

Report 3143



nps archaeology

## Archaeological Evaluation (Window Sampling and Test Pitting) at King's Head Yard, Diss, Norfolk

ENF130135



Prepared for  
Claverhouse Ltd



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Location:	King's Head Yard, Diss, Norfolk
District:	South Norfolk District Council
Grid Ref.:	TM 1168 7988
Planning Ref.:	2008/2353/F
HER No.:	ENF130135
OASIS Ref.:	138359
Client:	Claverhouse Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	31 October 2012

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by NPS Archaeology at Kings Head Yard, Diss in Norfolk in advance of a proposed restaurant extension. The site is located within the town centre of Diss and is adjacent to The Mere, a natural lake of late glacial origin. The evaluation examined sediments to a depth between 4.0m and 5.0m at two locations across the site using borehole data, with a small test pit c. 1.0m x 1.0m in size excavated to a depth of 1.0m.*

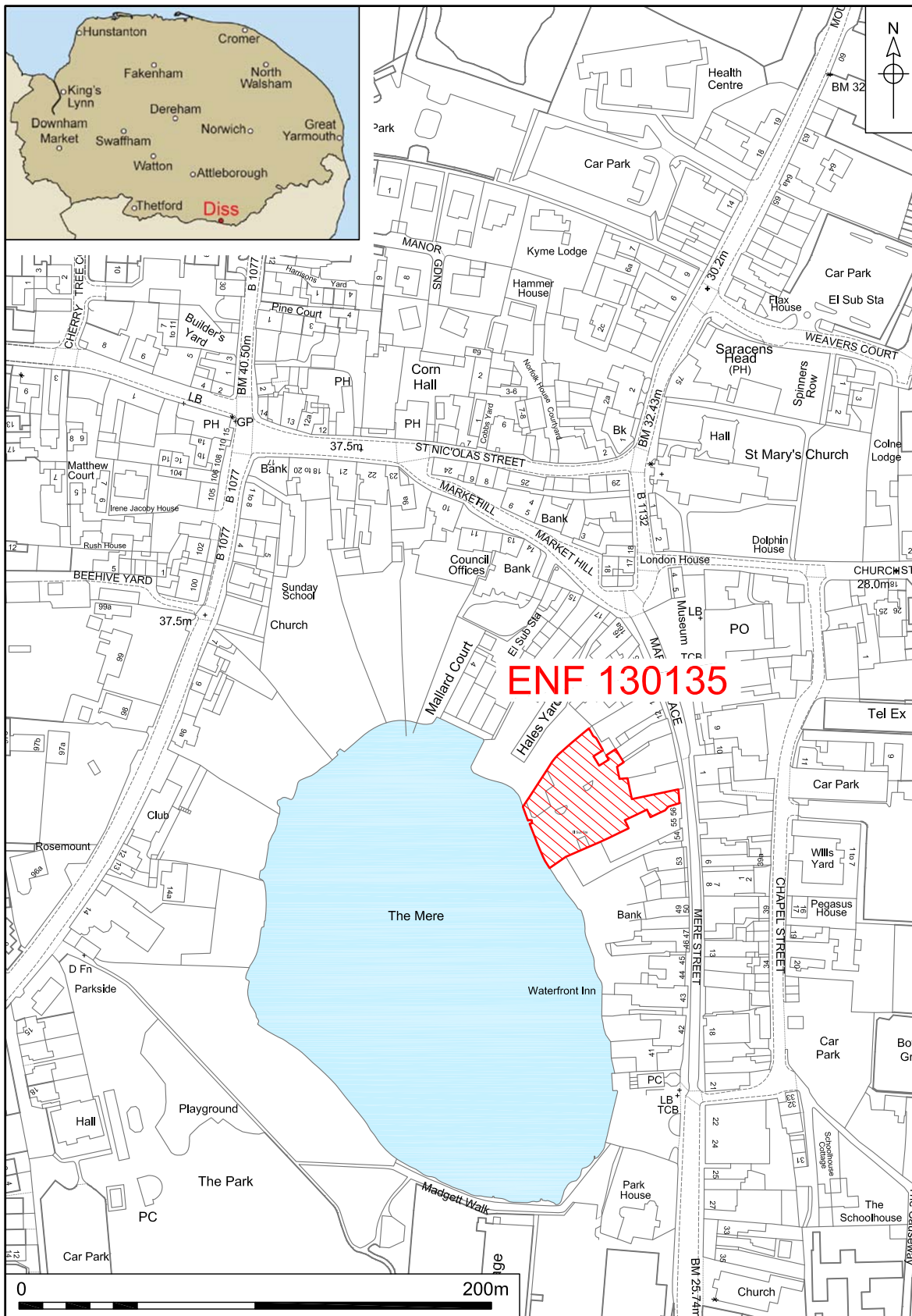
*The results of this work revealed a sequence of at least 1.0m depth of 19th- and 20th-century yard surfaces and make up within Test Pit 01 and upper deposits. The deposits within boreholes WS01 and WS02 contained a highly variable sediment record and it was very difficult to correlate one with the other, suggesting human intervention in the natural sequence within borehole WS01.*

*Both boreholes indicate the Mere extended beyond its modern shores to at least the rear of the Kings Head Hotel and probably further.*

*The 4.0m sequence of sediments in the borehole closer to the rear of the hotel (WS02) indicate that the lower 3.0m are largely naturally deposited detrital organic peat, sandy peat and silts in a shallow subaqueous environment. Within these undated deposits are hints of rare occurrences of dumping of domestic refuse (bone and oyster shell) within The Mere itself. There are also suggestions of fluctuating water levels within The Mere and evidence that The Mere occasionally became deeper and more extensive.*

*Borehole WS01 is located closer to the modern shore of The Mere. The base of the lake deposits were 1.0m deeper here than in WS02, possibly indicating the steep nature of The Mere's sides. The lower 1.0m of peat has not been described in detail but organic sediments at 4.0m below the surface are tentatively thought to lie within a subaqueous pit – possibly a retting pit. The upper fill of this infilled potential pit is probably 17th-century in date and may correspond to the building of the Kings Head Hotel in that century. Subsequent deposits above and within this putative pit are a complex mix of organic sediments that have accumulated in a semi-aquatic environment, dumped domestic waste and weathered-in sand and gravels within the shallow margins of The Mere.*

*A working hypothesis is that the fluctuating water levels and the variable amounts of sand found in these marginal deposits may be the result of the 'Little Ice Age' in the 16th-18th centuries.*



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by South Norfolk District Council (Ref. 2008/2353/F) and an archaeological brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Ref.CNF41561) in advance of a proposed restaurant extension in the yard to the rear of the King's Head Hotel in Diss (Fig. 1). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU3143). The work was commissioned and funded by J. Darrell.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). 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 Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

## 2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

(with David Adams)

The evaluated site covers an area of c.660m<sup>2</sup> and is located in Diss, a Norfolk market town on the county boundary with Suffolk. The site is c.530m north of the River Waveney and 125.0m to the south-west of St Mary's church. It is bounded to the east by Market Street to the west by The Mere, a naturally formed body of water that is a major feature within the town. The Mere is the likely reason for original settlement in this location and its role in the development of later industries and livelihoods of the town is of great importance.

The underlying bedrock geology in this part of Norfolk consists of Cretaceous Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (BGS 1985).

Overlying the chalk in this location are three types of distinct superficial deposits. In the immediate area of The Mere is Quaternary/Holocene alluvium - clay, silt, sand and gravel). This alluvium was deposited by the River Waveney or an earlier river in a similar position. To the west are glacial deposits - Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation and Lowestoft Formation (Undifferentiated) - sands and gravels. To the south-east are River Terrace deposits of sands and gravels also formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 1991).

The Mere in Diss covers an area of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) and is a deep lake with some 6.0m depth of water in the centre and a sediment depth of 12.0m. The Mere is one of a group of lakes in Norfolk and Suffolk e.g. Quidenham Mere, Seamere and Hockham Mere which are frequently thought to have been formed by solution and collapse of the underlying chalk. It is increasingly thought these deep sub-circular lakes are also in part created through thermokarst activity (that can produce hollows by the selective melting of permafrost) in periglacial conditions (Boreham and Horne 1999). Examples of such lakes are the ubiquitous freeze-

thaw lakes of the Arctic where back-weathering of the margins of the lake produce, in some cases, deep lakes.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

by David Adams

The parish of Diss in south Norfolk covers an area of c.5.32km<sup>2</sup> and lies directly on the border with Suffolk. The name Diss is thought to be derived from the Old English meaning 'place at the ditch or dike' (Ekwall cited in Penn 1999).

Archaeological objects from Diss include prehistoric flint and Bronze Age artefacts. There have been Roman finds including a timber structure NHER 7932 located immediately to the south of the present site (Fig. 2.) together with Roman pottery, metalwork and jewellery. Finds of Saxon pottery indicate activity during this period.

The earliest documented reference to the town of Diss occurs in the Domesday book (1086).

