

**SOUTH QUAY, KINGS LYNN,  
NORFOLK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**JANUARY 2012**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
R11158**

# **Archaeological Evaluation at Land at South Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk**

**Report Number R11158**

**Site Code: ENF128380**

**NGR TF 6171 1967**

**Written and Researched by Nick Pankhurst**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, January 2012**

**Project Manager: Mark Hinman**

**Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting**

**Contractor:**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited**

**7 Granta Terrace**

**Stapleford**

**Cambridgeshire**

**CB22 4PF**

**Tel: 01223 845522**

**Email: [mhinman@pre-construct.com](mailto:mhinman@pre-construct.com)**

**Website: [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)**

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited**

**January 2012**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

## CONTENTS

Abstract.....	3
1 INTRODUCTION .....	4
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....	6
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY .....	7
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE.....	8
5 THE FINDS .....	15
6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION .....	18
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	19
8 REFERENCES .....	19
APPENDIX 2: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS .....	30
APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM .....	31
APPENDIX 4: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX .....	34
APPENDIX 5: BRICK DIMENSIONS .....	35
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION .....	21
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION .....	22
FIGURE 3 SECTION 3.....	22
FIGURE 4 VICTORIAN WALLS.....	23
FIGURE 5 COBBLED SURFACES AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES.....	24
FIGURE 6 EARLY BRICK FLOOR AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES .....	25

## **List of Plates.**

**Plate 1.** View to River Ouse during breaking out. Facing west.

**Plate 2.** The waterfront. Facing north-west.

**Plate 3.** Test pit 5 showing rubble overburden. Facing east.

**Plate 4.** Section 3 through silts 87, 86, 85 and 79. Facing south.

**Plate 5.** Section 3 deep sondage through levelling silts to cobbles 49. Facing south.

**Plate 6.** Section 3, eastern side showing silts 72, 73 and wall 41. Facing south.

**Plate 7.** Iron stained sand 35 within machine sondage up against western baulk. Facing east.

**Plate 8.** Section 3 western side, silts 79 and 85 and wall 41. Facing south.

**Plate 9.** Brick floor 54, wall 41 and clay floor 32. Facing north.

**Plate 10.** Post removal pit 42, wall 41 brick cobbles 54 and clay floor 32. Facing north.

**Plate 11.** Cobbled lane 49 with drain 59 and walls 40/7. Facing north.

**Plate 12.** Cobbled lanes 47 and 49 with cobbled floor 48. Facing east.

**Plate 13.** Cobbled surface 28, wall 25 and brick floor 27. Facing west.

**Plate 14.** 19<sup>th</sup> century wall 7 and brick floors 6 and 15. Facing east.

**Plate 15.** Walls 7 and 14 with floors 6 and 15. Facing west.

**Plate 16.** Wall 7/40 and steps 17 Facing north.

**Plate 17.** Representative selection of animal bone and marine shell from pit 76.

**Plate 18.** Dutch Redware cauldron. c.1300-1700 (left) and Siegburg salt-glazed stoneware c. 1500-1630 (right) from pit 76.

## ABSTRACT

*This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation at land at South Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. The work was commissioned by CgMs consulting to assess the archaeological implications of development on the site. The work comprised the excavation of a stepped 8m by 8m trench. Four principal phases of activity were revealed spanning the late medieval to early post medieval periods. The earliest of these were a series of organic rich estuarine silts associated with the confluence of the River Ouse and the Millfleet. These silts were sealed by levelling deposits associated with land reclamation from which from which 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered. Pitting dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> century truncated these levelling layers and was sealed by a sequence of walls, brick and clay floors of riverside warehousing dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century. Cobbled lanes, floor surfaces and drains, with associated walls and beams dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century and formed a second phase of warehousing. The latest deposits encountered were brick walls floors and drains related to 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial activity, with buildings revealed sharing the footprint of recently demolished structures.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation at Land at South Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. The site is centred at NGR TF 6171 1967. The work was commissioned by CgMs to assess the potential archaeological impact of residential development at this site.
- 1.2 A Desk-based Assessment (DBA) for this site was prepared by S. Gailey of CgMs (2011). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Mark Hinman, PCA (2012) in response to the requirements of Ken Hamilton of the Historic Environment Service (HES) of Norfolk County Council in consultation with CgMs.
- 1.3 The underlying geology at the site is Kimmeridge Clay overlain by tidal river deposits (Gailey 2011). The site is currently covered by a concrete slab associated with recently demolished industrial buildings (Plate 1).
- 1.4 The work was carried out between the 16th and 26th January 2012 and comprised the excavation and recording of an 8 x 8m square trench.
- 1.5 The site lay on South Quay directly adjacent to the River Ouse at the confluence with the Mill Fleet. The primary purpose of the archaeological trial hole investigations was to seek to contribute to an understanding of the character, condition, date and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area and to provide a predictive model of any archaeological remains present on the site and include an appraisal of their significance.
- 1.6 The DBA (Gailey 2011) identified that the development area had been located within the River Ouse until the post-medieval period. Previous studies had shown that the immediate area was characterised by sandbars at the confluence of the Mill Fleet and River Ouse (Clarke and Carter 1977).

- 1.7 Cartographic evidence reviewed by Gailey included Platt's map of 1686 and Rasticks map of 1725, which provided an insight into the post-medieval development of the waterfront area. The detail on Platt's map appears to show open ground in the area of investigation which lay on the northern bank of the Mill Fleet to the south of the line of Devils Alley, whereas Rasticks Map appears to show some encroachment of buildings onto this area.
- 1.8 Consequently the archaeological potential pre dating the post-medieval period was considered to be low. The DBA did highlight that the site had good archaeological potential for the post-medieval period with the likelihood of post-medieval reclamation deposits and possible wharf structures along the former waterfront being present.
- 1.9 On the basis of the findings from the DBA the trial trench was located in what was considered the optimum position to examine any surviving evidence of medieval and later waterfront activity within the limits of the current development area.
- 1.10 The evaluation revealed a sequence of land reclamation deposits overlain by four main phases of construction and occupation of the site that dated from the 16th Century to the present day.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following is a summary of relevant information detailed previously in a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) produced by CgMs (Gailey 2011).
- 2.2 Throughout the Anglo Saxon and medieval period the west of the site lay within the River Ouse. The Kings Lynn medieval waterfront would have crossed through the eastern part of the site, though the exact alignment and state of survival are not known.
- 2.3 The Devils Alley may originate from the medieval period, accessing the medieval waterfront from the older streets of the town. By the 17th century development extended along the north and south side of Devil's Alley and into the proposed development area. However the west of the site continued to lie within the river channel.
- 2.4 The position of the river was finally consolidated with the construction of South Quay in 1855. These works also provided a north-south route along the river frontage (Plate 2). The DBA highlighted that by this date the site was occupied by substantial warehouse buildings to the north and south of the Devil's Alley extending to the Mill Fleet boundary. There was little change to the site by the early 20th century.



### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The methodology followed during this evaluation is set out in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation, produced by Mark Hinman (2012).
- 3.2 The work comprised two interventions, a single evaluation trench (Trench 1) measuring 8m x 8m at current ground level and the re-excavation of a geotechnical test pit to a depth of 2.3m (Test Pit 5). The trench was stepped in incrementally by 1m for each 1m depth that the excavation increased. Test Pit 5, located towards the north western corner of the site was machine excavated to a depth of 2m below the current ground level (3.2m aOD), photographed and backfilled for safety reasons (Plate 3).
- 3.3 The trench, positioned towards the eastern limit of the site, was excavated by a 360 type tracked machine, using a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. The original intention of the scheme was to excavate a series of stepped levels down onto the natural sands and clays at a depth of between 3-4m below current ground level. The presence of a substantial post-medieval wall within the northern half of the excavation area required an adjustment to the original scheme. An area to the south of the wall was identified where investigations could be carried out to the required depth.
- 3.4 Following the recording of post-medieval walls and associated features, a 4.3m deep trench was excavated near the southern boundary of the site to determine the nature of underlying deposits. The trench was discontinued at 4.3m below the current ground surface when the sides started to show signs of collapse.
- 3.5 Archaeological deposits were recorded on permatrace drawing film and *pro-forma* recording sheets using standard single context methodology (see Taylor & Brown 2009).
- 3.6 Environmental bulk samples were taken where appropriate.

