Ramsey Abbey School, 3G Pitch

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 8th and 18th of June 2020 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) carried out a trenched evaluation in the grounds of Ramsey Abbey School in part of a field that will encompass a new *c*.0.75ha sports pitch and facilities. The evaluation comprised the excavation of seven trenches across this proposed development area. The trenches revealed two large boundary ditch alignments extending across the northern and eastern sides of the site which correspond with linear anomalies shown on a previous geophysical survey of the sports field. Considering the size of their profiles (which extended below the water-table) each of these alignments produced only small assemblages of ceramic building material (CBM), broadly datable to the late medieval/post-medieval period, and a few scraps of animal bone and iron. 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, which along with similarly dated CBM, 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. These potentially significant archaeological remains probably relate to the abbey, either as it was approaching the end of its use or when the abbey grounds were remodeled after its dissolution in 1539.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Patrick Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Tim Lewis, who was supported by George Gurney. Survey was carried out by Gareth Rees and the illustrations were produced by Dave Brown. Thanks are extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry, and prepared the archive under the direction of Katherine Hamilton. Thanks are also extended to the various specialists for their contributions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by SIS Pitches to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Ramsey Abbey School prior to the development of a 3G sports pitch within its grounds (Fig. 1; TL 29450 85100). The school lies within the former precinct of Ramsey Abbey, a Benedictine Abbey founded in the 10th century.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 18/02171/FUL). A Brief (Robinson Zeki 2020) was set by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) and supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by OA East (Moan 2020) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This evaluation will allow the council to identify the archaeological potential of the site and identify if there are necessary mitigation requirements for the project. This document outlines how OA East implemented the specified requirements detailed in the WSI.

1.1.3 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council Stores in due course under the site code ECB6210; after completion of the Transfer of Title by Ramsey Abbey School.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site comprises part of a single grass covered school sports field, at a height of *c*.5m OD. This field is bounded to the west and south by school buildings and to the north and east by further grass covered sports fields.

1.2.2 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 (www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html, accessed 25th June 2020). The overlying soils are recorded as being lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html, accessed 25th June 2020).

1.2.3 Ramsey lies 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 originally laid out (Page *et al*. 1932, 188-9).

1.2.4 The monks built the abbey and its precinct on a very slight rise, the abbey lying at 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).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Historical background

1.3.1 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).

1.3.2 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' (*ibid*; quoting Macray (ed.) 1886, 38).

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

1.3.4 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.

1.3.5 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. 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 In 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.

1.3.7 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). They assessed the house at Chatteris (Cambridgeshire) separately.

1.3.8 The abbey was dissolved in 1539, when the Cromwell family bought its land, titles and buildings and saw to its destruction, which was accompanied by the remodelling of the grounds of the abbey. We know that several Cambridge Colleges (Kings, Trinity,

Gonville and Caius), as well as the gatehouse at Hinchingbrooke House (Cambridgeshire), used much of the abbey stone.

1.3.9 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 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 (Huntingdonshire Records Office (HRO) 1737 RB 2/1).

Archaeological background

1.3.10 Present understanding of the archaeology of the abbey is very poor. We do not know the accurate location of the monastic buildings, including the cloisters, abbey church and inner/outer court boundaries, such was the scale of the destruction after the Dissolution. 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.

1.3.11 A full search of the CHER of a 1km radius centred on the evaluation 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, with pertinent records shown on Figure 2a-b.

Early prehistoric (c.500,000-4000BC)

1.3.12 A palaeolithic hand-axe was found at Ramsey Vicarage, *c*.400m to the west of the site (CHER 02877).

Later prehistoric (c.4000BC-c.AD 43)

1.3.13 Prehistoric activity is recorded within 1km in the form of findspots. 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)

1.3.14 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)

1.3.15 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).

1.3.16 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

1.3.17 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). Excavations in the Abbey Gardens to the west of the current site unearthed a late medieval rubbish pit (MCB17875/ECB2622; Muldowney 2008).

1.3.18 Medieval tile with a distinct carving 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 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).

1.3.20 Medieval remains are recorded directly within the site itself. These remains were recorded through geophysical survey and a community archaeological excavation (MCB26951/ECB5495; Rees 2018a-b; Rees forth.). The work revealed large medieval ditches associated with the abbey, likely to be the abbey precinct boundary. The geophysical survey results were excellent and shows that the area around Ramsey Abbey School has significant archaeological remains, present just below the turf. Evidence for a potential medieval buried soil was also recorded in the community excavation.

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 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).

1.3.26 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

1.3.27 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).

1.3.28 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.

1.3.29 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).

Post-medieval and modern (c.AD 1540 to present)

1.3.30 Immediately to the west of the site a community excavation undertaken in 2018 encountered the remains of a post-medieval clamp kiln for making bricks (MCB26949/ECB5495; Rees 2018a-b; Rees forth.).

1.3.31 Fifteen of the CHER entries relate to extant built heritage within Ramsey, such as Salem Baptist Church (CB14975), the former police station (MCB22898), a 19th century windmill (CHER 02880) and Park Farm (MCB27869). All of these buildings are of post-medieval to early modern date.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives defined in the WSI (Moan 2020) were as follows:

i. establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains;
ii. provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits;
iii. provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits; and
iv. provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 In accordance with the WSI (Moan 2020) a total of seven trenches were excavated (Trenches 1-7; measuring 25 x 1.8m), representing a 5% sample of the *c*.0.75ha development area.

2.2.2 The trenches were laid out targeting anomalies identified in a geophysical survey undertaken across the area by the Ramsey Abbey Community Project (Fig. 3; Rees 2018a-b; Rees forth.).

2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with 360º mechanical excavators using 1.8m-wide toothless ditching buckets.

2.2.4 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS GS08 with SmartNET.

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

2.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and high resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.7 Bucket samples of 90 litres of excavated soil were taken from each trench, in order to characterise artefactual remains in the topsoil and other soil horizons above the archaeological level.

2.2.8 The depth and nature of any colluvial or other masking deposits was to be established across the site. If encountered, buried soils were to be test pitted, or bucket sampled at trench ends (90 litres sampled per 50m of trenching).

2.2.9 A total of four bulk environmental samples were taken for processing at OA East's environmental facility at Bourn.

2.2.10 Site conditions were good, with rain at times.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 Descriptions of the ground conditions encountered, features identified and artefacts recovered are given in this section. Further trench descriptions with dimensions are given in Appendix A (Table 2) supplemented by artefact and environmental reports, included as Appendices B and C. Figure 4 provides an overall plan of the results of the evaluation along with that of the previous Ramsey Abbey community project excavations on the sports field (Rees 2018b and Rees forth.). Figures 5 and 6 provide more detailed plans of the features encountered. Selected sections are presented as Figure 7.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The underlying natural deposit was found to be consistent with the superficial sandy gravel deposits indicated to underlie the site on the BGS website (Section 1.2.2). The natural geology was overlain by a varying thickness (0.25-0.45m) of pale yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil (619) with occasional gravel inclusions. A total of six sherds (58g) of pottery dating from *c*.AD 1050-1200 and 4.564kg of late medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from it during the trenching work as a result of bucket sampling the machine excavated spoil. The subsoil was in turn overlain by a 0.2-0.3m thickness of dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil with occasional gravel inclusions, which did not produce any artefacts through bucket sampling the machine excavated spoil. No metalwork was recovered via metal detection of the subsoil or topsoil heaps.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Figure 4 provides a plan of the results of the evaluation. The excavation of Trenches 1-3 revealed a relatively high density of intercutting and discrete linear ditches extending across the northern part of the site along with a cobbled surface and pit. A group of intercutting linear ditches was also uncovered by Trench 7 in the south-eastern corner of the site. The remaining activity across the central and south-western parts of the site comprised a lower density of small linear ditches and discrete pits.

3.4 Trench descriptions

3.4.1 A total of seven trenches were excavated and are summarised below (Table 1).

Trench number	Length (m)	Average topsoil depth (m)	Average subsoil depth (m)	Archaeological summary	Finds
1	29	0.2	0.45	Large post-medieval boundary ditch **304** Undated boundary ditch **302** Two post-medieval drainage ditches **309** & **312** Post-medieval pit **300**	Ditch **304** (308): 205g of post-medieval CBM; 2 cattle bone frags; one intrusive? sherd (25g) of 17th to 18th century pottery Pit **300** (301): mid 14th century or later horseshoe, six iron nails; four shards of 17th to mid 18th century vessel glass; 27 sherds (518g) of 12th to 18th century pottery; 2.237kg of CBM; 62 animal bone frags; 354g of oyster shell
2	25	0.2	0.45	Large boundary ditch **358** (unexcavated) Undated boundary ditch **354** Two undated pits **350** & **356** Two post-med./modern field drains (unexcavated)	None
3	22.5	0.2	0.3	Large boundary ditch **401** (unexcavated) Cobbled surface 400 Two post-med./modern field drains (unexcavated)	Ditch **401** (402): two frags of architectural stonework
4	27	0.3	0.3	Medieval/post medieval boundary ditch **451** Undated boundary ditch **450** Undated pit **455**	Ditch **451** (452): three iron nails; 49 sherds (1152g) of pottery dating from *c.*1050-1300; 2kg of late medieval/post-medieval CBM; 25 frags of animal bone; 17g of mussel shell; charred cereal grains and legumes
5	25	0.2	0.25	Undated boundary ditch **500** Undated pit **502**	None
6	25	0.25	0.3	Undated boundary ditch **550**	None

Trench number	Length (m)	Average topsoil depth (m)	Average subsoil depth (m)	Archaeological summary	Finds
7	25	0.2	0.25	Large late medieval/post-medieval boundary ditch **602**=**618** Undated pit **600** Two post-medieval drainage ditches **609** & **612**	Ditch **602** (608): cylindrical iron object Ditch **602** (605): 469g of late medieval/post-medieval CBM

Table 1: Summary trench descriptions

Trench 1 (Fig. 5; Plate 1)

3.4.2 Located in the northern part of the proposed development, Trench 1 was placed over a linear geophysical anomaly which extends across the northern part of the site on an east-west alignment. A large ditch (**304**) was revealed in the southern part of the trench which corresponded with this linear anomaly. It measured 9.5m wide and 1.75m deep with a wide U-shaped profile that contained a sequence of four fills (Fig. 7, Section 13). Its upper profile was machine excavated to a depth of 1m below ground level, where the water-table was encountered. A hand excavated slot was then excavated to the base of the ditch cut. Its 0.2m thick primary fill (308) consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay which appeared to contain organic material. This deposit produced 205g of post-medieval CBM and two cattle bone fragments. A single abraded and burnt sherd (25g) of 17th to 18th century pottery was also recovered which may be an intrusive item resulting from the later truncation by drainage ditches **309** and **312**. This was overlain by a mid greyish brown clayey silt (305) up to 0.65m thick which was in-turn overlain by light blueish grey silty clay (306) up to 0.5m thick. The uppermost fill was a 0.25m thickness of mid greyish brown silty clay (307). The eastward continuation of this ditch alignment was encountered as ditch **401** in Trench 3.

3.4.3 Ditch **304** was heavily truncated by more recent drainage ditch cuts (**309** and **312**) on the same alignment that measured up to 3m wide and were excavated to a depth of 1m, where the water-table was encountered (Fig. 7, Section 13; Plate 2). Each ditch contained similar light to dark brown silty clay fills (309-10 and 313-5 respectively) devoid of artefacts. It is likely that a ceramic land drain was placed towards the base of these drainage ditch cuts in a similar fashion to that encountered along the recut boundary excavated in Trench 7 (see below). However, it was not possible to excavate these features further due to groundwater.

3.4.4 A smaller ditch (**302**) lay 3m to the north of ditch **304**, on a parallel east-west alignment, which measured 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig. 7, Section 2). Its single fill (303) consisted of mid brownish grey silty clay that did not yield any artefacts.

3.4.5 A pit (**300**) was also partly revealed at the northern end of the trench, measuring at least 1.8m in diameter by 0.43m deep with an irregular profile (Plate 3). It was

backfilled with dark grey sandy silt. This fill yielded a range of finds including 27 sherds (518g) of pottery dating from between the 12th to 18th century, a mid 14th century or later horseshoe, six iron nails, 2.237kg of CBM, 25 fragments of clay tobacco pipe, a piece (57g) of chalk plaster, four shards of 17th to mid 18th century vessel glass and 62 animal bone fragments.

