

Report PA07/25649T



nps archaeology

An Archaeological Evaluation at Greyfriars House, Birch Tree Close, Kings Lynn, Norfolk

ENF127223

Prepared for:

NPS Property Consultants Limited,
Lancaster House,
16 Central Avenue,
St Andrews Business Park
Norwich,
NR7 0HR



David Adams MIfA

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www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	David Whitmore	
Draft Completed	David Adams	19/09/2011
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	21/09/2011
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	21/09/2011
Signed Off	David Whitmore	27/09/2011
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NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

<http://NPS.nps.co.uk/>

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Location:	Greyfriars House, Birch Tree Close, King's Lynn
District:	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
Planning ref.:	11/00922/O
Grid Ref:	TF 2304 9646
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for NPS Property Consultants Limited ahead of the disposal of the Greyfriars House premises in King's Lynn. The site is located within the historic core of the town. A total of three evaluation trenches, each measuring 4m by 4m in plan, were arrayed across the site. Due to the depths of deposits at the site each trench required shoring.

The evaluation revealed the earliest deposits at the site were of natural origin, consisting of alluvial silts and clays over 2m in depth. These were shown to be present across the site and had been deposited by the River Gaywood which runs close to the north of the site. It is possible that the deposition of these sediments resulted from environmental changes and human impact in the environs of the town and its wider setting.

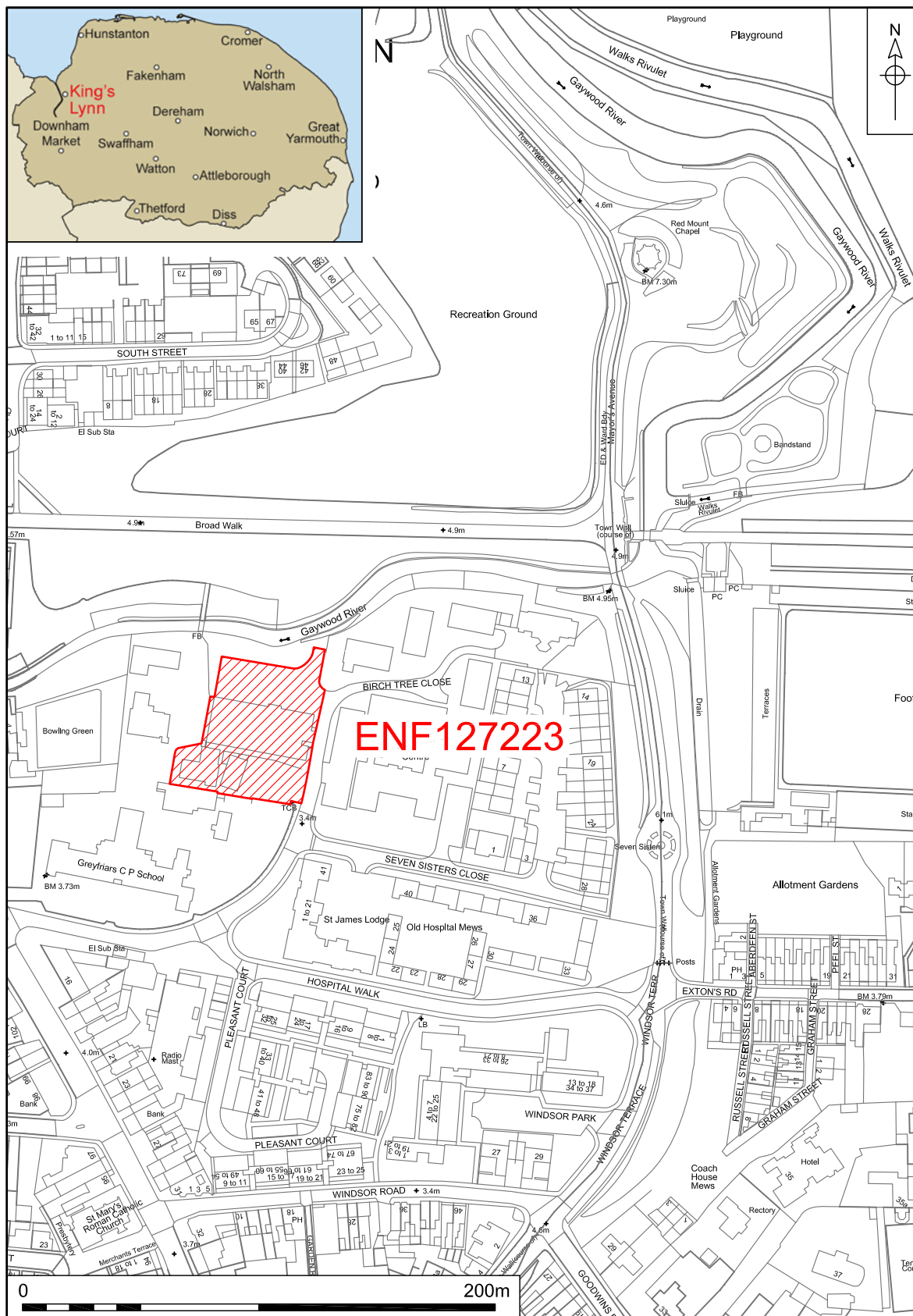
The earliest datable human activity at the site was present in Trench 1 where a pit containing a small assemblage of tile and pottery of 13th- to 14th-century date was present. No other significant archaeological remains were revealed by the evaluation suggesting human activity at the site was limited in extent, density and period.

Though activity at the site was limited, the naturally-derived sediments at the site provided an informative record of past environmental conditions. The waterlogged nature of the site meant that anaerobic conditions conducive to preservation of organic remains were identified. There was no visible indication of contamination in the evaluated areas and little indication of later disturbance by modern activity.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A proposal to develop the site of Greyfriars House, Birch Tree Close, King's Lynn (Fig. 1) required a programme of archaeological evaluation to assess the potential effects of the proposals on the archaeological resource in accordance with the principles set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (2010).