- 3.7 OD heights and trench location were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **Introduction**

- 4.1 The following summary will describe the archaeological sequence within Trench 1 from the earliest to latest deposits with reference to the stratigraphic matrix in Appendix 4. Brick dimensions for all walls revealed can be found in Appendix 5. Observation of the re-excavated Test Pit 5 revealed only made ground associated with the construction of the South Quay in the Victorian Period (Plate 3). This will not be described below.

### **The natural geology**

- 4.2 The earliest deposit encountered within a machine excavated sondage in the southwest corner of the trench was dark blue grey organic rich clay silt (87). This clay was machined to an arbitrary limit of 0.12m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and measured 0.7m thick. Deposit (86) was similar yet less organic rich blue grey silty clay that measured 1.01m thick. Both clays (87) and (86) are likely to be natural channel deposits associated with the previous course of the Mill Fleet (Plates 4 and 5) (Fig 3).

### **Phase 1 (16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> century): Land reclamation and levelling**

- 4.3 Grey brown sandy silt (85) was 1.4m thick. Above (85) was gravel rich pale grey brown silty sand (79) measuring 0.44m deep. A single sherd of white ware jar dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this deposit (below, Section 5). These substantial redeposited layers are likely to derive from the dumping of river silts in order to reclaim land from the river channels (Fig 3)

- 4.4 Dark grey brown clay silt (73) was 0.9m wide and 0.02m thick. This undulating layer was a trampled surface or occupation deposit formed during a partial hiatus in the reclamation process. Layer (73) was bisected by wall [41] and truncated by pit [68]/[76]. Grey brown sandy silt (72) was 0.12m thick and represented a continuation of the levelling process (Plate 6).
- 4.5 Within a machine dug test pit towards the western edge of the trench, heavily iron panned orange brown silty sand (35) was revealed at a depth of 4.07m aOD and was machined to an arbitrary depth of 3.30m aOD. This sand deposit represents a similar levelling event to layers (79) and (85). The orange brown colour is likely derived from significant water movement through this sand with associated iron mineral concretion (Plate 7).
- 4.6 Pit cut [68] / [76] was sub-rectangular in plan, measured 3.1m long, 1.3m wide and 0.50m deep and extended into the southern limit of excavation. The pit contained a single shell rich, dark grey brown sandy clay silt fill (69) (same as (77)), from which 17 sherds of pottery dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century were recovered (below, Section 6). The pit truncated levelling layers (72) and (79) and was bisected by wall 41 (Plate 8).
- 4.7 Silty gravel horizon (67) was 0.04m thick and 0.58m wide and associated with the construction of wall 41 which was located directly to the west. Grey brown sandy silt horizon (66) was 0.35m thick and 4.8m wide and indicative of a further levelling episode (Plate 7).

**Phase 2 (17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century): Walls and associated surfaces and features**

- 4.8 Construction cut [88] was 4.3m long, 0.5m wide and 0.5m thick and was backfilled with grey brown sandy clay silt (89). Wall foundation [41], was aligned northwest southeast and measured 4.30m long, 0.35m wide and 0.5m thick (Plate 9). The wall comprised of seven

courses of randomly coursed unfrogged brick set in a pale grey sandy lime mortar (Fig 6).

- 4.9 Abutting wall [41] to the east was brick floor (54) that was 4.5m long, 2.3m wide and 0.1m thick and comprised of a single layer of roughly hewn half bricks set into orange brown sand (Fig 6) (Plate 9). Dark grey sandy clay silt occupation layer (53) was 0.02m thick and extended over floor (54) and contained 2 sherds of glazed red earthenware dating to the 16th/17<sup>th</sup> century (below, section 5).
- 4.10 Abutting wall [41] to the west was yellow brown sandy clay floor surface (32) that measured 5m by 4m and 0.03m thick. Above this floor was a thin occupation layer (31) deriving from the use of the surface. Both floor (32) and occupation layer (31) extended beyond the western limit of excavation (Plate 9).
- 4.11 Orange brown silty sand layer (30) measured 3.2m by 4m and 0.10m thick. This layer sealed occupation (31) and appeared to be make-up for a floor surface removed by later truncation. Rubble layer (29) was a dark grey rich sandy clay silt which appears to have been levelling for subsequent overlying surfaces. Dark grey brown sandy clay silt (74) and light grey silty chalk crush layer (75) were also probably levelling or make-up layers, over the eastern area of the trench (Fig 3).
- 4.12 Post pit [42] was 1.4m long, 1m wide and 0.75m deep and truncated wall [41] and floors (32) and (54). This pit was excavated for the removal of a post set into and contemporary with wall [41]. Backfill (60) was gravel rich grey brown sandy clay silt and cobble rich deposit (95) was a remnant of packing material associated with the insertion of the post (Plate 10).
- 4.13 Posthole cut [90] was 0.28m wide and 0.4m deep and was filled by dark grey brown backfill (91). This posthole truncated levelling layer

(29) and wall [41] and continued beyond the southern limit of excavation (Fig 3).

4.14 Post hole cut [42] was 0.55m long, 0.45m wide and 0.05m deep and contained a single grey brown sandy clay silt fill (55). This feature truncated floor surface (32) and was truncated by wall [7] to the north (Fig 6).

4.15 Towards the northwest corner of the trench, a machine dug sondage revealed truncated brick floor surfaces (78) and (84). Due to the relative depth of these deposits, it is likely that they represented contemporary or near contemporary surfaces to brick floor (54). Surfaces (78) and (84) were bisected by wall [25].

### **Phase 3 (17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> century): Cobbled lanes, floors and associated walls**

4.16 Brick wall [56] was aligned east-west and was located close to the southern limit of excavation. Only the top course of the wall was revealed, being located to the south of the first step of the trench. The wall measured 3.15m long and 0.45m wide and was set in a light grey sandy lime mortar. Abutting wall [56] to the north was cobbled surface (96). This layer of rounded worn river cobbles extended beyond the southern limit of excavation and possibly formed a floor surface to a building to the south (Fig 5).

4.17 To the north of wall [56] was light grey silty sand layer (92) that was 5.6m wide and 0.2m deep. This sand layer was bedding for overlying cobbled surfaces. (47), (48) and (49) (Fig 3).

4.18 Cobbled lane surface (47) was aligned east-west and located towards the eastern edge of the trench measuring 1.7m by 1.05m and 0.15m deep (Plate 11). The lane comprised of well worn flint and pink granite river cobbles with a southern curb of larger stones. Set within surface (47) was brick drain (94), comprising of two parallel lines of yellow

brown bricks. Surface (47) was truncated by wall [7] to the north and continued beyond the southern limit of excavation (Fig 5).

- 4.19 Cobbled lane surface (49) was aligned roughly north-south, measuring 4.2m long, 2.2m wide and 0.2m deep. The surface sloped towards the middle to feed into central drain (59) that was of a similar brick construction to drain (94). A curb of substantial sandstone and granite blocks lay along the eastern line of the surface. Any corresponding western curb was removed by later truncation (Plate 12).
- 4.20 To the north of wall [7] cobbled layer (28) corresponded to lane surface (49) and measured 4m long and 1m wide and was truncated by walls [7] and [25] (Plate 13).
- 4.21 Cobbled floor surface (48) was bound by lanes (49) and (47) and measured 3.4m long, 2.8m wide and 0.1m thick. The surface comprised of a mix of flint and sandstone river cobbles with occasional brick patching and rows of larger blocks along the northern and southern edges (Plate 12). Along the western edge of floor (48) was beam slot cut [50] that contained pale grey brown sandy silt fill (51). This beam formed the eastern wall of a building of which cobbles (48) formed the floor. It is probable that a contemporary beam existed on the northern side of floor (48) fronting onto cobbled lane (47) (Fig 5).
- 4.22 Dark grey brown sandy clay silt occupation deposit (52) extended over the southern side of the trench over cobbled surfaces (47), (48) and (49), deriving from the use of these surfaces.
- 4.23 Posthole cut [81] was 0.45m wide and 0.2m deep and located roughly central to floor surface (48) (Fig 5). This posthole contained a single dark grey sandy clay silt fill (80) from which a single sherd of stoneware jug dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century was recovered (below, section 5) .

