

GENERAL BUILDINGS, BRAYFORD WHARF EAST, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

CoLC Planning Ref.: 2008/0429/F
NGR: SK 97360 71093
Acc No: LCNCC: 2010.79
Site code: LBEG 10
PCA Ref: 662

Report prepared for

Banks Long & Co
(on behalf of Marchini Curran Associates)

by

M. Rowe and R. D. Savage

April 2011



Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
47 Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800

©Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Site location and description	2
3.0	Planning background	2
4.0	Archaeological and historical background	2
5.0	Methodology	3
6.0	Results	3
7.0	Conclusion	4
8.0	Bibliography	4
9.0	Acknowledgements	4
10.0	Site Archive	4

Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Appendix 2: Context Register

Figures

Fig. 1 Site location plan. Scale 1:25 000 with detailed extract at 1:10 000

Fig. 2 Plan and sample section of the excavation at scales 1:50 and 1:20

Plates

Pl. 1 General shot of the site before works began.

Pl. 2 Machining in progress on the eastern side of the site.

Pl. 3 The eastern area of the site after cleaning and recording.

Pl. 4 Structure 003.

Pl. 5 The unrecorded western area of the site after machining.

Summary

- *Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during contractors groundworks for the construction of a ground floor extension on the north side of the existing General Building, Brayford Wharf East, Lincoln.*
- *An area of existing hard standing approximately 11m by 9m was reduced by a maximum of 0.6m. Only demolition material and modern hardcore were removed during this process. The truncated remains of a brick wall, probably part of a former mid 19th century Mill/Warehouse, demolished in 1971, was encountered.*
- *No archaeologically significant deposits were encountered and no artefacts pre-dating the modern era were observed.*

