

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:

**LAND TO R/O
43 HOLLOW LANE
RAMSEY
HUNTINGDON
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

NGR: TL 2938 8484

EVENT NO: ECB2620

on behalf of Legrant Building Services



Nigel Wilson HND AIFA

February 2008

ASC: 928/RHL/2

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	RHL	<i>Project no:</i>	928
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	SMR Event No:ECB 2620		
<i>County:</i>	Cambridgeshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Ramsey		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Ramsey		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 2938 8484		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c. 3460m ²		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of three dwellings and garage/store to replace existing.		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Huntingdonshire		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	H/05/03848/OUT & H/07/00307/FUL		
<i>Client:</i>	Legrant Building Services 'Tanamera' Mill Road Wistow Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE28 2QQ		
<i>Contact name:</i>	J Huggins (architect)		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Nigel Wilson	<i>Date:</i>	
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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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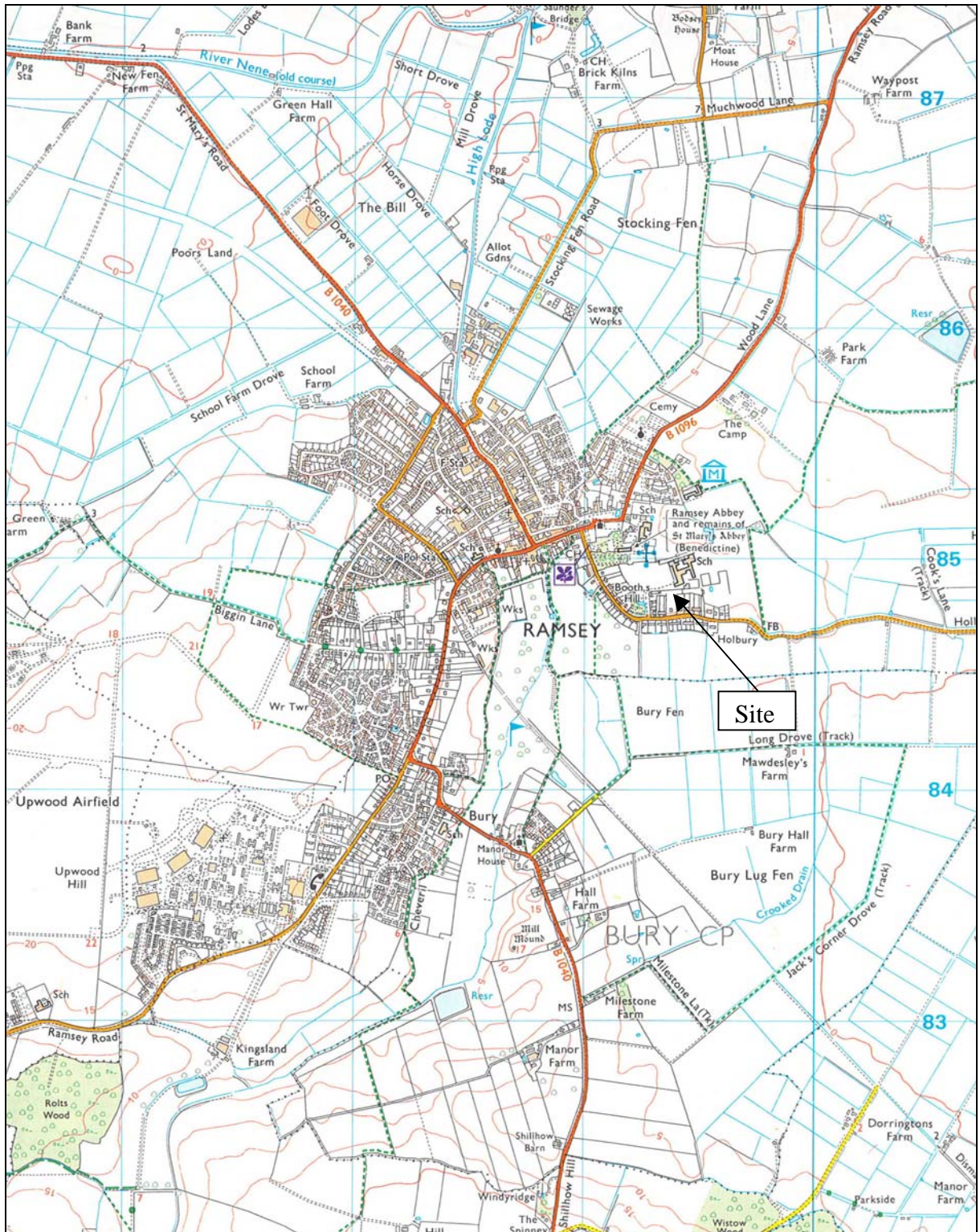


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During December 2007, an evaluation was undertaken on land to the r/o of 43 Hollow Lane, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire in advance of a housing development. Three trenches were excavated totalling c. 105m. A number of features were investigated including pits, small gullies and two north south ditch alignments. One of the ditches had a row of irregularly placed post holes along its southern side, probably a fence line. A number of sherds of highly abraded medieval pottery were recovered from several of the features. Several lumps of narrow bricks fused together by heat were also recovered from one of the ditches. These bricks probably represent part of the structure of a Tudor tile or brick kiln, several of which were found on recent excavations to the north of the site. Also within the fill of this ditch several Sculpted and moulded Barnack Stone stones were recovered. These stones are likely to have come from the Abbey, sometime after the dissolution.

1 Introduction

1.1 In December 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation on land to r/o 43 Hollow Lane, Ramsey (NGR TL 2938 8484: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Legrant Building Services, and was carried out according to a brief (Gdaniec 2007) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Huntingdonshire Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Cambridgeshire Archaeology & Countryside Advice*, and a project design prepared by ASC (McLeish 2007). The relevant planning application reference is H/05/03848/OUT & H.07/00307/FUL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of three houses and associated outbuildings.

1.3 *Location*

The site is situated to the north of Hollow Lane on the eastern outskirts of the market town of Ramsey, in the administrative district of Huntingdonshire. It is located 200m south-east of Ramsey Abbey a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is centred on OS NGR TL 2938 8484. The plot comprises an irregular area c.3,828 square metres in the rear garden of an existing house (Fig. 2).

1.4 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area comprise of the *Cannamore & Evesham 3 Associations*. These are characterised as deep calcareous and non-calcareous fine loamy and clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging and slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils respectively (Soil Survey 1983, 513 & 411c). The underlying geology comprises Oxford Clay. Ramsey and the site itself lies on a low island above the surrounding fenland at an elevation of c.5m aOD.



