

## Blythburgh Priory Blythburgh, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



**Ref: 68742**  
**September 2009**

**Blythburgh Priory, Blythburgh, Suffolk**  
**Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

Prepared on behalf of  
**Videotext Communications Ltd**  
**49 Goldhawk Road**  
**LONDON**  
**SW1 8QP**

By  
**Wessex Archaeology**  
**Portway House**  
**Old Sarum Park**  
**SALISBURY**  
**Wiltshire**  
**SP4 6EB**

Report reference: 68742.01

**September 2009**

# Blythburgh Priory, Blythburgh, Suffolk

## Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

### Contents

Summary

Acknowledgements

<b>1</b>	<b>BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction.....	1
1.2	Site Location, Topography and Geology.....	1
1.3	Archaeological and Historical Background .....	1
	<i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Prehistoric.....</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Romano-British (AD 43- 410) .....</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066) .....</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>Medieval - Post-Medieval (1066-1799).....</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>Modern (1800-present).....</i>	<i>3</i>
1.4	Previous Archaeological Work.....	4
<b>2</b>	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>METHODS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	Geophysical Survey .....	4
3.2	Landscape and Earthwork Survey .....	5
3.3	Evaluation Trenches .....	5
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1	Introduction.....	5
4.2	Geophysical Survey .....	5
	<i>Magnetic Survey.....</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>Resistance Survey.....</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey .....</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>Conclusions .....</i>	<i>9</i>
4.3	Evaluation Trenches .....	9
	<i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>9</i>
	<i>Site-Wide Stratigraphy.....</i>	<i>9</i>
	<i>Trench 1 (Figure 3) .....</i>	<i>9</i>
	<i>Trench 2 (Figure 3) .....</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Trench 3 (Figure 1) .....</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Trench 4 (Figure 4) .....</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Trench 5 (Figure 5) .....</i>	<i>11</i>
	<i>Trench 6 (Figure 5) .....</i>	<i>11</i>
	<i>Trench 7 (Figure 6) .....</i>	<i>12</i>
	<i>Trench 8 (Figure 5) .....</i>	<i>12</i>
	<i>Trench 9 (Figure 4) .....</i>	<i>13</i>
	<i>Trench 10 (Figure 7) .....</i>	<i>13</i>
	<i>Trench 11 (Figure 9, Plate 19) .....</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>Trench 12 (Figure 9, Plate 20) .....</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>Trench 13 (Figure 1) .....</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>Trench 14 (Figure 4) .....</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>Trench 15 (Figure 5) .....</i>	<i>15</i>
	<i>Trench 16/17 (Figure 8) .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>FINDS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1	Introduction.....	15

5.2	<b>Pottery</b> .....	15
	<i>Romano-British</i> .....	16
	<i>Medieval</i> .....	16
	<i>Post-Medieval</i> .....	16
5.3	<b>Ceramic Building Material (CBM)</b> .....	16
5.4	<b>Mortar</b> .....	17
5.5	<b>Stone</b> .....	17
5.6	<b>Glass</b> .....	18
5.7	<b>Metalwork</b> .....	18
	<i>Coins and tokens</i> .....	18
	<i>Copper Alloy</i> .....	18
	<i>Lead</i> .....	18
	<i>Iron</i> .....	19
5.8	<b>Human Bone</b> .....	19
5.9	<b>Animal Bone</b> .....	21
5.10	<b>Marine Shell</b> .....	21
5.11	<b>Other Finds</b> .....	22
5.12	<b>Potential and Recommendations</b> .....	22
6	<b>DISCUSSION</b> .....	22
6.1	<b>Romano-British</b> .....	22
6.2	<b>Saxon</b> .....	22
6.3	<b>Early Medieval (c. 1120)</b> .....	22
6.4	<b>Medieval (13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century)</b> .....	23
6.5	<b>Priory Layout</b> .....	23
7	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	24
8	<b>ARCHIVE</b> .....	24
9	<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	25

## Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

### Tables

Table 1:	All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)
Table 2:	Pottery totals by ware type
Table 3:	Summary of <i>in situ</i> burial remains
Table 4:	Animal bone condition and potential

### Figures

Figure 1:	Site location and trench plan, showing scheduled area
Figure 2:	Interpretation of geophysical data
Figure 3:	Trenches 1 and 2: plan and photographs Plate 1: Upstanding wall 102/202, south elevation Plate 2: Trench 1, view from west Plate 3: Trench 2, view from west Plate 4: Trench 2, detail of skeleton 207
Figure 4:	Trenches 4, 9 and 14: plan and photographs Plate 5: Trench 9, west-facing section Plate 6: Ditch 408 and post-hole 409 Plate 7: Garden wall 403 over possible cloister wall 426
Figure 5:	Trenches 5, 6, 8 and 15: plan and photographs Plate 8: Trench 6, view from north Plate 9: Trench 8, view from east Plate 10: Trench 8, view from west
Figure 6:	Trench 7: plan and photographs Plate 11: Trench 7, view from east

- Figure 7:** Plate 12: Skeleton 704 against wall 708  
Trench 10: plan and photographs  
Plate 13: Trench 10, view from west  
Plate 14: Pier bases 1009 and 1016  
Plate 15: Skeleton 1022, disturbed by pier base 1009  
Plate 16: Skeleton 1032 and 14<sup>th</sup> century brooch (Object 40)
- Figure 8:** Trenches 16/17: plan and photographs  
Plate 17: Skeleton 1606 in Grave 1604  
Plate 18: South-facing section of ditch 1618
- Figure 9:** Trenches 11 and 12: photographs  
Plate 19: Trench 11, view from west  
Plate 20: Trench 12, view from west
- Figure 10:** Possible Priory church layout
- Front cover:** Left: North-west column (1404) of the crossing tower  
Right: Wall 102/202, from north-east
- Back cover:** Top left: Trench 6 under excavation  
Top right: Opening Trench 1, to the south of wall 102/202  
Bottom: Copper alloy brooch (Object 40)

# Blythburgh Priory, Blythburgh, Suffolk

## Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

### Summary

In October 2008 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Blythburgh Priory in Blythburgh, Suffolk (Scheduled Ancient Monument Number SF215), to investigate the remains of the Augustinian Priory. The Priory remains are centred on NGR 645202 275398.

Activity within the area is known from the prehistoric to the Roman period but it was from the Saxon period onwards that the area became more intensively occupied. The Blythburgh area is reported as the site of the battle in AD 654 in which King Anna, the nephew of King Raedwald of the East Angles (who is thought to be buried at Sutton Hoo), was killed by King Penda of Mercia. Anna was buried at Blythburgh, either in the church of the Holy Trinity, or in the priory area to the east. His remains became the focus of pilgrimage, and his tomb was still being venerated by pilgrims in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that the church at Blythburgh was one of the Minsters of King Ælfwald, who died in 749. Blythburgh church was granted to the Canons of St. Osyth's Priory in Essex in 1120 by Henry I and had developed into a successful Augustinian monastic complex by the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The remains of the Priory are still upstanding.

No intrusive archaeological work has previously been undertaken within the Priory complex, and little is understood of its layout or development, although a number of small evaluations have taken place within the vicinity of the Site, and several scattered finds have been recovered.

The evaluation located at least two inhumation burials which pre-dated the Priory complex; these were radiocarbon dated to AD 670-780 and AD 890-1020 respectively. What may have been the *vallum monasteria*; the enclosing ditch around the monastic complex, was also revealed. The two early graves had been disturbed by the construction of the nave of the priory church, probably in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century, and by the extension to the single-celled church by the addition of a crossing-tower and extended chancel. No clear date for this later extension was ascertained, but the recovery of a 14<sup>th</sup> century brooch from a burial at the eastern end of the extension provides a possible *terminus post quem*.

The Priory appears to belong to a small number of monastic institutions in which the associated cloister was situated to the north instead of to the south as is more typical.

The evaluation at Blythburgh Priory was limited in scope, but does constitute the first intrusive archaeological work to take place on the site. Many questions regarding the layout and development of the Priory still remain to be answered, and further fieldwork is clearly required before a detailed consideration of the site can take place. In the interim, the results of the evaluation should be summarised for a short publication note, to be submitted to the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Field Archaeology*.

# **Blythburgh Priory, Blythburgh, Suffolk**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **Acknowledgements**

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Michael Douglas (Series Editor), Jane Hammond (Production Manager), Jim Mower (Assistant Producers), Tom Scott (Researcher), Joanna Gatum (Production Coordinator) and Kerry Ely (Location Supervisor) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Emma Wood and Jimmy Adcock of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham and landscape survey and map regression was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Steve Thompson with on-site finds processing by Naomi Hall, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Brigid Gallagher, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave, Faye Simpson, Tracey Smith, Kerry Ely and Matt Williams assisted by Jackie McKinley (Wessex Archaeology), Janine Young (L-P Archaeology), Paul Blinkhorn, Laura Catlin, Fergal O'Donoghue, Gary Webster, Clarissa Thomas, Ben Doran, Beth Green, Beth Cockeram and Charlotte Barron.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. The radiocarbon dating was undertaken by 14Chrono Centre, Queen's University Belfast. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mephram (finds), Nicholas Cooke (coins), Jessica Grimm (animal bone), and Jacqueline McKinley (human bone). The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram

The work benefited from discussion on-site with Mick Aston of Bristol University, Phil Harding and Jackie McKinley of Wessex Archaeology, Bob Carr of Suffolk County Council, John Ette of English Heritage and Theresa Hall.

Finally thanks are extended to Nick and Susie Haward, Charles and Rachel Morris and the Sir Charles Blois Estate for allowing access for geophysical survey and evaluation.

# Blythburgh Priory, Blythburgh, Suffolk

## Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

### 1 BACKGROUND

#### 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' on the site of Blythburgh Priory, Blythburgh, Suffolk (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

#### 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is located approximately 6km west of Southwold and around 18km to the south-west of Lowestoft within the parish of Blythburgh. The evaluation involved the investigation of an area known to contain the remains of an Augustinian priory. The Priory remains, centred on NGR 645202 275398, have been viewed as nationally important and are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM SF215).

1.2.2 The Site is bounded by Station Road (A12) to the east and Priory Road to the south. The River Blyth runs to the west and north of the Site leaving the Site on a slightly raised area of land. The present church of Holy Trinity is located just to the south-west of the Site (**Figure 1**). The scheduled area includes land associated with the properties; 'The Green', 'Priory Cottage', 'The Priory', 'Forge Cottage' and 'Abbey Cottage'.

1.2.3 The upstanding remains of the Priory are mainly located to the north of the property known as 'The Priory', on a series of terraces extending to the north from a height of approximately 7.10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 5.30m aOD.

1.2.4 The underlying geology is gravel with micaceous sands (BGS 191).

#### 1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

##### *Introduction*

1.3.1 The Site lies within an archaeologically rich landscape of all periods, and the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Sites and Monuments Record (SCCASSMR) identifies numerous archaeological sites and find spots within a study area defined as a circle with a 2km radius from the Site.

##### *Prehistoric*

1.3.2 A number of Neolithic (4000-2400 BC) finds have been found in the study area, including axe-heads, scrapers and other tools.

1.3.3 Bronze Age (2400-700 BC) sites include two large enclosures to the south-west, and two possible ploughed-out barrows to the south. There are also several find spots, including socketed axes.



- 1.3.4 No sites or finds of Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) date have been identified within the study area.

*Romano-British (AD 43- 410)*

- 1.3.5 Romano-British sites include a salt-working area identified c. 2km to the north-east on Bulcamp Marshes, and a number of find spots including pottery and metal finds from the White Hart Inn 100m to the east. To the south (c. 10km) is the east-west aligned Roman road from Pettaugh to Yoxford and the site of fort in the area of Sibton. Further Roman roads cross the area (Greening 2004, 9).

*Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)*

- 1.3.6 The Blythburgh area is reported as the site of the battle in AD654 in which King Anna, the nephew of King Raedwald of the East Angles (who is thought to be buried at Sutton Hoo) was killed by King Penda of Mercia. This may mark the beginning of the Anglo-Saxon occupation of the Blythburgh area, with the founding of a shrine to Anna (Greening 2004, 9; S. Newton *pers. comm.*) The *Liber Eliensis*, the 12<sup>th</sup> century history of the Isle of Ely, records the veneration of the tomb of King Anna 600 years after his death.

- 1.3.7 Such a shrine would have been located within a church and it is possible the church at Blythburgh was one of the Minsters of King Ælfwald, who died in 749. This date corresponds with the discovery of a leaf from an Anglo-Saxon writing tablet dated to the 8<sup>th</sup> century, thought to originate from the site of the Priory. It was apparently found with three styli (since lost) and presented to the British Museum in 1902. Made from whalebone, it has a recess at the back that may have contained wax for writing. There are traces of runes scratched into the surface. One possible interpretation of the object is that it may be a fragment of a diptych, used during the Mass in the early medieval church, and provides evidence of literacy usually associated with ecclesiastical sites – in this instance perhaps the Anglo-Saxon Minster (S. Newton, *pers. comm.*).

*Medieval - Post-Medieval (1066-1799)*

- 1.3.8 At the time of the Norman Conquest Blythburgh was part of a Royal estate set in the Blyth valley. It was one of Suffolk's twelve market towns and the church was particularly rich – worth ten times the average for Suffolk, which itself was one of wealthiest counties in England.

- 1.3.9 The Domesday Book entry for Blythburgh (The Hundred of Blything) lists the following; *'King Edward held Blythburgh as a manor with 5 carucates of land and 15 acres. Then as now 8 villans and 39 bordars and 1 slave. Then 1 plough in demesne. Land for 5 ploughs in demesne but Roger acquired 3 oxen and now there are the same number. Then as now 21 ploughs belonging to the men. Woodland for 40 pigs; 6 acres of meadow. 7 sokemen subject to every customary due (held) 3 carucates of land and 84 acres. Then as now 16 bordars and 9 ploughs and 1 market. Woodland for 30 pigs and 2 acres of meadow. To this manor belongs the fourth penny of the rent of the enclosure of 'Riseburc', between the king and the earl. All this rendered TRE £30 and one days supply of honey with every customary due; when Roger acquired it, £50 by weight, now £23 by weight. A church with 2 carucates of land. Then as now 9 villans and 4 bordars. Then 1 plough in demesne, now a half. Then four ploughs belonging to the men, now 1. Woodland for 20 pigs; half an acre of meadow. Then it rendered ten thousand herrings, now 50S and three thousand herrings. Osbern Masculus holds this in alms of the king. To this church belong two others without land'.*

- 1.3.10 Around 1120 Henry I granted Blythburgh church to the Augustinian canons of St. Osyth's Priory in Essex; there were canons at Blythburgh by 1147. A priory dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary was founded in Blythburgh in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and, although never large, by the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century its income came from property in 40 Suffolk parishes (Videotext Communications 2008, 2).
- 1.3.11 Following the Black Death in 1349 the Priory was in decline. By 1407 there were only seven resident brothers, including the prior. In contrast, Blythburgh church flourished, as the prior obtained a licence to rebuild in 1412 and by 1480 this project was complete. The new Holy Trinity church retained a 14<sup>th</sup> century tower. By 1449 decline had set in and income from the local market had severely reduced.
- 1.3.12 In 1537 Blythburgh became a victim of the dissolution of the monasteries. The prior received a small pension and the priory was estimated to be worth just over £8, including £2 for *'five horses and an old cart'*. Its buildings were raided for material, with stone taken to repair Blythburgh Bridge.
- 1.3.13 An indenture made in 1549, now held by the Blois estate, gives some impression of the nature of the Priory complex; *'the scite of the late Priory of Blyborow with all howses, curtelages, yards, orchards, barnes and gardyns within the scite, circuit or precinct of the seid late priorie, together with three fennes – called great fenne and Swanes Neste (20 acres) and Broomeclose (33 acres), the great halle, the high parlour and the ende of the seid halle and the two vaultes under seide halle and parlour with the late cloysters and the goose gardyn – the greate court'* (Videotext Communications 2008, 2).
- 1.3.14 After the dissolution, property and lands of the Priory were granted to Walter Wadelond of Needham Market and in 1548 they reverted to the Hopton family, being combined with the Blythburgh manor which they already owned. In 1592 the Hopton family sold Blythburgh manor to Alderman Robert Brooke, a London grocer. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the estate passed to the Blois family, Ipswich mercers and chandlers, in whose family the estate remains today.
- 1.3.15 Economic decline in Blythburgh during the 17<sup>th</sup> century resulted in the church falling into disrepair and disuse as reported in 1633 and the population severely reduced; this was exacerbated by a fire in 1676 which saw the population fall to just 124 in 21 households by 1754.
- 1.3.16 In 1785 a new turnpike road was established through the village and much material was taken from the Priory ruins to use in the construction
- 1.3.17 In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Blythburgh prospered, with increased use of the waterways during the Blyth Navigation Scheme of 1759-61, which improved drainage of the marshes and the navigability of the River Blyth. This began to decline in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Modern (1800-present)*

- 1.3.18 This period saw Holy Trinity church fall into decline leading to its closure by the Bishop of Norwich in 1881. A national campaign in the 1880s enabled the repair and reopening of the church, although there was much local controversy over the manner and extent of restoration works.
- 1.3.19 The local building committee included prominent local artists, reflecting the establishment of Blyth Valley as an attractive to local painters. Members of the Royal Academy Ernest Croft and Sir John Seymour Lucas had homes in

the village, the latter at 'The Priory', and the modest 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings were remodelled by the artists.

- 1.3.20 The population rose rapidly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century peaking in 1851 at 1118, including those at the Bulcamp workhouse (built in 1766), and in 1879 the opening of the Southwold Railway saw the opening of the station at Blythburgh which provided the main transport route to the rest of the country, only to fall into decline at the beginnings of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the increase in road use (Videotext Communications 2008, 2-4; Greening 2004, 11-12).

