

FELIXSTOWE PIER, FELIXSTOWE, SUFFOLK

**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD
(HISTORIC ENGLAND LEVEL 2)**

NGR: TM 300 341



**Commissioned by
Haydn Evans Consulting**

December 2015



Felixstowe Pier, Felixstowe, Suffolk

**Historic Building Record
(Historic England Level 2)**

NGR: TM 300 341

**Commissioned by
Haydn Evans Consulting**

**Project No. 7825
Site Code: FPF 15
Report No. 2015412
OASIS ID: archaeol6-231508**

Prepared by:	Christopher Curtis	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Amy Williamson	Project Manager	
Date of Issue:	December 2015		
Revision:			

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

SUMMARY

In November 2015 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London) carried out a programme of historic building recording of Felixstowe Pier, Suffolk (NGR TM 300 341). The work was commissioned by Haydn Evans Consulting to satisfy conditions attached to planning permission (Planning ref: C/12/0945 and C/12/1052) for the demolition of the existing building in preparation for the redevelopment of the site.

The building is an example of a seaside pier built in 1950 to replace an earlier pier of 1905 on the same location. The pier comprises a reinforced concrete substructure extending 234m into the North Sea. At the landward end the pier widens to a large square platform supporting a single storey amusement hall and café. The original pier was built in 1905 to serve steamers making day-trips from London. It served this function until the outbreak of the Second World War when the pier was closed and partially demolished to prevent its use by enemy forces. The amusement hall is still open as an arcade, however the outer pier is structurally unsafe and is closed to the public.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2015 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London) carried out a programme of historic building recording in connection with the redevelopment of Felixstowe Pier, Felixstowe, Suffolk (Figures 1 & 2; NGR TM 300 341; hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The work was commissioned by Haydn Evans Consulting to satisfy conditions attached to planning permission (planning refs. C/12/0945 and C/12/1052) for the demolition of the existing building in preparation for the redevelopment of the site.
- 1.2 The building is a seaside pier which was built for the East Coast Development Company and opened in 1905 as a landing stage for steamers. The building comprises a 234m pier, supported by concrete piles. At the landward end the neck of the pier is wider and supports an amusement hall. The structure was originally 800m long but was sectioned during the Second World War to prevent its use as a landing stage for enemy invasion forces. After the war the pier was completely rebuilt. The outer pier is in poor condition and is not open to the public. The landward pavilion is currently run as a games arcade.
- 1.3 Planning permission (planning refs. C/12/0945 and C/12/1052) has been granted for the demolition of the existing pier on the site and for the construction of a new pier with a larger footprint. The new pier will include retail units, a family entertainment area and a bar/restaurant.
- 1.4 The archaeological advisor to Suffolk Coastal District Council has requested that the planning permission be placed under condition requiring building recording to be carried out prior to the commencement of the site's redevelopment.

2.0 SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The scope of work and methodology for the building recording is detailed in a written scheme of investigation produced for the work by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2015). The work was also carried out in accordance with the relevant ClfA standards and guidance.
- 2.2 Richard Hoggett, as the Suffolk County Council (SCC) archaeological advisor to Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) has recommended that the building be subject to a Historic England Level 2 record (English Heritage 2006a). A Level 2 record is essentially a descriptive record.
- 2.3 The site was visited by Christopher Curtis and Michael Shapland on the 4^h November 2015 in order to carry out the recording work. This entailed the compilation of written notes and the production of a photographic record. The written record includes a description of the building's architecture, location, form, function (historically and at present), date and sequence of development. Local residents were also interviewed to record the oral history of the site.
- 2.4 The drawn record comprises floor plans and elevations of the building as existing to illustrate its layout. These plans were provided by Haydn Evans Consulting and have been verified for their accuracy and amended where

necessary during the recording exercise. The measured survey drawings are included within the report as Figures 16-18.

- 2.5 The photographic record was produced using high-quality digital photography and includes images of both the exterior and interior of the structure, to give an overall impression of its size, shape and appearance of principal rooms, circulation areas and decorative scheme. Within the report selected digital images have been reproduced as plates to supplement the descriptive text. A full index of the photography is included as Appendix 1 and location plots shown on the accompanying figures.
- 2.6 Historic background research was undertaken at the Ipswich Record Office and relevant cartographic sources were also consulted to place the building within its historical context. All sources consulted are listed in Section 7.
- 2.7 During the survey the outer pier was closed off due to safety concerns and was only inspected from a distance.

3.0 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 The site is situated within the town of Felixstowe, centred at NGR TM 300 341 (Figures 1 & 2). The site is adjacent to the esplanade and the Felixstowe Leisure centre. The structure sits over part of the foreshore but most of it juts out into the North Sea.
- 3.2 The building is not statutorily listed but lies within the Felixstowe South Conservation Area.

4.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Until the mid-19th century Felixstowe comprised little more than a few scattered fishing villages. The settlement's popularity grew steadily with the rise of seaside resorts in England in the 19th century however the town developed mostly towards the end of the 19th century when the railway was built. The 1881 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Figure 3) shows that the area around the current pier was sparsely developed with the settlement starting to encroach southwards. Interestingly, the map shows that Felixstowe already had a pier, to the north-east end of the town (beyond reproduced section of map). The eventual site of the pier was an old Battery overlooked by a Martello tower (Figures 4-6).
- 4.2 The pier was built in 1905 by the East Coast Development Company as a landing stage for the company's line of 'Belle' steamers, for day excursions. It was the last of the three East Coast Development piers and at 800m it was the third longest pier in Britain, although the original design was for a pier 1188m long. The original pier was a simple structure, consisting of a long timber boardwalk with a T-shaped landing stage at its seaward end. From the outset the pier also had a narrow gauge electric railway to transfer passengers to and from land. The pier was unusual as the substructure was built primarily of timber rather than iron. A new greater understanding of the capabilities of tropical hardwoods such as greenheart and jarrah, which were

resistant to the effects of the sea, meant that marine structures could now be built much more economically from timber.

- 4.3 A 1946 engineer's report describes the original pier in great detail before its rebuilding (National Archives MT48/23). The pier was a very simple structure, in many ways similar to the present structure. The substructure was formed of a series of timber trestles or 'bents'. The bents were made up of three piles topped with a cross beam and braced with a diagonal timber across all three piles (Figures 7 and 8).
- 4.4 The East Coast Development Company went into liquidation in 1906 and the pier was sold to its successor, The Coastal Development Corporation Ltd. This was the first in a series of defaults and sales that made up the pier's early history.
- 4.5 In the 1920s the pier was augmented with a new building at its landward end and around the same time the confusingly named pier pavilion was built on the adjacent shore. Construction of these new structures can be seen in aerial photography from 1920 (Figure 9). The Pier Pavilion was a venue for various shows but was replaced by a modern leisure centre in 1983 (English Heritage 2014). The landward end of the pier was widened in 1926 (NA BT 297/869) to accommodate more buildings, and by 1932 a new set of entrance buildings had been constructed (Figure 10).
- 4.6 The steamers landing at the pier remained popular throughout the interwar period and some local residents still remember the pier as it was then. In an interview, local resident Barbara Mathews recalled being taken to the pier for the first time in 1936 by her grandfather and being taken on day trips to Clacton. She stated 'I used to walk along with grandad, and he had his binoculars, from the end you could watch the porpoises, masses of porpoises.'
- 4.7 The pier was used primarily as a landing stage for steamers but was also put to other uses; the pier was popular with walkers and also with fishermen. The Felixstowe Sea Angling Society was formed in 1909 to fish from the pier and held an annual competition on the pier from 1912, with a shield presented by the Coastal Development Corporation (Figure 11). Gordon Powter, president and longest running member of the society moved to Felixstowe in 1950. An interview with Gordon Powter revealed that the pier was always popular and would attract on average 25 people a night. Fishing on the pier reportedly became less popular after the European Gateway ferry disaster in 1982 when a ferry collided with another ship and capsized on a sandbank near the pier potentially disturbing marine life.
- 4.8 The Second World War was to prove a trauma from which the pier would never fully recover. The last use of the landing stage was to land evacuated mothers and children from London in 1939; the next year the pier was sectioned by the military to prevent its use by enemy. The pier and the beach remained closed for the remainder of the war and the pier was not reopened before being rebuilt in 1950.
- 4.9 The war led to a dramatic change in fortunes for the town and the pier, as Barbara Mathews explained 'In '39 practically the whole of Felixstowe was geared to the summer trade. Hotels, boarding houses, bed and breakfasts

and they sort of had 7 or 8 months of the year that were very busy and then they would have a quiet winter to recover. And of course that finished. The last people that were paying for holidays was for late '39.' Due to its strategic importance Felixstowe became a restricted area: only residents and authorised people were allowed in. The beach was mined and closed off with barbed wire and tank obstacles and the tourism industry suffered tremendously.

