



Archaeological Monitoring  
at Smallbridge Hall, Suffolk  
NGR: TL 9290 3310  
SHER #: BSM 064

Felix Reeves Whymark  
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## Summary

Monitoring works at Smallbridge Hall, Suffolk (BSM 003) were carried out during replacement of drainage and electricity cables mainly to the north and east of the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century hall. The earliest remains recorded were the flint and peg tile footings, clay floors, and beam slot of a structure to the north of the current hall. These dated to the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century and were likely elements of a hall 'complex', although the exact nature of the buildings could not be determined from the sections exposed. Later floors, layers and part of a brick structure suggested the structure was occupied into the late medieval and Tudor period, but whether the 16<sup>th</sup> century hall replaced the structure could not be reliably determined. Demolition material from a brick structure overlying the building likely dated to the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The footings of another structure to the east were constructed of brick and peg tile and probably predated the current hall. The west wing of the hall was shown to have originally projected further to the north, abutting an earlier brick structure extending to the west, which likely represented the remains of an earlier Tudor or Late Medieval west range. Structures recorded to the north of here, south of the northern moat causeway were consistent with a Late Medieval or Tudor date and flanked many deeply stratified courtyard surfaces and build up layers to the west. The abutment and demolished arch of a brick bridge in line with the north side of the moat were preserved beneath the ramp of the causeway (which was filled in after the demolition of the bridge earlier in the modern period) and must have been of a similar date. These were very likely part of a gatehouse, the gateposts of which are seemingly preserved.

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## **1. Introduction and background to works**

Historical research on Smallbridge has been conducted by past and present owners as well as local historian and historic buildings expert Leigh Alston, who has researched the medieval mill that stood nearby, the hall, and surrounding area. However, prior to summer 2014, no known archaeological work had been carried out. A test trench was excavated in June following interest from the owners, during below ground structural investigation of the east chimney. Deeply stratified medieval and early post-medieval deposits were discovered, including part of a brick structure on a different alignment from the current hall, with an associated floor and discrete features of a similar date. The trench highlighted the potential for similarly deeply stratified archaeological remains preserved beneath made ground layers elsewhere.

Monitoring works followed a brief for continuous archaeological recording stipulated by Suffolk County Archaeological Officer Jess Tipper. Groundworks involved replacement of drainage from the west and east sides of the hall to the septic tank outside the moat east of the hall, as well as replacement of electrical cables between the farm buildings and the east wing of the hall. Trench 2 and Trench 3 were monitored at the start of works in September, and all other monitoring was undertaken in October 2014.

## **2. Archaeological and historical background**

There is early evidence in the immediate area for a 'manor of Smalebrege/Smalebregg' in 1235 and 1310 and 'mill at Smalebridge' as early as 1090 and earlier (Alston, 1993, 8; 2014, pers. comm). Richard Waldegrave acquired the manor in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, and was granted a license to crenellate in 1384 (SHER: BSM 003). No records exist of a crenellated building on the site apart from an early modern engraving that the current owners hold a copy of, which shows a small area of crenellation on the west wall of the building. It is unknown if this represents artistic license or is accurate. It is likely that the fishponds visible to the south west of the site date from around this time.

The current hall is thought to have been rebuilt around the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, but must have been larger than the extant building; as 44 hearths are recorded here in 1674; over double the number in the present building (SHER: BSM 003). Some of these must have been represented by the north-south oriented line of buildings (shown on a 19<sup>th</sup> century map) flanking the northern approach to the east, which were demolished at this time, (now visible as rectangular cropmarks). It is suspected (Leigh Alston, pers. comm.) that these were a remnant of a complex of Medieval buildings flanking the northern approach, and that the current 16<sup>th</sup> century building is likely to have been originally larger, with wings extending to the east and west.

Prior works in the east garden (2014) evidenced deeply stratified (2.1m) deposits with 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>C deposits at 1.2m below ground level, evidence of a Tudor or Late Medieval wall

aligned north east - south west, and a floor associated with this projecting west, truncated by the footprint of the current hall. Furthermore, underlying this were multiple thin habitation layers overlying a possible early London clay floor, and a buried medieval topsoil, itself underlain by large pits (undated). That the current hall sits to the east of centre within the moat itself points to the existence of prior buildings. Preliminary geophysics results in the west garden (Dennis) have suggested structures in this position extending to the west, (although research is ongoing). Trench 1 also suggested refacing work on the east chimney may have occurred in the mid 18th century, a time other alterations and repairs are thought to have been made around the hall (Alston, pers. comm.). In the 19th century, a large model farm was built outside the moat to the north, flanking the northern approach to the west. Major restoration of the hall in Elizabethan style occurred in 1893-94, and again in 1932, including rebuilding of the east and west wings.

### **3. Site position, topography and geology**

Smallbridge Hall lies within the south-east corner of the parish of Bures St Mary on the boundary with the parishes of Nayland-with-Wissington to the immediate east and northeast and Wormingford to the south and southeast. The centre of the hall lies at TL 92933 33062. Broadly the site lies to the southernmost south west point of Suffolk, just within the border with Essex which runs along the river Stour immediately to the south of the site.

Topographically the site lies on the north bank of a large bend of the river Stour. The ground level slopes gently down towards the river to the south, which flows past the site (and previously filled the moat). It is at the western edge of the 'Dedham vale' in the centre of the Stour valley. The surface geological deposits consist of river terrace gravels to the centre and north of the site, and silty alluvial clay to the south around the Stour. River gravel was seen in previous excavation to the immediate east of the east chimney. The permeable and thus non water-retaining nature of the underlying geology makes the position less practical for a moat, which would have required a clay lining.

### **4. Methodology**

#### **-4.1 Fieldwork**

Trenches were excavated with a small 360 fitted with a toothless 0.50m wide bucket, as befitted the services being installed. This was at points impractical archaeologically due to being too confined as a working space and angles of photography being at times overly oblique, but a large proportion of the trenches was widened for various reasons. Spoil was heaped to the side of the trenches wherever space was available, and moved when too close to the trenches. Separation of deposits was not deemed necessary. Lower deposits were in part dug by hand, with spoil heaped beside the trench and when required moved to a safe distance by machine.

Open deep excavations near access routes not already blocked off by spoil heaps were fenced off accordingly. Trenches were not dug over 1.10m deep, and were mostly 0.60m - 0.90m deep. Material was mostly clay rich, so these depths were considered safe (apart from a large partially soft sand backfilled feature in Trench 4 which was only partially

exposed and purposefully avoided). Access was made via scaffold board on top of larger walls (where practical), or via the stepped or sloped end of the trench. Standard M.O.L.A.S. recommended guidelines for archaeological recording were followed. Cuts and fills, layers and walls were allotted numbers following on from those allotted to trench 1 in previous works. Sections (most at 1:10 or 1:20 if required) and hand plans (at 1:20) were drawn of features, and high quality digital photographs with scale were taken in plan and section (and wherever else required). Levels were calculated using nearby levels from a previous detailed level survey. Spoil heaps were metal detected.

#### **-4.2 Post-Excavation**

Finds were washed and labelled, then sorted into type. Following this they were identified and researched. Pottery was analysed by Steve Benfield. Artefactual evidence is being retained by the owners of the Hall. Context information was inputted to Microsoft Excel (see appendix). All drawings were scanned to create a digital archive. Plans were digitised and manipulated using autocad. Photographs were organised and uploaded. All information was backed up upon upload.

#### **5. Monitoring results**

All monitoring was carried out prior to the laying of services. Trenches were in part newly excavated (Trench 5); in part re-excavated and replacing old services along the same lines (Trench 2 and 3), and in part originally re-excavated but requiring a progressively lower level (Trench 4). Upon disturbance of archaeological remains in the latter, trenches followed a different route that impacted least upon remains found. Where a lower depth was required by drainage, all in situ deposits of an archaeological nature were excavated by hand and recorded, and artefactual evidence was retained. Where required, small excavations through structural remains were carried out to lay services at the correct depth and preserve structures in situ.

##### **-5.1. Trench 2**

(0.52 - 0.60m wide, 6m length. 0.62m deep)

Trench 2 (fig 2) was excavated for the replacement of drainage running parallel to the east wall, and coincidentally adjoined the east end of trench 1. North - south aligned brick wall [0028] recorded in the east section of trench 1 was therefore exposed (mostly in plan) to the base of the trench, adjoining east west orientated wall [0031] to the south. It was 0.26m wide, with a single course of whole and fragmented peg tiles uppermost. These were level along its length, and largely not covered in mortar. Uneven mortar faces 0.5-1cm thick were observed to both sides.

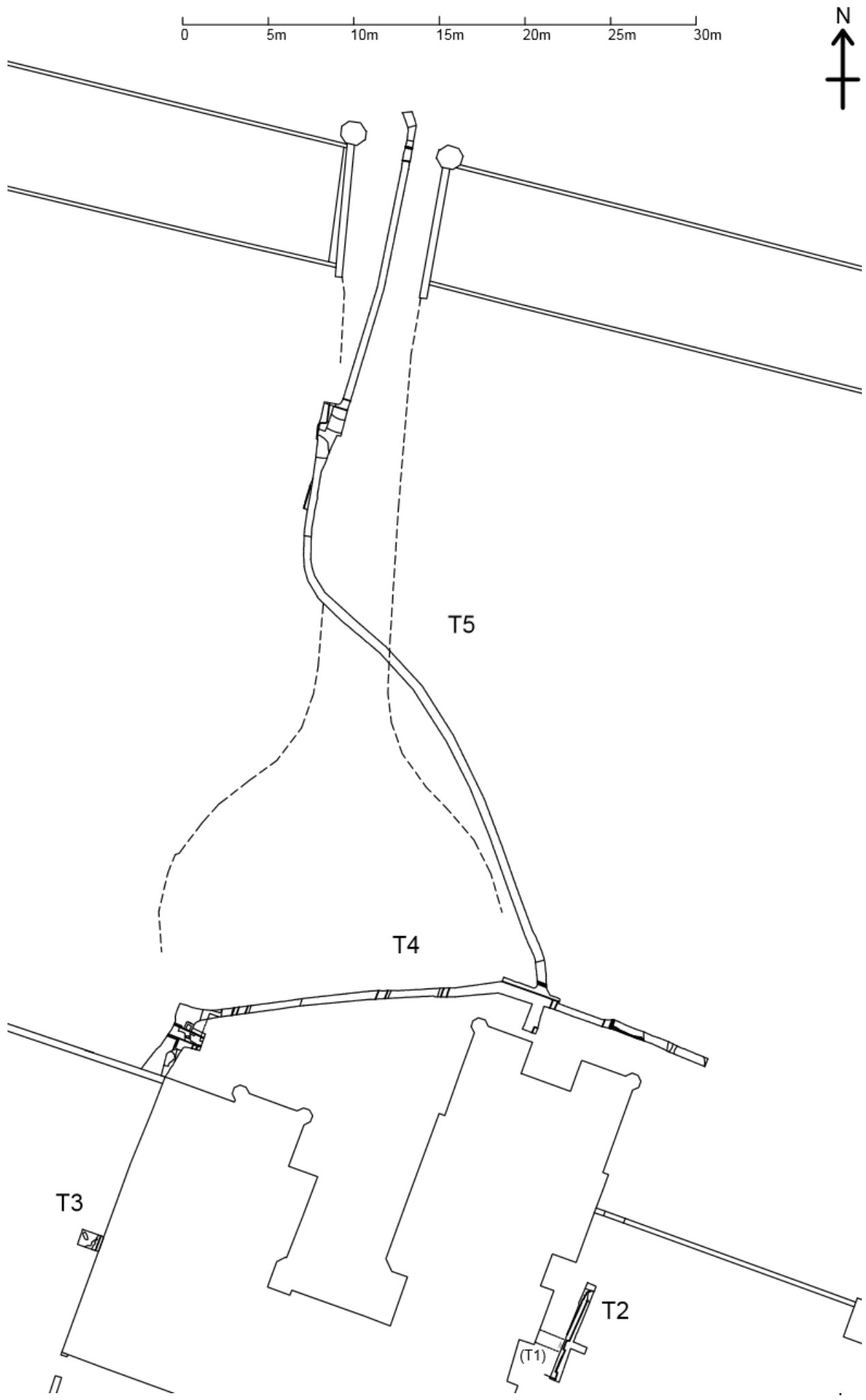


Fig 1: Plan of features showing position of trenches. 1:300 scale.

The part of [0028] recorded in trench 1 (three courses of bricks, 6cm thick/deep and 12-14cm wide in header bond) was largely different in character to that exposed in trench 2. Along a 0.65m length, no tile course was observed above the brickwork, and the exposed upper bed comprised of evenly cut half bricks. This likely represented an architectural feature, possibly a narrow door way or opening.

[0028] was cut to the north by a later rubble filled pit cut from high up within overlying modern ground layers and further to the north, services. From here to the north end of the trench was a homogeneous area of modern disturbance, (possibly associated with garden and/or previous drainage works). [0031] adjoining [0028] to the south was identical in construction to [0028] aside from a footing to the south end, which appeared to have separated from the wall to the west, possibly during demolition. The wall was 1.5 brick lengths wide (0.41m), suggesting it may have been more major structurally than [0028], which is assumed to represent a partition wall. A sondage excavated into the side of trench 2 to the west end of [0031] before infilling determined that it extended further to the west. Both walls were overlain by a layer of rubble (0011) likely representing material from the demolition of the building. Above this, post medieval made ground layers as seen in trench 1 overlay.