Figure 2: Site plan and trench locations (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 3), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To inspect buried soils and associated deposits on site by a suitably qualified soil scientist and seek advice on whether soil micromorphological study or other analytical techniques would enhance understanding of the site.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 2), which required:

- Trial trenching totalling c.105 linear metres. A c.5% sample to be excavated to adequately sample the threatened available area

2.4 Constraints

Due to obstacles and a general lack of space to manoeuvre the machine Trench 3 on the southern garage plot was turned through 90° from the proposed orientation and moved to the extreme eastern edge of the garage area. No other constraints were encountered and Trenches 2 and 3 were laid out as agreed.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

HER: Historical Environmental Records

- 3.1 Ramsey lies on a peninsula of land which projects out from the south-west Fen edge, with some areas of gravel present around the periphery of the peninsula (Wotherspoon *et al*, 2004: 4). Ramsey is relatively flat lying, averaging c.5m aOD, rising to c.10m aOD in the south-west (*ibid*).
- 3.2 Prehistoric archaeological material is scarce in Ramsey, although the Fenland Survey recovered evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity in the area. It is suggested that these early sites were located on the elevated areas of well draining gravel (*ibid*). A chance find of a Palaeolithic handaxe HER 02877, is probably the result of glacial action rather than human activity at that locale. A Bronze Age barrow group consisting of eight round barrows lies 3km north of Ramsey Abbey on a slightly elevated spur of land overlooking the fens (*ibid*). From the late Bronze Age onwards, peat encroachment from the fens would have resulted in the abandonment of any settlements along the Fen edge, with probable shift to the higher ground to the south.
- 3.3 No Roman sites are known of at Ramsey although it is c.11km east of the Roman road of *Ermine Street* (Wotherspoon *et al*, 2004: 5). The Roman stray finds that have been recovered such as the Roman pottery HER 02874 & 08016A respectively, to the north west of the proposed site, suggest some Roman occupation may have occurred within the area (*ibid*). Residual Roman pottery sherds including Samian ware recovered from medieval deposits at Newtown Green and near to the High Street again indicate Roman activity within the Ramsey area (*ibid*).
- 3.4 There is very little archaeological evidence for Early-Middle Saxon periods within Ramsey. The Late Saxon period AD 969 is the date for the founding of Ramsey Abbey, now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 141) and a conservation area NGR TL 2918 8503. The Abbey is located on what was a Fen island, on the eastern edge of the present day town. The Abbey was founded as a Benedictine monastery by Ailwyn, foster brother to King Edgar and became one of the wealthiest in the country, earning the name 'Ramsey the Golden' (Hickling 2006: 1). This prosperity continued, surviving both the Danish Invasion and the Norman Conquest, until the 12th century, when Geoffrey de Mandeville seized the Abbey, during a period known as the Anarchy (*ibid*). The site at Booths Hill, also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 154) NGR TL 292 848, located adjacent to Hollow Lane to the west of the proposed site, is regarded as an Anarchy fortification (Mortimer 2006:19, unpublished). The location of this fortification does not appear to correspond with the main land or water routes, making the control of people and goods difficult (*ibid*). It is possible that other routes were used during this period. Booths Hill may also represent the location of Geoffrey de Mandeville's castle (Wotherspoon *et al*, 2004:5).

- 3.5 During the medieval period, Ramsey was a small market town designed to serve the Abbey and surrounding areas of Huntingdonshire. Its location on the edge of the fens meant it was not on the main traffic routes consequently never rising above its position of small market town (Hickling 2006: 6). The town of Ramsey is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey. The fens began encroaching Ramsey from the north and east; evidence of attempts at land reclamation may indicate a period of expansion within the town and a need for more land (Hickling 2006: 6). This expansion may correspond with the granting of a weekly market and annual fair in the 13th century (*ibid*: 2). To the east of the proposed site located between Hollow Lane and Ailwyn Community School is a medieval kiln HER MCB 16875,NGR TL 2953 8483. Ramsey Abbey was renowned for its decorated tiles so the two may be contemporary (Mortimer 2006: 18, unpublished). The medieval boundary ditch, which formed the Abbey precinct, encloses an ovate area of c.35 hectares and extends to the south to Hollow Lane, incorporating the proposed site. This boundary may be indicative of the extent of Ramsey Island, prior to land reclamation.
- 3.6 After the dissolution of the Abbey in the 16th century it passed to various owners until the 17th century when Ramsey Abbey House was built, later to become Ramsey Abbey School (Wotherspoon *et al*, 2004: 6). The lack of older buildings in Ramsey may be as a result of fires in 1636 and 1731, however some 17th structures survive, fronting the Great Whyte and the south side of High Street (*ibid*: 7). The Hearth Tax returns for 1664 show Ramsey as the largest parish in Huntingdonshire, but the Great Plague of 1666 drastically reduced the population (*ibid*).
- 3.7 Previous archaeological works in Ramsey appear to be clustered within the Abbey precinct, such as the two excavations carried out at Ailwyn Community School and the three excavations focusing on 46-52 High Street close to the junction of the Great Whyte and High Street. These two areas illustrate the origins and expansion of the Abbey and its associated features together with the medieval expansion of the town. The Great Whyte was culverted in the 19th century and still exists under the present day road (Hickling 2006: 3).

4 Results

General

Three trenches were mechanically excavated using a 360° excavator fitted with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket. Trenches 1 and 2 were located on lawns towards the rear of the site whilst Trench 3 was cut through disturbed ground beside the access from Hollow Lane (Fig. 2). Each trench was excavated through the overburden onto the upper archaeological horizon or clean natural deposits, depending upon which occurred first. This interface was typically *c.* 0.5-0.6m below the existing ground surface. The composition of the natural was variable across the site, but generally comprised mid orange sandy clay.

Up until about fifty years ago when the houses along Hollow Lane were built Ordnance Survey maps depict the area as being open fields and orchard. A number of larger deciduous trees were also present.

Though a limited amount of medieval pottery was recovered from several of the features it can not be used as a reliable indication for the date of the features as the pottery was all highly abraded and may have been lying around in the soil for a significant period before being deposited in the features.

Tabulated information regarding the trial trenches and their contents appears in Appendix 1. A finds concordance table is reproduced in Appendix 3 and an assessment of the pottery in Appendix 4.

Trench 1

(Fig.: 3, 4, 5, 7 Plates 1, 2, 3, 4)

Location: E-W orientated trench over two house plots

Description: The turf and topsoil layer (100) was *c.*0.4m in depth. Below the topsoil there was an interface layer between the topsoil and the clean natural Layer (101). The natural (107) generally comprised mid orange clayey sand with areas containing more clay and sand. Towards the eastern end of the trench there was a further deposit Layer (102) very similar in composition to (101) but contaminated and seemingly sitting in a broad hollowed area. Several small fragments of tile were recovered from this layer. Cut [127] defined the western limit of Layer [102]

Several negative features were recorded in the disturbed eastern area of Trench 1. It is not clear from the limited sample excavated in the evaluation how many of these features are deliberately cut and how many were formed or modified by tree root activity. However it is clear that some of these features were deliberately cut.

