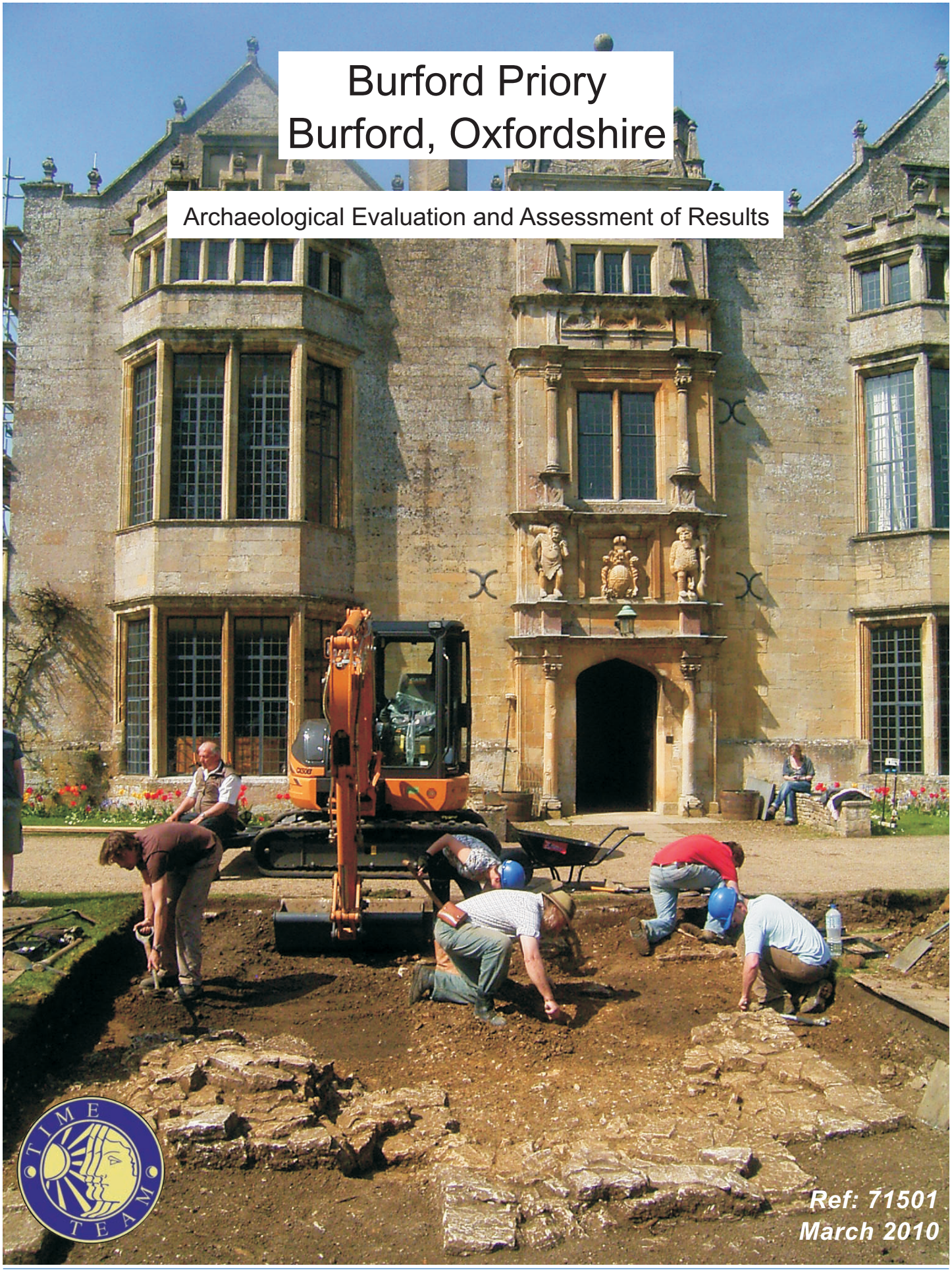
Wessex Archaeology

Burford Priory
Burford, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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BURFORD PRIORY, BURFORD, OXFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

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BURFORD PRIORY,
BURFORD, OXFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

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Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in April 2009 by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Burford Priory in Oxfordshire (NGR 424950 212330), to investigate the remains of the medieval Hospital of St John the Evangelist, rebuilt as a grand house after the Dissolution, but still incorporating some medieval elements. The evaluation, involving shovel test pitting, geophysical survey, and evaluation trenching, formed part of an ongoing investigation into the history of the Site by the current landowners.

Evaluation trenching in the Kitchen Garden, to the south-west of the present building, revealed a group of slight, enigmatic features which could be interpreted as the remains of a late Saxon or early medieval timber-framed building, or alternatively as garden features; no firm dating evidence was recovered. The stone-built foundations of a possible post-medieval belvedere were also found. Other features in this area were interpreted as further post-medieval and modern garden features.

On the lawn in front of the present house, the foundations of a medieval building were uncovered. This building was aligned on a medieval arcade, part of which was revealed during restoration work in 1908 (and which is still extant in the present building, although moved from its original position), and has been identified, by its position, as part of the infirmary chapel. The north-eastern corner of the building, heavily robbed, was exposed, and this also included evidence for a northern extension of the chapel. The south wall had been completely robbed out, and no evidence was found for a corresponding southern aisle.

Pottery recovered from a buried ground surface through which the foundation trenches for the building were cut was dated to the 12th or 13th century, which thus broadly corresponds to the historical evidence for the probable foundation of the Hospital in the 12th century. No firm date for the demolition of the chapel was recovered, but it is thought to have taken place at around the time of Sir Lawrence Tanfield's rebuilding in the 1580s. The rest of the medieval Hospital is thought to lie beneath the present building.

To the north of the chapel, part of a possible east-west roadway of medieval date was located. Other features in this area are likely to relate to post-medieval and modern horticultural activity.

A trench excavated within the 17th century Lenthall Chapel revealed no evidence for earlier structures, or for the construction of the chapel itself.

The results of the evaluation form part of ongoing research into the history of the Site by the current landowners, and should be incorporated into any future publication of that research. No further analysis is proposed for the current project, but a short note will be submitted to *Oxoniensia*, summarising the results of the evaluation, for inclusion in the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.

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Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

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

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock and Alec Phillips of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham, landscape study by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage, and standings remains study by Richard K. Morriss. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston (University of Bristol). The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Steve Thompson with on-site finds processing by Helen MacIntyre, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Ian Powlesland, Faye Simpson, Tracey Smith, Matt Williams and Scarlett Rose McGrail, assisted by Phil Matthews, Jack Crennel, Eoin Fitzsimons, Milena Grzybowska, Tomasz Mosal and Gwilym Williams. On-site small finds and pottery identification were provided by Faye Simpson and Paul Blinkhorn respectively.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson, with initial historical research by Ben Knappett, Jim Mower and Tom Scott (Videotext Communications), and specialist reports by Lorraine Mepham (finds) and Jessica Grimm (animal bone). The palaeo-enviromental assessment was prepared by Chris Stevens. The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

The work benefited from discussion with Mick Aston, Phil Harding, Richard K. Morriss, Stewart Ainsworth, John Blair (Queens College Oxford), Antonia Catchpole (Victoria County History, Oxfordshire), and local historian Rob Parkinson.

Thanks are extended to Matthew Freud and Elisabeth Murdoch for allowing access to Burford Priory for geophysical survey and evaluation. Thanks are due also to Richard Andrews (Restoration Manager) for his assistance during work within the Priory Grounds. Further thanks go to Ellie Stacey (Head teacher) and the staff and pupils of Burford Primary School for their considerable help with the excavation of the shovel test pits within the Kitchen Garden of Burford Priory.

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BURFORD, OXFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

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

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

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The town of Burford in Oxfordshire is located approximately six miles west of Witney and 19 miles east of Cheltenham. Burford Priory, constructed on the site of the former Hospital of St John the Evangelist, is located to the immediate north of the town, with the Priory centred on NGR 424950 212330. The Priory is currently undergoing restoration for use as a domestic residence.

1.2.2 The underlying geology consists of Taynton Stone, Stonesfield Slate, Fullers Earth, Chipping Norton Limestone and Clypeus Grit (BGS 236). The site is situated approximately 100m above Ordnance datum (aOD).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Introduction

1.3.1 The following archaeological and historical background is summarised from the Project Design prepared by Videotext Communications Ltd (2009) with particular reference to *Burford: buildings and peoples in a Cotswolds town* (Catchpole *et al*. 2008) and the Victoria County History entry for the Hospital of St John the Evangelist, Burford (Page 1907, 154-5). The Oxfordshire Historical Environment Record (OHER) was also consulted.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 Amongst the earliest and most significant features of Burford is the ford over the river Windrush. Findspots around it suggest that it has been an important crossing point since prehistoric times.

1.3.3 Prehistoric sites around Burford include a causewayed enclosure *c*. 2.5km south-west of the town (PRN 12243), a Neolithic long barrow (PRN 12326) some 2km south of the Priory, and a Bronze Age round barrow (PRN 2587) around 850m south of the Priory. Findspots in the vicinity of the Site include those of a Neolithic stone axe (PRN 5797) and fragments of Neolithic/Bronze Age flint (PRN 16160).

Romano-British

1.3.4 Over the years there have been sporadic finds of Roman coins and pottery in the town.

1.3.5 Previous work in the area has identified no clear evidence of settlement within Burford during this period, but evidence that it took place within the surrounding area is included within the OHER, which records 12-13 inhumation burials (PRN 1485) discovered in 1894 *c*. 3km south-east of Burford.

1.3.6 Closer to the Priory, excavations on the High Street identified possible Romano-British deposits, but the evidence was not conclusive (PRN 16748). The establishment of Burford at the crossing point across the River Windrush may be due to an earlier settlement located near by.

Anglo-Saxon to early medieval

1.3.7 The town name itself is of Anglo Saxon origin and means *'ford by or leading to the burh'*, an enclosed site ranging from a fortified town to an estate centre. It seems likely that there was some form of Anglo-Saxon *burh* close by; the exact location of this has been hypothesised but has not been confirmed. Its boundaries would probably have been marked with hedges, banks and ditches, enclosing a small settlement and also perhaps an important early church. This *burh* may have been constructed in the 10th century when the kingdom of Wessex was expanding into Mercia to the north. Firmer evidence for activity at this period comes in the form of a burial (PRN 1475) found *c*. 300m south-west of the Priory.

1.3.8 After the Norman Conquest, Burford formed part of the extensive estates given by William I to his half brother Odo of Bayeaux. At the time of Domesday (1086), the town is thought to have had a population of around 200. Odo later rebelled against his nephew William II and his lands were given to Robert FitzHamon, who recognised the potential of the settlement and granted a charter to the men of Burford some time before 1107. The town of Burford was laid out between the 11th and mid 13th centuries by a series of manorial lords who meant to capitalise on the possibilities of the town. In the 13th and 14th centuries the town emerged as an important wool town.

1.3.9 Situated to the west of the main town High Street was the Hospital of St John the Evangelist. This was, as were most medieval hospitals, a religious establishment. The first historical reference to the Hospital comes from the 1226 Close Rolls. However, it is believed that the foundation stretched back to the mid 12th century, and was created by the Earl of Gloucester. In this early period it was endowed with lands in Rissington, Little Barrington, Asthall and Widford. It was never a particularly wealthy establishment, with an income of only £13 6s 8d in 1526. The foundation of the Warwick almshouses in Burford in 1455 probably hastened the decline of the establishment.

Post-medieval

1.3.10 At the Dissolution of the monasteries, the site of the Hospital was presented to Edmund Harman, one of the King's barber-surgeons. He held this property for the term of his life, but probably never lived there on a permanent basis. The first major rebuilding of the Hospital took place under

the ownership of Sir Lawrence Tanfield (later chief Baron of the Exchequer) in the 1580s. The building was known as The Priory by this time, and it developed into a house grand enough to accommodate James I for three nights in 1603. The building at this time had an imposing three-storeyed front and was built on the conventional E-shaped plan with a front made up of seven gabled bays.

1.3.11 The Lenthall family took over the property from the Tanfields in the 17th century. William Lenthall was the Speaker of the House of Commons during the reign of Charles I. Their main addition to the house was the construction of the Lenthall Chapel *c*. 1660 (Catchpole *et al*. 2008, fig. 51). The Lenthall family were in residence until 1828, but by the 19th century they were in financial difficulties and reduced the house in size from seven to three bays with a simple rectangular plan (Cathpole *et al*., 212, fig. A).

1.3.12 The family sold the estate in 1828 and by the late 19th century the house was semi-derelict. It was then restored in two stages, first in 1908 by Colonel de Sales la Terrière and second by architect Walter Godfrey, commissioned around 1922 by the owner E.J. Horniman who bought the house in 1912. During the renovations by Colonel de Sales la Terrière in 1908, a 13th century arcade comprising three columns was uncovered – a fourth pier base was located on the same line outside the building. The internal arcade was subsequently moved, but is still extant within the building (*ibid.*, fig. 46; **Figure 3**). In 1941 the house was taken over by a religious community (the Priory of Our Lady) who occupied the property into the 21st century.

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

1.4.1 No previous intrusive archaeological work has been undertaken on the Site, although other works at various times in the past have revealed sub-surface remains.

1.4.2 A building survey of the current Burford Priory structure was undertaken in 1936/37 by the architect Walter Godfrey, who recorded the changing state of the building. The plan he produced (**Figure 3**) shows the original position of the 13th century arcade uncovered during the renovations by Colonel de Sales la Terrière in 1908, before they were moved to their current position.

1.4.3 A walk-over survey of the Site by Mick Aston and Teresa Hall in summer 2008 found numerous sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery within the walled kitchen garden.

1.4.4 In September 2008 GSB Prospection carried out a pilot study on the Site at the request of the landowners. The following results are summarised from the subsequent report (GSB Prospection 2008). The aim of this pilot study was, primarily, to determine the suitability of the available land for geophysical survey: would the soils be conducive to successful GPR and earth resistance survey? Some smaller areas were also surveyed in their entirety using radar, namely, the sunken lawns and the Chapel interior.

1.4.5 The geophysical work formed part of an investigation being carried out by Richard Andrews on behalf of Matthew Freud and Elisabeth Murdoch, the wider aims of which were to define and map features of archaeological and historic interest, and to investigate areas in advance of future development.

1.4.6 Overall, with the exception of the former tennis courts to the west of the main house, the results of the geophysical pilot survey were encouraging, and identified good conditions for both radar and resistance survey. The

GPR survey identified a number of interesting responses including possible earlier masonry / features below the Chapel and several services / drains / conduits.

