to be intrusive, while ditch **742** contained 196 fragments (4.8kg) of animal bone, mainly horse. Ditch **754 (EV450)** was 1.5m wide and c.0.55m deep, it had steep sides and concave base (Plate 4). The lower fill (755), a mid brownish grey silty clay, contained four fragments (134g) of animal bone. The upper fill (756) was a dark grey silty clay, 0.22m thick, from which one piece (84g) of animal bone and one whelk shell were recovered.
- 3.3.3 Field System 1 is clearly visible on the geophysics, DEM and Lidar surveys (Figs 3-5) and show that the ditches extend to the west of the excavation area for at least 30m. The ditches do not appear in Areas B and C of Rees's 2018 excavations, although their trajectory suggests they should. It is probable that they were completely truncated by the later features uncovered in these areas.

Ditch 757

- 3.3.4 Ditch **757 (782, 789, 792, EV451)** was revealed across the middle of the site on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. In plan, it measured between 5m and 6m

wide. Four test pits were excavated into the upper fills of the ditch, these ranged in size but did not exceed 2.5m wide and 0.6m deep. During the evaluation stage, the width of ditch **757** was fully excavated and it was dug to a depth of 0.8m, where the water table was encountered. An auger was then drilled by hand to the base of the ditch at a depth of 1.8m. The ditch contained at least two fills the lowest of which (784, EV452) was a mid reddish grey silty clay. During the evaluation a range of artefacts was recovered from this deposit (presumably relating to its disuse in the late medieval period) that included 49 sherds (1152g) of pottery dating from c.1050-1300, 2kg of late medieval/post-medieval CBM, three iron nails and 25 fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and pig bone. From the excavation two fragments (88g) of medieval CBM were recovered. At the evaluation stage a bulk soil sample of this fill produced a small quantity of charred free-threshing bread wheat and charred legumes. The upper fill (758, 783, 791, 793, EV453) was a mid brownish grey silty clay, c.0.25m thick. This fill contained five sherds (60g) of 12th to mid-14th century pottery, 13 fragments (917g) of medieval CBM, three fragments (84g) of lava quern, three pieces (40g) of animal bone and one fragment (5g) of shell.

- 3.3.5 Similarities in shape, size and form with an east to west aligned ditch uncovered during the 1998 excavation (Atkins *et al.* 2008), suggest that ditch **757** was part of an enclosure surrounding Field System 1 to the south-west. The steep sided, U-shaped profile of this ditch led to it being interpreted by Atkins *et al.* as a possible defensive boundary. Later recutting of the east-west section of the enclosure prevents the precise identification of a corresponding phase within the slots excavated during the evaluation (Trench 1) or the community excavation (Rees 2021). In both of these investigations, the earliest phase of the ditch was much wider (c.9m) but around the same depth and therefore could have easily completely truncated or removed an earlier phase of ditch.

Ditches 710, 795 and EV302

- 3.3.6 Ditch **710** was only visible in the south-east corner of the excavation area and was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. It measured 1.05m wide and 0.32m deep, with steep sides and a concave base and contained a single fill (711). This consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay and contained two fragments (208g) of medieval CBM.
- 3.3.7 Ditch **795** (EV354) was uncovered during the evaluation and the watching brief but was not visible during the excavation, while ditch EV302 was only revealed at the evaluation stage. They were both located in the northern part of the excavation area, with ditch EV302 aligned east to west and ditch **795** (EV354) aligned north to south. Both ditches were c.1.5m wide and c.0.4m deep, and they each contained a single fill from which no finds were recovered. It is possible that ditch **795** (EV354) could be equivalent to ditch **710**.
- 3.3.8 The reason for these two ditches not being visible is probably due to the evaluation trenches and areas designated for the watching brief being machined to a lower level than that reached in the excavation. At the level of the excavation these ditches may be masked by the buried soil layer (700) which would potentially make them the

earliest features on the site. Alternatively, as they both ran parallel to, and only a few metres away from the large boundary ditches from later phases, they could be masked by the wide spread of their associated tertiary fills.

3.4 Period 2: Late medieval (1350-1539) (Fig.8)

Ditches 708 and 744

- 3.4.1 Two large boundary ditches (**708** and **744**) were not excavated during these works, as agreed with the CHET. Therefore, the rationale for these ditches being placed in this phase is based on previous interpretations resulting from the evaluation stage and community excavations (Clarke 2020 and Rees 2021).
- 3.4.2 Ditch **708** (EV602) was located on the eastern side of the excavation area and was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. It measured c.7m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.5m with an augered depth of c.1.7m, partly using a machine and partly by hand digging. In the community excavation it was hand-dug to a depth of c.1.25m. This ditch was heavily truncated by later recuts but one of the lower fills excavated during the community excavation produced 1kg of 12th-14th century pottery derived from a single incomplete Lyveden/Stanion glazed jug (Rees 2021). During the evaluation, only animal bone and some post-medieval CBM were recovered from the lower fills.
- 3.4.3 Ditch **744** (**797**, EV304) was orientated east to west and met ditch **708** at an approximately 90° angle. Both ditches continued beyond this intersection in later phases but it is not clear whether this was the case during the late medieval period. During the community excavation a partial slot was excavated at the intersection and seemed to indicate that ditch **708** was curving slightly and potentially becoming ditch **744**, forming a corner; this suggestion is shown on Fig. 8.
- 3.4.4 During the evaluation, ditch **744** was found to be 9.5m wide and 1.75m deep with a series of four fills. Only CBM and animal bone were recovered from the basal fill, although a single sherd of medieval pottery was found in the equivalent fill during the community excavation.

3.5 Period 3: Post-medieval (1539-1750) (Fig. 9)

Pit 712

- 3.5.1 Pit **712** (Fig. 11, Sections 53 and 62) was located on the far eastern edge of the excavation area and was not fully exposed. It appeared sub-rectangular in plan and measured in excess of 20m long and 6m wide. The test pits excavated in this feature were located on its edge where it measured 0.38m deep. Pit **712** had gradually sloping sides and a large quantity of unworked limestone pieces had been tipped in around the edges (714, 723) (Plate 5). Within this deposit, one fragment of worked stone (2.753kg) was recovered that appeared to have been dressed to form a corner. The lowest deposit encountered, a yellowish brown clay mixed with gravel (721), was similar to the natural geology, however it contained seven fragments (845g) of medieval CBM. This was overlain by a dark greenish grey silty clay which contained

frequent small natural stones (713/722). The next fill was the tip of unworked limestone and above this was a dark brownish grey clayey silt containing moderate natural stones and gravel (724) which produced five fragments (162g) of medieval to post-medieval CBM. The final fill (715) was a dark brownish grey silty clay containing only occasional small stones. From this fill two pieces (51g) of 15th-16th century pottery and three pieces (74g) of medieval to post-medieval CBM were recovered.

- 3.5.2 Similar pits were found just to the west, in excavation Area B (Rees 2021). These also had stone rubble tipped in the sides. Mixed in with the rubble were broken fragments of ecclesiastical stonework. It is therefore probable that this stone originated from the abbey and must have been disposed of after the abbey was demolished in 1539. It is possible that these pits were originally used for clay extraction as, in Area C of the Rees excavation, just 30m to the west of the current excavation area, a brick clamp kiln was uncovered. The stones may have been laid at the edges of the extraction pits to solidify them and make access easier.

Metalled surface 704

- 3.5.3 Just to the north of pit **712** a metalled surface (704) was exposed that was made up of an area of limestone rubble (706) and a deposit of gravel mixed with broken pieces of medieval tile (705) (Plate 6). It appeared sub-rectangular in plan and measured c.6m wide and c.8m long. This feature was investigated during the community excavation (Fig. 6) and was found to be 0.3m deep. The limestones blocks measured on average 200mm x 200mm x 100mm and a single sherd of late medieval pottery was recovered from amongst the stones. Surface 704 appears to be associated with pit **712** as the tip of rubble in the edge of the pit (see above) merged with the surface. It is possible that this feature dates from a later phase (*i.e.* Period 4) as the stone and tile could have been reused from demolished buildings elsewhere on the site.

Culvert 720

- 3.5.4 Connecting pit **712** and Period 2 ditch **708** (which was presumably at least still partially open) was a culvert originally constructed of two low walls of limestone blocks and then at some point partially replaced with a more modern 'horseshoe' drain (Plate 7; Fig. 11, Section 63). Below the stone walls was a mid greyish brown silty clay which contained frequent small and medium stones (737). Below this was a deposit of mid yellowish brown silty clay containing frequent gravel (728), due to the limits of the excavation it is not clear whether this deposit represented the base of the culvert.
- 3.5.5 The earlier culvert (720) was 5.5m long and 1.4m wide, it was orientated approximately east to west. The northern wall of the culvert (726) was 0.6m wide and 0.7m high. It was made up of approximately six courses of mortared stone blocks, which had been dressed at the edge/internal face. The southern wall of the culvert (727) had mostly been robbed out but a few pieces of stone were left, including one with a dressed edge. The gap between the two walls would originally have been 0.5m wide and this had been backfilled with a mid greyish brown silty clay (729). This fill contained 42 pieces of animal bone (4.32kg), all of which probably came from a single horse apart from a few pieces of cattle bone (Plate 8).

Pit 759 and Feature 763

- 3.5.6 Pit **759** (EV300) and feature **763** lay in the north-west corner of the site and neither could be clearly defined in plan. Pit **759** was at least 12m long, 8m wide and 0.3m deep. It contained four fills (Plate 9). The lowest fill was a mid brownish orange silty clay (760) which was overlain by a dark grey organic fill (761) containing 12 sherds (170g) of 16th-18th century pottery, three (116g) fragments of late medieval to post-medieval CBM, 21 fragments (8g) of clay tobacco pipe and four fragments of glass. Together these suggest a date in the latter part of the 17th century for infilling of this feature. An environmental sample taken from fill 761 produced occasional charred cereal grains consisting of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and cereals that were too poorly preserved to identify, a large quantity of charcoal and frequent, relatively well-preserved, oyster shells. The upper fills of pit **759** were mid brownish orange and mid brownish grey silty clays, neither of which contained finds.
- 3.5.7 The extent and nature of feature **763** (**767**) could not be determined with any certainty from the test pits excavated within it and its plan shown on Fig. 9 is somewhat conjectural. It was in excess of 0.4m deep and contained at least three fills. The lowest fill encountered (764, 768) was a mid greyish brown silty clay, above which was a very dark grey, almost black fill (765) measuring 0.16m thick which contained a single piece (43g) of animal bone, one fragment (1g) of clay tobacco pipe and three iron nails. The uppermost fill (766, 769) was a mid orangey brown silty clay, 0.13m thick, and contained a single fragment (12g) of medieval CBM.

Feature 719

- 3.5.8 Situated towards the south-eastern corner of the excavation was a linear feature aligned approximately parallel with (earlier) ditch **708**. It measured 1m wide and a maximum of 0.15m deep. Two sections were excavated across this feature and in both it was filled with a mottled light grey silty clay which incorporated a large number of rectangular peg tile fragments (718), these had been placed flat, possibly to create a surface (Plate 10). Twenty-eight (6465g) diagnostic pieces of tile were retrieved and a further 222 pieces (2kg) were weighed and discarded on site. The majority of these were medieval peg tiles with round holes, two tiles had full widths but no complete tiles were present. During the 2006 excavations to the south, a similar feature was revealed. This was interpreted as a possible wheel-rut which had been filled in with tiles (Mortimer 2006).

3.6 Period 4: Modern (1750-present) (Fig. 10)

Ditches EV312, EV309, EV609, EV612 and culvert 725

- 3.6.1 During this period, two phases of drainage ditch were cut along the lines of the earlier (Period 2-3) boundary ditches **708** and **744**. These were not investigated during the excavation but in the evaluation they were found to contain ceramic field drains at their bases.

- 3.6.2 The earlier stone culvert was replaced during this phase with one using purposefully-made curved bricks to form a horseshoe drain or culvert. Culvert **725** was cut along the line of the original culvert, above the robbed out southern wall. The new blocks were laid end to end on top of a platform of roof tiles and the gaps between the blocks were also sealed with tiles (730). The backfill of the culvert (731) was a mid brownish grey silty clay and contained a fragment of a stoneware bottle dating to the 19th-20th century and a fragment (4g) of clay pipe stem.

Tree throws

- 3.6.3 Two tree throws were located in the south of the excavation area. Tree throws **770** and **772** were both irregularly shaped and were filled with dark brownish grey silty clays. From fill (773), two sherds (9g) of 13th-15th century pottery were recovered. However, it is probable that these finds originated from the medieval layer below the tree throw and that they were disturbed when the tree was removed.

Levelling deposits

- 3.6.4 The archaeology revealed within the site was not easy to identify due to the presence of a number of levelling deposits which masked the earlier features. Some of these deposits accumulated over the large boundary ditches, forming spreading tertiary fills, while others appeared to have been more deliberately laid down. These mixed deposits included orange sandy gravel (717, 788), limestone rubble (786, 787), and more humic soil deposits (745, 746, 762 and 799). Finds from these deposits included late medieval/post-medieval CBM, iron nails, and part of a 20th century glass bottle.

3.7 Period 0: Unphased (Fig. 10)

- 3.7.1 During the excavation five pits were investigated which could not be definitively dated. However, due to the fact that they were all cut into the buried medieval soil (700, see Period 1 above), it is probable that they were medieval or later in date.
- 3.7.2 Pit **701** lay in the south-eastern corner of the site. It was circular in plan and measured 0.7m wide and 0.12m deep. Its lower fill (702) was a mid brownish red silty clay, 0.07m thick. This was overlain by a dark grey clayey silt (703), 0.05m thick, which contained 14 small pieces of unworked burnt flint.
- 3.7.3 Intercutting pits **732** and **735** were located towards the north-east corner of the site. Pit **732** was sub-circular and measured 1m long, 0.55m wide and 0.48m deep. It had steep almost vertical sides and a concave base. Its basal fill (733) consisted of a dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.2m thick. The upper fill (734) was a light brownish grey silty clay, 0.28m thick. Truncating this fill was pit **735**, which was irregular in plan and had a diameter of approximately 1m. It was only 0.1m deep and had gradually sloping sides. It was filled with a mottled red and black silty clay which contained occasional burnt stones and flecks of charcoal. Rees noted similarly heat-affected areas in the vicinity which were uncovered during the 2018 excavation (Rees 2021).
- 3.7.4 Pits **740** and **774** were located on the western side of the excavation area. Pit **740** was located adjacent to ditch **738** (see Field System 1 above). It was sub-circular in plan

and measured 2.3m long, 1.95m wide and 0.2m deep with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey silty clay (741) which contained eight pieces (216g) of medieval to post-medieval CBM. Pit **774** was sub-circular in plan and measured 1m wide and 0.36m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Its dark grey silty clay fill (775) produced part of an iron nail (SF2) and a single fragment of medieval CBM.

3.8 Finds summary

- 3.8.1 *Metalwork*: A total of 61 artefacts were recovered from the site, mainly by metal detector. The assemblage comprises artefacts made of copper-alloy (Cu), iron (Fe) and lead (Pb). The most represented functional category is Fittings in the form of nails and other structural/architectural fittings or artefacts. The majority of the metalwork finds came from the medieval buried soil/possible occupation layer (700) and included a key (SF4), a buckle (SF5), an unidentified coin (SF3), a horseshoe and 52 hand forged nails.
- 3.8.2 *Fuel and fuel residues*: A small assemblage of coal, oil shale and fuel residues were collected from post-medieval and modern contexts.
- 3.8.3 *Non-building stone*: Three rounded fragments of lava stone quern were recovered from the upper fill of Period 1 ditch **757**.
- 3.8.4 *Glass*: Nine shards of vessel glass dating to the 17th and 20th centuries were recovered from the fill of post-medieval (Period 3) pit **759** and from modern (Period 4) levelling layer 746.
- 3.8.5 *Pottery*: A fairly small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the excavation, only 48 sherds (738g). The earliest pottery in the assemblage is Huntingdon-type early medieval ware (1050-1200) but the majority dates from the 12th-14th centuries. Eighteen sherds were recovered from the buried soil layer 700 but from most features only one or two sherds were recovered.
- 3.8.6 *Clay tobacco pipe*: Fourteen fragments of white ball clay tobacco pipe stem and an incomplete bowl were recovered. A further nine fragments of undecorated stem were recovered from environmental sample 25.
- 3.8.7 *Building stone*: A partial corner from a larger block of stone, probably originally rectangular, was recovered from post-medieval (Period 3) pit **712**.
- 3.8.8 *Ceramic building material (CBM)*: 154 fragments of CBM were collected from 32 contexts. The largest proportion of the assemblage relates to roofing. The largest groups were recovered from the buried soil 700 and post-medieval (Period 3) feature **719**. Of most interest in this small assemblage is the presence of a decorative roof finial (SF6; Fig. 15).

3.9 Environmental summary

- 3.9.1 *Animal bone*: The small faunal assemblage is generally in a good condition with moderate levels of fragmentation. Horse overwhelmingly dominates the assemblage, followed by sheep/goat.

- 3.9.2 *Marine mollusca*: A small assemblage of 27 pieces of shell were collected from the excavation. These were all edible species; oyster, mussel and whelk. The majority of the shells (20 pieces) were found in context 761, a fill of post-medieval (Period 3) pit **759**.
- 3.9.3 *Environmental samples*: A single bulk sample was taken from fill 761 of post-medieval (Period 3) pit **759**. This contained occasional charred cereal grains and a large quantity of charcoal.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Due to the restrictions on the depth of the excavation, the investigation of the earliest features and deposits (including the extensive buried soil) is the least reliable. This is due to the modern deposits immediately beneath the topsoil not being completely removed and therefore earlier features were generally partially or completely obscured. The buried soil layer (700), into which all the visible archaeological features were cut, was also left *in situ* and may have obscured some features. During the evaluation phase, more of this layer was removed and features not visible in the excavation were revealed. In general, the excavation has confirmed the results of the evaluation, which concluded that the site was located at the eastern edge of the abbey precinct and the features largely related to the later use of the abbey, or when the grounds were remodelled after its dissolution (Clarke 2020, 16). Further light has, however, been cast on the medieval use of this landscape, including hints of what the nearby abbey buildings may have been constructed from based on the artefacts recovered from this area.
- 4.1.2 Despite these limitations, it has been possible to reconstruct a sequence of activity spanning the medieval to post-medieval and modern periods, which can be related to the previous phases of work within this part of the abbey grounds. The following discussion focuses on how this combined evidence contributes to the project's research aims and objectives, and to the broader understanding of the development of the abbey and changes in land-use following its demise. This draws heavily upon the fuller discussion of the archaeology of the abbey presented in Rees 2021.