Trench 2 (Fig. 5; Plate 4)

3.4.6 To the east of Trench 1, Trench 2 was similarly placed over a linear geophysical anomaly which extends across the eastern part of the site on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. Consequently, the eastern part of Trench 2 uncovered a large, 8m wide ditch (**358**) which corresponded with the linear anomaly. This ditch was not excavated as its southward continuation was excavated in Trench 7 as ditch **602**=**618**.

3.4.7 A smaller ditch (**354**; Fig. 7, Section 4) lay 3m to the west of ditch **358**, on a parallel alignment, which measured 1.5m wide by 0.36m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its single fill (355) consisted of light brownish grey silty clay that did not yield any artefacts.

3.4.8 Two similar sub-circular pits (**350** and **356**) lay in the western part of the trench that measured 0.7m in diameter and up to 0.3m deep with U-shaped profiles (Fig. 7, Section 3; Plate 5). Pit **350** contained three fills. The 0.1m thick basal fill (353) consisted of light grey silty sand with rare charcoal flecks. This was overlain by a 0.25m thick deposit (352) consisting of mid orange brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and gravel inclusions. The uppermost fill of very dark grey sandy silt (351) was up to 0.25m thick and contained abundant charcoal. Neighbouring pit **356** contained a single mid orange brown silty sand backfill.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5; Plate 6)

3.4.9 To the south of Trench 2, Trench 3 encountered a large, 9.5m wide boundary ditch (**401**) on an east-west alignment. Two pieces of architectural stonework - a well-finished fragment of sandstone and roughly rectangular block of Lincolnshire limestone – was excavated from the uppermost ditch fill (402). As this ditch alignment was the eastward continuation of the large ditch (**304**) in Trench 1, where its full profile was excavated, this feature was not investigated further.

3.4.10 A 2m wide layer of stone cobbles (400) as uncovered immediately above the subsoil horizon, *c*.3m to the north of ditch **401**. Extending east and west from the trench, this layer probably represents a pathway.

Trench 4 (Fig. 5; Plate 7)

3.4.11 In the central part of the site, Trench 4 contained two ditches on broadly north-west to south-east alignments and a pit. Ditch **451** lay at the north-eastern end of the trench (Plate 8). It measured 2.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.8m where the water-table was encountered (Fig. 7, Section 5). An auger was then drilled by hand to the base of the ditch cut at a depth of 1.8m. Its primary fill (452), up to 1.3m thick, consisted of mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent small gravel and rare charcoal inclusions. A range of artefacts were recovered from this deposit 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. The bulk soil sample of this fill also produced a small quantity of charred free-threshing bread wheat and charred legumes. This fill was capped by mid yellowish-brown sandy clay (453) with frequent small to medium gravel inclusions.

3.4.12 To the west lay ditch **450** which measured 0.7m wide and 0.28m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its single fill consisted of mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions.

3.4.13 A sub-circular pit (**455**) was partly revealed in the south-western part of the trench that measured up to 1.24m in diameter by 0.24m deep. However, its mid grey sandy clay fill (456) did not produce any artefacts.

Trench 5 (Fig. 6)

3.4.14 To the south of Trench 4, the northern part of Trench 5 contained ditch **500** on an east-west alignment, that measured 1.4m wide and 0.2m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The single fill (501) consisted of mid brownish grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions.

3.4.15 Approximately 5.5m to the south of ditch **500** lay pit **502** which measured at least 0.9m in diameter by 0.2m deep and continued to the east of the trench. The mid greyish brown silty clay fill (503) did not contain any artefacts.

Trench 6 (Fig. 6)

3.4.16 To the east of Trench 5, this trench encountered a possible eastward continuation of ditch **500** on a more north-easterly alignment. Measuring 2.7m wide and 0.1m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile, ditch **550** contained a sterile mid brownish grey silty clay (551).

Trench 7 (Fig. 6)

3.4.17 In the south-eastern corner of the site, Trench 7 revealed the southward continuation (**602**=**618**) of the large unexcavated boundary ditch encountered in Trench 2 (Fig. 7, Section 14; Plate 9). It measured 7.5m wide and was machine excavated to a depth of 1.2m where the water-table was encountered. A hand excavated slot was then excavated into its lower profile, at a depth of 1.5m, but did not encounter the base of the cut. Two hand driven boreholes were then excavated to the base of the cut at a depth of *c*.1.7m. This feature was therefore determined to have a similarly wide U-shaped profile as the large boundary ditch (**304**) excavated in Trench 1. The ditch profile contained a sequence of eight fills. The earliest fills of weathered or tipped material along the western (603 and 604) and eastern (616 and 617) sides consisted of light to mid brownish grey silty clay. Fill 616 contained frequent chalk inclusions. The primary saturated fill (605) over the base of the cut consisted of an organic rich mid greyish brown clayey silt, up to 0.6m thick. This was overlain by deposits of mid brownish grey clayey silt (606 and 607). The uppermost fill (608) consisted of mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and yielded a cylindrical iron object.

3.4.18 Similar to the large ditch (**304**) excavated in Trench 1, this silted up alignment appears to have been recut in the post-medieval period by a succession of two drainage ditches (Fig. 7, Section 14). The earliest ditch (**612**) measured 2m wide and 1.3m deep with a U-shaped profile. A circular, 0.1m diameter ceramic field drain was laid within the primary fill of dark brownish grey silty clay (613), which was overlain by two upper fills comprising dark greyish brown and light greyish blue silty clay (614 and 615).

3.4.19 Drainage ditch **612** was truncated on its western side by a later drainage ditch (**609**) on the same alignment which measured 1.7m wide and 0.7m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its primary fill (610) consisted of mid bluish grey silty clay, up to 0.15m thick. A circular 0.1m diameter ceramic field drain was placed at the base of the secondary fill (611) consisting of dark brownish grey silty clay.

3.4.20 A single sub-circular pit (**600**) up to 0.76m in diameter by 0.4m deep, with an irregular profile, was revealed in the western part of the trench. It contained a dark brownish grey sandy clay fill (601).

3.5 Finds summary

3.5.1 The character of the artefacts is notably different between the coherent group of artefacts recovered from three of the linear ditches (**304**, **451** and **602**) and those from pit **300**. None of the other discrete features on the site produced any artefacts. The ditch fills produced a total of four iron objects, 49 sherds (*c.*1kg) of medieval pottery, a sherd (25g) of 17th to 18th century pottery, *c.*2.5kg of late medieval/early post-medieval CBM, 27 fragments of animal bone and 17g of mussel shell. The soil sample from ditch **451** also produced a small assemblage of charred cereal grain and legumes. Pit **300** had clearly been backfilled by more recent material. Its fill produced a mixture of ironwork (eight items), 12th to 18th century pottery sherds (*c.*0.5kg), glass (four shards), CBM (*c.*2kg), animal bone (62 fragments) and oyster shell (*c.*0.35kg) was recovered from its fill. A small quantity of medieval pottery (58g) and late medieval/post-medieval CBM (*c.*4.5kg) was also recovered from the subsoil.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The archaeological features were clearly visible within the evaluation trenches. The natural geological horizon beneath the topsoil into which features were cut was also clearly identifiable. The range of feature types observed in the trenches comprised ditches and pits. The light-mid brown and mid-dark greyish brown feature fills contrasted strongly with the orange brown natural deposits of the underlying geology. The natural deposits at the geological horizon and the shallower feature fills below this horizon were free draining. The deeper deposits within the larger ditch cuts were waterlogged with the water-table encountered approximately 1m below ground level; this hindered excavation at depth.

4.1.2 The results of the evaluation trenching are considered to have a good level of reliability.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The project aims and objectives defined in the WSI (Moan 2020) and listed in Section 2.1 are included below with summary statements outlining the remains encountered on the site and how these help in achieving these objectives.

- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains.
- provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.

4.2.2 The evaluation has revealed two large boundary ditch alignments (*c*.7.5-9.5m in width) which correspond with the linear anomalies shown on the RACAP geophysical survey of the sports field (Fig. 3). The first alignment uncovered by Trenches 2 (**358**) and 7 (**602**=**618**) extended from north to south across the eastern part of the site. The second alignment uncovered by Trenches 1 (**304**) and 3 (**401**) extended from east to west across the northern part of the site. Both their profiles extended below the *c*.1m deep water-table to reach a similar *c*.1.7m depth. Unfortunately, this opportunity to sample their more organic-rich waterlogged fills produced only sparse plant remains. Hand excavation of these deposits nonetheless produced a small quantity of broadly datable late medieval/post-medieval CBM and a couple of scraps of animal bone. The geophysical survey indicates that these two alignments meet a short distance to the east of Trench 3 where two small areas of excavation were opened by RACAP in 2018 (Rees 2018b). A further continuation of this enclosure system was also uncovered more recently by a small RACAP excavation area to the west of Trench 1 (Rees forth.). The upper fills of these ditches had suffered a high degree of truncation due later post-medieval drainage ditches (**309**/**312** and **609**/**612**) having been cut along their alignments, with ceramic drains laid within them.

4.2.3 The remaining feature that extended below the water table lay in Trench 4, in the central part of the site. The lower excavated fill of ditch **451** was relatively rich in artefacts with both sherds of (presumably residual) early medieval pottery and late

medieval/post-medieval CBM recovered along with fragments of animal bone, mussel shell and iron. This further opportunity to sample a waterlogged fill yielded a small assemblage of charred cereal grain and legumes.

4.2.4 Importantly, a cobbled surface (400) was uncovered just below the turf at the northern end of Trench 3 (Plate 6), which highlights the potential for *in-situ* remains close to the surface and at a shallower depth than the thickness of the topsoil/subsoil overburden overlying the 'soft' archaeological deposits would at first suggest.

4.2.5 The remaining shallow ditch and pit features (between 0.1-0.4m deep) uncovered in the central and southern parts of the site (Trenches 4-7) did not produce any artefacts.

- provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.

4.2.6 Across the extent of the site investigated by the trenches, the excavated overburden of subsoil and topsoil ranged between 0.45-0.65m in thickness, and notably thinned to 0.2m in thickness where an absence of subsoil was recorded over the large ditch alignments in Trenches 1-3 and 7. Nevertheless, as stated above, the cobbled surface uncovered just below the turf in Trench 3 demonstrates the potential for remains to lie at a shallower depth beneath modern ground level. The archaeological background (Section 1.3) showed the site has lain within the current school and the former abbey grounds since the early medieval period, which has protected any potential archaeological remains beneath the site from the plough. There were no other masking deposits encountered beneath the topsoil/subsoil overburden observed within the trenches.

4.2.7 The evaluation work has demonstrated the presence of significant archaeological remains on the site that might be adversely impacted by the site's development. Finds assemblages dating from around the time of Ramsey Abbey's dissolution in the 16th century (with some residual earlier medieval pottery) was recovered from the waterlogged deposits below *c*.1m depth within the larger ditch cuts excavated in Trenches 1-4 and 7. The upper profiles of the larger ditches have been heavily truncated by later post-medieval drainage ditches. A cobbled surface was also revealed just below the turf in Trench 3 to demonstrate the potential for shallower *in-situ* remains to be present beneath the site.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The large boundary ditch confirmed by Trenches 2 (**358**) and 7 (**602**=**618**) to extend along the eastern side of the site has the potential to be directly associated with Ramsey Abbey. However, the waterlogged fill excavated in Trench 7 only produced a small assemblage of CBM broadly datable to the late medieval/post-medieval period. Without any further dating material, it is only possible to surmise that these boundaries were either cut as the medieval abbey was approaching the end of its use or in the period after its dissolution in 1539. As described in the archaeological background, the abbey's destruction was also accompanied by the remodeling of the of the grounds of the abbey by the Cromwell family (see Section 1.3.8). It remains possible that these large cuts may have been the latest reinstatement of a more ancient boundary alignment that has been entirely truncated. As detailed in the

archaeological background section above (Fig. 4; Section 1.3.20), a previous excavation of the north-south boundary alignment by RACAP produced 13th to 14th century pottery, which raises the possibility that this boundary alignment may have originally demarcated the medieval abbey's precinct (Rees 2018b, 13 & fig. 2). The later recuts observed during that excavation probably correspond with the post-medieval drainage ditches recorded along the same alignment in Trench 7.

