

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

December 2015



KING'S LYNN TOWN HALL, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

G Trimble

KING'S LYNN TOWN HALL

HER Event No.: ENF137022
Museum Accession No.: TBC
Planning Application No.: 14/00582/F
NGR: TF 6173 1989

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2).....	1
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES	2
5.0 METHODOLOGY	3
6.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3)	4
7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION	5
8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS	7
10.1 Project Details	7
10.2 Archive Details	7

Colour plates

Plate 1: View of area north of the Old Gaol House after demolition of the store room and excavation for the foundations of the lift shaft. The area of the actual lift is represented by the smaller and squared deeper excavation in the central area. 8

Plate 2: View showing relationship between Sections 1 & 2 facing east. 8

Plate 3: View of Section 2 facing east with modern wall (19) still in situ. 9

Plate 4: Floor removal in the flexible learning/display area, facing south. 9

Illustrations

Fig. 1 Location Map - Scale 1: 50 000

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan - Scale 1:1000

Fig. 3 Sections 2 and 3

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX B – FINDS REPORT *By Alex Beeby and Gary Taylor*

APPENDIX C – OASIS FORM

KING'S LYNN TOWN HALL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

A programme of monitoring and recording was carried out by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to alterations at King's Lynn Town Hall. The archaeological work was commissioned by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk to meet the requirements of a brief supplied by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service. Monitoring commenced on the 6th April 2015 and was completed on 19th September 2015.

The site lies within the historic core of King's Lynn, close to the Saturday Market Place and the Minster and Priory Church of St Margaret (King's Lynn Minster). The site lies to the north of a complex of buildings comprising The Guildhall of Holy Trinity, Kings Lynn Town Hall and the Old Gaol House. Previous excavations in the surrounding area have revealed evidence of medieval occupation.

The programme of monitoring and recording resulted in the exposure of a postulated infilled creek or channel, which had served as a receptacle for waste dumping in the late 17th century. An important pottery assemblage of this date was recovered from the upper fills of this feature. Other features recorded included pits of probable 18th century date and a wall and infilled cellar of probable 19th century date.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A programme of monitoring and recording was carried out by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to alterations to King's Lynn Town hall. The work involved the excavations for the foundations of a lift shaft located to the immediate north of the north wall of the Old Gaol House. The archaeological work was commissioned by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk to meet the requirements of a brief supplied by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service. Monitoring commenced on the 6th April 2015 and was completed on 19th September 2015.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

The site lies within the historic core of the King's Lynn, on the west side of Granary Court and 75m north of The Minster and Priory Church of St Margaret at NGR TF 6173 1989. King's Lynn forms part of the administrative district of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. The site of the proposed lift shaft was immediately to the north of the Old Gaol House within a complex of buildings which also included the 15th century Guildhall and King's Lynn Town Hall built in the late 18th century.

The site is located on solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay overlain by tidal flat deposits of Quaternary period clay and silt (British Geological Survey, Solid & Drift, 1:50 000).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The historic core of King's Lynn stands on the east bank of the Great Ouse, where the river is met by four freshwater channels; namely, the Millfleet, Purfleet, Nar and Gay.

Domesday records indicate a small settlement at King's Lynn in the 11th century, perhaps located to the south of the Millfleet, at South Lynn, in the vicinity of All Saints Church (Clarke and Carter 1977).

Late in the 11th century, the Benedictine Priory of St Margaret was founded by the Bishop of Thetford, Herbert de Losinga, together with a market, the site of which is now known as The Saturday Market. The new foundation, situated north of the Millfleet and south of the Purfleet may have been created to serve a pre-existing community located to the north of All Saints. It is first mentioned as *Lena* in Domesday Book derived from British *lindo* – meaning pool or lake. The Bishops of Norwich maintained ecclesiastical control of King's Lynn (then known as Bishop's Lynn) until the dissolution in 1547 (Brown and Hardy 2011).

As King's Lynn developed, the area around St Margaret's and the Saturday Market place was of great economic importance, particularly during the earlier centuries of the town's existence when the Saturday Market place was the focus of trade. However, in the middle of the 12th century 'Newland' was founded on land north of the Purfleet, through a grant by William de Turbe, Bishop of Norwich establishing St Nicholas' Chapel and a second market now referred to as the Tuesday Market. The later part of the middle ages saw the emergence of this market place as the new principal trading centre of Lynn.

Archaeological excavations in the late 1960s have uncovered surviving remains of the settlement between the Purfleet and Millfleet. At a location around 100m north of the propose development site along Baker lane (NHER 1219), excavations revealed evidence of medieval occupation from around 1250 in the form of wattle and timber buildings. Wooden jetties extending into the Purfleet were also recorded (Clarke and Carter 1977). Excavations in the courtyard of Thoresby College (NHER 1228) to the west of the current development site exposed a late 13th century river wharf and late medieval brick foundations (Clarke and Carter 1977). Smaller scale archaeological excavations and watching briefs have recorded further evidence. Excavations located around 65m north of the current site revealed cobbled areas and medieval walls (NHER 1220) whilst work in advance of the construction of the Baker Lane lavatories revealed medieval and post-medieval wall footings (NHER 32891). To the rear of the Town Hall buildings digging over of what is likely to be redeposited garden soil revealed a medieval stone mortar, sherds of Grimston ware and 17th century pottery sherds (NHER 1225). Numerous finds of medieval and post medieval pottery has also been recovered from land to the rear of the High Street (NHER 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224 and 5537).

The Guildhall of Holy Trinity was constructed in 1421 of brick although it has a flint chequerwork facade. The entire ground floor is a brick built undercroft. Next to the Guildhall is the Town hall built in 1895. To the rear of the Town hall is the old courthouse and gaol built in 1784.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project were to:

- *allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- *provide information for accession to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.*

5.0 METHODOLOGY

During attendance all deep groundworks were monitored on a continuous basis, with recording undertaken within Health and Safety constraints. Shallow excavations which did not extend below modern and 19th century deposits were monitored on an intermittent basis. The greatest level of disturbance to subsurface deposits occurred to the rear of the Old Gaol House, through the excavation of foundations for a lift shaft. Over the remainder of the site, excavations were generally shallow, mainly comprising resurfacing works and trenches for the installation of ducts and drainage.

Monitoring of the reduction of the existing floor level in the proposed display room revealed only make up layers of modern brick and concrete.

A record of the site was compiled through photographs showing individual features and deposits as well as the overall stratigraphic sequence, section drawings at scale 1:10 and plans at scale 1:20. Individual context descriptions were produced for each unit of stratigraphy.

