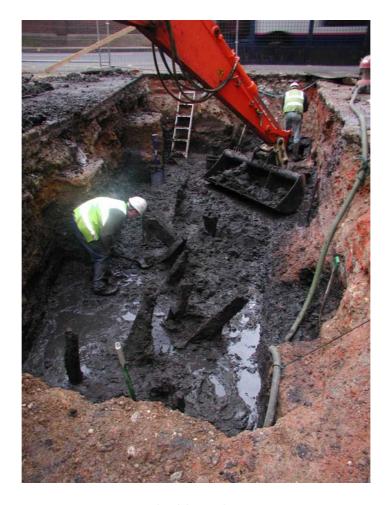
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

ALBION WHARF, IPSWICH IAS 6406

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2005



Rhodri Gardner Field Team Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© August 2005

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Contents

List of List of Ackno	f Figures f Tables f Contributors owledgements hary information	i i ii ii ii ii
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Introduction Methodology Results Finds evidence Timber assessment Discussion and conclusions Recommendations for further work	1 2 3 14 18 21 24
Apper	ndix 1: Context List ndix 2: Pottery records of Figures	26 32
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.	Site location Trench locations Trench 1 plans Trench 1 sections Trench 2 plans of extended northern area Trench 2 sections recorded in extended northern area Trench 2 large scale plan of southern end Trench 2 sections recorded in southern end Structure 0058 Areas of Archaeological Potential	1 2 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 24
List	of Tables	
1. 2. 3.	Finds quantification Timber details Selected timber dimensions and age/growth rate estimates	14 18 20

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All Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS hereafter) unless otherwise stated.

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Knight Developments and was monitored by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Division.

The project was directed by Rhodri Gardner and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. The evaluation was carried out by Rhodri Gardner, Rob Atfield, Tim Browne, Phil Camps, Roy Damant and Tony Fisher, all from the SCCAS Field Team.

Summary

Ipswich, Albion Wharf (TM 1658 4406; IAS 6406). A pre-planning trial trench evaluation was carried out in the open yard occupying part of the site of the former Albion Maltings, Albion Wharf, Ipswich. Two trenches were excavated (with a total area of c. 120m²). Complex wellstratified multi-period deposits were recorded in the western part of the site, beginning at c. 2m AOD (just 0.5m below the existing ground surface). These included two post-medieval wells, a fragment of late medieval/early post-medieval septaria built wall and the remains of a possible cobbled surface of 13th to 14th century date. A substantial amount of dumping and reclamation activity (principally dating to the 13th/14th centuries) was also recorded in this part of the site. In the eastern part of the site a substantial (at least 19 piles up to 1.5m in length) wooden structure was recorded in unexpectedly deep 'river mud' deposits. This has been interpreted as a probable pier or jetty-type structure within an inlet of some kind that was previously unknown. Its date was extremely difficult to determine but the balance of evidence suggests that it was late medieval. An earlier peat deposit (0.75m thick) was also recorded, but could not be dated. Definite natural subsoil was not located in this eastern part of the site at -0.9m AOD, which was c. 1.5m deeper than anticipated. All the archaeological deposits encountered were well preserved, largely untruncated and quite shallow, lying immediately beneath the extant slab. Consequently, a programme of open area excavation was recommended in a band c. 25m wide parallel to the Key Street frontage, with archaeological monitoring recommended elsewhere further out into the former river channel.

(Rhodri Gardner, SCCAS, for Alan Baxter and Associates/Knight Developments, report no: 2005/20)

SMR information

Planning application no. N/A

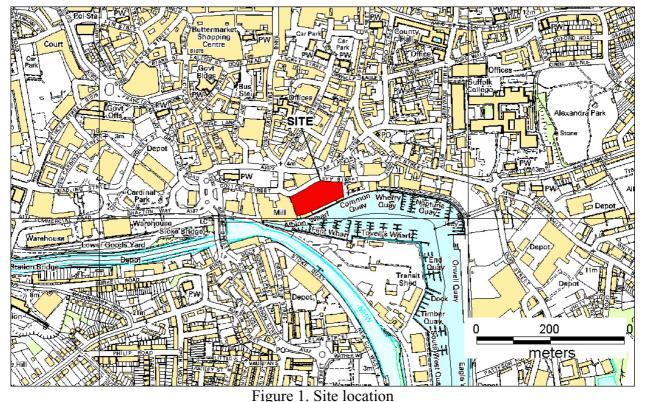
Date of fieldwork: 27th January – 18th February 2005

Grid Reference: TM 1658 4406

Funding body: Knight Developments

1 Introduction

A pre-planning evaluation was carried out at the site of the former Paul's Maltings, Albion Wharf, Key Street, Ipswich. The work was commissioned by the consultants Alan Baxter and Associates, on behalf of their client Knight Developments, who also funded the project. The site is centred approximately on NGR TM 1658 4406 and encompasses an area of c. 8300m². The site lies on level ground at approximately 2.45m AOD. It is bounded to the north by Key Street, to the east by a lane adjacent to The Old Custom House, to the south by the river front at Albion Wharf and to the west by the site of the neighbouring Cranfield's Mill.



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The site has not been subject to any previous systematic archaeological work. A full account of the archaeological and topographical setting appears in a previously prepared Desk-Based Assessment (Gardner, 2004). A known findspot occurs within the site – a Roman lamp with a dog emblem was found during the construction of the foundations of the former Paul's Brewery in 1883. Given this and the recent discoveries at the neighbouring Cranfield's Mill (Gardner and Gill, forthcoming) a trial trench evaluation was recommended by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team. A trenching design was agreed with Keith Wade and the SCCAS Field Team were subsequently commissioned to carry out the work.

2 Methodology

The evaluation was carried out between the 27^{th} of January and 18^{th} of February 2005. Two trial trenches (with a total area of c. 120m^2) were excavated in the open yard on the Key Street frontage. The concrete slab was broken out and all overburden removed using a 360^0 tracked mechanical excavator (Hymac) fitted with a hydraulic breaker and a range of buckets, including a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation of overburden was carried out under close archaeological supervision until the top of the first appropriate undisturbed archaeological deposit was encountered. The trench positions were recorded by triangulation from existing boundaries and buildings within the site.

Although the total excavated area represented just less than 1.5% of the site's total area it was deemed sufficient in the first instance to broadly characterise the nature of the deposits.

Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of the yard in order to identify the extent of any truncation associated with possible 19^{th} century cellaring (as indicated on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map). In addition it was intended to identify the type, date and depth of any surviving archaeological deposits close to the street frontage. It was $10m \log and c$. 2m wide.

Trench 2, perpendicular to Key Street, was intended to identify how far back from the street frontage any evidence for occupation or enwharfment extended. It was also hoped that any later quay walls could be identified if present. This was 40m long and between 2m and 4m wide.

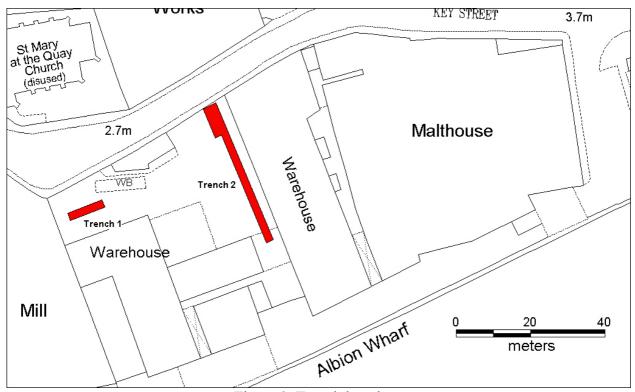


Figure 2. Trench locations

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The SMR reference number IAS 6406 had already been given to the site and all the stratigraphic elements of the deposits were allocated context numbers within a continuous numbering system. This context information is shown in Appendix 1. All features were excavated and recorded in a series of 1:50 and 1:20 scale plans and 1:20 scale section drawings. Context records were entered onto an Access97 database, and inked copies of the drawings were prepared on archive quality drafting film. A photographic record (35mm colour slide, 35mm black and white and digital photographs) was maintained throughout.

Finds were processed and quantified by in-house staff, with the data then input onto a Microsoft Access97 database. The results of this analysis are given in Section 4 below.

3 Results

3.1 Trench 1

The earliest deposit recorded here was 0050, a reclamation dump deposit at least 0.65m thick with its upper surface at 1.86m AOD. A single sherd of unidentified pottery was recovered from the cleaned surface of this deposit, and can therefore provide no useful dating evidence (see *The Finds*). Following consultation with Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team no further excavation was carried out below this deposit in Trench 1. Two attempts were made to determine the depth of natural gravel deposits using an auger and associated sondage (see Section 11, Figure 4). Some gravel-like deposits were located between -0.34m AOD and -0.44m AOD but it cannot be said with any certainty that this was undisturbed natural subsoil.

This was overlain throughout much of the trench by layer 0035, a further reclamation or dump deposit at least 1.8m wide (north to south), at least 2.2m long and up to 0.22m deep. It contained no dateable finds.

Perhaps the most significant feature encountered in Trench 1 was 0010, a partially revealed cut in the south-western corner of the trench. This was at least 4.7m long (east to west), at least 0.75m wide and up to 0.8m deep with moderately sloping concave sides and a rounded base. It cut deposit 0035 at its eastern end and contained a complex sequence of fills. The primary fill was a thin clay lining 0022. This yielded a small quantity (two joining sherds) of Thetford-ware pottery, possibly suggesting a Late Saxon (10th to 11th century) date for the initial cutting and lining of the feature. This was overlain along the eastern end of the feature by 0018, a thin layer of sand and gravel, interpreted as a slump deposit. This was sealed by 0017 a substantial (up to 0.5m thick) deposit of flint pebbles/gravel in a loose silty sand matrix. This is interpreted here as a deliberate backfill of feature 0010. It produced a small quantity of pottery (see The Finds) including a large unabraded sherd of Middle Saxon date although overall the artefactual dating evidence for this deposit is ambiguous. A large straight timber beam 0015 was laid on top of deposit 0017. It was at least 3.4m long (extending beyond the western end of the trench), and was approximately 9" (22.86cm) by 5" (12.7cm) in cross-section, although it narrowed toward its western end. The timber was very poorly preserved and did not survive any attempts to lift or sample it. At its eastern end the timber was partially overlain by 0034, an undated slump deposit of sand and gravel. Elsewhere the timber was overlain by 0014, a layer of firm olive brown chalky clay. This, in turn, was overlain at the western end of the feature by 0033, a foundation/consolidation layer comprising firm greenish grey clay with mortar and chalk flecks. This was at least 2.05m long, at least 0.65m wide and 0.1m deep. Two heavily decayed boards or planks were laid on top of this layer (and immediately beneath wall 0030, see below). The whole of feature 0010 was then sealed by a layer of soft greyish brown silty clay (0012) that produced a single sherd of late 13th to 15th century pottery.

