

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2012  
issued April 2024**

**Archaeological monitoring at the  
Tithe Barn car park, Tithe Barn and Gatehouse,  
St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex,  
CO16 8NZ: June-July 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/06f  
ECC code: STOSO4**

**Archaeological monitoring at the Tithe Barn car park,  
Tithe Barn and Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury,  
St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8NZ: June-July 2022**

**NGR: TM 12035 15760 (centre)**

**Scheduled Monument number: 1002193  
Previous Scheduled Monument Consent number:  
S00192278**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/06f  
CAT Report 2012**

**ECC code: STOSO4  
OASIS ref.: colchest3-516558**

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**commissioned by Harriet Vincett-Wilson, City & Country  
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<b>Issued:</b>	23/04/2024	

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the Tithe Barn car park, Tithe Barn and Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex, during the excavation of trenches for new services to buildings within the Priory precinct, including the tithe barn car park, tithe barn and the gatehouse. A Scheduled Ancient Monument, St Osyth Priory contains buildings dating from the 12th to the 19th centuries. It was originally established as an Augustinian abbey in the 1120s and then underwent extensive redevelopment as a manor house and country park from the mid-16th century onwards. Groundworks at the site revealed ten medieval or early post-medieval inhumation burials, as well as a pit dating to this same period. A series of structural remains associated with the subsequent redevelopment of the priory as a manor house consisted of four walls (one of which was depicted on an 18th-century map of the estate, and another on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey mapping of the area), three culverts, two foundations, one brick plinth, and one wall or floor. A ditch and a dumped deposit dating to the 20th century were also uncovered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

In June 2018 Scheduled Monument Consent (S00192278) was granted for the excavation of new service trenches to the Tithe Barn car park, the Tithe Barn and the Gatehouse. The site is located within the precinct of St Osyth Priory, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Registered Park and Garden (NHLE 1000237 & 1002193).

In 2022, a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced for archaeological monitoring and excavation/recording during groundworks for the new service trenches. This document was written by Callum Allsop of City & Country. Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was carried out from 29th June to 14th July 2022 by City & Country with archaeologists from Past & Present.

Following completion of the fieldwork and at the request of the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments, the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) was employed to produce a retrospective WSI (CAT 2023) and to compile a report on the results of the monitoring. This work was commissioned by Harriet Vincett-Wilson of City & Country on behalf of St Osyth Priory Estates.

In addition to the WSIs and Scheduled Monument Consent, all reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015);
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022);
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazenbrook 2000; Gurney 2003; Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is Thames group (mainly silty-clays and clays, some sandy or gravelly, with some silts, sands, gravels and calcareous mudstones), with superficial deposits of Kesgrave catchment subgroup (mainly gravels characterised by quartz and quartzite).

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<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?>

The town of St Osyth is recorded as *Cicc* in the Domesday Book of 1086 and is said to have been the location of a 7th-century nunnery founded by Saint Osyth, after whom the modern town is named.

The proposed development site is located within the park at St Osyth Priory, to the west of the centre of the historic town. St Osyth Priory (NHLE 1000237 and 1002193) is a medieval priory founded in the 1120s by Richard de Belmeis, the Bishop of London, as a house for Augustinian Canons. It became an abbey dedicated to Saints Peter, Paul and Osyth some time before 1161. The associated park was most likely incorporated into the priory around 1268, when a charter granted to the abbey bestowed it some hunting rights. The abbey was suppressed and surrendered to the crown in 1539 during the dissolution of the monasteries.

In 1553, Thomas Darcy gained possession of the abbey and was responsible for making many structural changes. Many of the medieval buildings were demolished, including the abbey church, and impressive modifications were made to the remaining buildings to create a substantial residence. New buildings were also constructed, and the formal walled garden established. Over the next 400 years, the priory and park underwent considerable reworking, remodelling and modernisation, and further buildings were added. In the late 19th century gravel extraction began within the park and continued into the 20th century.

The area of the ruins of the priory and garden are scheduled (SAM No. 24, NHLE 1002193 and EHER 4) and the park is a registered (NHLE 1000237). St Osyth Priory and Park contains 22 structures which are listed.

There have been several archaeological investigations on the site, including an evaluation within the current site carried out by Archaeological Solutions in 2016 which revealed a 17th- to 18th-century brick wall as well as numerous large pits of a broadly similar date (Muir 2016).

For a full archaeological background of the site see the desk-based assessment by Archaeological Solutions (Higgs 2017), the original WSI for this project (Allsop 2022) and the historic town assessment report for St Osyth (Medlycott 1999).

#### **4 Aim**

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

#### **5 Results (Figs 2-13)<sup>2</sup>**

All groundworks were carried out by mechanical excavator under the supervision of City & Country and archaeologists from Past & Present. The service trenching was 642.5m long, 0.53-2.9m wide and 0.5-1.57m deep was observed.

Representative sections were taken at various points along the length of service trenching (see Fig 2-13).<sup>3</sup> These revealed the following stratigraphy:

- Rep sx 1: topsoil (1000), 0.22-0.26m thick; subsoil (1001), 0.14-0.18 thick; natural (1002), 0.22-0.26m thick, encountered at a depth of 0.38-0.4m below current ground level (bcgl); a further distinct natural layer (1003) (see context list for layer descriptions).

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<sup>2</sup> The following section is based on the site record provided to CAT by the Past & Present archaeologists who originally carried out the monitoring project. The survey was incomplete, however, and therefore the location and dimensions of a number of contexts are unclear.

<sup>3</sup> No rep sx 6 was taken.

- Rep sx 2: topsoil (1000), 0.18-0.22m thick; made ground (1023), 0.5-0.54m thick; clay layer (1024), excavated to a depth of 0.22m.
- Rep sx 3: made ground (1025), 0.08-0.1m thick; a further distinct layer of made ground (1023), 0.79-0.81m thick (see context list for layer descriptions); clay layer (1024), excavated to a depth of 0.16m.
- Rep sx 4: made ground (1025), 0.17-0.22m thick; clay layer (1024), 0.58-0.6m thick; natural (1003), 0.79-0.8m bcgl.
- Rep sx 5: made ground (1025), 0.1-0.12m thick; made ground (1042), 0.07-0.11m thick; made ground (1043), 0.05-0.11m thick; clay layer (1024), excavated to a depth of 0.51m.
- Rep sx 7: made ground (1025), 0.23-0.24m thick; made ground (1066), 0.53-0.54m thick; natural (1003), 0.78m bcgl.
- Rep sx 8: topsoil (1000), 0.27-0.29 thick; made ground (1067), 0.06-0.1m thick; subsoil (1001), 0.28-0.32m thick; natural (1003), 0.64-0.69m bcgl.
- Rep sx 9: road surface (1068), 0.1-0.11m thick; made ground (1069), 0.17-0.2m thick; demolition layer/made ground (1070), 0.38-0.41m thick; made ground (1071), 0.13-0.15m thick; natural (1003), 0.82-0.83m bcgl.

Two further representative sections were taken but were not surveyed, and so it is not possible to determine their locations. They were:

- Rep sx 10: road surface (1068), 0.12-0.14m thick; road surface (1080), 0.04-0.06m thick; rubble layer (1079), 0.14-0.19m thick; clay layer (1078), excavated to a depth of 0.35m.
- Rep sx 11: topsoil (1000), 0.3-0.32m thick; subsoil (1001), 0.07-0.1m thick; natural (1003), 0.39-0.41m bcgl.



**Photograph 1** Rep sx 1 – looking south-west





**Photograph 2** Rep sx 3 – looking north-east



**Photograph 3** Rep sx 4 – looking south-east



**Photograph 4** Rep sx 5 – looking east





**Photograph 5** Rep sx 6 – looking south-west



**Photograph 6** Rep sx 7 – looking north north-west



**Photograph 7** Rep sx 9 – looking north north-east

Further layers were encountered which were not recorded in the representative sections detailed above but were recorded in feature sections. Where this was the case, the stratigraphy overlying and underlying these features will be described below.

Tree-throw [1007] was observed in section in the western section of foundation trenching. Its fill, [1008], contained one sherd of 18th-19th century pottery.

Wall [1010] extended through the north-western corner of the service trenching on a north-east/south-west alignment. The fill for its construction cut, [1012], produced one sherd of 17th-18th century pottery, one sherd of early 19th-century pottery, one sherd of 20th-century pottery and one fragment of 19th-century clay pipe.



**Photograph 8** [1010] and [1011] – looking north-west

To the east, wall [1013] entered the service trenching from the north on a north north-east/south south-west alignment before turning to the east south-east and passing beyond the limit of excavation. The fill for its construction cut, [1015], yielded one sherd of 17th-19th century pottery and fragments of oyster shell. Immediately adjacent, wall [1016] passed through the trenching on a north-east/south-west alignment.



**Photograph 9** [1013] – looking north north-east





**Photograph 10** [1016] – looking south-east

Undated ditch [1054] passed through a branch of service trenching extending eastwards from the eastern section of the groundworks on a north-south alignment. It was cut by post-medieval/modern brick culvert [1056], which was oriented west north-west/east south-east. Further to the east along this branch of trenching, post-medieval/modern wall [1057] was also uncovered. Still further to the east was post-medieval/modern brick wall [1060].



**Photograph 11** [1054] sx – looking north



**Photograph 12** [1056] – looking west



**Photograph 13** [1057] – looking north-east

Inhumation burials [SK 1029], [SK 1032], [SK 1035], [SK 1038], [SK 1041], [SK 1046], [SK 1049], [SK 1052], [SK 1077] and [SK 1096] were uncovered in the eastern section of the service trenching. They were all oriented east-west. None of the features produced any dating evidence but they were clearly associated with the priory and so dated to the medieval or early post-medieval periods. To the north, the inhumation burials were overlain by made ground (1025) (0.03-0.12m thick), made ground (1042) (up to 0.14m thick), made ground (1043) (up to 0.11m thick) and a rubble layer (1053) (up to 0.1m



thick). Inhumation burials [SK1046], [SK1049] and [SK1052] were uncovered within clay layer (1024) (0.43-0.76m thick), while inhumation burials [SK1029], [SK1032] and [SK1035] were cut into natural (1003) (0.77-0.97m bcgl). The stratigraphy in the area of inhumation burials [SK 1038], [SK 1041], [SK 1077] and [SK 1096] was not recorded.



**Photograph 14** [SK1029] plan – looking south



**Photograph 15** [SK1032] plan – looking east





**Photograph 16** [SK1029] and [SK1049] – looking east



**Photograph 17** [SK1032] and [SK1052] – looking east

Undated ditch [1081] and ditch re-cut [1087] were observed in section in the western part of the service trenching. They were overlain by made ground (1025) (0.07-0.14m thick) and made ground (1086) (0.26-0.36m thick) and were cut into natural (1003) (0.2m bcgl).



**Photograph 18** [1081] sx oblique view – looking south-west

Modern concrete floor [1093] was observed in section in the western part of the groundworks. It was sealed by made ground (1086) (no dimensions recorded) and overlay natural (1003).

Post-medieval/modern brick wall [1088] was observed in section in the western part of the service trenching. It was overlain by made ground (1025) (0.1-0.2m thick) and made ground (1086) (up to 0.14m thick).



**Photograph 19** [1088] – looking west

Pit [1089] was uncovered in the western section of the groundworks. Its fill, [1090], yielded one sherd of medieval/post-medieval ceramic tile, fragments of cattle, horse, sheep or goat, pig, woodmouse and rodent bones, fragments of goose, duck and waterfowl bones, fragments of shad bones, and oyster shell fragments. The pit was overlain by made ground (1086) (no dimensions recorded).

Pit [1091] lay immediately to the east of the abovementioned feature. Its fill, [1092], contained one sherd of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile, two sherds of ?post-medieval/modern peg-tile, one fragment of ?post-medieval slate roof tile, 153 fragments of medieval/post-medieval ceramic tile, fragments of herring bones, and oyster, cockle, periwinkle and barnacle shell fragments. It too was sealed by made ground (1086) (no dimensions recorded).





**Photograph 20** [1089] sx – looking west



**Photograph 21** [1091] – looking east north-east

Ditch [1061] and ditch re-cut [1063] were observed in section in a branch of service trenching extending westwards from the western section of the groundworks. The lower fill of ditch re-cut [1063], [1064], contained one fragment of modern vessel glass, one fragment of modern mirror glass, fragments of cattle, sheep or goat and pig bones, fragments of goose, duck and chicken bones, fragments of Atlantic cod, whiting sole, flatfish, herring, seabass, garfish, mullet, eel and shad bones, and fragments of oyster, cockle, clam, periwinkle and grooved carpet shells.

The following contexts were recorded but were not surveyed: dumped deposit [1009]; brick culvert [1019]; brick plinth [1026]; and wall or floor [1072].

## **6 Finds**

Archaeology.biz specialists were commissioned by City & Country to assess and analyse the artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the monitoring.

## 6.1 Pottery

by Charlotte Britton

### Introduction

A total of 12 sherds of pottery (weighing 694.1g) were recovered during the investigation. The pottery assemblage recovered contained material that dated from the Romano-British (one sherd) and late post-medieval periods.

### Methods

The pottery was recorded and assessed in accordance with national guidelines (ClfA 2020; Barclay *et al* 2016) and with reference to the East of England Regional Research Framework (2023).

All the pottery was examined visually (by eye), was quantified by count and weight, with forms, decoration, maker's marks and dates being identified where possible. The assemblage included material dating from the Romano-British (one sherd) and post-medieval periods, and both nationally distributed wares, and regional products were identified (Table 1).

### Results

#### **Roman pottery**

A single sherd (weighing 12.4g) of probable Romano-British greyware was recovered from clay layer (1024). It could not be assigned a national fabric code or form, but it was probably produced within the local region.

#### **Post-medieval pottery**

A total of 11 sherds (weighing 681.7g) of post-medieval pottery was recovered, representing a maximum of nine individual vessels that were mostly in excellent condition. The pottery was British in origin, with some being produced in the local region. Some examples were produced in the Midlands, and one example was probably produced in Yorkshire. The wares identified were typical of the period and region, and encompassed utilitarian, horticultural and table-wares.

The utilitarian wares present in the assemblage represented the earliest material and included English redware, green glazed earthenware and stoneware. Dating to between the 17th-19th centuries, these were probably all produced within the local region. Due to the fragmentary nature of the material, forms were difficult to discern, although a stoneware bottle was identified. Decoration and surface treatments were typical of the wares, and included brown, green and salt glazes.

The single sherd (130.1g) of horticultural ware recovered came from dumped deposit [1009] and represented a thick-walled plant pot dating to the 20th century.

The table wares present in the assemblage consisted of material dating from the late 18th-20th century and included Beryl ware, Rockingham ware, transfer-printed ware and decorated whiteware. The decorations and surface treatments were typical of the wares, and included blue and brown glazes, blue and white transfer-printed patterns, and applied/sprigged decoration. Due to the fragmentary nature of the assemblage forms were difficult to discern, although one bowl, two plates and two teapots were identified. While common to the area, it is probable that these primarily derived from production centres located in Staffordshire. For instance, a transfer-printed bowl recovered from fill of brick wall cut [1012] displayed a maker's mark inside a diamond border reading 'K E & Co', suggesting that it was produced by Knight, Elkin and Company, a production centre located at The Foley Potteries in Stoke-on-Trent during 1826-47 (Cushion 1980, 132; Godden 2012, 152; The Potteries 2016a). In addition, Beryl ware was primarily produced

by Wood and Sons Ltd, located in Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent (The Potteries 2016b) and the iris-coloured examples, such as the one recovered from St Osyth Priory, maintained their popularity throughout the 20th century following their introduction around 1940. The Rockingham ware style teapot spout represented another regional import, although rather than being produced in the Midlands, it was probably manufactured in Yorkshire. The creamware fabric was decorated with a characteristic brown treacle-like glaze and was most likely produced at Swinton pottery, located near Rotherham. Although eventually produced across the country, this ware was synonymous with Swinton pottery from its creation c 1785 until the production centre's closure in the late 19th century (Lawrence 1974, 81-95). Finally, the additional decorated whiteware and transfer-printed sherd displaying the common blue Willow pattern may also have been produced in Staffordshire or at more local production centres. Due the widespread use of these decorations, however, it is impossible to identify a producer without a maker's mark.

broad period	ware	period	count	weight (g)
Roman?	Reduced ware?	Roman?	1	12.4
post-medieval	Beryl ware	1940+	1	22.2
	Green glazed earthenware	17th-19th century	1	150
	Horticultural ware	20th century+	1	130.1
	Painted/decorated whiteware	19th-20th century	3	35.9
	Redware - English	17th-18th century	1	28.7
	Rockingham ware	1785-1843	1	63.8
	Stoneware	18th-19th century	1	217.3
	Transfer-printed ware	19th-20th century	2	33.7
total			12	694.1

**Table 1** Pottery by period, with count and weight

## Discussion

### ***Roman pottery***

The single sherd of probable Romano-British pottery was connected to the cooking, storage and preparation of foodstuffs. However, as it was the only sherd recovered, it has very little potential to tell us about the people that may have inhabited the site during the period, beyond evidencing their presence (Allsop 2022c, 7).