6.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3)

Following demolition of the storeroom to the north of the Old Gaol House, to make way for the proposed lift shaft and associated building, the existing ground level was reduced by mechanical excavator by around 1m over an area measuring around 33m squared. A smaller area of ground measuring 4m squared was further reduced (by 0.40m depth) to facilitate the insertion of piles for the lift shaft itself. Two representative sections were recorded (see *Plates 1, 2 and 3*).

The west facing section of the deeper pit for the lift shaft piles was recorded (Fig.3, Section 2). Deposits revealed within the pit consisted of a single, homogenous layer of waterlogged, dark grey silt (12) and may represent the uppermost layers within an infilled water-course. Fragments of brick and tile were present throughout the deposit and a significant assemblage of pottery sherds and other finds were recovered. The assemblage of finds clearly indicates an episode of deliberate dumping of waste material into the silts. The finds assemblage, which includes 44 pottery sherds, 3 pieces of clay pipe, 2 pieces of glass and a bowling ball dates the dumping episode to the late 17th century (1660-1700) which predates the building of the Gaol House which was constructed 1784 (Appendix B).

In the easternmost, section which flanked the west side of Granary Court (Fig. 3, Section 1), the earliest recorded deposit (02) could not be confidently correlated with (12) recorded in Section 2. However, deposit (02) was very similar in characteristics to (12) comprising mid to dark grey silt and could feasibly represent the same deposit located at a higher level. It contained moderate quantities of discarded ceramic building materials in the form of brick and tile fragments. Six joining sherds of an earthenware bowl dating to between the mid 16th and 17th century was recovered from the deposit. Deposit (02) was truncated away on its south and north sides leaving a surviving measurement of 0.48m in width and a depth of 0.34m. The south side of (02) was truncated away by an almost vertical cut [13]. The cut could not be identified in Section 2 or in plan on the ground between Section 1 and the deeper pit. Therefore, it is assumed that it must be mostly confined to the area lying east of the area of excavation. The cut measured 0.36m in depth and contained a single deposit of mid grey silt (03) which included frequent quantities of demolition rubble represented by broken tile and brick fragments. The deposit measured 1.10m in width extending up to the wall of the Old Gaol House (19). The wall of the Gaol House appeared to have been inserted into the deposit. Five sherds of pottery and a fragment of clay pipe stem were recovered from the deposit. The finds are datable to the late 17th century (1670-90).

The northern side of deposit (02) was truncated by a steeply inclined cut [20], which probably represents the south side of a large pit. As was the case with Cut [13], Cut [20] could not be identified in plan on the ground between Section 1 and the deeper excavation for the lift shaft to the west. The north side of the postulated pit was truncated by the insertion of wall (11) leaving a surviving north-to-south extent of 1.48m. The cut was exposed to a maximum depth of 0.82m (at the north side) but was not revealed to its full depth. The earliest recorded fill deposit (01) consisted of soft mid to dark grey silt. It measured 0.20m thick and 1.33m wide and contained moderate quantities of tile fragments and cream coloured mortar. A single sherd of pottery dating to between the 16th and 18th centuries was recovered from the deposit. The uppermost fill in cut [20] was represented by deposit (04) which consisted of a mixture of mid to dark grey and mid grey loose and crumbly silty sand and ash. Approximately 20% of the deposit consisted of tile and brick rubble. It measured 0.60m in maximum depth (at northern extent) thinning to 0.12m depth at its south extent. It had a width 1.55m.

Directly above deposit (04) was the profile of a probable pre-existing ground surface represented by [14]. It extended a distance of 2.30m which covered almost the entire span between wall (11) to the north and the construction cut for the modern wall [15] to the south. It was gradually sloped for a distance of 1.40 from a high point at in the north before breaking to flat. It is possible that this surface is contemporary with the Old Gaol House which was built in 1784. The lower part of the profile which lay to the south was later raised by the dumping of deposits (05) and (06). The earlier deposit (05) consisted of a loose and crumbly layer of building rubble within a matrix of mid grey silty sand. The rubble consists of tile and brick fragments and constituted around 50% of the deposit. A fragment of tile dated to between the late 12th and 15th centuries was recovered from the deposit. It measured 1.21m in width and 0.39m in depth. Dumped deposit (06) was located immediately above (05) and consisted of moderately compacted dark grey coarse sand which included frequent quantities of cream coloured mortar fragments. It measured 0.21m in width and 0.50m in depth.

A wall foundation of probable Victorian date (11) was inserted through the fills of the postulated pit [20]. It was orientated east-to-west and built of roughly coursed bricks set within a crumbly yellowish brown mortar. Some bricks were set into what appeared to be modern, hard cement. The wall measured 0.45m in width and 0.95m in depth. Deposits located to the north of the wall consisted of loose dumped material which probably filled a cellar. The lowest deposit (21) consisted of light to mid brown silty sand which included frequent quantities of modern brick and tile fragments. It measured 0.37m in thickness. Above (21) was deposit (22) which consisted of a mixture of mid grey silty sand and yellowish brown sand. It included fragments of brick and tile and measured 0.51m in depth. This was sealed by a layer of light brown gravel (023) which measured 0.07m in thickness.

The south side of dumped deposits (05) and (06) were truncated away by cut [15] which represents the construction cut for the modern wall (18) and its concrete foundation (16). The cut measured 1.1m in width and had a depth of 0.60m. The flat base of the cut met with the north wall of the old gaol (19). A concrete foundation measuring 0.32m in thickness and 0.60m in width supported the modern brick wall (18). Wall (18) was built up against the wall of the old gaol house leaving a narrow gap of around 0.10m between the walls.

The foundation cut [15] was sealed by a thin layer of ash and cream coloured mortar fragments (08) which is likely to represent accumulated and trampled debris resulting from the construction of wall (18). The deposit measured just 0.04m in average thickness and had a width of 1.42m. The construction layer (08) was sealed by a dumped levelling/make up layer of mid orange coarse sand (09) which measured 0.30m in average thickness. The sand was in turn sealed by a layer of modern asphalt (10) which measured an average of 0.16m in average depth.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Monitoring of groundworks carried out as part of alterations to King's Lynn Town Hall revealed the presence of a probable infilled water channel or fleet beneath the old gaol house. The foundation of the north wall of the gaol house which was constructed in 1784 was inserted into the postulated channel infill. Whether or not the area was occupied by a water channel or merely an area of open marshy ground, it was obviously used as a convenient receptacle for the disposal of waste in the late 17th century as evidenced by the high occurrence of pottery sherds and other finds from its upper layers. By this time any channel which may have existed here was silted up and perhaps survived as a relatively shallow water logged hollow. A significant and important assemblage of late 17th century pottery was recovered including at least one sherd of Brown Glazed Earthenware which is almost certainly a kiln waster suggesting evidence of pottery production in the immediate locality. For a detailed report on the finds refer to the finds report presented as Appendix B. No evidence of medieval occupation was recorded with the only evidence for activity of this date being a single sherd of residual late medieval tile from a dump of demolition material. Overall the evidence would suggest that during the medieval period the area beneath the northern parts of the Old Gaol House was occupied by either a creek or marshy ground. The orientation of the postulated creek is open to speculation but it could feasibly represent a further channel flowing from the east into the Great Ouse which lies to the west. Owing to the high density of obstructions in the form of dumped building materials and pottery, investigation of deposits by augering of deposits below those revealed by machine excavation was not possible.