4.2 Period 1: Medieval (1100-1350)

- 4.2.1 Across the site a 0.3m-thick buried soil layer (700) was present and the majority of the finds, notably metal objects, from the site were recovered from this layer. It is probable that this layer survived due to the absence of modern ploughing on the site. Other excavations in the vicinity also identified 'occupation' or buried layers below the topsoil into which archaeological features were cut, although these were sometimes interpreted as more recent subsoil. The mixed nature of the layer and presence of numerous metal finds (mostly nails) and CBM (see below) might suggest that it was a cultivation layer incorporating dumped refuse from building clearance/occupation deposits elsewhere in the abbey precinct. The small assemblage of pottery includes sherds spanning the 11th to 14th centuries, with the latest elements being two small fragments of Lyveden/Stanion glazed ware jug datable to 1225-1400.

Farming and field systems

- 4.2.2 An abbey the size of Ramsey would have owned a large amount of land which was farmed to provide food for its inhabitants. Documentary evidence shows that during the 13th century the abbey not only supported almost 80 monks, but also daughter houses. The system of ditches uncovered during the excavation indicates that this area was part of the abbey's farmland. Field system 1 could possibly be evidence of ridge

and furrow cultivation but is more likely to be a drainage system (presumably for horticulture) as the east to west aligned ditches ran into a deeper perpendicular ditch to the east. This system is shown to extend further to the west on the geophysical survey (Fig. 3), as well as the Lidar and DEM surveys (Figs 4 and 5).

- 4.2.3 No direct evidence of any buildings was uncovered during the excavation, although the quantity of medieval roof tile and architectural nails recovered from the buried soil layer (700) could indicate the presence of (demolished) buildings in the vicinity. The nature of the other metal finds from this layer, the key (SF4), buckle (SF5) and horseshoe, are more suggestive of agricultural rather than domestic activity. Relatively little pottery and animal bone was recovered, which are usually good indicators of domestic activity as both are associated with preparing and consuming food. Ditch **742** did contain eight horse bones which could potentially represent just one individual. Wither's heights calculated from two of the bones suggest the animal was around 13.2hh, the size of a medium-height pony.
- 4.2.4 Considering the evidence, it is probable that during this period the excavation area was situated in a more agricultural area (or garden) just within the eastern extent of the abbey precinct but at some distance from the main conventual buildings. If there were any buildings present in this area, they would probably have been associated with farming; for example, stables or storehouses. However, finds recovered from Period 1 ditch **EV451** during the evaluation included the bulk of the evaluation pottery assemblage (49 sherds, 1.169kg). This included part of a Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware jug (c.1175-1300) with incised decoration on the handle, large sherds from a sooted Oolitic shelly ware jar and fragments of Huntingdonshire Early medieval ware jars (including a possible curfew sherd related to the management of a 'domestic' hearth). This suggests that the ditch had been backfilled, at least in part, with a late 12th-early 13th century kitchen assemblage and the large size of some of the sherds suggests that they may not have travelled very far before deposition.

Possible fortifications

- 4.2.5 Other than the field system the only other feature dating from this period was ditch **757**. The size and profile of ditch **757** indicate that it may have been a defensive boundary. Atkins *et al.* (2008) suggested that the probable continuation of this ditch in the 1998 excavation was created as part of the known fortifications of Ramsey by de Mandeville in 1143 (Page *et al.* 1932, 191). The presence of 12th-14th century pottery in the upper fill of this ditch suggests that it was backfilled relatively quickly. As Atkins *et al.* note, the absence of weathering fills at the edges and base of the feature could indicate that it was not left open for long. Another explanation could be that the ditch was regularly maintained. What seems fairly certain, is that the ditch was no longer in use by the late 14th century and had been superseded by a new series of boundary ditches (see below).

4.3 Period 2: Late medieval (1350-1539)

- 4.3.1 No features dating from this period were investigated during this excavation, therefore the conclusions drawn here are mostly based on the results of previous works. Only

the large boundary ditches **708** and **744** have been attributed to this phase and the lack of other features suggests a continuity of the agricultural activities evidenced in the previous phase.

Redefining boundaries

- 4.3.2 There has been much discussion in previous texts about the large ditches which have been uncovered in the vicinity of the abbey (Rees 2021). Some of these have been interpreted as lodes (man-made waterways) or parts of the abbey's precinct boundary. The results of this excavation can add little to this discussion other than to confirm the presence of two large ditches crossing the area. The excavation of these ditches in previous works have indicated that they are more probably boundary or drainage ditches rather than lodes. For further discussion of these features see Rees (2021, 23-25).
- 4.3.3 Not much more can be said about these ditches except that they run on a similar alignment to the field system and possible defensive ditch identified in the previous phase, suggesting a redefining or replacement of earlier boundaries. Their multiple fills give credence to the theory that these were long-lived features in the landscape. Field boundaries on 19th century maps (see Fig. 14) still seem to follow their alignments. The pond to the east of the excavation area is also a potentially very long-lived feature, and it is possible that ditch **744** continued eastwards and drained into the pond, however this has not been proven by excavation.

Brick and tile industry

- 4.3.4 The records attest to a thriving brick and tile industry at the abbey during this period, producing both decorated and undecorated tiles and a tile kiln was discovered in the grounds of the Ailwyn School in 1966. The precise location of the kiln is not known but recent geophysical survey by RACP (see Mould 2020a) identified a probable location close to the small copse to the south of the school tennis courts.
- 4.3.5 No features were uncovered during the excavation which directly link to this industry but the high proportion of medieval roof tiles, made in a very similar fabric, may suggest that they were manufactured locally to the site. As previously mentioned, an abbey the size of Ramsey would have needed a large number of subsidiary buildings (the remains of potential buildings from this time were found during the 1998/2002 excavations, Atkins *et al.* 2008), therefore the tiles could have been manufactured for sale or to supply the abbey's own need; probably both. The CBM found during the excavation were generally plain peg tiles which were potentially deposited/discarded when the abbey was dismantled following the Dissolution.

4.4 Period 3: Post-medieval (1539-1750)

Dissolution of the Ramsey Abbey

- 4.4.1 The excavation revealed very little about the dissolution of the abbey itself. Although its precise location and layout is still unknown, the evidence suggests that the main abbey buildings were situated c.200m to the west and that the excavation area was

located in the surrounding farmland/wider precinct. Only a few finds recovered from the excavation could potentially have originated from the abbey, for example the roof finial (SF6, Fig. 15) which was recovered from the buried soil (700) and a fragment of orange-glazed Flemish floor tile from levelling deposit (786). These tiles were used during the 14th–15th centuries in high status domestic contexts and in churches in particular.

- 4.4.2 After the dissolution the abbey was sold to the Cromwell family who saw to its destruction. It is unclear what happened to the abbey's estate and farm at this time but features more associated with industry than farming started to appear. Just 35m to the west of the excavation area Rees discovered a 16th-17th century brick clamp kiln (Rees 2021, 25). This may have been used to create bricks for sale, or for the new house which was built on the site of the abbey. Pits **712** and **759** and feature **763** may have originally been dug to extract clay to make the bricks or to contain water for the various processes involved. It was also during this time that culvert **720** was installed, linking pit **712** to ditch **708**. The sophisticated dressed stone walls of the culvert suggest that its purpose was important enough to warrant more than just a drainage ditch.
- 4.4.3 Pit **712** and surface 704 both contained stone rubble which may have been associated with the dismantling of the abbey. Pit **712** contained one piece of partially dressed stone which would have formed the corner of a rectangular block, but no clear pieces of ecclesiastical stonework were found. These were presumably removed from the site of the abbey for use elsewhere (see Section 1.3). A similar pit containing stone rubble was revealed during the community excavation and amongst this stone several pieces were recovered which showed some signs of dressing and working often indicative of edging for openings of windows or doors (Rees 2021).

Abbey House and estate

- 4.4.4 The first incarnation of Abbey House was built around 1600 by the Cromwell family. The first map to show any details of the estate dates from 1704-9 (Fig. 12). The scale and perspective make it difficult to determine the site location in relation to this map but it does show that the lands surrounding the house were sub-divided into numerous fields, possibly orchards. The large boundary ditches found in the excavation were potentially still visible as earthworks, hedged boundaries or smaller ditches. Relatively few finds dating to this period were recovered during the excavation. This is consistent with the theory that by the end of this phase, the site lay within the parkland of the house, away from any centres of activity, and that any earlier features associated with the brick industry had been backfilled.

4.5 Period 4: Modern (1750-present)

Changes in landscaping

- 4.5.1 Through the years technology moved on and fashions changed. The house was enlarged, modernised and remodelled at various points in the 19th century. The grounds and parkland were also subject to these changes: one of the most significant

being the diverting of Hollow Lane. The RACP have recently been researching when and why this may have taken place. Thomas Jeffrey's map from 1768 appears to show the road on a different course than it presently follows, passing much closer to the house (Fig. 13). Later maps from the 19th (Fig. 14) and 20th centuries show a hedged boundary following the former course of the road. The RACP have determined that this diversion was potentially part of the 1804-06 remodelling by William Henry Fellowes to designs by Sir John Soane. The fashion at that time was for natural looking, wide open pasture land suitable for leisure pursuits such as hunting and carriage-riding (Mould 2020b).

- 4.5.2 In order to create this type of landscape, smaller fields were often enlarged by the removal of hedges and boundaries. It seems probable that any residual 'lumps and bumps' from earlier phases of activity would have been levelled out at the same time. During the excavation, the final levelling layers filling the large medieval boundary ditches were found to contain modern finds, such as part of a glass bottle. During Rees's 2019 excavation (Area B) the tertiary fills of many of the features produced similar finds including a large assemblage of 18th-19th century ceramics.

Drainage

- 4.5.3 Drainage would also have been important for creating these picturesque vistas, particularly in areas where previously backfilled features might collect water and become boggy. During the evaluation and the community excavation, recuts along the line of the large boundary ditches were found to contain ceramic field drains. The deposits of cobbles and fragments of CBM found in the northern part of the excavation area may be the result of another attempt to solidify the ground. The linear deposits of stone in the top of ditches **708** and **744** may be other attempts at drainage.
- 4.5.4 The earlier stone culvert was replaced with a ceramic one and a modern metal pipe was installed along a similar line, potentially linking the pond to the east of the excavation area with the house. Historic maps show that a pump house stood on the edge of this pond – it is not clear what its purpose was but it is possible that it provided water for the gardens.

Tree-removal and levelling of playing fields

- 4.5.5 In 1931 Abbey House was leased to the Grammar School and became known as the Ailwyn School. The fields in the immediate vicinity of the building were ideal for use as the school's playing fields and various trees and tree stumps were removed to facilitate this. It is also possible that further levelling deposits were laid down to create the flat, level ground needed for sports pitches.

4.6 Significance

- 4.6.1 Although the depth of the excavation was limited, this site represents the largest open area excavation undertaken within the grounds of the abbey to date and has allowed features which had previously been inferred from smaller investigations to be more accurately mapped. The results of the investigation have provided further evidence for

the activities following the dissolution of the abbey and the stratigraphy of the post-medieval and modern deposits. The excavation has also revealed that evidence of earlier medieval features may be present at only a shallow depth below the topsoil and that the layer previously interpreted as subsoil is in fact likely to be a medieval buried soil layer. This work has provided a significant contribution to the current understanding of Ramsey Abbey and its wider landscape and further demonstrates the potential survival of buried archaeological remains within areas of the precinct located away from the main conventual buildings.

APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut No.	Master No.	Category	Feature type	Function	Phase
700	-	700	layer	buried soil		1: med
701	701		cut	pit		0: unphased
702	701		fill	pit		0: unphased
703	701		fill	pit		0: unphased
704	-	704	group	metalled surface		3: post-med
705	-	704	layer	metalled surface		3: post-med
706	-	704	layer	metalled surface		3: post-med
707	-	700	layer	buried soil		1: med
708	708		cut	ditch	boundary/drainage	2: late med
709	708		fill	ditch		4: modern*
710	710		cut	ditch	drainage	1: med
711	710		fill	ditch		1: med
712	712		cut	pit	clay extraction?	3: post-med
713	712		fill	pit		3: post-med
714	712		fill	pit		3: post-med
715	712		fill	pit		3: post-med
716	-	700	layer	buried soil		1: med
717	-		layer	levelling		4: modern
718	719		fill	surface?		3: post-med
719	719		cut	feature		3: post-med
720	720		cut	culvert	drainage	3: post-med
721	712		fill	pit		3: post-med
722	712		fill	pit		3: post-med
723	712		fill	pit		3: post-med
724	712		fill	pit		3: post-med
725	725		cut	culvert	drainage	4: modern
726	720		structure	masonry	culvert wall	3: post-med
727	720		structure	masonry	culvert wall	3: post-med
728	720		layer	culvert	culvert base?	3: post-med
729	720		fill	culvert		3: post-med
730	725		structure	CBM	culvert	4: modern
731	725		fill	culvert		4: modern
732	732		cut	pit		0: unphased
733	732		fill	pit		0: unphased
734	732		fill	pit		0: unphased
735	735		cut	pit		0: unphased
736	735		fill	pit		0: unphased
737	720		fill	culvert		3: post-med
738	738		cut	ditch	field system	1: med
739	738		fill	ditch		1: med
740	740		cut	pit		0: unphased
741	740		fill	pit		0: unphased
742	742		cut	ditch	field system	1: med
743	742		fill	ditch		1: med

Context	Cut No.	Master No.	Category	Feature type	Function	Phase
744	744		cut	ditch	boundary/drainage	2: late med
745	-		layer	levelling		4: modern
746	-		layer	levelling		4: modern
747	747		cut	ditch	field system	1: med
748	747		fill	ditch		1: med
749	749		cut	ditch	field system	1: med
750	749		fill	ditch		1: med
751	751		cut	ditch	field system	1: med
752	751		fill	ditch		1: med
753	-	700	layer	buried soil		1: med
754	754		cut	ditch	field system	1: med
755	754		fill	ditch		1: med
756	754		fill	ditch		1: med
757	757		cut	ditch	defence?	1: med
758	757		fill	ditch		1: med
759	759		cut	pit		3: post-med
760	759		fill	pit		3: post-med
761	759		fill	pit		3: post-med
762	-		layer	levelling		4: modern
763	763		cut	feature		3: post-med
764	763		fill	feature		3: post-med
765	763		fill	feature		3: post-med
766	763		fill	feature		3: post-med
767	767	763	cut	feature		3: post-med
768	767		fill	feature		3: post-med
769	767		fill	feature		3: post-med
770	770		cut	natural	tree throw	4: modern
771	770		fill	natural		4: modern
772	772		cut	natural	tree throw	4: modern
773	772		fill	natural		4: modern
774	774		cut	pit		0: unphased
775	774		fill	pit		0: unphased
776	776		cut	ditch		1: med
777	776		fill	ditch		1: med
778	776		fill	ditch		1: med
779				VOID		
780	-	700	layer	buried soil		1: med
781				VOID		
782	782	757	cut	ditch	defence?	1: med
783	782		fill	ditch		1: med
784	782		fill	ditch		1: med
785	-	700	layer	buried soil		1: med
786	-		layer	levelling		4: modern
787	-		layer	levelling		4: modern
788	-		layer	levelling		4: modern
789	789	757	cut	ditch	defence?	1: med

Context	Cut No.	Master No.	Category	Feature type	Function	Phase
790	789		fill	ditch		1: med
791	789		fill	ditch		1: med
792	792	757	cut	ditch	defence?	1: med
793	792		fill	ditch		1: med
794	-	700	layer	buried soil		1: med
795	795		cut	ditch	drainage?	1: med
796	795		fill	ditch		1: med
797	797	744	cut	ditch	boundary/drainage	2: late med
798	797	744	fill	ditch		4: modern
799	-		layer	levelling		4: modern

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

By Denis Sami

Introduction

B.1.1 The excavation produced a total of 61 artefacts (61 fragments). The assemblage is formed of copper-alloy (Cua), iron (Fe) and lead (Pb) artefacts, with the iron objects constituting the majority of the metalwork (Table 1), and includes multifunctional tools, household items and structural fittings. Overall, the assemblage is in poor condition with most of the artefacts fragmented and incomplete. The evaluation also produced 12 heavily encrusted iron objects: a complete horseshoe, eight nails and three unidentified objects (Fletcher 2020a, 19-20). The artefacts are also heavily encrusted and oxidised due to the adverse soil conditions.

Material	No. fragment	% No. fragment	No. Artefact	% No. Artefact
Cua	2	3.28%	2	3.28%
Fe	58	95.08%	58	95.08%
Pb	1	1.64%	1	1.64%
Total	61	100.00%	61	100.00%

Table 1: Number of metallic finds by material

Methodology

- B.1.2 The metalwork was examined in accordance with the OA East metalwork finds standard, itself based on the guidance of the Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS, Datasheets 104 and 108), the Archaeometallurgy Guidelines for Best Practice (Historic England 2015) and the Guidelines for the Storage and Display of Archaeological Metalwork (English Heritage/Historic England 2013).
- B.1.3 The catalogues of medieval metalwork published by Egan (2010) was used as the main reference in the discussion and description of iron artefacts, whilst Clark’s (1995) study about the medieval horse and its equipment was used in the identification of an incomplete horseshoe. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database was consulted for finds not reported in Egan’s work.
- B.1.4 The material was classified according to Crummy’s 1983 categories. The items were catalogued, with their details presented in Table 4. Metalwork was quantified using a Microsoft Access database and their details (count, measurements and weight) collated in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, classified by context. This spreadsheet was interrogated to compile statistics.
- B.1.5 The metalwork and archive (Excel/Access databases) will be curated by OA East until formal deposition.