### **Wall 25 and associated surface 27**

- 4.24 Wall [25] was aligned roughly east-west towards the northern edge of the trench (Plate 13). The structure measured 7.2m long, 0.45m wide and comprised of four visible courses of unfrogged red bricks set in a pale yellow brown sandy lime mortar. No brick bond could be ascertained. The wall was trench built with construction cut [24] truncating cobbled surface (28) to the south (Plate 11) .
- 4.25 Brick surface (27) was 3.6m long, 1.3m wide located to the north of wall [25]. The floor comprised of unfrogged yellow brick and continued beyond the northern limit of excavation (Plate 11).
- 4.26 Rubble (12) was a brick and mortar rich layer above cobbles (28), wall [25] and floor (27). This layer was truncated to the south by wall [7] and continued beyond the northern limit of excavation (Fig 4).

### **Phase 4 (19<sup>th</sup> Century): Brick walls and associated surfaces**

- 4.27 A number of 19<sup>th</sup> century or later walls and surfaces were revealed below the concrete overburden (2). Post pad [8] measured 0.56m wide and 0.28m deep comprising of three courses of unfrogged red brick (Fig 4). To the south of this was substantial east-west wall footing [7] measuring 7.4m long, 0.6m wide and 0.60m deep. Wall [7] comprised of eight courses of unfrogged red bricks set into a grey brown ash rich sandy lime mortar in English bond (Plate 14). Contemporary Wall [14] was of the same build but aligned roughly north-south, forming the western wall of a structure on the same footprint as recently demolished industrial buildings (Plate 15).
- 4.28 Wall [40] measured 7.4m long, 0.4m wide and 0.8m deep and formed a two brick wide skin of yellow bricks adhered to the southern face of wall [7]. Wall [40] comprised of 11 courses of unfrogged yellow bricks in English bond with a pale grey ash rich lime mortar (Plate 16).

- 4.29 Yellow brick floor (6) measured 4.48m long, 2.2m wide and 0.11m deep. Red brick floor (15) measured 1.2m long, 1.2m wide and 0.11m deep (Plate 15). Floors (6) and (15) were contemporary brick floors to the building formed by walls [7] and [14] (Fig 4).
- 4.30 Steps 17 measured 1.2m long, 0.6m wide and 0.54m deep and were contemporary with wall [7], comprising of three red brick steps rendered with a pale grey ash rich sandy lime mortar (Plate 16). Later wall [40] was built over steps 17 which were retained at the time of this modification.
- 4.31 Rubble overburden deposit (11) was 8.4m wide and 0.9m deep extending over the area of the trench to the south of walls 7/40 and derived from a combination of temporary surfaces associated with these walls and levelling and make-up (Fig 4).
- 4.32 Wall footing [5] was aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 1.09m long, 0.34m wide and 0.1m deep and comprised of a single stretcher bond course with pale yellow brown sandy lime mortar. Wall footing [9] was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 1.8m long, 0.26m wide and 0.7m deep comprising of 6 courses of English bond set in mid grey ash rich sandy lime mortar. Floor (13) to west of wall [9] comprised of a single paving slab set in mottled grey brown sandy silt suggesting a more extensive surface beyond the western limit of excavation (Fig 4).
- 4.33 Surface (3) was a rough flint cobble surface located in the southeast corner of the trench, most-likely related to the latest surviving activity associated with walls 7/40. Drains 10 and 92 were located towards the southwest corner of the trench and were likely associated with late 19th or early 20th century water management (Fig 4).



## **5 THE FINDS**

### **Post-Roman Pottery By Chris Jarrett**

#### **Introduction**

- 5.1 A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (1 box). The pottery dates from the late medieval and post-medieval periods. Very few sherds show evidence for abrasion and were probably deposited fairly rapidly after breakage. The fragmentation of the pottery ranges from sherd material to vessels with complete profiles. The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight. Pottery was recovered from five contexts and individual deposits produced small (fewer than 30 sherds) to medium (less than 100 sherds) groups of pottery.
- 5.2 All the pottery (21 sherds, weighing 1213kg, of which none are unstratified) was recorded in an ACCESS database, by fabric, form and decoration. The classification of the pottery types is according to Norfolk Archaeological Unit Post-Roman code list. The pottery is discussed by types and its distribution.

#### **The pottery types**

- Dutch redware (DUTR), c. 1300-1700, six sherds, 220g, form: cauldron (Plate 18).
- Glazed red earthenware (GRE), 1500-1800, two sherds, 272g, form: bowl or dish.
- Frechen or Cologne stoneware (KOLS/FREC), 1500-1700, one sherd, 16g, form: jug
- Miscellaneous whitewares (MISC WW), 900-1900, four sherds, 59g, form: jar and possible jug.
- Siegburg salt-glazed stoneware with a brown wash (SIEB), 1450-1550, one sherd, 19g, form: jug.
- Siegburg salt-glazed stoneware (SIEGS), 1500-1630, seven sherds, 627g, form: jug; has a pre-firing handling dent and decoration consisting of a rilled body and a rouletted notched line on the shoulder (Plate 18).

## Distribution

- 5.3 Table 1 shows the contexts containing pottery, the number of sherds and weight, the pottery types and their forms for each deposit and a considered deposition date for the group.

Context	Size	SC	Wt (g)	Date range of the pottery types	Date range of the latest pottery type	Pottery types and forms	Considered deposition date
53	S	2	272	1500-1800	1500-1800	GRE (bowl or dish)	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century
69/77	S	17	921	900-1900	1500-1630	DUTR (cauldron), MISC WW (closed form), SIEB (jug), SIEGS (jug rounded)	16 <sup>th</sup> century
79	S	1	4	900-1900	900-1900	MISC WW (jar),	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century
80	S	1	16	1500-1700	1500-1700	FREC (JUG)	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century

Table 1. Distribution of pottery types showing individual contexts containing pottery, the number of sherds and weight, the date range of pottery and the date range of the latest type, the fabrics present, their forms and a considered deposition date. SC: sherd count.

## Significance, potential of the collection and recommendations for further work.

- 5.4 The pottery has significance at a local level. A sizeable proportion of the assemblage consists of imported wares: earthenware from the Low Countries and stoneware from Germany, while some of the miscellaneous whitewares may be from non-English sources. The pottery therefore demonstrates Kings Lynn's contact and trade with Europe in the late medieval and early post-medieval periods. The stratified assemblage also reflects activity on the site from the 15th century onwards. The pottery is in keeping with the ceramic profile for King's Lynn.
- 5.5 The potential of the pottery is as a dating tool for the deposits it occurs in. A small number of the vessels merit illustration. The pottery also provides evidence for what types of ceramics were being marketed to the site and Kings Lynn. It also demonstrates the town's role as a port and its contact and trade with Europe.

5.6 It is recommended that if further archaeological work is carried out on the site, then the pottery from this evaluation should be re-evaluated with any additional assemblages that are recovered.

5.7 **Animal Bone and marine shell from pit 76 by Nick Pankhurst (Kevin Reilly Pers. Comm.)**

5.8 A small assemblage of animal and fish bone and marine shell was recovered from a 20 litre sample processed from fill (77) of pit (76). Oyster, cockle and a number of other marine shell fragments were also recovered.