The relevant Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) document detailing the requirements for the archaeological works is the Updated Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching (TBD). The Brief stipulates Evaluation by Trial Trenching utilising a combination of mechanical and manual excavation techniques to allow an informed decision to be made regarding further mitigation that may be required once the results of the archaeological evaluation are known.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. PA07/25649T/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by NPS Property Consultants Limited.

The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

King's Lynn lies upon solid chalk geology of the Upper Jurassic, close to the western edge of the Lower Cretaceous series. Sediments of Ampthill and Kimmeridge clay (British Geological Survey 1985) overlie solid geology as part of a complex sequence of geological deposits up to about 10m in depth. These consist of marine clays, sands and peats which underlie the whole of the surrounding area. The modern town of King's Lynn is built upon former marshland which has been reclaimed from saltmarsh within historic times.

The earliest reclamation probably dates from the mid to late Saxon period. These reclaimed saltmarsh deposits consist of soft reddish-brown clays generally 1-2m thick with silt laminae. Within them lies a complex network of silt filled channels, the remains of former tidal creeks which may be the precursors of some of the minor fleets within the town. Peat occurs as a continuous layer, generally less than 1m in depth beneath the reclaimed saltmarsh deposits. It is soft, composed largely of reed and beneath the King's Lynn area is usually woody (Trimble 2004).

A minor river, the River Gaywood formed the northern boundary of the site, running approximately east-west before exiting to the Wash as the Mill Fleet. The other boundaries of the site were formed by a road to the east and a school property to the south and west. Much of the site is currently car park that surrounds a substantial building of early 20th-century construction. The site is broadly level with a surface elevation of c.3.40-3.80m OD.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development is located within the defined area of the medieval town of King's Lynn and close to the line of the Gaywood River. Previously very little archaeological work has been undertaken in this part of King's Lynn although medieval salt-making mounds are known to have existed close to the site (Ken Hamilton *pers comm*).

Located close to the Wash with a number of small inlets that allowed sea water harvesting, King's Lynn has been a site of salt-making from probably prehistoric times until the 15th century. The resulting debris from this activity on an industrial scale was used to reclaim and consolidate the marshland and river margins on which medieval settlement took place within the town (Owen 1984). Some salterns (piles of salt-making debris) were sufficiently large to form topographic features within the later town; the church of St Margaret possibly being built on top of such material. The positions of small watercourses such as the Mill fleet

and Purfleet also provided *loci* and boundaries of settlement, with the northern limit of the early medieval town formed by the Purfleet (Hankinson 2005, 81).

King's Lynn was originally named Bishop's Lynn after the planned foundation of the town by two Bishops of Norwich in around 1100. The church of St Margaret (NHER 1026) was founded by De Losinga in about 1095, at which time an adjacent market, the Saturday Market was founded, though this might have been the formalisation of a pre-existing market (Ayers 2005). The foundation of two chapels of ease in about 1150 to the north of the Purfleet, now known as Newland, encouraged expansion and settlement within this area, with a new market, the Tuesday Market, also established at this time. A rearrangement of the port in the mid 13th century greatly enhanced the importance of King's Lynn, which now ranked on a par with London and Boston (Hankinson 2005). A town wall was constructed from the late 13th century and the port continued to thrive during the post-medieval period. The defences of the town were remodelled during the Civil war in the 17th century.

Reference to the 1905 Ordnance Survey map shows the proposed development plot to be an open area without Greyfriars House or any other standing structures, with the nearest building being referred to as an Infectious Ward to the north-east, a building that has subsequently been demolished.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the area of proposed development.

Three trenches measuring 4m by 4m (Fig. 2) were excavated by hydraulic 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Due to the depth of deposits encountered on the site each evaluation trench was shored below a depth of 1.20m with sheet shoring and hydraulic waling beams to provide safe working access.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

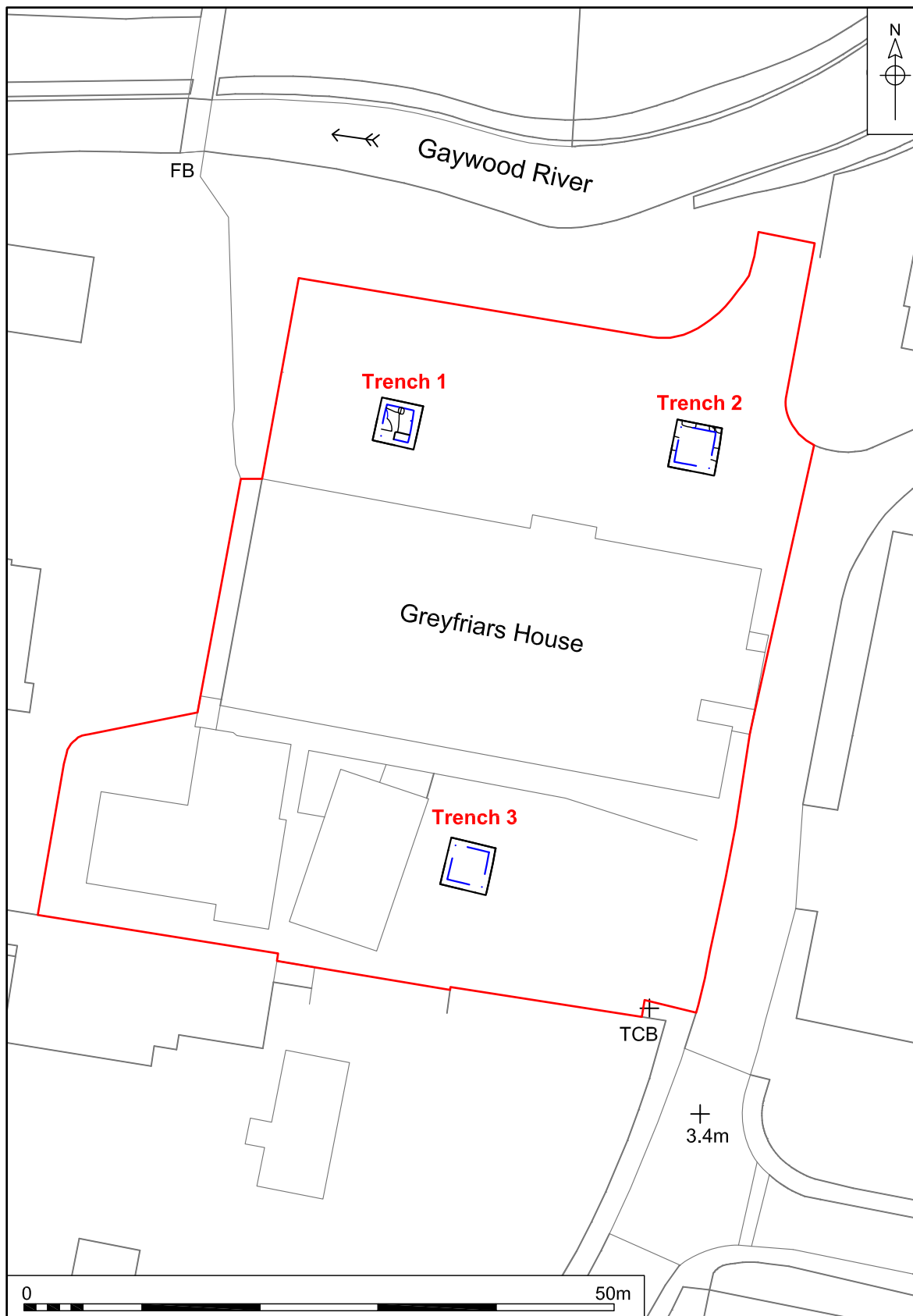
A single environmental sample (Sample <1>) was taken.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

