

**43/44 KINGS HEAD STREET**

**HARWICH**

**ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**



**Essex County Council**

**Field Archaeology Unit**

**NOVEMBER 2006**



**43/44 KINGS HEAD STREET  
HARWICH  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

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**43/44 KINGS HEAD STREET  
HARWICH, ESSEX  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

Client: Essex CC Historic Environment Branch

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Site Code: HW9

Oasis No.: essexcou1-17017

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**SUMMARY**

*Archaeological monitoring of foundation trenches for a residential development was carried out at 43/44 Kings Head Street, Harwich. Eight sections were recorded within the footprint of the new building and one at the rear of the development area, providing a sample record of the site's archaeological deposits and enabling a broad assessment to be made of their character, date and significance.*

*At the Kings Head Street frontage a build-up of deposits up to 2m in depth was recorded from the top of the present road surface down to natural yellow sand, and it is considered that the lowest 1.5m of deposits were of medieval date. Further medieval stratigraphic sequences between 0.4m and 1m thick were recorded throughout the new building footprint, with varying levels of deposit survival depending on the depth and extent of the foundations of the former garage that previously occupied the site.*

*In general the sequences towards the street frontage had the character of successive internal floor surfaces, while pits were recorded further away from the frontage, and a garden soil was recorded at the very rear of the site. Thick layers of redeposited sand were deliberately dumped to raise the ground surface, an occurrence previously recorded in an excavation in nearby Church Street. Two floor layers and two pits towards the base of the recorded sequences are dated to the 13th to 14th century, confirming that the site evidence dates back to the earliest phases of medieval Harwich.*

*Survival of medieval deposits across the site is generally good, and is exceptional at the street frontage and around the limits of the site. In this respect the site is typical of previously excavated sites in Harwich, such as Church Street, which have shown that*

*complex and well-preserved medieval remains survive in the centre of the historic town. The limitations of watching-brief recording during groundworks means that the surviving medieval deposits on site have been partially destroyed by the foundations of the new building without a satisfactory record of them having been made. In some parts of site, however, islands of surviving medieval deposits still survive in relatively undisturbed areas between the new foundation trenches. This suggests that, despite the disturbance of medieval and later remains during the recent development, the site is still of high archaeological significance.*



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring of groundworks for a new residential development at 43/44 Kings Head Street, Harwich. Since the site lies in the Harwich's historic core, Tendring District Council originally placed a full condition on planning consent, following advice from the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM). However, after several rejections the application went to appeal, and when planning consent was finally granted the archaeological condition was for access only. Given the high archaeological potential of the site, a request was made by Pat Connell of ECC HEM for archaeological monitoring of the cutting of foundation trenches. This fieldwork was consequently carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) and funded by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEB).

The site archive will be deposited in Colchester Museum. A .pdf version of this report will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>).

## **2.0 BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)**

### **2.1 Topography and Geology**

Harwich is located at the end of a peninsula that projects northwards into the estuary of the rivers Stour and Orwell. Kings Head Street is one of the original streets of the planned medieval town. The surrounding topography is low and flat with an Ordnance Datum height of c. 3.7m. No 43/44 Kings Head Street was the site of the former Kings Head Street Garage which occupied the north-western part of the property. The south-eastern part was open with a brick car-port extending behind the adjacent property. With the exception of the car-port, the site had been demolished and levelled prior to the commencement of the archaeological monitoring.

Harwich is built upon a bank of natural sand which overlies London Clay. Local building stone (septaria) outcrops at nearby Dovercourt.

## **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

This background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), maintained at County Hall, Chelmsford, the historic town assessment (Medlycott 1998), and a published report on excavations and other fieldwork in Harwich's historic core (Andrews *et al.* 1990).

The town of Harwich was founded in the early 13th century by the Earls of Norfolk as a commercial development exploiting the advantage of the location as a deep-water harbour which was accessible at all tides (Medlycott 1998). The medieval town was originally centred on Kings Head Street, Church Street and West Street, and later expanded to east and west in the 16th and 17th centuries (Andrews *et al.* 1990, 59).

Limited excavations to the rear of the Kings Head Street Garage took place in the late 1970s (EHER 3378, 3379). The exact position of these excavations is not certain but they appear to have been located to the north-east of the present development area. The excavations revealed occupation evidence dating to the 13th century overlain by a septaria surface and wall. A second septaria wall was built over the first and a clay floor with a hearth. This structure was levelled and a wall of brick and septaria erected in the 17th century. The Kings Head Street Garage excavations continued into 1981 when two 13th-century rubbish pits were recorded (Priddy (ed) 1982, 139).

In the later 1980s a number of archaeological excavations and watching briefs were carried out in the area of the medieval town (Fig. 1) (Andrews *et al.* 1990). Excavations took place at development sites in Church Street, George Street and West Street. Two watching briefs took place in Church Street and a third on the corner of Market Street and Kings Head Street. The latter watching brief, on the Market Street frontage, was located only 15m from 43/44 Kings Head Street. It revealed a remarkable stratigraphic sequence, 1.7m thick, of medieval deposits, dating from the 13th to 15th centuries (Andrews *et al.* 1990, 71-2).

## **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The overall aim of the work was to provide an assessment of the character, date and survival of any medieval and post-medieval remains within the development area from the limited exposure of stratigraphy in the foundation trenches for the new building.

The objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in the research framework for archaeology in the region (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). In particular, the origins and development of towns, and their social and economic organisation, are a major regional research topic (Ayers 2000, 30-1). Harwich, as a major port from the 13th century, and with well-preserved archaeological deposits, has high potential for understanding later medieval and post-medieval urban development and trade.

The limited opportunity to investigate and record the archaeological deposits on site means that this research objective could be realised in only a very limited way. However, the stratigraphic sequences that were recorded are useful in providing an assessment of the survival and character of archaeological remains in Harwich's medieval core.

#### **4.0 METHOD**

The archaeological monitoring work was carried out in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) by-laws and guidelines. Standard ECC FAU excavation and recording methodologies were employed where practicable.