Interpretation of this feature is difficult, given its limited exposure but further discussion appears below (see *Discussion and Conclusions*).

Feature 0010 was associated with 0100, a line of nine roundwood stakes along its northern edge, driven into deposit 0035. These were very uniform, at c. 5cm in diameter. They were left $in \ situ$, so their length was not recorded. They could represent either a fence line along the northern edge of 0010 or perhaps some form of support for a roof or awning over it.

At the western end of the trench 0012 was overlain by 0011, a firm clay consolidation/levelling deposit. A layer of chalky clay packing/consolidation layer (0031) associated with the construction of wall 0030 overlay 0011 at its western end. It lay against the eastern end of wall fragment 0030. This wall fragment comprised roughly hewn/natural septaria lumps between 5cm and 20cm in diameter laid in a random uncoursed pattern and bonded with a soft yellow sandy mortar. Only partially exposed, the observed wall fragment was at least 0.8m long (east to west), 0.18m wide and up to 0.2m high. Rare small brick or tile fragments were incorporated into its fabric in places, suggesting a later medieval or post-medieval date. Further interpretation is difficult given the structure's limited exposure.

Beyond the eastern end of feature 0010 dump deposit 0035 was overlain by 0038, a further silty clay reclamation deposit that yielded no dateable finds.

Above 0038 for much of the trench another layer of dumping (recorded as 0049 and 0037 in the northern (S11) and southern (S5) sections respectively – see Figure 4) was recorded. This consisted of greenish olive brown clay with CBM, mortar, charcoal and flint pebble inclusions. It also yielded a small quantity of late 13th to 14th century pottery.

This layer was overlain in the northern half of the trench by a further dump layer (0021) of compact mid greyish green clayey silt up to 0.2m thick with frequent oyster shell inclusions. A small quantity of pottery was recovered, indicative of a late 13th century or later date.

Toward the eastern end of the trench 0038 was overlain by a probable consolidation deposit, 0039. This was c. 2.05m long (east to west), 0.5m wide and up to 0.16m deep and appeared to have been used to fill a fairly well-defined 'soft spot' in deposit 0038. It consisted of a firm clay matrix with occasional patches of crushed mortar. It produced no dateable finds.

The consolidation layer 0039 and reclamation dump 0021 were overlain in the central part of the trench by the remains of a probable cobbled surface, 0009. It was composed of quite widely dispersed large sub-rounded flints, although a few crushed fragments of CBM and mortar were also recorded, along with one large heavily decayed timber fragment (0019) that did not survive attempts to lift it. A 'cessy' greenish silty clay trample could be observed in some places between the larger cobbles and this contained a number of pottery fragments suggesting a late 13th to 14th century date for the use of this possible surface.

Surface 0009 did not extend beyond the middle of the trench beyond the point where it was cut by 0006, a straight parallel-sided linear feature with a north to south alignment. This was at least 1.85m long, 0.7m wide and 0.7m deep with steep slightly concave sides and a flat base. Its primary fill, 0007, of compact crushed orange-grey lime mortar contained a few fragments of small, handmade late medieval brick (see *The Finds*). A secondary fill, 0032, of firm sandy clay also contained frequent crushed mortar and some CBM fragments, although none were dateable. Although this feature was clearly structural it is difficult to discern whether it was a foundation or a robbed-out wall.

Beyond this to the west surface 0009 was not present. Instead a further layer (0008) overlay 0037/0048. This layer of stiff black clayey silty sand with small flint pebbles could also be interpreted as a surface given its significant compaction. Finds were sparse, but it did yield two sherds of pottery of possible 12th to 13th century date.

Both these possible surfaces along with feature 0006 were sealed by a substantial layer of general occupation debris/dumping recorded as 0002 throughout the trench. This was up to 0.4m thick in places and was a very mixed deposit predominantly characterised by soft dark grey/black silty clay with occasional greenish patches containing a small amount of pottery, animal bone and shell fragments along with occasional flint pebbles. The dateable finds (including four joining fragments of a limestone mortar) suggest a late medieval (13th to 14th century) date.

A small rectangular cut (0003) was identified toward the eastern end of 0002. It was at least 0.92m long (north to south), 0.6m wide and just 0.09m deep. Its northern edge had been truncated by well 0028. The primary fill (0020) of sandy silt with crushed slate fragments contained pottery of 13th to 14th century date. The secondary fill of crushed sandy mortar (0004) produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, although this was most likely residually derived. A small sub-rectangular brick plinth or pillar base (0005) was laid onto this secondary fill. It was a single course thick and built of yellow unfrogged bricks of likely post-medieval date with no signs of mortar having been used.

At the eastern end of the trench a large cut (0025) was partially revealed. This was at least 3.5m long (east to west) and at least 1.6m wide. Its depth and profile remains unknown as it was not fully excavated. Although only partially revealed it is possible that this feature was related to the construction of one or both of the wells (see below) recorded at this end of the trench. A small 1m wide sondage was excavated and a single fill (0026) was recorded which produced a small quantity of late 12^{th} to 14^{th} century pottery. However, given the nature of the underlying reclamation deposits this could have been residual.

Two post-medieval wells were recorded. The first, 0023, was a circular example at least 2.4m in diameter and was constructed using red unfrogged brick laid in a radial pattern and bonded with very hard pale yellow sandy mortar with frequent flint inclusions. It contained a single late backfill deposit (0024) of compact sand (not fully excavated) with large CBM and concrete inclusions. Much less of well 0028 was revealed in the far north-eastern corner of the trench and its dimensions remain unknown. It was also constructed with red unfrogged bricks, this time laid as two concentric rings of stretchers bonded with a hard pale yellow sandy mortar. The bricks from both have been classified as 'late' (see *The Finds*), with a date range spanning the 16th to 18th centuries. A definite construction cut for well 0028 was recorded against the eastern end of the trench (see Figure 4). Exposure was too limited for detailed recording and all that can be said is that it was near vertical and contained a single sandy fill (0029) with crushed mortar and brick fragments that produced a small quantity of post-medieval pottery along with a single (most likely residual) late 15th to 16th century sherd.

A further late ditch (0040) was recorded in Section 5, cutting layer 0002. This was at least 1.6m long (north to south), 0.85m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately sloping slightly concave sides and a gently rounded base. Its single fill (0041) of clayey silt with frequent mortar and CBM fragments contained no dateable finds.

The whole of Trench 1 was sealed by undifferentiated modern overburden 0016, which lay immediately under the concrete slab. This was a very mixed clayey silt deposit with frequent CBM and mortar fragments and occasional concrete pieces.

3.2 Trench **2**

The northernmost 8m of Trench 2 was extended to the west when a large modern intrusion was encountered. This intrusion was removed in order to determine whether it had truncated all archaeological deposits in that part of the site, as natural gravels were anticipated at c. 0.5m AOD. However, it became clear that natural subsoil would not be encountered at that depth and that significant archaeological evidence remained beneath the extensive modern truncation. As a result the archaeological objective of Trench 2 was changed in order to assess the nature of these unexpectedly deep deposits. The southern c. 32m of the trench was only excavated to a depth of up to 1.5m in order to examine the extent of modern truncation, as the presence of an earlier quay wall was not anticipated following the findings in the northern end of the trench.

Stratigraphically, the earliest deposit encountered at the northern end of Trench 1 was 0087, a very loose mid grey medium sand with frequent poorly sorted small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles/gravel with its surface at c. -0.9m AOD. This was at least 0.45m thick and the small area excavated (Health and Safety constraints meant that it could only be investigated by means of a small sondage) contained no dateable finds. Given the rapid water ingress at this depth following the removal of the overlying peat deposit (see below) no attempt was made to determine its full depth using an auger. While this had the appearance of a high-energy waterlain deposit it cannot be said with any certainty that it was undisturbed natural subsoil, particularly given its loose composition and atypical colour when compared to the natural gravels encountered elsewhere, as at the neighbouring Cranfield's Mill site (Gardner and Gill, forthcoming).

This was overlain by 0086, a substantial (0.75m thick) soft mid/dark greyish brown silty peat with moderate small roundwood fragments. Unfortunately, no dateable finds were recovered from the small area excavated. However, the presence of a single clearly identifiable sheep bone indicates that this deposit is Bronze Age or later.

The peat was overlain by a further sand and gravel foreshore-type deposit (0085). Up to 0.4m thick and comprising very loose mid grey medium sand matrix with frequent poorly sorted small to medium flint pebbles/gravel, this again appeared to indicate high-energy natural deposition rather than being deliberately imported and dumped material. Given the difficult/waterlogged conditions of excavation it is thought that the single dateable find attributed to this deposit (indicating a post-medieval date) could be intrusive.

This deposit was sealed by a layer of river mud (0059) up to 0.6m thick, characterised as very soft waterlogged dark grey clayey silt. Finds and inclusions were extremely sparse indicating that this was not a reclamation deposit, as had been anticipated. It is thought that this was more likely to have been under open (or at least interdidal) water at some time. Again dateable finds were not abundant but the small assemblage of pottery suggested a late 13th to 14th century date.

The most notable feature encountered in Trench 2 was 0058, a large wooden structure consisting of at least 19 driven piles/stakes (context numbers 0063 – 0072; 0074 – 0080 and 0082). Given the degree of exposure of some of these timbers (up to 1m standing above the arbitrary cleaned surface of 0059) during the evaluation and the attendant difficulty in backfilling and preserving them for further excavation it was agreed with Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team that a number would be recovered for further analysis at this stage. A wide range of timber types had been used (see *Timber Assessment* below) ranging from large well-dressed square-section timbers (c. 0.16m by 0.16m) to thick planks (c. 0.21m by 0.1m) to small rounded stakes or poles (c. 0.07m diameter). However, despite this range of timbers they were clearly a single group as all (where their points survived) had near identical four-sided points. It is not known whether the structure extended beyond the limited area of the trench, although it seems likely that it would have at least extended some distance to the south. Interpretation of the structure is difficult, given its limited exposure (see Discussion and Conclusion below). A principal north to south alignment can be discerned, with some outliers. All but one of the posts had significant angles of inclination (between 10° to 40° from the vertical) to the east, suggesting collapse or demolition rather than casual abandonment or disuse. The points of some of the timbers had just penetrated the surface of loose gravel deposit 0085 and had been driven into the river silt 0059. As the tops of the timbers were either decayed or truncated it is not known whether they were driven through any later deposits. It seems most likely that they were contemporary with the upper/later phase of river mud accumulation represented by 0059.