5.9 Within this assemblage were a number of sheep and cattle bone fragments including a probable cattle scapula and sheep rib. Birds were represented with a female chicken tarsometatarsus, and a goose ulna and a possible goose coracoid. A number of fish vertebrae and other bones were also recovered (Kevin Reilly Pers. Comm.).

5.10 The presence of animal and fish bone and marine shell supports an interpretation of dumped refuse in a Post Medieval waterfront setting. A representative selection of material recovered is illustrated in Plate 17, Appendix 2.

**Cu Alloy coin**

5.11 A single Cu Alloy coin was recovered from sandy demolition layer (12) with a diameter of 29mm and a weight of 11g. The coin was heavily corroded with the obverse illegible. The reverse was less corroded, with the seated figure of Britannia clearly visible facing left. An 18<sup>th</sup> century date can be ascribed to the coin as the first two date characters '17' were visible.

5.12 Given the degree of corrosion it is difficult to precisely date the coin but the size, weight and design of Britannia point to a halfpenny of either George II or George III. This provides a date range of between 1729 and 1799 (Krause Publications, 2012).

## **6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The evaluation revealed a sequence of land reclamation deposits overlain by four main phases of construction and occupation of the site that dated from the 16th Century to the present day
- 6.2 The earliest phase of activity revealed above the natural channel deposits was a sequence of substantial levelling deposits laid down, presumably to reclaim land from the area of the confluence of the Mill Fleet and the River Ouse. A single sherd of 15th to 16th century pottery recovered from these silts would support an earlier post-medieval date for this reclamation process.
- 6.3 Some early activity on what was clearly an area of open ground was evidenced by the accumulation of occupation surface [73]. Whilst no clear dating evidence was recovered from this deposit the contents of the broadly contemporary pit [76] included a substantial assemblage of readily identifiable and diagnostic pottery vessels datable to between 1500-1630 AD. The assemblage is particularly significant as the pit appeared to have been filled immediately prior to the start of the built sequence. Continental trade links that are well attested in the historical record for early post-medieval King's Lynn, are indicated by the number of Dutch and German imports present.
- 6.4 The animal bone assemblage was broadly comparable to contemporary assemblages from excavations at Wisbech, where goose, chicken and fish bone were recorded (Hinman and Popescu, 1996). Although further work would be required from a larger assemblage, the parallels point to a similar exploitation of coastal resources in both settings.
- 6.5 With the exception of the pottery from pit [76] pottery and other readily dateable artefacts were scarce. The relative absence of occupational debris combined with the layout of the buildings extending to the south

of Devils Alley would support the use of these buildings as storage or warehousing rather than for domestic habitation.

6.6 The results of the evaluation accord well with the conclusions of the DBA prepared for the site. No trace of any modification to the waterfront area during either the medieval or post-medieval periods was present within the area of the evaluation.

6.7 On the basis of the evaluation data alone it would seem likely that the northern bank of the Mill Fleet on the confluence with the River Ouse would have been a particularly exposed location and was probably flood prone. The presence of internal clay warehouse floors extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation Post medieval waterfront onto the river Ouse, if present would be located at some distance to the west of Trench1.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

7.1 PCA would like to thank S. Gailey of CgMs Consulting for commissioning this evaluation. A Pullen assisted in the preparation of this report.

## **8 REFERENCES**

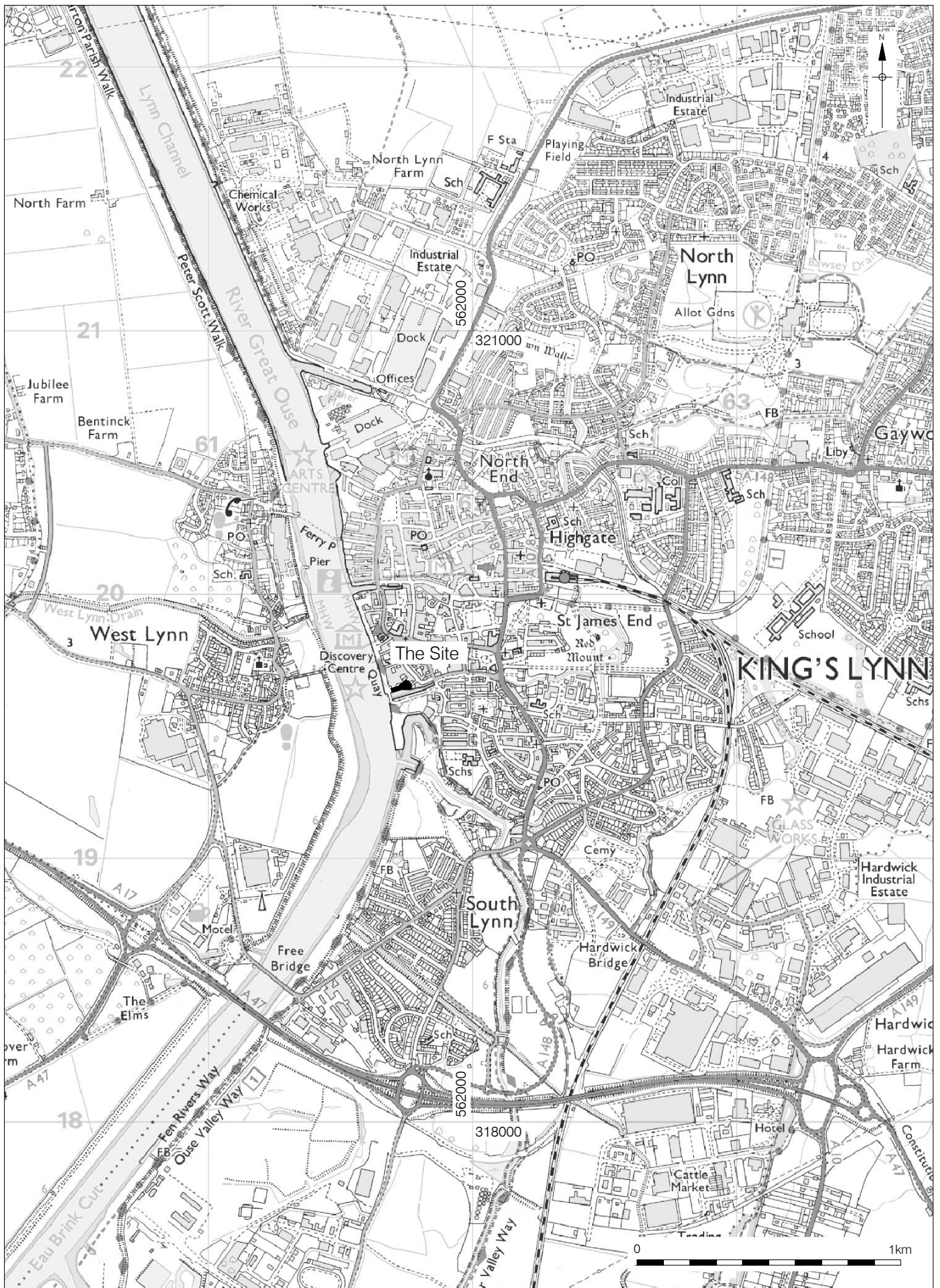
Brown, G. and Taylor, J. 2009. Fieldwork Induction Manual, (Operations Manual 1). *Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited*.

Gailey, S. 2011. Land at South Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Desk Based Assessment. *CgMs Consulting*.

Hinman, M and Popescu, E (Forthcoming). Extraordinary Inundations of the Sea: Excavations at Market Mews, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. *East Anglian Archaeology*.