The temporary benchmarks used during the course of this work were established by differential GPS.

A hand auger was used in Trenches 1 and 3 to examine deposits present below the excavation level; in the case of Trench 2 this was not possible due to the depth of standing water within the base of the trench. Deposits revealed only by auger are described in this report but not assigned a deposit number.

Site conditions were good with the work taking place in generally fine weather.



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

5.0 RESULTS



Plate 1. General view of evaluation Trenches 1 and 2 with Greyfriars House, looking south-east

Trench 1

Figures 2 and 3, Plates 2 and 3

Current ground level:	3.94m OD
Base of excavation:	1.85m OD
Ground water present at:	1.85m OD
Augered to a depth of:	1.06m OD

Located in the north-west of the site

The deepest deposits recorded in Trench 1 were observed from hand augering. At a depth of 1.06m OD a pale brown clay of at least 0.30m in depth was present. Over this was a waterlogged grey silt 0.35m in depth also recovered from hand augering. Above this was a fine sand brown in colour and 0.53m in depth. This lay below an homogenous mid brown silt [21] that was the earliest deposit examined in detail. It contained sparse charcoal flecks and possibly small burnt clay flecks at its upper level. Cutting this deposit were two features, possible post-hole [1] and pit [3]).

What appeared to be a post-hole [1] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.46m and depth of 0.42m. Its fill [2] was homogeneous grey brown silt clay. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

Large pit [3] was present in the west of the evaluation trench. Extending beyond the limits of the trench, it was amorphous in plan with a length of 3.70m and depth of 1.0m. The upper level of this feature in both section and plan was only vaguely defined, though the cut of the base was considerably clearer, indicating the pit was probably circular in plan with a concave base. While the sides of this pit at its