The site was initially cleared by machine of 0.5-0.8m of mixed modern overburden consisting of pipe-runs, brick rubble, concrete and part of a backfilled cellar. Foundation trenches were then dug through this cleared level for an additional 1m or more, to a depth approximately 2m below the modern ground surface. Only small sections of foundation were excavated at any time due to the inherent instability of the sides of the trenches cutting sandy soils. In some areas, particularly where the instability was accentuated by modern disturbance, the sides of the trenches were boarded-out to prevent collapse when infilled with concrete.

The Field Archaeology Unit made regular monitoring visits to site after new sections of foundation trench had been cut. As a result it was possible to record sample sections of the stratified archaeological deposits across most of the footprint of the new building. In some parts of the site, particularly to the east of section 4 (in what was once the centre of the demolished garage) the archaeological deposits had been destroyed by deep modern disturbance and thus did not require monitoring. In total nine sample sections were recorded. Finds were recovered from the sections where possible, but generally opportunities for finds retrieval were extremely limited.

## 5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

### 5.1 Stratigraphic Summary (Fig. 2)

Sequences of archaeological deposits were recorded in section in most parts of the footprint of the new building (sections 2-9) and at the back of the development area (section 1). The stratigraphy mainly consisted of alternating layers of sand, silt and, occasionally, clay, and was recorded to depths of between 1.3m and 2.0m below modern ground level. Most of these deposits are undated, although some did contain flecks of oyster and charcoal indicative of human occupation. Pottery dating evidence was recovered from only seven contexts and in small amounts thus making dating somewhat tentative. The recorded sections are described below, by area of site. Four of the recorded sections (1, 2, 3 and 5) are illustrated (Fig. 3). Full details of the stratigraphic contexts are given in Appendix 1.

### 5.2 Street Frontage: Sections 3 and 5 (Fig. 2)

Sections 3 and 5 were located on the Kings Head Street frontage, probably on the actual line of the medieval street itself. Section 5 shows a stratigraphic sequence 2m thick above the natural sand. Section 3 shows a broadly equivalent sequence down to 1.6m below modern ground level, but the lowest part of the sequence, down to the natural sand, was not exposed. The sections were located only 3m apart, but there were noticeable differences between them. No dating evidence was recovered from either section, although the extreme depth of deposits suggests an unbroken medieval and post-medieval sequence.

#### **Section 5** (Fig. 3; Plate 5)

The lowest 0.9m of section 5, above the natural sand, was made up of a series of thin horizontal layers (55-68), which comprised sand and silty sand and varied in colour from orange (55) to dark grey (61). These probably represent medieval and later surfaces and occupation deposits, although with the exception of layer 61 they were quite clean and evidence such as charcoal flecks and oyster shells was lacking. Above this sequence was a 0.1m-thick layer of brown clay (54), covered by successive sand levelling layers, 0.2-0.3m thick, separated by a thin layer of silt (51, 52 and 53). The top of the sand appears to have been truncated in modern times and two possible post-holes (49 and 50) cut into it appear to be of recent origin. These were overlain by a layer of sand and broken septaria pieces (48) and sealed by modern concrete.

### **Section 3** (Fig. 3; Plate 3)

The base of section 3 was above the level of the natural sand, and comparison of levels with section 5 suggests that the earliest 0.4m thickness of deposits was below the base of the section. The earliest deposit recorded was a layer of brown clay at least 0.3m thick (42), above which was a layer of large stones (septaria?) in a sandy matrix (39). These stones may have formed part of a foundation for a building or they could have been an early road surface. The stones were observed to continue for 2-3m to the north-west of the recorded section. Above the stones was a mixed grey sandy silt (37) that, to the north-west, divided into several thin bands of grey and brown sand (40 and 41) sealed by gravel (38). A large lump of septaria was noted amidst these thin bands to the north-west of the recorded section. Above these deposits was a 0.4m-thick levelling of redeposited sand (36), probably equivalent to the thick sand layer (51-53) in section 5 only 3m to the south-east. Above this a septaria road/yard surface (35) had been laid. Above this surface were two further sand deposits (32 and 34) separated by a thin band of clay silt (33) and sealed by concrete and modern brick.

### **5.3 North-Western Area: Sections 1, 2 and 4** (Fig 2)

Section 4 was located only 3m north of street frontage section 3, while section 2 was located 5m further north close to the north-western boundary of the development area. Both sections were in the area of the former garage and were truncated by modern concrete. The area to the east of section 4 was particularly badly disturbed and was not recorded. Medieval pottery was recovered from the earliest feature in the sequence in section 2. Section 1 recorded a complete sequence of deposits at the rear of the site, and although this section was also located in the area of the former garage there was only limited modern disturbance at the top of the sequence.

### **Section 4** (Plate 4)

Section 4 was heavily truncated and comprised only a 0.4m thickness of deposits above the natural sand and beneath recently disturbed sand and concrete. At the north-west end of the section, however, were a number of thin layers that may represent floor make-up and occupation deposits within a building. At the base of the sequence the natural sand was covered by a layer of brown clay (31) overlain by a thin band of charcoally silt (29). This in turn was sealed by a second layer of clay (28) which was partly heat-reddened and overlain by a second band of charcoally silt. Above these deposits was a 0.15m thick layer of clay (25) containing oyster shells and charcoal flecks, and at the top of the sequence a mixed deposit of clay containing fragments of brick, tile and septaria.

### **Section 2** (Fig. 3; Plate 2)

Section 2 was also truncated, and again only a 0.4m thickness of deposits survived above the natural sand and below modern concrete. The natural sand was recorded at a depth of 1.4m below modern ground level. Earliest in the sequence was a bell-shaped cess pit (11) containing three fills. The bottom fill (10), a greenish grey clay, contained a sherd of 13th/14th-century pottery and part of an imported cream and pink brick dated to the late 13th or early 14th century. The pit was overlain by two greyish clay deposits containing flecks of oyster (12) and charcoal (13). These were sealed by a sandy gravel deposit (14) and alternate bands of clay and sand (15-18). The upper sand (18) may have formed a bedding layer for a road/yard surface (19). This surface, which may be a continuation of layer 35 in section 3, was constructed from small blocks of stone (septaria?) and appeared to be cut by feature 21, but as the stones did not continue beyond this point, it is likely that feature 21 actually marked the position of a post or beam at the end of the surface.