### ***Post-medieval pottery***

The post-medieval pottery assemblage included utilitarian, horticultural and table wares, but was limited. The assemblage therefore has low potential to tell us about the people that inhabited the site during the late post-medieval period, beyond indicating domestic activity on or around the site during this time. Moreover, most of the assemblage was recovered from unstratified layers or disturbed fills, indicating that the material was probably mostly residual, giving it little potential to aid in the dating of features excavated, or the site itself (Table 2).

The assemblage was connected to the preparation, presentation and consumption of foodstuffs, and given the small size of the assemblage recovered, it is difficult to hypothesize about the exact nature and function of the site, or the status of the individuals who lived there. However, the commonality of the wares, forms and decorations identified, intimated that the assemblage was probably serving a simple domestic community.

Most of the material was probably made at production centres located in the Midlands and such material would be expected in a post-medieval domestic assemblage originating from the south-east of England, due to the prolific nature of the production sites located in Staffordshire during this period. One example was also probably



produced in Yorkshire and, again, this fits well into the established late post-medieval ceramic tradition, with material produced there being distributed throughout the country. Although limited, this assemblage evidences the implication of the St Osyth Priory site within national trading networks.

The remainder of the post-medieval assemblage consisted of additional table- and utilitarian wares that likely originated from local production sites, although may have also derived from those operating in the south-west; without maker's marks this is impossible to fully ascertain. Again, these wares were typical of the period and region.

The assemblage dated from between the 17th-20th century indicating that the area around the site saw domestic occupation during this time. The material was therefore probably related to the post-medieval dwellings that were located on site such as Darcy House or Bailiffs cottage (Allsop 2022c, 8) or alternatively the material may have been redeposited at the site from the local village or settlement.

context	1008		1009		1012		1015		1023		1024		total count	total weight (g)
ware	count	weight (g)	count	weight (g)	count	weight (g)	count	weight (g)	count	weight (g)	count	weight (g)		
Beryl ware					1	22							1	22.2
Green glazed earthenware							1	150					1	150
Horticultural ware			1	130.1									1	130.1
Painted whiteware									3	36			3	35.9
Reduced ware?											1	12	1	12.4
Redware - English					1	29							1	28.7
Rockingham ware									1	64			1	63.8
Stoneware	1	217.3											1	217.3
Transfer-printed ware			1	11.5	1	22							2	33.7
total	1	217.3	2	141.6	3	73	1	150	4	100	1	12	12	694.1

**Table 2** Pottery by context with count and weight

## 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Dr Elizabeth Foulds

### Introduction

The finds assemblage from the watching brief consists of 200 fragments, most of which were ceramic, although there were a few fragments of other materials. Datable finds were primarily post-medieval or modern in date. This report includes identification of all artefacts where possible, discussion of findings, an assessment of significance and recommendations for further work.

### Methods

The specialist finds recording and reporting was completed in accordance with the national finds standards and guidance (English Heritage 2008; ClfA 2020b; 2021a; 2021b; Higgins 2017; Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group 2002; Dungworth & Wilkes 2007; Dungworth 2015).

Where possible, all objects were identified by material and type using the FISH Thesaurus for materials, archaeological objects and periods and the ClfA (2021b) Toolkit for Material Reporting as appropriate. All objects and fragments were described, counted, weighed and recorded in a single data table. The iron was x-rayed in advance of identification (Fell *et al* 2006) and measurements were taken directly from the x-ray plate where possible. Iron nail count is based on extant nail heads, which is reported

separately from the assemblage fragment count. All other nail fragments were counted and weighed. Complete nail length was recorded where possible. Additional data specific to clay pipe was recorded separately. Finds were identified using appropriate comparative excavation reports, finds syntheses and typologies as noted throughout the report.

The report was prepared with support from two project written scheme of investigations (Allsop 2022a; Allsop 2022c), desk-based assessment (Higgs 2017), and a context list. Throughout the report, references to specific fragments are made using the find identification number (prefixed 'ID'). This report is accompanied by a data spreadsheet, which contains all raw data and metadata.

## Results

In total, the assemblage consists of 200 fragments (2971.1g) that were recovered during the watching briefs at St Osyth Priory, Essex (Table 1). The assemblage includes those that were hand-collected on site, as well as those that were extracted from the environmental soil sample processing (noted in the spreadsheet). Ceramic fragments make up the largest proportion of the assemblage, with small quantities of other materials. Overall, the assemblage is considered to be in fair condition (85%), with 14% described as being in good condition, and 1% in poor condition. In general, the finds reflect activity dating from the medieval to post-medieval period with a small amount of modern material. The following sections provide an overview of the assemblage by material, followed by a summary of the finds by area.

Category	Material	Object Type	Count	Weight (g)
Small finds	Iron	-	9	607.9
	Glass	-	1	0.1
	Plastic	-	1	0.2
	Ceramic	Clay pipe	3	6.1
Building materials	Flint	-	1	62.1
	Mortar	-	-	589.0
	Slate	-	3	404.7
	Ceramic	Building material	180	1297.75
Industrial	Industrial debris	-	2	3.3
Total			200	2971.08

**Table 3** Summary of assemblage by material

## Small finds

### Iron

In total there were nine fragments of iron. Most were in good condition (67%), while 22% (n=2) were in fair condition, and one object was in poor condition. Although many were in good condition, some of the objects were covered in thick layers of iron corrosion. The fragment described as being in poor condition due to deterioration when handled.

Identifiable artefacts include a small range of objects. Nails were represented by up to five fragments, with a minimum of three nails represented by nail heads. Nail head shape could only be observed on ID 23, which has a flat circular head. Nail shaft cross-section could only be observed in two instances. ID 24 had a circular cross-section, which dates it to the late 19th century onwards (Adams 2002; Noël Hume 1961; Wells 1998). ID 23 has a square cross-section, which is very common for nails up until the late 19th century or early 20th century.

ID 22 was a complete bolt with intact washer and nut. It is likely modern in date.

### **Ceramic**

There are three fragments from clay smoking pipes (ID 6–7). All are from the stem of the pipe. The size, shape, and quality of the stem fragments suggest that they likely date to the 19th century.

### **Glass**

ID 19 is a tiny fragment of blue material that may be glass. It was recovered from environmental soil sample no. 1. It is not datable.

### **Plastic**

ID 17 is a small fragment of opaque black plastic recovered from environmental soil sample no. 1. It is modern in date.

## **Building materials**

### **Ceramic**

Ceramic building material is the most numerous object type in the assemblage. Identifiable fragments can be identified as roof tiles, floor or wall tile, and indeterminate tile fragments.

Nine fragments of tile are identified as roof tiles (IDs 1–4, 13, 15, 29). Six different fabric types are present (Table 2), and the thickness varies from 11.1mm to 15.0mm. The assemblage includes at least four peg-tiles (IDs 1–3, 13), which were identified by the peg-holes in the tiles. ID 2 is a peg-tile with two peg-holes along the top edge and measures 12.2mm thick. ID 1 only has one peg-hole remaining, but it is a thicker variety (15.0mm), has a dribble of glaze on the underside, and is over-fired.

Peg-tiles generally date from the medieval to early post-medieval period (Drury 1993). They were widely used by the mid-13th and 14th centuries and largely fell out of use around the 16th and 17th centuries as pan-tiles grew in popularity (Drury 1981; 1993; Lewis 1987; McComish 2015). ID 3 is a peg-tile with a mould formed nib, which do occur in the medieval period as well, but the very refined fabric and style of nib suggests it may be of a later date. Other fragments of tile are also likely to be from roofing material, but they lack diagnostic characteristics to identify them with certainty.

Fabric no.	Description
1	Oxidised surfaces, sandy fabric with organic inclusions
2	Oxidised surfaces, reduced core, fine fabric
3	Oxidised surfaces, oxidised core, fine fabric
4	Oxidised surfaces, reduced core, sandy fabric
5	Sandy fabric with larger quartz inclusions (oxidised/reduced uncertain)
6	Oxidised surfaces, oxidised core, sandy fabric with angular inclusions
7	Oxidised surfaces, oxidised core, refined fabric

**Table 4** Roof tile fabric descriptions

The remaining tile/building material fragments (IDs 11–12, 14–15) are not closely identifiable due to their small size and lack of features. It is possible that many are additional fragments of the roof tiles already discussed.

### **Flint**

ID 8 is a fragment of flint measuring 88mm long, 50mm wide, and 13mm thick. It has mortar adhering on both surfaces and was likely used in the construction of a building. It may be medieval or post-medieval in date.

### **Mortar**

Fragments of mortar weighing 589g in total were recovered. Some have flat surfaces.

### **Slate**

Three fragments of slate are present in the assemblage. ID 9 is a roofing tile fragment and consists of a larger shaped fragment with a bevelled edge and many smaller fragments of a similar colour and condition. The large fragment has mortar adhering to its surfaces. ID 5 consists of two fragments found together, in good condition, but does not retain any features. It was likely also used as a roofing tile. Slate roofing tiles were used in the medieval period, but their use was primarily restricted to regions near to slate quarries due to high transport costs (Lewis 1987). This situation changed in the post-medieval period and consequently many slate roofs date between the mid-18th century and the 19th century. It is not clear whether these slate fragments relate to medieval or post-medieval structures, however.

### **Industrial debris**

The industrial debris was very limited. ID 18 consists of two fragments of highly vitrified material but of uncertain origin. It is possible that it is connected with some high temperature activity, or glass that has sustained fire damage.

Hammerscale was present in the magnetic material that was collected from sample no. 1 (Context 1064) and sample no. 2 (Context 1090). Hammerscale (micro-slag) forms during iron smelting and smithing processes (Dungworth and Wilkes 2007; Dungworth 2015).

### **Assemblage by context**

#### ***Tithe Barn car park (S352-A)***

All of the assemblage came from the machine watching in this area (Table 3). Most finds came from the fill (1092) of pit [1091]. This deposit includes fragments of peg-tiles dated from the medieval to early post-medieval period, as well as a fragment of slate roofing tile, mortar, and a wire nail (late post-medieval to modern).

Context	Material	Object	Period	Count	Weight (g)
1002	Flint	Brick	Medieval–post-medieval?	1	62.1
1012	Ceramic	Clay pipe (Smoking)	Post medieval	1	1.3
	Iron	Nail?	Uncertain	1	3.82
1023	Ceramic	Clay pipe (smoking)	Post medieval	2	4.8
		Roof tile	Medieval–early post-medieval	2	126.3
	Iron	Unknown	Uncertain	1	32.52
1024	Ceramic	Peg tile	Medieval–early post-medieval	2	230
	Slate	Roof tile?	Post medieval?	2	110.7
1064	Glass?	Unknown	Uncertain	1	0.06
	Industrial debris	-	Uncertain		
	Plastic	Unknown	Modern	1	0.18
1067	Iron	Bolt (fastening)	Modern	3	456.54
		Nail	Uncertain	1	13.92
1070	Iron	Nail	Uncertain	1	22.59
1079	Iron	Nail?	Uncertain	1	5.26
1090	Ceramic	Roof tile?	Medieval–early post-medieval	1	6.1

		Unknown	Uncertain	10	5.6
	Industrial debris	-	Uncertain		
	Industrial debris?	-	Uncertain	2	3.33
1092	Ceramic	Peg tile	Medieval–early post-medieval	2	232.22
		Roof tile	Medieval–early post-medieval	1	15.9
		Tile	Medieval–early post-medieval	152	193.13
		Peg-tile (with nib)	?Post-medieval–modern	1	60.4
	Iron	Nail	Post-medieval–modern	1	73.21
	Mortar	-	Uncertain	-	589
	Slate	Roof tile	?Post-medieval	1	294
Total				191	2542.98

**Table 5** Summary of assemblage by context and period

### Discussion

Most of the assemblage presented in this report represents building material, which likely related to structures past and/or present on the St Osyth Priory Estate. Potential medieval roof tiles included peg-tiles, a type that started being produced in the mid-13th to 14th century and continued to be used into the 16th-17th centuries (early post-medieval period). The 16th century witnessed many changes and renovations to the existing buildings at the St Osyth Priory Estate (Higgs 2017) and previous excavations revealed a post-medieval peg-tile kiln (McCall 2008; Kiln M1077), likely for local use.

The remaining finds consist of iron nails, a small quantity of what may be industrial waste, a modern bolt, fragments of clay pipe stem. These are less valuable in terms of archaeological significance and potential for further work.

## 6.3 Glass

*by Kim Devereux-West and Dr Elizabeth Foulds*

### Introduction

The assemblage consisted of 30 fragments (2.9kg) of glass that were hand collected on site. All were broadly attributed to the post-medieval and modern periods. This report includes identification of all artefacts where possible, discussion of the findings, an assessment of significance and recommendations for further work.

### Methods

The specialist finds recording and reporting was completed in accordance with the national standards and guidance (English Heritage 2008, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2020a; CIfA 2021a), and with reference to the East of England Research Framework. All fragments have been recorded using a data table specific to vessel and window glass. All objects and fragments were described, counted, weighed and recorded.

### Results

In total, 30 fragments (2.9kg) were submitted for assessment (Table 6). The assemblage primarily comprised of vessel fragments, but there was also a single fragment from a mirror. All the fragments dated broadly to the post-medieval and modern periods. In general, the condition of the assemblage was good (97%) with only one fragment in fair



condition. Most fragments exhibited light weathering (90%), while two had moderate levels of weathering (7%), and one fragment had no weathering.

Category	Count	Weight (g)
Mirror	1	0.17
Vessel	29	2912.80
Total	30	2912.97

**Table 6** Summary of glass fragments

### Vessels

Most of the assemblage consists of fragments of vessel glass, in the form of bottles (Table 7). This includes bottle fragments of the following types: wine, soda, sauce, apothecary, and an ink bottle.

Functional category	Form	Count	Weight (g)
Tableware	Beaker	1	96.60
Storage	Bottle	17	2743.29
	Jar	1	63.30
Unidentified	Unidentified	10	9.61
Total		29	2912.80

**Table 7** Summary of vessel assemblage by form

There are eight fragments of dark green cylindrical wine bottle in the assemblage (IDs 7–13, 16). This form of wine bottle was hand blown and started to be produced around 1735 (Dumbrell 1983). This form has been continuously produced since this time, although the manufacturing process changed as moulds started to be used from around 1810 (although the rim was still finished by hand [*ibid*]). From c 1900 wine bottles could be made completely by machine (*ibid*). The date of the wine bottles can be established from different characteristics on the base, neck, rim, and mould seams found on the body. The base/body fragments (IDs 7–10) exhibit deep, domed kick-ups, that have been formed by pushing in one end of the blown cylinder. The fragments with rims have been hand finished in slightly different ways, but are all variants on the lip and collar design. ID 12 has a flared rim formed from the neck of the bottle with an applied deflexed lip. ID 13 has a double ring rim and ID 16 has a double oil/mineral rim. The base fragments are likely to be the earliest examples of wine bottles in this assemblage and may date to as early as 1735 (*ibid*). ID 7 likely dates to between 1735 and 1830 (*ibid*). The other base fragments may be as late as 1890 (*ibid*). Rim form changes more frequently over the 18th and 19th centuries, which allows these fragments to be dated more precisely. ID 16 likely dates to between 1750 and 1850, ID 12 dates between 1780 and 1820, and ID 13 dates to between 1880 and 1900 (*ibid*).