Deposits above the fills of postulated channel (12) and possibly (02) are represented by pitting likely to be of 18th century date and followed by ground make up and levelling in the 19th and 20th centuries. An east-to-west aligned brick wall foundation is likely to represent an 18th or 19th century building which fronted onto Granary Court. Deposits immediately north of the wall suggest an infilled cellar associated with the building.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr Stuart Alexander of Pentaco Construction Ltd for cooperation in facilitating the fieldwork component of the project. Thanks are also due to Alex Beeby and Gary Taylor for production of the finds report.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, B & Hardy, A 2011 *Archaeology of the Newland: Excavations in King's Lynn, Norfolk 2003-5*. East Anglian Archaeology **140**

Clarke, H & Carter, A 1977 *Excavations in King's Lynn 1963 – 1970*. The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series **7**

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Details

EVENT NO: ENF137022

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 14/00582/F

FIELD OFFICER: G Trimble

NGR: TF 6173 1989

CIVIL PARISH: King's Lynn

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 06/04/2015 to 19/09/2015

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Monitoring and Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: To be confirmed

ACCESSION DATE: - To be confirmed

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	22
Section Drawings at Scale 1:10	2
Photographs	27
Set of Site Notes	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: View of area north of the Old Gaol House after demolition of the store room and excavation for the foundations of the lift shaft. The area of the actual lift is represented by the smaller and squared deeper excavation in the central area.



Plate 2: View showing relationship between Sections 1 & 2 facing east.



Plate 3: View of Section 2 facing east with modern wall (19) still in situ.