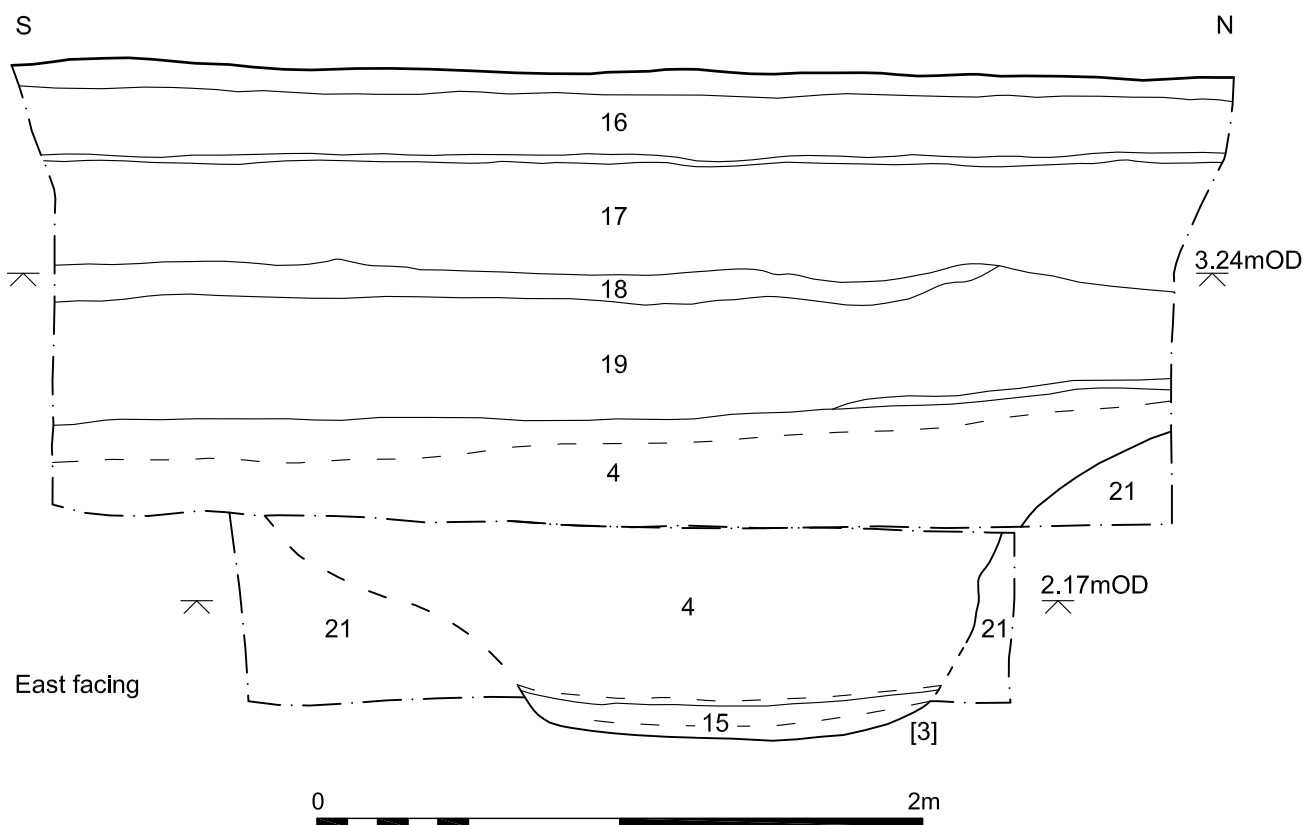
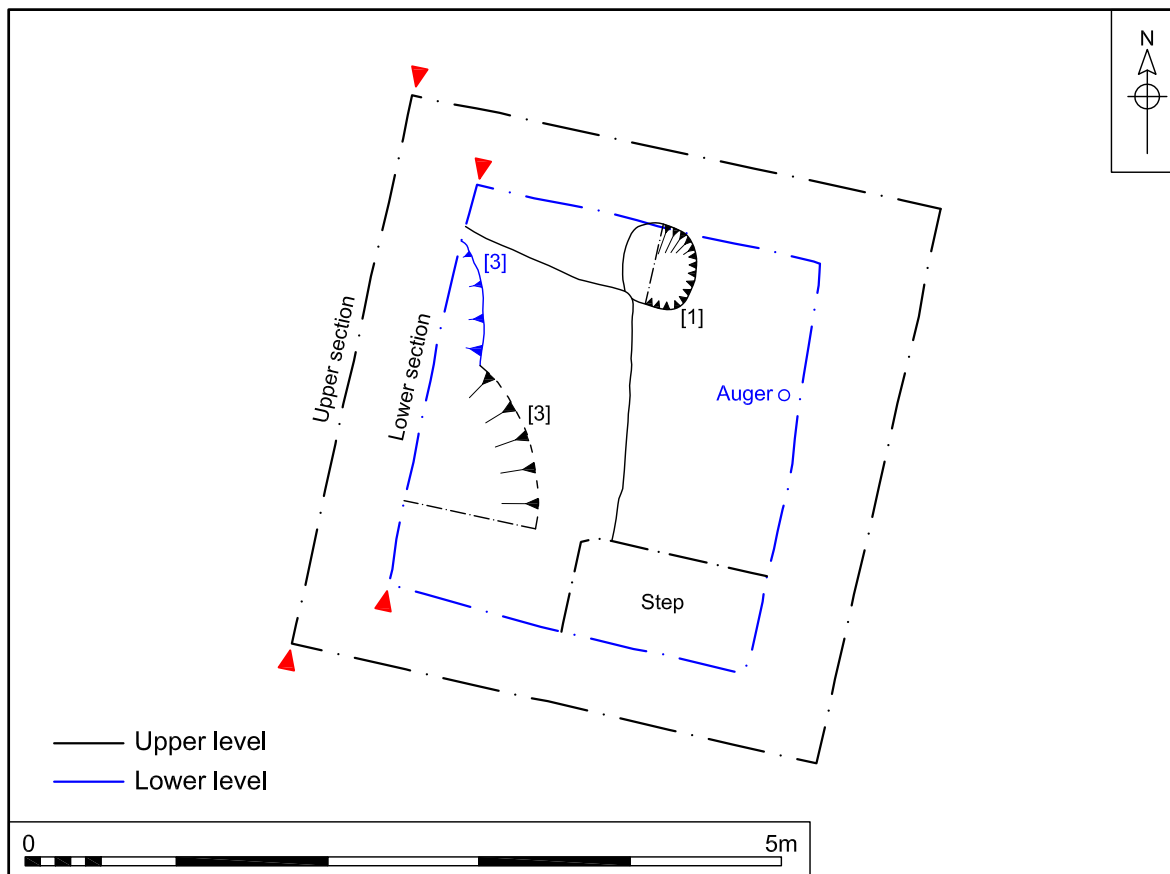


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan of excavated features and upper and lower sections. Scale 1:50 and 1:25

lowest level were relatively steep in form, it appeared to have much more gradually sloping sides higher up. The upper fill [4] of this pit was dark brown silt with occasional organic flecks. In the upper part of this deposit small brick or tile flecks were also present. The upper part of this deposit also contained frequent small twigs and what was identified in the field as beech mast (*Fagus* spp.). Artefacts recovered from this fill included pottery and tile of medieval date, as well as a single piece of pottery of late 17th- to 18th-century date. This particular sherd was recovered from close to the top of this fill and is considered to be intrusive. The primary fill in the base of pit [3] was a mid blue grey clay [15]. Present at the level of groundwater in the evaluation trench, which explains the reduced colouring of the deposit, two well-defined thin bands of a white, possibly mineralised, material were observed; one on the base of the pit cut and another some 0.10m above it, both describing a gentle arc in section that would seem to mirror the form of the pit's base. The extremely regular thickness of these deposits (c.4mm) combined with a crystalline appearance suggested to the excavator that this material had been precipitated out of solution, indicating that the pit had held liquids at some point early in its use though no lining to this pit was identified. A small assemblage of pottery recovered from this primary deposit dated from the 13th to 14th centuries.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking at base of excavation with pit [3], 1m scale

Overlying these features in Trench 1 was a sequence of layers ([19], [18], [17]) interpreted as modern in date that contained frequent slate and brick fragment. These are thought to result from site levelling and preparatory works associated with the building that currently occupies the site. Over these was deposit [16] consisting of the concrete and tarmac of the modern car park surface.