The assemblage

B.1.6 A total of eight artefacts (13.11%) were recovered from archaeological features dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods, with the remaining 53 artefacts (86.89%) being recovered from layers (Table 2).

Feature	No. Artefact	% No. Artefact
Layers	53	86.89%
Features	8	13.11%
Total	61	100.00%

Table 2: Quantification of metalwork by feature type

B.1.7 The most represented functional category is 'Fittings' in the form of nails and other structural/architectural artefacts (Table 3).

Functional category	Artefact type									
	Buckle	Coin	Fitting	Horseshoe	Key	Shot	Nail	Rivet	Unidentified	Total
Economy		1								1
Fittings			2				52			54
Household equipment					1			1		2
Military equipment						1				1
Miscellaneous									1	1
Transport	1			1						2
Total	1	1	2	1	1	1	52	1	1	61

Table 3: Quantification of metalwork by functional category

B.1.8 Only two copper-alloy items were recovered from the site. SF3 is a poorly preserved and unidentified post-medieval coin or jetton. SF25 is a short rivet with a flat circular head decorated with a ridged central circle. Such rivets were generally used in furniture upholstery.

B.1.9 The majority of items recovered are made from iron. Layer 700 produced a large key (SF4), a buckle (SF5) and a horseshoe. Key SF4 is similar to a key published by Egan (2010, 118, no. 329). Keys are reminder of security concerns and the need to keep people (either behind gates or doors) and goods (in caskets) safe. Buckle SF5 is possibly part of a horse-harness. The bulk of the assemblage is formed by fragments of hand-forged nails (52), the size of which suggest architectural use. An incomplete horseshoe from context 700 is a Clark type 2 item dating to the 11th-12th centuries (Clark 1995, 86). One artefact remains unidentified due to its poor condition.

B.1.10 A single lead shot was recovered from layer 700. The presence of casting flash and sprue possibly suggests the ball was never shot. The size and weight (diam. 12.2 mm and 11.52 g) of the ball possibly indicates it was used with an 18th or 19th century pistol (Foard 2009).

Discussion

B.1.11 This small and undiagnostic assemblage, which is dominated by nails, offers very little opportunity to elaborate on the character or date of activity on the site or contribute to the research objectives. The early medieval horseshoe, from layer 700, possibly offers a terminus post quem for the activities in the area, although excavation did not reach very deep levels. A complete, heavily encrusted horseshoe was also recovered during the evaluation from ditch EV304 in Trench 1, and using Clark's identifications was tentatively dated to the mid 14th century or later (Fletcher 2020a, 19). The comparative abundance of hand-forged nails from layer 700, and the notable lack of household items, tentatively denotes the presence of a non-residential timber structure, perhaps a stable or a storage space, in the vicinity.

B.2 Fuel and fuel residues

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.2.1 A small assemblage of coal, oil shale and fuel residues was collected by hand from the excavation area. The material was weighed and rapidly recorded, with basic description and weight recorded in the text.

Assemblage and Discussion

Period 2: Late medieval (1350-1539)

B.2.2 Three irregular fragments of clinker (0.014kg), a dark coloured, lightweight and vesicular fuel residue from the burning of coal (Historic England 2018), were recovered from the upper modern) fill of ditch 744. The clinker is not closely datable and, although it could be medieval, is more probably 20th century or later, having been recovered alongside 20th-century glass.

B.2.3 Ditch 754 produced a single sub-rectangular fragment of unburnt black bituminous coal (0.007kg). The coal may have come from a domestic or industrial setting, is undiagnostic and not closely datable.

Period 3: Post-medieval (1539-1750)

B.2.4 A sub-rectangular piece and small fragments of grey-black, laminar oil shale (0.051kg) were recovered from pit 759. The oil shale may have come from a domestic or industrial setting, is undiagnostic and not closely datable, however, the material is likely to be contemporary with the 17th century pottery and clay tobacco pipe recovered from the same feature. Fragments of partially combusted oil shale and unburnt coal were also recovered from pit 759 (EV300) during earlier archaeological works (Fletcher 2020g).

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.2.5 The coal and oil shale are very probably from a domestic fire, although the clinker may be from a higher temperature process, although it also occurs in domestic coal fires. Similar material was recovered from earlier archaeological interventions and may relate to the post-medieval brick clamp excavated in an earlier phase of work (Rees 2021). However, the small amounts recovered are not significant and the material may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

B.3 Non-building stone

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

- B.3.1 A small assemblage of lava fragments was recovered from the area of excavation. Simplified recording only has been undertaken, the material was examined with a x10 hand lens, basic description and weight are recorded in the text. The lava and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or deselection.

Assemblage and Discussion

Period 1: Medieval (1100-1350)

- B.3.2 Three rounded fragments (0.084kg) of vesicular basalt lava from the Mayen-Niedermendig quarries in the Eifel Region of Germany were recovered from ditch **757**. The lava is weathered, and friable with some fresh breaks. The hard, coarse vesicular, mid grey lava has few diagnostic features, although it was presumably originally from one or more rotary lava querns/hand mills. The larger fragment retains a flat surface that may have been part of the grinding surface, however, it cannot be established whether this is part of an upper or lower stone.
- B.3.3 The lava fragments, which may have broken up due to extensive use/wear, are likely to have originated in a domestic setting, strongly linked to agriculture. Lava querns from the Mayen-Niedermendig area of the Eifel Hills region of Germany were imported into Britain (as blanks) from the Late Iron Age onwards. In the later medieval period, the use of querns was restricted, as the tolls charged for the use of the manorial mill were an important source of income (Watts 2002, 40). The ditch from which the lava fragments were recovered also produced medieval pottery, datable to the late 12th-13th century (Anderson B.5.9).

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.3.4 The assemblage forms part of a larger body of material from previous interventions. However, the lava fragments are abraded and undiagnostic and may be deselected prior to archival deposition. The fragmentary nature of the total assemblage means it is of little significance.

B.4 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.4.1 Archaeological works produced a small assemblage of vessel glass weighing 0.146kg, a total of nine shards, representing a minimum number of vessels (MNV) of four, from a ditch and a pit. Four shards (44g) of post-medieval vessel glass were also recovered from a pit during the evaluation (pit EV300; not illustrated) and were found in association with 17th century tobacco-pipe (Fletcher 2020b, 21).

Methodology

B.4.2 The glass was scanned and catalogued, weighed and recorded, as individual vessels where possible. The glass colour was assessed by holding up the shards against a strong (daylight) light. The glass that is not closely datable may be dated by association with the pottery and other material with which it was often found (see Anderson B.5.9). All dates given for the periods are those assigned by the excavator. The terminology used in the report and the catalogue, for the various glass forms is taken from *Antique Glass Bottles Their History and Evolution (1500-1850)* (Van den Bossche 2001), *A guide to Artifacts of Colonial America* (Noel Hums 1969) and *The Parks Canada Glass Glossary* (Jones and Sullivan *et al* 1989).

Assemblage and Discussion

- B.4.3 From ditch **744**, five shards (0.130kg) from a pale blue green machine-made cylindrical bottle were recovered, including base and body shards, representing a single vessel. A mould line can be seen on the largest body shard, which joins to the base and embossed around the wall, and above the base angle are small embossed capital letters [BARNS]LEY REDFE[EA]RN. The base (diameter 64mm) is also embossed with lettering (around indented base) RB (arch) / B. The contents of the bottle are not known, however, the bottle manufacturer is Redfearn Bros., Ltd. of Barnsley and the bottle was made sometime between 1916 when the RBB mark was adopted and 1967, when the company merged with the National Glass Works to form Redfearn National Glass (<https://sha.org/bottle/pdffiles/RedfearnBros.pdf> 215-218). The bottle is therefore 20th century and may represent rubbish, perhaps used to backfill the slight hollow in the landscape left by the late medieval ditch.
- B.4.4 Pit **759** produced four fragments (three from sample <25>) of vessel glass, all in poor condition. A triangular curved shard of pale olive green glass (0.011kg) is heavily iridised, some of which is flaking off and there has been some surface loss. From sample <25>, a smaller triangular shard (0.004kg), also heavily iridised and suffering some surface loss, but of a slightly darker green colouration was recovered. The shards are from two utility bottles that probably held wine.
- B.4.5 The third and fourth shards are of thin glass (approx. 2mm and weighing 0.001kg) heavily iridescent, opaque and having some surface loss, the glass is somewhat curved

and may be from a thin-walled bottle or phial. The original colour of the glass is indeterminate, and its condition is very poor, becoming granular, suggesting it may be a fragment of forest or potash glass; its date is uncertain.

B.4.6 All of the glass from this feature is similar to shards recovered in the evaluation from the same feature pit EV300 (Fletcher 2020b) and very probably of a similar 17th century date.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.4.7 The glass assemblage does little other than to indicate low levels of possibly 17th century rubbish disposal in pit 759 (EV300). The glass does, however, form part of a larger assemblage of material from the various archaeological interventions on the site and must be considered in that light. However, the fragmentary nature and poor condition of the assemblage means it does not have to be retained and the glass may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

B.5 Pottery

By Sue Anderson

Introduction

B.5.1 Forty-eight sherds (738g) of pottery were collected from 14 contexts during the excavation (Table 4). The evaluation produced 83 sherds weighing 1.770kg and representing a minimum of 38 vessels from early medieval, medieval, and post-medieval features in Trenches 1, 4, 7 and subsoil 619. These are described and catalogued in the evaluation report (Fletcher 2020c, 21-25).

Description	Fabric	Date range	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	HUNEMW	1050-1200	7	62	0.14	6
Peterborough Shelly ware	PSHW	1100-1350	2	17		2
Medieval Ely ware	MEL	1150-1350	5	30		5
Medieval Sandy ware	MSW	1150-1500	1	4		1
Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	HUNFSW	1175-1300	13	305	0.10	8
Grimston ware	GRIM	1175-1400	2	26		2
Lyveden/Stanion glazed ware (Lyveden B ware)	LYST	1225-1400	2	7		1
Raeren stoneware	RAER	1480-1700	1	36		1
Frechen stoneware	FREC	1500-1700	5	67		4
Glazed Red Earthenware	GRE	1600-1800	5	104	0.05	2
Tin-glazed earthenware	TGW	1600-1800	3	4		1
Midlands coarse blackware	MIDB	1700-1900	1	15		1
English stoneware	ENGS	1700-1900	1	61	1.00	1
Totals			48	738	1.29	35

Table 4: Pottery quantification by fabric

Methodology

B.5.2 Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. Methods follow MPRG recommendations (MPRG 2001) and form terminology follows MPRG classifications (1998). Medieval wares were identified based on Spoerry (2016). The data were input directly onto an MS Access database, which forms the archive catalogue.

The assemblage

B.5.3 The earliest pottery in the assemblage is Huntingdon-type early medieval ware. The sherds included two jar rims.

B.5.4 Coarsewares of medieval date comprised mainly Huntingdon Fen Sandy wares, supplemented by Ely wares. The HUNFSW group included a jug rim of everted form, two jug handles (wide strap and rod types) and three body sherds from a jug with incised horizontal line decoration. All Ely wares were unglazed and undecorated body sherds. There was also one small body sherd of a medieval sandy ware. Two fragments of Peterborough-type shelly ware comprised a body and a base of two separate vessels. Glazed wares of this period comprised a body and a base fragment of Grimston ware and two body sherds from a Lyveden-Stanion B ware jug with white slip and rouletted decoration.

B.5.5 The late medieval period was represented by a large base sherd from a Raeren vessel, most likely a jug.

B.5.6 Post-medieval pottery comprised fragments of four Frechen stoneware vessels (probably 'tiger ware' bottles of Bellarmine type), a GRE body sherd, four fragments of a GRE bowl with an unusual pinched horizontal handle (FIG), and three small sherds of a tin-glazed earthenware vessel, most likely a mug, with mottled manganese purple spatter decoration externally.

B.5.7 Two sherds of early modern date comprised a fragment of a Midlands coarse blackware vessel with dark brown/black glaze internally and externally (probably a storage jar), and the rim/neck of a brown-glazed stoneware ginger beer or similar bottle.

B.5.8 Most of the pottery was recovered from ditch fills (Table 5). Spot-dating confidence is relatively low as each context produced so few sherds, although most of the sherds were large and unabraded.

Context	Feature	Type	Period	No	Wt/g	Fabric	Spotdate
700	-	layer	1	18	150	HUNEMW PSHW HUNFSW MEL GRIM LYST	13th-14th c.
715	712	pit	3	2	51	RAER MIDB	18th c.
731	725	culvert	4	1	61	ENGS	19th-E.20th c.
739	738	ditch	1	2	15	HUNEMW	M.11th-12th c.*
743	742	ditch	1	1	12	HUNFSW	L.12th-13th c.
748	747	ditch	1	1	32	HUNFSW	L.12th-13th c.

Context	Feature	Type	Period	No	Wt/g	Fabric	Spotdate
750	749	ditch	1	1	5	GRE	16th-18th c.
752	751	ditch	1	1	82	HUNFSW	L.12th-13th c.
758	757	ditch	1	2	30	HUNFSW MEL	L.12th-13th c.?
761	759	pit	3	12	170	FREC GRE TGW	17th c.?
773	772	natural feature	4	2	9	MSW MEL	M.12th-M.14th c.
783	782	ditch	1	1	5	MEL	M.12th-M.14th c.
790	789	ditch	1	2	91	HUNFSW MEL	L.12th-13th c.?
791	789	ditch	1	2	25	HUNEMW	M.11th-12th c.

Table 5: Summary of pottery from the excavation by context with spotdates (* contains later CBM)

Evaluation contexts (Fletcher 2020c)

- B.5.9 Trench 1, pit EV**300** produced a mixed assemblage of early medieval and medieval sherds alongside 16th-17th century and later material. This group included the only medieval glazed wares recovered during this intervention, single sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware and Lyveden/Stanion glaze ware. However, these are residual, as the pit also produced post-medieval pottery including tin glaze internally and the remains of a manganese-mottled tin glaze earthenware vessel that may date to the mid to later 17th century alongside early to mid 17th century clay tobacco pipe bowls. There was some later pottery; however, it would seem that the main phase of infilling for this feature, which may have been a quarry pit, was during the 17th century.
- B.5.10 Ditch EV**304**, described by the excavator as a boundary ditch, produced a single fragment of pottery, a partially burnt base sherd from a Post-medieval black-glazed ware drinking vessel.
- B.5.11 The bulk of the evaluation pottery assemblage was recovered from ditch EV**451** in Trench 4, which produced 49 sherds, 1.169kg of pottery from a minimum of 12 vessels. All the material was medieval and included a rim and handle from a Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware jug (c.1175-1300) with incised decoration on the handle to give the impression that the handle had been twisted. Also present were large sherds from a sooted Oolitic Shelly ware jar. However, the majority of the sherds recovered were from Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware jars (c.1050-1200) and include a possible curfew sherd, indicating the management of a 'domestic' hearth and suggests that the fill represented, at least in part, a late 12th-early 13th century kitchen assemblage. The ditch also included some post-medieval ceramic building material, although this could be intrusive.
- B.5.12 Six sherds of pottery were recovered from subsoil 619, and similar to those recovered from ditch EV**451**.

Discussion

- B.5.13 This small assemblage from the excavation adds to previous larger groups of medieval and later pottery from the site, including that from the evaluation (summarised above). The medieval group is broadly similar to that collected during the community

excavations in 2018 and 2019 (Fletcher 2021) and in earlier interventions (Fletcher with Sperry 2008).

- B.5.14 The range of medieval fabrics identified in the assemblage is typical of the area, with Huntingdon wares being particularly common in the early and high medieval period, together with some Ely ware. Other medieval wares were sourced from the Peterborough area, Northamptonshire and north-west Norfolk, as would be expected in this part of Cambridgeshire. One late medieval or early post-medieval import was recovered, and the post-medieval finds included both local earthenwares and imported stonewares. The latest find was a fragment of a stoneware bottle of, at the latest, early 20th-century date.

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	MNV	Notes	Date range
700	GRIM			2	26	2		L.12th-14th c.
700	HUNEMW			2	11	2		1050-1200
700	HUNEMW	Jar	thickened everted	1	11	1		1050-1200
700	HUNFSW			8	72	3		1175-1300
700	LYST	Jug		2	7	1		1225-1400
700	MEL			1	6	1		1150-1350
700	PSHW			2	17	2		1100-1350
715	MIDB			1	15	1		
715	RAER			1	36	1		L.15th-16th c.
731	ENGS	bottle	collared	1	61	1		
739	HUNEMW			1	9	1		1050-1200
739	HUNEMW	Jar	simple everted	1	6	1		1050-1200
743	HUNFSW			1	12	1		1175-1300
748	HUNFSW	Jug	everted	1	32	1	lip	1175-1300
750	GRE			1	5	1		1600-1800
752	HUNFSW			1	82	1		1175-1300
758	HUNFSW			1	19	1		1175-1300
758	MEL			1	11	1		1150-1350
761	FREC			5	67	4		16th-17th c.
761	GRE			4	99	1		1600-1800
761	TGW			3	4	1		
773	MEL			1	5	1		1150-1350
773	MSW			1	4	1	abundant vfs, sparse mica, dk grey with brown surface, poss a glazed ware	1150-1500
783	MEL			1	5	1		1150-1350
790	HUNFSW			1	88	1		1175-1300
790	MEL			1	3	1		1150-1350
791	HUNEMW			2	25	1	overfired, poss MSW but HM	1050-1200

Table 6: Pottery catalogue

B.6 Clay tobacco pipe

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

- B.6.1 During the excavation, 14 fragments of white ball clay tobacco pipe stem and an incomplete bowl, weighing 0.059kg, were recovered. A further nine fragments of undecorated stem (0.028kg) were recovered from samples. The evaluation produced 25 fragments, weighing 0.089kg, were recovered including a complete Oswald type 4 type bowl, c.1600-1640 (Oswald 1975, 37–41) and two partial bowl/heel fragments, probably from pipes similar to the complete bowl (Fletcher 2020d, 26-27).
- B.6.2 Terminology used in this report is taken from Oswald's simplified general typology (Oswald 1975, 37–41), and Hind and Crummy (Crummy 1988, 47-66).