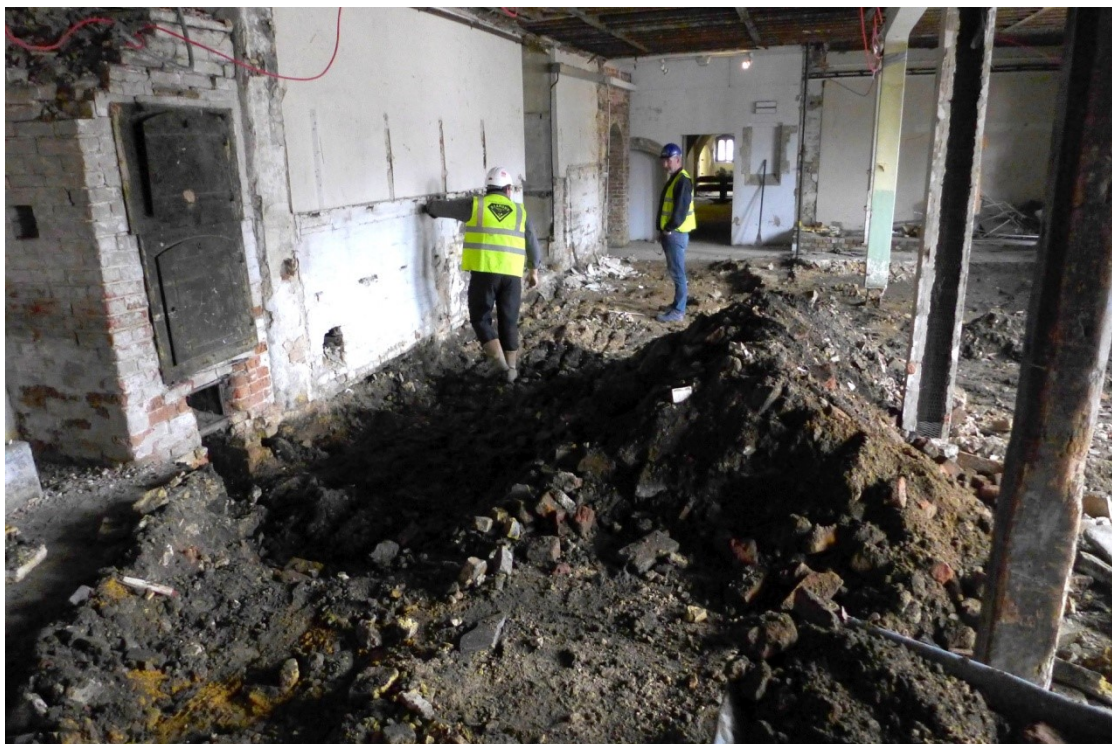
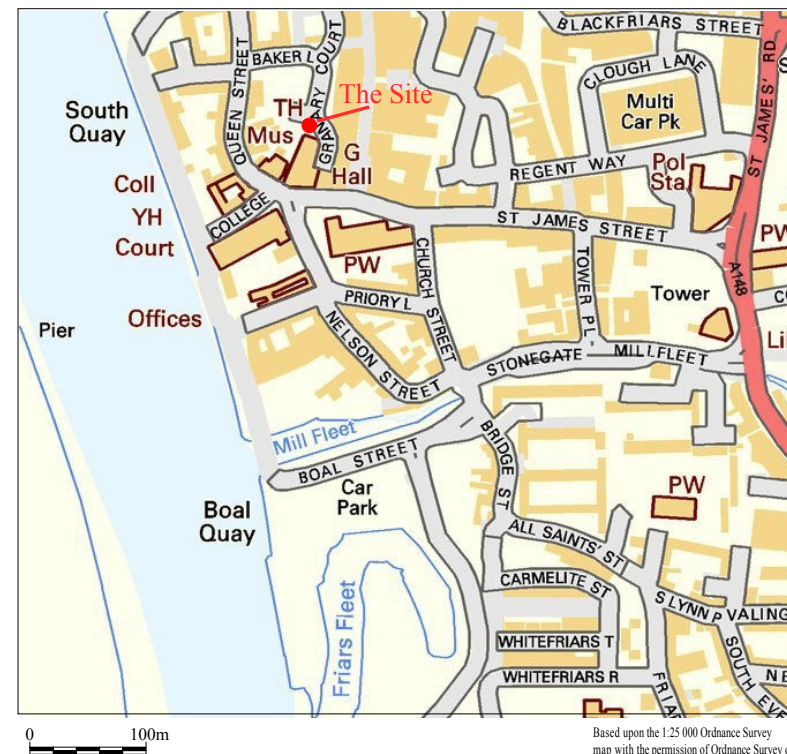
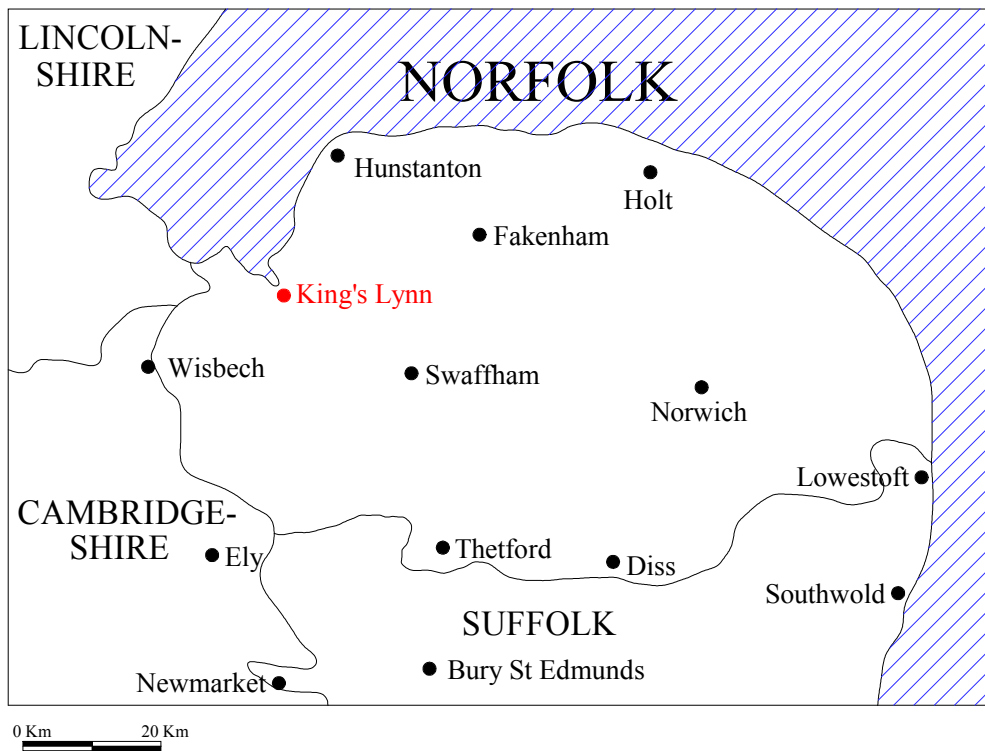
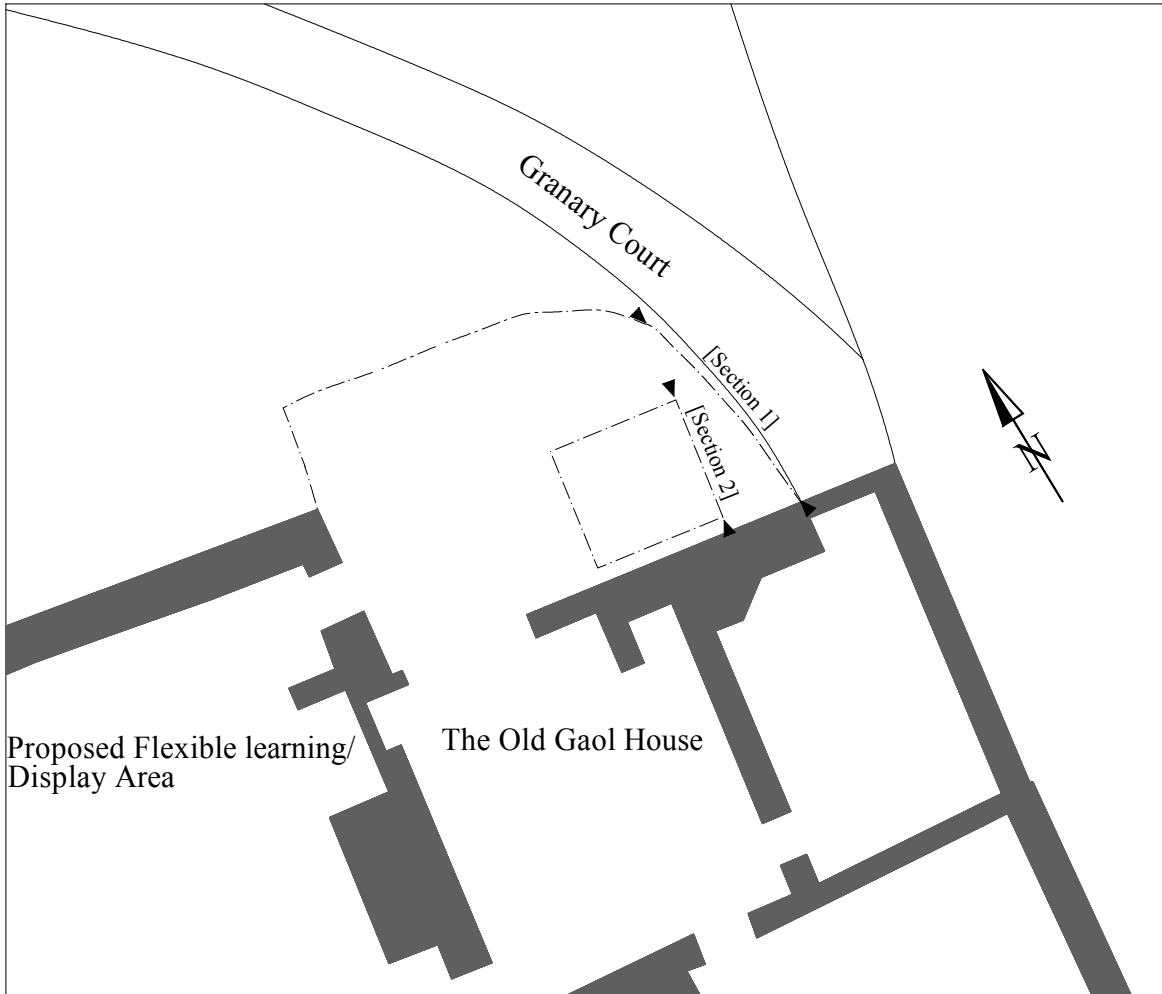