4.3.2 In the central part of the site, the similar alignment of ditch **451** with the 'precinct' boundary on the RACAP geophysical survey (Fig. 3), along with the recovery from its fill of further late medieval/post-medieval CBM, suggests it formed part of the same system of land division on the eastern margins of the abbey precinct. The same rationale may be applied to the large east-west aligned boundary ditch, revealed by Trenches 1 (**304**) and 3 (**401**) to extend across the northern part of the site, which is shown on the geophysical survey to meet the 'precinct' boundary at a T-junction to the east of Trench 3.

4.3.3 The shallower linear and discrete features in the central and southern parts of the site are perhaps of lesser importance due to their lack of artefacts, but possibly on the basis of the similarity of fills, represent broadly contemporary late medieval/post-medieval activity on the margins of the abbey precinct. The previous RACAP excavations unearthed a brick clamp kiln 40m to the west of the site to demonstrate post-medieval activity in the near vicinity.

4.3.4 The cobbled layer (400) lies at the south-eastern corner of the enclosure formed by ditch **358** in Trench 2 and ditch **401** in Trench 3. Although its function and date is unknown, this surface is similar to a 'spread' of limestone (uncovered by the RACAP excavations) associated with a trackway running alongside the 'precinct' boundary to its east (Rees 2018b, 13 & plate 4). This feature may therefore tentatively be considered broadly contemporary with the adjacent large boundary ditches.

4.3.5 The excavation of the admixture of 12th to 18th century pottery sherds from pit **300** along with a broad range of other fragmentary materials indicates a post-medieval rubbish pit or other form of more recent truncation of the site probably extends to the north of Trench 1.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The evaluation of the 3G Pitch site has identified the presence of potentially significant archaeological remains which probably relate to the abbey, either as it was approaching the end of its use or when the abbey grounds were remodeled after its dissolution. Despite the proximity of the abbey, only a few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from one of the features, which supports the notion of this site having lain on the eastern margin of the precinct.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Period
300	300	1	Cut	Pit	Gravel quarry?	Post-med./modern?
301	300	1	Fill	Pit	Backfill	Post-med./modern?
302	302	1	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
303	302	1	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
304	304	1	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
305	304	1	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
306	304	1	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
307	304	1	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
308	304	1	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
309	309	1	Cut	Ditch	Drainage	Post-medieval
310	309	1	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
311	309	1	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
312	312	1	Cut	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
313	312	1	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
314	312	1	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
350	350	2	Cut	Pit	Unknown	Medieval?
351	350	2	Fill	Pit	Backfill	Medieval?
352	350	2	Fill	Pit	Backfill	Medieval?
353	350	2	Fill	Pit	Backfill	Medieval?
354	354	2	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
355	354	2	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
356	356	2	Cut	Pit	Unknown	Medieval?
357	356	2	Fill	Pit	Backfill	Medieval?
358	358	2	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
400	-	3	Layer	Cobbled surface	Pathway	Medieval
401	401	3	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
402	401	3	Fill	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
450	450	4	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
451	451	4	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
452	451	4	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
453	451	4	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
454	450	4	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
455	455	4	Cut	Pit	Unknown	Medieval?
456	455	4	Fill	Pit	Backfill	Medieval?
500	500	5	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
501	500	5	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
502	502	5	Cut	Pit	Unknown	Medieval?
503	502	5	Fill	Pit	Backfill	Medieval?
550	550	6	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
551	551	6	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
600	600	7	Cut	Pit	Unknown	Medieval
601	600	7	Fill	Pit	Backfill	Medieval
602	602	7	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval
603	602	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
604	602	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
605	602	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
606	602	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
607	602	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
608	602	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
609	609	7	Cut	Ditch	Drainage	Post-medieval
610	609	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
611	609	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
612	612	7	Cut	Ditch	Drainage	Post-medieval

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Period
613	612	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
614	612	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
615	612	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Post-medieval
616	618	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
617	618	7	Fill	Ditch	Silting	Medieval
618	618	7	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	Medieval

Table 2: Context inventory

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Ironwork

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.1.1 The evaluation produced 12 heavily encrusted iron objects: a complete horseshoe, eight nails and three unidentified iron objects. The functional categories used are those defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988: Category 8 objects associated with transport, with terminology for the horseshoe taken from Clark (1995), Category 11 fastenings and fittings and Category 18 objects, the function or identification of which is unknown or uncertain.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.1.2 Category 8 objects associated with transport: a complete, heavily encrusted horseshoe was recovered from ditch **304** in Trench 1. The horseshoe is approximately 117mm long, width across the branches 106mm, web width 36mm. Traces of well-spaced nails, a stub of a nail on the quarter and a more prominent nail fragment on the toe are visible. There are surviving calkins at the end of each branch and the width between the branches is narrow. The hoof-bearing surface of the shoe is distinctly convex, while the ground side curvature is less obvious. Without an X-ray it is difficult to establish the precise number of nail holes; however, it is very probably six, based on the position of the surviving nail fragments. Using Clark's identifications, the horseshoe is mid 14th century or later.

B.1.3 The shoe may have been thrown, possibly lost due to wear or damage. Its significance is limited to indicating that a shod horse lost a shoe, sometime after the mid 14th century or later. No other horse or transport-related finds were recovered.

B.1.4 Category 11 fastenings and fittings: Pit **300** in Trench 1 produced the largest quantity of iron objects, including six corroded, hand-forged iron nails of varying forms.

An incomplete corroded iron nail, rectangular in section (11 x 9mm). The shank survives to a length of 30mm, tapering to 4.6 x 4.4mm at the broken point. It is unclear if the head is present.

Near-complete heavily encrusted iron nail, broken at the tip of the shank. The head appears to be roughly square, but slightly irregular, however, this could be the encrustation or usage damage. The shank is slightly bent, rectangular in section 10 x 8mm tapering to 3.7 x 3.6mm. Total surviving length 36.4mm.

An incomplete corroded iron nail, almost square in section (8.7 x 8.6mm). The shank, which is slightly bent, survives to a length of 44mm, tapering to 5.9 x 4.2 mm at the broken point. It is unclear if the head is present.

An incomplete iron nail, missing head, square in section (7.6 x 7.6mm). The shank, which is bent almost at 90 degrees about halfway along its length, survives to a length of 52mm, tapering to 3.2 x 3.2 mm at the broken point.

Near-complete corroded iron nail, the head of which is bent over the shank, having split along part of its length. The head may originally have been sub-rectangular (12.7 x 10.2mm). The shank is rectangular in section (6 x 5.5mm) below the split in the shank, tapering to a near-complete point at 1.6 x 1.3 mm

An incomplete corroded iron nail, rectangular in section (8.6 x 8.1mm). The shank, which is bent and curved, survives to a length of approximately 60mm, tapering to 3.7 x 4.0mm at the broken point. It is unclear if the head is present.

B.1.5 Ditch **451** in Trench 4 produced two incomplete nails from sample 22

A rectangular (8.4 x7.6mm) heavily corroded nail shank that is cracking and in poor condition. Length 62mm, width tapering to 4.2 x 3.5mm at the broken point.

Two fragments from an incomplete heavily corroded nail shank, roughly square in section, 5.5 x5.5mm tapering to approximately 4mm at broken point; the shank is 44mm long.

B.1.6 Hand-forged nails are a long-lived form and dating is uncertain, as is usage, although most nails were used in constructing wooden structures or objects. None of the nails closely match the description of Roman examples given by Manning (1985 133-137), therefore, they may be dated by the other material recovered alongside them. For pit **300** this included residual medieval and also post-medieval pottery. The pottery from ditch **451** is entirely medieval, while ditch **602** produced ten fragments (0.469kg) of ceramic building material. The nails are therefore very probably medieval or later.

B.1.7 Category 18 objects, the function or identification of which is unknown or uncertain: An iron object of uncertain function and date was also recovered from pit **300** in Trench 1.

Incomplete single piece iron object, encrusted and rusted, rectangular in shape, approximately 14 x 54mm in thickness, tapering to 5-4.5mm thick. A slightly off-centre protrusion may be a rivet or nail.

B.1.8 From sample 22 from ditch **451** in Trench 4

An incomplete rusted iron object, roughly sub-rectangular with rounded corners (18 x 14mm and 4mm thick). The object could be a nail head or a fragment from a larger iron object.

B.1.9 Ditch **602** in Trench 7 produced an incomplete short cylindrical iron object

Heavily corroded, incomplete, cylindrical (42mm external diameter, 22-16mm internal diameter) iron object, possibly from a piece of farm equipment or a collar (30mm high, 12-4mm thick) for joining items or holding things in place. The object has broken in such a way as to suggest it is made from two layers of iron, one wrapped around the other.

B.1.10 None of these objects can be securely dated

Retention, dispersal or display

B.1.11 This ironwork assemblage is fragmentary and of uncertain significance; however, the items also form part of a larger assemblage of ironwork recovered from the various archaeological interventions across the Ramsey Abbey site. They should not be considered entirely in isolation from material recovered from these other interventions, when considering retention or dispersal prior to archival deposition.

B.2 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.2.1 Four shards of glass weighing 0.044kg were recovered from Trench 1. The glass was scanned and recorded by form, colour, count, and weight, dated where possible and recorded in the text.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.2.2 Four fragments of vessel glass all in poor condition were recovered from pit **300** in Trench 1. Two pale olive green, heavily iridised somewhat misshapen sherds (0.041kg), are very probably from the base of a non-cylindrical bottle. The condition of the glass suggests a relatively early date perhaps 17th to early/mid 18th century; however, the exact form of the bottle and therefore its date, cannot be established. The third shard is of thin glass (approx. 1mm and weighing 0.001kg), slightly iridescent

and having some surface loss. The glass is somewhat curved with a slight upturned ?edge and may be from a thin-walled bottle of uncertain date. The final shard of glass (0.001kg) is irregular and opaque, except against a very bright light, when glass can be seen to be breaking down. The original colour of the glass is indeterminate, and its condition is very poor, suggesting it may be a fragment of forest or potash glass. Its condition suggests an early date, although it is very probably post-medieval and from a vessel, rather than window glass.

B.2.3 The assemblage is fragmentary and in poor condition, with a date being difficult to establish; however, the glass was recovered alongside post-medieval pottery and 17th century clay tobacco pipe, suggesting it may be of a similar date to the clay tobacco pipe.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.2.4 The fragmentary nature and poor condition of the assemblage means it is of little significance, other than to indicate low levels of possibly 17th century rubbish disposal in pit **300**. Should further work be undertaken, the glass report should be incorporated into any later archive. If no further work on the site is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the glass may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

B.3 Post-Roman Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.3.1 The evaluation produced a moderate assemblage of pottery of 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.

Methodology

B.3.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards.

B.3.3 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all sherds, and medieval types named using the Cambridgeshire codes where possible (Spoerry 2016) and post-medieval types named, using the Museum of London fabric codes where possible (MoLA 2014). The pottery has been fully recorded in Table 3. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage

B.3.4 Trench 1, pit **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 is some later pottery; however, it would seem that the main phase of infilling for this feature, which may be a quarry pit, was during the 17th century.

B.3.5 Ditch **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.3.6 The bulk of the pottery assemblage was recovered from ditch **451** in Trench 4, which produced 49 sherds, 1.169kg of pottery from a minimum of 12 vessels. All the material is medieval and includes 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 are large sherds from a sooted Oolitic Shelly ware jar. However, the majority of the sherds recovered are 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 represents, 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.3.7 Six sherds of pottery were recovered from subsoil 619, and similar to those recovered from ditch **451**.

Discussion

B.3.8 The fragmentary assemblage of pottery is very probably domestic in origin. There are no vessels to link the assemblage to the abbey, apart from its proximity to the abbey buildings. The assemblage is more probably related to the settlement around the abbey or its lay servants. However, the area has been remodelled on more than one occasion and the material may have been cleared from other areas of the site to infill ditch **451**. The material from pit **300** indicates the redeposition of earlier material within later features on the site.

