



Archaeological Field Unit

**Medieval and Post-Medieval Features at Nos 46-48
High Street, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire:
An Archaeological Evaluation**

Rob Atkins

June 2004

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 712

Commissioned by Mr Richard Hyde

**Medieval and Post-Medieval Features at Nos 46-48
High Street, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire:
An Archaeological Evaluation**

(TL 2870 8505)

Rob Atkins

June 2004

Editor: Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu
Illustrator: Emily Oakes

With contributions by Carole Fletcher and Dennis Payne



Report No. 713

©Archaeological Field Unit
Cambridgeshire County Council
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap, Fulbourn
Cambridgeshire CB1 5HD
Tel (01223) 576201
Fax (01223) 880946

arch.field.unit@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<http://edweb.camcnty.gov.uk/afu>

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Nos 46-48 High Street, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire (TL 2870 8505) to fulfil the requirements of a planning application (H/02/01563/FUL). The project was commissioned by Mr Richard Hyde and the evaluation was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council between 2nd and 10th March 2004.

The work demonstrated that this site was on marginal land which had been reclaimed during the medieval period. An auger survey located the remains of peat with rushes directly below the medieval levelling layers, implying that the site was in standing water within the former Fen edge. The need to reclaim the land may explain why the documentary records show that Brigstrate (the present High Street) was only developed in the late 13th century, after the rest of the medieval town.

The medieval features and layers found in the trenches behind the High Street frontage have been dated by pottery to the 13th or 14th centuries. These represent activity in the backyards of medieval structures along the road frontage (which have been destroyed by subsequent post-medieval activity). The levelling layers contained domestic refuse including pottery and floor tile as well as evidence for lead working.

Above the medieval levelling layers in trench one was a layer which contained a large amount of roof tile and sherds of 15th- to 16th-century pottery. An early post-medieval structure was built on top of this layer. The southern wall of the building survived to five courses high with an internal lime mortar floor. A cobbled surface at roughly the same level was found in an adjacent trench and probably represents the external courtyard to this building.

By the 18th century the building and cobbled surface went out of use and the site was levelled up with up to a metre of deposits. Presumably, the ground water level had risen and the site had returned to its marginal state. Remains of 19th-century buildings fronting the High Street and shown on 1860s map of Ramsey only survive as rubble under a later 20th century car park.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	1
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	1
4	METHODOLOGY	7
5	RESULTS	7
6	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	12
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	14
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
	LIST OF FIGURES	
	Figure 1 Location of trenches with development area outlined	2
	Figure 2 Location map showing SMR information, the site of Ramsey Abbey and the evaluation area	3
	Figure 3 Detail of Jonas Moore's map of Ramsey 1860	5
	Figure 4 Plans of Trenches 1-3	8
	Figure 5 Sections across Trenches 1-3	10
	LIST OF TABLES	
	Table 1 Depth and type of medieval or early post-medieval remains below ground level by trench	13
	Table 2 Pottery by number of sherds and weight	16
	Table 3 Roof tile by number and weight	17
	Table 4 Animal bone by number and weight	18
	LIST OF APPENDICES	
	Finds	16

**Medieval and Post-Medieval Features at Nos 46-48 High Street, Ramsey,
Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
(TL 2870 8505)**

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Nos 46-48 High Street, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire (TL 2870 8505) to fulfil the requirements of a planning application (H/02/01563/FUL) in advance of the construction of 13 flats (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr Richard Hyde. The evaluation was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council between 2nd and 10th March 2004.

The Brief for archaeological work was dated 4th August 2003 (Gdaniec 2003). The archaeological objectives for the evaluation were recorded in a specification for the site (Cooper 2004) and were to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

The specification and the proposed location of the archaeological trenches were approved by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office before the start of the evaluation.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