There are three fragments of light green soda/water bottles in the assemblage (IDs 4, 17, 19). ID 4 is an almost complete example of a cylindrical mould-made bottle, dated 1810–1910, with seam lines around the shoulder and down the body (Fletcher 1974). This bottle is embossed '751', with short horizontal line underneath the 5, on the base. This is likely a maker's mark or manufacturing/design code. ID 19 is an applied rim of the oil/mineral type, dated 1800 onwards (Society for Historical Archaeology [SHA] 2023a). ID 17 is a near complete mould-made Codd bottle missing the upper part of the neck and the rim. This type of bottle started to be used from the 1870s for carbonated drinks (Fletcher 1974). The distinctive neck shape was designed to catch the glass marble that was used as a stopper. They remained a popular type of bottle until the 1920s, when they were largely replaced by the modern machine-made crown cap bottle (*ibid*). ID 17 is embossed with 'THE CLACTON MINERAL WATER Co'. The Clacton Mineral Water

Company was in operation between 1904 and 1932 and the name suggests it was local to the site (The National Archives 2023).

The assemblage contains a complete, light green sauce bottle (ID 6) dated 1875 onwards (Hedges 2000). The bottle is of a mould made cylindrical shape, with an applied finish that has been slightly squared off. The base is embossed 'L&T' which is likely a maker's mark.

There are four fragments of apothecary bottles in the assemblage which date from the late post-medieval to the modern period (IDs 3, 5, 23, 24). ID 3 is a complete narrow, colourless cylindrical bottle that has been machine-made and has a suction mark on the base, which dates from 1875 onwards (*ibid*). IDs 23 and 24 are complete bottles of similar designs: cylindrical bodies, colourless, and mould-made with applied, flat rims. ID 23 is embossed 'D' on the base and ID 24 is embossed '2665' which are likely maker's marks or manufacturing/design codes. These bottles likely date to the late 19th or early 20th centuries (SHA 2023b). ID 5 is a rectangular, light blue machine-made bottle, likely to be modern in date (Fletcher 1974). This bottle is embossed '...POONS' with horizontal dashes at regular intervals on the front. This is likely the remains of the word teaspoons or tablespoons, with the dashes representing the corresponding measurement of the contents. The base is embossed with a simplified square and compass type symbol with an 'F' in the centre, which is likely a maker's mark.

There is one fragment of a light green ink well dating to the 19th century (ID 22; Beck 1974; Fletcher 1976). This vessel is mould-made with a sheared lip. When complete the vessel would have been square/rectangular in shape. The groove on the shoulder is typical of this design of ink well and acts as a pen rest.

Other vessel forms included a jar lid (ID 20) and a possible beaker (ID 21). The jar lid is embossed 'CANNINGTON SHAW & CO ST HELENS', which can be dated 1875-1913. Lockhart *et al* suggest this lid type was glued onto the top of a cork and was likely an early closure design (2014).

### **Mirror**

There is a very small fragment of colourless glass with a silvered backing identified as a mirror (ID 1). Metal-backed glass is known from as early as the Roman period and silvered mirrors are known from the medieval period, but manufacturing changes in the 19th century meant that glass mirrors became more widely available (Melchior-Bonnet 2001). This fragment likely dates from around the mid-19th century onwards, but due to its small size no features can be seen.

### **Assemblage by context**

The glass assemblage for the site was recovered from four discrete contexts: 1000, 1009, 1064 and 1067.

A single, complete, machine-made apothecary bottle was recovered from topsoil (context 1000), which was dated to 1875 onwards.

A total of 16 fragments of glass were recovered from context 1009, which is noted as a representative sample of the types observed on site. This includes all eight of the identifiable wine bottle fragments, plus eight fragments which were unidentified, but likely also pieces of wine bottles. The identifiable wine bottle forms suggest a date for deposition for this context between 1735 and 1900. Pottery was also recovered from this context (see Britton 2023). The context record for 1009 suggest this was purposefully dumped material, with frequent glass finds. Given that all the fragments from this context are likely wine bottles, from a similarly dated period, it supports the suggestion of a material dump. This could have been a single action, or multiple, closely dated actions.

Three very small fragments of glass were recovered from context 1064 via sample processing. The only datable fragment from this context is the mirror, which is dated to the mid-19th century onwards. This context is recorded as the lower fill of re-cut ditch 1063, which also contained a large amount of animal bone and shell. A small amount of industrial debris and plastic were also recovered from this context.

A total of 10 fragments were recovered from context 1067. This context produced the widest variety of vessel types, including a range of bottles, a jar and a possible beaker. The bottle types recovered from this context are soda, apothecary, sauce and ink. As a group these vessels dated from 1800-1932. The most accurately datable vessels were the jar lid (ID 20) dated 1875 to 1913 and the Codd bottle (ID 17) dated 1904 to 1932. This suggests that the date for this context is likely early 20th century. This context also contained animal bone, shell and iron. Context 1067 is recorded as made ground, spread below the topsoil (c 0.08m thick), along the back of a barn. The variety and date of the glass from this context support the suggestion that this context is modern made ground.

Overall, the contexts containing glass from this site date from the late post-medieval to modern periods. Based on forms alone, context 1009 is likely of late post-medieval date and therefore the oldest context. Contexts 1000, 1064 and 1067 all suggest dates from the mid-late 19th century onwards.

### **Discussion and statement of significance**

Glass has a long history in Britain, with the earliest glass objects dating to the Bronze and Iron Ages. The earliest glass objects were beads, although by the Late Iron Age a small number of other types of glass objects were used. The Roman period saw the introduction of vessel glass and glass panes used for windows, as well as additional types of small portable objects. Glass continued in use during the medieval period. The glass industry grew extensively in the post-medieval period and after the mechanisation of glass working in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Glass fragments can be common finds on archaeological excavations, especially reflecting post-medieval and modern activity. This assemblage is indicative of both periods with no evidence for previous activity at the site present. The glass finds attest to drinking (wine and soda/water bottles), writing (ink bottle) and medicine use (apothecary bottles) at the site during the late post-medieval and modern periods, or could potentially represent material brought in with levelling material during site development in the 19th and 20th centuries. The finds discussed in this report provide limited insight into past activity in the area of investigation.

## **6.4 Animal bone and shell**

*by Marina Chorro-Giner*

### **Introduction**

Animal remains of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, marine molluscs, and crustaceans (1679 fragments) were recovered via hand collection and from bulk environmental samples taken during the watching brief. This assessment includes quantification of the animal bone and marine shell assemblages recovered with identification at species level where possible, an assessment of significance and recommendation(s) for any further work.

### **Methods**

The animal remains were identified to element, side and to as low a taxonomic level as possible using the archaeology.biz reference collection and published and online identification guides (Cohen & Serjeantson 1996; Hillson 2003; 2005). Quantification for mammal remains used the diagnostic zone method as presented by Dobney & Rielly (1988), with bird remains quantified using the method presented by Cohen & Serjeantson (1996). Fish remains were identified to element, side and to as low a taxonomic level as

possible using the archaeology.biz reference collection and identification guides (Archaeological Fish Resource; Camphuysen & Henderson 2017). Marine mollusc remains were identified using the archaeology.biz reference collection and published identification guides (Hayward & Ryland 1995). Quantification was by fragment and minimum number of valves (MNV) or individuals (MNI), by umbo or apex count.

A taphonomic assessment of each fragment was undertaken, recording the presence and absence of butchery (specified as cut, chop and/or saw marks), burning and calcination, any evidence for animal activity (canid or rodent gnawing), any abnormal features or bone formation (pathology and non-metric traits), and surface preservation; any other surface modifications of note were also recorded. At this stage, no attempt was made to sex any of the remains, or to measure any elements. Sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*) distinctions were also not considered. Fragments of bones that could be identified to element but not any specific species were grouped as far as possible using size and class or order categories. For animal bone recovered from bulk environmental samples, only specimens that could be identified to genus or species, or those that presented with evidence for butchery or burning/calcination were recorded.

This assessment has been undertaken in line with published standards and guidelines (Baker & Worley 2019; Campbell *et al* 2011; ClfA 2014; Winder 2015).

## Results

In total, 1,679 fragments of animal bone and shell were recovered (Table 8). The assemblages were recovered via hand-collection (n=416) and from the heavy fraction/retent of three bulk environmental samples (n=1263). Mammals formed the majority of the assemblages (56.1% of the assemblage, n=942 by count), followed by shells (32.3% of the assemblage, n=543 by count). The amphibian remains were all consistent with animals from the order Anura (frogs and toads), but no specific identifications could be made, and the same applies to the microfauna remains, both of which will not be discussed further.

Context	Mammal	Bird	Fish	Shell	Amphibians	Microfauna	Total
1000	1						1
1002	1						1
1009	6						6
1012	1						1
1015				6			6
1023	40	4	2	20			66
1024	13						13
1064	23	30	112	326	8		499
1067	43			1			44
1078	165	9	2	16			192
1079	41	3					44
1090	588	14	3	135		4	744
1092	11		3	39			53
1067	9						9
Total	942	60	122	543	8	4	1679

**Table 8** Summary of animal and shell remains

Mammal remains (942 fragments) were recovered from twelve contexts (Table 9). Identified mammal remains included equid (*Equus* sp. – horse/donkey/mule), domestic cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries*/*Capra hircus*), domestic pig (*Sus domesticus*), dog family remains (Canidae – dog/fox, *Canis familiaris*/*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europaeus*), European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and wood mouse



(*Apodemus sylvaticus*). Most of the remains were identified within size categories at clade (ungulate) or class (mammal) level (86.5% by count, n=815). Only 36.7% of the material was hand collected (n=346 by count), while the majority was recovered from bulk environmental samples (63.3%, n=596 by count), especially Sample 2, which contained 60.3% of the overall mammal bone assemblage from the Site (n=568 by count).

Context	Sample	Mammals									Ungulate		Mammal				Total
		Cattle	Equid	Sheep /goat	Pig	Dog family	Hare	Rabbit	Wood mouse	Rodent	Large	Small	Large	Medium /large	Medium	Medium /small	
1000	HC														1		1
1002	HC												1				1
1009	HC							1					4	1			6
1012	HC			1													1
1023	HC	3	1	4	2	1							9	3	17		40
1024	HC	2		2	1						1		6		1		13
1064	HC	4			2												6
	1			1									7		9		17
1067	HC	7	5	2	16						10	2	1	9			52
1078	HC	6		26	11		1				21	12	23	2	59	4	165
1079	HC	10		6									13	3	9		41
1090	HC	2		1	2								15				20
	2	1	2	1	1				1	1			96	422	20	23	568
1092	3													5	6		11
	Total	35	8	44	35	1	1	1	1	1	32	14	175	445	122	27	942

**Table 9** Summary of mammal remains

Birds were also recovered during the watching brief (Table 10). The bird remains came from five contexts and most of the material was recovered from two bulk environmental samples (70%, n=42 by count), while 30% was hand collected (n=18 by count). Goose (*Anser domesticus*), duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), chicken (*Gallus gallus domesticus*), and woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) were identified within the assemblage. Around half of the bird remains could not be identified to species level but were identified at clade (landfowl/ waterfowl/shore birds) level and within size categories at class (bird) level (55% by count, n=33). Overall, the best represented bird was goose, followed by chicken.

Context	Sample	Waterfowl				Landfowl		Shore birds		Bird			Total
		Goose	cf. Goose	Duck	Waterfowl	Chicken	Landfowl	Woodcock	Shore birds	Large	Medium /large	Medium	
1023	HC		1			2		1					4
1064	HC	2											2
	1	6		2		3			1	2	7	7	28
1078	HC	5	1		3								9
1079	HC					1	2						3
1090	2	2		1	1					2		8	14
	Total	15	2	3	4	6	2	1	1	4	7	15	60

**Table 10** Summary of bird remains

Fish were recovered mostly from bulk environmental samples (96.7% by count, n=118), but some remains were also hand collected (3.3% by count, n=4), Table 11. The remains come from five different contexts, including three bulk environmental samples. The identified species included marine and migratory fish: Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*), sole (*Solea solea*), right-eyed flatfish (Pleuronectidae – in this instance common dab/European flounder/European plaice, *Limanda limanda*/Platichthys flesus/Pleuronectes platessa), Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*), seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), garfish (*Belone belone*), thin-lipped mullet (*Chelon ramada*), European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and shad (*Alosa* sp.). In the case of fish, most of the remains were identifiable to species or genus level (70.5% by count, n=86), while

the rest were identifiable to family (Clupeidae /Pleuronectidae) or order level (Gadiformes/ Pleuronectiformes), apart from 19 remains that could only be identified as 'fish'.

Context	Sample	Marine											Migratory		Unidentified	Total
		Codfish			Flatfish			Herring family		Other marine fish						
		Atlantic cod	Whiting	Cod order	Common sole	Right-eyed flatfish	Flatfish	Atlantic herring	Herring family	Seabass	Garfish	Thin-lipped mullet	European eel	Shad		
1023	HC													2	2	
1064	1	7	1		3	1	13	13		2	8	2	42	6	14	112
1078	HC													2	2	
1090	2			1										2		3
1092	3								2						1	3
Total		7	1	1	3	1	13	13	2	2	8	2	42	8	19	122

**Table 11** Summary of fish remains

Finally, only marine species of molluscs and crustaceans were recovered from the watching brief at St Osyth Priory (Table 12). As previously stated, they are the second most common group within the assemblage after mammals, representing 32.3% of the assemblage (n=543 by count). They were recovered from seven contexts and via hand collection and from all three bulk environmental samples. Most of the material comes from bulk environmental samples (91.2% by count, n=495), while the rest was hand collected (8.8% by count, n=48). Identified species included Edible/European oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), edible/common cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*), grooved carpet shell (*Ruditapes decussatus*), venus clams (Veneridae), common periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*) and barnacles (Cirripedia).

Context	Sample	Bivalves					Gastropods	Crustaceans	Total
		Edible oyster	Common cockle	Grooved carpet shell	Venus clams	Unidentified bivalve	Common periwinkle	Barnacles	
1015	HC	6							6
1023	HC	20							20
1064	HC	5							5
	1	310	2	6	2		1		321
1067	HC	1							1
1078	HC	16							16
1090	2	135							135
1092	3	3	30	1		3	1	1	39
Total		496	32	7	2	3	2	1	543

**Table 12** Summary of marine mollusc and crustacean remains

### Taphonomic assessment

#### **Bone surface preservation and fragmentation**

Bone surface preservation varied throughout the assemblage from 'excellent' to 'very poor' (categories 1-5). Most of the specimens displayed 'poor' surface preservation (61.4% by count, n=1031), followed by those with 'moderate' surface preservation (26.1% by count, n=438), and 'very poor' surface preservation (9.6% by count, n=162). Fragmentation was high throughout the assemblage with many partial bones and teeth recovered and some re-fitting fragments of single specimens.

#### **Butchery**

Evidence for butchery in the form of fine cut marks, more substantial chop marks and saw marks was recorded on 43 specimens throughout the assemblage, Table 13. A sheep/goat tibia from context 1078 and a large mammal long bone shaft from context 1009 provided the only evidence of saw marks recorded. The butcher's saw started being used consistently in Britain during the mid-18th century (e.g., Cameron *et al* 2019), as

such these element are likely to date from the late post-medieval period. Identified elements presenting butchery marks included mandibles, humeri, radii, metacarpals, pelvis, femora, tibiae, phalanges, ribs, vertebrae, and long bone shafts. The butchered species included the main domesticates (cattle, equid, sheep/goat and pig), as well as some birds (goose and chicken) and fish (cod), other remains identified as large ungulate, large mammal and medium mammals were also butchered. These elements likely represent the main domesticates (cattle and equid for the large ungulate and large mammal categories and sheep/goat and pig for the medium mammal category). Area wide, evidence for carcass processing was moderate.