B.3.9 Overall the assemblage is interesting and adds to the knowledge gained from previous interventions, resulting in a better understanding of the pottery supply to, if not the abbey and its occupants, then to the town that served them, and indicating early medieval activity.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.3.10 If further work is undertaken, more pottery will be recovered and the pottery report should be incorporated into any later archive. The material recovered forms part of a larger assemblage of pottery recovered from the various archaeological interventions across the Ramsey Abbey site and should not be considered entirely in isolation from material recovered from these other interventions, in relation to retention or dispersal prior to archival deposition. If no further work on the site is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record.

Pottery Catalogue

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Count	MNV	Weight (kg)	Vessel Type	Description	Pottery Dates
1	301	**300**	Brill/Boarstall ware	1	1	0.024	Jug	Moderately abraded, slightly splayed flat base with mottled green glaze	*c.*1200-1500
			Lyveden/Stanion glazed ware	1	1	0.012	Jug	Moderately abraded to abraded sherd with traces of external green glaze and applied strip decoration	*c.*1225-1400
			Oolitic Shelly ware (Northants Lyveden A-type)	1	1	0.046	Jar	Moderately abraded rim sherd, rim everted, internally thickened, slightly rounded. Diameter 180mm EVE 8%, externally sooted on rim and shoulder. Very similar to the vessel recovered from context 452	*c.*1100-1300
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	1	1	0.013		Slightly convex base sherd (convex obtuse), externally sooted on base and vessel wall	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	1	1	0.014	Jug	Moderately abraded body sherd with lines of square rouletting in horizontal bands around the body of the vessel	*c.*1175-1300
			Frechen	5	5	0.104	Jug	Unabraded body sherds with external mottled brown salt glaze	Mid 16th-17th century
			Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware	1	1	0.046	Handled bowl	Moderately abraded rim sherd (externally bevelled, diameter 180mm, EVE 15%). Stub of a horizontal rod handle survives. The vessel is internally and externally glazed with dark brown/black glaze	17th-18th century
			Post-medieval Redware	14	7	0.235	Bowls and jars	Moderately abraded and some abraded sherds from various vessels, includes a flat base sherd with an external kiln scar from a moderately large bowl. Most are body sherds with clear external honey coloured glaze with slight iron mottling, some are also glazed internally	Mid 16th-18th century
			Tin-Glazed Earthenware	1	1	0.006	?Bowl	Moderately abraded curved body sherd, covered externally and internally with slightly pinkish tin glaze. About half of the external tin glaze has flaked away	
			Tin-Glazed Earthenware	1	1	0.018	Jar	Moderately abraded splayed flat base, with off white tin glaze internally and the remains of manganese-mottled tin glaze	*c.*1630-1680

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Count	MNV	Weight (kg)	Vessel Type	Description	Pottery Dates
1	308	**304**	Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware	1	1	0.025	Drinking vessel	Moderately abraded and burnt, resulting in loss of the exterior surface. Slightly splayed, flat, knife trimmed base. Internally and externally glazed with dark brown/black glaze	17th-18th century
4	452	**451**	Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	1	1	0.029	Jar/ Pitcher	Moderately abraded rim, near upright, slightly externally thickened and rounded, reduced and slightly fire clouded. Rim diameter 140mm, EVE 13%	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	1	1	0.014		Moderately abraded, slightly convex base sherd (convex obtuse), externally sooted on base and vessel wall	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	1	1	0.030	?Curfew	Slightly convex base sherd (convex obtuse), internally sooted on base and vessel wall, moderately abraded	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	8	1	0.067	Jar	Sooted, moderately abraded body sherds	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	8	1	0.151	Jar	Moderately abraded, slightly convex base sherds (convex obtuse), externally and internally	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	8	1	0.127	Jar	Moderately abraded body sherds, externally sooted. Wheel finished vessel	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	9	1	0.153		Moderately abraded body sherds and slightly convex base sherd, some external sooting	*c.*1175-1300
			Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	1	1	0.208	Jug	Moderately abraded rim and rod handle from a jug, the rim is everted, slightly externally thickened. Diameter approximately (due to distortion by the applied handle) 120mm and EVE 20%. The handle is almost rectangular in section and is incised with curved lines to give the appearance of having been twisted. A similar effect (although somewhat cruder) is illustrated in Spoerry 2016, HM46, fig 9.39, p172	*c.*1175-1300
			Oolitic Shelly ware (Northants Lyveden A-type)	6	1	0.307	Jar	Moderately abraded rim sherd, rim everted, internally thickened with slight internal bead, slightly rounded. Diameter 180mm, EVE 58%, externally sooted on rim and shoulder. Very similar to the vessel	*c.*1100-1300

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Count	MNV	Weight (kg)	Vessel Type	Description	Pottery Dates
								recovered from context 301. Body sherds and base sherd (convex obtuse)	
	<22>		Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	3	1	0.066	Jar	Moderately abraded rim and body sherds. Rim everted, externally bevelled (diameter 200mm EVE 11%	*c.*1050-1200
	<22>		Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	1	1	0.005	Jar	Rim sherd, moderately abraded, everted external small bead. Too small to be certain of rim diameter	*c.*1050-1200
	<22>		Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	2	1	0.012		Moderately abraded body sherds	*c.*1175-1300
Subsoil	619		Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	1	1	0.009		Moderately abraded body sherd	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	2	1	0.034	Jar	Moderately abraded body and base sherd (base convex obtuse), externally sooted	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	1	1	0.007		Slightly convex base sherd, moderately abraded, slight external sooting. Possibly the same vessel as base sherd/base angle in context 301	*c.*1050-1200
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	1	1	0.003		Moderately abraded-abraded body sherd	*c.*1050-1200
			Unprovenanced	1	1	0.005		Moderately abraded, slightly leached body sherd with shell and some organic temper	Not closely datable
Totals				**83**	**38**	**1.770**			

Table 3: Pottery by Field, Trench, Context and Cut (EVE= Estimated vessel equivalent, MNV= Minimum number of vessels)

B.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.4.1 During the evaluation, 25 fragments of white ball clay tobacco pipe, weighing 0.089kg, were recovered (Table 4). Simplified recording only has been undertaken, with material type, basic description and weight recorded. Terminology used in this report is taken from Oswald's simplified general typology (Oswald 1975, 37–41), and Hind and Crummy (Hind and Crummy 1988, 47-66).

Assemblage and Discussion

B.4.2 Fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from pit **300** in Trench 1, the assemblage comprising 22 fragments of plain stem, two of which are tapering and narrow, suggesting they come from close to a pipe's mouthpiece. The remaining three pieces of clay pipe are 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. Pit **300** also produced post-medieval pottery, including Frechen (*c*.1550-1700) Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware (*c*.1580-1700) and a fragment from a Tin-Glazed Earthenware with manganese-mottled glaze, possibly London-type (*c*.1630-1680). This suggests that the context dates from the early to perhaps the mid 17th century.

B.4.3 The fragments of clay tobacco pipe recovered represent what were most likely casually discarded pipes, which became incorporated into the pit fill as general rubbish deposition. The fragments do little, other than to indicate the consumption of tobacco on, or near, the site, in the 17th century.

Retention, dispersal, or display

B.4.4 The assemblage is fragmentary and, if no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record. However, they also form part of a larger assemblage of clay tobacco pipes 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, in relation to retention or dispersal prior to archival deposition. Should further work be undertaken, additional clay tobacco pipe may be recovered.

Clay Tobacco Pipe Catalogue

Trench	Context	Cut	Form	No of pipe stem fragments	No of pipe bowls or fragments	Description	Weight (kg)	Date
1	301	**300**	Stem fragment	22		Moderately abraded fragments of pipe stem: the longest is 69mm, the shortest 18mm long. All are roughly circular and slightly tapering, with well-trimmed seams and almost all show internal discolouration and greying, indicating use and or cleaning. Two fragments are narrower than the bulk of the assemblage and may come from close to the pipe's mouthpiece The bore of the pipes varies slightly the widest being 3mm although most are between 2.5 and 2.75mm (7/64th-1/8th of an inch)	0.071	Not closely datable
				0	1	Short length of stem approx. 15mm (slightly oval 9.6x8.5mm with off centre bore) attached to a complete Oswald type 4 bowl c.1600-1640 (Oswald 1975, 37–41) above a small-medium sub-rounded heel. The bowl is incompletely rouletted below the rim of the bowl with well-trimmed seams, a slight crack/split in the rim is very probably a shrinkage crack and there is a very slight chip to the rim which may be usage or post-depositional damage. The stem shows internal discoloration or greying indicating usage.	0.009	*c*. 1600-1640
				0	1	Short length of stem approx. 27mm (slightly oval 7.7-7.4mm, with a slightly off-centre bore) joined to a partial subrounded heel and fragment of bowl which shows internal discoloration or greying indicating usage. The lower stem seam is obvious at the join with the heel, the upper seam is well trimmed. The shape of the surviving bowl fragment suggests it, like the complete bowl is an Oswald type 4 bowl c.1600-1640 (Oswald 1975, 37–41)	0.004	*c*. 1600-1640
				0	1	Short length of stem approx. 17mm (slightly oval 10-9mm, with an off centre bore, off to one side and close to the	0.005	Not closely datable

Trench	Context	Cut	Form	No of pipe stem fragments	No of pipe bowls or fragments	Description	Weight (kg)	Date
						lower surface of the stem) joined to a complete sub-rectangular heel (rounded corners) the stem/heel has broken at the very base of the bowl. Traces of the lower stem seam are obvious at the join with the heel, the upper seam is well trimmed. The shape of the bowl cannot be established.		
Totals:				**22**	**3**		**0.089**	

Table 4: Clay tobacco pipe

B.5 Building Stone

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.5.1 Four fragments of building stone, weighing in total 6.501kg, were recovered from Trenches 3 and 4. Simplified recording has been undertaken with basic description and weight recorded in the text.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.5.2 Boundary ditch **401** in Trench 3 produced two fragments of architectural stonework, the first of which is a short length of well-finished, slightly oval stonework 44 x 42mm, 88mm long and weighing 0.237kg. The stone is a moderate-fine grained slightly micaceous sandstone. The architectural fragment is relatively unweathered and may have been an element of internal rather than external stonework and very probably part of one of the abbey buildings.

B.5.3 The second fragment of architectural stonework is a moderately large, weathered and somewhat damaged roughly rectangular block of limestone which tapers slightly and is slightly discoloured, possibly by heat. The surviving dimensions are 117 x 110mm tapering to 98 x 117mm. The undamaged surfaces are well-finished with evidence of dressing marks on the least damaged end and small areas of slight polishing, suggesting it may have had some secondary usage. The most undamaged end also bears traces of mortar, indicating that at some point it was part of a structure and the mortar may be original, rather than secondary re-use. The most damaged face is deeply scarred although these do not appear to be dressing marks and may indicate the removal of some form of decoration from the face. The stone is almost certainly a Lincolnshire limestone and very probably from one of the abbey buildings. 'The limestones were exported using local river systems in medieval times for the construction of the five medieval Fenland abbeys of Crowland, Thorney, Ramsey, Peterborough and Ely' (Lott 2013, 8).

B.5.4 Ditch **451** in Trench 4 produced an irregular, unworked block of stone, heavy for its size; when examined under magnification the block appears to be a limestone (0.472kg).

B.5.5 From subsoil context 619 an irregular fragment (0.529kg) of Collyweston slate was recovered. Part of a larger roofing slate, the fragment is roughly dressed on its original edges and with traces of cream to off-white coloured mortar on the reverse. The slate may originally have been used on the abbey itself or one of the ancillary building's roofing, although it could relate to later usage of the site.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.5.6 The building stone assemblage is fragmentary; however, they also form part of a larger assemblage of architectural 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, in relation to retention or dispersal prior to archival deposition. Should further work be undertaken, further building stone fragments will be recovered.

B.6 Ceramic Building Material

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.6.1 A moderate assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), 102 pieces weighing 9.468kg, was recovered from Trenches 1, 4 and 7, and from subsoil context 619. The CBM recovered from subsoil 619 represent perhaps a 5% sample of the CBM from the context.