Plate 3. Trench 1, upper section looking north, 1m scale

Trench 2

Figures 2 and 4

Current ground level:	2.91m OD
Base of excavation:	1.26m OD
Ground water present at:	1.62m OD

Located in the north-east of the site

The earliest deposit revealed at the base of evaluation Trench 2 was a layer of fine sand [28] with frequent black/brown organic flecks. Measuring a minimum of 0.40m in depth, the lower level of this deposit was waterlogged and lay below the level of groundwater. The colour of this deposit changed on exposure from mid blue-grey to mid brown. No artefacts were recovered from this layer. Overlying this was a similar layer [27] that was 0.40m in depth. This was a pale blue grey clay that also changed colour on exposure to a mid brown. Frequent small orange ?mineral flecks and small organic lenses were present in this deposit. In the north-east side of the evaluation trench this deposit was overlaid by a layer of mid orange brown silt [13] with frequent mortar, tile and brick fragments. A sherd of medieval pottery recovered from this deposit is considered to be residual.

Several similar layers of silts and silt clays ([12], [11] [14]) overlay this orange brown silt. These measured a total of 0.50m in depth and containing occasional small fragments of tile and brick. It is possible these deposits had been redeposited as overlying these layers were several large modern intrusions.

Cutting deposit [11] was modern drain [9] which was aligned north-south and measured 0.80m in depth and 2.0m wide. A similar feature [26] aligned east-west was also present, with a depth of 0.90m and width of 2.50m. These features crossed in the middle of the trench where a large slab of concrete had been set, presumably as part of these structures. A modern pit [10] was also present.

Above these drains were modern layers [8] and [7] of material thought to be from the construction of the Greyfriars House itself. These were c.0.80m in depth and capped by the hoggins [6] and tarmac [5] of the modern car park.

Trench 3

Figures 2 and 5, Plate 4

Current ground level:	3.24m OD
Base of excavation:	1.53m OD
Ground water present at:	1.53m OD
Augered to a depth of:	0.29m OD

Located in the south of the site

The lowest sequence of deposits in this trench was examined by hand auger and is described separately in section 7.1 Sediment descriptions below. In addition small samples of the two lowest deposits ([29] and [30]) revealed in the Trench 3 were also taken for examination by Dr F.M.L. Green and are described as follows:

‘The earliest deposit revealed at the base of the trench was layer [30]. This deposit was a similar colour to overlying sand [29] being mid slightly orange brown. It was clearly composed of 2-5mm thick laminae alternating between a very fine slightly micaceous sand and a firm but plastic clay. Silt was also probably present in smaller amounts. The laminae varied slightly in colour with sand laminae being either greyer or more orange brown than the more uniform brown of the clay. Fine iron concretions were found in both the sand and the clay laminae and were so fine it was not possible to tell if the iron had formed around rootlets or worm holes or had possibly concreted around other small organic fragments. It was a relatively firm but plastic deposit. The base of this deposit as recorded by auger at 1.03m OD.

Overlying this layer was a mid slightly orange brown fine and well sorted sand [29] with a trace of silt. The sand was very slightly micaceous with a trace of a sparkle. No structures were observed but fine holes were observed in the sediment which may have been created by either fine rootlets or possibly by dewatering as the sediments were augered. Occasional small fragments of charcoal 2-3mm long were present. It was a relatively firm deposit with a depth of 0.35m’.

Overlying sand [29] was a layer of mid to light brown silt [24] present across the full extent of the evaluation trench. Homogeneous in appearance it measured 0.50m in depth and appeared to have no inclusions. Sealing this was a layer of dark brown silt [23] that was 0.46m deep and contained occasional brick fragments and pieces of plastic. Modern in date, this was in turn overlain by gravels and sands [22] of the modern car park surface that were 0.30m deep.

