LAND AT 21 VICTORIA STREET, CHATTERIS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND AT 21 VICTORIA STREET, CHATTERIS

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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Land at 21 Victoria Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 21 Victoria Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3930 8585) between the 6th and 7th April 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr G. Hitch and Ms J. Germeney in advance of construction of a single-storey rear extension to their property. The site is located within the former precinct of Chatteris Abbey, founded in c. AD 1000 and dissolved in 1538; medieval walls and burials were recorded during an evaluation in the garden of the neighbouring house at No. 19 Victoria Street. The aim of the evaluation was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

A single c. 2 x 2m test pit was dug within the footprint of the proposed extension. This revealed a well-preserved stratified sequence of finds-rich medieval layers and deposits, probably mainly associated with the dissolution of Chatteris Abbey in 1538, and subsequent demolition and ground clearance. Many of the deposits are likely to have originally derived from rubbish generated by the monastic kitchens, which have previously been suggested as being located immediately adjacent to the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at 21 Victoria Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6AP (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 3930 8585) between the 6th and 7th April 2017 (Figures 1 & 2).

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr G. Hitch and Ms J. Germeney in advance of a proposed single-storey rear extension to their property.

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; Thomas 2017) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Tom Woolhouse of PCA (Woolhouse 2017).

1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.

1.5 A total of one 2.2 x 2m trial trench was excavated and recorded. The trench contained a stratified sequence of medieval and post-medieval layers and deposits relating to Chatteris Abbey (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) No. 03700), which was located in the area of the town that is now occupied by Victoria Street and the surrounding roads.

1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire Archaeological Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The site is located on drift geology of March gravels, which form a north to south band, overlying Kimmeridge Clay (Website 1).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The development area comprises a small L-shaped plot of land to the north and west of the existing house at 21 Victoria Street. Levels taken on the site using GPS were between 9.6m above Ordnance Datum (OD) and 9.8m OD.

2.2.2 The development area is located on the high ground of Chatteris, which forms a narrow north- to south-aligned ridge. Prior to large-scale drainage of the Cambridgeshire Fens beginning in the 17th century, Chatteris was a 'fen island' surrounded by wetland.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The archaeological background has been taken from the brief (Thomas 2017) and a search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 An evaluation in 2012 of the field to the west of Fenland Way, 900m north-west of the site recorded a ditch which contained Middle Iron Age pottery (CHER MCB22675).

3.2.2 The remains of an Early Iron Age settlement were uncovered in an excavation at Cromwell Community College, 700m south of the study site (CHER MCB19835). The settlement appears to have been enclosed by a boundary ditch with an entranceway. Within the settlement there were several clusters of pits, postholes and two possible four-post structures arranged in a sub-square shape.

3.2.3 An evaluation in 2006 on land off New Road, 500m north of the site, identified features relating to an Iron Age settlement (CHER MCB17496). Features included a number of supine burials, a post-built structure, a hearth, ditches, two pig burials and a number of pits. The postholes, pits and ditches contained Early Iron Age pottery.

3.2.4 Prehistoric and Roman features have been recorded on land north of Chatteris Parish Church, just under 500m north-east of the site (CHER MCB18461, CB15323 and MCB18462). These features included Bronze Age burials and pits, Early Iron Age pits, and a large 1st-century AD ditch. Other features recorded on the site include Saxon timber structures (CHER MCB18463), medieval pits (CHER MCB18464) and post-medieval structures. The presence of Beaker pottery and animal bone suggest a Bronze Age settlement site nearby, but there was no evidence of domestic activity on the site itself.

3.2.5 Prehistoric findspots around the site include a Palaeolithic flint flake

recovered at South Park Street, just over 100m south of the site (CHER MCB19246), a Neolithic stone axe found in a garden 900m north-east of the site (CHER MCB16699) and a Neolithic polished axehead found 170m east of the site (CHER 12004). A possible Middle to Late Bronze Age hoard consisting of a shield and a looped spearhead was found off Blackmill Road, 900m south of the site (CHER 03697).

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 Roman features, comprising ditches, gullies and a possible pit, were recorded during an evaluation off Fenland Way, 900m north-west of the site (CHER MCB22675). The associated finds suggest that the site was on the periphery of a settlement, while the presence of two possible fragments of imbrex roof tile suggests a well-built building in the vicinity. A post-medieval brick wall, soakaway pit and ditches were also recorded on the site.

3.3.2 A Roman coin was found at 21 New Road, 450m north of the site (CHER CB14730).

3.4 Medieval (Figure 3)

3.4.1 Building material dating to the medieval period has been recovered from the garden of 40 Victoria Street, just south of the site (CHER MCB15978). Medieval stonework has also been recovered from 3 West Park Street, just to the west of the site (CHER CB15351).

3.4.2 Remains of ridge and furrow, from medieval ploughing, has been recorded in fields 900m east of the site (CHER 09861). Cropmarks of ridge and furrow are also present to the west of Chatteris cricket ground, around 800m south-east of the site (CHER 11443). Earthwork remains of ridge and furrow can also be seen just north of the cricket ground (CHER 08771A); brick footings have been excavated on the same site and probably formed part of a medieval–post- medieval agricultural complex, possibly incorporating a stable or sheepfold. An area of earthworks at Manor Park, 750m north of the site, also show clear evidence of medieval ridge and furrow, along with medieval field boundary ditches (CHER 08670).

3.4.3 A site at Cox's Lane/ Chapel Road, 1km north of the site, uncovered deeply-

stratified soil horizons dating from the late medieval to post-medieval periods, with sporadic phases of alluvial encroachment from the adjacent Slade Lode (CHER CB15741). No evidence for earlier medieval settlement was identified.

3.4.4 Two medieval pits were recorded during a single-trench evaluation at 84 High Street, 600m north of the study site (CHER MCB19976). A post-medieval structure was also uncovered during the evaluation.

3.4.5 Saint Peter and Saint Paul's Church is located 270m north-east of the site (CHER 03701). The church has medieval origins but was extensively rebuilt in the early 20th century. The nave arcades and small western tower date from the 14th century. An investigation carried out in 1994 in the churchyard uncovered eight brick vaulted tombs.

Chatteris Abbey (Figure 4)

3.4.6 The study site is located within the presumed precinct of Chatteris Abbey (CHER 03700). The abbey was a Benedictine nunnery dedicated to St Mary, founded by a niece of King Edgar in the early 11th century (between AD 1006 and 1016). It was one of only eight nunneries mentioned in Domesday Book. The nunnery did not have extensive endowments, so remained relatively small and poor. It was dissolved in 1538. The extent of the former monastic precinct is preserved in the layout of streets around the site: Park Street, West Park Street, East Park Street and South Park Street, which take their names from Park House, a 17th-century mansion built on the site of the abbey and which incorporated parts of the cloister (Woolhouse 2017). The current site is thought to be located directly adjacent to the claustral complex, probably beside the monastic kitchens and guest house (Fig. 4).

3.4.7 Immediately east of the site, a recent archaeological evaluation in the garden of the neighbouring property at No. 19 Victoria Street uncovered a series of walls and between three and five burials (CHER MCB20081; Clarke 2011; Fig. 3). The walls may have been associated with the burials, although a more substantial footing at the north end of the trench could have been related to one of the abbey buildings. It was concluded that the evaluation

trench had located a secular/ lay burial ground within the abbey precinct. More than one phase of burial was evident and all were interred in a Christian manner, with heads to the west and arms to the side; no evidence of coffins was seen. The burials were of mixed age.

3.5 Post-Medieval

3.5.1 An archaeological evaluation at Tern Gardens, 700m north of the site, revealed post-medieval 'backyard activity' associated with properties fronting on to the High Street (CHER MCB19100). Further post-medieval activity was uncovered on the High Street in an evaluation to the rear of an existing 17th-century cottage, 600m north of the site (CHER MCB20124). The evaluation revealed pits of late medieval to early post-medieval date, sealed by soil layers indicative of cultivation. One pit was at least 3m across and thought to be an extraction or rubbish pit; sherds of 15th- to 17th-century pottery were recovered from its fills. Other pits further away from the High Street frontage contained 12th- to 14th- century pottery. The soils were overlain by layers of probable 18th- to 19th- century date, associated with a possible robber trench.

3.5.2 An evaluation at 24 Bridge Street, 900m north of the site, uncovered a ditch of possible late medieval date, and post-medieval features including wall foundations and floors (CHER MCB20072).