Gullies [115] and [123]

These two small possible gullies were both about 0.80m wide with a depth of 0.25m (Figs. 4, 5). The fills of these two features were indistinguishable from layer (102) and no finds were recovered from either cut. Though these hollows seem likely to be archaeological in nature it is possible that they may have been formed by root action and only further work will identify their true nature.

Ditch [135]

Only the western side of this north south orientated ditch survived. The original profile having been lost when Ditch [114] and Pit [109] were cut. The fill (136) comprised compact mid brownish grey clayey silt.

Ditch [114]

In the evaluation only a limited amount of this ditch survived due to it having been truncated by Pit [109]. From the surviving elements it would seem that this was a substantial ditch 2.0m wide and 0.9m in depth. The steep sides (45-60°) led to a rounded base. Three fills were identified. The two upper fills (110) and (111) comprised sandy clays with few inclusions whilst the basal fill (112) contained a significant quantity of small chalk fragments.

Pit [109]

This sub-circular pit was located against the southern side of the trench. Its northern side truncated Ditch [114]. The pit was c.1.8m diameter at the surface and had very steep sides leading down to its flat base. The fill (110) comprised firm light orangey brown sandy clay.

Pit [121]

This sub-circular pit was located against the southern side of the trench. Its northern side cut shallow pit [125]. The pit was 2.0m in diameter with a depth of c. 1.5m at its maximum. The sides were slightly irregular but overall almost vertical and the base was uneven. Three fills were recorded. The upper fill (118) comprised firm light greyish orange silty clay. The intermediate fill (119) comprised compacted pale pinkish orange sandy clay, and the basal fill (120) comprised soft mid orangey brown sandy clay, with occasional charcoal flecks.

Ditch [129]

The westernmost feature in this group Ditch 129 was orientated north south. It was 1.3m wide and 0.25m deep. The sides were angled at about 40° to the flat base. The fill (129) comprised firm orangey brown silty clay.

Ditches [104]/[204] and [106]/[202]

These two ditches were located towards the western end of Trench 1. The earliest of these two north south orientated ditches [106]/[202] had been truncated on its eastern side by re-cut [104]/[204].

Tree Rooting Hole [131]

This irregular shaped feature towards the eastern end of the feature has been interpreted as having been formed by the action of tree roots.

Tree Rooting Hole [133]

Small sub-oval feature at the eastern end of the trench. The fill was

very similar to Layer (101) and it was concluded that this feature was probably formed by natural root action rather than having been deliberately cut.

Trench 2

(Fig.: 3, 6, 8, 9 Plate 5)

Location: N-S orientated trench over proposed house plot

Description: Ditches [202], [204]

See description of Ditches [104], [106] above. Within the upper fill (205) of Ditch [204] two conglomerations of partially vitrified bricks (Plate 7) were recorded. These brick have been interpreted as either a stack of bricks being fired which went wrong or part of a tile/brick kiln (see Appendix 4). Several sculpted and moulded stones (Plate 8) were also recovered from this fill. This stone was sourced from the Barnack Quarries near Peterborough, and was almost certainly utilised in the construction of the abbey (Appendix 5).

Postholes [208-232]

A series of thirteen postholes were excavated on the eastern side of Ditch [202]/[204]]. Each post hole was roughly circular and ranged in diameter from 0.2-0.3m. Though truncated it seems likely the sides were almost vertical leading to a flat or slightly concaved base. The fills were similar comprising pale yellowish brown silty clay, with a few small stones. No finds were recovered from any of these postholes.

Trench 3

(Fig. Plates 6

Location: N-S orientated trench on the proposed site of a new garage beside the access leading from Hollow Lane

Description: This area of the site had been disturbed by gardening activities, trees and pet burials. The topsoil (300) was c.350mm in depth overlying the natural dirty yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (301). A 1m square test pit at the southern end of the trench was hand excavated through this dirty subsoil to reveal the clean natural, which was encountered at c.0.45m below the ground surface. In the south eastern corner of the test pit a possible pit [302] was exposed, the fill comprising the same dirty subsoil (301). The base of this feature was cut into the natural by c.0.3m. No finds or other artefacts were recovered from the fill.

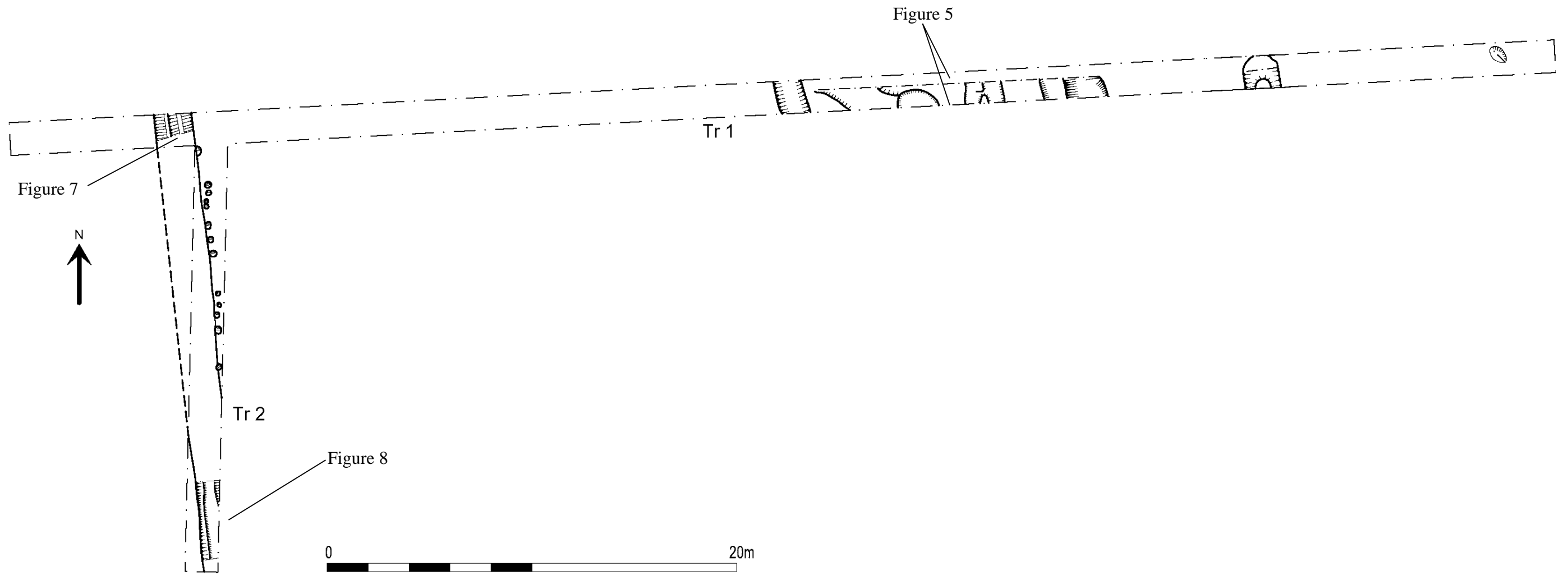


Figure 3: General plan of the archaeology (scale 1:200)

