

3 The Priory, Royston, Hertfordshire

An Archaeological Evaluation



Richard Newman

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



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With contributions by
Craig Cessford, David Hall and Natasha Dodwell

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation consisting of six trenches measuring between 3.0m and 10.2m in length was undertaken on a 989.1m² area of land near the centre of Royston, Hertfordshire. Numerous features relating to four distinct phases of activity were encountered. The earliest elements in this sequence were associated with an Augustinian priory founded on the site in 1184; remnants of probable claustral structures were identified from this period, along with at least four burials. Following the Dissolution of the priory in 1537, a manor house was established that appears to have reused several of the earlier monastic buildings. Part of its western range and a probable lodge-house were investigated. After the construction of a new timber-framed mansion in the early 17th century the area was extensively landscaped, before finally being put to horticultural use during the 19th century.

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Introduction

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook a trench-based evaluation on a 989.1m² area of land in the southern part of the town of Royston, Hertfordshire, between the 21st of June and the 13th of July 2007. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is centred on TL 357 406 and is situated immediately south and southeast of the parish church of St John the Baptist, behind 1-4 Fish Hill and around 55m south of Melbourn Street (see Figure 1). This area currently comprises the garden of a private domestic residence, and lies approximately 100m to the southeast of the historic core of the town. A six percent sample of the site, consisting of six trenches covering a combined total of 58.85m², was excavated (see Figure 2). This work followed the specification issued by the CAU (Dickens 2007) and approved by Andy Instone, Development Control Archaeologist at Hertfordshire County Council. The project was commissioned by NPK Holdings Ltd. in advance of proposed redevelopment.

Methodology

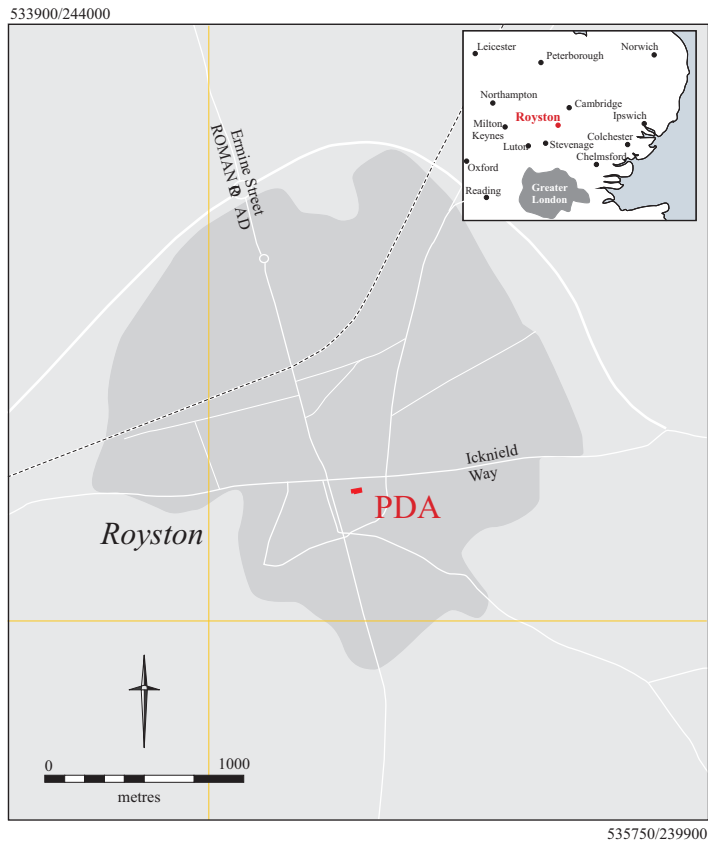
The six trenches were carefully positioned in order to investigate potential archaeological features previously identified by a geophysical survey of the site. This survey, commissioned by the CAU and undertaken by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd. in early May 2007, highlighted several areas of potential interest (see Appendix 3). During the excavation modern deposits and overburden were removed by a 360° mechanical excavator with a 1.5m wide toothless bucket. All archaeological features were then excavated by hand and recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS system (Spence 1994). Base plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, whilst sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Context numbers are indicated within the text by square brackets (e.g. [001]), and feature numbers are denoted by the prefix F. (e.g. F.03); to maintain fluidity, detailed feature descriptions have been separated into Appendix 2. An assessment of the finds is presented in Appendix 1. The photographic archive consists of a series of digital images.

Landscape and geology

Royston lies between two spurs of the northernmost point of the Chiltern Hills, and is situated upon an outcrop of Middle Cretaceous chalk (BGS Sheet 204 1976; Branigan 1994). The PDA is positioned just outside the core of the historic town, at the base of a natural ridge that rises up Fish Hill to the southeast. Its present surface height lies at around 64m OD.

Historical and archaeological background

The historical and archaeological background of the PDA is covered in depth in the recent desktop assessment (Appleby 2006), and the wider background of Royston is reviewed in several published sources (Kingston 1906; Page 1912; Slater 2004). Neither is therefore reproduced here in full. Nevertheless, it is necessary to briefly outline the history of the town in order to place the PDA securely within its wider context; further details on specific sites directly related to its development are also discussed in the relevant sections of the excavation results.



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Figure 1: Site location

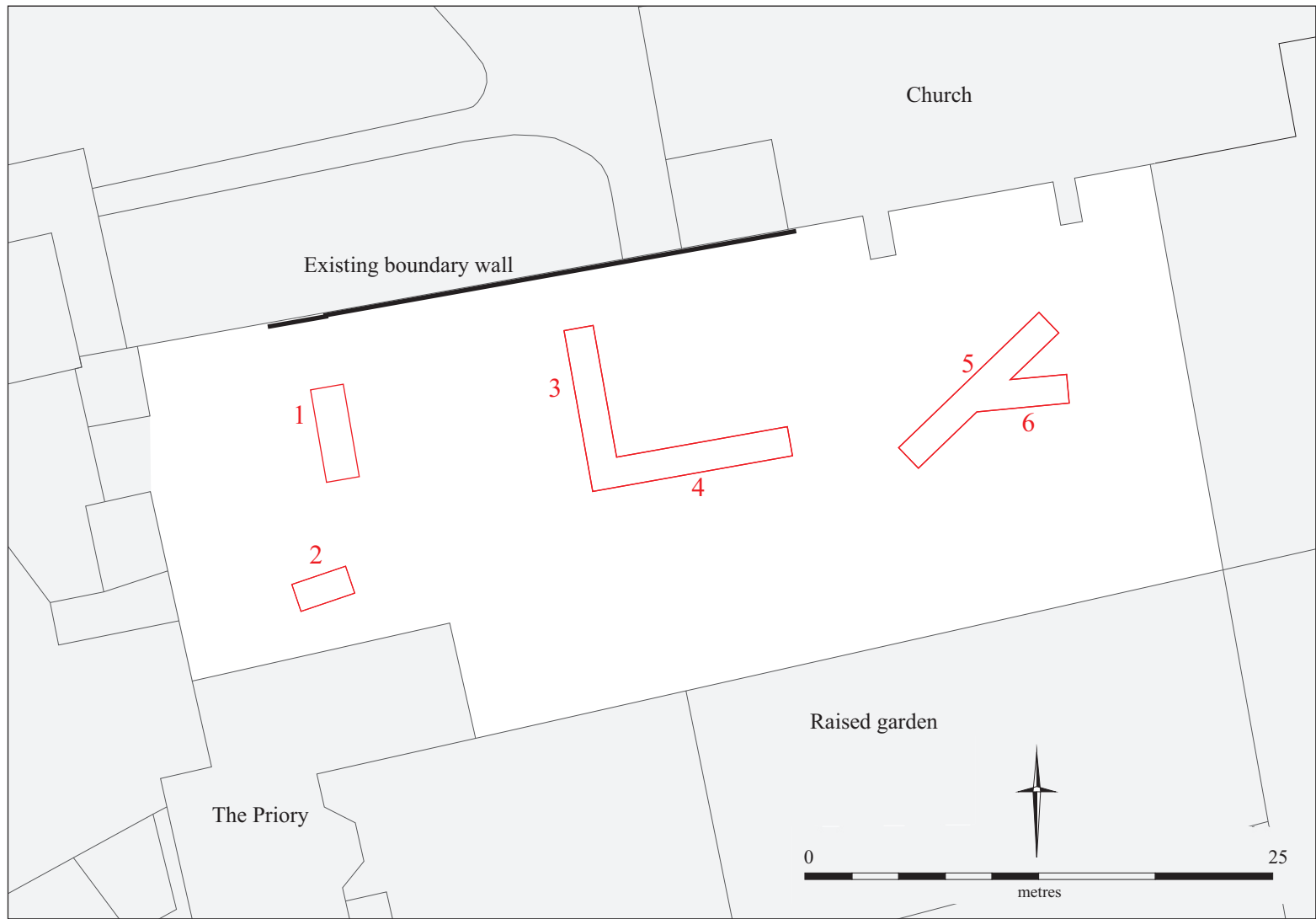


Figure 2: Trench locations

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The precise origins of Royston are obscure, but it is most likely to have emerged around the time of the Norman Conquest following the establishment of a probable hermitage at the crossroads of the much earlier routes of Ermine Street and the Icknield Way. The name of the town is purportedly due to the erection of a cross, known as the *Cross of Rohesia* or *Crux Roaisie*, at their point of intersection although this attribution – along with the name of the person who erected the cross – remains the subject of debate (c.f. Cussans 1881; Kingston 1906; Page 1912; Slater 2004). Most significantly for its later development, however, in 1184 an Augustinian priory was founded some 200m southeast of the crossroads (and thus within the area of the PDA). The Medieval town then appears to have grown up to the west of the priory as a planned ecclesiastical development, concentrated along the High Street, King's Street and Kneesworth Street in the form of a distinct 'ribbon' or linear settlement (Slater 2004, 10-11). It was known at first as *Royes* or *Roeyes*, the first reference to *Roiston* being recorded in 1286 (Glover *et. al* 1938). Although not large, the commercial importance of Royston as a regional market town during this period is underlined by its rapid restoration following extensive fires in 1324 and 1405 (Smith & Ranson 2001, 3).

Divided between five parishes and across two counties, the diverse elements of the town were not united as a single entity until 1537 following the Dissolution and suppression of the priory (though it was not until 1897 that it was finally brought under a single county authority). The manorial rights of Royston were purchased by one Robert Chester, who appears to have utilised several of the priory's claustral buildings as the basis of his new manorial residence – though little if anything of this structure survives above ground today (Smith 1993, 150-51). The town's residents purchased the priory church and converted its eastern end into the present parish church of St John the Baptist; its western end was demolished and subsequently became the location of the parish cemetery (Kingston 1906, 77; Page 1914, 453). Two hospitals of the period are also known to have existed in Royston. The Hospital of St John and St James was founded c.1244, becoming a free chapel in 1486 (Page 1914, 464); it was located around 150m to the west of the PDA. The Hospital of St Nicolas was founded as a leper hospital c.1200 and is thought to have been located to the north of the King's Dog House around 300m to the north of the PDA (Knowles 1953, 388), though its precise position is currently unknown.

Royston remained an important market town into the early Post-Medieval period. In the early 17th century, James I established a hunting lodge on the High Street which utilised several earlier Medieval buildings; many elements of the 'Royal Palace', including the buttery, are still standing (Ashworth 1998). The town's regional importance remained significant, for 'by the time of Charles I the more distant Royston was buying "a very great parte of the Corne in Cambridgeshire" and sending 180 great malt wagons to the city every week' (Fisher 1935, 60).

Archaeologically, Royston has been the subject of relatively little investigation. Although Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon features have all been recorded in the general vicinity of the town (c.f. Appleby 2006), these sites are too distant to be considered pertinent to the present study. Of more direct relevance, however, is the site of Royston Cave, located just to the east of the central crossroads. First discovered in 1742, the 'cave' was in fact deliberately hollowed-out from the underlying chalk, most probably at some time during prehistory. During the 13th to

14th centuries it was extensively remodelled and decorated with numerous religious carvings (Beamon & Donel 1978; Smith & Ranson 2001, 5), leading to the suggestion that it functioned as an oratory at this time (Beamon *pers comm*). More recently, four coffined inhumation burials from a cemetery possibly associated with the Hospital of St John and St James were found in 1959, in addition to three skeletons of unknown (possibly earlier) date during cable laying (HER). Finally, during observation and recording of path widening and cable laying in the churchyard between the western end of the church of St John the Baptist and Melbourn Street a cobbled surface approximately level with the existing path was revealed, in addition to several broken grave markers and evidence of *in situ* burials (Ashworth 2000). Disarticulated human bone was also retrieved during this exercise.

Excavation results

Four phases of activity have been identified at the priory site. These comprise:

1. Features relating to its initial ecclesiastical usage.
2. Features relating to the Post-Dissolution establishment of a manor house.
3. Features relating to post-manorial landscaping activity.
4. Features relating to 19th century gardening activity.

Because each of these phases represents events that occurred on a site-wide as opposed to trench-specific scale, the relevant information from each trench has been amalgamated into a general phase by phase discussion.

Phase 1 – the priory (Figures 3 to 8)

Background history

At some time between 1164 and 1179 a chapel for three Augustinian canons was established within the area of the PDA on land granted by Eustace de Merc, Lord of the manor of Newsells (Simmelman 1998, 15). Its location is likely to have been influenced by the presence of a wayside cross and probable hermitage at the crossroads to the northwest (Munby 1977, 97). In 1184 the chapel was raised to the status of a priory, as recorded in a Papal Bull of Pope Lucius, and its original dedication to St John the Baptist was also changed to include St Thomas Beckett who had been assassinated fourteen years previously (Kingston 1906, 12; Page 1914, 436). Initially home to a community of just seven canons, the priory was granted manorial rights as part of its founding charter and in 1188 was also granted the right to hold a weekly market by Richard I, in addition to the right to hold an annual fair during Whitsun week (Page 1912). These proved to be very successful, benefiting from the priory's location adjacent to the confluence of two major roads, and further grants of fairs were made in 1213 and 1243 (Greene 1992, 174). Trade flourished to such a degree that a second market place was eventually required and the priory prospered. Indeed, although it remained a relatively minor house the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 records Royston Priory as the fifth wealthiest monastery in Hertfordshire with an annual net income of £89 16s (approximately £34,000 in modern terms) (Dogget 1991, 59-60).

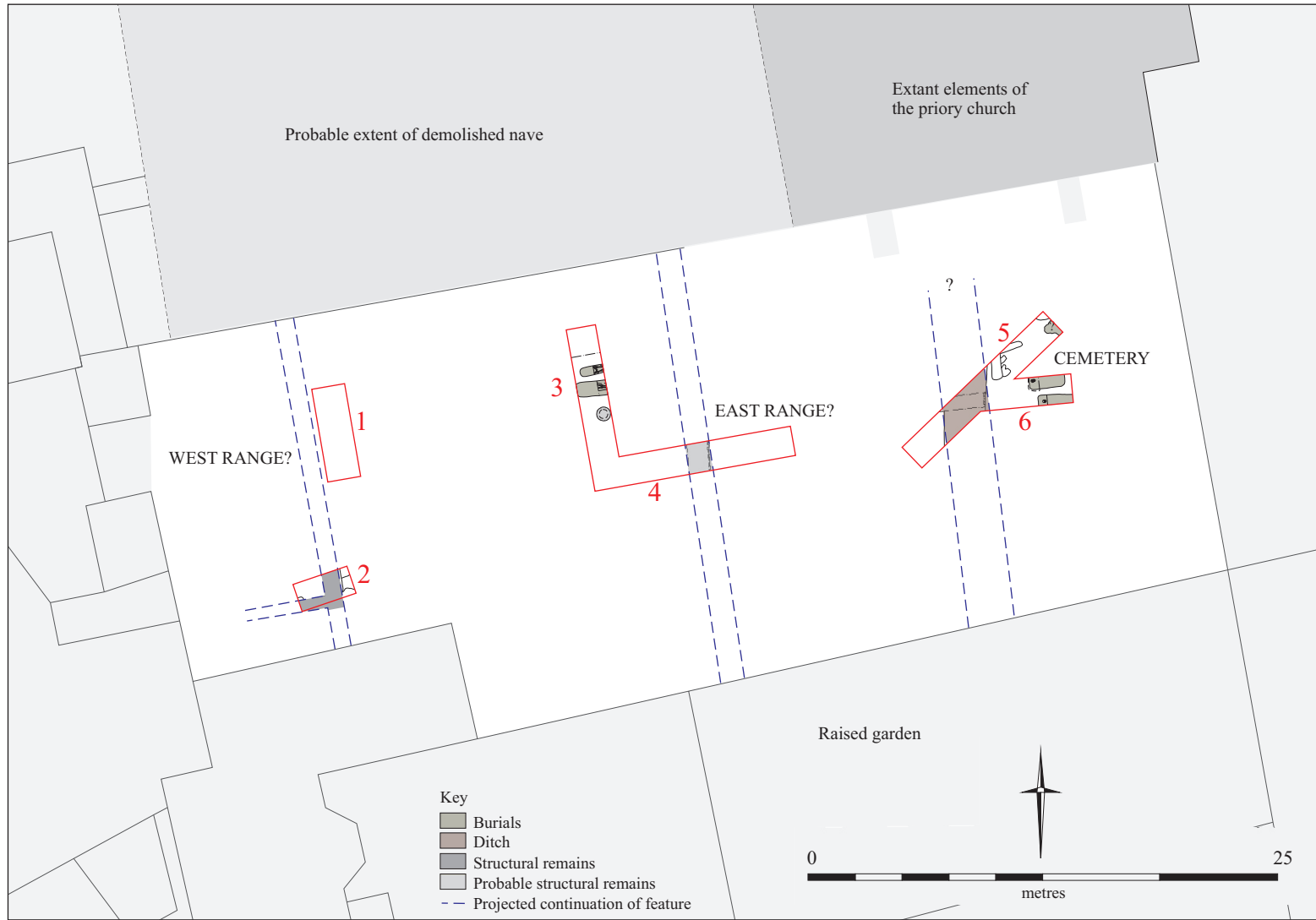


Figure 3: Phase 1 features

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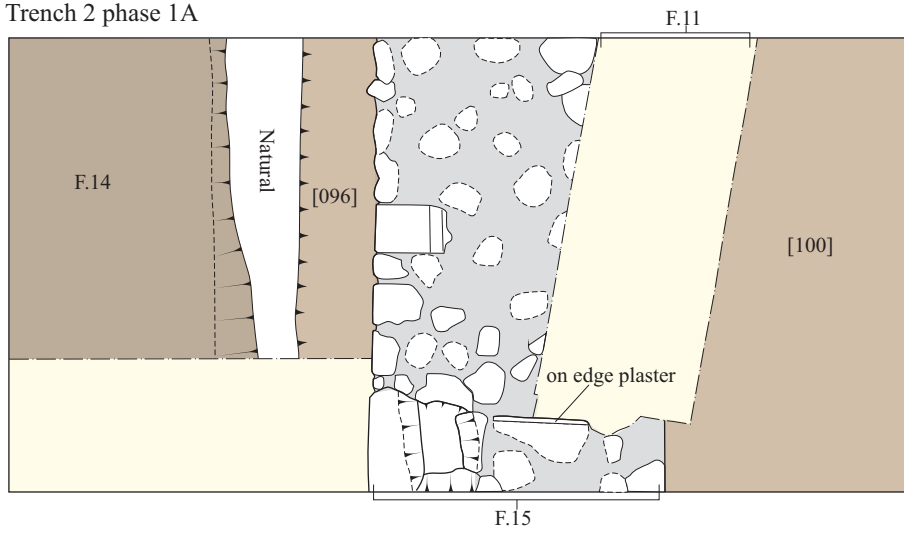
Members of the Augustinian Order followed the Rule of Saint Augustine (AD 354-430), which promoted moderation but eschewed the severe asceticism of several contemporary orders. Unlike the more contemplative Benedictines and Cistercians, for example, Augustinian houses were more likely to occur in association with secular settlements and parish churches (Greene 1992, 15). Indeed, minor houses such as that at Royston were often founded in conjunction with a new town in order to provide an additional source of revenue (Slater 2004, 11). Establishments such as these were maintained by *canons regular*, who were ordained priests in addition to being monks and often had numerous parochial obligations. In total, the number of Augustinian monasteries for men founded in England is likely to have exceeded 225, with all but a handful founded prior to 1270 (Butler 1989, 8-9); the majority of these were of a similarly modest scale to that established at Royston. Although the canons led for the most part relatively comfortable lives, between 1350 to 1450 there was a general contraction in both monastic economies and the number of inmates in each house; so much so that between 1450 and 1540 many houses were in decline, facing rationalisation and eventual closure (*ibid*, 24).