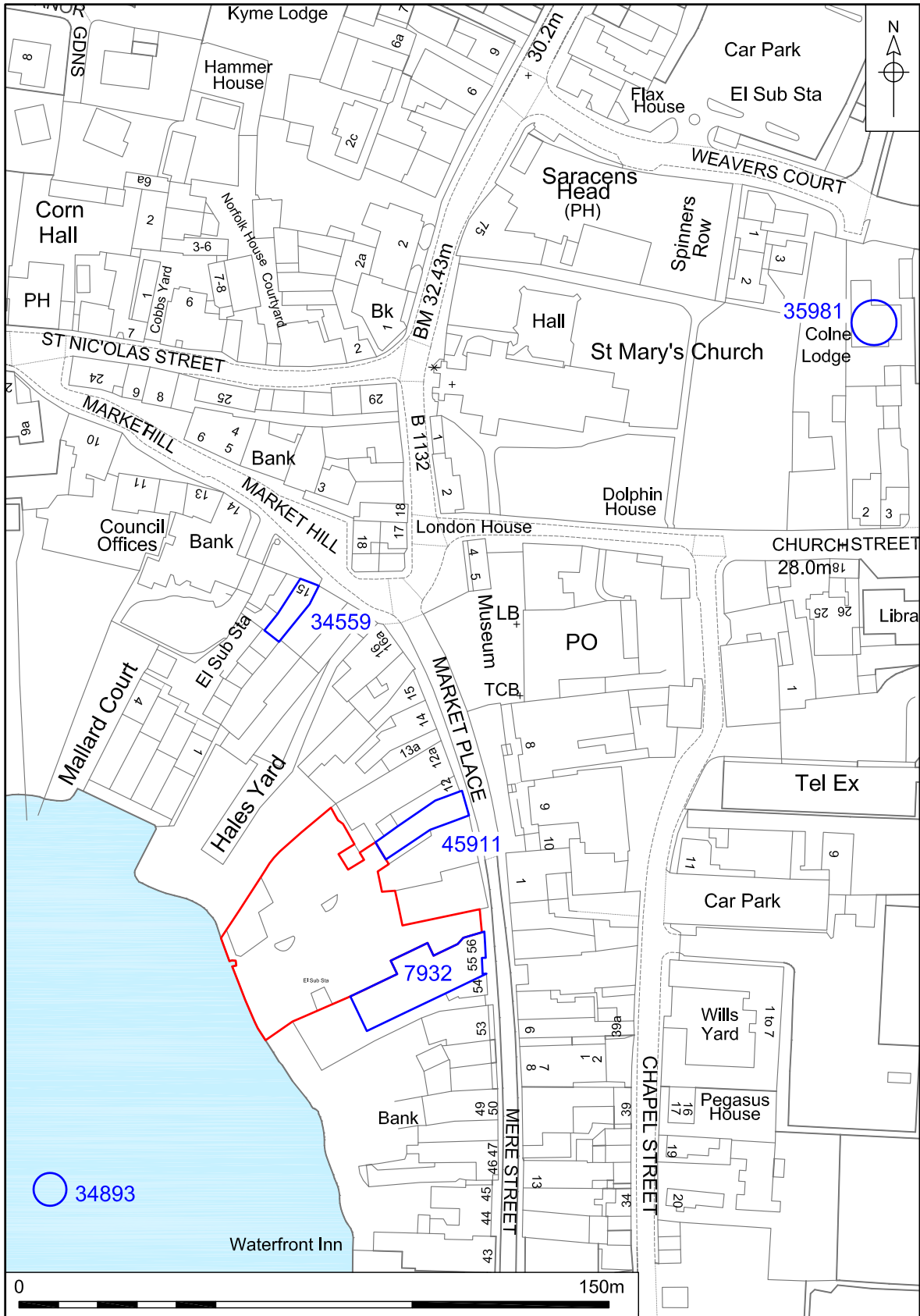
The Mere was used for an extensive local hemp industry in the 17th-19th centuries. From the 18th century onwards flax would have also been retted in its waters.

Diss Mere is of national importance for the palaeoenvironmental record it holds and has been the site of several palaeoenvironmental investigations (Peglar et. al. (1984 and 1989), Peglar (1993a), Peglar (1993b), Peglar and Birks (1993). The results of these studies show The Mere to contain a sedimentological record of the entire Holocene period to the present day (i.e. the last 10,000 years). Such a record provides one of the rare opportunities in lowland Britain to study the natural succession of vegetation in the early Holocene and the later affects of human activity on the landscape including agricultural and later industrial activities. Some of the studies have been at a fine resolution e.g. sampling individual annual laminae of lake deposits to help determine the pathogen explanation for the elm decline in the mid Holocene. All of the palaeobotanical research by Sylvia Peglar since 1989 has been carried out on cores sampled during fieldwork in 1989 which were located in the centre of the lake (Fig. 2).

A search of data held in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for a 500m radius centred on the King's Head Yard (centred on TM 1168 7988) returned a total of 160 individual records of which the greater proportion were standing buildings with listed status. Only a small number of those buildings (the most relevant) have been included in the following text, which is itself a summary of the individual NHER records. From the search results it is apparent that very few archaeological interventions have taken place within Diss. The NHER records are presented in the following sequence - Interventions, Finds Spots, Buildings and Other Monument Types.

The information presented below is reproduced from entries in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. The locations of a few of the principal investigations located close to the eastern side of The Mere are shown on Figure 2.





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Figure 2. Location of previous investigative work in the vicinity. Scale 1:1500

## **Interventions**

### *HER 1114 Medieval Mere*

Geological evidence observed during a watching brief carried out by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit in 1973 suggests that this area was once part of the medieval mere. South-west end of Mere Street. Demolition and rebuilding, piling watched. Black sandy loam to 1.50m with ground water seepage in north area at 2.00m and geological evidence suggests that this area was part of the medieval mere.

### *HER 7932 Possible Roman villa or wharf*

The location of this significant site is indicated on Figure 2.

During the construction of a new branch of Woolworth's in 1939, workmen uncovered a Roman timber structure, which has been suggested as a villa or wharf. The skeleton of a stag and oyster shells were also found on the site.

### *HER 34559 Post-medieval track and medieval and post-medieval finds*

An archaeological evaluation carried out by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit in 1999 revealed a post medieval track, and medieval and post medieval pottery, post medieval roof tile and a clay pipe. This area was probably once at the edge of The Mere.

### *HER 35981 Roman and Early Saxon finds*

The location of this site is indicated on Fig. 2.

Archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit in 1999 revealed prehistoric flint implements and Roman and Early Saxon pottery in a ditch or gully, as well as post medieval bricks and roof tile.

### *HER 31788 Post medieval glasshouse and pottery*

A watching brief carried out by Howard Brooks Archaeological Services in 1996 revealed 18th-century pottery, part of a human skull of unknown date and the foundations of a 19th-century greenhouse.

### *HER 50559 Backyard of 9-10 Mere Street*

Cow (or possibly horse) long bones and ribs found in a pit; probably of late post-medieval date.

## **Finds Spots**

### *HER 34893*

Post-medieval token

### *HER 29453*

An 18th-century clay pipe, and fragments of 18th-century pottery found on the site of a large 17th- or 18th-century house.

### *HER 10979*

A hoard of about 325 medieval gold and silver coins was found in a pottery vessel in 1871 in Mount Street more than 1km to the north of King's Head yard. The coins (to Edward IV) indicate that the hoard was deposited in about 1465.

*HER 11440*

A copper alloy pin of Beaker date (2300-1700 BC) was found in 1972 in a garden. The pin is decorated with six spirals on the head and is 630mm long.

*HER 39391*

Post-medieval belt mount, made of copper alloy, found by metal detecting.

*HER 40872*

A 17th-century iron key, found bricked up in a fireplace.

*HER 50236*

A groat of Edward III found in a garden in 2007

*HER 50540*

A post-medieval coin found in 2007 during a metal detecting survey.

**Buildings**

*HER 11005 - St Mary's Church*

Diss parish church, dating mainly to the early 14th century, with later alterations and extensions. The church is said to stand on the site of a Late Saxon or Norman church, although there is no surviving architectural evidence from this period. The church is basically of about 1300, extended and altered in 14th/15th century; the chancel was altered 1857.

*HER 12021 - Dolphin House, Church Street/Market Place*

A grand timber framed building, built in the early 16th century. The house has an ornate aisled hall on the first floor, perhaps used by a merchant.

*HER 12022 - 1 Mere Street*

A late 15th-century timber-framed and brick house, with a finely carved wooden angle post, depicting an angel. The house has an early 19th-century shop front.

*HER Number 12023 Lime Tree House*

A 16th-century timber-framed house, formerly the Unicorn Inn. In the late 19th century the gardens of the house were extended to include a field, and the boundary trees of the field were retained.

*HER 12054 - Site of medieval guildhall*

This is the site of the medieval guildhall of St Nicolas and Corpus Christi.

*HER 12056*

This is the site of St Nicolas's Chapel, built in the early 15th century, and dissolved in about 1549.

*HER 15311*

This is the site of a post-medieval windmill, marked on Faden's map of 1797. The mill went out of use in the late 19th century.

*HER 16400*

This is the site of a post-medieval windmill, marked on an Ordnance Survey map of 1836. The mill was demolished in 1860.

*HER 18821 - 134 and 135 Victoria Road*

A medieval timber-framed house, which may be an open hall house dating to the 15th century. The house had been divided into two but has since been demolished to make way for a supermarket extension.

*HER 21190*

Post-medieval smoke house A brick floor and steps, found in 1985, are the remains of a post-medieval smoke-house, probably dating to the late 18th or early 19th century.

*HER 30598 - The Maltings, Shelfanger Road*

An 18th-century maltings arranged around a courtyard and within a medieval moat (see NHER 12055). The maltings were in use until 1994 and have been converted into a shopping complex.