Other timbers were recorded (e.g. 0083) visible in the eastern section of the Trench. These were not safely accessible so were left *in situ*. Superficially they appeared similar to those used in structure 0058.

River deposit 0059 was sealed by a dump layer or possibly drier natural intertidal deposits recorded as 0088 and 0089 (in Sections 18 and 17 respectively, see Figure 6). Described as a soft mid grey slightly silty sandy clay with moderate small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional heavily decayed wood fragments this deposit yielded no dateable finds. A small area of this deposit (in the far north-western corner of the extended area of the Trench) was excavated fully (numbered as 0051 in Appendix 1 but not illustrated in Section 17) and produced just two sherds of pottery of late 13^{th} century or later date.

Heavy truncation in the eastern half of the trench meant that 0088/0089 was the latest deposit recorded in Section 18. Truncation was less severe in the western half where 0088/0089 was overlain by 0090, a small discontinuous sand dump layer up to 0.2m thick which was also undated.

This was overlain by 0091, a reclamation or dump deposit. Described as a firm mid greenish brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded flint pebbles this also did not produce any dateable artefacts.

A number of later features cut 0091. Context 0092 describes construction cuts for recent pillar bases and 0093 describes the backfill of these. Neither merited more detailed recording.

Two fragmentary brick structures were recorded in the western half of the trench, both stratigraphically later than deposit 0091.

The first (northernmost) of these was 0047, a heavily truncated north-eastern corner of wall that only survived to a depth of two courses. This was up to 0.6m wide and was 1.5m long (east to west) by 1.1m wide (north to south). It was constructed using red unfrogged bricks (typically 115mm broad, 60mm thick and 240mm long) laid with no discernible pattern and bonded with a pale yellowish brown soft sandy mortar. A brick sample was taken and this has been classified as 'late' (16th to 18th century). It lay on a sand bedding layer (0099), which in turn overlay 0098, a clay make-up/levelling layer. Neither deposit yielded any dateable finds. The construction cut (0097) for this feature was only very partially revealed and not recorded in detail.

The second of these structures was 0048, also constructed of red unfrogged bricks which, although of differing typical dimensions (120mm broad, 70mm thick and 246mm long) have been assigned a similar date. The form of this structure remains unknown as it was only partially exposed but it was 0.7m wide (north to south), at least 1.2m long and at least four courses deep, suggesting it was probably the remains of a wall. It is unclear whether it was related to nearby 0047. No notable bonding pattern could be discerned and a mid yellowish brown soft sandy mortar was used. This was laid within construction cut 0094, which was rectangular in section with vertical sides and a flat base and up to 0.3m deep. Two further contexts were associated with this: 0095 was a sand make-up/levelling deposit which was overlain by 0096, a clay layer possibly associated with or part of a floor to the south of 0048. Neither deposit contained any dateable finds.

The remaining southern c. 32m of Trench 2 was not excavated to the same depth (in general Health and Safety considerations and/or groundwater ingress were limiting factors) or in the same detail as the features outlined above. The following features and deposits were recorded, discussed in relation to the location of the sections seen in Figures 8:

The earliest deposit in the northern part of the Trench (Section 15) was 0044, a probable reclamation or consolidation dump of soft mid greenish grey silty sand with frequent flint pebble inclusions. It produced no dateable finds. This was overlain by 0062, a sand and gravel reclamation/dump layer which produced no dateable finds. Layer 0062 appeared to be overlain by a further dumping/reclamation deposit (0060), although its northern tip line did seem very steep during post excavation analysis so 0060 may well the fill of a cut feature. This produced no dateable finds. 0060 was cut by a small pit, although its cut was not fully recorded. The fill (0061) of this feature was a sand and gravel dump that produced no dateable finds. The latest deposit encountered in the area of Section 15 was 0042, a recent (though undated) consolidation/levelling deposit that lay immediately beneath the modern hardcore and concrete slab. A recent (19^{th} century or later) east to west aligned red brick wall foundation (0046) 0.8m wide and at least 2m long was recorded at the southern end of Section 15.

At the southern end of this part of the Trench (see Sections 9 and 10) layer 0044 was overlain by 0043, a thin layer of dumped/spread sand. This was in turn overlain by 0052, a similar undated deposit to 0042 (see above). Another red brick east to west aligned wall (0045) was recorded at the southern end of Section 9. This was 0.5m wide and survived to a height of five courses (0.4m) laid in a simple stretcher pattern and bonded with a hard greyish white lime mortar.

To the south of wall 0045 (see Section 12) the earliest deposit encountered was 0053, a soft dark grey clayey silt with moderate oyster shell. This has been interpreted as an earlier reclamation dump but excavation was too limited for the recovery of dateable artefactual evidence. This was overlain by 0044 and 0043 as outlined above. However,

in this section of the Trench a further deposit was recorded overlying 0043 but beneath 0042. This was 0052, a silty sand dump or reclamation layer (see Sections 10, 12 and 13). Only limited excavation of this deposit was undertaken and it produced no closely dateable finds.

The southern end of Section 12 was delineated by an east to west aligned modern concrete and brick wall foundation (0055) which was not recorded in further detail.

The southern part of this Trench (see Section 16) saw a continuation of deposits 0052 and 0042. The only other features of note being wall 0056 and its substantial foundation 0057, neither of which merited detailed recording.

