

## Colne Priory, Earls Colne Near Colchester, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



**Ref: 77503**  
**April 2012**



**COLNE PRIORY, EARLS COLNE,  
NEAR COLCHESTER, ESSEX**

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

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Report reference: 77503.01

**April 2012**

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SITE CODE	<b>77503</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR	<b>586466, 228958</b>		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
1	F	SDT	JPG		26/03/12	<u>77503 EARLS COLNE REPORT (ED LNM).DOC</u>

\* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final



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NEAR COLCHESTER, ESSEX****Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results****Contents**

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## **COLNE PRIORY, EARLS COLNE, NEAR COLCHESTER, ESSEX**

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

#### **Summary**

In May 2011 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Colne Priory, Earls Colne, near Colchester, Essex (NGR 586466, 228958) to investigate the site of the Benedictine Priory of St. Mary the Virgin and St. John the Evangelist (also known as the Priory of St. Mary and St. Andrew), founded by the De Vere family in the early 12th century. The programme of works investigated the Priory layout and the remains of the post-Dissolution house constructed on Site.

The geophysical survey by GSB Prospection (which expanded upon earlier work by Tim Dennis, University of Essex) revealed the layout of the Priory, including the Priory church, and the domestic structures centred on a southern cloister, and also showed the location of the post-Dissolution mansion which was demolished c. 1820.

The evaluation consisted of five trenches. Results from these showed that the main Priory church had been constructed in a single phase, and was accompanied by a number of inhumation burials on the north side of the presbytery. A sample of bone from one of these burials was radiocarbon dated to AD 1040-1260. While this could conceivably belong to an earlier, pre-Priory phase, perhaps associated with a Late Saxon minster, the likelihood is that all the burials belong to the early years of the Priory.

The church was later adapted by the addition of two chapels on the northern side of the presbytery and a third chapel to the south, identified as the Lady Chapel. These were family chapels to house the remains of members of the De Vere family. Three intact tombs were revealed although only one contained articulated *in situ* human remains, a sample of which was radiocarbon dated to AD 1270-1400. The addition of the chapels had resulted in major structural alterations to the Priory Church, with the removal of the original southern presbytery wall. Further alterations saw the replacement of the apsidal eastern wall of the Chapter House with a squared end with buttresses.

Following the Dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, a manor house was constructed over the western range of the Priory. The Priory church was demolished and a large ditch was dug straight through the presbytery. A 1598 map shows this large ditch surrounding orchards, although in 1760 a visitor to the Site records witnessing the excavation of the ditch and called it a ha-ha. The remains of the manor house appeared to have been extensively robbed; however, the presence of bay windows on the front of the building was confirmed, as shown on 18th century engravings of the building.

The results of the evaluation, which have augmented existing knowledge of Colne Priory, warrant further dissemination. It is proposed that a publication report is prepared, summarising the results of the evaluation, and setting the site in its local and regional context. This report will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*.

## **COLNE PRIORY, EARLS COLNE, NEAR COLCHESTER, ESSEX**

### **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 Val Croft (Production Manager), Jim Mower (Development Producer), Ellie Hunt (Researcher) and Kerry Ely (Locations Manager) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock, Emma Wood and Clare Stephens (of GSB Prospection). The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston (Bristol University). The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Steve Thompson, with on-site finds processing by Simon Flaherty, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by *Time Team's* retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Tracey Smith, Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave and Cassie Newland, assisted by Neville Constantine, Richard Hewitt, Dave Saxby, Rob Hartle, Charlotte Mecklenburgh and Laurie Edwards-Ryer.

On-site pottery identification was by Paul Blinkhorn with small finds identification by Nina Crummy. On-site identification of the human bone was undertaken by Jacqueline I. McKinley (Wessex Archaeology).

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with initial historical research by Jim Mower and Ellie Hunt of Videotext Communications. Specialist reports were prepared by GSB Prospection (Geophysics) and Matt Leivers (flint), Jacqueline I McKinley (human bone), Dr Kevin Hayward (stone), Nick Cooke (token), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone) and Lorraine Mephram (all other finds). Report illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram.

This report has benefited from discussion with Mick Aston, Phil Harding, Teresa Hall and Dave Saxby. Thanks are also due to Brian Alderman of the Earls Colne Heritage Museum regards information on the Thomas Kitchen engraving.

Finally thanks are extended to the landowner, Paul Whight, for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and the excavation of evaluation trenches.

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## **COLNE PRIORY, EARLS COLNE, NEAR COLCHESTER, ESSEX**

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

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

##### **1.1 Project Background**

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* at Colne Priory, in the village of Earls Colne, Essex (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 The Site, Location and Geology**

1.2.1 The village of Earls Colne is located approximately 13 km north west of Colchester and approximately 5 km south east of Halstead. Colne Priory is centred on NGR 586466, 228958 and located at a height of approximately 27m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology comprises undifferentiated river terrace deposits (BGS Sheet 233).

1.2.2 The Site of Colne Priory falls within the grounds of a private residence and is currently under lawn. The Site has been identified as being of national importance and has therefore been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM number 20642).

##### **1.3 Historical Background**

###### ***Early Medieval History***

1.3.1 The following history (covering the founding of the Priory and its history to the Dissolution) is abridged and taken from an earlier account by Page and Round (1907, 102-5).

1.3.2 Colne Priory was founded as a cell to the abbey of Abingdon in Berkshire by Godfrey de Vere, the eldest son of Aubrey (or Alberic) de Vere and Beatrice (or Beatrix) his wife, the half sister of William the Conqueror, after he had been cured of an illness by Faritius, abbot of Abingdon. On his deathbed Godfrey granted to the monks the church of Kensington in Middlesex, and his parents confirmed this but, on account of the distance of Abingdon from Essex, they determined, instead of making further grants, to found a monastery on their own land of Colne, to be subject to Abingdon. The consent of the king and of Maurice, bishop of London, was obtained, and the foundation was confirmed by a charter of the king in 1111. Faritius became abbot in 1101 and Maurice died in 1107, and so the date of the priory can be placed between fairly narrow limits.

1.3.3 Abbot Faritius placed six monks at Colne originally, and afterwards increased the number to twelve. The founder himself became a monk in the



priory and was buried there, as were also his youngest son William and a large number of his successors and their relatives, including thirteen earls of Oxford. The patronage of the priory remained with the de Veres through the whole of its history.

- 1.3.4 The priory church was dedicated to St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist in 1148 by Robert, Bishop of London, who invoked a long and detailed curse on all who should rob it of its possessions, while indulgences of relaxation from penance were promised by successive Bishops of London to persons who should visit it on the day of dedication.
- 1.3.5 At the end of the 14th century there was a dispute about the priorship. Henry Colne or Kebell had been elected by the monks, but Maud, countess of Oxford, the patron, objected to the election, and the king on 26 March 1394 ordered the bishop to survey the house and its possessions and make order for its custody. Henry on 16 December placed his resignation in the hands of the bishop, who on 1 February 1395 ordered the convent to proceed to a fresh election, and on their omission to do so appointed Henry as prior on 6 May. But William Courtenay, archbishop of Canterbury, conferred the priory upon John Preston by metropolitical authority
- 1.3.6 On 12 March 1449, in consideration of their alleged poverty, the prior and convent were exempted from being made collectors of tenths, etc. On 7 February 1489 at the instance of their patron, the earl of Oxford, they were granted licence to acquire property in mortmain to the value of £40 yearly. It is not known how much use was made of this licence.
- 1.3.7 The net value of the priory was returned in the Valor as £156 12s 4½d yearly, the gross value being £175 14s 8¾d. It thus came under the operation of the Act of 1536 and was dissolved. The site of the priory and most of its possessions, including the manor of Colne Priory in Earl's Colne, were granted to John de Vere, earl of Oxford, on in 1536.

### ***Post-Dissolution History***

- 1.3.8 The following history is abridged from Fairweather's account (1938).
- 1.3.9 The Dissolution of lesser monasteries, like Colne Priory, took place in 1536. The buildings and properties at Colne were granted to John de Vere, the 15th Earl of Oxford. The grant included; *'The Priory or Monastery of the Blessed Virgin and St John the Evangelist of Earls Colne'*, the whole church and bell tower of the priory and the *'maner of Colne-Abby'* and rectory, church or chapel of Earls Colne, with its patronage and income, together with that of White Colne.
- 1.3.10 A considerable portion, if not all, of the church was still standing, with a large number of the monuments undisturbed when John de Vere died suddenly in 1539 and was buried not at the priory, but at Castle Hedingham (the de Vere family fortress), where his monument still exists and where his son, John, the 16th Earl, is also buried. The 17th Earl was a notorious spendthrift and sold some of the property at Colne, including the lay house, park and manor in 1583 to Roger Harlackenden, his steward. In 1592 John de Vere sold the second manor, that of the priory, to Harlackenden's son Richard, and the de Vere connection to Colne Priory was severed forever. The Harlackenden family owned the site until late in the 17th century.

- 1.3.11 By the early 17th century the majority of the priory structures had been destroyed, and were then represented only by the remains of the choir. The nave seems to have been the first portion to be destroyed, together with the transept or a portion of the latter. Two of the existing monuments were transferred at this time to the parish church. Richard Harlackenden dates the removal of the third, spoken of as the 'Great tomb', in the first quarter of the 17th century. The remainder of the tombs were left in the remains of the priory.
- 1.3.12 The estate remained in the Harlackenden family until 1672 when it passed by marriage of the heiress to the Androwes family and, in the same way in the early 18th century, to a Mr Wale. This is a critical point in the history. The entire remaining portion of the church was swept away, and a ditch dug directly through the centre of the choir and through the eastern cloister. Many graves were destroyed, and the remaining effigies and monuments entirely eradicated.
- 1.3.13 Mr Wale's activities did not cease with the destruction of the monastic remains. He now proceeded to the remodelling of the old de Vere house which had been mentioned as standing to the west of the precinct and which was known by this time as the priory. Holman, writing in about 1740, says: *'The Priory House was a wooden fabric and is partly pulled down and quite altered from what it was that it may be called a new structure. The house was built at some distance from the Church upon a declivity near the river Colne and inclosed with a brick wall containing within it about 12 acres.'*
- 1.3.14 Morant, quoting the above adds a note *'John Wale cased it with brick'*. The Rev. William Cole records that he saw *'also many pieces of marble and alabaster cut for chimney pieces'* and adds that *'Mr Wale stated that all the chimney pieces in the house were made from the ruined tombs of the Oxfords'*.
- 1.3.15 The house so mistreated by Mr Wale survived for another hundred years, passing by marriage of Mr Wale's daughter Anne to Mr John Holgate, and on her death in 1767 to her eldest grandchild Anne Holgate who married the Rev Thomas Carwardine. In the time of their son, Henry Holgate Cawardine, the last of the medieval structures upon the site was finally swept away, as about the year 1827 Mr Cawardine pulled down the old de Vere house and built the present house, still known as the priory, to the south of the former site.

## **1.4 Archaeological background**

- 1.4.1 Colne Priory is listed on the English Heritage scheduling entry as follows:

*The Benedictine Priory of St. Mary the Virgin and St. John the Evangelist founded a little before 1111; dissolved 1536.*

*There was possibly an earlier monastery or college of priests, as a minster is mentioned in the will of Leofgifu c. 1045, probably founded in St. Andrew's Church at Earls Colne (TL860288). The site is now a level meadow divided into two parts by a ha-ha ditch which cuts through the foundations of the presbytery, cloister and chapter house.*

*Extant remains consist of the base of the north-west church tower and a single stone from the presbytery. In dry seasons some of the lines of the*

*monastic buildings are visible in the turf on the north side of the present priory (a house of 18th/19th century date, grade 2). In 1929-34 excavations revealed the church, the apsed chapter house, the slype and the dorter. A large amount of Roman debris was found. The present house replaced an earlier one which stood on the western side of the site, to south-west of the monastic church.*

*The present house named 'The Priory' is not on the site of the Benedictine Priory. This stood at TL 86452893; site plotted at 1:2500. Apart from this all the previously recorded information is correct except that, the remaining stone of the presbytery has been removed to an unknown location.*

#### **Excavation, F.H. Fairweather, 1938**

- 1.4.2 The only recorded intrusive archaeological works were undertaken by F.H. Fairweather, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, whose excavations took place from 1929-1934. These excavations, along with a historical review of both the site and the burials of the de Vere family, represent the most comprehensive piece of work conducted on the site to date (Fairweather 1938).
- 1.4.3 Fairweather did not provide trench plans but rather reconstructed the layout of the priory site by combining standing remains (at the time) with existing stonework found in his excavations, and then extrapolated the layout with the addition of information from the observation of parchmarks. Fairweather offered the following summary of his work:
- 1.4.4 *'... by the kind permission of Col Probert, FSA, the owner, and of Mrs Heyworth who was then the tenant, excavation on a limited scale has been carried on at intervals since the autumn of 1929, with the result that, though destruction has been very thorough, and in parts complete, the main plans of the church and chapter house have been recovered.'*
- 1.4.5 This is followed by a detailed description of the church, the Lady Chapel, the Transept and Crossing, the Nave and the 'monastic buildings'. Although extensive, the priory was not completely excavated and much of Fairweather's conclusions regarding the identification of specific buildings and structures were based on comparative sites and the observation of parchmarks. Fairweather also observed: *'The soil, from constant shifting and resulting admixture of mortar is especially tough and unsuitable for uncovering delicate remains. A large amount of Roman debris found, in addition to what is in position, proved that much material of the building was re-used Roman brick, doubtless providing quoins, arches, and coursing in the walls, as at St Botolphs, Colchester.'*

#### **Geophysical survey, Dr Tim Dennis, University of Essex (2008)**

- 1.4.6 In 2008 Paul Whight, landowner at Colne Priory, commissioned Essex University to undertake a geophysical survey of the site in the hope of marking out the locations of subsurface remains for visitors to the gardens. A trial survey was carried out under EH Licence no. SL312, by Dr Dennis of the Department of Computing and Electronic Systems, University of Essex, variously assisted by Dr Patrick Spencer and Mr Richard Shackle.
- 1.4.7 The following text is abridged and reproduced, with permission, from a summary of work produced by Dr. Dennis.

- 1.4.8 A magnetic fluxgate gradiometer survey showed some indication of the church foundations, but the image was badly obscured by high-amplitude anomalies, including ferrous debris, typical of a site that has been subject to long occupation. Ground resistance, in contrast, has given excellent results, and has confirmed the accuracy of Fairweather's plan, for the church at least. With the survey incomplete, it does not confirm the layout of the cloistral buildings. Instead, as well as geometrical features outside it, there are indications on the west side of another set of foundations on a different orientation to that of the church. These are likely to belong to buildings that occupied the site after the principal 12th century structures were finally razed in the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 1.4.9 Ground penetrating radar survey identified strong indications of foundation lines overlaying the cloisters region which match low resistance 'point' features. At least two potential grave cuts are present, the most prominent in the later extension on the south side of the presbytery. There are faint outlines of a vaguely geometric nature to the north of the church.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled by Jim Mower and Ellie Hunt with contributions by Dr Tim Dennis (Videotext Communications 2011), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.
- 2.1.2 The project aimed to ascertain the location, date, condition, character and extent of the underlying archaeological remains and address the significance of those archaeological remains in an attempt to answer four key research questions:
1. What is the extent of the monastic complex and its state of preservation?
  2. Where is the original manor house built by the Earls of Oxford?
  3. Where are the tombs of the Earls of Oxford?
  4. How accurate was Fairweather in his original identification of monastic buildings?