- 4.10 Although the pier was not damaged by enemy action, by the end of the war it was in bad condition. Due to a lack of income and military occupation no maintenance was carried out on the pier during the war years and the structure was weakened by a series of winter storms so that by 1946 116 piles were missing, including 29 entire bents (set of piles). Furthermore, the army used the pier café as cook house and accidentally burnt it down. An aerial photograph from 1949 shows the extent of the damage with several sections of pier missing and significant sagging of the deck (Figure 12).
- 4.11 Immediately after the war the pier was the subject of heated debate and bickering. The then owners, Coast Properties Ltd made it known to Felixstowe Urban District Council that they intended to dispose of the pier and intimated that they would give the council the right of first refusal. The council had entertained the idea of acquiring the pier in 1922, 1938 and 1944 but had rejected the idea due to the high price. After long and protracted negotiations, in July 1946 the council decided that it would purchase the pier for £5000, subsequent to an engineer's report and approval from various government departments. The council even had plans drawn up for the rebuilding of the pier (Figure 13). Meanwhile, the directors of Coast Properties Ltd, who no doubt had grown weary of waiting, sold the pier to two local men: Mr John Enderby, a hotel owner, and Mr Frederick Rogers, a builder. Felixstowe council felt that they had been badly treated and sought to compulsorily purchase the pier through an act of parliament. However, in a local poll, the people of Felixstowe rejected the council's plan to force a purchase and backed Enderby and Rogers (NA MT 48/23).
- 4.12 It seems that in the ensuing months little happened to the pier apart from some repair work and piling. The impasse may have been a result of a vengeful council vetoing Enderby and Rogers's plans. This resulted in an offer to the council to buy the pier for £15,000, an offer that was rejected. The Felixstowe times quipped that 'even white elephants appreciate substantially in value when they are given an extra coat of white paint' (FX Times 18/09/1948).
- 4.13 By 1949 Enderby and Rogers's plans had been approved, the isolated sections of pier were demolished and the landward end of the pier was rebuilt at a much reduced length of 234m. The post-war pier was mostly built from reinforced concrete; an aerial photograph 1952 (Figure 14) shows the pier and austere amusement arcade almost as it is now.
- 4.14 The pier was sold to its current owners in 1963. In 1969 an extension was made to the amusement arcade, including a bingo hall and a new entrance. The extension gives a somewhat jarring juxtaposition of two modern styles.

- 4.15 The landward end of the pier is still open to the public as an amusement arcade and café, however most of the outer pier is closed to the public due to safety concerns over the concrete substructure.

5.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

Substructure

- 5.1 At the landward end the pier's substructure comprises reinforced concrete piles (Plates 1-3), square in section, supporting a series of reinforced concrete girders laid out in a grid. The system of girders is the foundation of the concrete slab on which the amusement hall sits. Early photographs show that the concrete piles were originally more slender, much like the piles at the seaward end, but due to erosion they have been reinforced with extra concrete.
- 5.2 The pier itself is a relatively simple structure and is made up of 43 sets or 'bents' of three concrete piles (Plate 4). Each set of piles is surmounted by a horizontal concrete beam or bent-cap. The central piles are arranged in a staggered formation, perhaps providing extra rigidity to the structure. The bents support three longitudinal timbers which run along the length of the pier (Plate 5). These timbers provide the carriage for the pier's decking which is made up of timber joists carrying a concrete slab at the seaward end and timber decking at the landward end.

Amusement Hall - exterior

- 5.3 The amusement hall was built in 1950 and extended in 1967. The main part of the building comprises a single storey rendered brick building, roughly square in plan. The building sits on the landward platform with the later extension occupying the ramp from the pier to the promenade. The main building has a flat asbestos roof with a parapet as well as a central lantern across the full width of the building which formerly provided light (Plate 6).

West elevation

- 5.4 The principal elevation faces west towards the promenade (Plate 7). The original façade is now obscured by a 1960s steel-framed extension which occupies the ramp. The front of the building now consists of three equally spaced entrances separated by small self-contained kiosks set forward from the building. The upper part of the façade is clad in corrugated steel with illuminated signage. Just above the kiosks the extension is lit with six clerestory windows.
- 5.5 The original façade would have been set back from the promenade and had a large central entrance flanked by tall sash windows either side as well as two smaller entrances at either end surrounded by glass block windows. Part of the original entrance and many of the original windows can still be seen from within the 1960s extension (Plates 8-10). Photographic evidence (Figure 14) and discussions with local residents reveal that the entrance formerly had a projecting curved canopy.

Side elevations

- 5.6 The side elevations are both dominated by six large panels decorated with seaside motifs and the word 'pier' (Plates 1 and 11). The panels were formerly windows; evidence of this can be seen in the interior of the building where many of the windows survive intact and in aerial photography from 1950 showing their former arrangement (Figure 14). The two elevations are not entirely identical as the north-east side has differently sized narrow panels where there were formerly sliding sash windows. The south-west panels are all square and were originally large four-light windows.

South-east elevation

- 5.7 The rear elevation faces out to sea as well as the pier itself (Plates 12 and 13). It is relatively unadorned with white painted brick and a simple corbelled brick cornice. This elevation still has functioning windows although they have been altered and replaced by modern uPVC. The façade is asymmetrical with the main entrance off centre due to the position of the pier. This is probably because when the pier was rebuilt, it had to follow the footprint of the old pier as the rest of the seabed was part of the crown estate.

Interior

- 5.8 The 1960s extension is divided into two main spaces, both of which are occupied by arcade machines. The south space is a well-lit open space with window lights to the south (Plate 14). This part of the building is said to have formerly contained high pay-out machines (interview with Gordon Powter).
- 5.9 The north room is accessed from the promenade, the hall and the inside of the extension. It was formerly a bingo hall and this is still reflected in the sign outside and the higher level of finish (Plate 15).
- 5.10 The original amusement arcade is largely an open space full of arcade machines and a few rooms subdivided for storage and office space (Plate 16). The western corner of the room has been partially partitioned to provide a space for gambling machines. The south-side of the building has been partitioned into store rooms, offices and toilets, as well as a maintenance workshop in the east corner (Plate 17).
- 5.11 The amusement hall has changed significantly in appearance since it was first built. Originally the floor would have been bare concrete and the space would have been open to the roof. Subsequently the floor has been tiled and then carpeted and a suspended ceiling has been installed. The carpet has a notable repeating 'Z' motif which has nothing to do with the pier or its owners. According to Geoff Henderson, the longest serving member of staff, the carpet was bought cheap from a chain of betting shops who bulk ordered it to refit their shops but changed their mind at the last minute (interview with Geoff Henderson).
- 5.12 Originally the windows would have been uncovered but the combination of winter storms and a stony beach made maintenance costly so they were covered. Geoff Henderson also notes that there used to be a café on the south side of the building as well as a live firing rifle range.

- 5.13 A few elements of the original building survive including many of the blocked windows, which can be seen on the inside of the building (Plate 18). The doors to the toilets (Plate 19) and to the extension are probably original and fragments of the previous decorative schemes can be seen in the north-east store room and the maintenance workshop.

The outer pier

- 5.14 The outer pier stretches out at a slight angle from the amusement hall. Only a small portion of the pier is safe to walk on. The safe part of the pier is decked with modern timber decking and contains a seating area and small kiosk café (Plates 20 & 21). The derelict area of the pier is separated from the rest by iron railings and a gate. Beyond this the pier is decked in concrete and has a several seats and shelters (Plate 22). The pier is guarded by outwardly canted railings. From photographic evidence it appears that the railings are very similar, if not identical, to the railings of the previous pier (Figure 15). It is possible that these railings were salvaged and reused and could represent the only surviving part of the original pier. The ornate streetlamps on the pier are not from the pier but were put there by the present owners.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Felixstowe Pier was originally built by the East Coast Development Company in 1905 as a landing stage for its fleet of steamers based in London. At its height the pier was a simple but popular structure, and at 800m it was the third longest pier in Britain. It served steamers until the outbreak of the Second World War. In common with many of its contemporaries the pier was sectioned during the war, after which it never fully recovered. The pier was completely rebuilt following the war to a shorter length and out of modern materials.
- 6.2 Like many piers the financial position of the pier was never certain, particularly in its early years with the pier changing hands several times. The pier was also subject to an aborted compulsory purchase in 1947 after being taken on by two local businessmen.
- 6.3 In both its iterations the pier has provided a focal point for the seafront in Felixstowe and been enjoyed by generations of Felixstowe natives and tourists. It has been used variously as a landing stage, a fishing platform, a promenade and a place to sit and eat fish and chips.
- 6.4 Nothing remains of the original pier, apart from a couple of timber piles and possibly the railings. The current pier was built in 1951, at a time when Britain was subject to deep austerity and building materials were rationed. Consequently the pier was built cheaply, to a simple design, but not without adornment. The pier was built with a loosely, Art Moderne aesthetic designed to fit with the neighbouring Pier Pavilion and should be seen in that context. Although the amusement hall was extended in the late 1960s and has been remodelled several times, evidence of its 1950s form and appearance is still discernible within the building.

7.0 REFERENCES

Secondary Sources

Archaeology South-East, October 2015. *Written Scheme of Investigation (For a Level 2 Historic Building Recording Exercise): Felixstowe Pier*

CIfA. 2014a. *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures.*

CIfA. 2014b. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

English Heritage, 2010. British Seaside Piers

English Heritage. 2006a. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice.* Swindon.

English Heritage. 2006b. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment.* Swindon.

People Interviewed

Barbara Garrod

Geoff Henderson

Jean Matthews

Gordon Powter

Internet Sources

www.britainfromabove.org.uk

Accessed: 7/11/2015

8.0 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

A full archive intended for deposition with the Suffolk Historic Environment Record has been prepared. The archive has been assigned the site code FPF15. The full site archive will be prepared in accordance with the principals of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006b) and the requirements of the recipient museum. The archive will comprise a hard copy of the full report, a pdf version of the report on CD, the full photographic record with registers, field notes and drawings.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Haydn Evans Consulting for commissioning this Historic Building Record as well as Barbara Garrod, Geoff Henderson, Jean Matthews and Gordon Powter for sharing their experiences.