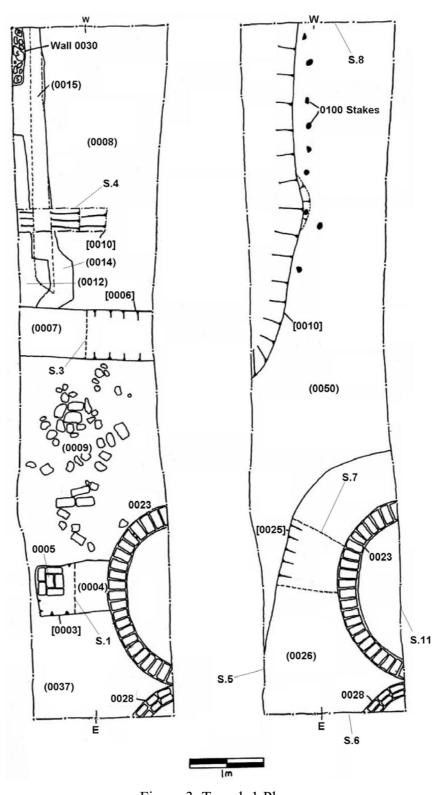


Figure 3. Trench 1 Plans

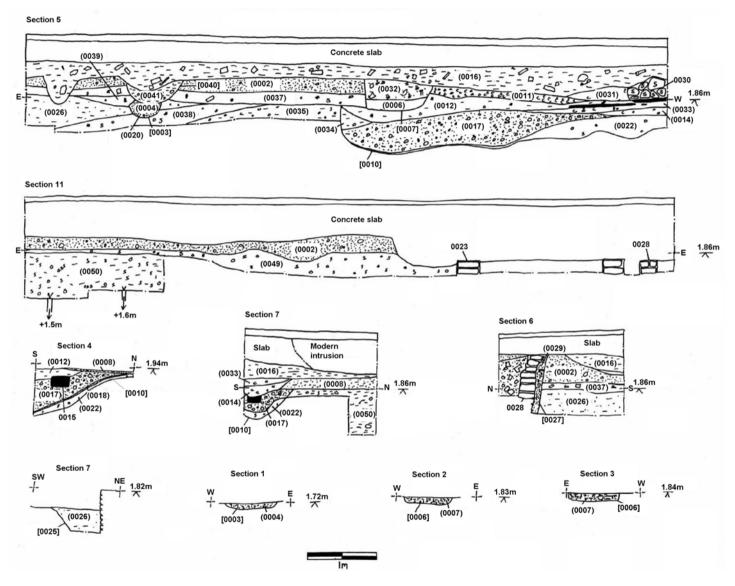


Figure 4. Trench 1 Sections

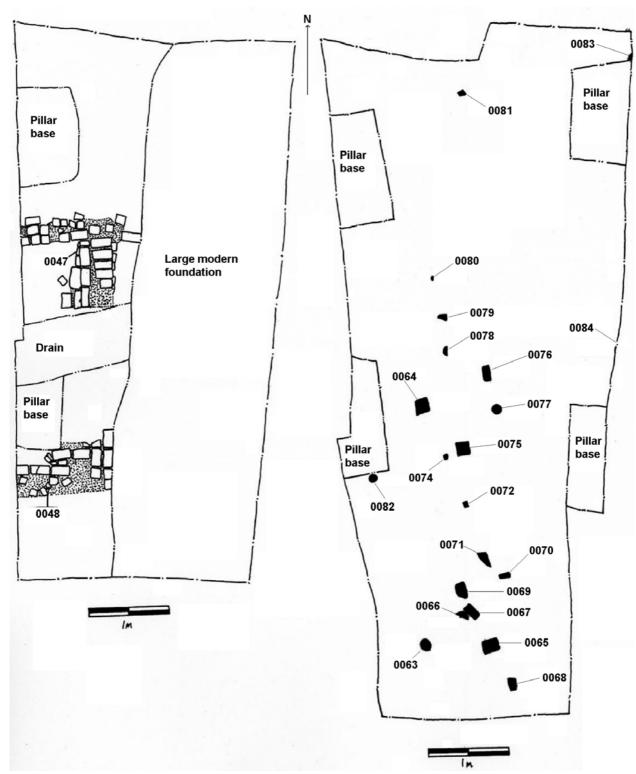


Figure 5. Trench 2 Plans of extended northern area

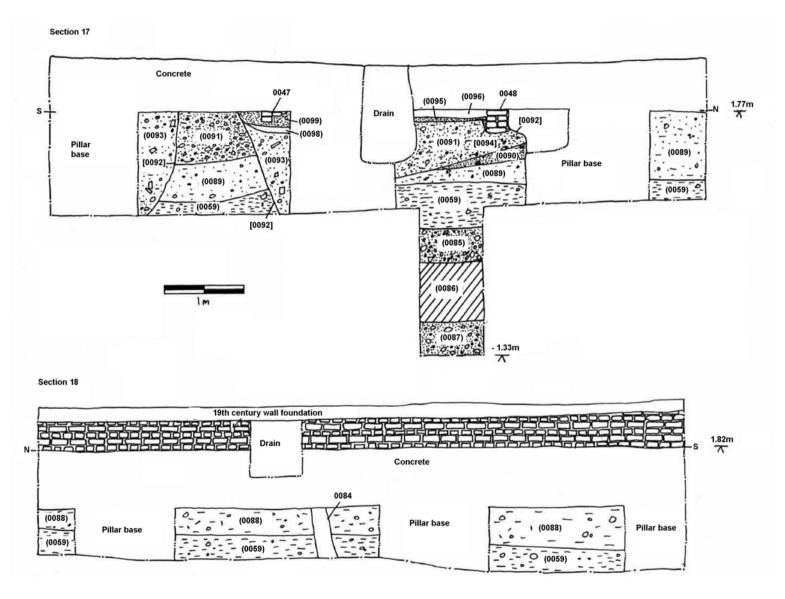


Figure 6. Trench 2 Sections of extended northern area

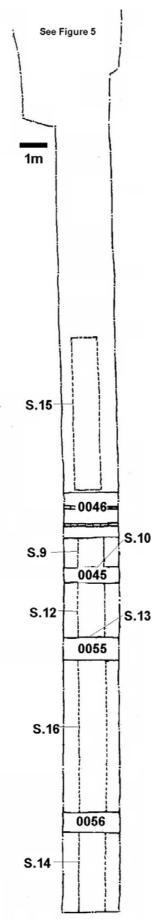


Figure 7. Large scale plan of remainder of Trench 2

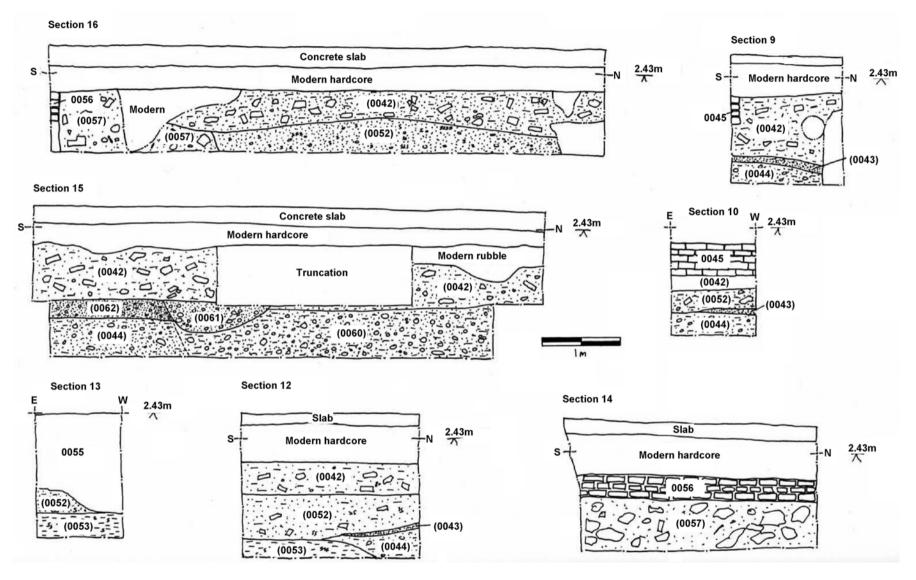


Figure 8. Trench 2 Sections recorded in remaining southern part



Figure 9. Structure 0058 looking north

4 The Finds

Richenda Goffin, March 2005.

Introduction

Finds were collected from 24 contexts from two trenches, as shown in Table 1 below.

Context	Pot	ttery	C	BM	AB		Sł	iell	Bur	nt Flint	Spot date
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	_
0002	15	224	1	780	5	96					L13th-14th C
0004	1	10									L12th-14th C
0007			3	122							Late medieval
8000	2	41									12th-13th C?
0009	13	300			3	99					L13th-14th C
0012	1	9									L13th-14th C
0017	2	66					1	12	1	63	1 MS, 1 possibly med
0020	3	12									L13th-14th C
0021	2	48									Mid 13th C +
0022	2	35									10th-11th C
0023			1	3650							Post-medieval
0026	5	78			1	4					L12th-14th
0028			1	1920							Post-medieval
0029	3	95									L15th-16th C
0044					1	11					Undated
0047			1	3480							Post-medieval
0048			1	2880							Post-medieval
0049	4	27									L13th-14th century
0050	1	23									Undated
0051	2	30			1	8					L13th-15th C
0052	1	53			2	104					Undated
0059	8	186			3	274					L13th-14th C
0060					3	349	1	41			Undated
0085			1	100							Post-medieval
Total	65	1237	9	12932	19	945	2	53	1	63	

Table 1. Finds quantification

Potterv

A total of 65 fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation, weighing 1.237kg. The pottery is mainly medieval in date, but a small amount of Middle and Late Saxon wares, and post-medieval ceramics are also present. The majority of the pottery was found in Trench 1, although some additional material was collected from Trench 2.

Methodology

The ceramics were quantified by recording the number of sherds present in each context, the estimated number of vessels represented and the weight of each fabric. Other features such as form, condition and decoration were noted, and an overall date range for the pottery in each context was established. The pottery was recorded on *pro forma* sheets by context using letter codes based on fabric and form. The fabric codes are based mainly on the fabric names established by the Suffolk Archaeological Service. The ceramic records were transferred to a spreadsheet presented in Appendix 2.

Middle Saxon

Two fragments of pottery of Middle Saxon date were present, weighing 0.104kg. The pottery makes up 3.07% by sherd count of the total assemblage and 8.40% by sherd weight. A large and unabraded fragment of Gritty Ipswich ware was present in the fill 0017 of construction cut 0010 and was accompanied by a small and more abraded sandy ware of indeterminate date. A sherd of Sandy Ipswich ware was identified as a residual element in 0059, a waterlogged deposit in Trench 2.

Late Saxon

Six fragments of Thetford-type ware were recovered overall from the evaluation, weighing 0.095kg. This pottery makes up 9.2% of the overall assemblage by sherd count and 7.68% by weight. Two joining fragments of a coarse Thetford-ware vessel were identified in 0022, the primary fill of the construction cut 0010. Four further fragments of

this fabric were present in 0059, a dumped deposit in Trench 2, which also contained several fragments of later pottery of a medieval date.

Medieval

The majority of the assemblage consists of pottery which is medieval in date (52 fragments weighing 0.918kg, 80% by sherd count and 73.03% by weight). A range of wares is present, which date mainly from the twelfth to the fourteenth century.

The ceramics associated with the cobbled surface area 0009 in Trench 1 comprise local medieval coarsewares and some glazed wares, including a heavily sooted fragment of an Ipswich Glazed ware dripping dish. The deposit 0002 which sealed this feature contained pottery of a similar date, including the complete profile of a slipped redware bowl which may be a product of the local Ipswich kilnsite (Sue Anderson, *pers comm*). In addition several fragments of a Mill Green ware slipped jug were present, dating from the late 13th to the early 14th century. A dumped deposit 0008 in the western end of Trench 1 contained two hard-fired coarseware body sherds that may be part of a Paffrath ware vessel from the Rhineland.

Several sherds recovered from the fills of the construction cut 0010 date to the Middle and Late Saxon period, but a small fragment of a sandy redware with small spots of lead glaze and a reduced core present in 0012 is medieval in date, and is likely also to be another product of the Ipswich medieval kiln. A general date of 13th-14th century has been assigned to the sherd.

A greater range of medieval pottery was present in 0026, the fill of a possible construction cut for the well 0023. In addition to medieval coarsewares, a fragment of Ely type glazed ware was present, together with a sherd of Pingsdorf ware. Another imported vessel was identified in 0021, a cessy dumped deposit at the northern end of Trench 1. The fill contained a fragment of a Saintonge mottled green-glazed ware jug from South-western France, dating from the second half of the thirteenth century.

Pottery of a more mixed date was identified in 0029, the backfill of the construction cut for the well 0028. A large and relatively unabraded fragment of a Paffrath ladle or pipkin dates to the medieval period, but two fragments of early post-medieval date were also recovered from this context.

Four fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from 0049, a dumped deposit in Trench 1. In addition to a sherd of Hollesley coarseware and two other gritty wares, a single glazed redware jug sherd is likely to be a product of the Ipswich ware kilns dating to the late 13th and early 14th century.

A small quantity of pottery was found in dumped and waterlogged deposits in Trench 2. A glazed redware vessel with slipped decoration and a single rim of a redware pipkin or jar present in 0051 are likely to date to the 14th century or slightly later. The ceramics from the waterlogged deposit 0059 include a sherd of Hollesley Glazed ware dating to the late 13th to early 14th century, and a coarse sandy medieval redware sherd with slip and lead glaze which is a product of the Essex redware kilns. This has a wider date range of the 12th to 14th century.

Post-medieval

Only two fragments of early post-medieval date were recovered overall (0.055kg, 3.07% by sherd count, 4.44% by weight). Both sherds came from the backfill 0029 for the construction cut for the well 0028. A fragment of a parrot-beak spout from a Saintonge jug or perhaps more likely, a *pegau* or rounded handled jug was identified. Examples of these vessels have been found at Southampton in deposits dating to the late 15th and early 16th centuries (Platt and Coleman Smith 1975 149). A single sherd of a Raeren/Aachen stoneware jug also found in this deposit is likely to be of a similar date.

Unidentified sherds

A fragment of a buff wheelthrown vessel, made from a fine micaceous fabric with occasional iron oxide inclusions present in 0050, awaits further investigation. The sherd has a thin milky covering on the external surface which is probably a thin tin-glaze. It bears some resemblance to a Seville starred costrel. These Spanish imports have an off-white, sometimes pink or brown fabric, with a thin white tin-glaze on the upper half of the vessel (Hurst et al, 1986 63). They are found in small quantities on sites in England, where they date to the first half of the 17th century. However, in view of the nature of the feature in which the sherd was found, a reclamation dump in Trench 1which is stratigraphically the earliest deposit, this identification is perhaps unlikely.

A number of other fragments of pottery remain unidentified, and therefore have not been assigned a date. An abraded sandy ware with occasional flint and ?limestone, in 0026 is residual but may also be early. A small sandy coarseware, recovered in the fill 0017 of a construction cut with a fragment of Ipswich ware is also of indeterminate date. A large fragment of a wheelthrown vessel which was made in a pale orange, slightly micaceous fabric is likely

to be an import, perhaps from Spain. A sherd of buff red-painted ware recovered from dumped deposit 0052 is also of uncertain provenance and date. This large fragment comes from a wheel-thrown globular vessel, perhaps an amphora, and may be a medieval import from the Rhineland or Northern France. It is also possible that the sherd is a rare example of a much earlier painted ware (Van Es and Verwers 1980 106-7).

Ceramic building material

Nine fragments of ceramic building material weighing 12.932kg were recovered from the evaluation, including several examples of complete or near complete bricks.

