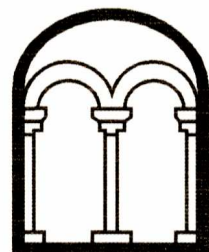


**PRIORY LADE  
NORTH END  
RAVENSTONE  
OLNEY  
MILTON KEYNES**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**PRIORY LADE  
NORTH END  
RAVENSTONE  
OLNEY  
MILTON KEYNES**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

Project: PL2178  
Document: 2013/184  
Version 1.0  
27th November 2013

Compiled by	Approved by
Richard Gregson, Holly Duncan, Jackie Wells and Gary Edmondson	Drew Shotliff

Location	Priory Lade, North End
Parish	Ravenstone
NGR	SP 8503 5095
Planning application No.	Pre-application enquiry
Event No.	EMK1196
Museum Accession No.	AYBCM: 2013.72
Oasis Reference	albionar1-153929
Project No	PL2178
Fieldwork start date	11th November 2013
Fieldwork completion date	13th November 2013

Prepared for:  
White and Company



## **Contents**

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<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Structure of this Report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Non-Technical Summary</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Planning Background	7
1.2 Site Location and Description	7
1.3 Archaeological Background	8
1.4 Historical Maps	8
1.5 Project Objectives	8
1.6 Research Aims and Objectives	9
<b>2. METHOD STATEMENT</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Standards	10
<b>3. RESULTS</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1 Introduction	11
3.2 Summary	13
<b>4. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACT SUMMARIES</b>	<b>20</b>
6.1 Introduction	20
6.2 Ceramics	20
6.3 Animal Bone	21
6.4 Stonework	21
6.5 Plaster / Mortar	22
6.6 Window Glass	22



6.7	Environmental / Artefactual Sample	22
7.	APPENDIX 3: OTHER ARTEFACTS CATALOGUE	23



## **List of Tables**

Table 1: Artefact Summary by Feature

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

## **List of Figures**

Figure 1: Site location map

Figure 2: All features plan and sections

Figure 3: Selected images 1 and 2

Figure 4: Selected images 3 and 4

Figure 5: Selected image 5 and 6 - Fragments of painted window

Figure 6: Images of architectural fragment RA1

Figure 7: Images of architectural fragment RA2

Figure 8: Images of architectural fragment RA3

Figure 9: Image of architectural fragment RA4

Figure 10: Images of architectural fragment RA5

Figure 11: Images of architectural fragment RA6

Figure 12: Images of architectural fragment RA9

Figure 13: Image of architectural fragment RA11

Figure 14: Images of architectural fragment RA13

Figure 15: Image of floor slab RA14

Figure 16: Images of floor slab RA7

Figure 17: Images of floor slab RA10

The figures are bound at the rear of the document.



## Preface

*All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.*

*This document has been prepared by Richard Gregson (Project Supervisor), Holly Duncan (Artefacts Manager), Jackie Wells ( Finds Officer) and Gary Edmondson (Project Manager) and approved by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager). Albion would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr White and Nick Crank the Senior Archaeological Officer, who monitored the project on behalf of Milton Keynes Council.*

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## Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	27th November 2013	n/a

## Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the project, describing the site's location, its archaeological background and the aims of the archaeological work. Section 2 describes the trial trenching methodology and Section 3 summarises the results of the evaluation and the historical setting of the site. Section 4 is a bibliography.

The three appendices (Sections 5-7) contain additional detailed information — Appendix 1 detailed contextual data; Appendices 2 and 3 finds data.

## Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Client	Nathan White of White and Company
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MKC	Milton Keynes Council
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology
MKSAO	Milton Keynes Senior Archaeological Officer
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*The client has commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake a programme of preliminary archaeological evaluation associated with a pre-planning enquiry to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Proposed development works comprise extensions to the residential building, Priory Lade, situated at the northern margin of the village of Ravenstone. The LPA advised that field evaluation of the site should be undertaken prior to submission of a planning application.*

*The proposed development area is located on the high ground at North End, a short distance to the NW of the church, centred on grid ref SP (4)85030 (2)50950. The site is immediately south of the site of Ravenstone Priory, an Augustinian establishment, which is a Scheduled Monument of national significance.*

*The site consists of a T-shaped range of single-storey, former farm buildings. In 1984, conversion of the buildings revealed traces of the priory church. The proposed development consists of two components that could impact buried archaeological deposits: a small extension to the porch on the north side of the T-shaped building; together with a single-storey extension to the south side of the E-W range. At the time of the evaluation, both areas were laid down to loose gravel surfaces.*

*The evaluation was undertaken in mid November 2013, focussing on the footprint of the southern extension, which is adjacent to the area observed in 1984. An L-shaped trench was opened to investigate part of the footprint of the development proposal, whilst maintaining a stand-off from both the existing building to the north and a low garden wall to the west. The line of a modern sewer was encountered at the northern limit of the trench.*

*The investigation revealed modern disturbance to a depth of 0.25–0.37m below the top of the gravel surface. This probably relates to conversion of the former farm buildings in the 1980s. Below this, stone demolition debris was revealed containing stone architectural fragments. Investigation of this deposit revealed a stone floor and associated wall robber trench in the north, whilst in the SE a series of features including a robber trench and underlying mortar footing were exposed. The investigation recovered ten pieces of architectural stonework, together with painted glass and a small amount of pottery and unpainted wall plaster.*

*In summary, the evaluation has revealed a series of features which are likely to be associated with the former priory. Although the form of the floor cannot be linked to a church, it would appear to be of high status. However, the identification of the remains of walls, including one substantial example in the vicinity, when taken with the previous findings, including sequential floors and a column base, would suggest the remains are part of the priory church. These features have potential to shed light on aspects of the priory, particularly relating to the form of the building and its development.*

*The deposits have both regional and national significance to address aspects of the form and development of the priory, the importance of which is indicated by scheduling of the area, previously thought to contain the priory site.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Following a pre-planning enquiry to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for extension to the residential building known as Priory Lade, the LPA advised that a preliminary archaeological evaluation was required, prior to submission of a planning application. This is in line with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, which indicates that the disturbance of archaeological deposits is a material consideration in the planning process.

The Senior Archaeological Officer (SAO) of Milton Keynes Council issued a brief for the archaeological evaluation (MKC 2013), in response to which Albion formulated a written scheme of investigation (Albion 2013). The evaluation strategy focused on the extension to the south of the existing dwelling, which would be the main component of the proposed development. Following discussions with the SAO, it was determined that a single L-shaped trench within the footprint of the proposed extension would be the most effective method of characterising the archaeological potential of the area.