Assemblage

- B.6.3 A single fragment of undecorated clay pipe stem (0.001kg) was recovered from a test pit excavated into Period 3 feature **763**.
- B.6.4 Twenty-one fragments of undecorated stem, and an incomplete Oswald type 17 bowl c.1640-70 (0.008kg), were recovered from Period 3 pit **759**.
- B.6.5 The backfill (731) of the Period 4 curved brick-constructed culvert **725** produced a short section of undecorated stem (0.004kg). The backfill also produced sherds of 19th-20th century pottery (Anderson B.5.9).

Discussion

- B.6.6 The fragments of clay tobacco pipe recovered represent what were most likely casually discarded pipes. The partial pipe bowl recovered from pit **759** dates to c.1640-70 and the feature also produced 17th century pottery (*ibid.*), suggesting the feature was perhaps backfilled in the latter part of the 17th century.
- B.6.7 The pipe stem fragments do little, other than to indicate the consumption of tobacco on, or in the vicinity of, the site after c.1600, and any closer dating must be drawn from the finds with which they were recovered. The assemblage recovered from this archaeological intervention is smaller than that recovered from works in 2019 which produced both undecorated stem fragments and 14 bowls, including a single Oswald type 17 bowl. The bulk of the bowl assemblage, however, were Oswald type 6 bowls c.1660-80; the 2019 excavation also produced 18th and 19th century pipes (Fletcher 2021).

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.6.8 The fragmentary nature of the assemblage means it is of little significance, although the assemblage forms part of a larger body of material from previous interventions. The clay tobacco pipe bowls should be retained for archival deposition, the stems may be retained for further study or dispersed.

Context	Cut	Period	Form	No. of fragments	Description	Weight kg.	Dating
731	725	4	Plain stem fragments	1	A single short length of plain, undecorated stem, round in section, with well-trimmed seams and off-centre bore. 41mm long, 9mm in diameter	0.004	Not closely datable (NCD)
761	759	3	Plain stem fragments	12	Twelve lengths of plain, undecorated stem, oval or circular in section, with somewhat visible seams and mostly central or off-centre bores. A single piece is so thin and the bore so off-centre that it is unlikely to have been usable. Four fragments have been externally altered by heat, one of which would have joined the bowl. Fragments range from 24-75mm long, 5-9mm in diameter	0.046	NCD
				9	Nine plain, undecorated lengths of stem, with profiles varying from circular to oval and bores mostly central or just off-centre. Four of the fragments show evidence of external burning. Fragments range from 24-75mm long, 7-10mm in diameter	0.028	
			Bowl fragment Oswald type 17 (Oswald 1975)	1	Incomplete bowl, complete heel, and very short length of stem (7mm) from an Oswald type 17 pipe (Oswald 1975). Faint rouletting can still be seen just below the surviving portion of rim. 37mm long, 29mm high, bowl internal diameter 12mm	0.008	1640-70
765	763	3	Plain stem fragment	1	A single very short length of plain, undecorated stem, oval in section, with trimmed, but still somewhat visible seams and off-centre bore. 27mm long, 6 x 6.6mm in diameter	0.001	NCD
Total				24		0.087	

Table 7: Clay tobacco pipe catalogue

B.7 Building stone

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.7.1 A single fragment of building stone was recovered from Period 3 (post-medieval) pit **712**. This adds to the small group of four stone fragments (6.501kg) from the evaluation, which comprised two architectural pieces (one sandstone and one limestone) both from boundary ditch EV**401**, an unworked limestone block and a piece of Collyweston slate (Fletcher 2020e, 27-8). Simplified recording has been undertaken, the material was examined with a x10 hand lens, basic description and weight are recorded in the text.

Assemblage and Discussion

- B.7.2 Pit **712** produced a partial corner from a larger block of stone, probably originally rectangular. The surviving weathered sub-triangular fragment (2.753kg) is roughly dressed on two surfaces, one of which has suffered further damage after the dressing has occurred. The more complete dressed face is 184 x 165 x 137mm. The stone has been broken in antiquity, although various marks on the partially dressed surfaces appear to be more recent damage.
- B.7.3 The stone is a moderate-fine grained slightly micaceous sandstone. The rough nature of the stone may indicate it came from a foundation layer rather than a facing stone. The stone may originally have been used on the abbey itself or one of the ancillary buildings, although it could relate to later usage of the site. The stone was recovered alongside 18th century pottery (see Anderson B.5.9).

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.7.4 The building stone assemblage is fragmentary, although it also forms part of a larger assemblage of stonework recovered from the various archaeological interventions across the Ramsey Abbey site and should not be considered totally in isolation from material recovered from these other interventions. However, the stone from this phase of works is not architecturally significant and may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

B.8 Ceramic building material (CBM)

By Sue Anderson

Introduction

- B.8.1 The CBM assemblage comprised 154 fragments (23,258g) collected from 32 contexts. A further 102 pieces weighing 9468g, was recovered from Trenches 1, 4 and 7, and from subsoil context E619 during the evaluation and is fully described in the evaluation report (Fletcher 2020f, 28-29).

Methodology

- B.8.2 The assemblage was quantified (count and weight) by fabric and form. Fabrics were identified on the basis of macroscopic appearance and main inclusions, and follow a fabric type series previously made for another Ramsey Abbey assemblage (Fletcher unpubl.). The width, length and thickness of all fragments were measured where possible. Table 8 provides a summary of the types present and Table 9 shows the distribution of fabrics by form.

Type	Form		No. frags	Wt (g)	Min. No.
Roofing	Plain roof tile: medieval/late medieval	RTM	122	13386	109
	Ridge tile: medieval	RID	1	129	1
	Finial	FIN	1	323	1
	Plain roof tile: post-medieval	RTP	21	1911	16
		RTP?	2	144	2

Type	Form		No. frags	Wt (g)	Min. No.
	Plain roof tile: undated	RT	2	73	2
		RT?	1	20	1
Walling	Post-medieval brick	LB	1	27	1
Flooring	Floor tile	FT	1	149	1
		FT?	1	449	1
Drainage	Drain tile	DT	1	6647	1
Totals			154	23258	136

Table 8: CBM by type and form

Fabric	Description	RTM	RID	FIN	RTP	RTP?	RT	RT?	LB	FT	FT?	DT
1	silty calcareous-rich matrix, voids, clay pellets, pinkish	3				1		1				
3	silty, fine voids/chalk, micaceous, sparse clay pellets, mostly buff with grey core, sometimes red	20										
3vi	as 3 but with fine sand	81	1	1								
4?	fine sandy, some voids, not micaceous				1							
5	fine sandy, ferrous inclusions, some voids	5										
6	very fine sandy, common voids/calcareous, occasional mica, white clay streaks	5				1						
6?							1					
8?	very fine sandy, sparse mica, rare ferrous oxide									1		
10	harder version of F3vi? tends to be fully oxidised	7			9		1					
10?		1										
12	fine sandy with flint and some mica								1			
12?											1	
13?	white-firing post-medieval fabrics				11							1

Table 9: CBM forms by fabric (frag. count)

Assemblage

B.8.3 The largest proportion of the assemblage related to roofing. There were 150 fragments of 132 plain roof tiles, of which 43 had peg holes (mostly circular, two square). Most were medieval, with only 26 pieces of post-medieval tile and three of uncertain date.

B.8.4 The medieval roof tile group comprised 124 pieces. Medieval examples were identified based on the presence of a reduced core or similarity to those which did. The majority of medieval plain tiles were in silty Fabric 3 or the slightly sandier 3vi, and occasionally occurred in related fabrics with voids/calcareous (mainly chalk?) inclusions. The medieval tiles were quite variable in thickness, ranging between 8–18mm, although the majority were in the 10–15mm range. Peg holes were all circular, and up to 20mm in diameter. Two tiles from Period 3 surface (718) had full widths of 213mm and 225mm, but no complete tiles were present.

- B.8.5 Also in the medieval group were a finial fragment with a tapered globular terminal (SF6; Fig. 15), and ridge tile with a broken area which would have held a similar finial – both were in fabric 3vi and came from Period 1 layer 700. It is not clear whether the fragment represents the whole length of the finial, but the broken part of the tile has a similar diameter to the broken base of the finial – the two do not join. The finial is most comparable with Dunning’s Group VII (‘knob finials’) although these are typically hollow and fit into a socket on the ridge tile, neither attribute of which applies to the Ramsey finial. It is perhaps more likely to fit into Group IV (‘attached finials’), which includes a wide diversity of shapes (Hurman and Nenck 2000, 68). A solid knob finial of slightly different form was, however, found at Ely (Briscoe and Dunning 1967, 84) so this and the Ramsey example may be local variants of Group VII. The Ely example was in a calcareous fabric and was partially glazed.
- B.8.6 The post-medieval roof tile group was mainly in the fully oxidised Fabric 10, or varieties of the white-firing gault clay fabrics typical of the Cambridgeshire fens (Fabric 13). This group included both circular and square peg hole types.
- B.8.7 One small piece of a red sandy post-medieval brick was recovered. None of the original surfaces had survived, but the fragment was partly reduced at the core and may be of 15th/16th-century date.
- B.8.8 A fragment of orange-glazed ?Flemish floor tile came from a patch of Period 4/modern limestone rubble (786). It was 23mm thick. These tiles were used during the 14th–15th centuries in high status domestic contexts and in churches in particular. One other ?floor tile was unglazed and 35mm thick, heavily abraded and found in (721); there is a possibility that the fragment could be a Roman tile.
- B.8.9 A complete drain tile was recovered from Period 4 culvert **725** (730). This was in a gault clay fabric with abundant rounded ?chalk voids. The tile was 285mm long, 234mm wide, 103mm deep and had a U-section channel (68mm deep, 145mm wide). It is likely to be of post-medieval date.
- B.8.10 The largest groups were recovered from the buried soil (700, 780) (30 fragments) and the possible surface (718) (28 fragments). Most of the other pieces were found in ditch or pit fills, where they were likely to have been included accidentally, or deliberately incorporated as hardcore.

Discussion

- B.8.11 This assemblage includes a high proportion of medieval CBM, which is not unexpected in a monastic site of the period. The range of fabrics is comparable with those recovered from the site previously, including the evaluation. The high proportion of tiles in a very similar fabric may suggest that they were manufactured locally to the site. Of most interest in this small assemblage is the presence of a roof finial of a type previously only published from Ely, suggesting a possible local variant which falls into a broader group found across the Midlands, eastern and southern England (Briscoe and Dunning 1967).

context	cut	period	fabric	form	no	wt/g	Min no	abr	length	width	height	peg	mortar	glaze	draw	comments	date
700	-	1	3vi	RID	1	129	1				16					broken off finial - could be drawn with sf6?	med
700	-	1	6	RTM	2	84	2	++			13	1 x R					med
700	-	1	3	RTM	1	28	1	+			12						med
700	-	1	3vi	RTM	13	1010	13				9-14	9 x R					med
700	-	1	10	RTM	1	165	1				18						med
700 sf6	-	1	3vi	FIN	1	323	1	+							y		med
707	-	1	3vi	RTM	1	32	1	+			10		thin, over break				med
707	-	1	10	RTM	1	59	1	+			18					incised 'V' at edge?	med
707	-	1	3vi	RTM	1	10	1	+								flake	med
709	708	4	3vi	RTM	1	6	1	++			8						med
711	710	1	3vi	RTM	1	141	1				14						med
711	710	1	3vi	RTM	1	67	1				9	1 x R					med
713	712	3	3	RTM	1	92	1	++			11						med
713	712	3	3vi	RTM	2	83	2	+			11-15						med
715	712	3	1	RTM	1	16	1	++			12						med
715	712	3	13?	RTP	2	58	1				12						pmed
718	719	3	3vi	RTM	3	177	3					3 x R				harder fired, pale grey	med
718	719	3	3	RTM	2	39	2				13					reddish	med
718	719	3	3	RTM	7	587	7				10-15	7 x R					med
718	719	3	3vi	RTM	2	352	1				13	1 x R(2)					med
718	719	3	3vi	RTM	12	3725	12					12 x R	thin (poss lime deposit)				med
718	719	3	3vi	RTM	1	493	1			225	11	1 x R(2)					med
718	719	3	3vi	RTM	1	1092	1			213	15	1 x R(2)				holes 20mm diam	med
721	712	3	12?	FT?	1	449	1	++			35					dense, poss RBT?	Rom/med?
721	712	3	1	RTM	1	33	1	++			15						med

context	cut	period	fabric	form	no	wt/g	Min no	abr	length	width	height	peg	mortar	glaze	draw	comments	date
721	712	3	5	RTM	4	225	4	++			13-19					like F3 but v little calc; could be RBT??	med
721	712	3	3vi	RTM	1	138	1	++			14		buff mscq on base				med
724	712	3	1	RT?	1	20	1	++									?
724	712	3	3	RTM	2	49	2	+			15						med
724	712	3	10	RTP	2	93	1	+			14						lmed/pmed
730	725	4	13?	DT	1	6647	1		285	234	103					U-shaped channel, 68mm deep, 145mm wide; gault clay	pmed?
731	725	4	10?	RTM	1	901	1				17		streaks white mscq			?deliberately chipped along one edge	med
731	725	4	13?	RTP	1	501	1				14	1 x R	streaks white mscq				pmed
731	725	4	13?	RTP	1	299	1				15	1 x S					pmed
731	725	4	13?	RTP	1	596	1			170	15	1 x S(2)					pmed
731	725	4	6	RTP?	1	115	1				16	1 x R	thin patches white				lmed/pmed
736	735	0	12	LB	1	27	1	+									lmed/pmed
736	735	0	6?	RT	1	54	1	+			17					v coarse clay pellets	?
736	735	0	3	RTM	1	22	1	+									med
736	735	0	4?	RTP	1	9	1				12	1 x R				v fine, dense	lmed/pmed
736	735	0	10	RTP	2	75	2	+			15						lmed/pmed
739	738	1	10	RTP	3	106	3	+			14-16						lmed/pmed
741	740	0	3	RTM	1	57	1	+			16						med
741	740	0	3vi	RTM	1	41	1	+			14						med
741	740	0	10	RTP	2	50	2	+			13-16						lmed/pmed
741	740	0	13?	RTP	4	69	1				13						pmed
743	742	1	10	RT	1	19	1	+			15						?
743	742	1	3vi	RTM	2	169	2	+			13-16						med
745	-	4	3vi	RTM	2	284	2	+			11						med
745	-	4	10	RTM	1	10	1				13						med
746	-	4	6	RTM	3	56	1	+			12	1 x R					med
746	-	4	3vi	RTM	1	52	1	+			18						med

context	cut	period	fabric	form	no	wt/g	Min no	abr	length	width	height	peg	mortar	glaze	draw	comments	date
748	747	1	3vi	RTM	5	125	1	+			15						med
748	747	1	3vi	RTM	2	418	1	+			15						med
748	747	1	3vi	RTM	1	100	1	++									med
750	749	1	3vi	RTM	4	245	3	+			8-16						med
752	751	1	10	RTM	1	38	1	+			16						med
753	-	1	3vi	RTM	1	41	1	+			9						med
758	757	1	10	RTM	2	60	2	+			13-15						med
758	757	1	5ox	RTM	1	69	1	+			14						med
758	757	1	3	RTM	1	67	1	+			12						med
761	759	3	1	RTM	1	68	1	+			13					slightly curved, poss RID	med
761	759	3	13?	RTP	1	29	1				11					contains coarse red grog	pmed
761	759	3	1	RTP?	1	29	1	+			10						lmed/pmed
769	767	3	3	RTM	1	24	1	+			12						med
775	774	0	3	RTM	1	11	1	+			10						med
780	-	1	3vi	RTM	11	885	11	+			10-13						med
783	782	1	3vi	RTM	3	357	3	+			12-15						med
783	782	1	3	RTM	2	137	1	++			17						med
783	782	1	10	RTM	1	118	1	+			12		ms patches				med
784	782	1	3vi	RTM	2	88	1	+			14						med
786	-	4	8?	FT	1	149	1	+			23			O			med/lmed
786	-	4	3vi	RTM	3	131	1				13						med
786	-	4	13?	RTP	1	26	1	+			14						pmed
791	789	1	3vi	RTM	1	61	1	+			12						med
793	792	1	3vi	RTM	2	48	2	+			8-10	1 x R					med

Table 10: CBM catalogue

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Hayley Foster

Introduction and Methodology

- C.1.1 This report details the analysis of the animal bone recovered from Ramsey College 3G pitch. The material predominantly dates to the post-medieval/modern period. The assemblage is of a small size, with 13.3kg of bone from hand-collection and from environmental samples. The number of recordable fragments that could be assigned to a phase totalled 58 with seven of those fragments retrieved from environmental samples. The species represented include horse (*Equus caballus*), cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), shrew (*Sorex* sp.) and amphibian and birds. Remains derived primarily from ditches and pits. A further 99 bones weighing 1.7kg were recovered during the evaluation and included cattle, sheep/goat and pig with some evidence for butchery (Haskins 2020).
- C.1.2 The method used to quantify this assemblage was based on that used for Knowth by McCormick and Murray (2007) which was modified from Albarella and Davis (1996). NISP (number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (minimum number of individuals) were calculated for all species present. MNI estimates the smallest number of animals that could be represented by the elements recovered. For the main domestic mammals, only the atlas and axis were counted for vertebrae.
- C.1.3 Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at Oxford Archaeology East. References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972), von den Driesch (1976) and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996) were used where needed for identification purposes.
- C.1.4 Two methods of ageing were implemented when analysing the mammalian bone remains. These methods include observing dental eruption and wear and epiphyseal fusion. When analysing tooth wear of sheep/goat, tooth wear stages by Payne (1973) were implemented. Tooth wear stages by Grant (1982) were implemented when assessing wear for cattle and pig. Higham (1967) mandibular wear stages (MWS) were assigned to loose mandibular M3s and mandibles with the innermost tooth still present. The Higham wear stages are used to estimate a minimum age of an individual animal. The state of epiphyseal fusion is determined by examining the metaphysis and diaphysis of a bone. Fusion was recorded according to Silver (1970) for horse and Schmid (1972) for cattle, sheep and pig.
- C.1.5 For all identified bones, butchery and pathology were recorded where present.
- C.1.6 Measurements were taken according to von den Driesch (1976), using digital callipers and large bones were measured using an osteometric board. Withers' heights of horse were calculated using Kiesewalter (1888).