The earliest fragment of building material was found in general occupation deposit 0002. Approximately half a brick was present, measuring 98mm in width, 42mm in depth and with an incomplete length of 115mm. It is characterised by a buff/pale orange pink silty fabric, and has an oxidised external margin. There are fine impressions of straw on one of the surfaces with fine moulding sand on the other side. Such small bricks are medieval and date to the 13th-15th century.

Three further fragments of brick were present in 0007, the fill of a cut which may represent the evidence of a robbed-out wall. One of these has a vitrified surface and has a pale yellow estuarine fabric. Another fragment of a similar type with an abraded surface was also identified, together with a small brick made of a sandy mixed fabric with silty bands with occasional voids and ferrous inclusions. These small handmade bricks are all likely to be late medieval in date (Sue Anderson, *pers comm*).

Brick samples were recovered from two well structures 0023 and 0028 in Trench 1. Two further bricks were collected from two brick structures in Trench 2, 0047 and 0048. All the bricks were fired uniformly red, and are made from a hard sandy fabric, mostly with ferrous inclusions. All had been coated with mortars ranging from pale cream to a golden yellow. These medium sandy bricks have been classified as 'late', with most of them dating probably to the 16th-18th centuries (Anderson, forthcoming).

A single fragment of hard sandy rooftile of post-medieval date was present in foreshore deposit 0085 in Trench 2. It has few visible inclusions apart from occasional quartz, and has moulding sand on one side and the outer edge.

Small finds

Two artefacts were allocated small find numbers, both from the fill 0002 of a general occupation deposit in Trench 1.

A small fragment of triangular-shaped leather (SF0100) was recovered from the fill 0002. There is evidence of stitching on two edges, one of them being tunnel stitching. It is possible that the fragment may have been part of a medieval shoe upper.

Four joining fragments of a well-preserved but incomplete stone mortar (SF 0101) were found in fill 0002. The vessel is made from Purbeck marble, a type of limestone containing freshwater shell which was quarried in Dorset throughout the medieval period (Dunning, 1977, 324). The mortar is crudely tooled on the exterior surface with more refined tooling on the two lugs and handles. Not much of the base remains. The overall diameter of the mortar is 280mm, and the height is 105mm. Although Purbeck marble was quarried from the twelfth century onwards, the production of mortars appears to have formed only a small element of the overall output, which, it seems on current evidence, was confined mainly to the 13th-14th century (Dunning, 1977, 324).

Animal bone

Nineteen fragments of animal bone weighing 945g were recovered in total from the evaluation. A fragmentary piece of mandible with three molars, probably from a pig, was found in 0002, together with two fragments of a metatarsus. A limb bone from a small mammal was also present, together with a further unidentified fragment. Pieces of rib bone from two mammals were recorded in 0009, together with a large and abraded bone from probably from cattle. Single featureless and fragmentary pieces of small limb bones were identified in 0026 and 0044.

A single pig canine or tusk was identified in 0051. A fragment of limb bone probably from a large mammal such as a cow was present in 0052, with one other small fragment. Two large mammal bones including a fragment of cattle scapula were recovered from 0059, together with a small fragment of mandible. The split shaft of a mammal limb bone was found in 0060, with a large cattle metatarsus and fragment of humerus.

Shell

Two fragments of oyster shell were collected from 0017 and 0060.

Burnt flint

A fragment of a burnt flint nodule was identified in 0017.

Discussion of the finds evidence

Although some early pottery is present in Trench 1, much of it is redeposited, and the overall character of the assemblage is medieval. Finds from both the cobbled surface 0009 and the trample deposit 0002 sealing it are of a similar date, c. 13th-14th century. The pottery recovered from three fills of the construction cut 0010 is mixed, with some redeposited material, and a sherd of medieval date which was present in the third fill 0012. Further medieval wares were recovered from several dumped deposits within the trench. The fill 0026 of the possible construction cut for the well 0023 contained sherds of medieval pottery, although the actual brick structure itself is post-medieval in date. By contrast, the backfill 0029 of the construction cut for the well 0028 includes ceramics dating to the early part of the post-medieval period.

The dateable artefacts recovered from Trench 2 are also mainly medieval, apart from a small quantity of ceramic building material. The ceramics associated with the waterlogged deposit 0059, which pre-dates the large wooden piled structure 0058 are mixed and include redeposited wares, but also glazed wares dating to the late 13th and early 14th century. The upper deposit 0051 contained sherds of pottery which may be slightly later, possibly 14th-15th century.

In addition to local and regional ceramics of medieval date, a number of imported wares were recorded. In this respect the site is typical of riverside Ipswich, where a wide and varied range of imported fabrics are often found dating from the Middle Saxon period onwards. The presence of several sherds which are likely to be imports remain as yet unprovenanced.

Small amounts of animal bone were recovered from both trenches. Fragments of cattle and pig bone were identified amongst the assemblage. No evidence of butchery was recorded and no horn cores, indicative of tanning or other industrial processes were present.

5 Timber Assessment

Richard Darrah, March 2005

Introduction

Seventeen oak piles up to 1.5m long, one stake and one roundwood pole were extracted from soft silt at Albion Warf (two others were left *in situ* as they were not safely accessible). The piles all had carefully shaped four sided points. The similarity of the points suggests that they were a single group. The points were cut with at least two broad axes. The axe used on 0064 had a blade more than twenty centimetres wide. It is not clear whether the stake and pole came from the same set, as their points did not survive.

The combined use of the saw and broadaxe places the group after approximately 1250 AD. A more accurate date should be obtained from the dendrochronological samples that have surviving bark, these should date to the time of year of felling. It is likely that the timbers were inserted into the silt within a year of felling.

Assessment method.

After spot heights were recorded, the timbers were extracted, washed and recorded individually on a specialist wood data sheet. Where there were fifty rings or more and the sapwood bark interface was preserved these pieces were sampled for dendrochronological dating. The main results from the timber data sheets are summarised in Table 2. Copies of the timber data sheets will be held in the archive.

Context number	Cross-section of trunk	Tool marks	Dendro sample?	Re- use	Notes
0063	Whole	Broad axe	No		Broad axe with coarse signature
0064	Quartered	Broad axe, axe, saw	Yes		Broad axe >201mm with fine signature, bearer
0065	Quartered	Broad axe	Yes		Best dendro potential
0066	Halved and squared	Broad axe	Yes		Split then roughly squared leaving wavy edges
0067	Halved and squared	Broad axe	No		Split then roughly squared leaving wavy edges
0068	Halved and squared	Broad axe	No		Split then roughly squared leaving wavy edges
0069	Halved and squared	Broad axe	Yes		Split then roughly squared leaving wavy edges
0070	Halved and squared	Broad axe	Yes		Split then roughly squared leaving wavy edges
0071	Half of slab	Broad axe	No	Yes	Sawn lap 175mm wide in sapwood side. No decay to sapwood
0072	Halved and squared	Broad axe	No		Split then roughly squared leaving wavy edges
0074	Halved and squared	Broad axe	No		Split then roughly squared leaving wavy edges
0075	Quartered	Broad axe and saw	Yes		Sawn faces dressed off to make point
0076	Halved and squared	Broad axe	Yes		Split then carefully squared
0077	Whole	Broad axe	No		Summer felled
0078	Halved	None visible	No	Yes	Broken across through tenon. Point missing
0079	Halved and squared	Surfaces abraded 25mm auger Fresh broad axe on point	No	Yes	Drift wood with 3 auger holes and broken round oak heartwood pegs.
0800	Halved and squared	Broad axe	No		Poor surface preservation
0081	Halved and squared	Broad axe	No		Split then roughly squared leaving wavy edges
0082	Whole	Bark complete Table 2. Details of	No the timbers fo	ound	Not oak. Point missing

The condition of the timber and wood

The preservation was excellent, and perfect over the bottom 0.5m of the pieces. Bark or sapwood outer rings survived on all the dendrochronological samples. These will provide a felling date if the samples are sent for dendrochronological dating before the sapwood dries or decays. Although several pile points were missing there was no damage to complete points indicating that they had not been hammered into gravel.

The preservation of the timber indicated the potential of this fill to preserve organic material. The apparent absence of wood chips indicates that the timbers were prepared elsewhere.

Dating evidence from the surviving wood working technology

Samples for dendrochronology were taken as shown in Table 2. Unfortunately, closer examination indicated that none would be suitable. Therefore only the methods of working remain to provide evidence for dating structure 0058. There are five distinct wood working techniques seen on the timbers:

- Splitting to length, *undatable* but more likely before 1500.
- Sawing to length, after 1250AD.
- Broad axe hewn points, after 600AD but 200mm wide blade probably makes it after 800AD.
- Rough hewing, *undatable* but axe blade width > 100mm suggests after 1200.
- 25mm auger holes, *undatable*.

All these techniques would be seen in the late medieval but may be as late as 19th century.

Because of the artefactual evidence recovered from silt 0059, the most likely date for these timbers is thought to be late 13th to 14th century.

The timbers were checked for complete axe blade widths, then sampled for dendrochronology by sawing off a 50mm thick cross section with as many rings as possible.

As all the squared points had excellent tool signatures on them, the points were kept to look for cross matches of signatures, but none were seen.

Timber selection

The timbers were a set of piles made from four distinct timber sections; all had similar four sided points.

- Round wood approximately 150mm diameter.
- Split halves of 0.3m diameter trunks hewn into rectangular baulks between 200 x 100mm and 150 x 100mm.
- Trunks 0.4m diameter sawn into quarters approximately 160 x 160mm.
- A piece of slab wood from the outside of the trunk sawn in half along its length, this had a sawn half lap in its sapwood side.
- Two pieces 0078 and 0082 were much smaller in cross section than the other pieces and had no points surviving, they may or may not be part of the same structure

The presence of bark on a number of these pieces suggests that they were placed in the ground soon after felling. This means that the dendrochronological date should date the driving of the piles to within one year.

The joints

Only three joints were seen:

- A sawn lap joint on 0071. This piece of timber was a slab of wood sawn off the outside of a tree. It was almost all sapwood. The absence of insect attack suggests that this piece had been inserted into the ground with in a few years of felling. The absence of nail or peg holes within the lap joint suggest that this joint may have been a temporary joint used within the construction phase when the piles were inserted.
- Through peg holes in a piece of reused driftwood 0079. These peg holes had the remains of oak heartwood pegs in situ. These pegs had worn away at both ends, and neither end had been wedged. The amount of surface wear on both the timber and peg ends suggests that it was a single piece of driftwood not a piece intentionally broken off a local wreck. The rings and shape were consistent with this piece being made from a squared halved log with an original diameter of less than 0.2m diameter.
- A through mortise in the cleft stake 0078. This mortise only survives as a flat surface in the middle of a straight break across the top of the piece.