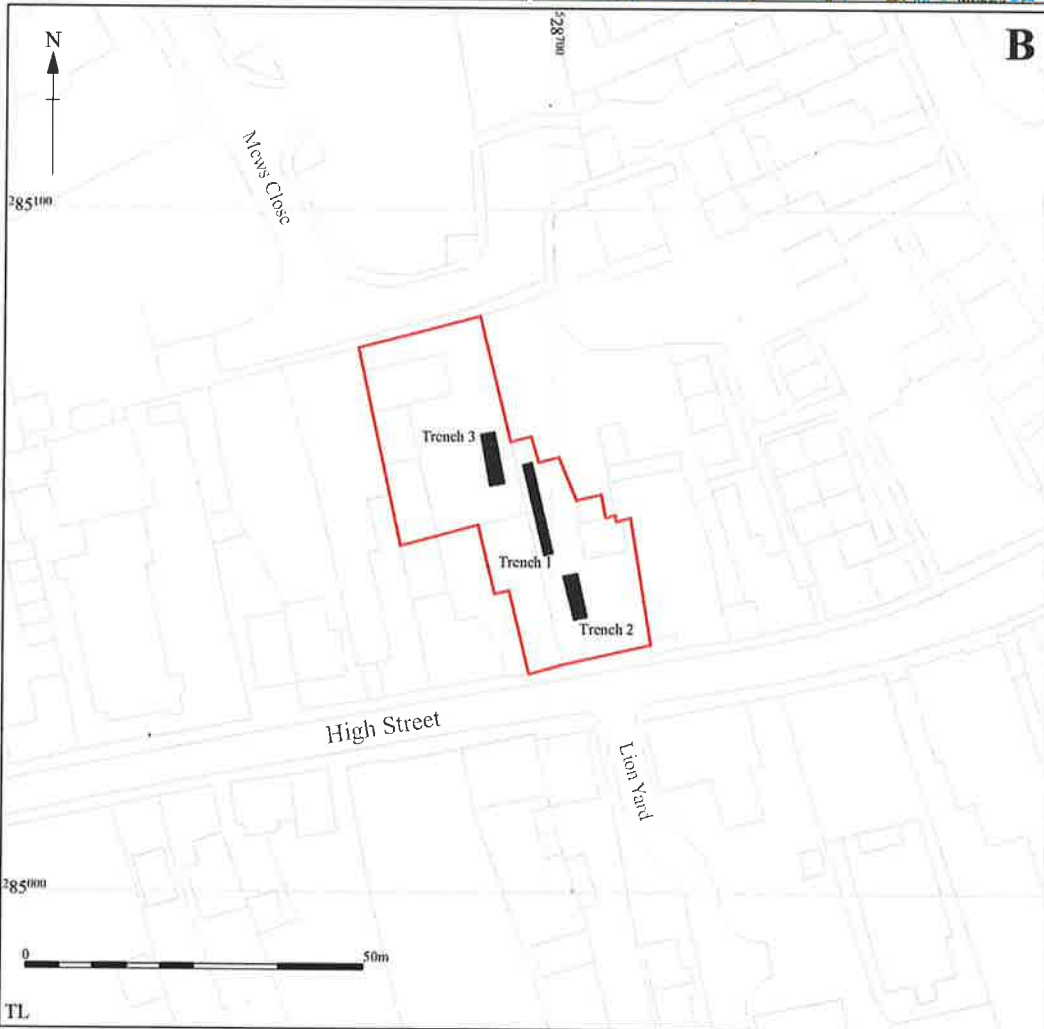
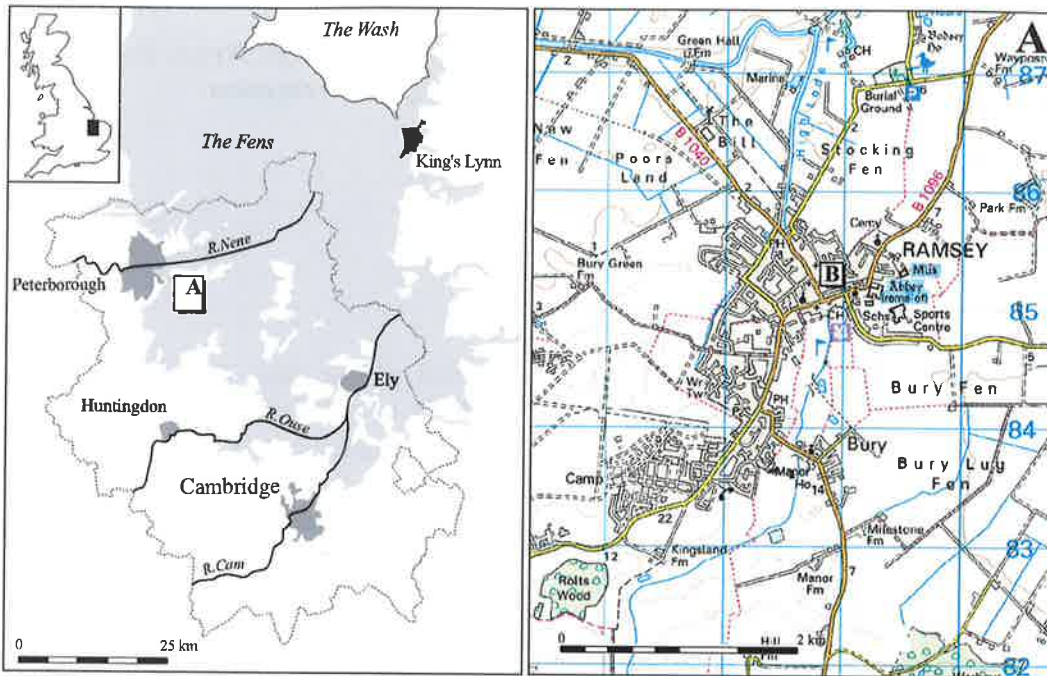
The site lies on chalky boulder clay till of the Anglian glaciation (BGS 1995). Alluvium is recorded less than 100m to the east and Nordelph peat less than 100m to the north. The evaluation trenches were on level ground between 4.8m OD and 5.2m OD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site is in the core of the historic town of Ramsey which owes its entire existence to Ramsey Abbey, situated 400m to the west of the development area (Fig. 2).

3.1 Ramsey Abbey

Ramsey Abbey was founded as a regular Benedictine monastery in AD 969 by Ailwyn (foster brother to King Edgar) and by AD 974 a wooden church was



Based upon Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown Copyright.
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (Cambridgeshire County Council licence No. LA 07649X 2003)