## **1.4 Previous Archaeological Work**

### *Archaeological Evaluation*

- 1.4.1 A number of small archaeological evaluations have taken place in the vicinity of the Site by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), and evidence of Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity has been found at the White Hart Inn (see above, **1.3.5**; Meredith 2001), with further post-medieval activity identified at Bulcamp workhouse and Station Road (Gardner 2002; Meredith 2000).
- 1.4.2 In 2007 SCCAS conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring during the construction of a single storey extension to 'The Priory' (Good 2007). This extension was outside the current scheduled area and a watching brief identified a north-west – south-east aligned grave containing an articulated adult skeleton.
- 1.4.3 No archaeological work has taken place on the site of the Priory itself, and its layout and development are, therefore, little understood.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2008), providing full details of the research aims and methods. This project design was agreed with the County Archaeologist and the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments following the granting of Scheduled Monument Consent by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for work within the scheduled area. A brief summary is provided here.

- Project Aim 1: To determine the date sequence of sub-surface archaeological remains within the area of the site.
- Project Aim 2: To establish the condition of sub-surface archaeological remains within the area of the site.
- Project Aim 3: To determine, as far as possible, the extent of sub-surface archaeological remains within the area of the site.

## **3 METHODS**

### **3.1 Geophysical Survey**

- 3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site by GSB Prospection Ltd using a combination of Resistance, Magnetic and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey. The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

## **3.2 Landscape and Earthwork Survey**

- 3.2.1 A landscape survey and analysis of the cartographic evidence was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth, Senior Investigator of the Archaeological Survey and Investigation Team, English Heritage. The results of the survey, as discussed with Stewart Ainsworth, are incorporated within this report.

## **3.3 Evaluation Trenches**

- 3.3.1 Seventeen trenches (two were subsequently amalgamated into one) of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and to investigate the standing remains of the Priory (**Figure 1**).
- 3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.
- 3.3.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.
- 3.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system and Trimble Total Station. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.
- 3.3.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.
- 3.3.7 A unique site code (BLB076) was issued prior to the commencement of works. The work was carried out on the 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

# **4 RESULTS**

## **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2008), and details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the archive. Details of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

## **4.2 Geophysical Survey**

- 4.2.1 Five areas were investigated using a combination of Resistance, Magnetic and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey across the Site (**Figure 2**). Conditions for survey were not ideal surrounding the ruins and this has affected the results of all survey techniques.

- 4.2.2 Magnetic data were collected to the north of the Priory remains; a number of large pit-like responses were located along with a possible former monastic boundary.
- 4.2.3 Unfortunately, due to the topography and past landscaping of the Site, interpretation of the resistance data has proved extremely difficult. However, some high resistance anomalies indicate possible rubble spreads and features which may be associated with the Priory nave and cloister.
- 4.2.4 The GPR data have also proved difficult to interpret; however, it has been possible to identify the eastern continuation of the nave and areas of increased response which related directly to the Priory buildings.

#### *Magnetic Survey*

- 4.2.5 Survey was carried out in the field to the north of the Priory only (**Figure 2A: Area 1**). The data reveal a number of large, strong magnetic anomalies (A) which suggests that they are pits filled with burnt material or rubbish debris and thus potentially of archaeological interest. The majority of these responses lie on a level platform overlooking the estuary to the north and west, adding weight to an archaeological interpretation.
- 4.2.6 Bisecting the data is a negative anomaly (B), which could mark the boundary surrounding the Priory site; however, the anomalies at least partially coincide with a footpath running through the field and as such the interpretation is tentative.
- 4.2.7 An area of magnetic disturbance (C) may suggest a modern dump of materials or be associated with brick rubble spread. Ferrous responses along the limits of the survey area are due to a metal fence.

#### *Resistance Survey*

##### Area 2

- 4.2.8 A small area was collected in order to ascertain whether the remains of the Priory continued to the west (**Figure 2B**). Results indicate that this is the case, as a zone of high resistance is on the same alignment as the standing remains. The data also complement the GPR results. Unfortunately, due to modern landscaping, the ground falls away immediately to the west of the survey area and so it was not possible to identify the western end of the Priory church.

##### Area 3

- 4.2.9 High resistance anomalies within this area (6) are likely to be associated with the Priory, although the responses lie on a different alignment to the upstanding remains. It could be that these relate to a different phase of the Priory's history. It must also be noted that a number of trees and other vegetation were present within this area have complicated matters.

##### Area 4

- 4.2.10 An area of high resistance in the centre of the data (corresponding to 12 and 13 on the GPR survey, see below) appears to form a right angle and is on a similar alignment to the ruins of the Priory in the west. Two evaluation trenches, subsequently combined (Trenches 16/17), were placed within this area in order to locate any walls, and eventually identified cut features backfilled with hardcore material – hence the high resistance response. Dressed stones were found at the bottom of the feature demonstrating that it was clearly man-made; however, at the time of the excavation it was not

thought to be a robber trench associated with the eastern end of the church – although this interpretation is still open to debate.

#### Area 5

- 4.2.11 High resistance anomalies within this dataset (corresponding to 14 and 15 on the GPR survey, see below)) could have an archaeological origin, given the context of the Site, but also equally have a topographical/natural or modern origin. Evaluation Trench 15 uncovered a brick-lined drainage system of a modern date.

#### *Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey*

- 4.2.12 This site proved to be somewhat challenging, both from a geophysical and excavation point of view. Difficulties in interpreting the recorded responses in the GPR data were mirrored by a similar problem once the buried remains were exposed. Determining relative alignments and stratigraphy were far from straightforward and it was clear that, in this instance, the phases of demolition, robbing, rebuilding and landscaping of materials had produced a complex dataset which did not effectively map all elements of the archaeological resource.

#### Area 2

- 4.2.13 Survey in this area consisted of two blocks; one (Area 2A) was an attempt to determine whether the western end of the Priory extended beyond the previously assumed limit (a sharp drop-off in the topography between the current garden path and a flat lawn area), as excavation had failed to define any kind of cross wall. Whilst there are strong reflectors identified in the centre of the grid (1), there is nothing in the distribution to suggest that these reflectors are structural remains and time did not allow for expansion of the survey. However, this area sloped gently up from west to east to meet the garden path and it is possible that there has been some degree of landscaping. In the radargrams, sloping reflectors are quite possibly the original ground surface below imported material (the apparent dip is an artefact of the topographic change along the traverse), whilst the strong reflectors are associated with a change in the near-surface response, perhaps suggesting that this is material dug-in at a later date.
- 4.2.14 Survey along the garden path (Area 2B) was an attempt to locate the western wall of the cloister and continuation of the Priory nave. The latter was successful with strong anomalies (2) recorded on the correct alignment. Unfortunately, the linear spread of anomalies and trends around (3) which, it was hoped, were remnants of the cloister perambulatory walk or associated inner wall, turned out to be little more than a compacted surface, probably related to an earlier path surface. Relatively strong anomalies (4), at depth, related to an earlier structure, unlikely to be related to the Priory. Further strong reflectors (5) are visible to the east but are considerably shallower; they may also be archaeological, but this is pure speculation, having no supporting evidence.

#### Area 3

- 4.2.15 Survey within this area also consisted of two blocks. Despite the existence of extant but seemingly truncated walls north of the nave (Area 3A), defining their continuation proved somewhat difficult. The terrain was particularly rough with vegetation roots and rubble strewn across the ground. The result has been a series of complex radargrams producing anomalies that are difficult to separate into distinct features (assuming that there are some to be

found in this area). Anomaly (6) may be a continuation of adjacent visible structures, with the former possibly showing suggestions of a return to the west. However, this is very tentative as the anomalies and trends vary hugely between successive time-slices, making interpretation very difficult.

- 4.2.16 Near-surface, the data south of the nave (Area 3B) are dominated by a band of increased response and high amplitude anomalies running approximately north-south. Whilst the northern segment (8) and the western 'arm' (9) did coincide with a former floor and wall line, respectively, there were still some discrepancies. It was initially assumed that (9) represented part of the cloister, but this could not be proved by excavation, and it seems that the potential return (10) was just a coincidental anomaly. The anomalies recorded around (11) could possibly be ancillary structures, but without any documentary or excavation evidence to support this, other explanations must be given consideration; there is certainly little definition of individual wall lines, although this has also been true over areas of known archaeology.

#### Area 4

- 4.2.17 The results from the east end are particularly confusing. There appears to be a distinct rectilinear spread of strong reflectors (12) in the shallower time-slices (and responses within the radargrams that look like good candidates for wall footings) that align well with the extant north and south nave walls of the Priory. However, excavation revealed nothing more than a strange dump of gravelly material. The material cannot be natural given the stratigraphy and presence of worked stone beneath it; however it was completely devoid of any building fragments or pottery, and quickly became less well-defined, eventually covering a large area. This seems to be reflected in the deeper time-slices where there is little definition to the anomalies; instead the picture is one of a broad spread of reflectors. The origin of linear anomaly (13) is also unclear but, given the gravelly deposits and distance from the main Priory, it may not be of major archaeological significance.
- 4.2.18 Anomalies adjacent to the sheds (on the eastern edge of the survey area) are assumed to relate to their construction and former hard-standing; however, the lack of a definite position for the Priory's east end leaves the possibility open that it lies nearer the extant remains, perhaps under these sheds. If this is the case, these anomalies would take on a new significance, and perhaps so too would those seen in the south-east corner of the survey area. But to interpret these as anything more than of uncertain origin at this stage would be simply speculative.

#### Area 5

- 4.2.19 This area was surveyed due to its open position between the standing remains of the Priory and the graves uncovered at the current property on the site. Unfortunately, the primary source of responses seems to be services, drains and/or possible former paths (for example, 14) identified as strong linear anomalies. Excavation over one of the less linear reflectors (15), in the south of the garden, quickly revealed the top of a brick chamber forming part of the current drainage system. Other, somewhat weaker responses across the garden have been classified as uncertain; it is not clear whether they hold archaeological significance or are a facet of the material used to raise and level this particular area of lawn.

## *Conclusions*

- 4.2.20 Magnetic data have located a number of large pit-like anomalies; these may contain burnt or fired material and are indicative of occupation. A negative feature bisecting the data may relate to the boundary surrounding the Priory site; however, it may be connected with a modern footpath.
- 4.2.21 The resistance data are dominated by amorphous areas of high resistance. Whilst the western survey block has located the continuation of the nave, elsewhere it has proved extremely difficult to relate the results to the Priory remains.
- 4.2.22 The GPR survey also produced a complex set of responses that proved difficult to interpret prior to excavation. That said, even after some of the remains had been uncovered there was still difficulty in attributing the now extant features to the GPR data. It appears that landscaping and the remodelling, robbing and re-use of materials have badly affected the integrity of geophysical responses attainable over the site. At its worst, chance alignments of features, seemingly unrelated to the Priory, complicated the interpretation further. It was possible to identify the eastern continuation (but not the exact dimensions) of the nave, and areas of increased response that related directly to zones of Priory structure; however, identification of individual architectural features and the precise layout, in this instance, remained elusive.

## **4.3 Evaluation Trenches**

### *Introduction*

- 4.3.1 Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16/17 were excavated within the gardens of 'The Priory', Trenches 7 and 11 in the grounds of 'The Green' and Trenches 12 and 13 on farmland to the north of 'The Priory', belonging to the Sir Charles Blois Estate (**Figure 1**).

### *Site-Wide Stratigraphy*

- 4.3.2 Each trench excavated within the grounds of the 'The Priory' and 'The Green' revealed between 0.10m and 0.44m of very humic leaf litter-rich topsoil and in some instances an underlying subsoil layer on average 0.12m thick was also observed sealing stratified archaeological remains.

### *Trench 1 (Figure 3)*

- 4.3.3 Trench 1 was located on the southern (external) side of east-west aligned up-standing flint rubble wall (102) (**Figure 3, Plates 1, 2, and back cover**, top right). The wall was interpreted as the southern wall of the nave of the Priory church; the herringbone construction method and re-use of Romano-British *tegulae* is considered as not untypical of early English (Norman) construction of the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.3.4 The wall was constructed upon a stepped flint rubble footing (108) within construction trench (109) with deliberate backfill material (106) sealing (108) and butting (102) within construction trench (109). Due to the narrow constraints of the trench it was unclear through what the construction trench was cut. The wall was subsequently butted by (103), a post-demolition accumulation layer derived from the demolition of (102) and other Priory buildings within the area.
- 4.3.5 A tree throw hole (104), which contained a sherd of modern stoneware pottery, cut (103). It was sealed by topsoil (101), which contained a



#### *Trench 2 (Figure 3)*

- 4.3.6 Trench 2 was located across a probable door way inserted through the upstanding southern wall of the nave, recorded as (202) (and equivalent to (102), to investigate the interior and exterior of the church. Two sondages were excavated either side of wall (202) (**Figure 3, Plate 3**).
- 4.3.7 On the external (southern) side was a highly disturbed grave (206) containing skeleton (207) (**Figure 3, Plate 4**); the grave appeared to cut the natural geology (216). The remains were those of an adult (>40 years), possibly female (see **Table 3**). A sample taken from the clavicle of skeleton (207) was submitted for radiocarbon dating and yielded a middle Saxon date of AD 670-780, thus pre-dating the acquisition of Blythburgh church by the Priory of St. Osyth in c.1120. The grave was sealed by layer (210), a possible levelling/make-up layer, possibly equivalent to (215), observed within the interior of the church and deposited to create a level building platform of the construction of the church. Layer (210) contained disarticulated human remains, from an adult male and a young infant.
- 4.3.8 Layer (210) was cut by the foundation trench (209) for wall (202). Trench (209) also contained foundation material (217). Butting wall (202) and sealing foundation material (217) was (212), a deliberate dumping layer. Layer (212) was subsequently overlain by cobbled/metalled surface (203) **Figure 3, Plate 3**).
- 4.3.9 In the interior of the church levelling layer (215) was overlain by (214), a lime mortar bedding surface for the church floor (218). The remains of the floor (which had been heavily robbed) comprised green- and yellow-glazed tiles.
- 4.3.10 It appeared from the position of the ashlar quoins (**Figure 3, Plate 3**) as if a doorway had been inserted into the southern wall of the church, and it was clear that the upstanding wall tapered inwards, i.e. the width of the doorway decreased from outside to inside, suggestive of a series of orders of colonnettes (e.g. Stevens Curl 1992, 114, plate 105b).
- 4.3.11 A modern pipe trench (204) had heavily disturbed the remains on the southern side of wall (202), including cobbled surface (203) and the underlying remains. A number of disarticulated human remains (adult male, infant and two neonates) were recovered from the backfill of the pipe trench, along with early medieval (?11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery and Romano-British tile. The topsoil (201) also contained redeposited human remains (neonate and infant).

#### *Trench 3 (Figure 1)*

- 4.3.12 Trench 3 was positioned to investigate geophysical anomaly (15) and revealed modern brick built soak-away (302), which was cut into and sealed by the current topsoil (301). The trench was not excavated further.

#### *Trench 4 (Figure 4)*

- 4.3.13 Trench 4 was located to investigate the northern side of the Priory church and the terrace that sloped away to the north. The trench was located either side of an upstanding east-west aligned wall (403) located along the edge of the terrace. The ground surface drops from 6.25m aOD to 5.03m aOD from the south of Trench 4 to the north.

- 4.3.14 Possibly the earliest observed feature was an east-west aligned ditch (408), which cut the natural basal geology (423/427) on the north side of wall (403) (**Figure 4, Plate 6**). The function of the ditch is unknown, but pottery recovered from ditch fill (405) was tentatively dated to the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century. The ditch also contained Romano-British tile and fragments of disarticulated human bone (adult ?female).
- 4.3.15 On the south side of (403) the natural geology was sealed by (420), a redeposited natural levelling/make up layer possibly equivalent to (210/215) in Trench 2, for the construction of the church. No remains of the northern wall of the nave of the church were observed however a large robber cut (412) for the removal of the northern wall was revealed. The ditch fill contained fragments of disarticulated human bone (adult >40 years). Overlying (420) was a further levelling layer (425) which was in turn sealed by (424), a mortar spread bedding layer for the now robbed floor surface of the nave. Layer (424) is probably equivalent to (214) in Trench 2.
- 4.3.16 Wall (403) utilised an earlier wall (426) as its foundation (**Figure 4, Plate 7**). Aligned east-west, the latter wall is parallel to the nave structure and was interpreted as either the north wall of an aisle to the north of the nave or (if the cloister was on the north side of the church) the inner wall separating the cloister garth from the ambulatory.
- 4.3.17 A possible small post-hole (409) to the north of ditch (408) contained medieval (13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, and may have been associated with construction activity within the Priory complex.
- 4.3.18 Wall (426) was overlain by deposit (407) within cut (406), but it is unclear whether (406) was the robber cut for the removal of (426), or the construction cut for wall (403). Possibly associated with (406) was cut (421), which was only partially exposed in section, but may represent part of the robbing of the nave. Cut (421) contained fragments of disarticulated human bone (humerus) and medieval tile fragments.
- 4.3.19 The archaeological features were sealed by a post-demolition levelling layer (404), which was in turn sealed by subsoil (402) and topsoil (401).

*Trench 5 (**Figure 5**)*

- 4.3.20 Trench 5 was incorrectly positioned and subsequently abandoned while still within the topsoil (501).

*Trench 6 (**Figure 5**)*

- 4.3.21 Trench 6 was located on the southern side of upstanding column (606), a flint rubble structure faced with sawn ashlar stones, creating a circular column with a flat faced southern elevation. It was faced on the western and southern sides, and was interpreted as the south-western column of the crossing tower of the church (see **Figure 10**).
- 4.3.22 Column (606) was constructed upon stepped footing (607) within foundation trench (609), and was clearly butted by the remains of a later north-south aligned wall (603) (**Figure 5, Plate 8**). Wall (603) did not butt (606) centrally but was slightly off-set to the east; it had been robbed down to ground level and was butted on the western side by levelling/bedding layer (605) and by rubble layer (608) and on the eastern side by rubble layer (604). The robbing of wall (603) destroyed part of the column (606).
- 4.3.23 The function of (603) is not clear, but it is possible that it formed the western wall of the southern transept leading from the crossing tower column (606),

and thus would have formed part of the outer wall of the cloister if this was located on the southern side (although see below, Trench 8).