Context	Cut	Chop	Cut + chop	Saw	Total
1009				1	1
1023	1				1
1024		1			1
1064	3				3
1067	2	1			3
1078	16	5	3	1	25
1079	8				8
1090	1				1
Total	31	7	3	2	43

**Table 13** Summary of the different types of butchery evidence

#### **Animal interaction**

Evidence for carnivore activity was observed on 63 specimens. The gnawed remains included cattle, sheep/goat and pig as well as large and small ungulate and large and medium mammal remains. Some of the gnawed specimens also presented butchery marks in the form of cut marks and chop marks (cattle, pig and large ungulate and large mammal remains). Gnawing activity provides evidence for the presence of carnivores, likely domestic dogs and/or foxes at the site and that animal remains/carcasses were accessible to these animals at some point after their deposition.

#### **Pathology**

Two skeletal abnormalities possibly resulting from disease, injury or age were recorded within the material. One right first equid phalanx presented an abnormal bone growth on the distal part of the shaft, while a left second equid phalanx displayed an abnormal bone growth on the fusion line. It is difficult to assess the nature and cause of these pathologies since many different diseases and injuries can look the same skeletally. However, it is likely that these two phalanges come from the same specimen.

#### **Burning and calcination**

Burnt bone was recovered from four contexts, 348 fragments in total. The burnt remains included cattle, woodcock, and common cockle, as well as large mammal, medium-large mammal and medium mammal remains, and unidentified fish and shell remains. Eighteen additional bones representing medium-large and medium mammals were calcined, and two other specimens presented a burnt or scorched surface, a cattle metacarpal and an equid first phalanx, which indicated that they had been exposed to fire at some point but not completely burnt.

#### **Parasitic infestations**

Within the marine mollusc assemblage, annelid worm infestations were present on 74 of the specimens recovered. Additionally, two specimens had sponge infestations and one specimen presented both barnacle and annelid worm infestations. The only infested species were edible oysters. In large assemblages that are known food waste deposits, the presence, absence and frequency of parasitic infestations can be used to understand collection and/or harvesting locations and oyster bed management. Some oysters were recorded as being stuck together, 13 in total. This is also indicative of the environment and management of these molluscs.

### **Potential for measurements**

Only 10 mammal bones were suitably complete to allow measurement for size estimation. Measurable elements included equid, cattle, sheep/goat, and hare.

### **Potential for ageing and sexing**

Bone fusion data for estimation of age at death was recorded for one or both epiphyses of 54 specimens and only one mandible was suitable for providing age at death data. Additionally, only one pig canine from context 1064 was recorded, and it was consistent with a male individual. No other animal remains were suitable for establishing sex.

### **Discussion**

The range of taxa identified at St Osyth Priory were consistent with those to be expected in Britain from sites ranging from the Iron Age to the modern period (Baker & Worley 2019, 3). Associated artefactual remains (see Britton 2023, Devereux-West & Foulds 2023; Foulds 2023) suggest that the animal bone and marine shell were deposited between the 17th and 20th centuries, but may contain residual or intrusive material from other periods of activity at the site. Equids would have been kept for traction and/or transportation; cattle, for meat, traction, milk and/or leather; pigs for meat; sheep/goat for meat, milk and/or wool, and geese and domestic fowl for meat, eggs and/or feathers. These species commonly present within assemblages of animal bones recovered from sites within the region and throughout Britain, being six of the main domestic livestock animals. The species present, along with carcass processing evidence, suggest that most of the remains represented food waste. Canid remains (dog/fox) were also found, representing probably service animals (pest control) and/or pets/companion animals in the case of dogs or wild commensal animals in the case of foxes.

The use of wild animal resources as a food source seems to be minimal in terms of mammals, with only hare and rabbit present. Hares were introduced in Britain during the Iron Age (O'Connor & Sykes 2010; Sykes 2014; Lauritsen *et al* 2018), and while a small number of rabbits were introduced to Britain during the Roman period, these animals did not establish widespread wild populations until after their reintroduction following the Normal Conquest.

The remains assigned to the size categories likely represent further remains of the domestic species already identified, although it is possible that some of the remains could represent other domesticates or wild mammal taxa such as deer.

In the case of birds, as previously stated chicken and goose remains are likely to result from husbandry and consumption of meat, eggs and/or feathers, while ducks and other wild waterfowl and landfowl species could represent wild animals that were hunted locally or available at local markets. The presence of shorebirds is interesting but expected given the location of the site near the coast. These animals are likely natural inclusions in the deposits.

The fish remains from the St Osyth Priory Estate represent human food waste, and attest to the procurement and consumption of a variety of marine and migratory fish species at the site. All the taxa recorded are consistent with those living in the waters around the English coast and those represented at archaeological sites in Britain, from the later medieval period onwards, with gadiforms (cod family fish), flatfish, herring and eel being very common at other archaeological sites. Additionally, the proximity to the coast allowed for the presence of other marine fish such as garfish, seabass and thin-lipped mullet and the migratory shad that are less frequently seen in the archaeological record. Most of the identified elements within the assemblage were vertebrae, but the presence of some cranial elements suggests that whole, fresh fish were brought to the site. The only butchery marks present on the fish assemblage were recorded on large cod vertebrae.



The range of marine mollusc taxa identified at St Osyth represent a range of edible species available around the British coast. Oysters and cockles are the most abundant species, suggesting that these were the dominant shellfish consumed. Oysters are the most frequently recovered species of shellfish at most archaeological sites nationally, but it is to be doubly expected at St Osyth Priory Estate given its location close to the coast where some of the most famous oyster beds in England are located. The barnacle almost certainly arrived through being attached to an oyster.

The assemblage provided an opportunity to broadly understand the role of animals in the diet and economy at the St Osyth Priory Estate during the 17th to early 20th centuries. Due to the disturbed nature of the contexts from which animal bone was recovered, no further work is recommended. The assemblage is of low local significance and has limited future research potential beyond the information contained within this report and associated data spreadsheet.

## 7 Human bone

by Megan Beale

### Introduction

Osteological assessment was carried out on eight *in situ* skeletons in July 2022. Assessments for six were carried out on site, and two were carried out using photographs only. Two additional burials were also identified on site (SK1038 and SK1041) but were not excavated or photographed. As such, these two burials are not included in this report. A small quantity of disarticulated bone was also recorded on site and immediately reburied. No human bone from burials was lifted and it was all left *in situ*.

### Methodology

Assessment of all human bone was carried out with it *in situ*. Remains could not be assigned completeness as only small portions of the graves were revealed within the limit of excavation. However articulated bone was graded on its condition, using a scoring system of one to five (one being very poor, five being very good) (Table 14).

Grade	Description
1	Very poor condition; extensive wear of bone cortex and fragmentation.
2	Poor condition; extensive wear of bone cortex and some fragmentation.
3	Average condition; slight wear of bone cortex with minimal fragmentation.
4	Good condition; slight wear of bone cortex or minimal fragmentation.
5	Very good condition; no wear of bone cortex or fragmentation.

**Table 14** Scoring system used to record bone condition

Age and sex estimations were carried out using methods as per Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994) and Brothwell (1981), using the skull morphology and dental attrition only, as these were the only elements of each skeleton revealed during excavations. Age groups and ranges have been assigned as per Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994); see Table 15 for further details. Assessment of pathologies were carried out visually on site, with any obvious signs of disease and infection noted. Estimations of ancestry and stature could not be estimated.

Age group	Age range
foetal	<birth
infant	birth-3 yrs
child	3-12 yrs
adolescent	12-20 yrs
young adult	20-35 yrs
middle adult	35-50 yrs

old adult	50+ yrs
adult	18+ yrs

**Table 15** Age groups

## **Results (articulated and disarticulated) (Appendix 2)**

### ***Body positioning***

All individuals were buried supine (extended) on an east-west alignment. Evidence of coffins was not seen. Where it could be established, the position of the heads were mostly looking up, with one looking up and slightly to the left. No grave goods were identified.

SK1029 appeared to have a stone placed in its mouth, perhaps intentionally placed.

### ***Minimum number of individuals (MNI)***

This assemblage has an MNI of ten individuals. The inhumations have an MNI of eight, and the disarticulated remains represent two individuals.

### ***Condition***

Where it could be established, all remains had an average condition (grade 3), with two having slightly more fragmentation (grade 2-3).

### ***Estimation of age***

Age-at-death estimations for this assemblage show two adolescents, one young adult, one middle adult, three possible adults, and two individuals within the adolescent and young adult range.

### ***Estimations of sex***

Sex could only be estimated for three individuals, which were all estimated to be probable males.

### ***Pathologies***

Bilateral cribra orbitalia was noted in one individual (SK1032). Although the rest of the skeleton was unable to be assessed, cribra orbitalia can be a sign of iron-deficient anaemia or another deficiency, such as vitamin C or D (Roberts & Manchester 2010). Vertebral osteophytes were also noted in the adult vertebrae within the disarticulated remains. This is likely evidence of osteoarthritis.

## **Discussion**

Archaeological monitoring revealed ten probable inhumations, although only eight could be assessed. These individuals likely represent monks and/or laity from the Priory, due to the location, grave orientation and seemingly simple graves.

These remains may also be a section of the graveyard attached to the former abbey church to the east, which was demolished by Sir Thomas Darcy sometime after AD 1553 (Smith 2011). No grave goods or finds were recovered from the burials, so a specific date cannot be determined. Nevertheless, they represent Christian burials due to the east-west orientation, with the head at the west end.

Most interesting is the inclusion of a stone in the mouth of SK1029. If intentionally placed there, it may be evidence that the individual was physically impaired due to an illness or condition (Boddington 1996) and used to prevent the deceased from “rising again” due to an infectious disease (Nuzzolese & Borrini 2011), or even to prevent ‘back-biting’ at the Resurrection (Daniell 1998, 163). Other sites similar to St Osyth where stones have been found in the mouths of individuals have not come to a definitive conclusion as to why they were placed there (White 1988, 25).

## 8 Environmental assessment

by Emma Tong and Dr Hannah Russ

### Introduction

Three samples, totalling 100 litres of sediment, were taken during monitoring. The bulk samples were processed by archaeology.biz for the recovery of charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, and any other eco- and artefactual remains. The heavy and light fractions/flots were sorted for charred plant material, as well as any other ecofacts and artefacts. The resulting archaeobotanical and molluscan remains were then identified and assessed.

### Methods

The samples were processed using the Siraf method of flotation (Williams 1973) using a 1mm mesh to retain heavy fraction and a 250-micron mesh for the light fraction/flot. Once dry, a magnet was run through the heavy residue to recover any magnetic material that may include hammerscale (Dungworth and Wilkes 2007). Magnetic material was quantified by weight only and was scanned by eye to identify any hammerscale that might be present. The heavy fractions were then sieved at 4, 2 and 1mm, with the >4mm fraction sorted in full and the 2-4mm, 2-1mm and <1mm fractions scanned for any artefactual or environmental remains. Light fractions were dried and sorted under a low power light microscope at 10x to 40x magnification, with any artefactual or environmental remains extracted for assessment.

The samples contained a single charred cereal grain, which was identified under a low power light microscope at 10x to x60 magnification using the archaeology.biz reference collection and published identification guides (Digital Plant Atlas; Cappers *et al* 2006; Jones *et al* 2004). Cereal nomenclature followed Zohary *et al* (2012). Quantification was by count, where a grain/seed with 51-100% surviving quantified separately from fragments representing 50% or less of the complete grain/seed.

Terrestrial molluscs were identified under a low power light microscope using the archaeology.biz reference collection and published identification guides (Naggs *et al* 2014; Cameron 2008; Kerney & Cameron 1979). Quantification was by fragment count and minimum number of individuals based on apex presence. Environmental/habitat allocation for terrestrial mollusc species followed Evans (1972).

The sample residues were assessed in accordance with Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology (Campbell *et al* 2011) and the ClfA toolkit for specialist reporting (ClfA 2021), with reference to a WSI for the site (Allsop 2022) and the East of England Research Framework.

### Results

A range of items were extracted from the heavy fraction during sorting (Table 1). Artefactual remains, bone and marine mollusc remains recovered from the samples were reported on elsewhere with hand-collected material (see Foulds 2023; Devereux-West & Foulds 2023; Chorro-Giner 2023).

Three bulk environmental samples yielded three flots, weighing a total of 42g (Table 2). The flots contained a single charred grain, fragments of bone and shell and a small assemblage of terrestrial snails (Table 15).

Material	Count actual	Count estimate	Weight (g)
Glass	3		1
Ceramic building mater	11	>100	228
Slate		>100	294
Mortar		>100	598
Magnetic material		50-100	13
Bone	13	>200	516
Burnt bone		>100	108
Shell	37	>100	5552
Burnt shell	18		13
Charcoal	4	>150	10
Nutshell	2		<0.5
Earthworm capsule	1		<0.5
Flots	3		42
		Total	6241

**Table 16** Summary of all finds from heavy fraction/residues by count and weight

Context	Sample	Weight (g)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain/chaff/ other charred	Charcoal >2mm	Charcoal <2mm	Other	Vegetative parts	Terrestrial mollusc	Invertebrates	Seeds	Preservation
1064	1	26.0	No	x1			Bone x4		25-50	25-50	<i>Avena sativa</i> x1	Charred
1090	2	13.8	No				Bone x2					
1092	3	2.2	No				Shell +++			x1		

**Table 17** Summary of flot results by count and weight

### **Charred plant remains**

A single charred grain was recovered from one sample (Table 16), identified as *Avena sativa* (oat), a cultivated cereal in Britain for at least the last thousand years. Two fragments of charred hazel nutshell (*Corylus avellana*) were recovered from sample <2> (1090) (Table 1). In terms of evidence for cultivated or foraged plant remains, i.e., plants that might be directly associated with agriculture and/or food, the assemblage was very small.

Context	Sample	Fraction (mm)	Count	Species	Part	Condition
1064	1	0.25	1	<i>Avena sativa</i>	Grain	Charred

**Table 18** Charred cereal grain remains from flots from samples from S352-A, count

### **Charcoal**

Charcoal was recovered from three samples in total (Table 17). One sample <1> (1064) from the flot contained only microcharcoal (<2mm) and not containing more than 1g of charcoal in total. Two heavy fractions contained charcoal; while these were larger in size (>2mm), the fragments were abraded and in poor condition, preventing any fracturing that might provide a clear surface for identification of wood species.



Context	Sample	Fraction	Charcoal >2mm	Charcoal <2mm	Weight (g)
1	1064	Flot 0.25mm		18	0.5
		HF >4mm	>100		7
2	1090	HF >4mm	50-100		2
3	1092	HF >4mm	4		<0.1
<b>Total</b>			<b>&gt;50-200</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9.05</b>

**Table 19** Charcoal remains from samples taken from flots and heavy fractions from samples from S352-A, count and weight. HF=heavy fraction

### Terrestrial molluscs

A small assemblage of terrestrial molluscs was recovered from the flot from Sample 1, context 1064 (Table 18). The assemblage was dominated by blind snail (*Cecilioides acicula*) and discus snail (*Discus rotundatus*), but also contained small numbers of smooth glass and Kentish snails (*Aegopinella nitidula* and *Monacha cantiana* respectively), and one slippery or least slippery snail (*Cochlicopa lubrica/lubricella*). One specimen remained unidentified as there were no clear diagnostic features to determine identification. The Kentish snail was introduced to Britain in the Roman period but is now common across England, especially in the south.