The objective of the investigation was to identify and assess the significance of any surviving archaeological deposits, features and structures within the proposed development area (PDA), so that sufficient information would be available to determine the need for and development of design solutions and / or mitigation schemes.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Situated near the NW limit of the Borough of Milton Keynes, the PDA is located at the northern margin of the village of Ravenstone, approximately 3km west of the market town of Olney. The PDA is located on high ground at c. 86m OD, a short distance to the NW of the parish church of All Saints. It is centred on grid reference SP (4)91980 (2)53400 (Figure 1).

Situated on the west side of a lane known as North End, the PDA is immediately west of two rows of Almshouses. The PDA comprises a T-shaped range of single-storey, former farm buildings, which were converted to residential use in the mid 1980s. The area of the church and PDA represents the high point of the village; it forms a relatively level summit, with the land falling to the west and north to the valley of a stream.

The PDA is immediately south of the Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List England - NHLE number 1006917) of Ravenstone Priory (Figure 1), the only visible trace of which are the earthworks of the associated fishponds in the valley.

There is a complex sequence of geological deposits exposed in the vicinity of the site (BGS 2010). A tongue of the Oadby Member of the Wolston Formation, which is a till deposit; covers the majority of the PDA and the area to the east. This is generally grey in colour with a variety of inclusions. The valley to the





west exposes several elements of the Great Oolite Group, principally the Blisworth Clay Formation, with an exposure of the Rutland Formation west of the PDA. A band of alluvium occupies the base of the valley.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

‘Ravensitone’ is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. The PDA is located on the high ground which was a focus of activity in the medieval period, containing the parish church of All Saints. The church may date from the 11th century, with the main building dating from the 12th century, though undergoing a series of later modifications. This area also contained Ravenstone Priory, an Augustinian establishment, which was founded in 1255 by Peter de Chaseport, Keeper of the Royal Wardrobe. The priory was dissolved by Cardinal Wolsey in 1524 to raise money for the crown. The site is now a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1006917) indicating national significance. The only physical signs of the priory and associated manorial centre are a series of earthworks defining fishponds in the valley of the adjacent stream.

In 1984, observation of components of building works associated with conversion of the former T-shaped range of buildings revealed traces of the priory church (Farley 1991). The excavation of trenches on the south side of the E-W range of buildings (formerly a byre), which is located immediately east of the proposed building extension, revealed a column base and traces of limestone walling and sequential flooring, defining elements of the church. The column base is still visible at the junction of the southern and western walls of the building. The observation of building works recovered medieval painted glass and stone architectural fragments from this area. These heritage assets are recorded on the Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record (HER) as Event 140.

A total of 47 sites are recorded by the Milton Keynes HER within 500m of the PDA; most are post-medieval in date and relate to standing buildings. Four relate to the parish church and six to Ravenstone Priory, including the 1984 discovery.

### **1.4 Historical Maps**

The first edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1882 shows a series of buildings forming an L-shape in plan. This corresponds to the ground plan of the current residence, apart from the northern continuation of the eastern N-S range. This element was present by 1900, to give the distinctive T-shaped arrangement of buildings. The dog-leg wall which bisects the area south of the E-W range of the building is clearly visible by 1882. The angle in this wall appears to be due to the presence of an outbuilding to the west. The junction of this wall with the southern property boundary reveals a blocked entrance, though this is not shown on the maps. There was no significant change in the PDA from this period.

### **1.5 Project Objectives**

The general aims of the trial trenching were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of past activity within the PDA;
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits encountered;



- To provide sufficient information to allow assessment of the impact of the development on the significance of surviving archaeological remains;
- To inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To produce a site archive for future deposition with Buckinghamshire Museum, and to provide information for accession to the Milton Keynes HER.

The trial trenching had potential to provide information on:

- The potential continuation of medieval or post-medieval features revealed in 1984 in the area immediately to the east;
- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present within the PDA;
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present within the PDA.

## **1.6 Research Aims and Objectives**

The emerging regional research framework for the later medieval period (Munby 2010) indicates that, although monastic houses have been a focus of research, there is still a lot of work required to understand these establishments. As is the case with Ravenstone, Munby states that, all too often, little is known about the form and location of the church and associated buildings.



## 2. METHOD STATEMENT

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2013).

### 2.1 Standards

Throughout the project the standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to:

IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (updated 2008) and finds (updated 2008)</i>
Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001)
Archaeological Archive Forum	<i>Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2007)
Buckinghamshire County Museum Service	<i>Procedures for deposit of archaeological archives version 1.4</i> (2003)
English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (2009)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation (second edition)</i> (2011)

The approved evaluation strategy was designed to investigate the main area which would be impacted by the proposed development: the southern extension. This was investigated by an L-shaped trench set within the footprint of the proposed extension. The trench was located to ensure adequate stand-off from both the external wall of the dwelling and the garden wall to the west. The trench was also located to cross the line of a modern sewer, in order to confirm the location of this feature, which had also revealed archaeological remains (Farley 1991).

Modern deposits were removed by a mini-digger fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket and operated by an experienced driver, under the supervision of an archaeologist.

The deposits were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The features were subsequently photographed as appropriate. All archaeological excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion Archaeology staff. Following completion of the investigation to the satisfaction of the SAO, who visited the site on 13th November, a permeable geotextile membrane was laid and the trench was backfilled by hand, with particular care taken in the area of the flooring.

On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited at Buckinghamshire Museum under accession number AYBCM: 2013.72.



### 3. RESULTS

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#### 3.1 Introduction

The L-shaped trench was 1.7m wide, extending 3.8m N-S, before turning to the east in the south for 1.9m. The shape, position and size of the trench were designed to sample a relatively large area of the footprint, without compromising the stability of the footings trenches for the proposed extension.

The results of the evaluation are summarised below, integrating the finds data and ecofact sample data. However, little datable material was recovered from the features (see Table 1). More detailed information on the deposits revealed can be found in Appendix 1, with finds data contained in Appendices 2 and 3 and summarised in Table 1. The figures are bound at the back of the report. Figures 1-4 relate to the investigation; Figures 5-17 contain images of the painted glass and architectural fragments.

Contexts in brackets refer to deposits recorded on site. Cut features are in square brackets, e.g. foundation trench [23]; deposits or layers are in curved brackets, e.g. associated fills (24) or undisturbed geological strata (25).

Where possible archaeological features are discussed from latest to earliest.

