



Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for British Waterways Marinas Ltd

CA Project: MK0104 CA Report: MK0104_1 BEDFM 2019.71

October 2019



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SUMMARY

Project Name: Priory Marina

Location: Barkers Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire

NGR: 506890 249240

Type: Watching Brief

Date: 15-26 July 2019

Planning Reference: Bedford Borough Council Ref: 16/00290/MAO9 and 17/01023/COU

SMC: S00130185

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Higgins Art Gallery & Museum

Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.71

Site Code: PMBL19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with excavation of a foul drainage trench as part of the removal of existing pontoon and building of 12 static houseboats, at Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire, within the Scheduled Monument of Newnham Priory.

Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, specifically in relation to the location of the site within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument of Newnham Priory, the watching brief identified no *in situ* archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.

Unstratified broken blocks of dressed medieval to early post-medieval stone were recovered from a recently laid down levelling layer, which are likely to have formerly been associated with the Priory, and 19th – 20th century ceramics and glasswork were recovered from possible garden soil deposits, which are likely to have derived from the disposal of refuse material.

20th century gravel extraction will likely have destroyed the greater extent of any earthwork and buried archaeological remains within the site. The earthworks resembling medieval fishponds recorded here in 1904 and the remains of a boundary ditch excavated here in 1973 were subsequently removed by quarrying, and following completion of the mineral workings, the quarry was flooded to create the Priory Marina. It is likely no archaeological remains will still therefore be present to any marked extent. The results of the archaeological watching brief also bear this conclusion out.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for British Waterways Marinas Limited (BWML) at Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire (centred at NGR: 506890 249240; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the removal of an existing pontoon and the building of 12 static houseboats with associated works, in this instance, specifically, the object of the watching brief was on the preparatory groundworks for the installation of the sewage treatment plant and foul drainage trench (Planning Ref. 16/00290/MAO9).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with conditions attached to a Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) and an associated Variation to that SMC granted by Historic England (HE) in 2016, and the latter, in 2017 (S00130185) issued by Dr Will Fletcher, Inspector of Ancient Monuments Historic England, for and on behalf of The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. It was also monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer for Bedford Borough Council (SAABBC), conditional on a program of archaeological work. The relevant conditions are as follows:
 - The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Dr Will Fletcher, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
 - The consented works shall be undertaken under archaeological supervision.

 No ground works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed with Historic England in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological supervision, in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved in writing by Historic England, on behalf of the Secretary of State, and the Bedford Borough Council Archaeological Officers. The WSI should include provision for post-excavation assessment, publication, dissemination, archiving and environmental sampling (where appropriate).

- vi The final depth and extent of works for the sewage treatment plant and foul drainage trench shall be agreed and approved in writing with Historic England before the commencement of any on site work.
- 1.3 A subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was prepared by CA (2019) and approved by the SAABBC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* 2 (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015). It was monitored by the SAABBC and David Kenny (Heritage at Risk Projects Officer for Historic England), and a monitors site visit was undertaken on 17th July 2019.

The site

- 1.4 The site is located at Priory Marina, which lies at the north-western corner of Priory Country Park, The River Great Ouse flows west/east, feeding the Marina and forming the southern boundary to the Park. A disused railway line, now used as the Bedford to Sandy Country Way footpath, runs along the northern side of the Marina. A small complex of buildings abuts the north-eastern corner of the Marina; and a tarmacked track (with car parking) runs along the south-eastern boundary, providing access to the site (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 26m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on relatively level ground.
- 1.5 Priory Marina measures approximately 4.25ha in total extent, and is an active marina with residential and leisure moorings, yard facilities, car parking, and visitor facilities.
- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Peterborough member mudstone laid down approximately 161 to 165 million years ago during the Jurassic Period, No superficial deposits are recorded for the site, on account of it presently being open water; however, the Marina basin is likely to comprise alluvium (clay and silt) (BGS 2019). Natural geology was only encountered between 35-49m along the trench consisting of mid brown yellow sand with gravel, likely the original superficial deposits targeted by gravel extraction (see Section 2).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is located within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument of Newnham Priory as detailed in the preceding Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2016a and Addendum (CA2016b), the following is a summary of its results.