#### *Trench 7 (Figure 6)*

- 4.3.24 Trench 7 was positioned to locate the western wall of the Priory church and was targeted upon geophysical anomaly (2) (see **Figure 2**). The earliest recorded archaeological remains appeared to comprise the southern wall of the nave of the Priory church (708), the continuation of wall (102/202). Within the interior of the church, a series of bedding layers and floor surfaces was recorded within a sondage excavated through overlying demolition material. The earliest bedding layer recorded was (717/720), possibly equivalent to layers (210/215) in Trench 2 and (420) in Trench 4.
- 4.3.25 Above layer (717/720) were levelling layers (716) and (725) and subsequently floor bedding layer (712/724), which contained the remains of *in situ* glazed floor tiles (equivalent to surface (218) in Trench 2). The internal face of wall (708) was sealed with white-washed render (713) which also partially overlay the remains of the now robbed tile floor.
- 4.3.26 On the southern (external) side of wall (708) the remains of an inhumation burial (707), containing skeleton (704), were partly exposed (**Figure 6, Plate 12**). The skeleton was that of an adult (c. 40-50 years), probably male (see **Table 3**). Pottery recovered from the grave backfill was identified as Ipswich/Thetford-type (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century), but this is certainly residual here.
- 4.3.27 After the demolition of the church, a series of post-demolition accumulation deposits infilled the interior. Post-medieval or modern garden features cut through these deposits - (706) and (723) – while a small north-south wall (709) was constructed directly over post-demolition layer (710) (**Figure 6, Plate 11**). The western wall of the church was not seen within the trench.

#### *Trench 8 (Figure 5)*

- 4.3.28 Trench 8 was sited to trace the southwards continuation of wall (603), and to investigate evidence for a cloister on the south side of the church.
- 4.3.29 Levelling layers (809) and (807), stratigraphically the earliest deposits encountered, contained sherds of Ipswich/Thetford-type pottery (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century) and Romano-British tile fragments; layer (807) also produced a coin of Edward I (1300-10). Layer (807) was cut by a foundation trench (808) for two walls, (804) and (805), which formed the north-west corner of a building. An internal floor surface was observed and recorded as (806) (**Figure 5, Plate 9**). This structure corresponded to geophysical anomaly (11) (see **Figure 2**). Wall (805) did not mark the continuation of wall (606) as it was on a slightly different alignment, and located further to the west than the structure interpreted as part of the south transept.
- 4.3.30 Following the demolition of walls (804) and (805), the building was sealed by levelling material (803), which contained redeposited fragments of human bone (adult >40 years).
- 4.3.31 Only one north-south wall (805) was identified in Trench 8 and there was no evidence of the inner wall of the cloister ambulatory (separating the ambulatory from the cloister garth), nor of a robber trench or other evidence of demolition. It seems clear, therefore, that the cloister was located to the north and not to the south of the church.

#### *Trench 9 (Figure 4)*

- 4.3.32 Trench 9 was located across an east-west aligned earthen bank (902) to the north of the main Priory ruins. The trench was relatively small and the exposed archaeology was not fully interpreted.
- 4.3.33 A buried subsoil (906), lying above the natural geology, was cut by an east west ditch (903) which may represent the remains of the northern boundary ditch of the inner Priory precinct. The backfilled ditch was sealed by buried ground surface (905) (**Figure 4, Plate 5**). The earthen bank (902) which sealed (905) contained large flint blocks and represents the clearance of the site long after the demolition of the Priory.

#### *Trench 10 (Figure 7)*

- 4.3.34 Trench 10 investigated the eastern end of the Priory Church. Several phases of construction and activity were recorded within the trench, but the small size of the trench restricted detailed interpretation of the results.

#### Phase 1 – Saxo-Norman

- 4.3.35 Cutting the natural geology (1038) was grave (1023) containing skeleton (1022) (**Figure 7, Plate 15**). The partly exposed (upper body) skeleton belonged to an adult male (>40 years). A bone sample taken from skeleton (1022) yielded a radiocarbon date of 890-1020 AD, and therefore indicates activity prior to the foundation of the Priory in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. The grave had been heavily disturbed by later construction activity.

#### Phase 2 – ?12<sup>th</sup> century

- 4.3.36 The earliest phase of church construction comprised levelling layer (1020) which was cut through by east-west cuts (1011) and (1013). Cut (1011) was filled with crushed limestone rubble, and may represent the base of the foundation trench for the robbed eastern wall of the nave. Cut (1013) apparently contained a narrow, non-load bearing structure at the east end of the nave, subsequently robbed.

#### Phase 3 – ?14<sup>th</sup> century

- 4.3.37 The second phase of building saw the demolition of the eastern end of the church, the removal of the structure within cut (1011), the excavation of (1042) for the removal of the structure in (1013), and the building of two large crossing tower pier bases (1009) and (1018) (**Figure 7, Plate 14**).
- 4.3.38 The south-eastern crossing tower pier base (1009) was constructed within foundation trench (1010), which cut through grave (1023) (**Figure 7, Plate 15**). The north-eastern pier base (1018) was constructed within foundation trench (1043), which cut the backfill of cut (1011). These two large flint rubble structures form the bases of the chancel arch of the church. Contemporary with (1009) and (1018) was the north-south wall removed by robber trench (1025); this is thought to have been the eastern wall of the second phase of the church building.
- 4.3.39 Also possibly associated with the second building phase were a number of east-west inhumation burials to the east of robber trench (1025). Three graves were identified – (1028), containing adult (>18 years) skeleton (1027), (1035), containing adult (>18 years) skeleton (1032), and (1030), with no skeletal remains - but left unexcavated; all had suffered a degree of disturbance in antiquity. Associated with skeleton (1032) was copper alloy brooch dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century (**Figure 7, Plate 16**). The graves were probably all cut through layer (1039), a possible levelling layer.

4.3.40 An east-west gully (1007) cut grave (1023); its date and function are unknown.

4.3.41 At the western end of the trench, within the ruins of the Priory, the archaeological features were sealed beneath a post-demolition accumulation layer (1005/1006).

*Trench 11 (Figure 9, Plate 19)*

4.3.42 Trench 11 was targeted upon geophysical anomalies thought to represent the south-west corner of the cloister of the Priory (see **Figure 2**). An irregular spread of rammed clay (1104) was observed at 0.85m below the current ground surface and overlying the natural (1105). It was interpreted as a possible floor surface or bedding layer but it was unlike any of the exposed floor or bedding layers associated with the Priory.

4.3.43 Spread (1104) was sealed by layer (1103), which contained medieval (13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery.

*Trench 12 (Figure 9, Plate 20)*

4.3.44 Trench 12 was positioned to investigate part of magnetic anomaly (A), interpreted as a group of possible charcoal-rich pits (see **Figure 2**) in an area where middle Saxon Ipswich and Thetford ware pottery had been previously identified.

4.3.45 Possibly the earliest deposit was (1212), exposed within a small sondage. This layer contained medieval (13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, and appeared to be butted by (1206), a compact clay layer which may be the footing for a wooden ground sill or ground plate for a timber building. To the west of (1206) was mortar rich layer (1213), possibly a floor surface or floor bedding layer. On the eastern side of (1206) was (1209), a very organic layer, which appears to be natural accumulation of topsoil-like material against the edge of the building. This layer also contained 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

4.3.46 Following the disuse of the possible building, a series of cut features truncated the top of the deposits - possible tree throw hole (1210), small pit (1207), possible post-hole (1202), and modern drain (1204). Pit (1207) and possible post-hole (1202) both contained sherds of medieval (13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century) pottery.

*Trench 13 (Figure 1)*

4.3.47 Trench 13 was targeted upon another strong magnetic anomaly located in an area where middle/late Saxon Ipswich and Thetford ware pottery had been previously identified. The only archaeological feature recorded in the trench was a possible post-hole (1305); it was irregular in shape with no evidence of packing and interpretation is tentative. A number of sherds of Ipswich/Thetford ware (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century) were recovered from the horizon between subsoil (1302) and the natural geology (1303), as were Romano-British and medieval tile fragments, and a prehistoric flint core.

*Trench 14 (Figure 4)*

4.3.48 Trench 14 was a very small test pit positioned against upstanding column (1404); the latter was seen as the north-western column of the crossing tower, corresponding to column (606) in Trench 6. A small rectangular ashlar structure (1405) was uncovered, keyed in to the southern side of (1404) and forming part of the crossing tower pillar.

### *Trench 15 (Figure 5)*

- 4.3.49 Trench 15 was located to investigate the southwards continuation of wall (805) from Trench 8. Stratigraphically the earliest deposit exposed was levelling layer (1506), probably equivalent to (807) in Trench 8, and deposited prior to construction of the Priory. Layer (1506) was cut through by the construction cut (1507) for north-south wall (1504), the continuation of (805). The wall had been heavily disturbed by a robber trench (1503) which had removed the upper levels of the wall. Pottery within the robber trench dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century. The remains of wall (1504) corresponded to geophysical anomaly (9) (see **Figure 2**).

### *Trench 16/17 (Figure 8)*

- 4.3.50 Trenches 16 and 17 were located at the eastern end of the Priory church and targeted upon geophysical anomaly (12) (see **Figure 2**); the two trenches were later joined to create a single trench. The trench contained an inhumation burial and a number of features cutting the natural geology (1603). The inhumation grave (1604) contained traces of a wooden coffin (1605), within which was skeleton (1606), that of an adult male (c. 30-40 years) (**Figure 8, Plate 17**; see **Table 3**). A redeposited adult skull was also observed within the same grave (but not lifted), as well as a fragment of foetal humerus (c. 34 weeks). A second possible grave (1613) was observed but unexcavated, as was another possible feature (1617).
- 4.3.51 An east-west ditch (1618) (**Figure 8, Plate 18**) cut the natural geology. Its function is unclear – it may have been a large enclosure ditch, or alternatively it may have been the foundation trench for the eastern wall of the Church, contemporaneous with the crossing tower pillars (606), (1009), (1018) and (1404). The latter interpretation was considered to be less likely given the difference in construction techniques between (1618) and the other second phase structures.
- 4.3.52 A second east-west ditch (1615) was filled with very humic topsoil material and was interpreted as modern, although unexcavated.

## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from 16 of the 17 trenches excavated. No finds were recovered from Trench 14, and Trenches 5, 16 and 17 each produced only a handful of finds. The assemblage is largely of medieval to post-medieval, with a small amount of prehistoric and Romano-British material, which occurred as redeposited finds.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Following quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain their nature, probable date range, and condition. Spot dates have been recorded for datable material (pottery, ceramic building material). This information provides the basis for an assessment of the potential of the finds assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the Site, with particular reference to the construction and development of the medieval Priory.

### **5.2 Pottery**

- 5.2.1 The pottery assemblage is small, and is biased by the inclusion of a number of sherds from what appears to be a single vessel – these sherds (from

context 1505) make up more than half of the total by sherd count. The date range of the assemblage is Romano-British to post-medieval. Condition varies from fair to good; sherds are relatively small (mean sherd weight 9.4g), but levels of abrasion are generally low. The assemblage has been quantified by ware type; totals by ware type are given in **Table 2**.

#### *Romano-British*

- 5.2.2 Four sherds were identified as Romano-British. All are coarse greywares; none are diagnostic. All came from a single context (Trench 8 topsoil).

#### *Medieval*

- 5.2.3 The medieval wares fall into four broad categories:
- Ipswich/Thetford-type wares
  - Grimston-type wares
  - Other sandy greywares
  - Sandy orange (oxidised) wares)
- 5.2.4 Wheelthrown greywares of Ipswich- or Thetford-type are certainly present; they were identified within trenches 7 (residual in inhumation burial 707), 8 (levelling layer 807), 13 (disturbed natural subsoil 1303) and 15 (topsoil, and subsoil 1502). None of these sherds are diagnostic. There is a slight possibility that other Ipswich-/Thetford-type sherds remain unidentified amongst the undifferentiated greywares.
- 5.2.5 Grimston-type wares, found across Norfolk and into surrounding counties, are also greywares, with a similar date range, but have been distinguished here on the presence of glaze. Most of these sherds came from a single context (1505) where they appear to belong to a single vessel, a glazed jug with decoration comprising applied scales.
- 5.2.6 Sandy greywares are found across large parts of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Hertfordshire. They appear in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and have a currency through to the 14th century. The two diagnostic forms found here are both jars.
- 5.2.7 Sandy orange wares are scarce here, and no diagnostic sherds were found. These wares have a currency through the later medieval period (13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century). One strap handle constitutes the only diagnostic sherd (?post-hole 409).

#### *Post-Medieval*

- 5.2.8 Coarse redwares dominate the post-medieval assemblage, and these potentially range in date from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century; there are certainly late white-slipped wares and modern flowerpots amongst them. A more recent date range for the post-medieval assemblage is supported by the near total absence of any wares which can be definitively dated earlier than the mid 18th century – the exceptions are a single sherd of late 16<sup>th</sup>/early 17<sup>th</sup> German stoneware (context 902), and one sherd of early 18<sup>th</sup> century white salt glaze (Trench 3 topsoil). All other wares are factory-produced wares of later 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date.

### **5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

- 5.3.1 This category comprises fragments of roof tiles, floor tiles and brick. None of this material came from *in situ* structural elements (walls or floor surfaces). A significant proportion of the assemblage (72 fragments) is of Romano-British

date, and includes 15 *tegula* roof tiles, as well as some possible bricks, perhaps from hypocaust construction. Many of these Romano-British bricks and tiles had been re-used as broken fragments, as attested by mortar covering broken edges. Romano-British CBM was recovered from trenches across the Site, concentrating in Trenches 2 (15 fragments), 4 (25 fragments) and 6 (11 fragments).

5.3.2 Much of the assemblage comprises fragments of roof tile of medieval or later date. It is likely that much of this consists of flat (peg) tile, and a few pieces preserve nail/peg holes. However, there are a few curved tiles, including three fragments (two joining) from ridge tile(s) in old ground surface (905). The joining fragments make up a complete inverted V-shaped profile, and it is possible that some of the smaller flat fragments could derive from similar tiles. There is no sign here of ornamented (e.g. crested) ridge tiles. Some of the flat fragments are partially glazed, but this would not be inconsistent with a use as peg tiles.

5.3.3 Floor tiles are also present. Most of these are plain; some are white-slipped, and most are at least partially glazed, although the glaze appears to have disappeared from the upper surfaces of some fragments. Two triangular tiles are relief-decorated (rubble deposit 604, layer 1103). Glazed relief-decorated tiles have a lengthy currency through the medieval and post-medieval periods in England, and seem to have been more widely used in the eastern part of the country – the technique originated in the Rhineland in the early medieval period (Eames 1985, 24). The 14<sup>th</sup> century tile kiln at Bawsey in Norfolk, for example, was manufacturing relief-decorated tiles, although none of the kiln products match the designs found on the Blythburgh tiles (Eames 1955). One of the designs, however (a multi-petalled, circular floral motif surrounded by fleurs-de-lys in the four corners), has previously been identified from Blythburgh, although on a square tile, dated later than the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Harley 1972, fig. 52, 3).

5.3.4 There are a small number of fragments of very crudely made, irregularly shaped bricks in a coarse, open fabric containing organic material and other coarse inclusions. None of these are complete, but they are approximately 120mm wide and 50mm thick.

## **5.4 Mortar**

5.4.1 Other building material is present in the form of mortar. None of this material came from *in situ* structural elements, and most instead derived from robber cuts (412, 421, 1016, 1042), with some from possible make-up layer 710 and some from layer 1012 (possible foundation material). All fragments appear to be in a similar mortar 'mix', but this is not in itself chronologically distinctive.

## **5.5 Stone**

5.5.1 The stone includes both portable objects (quern-stones) and building material. Of interest is a large fragment from a prehistoric saddle quern, probably sarsen, from topsoil in Trench 1. The fragment had clearly been re-used as building material, from mortar adhering. Further quern-stones, of medieval date, occurred as small fragments of imported lava (post-demolition accumulation 404, gully 1007, and robber cut 1042).

5.5.2 The remaining fragments comprise building material, and include fragments of roofing slate and a possible sandstone roofing slab, and a number of architectural fragments – ashlar and mouldings. None of these came from



*in situ* structural elements, but from topsoil contexts in Trenches 2, 6 and 11, as well as rubble deposit (604) and layer (1619).

## **5.6 Glass**

5.6.1 The glass includes both window and vessel glass. The vessel glass is almost entirely of modern date, with two 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century bottle fragments. Also present is a narrow base in heavily oxidised glass, possibly from a hanging lamp of medieval type (Tyson 2000, fig. 28), found in Trench 8 topsoil. Fragments of hanging lamps are known from archaeological deposits dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries at various sites across England. Lamps had a particular importance in the church, and almost half the total number of lamp fragments found in England are from monasteries, although they were also used in domestic contexts, being found in town and manor houses (Tyson 2000, 143).

5.6.2 The window glass comprises an interesting group of late medieval painted glass. This glass is all heavily oxidised and degraded, in some cases almost to vitrification, although in most cases the original pale green colour can be discerned. The fragments carry red-painted decoration. Some of these are clearly from borders, but others appear to come from foliage or drapery. The fragments are too small, however, for any of the designs to be reconstructed. Some of the fragments have grozed edges; in cases where more than one edge is visible, the quarries appear to have been of irregular shape. Most of the window glass came from Trench 4 (post-demolition accumulation 404, robber cuts 412 and 421), with one piece from Trench 7 (710), two from Trench 10 (post-demolition accumulation 1005), and two from Trench 17 (topsoil).