##### 3.1.1 Overburden and modern deposits

The area of investigation was covered by a gravel surface 0.04m thick (1). It overlay a thin band of material (2) only 0.08m thick, which appears to have been derived from topsoil. Below this was an extensive layer of loose material (3), 0.25m thick, which contained modern debris including construction materials as well as earlier finds. It is likely that this is related to ground disturbance associated with the conversion of the buildings in the mid 1980s.

Hand cleaning of the remnants of the modern deposits revealed several features which truncated an underlying demolition spread (4) — the modern sewer pipe [27] in the north, as well as a recent post hole [5] and land drain further to the south (red features on Figure 2). The posthole was circular, 0.45m across and 0.14m deep (Figure 2: section 2), filled with a distinctive dark clay which contained fragments of the base of a wooden post (Figure 4: image 4). Although no dating evidence was recovered, this would appear to be modern.

##### 3.1.2 Geological deposits

A small area of undisturbed geological strata (25) comprising firm light brown yellow clay was revealed at a depth of 0.72m in the south-eastern part of the trench (Figure 2: section 2 and Figure 4: image 4).

##### 3.1.3 Archaeological features

Below the modern deposits was an extensive demolition spread (4) which in turn sealed a number of features.



#### Demolition spread (4)

This deposit covered the whole trench, and contained varying densities of limestone fragments in a mid brown grey sandy, mortar-rich deposit. It formed an undulating angular upper boundary, indicating that it was not defining a surface. The deposit was cleaned and recorded. Although truncated by several modern features, no significant variations could be identified in the spread. To investigate this deposit and any underlying features, two hand-excavated sections were cut through it: one in the north and a second towards the east limit of the trench (Figure 2). The demolition spread was 0.1m thick in the north, increasing to 0.25m in the south (Figure 2: sections 1 and 2 and Figure 3: image 1). Four worked stone architectural fragments were recovered from this deposit (RA1 - RA4 – Figures 6-9 and Appendix 3).

#### Northern Area: stone floor and robber trench for wall

Below approximately 0.1m of the demolition layer (4), a paved limestone floor (7), extending 1.85m N-S by at least 0.68m wide, was revealed (Figure 2: yellow feature, section 1 and Figure 3: image 2). The northern extent was sharply defined by robber trench [18], whilst fading out to the south; the lack of similar slabby stones in the overlying deposit may suggest that this was the result of robbing rather than recent disturbance. The surface continued beyond the east and west limits of the investigated section, though partly obscured by a land drain to the east. The surface was generally level, though with a slight fall to the north. The individual stones show considerable variation in size: square examples ranging from c. 30cm across (12") to 15cm (6"); and rectangular examples typically 27cm long (10<sup>3/4</sup>") by 15cm and 20cm wide (6" and 8") and c. 4cm thick. These would appear to be similar to the thin limestone slabs forming the early floor observed in the 1984 main footing trench, though considerably thinner than the 14cm-thick slabs seen in the 1984 N-S footing trench.

The larger slabs were generally aligned roughly WNW-ESE. Several examples showed evidence of shaping, mostly angular cut-outs and occasional curves, indicating that the stones had been relayed in their current location. It is likely that RA14 found in the backfill of the southern robber trench [11] was also derived from flooring, as were angular slabs RA7 and RA10.

In the area south of the paving was a mortar-rich layer (8) which may have been the levelling deposit for the continuation of the floor. This layer was very similar to layer (9) seen below the northern limit of the floor (Figure 2: section 1 and Figure 4: image 3).

At the northern limit of the investigation area between the modern sewer trench and the paved floor were traces of a robber trench [18] - dark grey feature on Figure 2. Only a small part of this fell within the investigation area. However, the 1984 report (Farley 1991, 116) indicates that rectangular blocks of dressed stone were recovered from this area, suggesting the presence of a wall in the vicinity.



### Eastern Area: sequential structural features

A series of intercutting features were revealed in the T-shaped sondage beneath the demolition spread (Figure 2 and section 2).

Aligned NE-SW robber trench [11] was at least 1.1m wide, continuing beyond the southern limit of investigation. It was 0.35m deep with a wide, concave form (Figure 2: section 2 and Figure 4: image 4). Its fill was very similar to demolition layer (4) and contained numerous angular pieces of limestone (although no stone was visible in the vertical face of the excavated section). Six architectural fragments (RA5, RA6, RA9, RA11 and RA13) and three floor slabs (RA7, RA10 and RA14) were recovered from the fill (Appendix 3). Floor slab (RA14) may have been deliberately placed to act as a temporary support during the demolition process.

The robber trench fill was removed to reveal three features. The first was a circular posthole [13], 0.52m across and 0.25m deep, with steep concave sides and a flat base (Figure 2 and section 3 – brown feature). A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from it. It is possible that the posthole was also associated with the demolition process, as it truncated the mortar footing of wall foundation trench [23] (see below).

The second feature beneath the robber trench fill was yellow-brown mortar footing (24) for wall foundation trench [23] – orange stipple on Figure 2: section 2 and Figure 4: image 4). The wall footing was aligned NE-SW. It was at least 0.6m wide, continuing beyond the southern margin of the trench. The edges appeared to be near vertical, cutting the firm geological strata. The feature was not fully investigated, but would appear to be at least 0.15m deep. This foundation trench is not parallel to stone floor (7).

Finally, to the north of the wall foundation trench was a short length of an earlier linear feature [15], on a slightly divergent E-W alignment (Figure 2 – dark feature). It was at least 0.8m long and 0.4m wide, with a steep lower north edge and flat base (Figure 2: section 2). It was filled with a distinctive dark blue-grey silty clay, which contrasted with adjacent deposits (Figure 4: image 4). Interpretation of this feature is uncertain, though its angular form suggests it is a structural cut.

Two earlier undated deposits were exposed to the north of the structural cuts. The upper deposit comprised a 0.15m-thick make-up layer of firm mid grey silty clay (17) (Figure 2 and section 2 – light blue feature). This sealed a mixed deposit containing redeposited geological material (22). No finds were recovered. Only a small area of these deposits was exposed, hampering interpretation. They may represent further features or a disturbed former soil profile, possibly the old ground surface identified in the 1984 investigation.

## **3.2 Summary**

The evaluation has confirmed the findings of the previous investigations on the site. A series of structural remains and architectural stonework indicate that remains of Ravenstone Priory are present below a relatively thin series of modern



deposits. Extending across the area of the evaluation trench, demolition spread (4) contained fragments of the former building which had been discarded — presumably because they were deemed unworthy of re-use by those demolishing the priory. Below this a series of structural features, including limestone flooring in the north together with robber trenches and a mortar wall footing, indicate the presence of a substantial building that was systematically demolished, with the removal of most of the stonework. Fragments of architectural stonework are probably derived from the priory church, together with fragments of window glass — the lead in the windows would have been the valuable commodity that was being collected with the glass simply discarded. Such material can assist in providing a better understanding of the form and architecture of the former priory.