Prehistoric period (up to AD 43)

- 2.2 Historic discoveries of several Palaeolithic tools provide the earliest evidence for a human presence within the study area. Three hand axes were found near Fenlake, c.850m to the south-west, and c.500m to the south, of the site; while an example now held by the British Museum was uncovered at Newnham, c.685m to the northwest of the site. Numerous Lower to Middle Palaeolithic findspots are recorded across Bedfordshire, the majority having been recovered during gravel quarrying along the Great Ouse during the late 19th and early 20th century.
- 2.3 No evidence for Mesolithic occupation or activity is recorded within the study area; although there are some indications of a Neolithic presence. Human skeletal remains of possible Neolithic date were apparently found to the west of Newnham Bridge, on the north bank of the River Great Ouse. However, the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record does not specify the circumstances in which these discoveries were made, nor indeed, how/why the remains were identified as being prehistoric. Funerary evidence has also been found at the Eastcotts Industrial Estate, c.850m south-south-east of the site. Gravel quarrying in 1926 and 1946 exposed an isolated skull, with two mid- to late Bronze Age vessels, and an inhumation burial accompanied by two long-necked beakers, a flint knife and early to mid-Bronze Age pottery sherds.
- It is possible that the gravel terraces to the west, now Priory Country Park, were favoured for occupation during the Bronze Age, since considerable evidence for Iron Age settlement (continuing into the Roman period) is recorded here. Aerial photographs, taken during the late 1940s and early 1950s, show a series of cropmarks within the 'loop' of the River Great Ouse. These were subsequently subjected to archaeological investigation in the 1950s and 1970s, prior to gravel extraction and the eventual flooding of the former mineral workings to create Priory Lake (Simco 1975). Ditches and postholes representing Late Iron Age roundhouses and field systems were identified, which appear to have preceded an early Roman half-timbered building and a mid-Roman stone building (Albion 2010).

Roman period (AD 43 – 410)

2.5 Mention has already been made of the Roman period settlement evidence derived from archaeological investigations at Priory Country Park and Priory Business Park. In the 1970s, the site now flooded by Priory Lake (c.50–720m south-east of the site) yielded the structural remains of a substantial stone building of at least seven rooms, one of which had a hypocaust system together with an associated yard, a well and a corn drying oven. It is considered that this was a high-status farmstead, possibly a focal point within a large estate; which became steadily more involved with small-scale industry (metal-working and pottery manufacture) by the 3rd century AD, before its eventual decline (Albion 2010). Meanwhile, excavations to the south of the River Great Ouse (c.1km east-south-east of the site) revealed a series of ditches interpreted as field drains, which contained a significant assemblage of pottery dating from the 1st to 4th centuries AD, fragments of animal bone, and at least 3 soles of hobnail boots (Clark 1990). Two Roman burials were also found.

Early Medieval (AD 410 - AD 1066) and Medieval (AD 1066 - 1539) periods

- 2.6 The aforementioned excavation of the Romano-British settlement at Eastcotts also revealed evidence of Early Saxon occupation. The remains of three sunken-feature buildings, a cremation burial, several small pits, three ditches and an arrangement of postholes were recorded close to the Cambridge Road, c.1km south-south-east of the site. The features were dated by the pottery sherds contained therein to the 5th to 6th centuries AD (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2006). The adjacent suburb of Fenlake, a former hamlet in the historic parish of Cardington, is considered to have medieval origins; Fenlake Barns Manor probably developed from Cardington Priors Manor, which was held by Countess Judith at the time of the Domesday Survey (Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service 2015). Land at Cardington Road has yielded a wealth of archaeological evidence attesting to occupation during the 11th to 13th centuries. Trial trenching, conducted in 1997, identified postholes, pits and linear boundaries associated with enclosures and field systems: consistent with a deserted farmstead or small settlement.
- 2.7 Further evidence for an Early Saxon presence within the study area includes the historical discoveries of three inhumations at Russell Park in the historic parish of St. Cuthbert. Workmen uncovered the skeletons, which were orientated east/west and accompanied by spearheads, swords and small blades, in 1896. The artefacts were dated to the 10th or 11th century, although the Historic Environment Record (MBD290) indicates that this estimate was made 'on the basis of battles allegedly

fought in the area in those years', and thus cannot be substantiated. It is not known whether these burials comprised part of a formal cemetery.