### **-5.2. Trench 3**

(0.9m wide by 1.3m long. 1.15 deep)

Trench three was a works trench excavated against the side of the west wall of the hall to enable drainage replacement. 0.35m below ground level the west wall footing was exposed, (three courses each stepped out a brick width), under which brick filled wall foundation trench [0037] lay. [0037] cut a clay layer 20cm+ thick (0036), which extended 0.7m from the west wall. Due to the size of the trench and truncation the nature of this was unclear, but its volume suggests it may represent either a sizeable dump of clay or a much truncated thick clay floor as seen to the east and north. Cutting (0036) to the west and overlying the west wall trench was the east side of a possibly north - south aligned feature [0039], though this was not clear. The lower of its two fills had a large rectangular posthole [0044] cut into its surface, which, although the function of both remains unclear, may suggest [0039] to be some kind of works trench. The upper surface was level with the base of the footing, suggesting the feature is contemporary with the construction of the house. A homogeneous loamy silt layer (0042) 0.40m thick overlying (0041) and the wall footing probably represents a reworked topsoil/levelling layer. This was overlain by modern loam.



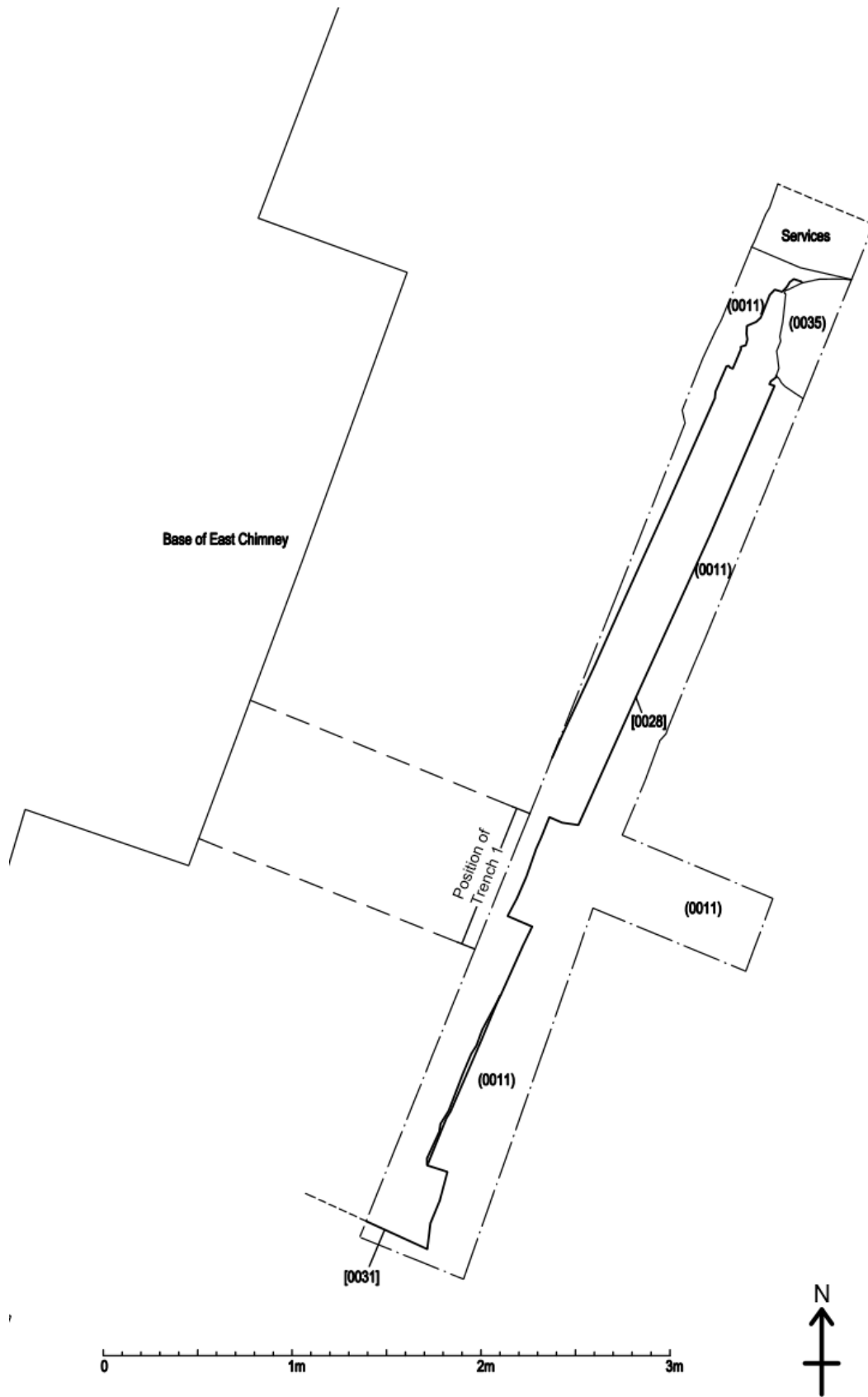


Fig 2: Trench 2. 1:30 scale plan.

### **-5.3. Trench 4**

(0.5m - 0.8m wide by 59.4m long. 0.8m - 1.1m deep)

Trench 4 ran east-north-east from the north-west corner of the west wing to immediately north of the east wing, before bending east-south-east and crossing the east walkway across the moat, then extending to the septic tank immediately the other side. Due to the length of the trench and number of contexts recorded, it is dealt with in three areas:

#### **-5.3.1. West**

To the mid west end of this area a brick wall [0047] 0.9m wide was recorded, aligned north - south in line with the current halls west wall. Although the two could not be seen physically joining to the south (due to a thick overlying layer of concrete here), the similarity in width, orientation in plan, and brick dimensions make [0047] almost certainly an extension of the west wall to the north. 0.70m of the wall was exposed. 0.65m beneath the demolished surface a plinth one brick width wide was visible on the west side. The wall was constructed in an irregular bond, with some similarities to English cross bond. The north extent of [0047] abutted east-west aligned wall [0046], which ran west-north-west - east-south-east exactly perpendicular to [0047] and parallel to the north wall of the west wing. [0046] was 0.62m wide, and was constructed from bricks similar in size to those in [0047], in English cross/irregular bond. Footings half a brick width wide were observed 0.4m beneath the surface of the wall to the south side and 0.7m to the north. The upper surface of [0046] was less than 20cm beneath ground level, covered by top soil.

Cutting [0046] was an oval pit [0048], backfilled with mid brown clay silt and cbm, which was overlain by a floor/surface constructed of Flemish 'whites' bricks/halfbricks. These were probably late post Medieval/modern features possibly of a horticultural nature (being to the eastern extent of the border here). Adjacent to [0046] and [0047] to the north was an area of modern disturbance. 19/20<sup>th</sup> century drainpipes cutting the upper surface of the walls ran into an inspection chamber abutting [0046] to the north side, built of reused post Medieval un-frogged bricks. This was positioned within a large works trench [0076], from which 19<sup>th</sup> century waste was observed. [0076] seems to have been cut through to the east (though the relationship was not clear) by a v-shaped pit [0074] cut from 0.25m beneath ground level, (probably a post-Medieval/modern horticultural pit). [0074] cut through a large sub rectangular pit [0054] (which cut wall [0046] to the north-east). A small fragment of clay pipe was observed in this. The relationship between [0054] and [0076] was not clear.

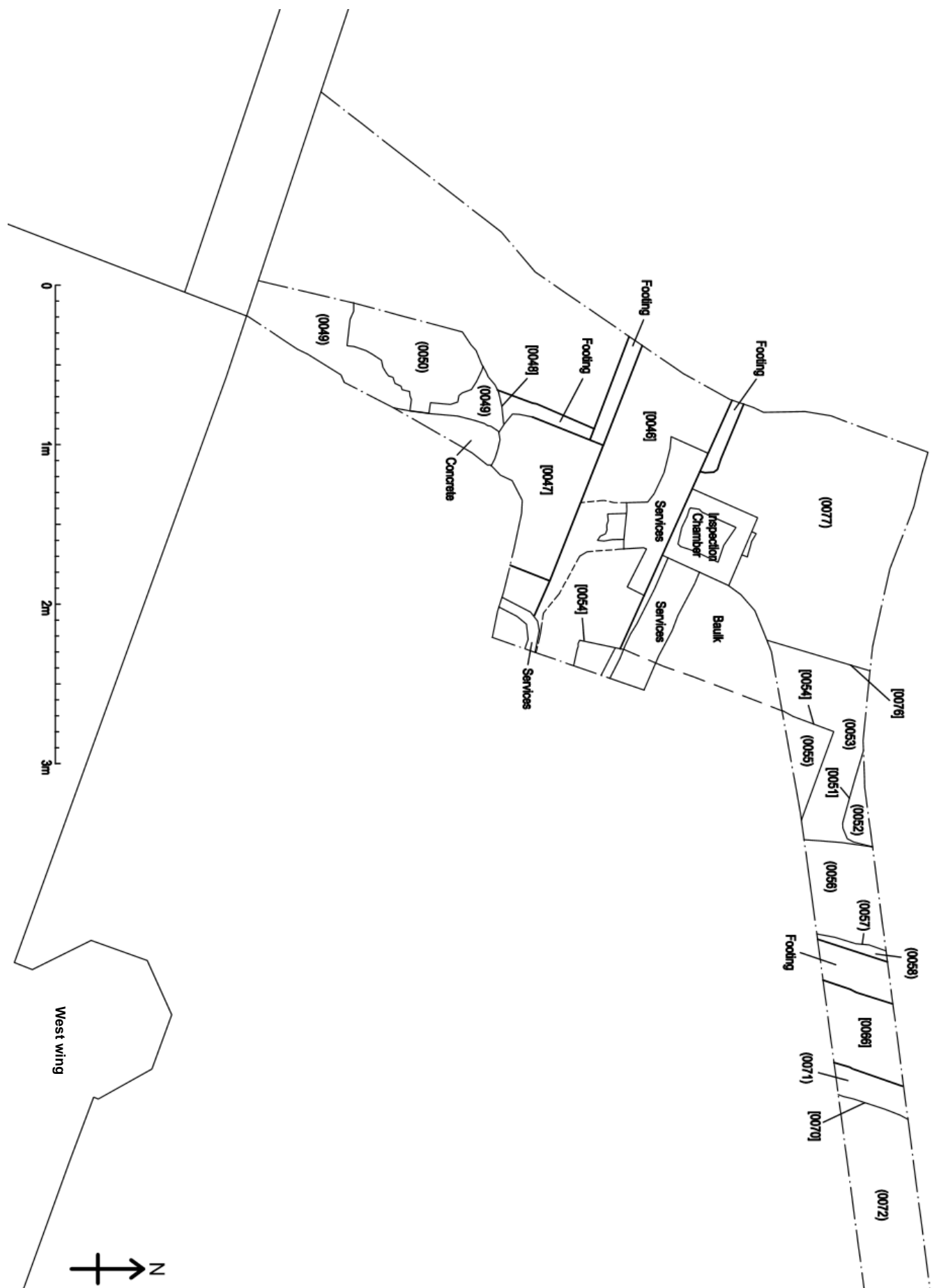


Fig 3: Trench 4 west area. 1:30 scale plan

All modern/post medieval features here cut an area of in situ deeply stratified layers and features to the east. A north - south aligned flint and lime mortar wall plinth [0066] was uncovered 1.5m to the east of [0074], measuring 0.76m wide in total, with a footing 0.2m wide to the west side 11cm down. The east side was rendered with lime mortar up to 3cm thick. Peg tile fragments sitting level made up the inner surface of the wall, flanked by facing flints covered in slightly upstanding (1cm) mortar to the edge. Although damaged by a pit [0067] cut from beneath modern build up layers/surfaces (0078)/(0080) (which overlay all deposits here), this was likely the in situ surface of the wall. The surface of [0066] and similar plinths to the east were levelled with peg tile upon which a heavy load bearing timber sole plate would have rested. Remnants of mortar render were visible to the edge(s) of several plinths, left either underneath the edge of a chamfered beam or to the edge of a beam narrower than the width of the flint footing. Wall plinths appeared to have been constructed with an un-coursed shuttered flint and lime mortar foundation (partially visible during excavations for services) overlain by shuttered courses of flint with facing flints and occasional peg tiles. Raked out joints between flint courses were visible on some of the plinths.

A slumped construction trench [0057] for [0066] was seen 0.4m to the west. [0057] cut a sub rectangular pit [0051], the upper part of which appeared to be filled with red sandy layer (0056). [0051] cut a silty clay layer (0053). These features were not clear and were mostly seen in plan. Overlying the wall cut and abutting [0066] several compact dark yellow clay floors and dark brown clay silt accumulation/levelling layers over 0.5m thick were recorded. The lowest of these, a floor (0060) 12cm thick, was likely contemporary with [0066]. A very small abraded sherd of greyware was observed on its surface in section, to the base of an overlying accumulation/levelling layer (0061) 17cm thick. Above this a probable levelling layer (0062) 17cm thick with a lense of lime/clunch to the east extended 5cm above the level of [0066]. Possible floor layers (0063) and boulder clay layer (0064) overlay (0062), in turn overlain by a deep (0.27m) homogeneous layer of clay silt (0063) uppermost. The surface of the latter was 0.41m higher than the upper surface of [0066], likely making it a levelling layer deposited at some point after the demolition of the structure [0066] represents. (0064) however, although above the level of the wall surface, probably represents the latest level of floor seen here, either associated with [0066] (and physically abutting the timber frame here), or associated with a later phase of building; possibly [0046] to the south.