1.4.7 Resistance survey on the main lawn in front of the house revealed a rectilinear spread of high resistance anomalies which was thought possibly to relate to the continuation of a medieval arcade running through the present House, or perhaps to formal garden features.

1.4.8 Over the sunken lawns, the geophysical survey revealed hints of linear anomalies and zones of disturbance. It was thought likely that the dominant cause of these responses were drainage and consolidation material dumped during landscaping works.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2009), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.

- What is the level of truncation caused by modern activity in the areas under investigation?
- What is the nature and condition of sub-surface archaeological deposits in the areas under investigation?
- What are the levels of natural deposits in areas under investigation and how to these compare to other archaeological sites in the area?
- Is there any evidence for Roman occupation in the area?
- Is there any evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation in the area?
- What is the earliest evidence for medieval occupation in the area?
- Is there any evidence of pre-existing structures mentioned in historical sources?
- Do the current buildings stand on the footprint of pre-existing structures?

3 METHODS

3.1 Geophysical Survey

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

3.2 Shovel Test-Pits

3.2.1 A programme of shovel test-pitting was undertaken within the kitchen garden, primarily for the recovery of pottery (**Figure 1; Back cover, bottom left**). An area of the garden was laid out in 48 2m by 2m grid squares in two blocks, and a single shovel test pit was excavated within each square. A sample of the garden soil (approximately 30 litres) was sieved and all finds retained. Analysis of the recovered finds contributed towards the targeting of evaluation trenches.

3.3 Evaluation Trenches

3.3.1 Twelve trenches of varying sizes were excavated, following the geophysical survey and the results of the shovel test pits, and positioned to answer the research aims stated in the project design (**Figure 1**).

3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

3.3.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.

3.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system and Total Station. All archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (typically plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10). All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

3.3.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.

3.3.7 The work was carried out between the 21st and 24th April 2009. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2009), details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the archive. Details of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Survey

Introduction

4.2.1 Conditions for survey were generally good throughout. Ground cover comprised well maintained lawns (Areas 1 and 2) and a school playing field (Area 3). Area 1 was largely open whilst Area 2 was a thin strip of lawn bounded to the north and west by a modern path and to the east by a raised flower bed, restricting the area available for survey. Area 3 had several trees within the survey area in addition to two metal goal posts in the western half of the site (**Figures 1 & 2**).

Resistance Survey (Figure 2B)

Area 1

4.2.2 A rectilinear spread of increased resistance values (1) was originally detected in the pilot survey (see above, **1.4**; GSB 2008). The current survey was able to confirm, through excavation, that this was indeed an extension of the medieval arcade found inside the main building. Judging by the relative response levels, preservation appears better on the northern and eastern sides.

4.2.3 A broad linear band of high resistance values (2) is thought to represent an earlier driveway. Although offset from the centre of the current property, the building originally had another wing to the north; this would make the linear response (2) central to the larger structure. Excavation revealed the line of a small wall towards the edge of this feature. The parallel bands of high resistance (3) are probably related to a former garden feature, again possibly respecting the northern wing. This original, larger footprint of the property could explain the high resistance values (4) curving through the southern half and up the eastern limits of the survey area – it is possible that this represents a wider turning circle, centred around the former central drive (2).

4.2.4 There appears to be a general zone of increased response in the east and south of the survey area, bounded largely by trend (5). It is not clear exactly what the cause of this is, although there is a suggestion in the GPR data that this could be the result of landscaping and drainage (see below).

Area 2

4.2.5 No anomalies of archaeological interest were identified in this area. The only responses recorded appear to relate to service routes, probably drains (see GPR survey).

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey (Figure 2A)

Area 1

4.2.6 Reflections (A), coincident with the high resistance values (1), are attributable to medieval remains representing an extension of the aforementioned arcade. As with the resistance survey, preservation appears best on the west and north of the feature. Isolated anomalies and trends (B), beneath the current driveway, may also be related but there is little to their form to enable a definitive interpretation.

4.2.7 The line of the presumed former driveway (C) is also clear, although it is less apparent where linear anomaly (D) crosses through; this may suggest that (D) is later in date. As with the resistance survey, the trend (D) seems to denote the limit to a zone of increased response and trends that extend southwards. This zone is assumed to be the result of some form of landscaping and the main body of the response shifts south with depth; the radargrams confirm a dipping spread of material. It is possible that (D) is the line of a drain or similar, as may also be the case with some of the larger trends crossing through the disturbed ground, for example linear (E).

4.2.8 The group of high amplitude anomalies (F) may be part of the original drive or possibly the remnants of an adjacent structure. Given the lack of defining form to the shape of the anomalies, the latter interpretation remains somewhat speculative.

4.2.9 The double wall line, first identified in the resistance survey (3), is again apparent (G). A third faint trend flanks the anomaly pair and could be a drain or similar. It is possible that trends identified to the south, e.g. (E) are walls which were set out mirroring those at (G).

Area 2

4.2.10 Other than a deep, broad and very faint increase in response (H), which it has not been possible to define, the only responses recorded in this area were services such as drains.

Magnetic Survey (Figure 1)

Area 3

4.2.11 It was hoped that survey in this area might reveal the line of the original town boundary, if such a boundary ever existed. The magnetic data are dominated by very strong ferrous disturbance, typically a result of modern debris in the topsoil. Due to the strength of these responses it is impossible to pick out anything that may be of significant antiquity, with little more than faint trends visible between the areas of magnetic disturbance.

4.3 Shovel Test Pits

4.3.1 The excavation of the shovel test pits produced a small quantity of finds (see **Table 1**), but with no major concentrations. Minor clusters were recorded in the north-east corner of the larger block (Trench 3 was subsequently excavated as an extension of this area), and in the smaller block (Trench 4 was positioned just to the west of this). Pottery recovered from the shovel test pits was mostly of medieval and post-medieval date, with three Romano-British sherds.

4.3.2 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded within the test pits.

4.4 Evaluation Trenches

Introduction

4.4.1 Two main areas were investigated, both within the grounds of Burford Priory (**Figure 1**).

4.4.2 Area 1 was located on the eastern lawn at the front of the house. Trenches 1, 9, 10 and 12 were excavated within Area 1 and targeted on the results of the geophysical survey.

4.4.3 Area 2 was confined within the walled kitchen garden to the east of the Priory buildings. Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were excavated within Area 2 following the shovel test-pitting.

4.4.4 In addition, one trench (Trench 11) was dug within the Lenthall Chapel.

Area 1

Trench 1 (**Figures 4 & 5**)

4.4.5 Trench 1 was positioned to investigate GPR anomaly (A) (Resistance anomaly 1) and to investigate a possible continuation of the row of 13th century arches observed in 1908 and subsequently moved. It was thought that this arcade was part of a building which could be interpreted as either the infirmary hall or its associated chapel.

4.4.6 The natural basal geology (136) was recorded (**Figure 5, Plate 2**); the upper levels had been reworked, and a number of sherds of undiagnostic Romano-British coarse pottery were recovered from the reworked natural (121/130/133). This layer was sealed by a buried ground surface or occupation layer (107/115/128) and (126), which contained sherds of Romano-British pottery as well as medieval sherds, and which is dated on ceramic grounds to the 12th to 13th century. Cutting (126) was small tree hole (124) which contained a single sherd of 12th/13th century pottery.

4.4.7 The buried ground surface/occupation layer pre-dated the construction of the building - it had been cut through by foundation trench (116), but would have remained the surface associated with the building in its lifetime. The foundation trench (116) contained the walls of the north-east corner, (104) and (108), with supporting buttresses (110), (111) and (112). Only the foundations of these structures remained, all evidence of upstanding walls having been robbed. Wall (108) comprised the northern wall, which would have been aligned with the medieval arcade identified in 1908.

4.4.8 The building was extended at a later date by the addition of a northern aisle, through the addition of wall (109) in foundation trench (117). Wall (109) was supported by the addition of buttress (137). At this stage it was unclear whether (109) formed the northern aisle of a chapel or of the infirmary hall; the question is discussed further below (**Section 7**).

4.4.9 Adjacent to wall (109) and buttress (137) was a mortar-rich spread (127), possibly deposited during the later addition of the aisle (**Figure 5, Plate 2**). This layer contained medieval pottery sherds (13th/14th century), but a similar deposit, (129), located to the east of the chapel, contained medieval and post-medieval sherds.

4.4.10 The building was demolished and material removed for recycling by means of a series of robber trenches. The main robbing event was trench (119); this was in turn cut by a later robber trench (118/139). Dating evidence from these trenches is restricted to a single sherd of medieval pottery (12th/13th century) from the fill of trench (118), but demolition is more likely to have taken place just prior to the major rebuilding by Sir Lawrence Tanfield in the 1580s.

4.4.11 The robber trenches were sealed by landscaping deposits to form the present-day garden. The post-demolition levelling layers contained a mixture of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery, and were sealed below the garden topsoil.

Trench 9 (**Figures 4 & 5, Plate 3**)

4.4.12 Trench 9 was positioned west of Trench 1, to the south of the front door of the Priory, to investigate the site of a postulated pier base, a continuation of the medieval arcade observed in 1908. The trench was adjacent to a modern garden wall leading from the front door.

4.4.13 A single wall (903) ran parallel to the existing house frontage (**Figure 4, Plate 3**), but its nature was not fully ascertained as it was butted on either side by compact rubble layers (906) and (907), and appeared to have been truncated by a robber trench (904). A single sherd of 12th/13th century pottery was recovered from the fill of the robber trench. No evidence of the pier base was observed. The archaeology was sealed by a levelling layer (902) containing both medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Trench 10 (**Figures 4 & 5, Plates 4 & 5**)

4.4.14 Trench 10 lay to the south of Trench 1, over GPR anomaly (A) (Resistance anomaly 1); it marked the site of the postulated southern wall of the building uncovered in Trench 1, i.e. parallel to wall (108).

4.4.15 The natural geology was sealed by reworked natural. This was cut by ditch (1004); the function and date of this feature are unclear, but it was cut by a later robber trench (1006) for the removal of the wall. These features were observed only in section (**Figure 5, Plate 5**). No evidence was found for a corresponding southern aisle.

Trench 12 (**Figures 4 & 5, Plate 6**)

4.4.16 Trench 12 was located to investigate GPR anomaly (C) (Resistance anomaly 2). Due to the constraints of time and the small size of the trench, the archaeological remains revealed were not fully understood.

4.4.17 The natural basal geology was cut by a number of features, but it was unclear from what depth these features were cut. These features comprised post-hole (1209), possible ditch (1211) and possible footings trench (1207). Possibly sealing (1207), although the relationship was not investigated, was a large rubble spread (1205), the base of a possible roadway surface leading into the hospital complex, which would have aligned with Priory Lane to the east. Pottery recovered from the surface of (1205) was dated to the 13th/14th century. To the east of (1205) was possible rubble collapse (1206) from the road, which also contained 13th/14th pottery.

4.4.18 Layers (1205) and (1206) were overlain by a possible occupation layer (1204), which contained similarly dated medieval pottery.

Trench 11 (**Figure 9, Plate 15**)

4.4.19 Trench 11 was excavated within the late 17th century Lenthall Chapel to investigate an earlier stone structure partly overlain by the chapel and visible outside the building beneath the southern wall.

4.4.20 No structures were observed within Trench 11, and the earliest recorded deposit was (1107) a possible ground surface, which contained a single sherd of 12th/13th century pottery. This deposit was possibly equivalent to layers (107/115/128) in Trench 1. Layer (1107) was overlain by a series of deposits associated with the building of the Lenthall Chapel, (1106), (1105) and (1104). Layer (1104) was cut by a modern service trench (1103) and sealed beneath the current ceramic tiled and stone flagged floor (1101) of the chapel (**Figure 9, Plate 15**).

Area 2

Trench 2 (**Figure 6, Plate 7**)

4.4.21 Trench 2 was positioned adjacent to an area which produced sherds of medieval pottery in the shovel test pits. Two structures were revealed within the trench which related to the area's use as a kitchen garden. Drain (202) ran across the southern end of the trench, and contained medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery. Towards the northern end of the trench was an insubstantial wall foundation (204), interpreted as a garden feature. This lay beneath layer (205), which contained medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Trench 3 (**Figure 6**)

4.4.22 Trench 3 was positioned towards the northern corner of the Kitchen Garden, following the excavation of Shovel Test Pits 10 and 11, which produced early medieval pottery sherds.

4.4.23 The natural geology (324) was cut by the earliest identified archaeology, pit (305), which contained early medieval pottery (**Figure 6, Plate 9**). The overlying layer (303/320) contained post-medieval pottery. This layer was cut by the foundation trench (311) for wall (306), and also by foundation trench (318) for wall (309). Wall (313) may have been contemporaneous; it butted wall (306) (**Figure 6, Plate 8**). These walls were interpreted as being the foundations for a possible post-medieval belvedere, a viewing platform over the vista to the north. Infilling the gap between walls (306) and (309) was (310), a deliberately dumped deposit containing pottery ranging in date from Romano-British to modern. The three walls (306), (309) and (313) were removed by robber trench (314).

Trench 4 (**Figure 7**)

4.4.24 Trench 4 was positioned to the west of Trench 3. The natural basal geology (418) was cut by a number of features; their nature and function were not clear, and there are two possible interpretations as to what they represented.

4.4.25 A narrow gully (405), aligned roughly east-west, appeared to border layer (407) to the south. Layer (407) was cut by two small features, (406) and (410), possibly pits. Pit (406) contained 12th/13th century pottery while pit (410) produced one small Romano-British sherd, probably residual. One possibility is that gully (405) and layer (407) represent the remains of a Saxo-Norman timber building, with a rammed earthen floor. Alternatively, they could be garden-related features, the possible floor surface being due to differences in the natural geology. The interpretation was hampered by the extent of the truncation and the reworking which had taken place following the use of the area as a kitchen garden (**Figure 7, Plate 10**).

4.4.26 Three modern features also cut the natural – gully (412), post-hole (414) and pit (416). Overlying all features was layer (402), a very mixed deposit, containing evidence of the constant reworking of this area of the garden - pottery recovered ranged in date from Romano-British to modern.

Trench 5 (**Figure 8, Plate 11**)

4.4.27 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded within Trench 5. The natural basal geology was sealed beneath layers (503) and (502), with overlying topsoil (501). Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from these layers.