Archaeological remains

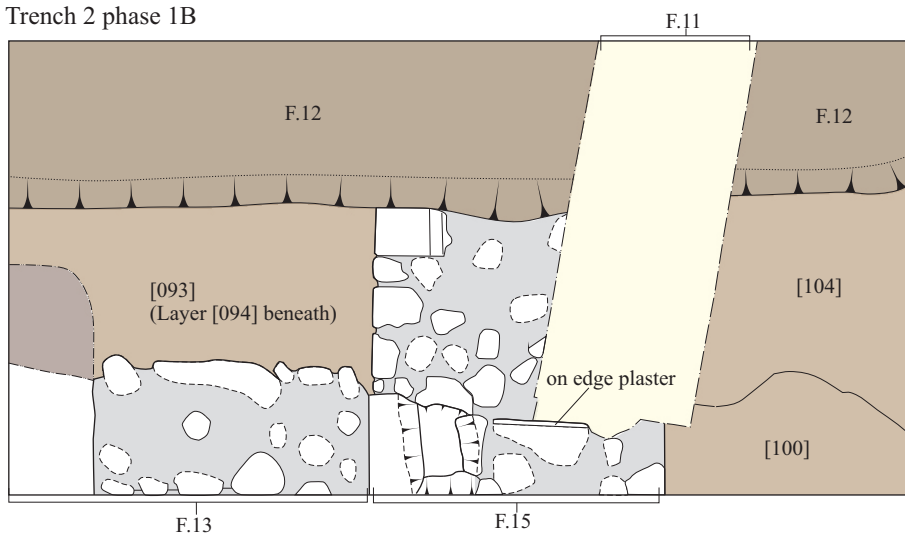
Although widely affected by Post-Dissolution truncation, features belonging to this phase were identified in five of the six trenches excavated (only being absent in Trench 1). The most complete sequence was encountered in Trench 2, where substantial stone-built foundations were identified. The earliest of these, **F.15**, was aligned roughly north-south and constructed from reused worked clunch blocks bonded with dense pale grey sandy mortar. It was 0.98m wide and very carefully constructed, containing a socket for a timber upright adjacent to an area of on-edge plaster render that indicates the presence of an elaborate doorway. Unfortunately, no datable material was recovered from its backfill. However, the presence of probable 15th century pottery within adjacent linear/robber cut **F.14**, which is very likely to have been dug prior to the building's erection, indicates that **F.15** was probably constructed relatively late in the priory's lifetime. This would also account for the amount of worked stone reused in its fabric. Abutting the external face of **F.15** to the east was pure clay surface **[100]**, which had been set down above mortar foundation layer **[101]**. This would have been wholly unsuitable as an exterior surface and implies that a covered area, probably a walkway, was present. The building was soon subdivided by east-west wall **F.13**, which used very similar materials to its predecessor but was more crudely constructed. Foundation deposits **[093]** and **[094]** were also set down at this time, though no floor surfaces from the period have survived. The final element in the sequence comprises layer **[104]**, a trample deposit that gradually accrued above surface **[100]**.

Potential structural elements have also been identified in Trenches 3 and 4, despite the degree of later truncation in this area (see Figures 6 and 11). In Trench 4, flat-bottomed linear **F.27** closely resembles the cut for wall **F.15** to which it is parallel. As the two vary by only 0.04m in basal height, it appears likely that this feature represents the robbed foundation of a contemporary building to the east. Situated a little distance to its west in Trench 3 was a substantial posthole, **F.26**, which also appears to have been structural in origin. The differing materials employed in each case indicate that these elements are unlikely to have belonged to the same structural phase, however. Historical accounts suggest that the earliest buildings in the majority

Trench 2 phase 1A



Trench 2 phase 1B



Trench 2 phase 2

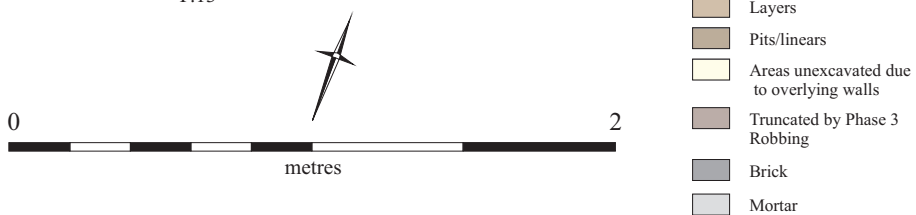
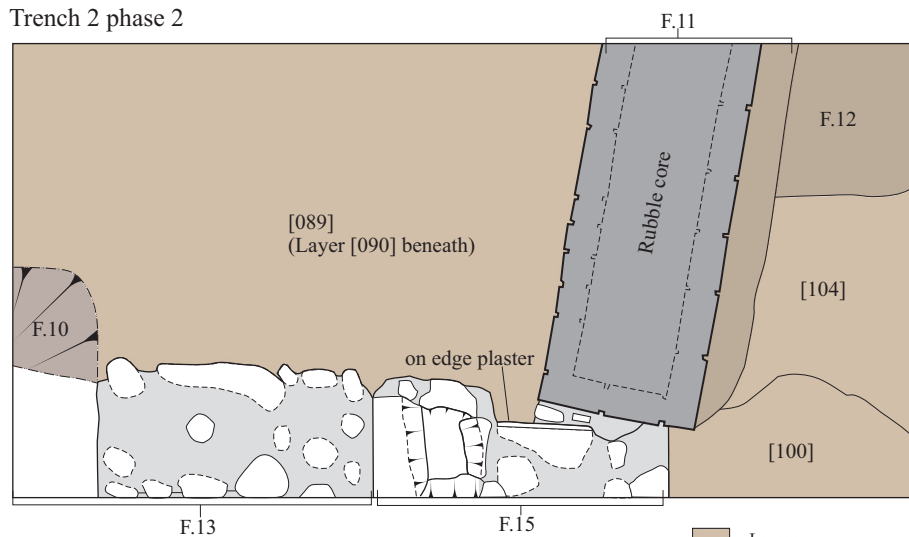
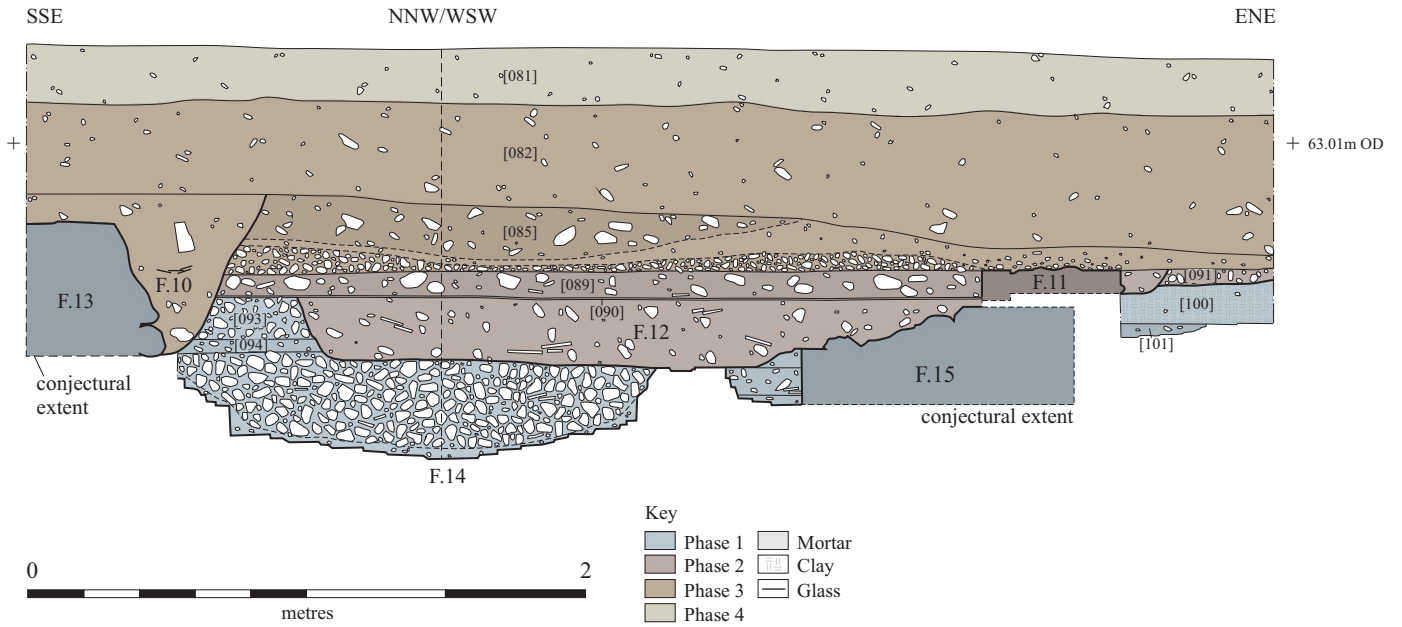


Figure 4: Trench 2 phase plans

East-northeast and south-southeast facing sections of Trench 2



Trench 2 pre-ex, facing west-southwest.
Brick wall F.11 in the foreground.



Trench 2 post-ex, facing east-northeast.
Stone-built wall F.13 and F.15 are now fully exposed.

Figure 5: Trench 2 section and photographs

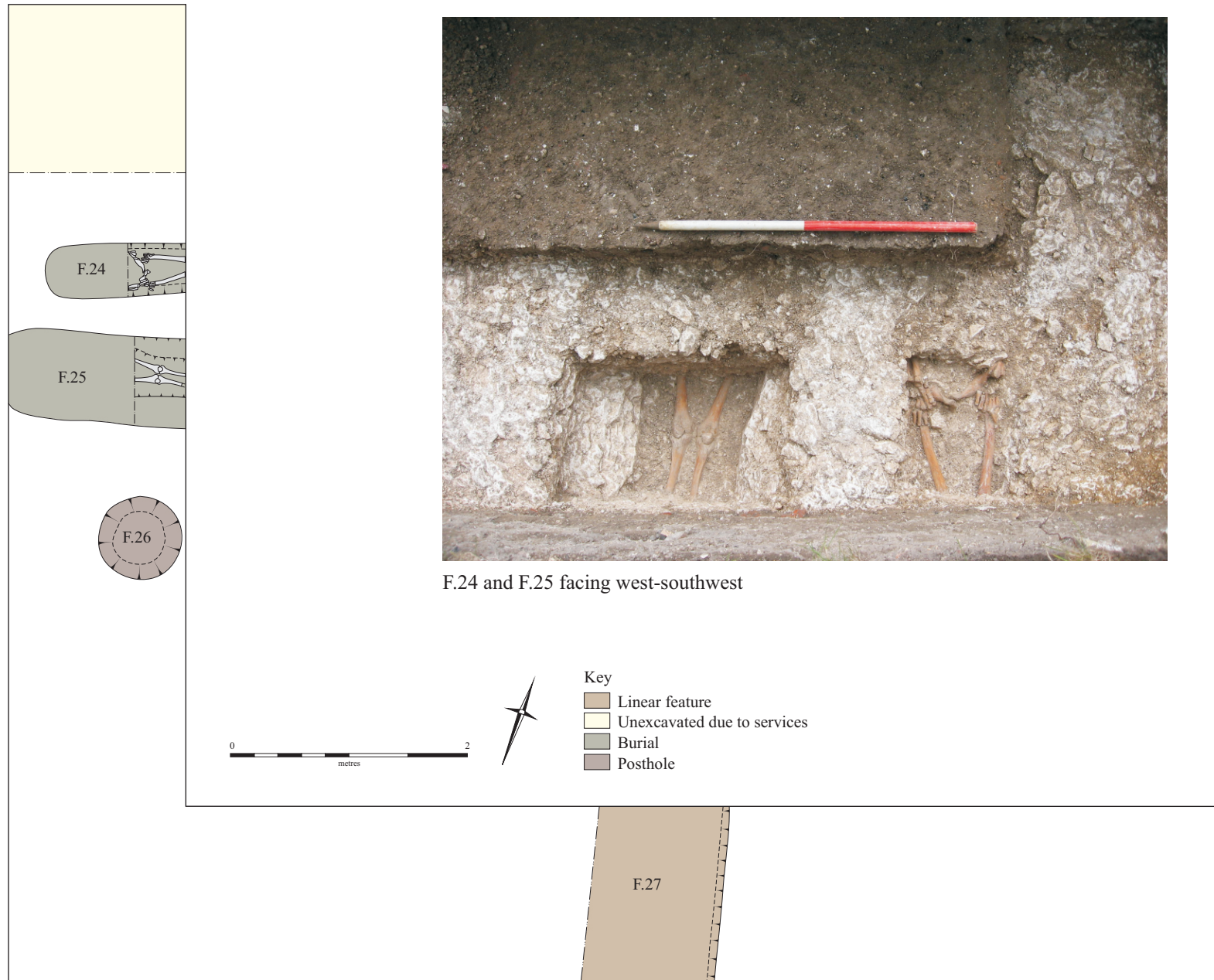
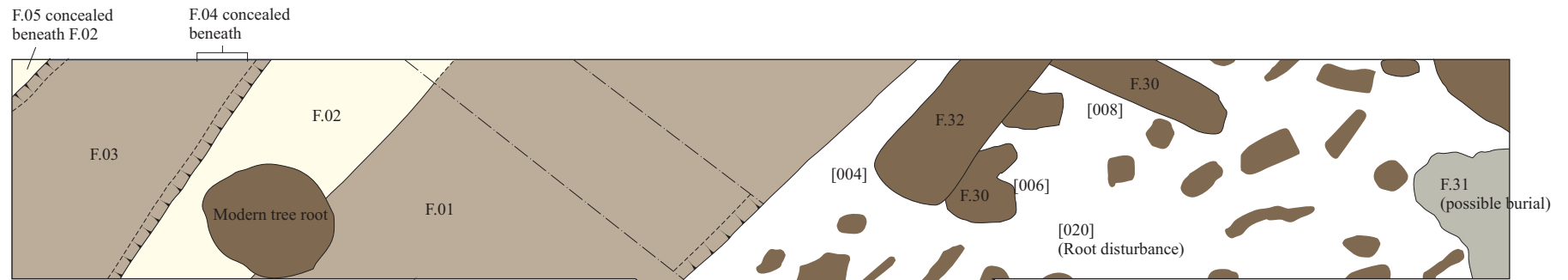
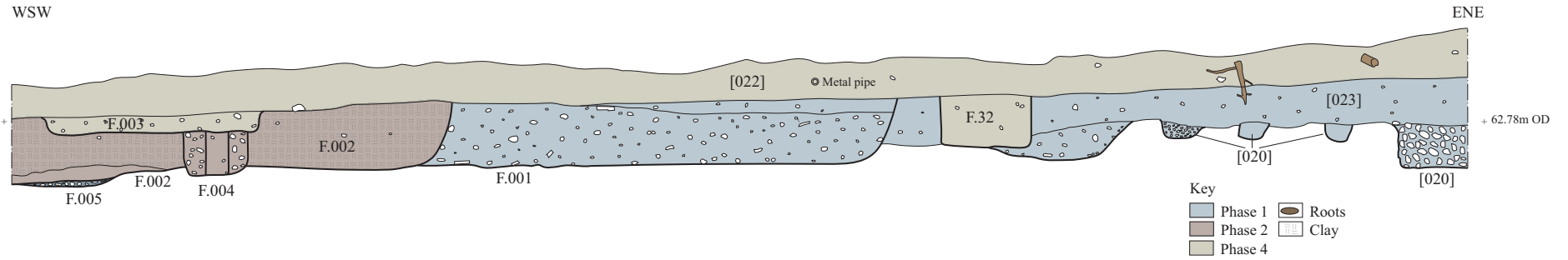


Figure 6: Trenches 3 and 4, Phase 1

South-southeast facing section of Trench 5
WSW



11



F.06, facing west



F.07, facing west

Figure 7: Trenches 5 and 6

of monastic foundations are likely to have been constructed from timber (Greene 1992, 57-76); indeed at Norton Priory in Cheshire, two successive phases of timber cloister were found to have predated the final masonry structure (Greene 2004, 94). It is therefore likely that the structure represented by **F.26** predates that represented by **F.27**, though this cannot be proved stratigraphically due to the extent of later truncation. Such a relationship would certainly help to explain the proximity of burials **F.24** and **F.25** immediately to the north of **F.26** in Trench 3. These two inhumations – the former of which was interred within a coffin, the latter within a deliberately shaped ‘anthropomorphic’ grave – are unlikely to have been sited in such a position whilst the timber phase building remained extant.

Two further burials, **F.06** and **F.07**, were also encountered in Trench 6. In both cases, the individuals had been interred at some depth – c.0.8m+ into the natural chalk – in wide rectangular graves, implying that they were again most probably encoffined (see Figure 7). The deposit which immediately overlay these interments, **[023]**, is likely to represent a disturbed ‘cemetery soil’. A fifth burial may also have been present in Trench 5, though **F.31** fell only partially within the area of excavation and had been badly disturbed by tree root activity; no human bone was recovered from its fill. All three of these features clearly respect the line of ditch **F.01**, however, which appears to have divided the main priory precinct from the burial ground to the east; it contained 13th/14th century pottery along with several disarticulated human bones. Many of the tree roots that lie between this ditch and the burials, including **[020]** and **F.30**, appear to be of a similarly early date on stratigraphic grounds. Their presence suggests that a hedge may have been deliberately grown, perhaps on top of a low bank, in order to further screen this area from the priory buildings to the west. Finally, pit/linear **F.05** was also partially present in Trench 5, though unfortunately it has been too severely truncated for its original purpose to be discerned.

Standing elements of Royston Priory

The church of St John the Baptist, in common with the majority of regional parish churches of a similar age, represents a palimpsest of modification and rebuilding that spans its 800 year history. Although Post-Dissolution truncation and Victorian ‘restoration’ have heavily obscured its original form, several elements of the initial priory church may still be discerned. The earliest surviving architectural features comprise the remnants of several round-headed arches in the presbytery (that part of the church reserved for use by the clergy) and two dog-tooth ornamented triple-lancet windows in the south aisle, which are of 13th century origin (Wallington *n.d.*). Due to the paucity of surviving evidence, however, the precise form and extent of the church at this time is unclear. It may well have been cruciform in plan, in common with the majority of Augustinian monastic churches, though examples without transepts are known (Greene 1992, 6). What is clear is that during the 14th century the north and south aisles were extended, thereby reducing the area of the chancel, and that a chantry chapel (now lost) was most probably added to the north during the 15th century (Wallington *n.d.*). Finally, shortly after the Dissolution of the priory in 1537, the entire nave was dismantled. This part of the building would initially have served a primarily parochial function, acting in effect as a ‘parish church-within-a-church’, and is likely to have comprised well over half the length of the original structure (Rodwell 2005, 145-46). It is possible, though by no means definite, that elements of the extant masonry wall extending from the west end of the tower (which is now abutted by the

brick-built boundary that defines the northern perimeter of the PDA) once formed part of the southern nave wall (Cussans 1881, 99; Kingston 1906, 74; Dogget 1991, 59). Outside the church, the priory pond survived largely intact until WWII when the grounds were converted into the Priory Memorial Gardens that now form the eastern boundary to the site (Appleby 2006, 14).