3.5.3 An archaeological evaluation at 13 Railway Lane, 400m north of the site, revealed a probable cess pit, pits which contained possible post-medieval sledge runners and a number of undated postholes (CHER MCB20425).

3.5.4 Just 78m west of the site was a former blacksmiths workshop, which is now demolished (CHER MCB22187). A Zion chapel (CHER MCB21358), an Emmanuel United Reformed Church (CHER CB14949) and a bank (CHER MCB21357) were present on the 1885 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map just to the north of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 A single 2m x 2.2m trench was opened using a mechanical excavator. This equates to an approximate 15% sample of the 30m² footprint of the proposed extension.

4.1.2 Initial ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 6-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine, in even spits, down to the top of potentially significant archaeological deposits, the first of which was encountered approximately 0.50m below modern ground level. Thereafter, all excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate. All excavated deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil-heaps were scanned by metal detector as they were encountered/ created.

4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.1.5 All features and deposits were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

4.1.6 The majority of features within the limits of the trench were 100% excavated unless they were deemed structural, for instance surface layers (104) and (105) and their associated bedding layers.

4.2 Recording Methodology

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the

locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.2.2 Section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).

4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital and black and white photographs were taken of archaeological features and deposits.

4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (CIfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction (Figs. 5–6; Plates 1–7)

5.1.1 The trench is described below, with technical data tabulated. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated. Features and deposits are described in chronological order, the earliest contexts first.

5.1.2 The evaluation identified remains of medieval and post-medieval activity relating to Chatteris Abbey, in particular, dumps of rubbish which may be from the monastic kitchens, and a possible compacted mortar surface dating to after the dissolution of the abbey.

5.2 Sequence of Archaeological Deposits in Trench 1

TRENCH 1	**Figures 5–6**		**Plates 1–7**	
Trench Alignment: N/A	Length: 2.2m		Level of Natural (m OD): Not reached	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			S End	**N End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.32	0.34
Subsoil	(101)		0.15	0.24
Archaeological deposits	See above		0.75+	1.14+

Summary

Trench 1 was located in the south-west corner of the footprint of the proposed extension. It contained a stratified sequence of archaeological deposits comprising demolition layers dating to the 19th century, mortar surfaces and two pits dating to the post-medieval period and a series of dumped rubbish deposits and pits dating to the late medieval period. The excavation of the trench was halted at 1.2m below modern ground level, but a small sondage dug in the centre of the trench found a sequence of layers of probable 12th- to 14th-century date.

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained features and deposits which can be broadly subdivided into four main chronological periods: 'high' medieval (12th- to 14th-century), late medieval (15th- to early-16th-century), post-medieval (late-16th-century+) and modern (19th- to 20th-century), the latter consisting of rubble and made ground layers.

5.2.2 The 'high' medieval activity comprised three layers which could only be

investigated in a small sondage due to the depth of the trench. They contained pottery of 12th- to 14th-century date. The quantities of material are small and, therefore, the dating of these layers is tentative. Nevertheless, based on their stratigraphic position sealed below well-dated 15th-century levels, this date is probably accurate.

5.2.3 Sealing these deposits were four layers and three pits dating to the late medieval period. The appearance of these layers and pits and the associated finds suggest that they are rubbish dumps, dating from the end of Chatteris Abbey's period of occupation. The deposits seem to result from a single clearance episode as there were a high number of cross-links from the same pottery vessels across the different deposits. The associated pottery comes from a wide range of vessels with a broad date range extending from the 11th to the 15th century, which suggests that they were redeposited from elsewhere.

5.2.4 Above the medieval layers were a series of post-medieval made ground layers and two small remnants of a compacted mortar surface layer.

5.3 'High' Medieval Activity (*c.* 12th- to 14th-century)

5.3.1 Layer (120) was identified at the base of a small sondage dug in the centre of the trench. The layer was a light grey sandy silt from which no finds were recovered.

5.3.2 Layer (118) was a mid-orangey-brown gravelly clay from which a single sherd (4g) of French whiteware dating to the 12th–14th century was recovered. The layer extended beyond the northern, western and eastern limits of excavation, was 0.27m thick and was encountered at a depth of 1.10m below modern ground level or 8.83m OD.

5.3.3 Layer (117) comprised a mid-brown silty clay with very occasional medium-sized stone inclusions, from which animal bone and a single sherd (1g) of Huntingdon-type Thetford ware dating to the 9th–12th century was recovered. The layer extended beyond the southern and western limits of excavation, was recorded at a depth of 1.09m below modern ground level or 8.84m OD and was cut by Pit [116].

5.4 Late Medieval Activity (*c.* 15th- to early-16th-century)

5.4.1 Pit [116] was located in the south-west corner of the trench and extended beyond the southern and western limits of the excavation. The pit appeared to be roughly circular in plan with moderately-sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.65m+ long by 0.6m+ wide and 0.17m deep and contained a fill of mid-grey sandy silty clay that was rich in charcoal (115). It contained five sherds (17g) of pottery dating to between the 9th and 15th centuries; animal bone was also recovered. The pottery includes a sherd of Bourne D ware, which is no earlier than the mid-15th century.

5.4.2 Layer (114) was located towards the south side of the trench, extending beyond the southern, eastern and western limits of excavation. It comprised a mid-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and contained 25 sherds (264g) of 10th- to 15th-century pottery, medieval peg tiles and animal bone. The pottery includes Bourne D ware, alongside much residual early and 'high' medieval pottery, the latter including imported Rouen-type ware. The exposed portion of this rubbish layer measured 1.13m from north to south and 1.67m from east to west and was 0.12m thick. The top of the layer was recorded at 1m below modern ground level or 8.86m OD.

5.4.3 Layer (113) covered almost the entire trench, measuring 1.47m from north to south and 1.67m east to west and was sealed by layer (107). It was a mid-greyish-brown sandy silty clay with clunch and charcoal inclusions, from which 32 sherds (221g) of pottery dating to between the 9th and 15th centuries were recovered, along with unglazed medieval peg tile and animal bone. The pottery includes residual late Saxon and early medieval wares including a Huntingdon early medieval ware flared jar rim, alongside 'high' and late medieval sherds. Part of a stone ecclesiastical vessel or medieval mortar was also recovered from the layer (See Valcarcel, Section 6.2). The top of this rubbish layer was recorded at 0.89m below modern ground level or 8.93m OD.

5.4.4 Layer (107) covered almost the entire trench, extending beyond the southern and western limits of excavation. It was sealed by layer (125). This rubbish layer comprised mid-greyish-brown silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal

inclusions and was very similar to layer (113) in appearance. Medieval peg tile, animal bone, nails and five sherds (103g) of pottery dating to the 13th and 14th centuries were recovered from the layer. An intrusive slate pencil dating to the 19th century was also recovered from the layer; this must have fallen in from the layers above as no other material from this date was recovered in layer (107). The top of the layer was recorded at 0.7m below modern ground level or 9.12m OD.

5.4.5 Layer (125) was only seen in the south-east corner of the trench and was cut by Pit [111]. It consisted of mid-brown silty clay, from which no finds were recovered. It was 0.24m thick and was recorded at 0.71m below modern ground level or 9.03m OD.

5.4.6 Pit [111] was located at the eastern edge of the trench and extended beyond the limit of excavation. The pit was sub-circular in plan with steeply-sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.55m long, 0.3m+ wide and 0.55m deep. The pit fill was a light grey slightly silty clay (110) containing animal bone. The pit was truncated by Pit [109] and the top of the fill was recorded at a depth of 0.62m below modern ground level or 9.14m OD.

5.4.7 Pit [109] was located just to the north of Pit [111] and extended across the full width of the north side of the trench, continuing beyond the northern, western and eastern limits of excavation. The pit was linear in plan, with near-vertical sides and a flat base and measured over 1.73m long, 0.62m+ wide and 0.54m deep. It was filled by a mid-brown silty clay which contained occasional charcoal inclusions (108). Medieval peg tile, animal bone and four sherds (107g) of pottery dating to the 12th–14th centuries were recovered. The pit was sealed by layer (106) and the top of its fill was recorded at a depth of 0.73m below modern ground level or 9.10m OD.