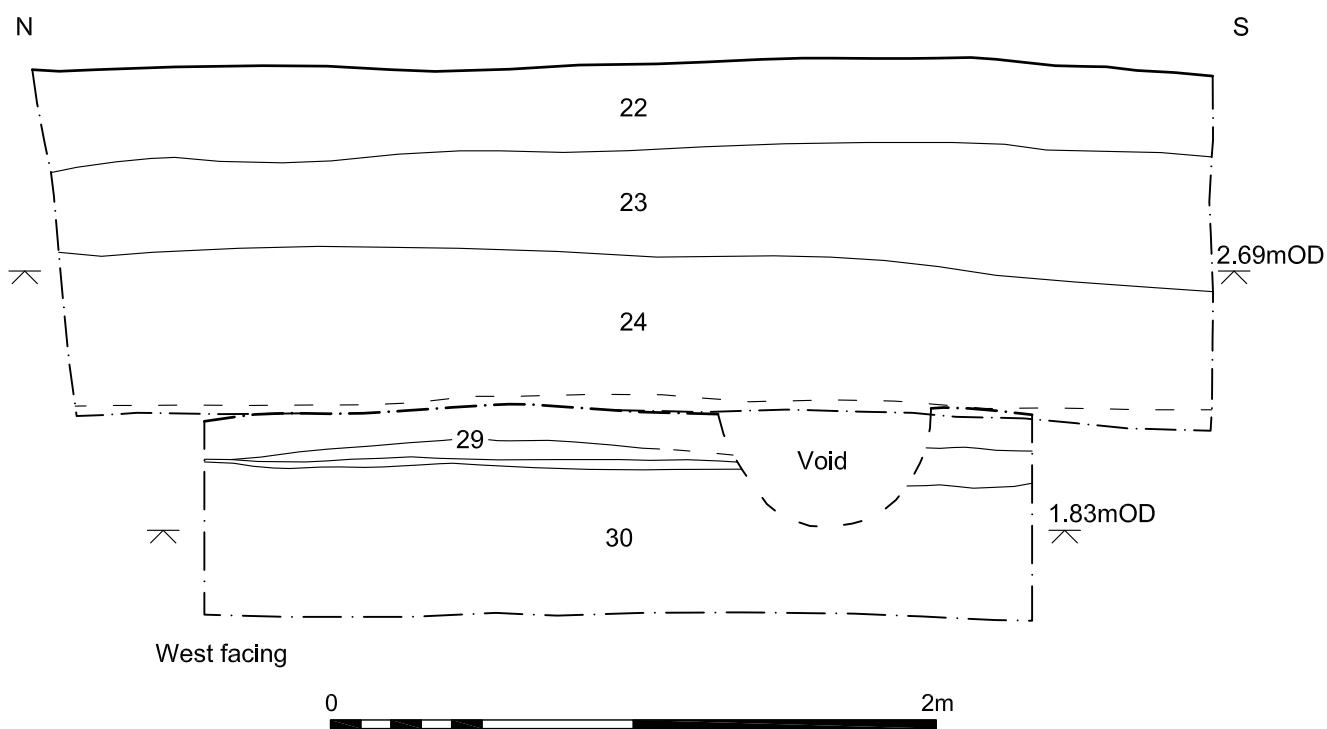
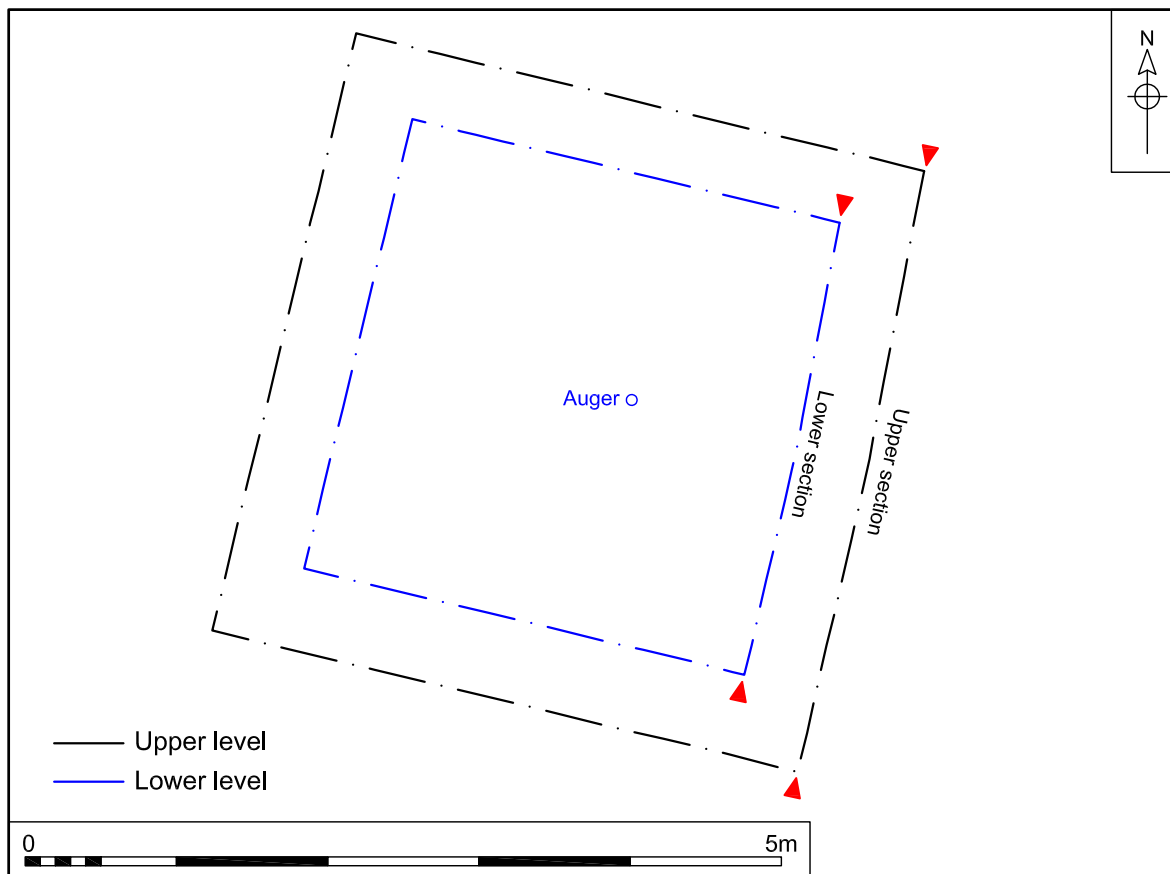


Figure 5. Trench 3, plan of excavated features and upper and lower sections. Scale 1:50 and 1:25



Plate 4. Trench 3, section at base of trench showing sediments [29] and [30], looking east, 1m scale

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Pottery

by Sue Anderson

Four sherds of pottery weighing 201g were collected from three contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by context.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
4	GRIM	1	77	v abraded strap handle with traces of green glaze	13-14
4	STAF	1	15	press-moulded slipware plate	L.17-18
12	GRIM	1	54	body of jug with part of handle attachment, encrusted with marine deposit inside and on breaks	13-15
15	GRIM	1	55	thumbed base of jug	13-14

Key: GRIM–Grimston-type ware; STAF–Staffordshire-type slipware.

Table 1. Pottery quantification by context

Pit [3] contained a Grimston Ware base sherd in the primary fill. The upper fill contained an abraded handle in Grimston-type ware, and a Staffordshire-type slipware plate fragment. If the latter is intrusive then the pit is likely to be of 13th/14th-century date.

Silt layer [12] contained a large fragment of a globular jug in Grimston Ware. This is likely to date between the 13th to 15th centuries.

6.2 Ceramic building material

by Sue Anderson

Seven fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) (514g) were collected from the fills of pit [3]. Table 2 shows the quantification by context.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
4	est	3	189	roof tile frags, one with peg hole	13-15
4	msc	1	39	roof tile, orange fabric, shell leached out	med/pmed
15	cscfe	2	182	roof tile, fabric almost identical to Fenland pottery	13-15
15	un	1	104	?roof tile, heavily vitrified	?

Table 2. Ceramic building material quantification by context

Six sherds were identifiable as plain roof tiles. These were in a variety of medium to coarse sandy fabrics. Three sherds were estuarine clay types typical of the 13th to 15th centuries and there was one fragment in an orange fabric with leached calcareous inclusions which may be of post-medieval date; these were from the upper fill [4].