Plates



Plate 1: Amusement hall, north elevation (43)



Plate 2: Amusement hall substructure, looking south (50)



Plate 3: Amusement hall substructure, looking north-west (53)

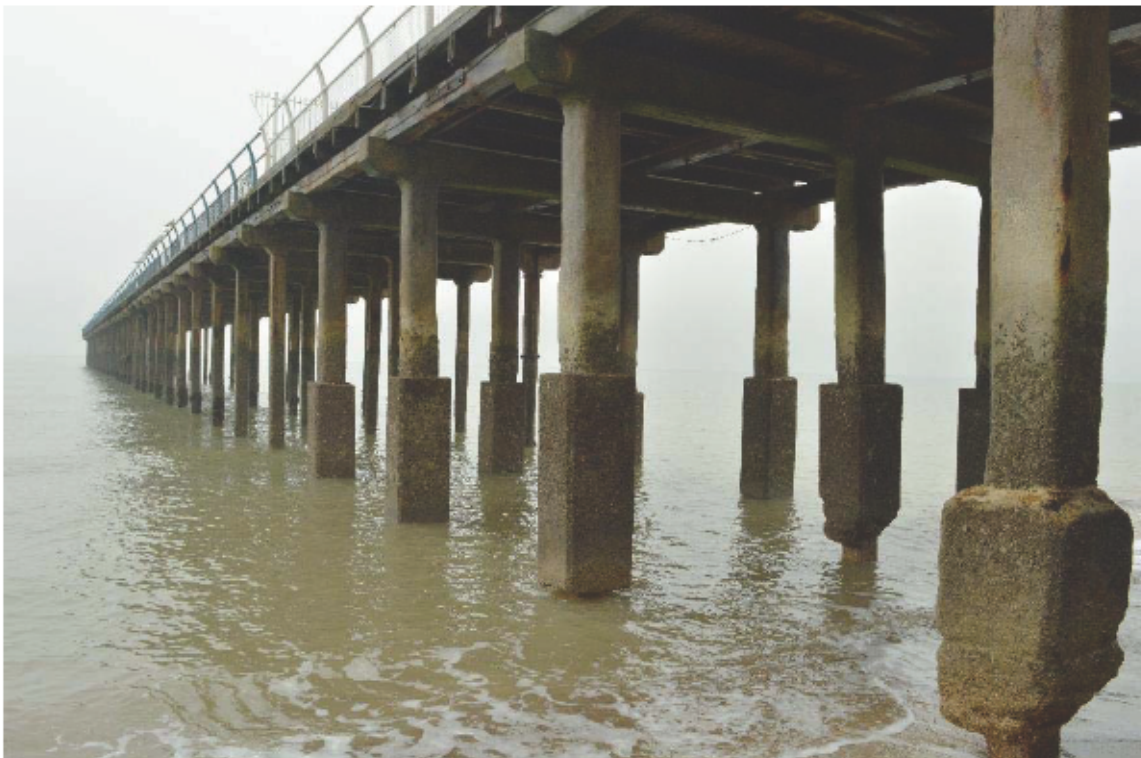


Plate 4: Outer pier substructure, looking south (60)



Plate 5: Outer pier substructure, looking east (66)



Plate 6: View of pier, looking south (105)



Plate 7: West elevation (91)



Plate 8: Original entrance to 1951 pier, looking east (1)



Plate 9: Former external window on original west elevation, looking east (3)



Plate 10: Original entrance to 1951 pier, looking east (4)



Plate 11: Amusement hall, south elevation (89)



Plate 12: East elevation (23)



Plate 13: East elevation (72)



Plate 14: Interior of 1960s extension, looking south (2)



Plate 15: Interior of 1960s extension, former bingo room, looking north (9)



Plate 16: Interior of amusement hall, looking south-west (14)



Plate 17: Maintenance room, looking east (31)



Plate 18: Blocked window on north wall of amusement hall, looking north (12)



Plate 19: Door to men's toilets (16)



Plate 20: Café area on outer pier, looking south-west (26)



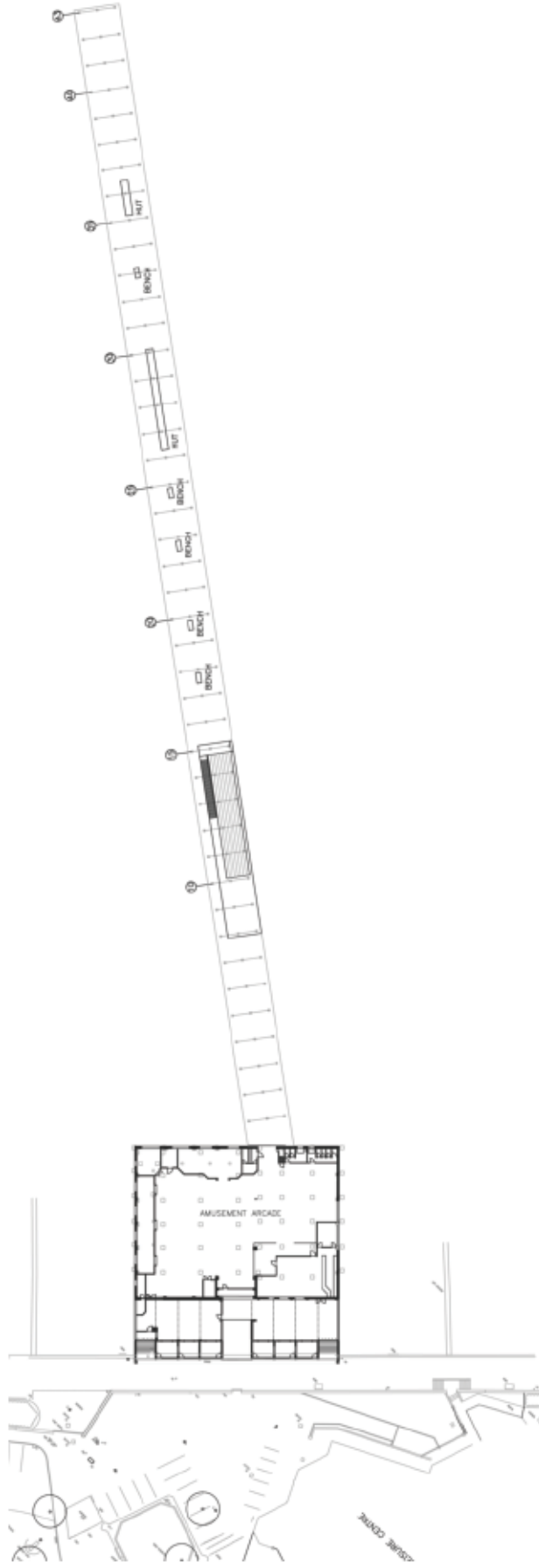
Plate 21: Café area on outer pier, looking south-east (21)



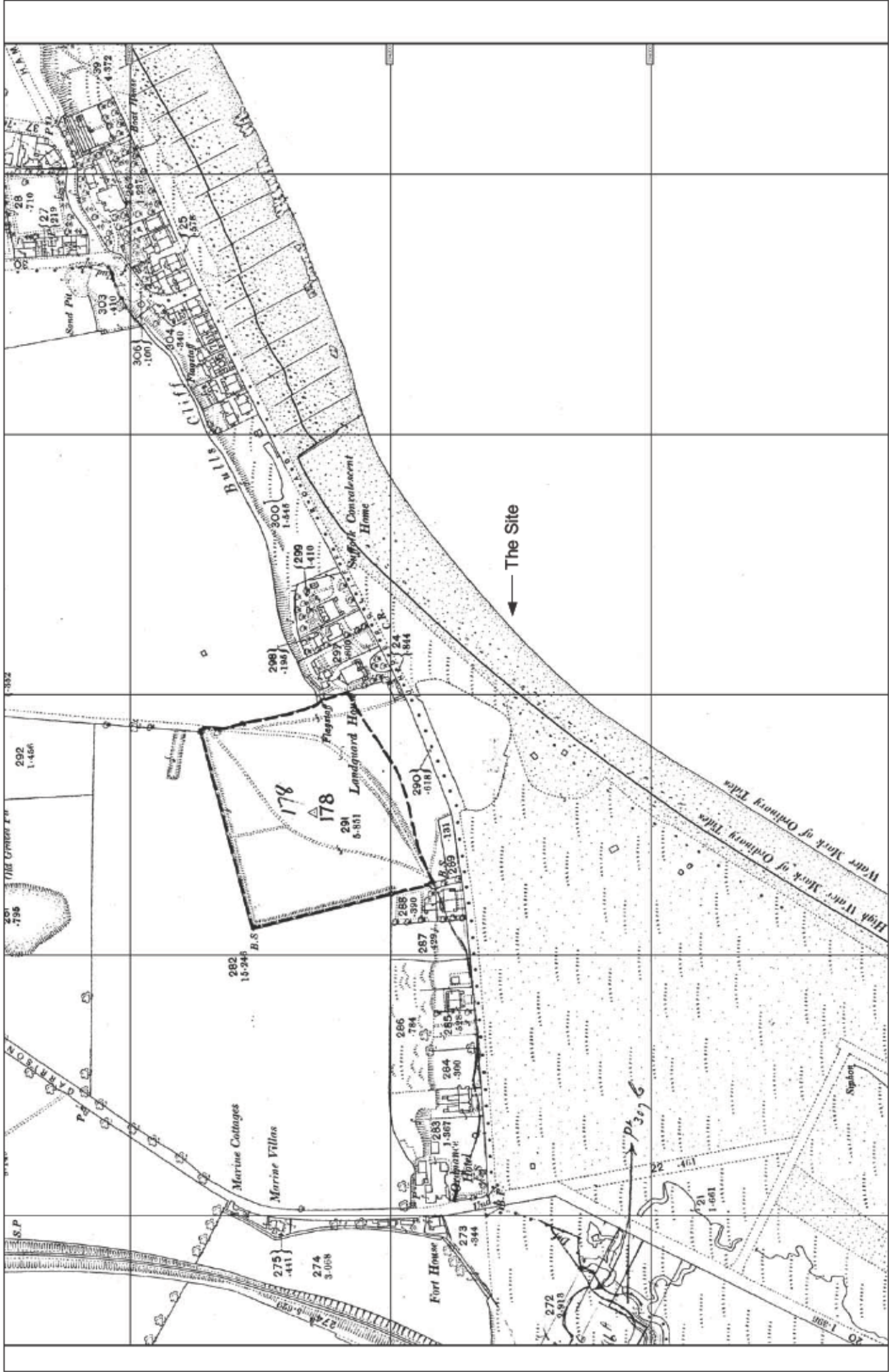
Plate 22: Outer pier, looking south-east (22)

