

Breaking New Ground:

An Archaeological Evaluation of Deposits at the
Abbots Staith Warehouse, Selby, North Yorkshire

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2018

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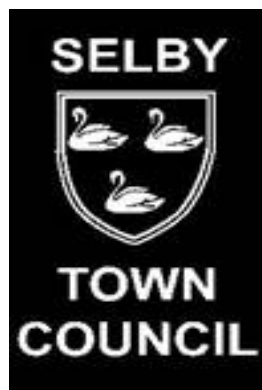
Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the help and support of so many people and organisations in and around the town of Selby, including the following;

First and foremost is Selby Town Council, who generously supplied the funding for this investigation. Mayor Melanie Davis visited the dig in late 2017 to see what we had found and how the dig was progressing.



Dr Jon Kenny, Mark Simpson, Mark Lovett, Jan Mitchell (in trench), Paul Smith, Mayor Melanie Davis (with grand-daughter) and Andrew Faller



The work would not have been possible without the help and co-operation of Mr Jonathan Woodhead, the owner of the Abbots Staith warehouse, who has supported the activities of the Abbots Staith Heritage Trust from day one.

We would also like to thank Historic England, in particular Keith Emerick and Nicky Brown, for their help in getting the plan for the dig approved.

The authors would also like to give their huge appreciation of the dig team who got down into the trenches and found all the stuff we are now writing about. They put in between them almost 400 person hours over the course of the dig. These are, in alphabetical order;

Deirdre Busfield
Derrick Chilton
John Errington
Graham Hodge
Chris Lovett
Mark Lovett
Jan Mitchell
Mary Ratcliffe
Ken Shaw
Paul Smith

In addition, Ken Shaw also did the section drawings, the site plan, and the drawing of the finial used as the cover for this report, while Jan Mitchell acted as proof-reader for this report. Our huge thanks to both for their extra efforts.



Ken Shaw, Mary Ratcliffe, Mark Lovett, Chris Lovett, Graham Hodge and Jan Mitchell

Our thanks and appreciation also to Anne Jenner and York Archaeological Trust for hosting

a pottery identification day from which came the pottery analysis in this report.

Special thanks to Peter Coates, historical research volunteer at the Abbots Staith Heritage Trust for providing the history chapter in Section 1 of this report.

Also our appreciation goes to Eva Lambert, Project Co-Ordinator of the Abbots Staith Heritage Trust, for her unwavering support and enthusiasm to both the project in general and to the dig in particular.



Mark Simpson, Dr Jon Kenny, Eva Lambert, Paul Smith, Derrick Chilton, Mary Ratcliffe, Graham Hodge and Deirdre Busfield

Last, but no means least, our thanks go to Alison Arnold and Robert Howard of Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory and Cathy Tyers of Historic England, for sharing their interim dendrochronology report with us, so we could incorporate a summary of their findings in Appendix 5 of this report.

All photographs used throughout this report for illustrative purposes were taken by, or using the equipment of, the authors. Maps courtesy of Ordnance Survey and Google Maps.

Introduction and Landscape Context

Introduction to Project

This report outlines the evaluation of archaeological deposits, undertaken at the Abbots Staith warehouse in Selby. The evaluation took place in the Autumn and Winter of 2017/18. Work was carried out by a team of volunteers from the local community under the supervision of the authors.

The Abbots Staith warehouse formed part of the medieval Selby Abbey precinct (see Section 1). It is designated in the English Heritage Buildings At Risk register (list entry numbers 1004181 & 1167663) as a former textile industry warehouse.⁽³⁴⁾ It continued in secular usage after the dissolution of the monasteries, up until the end of the 20th century when it fell into disuse.

In 2014 the Abbots Staith Heritage Trust, a group of volunteers dedicated to saving and conserving the building, were formed and working in conjunction with the owner, Jonathan Woodhead, Historic England and local authorities, are campaigning to bring it into community use. These archaeological investigations are a vital first step.

The site at Abbots Staith consists of a two storey, fourteen bay warehouse building. The scheduling describes the site as:

C15 or early C16. Magnesium limestone ashlar. Two storeys. H-shaped plan, with a long centre arm; but this plan is obscured on the Micklegate side, by the addition in the C19 of the buildings now occupied by the office and shop of Woodhead's Seeds Limited, and by the Pendulum Club. On the Micklegate (south) side the upper storey of the east wing was rebuilt in red brick in the C19, and the upper storey of the west wing is missing. On the north side the first floor of the central arm may perhaps have been timber-framed, as it has been refaced in red brick above a red brick band in the late C17 or early C18 (although this brick has been patched subsequently): Chamfered plinth. The dating evidence comes from the first floor windows on the south side, which have deep double-chamfered embrasures. One in the east wing is visible from the street. Another, with a hood-mould and an inserted lintel, the easternmost of those in the centre arm, is only partly obscured by the buildings added along the Micklegate side. There are three more only visible from behind these buildings. Other windows are modern. On the north side there are two doors which may be contemporary. One in the centre has a shouldered lintel, and the other is in the east wing. Both are studded and have contemporary iron hinges and latches. Internally there are thick limestone diaphragm walls at regular intervals. History: Traditionally supposed to have been built by the Abbey, the architectural evidence tends to support this. In use as warehousing certainly from the C17, and probably always, it is presumably the building described by Pocock in list thus: "Near the river is a large store house of hewn stone, which served for their cloth before the Aire was made navigable". The latter took place in 1704. A.M.

Listing NGR: SE6158932555 ⁽³⁵⁾

The following strategy was designed to evaluate the archaeology present on the Abbots Staith site, in particular assessing:

- The possibility of finding the foundations of the current building in Trench 1.
- Potentially finding evidence of previous building on the site in Trench 1.
- The possibility of finding an original floor surface in Trenches 1 & 2.
- Finding evidence of use in Trench 2, such as tracks of carts or an original road surface.
- Potentially finding dating evidence for the building in Trenches 1-3.

The following archaeological programme built on work carried out by the Abbots Staith Heritage Trust using old documents and photographic evidence to enhance understanding of the history of the site and provide a clearer evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site and this area of Selby.

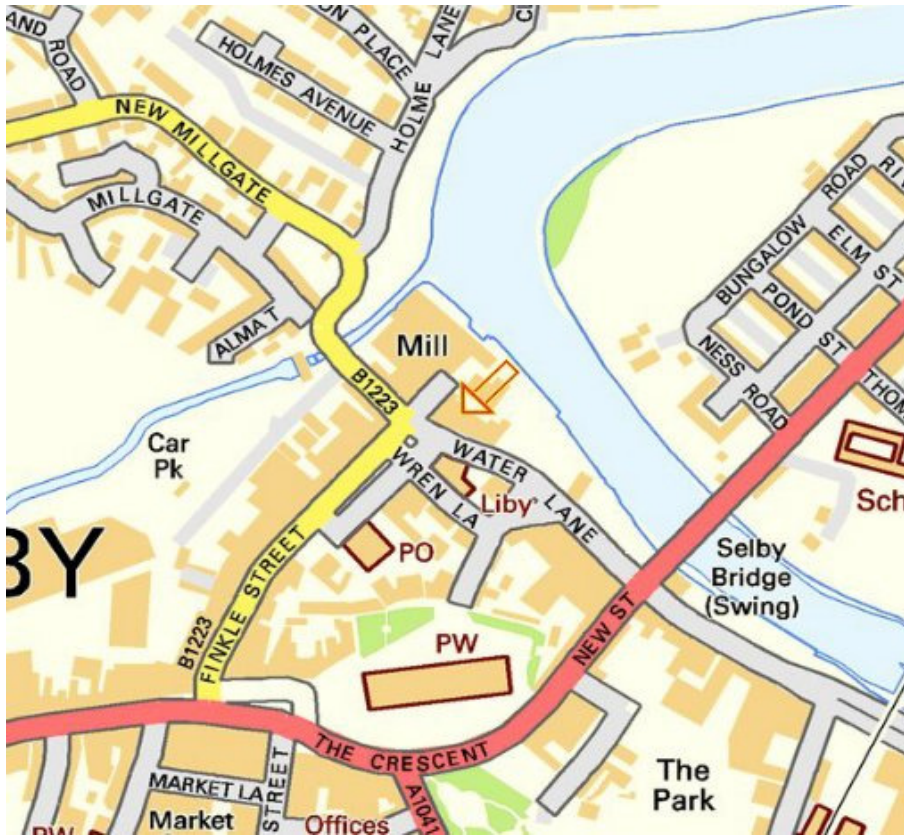
Landscape Context

Selby sits in the landscape dominated by the valley of the River Ouse. This is a post-glacial landscape where a previously deeply cut river valley has now been almost filled by deposition since the Bronze Age. The town of Selby is on a bend in the river where the river meets its valley edge. Throughout most of its existence the river banks would be gradually sloping, containing a number of mud and sand banks. Occasional river cliffs may have been evident where the river meets the edge of its very shallow valley. The site of the Abbots Staith warehouse is probably built over the top of a gently sloping river edge. To allow medieval shipping to moor, a dockside was required. This was likely achieved by the building of a staith or wharf, behind which warehousing could be constructed.



Selby Location Map (Ordnance Survey)

The landscape situation on which the warehouse is built, on a gently sloping riverside, would have required considerable making up of ground behind the staith/wharf. Prior to the excavation we anticipated that we may not reach natural riverside deposits.



Abbots Staith Warehouse Location Map (Google Maps)



Staith Warehouse, North East Facing

Section 1 – A Brief History of the Warehouse

Researched and Compiled by Peter Coates

Introduction

This report, which is produced for the purpose of aiding our understanding of aspects of Selby's history, in particular the functions of the Abbots Staith and Warehouse and their future preservation, is based on documentary evidence such as records, maps and plans found in various county archives, and libraries etc. Having initially thought of researching just the Staith Warehouse it soon became obvious that this would also involve the surrounding area and region.

Historical Evidence

The earliest written evidence, found to-date, of a possible building similar to the one we have before us are three charters between Henrci Irewys and the Abbot and Monastic community of Selby dated 5th November and 13 December 1317. These describe one messuage lying on a lane leading to the ferry over the Ouse, between the messuage of John le Chamberlayne on one side and the lane which leads towards the Staith. The building is described as having an upper room (solarium) and a store (celario) together with outhouse / workshop adjoining them.⁽¹⁾

It is worth noting at this point that the ferry is indicated on a survey map of the parish of Hemingbrough dated 1753 showing the ferry crossing up river of the Old Road to Barlby (Selby Waterhouses) putting it exactly in the position described in the above charters.⁽²⁾

May 4th 1322 Henry Yrewys of Selby and William de Feryby of Selby and their men and ships were granted protection for one year "going to the southern parts of the realm to buy corn and other victuals and to convey the same to York" and "other parts in the north - and not to take provisions elsewhere, not to communicate with the Scots or Flemings"⁽³⁾

April 22nd 1341 "John Goldbetere complains that by pretext of that grant he bought in the county of York wool and wool-fells for their use, and shipped these in 30 fardels and pockets, but not packed, in a little ship in the river Use by Seleby, to be taken thence to be weighed and the fells counted at Kyngeston-upon-Hull, and the custom and subsidy paid."⁽⁴⁾

It is clear from the above that Selby was a major port used for transshipping goods to York, Hull and possibly elsewhere but was not a port at which customs were collected although judging from the passage below it may have been the duty of the Abbey Bursar to collect the tolls payable to the King.

The area around the staiths was a busy place as indicated in the Bursars accounts of 1343 tolls and customs issuing from ships docking in Selby is worth 9s - 4d this year that is from each ship 2d and this rate increases with the number of ships. Customs called "freight"

was also collected from ships at Selby and was valued at about 20s that is from each ship unloaded here 4d. **Assuming that 12p = 1s it would appear that approximately 56 ships paid tolls and 60 ships paid freight customs during this year 1343.**⁽⁵⁾

The Calendar of Patent Rolls for 1348 records that - 'William Balleby of Selby operated his ship called "*la Blithe*", of no great tonnage, trading with corn and other victuals, and sometimes sea coal and other things, along the coast of England.'⁽⁶⁾

The abbot's staith on Ousegate was seized in June 1383 causing the ruin of the faggots the abbot used for fuel.⁽⁷⁾

Brother Peter (*Peter de Roclif*) the granger in 1404 tackled the costly renovation of the wharf, pavement, enclosure and repairs to the wharf crane on the banks of the Ouse employing 12 men for 1 day digging and throwing earth upon the Abbot's Wharf and raising same, without food (being provided) 4S (shillings).⁽⁸⁾

The account rolls of 1413-1414 relating to the fabric records that John Passelow, the keeper of the fabric contains the following:" 360 piles of Alder, work, and piling for the foundation of a stone wall on the east side of the church -----; a wall with stone archway between the cemetery of the town and the cemetery of the monks, -----; "(the stone for which was brought from the quarries at Fryston)".⁽⁹⁾

Hugh Ward son of Robert de Thorpe in 1440/41 gave the monks the profits from the landing tolls, barge tolls on traffic going to or from or passing his property known as Selby Waterhouses which lay on the Barlby side of the river. The Abbey Chamberlain and the Pittancer were both responsible for the keeper of the Ferry.

From early times a bulk of the tithe corn was brought to Selby by barge and unloaded at the **Great Staithe** also one in Ousegate near to where the canal now has it's outfall, or at Barlby Ferry landing⁽¹⁰⁾.

One Ferry-boat (*batella passabii*) was purchased from Brother Crull (*Brother Crull served in a variety of offices*), bursar of the monastery in 1440/1 for 66s - 8d. John Grewe, was keeper of the Selby Ferry, for his clothing, this year and was given 6s - 8d for his clothing in 1441/2.⁽¹¹⁾

The passage of the water of Ouse, Selby Ferry, was let by permission to Robert Heryson and Thomas Heryson, 10th October, 1539.....£10 - 0s - 0d "⁽¹²⁾

The following is part of Henry VIII Augmentation Office Commissioner's Valuation dated 23rd day of March 1540 - "There is waste ground in the town of Selby, lying upon Ouse Bank, called the Abbot Staithe, for to lay wood or other stuff that might chance to be bought or sold or delivered from the said Ouse£0 - 0s - 6d."⁽¹³⁾

1551 Selby had the Cnar landing (Cuarlending), Gate landing and Houthwaite landing on the Ouse. The Abbott's Staith was south east of the Abbey quay wall and the 15th century warehouse. The monastery had kept a large barge, a small ship, two punts and a ferryboat at one time.⁽¹⁴⁾

After the surrender of the abbey to the King on 6th December 1539, the passage of property followed a torturous occupation passing through the hands of many families over the years. Briefly, Sir Ralph Sadler, Leonard Beckwith, Roger Beckwith, George, sixth Earl

of Shrewsbury. Towards the end of the sixteenth century the manor of Selby passed into the hands of Thomas Walmsley Kt, at his death in 1640, the manor passed to his son Charles then passed via the marriage of Catherine Walmsley on the 17th March 1711 to Robert 7th Lord Petre. Lord Petre died in the March following and was succeeded by his posthumous son, Robert James 8th Lord Petre, and the estates were enjoyed during his long minority by his mother. Seemingly the possessions stayed in the Petre family until the trustees sold several lots of land 26th November 1832 followed by a second sale on the 11th December 1849. After Mr. Petre's death in June 1848 a further portion was offered in a similar manner to the sale of the remainder of the estate to Lord Londesborough. Please note this is a very potted history and much more research is necessary to establish the various ownerships / tenancies of the Staiths and it's buildings during this period.⁽¹⁵⁾

Rentals for 1725 indicate the following occupants within the Staiths area ⁽¹⁶⁾

Morrit M^s Elizabeth for Staife garth and close

Marshall Emanuel for his messuage in Micklegate and part of Staife garth

Roole ?? Six closes late Halls in Water Lane, another messuage on the staife late Wisemans

Spencer In^{rs} a Messuage in Micklegate ibid for the warehouse and Staith

Todd John the ferryman a Messuage in Ousegate late Brogdens ibid for ferry and ferry Coals

1751 Near the river is a large store house of hewn stone, which served for their cloth before the Aire was made navigable, when they brought it to this place by land to be ship'd of. They have some trade in building small vessels but the principal is what the navigation brings, and they send out some flax and a large quantity of salmon.⁽¹⁷⁾

Kings Head inn was the Excise - Office and John Waun - Excise Officer, Gowthorp.⁽¹⁸⁾

George Lowther, born in Selby 30th June 1806, delivered two lectures at the Mechanics' Institute, Selby, 12th April 1854 and 15th February 1856, during which he talks about the building of the bridge across the River Ouse in 1793 as follows "...at which time Ousegate continued in an unbroken line from Church-Hill to the shipyard. The Park on the south side of the town then came up to the very walls of the Church, and ran along the back part of Ousegate. From the centre of the town to the bridge, the road, for all kinds of conveyances, was by Finkle Street, Micklegate and Water Lane."