Species	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Horse	35	60.3	2	18.2
Cattle	9	15.5	2	18.2
Bird	4	6.9	2	18.2
Sheep/Goat	3	5.2	1	9.1
Shrew	3	5.2	1	9.1
Frog	2	3.4	1	9.1
Rabbit	1	1.7	1	9.1
Pig	1	1.7	1	9.1
Total	58	100.0	11	100.0

Table 11: Number of identifiable fragments (NISP) and minimum number of individuals (MNI)

Results of analysis

C.1.7 The faunal assemblage is generally in a good condition with moderate levels of fragmentation. Horse overwhelmingly dominates the assemblage followed by sheep/goat. Measurements were carried out where possible (Table 12), very few complete bones were retrieved therefore only two estimated wither's heights could be calculated for horse.

Context	Species	Element	GL	Bp	Bd	SD	GLP	SLC	HTC	BT	EWH (cm)
700	Bird (Domestic Fowl)	Femur			17.9						
715	Horse	Scapula					111.9	88.7			
718	Horse	Radius		77.7							
729	Horse	Tibia		113.2							
729	Cattle	Radius		88.6							
729	Horse	Femur			115.7						
729	Horse	Scapula					118.2	93.22			
729	Horse	Tibia			104.3						
729	Horse	Scapula					100.3	79.5			
729	Horse	Scapula					106.9	82.7			
729	Horse	Humerus			103.9				53.4	85.3	
743	Horse	Femur		108.3	87.3						
743	Horse	Metacarpal 1	209	45	46.3	30.1					134
743	Horse	Radius	320	68.7	69.2	34.1					138.9
743	Cattle	Humerus			75.9				47.4	65.3	
743	Horse	Tibia		89.5	72.1						
743	Horse	Tibia			66.9	36.8					
743	Horse	Humerus			70.1	29.8			44.1	66.8	
743	Horse	Phalanx 2	82.8								
748	Bird (Domestic Fowl)	Ulna	72.5	9.6	9.2						
755	Cattle	Scapula					64.6	47.3			
755	Pig	Humerus							28.8	28.9	
761	Sheep/Goat	Tibia			29.5						

Table 12: Measurements of faunal remains (mm)

Abbreviation	Description
GL	Greatest length
Bd	Greatest breadth of distal end
BT	Greatest breadth of trochlea
HTC	Height of trochlea
Bp	Greatest breadth of proximal end
SD	Smallest breadth of diaphysis
SLC	Smallest breadth of collum
GLP	Greatest length of glenoid process
EWB	Estimated Wither's Height (in cm)

Table 13: Abbreviations used in measurements table

- C.1.8 The composition of the faunal material was mostly evenly comprised of cranial elements and extremities, suggesting there is no recovery or disposal bias. However, as horse remains are not commonly consumed as meat, the remains were likely to have been disposed of in the same area. A common pattern of representation is present, in that larger taxa are over-represented in hand-collected recovery whereas those fragments from environmental samples show a bias towards smaller species.
- C.1.9 Horse remains comprise the highest frequency of species in the assemblage, making up 60.3% of the overall NISP. When observing the assemblage overall, the MNI percentage of cattle, sheep/goat and horse are all a minimum of 2 individuals present. Ageing data was minimal with a cattle mandible ageing to 32-33 months of age at death. All epiphysis that could be assessed for fusion were unfused except a single horse proximal femur that was unfused, suggest an animal less than 3.5 years of age at death. Two wither's heights could be calculated for horse, one of 134cm and one of 138.9cm.
- C.1.10 Taphonomic processes occurred in the form of butchery and pathological change. The one case of butchery is a cattle metacarpal from Period 3 pit **712**, in which there are five chops marks on the lateral mid-shaft; a probable attempt at dismemberment of the leg. The one example of pathological change is on a horse atlas (fill 729 in Period 3 culvert **720**) that exhibited pitting and exostosis on the proximal posterior side. The aetiology of this pathology is probably a degenerative change, however it could also be associated with trauma.
- C.1.11 Small mammals including rabbit and shrew were identified from environmental samples. However, most of these species are considered burrowing animals, therefore may or may not be archaeological material.
- C.1.12 Birds are represented by two species in the assemblage: a red legged partridge from Period 1 ditch **754** and domestic fowl.
- C.1.13 The two fragments of amphibian also retrieved from ditch **754** are identifiable as frogs.

Discussion and Conclusion

- C.1.14 As the assemblage is so small, and the ageing data minimal, it is difficult to make detailed interpretations. The assemblage shows probable evidence of domestic

activity, some of which would have been food waste. The dominance of horse remains suggests their carcasses were disposed of with the domestic food waste. The assemblage does not provide significant insight into husbandry practices and the human-animal interaction at the site.

Retention, dispersal and display

C.1.15 As the animal remains from this assemblage are predominantly dated as post-medieval/modern (or within upper/disturbed fills of medieval ditches), it would be suggested that those remains with evidence of pathological change and butchery be retained and other remains could be suitable for dispersal.

Context	Cut	Period	Species	Element
700	0	1	Bird (Domestic Fowl)	Femur
715	712	3	Horse	Scapula
718	719	3	Rabbit	Humerus
718	719	3	Horse	Pelvis
718	719	3	Horse	Loose Maxillary Tooth
718	719	3	Horse	Radius
718	719	3	Horse	Radius
724	712	3	Cattle	Metacarpal 1
729	725	4	Horse	Tibia
729	725	4	Horse	Pelvis
729	725	4	Horse	Pelvis
729	725	4	Cattle	Radius
729	725	4	Cattle	Ulna
729	725	4	Horse	Loose Mandibular Tooth
729	725	4	Cattle	Metapodial 1
729	725	4	Horse	Loose Mandibular Tooth
729	725	4	Horse	Loose Mandibular Tooth
729	725	4	Horse	Atlas
729	725	4	Horse	Pelvis
729	725	4	Horse	Femur
729	725	4	Horse	Scapula
729	725	4	Cattle	Mandible
729	725	4	Horse	Tibia
729	725	4	Horse	Scapula
729	725	4	Horse	Scapula
729	725	4	Cattle	Scapula
729	725	4	Horse	Femur
729	725	4	Horse	Humerus
729	725	4	Horse	Pelvis
739	738	1	Horse	Tibia
739	738	1	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
743	742	1	Horse	Ulna
743	742	1	Horse	Femur
743	742	1	Horse	Metacarpal 1
743	742	1	Horse	Radius
743	742	1	Horse	Humerus
743	742	1	Cattle	Humerus
743	742	1	Horse	Femur
743	742	1	Horse	Tibia

Context	Cut	Period	Species	Element
743	742	1	Horse	Tibia
743	742	1	Horse	Humerus
743	742	1	Horse	Pelvis
743	742	1	Horse	Phalanx 2
746	744	2	Bird (Domestic Fowl)	Ulna
748	747	1	Cattle	Metatarsal 1
748	747	1	Bird (Domestic Fowl)	Ulna
755	754	1	Cattle	Scapula
755	754	1	Pig	Humerus
756	754	1	Horse	Tibia
761	754	1	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
761	754	1	Bird (Red Legged Partridge)	Tarso-Metatarsus
761	754	1	Shrew	Mandible
761	754	1	Shrew	Femur
761	754	1	Shrew	Tibia
761	754	1	Frog	Tibiofibula
761	754	1	Frog	Tibiofibula
761	754	1	Sheep/Goat	Tibia
765	763	3	Horse	Calcaneus

Table 14: Identifiable fragments

C.2 Marine mollusca

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 0.368kg of shells were collected by hand from ditches and features related to a medieval field system. A further 0.213kg of shells was recovered from samples. The evaluation produced 0.373kg of shells, mostly oyster (see Fletcher 2020h, 36). The shells recovered are all edible species, oyster *Ostrea edulis*, from estuarine and shallow coastal waters, mussel *Mytilus edulis* from the intertidal zone and whelk *Buccinum undatum* from the sublittoral zone. The shell is mostly well preserved but has suffered post-depositional damage.

Methodology

C.2.2 The shells were weighed and recorded by species, with right and left valves noted, where identification could be made, using Winder (2011 and 2017) as a guide. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage recovered from most features.

Assemblage

Period 1: Medieval (1100-1350)

C.2.3 The field system ditches produced oyster shell, two incomplete right valves from ditch **742** including a shucked shell and an incomplete left valve from **747**.

C.2.4 Ditch **754** produced a single incomplete whelk; no other whelks were recovered from the site.

C.2.5 Ditch **757 (782)** produced a near complete small-medium right valve.

Period 3: Post-medieval (1539-1750)

C.2.6 Pit **759** produced the bulk of the oyster shell assemblage, including material recovered from samples, which produced the only fragment of marine mussel shell recovered in this archaeological intervention. The assemblage included two shucked shells indicating that some of the oysters were eaten raw.

Period 4: Modern (1750-present)

C.2.7 The curved brick-built culvert **725** produced a fragment from an oyster shell right valve.

C.2.8 Tree throw **772** produced a single oyster shell, a near complete right valve with a possible shucking mark.

Discussion

C.2.9 The shell assemblage is one of moderately damaged shells in reasonable condition. Within the small oyster assemblage, there is limited evidence of 'shucking', prior to consumption, suggesting although some oysters may have been eaten raw the majority of the oysters were probably cooked.

C.2.10 The shell recovered from the Period 1 field system probably relates to rubbish deposition or manuring of the field system. The bulk of the assemblage was recovered from Period 3, with pit **759** containing oyster shell and a single mussel shell, which may have been accidentally harvested. The fragile nature of mussel shells means other shells may not have survived the burial environment.

C.2.11 This limited quantity of shell, even when considered alongside the assemblage of marine material recovered from the various archaeological interventions across the Ramsey Abbey site, is too small a sample to draw any but the broadest conclusions, in that marine shellfish were reaching the site from the coastal regions, indicating trade with the wider area. The shells represent general discarded food waste. Although not closely datable in themselves, the shells may be dated by their association with pottery or other material also recovered from the features.

Period	Context & sample	Cut	Species	Common Name	Habitat	No of shells or fragments	No. left valve	No. right valve	No. shucked shells	Description/Comment	Total Weight (kg)
1	743	742	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	2	0	2	1	<p>Incomplete right valve that appears to have multiple shucking marks on the ventral and posterior margins: a 'W'-shaped mark almost centrally on the ventral margin, a small 'V'-shape on the curve of the shell at the ventral-posterior margin and a shallow 'U' on the posterior margin. The anterior margin of the shell has been removed, forming a straight edge.</p> <p>Incomplete right valve missing almost the entire ventral margin and part of the anterior margin. The shell is somewhat powdery</p>	0.015
	748	747	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	1	0	0	<p>Incomplete left valve, missing the entire ventral margin and much of the anterior and posterior margin. A narrow straight cut in the shell looks superficially like a shucking mark, however it is more probably post-depositional damage as a result of excavation</p>	0.011
	756	754	<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	Whelk	sublittoral zone,	1	0	0	0	<p>Near complete but abraded or weathered whelk shell, the striations on the shell having worn somewhat smooth, with slight damage to the shell body above the outer lip and missing the apex</p>	0.029
	783	782	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	0	1	0	<p>Near complete small to medium right valve, with very minor damage to the ventral and anterior margins</p>	0.008
3	761	759	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	5	3	2	1	<p>Large complete, relatively thick right valve, with minor damage to the upper surface on the dorsal margin. The shell is in good condition, with some survival of horny scale, minor marine worm boring damage and numerous patches of <i>Bryozoa</i> or sea mat.</p> <p>Small-medium complete right valve with some survival of horny scale and colour banding</p> <p>Near complete large left valve, heavily worn and with some damage to the posterior margin, which is more extensive internally than externally. There is a possible shucking mark on the ventral margin The shell has numerous small holes possibly caused by <i>Cliona celata</i> (sponge), and burrows possibly of <i>Polydora ciliate</i>.</p> <p>Incomplete large left valve, heavily worn and missing a large section of ventral and posterior margin. The shell has numerous small holes possibly caused by <i>Cliona celata</i> (sponge) and a patch of <i>Bryozoa</i> or sea mat and small scar from a calcareous worm tube</p> <p>Incomplete left valve, having broken almost diagonally from the dorsal-posterior margin to almost the mid point of the ventral margin, damage to the ventral margin and the anterior margin has in part been removed,</p>	0.279

Period	Context & sample	Cut	Species	Common Name	Habitat	No of shells or fragments	No. left valve	No. right valve	No. shucked shells	Description/Comment	Total Weight (kg)
										giving the shell a somewhat rectangular appearance. The surface of the shell has holes from sponges or boring mollusca, with <i>Bryozoa</i> or sea mat at the dorsal end of the shell. The surface is also partially covered with calcareous tubes left by marine worms, possibly <i>Pomatoceros triqueter</i> . Above the worm tubes is positioned a second shell, rather too large for a spat and it may be that the larger shell is clutch material, a shell reused for new oysters to attach to and grow to maturity. This suggests that the larger shell may have been recovered from the marine environment twice	
	761 <25>	759	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	14	6	8	1	<p>Complete medium right valve</p> <p>Near complete medium right valve</p> <p>Complete small-medium right valve</p> <p>Four near complete small-medium right valves, all with some damage to the ventral margin and one with slight marine worm boring damage</p> <p>Incomplete small-medium right valve, missing more than 50% of the ventral margin and part of the anterior margin</p> <p>Large near complete left valve with a possible broad shucking mark, almost centrally placed on the ventral margin, and post depositional damage on the posterior margin</p> <p>Incomplete large left valve, with small fragments of young oyster shell attached to the mature shell. The shell has moderate damage on almost all margins and two 'V'-shaped marks on the anterior and posterior margins however these look very fresh and are very probably recent caused during their excavation</p> <p>Incomplete large left valve, missing most of the posterior margin, only the dorsal-posterior portion of the margin survives. Most of the ventral margin is also absent. The damage is more extensive internally</p> <p>Near complete medium-large left valve with moderate damage to much of the ventral margin</p> <p>Two near complete medium left valves, minor damage to the ventral margin, each with young oyster shells attached to the mature shell</p>	0.213

Period	Context & sample	Cut	Species	Common Name	Habitat	No of shells or fragments	No. left valve	No. right valve	No. shucked shells	Description/Comment	Total Weight (kg)
	761 <25>	759	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Mussel	Intertidal zone	1	0	1	0	Incomplete right valve, umbo complete, the hinge is damaged, and the posterior is completely absent	0.003
4	731	725	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	0	1	0	Fragment of right valve, probably was redeposited during the construction of the curved brick and tile culvert	0.003
	773	772	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	0	1	1	Near complete small-medium right valve, with minor damage to the ventral margin and a possible shallow shucking mark at the posterior end of the ventral margin	0.020
Total						27	10	16	4		0.581

Table 15: Mollusca catalogue

C.3 Environmental samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.3.1 A single bulk sample was taken from a pit that produced 17th-century pottery and other finds. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains and environmental indicators such as molluscs are present, their mode of preservation and what information can be inferred about such things as diet, economy, refuse disposal and trade.

Methodology

C.3.2 The sample was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the sample was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.3.3 A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction for the recovery of magnetic residues prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds.

C.3.4 The dried flot was subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1.

C.3.5 Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and OAE's reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.3.6 For the purpose of this assessment, items such as cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

C.3.7 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as molluscs have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant, +++++ = super abundant

Results

C.3.8 The botanical material from this site consists of carbonised (charred) plant remains and the material is in a relatively poor state of preservation.

C.3.9 Sample 25, fill 761 of Period 3 pit **759**, contains occasional charred cereal grains consisting of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and cereals that were too poorly preserved to

identify. A large quantity of charcoal was also recovered, and the sample contains frequent, relatively well-preserved molluscs. Artefacts recovered from the sample include clinker, pottery, glass, animal bones and oyster shells.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Molluscs	Charcoal (ml)	Clinker	Pottery	Mammal bones	Bird bones	Clay Pipe	Mussels	Oysters	Glass	Metal Fe	Metal Cua
25	761	759	Pit	13	250	#	+++	85	+++	#	###	#	#	#	###	#	#	#

Table 16: Environmental samples from Ramsey Abbey School, 3G Pitch

Discussion

- C.3.10 The nature of the material in pit **759** suggests that this deposit is the result of the disposal of refuse. The remains appear to be related both to domestic activity (oysters, animal bones, cereal fragments *etc.*) and industrial activity (clinker). Clinker is formed as a result of coal being burnt (Historic England, 2018) and it is possible that in this case it may be waste from the post-medieval clamp-kiln located just to the west of the site (Rees 2021). Robert Plot commented in the 17th century that at a Welsh mining town “burning a clamp of 16,000 bricks....used about seven tunns [sic] of coal”(1686, 128 cited in Miller 2003, 9).
- C.3.11 Although samples taken during the evaluation showed some potential for the recovery of waterlogged remains from deeper features such as ditches, the constraints of this investigation meant that these deeper deposits were not reached during this phase of works.
- C.3.12 The samples from this site have been fully processed, assessed, and warrant no further work.