5.5 Post-Medieval Activity (late-16th-century+)

5.5.1 Layer (106) was located at the west side of the trench and was an orangey-brown sandy gravel bedding layer for mortar layer (104). The layer measured 0.96m from north to south, 0.25m+ east to west and 0.07m deep, and extended beyond the western limit of excavation. The top of the layer

was recorded at 0.7m below modern ground level or 9.12m OD.

5.5.2 Layer (104) was located at the western edge of the trench and comprised a thin (0.03m) layer of creamy-white compacted sandy mortar and clunch, which contained no finds. The layer was left in situ and not excavated. The layer measured 0.43m from north to south and 0.13m+ from east to west, and extended beyond the western limit of excavation. The top of the layer was recorded at 0.69m below modern ground level or 9.13m OD. Layer (104) was overlain by layer (131).

5.5.3 Layer (131) was located at the western edge of the trench and was only seen in section. It was a mid-greyish-brown silty clay containing no finds. The layer was 0.27m thick and was recorded at a depth of 0.47m below modern ground level or 9.32m OD. The layer was cut by Pit [103] and overlain by demolition layer (119).

5.5.4 Layer (124) was a bedding layer for mortar layer (105), located in the south-east corner of the trench. It was only seen in section. It was an orangey-brown sandy gravel which contained no finds and was probably the same deposit as layer (106) in the north-west of the trench. The layer was 0.03m thick and was recorded at a depth of 0.65m below modern ground level or 9.03m OD. Layer (124) was overlain by layer (123).

5.5.5 Layer (123) was another bedding layer for mortar layer (105), located in the south-east corner of the trench. It was only seen in section. It consisted of a light grey silty clay layer 0.05m thick, which contained no finds. The top of the layer was recorded at 0.61m below modern ground level or 9.07m OD. Layer (123) was overlain by (105).

5.5.6 Layer (105) was located at the south-east corner of the trench and comprised a creamy-white compacted sandy mortar and clunch from which no finds were recovered. The layer was left in situ and not excavated. The layer measured 0.88m from north to south, 0.58m+ from east to west and 0.03m deep, and extended beyond the southern and eastern limits of excavation. The top of the layer was recorded at 0.58m below modern ground level or 9.10m OD. Layer (105) was cut by Pit [103].

5.5.7 Pit [103] was located at the southern edge of the trench and extended beyond the southern and western limits of excavation. The exposed portion of the feature was linear in plan with steeply-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 2.2m+ long, 0.74m+ wide and 0.47m deep. The pit had five fills: a basal fill of mid yellowy-/greyish-brown silty clay with inclusions of small clunch fragments (112), from which 16 sherds (115g) of pottery dating between the 9th and 15th centuries were recovered. Sealing this fill was a mid-yellowish-brown clay (102) containing medieval peg tile, animal bone and three sherds of 9th- to 15th-century pottery. Above fill (102) was a mid-blue/grey clay (126), which was only seen in section, and sealing this fill was a mottled creamy-white and greyish-brown crushed mortar and silty clay (130) which contained no finds. The upper fill of the pit was a mid-orangey-brown silty clay (129), from which no finds were recovered. Pit [103] was cut by modern pit [128]. The top of fill (129) was recorded at 0.43m below modern ground level or 9.43m OD.

5.6 Modern Activity

5.6.1 Pit [128] was located at the western edge of the trench and was only seen in the section. It had near-vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.53m wide and 0.20m deep. It contained a fill of dark grey silty clay with coke and flecks of burnt clay and charcoal (127), from which no finds were recovered. The top of the pit was recorded at 0.45m below modern ground level or 9.41m OD.

5.6.2 Layer (119) was located at the north side of the trench and was only seen in section. It consisted of brick rubble and loose dark grey silty clay. The bricks are 18th-/ 19th-century and are locally-made. The demolition layer was 0.24m thick and was encountered at a depth of 0.49m below modern ground level or 9.34m OD.

5.6.3 Layer (122) was located at the south end of the trench and was only seen in the north- and west-facing sections. The layer was a dark reddish-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks. It was 0.11m thick and was encountered at a depth of 0.59m below modern ground level or 9.25m OD.

5.6.4 Layer (121) was located at the south side of the trench. It consisted of mid orangey-brown clay with occasional flint nodule inclusions, and contained no finds. The layer was 0.16m thick and was encountered at a depth of 0.45m below modern ground level or 9.39m OD.

6 FINDS

6.1 Pottery

By Sue Anderson

Introduction

6.1.1 One hundred and two sherds of pottery weighing 872g were recovered from ten contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 3.

Description	Fabric	Date range	No.	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Nene Valley Colour-coated ware	NVCC	Roman	1	1		1
Huntingdon Thetford-type ware	HTHET	840–1150	12	47		10
St Neots-type ware	NEOT	875–1100	1	1		1
Stamford ware	STAM	875–1200	2	9	0.05	2
Early Medieval wares	EMW	11th–12th C.	2	8		1
Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	HUNEMW	1050–1200	11	134	0.23	9
Medieval Ely coarseware	MELCW	1150–1350	5	71	0.05	5
Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	HUNFSW	1175–1300	4	89		3
Peterborough Shelly ware	PSHW	1100–1350	10	112	0.11	3
Shelly wares	SHW	1150–1500	6	44	0.18	1
Sandy Shelly ware	SSHW	1150–1500	1	4		1
Medieval Ely glazed ware	MEL	1150–1350	7	47		7
Grimston glazed ware	GRIM	L.12th–14th C.	1	3		1
Bourne-type medieval glazed wares	BOUB	1150–1450	3	30		1
Developed Stamford ware	DEST	1150–1300	1	11		1
Mill Green fineware	MGF	1250–1400	3	5		2
Scarborough-type ware	SCAR	1250–1350	3	78		1
Unprovenanced glazed wares	UPG	1200–1500	3	40	0.18	2
Rouen-type ware	ROU	*c*.1170–1300	6	27		3
?French whitewares	FREN	12th–14th C.	2	2		1
Bourne D ware	BOND	1430–1650	15	86		3
Refined Factory-made whitewares	REFW	19th–20th C.	1	6		1
Unidentified	UNID	-	2	17		2
Totals			*102*	*872*	*0.80*	*61*

Table 1: Pottery quantification by fabric

Methodology

6.1.2 Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. Methods follow Medieval Pottery Research Group recommendations (MPRG 2001) and form terminology follows MPRG classifications (1998). The results were inputted directly onto a Microsoft Access database, which forms the archive catalogue. Medieval wares were identified based on Spoerry (2016); pre-Saxon and post-medieval to modern fabrics are based on the author's fabric series.

Pottery by period

Roman

6.1.3 One tiny, heavily-abraded sherd is a body fragment from a thin-walled Nene Valley colour-coated vessel.

Late Saxon

6.1.4 Fifteen sherds are of late Saxon date. The group is dominated by Huntingdon Thetford-type ware, with only a few sherds of Stamford and St Neots-type wares. All are body or base fragments, with the exception of one rim in Stamford ware. The latter, from pit fill (115), is distorted and either a waster or heavily burnt. All late Saxon pottery was residual in later contexts, with the possible exception of a flat base fragment of HTHET, which was the only pottery from layer (117).

Medieval

6.1.5 The majority of sherds in this assemblage are of later 11th- to 15th-century date.

6.1.6 The early medieval period is represented by two sherds of early medieval ware of Norfolk type, and eleven fragments from up to nine Huntingdon-type early medieval ware vessels. Several sherds are from a small jar (100mm diameter rim) with a slightly flaring rim, decorated with small fingertip impressions. A fragment of sagging base may also belong to this vessel.

6.1.7 Twenty-six sherds of 'high' medieval coarsewares were found, representing twelve vessels. Several shelly wares were recovered, some of which are not identifiable due to leaching of the calcareous inclusions. Fragments of a large Peterborough Shelly ware bowl (cf. Spoerry 2016, HM181–2), comprising rim, body and possibly base sherds, were found in fills (108) and (112) and layers (113)–(114). An upright beaded jar rim was also in this fabric. Several sherds of another jar in a shelly ware may be in Peterborough Area Shell and Limestone ware, but much of the shell/ limestone has been lost, so this cannot be confirmed. Sherds of Ely-type coarseware include a thickened everted jar rim (cf. Spoerry 2008, Jar D) and a body sherd with combed wavy lines. A small body sherd of Huntingdon Fen Sandy ware is present, and there are also three sherds in this ware which appear to be part of at least one curfew. The joining body sherds from (113) and (114) are decorated with randomly-spaced dragged thumb impressions and a fragment of 'base' in (114) is pierced; there is slight sooting or fuming internally.

