### Chapter 8. Roman Road Survey

### 8.1 Summary

Members of the Archaeological and Historical Landscape Research Group (AHLRG), the Easton Royal Heritage Group (ERHG), and the local community are currently involved in a project to locate the foundations and/or other remains of the lost Trinitarian Priory. The project includes investigation of the priory itself, and the history and development of the village of Easton Royal and its immediate environs.

Through preliminary discussions with members of the community, observations on the ground, and the study of maps and aerial LiDAR images it has become apparent the Roman road running south from Cunetio (modern Mildenhall) may have passed through Eastern Royal on its route to Old Sarum. This report records the results of a project undertaken to investigate this possibility.

Excavation revealed what appears to be the agger of a road with ditches either side, dated by the high proportion of Romano-British finds recovered.

#### 8.2 Acknowledgements

The Archaeological and Historical Landscape Research Group project would like to express their grateful thanks to Beverley Helps and her family for their permission to carry out this excavation on their property, and also to Graham Cooper and his family of Easton Farm for allowing us to carry out archaeological investigations on their lands.

The Authors are also indebted to the following people:

John Oswin and his team, for carrying out a full geophysical survey of the PrioryFfield and for producing an in-depth report of the site. Mike McQueen for the overhead photographic pictures and the LiDAR images, and for carrying out a geophysical survey of the field at Home Farm where the excavation took place. David Galvin for metal-detecting the excavation and spoil heaps areas. The committee of Easton village hall for allowing AHLRG members to use their facilities.

People involved with the excavations were:-

Brian Dancer, Davin Galvin, Ian Johnson, Stella Maddocks, Sara Morgan, Mike McQueen, Judith Roseman and Mike Williams.

#### 8.3 Site Location and Description

Easton Royal is situated 7 km south-south-east of Marlborough and 3.70 km east of Pewsey in Wiltshire (Figures 118 & 119). The site lies at a height of approximately 140 metres based on the OS level of the B3087 road as it passes through the north of the village.

The area under investigation is a field measuring 250 x 260 metres, an area of 6.5 hectares. The present field was originally four separate parcels of land, three long strips and a considerably larger field (Figures 120 & 121), perhaps reflecting Medieval farming practices. Collin's Farm has been renamed Home Farm and the field under investigation is part of this holding.

These fields have been known locally by various names including Street Field, Council Field, Back Street Field, Road Field, Lane Field, and Easton Street Gate Field. Other names are used on the 1935 Sale Map and the 1846 Survey Map, these are Long Closes, Green Lane Close and Conygre Closes.

The geology of the field comprises a shallow deposit of top and sub-soils containing a mixture of

lime-rich fertile sandy soils lying directly above the underlying greensand stratum. The land in this area of Easton Royal drains naturally to the south into a small stream which crosses the parish from east to west.



#### Figure 118. National and Wiltshire Maps









Shaded area shows current extent of the field



Figure 121. Survey map of Easton, (WSA 3354, 1846)

### 8.4 Research Aims and Objectives

There was a priory providing hospitality for travellers, which was presumably situated close to the main Salisbury – Marlborough road through Easton. There is also the possibility that it lay close to the Roman road which is thought to have passed through the eastern edge of the village. The project aim was to locate and, if possible, map the line of the Roman road from Mildenhall (Cunetio) to Old Sarum particularly its route through the village of Easton Royal.

This was to be achieved using maps, aerial photography, LiDAR images and other available documentary sources; field walking, earthwork survey, and an evaluation trench across the projected line of the road.

#### 8.5 Geophysical Survey Priory Field

An initial non-intrusive geophysical survey was carried out across the supposed site of the priory, the projected line of the road servicing the priory, and the adjoining fields using the geophysical techniques of magnetometry and resistivity. The results for the Priory Field are shown below as figures 122 and 123. A more detailed account of the survey is included as Chapter 4 above and is also available as a separate report (Oswin, 2014).

The underlying geology of the Priory Field is greensand, which is not susceptible to magnetic variation, and so the magnetometry was ineffective. The twin probe resistivity survey showed features which matched the earthworks visible on the ground, and the line of the road, which now shows signs of wear and erosion.

### Figure 122. Magnetometer Survey from Priory Field Site

Figure 123. Resistance Survey from the Priory field site



### 8.6 Geophysical Survey Home Farm

A magnetometry survey of a small area 20 x 80 metres on the Home Farm site proved ineffective as the geology there is the same as in the Priory Field (Figure 124).

Figure 124. Magnetometer Survey from the Home farm site



### Easton Royal

#### 8.7 Excavation Methods and Techniques

A unique site code, ERRR/14, was agreed prior to commencement of the excavation. The work was carried out on 24th, 25th and 26th October 2014, and an appropriately qualified archaeologist monitored all intrusive groundwork.

A single trench was excavated using spades and hand tools until surviving levels of archaeological significance were located or natural deposits reached. Discrete features were excavated to a degree to establish the extent, character and, where possible, the date of the feature. All features and deposits were assigned unique numbers and recorded using the AHLRG proforma recording system.

The trench was planned at a scale of 1:20 and a section drawn at a scale of 1:10. Heights of all principle features and levels were taken based on Ordnance Datum (Newlyn) and recorded on plan and section. A full photographic record of the investigation and of individual features was maintained throughout the excavation using a digital camera.

Finds were treated in accordance with the principles and practices set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (revised 2001).

The trench and soil from excavation were scanned by metal detector and any positive signal locations marked for further investigation.

After completion of the work the trench was backfilled and turfreinstated.



Figure 125. OS Map showing position of trench

Figure 126. OS Map showing position of the trench and Geophysical survey (Phase 2)



### 8.8 Summary of the results from the evaluation trench 1

The trench was located to achieve the research objective of identifying the course through the village of the presumed Roman road (Figures 125 and 126). The trench was oriented east-west across the projected line of the road and measured 7.8 metres by 1 metre. The National Grid Reference for the south-west corner of the trench (420909 161005) was determined using a hand held GPS, and its height above ODN (141.17) using a dumpy level.

The topsoil (001) was a friable to firm, mid brown silty loam between 6 and 37 cm in depth. It contained 20 to 25% inclusions of angular stones up to 6cm in size. There were also roots, rotting vegetation and disturbance by vermin in this layer.

Directly below the topsoil was a greenish grey deposit (002). It was very compact and dense, consisting of greensand blocks, sarsen fragments and occasional flint and pebbles. The deposit was up to 0.5 metres deep and 6.5 metres wide, and was interpreted as the surface of the Roman road. The original underlying deposits had been levelled to provide a flat surface on which the material had been laid and compacted to form the road surface (Figure 127).

There was a small linear ditch [003] on the western side of the trench oriented north-south, half-moon in profile with sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 45cm wide by 24cm deep and contained a single fill (004) of firm, greyish brown, silty loam with no inclusions or finds. The purpose of this ditch is unclear, it is cut into the fills of a larger underlying ditch [005] and so post-dates it, and is possibly associated with the planting of the adjacenthedgerow.

The larger ditch [005] on the western side of the trench appears to be associated with the road. It is oriented north-south, assumed to be V-shaped in profile although its western limit was not reached as the adjacent boundary hedge and fence were constructed over it. The area exposed was 1.10metres wide by 55cm deep, but the original ditch probably had an overall width of 1.75 metres and a depthof 1.25 metres. The ditch contained three fills, the largest of which (006) was a friable to firm, mid greyish brown, silty/sandy loam with inclusions. These included small fragments of greensand and sarsen stones, and occasional pieces of fractured flint. Context (007) was a small deposit in the upper fill (006) of ditch [005] that could be associated with the smaller ditch [003], but with noticeable differences in the colour and make-up of the soils. These were friable, dark brown, silty clay withno inclusions and measured 15cm wide and 17cm deep. The primary fill (008) of ditch [005] was not fully excavated due to time constraints. This was possibly the bottom fill of the Romano/British ditch and was formed by natural erosion of the road surface into the adjacent ditch. The deposit was water- lain in character and comprised a firm, greenish grey mixture of silty sands with occasional fragments of greensand stone.

There were two distinct features on the east side of the trench. Feature (009) was an area which may have been the ditch on the eastern side of the road, the counterpart to ditch [005] on the west. However, the feature was not fully excavated and may have been caused by modern agricultural practices such as the use of a sub-soiler. It comprised a friable to firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay with inclusions of sand, and small fragments of greensand and sarsen stone. The feature was oriented north-south and was 55cm wide and up to 20cm deep.

There was a small ditch [010] on the eastern side of the road surface to the west of (009). It is oriented north-south and appears to mirror the small ditch [003] on the western side of the road. This ditch is 58 cm wide and 21 cm deep, and roughly half-moon shaped with sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill which was the same as or very similar to the topsoil (001).



**EASTON ROYAL ROMAN ROAD** 

SOUTH FACING SECTION

ER/RR14

SCALE 1:20

Figure 127. Section drawing through the Roman road



Figure 128. Aerial photograph of the trench under excavation.

Figure 129. Aerial photograph of the trench under excavation, facing south.





Figure 130. Photograph of the trench under excavation.



Figure 131. Photograph of the trench, showing the western ditches.

Figure 132. Photograph of the trench, showing the western ditches







Figure 134. Photograph of the trench, showing the agger surface of the road.





Figure 135. Photograph of the trench, showing the agger surface of the road.

Figure 136. Photograph of the trench, showing the ditches on the eastern side of the trench.