Context	Sample	Fraction (mm)	Count	MNI	Species	Common name	Comments
1064	1	Flot 0.25	41	41	<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	Blind snail	
			37	37	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	Discus snail	Juveniles present
			1	1	<i>Cochlicopa lubrica/lubricella</i>	Slippery snail/Least slippery snail	
			5	5	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	Smooth glass snail	Juveniles present
			8	8	<i>Monacha cantiana</i>	Kentish snail	Juveniles present
			1	1	Unidentified	Unidentified	Juvenile
Total			93	93			

**Table 20** Terrestrial snails recovered from light fractions from bulk environmental samples from S352-A, count. MNI=minimum number of individuals

### Discussion

The single charred oat grain was recovered from context 1064, which also contained finds resulting from potentially later medieval to modern activity (Devereux-West & Foulds 2023; Foulds 2023). The recovery of a charred oat grain is not unexpected for the period and location of the site, oat being a widely cultivated species in Britain. No closely dateable artefacts were recovered from context 1090 which contained the charred hazel nutshell. Hazel is native to Britain and evidence indicates that the collection and consumption of hazelnuts began during the prehistoric period, at least 8,000 years ago, as such its presence is expected at the site, providing evidence for the purchase or gathering of hazelnuts for consumption on the St Osyth Priory Estate, with the shells discarded in hearths or fireplaces that were cleared out and the charred remains and ash discarded in the Estate grounds. Wood charcoal was recovered from all three samples, with contexts containing artefactual remains suggesting that material potentially resulted from activity between the later medieval and modern periods. The charcoal was in poor condition, which prevented an attempt to identify wood species. Both the charred grain, hazel nutshell and wood charcoal remains are of low local significance with no potential to contribute further to current understanding of past human diets or local environments and habitats due to small assemblage size, poor preservation and an absence of precise dating for the contexts from which they were recovered.

The terrestrial mollusc remains were recovered from Sample 1 (1064) and included several species (Table 5). All species were indicative of a sheltered, woodland environment apart from *Cochlicopa lubrica/lubricella* (slippery snail/least slippery snail) which is a cath-

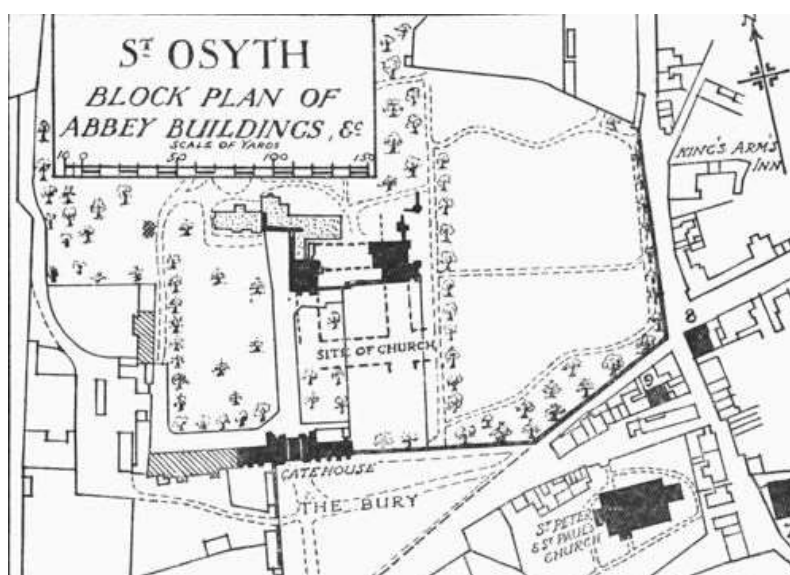
olic species i.e., lives in a wide range of habitats, and *Cecilioides acicula* (blind snail) which is an underground dwelling species (Evans 1972). As with the charred grain and wood charcoal, the terrestrial mollusc remains are of low local significance with no potential to contribute further to current understanding of past local environments and habitats due to small assemblage size and an absence of precise dating for the contexts from which they were recovered.

## 9 Conclusion

Groundworks at St Osyth Priory revealed thirty features: ten inhumation burials, five ditches (two of which were re-cuts of earlier ditches), five brick walls, a brick and stone wall, three brick culverts, two pits, a brick plinth, a wall or floor, a dumped deposit and a tree-throw. The investigation identified three phases of activity, the first occurring during the medieval and early post-medieval periods, the second from the 17th to the 19th centuries, and the third during the 20th century.

### Medieval/early post-medieval

The earliest remains uncovered were a series of ten east-west aligned inhumation burials which were located along the eastern part of the service trenching, immediately to the west of where the abbey originally stood (see Map 1 below). These represent the remains of canons and lay brothers buried at St Osyth Priory between its establishment during the 1120s and closure in 1539. Pit [1089], uncovered in the western part of the groundworks, also dated to this period.



**Map 1** Map of St Osyth Priory showing original site of church, from 'St. Osyth', *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex, Vol. 3, North East* (London, 1922). *British History Online* <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/essex/vol3/pp195-206> [accessed 26 June 2024]

### Post-medieval/modern

The next phase of activity at the site commenced with the acquisition of the former priory by Thomas Darcy in 1553 and its conversion into a residence, with the demolition of the abbey church and other medieval buildings, the modification of the still-existing buildings, and the establishment of the walled garden. This phase is taken to have concluded in the 19th century. Numerous structural features relating to this period of redevelopment were encountered. In the north-western corner of the service trenching, wall [1010] was uncovered. This wall appears to correspond to a wall depicted on a map of the estate compiled in 1762 (see Map 2). Pottery sherds and a clay pipe fragment dating to the 19th and 20th centuries were recovered from its construction cut, however. It is possible that

an earlier wall was rebuilt, but 19th-century mapping does not indicate that the presence of a wall here at this later date and it therefore seems likely that the wall is earlier in date and the later material is intrusive. Immediately to the east of [1010] were walls [1013] and [1016], neither of which corresponded to structures depicted on historical mapping.

Further structural remains were uncovered to the east of St Osyth Priory. Foundation [1057] did not correspond to any structure shown on historical mapping of the area. A further foundation, [1060], was situated further on to the east. It likely formed the foundation of a building located immediately to the east. In the western section of the service trenching, wall [1088] was observed in section. It corresponded to a body of water in the front yard of Priory Farm shown on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey mapping, and possibly represents the remains of a pond or a plunge dip (see Map 3). Two culverts associated with the Priory buildings, [1004] and [1056], the former in the western part of the service trenching, the latter in the eastern part, were also uncovered. Tree-throw [1007] revealed in the western part of the groundworks, also dated to this period.

A number of features originating during this phase were recorded but not surveyed, and it is therefore not possible to provide further discussion of them here. They were brick culvert [1019], brick plinth [1026] and wall or floor [1072].

### **20th century**

The final phase occurred during the 20th century. Remains originating during this phase consisted of ditch [1061] and ditch re-cut [1063], which were uncovered in the westernmost part of the service trenching. The fill of the former feature did not contain any finds but that of the latter contained modern material including plastic, and they are obviously broadly contemporary. Another feature dating to this period, dumped deposit [1009] was recorded but not surveyed, and it is therefore not possible to provide further discussion of it here.

### **Undated**

Ditch [1054], uncovered in the eastern section of the service trenching, and ditch [1081] and ditch re-cut [1087], located in the south-western section, produced no dating evidence.



**Map 2** Extract from St Osyth Estate Map (1762) overlain with trenching plan. Wall likely corresponding to [1010] indicated by the blue arrow.



**Map 3** Extract from Essex XLVIII.NW (rev. 1895-96; pub. 1898) overlain with trenching plan. Pond or plunge dip corresponding with wall [1088] indicated by the blue arrow.

## 10 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Harriet Vincett-Wilson of City & Country and St Osyth Priory Estates Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman. Figures are by C Lister and B Holloway. The project was monitored for Historic England by Dr Jess Tipper.



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Society for	2023b	<i>Druggist/prescription bottle types</i>

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## 12 Abbreviations and glossary

articulated	skeletal remains that have not been disturbed or moved; e.g. a burial or inhumation
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
disarticulated	skeletal remains that have been disturbed or moved out of their original context, there may only be a single bone present
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
laity	lay people
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
pathology(ies)	relating to disease and injury
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 13 Contents of archive

**Finds:** None retained

**Digital archive:**



CAT Report 2012  
City & Country written scheme of investigation  
Digital photographs  
Survey data  
Site data (all original documents scanned)

#### **14 Archive deposition**

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (finds) under site code STOSO4 and the Archaeology Data Service (digital archive).

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## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Interpretation	Soil description	Period
(1000)	Topsoil	Very loose, light brown/grey silt; c 0.22m thick	Modern
(1001)	Subsoil	Loose, medium brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional CBM fragments and 1% stones; c 0.22-0.44m thick; Sealed by (1000)	Undated
(1002)	Natural	Loose, medium brown/grey silt; c 0.24m below current ground level [bcgl]; Sealed by (1001)	Post-glacial
(1003)	Natural	Very loose, medium brown/orange sand; c 0.36m bcgl	Post-glacial
[1004]	Brick culvert	Constructed from red bricks set in light brown mortar; 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.45m high; Sealed by (1001), [1006]; seals [1005]	Post-medieval/modern
[1005]	Brick culvert [1004] cut	0.8m+ long, 0.45m wide and 0.45m deep; Sealed by [1004], [1005]; cuts (1003)	Post-medieval/modern
[1006]	Fill of brick culvert cut [1005]	Loose medium brown silt; Sealed by (1001); seals [1004], [1005]	Post-medieval/modern
[1007]	Treethrow cut	2.35m long, 0.8m+ wide and 0.36m+ deep; Sealed by [1008]; cuts [1003]	18th-19th century
[1008]	Fill of treethrow cut [1007]	Very loose, medium grey/brown sandy-silt; Sealed by (1001); seals [1007]	18th-19th century
[1009]	Dumped deposit	Mixed pottery sherds, animal bone, CBM and glass in matrix of very loose, medium brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional oyster shell and 1% stones; 0.75m+ deep; Sealed by (1000); cuts (1003)	20th century
[1010]	Brick wall	Constructed from red bricks laid in stretcher bond set in lime mortar; 4m+ long, 0.3m wide and 0.21m deep; Seals [1011], [1012]	20th century
[1011]	Brick wall [1010] cut	4m+ long, 0.3m wide, depth unknown; Sealed by [1010], [1012]; cuts (1003)	20th century
[1012]	Fill of brick wall cut [1011]	Very loose, medium grey/brown sandy-silt; Sealed by [1010]; seals [1011]	20th century
[1013]	Brick wall	Constructed from red bricks laid in stretcher bond with header bond capping set in lime mortar; 1.2m long, 0.78m wide and 0.56m deep; Sealed by (1000); seals [1015]; Equivalent to [1016]	17th-19th century
[1014]	Brick wall [1013] cut	1.2m long, 0.78m wide and 0.56m deep; Sealed by [1013], [1015]; cuts (1020)	17th-19th century
[1015]	Fill of brick wall cut [1014]	Loose, medium grey/brown silt; Sealed by [1013]; seals [1014]	17th-19th century
[1016]	Brick wall	Constructed from red bricks laid in stretcher bond with header bond capping set in lime mortar; 0.6m long, 0.78m wide and 0.5m deep;	Post-medieval/modern

		Seals [1017], [1018]	
[1017]	Brick wall [1016] cut	0.6m long, 0.78m wide and 0.5m deep; Sealed by [1016], [1018]; cuts (1020)	Post-medieval/ modern
[1018]	Fill of brick wall cut [1017]	Loose, medium grey/brown silt with frequent oyster shell; Sealed by [1016]; seals [1017]	Post-medieval/ modern
[1019]	Brick culvert	Constructed from red bricks set in light brown mortar; 0.6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.45m high; Sealed by (1020); cuts (1003)	Post-medieval/ modern
(1020)	Made ground	Friable, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 1% stones; c 0.5m thick; Sealed by (1000); seals (1003)	Post-medieval/ modern
(1021)	Brick dump layer	Deposit of red unfrogged bricks in a matrix of very loose, light brown silty-sand; 1.25m long, 0.6m wide and 0.5m deep; Sealed by (1000); seals (1020)	Post-medieval/ modern
(1022)	Stone dump layer	Deposit of medium-sized stones (possibly flint, septaria or limestone) in a matrix of loose, medium brown sandy-silt; 1.75-2m long, 0.6m wide and 0.5m deep; Sealed by (1000); seals (1003)	Undated
(1023)	Made ground	Firm, dark grey/brown clayey-silt with frequent oyster shell; 0.52-0.8m thick; Sealed by (1000); seals (1024)	19th-20th century
(1024)	Clay layer	Firm, dark grey/brown silty-clay; 0.16-0.24m thick; Sealed by (1023); seals (1003)	?Post-medieval
(1025)	Made ground (underlying car park surface)	Firm, medium brown/orange sand with abundant gravel; 0.1m thick; Seals (1023)	Modern
[1026]	Brick plinth	Constructed from red brick laid in stretcher bond and set in lime mortar; 0.7m long, 0.3m wide and 0.1m high; Sealed by (1023); cuts (1024)	Post-medieval/ modern
[1027]	Grave cut	0.6m wide and 0.25m deep; Sealed by [1028], [SK1029]; cuts (1003)	Medieval
[1028]	Fill of grave cut [1027]	Soft, dark grey/brown silty-sand; Sealed by (1024); seals [1027], [SK1029]	Medieval
[SK1029]	Inhumation burial	E-W aligned; Sealed by [1028]; seals [1027]	Medieval
[1030]	Grave cut	0.3m wide and 0.32m deep; Sealed by [1031], [SK1032]; cuts (1003)	Medieval
[1031]	Fill of grave cut [1030]	Firm, medium brown/grey silty-sand; Excavated to a depth of 0.1m; Sealed by (1024), (1053); seals [1030], [SK1032]	Medieval
[SK1032]	Inhumation burial	E-W aligned; Sealed by [1031]; seals [1030]	Medieval
[1033]	Grave cut	>0.3m by 0.26m; Sealed by [1034], [SK1035]; cuts (1003)	Medieval

[1034]	Fill of grave cut [1033]	Firm, medium brown/grey silty-sand; Excavated to a depth of 0.1m; Sealed by (1042); seals [SK1035], [1033]	Medieval
[SK1035]	Inhumation burial	E-W aligned; Sealed by [1034]; seals [1033]	Medieval
[1036]	Grave cut	>0.3m x 0.25m Sealed by [1037], [SK1038]; cuts (1024)	Medieval
[1037]	Fill of grave cut [1036]	Firm, medium brown/grey silty-sand; Sealed by (1025); seals [SK1038], [1036]	Medieval
[SK1038]	Inhumation burial	Not excavated; Sealed by [1037]; seals [1036]	Medieval
[1039]	Grave cut	>0.3m by 0.27m; Sealed by [1040], [SK1041]; cuts (1024)	Medieval
[1040]	Fill of grave cut [1039]	Firm, medium brown/grey silty-sand; Sealed by (1042); seals [SK1041], [1039]	Medieval
[SK1041]	Inhumation burial	Not excavated; Sealed by [1040]; seals [1039]	Medieval
(1042)	Made ground	Firm, medium brown/grey hardcore; 0.1m thick; Sealed by (1025); seals (1043), (1024)	Modern
(1043)	Made ground	Loose, light grey/yellow chalk; 0.1m thick; Sealed by (1025), (1042); seals (1024)	Post-medieval/ modern
[1044]	This number was not assigned to a context.		
[1045]	This number was not assigned to a context.		
[SK1046]	Inhumation burial	E-W aligned; Seals (1024)	Medieval
[1047]	This number was not assigned to a context.		
[1048]	This number was not assigned to a context.		
[SK1049]	Inhumation burial	E-W aligned; Seals (1024)	Medieval
[1050]	This number was not assigned to a context.		
[1051]	This number was not assigned to a context.		
[SK1052]	Inhumation burial	E-W aligned; Seals (1024)	Medieval
(1053)	Rubble layer	Firm, dark brown/grey hardcore with gravel and CBM fragments; 0.11m thick; Sealed by (1043); seals (1024)	Post-medieval/ modern
[1054]	Ditch cut	2.05m wide; excavated to a depth of 0.6m; Sealed by [1055]; cuts (1003)	Undated
[1055]	Fill of ditch cut [1054]	Firm, medium grey/brown silty-clay with frequent CBM fragments; 0.6m long, 2.08m wide and 0.5m deep; Sealed by (1023); Seals [1054]	Undated
[1056]	Brick culvert	Constructed from red bricks set in mortar; >4m wide and 0.41m high; Sealed by (1023); seals (1003)	Post-medieval/ modern
[1057]	Wall	Constructed from limestone and brick rubble laid in a random course; 2m by 3m;	Post-medieval/ modern

