

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/106**

# **Palace House Stables, Newmarket NKT 032**

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** N/A

**Date of Fieldwork:** 24th May 2010

**Grid Reference:** TL 6447 6332

**Funding Body:** Forest Heath District Council

**Curatorial Officer:** Keith Wade

**Project Officer:** Mo Muldowney

**Oasis Reference:** Suffolkc1\_78688



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## Summary

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Palace House Stables, Newmarket. This recorded a range of six brick-built walls, the front of an extensive span of lean-to out-buildings built against the north boundary wall. The buildings date to the late 18th or early 19th century and their earliest depiction is on a map of 1850. The buildings however incorporate part of an earlier clunch-built structure thought to be part of the stable complex built by Charles II; part of this original building survives within the existing standing boundary wall. The wall footings overlie earlier deposits including a post-medieval pit, possible floor surfaces and an occupation soil that produced 16th to 18th century pottery and building rubble. The east end of the building range was cut by a brick-lined sunken chamber - either a cellar/soakaway or dung pit, which dated to probably the latter part of the 19th century.





## **1. Introduction**

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An evaluation was carried out at Palace House Stables, Newmarket for GWP Architecture, on behalf of the Home of Horseracing Trust (and Forest Heath District Council) ahead of the proposed development of the site (Planning application no. N/A ). The work was carried out on 24th May 2010 and undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).

Newmarket is located on the West Suffolk border with Cambridgeshire and lies approximately 15m to the west of Bury St Edmunds and 13m north-east-east of Cambridge. Palace House Stables are located on Palace Road, behind the High Street and approximately opposite the Tourist Information Centre (formerly the Palace of King Charles II) (Fig. 1).

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The development area overlies Holywell nodular chalk (BGS) and lies on a narrow strip of land between the north range of the Palace House stables and the south boundary wall of the property to the north. The ground sloped steeply and unevenly from north to south at just under 30m OD.

At the time of the evaluation, the land was overgrown with nettles and cow parsley and strewn underfoot with loose brick rubble and bounded by walls on all sides, except for a gap in the north-east corner which allowed machine access.

## **3. Archaeological and historical background**

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Newmarket was founded in 1220 by Richard Argentein, Lord of the Manor of Exning and the settlement developed at a watering place along the road between London and Norwich, via Cambridge and Bury St Edmunds. This was an already well established route across the chalk – the course of the Icknield Way (NKT 007), a route of probable Iron Age origin, passes nearby.