### 8.9 The Projected Route of the Roman road.

The Roman road from Mildenhall (Roman Cunetio) to Winchester (Venta Belgarum) leaves Cunetio (421789-168206) in a south-south-westerly direction through Savernake Forest passing east of Braydon Hook House (421640-167270) to cross the A436 Marlborough road (421400-165540) near the access road to Park Farm, Cadley. It then heads towards Crook's Copse (421180-163940) passing along the copse's western edge and continues south, running east of Round Copse(421170-163070), to cross Cock Lane (421128-162407), the Easton Royal to Ram Alley road (421048-161929), and the B3087 Burbage to Pewsey Road (420900-161120). The route then runs south along the eastern edge of Easton Royal village, through the location of the evaluation trench (420909-161005), across the Priory Field to the east of the modern cemetery (420925-160434) to cross Bishop's Walk(421005- 160125). It continues south to Old Sarum (Sorviodunum) running east of Easton Clump (421461- 159395), passing by Hill Barn (421607-158809) and Falstone Pond (421454-157170).

At Sorviodunum it joined the Roman road to Venta Belgarum.

Sections of the projected route are shown on Ordnance Survey maps, and the road is still visible in parts as linear earthworks on the ground, crop and parch marks, aerial photographs, and LiDAR images. All of which have been used to plot the projected route.

### Figure 137. OS map showing the line of the Roman road from Savernake to Hill Barn, Easton



Figure 138. Aerial photograph of Easton Royal showing the predicted line of Roman road in red and the perimeter of the survey area in yellow .



Figure 139. LiDAR aerial image of Easton showing line of the Roman road.







Figure 141. Aerial photograph of Easton Royal showing the line of the Roman road



### 8.10 Discussion

The programme of work involving documentary research, geophysical and earthwork survey, and an evaluation trench has enabled tentative conclusions to be drawn about the route, nature, date of construction, and subsequent use of the Roman road.

The evaluation trench showed the profile of a road with ditches on either side typical of Roman methods of construction. It appears to have been constructed of locally available materials, the surface being a compacted mixture of greensand blocks, sarsen stone, and flint and pebbles. The greensand blocks have degraded to small stones and sand over the years possibly because of wear and tear caused through use by animals and people, and by natural erosion.

Evidence for its construction during the Romano-British period is provided by study of the current landscape, which shows fossilised medieval plots of land abutting the road, and further supported by the finds recovered from the trench of a 4th century Roman coin, Romano-British pottery and numerous tesserae some with mortar still attached.

The presence of tesserae suggests a Roman building of some importance nearby, possibly a villa or a shrine. There is an undated rectilinear enclosure 110 to the south of the trench at 420931-160895 (Figures 126, 142 & 143).

The road was used in the Medieval period by travellers between Old Sarum and Marlborough and this possibly explains the location of the Trinitarian Priory close to the road. The direct course of the road through Easton Royal was blocked in the 16th century when the western part of Savernake Forest was enclosed as Savernake Park and Brimslade Park (VCH Vol.16:Kinwardstone).

The route was disrupted again in the 19th century, firstly by the construction of the Kennet & Avon canal and later by the construction of railway lines.

# Figure 142. Aerial photograph of the eastern side the village showing the line of Roman roadand the enclosure both indicated.





Figure 143. Aerial photograph of the enclosure.

Figure 144. Photograph taken by Drone south showing the straight line of the road.



### 8.11 Finds Assessment

The 82 finds were retrieved from 5 contexts, a metal detector was used on the spoil heap and a few stray finds were found on the ground surface close to the trench.

Artefact	001	002	006	007	008
Dressed stone	1 chalk tesserae	5 chalk tesserae		1 chalk tesserae	4 chalk tesserae
	1 slate fragment	6 dark grey stone tesserae			2 dark grey stone tesserae
Flint	2 flakes	Flake and broken scraper			
СВМ	<ol> <li>tile tesserae</li> <li>Romano- British fragments</li> <li>modern fragments</li> </ol>	5 tile tesserae 2 tile fragments 2 Romano- British fragments		1 tile tesserae	
Pottery	2 Post Medieval sherds	3 Romano- British sherds 2 Ceramic tesserae (R-B) 7 Post Medieval sherds	1 Romano- British sherd 3 Post Medieval sherds	5 Romano- British sherds	4 Romano- British sherds
Metal	1 fe object				
Coin		CuA Romano- British coin			
Animal Bone	Rabbit (almost entire)				
Tobacco Pipe	Base of bowl 1 stem fragment	1 stem fragment			
Glass	1 modern fragment	1 modern fragment			
Misc	1 'Toni Gum', chewing gum wrapper 1 piece of chalk with black paint on it				

Figure 145. Table of finds from each context

### 8.11.1 Dressed Stone

The dressed stone consisted of tesserae cut from 2 types of stone, chalk (11) and a dark grey stone (8), the latter being exotic and the type currently unknown. All the tesserae had evidence of mortar on them. A piece of slate was also retrieved, probably modern roofing material.

### 8.11.2 Flint

All the flint was chalk derived (local), 3 flakes and 1 broken scraper, found close to the surface above Romano-British layers would indicate it has been disturbed by the plough or burrowing animals. None of these worked flints were patinated and only one flake still had some cortex remaining on the surface (c1%).

### 8.11.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6 fragments of Romano-British tile and brick, 7 tesserae cut from a dark red tile (Roman-British) and 9 modern fragments of brick.

### 8.11.4 Pottery

25 sherds of pottery were excavated, 52% (13) Romano-British and 48% (12) Post Medieval.

Black Burnished ware	3 body sherds, 1 from (002) and 2 found
	in (008)
Grey ware	1 rim sherd (002) and 1 body sherd (008)
Oxford Colour Coated ware	1 rim sherd (002) and 1 body sherd (008)
Local wares	Both body sherds, 1 from (006) and 1
	from (007)
Black ware	1 body sherd (007)
Severn Valley ware	1 body sherd (007)
Short Street Colour Coated	1 body sherd (007)
ware	
Oxford ware	1 body sherd (007)

#### Figure 146. Table of the Romano-British pottery

There were also 2 orange pottery tesserae.

#### Figure 147. Table of Post Medieval pottery

8	1 0
Olive glazed	Body sherds, 2 from (001) and 2 from
	(002)
White china	2 rims and 2 body sherds (002)
Patterned china	1 rim sherd (002)
Mustard glazed	2 body sherds (006)
Tan glazed	1 body sherd (006)

These Post Medieval sherds represent 10 vessels.

### 8.11. 5 Metal

One ferrous object 103mm x 53mm x 14mm was excavated, possibly a staple, hook or part of a chain. Ferrous barbed wire, bolts (2), nails (2), a piece of wire and a small corroded object were found by the metal detector, all from the top soil and obviously modern.

### 8.11.6 Coin

A copper alloy damaged coin was retrieved from (002), the obverse has a helmeted head facing right with the inscription "CONSTANTINUS AUG" and the reverse has two captives seated at the foot of a standard with the inscription "VIRTVS EXERCIT". The coin is dated AD309 – AD337 (Sear 1981, p316 3785).

### Figure 148. Photograph of Roman coin recovered from the agger surface of the road.



### 8.11.7 Animal Bone

The greater part of a rabbit skeleton was excavated in context (001), there was evidence of burrowing.

### 8.11.8 Clay tobacco Pipe

Tobacco pipe was found in the top and sub soil contexts and also a piece of stem was discovered on the spoil heap (from the top soil). This consisted of 3 stem pieces (all quite fine) and part of the base of a bowl which was inscribed with a 'T'. This pipe was manufactured by Marlborough pipe maker Thomas Hunt and dates to the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (1640-1680).

### 8.11.9 Glass

Two modern fragments were excavated from the top and sub soil.

### 8.11.10 Miscellaneous finds

A modern chewing gum wrapper was retrieved from (001) the top soil and a chalk pebble with the remains of black paint on it.

### 8.11.11 Stray finds

A flint flake and tile tesserae were found on the ground surface close to the trench, possibly disturbed by ploughing or burrowing animals.

### 8.11.12 Discussion of finds

Of the 82 finds, 4 (5%) were prehistoric worked flint, 48 (58.5%) Romano-British and 30(36.5%) Post Medieval.

The tesserae are of particular interest, 28 were recovered and are of 4 different coloured material, white chalk (11), dark grey stone (8), dark red tile (7) and 2 orange pottery, measuring roughly 15mm x 15mm x 15mm all have mortar on them indicating that at one time they were laid. The tesserae together with 6 fragments of Romano-British ceramic building material would seem to indicate the presence of a building in the vicinity.

All artefacts recovered and a copy of this report will be given to the appropriate land owners.

### 8.12 Archives

The archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation undertaken, is currently held by "The Archaeological + Historical Landscape Research Group".

Copies of this report and all artefacts found on their lands will be presented to their respective landowners. Report will be made available to other interested parties on request.

This report will be distributed to the following:

Mr. Cooper, Easton farm. Mrs. Helps, Home farm Mrs. Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire, Mr. Steve Hobbs, Wiltshire County Archivist Mrs. Liz Johnson of Easton Royal Heritage Group

The report will become part of the local and national online archive as a HER record, and will also be available digitally to other organizations, including the Archaeological Data Service. The final report will also be part of the finished CD ROM, and as a printable PDF, free to the local community, History Society members, and the school of Easton Royal.

### 8.13 Bibliography

Oswin J, 2014. Geophysical Survey at Easton Royal, Wiltshire

Sear, D R. 1981 Roman Coins and their values. London: B A Seaby Ltd.