Trench 6 (**Figure 7**)

4.4.28 In Trench 6 only modern features were identified, cutting the natural geology. These comprised a dog burial (610), and a garden bedding trench (607). Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from overlying layers.

Trench 7 (**Figure 8, Plate 12**)

4.4.29 Trench 7 revealed truncated and disturbed natural (702) below topsoil (701). No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Trench 8 (**Figure 8, Plate 13**)

4.4.30 In Trench 8 the disturbed natural (803) was cut through by a number of modern garden features (not recorded). No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from ten of the 12 trenches excavated. No finds were recovered from Trenches 7 and 8, and few finds came from Trenches 2, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11. Trenches 1 and 12 were the most productive of artefactual material. As well as the evaluation trenches, finds were also retrieved from the shovel test pits excavated within the Kitchen Garden. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, with an emphasis on the medieval and post-medieval periods.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Following quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain their nature, probable date range, and condition. Spot dates have been recorded for datable material (pottery, ceramic building material). This information provides the basis for an assessment of the potential of the finds assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site, with particular reference to the possible origin of Burford as an Anglo-Saxon *burh*, and to the foundation and occupation of the medieval hospital.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes material of later prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. The whole assemblage has been quantified by ware type within each context; for medieval wares the regional type series has been used (Mellor 1994).

Prehistoric

5.2.2 One sherd from Trench 2 (layer 205) is in a coarse, calcareous fabric. The sherd is heavily abraded, but appears to come from the rim of a convex vessel with a short, upright rim, and with traces of impressed dots on the exterior. Fabric and form are characteristic of the Middle/Late Iron Age in the region (e.g. DeRoche 1978, fabric 1, form B3; Lambrick 1979, fabric AB, form B3).

Romano-British

5.2.3 A small number of Romano-British sherds were identified. These are mainly in coarse greyware fabrics, possibly of local, Oxfordshire manufacture. All these sherds are undiagnostic, and none can be dated more closely within the Roman period. Also present are one sherd of samian (late 1st or 2nd century AD, layer 310) and two sherds of Oxfordshire colour coated ware (layer 1204; TP10; 3rd or 4th century AD). Most of the Romano-British sherds occurred alongside later material, and even in instances where they constituted the only sherds found they are likely to be redeposited (layer 121, feature 410).

Saxon

5.2.4 Two sherds from Trench 4 (subsoil layer 402) are in a coarse organic-tempered fabric which is typical of the Early/Middle Saxon period (5th to 8th centuries AD). These sherds were residual in a post-medieval context.

Medieval

5.2.5 Possibly the earliest ware represented here is St Neot's type ware (OXR). This ware type was in use in Oxfordshire by the 10th century and continued until the early 11th century. Vessel forms seen here comprise one jar and one bowl. While this ware type is certainly of pre-conquest date, it occurred here only with later sherds.

5.2.6 Four other wares fall within the late Saxon to early medieval ceramic traditions of the region, although the evidence from Burford suggests that in this instance all are post-conquest. The most numerous here is the coarse, calcareous West Oxfordshire ware (OXAC), a handmade ware with a lengthy currency from the late 9th into the 13th century in west Oxfordshire. Vessel forms seen at Burford are almost exclusively jars, and include both globular and straight-sided forms; some rims are finger-impressed, and one vessel has a finger-impressed cordon below the rim. There is also one strap-handled pitcher (layer 1204). There is a suggestion that the straight-sided jar forms may fall earlier in the sequence (up to the 11th century) than the globular forms, at least in west Oxfordshire and adjacent parts of Gloucestershire (Mellor 1994, 45), but there is otherwise little firm dating that can be applied to the Burford jars. It can, however, be observed that this ware generally occurs together with other early medieval ware types (see below), which suggests that most if not all sherds are at least post-conquest.

5.2.7 One other coarseware is represented by a single sherd of south-west Oxfordshire ware (OXBF), with a similar date range to OXAC; while glazed tablewares were supplied by two types: Oxford ware (OXY) and Abingdon ware (OXAG), both sandy ware traditions.

5.2.8 All these wares occurred alongside the early medieval traditions of East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ; also known as 'Kennet Valley ware' in Berkshire and Wiltshire) and Minety-type ware, which dominates the assemblage (OXBB). East Wiltshire ware is seen here in both flint-tempered and chalk-/flint-tempered variants, suggesting a date range from at least the 12th if not the late 11th century; jars are the only vessel form represented. Minety-type ware is also seen here primarily in jar forms, but there is also at least one open form (dish or bowl), one possible skillet, and a jug; a number of sherds are glazed, and some carry combed decoration. The ware type has a currency from the 12th century in Oxfordshire and in western parts of the county, closest to the source area, its currency probably continued throughout the medieval period.

5.2.9 Other fine tablewares were supplied by the Brill/Boarstall kilns from the 13th century at least into the 14th century and possibly beyond. Sherds are mainly glazed, and some are slip-decorated. Two other glazed sherds, both also white-slipped under the glaze, are of unknown source but are likely also to be of 13th or 14th century date.

5.2.10 Overall, the date range of the medieval assemblage appears to focus on the period from the 12th to early 14th century, with some indication of earlier wares, but with nothing that can be definitively dated later.

Post-Medieval

5.2.11 Coarse redwares dominate the post-medieval assemblage; these are likely to derive from several different sources, and are not generally closely datable within the period, although modern flowerpots were recognised, particularly amongst the material from the test pits. One pipkin rim and handle from Trench 1 (in joining sherds from topsoil and levelling layer 102) could be in a Malvernian fabric (Vince 1977).

5.2.12 Other post-medieval wares are scarce, and are mainly restricted to later types: Raeren stoneware (late 15th or 16th century), white salt glaze (early 18th century), and modern refined whitewares and stonewares.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 This category includes roof tiles, floor tiles and bricks. Roof tiles are most numerous, and a high proportion of these are ridge tiles. Six fragments from layer (138) join to form the most complete example from the Site, with a triangular profile and applied, knife-cut crest with deep finger-tip impressions from both sides. This example is unglazed, but some other fragments carry a thin, patchy, pale olive green glaze. All but one of the ridge tile fragments is in a similar, calcareous (limestone-tempered) fabric (Oxford tile fabric 1B: Robinson 1980); the exception, from levelling layer (102), is in a sandy fabric, and is also glazed. Ridge tile fragments came from Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 12.

5.3.2 Flat ceramic roof tiles are notable by their absence (there are only four small fragments), but these may have been supplied instead in stone (see below), ceramic tiles being confined to the ridges.

5.3.3 Fragments of four decorated floor tiles were recovered from Trench 1 (topsoil, levelling layer 102). One, from layer (102), can be identified as belonging to the 'Stabbed Wessex' group, dated *c*. 1280-1320; examples have been found at St Frideswide's monastery and St Ebbe's in Oxford (Green 1988, fig. 49, no. 5; Mellor 1989, fig. 79, no. 3). A second design, represented by fragments from both topsoil and layer (102), cannot at this stage be paralleled, while a fourth is indecipherable. Two further small floor tile fragments are white-slipped and might also be decorated, but no design is visible (layer 102, robber cut 119)

5.3.4 One unfrogged brick fragment came from pit (113).

5.4 Clay Pipes

5.4.1 The clay pipe consists almost entirely of plain stem fragments, with two small (undatable) bowl fragments. The only datable pipe comprises a complete bowl, found unstratified; this is of early 18th century type. No makers' marks were observed.

5.5 Stone

5.5.1 This category consists almost entirely of probable building material, with one possible hone stone from Trench 1 topsoil. The building material consists largely of limestone roofing slabs, with some surviving nail holes. These came from Trenches 1, 9 and 11. One almost complete example from Trench 9 (garden soil layer 902) is subrectangular with a rounded upper edge, and a single central nail hole at the apex (height 190mm by width 130mm). One other possible roof tile fragment is in sandstone (Trench 1 topsoil).

5.5.2 Other fragments of coarse, shelly limestone show no obvious signs of working but could have been utilised as building material.

5.6 Glass

5.6.1 The glass includes both vessel and window glass. Amongst the latter are a number of small fragments (45) from Trench 1 (topsoil, layers 102 and 129) that are highly degraded, almost to devitrification – these fragments are opaque, pitted and actively laminating. A few fragments appear to have been painted, from surviving surface traces, although the fragments are too small for any design to be decipherable. One fragment has grozed edges and is clearly from a rectangular quarry. The condition of this glass is consistent with a medieval date. Three further small fragments from Trench 1 topsoil are also degraded, but to a lesser extent – these fragments, although oxidised and with laminating surfaces, are still translucent. One piece has grozed edges and is from a diamond-shaped quarry. These fragments are likely to be of early post-medieval date.

5.6.2 The vessel glass includes no medieval fragments; all is from bottles or jars of post-medieval or modern date. The earliest of these are onion or mallet forms of the later 17th or early 18th century; rim and neck fragments from these forms came from layer (206), pit (416) and garden debris layer (603). Other fragments are later, including five complete, small, modern bottles and jars from Trench 3 topsoil.

5.7 Metalwork

Coins and tokens

5.7.1 One coin and two tokens were recovered, all of post-medieval date. The coin is a halfpenny of William and Mary, dating from the 1690s. The tokens are both 17th century farthing tokens issued by local traders. The first, from Trench 1 topsoil, is of Lawrence King, a glover, who was the leader of the Anabaptist sect in Oxford after 1660. His token was minted in Oxford between 1648 and 1680. The second, from context 102, is of Anthony Boulter, a grocer from Wallingford, dated 1664.

Copper alloy

5.7.2 Of the ten objects of copper alloy recovered, only one can be definitively dated as medieval: this is a small, plain annular brooch, a common medieval type (Margeson 1993, nos. 54-6), which came from rubble layer (1206). One other object could be of medieval date – a small, circular, convex object (diameter 11mm), with a short hooked attachment, possibly a horse harness pendant, found in layer (129) (Clark 1995, fig. 47, nos. 57-8).

5.7.3 A coin-like fitting from Trench 3 topsoil has two brackets on the reverse, suggesting that it was fitted on to a thin, flat object such as a leather strap. The object is very corroded, but the image on the front seems to be a veiled and haloed female bust; there are traces of text to the right of the bust, which may read LABORE. The object has been identified as a modern Roman Catholic medal, probably depicting St Catherine Labore (J. Cribb pers. comm.).

5.7.4 Other objects comprise a small sheet metal bell, a lock plate, a door knob, a long pin with a biconical head, a small, flat-headed tack, a button, a possible ferrule or long lace tag, and a small looped fitting. Apart from the ferrule/lace tag (layer 303), all these objects came from topsoil contexts.

Lead

5.7.5 Lead objects include 20 window came fragments (Trench 1 topsoil, layer 102), all with a H-profile and milled in a toothed mill, an indication of a date range in the 16th century or later (Knight 1985, 156). There is also one shot of 12mm diameter (Trench 3 topsoil). Other lead consists of waste fragments and possible offcuts.

Iron

5.7.6 The ironwork consists principally of nails (75 examples) and other structural components such as staples. Other identifiable objects comprise two knives, one of them a clasp knife (layer 102, Trench 3 topsoil), a horseshoe fragment (Trench 3 topsoil), a padlock slide key (layer 129), an S-shaped hook (Trench 4 subsoil), and a possible chain link (buried ground surface 107). Of these only the clasp knife (post-medieval) and the padlock key are chronologically distinctive; examples of the latter have been found in medieval contexts in, for example, London and Norwich (Egan 1998, fig. 74, nos. 262, 264; Margeson 1993, fig. 117, nos. 1261-2).

5.8 Worked Bone

5.8.1 Two worked bone objects were recovered. The first (Trench 1 topsoil) consists of the proximal part of a bone needle with eye (length 39mm), decorated with diagonal incised bands of three lines. The object was made out of a split cattle rib, sawn to size and polished.

5.8.2 The second object, from garden debris layer (603), consists of one half of a handle, probably from a scale tang knife. A piece of long bone from a large mammal was sawn to size and polished into an elongated tapered strip with a rounded head. The inside of the bone reveals three small holes for the iron rivets. Neither of these objects is particularly closely datable, and could be of either medieval or post-medieval date.

5.9 Animal Bone

5.9.1 A total of 374 bones was recovered, mainly by hand excavation. All bones derive from mammals and birds. No bones from fish or amphibians were present. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion; the total thus varies from the raw fragment counts given in **Table 1**. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category.

5.9.2 Not included here are a number of small mammal bones, most probably of a small rodent, noted in the environmental flots (see below, **6.4** and **Table 4**).

Condition and preservation

5.9.3 Almost all animal bone fragments were in good condition. Nineteen bones showed signs of butchery indicating that the remains contain food waste (**Table 3**). The gnawed bones show that dogs had access to the bones prior to deposition. No loose but matching epiphyses or articulating bones were found. Together with a fair proportion of loose teeth, this might indicate that most bones come from re-worked contexts or secondary deposits.

Animal husbandry

5.9.4 The identified bones in this small assemblage derive from horse (n=8), cattle (98), sheep/goat (95), pig (19), dog (3) and bird (10). Among the bird bones were the remains of chicken and goose. Although most cattle bones derived from adult cattle, some clearly derived from calves. All sheep/goat bones represented (sub)adult animals. All pig bones derived from subadult animals probably slaughtered at an optimal meat yield age.

Consumption and deposition

5.9.5 The small assemblage contains a wide range of skeletal elements and this suggests that the animals were butchered nearby. The frequent use of a saw in the butchery process confirms the medieval or later date of this material.

Conclusions

5.9.6 Based on the analysis of this small assemblage of animal bones, the occupants of the site solely consumed the meat of domestic animals. Veal was amongst the more luxury food items. Meat and eggs from domestic fowl and chicken would have supplemented the diet.

5.9.7 Sites with which to compare the results from Burford Priory include the medieval house of the bishops of Winchester at Mount House, Witney; the Sackler Library, Beaumont Street, Oxford; and Eynsham Abbey. The small assemblage from Burford Priory shows equal proportions of cattle and sheep/goat bones and only a small proportion of pig bones. If representative for the medieval and post-medieval consumption patterns at the Site, it differs from the assemblages from Mount House in that pig proportions are higher at the latter site. However, sheep/goat were the most numerous species at Mount House from the mid/late 13th century onwards.