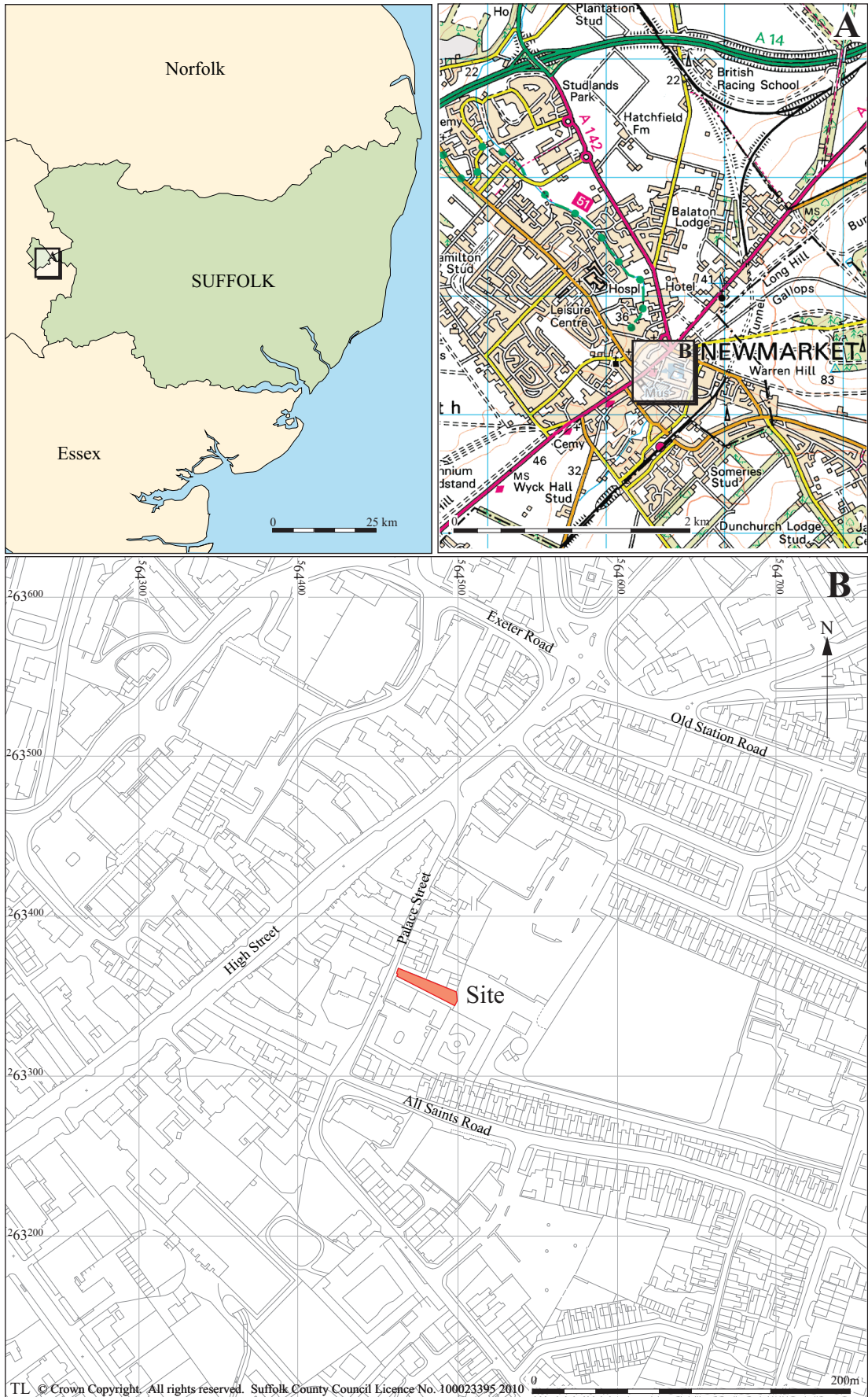


Figure 1. Site location, showing development area

No references for archaeological activity from the prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon periods were identified within the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER), but there are records for the later medieval and post-medieval periods. These are presented in detail in the Desk-based Assessment produced by SCCAS (Rolfe 2010) and Documentary Study by A. M. Breen in the same report.

In summary, the records start in the early 17th century, when James I acquired a site in Newmarket and built a house there (1606). Both Charles I and – after the Restoration – Charles II also spent time in Newmarket, culminating with the erection of what is purported to be the world's first purpose-built horseracing stables. The form of these stables altered over the years, with the latest changes made between 1896 and 1903. It is important to state here that the secondary documentary sources do not refer directly to the stables, but instead to the houses. With this in mind, the results of the evaluation are crucial to understanding which phase of stable development is present at this location and indeed if any remains are present at all.

Please refer to the Desk-based Assessment for more detail concerning the SHER entries in proximity to the development area (Fig. 3, p.5-9 Rolfe 2010).

## **4. Methodology**

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The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that a minimum of 5% of the development area (272m sq) should be subject to trial trenching. Based on the potential impact of the proposed development, which is to include extensive cellaring, this equated to one 1.6m wide trench, no more than 28m in length (Fig. 2). The trench was excavated by a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist.

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the extent and depth of surviving deposits and to this end, the archaeological remains in the trench were planned only. Where appropriate, the depth of deposits was established by machine-excavating two slots. One of these was located at the west end of the trench, and the second was located approximately midway along the trench from the east end (Fig. 3). These exposed deposits were then hand-drawn and photographed.