Hinman, M. 2012, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation, South Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. *Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.*

<http://www.numismaster.com/ta/numis.jsp> 2012 Krause Publications  
*online coin catalogue.*



© Crown copyright 2012. All rights reserved. License number 36110309  
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2012

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4

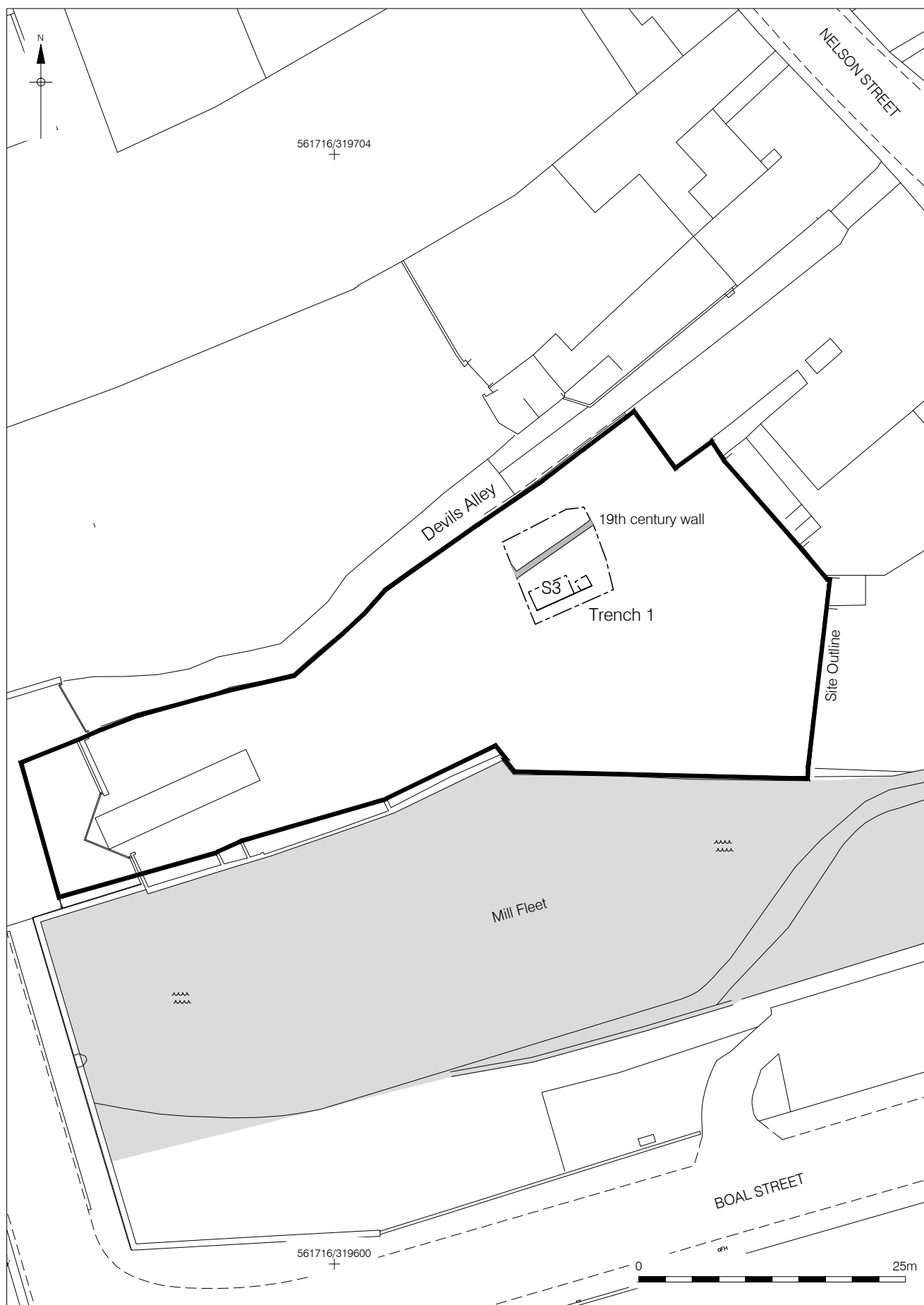
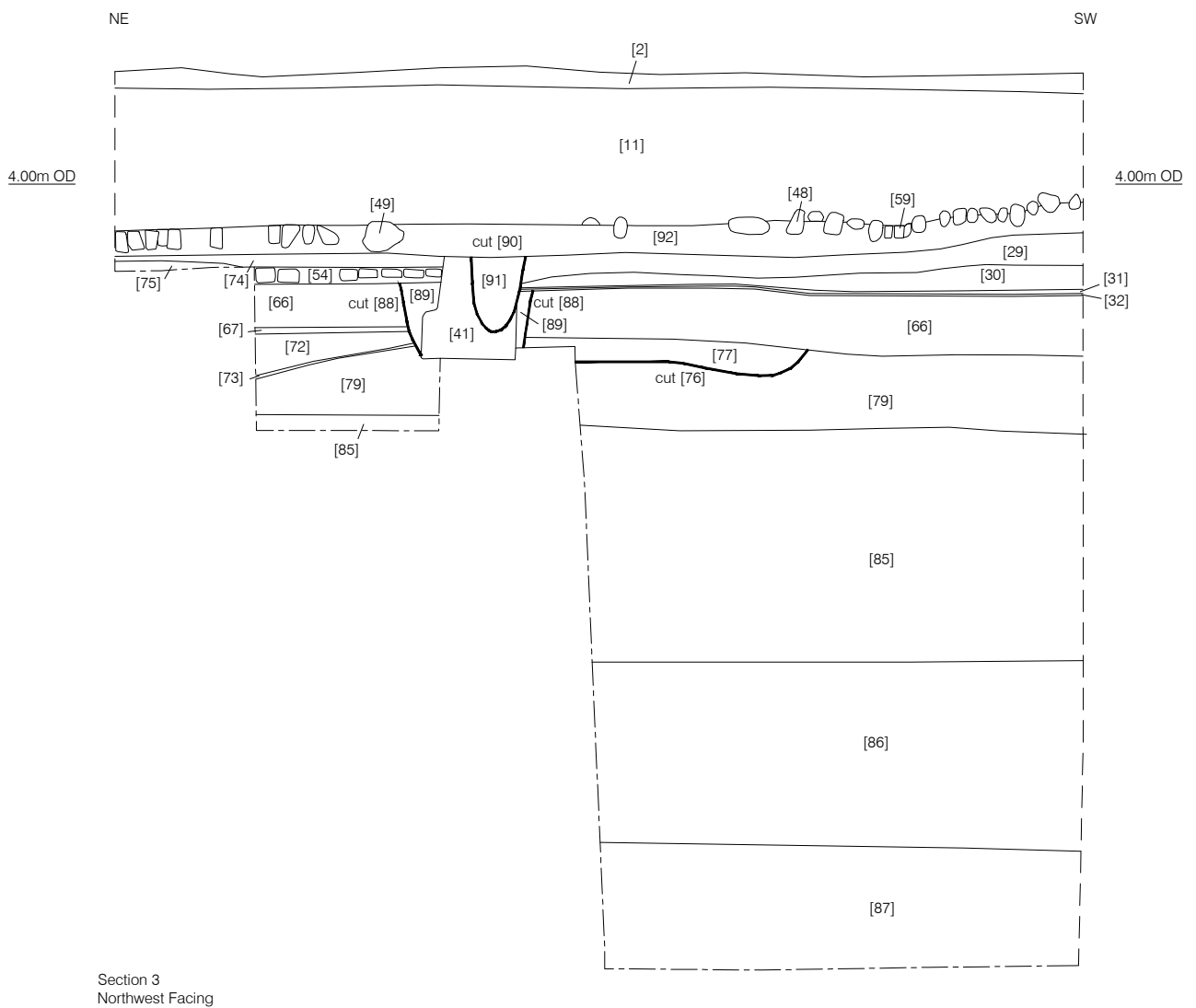


Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:500 at A4





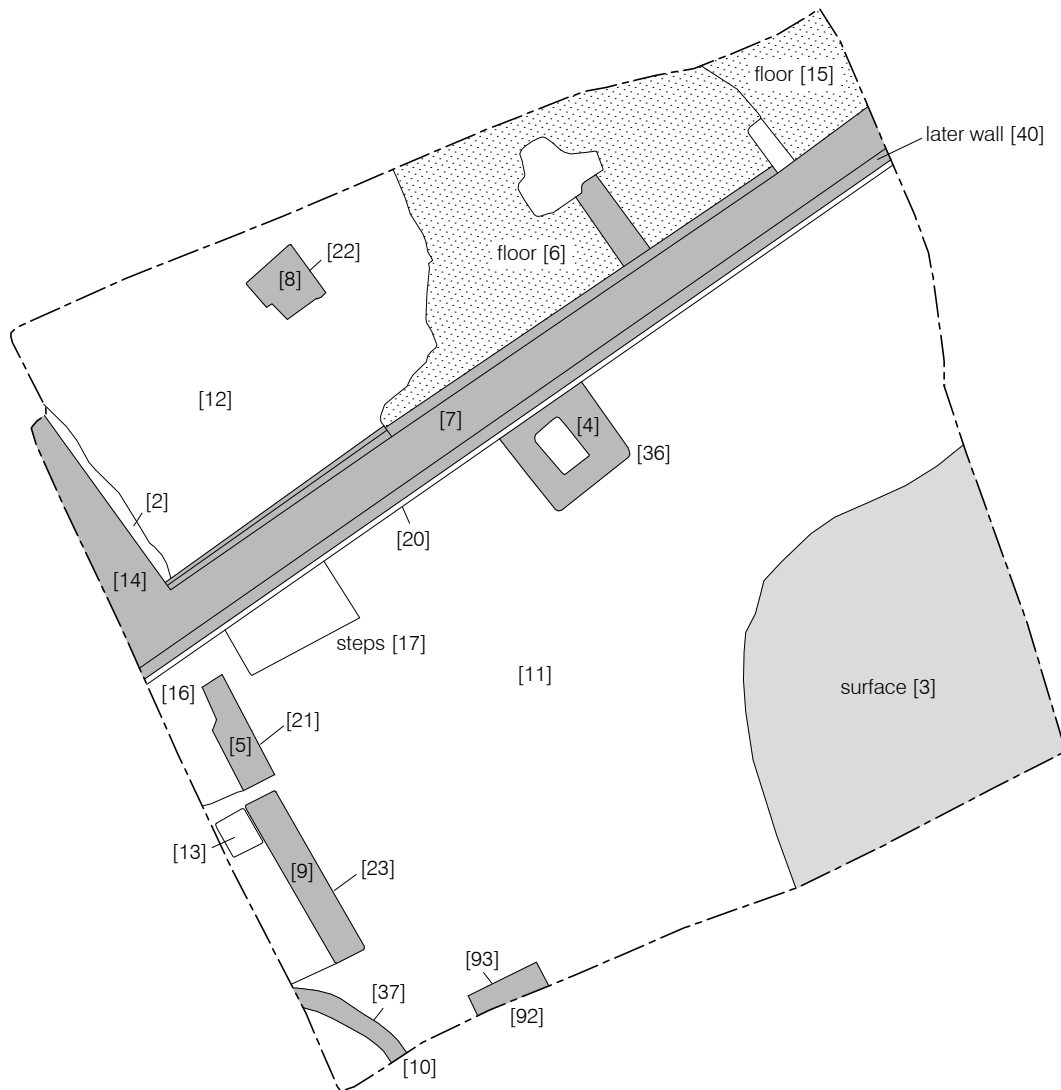
0 2m

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2012

Figure 3  
Section 3  
1:40 at A4



561732/319672  
+



561732/319658  
+

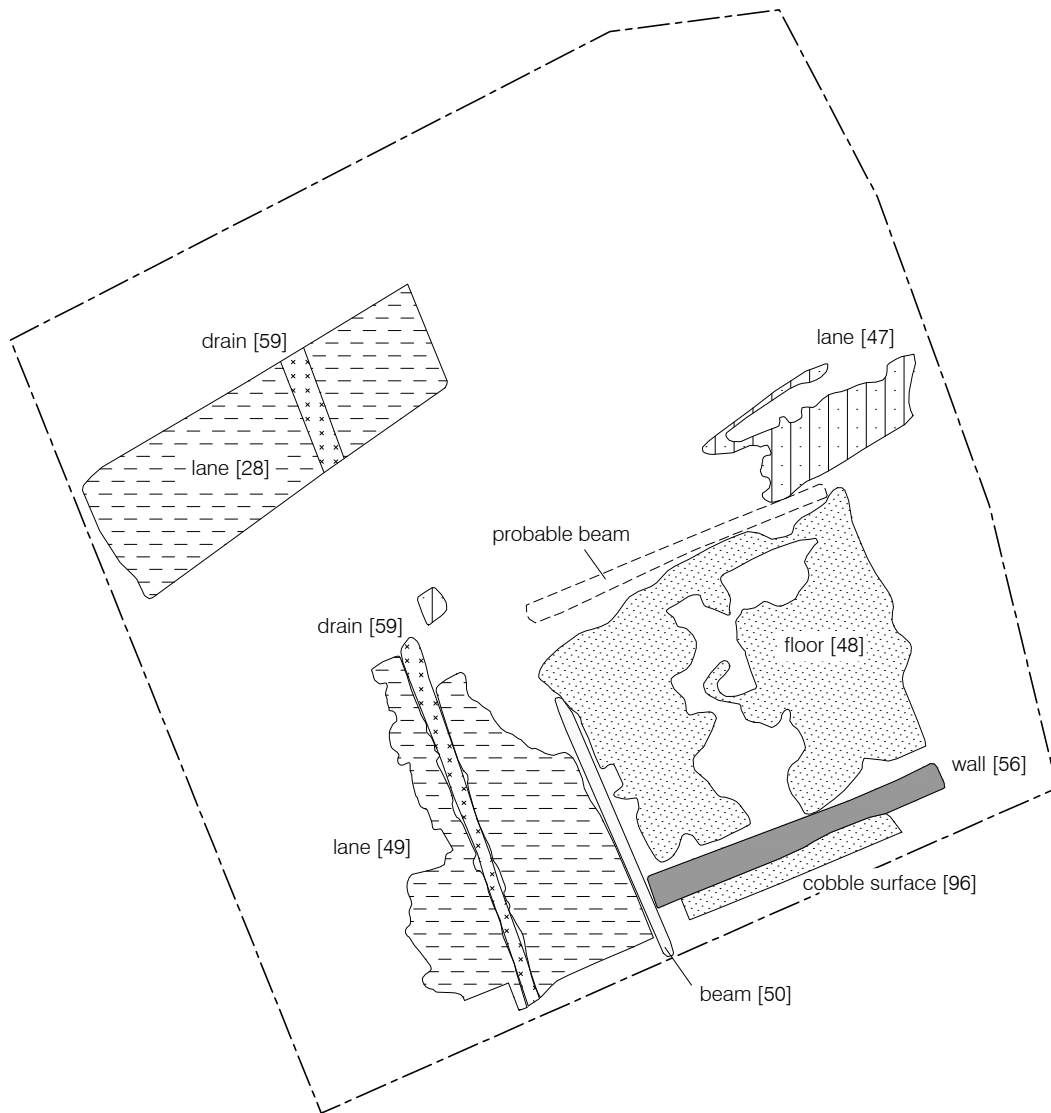
■ masonry

0 4m  
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2012

Figure 4  
Victorian Walls  
1:75 at A4



561732/319672  
+



561732/319658  
+

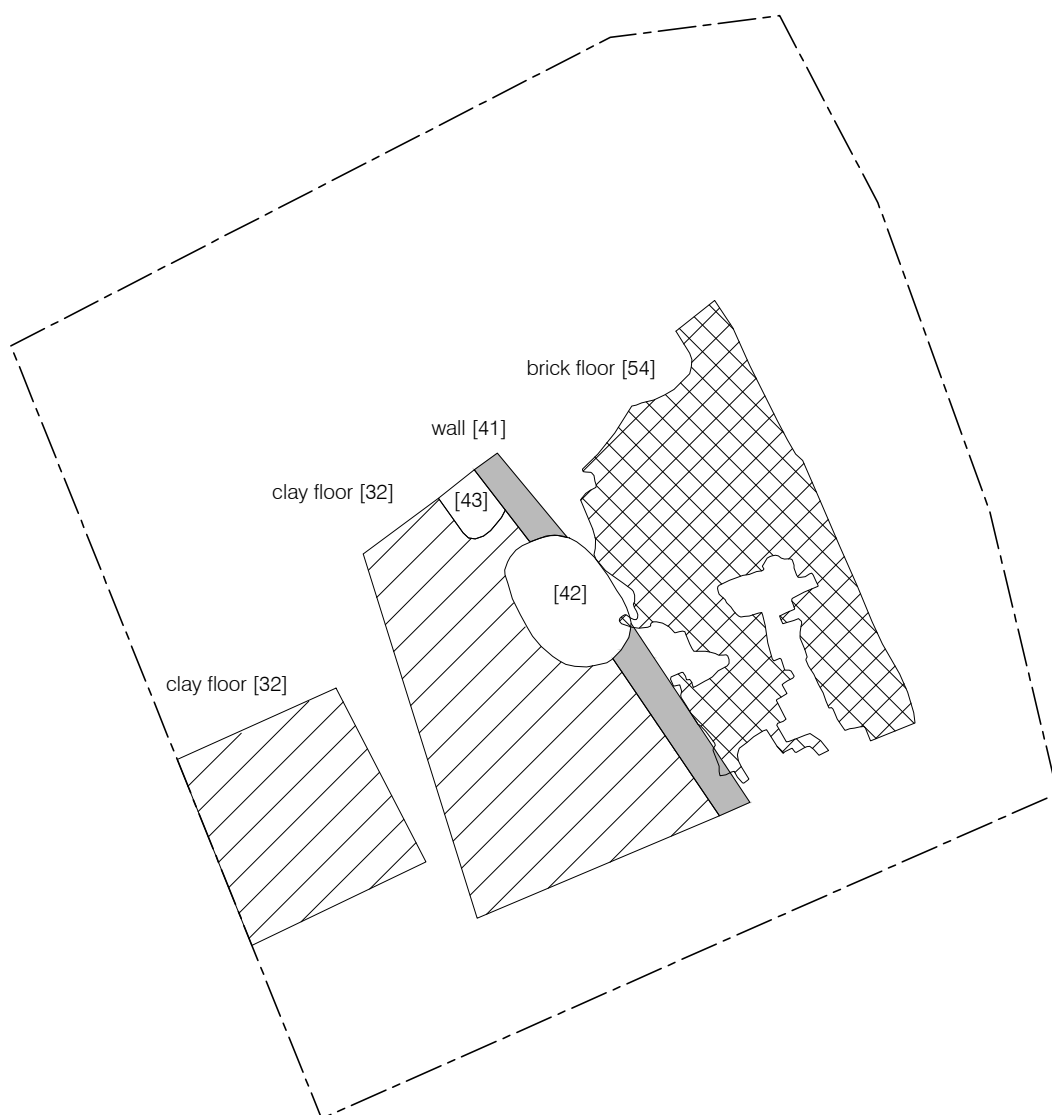


© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2012

Figure 5  
Cobbles  
1:75 at A4



561732/319672  
+



561732/319658  
+



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2012

Figure 6  
Early Brick Floor  
1:75 at A4

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Comments
1		Cut	Trench	Evaluation trench
2		Layer	Overburden	Concrete overburden
3		Layer	Surface	Cobbles
4	36	Structure	Drain	Manhole
5	21	Structure	Wall	19th c wall
6		Layer	Surface	Yellow brick floor
7	20	Structure	Wall	Red Brick wall
8		Structure	Wall	Post Pad
9	23	Structure	Wall	19th c wall
10		Structure	Drain	19th/20thc drain
11		Layer	Make up	Demolition layer
12		Layer	Levelling	Sandy rubble over cobbles
13		Layer	Surface	Paved floor
14	24	Structure	Wall	19thc wall
15		Layer	Surface	Red brick floor
16		Layer	Overburden	Overburden
17		Structure	Steps	Steps over wall 7
18		Structure	Drain	Drain
19		void	Void	Void
20	20	Cut	Wall	Construction cut
21	21	Cut	Wall	Construction cut
22	22	Cut	Wall	Construction cut
23	23	Cut	Wall	Construction cut
24	24	Cut	Wall	Construction cut
25		Structure	Wall	Red brick wall
26		Cut	wall	Construction cut
27		Layer	Surface	Floor
28		Layer	Surface	Floor
29		Layer	Make up	Make up
30		Layer	Make up	Make up
31		Layer	Occupation	Occupation
32		Layer	Surface	Floor
33		void	Void	Void
34		void	Void	Void
35		Layer	Channel deposit	Channel silt
36	4	Cut	Drain	Construction cut
37	10	Cut	Wall	Construction cut
38		void	Void	Void
39		void	Void	Void
40	20	Structure	Wall	Wall
41	88	Structure	Wall	Wall
42	42	Cut	Post hole	Posthole

43	43	Cut	Post hole	Posthole
44		void	Void	Void
45		void	Void	Void
46		void	Void	Void
47		Layer	Surface	Cobbles
48		Layer	Surface	Cobbles
49		Layer	Surface	Cobbles
50	50	Cut	Beam slot	Wall
51	50	Fill	Beam slot	Wall
52		Layer	Occupation	Occupation
53		Layer	Occupation	Occupation
54		Layer	Surface	Brick cobbles
55	43	Fill	Post hole	Posthole fill
56		Structure	Wall	Wall
57		void	Void	Void
58		void	Void	Void
59		Structure	Drain	In cobbles
60	42	Fill	Post hole	Posthole