He also passes comment, "Again, there is a staith, or jetty, near the Quay, with a crane for landing goods, that was in former times called the Abbot's Staith, - it was his property as implied by the name".⁽¹⁹⁾

It is worth noting that the street extending from the north end of the present Micklegate was known as the Quay in former times and is so called on the 1841 and 1871 censuses

The Plan of the Manors of SELBY, BRAYTON, HAMBLETON and THORPE of 1818 indicates the Staith building, (No.109), to have extensions as at present together a central extension both at the front and rear of the building there are two pathways / roads extending down to the river Ouse. The Counting House on the corner is not shown and neither are the buildings which are now the night club facing Micklegate.⁽²⁰⁾



A Plan of the Manors of SELBY, BRAYTON and THORP. in the West Riding of the COUNTY of YORK made in 1818. (G Paver):

Reproduced courtesy of North Yorkshire County Record Office (Ref: DC/SBR)

The enclosure survey of 1802 ascribes the block number 109 to the Abbots Staith warehouse. This can be seen written in the block of the later 1818 plan, shown above. The owner: The Honble Mr Petre, Occupiers: In Hand and Premises: Warehouses.⁽²¹⁾

Indenture of Lease & Release (May 1836) Edward Robert Petre to Jonathan Hutchinson and William Massey both of Selby - concerning lease and release of a number of areas of land / properties etc including "The Cherry Tree" Inn in Water Lane, Micklegate, Gowthorp, Middlethorp, The Ould Quay and Johnny Day's Nook.⁽²²⁾

Indenture of Lease & Release (May 1836) Edward Robert Petre to Jonathan Hutchinson and William Massey - concerns lease and release of **all those seven Warehouses and cottage and one Counting House** (heretofore in the occupation of Messrs Thomas Proctor and William Proctor but now in the occupation of Messrs Proctor and Company). Thomas Richardson a Merchant of Selby is also involved with this transaction.⁽²³⁾

It was made clear in a Memorial of Indenture of Conveyance (April 1846) made by Mary Proctor Massey to John Hutchinson, Thomas Richardson both Farmers of Selby and John

Richardson Wine and Spirit Merchant of Selby - concerning all that messuage or dwellinghouse used as a public house known as THE SHIP Inn situate in Water Lane with cottages stables outbuildings yard and premises behind etc (attention to eaves drop and the directing of water away from the adjoining properties of Mary Proctor Massey she also considered the warehouse to be a historic building).⁽²⁴⁾

Memorial of Indenture (August 1869) made by Sir James Meek of York to Johnathan Hutchinson merchant of Selby - Of and concerning all that moiety or equal individual half part or share of Isaac Hartas and Mary Proctor and so granted to the said James Meek and Thomas Price (both since deceased) (the whole into two equal parts or shares being divided) of and in all those **seven warehouses one Cottage and one Counting house** situate in or near certain streets in Selby aforesaid called respectively Micklegate otherwise Wide Street formerly in the occupation of messers Thomas Proctor and William Proctor but now in the occupation of Johnathan Hutchinson and his son Charles Hutchinson and their tenants.⁽²⁵⁾

1886 the staiths area was divided into four lots and sold as individual lots, the warehouse being Lot 3 as follows:- Memorial of Indenture (April 1886). between Elizabeth Sarah Woods of Growborough in the County of Sussex and Henry Hutchinson of Wythemale Park in the parish of Orlingbury in the County of Northampton Farmer in the first part and John Wright of Selby in the County of York Corn miller of the second part and Richard Winders and David Foster both of Selby aforesaid Merchants (carrying on business together in Co-partnership at Selby aforesaid under the style or firm of Procter & Co. of the third part. All those **seven warehouses one cottage and counting house** situate in or near certain streets in Selby aforesaid called respectively WATER LANE and MICKLEGATE otherwise WIDE STREET formerly in the occupation of Messrs Thomas Proctor & William Proctor & now late of the said Richard Winders & David Foster their undertenants and assigns with the coal shed.⁽²⁶⁾

Lot 1 was offered at auction on Monday 18th January 1886 as "All that newly-erected STEAM FLOUR MILL (built in 1878), called *The Abbott's Staith Mill*. In the occupation of Messrs, John Dobby & Co., under a lease for ten years, from October, 1878".⁽²⁷⁾ and was purchased by John Wright (Corn Miller) of Selby April 1886⁽²⁸⁾ John Wright also purchased the house known as the "Quay" at this time.

November 1887 the partnership of John Dobby and John Wright, in business as Millers and Corn Merchants was dissolved and was to carry on by John Wright and Sons.⁽²⁹⁾

William Topham Kirby purchased both the "Quay" house and the Abbots Staith Mill in June 1890.⁽³⁰⁾ Eight years later in January 1898 the house known as the Quay and the Abbots Staith Mill was transferred to W. L. Kirby Ltd.⁽³¹⁾

In June 1902 Richard Winders and David Foster leased "All the warehouse on the ground floor to W. L. Kirby Ltd was known as the "Cake Warehouse".⁽³²⁾

It is to be noted that when lots 1 & 2 were sold 'the Ould Quay' was not conveyed in the agreements, this arrangement seems to have continued to this date.

A Memorial of Conveyance (November 1913) between George Broderick Tonge of Great Driffield in the county of York Solicitor (the vendor) of the one part and Johnathan Knowles Woodhead of the City of Leeds Seeds Merchant (thereinafter called the purchaser) of the other part of All those seven warehouses one cottage and counting house situate in Selby

in or near certain streets in Selby called respectively WATER LANE and MICKLEGATE otherwise WIDE STREET , etc, etc.⁽³³⁾

Occupiers under the ownership of Johnathan Woodhead listed in various Trade Directories include George Woodhead & Sons (Seedsman) 77 & 79 Micklegate (Kellys Directory)

1927 to 1940 - William Pickles jnr, F.C.A Accountant, 81 Micklegate,

1936 - George Woodhead & Sons (Seedsman) 77 & 79 Micklegate

1940 - Pickles J. W., Chartered Accountant, 81 Micklegate, Selby. (Rimington 1940 Selby Almanac and Directory)

1961 - Woodheads horticultural shop created from offices (Georgian Counting House at the corner of The Quay & Micklegate) (Woodheads 175th Anniversary brochure)

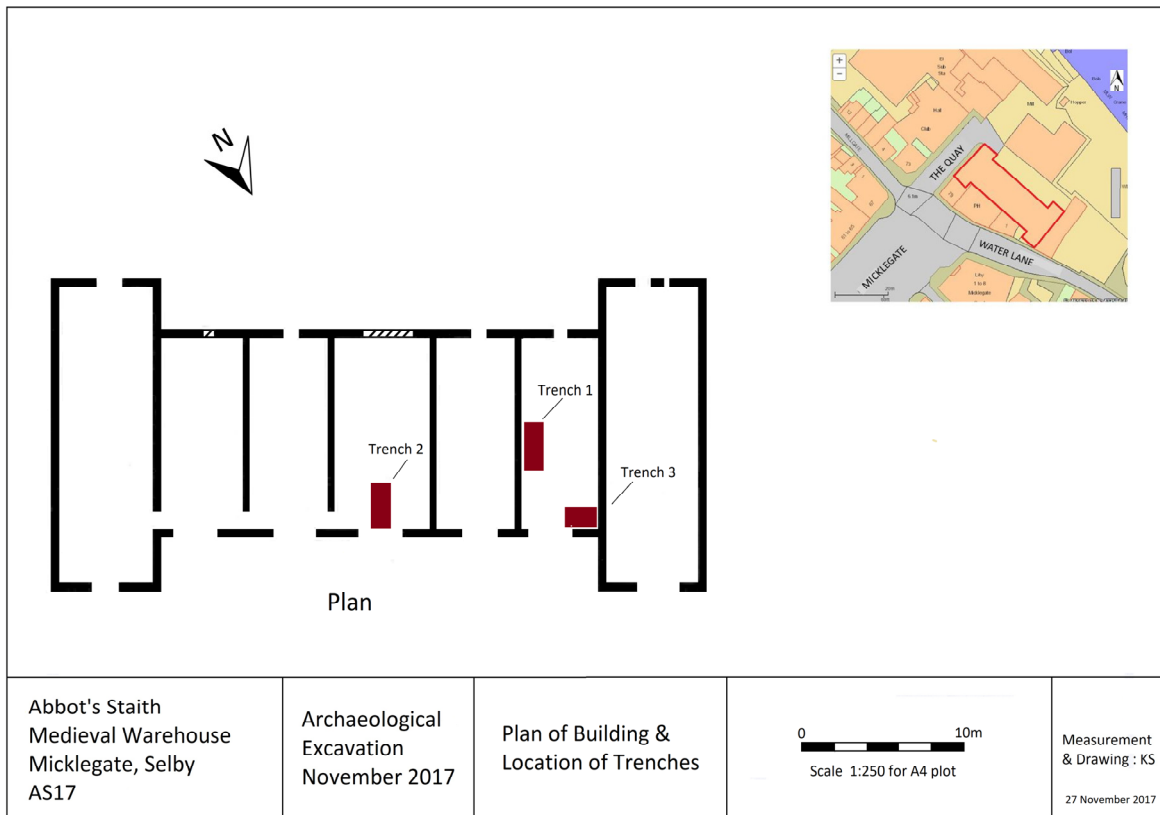
1995 - Woodhead Seeds move out (Family Connection).



Model of the Medieval Staith and Warehouse, made by volunteer Tony Stevens

Section 2 - Results

To evaluate archaeological deposits beneath the warehouse, we used three hand-dug trenches in two separate bays, as shown in the plan below. Trenches 1 and 3 focused on the walls of the warehouse to investigate foundations and possible dating evidence. Trench 2 was located in the doorway of the central bay to better understand the use of this bay with access to north and south. This is the only bay with south facing access into the town in the medieval period.



Plan of Abbots Staith Warehouse with Evaluation Trenches

All three trenches were dug by hand and recorded using single context planning system provided by Jon Kenny – Community Archaeology. Sections were drawn by volunteer Ken Shaw and a photographic and video archive has been deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, King's Manor, York.

Trench 1 was 3.28 metres by 1.05 metres and went down to a depth of 1.25 metres. The trench was located along the internal wall of the bay. Phasing and interpretation of this trench are summarised in Section 2.1.

The excavation of Trench 1 gave us pottery from levelling deposits beneath the level of the wall foundation, so giving us a date when this internal wall was built. This pottery was

purple glazed southern-type which dates from the late 14th, into the 15th century. Some Humberware was also present, which may be of the 14th century.

The foundation bottom of this internal wall was 0.9 metres below the present floor level. A single block deep plinth sat at the base of the wall.

Trench 2 was 2.0 metres by 1.10 metres and went down to a depth of 1.25 metres. The trench was located close to the external northern doorway of the central bay of the warehouse. Phasing and interpretation of the trench are summarised in Section 2.2.

The top of the doorway threshold was 0.55 metres from the present floor surface and went down to a depth of 0.75 metres from its top surface. Excavation was carried out until water ingress prevented further digging. The bottom of the foundation was presumed on evidence of probing beneath the last revealed block of the threshold.

Levelling deposits piled onto the bottom course of the wall foundation contained Humberware dating to the 14th century. This may of course be residual as a deposit, presumably being brought in from elsewhere.

Trench 3 was 2.10 metres by 1.20 metres and went down to a depth of 1.05 metres, with a sondage in the north-west corner to a depth of further 20cm, making a total depth of 1.25 metres. Phasing and interpretation of the trench are summarised in Section 2.3.

This trench gave us the opportunity to see a section of the outside wall, which unlike the inner wall in Trench 1 had upper plinth stepping out 6cm from the wall, and a lower plinth that stepped out 20cm and was a single block in thickness.

No pottery was recovered from the make-up deposits that go underneath the lower plinth. Later levelling deposits inside the wall are dated by Cistercian Ware to the late 15th or 16th century. Unfortunately this leaves us only dating evidence from beneath the internal wall foundations in Trench 1, see above.

Set out below are the phasing of the three trenches summarised in more detail.

A review of the pottery from the site as a whole by Anne Jenner (York Archaeological Trust) suggested an overall date range of late medieval to modern activity. This suggests a fairly late medieval construction date for the stone warehouse. As yet there appears to be no evidence for a previous structure, wooden or otherwise, on this site. It should be remembered that this is a limited evaluation and that further investigation would add to our understanding.

Section 2.1 – Trench 1

Phase 1 – Modern Pit (Photo)

Partially excavated pit on the north east side of the warehouse bay [105]. Dug against the north east wall. Measured 2.2 metres by 2.3 metres with a depth of approx 0.36 metres. Laid in the bottom of the pit were level concrete paving slabs (61cm x 76cm x 5cm), one of which was extracted from the excavated portion of the pit. Possible foundation for a piece of machinery, now removed, from the last couple of decades. The pit was backfilled with a wide variety of rubble (brick and limestone fragments) and some modern rubbish [101] including plastic wrappers (with barcode) and a pen from a betting shop. Backfilled pit was then roughly recovered with a poorly made-up brick floor [106], different in appearance to the better made brick floor [108] of the rest of the bay.

(Note – When Trench 1 was first opened, contexts were identified by double digits only, beginning with a zero. When opening Trench 2 it was decided to add a third digit at the start of the context numbers, based on which trench the context was in).

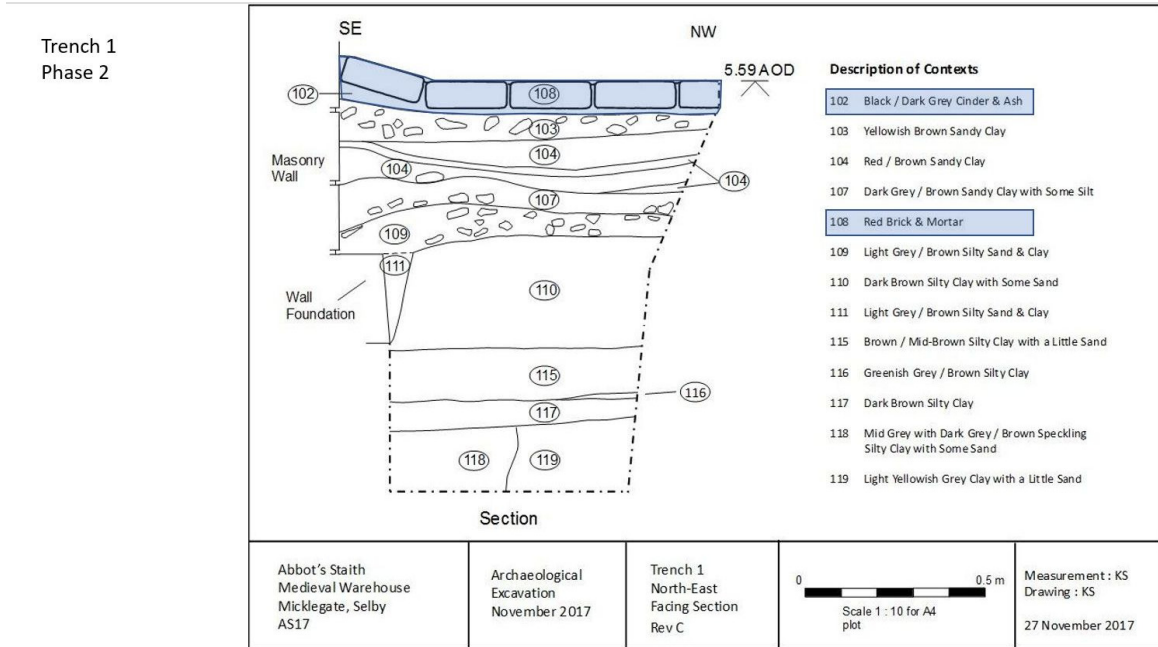


Context 106 - Relaid Brick over Modern Pit

Phase 2 – Brick Floor and Bedding Layer

A brick made floor [108] of tightly fitted hand-made bricks. Suggested date for the laying of

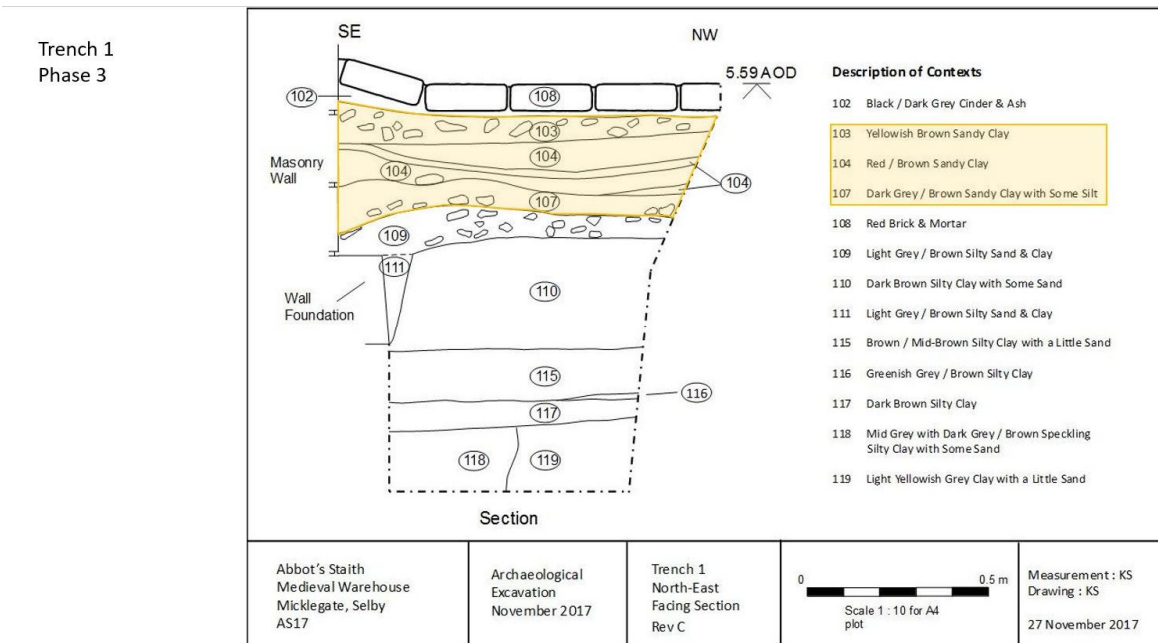
these is between 1870 and 1910, when the building was owned by Kirby's Flour Mill (and previous flour milling companies on site). Forming a bedding layer beneath the brick [102] was a loose cinder and ash deposit.