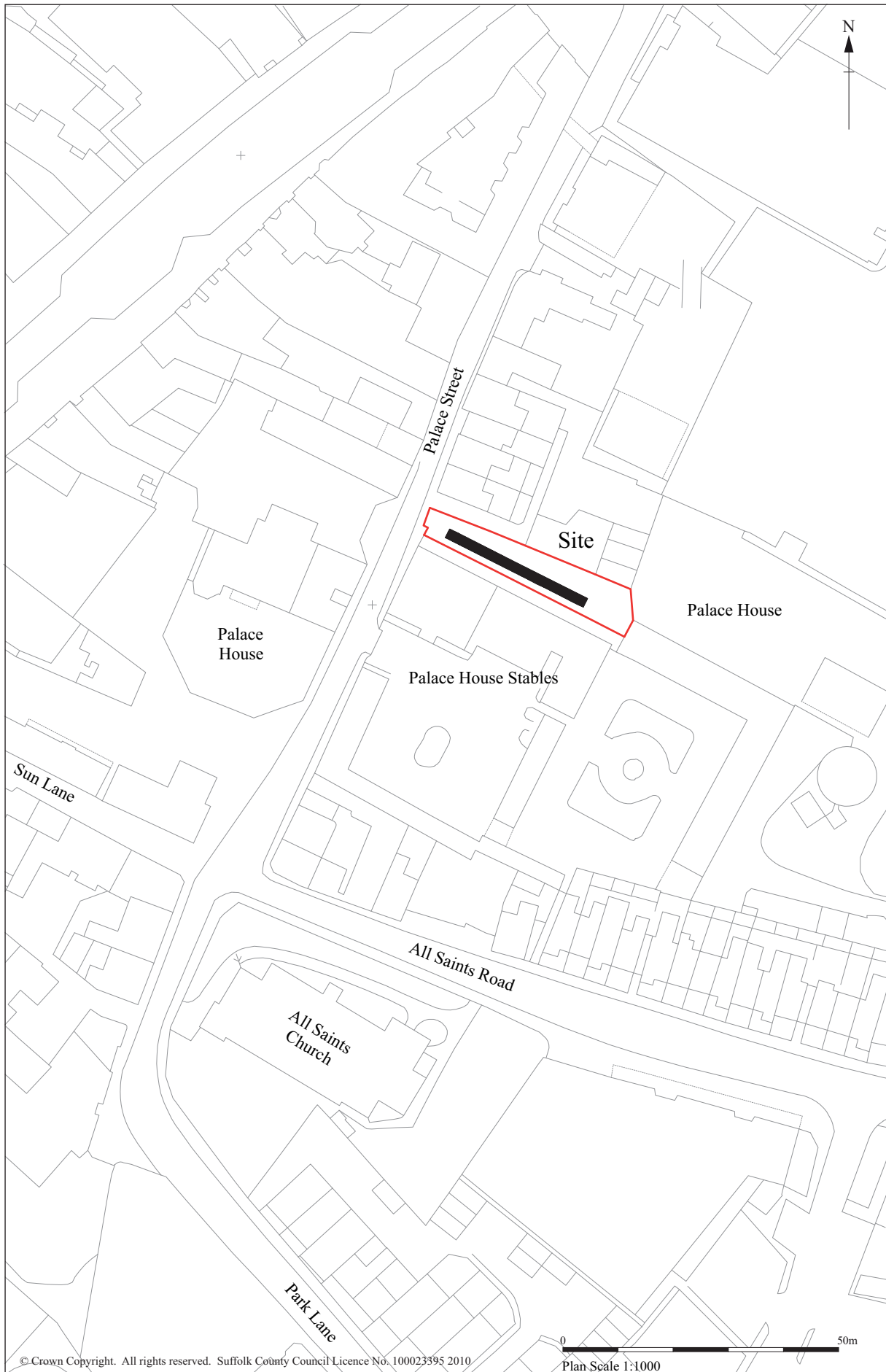


Figure 2. Trench Location

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10. A photographic record was kept of all features and deposits on both black and white film and a high resolution digital camera (314 dpi). The trench was located by triangulating from the surrounding buildings.

All finds were collected and assigned context numbers directly related to the deposit from which they were recovered. No metal-detecting was carried out and no environmental samples were taken.

The archive is stored in the SCCAS main store at Bury St Edmunds under HER no. NKT 032 and a digital copy of the report has been submitted to the Archaeological Data Service: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Introduction

The majority of archaeological remains in the trench were post-medieval or modern in date. Only one possibly earlier deposit was identified. The post-medieval or modern remains consisted of a small number of surfaces, a pit, a posthole and several other deposits (Fig. 3).

Natural chalk and gravels 0005 was observed at the base of the post-medieval/modern cellar/soakaway 0031, at the base of the mid-trench sondage and also at the west end of the trench. Although not seen over an extensive area, it consisted of a mixture of bright white chalk and mid brownish orange flint gravels. It was encountered at a depth of approximately 28m OD.