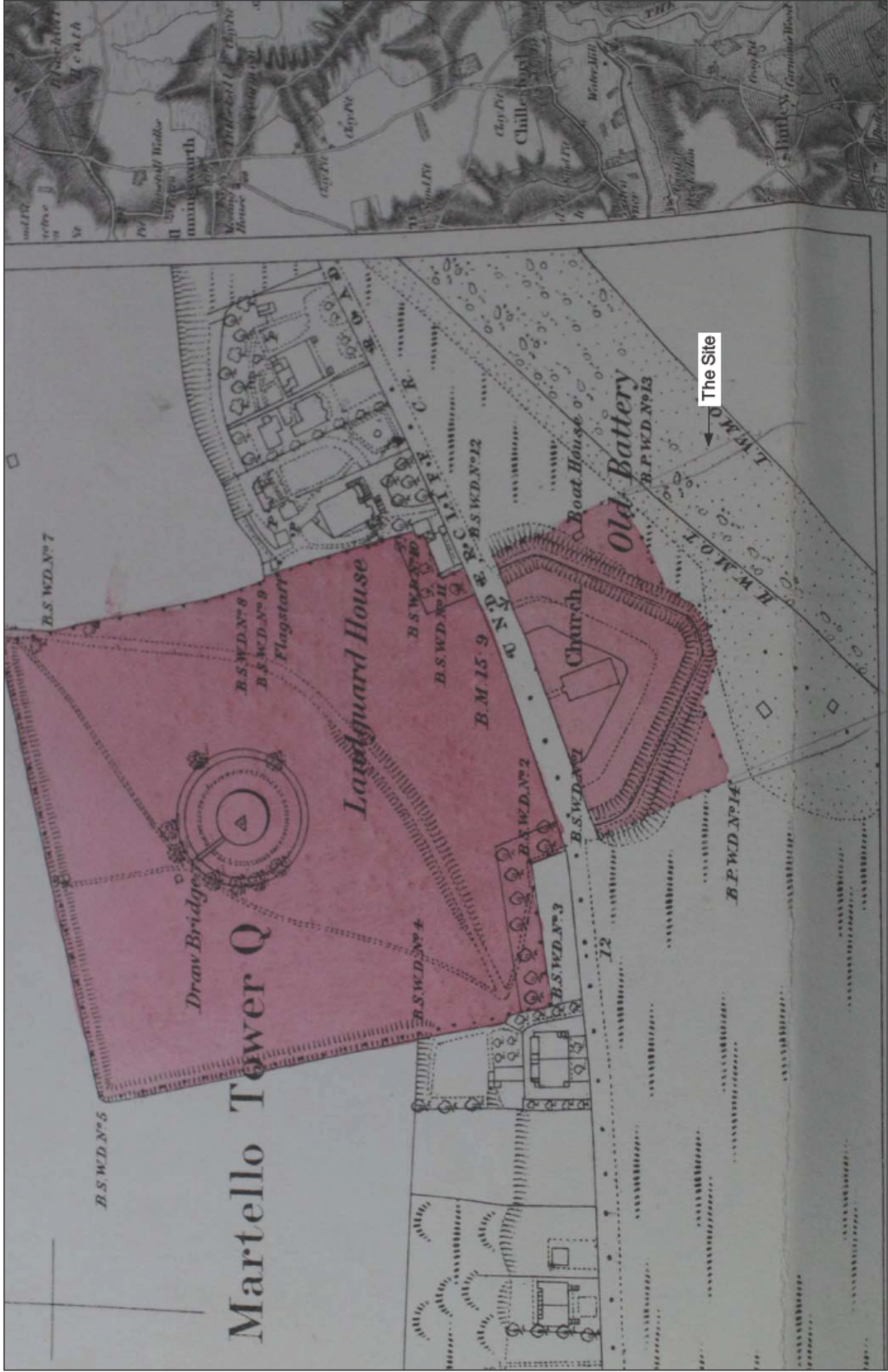


© Archaeology South-East		Felixstowe Pier	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7825	October 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015412	Drawn by: CPC		



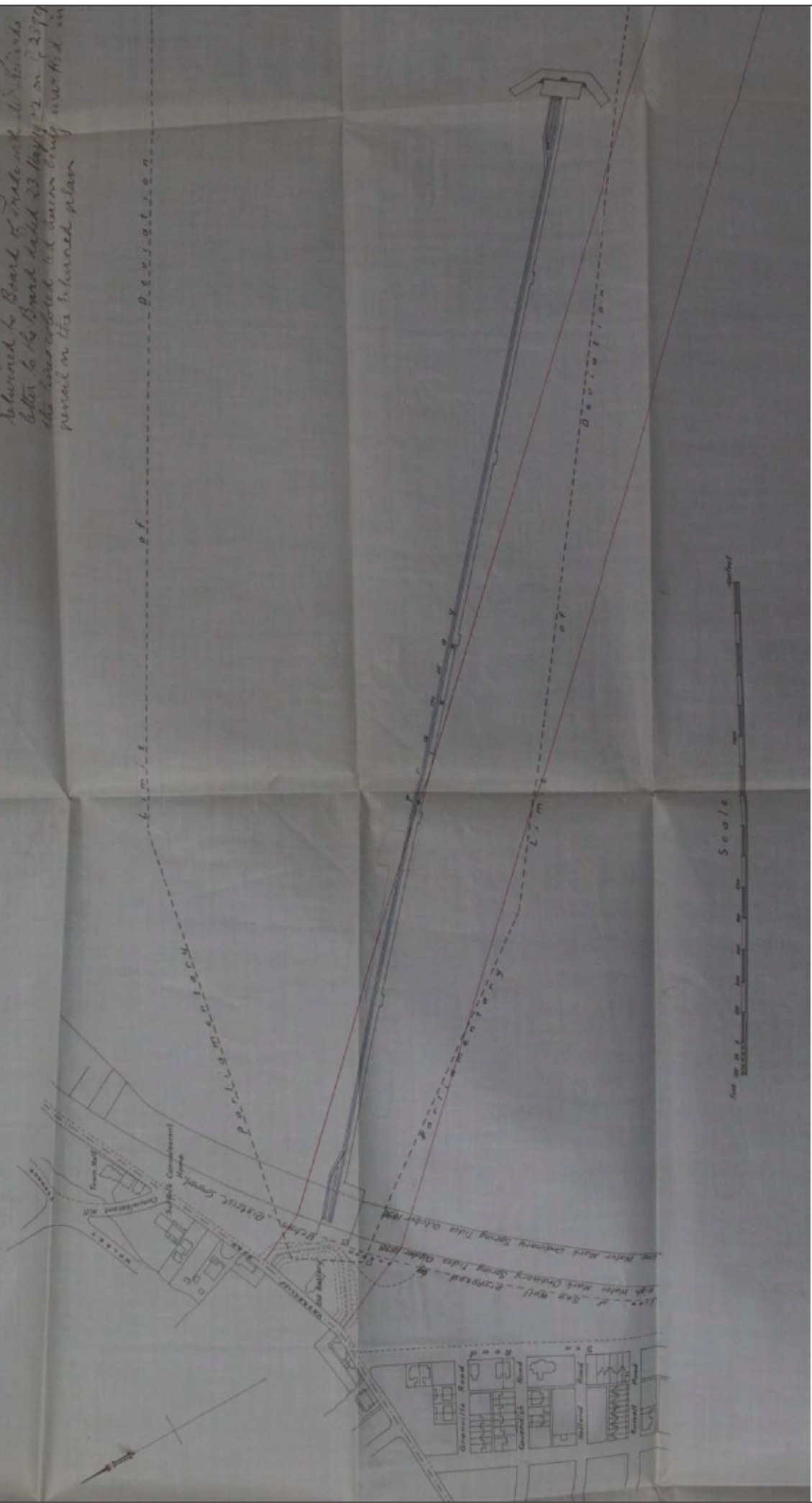
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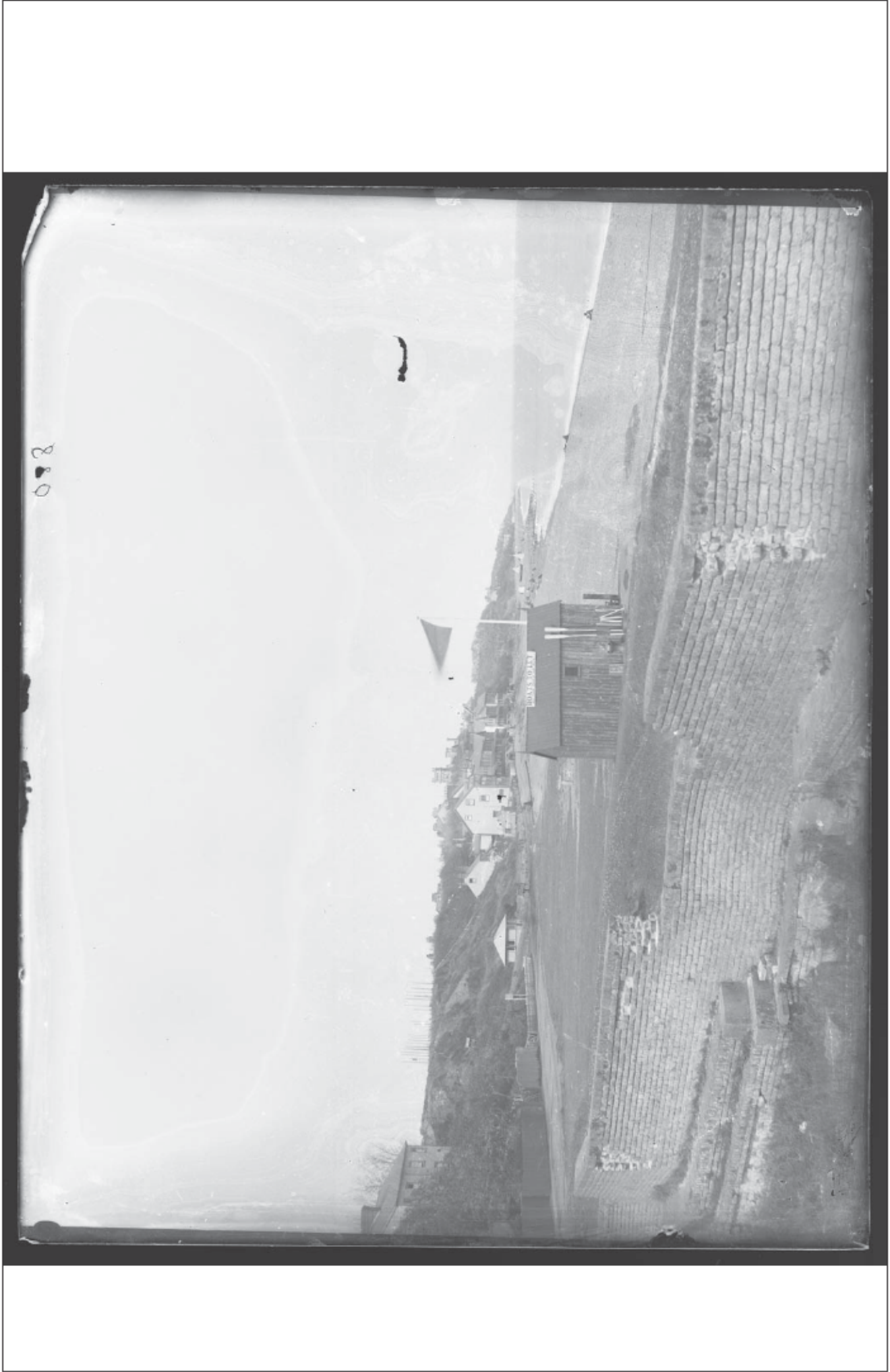