6.1.8 Twenty-one sherds of English glazed wares, representing fifteen vessels, were recovered. Local Ely-type wares dominate the group, but production sites in Grimston, Norfolk (or possibly Toynton, Lincs.), Mill Green, Ingatestone, Essex, and Bourne and Stamford, Lincolnshire, are also represented. All are body sherds, probably from jugs. Three sherds of a highly decorated Scarborough ware vessel with a twisted rod handle and applied strip/ feather decoration were also identified, occurring in layer (107), fill (112) and layer (113). Fragments of a slip- and green-glaze decorated Mill Green vessel may all be from one jug, but a tiny sherd from Sample <3> could not be matched to the two sherds from Sample <1> with certainty. Two unprovenanced wares were found. A large fragment of rim/ handle is in a fine sandy fabric with a cream-coloured internal surface and grey core; it is glazed with an olive-coloured lead glaze and is likely to be of English origin. Two body sherds in a sparse calcareous fabric (possibly BOUB) are decorated with a pale green glaze with copper flecks, an applied strip and a 'cartwheel' stamp.

6.1.9 At least two, and possibly as many as six, French vessels are present. There are two very fine whiteware sherds with a thick copper green glaze in layers (114)/ (115) and (118). Rouen-type ware sherds from one jug comprise four sherds which are heavily worn but are decorated with red slip and applied white pellets and slip. There is also a body sherd with white background and a red slip stripe, and another with a large pointed applied pellet on an orange slip background. These two sherds appear to represent two additional vessels.

6.1.10 Fifteen sherds of three Bourne D wares were recovered, the majority from a vessel with thin white slip all over and signs of heavy use-wear. Two other vessels are decorated with spots of green glaze, and an applied strip with olive glaze, respectively.

Modern

6.1.11 A single rim sherd of refined white earthenware was recovered as an unstratified find. The fragment is part of a moulded vessel in the form of a leaf with bright green glaze.

Unidentified

6.1.12 One tiny, heavily abraded sherd from layer (113) Sample <1> is in a fine sandy fabric, pink on the external half and pale grey on the inner. It may be a fragment of Brill glazed ware.

6.1.13 A thick abraded fragment from fill (108) may be a piece of a large storage vessel, perhaps Roman or late Saxon, or it may be a fragment of Roman tile.

Pottery by context

6.1.14 Table 2 shows the pottery recovered by context, with suggested spot dates and cross-links. Unstratified material is not included.

Context	Feature	Type	Fabrics	Cross-links	Spot date
102	103	Unknown	HTHET BOUB ROU	112 113 114	12th–13th c.
107	-	Layer	HTHET HUNEMW MELCW SCAR BOND	112 113 114? 115	15th c.+
108	109	Unknown	HUNEMW MEL PSHW UNID	112 113? 114?	12th–M.14th c.
112	103	Unknown	HTHET HUNEMW MELCW MEL PSHW BOUB UPG SCAR BOND	102 107 108 113 114? 115	15th c.+
113	-	Layer	HTHET NEOT HUNEMW EMW HUNFSW SHW PSHW SSHW MEL UPG SCAR MGF ROU BOND UNID	102 107 108? 112 113 114 114/115 115	15th c.+
114	-	Layer	NVCC HTHET STAM HUNEMW EMW HUNFSW PSHW SHW MELCW DEST GRIM MEL ROU BOND	102 107? 108? 112 113 115	15th c.+
114/115	-	Layer	HUNEMW SHW FREN	113 114 118?	12th–14th c.
115	116	Pit	HTHET STAM MGF BOND	107 112 113 114	15th c.+
117	-	Layer	HTHET		M.9th–M.12th c.
118	-	Layer	FREN	114/115?	12th–14th c.

Table 2: Pottery by context

6.1.15 Most of the layers contained sherds of late Saxon or early, high and late medieval date. The mixed nature of these contexts, together with the fact that they each contained a number of sherds from the same vessels, may indicate that they were redeposited from elsewhere.

Discussion

6.1.16 This small assemblage contains a number of sherds of late Saxon date, the majority of which are in the local Thetford-type ware which was probably made in Huntingdon (Spoerry 2016). A small quantity of St Neots-type and Stamford wares are further evidence for activity of this period on or near the site. However, most or all of these sherds were found redeposited in later contexts.

6.1.17 The Huntingdon area continued to supply the site with pottery in the early medieval period, but by the high medieval period much of the pottery was sourced from nearby Ely, and supplemented by vessels from the wider region. The Mill Green ware, Scarborough ware and French jugs are indicative of sea-borne trade and, this far inland (albeit on a fen island at the time), suggest a degree of status which would correspond with the use of the land by the abbey. Spoerry (2016, fig. 6.2) suggests that these pottery types reached the fens via the port of Kings Lynn, and the Grimston (or Toynton) ware would also have reached the site via the town, perhaps travelling via Ely.

6.2 CBM and Stonework

By Amparo Valcarcel

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
Samples <2> and <3>	3102; CHATT01; CHATT02; 3104;3101M	Abraded and overheated daub; late medieval unglazed peg tiles; opus signinum; yellowish loose mortar	6	1500BC	1700	1500BC	1700	1200-1450	1200-1450 50-400 (residual)
102	CHATT01; CHATT02; 3120	Medieval unglazed peg tiles; Blisworth limestone	4	50	1450	1200	1450	1200-1450	No mortar
107	3120	Slate pencil	1	300	1950	300	1950	1800-1900	No mortar
108	CHATT01; CHATT02; 3120	Medieval unglazed peg tiles; Felsite stone (natural or rubble)	9	1200	1450	1200	1450	1200-1450	No mortar
113	CHATT01; 3125	Medieval unglazed peg tiles; medieval ecclesiastical vessel or medieval mortaria	10	50	1800	50	1800	1200-1450	No mortar
114	CHATT01; CHATT02;	Medieval unglazed peg tiles	10	1200	1450	1200	1450	1200-1450	No mortar
119	CHATT03; CHATT04;	Post medieval unfrogged bricks	2	1450	1900	1700	1900	1800-1900	No mortar

Table 3: CBM Spot dates

Introduction

6.2.1 The application of a 1kg masons' hammer and sharp chisel to each example ensured that a small, fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long-arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10).

6.2.2 This small-sized assemblage (39 fragments, 1.22kg) is characterised by a small group of medieval peg tiles (82% by size; 76% by size), with lower quantities of mortar, daub and stone. The fragmentary condition would suggest that it has been reused, dumped or both. By form, there is a high proportion of roofing tile.

Medieval material

6.2.3 Overlapping, flat, rectangular peg tiles attached to roofing by two nails (as represented by two nail holes, with both round and square holes) form numerically the most common medieval roofing form. The medieval peg tiles are made from a number of local fabric groupings (Chatt01 and Chatt02). Chatt01 is a fine sandy fabric with moderate coarse quartz, and Chatt02 is a pink/ light red fabric with occasional yellow-white clay inclusions. All of the medieval roof tile recovered is fragmentary, and most probably represents either dumped material, or residual demolition material. The fabric type, form and the presence of coarse moulding sand suggest a medieval (12th- to 13th-century) date for the tile, indicating likely derivation from the demolition of abbey building(s) of this date.

Post-medieval

6.2.4 Two brick samples from layer (119) were collected. The bricks are made of different fabrics: Chatt03, a course sandy fabric with occasional quartz and moderate black iron oxide; and Chatt04, a sandy fabric with abundant coarse quartz. The brick made of Chatt03 is well-made and fired, very heavy and compact, indicating a Victorian date. The other sample brick is made of a local sandy clay matrix, probably earlier in date (1700–1850).

Daub

6.2.5 Unworked, slightly abraded daub, possibly attesting to the presence of

timber-framed wattle and daub construction in the vicinity, was identified in small lumps in Samples <2> and <3>.

Mortar

6.2.6 A possible small fragment of opus signinum was recovered from Samples <2> and <3>. The presence of this mortar and the amphorae fragments suggest the existence of a Roman settlement nearby. The other sample recovered from the same context is a small lump of a loose yellowish gritty mortar mixed with small gravels, indicating a medieval date.

Stone

6.2.7 From layer (113), a possible stone vessel was recovered, although it could equally have been used as a mortaria. It is carved out of a hard chalk (Totternhoe stone) outcropping in the Middle of the Lower Chalk. This hard chalk was also used in some medieval buildings.