Deposit 0015, mid grey silty clay, overlay natural 0005 at the west end of the trench. It extended across the full width of the trench but was recorded in section only. It was more than 0.04m thick (Appendix 4, Plate 1) and contained six sherds of a 16th to 18th century Glazed red earthenware jar/chamberpot.

The following deposits and pit, described in Table 1, overlay 0015 at the west end of the trench and were all post-medieval or later (Appendix 4, Plate 1). They were observed in

the north-facing section of the machine-excavated sondage (Fig. 3). They are presented as stratified, with the earliest or lowest placed deposit at the top of the table.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
0014	Deposit	Light whiteish yellow chalky rubble and mortar	0.16
0013	Deposit	Dark grey silty clay	0.19
0012	Deposit	Dark greyish brown silty clay	0.17
0011	Deposit	Light white crushed chalk	0.10
0010	Deposit	Mid whiteish yellow chalk	0.04
0009	Deposit	Dark yellowish whitecrushed chalk and flint	0.07
0008	Deposit	Mid grey silty clay with crushed flint, slag and brick fragments	0.04
0007	Cut	Irregular stepped profile with a flat base	0.62
0006	Fill	Dark orange brown silty clay, with brick fragments	0.62

Table 1. Deposits and feature overlying late medieval layer 0015

In the machine sondage in the middle section of the trench (Fig. 3) a smaller number of similar deposits were encountered (Appendix 4, Plate 2). No dating evidence was recovered from these deposits, but a brick recovered from truncating wall 0004 and dated to between the 16th and 18th centuries, suggests that these deposits are either late- or post-medieval.

The earliest deposits, which directly overlay natural 0005, were 0024 and 0023, both mid grey brown silty clay, the later of which (0023) contained a moderate quantity of brick fragments and mortar. Layer 0023 was truncated on the south side by posthole 0018 (Fig. 3, S.2).

Posthole 0018 was seen in section only and was at least 0.28m in diameter by 0.50m deep. It had a vertical north edge. The base was not seen as the posthole was not fully excavated. Single fill 0017 was mid grey silty clay from which no finds were recovered.

Layer 0020 was poorly crushed white chalk and overlay both deposit 0023 and posthole 0018. It was 0.07m thick. No finds were recovered.

The uppermost/latest layer in the sequence here was 0019, mid yellowish brown silty clay with an upper lens (0.03m) of crushed flint and mortar. This layer extended to both the east and west and appeared to have been located solely within walls 0028 and its return 0027 and wall 0029. It was truncated by late brick-lined cellar/soakaway 0031.



Wall 0004 was the final phase of activity observed in this sondage and truncated deposits 0019 and 0020 and also posthole 0018. It comprised the wall itself and possible foundation 0032, which was 0.28m wide by 0.20m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by 0022, light whiteish brown fine gravel shingle and flint. Red brick wall 0004 did not survive above the ground surface and was overlain by modern deposit 0001. Where exposed in section, it was seen to be five courses deep, bonded with a light greyish white mortar. It was 0.30m wide and the uppermost bricks were laid as a course of flat whole bricks in a continuous and repeated 'T' arrangement. A single brick was taken from the wall and dated to between the 17th and 18th centuries.

Deposit 0030 lay on the south side of the trench and at the west end surrounding walls 0003 and 0026. It extended the full length and width of the trench and was mixed mid orange brown silty clay, with patches of crushed chalk at the upper surface that may have been the remnants of a floor surface. It was not clear what relationship this deposit had with those surrounding it, especially those recorded in S.1 and also the surrounding walls as no excavation took place.

## 5.2 Walls

The following table (Table 2) describes all the walls identified in the trench, excluding wall 0004, which has already been described above. All were seen in plan only, with the exception of wall 0003, the truncated west end of which was also seen in the east edge of the machine-excavated slot.