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APPENDIX E ARCHIVING RETENTION: STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL ARCHIVE

Material	RASASP20	RASASP21	Total	Recommendations
Metalwork	12	61	73	Partial dispersal
It is proposed that, in consultation with CHET and the specialist, all objects will be retained apart from the large amount of iron nails recovered, from which a representative sample will be retained and the rest dispersed.				
Glass	4	9	13	Disperse
This will be put forward for dispersal as per the specialist's recommendation.				
Pottery	83	48	131	Retain
The pottery will be retained as it adds to an already substantial corpus of pottery from Ramsey Abbey and its environs, as per the recommendation of the specialist.				
Clay tobacco pipe	25	14	39	Partial dispersal
The clay tobacco pipe from the evaluation has been recommended for retention by the specialist, while those from the excavation (predominantly stems), have been recommended for dispersal.				
Building stone	4	1	5	Partial dispersal
Several fragments of building stone from the evaluation will be retained, while the fragment from the excavation, noted as being without architectural features, will be dispersed, as per the recommendation of the specialist.				
Ceramic Building Material	102	154	256	Partial dispersal
Discussions will be undertaken with CHET and the specialist regarding this assemblage, with the proposal being the retention of a representative sample alongside any fragments of interest, including the finial. A corpus of ceramic building material exists from Ramsey Abbey and its environs.				
Plaster	1	-	1	Disperse
This will be put forward for dispersal as per the specialist's recommendation.				
Fuel and fuel by-products	4	4	8	Disperse
This will be put forward for dispersal as per the specialist's recommendation.				
Animal bone	99	58	157	Partial dispersal
Specialist recommends retaining only those fragments with evidence of pathological change and/or butchery. These will be extracted from the material archive by the specialist with agreement from CHET.				
Shell	37	27	64	Partial dispersal
While no specific retention/dispersal have been made for this part of the assemblage by the specialist, a discussion will be had with the specialist and CHET regarding the dispersal of the bulk of this material with a representative sample, selected by the specialist, being retained.				
Non-building stone	-	3	3	Disperse
This will be put forward for dispersal as per the specialist's recommendation.				

Following the return of a signed Transfer of Title form from the Landowner, a discussion will be had with Cambridgeshire County Council Heritage Environment Team (CHET) regarding retention/dispersal of the physical archives from this project. This will be informed by the recommendations given by specialists in the reports for the evaluation and excavation phases (OAE reports 2435 and 2544).

Once an agreement is reached, items to be dispersed will be removed from the physical archive with their entries in the project database being amended to demonstrate this. A list of these artefacts will also be added to the documentary archive. As part of the dispersal process the artefacts will be offered to the school and to our outreach team in the first and second instances.

APPENDIX FOASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-433393		
Project Name	Ramsey Abbey College 3G pitch		
Start of Fieldwork	24/03/2021	End of Fieldwork	21/05/2021
Previous Work	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	RASASP21EX	Planning App. No.	18/02171/FUL
HER Number	ECB6483	Related Numbers	ECB6210

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Not recorded
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input checked="" 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	Period
Layer	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Ditch	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pit	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Object	Period
Nail	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Horseshoe	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Key	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Buckle	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Glass	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
CBM	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Animal Bone	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Animal Bone	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Ramsey Abbey College. Abbey Road, Hollow Lane, Ramsey PE26 1DG
District	Huntingdonshire	
Parish	Ramsey	
HER office	Cambridgeshire	
Size of Study Area	0.83 ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 29450 85100	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec (CHET)
Project Design Originator	Patrick Moan (OA East)
Project Manager	Patrick Moan (OA East)
Project Supervisor	Emily Abrehart (OA East)

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC	ECB6483
Digital Archive	ADS	ECB6483
Paper Archive	CCC	ECB6483

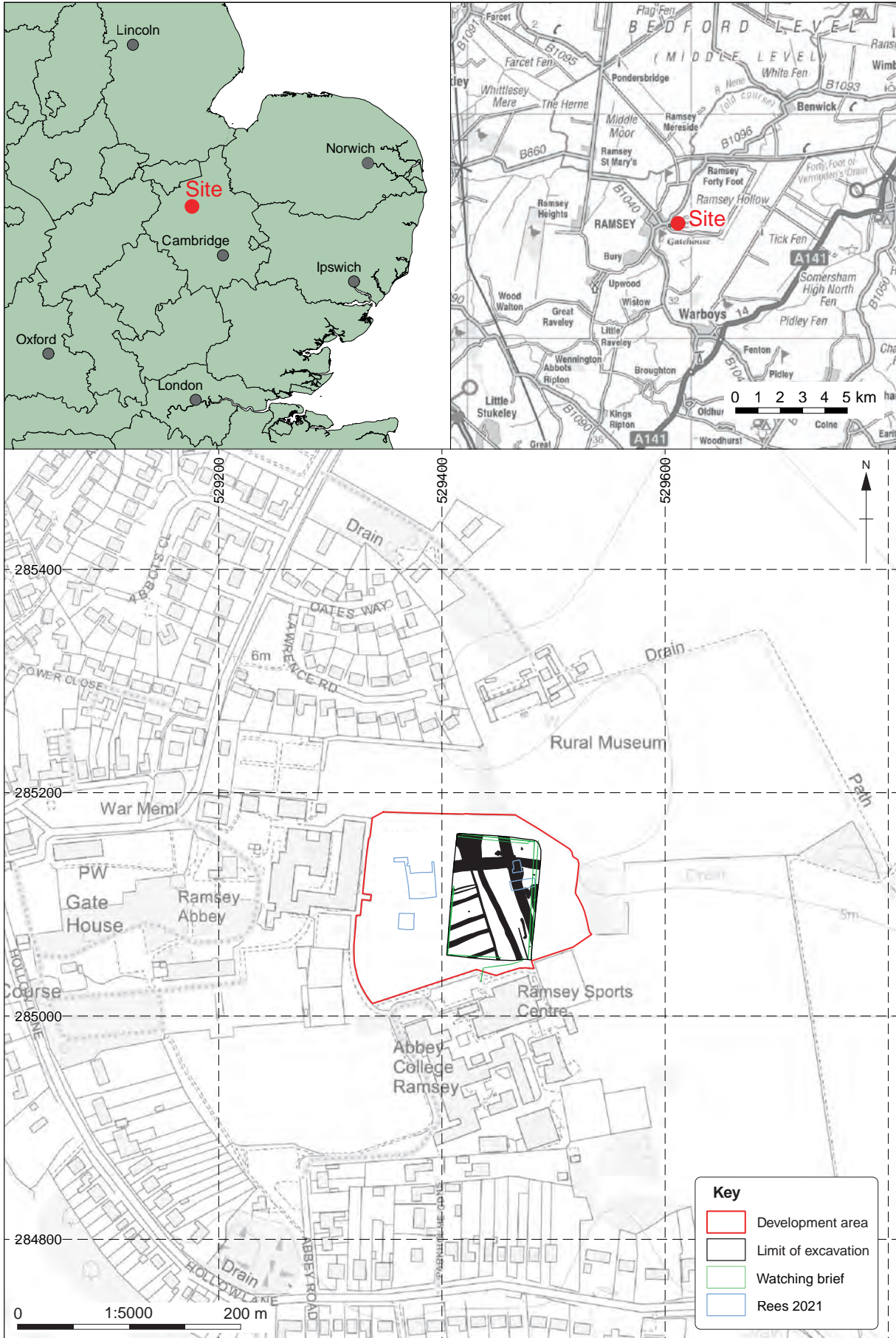
Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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

Database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location plan



Figure 2a: Historic Environment Record (HER) data within a 1km search area

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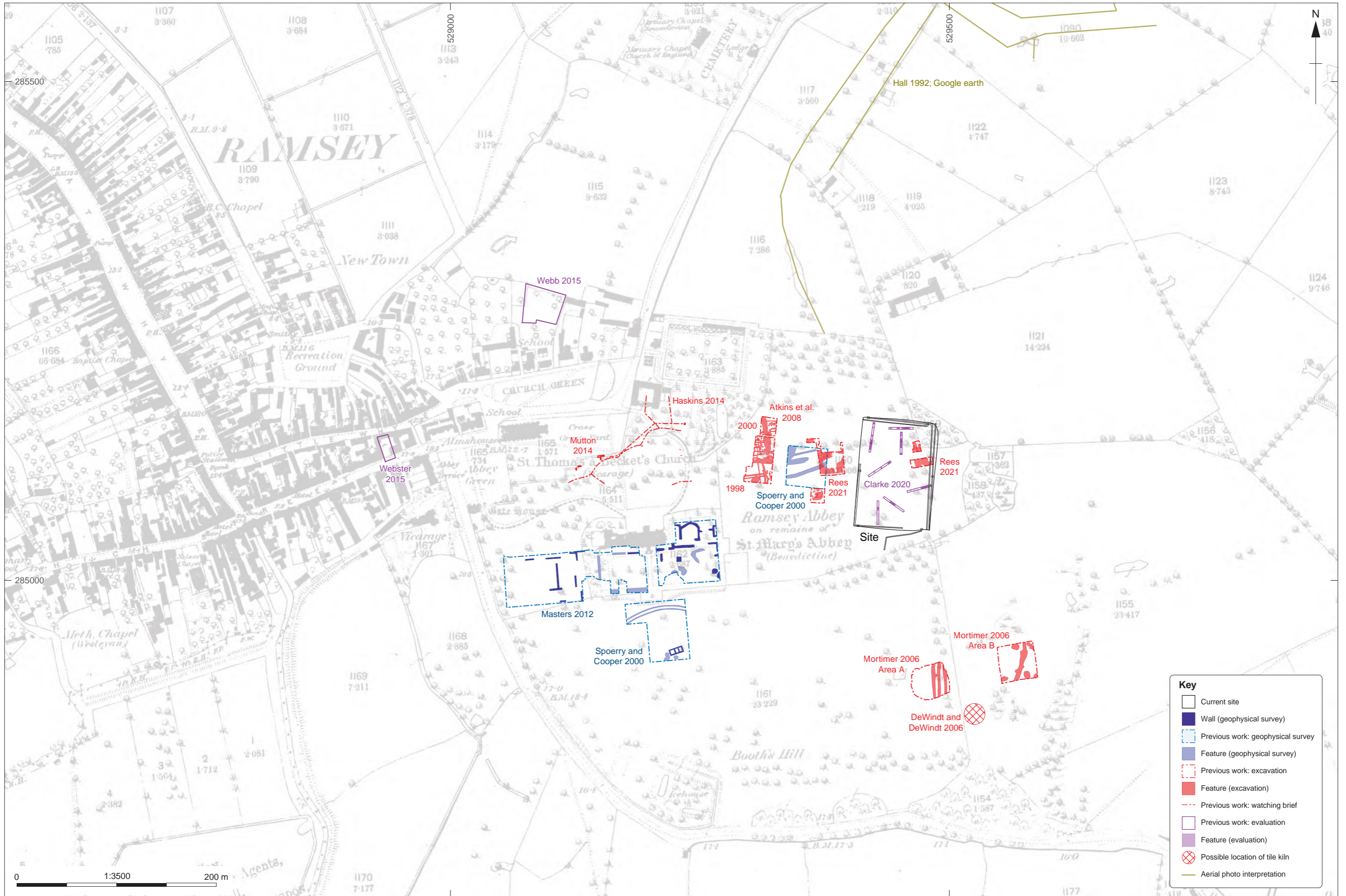


Figure 2b: HER data (centred on the abbey), overlain on 1881 Ordnance survey map (1st edition)

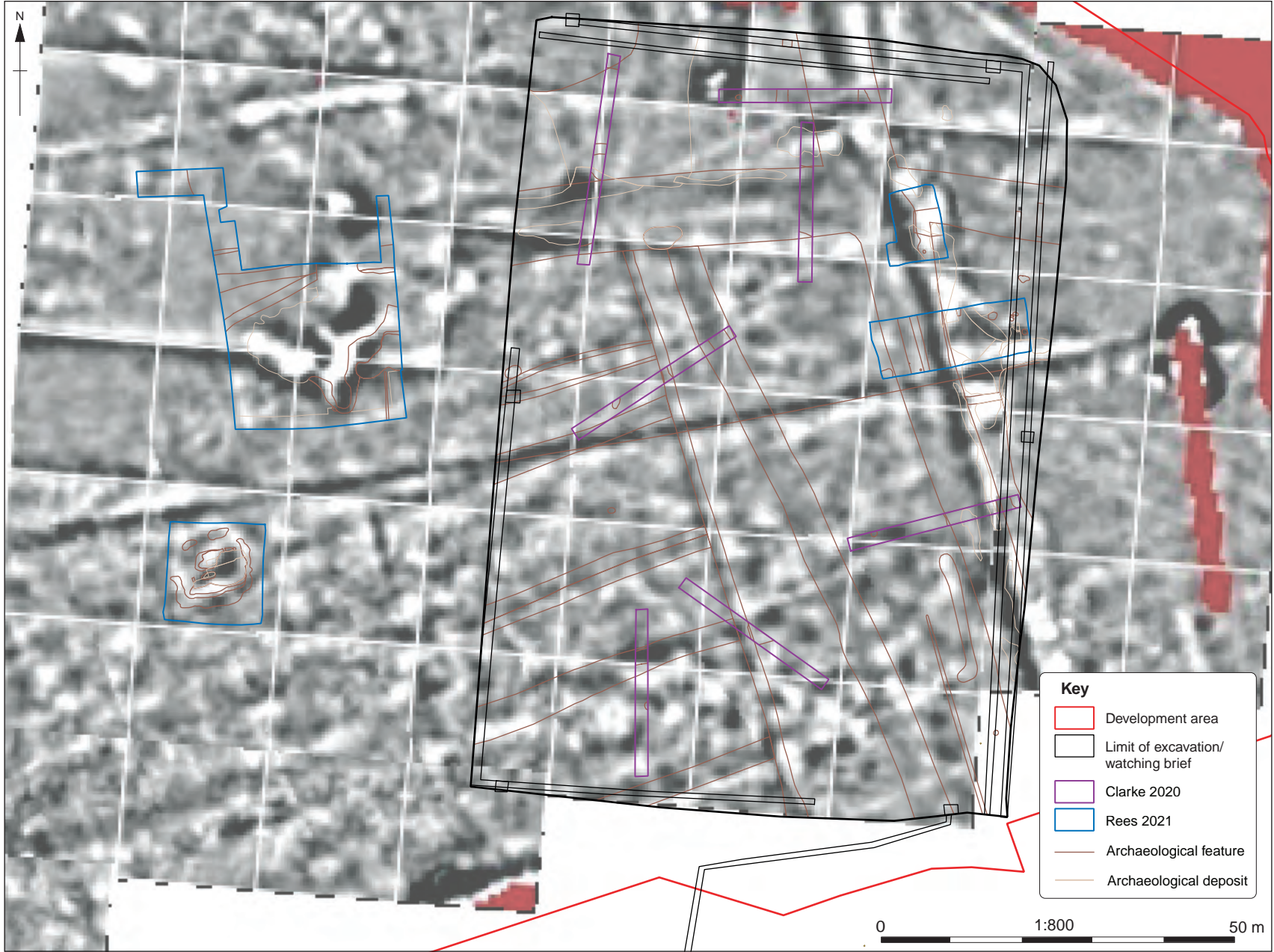


Figure 3: Geophysics plan (after Mould 2020)

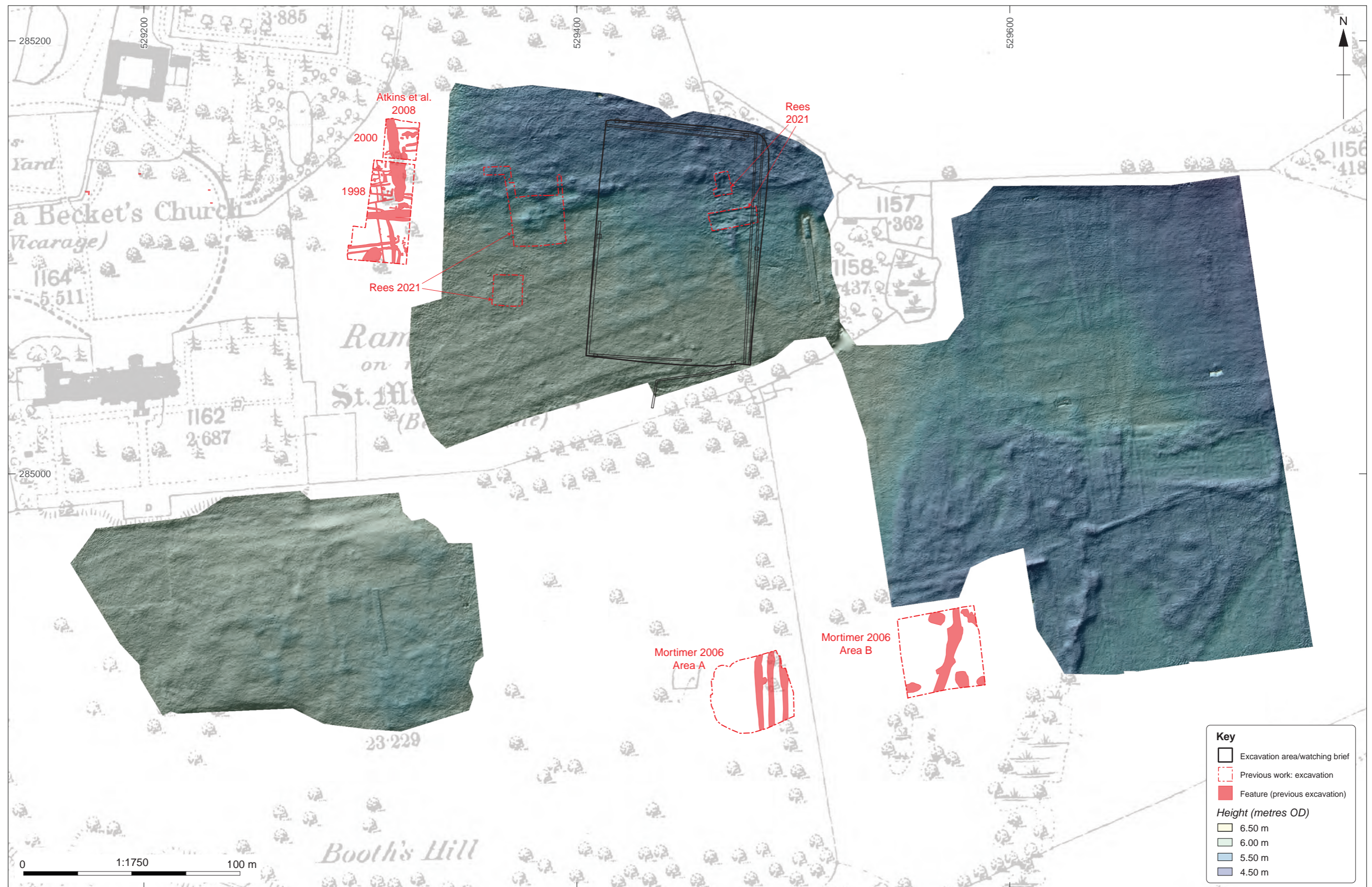


Figure 4: Digital elevation model (DEM) with excavation areas (after Rees 2021)