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Victoria County History, A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 16: Kinwardstone Hundred

### 8.14 Appendix – Context Sheets and Levels

### Figure 149. Master Context Sheet

Site Name: Easton Royal. Site Code: 1		ER/RR14			
Roman F	Road Site (H	ome Farm)			
	1				
Trench	Context	Context Type and Bri	Depth of	Tools	
No.	Number		Context or size	Used	
			of Cut		
1		Trench measurements 7.2	25 x 1.00	7.80m length x	
		metres, oriented East to V	Vest.	1.00m width	
1	(001)	Topsoil		Varying	Spade
				between 6 and	and
				37cm in-depth	Trowel
1	(002)	Deposit used as the road s	surface	6.50 metres	Spade
				wide and 50cm	and
				in-depth	Trowel
1	[003]	Cut of small ditch on wes	tern side of	45cm wide x	
		trench		24 cm deep	
1	(004)	Fill of small on western side [003]		45cm wide x	Trowel
				24 cm deep	
1	[005]	Cut of large ditch on west	tern side	1.10 metres	
				wide x 55 cm	
				deep	
1	(006)	Fill of large ditch on west	ern side [005]	1.10 metres	Spade
				wide x 45 cm	and
				deep	Trowel
1	(007)	Upper fill of ditch [005]		15cm wide x	Trowel
				17cm deep	
1	(008)	Sand deposit on western side below		17cm wide x	Spade
		[005]		10cm deep	and
					Trowel
1	(009)	Deposit under (001) on ea	stern side	55cm wide x	Spade
				20cm deep	and
					Trowel
1	[010]	Cut of small ditch on East	tern side of	58cm wide x	Spade
		trench, filled by (001)		21cm deep	and
					Trowel

Project Code : ERRR/14	Area: Co-ordin Trench 1	ates : E/N	Context Type : Deposit	Context No : (001)		
DEPOSIT	1.Compaction Friable to	firm				
	2. Colour Mid Brow	Mid Brown				
3. Textu	re/composition Silty Loan	Silty Loom				
o. reatu	4 Inclusions Stones 20°	% -25% angular un t	to 6cm in shane			
	5 Dimensions Between 6	to 37 cm	to ocm in shape			
6.	Contamination Roots and	rooting vegetation				
7. Method/level of recovery Spade an		Trowel				
/. Miethou/le	8 Boundaries Clear	TTOWE				
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	Shape in plan IV/A					
2. Orientation N/A 3. Profile N/A						
	4. Sides N/A					
	5. Base N/A					
	6. Dimensions N/A					
7	7. Fill numbers   N/A					
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<b>Bulk Artefacts Re</b>	covered from this Context	Environmental S	ample No's	Recorded by/Date		
Glass fragment, T	esserae, Tobacco pipe	None		<b>,</b>		
pieces,	1.494		- ×	L.Amadio 26/10/2014		
Bones from a rabb	oit, Romano British and					
Modern CBM, Po	st medieval pottery sherds.					
Fe objects, Worke	d flints, piece of slate roof					
tile and "Toni" ou	m wrapper.					

### Figure 150. Context Sheet for (001)

### Figure 151. Context Sheet for (002)

ERRR/14 T1	dinates : E/N /	Context Type : Fill	Context No : (002)			
DEPOSIT 1. Compaction Very Co	ompact					
2. Colour Greenis	h Grey					
3. Texture/composition Greensa	Greensand					
4. Inclusions Greensa	and blocks, Sarcens	fragments occasio	nal flints and pebbles			
5. Dimensions 6.50 me	tres wide and up to	0.50 metres in-dep	th			
6. Contamination Low						
7. Method/level of recovery Spade a	nd Trowel					
8. Boundaries Clear						
CUT 1. Shape in plan N/A						
2. Orientation N/A						
3. Profile N/A						
4 Sides N/A						
5 Base N/A						
6 Dimensions N/A						
7 Fill numbers N/A						
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Project Code : ERRR/14	Area : T1	Co-ordinates : E/N /	Context Type : Cut	Context No : [003]		
DEPOSIT	1. Compaction	N/A				
	2. Colour	N/A				
3. Text	ure/composition	N/A				
	4. Inclusions	N/A				
	5. Dimensions	N/A				
6. Contamination 7. Method/level of recovery		N/A				
		N/A				
8. Boundaries		N/A	······			
CUT	1. Shape in plan	Linear Ditch				
	2. Orientation	North-South, West side of	f trench			
	3. Profile	Half moon shape				
	4. Sides	Sloping				
	5. Base	Concave				
	6. Dimensions	45cm wide by 24cm in-de	pth			
DIAL C	7. Fill numbers	(004)				
kelated or Same a	s Contexts:					
		(001)		] [ ] [ ]		
L						
STRATIGRAPHIC	MATRIX					
		00]	31			
		(00	4)			
		Interpretation of Cont	ext or Cut:			
Small ditch on the	western side of tr	ench, medieval or later, int	erpreted as a field be	oundary when the hedge row		
was						
Planted.						
				Sketch Plans		
Plan or Section No	's	Photograph	s No's	Small Finds No's		
		na an a				

### Figure 152. Context Sheet for [003]

### Figure 153. Context Sheet for (004)

Project Code : Area : ERRR/14 T1	Co-ordinates : E/	N Context Type : Fill	Context No : (004)		
DEPOSIT 1. Compaction	Firm				
2. Colour	Grevish Brown				
3. Texture/composition	Silty Loam				
4. Inclusions	None				
5. Dimensions	45cm wide by 24cm	in-depth			
6. Contamination	Low	·······			
7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel				
8. Boundaries					
CUT 1. Shape in plan	N/A				
2. Orientation	N/A				
3. Profile	N/A				
4. Sides	N/A				
5. Base	N/A				
6. Dimensions	N/A				
7. Fill numbers	N/A				
Related or Same as Contexts:					
			<u>ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا </u>		
	[003]				
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX	Г				
		(004)			
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		an a			
the second s	Interpretation	f Context or Cut.	and the second second second second second		
	interpretation e	in context of Cut.			
Fill of linear ditab [003]	<del>.</del>	and the second second second second			
Fill of linear ditch [005]		and the second	and the second state of the		
			and a second		
		and the second			
Plan or Section No?s	DL-4	graphs No's	Sketch Plans		
See Section Drawing	Photo	graphs 140.8	Small Finds No's None Recorded		
See Section Drawing			Holie Recorded		
Bulk Artefacts Recovered from this	Context Envir	conmental Sample No's	Recorded by/Date		
Nothing recovered	None	onnonun onmpie 110 5	Accorded by/Date		
			R.Holley 26/10/2014		

### Figure 154. Context Sheet for [005]

ERRR/14 DEPOSIT	Area :	Co-ordinates : E/N	Context Type :	Context No :
DEPOSIT	T1	I , and $I$	Cut	[005]
	1. Compaction	N/A		
	2. Colour	N/A		
3. Textu	re/composition	N/A		
	4. Inclusions	N/A		
	5. Dimensions	N/A		
6.	Contamination	N/A		
7. Method/le	vel of recovery	N/A		
and the second second second	8. Boundaries	N/A		
CUT 1	. Shape in plan	Linear ditch		
	2. Orientation	North - south		
	3. Profile	V shape		
	4. Sides	Sloping		
	5. Base	V Shaped		
	6. Dimensions	1.10m wide by 45cm in-de	epth	
	7. Fill numbers (	006) (007) (008)		
Related or Same as	Contexts:			
		and the second second		
L			×	
STRATIGRAPHIC N	ATRIX			
		001	51	
		[00	<u> </u>	
	and the second	(006) (00	7) (008)	
La serie surge	يستعد الس			
		Interpretation of Cont	text or Cut:	
Large ditch on the v	vestern side of tre	nch, possible associated v	with the Roman road.	•
Large ditch on the v The feature was not	western side of tre	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed	ge and fence being place ove
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the	vestern side of tree fully excavated d	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed	ge and fence being place ove
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Top of the ditch. Th	vestern side of treat fully excavated du	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed	ge and fence being place over
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Top of the ditch. Th netres	western side of treat fully excavated du complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place over 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Fop of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tren t fully excavated du e complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place over 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Fop of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tre t fully excavated d e complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place over 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not he Fop of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tre t fully excavated du te complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place ove 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Fop of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tre fully excavated d te complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place over 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Fop of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tren t fully excavated d ne complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place ove 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Fop of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tre t fully excavated d te complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place ove 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Fop of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tre t fully excavated d te complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place ove 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Top of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tre t fully excavated d e complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place ove 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not he Fop of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tre t fully excavated d te complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place ove 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Fop of the ditch. Th metres	western side of tre t fully excavated d e complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place ove 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Fop of the ditch. Th netres	western side of tre t fully excavated d te complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place over 5 metres and a depth of 1.50
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Top of the ditch. Th metres	western side of tre t fully excavated d te complete ditch p	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75	ge and fence being place over 5 metres and a depth of 1.50 5 Sketch Plans Small Finds No's
Large ditch on the v The feature was not the Top of the ditch. Th metres Plan or Section No's Bulk Artefacts Reco	western side of tre t fully excavated d e complete ditch p 	nch, possible associated v ue to the field and the ad probably extended to an o Photograph ontext Environmer	vith the Roman road jacent boundary hed overall width of 1.75 s No's ntal Sample No's	ge and fence being place over 5 metres and a depth of 1.50 5 Sketch Plans Sketch Plans Small Finds No's Recorded by/Date

			indan salindar na siddarii - 2 m 70 mm mar san ar mar	
Project Code :	Area :	Co-ordinates : E/N	Context Type :	Context No :
ERRR/14	T1	1	Fill	(006)
DEPOSIT	1. Compaction	Friable to firm		
	2. Colour	Mid greyish brown		
3. Text	ure/composition	Silty/sandy loam		
	4. Inclusions	Small fragments of Gre	ensand and Sarcen ston	es with occasional pieces of
. 2	5 Dimensions	1 10 width by 0 15 met	as in donth	
6.	Contamination	Medium	es m-depti	
7. Method/l	7. Method/level of recovery			
	8. Boundaries	Clear	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
CUT	1. Shape in plan	N/A		
	2. Orientation	N/A		
	3. Profile	N/A		
	4. Sides	N/A		
	5. Base	N/A		
	6. Dimensions	N/A		
Related or Same a	7. FIII numbers	IN/A	the second s	
Related of Same as	s contexts.			
			ليستعقب الصحي	[]
	[005]	(007)	······································	
	4			
Toman Gil of lours	1:	Interpretation of Co	ontext or Cut:	
Lower fill of large	linear ditch [005]	on the western side of th	ench.	
		and the second		
	a a state and a state of the			
	- 100 			
		and the second second second		
Dian an Gratt M	2-		- L - NT- 1-	Sketch Plans
See Section Drawin	's 1gs	Photogra	phs No's	Small Finds No's None Recorded
Bulk Artefacts Rec Romano British an Sherds.	overed from this d Post Medieval	Context Environn Pottery None	nental Sample No's	Recorded by/Date R.Holley 26/10/2014