*HER 32070 - 35 and 36 Mount Street*

A 17th-century timber framed house, with original internal fittings and upper floor. The house has an unusual absence of later alterations.

*HER Number 45592 White Horse Inn*

A post-medieval inn that was extensively refurbished in the 19th century.

*HER 45677 - Denmark Street Hall*

A late 18th-century former Baptist Chapel, founded in 1789 by Charles Farmery. The chapel is of one storey and is timber-framed and weather-boarded.

*HER 45725 - Corn Hall*

A mid 19th-century corn exchange in the Classical Revival style with a three bay portico supported on Ionic columns.

*HER 45853 - Coffee Tavern*

An 18th-century house with a central pedimented entrance.

*HER 45911 King's Head Hotel*

The King's Head is adjacent to of the site of the present work and is indicated on Figure 2

A 17th-century timber framed and plastered house with later alterations. This Grade II listed house is now a hotel.

**Other Monument Types**

*HER 32774 - Fair Green*

A fair has been held on this green for 800 years, an event that is commemorated on a stone pillar. The last fair was held in 1985.

*HER 33462 - Park Field*

A park, created in 1848 from an arable field. The park was known as Diss Arboretum, and 19th-century maps show the park with paths running through mature trees. The park remained in private ownership until 1960, then transferred to the Town Council.

*HER 33463 - The Cedars and The Lawn*

The only Norfolk example of a detached landscape park within a town. The Cedars are across the road from the park and The Lawn, accessed by an entrance flanked by walls that mirror the walls surrounding The Cedars. By the late 19th century the park was surrounded by belts, as well as a number of other mature trees. The park may have been created in the late 18th century after The Cedars was rebuilt in 1781, or in the 19th century.

*HER 12055 - Site of medieval moat*

This is the site of a medieval moat that has now been destroyed. It comprises one north-south arm with a central arm running east. The south part of the main arm was infilled and used as car park. The north part was infilled and grassed.

Road to new tyre depot on line of former east to west arm. No surface traces of antiquity remain

*HER 33464 - Garden of The Nunnery*

A 19th-century garden with a lawn, mature trees, and a large greenhouse shown on 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps. This garden forms part of a circle of 19th-century gardens surrounding The Mere.

*HER 7948*

A medieval or post medieval pond, once thought to be a medieval moat, was originally situated in fields which were taken into the gardens of Mere Manor in the 19th century.

*HER 44705 - Liquor Pit*

An artificial reservoir formed by damming a stream with a brick wall sometime before the mid 19th century. Pipes supplied various houses in the town and a brewery, hence the name.

*HER 53075 - Scole-Dickleburgh co-axial field system*

(Early Bronze Age to Roman -2350 BC? to 409 AD?)

The pattern of fields and lanes in this area of the South Norfolk claylands was suggested to be late prehistoric.

(*NHER 7947*).

The pattern of field boundaries and lanes in this area has a marked north-south alignment. It is suggested a Roman or Iron Age date is most likely for the field system.

**Overview**

There is evidence that the edge of The Mere has moved over time. Site 34559 contained evidence of 16th-century date including a trackway and it has been suggested that prior to c.1600 this area was probably located within The Mere

itself (Penn 1999) with Market Hill, Market Place and Market Street reflecting the shoreline in the vicinity.

Proximity to The Mere allows for waterlogged evidence to survive below ground. Adjacent to the southern boundary of the proposed development site, at least 50m from the current shoreline, the remains of a timber structure were reported in 1939 (NHER 7932). These remains have been interpreted as part of a wharf or villa of Roman date having been found in association with Roman a coin of that date. There are no other Roman remains recorded in the area and this could reflect the absence of archaeological intervention rather than lack of evidence as finds of Roman coins, pottery and metalwork have been found elsewhere in Diss.

## 4.0 METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

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 development area. The proposed development utilises a floating raft foundation, designed to preserve archaeological deposits *in situ*.

The Brief (Hamilton 2009) stipulated that

'2No. window samples must be drilled to determine the depth to archaeological deposits, and the nature of such deposits. The boreholes should be sited at the eastern and western ends of the building. One 1m x 1m test pit is required in the middle of the proposed building. This should be excavated to the depth of ground disturbance as indicated by the proposed foundation design (Adam Power Associates drawing 08/387/SK-01, not illustrated). Boreholes should be drilled under geoarchaeological supervision and a field log & photographic record of the cores should be kept. Cores must be logged by an experienced geoarchaeologist. Continuous cores should be collected from the modern ground surface to a depth of at least 3 metres below ground level. Equipment used should allow sleeved cores (preferably in Perspex tubes) to be recovered (also referred to as a windowless liner system)'

For the fieldwork two boreholes were drilled by Norfolk Partnership Laboratories using a Dando Terrier rig to a depth of 4.0m (WS02) and 5.0m (WS01) below the ground level within the development area and the sediments recovered in separate 1m lengths within sleeved cores (90mm in diameter). A single test pit measuring 1.0m x 1.0m was hand excavated to a depth of 1.0m.

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.

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

## 5.0 RESULTS

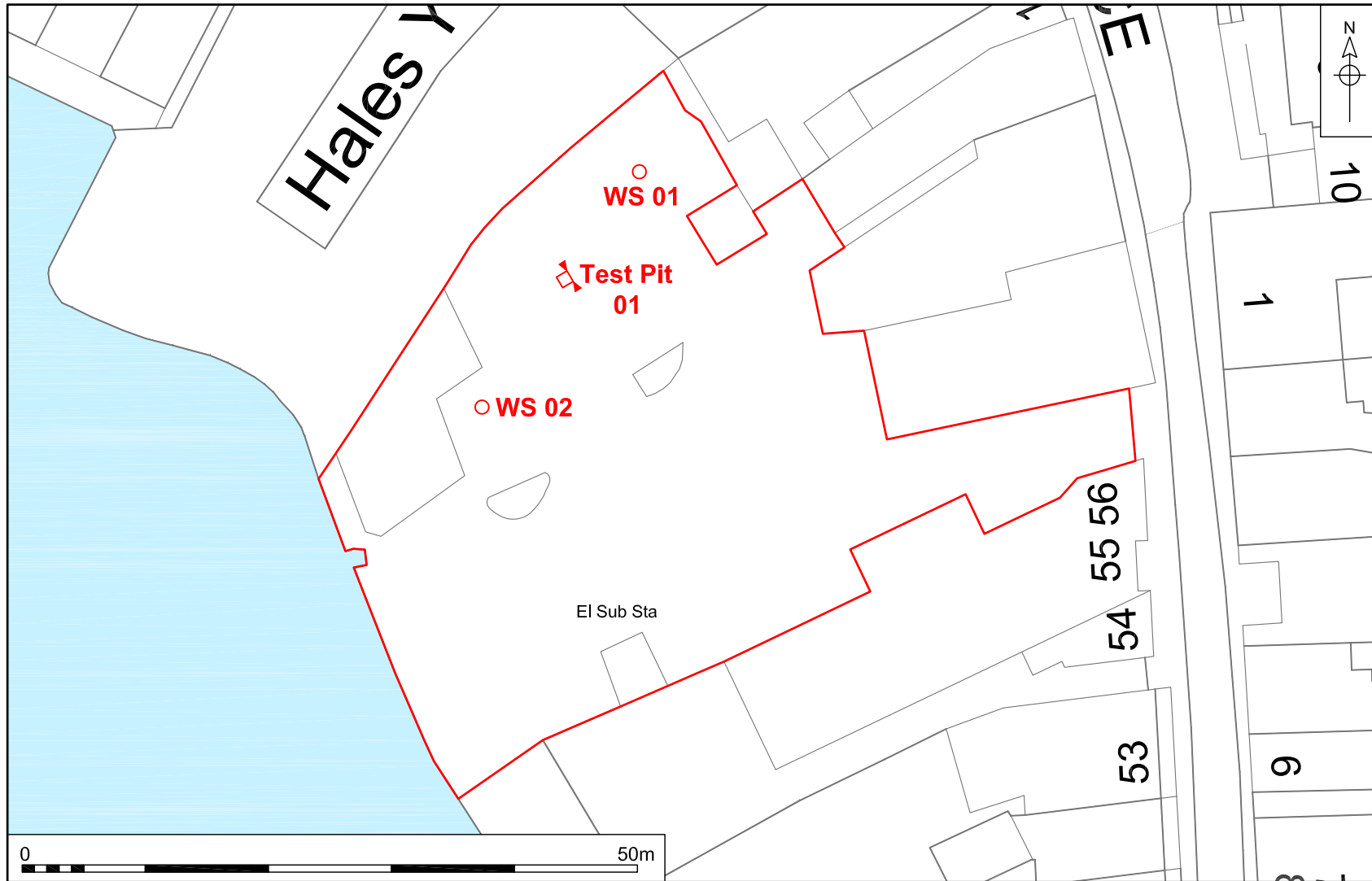
### 5.1 Test Pit 01

(Table 1, Figs 3 and 4, Plates 1 and 2)

A hand-excavated test pit: Test Pit 01 was excavated in the middle of the proposed new extension in an area which is at present a car park for the King's Head Hotel, located in the yard at the rear of the building. The Mere lies at the bottom of the plot of land.



Plate 1 View of yard and location of Test Pit 1.