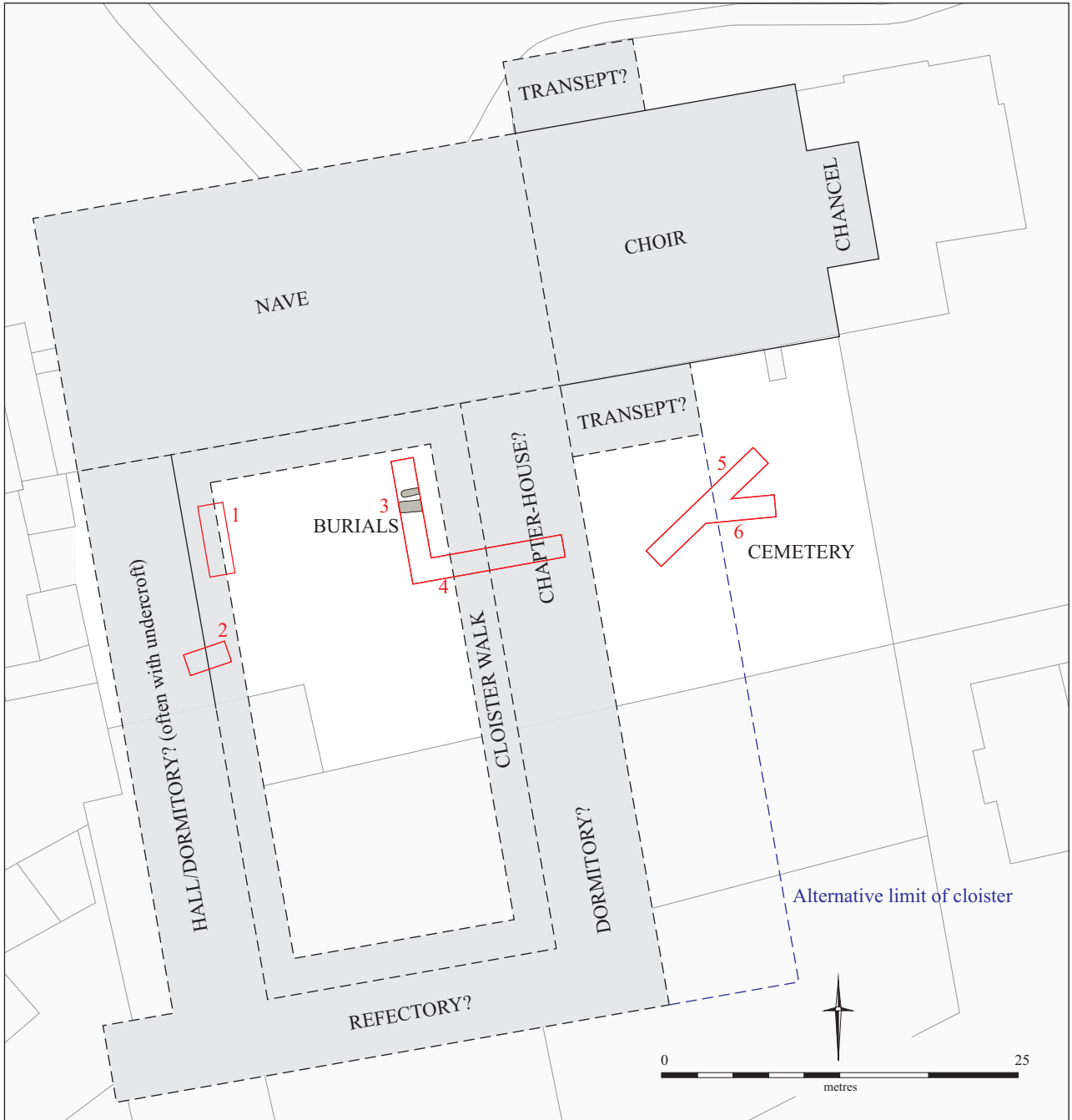
The distribution of human remains

Two distinct groups of burials were encountered during the evaluation. The first of these, located towards the eastern end of the site and composed of **F.06**, **F.07** and potentially also **F.31**, represents inhumations that were carefully separated from the main priory precinct. Human remains have previously been encountered in this area “next the south wall of the chancel of the Church, when ground was being taken in for the erection of a new chancel in 1891” (Kingston 1906, 77). This evidence, along with that of probable intercutting suggested by the presence of disarticulated material in the backfill of **F.07**, indicates that these features form part of a larger cemetery. Given the parochial role played by the original priory church and the marked separation of these interments from the nearby ecclesiastical compound, it is very likely that they are situated within an associated lay burial ground. As this would probably have formed the principal cemetery for the town’s lay population up until the Dissolution, it could potentially extend for some distance.

The second group of burials was positioned quite differently, however. **F.24** and **F.25** were located in the heart of the ecclesiastical area, close by the south wall of the nave of the priory church, and are therefore much more likely to represent the interments of members of the religious community itself. Burials have been identified in a similar location at several monastic sites, often in association with a claustral entrance to the presbytery (Gilchrist & Sloane 2005, 57-9). This siting appears to be related to the Medieval notion of a burial ‘hierarchy’ in which the degree of prestige attached to a specific location varied in direct relation to its perceived proximity to God. Thus the most coveted position (which was most probably reserved exclusively for senior members of the clergy) was within the church immediately in front of the altar, whilst beside the entrance remained an auspicious if somewhat less exalted locale. Burials were not solely restricted to these areas, however, as canons could be interred in almost any part of the priory precinct (*ibid*, 56). Indeed, when the antiquarian Cole visited the site in 1747 he was informed by the tenant that when ‘pulling up ye pavement of an old Hall they ye stones which paved it were gravestones turned the wrong way...’ (cited in Kingston 1906, 76). Whilst these markers had clearly been removed from their original context, they are unlikely to have been transported far; this anecdote therefore demonstrates that a potentially quite significant number of burials were (and probably still are) present within the former claustral area.

A conjectural reconstruction of the priory layout (Figure 8)

The basic layout of the primary ecclesiastical elements in a Medieval monastery was often remarkably uniform, in part reflecting the degree to which daily liturgical practice became integrated with standardised architectural forms (Greene 1992, 5). Also contributing to this uniformity was the widespread practice of wealthy motherhouses founding numerous ‘progeny’, as the new establishments often replicated the form of the original parent. Augustinian houses were amongst the most



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Figure 8: Conjectural reconstruction of Royston Priory, taking account of known archaeology

standardised of the period (Aston 2000, 137), usefully allowing a basic template to be established. Typically, the western claustral range contained the primary accommodation for the canons and any potential guests (often with cellared storage space beneath). The chapter-house, used for ecclesiastical meetings of the order or 'chapter', was most often located in the eastern range, whilst the refectory was commonly sited to the south (Greene 1992, 4-11). The cloister itself was almost always attached to the southern wall of the church's nave, its western face usually flush with the west end of the church. Numerous outbuildings – such as a stables, kitchen and servants quarters, perhaps even a brew-house or infirmary – would also have been present, though their positions varied much more widely according to the dictates and topography of the particular site. Using this template as a basis, a very broad reconstruction of the priory at Royston may be attempted which incorporates those elements of the structure revealed during the present fieldwork (see Figure 8).

The location of the western claustral range appears to be relatively secure, given the scale and quality of the stone foundations encountered in Trench 2. Further support is also to be found in the probable presence of an undercroft in this area within the Post-Dissolution manor house, which is likely to have made extensive use of the earlier claustral buildings (see below, and Figure 14). (It must be noted, however, that given the limited scale of the excavation the possibility that these walls belong instead to a non-claustral outbuilding cannot be entirely discounted). The eastern range, in contrast, appears to have been much more heavily truncated, at least towards its northern end, rendering its original position less clear. Such extensive demolition would be consistent with the presence of a chapter-house, the least domestic of the standard claustral buildings and the most difficult to convert to later secular use. The location of this range as suggested in Figure 8 is based upon the alignment of features **F.26** and **F.27** and assumes that between them they delineate at least one phase of the cloister walk. The alternative line which is also presented is based upon the alignment of ditch **F.01**, but appears much less likely given that no clear architectural association can be established for this feature. However, should the original priory church have been cruciform in plan it would then have been standard for its south transept to act as the spring-point for the eastern wall of the cloister (Greene 1992, 10). This would require the eastern range to be positioned much closer to the second alignment, though on the present evidence this remains the least likely scenario.

The conjectured location of the southern range is based upon the position of the southern buildings shown on the 1578 plan of the Post-Dissolution manor house (see Figure 14). Because this range is typically domestic in nature, it would have been ideal for conversion; conversely, it is likely to have been substantially constructed and so it is doubtful whether it would have been demolished simply to allow new buildings to be erected a few metres away. A by-product of placing it here, however, is that the resultant cloister is markedly rectangular in form. Such an arrangement is in fact relatively common (Greene 1992, 6), though it does suggest that a temporal factor may also be involved. Monastic sites such as Royston Priory were continuously occupied for several centuries, during which time the fabric of many of the buildings would have been repaired, modified, updated or replaced. The nature and extent of any changes would also have varied depending upon necessity, preference or the prevailing economic climate (*ibid*, 87-109). It is quite possible that, as at many similar sites such as Lanercost Priory in Cumbria, additional buildings were appended to the southern range and that these, being more recent, were selected for conversion in

preference to older or more rundown structures; the final form would then bear little relation to the initial layout. Such developmental factors cannot of course be fully assessed given the limited scope of the current project.

In conclusion, the conjectural reconstruction of Royston Priory depicts a small to medium-sized Augustinian monastery that has potentially seen numerous phases of redevelopment. This agrees closely with what is known of the site historically. Although heavily truncated by Post-Dissolution robbing, modification and reuse, several key elements of the priory's original layout clearly still lie within the proposed development area. Potential archaeological survival in the western range is high, whilst to the east a number of architectural traces also appear to have survived despite extensive truncation. Questions obviously remain as to the precise nature, position and development of the structures outlined above, though more extensive fieldwork would be required in order to clarify these issues.

Phase 2 – the original manor house (Figures 9 to 14)

Background history

The priory was dissolved on the 9th of April 1537 (Page 1914, 436-440), at which time its lands and manorial rights were first leased to, and later acquired by, one Robert Chester (Smith 1993, 150). It appears that Chester, formerly the Gentleman-Usher of Henry VIII's bedchamber and subsequently Sheriff of both Essex and Hertfordshire (Doggett 1991, 51), converted several of the former priory buildings (most probably the claustral and domestic ranges) in order to construct his manorial residence (Smith 1993, 151; see also above). This work was evidently completed prior to 1551, as it is known he entertained Mary of Guise on the site in that year during her journey from Scotland to France (Kingston 1906, 75). More importantly, however, the house was surveyed in 1578 – four years after Chester's death – as a potential stopping point on one of Elizabeth I's numerous royal progresses (Cussans 1881, 100; Kingston 1906, 75; Smith 1992, 62; Smith 1993, 150). Although the surveyor dismissed the property as “a very unnecessary hows for receipt of her Ma'ty, yt stands adioyninge to the Church over the Sowth syde thereof not having any pleasaunt prospects any way” (quoted in Cussans 1881, 100), the sketch plans that were drawn up at this time have fortunately survived (Figure 13; see also Kingston 1906, 75; Smith 1992, 62). They show three main ranges of buildings situated about an inner courtyard, with several of the principle rooms constructed above cellared undercrofts. This arrangement is flanked by an outer courtyard containing a 'porter's lodge' to control access to the property. Whilst some measurements of the principal rooms are given, these drawings are not to scale and crucially do not provide an orientation.

Archaeological remains

Features belonging to this phase were identified in every trench but the easternmost, Trench 6. Much of the area, especially towards the centre of the PDA, appears to have been levelled down to (and perhaps a little way *into*) the underlying natural chalk at this time, thus removing the majority of the earlier stratigraphy (see Figures 11 and 15). Such extensive truncation did not occur at the western end of the site, however, for in Trench 2 the foundations of the former claustral range were re-employed in the construction of a new structure. After at least part of the preceding building had been

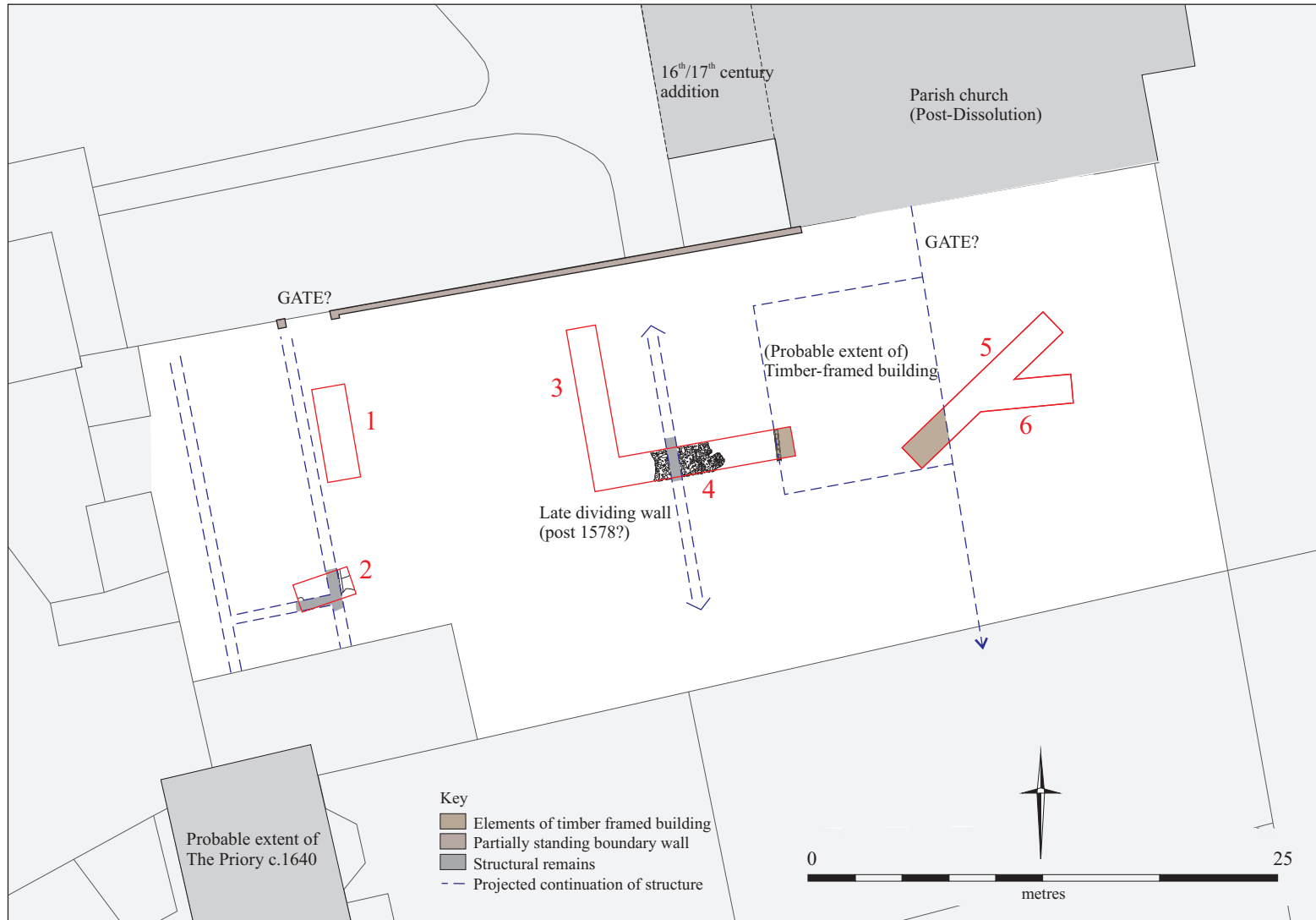


Figure 9: Phase 2 features

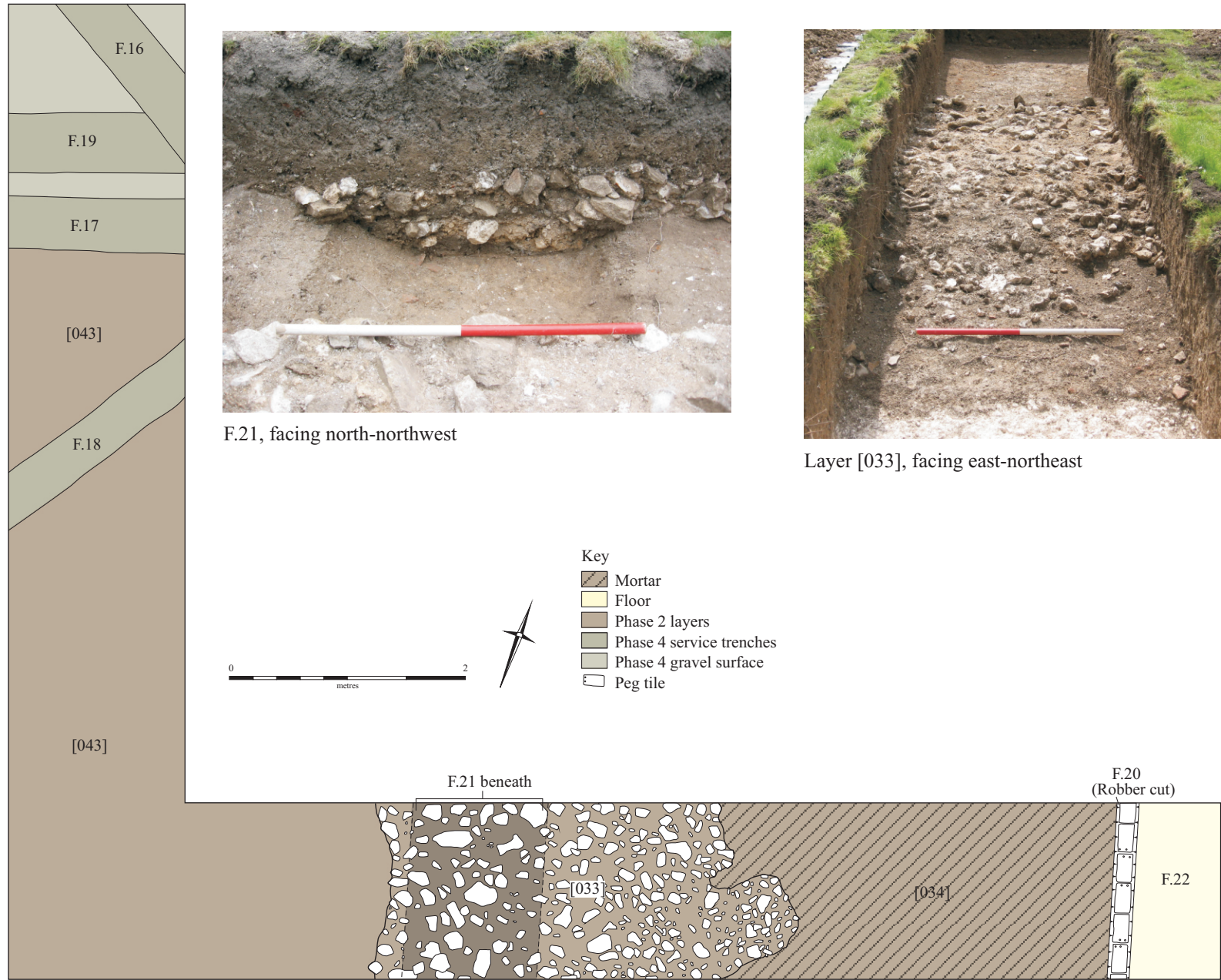
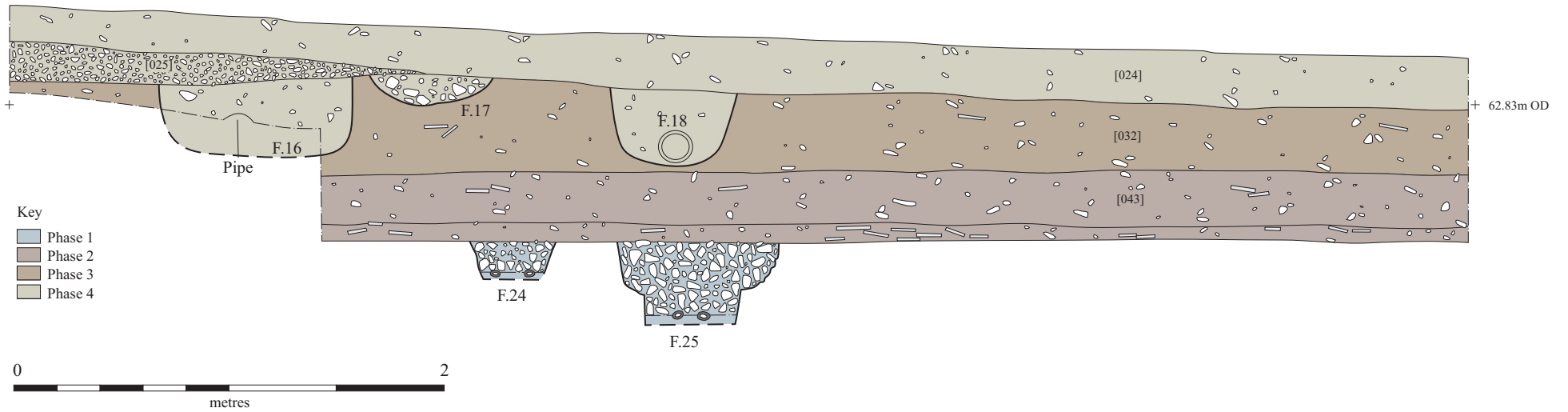


Figure 10: Trenches 3 and 4, Phases 2 and 4

West-southwest facing section of Trench 3

NNW

SSE



19

South-southeast facing section of Trench 4

WSW

ENE

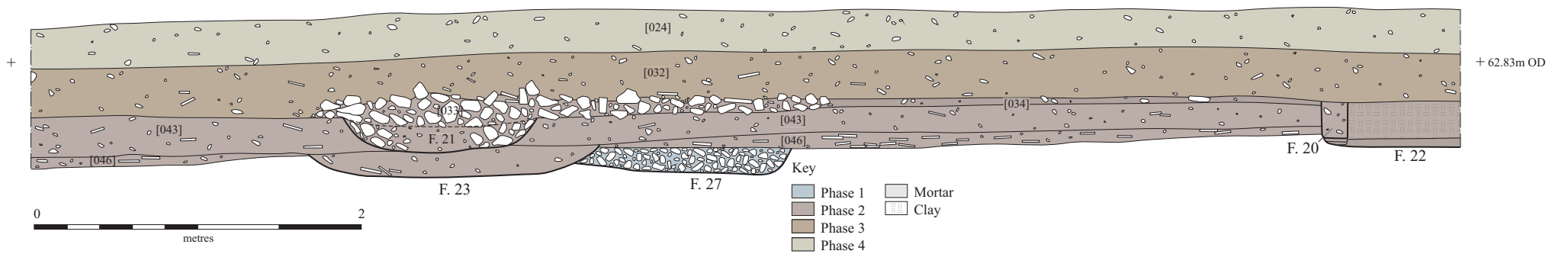


Figure 11: Sections of Trenches 3 and 4

robbed by **F.12**, new levelling material was introduced and brick wall **F.11** constructed above its earlier stone-built predecessor (**F.15**); contemporary subdividing wall **F.13** was retained and appears to have remained in use (see Figure 4). A layer of trampled brick dust, [090], was created during this process and subsequently became sealed beneath foundation deposit [089]. Although no floor layers or other evidence of the form of the structure was present it appears likely, given the extent of the role played by the earlier foundations, that it retained at least a partial timber element during this period.