### **-5.3.2. Mid**

Overlying [0066] to the east side was a very large straight sided pit [0069] 6.8m long with four silty clay and homogeneous soft yellow sand fills, cut from beneath modern/late post Medieval made ground layers (0078) and (0080), and therefore likely later post Medieval or modern. The function of [0069] is unclear. Its size, depth (it was not bottomed, and lower fills appeared to slope further down), and the permeable nature of some of the fills could

suggest a drainage function. Alternatively; as the east side of [0066] and west side of flint and lime mortar wall plinth [0084] (which the eastern extent of [0069] overlay) sloped inwards (and thus could have been purposefully built for strength), the feature could represent a large infilled cellar (or series of cellars), used and backfilled after the rest of the building was in use. This could also suggest that these faces of the wall were external; the 'pit' representing a single phase of build-up extending the ground level to above the walls (see discussion).

[0084] was 0.54m wide, and identical to [0066] in size and orientation (though without a footing). Lime mortar render was patchier on the east side of the wall, with each bed of mortar/flint clearly visible. Another thinner flint and lime mortar plinth 0.35m wide [0087] was recorded running parallel to [0084] 3.26m to the east. This likely supported an internal partition wall within the timber frame as opposed to an external wall. As [0084], flint courses could be seen through the mortar render, which was thinner to the west side and thicker to the east side. A glazed piece of peg tile was observed among other fragments to the inner level surface of the wall, adjacent to a partially preserved piece of upstanding mortar with the impression of the removed chamfered edge of the timber beam visible (plate 2).



Plate 2: Wall plinth [0087] with glazed peg tile and upstanding mortar.

In between [0084] and [0087], wall trenches [0086] and [0082] were seen (mostly in plan) 0.2m from either wall, cutting through dark brown clay silt layer (0081) - possibly a buried soil or early occupation layer. Overlying the wall cuts and abutting the walls, a likely contemporary clay floor (0088) 11cm thick was recorded, in turn overlain by the remains of boulder clay floor (0089) (9cm thick), which protruded 14cm from wall plinth [0087]. The void left by the robbing of (0089) was filled with a homogeneous grey brown clay-silt (0090), halfway through which two small shallow sub-round postholes [0091] and [0093] were cut to the north and south of the trench, 0.2m apart. The alignment of these parallel to wall plinths [0084] and [0087], and that both were positioned equidistant from the plinths suggests they may be the remains of a functional architectural structure (conceivably a timber partition-though they lay only 1.6m from each wall), or structure used for internal works on the building, though this cannot be determined.

Cut into (0090), a linear bed of brick [0105] aligned east - west was recorded (1.12m long in trench). The surface was fragmented. The bricks measured 13cm wide by 13-14cm long (the height was not visible) and may have been cut wall bricks or small floor bricks. They were bedded in lime mortar (0104), under which sand (0103) and, basally, fragmented rubble in a silt matrix (0102) lay. These filled a linear trench-like cut [0101], from which a whole antler was recovered from the very base (plate 7). However, the north and east side of this was not seen due to truncation by several services (and (0108), see below), so it seems more likely that rather than being a linear feature [0105] represented the remains of the south edge of a brick surface cut into a levelling deposit (0090). Part of a collapsed beam slot [0097] 0.2m wide was recorded, parallel and adjacent to the south side of [0101], which was overlain by a thin probable clay floor remnant (0106). A square posthole [0099] of identical width to the beam slot cut through/abutted this to the centre of the trench in exact line with [0097] (this was only visible in plan).

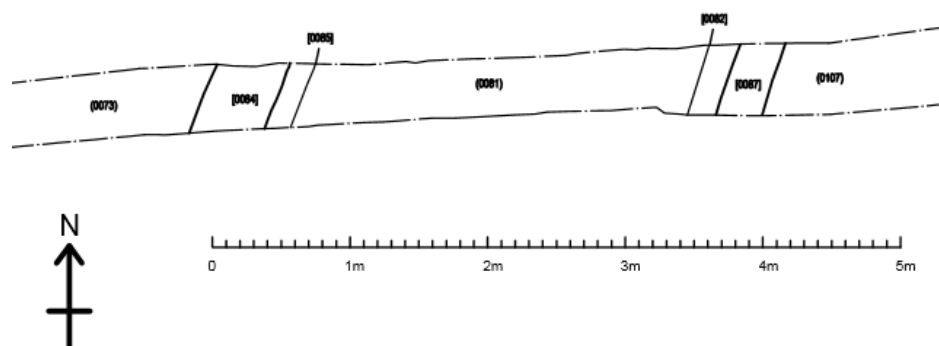


Fig 4: Trench 4 mid area. 1:50 scale plan

(0097) cut the remains of a probable earlier beam to the south (0096), which had been carbonized in situ, (as ash and charcoal flecks had been mixed into immediately adjacent deposits, and the beam was aligned parallel to [0097] above, seemingly in position. This was the only evidence of fire damage over the site, so may have represented a small localised fire, the nature of which is unknown). This was partially truncated and redeposited, but where preserved was up to 4cm high and 12cm wide. The west end abutted the east side of wall [0084]. Two phases of timber frame partition wall were therefore probably represented, with evidence for a clay floor (likely contemporary with the second phase) lying to the south (and overlying the sole plate), and a brick floor cutting and possibly replacing the floor to the north. Nearly all features from [0101] to the extreme east were overlain by (0108) - a layer up to 0.44m thick of brown clay silt with moderate to very frequent rubble throughout. A fragment of clay pipe was observed to the base of this.

### **-5.3.3. East and Trench 5 South**

The east extent of trench 4 crossed trench 5 1.6m from its southern extent (fig 5); therefore both areas are dealt with here. An east - west aligned flint and lime mortar wall plinth [0127] was recorded protruding from the north wall of trench 4 to the east. 3.56m was exposed here and 0.3m in a sondage into the baulk at the west end of the wall. 6.02m of the wall was evidenced in total, with the width of the plinth exposed in trench 5. [0127] was 0.62m wide in total, with a footing 0.15m wide to the north side 14cm beneath the surviving surface of the plinth. The upper surface was largely destroyed by services (and possibly historic demolition) to the south. The north side was heavily rendered, and to the east end of the long section exposed a piece of upstanding mortar was well preserved to the south edge. The east end of [0127] adjoined north - south aligned flint and lime mortar wall plinth [0126] 0.56m wide, which extended to the south, likely making up the north east corner of a structure. [0126] had a footing 8cm wide 12cm beneath the surface to the east side and was heavily rendered as [0127].

Another flint and lime mortar wall plinth aligned north - south [0125] 0.38m wide abutted the south side of [0127] parallel to [0126] 2.94m to the west. This was likely an internal partition wall similar to [0087], which was added on to [0127]. Courses of flints were less regular than in all other walls seen. The upper surface was not preserved. Unlike deposits to the west of [0087], to the base of the trench in between [0087] and [0126] (on both sides of [0125]), a yellow brown firm-friable sandy silt with frequent small flints [0107] was deposited; probably to build up the level inside the building here. At the south end of trench 5, projecting 0.36m from underneath the concrete foundation of the north wall of the rebuilt 1930s east wing a north - south brick wall [0110] was recorded, constructed directly on the surface of (0107). Though the east side was not exposed, the bonding (and probing from above) suggested that it turned perpendicular to the east at the north end. Bricks were 22cm long by 11cm wide by 8-9cm in height.

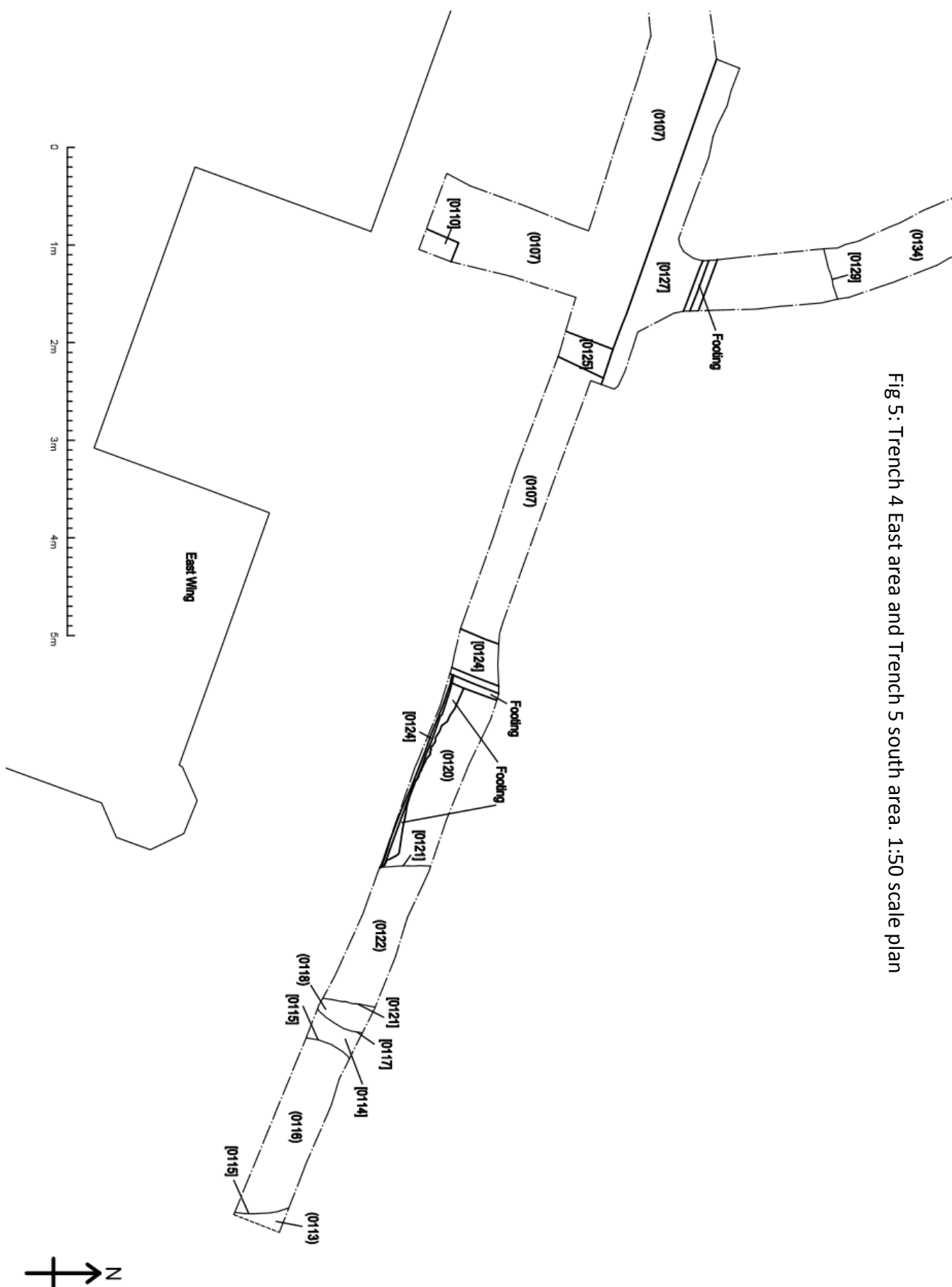


Fig 5: Trench 4 East area and Trench 5 south area. 1:50 scale plan



The base of [0110] was abutted by a clay floor (0111) 8cm thick overlying (0107), which had been truncated/robbed, extending 2m to the west and not abutting [0127], [0087] or [0125]. A thin charcoal rich lense of occupation accumulation (0112) overlay the floor. 6cm higher than this, abutting the east side of [0125], the remnant of a robbed clay floor (0128) was similarly recorded above (0107). (0128) projected 14cm from [0125] and was 8cm thick.

The east side of [0126] was abutted by a flint and lime mortar wall plinth [0124] extending to the west, the edge of which was seen in the south section. A truncated footing or possibly a protrusion of mortar (left in the works trench by shuttering?) 12cm from the base was observed. Most of the plinths surface was truncated by above services. [0124] sat on and may have been cut through (this was not clear) a thick clay deposit [0120] 0.5m deep at the base of the trench. A sondage showed that the deposit extended over 0.4m lower and was 0.9m + deep. The function of [0120] is hard to determine, but it may have been deposited to stabilise ground to the corner of the building represented by [0126] and [0127]. Cutting through (0120) and [0124] to the east was a moderately steep sided north - south trench 2.10m wide and 0.5m deep, [0121], which was not bottomed in the trench. It was backfilled with unfrogged brick rubble, (see [0129]). The eastern extent of rubble layer (0108) had slumped into or filled the top of [0121], underlying late post Medieval/modern levelling layer (0109) (which continued to the east).

To the eastern extent of trench 4 all features underlay (0109) and were cut by the east side of [0121]. 0.25m east of [0121], a the remains of a truncated north - south aligned flint and lime mortar wall plinth [0114] was recorded, cut by the steep rounded edge of a pit [0117] to the west side (0.24m deep in trench) and by large charcoal and oyster shell rich probable sub round/oval pit [0115] to the west (0.26m depth, 1.96m diameter in trench). The east side of [0115] cut a probable made ground deposit (0113) to the base of the trench: a mixed dark yellow/brown (likely the redeposited remains of clay floors associated with [0114]). Though the upper half of [0114] was not intact, it appeared identical in construction to other wall plinths to the west. Overlying [0114] and [0115] a silty made ground/buried soil layer (0119) 0.27m thick was recorded. To the east of the removed drainage hub equidistant from here and the eastern extent of the trench the trench re-excavated seemingly modern disturbance presumably from drainage and the recent addition of causeways (see Trench 5 north).