Trench 1, Phase 2

Phase 3 – Levelling and Make-Up Layers

A series of three levelling deposits [103], [104] and [107]. Upper surfaces of [103] and [107] had some compaction suggesting they might have existed as a dirt floor for a period of time.

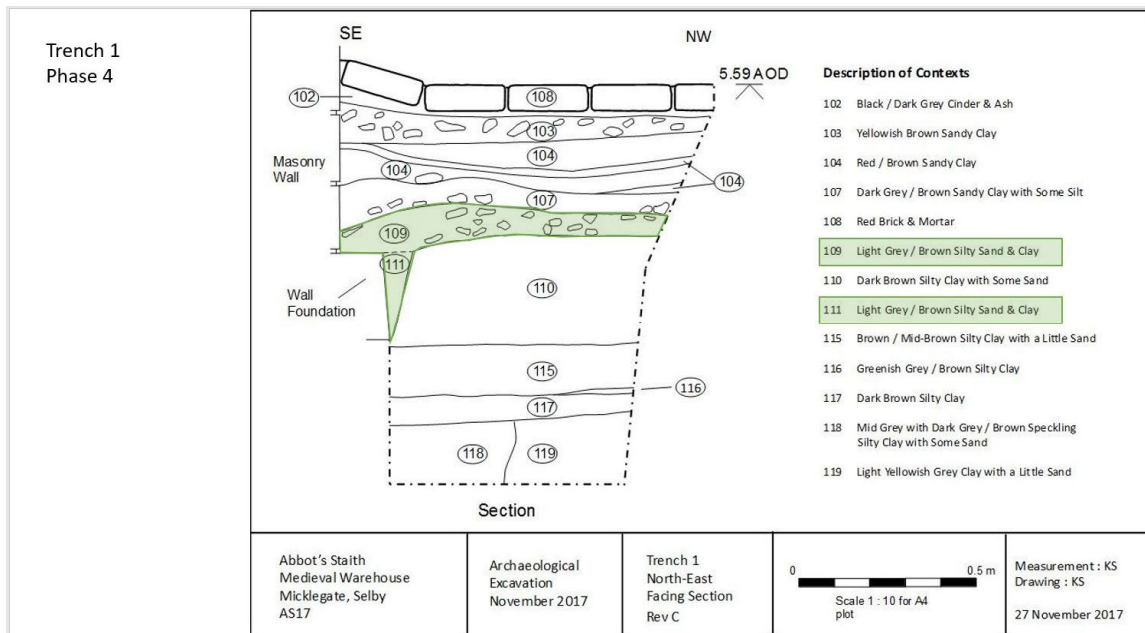


Trench 1, Phase 3

Phase 4 – Mortar Horizon

A light grey/brown deposit, being 5-10 cm deep [109]. Contained frequent brick and stone fragments, loosely compacted. This appears to represent a demolition or construction phase, or indeed both, in the life of the building. On the north eastern section of this deposit, where it abuts the wall, there was a cut feature [111] and [112] following the wall downwards. Initially this was taken to be a construction cut but on excavation appeared to be the result of a previous sondage to ascertain the depth of the foundation. Presumably this activity was undertaken at the time of the construction/demolition phase.

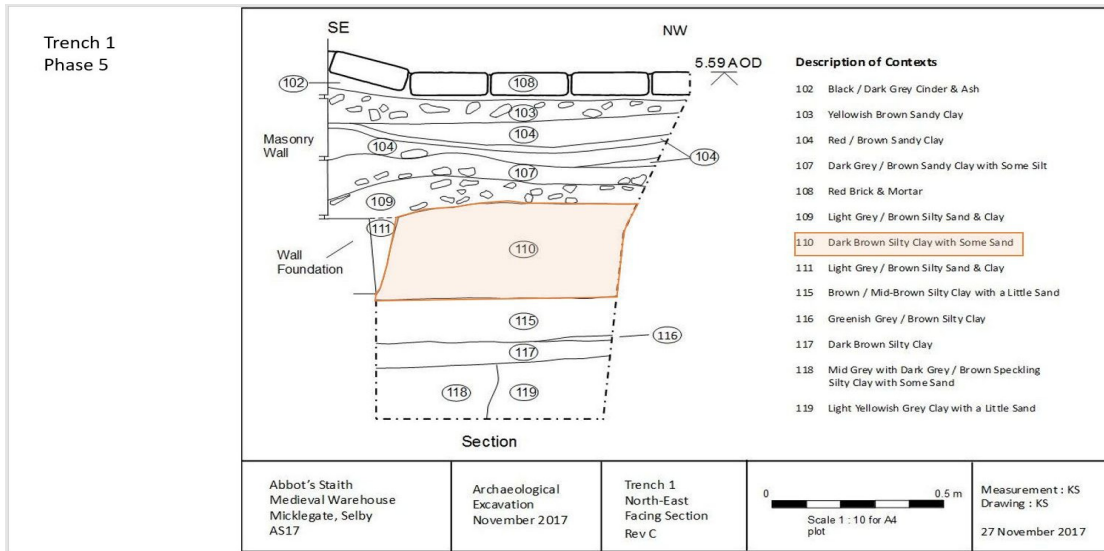
Deposits at this point showed some diesel seepage coming through the wall blocks [113]. As the history of the building is known to have included a motor car garage in the adjoining bay during the 1970s, it is possible this was waste buried in the neighbouring bay and seeping through from there. The seepage was limited and tightly contained against the wall and did not prevent the continuing excavation. Any work on the neighbouring bay will need to take into account the potential of hazardous material.



Trench 1, Phase 4

Phase 5 – Deep Levelling and Make-Up Layer

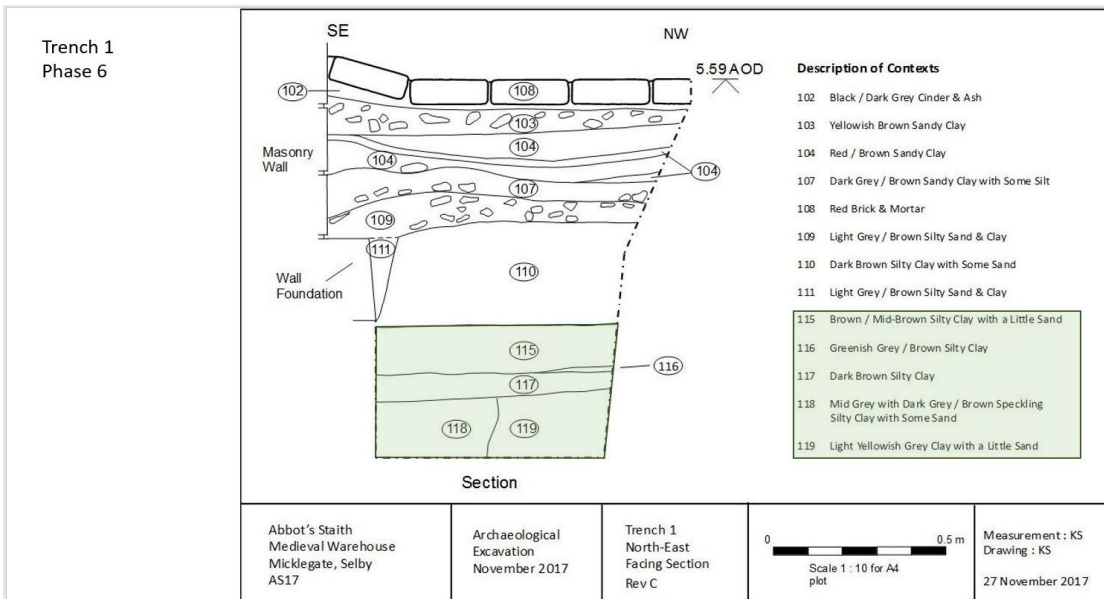
Phase 5 [110] consists of a thick homogeneous make-up layer (0.20 metres in depth). A dark brown silty clay with some sand. The upper layer was more compacted, suggesting a possible dirt floor for a period of time. It was cut into along the length of the wall by the sondage [112] and the modern pit [105], but not all the way to the bottom of the phase.



Trench 1, Phase 5

Phase 6 – Foundation and Underpinning

Phase 6 comprises of [115], [116], [117], [118], [120] and [119]. These consisted of three make-up deposits [115], [116] and [117]. All of these deposits continue underneath the bottom of the wall foundation. There was no discernible construction cut for the foundation of the wall underneath the block work. Beneath these three make-up deposits was a further make-up layer that appears to have two distinct parts. One running beneath the foundation [118] was a mid-grey clay with dark grey/brown speckling and may have contained completely degraded organic matter. The second part [119] was a much lighter yellow/grey clay with a little sand mixed in. A possible cut number [120] was assigned to the interface between the two. It's possible to suggest that [118] was some kind of fragile wooden underpinning, very much degraded over time, but this is very unclear.



Trench 1, Phase 6

Trench 1 Summary

A first impression from Trench 1 was that the foundation was quite shallow, though as this was an internal wall it may not reflect upon the whole structure. The wall appears to be built upon the make-up layers in Phase 6. The floor level is then brought up to a working height by Phase 5. The compaction suggested at least a dirt floor, but this may instead have had a flagstone floor at some time. Anecdotal evidence from the building owner states that during the 1970s a flagstone floor layer was removed from at least one of the bays of the warehouse, to make way for concrete flooring put in at this time. Phase 5 appears to be the floor level at the point when the building is considerably remodelled in Phase 4. The mortar horizon represented in Phase 4 seems to appear in all three trenches, including Trench 2 which was dug in a separate bay. Finds suggest that this remodelling took place between 1790 and 1810, and there is other evidence from the building itself that major work was undertaken in this period. The work undertaken appears to extend the first floor, removing a possible balcony and enclosing this area with brick. A new roof for the building was added around this time also. After the reconstruction in the 1800s floor levels were taken up in the following period until the final brick floor between 1870 and 1910. A pit was inserted, possibly as standing for some machinery, during the 20th century, and was backfilled after the 1990s.

Section 2.2 – Trench 2

Phase 1 – Concrete Flooring

Phase 1 is a concrete floor [202] which is set on a make-up levelling deposit of broken, dry concrete [232]. This was removed using a power drill.

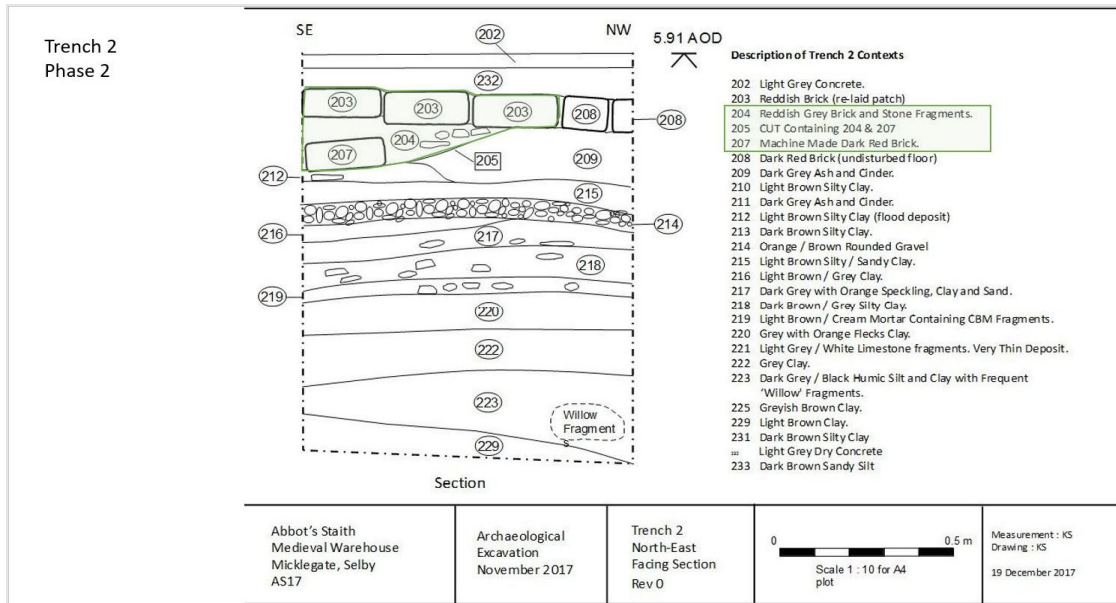


Dr Jon Kenny using power drill to open Trench 2

Phase 2 – Floor Repair and Underpinning

Phase 2 is a repair to the brick floor at the north east side of the doorway, which underlies the concrete. The repair appears to be necessitated by subsidence in a linear fashion suggesting the passage of vehicles, especially the wheel rut, through the bay. The section

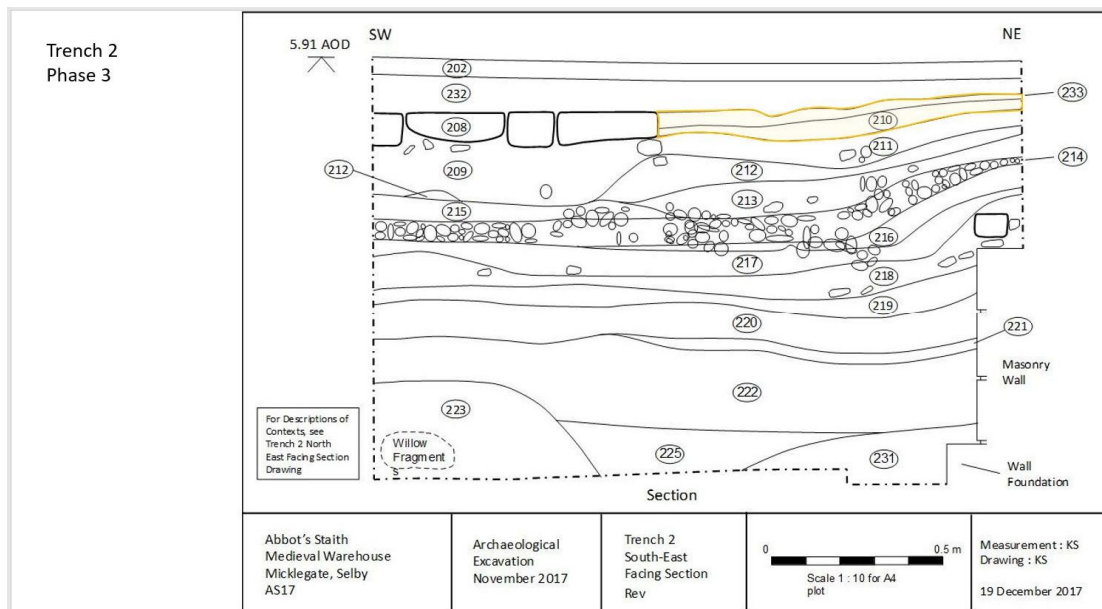
for repair was cut out [205] and then backfilled [204] and underpinned with machine made bricks [207] of a more modern type than those above them [206]. The repair was completed by replacing older brick [206] which is interesting in that it is a brick mimicking stone sets. Some further repair appears to have been undertaken in a small patch [203] at the time of the insertion or laying of the concrete floor during the 1970s.