Proposed Pier at Felixstowe. E. 2051

*(copy of plan (as necessary to be submitted)
 returned to Board of Trade with Mr. Smith's
 letter to the Board dated 23 May 1902 on p. 2399
 the same enclosed but never being worked on
 pencil on the burned plan)*



© Archaeology South-East		Felixstowe Pier		Fig. 5
Project Ref: 7825	November 2015	Proposed plan of pier 1902		
Report Ref: 2015/412	Drawn by: CPC			



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Felixstowe Pier

Early photograph taken from the old battery in 1882 (IRO_J117_3)

Fig. 6



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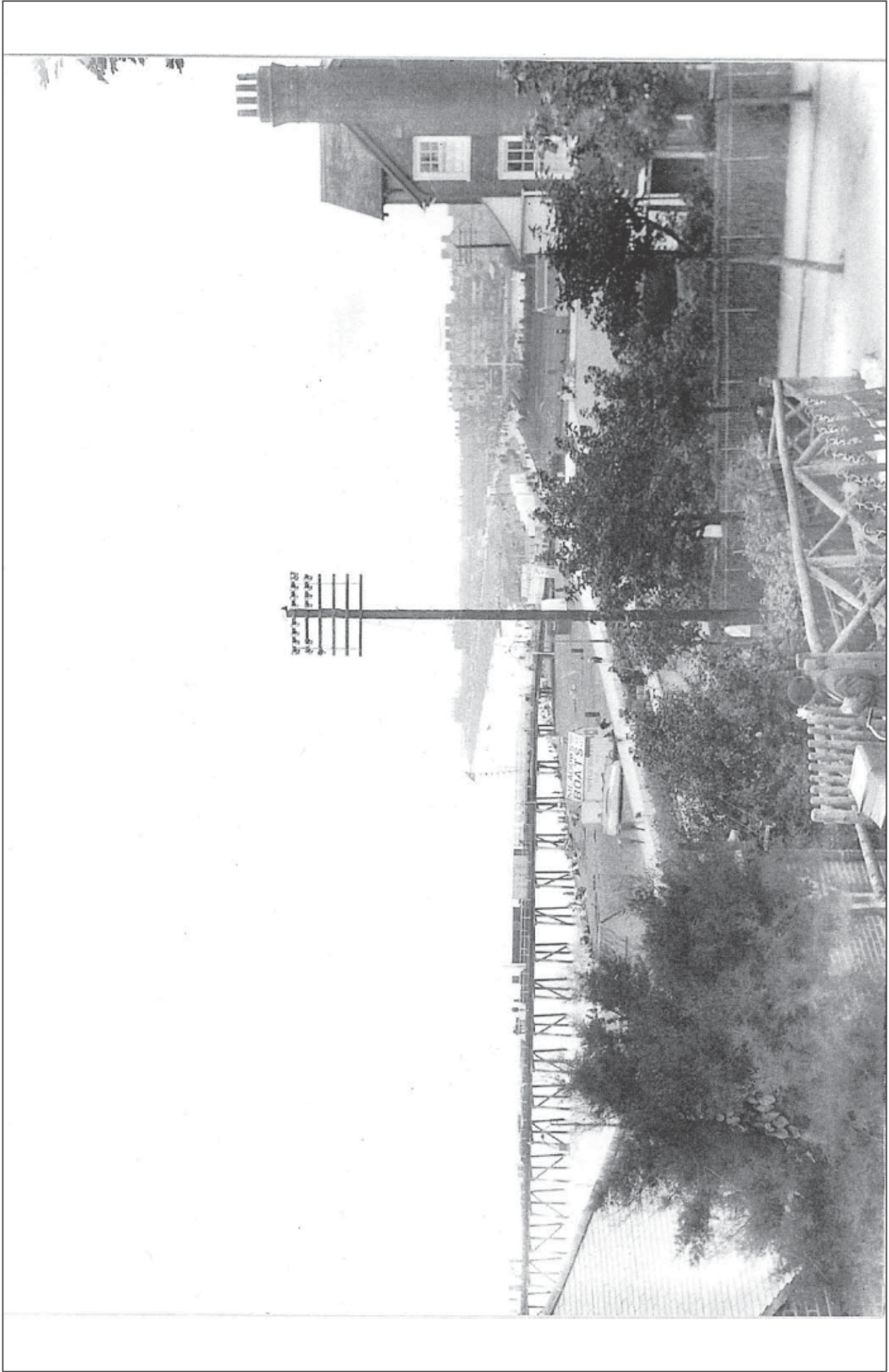
Project Ref: 7825 November 2015