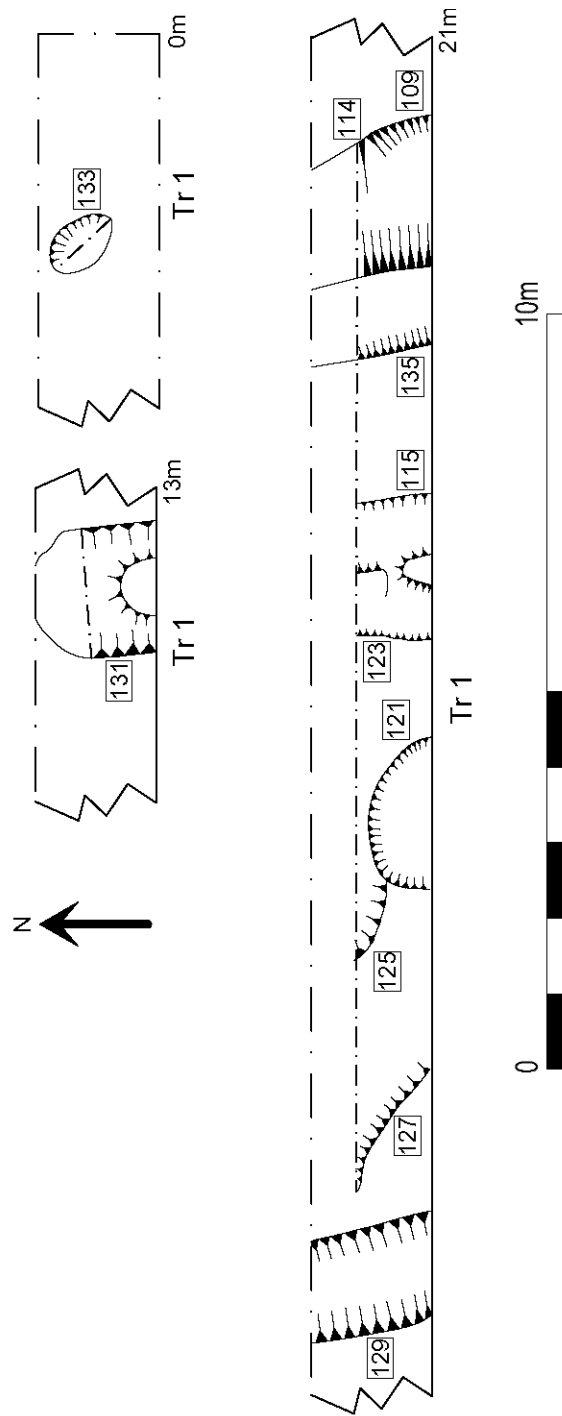


Figure 4: Plan of the east end of Trench 1 (Scale 1:100)

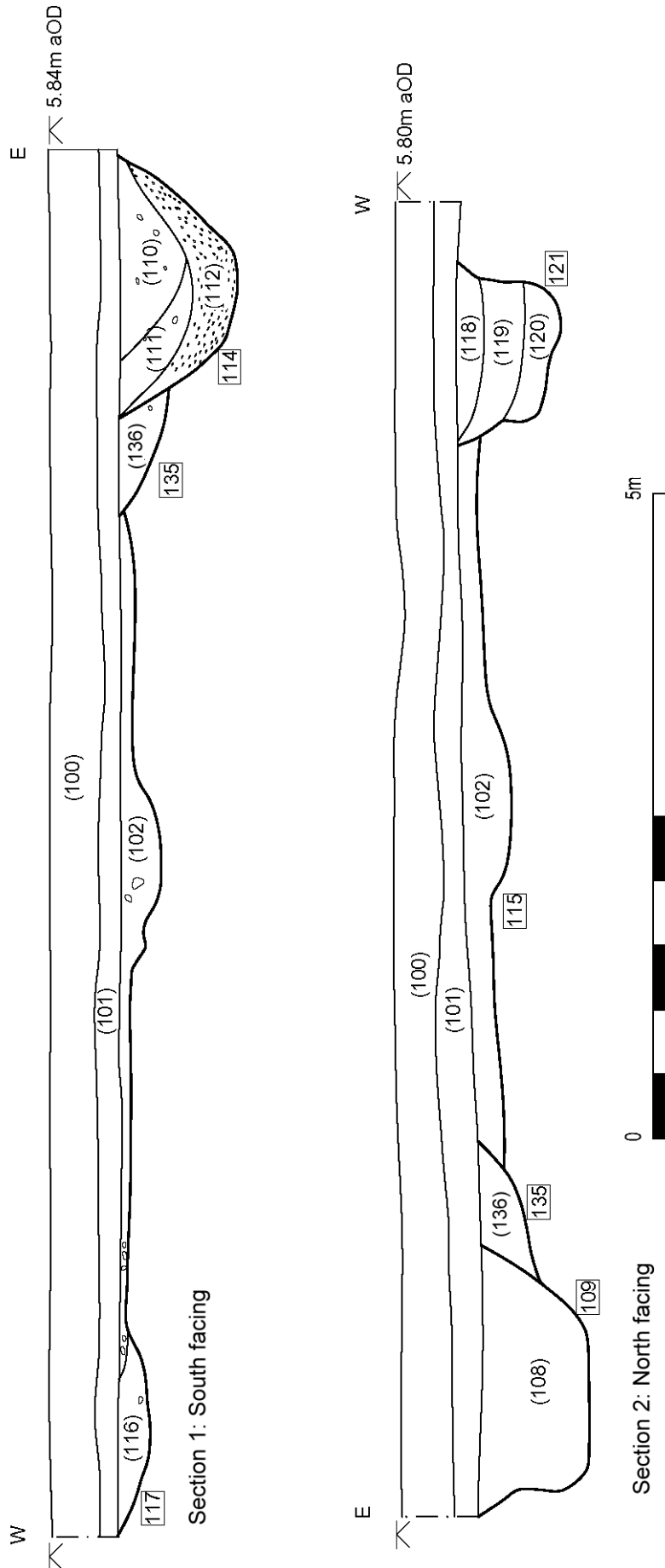


Figure 5: Trench 1, Sections 1 and 2 (scale 1:50)