## **5.7 Metalwork**

5.7.1 Metalwork includes coins and tokens, as well as objects of copper alloy, lead and iron.

### *Coins and tokens*

5.7.2 Two coins were recovered. Both of these are hammered silver pennies struck late in the reign of Edward I. The first was recovered from layer (807), and was probably minted between AD 1300 and 1310, whilst the second (Trench 15 topsoil) was probably minted between AD 1302 and 1310. Both coins are worn and had clearly circulated for some time prior to their loss or deposition. The presence of these coins points to activity on the site early in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Copper Alloy*

5.7.3 The six objects of copper alloy recovered comprise an annular brooch, a buckle pin, a thimble, a small, flat-headed tack or stud, and two miscellaneous fragments. The brooch is plain, and has a pin with a moulded collar; a comparable example from Norwich is dated as 14<sup>th</sup> century (Margeson 1993, no. 65). This item was found with the individual buried in grave (1035) (**Figure 7, Plate 16, and Back cover**). The other objects all came from topsoil contexts; none can be definitively dated earlier than post-medieval.

### *Lead*

5.7.4 Most of the lead consisted of waste fragments and offcuts. Identifiable objects comprised 17 window came fragments and a disc. The latter object (from Trench 8 topsoil) could be a button. Several different types could be

### *Iron*

- 5.7.5 All of the ironwork is heavily corroded. It consists mainly of nails and other possible structural items. Other identifiable objects comprise two blades (Trench 8 topsoil, layer 1103), and a small, tanged chisel (layer 807).

## **5.8 Human Bone**

### *Introduction*

- 5.8.1 The remains of six *in situ* inhumation burials were revealed in four trenches. Trenches 2, 7 and 10 lay wholly or partly within the area described by the Priory buildings, but the human remains from Trenches 2 and 7 lay immediately exterior to the walls of the main structure. Trench 16/17 was situated to the east of the building but probably within the precinct area.
- 5.8.2 Disarticulated, redeposited bone was collected from 12 contexts in six trenches, including three of those in which *in situ* remains were encountered (Trenches 2, 7 and 16). The other three trenches (4, 8 and 11) all lay at least partly within the area described by the Priory buildings. Not all the disarticulated bone recovered/observed on site was retained/lifted. A redeposited adult skull within the fill of grave (1605) in Trench 16 was left *in situ*, and the redeposited bone, probably disturbed from burial 1022 in Trench 10, was reburied.
- 5.8.3 Human bone samples from the remains of two burials apparently cut/overlain by the building foundations were submitted for radiocarbon dating; both were found to pre-date the masonry structure (grave 206: 670-780 AD; grave 1023: 890-1020 AD).

### *Methods*

- 5.8.4 With the exception of a few fragments from graves (206) and (1023) extracted for C14 dating, all the *in situ* remains were left *in situ*. In most cases observations and notes were made on site by the writer, though comments were limited by what was visibly accessible; some graves were only partially exposed and none of the *in situ* bone was disturbed/lifted purely for observation. Comments pertaining to burials (1022), (1027) and (1032) were made only by reference to the photographs as all were exposed after the writer had left site. Comments on burial (1606) were from the photographs and the writer's observations.
- 5.8.5 The minimum number of individuals was assessed from counts of the most commonly occurring skeletal elements in association with the age of the individual, contextual information and distribution (McKinley 2004). Age and sex were assessed from the stage of skeletal development (Scheuer and Black 2000) and the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The degree of erosion to the bone was recorded using the

writer's system of grading (McKinley 2004, fig. 7.1-7). No measurements were taken and consequently no skeletal indices were calculated.

### *Results*

- 5.8.6 The *in situ* bone was generally in good condition but much of the redeposited material is eroded and abraded, with old worn breaks. This suggests at least some of the material may have been subject to several episodes of disturbance and reburial in varied burial environments. The redeposited material generally comprises small fragments of bone, with the exception of one complete neonatal long bone.
- 5.8.7 A minimum of 15 individuals were identified. Six from the *in situ* remains (see **Table 3**), five amongst the redeposited remains from the trenches and four from the disarticulated remains recovered from the garden (over many years pre-dating the current owner's occupation).
- 5.8.8 The minimum numbers amongst the disarticulated material were based on the most frequently occurring skeletal elements (not duplicated amongst the *in situ* remains) and the age of the individual. Four immature individuals were identified comprising one 34-week foetus from Trench 16/17, and two neonates (0-1 weeks and c. 3 months) and one infant (3-4 years) from Trench 2; identifications from duplicated lower limb elements. The minimum number of five adults from the disarticulated material derived from duplicate skull (vault) elements.
- 5.8.9 The majority of the adult material, both *in situ* and redeposited, appeared to represent the remains of males (c. 64%), though at least some of the bone from Trench 2 may represent the remains of a female (two others unsexed). In the five cases where a more discrete age range could be suggested for the adults (c. 45%), all were over 30 years and most over 40 years of age at the time of death.
- 5.8.10 Pathological lesions were observed in the remains of a minimum of four adults; three from the *in situ* deposits (**Table 3**) and a minimum of one from the redeposited material. The latter included osteoarthritis in the lumbar spine and costo-vertebral joints (Trench 8); degenerative disc disease and osteophytes (generally age-related new bone formation on articular surface margins) in the lumbar spine and hip joint (Trench 2; ?= 207) and slight dental calculus (Trench 4). None of the lesions were extensive or severe and the general impression is of a relatively (physically) stress-free lifestyle – although the latter should be viewed in the light of the limited nature of the assemblage and the observations it was possible to make.

### *Discussion*

- 5.8.11 The human remains exposed in the investigations clearly cover a wide temporal range extending from the late 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> century potentially to the time of the dissolution in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The two burials disturbed by the extant structure (Trenches 2 and 10) both pre-date the granting of Blythburgh church to the Augustinian canons of St Osyth's Priory by Henry I in c. 1120. The position of the grave in Trench 7, tight against the wall of the building, suggests it is contemporary with it. The coffined burial in Trench 16/17 is likely, from its style, to be 11<sup>th</sup> century or later.
- 5.8.12 The apparent absence/ paucity of females amongst the adult remains could be taken as indicative of the cemetery being reserved, at least for part of its term of use, for members of the monastic order. In apparent contradiction of this lies the recovery of neonatal and young infant remains from Trenches 2

and 16/17. Trench 2 held the earliest dated remains and the only remains of a possible female adult recovered; these findings may reflect a change in use within the cemetery over time, the earliest interments being more inclusive of the population at large. Monastic cemeteries, however, whilst generally containing a high proportion of adult males are often not exclusive of either females or infants (Gilchrist and Slone 2005, 204). Given the limited nature of the current investigations and the redeposition of the immature remains it is speculative to suggest temporal variation in use of the cemetery or zoning on demographic basis, though the limited evidence available offers a tantalising possibility of one or both being the case at Blythburgh.

## **5.9 Animal Bone**

- 5.9.1 A total of 163 bones were hand-recovered. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion (so numbers do not correspond to the raw fragment counts given in Table 1). All bones derive from mammals and birds. No bones from fish or amphibians were present. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category.

### *Condition and preservation*

- 5.9.2 Almost all animal bone fragments were in fair or good condition. Eleven bones showed signs of butchery indicating that the remains contain food waste (**Table 4**). Some of these butchery marks were the result of sawing, indicating a late medieval or later date for the assemblage. The gnawed bones show that dogs had access to the bones prior to deposition. No loose but matching epiphyses or articulating bones were found. This might indicate that most bones come from re-worked contexts or secondary deposits.

### *Animal husbandry*

- 5.9.3 The identified bones in this small assemblage derive from horse (n=1), cattle (66), sheep/goat (55), pig (22) and rabbit (4). The rabbit bones might be intrusive as the rabbit is a burrowing animal. The rabbit bones were both of adult and juvenile animals. The bird bones consist of crow and domestic fowl. A tarsometatarsus with spur from context 410 belonged to a rooster. Context 1505 contained the bone of a very young domestic fowl(?). The assemblage further contained the bones of adult/subadult and juvenile cattle, adult sheep/goat and subadult and juvenile pigs.

### *Consumption and deposition*

- 5.9.4 The occupants of the site mainly consumed the meat of domestic animals. Among these were veal, young pork and chicks. The small assemblage contains a wide range of skeletal elements and this suggests that the animals were butchered nearby.

## **5.10 Marine Shell**

- 5.10.1 With the exception of one whelk, this consisted entirely of oyster shell, and included both left and right valves, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste. The shell occurred only in very small quantities; no major dumps were encountered.

## **5.11 Other Finds**

- 5.11.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of worked flint (presumed to be prehistoric), fired clay (unknown date and function) and one piece of ironworking slag (hearth bottom, unknown date).

## **5.12 Potential and Recommendations**

- 5.12.1 The evaluation produced a relatively small assemblage of mixed date. Romano-British material appears to be entirely residual, and much of this may have been brought in for re-use as building material. A significant proportion of the assemblage came from topsoil contexts, or was clearly residual in post-demolition deposits. There are a few objects of intrinsic interest, e.g. the decorated floor tiles, and the 14<sup>th</sup> century brooch found in an inhumation grave, but the overall range of material and object types is not great.
- 5.12.2 The finds have already been recorded to minimum archive level, and no further analysis is therefore proposed.

# **6 DISCUSSION**

## **6.1 Romano-British**

- 6.1.1 There are several sites and find-spots of Romano-British date within a few kilometres of Blythburgh Priory, but there does not appear to be a site of this date within the grounds of the Priory. The recovery of relatively large amounts of ceramic brick and tile of this date from the medieval deposits, but very little pottery or other domestic refuse, implies that building material was being brought in from elsewhere for re-use in the new medieval building.

## **6.2 Saxon**

- 6.2.1 There is considerable historical and archaeological evidence of Saxon activity around Blythburgh and it is potentially the important nature of the site in this period that led to its further development in the medieval period, following the battle of AD654.
- 6.2.2 Two of the inhumation burials (206, 1023) uncovered produced middle to late Saxon radiocarbon dates, and could have been associated with the church housing the shrine of King Anna recorded in the *Liber Eliensis*, the 12<sup>th</sup> century history of the Isle of Ely. If the burials, shrine, and the writing tablet leaf thought to have come from the Priory site all belonged to a Saxon church here, then the enclosing ditch (1618) could have been the *vallum monasteria*, the boundary of the monastic complex, and the church could have been one the Minsters of King Ælfwald who died in 749. This *vallum* may also have formed the boundary to the Priory complex in the later period, but this is purely conjectural.
- 6.2.3 This raises the possibility that the Old Minster Church was located on the site of the Priory church and not on that of the current Holy Trinity church some 140m away, as has previously been suggested. It would indeed be unusual to have the associated cemetery located so far from the Minster Church.

## **6.3 Early Medieval (c. 1120)**

- 6.3.1 It is clear from this programme of works, the previously identified Saxon remains and the historical information that there was considerable Saxon

activity at Blythburgh prior to the granting of Blythburgh church to the Augustinian canons of St Osyth's in c. 1120.

- 6.3.2 Analysis of the fabric of the surviving nave of the Priory church suggests that it is not untypical of early English (Norman) construction of the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century, and it would seem that this new building was a simple, single-celled church. It was only in the later period that the Priory expanded.

#### **6.4 Medieval (13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century)**

- 6.4.1 The second phase of building saw the addition of a crossing tower and chancel to the single nave church. Although no definitive date for those phases was ascertained, they show the development of the Priory as it became more established in the community. The canons of Blythburgh lived under a modified version of the Benedictine rule and the teachings and precepts of St Augustine; they lived less enclosed lives and worked amongst the community, serving local parish churches as well as their own institutions (Coppack 2006, 12), and it was this work amongst the community that led to the Priory receiving income from property of 40 Suffolk parishes by the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Associated with this phase of building were the graves to the east, one of which contained a 14<sup>th</sup> century brooch.

#### **6.5 Priory Layout**

- 6.5.1 The additions to the Priory church were revealed within the excavated trenches, but the layout of the rest of the Priory complex is less well understood from the archaeological remains.
- 6.5.2 Coppack states that *'There was no such thing as a typical monastery because the monastic movement was one of continuing reform and expansion' and that each particular order (Cluniac, Savigniac, Cistercian) 'observed its own particular customs, which were reflected in dress, liturgy, architecture, manuscripts, strictness of life and position in society. In every case, their buildings differed in details of planning and in the degree of decoration and fittings'* (Coppack 2006, 11-12).
- 6.5.3 There is, however, a more general plan of monastic building layout, which contains all the buildings thought necessary for the religious house to be self-sufficient. The layout is based on the hypothetical or ideal monastery layout known as the St Gall Plan. The 9<sup>th</sup> century blue-print, named after the monastery of St Gall in Switzerland where the plan is kept, was probably drawn by Hailo, Bishop of Basle (803-23) sometime between 819 and 826 (Aston 2000, 65-6; Clarke 1984, fig. 39, after Horn and Born 1979; <http://www.stgallplan.org/>).
- 6.5.4 The St Gall plan shows a single church with a cloister to the south, and an eastern range of buildings generally thought to contain the chapter house extending from the south side of the church and encompassing the cloister. The south side of the cloister is bordered by the refectory with kitchens and domestic buildings to the west and south-west. The church and cloister are surrounded by a number of ancillary buildings, including brewery, bakery, and lodgings as well as orchards, stables and livestock sheds (Aston 2000, 65, fig. 27).
- 6.5.5 This layout of buildings (with the cloister to the south) can be seen in many of the monastic complexes in Britain, but there are also a number of exceptions which have the cloister and associated surrounding buildings located to the north of the church, such as Watton, Humberside; Lacock

Abbey, Wiltshire; Burnham, Berkshire (Gilchrist 1994, figs. 30, 34, 46); and the Benedictine Priory of Sandwell in the West Midlands (Coppack 2006, 92).

- 6.5.6 The positioning of cloisters, dormitories and kitchens was determined by the access to drainage and water and how the site would sit in the local landscape (Coppack 2006, 88) and these are likely to have been located down-slope from the church. At Blythburgh the flat area of land to the north of the nave would have been more suitable as the location of the cloister and associated buildings than the south, and this appears to have been confirmed by the lack of evidence for structures to the south of the nave. Despite the lack of evidence of the cloister to the south, however, there is also a paucity of evidence to prove that the cloister was to the north, except for the topographic analysis, the possible cloister wall (426) revealed in Trench 4, and the recovery of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery to the north of the Site (Trench 12).
- 6.5.7 The full layout and size of Blythburgh Priory is still not fully understood as neither the eastern nor western end of the church was identified and the location of the cloister is still unclear. The extensive demolition and robbing of material and the small nature of the evaluation trenches accompanied by the lack of stratigraphical relationships has meant that interpretation of the structures revealed is difficult.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1.1 The evaluation at Blythburgh Priory was limited in scope, but does constitute the first intrusive archaeological work to take place on the Site. Although many questions regarding the layout and development of the Priory still remain to be answered, the evaluation has at least indicated one important feature, in the possible location of the cloister to the north of the Priory church. Further fieldwork is clearly required before a detailed consideration of the site can take place.
- 7.1.2 In the interim, however, the results of the 'Time Team' evaluation should be summarised for a short publication note, accompanied by a plan of the site, to be submitted to the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Field Archaeology*.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

- 8.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 68742 and site code BLB076. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with the Suffolk County Council HER.