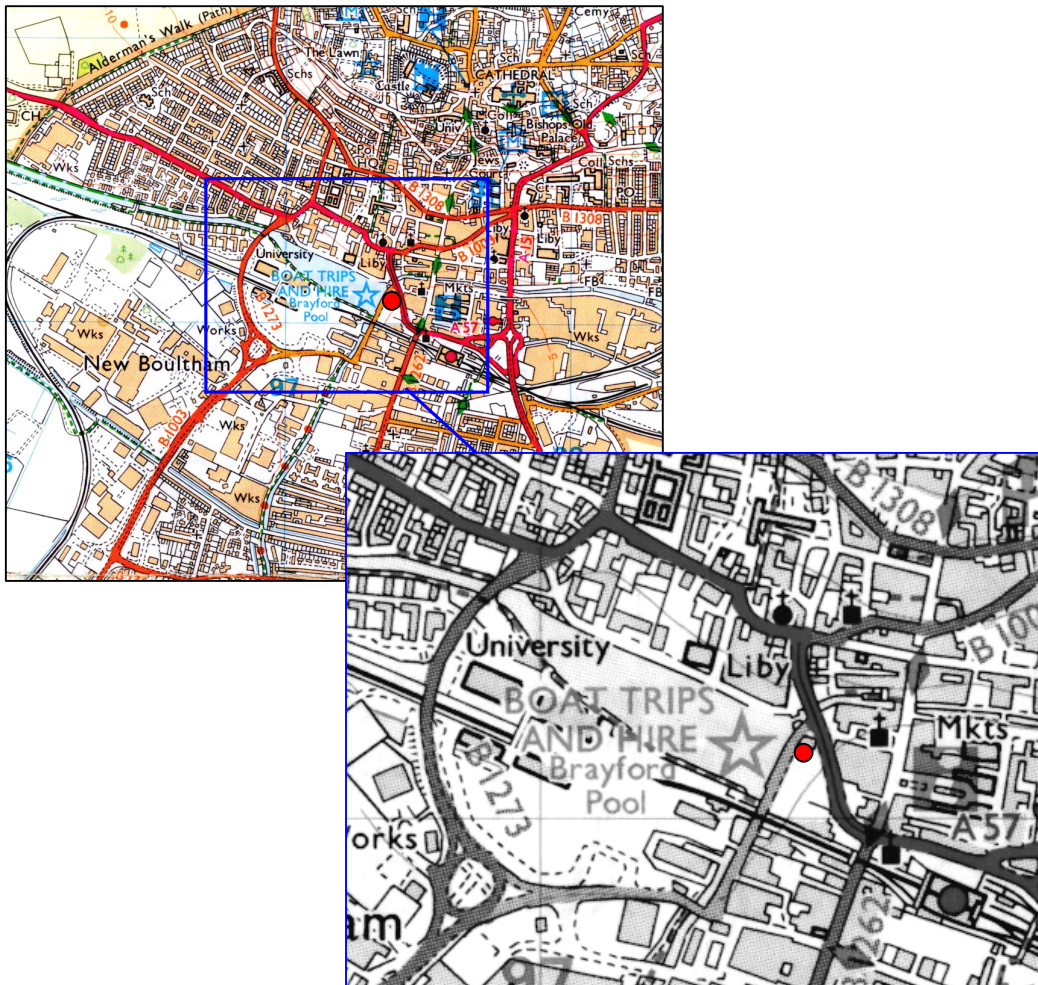


Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25 000, with an enlarged extract at 1:10 000. The position of the site is marked in red. (© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording for Banks Long & Co. (on behalf of Marchini Curran Associates) during groundworks for the construction of an extension to the existing General Building, Brayford Wharf East, Lincoln. This work was undertaken by the Michael Rowe on 25-26/5/2010.

The archaeological programme was undertaken to meet conditions attached to Planning Application 2008/0429/F and in accordance with the recommendations of the *Code of Conduct* (Institute for Archaeologists, 1994 as revised), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA 2008), and the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Handbook (as revised 2010).

2.0 Site location and description (Figs. 1 & 2; Plate 1)

The site is located within the historic core of the City of Lincoln overlooking the Brayford Pool, within an area that has been completely re-developed in the 20th century (centred on NGR: SK 97360 71093). The site of the extension is located on the north side of the existing General Building, constructed in the 1970s. It is flanked to the west by car parking and to the south by Grantavon House flats. It lies to the east of the carriageway and pavement of Brayford Wharf East.

The site was previously covered in concrete slabs and tarmac, and contained a small area of ornamental planting. Ground level is c. 5m OD and slopes gently down to the northeast, towards the roadside. The geology of the area broadly comprises alluvium overlying Lower Lias clay, shale and rare limestone (BGS 1973).

3.0 Planning background

Planning permission was granted by the City of Lincoln Council for the erection of a ground floor extension to form a reception area and infilling of the fourth floor to form additional office space at General Building, Brayford Wharf East. This permission was granted subject to conditions, including Condition 3: *No development, geotechnical investigation, site clearance or other enabling work shall take place on the site until details of the measures to be taken to evaluate, preserve and/or record the archaeological content of the site, which shall include a timescale for the investigation, have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. All archaeological work shall thereafter proceed in accordance with the approved programme.*

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The site lies close to the east bank of Brayford Pool, which has been important from prehistoric times to the present day for a variety of purposes, including fishing, water transport and docking, and as a source of water for industry. The land has undergone periods of flooding, and has been consolidated by the deposition of material and the construction of quays and docks.

In the medieval period, bands of peat formed on parts of the area, and timber piles may have formed a jetty, following the waterfront westwards. Various phases of reclamation occurred until the 19th century, some associated with the construction of boundary walls or buildings (Steane *et al.* 2001).

The last major building on the southern part of the site was Dickinson's Mill, constructed in 1854 as a flour mill, and demolished in 1971. Substantial foundations of Dickinson's Mill were encountered close to the surface in 1972. On the northern part of the site was another large industrial building built c.1872 and used until c. 1885 as a silk mill. It was then used for warehousing and storage relating to the brewing, fertiliser and oil industries until demolition in 1971 (*ibid.*).

Previous archaeological work took place on the south part of this site in the winter of 1972-3, but this was hampered by the high water table at 1.1m below ground level. Part of a clinker-built boat had been re-used in medieval construction of a riverbank or wharf. The earliest identified deposit was a band of peat, thought to be of Roman date or possibly later. 285 sherds of Roman were found at the site, and pottery dating from the later 10th century was present in a layer above the peat; pre-dating a hardstanding which may have provided access for boats at the river edge. Traces of a timber building were found above the hardstanding, together with contemporary evidence of dumping and land reclamation (*ibid.*).