Wall	Description	Dimensions
0003	Located 2.25m from west end of trench. Aligned west to east. Orange red brick, one course of stretcher and header brick laid header end facing outwards. Yellowish mortar	2.80m long, 0.40m wide
0026	Located 4.75m from the west end of the trench. Aligned north to south. Poor construction of dark yellow and orange red brick. Mostly broken to roughly header size. Ostensible return with wall 0003	0.80m long, 0.30m wide
0027	Located less than 0.50m east from, and parallel with, wall 0026. Rough construction of presumed brick, but all covered with a creamy white mortar. Forms an ostensible return with wall 0028	0.80m long, 0.50m wide
0028	North face of west end adjoins south end of wall 0027. Orange red brick construction. Displays same continuous 'T' shape arrangement of courses as wall 0004 and may be the same phase, even though separated by wall 0029	4.40m long, 0.40m wide
0029	Located 10m from the west end of the trench. Constructed of twelve light yellow bricks, laid to fit between walls 0028 and 0004 as indicated by the narrowness of the brick butting wall 0004. Bricks laid north to south lengthways (Appendix 4, Plate 3)	1.30m long, 0.30m wide

Table 2. Summary description of walls



Brick lined cellar/soakaway or dung pit 0031 was located at the east end of the trench and was more than 6m long by over 1.5m wide and 0.46m deep. It was rectangular in plan and its walls were constructed from yellow/cream bricks laid in stretcher bond. The cellar/soakaway had no floor and was built directly upon the natural (0005) (Appendix 4, Plate 4). It was filled by a mixed post-medieval building rubble deposit. It truncated the east end of wall 0004 and was overlain by a mixed thick (0.45m) deposit of yellow sand and crushed chalk, brick and flint itself overlain by topsoil (0001).

The uppermost deposit was 0001, 0.30m deep mixed modern gravels, sands and silts and building debris, including remnants of dark brown silty clay topsoil.

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

### 6.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from three contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		P-med bottle glass		Ceramic tobacco pipe		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	11	501	2	284	8	298	2	10	1 PMWG @ 2g, 4 animal bone @ 110g, 1 plastic	19th C+
0004			1	3069						17th C+
0015	6	180								16th-18th C
Total	17	681	3	3353	8	298	2	10		

Table 3. Bulk finds

### 6.2 Pottery

A total of 17 fragments of pottery was recovered from two contexts. The assemblage has been fully catalogued (Appendix 3).

Pottery of mainly 19th century date was identified in cleaning layer 0002, but a single abraded fragment of Staffordshire slipware (1650-1800) is the only sherd of an earlier date. The remainder of the group was made up of English stoneware bottles, blue and white transfer printed wares, porcelain and a fragment of pearlware (1770-1850).

Six fragments of a Glazed red earthenware handled jar or chamberpot were identified in deposit 0015, dating to the 16th-18th century.

### **6.3 Ceramic building material**

Three fragments of ceramic building material were collected from the evaluation (3353g). Two pieces of post-medieval nibbed pantile were present in 0002 dating from the seventeenth century. A complete red-fired brick made in a medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions (msfe) was recovered as a sample from wall 0004. Its dimensions are 218mm (L), 104mm (W) and 67mm (H). One of the surfaces is covered with an off-white lime-rich mortar. The overall appearance and the height of the brick suggest that it dates from the late 17th-18th century or even later.

### **6.4 Clay tobacco pipe**

Two fragments of clay pipe stems were present in 0002.

### **6.5 Miscellaneous**

A fragment of late post-medieval window glass was present in 0002. In addition, the remains of two wine bottles were recorded. One of these is part of the neck of a bottle dating to the late 18th century, and the second fragment is part of the base of a brown glass bottle which is also of this date, if not later. A blue faceted bottle and a complete small pale blue bottle for medicinal purposes date to the 19th – 20th century. The base of a probable milk bottle was also identified.

### **6.6 Animal bone**

Four fragments of animal bone were recovered from 0002 (110g). A bovine radius and a chopped ulna, a sheep metacarpal and a fragment of the fibula of a pig were identified (Michael Feider, pers. comm.).

### **6.7 Discussion of the material evidence**

The earliest artefact recovered from the evaluation is the remains of a redware chamberpot dating to the 16th-18th century, which was found in the deposit overlying the natural at the west end of the trench. The vessel has a wide date range, but it is possible that it dates to the period when the site was being developed by the Stuart monarchy in the seventeenth century. The remainder of the pottery dates for the most part to the 19th-20th century; although a fragment of Staffordshire slipware is earlier, dating from the mid 17th-late 18th century.

