

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 4

Trench 4 matrix

Group 4.1			1	
.....			I	.....
			I	
Group 4.2			2	
			I	
			3	
			I	
			4	
.....			I	.....
			I	
Group 4.3	I	I	I	I
	5	8	10	14
	I	I	I	I
	6	9	11	15
	I	I	I	I
	7	I	12	I
	I	I	I	I
	I	I	I	I
.....			I	.....
			I	
Group 4.4			16	
.....			I	.....
			I	
Group 4.5			17	

Group 4.1

1 - layer; brick, concrete and mortar - -

This Group consists of one context representing a layer of demolition from shops fronting the High Street which were recently levelled.

C/S: 1.3-8
 B/W: 1.4-12
 Section: 1
 Plan: -
 Phase: X

Group 4.2

2 - wall, concrete and brick	12.52 - 11.97
3 - fill, concrete	12.18 - 11.84
4 - cut, steep sides, undulating base (7.90m N-S x 0.50m deep)	12.52 - 11.84

This group was only seen in the section and consisted of a foundation cut orientated North South, containing a poured concrete base (3) on to which was built the wall (4). There was no evidence for a backfill for the foundation trench. The wall

represents an out building of the shops fronting the High Street.

C/S: 1.3-8
B/W: 1.4-12
Section: 1
Plan: -
Phase: IX B

Group 4.3

5 - wall,brick and mortar	12.30 - 11.69
6 - concrete,	11.89 - 11.08
7 - cut, concave edge, flat base 1.47m (N-S) x 0.65m deep	12.30 - 11.08
8 - fill, dark grey silty clay sand	11.97 - 11.73
9 - cut, steep sides, flat base 2.00m (E-W) x 0.45m (N-S) x 0.25m deep	11.97 - 11.73
10 - fill, dark grey,silty sandy clay	11.89 - 11.52
11 - cut, abrupt edges, flat base 2.00m (E-W) x 0.60m (N-S) x 0.35m deep	11.89 - 11.52
12 - fill, dark grey, sandy clay	11.80 - 11.59
13 - cut, steep edge, flat base 2.00m (E-W) x 1.15m (N-S) x0.15m deep	11.80 - 11.59
14 - fill, dark grey, sandy clay	11.92 - 11.34
15 - cut, steep edge, flat base	11.92 - 11.34

This group consisted of five cuts and their fills. Cut (7) was for a linear wall filled with poured concrete acting as a base for wall (5) which was truncated by cut (4). The function of wall (5) was for part of a building fronting the High Street. Cuts (9), (11) and (15) were truncated by Cut (4) Which probably removed any buried soils (not seen in the Trench sections) which these cuts were excavated into. As cuts (9), (11) and (15) were seen only in section their function could not be identified. These cuts if they were linear were possibly parallel to each other and may have had a structural function associated with wall (4) or possibly represented horticultural features. Cut (11) truncated fill (12) of cut (13) and its function was uncertain. This group of contexts had no diagnostic finds however fills contained brick which gave the contexts a 19th/20th Century date.

C/S: 1.3-8
B/W: 1.4-12
Section: 1
Plan: -
Phase: IX B

Group 4.4

16 - layer, dark orange brown silty clay sand	11.97 - 11.55
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This group consists of one layer of a brick earth laid down after the last glaciation probably by wind (aeolian) action.

C/S: 1.3-8
B/W: 1.4-12
Section: 1
Plan: -

Phase: VI

Group 4.5

17 - layer, orange clay sand

11.73m - 11.16m

This layer represents a fluviially deposited gravel deposit. The natural gravel differed across the site and in Trench 4 this material was probably more water sorted, hence its more sandier nature.

C/S: 1.3-8

B/W: 1.4-12

Section: 1

Plan: -

Phase: V

GROUP DISCUSSION: TRENCH 5

Trench 5 matrix

Group 5.1	51
.....	I.....
	I
Group 5.2	52
	I
	53
	I
	54
	I
	55
	I
	56
.....	I.....
	I

Group 5.3			57		
	.....I.....				
	I				
Group 5.4	I	I	I	I	I
	I	I	I	I	58
	I	I	I	I	I
	I	I	I	I	59
	I	I	I	I	I
	I	I	I	I	60
	I	I	I	I	I
	I	I	I	I	61
	.....I.....				
	I	I	I	I	I
Group 5.5	63	65	66	67	I
	I	I	I	I	I
	.....I.....				
	I				
Group 5.6			62		
	.....I.....				
	I				
Group 5.7			64		
	.....I.....				
	I				
Group 5.8			68		
	.....I.....				
	I				
Group 5.9		I	I	I	
		69		71	
		I		I	
		70		I	
		I		I	
	.....I.....				
	I				
Group 5.10			73		
	.....I.....				
	I				
			72		
	.....I.....				
	I				
Group 5.11			75		
	.....I.....				
	I				
			76		
	.....I.....				
	I				
Group 5.12			77		

Group 5.1

51 - layer, light grey sandy silt, frequent brick 12.24 - 11.98

This group consisted of a layer of demolition material found across the site resulting from the demolition of the buildings fronting the High Street.