5.9.8 Higher proportions of pig were also seen at Eynsham Abbey, although cattle dominated from the late 13th century onwards (Ayres *et al*. 2003, 363). Sheep/goat proportions were never very high. High sheep and low pig proportions, more in line with the evidence from Burford Priory, were seen in the medieval assemblage from the Sackler Library. This phase is thought to be associated with the use of the site as a royal palace (Charles and Ingrem 2001, 76). Higher sheep and lower pig proportions apparently predominate on lower status sites (Ayres and Serjeantson 2002, 180). However, a decline in the consumption of pork is seen across the country after the 14th century (Albarella and Davies 1996) and is thus not necessarily related to status.

5.9.9 Domestic fowl and goose were both recorded at Mount House, the Sackler Library excavations and Eynsham Abbey; the range of species is higher for these sites than for Burford Priory, which does not contain evidence for the consumption of wild species. Overall, if the small assemblage of animal bone from Burford Priory can be considered as representative for the consumption patterns on this site during the medieval and post-medieval periods, occupation on the Site was possibly at a lower social level than at the other comparative sites, based on a lower proportion of pig, a restricted range of bird species and the absence of wild species (e.g. venison).

5.10 Other Finds

5.10.1 Other finds comprise a small quantity of wall plaster (monochrome white), fired clay (undiagnostic fragments of uncertain date and function), worked flint (two waste flakes), ironworking slag and oyster shell.

5.11 Potential and Recommendations

5.11.1 The Site produced a relatively small assemblage, in which post-medieval material predominates; little medieval material appeared to represent *in situ* deposits, and a high proportion of the assemblage came from topsoil or other insecurely stratified deposits. Only pottery and animal bone are represented in any significant quantity.

5.11.2 Evidence for Saxon activity on the Site was almost completely lacking, and this clearly cannot help to confirm or otherwise the possible presence of a *burh* at Burford.

5.11.3 The medieval assemblage is quite restricted both in size and range of materials and object types. The pottery consists of types well known within the regional ceramic sequence; most of these are coarse wares with relatively lengthy currencies, and do not lend themselves, therefore, to close dating (Mellor 1994). Chronological evidence, therefore, is quite limited. There are no wares of more exotic origin. Functional evidence, and evidence for the lifestyle of the inhabitants, is very restricted.

5.11.4 Structural evidence for the later medieval and early post-medieval periods is well represented (ceramic and stone building material; iron nails and other fixtures and fittings; window glass and lead window cames), but much of this material derived from demolition layers.

5.11.5 The finds have been recorded to minimum archive standard and sufficient chronological data extracted to inform an understanding of the site sequence. Given the quantities involved, and the stratigraphic integrity of the excavated contexts, no further work is proposed. Some finds categories, such as the ceramic building material, could be targeted for selective discard prior to archive deposition.

6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A single bulk sample was taken from a buried ground surface (107) that predated the initial stage of the infirmary chapel. On ceramic grounds, the date of the deposit is 12th to 13th century. The sample was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

6.2 Charred Plant Remains

6.2.1 The bulk sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residue fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fraction (>5.6 mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded. The flot was scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 4**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2.2 The flot was quite large with some roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement, reworking and possibly contamination by later intrusive elements. The charred material was generally well preserved within the sample.

6.2.3 There were a large number of cereal grains within the deposit mainly of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*/turgidum), along with rachis fragments that in many cases could be identified as tetraploid type e.g. *Triticum turigidum* sl. There were also a few rachis fragments and grains of hulled barley (Hordeum vulgare sl), although these were much fewer in number than remains of free-threshing wheat. No grains of rye were present.

6.2.4 The most other predominant remain were grains of oats (*Avena* sp.), although as only grain was present whether these remains represent the wild and/or cultivated crop could not be distinguished. The small number of weed species of other species may indicate that they are of cultivated rather than wild oats, although this species is likely to have been a persistent and troublesome weed in the region during the medieval period. The only other cultivated species within the sample was a probable fragment of pea or bean (*Pisum sativum*/*Vicia faba*), while the fragment of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) probably also relates to the use of this species for food.

6.2.5 The remainder of species were represented by a single to a handful of seeds. These comprised mainly common arable weed species such as orache (*Atriplex* sp.), corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), runch (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia*/*Lathyrus* sp.), knotted hedge parsley (*Torilis* sp.), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) and sedge (*Carex* sp.) These species indicate a variety of soils under cultivation with corn gromwell commoner on lighter calcareous loams, stinking mayweed on heavier clays and sedge on wetter areas.

6.2.6 The general lack of weed seeds would probably indicate that most of the weed seeds had been removed, although rachis fragments are still reasonably high, and perhaps indicate the processing of sheaves.

6.2.7 The presence of rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum* sl) in the 13th to 14th century has already been noted for Oxfordshire (Moffett 1995). Moffett (1995) also notes that while the crop produces inferior flour that it was favoured in post-medieval Oxfordshire as it was more highly productive than bread wheat.

6.2.8 The stonebrash around Burford was considered in the 19th century to be best for barley and sheep, although it is noted that runch or charlock was a troublesome weed (Page 1907). Runch while present in the samples was however only a minor component.

6.2.9 The assemblage seen here is generally similar to that from the medieval grange associated with Abingdon Abbey at Cumnor (Moffett 1994). Wheat is dominant in both with evidence for both rivet type and bread type wheat. Rye was scarcely represented at Cumnor and absent from the Site, while remains of barley are relatively low at both but consistently present. Rachis fragments comparative to grain were less well represented at Cumnor than seen in the sample here.

6.2.10 As noted by Moffett (1995) and as seen in within accounts dated to the 13th to 14th century (Postles 1994), rye is always a minor component compared to the dominance of wheat and to a slightly lesser extent oats and barley.

6.3 Wood charcoal

6.3.1 The flot had generally very little wood charcoal within it, with only a small amount of ring-porous, probable oak charcoal left.

6.4 Small animal and fish bones

6.4.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, a number of burnt small mammal bones were noted in the flots (**Table 4**), most probably of a small rodent mouse or rat. Additionally, a further small to medium burnt mammal bone was also recovered.

6.5 Potential and recommendations

6.5.1 The sample has the potential to inform on the range of crops grown, as well as providing information on the nature of crop-husbandry including the range of soils under cultivation and the nature of crop processing. However, that only a single sample is present limits such potential, and given that the composition of the sample has been broadly categorised no further work is deemed necessary.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Prehistoric

7.1.1 Burford sits within a landscape rich in prehistoric activity, and the Oxfordshire Historical Environment Record (OHER) records sites and find spots from the Neolithic to Iron Age (see above, **1.3**), but only a single sherd of residual prehistoric pottery was recovered from Trench 2, dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age.

7.2 Romano-British

7.2.1 No features of Romano-British date were identified in the evaluation, although a number of residual sherds of pottery were recovered.

7.3 Anglo-Saxon to early medieval

7.3.1 It appears that the activity of this period was concentrated within the area of what is now the walled Kitchen Garden. Despite Burford's assumed Saxon origins, only two sherds of 5th-8th century pottery were recovered (both from this area) to indicate activity in this period. No further evidence for the putative *burh* was therefore forthcoming.

7.3.2 Trench 4, within the Kitchen Garden, revealed features which may represent the remains of timber-framed building of the late Saxon or early medieval period. However, the degree of truncation and disturbance within this area was considerable, due to the constant reworking of the overlying material, and the date and function of the observed remains therefore remain uncertain. Elsewhere, no features or deposits could be securely dated as pre-conquest, although one feature (pit 305) could be as early as 10th century, but in general, the potentially early wares were found in association with post-conquest wares,.

7.3.3 The development of Burford as a planned medieval town following the granting of charters to the men of Burford by the landowner Robert FitzHamon between 1088 and 1107 has been well documented (e.g. Catchpole *et al.* 2008), and the foundation of the Hospital of St John the

Evangelist to the west of the new town followed this establishment. The hospital is believed to have been founded between 1147 and 1183 by William, earl of Gloucester; it was located outside the core of the town as was the fashion of the time (*ibid*., 25).

7.3.4 The evaluation provided evidence which broadly corresponded with the historical records - the buried ground surface through which the foundation trenches for the building in Trench 1 were dug was dated on ceramic grounds to the 12th to 13th century.

7.3.5 Evidence for other elements of the medieval hospital was more elusive, largely because, as expected, the medieval structures had been either overlain by or incorporated into the Tanfield mansion of the 1580s. That the medieval buildings were below the present Burford Priory was further confirmed by the geophysical survey which revealed that no buildings extended further to the east than that uncovered within Trench 1.

7.3.6 The size, shape and layout of medieval hospitals differed, and there was no standard layout, but they tended to comprise a central infirmary hall with northern and southern aisles separated from the hall by an arcade or colonnade. Beds and sitting rooms were located within the aisles. At the eastern end of the infirmary was the chapel, which could also be flanked by aisles. The building whose remains were found within Trench 1 apparently lay at the eastern end of the medieval complex, and might have been either the infirmary hall or chapel.

7.3.7 The north-eastern corner of the building was exposed; the northern wall would have been aligned with the 13th century arcade identified in 1908. Another east-west wall (109) had subsequently been added to the north, creating a northern aisle to the building. A central buttress supported the eastern wall. By extrapolating the width of the building and projecting the southern wall towards the current Priory building, it would appear that the bay-windowed room located to the south of the main entrance occupies the footprint of the either the infirmary hall or chapel. Trench 10 was positioned in an attempt to clarify the interpretation, but the corresponding southern wall had been robbed out, and there was no evidence of a southern aisle

7.3.8 The overall layout of the hospital at Burford is unclear. It may, for example, have followed a similar design to Christ Church, Canterbury (Orme and Webster 1995, fig. 6) with a large aisled chapel and aisled infirmary hall, or to St. Mary's Hospital, Chichester (*ibid.*, fig. 5), a chapel with a simple nave, and an aisled infirmary hall.

7.3.9 The interpretation of the building foundations in Trench 1, and their relationship to the standing remains within the existing Priory building, is thus dependent on the interpretation of the later wall (109) on the northern side of the chapel. This wall formed the northern aisle of either the chapel or of the infirmary hall. If it formed the northern aisle of the chapel, then the arcade separated the northern aisle from the central nave, and the main body of the infirmary lies beneath the current Priory. However, if it formed the northern aisle of the infirmary hall, then the arcade would have separated the individual bedding areas (to the north) from the central infirmary hall (to the south). If the latter interpretation is accepted, however, then the infirmary chapel would be very small, with just enough room for an altar. Overall, although only a small section of the building was exposed, it bears closer comparison with the aisled chapel at Christ Church, Canterbury, and this interpretation is preferred.

7.3.10 Evidence of the approach to the Hospital was revealed in Trench 12 as a possible rubble-based roadway.

7.4 Post-medieval

7.4.1 The demolition of the hospital buildings probably took place in the later 16th century, following the acquisition of the Site by the Tanfield family. The demolition was extensive, with removal even of wall foundation material, but some standing remains were incorporated within the new build, as indicated by the survival of the columns. In the Kitchen Garden a possible belvedere was constructed, with a view to the north, but the interpretation of this structure is not conclusive.

7.4.2 The late 17th century Lenthall Chapel was investigated in Trench 11, but no further information about its construction was gained.

7.4.3 What is clear from this programme of works is that activity in the post-medieval to modern period has had a considerable impact upon the underlying archaeological remains of the early medieval period and earlier. Demolition and rebuilding has had great impact in antiquity but modern horticultural activity within the walled garden has disturbed the basal geology and thus the archaeological remains present.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.1 The evaluation produced some interesting results in terms of the identification of surviving remnants of the medieval Hospital, although their interpretation was limited by the small size of the excavated area and the scarcity of good dating evidence. These results form part of ongoing research into the history of the Site by the current landowners, and should be incorporated into any future publication of that research.

8.1.2 In the meantime, no further analysis is proposed for the current project, but a short note will be submitted to *Oxoniensia*, summarising the results of the evaluation, for inclusion in the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs, written records and digital data, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 71501. It is intended that the archive will in due course be returned to the landowners at Burford Priory.

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

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Tr 9	Tr 10	Tr 11	Tr 12	TPs	unstrat	TOTAL
Pottery	143/1591	7/58	64/1413	33/213	5/20	7/44	7/79	4/25	1/1	132/1312	71/307	-	474/5063
Prehistoric	-	*1/42*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1/42*
Romano-British	*8/71*	-	*3/12*	*6/55*	-	-	-	-	-	*1/10*	*3/3*	-	*21/151*
Saxon	-	-	-	*2/13*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*2/13*
Medieval	*103/1018*	*3/9*	*34/280*	*20/110*	*1/6*	*5/22*	*5/55*	*4/25*	*1/1*	*120/1079*	*22/57*	-	*318/2662*
Post-Medieval	*32/502*	*3/7*	*27/1121*	*4/34*	*4/14*	*2/22*	*2/24*	-	-	*11/223*	*46/247*	-	*131/2194*
Undated	-	-	-	*1/1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1/1*
Ceramic Building Material	34/3726	-	1/12	2/28	-	-	-	1/33	-	4/166	-	-	42/3965
Wall Plaster	2/64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/64
Fired Clay	3/42	3/37	-	4/46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10/125
Clay Pipe	6/22	-	-	1/6	-	2/5	-	-	-	6/28	5/13	1/12	21/86
Stone	7/2267	1/134	-	2/275	-	-	1/773	-	2/954	-	-	-	13/4403
Flint	3/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/8
Glass	57/106	3/98	13/639	3/14	-	2/37	-	-	-	5/66	13/28	-	96/988
Slag	4/305	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/38	14/97	-	20/440
Metalwork	88	3	21	9	-	4	1	2	-	8	1	-	137
Coins	*3*	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Copper alloy	*3*	-	*3*	-	-	-	-	*1*	-	*2*	*1*	-	*10*
Iron	*56*	*3*	*15*	*8*	-	*3*	-	*1*	-	*5*	-	-	*91*
Lead	*26*	-	*2*	*1*	-	*1*	*1*	-	-	*1*	-	-	*32*
Worked Bone	1/3	-	-	-	-	1/15	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/18
Animal Bone	180/1388	20/283	71/944	30/401	-	1/17	1/4	2/51	7/58	88/1269	8/20	-	408/4435
Marine Shell	11/78	-	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	2/40	9/222	-	-	23/341