B.6.2 The CBM assemblage is composed of mostly flat tile fragments, no complete examples were recovered, and all are moderately abraded.

B.6.3 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded where this was identifiable. The tile was sorted by rough fabric groupings that visually equate to the fabrics from previous archaeological interventions where possible (Fletcher in Rees forthcoming) and dating is tentative and broad, only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group Minimum Standards (ACBMG 2002) forms the basis for recording and Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification. Simplified recording only has been undertaken, with basic description and weight recorded in Table 5. The CBM and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.6.4 Trench 1 produced CBM from pit **300** (30 pieces, weighing 2.237kg) and ditch **304**, from which was recovered only a single piece of CBM (0.205kg) from sample <20>.

B.6.5 In Trench 4, all the CBM was recovered from ditch **451** (16 fragments weighing 1.993kg). The ditch also contained medieval pottery.

B.6.6 A section through ditch **602** in Trench 7 produced 10 fragments of CBM weighing 0.469kg in total.

B.6.7 The bulk of the CBM assemblage was recovered from the subsoil 619, 45 fragments weighing 4.564kg and representing perhaps a 5% sample of the tile and brick fragments incorporated into the subsoil. The large quantities of CBM within the subsoil are not unexpected as, not only does this material represent demolition debris from the abbey, ancillary buildings and later structures, but a post-medieval brick clamp is located to the west of the evaluation (Rees forthcoming).

B.6.8 The material recovered from the subsoil included larger fragment of tile with complete corners of tiles, a number of which had either complete or partial round peg or nail holes. The position of the hole in relation to the corner indicates that the tile had two peg/nail holes to attach it to the roof structure.

B.6.9 The majority of the CBM recovered from the subsoil is very probably late medieval – post-medieval, as is the bulk of the material recovered. Only a few definitively post-medieval fragments of building material were recovered, these included the Fabric 13 tile fragments in **304** and **602** and the brick fragments in several contexts, although the brick is more abraded than the tile in most contexts and may be intrusive in some.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.6.10 The fragmentary and mixed assemblage is like much the CBM recovered elsewhere across the Ramsey Abbey site. Notable is the absence of any floor tile or decorated Ramsey Tile small fragments of which examples have been recovered from several other interventions.

B.6.11 The material recovered forms part of a larger assemblage of CBM recovered from the various archaeological interventions across the Ramsey Abbey site and should not be considered entirely in isolation, in relation to retention or dispersal prior to archival deposition. Should further work be undertaken, further CBM will be recovered.

CBM Catalogue

Trench	Context	Cut	Description	Fabric	Thickness	Count	Weight	Date
1	301	**300**	Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of slightly curved tile, possibly a pan tile fragment	F1	12-13mm	1	0.078	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile one tile has a partial round peg/nail hole	F2	13mm & 14-16mm	5	O.233	Post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F3	12-14mm	1	0.059	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile (grey core)	F5 (ox)	17-18mm	1	0.125	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F5 (ox calc)	17-18mm	1	0.138	Late medieval or post-medieval

Trench	Context	Cut	Description	Fabric	Thickness	Count	Weight	Date
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile	F6	11mm & 15-16mm	12	0.768	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F13	13-14mm	5	0.078	Post-medieval
			Irregular fragments of handmade brick	BF1v2	55mm	2	0.165	Post-medieval
			Irregular fragment of handmade brick	BF14		1	0.195	Post-medieval
			Fragment of handmade brick with off white mortar on header, stretcher and bed	Hard fired pale dull red fabric paler swirls and inclusions similar to tile fabric F6	46-50mm	1	0.398	Post-medieval
1	308 (sample 20)	**304**	Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F13	16-18mm	1	0.205	Post-medieval
4	452	**451**	Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile	F3v1	13-14mm	4	0.283	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular and triangular fragments of flat tile one with a 'blind' round peg or nail hole	F3v2	16-18mm	8	1.187	Late medieval or post-medieval
	(sample 22)		Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F5	11-13mm	1	0.072	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded fragment of thin brick that has split in two	F3v2	42mm	2	0.372	Post-medieval
			Fragment of moderately abraded to abraded brick	BF2		1	0.079	Post-medieval
7	605	**602**	Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F3	13mm	1	0.067	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile	F3v2	11mm & 11-12mm	4	0.121	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile	F3v2	16mm	2	0.059	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F3v2	20mm	1	0.097	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F6	13-14mm	1	0.043	Late medieval or post-medieval

Trench	Context	Cut	Description	Fabric	Thickness	Count	Weight	Date
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F13	17-18mm	1	0.082	Post-medieval
Subsoil	619		Unabraded and moderately abraded mostly sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile, several corners are present and two complete and two incomplete circular peg or nail holes are present. The position of the peg/nail hole to the corner of the tile suggests the peg tiles had two holes	F3	12-13mm & 13-14mm	17	1.972	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Unabraded and moderately abraded mostly sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile, a single complete and two incomplete circular peg or nail holes are present.	F3	7-9mm & 8-9mm	8	0.406	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Unabraded and moderately abraded mostly sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile, several corners are present and four incomplete circular peg or nail holes are present. The position of the peg/nail hole to the corner of the tile suggests the peg tiles had two holes	F3v1	10mm, 12-14mm	15	1.106	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Unabraded and moderately abraded mostly sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile, including a corner with a complete circular peg or nail holes are present. The position of the peg/nail hole to the corner of the tile suggests the peg tiles had two holes	F3v1	14-17mm &16-17mm0	2	0.592	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile	F3v2	14-15mm	1	0.162	Late medieval or post-medieval
			Moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragments of flat tile	F5	13mm and 14-15mm	2	0.326	Late medieval or post-medieval
Totals:						**102**	**9.468kg**	

Table 5: CBM by Context

B.6.12 Fabrics

F1 smooth fabric 5YR6/6 reddish yellow to 10YR 8/4 very pale brown swirly mixed. Mostly 5YR6/6 reddish yellow to surfaces some voids sub-rounded, some slightly darker reddish yellow swirls

F2 Hard fired smooth fabric slightly poorly mixed some ironstone fragments. 10YR 8/4 very pale brown with swirls and lenses of 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow. The more "yellow" version of F1v1 (F1v1 and F2 are probably basically the same, only variation is colour)

F3 slightly darker than 10YR 7/4 very pale brown, slightly more like 10YR 6/6 brownish yellow, not quite either. Surface and margins (that can be thick), fine sand mica slight calcareous material. Lightly sanded base, soft surfaces, powdery.

F3v1 (duller variant) fine quartz sands, some mica, some calcareous inclusions, some larger voids. 10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown surfaces and margins pale-mid grey core (hard fired but can be scratched similar otherwise to F5v1)

F3v2 as for F3 with 2.5YR 6/8 light red surfaces (some more brown than red)

F5 similar to F3/F3v1 but more reduced 2.5YR7/2 light grey to slightly darker 2.5YR 6/3 light yellowish brown surfaces and margins pale grey core fine quartz sand some mica and some calc some of which is leached May be the same as fabric 3/3v1

F5(ox)5YR 7/8 reddish yellow paler core 7.5YR 7/6 reddish yellow, occasionally reversed core/surface colouring. Some calc and voids, slightly sandy

F6 similar to F3

F13 Suffolk white/Burwell type 2.5Y8/4, pale yellow, some quartz temper

BF2 soft smooth fabric, slightly poorly mixed, occasional flint. 2.5YR 8/3 pale yellow with swirls and lenses of 10YR 7/4 very pale brown. The more "yellow" version of BF1v1 (fabrics are probably basically the same, only variation is colour)

BF14 5YR 5/3 reddish brown fine sand silt, some voids suggesting burnt out organics, occasional stone, hackly fracture

B.7 Plaster/Render

By Carole Fletcher

B.7.1 A single thick fragment (0.057kg) of chalk white plaster or render was recovered from pit **300** in Trench 1. The fragment has a partial surface and is very chalky and slightly powdery. The reverse is uneven, with possible grooves, suggesting the material may have been applied to some kind of lath or other structural material. The material is not closely datable and was recovered alongside residual medieval and post-medieval pottery.

B.8 Fuel and Fuel By-Products

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction, Methodology, Assemblage and Discussion

B.8.1 Three fragments of grey-black, laminar, partially combusted oil shale (0.021kg) and a single fragment of unburnt coal (0.005kg) were collected by hand during the evaluation. The material was weighed and rapidly recorded, with basic description and weight recorded in the text. The irregular fragments of fuel residues and the unburnt black bituminous coal were recovered from pit **300** in Trench 1. The fuel residue, and coal may have come from a domestic or industrial setting, are undiagnostic and not closely datable. However, the material is likely to be contemporary with the post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe recovered from the same context.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.8.2 The fuel residue is very probably from a domestic fire. Should further work be undertaken, additional material would almost certainly be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the fuel residue may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction and methodology

C.1.1 An assemblage of animal bone weighing 1.7kg was recovered from the evaluation (Tables 6 and 7). The 99 bones were fragmentary with some evidence of butchery. Species present include cattle, sheep/goat and pig.

C.1.2 The method used to quantify this assemblage was based on that used for Knowth by McCormick and Murray (2007) which is modified from Albarella and Davis (1996). Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at OA East. References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972), von den Driesch (1976) were used where necessary.

Species	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle	27	71%	1	25
Sheep/Goat	5	13%	1	25
Sus	6	16%	2	50
Total	38	100%	4	100

Table 6: Animal bone species distribution NISP and MNI

Results

C.1.3 The assemblage was dominated by cattle (70%) and large mammal fragments showing signs of butchery and alteration consistent with bone working. The remainder of the assemblage was dominated by unidentified shaft fragments often with cut marks suggestive of bone working.

C.1.4 The condition of the bone was generally very good with some still with a high collagen and calcium content. Some post depositional damage was present on some of the bones.

C.1.5 The remains from context 301 (pit **300**, Trench 1) are suggestive of bone working and tool production. The remainder of the assemblage is, however, of a more domestic nature.

Recommendations for further work

C.1.6 Further analysis of the assemblage would only be required if further remains are recovered from the site and could lead to insights into husbandry practices and the use of secondary products.

Cxt.	Cut	element	species	butchery	side	qunatity	taphonomy	comments
452	451	maxila	bos		right	6	post burial fractures	p4, m1 and m2 present heavily worn
452	451	mandible	sus		left	1		canine, p2 - m1
452	451	mandible	sus		right	1		m1
452	451	p4	sus		left	1		
452	451	unident				5		
452	451	mandible	unident		right	1		
452	451	mandible	unident		left	1		
452	451	humerus	ovi-capri		right	1		
452	451	phalange	bos		right	1		
452	451	meta-tarsal	bos		left	3		
452	451	lumbar vert	unident			1		
452	451	thoracic vert	bos			1		unfused
452	451	humerus	medium mammal		left	1		
452	451	tib and fused fib	large mammal		right	1		
308	304	ulna	bos		left	2		
605	602	pelvis	bos		right	3		
301	300	tibia	large mammal	both ends show cut marks. Series of damage		1		
301	300	unident long bone	large mammal	hole bored into bone near? prox end. Copper staining present		2		
301	300	unident long bone	large mammal	cut bone fragments suggestive of bone working or use as a secondary product		7		
301	300	phalange	Bos		right	2	broken in half	
301	300	distal tibia	ovi-capri		right	1		
301	300	unident				26		
301	300	u;na	ovi-capri	some cuts present	left	1		
301	300	distal tibia	ovi-capri		left	1		
301	300	vert	large mammal			1		
301	300	vert	medium mammal			1		
301	300	canine/tusk	Sus			1		
301	300	insiscor	large mammal			1		
301	300	insiscor	medium mammal			2		
301	300	mandible	ovi-capri		left	1	3 pieces	p2, p3, p4, m1, m2, m3 prsent
301	300	mandible	Sus		right	1		

Cxt.	Cut	element	species	butchery	side	qunatity	taphonomy	comments
301	300	maxila	Sus			1		
301	300	rib	Bos			9		
301	300	rib	medium mammal			3		
301	300	rib	small mammal			1		
Total						93		

Table 7: Animal bone catalogue

C.2 Marine Mollusca

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 0.373kg of shells were collected by hand during the evaluation (Table 8). The shells recovered are mostly edible examples of oyster *Ostrea edulis*, from estuarine and shallow coastal waters, and mussel *Mytilus edulis* from intertidal zones. The shell is moderately well preserved and does not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed.