Two fragments from [15] were pieces of roof tile in a coarse sandy fabric with sparse chalk and very coarse ferrous inclusions. This fabric is unusual for a roof tile, but is identical to a medieval pottery fabric which is found in north-west Suffolk and east Cambridgeshire (common in Bury St Edmunds, where it is recorded as Bury Coarse Sandy Ware (BCSW)) and is likely to be a Fenland product. The pottery is generally dated to the 12th to 13th centuries, but it is unlikely that this roof tile is earlier than the 13th century.

One fragment of CBM from [15] has been recorded as roof tile, but it is heavily vitrified and the fabric and form are uncertain.

6.3 Faunal Remains

by Lucy Talbot

The primary fill [15] of pit [3], produced two fragments of adult pig mandible weighing 77g. Neither fragment shows obvious evidence of butchering.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

by Dr F M L Green (sediment) and Val Fryer (plant macrofossils)

7.1 Sediment Descriptions of augered deposits from Trench 3

The sediments described here lay below the excavated levels in Trench 3 and are described from samples recovered from hand augering.

7.1.1 Organic sediments (present at c.1.03m OD)

An almost black dry herbaceous peat was recorded during augering. As only a small amount of this peat was recovered only a brief description of the peat is possible. It appears to be a well-humified dry herbaceous peat with few identifiable plant remains, no woody fragments were observed but probable rootlets suggest

in situ growth rather than a detrital peat. The peat is likely to have developed on the upper marsh away from tidal influence.

7.1.2 Lowest Silt (present at c.0.29m OD)

This sediment was overall dark grey but composed of fine laminae, 2-3mm thick, of different shades of grey. The laminae were alternately composed of very fine slightly micaceous sand and silt with little clay. Occasional small twig fragments up to 10mm in length and other fine unidentifiable remains, mainly wood, were also present. The sediment was soft.

7.1.3 Conclusions

The sequence suggests that sediments at the site had accumulated entirely through natural processes and not through deliberate dumping to make up the ground level. This does not preclude that the salt marshes were drained and reclaimed elsewhere and it is likely these fine laminated sediments are part of a wider saltmarsh reclamation that may have commenced in the mid to late Saxon period (Clarke and Carter 1977, Trimble 2004).

A sequence of laminated silts and sand present at 0.29m OD included rare reworked fragments of twig from adjacent peat deposits, probably from alder carr. The overall fine nature of the sediments suggests they were deposited at the lower energy end of the tidal sequence, perhaps at the extreme limit of tidal influence, either on a quiet creek or possibly in a controlled part of the system - sluices and barriers perhaps reducing the full power of the tidal flow. The sequence of laminated silt and fine sand are typical of mud flat and sand flat deposits but equally they may have accumulated at the fresh water end of alluvial sedimentation with sediments derived from the land carried as suspension in the River Great Ouse and the tributaries and creeks associated with this major tidal river. The subsequent laminated clay deposits suggest the latter explanation is more likely.

The peat deposit is likely to have accumulated in a drier part of a saltmarsh i.e. in the upper marsh. In this environment the influence of freshwater would be dominant and tidal influence removed. In this environment fen or carr vegetation would develop and the black peat is likely to have developed in such an environment. This peat is likely to be the same peat which is identified below much of King's Lynn as a continuous layer, generally less than 1m thick, beneath the reclaimed saltmarsh deposits. In other exposures it is described as soft, composed largely of reed, and beneath the King's Lynn area is usually woody (Trimble 2004).

Following the deposition of sand and silt laminated sediments a clay and fine sand laminated sequence is likely to reflect the increased influence of the alluvial system in this tidal system. The clay being a more common component in river suspended sediments than in saltmarsh deposits. The change in colour to an oxidised reddish brown is also more typical of alluvial rather than perimarine environments.

The upper brown sands are also likely to have a greater alluvial than marine component.

No anthropogenic material was encountered in the lower sediments but small fragments of charcoal in the upper sand is likely to indicate human activity in the vicinity although the date of these deposits is unknown.

This sequence of deposits are consistent with those observed in Kings Lynn in other studies with an overall picture of saltmarsh reclamation having started possibly in the mid to Late Saxon period (Clarke and Carter 1977, Trimble 2004). Such reclamation would have involved the construction of sea banks and new drainage channels which had the effect of removing the influence of the sea and relatively increasing the influence on freshwater flooding from the river systems. Over time land levels rose as alluviation increased allowing settlement on previously uninhabitable ground. Increased alluviation is typical however of all lowland rivers in Britain, especially during the Bronze Age and Roman period due to changes in land use. Such changes include woodland clearance and increased arable activity putting high volumes of sediment into the rivers, and this alone, without sea defences, may have been responsible for a greater proportion of alluvial sediments being deposited, perhaps allowing King's Lynn to start developing on the east side of the Great Ouse.

The site, positioned as it is close to the Gaywood river (although its course is likely to have been altered) would have been susceptible to flooding over a very long period until land levels rose from alluviation and systems of sea defence and drainage were emplaced from the Saxon/medieval periods onwards.

7.2 Charred Plant Macrofossils and other remains

By Val Fryer

7.2.1 Introduction and method statement

A sample (Sample <1>) for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from fill [15] of pit [3] of 13th- to 14th-century date.

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Appendix 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

7.2.2 Results

The recovered assemblage was extremely small (<0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition. Small charcoal/charred wood fragments were recorded along with a vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) cotyledon and a possible small fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. The assemblage was largely composed of white ?mineral concretions, although bone fragments and a piece of coal were also recorded.

7.2.3 Conclusions

In summary, the assemblage is too insubstantial to give any indications about the intended function of the pit, although it would appear that small quantities of charred refuse may have been accidentally incorporated within the fill.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The earliest deposits present at the site were naturally-derived silt and clay layers notable for the lack of any artefacts or inclusions indicating human activity in the vicinity. Some inclusions of small charcoal flecks or brick fragments were present in the upper sediments, but as these sizes of material are easily transported through post-deposition bioturbation by roots and earthworms etc. they are not considered convincing evidence that these upper sediments were of anthropogenic origin.

The lowest/deepest occurrence of these sediments was recorded by hand auger at 0.29m OD in Trench 3. The upper level of deposit [21], perhaps identifying the highest point of these sediments at the site, was present at 2.86m OD in Trench 1, so that a depth of at least 2.57m might be postulated for these sediments across the site.