Trench 2, Phase 2

Phase 3 – Older Floor Repair

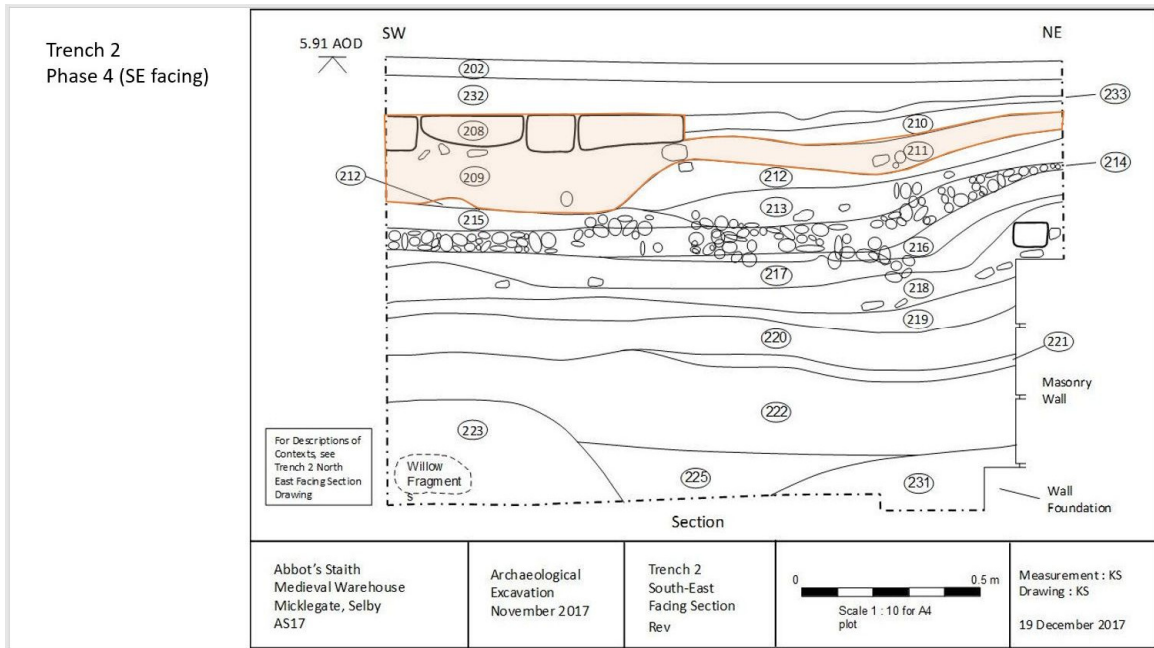
It is unclear whether Phase 3 comes before or after Phase 2. It is another floor repair, this time on the south west side of the doorway, but the brick sets [208] have been removed and two sandy silt deposits [210] and [233] have filled this void.



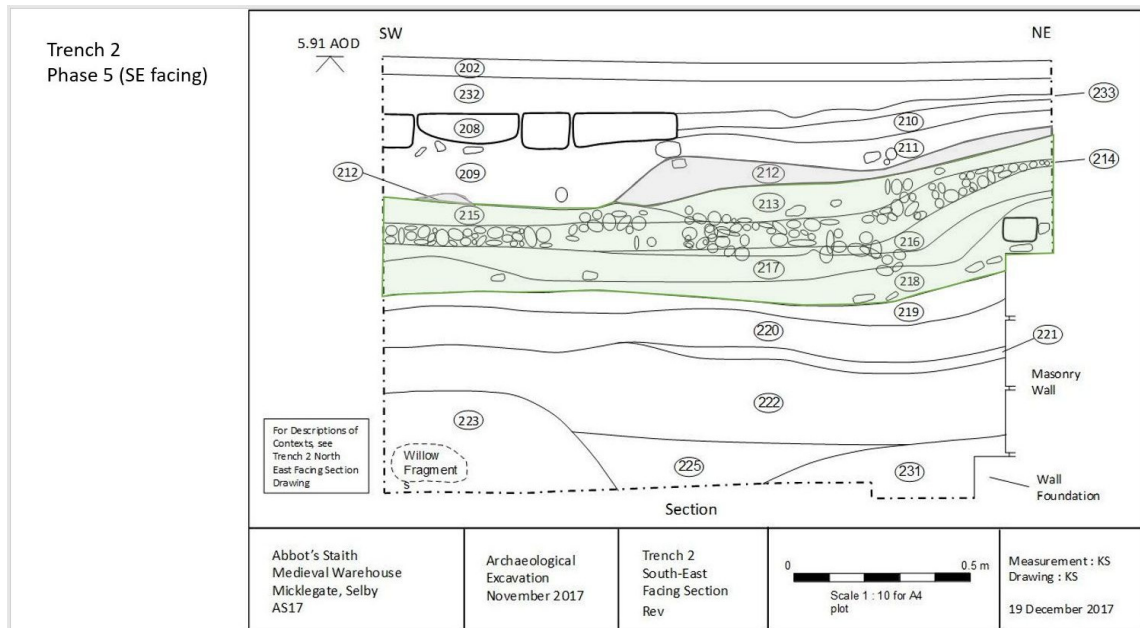
Trench 2, Phase 3

Phase 4 – Brick Floor and Make-Up

Phase 4 consists of a well laid brick floor [208]. The bricks are hand-made and in appearance look like stone sets (also look like bread loaves). Beneath the brick is a make-up and levelling layer [209] and [211] of dark grey ash and cinder. As with the brick floor and levelling layer in Trench 1 ([108] and [102]) these likely date between 1870 and 1910. Underlying the ash floor make-up there was a silt deposit [212] which might represent a major flooding incident with water coming in across the threshold built up in Phase 5.



Trench 2, Phase 4 (SE Facing)



Trench 2, Phase 5 (SE Facing)

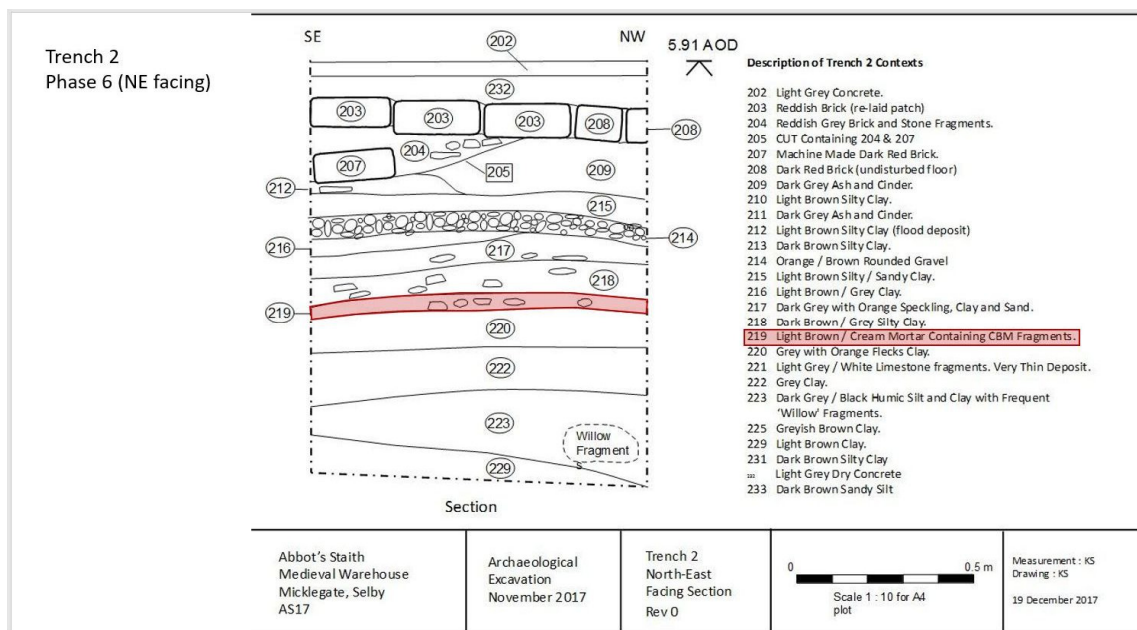
Phase 5 – Make-Up, Levelling and Threshold Make-up

Phase 5 represents a series of make-up layers that raise the floor level in the bay, but also accentuate the threshold into the building. The deposits used in this make-up begin with a rubble and soil mixture [218] followed by two clay deposits [216] and [217] which in turn are sealed by a gravel deposit [214]. The gravel is then sealed by two further deposits, a brown sandy silt [215] and a brown clay [213].

Phase 6 – Mortar Horizon 1

Phase 6 is represented by a distinctive mortar horizon [219], a light brown/cream in colour. It contained a number of CBM and limestone fragments. As in Trenches 1 and 3, this appears to represent a demolition and/or construction deposit, probably related to the reworking of the building between 1790 and 1810, as mentioned elsewhere in this report.

At this point in time the stone threshold of the doorway would have been exposed, standing proud by about 15cm. It is possible that at some point there was a flagstone floor butting up to and level with the threshold, probably with [220] as its underlying deposit. This floor appears to have been removed prior to the activities creating [219].

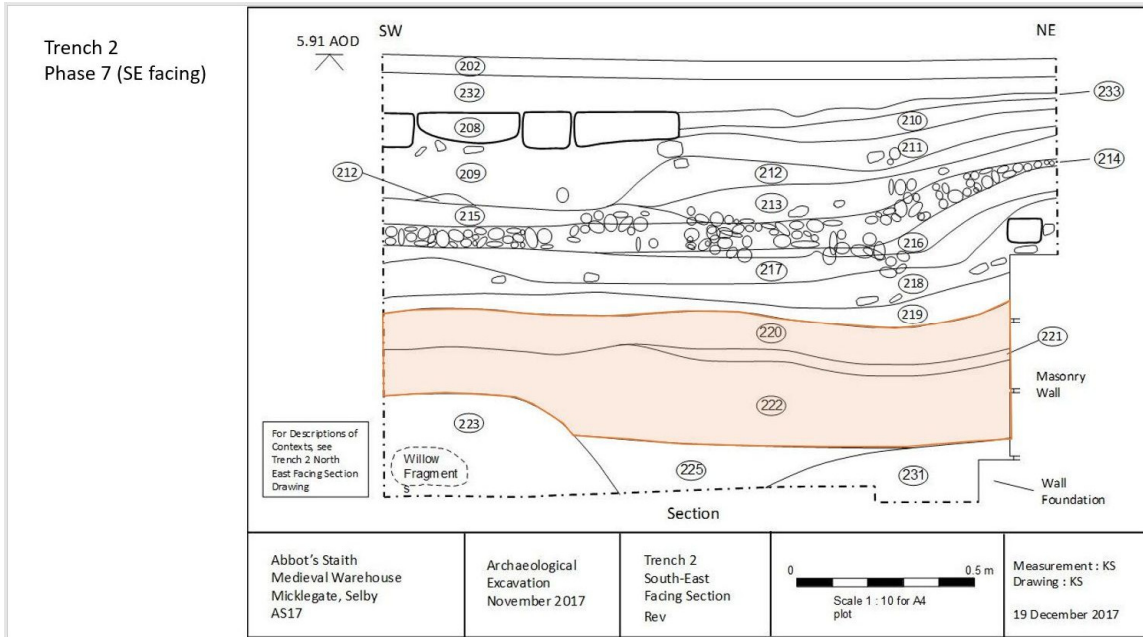


Trench 2, Phase 6 (NE Facing)

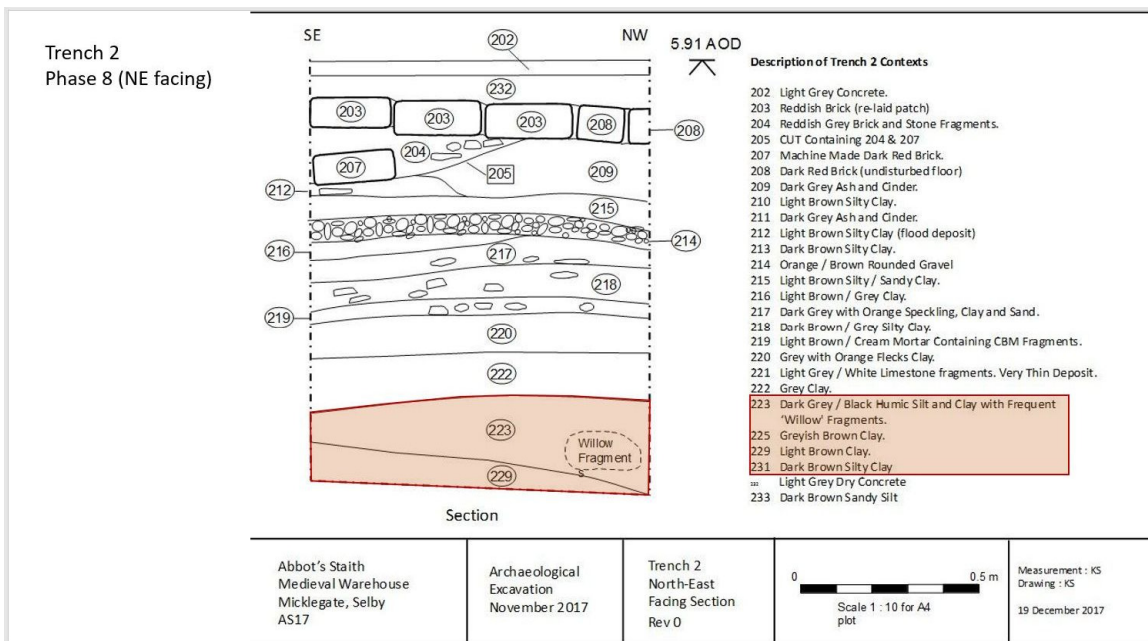
Phase 7 – Levelling and Mortar Horizon 2

This Phase is represented by a thick grey clay deposit [222] about 25cm deep. This probably forms a levelling within the interior of the warehouse bay. Extending 1.10 metres from the threshold is a thin layer of light white limestone fragments with mortar inclusions. This seems to represent the first make-up of the warehouse in use and then a secondary construction activity near to the doorway. At the end of this Phase there would have been a step down into the warehouse bay of 30cm. We can only speculate how long this

arrangement stayed in operation before the next make-up [220] was added, levelling up to the possible stone flag floor, mentioned above. The make-up layers [220] and [222] both contained a large amount of iron working slag compared to other phases and trenches. This may indicate that the source of the levelling material was near an iron working site of some kind.



Trench 2, Phase 7 (SE Facing)



Trench 2, Phase 8 (NE Facing)

Phase 8 – Dumping Deposits

Phase 8 consists of five deposits. Two are midden heaps [223] and [231] which contained considerable amounts of waterlogged material, willow, wicker, a dark black and grey silty clay. Two deposits were infilling between the middens as the ground was made up [225]

and [226]. The infilling deposits were initially thought to be pits and assigned cut numbers (224) and (227), these have remained in the record as interfaces rather than proper cuts. The fifth deposit was a small pit or deposit within the larger midden [231]. This smaller pit [228] was characterised by limestone fragments. The midden [231] covered the lowest part of the wall foundations. We were not certain that we had reached the foot of the foundation but probing at the fullest extent of the trench into context [231] suggested that we had, having not encountered any further stone with the probe. The depth of the foundation beneath the door was four courses of stonework some 0.5 metres from top of threshold to bottom of trench. There was no obvious foundation cut. The south end of the trench also had a lower make up layer [229] the depth of which we did not reach.

Trench 2 Summary

It appears that the wall foundations were built onto levelled ground rather than cut into a foundation trench but this requires further investigation into the outer walls of the warehouse.

It seems that as the foundations were constructed, material was piled against them to bring the floor level up. In some instances this appears to have invited dumping in pits and middens, possibly domestic waste added during a break in activity on a seasonal basis. Later more homogeneous layers of levelling take place, building the floor level up to within 15cm of the threshold. This 15cm gap may indicate the presence of a stone flagged floor butting up to and at the same level as the threshold. During this levelling some construction work appears to take place near to the doorway.

At some point before 1790 the potential stone flagged floor appears to have been removed. Between 1790 and 1810 the mortar horizon appears to represent a phase of remodelling of the building, consistent with other evidence around the warehouse.

After the reworking of the building a number of phases of levelling ensue, making up the floor level by around 40cm with an attempt to raise the level further at the threshold, causing a slope into the bay. A brick floor was inserted between 1870 and 1910, as discussed elsewhere. There is some subsidence requiring repair work and eventually a concrete floor is laid over the top of it during the 1970s.

The build up of levels during the 1800s may suggest concerns with flooding. At least one of these silty deposits may suggest a serious flood incursion during the Victorian period.