The findings from the evaluation, such as the reused stone floor slabs in the floor, as well as sequential and contrasting alignments of the wall trenches, when taken in conjunction with the 1984 work, indicate that the building underwent a complex structural history, which is typical of many churches. The evaluation has confirmed that evidence for unravelling aspects of the development of the priory survive, despite the systematic demolition and removal of building material, soon after the establishment was dissolved.

The deposits have both regional and national significance to address aspects of the form and development of the priory, the importance of which is indicated by scheduling of the area previously thought to contain the priory site.



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## 5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

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**Trench: 1**
**Max Dimensions:** Length: 3.80 m. Width: 1.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 1. m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 91980: Northing: 53400)

**Reason:** To investigate part of the footprint of the proposed extension to the existing dwelling.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Gravel	Courtyard gravel surface comprising rounded stones from 0.02m to 0.05m in diameter, 0.04m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Buried topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones 0.08m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Dump material	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate flecks mortar, occasional small stones 0.25m thick. The deposit contained pottery, ceramic roof tile. Also present was an iron nail, door bolt fragment, roof slate fragments, bottle glass, silver foil and plastic coated wire - these items were noted on the context sheet but not retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Demolition layer	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt frequent flecks mortar, frequent medium-large stones 0.25m thick. The deposit contained several fragments of window glass, ceramic tile, animal bone as well as a stone floor tile, wall plaster and architectural fragments (RA1- RA4).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Posthole	Circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.14m, max diameter 0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Fill	Friable mid blue grey chalky clay Traces of decayed wood still identifiable in fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Floor	Floor surface extending 1.85m N-S by at least 0.68m wide, was composed of a single course of interlocking limestone slabs measuring up to 0.3m x 0.3m x 0.04m. The northern extent was defined by robber trench [18], whilst the surface faded out to the south.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Make up layer	Loose mid brown orange silty sand frequent flecks mortar, occasional small-large stones Contains two joining pieces of window glass. Probably equivalent to (9) to the north, below floor (7).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Make up layer	Loose mid brown orange silty sand frequent flecks mortar, moderate small-large stones At least 0.25m thick. Seen below floor (7) at northern limit of trench. Probably equivalent to (8).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Robber trench	Linear NE-SW sides: convex base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.35m, min length 1.5m SE robber trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Backfill	Firm mid pinkish grey sandy silt moderate small-large stones The deposit contained pottery, ceramic roof tile, animal bone, window glass and architectural fragments and flooring (RA5-RA14). Sample <1> was taken from this deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Posthole	Circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.25m, max diameter 0.52m This was revealed below the backfill of robber trench [11] and truncating the mortar wall footing of foundation trench [23].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones The deposit contained a small quantity of pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15	Feature	Linear E-W sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.21m, min length 0.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay occasional small stones The deposit contained a small quantity of pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Make up layer	Firm mid grey silty clay occasional small stones 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Robber trench	Linear E-W sides: vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.2m, min depth 0.18m, min length 0.7m Northern robber trench, which defines the northern extent of floor (7).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Backfill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt frequent flecks mortar, moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 3.80 m. Width: 1.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 1. m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 91980: Northing: 53400)

**Reason:** To investigate part of the footprint of the proposed extension to the existing dwelling.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
20	Foundation trench	Rectangular E-W dimensions: min breadth 0.25m, min length 0.47m Possibly the western continuation of [23].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Foundation	Rectangular patch of mortar. Probably the base of a substantial masonry wall.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Redeposited natural	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Foundation trench	Linear NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, min length 1.5m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Fill	Compact, mid brown yellow, sandy mortar. Moderate small-medium stones. Mortar wall footing, truncated by robber trench [11] and posthole [13].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Natural	Firm light brown yellow clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Make up layer	Loose mid brown orange silty silt frequent flecks mortar, moderate small-large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Service Trench	Linear E-W sides: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.2m, min depth 0.48m, min length 0.7m Modern sewer pipe trench at northern limit of evaluation trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Backfill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## 6. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACT SUMMARIES

### 6.1 Introduction

The investigations produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly architectural stonework, with smaller quantities of painted window glass, plaster/mortar plaster, pottery, ceramic building material, and animal bone (Table 1).

Feature	Description	Context	Date Range	Finds Summary
3	Layer	3	Modern	Pottery (112g); ceramic roof tile (167g); ceramic sewer pipe (83g); vessel glass (1); plastic (1)
4	Demolition spread	4		Window glass x4; ceramic tile (164g); animal bone (44g); limestone floor tile (188g); architectural stonework (RAs 1-4); wall plaster (81g)
8	Make-up layer	8	Medieval	Window glass x1 (two joining pieces)
11	Robber trench	12		Pottery (22g); ceramic roof tile (1.2kg); animal bone (9g); window glass x2; architectural stonework (RAs 5-6, 8-9, 11, 13); stone flooring (RAs 7, 10, 12 and 14); mortar (371g)
13	Posthole	14	Medieval	Pottery (14g)
15	E-W feature	16	Early medieval	Pottery (22g)

**Table 1:** Artefact Summary by Feature

### 6.2 Ceramics

Twelve pottery sherds, representing eleven vessels (170g) were recovered. Sherds are sizeable, with an average weight of 14g, and survive in good condition. Seven fabric types were identified in accordance with the Milton Keynes post-Roman pottery type series (Mynard 1992: Table 2).

Ware code	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
MC1	Medieval shelly ware	2	(12):1, (16):1
MSC1	Sandy and shelly ware	1	(14):1
MS3	Medieval grey sandy ware	2	(12):1, (16):1
MS26	Hard buff-brown sandy ware	1	(3):1
PM23	Creamware	1	(3):1
PM25	White earthenware	4	(3):4
-	Flower pot	1	(3):1

**Table 2:** Pottery Type Series

Six medieval sherds in shell (MC1) and sandy fabrics (MSC1, MS3, MS26), range in date from the 12th-15th centuries. No diagnostic forms occur, although all are sooted, suggesting their derivation from cooking pots. Four sherds occurred in robber trench [11] and feature [15], and single sherds in posthole [13] and dump (3). Eighteenth-century creamware and transfer-printed earthenwares (respectively PM23, PM25) are represented by five sherds, most deriving from plates. All were collected from dump (3), which also contained a piece of modern flower pot.