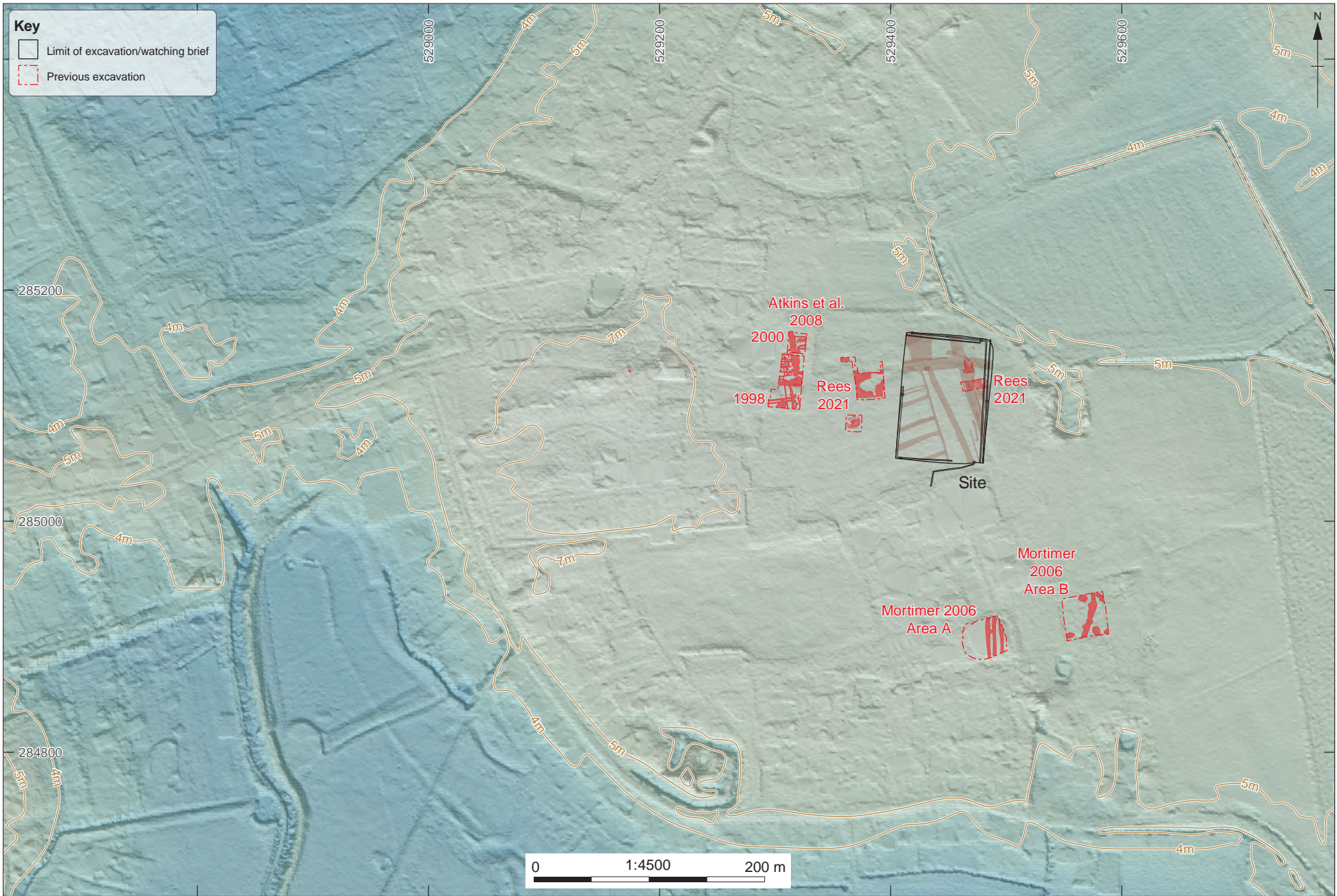


Figure 5: Lidar map with excavation areas (after Rees 2021)



Figure 6: All features plan

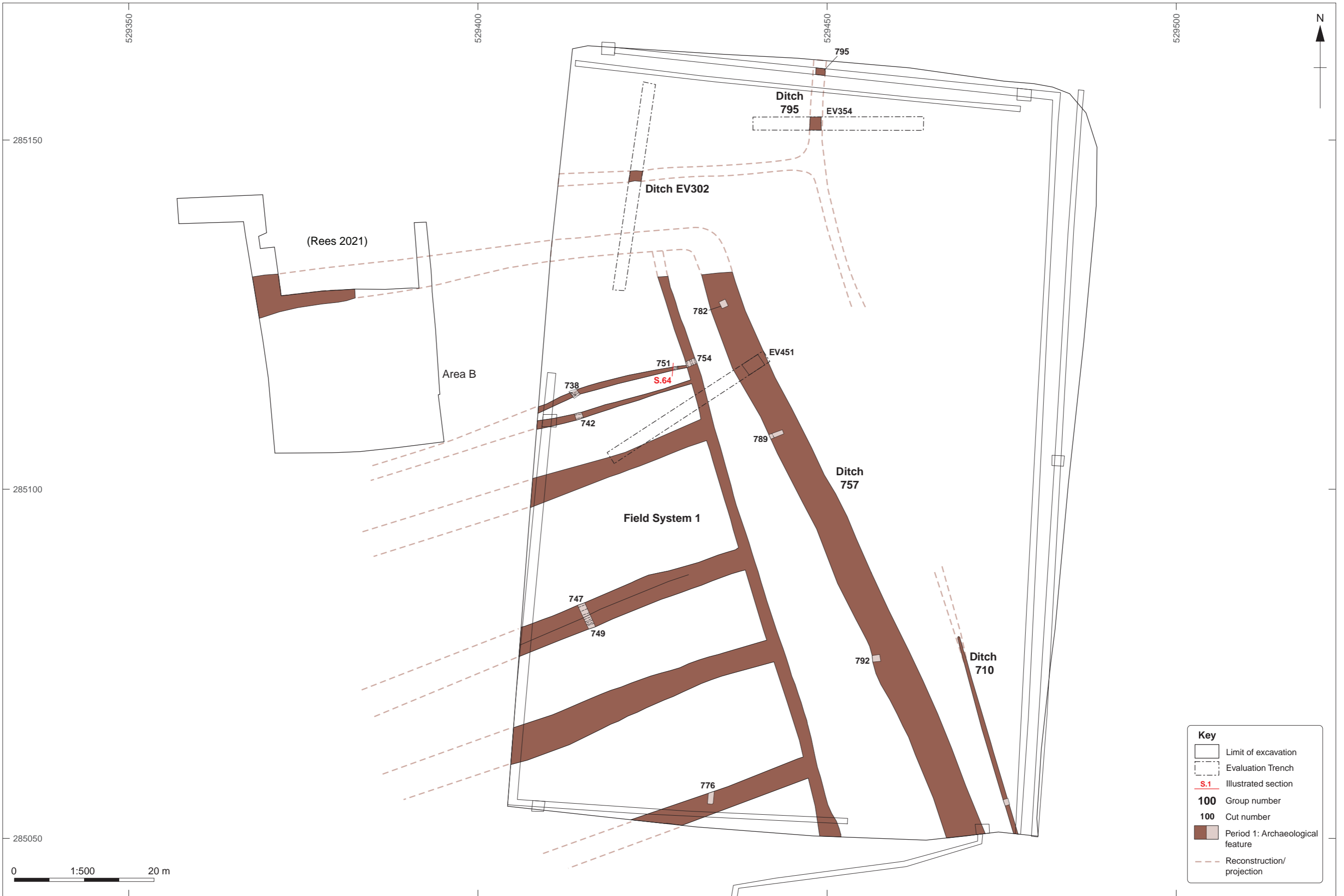


Figure 7: Period 1: Medieval (1100-1350)

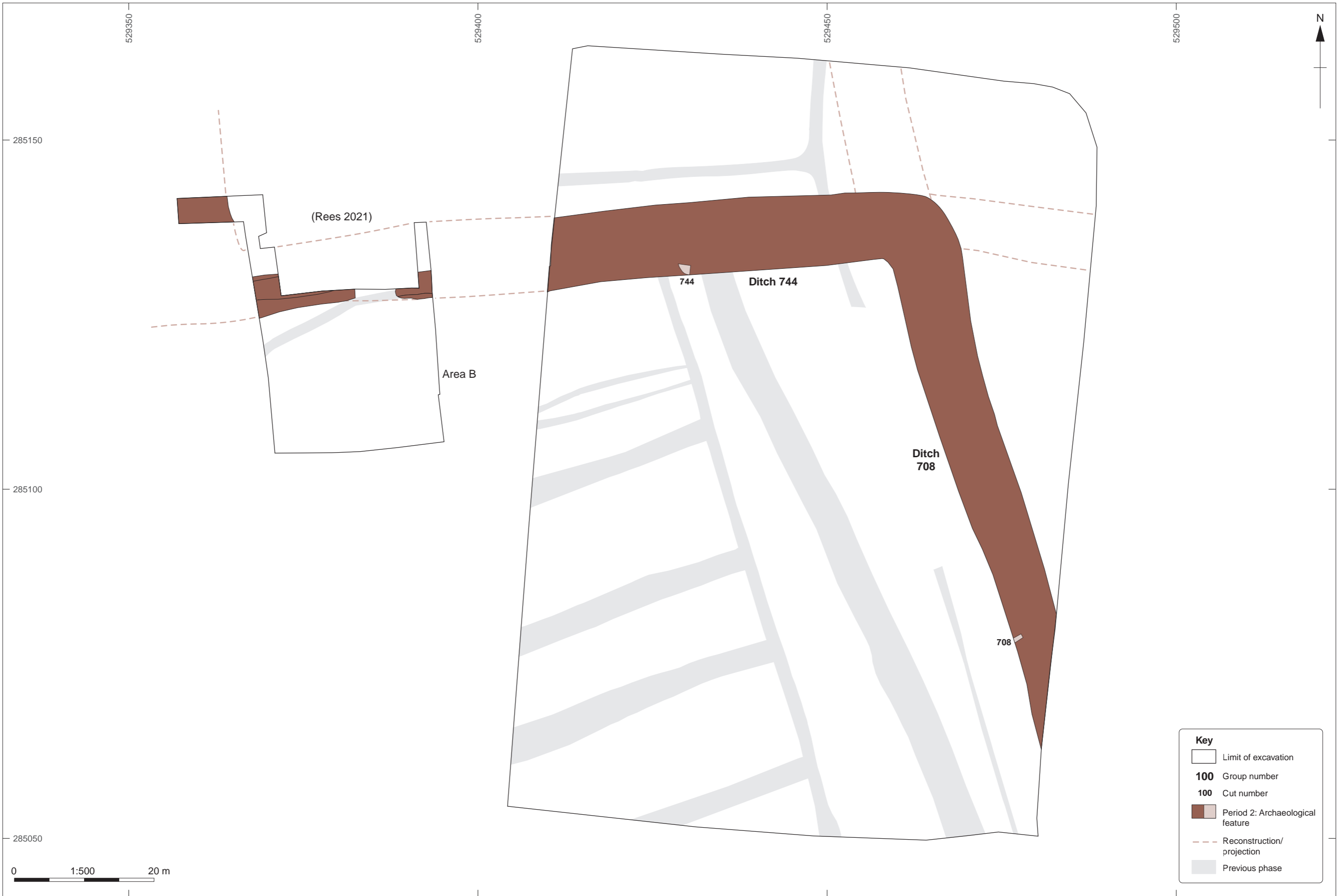


Figure 8: Period 2: Late medieval (1350-1539)

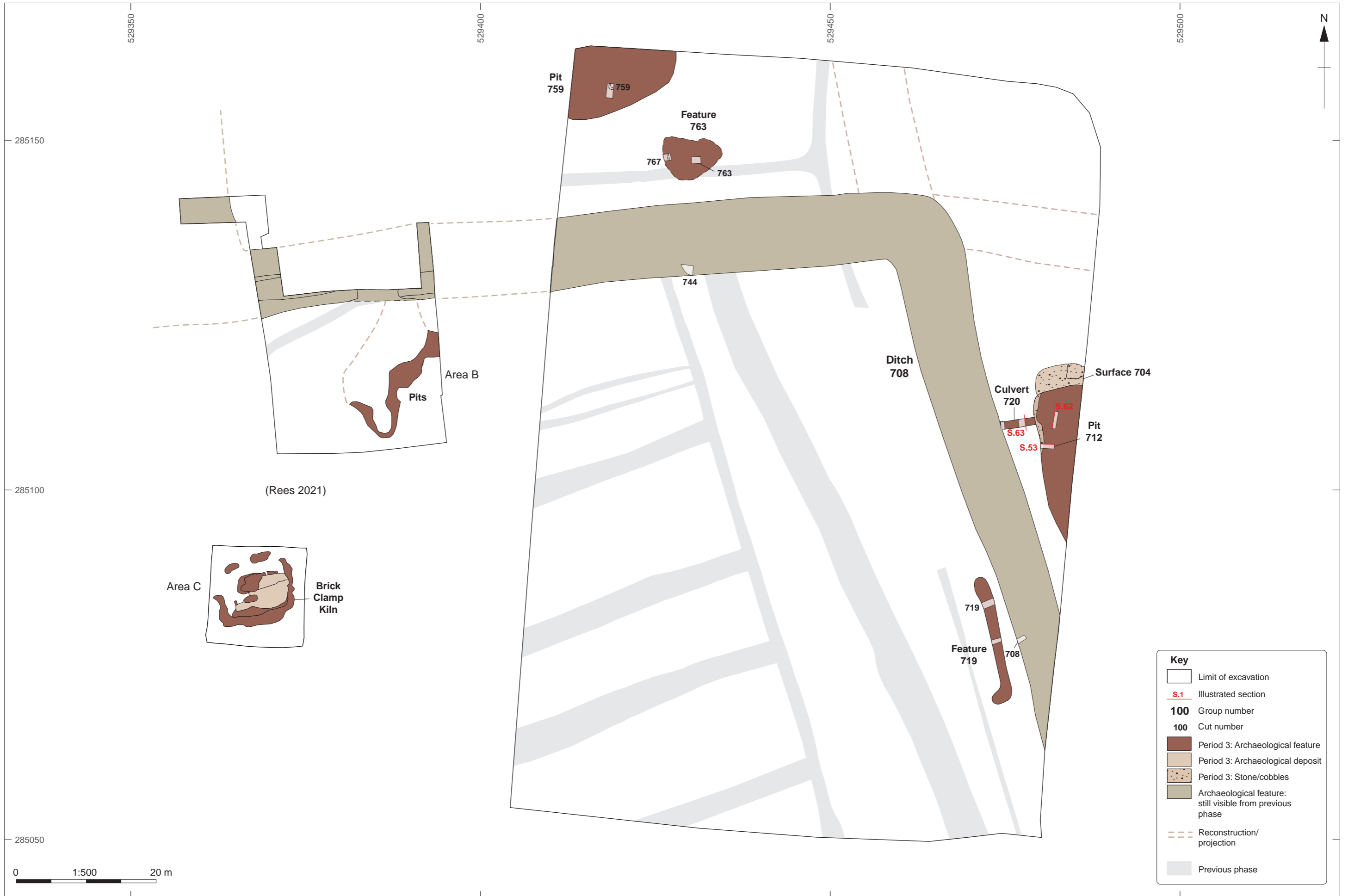


Figure 9: Period 3: Post-medieval (1539-1750)

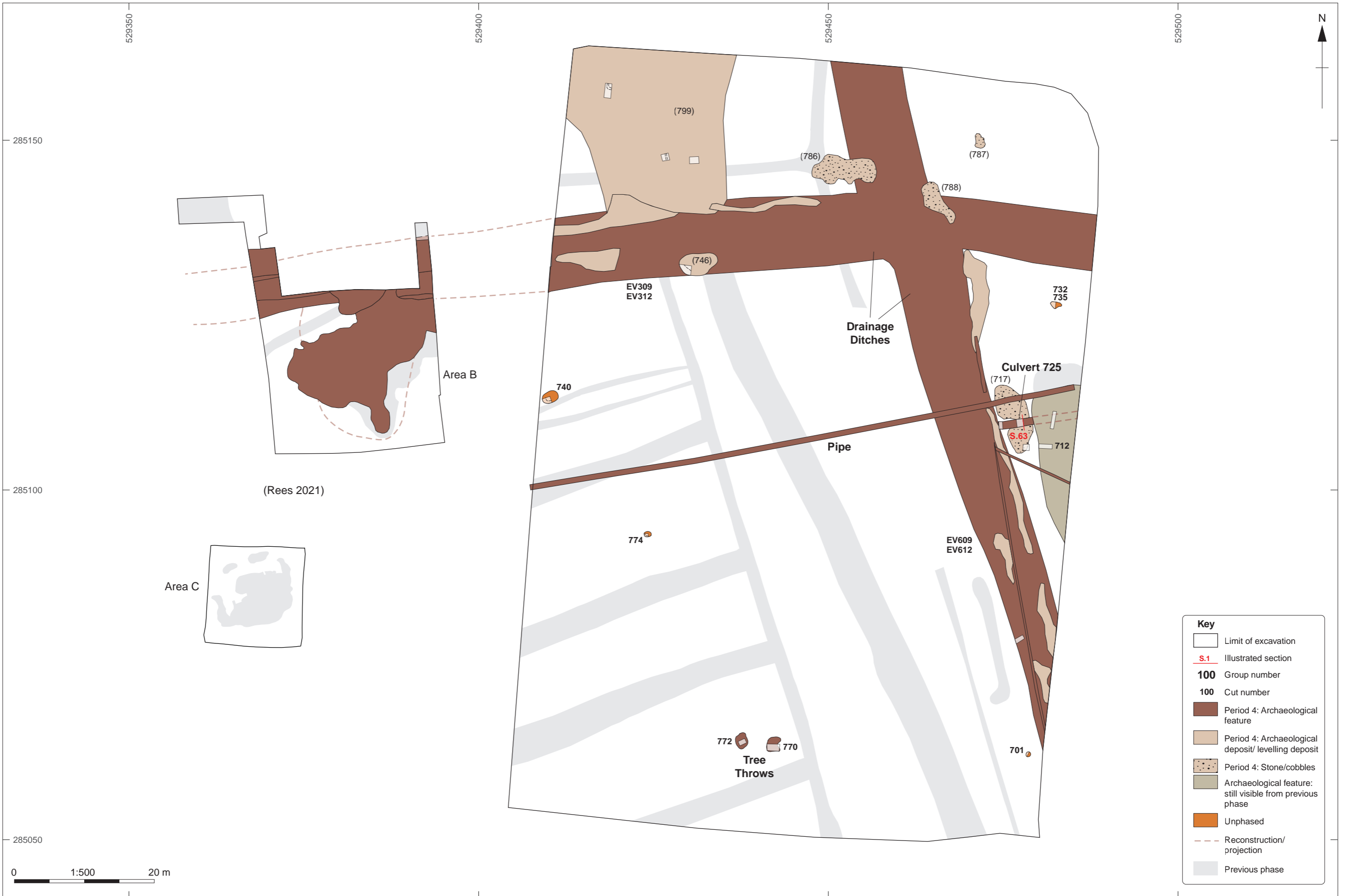


Figure 10: Modern and unphased (1750-present)