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Date Range	Ware	Fabric Code	No. Sherds	Weight (g)
PREHISTORIC	Calcareous ware		1	42
ROMANO-BRITISH	Coarse greyware		16	117
	Oxon colour coated ware		2	11
	Oxon oxidised ware		3	21
	Samian		1	3
	Sub-total Romano-British		*22*	*152*
SAXON	Organic-tempered ware		2	13
MEDIEVAL	West Oxon ware	OXAC	93	947
	South-west Oxon ware	OXBF	1	12
	St Neot's type ware	OXR	7	75
	Abingdon ware	OXAG	2	5
	Brill/Boarstall type ware	OXAM/OXAW	40	362
	East Wilts ware	OXAQ	20	206
	Minety-type ware	OXBB	142	988
	Oxford ware	OXY	11	61
	Misc. sandy ware		2	6
	Sub-total medieval		*318*	*2662*
POST-MEDIEVAL	Modern stoneware		4	533
	Raeren stoneware		2	5
	Redware	OXDR	109	1572
	Refined whiteware		10	58
	White salt glaze		5	25
	Sub-total post-medieval		*130*	*2193*
UNKNOWN	Sandy ware		1	1
	OVERALL TOTAL		**474**	**5063**

Table 3: Animal bone condition and potential (n)

Context	Unid.	Burnt	Loose teeth	Gnawed	Measure-able	Ageable	Butchered	Total no. frags
all	141	7	27	45	18	42	19	374

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples			Flot							
Feature/ Context	**Sam-ple**	**Ltrs**	**Flot (ml)**	**% roots**	**Grain**	**Chaff**	**Other**	**Notes**	**Charcoal >4/2mm**	**Other**
12th to 13th century deposit from buried soil under Infirmary Chapel										
Buried soil 107	<1>	32	250	10%	A***	A*	A*	**Cereals. Crops etc.** 200+f-t wheat grain, 50+ tetraploid rachis frgs. 25+ Barley grain, 5+ rachis frgs. Large Fabaceae, 2+ Corylus avellana, 100+ Avena sp, ?if cultivated **Weed seeds 1-10 of each** *Atriplex* sp. *Lithospermum arvense*, *Torilis* sp., *Apium* sp., *Phleum* sp., *Odontites vernus*, *Fallopia convolvulus Rumex* sp. *Raphanus raphanistrum*, *Anthemis cotula*, *Vicia/Lathyrus*, *Carex* sp., *Lolium* sp.,	5/5ml	Burnt smb(B)

l

Key:- A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5. sab/f = small animal/fish bones,

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

bgl = below ground level
CBM = ceramic building material (brick and tile)

TRENCH 1			Type: Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 6.2m by 6.8m		**Max. depth:** 1.10m	**Ground level:** 107.20m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
101	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of area of lawn to the front (east) of the Priory entrance, mid grey organic silty clay loam, heavily bioturbated and mixed. Seals (102).		0-0.20m
102	*Layer*	Mixed light to mid grey silty clay layer with common small limestone inclusions and mortar fragments. Deliberate levelling layer for the lawn located directly below (101); mix of post-demolition accumulation material used to level the front of the house following the demolition of the medieval Hospital buildings. Equivalent to (105). Sealed by (101) and overlying (103).		0.20-0.48m
103	*Layer*	Mid to light yellow-brown silty clay with common limestone mortar fragments. Post-demolition accumulation material, laid down after the demolition of the hospital buildings. Sealed by (102/105) and overlying (120).		0.12m thick
104	*Wall Foundation*	Eastern wall foundation of the infirmary chapel, aligned north south; 3.5m by 1.70; maximum of 0.55m high. Constructed of roughly shaped Cotswold oolitic limestone blocks in limestone mortar in (five) rough horizontal courses. Bonded at northern end to the eastern end of wall (108); also bonded to buttresses (110), (111) and (112). Constructed within foundation trench (**116**).		0.55m high
105	*Layer*	Mixed light to mid grey silty clay layer with common small limestone inclusions and mortar fragments. Deliberate levelling layer for the lawn located directly below (101), mix of post-demolition accumulation material. Equivalent to (102). Sealed by (101) and overlying (138)		0.20m thick
106	*Layer*	Mid green-brown silty clay fill of possible robber trench or later feature (**139/118**). Sealed by (103).		0.30m thick
107	*Buried Ground Surface*	Very dark grey silty loam, buried ground surface or occupation layer, pre-dating initial construction of infirmary chapel, as it is cut through by construction cut (116). Equivalent to (115) and (128). Overlies (121) dirty/reworked natural layer.		0.22m thick
108	*Wall Foundation*	Northern wall foundation of the infirmary chapel chancel, aligned east west; 4.3m by 1.4m; maximum of 0.70m high. Construction as wall (104); five courses. Bonded at its eastern end to the northern end of wall (104); also bonded to buttress (112); butted by wall (109). Within foundation trench (**116**).		0.70m high
109	*Wall Foundation*	Later addition to the infirmary chapel. North-south wall foundation; 2.8m by 0.9m; maximum of 0.24m high. Construction as (104) and (108); five courses. Butts northern side of wall (108) at its southern end, and is butted by buttress (137). Also bonded to buttress (112). Within foundation trench (**117**).		0.24m high
110	*Buttress Foundation*	Rectangular buttress bonded to eastern side of wall (104) at junction with wall (108). 1.50m by 0.72m and 0.10m high, Forms angle buttress with (112) at junction of (104) and (108). Within foundation trench (**116**).		0.10m high
111	*Buttress Foundation*	Rectangular buttress bonded to the eastern side of wall (104). Only partially revealed; 062m by 0.84m and 0.12m high. Forms possibly central buttress foundation (middle of three) as indicated by the geophysical survey. Within foundation trench (**116**).		0.10m high
112	*Buttress Foundation*	Rectangular buttress bonded to the northern side of wall (108) at junction with wall (104). 1.64m by 0.64m and 0.15m high, Forms		0.10m high

		angle buttress with (110) at the junction of (104) and (108). Within foundation trench (**116**).	
113	***Cut***	**Post-medieval or modern pit; cuts through wall (108), possibly for robbing of useable stonework. Roughly square in shape but irregular; L 084m; W 0.85m; D 0.36m; filled with (114).**	**0.36m deep.**
114	*Layer*	Loose mid yellow silty clay fill of pit (**113**); common oolitic limestone inclusions and modern CBM and modern metal objects (tin can). Disturbed backfill deposit within (**113**).	0.36m thick
115	*Buried Ground Surface*	Very dark grey silty loam, a buried ground surface or occupation layer; predates initial construction of infirmary chapel, as it is cut by construction cut (**116**), but revealed below walls (108) and (109). Physically cut by (**117**). Equivalent to (107) and (128). Overlies (125), and cut (126).	0.16m thick
116	***Foundation Trench***	**Construction cut for walls (104) and (108) and buttress foundations (110), (111) and (112). Cut buried ground surface/occupation layer (107/115/128).**	**0.70m deep max**
117	***Foundation Trench***	**Construction cut for wall (109). Cut buried ground surface/occupation layer (115) where wall (109) butts (108).**	**0.24m deep max**
118	***Robber Trench***	**Cut of late robber trench, roughly linear, 2.60m long by at least 0.40m wide and 0.30m deep; filled with (142), (141) and (106). Cut earlier backfill material (120). Equivalent to (139).**	**0.30m deep**
119	***Robber Trench***	**Main robbing event for removal of useable stonework from medieval hospital, probably just prior to construction of the Elizabethan mansion. Robber trench follows alignment of medieval walls, with deliberately discarded waste material (120) overlying walls.**	**0.27m deep**
120	*Fill*	Mid to light yellow sandy silty clay; mortar-rich backfill deposit within robber cut (**119**). Deliberate discarding of unrecyclable material from the robbing of the walls of the medieval hospital. Sealed by (103).	0.27m thick
121	*Layer*	Mid yellow brown silty clay; dirty/reworked natural deposit beneath buried ground surface (107). Natural geology, bioturbated (worm and root action) at horizon with overlying material (107). Revealed in sondage against wall (104). Identical to (130) and (133).	0.28m thick
122	*Natural*	Light yellow-brown silty clay; natural basal geology revealed in sondage against wall (104), sealed beneath reworked natural (121) and overlying natural (140). Equivalent to (131) and (135).	0.16m thick
123	*Buttress Foundation*	Partially exposed oolitic limestone (slab) structure; buttress foundation against wall (109). L 0.28m; W 0.50m; Ht 0.22m. Butts (109) and overlies (107). Equivalent to (137)	0.22m high
124	***Cut***	**Cut of shallow, sub-circular feature, concave sides and base. L 0.45m; W 0.30m; D 0.12m. Probable shrub root bole hole beneath (107), cutting (126).**	**0.12m deep**
125	*Fill*	Very dark brown-black organic silty loam; fill of (**124**), topsoil derived material.	0.12m thick
126	*Layer*	Mid to dark grey-brown silty loam with rare small limestone fragments. Below (115), revealed in small sondage against walls (108) and (109). Possible earlier ground surface, or reworked (115).	0.18m thick
127	*Layer*	Spread of mixed light to mid yellow sandy loam; mortar-rich material concentrated around wall (109) and buttress (123/137); possibly deposited during construction of these structures.	-
128	*Buried Ground Surface*	Very dark grey silty loam; buried ground surface or occupation layer which predates the initial construction of the infirmary chapel, as cut through by construction cut (116). Equivalent to (115) and (107). Overlies (130). Revealed in sondage against buttress foundation (111).	0.21m thick
129	*Layer*	Mid to dark grey-black silty clay with common mortar patches.	0.29m thick

		Overlies (128) to east of chapel walls (104), (108) and buttresses (110), (111) and (112). Possibly laid down during construction of infirmary chapel.	
130	*Layer*	Mid yellow-brown silty clay; dirty/reworked natural deposit beneath buried ground surface (128). Natural geology, bioturbated (worm and root action) at horizon with overlying material (128). Revealed in sondage against wall (104). Identical to (121) and (133).	0.28m thick
131	*Natural*	Light yellow-brown silty clay; natural basal geology revealed in sondage against wall (104), sealed beneath reworked natural (130) and overlying natural (132). Equivalent to (122) and (135).	0.16m thick
132	*Natural*	Light blue-grey gleyed natural clay; basal geology. Revealed at base of sondage. Equivalent to (136) and (140).	0.09m+ thick
133	*Layer*	Mid yellow-brown silty clay; dirty/reworked natural deposit revealed beneath layer (126). Natural geology, bioturbated (worm and root action) at horizon with overlying material (126). Revealed in sondage against buttress foundation (111). Identical to (121) and (130).	0.28m thick
134	*Natural*	Light yellow-brown silty clay; natural basal geology revealed in sondage against wall (104), sealed beneath reworked natural (133) and overlying (135). Equivalent to (122) and (131).	0.16m thick
135	*Natural*	Light yellow-brown silty clay; natural basal geology revealed in sondage against wall (104), sealed beneath reworked natural (134); overlies natural (136). Equivalent to (122) and (131).	0.16m thick
136	*Natural*	Light blue-grey gleyed natural clay; basal geology. Revealed at base of sondage. Equivalent to (132) and (140).	0.09m+ thick
137	*Buttress Foundation*	Partially exposed oolitic limestone (slab) structure; buttress foundation against wall (109). L 0.28m; W 0.50m; Ht 0.22m. Butts (109) and overlies (107). Equivalent to (123).	0.22m high
138	*Layer*	Spread of post-demolition accumulation material overlying (109); L 1m; W 0.30m. Not excavated.	-
139	***Robber Trench***	**Cut of late robber trench, roughly linear; L 2.60m; W at least 0.40m; D 0.30m. Filled with (142), (141) and (106). Cuts earlier backfill material (120). Equivalent to (118).**	**0.30m deep**
140	*Natural*	Light blue-grey gleyed natural clay; basal geology. Revealed at base of sondage. Equivalent to (132) and (136).	0.09m+ thick
141	*Fill*	Mid yellow-brown loose silty loam with common limestone blocks; fills robber cut (**118/139**), material potentially derived from (120).	-
142	*Fill*	Loose dark brown-black silty loam, lower fill of (**118/139**), deliberate backfill material potentially derived from (107).	-

TRENCH 2			Type: Hand Dug	
Dimensions: 2.4m by 1.6m		**Max. depth:** 0.60m	**Ground level:** 112.79m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
201	*Topsoil*	Very loose dark brown silty loam; current topsoil and rough grass of area of grass within the Kitchen Garden.		0.10m thick
202	*Drain*	Roughly east-west stone-built drain, constructed of two parallel lines of roughly shaped oolitic limestone blocks in light lime mortar; void between blocks filled with (206). Post-medieval.		-
203	*Layer*	Mid brown silty clay with very rare small limestone inclusions. Accumulation material overlain by drain (202); seals (204). Garden landscaping material or possibly just garden soil.		0.21m thick
204	*Wall Foundation*	Remains of an east west, composed of rough limestone blocks in a lime mortar, only partially revealed below (203). Unclear as to nature of structure or date, possibly post-medieval and associated with Kitchen Garden.		-
205	*Layer*	Mid brown silty clay layer; butts and partially overlies (204), possibly contemporary with (203).		0.20m thick

206	*Layer*	Dark brown silty clay fill of void between drain walls of (202), loose with common stone fragments. Post-medieval.	0.16m

TRENCH 3			Type:	
Dimensions: 7.3 x 4.2m		**Max. depth:** 0.66m	**Ground level:** 111.22-110.91m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
301	*Topsoil*	Very dark greyish-brown humic silty loam; current topsoil and garden soil within the Kitchen Garden.		0-0.26m
302	*Subsoil*	Mid greyish-yellow-brown silty clay with frequent small limestone fragments, moderately compact. Subsoil layer beneath topsoil (301), deposit is stratigraphically later than (316), but at the same horizontal level.		0.24m thick
303	*Layer*	Mid grey-brown with yellow patches; silty clay with common small to medium limestone inclusions; appears to overlie natural (324) across most of trench. Seals (304) and cut by (311). Identical to (320).		-
304	*Fill*	Mottled mid greyish-brown and light yellow-orange clay silt with common angular medium sized limestone fragments, single fill of pit (305). Either isolated dumping event of material or repeated depositions of similar material over time. Contained animal bone, charcoal and pottery.		0.29m thick
305	***Cut***	**Cut of oval pit with gradual sloping sides and concave irregular base; L 0.70m; W 0.60m; D 0.29m. Cut natural (324); filled by (304). Probable refuse pit.**		0.29m deep
306	*Wall Foundation*	NNW - SSE limestone block wall with off white (buff) limestone mortar bonding. L 3.95m; W 0.80m wide; Ht 0.40m; four courses of rough limestone blocks. Within foundation trench (**311**) and infill material (312); (321) packed in against it. Wall butted by later wall (313). Function unclear though possibly part of large belvedere to view the vista across the lakes to the north.		-
307	***Service***	**Cut of modern ceramic pipe trench; cut through later wall (313), filled with (308).**		**-**
308	*Fill*	Fill of modern service pipe trench including ceramic pipe; light brown silty clay.		-
309	*Wall Foundation*	NNW – SSE limestone block wall with mid yellow sandy mortar, L 1.80m; W 0.80m; Ht 0.50m; five courses of rough stonework. Mortar extrudes through stonework, suggesting this is foundation. Slightly different construction to (306), utilising different mortar, suggesting possibly a later addition, perhaps strengthening wall to possible belvedere. Within foundation trench (**318**) with (319) packed around it.		0.50m high
310	*Layer*	Deliberate dump of material deposited between walls (306) and (309); mid yellow-brown silty clay with rare small to medium sub angular stones.		0.18m thick
311	***Foundation Trench***	**Construction cut for wall (306); filled with packing material (312) and (321). Cuts (303/320).**		**-**
312	*Fill*	Mid greyish brown silty clay; fill against wall (306) within foundation trench (311) on the western side of the wall, contemporary with (321).		-
313	*Wall Foundation*	Slightly curving, roughly east-west limestone block wall foundation, no mortar observed and constructed in irregular coursing. Function unclear but butts north end of wall (306) and so may be related to the possible belvedere, but this is conjecture.		-
314	***Robber Trench***	**Robber cut for removal and recycling of useable stonework from wall (313), cut from much higher in the sequence, through (302).**		**-**