To the north side of [0127] a large steep trench [0129] 0.44m deep (the bottom was not reached) was recorded, running east - west and abutting the wall plinth. Layer (0108) filled the top of [0129]; underlain by a rubble fill (0130), thin lense of compacted lime or clunch (0132), and basally a brick dust fill (0131). Though it appeared the lower two fills lay in the trench, this was not clear. (0132) may have been clunch, in which case it would have likely been a path surface abutting the edge of the wall plinth (Edward Martin pers. comm.). The similarity of [0129] to [0121], characteristically, perpendicular orientation (around both

sides of the north east corner of below ground and standing structures) and similar backfill and relationship to rubble layer (0108) suggests that they could represent a drainage feature to the immediate outside of structures.

Cut by the north side of [0129] and underlying (0109) (which extended around 10m to the north) and all other remains seen in the trench 4 and the southern extent of trench 5, to the southern extent of remains seen in the 'mid' section of trench 5, several homogeneous and very deeply stratified layers were observed. A 2m test slot was mechanically excavated through these to natural sand and gravel, which lay at 1.66m beneath ground level. Uppermost a silty gravel layer (0133) 11cm thick was recorded, under which lay: (0134), a 0.7m thick friable sandy silt with frequent stones; (0135), a 0.22m thick firm sandy silt with moderate stones and basally, (0136), a dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional stones. The surface of natural deposits did not slope in the slot, and no plough marks were observed. Deposits seem to have represented external gravel build up layers and surfaces, aside from (0135) and (0136), which were likely buried soils. The surface of the southern extent of (0134) sat 5cm higher than plinth [0127], suggesting that (0134) and (0133) were build up layers deposited after the wall was constructed (and sequentially, probably post Medieval made ground). Occasional small bone fragments were observed in layers below (0134), but otherwise no dateable finds were recovered.

#### **-5.4. Trench 5**

(0.5m - 0.8m wide by 90.6m long. 0.8m - 1.1m deep)

##### **-5.4.1. Mid**

North of [0129], trench 5 bent to the north-west and crossed build up layers/surfaces (above) before turning to the north-north-east, extending along the drive/approach (and crossing the moat), and finally turning to the north west again, extending to the model farm. Remains to the mid part of 5 were difficult to interpret due to the position and width of the trench.

A brick wall [0153] 0.56m wide aligned west-north-west - east-south-east crossed the area to the north. The north face was neatly and evenly constructed, in English bond, and clearly once exposed, while the south face was roughly constructed, in header bond with mortar spilling from joints, suggesting that it would have been below ground (and that the ground was 0.38m higher to the south). Bricks used to the south varied in size (and were probably reused), but those to the north face and exposed surface of the wall were 12-13cm by 21cm by 6cm. A small, deep, straight sided feature [0156] cut the exposed south edge of [0153] at the west baulk, where it intersected the north extent of brick wall [0154] here (making the stratigraphic relationship between walls not visible). The west edge of [0154] was partially exposed (0.22m maximum width) in the west section of the trench and extended 1.2m to the south, before turning perpendicular to the west 0.42m then turning and extending to the south-south-west 0.88m. As the south edge of [0153], it was constructed roughly in

header bond (where visible), from bricks of varying size, with mortar spilling from joints but also covering large patches of the brickwork. Large flints protruding from this suggest that it had been covered up while the mortar was still wet.

A large east-west trench [0142] 2.68m wide with a moderately steep side abutted the south side of [0153] and the west side of [0154], backfilled with 6 hoggin and gravel rich silt fills. [0142] seems likely to have been a large works trench for the structure represented by [0153]. If so this would put [0153] earlier than [0154] stratigraphically. However, due to the angle of the trench, it was not clear whether deeply stratified floor layers to the south of the area that were cut through by [0142] abutted [0154], or whether the backfills seen in [0142] had also filled a much smaller perpendicular construction trench for [0154]. The latter would make the two walls a contemporary phase of building. Immediately to the north of [0153], loose hoggin layer (0149) may have been a remnant of the walls construction trench fill.

To the south a large sub oval/irregular shaped pit [0137] filled with orange sandy clay seen in plan, underlay boulder clay floor (0139) 16-26cm thick, which ran for 5.6m before sloping to beneath the level of the trench. Above this lay a sandy silt layer 13cm thick with frequent small flints (0140), overlain by brown-orange silty clay (0141) 0.35m thick. The nature of the latter two was not clear, although (0140) may have been a levelling or surface deposit. To the south-east of the area, electricity services cut the edge of both. Though not clear, both appeared sealed by build up layer (0134). 2.1m south of [0142], a north-south aligned brick structure [0155] 1.27m wide was seen in the west section of the trench. This was 3 courses high, and constructed in stacked/header bond. Bricks measured 10cm by 7cm. It appeared to sit on a tile/mortar levelling course, which was abutted by clay (0141). Brown sandy silt layer (0148) overlay [0155] and all other remains up to [0153], and was overlain by topsoil.

#### **-5.4.2. North**

Overlying/cutting (0149) north of wall [0153], orange brown sandy silt made ground/infill layers (0150) (and above this) (0151) underlay a 1m deep (in trench) deposit (0170), which infilled the north causeway across the moat. (0170) was a yellow sandy silt with frequent unfrogged brick and peg tile fragments. Above these to the south lay (0152), a rubble/concrete build up layer creating a small ramp from the front garden across the causeway. Several redeposited worked stone fragments (of different materials) were recovered from among modern inert waste; the only such remains seen on site. (0152) lay over the north extent of (0148), so post-dated the destruction of all structures here. Modern surfaces/tarmac (0171) overlay all remains here and to the north of the trench.

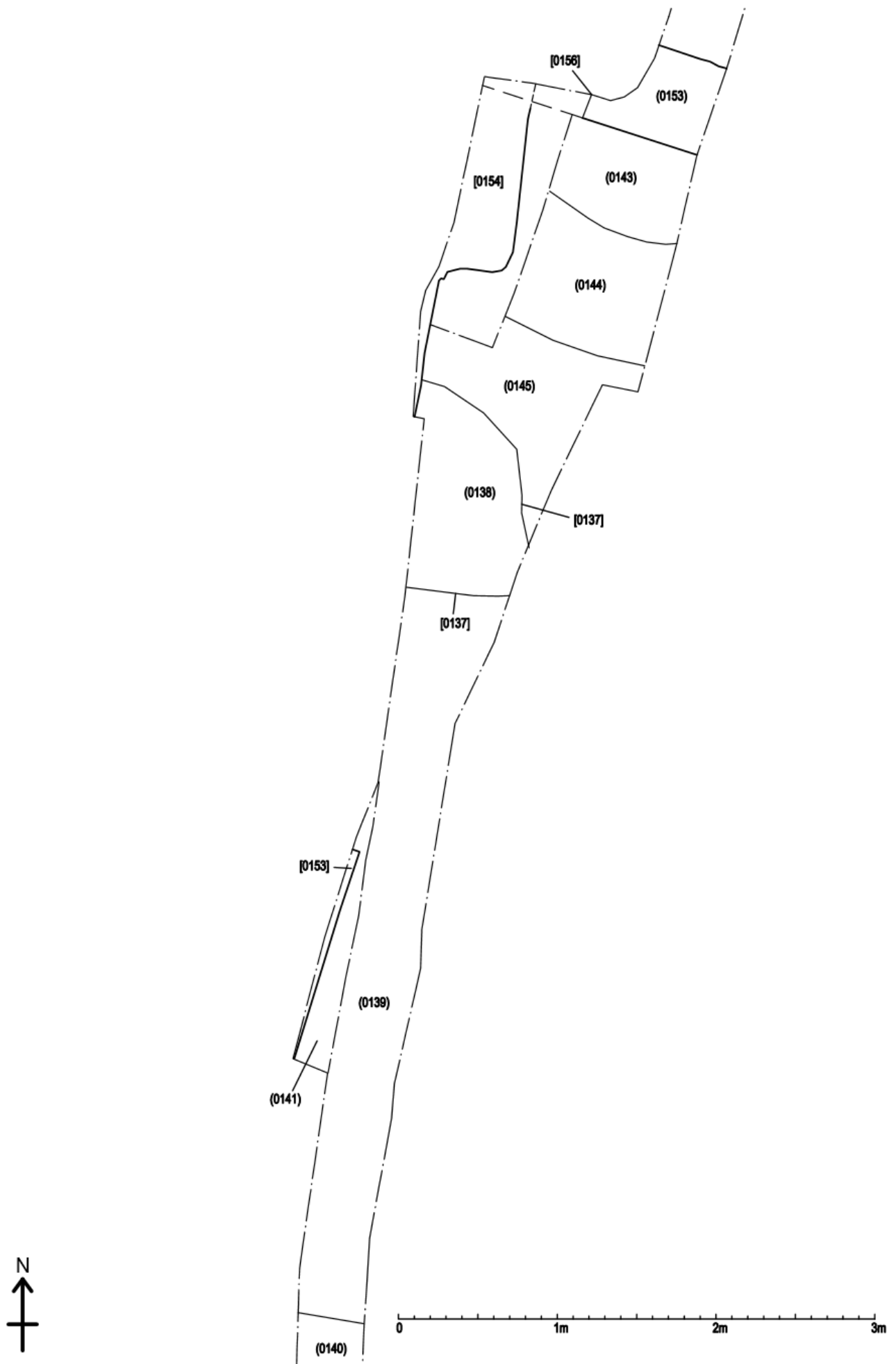


Fig 6: Trench 5 mid area. 1:30 scale plan.

To the north of the causeway, remains of a brick built bridge [0165] were excavated, beneath/abutted by causeway infill (0170). Basally was a plinth/footing 12cm wide (from which a long (and incomplete) 38cm by 15cm by 5.5cm brick was recovered), above which an abutment 0.72m in height by 0.73m breadth was recorded. To the south of this a partially demolished brick 'rise' 3 courses high, (each course stepping out up to 6cm) was visible, below the base of a demolished arch, of which part of 2 courses of brick and 1 course of tile were recorded. A mottled yellow-grey sandy silt deposit (0168) overlay the south side of the abutment beneath (0170). A large fragment of modern glass observed between (0168) and (0170) suggested the demolition of the bridge and erection of the north causeway occurred in the modern period. Additionally, several bricks from (0170) were almost identical in size to those observed in [0165], suggesting that at least some of this was material from demolition of the bridge.

To the north of [0165], its construction trench [0163] was observed, cut from 0.65m below the modern surface. This cut stony silt (0158), (0160) and hoggin layers (0159), (0162) to the north. These ran 7m to the north-west, and must have been early road/yard surfaces and accumulations. Overlying these and [0163], sandy silt build up layer (0166), and above this, stony rubble filled silt (0167) (directly underlying bridge demolition/causeway cut [0169]) were recorded. (0166) sloped up to the south and overlay the corner of [0165], probably therefore representing a contemporary ramp up to the bridge. The two layers were observed up to 7-8m to the north-west, before being cut by services and the rubble filled footprint for the model farm.

## 6. Finds

### 6.1. Pottery and other ceramic finds and glass

Stephen Benfield

#### Introduction

In total 38 sherds of pottery weighing 1,289 g were recovered. The average sherd size for the assemblage is 33.9 g. The pottery can be dated to the medieval and post-medieval period. The pottery was recorded using the Essex post-Roman fabric type series (Cunningham 1985, *CAR 7*) supplemented by Jennings (1981). The pottery fabrics and the quantity of each fabric type is listed in [Table \\*\\*1](#). The pottery is listed by context number in [Table \\*\\*2](#) where a spot date is also provided for each of the fabric and form types present for each context. A very small quantity of other finds, consisting of ceramic building material (CBM) & glass, were also recovered and are listed in [Table\\*\\*2](#).