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Geophysical Survey**

- 3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site to enhance the previous results by Dr Dennis in 2008. A combination of fluxgate gradiometer (magnetic) and ground penetrating radar (GPR) was used. The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.



### **3.2 Evaluation Trenches**

- 3.2.1 Five trenches (Trenches 1-5) of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and to address specific research objectives (**Figure 1**).
- 3.2.2 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.
- 3.2.3 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.
- 3.2.4 All archaeological deposits within the trenches 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. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10 and 1:20. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.2.5 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.
- 3.2.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated material.
- 3.2.7 The work was carried out on the 17th – 20th May 2011. 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.

### **3.3 Copyright**

- 3.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features and the full geophysical report (GSB 2011) are retained in the archive. Detailed descriptions of the excavated sequences and structures can be found in **Appendix 1**.

## 4.2 Geophysical Results

### *Introduction and Summary*

- 4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over two areas, with GPR undertaken over the remains of the priory and magnetic survey in the field to the north, covering in total an area of 2.5 hectares.
- 4.2.2 Site conditions were good throughout as the ground consisted of short pasture and was flat with few obstacles.

### *GPR Survey (Figure 2)*

- 4.2.3 The results from the GPR survey are relatively clear-cut, with the layout of the monastic elements, for the most part, exceedingly well-defined. The anomalies have been loosely categorised based on their character initially and their distribution secondly – for example the archaeological anomalies have been split into those sharing an alignment with the primary elements of the Abbey Church (1) (*Ecclesiastical Remains*) and those in the same orientation as the front wall (2) of the Tudor mansion (*Post-Dissolution House*). Other anomalies whose characters appear archaeological but perhaps are on an altered alignment or less well-defined are classed as *Archaeology* or *?Archaeology*. Examples of the former include the structure (3) in the south-east of the survey area which does not share an alignment with either the Priory or Tudor house (though may be the *Rere Dorte*, according to Fairweather (1938)), and anomalies throughout the Priory buildings (e.g. (4)) which are not on wall lines and could be burials or other subterranean features. The less confident category includes potential garden features (5) and a weakly defined rectilinear spread of response (6) that could be part of the post-Dissolution house.
- 4.2.4 Perhaps the most-interesting features in the *?Archaeology* grouping are the weak linear anomalies (7) lying on the eastern side of the Priory complex. Excavation at the time of survey (Trench 1) revealed limited evidence of a structure underlying the medieval deposits on this side of the site, lying on an alternative orientation. It was postulated that this might suggest the presence of a Saxon minster, and as speculative as this may be, these anomalies could be of significance. This interpretation is tempered by the fact that they share a similar alignment to the broad ditch (8) cutting through the Chancel; they could be later garden features contemporary with this landscaping.
- 4.2.5 The origin of strong anomalies (9), underlying the nave and side chapel, is perhaps the most perplexing facet of the dataset. These substantial anomalies seem to show a linearity in the depth-slices, striking north-north-west to south-south-east and could be some form of earlier archaeological feature, material imported in order to level the site / consolidate the ground prior to the construction of the Priory, or a response to a geological formation. The stratigraphy demonstrated by the radargrams seems to point towards the latter interpretations but certainly in the case of geology, one might expect such a response to have been seen under more of the site. This general ambiguity precludes a definitive interpretation and, as such, these responses remain classified as *Uncertain*.
- 4.2.6 A spread of anomalies across the north-west of the survey area coincided with a slight rise in the ground surface and a number of rabbit holes; as

such, these anomalies are assumed to be a combination of burrowing and the natural lie of the land. Numerous linear trends in the shallowest data seem to be the effect of grounds-keeping, mowing etc. Some of these linears lie on a similar line to the archaeological deposits and thus may be masking some of the shallowest features pertaining to the Priory remains.

### **Magnetic Survey (Figure 3)**

- 4.2.7 The most obvious magnetic response is the large zone of disturbance (C); this roughly forms a square footprint of 34m x 34m. Post-Second World War Ordnance Survey maps (1955, 1:2,500 and 1967-69, 1:5,500) show this structure, but do not give a function. It may be associated with former building foundations or an area of hard-standing.
- 4.2.8 A semi-circular ferrous anomaly (A) is likely to have a modern origin, but it is unclear as to what has caused this response. A number of anomalies (B) that have been classified as Uncertain may be associated with the flooding of the River Colne, as they follow the alignment of the field boundary.
- 4.2.9 Small scale ferrous anomalies ('iron spikes') are present throughout the data, their form best illustrated in the XY trace plot. These responses are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris in the topsoil and are commonly assigned a modern origin.

### **Conclusions**

- 4.2.10 The Benedictine Priory is clearly visible within the GPR results. Elements of the Priory can be seen such as the cloister, chapter house, nave and presbytery and clearly correspond to the plan by Fairweather (1938). Further foundations associated with the Tudor house are also visible along with the large ditch which cuts through parts of the Priory.
- 4.2.11 Magnetic survey shows anomalies that are recent in origin with responses possibly associated with flooding of the River Colne. An area of magnetic disturbance is likely to be the footprint of a small structure or an area of hard-standing.

### **4.3 Evaluation Trenches**

- 4.3.1 Any substantial archaeological remains revealed were recorded and left *in situ*. The remains of several graves containing inhumation burials were identified as were substantial quantities of disarticulated human bone, including several charnel deposits. Parts of four graves were partially excavated to confirm their nature but no human remains were lifted except two small samples of human bone were removed for radiocarbon dating.
- 4.3.2 A number of charnel deposits were excavated, as these were concentrated within the stratigraphically latest deposits and had to be removed to aid further investigation of the stratigraphically earliest archaeological deposits.
- 4.3.3 All the human bone lifted during the investigations was re-buried within vault/tomb **Group 189**.
- 4.3.4 The following evaluation results section should be read in conjunction with **Appendix 1**.

### **Trench 1 (Figure 5)**

- 4.3.5 Trench 1 lay across the eastern end of the Priory Church, centred on the presbytery, which had been heavily impacted upon by a large ditch, as identified in the geophysical survey (**Figure 2**). Several distinct phases of archaeological deposition and construction were identified within the trench.

#### Phase 1 (early 12th century)

- 4.3.6 The earliest identified remains relate to the foundation of the Priory at the beginning of the 12th century. Two substantial parallel east-west walls (**150** and **144**) formed the northern and southern walls of the presbytery. These flint and mortar walls were constructed upon compact rammed gravel and mortar foundations (within foundation trenches **149** and **191**) cut directly into the underlying natural river terrace gravels. The interior of the presbytery, however, had been completely removed by the Phase 3 ditch **103** (see below).

- 4.3.7 To the north of wall **150**, eight graves (**166**, **169**, **172**, **174**, **176**, **178**, **180** and **187**) were exposed, associated with this first phase of construction. These graves were impacted upon by the later addition of chapels on the northern side of the presbytery (see below, Phase 2). Only two graves were investigated: grave **166** (skeleton **167**) and grave **169** (skeleton **170**). A sample of right tibia was removed from skeleton **170** and radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 1040-1260 (870±35 BP, SUERC-34962). These graves have been interpreted as belonging to the monks of the Priory buried outside the Priory church but as close to the High Altar as possible.

#### Phase 2 (late 13th to 16th century)

- 4.3.8 To the north of the presbytery at the junction with the northern transept the geophysical survey identified a probable chapel constructed with buttresses (**Figure 4**). This chapel was revealed in Trench 1 as Group **195**, composed of walls **132** and **152** and containing vault/tomb Group **190** (cut **156**, vault/tomb wall **157** and skeleton **158**; **Figure 6, Plate 8**). Wall **152** cut through four of the Phase 1 burials and butted wall **150**. Vault/tomb Group **190** was located towards the eastern end of the chapel but equidistant from walls **132**, **152** and **150**, indicating it was indeed contained within the chapel. Skeleton **158** was only partially exposed; a small sample of bone was submitted for radiocarbon dating, producing a date of cal. AD 1270-1400 (660±35 BP, SUERC-34961), providing a likely 14th century date for the chapel. Due to its prominent position, the individual within the tomb is likely to be a member of the de Vere family.

- 4.3.9 A second grave (**162**) containing infant/juvenile skeleton **127** abutted Group **190**, suggesting a possible family link between the two individuals (**Figure 6, Plate 8**).

- 4.3.10 The northern chapel Group **195** was subsequently extended to the east by the addition of wall **154**, possibly forming a second northern chapel (Group **196**). Analysis of the geophysical survey results suggests that the extension may have been made to create a symmetrical appearance to the east end of the Priory church following the addition of the southern Lady Chapel in the 15th century. This practice is not uncommon in monastic churches which are often expanded and altered with the addition of private chapels for rich patrons.



- 4.3.11 The geophysical survey also revealed a large structure on the southern side of the presbytery which had been interpreted by Fairweather as the 15th century addition of a Lady Chapel (**Figure 4**). Within Trench 1, a heavily truncated wall (**139**) was all that survived of the southern wall of this chapel. Within it was a brick tomb (Group **189**), composed of walls **116**, **117** and **120** within cut **137** with floors **135** and **136** within it (**Figure 6, Plate 7**).
- 4.3.12 A second vault/tomb Group **194** lay to the north, composed of cut **105/108**, mortar lining **110** and internal wall **112**. This vault/tomb had been cut directly into the foundation of the southern Presbytery wall **144** (**Figure 6, Plate 5**), indicating that this wall had been removed to provide access though into the Lady Chapel from the Presbytery. Both tombs were constructed to receive two individuals, most likely husband and wife, although the remains had been subsequently removed (see below, Phase 3).

#### Phase 3 (Dissolution to early 17th century)

- 4.3.13 The third phase dates from the years immediately after the Dissolution of 1536, which saw the demolition of the Priory church buildings and the robbing of usable building stone. The removal of the burials within the tombs in the chapels also took place at this time. The remains within tombs **189** and **184** were removed for reburial elsewhere, with some of the ornamental stone effigies moved to Colne Parish Church. Many of the effigies, however, were destroyed, the material used in the construction and repair of the later mansion constructed on the site. In Tomb **190**, however, the human remains were left *in situ*. Following the demolition and robbing, the tombs were backfilled with the remaining waste material (stone and ceramic building material and glass).
- 4.3.14 The remains of several burials were disturbed by the robbing events, and redeposited as charnel groups; it is unclear whether these were derived from within tombs of the de Vere family or perhaps from the graves of the monks. It was clear, however, that the charnel deposits were derived from previously intact and *in situ* burials from which, once identified, the bones were carefully collected and deposited soon after.
- 4.3.15 Four charnel groups were found in Trench 1 (**126**; **115** in cut **114**, **122** in cut **121** [not illustrated on **Figure 5**]; **141** in cut **140**). Charnel group **126** (**Figure 6, Plate 3**) did not lie within a cut but appeared to have been contained in a small bag placed directly upon the robbed wall (**152**). The other three deposits were all within small cuts (**Figure 6, Plate 4**).
- 4.3.16 Some time after the Priory church had been pulled down, a large ditch (**103**) was dug straight through the presbytery (**Figure 6, Plate 6**). This feature appears surrounding an orchard and ponds on the Amyce 1598 map (a second map by Amyce shows the orchard but no ditch). The ditch is also recorded on the Ordnance Survey maps of the area from 1876 though to 1993 with an aerial photograph dating to 1953 (ref. TL 8628/1 CAP 8122/65; University of Cambridge Aerial Photo Collection) also showing the substantial ditch crossing the eastern portion of the site. Despite this cartographic evidence, however, a date for the ditch is unclear. The ditch fills (**130**, **170** and **104**) contained a mixture of residual early medieval pottery as well as modern finds (19th/20th century). Moreover, in 1938 Fairweather referred to the feature as a ha-ha ditch, following Gough, who wrote a description c. 1786 after a visit to the site c.1760.

- 4.3.17 Gough recalls *'the site of the chapel was converted into an ha ha and in its banks I saw many human bones'*. It is possible Gough that witnessed the re-cutting of the feature. On excavation no evidence of a retaining vertical wall (a typical feature of the ha-ha) was revealed, nor any evidence of the removal of stonework. It is probable, however, that the feature represents a substantial garden feature of some kind.

#### Phase 4 (17th to 20th centuries)

- 4.3.18 In the final phase of activity, six garden-related features were dug through the remains of the Priory church; these were bedding trenches or tree planting holes (**128, 133, 147, 155, 182 and 184**). Finds recovered dated primarily from the 18th to 20th centuries, although feature **128** contained numerous pieces of flint flush work dating to the late 14th to 15th century, indicating the construction style of the chapels added to the north side of the presbytery. This phase also saw the final infilling of ditch **103**.

#### Undated

- 4.3.19 A single wall aligned roughly north-east to south-west (**143**) was observed below the floor of Tomb Group **189** (**Figure 6, Plate 7**). The feature clearly pre-dates the 15th/16th century tomb, but a closer date could not be assigned. It is just possible that it belongs to a pre-12th century construction, perhaps related to the pre-Norman Minster recorded in the will of Leofgifu (c.1045), as it is clearly on a different alignment to the main body of the Priory church. This is, however, purely conjectural as not enough of the feature was revealed for interpretation, but the alignment of the wall does correspond with anomaly (7) from the GPR survey (**Figure 2**), which was interpreted as possible evidence of pre-Priory structures on a different orientation.

#### **Trench 2 (Figure 7)**

- 4.3.20 Trench 2 was positioned at the north-west corner of the presbytery, at the junction with the crossing tower and the northern transept as indicated by the geophysical survey (**Figure 4**). The earliest recorded layer was **206/207**, a probable alluvial layer which overlay the natural river terrace gravels **210**. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from **207**; it was cut by **203**, the foundation trench for walls **204** and **205**. Constructed in the same manner from flint nodules within mortar slurry, **204** formed the northern respond for the eastern arch of the crossing tower leading into the presbytery, while **205** formed the northern wall of the presbytery (equivalent to **150** in Trench 1) (**Figure 7, Plate 9**). A small sondage was excavated through **206** at the junction of **204** and **205** which revealed that they were contemporary and constructed upon a rammed gravel and mortar foundation.
- 4.3.21 Cutting **206** was small circular post-hole (**209**), possibly associated with the scaffolding used during the construction of the Priory church.

#### **Trench 3 (Figure 8)**

- 4.3.22 Trench 3 investigated a building constructed on the western side of the northern transept at the junction with the northern wall of the north aisle of the Priory church, according to the geophysical survey (**Figure 4**).
- 4.3.23 The earliest deposit identified was **309**, a reworked natural layer which sealed the natural river terrace gravels **310**. This had been cut by the

northern wall of the north aisle (**311**). Wall **311** was constructed in the same manner as the earliest phases of the east end of the Priory church (walls **150/205** and **144**), from flint nodules within a mortar slurry, upon a rammed gravel footing (**Figure 8, Plate 10**).

- 4.3.24 According to the geophysical results, the eastern wall of the building added to the west of the north transept should have been located centrally within the trench, but it became clear that the north-south wall had been removed by a robber cut (**308**). No datable material was recovered from **308**, although it is likely that the robbing occurred in the 50 or so years following the Dissolution.
- 4.3.25 A probably 18th century garden feature (**305**) cut **307** and was sealed by levelling layers **303** and **302**.