The woodland resource that the timber came from

All the timbers (except 0082) were parts of oak trunks or large branches. Most of these had slowed down dramatically in their growth rate in the years before they were felled. This suppression suggests that the timbers came from an under managed woodland. It may have been either regeneration in a clearing in high forest or under managed coppice with standards. In both these examples the trees came from an area that had too many trees growing in it for optimum growth.

There is a second explanation for this suppression, as although the coppice with standards method of woodland management was intended to produce fast grown timber on a relatively short cycle. In reality landowners regarded timber as a capital resource and only felled it when capital was required or when rebuilding property. Hence the decrease in growth rate may only be an indication that the landowner did not require the timber when it was growing at its optimum rate.

One tree (0065) had more than 100 rings and had grown evenly over that period; this distinct growth pattern was more frequently seen in High Forest.

Context number	Width	Thickness	Radius	Cross- section	Growth Rate	Estimated Age
0063			0.07	0.0153958	4 to 1.5	35
0064	0.17	0.16		0.0272	6 to <1	50
0065	0.16	0.15		0.024	2mm	100
0066	0.17	0.09		0.0153		50
0067	0.21	0.1		0.021	4 to 2	35
0068	0.15	0.09		0.0135	4 to 2	40
0069	0.21	0.11		0.0231		50
0070	0.15	0.07		0.0105	1	50
0071	0.18	0.12		0.0216	3	
0072	0.15	0.09		0.0135		50
0073	0.15	0.07		0.0105	1	50
0074	0.15	0.07		0.0105	1	50
0075	0.16	0.16		0.0256	3	
0076	0.19	0.09		0.0171	2	

Table 3. Selected timber dimensions and age/growth rate estimates

6 Discussion and Conclusions

The artefactual dating evidence from most of the features and deposits is somewhat ambiguous and presents a significant challenge to the interpretation of this evaluation's results. Many of the finds groups contain mixed material, suggesting that many of the dateable finds are likely to have been redeposited. This is clearly illustrated by the presence of medieval pottery in the backfill of the construction cut associated with the wells in Trench 1, when the masonry itself was post-medieval in date. However, in general the overall character of the pottery assemblage is medieval (principally 13th to 14th century) in date indicating significant activity/occupation during that time.

The character of the deposits encountered in the two trenches was very different and they merit separate discussion.

Trench 1

The location of gravel-like deposits at *minus c*. 0.4m AOD (although this was only ascertained by auguring) seems relatively deep, given that the surface of the gravel foreshore at Cranfield's Mill was definitely encountered at between 0.2 - 0.8m AOD during open area excavation. This raises the possibility of a further north-to-south aligned natural channel in the vicinity or possibly a deliberate intervention of some kind (see Trench 2, below).

The earliest deposit in the sequence (reclamation/dumping 0050) is undated, as is the earliest cut feature (0010). While the finds recovered from the fills of 0010 contain a significant Saxon component it is likely that this is residual given the depth of the feature, as it could easily have disturbed earlier deposits that were not encountered otherwise during the evaluation. On balance, it seems most likely that the reclamation activity represented by 0050 is of early medieval date (as is the case at the neighbouring Cranfield's Mill), although the possibility that it is Late Saxon cannot be discounted with the currently available evidence.

The function of feature 0010 remains open to speculation given its limited exposure. It is unclear whether its deliberate backfilling for the support of a timber beam (0015) was the original purpose of the cut. The depth (0.8m) of the feature suggests this is unlikely, as does the presence of a probable clay lining. The lack of any piling or properly consolidated backfilling beneath the beam does not suggest that it was intended to be part of a substantial load-bearing structure but perhaps a more temporary feature such as a crane base. Similarly, the associated stakes (0100) are difficult to interpret but seem most likely to represent a fence line associated with 0010, although it is impossible to tell whether they are contemporary with the original cut or post-date its backfilling.

The layers of substantial dumping and reclamation that sealed this earlier activity yielded pottery of 13^{th} to 14^{th} century date. Stratigraphically, the latest of these deposits (0002) was encountered at c. 2m AOD, less than 0.5m below the level of the existing slab.

Perhaps the most securely dated deposit encountered in Trench 1 is the possible surface 0009 (and its associated trample) in Trench 1, which the available evidence suggests is also of medieval (13th to 14th century) date.

Limited exposure also prevents detailed interpretation of the septaria wall fragment 0030. All that can be said is that the inclusion of some CBM fragments in its fabric tends to suggest a late medieval or post-medieval date.

Post-medieval remains were largely restricted to intrusive cut features such as wells 0023 and 0028. It seems likely that any stratified post-medieval deposits (layers, surfaces *etc.*) were truncated during demolition and levelling of the site prior to laying of the extant slab.

Trench 2

The depth of the deposits here unfortunately did not make it possible (due to Health and Safety constraints) to determine the level of the natural subsoil. Some sand and gravel was encountered at -0.9m AOD but it is not certain whether this was *in situ* or had been redeposited. However, even if this was *in situ* natural it was significantly deeper than anticipated.

The presence of a substantial (0.75m thick) peat layer was also unexpected, particularly this far north immediately adjacent to the Key Street frontage. As peat only forms under anaerobic waterlogged conditions this suggests that this part of the river's edge had not always been tidal foreshore but had stood for some time under open water. This deposit could not be securely dated, but the presence of a clearly identifiable sheep bone indicates that it is Bronze Age or later. Peat has also been observed at Cranfield's Mill, although in that case it was found in a previously known north-to-south aligned channel, which could have been blocked or otherwise obstructed to cause the accumulation of peat. Although work is currently ongoing at that site the peat there has been dated to the Roman period.

The peat was sealed by an undated sand and gravel deposit (0085) indicative of high energy natural deposition rather than deliberate dumping, suggesting that whatever had produced the conditions conducive to peat formation was no longer effective. A similar pattern of peat 'sandwiched' between high energy deposits has also been observed in the north-to-south aligned channel at Cranfield's Mill. This could suggest some form of deliberate management of the watercourse.

The layer of 'river mud' overlying 0085 was also atypical, in that it contained remarkably few finds and was clearly not part of any reclamation activity. This again suggests that relatively stable open water must have been present for some time. The small quantity of 13th to 14th century pottery recovered from the deposit cannot be considered a particularly reliable indicator of date given the nature of the deposit.

Structure 0058 comprised at least 19 piles/stakes some of which were up to 1.5m long, with their tops at *c*. 1m AOD, just 0.75m below the existing ground level. Before attempting to interpret its function the question of the structure's dating must be addressed. Unfortunately the samples recovered were not suitable for dendrochronolgy. Similarly the problem of residuality inherent in the finds assemblage makes artefactual dating of the deposits associated with the structure problematic. A third challenge with dating this type of feature is the difficulty in locating it stratigraphically – it is not possible in this case to tell with any certainty which deposits the piles had been driven into and which had accumulated around them. Consequently, in this instance the most reliable indicator of date are the wood working techniques identified on the piles. As outlined in Section 5 all that can be said from the wood working techniques is that structure 0058 could be late medieval in date, but the suite of methods employed in its construction could also be seen in the 19th century. However, given that the stratigraphically later brick structures have been dated from their fabric between the 16th to 18th centuries it seems most likely that structure 0058 is of late medieval date.

Interpretation of the structure's function is hampered by the small area of the excavation (c. 8m x 4m). It is not possible to establish any chronology for the driving of individual posts so any different phases or repairs cannot be identified. The evidence from the wood working technology does suggest a single phase of construction however, as the almost identical points on each pile

indicates they were a single group. No particularly strong lines of piles can be clearly identified although a broad north-to-south alignment can be discerned. Their broad span in term of width (over 2m) does not suggest piling for a wall foundation. Given the nature of the surrounding deposits, which suggest an open inlet of some kind, it seems most likely that structure 0058 represents some kind of jetty or pier.

Overall, the evidence from Trench 2 has shown that the level of the gravel foreshore is much deeper than had previously been thought. Some form of inlet or channel was clearly present. It has not been possible to date the peat deposit observed in the sondage at the northern end of the trench, but the possibility that it is of pre-Saxon date cannot be discounted. The later substantial wooden structure confirms the presence of some form of inlet, perhaps as late as the early post-medieval period. It has not been possible to determine whether such an inlet has natural or manmade origins. The extent of the feature also remains unknown. It is worth noting that a grant (only located after the production of the Desk-Based Assessment that preceded this evaluation (Gardner, 2004)) of AD 1424 mentions a piece of land in St. Mary's Quay that has access to/abuts salt water (A Breen *pers comm.*).

7 Recommendations for Further Work

The western part of the site in the area of the currently open yard contains complex well-stratified archaeological deposits of late medieval and earlier date. These are very shallow (as little as 0.5m below the existing slab level) and therefore at risk from any intrusive development. Preservation is such that survival of deeper Anglo-Saxon deposits along the foreshore is strongly anticipated. It is probable that similar deposits continue right along the site's Key Street frontage and are of sufficient depth to be preserved beneath the half-cellared 19th century warehouse building in the central part of the site.

The inlet identified in Trench 2 is notable, in that at present it is the only such feature known in Ipswich. Its preservation (whether *in situ* or by recording) and further characterisation is of local if not regional importance.

The two areas of archaeological potential shown in Figure 11 of the Desk-Based Assessment (Gardner, 2004) remain unchanged by the findings of this evaluation and the figure is reproduced here.

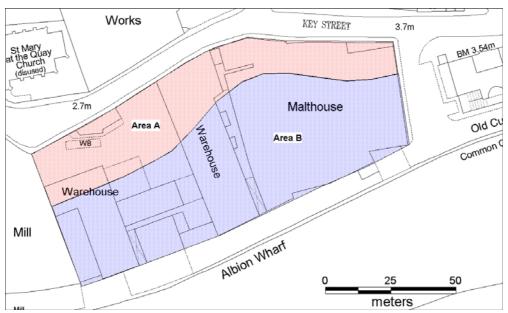


Figure 10. Areas of archaeological potential

Area A (a band c. 25m wide parallel to the Key Street frontage) has been shown to contain complex well-stratified multi-period deposits immediately beneath the modern slab. These are extremely vulnerable to any intrusive ground disturbance. It is therefore recommended that any significant ground disturbance caused by the proposed development on the site be preceded by controlled open area excavation.

Area B is likely to be beyond the area of the occupied foreshore and will most likely be characterised by extensive dumping and reclamation into the former channel of the river. It is suggested that a programme of archaeological monitoring should be undertaken during any substantial intrusive groundworks in this area.

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Report No. 2005/20

Rhodri Gardner, for SCCAS, August 2005.