		Sealed by (1025); cuts (1001)	
[1058]	Construction cut for brick wall [1060]	0.6m long, 0.48m wide and 0.2m deep; Sealed by [1059], [1060]; cuts (1003)	Post-medieval/ modern
[1059]	Backfill around brick wall [1060]	Loose medium grey/brown silty-sand; 0.6m long, 0.48m wide and 0.2m deep; Sealed by (1025); seals [1060], [1058]	Post-medieval/ modern
[1060]	Brick wall	Constructed from red bricks set in mortar; >0.7m by 0.5m by 0.3m; Sealed by (1025); cuts (1003)	Post-medieval/ modern
[1061]	Ditch cut	0.6m long, >0.9m wide and 0.5m deep; Sealed/cut by [1062], [1063]; cuts (1003)	Undated
[1062]	Fill of ditch cut [1061]	Firm/hard, dark grey/brown silty-clay; Sealed/cut by [1063], (1066); seals [1061]	Undated
[1063]	Re-cut of ditch [1061]	>0.6m by 1.87m by >0.6m; Sealed by [1064], [1065]; cuts (1003), [1062]	Modern
[1064]	Lower fill of ditch re-cut [1063]	Firm, dark brown/grey clayey-silt with frequent oyster shell; Sealed by (1065), (1066); seals [1063]	Modern
[1065]	Upper fill of ditch re-cut [1063]	Firm, medium grey/brown silty-clay; Sealed by (1066); seals [1064]	Modern
(1066)	Made ground	Firm, medium brown/grey silty-sand with frequent rubble; 0.6m thick; Sealed by (1025); seals [1065]	Modern
(1067)	Made ground	Firm, medium brown/grey silty-clay; 0.08m thick; Sealed by (1000); seals (1001)	Modern
(1068)	Road surface	Firm, light orange/grey gravel and sand; 0.1m thick; Seals (1069), (1080) Equivalent to (1025)	Modern
(1069)	Made ground	Firm, medium brown/grey silty-clay; Sealed by (1000), (1068); seals (1070); Equivalent to (1067)	Post-medieval/ modern
(1070)	Demolition layer/made ground	Firm, medium grey/orange silty-sand with abundant CBM; 0.4m thick; Sealed by (1069); seals (1071)	Post-medieval/ modern
(1071)	Made ground	Firm, medium orange/yellow silty-sand; 0.1m thick; Sealed by (1070); seals (1003)	Undated
[1072]	Stone and brick wall/floor	Loose red bricks laid in header bond on limestone surface; 0.4m by 0.3m; Sealed by (1080); cuts (1078), (1079)	Post-medieval/ modern
[1073]	This number was not assigned to a context.		
[1074]	This number was not assigned to a context.		
[1075]	Grave cut	>0.3m by 0.25m; Sealed by [1076], [SK1077]; cuts (1078)	Medieval
[1076]	Fill of grave cut [1075]	Firm, medium grey/brown silty-clay; Sealed by (1025); seals [SK1077]	Medieval
[SK1077]	Inhumation burial	E-W aligned;	Medieval



		Sealed by [1076]; seals [1075]	
(1078)	Clay layer	Firm, medium grey/brown silty-clay; >0.3m thick; Sealed by (1079); seals (1003); Equivalent to (1024)	?Post-medieval
(1079)	Rubble layer	Firm, medium red/brown silty-sand with CBM pieces; 0.19m thick; Sealed by (1080); seals (1078)	Post-medieval/ modern
(1080)	Road surface	Tarmac surface; 0.05m thick; Sealed by (1068); seals (1079)	Modern
[1081]	Ditch cut	>0.6m by 3.4m by >1.1m; Sealed by [1082]; cuts (1003); Equivalent to [1061]	Undated
[1082]	Lower fill of ditch cut [1081]	Loose, dark brown/grey sandy-silt with abundant oyster shell; Sealed by [1083]; seals [1081]; Equivalent to [1062]	Undated
[1083]	Upper fill of ditch cut [1081]	Soft, light brown/yellow silty-sand; Cut by [1087]; seals [1082]	Undated
[1084]	Lower fill of ditch re-cut [1087]	Loose, dark brown/grey sandy-silt; Sealed by [1085]; seals [1087]; Equivalent to [1064]	Modern
[1085]	Upper fill of ditch re-cut [1087]	Soft, medium orange/brown silty-sand; Sealed by [1086]; seals [1084]	Modern
(1086)	Made ground	Firm, medium brown/grey silty-sand with CBM pieces and rubble; 0.3m thick; Sealed by (1000), (1025); seals [1083], [1085], [1090]	Modern
[1087]	Re-cut of ditch [1081]	>0.6m by 2.5m by 0.9m; Sealed by [1084]; cuts [1083]; Equivalent to [1063]	Modern
[1088]	Brick wall	Constructed from red bricks laid in stretcher bond with header cap set in cement; 3.4m by 0.3m by 1m	Post-medieval/ modern
[1089]	Pit cut	0.75m by 0.8m by 0.8m; Sealed by [1090]; cuts (1003)	Medieval/ post-medieval
[1090]	Fill of pit cut [1089]	Firm, dark brown/grey silty-sand; Sealed by (1086); seals [1089]	Medieval/ post-medieval
[1091]	Pit cut	3.2m by 0.6m by 0.9m; Sealed by [1092]; cuts (1003)	Post-medieval/ modern
[1092]	Fill of pit cut [1091]	Firm, dark brown/grey silty-sand; Sealed by (1086); seals [1091]	Post-medieval/ modern
[1093]	Concrete floor	Concrete floor surface; Sealed by (1086); seals (1003)	Modern
[1094]	Grave cut	1.2m by 0.27m; Sealed by [1095], [SK1096]; cuts (1078)	Medieval
[1095]	Fill of grave cut [1094]	Firm, medium brown/grey sandy-silt; Sealed by (1025); seals [1094], [SK1096]	Medieval
[SK1096]	Inhumation burial	E-W aligned;	Medieval

		Sealed by [1095]; seals [1094]	
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**Appendix 2 Summary of human remains**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>MNI</b>	<b>Body position</b>	<b>Face position</b>	<b>Coffin</b>	<b>Condition of bone</b>	<b>Age group</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Pathologies</b>	<b>Notes</b>
SK1029	inhumation	on site	Medieval/post-medieval	1	supine	looking up	none	3	adolescent	16-20 yrs	?M	-	stone in mouth
SK1032	inhumation	on site	Medieval/post-medieval	1	supine	looking up	none	3	y adult	18-30 yrs	?M	cribra orbitalia	teeth beyond loe
SK1035	inhumation	on site	Medieval/post-medieval	1	supine	looking up/left	none	3	adolescent-y adult	18-25 yrs	?M	-	teeth in good condition
SK1038	inhumation	n/a	Medieval/post-medieval	-	unknown	unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	not exc; no photos
SK1041	inhumation	n/a	Medieval/post-medieval	-	unknown	unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	not exc; no photos
SK1046	inhumation	on site	Medieval/post-medieval	1	supine	indeterminate	?none	3	?adult	18+ yrs	l	-	partial skull in sx
SK1049	inhumation	on site	Medieval/post-medieval	1	supine	indeterminate	?none	3	m adult	35-50 yrs	l	-	partial skull in sx
SK1052	inhumation	on site	Medieval/post-medieval	1	supine	indeterminate	?none	3	?adult	18+ yrs	l	-	partial skull in sx
SK1077	inhumation	photos	Medieval/post-medieval	1	supine	?looking up	?none	2-3	?adolescent	12-20 yrs	l	-	-
SK1096	inhumation	photos	Medieval/post-medieval	1	supine	indeterminate	?none	2	indeterminate	n/a	l	-	partial skull in sx
?(1024)	disarticulated	on site	Medieval/post-medieval	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	adolescent/adult	10-14 yrs/18+ yrs	l/l	-/thoracic v. osteophytes	r femur (ado.), thoracic vert. (adu.)

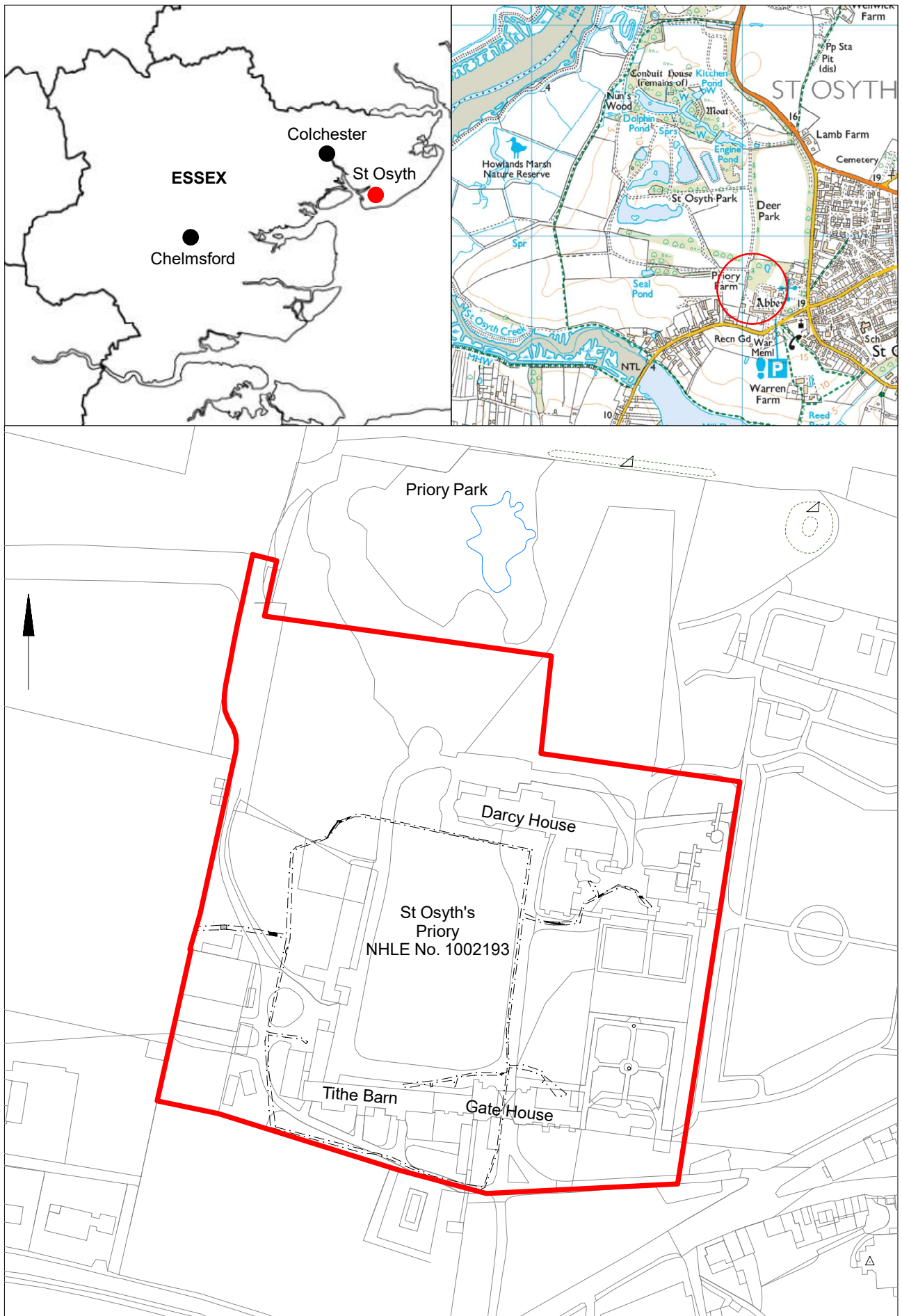


Fig 1 Site location.

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0 100 m

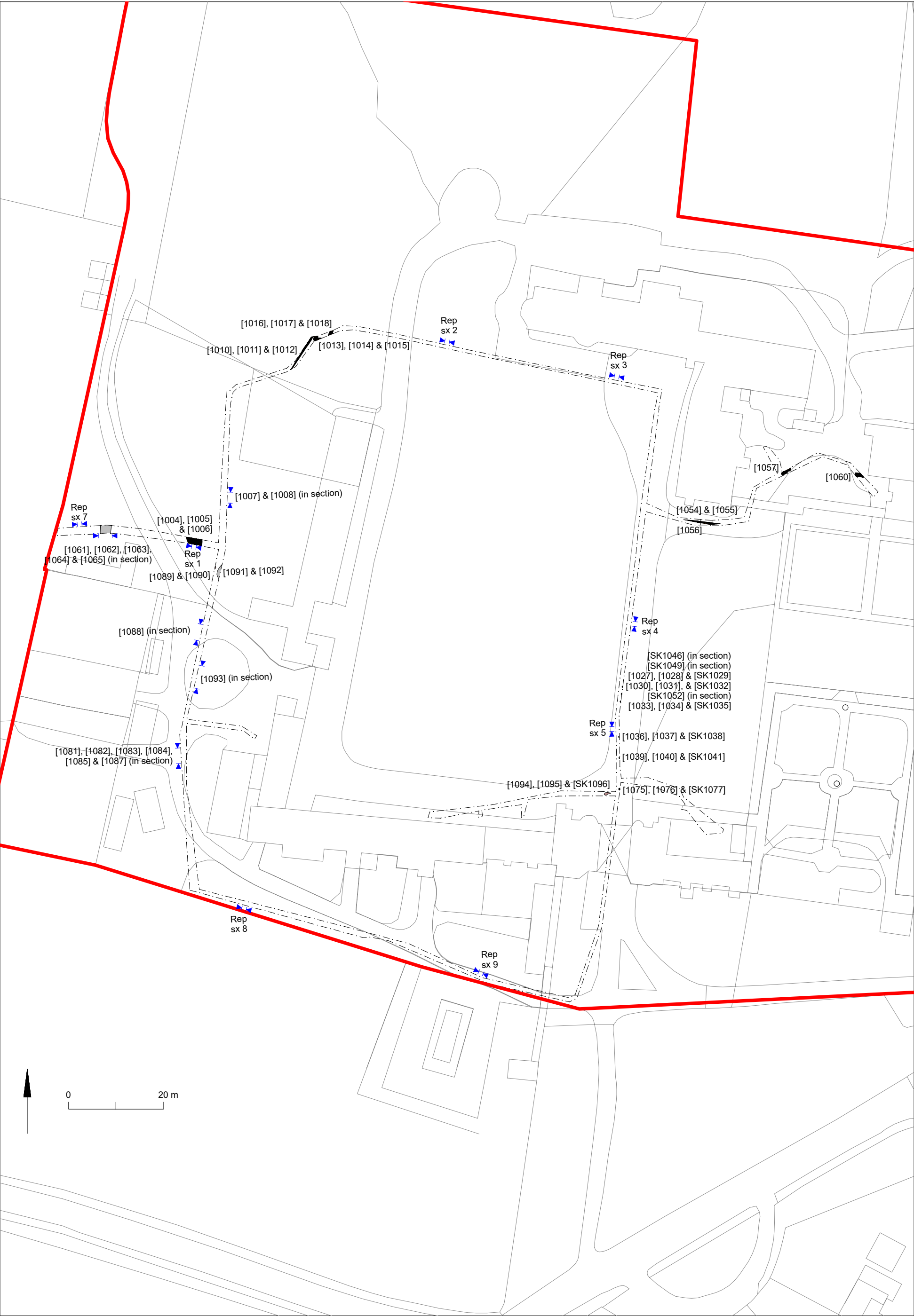
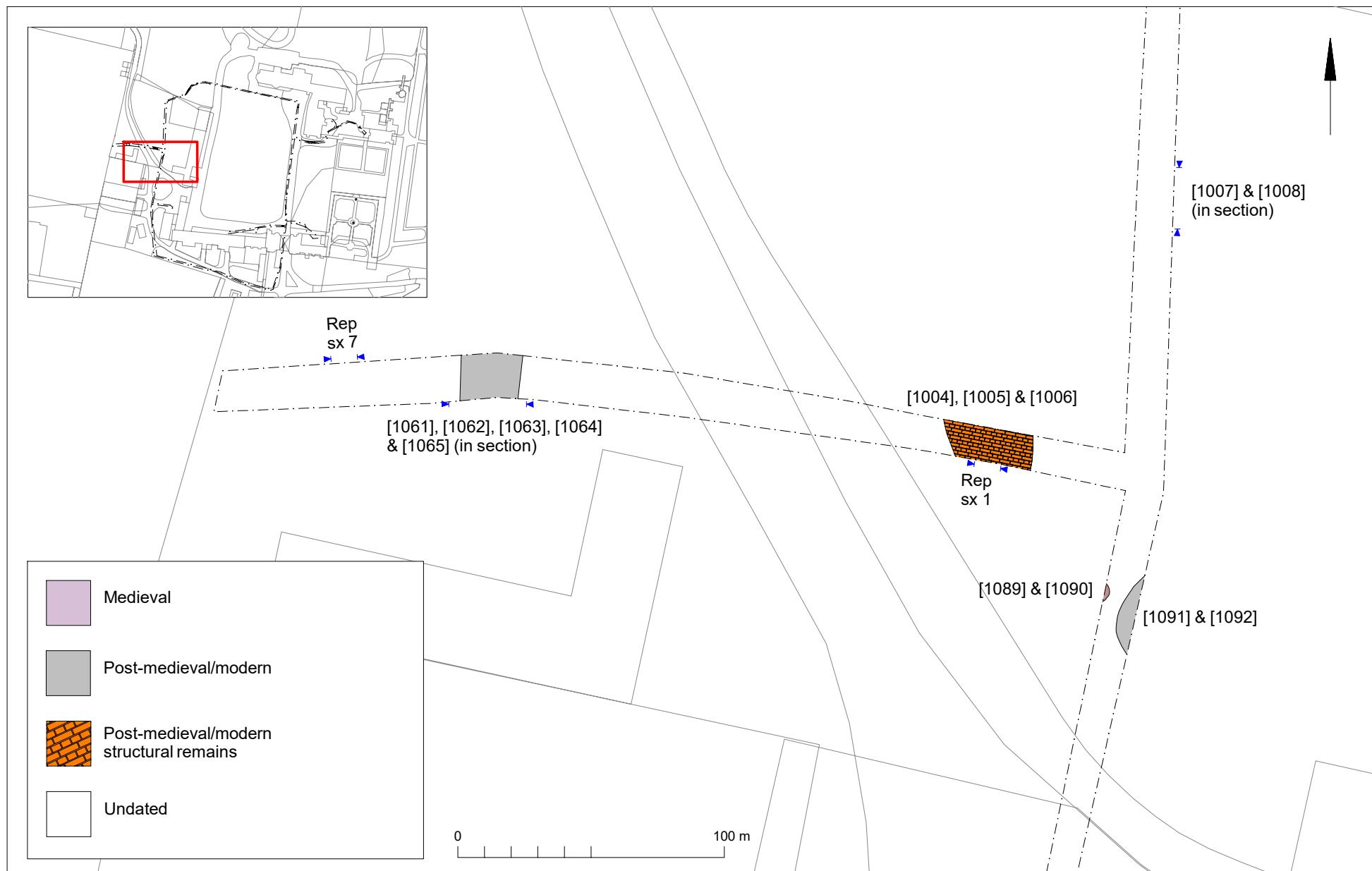