Figure 1 Location of trenches with development area outlined

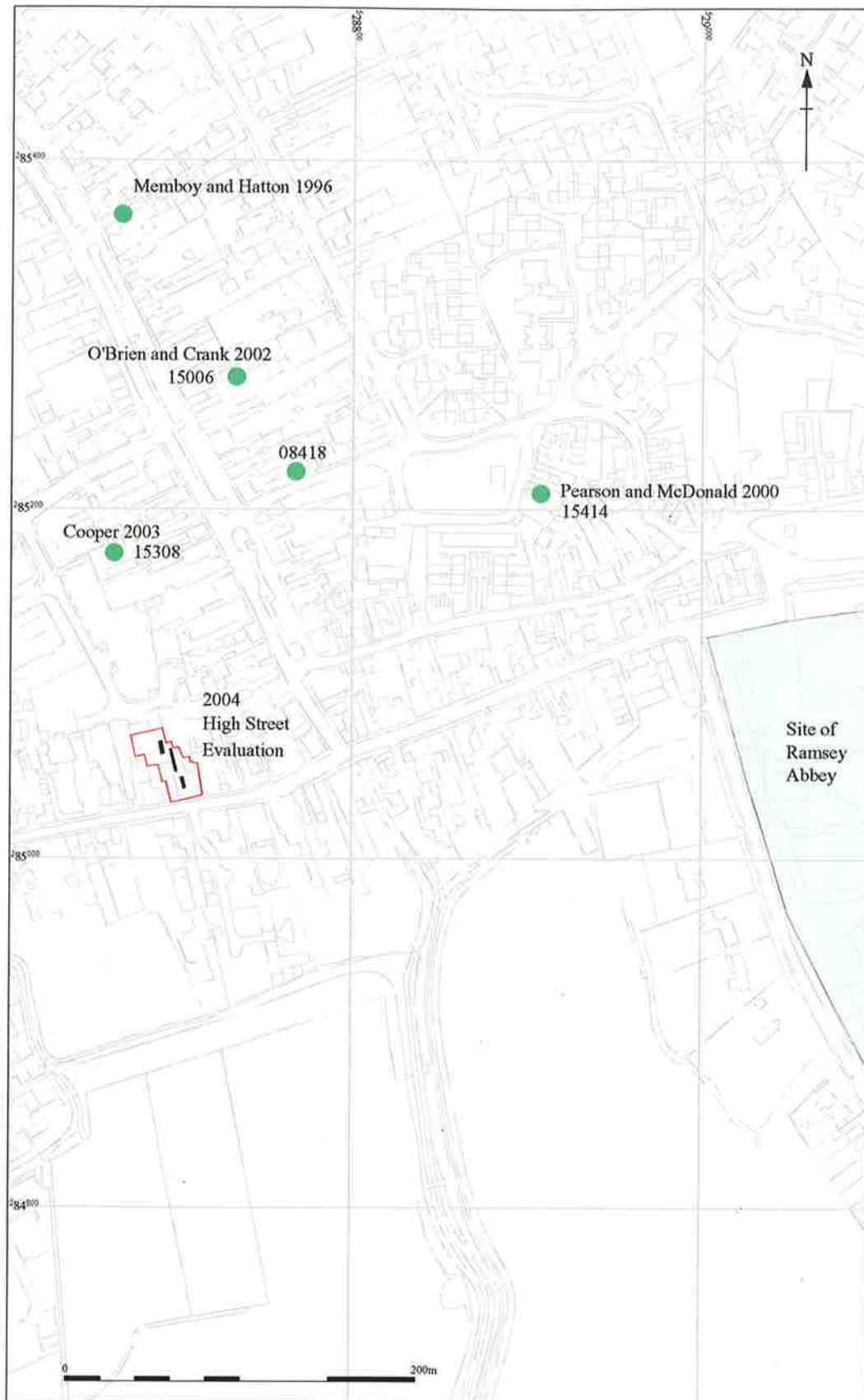


Figure 2 Location map showing SMR information, the site of Ramsey Abbey and the evaluation area

recorded and dedicated (Page *et al* 1932, 187). Substantial land grants led to the church becoming one of the richest not only in the fens, but in the whole country, and was to earn it the name of 'Ramsey the Golden'. The abbey continued to flourish throughout the 11th century, surviving both the Danish invasion and the Norman Conquest. In the 12th century the monastic buildings and the church were rebuilt using stone from Barnack (near Peterborough). It was also in the 12th century that the monastery was seized by the Essex Baron Geoffrey de Mandeville, in the period known as the 'Anarchy' (1140-4). In 1998 an archaeological excavation undertaken on the early monastic buildings uncovered remains from the Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman period (10th to 11th century) and a 12th century (probable Anarchy period) fortification ditch (Macaulay 1999).

3.2 The Medieval Town

The early history of Ramsey is obscure and the town is not mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Survey. This lack of mention may result from the fact that Ramsey formed part of either the parish of Bury or Wistow or that it was not assessed as the abbey had been granted almost royal rights of *banlieu* (Page *et al* 1932, 188). Edward The Confessor seems to have given *banlieu* rights to the abbey for a distance of a league around it, meaning that the abbey was able to control this area with court rights (Page *et al* 1932, 187).

The town was first recorded in the mid-12th century and by 1200 it had grown sufficiently to make it worthwhile for the abbot to obtain a grant of market on Wednesdays and an annual fair lasting three days in 1267 (Page *et al* 1932, 188). Ramsey, however, was situated on the edge of the fens and was not on a main traffic route. As a consequence it never rose above the position of a small market town serving the needs of the immediate neighbourhood.

Ramsey lies on what was in effect an island surrounded by Bury Fen to the south and Stocking Fen to the north and was approached, as the chroniclers note, by a causeway on one side only (Page *et al* 1932, 188). The lines of the streets have changed little since the town was originally laid out. No doubt the approach to the abbey and town has always been via the present road from St Ives and along the High Street to the market place (Page *et al* 1932, 189).

A stream ran from Wistow and Bury and became the High Lode north of the Great Whyte canal. The High Street passed over this stream by the Great Bridge or the Old High Bridge (this can be seen in the later 1860s map; Fig. 3). The present evaluation is within the western part of High Street: this stretch of the road was known as Bridge Street (Brigstrate) and led to the Great Bridge. This part of the town seems to have developed at a later stage than the rest of the medieval town. At the end of the 13th century plots of land were recorded as being set out for building here (Page *et al* 1932, 189).