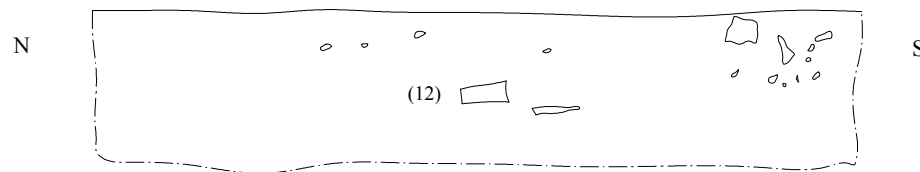
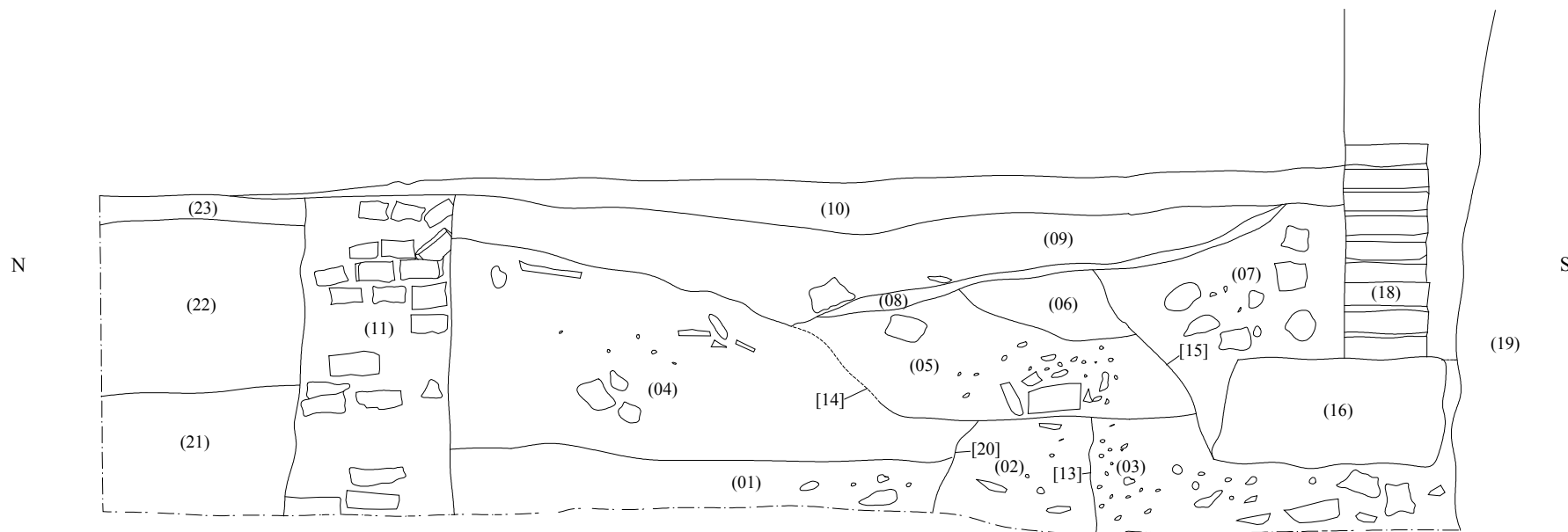
Plate 4: Floor removal in the proposed flexible learning/display area, facing south.



Based upon the 1:25 000 Ordnance Survey map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Licence No.: 10001998



0 5m



Appendix A. Context Descriptions

<i>Context</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
01	T1	Uppermost fill of postulated water channel	Soft mid to dark grey silt. Includes moderate quantities of fragments tile and brick. Also moderate quantities of mortar flecks and fragments. Measures 1.33m in recorded width and 0.20m in thickness.
02	T1	Levelling or make up material	Soft to moderately compacted mid to dark grey silt. Includes moderate quantities of tile and brick fragments.
03	T1	Fill of Pit [013]	Loosely, soft and crumbly deposit comprised of ceramic building material within a matrix of mid grey silt. Measures 1.10m in width and 0.34m in depth.
04		Levelling or make up layer	Loose and crumbly mixed deposit consisting of 20% tile and brick fragments and 80% silty sand. The silty sand incorporates some ashy grey material. Includes moderate quantities of small stones and gravel. Measures 0.60m in maximum depth and 1.55m in width.
05	T2	Levelling or make up layer	Loose and crumbly mixture of brick and tile fragments (50% of deposit) within a matrix of mid grey silty sand (50% of deposit). Deposit measures 1.21m in width and 0.39m in depth.
06	T2	Levelling or make up layer	Moderately compacted dark grey coarse sand which includes frequent flecks and small fragments of mortar. The deposit measures 0.21m in depth and 0.50m in width.
07	T2	Fill of Construction Cut [15]	Loose and crumbly mixture of tile and brick fragments (30% of deposit) and dark grey sandy silt (70% of deposit). Includes moderate quantities of small stones. Measures 0.73m in depth and 0.75m in width.
08		Trample layer resulting from construction of modern wall (18)	Loose and friable mixture of light grey ashy material and cream mortar flecks and fragments. Measures 0.04m in thickness and 1.42m in width.
09	T3	Levelling make up material for asphalt (09)	Loose and friable mid orange coarse sand which measures 0.30m in thickness and 2.50m in width.
10	T3	Layer of asphalt for present car park	Dark grey asphalt layer which measures 0.15m in thickness.
11	T3	Brick wall foundation	Modern machine moulded bricks laid in rough courses. Bonded by creamy yellow mortar. Some bricks bonded by very hard grey cement. Foundation measures 0.95m in depth and 0.45m in width.
12	T3	Fill in postulates water channel	Soft and loose dark grey water logged silt. The deposit includes moderate quantities of brick and tile fragments and occasional quantities of small and medium sized flint and stones. Common finds of pottery sherds.
13	T3	Cut for probable pit.	Vertical north side of probable. South side of feature truncated by the insertion of wall (19).