61		void	Void	Void
62		void	Void	Void
63		void	Void	Void
64		void	Void	Void
65		void	Void	Void
66		Layer	Make up	Make up
67		Layer	Make up	Gravel
68	68	Cut	Pit	Pit
69	68	Fill	Pit	Pit fill
70		void	Void	Void
71		void	Void	void
72		Layer	Levelling	Silt layer
73		Layer	Land surface	Land surface
74		Layer	Make up	Make up
75		Layer	Make up	Chalk
76	76	Cut	Pit	Pit cut
77	77	Fill	Pit	Pit fill
78		Layer	Surface	Truncated floor
79		Layer	Levelling	Sand Levelling
80	81	Fill	Post hole	Fill of 81
81	81	Cut	Post hole	Post hole
82		void	Void	Void
83		void	Void	Void
84		Layer	Surface	Floor
85		Layer	Levelling	Silt layer
86		Layer	Channel deposit	Blue grey silt
87		Layer	Channel deposit	Organic silt

---

88	88	Cut	construction	Construction cut
89	89	Cut	Wall	Construction cut backfill
90	90	Cut	Post hole	Posthole
91	91	Fill	Post hole	Posthole backfill
92		Layer	Make up	Sand bedding
93	93	Cut	Drain	Construction cut
94		Structure	Drain	Drain in 47
95	42	Fill	Post hole	Packing for posthole 42

## APPENDIX 2: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS



**Plate 1.** View to River Ouse during breaking out. Facing west.



**Plate 2.** The waterfront. Facing northwest.





**Plate 3.** Test pit 5 showing rubble overburden. Facing east.



**Plate 4.** Section 3 through silts 87, 86, 85 and 79. Facing south.



**Plate 5.** Section 3 deep sondage through levelling silts to cobbles 49. Facing south.



**Plate 6.** Section 3, eastern side showing silts 72, 73 and wall 41. Facing south.





**Plate 7.** Iron stained sand 35 within machine sondage up against western baulk. Facing east.



**Plate 8.** Section 3 western side, silts 79 and 85 and wall 41. Facing south.



**Plate 9.** Brick floor 54, wall 41 and clay floor 32. Facing north.



**Plate 10.** Post removal pit 42, wall 41 brick cobbles 54 and clay floor 32. Facing north.





**Plate 11.** Cobbled lane 49 with drain 59 and walls 40/7. Facing north.



**Plate 12.** Cobbled lanes 47 and 49 with cobbled floor 48. Facing east.





**Plate 13.** Cobbled surface 28, wall 25 and brick floor 27.Facing west.



**Plate 14.** 19<sup>th</sup> century wall 7 and brick floors 6 and 15 Facing east.





**Plate 15.** Walls 7 and 14 with floors 6 and 15 Facing west.



**Plate 16.** Wall 7/40 and steps 17 Facing north.



**Plate 17.** Representative selection of animal bone and marine shell from pit 76.



**Plate 18.** Dutch Redware cauldron. c.1300-1700 (left) and Siegburg salt-glazed stoneware c. 1500-1630 (right) from pit 76.