### **Section 1** (Fig. 3; Plate 1)

Section 1 was located at the rear of the property, near its north-eastern boundary. The natural golden yellow sand was recorded at a depth of 1.3m below modern ground level. It was overlain by a band of browner sand (5) that might represent disturbed natural or the earliest ground surface. Above this was a mottled grey to reddish brown clay occupation deposit (4) containing flecks of oyster, charcoal and iron-staining. This was overlain by a band of clean yellow sand (3) which, in turn, was sealed by two thick layers of light brownish grey sandy silt (1 and 2). Layer 2 contained 14th/15th-century pottery and appeared to represent a buried garden soil. Layer 1 was similar to 2, but with more inclusions and may have been the disturbed upper part of the same soil. These layers were cut by a pit (7) containing 19th-century pottery, and were covered by modern overburden and concrete. The sequence in section was less intensively layered than other sections (e.g. section 2 nearby) and represents a typical backlands sequence.

### **5.4 South-Eastern Area: Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9** (Fig. 2)

Sections 6 and 7 were located 1.5m and 5.0m respectively to the north-east of section 5 at the street frontage. Both sections recorded similar sequences, but were different in character to the sequence at the street frontage. Section 8 to the east showed little evidence, but section 9, in the extreme north-east of the new building footprint, recorded a detailed sequence of deposits. Pottery recovered from stratified deposits in sections 7 and 9 confirms that the sequences recorded were medieval.

**Section 6** (Plate 6)

Deposits around 0.8m thick survived above the natural sand and below modern disturbance. At the base of the section was layer of grey brown sand (77) that might represent a former ground surface. Above this were four alternating bands of grey silty sand and yellow/buff sand (76-73), perhaps associated with occupation. These were sealed by a 0.25m-thick deposit of grey brown clay silt (72), followed by thick layers of buff sand (71), grey silty sand (70), with further buff sand (69) at the top of the sequence.

**Section 7** (Plate 7)

Only four layers of undisturbed stratified deposits survived beneath modern rubble, to a similar thickness as the sequence in section 6. The earliest deposit was dark grey clay silt (47) containing occasional pieces of oyster shell and charcoal flecks. This was overlain by a 0.26m thick layer of yellow sand (46), followed by a further deposit of dark grey clay silt with oysters and charcoal flecks (45). At the top of the sequence was a layer of yellow sand (44) with disturbed mixed rubble deposits (43) above. A single sherd of 14th-century pottery was recovered from layer 44 and the handle from a 13th/14th-century Saintonge ware jug was found in layer 45. The sequence of silt/sand/silt/sand deposits 47-44 was similar to deposits 72-69 in section 6

**Section 8** (Plate 8)

Section 8 was located at the back of the new building footprint. Part-visible in the section was the cut (80) and backfill (82) of a circular brick structure (81), probably a rainback (water reservoir) or well constructed from curved unfrosted bricks bonded with a cream mortar.

**Section 9** (Fig. 3, Plate 9)

Section 9 was located along the north-eastern edge of the new building footprint in the corner of a foundation trench (south-west face illustrated). At the base of the sequence was a layer comprised of multiple thin bands of sand (90) that may have formed as a result of occupation activity, or possibly flooding. This was overlain by an occupation deposit of dark grey silt containing oyster shells and charcoal flecks (89), above which were a make-up layer of orange sand (88) and a further occupation layer of grey sandy silt (92). Above the latter layer, bands of orange sand (91) (not illustrated) and yellow sand (87) were cut by a small pit (78) mainly filled by a mid-grey sandy silt that contained two sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery. The pit was sealed by a heat-reddened grey silt (86), perhaps indicating the presence of a hearth in the vicinity. At the top of the sequence was a layer of clean yellow sand (85) and modern overburden (83).

## **6.0 FINDS** by Joyce Compton

### **6.1 Introduction**

Small groups of finds were recovered from a total of seven contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details can be found in Appendix 2. The largest assemblage component is pottery, recorded in all but one of the contexts with finds. The pottery forms the subject of a separate report, see below. The remaining finds are briefly described by category, following the pottery report.

### **6.2 Medieval and later pottery** by Helen Walker

A small amount of medieval and later pottery was excavated, a total of fifteen sherds weighing 366g, from six contexts. Full details of the pottery are tabulated in Appendix 2.

Pit 78 (section 9) contained single sherds of early medieval ware and medieval coarse ware and is likely to date to the 13th century. Layer 45 (section 7) produced the handle from a green-glazed Saintonge ware jug, a fine white ware imported from south-western France, perhaps in association with the Gascon wine-trade. Importation of Saintonge green-glazed ware spanned the mid-13th to mid-14th centuries, peaking around AD1300. It is perhaps the commonest medieval import, and has been found at previous excavations at Harwich. Of a similar date is a continuously-thumbed, sandy orange ware jug base from fill 10 of pit 11 (section 2). Traces of glaze on the breaks show this vessel to be a semi-waster as the jug must have cracked during manufacture allowing the glaze to flow onto the breaks. After breakage, the vessel could have served as a makeshift dish. Layer 44 (section 7) produced a single sherd of medieval coarse ware. It is wheel-thrown and highly-fired suggesting a 14th century date. Layer 2 (section 1) produced sandy orange ware sherds, which have a probable 14th to 15th century date. A couple of the sherds from this context appear to have been burnt. Post-medieval pottery of varying dates was excavated from pit 7 (section 1). The pottery comprises a glazed post-medieval red earthenware bowl rim; sherds of blue-painted English tin-glazed earthenware datable to the 18th century; a sherd of modern white earthenware showing debased shell edging, providing a date of 1830s to 1840s.

### **6.3 Brick and tile**

A single fragment of roof tile was found in layer 2 (section 1). The associated pottery is 14th to 15th century and the tile is likely to be of the same date. A paw print, made by a large dog, is impressed on the upper surface. This probably occurred when the batch of tiles was laid out to dry before firing.