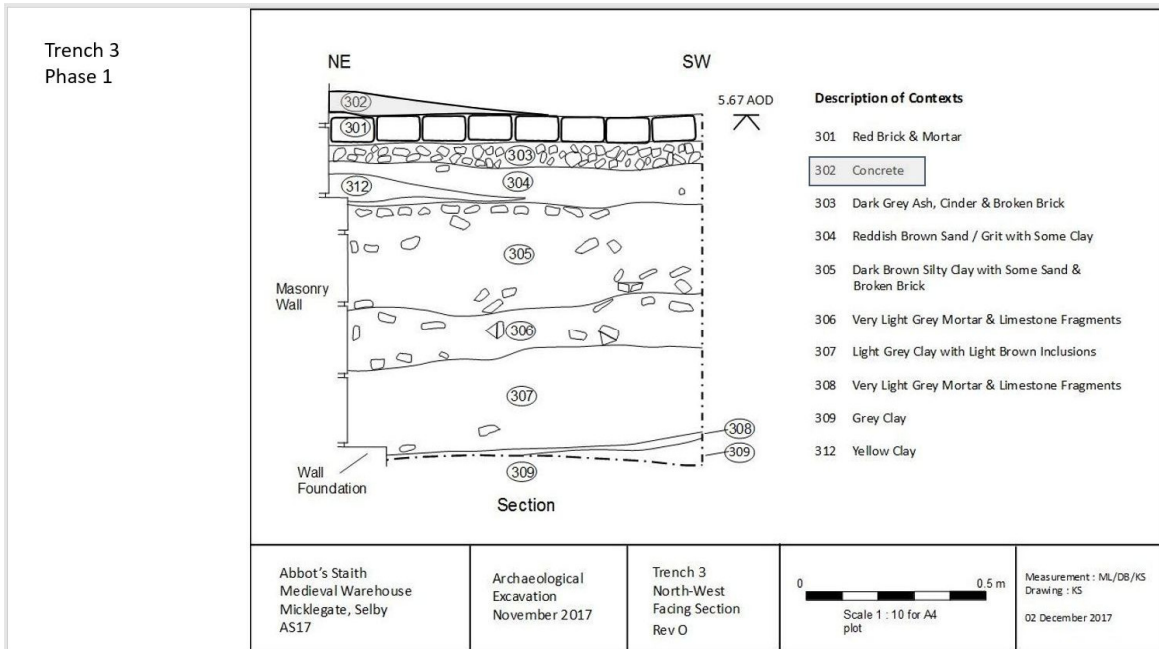


Threshold in Trench 2 with Context [220], possible setting for flagstone floor, removed

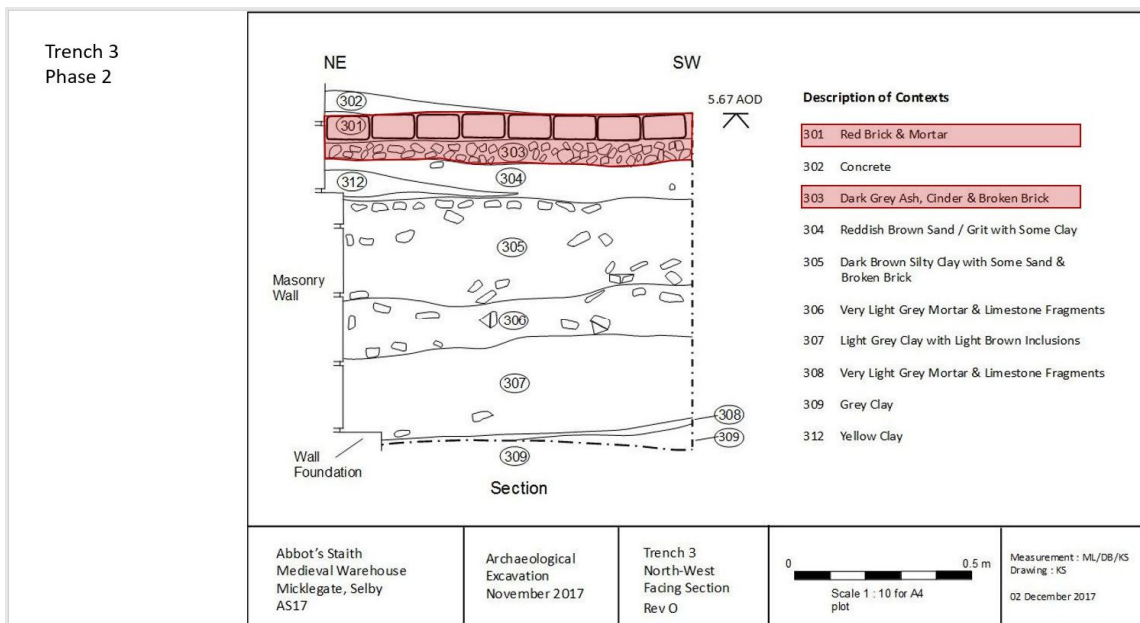
Section 2.3 – Trench 3

Phase 1 – Concrete Threshold

Phase 1 is the insertion of a concrete threshold at the doorway [302], sloping down from a height of 6cm over a distance of 95cm. This concrete raises the threshold at the doorway possibly to prevent ingress of water at times of flooding.



Trench 3, Phase 1



Trench 3, Phase 2

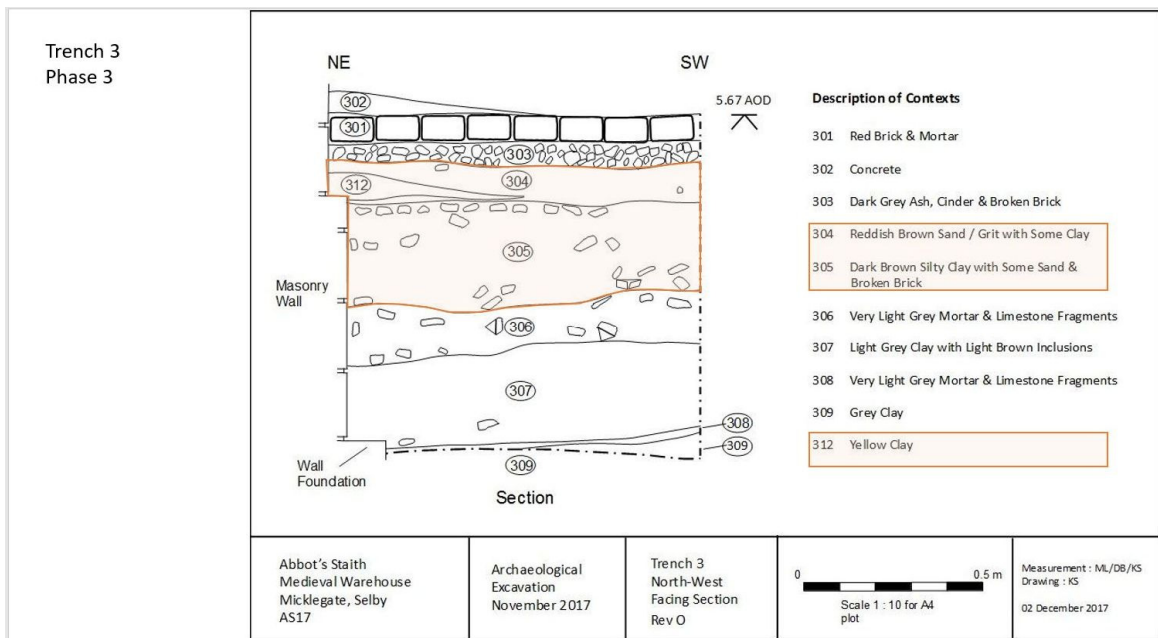
Phase 2 – Brick Floor and Bedding Layer

A well made brick floor [301], covering the whole area, bedded tightly onto an ash and cinder levelling [303]. This is the same bay and floor surface as Trench 1.

Phase 3 – Make-Up Layers

The brick floor in Phase 2 was laid upon two levelling deposits, the upper of which [304] was a sandy grit with some clay, containing and stained by slag, cinder and iron waste. It appears to be industrial material brought in to raise the floor level and may be the equivalent to layer [104] in Trench 1. The lower of the two deposits [305] was a dark brown silty clay containing numerous CBM fragments and mortar flecks. The total depth of these two deposits was around 35cm.

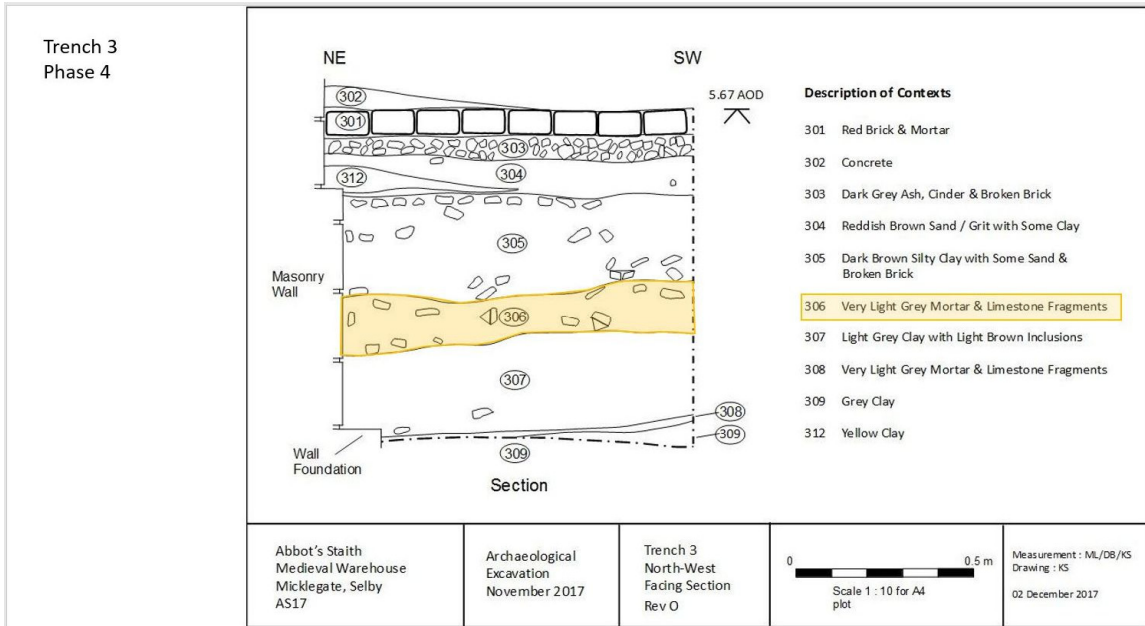
At the doorway a separate deposit [312] forms a clay threshold, possibly created again to stop water ingress. This suggests that there was a break in the levelling process between [304] and [305].



Trench 3, Phase 3

Phase 4 – Mortar Horizon 1

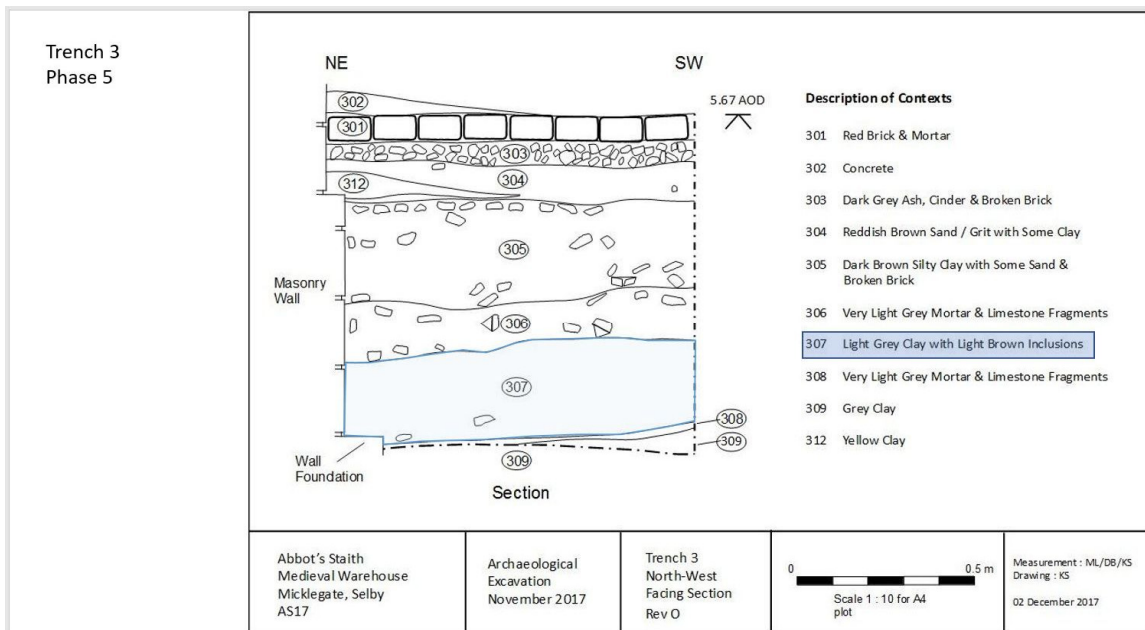
Phase 4 is represented by a single deposit [306] that has been identified in Trenches 1 and 2 as a mortar horizon. In this case it is a light grey with mortar fragments and some brick and tile. As is the case with Trenches 1 and 2 this is interpreted as the demolition/construction of parts of the building, during the 1790 to 1810 period.



Trench 3, Phase 4

Phase 5 – Make-Up and Pit

This Phase consists of a light grey clay with some brown inclusions, appearing across the trench and about 25cm deep [307]. Cut into this deposit was a small pit [310] that contained an architectural fragment intended for the roof of the Abbey, which has been identified as a finial. This raises the question of whether there was any stone-working undertaken at the warehouse prior to the dissolution of the Abbey and other monastic houses across the country.



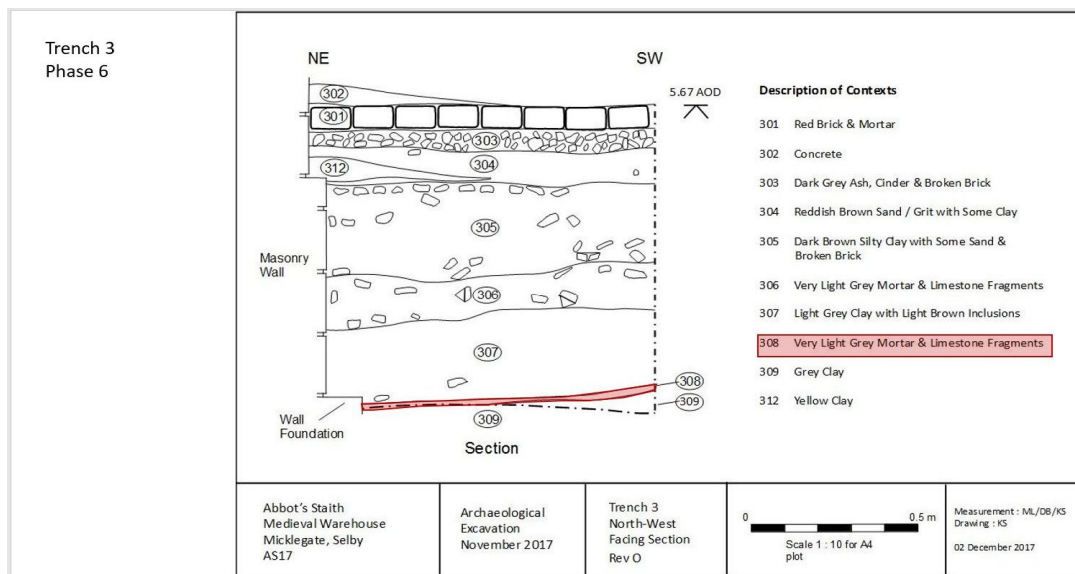
Trench 3, Phase 5

This fragment has not been weathered and has clear chisel marks still visible. A number of small nicks and a hairline crack seem to indicate that this item, while intended for the Abbey as roof decoration, never actually made it to the building and was in fact a mason's reject. It may have been deposited in the pit some years after it was made.

As the deposit [307] lies beneath the construction material [306] it is likely that this is the working level of the earlier warehouse. It is from this level that any stone flags may have been removed. If this is the case then the working floor of the bay was stepped down into, possibly with a removable wooden step. This may have advantages for temperature regulation, although it may encounter problems with water levels.

Phase 6 – Mortar Horizon 2

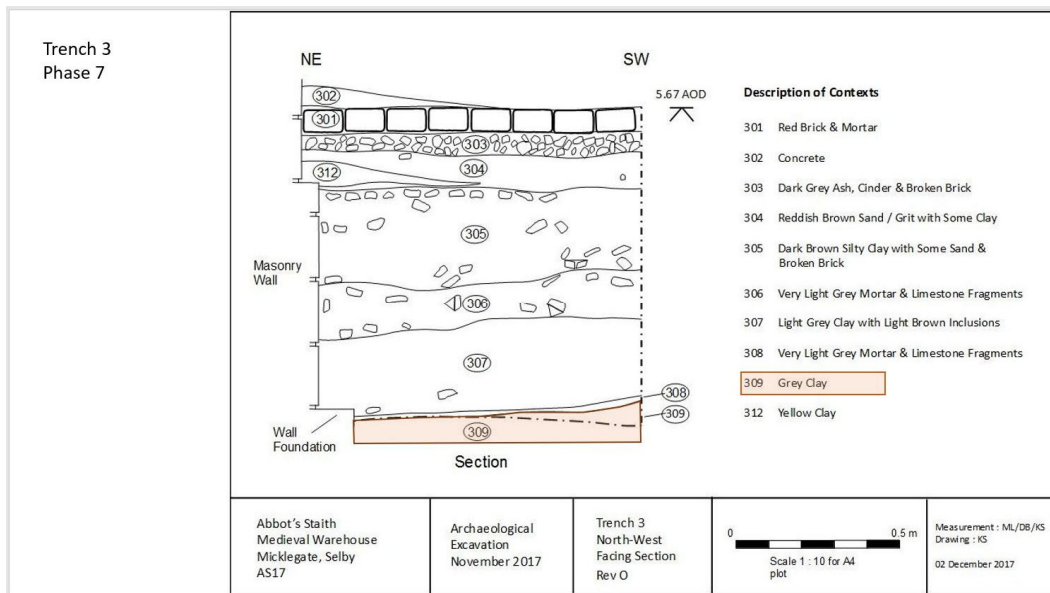
Beneath deposit [307] lies a mortar horizon [308]. This is concentrated in the area around the doorway. This is a light grey in colour, made up with mortar and limestone and some CBM flecks. The deposit was only 3cm deep. It's possible that this deposit relates to the deposit observed in Trench 2 [221], around the doorway.