*Witham Archaeology Report No. 104: Town Hall King's Lynn
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

			Cut continues below the level of excavation. 0.34m depth recorded and survives to a width of 1.09m
14		Possible land surface.	Profile of possible land surface located between wall (11) and The Old Gaol House wall (19). It measures 2.20m in north-to-south extent. Slopes down gradually from a higher point to the north but breaks to flat nearer the Old Gaol House wall.
15		Construction cut for modern wall (18)	The cut has a steep side with a flat base. Oriented east-to-west and measures 0.56m in depth and 0.75m in width.
16		Modern concrete foundation for wall (18). Located to the base of construction cut [15]	Concrete foundation which measures 0.32m in depth and 0.65m in width.
17		Void.	
18		Modern wall	Wall constructed of yellow bricks. 0.25m in width.
19		North wall of Old Gaol House	Brick built wall
20		Cut of pit	Partially visible cut representing the south side of a pit. North side truncated by insertion of wall (11). Full depth not known. The cut was steeply sloped with a recorded depth of 0.28m
21		Fill of cellar	Firmly compacted light to mid brown silty sand. Includes frequent modern brick and tile fragments and measures 0.37m in thickness.
22		Fill of cellar	Loosely compacted mixture of mid grey silty sand and yellowish brown sand. Includes frequent brick and tile fragments and measures 0.51m in depth.
23		Fill of cellar	Loosely compacted light brown gravel. 0.07m in depth.

Appendix B. Finds Report

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A total of 63 sherds from approximately 36 vessels, weighing 7773 grams were recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary of fabrics shown in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the post medieval period.

Condition

The assemblage is mostly comprised of substantially sized pieces, including a number of virtually complete vessels. A large quantity of sherds are encrusted with a pale yellow substance, which in some cases, covers a broken edge; this material may be cess, or some kind of industrial residue. Sooting is recorded on a small number of pieces, although in most cases this deposit is probably due to exposure to heat during waste disposal or industrial activities, rather than cooking. Pieces from two separate vessels show evidence of kiln damage and could be wasters or manufacturing seconds.

Results

Table 1, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery

Cname	Full Name	Earliest Date	Latest Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
WNBC	West Norfolk bichrome	1500	1800	1	1	12
FREC	Frechen stoneware	1530	1680	4	3	1286
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	42	20	4780
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	1	1	320
TGE	Tin-glazed earthenware	1550	1750	6	3	75
METS	Metropolitan slipware	1600	1700	1	1	412
WEST	Westerwald stoneware	1600	1800	1	1	66
WNSW	West Norfolk slipware	1600	1750	3	3	313
SLIP	Unidentified slipware	1650	1750	2	2	477
STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1650	1780	2	1	32
Total				63	36	7773

Fabrics

There is a relatively restricted range of post medieval fabric types, with brown glazed earthenwares (BERTH) dominating the group. These types equate to the King's Lynn Redware fabrics, discussed by Alan Carter (1977). Slipwares and a number of other common types current between the 16th and 18th centuries are also noted. Although most of the material came from (012), all of the pottery, including those pieces recovered from other features, would seem to be broadly contemporary in date.

Brown Glazed Earthenwares (BERTH)/King's Lynn Redwares

There is a mix of BERTH/Redware fabrics including Carter's types 1, 2 and 3. Carter dates these to the 17th and 18th centuries, noting no typological differentiation between the types (Carter, 1977, 238). It is of note though, that elsewhere, in the region including Lincolnshire as well as at Harlow and Norwich, similar fabrics are produced from the early to middle 16th century, and it is possible that some of the items from this site may in fact predate 1600 AD.

BERTH/Redware forms include jars, one of which has a bunghole, bowls including handled examples (see drawings 1-3), pipkins, jugs and a pancheon. These are typical domestic forms of the period, with similar published parallels, in most cases, from both Kings Lynn, and/or within the related and largely contemporaneous 'glazed red earthenware' types published from Norwich (Jennings, 1981). Unlike the Norwich fabrics, the pieces from this site are, in many cases, slipped below the lead glaze, giving a dark brown finish. Whilst some of the lighter coloured pieces, particularly the fabric type recorded as Redware 1, may derive from kilns within the Norwich area, or other region production centres, it is equally likely that all of the pottery is locally produced.

Fragments from two vessels recovered from (012) are of particular note; one piece has a split in the base, whilst sherds from a second vessel have clay pellets and fired clay pieces adhered to the underside of the base, as well as melted glaze over a broken edge. Whilst the first of these may have been sold as a manufacturing second, the other of these vessels would seem to have failed in the kiln and this item, which would not have been usable, is unlikely to have travelled far from its place of production.

Slipwares

There are four varieties of post medieval slipware from the site. West Norfolk slipware (WNSW) is represented by pieces from three vessels (drawings 5 and 6), whilst a single, virtually complete bowl (drawing 4), with the characteristic geometric design of the metropolitan slipware type (METS), was also recorded. A necked cup or mug in a Staffordshire type slipware (STSL) was also retrieved as well as a second in a fine oxidised slipware fabric (SLIP), which may also be a Staffordshire product.

Other types

Small quantities of additional fabrics including tin glazed earthenware (TGE), Frechen (FREC) and Westerwald stonewares (WEST), Harlow type, black glazed earthenware (BL) and west Norfolk Bichrome ware (WNBC) make up the remainder of the assemblage.

Dating the Deposits

Deposit (012) produced an excellent group, including large sherds and virtually complete vessels. This pottery is likely to be post medieval waste, probably recovered here from within its original archaeological deposit. The presence of Frechen and Westerwald stonewares as well as various slipwares including one item with Metropolitan type slipped decoration, suggests a 17th century date, whilst two pieces from a single vessel in Staffordshire type slipware indicate a *terminus post quem* of AD 1650. Based on this information, a mid to late 17th century date is likely.

Pits [013] and [020] as well as layer (05) produced much smaller amounts of material, although the pottery is broadly contemporary in date with that from (012). The pottery from these deposits is also fresh, with similarly large fragments suggesting a very low level of residuality and little to no redeposition.

Potential

This is an good post medieval group which includes many large pieces of pottery. The material should be retained as part of the site archive. A total of six vessels have been selected for illustration as these are excellent and unique examples of their type. These drawings are shown in Appendix 1 at the end of this report. Table 2 below shows a list of those items illustrated. No further work is required.

Table 2, Illustrated Vessels

Dr	Cxt	Fabric	Fabric	Form
1	01	Brown Glazed Earthenware	King's Lynn Redware 1	Bowl
2	03	Brown Glazed Earthenware	King's Lynn Redware 1/2	Bowl

Dr	Cxt	Fabric	Fabric	Form
3	012	Brown Glazed Earthenware	King's Lynn Redware 3	Bowl or pipkin
4	012	Metropolitan Slipware		Bowl
5	012	West Norfolk Slipware		Bowl
6	012	West Norfolk Slipware		Handled Bowl

Summary

A large and fresh assemblage of post medieval pottery was recovered during the archaeological investigation. The bulk of this material came from deposit (012) within a possible fleet or water channel. Pieces of possible pottery kiln waste from here are of particular note. A mid to late 17th century date is likely for the material in this deposit, with other pottery collected from pits [013] and [020] as well as layer (05), likely to be of a similar date.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A single fragment of ceramic building material, weighing 166 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was viewed and weighed before being examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 3 below.