6.2.8 A fine Blisworth limestone from the Middle Jurassic (Bathonian) was collected from (103), probably used as rubble in construction. This stone was imported, probably from Northamptonshire, and was very common in Roman masonry construction.

6.2.9 Another interesting fragment is a slate pencil from layer (107), for use with a writing slate, which were very common in schools during the 19th century.

6.2.10 An example of a Felsite stone from Leicestershire (Mountsorrel Granite complex, glacial erratic) was collected from fill (108), maybe used as rubble in construction.

Recommendations

6.2.11 In summary, this is a small unremarkable and broken-up assemblage, probably redeposited from elsewhere. However, the medieval peg roof tile and some of the stone fragments probably derive from the demolition or renovation of monastic buildings in the vicinity, and provide some evidence for their construction and appearance.

6.2.12 Roman — combined, the amphorae and mortar (opus signinum) provide

evidence for the presence of a Roman building nearby.

6.3 Small Finds and Metalwork

By Ruth Beveridge

6.3.1 A total of 22 objects were recovered from the evaluation: 13 of iron, five of copper alloy and four of glass. These finds have been fully recorded and a complete listing is provided in the catalogue below. They have been examined with the assistance of low-level magnification but without the aid of radiographs. They are discussed below by period and material type. They were recovered from five contexts, three of which are layers and two the fills of pits.

6.3.2 Overall, the condition of the glass is fair, with all fragments showing signs of weathering; the metal objects are corroded, with some of the iron nails being particularly encrusted in dirt.

Medieval

Glass

6.3.3 Four fragments of window glass were recovered from layer (114). All of the glass is covered by opaque brown surface weathering. This type of weathering is a feature of medieval potash glass and makes determining the original colour very difficult (Graves 2015, 332). None of the pieces show evidence of grozing, a technique seen on medieval window glass until the diamond cutter was introduced in the 15th/16th century; after this, the practise of grozing became much less common (Tyson 2016, 34). The curvature on one of the pieces would indicate diamond cutting.

6.3.4 Two decorated, co-joining window glass fragments have traces of painted geometric decoration on their exterior surfaces; whilst this now appears red, it may originally have been a black vitreous paint when applied, before being fired.

Copper alloy

6.3.5 From layer/ pit fill (114)/ (115), a belt mount was recovered. It is in the form of a cut-out octofoil with the eight petals outlined. There are possible traces

of gilding on the petals. It has three aligned rivet holes; the central one is square. One of the holes retains its dome-headed rivet. It is comparable to examples from London in Egan and Pritchard 2002 (194, fig. 22, no. 1042) and from Oakley, Suffolk (Carr 2011). Dates to *c*. AD 1400–1450.

Post-medieval

Copper alloy

6.3.6 Two drawn wire pins were retrieved from layer (113), with a further pin tip being recovered from layer/ pit fill (114)/ (115). The two pins from layer (113) are complete. The first is an example of a drawn wire pin with spherical wound wire head of two curls. It is a Type 1, comparable to an example from Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig. 5, no. 31) that dates to *c*. 1450–1500.

6.3.7 Egan and Forsyth (1997, 222) note that such "Pins are recovered in abundance from almost all sites yielding 15th- and 16th-century material. They were indispensable and vast quantities were used in England for fastening clothing and paper and for sewing."

6.3.8 A second drawn wire pin recovered from layer (113) is in two co-joining sections. The wire is circular in section. The head is cylindrical; it is wound separately and has then been scored diagonally across the head, creating 'V'-shaped decoration. While smaller than Margeson's Type 4 examples (1993, fig. 5), it is in the same tradition.

6.3.9 In addition to the pins, a small fragment of copper alloy sheet was also recovered from layer (113).

Iron

6.3.10 A cylindrical-shaped piece of iron made from folded sheet was retrieved from layer (113). It is possibly a section of a lace tag, though these are more commonly found in copper alloy.

Nails

6.3.11 The evaluation produced twelve iron nails, two of which are complete. The remaining nails are broken and in poor condition, being corroded and

encrusted with soil on their surfaces. The shank diameters of the nails range from 4–6mm and their head diameters are between 13 and 19mm, although such measurements are affected by the levels of corrosion and concretion. It can be suggested, however, that such iron nails are medium- to large-size and were for structural use. Two of the nails were recovered from pit fills (103) and (108), the remainder from layers (113) and (114) and pit fill (115). While the nails are difficult to date in themselves, the contexts in which they were found, except pit [103], are late medieval in date. Pit [103] is post-medieval in date.

Recommendations for further work

6.3.12 Should further work take place, in any future publication, the window glass should be examined by a specialist such as Dr Rachel Tyson and materials analysis undertaken in order to determine the original colour of the glass. The decorated pieces should be illustrated or photographed.

6.3.13 Selected metalwork should be x-rayed to assist with identification and to preserve a record of the object to be included in the archive.

Discussion

6.3.14 This small assemblage of objects is primarily of late medieval to early post-medieval date. The distribution of the objects represents the accumulation of rubbish debris on the site as well as the disposal of construction or repair debris.

6.3.15 The fragments of glass are of interest and likely relate to destruction debris from Chatteris Abbey.

6.4 Animal Bone

By Karen Deighton

Introduction

6.4.1 A moderate amount of animal bone was collected by hand during the course of excavation from layers and medieval pit fills. Material from the residues of two environmental samples was also examined (mesh sizes 2mm and 10mm).

Method

6.4.2 The material was first sorted into recordable and non-recordable fragments and bones with fresh breaks were reassembled. Identification was aided by Schmid (1972); Prummel (1987) was consulted for neonates of the major domesticates, Lawrence and Brown (1974) for small mammals and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996) for birds. Sheep/goat distinction follows Boessneck (1969).

6.4.3 The following were recorded for each element: context, anatomical element, taxa, proximal fusion, distal fusion, side, burning, butchery, pathology and erosion. Ribs and vertebra were recorded as horse, pig, dog, sheep-size or cattle-size but not included in quantification as their multiple numbers introduce bias. Recording of fusion follows Silver (1969). Cattle and pig teeth were aged after Grant (1982) and sheep teeth after Payne (1973). Recognition and recording of butchery is after Binford (1981). Recording of sexing data for pig canines follows von den Driesch (1976). Pathology is described after Baker and Bothwell (1980). The material was recorded into a Microsoft Access database

The assemblage

Preservation

6.4.4 Fragmentation is moderate, which approximately 20% of long bones complete and a further 60% at the almost-complete or shaft stage. However, most bone fragments can still be allocated to taxa. Bone surface condition is moderate, with most fragments showing some abrasion. The low frequency of evidence for butchery (seven examples) and canid gnawing (four examples) could be attributed to the abraded condition of bone surfaces.

Context/taxa	102	107	108	110	112	113	114	115	117	Total
Cut	103	NA	109	111	103	NA	NA	116	NA	
Feature	?	layer	?	pit	?	layer	layer	pit	layer	
Cattle		1					1			2
Sheep/goat		3	1	1	1	7	6	4		23
Sheep size	2		1	1	1	2	2	2	1	12
Pig						3	5	3		11
Rabbit			1			1	1	1		4
Chicken		1			2	3	4	2	1	13
Chicken size							2			2
Goose			2					4		6
Goose Size			1				1	1		3
Possible Woodcock						1			1	2
Indet. bird	2		4		2	5	11		1	25
Total	*4*	*5*	*10*	*2*	*6*	*22*	*33*	*17*	*4*	*103*

Table 4: Taxa by context

Context	113	115
Sample	1	3
Sheep/goat	2	
Sheep size	2	
Pig		1
Chicken	1	
Chicken size	1	
Rabbit	1	1
Rat sp	2	
Common shrew	1	
Small mammal	9	2
Frog/Toad	1	
Indet. bird	3	
Indet. fish	30	19
Total	*53*	*23*

Table 5: Taxa by sample and context

6.4.5 Sheep/goat, pig and chicken are the most abundant taxa. Epiphyseal fusion and bone morphology indicate the presence of both juveniles and adults for all three taxa.

Potential and significance

6.4.6 The potential of the current assemblage is limited by its size. The range of taxa and the level of preservation encountered, however, indicate that should further bone be collected by hand and from samples during any future excavations in the area, species data could be obtained along with ageing, sexing and possibly metrical data for domesticates.