315	*Fill*	Fill of robber cut (**314**), light yellow-brown silty clay.	-
316	*Layer*	Mid brownish-yellow silty clay; deliberate levelling deposit; overlain by (302); physically cut by (314). Deposit overlies (303).	-
317	*Layer*	Mid brownish-yellow silty clay; deliberate levelling deposit, potentially after construction of wall (313). Butts (313) and sealed by (302).	
318	***Foundation Trench***	**Construction cut for wall (309); cuts through layer (320/303) and filled with wall (309) and packing material (319).**	**-**
319	*Fill*	Mid brown and yellow silty clay; infill material against wall (309) in construction cut (**318**).	-
320	*layer*	Mid grey-brown with yellow patches; silty clay with common small to medium limestone inclusions. Appears to overlie natural (324) across most of trench. Identical to (303). Cut by (318) and (311) and sealed beneath (310).	-
321	*Fill*	Light brown-yellow infill material on eastern side of wall (306) within cut (311).	-
322	***Service***	**Cut of modern water pipe; cuts through (309) and filled with (323).**	**-**
323	*Fill*	Fill of service trench (**322**), including cast water pipe.	-
324	*Natural*	Light yellow-orange sandy clay; natural basal geology.Cut by (305).	-
325	***Cut***	**Cut of possible feature only observed in section, cutting (303) and filled with (326), potentially associated with (306) and (309) but unclear.**	**-**
326	*Fill*	Light brown-yellow silty clay; fill of possible feature (**325**).	-

TRENCH 4			Type: Machine Excavated	
Dimensions: 7.6 x 5.4m		**Max. depth:** 0.50m	**Ground level:** 111.50m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
401	*Topsoil*	Mid grey silty clay, with rare small limestone inclusions, current topsoil and area of rough grass within Kitchen Garden, overlies (402).		0-0.30m
402	*Subsoil*	Mid to light grey silty clay with common limestone fragments, very mixed and reworked layer below the current topsoil and turf, mixed with reworked natural. Seals archaeology.		0.30-0.50m
403	*Fill*	Mid grey silty clay with common small limestone inclusions. Single recorded fill of gully (405). Sealed by (402).		0.14m thick
404	*Fill*	Mid grey silty clay with common small limestone inclusions, single recorded fill of small feature (406). Sealed by (402).		0.10m thick
405	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly linear, slightly irregular gully, concave sides and base. Roughly NE-SW; L 5.20m; W 0.20m; D 0.14m deep. Nature and function unclear, possibly either beam slot for Saxo-Norman timber-framed building, or just a large tap root or possible later feature associated with activity within Kitchen Garden. Heavily truncated. Pottery from fill (403) provides early medieval date, but as ground badly disturbed by horticultural activity this material may be residual within a later feature. To the north of (405) was layer (407), remains of possible floor surface, but this may just have been change in natural, as seen in Trench 6.**		**0.14m deep**
406	***Cut***	**Cut of small circular feature with concave sides and concave base. Diam 0.60m; D 0.10m; cut through layer (407). Unclear if this shallow scoop is man made or represents the remains of a small tree/shrub root bole hole. Heavily truncated and nature and function unclear. Filled with (404).**		**0.10m deep**
407	*Layer*	Light to mid yellow-brown silty clay with small limestone fragments and small charcoal flecks. Nature unclear; see (405). Possibly represents a rammed floor rammed surface within a Saxo-Norman timber building formed by beam slot (405). However, very similar in colour and texture to differential natural observed in Trench 6. Area is		-

		heavily disturbed and truncated. Cut by (**406**) and (**410**).	
408	*VOID*	VOID	VOID
409	*VOID*	VOID	VOID
410	***Cut***	**Cut of sub-circular, irregular shaped feature with concave shallow sides and a concave base. L 0.48m; W 0.39m; D 0.12m, heavily truncated small pit with disarticulated animal bones; cuts (407), filled with (411).**	**0.12m deep**
411	*Fill*	Mid grey silty clay; fill of (**410**).	0.12m thick
412	***Cut***	**Cut of modern plant bedding trench; cuts (403) and filled with (413). L 5m; W 0.72m; D 0.15m.**	**0.15m deep**
413	*Fill*	Fill of modern bedding trench; dark grey humic silty loam.	0.15m deep
414	***Cut***	**Cut of modern square post hole.**	**-**
415	*Fill*	Fill of (**414**).	-
416	***Cut***	**Cut of modern pit.**	**-**
417	*Fill*	Fill of modern pit.	-
418	*Natural*	Natural geology. Light yellow-orange sandy clay with limestone fragments, almost corn brash type material.	-

TRENCH 5			Type: Machine excavated
Dimensions: 2.6m by 1.2m		**Max. depth:** 0.50m	**Ground level:** 112.61m aOD
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
501	*Topsoil*	Dark grey-brown silty loam with common bioturbation; current topsoil and ground surface material within Kitchen Garden.	0-0.10m
502	*Layer*	Mid grey yellow-brown compact clay silt layer directly below (501).	0.10-0.41
503	*Layer*	Mid yellow-brown compact clay silt, interface between (502) and (504).	0.41-0.49
504	*Natural*	Mid brownish-yellow silty clay with common limestone fragments. No archaeology observed.	0.49m+

TRENCH 6			Type: Machine excavated
Dimensions: 2.8m by 2.2m		**Max. depth:** 0.68m	**Ground level:** 112.17m aOD
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
601	*Topsoil*	Dark grey-brown silty loam with common bioturbation; current topsoil and ground surface material within Kitchen Garden.	0-0.06
602	*Layer*	Mid brown-grey clay silt at north end of trench; moderately compact layer which overlies natural (609), nature unclear. Cut by (**607**).	0.40-0.45
603	*Layer*	Victorian and early 20th century garden rubbish sealed beneath (601).	0.06-0.21
604	*Layer*	Mid yellow-brown clay silt with common small limestone fragments; sealed by (603) and overlies (602).	0.21-0.40
605	*Fill*	Fill of dog burial (**610**), modern.	-
606	*Fill*	Fill of shallow feature (607), light grey silty clay.	-
607	***Cut***	**Cut of linear feature with gradual sloping sides, square ended with flat base, probable bedding trench.**	**-**
608	*Natural*	Compact yellow silty sand with heavy root disturbance.	-
609	*Natural*	Greyish-brown clay silt natural, root disturbed.	-
610	***Cut***	**Cut of modern dog burial.**	**-**

TRENCH 7			Type: Machine excavated
Dimensions: 2.8m by 1.3m		**Max. depth:** 0.56	**Ground level:** 115.17m aOD
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
701	*Topsoil*	Dark brown silty loam; garden soil with occasional limestone inclusions.	0-0.24
702	*Natural*	Mottled mid orange-brown silty sand; natural geology with limestone fragments. Heavily disturbed. No archaeology observed.	0.24m+

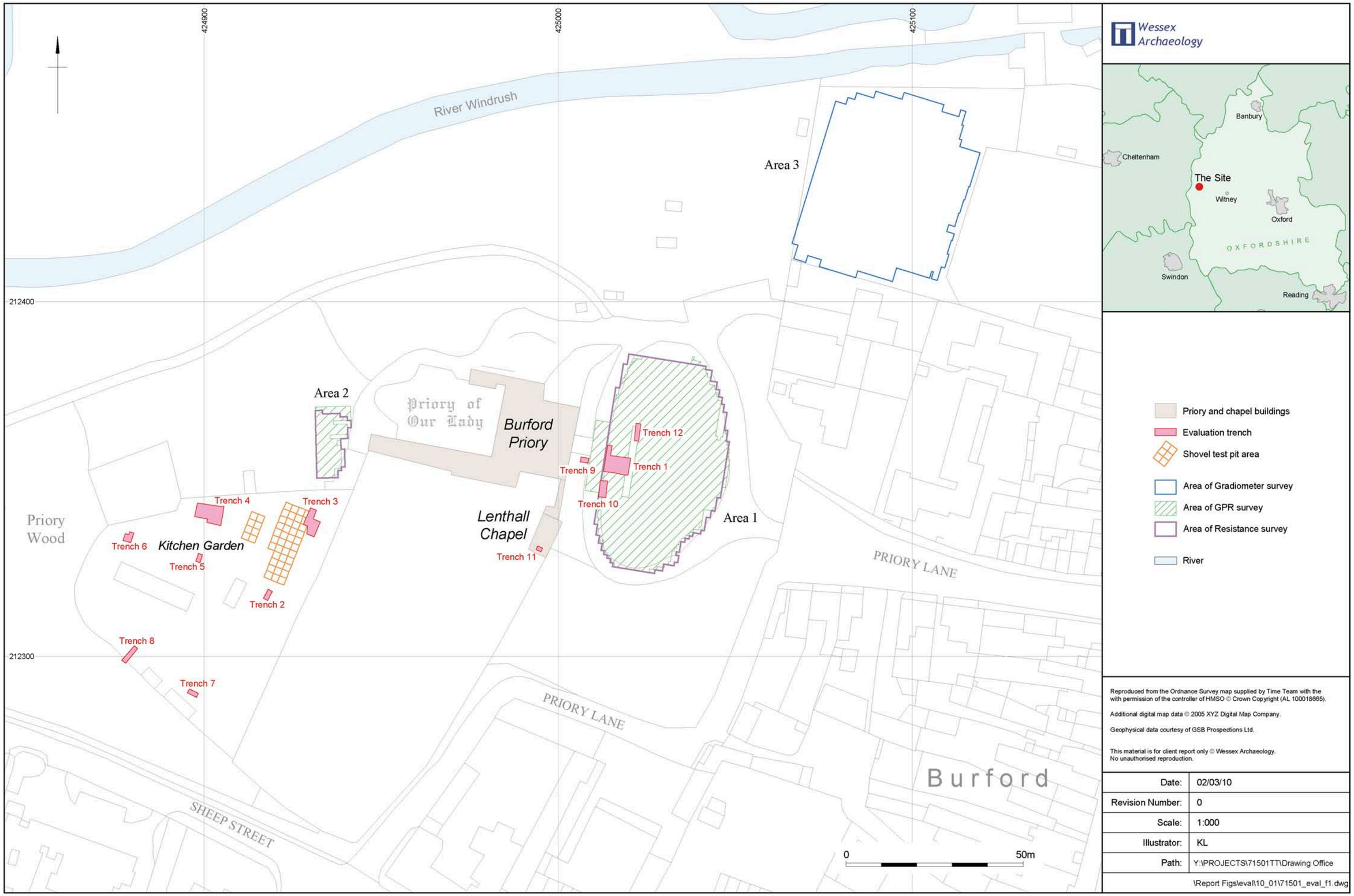
TRENCH 8			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.4m		**Max. depth: 0.25m**	**Ground level:** 114.79m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
801	*Topsoil*	Dark brown silty loam; garden soil with occasional limestone inclusions.		0-0.15
802	*Layer*	Modern dark grey-brown silty loam; garden-related deposit, containing modern material.		0.15-0.25
803	*Natural*	Heavily disturbed natural, mixed grey-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusion, corn brash. Cut by number of modern garden-related features, bedding trenches.		0.25m +

TRENCH 9			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 2.3m by 1.5m		**Max. depth:** 0.55	**Ground level:** 107.38	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
901	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of area of lawn to the front of the main entrance into the main Priory building. Mid brown silty loam.		0-0.15m
902	*Layer*	Layer of garden soil below (901). Seals archaeology.		0.15-0.20
903	*Wall*	Roughly east west wall, sealed beneath (902). L 1.50m; W 0.34m; Ht 0.15m. Unclear as to date or function.		0.15m high
904	***Cut***	**Cut of possible robber trench for removal of wall (903), unclear due to small size of trench; filled with (905).**		**0.34m deep**
905	*Fill*	Dark brown-grey silty clay; fill of possible robber trench (**904**).		0.34m deep
906	*Layer*	Mixed and mottled mid yellow and light white yellow compact silty loam; rubble rich deposit located on eastern side of (903); probably levelling follow removal of wall.		-
907	*Layer*	Mixed and mottled mid brown and light yellow silty clay; rubble rich deposit on west side of (903). Levelling, possibly cut by (**904**).		-

TRENCH 10			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 4.7m by 1.50m		**Max. depth:** 0.66m	**Ground level:** 107.61m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
1001	*Topsoil*	Dark greyish-brown humic silty clay; current garden turf and topsoil.		0-0.18m
1002	*Layer*	Dark grey-brown with yellow white patches, rubble and mortar spread beneath (1001).		0.18-0.38
1003	*Natural*	Mid orange-yellow with mottled grey silty clay natural.		-
1004	***Cut***	**Cut of ditch which cuts through (1008); filled with (1005). L 1.50m; W 0.50m; D 0.34m; linear with steep straight sides. Function unknown, but cut through by robber trench (1006).**		**0.34m deep**
1005	*Fill*	Mid yellow-orange with brown mottling silty clay with angular limestone fragments and Deddington stone. Single fill of (1004), cut by (**1006**).		0.34m deep
1006	***Cut***	**Cut of robber trench for removal of southern wall of infirmary chapel. Would have corresponded with wall (108) in Trench 1 but has been removed.**		**0.34m deep**
1007	*Fill*	Fill of (**1006**); mid brownish-grey silty clay with small limestone inclusions.		0.34m thick
1008	*Layer*	Mixed and mottled mid brown and light yellow silty clay; probably reworked natural geology, heavily disturbed; overlies (1003).		0.34m thick