A part-brick, poorly-fired, in pale buff clay, came from the fill of pit 11 (section 2). The brick has been examined by Pat Ryan, who has provided a date of late 13th to early 14th century, and reports;

“It is very likely that the brick was imported from the Continent where such bricks were made. Similar bricks occur in some of the coastal churches of Essex, e.g. Lawford, Dengie, Asheldham, Purleigh and Rochford. They have also been found in the excavations at Beeleigh Abbey and the Friary at Maldon. The cellar of the Old House, St Osyth, is completely lined with this type of brick.”

#### **6.4 Fish bones**

Three fish bones were hand-collected from the fill of medieval pit 11 (section 2). Two are indeterminate rib fragments, but the third appears to be the pelvic fin from a large fish, such as a cod.

#### **6.5 Shell**

Two contexts produced shell. A single oyster valve was recorded in medieval layer 45 (section 7). Further oyster shells, plus a winkle, were retrieved from the fill of pit 11 (section 2).

#### **6.6 Other finds**

A small piece of poor-quality building stone was found in the fill of pit 11 (section 2). Wholly modern finds came from layer 83, comprising a naturally-coloured, and bubbly, glass bottle neck fragment and a piece of white sanitary ware.

### **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

Previous archaeological investigations in the medieval town have shown that there are in places up to 2m of stratified deposits. The nearest recorded site, on the corner of Kings Head Street and Market Street, revealed a sequence of 1.7m of stratified medieval deposits out of a total depth of 1.9m (Andrews *et al.* 1990, 71-2), while an excavation on the south-west side of Church Street recorded a total build-up of 1.8m, including a complex sequence of medieval deposits 0.8m thick (Andrews *et al.* 1990, 64-9).

The deepest section at 43/44 Kings Head Street, section 5 at the street frontage, was 2m deep from the present road surface down to the natural sand. Of this stratified sequence, possibly the lowest 1.5m was made up of medieval deposits. Elsewhere in the development area there was truncation and disturbance from the former garage but in most areas there appeared to be between 0.4m and 1.0m thickness of deposits of possible medieval date. Dating evidence is minimal, but pottery sherds and a brick fragment recovered from stratified deposits in sections 2, 7 and 9 are consistent with a 13th/14th-century date for the earliest parts of the sequences recorded. Archaeological deposits from the earliest phase of the medieval town therefore appear to have been present across the site.

A variety of deposits was encountered; some were clearly external and others may have been internal to medieval buildings on the site. It is reasonable to assume that the Kings Head Street frontage was occupied by buildings in the medieval period, and the detailed sequence of make-up and occupation layers identified in sections 3 and 5 on the street frontage would probably have been located within such structures. The make-up and occupation layers recorded in sections 6 and 7 suggest that internal surfaces probably extended for at least 8m back from the street in the south-centre of site. However, the two 13th/14th-century pits in sections 2 and 9 at the north-west and south-east limits of the site were both located only 6m back from the frontage. These were presumably in external areas, an interpretation supported by the character of the occupation deposits in these parts of site. A post-medieval brick well (or similar feature) recorded in section 8 also suggests an external area to the rear of buildings at the frontage. At the rear of the site, brown silt deposits containing 14th/15th-century pottery suggest a garden from the late medieval period.

Street, yard and alley surfaces constructed from septaria, the local building stone, are a common occurrence in medieval and post-medieval deposits in Harwich. Examples were revealed in the excavations to the rear of the Kings Head Street Garage (EHER 3378/79) and in later investigations (Andrews *et al.* 1990). Clay does not naturally occur in Harwich and would have had to have been deliberately brought into the town. A few layers of clay were recorded on site, of which the thickest appeared to form a bedding deposit beneath the septaria foundation or street surface at the base of section 3. Several other sites in Harwich show evidence of the deliberate raising of ground level by dumping thick layers of clay or sand, especially at Church Street, where a sequence of medieval make-ups and occupation surfaces culminated in a 0.4m-thick sand levelling layer dating to the 14th century (Andrews *et al.* 1990, 66-7). Similar thick levelling layers were also recorded in several of the sections during the monitoring, particularly on the Kings Head Street frontage. It is also possible that

some of the thin deposits of sand and clay-silt towards the base of the recorded sequences could have accumulated naturally during occasional episodes of flooding, particularly prior to the construction of the town's defensive wall and ditch in the later 14th century (Medlycott 1998).

Wide-ranging continental trading connections in the 13th to 14th century are highlighted by the presence of a Saintonge ware jug imported from Gascony in south-west France, and a cream-and-pink-coloured brick imported from the Low Countries. Saintonge ware jugs had also been recovered from two rubbish pits during the excavations at the rear of the Kings Head Street Garage (Priddy (ed.) 1982, 139). Similarly, both Saintonge ware pottery and bricks imported from the Low Countries were recovered from the Church Street excavation (Andrews *et al.* 1990, 86-9).

## **8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS**

Medieval and later stratified deposits survived in many parts of the development area. Deposit survival was exceptional around the limits of the site, especially at the Kings Head Street frontage, although in several areas deposits had clearly been truncated by the concrete footings of the former garage and other modern disturbances. Nevertheless, deposits from the earliest phases of the medieval town survived over most parts of the site. This is consistent with results from elsewhere in Harwich which have indicated that there is a good survival of stratified archaeological deposits within the medieval town. Time limitations meant that it was only possible to record sample sections through the exposed archaeological deposits, but a good coverage throughout the footprint of the new building was achieved.

The surviving archaeological deposits were extensively truncated by the foundations for the new building, leaving now only a few rectangular islands of stratigraphy in between the criss-crossing building foundations. Although rescue recording did take place, the lack of opportunity for controlled excavation and recovery of finds meant that the archaeological evidence on the site is poorly understood and not closely datable.

Due to the limited nature of the investigation, few finds were submitted for recording. Modern finds were present in upper levels, but those from lower levels span the 13th to 15th centuries. Although finds quantities are few, the range of material, including the continental imports, indicates the importance of Harwich in medieval times. The finds reported on above demonstrate the archaeological potential of a site located within the medieval town of

Harwich. Further work on any of the finds is not required, since quantities are so small. All of the finds should be retained, except for the modern finds, the shell and the building stone. The post-medieval pottery could also be discarded at the archiving stage.