6.4.7 The assemblage has significance at a local level in that it can provide information on diet at the nearby abbey, if supplemented with further bone from any future excavations.

Recommendations

6.4.8 Further collection of animal bone is recommended should any subsequent excavations take place; animal bone from well-dated samples taken during any future excavations should also be analysed. Any fish bone should be

examined by a relevant specialist.

6.5 Environmental Remains

By Kate Turner

Introduction

6.5.1 This report summarises the findings of the rapid assessment of three bulk samples taken during the excavation of land at 21 Victoria Road, Chatteris. These samples were taken from two layers and a pit feature, the context information for which is given in table 6.

6.5.2 The aim of this assessment is to:

Give an overview of the contents of the assessed samples;

Determine the environmental potential of these samples;

Establish whether any further analysis is necessary.

Context No.	Cut	Context type	Category
113		Layer	
114		Layer	
115	116	Fill	Pit

Table 6: Context information for environmental samples

Methodology

6.5.3 Three bulk samples, ranging in volume from fifteen to twenty-five litres, were processed using the flotation method; material was collected using a 300µm mesh for the light fraction and a 1mm mesh for the heavy residue. The heavy residue was then dried, sieved at 1, 2 and 4mm and sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The abundance of each category of material was recorded using a non-linear scale where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1-10 items), '2' indicates occurrence is fairly frequent (11-30 items), '3' indicates presence is frequent (31-100 items) and '4' indicates an abundance of material (>100 items).

6.5.4 The light residue (>300 µm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power

binocular microscope to quantify the level of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Abundance was recorded as above. A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example roots and modern plant material.

Results and Discussion

Residues

6.5.5 Due to the samples becoming contaminated after the floatation process, the entirety of the residue from sample <2>, and part of that from sample <3> have been discarded. This section will discuss only the results from sample <1>, and a partial residue from sample <3>.

6.5.6 Samples <1> and <3> contained a limited amount of environmental material; wood charcoal was identified in moderate amounts (between 30 & 100 fragments), with a number of fragments of a suitable size for species identification present in both (>4mm in length/width). A single charred seed was additionally reported in sample <1>, of the genus Fabaceae sp. (peas).

6.5.7 Heavily fragmented mussel (Mytilus edulis) shell was found in both residues, though concentrations were small (<10 pieces), and shards too small to be sided. Sample <3> also contained a small amount of broken cockle shell (Cerastoderma edule). No terrestrial molluscs were identified.

Sample No.	**1**	**3**
Context No.	113	115
Feature No.		116
Volume (liters)	30	15
Method of processing	F	F
Charcoal		
Charcoal <2mm		
Charcoal 2-4mm	2	2
Charcoal >4mm	3	3
Charred seeds		
Fabaceae undiff.	1	
Marine shell		
Cerastoderma edule (frags.)	1	1
Mytilus edulis (frags.)		1

Table 7: Assessment of environmental residues
Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant

Flots

6.5.8 All of the processed samples produced flots, ranging in volume from two to forty-two millilitres. Preservation of environmental material was mixed across the assemblage. Wood charcoal was present in all of the samples, with each containing over 100 macroscopic pieces though, of these, only samples <1> and <3> contained any sizeable specimens, and neither more than five viable fragments.

6.5.9 Weed seeds were identified throughout the assemblage; the most commonly observed genera were Juncus sp. (rushes), found in all three samples, and Sambucus sp. (elder), found in samples <1> and <2>. Rush seeds, as well as being the most common taxa, were also the most abundant, with all of the assessed flots containing moderate to semi-frequent amounts. Small densities (<30 specimens) of Rubus sp. (brambles), Lamium sp. (dead nettles) and Alliaria sp. (garlic mustard) were additionally reported.

6.5.10 Samples <1> and <2> were also found to contain a small amount (<30 specimens) of charred seeds. Sample <1> contained the greatest diversity of material, with eight separate taxa represented, including Poaceae sp. (grasses), Urtica sp. (nettles) and Chenopodium sp. (goosefoots). Sample <2> contained only a small amount of charred pea (Fabaceae undiff.) and brambles (Rubus sp.). All of the assessed residues additionally contained low frequencies of charred cereals, with wheat (Triticum sp.) being identified throughout, and a small amount of Rye (Secale cerale) in sample <1>. Samples <1> and <2> contained a small amount of grains that were too heavily broken and distorted to be identified, suggesting that they have been subjected to prolonged, high-temperature burning.

6.5.11 Terrestrial molluscs were observed in all of the assessed samples, with Cecilioides acicula being the most frequent, identified in three samples. This snail, when found in archaeological deposits, is commonly interpreted as a sign of burrowing activity and may be an indicator of bioturbation. Snail eggs

and/or juvenile specimens were also reported throughout.

6.5.12 In terms of other remains, a moderate amount of small animal/amphibian bone was identified in sample <1>, also with a single fish scale. Samples <1> and <3> also contained a small amount of insect remains and combustion residue, in the form of coal and vitreous material was found in samples <1> and <2>.

6.5.13 A full account of the material reported in the flots is given in Table 8.

Sample No.		**1**	**2**	**3**
Context No.		**113**	**114**	**115**
Feature No.		**-**	**-**	**116**
Volume of flot (millilitres)		**42**	**28**	**2**
Charcoal				
Charcoal >1mm		4	3	1
Charcoal <1mm		4	4	4
Frags. of ID size		<5	X	<5
Seeds				
Alliaria cf.	Garlic mustard			1
Juncus sp.	Rushes	2	2	3
Lamium sp.	Dead-nettles	1		
Rubus sp.	Brambles		2	
Sambucus sp.	Elder	1	1	
Unknown				1
Charred seeds				
Chenopodium hybridum	Maple-leaved goosefoot	1		
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots	1		
Eleocharis cf.	Spike-rushes	1		
Erica sp.	Heaths	1		
Fabaceae undiff.	Peas		1	
Poaceae undiff. (small)	Grasses	1		
Rubus sp.	Brambles	1	1	
Urtica sp.	Nettles	1		
Unknown		1	1	
Grain				
Secale cereale	Rye	1		
Triticum sp.	Wheat (undiff.)	1	1	1
No ID		1	1	

Sample No.		**1**	**2**	**3**
Context No.		**113**	**114**	**115**
Feature No.		**-**	**-**	**116**
Other plant macrofossils				
Roots		1		
Snails				
Cecilioides acicula	land	3	3	2
Oxychilus sp.	land	1		
Vallonia sp.	land	1	1	
Snail eggs		2		1
Misc. Juveniles		2	2	
Other remains				
Small animal bone		2		
Fish scales		1		
Insect remains		1		1
Insect eggs				2
Coal			1	
Vitreous globules		1	1	

Table 8: Assessment of environmental flots

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

6.5.14 In summary, preservation of environmental material in the samples from 21 Victoria Road was generally poor. There is little in the ecological assemblage to suggest how the site functioned on a day-to-day basis, or pinpoint a particular use for any of the sampled features. In addition, none of the residues contained concentrations of seeds or grain in a great enough abundance (>100 specimens) to prove significant in terms of reconstructing the local environment or agricultural practices. The presence of roots and/or burrowing snail also presents the possibility of bioturbation within these deposits. As a result no further analysis on the environmental archive is recommended, however a summary of this assessment should be included in any subsequent site publications.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation recorded well-preserved stratified deposits relating to the occupation of Chatteris Abbey during the medieval period and its dissolution in AD 1538.

7.1.2 The archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation belonged to four main chronological periods: 'high' medieval (12th- to 14th-century), late medieval (*c.* 15th- to early-16th-century), post-medieval (*c.* 17th- to 18th-century) and modern (19th-century+). The medieval archaeological features and deposits are mainly dumps of rubbish deriving from the medieval abbey. The finds are typical of assemblages from medieval ecclesiastical/ monastic contexts, in particular the decorated window glass and imported French jugs and other relatively high-status pottery. Remains from the post-medieval period comprised a single pit and remnants of a crushed mortar surface layer, possibly a yard surface. Features relating to the modern period comprised demolition layers and made ground dating to the 19th century and later.

7.1.3 The majority of the pottery assemblage recovered from the medieval deposits dates to the 13th and 14th centuries, at the height of Chatteris Abbey's occupation. However, there is also a small quantity of residual late Saxon pottery, including Thetford-type ware, likely to have been made in Huntingdon, and a few sherds of St Neots and Stamford ware. This small group suggests pre-Conquest occupation in the near vicinity, which is not unexpected given that the abbey was founded in the early 11th century. A small amount of late medieval/ transitional and early post-medieval pottery is also present, alongside small finds which are likely to belong to the 15th and possibly 16th centuries: a belt mount, copper wire pins and fragments of window glass.