## 9 REFERENCES

- Aston, M., 2000, *Monasteries in the Landscape*, Stroud: Tempus
- Buikstra, J.E. and Ubelaker, D.H., 1994, *Standards for data collection from human skeletal remains*, Arkansas Archaeol. Survey Res. Series 44
- Clarke, H., 1984, *The Archaeology of Medieval England*, London: British Museum
- Coppack, G., 2006, *Abbeys and Priors*, Tempus
- Eames, E., 1955, 'The products of a medieval tile kiln at Bawsey, King's Lynn', *Antiq. J.* 35, 162-81
- Eames, E., 1985, *English Medieval Tiles*, London: British Museum
- GSB Prospection Ltd, 2008, *Geophysical Survey Report Blythburgh Priory Suffolk, Oxfordshire*. Report Ref.2008/63 unpub. rep. for Videotext Communications
- Gardner, R., 2002, *Blythburgh Hospital Burial Ground, Bulcamp, Blythburgh BLB 033 = BLB 052, An Archaeological Evaluation, 2002, (Planning Application C/96/1000)* Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report Number: 2002/107
- Gilchrist, R., 1994, *Gender and Material Culture, The Archaeology of Religious Women*, London: Routledge
- Gilchrist, R. and Sloane, B., 2005, *Requiem: The medieval monastic cemetery in Britain*, Museum of London Archaeol. Service
- Good, C., 2007, *The Priory Blythburgh. A report on the archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to The Priory, Blythburgh*. Planning Application number: C/07/1571. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report Number: 2007/214. Oasis ID No: suffolkc1-34835
- Greening, A., 2004, *An Introductory Conservation Statement for the proposed maintenance, repair and enhancement at The Priory, Blythburgh, Suffolk*, unpub. architects' report
- Harley, L.S., 1972, 'Medieval floor tiles from Blythburgh', *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.* 32, 276-9
- Horn, W. and Born, E., 1979, *The Plan of St Gall; a study of the architecture and economy of, and life in a paradigmatic Carolingian monastery*, Berkeley: University of California Press
- Knight, B., 1985, 'Cames' in J.N. Hare, *Battle Abbey: The eastern range and the excavations of 1978-80*, English Heritage Archaeol. Rep. 2, 154-6
- Margeson, S., 1993, *Norwich Households: Medieval and Post-Medieval finds from Norwich survey excavations 1971-1978*, East Anglian Archaeology 58



- McKinley, J.I., 2004, 'Compiling a skeletal inventory: disarticulated and co-mingled remains' in M. Brickley and J.I. McKinley (eds.), *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology / Institute for Field Archaeology, 13-16
- Meredith, J., 2000, *1 Station Toad, Blythburgh BLB 036. A report on an Archaeological Monitoring (planning app. No.C/00.1582)* Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report Number: 2000/58
- Meredith, J., 2001, *White Hart Inn, Blythburgh BLB 038. A report on an Archaeological Evaluation and Subsequent Monitoring (planning app. No.C/98/1710)* Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report Number: 2001/27
- Scheuer, L. and Black, S., 2000, *Developmental Juvenile Osteology*, London: Academic Press
- Stevens Curl, J., 1992, *Encyclopaedia of Architectural Terms*, Donhead
- Videotext Communications, 2008, Proposed Archaeological Evaluation Blythburgh Priory, Suffolk NGR TM 452 754, SAM SF215, Project Design, unpub. report

**Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)**

Material	‘THE PRIORY’											THE GREEN	BLOIS ESTATE	
	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Tr 8	Tr 9	Tr 10	Tr 15	Tr 16/17	Tr 7&11	Tr 12&13	TOTAL
Pottery	1/35	2/25	9/175	9/78	-	-	20/223	12/111	2/5	126/1018	-	13/142	28/272	222/2084
Medieval	-	1/6	-	3/40	-	-	8/163	11/85	-	124/996	-	3/16	28/272	178/1578
Post-Med	1/35	1/19	9/175	6/38	-	-	12/60	1/26	2/5	2/22	-	10/126	-	44/506
CBM	5/6527	38/13183	2/1071	74/8791	1/60	23/6210	79/4331	17/3050	32/5165	8/351	4/826	60/5084	68/4126	411/58,775
Mortar	-	-	-	5/657	-	-	-	-	17/415	-	2/57	4/102	-	28/1231
Fired Clay	-	-	-	2/233	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/233
Glass	3/17	1/16	4/483	25/317	-	-	2/19	-	4/19	-	2/2	2/48	-	43/921
Stone	1/5000	7/28162	-	2/578	-	3/2429	2/51	-	5/166	-	1/15000	2/540	-	23/51926
Flint	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/1045	-	-	2/4	1/45	7/1094
Slag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/871	-	1/871
Metalwork	11	18	8	9	-	3	22	-	15	8	-	23	14	130
Coins	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	2
Copper Alloy	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	6
Lead	6	17	1	8	-	3	12	-	13	5	-	10	5	83
Iron	5	1	6	1	-	-	6	-	1	1	-	13	5	39
Human Bone	-	61/656	-	17/73	-	-	5/8	-	1/6	-	4/10	4/97	-	92/850
Animal Bone	3/1	13/301	-	26/226	-	-	31/379	5/293	25/170	9/72	-	14/153	106/949	232/2544
Marine Shell	3/11	-	-	2/9	-	-	5/94	1/3	1/13	-	-	3/49	9/111	24/290

**Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type**

Ware type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
Romano-British greyware	4	125
Coarse sandy ware	2	10
Sandy greyware	35	336
Sandy orange ware	3	52
Ipswich/Thetford-type ware	10	60
Grimston-type ware	124	995
<i>sub-total medieval</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>1453</i>
Redware	28	323
Refined redware	1	4
Refined whiteware	9	37
White salt glaze	1	1
German stoneware	1	26
Modern stoneware	3	113
Bone china	1	2
<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>506</i>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>2084</b>

**Table 3: Summary of *in situ* burial remains**

context	cut	burial data	age/sex	pathology
207	206	fully exposed, cut by later feature(s), head/neck <i>in situ</i>	adult > 40 yr. ??female	calculus
704	707	partly exposed (central body), undisturbed	adult c. 40-50 yr. ?male	osteophytes - lumbar
1022	151	partly exposed (upper body) overlain by later feature	adult >40 yr. male	calculus; periodontal disease; pitting - medial clavicle; osteophytes - scapulae
1027	1028	partially exposed, ?undisturbed	adult >18 yr.	
1032	1033	one bone exposed, ?undisturbed	adult >18 yr.	
1606	1605	most exposed, undisturbed	adult c. 30-40 yr. male	

**Table 4: Animal bone condition and potential (n)**

Context	Unid.	Loose teeth	Gnawed	Measureable	Ageable	Butchered	Total no. frags
all	61	5	15	18	38	11	163

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 2.2 by 0.60m		Max. depth: 0.60m	Ground level: 6.85m aOD	
context	description		depth	
101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and leaf litter rich material, light to mid yellow-brown, humic very loose sandy loam, with high mortar content from the demolition of walls in the vicinity.	0-0.32m	
102	<i>Structure</i>	East-west flint rubble wall with stringer course of tiles, in a light yellow sandy mortar, horizontal coursing with diagonal flints either side of the stringer course creating a herringbone pattern. No evidence of an ashlar face and so flintwork may have been visible, or was potentially faced with render on the external (northern) face. Evidence of render on the internal (southern) face of the wall. Putlogs for scaffolding observed. Interpreted as the southern wall of the nave of the Priory church, and the herringbone construction is not untypical of early English (Norman) work of the late 11 <sup>th</sup> or early 12 <sup>th</sup> century. This wall may also form the part of the ambulatory around the cloister garth, however this was not proven. Recorded in full as 8.7m long by 0.96m wide and a maximum of 3.10m high.	3.10m high	
103	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow-brown silty sand with occasional gravel and flint nodules and mortar fragments. Loose mix of topsoil and rubble from the collapse/demolition of wall (102) and other structures in the vicinity. Deposit overlies/butts (102) and is cut by (104).	0.29m thick	
104	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of probable modern tree throw hole observed cutting (103), irregular in plan; 0.40m long by 0.20m wide and 0.20m deep. Filled with (105).</b>	<b>0.20m deep</b>	
105	<i>Fill</i>	Dark grey brown/black sandy silt fill of (105) with common charcoal inclusions suggesting the tree roots were burnt out.	0.20m thick	
106	<i>Fill</i>	Mid to light yellow sandy loam backfill material against wall footing (108) of wall (102) in construction cut (109).	0.10m+ thick	
107	<i>Structure</i>	Mix of worked ashlar stone and flint and roughly hewn stones blocks, either in a dry-stone bonding or degraded mortar in clear horizontal courses. 1.18m long by 0.82m wide and 0.86m high, possibly associated with the late 19 <sup>th</sup> /early 20 <sup>th</sup> century alterations and consolidation of the ruins of the Priory by Sir John Seymour Lucas. (107) is not bonded or keyed into (102) and is likely to be a purely aesthetic addition.	0.86m high	
108	<i>Structure</i>	Stepped flint rubble and light yellow mortar footing for wall (102) within cut (109). 1.46m long by 0.13m wide and 0.12m high.	0.12m high	
109	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Foundation trench for wall (102) and foundation (108).</b>	-	

TRENCH 2			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 2.8 x 2.3m		Max. depth: 0.90m	Ground level: 6.55m aOD	
context	description		depth	
201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current humic mid to dark brown sandy loam, with high mortar content from the demolition of Priory buildings intermixed with leaf litter rich material.	0-0.36m	
202	<i>Structure</i>	East-west flint rubble wall, flint nodules in dark to light yellow mortar; 1.28m wide and 2.5m+ high. (202) is identical to (102), the southern wall of the nave of the Priory church, and may have had a doorway punched through it as indicated from the addition of ashlar quoins. The core foundation of the wall clearly tapers towards the interior indicating that the door way gets smaller from outside to inside, suggesting a doorway with several orders of colonettes. A number of moulded stones from (201) appear to be the remains of columns which would have been part of the doorway. Upper level of the	2.5m+ high	

		foundation is formed of tabular flint blocks within (209).	
203	Surface	Cobbled/metalled surface of water-worn probable beach pebbles set in a dark yellow lime mortar located to the south of wall (102). The mortar was observed as being identical to that within the wall core of (102). Surface disturbed by the cutting of modern pipe trench (204).	0.10m thick
204	Cut	<b>Cut of modern utility trench housing a ceramic pipe, cuts (203).</b>	-
205	Fill	Ceramic pipe and deliberate backfill of utility trench (204), overlain by (211).	-
206	Grave	<b>Cut of highly truncated grave, containing skeletal remains (207) and backfill material (208). Grave is east-west aligned with the head at the east and is overlain by (210). Only partially revealed in plan within sondage excavated against wall (202). 0.43m long by 0.40m wide and 0.10m deep.</b>	0.10m
207	Skeleton	Heavily disturbed skull (maxilla and mandible) and cervical vertebrae and clavicle <i>in situ</i> within (206), adult >40 years, ??female. Located c. 1.10m below ground level. Remains of the skeleton to the east truncated by cut (209), which is potentially associated with the construction of wall (102). Pre-dates the church; radiocarbon dated to 670-780 AD.	-
208	Fill	Mid grey yellow sandy silt, deliberate backfill deposit over skeleton (207) within grave (206). Sealed by (210) and cut through by (209).	0.10m thick
209	Cut	<b>Cut of foundation trench for wall (202), only revealed in section (slightly obliquely) as 0.35m wide and 0.61m deep, containing foundation material (217) wall (202); backfilled with (212) and (213); cuts (210) which seals (206).</b>	0.61m deep
210	Layer	Mid grey-yellow sand with occasional sub-rounded flints <0.08m, fairly compact, homogenous, highly bioturbated probable levelling deposit which overlies burial (206) and is cut through by (209).	0.41m thick
211	Subsoil	Modern sub soil below (201); mid brown sandy silt.	0.36-0.61m
212	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy silt; deliberate backfill against wall (202) in (209). Topsoil derived material with 2% flint gravels.	0.57m thick
213	Fill	Lowest fill of construction cut (209), deliberate backfill of mid grey sandy silt on which foundation (217) is sat.	0.12m thick
214	Surface	Pale grey lime mortar bedding surface for tile floor (218), level suggests a raised level, only three tiles of (218) remain, though clear that whole floor was tiled. Overlies (215).	-
215	Layer	Dark yellow sand with sub-rounded flints and chalk flecking, slightly mixed deposit of redeposited natural to create made ground within the interior of the nave of the Priory church; unclear if this solely relates to the interior or was laid down across the whole site prior to construction. Sealed by (214).	-
216	Natural	Mid yellow sand, compact with sub rounded gravels and flints.	1.02m bgl
217	Structure	Loose flint rubble footing in light yellow mortar, overlies (213) within construction cut (209) for wall (202). Quite disturbed by root action.	0.50m thick
218	Surface	Remains of glazed tiled floor sat upon mortar bedding surface (214); only three tiles remain, alternating green and yellow.	-

TRENCH 3			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 2.3 x 1.5m		Max. depth: 0.40m	Ground level: 7.50m aOD	
context	description		depth	
301	Topsoil	Dark grey-black, silty loam, very humic with <1% sub angular flints <0.04m. Homogenous, slightly gritty, bioturbated garden soil.	0-0.37m	
302	Structure	Brick built soak-away, filled with and covered by (301). Modern.	0.30-0.37m	

<b>TRENCH 4</b>			Type:	Machine and Hand Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 10 x 1.4m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1.2m	<b>Ground level:</b> 6.34 – 5.16m aOD	
context	description		depth	
401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil, mid grey-brown silt with some sandy components, fairly homogenous loose and leaf litter rich.	0-0.44m	
402	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil mid yellow-brown sandy silt, slightly mixed, concentrated on the north side of wall (403). No subsoil was observed on the south side of wall (403).	0.31-0.50	
403	<i>Structure</i>	Later garden wall, 1m long by 0.30m wide. Runs across a steep slope and appears to be part of a garden wall separating the two areas of land. On the south side the wall is 0.22m high and 0.55m on the north side, an indication of the slope. Sat directly upon the subsoil deposit (402) but follows the line of earlier wall (426).	0.55m high max	
404	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow-brown, sandy silt deposit below (401) in the southern part of the trench. Post-demolition accumulation deposit with some modern debris. Seals (413) and (422).	0.17m thick	
405	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey-yellow sandy silt, secondary fill of ditch (408). Fairly homogenous deposit, gradual silting over time which seals (417) and (416). Sealed by (415).	0.43m thick.	
<b>406</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut observed on the south side of wall (403), unclear if this is the construction cut for wall (403) or the robber cut for the underlying earlier wall (426). Only observed on the south side due to the steep nature of the slope.</b>	<b>0.28m deep</b>	
407	<i>Fill</i>	Backfill material within cut (406); appears to butt wall (403), mid grey sandy silt loose friable bioturbated mix of topsoil and subsoil.	0.28m thick	
<b>408</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of roughly east-west aligned ditch observed in the northern part of the trench; not fully excavated due to Health and Safety considerations. 1.26m long by 1.95m wide and 0.80m+ deep with steep concave slightly undercut sides due to erosion of the soft sand through which it was cut. Filled with (405), (411), (414), (415), (416), (417) and (418).</b>	<b>0.80m deep+</b>	
<b>409</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of possible post-hole cutting the natural to the north of ditch (408), circular with concave shallow side and concave base; 0.22m long by 0.18m wide and 0.15m deep, in-filled with (410). Date and function unclear; possibly associated with (408).</b>	<b>0.18m deep</b>	
410	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey sandy silt fill of (409), no sign of packing.	0.18m thick	
411	<i>Fill</i>	Pale yellow-grey sandy silt fill of (408), gradual silting deposit which overlies (418) and is sealed by (417) and (416). Very compact.	0.39m thick	
<b>412</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of robber trench at the south end of the trench for the removal of the northern wall of the nave of the Priory church; 1.04m long by 1.30m wide and 0.52m deep; steep straight sides and flat base. Ditch cuts (420); backfilled with (413) and (419).</b>	<b>0.52m deep</b>	
413	<i>Fill</i>	Mid yellow sandy silt; deliberate backfill deposit within robber trench (412).	0.39m thick	
414	<i>Fill</i>	Pale yellow sandy loam, slightly mixed, gradually deposited material infilling (408); seals (415) and overlain by (402).	0.11m thick	
415	<i>Fill</i>	Mid brown sandy loam fill of ditch (408). Gradually deposited topsoil and subsoil derived material mixed with erosion material from the collapse of the feature edges. Overlies (405) and sealed by (414).	0.22m thick	
416	<i>Fill</i>	Mid orange silty sand fill of (408); redeposited natural slumping deposit derived from the edges of the feature. Seals (411) and sealed by (405).	0.20m thick	
417	<i>Fill</i>	Mid orange silty sand fill of (408); redeposited natural slumping deposit derived from the edges of the feature. Seals (411) and sealed by (405). Identical to (416).	0.09m thick	
418	<i>Fill</i>	Mid yellow grey sandy silt fill of (408), not fully excavated but the earliest recorded fill of (408), sealed by (411).	0.24m+ thick	

419	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey sandy silt fill of robber cut (412), overlain by (413).	0.12m thick
420	<i>Layer</i>	Pale red-grey sandy gravel; redeposited natural material utilised as made ground/levelling layer prior to the construction of the church. Cut through by (412) and (421).	0.44m thick
<b>421</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of east-west linear cut, only observed in section which cuts through (420); filled with (422), unclear nature. Possible robber cut or evidence of terracing.</b>	<b>0.40m deep</b>
422	<i>Fill</i>	Mid yellow sandy silt fill of (421). Possibly a deliberate deposition.	0.40m thick
423	<i>Natural</i>	Mid yellow sand deposit observed below (420), possible reworked natural, only partially exposed and not investigated.	0.05m thick+
424	<i>Surface</i>	Pale pinky yellow lime mortar spread, bedding material for tiled floor. Equal to (214) in Trench 2. Sealed by (204) and overlies (425).	-
425	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey-brown silty sand made ground/levelling layer which is overlain by (424).	-
426	<i>Structure</i>	East-west flint wall in mid yellow sandy mortar, 1m long by 0.76m wide and 0.50m high, five surviving course recorded. Located to north of robbed northern wall of the nave. Unclear as to what it belongs, possibly either the northern wall of an aisle located on the north side of the church or the inner wall separating the cloister garth from the ambulatory.	0.50m high
427	<i>Natural</i>	Mid yellow-orange sand with occasional diffuse light yellow mottled patches. Equal to (423)	0.44-0.56m+

<b>TRENCH 5</b>		Type:	Hand Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 2.3 x 2m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.10m	
		<b>Ground level:</b> 6.82m aOD	
<b>context</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>depth</b>	
501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown black very humic leaf litter rich sandy loam. Trench 5 positioned to investigate possible structure to the north of wall (102/202) identified in Trenches 1 and 2, but mis-located; abandoned without penetrating the topsoil.	
		0-0.10m +	

<b>TRENCH 6</b>		Type:	Hand Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 2.4 x 1.2m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.30m	
		<b>Ground level:</b> 6.79m aOD	
<b>context</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>depth</b>	
601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil mid grey brown sandy silt with rare small sub angular flints. Very humic and leaf litter rich.	
		0-0.27m	
602	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow brown sandy silt with rare sub angular flints.	
		0.27-0.34m	
603	<i>Structure</i>	Flint and stone rubble, north-south wall footing bonded in compact light yellow sandy mortar with rough irregular coursing. 1.20m long by 1m wide and 0.20m high. Butting and bonded to the south side of wall/pillar (606). Function unclear; possibly represents the western wall of the south transept and possibly the outer wall of the ambulatory around the cloister.	
		0.20m high.	
604	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey-brown sandy silt with c. 50% flint and stone rubble with occasional CBM fragments. Rubble deposit located on the east side of wall (603). Post-demolition accumulation deposit following the removal of the upstanding wall. Butts wall (603) and seals (608).	
		0.20m thick	
605	<i>Surface</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay mortar surface located to the west of wall (603) possibly indicating the interior of a building, but maybe just levelling/make up deposit. Appears to butt wall (603).	
		-	
606	<i>Structure</i>	Upstanding column/pier structure; 2.90m long by 1.95m wide and c. 3.70m high; faced with sawn ashlar stone work, flat elevation on the southern side with a curving northern side, forming the south-western column of the crossing tower. The foundation of (606) is butted by (603). As (606) is dressed on three of the four sides.	
		3.70m high	
607	<i>Structure</i>	Flint and stone rubble in light yellow compact mortar forming the foundation of the structure (606).	
		-	