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

- 4.3.26 The north-east corner of the Chapter House, as identified in the geophysical survey (**Figure 4**), was investigated by Trench 4. The natural river gravels and a sealing alluvium layer (**409**, **413** and **415**) were cut by **410**, the foundation trench for the apsidal end to the Chapter House. Only the foundation material **412** survived for the apse within **410**, layer **411** filling the void between the foundation and the foundation trench (**Figure 9, Plate 11**). Wall **404** at the west end of the trench was identified as the northern wall of the Chapter House.
- 4.3.27 The apsidal end of the Chapter House was subsequently demolished and replaced with a squared end with buttresses. The demolished apse was sealed by layer **408** which contained 11th century pottery and ceramic building material of 13th century date or later. Wall **403** was built on layer **408**, with buttresses at the north-east corner.

#### ***Trench 5 (Figure 10)***

- 4.3.28 Trench 5 was positioned over the western end of the Priory complex in an attempt to identify structures relating to the post-Dissolution house. The geophysical survey identified a possible bay window (**Figure 2**), a common window style of the later 16th century.
- 4.3.29 The earliest stratigraphic deposit was recorded as **518**, a possible natural deposit reworked by trample activity which contained a single sherd of 12th/13th century pottery and was cut through by **519**, the foundation for a possible rammed gravel footing **517**. Possibly associated with **517** were the remains of a roughly north-south aligned wall fragment **514**, which appeared to have been constructed in a similar manner to the Priory church structures, and which was interpreted as part of the domestic structures of the Priory.
- 4.3.30 Following the Dissolution, wall **514** was removed by robber cut **511**, and a large scale levelling deposit (**505/515/516**) was laid down. This was cut by feature **513**, which was in turn cut by foundation trench **509** for a possible timber beam slot. This was contemporary with **507**, and these two features appear to form the corner of a timber building. This timber phase of the mansion pre-dates the alterations of c.1740 by John Wale.
- 4.3.31 To the west of **507**, a large robber cut (**504**) with clear angled edges corresponded with the geophysical anomaly interpreted as a bay window (**Figure 10, Plate 12**). The robber cut had clearly followed the line of the

bay window and removed all useable material, which was most probably brick, due to the abundant CBM fragments recovered from the backfill of the robber cut. The bay window may have been part of the extensive alterations by Wale in the mid-18th century.

## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all five of the excavated trenches. The assemblage recovered was dominated by ceramic building material (CBM), for which a rigorous selection and discard policy was employed on site (see below). Otherwise, quantities are relatively small.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results have been summarised by trench (see **Table 1**); these include quantifications for items discarded on site. All finds have subsequently been at least visually scanned, in order to provide basic identifications, and to ascertain the date range where possible. This section discusses the finds briefly within their local and regional context, and assesses their potential to contribute to an understanding of the Site, with particular reference to the use of the Site as a medieval priory.

### **5.2 Pottery**

5.2.1 The small pottery assemblage includes material of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date. The condition of the material is fair; sherds are relatively small but levels of abrasion are low (mean sherd weight is 13.5g).

5.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified by ware type, using the Essex type series (e.g. Cotter 2000, 12-13); totals are given in **Table 2**.

#### ***Romano-British***

5.2.3 There is one Romano-British sherd; a body sherd in coarse greyware from layer **207**.

#### ***Saxon***

5.2.4 One sherd has been identified as Ipswich ware (upper fill of ditch **103**). This is a small body sherd in a coarse variant of the fabric. The only known kilns for this ware type are in Ipswich, and recent research suggests a date range for the production of Ipswich ware of c. 725-850 (Blinkhorn forthcoming). Sherds of Ipswich ware have been recorded from a number of sites in East Anglia and southwards to Kent, mainly in coastal regions. They are found in trading centres (such as London), but outside these locations their presence is generally considered to be an indicator of a high status, often religious site.

#### ***Medieval***

5.2.5 Just under half of the assemblage (24 sherds) is of medieval date. Apart from one sherd of glazed Mill Green ware from the fill of construction cut **519**, all of the medieval sherds are in generic types – early medieval sandy wares, medieval sandy greywares, and medieval sandy orange wares, although the latter type probably includes at least one sherd of micaceous Hedingham ware. Between them, these wares have a fairly wide potential



date range, from 11th to 14th centuries, but the only diagnostic sherds are two jar rims, both of developed form, one in early medieval sandy ware (layer **408**), and one in medieval sandy greyware (ditch **103**). These suggest a date no earlier than the late 12th century, although the possibility that some of the undiagnostic sherds are earlier cannot be ruled out.

### **Post-medieval**

- 5.2.6 Post-medieval wares span the period from the 16th century to the modern period, including coarse redwares, stonewares (both German and English), tinglazed earthenware, and factory-produced refined earthenwares.

### **5.3 Ceramic Building material**

- 5.3.1 This category constituted the bulk of the finds assemblage recovered from the Site. The large quantities encountered resulted in the formulation of a selection/discard policy used on site, and continued during the scanning process. Medieval roof tiles constitute a significant, although very repetitive component of the CBM assemblage, and have been discarded, apart from a few examples in which full original dimensions survive (width in each case). Apart from nail/peg holes, none of these tiles showed any other features such as glaze.

- 5.3.2 The CBM has been quantified (count) by type, and the totals are given in **Table 3**.

### **Romano-British**

- 5.3.3 A number of pieces of CBM can be dated as Romano-British; most of these appear to have been re-used in later masonry. They include identifiable fragments of tegulae and box flue tile, and two fragments have finger-smear 'signatures'. One complete piece measures c. 200mm square, which matches the average size of the bessalis, used to create pilae (pillars or piles) to support the floor above a hypocaust (Brodrigg 1987, 34).

### **Roof tile**

- 5.3.4 As noted above, most of the roof tile was quantified and discarded on site; examples were recovered from all five trenches. All of this material appeared to be of medieval date, the tiles made from coarse fabrics, not very well wedged, and with some prominent inclusions. Surviving widths range from 160mm to 180mm. From the occurrence of peg/nail holes, this seems to have been the preferred means of attachment, although one nibbed tile was also recorded from post-medieval garden feature **155**. One retained fragment, from the same feature, carries a deer hoofprint.
- 5.3.5 There is one fragment from a curved tile, probably a ridge tile, although no diagnostic features survive (layer **303**).

### **Floor tile**

- 5.3.6 Both plain and decorated floor tiles were recovered, although in some cases tiles are so worn that it is difficult to say whether they were originally plain or decorated.
- 5.3.7 Plain tiles are either rectangular or triangular, the latter formed from rectangular tiles scored diagonally. One rectangular and one triangular tile are white-slipped under the glaze.

- 5.3.8 Several designs were recorded among the decorated tiles. All of those that can be identified fall within the series of medieval 'Westminster' tiles, made in the London area in the 1250s and 1260s (Betts 2002; types W34, W92, W93 and W104), with one tile similar but not identical to a Westminster type (W97). No matches could be found with the range of decorated tiles produced at Danbury between c. 1275 and c. 1335, perhaps not surprisingly as the latter kiln appears to have had a relatively restricted distribution, largely confined to the Chelmer Valley (Drury 1975). Three designs remain unidentified, and a number of fragments were too small and/or worn for the design to be discerned.
- 5.3.9 Only two of the 'Westminster' tiles provided dimensions – both are 140mm square, which is within the known range for the type although larger than the average (*ibid.*, 21).
- 5.3.10 Nearly all of the floor tile (including all of the decorated fragments) was recovered from Trench 1 (in particular from post-Dissolution infilling layers **118** and **119** within tomb **189**), with two examples from Trench 3.

### **Brick**

- 5.3.11 Only one complete brick was recovered, from post-Dissolution tomb infill **119** (220 x 100 x 43mm), but all appear to derive from unfrogged forms, although there are two fragments from a modern airbrick from layer 302. Several fragments are overfired, some to vitrification. Four fragments can be identified as London stock brick, in a distinctive dirty yellow clay. Ten fragments are in other pale-firing variants but are likely to be earlier in date. These include a group of five fragments from robber cut **504**, in a coarse fabric with prominent red grog or iron compounds, that appear slightly tapering in form, although very worn; their function is uncertain. Brick fragments came from Trenches 1, 3 and 5.

### **Other CBM types**

- 5.3.12 Other examples of CBM comprise a modern wall tile and drainpipe fragment (both from levelling layer **102**), and a few completely undiagnostic fragments.

## **5.4 Stone**

- 5.4.1 Most of the stone recovered comprises building material. This includes parts of eight pieces with dressed surfaces, probably ashlar, four more elaborate mouldings, and one small fragment of inlay.
- 5.4.2 The mouldings comprise one piece of curved, projecting moulding, perhaps from an archway or from a window hood (post-Dissolution tomb infill **119**); a broken fragment with the remains of vertical fluting on three sides (levelling layer **102**); a triangular-sectioned horizontal piece, possibly a coping stone (levelling layer **102**); and a broken and reused (mortared) piece with remnant complex mouldings, of unknown function (post-medieval garden feature **155**).
- 5.4.3 Four of the ashlar fragments and two of the mouldings are in a shelly oolitic grainstone, identified as Barnack stone, from Middle Jurassic outcrops at Barnack in Cambridgeshire. Three ashlar and one moulding are in Caen stone, a pelletal limestone from the Calvados *département* in Normandy. One ashlar and two mouldings are in a glauconitic greensand, from the

Totternhoe or Cambridge Chalk. The small piece of inlay is in Purbeck Marble, a shelly wackestone from the Lower Cretaceous deposits on the Isle of Purbeck, Dorset.

5.4.4 The use of this range of building stone (from Cambridgeshire, north-west Hertfordshire, Dorset and northern France) reflects the geographic isolation of the site in an area where the underlying geology is too recent and too soft to be worked into mouldings. All except one of the pieces of building stone came from Trench 1 (with one ashlar fragment in Caen stone from Trench 3).

5.4.5 In addition, a single whetstone was recovered, from Trench 1 (tomb infill **119**); this is in a highly polished silica-rich rock, possibly Upper Cretaceous flint.

## **5.5 Worked Flint**

5.5.1 A total of 58 pieces of worked flint was recovered, as in Table 4. Although small, the assemblage is of interest as it contains a number of pieces indicating Mesolithic activity in the immediate vicinity.

5.5.2 The majority of the material consists of unretouched flake debitage, difficult to date but probably Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age (on the basis of the use of hard hammers, plain butts, and multiple directions of removals). Mostly only one or two flakes were recovered from a context. The main exception to this was levelling layer **102**, where 18 pieces came from two or three nodules, and layer **206** (pre-dating construction of the Priory church), where 13 pieces were recovered. In both instances cores were recovered (complete in **102**, fragmentary in **206**) from which at least some of the associated flakes could have been removed (suggested by similarity of flint or cortex). Other material of this date includes an end scraper on a primary flake from layer **207**, and a flake fragment with marginal retouch from layer **206**.

5.5.3 The remainder of the assemblage is Mesolithic. These pieces can be distinguished by type, technology and patina. The Mesolithic component consists of a bladelet fragment and a single platform bladelet core with a cortical back from layer **102**; a burin on a transverse snap made on the distal end of a bladelet from layer **206**, and a truncated blade from layer **207**.

## **5.6 Glass**

5.6.1 The glass includes fragments of both vessel and window glass. The vessel glass consists largely of fragments of green bottle glass, most of which appears to belong to forms current between the mid 17th and late 18th centuries; examples of 'onion' and 'mallet' forms were identified from layer **303**. Other fragments are not attributable to specific forms. More recent vessels (20th century) came from levelling layer **102** and comprised a small, cylindrical bottle in clear glass, and a Shippams paste jar.

5.6.2 The window glass includes 55 fragments (49 from post-Dissolution tomb infill **119**) in very degraded glass, almost completely devitrified and totally opaque, although faint traces of painted decoration survive. These are likely to be of medieval date. Other fragments are in better condition although slightly oxidised, and are likely to be of early post-medieval date; all these

pieces are plain, and none retain edges or other features; quarry shape cannot be discerned.

## **5.7 Metalwork**

### ***Token***

- 5.7.1 A single token was recovered, from Trench 1 topsoil. This is a small copper token, struck on an unmilled flan. The obverse bears a simple circular floreate design whilst the reverse is centrally stamped with the number 7. It is not clear what this token was used for – it may even have been a simple counter - but its style and form suggests a 19th or 20th century date.

### ***Copper alloy***

- 5.7.2 The eight copper alloy objects comprise a small fragment of sheet, of uncertain date and function; and seven small studs, white metal plated, with domed heads, some with mineralised organic material adhering. They could be upholstery studs. All these objects came from Trench 1 (topsoil, levelling layer **102**, post-Dissolution tomb infill **109** in grave **105**).

### ***Lead***

- 5.7.3 The lead consists largely of offcuts, melted waste, with some fragments of window came. All of the came fragments appear to have a simple, almost square H profile, and were probably milled in a toothless mill, thus dating later than the mid 16th century when the lead mill is first documented, although milled comes are known earlier (Knight 1985, type D). There are two musket shot from Trench 1 topsoil (diameters 11mm and 13mm respectively; and what appears to be a small decorative mount in the form of a head in profile – the date and function of this piece are unknown (ditch **103**).

### ***Iron***

- 5.7.4 Nails make up the bulk of the ironwork (133 examples), and most of the other identifiable items are probably also structural in origin (hinge, perforated strips, wire). A hollow, conical piece from levelling layer **102** may be a chape.

## **5.8 Human Bone**

### ***Introduction***

- 5.8.1 Human remains were found in Trenches 1 and 2, both situated on the north-east margins of the known remains of the Priory. The remains of four *in situ* burials were partially revealed, all in Trench 1. Two (**127** and **158**) lay within the confines of the structural remains of the Priory (within or associated with burial vault/tomb **190**) and two (graves **166** and **169**), at least originally, external to it; further earth-cut graves in the same location as the latter were recorded but not investigated.
- 5.8.2 Disarticulated and redeposited bone was recovered from or observed within three small charnel deposits recorded at the north end of Trench 1 (pits **114** and **121**, and deposit **126**); a fourth, unexcavated charnel pit (**140**) lay between tombs **189** and **194**. Redeposited bone (c. 90 small elements/fragments) was recovered from a further nine contexts, including the backfills of the robbed-out graves forming components of the three tombs 189, 190 and 194.



- 5.8.3 Samples of bone for radiocarbon dating were taken from two graves. Grave **156** forms a component of tomb/vault **190**, and is believed to hold the remains of one of the de Vere males; grave **169** was situated external to the contemporaneous buildings and it is believed the burial may have been that of one of the Priory's monks.

### **Methods**

- 5.8.4 None of the *in situ* bone was lifted and none of the burial remains were fully exposed. This material was examined on site by the writer and assessed for basic demographic data with a note on condition and any readily observable pathological lesions. The disarticulated bone exposed and/or lifted during the investigations was subject to a rapid scan to assess minimum numbers of individuals (MNI), some detail of age/sex and readily observable pathology. The remains were subsequently reburied in the base of tomb **189** at the south end of Trench 1.
- 5.8.5 The minimum number of individuals was assessed from counts of the most commonly occurring skeletal elements in association with contextual information (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.