7.1.4 The layout of the abbey which has previously been suggested would place this site immediately west of the monastic kitchens and guest house (Figure 4) and it can be suggested that the deposits in the evaluation trench are mainly dumps of redeposited rubbish deriving from the abbey kitchens. The long date range of the ceramic material shows that these deposits were

continuously formed throughout the Abbey's occupation and were likely redeposited at a later date in the late 15th or 16th centuries.

7.1.5 A high number of cross-links of the same pottery vessel between the different deposits also suggest that these were redeposited layers from a primary rubbish disposal area, within a single clearance event. The later dates of the ceramic material and a number of copper pins recovered from the deposits correspond with the date of the dissolution of the Abbey, 1539. These dates and the presence of window pane glass and building material within the deposits heavily suggest that the clearance event was in relation to the dissolution of the Abbey, and the subsequent 'clearing out' of the buildings and grounds.

7.1.6 Overlying the medieval features were remnants of a compacted mortar surface layer and associated bedding layers. No dating was recovered from these layers; however they were heavily truncated by a pit whose fills contained material dating to at least the 15th century. Little of the surface layer remained within the trench limits, and therefore it is difficult to ascertain its function, however it is reasonable to presume it was a work or yard surface, possibly relating to Park House, the 17th century building that was erected on the site of the former Abbey.

7.1.7 The preservation of archaeology on the site was high, with very little modern disturbance on the underlying deposits; a continuous sequence of archaeology from the late post-medieval period down to the medieval. There is a potential for earlier deposits to be also present as there was a continuation of archaeological deposits below 1.2m, however these were unable to be excavated or recorded. It is reasonable to assume from the results of this evaluation, and of the evaluation previously done to the east of the site, that the archaeological survival in the area around the site is high and there is a significant amount of Abbey archaeology surviving within the immediate vicinity of the site.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The evaluation found a well-preserved, stratified sequence of remains, probably primarily relating to the dissolution of Chatteris Abbey in the mid-16th century and subsequent ground clearance/ demolition activity in the vicinity. Underneath these clearance deposits there appears to be a sequence of in-situ horizons of 'high' medieval date associated with the occupation of the abbey during the 12th to 14th centuries and potentially earlier. The overall depth of the archaeological levels and how far back in the abbey's period of occupation they may extend is not known, as excavation ceased at a maximum depth of 1.3m and medieval deposits could only be investigated in a small test pit.

8.2 Although the majority of it is redeposited in late medieval/ transitional layers and dumps, the overall date range of the pottery found in the evaluation extends back to the late Saxon period, indicating occupation in the vicinity from the earliest years of the Benedictine nunnery, founded in *c*. 1006–16.

8.3 The character of the finds, including imported Continental pottery and other wares brought in from some distance (e.g. Scarborough ware) indicates a degree of status, as would be expected of a medieval monastic community, even one that was not particularly well-endowed, as seems to have been the case with Chatteris Abbey.

8.4 Furthermore, the character of the finds — including large quantities of domestic-type pottery, animal bone that seems to mostly be food waste, and small finds such as the possible medieval mortar, would fit an identification as dumped rubbish from the monastic kitchens (even if this material was originally present in middens elsewhere nearby and has been redeposited here during post-Dissolution ground clearance). This would tie in with the current suggested layout of the abbey, which places the present site directly beside the monastic kitchens and guest house (Figure 4).

8.5 Together with the previous evaluation at No. 19 Victoria Street, the evaluation confirms that there are well-preserved remains associated with Chatteris Abbey in the gardens on the north side of Victoria Street and it is to

be hoped that there will be an opportunity for larger-scale open area investigation somewhere in this vicinity in the future.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Ian Gowler for commissioning the archaeological work, and Mr G. Hitch and Ms J. Germeney for funding the project, and for all their kind assistance prior to and during the fieldwork. The project was managed for PCA by Tom Woolhouse. The fieldwork was monitored on behalf of Fenland District Council by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. Figures were prepared by the PCA CAD Department.

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10.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey. www.bgs.ac.uk (Date accessed 30/04/2017).

Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Trench Location

Figure 3 Trench Location and HER References

Figure 4 Plan of suggested layout of Chatteris Abbey

Figure 5 Phase Plans

Figure 6 Sections 1–4

11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

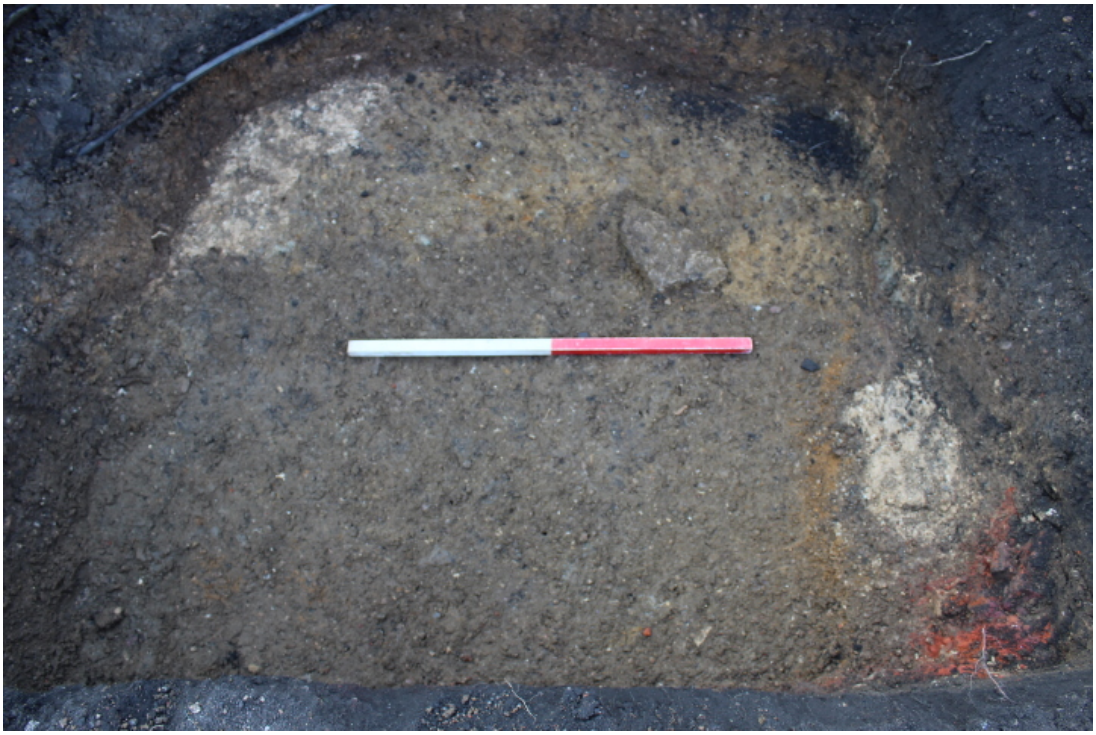

Plate 1: Trench at limit of machine excavation, view south showing Pit [103] at top of plate, mortar layer (105) at top left, layer (104) to the right and layer (107) to the bottom.

Plate 2: Trench mid-excavation, view east showing Pit [109] to left and layer (114) to right.

Plate 3: View south, showing north-facing section of trench and Pit [116] to right.

Plate 4: South-facing section of trench

Plate 5: View west towards east-facing section of trench, showing Pit [116] to bottom left and layer (117) in base of trench.

Plate 6: View east towards west-facing section of trench

Plate 7: South side of trench, post-excavation, view south showing layer (117) at the top and layer (118) at the bottom of the plate.