TRENCH 11			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 0.9m by 0.9m		**Max. depth:** 0.63m deep	**Ground level:** 108.76m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
1101	*Surface*	Ceramic and stone floor tiles for floor of 1660s Lenthall Chapel, set in sandy mortar. Tiles have been removed on a number of occasions for installation of services beneath chapel floor.		0.13m thick
1102	*Fill*	Mixed and mottled mid grey-brown and dark brown silty clay; fill of modern pipe trench (**1103**).		0.50m thick
1103	***Cut***	**Cut of modern pipe trench which cuts through (1104) following the removal of floor surface (1101). Filled with (1102).**		**0.50m deep**
1104	*Layer*	Very light yellow limestone mortar layer cut by (**1103**) and overlying (1105). Make-up deposit during construction of chapel in 17th century.		0.13m thick
1105	*Layer*	Mixed and mottled mid brown and light yellow silty clay levelling layer within the chapel, sealed beneath (1104) and overlies (1107).		0.25m thick
1106	*Layer*	Dump of rubble sealed beneath (1107); does not appear to be bonded or structural, possible early levelling.		-
1107	*Layer*	Dark grey-brown silty loam, very similar to (107) in Trench 1, possible buried ground surface, unclear.		0.12m thick

TRENCH 12			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 4.80 x 1.30m		**Max. depth:** 0.71	**Ground level:** 107.12m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
1201	*Topsoil*	Dark brown silty loam; current garden topsoil and turf, overlies (1202).		0-0.44m thick
1202	*Layer*	Mid brown silt with frequent sub angular and angular rubble, landscaping deposit following 19th C demolition episodes. Seals (1203).		-
1203	*Layer*	Spread of orange silty sandy clay with frequent stone rubble and mortar remains. Post-demolition levelling deposit. Overlies (1204).		-
1204	*Layer*	Spread of mid brown silty clay which appears to seal structure (1205). Nature unclear, possible occupation layer.		0.20m thick
1205	*Structure*	Nature unclear due to constraints of small evaluation trench. Not fully exposed, but formed of unworked Deddington ironstone blocks, un-mortared. Unclear if structure forms base of wall or perhaps roadway surface of some kind. Wall may be within cut (**1207**), but this may be unrelated.		-
1206	*Rubble*	Dark grey silty clay with frequent ironstone rubble, possible collapse material from (1205), but may also be a second structure butting (1205). Unclear.		-
1207	***Cut***	**Cut of possible footings trench for possible wall (1205), but unclear. Cut contains (1213) and therefore may be unrelated, as gap between edge of cut and wall is nearly 0.40m.**		**-**
1208	*Fill*	Fill of small post-hole (1209), dark grey brown. Heavily disturbed by over-machining.		-
1209	***Cut***	**Cut of post-hole, sub-circular with concave sides and flat base; L 0.24m; W 0.20m wide; D 0.05m; heavily disturbed by over-machining. Appears to cut (1212).**		0.05m deep
1210	*Fill*	Upper fill of unexcavated feature (1211). Dark brown silty clay.		-
1211	***Cut***	**Cut of unexcavated linear feature, possibly cutting (1212) and filled with (1210).**		-
1212	*Natural*	Light brown silty clay; natural basal geology, with a number of features cutting it. Unclear from which level they are cut due to over-machining.		-
1213	*Fill*	Fill of (**1207**). Unclear if this is backfill material of construction trench due to the size of the feature.		-



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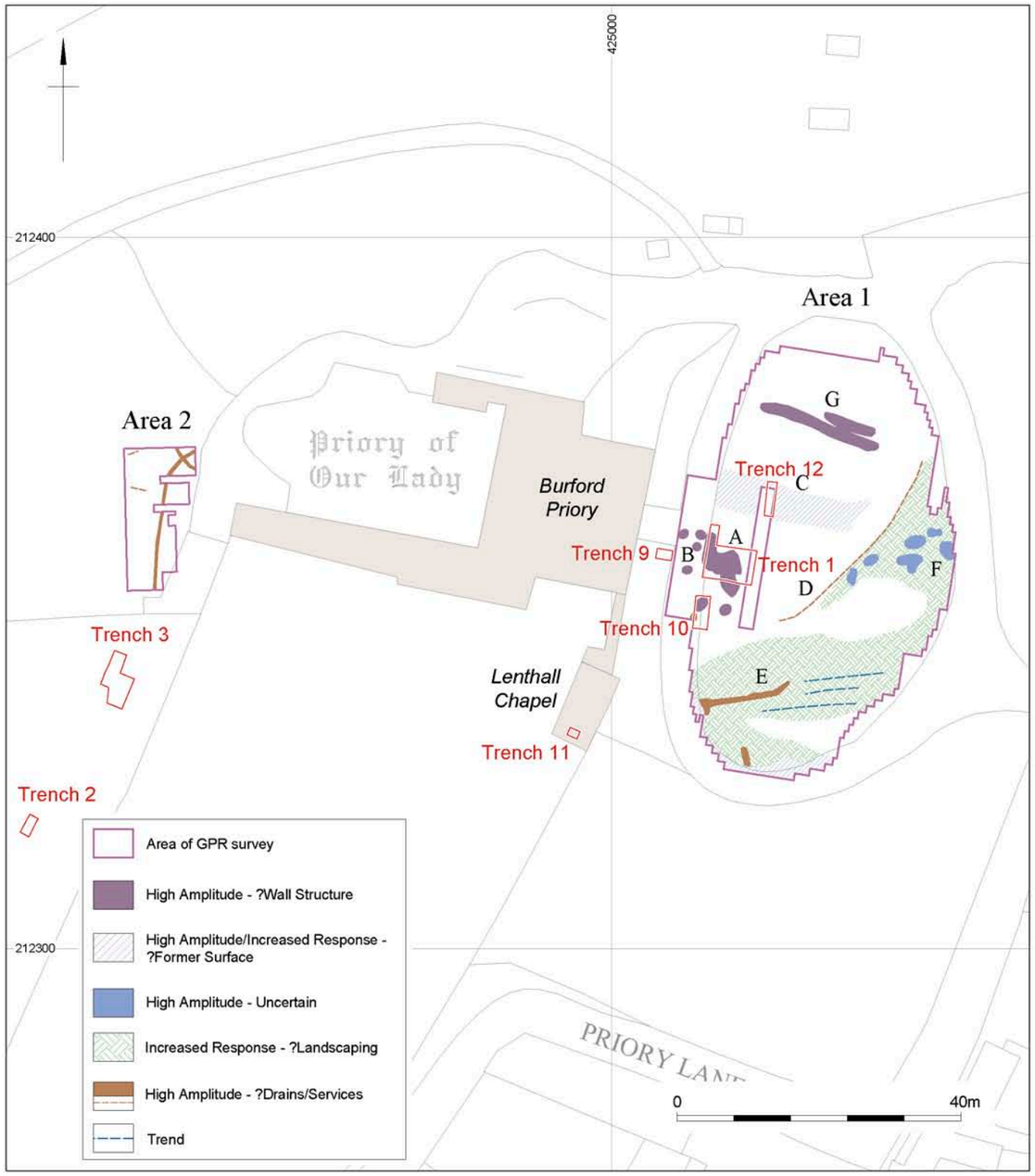
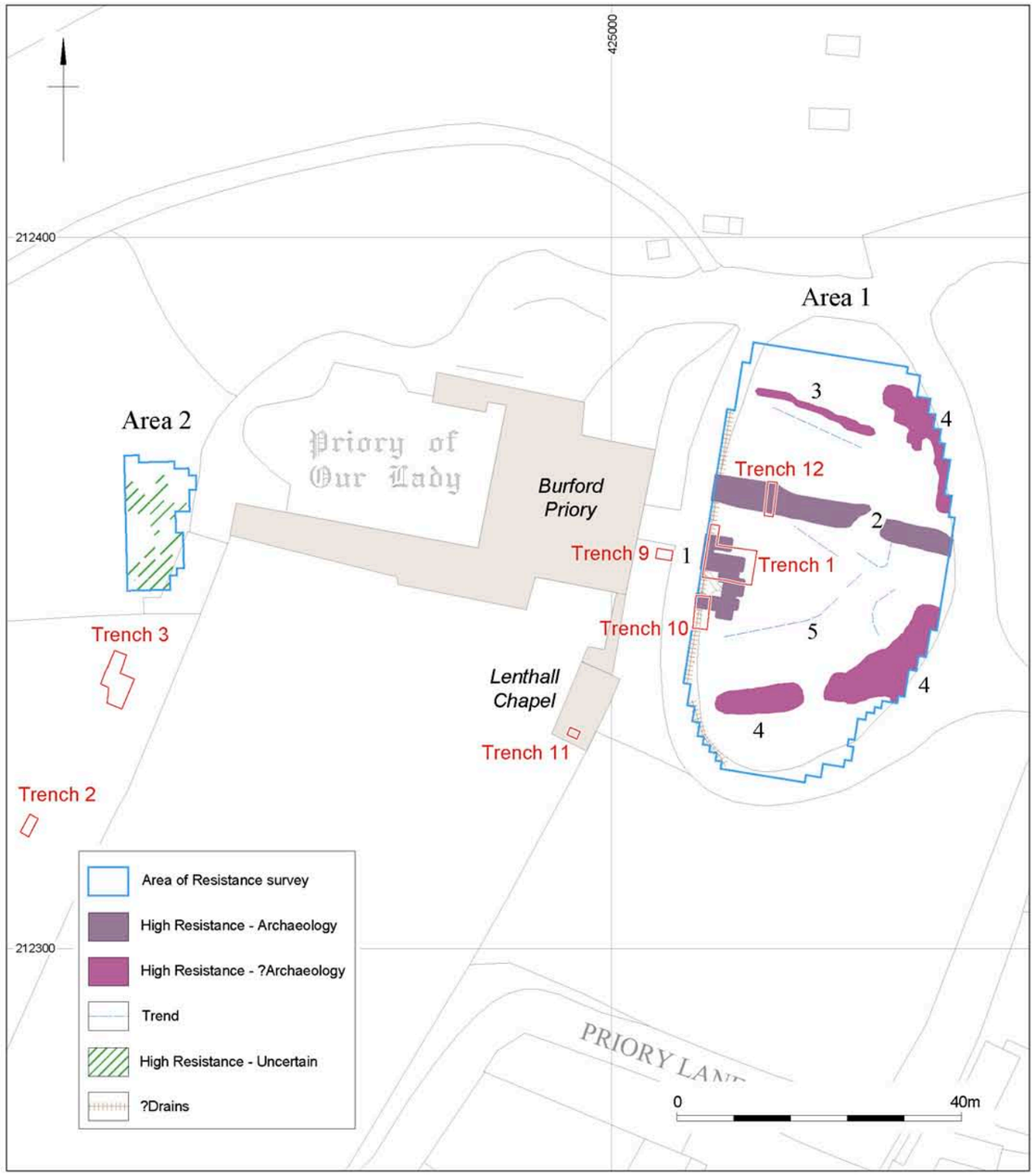
Site and trench location

Figure 1



A. GPR interpretation



B. Resistance interpretation

Priory and chapel buildings

Evaluation trench

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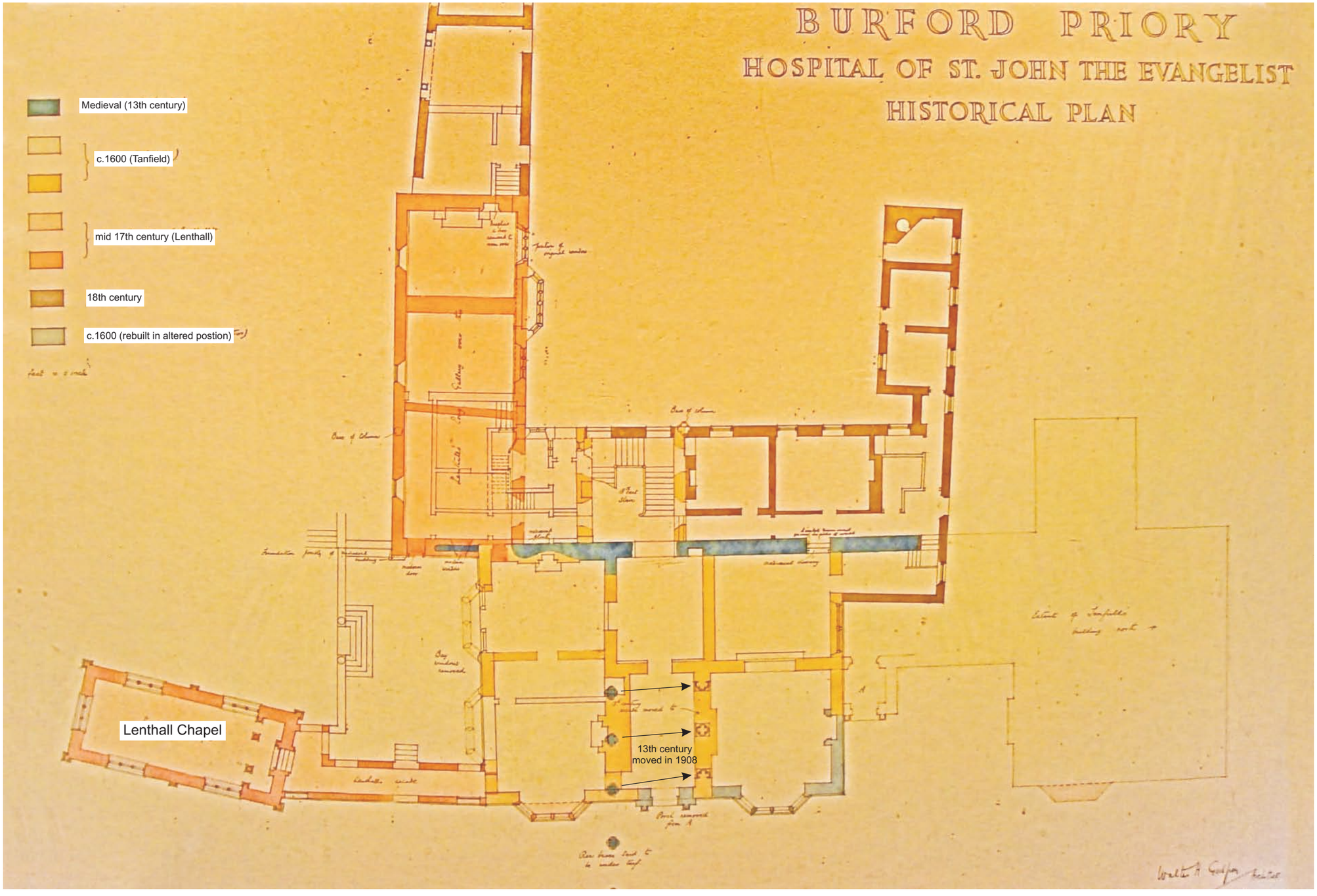
Results of geophysical survey