Methodology

C.2.2 The shells were weighed and recorded by species, with complete or near-complete right and left valves noted, where identification can be made, using Winder (2011) as a guide. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage. Average size, age, infestations, and descriptive characteristics have also not been recorded due to the size of the assemblage.

Assemblage and Discussion

C.2.3 The shells were recovered from a single pit and a ditch in Trenches 1 and 4, respectively. Pit **300** in Trench 1 produced 18 pieces of oyster shell including near complete examples of right and left valves including several moderate to large oyster shells of which one left valve has a 'V'-shaped hole on the outer edge of the shell, caused by a knife during the opening or 'shucking' of the oyster, prior to its consumption. As all the shell from this context was not recovered, it seems very probable that other shucked shells were present in the feature.

C.2.4 Ditch **451** produced 17 fragments of incomplete and complete mussel shells alongside a small common cockle shell (*Cerastoderma edule*) and a second moderately abraded small shell that could not be identified to a specific species due to its small size, making it look similar to an number of different bivalves found around the British coast however it may be from the family *Mactridae*. The shell is too small to have been part of a deliberate collection for food and, alongside the small cockle shell, is very probably an accidental inclusion while collecting mussels.

C.2.5 This limited quantity of shell 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 oyster shells and the mussel 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. In the case of pit **300** this would suggest an early to mid 17th century date, however, pit **300** also produced residual medieval pottery and it is possible that the shell may also be residual. The pottery from ditch **451** is entirely medieval.

Retention, dispersal and display

C.2.6 The assemblage indicates that, should further work take place, additional shell would be found. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record, however, the shell assemblage forms part of a larger assemblage of marine shell 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, in relation to retention or dispersal prior to archival deposition.

Mollusca Catalogue

Trench	Context	Cut	Species	Common Name	Habitat	No. Shells or Frags	No. left valve	No. right valve	Description/Comment	Weight (kg)
1	301	**300**	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	1	0	Incomplete-complete large left valve	0.055
						1	1		Incomplete medium-large left valve, double shuck mark on the thick posterior margin	0.038
						1	1	0	Near-complete medium left valve with post depositional damage	0.013
						1	1	0	Near-complete small left valve with a possible small v shaped shucking mark on the anterior margin	0.010
						1	1	0	Near-complete small-medium left valve	0.016
						2	2	0	Incomplete small left valves	0.020
						3	0	3	Near-complete medium-large right valves	0.117
						2	0	2	Near-complete small-medium right valve	0.028
						2	0	2	Near-complete small right valves one with post-depositional damage	0.013
						1	0	1	Incomplete small right valve	0.006
						3			Fragments from right valves	0.038
4	452	**451**	*Mytilus edulis*	Mussel	Intertidal zone	2	1	1	Complete medium right valve and incomplete left valve	0.003
	452 (sample 22)		*Mytilus edulis*	Mussel	Intertidal zone	15	6	9	Single complete small-medium right valve. Eight incomplete small - medium right valves. Six small-medium incomplete left valves	0.014
			Cerastoderma edule	Cockle	Intertidal zone	1	0	0	Small incomplete shell	0.001
			? Mactridae		Shallow coastal water	1	0	0	Small abraded shell	0.001
Totals:						**37**	**14**	**18**		**0.373**

Table 8: Mollusca catalogue

C.3 Environmental samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.3.1 Four bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area. These features are thought to be medieval – post-medieval in date. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regards to domestic, agricultural, and industrial activities, diet, economy and waste disposal.

Methodology

C.3.2 The samples were 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 samples 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 flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 9. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al*. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (2010). The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.3.5 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

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

C.3.6 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Key to table: U=untransformed, w=waterlogged. Feature type D=ditch, P=pit

Results

C.3.7 The botanical material from this site is relatively sparse and consists of waterlogged, carbonised, and untransformed remains. All four samples taken from the site contain environmental material that suggests the presence of water in these features, at some

point in time. This material includes stonewort (*Chara oogonia*), duckweed (*Lemna sp.*), water crowfoot (*Ranunculus subgen Bactrachium*) and ostracods. The four samples are either devoid of or contain only a small quantity of charcoal. Cereal remains are present in only one of the four samples: Sample, 22 fill 452 of ditch **451** (Trench 4). The cereal remains consist of a single charred barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare*) and a small quantity of charred free-threshing bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum)* grains and rachis fragments. This sample is also notable in that it contains a small quantity of charred legumes (*Pisum/Lathyrus/Vicia* sp.), charred and waterlogged sedge (*Carex sp.*) seeds and frequent untransformed elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds. The untransformed elder seeds may be contemporary to the feature as this taxon has a tough outer coating which results in them surviving for long periods.

C.3.8 All of the samples from this site contain small to moderate quantities of molluscs.

Trench /Area no.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Wetland/Aquatic Plants	Tree/Shrub Macrofossils	Ostracods	Chara oogonia	Snails	Charcoal volume (ml)	Pottery	Small mammal bones	Mussels	Marine molluscs: other	CBM	Metal Fe
1	20	308	304	D	16	10	0	0	0	#U	##w	#U	+	+++	+++	0	0	#	0	0	#	0
2	21	353	350	P	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	#U	0	+	++	352	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	22	452	451	D	16	20	#	#	#	#	#w/#	###U	+	+	+++	20	##	0	##	#	#	#
7	23	605	602	D	10	5	0	0	0	0	##	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9: Environmental samples.

Discussion

C.3.9 The plant remains recovered from these samples, although relatively sparse, suggest that there is a potential for future work to recover waterlogged, untransformed or carbonised material from this site.

C.3.10 The presence of a small quantity of cereal remains in Sample 22 is likely to represent a background scatter of domestic refuse and the rachis fragments found within this sample may indicate that on-site processing was taking place. The large quantity of elder seeds present in this sample are unlikely to be significant and may be due to an elderberry bush growing alongside the ditch.

C.3.11 The sampled features all have indications of being filled with water, at least seasonally. The presence of water crowfoot in Sample 20, fill 308 of ditch **304** (Trench 1), suggests that the water, at least in this feature, was slow-moving or stagnant. The charred carex

seeds found in Sample 22 may indicate that some of the wetland resources growing in this environment were being used as a source of fuel.

C.3.12 Previous excavations in the surrounding area have produced similarly small botanical assemblages (Rees 2018a-b). These assemblages have also indicated a wet environment where wetland resources, such as sedges, may have been used for fuel.

C.3.13 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-398444
Project Name	Ramsey Abbey School, 3G Pitch

Start of Fieldwork	08/06/20	End of Fieldwork	18/06/20
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	RASASP20	Planning App. No.	18/02171/FUL
HER Number	ECB6210	Related Numbers	

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐ Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐ Grab-sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochonological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

Monument	Period
Ditch	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Pit	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Cobbled surface	Medieval (1066 to 1540)

Object	Period
Iron	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
CBM	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Clay tobacco-pipe	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Stone	Medieval (1066 to 1540)

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire
District	Huntingdonshire
Parish	Ramsey
HER office	Cambridgeshire

Address (including Postcode)

Abbey College, Abbey Road, Hollow Ln, Ramsey, PE26 1DG

Size of Study Area	0.75ha
National Grid Ref	TL 29450 85100

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Leanne Robinson Zeki (CCC HET)
Project Design Originator	Pat Moan (OA East)
Project Manager	Pat Moan (OA East)
Project Supervisor	Tim Lewis (OA East)

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Cambs. County Store	ECB6210
Digital Archive	OA East	RASASP20
Paper Archive	Cambs. County Store	ECB6210

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☒
Ceramics	☒	☒	☒
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☒	☒
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☒	☒
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☐	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☐	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒	Drawing	☐
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☐	Map	☐
Survey	☐	Matrices	☐
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☐
		Research/Notes	☐

Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☒
Plans	☒
Report	☒
Sections	☒
Survey	☒

Further Comments

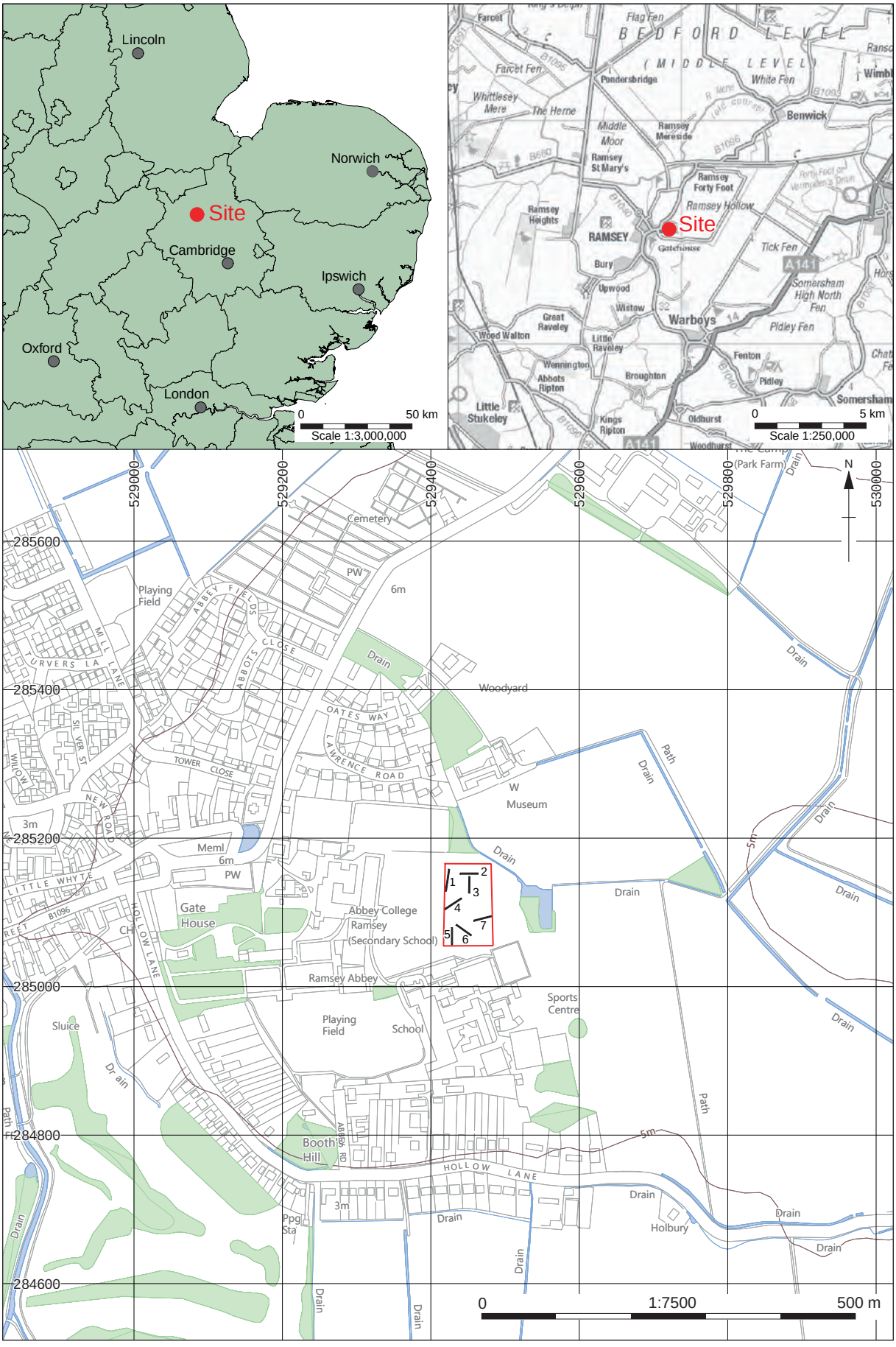

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Figure 1: Site location map with development area (red) and trenches (black)