Further to the east in Trench 4, linear/robber cut **F.23** was created either before or immediately after the area was ‘scalped’. It may therefore have resulted from the demolition of a later phase of the eastern claustral range. Immediately following this event an extensive levelling deposit was introduced across the area, [046], which contained a great deal of flat-laid roof and floor tile fragments that were most probably derived from other demolished monastic buildings (see further Appendix 1). Above this material was set probable make-up deposit [043], a pattern that was mirrored in Trench 1 with layers [069] and [068]. As part of this programme of redevelopment, a timber-framed building was also erected at the eastern end of Trench 4. **F.22** consisted of a layer of complete reused peg-tiles that acted as the foundation for an earth-fast timber sill beam, against which a good quality pure clay floor surface had been laid above an initial mortar bed. Elements of this same floor surface and bedding were also encountered in Trench 5 (**F.02**), where it was structurally associated with posthole **F.04** as opposed to a second sill beam. This building does not appear to have remained in use for long, however, for during the 17th century the timber in Trench 4 was robbed by **F.20** whilst demolition layers [033] and [034] were created immediately to its west (see Figure 10). The former of these deposits consisted of a large amount of clunch and chalk rubble that most probably derived from demolition associated with the robbing of a north-south aligned wall (**F.21**). Its extent is clearly visible in the geophysical survey of the site (see Appendix 3). The latter, [034], may have comprised a temporary yard or surface.

The standing boundary wall (Figures 9 and 12)

Although heavily rebuilt in places, certain elements of the east-west aligned boundary wall that runs along the northern perimeter of the site also appear likely to be of 16th century origin. The surviving portions are of significant size – standing approximately 4.15m high from the present ground surface – and are constructed from dark red handmade bricks measuring 220mm by 110mm by 60mm on average that are bonded with a very tenacious off-white lime mortar (see Figure 12). In places, especially towards the west, flat-laid roof tiles and reused masonry fragments have also been incorporated into its fabric. Perhaps most interestingly, at the western end an area of headers bonded with pale grey charcoal-rich lime mortar appears to have blocked off an earlier entrance or access point. A more detailed investigation of this wall has the potential to reveal a good deal of information about this phase of the site, much as a similar investigation of the masonry wall it abutts would for the preceding phase, and this should be a priority of any possible future excavation.

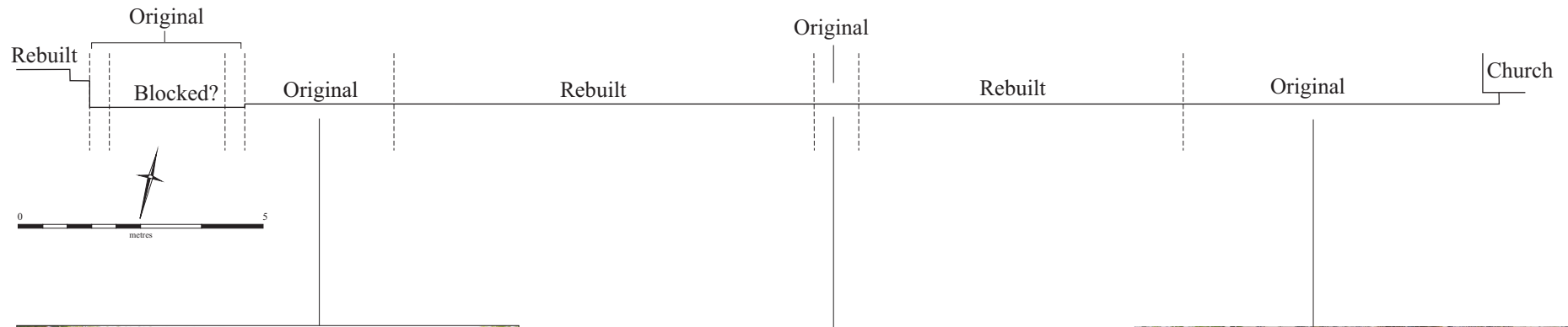


Figure 12: Original surviving remnants of the northern boundary wall

A conjectural reconstruction of the manorial layout (Figure 14)

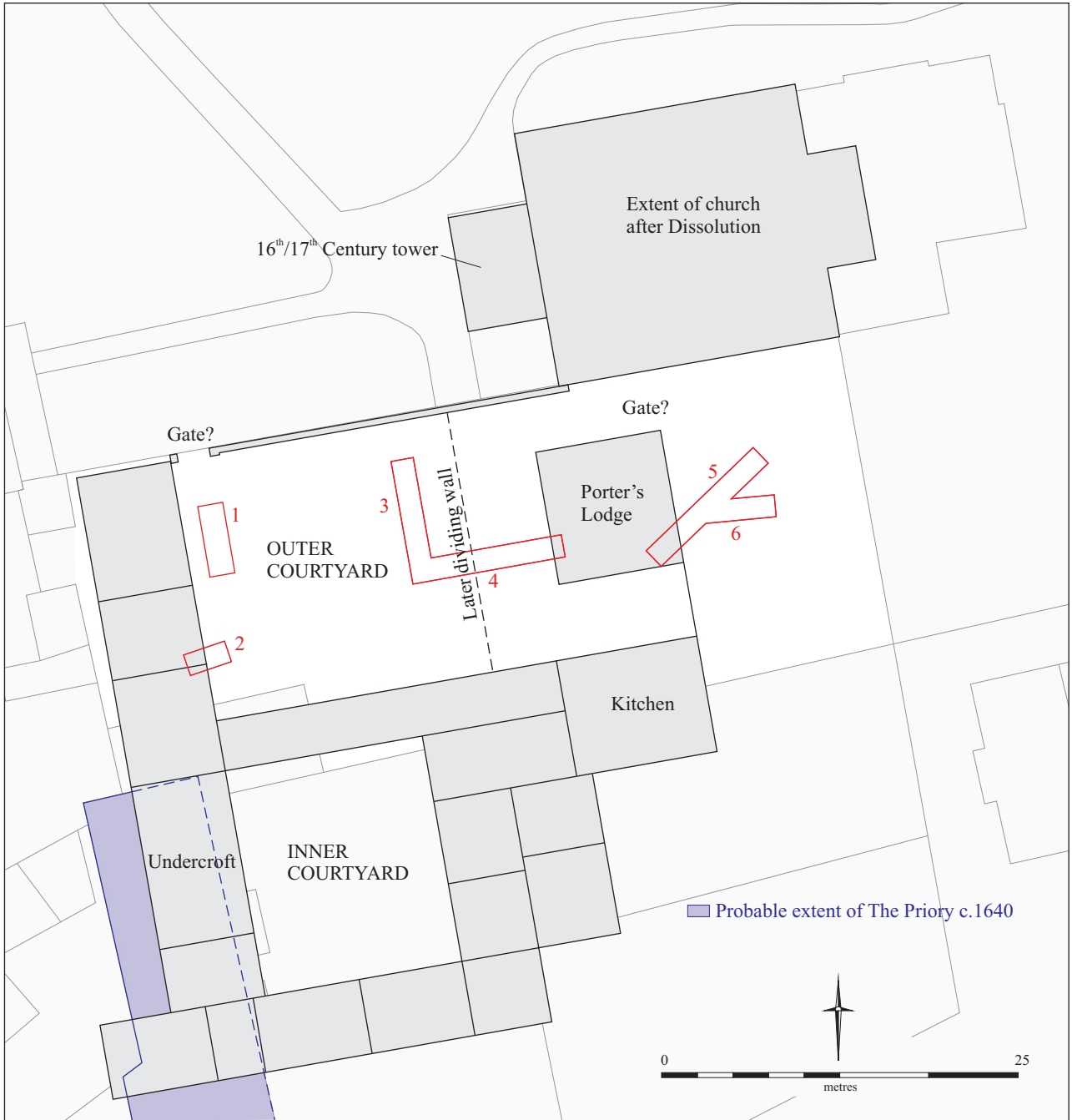
Much more information is available concerning the ground plan of the manor house than has survived in relation to that of the preceding priory. Because it is known that the northern limit of the property abutted the south wall of the church, the archaeological features that have been identified from this phase can be used to provide a clear orientation for the 1578 plan (Figure 13). The apparent absence of structural remains along the northern perimeter of the site, taken together with the presence of a timber-framed building to the east and a partially brick-built range to the west, strongly indicates that the PDA is positioned squarely within the area of the outer courtyard. The extensive 16th century truncation and subsequent levelling deposits that were encountered during the evaluation can thus be seen to mark the clearance of the former eastern claustral range in order to create this new open space. Additionally, when positioned in this way the blocked entrance previously noted within the standing boundary wall would have functioned as an important access route, allowing the Lord of the manor to proceed from his private courtyard to the west door of the parish church.

The dimensions of the manor as shown in Figure 14 are based primarily upon the archaeological evidence recovered, supplemented by measurements provided in the 1578 drawing; the two were found to be closely complimentary. The layout of buildings thus depicted is highly unusual for the period, lacking the usual wings and being focused instead around the two courtyards. Such an arrangement is extremely rare in Hertfordshire (Smith 1992, 62), and provides a strong argument for the reuse of earlier claustral structures. So too does the fact, previously noted above, that the location of the manorial ranges closely corresponds with the standard position of the primary domestic elements within a typical Augustinian cloister. These suspicions can now be corroborated, as conclusive proof of Post-Dissolution conversion has been identified in the relationship between 16th century brick wall **F.11** and earlier foundation **F.15**. The reuse of earlier monastic structures such as this goes some way towards explaining the highly negative reaction of the royal surveyor in 1578; bedrooms converted from Medieval monk's cells are unlikely to have been seen as properly befitting royal Tudor standards.

Later modification and demolition

The stone-built wall later robbed by **F.21** appears to have sub-divided the area of the outer courtyard shortly after the 1578 plan was drawn. No evidence of an associated structure was discovered, however, so it is likely that this feature represents a broader change in the organisation and potentially also the function of the exterior space. Notably, it seems to have reinstated almost exactly the conjectured limit of the former cloister (compare Figures 8 and 14). Despite this fact its use was short-lived as it was most probably demolished during the early 17th century, when the topography of the area was transformed once again.

By 1634 Robert Chester's great-grandson Edward was residing at the manor and it was probably during his occupancy that a new timber-framed mansion was constructed on the site (Smith 1993, 151). Several elements of this building, which appears to have been completed prior to Edward's death in 1640, remain visible within the present standing structure (Smith 1993; Smith 1992; A. Dickens *pers*



Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map
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Figure 14: Conjectural reconstruction of Robert Chester's manor house based upon the plan of 1578, taking account of known archaeology

comm). In its original form The Priory (as it is became known) consisted of three unequal timber-framed bays of two storeys, to which an addition with a lateral stack and probable staircase terminating at an exposed pargeted gable was appended in the mid 17th century (Smith 1993, 150-51). It was thus much smaller than Robert Chester's original structure had been, but was now far more comparable in layout to contemporary Hertfordshire manorial residences such as Queen Hoo Hall, Tewin (Smith 1992, 97-99). The old manor house appears to have been largely demolished prior to its construction, for as the antiquarian Cole noted when he visited The Priory in 1747 "the house...called ye Priory has some painted small figures in a window, wch look as if they had continued from ye old House wch was pulled down of late years to make up that wch is now inhabited by Mr. Lettice ye Tenant to Mr. Chester" (quoted in Kingston 1906, 76).

However, the precise relationship between the original manor and its successor is unclear. Although the alignment of wall **F.11** suggests that the one was probably constructed directly upon the remains of the other, no architectural elements of pre-17th century origin have yet been identified within the present standing building. This is particularly intriguing because a Medieval undercroft is likely to have been present beneath at least part of the succeeding structure. Unfortunately, the limited scale of the evaluation severely limits the degree to which this relationship can be investigated at the present time. What can be said with greater certainty is that although the majority of the original converted priory buildings were demolished when the new manor was constructed, the northern end of the western range continued in use (albeit as a probable storage space or outbuilding). Its survival may have been due in part to its location, for most of the structures that were dismantled at this time were concentrated to the east of The Priory. Their clearance allowed a large formal lawn to be created (see Figure 17) which has survived largely unchanged until the present day. The potential for archaeological survival in this part of the site is therefore likely to be very high, as the surface height appears to have been *raised* rather than lowered as it had been within the PDA. Indeed, the antiquarian Milbourn noted that "no doubt there are many of the foundation walls of the monastic buildings still existing below the lawn in front of The Priory, as I am informed that during a very dry season the outline of the walls can be seen on the turf" (cited in Kingston 1906, 76).

Phase 3 – post-manorial landscaping (Figures 5, 11 and 15)

Background history

Members of the Chester family continued to reside at The Priory until 1675, from which time it was leased to tenants until finally being sold in 1759 (Smith 1993, 151). Following its sale, several major alterations were made to the fabric of the building. These included: the addition of a single-storeyed wing to the southwest; the construction of a corridor and staircase to the west of the main range; the heightening of the wing to the southwest to two storeys and the addition of pilasters and a pediment to the east façade (*ibid*, 150-51). One of the two large bay windows on the eastern side of the building was also probably added during the mid to late 18th century.

Archaeological remains

Although a number of features relating to the period following the erection of The Priory in the early 17th century have been identified in Trenches 1 to 4, for the most part their nature represents a marked decrease in the degree of activity being undertaken in the area. The most notable action took place in Trench 2, where in the mid 18th century rubble and mortar spread [085] was created by the final demolition of the long-standing former claustral structure. An attempt was then made to rob at least one large stone from its foundations (as represented by **F.10**) prior to the introduction of layer [082]. This latter deposit was used to relandscape the area following the building's removal, and appears to have been deliberately imported to the site for the purpose. Similar deposits were also identified in Trenches 3 and 4 ([032]) and Trench 1 ([070] and [071]), thus suggesting that much of the PDA was transformed at this time into a more formal garden. As in trench 2, a probable robber feature (**F.28**) had also been dug in Trench 1 prior to the landscaping deposit being introduced.

Discussion

The pottery recovered from demolition horizon [085] indicates that the last remnant of the converted priory buildings, which had most probably been relegated to use as an outbuilding or storage area since the early 17th century, was levelled between 1740 and 1780 (see Appendix 1). This therefore fits very neatly with the period of widespread modernisation of the property noted above. A further element of this redevelopment included the introduction of landscaping deposits [032], [070], [071] and [082] across the majority of the proposed development area. Although a limited amount levelling material is likely to have been deposited in certain areas (most notably Trenches 3 and 4) following the demolition of the original manor house in the early 17th century, it appears that a much more extensive landscaping programme was enacted in the second half of the 18th century. Indeed, the activities that were undertaken at this time created much of the form of the area that remains visible today.

Phase 4 – 19th century gardening (Figures 15 to 17)

Archaeological remains

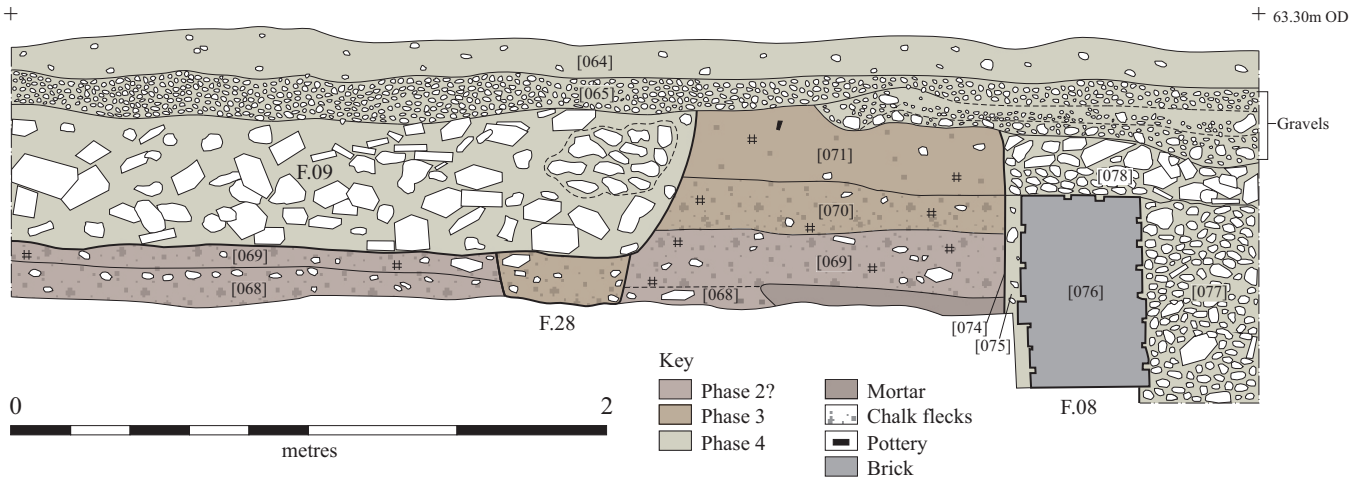
During the 19th century a well-worked humic topsoil ([064] = [081] = [024] = [022]) was developed across the full extent of the PDA; elements of this deposit were present in all of the trenches excavated. A number of gardening-related structures were also erected at this time. In Trench 3, for example, linear feature **F.19** appears to represent the robbing of the southern wall of a greenhouse that had previously been identified by the geophysical survey (see Appendix 3). A series of service trenches, **F.16**, **F.17** and **F.18**, were also associated with this building. Following its demolition, gravel surface [025] was established above its remains before being sealed in turn beneath a layer of topsoil (see Figure 11).