Figure 2



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Historical plan of Burford Priory by Walter Godfrey 1936/37 (Reproduced by permission of Richard Andrews)

Figure 3

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Godfrey plan of Burford Priory (1936/37)
Evaluation trench

Medieval (13th century) architectural feature:
Original position
Extant

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Area 1: trench plans

Figure 4

Plate 1: Trench 1, view from the south

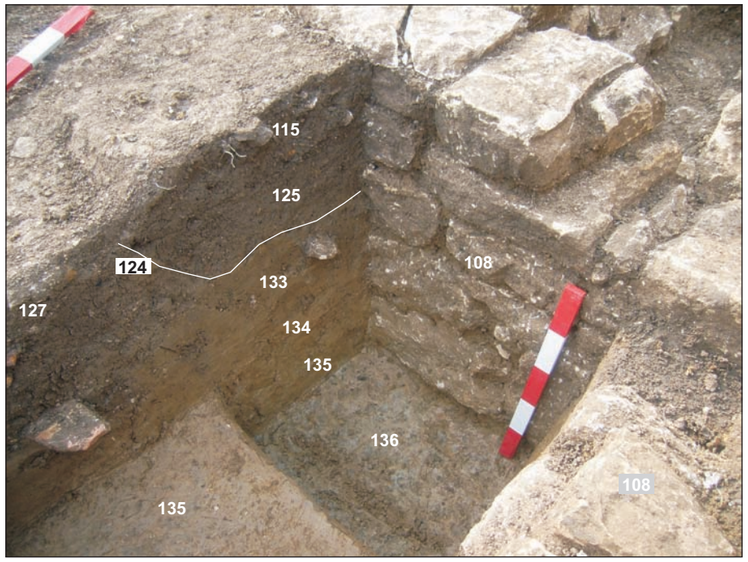

Plate 2: Trench 1, north-facing elevation (108)

Plate 3: Trench 9, view from east

Plate 4: Trench 10, view from north

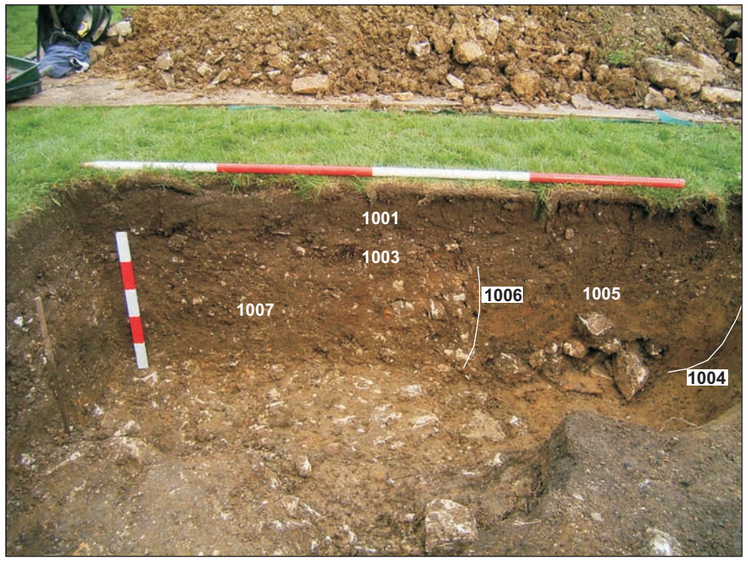

Plate 5: Trench 10, west-facing section

Plate 6: Trench 12, view from south

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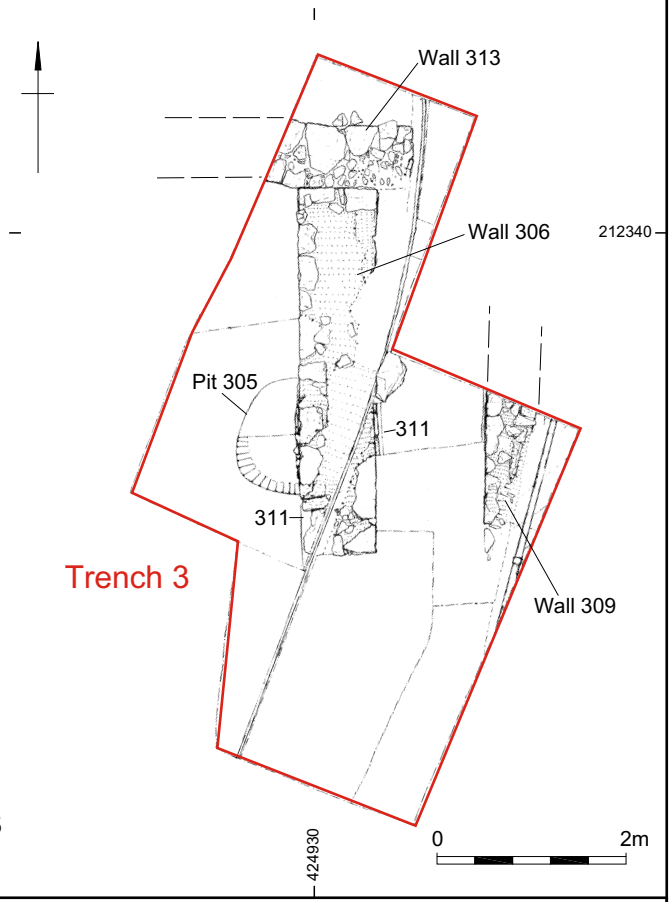
Plate 7: Trench 2, view from north

Plate 8: Trench 3, view from north-west

Plate 9: Trench 3, south-east facing section of pit 305



Evaluation trench

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Trenches 2 and 3: plan and photographs

Figure 6

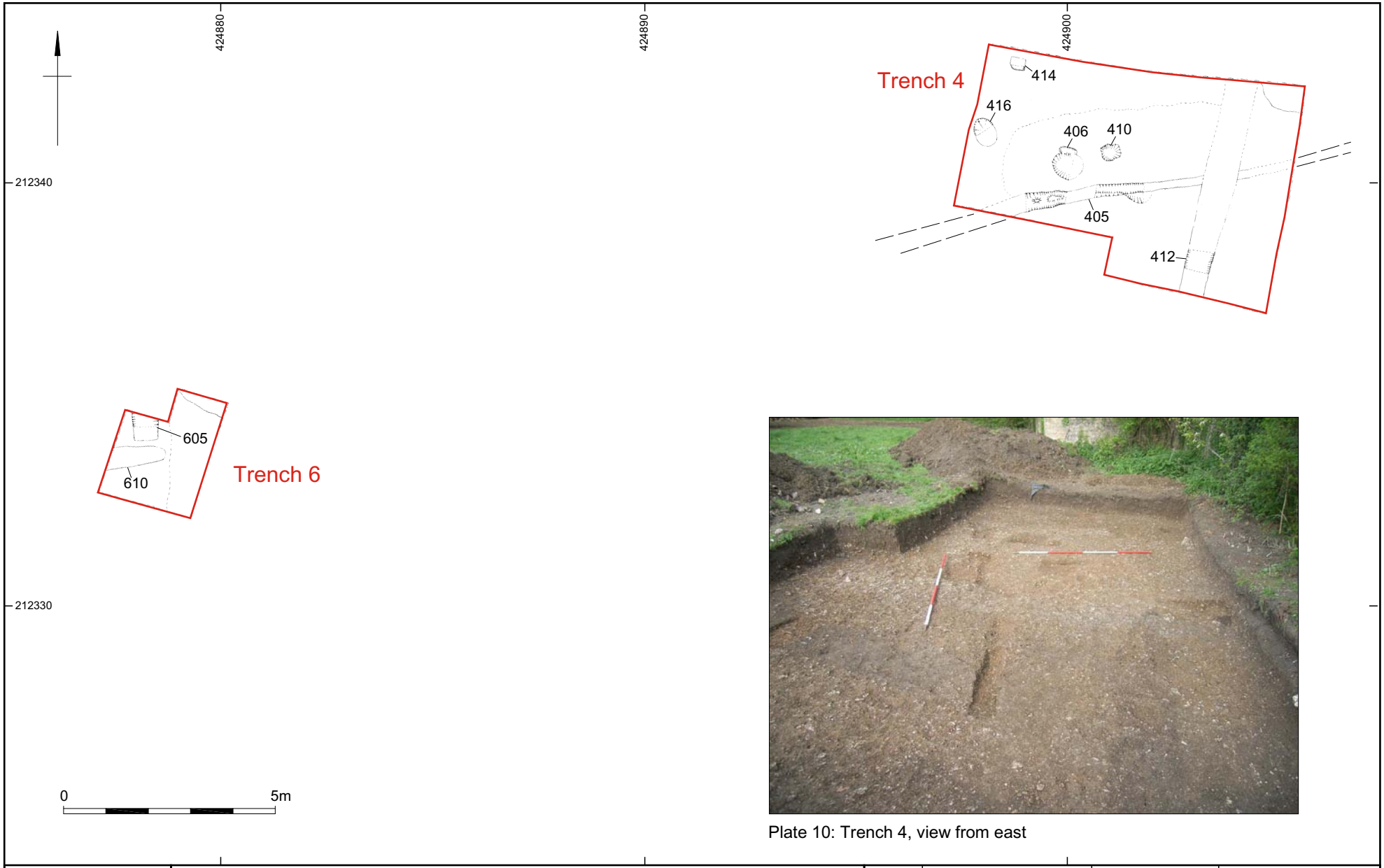

Plate 10: Trench 4, view from east

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Trench 4 and 6: plan and photograph

Figure 7

Plate 11: Trench 5, view from east

Plate 12: Trench 7, view from north-west

Plate 13: Trench 8, view from north-east

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Trenches 5, 7 and 8: photographs

Figure 8

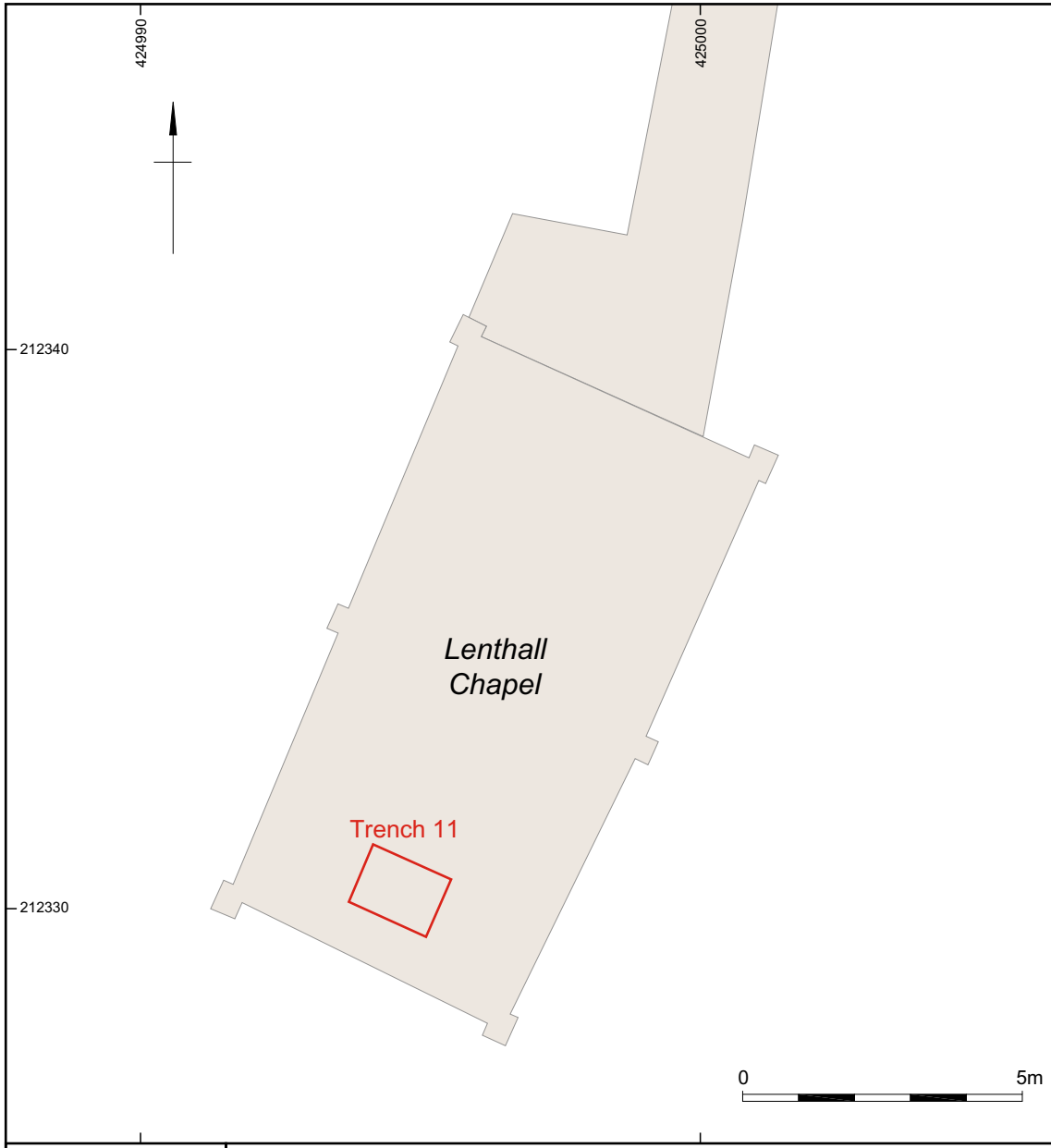

Plate 14: Trench 11 location within the Lenthall Chapel

Plate 15: Trench 11, east-facing section

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Priory and Chapel buildings
Evaluation trench

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Trench 11: plan and photographs

Figure 9

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