Fabric code	Fabric name	No	Wt(g)
20	Medieval coarsewares/sandy greywares (general)	12	110

<b>Fabric code</b>	<b>Fabric name</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Wt(g)</b>
21	Medieval sandy orange wares (general)	1	5
22	Hedingham ware	1	1
UNI	Un sourced medieval – possibly imported	1	4
LMT	Late medieval transitional wares	7	301
40	Post-medieval red earthenwares (general)	13	744
45	Stoneware (primarily German imports)	3	124
	<i>Total</i>	<b>38</b>	<b>1289</b>

Table \*\*1. Pottery fabrics and quantities

<b>Context number.</b>	<b>Find</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Wt(g)</b>	<b>Spot date</b>
<b>(0088)</b>	Pot	20	Broad, plain handle from a jug; 2 other body sherds	3	60	13-14C
<b>(0088)</b>	Pot	21	Rim, probably from a dish/bowl, sandy fabric, oxidised	1	5	13-14C
<b>(0090)</b>	Pot	20	Body sherds	4	16	13-14C
<b>(0090)</b>	Pot	22	Body sherd from a jug, micaceous, fine orange fabric with external mottle green glaze	1	1	L12-E14C
<b>(0090)</b>	Pot	UNI	Body sherd, relatively hard sandy buff-pale red fabric with some mica and some red-brown iron inclusions, dull reddish-brown exterior - possibly an import from North France or Germany	1	4	12-13C(?)
<b>(0090)</b>	Pot	40	Sherd with part of rectangular cut-out on one edge, glazed on all original surfaces, probably from a chafing dish	1	33	L16-17C
<b>(0090)</b>	CBM		Peg-tile and one other late medieval/post-medieval thick tile piece	2	40	Late medieval, (14C)-post-medieval

Context number.	Find	Fabric	Description	No .	Wt(g)	Spot date
<b>(0107)</b>	Pot	20	Base sherd from a cooking pot, 2 other body sherds	3	15	13-14C
<b>(0107)</b>	Pot	40	Base of a drinking vessel, mug/tankard, brown glaze (brown is less common than black glaze for these vessels, making up approximately 20% of those from assemblages at Colchester as opposed to 80% with black glaze – CAR 7, 212)	6	53	16-17C
<b>(0108)</b>	Pot	40	Large storage jar rim, crowded thumbing below rim, all-over glaze (CAR 7, 207)	1	69	18-E19C
<b>(0116)</b>	Pot	LMT	Base sherd from an open vessel with green glazed interior, grey fabric core and oxidised exterior	1	16	15-16C
<b>(0119)</b>	Pot	LMT	Joining sherds from the rim of a large dish (pancheon), some splashes of glaze, fine sandy fabric, grey core with orange surfaces	5	258	15-16C
<b>(0134)</b>	Pot	20	Greyware body sherd	1	4	13-14C
<b>US</b>	Pot	20	Greyware body sherd	1	15	13-14C
<b>US</b>	Pot	LMT	Rim sherd from a bowl, fine dark-grey fabric with pale green internal glaze	1	27	15-16C
<b>US</b>	Pot	45	Neck and rim of a Bartmann (Bellarmine) jug, elongated face moulding, brown mottled glaze, Cologne/Frechen stoneware	1	79	L16-17C, prob. 17C
<b>US</b>	Pot	45	Part of a medallion from a stoneware jug, mottled brown glaze, Cologne/Frechen stoneware	1	18	L16-17C
<b>US</b>	Pot	45	Body sherd from a mould	1	27	17-

Context number.	Find	Fabric	Description	No	Wt(g)	Spot date
			decorated vessel showing a bear and a rabbit/hare with foliage, possible import or English stoneware			18/19C
US	Pot	40	Rim from large dish decorated with green glaze over scored wavy line pattern, patchy external (abraded) glaze (1@ 266g); horizontal, round section handle, probably from a large storage jar (1@ 44g); rim from a large bowl and two other body sherds all glazed all over (3@ 279 g)	5	589	16/17-18C, latest piece dated 17-18C
US	Glass		Lower part of stem and part of flaring base from a wine glass in a clear glass	1	32	Post-medieval

Table \*\*2. List of finds by bag number (US=unstratified)

### Discussion

The pottery assemblage is small, but can be used to broadly date the occupation on the site. The pottery recovered spans the medieval (late 12th/13-14th century) to post-medieval period (17th-18th century). There are no factory made wares among the assemblage typical of the 19th-20th century. The medieval sherds are relatively small - the average weight of the medieval greyware sherds (Fabric 20) is 9.1 g - and most were recovered with later dated pieces. However, the condition of the medieval sherds (most appearing relatively fresh) and the fact that they are well represented numerically among the assemblage indicate that they result from occupation on or immediately adjacent to the site. In general the sherds of late medieval transitional and post-medieval pottery recovered appear to have been broken and disposed of on the site as they are generally relatively large (larger than the medieval ones) and include joining sherds from two vessels. The average weight of these sherds is 43 g for the late medieval transitional wares (Fabric LMT) and 57.2 g for the post-medieval Glazed red earthenwares (Fabric 40).

Sherds of medieval pottery are present in several of the find bags. One context (0088) contained only medieval pottery, but at just two sherds it is not clear if this indicates a medieval context. The medieval pots represented by the sherds are cooking pots, an unglazed jug and part of a glazed Hedingham fine ware jug which can be dated to the late



12th-early 14th century. One small sherd in a sandy red-buff fabric from context (0090) may be an import but is not sourced.

Pottery which can be identified as late medieval transitional wares (LMT) and dating to the late medieval-early post-medieval period are the only finds from two contexts (0116) & (0119). The vessels represented consist of joining sherds from a large serving or kitchen dish and a sherd from a glazed bowl. While it is not clear if they could indicate contexts of this period (15th-16th century) or if they are residual the joining sherds might suggest that they entered the context from which they were recovered not long after breakage.

Two contexts (0090) & (0107) contained sherds of post-medieval Glazed red earthenware (Fabric 40) which can be individually dated to the late 16th-17th century (0090) and late 16th-17th century (0107). The sherds in (0107) are joining sherds from the base of one vessel (mug or tankard). A single sherd from (0108) is also Glazed red earthenware and can be dated to the 18th-early 19th century. Sherds of German stoneware (Fabric 45) are also present among the assemblage. The post medieval vessel represented in the assemblage consist of probable drinking and serving vessels for liquids in German stoneware from Cologne or Frechen (which include a Bartmann jug) and in Glazed red earthenware a mug or tankard, large serving or kitchen dish and bowl and a large storage jar.

In addition to the pottery there are two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) (0090), one of which is a small piece of peg-tile which probably dates to the 14th century or later (Ryan & Andrews 1993, 97) and part of the stem from a post-medieval wine glass (US).

## **6.2. Animal Bone**

A small assemblage of 13 animal bone fragments was recovered, weighing 195g in total, from 5 contexts:

- (0088): 4 fragments. Cow scapula distal epiphysis (38g). 3 butchery marks. Rib, distal end (4g). Species unknown, possibly juvenile sheep/goat. Tooth fragment, (3g), probably sheep. Carpometacarpus or scapula fragment, species unknown (2g).

- (0089): Small fragment of vertebra (8g), species unknown. Probable butchery mark to distal end.

- (0090): 3 fragments. Small long bone fragment (5g), species unknown. Small fragment of scapula (7g), distal epiphysis, likely cattle. 2 butchery marks. Sheep or deer ulna fragment, (10g). 2 cut marks.

- (0102): 2 fragments. Fallow deer antler (82g) with palmate distal end. Shed naturally. Complete. Also avian femur with 2 cut marks to proximal end. Likely pheasant or chicken.

- (0116): 2 fragments. Small (4g) fragment of scapula, distal end. Species unknown, possibly avian. Also proximal end of a tibia. Species unknown. 2 butchery marks removing epiphysis, 2 butchery cuts to shaft.

Fragments from floor and possible habitation contexts (0088) - (0090) likely represent in situ domestic waste, (possibly associated with food processing). Fragments from pit (0116) similarly clearly represent domestic waste, buried adjacent to the hall. The femur recovered from (0102) is likely to have been a waste product probably redeposited in the build up material for floor [0105]. The antler from this context may have been deposited similarly. However; it was deposited on the base of the underlying levelling cut [0101] (plate 7), to the centre south of a small room within walls [0084] and [0087]; and was aligned exactly parallel to beam slot [0097] which lay adjacent immediately to the north. Placement of the antler adjacent to and aligned with a timber partition, probably close to or at a door threshold, underneath a brick floor, suggest that it could have been deliberately deposited.

The partially palmate ends and size of the antler recovered suggest it was a young adult fallow deer, (Goss, 2012, 9)- a deer species typically associated with high status parks (Rackham, 1988, 72,73), as that adjacent to Smallbridge Hall, from where the antler may well have been sourced. It was near whole, and no butchery marks were observed. Additionally, only one other animal bone fragment was recovered from the same context, near the upper surface of the build up overlying it. Long running traditions of placing animal skulls and jaws on or near foundations and particularly near thresholds are visible archaeologically in the medieval and post-medieval periods. These are sometimes aligned with building features, as at Trigg Lane, London where two halves of a sheep mandible were recorded aligned parallel atop a foundation timber of the 14<sup>th</sup> century quay (Merrifield, 1978, 117-121). One of several possible interpretations of this behaviour Merrifield posited was to 'ensure good luck'. He further identifies deer antlers as potentially significant as 'symbols of regenerative power' (1978, 187, 188). Although no cases of antler threshold or foundation deposits specifically were found, further research as to the layout of the structure may clarify this further.

### 6.3. Small Finds

Context No.	Description	Weight (g)	Material
0102	Copper alloy crotal bell, 1.6cm diameter, 1.9cm height. Corroded. Corroded iron ball within.	7	Cu alloy, Fe
0102	Copper alloy pin, 2.7cm length, 1mm width. Flattened globular wound head.	<1	Cu alloy
U/S	Knife handle with blade stub. 9.7cm long in total. Oval - sub-oval in section. Broad rounded terminal. Both bone sides decorated with two small diamond shapes spaced evenly along the length of the handle (created by four round perforations 0.5mm diameter) with a single perforation to the lower end. Handle 7.9cm long. 2.5cm by 1.8cm to end. Metallic inner part 1.5mm wide. 3 iron rivets along length in between diamond shapes.	58	Bone, Fe

The only context from which small finds were recovered was rubble build up/levelling layer (0102) in cut [0101] beneath brick floor [0105]. The small crotal bell from here is likely mid 13<sup>th</sup>- mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, and may have been used in a variety of ways (Egan and Pritchard, 1991, 1644-1667, Blunt, R, 2005); possibly as an animal bell. The pin is likely 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century (Egan and Forsyth, 1997, 222, Hills, R, 2014). Both may be redeposited from layer (0090) that the feature cuts or elsewhere. The un-stratified knife was discovered protruding from the concrete foundation of the 1930s east wing, and is likely post medieval, from upper levelling layers.

## **7. Conclusion**

Works at Smallbridge Hall identified several distinct phases of structure and associated features to the north, east and west of the current hall. The interaction of structural evidence with standing remains at Smallbridge will be explored by Leigh Alston, historic building specialist for the hall.

The earliest and best dated phase consisted of flint and lime mortar wall plinths which would have supported a large timber framed structure; situated to the immediate north and north-west of the current hall, and orientated around 3 degrees to the north-west of it. Although mostly only narrow sections of the wall plinths were exposed during monitoring, large load bearing plinths [0066], [0084], [0127] and [0126] were likely external walls. Walls [0126] and [0127] clearly formed the corner of a building looking onto the courtyard to the north. The 'outer' face of these to the north and east and the west side of [0084] were thickly rendered, while mortar between flint courses on the opposite faces of the walls was raked out; the same as on both sides of narrower internal walls [0087] and [0125]. This appears likely to be the original appearance of the wall and suggests that the five walls belong to the same structure; although [0125] at least was definitely added at a later date (how much later is not known due to a lack of early floors or deposits here). Spatially, when the lines of wall plinths are projected, parallel internal walls [0087] and [0125] divide the space in between [0084] and [0126] almost exactly symmetrically, creating two rooms under 20cm different in width to either side.

A likely date of 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> century is posited for the structure. A deeply stratified floor layer overlying the cuts for wall footings [0087] and [0084] in the left of the two rooms was undoubtedly contemporary with the earliest occupation of the building, and was the only context from which fragments of solely 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered. The presence of peg tile in most of the flint plinths suggests that they date to the 14<sup>th</sup> century or later (see Benfield, above). Timber construction is suggested rather than brick due to characteristics of the plinths (see (0066) above).

Archaeological Monitoring at Smallbridge Hall, Suffolk

0 5m 10m 15m 20m 25m 30m

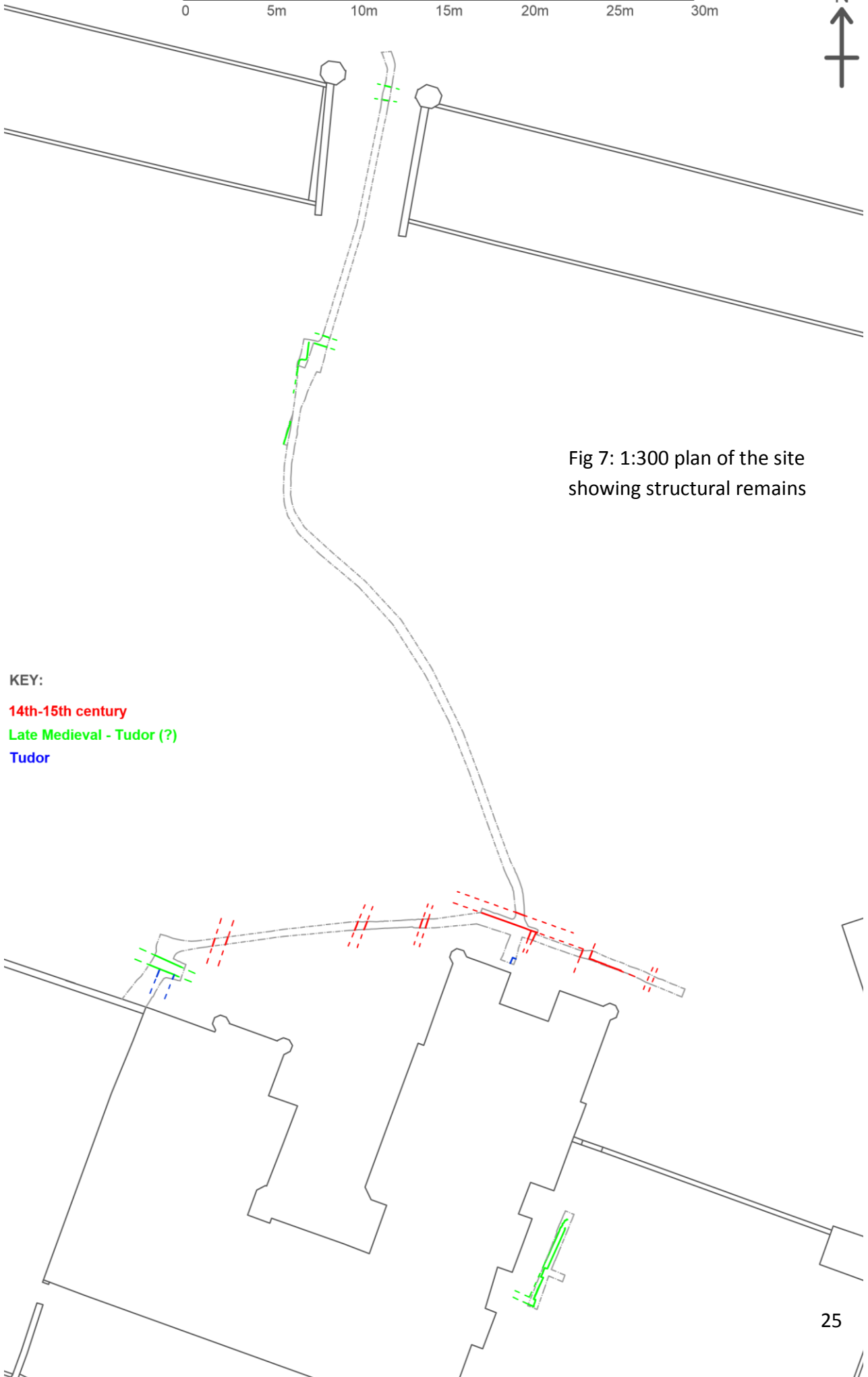


Fig 7: 1:300 plan of the site showing structural remains

KEY:

14th-15th century

Late Medieval - Tudor (?)