The limited recording that was carried out demonstrates that significant medieval remains were present on the site and these were partially destroyed by the foundations of the new building without a satisfactory record having been made of them. The quality, survival and extent of the medieval remains within the new building footprint clearly warranted a programme of excavation to fully understand and interpret them. Some areas of medieval remains still survive relatively undisturbed between the foundation trenches for the new building, and as a result the site is still of high archaeological significance.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The assistance of Tom Barlow and Lionel Cranfield of JDS Residential is gratefully acknowledged. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Trevor Ennis and Matt Pocock of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit and the project was managed by Patrick Allen. The project was funded by the ECC Historic Environment Branch and monitored by Pat Connell of the ECC Historic Environment Management team.

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Type	Description	Section
01	Layer	Light Brownish grey sandy silt, 0.3m thick	1
02	Layer	Light brownish grey sandy silt, 0.45m thick	1
03	Layer	Red and yellow orange sand, 0.11m thick	1
04	Layer	Mottled grey/greyish brown/reddish brown sandy silty clay, 0.09m thick	1
05	Layer	Mid brown sand, 0.16m thick	1
06	Fill of 7	Dark grey brown ash and sandy silt	1
07	Pit	Modern pit, 0.3m+ deep	1
08	Fill of 11	Brownish grey silty sandy clay, 0.35m deep	2
09	Fill of 11	Yellow sand, 0.14m deep	2
10	Fill of 11	Greenish grey silty sandy clay, 0.28m deep	2
11	Pit	Bell-shaped, 0.6m wide x 0.8m deep (in section only)	2
12	Layer	Brownish grey silty sandy clay, 0.10 thick	2
13	Layer	Grey clay, 0.04m thick	2
14	Layer	Orangey yellow sandy gravel, 0.07m thick	2
15	Layer	Dark grey clay, 0.02m thick	2
16	Layer	Orange to orangey grey silty sand, 0.09m thick	2
17	Layer	Dark grey silty clay, 0.02m thick	2
18	Layer	Orange sand, 0.05m thick	2
19	Layer	Stone surface, 0.10m thick	2
20	Fill of 21	Grey brown sandy silt	2
21	Post-hole	Modern post-hole/pit, 0.38m wide x 0.22m deep (in section only)	2
22	Layer	Grey sandy silt, 0.12m thick	2
23	Layer	Redeposited sand, 0.14m thick	4
24	Layer	Grey silty clay and sand, 0.2m	4
25	Layer	Grey brown silty clay, 0.15m thick	4
26	Layer	Yellowy orange gravelly clay, 0.05m thick	4
27	Layer	Dark grey charcoally silt, 0.02m thick	4
28	Layer	Reddish brown clay, 0.06m thick	4
29	Layer	Dark grey charcoally silt, 0.02m thick	4
30	Layer	Grey sand, 0.03m thick	4
31	Layer	Brown clay, 0.08m thick	4
32	Layer	Redeposited Sand, 0.22m thick	3
33	Layer	Dark grey clay silt, 0.03m thick	3
34	Layer	Pinkish brown to orange sand, 0.14m thick	3
35	Layer	Stone surface (same as 19?)	3
36	Layer	Redeposited yellow sand, 0.46m thick	3
37	Layer	Grey sandy silt, 0.22m thick	3
38	Layer	Orange gravel, 0.07m thick	3
39	Layer	Large stones in sandy matrix, 0.16m thick	3
40	Layer	Brown silty sand, 0.04m thick	3
41	Layer	Grey sand, 0.08m thick	3
42	Layer	Brown clay, 0.3m+ thick	3

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Section</b>
43	Layer	Mixed grey/brown rubble and sand, 0.35m thick	7
44	Layer	Yellow with grey patches, silty sand, 0.27m thick	7
45	Layer	Dark grey sandy clay silt, 0.2m thick	7
46	Layer	Yellow/orange sand, 0.29m thick	7
47	Layer	Dark grey sandy clay silt, 0.24m thick	7
48	Layer	Brown/yellow sand, 0.15m thick	5
49	Fill	Grey sand, 0.19m thick	5
50	Fill	Brown sand, 0.25m thick	5
51	Layer	Yellow sand, 0.24m thick	5
52	Layer	Grey brown silty sand, 0.02m	5
53	Layer	Yellow to orangey yellow sand, 0.26m thick	5
54	Layer	Brown clay, 0.12m thick	5
55	Layer	Orange sand, 0.10m thick	5
56	Layer	Greeny grey silty sand, 0.16m thick	5
57	Layer	Grey silty sand, 0.06m thick	5
58	Layer	Mixed grey brown sand, 0.10m thick	5
59	Layer	Grey silty sand, 0.05m thick	5
60	Layer	Orange to yellow-grey sand, 0.08m thick	5
61	Layer	Dark grey silty sand, 0.05m thick	5
62	Layer	Light grey brown sand, 0.08m thick	5
63	Layer	Orange sand, 0.03m thick	5
64	Layer	Greyish orange sand, 0.08m thick	5
65	Layer	Light grey sand, 0.15m thick	5
66	Layer	Brown sand (iron pan?), 0.02m thick	5
67	Layer	Light yellow/golden sand, 0.09m thick	5
68	Layer	Concreted brown sand (iron pan?), 0.02m thick	5
69	Layer	Pale buff sand, 0.11m thick	6
70	Layer	Mid-dark grey silty sand, 0.12m thick	6
71	Layer	Buff sand, 0.11m thick	6
72	Layer	Mid-dark grey brown sandy clay silt	6
73	Layer	Pale buff sand, 0.04m thick	6
74	Layer	Light grey silty sand, 0.06m thick	6
75	Layer	Yellow sand, 0.07m thick	6
76	Layer	Light grey silty sand, 0.03m thick	6
77	Layer	Grey brown sand, 0.21m thick	6
78	Pit	Small pit, 0.97m wide x 0.26m deep	9
79	Fill of 78	Mid grey sandy silt, 0.26m thick	9
80	Cut of well or rain back	Circular cut, 1.18m wide x c.1.25m+ deep	8
81	Well or rain back	Circular brick structure (partially exposed), curved unfrogged bricks - c. 0.22.5m x 0.11m x 0.06m, white lime mortar	8
82	Fill of 80	Loose, dark brown sandy silt	8
83	Layer	Mixed grey silt	9
84	Fill of 78	Small lens of white/yellow clay, 0.06m thick	9
85	Layer	Yellow sand, 0.19m thick	9
86	Layer	Mid grey sandy silt (heat reddened), 0.07m thick	9
87	Layer	Yellow sand, 0.14m thick	9