Twenty pieces of sand-tempered flat roof tile (1.3kg) occurred in dump (3) and robber trench [11]. They range in thickness from 12–16mm, and several have mortared surfaces, indicating use. Some may date from the 14th century, although



examples recovered from dump (3) are post-medieval or later in date. A chunky piece of sand-tempered tile (164g) recovered from demolition spread (4) has a trimmed edge, and may have been modified for reuse as a floor tile.

### 6.3 Animal Bone

Faunal remains comprise seven limb bone, rib and pelvis fragments (53g), collected from demolition spread (4) and robber trench [11]. The pieces have an average weight of 7g and are moderately abraded. All are too fragmentary to be identified to species.

### 6.4 Stonework

Ten pieces of architectural stonework were recovered, the majority of a creamy yellow limestone, with a 'blotchy' appearance, the matrix containing greyish-white chalk/clunch-like inclusions — this may be Blisworth limestone (Sutherland 2003, pl. 11.2 c). Items include part of a window mullion (RA5 - Figure 10) from the backfill of robber trench [11], a chamfered sill RA3 (Figure 8), from demolition spread (4) and six pieces of moulding, one piece from the demolition spread (4) - RA1 (Figure 6) and five from the backfill of robber trench [11] - (RA 6, 8-9, 11 and 13). A roughly worked, undressed rectangular block/ashlar (RA4) from demolition spread (4) had an 18.5mm-wide U-shaped groove along its length with a trace of lead caulking *in situ* (Figure 9). The groove is likely to have held either a masonry cramp or hinge pivot (pintle).

Although much of the stonework is damaged and incomplete, some of the moulding can be tentatively dated. RA6 is a small piece of window tracery, not dissimilar to the larger piece of curvilinear window tracery reported on during the 1984 watching brief, thought to be from an early 14th-century Decorated window (Halsey 1993, 118 no. 4 and pl. II). Moulding RA11, although heavily damaged, appears to be from a spandrel perhaps from an arcade or hood cover. RA1 has hollowed chamfers and a roll with frontal fillet, the fillet relatively broad. This combination of features could suggest a date towards the end of the 13th to the earlier 14th century (Forrester 1972, 13 and 17). A second fragment, RA9, also has hollow chamfers and a roll, but the face of the roll has apparently been truncated (Figure 12).

A narrow rectangular slab of fossiliferous and quartz-rich light brown-grey limestone has one surface and one edge polished (RA2 – Figure 7) from demolition spread (4). This may have served as edging for a monument or memorial. Polishable limestones were used to carve effigies and monuments in the 12th-13th centuries, going out of fashion in the early 14th century (Badham 2011, 31-2).

Portions of four limestone flooring slabs, all from the backfill (12) of the robber trench [11], were identified. RA14 is a complete example, measuring 310mm by 280mm and 70mm thick (Figure 15). Three other examples, two triangular and one narrow rectangular, would appear to be cut down slabs, all their edges displaying chisel marks; these presumably were fashioned to fit specific areas of the church floor (Figures 16 and 17). A fifth possible fragment of flooring, from demolition spread (4), is much thinner (24.5mm thick) and of dark grey shelly



limestone. One surface retains traces of mortar, the opposing surface is flattish but not worn smooth. One edge is straight.

## **6.5 Plaster / Mortar**

A total of 452g of plaster/mortar, were recovered. Small fragments (81g) of fairly hard, white plaster were recovered from demolition spread (4). Several of these pieces retain flat surfaces with fine combing/skimming marks. The backfill (12) of robber trench [11] yielded a larger amount of plaster/mortar (371g), of similar composition to that from (4). Although these fragments were of a larger size, only two pieces retained flat surfaces, none with evidence of wash.

## **6.6 Window Glass**

Fragments were recovered from demolition spread (4) (four pieces), make-up layer (8) (one piece) and the backfill of robber trench [11] (two pieces). All pieces were opaque, surfaces covered with black and brown-gold corrosion products. Grozed edges were noted on six of the seven pieces, and these same quarries retained traces of reddish brown paint. Two instances of narrow linear bands of paint near a grozed edge were noted from demolition spread (4) and make-up layer (8); the example from demolition spread (4) also possessed a curved, wider band of paint. A small piece from this context had a plain ground with one straight and one curvilinear (S-shaped) cursively painted line (*c.* 1–1.5mm wide; this could be part of a late 13th-century foliage design from geometric grisaille patterns, but lacking the characteristic cross-hatched background. There is, however, too little to be certain. One quarry from demolition spread (4) retained only a patch of paint, the rest presumably having flaked off.

Two pieces retained more of a pattern. A piece from demolition spread (4) is a sub-triangular quarry with three grozed edges (Figure 5: image 5). The quarry has a narrow (1mm) linear triangular border, within which is a further wider triangular border (*c.* 2mm wide). The area within the inner border has a lighter wash of red which features ‘stick work’ (the pattern being picked or scratched out of a matt wash with a stick). This appears to comprise three circles of descending size, the two smaller circles enclosing what appears to be a ring. The larger circle encloses what may be a petalled flower, the centre of the flower indicated by a further inner ring. This may be 14th century in date. A quarry fragment from the backfill (12) of the robber trench, which retained portions of two grozed edges, appears to belong to the stiff-leaved foliage designs, having a straight stem (bold outline, lighter interior) with fruiting buds and leaves(?), and fronds(?) hanging down; the background is again plain (Figure 5: image 6). This could suggest a late 13th-century date, but the ‘fronds’ are not easily paralleled.

## **6.7 Environmental / Artefactual Sample**

A sample <1> was taken from the backfill (12) or robber trench [11]. As well as mortar/plaster, the sample contained very small quantities of charcoal, charred seed and snails as well as small quantities of animal bone, both burnt and unburnt, including small mammal bones. The artefactual material has been incorporated into the finds discussion. The small quantities of ecofactual material do not have any analytical potential.



## 7. APPENDIX 3: OTHER ARTEFACTS CATALOGUE

### Architectural Stonework

#### **Context 4**

RA1 Architectural stone. Limestone. Fragment of moulding - hollow chamfer surmounted by roll with frontal fillet. Fillet face fairly broad - Figure 6. Patch of white paint/limewash on roll. 'X' incised on flat surface intersecting with lower roll edge - Maker's mark? L. 90mm; W. 64mm; th. 75.5mm.

RA2 Architectural stone. Limestone (fossiliferous, quartz-rich). ?Sawn slab, one edge and one face polished smooth, opposing surface and back edge unpolished but flat- Figure 7. Back edge has c. 11 close set (c. 2.25mm) longitudinal grooves along its length. L. 135mm; w. 70mm; th. 31mm.