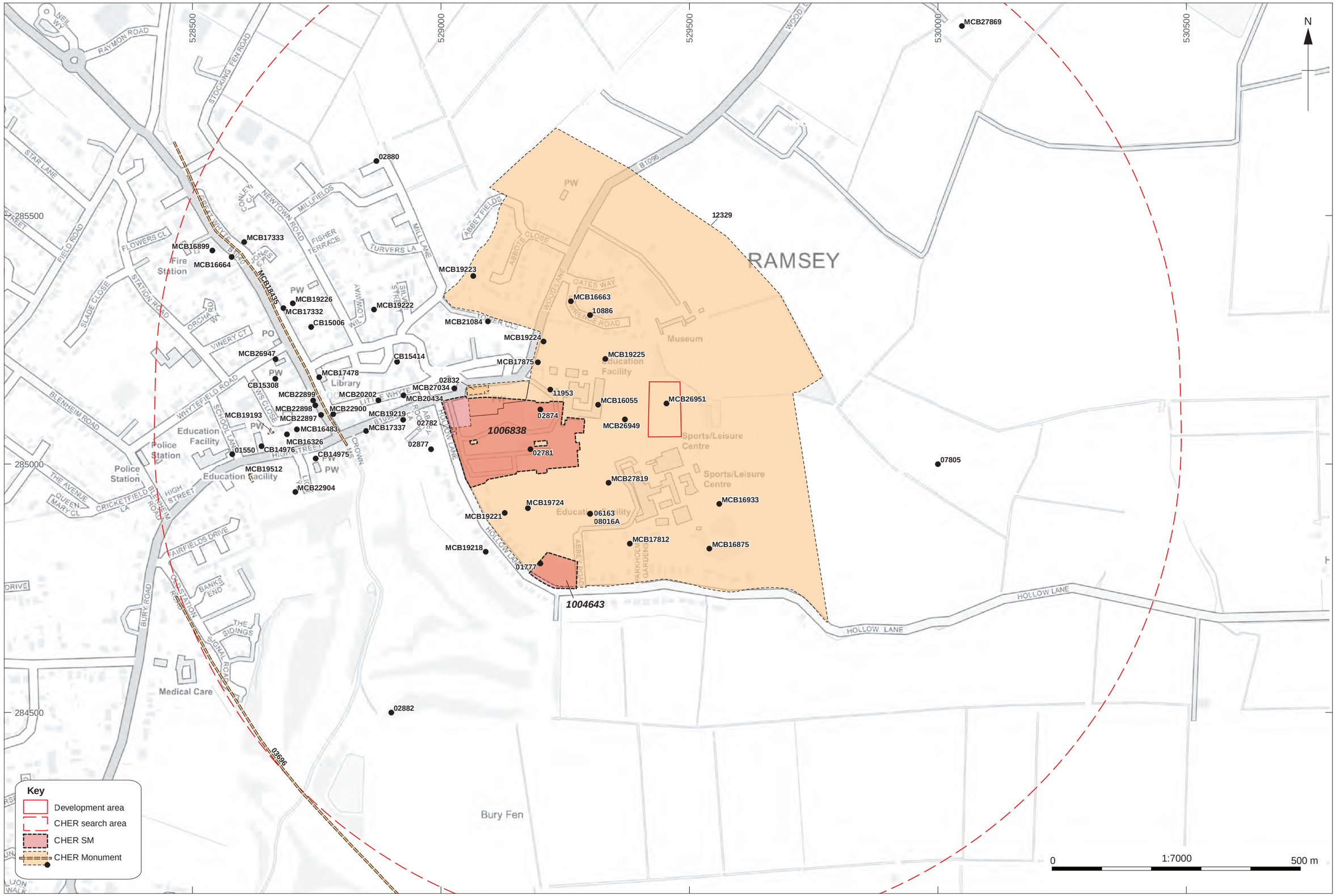


Figure 2a: Map showing location of CHER Scheduled Monuments (SAM) and Monuments

Figure 2b: Map showing location of CHER Events

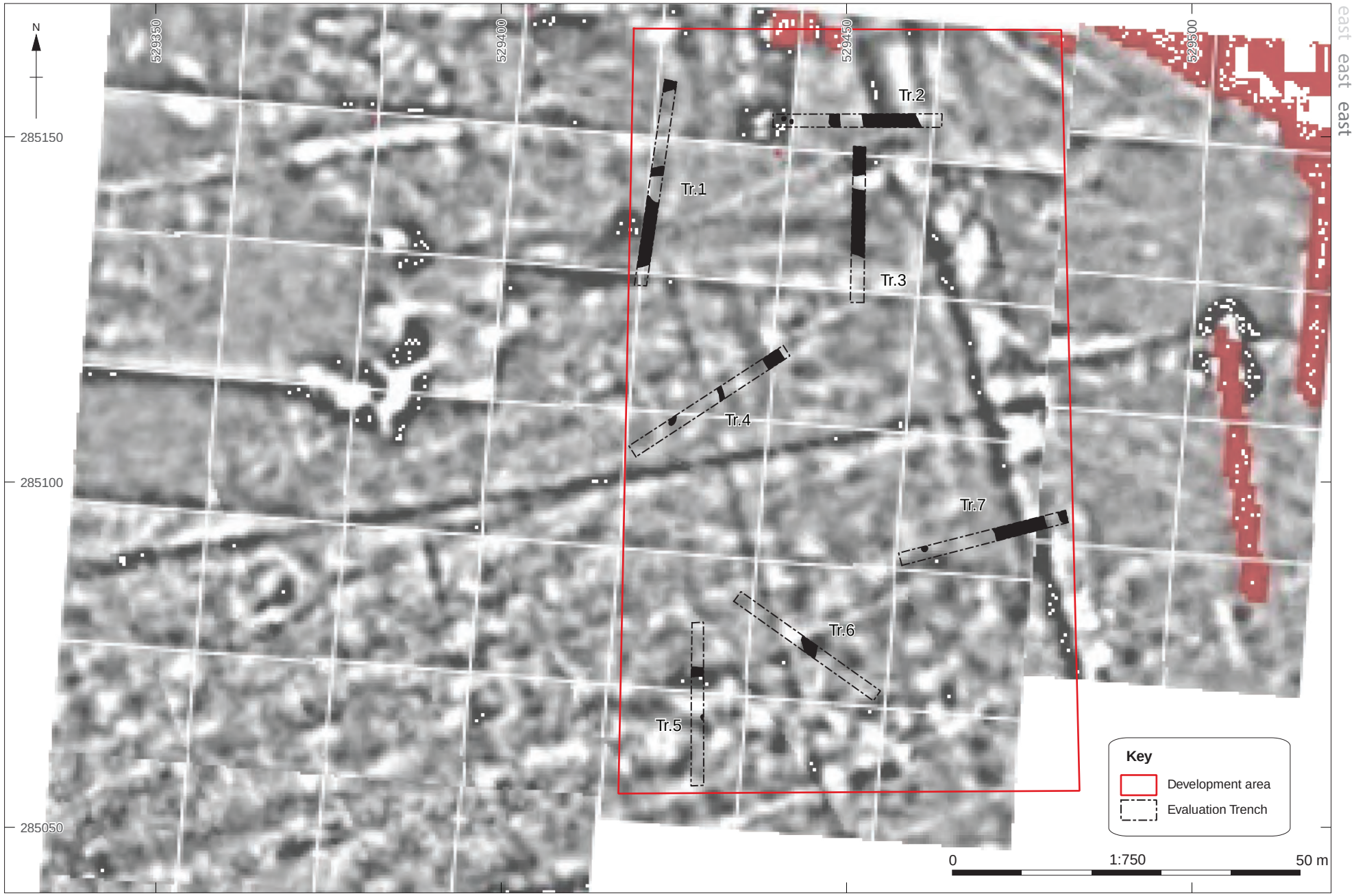


Figure 3: Trenches overlaid on RACAP geophysical survey results (reproduced with permission from RACAP)

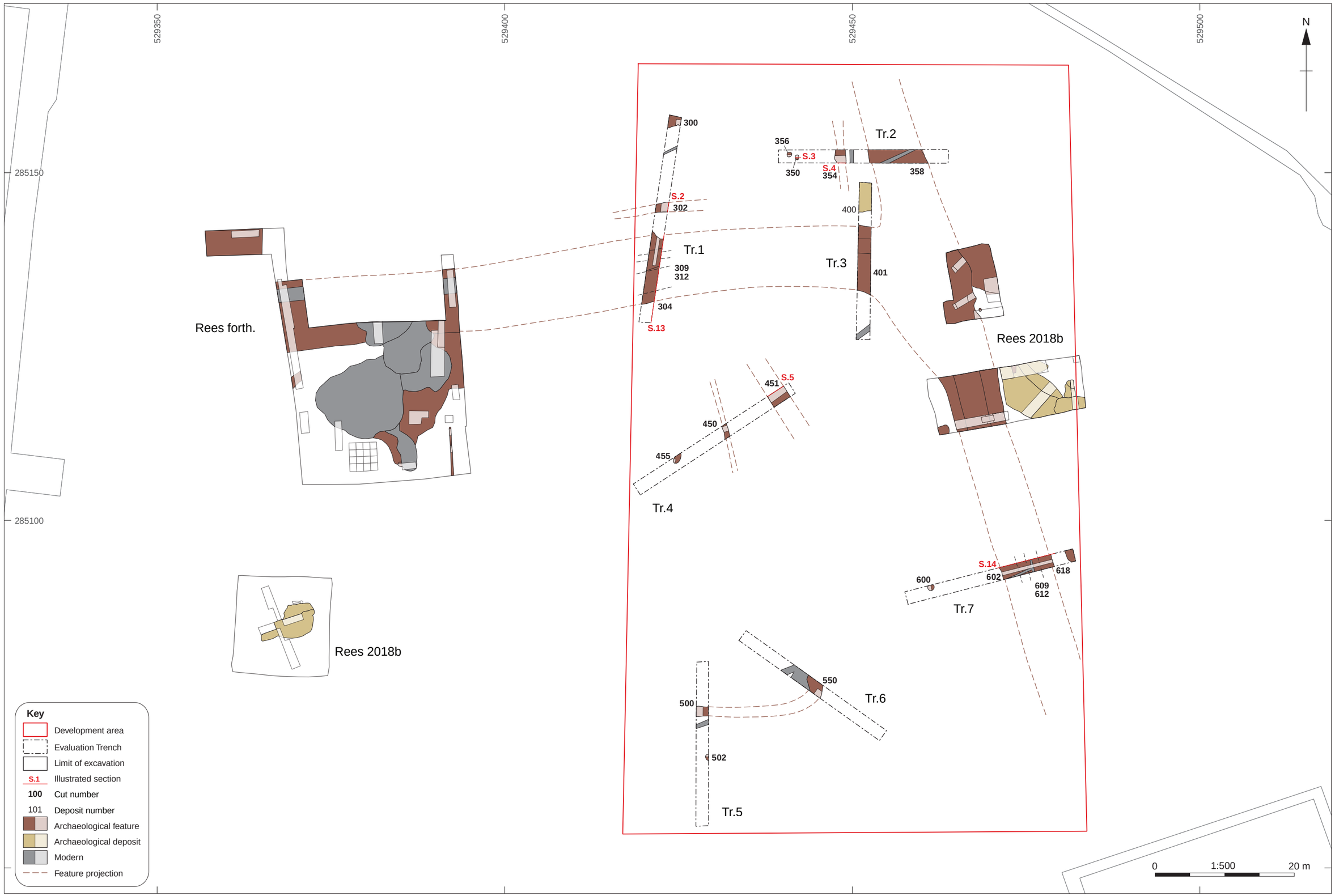


Figure 4: Overview of evaluation results along with outline plan of Ramsey Abbey community project excavations (taken from Rees 2018b and Rees forth.)