### Figure 155. Context Sheet for (006)

Project Code :	Area :	Co-ordinates : E/N	Context Type :	Context No :			
ERRR/14	T1	/	Fill	(007)			
DEPOSIT 1	. Compaction	Friable					
	2. Colour	Dark Brown					
3. Textur	e/composition S	Silty clay					
	4. Inclusions	None					
· * 6 C	5. Dimensions 1	15cm wide and 17cm in-depth					
7 Method/lev	vel of recovery	Frowel					
	8. Boundaries	Verv Clear					
CUT 1.	Shape in plan N	N/A					
	2. Orientation	N/A					
	3. Profile N	N/A					
	4. Sides N	N/A					
	5. Base N	N/A					
	6. Dimensions	N/A					
Polated or Same as (	. Fill numbers   P	N/A					
Related of Same as (	JUIICAIS.						
		[005]	*				
STRATIC PARTIC	ATDIX						
STRATIGRAFHIC ML		(00)	7)				
		(00					
		(00	5)				
les and the second s							
		Interpretation of Cont	ext or Cut				
Small deposit in the	upper fills of larg	e linear ditch [005], but n	hight be, or could be a	associated with smaller ditch			
[	apper nue or mig	e inten uten [ooe], sut i	inghe bey or could be				
003] but with notices	able differences in	the fills, colour and mak	e up of soils?				
			y ang kalapanan ng panakan na kananan kanya. Kanjian di Kanjian	anna d'arasti tangga tingga na ditar dinanggan dadan gi arangga tanta. Manga sana sa			
				Sketch Plans 🗪			
Plan or Section No's		Photograph	s No's	Small Finds No's			
See Section Drawing	s			None Recorded			
Dully Autofasta Deser	uanad fuom this C	ontout Environment	tal Sample Note	Depended by/Dete			
Tessarea and Roman	verea from this C	None	ital Sample No's	R Holley 26/10/2014			
	is british i ouery	TORC		10110 / 40/10/4014			
			500				

### Figure 156. Context Sheet for (007)

Project Code : ERRR/14	Area : T1	Co-ordin	ates : E/N /	Context Type : Deposit or Fill	Context No : (008)
DEPOSIT 3. Textu 6. 7. Method/l CUT	1. Compaction 2. Colour are/composition 4. Inclusions 5. Dimensions Contamination evel of recovery 8. Boundaries 1. Shape in plan 2. Orientation 3. Profile 4. Sides	Firm Greenish ( Greensand Block of G 27cm wide Low Spade and Very Clean N/A N/A N/A N/A	Grey I with silty clay Freensand by 10cm in-de Trowel but no r	s beposit of Fill	
	5. Base 6. Dimensions	N/A N/A			
Related or Same as	7. Fill numbers	N/A			
STRATIGRAPHIC M	MATRIX MATRIX Ints this context w		retation of Cont	B)	Image: style line       Image
					Sketch Plans 🗪
Plan or Section No <sup>3</sup> See Section Drawin	's Igs		Photograph	s No's	Small Finds No's None Recorded
Bulk Artefacts Rec Tessarea and Roma	overed from this ano British Potte	Context ry	Environmer None	tal Sample No's	Recorded by/Date R.Holley 26/10/2014

### Figure 157. Context Sheet for (008)

Project Code :	Area :	Co-ordinate	s: E/N	Context Type :	• Montestanti ne protecta con su del bana i della contesta con el la secona del contesta del conte contesta del contesta del contesta Contesta del contesta del contesta 	Context No :	
ERRR/14	<b>T1</b>		1	Deposit or Fill		(009)	
DEPOSIT	1. Compaction	Friable to Fir	m				
	2. Colour	<b>Greyish Brow</b>	'n				
3. Texture/composition		Silty Clay					
	4. Inclusions		asional fragmo	ents of stone			
	5. Dimensions	55cm wide by	20cm in-dept	h			
6.	Contamination	Low					
7. Method/	level of recovery	Spade and Trowel but not fully excavated					
CUT	8. Boundaries	unclear					
CUT	1. Shape in plan	N/A					
	2. Orientation	N/A					
	3. Profile	N/A					
	4. Sides	IN/A NI/A					
	5. Dase	N/A					
	7 Fill numbers	N/A					
Related or Same a	s Contexts:				and a second	a a far far far i a stand fir far i stat a far firmer dingen anna sgistar far far i stat ( ) ;	
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		(001)					
STRATICRADUIC	MATDIX					ana	
STRATIGRAPHIC	MAIKIX		(000)	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i			
			(009)				
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			L.	need laneer		and hereiner and	
				7			
		Interpreta	tion of Contex	at or Cut:			
			31			n n	
Not fully excavated	d but might have	been caused by	modern agric	cultural practice (i.	.e. use of subs	oiler)?	
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		2					
				in in Ar		n ann an tha tha ann an tha an tha Tha ann an tha ann an th	
					1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 -		
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		ili ili Provinstanti compressione de la comp			~		
Dian on Costion No.	1-		DL . 4	NT - 1-	S S S	ketch Plans	
See Section Drawin		Photographs	NO'S	None Recovered			
Bulk Artefacts Recovered from this Context None Recovered			Environment: None	al Sample No's	Recorded by/Date R.Holley 26/10/2014		

### Figure 158. Context Sheet for (009)

Project Code :	Area :	Co-ordinates : E/N	Context Type :	Context No :				
ERRR/14	T1	11	Cut	[010]				
DEPOSIT	1. Compaction	N/A						
2. Colour 3. Texture/composition 4. Inclusions 5. Dimensions 6. Contamination 7. Method/level of recovery 8. Boundaries		N/A						
		N/A						
		N/A						
		N/A						
		N/A						
	1. Snape in plan	Linear ditch						
	2. Orientation	North – South						
	5. Profile	Roughly Half moon in sha	аре					
	4. Slues 5 Base	Conceive						
	6 Dimensions	58cm wide by 21cm in_de	nth					
	7. Fill numbers	(001)	p.m					
Related or Same	e as Contexts:							
			1)					
a low and the								
STRATIGRAPHI	CMATRIX			and the second				
		Interpretation of Cont	text or Cut:					
Small linear dito	h on the eastside of	the trench, probably as a c	Irainage feature conr	nected with the roman road,				
Soils the same as	s (topsoil) (001)							
	n al anti- ann a multiple ann ann an ann an ann a' ann an ann a' ann an ann a' ann an ann a' ann a' ann a' ann 1111 -							
			1977 - 1978 - 1979 -					
				Sketch Plans				
Plan or Section No's		Photograph	s No's	Small Finds No's				
Bulk Artefacts Recovered from this (		Context Environmen	ntal Sample No's	Recorded by/Date				

### Figure 159. Context Sheet for [010]

## Figure 160. Levels Register

Site Name:	Site Code:	Trench Number:	Date:
Easton Royal	ERRR/14	[1]	25 <sup>th</sup> /26 <sup>th</sup> October 2014

Α	В	С	D (B+C)	E	F (D-E)	Description
Lev	Benchmark	Backsight	Instrume	Foresight	Level	
el			nt Height			
	140					Assumed based on
						OS level on road
1	140	1.72	141.72	0.15	141.57	Top of field
2	140	1.72	141.72	3.01	138.71	Bottom of field
3	140	1.72	141.72	1.55	140.17	Ground to west of trench
4	140	1.72	141.72	1.55	140.17	Ground to east of trench
5	140	1.86	141.86	1.51	140.35	String height of section, west
6	140	1.86	141.86	1.51	140.35	String height of section, east

### Chapter 9. Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

### 9.1 James Bond

In the absence of any surviving medieval buildings or authentic pictorial records of Easton Royal itself, we can approach the question of reconstruction from two different directions:

The historical record of the succession of buildings known to have existed in the area (hospital, Trinitarian priory church with claustral and precinct buildings, parish church, post-suppression Seymour house); this can be reinforced by borrowing evidence from upstanding buildings on similar sites elsewhere to create a three-dimensional picture.

The archaeological evidence on the site itself, in particular the earthworks visible on the ground and the aerial photographs, Lidar and geophysical surveys currently available. In an ideal world these would reveal recognisable components in plan which would help us to locate where the individual medieval buildings stood, to determine their spatial relationship with each other, and to identify them individually. In practice, of course, it is rarely so straightforward ! I cannot see any obvious trace of either hospital or monastic buildings in the surface earthworks, and suspect that at least some of the visible features may be of post-Dissolution origin. The geophysical report similarly concludes that 'Within the area surveyed... a number of features were observed, but none of these could be considered to be the site of the Trinitarian priory... However, the area surveyed was small, and needs to be greatly extended before the presence of priory buildings can be confirmed or denied'. I'd agree with that conclusion, and suspect that the best chance of pinning down the precise location of the hospital and priory buildings would be by extending the resistance survey.