12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Cut	Type	Category
100	0	Layer	Topsoil
101	0	Layer	Subsoil
102	103	Fill	Pit
103	103	Cut	Pit
104	0	Layer	Surface
105	0	Layer	Surface
106	0	Layer	Bedding
107	0	Layer	Rubbish Deposit
108	109	Fill	Pit
109	109	Cut	Pit
110	111	Fill	Pit
111	111	Cut	Pit
112	103	Fill	Pit
113	0	Layer	Rubbish Deposit
114	0	Layer	Rubbish Deposit
115	116	Fill	Pit
116	116	Cut	Pit
117	0	Layer	Rubbish Deposit
118	10	Layer	Unknown
119	0	Layer	Demolition Layer
120	0	Layer	Unknown
121	0	Layer	Made Ground
122	0	Layer	Made Ground
123	0	Layer	Made Ground
124	0	Layer	Made Ground
125	0	Layer	Rubbish Deposit
126	103	Fill	Pit
127	128	Fill	Pit
128	128	Cut	Pit
129	103	Fill	Pit
130	103	Fill	Pit
131	0	Layer	Made Ground

13 APPENDIX 3: POTTERY SUMMARY CATALOGUE

Context	Sample	Fabric	Form	Rim	No.	Wt/g	Decoration	Notes	Also in	Date range
0		REFW	BL?	EV	1	6	moulded leaf			19th-20th c.
102		HTHET			1	4				840-1150
102		ROU			1	4	applied white stripe & pellet		<1> 114	c.1170-1300
102		BOUB			1	7	applied strip	pale grey, buff int, fs, sparse rounded calc, occ Fe	112	1150-1450
107		HTHET			1	3		poss NFBW?	113 114?	840-1150
107		HUNEMW	JR	FLAR	1	17	small FTIs on rim edge		113	1050-1200
107		MELCW	JR	THEV	1	11	bifid end			1150-1350
107		SCAR	JG		1	70			112? 113?	1250-1350
107		BOND			1	2	thin slip		112 113 114? 115	1430-1650
108		HUNEMW			1	23	narrow ATS	poss MEL		1050-1200
108		MEL			1	6	IHLs			1150-1350
108		PSHW	BL	EVBD	1	62		oyster shell, occ v coarse up to 7mm, dk reddish surfaces	112 113? 114?	1100-1350
108		UNID			1	16		fscp, thick-walled - poss RB, local THET or RB tile		?
112		HTHET			1	7				840-1150
112		HUNEMW			1	14		poss same as jar rim in 107 & 113		1050-1200

Context	Sample	Fabric	Form	Rim	No.	Wt/g	Decoration	Notes	Also in	Date range
112		MEL			2	9				1150-1350
112		MELCW			1	21	COWLs			1150-1350
112		UPG	JG	UPFT	1	32	central ridge on handle			1200-1500
112		BOUB			2	23	applied strip		102	1150-1450
112		SCAR			1	5	applied ?rouletted strips, pellets		107? 113	1250-1350
112		PSHW			1	12			108 113? 114?	1100-1350
112		BOND			6	32	thin slip		107 113 114? 115	1430-1650
113	<1>	UNID			1	1		tiny frag, fs, occ fine calc, pink ext, pale grey int, poss BRIL		
113		HTHET			2	12				840-1150
113		HTHET			1	2			107 114?	840-1150
113	<1>	HTHET			2	6				840-1150
113	<1>	NEOT			1	1		flake		875-1100
113		HUNEMW	JR	FLAR	2	22	small FTIs on rim edge		107	1050-1200
113		EMW			1	3		sim to Norfolk types, thin-walled, oxid int, ms	114?	11th-12th c.
113	<1>	HUNEMW			1	1		tiny		1050-1200
113		SCAR			1	3	applied ?rouletted		107? 112	1250-1350

Context	Sample	Fabric	Form	Rim	No.	Wt/g	Decoration	Notes	Also in	Date range
							strips, pellets			
113		PSHW			1	14			108? 112? 114	1100-1350
113		SHW	JR	UPBD	1	13		poss PASL, but most fine calc leached, some abraded shell	113 114 <1> <2>/<3>	1150-1500
113	<1>	HUNFSW			1	1				1175-1300
113		HUNFSW	CF?		1	26				1175-1300
113	<1>	MEL			1	3				1150-1350
113	<1>	MGF			2	4	white slip, narrow strips			1250-1400
113	<1>	PSHW			1	3				1100-1350
113	<1>	SSHW			1	4		sparse shell, abundant sand, dk grey		1150-1500
113	<1>	UPG			2	8	'cartwheel' stamp, applied strip	fs, sparse calc, poss BOUB		1200-1500
113	<1>	ROU			1	1	red slip dec	tiny flake	102 114	c.1170-1300
113	<1>	PSHW			4	12			108 etc?	1100-1350
113	<1>	SHW			1	4			113	1150-1500
113		BOND			3	17			107 112 114? 115	1430-1650
113	<1>	BOND			1	4			114	1430-1650
114		NVCC			1	1	black colour coat	tiny		Roman
114		STAM			1	2		burnt		875-1200
114		HTHET			1	4			107? 113?	840-1150

Context	Sample	Fabric	Form	Rim	No.	Wt/g	Decoration	Notes	Also in	Date range
114		HUNEMW			1	43		neck		1050-1200
114		HUNEMW			1	6		poss same as jar rim and/or base in 107 etc		1050-1200
114		EMW			1	5			113?	11th-12th c.
114		DEST			1	11				1150-1300
114		HUNFSW	CF?		1	29			113	1175-1300
114		HUNFSW	CF?		1	33		pierced	113/114?	1175-1300
114		GRIM			1	3	brown slip stripe	red int, poss another similar glazed ware (Toynton?)		L.12th-14th c.
114		MEL			2	13				1150-1350
114		MEL			1	16		fine, poss LMEL		1150-1350
114		MELCW			2	34				1150-1350
114		MELCW			1	5		buff		1150-1350
114		PSHW	JR	UPBD	1	4		most shell leached, sim to SHW, black-dk brown		1100-1350
114		ROU			1	3	red strip	poss same as other ROU		c.1170-1300
114		ROU			1	4	v thick pointed applied pellet, orange slip	poss same as other ROU		c.1170-1300
114		ROU			2	15	red slip areas	surfaces lost	102 <1>	c.1170-1300
114		PSHW			1	5			108? 112? 113	1100-1350

Context	Sample	Fabric	Form	Rim	No.	Wt/g	Decoration	Notes	Also in	Date range
114		SHW	JR	UPBD	1	10			113 <1> <2>/<3>	1150-1500
114		BOND			1	7	applied triangular section strip			1430-1650
114		BOND			1	16			<1>	1430-1650
114		BOND			1	4	thin slip, ?melted glaze spot		107? 113? 114? 115?	1430-1650
114/115	<2>/<3>	HUNEMW			3	8		poss 1 vessel		1050-1200
114/115	<2>/<3>	SHW	JR	UPBD	3	17			113 <1> 114	1150-1500
114/115	<2>/<3>	FREN			1	1		v fine whiteware	118?	12th-14th c.
115		STAM	JR?	EV	1	7		warped rim - burnt or waster?		875-1200
115	<3>	HTHET			2	5				840-1150
115	<3>	MGF			1	1	white slip ext	tiny, poss same as <1>		1250-1400
115	<3>	BOND			1	4	thin slip		107 etc	1430-1650
117		HTHET			1	4				840-1150
118		FREN			1	1			<2>/<3>?	12th-14th c.

14 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

14.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-279616

Project details

Project name	21 Victoria St, Chatteris TT
Short description of the project	The site is located within the former precinct of Chatteris Abbey, founded in c. AD 1000 and dissolved in 1538; medieval walls and burials were recorded during an evaluation in the garden of the neighbouring house at No. 19 Victoria Street. The aim of the evaluation was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. A single c. 2 x 2m test pit was dug within the footprint of the proposed extension to the rear of a residential property. This revealed a well-preserved stratified sequence of finds-rich medieval layers and deposits. Many of these deposits are likely to be dumps of rubbish from the monastic kitchens, which have previously been suggested as being located in precisely this area. .
Project dates	Start: 06-04-2017 End: 07-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5043 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	RUBBISH PIT Medieval
Monument type	RUBBISH DEPOSIT Medieval
Monument type	SURFACE LAYER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	BELT BUCKLE Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER PINS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	DECORATED WINDOW GLASS Medieval
Significant Finds	STONE VESSEL Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"

Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND CHATTERIS 21 Victoria Street, Chatteris: an archaeological evaluation
Postcode	PE16 6AP
Study area	18 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3930 8585 52.452425115728 0.050157204163 52 27 08 N 000 03 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Andy Thomas
Project design originator	Tom Woolhouse
Project director/manager	Tom Woolhouse
Project supervisor	Clare Jackson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr G Hitch

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

recipient	
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at 21 Victoria Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jackson, C.
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