RA3 Architectural. Limestone (creamy white). Chamfered sill, base of sill rough diagonal tooling (blade width c. 9-10mm), chamfer finer and more closely spaced horizontal tooling, edges tooling marks smoothed- Figure 8. W. 210mm; ht. 115mm; depth 176mm. Diagonal tooling on flat tooling (presumably further stone on top). Front, back and remaining side roughly finished.

RA4 Architectural stone. Limestone. Roughly shaped and unfinished block with U-shaped channel along length (18.5mm wide, 20mm deep) retaining patch of lead caulking (Figure 9). L. 265mm; w. 165mm; th. 120mm.

#### **Context 12**

RA5 Window mullion. Limestone. Exterior faces both missing, rectangular slot, 12.18mm wide and c. 9-10mm deep, cut into flat and finished sides of mullion - Figure 10. Flat, finished base. Ht. 103mm; w. 90mm; th. 78mm.

RA6 Architectural. Limestone (with 'chalky' blobs within matrix). Tracery moulding fragment; all surfaces smoothed. 113mm by 70mm by 35.8mm. - Figure 11.

RA8 Architectural moulding. Limestone. Small fragment of moulding, possibly part of a roll? Only one smoothed finished surface survives, edges, ends and base broken off. L. 104.25mm; w. 51mm; th. 28.2mm.

RA9 Architectural moulding. Limestone. Two hollow chamfers surmounted by a roll, top of roll truncated and flat (alteration?) - Figure 12. L. 105mm; w. 83mm; th. 84mm.

RA11 Architectural. Limestone. Moulding, possibly from spandrel in arch (arcade or hood cover??). Two, tapering flat finished sides and start of roll (damaged)? Base and back missing, upper surface damaged. L. 145mm; w. 90mm; th. 90mm - Figure 13.

RA13 Uncertain. Limestone. Part of small moulding? Flat smooth face, hollow chamfers, one smooth one slightly rough, both ends flat and smoothed. Reverse surface broken off. L. 61.85mm; w. 30.6mm; th. 17.10mm - Figure 14.

### Flooring

#### **Context 12**

RA7 Flooring. Limestone. Flat rectangular sectioned floor slab cut into triangular shape, flat surfaces, chisel marks on edges - Figure 16. L. 151mm; w. 105mm; th. 52-55mm.





RA10 Flooring. Limestone. Trimming off a flat rectangular sectioned floor slab? Narrow rectangular in plan, both ends missing. Three edges roughly cut, chisel marks visible - Figure 17. L. 136mm; w. 40.6mm.; th. 55.25mm.

RA12 Flooring. Limestone. Flooring. Limestone. Flat rectangular sectioned floor slab cut into triangular shape, flat surfaces, chisel marks on edges. L. 167mm; w. 110mm; th. 47.6mm.

RA14 Flooring. Limestone. Flat rectangular floor slab, rectangular in section – Figure 15. Rough irregular base, some chisel marks, chisel marks along edges, worn smooth obverse face. L. 280mm; w. 310mm; th. 70mm.

#### **Context 4**

Flooring? Dark grey shelly limestone. Three joining pieces, part one straight edge. One surface retains traces of mortar? Opposing surface flattish, but not smoothed. L. 98mm; w. 80mm; th. 24.5mm.

#### **Window Glass**

##### **Context 4**

Window. Opaque 'black', some brown black corrosion products. Two joining pieces of sub-triangular(?) quarry with red painted triangular motif (Figure 5: image 5) Three edges grozed. The triangle has a narrow linear red outline (1mm wide) within which is a further wider triangular border (c. 2mm wide). The area within the inner border has a lighter wash of red which features 'stick work' (the pattern being picked or scratched out of a matt wash with a stick). This appears to comprise three circles of descending size, the two smaller circles enclosing what appears to be a ring. The larger circle borders what may be a petalled flower, the centre of the flower indicated by a further inner ring. L. 32mm; w. 48mm; th. 4.2mm.

Window. Opaque 'black' glass, brown-black corrosion products. Quarry, one grozed edge. Linear band of red paint along grozed edge and tapering curvilinear band of red paint (5mm down to 4mm w.). L. 40mm; w. 35.5mm; th. 4.2mm.

Window. Opaque, surfaces covered with brown gold corrosion products. Small portion grozed corner, small patch of red paint survives. Th. 5mm; L. 29.8mm; w. 22.5mm.

Window. Opaque 'black' glass, black and silver corrosion products on surface. Small portion one grozed edge. Two narrow (1.5mm) sinuous lines of red paint on plain ground. Th. 2.7mm; L. c. 20mm; w. 16mm.