5.0 Methodology

In accordance with the approved specification, archaeological monitoring and recording was maintained during all redevelopment groundworks that were more than 0.5m below existing ground level, as the site was known to have been covered with modern material.

Initial excavation was carried out using a tracked excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket (plate 2). This only removed modern material and no archaeological deposits were encountered. Excavation extended to a maximum of no more than 0.6m below the existing ground surface on the eastern side of the site, while the western side was excavated to less than 0.5m (blue broken line on fig. 2); features and deposits in this area were drawn, but not recorded.

The exposed area and cut sections were cleaned by hand where necessary. The site was recorded in plan at a scale of 1:50, and a sample section was produced at a scale of 1:20. Written accounts were prepared on pro forma context record sheets, and a colour photographic record was maintained throughout the scheme. Selected prints are reproduced in Appendix 1 of this report, and a full context summary appears as Appendix 2.

6.0 Results (Fig. 2)

All modern material sealing the site was recorded as context 001. This comprised tarmac, concrete paving slabs and flowerbed soils of the most recent surface, with a deposit of rubble hardcore containing fragments of various building materials. This deposit group was up to 0.54m deep.

Below 001 was a deposit of dark brown sandy silt containing river gravel and limestone fragments 002; interpreted as post-medieval made ground, probably dating from the 19th century development of the waterfront. The upper surface of this material corresponded roughly with the full excavation depth of the groundworks, and very little of it was removed.

Two features were observed to have cut deposit 002. Structure 003, within construction cut 004, was a wall footing of crushed brick and cement, with a remnant

of brick wall surviving close to the section. (A similar footing was seen on the western side of the site, but was not recorded, as it lay within the area where the excavation depth had not reached 0.5m.) On the southern side of the recorded area, irregular cut 005 lay adjacent to the extant building and contained a fill of crushed stone, 006: this feature, which more or less followed the building's footprint, appeared to be its construction cut.

7.0 Conclusion

Only two archaeological features, of limited interest, were recorded during the monitoring scheme. The large, irregular cut 005 appeared to be the construction trench for the General Building itself, and so can be dated to the 1970s. Wall footing 003 is very likely to be a remnant of Dickinson's Mill, a steam-powered flour mill believed to have been built in the 1840s, and recorded prior to its demolition in 1972 (Stocker, 2003, p.352)

8.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1973, *Lincoln: England and Wales Sheet 114, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50 000 Provisional Series*. BGS, Keyworth.

Ordnance Survey, 2006, *Lincoln, Sleaford, Metheringham and Navenby: Explorer 1:25 000 Series*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Stocker, D., 2003, 'Lincoln's Industrial Era, c. 1750-c.1945', in Jones, M.J., Stocker, D. and Vince, A., 2003, *The City by the Pool: Assessing the archaeology of the city of Lincoln*. Oxbow Books, Oxford.

Steane, K., Darling, M.J. *et al.*, 2001, *The Archaeology of Wigford and the Brayford Pool*. Oxbow Books, Oxford

9.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS would like to thank Banks Long & Co. and Marchini Curran Associates for this commission. PCAS would also like to express thanks to Ian West (site manager) for his cooperation during the watching brief.

10.0 Site Archive

The archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd, Saxilby, Lincolnshire and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum within six months of the completion of the project.