C/S: 1.15-23
B/W: 1.22-31
Section: 4,5,6
Plan: -
Phase: X

Group 5.2

52 - layer, light grey concrete 10.55 - 10.36
- cut
53 - fill, dark grey sandy silt with frequent building material 12.06 - 10.19
54 - wall, brick 12.19 - 10.19
55 - fill, light grey concrete 10.21 - 10.01
56 - cut, abrupt sides, base not excavated 11.97 - 10.01

This group represents the contexts which were associated with a early 20th Century building which used to front the High Street. Context (52) was a concrete floor in the cellar of the building and overlay fill (53) on the Northern side of wall (54). Fill

(53) was the back fill for the foundation trench for the brick wall (54) which sat up on a footing of concrete, poured into the wall foundation cut (56).

C/S: 1.15-23
B/W: 1.21-31
Section: 4,5,6
Plan: -
Phase: IXB

Group 5.3

57 - layer, brown silty sand with frequent gravel 11.78 - 11.58

In this trench many of the layers present in the other trenches such as the buried soil and brickearth were missing probably caused by grading during construction of the buildings on the High Street. However a layer of probable fluviually deposited gravel was similar to (17) in Trench 4 was represented by context (57) in this Trench.

C/S: 1.15-23
B/W: 1.21-31
Section: 4
Plan: -
Phase: V

Group 5.4

58 - fill, sandy silty clay with frequent gravel 11.77 - 10.87
59 - fill, reddish brown silty sand 11.35 - 10.52
60 - fill, orange brown clay sand 11.00 - 10.44
61 - cut, abrupt edge top to base flat base 11.49 - 9.86

This group probably represents a naturally formed cut filled up with fills of natural silt. Fill (58) appeared to fill the entire cut in the East facing section of the trench. There were a number of factors that led to this interpretation, largely only one edge was available to interpretation as the northern edge of the cut was removed by the excavation of the foundation trench cut for the cellar (56). The formation of this cut and its fills could be the result of a water channel cutting deeply through the layers present trying to reach a lower sea level, or possibly a large crack in the ground caused by excessive temperature changes in a past tundra like environment. A Pleistocene date seems likely.

C/S: 1.15-23
B/W: 1.22-31
Section: 4, 6
Plan: -
Phase: VI

Group 5.5

63 - wedge, reddish brown clayey sand	10.64 - 10.34
65 - wedge, brown orange clayey sand	10.40 - 9.88
66 - wedge, brown orange clayey sand	10.39 - 10.12
67 - lens, reddish brown clayey sand	10.41 - 9.89

This group of contexts are associated with a peri-glacial environment and are described as "ice wedges". In prolonged temperatures of -6 degrees centigrade, the frozen ground may contract and fissures, often polygonal in shape open up, water may then seep into the fissures, freeze and the increased volume of the frozen water widen the cracks. The profile of these ice wedges are often tapered in shape. In a following milder climate, the ice melted and the wedges became "fossilised" by being infilled with different material to the deposit the ice wedge intruded into (Evans. 1975). In this group of contexts only (63) and (64) showed evidence of a classic polygonal shape with a tapering profile. Contexts (65), (66) and (67) were

probably localised pockets of ice which made small holes. As these periglacial features were not very wide, it could be suggested that either the local environment was not subjected to a long period of sub zero temperatures or else the climate was cold but arid and therefore there was no water to feed the mechanics of widening the cracks. However all these contexts were filled with the same material, a well graded clay and sand sediment which would suggest that the cracks were filled with a water sorted deposit. Unfortunately, the construction of the cellar removed the evidence as to what layer the ice cracks were intruded from, which was the reason why a sondage was excavated into Trench 1 unfortunately without conclusive results. Another problem with the interpretation of the ice wedges seen in section was that they often appeared as lenses and could not be traced to a surface layer where the fracture originated. The reason for this may simply be that the sides of the ice wedge collapsed and therefore the upper part of it was not distinguishable.