### **Results**

- 5.8.6 All the bone was in good condition (Grade 0-1). Some of the larger skeletal elements amongst the disarticulated remains had been subject to a limited degree of fragmentation, but most did not appear to have suffered repeated disturbance and redeposition. Most of the complete elements from the non-charnel deposits comprised small bones such as vertebrae, hand and foot bones, whereas the charnel deposits commonly included the larger long bones as well. This suggest that the material in the latter derived from previously intact and *in situ* burial deposits, the remains from which were carefully collected and deposited shortly after disturbance. The bone recovered from the backfills of the two tombs in the southern part of Trench 1 comprised only small skeletal elements and fragments of the larger ones, suggesting they represent bones overlooked during the deliberate removal of skeletal material from the graves. Relatively little bone was found in the overlying worked/garden soils
- 5.8.7 The remains of a minimum of 11 individuals (MNI) were observed; 10 adults (>18 yr.) and one infant (3-4 yr.). All except one of the MNI adults was male, the few female bones recovered being from the redeposited backfills of the three tombs (**189**, **190** and **194**). Two of the charnel deposits (**122** and **126**) contained the remains of young adult males (18-30 yr. and 23-28 yr. respectively), and at least two elder males (>60 yr.) were also represented within the assemblage (from grave **166** and charnel pit **114**/tomb backfills). Given the apparently limited spatial movement of the observed redeposited material, the actual MNI is likely to be greater; e.g. the redeposited female bones recovered from the tombs at either end of Trench 1 probably derived from at least two individuals originally buried within those features.
- 5.8.8 A few pathological lesions were observed in fragments of redeposited bone from two of the tombs and the *in situ* skull observed within grave **166**. The

latter showed ante mortem tooth loss in addition to the heavily worn teeth. Lesions indicative of various forms of (generally age-related) joint disease were seen in elements of the spine, thorax and an elbow joint from amongst the remains of a minimum of one adult male.

- 5.8.9 Although the assemblage clearly represents only an unknown portion of the overall burial numbers from Earls Colne there is a marked bias towards adult males which probably represents a genuine reflection of the cemetery population. The early use of the cemetery is likely to have been dominated by the Priory's inhabitants, most - if not all - of whom would have been male. The records of the de Vere family members buried at Earls Colne is inevitably dominated by the earls themselves, although a few wives are mentioned (Fairweather 1938). The recovery of fragments of female bone from within/around the tombs, most of which appear to have contained the remains of two (or more) burials, suggests adjacent interment of husband and wife; a common occurrence as illustrated by the various effigies known from the site (*ibid*).
- 5.8.10 The only specific mention of an off-spring within the list of the de Vere burials at Earls Colne is from the 12th century, where William; the brother of the Priory's founder Godfrey and 'youngest son' of Aubrey (or Alberic) and Beatrice (or Beatrix), is mentioned together with his parents. What is not stated, however, is his age at death, and he may not have died as a child. Clearly, however, young children could qualify for burial in this family setting.
- 5.8.11 The remains within the charnel deposits subject to examination represent carefully recovered bone, in one case clearly all placed together in a bag (**126**) and in another (**121**) possibly bound together in a bundle, and reburied in the garden soil. At least one '*heap of bones ...*' with '*... evidence of the remains of seven persons*' was also recovered from the area of the Lady Chapel during the archaeological investigations undertaken in the late 1920s (Fairweather 1938). Much of this disturbance is likely to relate to the extensive landscaping undertaken in the early 18th century, during which '*many graves were dug through and destroyed*' (*ibid*). Sepulchral monuments were also removed and the graves they marked were opened and, as demonstrated by tombs **189** and **190**, in some cases emptied.

#### ***Radiocarbon dating and stable isotope analysis***

- 5.8.12 Two samples of bone were taken from *in situ* burials: a sample of right tibia from skeleton **158** from within Tomb **Group 190** and a sample of right tibia from skeleton **170** within earth-cut grave **169**. The results are presented in **Table 5**.
- 5.8.13 Both individuals have high C13 and high nitrogen values even by medieval standards and this is most likely due to a diet rich in animals that eat animals. This could be terrestrial omnivores such as pigs but more likely as a result of eating fish and shellfish. The rule of St Benedict (Chapter 39: On the Measure of Food) ([www.osb.org](http://www.osb.org)) forbids the eating of four-footed animals and the church calendar dictated abstinence from meat every Friday, Saturday and often Wednesday as well as during Lent and Advent (Müldner and Richards 2005, 41). Nitrogen15 values are low in animals that eat plants, but increase for animals that eat animals that eat plants and so on. Therefore a diet of predatory carnivorous fish such as eels or pike (potentially animals that eat animals that eat animals that eat plants) would produce higher than the normal N15 values. The consumption of shellfish

(mussels or oysters) may have a similar result in that these creatures absorb nitrogen and ammonia from the water but probably also eat plankton which live on other plankton (C. Stevens, *pers. comm.*).

- 5.8.14 A high N15 value for the probable monk (skeleton 170) is likely due to the consumption of fish and shellfish, dictated by the rule of St Benedict whereas the probable member of the de Vere family (skeleton 158) are would be increased by rich meat diet, typical of the aristocracy compared to the cereal based diet of peasants (Möldner and Richards 2005, 40).

## **5.9 Animal Bone**

- 5.9.1 The assemblage comprises 101 fragments (or 2.023kg) of animal bone. Once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to 81 fragments. The assemblage includes material from medieval contexts associated the priory and from general layers including topsoil.
- 5.9.2 Bone preservation is generally good however a few poorly preserved fragments were noted from robber cut **511**. These fragments probably represent reworked material that has deteriorated as a result of re-exposure.
- 5.9.3 Forty-nine fragments are identifiable to species and element. The following have been identified and are listed in order of their relative abundance: sheep/goat, cattle, pig, dog, domestic fowl and goose. In addition a few rabbit bones were also noted, it is unclear if these are anthropogenic in origin or intrusive given their burrowing habit.
- 5.9.4 One worked bone was recovered from robber cut **504**. The object is a bone point that has been fashioned from a piece of large mammal long bone shaft.

## **5.10 Other Finds**

- 5.10.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of undiagnostic fired clay, ironworking slag, and oyster shell. None of these items are datable.

## **5.11 Potential and further recommendations**

- 5.11.1 Overall, the evaluation produced an assemblage of relatively small size, in which only ceramic building material was encountered in any significant quantity. A high proportion of the finds were clearly deposited residually in post-Dissolution layers, and the quantity of medieval finds encountered in situ was extremely limited and, in any case, datable medieval finds (pottery, decorated floor tiles) are very few.
- 5.11.2 The finds have already been recorded to an appropriate archive level (details in the project archive), and no further work is proposed.

# **6 DISCUSSION**

## **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 The programme of works undertaken by Time Team on the site of the Benedictine Priory at Earls Colne was largely successful in its stated aims of enhancing and informing on the previous works by Fairweather in the 1930s and by Dennis in the 2000s.

## **6.2 Prehistoric**

- 6.2.1 Although the focus of the works was the Priory structures, and the development of the Site following the Dissolution, evidence was recovered indicating activity in the immediate area from as early as the Mesolithic (8500-4000 BC), in the form of residual struck flint. Mesolithic activity has been previously recorded in the area; the Essex Historical Environmental Record (EHER) lists a find spots to the north-east of Peaks Corner in Earls Colne (SMR No: 8789) and find spots and possible features east of White Colne (SMR No: 8704).
- 6.2.2 Further flint work was recovered which indicates activity in the area in the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age (2850-1600 BC), which augments recorded finds of this period including two polished axe heads, and numerous flint tools from Nightingale Hall Farm, Earls Colne (SMR No: 18189), and Neolithic activity preceding a Bronze Age cremation cemetery east of White Colne (SMR No: 8627).

## **6.3 Romano-British**

- 6.3.1 Activity during the Romano-British period on the Site was suggested by a number of fragments of brick and tile, including a complete *bessalis*; a square tile used to form *pilae* for hypocaust systems. It is not unsurprising that finds of this period were recovered, considering that the Site is only 13km from the major Roman centre at Colchester (*Camulodunum*). In and around Earls Colne itself several find spots and sites have been recorded, including a probable building east of Claypits Farm, Earls Colne (SMR No: 45125) and a possible Roman building north of East Colne (White Colne) (SMR No: 8706).
- 6.3.2 As there is no clear evidence of actual Romano-British structures on Site, and no other Roman finds (apart from a single pottery sherd), it is probable the brick and tile was reused within the fabric of the Priory church and associated domestic buildings, as is known from other religious buildings of the 11th to 12th centuries. The Roman material was often used as stringer (levelling) courses within stone-built structures, or as decorative quoins; this can be seen, for example, at St. Andrew's Church, White Colne, (SMR No: 8721 & 8722), and at the Church of St Barnabas, Great Tey (SMR No: 8700).
- 6.3.3 The reuse of Roman brick and tile was recorded by Fairweather during his excavations in the 1930s, noting that the presbytery foundations had '*a small amount of mortared Roman brick in parts*' and that the presbytery walls were '*well built flint with some Roman brick and Roman brick quoins*' (1938, 280-1).

## **6.4 Saxon**

- 6.4.1 A single sherd of Ipswich ware pottery was recovered, dating to c. 725-850, a potential indicator of a high status, often religious sites. Other possible evidence of Saxon activity comprised a flint wall seen in Trench 1, on a differing orientation to the main Priory structures. There was a pre-conquest religious house at Earls Colne, as recorded in the will of Leofgifu, c.1045 (Videotext Productions 2011, 8) and therefore it is quite possible the single Saxon sherd and the wall could be associated with this early Minster (but see below, **6.5.3**).

## 6.5 Medieval Priory

- 6.5.1 The extent and form of the monastic structures were revealed through the geophysical survey which expanded upon the previous survey by Dennis in 2008, and the individual components of the Priory Church were clearly defined, with the presbytery, nave, north and south aisles, north and south transepts and Chapter House identifiable within the results. The components of the cloister, including the cloister garth and the ambulatory, as well as the southern and western ranges around the cloister, were also clearly defined. Fairweather's original plan and identification of the Priory structures proved to be extremely accurate. The wider complex of the Priory, however, was not investigated, although certain aspects of the monastic landscape can be inferred from those features which have survived the many alterations and landscaping events following the Dissolution, such as the fish ponds which were recorded on the Amyce map (1598) and a large pond that is still present today.
- 6.5.2 The earliest phase of construction belonged to the first few years after the foundation of the Priory c.1111. As was the norm with religious houses the earliest construction would have been the east end of the Priory church, its most sacred part, the location of the high altar, so allowing for services to be carried out during the construction.
- 6.5.3 Parts of the presbytery were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 (walls **144** and **150/205**). The fact that wall **205** shared the same foundation as the respond **204** for the eastern arch of the crossing tower and the eastern wall of the northern transept indicates that the Priory church was built from a pre-determined blueprint with the ground prepared in a single phase for the main body of the church.
- 6.5.4 The eight graves located on the northern side of the presbytery were simple earth-cut burials, with no tombs, vaults or monumental structures, and these have been interpreted as belonging to the first phase of the Priory construction. The radiocarbon date of AD 1040-1260 for burial **170** potentially places it before the foundation of the Priory, and it was suggested that these early graves may belong instead to the earlier monastery and minster church mentioned in the Leofgifu's will of c. 1045. However, this minster church was dedicated to St Andrew as is the current parish church, whereas the Priory Church was dedicated to St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist. It is therefore more probable that the current parish church is the site of the early minster, and the burials at the Priory are 12th or 13th century in date.
- 6.5.5 The northern wall of the north aisle (**311**), as seen in Trench 3, was constructed in the same manner as the walls recorded in Trenches 1 and 2, and so is likely to be contemporaneous and part of the pre-determined blueprint, as was the apsidal-ended Chapter House seen in Trench 4. Wall **311** had been butted by a later addition, but this had been extensively robbed. The function of this later addition is unknown although an anchorite's cell would fit the position, on the northern, cold side of the church away from the domestic activity (M. Aston, *pers comm.*).
- 6.5.6 The Chapter House also showed evidence of alteration to reflect the architectural styles of the day, with the removal of the apsidal end and replacement with a square structure, supported by buttresses. This change



from apsidal to square is common (Miller and Saxby 2007, 121); it is seen, for example, at Castle Acre Priory, Norfolk (Coppack 2006, fig. 26). There are, however, exceptions to the pattern, such as at Merton Priory Church, Surrey, where the simple square-ended Chapter House of the 12th century was replaced by an apsidal addition in the 14th century (Miller and Saxby 2007, fig. 148).

- 6.5.7 Monastic churches were not only altered and enlarged according to architectural styles but also to accommodate the increased need for burial plots for the founders and patrons of the religious house. At Earls Colne this can be seen in the addition of chapels to the north and to the south of the presbytery for the tombs of the de Vere family. Family tombs were often added in an *ad hoc* fashion which could lead to unsymmetrical and disjointed structures tacked on to the church. Here it would appear that an attempt was made to achieve a symmetrical and aesthetical pleasing eastern end with the addition of the 'Lady Chapel' on the south side to complement the northern family chapels. The earlier northern chapel (**Group 195**) has been assigned a 14th century date from the radiocarbon date for the burial within tomb **Group 190** (AD 1270-1400). It is likely that this was the primary burial due to its central location within the chapel, closest to the east end.
- 6.5.8 Refining the date of the addition of the Lady Chapel proved more difficult. Fairweather was confident that the addition of the Lady Chapel '*was almost certainly carried out in the fifteenth century*' (1938, 280), and all that can be said here is that no evidence was retrieved during this programme of works that could definitively disprove this hypothesis.
- 6.5.9 The bricks of tomb **189** suggest a 15th/16th century date, but it is unclear whether this represents the remains of the primary burial in this chapel, as a second tomb which cut through the remains of the southern presbytery wall was constructed in an entirely different fashion, with reused tiles and a mortar lining. Whatever the date of the southern chapel, it resulted in major construction work, which saw the removal of the southern presbytery wall and therefore the weakening of the whole structure. This necessitated the need for supporting buttresses on the south side of the new chapel as indicated by the geophysical survey and Fairweather's observations (1938, 281).
- 6.6 Post-Dissolution Manor**
- 6.6.1 At the Dissolution the Priory passed to John de Vere, which saw the alteration of the domestic structures of the Priory into the living quarters of a new mansion. The western structures of the Priory would have been the most suitable to adapt they would have already included kitchens, dormitories and the living quarters for the monks. The 1598 map by Amyce shows it as a substantial structure with a central hall and two flanking wings, with three large chimneys and by 1675 the structure contained 21 hearths as indicated from the Hearth Tax Returns of that year. (ERO Fr1/1/1675-Fr21/12/1675)
- 6.6.2 The geophysical survey confirmed the manors location over the domestic areas of the Priory by indicating areas of areas of increased disturbance over the western range of buildings around the cloister. The survey also revealed what was believed to be a bay window.

- 6.6.3 The mansion was described by Weever in 1631 as timber-framed though by the 1740 the house had been extensively altered and bore no resemblance to the earlier house.
- 6.6.4 Evidence of this timber structure may have been revealed in Trench 5 as the possible beam slots **507** and **509** however this is conjecture, what is clearer is that the robber cut **504** had removed a bay widow which had been added to the western elevation of the manor house, and these bay window can be seen in an illustration in Muilman (1772, 193-213) and in an engraving of Colne Priory dated 1770 by Thomas Kitchen (1719-1784) based on an oil painting (held by Earls Colne Heritage Museum), before the demolition of the manor house and the building of the new manor in the 1820s.
- 6.6.5 Also associated with the post-Dissolution house is the large ditch **103** which cut through the presbytery and is shown on the 1598 Amyce map surrounding an orchard and ponds, this long lived feature was still recorded on late 20th century maps and photographs and is likely to be a garden feature and not a ha-ha.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1.1 The results of the evaluation, which have augmented existing knowledge of Colne Priory, warrant further dissemination. It is proposed that a publication report is prepared, possibly in conjunction with Dr Tim Dennis from the University of Essex, summarising the results of the evaluation, and setting the site in its local and regional context. This report will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*. In the meantime, a brief summary will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*, for inclusion in the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.
- 7.1.2 An OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/>) will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the AHBR. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

## **8 ARCHIVE**

- 8.1.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).
- 8.1.2 The archive is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code **77503**. It is intended that the archive will ultimately be deposited with Earl's Colne Heritage Museum.