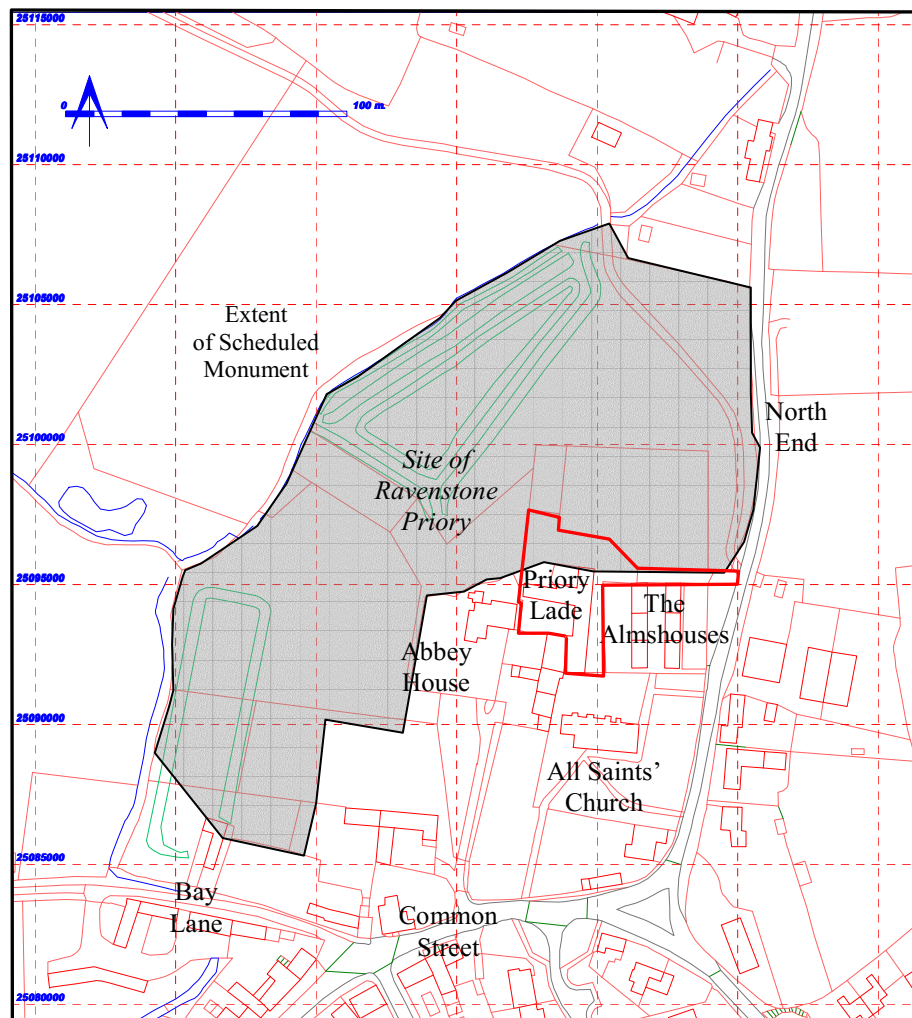
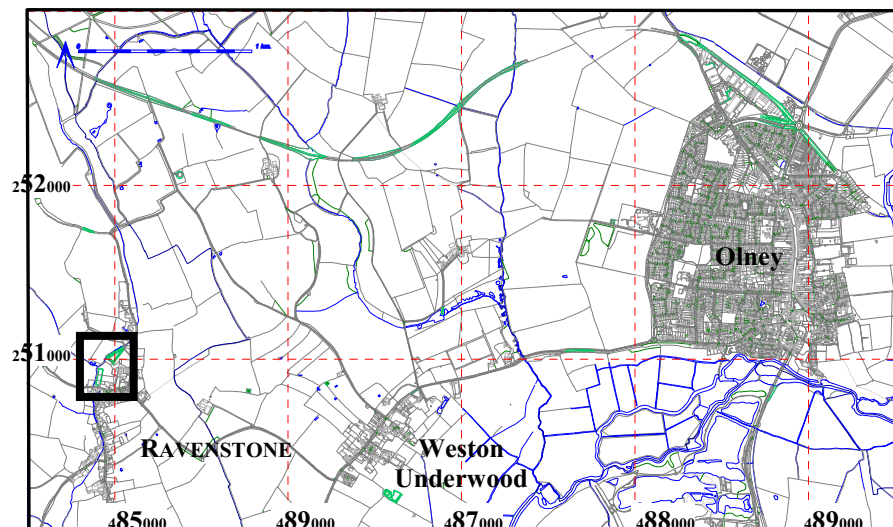
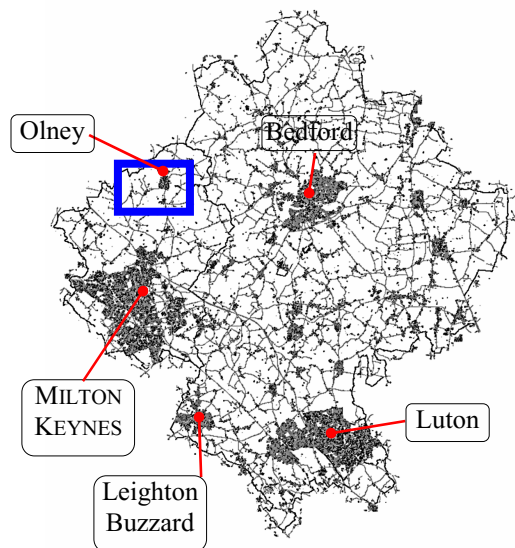
##### **Context 8**

Window. Glass. Opaque 'black' glass with black/brown corrosion products. Quarry fragment, one grozed edge. Narrow linear border of red paint. Two joining pieces. L. 39mm; w. 29mm; th. 3.2mm.

##### **Context 12**

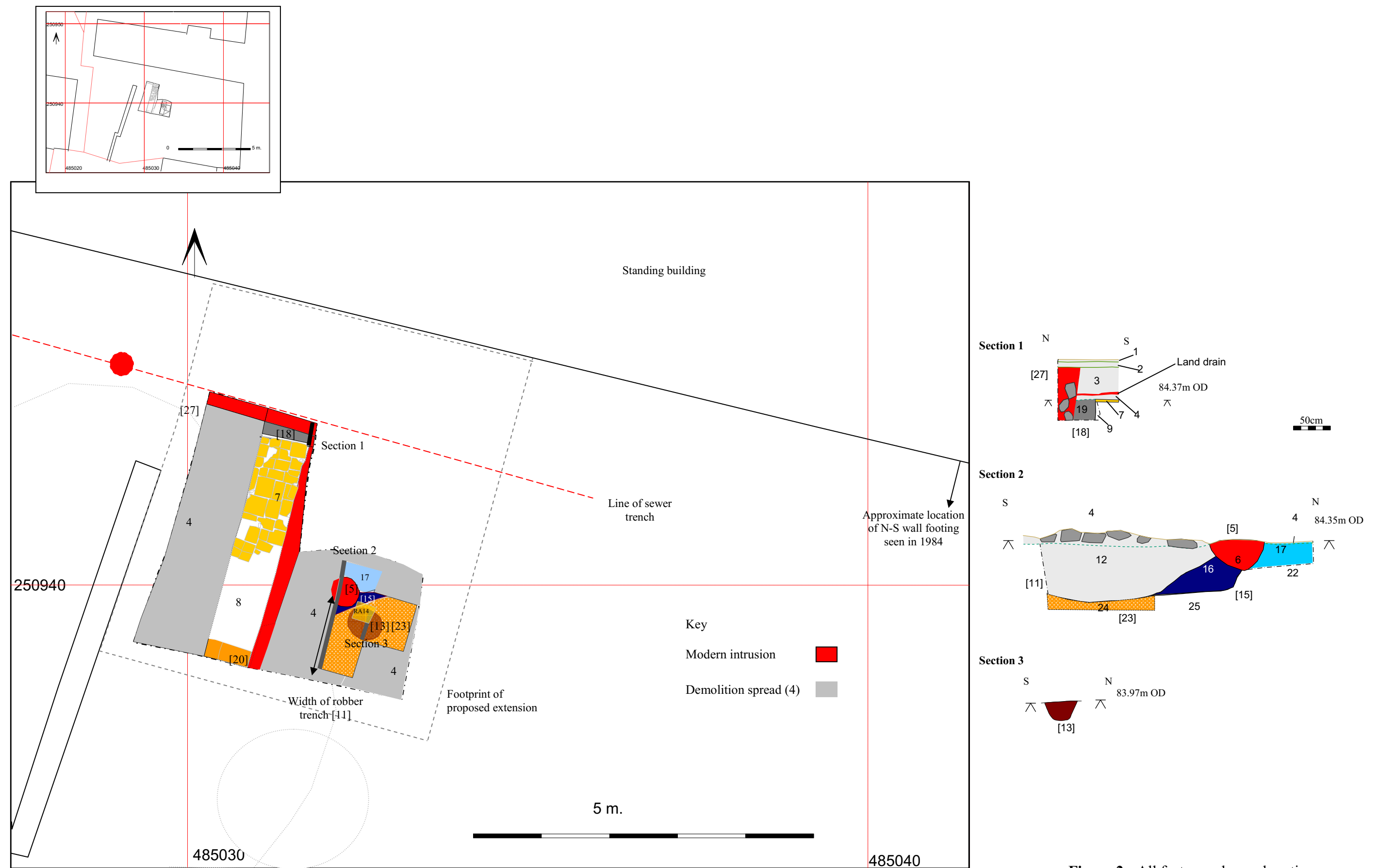
Window. Opaque 'black' glass with black and gold corrosion products. No original edges, two joining fragments, sub-triangular in shape. L. 25mm; w. 18.5mm; th. 4.5mm.