The remains of a second probable greenhouse of similar date, **F.08**, were also identified further to the west in Trench 1. This example was again positioned in close association to the northern perimeter wall, but had been less extensively demolished than that represented by **F.19**. In spite of this fact, however, by the late 19th/early 20th

East-northeast facing section of Trench 1

SSE

NNW



F.28
concealed
beneath

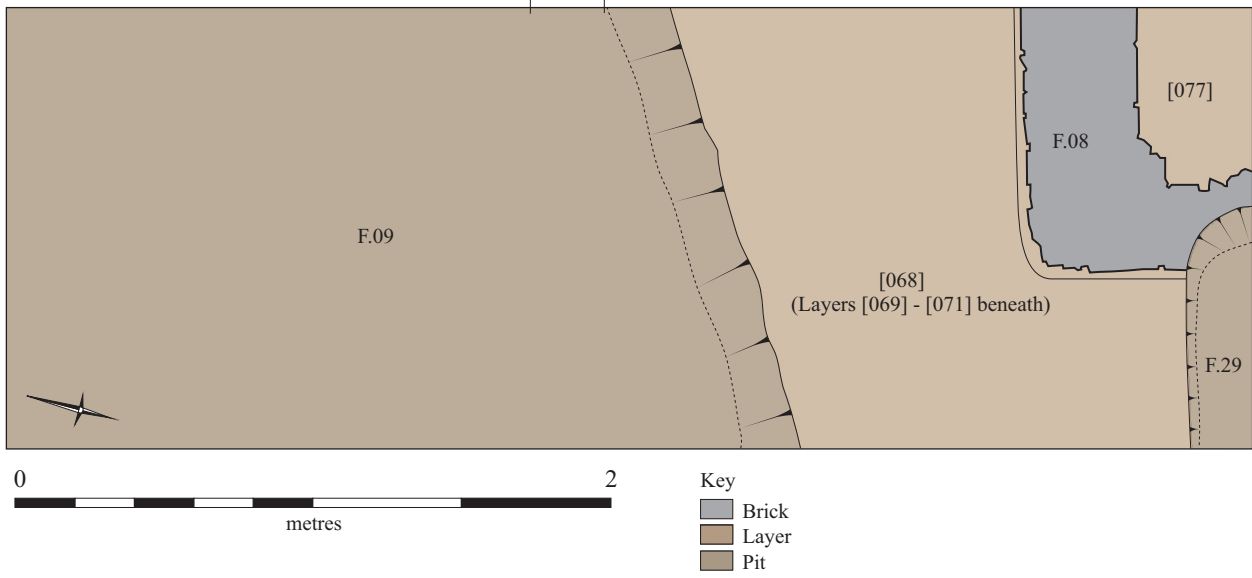
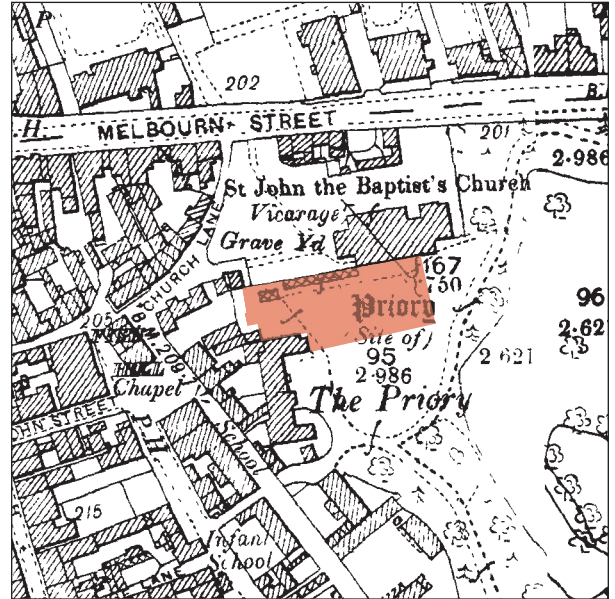


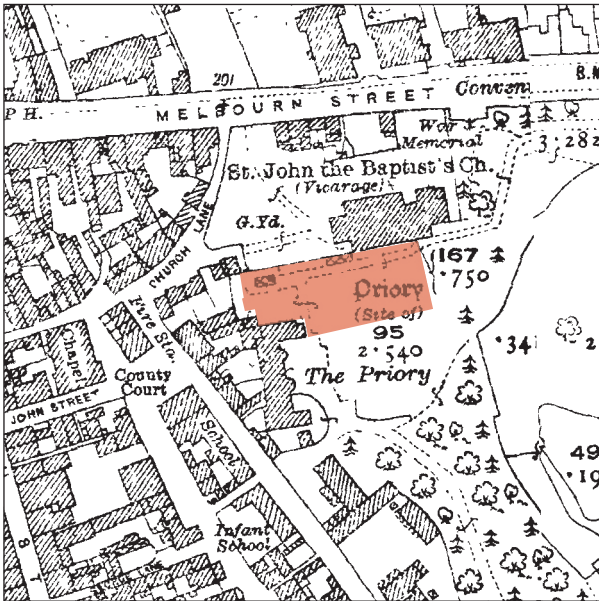
Figure 15: Trench 1



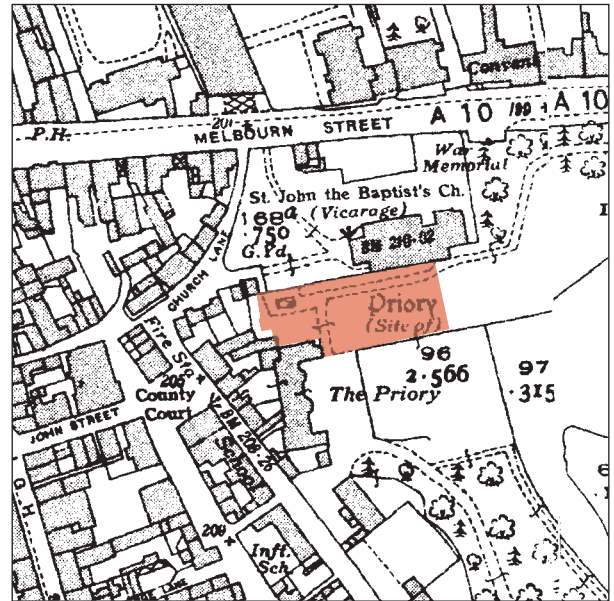
i) 1st Edition 1:2500 Series OS Map 1887-88



ii) 1st Revision 1:2500 Series OS Map 1902-3



iii) 2nd Revision 1:2500 Series OS Map 1926-7



iv) 3rd Revision 1:2500 Series OS Map 1937-8

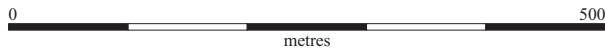


Figure 16: Ordnance Survey historic map sequence (PDA shown in red)

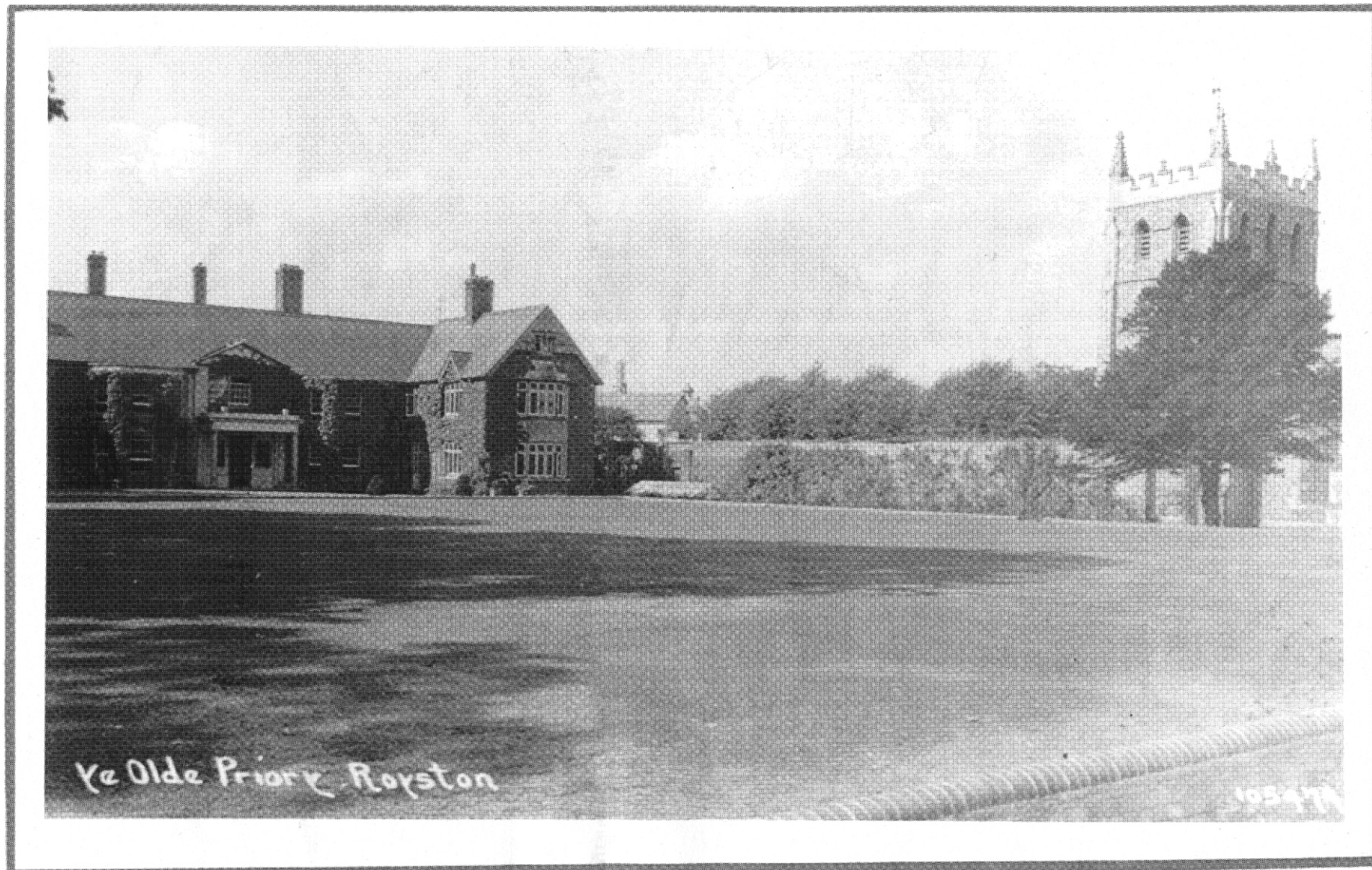


Figure 17: Late 19th century photograph of The Priory facing northwest (HCCRO 77.E.9A)

century it had been overlain by gravel driveway [065]. This feature, which is clearly visible in the historic map sequence (see Figure 16), was also identified by the geophysical survey (see Appendix 3) and appears to have provided vehicular access to the outbuildings located at the western end of the site. In addition, two further features belonging to this phase were revealed in Trench 1. Pit **F.29** fell only partially within the area of excavation and is of unclear function whilst probable robber cut **F.09**, which was backfilled with a significant amount of rubble hardcore, may perhaps have been associated with a further garden structure. Finally, in Trench 5 a small tree bowl, **F.32**, and a shallow linear feature backfilled with redeposited topsoil, **F.03**, were also identified. The latter most probably represents a planting bed of some description.

Discussion

By the mid to late 19th century the majority of the PDA was clearly given over to small-scale horticultural use. On the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887-8, the first map of sufficient resolution to fully detail the proposed development area, the greenhouses represented by **F.19** and **F.08** are clearly identifiable against the northern perimeter wall (see Figure 16). Parts of the grounds of many large houses were put to a similar use during this period, especially those in a south-facing location (Davies 1987). As the late 19th century photograph of the area makes clear, the partially sunken nature of the PDA made it particularly suitable for such a purpose because the more formal lawn immediately in front of the house largely screened it from casual view (see Figure 17). It was probably returned to the role of a more general garden when the house and grounds were subdivided in the early 20th century.

Conclusion

It is clear that the proposed development area is sited within the heart of the former monastic complex. Numerous features relating to this period have been identified, including several phases of monastic buildings and two distinct groups of burials. Of equal significance, however, is the succeeding Post-Dissolution manor house, several elements of which were also encountered during the evaluation. Therefore, whilst the site is of immense local significance as the founding element and initial focus of the surrounding town, it is also of import at a broader regional level. The past decade has seen an increasing study of the role played by Post-Dissolution conversion in this area both historically (e.g. Doggett 1991; 2002) and archaeologically; recent investigations have been undertaken at significant sites such as Sopwell Priory, Hertfordshire (Johnson 1964; 1965; 1966), Emmanuel Priory, Cambridge (Dickens 1999) and Thorney Abbey, Cambridgeshire (Thomas 2006). The later phases on the site, most notably the widespread landscaping of the area undertaken in the mid 18th century, have largely served to preserve those remnants of the preceding periods that had not been destroyed during successive phases of construction.

The extent of archaeological survival

Although the interpretations presented in this study are perforce provisional, they are primarily intended to highlight the zones of greatest archaeological potential within the area of proposed development. To this end, two main conclusions may be drawn:

1. Burials are clearly present in numbers, and although two major clusters are predicted outlying interments may also be encountered in almost any part of

the site. In addition, disarticulated human remains were found to be dispersed throughout several later contexts.

2. Structural remains, relating both to the priory and the subsequent secular usage of the site, have been widely identified. Significant elements of the western claustral range appear to be present, whilst more truncated evidence of the eastern range may also survive along with some outbuildings of the manorial residence. Furthermore, it is possible that elements of the original priory church may once have extended into the eastern part of the PDA.

Another notable factor revealed by this evaluation is the depth of material that has been introduced above many of the most significant deposits. The majority of the structural remains, for example, were found to lie beneath at least 0.8m of later made-ground; this pattern was not repeated at the eastern end of the site, however, most probably because this area falls outside the boundary of the original Post-Dissolution manor house. In conclusion, therefore, although sufficient information has been recovered for broad outline plans of the priory and succeeding manor house to be established, further fieldwork would clearly be required in order to test the hypotheses presented in this study and to fully illuminate the nuances of a site with such a long and varied history.

Acknowledgements

The project was funded by NPK Holdings Ltd. and monitored by Andy Instone, Development Control Archaeologist at Hertfordshire County Council; it was managed for the CAU by Alison Dickens. The excavations were directed for the CAU by Richard Newman and were undertaken with the assistance of Emma Rees. Gwladys Monteil managed the finds processing, and specialists who examined material from the site included Craig Cessford (clay tobacco pipe), Natasha Dodwell (human bone) and David Hall (pottery). Craig Cessford also provided valuable advice and kindly read and commented upon a draft of this text. The graphics were produced by Vicki Herring.

Appendix 1: finds catalogue

322 items weighing 22.8kg were recovered from the evaluation at Royston Priory. Even given the limited number and size of the excavated trenches, this represents an unusually small assemblage from a site that has known such prolonged and intensive occupation. The lack of material remains therefore highlights the specific nature of the area investigated. It suggests that the priory cloister is likely to have been well maintained, for example, and hence kept free of refuse; so too the courtyard of the succeeding manor house. Thus, although potentially quite significant amounts of rubbish must have been generated on the site throughout its long history, it appears unlikely that large quantities of this material have been deposited within the proposed development area.

Provisional assessments of the most significant classes of material are presented below; in certain cases, however, insufficient quantities were recovered for a full assessment to be worthwhile. In the case of moulded stone, for example, only seven badly damaged fragments weighing 12.36kg could be retrieved from Dissolution contexts; the numerous well preserved examples encountered within foundation walls **F.13** and **F.15** were preserved in-situ. The quantity of animal bone (166 fragments weighing 1.89kg) is also insufficient for any useful interpretation to be derived. Finally, the glass assemblage is similarly sparse. Although two window glass fragments (weighing 1g each) were recovered from Dissolution contexts, both are too badly degraded to discern whether they were originally decorated; the five remaining shards (which weigh 78g) represent small undiagnostic fragments from 19th century bottles.

Pottery assessment (with David Hall)

The total amount of pottery recovered during the evaluation comprised 43 sherds weighing 590g; given the limited scale of this assemblage, an intensive analysis is not warranted. A summary of the material is therefore presented, broken down by chronological period and highlighting elements of specific interest.

Medieval

The earliest material recovered from the site comprises three sherds of 13th/14th century Developed Stamford type ware (weighing 27g) from <22> [001] **F.01** and <23> [003]. A sherd of 14th century Hertfordshire greyware weighing 9g was also identified from <1> [016] **F.04** (Havercroft *et al* 1987), though this is likely to have been redeposited. Finally, ten sherds of 15th/16th century grey, pink and red coarsewares (weighing a total of 158g) were recovered, many of them associated with the final stages of the priory building encountered in Trench 2. The scarcity of material from the monastic phase of the site is underlined by its low mean sherd weight of 14.9g, which indicates that only small fragments were being deposited as opposed to the more significant quantities associated with primary refuse disposal.

Early Post-Medieval

This section details the 16th and 17th century material identified from the site. Many of the sherds dating from this period were derived from contexts associated with

horizons of demolition; either the Dissolution itself, or else the levelling of Robert Chester's manor house in the early 17th century. Two types of 16th century imported German stoneware were present; two sherds of Frechen (weighing 20g) and one of Raeren (weighing 12g) were identified. A fragment of 16th century Tin Glazed Dutch Earthenware, or 'Delft', weighing 5g was also recovered from <15> [058], along with a sherd of Tudor Green type (weighing <1g) redeposited in <18> [085]. Nine sherds of 16th/17th century Glazed Red Earthenware (weighing 201g) were recovered, including a complete dish profile in <8> [043]. In addition, four sherds of 16th/17th century dark brown/black iron-glazed pottery weighing 68g were uncovered. From the 17th century, a sherd of Staffordshire slipglaze (weighing 2 grams) and a sherd of English stoneware (weighing 27g) were identified. The mean sherd weight of material from this phase is again low (16.8g) however, implying that refuse disposal was not the primary objective of many of these deposits.

18th and 19th century

Material of 18th century origin from the site includes a sherd of English Tin Glazed Earthenware (weighing 6g) and a fragment of imported Chinese porcelain (weighing 8g). Also identified were examples of Creamware (three sherds weighing 34g), which is dated to between 1740-80, and Staffordshire saltglaze (one sherd weighing 8g), which is dated to between 1720-60. As with much of the Post-Medieval material, the majority of these sherds were derived from a demolition horizon; in this case, from contexts associated with the destruction of the former claustral buildings during the mid 18th century. Once again the mean sherd weight of this material is low (7.75g), though it must be noted that more modern ceramics – by virtue of advancements in production technology – are typically much lighter than those of earlier periods. Only 2 sherds of 19th century origin were uncovered, one of buff earthenware (weighing 5g) and one a tiny transfer-printed fragment (weighing <1g); both were derived from the topsoil.

Conclusion

Although very small, this assemblage does represent a reasonable spread of the most common pottery types of the Late Medieval and particularly the Early Post-Medieval periods. A notable absence can be identified at the beginning of the sequence, however, for no pre-13th century material was recovered. Saxo-Norman pottery, which is typically represented by the triumvirate of Stamford type, St Neots type and Thetford type wares, would still have been in common use during the early years of the priory's foundation. Its absence may be due in part to the limited scale of the areas investigated, but could also indicate the extent of later remodelling and development during the monastic period.

No detailed analysis of pottery from the Royston area has yet been conducted, primarily due to the paucity of excavated evidence. Should more extensive work be undertaken at the Priory site in the future, therefore, it would provide an excellent opportunity to investigate more fully both the chronology and also the distribution patterns of pottery types used in this area during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. This sequence could then be incorporated into the more widely studied regional traditions of Hertfordshire (c.f. Turner-Rugg 1987; 1988; 1993; 1995 and 2000) and Cambridgeshire (c.f. Edwards & Hall 1997; Hall 2001).

Human bone assessment (with Natasha Dodwell)

Four inhumations were identified during the evaluation, namely **F.06**, **F.07**, **F.24** and **F.25**, all of which were clearly associated with the former priory. Only a small proportion of each burial was excavated, however – sufficient to determine the presence of articulation and the degree of preservation – prior to it being recovered with the original backfill. Due to the nature of the underlying chalk natural, all of the bone was found to be in excellent condition. A certain amount of redeposited material was also recovered from other contexts on the site (see Table 1, below); this is again likely to be of ecclesiastical origin. The disarticulated human remains identified from contexts <44> **[001]** and <68> **[062]** were clearly associated with the probable lay cemetery situated at the eastern end of the PDA. Material recovered from Post-Dissolution context <60> **[043]**, on the other hand, suggests that monastic burials within the cloister further to the west were disturbed by the construction of the 16th century manor house. Depending upon the extent of this disturbance, human remains could potentially have become dispersed throughout many later contexts.

Context	Type	Material
[001]	Fill of cemetery boundary ditch F.01.	1 ulna and 1 radius, which appear to articulate, along with the left portion of a mandible and 3 skull fragments. All adult – portions of a single re-deposited individual?
[043]	Post-Dissolution make up layer.	1 metacarpal and 1 thoracic vertebra. Both adult.
[062]	Backfill of burial F.07.	2 fragments of sternum, 2 ribs, 5 foot fragments and 1 fragment of pelvis. All adult - most probably derived from a single individual.

Table 1: the distribution of disarticulated human bone.

Clay tobacco pipe assessment (with Craig Cessford)

18 clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered during the evaluation, including 15 stem fragments (weighing 97g) and 3 bowl fragments (weighing 20g). The presence of clay tobacco pipe fragments in a context indicates a date between late 16th to early 20th centuries (c.1580-1910). Given the problematic nature of stem bore dating, however, it is only possible to derive a more precise date from bowls, marked pieces and some heel or spur fragments. Unmarked stem fragments are thus of little analytical value, though their length may provide clues to breakage patterns and rapidity of deposition.

The clay tobacco pipe bowls were classified according to Oswald's simplified general typology (1975). Only two examples, derived from <66> **[058]** and <74> **[089]**, survived sufficiently well for measurements to be taken and both of these were found to conform to Oswald's Type 6, which is dated c.1660-1680. No marked pieces nor heel or spur fragments were identified.

Ceramic Building Materials assessment

A significant quantity of CBM (some 900+ fragments) was encountered during the evaluation. The vast majority of this material consisted of tile fragments deriving from Dissolution context [046], of which a sample representing each of the different fabric types was kept for future analysis. In total, 27 tile fragments weighing 3.58kg and 3 brick fragments weighing 2.97kg were retained from 10 contexts. These categories can be further subdivided as 17 roof tile fragments have been identified, along with 4 glazed and 6 unglazed floor tile fragments. Significant pieces include:

<57> [034] contained a fragment of glazed floor tile measuring 105mm by 70mm by 25mm deep. This had slightly tapering sides, and was coated with a fine greenish brown glaze bearing denuded traces of yellow slip decoration. No design can now be discerned, however.

<84> [038] comprises a row of complete peg tiles that had been reused as the foundation for a timber beam. Each tile measures 240mm by 145mm by 10mm deep, and has two square peg-holes located slightly to the left of centre. One sample has been retained.

<69> [077] F.09 contained a large fragment of unglazed floor tile measuring 165mm by 70mm by 15 to 27mm deep. It is notably elliptical in section.