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## **9.2 Online Sources.**

[www.osb.org](http://www.osb.org) The Order of St Benedict, The Rule of St Benedict.

## **9.3 Historic Environment Records**

Essex County Council Historic Environment Record

Inc. (ERO Fr1/1/1675-Fr21/12/1675) Hearth Tax Returns 1675.

## **9.4 Cartographic Sources**

1598. Israel Amyce map (ref. D/DPr 626 Essex Records Office)  
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1965-1972. Ordnance Survey. 1:2,500  
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1898. Essex. 1:10,560  
1924-1925. Essex. 1:10,560

## **9.5 Aerial Photographs**

Photo dated 29 June 1953. (ref. TL 8628/1 CAP 8122/65. University of Cambridge Aerial Photo Collection)

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

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Total
Pottery	13/208	8/123	18/302	2/22	16/115	57/770
<i>Romano-British</i>	-	1/1	-	-	-	1/1
<i>Saxon</i>	1/5	-	-	-	-	1/5
<i>Medieval</i>	8/166	7/122	-	2/22	14/90	24/278
<i>Post-medieval</i>	4/37	-	18/302	-	2/25	31/486
Ceramic Building Material	215/73792	27/2021	213/32923	64/15889	76/25961	595/150586
Fired Clay	-	1/15	-	-	-	1/15
Stone	13/36535	-	1/8500	-	35/8820	49/53855
Flint	25/160	27/175	3/27	1/4	2/11	58/377
Glass	64/772	1/1	65/1884	1/5	8/37	139/2699
Slag	1/123	-	1/23	-	1/59	3/205
Metalwork	148	1	18	14		199
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	9	-	-	-	18	9
<i>Lead</i>	27	-	1	6	-	39
<i>Iron</i>	111	1	17	8	1	150
<i>Uncertain Metal</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
Worked Bone	-	-	-	-	1/3	1/3
Animal Bone	39/967	7/37	25/538	4/34	26/447	101/2023
Marine Shell	1/7	-	1/6	1/7	8/80	11/100

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

Period	Ware type	Type Code	No. sherds	Weight (g)
ROMANO-BRITISH	RB greyware		1	1
LATE SAXON	Ipswich ware	8	1	5
MEDIEVAL	Early medieval sandy ware	13	10	73
	Medieval sandy greyware	20	10	181
	Orange sandy ware	21	3	21
	Mill Green ware	35	1	3
	<i>sub-total medieval</i>		24	278
POST-MEDIEVAL	Post-medieval redware	40	11	245
	Post-medieval black-glazed ware	40	1	26
	German stoneware	45D/45E	2	12
	Modern stoneware	45M	6	72
	Tinglazed earthenware	46	2	4
	White salt glaze	47	3	54
	Refined whiteware	48	3	34
	Creamware	48C	2	12
	Post-medieval redware (flowerpot)	51B	1	27
	<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>		31	486
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>		<b>57</b>	<b>770</b>



**Table 3: CBM totals by type (count)**

CBM type	Total
Roman brick/tile	27
Brick	32
Roof tile	429
Flat roof tile	428
Curved roof tile	1
Floor tile	103
<i>Plain triangular</i>	6
<i>Plain rectangular</i>	5
<i>Decorated</i>	87
<i>Uncertain (worn/small frags)</i>	5
Wall tile	1
Drainpipe	1
Undiagnostic	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>619</b>

**Table 4: The composition of the worked flint assemblage**

Type	No	%
Bladelet Cores	1	1.72
Flake Cores	1	1.72
Core Fragments	1	1.72
Bladelets	3	5.17
Flakes	48	82.76
Scrapers	1	1.72
Truncations	1	1.72
Burins	1	1.72
Misc. retouch	1	1.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>99.97</b>

**Table 5: Radiocarbon determinations on human remains 158 and 170, with dietary isotope values**

Context	Identification	Lab. Code	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\text{d}15\text{N}\text{‰}$	C:N Ratio	Date BP	calibration (2 sig. 95.4%)
158	R-tibia 11.7g	SUERC-34961	-18.70	13.90	3.2	660±35	cal. AD 1270-1400
170	R-tibia 7.9g	SUERC-34962	-19.20	13.00	3.3	870±35	cal. AD 1040-1260

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

<b>Trench 1</b>		<b>Co ordinates</b>	586483.43, 228985.11 (N) 5864911.49, 228957.71 (S) 586493.71, 228980.32 (E)
<b>Dimensions:</b> 29m x 9m max	<b>Max Depth:</b> 1.72m	<b>Ground Surface</b>	26.47m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (bgl)</b>
101	Topsoil	Current turf and topsoil of garden under lawn. Light grey-brown friable silty loam, seals 102.	0.24m thick
102	Layer	Mixed and mottled mid brown and dark grey silty clay loam with common CBM fragments, post-medieval levelling deposit which contains a mix of medieval and post medieval pottery. Sealed by 101 and seals 107. Numerous fragments of Roman brick and tile, including a complete <i>bessalis</i> -sized tile probably from a hypocaust system. Also contained several (10) small elements and fragments of disarticulated human bone (all skeletal areas); most representing remains of adult male, includes one fragment from adult female.	0.29m thick
103	Ditch	Cut of east-west aligned ditch shown in geophysical survey. Feature recorded on Israel Amyce map of 1598 (ref. D/DPr 626 Essex Records Office) surrounding orchard and ponds associated with the post-Priory mansion; second map by Amyce shows orchard but not the ditch. Ditch is visible on 1953 aerial photograph (ref. TL 8628/1 CAP 8122/65. University of Cambridge Aerial Photo Collection). Geophysical survey shows ditch cutting through remains of Priory Church. Recorded by Cole in 1745 as a ha-ha. Fairweather states the ditch was dug by Wale in the early 18th century. Ditch is 5.76m wide and 1.48m deep; gradual concave sides, flat-concave base; in-filled with 130, 107 and 104, and excavated through 146 into the natural river gravels. No ha-ha structural stonework, or evidence of robbing of stonework, was found. Feature interpreted as monumental water feature within garden of post-Priory mansion.	1.48m deep.
104	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 103, mid grey-brown compact silty clay with occasional gravel and abundant CBM, 20th century fill but did contain medieval brick and tile as well as single sherd of Late Saxon Ipswich ware. Also contained small right 1st metatarsal (adult female). Seals 107, and sealed by 102.	0.76m thick
105	Grave	Cut of double grave, equal to 108, lined with 110, two individual chambers formed by 112. Grave cuts through southern presbytery wall 144 following the addition of chapel on the southern side of the presbytery; physically cut by 103. Sub-rectangular in shape; vertical sides and flat base, 1.38m long by 1.04m wide and 0.62m deep. Component of Tomb Group 194.	0.62m deep
106	Fill	Post-Dissolution in-fill of double grave 105 following the removal of the burials. Light yellow friable sandy loam with abundant small gravels and disarticulated human bone (adult female skull vault and adult ?male lower limb fragment); lies directly against separating wall 112; sealed by 102.	0.32m thick
107	Fill	Fill of ditch 103, very dark grey-brown-black sandy loam, organic deposit suggestive of water-logging. Later 20th century infilling mixed with naturally deposited material,	0.40m thick

		wind and waterborne. Though modern in date this deposit contains residual medieval CBM and pottery dating to the 13th century. Seals 130 and sealed by 104.	
108	Grave	Equivalent to 105. Component of Tomb Group 194.	-
109	Fill	Post-Dissolution in-fill of double grave 105 following the removal of the <i>in situ</i> skeletal/?burial remains. Mid yellow friable sandy loam with abundant small gravels and disarticulated human bone (19 fragments/small elements from all skeletal areas, comprising remains of a minimum of two adults, including one male and one female) which lies directly against separating wall 112 and was sealed by 102.	0.28m thick
110	Grave Lining	Mortar and flint rubble lining of grave cut 105/108, excavated through 144. Lining added to create tomb for 2 individuals, with the addition of 112. Component of Tomb Group 194.	0.26m high
111	Natural	Natural river terraces gravels, cut by 149 and 191, the construction cuts for the presbytery walls 150 and 144.	-
112	Grave structure	Tile and mortar internal wall within grave cut 105/108 to create 2 individual tombs. Wall constructed upon grave lining 110, and sealed by back-filling deposits 106 and 109 1.20m long by 0.08m wide and 0.32m high. Component of Tomb Group 194.	0.32m high
113	Layer	Mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with common gravels, thin spread of material not visible in section, sealed beneath 102 and seals 139. Post-Dissolution layer. Deposit contained three small elements/fragments (skull, axial skeletal & lower limb) of redeposited human bone, including remains of an adult male.	0.04m thick
114	Charnel pit	Cut of small depression containing redeposited human remains in a charnel deposit, Feature oval in shape with vertical sides and a flat base; 0.59m long by 0.33m wide and 0.10m deep. 114 cuts 193 and contains human remains 115; backfilled with 124. Post-Dissolution reburial of remains uncovered during the demolition of the Priory remains and subsequently reburied.	0.10m deep.
115	Charnel deposit	Collection of disarticulated human remains; charnel deposit within 114. Adult male skull (including mandible) at base of bone pile with c. 30 skeletal elements/fragments (some large) from all skeletal areas representing remains minimum 3 adult males, sealed by 124.	-
116	Tomb wall	East-west aligned brick built wall forming the northern wall of Tomb Group 189. Associated with walls 117 and 120 within grave cut 137. 1.48m long and 0.33m wide and 0.44m high and formed of six courses of unfrogged bricks (255x130x50mm) in no bonding style. Light grey/white mortar extruded between bricks. 15th-16th century bricks.	0.44m high
117	Tomb wall	East-west aligned brick wall; southern wall of Tomb Group 189. Associated with walls 116 and 120 within grave cut 137. 1.46m long and 0.34m wide and 0.56m high; formed of 8 courses of unfrogged bricks (255x130x50mm) in no bonding style. Light grey/white mortar extruded between bricks. 15th-16th century bricks.	0.56m
118	Fill	Mixed and mottled mid brown and grey silty loam with abundant flint nodules, and CBM and broken window glass; post-Dissolution in-filling following removal of human remains from within Tomb Group 189. Seals 119 and sealed by 102.	-
119	Fill	Equivalent to 118, but contains disarticulated human remains (minimum 7 small elements/fragments from skull and lower limb; adult bone), backfilled unused robbed	-

		material. Seals 135 and 136. Sealed by 118.	
120	Tomb wall	East-west aligned brick wall located between 116 and 117, forming central divide within Tomb Group 189, for the burial of 2 individuals within grave cut 137. 1.46m long and 0.34m wide and 0.27m high and formed of 8 courses of unfrogged bricks (255x130x50mm) in no bonding style. Light grey/white mortar extruded between bricks. 15th-16th century bricks.	0.27m high
121	Charnel Pit	Cut of small depression containing redeposited human remains in a charnel deposit. Feature oval in shape with vertical sides and a flat base; 0.46m long by 0.22m wide and 0.05m deep. 121 cuts 193; contains human remains 122, backfilled with 123. Pit containing post- Dissolution reburial of remains uncovered during the demolition of the Priory remains and subsequently reburied.	0.05m deep
122	Charnel deposit	Charnel deposit of human remains within 121, sealed by 123. Neat bundle of bones comprising complete or near complete lower limb elements (most present); all commensurate with the same robust adult male individual c. 18-30 yr. of age.	
123	Fill	Mid to dark grey-brown silty loam deliberate backfill deposit over charnel remains 122 in 121.	0.05m thick
124	Fill	Mid to dark grey-brown silty loam, deliberate backfill deposit over charnel remains 115, in 114.	0.10 thick
125	Fill	Mid brownish-grey banded fine silty sand and sandy gravels, fill of 155, 18th century garden feature which contains residual medieval pottery and CBM and common (c. 30) redeposited human bone fragments with some complete elements; all skeletal areas represented. Includes remains of an infant, an elderly adult male and a mature adult female. Sealed by 102.	0.60m thick
126	Charnel deposit	Charnel deposit of human remains placed directly upon foundation 152, following the removal of the useable stone work. No visible associated cut. Disarticulated human remains comprising almost entire skeleton of a young adult (c. 23-28 yr.) male. Most elements complete; no obvious bundles of long bones etc.; bones appear to have been placed in a bag which was placed directly upon the wall foundation.	-
127	<i>In situ</i> burial remains	<i>In situ</i> burial remains within cut 162, located against tomb 156 (Group 190), and sealed by 164. Partial skeleton of 3-4 yr. old infant, laid supine and extended on west-east alignment. Central area of skeleton disturbed by 18th century garden feature. Not fully exposed.	-
128	Garden Feature	Cut of oval garden feature, with concave sides and concave base, 1m long by 0.40m wide and 0.25m deep, cuts 132 and in-filled with 129, containing abundant flint flush work fragments.	0.25m deep
129	Fill	Mid grey silty sand fill of 128, containing flush work fragments potentially dating to the late 14th to early 15th century, and therefore potentially derived from chapel added to northern side of presbytery	0.25 thick
130	Fill	Lowest recorded fill of large ditch 103, dark brown black silty loam with small flint inclusions, organic nature of the deposit indicates some water-logging. Post-medieval infilling.	0.60m thick
131	Foundation Trench	Construction cut for wall and buttress 132, located on the northern side of the presbytery.	-
132	Wall Foundation	East-west aligned wall foundation constructed of pale yellow, sandy mortar with flint rubble with no discernible	-

		coursing, with a buttress on the northern side. Constructed within foundation trench 131. 132 contemporary with wall 152 and forms the walls of an early chapel located on the northern side of the presbytery, at the junction with the northern transept. 1.4m wide (buttress 1.4m wide added on north side). Only revealed in plan. First phase of chapel building on northern side. Component of Group 195.	
133	Garden Feature	Cut of 'L' shaped garden feature; 1.45m long by 1.60m wide and 0.15m deep; cuts wall 152. Contains single fill 134 and probably 18th century in date.	0.15m deep
134	Fill	Mid grey, slightly silty sand fill of 18th century garden feature 133. Contained sherd of white saltglazed pottery (early 18th century).	0.15m thick
135	Surface	Light yellow sandy lime mortar surface at the base of tomb Group 189. The layer is the same as 136 and located between walls 116 and 120. Surface on which coffin would have sat in tomb.	0.05m thick
136	Surface	Light yellow sandy lime mortar surface at the base of tomb Group 189. Same as 135, located between walls 117 and 120. Surface on which coffin would have sat in tomb.	0.06m thick
137	Cut of Tomb	Foundation trench for brick-built tomb Group 189. Cuts 143 and 138 and contains brick walls 116, 117 and 120 and surfaces 135 and 136. Not exposed fully within the trench. 1.5m long by 2.48m wide and 0.55m deep.	0.55m deep.
138	Layer	Mixed and mottled gravel-rich mid grey-brown silt sand deposit. Probable post-12th century levelling deposit associated with addition of chapel on southern side of presbytery. Interpreted as the Lady Chapel by Fairweather. Surface cut by 137, foundation trench for Tomb Group 189; overlain by possible foundation material 139 for southern wall of Lady chapel.	-
139	Wall Foundation	Roughly east-west aligned white mortar bedding layer, interpreted as top of foundation material from southern wall of chapel added on southern side of presbytery and interpreted as Lady Chapel by Fairweather. Only revealed in plan and not excavated.	0.07m thick
140	Charnel pit	Cut of unexcavated pit containing redeposited human remains in a charnel deposit, Feature oval in shape, 0.80m long by 0.50m wide. 140 cuts 138 and contains human remains 141 and backfilled with 123. Contains post-Dissolution reburial of remains uncovered during the demolition of the Priory remains and subsequently reburied.	-
141	Charnel deposit	Charnel deposit of human remains within cut 140, and covered with backfill material 142, Not excavated but partially exposed during the initial cleaning of the trench.	-
142	Fill	Deliberate backfill of mid brown silty clay over redeposited human remains 141 within cut 140.	-
143	Wall	Roughly north-east – south-west aligned wall; truncated by base of tomb Group 189. Beneath surface 135, and on different alignment to walls in Trench 1; therefore has been interpreted as earlier, at least pre-15th century. Wall formed of flint cobbles in a light yellow sandy lime mortar. 1.30m long by 0.28m wide and 0.20m high. Origin of wall unknown, but located to south of presbytery and removed by addition of the southern chapel (Fairweather's Lady Chapel).	0.22m high
144	Wall foundation	Compact gravel and light yellow sandy mortar foundation material for the southern wall of the presbytery; cut by 105/108 for Tomb Group 194. The gravel-type foundation is same as foundation material for wall 150: the northern	0.60m thick