Window. Opaque 'black' glass. Quarry with remains of two grozed edges with sinuous curves. Red painted design, straight stem (bold outline, lighter interior) with fruiting buds and leaves(?), fronds hanging down? - (Figure 5: image 6). Further decoration in corner, form unclear. L. 50mm; w. 63mm; th. 4.9 to 5.5mm.



**Figure 1: Site location map**

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**Figure 2:** All features plan and sections





**Image 1:** General view of demolition spread (4) looking west along trench. Scale 1m in 0.5m divisions.



**Image 2:** General view of limestone paving (7), showing the various sizes of slabs, including several re-used pieces. The robber trench is at the right (north end of the paving) with the sewer trench just clipped by the northern limit of the trench. Make-up layer (8) is visible to the left of the floor. Scale 0.3m in 10cm divisions.

**Figure 3:** Selected images 1 and 2





**Image 3:** Northern limit of limestone paving (7) showing underlying make-up layer (9) with stones of robber trench [18] just visible. The sewer trench is mostly obscured by limit of investigation. Scale 0.3m in 10cm divisions.



**Image 4:** General view of eastern sondage looking to west, showing demolition layer (4) with posthole [5] visible at the right hand edge of the scale. The robber trench [11] and underlying foundation trench [23] with mortar raft are visible to the left of the displaced floor slab (RA14). The blue grey fill of [15] is to the east. In the foreground a patch of undisturbed geological strata is visible in the north side of the foundation trench. Scale 1m in 0.5m divisions.

**Figure 4:** Selected images 3 and 4



**Image 5:** Two joining pieces of sub-triangular? quarry from demolition deposit (4). The pieces measure 32mm by 48mm with red painted triangular motif. The triangle has a narrow linear border within which is a thicker border, with internal decoration.



**Image 6:** Fragment of painted window glass measuring 50mm by 63mm from backfill (12) of robber trench [11].

**Figure 5:** Selected images 5 and 6 – Fragments of painted window glass  
Taken with infra red light at 760nm wavelength





**RA1** Fragment of moulding. Limestone - hollow chamfer surmounted by roll with frontal fillet. 'X' inscribed on flat surface - makers mark? Recovered from demolition layer (4). Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.



**Figure 6:** Images of architectural fragment RA1



**RA2** Limestone (fossiliferous, quartz-rich). ?Sawn slab, one edge and one face polished smooth, opposing surface and back edge unpolished but flat. Back edge has *c.* 11 close set (*c.* 2.25mm) longitudinal grooves along its length. Recovered from demolition layer (4). Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.



Side view showing bevel at top of image.



Side view showing unpolished edge with toolmarks.

**Figure 7:** Images of architectural fragment RA2





**RA3** Limestone (creamy white). Chamfered sill. Base of sill displays rough diagonal tooling (blade width *c.* 9-10mm). Chamfer displays finer and more closely spaced horizontal tooling; tooling marks on edges have been smoothed. Recovered from demolition layer (4). Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.



**RA3** Front face of sill. Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions

**Figure 8:** Images of architectural fragment RA3



**RA4** Architectural stone. Limestone. Roughly shaped and unfinished block with U-shaped channel along length (18.5mm wide, 20mm deep) retaining patch of lead caulking. This was recovered from demolition layer (4). Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.

**Figure 9:** Image of architectural fragment RA4



**RA5** Window mullion. Limestone. Exterior faces both missing. Rectangular slot, 12.18mm wide and *c.* 9–10mm deep, cut into flat and finished sides of mullion. Flat, finished base. Recovered from robber trench fill (12). Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.



**RA5** Base showing slots. Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.

**Figure 10:** Images of architectural fragment RA5



**RA6** Limestone (with 'chalky' blobs within matrix). Tracery moulding fragment; all surfaces smoothed. Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.



**Figure 11:** Images of architectural fragment RA6





**RA9** Moulding. Limestone. Two hollow chamfers surmounted by a roll, top of roll truncated and flat (alteration?). Recovered from robber trench fill (12). Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.



**Figure 12:** Images of architectural fragment RA9



**RA11** Limestone. Moulding, possibly from spandrel in arch (arcade or hood cover??). Two, tapering flat finished sides and start of roll (damaged)? Base and back missing, upper surface damaged. Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.

**Figure 13:** Image of architectural fragment RA11



**RA13** Limestone. Part of small moulding? Flat smooth face, hollow chamfers, one smooth one slightly rough, both ends flat and smoothed. Reverse surface broken off. Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.



**Figure 14:** Images of architectural fragment RA13



**RA14** Flooring. Limestone. Flat rectangular floor slab, rectangular in section. Rough irregular base, some chisel marks, chisel marks along edges, worn smooth obverse face. Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.

**Figure 15:** Image of floor slab RA14





**RA7** Flooring. Limestone. Flat rectangular sectioned floor slab cut into triangular shape, flat surfaces, chisel marks on edges. Recovered from robber trench fill (12). Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.



**RA7** Edge showing toolmarks. Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.

**Figure 16:** Images of floor slab RA7



**RA10** Flooring. Limestone. Trimming off a flat rectangular sectioned floor slab? Narrow rectangular in plan, both ends missing. Three edges roughly cut, chisel marks visible. Recovered robber trench backfill (12). Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.



**RA10** Toolmarks. Scale 8cm in 1cm divisions.

**Figure 17:** Images of floor slab RA10

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