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Figure 3. Location of boreholes WS 01 and WS 02 and Test Pit 01. Scale 1:500



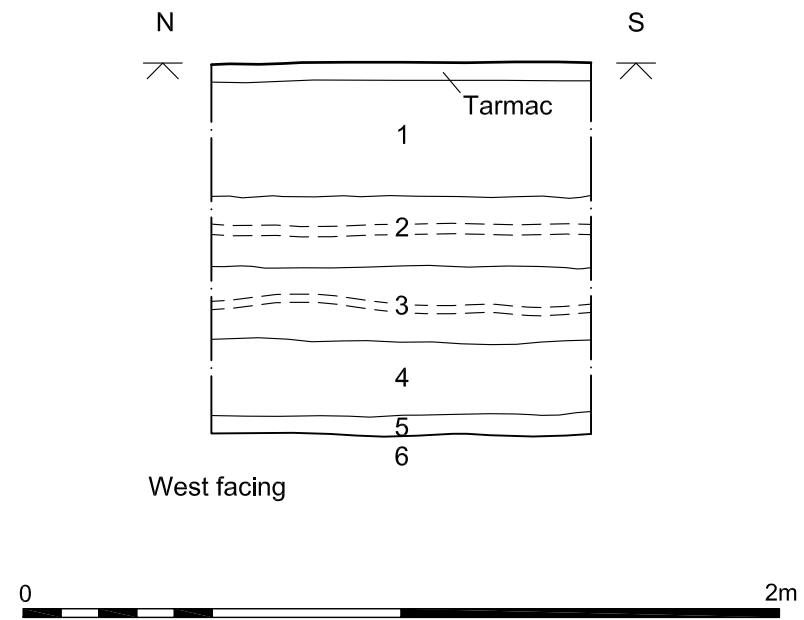


Figure 4. Section of Test Pit 01. Scale 1:20

### 5.1.1 Sediment sequence in Test Pit 01

Test Pit 01				
Length 1.00m Width 1.00m Depth 1.00m				
Context	Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Firm orange 'hoggin'	Make up - yard surface	0.30m
02	Deposit	Light grey sandy clay - make up-yard surface	Make up - yard surface	0.20m
03	Deposit	Sandy clay	Make up - yard surface	0.20m
04	Deposit	Dark brown sandy clay	Make up -yard surface	0.20m
05	Deposit	Light brown clayey sand	Make up- yard surface	0.05m
06	Deposit	Gritty sand	Possibly naturally deposited	Undetermined

Table 1. Sediment sequence in Test pit 1.

Within the present car park area to the rear of the King's Head Hotel, a hand-excavated 1m by 1m test pit (Test Pit 01) was dug to a depth of 1m. The test pit revealed a sequence of horizontally deposited, relatively modern deposits sealed by a modern layer of tarmac. Five of the six layers are likely to be related to make up and previous yard surfaces.



Plate 2. Test Pit 01

The sixth of the six deposits was undated deposit [06] recorded at the base of Test Pit 01 as gritty sand containing occasional brick fragments. Although undated the brick fragments suggest this deposit is probably post-medieval.

Sealing this deposit was undated layer [05], light brown clayey sand with occasional fragments of brick. Again this deposit is likely to be post-medieval in date.

Above layer [05] was layer [04] which consisted of dark brown sandy clay with occasional fragments of brick and post-medieval pan tile fragments.

Deposit [04] was sealed by layer [03] and was firm gritty sandy clay with wood and brick fragments with a layer of blacker sand possibly relating to an ashy yard surface. Finds from this layer included eight sherds of pottery mostly from yellow glazed bowls but including a sherd of a transfer printed teacup and a 19th-century stoneware bottle fragment. Other finds include overfired brick fragments of post medieval date and glass bottle fragments one with the name 'Caleys' embossed on it (these bottles were produced from 1863 onwards). This yard surface is likely to be mid-late 19th-century in date.

Sealing deposit [04] was layer [02] which consisted of light grey sandy clay with some ashy and white gritty sandy clay lenses, all of which represent an earlier yard surface with occasional dumps of ash probably from open fire or ovens in the King's Head Hotel. The finds from this deposit include pottery of indeterminate post-medieval date together with an abraded fragment of a floor tile, and two pieces of wall tile. It is possible the tile was produced by Minton's Ltd and is of 18th- to 19th-century date. A fragment of a glass bottle from west Yorkshire produced between 1871 and 1975 was also found. Deposit [02] is no older than 1871 and is dated somewhere between the late 19th century and the early 20th century.

The uppermost deposit [01] is 0.30m of hard orange sand with flint gravel laid down prior to the tarmac surface and is presumably very modern.

## **5.2 Boreholes WS01 and WS02**

(Tables 2 and 3, Fig. 3 and Plates 3, 4 and 5)

Two boreholes WS01 and WS02 were located in the yard behind the King's Head Hotel with Test Pit 01 located halfway between them (Fig. 3). Borehole WS01 was located towards the west of the site within 15m of the shore of The Mere. Borehole WS02 was located close to the rear of the hotel buildings and 23m to the east of WS01.

The boreholes were drilled with a Dando Terrier rig to a depth of 4m (WS02) and 5m (WS01) until both hit pre-lake sediments (probably glaciofluvial sands and gravels). The sediments were recovered in 90mm diameter, one metre sections and retained as window samples in clear plastic sleeves (Plates 3 and 4).

The lowest 1m (4-5m below the car park surface) of the sediments in WS01 was not recorded from the sleeved core sample but was described in field logs as peat. This has been added to the base of the more detailed descriptions but the precise nature of this peat is not certain.

The strata present in WS01 and WS02 together with initial interpretations of the lower 3.0m from both boreholes are described in Tables 2 and 3 below, with a restricted synthesis described in the conclusions (Section 8.0). Information in Tables 2 and 3 follows the nomenclature of Tröels-Smith (1955).

### 5.2.1 Borehole WS01



Plate 3. Sediments in Borehole WS01

#### 5.2.1.1 Description and interpretation of sediments in Borehole WS01

Depth (m) Top of unit	Depth (m) Bottom of unit.	Description	Contact with overlying deposit	Interpretation	Summary
0.00	1.00	Collected in bag. Brick fragments in light brown clay		Make-up	Modern yard surfaces 19th-20th century
1.00	1.08	Void			
1.08	1.34	Dark grey clast supported flint gravel-small sub-angular flint with sand and silt. Rare rounded brick fragments with some charcoal. Damp-wet. Gamag3, Gamin1, Ag+, As+		Make-up	
1.34	1.36	Orange brown soft clayey silt with sand. Ag3,As1, Gamin+	Gradual contact with above	Make-up	
1.36	1.37	Yellow cream crushed chalk or mortar. Hard	Sharp boundary with above	Make-up	
1.37	1.375	Black sooty grit with sand. with above. Gamin2, Gamaj+	Sharp boundary	Make-up	

Depth (m) Top of unit	Depth (m) Bottom of unit.	Description	Contact with overlying deposit	Interpretation	Summary
1.375	1.56	Dark brown with occasional cream and red fleck. Silty sand with clay with some organic. Occasional angular flint gravel, occasional fleck of mortar and small lump of clay. Fragment of floor tile with red sandy fabric of post medieval date. As2, Ag1, As1, Sh++	Sharp boundary with above	Deposited	Yard surfaces and dumps (post medieval)
1.56	1.60	Brown with dirt white patches. Gravel with mortar and soil. Increasing mortar and occasional rounded pebble of chalk toward the base. Ag2, Gamaj2, Gamin++	Gradual boundary with above.	Dumped make up- with garden soil	
1.60	1.67	Soft dark black brown sandy silt. Ash and occasional brick) with a trace of organic, occasional brick (less than 1cm). Tobacco pipe stem fragment. Ag3, Gamin1, Gamag++	Relatively sharp boundary with above	Ash dump	
1.67	1.76	Dirty cream white. Firm clay with chalk at the base. Sandy clay softer at top with sooty deposits (ashy) probably soil layer in the middle. As2, Ag1, Gamin1, Gamag+	Sharp boundary with above	Chalky yard surface	
1.76	2.00	Soft dark brown silty sand with organics. Oyster shell, wood fragments, occasional small bone. Fragment of glazed pot (16th-18th century). Occasional cokey fragments. Sh2, Gamin1, Ag1	Sharp boundary with above.	Dumped organic deposits mixed with semi natural derived organic material and in washed sand.	Organic dumps. (Probably into watery margins of The Mere- 16th-18th century)
2.00	2.34	REDEPOSITED DURING CORING			
2.34	2.42	Dark brown sandy peat-detrital peat. No obvious plant remains occasional small angular flint gravel (sub-rounded). Dh2, Sh1, Gamin1		Organic detrital peat deposited below water table. Some weathering in of coarse sediments from margins.	Organic accumulation within The Mere with

Depth (m) Top of unit	Depth (m) Bottom of unit.	Description	Contact with overlying deposit	Interpretation	Summary
2.42	2.48	Dark grey brown coarser gritty organic with sand with a fragment of rolled brick fragments. Deposit wet and soft. Gamin2, Ah2, Gamag1	Gradual boundary with above	Sandier deposit – increased weathering in of surrounding soils.	Organic accumulation within The Mere with periodic weathering and washing in of surrounding sand and gravels,
2.48	2.50	Dark brown soft fine organic sand with some detrital plant remains. Sh2, Gamin2, Ag1	Gradual boundary with above.	Organic detrital organics deposited below water table. Some weathering in of coarse sediments from margins.	
2.50	2.54	Grey brown –dark with white yellow small flecks. Soft gritty organic sand with small blocks of dirty yellow clay. Grit-coarse with small pebbles-sub-angular and rounded flint and chalk. Gamin1, Gamg2, Sh1, Ag+, As+	Gradual boundary with above	Sandier deposit – increased weathering in of surrounding soils and dumping of some occupation waste.	
2.54	2.58	Relatively soft dark brown structureless organic with some sand. Sh3, Gamin1	Sharp boundary with above	Organic detrital organics deposited below water table.	
2.58	2.63	Slightly dark grey brown organic with occasional grit with a small weathered fragment of brick (red sandy brick). Sh2, Gamin1, Gamag1	Sharp boundary with above		
2.63	2.65	Dark brown soft organic with a trace of sand and larger flint. Sh4, Gamin+, Gamag+	Gradual boundary with above		
2.65	2.68	Dark brown structureless organic sand with rare small (0.5cm and less) sub-angular flint gravel. One worked flint (Neolithic) Gamin2, Sh2, Gamag+	Moderate sharp boundary with above		
2.68	2.82	Mid brown grey open gritty organic sand. With some coarse (1.5cm) sub-angular flint gravel. Occasional small roundwood twigs Gamin3, Sh+, Gamag1, DI+	Relatively sharp boundary with above	Sandier deposit – increased weathering in of sediments from margins of the lake.	