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Felixstowe Pier

Felixstowe Pier being built - 31st January 1903

Fig. 7



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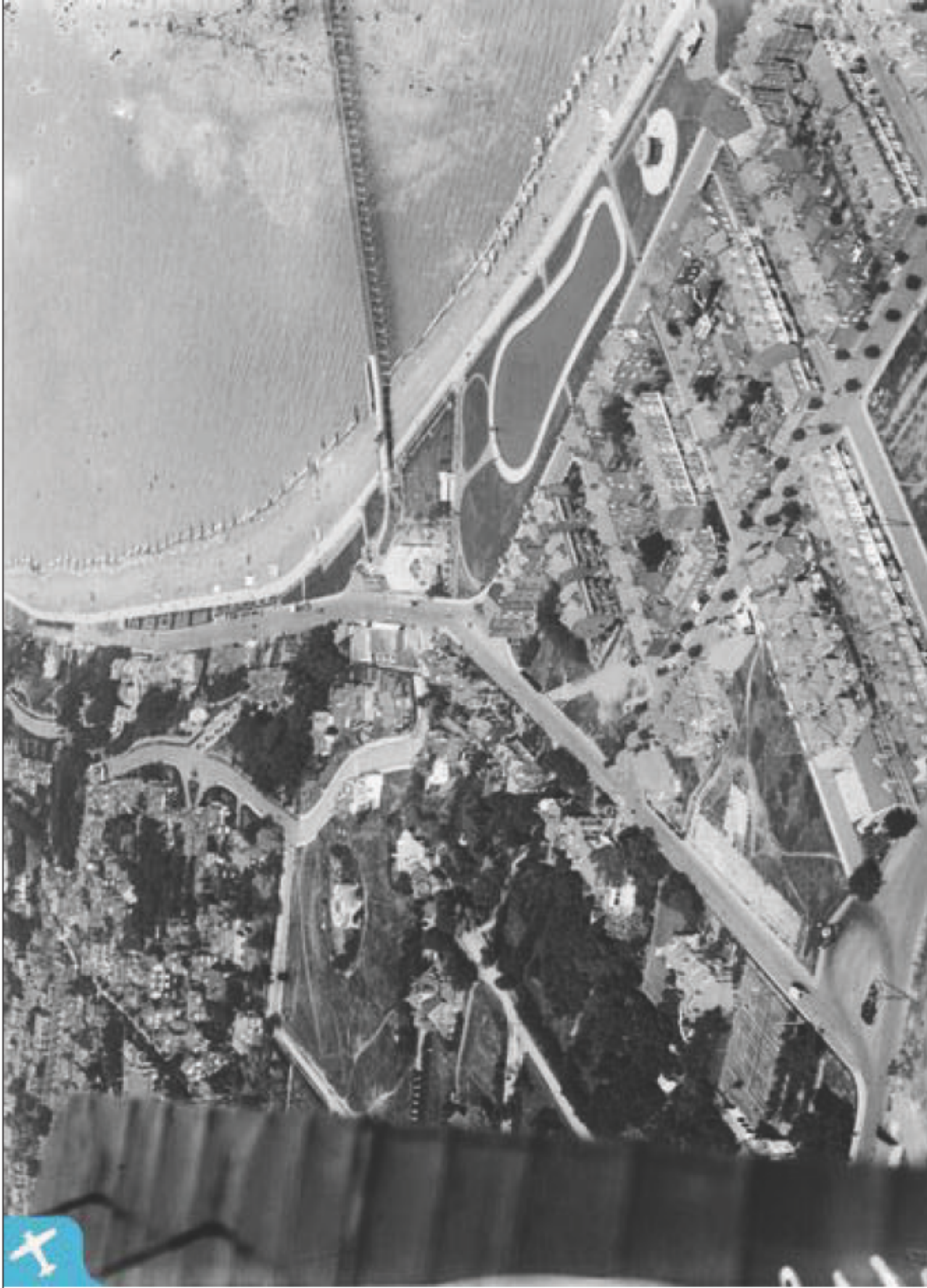
Project Ref: 7825 November 2015

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Felixstowe Pier

Felixstowe pier c. 1905 (IRO K400 49)

Fig. 8



<http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EPW001918>

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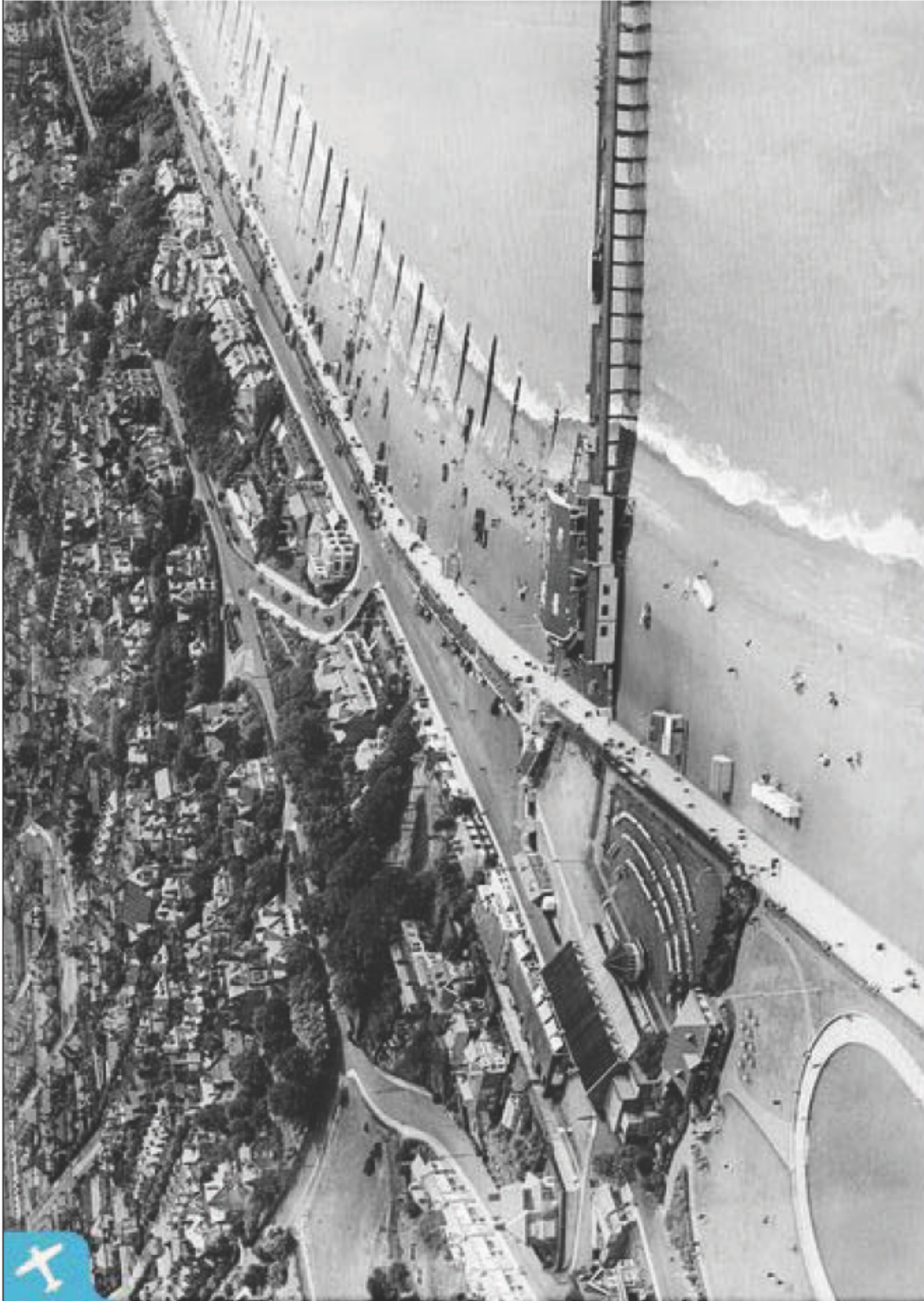
Project Ref: 7825 November 2015

Report Ref: 2015/412 Drawn by: CPC

Felixstowe Pier

1920 Aerial photo, Britain From Above EPW001918

Fig. 9



<http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EPW039279>

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Felixstowe Pier

1932 Aerial photo, Britain From Above EPW039279

Fig. 10



© Archaeology South-East		Felixstowe Pier	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 7825	November 2015	Felixstowe Sea Angling Society Shield	
Report Ref: 2015412	Drawn by: CPC		



<http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW024305>

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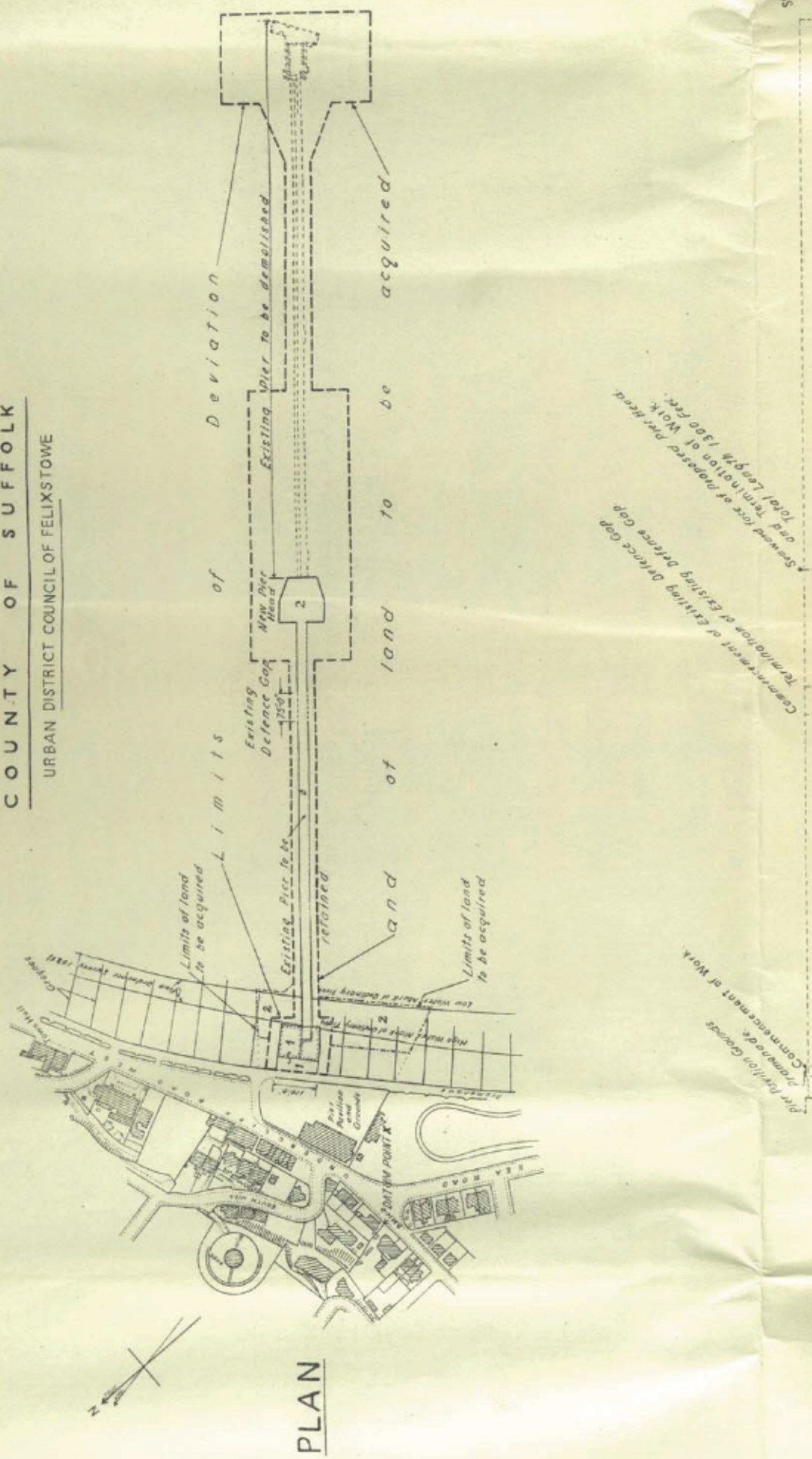
© Archaeology South-East		
Project Ref: 7825	November 2015	
Report Ref: 2015/412	Drawn by: CPC	