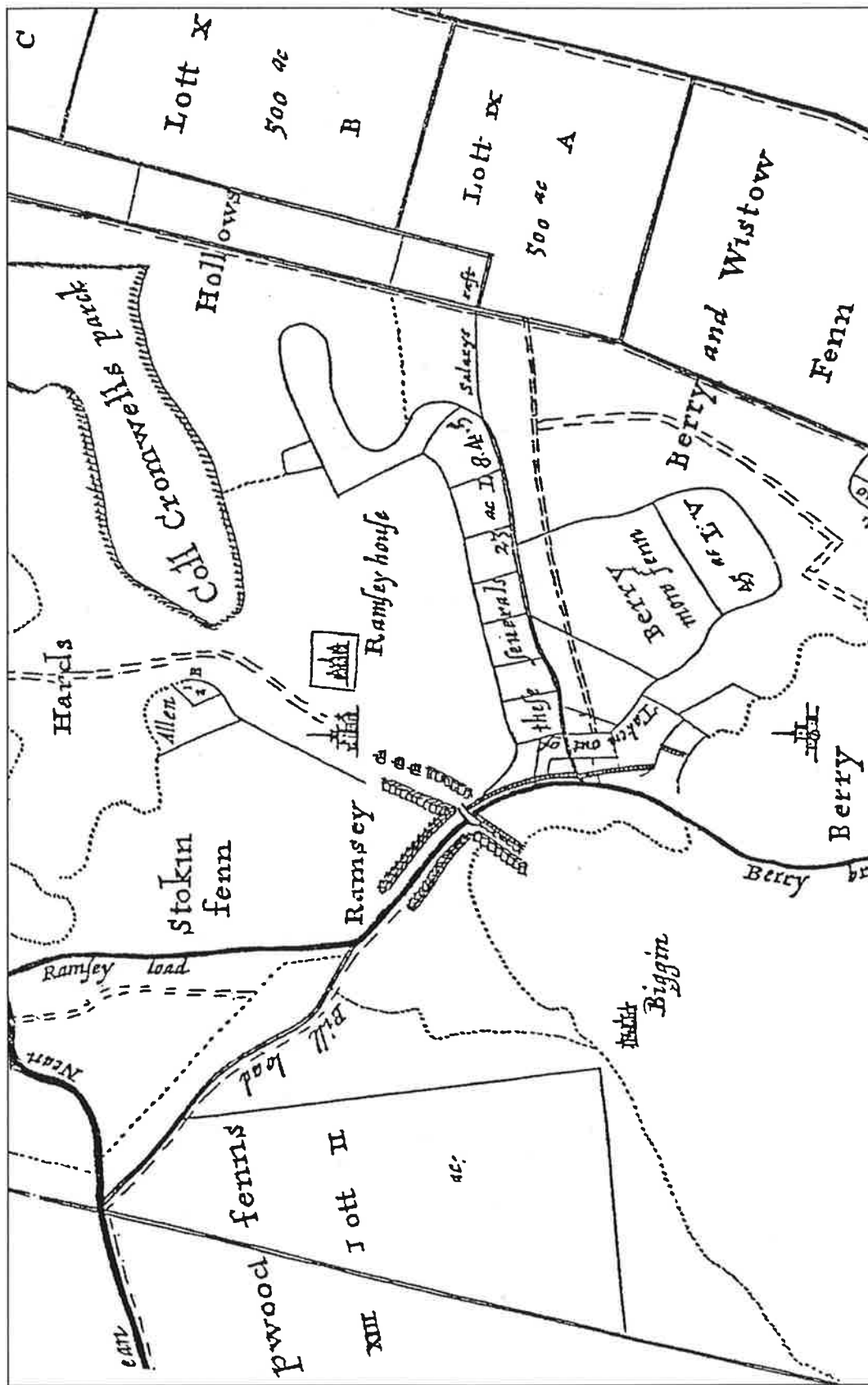


Figure 3 Detail of Jonas Moore's map of Ramsey 1860

The Fenland Survey noted that by the medieval period peat deposits were encroaching into the area of the town from the north and east (Hall 1992, fig 25). The abbey was dissolved in 1539 and the lands fell into the possession of Richard Cromwell. Trade in Ramsey would largely have been of an agricultural nature. However, there are also records of weavers and fullers indicating some involvement with the cloth trade. Fishermen are also noted. Tanner was a common surname within the town, whilst ale-house keeping appears to have been a particularly prosperous trade.

Jonas Moore's 1860s Map of Ramsey is the first map showing the whole town (Fig. 3). It is very stylized and shows houses fronting the High Street including buildings in the area of the subject site. The first edition Ordnance Survey 6" Hunts X SE map shows buildings standing where evaluation Trenches 1 and 2 were positioned and a courtyard in the area of Trench 3. These buildings were still standing in 1926 (Hunts X 16 Ordnance Survey Map sheet). Subsequently No.48 High Street was knocked down and became a customer car park for No. 46 High Street.

3.3 Archaeological Evidence (Fig. 2)

Very little archaeological work has been carried out within the town of Ramsey (Fig. 2). An evaluation at 30 Great Whyte, *c.*130m to the north of the assessment site, revealed a ditch which contained Grimston ware pottery dating from AD1350-1500. The ditch represented a burgage plot boundary that developed alongside the Great Whyte canal in the medieval period (Cooper 2003; SMR 15038). An undated cobbled surface (SMR 08418) was found 200m to the north-east of the subject site.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at Ramsey Garden Centre, Great Whyte, *c.*250m to the north-east of the site, revealed a sequence of medieval and post-medieval deposits containing sparse quantities of shell, animal bone and late medieval tile (O'Brien and Crank 2002; SMR 15006). The layers probably represented attempts at land reclamation in early and later post-medieval times. The only archaeological feature was an early post-medieval ditch. Evidence for flooding was seen during the medieval period, confirming that peat was formed at a late date in the centre of Ramsey.

An evaluation at Newton Green, *c.*300m to the north-east of the assessment site, revealed medieval strata cut by a medieval pit (12th to 14th century) covered by over a metre of modern overburden (Pearson and McDonald 2000; SMR 15414). Alluvial clays and peat indicate that the site was generally wet during the medieval period. Layers directly overlying the peat contained 12th- to 14th-century pottery.

A recording brief at Marriots Yard, *c.*350m to the north of the site, found no archaeological remains though only the topsoil was removed at this site, and there remains possibility that more deeply buried deposits were present (Membery and Hatton 1996; SMR 11975). A building at 88 Great Whyte,

demolished in 1980, is recorded as having been a 15th-century structure with deeply stratified earlier medieval deposits. Surface finds from spoil heaps during construction of new houses in 1983 included 14th-century pottery (Malim 1988).

4 METHODOLOGY

A mechanical excavator (with 1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket) was used to excavate three trial trenches under archaeological supervision (Trenches 1-3). A total of 26.6m of trench was excavated, a *c.*5% sample of the site. The trenches were planned at 1:20 and sections at 1:20. All features and deposits were recorded using the AFU single context system. Each distinct cut, fill and layer was allocated an individual number. In the following text cut numbers are presented in **bold** and deposit numbers in plain text. In a reversal of normal practice, the archaeological sequence is described below from modern ground level downwards.

Monochrome and colour photographs were taken. All the trenches including the spoil heaps were metal detected by Steve Critchley.

5 RESULTS (Figs. 1, 4 and 5)

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs 4 and 5)

Trench 1 was *c.*13m long and was placed at *c.*90° to the High Street and to the south of Trench 2. The trench was machined to a depth of 1.4m below ground level, with a baulk left in the centre of the trench. Two sondage trenches were dug in the northern and southern parts of the trench.