## 7. Discussion

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The evaluation identified a reasonably extensive series of post-medieval deposits, features and walls. The walls are the front of a range of lean-to out-buildings built against the south-east to north-west boundary wall and span the entire length of the development area. The presence of a possible threshold indicates that the walls were truncated at or close to their former ground level, with the footings and the sub-layers of the internal floor surfaces surviving. The bricks could only be broadly dated by their size and character to c.18th century but the map evidence indicates that the buildings were constructed after 1787. The structure did however incorporate part of an earlier clunch-built building located at the eastern end of the range, of which the rear (north) wall is a survivor and makes up part of the existing standing boundary wall. The wall's construction is consistent with those buildings attributed to the royal stable and it is situated in the position of a building shown on the 1787 map. At the western end of the site the building range seals deposits contemporary with Charles II's ownership of the site which produced 16th-18th century pottery and similarly dated building material debris.

Of the later building remains, the break in the north-west to south-east aligned front wall and the return that extends northward from them, suggest that the range is made up of a series of closely spaced or conjoined buildings. The shallow foundations suggest that these were not substantial, perhaps only a single storey. The south-east facing return 0026 was poor quality: this may be because it was part of a light footing or a partition that has not survived above foundation level. Alternatively, as it would not have been a visible wall it did not require higher quality bricks. The same is true of wall 0028 and its return 0027, located less than half a metre to the south-east, whose composition and construction are comparable.

Wall 0028 and wall 0004 were part of the same building, but were separated by an opening for an entrance way, 0029. The threshold was formed by a narrow width section of brickwork made up of worn white bricks that contrasted with the mainly reds used in the thicker walls of the wall proper. The gap was just less than 4ft wide (1.2m); enough to admit pedestrians or a horse but not vehicles and no evidence for returns or partitions at this point were observed.

Chalky deposit 0020 was a probable floor surface associated with wall 0004. It lay only on the north side of the wall, suggesting that this was the inside of the building; it extended beyond the trench edge, but presumably spread for the entire width of the building to the boundary to the north.

Fragments of a series of three surfaces, which pre-dated the late 18th-early 19th century building, were identified at the west end of the trench, all of which had a high chalk content. Layers 0009 to 0011 were located in the south edge of the trench. They were truncated by pit 0007 to the west and were not observed in the opposing section nor up to or below wall 0003. It would appear that the construction of wall 0003 may have truncated these surfaces, or perhaps that they did not extend that far north. The relationship is unclear. A fourth layer, above 0009, also had the appearance of a surface, but was composed of crushed flint and brick and may have been a demolition layer, marking the end of the use of the area.

Further earlier layers (0023 and 0024) and posthole 0018, were located in the middle of the trench. These were truncated by wall 0004 and, although not closely dated, precede the later building range and demonstrate that early post medieval deposits remain some 13m back from the frontage of Palace Street.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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All the identified walls and floor surfaces in the evaluation trench formed part of the same range comprising at least two buildings. They were on the same north-west to south-east alignment and correspond approximately with a range of buildings that first appear on a Public Health map of 1850 (Rolfe 2010, Fig. 7) and were demolished as part of Rothschild's redevelopment of the site at the start of the 20th century. There are no buildings marked in this location on the earlier map of 1787 (Rolfe 2010, Fig. 6) and therefore it is possible to deduce that the walls found during the evaluation were constructed between c.1790 and 1850. This date coincides with the later end of the date range of the brick sample removed from wall 0004. The building does however incorporate part of an earlier clunch-built building located at the eastern end of the range. The wall's construction is consistent with those buildings attributed to the royal stable and this structure is recorded on the 1787 map.

There is no indication on the 1850 Public Health map of the function for the buildings shown. The archaeological evidence indicates that the wide frontage contained only a single narrow door suggesting that this is not a range of horse-boxes. However indications are that they are not domestic in nature and they are possibly part of the range of ancillary buildings such as feed stores and tack rooms etc. which a stable complex of this magnitude and status would have contained.