Fig 2 Results





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Fig 3 Results

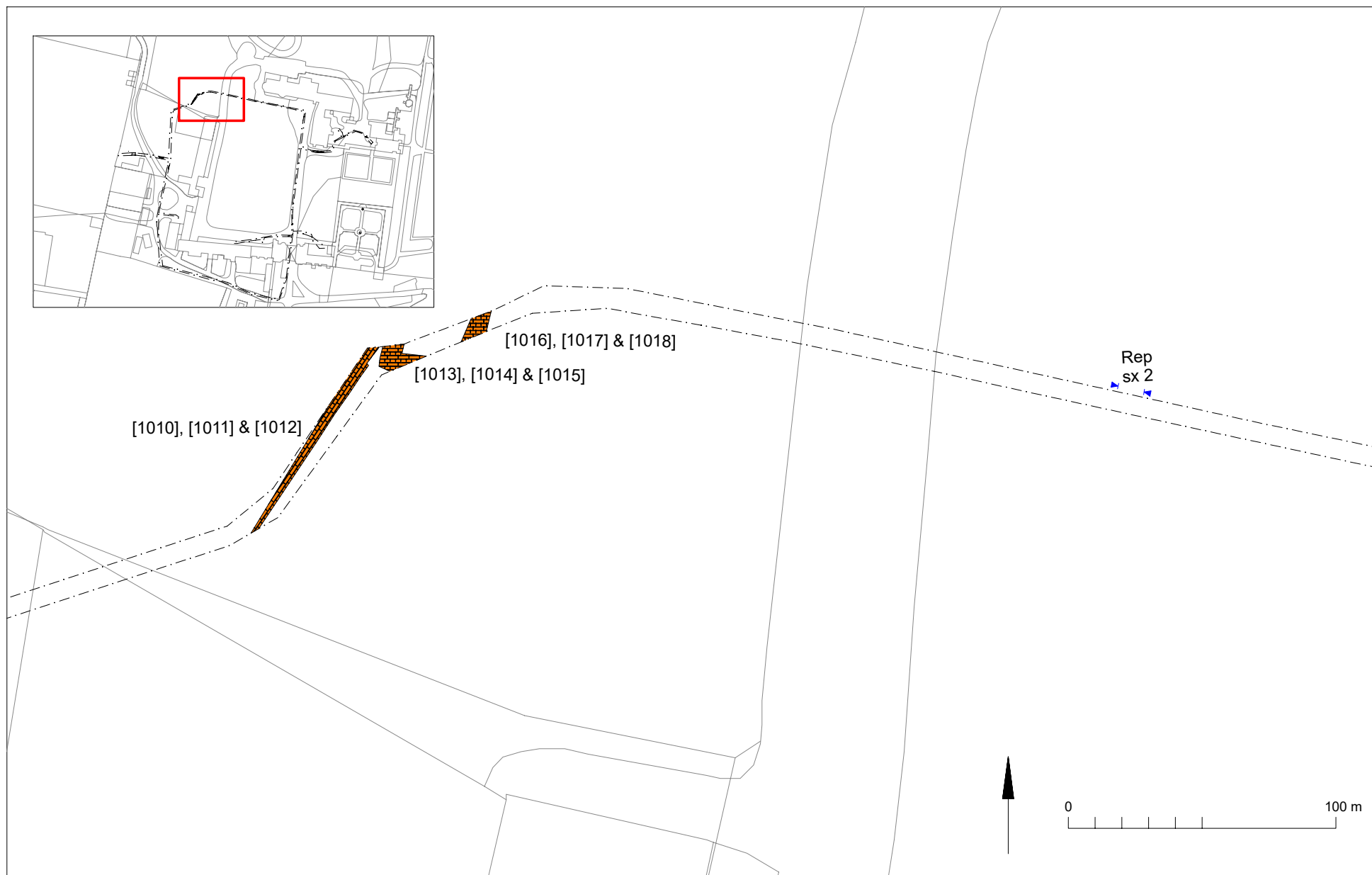
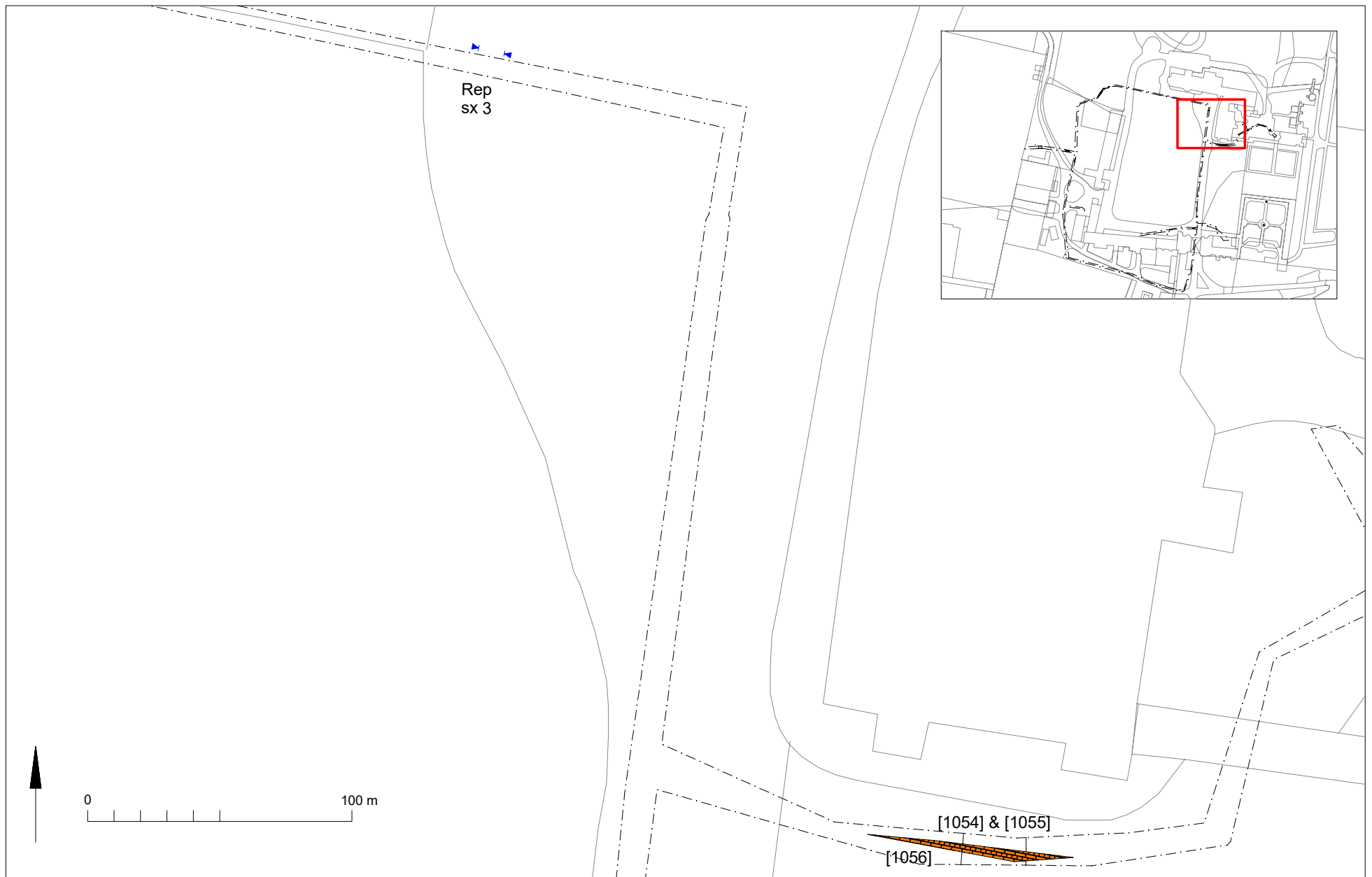


Fig 4 Results (see Fig 3 for phasing)



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Fig 5 Results (see Fig 3 for phasing).

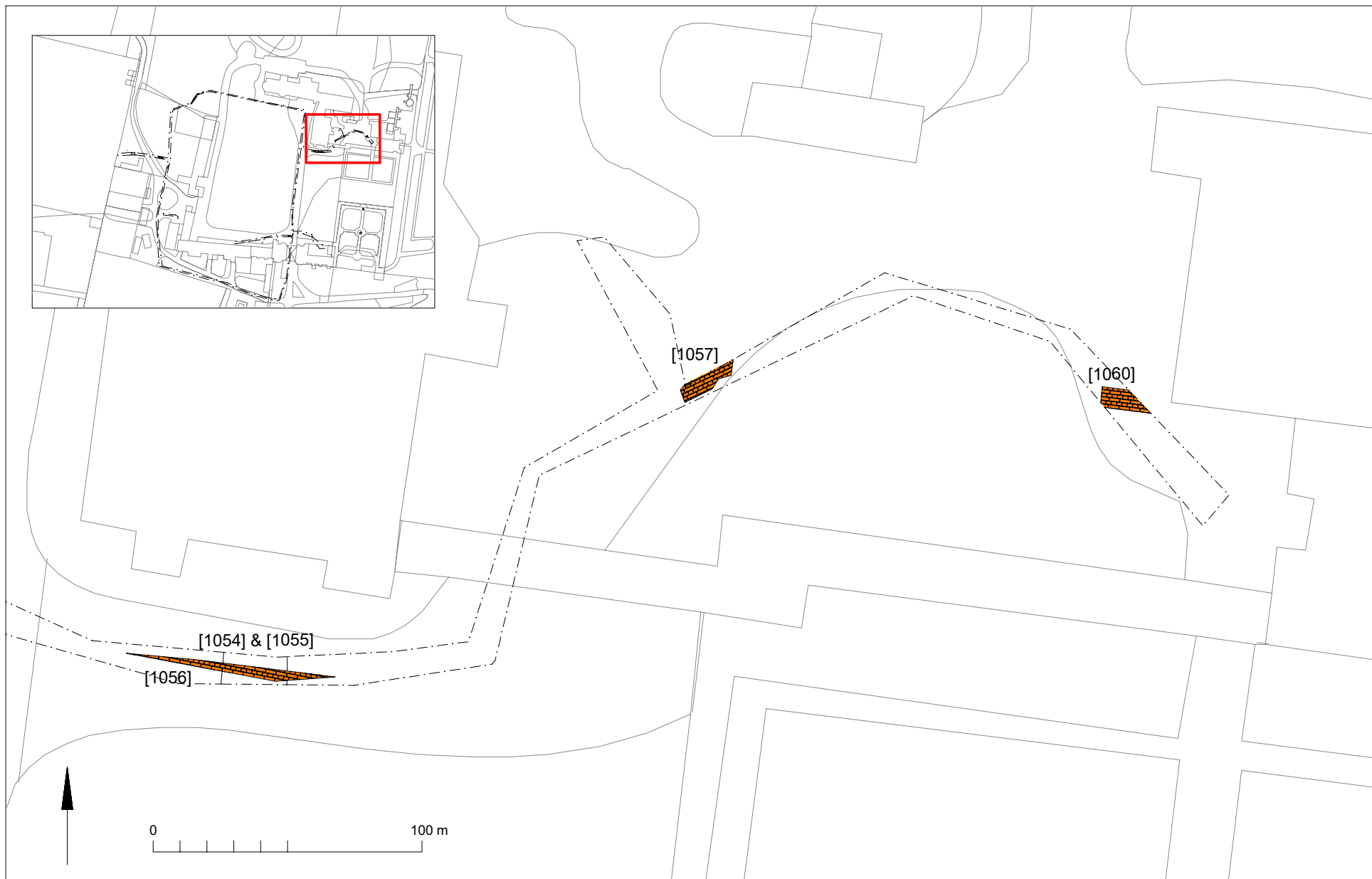


Fig 6 Results (see Fig 3 for phasing).