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Section</b>
88	Layer	Orange red sand, 0.12m thick	9
89	Layer	Dark grey sandy silt, 0.08m thick	9
90	Layer	Multiple thin layers of greenish grey, yellowish grey sand, 0.10m thick	9
91	Layer	Orange red sand, 0.06m thick	9
92	layer	Grey sandy silt, 0.10m thick	9

## APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

### All Finds

All weights given in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	Layer	1	116	Roof tile fragment with paw print	?Medieval
		6	46	Pottery; body sherds, one glazed	Medieval
6	7	4	96	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Post med.
10	11	3	2	Fish bones	-
		5	36	Shell; oyster, one valve and fragments; winkle	-
		1	184	Stone sample	-
		1	824	Part-brick, cream with some salmon pink areas, fairly regular, very rounded arrises, creased faces, rough base, 125+ x 110 x 50mm	Late 13th/early 14th C
		1	134	Pottery; thumb jug base, glazed	Medieval
44	Layer	1	38	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
45	Layer	1	14	Oyster shell, one valve	-
		1	36	Pottery; strap handle, glazed	Medieval
79	78	2	16	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
83	Layer	1	40	Glass; bottle neck with indented rim, natural colour	Modern
		1	60	White sanitary ware/cistern fragment	Modern

### Pottery

All weights given in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	Layer	1	12	Medieval coarse ware	13th to 14th C
		3	19	Sandy orange ware sherd family with buttery-coloured clay lenses in fabric, similar to pottery from Thaxted; unglazed and fire-blackened externally	?14 to 15th C
		1	13	Sandy orange ware with abraded surface but showing remnants of green and brown glaze with clay adhesions, perhaps the exterior was burnt	?14th to 15th C
		1	2	Unidentified, silty grey fabric with sparse rust iron oxide inclusions, greenish glaze with adhesions, handle attachment scar, wheel-thrown, probably an import, may also have been burnt, perhaps originally a white ware	?
6	7	1	58	Post-medieval red earthenware bead-rimmed bowl glazed on both surfaces	17th to 19th C
		2	18	English tin-glazed earthenware	18th C
		1	20	Modern white earthenware with debased shell-edging	1830s to 1840s
10	11	1	134	Sandy orange ware continuously thumb jug base, glazed. Glaze shows adhesions and glaze also occurs on breaks, probably means that the vessel cracked during manufacture and glaze flowed into the cracks. The vessel could have served as a makeshift dish	13th to 14th C
44	Layer	1	38	Medieval coarse ware, wheel-thrown, later type	?14th C
45	Layer	1	36	Saintonge green-glaze strap handle	mid-13th to mid-14th C, peak c.1300
79	78	1	4	Early medieval ware	10th to 13th C
		1	14	Medieval coarse ware	13th to 14th C
		<b>15</b>	<b>366</b>		