Newnham Priory

- The site lies in the historic parish of Goldington of which the manor of Newnham was part. The Augustinian Priory of Newnham was founded in 1165, endowed by the Beauchamp family; and a complex of monastic buildings had been established on the northern bank of the River Great Ouse, by 1178 (Bell 1986). An area measuring approximately 14ha in total extent was enclosed by a rampart and moat on three sides, and the river on the fourth. Archaeological investigations undertaken for the construction of the Aspects Leisure Park located the buried remains of the Priory church, cloisters, courtyards with stone and timber-framed ancillary buildings, and a cemetery with well-preserved burials (BCAS 1988; BCAS 1991). Whilst 19th century antiquarians Thomas Fisher and Samuel Lysons noted upstanding walls at the western end of the precinct, measuring c.2m in height (Albion 2010), these appear to have been destroyed by development post-1987.
- 2.9 A recent archaeological desk-based assessment produced by Albion Archaeology acknowledged the destructive impact of gravel extraction within the outer precinct, but considered that 'below-ground remains of the priory earthworks are expected to survive on the banks of the basin and the causeway that separates it from the river' (Albion 2010). This area has been identified as a possible car park for the proposed development. Historic cartographic sources, including the Tithe Map for Goldington (1843), and a Plan of Newnham Priory published in the Victoria County History of the County of Bedford (Goddard 1904), record the earthworks as they existed before 20th-century quarrying and flooding.
- 2.10 In 1541, following the Dissolution, the site of Newnham Priory (comprising the 'great gardeyn [sic], with a stone wall and moat', ponds and fishponds) was granted to Urian Brereton and his wife Joan; and subsequently passed to the families of Brooke, Spencer and Compton, before being acquired by Henry Heron and Thomas Heyhoe in 1661 (Page 1912). A manor house had been built on the site by at least the mid-16th century, but its exact location is unknown (Albion 2010). A stone and brick wall, measuring 300m in length and located c.5m to the south-east of the waterfront, was probably built to enclose a 'Tudor' garden. Stone may have been salvaged from the demolished monastic complex; with later repairs in brick and tile,

and modern concrete coping. It is also feasible that the wall is a remnant of the medieval boundary around the outer priory precinct (Albion 2010).

Post-medieval (1540 – 1800) and Modern (1800 – present) periods

- 2.11 Documentary sources indicate that the 'Tudor' manor house was occupied only until c.1700, with the site of the former priory complex and the site of the house being sold as two separate lots in 1767 (Albion 2010). By the early 19th century, the land had turned over to open fields. The Tithe and Enclosure Maps for Goldington (dated 1843 and 1852, respectively) show that the site formed part of a large rectangular field that also incorporated the area of extant earthworks. A small pond or building can be seen close to the centre of the site. By the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1883), the site comprises three fields the uppermost being truncated by the Bedford and Sandy Railway, which opened in 1857 as part of the Oxford to Cambridge line. The track was dismantled following closure in 1968, and is now a tarmacked cycle and footpath route.
- 2.12 Early to mid-20th century mapping shows some changes to the field boundaries within the site; and a small complex of buildings along the north-western boundary. The 1926 Ordnance Survey marks this 'Observation Hospital', and also depicts and labels some of the linear earthworks of fishponds that were mapped in 1904. The site remained in agricultural use (as pasture, given its proximity to the River Great Ouse, and so liable to flooding) during the mid-20th century, until the land was subject to gravel extraction from 1973 onwards. Following completion of the mineral workings, the quarry was flooded to create Priory Marina. This trajectory is evidenced by historic aerial photographs. The site currently offers mooring for small boats, with pontoons on the northern and southern sides.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
 - to monitor groundworks associated with the foul drainage trench (Fig 2.) and to
 identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits
 revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks. The
 intention was to excavate the trench to a depth of no more than 1.2m deep at the
 north-east end closest to the existing Elsan Unit and then progressively

shallower as it reached the location of the pontoon moving to the south-west. The trench was no more than 0.4m wide:

• at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2019). An archaeologist was present to monitor intrusive groundworks associated with the foul drainage trench, which was excavated to a depth of 1.55m deep at the north-east end, rather than up to 1.2m, tying into the existing Elsan Unit drainage, and then progressively shallower as it reached the location of the pontoon moving to the south-west. The trench was no more than 0.4m wide; its position was realigned slightly from the proposed plan to avoid existing structural Marina wall ties (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Where archaeological features or deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at its office in Milton Keynes. The archive will be deposited with the Higgins Art Gallery & Museum under the Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.71. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-7)