The vast majority of this material is likely to have originated from the former monastic buildings, and at least one of the three brick fragments may also have derived from an ecclesiastical context. None of the examples is complete, however, though all are composed of a dark red handmade fabric and none is more than 50mm deep.

Worked shell assessment

A worked oyster shell weighing 12g was recovered from 16th century Post-Dissolution context <63> [043]. A square perforation had been inserted through its centre, with the working face located on the shell's rough outer surface; it thus appears to have been intended for wear about the neck. Similar examples have been previously excavated from the Dominican Priory in Beverly, and here the excavators suggested that they may have been worn as symbols of pilgrimage, perhaps in lieu of an available scallop shell (Evans & Tomlinson 1992, 164). It therefore appears likely that this example is redeposited from an earlier monastic context.

Metalwork assessment

All of the metalwork recovered during the evaluation, which includes 46 fragments weighing 93g, consists of iron objects. Although derived from three separate contexts, these artefacts were all found to be in a poor state of preservation. They comprise:

<86> [048] F.24 contained 4 square-sectioned nail fragments weighing 6g. These appear to have belonged to a coffin as they were arranged equidistantly about an extended adult inhumation; they are therefore pre-Dissolution in date.

<85> [043] contained 2 square sectioned (nail?) fragments, 1 curved flat fragment, 1 flat plate fragment and 1 piece of scrap. These are 16th century in date, and weigh a combined total of 65g. No clearly identifiable objects could be discerned, however.

<87> [077] F.09 contained 37 fragments weighing 22g. These are 19th century in date, and although badly degraded appear to represent the remnants of several bands that once reinforced a wooden vessel or container.

None of these objects require further study.

Worked bone assessment

One piece of worked bone, <054>, was recovered from 19th century topsoil [024]. It consists of the handle to a small hand brush, measuring 92mm by 25mm by 12mm deep, made from two pieces of worked bone affixed by six copper rivets. It has two parallel grooves running round the outer edge, and the legend 'PRICE, 12 MONTPELIER HOUSE, 28 LOMBARD ST' engraved on the top. 168 bristle holes have been drilled into its base plate.

Appendix 2: feature descriptions

This section provides a detailed account of the contexts that were encountered during the evaluation. It is divided into two parts; the first half describes those contexts that have been assigned to a specific feature, the second those that constitute self-contained layers. In each instance, the descriptions are presented in numerical order.

Feature descriptions

Ditch F.01 is linear in form and is aligned north-northwest to south-southeast; it is situated in Trench 5. Cut [002] is 1.50m+ by 2.11m+ in extent and 0.37m+ deep with steeply sloping to moderately sloping sides and a relatively flat base. Initial fill [001] comprised a deposit of moderately compacted mid brown clay silt with frequent chalk fragment inclusions and rare charcoal flecks 0.29m deep. Overlying this was [059], a deposit of loosely compacted mid brown sandy silt with occasional small chalk fragments 0.12m+ deep. **F.01** appears to have defined the western boundary to a cemetery, and was most probably deliberately backfilled. It contained several fragments of human bone, along with two sherds of 13th/14th century Developed Stamford ware (though these may have been redeposited). Stratigraphically, it cuts [023] and is cut by **F.02**; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Probable building F.02 is of unclear form as it extends beyond the limits of Trench 5. Cut [011] is 3.08m+ by 1.55m+ in extent and 0.41m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a partially concave base. The initial deposit, [021], consists of a deposit of firm pale brown sandy mortar up to 0.10m deep. Above this was set [010], a deposit of mid to pale brownish grey firm silty clay with very few inclusions 0.40m deep. **F.02** most probably represents the eastern limit of the timber-framed building (**F.22**) identified in Trench 4. It contained no datable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts **F.01** and **F.05** and is cut by **F.04**; it is most probably equal to **F.22** in Trench 4 and both have been assigned to Phase 2.

Planting bed F.03 is linear in form and is aligned north-northwest to south-southeast; it is situated in Trench 5. Cut [013] is 1.88m+ by 1.28m in extent and 0.12m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is [012], a deposit of moderately compacted mid to dark brown sandy silt with frequent chalk fleck inclusions. **F.03** most probably represents a 19th century planting bed, though it contained no datable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts **F.04** and is overlain by [022]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Posthole F.04 is most probably circular in form, though it was only partially present in Trench 1. The initial cut, [017], is 0.25m+ by 0.44m in extent and 0.32m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a relatively flat base. It was filled by [016], a moderately firm deposit of mid brown clay silt with occasional to frequent chalk fleck and fragment inclusions, which was later truncated by post-pipe [015]. This appears to be square in form, measuring 0.25m+ by 0.16m+ in extent and 0.30m deep, with vertical sides and a relatively flat base. It contained [014], a loosely compacted deposit of mid to dark brown silt with rare gravel inclusions. The fill sequence of **F.04** indicates that a central post – initially packed around with deposit [016] – was robbed by cut [015] and the subsequent fill ([014]) then deliberately introduced. [016] contained a sherd of 14th century Hertfordshire Greyware, though this was most probably redeposited. Stratigraphically, it cuts **F.02** and is cut by **F.03**; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Pit/linear F.05 is linear/rectangular in form, though this is unclear as it falls only partially within the area of Trench 5. Cut [019] is 1.34m+ by 0.58m+ in extent and 0.04m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a partially concave base. The only surviving fill is [018], a deposit of loosely compacted mid to pale brown clay silt with very frequent chalk fragment inclusions. The original function of **F.05** is unclear due to the extent of later truncation and its limited presence within the trench; it may have been a linear or robber cut, or equally well a pit. It contained no datable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is cut by **F.02**; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Burial F.06 is rectangular in form, though it was only partially present in Trench 6, and is oriented west-east. Cut [061] is 1.82m by 0.52m+ in extent and 0.75m+ deep with vertical sides – the base was not reached. The single fill, [060], comprises a deposit of relatively loosely compacted pale greyish white silt with very frequent chalk fragment inclusions. This material was backfilled above an extended

adult inhumation that was in a very good state of preservation; it contained a sherd of 13th to 16th century grey coarseware, which is most probably 15th century. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is overlain by [023]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Burial F.07 is rectangular in form, though it was only partially present in Trench 6, and is oriented west-east. Cut [063] is 1.89m by 0.64m+ in extent and 0.80m+ deep with vertical sides – the base was not reached. The single fill, [062], comprises a deposit of relatively loosely compacted pale greyish white silt with very frequent chalk fragment inclusions. This material was backfilled above an extended adult inhumation that was in a very good state of preservation; it contained several fragments of disarticulated human bone but no datable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is cut by [023]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Greenhouse foundation F.08 is 'L' shaped in form, with its long axis is aligned east-northeast to west-southwest, though it extends beyond the limits of Trench 1 in two directions. Cut [074] is 0.92m+ by 0.80m+ in extent and 0.90m+ deep with vertical sides – the base was not reached due to the restricted amount present in the trench. Within this cut was constructed [076], a double-skin brick foundation comprising dark red brick fragments that measure 160mm by 110mm by 60mm on average, bonded with a very tenacious pale greyish white lime mortar. [075], a deposit of moderately compacted mid to dark brown sandy silt 0.06m wide, was introduced at the external part of the construction cut. Deposit [077], which consisted of relatively loose pale grey silt with very frequent chalk fragment inclusions 0.58m+ deep, was also introduced against the interior face. Finally, all of these deposits were sealed beneath demolition horizon [078]. This comprises of a layer of broken brick and tile fragments, 100mm by 100mm by 25mm on average, which was 0.12m deep. [077] contained 19th century bottle glass fragments. **F.08** cuts [068] and is overlain by [065]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Robber cut F.09 is sub-rectangular in form and aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, though it extends beyond the limits of Trench 1. Cut [067] is 2.70m+ by 1.55m+ in extent and 0.46m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a partially concave base. The only fill is [066], a deposit of loosely compacted mid brown sandy silt with very frequent CBM inclusions. **F.09** most probably represents a 19th century garden feature; it contained no datable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts **F.28** and [068] and is overlain by [065]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Robber cut F.10 is sub-rectangular in form, though it extends beyond the limit Trench 2. Cut [084] is 0.85m+ by 0.29m+ in extent and 0.57m deep with moderately to steeply sloping sides and a partially concave base. The only surviving fill is [083], a deposit of relatively firm mid to dark brown clay silt with occasional chalk and charcoal fleck inclusions. **F.10** represents an attempt to rob stone from earlier foundation wall F.13. It contained a sherd of Staffordshire saltglaze pottery dated between 1720-60. Stratigraphically, it cuts [085] and is overlain by [082]; it has been assigned to Phase 3.

Brick wall F.11 is linear in form, though it extends beyond the limit of Trench 2, and is oriented roughly north to south. Cut [088] is 0.64m+ by 0.50m in extent and 0.21m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a relatively flat base. Within it was constructed [087], a brick foundation comprising an outer well-faced single skin retaining a rubble core made from handmade unfrosted red bricks 225mm by 110mm by 50mm bonded with mid yellowish cream lime mortar. Only one full course survives, and was left in-situ. Deposit [086], a layer of firm mid to dark brown clay silt with occasional chalk fleck inclusions 0.09m thick, was packed into its construction cut. Unfortunately, no datable material was recovered. **F.11** cuts **F.12** and is overlain by [085]; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Robber cut F.12 is rectangular/linear in form and is oriented southwest to northeast in Trench 2. Cut [092] is 1.95m+ by 0.51m+ in extent and 0.24m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a relatively flat base. The only fill is [091], a deposit of loosely compacted mid brown sandy clay silt with occasional chalk and charcoal fleck inclusions. **F.12** most probably represents the beginning of the Post-Dissolution conversion of the former monastic building; it contained two sherds of 16th century grey coarseware. Stratigraphically, it cuts [093] and [104] and is cut by **F.11**; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Stone-built wall F.13 is linear in form and oriented north-northeast to west-southwest, though it extends beyond the limit of Trench 2. [095], which is 1.20m+ by 0.48m+ in extent and 0.47m+ deep, is

comprised of reused moulded chalk and clunch fragments (measuring 440mm by 370mm by 360mm on average) bonded with mid creamish yellow friable sandy mortar. **F.13** represents the introduction of a cross-wall to sub-divide the monastic building represented by **F.15**; it was preserved in-situ. Stratigraphically, it cuts **F.14** and abutts **F.15** and is overlain by [094]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Pit/linear F.14 is sub-rectangular in form, though it was only partially presented in Trench 2. Cut [103] is 1.06m+ by 0.84m+ in extent and 0.36m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides that were partially stepped due to the fragmentary nature of the natural chalk, and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is [102], a deposit of loosely compacted mid to pale greyish brown silty clay with very frequent chalk fragment inclusions. The function of **F.14** is unclear, though it is very likely to predate the building represented by **F.15**. It may relate to the robbing of an earlier phase of the structure. It contained a sherd of probable 16th century red coarseware. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is cut by **F.13**; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Stone-built wall F.15 is linear in form and oriented north-northwest to south-southeast, though it extends beyond the limits of Trench 2. Cut [099] extends 2.34m+ by 1.50m+ in extent and 0.32m+ deep with vertical sides that are partially stepped due to the fragmentary nature of the underlying natural chalk and a relatively flat base. Deposit [098], a layer of firm mid to pale grey sandy mortar with frequent chalk and clunch fragment inclusions 0.02m thick, was laid in its base. On top of this foundation was constructed [097], a wall foundation composed of reused moulded clunch and chalk fragments (measuring 200mm by 100mm by 100mm on average) bonded with dense pale grey sandy mortar 0.98m wide. This was preserved in-situ. Deposit [096], a layer of firm pale greyish cream friable sandy mortar with frequent chalk and clunch fragment inclusions 0.10m+ thick, was backfilled into its construction cut. **F.15** represents a substantial stone foundation for a monastic building, most probably an element of the western claustral range. Unfortunately, no datable material was recovered. **F.15** cuts natural and is abutted by **F.13**; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Service trench F.16 is linear in form and oriented northwest to southeast; it is situated in Trench 3. Cut [027] is 1.64m+ by 0.80m in extent and 0.34m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a partially concave base. The only surviving fill is [026], a deposit of loosely compacted mid orangey brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions that was packed around a ceramic saltglaze water pipe. **F.16** represents a service pipe associated with greenhouse **F.19**; it contained no datable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts **F.19** and is overlain by [025]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Service trench F.17 is linear in form and oriented east-northeast to west-southwest; it is situated in Trench 3. Cut [029] is 1.50m+ by 0.56m in extent and 0.13m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a partially concave base. The only surviving fill is [028], a deposit of loosely compacted mid brownish grey clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions that was packed around a twisted copper-wire cable. **F.17** represents an electricity cable associated with greenhouse **F.19**; it contained no datable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts [032] and is overlain by [025]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Service trench F.18 is linear in form and oriented northeast to southwest; it is situated in Trench 3. Cut [031] is 1.86m+ by 0.60m in extent and 0.35m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is [030], a deposit of loosely compacted mid orangey brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions that was packed around a ceramic saltglaze water pipe. **F.18** represents a service pipe associated with greenhouse **F.19**; it contained a sherd of 19th century buff earthenware. Stratigraphically, it cuts [032] and is overlain by [024]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Robber cut F.19 is linear in form and oriented east-northeast to west-southwest; it is situated in Trench 3. Cut [057] is 1.50m+ by 0.40m in extent and 0.48m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is [056], a deposit of semi-loosely compacted mid orangey brown clay silt with frequent gravel and CBM inclusions. **F.19** represents the robbing of a 19th century greenhouse detected by the geophysical survey. It contained two sherds of redeposited 17th century pottery, one Staffordshire Slipware and one Glazed Red Earthenware, and two fragments of 19th century bottle glass. Stratigraphically, it cuts [032] and is cut by **F.16**; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Robber cut F.20 is linear in form and oriented roughly north to south; it is situated in Trench 4. Cut [036] is 1.50m+ by 0.16m in extent and 0.21m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was

deliberately backfilled with [035], a deposit of semi-loose mid to pale brownish grey sandy clay silt with frequent mortar fragment inclusions. It did not contain any dateable material. **F.21** represents the robbing of a timber sill beam from building **F.22** in the early 17th century. Stratigraphically, it cuts **F.22** is overlain by [032]; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Robber cut F.21 is linear in form and oriented roughly north to south; it is situated in Trench 4. Cut [042] is 1.50m+ by 1.18m in extent and 0.16m+ deep with moderately sloping concave sides and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is [041], a deposit of loosely compacted mid to pale creamish brown friable mortar with frequent clunch, chalk and flint fragment inclusions. **F.21** represents the robbing of a north to south aligned masonry wall that sub-divided the outer courtyard of Robert Chester's manor house. It is almost certainly the source for overlying demolition layer [033]; it contained no dateable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts [043] and is overlain by [033] and [034]; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Tiber-framed building F.22 is rectangular in form, though it extends beyond the limits of Trench 4 in three directions. Cut [055] extends 1.50m+ by 0.62m+ in extent and 0.14m deep with vertical sides and a relatively flat base. Within this cut [039], a deposit of mid to pale orangey brown friable sandy mortar 0.02m thick, was set down. This acted as the foundation for [038], a layer of complete flat laid peg-tiles that measure 240mm by 145mm by 10mm on average. To the east, against these tiles, a second layer of mortar was inserted. [040] comprises a layer of firm pale brown sandy mortar 0.05m thick. Deposit [037], a good quality floor surface composed of mid to pale brownish grey firm silty clay with very few inclusions 0.23m thick, was set down above it abutting the timber beam. **F.22** represents elements of a timber-framed building that was also identified (**F.02**) in Trench 5. No dateable material was recovered. **F.22** cuts [043] and is cut by **F.20**; it is most probably equal to **F.02** in Trench 5 and both have been assigned to Phase 2.

Robber cut/linear F.23 is linear in form and oriented roughly north to south; it is situated in Trench 4. Cut [045] is 1.76m by 1.50m+ in extent and 0.18m+ deep with moderately sloping concave sides and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is [044], a deposit of moderately compacted mid to pale greyish brown sandy clay silt with occasional gravel and rare CBM, charcoal and clunch inclusions. **F.23** is on the same alignment as, and indeed partially truncates, probable robbed wall **F.27**; it may therefore represent the robbing of a later phase of this structure. Stratigraphically, it cuts [043] and is overlain by [043]; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Burial F.24 is sub-oval/sub-rectangular in form and oriented west to east; it is situated in Trench 3. Cut [048] is 1.15m+ by 0.46m in extent and 0.18m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides – the base was not reached. The only surviving fill is [047], a deposit of relatively compacted pale greyish white with very frequent chalk fragment inclusions. This material was backfilled above an extended adult inhumation that was in a very good state of preservation; it contained four equidistantly placed iron coffin nails, but no dateable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is overlain by [046]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Burial F.25 is sub-oval/sub-rectangular in form and oriented west to east; it is situated in Trench 3. Cut [050] is 1.50m+ by 0.74m in extent and 0.37m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides – the base was not reached. The only surviving fill is [049], a deposit of relatively compacted pale greyish white with very frequent chalk fragment inclusions. This material was backfilled above an extended adult inhumation that was in a very good state of preservation. The grave cut appears to have been very carefully shaped, most probably into an anthropomorphic form, with tool marks remaining visible in the chalk. Unfortunately, it contained no dateable material. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is overlain by [046]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Posthole F.26 is circular in form, and is situated in Trench 3. Cut [054] is 0.70m in diameter 0.27m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides (which are partially stepped due to fracturing of the natural chalk) and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is [053], a deposit of moderately compacted pale greyish brown sandy clay silt with occasional to frequent chalk fragment inclusions. **F.26** is of significant size and is most probably structural in origin. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is overlain by [046]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Robber cut/linear F.27 is linear in form and oriented roughly north to south; it is situated in Trench 4. Cut [052] is 1.50m+ by 1.30m+ in extent and 0.16m+ deep with moderately to steeply sloping concave

sides and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is [051], a deposit of moderately compacted pale greyish white clay silt with very frequent chalk fragment inclusions. **F.27** closely resembles the cut of **F.15** to the west, and may represent the robbed out wall of a similar building. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is overlain by [046]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Pit/posthole F.28 is sub-circular in form, though it extends beyond the limit of Trench 1. Cut [073] is 0.42m+ by 0.37m+ in extent and 0.16m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is [072], a deposit of firmly compacted mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk fleck inclusions. **F.28** is perhaps most likely to represent a mid-18th century robbing event that occurred prior to the landscaping of the area. Stratigraphically, it cuts [070] and is cut by **F.09**; it has been assigned to Phase 3.

Pit/linear F.29 is sub-oval in form, though it extends beyond the limit of Trench 1. Cut [080] is 0.83m+ by 0.20m in extent and 0.31m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a partially concave base. The only surviving fill is [079], a deposit of moderately compacted mid brown sandy silt with rare pale grey clay mottles. **F.29** is most probably related to the series of garden structures erected against the northern boundary wall during the 19th century. Stratigraphically, it cuts [065] and is cut by [064]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Tree root disturbances F.30 are irregularly sub-rectangular in form, though they all extend beyond the limits of Trench 5. Cut [006] is 0.54m+ by 0.48m+ in extent and 0.17m+ deep with vertical though irregular sides and a relatively flat base, whilst cut [008] is 1.23m+ by 0.32m in extent and 0.22m+ deep with steeply sloping irregular sides and an irregularly uneven base. The fills of both, [005] and [007] respectively, are identical and comprise deposits of moderately compacted mid to dark brown clay silt with occasional to frequent chalk fragment inclusions; no datable material was recovered from either. **F.30** represents tree root disturbances that are contemporary with [020] and may have formed a small hedge boundary during the monastic period. They cut natural and are overlain by [023]; they have been assigned to Phase 1.