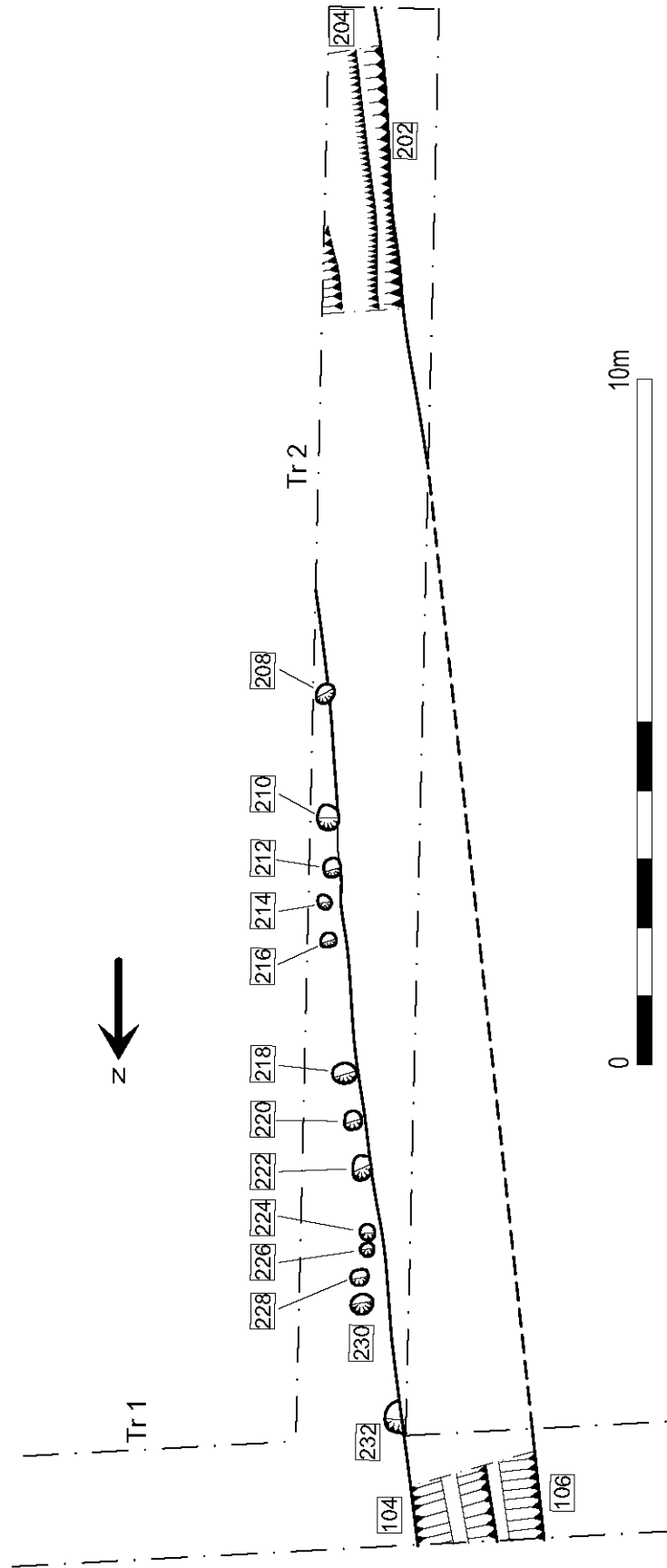


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 2 (scale 1:100)

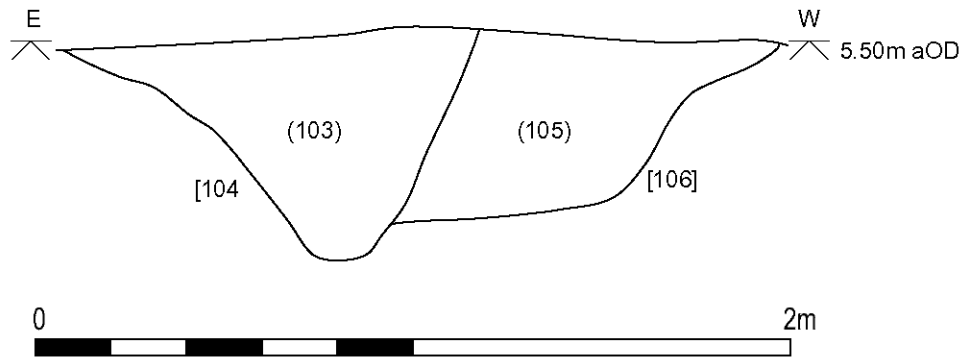


Figure 7: North facing section across ditches [104] & [106] (scale 1:50)

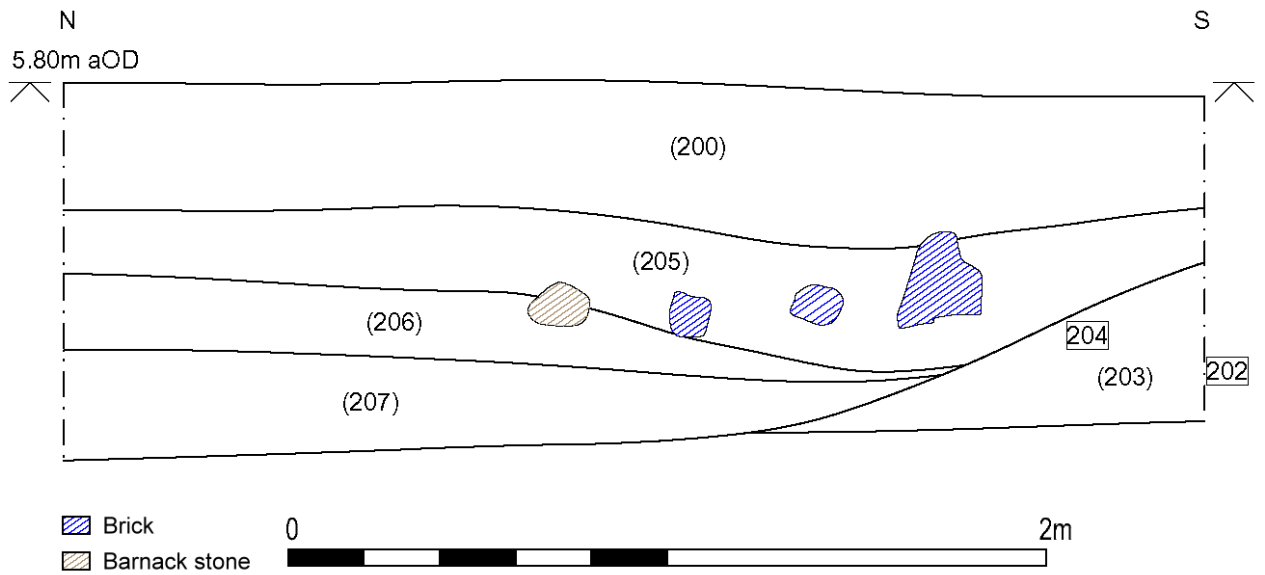


Figure 8: Oblique west facing section across ditches [202] & [204] (scale 1:20)