Depth (m) Top of unit	Depth (m) Bottom of unit.	Description	Contact with overlying deposit	Interpretation	Summary
2.82	3.00	Mid brown structureless fine organic sand. No large inclusions. Rare wood fragments- mostly roundwood twigs a few mm across. Gamin3, Sh1	Relatively sharp boundary with above	In-washed fine sand from weathering of surrounding slopes together with 'naturally' accumulating detrital organics in shallow lacustrine environment.	Deposition in water. Possible fill of retting pit below water level? Or simply steeply sloping part of lake margin with natural sedimentation together with domestic and semi-industrial processes
3.00	3.25	REDEPOSITED DURING CORING			
3.25	3.36	Dark brown organic sand with gravel. Sh3, Gamin1, Gamag++		'Naturally' accumulating detrital organics in shallow lacustrine environment. With in-washed sands and gravels.	
3.36	3.43	Light grey silty sand (very fine sand) with occasional large charcoal block and a half a 17 <sup>th</sup> century pipe bowl (see Plate 5) Sediments- not horizontal but dipping Ag2, Gamin2	Sharp boundary with above	Dumped domestic refuse within probable lacustrine deposit-upper Possible pit fill	
3.43	3.44	Dark brown structureless peat deposit with a trace of charcoal. Sediments- not horizontal but dipping Sh3, Gamin1	Sharp boundary with above	Naturally accumulating detrital organics within shallow aquatic environment.	
3.44	3.51	Grey brown sand with some organic. Slightly laminated. Occasional grit sized particles. Slightly laminated. Sediments- not horizontal but dipping Gamin3, Sh1, Gamag+	Sharp contact with above	Naturally washed in sands and silts	
3.51	3.56	Dark black brown detrital organic-slightly laminated. Relatively dry. Occasional fine wood fragments. Slightly laminated. Sediments- not horizontal but dipping Sh4, Gamin++, DI++	Gradual boundary with above	Naturally accumulating detrital organics within shallow aquatic environment.	
3.56	3.73	Dark brown sandy relatively dry structureless peat. Sediments- not horizontal but dipping Oyster shell and no coarse sediment. Sh4, Ag+, Gamin++	Gradual boundary with above	Naturally accumulating detrital organics within shallow aquatic environment. Occasional dumping of domestic refuse.	

Depth (m) Top of unit	Depth (m) Bottom of unit.	Description	Contact with overlying deposit	Interpretation	Summary
3.73	3.80	Dark grey brown. Stony (some round pebbles) in a matrix of organic sand. Occ.fine brick fragments (1-2m). Small blocks of ashy sediments. Sediments- not horizontal but dipping Sh2,Gamin1, Gamag1	Sharp contact with above	Naturally accumulating detrital organics within shallow aquatic environment. Occasional dumping of domestic refuse. Increased in-washing of inorganic sediments from catchment.	
3.80	3.83	Mid grey brown sandy organic. Sediments- not horizontal but dipping Gamin3, Sh1	Moderate sharp boundary with above	In washing of sand from catchment.	
3.83	3.89	Dark grey brown. Dark gritty grey sand with organic and gravel. Occ. Oyster shell. Sediments- not horizontal but dipping Gamin3, Sh1	Moderate sharp boundary with above	In washing of sand from catchment mixed with organic detritus.	
3.89	3.92	Dark brown. Organic with some sand. Small angular leather off-cut and horncore. Sediments not horizontal but dipping Sh3,Gamin1	Moderate sharp boundary with above	Slightly sandy organic sediments with refuse dumps from leatherworking and butchery or horn working.	
3.92	4.00	Dark brown. Sandy organic with occasional small fragments of brick, Silty ash deposits. Occasional oyster shell and flint gravel. Relatively dry. Sediments not horizontal but dipping Gamin2, Sh2, Gamag++, D1+, test++	Moderate sharp boundary with above	Sandy organic sediments with refuse dumps	
4.00	5.00	Peat- not collected			

Table 2. Description of sediments in Borehole WS01 (see also Fig. 5)



## 5.2.2 Borehole WS02



Plate 4 Sediments in Borehole WS02

### 5.2.2.1 Description and interpretation of sediments in Borehole WS02

Depth (m) Top of unit	Depth (m) Bottom of unit.	Description	Contact with overlying deposit	Interpretation	Summary
0.00	1.00	Collected in bag. Brick fragments in light brown clay.		Make-up	Yard surfaces Post-med/ modern
1.00	1.35	Mid brown soft sandy organic silt. Occasional animal bone - tooth (sheep). Post-med brick fragments. Soft. Ag2, Sh1, Gamin1		Dumped refuse	Shallow margins of the mere semi emergent- refuse dumped- Post medieval in date
1.35	1.42	Mid grey brown silt with sand and trace of organic and trace of charcoal. Gamin2, Ag2, Sh+	Gradual boundary with above		
1.42	1.50	Mid grey brown silt with organic (trace) some sand. Frequent fragments of charcoal. Ag3, Gamin1, Sh+	Gradual boundary with above	Lacustrine deposits	.Deeper water in mere

Depth (m) Top of unit	Depth (m) Bottom of unit.	Description	Contact with overlying deposit	Interpretation	Summary
1.50	1.61	Grey silt with a trace of sand. Occ. Coarse gravel upto 4cm. Ag4, Gamin+, Gamag+	Gradual boundary with above	Lacustrine deposits with washed in sand and gravel.	
1.61	1.67	Dark grey brown. Organic silt with occ. Plant remains. Ag3, Gamin++, Sh1	Gradual boundary with above	Silt and organic sediments accumulating within shallow water of mere	Shallow mere
1.67	1.79	Light grey with white speckle. Firm sticky silt with a trace of sand. Occ charcoal, chalk and flint gravel. Ag4, Gamin+	Moderate sharp boundary with above.	Chalky deposit with some waste from fires and construction. Deposited in water	Change in regime - looks like increase in dumping and erosion.
1.79	1.92	Dark brown dry sandy organic. Occ. grit and fine flint (sub-angular). Occ wood fragments-fine round wood twigs) Sh3, Gamin1, Gamag++, DI+	Sharp contact with above	Naturally accumulating organic within mere, limited inorganic	Cycles of lesser and greater erosion. Possibly related to land-use changes, variable climate or water level fluctuations.
1.92	1.94	Very dark brown detrital peat with no obvious plant remains and a trace of sand. Dh4, Gamin++	Sharp contact with above	Virtually no sand – little erosion. Accumulation of detrital organic within waterbody.	
1.94	2.00	Dark grey brown sandy organic with occasional sub-angular flint gravel. Gamin2, Sh2, Gamin+	Moderate sharp boundary with above	Period of erosion and or decreased water levels resulting in inorganic rich detrital organics	
2.00	2.32	Redeposited			
2.32	2.38	Dark brown organic with trace of sand. Sh4, Gamin++	Moderate sharp boundary with above	Virtually no sand – little erosion. Accumulation of detrital organic within waterbody	
2.38	2.66	Mid brown organic with sand and occasional clasts of clay and rare larger flint pebble and angular small flint gravel. Sh3, Gamin1, Ag1, Gamag++	Moderate sharp boundary with above.	Naturally accumulating organic within mere, limited inorganic.	