Tudor

Although some brick residences existed before 1480 in East Anglia (Emery, 1996, 26) and the possibility of brick construction cannot be entirely ruled out, there was little evidence of bricks characteristically different to those in the current hall, and almost no worked stones or large flints were encountered (also none of these materials or their impressions were seen atop the plinths). Plinth [0124] abutting the structure to its north east corner must represent the remnant of an extension of the building to the east, possibly originally joined to perpendicular plinth or wall remnant [0114], which seemingly extended to the north from here. Though the top of [0124] was preserved similarly to other wall plinths to the east, [0114] was likely demolished sometime in the very late medieval or early Tudor period, being cut by a large pit of this date. Deposits to the east of [0114] seem likely to be external. Remains here may form the south part of an east range, the northern extent of which was demolished in 19<sup>th</sup> century.

No dating evidence was recovered from the wide pit like feature overlying flint plinth [0066] to the east of the structure. Instead of pit fills, deposits within could represent separate layers of external build up between a structure [0066] represents and the structure to the east. Thick render was recorded to the east face of the plinth, and, unlike other plinths a wide footing to the west of the wall could have held a timber. Alternatively [0066] may have been a contemporary element of one large building with structures to the east. Clay floors abutting the west side of the plinth evidence the structure it represents continuing to the west. The depth of the basal floor overlying the cut for (0066) suggests a similar date to the structure to the east (no finds were recovered from floor layers). Higher floors here must have dated from a later phase in its development.

Overall, these early phases likely represent the northernmost elements of a manorial hall, or complex; the result of a major phase of building works carried out in the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, possibly when the Waldegrave family first owned Smallbridge Hall from the late 14<sup>th</sup> century (though no early evidence was seen of a building upon which crenellations would likely have been constructed, a license for which was granted to Sir Richard Waldegrave in 1384). Though it is difficult to interpret the main structure from the remains exposed, proportionally (especially if of an earlier date) it is concurrent with an east-west aligned simple hall house with bays 3m in length to either end (and with at least the bay to the east divided from the rest of the structure later). Alternatively it could have been a large service wing or cross wing, as often were part of hall houses from the 14<sup>th</sup> century; like the late 14<sup>th</sup> century crosswings at Choppins Hill house, Coddanham, Essex (Emery, 1996, 23-26). Few such buildings in a manorial setting have been excavated and dated in the east, though vestiges are seen, like the L shaped footing at Crows Hall in Debenham, Suffolk (Boulter, 2008). (0066) is hard to interpret in relation to the structure (see above) but clearly represents a wall to the east of a broadly contemporary building, possibly a wing to the west.

A large fragment of late 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pottery recovered from a higher build up layer within the west room of the structure suggested later occupation. However this could have been intrusive, as the bottoms of modern service trenches cut the layer here. All other pot fragments recovered were 12-14<sup>th</sup> century. With no other later finds recovered from the room, late medieval small finds from levelling material above here (likely including redeposited habitation material) also broadly date the associated inner timber partition wall sunk into ground, and the construction of a brick floor. The deposition of a whole antler lying on the levelling 'cut' for the brick floor next to the partition may have been coincidental (see above for full discussion); but that a medieval and later tradition of deliberate ritualised deposition of animal skulls and skull parts under floors and at thresholds is visible archaeologically (particularly in the south and east) (Merrifield, 1987), and the fact that only one other small animal bone was recovered from the same layer makes it appear deliberate- though there appear no examples of antler deposited in such a way regionally.

A thick levelling deposit (0107) deep inside the centre and east rooms of the structure that clearly represented build up levelled for the construction of brick wall [0110], was of likely 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century date, (and possibly raised the level of a lower room of some nature here). That [0110] was abutted by a floor overlying (0107) at the same level and of the same character as the robbed floor abutting flint plinth [0125] suggests it was an added Tudor feature, maybe a chimney or partition wall. This also makes it unlikely that the wall is a remnant of a Tudor east wing contemporary with the extant hall. Most of the structure was overlain by a rubble layer that must represent demolition material, though from which brick structure is unknown. 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragments and a wide bore clay pipe fragment within this may date the demolition phase to the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, though more dating material is desirable. The small amount of later dating material (and position of the trenches) makes it likewise impossible to accurately assess whether the structure and current house stood together; but it is clear that the early structure stood at least into the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

A large amount of build up and levelling was visible here and on site generally. A test pit to the north of the early structure evidenced thick layers of the large courtyard here 0.82m beneath the modern topsoil, and possibly over 1m; at which point underlying deposits seemed to slope towards the house. Thus, although the surface of the natural sand and gravels beneath was near level, the land here may have sloped downwards to the river historically. It is possible that damp problems (as are currently experienced in the hall) occurred around the structures. Rubble filled trench features appearing to extend around the north east corner of the structure may have provided further drainage and are likely contemporary with the overlying rubble 'demolition' layer.

Brick wall footings seen to the east were at a similar level beneath ground level to the earlier structure, and were also covered by a demolition layer (very poorly stratified remains and stratigraphic evidence from trench 1 may provide a 16-17<sup>th</sup> century date for this). Their size and tile levelling suggest they supported a timber framed structure (Alston, pers. comm.), on an alignment almost identical to the medieval structure to the north, 4 degrees to the north-west of the current hall. In the previous test pit excavated here the clay floor associated with the walls was seen to be cut by the construction trench for the east chimney, proving them to be earlier. The larger of the two does not align with any wall in the current hall. Therefore it seems that likely that these represent an earlier Tudor or late Medieval phase of structure; possibly an earlier east wing, as opposed to an east wing contemporary with the house.

It is still however possible that this phase stood at the same time as the current hall, (being then demolished and cut by the rebuilt east chimney). Ground penetrating radar research conducted here (Dennis) has been so far inconclusive, picking up a known Tudor drain to the south but as yet no evidence of structures to the immediate east of trench 2. Further research in different atmospheric conditions may reveal this. To the west side of the hall geophysical research has hinted at demolished structures, and a possible clay floor remnant seen here cut by the current halls foundation trench may represent remains of an earlier structure.

The 1m thick wall projecting from under the north of the 1930s west wing extension is interpreted as the previous extent of the current west wing. Although due to multiple services and later disturbance no early features were preserved here, the wall is on an almost exact alignment with the west wall (which is suspected to have been rebuilt), and is of the same width. Though the footing seen here is of different character to the stepped footing observed to the base of the west wall, these were often replaced in the Tudor period (David Whymark, pers. comm.). Further, this phase was clearly added on to an earlier thinner walled brick structure extending to the west, which was characteristically similar in construction. This must represent a pre mid 16<sup>th</sup> century late Medieval or early Tudor structure, possibly the south end of a range to the west, constructed when the Waldegrave family resided at Smallbridge Hall. Though no stratigraphic relationship was visible in the trench between this phase and perpendicular plinth [0066] to the immediate north-west, the upper floor levels abutting the plinth to the west strongly suggest that the structure was added at a later date to the 14-15<sup>th</sup> century earlier phase.

Structures to the north flanking the west side of the courtyard were mostly exposed in section, and could not be confidently relatively dated. However, it seems probable that the aligned chimney like structure and wall protruding from the west wall of the trench were elements of the same brick built structure. The perpendicular bend and return to the north end of the latter clearly represents an architectural feature at the point where the structure

interacts with the (possibly later) large east-west brick wall, though the exact nature of this is unknown. Floor layers to the base of the trench were poorly defined in relation to courtyard layers, (though later layers seem to overlie the upper floors) and the stratigraphic relation of the layers to structures here was impossible to confirm without further excavation, but it seems probable that they predate the structures. All three walls were constructed using 'Tudor' bricks of a similar character to those seen in brick structures to the south, and are likely to be remnants of structures of a Tudor or late Medieval date. The two walls to the south could represent the east wall and features of an east range flanking the courtyard.

The wall to the north is likely from a structure extending to the east and possibly north. Its size and the use of header bond to one side make it likely a weight bearing structure as opposed to a wall. The north face extended below the ground level of its south face, and was clearly meant to be seen. Modern (likely Victorian) infilling from the north causeway and ramp here could have potentially removed associated structures to the south bank of the moat. The similarly 'Tudor' brick bridge, of which the remnants were preserved under the ramp and levelling layers to the north side of the bank, must have provided access across the moat before being demolished in the modern period. Further, the two stylistically Tudor octagonal gateposts (the capping of which was inscribed with the year 1905), were described in a locals account of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as 'great', and flanked by steps, with a 'portcullis across' - these are very likely to be the remains of a Tudor gatehouse. The bridge is very likely to have been part of this structure. To the north of the bridge, a long sequence of metalled surfaces pre-dated and post-dated the bridge, the uppermost cut to the north by the footprint of the 19th century model farm. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the layers, it is clear that the northern approach had provided access since an early date.



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9. Appendix

-9.1. Plates



Plate 3: Wall footings [0028] and [0031] looking north



Plate 4: Wall plinth [0066] and basal features looking east



Plate 5: Wall [0046] abutting wall [0047] with wall plinth [0066] in the background. Working shot, looking north



Plate 6 (Left): South section of trench 3, with stepped west wall footing, rubble wall foundation, clay deposit (0036) and basal trench like feature [0039]



Plate 7 (Middle left): Roe deer antler upon base of levelling cut for floor 0105. Mid excavation, looking south



Plate 8 (Bottom left): Floor 0105 looking north east, with posthole [0099] mid excavation. Collapsed beam slot [0097] visible in plan to south side of floor.



Plate 9 (Bottom right): Wall plinths [0087] (foreground) and [0084] looking south west



Plate 10: Wall plinths [0127] [0125] and [0126] looking north east, with rubble filled trench [0129] (middle left) and brick feature [0110] (lower right)



Plate 11: Wall plinth [0114], truncated by pits [0117] (left) and [0115] (right), and rubble filled trench [0121] (left), looking north.



Plate 12: Walls [0153] (right) and [0154] (left) looking north



Plate 13: Walls [0154] and [0153] looking north west



Plate 14: Brick feature [0155] overlying clay floors and layers (0139) - (0141)



Plate 15: Demolished arch and abutment of bridge [0165] looking west, overlain by causeway infill to the south and abutted by gravel surfaces to the north

**-9.2. Contexts**

Trench	Context	Type	Description
2	0031	Wall	SE-NW wall to south end of trench 2. 0.41m wide. Relationship with [0028] partially unclear due to depth of trench but almost certainly contemporary (appears bonded in from above). Wider than [0028], probably external wall.
2	0032	Wall	Either footing to south edge of [0031] or where courses of brick have split apart from the wall during demolition. Unclear as at level of excavation.
2	0033	Layer	Firm - friable dark black brown sandy loam. Occasional small angular - round flints and gravel.
2	0034	Cut	Sub round pit mostly seen in plan, cutting wall [0028] at south extent on east side.
2	0035	Fill	Fill of [0034]. 60%+ unfrogged brick fragments in a firm dark grey brown clay silt with sand. Occasional - moderate charcoal lumps.
3	0036	Layer	Compact mid grey green/yellow boulder clay. Probable clay floor.
3	0037	Cut	Convex moderately steep sided trench seen cutting clay layer (0036). Probable wall cut for west wall footing, with either tamped down 'in situ' demolition material underneath, or alternatively rubble crush in a deeper building footprint deliberately deposited as a foundation. The latter seems more probable considering the vast depth of foundation seen under the east chimney.
3	0038	Fill	Fill of [0037] overlying cbm crush. Compact mid yellow brown clay silt with frequent tile frags and mortar. Levelled demolition crush? More silty than expected for this.
3	0039	Cut	Long straight side of pit or side of linear running north - south cutting clay (0036) on its west side. Lower fill (0040) and upper fill (0041) exposed, not bottomed. Appears to overlie building footprint [0037] (although this not clear) so may postdate construction of present building. Probably contemporary with building works as upper surface level with bottom of brickwork/top of (0038).
3	0040	Fill	Compact mottled dark grey brown silt clay with moderate large mid grey green/yellow boulder clay lumps, moderate charcoal lumps, and moderate mortar fragments. Lower fill of [0039]? Appears to be within this cut, but posthole [0044] suggests that either feature open functionally before second fill (0041) deposited; or that (0040) is not a lower fill but an underlying layer or feature, and (0041) is the only fill of the feature.
3	0041	Fill	Compact dark grey brown silt clay with occasional - moderate charcoal lumps and moderate medium angular - round flints.
3	0042	Layer	Compact mid - dark grey brown silt clay. Occasional charcoal lumps and moderate small angular - round flints. Overlies footing, postdates current building. Old topsoil? Or material/backfill brought in to level around building. Homogeneity and depth (0.40m) would suggest this.
3	0043	Layer	Dark brown black friable loam and gravel/inert waste. Modern surfaces surrounding building/disturbed garden soil.
3	0044	Cut	Large sub rectangular posthole aligned south east - north west 0.60m from wall of current building. Seen in plan, very clear. Not ex (at level).