		presbytery wall revealed where it is cut by 182. 1.60m long by 1.94m wide by 0.60m thick.	
145	Layer	Mid brown with yellow silty loam post-Dissolution infilling/dumping/levelling above Tomb Group 194. Sealed by 146 and overlies 106 and 109.	0.10m thick.
146	Layer	Mid to light brown silty loam post-Dissolution infilling/dumping/levelling. Seals 145; cut by large ditch 103.	0.24m thick
147	Garden Feature	Cut of unexcavated post-Dissolution garden feature, probably 18th century in date. Subrectangular; 1.90m long by 0.75m wide. Cuts wall 150 and in-filled with 148.	-
148	Fill	Mid grey slightly silty sand in fill of garden feature 147.	-
149	Foundation Trench	Foundation trench for 150: the northern presbytery wall, which cuts through natural 111.	
150	Wall	Roughly east-west northern wall of the presbytery, constructed of large flint nodules, stone and occasional CBM in a yellow grey sandy mortar constructed within foundation trench 149. This is very base of wall; constructed upon compact gravel and mortar foundation. Butted by grave 174, one of number of graves located on north side of presbytery, which pre-date addition of later chapels and interpreted as contemporary with 12th century Priory foundation. 8.4m long by 1.70m wide and 0.31m thick with 0.35m+ of foundation. Equivalent to 205 in Trench 2.	
151	Foundation Trench	Foundation trench for roughly north-south aligned eastern wall of the chapel added on northern side of presbytery at junction with northern transept. Cuts several graves associated with the 12th century Priory foundation (176, 178, 180 and 187).	0.50m deep+
152	Wall	North-south aligned eastern wall of chapel added on northern side of presbytery at junction with northern transept; contemporary with 132. Very base of wall survives as thin layer of light yellow white mortar with large flint nodules upon compact gravel foundation. Butts northern side of wall 152. 0.3m long by 1.3m wide and at least 0.50m high. First phase of chapel building on northern side. Component of Group 195.	0.50m+
153	Foundation Trench	Foundation trench for roughly north-south aligned eastern wall 154 of chapel added onto eastern end of an earlier chapel on northern side of presbytery at junction with northern transept. Cuts several graves associated with the 12th century Priory foundation (174, 169 and 166). Only revealed in plan.	-
154	Wall	North-south aligned wall of second phase of chapel building on northern side of presbytery; butts wall 150. 4.5m long by 1.6m wide. Wall only revealed in plan, upper layer of compact light grey mortar upon compact gravel foundation (revealed in grave cut).	-
155	Garden Feature	Cut of rectangular garden feature which cuts robber backfill 161; filled with 125. 0.90m long by 3.30m wide and 0.60m deep. Probably 18th century in date.	0.60m deep
156	Cut of Tomb	Construction cut for stone-lined tomb (Group 190) constructed within the first phase chapel; formed of walls 132 and 152 on northern side of presbytery. Cuts 192 and contains stone wall 157, and <i>in situ</i> skeleton 158. 1.20m long by 1.40 and 0.63m deep. Due to its location within a chapel located on northern side of presbytery, tomb is interpreted as belonging to a member of the de Vere family.	0.63m deep
157	Tomb wall	North-south aligned eastern wall lining of tomb Group 190. Only the eastern wall survives (1.20m long by 0.37m wide	-

		and 0.63m high); remaining walls robbed or removed by later garden features.	
158	In situ burial remains	Remains of <i>in situ</i> burial within vault 157, forming part of Tomb Group 190. Distal part of lower limb only exposed (adult male) but burial seems to have been made supine and extended, on west-east alignment. Appears to represent the primary interment within Tomb Group 190, however, the remains did not seem to lie on floor of tomb (not fully excavated) and may be a later insertion. Radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 1270-1400 (660±35 BP, SUERC-34961).	-
159	Fill	Brownish-yellow slightly silty sand material which overlies skeleton 158 within tomb Group 190.	-
160	Robber cut	Cut of robber trench dating to the Dissolution or just after for the removal of structures from Tomb Group 190.	-
161	Fill	Pale yellow sandy mortar. Robber backfill.	-
162	Grave	Grave cut for inhumation burial 127, against tomb Group 190; 0.60m long by 0.37m wide and 0.15m deep	0.15m deep
163	VOID	VOID	VOID
164	Fill	Deliberate backfill over inhumation burial 127, mid greyish-brown silty sand.	0.15m thick
165	Layer	Situated to the east of wall 154, dark grey-brown silt, not fully excavated. Possibly represents base of overlying topsoil or perhaps levelling deposit.	-
166	Grave	Cut of partially excavated inhumation grave, cut by foundation trench 153 for wall 154; 0.72m long by 0.54m wide. Contains burial remains 167 and backfilled with 168. Cuts earlier graves 169 and 172. One of eight inhumation graves identified to north of presbytery and interpreted as those of monks from Priory, truncated by later chapels added on north of presbytery.	-
167	<i>in situ</i> burial remains	<i>In situ</i> remains in inhumation grave 166, sealed by 168. Skull only exposed at west end of grave, suggesting supine, extended burial on west-east alignment. Very elderly (>60 yr.) adult male.	-
168	Fill	Grave fill within 166. Cut by foundation trench 153.	-
169	Grave	Grave cut for inhumation burial 170, subject to partial excavation only. 1.70m long by 0.76m wide and 0.15m deep. Cut by later grave 166. One of 8 inhumation graves identified to north of presbytery and interpreted as those of monks from Priory, truncated by later chapels added on north of presbytery	0.15m deep
170	<i>In situ</i> burial remains	<i>In situ</i> burial remains within grave 169. Lower limbs only exposed; adult male. Radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 1040-1260 (870±35 BP, SUERC-34962).	-
171	Fill	Mid to light yellow-brown gravelly silty sand grave fill within 169.	-
172	Grave	Cut of unexcavated grave, backfilled with 173 and truncated by 166.	-
173	Fill	Grave fill cut by 166.	-
174	Grave	Cut of unexcavated grave filled with 175, butts wall 150 and cut by 153 for wall 154.	-
175	Fill	Unexcavated grave fill of 174, cut by 153.	-
176	Grave	Cut of unexcavated grave filled with 177, cut by 151 for wall 152.	-
177	Fill	Unexcavated grave fill of 176 cut by 151.	-
178	Grave	Cut of unexcavated grave filled with 179, cut by 151 for wall 152.	-
179	Fill	Unexcavated grave fill of 178 cut by 151.	-

180	Grave	Cut of unexcavated grave filled with 181, cut by 151 for wall 152.	-
181	Fill	Unexcavated grave fill of 180 cut by 151.	-
182	Garden Feature	Cut of square garden feature, probably for deliberate tree planting. Recorded as roughly square, 0.86m by 0.75m in size and 0.50m deep. Truncates wall 152.	0.50m deep.
183	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty loam, fill of tree planting hole.	0.50m thick
184	Garden Feature	Cut of unexcavated square garden feature, probably for deliberate tree planting. Recorded as roughly square, 0.84m by 0.73m in size. Truncates wall 152.	-
185	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty loam, fill of tree planting hole.	-
186	Layer	Dark grey-brown silty loam, post-Dissolution levelling layer, seals 126, and overlain by 102.	-
187	Grave	Cut of unexcavated grave, filled with 188, cut by 151 for wall 152.	-
188	Fill	Unexcavated grave fill of 187, cut by 151	-
189	Group	Group number for brick constructed vault/tomb. Built from walls 116, 117, 120, within cut 137, with surfaces 135 and 136.	-
190	Group	Group number for stone tomb, interpreted as belonging to member of de Vere family as located within Chapel Group 195. Tomb constructed of cut 156, tomb wall 157 and contained burial remains 158.	-
191	Foundation Trench	Foundation trench for southern wall of presbytery 144.	-
192	Layer	Layer at northern end of trench through which archaeological features are cut, unclear if this is natural or make-up layers.	-
193	Layer	Post-Dissolution levelling layer following robbing and removal of useable material from Priory building. Cut by charnel deposits 114 and 121.	-
194	Group	Group number for double inhumation tomb cutting southern wall of presbytery 144. Composed of cuts 105/108, mortar lining 110 and internal dividing wall 112.	-
195	Group	Group number for first phase of chapel construction on northern side of presbytery at junction with northern transept. Constructed of wall 132 and 152. Probable de Vere tomb (Group 190) located within it.	
196	Group	Group number for second phase of chapel construction on northern side of presbytery. Butts eastern side of Group 195 and formed of wall 154.	

<b>Trench 2</b>		<b>Centre Coordinates</b>	586473.29, 228972.60
<b>Dimensions:</b> 4.6m by 2.7m		<b>Max Depth:</b> 0.75m	<b>Ground Surface</b> 26.66m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (bgl)</b>
201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty loam. Current turf and topsoil of garden under lawn. Seals 202.	0.24m thick
202	Layer	Mid grey-brown silty loam, with abundant small flint inclusions. Base of the topsoil, seals 204 and 205 and sealed by 201. Deposit contained five fragments/small elements of human bone from limbs and skull including remains of minimum one adult female.	0.08m thick
203	Foundation Trench	Foundation trench for walls 204 and 205, forming the junction of north-western corner of the presbytery and the crossing tower and the north transept and cuts 206.	-
204	Wall	Roughly north-south aligned wall constructed of unworked flint nodules in a light yellow sandy mortar constructed upon a layer of compact gravel in light yellow mortar within cut	-

		203. It appears 204 was formed from repeated dumps of mortar slurry over flint nodules to create a raft. 204 is potentially the northern respond of the crossing tower arch.	
205	Wall	Roughly east-west aligned wall constructed of unworked flint nodules in a light yellow sandy mortar constructed upon a layer of compact gravel in light yellow mortar within cut 203. 205 was formed from repeated dumps of mortar slurry over flint nodules to create a raft. 205 potentially forms the northern wall of the presbytery	
206	Layer	Compact mid yellow-brown silty loam layer which pre-dates the construction of the Priory church and represents probable subsoil or top of natural, cut by 203 and cuts 210. Equivalent to 207.	-
207	Layer	Compact mid yellow-brown silty loam, probable subsoil or top of natural, Equivalent to 206. Contained single sherd of Roman greyware pottery.	-
208	Layer	Mid brown silty loam, single fill of small post-hole 209.	0.05m
209	Post-hole	Cut of very small circular post-hole, 0.28m in diameter and 0.05m deep. Unclear date or function but could be part of scaffolding assembled during construction.	0.05m
210	Natural	Mid orange-brown sandy gravel natural river terrace.	-

<b>Trench 3</b>		<b>Centre Coordinates</b>	586452.03, 228973.99
<b>Dimensions:</b> 5.2m by 3m		<b>Max Depth:</b>	<b>Ground Surface</b> 27.11m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (bgl)</b>
301	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty loam Current turf and topsoil of garden under lawn. Seals 302.	0.20m thick
302	Layer	Spread of mid grey silty with very small flint inclusions and pea grit, mixed with occasional demolition material, which seals 304 and overlies 301.	0.12m thick
303	Layer	Mid grey silt with frequent small stones and demolition material located to south of wall 311. Seals 311 and sealed by 301.	0.25m thick
304	Fill	Mid grey sandy silt with occasional small rounded pebbles with mortar and CBM fragments, fill of linear cut of small pit 305. Probable garden feature.	0.50m thick
305	Garden Feature	Cut of probable 18th century garden feature; cuts 306, and in-filled with 304. Only revealed in section.	0.50m deep
306	Layer	Post-Dissolution levelling layer cut by later garden feature. Seals 307.	0.24m thick
307	Fill	Light mid grey sandy silt fill of north-south aligned robber cut 308.	0.80m thick
308	Robber cut	North-south aligned robber cut excavated for removal of western wall of structure added to western side of north transept at junction with northern wall 311 of north aisle, as indicated by geophysical survey. Interpreted as possibly small chapel or perhaps cell of an anchorite. 4m long by 1.50m wide and 0.80m deep with steep straight sides and flat base.	0.80m deep
309	Layer	Mid-brown sandy silt layer, potentially reworked natural, visibly cut in section by 308, and seals 310.	0.30m thick
310	Natural	Mid grey-brown natural river terrace gravels.	-