Based on the deposit sequence at the Greyfriars House site and what is known of the early development of King's Lynn from previous archaeological works, it would appear that over time the environmental setting of the current site changed from one of salt marsh to fresh water, a change taking place in conjunction with rising ground levels as silts and clays were deposited by the River Gaywood.

The extent to which changes in salinity and flow rate of the river and thus sediment deposition at the site resulted from human activity, natural events or, as is most likely, some degree of interaction between these influences could not be quantified, but such deposits have a potential to provide environmental information relating to the town's development.

Archaeological remains at the site consisted of a pit [3] and possible post hole [1] both present in Trench 1. The post hole was not dated and could potentially span a time range from the medieval to modern, so little can usefully be said apart from noting its presence. The pit was more informative as artefacts recovered from its primary fill indicate it dated from the 13th to 14th century, and so contemporary with a high point in the town's growth. The nature of the primary fill [15] within this pit indicated it had been waterlogged and it is possible that it this feature was associated with an activity requiring water, though there was no indication of what type of activity this might have been. Analysis of the environmental sample taken from primary fill [15] of this pit also shed no light on the nature of any activity, but did indicate that organic survival was good.

Overall the paucity of artefacts recovered and features revealed is thought to indicate the site occupied a location peripheral to significant activity or occupation of any period. It is possible the low-lying and water-logged nature of the site made it unsuitable for any type of activity and whilst it is known that other perhaps similar marginal areas of King Lynn were reclaimed, consolidated and built on, there might have been other factors not clear today, for example topographic setting, that made it unsuitable for any such attempt here.

The absence of obvious developed soil horizons, except perhaps for deposit [23] in Trench 3, might indicate that the site was levelled at some point in the past, and it is likely the site was levelled for construction of Greyfriars House, though the extent of any such intrusion would seem unlikely to have removed any archaeological remains, had they existed, features in Trench 1 not appearing to have been particularly truncated.

Key Points

- 1 The site at Greyfriars House in King's Lynn lies at between 3.40m OD to 3.71m OD. The deepest deposit recorded during the evaluation was at 0.29m OD.
- 2 A key finding of the archaeological evaluation was that a similar sequence of naturally-derived sediments is present across the site. Thought to survive for a depth of at least 2.57m in places, these sediments have potential to assist in understanding environmental changes that will have influenced the development of King's Lynn and its hinterland.
- 3 Two features of archaeological interest, one a pit of medieval date, were identified. It would appear from the paucity of artefacts and features that human activity at the site was extremely limited and perhaps peripheral in nature. The waterlogged condition of the site meant the potential for the survival of organic remains is good.
- 4 There was no visible indication of contamination at the site in the areas examined. Apart from Trench 2 and presumably within the footprint of Greyfriars House itself there is little indication of modern truncation or disturbance to any potential remains that may be present at the site.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

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Finds were processed by Lucy Talbot who also reported on the animal bone. The post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material was analysed and reported on by Sue Anderson. Val Fryer reported on the plant macrofossils and Dr FML Green examined the sediment sequence.

The report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Ctxt	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
1	Cut	Post-hole		Round post-hole	Med/Post-med	1
2	Deposit		1	Fill of 1	Med/Post-med	1
3	Cut	Pit		Large pit cut	Medieval	1
4	Deposit		3	Upper fill of [3]	Medieval	1
5	Deposit			Tarmac	Modern	2
6	Deposit			Concrete bedding	Modern	2
7	Deposit			Rubble layer	Modern	2
8	Deposit			Rubble layer	Modern	2
9	Cut	Pit		Pit ?	Modern	2
10	Deposit		9	Rubble fill of [9]	Modern	2
11	Deposit			Silt Layer	Unknown	2
12	Deposit			Silt Layer	Unknown	2
13	Deposit			Brick, tile and slate layer	Modern	2
14	Deposit			Silt layer	Unknown	2
15	Deposit		3	Primary fill of pit [3]	Medieval	1
16	Deposit			Tarmac and concrete of car park	Modern	1
17	Deposit			Brick rubble layer	Modern	1
18	Deposit			Silt and mortar layer	Modern	1
19	Deposit			Silt layer	Unknown	1
20	Deposit			Silt layer	Unknown	1
21	Deposit			Silt layer	Medieval?	1
22	Deposit			Gravel and sand (car park)	Modern	3
23	Deposit			Modern layer	Modern	3
24	Deposit			Brown silt layer	Unknown	3
25	Deposit		26	Fill of [26]	Modern	2
26	Cut	Drain		Modern drain	Modern	2
27	Deposit			Clay layer	Unknown	2
28	Deposit			Fine sand layer	Unknown	2
29	Deposit			Laminated sands	Unknown	3
30	Deposit			Silt clay layer below 29	Unknown	3

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature	Number
Medieval	Pit	1
Med/Post-Med.	Post-hole	1
Modern	Drain	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
4	Pottery	1	77g	Medieval	
4	Pottery	1	15g	Post-medieval	
4	Ceramic Building Material	4	228g	Medieval/ Post-medieval	Flat roof tile fragments
4	Shell	1	5g	Unknown	Oyster: (Discarded)
12	Pottery	1	54g	Medieval	
15	Pottery	1	55g	Medieval	
15	Ceramic Building Material	2	182g	Medieval	Flat roof tile fragments
15	Vitrified Material	1	104g	Unknown	Ceramic Building Material ?
15	Animal Bone	2	77g	Unknown	Remains of Pig

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Medieval	Ceramic Building Material	2
	Pottery	3
Post-medieval	Pottery	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	2
	Shell	1
	Vitrified Material	1
Medieval/post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	4

Appendix 3: Plant Macrofossils

Sample No.	1
Context No.	15
Plant macrofossils	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	X
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	X
Charcoal	X
Other remains	
Bone	X
Small coal frag.	X
White ?mineral concretions	XXX
Sample volume (litres)	8
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%

Key to Table: x = 1–10 specimens, xxx = 51–100 specimens