Felixstowe Pier

1949 Aerial photo, Britain From Above EAW024305

Fig. 12

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
 URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FELIXSTOWE



PLAN

© Archaeology South-East		Felixstowe Pier	
Project Ref: 7825	November 2015	Proposed plan of 1946 (IRO_EF12_3_5_58)	
Report Ref: 2015/412	Drawn by: CPC		

Fig. 13



<http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW038360>

© Historic England

© Archaeology South-East

Project Ref: 7825

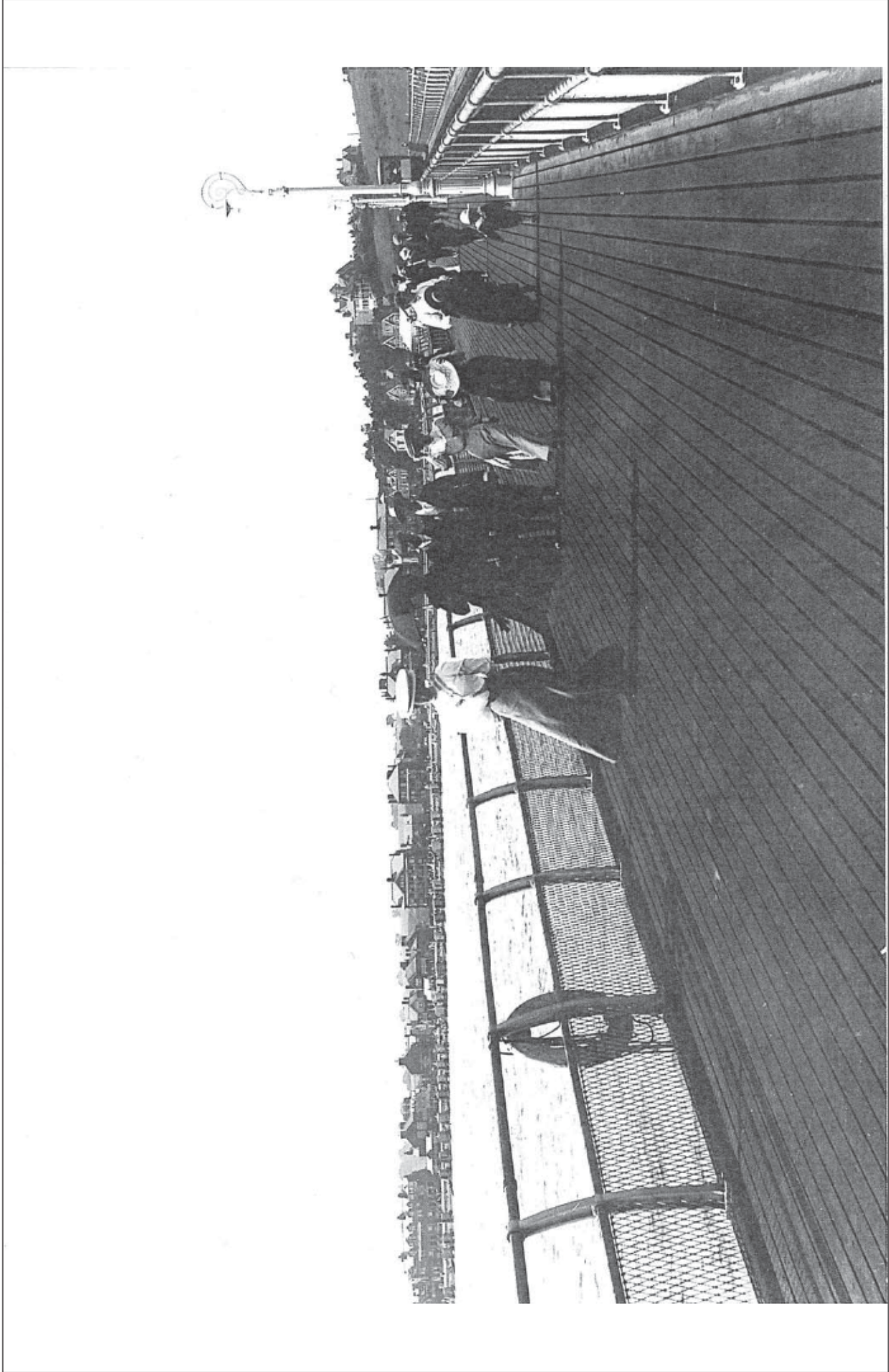
November 2015

Report Ref: 2015-412

Drawn by: CPC

Felixstowe Pier

1950 Aerial photo Britain From Above EAW038360



© Archaeology South-East

Project Ref: 7825

Report Ref: 2015/412

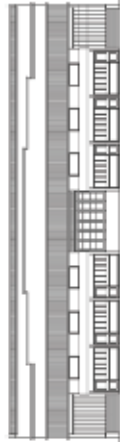
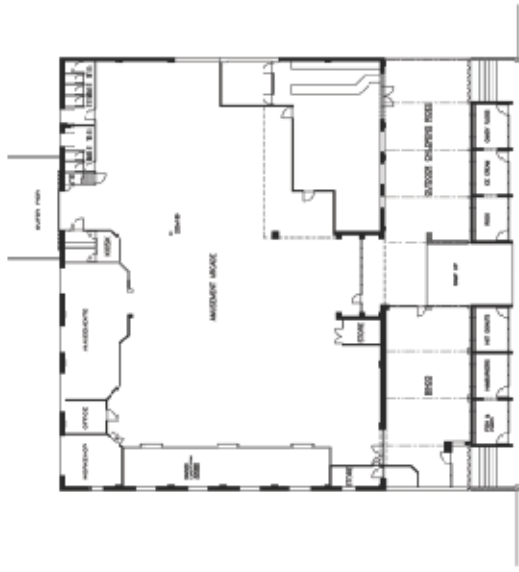
November 2015

Drawn by: CPC

Felixstowe Pier

Photo c.1905 showing pier and railings

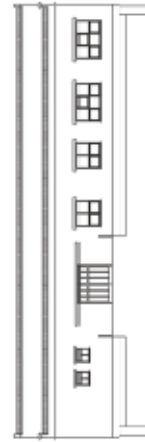
Fig. 15



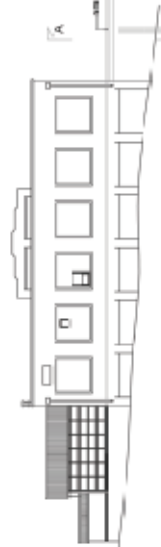
WEST ELEVATION



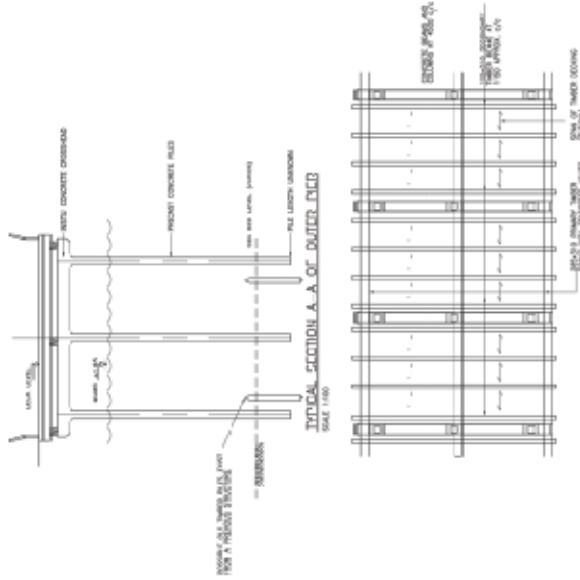
NORTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