### 9.1.1 Historical evidence and architectural parallels

### (i) Hospitals:

The Trinitarians often tended to take over sites abandoned by other monastic orders, or small institutions which did not necessarily have a strong internal organisation. Half-a-dozen of the ten Trinitarian priories in England (Easton Royal itself, along with Hertford, Hounslow, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Thelsford and Totnes) occupied the site of earlier hospital foundations, and almost certainly continued to maintain their functions. All revenues of Trinitarian houses were supposed to be divided three ways: one third was for the support of the brethren themselves, one third was for the redemption of Christian captives in the hands of the Moslems (the primary intent of the order's founder, John de Matha, just before 1200) and the remaining third was for providing relief to the local poor and sick; there was, therefore, no conflict of interest in the Trinitarians maintaining at least some hospital functions within their own priories.

Independent medieval religious hospitals themselves varied considerably in function and form. The original concept of a charitable hospital had nothing to do with caring for the sick – their primary function was to provide hospitality for travellers, especially for religious pilgrims. However, because pilgrims on arduous and sometimes dangerous journeys not infrequently arrived in poor physical shape, a duty of care then developed as a secondary function. Nevertheless, those with diseases believed to be infectious were often firmly excluded. However, the appearance in western Europe of leprosy (or diseases resembling leprosy) led to the foundation of leper hospitals, commonly just outside the larger towns where alms could more readily be collected. Later hospital foundations were designed to accommodate local poor, infirm or elderly. Because of their range of functions the plan and appearance of hospitals varied considerably, but in general the most important building of the earlier hospitals was a communal hall used as a dormitory, whereas the later hospitals more closely resembled almhouses, small individual dwellings in a terrace, or arranged around a quadrangle. In both earlier and later types a chapel was normally provided. In some cases an early communal hall was subsequently subdivided into individual dwellings by the insertion of internal partition walls – the Hospital of St Mary Magdalene at Glastonbury is a good surviving

example. Some of the more important medieval hospitals, such as St Cross in Winchester, or St Giles in Norwich, or the Savoy Hospital in London, developed ranges of buildings almost as complex and elaborate as those of a regular monastic site, but I would not expect anything on such a scale at Easton.

The hospital at Easton Royal was reputedly founded to accommodate poor pilgrims in 1245, but I understand from Graham that its origins can now be pushed back into the mid-1230s. Clay (1909) describes the century 1170-1270 as the peak period for popular pilgrimage in England, so Easton Royal fits well into this context, though this begs the question of where pilgrims travelling through Easton were actually heading for. Many of the hospitals of this period copied the basic plan of the monastic infirmary: a large aisled hall, with bed spaces within the two arcades on either side of a central space which was left clear, and an attached chapel at the east end of the hall. A spectacularly grand example of this form survives at Beaune in Burgundy. Alternative patterns would include a hall with a central arcade and cubicles on either side (as at St Nicholas's Hospital, Salisbury) or an aisleless hall with no arcade at all. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, I would expect the Easton hospital to have adopted some variant of the hall & chapel plan; and, in the absence of any evidence (known to me) that it might have been comprehensively rebuilt in the later middle ages, then I'd assume that it was of the Early English gothic style.

Possible models would include St Bartholomew's Hospital in Gloucester; the basic shape of the surviving hall and chapel of St John's Hospital in Northampton, though this has been altered with late medieval windows; the hall of St John's Hospital in Cirencester, where the aisles have since been removed and both arcades are now exposed St Leonard's Hospital in York, which is probably a bit too grand in scale and has its main floor over a vaulted undercroft, but which has the sort of lancet windows and narrow doors more or less appropriate for the date of Easton; the chapel of St John's Hospital at Duxford, Cambridgeshire; or the chapel of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Cowley, just outside Oxford, rebuilt in 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### (ii) Trinitarian priory churches.

Of the ten Trinitarian priories known in England only Ingham retains a complete upstanding church, and this is in many respects atypical; the appearance of the church at Hounslow is known from a post-suppression engraving, and excavation has thrown some light upon the plan of the Trinitarian churches at Thelsford and Knaresborough. Elsewhere there were eight Trinitarian houses in Scotland and one in Ireland, and about 250 Trinitarian foundations in Europe as a whole. I have no personal knowledge of any of the houses outside England, but there is a useful engraving dated 1633 showing the mother-house of the order at Cerfroid in France, which shows the church and the complete assemblage of claustral buildings then surviving. The Cerfroid church seems to be a plain, long, narrow building without any structural division between nave and chancel, the only external elaboration being a narrow spire or fleche towards its west end.

The parish church of Holy Trinity at Ingham in Norfolk was completely rebuilt as a collegiate church following the acquisition in 1355 of a licence for the foundation of a chantry college there, initially intended for secular canons. However, within five years it had become occupied by the Trinitarians. The Trinitarians used the chancel, while the nave continued to serve as a parish church, the two parts being separated internally by a pulpitum or stone screen. The whole survives in use as a parish church today. Although this is the most complete Trinitarian building surviving in England, it is uncharacteristic of the order because of its late foundation date and collegiate origins, so its appearance is not necessarily a good guide to what the priory church at Easton Royal would have looked like.

The remains of the church of Holy Trinity Priory, Hounslow, were described by Lysons in 1795 as consisting of a nave, chancel and south aisle, with a 13th-century sedilia and double piscina in the chancel. His illustration shows a rectangular building with an aisle abutting it to one side. The aisle has its own completely independent gabled roof, four pointed-arched windows with 14<sup>th</sup>-century tracery along its length and a three-light window with reticulated tracery and a much shallower arch at the gable end.

The gable of the taller part of the building rises to a higher level than that of the aisle, but there is no space for a clerestory; the gable end shows a large pointed-arched window which as been blocked and then reopened with a new window of Tudor appearance with rather spindly mullions and transoms. This seems to have survived as a private chapel since the suppression, but it was demolished in 1828 to make way for a large new parish church, was itself destroyed by fire in 1943 and replaced by a modern church in 1963.

The plan of the Trinitarian church and claustral buildings at Thelsford in Warwickshire were recovered during two excavation campaigns in 1966 and 1972, necessitated first by ploughing damage to the surviving earthworks and then by a planned road realignment (which I don't think ever actually took place). Thelsford was initially founded for regular canons of the order of the Holy Sepulchre in about 1200, but this had been unsuccessful, and the Trinitarians had taken over the premises some time after 1217. The circumstances under which the excavations were undertaken made it impossible to recover any trace of the initial church of the canons of the Holy Sepulchre, which was probably pretty small and fairly basic (the ruined church of the Priory of St.Sepulchre in Thetford, founded around 1140, is the only surviving example in England of a church of this order, a simple aisleless rectangular nave with an apsidalended chancel). However, there is a record of the dedication of a new church for the Trinitarians in 1285, and this can almost certainly be identified with an excavated single-cell rectangular stone building of late 13th-century date, measuring 23m x 13m externally and 19m x 9m internally. The report suggests that this was itself subdivided by an internal two-bay arcade into a nave 6m wide and a north aisle 3m wide. Subsequently, probably in the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century, the original east end was dismantled, the nave and aisle shortened, and the church altered to a two-cell plan by the addition of a new rectangular chancel, c.13m x 6m internally, to the east, extending the total length of the church to about 33m. There are records of a Lady Chapel in the 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, which presumably occupied the eastern part of this extension. Thelsford became relatively prosperous during the 14<sup>th</sup> century through the patronage of the Lucy family, for whom it became a chantry chapel and mausoleum, and this is reflected in the quality of floor-tiles and architectural fragments from the site.

At Knaresborough a plan dated 1587 shows the outline of a cruciform church with two adjacent buildings; trenching in 1862 exposed the north transept of this church with turrets at the angles, the southeast buttress of the church was exposed in 1949, and other survey work has taken place, though information on the plan of the church and its associated buildings is still very deficient. This priory was deliberately sited close to the cave-hermitage and holy well of Robert of Knaresborough (d.1218); though never formally canonised, Robert became the focus of a popular cult, and the Trinitarians successfully promoted his hermitage as a place of pilgrimage. The building of the Trinitarian church attracted royal support, with Henry III granting three oaks towards its construction in 1255. Its cruciform plan appears to be exceptional for Trinitarian churches, and this is probably a result of its unusual role as a pilgrimage church. Records of the sale of goods after the suppression in 1538 mention five bells from a belfry. This may indicate a crossing-tower, common enough in cruciform churches generally, though, again, exceptional in a Trinitarian church); alternatively the bells could have been hung in a detached building nearby.

A plan of the Trinitarian abbey at Adare in Ireland shows its church as an aisleless three-cell building with a western nave, a central rectangular tower and an originally narrow chancel. There also appears to have been a north transept, perhaps created by a wall inserted across the eastern claustral range, and a later chapel with its own altar added east of the transept and north of the chancel.

In the absence of any typical surviving or excavated Trinitarian churches elsewhere in England, comparisons with other similar orders may be necessary. It is, in fact, quite difficult to pigeonhole the Trinitarians into any of the standard categories of medieval religious orders. They have sometimes been regarded as friars (and were popularly known as the Red Friars in Scotland), but they were never a mendicant order, and so friary churches do not provide a suitable model. Their own rule was based upon the Rule of St Augustine of Hippo, and they adopted a simplified form of the Victorine liturgy, so it is probably best to regard them as regular canons, though with peculiar customs and purposes of their own. However, the threefold division of their revenues meant that their way of life was extremely frugal,

and this meant that their early churches were generally very simple and very small. During the course of the thirteenth century the original Trinitarian rule was reorganised and relaxed, so resources for rebuilding and enlarging their churches in slightly more elaborate style may have become available later in the middle ages; but I doubt if they ever became especially grand.