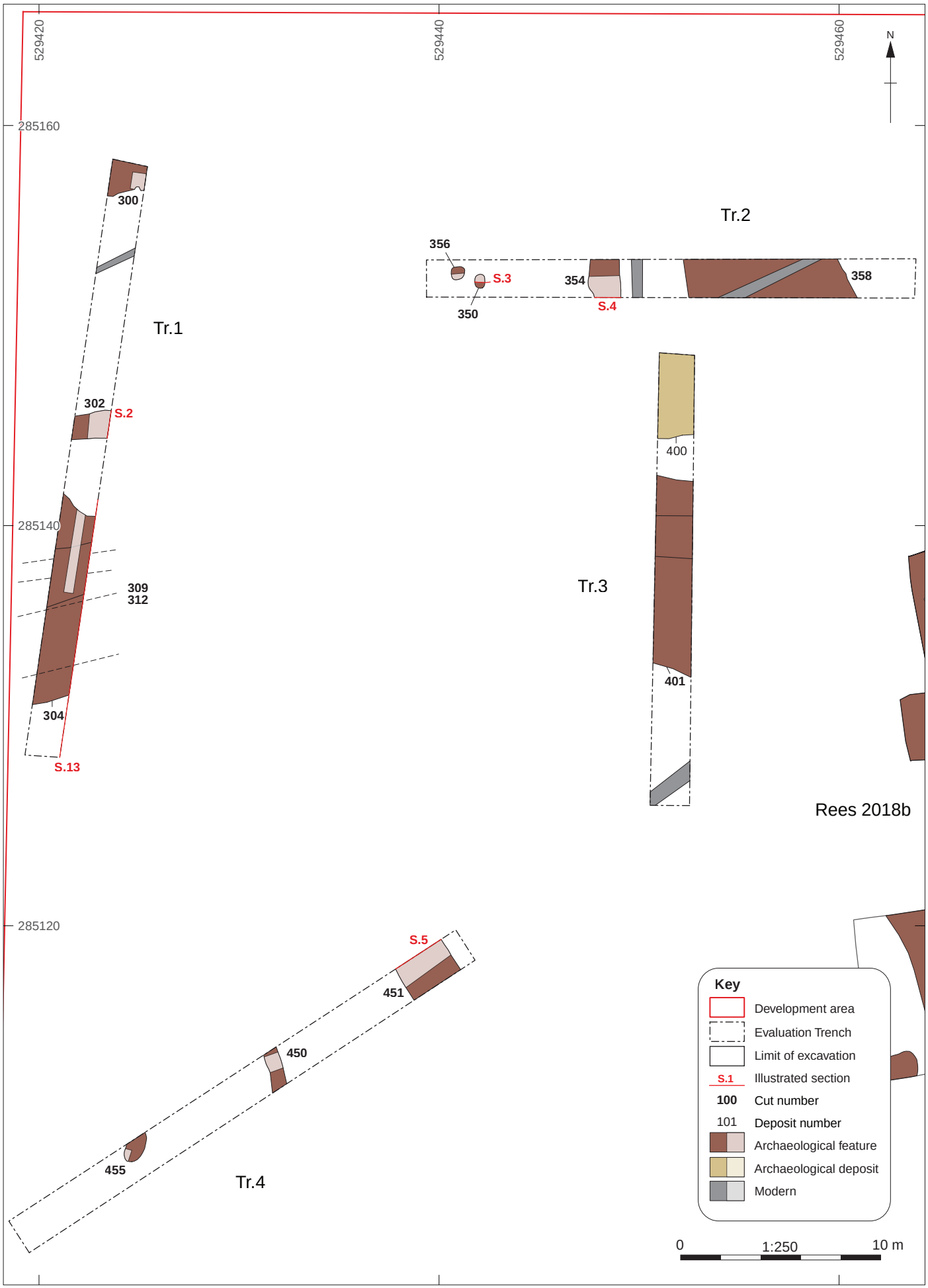


Figure 5: Detail plan of Trenches 1-4

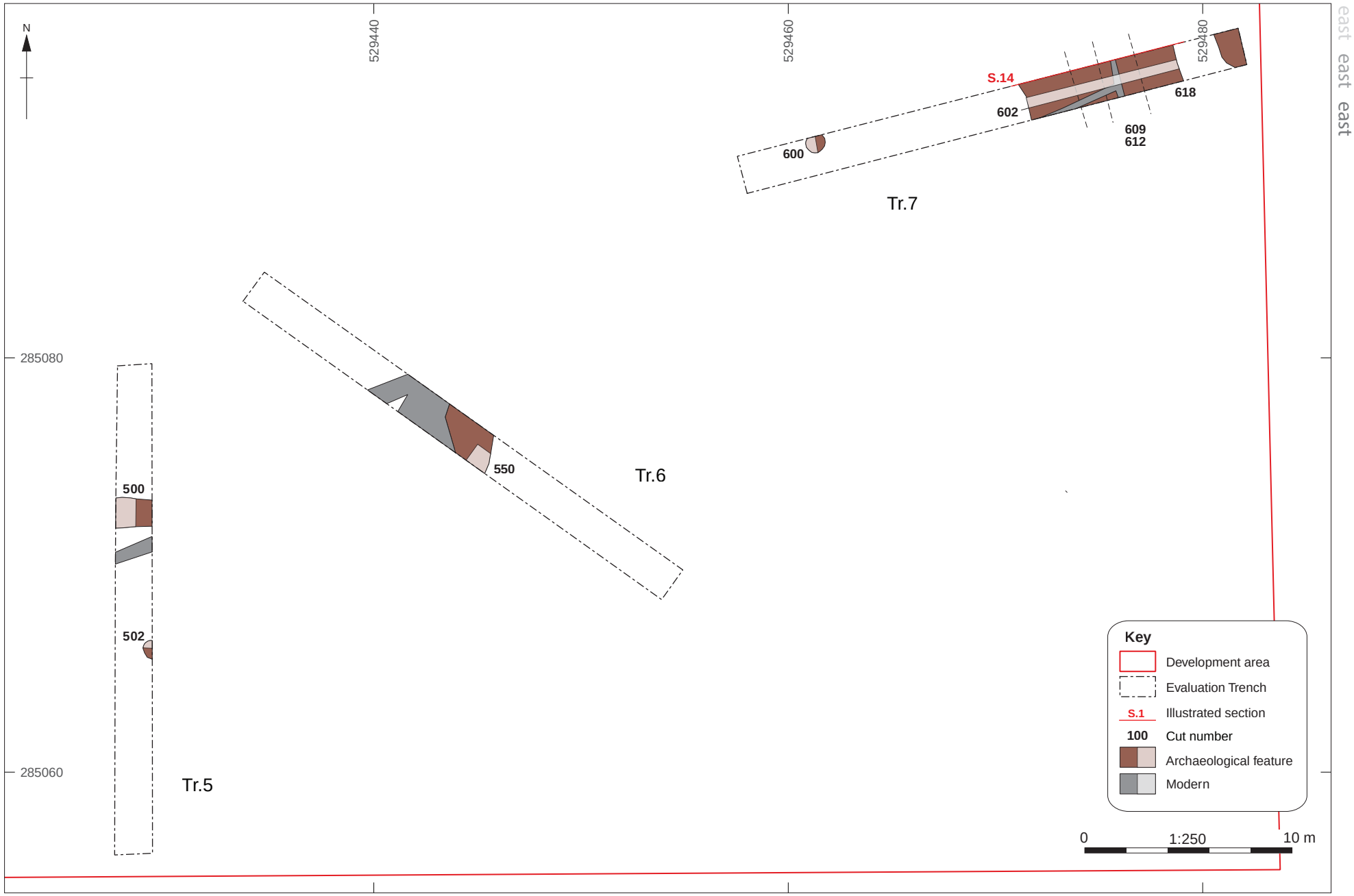
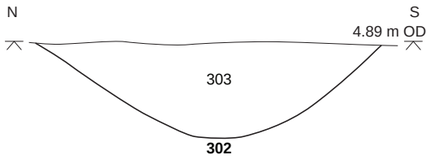


Figure 6: Detail plan of Trenches 5-7

Section 2 Trench 1



Section 5 Trench 4

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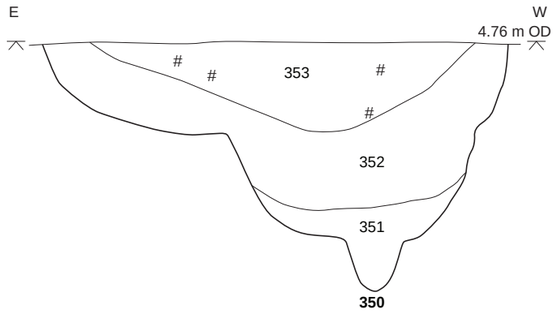
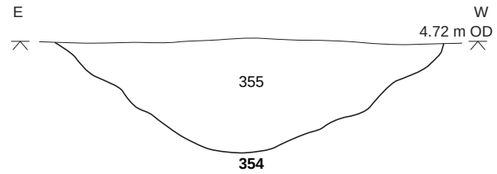
Section 3 Trench 2

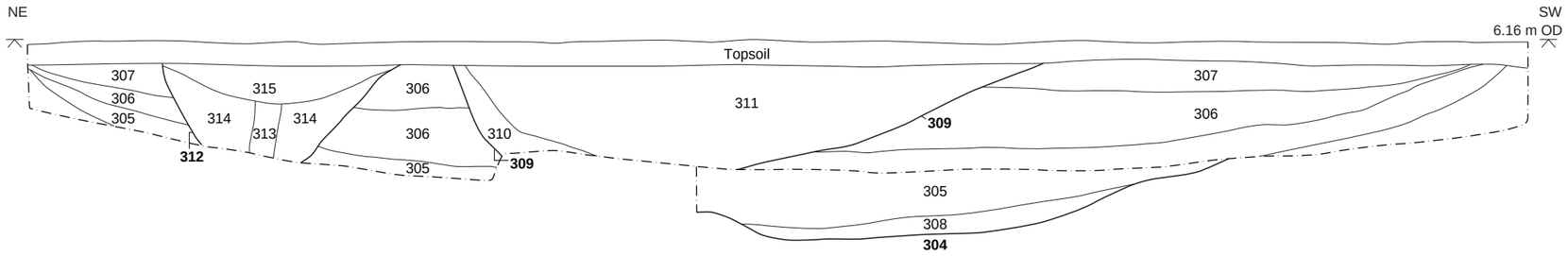


Section 4 Trench 2

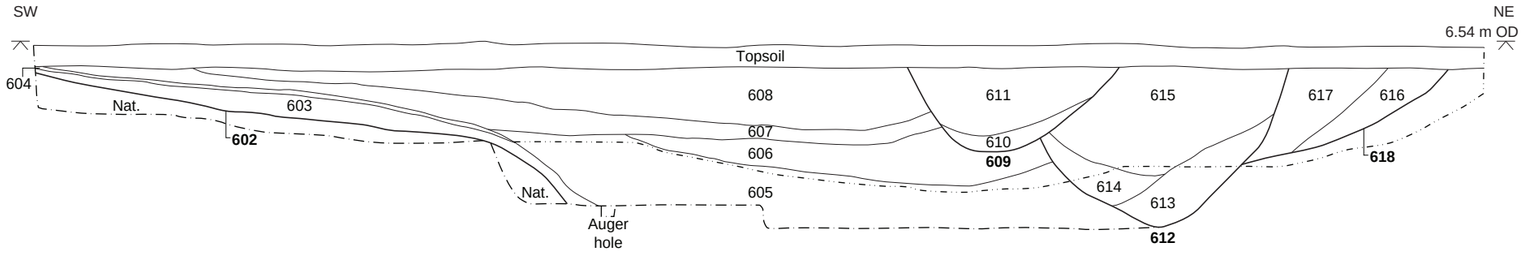


0 1:10 500 mm

Section 13 Trench 1



Section 14 Trench 7



0 1:50 2 m

Key

- Limit of Excavation
- Top surface
- Cut
- Deposit Horizon
- Intrusion/Truncation
- **117** Cut Number
- 116 Deposit Number
- 32.26 m OD Level

Figure 7: Selected sections

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north

Plate 2: Ditch **309** cutting ditch **304** in Trench 1, looking west

Plate 3: Pit **300** in Trench 1, looking east

Plate 4: Trench 2, looking east

Plate 5: Pit **350** in Trench 2, looking south

Plate 6: Trench 3, looking south, with cobbles 400 in foreground

Plate 7: Trench 4, looking south-west

Plate 8: Ditch **451** in Trench 4, looking north

Plate 9: Ditch **602**=**618** in Trench 7, looking north-east

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