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3	0045	Fill	Fill of [0044]. Compact mid - dark grey brown silt clay with frequent cbm flecks and small lumps, and occasional charcoal lumps and small round - sub round flints.
4 - West	0046	Wall	East - west aligned brick wall 0.62m thick running parallel to front wall of hall to the north west corner. Projects further (around 1m seen) to the west than the west wall of the current hall. Appears to be English cross/irregular bond, although in places this unclear. Modern frogged brick wall/feature remnant (garden wall/ornament?) to north side of wall surface, tied in to partially demolished side of wall. Services to inspection chamber [0076] cut through both.
4 - West	0047	Wall	North - south aligned brick wall 0.90m thick following exact line of the west wall of the hall up to [0046] and abutting. Irregular/English cross bond? (small sample, truncated by modern features).
4 - West	0048	Cut	Sub round/oval pit cutting west side of wall [0047]. Backfilled with excavated material (cbm etc)- waste pit? Horticultural excavation? In east extent of west garden.
4 - West	0049	Fill	Compact - firm mottled mid yellow/grey brown clay silt with sand. Moderate small cbm and mortar fragments. Moderate small - medium angular - round flints and occasional charcoal flecks/lumps.
4 - West	0050	Layer	Brick surface aligned east - west. Flemish 'whites' bricks and halfbricks. Overlies [0048]. Early modern/modern horticultural feature or garden path? Surface covered in charcoal.
4 - West	0051	Cut	Pit with rectangular corner, only seen in plan and minimally in section cutting layer [0053].
4 - West	0052	Fill	Fill of 0031. Firm black clay silt with sand. Frequent charcoal, occasional small angular - round flints.
4 - West	0053	Layer	Compact dark brown yellow silt clay. Occasional peg tile frags. Occasional small angular - round flints.
4 - West	0054	Cut	Rectangular pit with vertical sides. Cuts wall [0046]. Cut by Victorian services.
4 - West	0055	Fill	Fill of 0034. Compact dark yellow brown silty clay with sand. Occasional small angular - round flints.
4 - West	0056	Layer	Loose - friable dark red iron rich silty sand. Upper fill of underlying pit [0051]? Probably levelling layer overlying pit backfill.
4 - West	0057	Cut	Probable cut of wall trench [0066]. Moderate slope, possibly due to slumping of the trench side.
4 - West	0058	Fill	Fill of wall trench. Friable - firm dark brown sandy silt with clay.
4 - West	0059	Layer	Friable light yellow white mortar lumps. Thin lense. Level upper surface- possibly levelling for clay floor overlying.
4 - West	0060	Layer	Compact dark brown yellow clay with sand. Occasional gravel. Rammed clay floor layer.
4 - West	0061	Layer	Firm - friable dark grey brown clay silt with sand. Moderate medium - small angular - round flints. Probable accumulation layer.
4 - West	0062	Layer	Firm dark grey brown clay silt with sand. Lense of lime. Occasional small angular - round flints.
4 - West	0063	Layer	Compact dark brown yellow clay with sand. Occasional gravel. Rammed clay floor layer.
4 - West	0064	Layer	Compact mid brown yellow boulder clay. Occasional large charcoal lumps.
4 - West	0065	Layer	Dark yellow brown friable clay silt with sand. Moderate small -

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			medium angular flints.
4 - West	0066	Wall	North - south aligned flint and lime mortar plinth. 0.65m wide, 0.40m + 0.25m footing to west side. Footing 0.10m below surface. Surface lower in middle - probably remains of upstanding mortar to take edge of beam. Upper part levelled with peg tile. Seemingly represents remains of a large building extending to the west through trench 4, consisting of flint and lime mortar plinths which a sole plate and timber frame would have sat on top of.
4 - West	0067	Cut	Trench with moderate concave west side following line of wall [0066], resembling robber trench. Possibly pit with base happening to follow line of wall. East extent unknown. If robber trench through demo material to remove timber frame?
4 - West	0068	Fill	Fill of [0067]. Firm mid grey brown sandy silt with clay. Frequent mortar and cbm fragments.
4 - West/Central	0069	Cut	Large pit like feature. Shape unknown- two long sides seen in trench- probably rectangular or square. Moderately steep. Not bottomed. 4 fills. Overlies and is cut from (?) above N-S walls [0066] to the west and [0084] to the east. Reason for size and depth unknown. Sandy - sump? Post rubble layer (0108) - relatively recent. May represent multiple layers of build up rather than fills in a pit.
4 - West/Central	0070	Fill	First fill of [0069]. Loose - soft light yellow orange soft sand.
4 - West/Central	0071	Fill	2nd fill of [0069] Compact dark grey/yellow brown silty clay with moderate medium angular - round flints and occasional cbm lumps.
4 - West/Central	0072	Fill	3rd fill of [0069]. Compact dark grey brown silty clay with sand. Moderate medium - large sub angular flints and cbm.
4 - West/Central	0073	Fill	4th fill of [0069]. Dark orange loose sharp sand.
4 - West	0074	Cut	Moderately steep sided ditch/pit? Probably small pit, (Recent. For tree? Mostly seen in section). Cuts (0065) and (0076).
4 - West	0075	Fill	Compact dark brown yellow silty clay with sand. Moderate small angular - round flints and occasional chalk lumps.
4 - West	0076	Cut	Rectangular victorian/modern inspection chamber. Vertical sides, flat base.
4 - West	0077	Fill	Fill of [0076]. Firm hoggin/mid orange brown silty sand with whole/half frogged bricks to base.
4 - West	0078	Layer	Firm mid - dark grey brown sandy silt/loam with small - medium angular - round flints.
4 - West	0079	Layer	Firm dark brown black sandy silt with clay.
4 - West	0080	Layer	Tudor and modern cbm lumps/frags in firm dark brown clay silt with sand and mod - occ gravel.
4 - Central	0081	Layer	Firm mottled dark grey brown clay silt with sand, occasional charcoal flecks, and small angular - round flints. Layer seen largely in plan at base of trench 4. Cut by plinths (0082)/[0084] and (0085)/[0087]. Predates flint and lime mortar building. Earlier occupation layer?
4 - Central	0082	Cut	Probable cut for wall [0087], seen in plan and 2cm in section. Unclear- but shape and width wise this seems likely.
4 - Central	0083	Fill	Fill of [0082]. Firm mottled dark grey brown clay silt with sand, with small - moderate compact dark brown yellow boulder clay lumps. Occasional small angular - round flints.



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4 - Central	0084	Wall	North - south aligned flint and lime mortar plinth (see [0066]). 0.54m wide at base. No footing as seen in [0066] - probably major internal wall. Vertical sided to east but wider at base to west - reason for this unknown (external after all? Or load bearing?).
4 - Central	0085	Cut	Possible cut for wall [0084] (see [0082]) seen largely in plan. Similar depth and near identical width, fill and stratigraphic relationships to [0082].
4 - Central	0086	Fill	Fill of [0085]. Firm mottled dark grey brown clay silt with sand, with small - moderate compact dark brown yellow boulder clay lumps. Occasional small angular - round flints.
4 - Central	0087	Wall	North - south aligned flint and lime mortar plinth (see [0066]). 0.35m wide at base, with no footing, suggesting internal partition wall. Same relationship to (0081) as (0084), suggesting same phase of building. Parallel to (0084) 3.2m to E.
4 - Central	0088	Layer	Firm-compact mid yellow brown silty clay with sand. Increasing clay to east. Moderate small angular - round flints and moderate - occasional cbm fragments. Overlies wall cuts [0082] and [0085]. This and the amount of clay in (0088) suggest it is the earliest clay floor layer butted up against [0084] and [0087] in the buildings habitation sequence. Basal of several clay floors and habitation layers.
4 - Central	0089	Layer	Compact dark yellow boulder clay with small dark grey brown silt patches. Cbm lumps and mortar fragments frequent (-pressed into surface? Deliberate rammed demo material?) Remnants of clay floor abutting [0087] overlying earlier floor (0088). Robbed away to west, none remaining against [0084]. Levelling layer (0090) overlies.
4 - Central	0090	Layer	Firm mid-dark grey brown clay silt with sand. Moderate gravel, occasional charcoal flecks. Levelling/made ground layer infilling above robbed clay floor (0089).
4 - Central	0091	Cut	Small sub round posthole cut into levelling layer (0090). Vertical south side, very steep north side. Flat base. Northern of two small postholes aligned north-south equidistant from walls [0084] and [0087].
4 - Central	0092	Fill	Fill of posthole [0091]. Mid - dark brown grey clay silt with sand. Moderate gravel.
4 - Central	0093	Cut	Small sub round posthole cut into levelling layer (0090). Vertical sides, flat base.
4 - Central	0094	Fill	Fill of posthole [0091]. Mid - dark brown grey clay silt with sand. Moderate gravel. Identical to (0092).
4 - Central	0095	Cut	East - west aligned possible beam slot remnant. Mostly destroyed by overlying demo (0108) and wall trench [0099]. Seen in trench wall section section but shape unclear. Appears to sit on top of (0090). Abutts wall [0084]. Cut by beam slot [0097].
4 - Central	0096	Fill	Mottled black/pale white ash and charcoal with firm-loose sandy silt. Possibly burnt beam.
4 - Central	0097	Cut	East - west aligned beam slot with flat base and moderately steep south side (north side largely destroyed). Probably slot for sole plate of timber partition within structure (perpendicular to walls [0084] and [0087]). Cuts possible burnt out beam [0095]. Probably jointed to post [0099]. Abutted by floor cut [0101] (See [0101]).
4 - Central	0098	Fill	Fill of beam slot [0097]. Dark grey brown clay silt with sand. Occasional small angular - round flints.

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4 - Central	0099	Cut	Square posthole with vertical sides. As fill identical to that of [0097] below only visible due to break in clay floor remnant (0106) that abutts.
4 - Central	0100	Fill	Fill of posthole [0099]. Dark grey brown clay silt with sand. Identical to fill of beam slot underlying [0097].
4 - Central	0101	Cut	East - west aligned wall trench with gradual sides. Trench infilled with levelling material and sand/mortar bedding for floor [0105]. Abutts collapsed earlier beam slot [0097].
4 - Central	0102	Fill	Primary fill of [0101]. Peg tile fragments and mortar lumps in matrix of mid grey brown clay silt with sand with occasional small angular - round flints. Foundation crush/levelling material for floor [0105].
4 - Central	0103	Fill	Loose light yellow orange sharp sand. Bedding/levelling for floor [0105].
4 - Central	0104	Fill	Light white mortar. Thin bed above sand (0103) for floor [0105].
4 - Central	0105	Floor	Brick floor within shallow trench [0101]. Single course two brick widths thick composed of wide half bricks laid alternately. 5 inches width by 5 inches length. Surface partially destroyed by demolition. 1cm of mortar render on south side. This not seen on north side (probably poor survival, damaged by above modern services). Remnants of mortar on part of surface (?) to north of timber partition [0097]/[0099].
4 - Central	0106	Layer	Firm dark yellow boulder clay with occasional small angular - round flints. Probably clay floor remnant overlying beam slot [0097], abutting posthole [0099] and abutting?/cut by floor [0105].
4 - Central	0107	Layer	Dark grey/yellow brown firm friable sandy silt with clay. Round - sub angular small - medium flints moderate to frequent. CBM fragments occasional. Very similar in character to deposits seen in trench 5 to the north of (and outside) this phase of building. Underlies demolition layer [0108] from the east of wall [0087] to wall 0126). Buildup layer.
4 - Central	0108	Layer	Mid - dark grey brown firm - compact silty clay with sand. Moderate to very frequent CBM lumps and moderate angular - round flints. Demolition material seemingly representing demolition of all phases of building in this position. Directly overlies flint and lime mortar and brick phases seen in trench 4/5 (see plan). Amount of Tudor brick within suggests demolition of sizeable building of this period, either from here or transported from phases of building demolished to the south and west..
4 - Central	0109	Layer	Predominantly mod - dark grey brown firm clay silt with moderate medium - small angular - round flints. Modern made ground/topsoil.
4 - East	0110	Wall	North - south aligned brick wall appearing to turn a corner to the north end (bonding suggests) to the east. Post dates deposition of (0107) levelling layer within flint and lime mortar/timber frame structure, and also aligned slightly clockwise to this. Seemingly represents the north west corner of a structure extending to the south; probably part of the mid 16th century east wing rebuilt in the modern period. May be English garden wall bond, but hard to see as little is preserved, appears not to be English bond (stretchers overlain) or may be irregular.