## **APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE**

**SITE NAME:** 43/44 Kings Head Street, Harwich

**SITE CODE:** HW9

### **Index to Archive:**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Project background text

#### **2. Research Archive**

2.1 Client Report

2.2 Finds Reports

#### **3. Site Archive**

3.1 Context Record Register

3.2 Context Records (1 to 92 )

3.3 Section Register

3.4 1 x A4 plan sheets

3.5 7 x A4 section sheets

3.6 Trench location plans

3.7 Photographic Registers

3.8 Site Photographic Record (1 Set of Colour and Black & White prints, plus digital images on disk)

3.9 Miscellaneous notes/plans

### **Not in File**

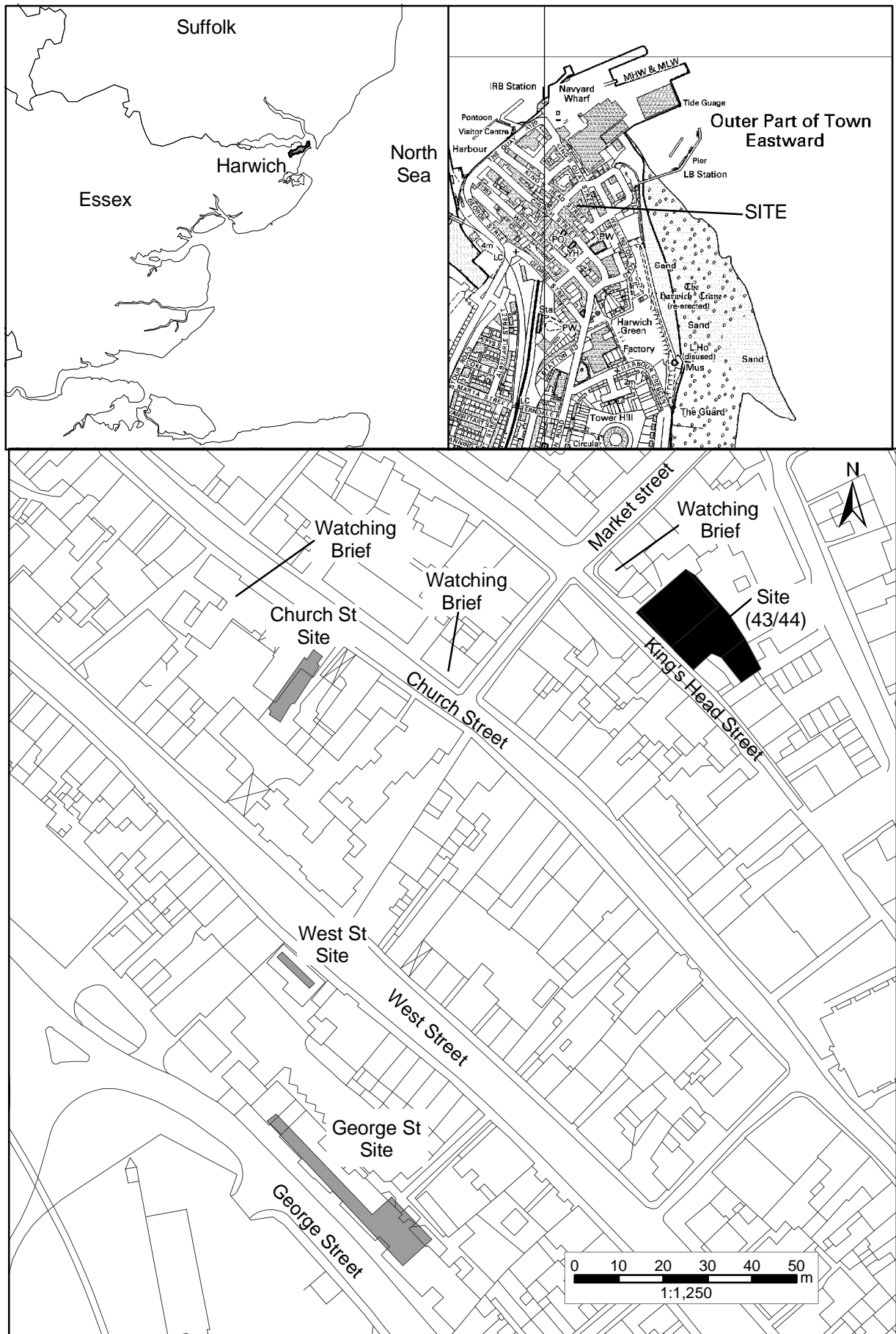
### **Finds**

The finds occupy less than one box.

## APPENDIX 4: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

### EHER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name/Address:</b> 43/44 Kings Head Street, Harwich	
<b>Parishes:</b> Harwich	<b>District:</b> Tendring
<b>NGR:</b> TM 26068 32673	<b>Site Code:</b> HW9
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Monitoring	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> T. Ennis ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Date of Work:</b> 6th March to 12th April 2006	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> c.130 sq m
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Colchester	<b>Funding source:</b> ECC Historic Environment Branch
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.:</b> 3378, 3379
<b>Final Report:</b> 2006	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Medieval, post-medieval	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p>Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the site of a residential development at 43/44 Kings Head Street, Harwich. Eight sample sections were recorded within the footprint of the new building and one at the rear of the development area.</p> <p>A stratigraphic build-up of deposits 2m in depth was recorded from the top of the present road surface down to natural yellow sand. Although, little dating evidence was recovered it is likely that the bottom 1.5m of deposits may have been of medieval date. Further medieval stratigraphic sequences of between 0.4m and 1m in thickness were recorded throughout the new building footprint.</p> <p>Two pits and two layers dating to the 13th to 14th century were recorded. Evidence of internal occupation surfaces were revealed towards the front of the property and a garden soil containing 14th to 15th century pottery was identified to the rear. Undated septaria surfaces on the Kings Head Street frontage may represent previous road surfaces.</p> <p>Thick deposits of redeposited sand were recorded that may have been deliberately dumped to raise-up the ground surface, an occurrence previously recorded at previous excavations in Church Street (Andrews <i>et al</i> 1990, 90). Some smaller deposits of sand and silt may have resulted from episodes of flooding.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> 'Excavations in Essex' in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> , Vols 12-14	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> T. Ennis	<b>Date of Summary:</b> November 2006