In so far as any conclusions can be drawn from all this, my guess is that the Trinitarian church at Easton was most likely to have been small, perhaps initially a single rectangular block incorporating nave and chancel under a single roof, but possibly from the outset a two-cell building with rectangular nave and smaller rectangular chancel to the east. Its foundation probably came too late for an apsidal east end. It is unlikely to have had a cruciform plan with transepts, or to have had a tower. The nave may have had an aisle on the opposite side to the cloister (probably on the north side), as at Thelsford, and although there is no proof of this, I don't think it would be unreasonable to include a north aisle in the reconstruction. I'm unaware of any evidence that the original priory church at Easton was ever comprehensibly rebuilt later in the middle ages, so it would be reasonable to reconstruct it in the style of the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Early English gothic, with lancet windows. Given the Trinitarians' obsession with the number 3, it seems unlikely that they could have resisted the temptation to have a triple arrangement of lancets at the east end of their church, quite probably at the west end too. The ruined Victorine priory adjoining the parish church at Frithelstock in Devon would perhaps provide a model.

#### (iii) Trinitarian claustral buildings.

The general arrangement of domestic structures around a monastic cloister was based upon convenience in relation to the daily routine, so is common to many monastic orders. The preferred location of the cloister was on the south side of the church, where it could be warmed and lit by the sun (though in a significant minority of sites local conditions, particularly the contour of the ground and the availability of water for canalisation for sewerage, caused the cloisters to be placed on the northern side). The eastern side of the cloister was normally occupied by a first-floor dormitory, with access into the church by the night stairs at one end and a reredorter or latrine at the other end. The lower floor of the cloister parallel with the church was normally occupied by the refectory, with the kitchen in close proximity beyond. The western side of the cloister often had a two-storey range with the cellarer's store below and rooms for the prior or for guests above.

Some monastic orders, particularly the Cistercians, developed their own distinctive modifications to this general arrangement. To the best of my knowledge the Trinitarians had no special rules or customs which imposed any distinctive variations of their own, but you raised in your email the question as to whether the cloisters could be three-sided or C-shaped, and I can confirm that this could occur. There seems to have been a fairly widespread practice amongst orders of regular canons (and, as said above, the Trinitarians come closer to that model than to any other category of religious community) of placing their refectories in a first-floor room over an undercroft which could be used by the cellarer for storage. If the prior's rooms and guesthouse accommodation were also located in detached blocks elsewhere, this meant that there was no need for a west range at all. Some houses of Premonstratensian canons (e.g. Alnwick Abbey in Northumberland) simply had a screen wall closing off the west side of the cloister, and there are some indications at Ingham and, possibly, Adare in Ireland, that the Trinitarians also dispensed with a west range.

Direct evidence of claustral arrangements from Trinitarian houses is pretty scanty. The excavations at Thelsford indicated a cloister garth to the south of the church, measuring about 11-12m square, surrounded by walks around the east, north and west sides sheltered by timber pentice roofs. The east and south walks were only about 1.5m wide, the west walk considerably wider, about 4.5m: the width of the west walk might suggest that the west range was originally occupied by lay brothers, as was normally the case in Cistercian houses. The cloister walks seem initially to have been roofed with thatch or wooden shingles,

and reroofed at a later stage with red ceramic tiles. Contrary to the arrangement at Ingham (below), Thetford did have a west range, largely of timber construction on stone footings, and also initially roofed with some form of organic material which was replaced by ceramic tiles in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. The north gable end of the west range extended westwards beyond the west front of the church, and its southern end extended a short way beyond the south walk of the cloister. It was divided internally by partition walls, probably not all of the same period, into two or three rooms, and there seems to have been a through-passage entrance into the west walk of the cloister towards its northern end. Just north of the centre of the range in the larger room was a substantial central hearth, which may imply that the lay brothers had disappeared later in the middle ages (a common occurrence), and the west range had then been converted either to a guesthouse or to accommodation for the prior. Unfortunately the eastern and southern sides of the cloister garth at Thelsford lay outside the excavated area; one would have expected to find footings of the dormitory and refectory range there, but we have no evidence for them.

There is good evidence that the claustral buildings of Ingham lay to the north of the church nave, but the remains seem largely to have been destroyed by gravel extraction. Tim Pestell has suggested that there was no continuous west range, although there is some evidence for a wide, probably aisled building extending westwards beyond the end of the north range; this looks as if it might have served as a guesthouse.

The plan of the Irish Trinitarian abbey at Adare shows two claustral ranges to the north of the church, with the western side apparently completely open. Both north and east ranges look as if they have suffered considerable post-medieval alteration for use as school-rooms, and it is not clear whether there was formerly a west range or simply a screen wall as at Ingham. The north range clearly included the refectory and kitchen; presumably the dormitory would have been in its usual position on the upper floor of the east range. Neither here, nor on any of the English sites, does there seem to be any obvious chapter-house, and it may be that this room was simply incorporated within the width of the east range ground floor.

Elsewhere the only clues to the character of the claustral ranges come from documentary records. A lease of the premises of the former Trinitarian priory of Hounslow in 1537, just after the suppression, refers to chambers (probably either within the west range or adapted from a former communal dormitory in the east range), and a kitchen, brew-house and bake-house.

The general slope of the ground at Easton is down towards the stream to the south, so, wherever the precise location of the priory church may be, there would not be any obvious obstacle to placing its cloister and claustral buildings on the generally-preferred southern side.

#### (iv) Trinitarian precincts

The outer parts of monastic precincts beyond the church and claustral buildings were normally divided into several separate enclosures each with special functions. The precinct as a whole was normally surrounded by a high wall, sometimes with an outer ditch or even a moat. There might be several gates, but the main gatehouse and porter's lodge were normally on the further side of a court to the west of the cluastral buildings. Around this west court were normally found the facilities which linked the monastic community with the secular world outside – a free-standing guesthouse, almonry, and associated service buildings such as stabling. The abbot or prior might have his own detached house and private garden somewhere in this area. Buildings storing or processing produce from the abbey's estates – barn, granary, mill, bake-house, brew-house, etc. - also generally lay to the west of the claustral buildings. The area to the east of the church and claustral building, normally the most secluded area, was reserved for uses which needed quiet – the infirmary and cemetery. Other parts of the precinct would include one or more gardens, orchards, occasionally a vineyard, and fishponds. The extent and range of precinct features would vary greatly, depending upon the size and wealth of the monastery. Few Trinitarian precincts are likely to have rivalled the size or complexity of those of the great Benedictine and Cistercian abbeys.

Precincts were occasionally enlarged, a process which might involve the blockage and diversion of preexisting local roads. This seems to have occurred at Thelsford in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. Might this be a possible reason for the original course of the Roman road through Easton Royal passing out of use?

The excavations on the site of Thelsford Priory recovered evidence of an early 13th-century perimeter ditch with an outer fence or hedge around the eastern and southern boundaries of the precinct, part of a later presumed precinct ditch further to the south, a probable watermill site to the west, with a sluice-gate and a head-race taken off the Thelsford Brook, and a large T-shaped fishpond complex further to the west, probably fed with water in part by the tail-race of the mill. Elsewhere culverts and possible industrial features were recorded, though no coherent plan emerged. Two areas of probable garden were identified, one defined by walls beyond the west claustral range, another to the north of the church, but no plant remains or evidence of any other garden features were recovered.

The precinct of Moatenden Priory in Kent includes a substantial square moated enclosure with an inner bank, dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. At its western corner this incorporates the remains of an earlier, smaller moat of the late 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century. The smaller moat is believed to have surrounded a pre-existing manor-house, while the larger moat seems to be roughly contemporary with the Trinitarian foundation, enclosing an area of 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres, which would have included the church and claustral buildings. The space within the larger moat was itself insufficient to contain all the other components required, and a probable outer precinct boundary has been identified beyond this, including at least a couple of fishponds, one to the north, one to the south of the western arm of the moat.

Nothing remains of the priory of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, though the site near the Pandon Gate on the town wall is known (some fragments were still standing at least up to 1831) and the outline of the precinct can be reconstructed. The former precinct still included a garden and orchard covering an acre, three more gardens and two closes in 1548. The first Trinitarian house in Oxford lay immediately outside the East gate of the city, but in 1313 licence was granted for a move inside the walls. The approximate extent of its precinct is known, but there are no upstanding remains and the entire site has been incorporated within the grounds of Merton College. The Trinitarian house in Totnes in Devon also lay outside the town walls, near the town bridge

Documentary records sometimes shed light upon features of the outer precinct. The lease of the premises of Hounslow Priory in 1537 mentions barns, stables, granaries, a dove-house and other unspecified buildings, along with orchards and gardens. The 1257 charter to Knaresborough Priory allowed the Trinitarians to build a mill on the River Nidd to the south-west of the priory, the sale accounts at the suppression in 1538 name four chambers, a hall and other ancillary buildings, including a kitchen and brew-house, three granaries, a barn, and a dovecote, in addition to the mill; there were also apple orchards and fishponds. In 1949 excavations in the eastern side of the precinct uncovered a flagged floor with a drain, interpreted as the floor of a malt-house. There is a record of a gatehouse being constructed in 1435-50, and part of the south perimeter wall of the precinct was still in existence in the early 1990s.