Depth (m) Top of unit	Depth (m) Bottom of unit.	Description	Contact with overlying deposit	Interpretation	Summary
2.66	2.72	Dark black brown firm organic with some silt and wood fragments. Sh3, DI1, Ag++	Moderate sharp boundary with above.	No sand – limited erosion. Accumulation of detrital organic in possible Alder carr within waterbody	
2.72	2.85	Mid dark brown organic with sand. Structureless Sh3, Gamin1	Moderate sharp boundary with above	Slight erosion of marginal sediments into the predominantly organic accumulation in the mere.	Increase in water levels and periodic introduction of eroded inorganic sediments from the catchment
2.85	2.86	Laminae of white/grey soft clayey chalky silt.	Sharp contact with above	Possible climate forced weathering event or disturbance on sides of mere.	
2.86	3.00	Mid dark brown organic sub-angular flint gravel and sand. Animal bone vertebrae of large mammal. Occasional wood fragments. Sh2, Gamin1, Gamag1, DI+	Sharp contact with above	Domestic refuse- undated- possibly early. In deposit of naturally deposited organic debris in waterbody	
3.00	3.22	Void			
3.22	3.36	Dark brown turfa peat. Firm. Full of plant remains- leaves, stems and breaks into horizontal sheets. No roots. Sedge peat. Dh4		Sedge peat- growth of semi emergent reedswamp around margins	Water levels slightly higher- no obvious anthropogenic influence - reedswamp on wet margins of the mere.
3.36	3.50	Dark brown silty organic with flint gravel (sub-angular and small). Oyster shell, garden snail shell, charcoal, Soft with an open and broken texture. Sh2, DI1, Ag++, Gamin1, Gamag++, test++	Moderate sharp boundary with above	Limited dumping of domestic refuse - undated. Garden snail suggests possible deposition of soils into this possible terrestrial emergent deposit.	Water levels likely to be low with dumping of soils and waste
3.50	3.70	Ginger brown turfa peat. Th3, Sh++, gamin1	Gradual boundary with above.	<i>In situ</i> growth of reedswamp with some weathering of catchment sediments into the mere	Water levels reducing but still shallow water.

Depth (m) Top of unit	Depth (m) Bottom of unit.	Description	Contact with overlying deposit	Interpretation	Summary
3.70	3.76	Dark grey brown organic sand. Sh1, Th1, Gamin2	Gradual boundary with above	Increasing organic deposition	
3.76	3.96	Mid grey slightly brown sand with occ. Large sub-angular flint clasts (max 8cm). Organic material mats developed below stones. Gamin3, Gamag1, Sh+	Gradual boundary with above	Organic mats developing around larger flint pebbles in shallow water. Probably sands and gravels are reworked glaciofluvial deposits.	Holocene sands and gravels accumulated in shallow water.
3.96	4.00	Mid brown organic sand with occasional larger flint gravel. Gamin3, Sh1, Gamag++	Gradual boundary with above		Possibly the top of the glaciofluvial gravels with Holocene material introduced.

Table 3. Description and interpretation of sediments from Borehole WS02 (see also Fig. 5)

## 6.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

by Rebecca Sillwood

Finds recovered from Test Pit 01 and Boreholes WS01 and WS02 were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining their broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and is presented below organised by material. A list of finds ordered by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

### 6.1 Pottery

Eleven pieces of pottery were collected; ten from Test Pit 01 and one from Borehole WS01. All of the sherds are of post-medieval-modern date.

#### Test Pit 01

Layer [02] produced two pieces; one is a large ?flowerpot fragment in pale orange earthenware, the second is a rim sherd with thick speckled brown glaze on the exterior and thick cream glaze on the interior.

Layer [03] produced eight pieces, three of which were from the same vessel (including a base and a rim fragment). These three pieces are yellow glazed on both surfaces, and appear to be from a large bowl. Another large base fragment from a bowl was also yellow glazed, but only internally. A rim fragment of another bowl, yellow glazed on the exterior and white on the interior was also found, along with a brown and white transfer-printed fragment of rim probably from a tea cup. The remaining two pieces from layer [02] are stoneware fragments; one is the

base of a bottle, with a stamp just visible on the side, of which only the word 'Lambeth London' can be read. Lambeth was a centre for pottery making in the 19th century, with the most famous pottery there finally becoming Royal Doulton, (first known as Doulton Lambeth). However this example does not appear to be a Doulton piece, but is likely to be from one of the other potteries operating there during this period.

### **Borehole WS01**

A single fragment of pottery was recovered from Borehole WS01 at 190cm depth. The fragment is a piece of glazed red earthenware, a type of pottery that was ubiquitous during the 16th to 18th centuries.

## **6.2 Ceramic Building Material**

Eight pieces of ceramic building material were collected; six from Test Pit 01 and Borehole WS02

### **Test Pit 01**

Six fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from Test Pit 01 and came from three separate layers.

Layer [02] produced an abraded yellowish fragment, probably floor tile, and two pieces of wall tile. The floor tile has no complete original dimensions. The two fragments of wall tile are unglazed, but seem to have come from the same piece, and have embossed lettering on their reverse. This lettering is likely to be the maker of the tile, although only fragmentary elements remain - 'MINT', 'TH', and 'INS'. It is possible that the 'MINT' refers to Minton's Ltd, a maker of ceramics in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Layer [03] produced a single piece of CBM - a large piece of brick in purplish-pink hard sandy fabric. The piece is much abraded, and friable, and is likely to be post-medieval in date.

Layer [04] produced two conjoining pieces of pan tile, in hard reddish fabric, with a rough upper surface and a smoothed/wiped lower surface. These pieces are post-medieval.

### **Borehole WS02**

Two pieces of CBM were recovered from Borehole WS02 at 135cm. These two pieces consist of a piece of brick in purplish hard sandy fabric, and a small pinkish-orange fragment, possibly of a roof tile. Both pieces are post-medieval.

## **6.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe**

Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from Borehole WS01.

### **Borehole WS01**

An undiagnostic fragment of undecorated post-medieval pipe stem was found in Borehole WS01 at 161cm.

A fragment of a pipe bowl of probable 17th-century date was recovered at 341cm. Although only incomplete, it is possible to see that the pipe was a reasonably early example, with a smaller bulbous bowl and milling around the rim (Plate 5).



Plate5. Bowl of tobacco pipe from WS01 (341cm).

## 6.4 Glass

Three fragments of glass were found from Test Pit 01

### Test Pit 01

Layer [02] produced a single fragment from the base of a bottle. The glass is pale green and is embossed with the initials 'B & \*\* K' (\*\* denotes a missing letter). This maker has been identified as Bagley & Co. of Knottingly in West Yorkshire (<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/john.roberts187/bottlemanufacturers.html>) and was in existence from 1871, becoming Bagley & Co. Ltd. in 1898 and operated until 1975. The bottle was probable used by Youngs Crawshay and Youngs' Cuthbert Stores (Diss) (<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/john.roberts187/YC&Y/cuthbertstores.html>).

Layer [03] produced two post-medieval pieces of glass, one possibly slightly earlier than the other. The possibly earlier piece is a dark green vessel fragment with an iridescent sheen, and is quite thin and curved. The other fragment is of pale green bottle glass and has part of the Caley's monogram embossed upon it. Caley's. The company set up in Norwich in 1857 as a chemist and in 1863 they began producing mineral water and tonics. The company was owned by the Caley family until 1918. It has been revived as a confectionary brand in recent years.

## 6.5 Leather

A single off-cut was recovered from Borehole WS01.

### Borehole WS01

A small undiagnostic off-cut piece of leather, roughly triangular in shape, was recovered from at 390cm. The piece cannot be dated or assigned a form, and has been discarded.

## 6.6 Flint

One worked flint was present in Borehole WS01

### Borehole WS01

A small fragment of a snapped, probably Neolithic, flint blade was found at 265cm. The flint is honey-coloured, and has a tiny amount of cortex left on the bulb end of the piece.

## **6.7 Animal Bone**

Twelve pieces of animal bone were recovered; six fragments came from Test Pit 01 (including a bone handle and a tooth) and six from the window samples

### **Test Pit 01**

Layer [02] produced four fragments of animal bone, a tooth and a bone handle.

The four cleanly-sawn fragments of animal bone included rib fragments.

The tooth was possibly from a pig.

The bone handle is incomplete, but is smoothly worked with a rounded end and a broken opposite end. The handle had been hollowed out to hold the (missing) metal part of the implement.

### **Borehole WS01**

Four pieces, which include horn core fragments, were found at 390cm.

### **Borehole WS02**

A sheep's tooth was found at 135cm and a large vertebra at 286c.

## **6.8 Shell**

Eight fragments of oyster shell were recovered; six from Test Pit 01 and two from Borehole WS01.

### **Test Pit 01**

Of the six oyster shell fragments found, three came from layer [02] and three from layer [03].