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Fig.1. Location plan

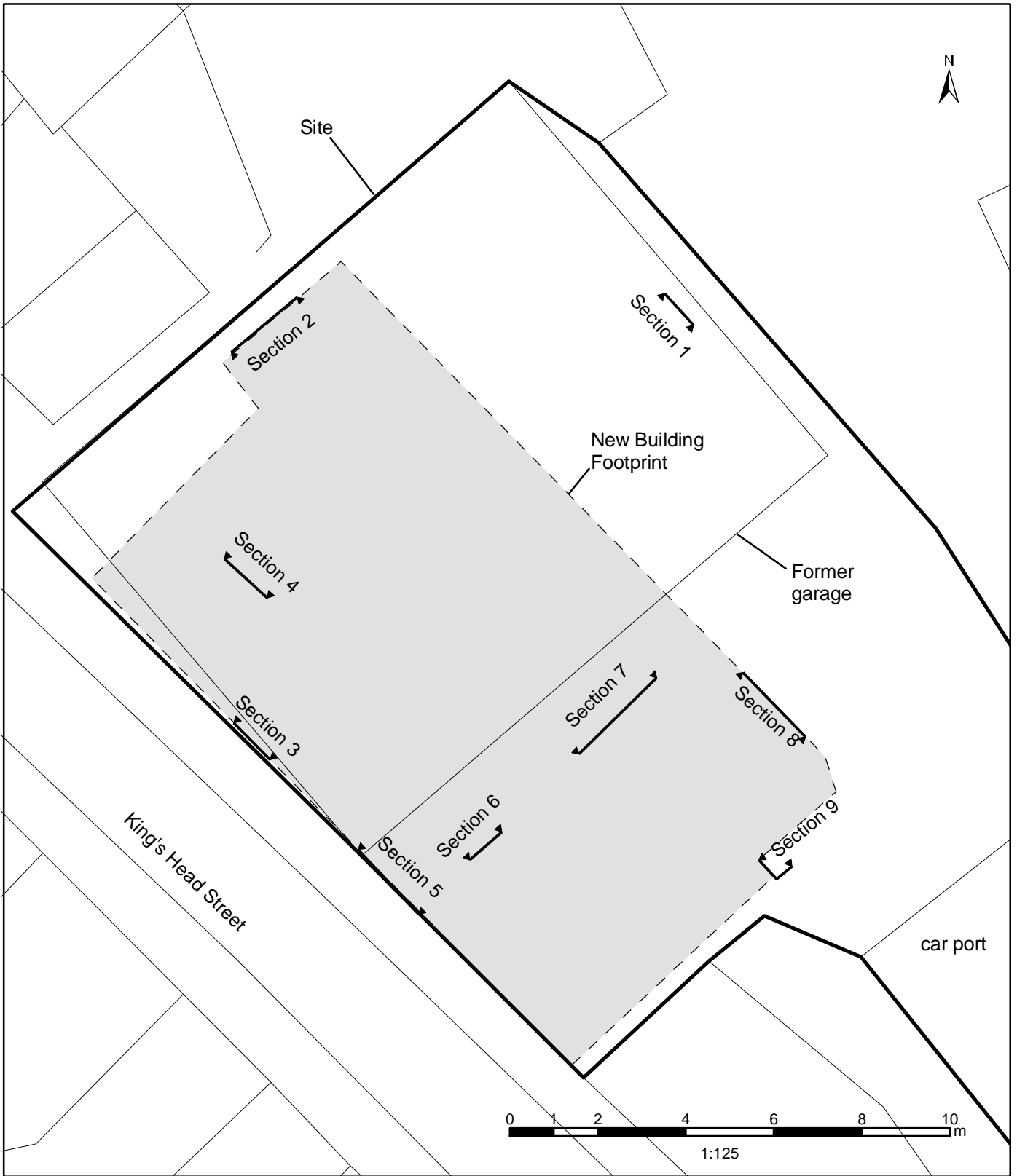
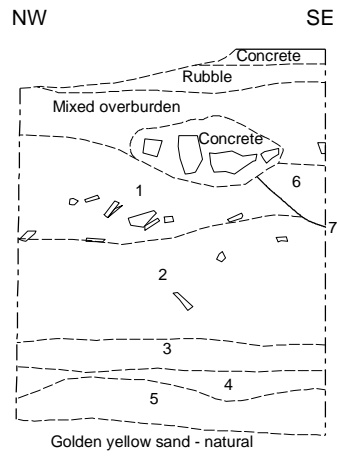
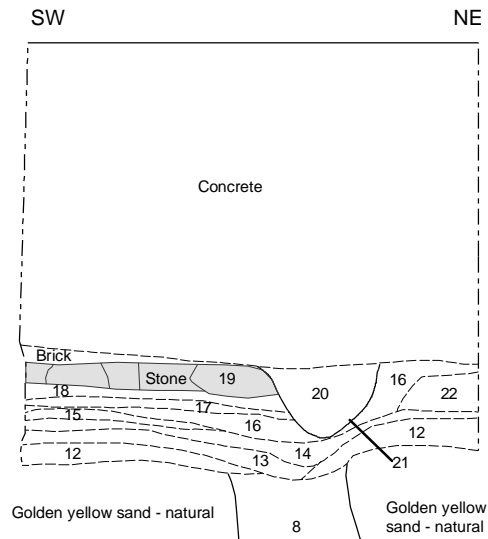


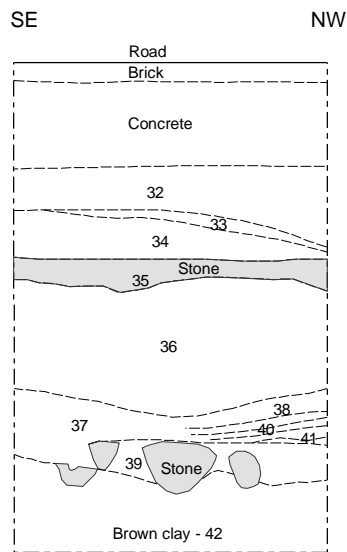
Fig.2. Site plan and location of sections



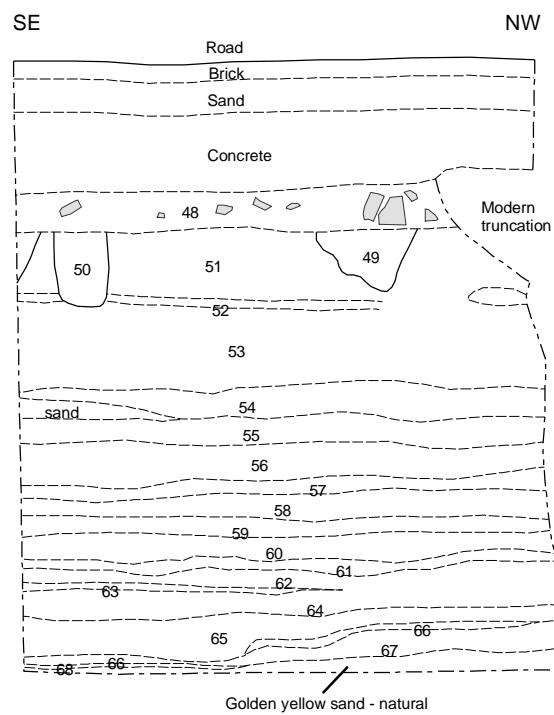
Section 1



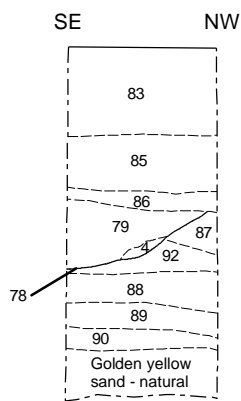
Section 2



Section 3



Section 5



Section 9

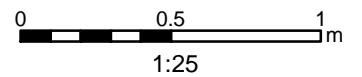


Fig.3. Selected sections

Plate 1 Section 1  
(0.5m scale)



Plate 2 Section 2  
(1m scale)



Plate 3 Section 3  
(1m scale)



Plate 4 Section 4  
(1m scale)



Plate 5 Section 5  
(1m scale)



Plate 6 Section 6  
(1m scale)



Plate 7 Section 7  
(1m scale)



Plate 8 Section 8  
(no scale)



Plate 9 Section 9  
(no scale)