608	<i>Layer</i>	Light yellow sandy silt with common flint and stone inclusions, post-demolition accumulation deposit or levelling on the east side of (603).	
609	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Construction cut for footing (607) and structure (606).</b>	-

TRENCH 7			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 7.5 x 3m		Max. depth: 0.75m	Ground level: 7.01m aOD	
context	description		depth	
701	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown coarse sandy silt with occasional flint gravels and mortar fragments. Leaf litter rich topsoil which seals (702).	0-0.25m	
702	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels and mortar fleck, sealed beneath (701) and seals archaeology.	0.20-0.31m	
703	<i>Fill</i>	Mid brown sandy silt deliberate backfill deposit over skeleton (704) within grave cut (707).	0.26m thick	
704	<i>Skeleton</i>	Only partially revealed, supine and extended, possibly shrouded burial aligned west to east. Only area from the left hand side of the burial exposed, from base of sternum to mid way down femur. Adult c. 40-50 years, ?male.	-	
705	<i>Fill</i>	Dark brown loose sandy silt with occasional gravel and lenses of mortar. Loose garden soil material filling probable deliberate tree planting hole (706).	0.50m thick	
706	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of circular feature with vertical sides and flat base; 0.80m long by 1.54m wide and 0.50m deep. Very regular deliberate cut for the planting of trees, which cuts (710) and filled with (705).</b>	<b>0.50m deep</b>	
707	<b>Grave</b>	<b>Cut of grave for inhumation burial (704) and in-filled with (703). Grave cut not seen but must be flush with wall (708). Remainder of cut not seen as not within the confines of the trench.</b>	-	
708	<i>Structure</i>	East-west flint and stone rubble wall within a compact light yellow mortar. Remains of southern wall of nave of Priory Church; continuation of wall (102)/(202) to the east. Remains of render (713) on the internal (north facing) face of the wall, as seen on the interior of (102). 1.05m wide and 0.23m high	0.23m high	
709	<i>Structure</i>	North-south wall of flint nodules and stone within a mid yellow sandy mortar; appears as a single course high and sat directly upon (710). Built following the demolition of the Priory. Post-medieval or modern wall probably associated with gardens.	0.13m high	
710	<i>Layer</i>	Light yellow-brown compact clay silt with occasional gravel and chalk and mortar fragments. Degraded mortar deposit which overlies floor surface (712), unclear if remains of floor or degraded material associated with the demolition of the Priory. Overlain by (709) and cut by (706).	0.24m thick	
711	<i>Layer</i>	Light yellow-brown clayey silt; fairly compact deposit of degraded mortar to the west of wall (709), very similar to (710) although looser. Possible make-up layer for floor or remains of disturbed floor following demolition. Cut by (723) overlies (724).	0.25m thick	
712	<i>Surface</i>	Light grey-white compact sandy mortar floor surface, bedding layer for tiled floor, with remains of tiles <i>in situ</i> adjacent to (708). Deposit probably the same as (214) and (424) in Trenches 2 and 4 and equal to (724). Cut by (715) and seals (716).	0.15m thick	
713	<i>Render</i>	Pale yellow sandy mortar render on the internal face of wall (708).	-	
714	<i>Fill</i>	Mid brown very loose sandy rubble rich fill of (715), backfill following the robbing of tiles from (712).	0.20m thick	
715	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Irregular shaped cut for the robbing of tiles set into (712).</b>	<b>0.20m deep</b>	
716	<i>Layer</i>	Very light yellow loose sandy gravel make up deposit for bedding surface (712). Overlies (717) and sealed by (712).	0.18m thick	
717	<i>Layer</i>	Pale yellow-brown loose sandy gravel, overlain by (716) and probably an earlier levelling make up layer for the floors of the Priory church.	0.20m thick.	
718	<i>Fill</i>	Pale grey fine sand fill of possible post-hole (719) which was	0.12m thick	



		revealed following the excavation of large tree planting hole (706) at the base. Contains material potentially derived from (717) and so appears to have cut (717).	
719	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of circular post-hole which probably cuts (717) but revealed cutting (726). 0.30m long by 0.29m wide and 0.12m deep.</b>	<b>0.12m deep</b>
720	<i>Layer</i>	Pale yellow-brown loose sandy gravel; appears to be the same as (717) and so possibly the fill of a natural hollow (721).	0.14m thick
721	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Long oval cut into the natural, possible natural undulation in the ground filled with (720).</b>	<b>0.14m deep</b>
722	<i>Fill</i>	Mid yellow-brown sandy layer which fills (723).	0.09m thick
723	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of post-medieval or modern feature associated with garden activity and (709).</b>	<b>0.09m deep</b>
724	<i>Surface</i>	Light grey-white compact sandy mortar floor surface, bedding layer for a tiled floor at the west end of the church. Deposit probably the same as (214) and (424) in Trenches 2 and 4 and equal to (712).	-
725	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown blue grey compact clay make up layer for floor surfaces within the Priory church.	0.12m thick
726	<i>VOID</i>	VOID	VOID
727	<i>Natural</i>	Natural sand revealed at the base of (706).	-

<b>TRENCH 8</b>			Type:	Hand Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 6.2 x 1m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.40m	<b>Ground level:</b> 7.05m aOD	
context	description		depth	
801	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown-grey silty loam current topsoil and leaf litter rich material.	0-0.10m	
802	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow-brown sandy silt with common small stone inclusions, post-demolition accumulation deposit directly beneath (801), stratigraphically above (803) and physically sealing (804) and (805).	0.10m thick	
803	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown silty loam accumulation deposit, external to wall (805) which butts (805) and is sealed by (802).	0.14m thick	
804	<i>Structure</i>	East-west flint and stone cored wall with light yellow mortar, bonded to and contemporary with (805), forming the north-west corner of a room/building with flooring. 1.20m long by 0.90 wide and 0.30m high.	0.30m high	
805	<i>Structure</i>	North-south stone wall with chamfered ashlar stone facing (or plinth) and a flint and stone core with light yellow mortar, bonded to and contemporary with (804), forming the north-west corner of a room/building with flooring. 1m long by 1.40m wide and 0.30m high. Probably the foundation of a now robbed wall.	0.30m high	
806	<i>Surface</i>	Mid yellow-brown mortar spread for a now robbed wall, located to the south east of the junction of walls (804) and (805).	-	
807	<i>Layer</i>	Mottled mid and light yellow silty loam with common sub-rounded flints, make-up layer cut through by (808) for the construction of walls (804) and (805). Seals (809).	0.19m thick	
808	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Construction cut for walls (804) and (805) which cuts through (807).</b>	-	
809	<i>Layer</i>	Mixed mid to light brown sandy loam with common small flint gravels. Earlier levelling deposit which is sealed by (807).	-	

<b>TRENCH 9</b>			Type:	Machine Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m x 1.2m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1m	<b>Ground level:</b> 5.97m aOD	
context	description		depth	
901	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey silty loam, loose and leaf litter rich	0-0.22m	
902	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow-brown silt with c.40% sub-angular flints <0.15m. Deliberate layer of redeposited natural material and demolition material forming a thick bank of the northern boundary of the lower terrace of the site. Sealed by (908) and overlies (905).	0.51m thick	
903	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of partially exposed linear feature with steep concave sides and concave base; 1.18m long by 0.81m+ wide and 0.72m deep.</b>	<b>0.72m deep</b>	

		<b>Cuts (906) and is in filled with (904). Ditch sealed by buried ground surface (905) and then overlain by bank (902). Base slightly irregular and possibly represents the remains of a ditched boundary.</b>	
904	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey-brown sandy silt fill of (903) with sub-rounded and sub-angular flints. Gradual silting over time.	0.72m thick
905	<i>Layer</i>	Buried ground surface, mid grey-brown silty loam, highly bioturbated. Seals backfilled ditch (903) and overlain by (902).	0.35-0.80m
906	<i>Subsoil</i>	Buried subsoil layer beneath (905) and cut by (903); mid yellow-brown silt.	0.80-0.97m
907	<i>Natural</i>	Mid yellow sand natural.	0.96m+
908	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey brown silty loam with common flints, collapse material from bank (902). Overlies (902) and sealed by (901).	0.15m thick

<b>TRENCH 10</b>			Type:	Machine Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 17.5 x 4.3m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.60m	<b>Ground level:</b> 6.42m aOD	
<b>context</b>	<b>description</b>		<b>depth</b>	
1001	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and overlying leaf litter rich material, humic mid to dark brown silty loam.	0-0.36m	
1002	<i>Layer</i>	Post-demolition accumulation material which as been cleared in recent times. Mid yellow-brown silty loam, revealed directly below (1001) and overlies buried ground surface (1003). Similar to (1004). Site clearance and banking up of material to create access into the ruins.	0.30m thick	
1003	<i>Buried ground surface</i>	Mid brown humic silty loam, old buried ground surface which is sealed by (1002) and (1004) and seals (1005) and (1006).	0.20m thick	
1004	<i>Layer</i>	Post-demolition accumulation material, cleared in recent times. Mid yellow-brown silty loam, directly below (1001) and overlying buried ground surface (1003). Similar to (1002). Site clearance and banking up of material to create access into the ruins.	0.35m thick	
1005	<i>Layer</i>	Mid to light yellow silty loam with common small stone fragments and degraded mortar. Post-demolition accumulation deposit, sealing <i>in situ</i> archaeology. Identical to (1006).	0.20m thick	
1006	<i>Layer</i>	Mid to light yellow silty loam with common small stone fragments and degraded mortar. Post demolition accumulation deposit, sealing <i>in situ</i> archaeology. Identical to (1005).	0.16m thick	
<b>1007</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of roughly east-west gully; 3.40m long by 0.50m+ wide and 0.30m deep with steep concave sides and concave base. Filled with (1008); possibly cuts (1041), the backfill of grave (1023). Function unclear.</b>	<b>0.30m deep</b>	
1008	<i>Fill</i>	Mid brown silty sand, redeposited natural material within (1007); contained human remains most likely derived from burial (1023).	0.30m thick	
1009	<i>Structure</i>	Flint rubble in compact light yellow sandy mortar. Partially exposed large flint rubble foundation; 0.86m long by 1.74m wide and 0.40m+ high. Possibly the pier base or respond for the south-eastern column, possibly an engaged column of the crossing tower also forming the southern column of the chancel arch. Corresponds with (1018) to form the chancel arch. Appears that the structure was formed by pouring mortar slurry into the foundation trench and filling with flint blocks, as seen by the random nature of the coursing. Within foundation cut (1010).	0.40m+ high	
<b>1010</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Construction cut for masonry foundation (1009), cutting levelling mortar spread (1020) and grave (1023) backfill. Probably stratigraphically later than (1020). The cutting of grave (1023) indicates there is clearly at least two phases of activity on site.</b>	<b>0.40m+ deep</b>	
<b>1011</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of north-south linear feature; 4.12m long by 1.08m wide and 0.24m deep. Feature located just to the west of the chancel arch</b>	<b>0.24m deep</b>	

		<b>between (1009) and (1018); potentially associated with the position of a rood screen. Feature was not excavated but its depth was revealed in sondage excavated against its edge. Filled with (1021) and (1012).</b>	
1012	<i>Fill</i>	Mid orange-brown sandy silt with sub-angular flints; redeposited natural, possible foundation material within (1012) for the rood screen of the Priory church. Overlies (1021) within (1011).	0.20m thick
1013	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Construction cut for now robbed (by (1042) north-south wall located within the crossing tower of the church. Unclear if contemporary with the crossing tower and therefore possibly associated with the choir, or if it belongs to earlier phase of activity, perhaps the eastern wall of the Church, demolished to add the new east end. 1.30m long by 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep.</b>	<b>0.25m deep</b>
1014	<i>Fill</i>	Loose light grey-white mortar deposit within (1042), result of the cleaning of mortar from stone work to be reused. Seals (1015) in (1042).	0.25m thick
1015	<i>Fill</i>	Mid brown silty loam backfill of (1042) overlain by (1014) from the robbing of the wall in (1013).	0.25m thick
1016	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Robber cut for eastern wall of church. Identical to (1025).</b>	-
1017	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of (1016). Identical to (1024).	-
1018	<i>Structure</i>	Flint rubble in compact light yellow sandy mortar. Partially exposed large flint rubble foundation; 1.40m long by 0.90m wide and 0.10m+ high. Possibly the pier base or respond for the north-eastern column, possibly an engaged column of the crossing tower also forming the northern column of the chancel arch. Corresponds with (1009) to form the chancel arch. Within foundation cut (1043).	0.10m high
1019	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown sandy loam, reworked natural accumulation deposit which seals natural (1038) and sealed by (1020).	-
1020	<i>Layer</i>	Light grey-white mortar levelling deposit which overlies (1038) and is cut by (1011) and (1010).	-
1021	<i>Layer</i>	Very light grey-white mortar deposit at the base of (1011) and sealed by (1012). Probably derived from (1020) through which (1011) cuts.	0.04m thick
1022	<i>Skeleton</i>	Supine and extended, probably confined inhumation burial within grave (1023). Only upper body exposed; adult >40 years, male. Pre-dates the church construction and radiocarbon dated to 890-1020 AD. Heavily disturbed by masonry (1009) and ditch (1007).	-
1023	<i>Grave</i>	<b>Roughly rectangular, steep concaved-sided grave; 0.40m long by 0.40m wide and 0.40m deep. Containing skeleton (1022) and backfilled with (1041). Heavily disturbed and truncated by (1010) and (1007).</b>	<b>0.40m deep</b>
1024	<i>Fill</i>	Very pale grey silty sand with abundant mortar fragments and small stone chips fill of robber cut (1025). Material derived from the robbing of the eastern wall of the church. Overlies (1035) and sealed by (1037). Equivalent to (1017).	0.50m thick
1025	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut aligned roughly north-south (but revealed obliquely in section). 1.20m long by 2.15m wide and 0.50m deep, with irregular, stepped sides and a flat base. Interpreted as the robber cut for the removal of the eastern wall of the church.</b>	<b>0.50m deep</b>
1026	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey sand; deliberate backfill of grave (1028). Not excavated.	-
1027	<i>Skeleton</i>	Only partially exposed in plan; extended supine adult inhumation, head to west. Adult, >18 years.	-
1028	<i>Grave</i>	<b>Cut of unexcavated, truncated grave cut; sub-rectangular and 1.76m long by 0.87m wide.</b>	-
1029	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey sand; deliberate backfill of grave (1030). Not excavated.	-
1030	<i>Grave</i>	<b>Cut of unexcavated, truncated grave cut; sub-rectangular and 1m long by 0.50m wide.</b>	-
1031	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey sand deliberate backfill of grave (1035). Not excavated. Equivalent to (1034).	-

1032	<i>Skeleton</i>	Only partially exposed in plan; extended supine adult inhumation, head to west. Adult, >18 years.	-
1033	<i>Coffin stain</i>	Remains of wooden coffin within grave cut (1035).	-
1034	<i>Fill</i>	Mid yellow grey sand; deliberate backfill of grave (1035).	-
<b>1035</b>	<b>Grave</b>	<b>Cur of rectangular, unexcavated but truncated grave which contains coffin (1033), skeleton (1032), and fills (1031/1034).</b>	-
1036	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey sand; deliberate backfill within robber cut (1025). Earliest fill, seals (1025) and overlain by (1024).	0.21m thick
1037	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow-brown sandy silt, loose, friable, probably developing subsoil; overlies (1024).	0.22m thick
1038	<i>Natural</i>	Mid yellow-orange natural sand, through which the graves were cut.	0.80m bgl
1039	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey sandy silt; possible levelling deposit which seals (1029), (1031) and (1026) and is overlain by (1040).	0.34m thick
1040	<i>Layer</i>	Light grey silty sand with abundant mortar, post-demolition accumulation deposit associated with (1025), which cuts it, indicating the removal of upstanding masonry before the removal of the foundation material of the eastern wall.	0.12m thick
1041	<i>Fill</i>	Mid to light yellow sand, redeposited natural backfill within grave (1023).	0.40m thick
<b>1042</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Robber cut for the removal of wall in (1013), filled with (1014) and (1015).</b>	<b>0.25m deep</b>
<b>1043</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Construction cut for masonry structure (1018). Cuts through (1019).</b>	<b>0.10m+</b>

TRENCH 11			Type:	Hand Excavated	
Dimensions: 1.7 x 0.90m		Max. depth: 1m	Ground level: 7.4m aOD		
context	description			depth	
1101	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt, loose and friable with rare small flints.			0-0.21m
1102	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt, slightly mixed bioturbated subsoil.			0.21-0.46
1103	Layer	Mixed and mottled mid and light yellow brown sandy loam, very sandy and compact redeposited material.			0.46-0.85
1104	Layer	Compact mid brown rammed clay layer, possible bedding surface for a floor, but different to all other make-up layers for surfaces associated with the Priory church - may not be related to the church. Overlies natural (1105).			0.15m thick
1105	Natural	Natural. mid brown and yellow mottled sand.			1m+ bgl

TRENCH 12			Type:	Machine Excavated	
Dimensions: 5m x 1.2m		Max. depth: 0.60m	Ground level: 4.45m aOD		
context	description			depth	
1201	Topsoil	Current turf and topsoil of field, dark grey sandy clay loam.			0-0.32m
1202	Cut	Cut of possible post hole recorded as irregular with steep sides and concave base and 0.28m long by 0.23m wide and 0.10m deep which cuts (1209) and is filled with (1203).			0.10m thick
1203	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy silt fill of (1202).			0.10m thick
1204	Cut	Cut of NE-SW modern drain which cuts (1209), in-filled with (1205). 1.47m long by 0.44m wide and 0.10m deep. Layer of stones (1215) to allow water movement.			0.20m deep
1205	Fill	Pale yellow sandy silt, fill of (1204), a natural silting deposit which overlies a series of stones (1215) laid at the base.			0.10m thick
1206	Layer	Spread of mid yellow-brown sandy clay with small rounded pebbles and occasional mortar flecks. Possible bedding layer/or foundation for a wooden ground sill or ground plate for a timber building. Not clear because of the size constraints of the trench. 1.25m long by 1.05m wide and 0.35m thick. Overlies (1212) and overlain by (1213).			0.35m thick
1207	Cut	Cut of small irregular shaped pit with steep sides and a flat			0.08m

		<b>base. 0.47m long by 0.33m wide and 0.08m deep. Cuts (1213) and is filled with (1208). Function of pit unclear.</b>	<b>deep</b>
1208	<i>Fill</i>	Dark orange brown clay silt fill of (1207).	0.08m thick
1209	<i>Layer</i>	Mid to dark brown sandy silt layer to the east of (1206), and possibly accumulation of material externally of the building and butting up against (1206).	0.30m thick
<b>1210</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of sub-circular feature with shallow sloping sides and a concave base, 0.80m long by 0.42m wide and 0.30m deep; cuts through (1213). Nature of feature unclear but shallow nature suggests a tree throw hole and not a man-made feature despite the presence of lead.</b>	<b>0.30m deep</b>
1211	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey-brown sandy silt fill of (1210) which contained common fragments of lead, no indication of <i>in situ</i> working and the fill appears to be topsoil derived; therefore likely the lead is residual from within the topsoil.	0.30m thick
1212	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown sandy silt layer sealed beneath (1213) and appears to be butt by (1206), but unclear due to the narrow constraints of the sondage.	0.10m thick
1213	<i>Layer</i>	Light yellow silty sand, mortar rich layer, possible floor make up or bedding layer associated with possible ground sill make up layer (1206). Appears to overlie (1212) but not clear.	0.12m thick
1214	<i>VOID</i>	VOID	VOID
1215	<i>Layer</i>	Layer of stones at the base of drain (1204), to allow water to flow.	