C/S: 1.15-23
B/W: 1.22-31
Section: 4,5,6
Plan: -
Phase: IV

Group 5.6

62 - layer, orange brown clay	11.12 - 9.03
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This is a natural layer of clay, probably derived from the brickearth, and probably redeposited by fluvial action. This layer is more than likely to have been the same as the underlying layer (68) and was probably subject to differential drying in that layer (62). In a cold and arid environment layer (62) dried out and changed its appearance, whilst layer (68) remained damp. The ice wedges appeared to be intruded into this layer, however the excavation of the cellar removed the stratigraphy above context (62) and therefore it could not be said with certainty that the surface of (62) was where the ice wedges originated from.

C/S: 1.15-23
B/W: 1.22-31
Section: 4,5,6
Plan: -
Phase: IIIC

Group 5.7

68 - layer, reddish brown clay 10.05 - 9.62

This context represents a layer of reddish brown clay again probably derived from the underlying brickearth and is probably the same as Context (62) but has been subject to differential drying.

C/S: 1.15-23
B/W: 1.22-31
Section: 4,5,6
Plan: -
Phase: IIIA

Group 5.9

69 - fill, brown silty clay 10.74 - 10.45
70 - cut, sloping edges, rounded base 10.74 - 10.45
71 - layer, light orangey brown silty sand 10.75 - 9.64

Interpretation of this group is difficult as the contexts were only seen in section. Cut (70) and its fill (71) were probably of a natural origin as the fill contained no finds or evidence of human activity and it could be suggested as perhaps a localised water course, however this theory is weakened by the fact that it only featured in one section. Layer (71) appeared to be a naturally deposited layer stratigraphically contemporary with cut (70) and this layers mechanism of deposition can only be guessed at as either of a fluvial or aeolian nature.

C/S: 1.17-18
B/W: 1.25-27
Section: 5
Plan: -
Phase: IIB

Group 5.10

73 - layer, grey silty clay 10.72 - 10.55
74 - layer, grey brown clay
72 - layer, light brown silty clay with 9.73 - 9.43
occasional tufa nodules

This group consisted of three layers. Context (73) was a layer of silty clay that was probably derived from the surrounding brickearth and was deposited probably by fluvial action and similarly layer (74) was probably derived from the local brickearth and was deposited by fluvial activity. The tufa nodule rich layer (72) shows evidence of the local environment and climate at its time of deposition. Tufa is a form of a calcium carbonate, precipitated in springs or marshy conditions

from alkaline rich sediments in a warm and wet climate (Evans,1975). It could be interpreted therefore that context (73) was deposited in a spring issuing from the alkaline rich brickearth which probably contained vegetation which acted as a "catalyst" for the tufa to form on. The climate would have been a warmer one than the present day and this leads to the question of the tufa's date. In this country tufa is largely thought to have formed in the Atlantic period 5500 - 3200 bc, a post-glacial period. This was far too late a date as the stratigraphy above context (73) shows evidence (the ice wedges) of the last glacial period, the Devensian Ice Age. Therefore, as there are no archaeological finds to date the tufa, an earlier interglacial period other than the present one, such as the Ipswichian which finished about 75,000 bp could be considered. Most likely, during the Devensian inter-glacial there was a period (an interstadial) when the climate warmed sufficiently to temperatures which allowed the tufa to form, before the ice age continued. Unfortunately there was no evidence to date this interstadial.

C/S: 1.17-18
B/W: 1.25-24
Section: 5
Plan: -
Phase: II A

Group 5.11

75 - layer, light brown clayey silt 9.68 - 9.49

This is a layer of redeposited brickearth, and shows no evidence of similar deposition to the tufa layer above as it contained no tufa. It was therefore probably deposited by fluvial activity.

C/S: 1.21-23
B/W: 1.25-27
Section: 5
Plan: -
Phase: IIA

Group 5.12

76 - layer, light grey clayey silt, occasional tufa nodules 9.53 - 9.38

This group formed in similar circumstances to that of Context (73) in Group 5.10, needing a warm precipitous climate for the tufa to form in. Again dating this layer was difficult and only a suggestion of a warmer interstadial period within the Devensian Ice Age could be suggested. There were fewer tufa nodules in this context than that of (73) which may be because it was only

partially seen in section, however it could be suggested that conditions were less favourable or a shorter period of time existed for the formation of tufa in (76) than that of layer (73).

C/S: 1.21-23
B/W: 1.29-31
Section: 6
Plan: -
Phase: IIA

Group 5.13

77 - layer, light grey sandy silt 9.43 - 8.85

This layer is part of the sequence of brickearth deposits and was probably deposited either by aeolian or fluvial activity. This layer was the lowest context excavated in the trench and on the site.

C/S: 1.15-23
B/W: 1.22-31
Section: 4,5,6
Plan: -
Phase: I