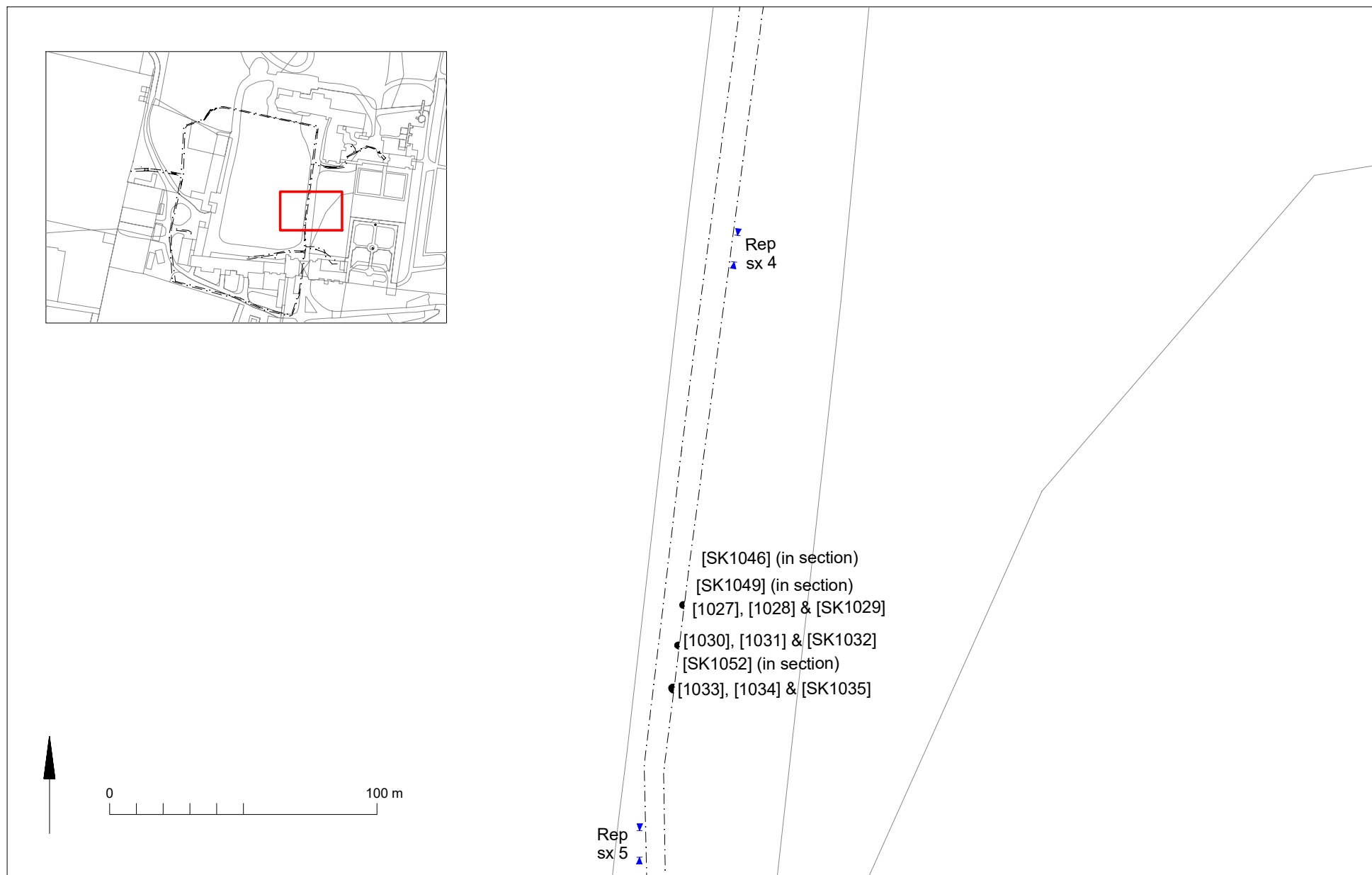
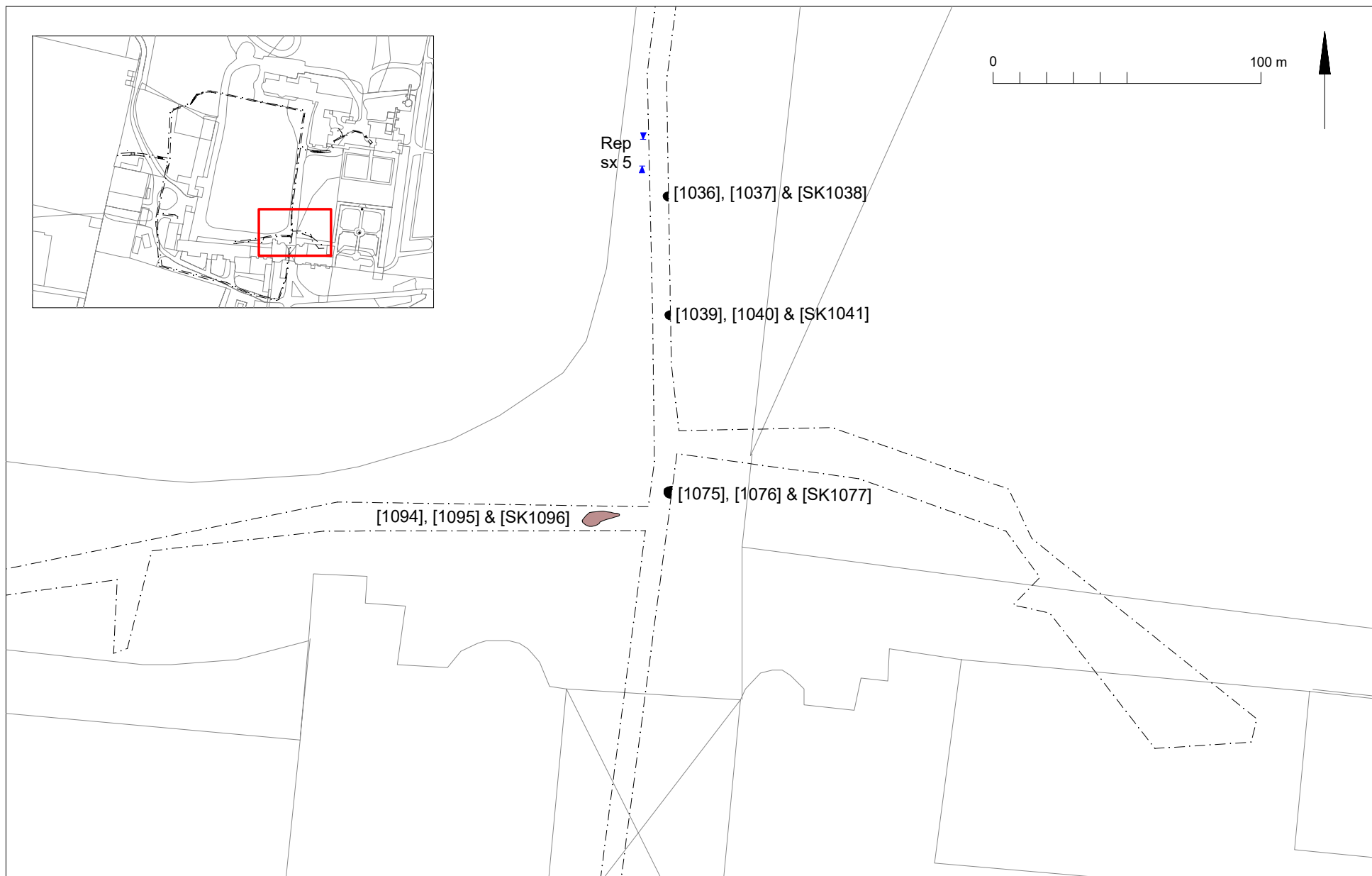


Fig 7 Results (see Fig 3 for phasing)





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Fig 8 Results (see Fig 3 for phasing)

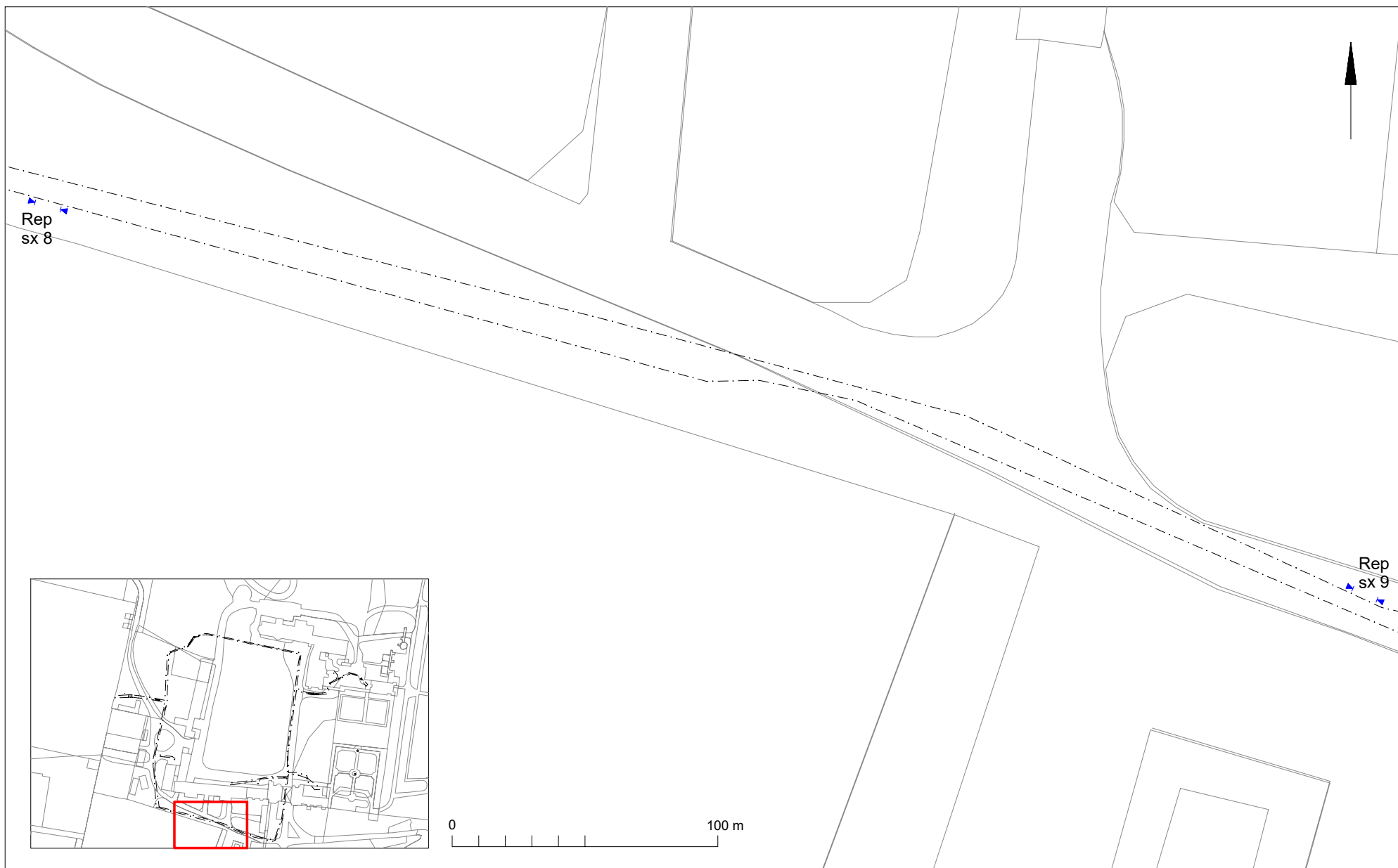


Fig 9 Results (see Fig 3 for phasing)

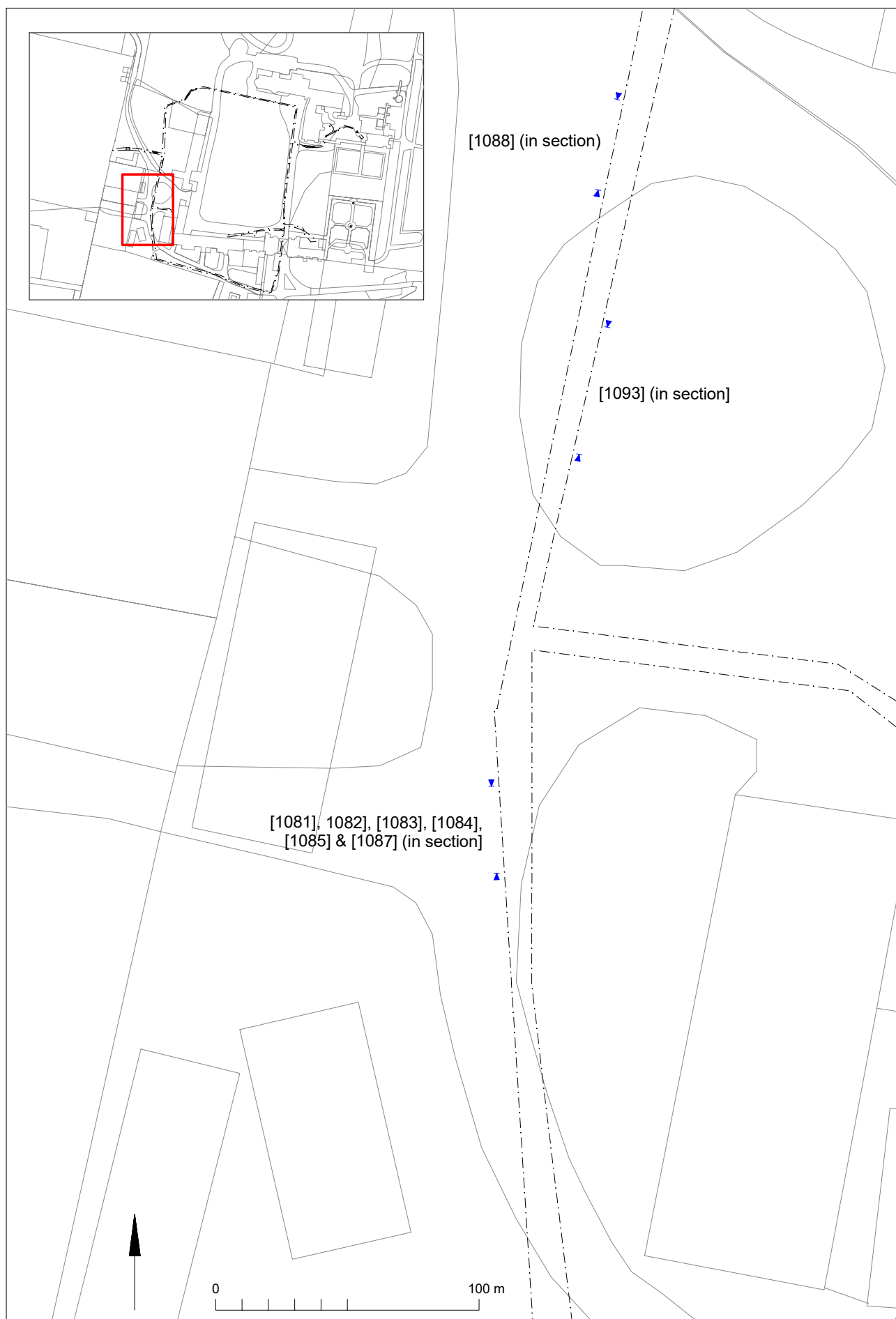


Fig 10 Results

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-516558

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-516558
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at the Tithe Barn car park, Tithe Barn and Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8NZ: June-July 2022
Sitename	Tithe Barn car park, Tithe Barn and Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2023./06f
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Scheduled monument consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust, Past & Present, City & Country
Project Dates	29-Jun-2022 - 14-Jul-2022
Location	Tithe Barn car park, Tithe Barn and Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex NGR : TM 12035 15760 LL : 51.80026650181115, 1.07379961694516 12 Fig : 612035,215760
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Tendring Parish : St. Osyth
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring was carried out as per the WSI.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the Tithe Barn car park, Tithe Barn and Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex, during the excavation of trenches for new services to buildings within the Priory precinct, including the tithe barn car park, tithe barn and the gatehouse. A Scheduled Ancient Monument, St Osyth Priory contains buildings dating from the 12th to the 19th centuries. It was originally established as an Augustinian abbey in the 1120s and then underwent extensive redevelopment as a manor house and country park from the mid-16th century onwards. Groundworks at the site revealed ten medieval inhumation burials, as well as a pit dating to this same period. A series of structural remains associated with the subsequent redevelopment of the priory as a manor house consisted of four walls, three culverts, two foundations, one brick plinth, and one wall or floor. A ditch and a dumped deposit dating to the 20th century were also uncovered.

Keywords	<p>Culvert - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Culvert - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Tree Throw - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Refuse Disposal Site - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Refuse Disposal Site - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Wall - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Boundary Wall - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Structure - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Structure - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Burial - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Floor - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Floor - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Ditch - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Sherd - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Nail - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Nail - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Clay Pipe (Smoking) - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Sherd - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Peg Tile - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Peg Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Ceramic - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Dressed Stone - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Dressed Stone - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Roof Slate - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Animal Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Human Remains - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p>
Funder	Private or public corporation St Osyth Priory Estates Ltd
HER	Scheduled Monument Casework - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Harriet Vincett-Wilson
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - STOSO4



Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;
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