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4 - East	0111	Layer	Dark grey yellow compact boulder clay with silt. Small round chalk nodules occasional. Occasional gravel. Clay floor overlying levelling layer (0107). Not seen (robbed out) to east of wall [0087]. Clay floor associated with Tudor brick structure (probably east wing remnant) to the east [0110] that it abutts. Thin burnt habitation layer (0112) overlies.
4 - East	0112	Layer	Light grey friable ashy silt, with moderate - occasional charcoal. Occasional small clay lumps.
4 - East	0113	Layer	Dark yellow grey brown firm-compact clay silt with sand. Occasional small angular - round flints. Occasional boulder clay lumps. Redeposited clay floor frags? Probably early made ground layer. Cut by pit [0115] to the west.
4 - East	0114	Wall	North - south aligned flint and lime mortar plinth remnant (cut on both sides by pits [0115] and [0117]). Largely destroyed. Identical makeup to other flint and lime mortar plinths seen. See [0066].
4 - East	0115	Cut	Large pit with curved edges (probably sub-oval to sub round) with gradual side to east, moderately steep to west. Cuts east edge of wall [0114]. Sealed beneath layer (0119).
4 - East	0116	Fill	Fill of pit [0115]. Firm dark grey brown clay silt with sand. Moderate - frequent oyster fragments, charcoal and peg tile fragments. Occasional small - medium angular to round flints.
4 - East	0117	Cut	Pit with broad curving steep sided east edge (probably rounded or oval and moderate/large) cutting west edge of wall [0114]. Cut by linear [0121] to west.
4 - East	0118	Fill	Fill of pit [0117]. Dark grey brown firm clay silt with occasional peg tile fragments and small angular - round flints.
4 - East	0119	Layer	Dark yellow brown firm silty clay with sand with boulder clay to the west. Moderate cbm fragments, occasional charcoal fragments, and moderate small sub angular - round flints and gravel. Made ground? Seemingly raising ground level significantly above wall [0114].
4 - East	0120	Layer	Compact dark brown yellow clay with silt. Occasional gravel and lime mortar fragments. Directly underlies wall plinth [0124]. Very homogenous and deep (0.9m+) - not bottomed in 0.40m deep sondage 1.50m below ground surface. Foundation material reused from elsewhere?
4 - East	0121	Cut	North west - south east / north-south aligned trench/ditch with steep west side and moderately steep east side. Drain/soakaway? Two fills. May be pit but has parallel straight sides suggesting linear.
4 - East	0122	Fill	Primary fill of linear [0121]. Tudor/Medieval(?) brick and occasional peg tile fragments/dust with a dark grey brown firm clay silt matrix to surface. Very little matrix to base. Tipped from west side. Sealed beneath demo layer [0108], which has slumped into/ filled the depression of [0121] to the west and middle.
4 - East	0123	Fill	Secondary fill of linear [0121]. Dark grey brown compact - firm silty clay. Occasional cbm fragments and gravel. Likely backfilled as one event with fill beneath.
4 - East	0124	Wall	East - west aligned flint and lime mortar plinth abutting [0126] to the east 1m south of north end. See [0066]. Appears to form wing or feature adjoining timber framed building to the east. Possibly relates to [0114] as later phase of timber framed building (relationship not seen in trench due to position, but likely destroyed by [0121]).

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4 - East	0125	Wall	North - south aligned wall 0.38m wide. Abutts [0127] to south side. Added partition wall within timber framed structure (See [0066] and [0126]). Flint bedding seen to west face but near random on east face (shuttered on this side?).
4 - East	0126	Wall	North - south aligned flint and lime mortar plinth 0.56m wide at base. Forms the north east corner of north-south-east-west aligned timber framed building (see [0066]) with [0127] which adjoins to the north. Footings on the outside of this structure (to the north and east).
4 - East/5	0127	Wall	East - west aligned flint and lime mortar plinth 0.62m wide at base. See [0066] and [0126]. North front of timber framed building. Damage by modern services where trench 4 and 5 intersect. Small part of upstanding mortar that would have taken chamfered edge of beam preserved to E of exposed wall. As west of [0125], flint courses visible on south face. Replastering also in patches?
4 - East/5	0128	Layer	Dark brown yellow compact clay with silt. Rammed clay floor remnant abutting [0125] to the east.
5 - South	0129	Cut	East - west trench with moderately steep north west side. Abutting wall to south. Characteristically near identical to trench [0121], possibly soakaway/drainage trench. Top filled with demolition layer (0107); so as [0121] seemingly dug prior to demo material levelling, possibly as soakaway for next phase of building.
5 - South	0130	Fill	Primary fill of linear [0129]. Dark - mid grey brown firm - compact clay silt with sand. Frequent cbm lumps, increasing towards surface.
5 - South	0131	Layer?	Compacted dark red brick dust. Reused cbm from demo or brick kiln? Levelling/surface under (0132)?
5 - South	0132	Layer?	Thin compact lense of clunch or lime. Path underlying soakaway? Unclear if cut of soakaway continues below level seen or stops above (0131) and (0132).
5 - South/test pit	0133	Layer	Loose/friable gravel with dark brown sandy silt matrix. Surface or made ground layer. Underlies dark silty loam. Levelling for garden/lawn or use as surface? Uppermost of many gravel/hoggin rich layers.
5 - South/test pit	0134	Layer	Dark yellow brown friable sandy silt with clay. Small - medium angular - round flints frequent. See (0133).
5 - South/test pit	0135	Layer	Mid grey brown firm sandy silt with clay. Small angular - round flints occasional - moderate. Peg tile occasional. See (0133).
5 - South/test pit	0136	Layer	Dark grey brown firm sandy silt with clay. Occasional small - medium angular to round flints. See (0133).
5 - Mid	0137	Cut	Large probable sub oval/irregular (possibly semi-circular?) pit mostly seen in plan, to east of wall [0154].
5 - Mid	0138	Fill	Compact mid orange clay with occasional sand. Homogenous.
5 - Mid	0139	Layer	Compact mid yellow boulder clay. Homogenous. Probable rammed clay floor or surface.
5 - Mid	0140	Layer	Compact - firm dark grey brown sandy silt with clay. Moderate - frequent small angular - round flints. Probably accumulation, and/or surface? Possibly two mixed deposits, stone surface and silty layer/accumulation. Building remains suggest outside area but this

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			unclear.
5 - Mid	0141	Layer	Firm mid brown orange silty clay. Occasional gravel. Homogenous. Possibly floor remains associated with wall [0154]. Relationship unclear. See [0154].
5 - Mid	0142	Cut	Trench or works pit? Cut through floor layers in corner within (and abutting) walls [0153] and [0154]. 6 fills, (0143) - (0148). May be construction trench for [0153], not visible as wall not bottomed. Overlain by layer (0152).
5 - Mid	0143	Fill	1st fill of pit [0142]. Firm very dark grey brown sandy silt with clay. Occasional gravel.
5 - Mid	0144	Fill	2nd fill of pit [0142]. Compact dark yellow brown hoggin with silt.
5 - Mid	0145	Fill	3rd fill of pit [0142]. Firm mid yellow grey sand with silt. Frequent small angular - round flints, increasingly to surface.
5 - Mid	0146	Fill	4th fill of pit [0142]. Compact mid orange red cbm fragments with frequent small angular - round flints.
5 - Mid	0147	Fill	5th fill of pit [0142]. Mid - dark orange brown sandy silt with frequent small angular - round flints.
5 - Mid	0148	Layer	Dark grey brown sandy silt with clay. Frequent cbm and mortar fragments. Layer overlying possible floor (0141) and wall [0154]. Also 6th fill of pit [0142]. Abutts wall [0153], and underlies crush layer (0152).
5 - Mid	0149	Layer	Dark orange loose/friable hoggin. Very sandy. Possible remnant of wall trench fill.
5 - Mid	0150	Layer	Firm dark orange brown sandy silt with clay. Occasional - moderate small - medium angular - round flints. Probable build up layer, possibly in cut, but greater depth and lesser number of deposits to the north of wall [0153] may suggest previously lower level here with (0150) (0151) and (0152) building up the land to the same level as that to the south of [0153].
5 - Mid	0151	Layer	Dark orange brown sandy silt with frequent small angular - round flints. Made ground layer.
5 - Mid	0152	Layer	Concrete and worked stone crush/lumps with occasional yellow sand patches. Possibly material from modern demolition. Mixture of redeposited older worked stone with post late 18th century concrete. Likely tamped made ground/levelling layer for earliest pathway driveway here. Overlain by modern tarmac/gravel layers.
5 - Mid	0153	Wall	East - west aligned brick wall 0.54m wide to base. Wall cut not seen. Unknown from deposits seen in trench whether [0153] represents the north wall of a building extending to the south and east (although unless removed it was not seen in trench 5 to the south east). Presentable finer north face and much rougher less finished south face with mortar spilling from joints. 4 bricks wide. 6 courses seen on north side, 8 courses on south side. Lower depth to south. North side laid almost in a variation on English bond - as two sets of English bond 3 courses thick half a brick moved half a brick over in between the two, with a bottom line of stretchers. Header bond on south side - strong bond - load bearing? Middle course tying in the two sides visible on demolished surface. (Relationship not visible with [0154]).

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			Pit [0142] abuts. Build up layers (0150) (0151) and (0152) abut to the north.
5 - Mid	0154	Wall	North - south brick wall partially exposed to west of trench 5. Stepped out 0.46m to north end- architectural feature, nature of which not clear from amount exposed in trench. Bonding not visible due to covering of face with mortar and stuck on flint (filled in while wet), but two header bonded with a course of alternate headers and stretchers underneath visible on stepped out face, so probably irregularly bonded. Relationship with [0153] to north not seen in trench due to pit [0156] cutting wall at intersection, but angle of [0154] not perpendicular (slightly anti-clockwise of perpendicular) and brick colour paler, so probably different phase, but relationship unclear. Relationship with layers (0139) (0140) and (0141) unclear. Later than [0154] and abutting? No wall cut seen. Layers earlier than [0154] and wall constructed within footprint extending to the west, and thus wall built against inside of this cut? Flints stuck to mortar would suggest this.
5 - Mid	0155	Wall	North - south brick feature 1.34m wide. East face exposed in west side of trench 5 south of [0153]. Chimney? Stacked/partially overlapped header bond - decorative? Overlies possible clay floor/surface (0141), so probably later than [0153] and [0154], but difficult to see due to uncertainty of relationships of layers to walls. Set in mortar.
5 - Mid	0156	Cut	Small pit seen in section, cutting [0153] and [0154]. Or side of trench? Not apparent in plan. Vertical sides, brick either side partially damaged, partially removed. Demolition damage rather than cut feature? Fill very similar to layer (0148) - filling void left by demolition? Void left by removed column or ornament?
5 - Mid	0157	Fill	Fill of pit [0156]. Dark grey brown sandy silt with clay. Frequent cbm and mortar fragments.
5 - North	0158	Layer	Dark brown grey firm - friable sandy silt with clay. Moderate charcoal and gravel. Organic accumulation. Layers (0158) - (0162) seemingly represent early surfaces to the outside of the moat, probably part of the northern approach.
5 - North	0159	Layer	Dark brown orange firm - friable hoggin with occasional - moderate small silt patches. Weathered surface? See (0158).
5 - North	0160	Layer	Mid - dark brown grey very compact silty sand with frequent small - medium sub round - round flints. Metalled surface seemingly composed of rounded river gravel, probably from the Stour to the south. See (0158).
5 - North	0161	Layer	Dark brown orange firm - friable hoggin with frequent small silt patches. Weathered surface? Very similar to (0159) but siltier. See (0158).
5 - North	0162	Layer	Mid - dark brown grey firm - compact silty sand with frequent small - medium sub round - round flints. Sandier to surface. As (0160) metalled surface seemingly composed of rounded river gravel, probably from the Stour to the south. See (0158).
5 - North	0163	Cut	Bridge [0165] trench cut. Steep north side. Not bottomed. Extends 0.62m out from bridge at upper surface. Cuts early surfaces (0158) - (0162).

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5 - North	0164	Fill	Fill of bridge cut [0165]. Dark red - grey brown firm sandy silt with clay. Gravel and small angular - round flints moderate. Cbm flecks occasional.
5 - North	0165	Wall	Demolished brick bridge predating current infilled walkway across north moat. 0.83m wide at base, 0.80m wide at arch. Upper course of plinth header bonded and capped with a large 'great brick' over 0.30m long exposed at base of trench (1.15 below ground level). Stepped brick rise above this (this damaged in section but preserved to middle of trench) and end of demolished arch. Upper surface of demolished arch slightly machine damaged but seen in section.
5 - North	0166	Layer	Firm dark brown sandy silt. Cbm lumps and small round-sub round flints occasional - moderate. Occasional gravel. Overlying/abutting bridge. Build up of approach rising up arch of bridge, as [0167] overlying.
5 - North	0167	Layer	Firm mid - dark brown sandy silt. Cbm lumps and small round-sub round flints moderate. Moderate gravel. Overlying/abutting bridge. As [0167], but more flints - may be weathered road surface, or remnant from levelling for current walkway.
5 - North	0168	Layer	Mid - dark yellow/grey brown firm sandy silt with clay. Occasional cbm lumps and small angular - round flints. Occasional large dark grey blue compact london clay lumps - probably redeposited fragments of early moat lining. Silt backfill underneath probable bridge demolition layer (0169) to create walkway across moat.
5 - North	0169	Cut	Walkway replacing bridge/demolition cut. Cuts (0167) and (0165). Overlies (0168). Infill (0170) fills bridge void above (0168) and this.
5 - North	0170	Layer	Firm - compact mid yellow brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. Very frequent cbm and mortar lumps and fragments - brick lumps same thickness as bricks in bridge. Very likely reused bridge demolition material. Upper infill of walkway within retaining walls overlying silt backfill (0168).
5 - North	0171	Layer	Thin compact hoggin and Tarmac layers. Modern road surfaces overlying previous road surface remnant (0167) and upper walkway infill (0170).