Condition

The fragment is in an unabraded state. The upper surface of the tile has mortar adhered, which indicates reuse.

Results

Table 3, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Description	Date
05	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	OX/R/OX; vitrified; Ca	1	166	Mortar adhered to upper surface; overfired; leached Ca	L12th- 15th

Provenance

The ceramic building material was recovered from make up or levelling layer (05).

Range

There is single fragment of medieval flat roofing tile.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The ceramic building material should be retained as part of the site archive. It is stable and should pose no problems for long term storage.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Two linking pieces of glass weighing a total of 67g were recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition. However, it exhibits pronounced iridescent decay.

Results

Table 4, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
12	Light green bottle, neck, wide-mouthed, heavy iridescence	2(link)	67	Late 17 th -early 18 th century

Provenance

The glass was recovered from the upper fill of a postulated water channel.

Range

The neck of a bottle was recovered. It is wide mouthed and has a prominent string rim. Wide-mouthed bottles such as this were often used as preserving or storage vessels in the first half of the 18th century (Van den Bossche 2001, 92-3), though also served as decanters during the same period (*ibid.*, 79). The prominent string rim is typical of late 17th century bottles (*ibid.*, 70-71).

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the glass is of limited potential.

CLAY PIPE

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

Condition

The clay pipes are in good condition.

Results

Table 5, Clay Pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
03		1	1			2	26	1x Oswald general type 7 bowl, c. 1660-80; 1x bowl marked 'RK' retrograde on lower sides of bowl, c. 1670-90	c. 1670-90
12		2		1		3	35	1x Oswald general type 6 bowl, c. 1660-80; 1x Oswald general type 6 bowl, illegible heel stamp, c. 1660-80 or a little earlier; 1x stem (5/64") with heel	18 th century, perhaps early (or later 17 th)
Totals		3	1	1		5	61		

Provenance

The clay pipes were recovered from a fill of a possible pit (03) and the upper fill of a postulated water channel (12). There are probably all fairly local products, likely to have been manufactured in King's Lynn, and one is marked with the initials of a known King's Lynn pipe maker.

Range

A small assemblage of clay pipes, mostly bowls, was recovered. All the bowls (4) are typical later 17th century types. One is stamped in relief on the lower side of the bowl with retrograde initials 'R' and 'K'. This type of marking appears to be a locally-distinctive later 17th century style of the eastern side of Norfolk (Atkin 1985, 130-1). This particular type, though, is known to have been produced by Robert King, a King's Lynn pipe maker operating between 1674 and 1710. King used this particular type of marking in the period c. 1670-90 (*ibid.*, fig 5, no. 64; 135).

One of the pipes, of about c. 1660-80, has a heel stamp. This stamp is bas-relief in an approximately diamond-shaped indent. The stamp is illegible but could be a *fleur de lis*. Heel stamps of this broad type generally seem to be of the early 17th century, perhaps continuing to be used until c. 1660 (*ibid.*, 128-9).

A possible 18th century date has been suggested for Context 12. This is based on the bore diameter of the stem which, at 5/64", is most typical of the 18th century (Walker 1967, fig 27). However, this is not categorical (Higgins 1995, 50-1) and similar narrow bores occasionally occur on earlier, 17th century, pipes. It seems likely that the two complete late 17th century bowls that occur in association with the stem provide a more accurate indication of date for the context.

Potential

The clay pipes are of limited potential but provide some dating evidence.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single other find weighing 908g (2lbs) was recovered.

Condition

The other find is in good condition.

Results

Table 6, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
12	wood	Bowling bowl, dimpled on both sides, one dimple with 3 holes	1	908	Post-medieval

Provenance

The other find was recovered from the upper fill of a postulated water channel.

Range

A wooden bowling bowl was recovered. On one side the dimple has three holes. This is where a weight, probably metal, would have been fixed to the bowl. This provided a weight bias to one side of the bowl and when it was rolled it would describe a curved path due to this weight differential.

Potential

The other find is of limited potential.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 7 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 7, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
01	Mid 16 th -17 th	
03	Late 17 th (c. 1670-90)	
05	17 th – 18 th	
12	Late 17 th (1660-1700)	Also contains 1 possible 18 th century clay pipe

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group

BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at
<<http://www.tegula.freemove.co.uk/acbm/CBMGDE3.htm> >
- Atkin, S., 1985 The clay pipe-making industry in Norfolk, *Norfolk Archaeology* **XXXIX**, pt II, 118-149
- Carter, A., 1977. The Post-medieval Pottery, In: *Excavations at King's Lynn 1963-1970*. Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 7
- Davey, P. J., 1981, Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations, *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* **4**, 65-88
- Higgins, D. A., 1995 Clay tobacco pipes: a valuable commodity, *The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* **24.1**, 47-52
- Jennings, S., 1981, *Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich*. East Anglian Archaeology **13**
- Oswald, A., 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*, British Archaeological Reports **14**
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Van den Bossche, W., 2001 *Antique Glass Bottles, Their History and Evolution (1500-1850)*, Antique Collectors' Club
- Walker, I. C., 1967 Statistical methods for dating clay pipe fragments', *Post-Medieval Archaeology* **1**, 90-101
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Dr	Description	Date
01	BERTH	R1	Bowl	6	1	221		Profile	1	Joining sherds; fresh breaks; yellow deposit- cess?; everted rim; Fe specks	16th-18th

*Witham Archaeology Report No. 104: Town Hall King's Lynn
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