Below topsoil, 0.1m thick, there was a modern mixed rubble layer (31) up to 0.7m thick. The rubble consisted of concrete, brick and mid brown gravel sand. This sealed a post-medieval layer (32) up to 0.5m thick consisting of a dark greyish brown clayey silt which contained a bone china sherd.

The post-medieval layer overlaid part of a stone building consisting of a stone wall (25) and mortar floor (27) in the northern part of trench. The mortar floor lay at 4.08m OD and may equate with a cobbled surface perhaps forming the courtyard to this building found to the north in Trench 2 at 3.84m OD (see below). Stratigraphically the building is early post-medieval in date. The wall appears to have formed the southern wall of the structure. Excavation in the south side of the trench did not find any continuation of the structure (see below).

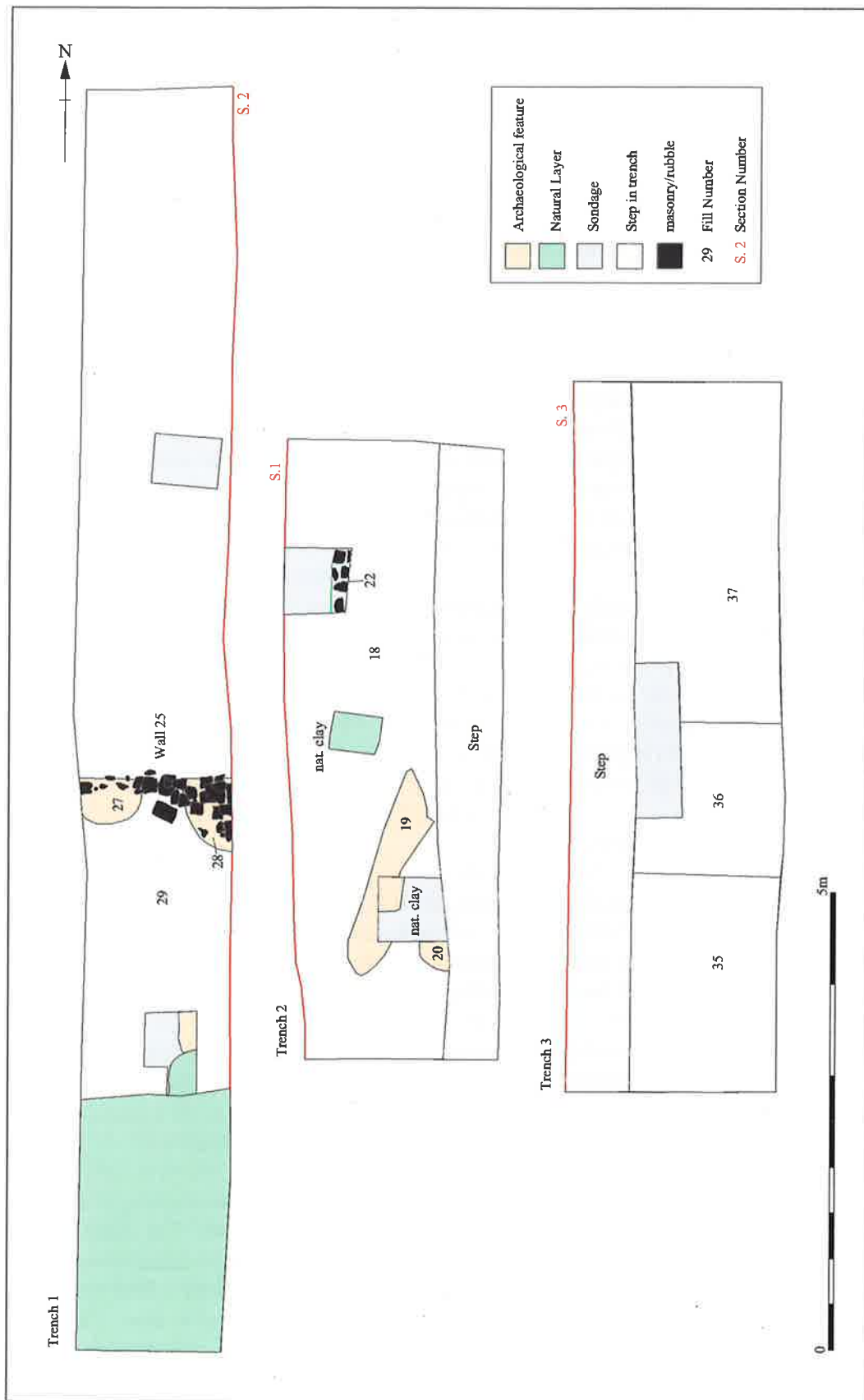


Figure 4 Plans of trenches 1-3

Wall 25 was more than 0.54m wide (the baulk left in the centre of the trench covered the southern part of the wall and the wall's dimensions are therefore not known; Fig. 5). The wall remnants consisted of five courses (0.31m) of unmortared and roughly faced limestone blocks which were on average 0.2m by 0.2m and 40mm thick, with a few pieces up to 0.3m long. They were roughly faced. Within the limestone wall, a sticky mid brown silty clay was using for bonding. Butting up to the wall on its south side was a floor (27) consisting of white/cream mortar up to 60mm thick. This layer survived in patches for 3.9m and continued into the south baulk of the trench.

Beneath the wall and mortar floor was a layer 0.3m thick which consisted of a mid brown silt with some clay (28) and contained a large amount roof tile, a quantity of pottery (dated to 1450-1600) and other domestic rubbish including a whetstone and oyster shells. The remains presumably the came from an earlier building close to the site.

Layer 28 sealed an undated layer (29) consisting of mid to dark grey brown clay silt and contained a few small stones and some oyster shells. This layer was up to four metres long and more than 0.2m thick. A sondage was dug into layer 29, at its junction with the exposed natural geology.

Below layer 29 was a possible pit(s) (7) or a series of layers within natural hollows, 0.3m deep. The upper fill (5) was a blackish brown clayey silt and contained a large amount (34 sherds) of domestic medieval pottery including a few hand made Saxo-Norman sherds though the majority dated to the high medieval period. Below fill 5 was a thin layer of a bluish black clayey silt (6) with moderate amounts of charcoal and two sherds of medieval Ely Ware. The water level was encountered in the sondage.