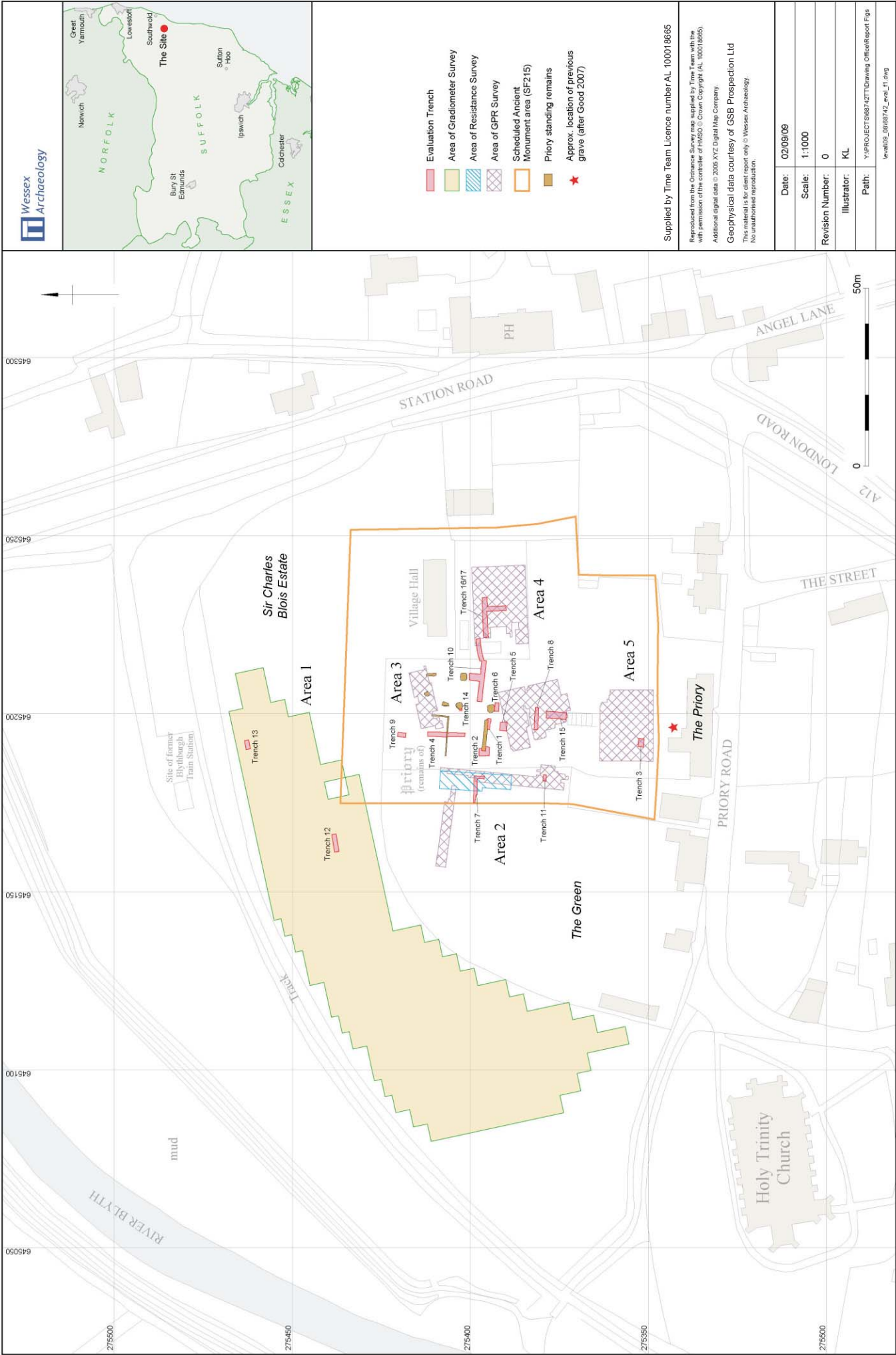
<b>TRENCH 13</b>			Type:	Machine Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 2.5 x 1.2m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.76m	<b>Ground level:</b> 3.89m aOD	
context	description		depth	
1301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown sandy clay loam current turf and topsoil.	0-0.55m thick	
1302	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow brown sandy silt heavily bioturbated and diffuse horizon with (1313).	0.55-0.76m	
1303	<i>Natural</i>	Mid yellow brown sand which has been disturbed by bioturbation creating dirty natural. Cut by possible post hole (1305). Clean natural was not observed due to time constraints.	0.76m+	
1304	<i>Fill</i>	Dark grey black sandy silt fill of possible post hole (1305).	0.35m thick	
<b>1305</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of possible post , irregular in shape with moderate concave sides and concave base; no evidence of packing (in sand this would be needed). Unclear whether archaeological or natural feature.</b>	<b>0.35m deep.</b>	

<b>TRENCH 14</b>			Type:	Hand Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 0.8 x 0.8m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.06m	<b>Ground level:</b> 7.27m aOD	
context	description		depth	
1401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid grey-brown silty loam, very thin leaf litter rich topsoil which overlies (1402).	0-0.06m	
1402	<i>Layer</i>	Light yellow sandy loam with common flint fragments and mortar pieces. Post-demolition accumulation deposit which overlies a large scale collapse/demolition layer (1403).	0.06-	
1403	<i>Layer</i>	Large block of collapsed masonry, flint nodules and bonding mortar which has collapsed from the north-western crossing tower column (1404). Not fully excavated or defined.	0.20m thick+	
1404	<i>Structure</i>	Sub-circular stone column with ashlar stone facing, creating circular drum column. Potentially free standing, corresponding column to (606) at junction of nave and crossing tower. NW crossing tower pillar.	4m+ high	
1405	<i>Structure</i>	Rectangular structure of ashlar stone; 0.20m long by 0.18m wide. Unclear use; bonded into (1404). Associated with crossing tower.	0.10m high +	

<b>TRENCH 15</b>			Type:	Machine Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 5.6x2m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.40m	<b>Ground level:</b> 7.30m aOD	
context	description		depth	
1501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and overlying leaf litter rich material, humic mid to dark brown silty loam.	0-0.28m	
1502	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow brown sandy silt.	0.28-0.40m	
<b>1503</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Roughly north-south robber cut for removal of wall (1504), 3.80m+ long by 1m wide and 0.28m deep.</b>	<b>0.28m deep</b>	
1504	<i>Structure</i>	North-south flint wall footing, flint nodules in mid yellow sandy mortar, robbed by (1503). Only revealed in small sondage as 0.70m long by 0.80m wide and 0.10m high. Continuation of wall (805) in Trench 8.	0.10m high +	
1505	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of robber cut (1503), mid yellow grey silty sand with common mortar flecks.	0.28m thick	
1506	<i>Layer</i>	Mid orange-brown sandy silt, loose bioturbated levelling deposit, potentially equal to (807) in Trench 8. Cut by (1507).	0.20m thick+	
<b>1507</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Construction cut for wall (1504) which cuts (1506).</b>	<b>0.10m+ deep</b>	

<b>TRENCH 16/17</b>			Type:	Machine Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 11 x 6m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.80m	<b>Ground level:</b> 5.91m aOD	
context	description		depth	
1601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and overlying leaf litter rich material, humic mid to dark brown silty loam.	0-0.30m	
1602	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid to light grey brown subsoil.	0.30-44m	
1603	<i>Natural</i>	Mid to light yellow sand.	0.44m+	
<b>1604</b>	<b><i>Grave</i></b>	<b>Cut of grave, sub-rectangular; 2.24m long by 0.60m wide and 0.18m deep containing coffin (1605), skeleton (1606) and backfill deposits (1607/1608).</b>	<b>0.18m deep</b>	
1605	<i>Coffin stain</i>	Coffin stain and wooden fragments within grave (1604) containing skeleton (1606) and in-filled with (1607), derived from (1608). Coffin stain recorded as 2.10m long by 0.40m wide.	0.18m thick	
1606	<i>Skeleton</i>	Supine, adult male c. 30-40 years old.	-	
1607	<i>Fill</i>	Mid yellow brown sandy loam, deliberate backfill deposit within coffin (1605) over (1606). Material identical to (1608) and deposited following decaying of the coffin.	0.18m thick	
1608	<i>Fill</i>	Mid yellow-brown sandy loam, deliberate backfill deposit of grave (1604), containing redeposited foetal and adult remains.	0.18m thick	
1609	<i>Layer</i>	Mixed mid grey-brown and dark brown sandy loam with bands of natural sand. Seals (1610) and overlain by (1611).	0.25m thick	
1610	<i>Layer</i>	Dark brown silty loam very organic topsoil-like deposit which seals (1607) and (1608).	0.06m thick	
1611	<i>Layer</i>	Light grey sandy mortar levelling deposit derived from the demolition of the buildings nearby. Overlain by 1602) and seals by (1609).	0.15m thick	
1612	<i>Fill</i>	Mixed orange yellow brown sandy gravel fill of (1617).	0.57m thick	
<b>1613</b>	<b><i>Grave</i></b>	<b>Cut of possible grave. Unexcavated.</b>	-	
1614	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of (1613).	-	
<b>1615</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of east west aligned unexcavated ditch.</b>	-	
1616	<i>Fill</i>	Very dark brown silty loam backfill of (1615) appears to be topsoil derived material. unexcavated.	-	
<b>1617</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of unexcavated feature.</b>	-	
<b>1618</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of east-west feature in-filled with (1619), (1620) and (1621). Initially thought to be natural gravel deposit within natural sand, but (1619) contained worked stone. Function unclear, possibly an in-filled ditch, but could be footing for eastern wall of church, which would make the chancel of the church much larger. If it is a wall footing it has been packed with flint nodules to create a</b>	<b>0.63m deep</b>	

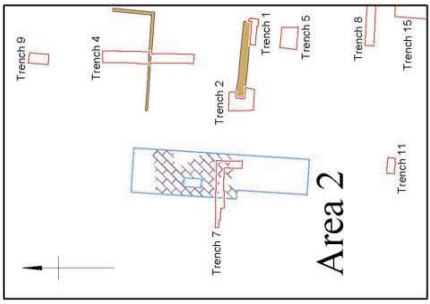
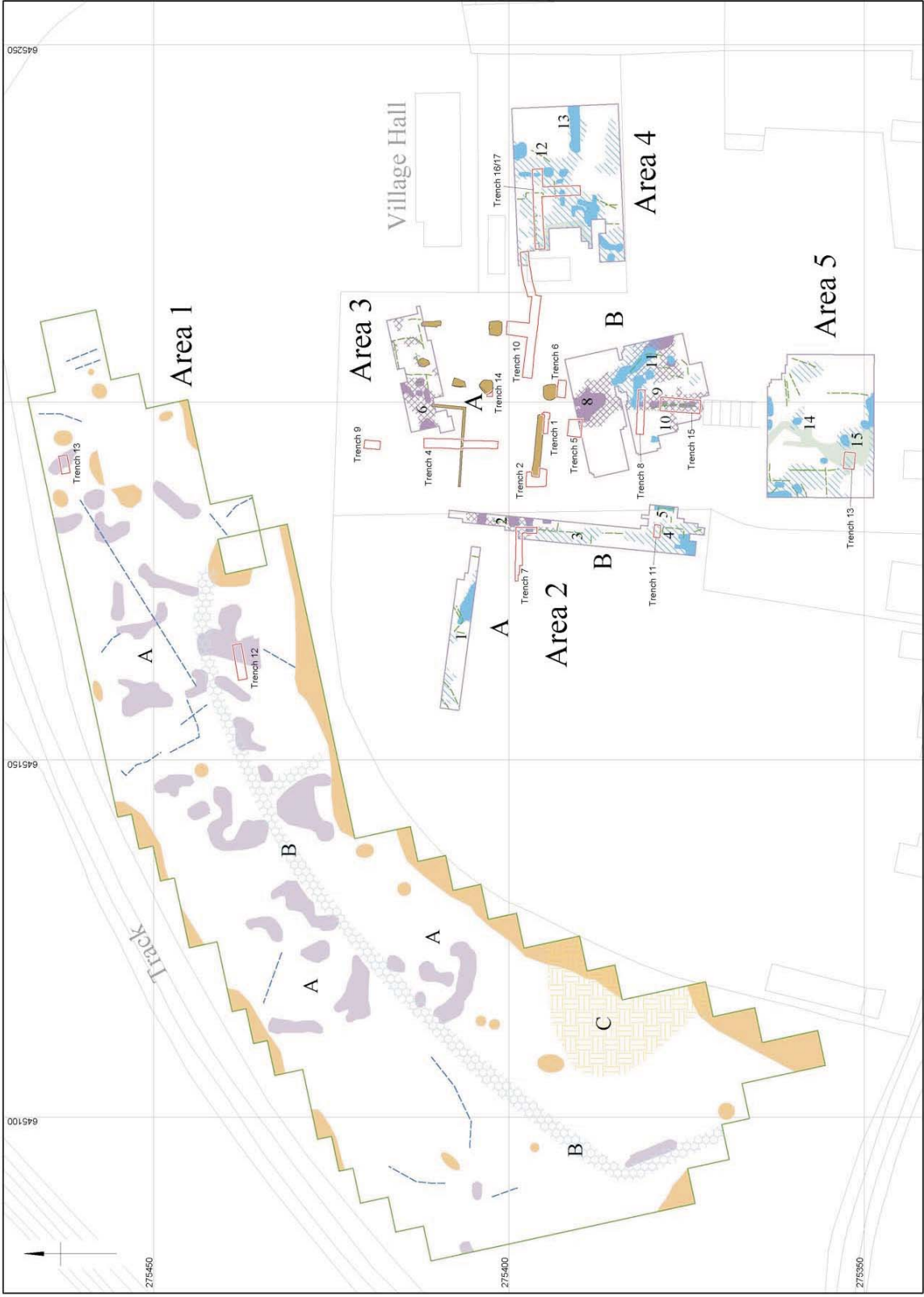
		<b>solid foundation within the sand and then up-standing remains built up from it. If it is wall footing it is like no other observed on site.</b>	
1619	<i>Fill</i>	Grey yellow sand deposit at the base of ( <b>1618</b> ), naturally derived deposit.	0.06m thick
1620	<i>Fill</i>	Yellow brown sand with abundant large flint nodules, sub-rounded. No evidence of mortar. Fill of ( <b>1618</b> ).	0.40m thick
1621	<i>Fill</i>	Dark yellow-brown sand and gravel with abundant medium to large sub rounded flints. Fill of ( <b>1618</b> ).	0.24m thick



Site location and trench plan, showing scheduled area

Figure 1





B. Resistance survey

- Evaluation Trench
- Priory standing remains
- Gradiometer Survey
- Gradiometer Survey area
- ?Archaeology
- ?Boundary (negative response)
- Trend
- Magnetic Disturbance
- Ferrous
- GPR Survey
- GPR Survey area
- High Amplitude - ?Archaeology
- Increased Amplitude - ?Archaeology
- High Amplitude - Uncertain origin
- Increased Response - Uncertain origin
- ?Service/Drain/Modern
- Trend
- Resistance Survey
- Resistance Survey area
- High Resistance - ?Rubble

A. Gradiometer and GPR surveys

	Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map. Supplied by Time Team Licence number AL 100018665 Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospection Ltd This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		Date: 31/07/09	Revision Number: 0
			Scale: 1:600	Illustrator: KL
			Path: Y:\PROJECTS\68742TT\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval05_09\68742_eval_12.dwg	