Trench 3, Phase 6

Phase 7 – Clay Deposits (Make-Up?)

The excavation of the trench went beyond the bottom of the foundations in this trench. The foundation appears to be built directly onto a make-up layer [309]. Again there is no sign of any form of construction cut. This was a firm grey clay, with infrequent cobbles within it. This appears to be a make-up deposit, levelling the site prior to building. Its not clear how much further one would have to go down before reaching naturally deposited riverside material. It is possible that an auger survey, as part of a future investigation, may produce interesting results.



Trench 3, Phase 7

Trench 3 Summary

This trench allowed us to look for the foundation of an outer wall on the north facing side of the building. In addition, by placing the trench in a corner of the bay we were able to see an internal wall as well. The foundations of the outer and inner walls ran to the same depth. The inner wall did not appear to be bonded to the outer wall, suggesting that it may have been built after the outer shell of the building was constructed.

The bottom of the foundation was located in Trench 3 by means of a sondage into the clay deposits [309]. There was no sign of a construction cut, suggesting that the foundation was built onto make-up deposits. We were not able to excavate further down because of water ingress into the trench, so do not know the depth of the make-up deposits beneath the building.

Overlying the make-up deposits was a thin mortar horizon [308] that appeared in the trench, concentrating around the doorway to the north-east of the trench. This may represent building or remodelling work being undertaken around the doorway. A probable equivalent deposit [221] was found in Trench 2, also concentrated around that doorway.

Sealing the mortar horizon was another make-up deposit [307]. This deposit contained Cistercian Ware pottery which dates to the very late 15th century at the earliest. It is possible that this deposit was overlaid by a stone slab floor but no evidence for this putative feature has been recovered. Cut into [307] was a shallow pit [310] which contained a partial finial, mentioned above, as well as a seemingly unrelated piece of basically worked stone.

As suggested above, this finial may have been a mason's reject. It has however been deliberately deposited in the pit [310], beneath the putative stone flagged floor mentioned above. The burial of the finial must have taken place after the end of the 15th century, dated by pottery from the deposit its pit was cut into.

Overlying the make-up layer [307] was another mortar horizon [306], this time covering the whole trench. This mortar horizon is likely to relate to Trenches 1 [109] and 2 [219]. As with the other horizons this is taken to represent a period of rebuilding and/or remodelling of the northern side of the building on both floors. If a stone slab floor existed it is likely that it was removed before this phase took place. If such a floor did exist it would have sat 40cm below the level of the door threshold. This may have been to regulate temperature in this bay which did not require access by wheeled vehicles, whereas the putative floor in Trench 2 is level with the threshold, given this was used for wheeled vehicular access, passing through the building from north (the riverside access) to south (the main town).

Following the work carried out represented by the mortar deposits a series of levelling deposits [305], [312] and [304] brought the level up near to the threshold during the 19th century. The final stage of levelling was the insertion of a brick floor [301] bedded onto a layer of ash and cinder [303]. This final stage is present in all three trenches.

Finally a concrete raised threshold [302] was introduced in the 20th century, presumably to raise the threshold level against flooding. Unlike all the other bays of the warehouse, this concrete was not extended across the entire floor surface. A concrete plinth does exist in the south end of the bay, this was used as a flooring for heavy machinery, most of which has been removed.

Section 3 – Discussion

This section reviews our progress with answering the questions we set ourselves at the outset of the excavation.

Finding Foundations

The foundations of the external and internal walls, and door threshold, are all revealed. We found that the external wall foundations were more substantial and deeper than the internal walls. We discovered that the foundations appear to have been built directly onto made-up ground, with no construction cuts visible. Internal floor levels and external ground level appear to have been built up after the construction of the foundations.

Previous Buildings?

There was no archaeological evidence visible in our trenches for any previous building on this site. In addition, the pottery profile does not indicate activity prior to the late medieval period. Given that the foundations are built onto make-up layers which have only been dated to the late medieval period this may suggest that the Staith warehouse and the levelling up of the land was relatively late in the life of the monastic Abbey. Any earlier buildings would be at a lower level beneath the levelling deposits found by this dig. Getting to anything more deeply buried will not be simple and preliminary coring might allow us to better profile the levelling up process first.

If these suppositions are correct it is possible that the current warehouse does not replace another building on this exact spot. There may have been a staith here without substantial support buildings or perhaps this warehouse replaced other staiths and warehouses further downstream.

Floor Surfaces

The clearest floor surfaces were the ones still in use, almost entirely concrete from the 1970s. One bay, which contains Trenches 1 and 3, did not have a concrete floor and was floored instead with brick, laid tightly onto ash and cinder. This floor possibly dates from the period 1870 to 1910, when the building was owned by the flour mill to the rear of the site. The concrete floor in the central bay was shown to overlay a similar brick floor, likely dating from a similar time.

Beneath the brick floors a number of levelling deposits appeared to have at least short term compaction as dirt floors.

A mortar horizon suggested some remodelling of the building. This mortar layer in the

central bay (Trench 2) sits at a level some 10-15 cm below the threshold of the door. This location might suggest that stone slabs had originally formed a floor at the level of the threshold, these slabs then having been removed prior to the remodelling of the building. Anecdotal evidence from Jonathan Woodhead, owner of the building, states that such a stone slab floor was removed by himself and another member of staff during the laying of concrete floors in the 1970s, though the exact location of the bay that contained these slabs is unknown.

By extension the same mortar horizon in the bay containing Trenches 1 and 3 may also reveal the level of an earlier stone floor. In this case the floor would have been a step down of some 40cm from the threshold, possibly managed by a wooden step. The lower floor levels may indicate an attempt to regulate temperature. This idea can only be proved by finding some sections of stone floor undisturbed elsewhere in the building.

Use Evidence

No evidence for materials stored in the warehouse was found. The bay that contained Trenches 1 and 3 did reveal an architectural fragment (a finial), that may not have been a properly finished piece, possibly being damaged in the carving process. This might suggest that such carving was taking place nearby, maybe even in this bay.

More recent use of the central bay showed that wheeled vehicles were moving in and out, causing ruts and subsidence. These ruts were subsequently underpinned and repaired, as seen in Trench 2. This rutting however is likely to have been caused and repaired in the 20th century. No evidence for vehicles moving in and out of the bay in the medieval period was discovered. The possible evidence for a stone floor set at the same level as the threshold to the bay would allow access for carts moving north towards the staith or south from the staith, towards the town. Any evidence of wheel erosion would have been removed along with the floor slabs, if they existed. The stone of the threshold showed no evidence of wear from wheeled vehicles.

Dating Evidence

General analysis of pottery from all three trenches suggests activity between the late medieval period and the present day. Dating of construction was only found in levelling deposits beneath the internal walls. This was a purple glazed southern-ware type dating to the late 14th or early 15th century, found in levelling deposits [115] and [117] below it. In addition to the purple glazed ware, deposit [115] contained Cistercian Ware more likely to date to the very late 15th century or indeed 16th. In discussion with Anne Jenner of York Archaeological Trust it is possible that this purple glazed material and Cistercian Ware could be thought of as 15th century in all likelihood.

The lack of dating evidence is a result of water ingress into Trenches 2 and 3, before the levelling deposits running underneath the foundations could be properly investigated.

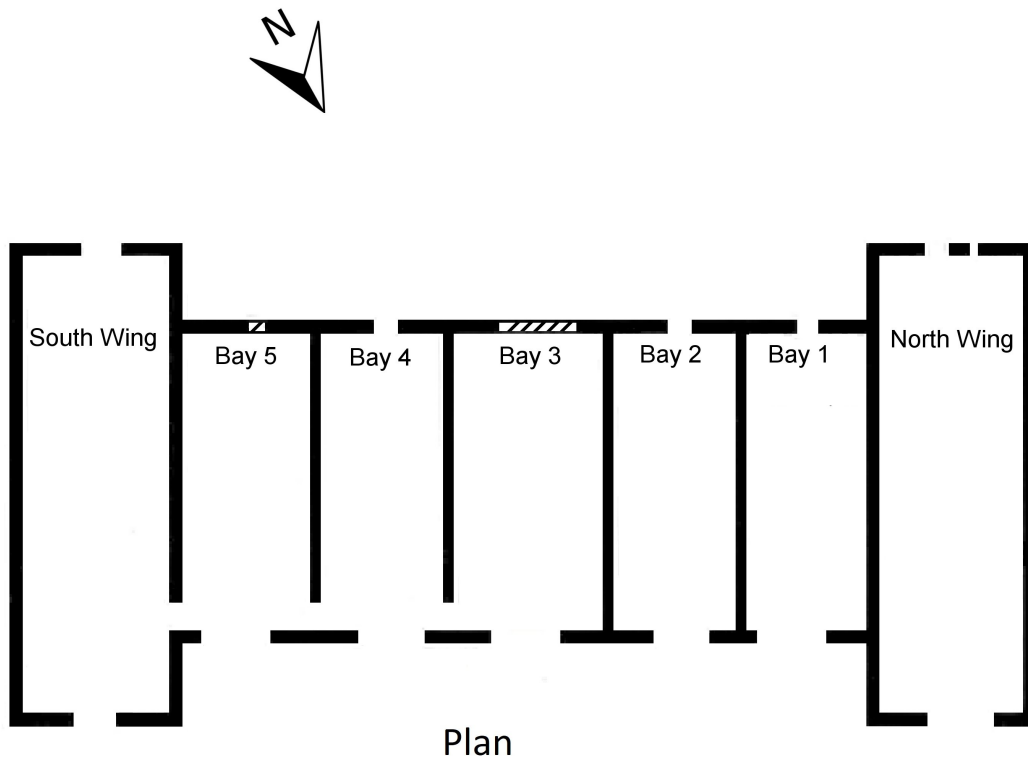
Stratigraphic analysis in Trench 1 demonstrates make-up layers running beneath foundations and supporting them, dated by pottery to the 15th century. The date range given for this trench only provides evidence for the internal walls, which may possibly have

been added after the outer shell of the building was constructed. Further analysis of the standing building may help with understanding the relationship between internal walls and external, which is currently difficult to grasp.

In Trench 2 our earliest deposits contain Humber Ware and York Glazed Ware that may date to the 14th century, but these are part of a deposit piled up against the foundation of the external wall, so may be redeposited as the internal floors of the warehouse were made up to a working height.

As with Trench 2, Trench 3 only revealed deposits overlying the foundation. These appear stratigraphically to be floor make-up to a working height, possibly supporting a stone slab floor. Though there is no positive evidence that it would have been in this trench, we have anecdotal evidence that there was such a floor in at least one bay of the warehouse.

The dendro analysis which took place in the summer of 2018 by Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory, as part of a programme of roof repair by Selby District Council and Historic England, shows that there was some remodelling of first floor levels (Bay 5 and south wing) around the 1580s, post-reformation, and this could fit with the building passing into secular use after the dissolution of Selby Abbey. There was further evidence in one bay of floor timbers being changed in the 1680s (Bay 2) and this could indicate repair work having been carried out on the floors put in a century earlier. Unfortunately, analysis of timbers in some of the central bays was inconclusive (See Appendix 5 for further information).⁽²⁰⁾



Plan of Staith Warehouse showing bays as sampled by Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory

To conclude dating for the construction of the building based on the evidence we have at the moment suggests a 15th century date. The construction appears to be made without foundations onto levelling deposits that may well reclaim riverside land behind a newly

constructed or previously existing staith or jetty.

The Archaeology and History of the Area

Archaeology and history should not be seen in the microcosm of a single building or three small evaluation trenches. To understand the past we need to look at the wider landscape. As suggested in Section 1 the warehouse stood on an important link between the Abbey, the route into secular Selby and the river. In fact it is quite surprising that the warehouse appears relatively late in the life of the Abbey, pre-reformation. It's fair to say that we haven't excluded the possibility of an earlier warehouse on the site, but as yet we have not dug down much beyond the foundations of the current building. It is possible an open staith area existed here without any substantial warehouse.

Historical records suggest the existence of a number of port and trade buildings and staiths from at least 1317 onwards.⁽¹⁾ By 1343 the site appears to be a busy port with more than one staith, customs functions and possibly as many as 120 ship movements in and out of the port in the year.⁽⁵⁾ From this point onwards activity on the staiths appears to be important with a number of jetties in use including one called the Great Staithe.⁽¹⁰⁾

At the time of the reformation we have the first specific reference to the Abbots Staithe (1540) which has a large open area associated with it for laying out wood and other goods.⁽¹³⁾ In 1551 the Abbott's Staith is referred to as having a warehouse dated as 15th century.⁽¹⁴⁾ The archaeological evidence so far suggests that the warehouse was constructed in the 15th century.

Dendrochronology analysis suggests that post-reformation (1580s) some reworking of the first floor level in the eastern wing of the building. The lintel above the door of this wing is dated by dendro to 1545, the earliest datable timber found within the warehouse. Further to this there is dendro evidence from one of the bays that floor repairs were carried out just over one hundred years after the post-reformation work.⁽³⁶⁾

From a historical point of view we find a very complex pattern of ownership and the historical landscape surrounding the warehouse still requires a considerable amount of investigation.

The archaeological evidence suggests a major reworking of the building in the late 1700s or early 1800s. This is evidenced by a horizon of mortar and other building material appearing in all three trenches [109], [219] and [306] and also evidence around the building of changes to the structure during this time period. Historical evidence including two maps from 1802 and 1818 suggests considerable activity along the waterfront after the building of the first bridge across the Ouse in 1793. The 1802 map that may then have been copied for use in 1818, shows the 'I' shaped plan of the warehouse with no additional Counting House or other buildings attached.⁽²⁰⁾ The initial 1790's rebuild of the warehouse may have been to incorporate the first floor balcony on the river side evidenced by brickwork additions in the this period. Documentary evidence from 1836, including the lease of the warehouse, now includes both a cottage and a Counting House.⁽²³⁾ Hence the date for the Counting House is suspected to be between 1802 (possibly as late as 1818) and pre-1836.⁽²⁰⁾

The maps from 1802 and 1818 show an interesting extension to the central bay of the warehouse both front and rear.⁽²⁰⁾ Evidence for this extension is not clear in the current structure but should be investigated in any future excavation.

In the 1870s the flour mill, currently visible between the warehouse and the riverside, was built. The warehouse was part of their storage facility at this time. Given the shape and size of the bricks used in the floor levels found in all three trenches these may well have been constructed to make a floor for the mill, giving a potential date range of between 1870 and 1913, when the warehouse passed to the Woodhead family.

It is interesting to note the making up of the level of the threshold to the bays containing Trenches 2 and 3, possibly to combat flood waters during the 1800s. It is only after this period that we found any evidence for flood silt in our trenches.

The brick floors were showing signs of considerable wear into the 20th century. To combat this the owners concreted most bays during the 1970s, with dates scratched into the wet concrete of many floors near the entrances. The exception to this is the bay housing Trenches 1 and 3 of our excavation.

Site Potential and Future Work

Clearly the building is of considerable importance as a very rare example of a medieval warehouse and as such warrants its place as a scheduled monument and listed building. The site sits in an important position in the medieval and post-medieval town representing a point where both Abbey and secular town had access to the river. There is considerable potential for understanding the construction of the building both through above and below ground archaeology. There is still more to learn about the construction process and possibly date of construction for the main warehouse building.

The archaeological deposits are well preserved and below about one metre begin to display preservation of wood in anaerobic conditions. At this depth we appear to be looking at the construction horizon of a building built directly onto made-up ground without dug out foundations. This may represent the reclaiming of this section of the riverside in the late medieval period. Given that the groundwater begins to appear below one metre depth this might only be investigated through core sampling.

It's clear from the community involvement and interest in the warehouse experienced during our investigations that this medieval warehouse is of great interest to the people of Selby and the surrounding areas. As a historic space the building lends itself to restoration and conservation, bringing it back into use for the Selby community.

Future archaeological work still needs to address the make-up deposits beneath the foundation deposits on the outer wall. This would hopefully give us firm dating for the external shell of the building. It would also be of interest to investigate the outer part of the central bay to look for evidence for a construction around the doorways. Further investigation of the long bays, the east and west ends of the warehouse, should also be considered. The latter may provide an opportunity to confirm the putative stone medieval floor, robbed out elsewhere in the building.