On the south side of the trench (below post-medieval layer 32) was a layer 0.35m thick (33). This deposit of mid brown clayey silt with occasional pieces of roof tile may equate with layer 28 to the north. Layer 33 overlaid layer 26, 0.5m thick, which was a blackish grey clayish silt with occasional charcoal flecks and three sherds of medieval pottery. This layer overlaid probable natural clay. The water table was encountered in the sondage.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 5)

Trench 2 was 6m long and excavated at *c.*90° to the High Street within a car park. The trench was machined to a depth of 1.3m below surface level where excavation ceased due to health and safety considerations. Three separate sondage holes were excavated into the bottom of the trench.

Below the tarmac surface (80mm thick) was an orange sandy gravel layer (8) up to 0.3m thick which was laid to level the car park. This overlaid a predominantly brick rubble layer (9) up to 0.5m thick. The bricks were 220mm x 105mm and 55mm thick and probably date to around 1800-1850.

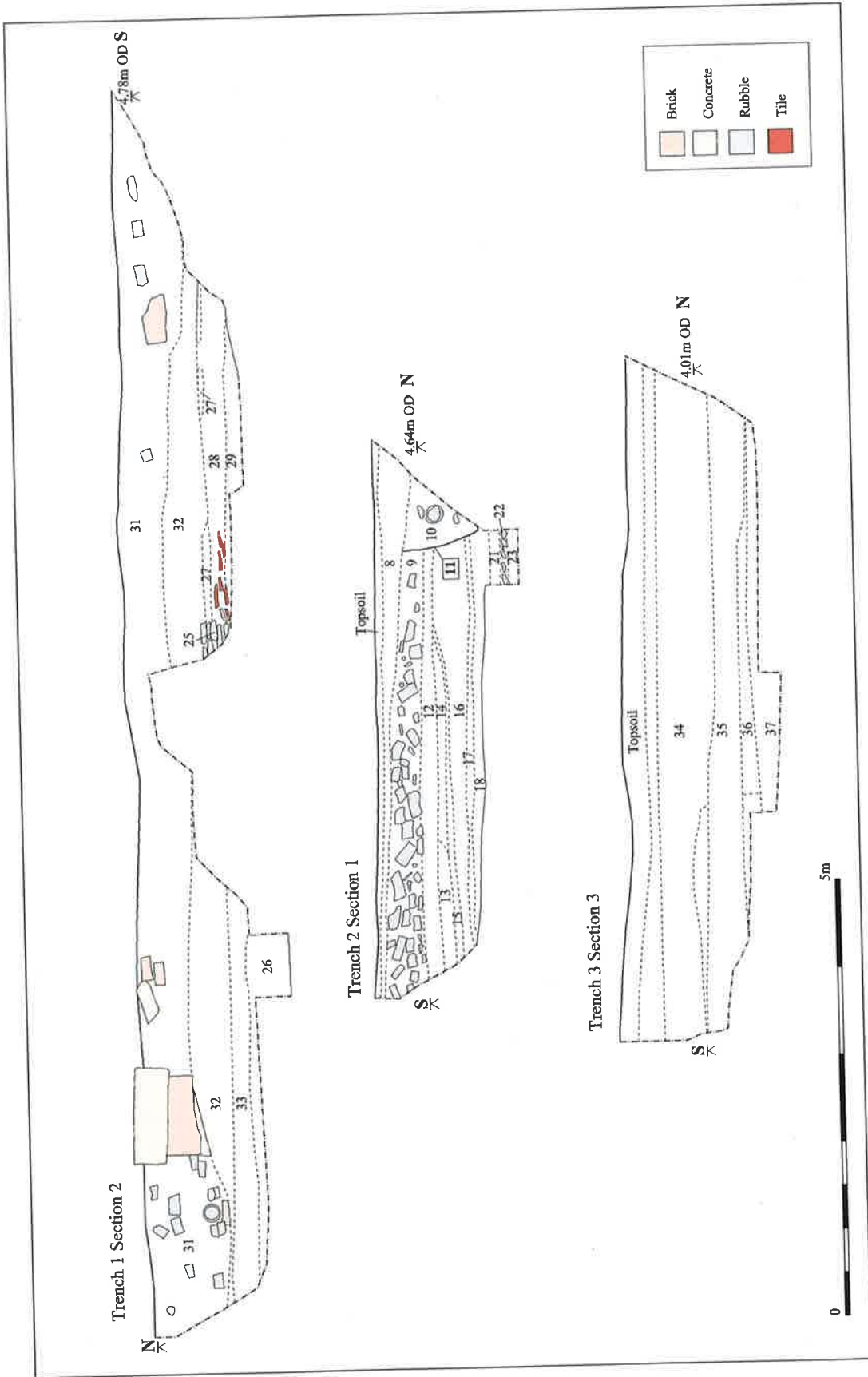


Figure 5 Section across trenches 1-3

Within the rubble was plastic, metal and modern glass. This brick rubble was presumably the remains of 19th-century buildings shown on the 1860s map of Ramsey (Fig. 2) and subsequent maps.

Below the rubble layer were nine post-medieval levelling layers (12-20) collectively more than 0.8m thick and probably dating to the 18th century. The layers were dated by a 17th-century glass bottle fragment from layer 17, a post-medieval knife (layer 18) and fragments of brick in layer 19. The layers may have been deliberate levelling before *c.* mid 19th-century houses were built fronting the road. Adjacent surviving 19th-century structures at Nos. 46 and 50 High Street are at this level. Residual medieval pottery of 13th century date was recovered from some of the layers, particularly layer 18. The layers consisted of:

- (12) A mid brown sandy loam with a little clay. Some charcoal flecks and oyster shells.
- (13) A mixed yellowish brown, grey silty clay.
- (14) A mixed yellowish brown silty clay.
- (15) A greyish black clayey silt.
- (16) A yellowish brown with patches of grey silty clay.
- (17) A greyish black silty clay.
- (18) A yellowish brown silty clay.
- (19) A black layer with patches of brown clayey silt. There were moderate amounts of charcoal with occasional fragments of brick.
- (20) A red clayish silt with occasional lumps of charcoal.