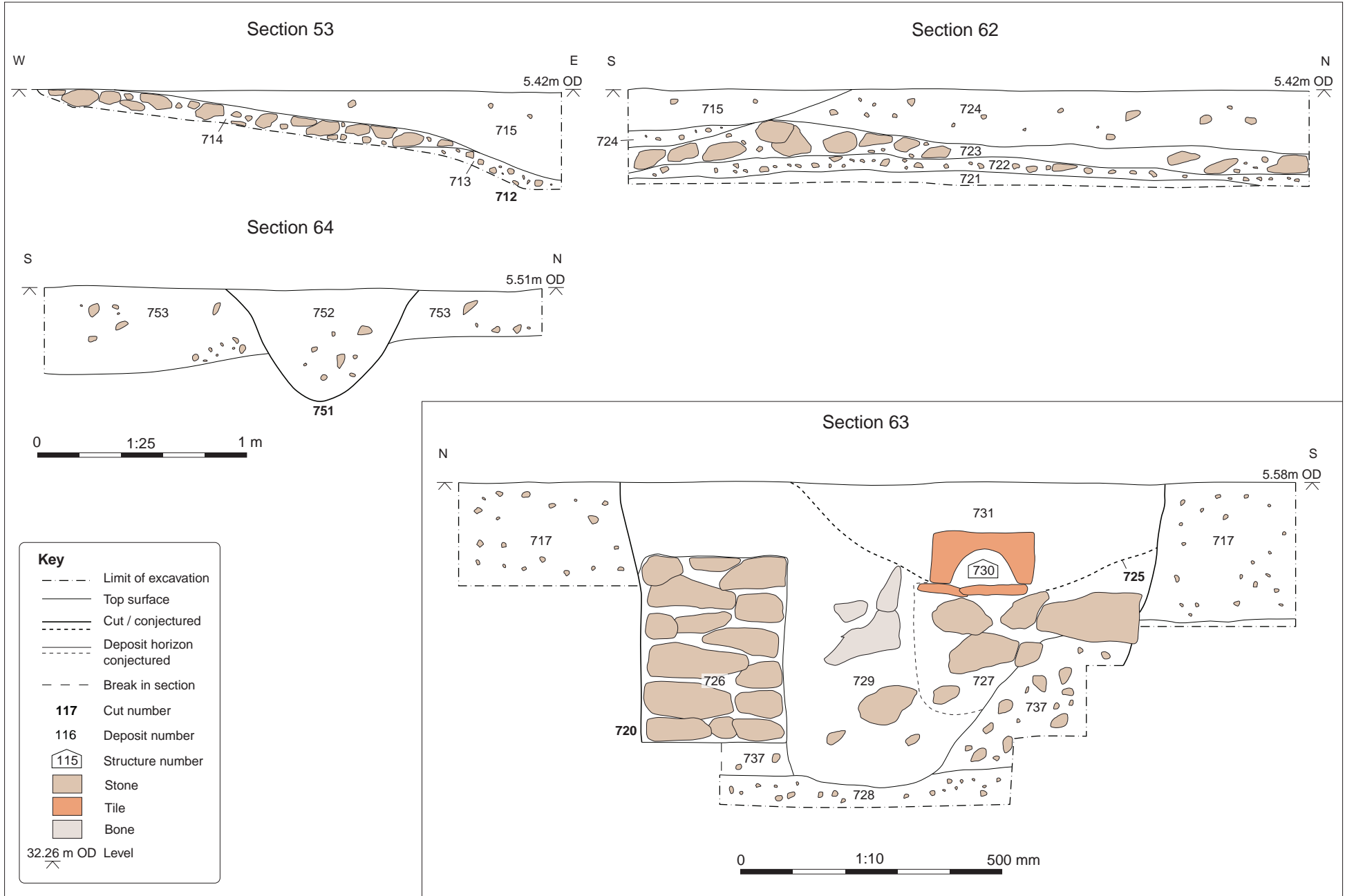


Figure 11: Selected sections



Figure 12: Silius Titus's Plan of Ramsey Abbey (1704-9)

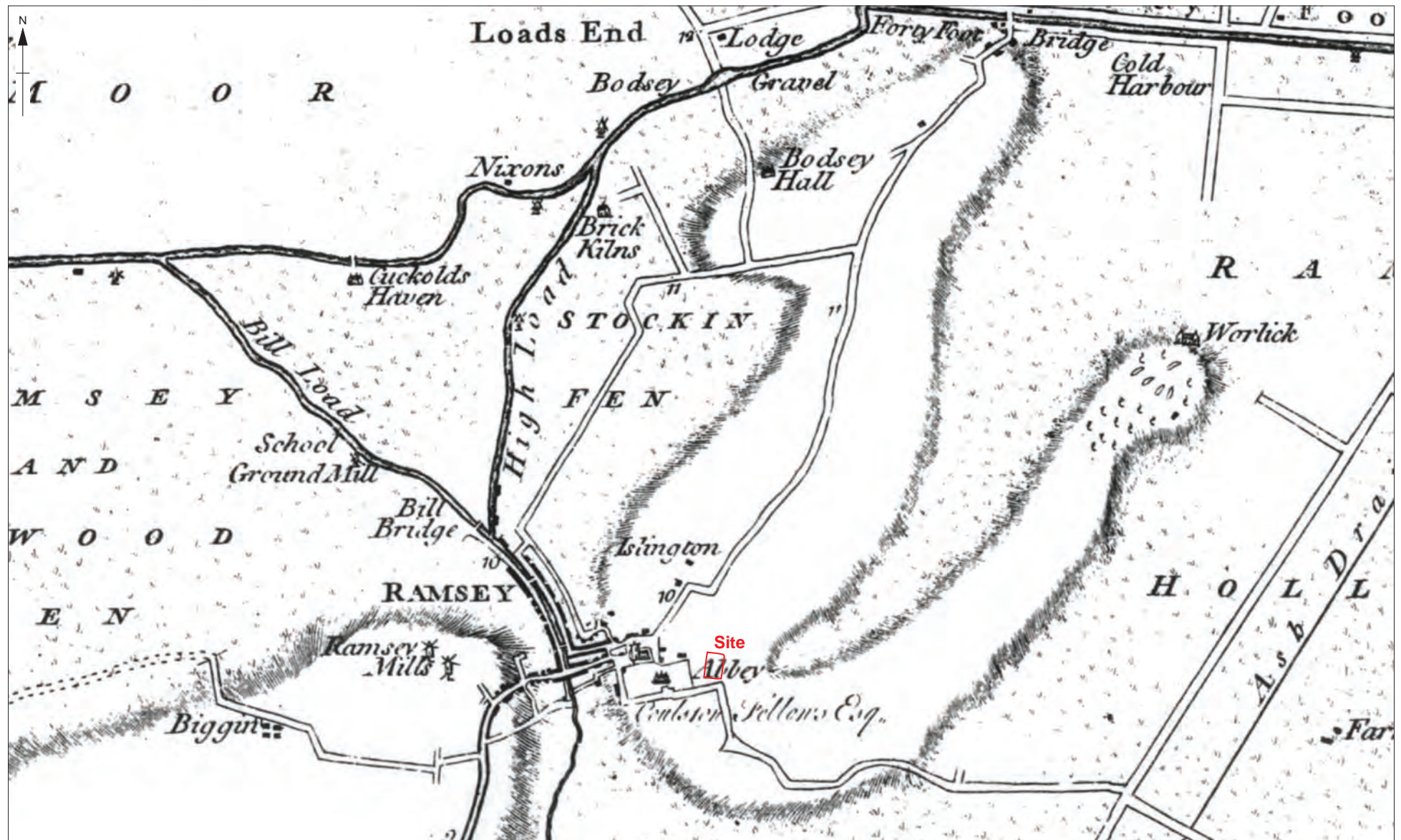


Figure 13: Extract of Thomas Jeffrey's 1768 map of Huntingdonshire

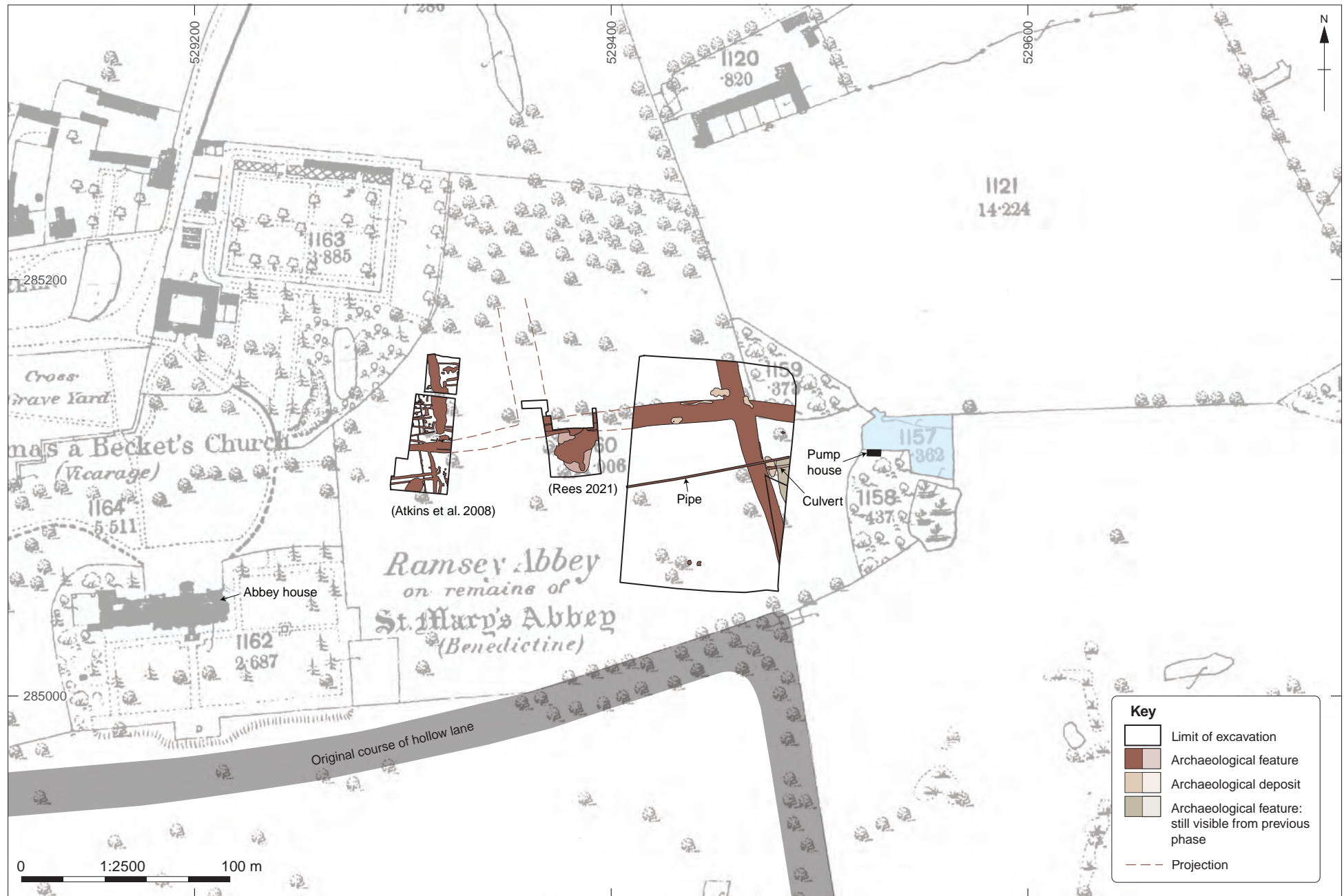


Figure 14: The site showing more recent archaeology in relation to features mentioned in the text

SF 06

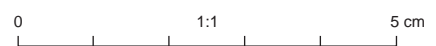
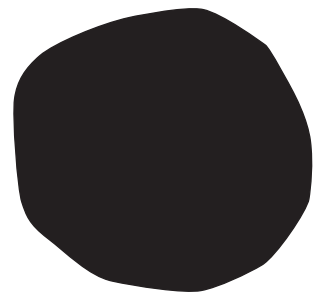


Figure 15: Fragment of medieval ceramic roof finial (SF6) from Period 1 buried soil 700



Plate 1: Aerial view of the site, looking east towards Ramsey



Plate 2: Installation of hardcore, looking north-west



Plate 3: Medieval (Period 1) ditches **747** and **749**, looking north-east



Plate 4: Medieval (Period 1) ditch **754**, looking north-west



Plate 5: Deposit of stone at the edge of post-medieval (Period 3) pit **712**, looking west



Plate 6: Post-medieval (Period 3) metallated surface **704**, looking west



Plate 7: Dressed stone in post-medieval (Period 3) culvert **720**, looking north



Plate 8: Post-medieval (Period 3) culvert **720** during excavation, showing backfill containing animal bone



Plate 9: Post-medieval (Period 3) pit **759**, looking east

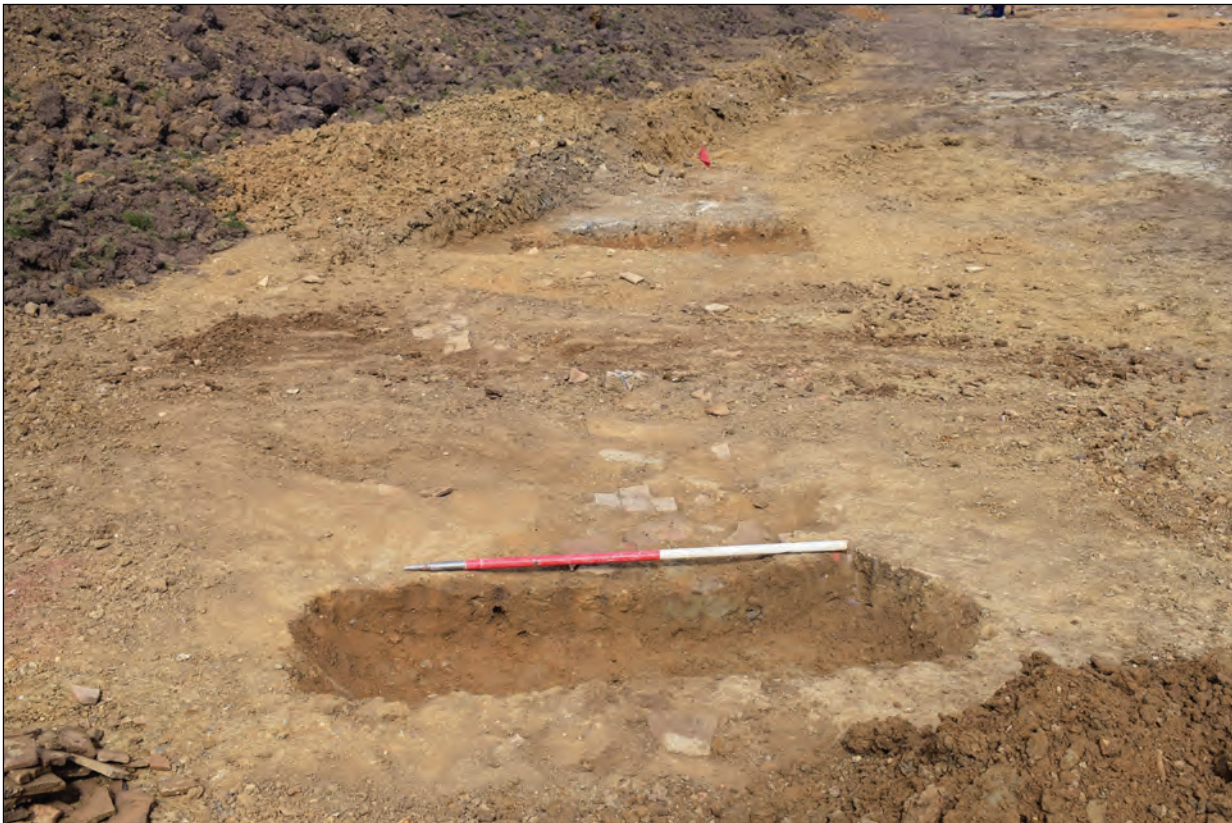


Plate 10: Post-medieval (Period 3) feature **719** showing peg tile fragments, looking north



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

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

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

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

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCifA
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