311	Wall	Roughly east-west aligned wall; 5m long by 1.20m wide and 0.55m high; constructed of mixed stone and flint rubble in light yellow lime and sand mortar. Wall truncated at the western end, a possible doorway but not investigated. Wall constructed upon a compact gravel foundation (0.50m thick) as are walls 150 and 144 in Trench 1. Wall 311 is the northern wall of the northern aisle of the Priory Church.	0.55m high
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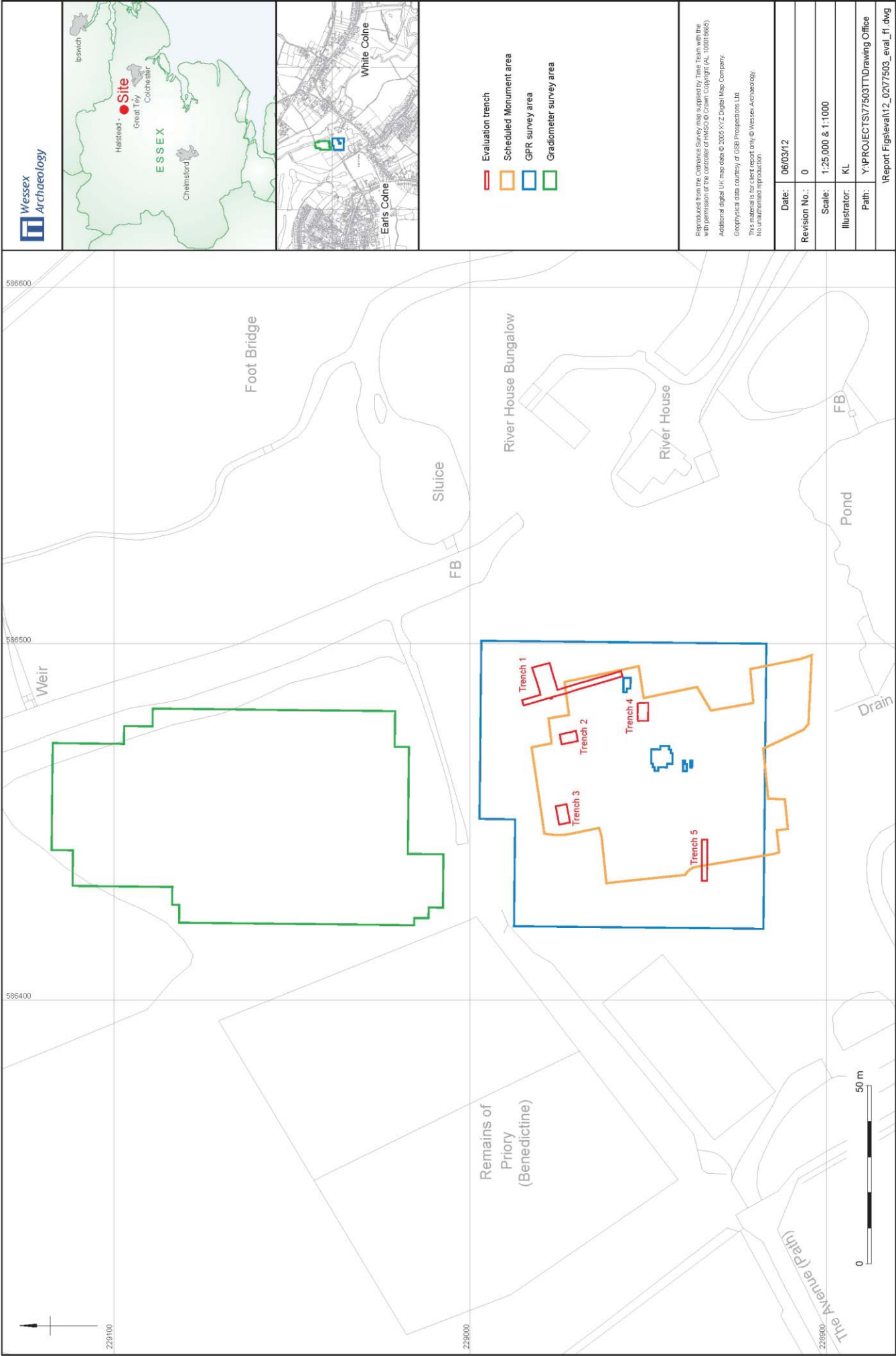
Trench 4		Centre Coordinates	486480.73, 228951.40
Dimensions: 5m by 3m		Max Depth: 1.11m	Ground Surface
			26.74m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (bgl)
401	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty loam Current turf and topsoil of garden under lawn. Seals 402.	0.20m thick
402	Layer	Light to mid brown sandy silt with moderate small flint inclusions and CBM. Mix of the base of the topsoil with demolition material creating a levelling layer which seals the archaeology.	0.20m thick
403	Wall	Roughly north-south aligned wall with buttress to north and second to east at very north of structure. Butts eastern end of shortened wall 404; added when apsidal end (wall 412) of the Chapter House was altered to square-ended structure with buttresses. Second phase of construction within Trench 4. 3m long and 0.90m wide and 0.20m high; buttresses 0.90m by 0.53m. Wall constructed of small flint nodules in roughly horizontal courses in pale lime and sandy mortar.	0.20m high
404	Wall	Roughly east-west aligned structure associated with first phase of Chapter House. Initially joined with 412 to create apsidal-ended structure, but then shortened, the apse demolished, and 403 constructed instead. 403 butts 404 to create a square-ended Chapter House with buttresses. 0.40m long by 0.70m wide and 0.10m high. Wall constructed of flint nodules within a pale lime and sandy mortar.	0.10m high.
405	Layer	Subsoil remnant in the south-west corner of Trench 4. Seals 403.	-
406	Layer	Subsoil remnant in the north-west corner of Trench 4. Seals 403.	-
407	Layer	Spread of demolition material which accumulated against 403 during demolition of Priory, located on eastern side of 403 and physically seals 408. Off-white and pale yellow mortar spread.	-
408	Layer	Deposit laid down following demolition of apsidal end of Chapter House; seals 412, and constructed upon 403. Contained 11th century pottery and 13th century CBM. Light brown sandy silt material.	0.35m thick
409	Natural	Orange loose sandy gravel, natural river terrace gravels, cut by 410, the foundation trench for apsidal structure 412.	-
410	Foundation Trench	Foundation trench for original apsidal end of Chapter House, curving wall 412, subsequently replaced by 403. Cut contains wall 412 and deposit 411. Only seen in plan.	-
411	Fill	Light brown sandy silt material which infills the void between wall 412 and construction cut 410.	-
412	Wall Foundation	Partly curving structure formed of flint rubble in light yellow sandy lime mortar. Original end wall of apsidal Chapter House. Only revealed partially in plan.	-



413	Natural	Natural alluvium material, revealed in sondage. Overlies 415.	-
414	VOID	VOID	VOID
415	Natural	Natural river terrace gravels. Revealed below 413.	-

Trench 5		Centre line Coordinates	586433.45, 228934.29 (W) 586445.02, 228934.22 (E)
Dimensions: 11m by 1.5m		Max Depth: 1.56m	Ground Surface
			26.97m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (bgl)
501	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty loam Current turf and topsoil of garden under lawn. Seals 503 and 510	0.16m
502	Layer	Mid grey friable silt with abundant flint gravels. Post-medieval surface or levelling layer following demolition of post-Priory mansion. Cut by 511 and seals 506.	0.20m thick
503	Fill	Series of deliberate backfill deposits within robber cut 504 for removal of reusable brick work from a bay window identified in the geophysics belonging to the post-Dissolution mansion. 1.36m thick with the upper 0.40m composed of mid yellow-brown clay with occasional stones and CBM and mortar fragments. Middle 0.45m m pale yellow-grey deposit of dumped waste mortar with abundant CBM fragments. Lower 0.80m (approx) mid yellow-brown clay silt with occasional medium-sized flint inclusions. A mix of post-medieval and modern pottery recovered from throughout deposit.	1.36m thick
504	Robber cut	2.80m long by 1.50m wide by 1.36m deep for the removal of the brickwork of a bay window or possible tower located on the eastern side of the mansion, constructed following the demolition of the Priory following the Dissolution. Shape of cut corresponds with three-sided structure (half a hexagon) from the geophysics interpreted as a tower or bay window. Cuts 520 and filled with 503.	1.36m deep
505	Layer	Mid yellow-brown friable silty clay with occasional small to medium flint pebbles. Deposit located at the southern edge of the trench and cut by later features 513 and 507. Layer interpreted as disturbed subsoil mixed with demolition material. Probably equivalent to 516.	0.16m thick
506	Fill	Brownish-yellow sandy silt with abundant (c. 90%) gravel inclusions. Interpreted as base of rammed gravel foundation for probable wall, Possibly base for timber sill beam. Constructed in similar manner to 508, and interpreted as the same phase, but date unclear. Fill of foundation trench 507.	0.12m thick
507	Foundation trench	North-south aligned linear cut through 505, containing 506. Only seen in plan, cut for possible sill beam foundation and probably contemporary with 509. Possibly Tudor in date but unclear. 1.5m long by 0.80m wide.	0.12m deep+
508	Fill	Brownish-yellow sandy silt with abundant (c. 90%) gravel inclusions. Interpreted as base of rammed gravel foundation for probable wall, Possibly base for timber sill beam. Constructed in similar manner to 506, and therefore interpreted as the same phase, but date unclear. Fill of foundation trench 509.	-
509	Foundation trench	Roughly east-west aligned linear, cut through 512 (fill of 513) containing 506. Only seen in plan, cut for possible sill beam foundation and probably contemporary with 507 fill 506. Possibly Tudor in date but unclear. 3.3m long by	-

		0.88m wide.	
510	Fill	Mixed and mottled grey-brown and mid grey silty clay with abundant mortar, implying dumping of waste material following demolition of post-Dissolution mansion back into robber cut 511. Contained medieval and post-medieval pottery.	0.81m+thick
511	Robber cut	Robber cut which had heavily impacted upon wall 514, removing most of the upper courses. Infilled with demolition material 510.	0.81m deep
512	Fill	Mid grey-brown flint gravel rich clay silt fill of 513, nature of deposit unclear as unexcavated due to time constraints. Cut by 509.	-
513	Cut	Cut of small unexcavated sub-circular pit 0.77m+ in diameter, filled with 512 and cut through by 509.	-
514	Wall footing	Cut of roughly north-south aligned wall footing composed of flint in a pale yellow sandy mortar, in similar manner to walls revealed in Trenches 1-4 and belonging to Priory buildings. Within foundation trench 522. Possibly domestic structures, subsequently built over by post-Dissolution mansion. Heavily impacted upon by 513.	
515	Layer	Mid yellow-brown silty clay, base of subsoil, probably same as 516 and 505.	-
516	Layer	Mid yellow-brown silty clay, base of subsoil, probably same as 515 and 505.	-
517	Fill	Deposit unclear as not investigated due to time constraints. Mid brown silty sand with abundant (c. 95%) gravel. Deposit within cut 519 potentially the compact gravel foundations of a wall associated with the Priory. A single sherd of 13th-14th century pottery recovered.	-
518	Layer	Mottled mid brown silt clay, possible natural alluvium material reworked by trample activity during construction of Priory. Single sherd of 12th-13th century pottery recovered. Cut by 519.	
519	Cut	Possible construction cut for compact gravel wall foundation 517.	-
520	Layer	Mid yellow-brown silty clay, possible subsoil or garden soil deposit cut through by 504.	-
521	Layer	Possibly natural subsoil layer, mid yellow-brown silty clay.	-
522	Foundation trench	Construction cut for wall 514, which cuts 521.	-