On the north side of the trench, layer 20 overlay yellowish brown clay natural. In the middle and southern side of the trench two sondages found that layer 18 overlaid the remains of a trackway (21 and 22). This trackway may relate to the probable early post-medieval structure found in Trench 1 and have formed a courtyard or trackway associated with High Street properties.

This trackway was at 3.84m OD and its two constituent layers were up to 0.22m thick. The uppermost layer (21), a compact bright orange sand/gravel, in the middle sondage was 60mm thick and 120mm thick in the southern sondage. The gravel was up to 10mm in size. This layer directly overlay the natural clay in the middle sondage and a cobbled layer (22) in the southern sondage. The cobbles were laid flat and were an average of 100mm in length, with some up to 150mm. The cobbles were unmortared with the spaces between them filled with a dark brown sand clay. They were generally flint pieces but some limestone cobbles were present.

Directly beneath the cobbles was a deposit more than 0.15m thick which consisted of very sticky light blue/green clay with a little sand, with a few animal bone fragments (23). The water level was encountered at this level.

5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

Trench 3 was c.7.6m long. It was within the courtyard at the back of No. 46 High Street. The trench was partially stepped on the east side for health and safety reasons and was machined to a depth of 1.5m below ground level.

Below the modern topsoil (0.2m thick) was a thick post-medieval build up layer (34) up to 0.8m thick. It was a mid to dark brown sandy silt and contained brick fragments, clay pipe and post-medieval glass dating to the 17th or 18th centuries. Below this was an undated layer of mid brown clay silt, 0.4m thick (35).

Layer 35 sealed an undated light orange brown silty clay layer (36) which was up to 0.2m thick. This in turn overlaid another layer (37) which was more than 0.4m thick. This mid grey silty clay contained 20 medieval sherds which were recovered from a sondage dug into the layer to a depth of 3.14m OD. The water level was encountered in this sondage. Within this layer a lead object and scrap lead strips were found which suggest that lead working was being carried out nearby. Part of a medieval floor tile was also found.

An auger was used to locate natural in the trench and was inserted at a depth of 0.6m within the sondage. The deposits were wet sieved. Organic peat remains were found in the bottom 0.5m of the auger deposits. Fragments of rush were recovered implying the presence of standing water.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation has shown that the site was on marginal land which had been reclaimed by levelling during the medieval period. This is witnessed by the levels at which natural clay was encountered: at 3.9m OD in Trench 2 near the High Street but between 3.18m OD in Trench 1 and 3.04m OD in Trench 3, both of which lay further away from the High Street. The lower lying land at the rear of the High Street was waterlogged before settlement took place in the area. An auger survey in Trench 3 found peat and rush remains directly below the medieval levelling layers. The organic remains imply the presence of standing water and shows the site was within peat fen.

The need to reclaim the land may explain why the area called Brigstrate (the present High Street) was only developed in the late 13th century (according to documentary sources) after the rest of the medieval town had been established. This low lying land on the outskirts of Ramsey may be a reason why the town did not expand further in the medieval period.

The evaluation found features and deposits from the medieval period through to the modern period. The medieval features represent backyard activities behind the High Street frontage and were dated by pottery to the 13th or 14th

centuries. This dating equates well with the documentary records of the late 13th century development of Brigstrate.

The houses fronting the High Street would have been on higher land (see level of natural geology, above), nearly a metre above the back area and may not have required levelling. The evidence from Trench 2 near to the High Street indicates that the former medieval structures along the frontage were destroyed by post-medieval activity.

Within the levelling layers was domestic refuse including pottery deposits and evidence for lead working in the form of rectangular holed plates (see Payne, Appendix 1). A few residual Saxo-Norman pottery sherds suggests that there was earlier activity in this part of the town.

Structurally, there was evidence of a late medieval or early post-medieval house in Trench 1, presumably a backplot structure to a house fronting the present High Street. The evidence survives as a layer containing a large amount of roof tile with some c.15th- to 16th-century pottery. An early post-medieval structure was built on top of these structural remains. The southern wall of the building survived to five courses high with an internal lime mortar floor. A cobbled surface, at roughly the same height, was found in Trench 2, and probably represents the courtyard to this building.

During the 18th century the building and cobbled surface went out of use and the site was levelled up. Remains 19th-century buildings shown on the 1860s map of Ramsey fronting the High Street only survive as rubble under a later 20th-century car park.

Table 1 below gives the level of remains of medieval or early post-medieval deposits below the present ground level. Eighteenth century levelling layers and later remains are included in the depth column.

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3
Depth	0.88m	1.34m	1.1m
Type	Building	Cobbled Surface	Levelling layers

Table 1: Depth and type of medieval or early post-medieval remains below ground level by trench

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Richard Hyde who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Judith Roberts. The project staff were Rob Atkins, Spencer Cooper, David Crawford-White and Tom Philips. The augering was carried out by Rachel Clarke and Tom Lyons. Steve Critchley metal detected the site. The illustrations were drawn by Emily Oakes and the report was edited by Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu. Finds were processed by Shannon Cliff and Helen Fowler. Rachel Fosberry sieved and commented on the auger remains. The finds were commented on by Carole Fletcher, Dennis Payne and Judith Roberts.

The Brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec, County Archaeology Office, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1995, *Ramsey Sheet 172 Solid and Drift Geology*

Cooper, S., 2003, *A medieval ditch at 30 Great Whyte, Ramsey*, Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit Report No. A213

Cooper, S., 2004, *Specification for Archaeological Investigation, 46-48 High Street, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire*, dated 2nd February 2004

Gdaniec, K., 2003, *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, Cambridgeshire*, County Council, County Archaeology Office dated 4th August 2003

Hall, D., 1992, *The Fenland Project, Number 6: The South-Western Cambridge Fenlands*, E. Anglian Archaeol. 56

Macaulay, S.P., 1999, *Ramsey Abbey School, Ramsey, PXA and UPD*, Cambridgeshire County Council. Archaeol. Field Unit Report PXA 12

Malim, T., 1988, *Note by Tim Malim on work at 88 Great Whyte*, Cambridgeshire County Council. Primary Record Card dated June 1988