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-118499

### Project details

Project name	ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT SOUTH QUAY, KINGS LYNN, NORFOLK
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation at land at South Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. The work was commissioned by CgMs consulting to assess the archaeological implications of development on the site. The work comprised the excavation a stepped 8m by 8m trench. A number of post-medieval (17th to 19th century) walls and brick and cobble surfaces were recorded. Some probable late Medieval/early Post Medieval period midden features underlay these walls which cut into layers of ground-making deposits of pebbly sand, representing the reclamation of land from the River Ouse. Deeper in the sequence were several layers of water lain organic rich silts and sands with anthropogenic inclusions (pot, cbm, leather). Deposits were excavated to a maximum depth of 4.3m below ground level. The natural was however not reached.
Project dates	Start: 16-01-2012 End: 26-01-2012
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF128380 - Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	WALLS Post Medieval
Monument type	FLOORS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Methods &	'Environmental Sampling', 'Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure',

---

techniques	'Targeted Trenches', 'Test Pits', 'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Requirement Norfolk HER
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

---

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK KINGS LYNN SOUTH QUAY KINGS LYNN NORFOLK
Study area	64.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 6171 1967 52.7500380041 0.396219284049 52 45 00 N 000 23 46 E Point

---

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Nick Pankhurst
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

---

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Leather'
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Digital Contents	'none'

---

Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Photograph', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey '

---

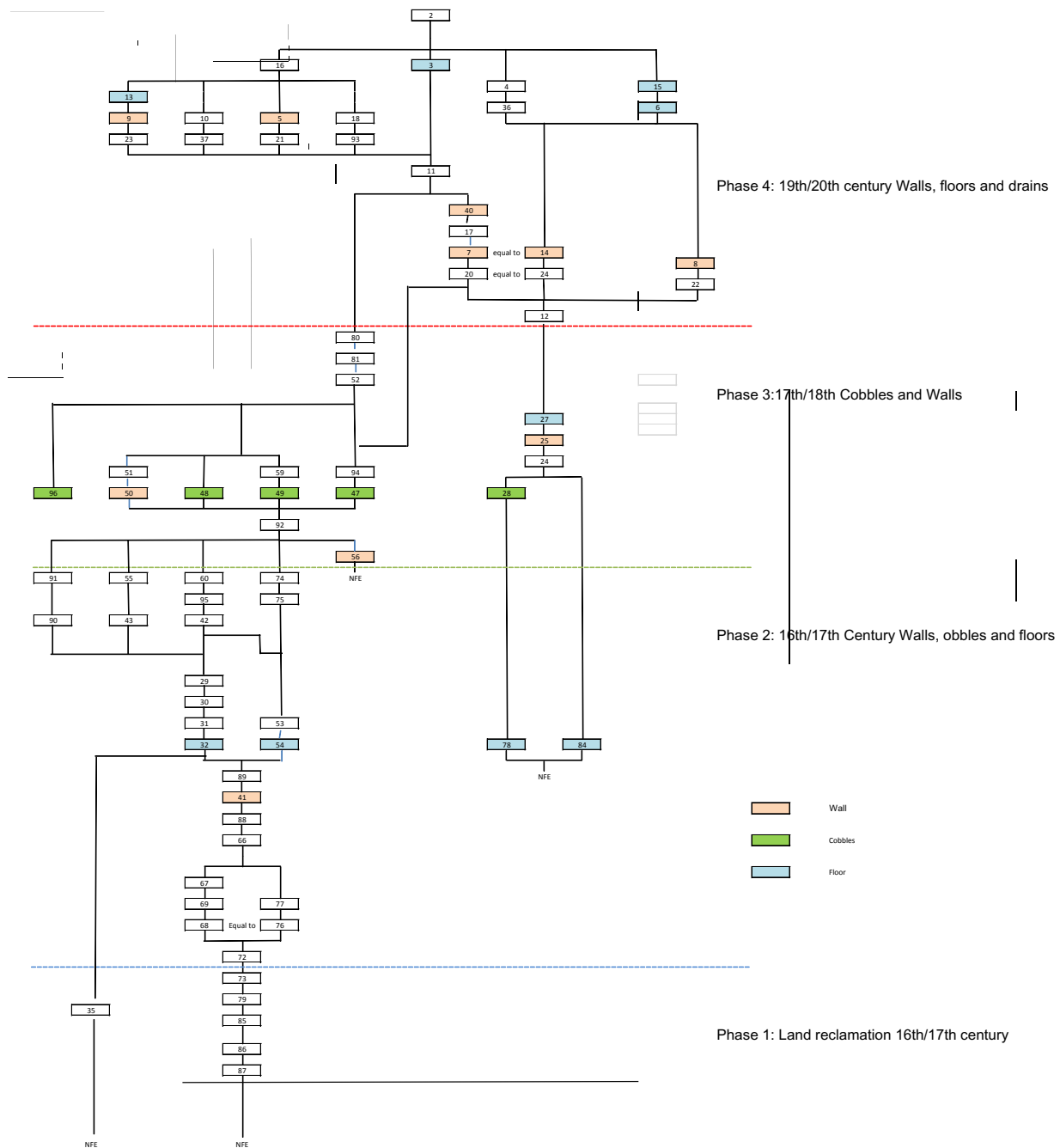
## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT SOUTH QUAY KINGS LYNN NORFOLK
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'PANKHURST, N.'
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Place of issue or publication	Brockley
Description	A4 GREY LITERATURE REPORT.

---

Entered by	Nick Pankhurst (npankhurst@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	31 January 2012

## APPENDIX 4: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



## APPENDIX 5: BRICK DIMENSIONS

Structure Number	Type	Colour	Frogged	Length mm	Breadth mm	Thickness mm	Length Inches	Breadth Inches
5	Wall	Red	No	230	100	65	9.05	3.93
6	Floor	Yellow	No	240	110	50	9.44	4.33
7	Wall	Red	No	230	115	60	9.05	4.52
8	Post pad	Red	No	220	110	70	8.66	4.33
9	Wall	Red	No	240	110	70	9.44	4.33
10	Drain	Red	No	280	180	70	11.02	7.08
14	Wall	Red	No	230	115	60	9.05	4.52
15	Floor	Red	No	220	100	60	8.66	3.93
18	Drain	Red	No	240	110	70	9.44	4.33
25	Wall	Red	No	230	110	60	9.05	4.33
27	Floor	red	No	230	110	50	9.05	4.33
40	Wall	Yellow	No	220	100	50	8.66	3.93
41	Wall	Red	No	230	110	50	9.05	4.33
54	Floor	Red	No	130	110	45	5.11	4.33
56	Wall	Red	No	230	115	60	9.05	4.52

# PCA

PCA SOUTHERN

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091

FAX: 020 7639 9588

EMAIL: [info@pre-construct.com](mailto:info@pre-construct.com)

PCA NORTHERN

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: [info.north@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.north@pre-construct.com)

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE

STAPLEFORD

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL

TEL: 01223 845 522

FAX: 01223 845 522

EMAIL: [mhinman@pre-construct.com](mailto:mhinman@pre-construct.com)