Disturbed burial (?) F.31 is irregular in form and falls only partially within the area of Trench 5. Cut [106] is 0.90m+ by 0.67m+ in extent and 0.37m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical irregular sides and an irregular base. The only surviving fill is [105], which comprises a deposit of relatively loosely compacted pale greyish white silt with very frequent chalk and occasional CBM fragment inclusions. The fill sequence of **F.31** is exceedingly similar to that of adjacent burials **F.06** and **F.07**, and it most probably represents the edge of a similar interment that has been badly affected by root disturbance. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is cut by [023]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Tree root F.32 is sub-rectangular in form, though it extends beyond the limit of Trench 5. Cut [004] is 1.16m+ by 0.56m in extent and 0.38m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a partially concave base. The only surviving fill is [003], a deposit of relatively loosely compacted mid to dark greyish brown clay silt with rare chalk fleck inclusions. **F.32** represents 19th century tree root disturbance; it contained a small sherd of redeposited 13th/14th century Developed Stamford ware. Stratigraphically, it cuts natural and is overlain by [022]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Layer descriptions

Root disturbances [020] extend across the northeastern end of Trenches 5 and 6. It is comprised of 31 discrete though irregular 'blobs' of firm pale brown clay silt with occasional to frequent chalk fleck and pea grit inclusions, which vary between 0.10 and 0.73m in diameter. [020] represents root disturbances associated with a probable hedge-line created during the monastic phase of the site. Stratigraphically, it overlies natural and is overlain by [023]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Topsoil [022] = [024] = [064] = [081] is present in, and extends beyond the limits of, all six trenches. It is comprised of relatively firm mid to dark brown humic topsoil with occasional gravel inclusions and varies between 0.23m to 0.33m deep. [022] = [024] = [064] = [081] represents 19th century cultivated topsoil material. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.03**, [024], [064] and [082]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Layer [023] is of unclear form as it extends beyond the limits of Trenches 5 and 6. It is comprised of moderately compacted mid brown sandy silt occasional chalk fragment and fragment fleck inclusions

0.34m deep. [023] most probably represents a cemetery soil that developed above burials **F.06**, **F.07** and potentially also **F.31**. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.06**, **F.07**, **F.30**, **F.31** and [020] and is cut by **F.01**; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Layer [025] measures 1.92m+ by 1.50m+ in extent and 0.18m deep; it is situated in Trench 3. It is comprised of dense orange sandy gravels and represents a gravel surface that was set down following the demolition of 19th century greenhouse **F.19**. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.16** and **F.17** and is overlain by [024]; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Landscaping layer [032] extends beyond the limits of Trenches 3 and 4 in every direction. It is comprised of moderately compacted mid greyish brown sandy clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions and is up to 0.42m thick. [032] represents the landscaping of the PDA in the mid 18th century following the sale of The Priory in 1759. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.20** and is cut by **F.17**, **F.18** and **F.19**; it has been assigned to Phase 3.

Layer [033] is linear in form and measures 3.21m+ by 1.50m+ in extent and 0.20m deep; it is located in Trench 4. It is comprised of mixed chalk and clunch rubble, with occasional brick and tile fragments, in a matrix of pale cream friable sandy mortar. [033] represents demolition material most probably created by wall robbing event **F.21**. It contained 17th century English Stoneware, Red coarseware and Ironglaze pottery, along with clay pipe stem fragments and a shard of undecorated window glass. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.21** and is cut by **F.20**; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Layer [034] is of unclear form and measures 3.00m+ by 1.50m+ in extent and 0.04m deep; it is situated in Trench 4. It is comprised of firm pale cream friable sandy mortar with rare CBM inclusions. [034] represents demolition material most probably associated with the same demolition event as [033], and may also have acted as a temporary surface; it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.21** and is cut by **F.20**; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Layer [043] extends beyond the limits of Trenches 3 and 4 in every direction. It is comprised of mid to pale greyish brown sandy clay silt with occasional peg-tile and gravel inclusions 0.26m thick. [043] represents a general make-up layer associated with the construction of Robert Chester's manor house in the mid 16th century. It contained several sherds of 16th century pottery, including Frechen Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Ironglaze ware and red and grey coarsewares, plus a shard of window glass and a perforated oyster shell. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.23** and is cut by **F.21** and **F.22**; it is probably equal to [070] and has been assigned to Phase 2.

Layer [046] extends beyond the limits of Trenches 3 and 4 in every direction. It is comprised of mid greyish brown sandy clay silt with very frequent flat laid peg-tile inclusions 0.10m thick. [046] represents a levelling deposit introduced following the clearance of the area at the Dissolution. It contained 16th century Frechen Stoneware and pink coarseware. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.24**, **F.25**, **F.26** and **F.27** and is cut by **F.23**; it is probably equal to [071] and has been assigned to Phase 2.

Gravel driveway [065] extends beyond the limits of Trench 1 in every direction. It is comprised of firmly compacted orange gravels and pea grit with few other inclusions 0.08m thick. [065] represents a gravel driveway that was set down in the late 19th/early 20th century; it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.09** and [078] and is cut by **F.29**; it has been assigned to Phase 4.

Levelling layer [068] extends beyond the limits of Trench 1 in every direction. It is comprised of moderately compacted mid to pale grey clay silt with frequent chalk fleck inclusions 0.16m thick. It also contained a discrete lens of pale cream friable sandy mortar to the north. [068] represents a levelling deposit that was most probably set down at the same time as [046] immediately following the Dissolution. Stratigraphically, it overlies natural and is overlain by [069]; it is probably equal to [046] and has been assigned to Phase 2.

Make-up layer [069] extends beyond the limits of Trench 1 in every direction. It is comprised of moderately well compacted mid to pale brown clay silt with frequent chalk fleck inclusions 0.26m+ thick. [069] represents a make-up deposit that was most probably set down at the same time as [043] when Robert Chester's manor house was constructed. Stratigraphically, it overlies natural and is beneath [070]; it is probably equal to [046] and has been assigned to Phase 2.

Landscaping layer [070] extends beyond the limits of Trench 1 in every direction. It is comprised of moderately firm mid brown sandy silt with frequent chalk fleck and rare charcoal fleck inclusions 0.20m thick. [070] represents a landscaping deposit that was most probably introduced at the same time as [082] and [032] in the mid 18th century; it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies [069] and is overlain by [071]; it has been assigned to Phase 3.

Landscaping Layer [071] extends beyond the limits of Trench 1 in every direction. It is comprised of moderately firm mid brown sandy clay silt with frequent chalk fleck and rare charcoal fleck inclusions 0.360m thick. [071] represents a landscaping deposit that was most probably introduced at the same time as [082] and [032] in the mid 18th century; it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies [070] and is cut by **F.08** and **F.09**; it has been assigned to Phase 3.

Landscaping layer [082] extends beyond the limits of Trench 2 in every direction. It is comprised of moderately compacted mid brown sandy clay silt with occasional gravel and rare CBM inclusions 0.47m thick. [082] represents a landscaping deposit that was most probably introduced at the same time as [070], [071] and [032] in the mid 18th century; it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.10** and is overlain by [081]; it has been assigned to Phase 3.

Layer [085] extends beyond the limits of Trench 2 in every direction. It is comprised of three bands. The first consists of loosely compacted pale yellowish cream friable sandy mortar with occasional chalk fleck and CBM inclusions 0.18m thick; the second of moderately compacted mid brown sandy clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks 0.13m thick, and the third of chalk fragments intermixed with pale yellowish cream friable sandy mortar 0.10m thick. In total, the deposit is 0.24m deep at its deepest point. [085] represents the demolition horizon created by the levelling of the converted priory building in the mid 18th century. It contained 18th century creamware, Tin Glazed Earthenware and Chinese porcelain, plus residual Glazed Red Earthenware, Tudor Green and Raeren Stoneware. Stratigraphically, it overlies **F.11** and [089] and is overlain by **F.10**; it has been assigned to Phase 3.

Foundation layer [089] is 1.95m+ by 0.81m+ in extent and 0.14m deep; it is situated in Trench 2. It is comprised of very firmly compacted dense pale cream friable sandy mortar with occasional to frequent chalk and clunch fragment inclusions. [089] represents the foundation for a now truncated floor surface associated with wall **F.11**; it is therefore 16th century in date, though it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies [090] and is overlain by [085]; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Trample layer [090] is 1.95m+ by 0.81m+ in extent and 0.01m deep; it is situated in Trench 2. It is comprised of mid orangey brown brick and tile dust. [090] represents material which accrued during the conversion of the building from monastic to secular use in the mid 16th century; it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it abuts **F.11** and is overlain by [089]; it has been assigned to Phase 2.

Foundation layer [093] is 1.21m by 0.44m in extent and 0.30m deep; it is situated in Trench 2. It is comprised of firmly compacted mid to dark brown clay silt with frequent chalk fragment inclusions. [093] represents the foundation for a floor (since truncated) associated with the final phase of the monastic building prior to its conversion; it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies [094] and is cut by **F.12**; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Layer [094] is 1.21m by 1.06m in extent and 0.05m+ deep; it is situated in Trench 2. It is comprised of pale yellowish brown friable sandy mortar with occasional chalk and CBM fragment inclusions. [094] represents an initial foundation deposit that was part of the make-up for a floor surface; it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it abuts **F.13** and is overlain by [093]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Surface [100] is 1.50m+ by 0.82m+ in extent and 0.14m+ deep; it is situated in Trench 2. It is comprised of firm mid to pale brown clay with very few inclusions. [100] represents good quality external surface that abutted wall **F.15** – perhaps it formed part of the cloister walkway? Unfortunately, it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies [101] and is overlain by [104]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Foundation layer [101] is 1.50m+ by 0.32m+ in extent and 0.06m+ deep; it is situated in Trench 2. It is comprised of very compacted mid to pale grey sandy mortar with frequent chalk and clunch fragment inclusions. [101] represents the foundation layer for probable surface [100]; it may be part of the same event as layer [098] in adjacent **F.15**. It did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies natural and is overlain by [100]; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Trample layer [104] is 0.84m+ by 0.62m+ in extent and 0.06m+ deep; it is situated in Trench 2. It is comprised of firm creamy yellow sandy mortar with frequent aid to pale brown silty lenses and occasional chalk fragment inclusions. [104] represents material that accrued, or was deliberately introduced, above surface [100]; it did not contain any datable material. Stratigraphically, it overlies [100] and is cut by **F.12**; it has been assigned to Phase 1.

Appendix 3: geophysical survey report

Included below is a copy of the report detailing the results of the geophysical survey of The Priory site commissioned by the CAU and undertaken by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd. in May 2007. It was compiled by M. J. Roseveare on the 01/06/07. A brief post-excavation summary by the current author has also been included.

Post-excavation summary

The features identified by the geophysical survey were all located at relatively shallow depth and exclusively comprised those that had been backfilled with rubble or other solid materials; they were therefore primarily of recent origin (see final illustration, below). Part of the reason for this bias may be that the unusually dry environmental conditions in the period immediately preceding the survey, in early May 2007, had restricted the efficacy of the chosen medium (electrical resistivity). Thus the boundary ditch and burials encountered at the eastern end of the PDA were not detected, despite lying less than 0.5m beneath the ground surface (though their presence was postulated). More significantly, however, the substantial masonry footings of the probable claustral range to the west were also undetected, though it must be noted that these lay below 0.7-0.9m of made-ground. Yet despite these caveats, the potential for further geophysical investigation on the site remains high. Should a more extensive excavation be undertaken in the future, additional surveys of the areas to the north and south of the PDA would provide substantial information on the wider context of the features encountered. In light of the depth of overlying deposits revealed by this evaluation, however, it is recommended that ground penetrating radar would provide a much more effective medium for any such future investigation.



1 Introduction

Location

Country	England
County	Hertfordshire
Nearest Town	Royston
Landholding	Priory Cottages
Central Co-ordinates	53574 24065

Parties involved

1.1 ArchaeoPhysica was commissioned by Alison Dickens of Cambridge University Archaeological Unit (CUAU) to undertake survey on behalf of the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Royston. An area of ground to the south of the building is potentially affected by proposed additions to the church.

Summary of methodology

Rationale

1.2 ArchaeoPhysica recommended that electrical resistance survey would be the most cost effective means of prospecting the garden, the alternative would have been radar which would potentially have achieved a more detailed result but at significantly higher cost.

Instruments & survey resolution

Technique	Implementation
Set out	Total station set out of a local grid tied into fixed points identified on the OS mapping.
Electrical resistance survey	Geoscan Research RM15A with multiplexer in 0.5m twin probe configuration giving maximum sensitivity around 0.5m into the ground. Line separation 0.5m, measurement interval 0.5m

Constraints & variations

1.3 The only constraint that wasn't identified before survey was the discovery that an area at the east end of the garden could not be surveyed due to surface clutter. All areas where the probes of the instrument could make good contact with the ground were surveyed.



2 Context

Archaeology

2.1 The priory was founded by the order of Augustinian Canons and maintained its status until the Dissolution at which point much of the early work seems to have been pulled down. There is some reference to the nave also being demolished although the veracity of this is unknown. However, this survey has revealed circumstantial evidence that this did in fact happen and rather than a new nave being built the surviving chancel of the old church was used for this purpose instead. A stonemason's notebook from the eighteen hundreds notes that the present west tower is built of recycled debris from the older building.

2.2 The location of the other structures of the priory is not known but records demonstrate that the complex was large and included a hospital as well as the normal cloister etc.

Environmental

Weather

2.3 During survey the weather was dry and as work was completed within a single day the electrical properties of the soil can be expected to have remained constant throughout. There had been some rain earlier which would have reduced the high surface resistance expected after a dry Spring.

Topography & vegetation

2.4 The site is essentially flat with a slight rise up to the south aisle of the church in the northeast corner. Most of the area is lawn although there are some trees and bushes dotted around and some planting at the west end. At the east end there is an area of rough ground with piles of brash.

Hydrology

2.5 The drainage of the site is unknown but it is likely to be fairly natural and no drains were discovered during survey. There were no particularly obvious variations in the dampness of the ground.

Geology and soils

2.6 The soil is classed as shallow and lime-rich loam over chalk or limestone and is thus expected to be of fairly uniform character throughout the survey area. Provided the material is moist reasonable resistivity contrast can be expected between it and any masonry buried within it. The process of grave digging (if it occurred here) is likely to have substantially deepened the soil and while nodules of chalk and other shallow rock may have been brought to the surface their effect is likely to have been negated by the deeper soil beneath.



3 Catalogue

3.1 The table below is the catalogue of anomalies found during survey for this project. The labels refer to DWG 02 and also those in green in the text of this report.

ID	X	Y	Area sqr m	Type	Label	Description
3038	535737.9	240657.4	16.4	Masonry	1	A set of wall-type high resistance anomalies of unknown purpose. They seem to form elements of a north-south range of structures but whether related to the priory is impossible to tell. They may have been lean-to buildings against the high wall to the north
3173	535727.7	240656.4	8.3	Rubble	2	A likely accumulation of rubble and / or similar destruction debris
3070	535754.5	240650.4	8.3	Tree Throws	3	Probable tree throw, one of a group that might suggest an orchard once stood here
3071	535755.6	240646.3	4.2	Tree Throws	4	Probable tree throw, one of a group that might suggest an orchard once stood here
3072	535759.5	240648.9	6.3	Tree Throws	5	Probable tree throw, one of a group that might suggest an orchard once stood here
3073	535754.3	240654	8.3	Tree Throws	6	Probable tree throw, one of a group that might suggest an orchard once stood here
3074	535758.5	240655.5	3.8	Tree Throws	7	Probable tree throw, one of a group that might suggest an orchard once stood here
3104	535733.6	240646.8	N/A	Buried Service	8	A ditch type feature, probably an unidentified service trench
3169	535727.8	240645.4	N/A	Buried Service	9	A ditch type feature, probably an unidentified service trench
3247	535755.8	240643.3	N/A	Buried Service	10	A band of very low resistance at the foot of a retaining wall that might be due to impaired drainage or could be the line of a service trench
3133	535741.6	240657.8	16.4	Modern	11	Either a solid mass of masonry or an accumulation of rubble. Given the extent of this anomaly the latter is more likely
3142	535727.9	240649.9	41.8	Modern	12	An area of hardstanding that apparently once provided access to a garage at the west end of the garden. Most is now buried under the grass
3246	535744.5	240649.3	106.2	HR Spread	13	A large area of enhanced resistance that is basically parallel-sided and up to 6m wide, perpendicular to the other structures to the north. Together with these and the relatively homogeneous area enclosed between them it is possible that this area is the site of a another range of buildings
3270	535736.3	240642.4	7.8	LR Area	14	An area of low resistance that, given the environmental conditions, could have been the site of a flower bed or similar feature with relatively unconsolidated soil
3302	535738.1	240650.8	N/A	Observations	15	Region of uniform ground unlike other areas, perhaps the interior of a structure e.g. a courtyard?
3303	535755.6	240663.4	N/A	Observations	16	Slightly elevated (locally) resistance values here may indicate the presence of buried rubble, however, the small size of the plot makes it uncertain whether this could simply be natural background

4 Discussion

Result

4.1 For an explanation of the data processing see [Process Documentation](#) in the appendices.

Environment

4.2 A little light rain had fallen in the area before survey which was fortunate as the soil had been drying out for a few weeks beforehand. It was expected that background resistance values would be high with localised problems with current injection but in practice this was less severe than expected. At the west end of the site there were numerous features like flowerbeds and the remains of a drive to a garage and these did affect data collection but enough was surveyed to be useful. At the east end of the site broken ground and undergrowth prevented survey.

Background response

4.3 The background electrical resistance is far from uniform which itself suggests a strongly variable subsurface. At the east end of the site resistance values are relatively low and from observation of other sites typical of burial grounds attached to churches. From the west end of the church westwards background resistance values rise by around 15 ohms and seem to maintain this for the wider area. Taken logically if the low values at the east end are indicative of grave earth then the higher values imply modification of the ground to result in either a higher proportion of non-conductive brick or stone or an increase in pore size (and reduction in density) of the soil.

Modern intrusive features

4.4 These are fairly numerous as would be expected in an urban garden. Feature 12 is a curving drive that passed the end of the cottages and turned westwards towards the site of a garage. It is mostly buried beneath the turf. Next to it a straight-edged low resistance anomaly (35 - 40 ohms) may be the site of a flower bed, however, insufficient was surveyed to be sure it is not of archaeological interest.

4.5 A trench-like feature 8 crosses the area at an angle and is typical of a buried service. Another 9 may join it from the west although definition is much less clear for this. A third, 10, is postulated along the base of the retaining wall forming the southern edge of the garden although in this case the anomaly could be caused by impaired drainage.

4.6 Probably less modern, but in the context of a possible burial ground also intrusive are a set of slightly reduced resistance anomalies 3 to 7 which would appear to be something like tree throws. These are especially subtle and may prove to be different shapes if excavated. Perhaps this end of the garden was once a small orchard, or perhaps a group of trees was planted during creation of the park further west.

Features of potential archaeological interest

4.7 The original objective was to determine whether any features of archaeological interest survived below the garden and whether these could be identified as remains of the priory. Many features have appeared but identification as parts of priory is complicated. Overall, the impression is of two or more ranges of structures surrounding a central open space with an area of (probably) deeply disturbed ground to their east. In an ecclesiastic context this could be interpreted as a cloister west of a burial ground, however, for this to be the case the nave of the present church could not have been the nave of the priory. This is because the possible cloister extends westwards from the present west end of the church, implying the latter to occupy the site of the priory choir and chancel.

4.8 Of these various structures there are three parts. The northern, parallel to the existing north wall of the garden, is apparent as high resistance (over 80 ohms) anomalies 11 typical of masonry and apparently forming a coherent structure at least 20m long and perhaps 6m across. At the east end there appears to be evidence for sub-division although the nature of this is far from



clear. One or possibly two projections southwards may indicate stubs of walls and there is a broad area 13 of raised resistance that coincides with this and reinforces the impression of a perpendicular wing.

4.9 This broad area exhibits an average resistance some 20 ohms higher than the soil to the east and up to 10 ohms higher than the area to the west so it is a convincing anomaly. The only sign of structural detail is a strip of slightly raised resistance along the east and west edges but it would be putting too strong a case to suggest these were wall footings.

4.10 The impression of a pair of wings around a courtyard is further reinforced by the way these border the western area of higher resistance 15. As noted above this area seems to feature modified soil although it is also possible that it represents the natural background in which case the area to the east features very much reduced resistance, further supporting interpretation as a burial ground.

4.11 In the northeast corner of the survey adjacent to the church there is a slight bank against the south aisle which corresponds with significantly elevated resistance values 16 between 60 and 70 ohms. This might be indicative of buried rubble, perhaps from alterations to the church. It is not certain where the southern edge of this might be as there is a diffuse margin between it and the much lower resistance area it borders. It is probable that rubble is within or superimposed upon the postulated grave soil and that the edge of neither is visible in the resistance data.

Caveats

4.12 Geophysical survey is literally that, a systematic measurement of some physical property related to the earth. There are numerous sources of disturbance of this property, some due to archaeological features, some due to the measuring method, and others that relate to the environment in which the measurement is made. No disturbance, or 'anomaly', is capable of providing an unambiguous and comprehensive description of a feature, in particular in archaeological contexts where there are a myriad of factors involved.

4.13 The measured anomaly is generated by the presence or absence of certain materials within a feature, not by the feature itself. Not all archaeological features produce disturbances that can be detected by a particular instrument or methodology. For this reason, the absence of an anomaly must never be taken to mean the absence of an archaeological feature. The best surveys are those which use a variety of techniques over the same ground at resolutions adequate for the detection of a range of different features.

4.14 Where the specification is by a third party ArchaeoPhysica will always endeavour to produce the best possible result within any imposed constraints and any perceived failure of the specification remains the responsibility of that third party.

4.15 Where third party sources are used in interpretation or analysis ArchaeoPhysica will endeavour to verify their accuracy within reasonable limits but responsibility for any errors or omissions remains with the originator.