### **Borehole WS01**

Two fragments were found at 390cm and have subsequently been discarded

## **6.9 Finds Conclusions**

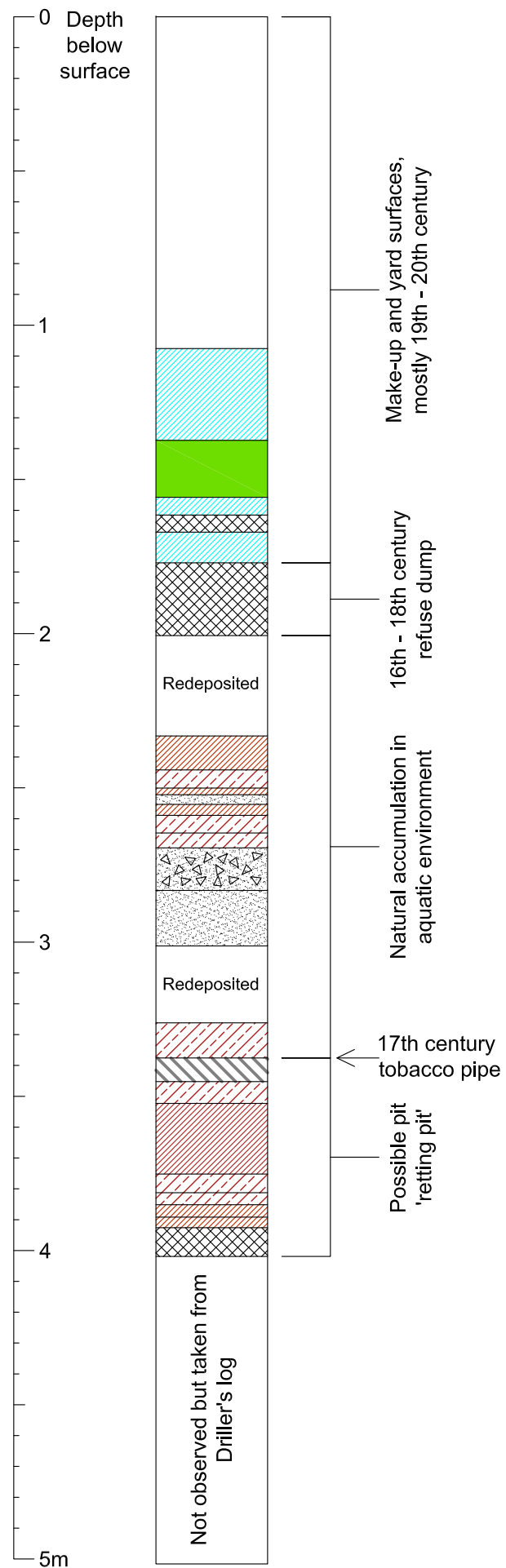
One of the objects recovered during the evaluation is of possible Neolithic date (the flint) and as such barely hints at activity in the area at this time. Almost all of the finds are of post-medieval or modern date and most likely were accidentally incorporated into the make-up deposits that they were found in.

## **7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

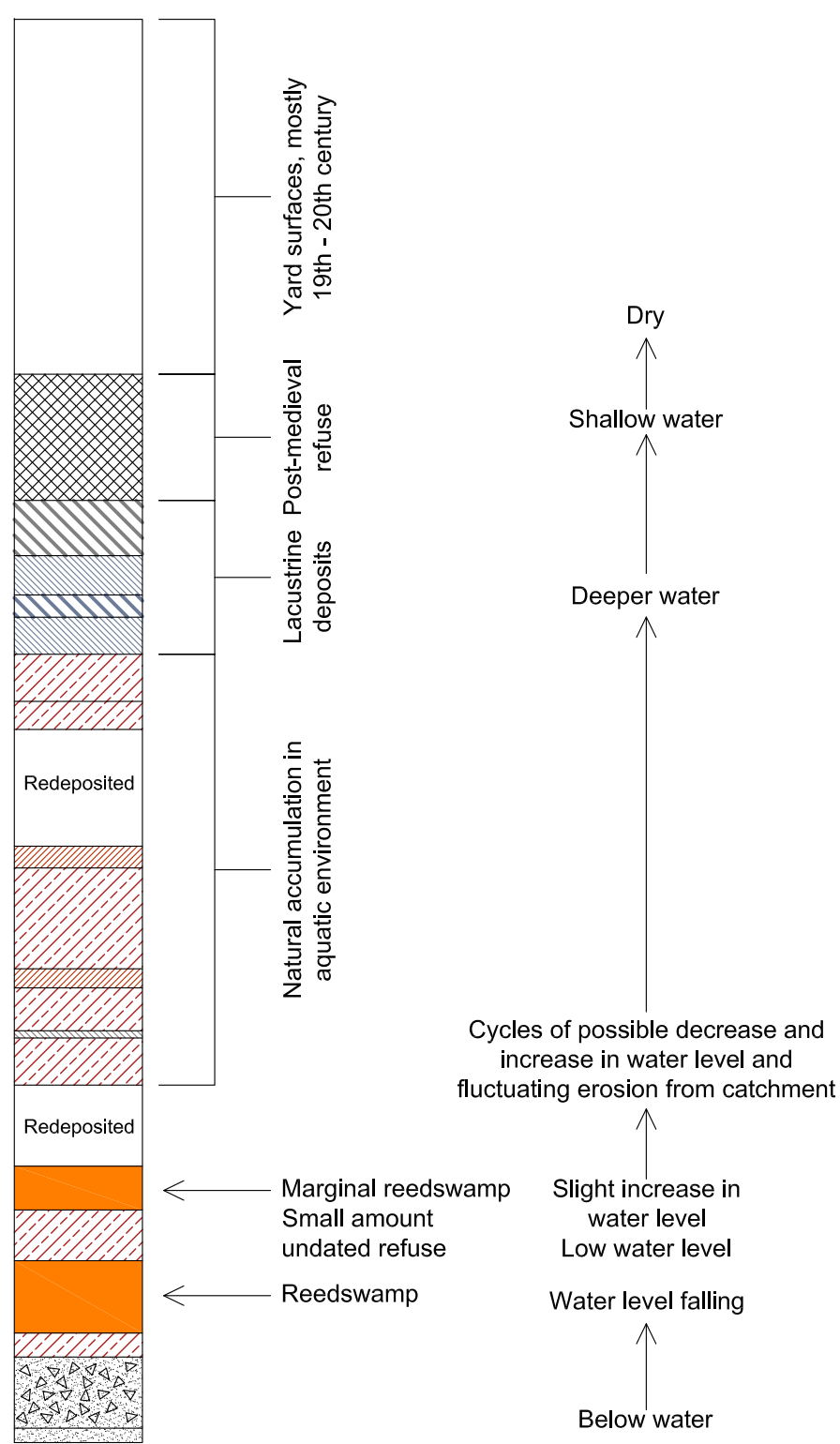
Borehole samples WS01 and WS02 have been retained for palaeoenvironmental analysis at a future date should it be required. In addition, sub-samples were taken from the cores at regular intervals and also retained if required for palaeoenvironmental analysis in the future.

No formal assessment of the material has been made at this stage but it is highly likely given the waterlogged nature of these deposits and the presence of a good record in deeper parts of the lake that preservation will be good.

← Mere WS 01



WS 02 King's Head Hotel →



Key

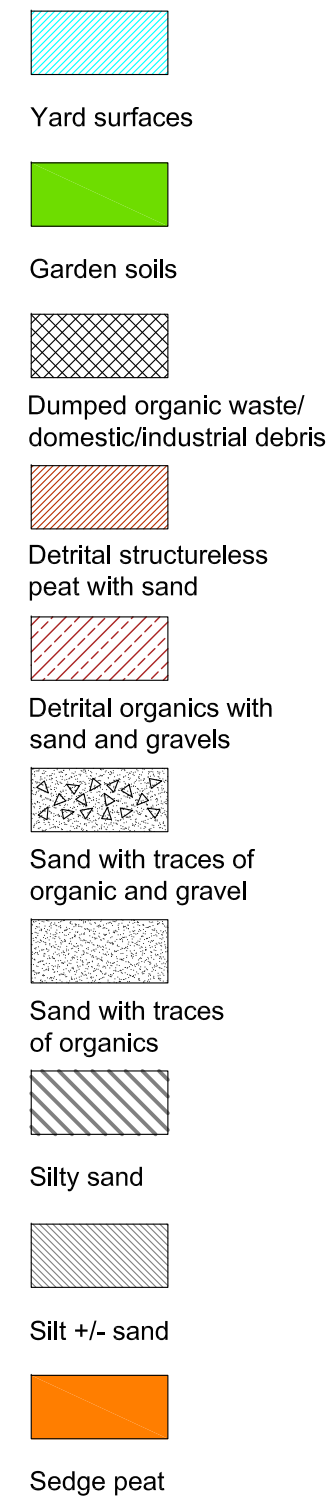


Figure 5. Deposits recorded in boreholes WS 01 and WS 02.  
Vertical scale 1:20, horizontal scale 1:200



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## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS

A summary of the results and principal conclusions based on this initial analysis of the sediments below the yard to the rear of the King's Head Hotel in Diss has been described above and the sequence of deposits encountered in the boreholes is shown in Figure 5.

The oldest part of the hotel is a 17th-century timber-framed, Grade II listed building and some of the deposits encountered may well date to the time when this building was being constructed.

The upper 1.0m deposits are similar in all three interventions (Test Pit 01 and Boreholes WS01 and WS02) being a sequence of mid 19th- to 20th-century yard make-up layers and surfaces.

The two boreholes contain very different deposits which can't be easily correlated with each other. Borehole WS01 was located only 15.0m or so from the modern margins of The Mere and encountered basal sediments 5.0m below the surface (Table 2 and Fig. 5). Borehole WS02 was located close to the rear of the building and some 23.00m from WS01 and encountered basal sediments at 4.0m below the surface (Table 3 and Fig. 5).

### **Borehole WS01**

The lower deposits of WS01 were described as peat and although not observed they are likely to be natural deposits infilling the deep lake basin. The sediment between 4.00m and 3.36m observed in detail in WS01 however, contained horn cores and leather off-cuts and is interpreted as being refuse from leather working and butchery or horn-working processes. These sediments and those lying above them (0.64m in total) were steeply dipping, hinting they may have accumulated within a cut feature rather than the natural slope of the lake basin. All these sediments had accumulated within an aquatic environment suggesting a pit may have been cut in the sediments of The Mere to produce a deeper water trough – possibly to be used for retting. The Mere was utilised for an extensive local hemp industry in the 17th-19th centuries and from the 18th century onwards flax would have also been retted in the waters of The Mere. The use of The Mere for retting would have created considerable debris and it is possible some of the organic debris which has settled out to form detrital organic sands may be derived from this processes. However, sediments associated with retting are described as black and the sediments in the lower part of WS01, although organically rich, are not produced from the anoxic mud derived from retting. Palaeoenvironmental enquiry may assist in this interpretation since pollen analysis (Peglar 1993a) was able to illustrate that the retting of hemp was just one of the agricultural processes undertaken in The Mere. The upper fill of this putative cut feature contained part of a bowl of a 17th-century tobacco pipe. This date corresponds to the construction of the timber-framed building which forms the core of the King's Head Hotel and it is likely that just prior to its construction unpleasantly smelling industrial activities would have ceased - perhaps explaining the infilling of this possible retting pit.