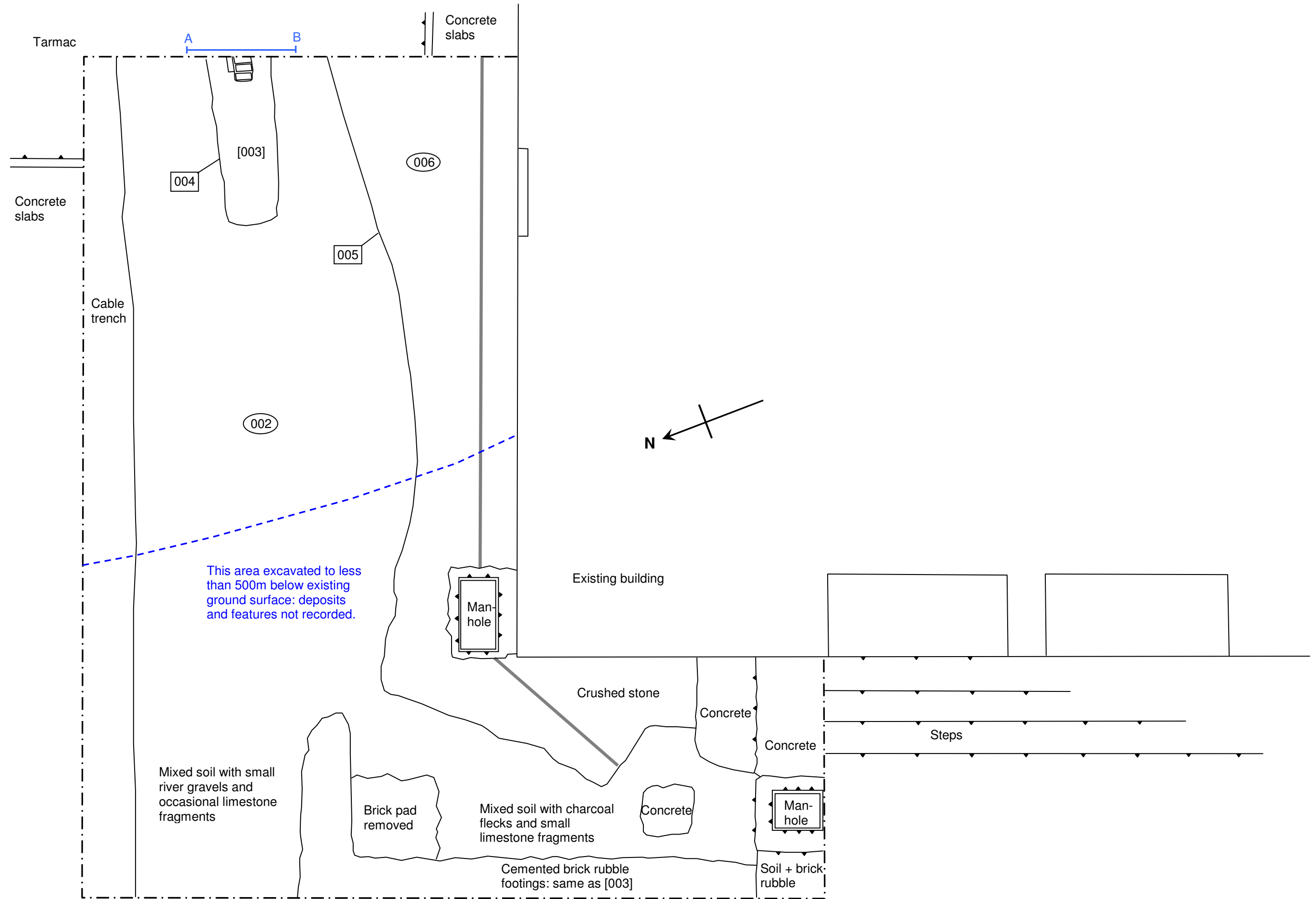


Figure 2: Plan of the site at scale 1:50, with a section drawing at scale 1:20.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General shot of the site before works began, looking northwest towards the Brayford Pool.



Plate 2: Machining in progress on the eastern side of the site, looking southeast.



Plate 3: The eastern area of the site after cleaning and recording, looking west, with structure 003 in the foreground.



Plate 4: Structure 003, looking east towards the edge of the excavated area, showing the remnant of brick wall above the cement and crushed brick footing.



Plate 5: The unrecorded western area of the site after machining, looking south-west, showing the wall footing corresponding to structure 003.

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Stratigraphic position	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Sealing all deposits and features	All modern surfacing (comprising tarmac, concrete paving slabs and soil around soft landscaping) with rubble hardcore (comprising crushed stone and brick with occasional granite cobble setts, fragments of roofing slate and limestone fragments)	Modern
002	Layer	At full excavation depth; cut by all features observed	Dark brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium river gravel and occasional limestone fragments	Post-medieval
003	Structure	Within cut 004	Fragment of brick wall on a crushed brick and cement footing	Post-medieval
004	Cut	Cuts layer 002	Construction cut for structure 003	Post-medieval
005	Cut	Cuts layer 002	Construction cut for the General Building	Modern
006	Fill	Within cut 005	Crushed stone fill in construction cut 005	Modern

Appendix 3: OASIS summary