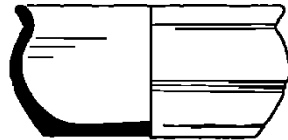
Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Dr	Description	Date
03	BERTH	R1/2; Fe slip	Bowl	1	1	522		Profile	2	Straight-sided profile with rounded rim; glaze appears brownish-green due to Fe underslip; some wear and soot under base	M16th-17th
03	BERTH	R1/2	Handled Jar	4	1	451		Rim; BS with HJ; Bases		Straight-sided handled jar; everted rim with lid seating; internal cress/scale with burnt matter; sooted	16th-18th
05	BERTH	R1/2	Bowl	2	1	41		Rims		Curved rim	
05	SLIP		Necked Cup/Mug	1	1	44	Wavy horizontal lines; white on brown	Rim to Lwall; Handle		Strap type handle; form more typical of Staffs than Harlow kilns; fine dark red fabric; glossy finish	17th-18th
05	TGE		Flat	2	1	29	Hand painted blue on white - chinoiserie	Base		Floral/vegetation design; possibly Dutch	17th-18th
05	TGE		Small Dish	3	1	17	Hand painted blue on white - chinoiserie	Rim to base		Floral/vegetation design; filled triangle border along rim; possibly Dutch	17th-18th
012	BERTH	Fe Slip	Pipkin	1	1	57		Spout		Sooted; fairly elaborate	
012	BERTH	R1	Handled Bowl	2	1	729		Profile		Strap handle; everted grooved rim; cf Kings Lynn fig 107.54 and 57; fresh breaks; joining fragments; internal cress/scale; large flint grit within body	
012	BERTH	R3	Handled bowl or pipkin	1	1	47		Rim to Lwall	3	Carinated vessel; lid seated everted rim; c.f. Carter fig 107.48	17th-18th
012	BERTH	R3	Closed	3	1	134		BSS			
012	BERTH	R3; Fe Slip	Jar	1	1	130		RIM		Hollow everted rim with bead/lid seat; rilled exterior	17th-18th
012	BERTH	R3	Bung hole Jar	8	1	538		Bases; BSS		Joining sherds; sooted over break; glaze over break; fired clay and clay pieces adhered - kiln waste?; fumed or Fe slipped	17th-18th
012	BERTH	R3	Bowl or Pipkin	1	1	20		Rim with lip		sooted; upright lid seated rim with pouring lip; rilled body wall	
012	BERTH	R3; Fe Slip	Jug	1	1	45		Handle		Strap handle with double groove; pale fabric	
012	BERTH	R1	Pancheon	1	1	101		BS			
012	BERTH	R1; Fe Slip	Tankard	1	1	187		Base			
012	BERTH	R1	Open?	1	1	10		BS			

*Witham Archaeology Report No. 104: Town Hall King's Lynn
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

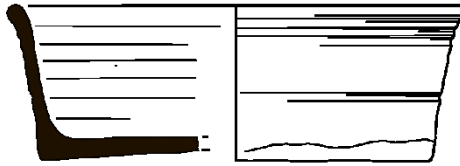
Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Dr	Description	Date
012	BERTH	R2	Closed	2	1	52		Bases		Sooted	
012	BERTH	R2/3	Closed	2	1	44		BSS		Sooted; Burnt	
012	BERTH	R2; Fe Slip	Jar	1	1	807		Uwall to base		Clay pellets adhered to external surface; pale deposit over the break	
012	BERTH		Jar	1	1	342		Base		Burnt; soot over break; coated in deposit - cess?	
012	BERTH	R2/3; Fe Slip?	Pancheon	2	1	302		Profile		Sooted; burnt; cf Kings Lynn Fig 112.125; carelessly knife trimmed base	
012	BL	GRE type fabric	Closed	1	1	320		Base		Fresh breaks; ?hole in base - kiln damage	M16th-17th
012	FREC		Jug	1	1	764	Moulded face and floral crest	Near profile		Stacking scars; fresh breaks; tiger glaze	L16th-17th
012	FREC		Jug	3	2	522		Bases; BS			16th-17th
012	METS		Bowl	1	1	412		Profile	4	Encrusted in pale deposit - cess?	17th
012	SLIP		Jar or Bowl	1	1	433		Base		Scratched white linear decoration on red slip; Cu wash; as Werra ware; crudely finished local copy; pitted surface; encrusted over break; sooted	17th
012	STSL		Necked Cup/Mug	2	1	32	Brown on yellow; spots of dark slip and linear trailing/feathering	BS with HJ; Rim to Lwall			L17th-18th
012	TGE		Plate	1	1	29		Base		Undecorated	
012	WEST		Drinking Jug	1	1	66		Handle		Strap type handle; stabbed	17th-18th
012	WNBC		?	1	1	12		BS			16th-18th
012	WNSW		Chamber	1	1	180	Yellow on brown zig zag and line dec	Rim to Lwall	5		17th-M18th
012	WNSW		Bowl or Chamber	1	1	1	Scratched brown on yellow zig zag	Rim		Long everted rim	
012	WNSW		Chamber	1	1	132	Yellow on brown zig zag	Rim to Lwall	6	Long everted rim; stacking scar on rim	17th-M18th

APPENDICES

Appendix 1, Pottery Illustration.
(Scale 1:4)



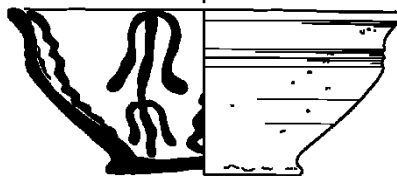
Dr 1



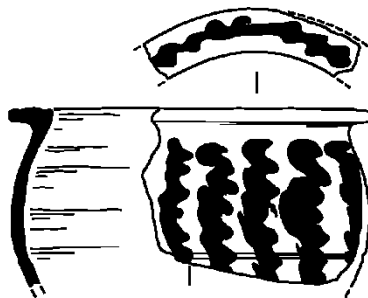
Dr 2



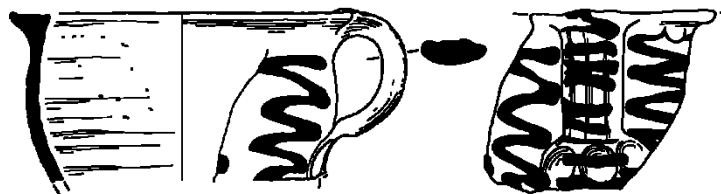
Dr 3



Dr 4



Dr 5



Dr 6

APPENDIX C
OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-235506

Project details

Project name	King's Lynn Town Hall Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Short description of the project	The programme of monitoring and recording during the construction of a lift shaft at the north wall of the Old Gaol House resulted in the exposure of a postulated infilled creek or channel, which had served as a receptacle for waste dumping in the late 17th century. An important pottery assemblage of this date was recovered from the upper fills of this feature. Other features recorded included pits of probable 18th century date and a wall and infilled cellar of probable 19th century date.
Project dates	Start: 06-05-2015 End: 19-09-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF137022 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BOWLING BALL Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK KINGS LYNN Town Hall
Postcode	PE30 1DN
Study area	35 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 6173 1989 52.752008190306 0.39662386695 52 45 07 N 000 23 47 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Gary Trimble
Project supervisor	Gary Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	District Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass","Wood"
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Glass","Wood"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	King's Lynn Town Hall Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Trimble, G
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Witham Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Ruskington, Lincolnshire
Description	A4 Book
Entered by	Gary Trimble (gary.trimble@withamarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	23 December 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

Witham Archaeology

2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
NG34 9DT

Tel/Fax: (01529) 300890

Email: info@withamarchaeology.co.uk

© Witham Archaeology