The site as the former principal racing stable in Newmarket has particular significance to the history of the town and its sporting life. The proposed development would entail the total destruction of the archaeological deposits. Therefore it is important that an adequate record is made of these deposits before they are lost in order to create a full archive and enhance the understanding of the site. A complete record of the remains of the wall footing, including the north boundary wall is necessary to provide the layout of the building, which may help to determine its function. Most important is the further excavation of the underlying early post medieval deposits at the front of the site: a better knowledge of the sequence, character and, crucially, the date of these layers would contribute to the understanding of the origins and the development of the site

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive:

SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\Arc\ALL\_site\Newmarket\NKT 032 Palace Ho Stables Eval

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: H / 87 / 3.

## **10. List of contributors and acknowledgements**

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The evaluation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Mo Muldowney and John Sims) from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Mo Muldowney, and managed by David Gill.

Finds processing was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians and illustrations and graphics were produced by Ellie Hillen. The specialist finds report was written by Richenda Goffin (with Michael Feider), who also edited the report.

## 11. Bibliography

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### **Disclaimer**

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

## Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

#### Evaluation by Trial Trench

#### PALACE HOUSE STABLES, PALACE STREET, NEWMARKET

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

***This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.***

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application is to be submitted for the relocation of the National Horseracing Museum to Palace House Stables, Palace Street, Newmarket. The proposals will include a new extension with a basement to the north of the Trainer's House which will destroy any archaeological remains which survive in this area.
- 1.2 Any planning consent will contain a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins. In order to establish the full archaeological implications of the proposed development, an archaeological evaluation is required of the site. **The evaluation is the first part of the programme of archaeological work and decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs..**
- 1.2 The development area lies within the area of medieval Newmarket, defined in the County Historic Environment Record as an archaeological site of regional importance. It also lies on the site of the horse racing stables built by King Charles II and replaced with the current buildings in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (see J. Rolfe 2010, Palace House Stables, Newmarket, Suffolk, Archaeological Desk-based assessment, SCCAS Report No. 2010/055)
- 1.3 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**
- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.



### 3 **Specification: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. A single linear trench down the middle of the site is thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 3.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 Human remains must be left in situ except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.

“Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England” English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.”

- 3.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending

on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.

3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome and colour photographs.

3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

#### **4. General Management**

4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.

4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).

4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.

4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments and for Field Evaluations should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

#### **5. Report Requirements**

5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).

5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

5.4.1 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established

5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.

5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

5.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.

- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the county HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.12.1 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

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Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
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Tel: 01284 352440

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Reference: /Palace House Stables

***This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.***

***If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.***



## Appendix 2. Context list

Context	Fill of	Filled by	Category	Type	Description			Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation
0001			Deposit	Topsoil and modern	Mid grey, mid brownish yellow and dark brown	Sandy silt, sandy gravels and silty clay	Loose			0.30	Topsoil and modern lenses of gravels. Uppermost layer is destruction rubble
0002			Deposit	Layer	Mid brown grey	Silty clay	Loose			0.25	Dry rubble-rich deposit overlying the sequence of walls and floor
0003				Wall	Red-orange brick and mortar	NW-SE		2.80	0.40		Short stretch of wall at north-west end of trench, return is 0026
0004				Wall	Red-orange brick and mortar	NW-SE		11.00	0.40	0.40	Longest run of wall, on same alignment as 0003. Truncated at SE end by cellar/soakaway 0031
0005			Deposit	Layer	White and orange red	Chalk and flint gravels					Natural chalk and gravel mix
0006	0007		Fill	Pit	Mid brownish orange	Gravelly silt	Friable			0.62	Pit fill consisting of large amount of flints and bricks, possible building debris
0007		0006	Cut	Pit	Unknown		Uneven stepped sides, angular		0.50+	0.62	Post-medieval pit containing building debris
0008			Deposit	Layer	Light reddish grey	Chalk and flint mix	Compact			0.04	Surface
0009			Deposit	Layer	Dark yellowish white	Chalk and flint	Compact			0.07	Crushed chalk and flint surface
0010			Deposit	Layer	Mid whiteish	Chalk	Compact			0.04	Surface