Dendro Samples



Alison Arnold of Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory, taking a sample

The standing structure still requires further investigation. The flat arches and doorways appear to suggest an earlier date than the archaeological evidence so far suggests. More research into these architectural features may be beneficial and would be supported by a full building recording programme. In addition to this, the suggestion of dating the existing timbers of the building to our understanding was initially considered. However, this has been undertaken since the dig (and during the report writing process) by a team from the Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory. This was done as part of work to seal and stabilise the roof of the warehouse, undertaken in partnership with Historic England and Selby District Council and with approval of the owner, Jonathan Woodhead. A summary of the findings from this work appears in Appendix 5.

Further archaeological work on the building should only be undertaken as part of a community driven investigation that puts the Abbots Staith at the heart of the community in Selby.

Appendix 1 – Context List

Trench 1

Trench	Context No	Description	Interpretation	Phase
1	101	Light mid brown / silty sand with a little clay.	Back refill of Modern Pit after removal of heavy machinery. Including lime stone slabs.	1
1	102	Black dark grey / cinder and ash.	Ash and Cinder levelling deposit / bedding for brick floor.	2
1	103	Yellowish brown / sandy clay.	Floor make up / occupation layer	3
1	104	Red brown / sandy clay.	Make up layer consisting of industrial waste – heated sand (casting sand?).	3
1	105 (cut)	Sub circular / ovoid / steep sides / flat base.	Pit cut to contain supports heavy machinery resting on lime stone slabs.	1
1	106	Red brick and light grey mortar.	Irregularly remade brick floor covering modern pit (101 & 105)	1
1	107	Dark grey brown / sandy clay with some silt.	Possible floor deposit and levelling to make it.	3
1	108	Red brick and light grey mortar.	Well-made brick floor.	2
1	109	Light grey and brown / silty sand and clay. Frequent CBM and stone fragments.	Demolition / construction horizon	4
1	110	Dark brown / silty clay with some sand.	Levelling / make-up layer possibly for a dirt floor.	5
1	111	Light grey brown / silty sand and clay. Possibly = 109.	Back fill of sondage cut to inspect. Fill may be deposit 109 falling into open sondage.	4
1	112 (cut)	Linear / steep sides and concave bottom.	Cut to allow inspection of foundations prior to demolition / construction activity represented by 109.	4
1	113	Dark brown black / silty sand	Parts of 109 and 110 stained by diesel seepage from neighbouring bay.	5
1	114	Context Not Used		
1	115	Brown to mid brown / silty clay with a little sand.	Make up deposit, prior to construction of dividing wall between bays. No obvious construction cut. Suggesting ground was made up prior to construction of wall.	6
1	116	Greenish grey brown / silty	Green stained horizon	6

		clay.	between deposits. Possibly a floor or ground level during make up activity.	
1	117	Dark grey brown / silty sand with a little clay.	Make up deposit, prior to construction of dividing wall between bays.	6
1	118	Mid grey with dark brown speckling / silty clay with some sand.	Fill deposit that appears to have contained plant material causing the speckling. Sits beneath the dividing wall – possibly clay and brush intended to support the foundation?	6
1	119	Light yellowing grey / clay and a little sand.	Make up deposit into which the deposit containing plant material 118 was cut 120.	6
1	120 (cut)	Linear / steep but very unclear edges.	Cut for possible trench underpinning foundation with brush and clay deposit 118. Yet covered by about 25cm of make up 115 and 117.	6

Trench 2

Trench	Context No	Description	Interpretation	Phase
2	201	Dark brown / silt with a little clay	Thin soil deposit accumulated during recent use.	1
2	202	Light grey / concrete	Concrete floor.	1
2	203	Red brick and concrete	Brick and stone patch to floor 208.	2
2	204	Reddish grey / brick and rubble	Back fill of linear trench cut to allow underpinning of floor subsidence.	2
2	205 (cut)	Linear with almost vertical sides and a flat bottom.	Trench cut to underpin floor subsidence, possibly caused by vehicular access to the bay.	2
2	206	Dark red brick.	Relayed set style bricks following underpinning.	2
2	207	Dark red brick.	Recent machine-made brick used as underpinning in cut 205.	2
2	208	Dark red brick.	Brick floor using brick made to imitate stone sets.	4
2	209	Dark grey / ash and cinder.	Make up layer underlying undisturbed floor 208.	4
2	210	Light brown / silty clay.	Clay make up at threshold of bay. (Keeping out flood water? / flood deposit piled up at door?)	3

2	211	Dark grey / ash and cinder.	Cinder make up at threshold of bay. (Keeping out flood water? flood deposit piled up at door?)	4
2	212	Light brown / silty clay.	Clay make up at threshold of bay. (Keeping out flood water? flood deposit piled up at door?)	4
2	213	Dark brown / silty clay.	Make up at threshold to bay.	5
2	214	Light brown / silty sandy clay. Containing very frequent pebbles and gravel.	Gravel levelling deposit.	5
2	215	Light brown / sandy clay.	Levelling / make up deposit.	5
2	216	Light brown, grey / clay	Make up deposit at threshold of bay. (Keeping out flood water? flood deposit piled up at door?).	5
2	217	Dark grey, orange / clay and sand.	Levelling / make up deposit.	5
2	218	Dark brown grey / silty clay. Containing frequent CBM fragments.	Levelling utilising demolition material. Also piled up over bay threshold.	5
2	219	Light brown, cream / mortar, CBM fragments and Limestone fragments.	Demolition / construction material. May be back fill after removal of floor.	6
2	220	Grey with ginger flecks / clay	Clay soil deposit on top of floor / break in deposition 221	7
2	221	Light white / limestone fragments and mortar.	Thin limestone gravel possible floor or break in deposition.	7
2	222	Grey clay.	Make up beneath gravel floor / break in deposition. Also sealing more humic deposits below.	7
2	223	Dark black, grey / humic silt and clay.	Midden deposit containing twigs, possibly broken wicker.	8
2	224 (cut)	Interface rather than proper cut.	Interface between deposit 225 and two midden deposits 223 and 231. Probably representing the infilling of the gap between two middens with more midden like material.	8
2	225	Greyish brown humic clay. Wood fragments.	Deposit dumped between three middens 223 and 231 and a stonier midden 228. Creating a levelled surface.	8
2	226	Dark greyish brown / humic clay and silt. Wood fragments.	Deposit dumped between two middens 223 and 231. Creating a levelled surface.	8
2	227	Interface rather than a	Interface between deposit	8

		proper cut.	226 and two midden deposits 223 and 231. Probably representing the infilling of the gap between two middens with more midden like material.	
2	228	Brown with light speckling /silty clay.	Stony midden deposit. Possibly part of 231 or cut into 231.	8
2	229	Light brown / silty clay.	Make up deposit encountered at the lowest point in the trench.	8
2	230 (cut)	Pit Cut irregular oval.	Cut containing stony deposit 228, cut into midden 231.	8
2	231	Dark brown / silty clay.	Midden deposit containing twigs, possibly broken wicker.	8

Trench 3

Trench	Context No	Description	Interpretation	Phase
3	301	Orange, brown and grey / brick	Brick floor well set together. Handmade brick.	2
3	302	Grey / concrete	Concrete threshold.	1
3	303	Dark grey / ash, cinder and broken brick	Make up and setting for brick floor 301.	2
3	304	Reddish brown / silty sand / grit with some clay	Levelling / make up dumped onto a dirt floor. Probably industrial waste brought into site. May = 104 in trench 1.	3
3	305	Dark brown / silty clay with some sand.	Levelling / make up. Running over threshold at door. Possible make up to avoid flood water.	3
3	306	Light grey / mortar and limestone fragments.	Demolition / construction activity.	4
3	307	Light grey with light brown inclusions / clay	Levelling / make up to a floor level	5
3	308	Light grey / mortar and limestone	Mortar spread around door area.	6
3	309	Grey clay.	Levelling / make up to construction level?	7
3	310	Dark grey, brown / sandy clay	Shallow pit containing architectural fragment. Possibly beneath a since removed flag floor.	5
3	311	Pit cut, shallow	Shallow pit cut to bury architectural fragment!	5
3	312	Light brown / silty clay.	Clay threshold, making up height at threshold.	2

Appendix 2 – Pottery Analysis

Introduction

This section does not constitute a comprehensive guide to the pottery found on site, having been compiled by one of the authors from notes made during an extremely interesting and useful day spent with pottery expert Anne Jenner and her expert team of volunteers at York Archaeological Trust. These notes cover the basics of the pottery found on site during the dig, a more thorough investigation will be made at a later date. Anne Jenner and her team have however studied the pottery from site in detail and this section covers the highlights from that study.

There are 135 sherds of mainly domestic pottery that were retrieved from 23 contexts across three trenches in two separate bays of the warehouse. They range in date from late 14th century to 18th century, though the bulk of the material is 16th century in date.

There is a small amount of residuality/intrusion. This may be due to the importation of material used to build up the site from elsewhere. No contexts show a high level of intrusion. Low levels of abrasion can be seen on pottery from contexts [102] and [117] only. No specific use patterns were determined at this time.

The pottery from this site is of particular value for research into the area because it has remained relatively undisturbed for many centuries. Where there has been some limited disturbance (Trench 1) this is clearly noticeable.

Discussion

Trench 1

Trench 1 provided 54 sherds from 7 contexts. These include, but are not limited to, the following;

1 x Post-medieval earthenware bowl rim, possibly flanged. Coarse and abraded. Undated. [102]

1 x Post-medieval earthenware bowl body, moderately gritted. Brown glaze. Undated. [102]

1 x Cistercian ware mug/jug handle. 16th century. [110]

1 x German stoneware mug handle. 1480-1550, or 17th century. [110]

1 x Frechen border ware jar(?) base. Hard fired. Buff fabric, lightly reduced external margin. Green glaze. 16th/17th century. [110]

1 x Humber ware cistern/jar(?) body. Handle terminus(?). 14th/15th century. [115]

- 1 x Cistercian ware body (small). 16th century. [115]
- 1 x Humber ware jar(?) body. Abraded. 14th/15th century. [117]
- 1 x Medieval greyware body. Coarse. From Norwich. Undated. [117]
- 1 x Greyware jar(?) body/base. Hard fired. Oxidised. Undated. [117]

These constitute the highlights of the Trench 1 pottery. This trench is the only one that produced pottery fragments from below foundation level, giving a potential date for the building of the internal wall between this bay and its easterly neighbour as possibly 15th century.

Trench 2

Trench 2 provided 63 sherds from 13 contexts. These include, but are not limited to, the following;

- 1 x Cistercian ware mug/jug handle. 16th century. Intrusive. [200]
- 1 x Humber ware bowl rim. Flanged. 16th/17th century. [204]
- 1 x Humber ware body. 14th/15th century. [216]
- 1 x Industrial slipware body (small). Late 17th/early 18th century. [216]
- 1 x Post-medieval Earthenware base. Green glazed with brown flecks. Moderate/fine gritted. Up to 18th century. [216]
- 1 x Ryedale ware body. Undated. [216]
- 1 x Post-medieval Earthenware body. Moderately gritted. Oxidised. [216]
- 1 x Cistercian ware handle. 16th century. [218]
- 1 x Brandsby ware body. Green glazed. Residual. Undated. [218]
- 1 x Yellow glazed ware(?) body. 16th/17th century. [222]
- 1 x Late Humber open ware body. Internal glaze. Undated. [222]
- 1 x German stoneware body. Light brown glazed. 1480-1550. [222]
- 1 x South Yorkshire Coal Measure ware body. Coarse outer glaze. White internal glaze. Late 14th century. [222]
- 1 x Late Humber ware body. Internal green glaze. Undated. [222]
- 1 x Purple glazed ware handle. Coarse. Late 14th/early 15th century. [222]

1 x 'Pie Crust' purple glazed rim. Late 14th/early 15th century. [226]

2 x Dutch import 'orange peel' ware body. Orange glaze. Late 14th/16th century. [229]

These constitute the highlights of the Trench 2 pottery. This trench got close to the foundation, with probing from the bottom of the trench discovering a 'void' beneath what is believed to be the lowest block at the threshold end. Pottery from lowest contexts [226] and [229] potentially date this level to late 14th century.

Trench 3

Trench 3 provided 18 sherds from 3 contexts. There was not much time during the pottery identification day to examine the pottery from this trench in detail, so it was decided in the time remaining to limit identification to the context that contained the stonework finial. These are the sherds examined;

1 x Cistecian ware body. 16th century. [307]

1 x Humber ware body. 16th century. [307]

1 x South Yorkshire ware body. Green glazed. 16th century. [307]

1 x Purple glazed ware. 16th century. [307]

These four pieces give a definitive date of 16th century for context [307], which contained the stonework finial, giving this also a definitive date of 16th century.

Recommendations for Further Work

When time allows it is recommended that the remaining 108 sherds are looked at in detail and given exact provenance and better dating. This is also recommended for the sherds listed as undated.

The table below gives a brief overview of what pottery was discovered, what has been analysed and what awaits further investigation.

Pottery Table

Below is a comprehensive list of the pottery found during this initial investigation phase of work at the Abbots Staith warehouse. While the dating remains incomplete, all samples have been examined and the main ones of interest are given further details.

Context	Finds Type	Notes	No. of Items
102	Pottery	1 x Post-Med Earthenware Bowl Rim 1 x Post-Med Earthenware Bowl Body	2
103	Pottery	2 x Unidentified	2
107	Pottery	1 x Unidentified	1
110	Pottery	1 x Cistercian ware mug/jug handle 16 th C. 1 x German stoneware mug handle. 1480-1550, or 17 th C. 1 x Frechen border ware jar(?) base. 16 th /17 th C. 13 x Unidentified	16
113	Pottery	3 x Unidentified	3
115	Pottery	1 x Humber ware cistern/jar(?) body. 14 th /15 th C. 1 x Cistercian ware body (small). 16 th C. 24 x Unidentified	26
117	Pottery	1 x Humber ware jar(?) body. Abraded. 14 th /15 th C. 1 x Medieval greyware body. Undated. 2 x Unidentified	4
200	Pottery	1 x Cistercian ware mug/jug handle. 16 th C.	1
204	Pottery	1 x Humber ware bowl rim. 16 th /17 th C.	1
209	Pottery	1 x Unidentified	1
216	Pottery	1 x Humber ware body. 14 th /15 th C. 1 x Industrial slipware body. Late 17 th /early 18 th C. 1 x Post-medieval Earthenware base. Up to 18 th C. 1 x Ryedale ware body. Undated. 3 x Unidentified	7
217	Pottery	5 x Unidentified	5
218	Pottery	1 x Cistercian ware handle. 16 th C. 1 x Unidentified	2
221	Pottery	1 x Unidentified	1
222	Pottery	1 x Yellow glazed ware(?) body. 16 th /17 th C. 1 x Late Humber open ware body. Undated. 1 x German stoneware body. 1480-1550. 1 x South Yorkshire Coal Measure ware body. Late 14 th C. 6 x Unidentified	10
223	Pottery	13 x Unidentified	13
225	Pottery	10 x Unidentified	10
226	Pottery	1 x 'Pie Crust' purple glazed rim. Late 14 th /early 15 th C.	1

228	Pottery	2 x Unidentified	2
229	Pottery	2 x Dutch import 'orange peel' ware body. Late 14 th /16 th C. 2 x Unidentified	4
231	Pottery	5 x Unidentified	5
304	Pottery	6 x Unidentified	6
305	Pottery	8 x Unidentified	8
307	Pottery	1 x Cistercian ware body. 16 th C. 1 x Humber ware body. 16 th C. 1 x South Yorkshire ware body. 16 th C. 1 x Purple glazed ware. 16 th C.	4



Anne Jenner, Peter Coates (Staith Researcher), Jan Mitchell, Mark Simpson and Mark Lovett. Two Y.A. T. Restored Pots in Foreground

Appendix 3 – Non-Pottery Finds

Context	Find Type	Notes	No. of Items
101	Various Modern Rubbish	Hand Pump; Face Mask; Car Colour Chart; Rags; Ties; Plate Glass; 'William Hill' Pen; Plastic Coffee Lid.	
104	C.B.M.	1 Tile Fragment	1
104	Clay Pipe	1 Stem Fragment	1
104	Coal	1 Fragment of Coal	1
104	Wood	1 Large Wood Fragment	1
104	Cobbles	Cobbles of various size and shape	29 Small; 8 Medium; 5 Large
107	Shell	1 Piece of Oyster Shell	1
107	C.B.M.	33 Fragments including 3 of Brick	33 (3 brick)
107	Coal	1 Coal Fragment	1
107	Stone	Worked Stone Pinnacle Crown	1
109	C.B.M.	Fragments of Roof Tile	4 (Roof Tile)
110	C.B.M.	Small Tile Fragments	77
110	Metalwork	2 Pieces of Iron Slag	2
110	Coal	1 Coal Fragment	1
110	Flint	1 Unworked Flint (Broken)	1
110	Shell	6 Pieces of Oyster Shell	6
113	Soil	Soil Sample	1
113	C.B.M.	7 Tile Fragments	7
113	Metalwork	1 Piece of Slag	1
115	C.B.M.	Mostly small tile fragments	43 (3 brick)
115	C.B.M.	Further Tile Fragments	44 (2 brick)
115	Shale	2 Pieces of Burnt Shale	2
115	Shell	8 Pieces of Oyster Shell	8
115	Metalwork	8 Pieces of Slag; 1 Iron Object	9
117	Shell	3 Pieces of Oyster Shell	3
117	Stone	Possible Worked Stone Fragment	1
117	C.B.M.	Mostly Flat Tile	40 Tile; 4 Brick
118	Soil	Sample of Soil	1
118	Wood	1 Wood Fragment (in sealed tin)	1