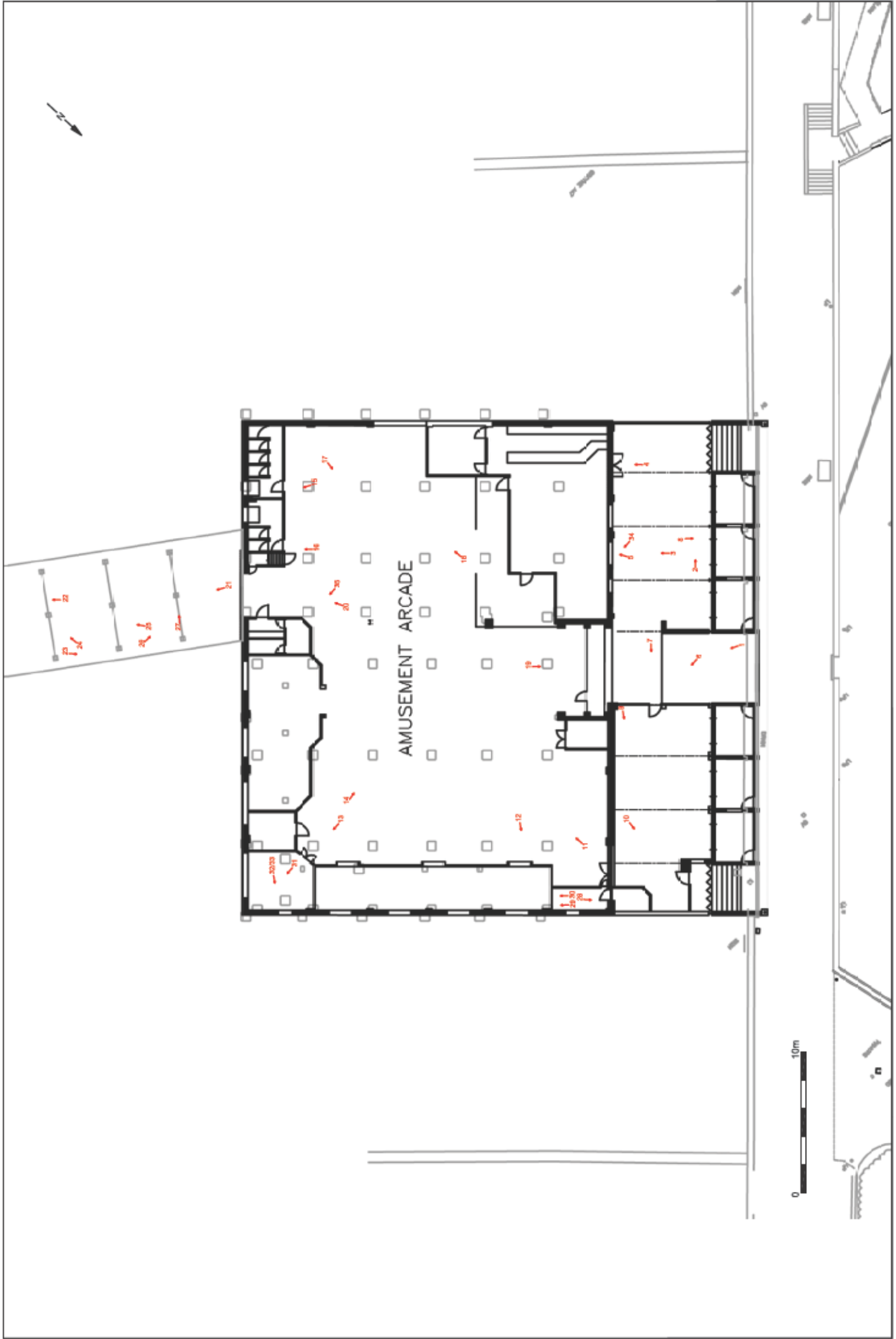


SOUTH ELEVATION



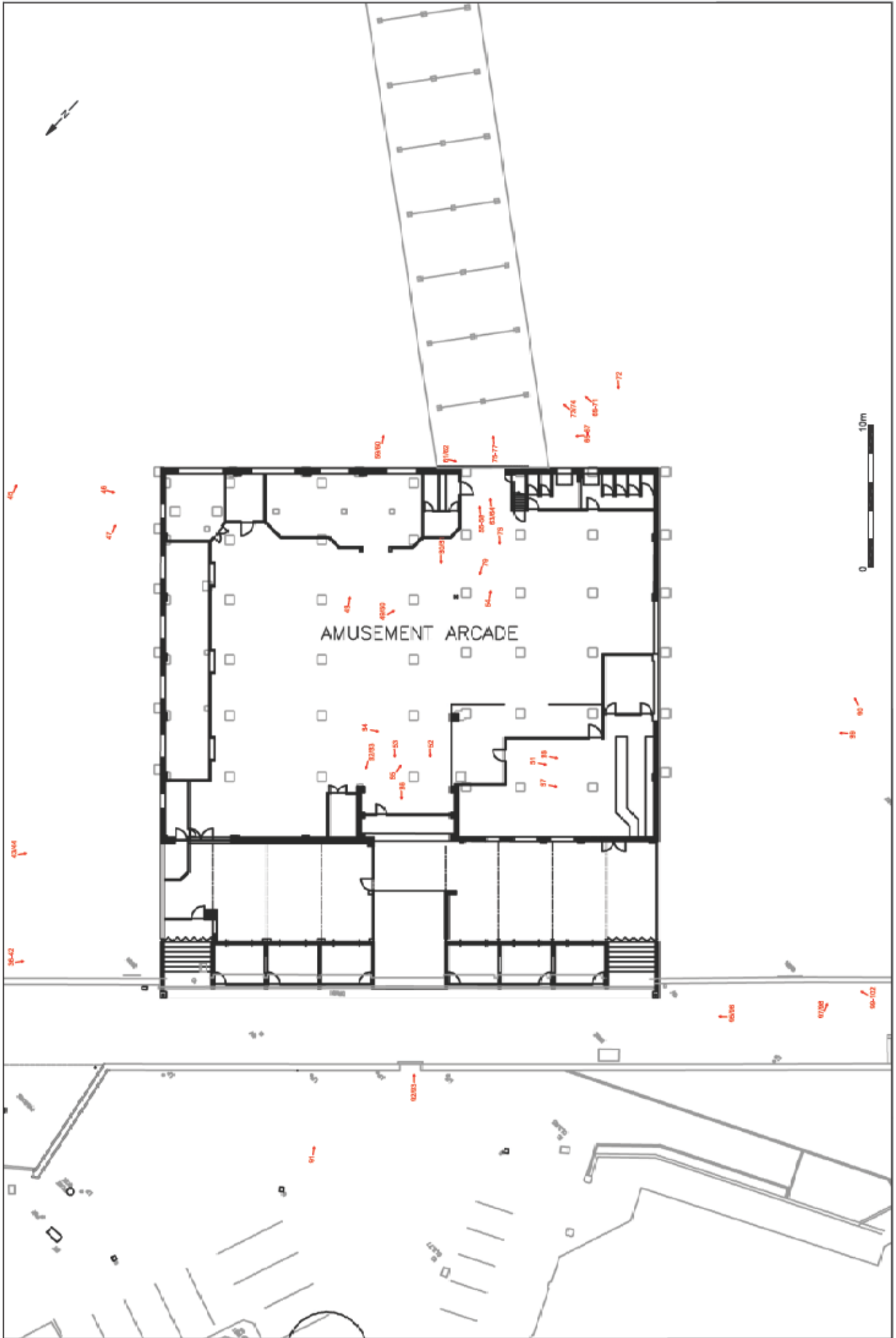
TYPICAL OUTER PER LAYOUT PLAN (3 No. BAYS)





© Archaeology South-East
 Project Ref: 7825
 Report Ref: 2015412

Fallstowe Pier
 Interior and outer pier photo location plan
 November 2015
 Drawn by: CPC
 Fig. 17



© Archaeology South-East
 Project Ref: 7825
 Report Ref: 2015412
 November 2015
 Drawn by: CPC

Appendix 1 Index of Digital Photography



7825 (1)



7825 (2)



7825 (3)



7825 (4)



7825 (5)



7825 (6)



7825 (7)



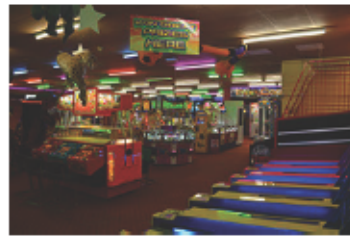
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Appendix 1 Index of Digital Photographs



7825 (61)



7825 (62)



7825 (63)



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Appendix 2 OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-231508

Project details

Project name	Felixstowe Pier
Short description of the project	In November 2015 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London) carried out a programme of historic building recording in connection with the development of Felixstowe Pier, Suffolk (NGR TM 300 341). The work was commissioned by Haydn Evans Consulting to satisfy conditions attached to planning permission (Planning ref. C/12/0945 and C/12/1052) for the demolition of the existing building in preparation for the redevelopment of the site. The building is an example of a seaside pier built in 1950 to replace an earlier pier of 1905 on the same location. The pier comprises a reinforced concrete substructure extending 234 meters into the North Sea. At the landward end the pier widens to a large square platform supporting a single storey amusement hall and café. The original pier was built in 1905 to serve steamers making day-trips from London. It served this function until the outbreak of the Second World War when the pier was closed and partially demolished to prevent its use by enemy forces. The amusement hall is still open as an arcade however the outer pier is structurally unsafe and is closed to the public.
Project dates	Start: 04-11-2015 End: 24-11-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	PIER Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL FELIXSTOWE Felixatowe Pier
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 300 341 51.957151246883 1.347899637789 51 57 25 N 001 20 52 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Haydn Evans Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor	Christopher Curtis
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Digital Archive ID	FPF 15

Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Paper Archive ID	FPF 15
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Felixstowe Pier
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Curtis, C
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East
Entered by	Chris Curtis (christopher.curtis@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	24 November 2015

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