Membery, S., and Hatton, A., 1996, *Marriots Yard, Ramsey: An Archaeological Recording Brief*, Cambridgeshire County Council. Archaeol. Field Unit Report A90

O'Brien, L., and Crank, N., 2002, *Land at Ramsey Garden Centre, Great Whyte, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire. An archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation*, Hertfordshire Archaeol. Trust Report 1024 (unpublished)

Page, W., Proby, G., and Inskip Ladds, S., (eds), 1932, *The Victoria History of the County of Huntingdon*, vol II, (The University of London)

Pearson, A., and McDonald, T., 2000, *Newtown Green, Ramsey, Archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation*, Hertfordshire Archaeol. Trust Report 0761

APPENDIX 1: THE FINDS

Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

Ninety four sherds of pottery weighing 1582g were recovered from eleven contexts during the evaluation. The assemblage consists of a predominantly domestic medieval assemblage with table and cooking pots represented. Although there are a few sherds of handmade Saxo-Norman Ely Ware pottery, the majority of the pottery dates from the 12th to 16th century. Only one 19th-century bone china sherd was recovered.

The medieval pottery comprised pottery from Northamptonshire with Shelly Wares and pottery especially jugs from Lyvenden-Stanion. From Norfolk, Grimston, there were several pieces from decorated jugs. There was a single sherd of Developed Stamford Ware from Lincolnshire. Ely and Ely type wares provided mostly cooking vessels and jars with only two jug sherds. In the later medieval/early post-medieval period pottery came from Essex and Lincolnshire.

Trench/Context	No. of Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
Tr. 1/5	34	392	Ely handmade cooking pots (1000-1200); Ely Ware (1200-1350); five Grimston jug sherds (1200-1350); two Lyvenden-Stanion jugs (1200-1400); Orange sandy (1300-1400) and one unknown sherd
Tr. 1/6	2	43	Ely Ware
Tr. 2/15	2	16	Ely and Grimston (oxidised) Wares
Tr. 2/16	2	31	Ely and Grimston Wares
Tr. 2/18	18	246	Shelly Ware jars; Developed Stamford sherd (1150-1250) and Ely Type Ware
Tr. 2/19	3	31	Ely and Lyvenden-Stanion Wares
Tr. 2/26	3	104	Oxidised Grimston jug; Ely type cooking pot
Tr. 2/28	8	440	Bourne D (1450-1600); Bourne D Sandy and Essex post-medieval with mica inclusions
Tr. 1/32	1	3	Bone China
Tr. 1/34	1	17	Grimston Ware
Tr. / 37	20	259	Ely Ware cooking pots and jug; FSW; Shelly Ware jar (1150-1350) and two cooking pot sherds; probably three sherds of Grimston Ware and one Essex Sandy Ware

Table 2: Pottery by number of sherds and weight

Floor Tile

by Carole Fletcher

One late medieval floor tile fragment was recovered from Trench 3, context 37. It was unglazed, 34mm thick and weighed 268g. Its thickness implies a 15th to 16th century date.

Roof Tile

by Carole Fletcher

Eighteen red clay roof tile fragments (weighing 1775g) were recovered from five contexts. Four were definitely pegged with part of their holes surviving. Thirteen pieces came Trench 1, layer 28 though the majority of the tile was left *in situ* including an almost complete tile more 0.28m in length. Two of the tiles retained traces of lime mortar.

Context	No. of Tiles	Weight (g)	Comments
Tr. 1/16	1	33	Peg
Tr. 1/28	13	1555	3 peg
Tr. 2/33	2	117	
Tr. 3/35	1	31	
Tr. 3/36	1	39	

Table 3: Roof tiles by number and weight

Brick

by Carole Fletcher

Three pieces of brick came from Trench 3, context 34, weighing 97g. Bricks from Trench 2, context 9 (a rubble layer) measured 220mm x 105mm and 55mm thick. These probably date to around 1800-1850.

Whetstone

by Carole Fletcher

One whetstone was recovered from Trench 1, context 28. This survived to 134mm in length, up to 19mm wide and 12mm thick.

Clay Pipe

by Carole Fletcher

One clay pipe piece from Trench 3, context 34.

Glass

by Carole Fletcher

Two bottle glass dating to the 17th century were recovered from context 17 and a piece dating to the 17th or 18th century came from context 34.

Animal Bone

by Carole Fletcher

Eighteen animal bone fragments weighing 334g were recovered from six contexts. There were seven sheep, six cow, two cattle and three bird bones. Two bones from Trench 3, context 37 showed signs of butchery.

Trench/Context	No. of Bones	Weight (g)	Comments
Tr. /5	9	75	three cow pelvis fragments, three sheep ribs, one cattle astragalus and one sheep humerus
Tr. 2 /18	1	142	One cow radius
Tr. 2 /19	2	3	Two bird bones
Tr. 2/23	1	23	One cattle scapular
Tr. 1/28	1	5	One scapular fragment of a sheep
Tr. 3/37	4	86	One sheep jaw, two cow ribs (one with butchery cut) and one young unfused cattle radius with butchery cut

Table 4: Animal bone by number and weight

Shells

by Carole Fletcher

Eight oyster shells (seven from Trench 1, context 28 and one from Trench 3, context 37) and one mussel shell (context 5) were recovered.

Small Finds

by Dennis Payne

Nine Small Finds (SF) were recovered, four of which can be reasonably dated to the medieval or late medieval period. Two lead objects recovered from medieval layers included lead scrap and may indicate craft/industrial activity. Two other objects were unstratified. The remainder of the finds that are datable are post-medieval, including an 18th-century shoe buckle and a knife blade.

Catalogue

SF1, unstratified:

Copper alloy buckle plate of c. 14th to 15th century, 40mm long by 22mm wide. These objects were used widely to retain buckles to leather belts. As with this example they are usually pierced on the corners and formed to take the bar/hinge of the buckle itself. They are often decorated, some highly, while others have only a simple incised hatching design. This



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Education, Libraries
and Heritage

The Archaeological Field Unit
Fullston Community Centre
Hagley Gap
Tollesham
Cambridge CB1 5LJ
Tel: 01223 535500
Fax: 01223 550242