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

APPENDIX 1 Context List

Context	Feature	Comp No	Type	Description	Section No	Under	Over	Cuts	Cut By	Trench
0002			Deposit	General occupation debris/trample sealing 0009. Very soft mixed predominantly dark grey/black silty clay with occasional blue-green clay patches. Moderate pot, ANBN and CBM. Occ oyster shell and moderate small to medium sub-angular/angular flints.		0003	0009			1
0003	0003		Cut	Shallow construction slot (0.6m wide x 0.92m+ long x 0.09m deep). Steep near vertical sides and flat base.		0004	0002	0002		1
0004	0003		Fill	Backfill/consolidation of 0003. Very soft light yellowish brown sandy mortar with rare small flint pebbles.		0025			0025	1
0005	0003		Structure	Small sub-rectangular brick plinth/pad/pillar base. Unfrogged yellow brick. BTL=120mm x 50mm x 220mm. No notable bond and just 1 course deep.		0004	0003			1
0006	0006		Cut	Straight parallel sided linear running N-S through centre of Trench 1. 1.85m+ long x 0.7m wide x 0.7m deep. Slightly concave steep sides with sharp break to flat base. Nature of fill suggests it has been robbed. Wall line.	2, 3	0007	0002	0002		1
0007	0006		Fill	Fill of 0006. Firm orange-grey lime mortar with rare small rubble (inc. CBM) frags. So few good building materials suggests it is robbed-out rather than a foundation trench.	2, 3	+	0006			1
8000			Deposit	Dump layer in W end Tr. 1. Stiff black clayey silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded flint pebbles and rare pot frags.		0016	0012			1
0009			Deposit	Area of possible cobbled surface/consolidation in centre of Tr. 1. Not particularly dense (see plan). Firm dark grey silty clay matrix with 'cessy' trample patches. Cobbles variable (inc CBM), but principally comprise large flints (up to 0.2 x 0.2m).		0002	0021			1
0010	0010		Cut	Partially revealed construction cut against southern side of Tr. 1. 4.7m+ long, 0.75m+ wide and up to 0.8m deep. Moderately sloping concave sides with a gradual break to a rounded base. Very complex sequence of fills - function largely unknown.	4	0022	NFE	0050		1
0011	0010		Fill	Consolidation deposit over upper level of 0010. Firm olive brown clay with frequent chalk nodules.	4	0005, 0031	0012		0005	1
0012	0010		Fill	Tertiary fill of 0010. Soft greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and amall flint pebbles.	4	0011	0032, 0034			1
0013				Not used						
0014	0010		Fill	Fill of 0010. Firm olive brown clay with occasional small chalk nodules.	4	0033	0017			1
0015	0010		Fill	Heavily decayed timber. Within 0010. At least 3.4m long and 9" by 5" in section. Upper surface slopes down slightly to the south. Narrows noticeably toward the western end. Very straight. Did not survive sampling.	4	0012	0016			1
0016			Deposit	Undifferentiated overburden in Tr. 1. Compact slightly brownish grey clayey silt with frequent CBM and mortar frags and occasional concrete pieces.	5, 7	+	0032,			1

0017	0010	Fill	Loose greyish brown silty sand matrix with frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint pebbles.	4	0014, 0034	0018		1
0018	0010	Fill	Dark orange-brown sand matrix with frequent small to medium sub-rounded flint pebbles/gravel.	4	0017	0022		1
0019			Single large timber fragment within cobbled layer 0009. Not recorded any further/discarded.		N/A	N/A		1
0020	0003	Fill	Primary fill of 0003. Firm light greenish grey clayey sandy silt with frequent broken slate frags and occasional oyster shell.		0005	0003		1
0021		Deposit	Quite thick (up to 0.2m) 'cessy' dump layer in northern half of Tr. 1. Soft mid greyish green silty clay with frequent oyster shell, moderate small to medium flint pebbles and rare mortar flecks.	5	0009	0049	0010	1
0022	0010	Fill	Primary fill/lining of 0010. Firm brownish grey clay with rare oyster shell and small subrounded flint pebbles. Varies in thickness between 0.02-0.1m.	4	0018	0010		1
0023	0023	Structure	Circular brick-built well. 2.4m+ diameter. Red unfrogged brick. BTL=120mm x 60mm x 235mm. Height of 4 courses+joints = 0.3m. Radially laid headers bonded with very hard pale yellow sandy mortar with frequent flint inclusions. Partially revealed.	11	0024	0026		1
0024	0023	Fill	Backfill of well 0023. Compact pale yellowish brown sand with frequent large lumps of concrete and CBM.		+	0023		1
0025	0025	Cut	Possible construction cut for well 0023. 3.5m+ long and 1.6m+ wide. Depth unknown (NFE). Smooth moderately sloping southern side. Could be related to construction of both wells.	5, 6, 7	0026	NFE		1
0026	0025	Fill	Single fill of 0025. Firm light greenish brown sandy silty clay with occasional small chalk nodules.	5, 6, 7	0023	0025		1
0027	0027	Cut	Partially revealed construction cut for well in NE corner of Tr. 1. Too little exposure for accurate recording.	6	0029	NFE		1
0028	0027	Structure	Masonry well (only small fragment revealed). Red unfrogged bricks. BTL=110mm x 56mm x 210mm. Ring of concentrically laid headers (two bricks wide) bonded with hard pale yellow sandy mortar. Height of 4 courses and joints = 0.66m.	6	0029	0027		1
0029	0027	Fill	Backfill of construction cut for well 0028. Soft light brown clayey silty sand with occasional mortar flecks.	6	+	0028		1
0030	0030	Structure	Small partially revealed fragment of septaria-built wall. Natural/roughly hewn septaria blocks (c. 0.05-0.20m diameter) laid in a random uncoursed manner and bonded with very soft yellow sandy mortar. Rare small CBM frags incorporated into fabric.	5	0016	0031		1
0031	0030	Structure	Packing/consolidation associated with wall 0030. Soft pale olive brown clay with occasional chalk felcks and rare greyish silty lenses. Under/adjacent to E side of wall 0030.	5	0030	0011		1
0032	0007	Fill	Upper fill of 'robber' trench 0007. Firm mid grey slightly silty sandy clay with frequent CBM and crushed mortar frags, rare clay lumps and sub-angular flint cobbles. 0.9m wide (E-W), 2m+ long and 0.3m deep.	5	0016	0006		1
0033	0010	Fill	Clay foundation/consolidation layer. Firm mid slightly greenish grey clay with moderate	5	0012	0014		1

			mortar flecks and chalk nodules. Two possible heavily decayed wooden planks/boards laid beneath wall 0030. 0.65m+ wide (N-S), 2.05m+ long and 0.1m deep.						
0034	0010	Fill	Small area of slumping in eastern end of 0010, probably derived from 0035. Soft dark grey silty clay with rare sandy lenses and moderate small sub-rounded flint pebbles.	5	0012	0017			1
0035			Substantial dumping/reclamation layer observed in much of Tr. 1. 1.8m+ wide (N-S), 2.2m+ long, 0.22m+ deep. Soft dark grey silty clay with rare oyster shell and chalk flecks, occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles.	5	0038	NFE		0010, 0025	1
0036			Not used						
0037			Dumping/general occupation(?) layer. Soft slightly greenish olive brown clay with rare CBM, mortar frags, charcoal flecks and small sub-rounded flint pebbles. Very rare oyster shell. 1m+ long (N-S), 4.9m+ wide and up to 0.2m thick.	5	0036	0039			1
0038		Deposit	Dumping/reclamation. Soft dark greyish brown silty clay with rare oyster shell, small subrounded flint pebbles and charcoal flecks.	5	0026	0035			1
0039		Deposit	Possible consolidation deposit - fills a 'soft spot'. Firm pale olive brown clay with occasional grey silty patches and rare mortar and chalk flecks. 2.05m long (E-W), 0.5m wide and up to 0.16m deep.	5	0003, 0037	0038		0003	1
0040	0040	Cut	Shallow N-S aligned ditch. Straight parallel-sided linear with moderately sloping slightly concave sides and an imperceptible BOS to a gently rounded base. 1.6m+ long (N-S), 0.85m wide and 0.2m deep.	5	0041	0036	0036		1
0041	0040	Fill	Single fill of ditch 0040. Very soft dark grey slightly clayey silt with rare CBM and mortar frags, occasional small flint pebbles and oyster shells.	5	0016	0041			1
0042		Deposit	Upper consolidation layer in Tr. 2. Soft greyish brown silty sand with frequent CBM frags, occasional charcoal flecks and small flint pebbles.	9	+	0043			2
0043		Deposit	Thin sandy dump layer. Very soft light greyish yellow sand with no notable inclusions.	9	0042	0044			2
0044		Deposit	Consolidation/make-up layer in Tr. 2. Soft mid greenish grey silty sand with frequent small rounded flint pebbles.	9, 10, 15	0043	NFE			2
0045			Fragmentary exposure of unidentified wall. Red unfrogged brick. BTL=100mm x 70mm x 240mm. No further recording possible.	9, 10	+	0042			2
0046		Structure	Brick-built column/pier base set in concrete - no further recording necessary.						2
0047		Structure	Northernmost of two late ?unknown brick structures in Tr. 2. Red unfrogged brick. BYL=115mm x 60mm x 240mm. Random/utilitarian bond - only 2 courses surviving. Pale yellowish brown soft sandy mortar with frequent flint and rare chalk inc.	17	+	0099			2
0048			Southern brick structure. ?Unknown form. Red unfrogged bricks. BTL=120mm x 65mm x 246mm. Random/utilitarian bond. Mid yellowish brown soft sandy mortar with some flint inclusions.		0095	0094			2
0049			Dump layer in Tr. 1. Firm greenish grey clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint pebbles and frequent oyster shell.	11	0009	0050			1
0050		Deposit	Substantial reclamation dumping. Stratigraphically the earliest deposit encountered in Tr.	11	0010	NFE		0010	1