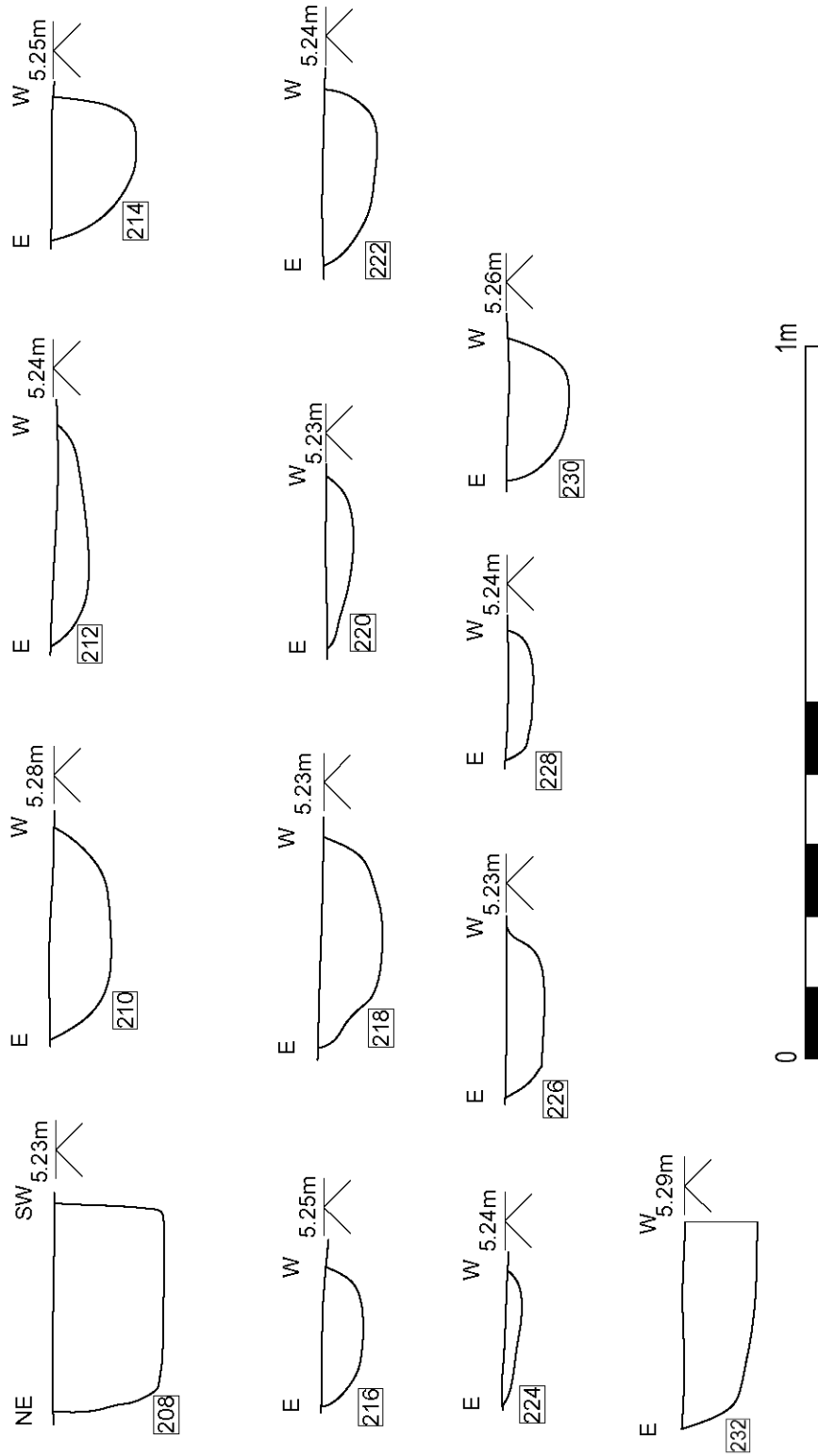


Figure 9: Posthole sections (scale 1:10)



Plate 1: Pit [109] (left) & Ditch [135] (right)



Plate 2: Ditch [114]



Plate 3: Ditches 104 (left) & 106 (right)



Plate 4: General view of the eastern end of Trench 1



Plate 5: Oblique view of Ditches [204] & [202]



Plate 6: Trench 3 sondage and possible feature in the SE corner



Plate 7: Fused brick from Ditch [204]



Plate 8: Sculpted and moulded Barnack Stone from Ditch [204]

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 This evaluation has examined an area to the east of Ramsey town centre possibly within the medieval abbey precinct. Within living memory the area was agricultural land, and orchard. Several large trees are also known to have been on the site. The root systems of these trees are bound to have left some disturbance within the sub soil. Several of the features identified in Trench 1 have been attributed to this root action. However despite the known presence of large trees across the site many of the negative features identified during the evaluation seem to have been deliberately cut ditches and pits.
- 5.2 Recent archaeological work in the area to the immediate north of the site at Ailwyn School discovered post medieval clay extraction pits which were interpreted as being associated with Tudor tile kilns excavated in the 1970's. It is likely that the fused bricks which have been provisionally dated to the Tudor period by their size discovered in Trench 2 are additional evidence for the production of brick or tile in this area. The size of the surviving, relatively fragile fused brickwork probably indicates that it has not travelled far from its associated kiln. It would thus seem likely that a Tudor tile or brick kiln lies in the immediate vicinity of Trench 2. If this is the case it is likely to be disturbed during the proposed development. The excavations at Ailwyn School also revealed medieval boundary ditches. Though no conclusive evidence was found, these ditches were tentatively interpreted as the Abbey's southern precinct boundary. It is therefore possible that one or more of the ditches exposed during the current evaluation could be a continuation of this boundary.
- 5.3 The line of postholes alongside the eastern side of Ditch [202]/[204] though not particularly regular probably represents a fence line running alongside the ditch.
- 5.4 No clearly defined features were identified in Trench 3. However it is possible that the lower area in the southern end of the test pit is the side of a ditch or pit. Likewise it possible that Layer (302) may represent an archaeological deposit rather than just a dirty C horizon, though no finds or other indications to suggest that this was other than a natural layer were revealed.
- 5.5 Whilst the pottery uncovered during the evaluation has been described as a typical fenland assemblage of the period 1250-1350 AD the abraded and battered nature of the sherds recovered would tend to indicate that they had been lying around for some time possibly in a garden or ploughsoil before being deposited in their final contexts.
- 5.6 The weight of evidence including the abraded pottery, sculpted stone and Tudor bricks from the presumed nearby kiln would tend to indicate that some if not all of the ditches were filled sometime after the dissolution of the abbey in 1539.
- 5.7 The evaluation has identified two concentrations of archaeological activity. The eastern end of Trench 1 clearly has a number of north south orientated ditches and at least two large pits. The secondary area focuses along the length of Trench 2 where the evaluation identified the large ditch and associated post-holes. Both of these areas will be directly impacted by the proposed development.