Context	Fill of	Filled by	Category	Type	Description			Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation
0011			Deposit	Layer	yellow White	Chalk	Compact	very small CBM fragments None		0.10	Crushed and compacted chalk surface, very clean in comparison with overlying deposits
0012			Deposit	Layer	Dark greyish brown	Silty clay	Friable	Occasional small angular flint, rare charcoal/coal flecks		0.17	Possible pit fill, but truncated by pit 0007. Dark soil-like layer
0013			Deposit	Layer	Dark grey	Silty clay	Friable	Common small angular flints and rare small patches of fine orange gravels		0.19	Layer with flint workings/construction rubble
0014			Deposit	Layer	Light yellowish white	Chalk	Compact	Common small angular flints, rare medium sub-angular chalk lumps		0.16	Another floor surface or redeposited natural
0015			Deposit	Layer	Mid brownish grey	Silty clay	Friable	Common charcoal flecks, rare very small rounded chalk flecks and CBM flecks		0.04+	Thin layer of unknown function
0017	0018		Fill	Posthole	Mid orange grey	Gravelly silt	Friable	Frequent small rounded flints and common large nodular flints, occasional small sub-rounded chalk		0.50	Fill of posthole 0018, no finds
0018		0017	Cut	Posthole	Unknown		Steep, near vertical sides with sharp break from below 0020	Base not seen	0.28+	0.50	Posthole truncated by wall 0004 and truncating 0023 and 0024
0019			Deposit	Layer	Mid yellow brown	Silty clay	Friable	Occasional small sub-rounded flint, chalk and CBM		0.03	Layer not dissimilar to 0002
0020			Deposit	Layer	White	Chalk	Compact	None		0.07	Poorly crushed but well compacted chalk surface
0022	0032		Deposit	Layer	Mid blueish yellow	Fine shingle	Loose	Occasional large flint nodules in a fine peagrit/shingle matrix		0.20	Possible foundation for wall 0004

Context	Fill of	Filled by	Category	Type	Description			Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation
0023			Deposit	Layer	Mid grey brown	Silty clay	Compact			0.16	Deposit of unknown function north of wall 0004 and truncated by posthole 0018
0024			Deposit	Layer	Mid grey brown	Silty clay	Compact			0.30	Thick layer of unknown function, possibly related to wall 0004
0026				Wall	Red orange and yellow orange brick and mortar	SW-NE		1.80	0.30		Poorly constructed return of wall 0003
0027				Wall	Yellow brick and mortar	SW-NE		1.80	0.50		Return of 0028, worn bricks, not at all like 0028
0028				Wall	Red orange brick and mortar	NW-SE		4.45	0.40		Continuation of wall 0004, forming a range with 0003, 0004 and fill in 0029
0029				Wall	Yellow brick and mortar	NW-SE		1.50	0.30		Single line of yellow bricks placed to fill in a gap between wall 0004 and 0028. Unclear if a step or blocking an entrance
0030			Deposit	Layer	Mid grey brown	Silty clay	Friable				Unexcavated deposit on south and west side of walls
0031				Wall	Yellow beige bricks and mortar	Rectangular		4.00	1.42+	0.46	Brickwork of the cellar/soakaway at the east end of the trench, either late post-medieval or modern. No floor
0032		0022	Cut	Foundation cut	Unknown		Vertical sides with sharp break from surface		0.40	0.20	Foundation cut for wall 0004





### Appendix 3. Pottery catalogue

Context No	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Dec	Sherd No	Weight (g)	State	Fabric date range	Context date
0002	PMED	EGS	BOTT		5	291		19th C+	19th C+
0002	PMED	STAF	BODY		1	10	A	1650-1800	
0002	PMED	IRST	BODY	TPW BW	2	31		19th C+	
0002	PMED	REFW	CUP	BW	1	12		19th C+	
0002	PMED	PORC	BASE		1	9		19th C+	
0002	PMED	REFW	CUP	TPW BW	1	4		19th C+	
0002	PMED	IRON	DISH	TPW	1	6		19th C+	
0002	PMED	REFW	BODY		1	3		19th C+	
0002	PMED	MAJO	BODY		1	2		19th C+	
0002	PMED	PEARL	TANK		1	18		19th C+	
0002	PMED	PORC?	JAR		1	112		19th C+	
0015	PMED	GRE	CPT/JAR		6	180		16th-18th C	16th-18th C



## Appendix 4. Plates



Plate 1. Deposits and pit 0007 at the west end of the trench, facing south



Plate 2. Central machine sondage with wall 0004 and posthole 0018, facing south



Plate 3. Wall 0029, facing south



Plate 4. Brick-lined cellar/soakaway 0031 showing mixed natural 0005 at base, facing east