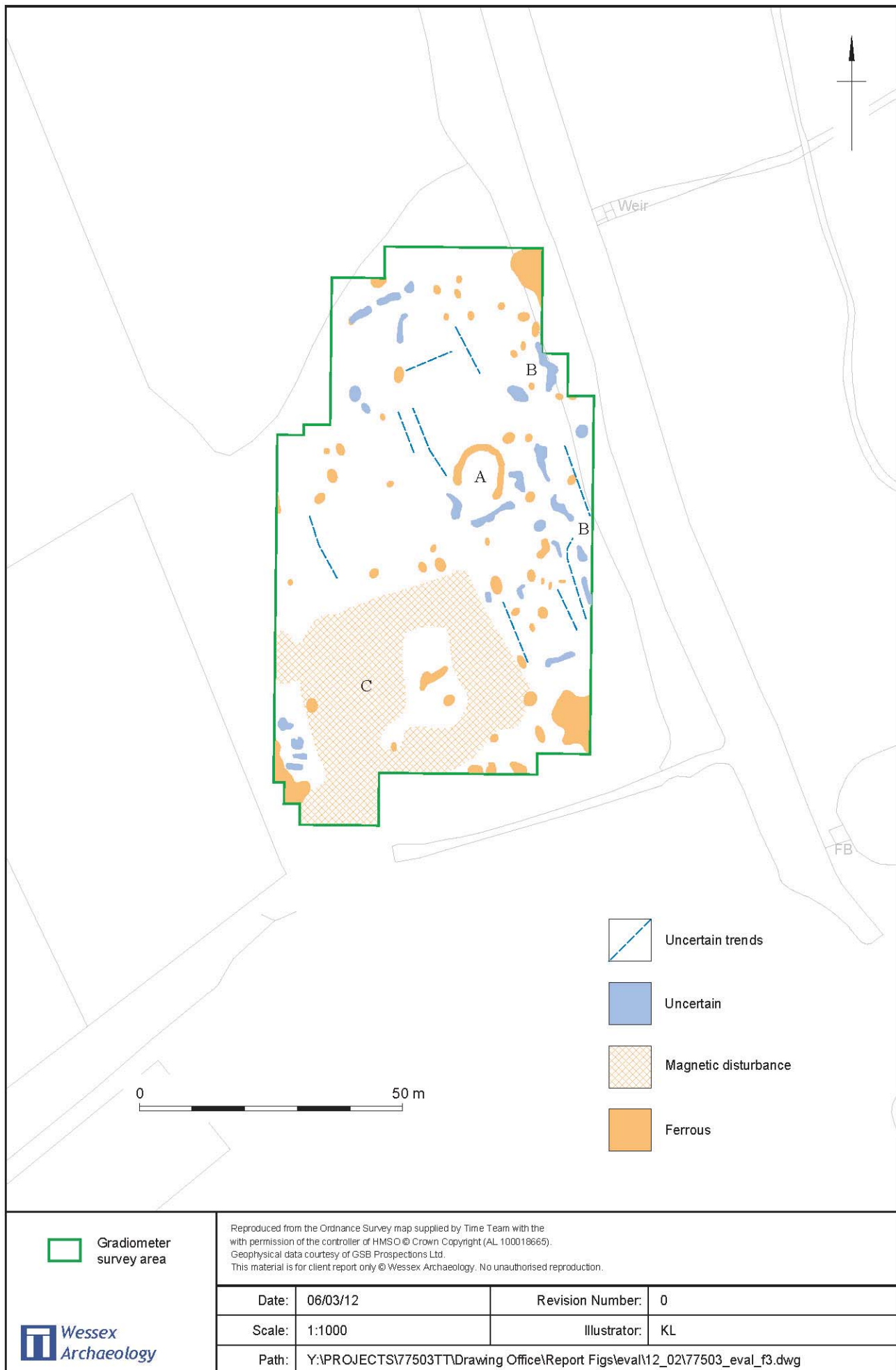


Site location, trench location and location of survey area

Figure 1



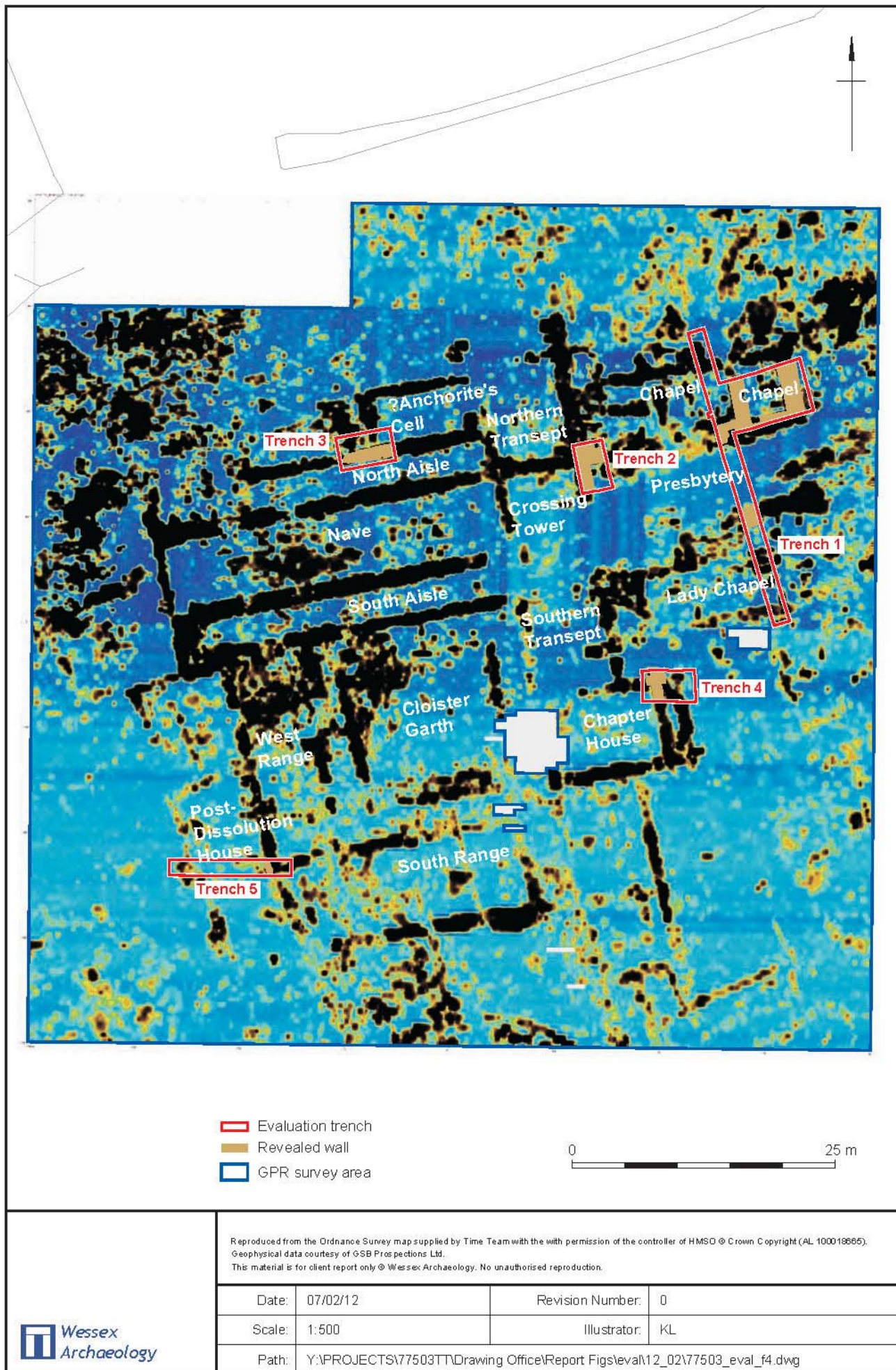
Figure 2



Summary gradiometer interpretation

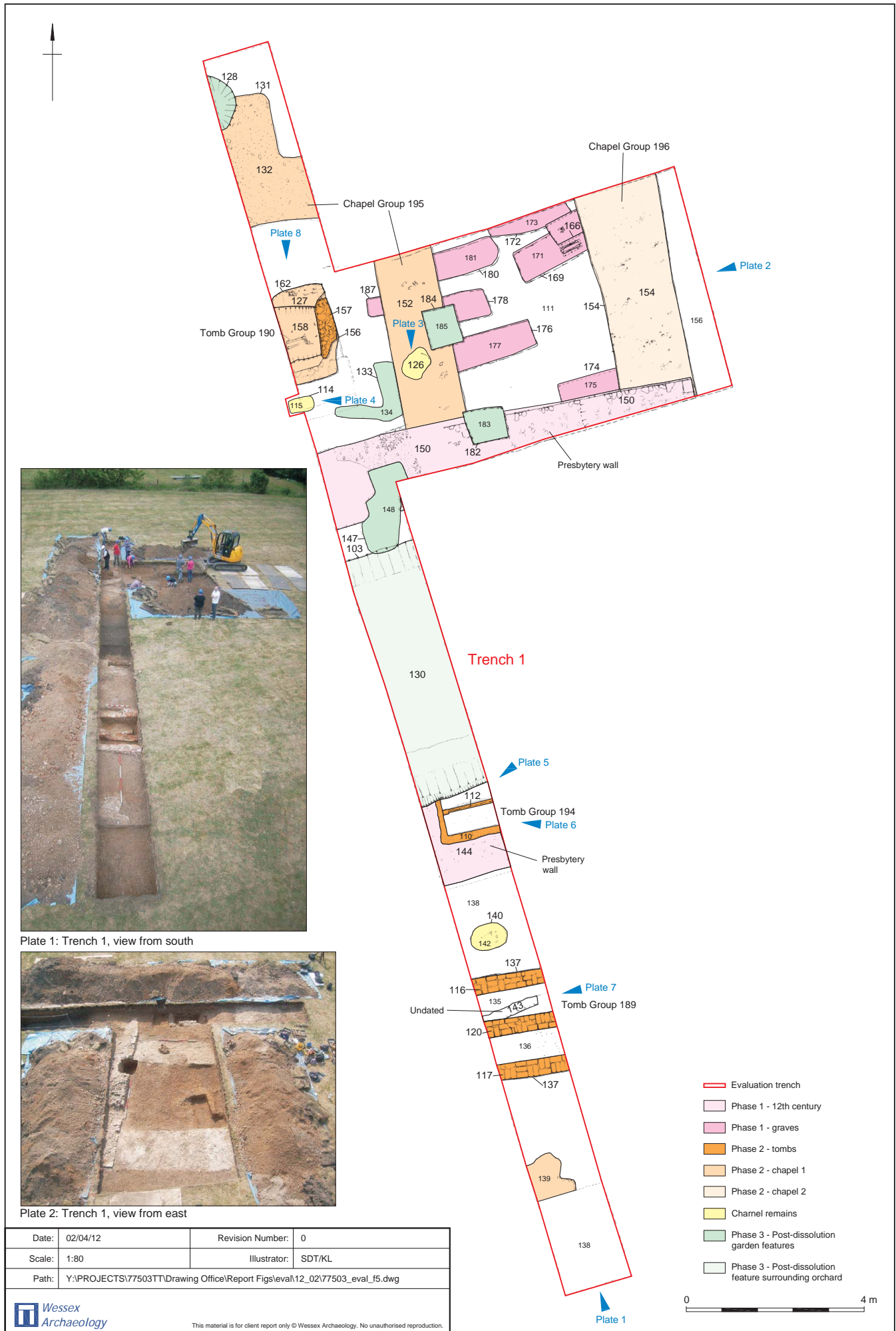
Figure 3





0.70-1.20m composite GPR depth slice and interpretation

Figure 4



Trench 1: plan and photographs

Figure 5





Plate 3: Charnel remains 126, view from north-west



Plate 4: Charnel remains 114, view from east



Plate 5: Tomb Group 194 cutting southern presbytery wall 144, view from north-east



Plate 6: Tomb Group 194 cut by ditch 103, view from south-east



Plate 7: Tomb Group 189, view from east



Plate 8: Tomb Group 190, view from east

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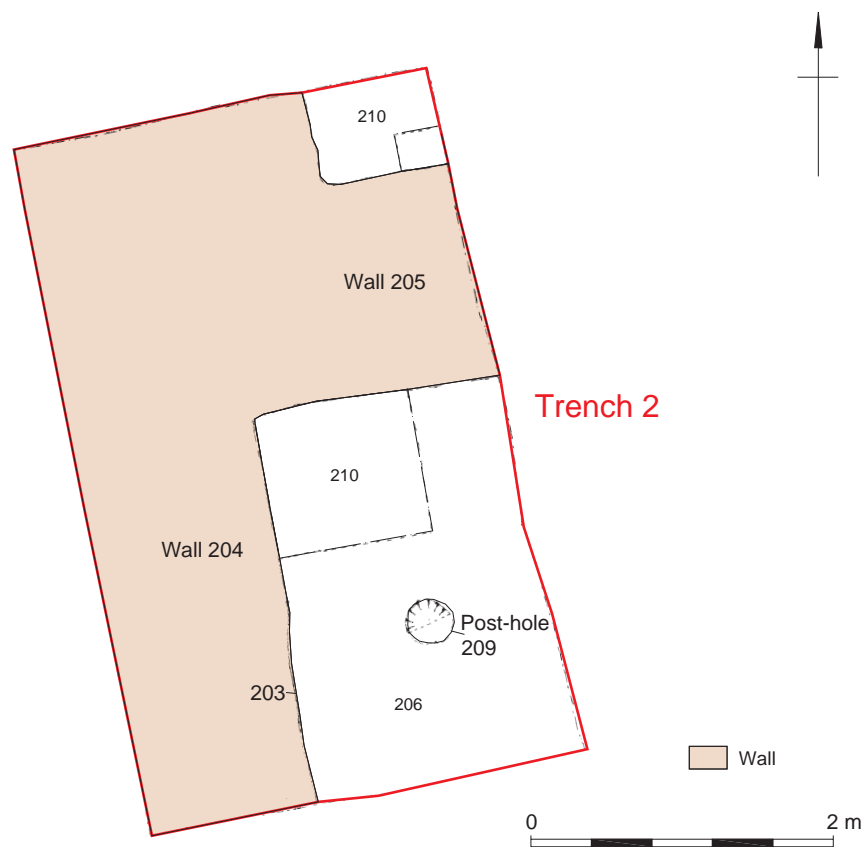


Plate 9: Trench 2, view from north

Evaluation trench



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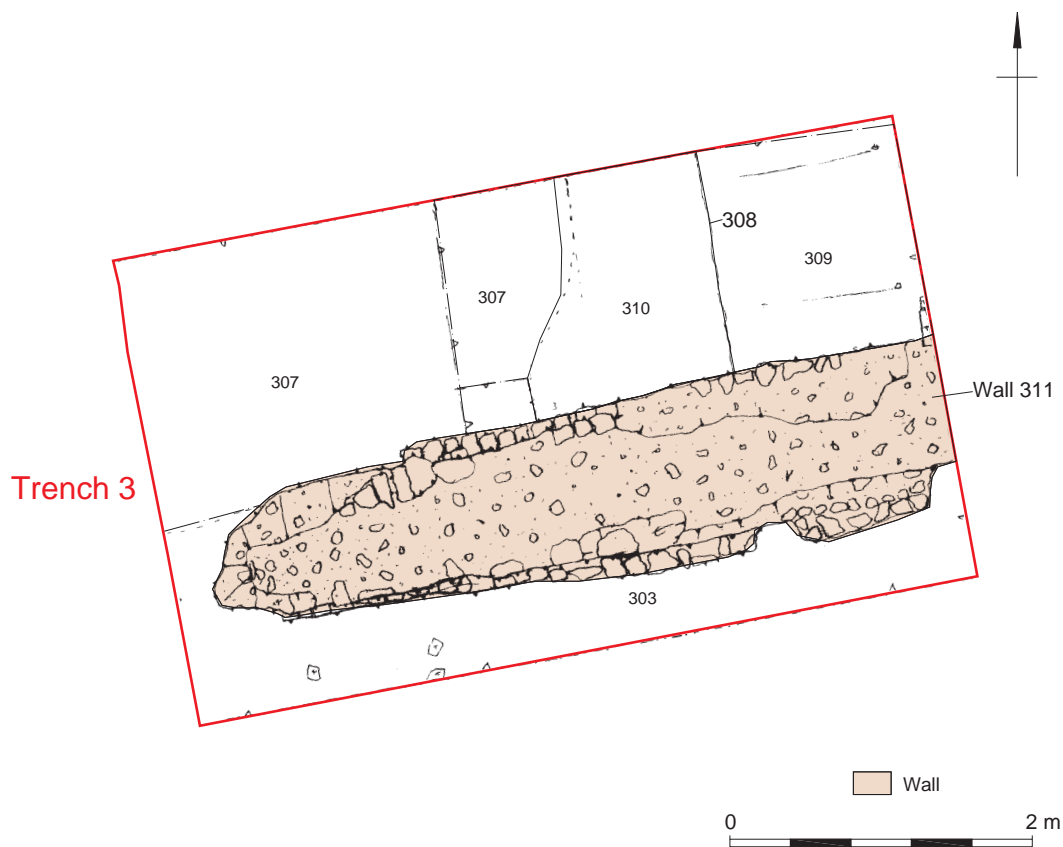



Plate 10: Trench 3, view from west

 Evaluation trench

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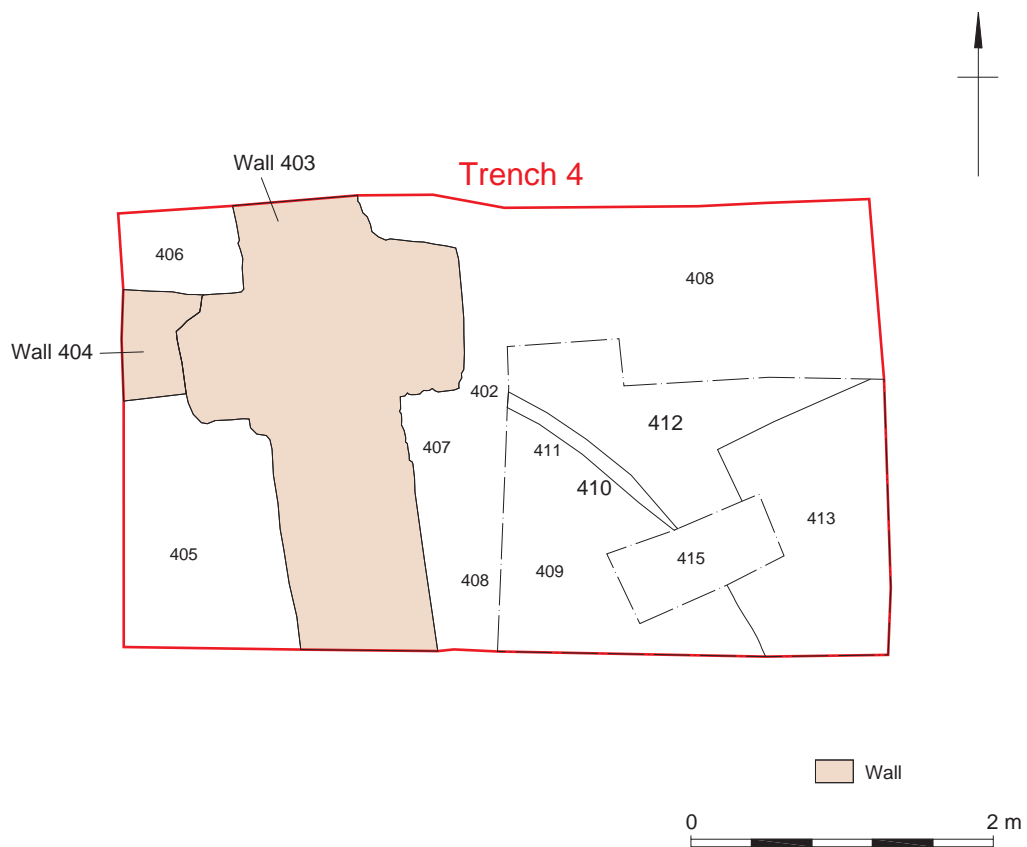


Plate 11: Trench 4, view from east

 Evaluation trench

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# Trench 4

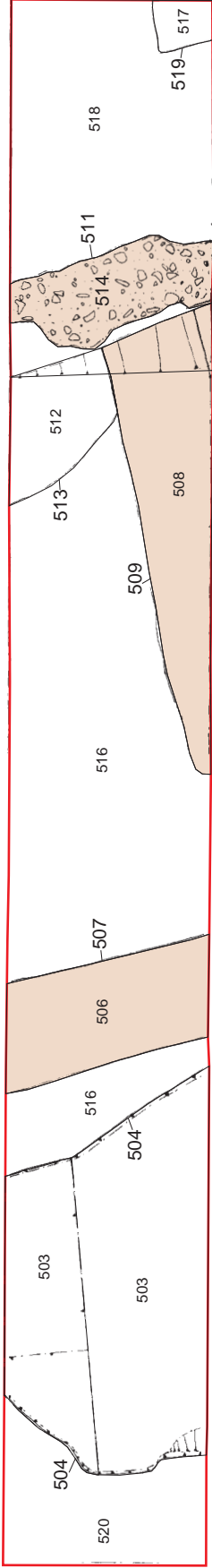


Plate 12: Trench 5, view from west showing robber trench 504

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