5. Confidence rating

The excavation of three 1.6m wide trenches can at best sample the site. As some definite features were discovered cut into the natural it is clear that post medieval archaeology is present on the site. However the full extent of the archaeology can not be clearly defined as it is likely that some of the disturbance recorded during the evaluation were caused by tree rooting. Within the confines of this proviso a high confidence rating can be given to the overall results of the evaluation.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to John Huggins for commissioning ASC to undertake the evaluation for his clients Legrant Building Services. We would also like to thank Steve Enfield Of Legrant for his assistance on site during the evaluation. The brief was prepared and the fieldwork monitored for Huntingdonshire District Council by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice department.

The project was under the overall management of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. The project design was prepared by Janice McLeish and the fieldwork was led by Nigel Wilson assisted by Zoe Clarke. Bob Zeepvat edited the report. Karin Semmelmann examined the worked Barnack Stone and the brick was commented upon by David Neal.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds (pottery, moulded and sculpted stones, bricks from kiln)
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Store under event no. ECB 2620.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).


IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.


Secondary Sources

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).


Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	75.6	Width	1.6	Depth	0.4
	Levels					
	Trench top west		5.92m OD			
	Trench base west		5.30m OD			
	Trench top east		5.84m OD			
	Trench base east		5.41m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	W	TL 84769 29458		E	TL 84844 29462	
	Orientation		W-E			
Reason for Trench		Evaluate 2 house plots				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
100	Layer	Turf and topsoil	>1.6			
101	Layer	Mid grey brown silty clay				
102	Layer	Light grey brown silty clay				
103	Fill	Mid brown grey silty clay fill of Ditch [104]				
104	Cut	North south orientated ditch (re-cut)				
105	Fill	Light grey orange silty clay fill of Ditch [106]				
106	Cut	North south orientated ditch (original cut)				
107	Natural	Mid orange clayey sand				
108	Fill	Light brownish orange silty clay fill of Pit [109]				
109	Cut	Sub-circular pit				
110	Fill	Light greyish orange silty clay fill of Ditch [114]				
111	Fill	Light brownish grey sandy clay of Ditch [114]				
112	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay fill of Ditch [114]				
113	Fill	Mid greyish orange silty clay fill of Ditch [135]				
114	Cut	North south orientated ditch				
115	Cut	Possible north south furrow				
116	Fill	Mid orange brown sandy clay fill of Tree throw [117]				
117	Cut	Tree throw				
118	Fill	Light greyish orange silty clay fill of Pit [121]				
119	Fill	Light reddish orange sand clay fill of Pit [121]				
120	Fill	Mid brownish orange sand clay fill of Pit [121]				
121	Cut	Sub-circular pit				

122					
123	Cut	Gully?			
124					
125					
126					
127	Cut				
128					
129	Cut	Ditch			
130	Fill	Fill of ditch [129]			
131	Cut	Tree hole			
132	Fill				
133	Cut				
134	Fill	fill of tree hole 133			
135	Cut	Ditch			
136	Fill	fill of ditch [135]			

Trench 2						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	21.10	Width	1.6	Depth	0.45
	Levels					
	Trench top north		n/a (Joined to Trench1)			
	Trench base north		5.40m OD			
	Trench top south		5.81m OD			
	Trench base south		5.34m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	N	TL 84779 29458		S	TL 84778 29437	
	Orientation			N-S		
Reason for Trench			Evaluate house plot			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
200	Layer	Turf and topsoil	>1600		0-	
201	Layer	Mid grey brown silty clay	>1600			
202						
203	Cut	North South orientated ditch				
204	Fill	Yellowish brown fill of Ditch [202]				
205	Cut	North south orientated ditch				
206	Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 204				
207	Fill	Pale yellowish brown fill of Ditch [204]				
208	Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay c. 60% gravel fill of Ditch [204]				
209	Cut	Posthole				
210	Fill	Fill of [208]				
211	Cut	Posthole				
212	Fill	Fill of [210]				
213	Cut	Posthole				
214	Fill	Fill of [212]				
215	Cut	Posthole				
216	Fill	Fill of [214]				
217	Cut	Posthole				

218	Fill	Fill of [216]			
219	Cut	Posthole			
220	Fill	Fill of [218]			
221	Cut	Posthole			
222	Fill	Fill of [220]			
223	Cut	Posthole			
224	Fill	Fill of [222]			
225	Cut	Posthole			
226	Fill	Fill of [224]			
227	Cut	Posthole			
228	Fill	Fill of [226]			
229	Cut	Posthole			
230	Fill	Fill of [228]			
231	Cut	Posthole			
232	Fill	Fill of [231]			
233	Cut	Posthole			
234	Fill	Fill of [233]			

Trench 3						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	5.9	Width	1.6	Depth	0.3
	Levels					
	Trench top north		5.81m OD			
	Trench base north		5.55OD			
	Trench top south		5.56m OD			
	Trench base south		5.38m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	N	TL 84794 29409		S	TL 84794 29403	
	Orientation		N-S			
Reason for Trench		Evaluate site of new garage				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
300	Layer	Topsoil	>1600			
301	Layer	Subsoil	>1600			
302	Layer	Dirty natural	>1600			
303	Layer	Natural	>1600			

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Land to r/o 43 Hollow Lane Ramsey			SITE NO/CODE: 928/RHL
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Trench 2 looking north
2	✓	✓	Trench 2 unexcavated ditch looking north
3	✓	✓	Trench 3 unexcavated
4	✓	✓	Trench 1 ditch cuts 104, 106 looking south
5		✓	Trench 1 ditch cuts 104, 106 looking south
6	✓	✓	Trench 1 looking west
7		✓	Trench 1 looking west
8	✓	✓	Profile Trench 1
9		✓	Profile Trench 1
10		✓	General view of the site
11		✓	General view of the site
12	✓	✓	Trench 1 Pit looking south
13	✓	✓	Trench 1 Ditch looking north
14		✓	Trench 1 Ditch looking north
15	✓	✓	Trench 2 Ditch looking east
16		✓	Trench 2 Ditch looking east
17	✓	✓	Trench 2 Ditch Looking north
18	✓	✓	Trench 2 Postholes 208-232 looking south
19		✓	Trench 2 Postholes 208-232 looking south
20	✓	✓	Trench 3 sondage looking east
21	✓	✓	Trench 1 ditches and pits towards east end
22		✓	Trench 1 ditches and pits towards east end

Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Bone		Pot		Fe		CBM	
	Qty	Weight	Qty	Weight	Qty	Weight	Qty	Weight
102	2	57g	1	55g	1	35g	6	337g
108	1	12g	4	88g	-	-	4	213g
113	1	15g	1	43g	-	-	-	-
120	-	-	-	-	1	6g	5	438g
205	-	-	3	67g	-	-	3	83g
Totals	4	84g	9	253g	2	41g	18	1071g

Appendix 4: Pottery Assessment

Report on the pottery from 928/RHL, Ramsey Cambridgeshire

Nine sherds (0.25 kg) of medieval pottery were recovered from 4 contexts (102, 108, 113 and 205). A record of the number of sherds and their weight has already been recorded for the site archive.

Four sherds are likely to be the products of the Stanion/Lyveden kilns in Northamptonshire, which produced quartz-tempered wares with calcareous inclusions in the late 13th and early 14th centuries. Three of these sherds are from jugs; one the slightly splayed base of a tall jug in Context 102 and two fragments of strap handles in Contexts 113 and 108. The handle in Context 113 is crudely decorated with two parallel, heavily incised lines running down the spine and has a thin lead glaze on the outer surface. Products of the Stanion/Lyveden kilns, though located in Northamptonshire are found distributed in the Fenlands, for example at Ely (Hall 2001, 6).

Four sherds in Contexts 108 and 205 are found in a ubiquitous medieval quartz-tempered fabric. The presence of hard, white quartzose grits in the sandy matrix is, however, an indicator that these may be the oxidised products of kilns at Ely as opposed to other East Anglian wares. Two of these four sherds, with an oxidized buff/pink surface and dark core, are from the thumbled bases of large rounded jugs. One sherd has traces of the characteristic thin and patchy opaque glaze on the exterior surface, typical of Ely ware. The precise distribution of Ely ware is uncertain but David Hall has identified this fabric on all Fenland sites, at Cambridge and to the north at King's Lynn, where it was called 'Grimston Software ware'. Ely wares have also been noted in southern Lincolnshire and west Norfolk (Hall 2001, 7). The kilns at Ely were active from the 12th-15th century in which time the fabric changes very little and so typologically is very difficult to date closely. At Kings Lynn 'Grimston Software ware' is found mainly in Period I, dated 1100-1250, and in decline in Period II (1250-1350) (Hall 2001, 5).

One undiagnostic sherd in Context 108 is a fine oxidised sherd with thin yellow/orange lead glaze on the exterior. This is not typical of the Essex tradition of fine redwares and may therefore be the product of the kilns at Bourne, Lincolnshire which are also found in this region. Bourne 'type D' has a pink-orange fabric with a very smooth finish and sometimes a light green/yellow or brown glaze. This particular ware is a later product of the kilns dated as 1450-1637 (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 408).

Conclusion

This assemblage of rather abraded and battered sherds seems fairly typical of a domestic assemblage from the Fenland region. The three likely sources of wares, Lyveden, Bourne and Ely are all common sources of medieval pottery within this region. The Lyveden and Ely products are likely to be contemporary in all four contexts dating from c. 1250 to 1350. The Bourne D ware in Context 108 may be of later date.

This assemblage is too small to warrant further analysis, but should any further work be carried out on the site it should be included in the on-going analysis of the site.

Bibliography

Hall, David, 2001 Medieval Pottery from Forehill, Ely, Cambridgeshire. *Medieval Ceramics* 25, 2-21

McCarthy, Michael R. and Brooks, Catherine M., 1988 *Medieval Pottery in Britain*, Leicester.

Lucy Whittingham
21.1.08

Appendix 5: The Brick (based on comments by David Neal)

Two conglomerations of heat fused bonded bricks were recovered from the upper fill of Ditch [204]. Despite being buckled through the heat the bricks were clearly handmade and measured 220x90x40mm. The bricks were pale greyish in colour and clay bonded. The clay had been fired due to the heat in the kiln.

Conglomeration 1 comprised seven courses of brick and was three bricks wide whilst the second smaller one comprised four courses and was only two bricks wide.

It is likely that these bricks formed part of the structure of a tile

Appendix 6: The Sculpted and Moulded Stone (based on comments by Karin Semmelmann)

Four substantial fragments of Barnack Stone were recovered from the upper fill of Ditch [204]. Stone 1 had a half round profile with dimensions of 265x145x80mm, this block probably formed part of a doorway or wall capping. The other three pieces of stone were sculpted and could have been either freestanding or fixed to a larger feature.

From the quality of the work it is probable that all four fragments of stone were originally used in the nearby abbey.

Appendix 7: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land to r/o 43 Hollow Lane Ramsey		
Short Description:	<i>During December 2007, an evaluation was undertaken on land to the r/o of 43 Hollow Lane, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire in advance of a housing development. Three trenches were excavated totalling c. 105m. A number of features were investigated including pits, small gullies and two north south ditch alignments. One of the ditches had a row of irregularly placed post holes along its southern side, probably a fence line. A number of sherds of highly abraded medieval pottery were recovered from several of the features. Several lumps of narrow bricks fused together by heat were also recovered from one of the ditches. These bricks probably represent part of the structure of a Tudor tile or brick kiln, several of which were found on recent excavations to the north of the site. Also within the fill of this ditch several Sculpted and moulded Barnack Stone stones were recovered. These stones are likely to have come from the Abbey, sometime after the dissolution.</i>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Trial Trenching		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Conservation area	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	none
Current land use:	Garden	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	Yes
Monument type:	Ditch	Monument period:	unknown
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Pottery medieval, Moulded Stone medieval, Brick early post medieval		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Cambridgeshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 2938 8484
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Land to r/o 43 Hollow Lane Ramsey, Cambridgeshire		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	3460Sq m	Height OD: (metres)	5.6 m AOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Cambridgeshire C.C.	Project design originator:	ASC Ltd
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Nigel Wilson HND AIFA
Sponsor / funding body:			
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	3 rd December 2007	End date:	3 rd December 2007
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Cambridgeshire County Store		
Paper:	Cambridgeshire County Store	Brief, Project Design, Report Trench record sheets, Photographic list	
Digital:	Cambridgeshire County Store	1 CD containing all digital files, including documents and images	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:			

Serial title & volume:			
Author(s):			
Page nos		Date:	