Interpretation of geophysical data

Figure 2



Plate 1: Upstanding wall 102/202

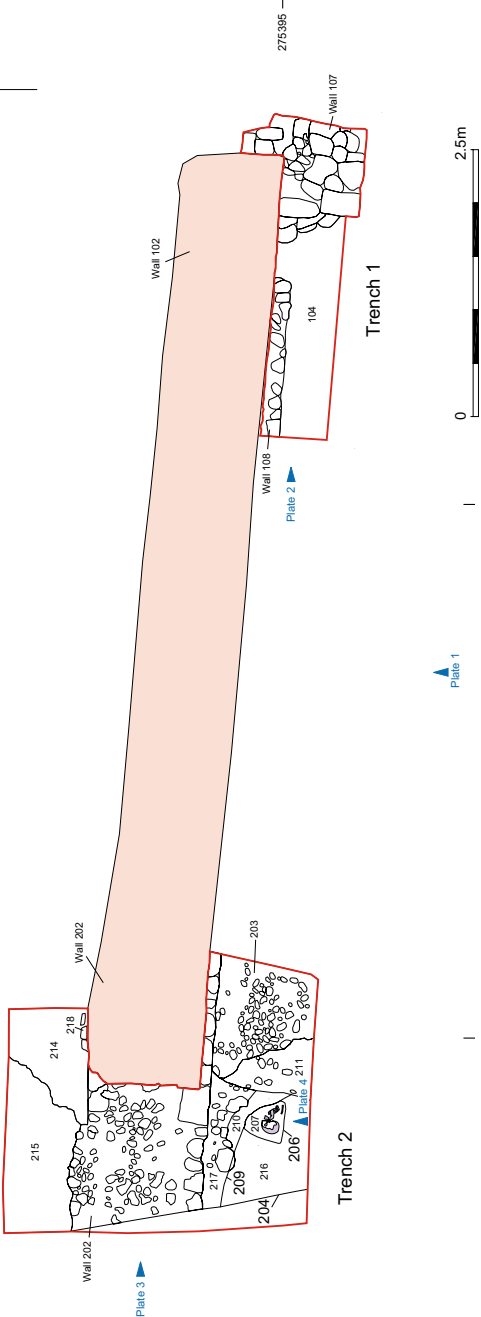


Plate 1



Plate 2: Trench 1, view from west



Plate 3: Trench 2, view from west



Plate 4: Trench 2, detail of skeleton 207


<div></div> <div>This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</div>	<div><div><div><div></div></div><div>Evaluation trench</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>Standing wall</div></div></div> <div><div>Plate direction</div><div></div></div>	
	Date: 01/09/09	Revision Number: 0
	Scale: Plan @ 1:50	Illustrator: KL
	Path: Y:\PROJECTS\88742TT\Drawing Office\Report Figures\eval09_08\68742_eval_r3.dwg	







Plate 8: Trench 6, view from north



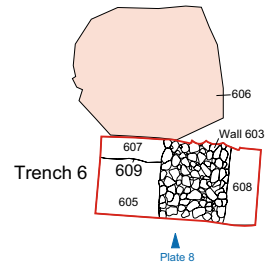
Plate 9: Trench 8, view from east



Plate 10: Trench 8, view from west

645195

645200



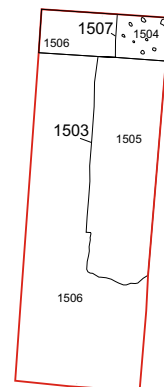
Trench 5

275390



Trench 8

275380



Trench 15



□ Evaluation trench    ▶ Plate direction  
□ Standing wall



This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	02/09/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Plan @ 1:80	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\68742TT\Drawing Office\Report Figures\eval\09_08\68742_eval_f3_dwg		

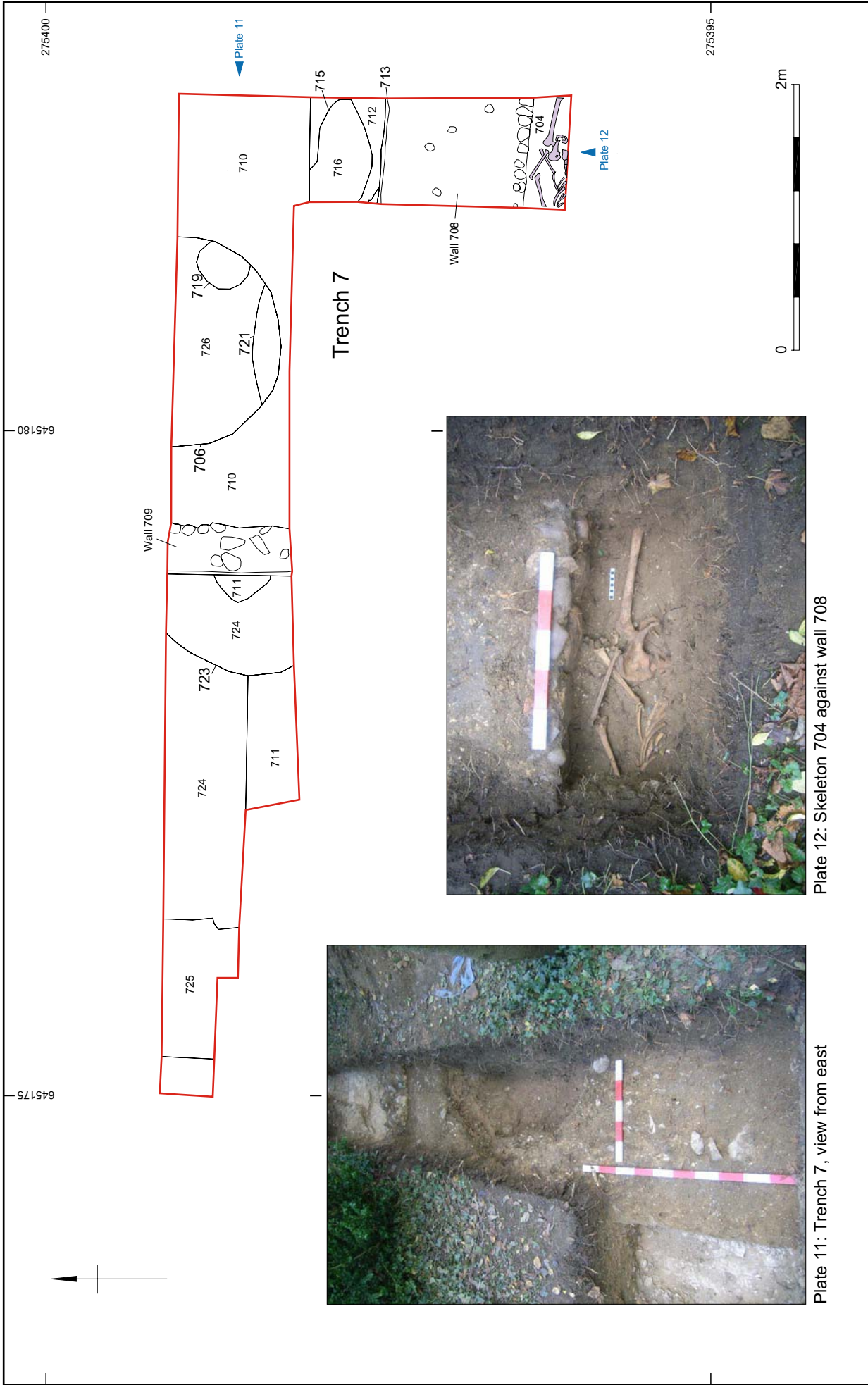





Plate 12: Skeleton 704 against wall 708



Plate 11: Trench 7, view from east

	 Evaluation trench			Date:	02/09/09	Revision Number:	0
	 Plate direction			Scale:	Plan @ 1:40	Illustrator:	KL
	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\68742TT\Drawing Office\Report Figures\eval\09_08\68742_eval_f3_dwg		





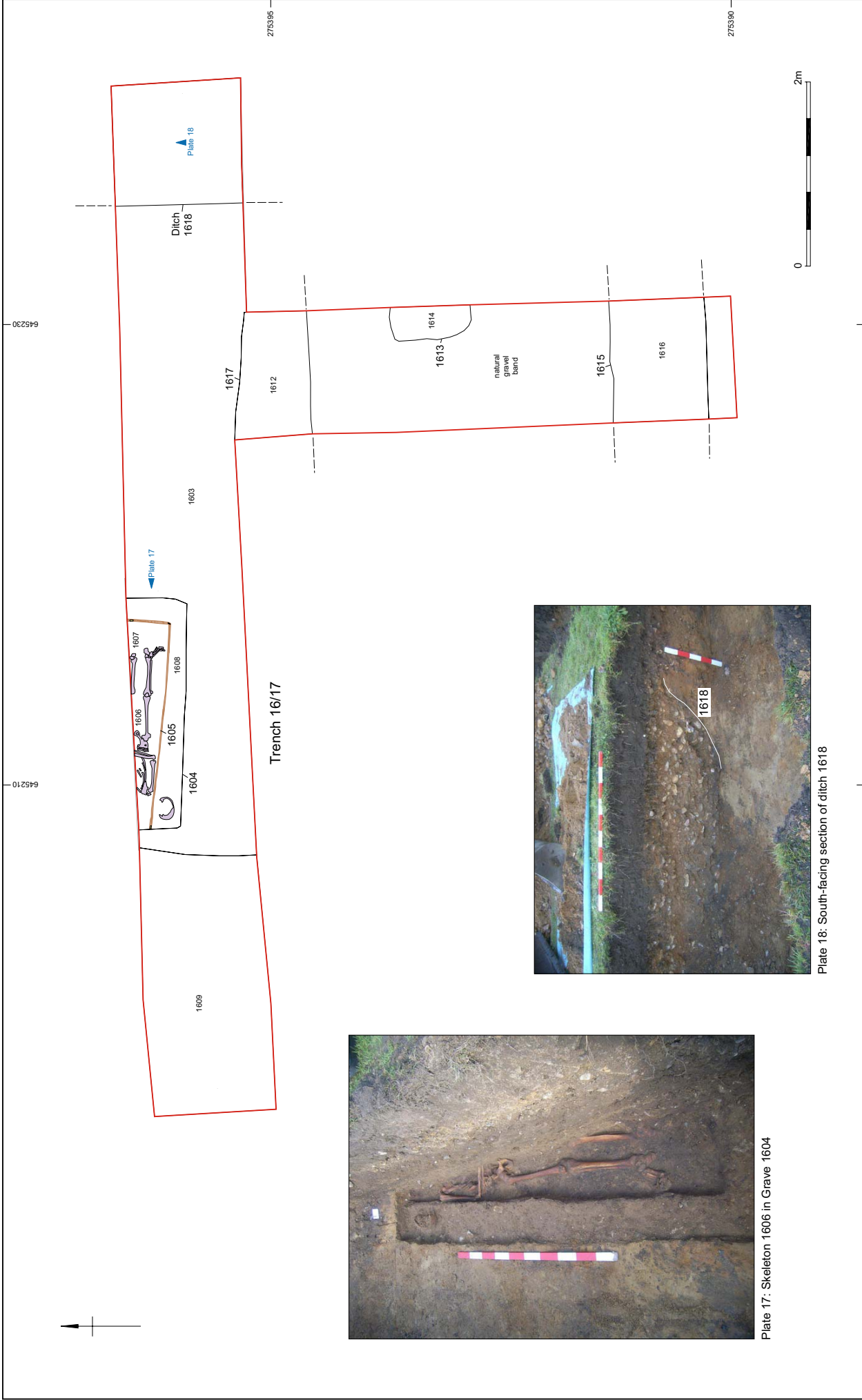


Plate 17: Skeleton 1606 in Grave 1604



Plate 18: South-facing section of ditch 1618

	Date: 02/09/09		Revision Number: 0
	Scale: Plan @ 1:50		Illustrator: KL
	Path: Y:\PROJECTS\68742TT\Drawing Office\Report Figures\eval09_08\68742_eval_l3.dwg		





Plate 19: Trench 11, view from west

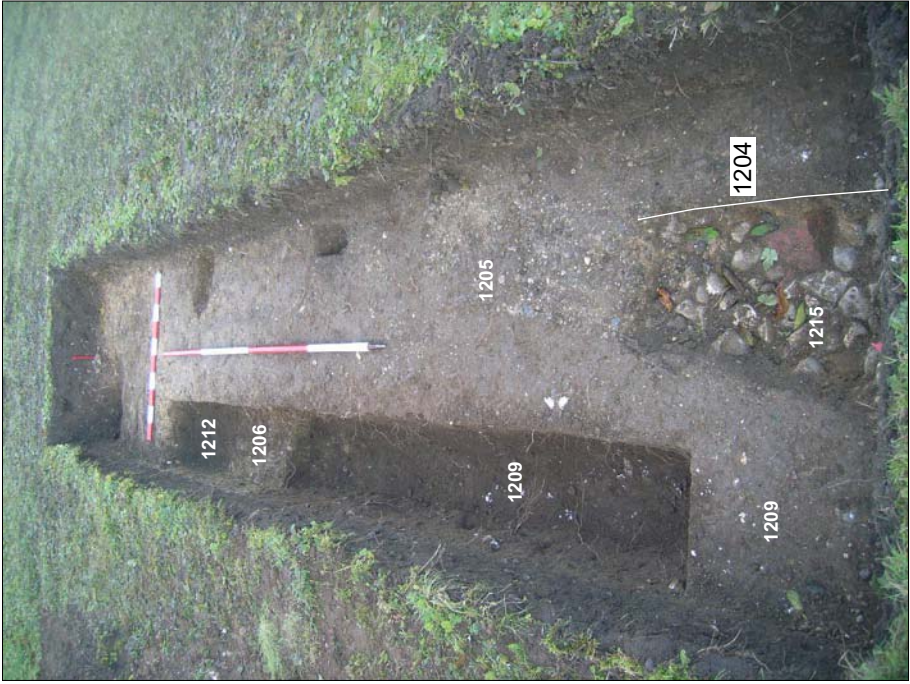
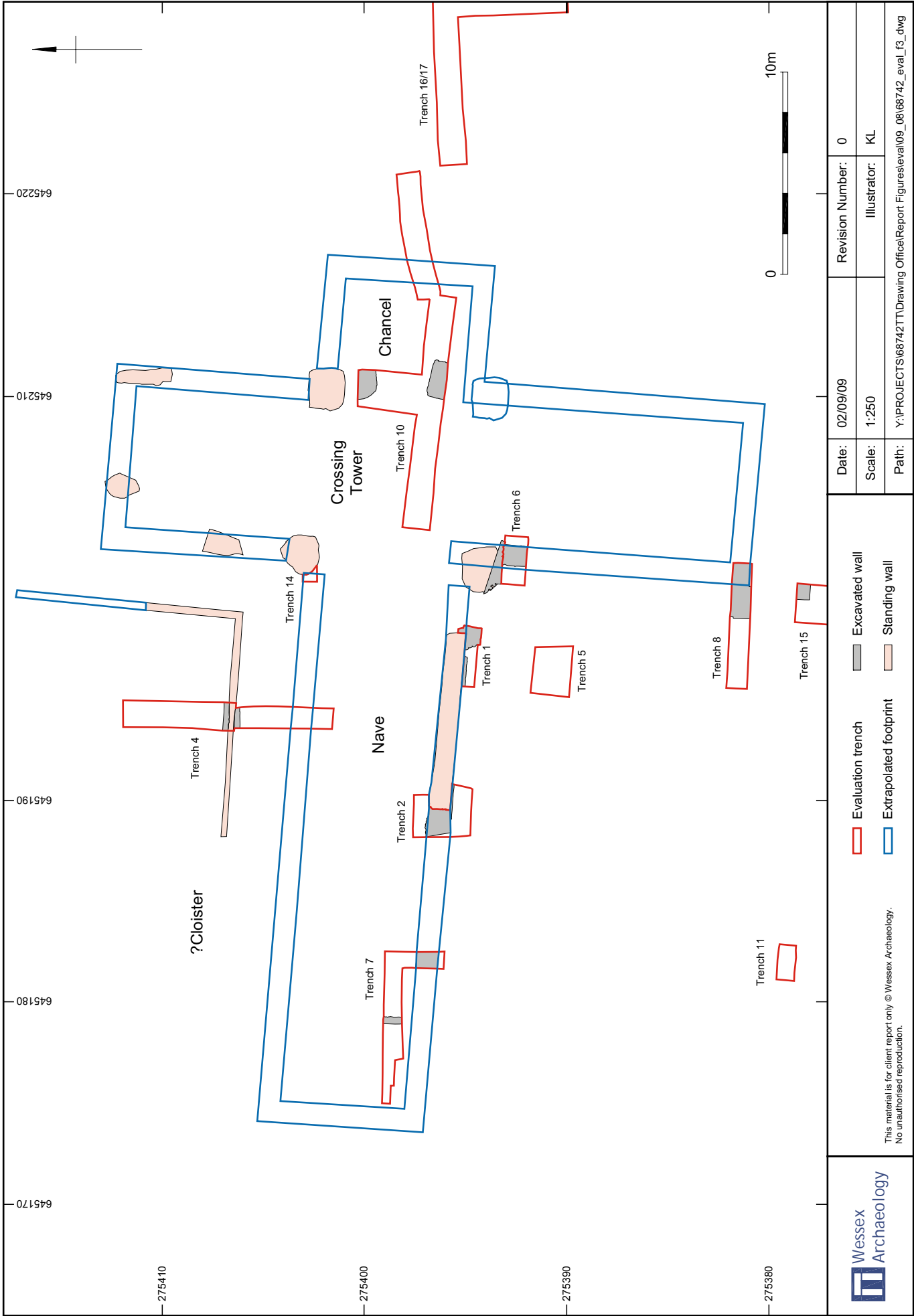


Plate 20: Trench 12, view from west

	<p>This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>		Date:	02/09/09	Revision Number:	0
			Scale:	n/a	Layout:	KL
			Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\68742\TT\Drawing Office\Report Figures\eval\09_08\68742_eval_f3_dwg		





Possible Priory church layout

Figure 10



**WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.**

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk) [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

Maidstone Office: The Malthouse, The Oast, Weaving Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5JN.

Tel: 01622 739381 [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk) [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