200	Glass	3 Pieces of Bottle Glass	3
200	Flint	1 Flint Nodule	1
200	Metalwork	1 Iron Nail	1
200	C.B.M.	5 Fragments Unstratified Tile	5
200	Wood	1 Wood Fragment	1
204	Bone	2 Pieces of Bone	2
204	Shell	1 Small Snail	1
204	Glass	13 Brown Bottle Glass; 4 Flat Window Glass (Thin); 15 Clear Bottle Glass; 1 Clear Hexagonal Bottle Glass.	33
204	Metalwork	1 Piece of Iron Gutter; 1 Piece of Iron Pipe with Screw Fittings; 2 Right Angle Iron Pieces; 1 Twisted Iron Object (Possible Handle); 4 Iron Nails	9
204	C.B.M.	1 Fragment of CBM and 1 Piece of Mortar	2
209	Bone	1 Large Pelvis; 1 Rodent Jaw; 6 Pieces of Bone	8
209	Glass	12 Brown/Green Bottle Glass; 10 Pieces of Plate Glass (Thin); 5 Pieces of Clear Bottle Glass; 12 Pieces of Hexagonal Bottle with Divisions (Clear)	39
209	Metalwork	1 Iron Spike; 4 Iron Nails; 1 Iron Wire/Cable	6
211	Metalwork	12 Pieces of Slag; 3 Pieces of Kiln Lining; 10 Iron Nails; 11 Iron Objects	36
212	Glass	2 Pieces Green Bottle Glass; 1 Hexagonal	3
212	Flint	2 Unworked Flints	2
212	C.B.M.	1 Fragment of Brick, 1 Fragment of Tile	2
212	Bone	3 Pieces of Bone	3
214	Shell	1 Piece of Oyster shell	1
214	Tile	Pan Tile Fragments	5
214	Glass	2 Pieces of Bottle Glass; 1 Piece of Plate Glass	3
214	Clay Pipe	1 Stem Fragment	1
214	Metalwork	5 Pieces of Slag; 1 Iron Object	6
214	Flint	5 Pieces of Unworked Flint	5
216	C.B.M.	Tile Fragment	1
216	Metalwork	2 Iron Objects; 1 Iron Sheet	3

216	Clay Pipe	3 Stem Fragments	3
216	Coal	1 Coal Fragment	1
216	Bone	1 Arthritic Cow/Sheep Toe	1
216	Shell	1 Piece of Oyster Shell	1
217	Bone	22 Pieces of Bone	22
217	Shell	2 Pieces of Oyster Shell	2
218	Stone	Possible floor fragment	1
218	C.B.M.	Large Tile Fragments	34
218	Bone	13 Pieces of Bone	13
220	Shell	2 Pieces of Oyster Shell	2
220	C.B.M.	Small Tile Fragments	18
220	Metalwork	18 Pieces of Slag; 2 Iron Objects (Nails?) Corroded	20
220	Glass	1 Piece of Plate Glass (Thin); 1 Syringe Plunger Fragment	2
220	Bone	7 Pieces of Bone	7
221	C.B.M.	Small Tile Fragments	5
221	Bone	2 Pieces of Bone	2
221	Metalwork	1 Iron Object	1
222	Metalwork	3 Pieces of Slag	3
222	Flint	1 Unworked Flint	1
222	C.B.M.	8 Fragments of Tile	8
222	Wood	1 Large Wood Fragment	1
222	Bone	5 Pieces of Bone	5
222	Shell	6 Pieces of Oyster Shell	6
223	C.B.M.	No surfaces on brick	7 (1 brick)
223	Metalwork	3 Pieces of Slag	3
223	Shell	2 Pieces of Oyster Shell; 3 Mussel	5
223	Flint	2 Unworked Flints	2
223	Bone	2 Sheep Feet; 7 Pieces of Bone	9
223	Stone	1 Worked, Curved Fragment with Sooty Deposit	1
223	Wood	6 Twigs; 9 Shavings; 9 Fragments	24
223	Wood	Various Wood Fragments	3 Bags
225	C.B.M.	Possible Roof Tiles	3
225	Bone	1 Tooth; 9 Pieces of Bone	10
225	Coprolite	1 Hard Coprolite	1
225	Soil Sample	Sample of Soil	1

225	Coal	2 Coal Fragments	2
225	Wood	Various Twigs, Chips and Shavings	?
225	C.B.M.	Small Brick and Tile Fragments	24 Tile; 2 Brick
225	Metalwork	1 Iron Bolt; 1 Iron Object; 1 Piece of Kiln Lining; 3 Pieces of Slag	6
225	Shell	4 Pieces of Oyster; 5 Fragments of Mussel	9
225	Flint	1 Large Nodule; 1 Unworked Fragment	2
226	Flint	1 Water Abraded (Possible Worked?)	1
226	Bone	2 Pieces of Bone	1
226	C.B.M.	1 Fragment of Tile	1
226	Wood	1 Large Wood Fragment	1
226	Shell	1 Mussel	1
226	Wood	2 Small Wood Fragments	1
228	C.B.M.	Possible Roof Tiles	7
228	Shell	2 Pieces of Oyster Shell	2
228	Bone	3 Pieces of Bone	3
228	Wood	1 Fragment	1
229	C.B.M.	Small Tile Fragments	8
229	Metalwork	2 Pieces of Slag	2
229	Bone	6 Pieces of Bone	6
229	Shell	3 Fragments of Mussel	3
231	Flint	1 Unworked Flint	1
231	Shell	1 Fragment of Mussel	1
231	Wood	3 Wood Shavings	3
231	Bone	3 Pieces of Bone	3
231	C.B.M.	4 Fragments of Tile	4
303	C.B.M.	7 Fragments of Pan Tile	7
303	Cobbles	Cobbles	3
303	Metalwork	1 Iron Nail; 1 Heavily Corroded Lump	2
304	Glass	1 Piece of Bottle Glass	1
304	Metalwork	2 Pieces of Iron Sheet; 1 Iron Nail	3
304	Clay Pipe	2 Stem fragments	2
304	Flint	1 Unworked Flint	1
304	C.B.M.	9 Fragments of Tile (1 with Peg Hole), 1 Fragment of Brick	10
304	Wood	1 Fragment	1

304	Shell	2 Pieces of Oyster Shell	2
305	Stone	Large piece of stone block	1
305	C.B.M.	Brick Fragments. 2 of dimensions Width 12.5cm, Depth 5.5cm. 3 of dimensions 12cm by 5 cm. 1 12.5cm by 4cm	9 Brick; 65 Tile, 7 with peg holes, 1 overfired)
305	Shell	6 Pieces of Oyster Shell; 2 Cockles; Land Snail	9
307	Soil/Clay	Sample of Soil/Clay	1
307	Flint	1 Unworked Flint	1
307	Metalwork	3 Pieces of Slag	3
307	C.B.M.	17 Fragments of Tile, 1 with Peg Hole, 1 with Brown Glaze, 4 Fragments of Brick	21
307	Shell	1 Piece of Oyster	1
308	Shale	1 Fragment of Burnt Shale	1
308	C.B.M.	3 Small Fragments of Tile	3
309	C.B.M.	3 Small Fragments of Tile Plus 1 Fragment of Abraded Tile with Yellow Glaze	4

Appendix 4 – Finds Photos

A selection of photos of finds from the dig. Mostly diagnostic pottery but also some of the interesting non-pottery finds as well. A more comprehensive selection is presented on a disc inside the rear cover of this report.



Humber Ware Jar Fragment - 14th/15th Century



Humber Ware Jar Fragment (Abraded) - 14th/15th Century



German Stoneware – 1480-1550



'Pie Crust' Pottery Rim – Late 14th/Early 15th Century



South Yorkshire Ware - 16th Century (One of four pieces used to define date for finial)



Purple Glazed Ware - 16th Century (One of four pieces used to define date for finial)



Decorative Finial. Likely a mason's reject that should have gone to the Abbey - 16th Century



Glazed Floor Tile



Pinnacle Crown



Roof Tile with Peg Hole



Abraded (Possibly Worked) Flint

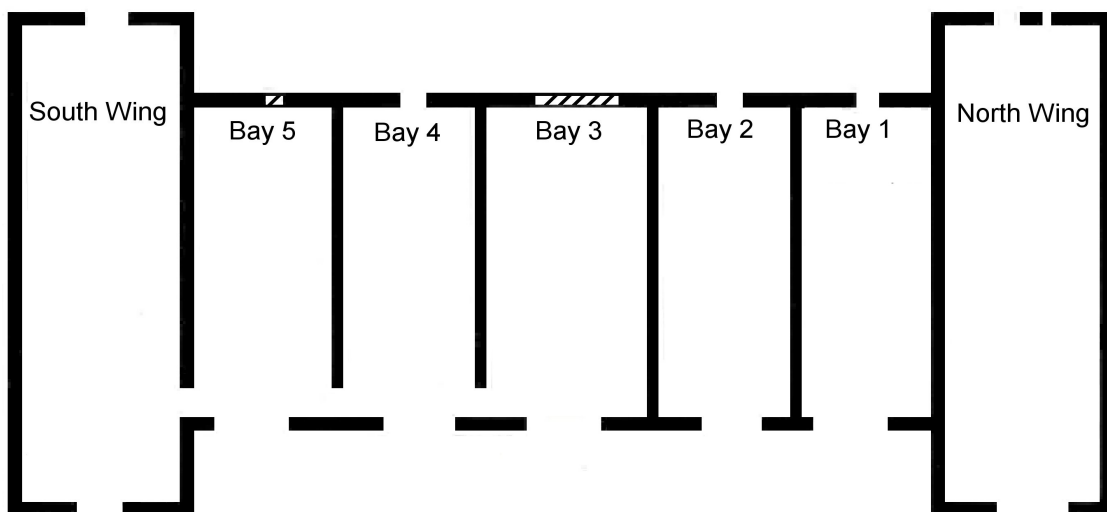
Appendix 5 – Dendro Summary

On July 5th and 17th, the warehouse was visited by Alison Arnold and Robert Howard from the Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory. They took a number of samples of oak and pine from the ground floor of the warehouse (exposed floor timbers from the first floor). 20th Century work which removed the pitched roof of the warehouse and replaced it with a flat, concrete roof means we have no existing roof timbers for the building. This is a summary of their work, compiled by the authors from the interim report produced by Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory.

A total of 20 samples were taken from the five bays and two wings of the warehouse. 18 were from oak timbers and two were from pine. One sample was rejected prior to measuring as not having enough rings, making a final total of 19 samples measured.⁽³⁶⁾

The lintel of the outer rear door of the south wing (see plan below) has been dated to 1545, from a tree that started growing in 1416. Further samples from this wing and Bay 5 indicate felling dates for a group of eight timbers within a date range of 1569 to 1582.⁽³⁶⁾ This seems to indicate that these floors was replaced in the 1580s, some 40 years after the warehouse passed from monastic to secular control.

A further group of two dated timbers in Bay 2 show felling dates of 1668 and 1682 respectively, which seems to indicate that a period of repair or replacement of the floor in this bay took place around 100 years after the work done in the South Wing and Bay 5.⁽³⁶⁾



Plan

Plan Showing Locations of Samples Taken for Dendro Analysis

While dates were not obtained for the other eight samples, some conclusions were drawn from these. The lintels over the roughly cut doorways between Bays 3 & 4, Bays 4 & 5, and Bay 5 and the South Wing, while not giving a date, can at least be shown as being felled at the same time, meaning the openings in this rough passageway were contemporary, rather than doorways being knocked through at different times. Also the two large oak beams in Bay 3, whilst not giving a date, can be shown to be contemporary with each other.⁽³⁶⁾

Put together with the pottery analysis, these results seem to indicate a building from the 15th Century with phases of later work carried out throughout its lifetime.

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- (4) Calendar of Patent Rolls Edward III Volume 5 page 212 (April 2nd 1341)
- (5) From a typed copy of the Selby Abbey Lease Book ("The Register of the time of Geoffrey De Gaddesby Abbot of Selby 1342 - 1368 G. S. Haslop) Folio 70 no. 227. Held in Selby Library.
- (6) The Calendar of Patent Rolls Edward III, Volume 8 page 16 (July 8th 1348)
- (7) Jeffery D Hass MEDIEVAL SELBY a new study of the Abbey and Town 1069-1408 page 83. (ref: Brynmoor Jones, Hull - DDLO/21/3, 8, 12).
- (8) John H. Tillotson Monastery and Society in the Late Ages: Selected Account Rolls from Selby Abbey, Yorkshire, 1398-1537, Woodbridge 1988, pages 131 & 148 "The Granger's account of 1404-1405".
- (9) W. W. Morrell. History & Antiquities of Selby. Part One. published 1867. pages 97 & 98.
- (10) Patricia Scott "The History of SELBY North Yorkshire" pages 43/ 4 & 49
- (11) John H. Tillotson Monastery and Society pages 110 & 111 "The Pittancer and Chamberlains account of 1441-42.
- (12) W. W. Morrell. History & Antiquities of Selby. published 1867. pages 121, 124 & 127 See also Letters Patent Roll 32 Henry VIII, Part 3, No. 32 details in "The Coucher Book of Selby" edited by J. T. Fowler vol 2 pages 354 to 359.
- (13) Augmentation Office. Miscellaneous Books. No. 402, folio 49 (Mon. Angl. III, No. xxv, p.505) detailed in "The Coucher Book of Selby" edited by J. T. Fowler vol 2 page 351.
- (14) John Rushton - Early Tudor Yorkshire (The Blackthorn Press History of Yorkshire Volume 5) - page 89. (Leland's Collectanea).
- (15) W. W. Morrell History & Antiquities of Selby.
- (16) SELBY rentals for 1725 with the arrears returned 24th June 1725 ending with the Year 1724 ref No. U DDL 02-8-40 item from the Papers of the Estates of the Earls of Londesborough (Incorporating the Estate Papers of the Earls of Burlington and the Papers of Selby Abbey) held at the Hull History Centre.
- (17) The Travels Through England of DR. RICHARD POCOCKE edited by James Joel Cartwright. Volume 1 page 173. Printed for the Camden Society 1888.
- (18) James Mountain The HISTORY of SELBY ANCIENT and MODERN. Page 161 and list of Principal Inhabitants of Selby. Printed 1800 Edward Peck, lower-Ousegate.
- (19) George Lowther His Recollections with some Notes on The History of Selby. Two lectures delivered at the Mechanics' Institute, Selby 12th April 1854 and 15th February 1856
- (20) Originals held at North Yorkshire Archives, Northallerton
- (21) A Survey Revised and Corrected under the directions of the Commissioners for the Inclosure there by William Harper in 1802. Held at the Borthwick Institute, York University.
- (22) Memorial of Indenture of Lease and Release. May 1836, Volume No. ML, Page No.28, Deed No.25. held at the West Yorkshire Archives, Wakefield.
- (23) Memorial of Indenture of Lease and Release. May 1836, Volume No. ML, Page

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- (24) Memorial of Indenture of Conveyance April 1846, Volume No. PI, Page No.466, Deed No.450. held at the West Yorkshire Archives, Wakefield.
 - (25) Memorial of Indenture. August 1869, Volume No. 630, Page No.293, Deed No 365. held at the West Yorkshire Archives, Wakefield.
 - (26) Memorial of Indenture. April 1886, Volume No. 10, Page No.210, Deed No 121. held at the West Yorkshire Archives, Wakefield.
 - (27) Selby Times January 1886 micro fiche held at Selby Library.
 - (28) Various deeds volume No. 11, Page Nos.27, 30 & 35. Deed Nos. 14, 15 & 16. held at the West Yorkshire Archives, Wakefield.
 - (29) The London Gazette, December 23rd 1887 page 7202.
 - (30) Memorial of Conveyance. June 1890, Volume No. 20, Page No.298, Deed No 148. held at the West Yorkshire Archives, Wakefield.
 - (31) Memorial of Conveyance. January 1898, Volume No.40, Page No.257, Deed No 124. held at the West Yorkshire Archives, Wakefield.
 - (32) Copy of Lease dated 28th June 1902. In present owner's possession.
 - (33) Memorial of Conveyance. November 1913, Volume No. 47, Page No.266, Deed No 85. held at the West Yorkshire Archives, Wakefield.
 - (34) English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register, Entry 49186.
<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/list-entry/49186>
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 - (36) Alison Arnold, Robert Howard and Cathy Tyers. 'Abbots Staith Buildings, Water Lane, Selby, North Yorkshire: Interim Statement of the Dendrochronological Analysis of Oak and Pine Timbers'. 2018. Historic England.