#### (v) Parish church and graveyard

The present parish church at Easton is said to have been built in 1591 but was much altered in the nineteenth century. There is debate about whether this is on the site of the medieval parish church, and also about how the parish church related to the priory church. If the medieval parish church was completely separate structure from the priory church and on a different site to the present church, its location within the area is a further problem. The reason for the location of the detached graveyard in the corner of the field east of the present church also has to be considered – could this represent the site of the medieval church? At the moment I do not feel that I have sufficient knowledge or understanding of the site to offer any coherent views on this question; but it is clearly a problem requiring further investigation.

#### (vi) Seymour house

The post-Reformation use of the priory premises is also very important, and again I do not feel that I know enough about this at present to offer any valid views. It was quite common for some part of a monastic complex, often the abbot's or prior's house, or the western claustral range, to be converted to domestic use by a post-Dissolution owner. At Easton the Seymour family are said to have lived somewhere on the site at least up to about 1735, and this is a sufficiently long time for considerable changes to have been carried out to whatever monastic buildings they may have occupied. Such changes could have been on a scale sufficient to make any identification of the underlying monastic buildings difficult to identify without excavation. I know this isn't a matter of immediate concern in terms of making the model, but it is a factor which may hinder the future location and recognition of the priory buildings through any form of survey.

It is difficult to imagine that a major post-Dissolution residence would not in due course have altered its surroundings by creating the sort of complex formal gardens shown on many prospects of Tudor and later houses. It is quite possible that some of the earthworks now visible on the site are not directly related to the medieval priory, but to the development of garden closes, terraces and ponds in the post-medieval period. Again, this requires further investigation.

### 9.1.2 Archaeological evidence at Easton Royal

Before visiting the site with you all on May 14th, my only previous knowledge of it was from the brief assessment on pp.106-7 of Margaret Gray's *The Trinitarian Order in England* (BAR British Series no.226 (1993). The map there shows three areas of particular interest, two of which were viewed as possible locations for the conventual buildings.

However, the 1983 vertical aerial photos, and particularly the Lidar survey, show that the earthworks are more extensive and more complex than their depiction on Gray's fairly basic plan suggests. This was confirmed on our site visit in May, although the grass was already then too lush for it to be possible to pick up much detail. The resistivity survey undertaken in March 2014 by Dr John Oswin (Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society) has made a valuable start in recording some sub-surface features, though it was only possible to cover a limited area, and no features indisputably resembling any part of the priory layout have yet emerged. However, if resources become available for extending the area of resistivity survey, this offers the best prospect of locating and defining the plan of the priory buildings.

After a brief summary of Margaret Gray's conclusions on each of the three areas of interest which she recognised, I will, therefore add a few observations based upon our site visit and on Oswin's 2014 survey report. However, please treat these as provisional rather than definitive, I'm very aware that much more investigation needs to be carried out !

### (i) Site 1:

Gray's Site 1 lay between the present church and cemetery, and this was the location preferred by H.H.Bashford in his article 'Present and past churches at Easton Royal' in *Wilts.Archaeol.& Nat.Hist.Mag.* Vol.56 (1955), 66-7). In a later work (*Easton Royal, a Short History* (Marlborough College Press, 1977)) he refers to a water-pipe being laid through 'Cemetery Field' in 1953 which disturbed late 14<sup>th</sup>/early 15<sup>th</sup>-century floor tiles and masonry. Margaret Gray refers to a couple of mounds in this area and molehills throwing up fragments of roof-tile, building stone and medieval nails.

The resistance survey had identified a couple of possible buildings in this area, though nothing to suggest a complete claustral plan. While surface irregularities were evident in this area in May 2014, the grass was too long to see any clear pattern.

Given that the original hospital was intended to cater for pilgrims and poor travellers, and would, therefore have been best sited close to a through road, I wonder if Gray's Site 1 could, in fact, be the site of the hospital building rather than the slightly later friary? This, of course, to some extent rests upon the presumption that the medieval through road coincided with the present village street, which may not necessarily be the case. However, it has been noted above that monastic precincts were sometimes enlarged, causing the diversion of earlier roads. The village street at Easton takes a marked bend westwards some distance to the north of the present parish church, and we can consider the possibility that its original course followed a more direct line south, passing behind the block of properties to north-east of the church, along the side of the cemetery within the field, and then along the line of a hedge shown on the 1983 air photo, since removed, but still visible on the Lidar. If the hospital was in this position, then it would have stood, equally conveniently, on the western side of any earlier road along the alignment suggested.

Is it possible that the Trinitarians diverted the road westwards, either immediately after they took the hospital under their wing, or at some subsequent date in order to included it within their own precinct ? I accept that all this is based upon no more than a sequence of wild surmises, but in the absence of any other evidence, my inclination would be to place the hospital on Gray's Site 1 in the model.

### (ii) Site 2:

Gray's Site 2 is the rectangular enclosure defined by a bank and ditch in the area to the west of the cemetery, where the Ordnance Survey places its antiquity symbol for the priory. Gray rejected this as the site of the main conventual buildings since she could see no surface indications within the enclosure and molehills there had produced no building debris.

This earthwork is occasionally referred to as a moat, and the question has been raised as to whether this could represent the site of a pre-monastic manor-house (as at Moatenden, Kent); but, having seen it on the ground, it bears very little resemblance to the standard medieval manorial or farmstead moat: the perimeter ditch is too narrow, and the internal bank is the more prominent feature. Also, while Gray's plan depicts this enclosure as more or less square, the Lidar survey shows clearly that it originally extended further south, where it has been partly overriden by later features resembling ridge and furrow.

During our visit we discussed the possibility that this feature might be a fishpond. Fishponds are, of course, common features within monastic precincts, and are equally common within post-medieval formal gardens. The simplest method of constructing fishponds was to construct one or more dams across the floor of a narrow valley. However, on more open, flat ground ponds were sometimes dug out, with the spoil heaped up around their perimeter, creating an effect rather similar to what we saw here. Ponds constructed for the specific purpose of raising fish, as opposed to those just having a general amenity function, had to be capable of being drained at regular intervals, for cleansing the bed of the pond to reduce the build-up of disease and for sorting the fish into future breeding stock and fish destined fairly imminently for the table (for this reason several ponds were often grouped in close proximity). Quite complex leat systems were needed to assist the draining and refilling of such ponds. While under long grass it was not easy to trace the slight earthworks of such leats, the narrow ditch around the perimeter banks could certainly have contributed to this purpose. At first sight I had rather resisted the interpretation of this earthwork as a fishpond, partly because I thought the slope of the ground on the valley-side looked too steep for it to hold water partly because there seemed insufficient internal depth within the bank, and partly because there seemed to be no evidence of further medieval ponds close by. However, I understand that survey work has shown that the gradient of the valley side is less than it seemed visually, and if this earthwork could have retained water, then the fishpond interpretation remains entirely possible.

Oswin's report on the resistance survey shows that the north-western corner of this feature was included within the survey, the results suggesting a wall-ditch-wall boundary with the sort of rounded playing-card type corner often associated with Roman military sites; it was concluded that a much larger area would need to be surveyed to offer any indication of its purpose. While accepting the point about the rounded corner, I would be quite surprised if this turned out to be Roman; but this is a gut feeling based upon instinct rather than logic !. If the boundary of this feature really does include some sort of double wall, however, it is unlikely to be a fishpond. I would then begin wondering whether this could be the remains of something like a rectangular walled kitchen-garden associated with the Seymour house. Rounded corners are not particularly characteristic of kitchen-garden walls, but equally not impossible (perhaps reflecting limited availability of stone suitable for quoins ??).

### (iii) Site 3:

Gray's Site 3 lay to the south-west, within the bend of the lane at the south end of the village, on ground sloping down towards the stream. Bashford in 1977 had noted that two ponds to the south of where he believed the priory to be had been filled in in 1955, and Gray recorded surface indications of one of these ponds near the lane, with terracing above it.

I walked round to have a quick look at this area after we had dispersed, and two things struck me about it. Although the earthworks are not of extreme regularity, the juxtaposition of terraces overlooking a valley-bottom pond is exactly the sort of thing that one often finds in post-medieval garden complexes (e.g. Swinbrook, Oxon.). Could this be a portion of the gardens of the Seymour house?

### (iv) Area immediately east and north-east of graveyard

Gray's plan shows an area of ridge and furrow aligned roughly east-west, which she describes as lying immediately west of the cemetery and bounded on the west by a hollow-way (in both cases 'west' should be 'east'). She believed this to be of post-medieval origin, on the assumption that the main priory buildings lay just to the west (her Site 1), and that the ridges had obliterated part of the priory site.

The Lidar and resistance surveys and our site visit all showed that this area was in fact rather more complex. The 'hollow-way', which may lie alongside the course of the lost Roman road, in fact forms the eastern side of a quasi-moated enclosure which itself seems to be subdivided into two rectangular compartments, themselves containing internal features. Oswin's report on the resistance survey states that the two rectangular plots measured about 60m x 30m, and suggests that they were surrounded by a wall, with ditches to north and south and in between. A walled ditch defines the eastern side, its wall terminating the intermediate east-west ditch, suggesting a later date. The northern plot seems to have a building platform at its western end, extending across the width of the plot. The pattern within the southern enclosure is more confused, but may include structures with post-holes. At the moment I simply don't know what to make of this. There is nothing which can definitely be equated with any standard component of a monastic plan. However, there was usually quite a wide range of storage buildings, workshops etc. scattered around other parts of the precinct in no predictable arrangement, and these may be the types of structure which the resistivity survey has picked up

### (v) Area east of Site 2

Margaret Gray's plan shows a second area of ridge and furrow, aligned roughly north-south, between the rectangular enclosure, Site 2, and the small circular pond towards the eastern margin of the field. This is confirmed on the 1983 aerial photo and on the Lidar survey, but the latter adds a complication, showing further ridge and furrow in an east-west alignment just to the south, and suggesting that the east-west ridges might even be overlapping part of the north-south ridges. The round pond is clearly cut down through the north-south ridge and furrow, so must be a later feature.