4.16 Any recommendations are made based upon the skills and experience of staff at ArchaeoPhysica and the information available to them at the time. ArchaeoPhysica is not responsible for the manner in which these may or may not be carried out, nor for any matters arising from the same.

Recommendations

4.17 This is in no way a formal recommendation but in view of the discovery that the priory church nave is quite likely to have been west of the existing parish church it may be of interest to return to the site and conduct non-invasive survey of that area.

Appendices

Survey metadata

Project information

Project Name	Royston Priory, Hertfordshire
Project Code	ROY071
Client	Cambridge University Archaeological Unit
Fieldwork Dates	2 nd May 2007
Personnel	Anne Roseveare & Thomas Desalle
Draft Report Date	1 st June 2007
Final Report Date	

Location

Country	England
County	Hertfordshire
Nearest Town	Royston
Landholding	Adjacent to south aisle of church in grounds of Priory Cottages
Central Co-ordinates	53574 24065

Environmental data

Geology – Soil	Shallow and lime-rich over chalk and limestone, free draining and with a loamy texture
Geology – Parent	Chalk or limestone
Topography	Flat, rising very slightly towards the north
Hydrology	Free draining
Current Land Use	Garden
Historic Land Use	Uncertain, probably priory buildings and burial ground
Vegetation Cover	Grass and weeds, some trees
Sources of Interference	None identified

Geodetic data

Co-ordinate System	Local
Bearing	
Precision	0.05m internally
Instrument Used	Total station
Reference Points	Local hard features apparent in OS data
References Definition	ArchaeoPhysica

Process documentation

Magnetic survey

Measured Variable	Apparent electrical resistance in ohms
Instrument	Geoscan Research RM15A with multiplexer
Configuration	0.5m twin probe. 0.5m line separation and 0.5m station interval
QA Procedure	Observation in field
QA Result	Normal
Data Source Format	.R15 ASCII



Process

Stage	File Suffix	Description / Parameters
Import	.R15	Converted from serial dump to Surfer ASCII grid files reflecting array configuration used
XYZ Spike reduction	ta33n.grd	2D reduction of single point spikes greater than 'n' ohms reflection from the 3 x 3 datum mean. Conducted in two passes to minimise artefacts. This the 'clean' data used in this report
Contrast boost (Wallis filter)	.grd	5m x 5m median Wallis filter to reduce trends and bring out low-amplitude detail



Archive data

Introduction

4.18 ArchaeoPhysica maintains an archive for all its projects, access to which is permitted for research purposes. Copyright and intellectual property rights are retained by ArchaeoPhysica on all material it has produced, the client having full licence to use such material as benefits their project.

4.19 Access is by appointment only. Some content is restricted and not available to third parties. There is no automatic right of access to this archive by members of the public. Some material retains commercial value and a charge may be made for its use. An administrative charge may be made for some enquiries, depending upon the exact nature of the request.

General description

4.20 The archive contains all survey and project data, communications, field notes, reports and other related material including copies of third party data (e.g. CAD mapping, etc.) in digital form. Many are in proprietary formats while report components are available in PDF format.

4.21 In addition, there are paper elements to some project archives, usually provided by the client. Nearly all elements of the archive that are generated by ArchaeoPhysica are digital.

File types

Extension	Associated Software or Format Information	Example Content
.38b	Geomar TrackNav38b format	EM38B downloads
.823	Geomar TrackNav823 format	Magnetometer downloads
.asc	Geomar TrackNav conversion format	Data downloads
.bin	Geometrics MagMap2000 (version specific)	Magnetometer downloads
.csv	ASCII comma-separated data	Various data files
.ctm	GPR-Slice internal data format	GPR topographic corrections
.dat	Generic ASCII data (may not be human readable)	Magnetometer downloads, GPR profiles & slices
.doc	Microsoft Word document (Office 97 and newer)	Report documents
.dwg	Autodesk AutoCAD format (version specific)	Plans & digitised maps
.dxf	ASCII Drawing eXchange Format	Plans & digitised maps
.dzt	GSSI RADAN (version specific)	GPR data (profiles)
.dzt	GPR-Slice internal data format	GPR data (profiles)
.grd	Golden Software Surfer 7 binary or ASCII grid	Survey data
.html	ASCII HyperText Markup Language file	Report files, web pages
.info	APrad conversion parameter format	GPR profile metadata
.inv	RES2DINV format	ERT inversion files
.ivp	RES2DINV parameter format	ERT inversion metadata
.log	GPR-Slice log file format	GPR profile and slice metadata
.map	Manifold GIS 6.5 and newer (version specific)	Project data
.mdb	Microsoft Access document (Office 97 and newer)	Database files
.mdi	Microsoft Office Document Imaging format	Report documents
.mrk	GPR-Slice internal mark data	GPR data positioning
.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Format (version 6 and newer)	Report files
.r15	Geoscan Research RM15 download (sequential ASCII)	Data files
.shp	MapInfo vector data	Shapefile output
.srf	Golden Software Surfer document (version 8)	Project data
.stn	Geometrics MagMap2000 ASCII data	Processed magnetic data
.txt	Generic human readable ASCII data	Notes etc.
.xls	Microsoft Excel document (Office 97 and newer)	Spreadsheet files
.xml	AP System or Manifold GIS	Logs, palettes, MS .NET files

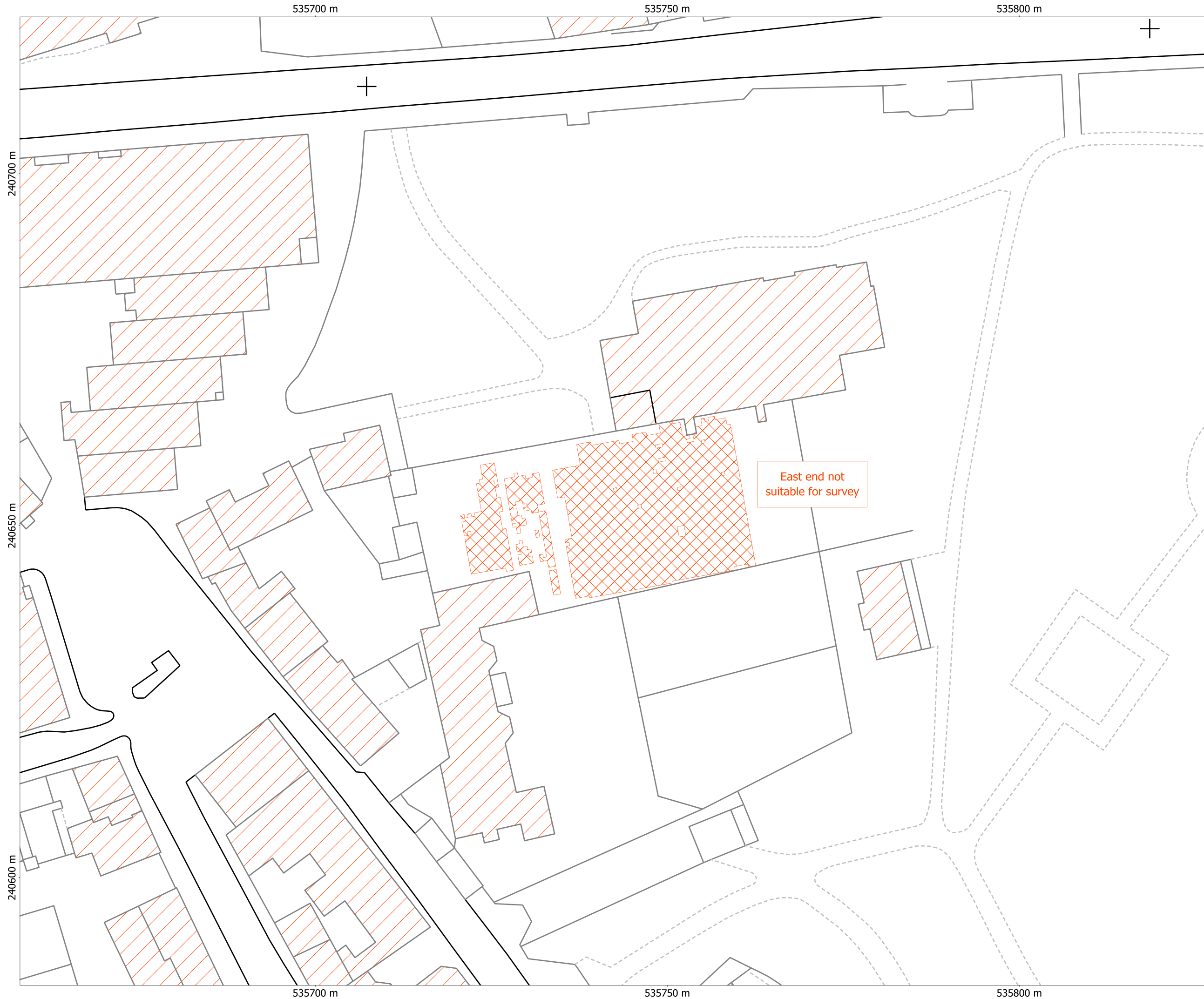
4.22 The files listed above represent the usual content of digital archives held by ArchaeoPhysica.



Dissemination

4.23 It is the client's responsibility to ensure that reports are distributed to all parties with a necessary interest in the project, e.g. local government offices, including the HER where present. ArchaeoPhysica reserves the right to display data from projects on its website and in other marketing or research publications, usually with the consent of the client. Information that might locate the project is normally removed unless otherwise authorised by the client.

Project Name:
Royston Priory
Project Code:
ROY071
Client:
CUAU



DWG 01

Location of Surveyed Area



ArchaeoPhysica Ltd

Orthographic
Centre X: 535742.21 m
Centre Y: 240653.49 m

Scale: 1:500 @ A3
Spatial Units: Meter

File: GIS 1
Printed by:
\\SERVER-1\Canon Bubble-Jet S4500
From
ITHACA on 4/6/2007

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Project Name:
 Royston Priory
 Project Code:
 ROY071
 Client:
 CUAU

Interpretation	
text	Labels
Modern	
	Drive surface
	Drive Extent
Buried Service	
	Line of trench
Tree Throws	
	Possible throws
Gravesoil?	
	Low resistance area
	Extent
Rubble	
	Material
	Extent
Masonry	
	Wall
	Hard edges
Spreads	
	High resistance Extent
	Low resistance Extent
Extant structures	
	Survey Extent

DWG 02

Graphical Interpretation



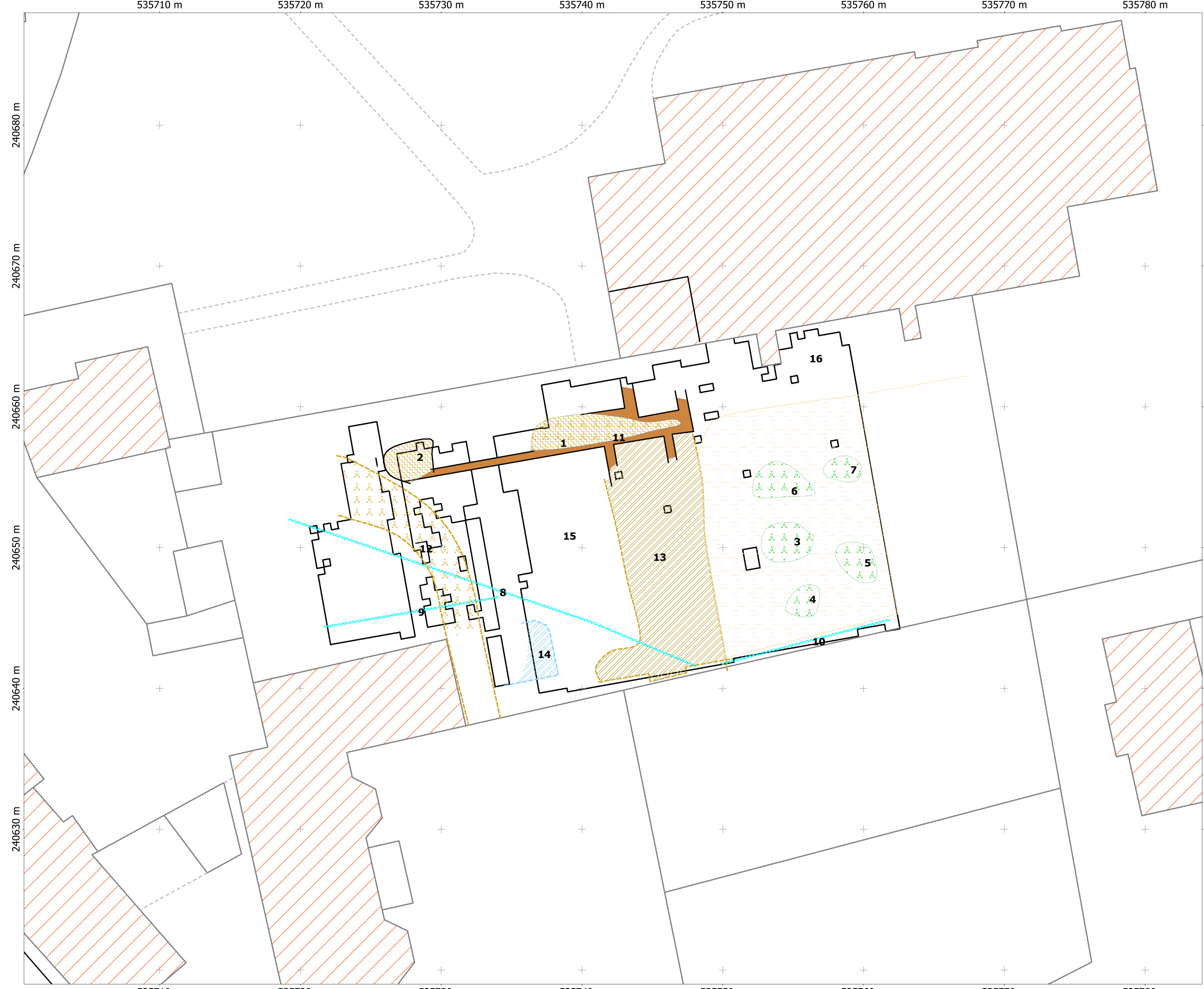
ArchaeoPhysica Ltd

Orthographic
 Centre X: 535742.21 m
 Centre Y: 240653.49 m

Scale: 1:250 @ A3
 Spatial Units: Meter

File: GIS 1
 Printed by:
 \\SERVER-1\Canon Bubble-Jet S4500
 From
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Project Name:
Royston Priory
Project Code:
ROY071
Client:
CUAU

DWG 03
Electrical resistance data after
mild cleaning, plotted:
black = 25 ohms
white = 70 ohms



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Orthographic
Centre X: 535742.21 m
Centre Y: 240653.49 m
Scale: 1:250 @ A3
Spatial Units: Meter
File: GIS 1
Printed by:
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Project Name:
 Royston Priory
 Project Code:
 ROY071
 Client:
 CUAU

Interpretation	
text	Labels
	Modern
	Drive surface
	Drive Extent
	Buried Service
	Line of trench
	Tree Throws
	Possible throws
	Gravesoil?
	Low resistance area
	Extent
	Rubble
	Material
	Extent
	Masonry
	Wall
	Hard edges
	Spreads
	High resistance
	Extent
	Low resistance
	Extent
	Extant structures
	Survey
	Extent

DWG 02

Graphical Interpretation



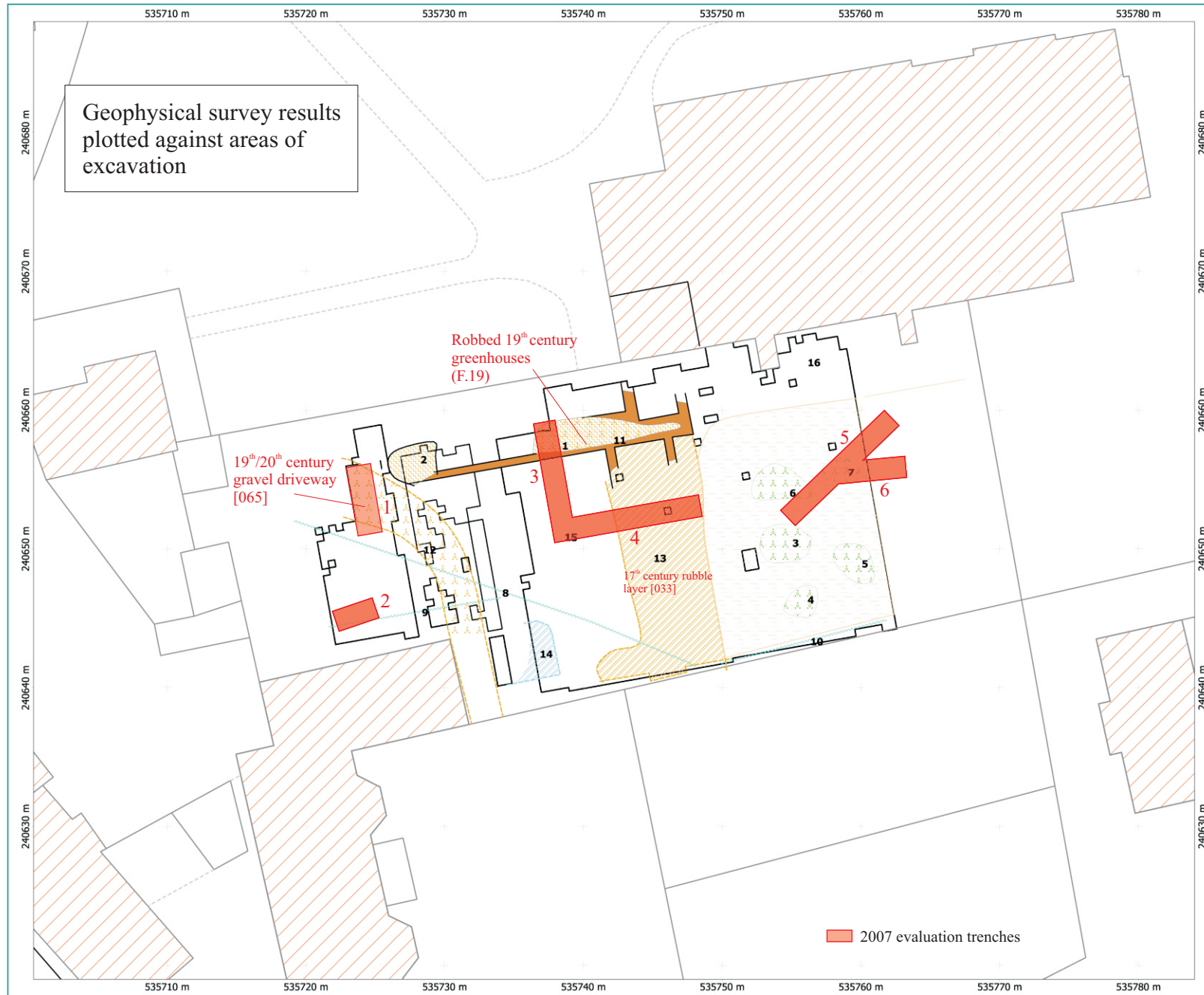
ArchaeoPhysica Ltd

Orthographic
 Centre X: 535742.21 m
 Centre Y: 240653.49 m

Scale: 1:250 @ A3
 Spatial Units: Meter

File: GIS 1
 Printed by:
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Geophysical survey results plotted against areas of excavation

Robbed 19th century greenhouses (F.19)

19th/20th century gravel driveway [065]

17th century rubble layer [033]

2007 evaluation trenches

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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: 3 The Priory, Fish Hill, Royston		
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Royston		Parish: Royston CP
Planning application reference: Not yet assigned		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: NPK Holdings Ltd. 37 Cambridge Place Cambridge CB2 1NS		
Nature of application: Proposed domestic development		
Present land use: Domestic garden		
Size of application area: 989.1m ²		Size of area investigated: 58.85m ²
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3574 4065		
Site code (if applicable): RPG 07		
Site director/Organization: Richard Newman Cambridge Archaeological Unit		
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 21/06/2007	Finish: 13/07/2007
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Currently held at CAU, pending deposition with North Herts		
Related HER No's: 4200, 0569, 12353 and 10954		Periods represented: Medieval Post-Medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports None		
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation consisting of six trenches measuring between 3.0m and 10.2m in length was undertaken on a 989.1m ² area of land near the centre of Royston, Hertfordshire. Numerous features relating to four distinct phases of activity were encountered. The earliest elements in this sequence were associated with an Augustinian priory founded on the site in 1184; remnants of probable claustral structures were identified from this period, along with at least four burials. Following the Dissolution of the priory in 1537, a manor house was established that appears to have reused several of the earlier monastic buildings. Part of its western range and a probable lodge-house were investigated. After the construction of a new timber-framed mansion in the early 17 th century the area was extensively landscaped, before finally being put to horticultural use during the 19 th century.		
Author of summary: Richard Newman		Date of summary: 30/10/2007