				1. Firm to soft dark greyish black silty clay with occasional dark brown lenses. Frequent oyster shell (rare mussels), rare decayed organics and small flint pebbles				
0051			Deposit	Upper layer in Tr. 2. Soft mixed layer of grey clayey silt with frequent medium flint gravel, occasional larger flint nodules and rare septaria fragments.	17	0090	0059	2
0052			Deposit	Upper dumping layer in S part of Tr. 2. Soft orange brownish grey silty sand with moderate shell.	9, 12, 13, 16	0042	0043, 0053, 0054	2
0053			Deposit	Lower dump layer in S end Tr. 2. Soft dark grey humic clayey silt with moderate oyster shell.	12, 13	0044	NFE	2
0054			Deposit	Context number erroneously allocated to wood fragment.	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
0055			Structure	Modern concrete and brick wall foundation.				2
0056			Cut	Modern brick and concrete wall foundation in Tr. 2.				2
0057			Structure	Large foundation for 0056.				2
0058	0058	0058	Structure	Large wooden structure comprising driven piles. 21 piles/stakes visible in total. Principal N-S alignment with some outliers. Wide range of timber types: well-dressed square timbers (up to 16cm x 17cm) to thick planks and some roundwood.	N/A	+	0059	2
0059			Deposit	Very substantial 'river ooze' deposit. Very soft/friable waterlogged dark grey clayey silt with very rare oyster shell, pot and medium flint cobbles. Definitely not reclamation dumping - 'wet' during existence of 0058		0058	0085	2
0060			Deposit	Dumping/reclamation in S end Tr. 2. Soft light greyish brown silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles/gravel.	15	0042, 0061	0062	2
0061				Not used				
0062			-	Dumping/reclamation in S end Tr. 2. Loose yellowish brown sands and gravel.	15	0042	0044	2
0063		0058		Driven pile.				2
0064		0058		Driven pile.				2
0065		0058		Driven pile.				2
0066		0058		Driven pile.				2
0067		0058		Driven pile.				2
0068		0058		Driven pile.				2
0069		0058		Driven pile.				2
0070		0058		Driven pile.				2
0071		0058		Driven pile.				2
0072		0058		Driven pile.				2
0073			-	Context number erroneously allocated to wood fragment.				2
0074		0058	Structure	Driven pile.				2

0075		0058	Structure	Driven pile.					2
0076		0058	Structure	Driven pile.					2
0077		0058	Structure	Driven pile.					2
0078		0058	Structure	Driven pile.					2
0079		0058	Structure	Driven pile.					2
0800		0058	Structure	Driven pile.					2
0081		0058	Structure	Driven pile.					2
0082		0058	Structure	Driven pile.					2
0083		0058	Structure	Driven pile.					2
0084		0058	Structure	Driven pile.	18				2
0085			Deposit	Fairly high energy sand and gravel foreshore deposit. Very loose mid grey medium sand matrix with frequent poorly sorted small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint gravel. 0.4m thick.	17	0059	0086		2
0086			Deposit	Substantial (0.75m thick) peat deposit. Soft mid/dark greyish brown silty peat matrix with moderate small roundwood frags and very rare ANBN frags.	17	0085	0087		2
0087			Deposit	Fairly high energy sand and gravel deposit. Very loose mid grey medium sand matrix with frequent poorly sorted small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint gravel. Up to 0.45m+ thick.	17	0086	NFE		2
0088			Deposit	Dumping/consolidation. Soft dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular flints and rare decayed wood frags.	18	0090	0059		2
0089				Dumping/consolidation - not strictly reclamation deposit. Soft mid grey slightly silty sandy clay with moderate small rounded to sub-rounded flint gravel.	17	0090	0059		2
0090			Deposit	Small discontinuous sand dump layer. Soft light yellowish greyish brown medium sand with rare small rounded flint pebbles. 1m+ wide, 1.2m long (N-S) and up to 0.2m thick.	17	0091	0089		2
0091			Deposit	Consolidation layer/dump. Firm mid greenish brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular to angular flint pebbles/cobbles.	17	0092	0090		2
0092			Cut	Construction cut for pillar base. Only partially revealed. Near vertical sides. Base not seen.	17	0093	0091	0091	2
0093			Fill	Backfill of 0092. Mid grey silty clayey sand with frequent flint pebbles and crushed CBM frags.	17	+	0092		2
0094	0048		Cut	Construction cut for 0048. Broadly rectangular in plan near vertical sides, but only 0.3m deep.	17	0048	0091		2
0095			Deposit	Make-up/levelling deposit. Very soft orange yellow medium sand with no notable inclusions.	17	0096	0048		2
0096			Deposit	Clay levelling/tanking for possible floor. Firm yellowish olive brown clay with no notable inclusions. 0.08m thick.	17	+	0095		2
0097			Cut	Construction cut for 0047. Only partially revealed.	17	0098	0093		2

0098		Deposit	Make-up/levelling for 0047. Firm yellowish brown clay.	17	0099	0093	2
0099		Deposit	Sand bedding for 0047.	17	0047	0098	2
0100	0010	Structure	Series of 9 small roundwood stakes driven into 0050 along (and parallel to) the northern	N/A		0050	1
			edge of cut 0010. Not fully excavated, no further recording. Probable cover/awning				

APPENDIX 2 Pottery Records

				1				LCCOI W	_			
Context	Trench No	Feature Type	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Dec	Quantity	Condition	Weight (g)	Date	Overall Date Range	Comments
Context	110	reature Type	1 Ci iou	Tablic	1 01 111	Dec	Quantity	Condition	(5)		Date Range	Comments
0000			3.6	N CONT	DODII				4.0	L13th-Mid		
0002	1	Occ debris	M	MGW	BODY		6		42		L13th-14th C	Jug sherds, combed and slipped
0002	1		M	MCW	BODY		3	S	40	11th-14th C		1 sherd Hollesley?
										L13th-		
0002	1		M	IPSG	JUG		2		27	E14th C		2 joining rim sherds, oxidised
										L13th-		
0002	1		M	IPSG	BOWL		4		115	E14th C		Slipped bowl, complete profile, ID'd SA
										L12th-14th		
0004	1	Backfill of cut	M	HOLL	BODY		1	AB	10	C	L12th-14th C	Med coarseware sherd
												2 joining, globular body sherds, hand
0008	1	Dump layer	M	FLBG?	BODY		2		41	12th-13th C		made but poss local coarseware
0000		Bump my or	171	I LDG.	BODI					1211 1311 0	1241 1341 0	indue out poss focul course ware
		0.111.1								T 12/1		
0000	1	Cobbled) /	IDCC	DDID			CD.	02	L13th-	124 144 0	Heavily burnt and sooted, poss Ipswich
0009	1	consolidation	M	IPSG	DRIP		1	SB	93	E14th C	13tn-14tn C	Glazed ware
0009	1		M	ESSX	BODY		1		16	12th-14th C		Slipped redware, some splashes of glaze
										L12th-14th		
0009	1		M	HOLL	CP/JAR		2	S	33	С		2 joining, sl developed everted rim
										L12th-14th		
0009	1		M	HOLL	BODY		5	S	84	С		
0009	1		M	MCW	BODY		2		27	11th-14th C		1 prob Bury coarseware
										L13th-		
0009	1		M	IPSG	BODY		2		47	E14th C		Includes base sherd
										L13th-		
0012	1	Fill of const cut	M	IPSG?	BODY		1		9		L13th-14th C	Red fabric, sandy w splashed ld glaze
												, J 1
0017	1	Fill of const cut	MS	GIPS	BODY		1		64	Mid Saxon	Query	Large body sherd, oxid ext margins
0017	1	i iii oi collst cut	1410	OILO	ועטם		1		04	Roman or	Query	Large body sherd, oald eat margins
0017	1		R/M?	MISC	BODY		1		2	med		Small featureless coarseware body sherd
0017	1		IN/ IVI (IVIISC	DOD I		1					Sman reacureress coarseware body sherd
0000				L COUL	Doni				_	L13th-Mid		
0020	1	Fill of const cut	M	MGW	BODY		2		7	14th C	L13th-14th C	

0020	1		M	COLC	BODY		1		5	L13th- M16th C		
0020	1		IVI	COLC	ворт		1		3	Mionic		
0021	1	Cessy dump	M	SAIN	JUG	APD	1		9	1250+		Mottled glazed jug sherd w appd thumbed strip
0021	1		M	MISC	BODY		1	A	39	Med	Mid 13th+?	Buff orange unglazed body sherd, sl
0021	1	D : C11 C	1V1	WIISC	БОБТ		1	Λ	39	IVICU	Wild 15til+:	inicaccous,
0022	1	Prim fill of cons cut	LS	THET	BODY		2		35	10th-11th C	10th-11th C	2 joining
												Handmade, occ flint & quartz- Middle
0026	1	Const cut for well	MS?	MISC	BODY		1	A	10	MS?		Saxon?
0026	1		M	ELYG	BODY		1	A	6	Med		
										L12th-14th		
0026	1		M	HOLL	BODY		1	S	26	C		
0026	1		M	PING	BODY		1		2	10th-13th C		Small body sherd
0026	1		M	LIDC	DODY		1		2.4	124 144 C	1245 1445 C	Hard-fired, v coarse w flint & quartz,
0026	1		M	UPG	BODY		1		34	12th-14th C	12th-14th C	spot of glaze int
		Backfill of cons cut										
0029	1	for well	PM?	SAIN	PEG		1		32	12th-16th C		Pegau fragment w mottled green glaze
0029	1		M	FLBG	PIP		1		40	12th-13th C		
0029	1		PM	RAER/AACH	BODY		1		23	L15th-16th C	L15th-16th C	Body sherd w kilnscar
0049	1	Dumped deposit	M	MCWG	BODY		2		11	L11th-13th C		2 joining, v coarse with quartz & flint, no visible glaze
0049	1	, paragram	M	IPSG	BODY		1		10	L13th- E14th C		Jug sherd, micaceous redware w lead glaze
0049	1		M	HOLL	BODY		1		6	L13th-14th	L13th-14th C	
0049	1		11/1	ITULL	ז עטע		1		U		L13111-14111 C	
0050	1		M/PM?	STAR?	BODY		1		23	Pmed??	Pmed??	Poss a frag of Spanish star costrel but too early in sequence
0051	2	Deposit	M	COLC?	BODY		1		10	L13th- M16th C		Hard grey sandy fabric w slipped strip & overall lead glaze
0051	2		M	WVGW?	PIP/JAR		1	A	20	13th-14th C	14th-15th C	Possibly Hollesley Glazed ware but late form?

												Dark red stripes, over slipped surface of globular vessel w buff fabric.
0052	2	Dumped deposit	MS?	UIMP	BODY	REDP	1	AA	53	?MS		Investigate!
0059	2		MS	SIPS	BODY		1		40	MS		
0059	2		LS	THET	BODY		4		60	10th-11th C		1 base sherd
										L13th-14th		
0059	2		M	HOLL	BODY		1	AA	38	C		Fine medieval coarseware
												Slipped and lead glazed, coarse sandy
0059	2		M	ESSX	BODY		1		29	12th-14th C		redware
										L13th-	L13th-E14th	Micaceous lead glazed jug sherd, ID by
0059	2		M	HOLG	BODY		1		19	E14th C	C	SA