Above this potential pit fill a further 1.20m of sediments accumulated within The Mere. Most of these deposits were organic sands, deposited in shallow waters with varying amounts of sand and gravel. This variation in sand and gravel may have been related to the amount of erosion occurring on the immediate catchment

of The Mere. It is interesting to note that these organic fine sands would have been accumulating during the 17th- to 18th centuries, as indicated by a sherd of 16th- to 18th-century pottery found in a deposit with domestic refuse which lay above these principally organic sands. This would have corresponded to a cold dry period known as the Little Ice Age. Large-scale sand movements are recorded in the brecks in the 17th century (and in particular between 1600 and 1645). Although some of the reasons for the migration of sand dunes in this period seem to be associated with expansion of rabbit warrens and the increasing instability of the sediments resulting from this and other anthropogenic activity, the underlying reason for the mobilisation of dunefields at this time is related to the Little Ice Age. At this time there were not only colder temperatures but increased aridity, and associated reduction in water levels, together with greater storminess (Bateman and Godby 2004). Examples of large-scale sand movements in the brecks include the 'sand flood' of the 17th century in which the village of Santon Downham was lost. Although Diss is on the eastern margin of this area it is possible it too was affected by these major sand blows.

At 2.00m below the surface, dumping of domestic refuse including pottery of 16th- to 18th-century date occurred within the shallow waters of The Mere. However the sequence shows that by 1.75m below the surface, levels began to be raised and the edge of The Mere infilled with layers of sandy and gravelly make-up including demolition or construction debris. No datable material was found in the lower deposits of this process but 19th-century make-up levels and yard surfaces form the upper 1.0m of deposits at the site.

### **Borehole WS02**

Borehole WS02 is located closer to the building and is not as deep (the base of the sequence is recorded at 4.00m) but has a less disturbed natural sequence. There is no evidence of potential pits being dug into The Mere sediments in this area. Some of these lower deposits contain animal bone and oyster shell (2.86m) and oyster shell, charcoal and a garden snail (3.36m) however there is no dating evidence associated with these anthropogenic deposits. It is thought that because these deposits are sealed within sterile naturally deposited reedswamp and detrital organic sand they may be relatively old deposits. It is tempting to recall the presence of Roman deposits including a wood structure (thought to be either part of a wharf or villa, recorded as NHER 7932) immediately to the south of the site.

The slightly organic sands at the base of WS02 (4.00m below the surface) appear to be developed into glaciofluvial sands and gravels. The deepest sediments suggest standing shallow water in which vegetation mats form below pebbles. The water levels then appear to lower as a reed swamp develops on the margin of the mere. A potential lower water level is recorded at 3.36m where oyster shell, garden snail and charcoal are found in an organic mud. This deposit is interpreted as being part waste disposal in shallow water or possibly on an emergent surface. There follows development once more of *in situ* reedswamp indicating a possible increase in water levels.

Above the reedswamp is a sequence of organic sands with varying amounts of sand and gravel which seem to suggest that there are fluctuations in erosion from the catchment and (possibly varying) water levels with periods when the lake margins flooded over previously semi-terrestrial deposits. Such variability is likely to be related to drier conditions (potentially associated with the Little Ice Age in the

16th-18th centuries) as described for WS01 above, or to other land use changes such as increased clearance of the margins of The Mere therefore increasing run-off. Increased washing-in of sand and gravel from the catchment may also be related to the development of the land surrounding The Mere. At 1.80m there is a sequence of relatively clean grey silts which appear to be lacustrine, suggesting an expansion in the size of The Mere at this time. Above this deposit at 1.35m the water level may have reduced since dumping of organic debris (including post medieval brick fragments and animal bones) occurred, most likely within marginal shallow water.

From 1.00m upwards a sequence of make-up and yard surfaces filled in the margin of The Mere to reclaim the land in at least the 19th and 20th centuries - and possibly before.

The conclusions articulated above are based on the sedimentology of Boreholes WS01 and WS02. More detailed work on the palaeoenvironmental aspects of these deposits might enable some of the hypotheses expressed to be tested.

Brief analysis of the sedimentology suggests there is potential to establish water level fluctuations in the lake – which if suitable for Radio Carbon dating would potentially provide a valuable regional aridity indicator.

The sediments at the margin of the mere have provided an opportunity to examine the record of both human activity and potentially a climatic record.

Recommendations for further mitigation work (if required, based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

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## Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
01	Deposit			Firm orange 'hoggin'	Modern
02	Deposit			Light grey sandy clay	Post-medieval/modern
03	Deposit			Sandy clay	Post-medieval
04	Deposit			Dark brown sandy clay	Post-medieval
05	Deposit			Light brown clayey sand	Post-medieval
06	Deposit			Gritty sand	?Post-medieval

## Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
02	Pottery	2	228g	Post-medieval	
02	Ceramic Building Material	1	285g	Post-medieval	
02	Ceramic Building Material	2	60g	Modern	Tiles
02	Glass	1	73g	Post-medieval	
02	Animal Bone	4	50g	Unknown	
02	Animal Bone	1	32g	Post-medieval	Implement handle
02	Shell	3	68g	Unknown	Oyster; DISCARDED
03	Pottery	8	365g	Post-medieval	
03	Ceramic Building Material	1	400g	Post-medieval	Brick fragment
03	Glass	2	26g	Post-medieval	
03	Shell	3	111g	Unknown	Oyster; DISCARDED
04	Ceramic Building Material	2	264g	Post-medieval	Roof tiles
WS01	Pottery	1	2g	Post-medieval	190cm
WS01	Clay Pipe	1	3g	Post-medieval	341cm; bowl fragment
WS01	Clay Pipe	1	1g	Post-medieval	161cm; stem fragment
WS01	Leather	1	1g	Unknown	390cm; off-cut; DISCARDED
WS01	Flint – Struck	1	1g	Neolithic	265cm
WS01	Animal Bone	4	75g	Unknown	390cm
WS01	Shell	2	17g	Unknown	390cm; oyster; DISCARDED
WS02	Ceramic Building Material	2	215g	Post-medieval	135cm
WS02	Animal Bone	1	44g	Unknown	286cm
WS02	Animal Bone	1	14g	Unknown	135cm

## Appendix 2b: Oasis Finds Summary

<b>Period</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Total</b>
Neolithic	Flint – Struck	1
Post-medieval	Animal Bone	1
	Ceramic Building Material	6
	Clay Pipe	2
	Glass	3
	Pottery	11
Modern	Ceramic Building Material	2
Uncertain	Animal Bone	10
	Leather	1
	Shell	8



## **Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: norfolka1-138359**

### Project details

Project name	King's Head Yard, Diss
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation at Kings Head Yard, Diss in was located adjacent to The Mere, a natural lake of late glacial origin. Sediments to a depth of 4.0-5.0m were examined at two locations using borehole data, and a small test pit c.1.0m x 1.0m excavated to a depth of 1.0m. Over 1.0m of 19th- and 20th-century yard surfaces, make up and upper deposits were recorded in Test Pit 01. Deposits in boreholes WS01 and WS02 contained a highly variable sediment record that was difficult to correlate, suggesting human intervention in the natural sequence within borehole WS01. Both boreholes indicate the Mere extended beyond its modern shores to at least the rear of the Kings Head Hotel and probably further. The sequence in borehole WS02 indicates that the lower 3.0m are largely naturally deposited detrital organic peat, sandy peat and silts in a shallow subaqueous environment with hints of domestic refuse dumped in the Mere. There are also suggestions that The Mere occasionally became deeper and more extensive. The base of the lake deposits in Borehole WS01 were 1.0m deeper than WS02, possibly indicating steep sides to The Mere. Organic sediments were recorded at 4.0m below the surface, possibly the fill of a ?pit - possibly a retting pit. Its upper fill is ?17th-century and may correspond to the building of the Kings Head. Deposits above and in this ?pit are a complex mix of organic sediments that from a semi-aquatic environment, dumped domestic waste and weathered-in sand and gravels. The fluctuating water levels and variable amounts of sand found in these marginal deposits may be the result of the 'Little Ice Age' in the 16th-18th centuries.
Project dates	Start: 31-10-2012 End: 31-10-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF130135 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Neolithic
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval

Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LEATHER Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Augering","Test Pits"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK DISS King's Head Yard
Study area	1600.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1168 7988 52 1 52 22 31 N 001 06 36 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project director/manager	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Frances Green
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Claverhouse Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Report","Section"

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation (Window Sampling and Test Pitting) at King's Head Yard, Diss, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Green, F.M.L. with Adams D.
Other bibliographic details	Report 3143
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
Description	A4 paper, colour-printed, double-sided, spiral-bopund; PDF
Entered by	Jayne Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	29 January 2013

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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