#### (v) Lower slope and valley floor area

To the east of the Site 3 terraces on the lower part of the slope above the valley floor there is evidence of three parallel former field boundaries on an east-west alignment and other slight ditches and ridges relating to agricultural activities.

I was struck by the fact that, if one was looking for a location where a diversion channel from a reliable natural watercourse could readily flush out a monastic latrine, then a reasonably level area just above the valley floor might be a more suitable position for the claustral buildings than anywhere a bit higher up the slope. I'd really like to have another look at this and a further think about it, but this general area, just above the valley floor to the east of Site 3 might be a useful target for future resistivity survey.

In the valley floor it was evident both on the ground and on the Lidar survey that the natural course of the stream had indeed been modified and that some of its water had been channelled into a relatively straight diversion leat to the north. One reason for doing this might be to supply water to a mill-pond, and, although I know of no records of a mill at Easton Royal, in general they are such a common feature of monastic precincts that it would almost be surprising if there wasn't one. The diversion channel could also, as suggested above, have served to flush a monastic reredorter. It is also possible that this channel was cut, or later re-used, to contribute to a simple meadow irrigation system, though I can see no sign of the complex feeders and drains associated with more sophisticated types of floated water-meadow.

You asked about whether water might have been fed through a conduit to the centre of the complex and then by separate feeds to the cloisters and kitchens, and I'm sure that this would have been the case. Monastic water systems are often extremely complex, with more than one source of supply, to serve different needs. Reasonably clean water for use in the lavatorium (the washing-place in the cloister near the refectory entrance) was often brought from springs which might be several miles away, either carried in an open conduit or in lead, ceramic or wooden pipes laid underground (closed conduits were more expensive and difficult to make and to maintain, but they had two advantages: there was normally little risk of the water-supply becoming fouled, and, if necessary, the conduit could run uphill to shorten its length, so long as the outlet was lower than the source). Water piped in for use in the lavatorium might be stored in some sort of cistern, often located within the infirmary cloister, or sometimes immediately above the refectory lavatorium itself; alternatively, if the supply was from a constant and reliable source, then it might be allowed to run continuously. However, storing it in a cistern had the advantage that it could then be piped to the kitchen, brew-house, guesthouse, laundry, abbot's or prior's quarters and anywhere else that needed water. Wells were often used at the time of the first foundation, and retained as an emergency source of supply, in case the piped supply became bunged up or fractured, until the pipes could be repaired.

Most monasteries were also located close to streams or rivers from which channels could be diverted into the precinct for purposes where volume and flow was more important that cleanliness, e.g. flushing the latrines, driving water-mills and supplying fishponds. Local spring seepages might produce water where it wasn't wanted, and rainwater falling upon the large expanse of roofs around a cloister garth could turn the garth into a swamp or lake, so there was also usually a considerable complex of drains, and sometimes it was possible to direct these into the sewer to reinforce the supply available for flushing. The possibilities of water management and utilization on the site is another area which would replay further future investigation.

Much of the above is speculation based on very limited evidence. Just on the strength of a bit of background reading and one visit I cannot hope to have as good an understanding of the site as those of you who are much more familiar with it and have been working on it for a much longer period of time. Sometimes a fresh view on a site can be helpful, but if you disagree with any of what I've suggested on the basis of greater local knowledge, please be assured that I shall not be offended !



Figure 161. Easton Royal, hypothetical layout

### 9.2 Easton Priory

Comments on survey data by Mark Corney

### 9.2.1 Introduction

The comments on the site of the Trinitarian Priory at Easton Royal, Wiltshire are based on the desk based assessment by Bathe and Holley (2014) and a geophysical survey undertaken by Oswin (2014).

The study by Bathe and Holley incorporates an analysis of all the available cartographic data, documentary sources, aerial photographs and LiDAR data.

### 9.2.2 Earthworks and Geophysics

The earthworks recorded on air photography and LiDAR (Figure 162) are in close accordance with the features detected by the geophysical survey (Figure 163). The character of the features would suggest that the majority are of post-medieval date although this does not preclude the possibility that some *may* reflect the fossilisation of earlier landscape components.

### Figure 162. LiDAR survey (north to top)



The earthworks comprise a series of ditched enclosures, former ditched boundaries and features resulting from agricultural activities. Of the latter, most prominent is a block of ridge and furrow cultivation, probably medieval in date, aligned north-south with a substantial plough headland marking the northern limit. This lies on the eastern side of the study area. Immediately to the west of this is a large rectangular ditched and embanked enclosure, the north-west corner of which was also recorded by the geophysical survey (Figure 164, 9). The southern half of the enclosure and the corresponding area of ridge and furrow to the east appear to be overlain by a series regularly spaced east-west parallel ditches which are probably

post medieval plough land boundaries. The alignment of these features follows that of the present landscape boundary trends which are depicted on the 1814 Inclosure map and the Easton Estate map of 1846 (Bathe and Holley 2014, Appendix D).



Figure 163 LiDAR and geophysical survey results (Oswin 2014, Fig.4.1)

Further to the west is another subdivided enclosure of roughly square plan with traces of possible structures visible on the geophysics (Figure 164, 5, 6 and 7).

Figure 164. Annotated results of the geophysical survey (Oswin 2014, Fig. 3.3)



### 9.2.3 Comment

The combined results of the earthwork study, cartographic analysis and geophysical survey have produced a detailed plan of the area to the east of the present church at Easton Royal. It is clear that there is a considerable time depth of archaeological features in the study area. The following points are worthy of note:

- None of the features identified have produced clear evidence for the location of the Priory Church and its associated buildings.
- Evidence for medieval activity is apparent in the block of ridge and furrow at the eastern end of the study area. It may be significant that there is no trace of this cultivation below and to the west of enclosure 9. This may hint at a boundary and change of land use which could relate to outer limits of Priory land and the medieval agrarian landscape of Easton.
- The two enclosures, 5 and 9, are prominent features both as earthworks and geophysical anomalies. Whilst enclosure 5 has produced some evidence for structures, no coherent plan is discernible and, on present evidence, is unlikely to be the site of the Priory.
- Oswin (2014, 9), commenting on the rounded corner of enclosure 9 noted a similarity with Roman military constructions. The shape of the feature as recorded on the LiDAR shows the enclosure to be a long and narrow rectangle; a plan rarely displayed by Roman military constructions. A Roman origin is considered to be unlikely.
- The construction of a large house by Edward Seymour following the dissolution of the Priory in 1536 may provide a context for enclosures 5 and 9. Although the location of the house is unknown, (but presumed to be on or close to the Priory) it is highly probable that a large house of this date will have included carefully planned formal gardens, possibly with an ornamental moat, related landscape features and ancillary structures. It is suggested that on present evidence these enclosures are best regarded as components of the post medieval house and its associated landscape.
- The east-west features partly overlying the ridge and furrow and enclosure 9 may belong to a phase of post medieval cultivation following the demolition of the Seymour mansion in circa 1763-4 and the subsequent clearance of the area. The correlation of their alignment with main boundary trends depicted on the 1814 Inclosure map support this.

The combined surveys have provided much new data on the landscape archaeology of Easton Royal and provide a firm base for further investigations.

### 9.3 Archaeological + Historical Landscape Research Group

### 9.3.1 Discussion and recommendation for further work

The historical research undertaken has established a more defined date for the commencement of activities on the site; we now know that a Hospital was built after 1229, and was under construction by at least 1234. Easton Priory was formally founded in 1246. Unfortunately historical evidence, whilst providing clues on the juxtaposition of buildings, cannot identify the position of the priory and its associated buildings with certainly.

The confirmation of the exact position, layout and extent of the priory is still required and paramount to our understanding of the site.

The aerial photography, LiDAR images and the limited geophysical survey indicate that there are two areas where significant earthworks survive. The first area to the north north east of the present cemetery is made up of a double rectangular shape and flanked by a large ditch or moat on all sides. The second area to the east resembles a rectangular fishpond. Other features around the site are not so easy to interpret and could be medieval or post medieval. The straight linear feature running north south across the site and adjacent to but east of the double rectangular shape has now been identified as a Roman road from Marlborough to Old Sarum.

A further programme of geophysical surveys that covers the complete site is required to establish the full extent of buildings connected to this Trinitarian priory. Hopefully with the landowner's permission this will be carried out in the spring of 2015. At present only a small part of the northern end of the site was surveyed. The complete geophysical survey of the Priory Field may allow us to better interpret the site without the need for more intrusive excavations.

### 9.3.2 Project Archive and its location

A copy of this evaluation and the various assessment reports will be distributed to the following:

Mr. Graham Cooper of Easton Farm and Mrs. Beverley Helps of Home Farm. (landowners).

Mrs. Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for inclusion in the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Records.

Mr. Steve Hobbs, Wiltshire County Archivist and Mrs. Liz Johnson of Easton Royal Heritage Group

The report will also be made available digitally to other organizations, including the Archaeological Data Service. The report will be part of the finished CD ROM as a printable PDF, free to the local community, Easton Royal Heritage Group members, members of the Archaeological + Historical Landscape Research Group and the Easton Royal Academy.

The archives, which includes all reports, documents, maps and photographs relating to the investigation is currently held by the Archaeological + Historical Landscape Research Group.

All artefacts recovered from the various investigations will be returned to their respective landowners.