- 5.1 The total length of the excavated sewer pipe trench was 178m. The natural geological substrate (305), consisting of mid brown yellow sand with gravel, was encountered from 35m 49m along the trench, measuring from the north-east end, at a depth of c.1.4m below present ground level.
- 5.2 The natural substrate was overlain by a dark red brown clay layer (106), which averaged 0.4m in thickness. It was encountered from 4m 85m along the trench, measuring from the north-east end, and was likely deposited as an interfacing layer

to consolidate the sandy natural deposits during a previous (though relatively recent) construction phase.

- 5.3 Layer 106 was in turn sealed by an apparent garden-like soil deposit (105), built up from the dumping of mixed refuse, probably in the early 20th century. This was revealed from 0m 85m along the trench, measuring from the north-east end. It comprised bands of dark grey brown and dark red brown sandy silts and sandy clays and averaged 0.6m in thickness. A large quantity of early 20th century refuse, including glass bottles and ceramics, were recovered from this deposit, and while not markedly archaeologically significant, a representative sample of name-stamped glassware and ceramics was retained and discussed (see Section 6).
- A mid brown grey clay deposit (403) was encountered from 49m 170m along the trench, measuring from the north-east end, possibly a sealing layer for the garden-like deposit 105.
- 5.5 Also overlying deposit 105 was a compacted layer of 'made ground' (104), revealed from 4m 85m along the trench, measuring from the north-east end, which was on average 0.25m thick and comprised mid yellow brown and grey brown sand and gravel, with crushed brick and large stone inclusions, including redeposited worked and unworked stones of a similar composition to those found in the adjacent Priory wall. These stone blocks and fragments represent the remains of possible architectural components (see Section 6), likely utilised in this context to create a firm bedding for subsequent surface deposits.
- 5.6 Other sequences of modern levelling, 'made ground' and consolidation were likely represented by sand ballast layer 604, modern brick and ballast dump 602, and stone rubble layer 704.
- 5.7 Finally, 'made ground' layers 101 and 203, consisting of mid yellow brown compacted sand and gravel, and provided the final base upon which the existing tarmac path was laid through which the whole length of the trench was cut.
- 5.8 With the exception of unstratified / redeposited stone fragments of possible medieval or early post-medieval origin and glass and ceramic artefacts of later post-medieval and modern origin, no features or deposits of archaeological significance, or

deposits and structural remains relating to Newnham Priory were observed during groundworks or from visual scanning of upcast spoil.

6. THE FINDS (Pete Banks and Peter Davenport); PHOTOGRAPHS A1.1 – A1.4

6.1 The bulk of the artefactual material is recorded from four deposits; all of which are samples from the same garden soil dump layer 105 (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand. The stone blocks and fragments are recorded from the overlying compacted layer of 'made ground' 104.

Pottery

- 6.2 The pottery recovered from the watching brief is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this now forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1). The pottery was examined by context, using a x40 hand lens and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (Barclay et al. 2016).
- 6.3 The assemblage comprises 39 sherds (8806g) of post-medieval pottery. The condition of the assemblage is good; several complete vessels survive intact. Sherds, where broken, do not exhibit signs of fracture or surface abrasion. The mean sherd weight of 225g is skewed by the presence of several complete vessels.

Post-medieval and Modern

- Refined white earthenwares (REFW) make up the bulk of the pottery assemblage with 14 sherds and five complete vessels weighting 2588g. The five intact vessels are all small ointment jars. There are no makers marks present nor is there any indication as to the contents of the vessels. Vessels are recorded from deposits 105, 205, 303 and 404.
- 6.5 Deposit 105 produced a small milk jug (REFW) with a rich blue glaze; it is near complete except for a fracture to the rim and one side of the vessel. Four ointment jar lids are recorded from deposits 105 and 205. The lids from deposit 105 are printed with 'Cold Cream Boots Cash Chemists' and 'Woods Areca Nut Toothpaste, for removing tartar and whitening the teeth without injuring enamel, Proprietor W. Woods Chemist Plymouth' both suggesting a date of the early 20th century. Two Dundee

marmalade jars (REFW) printed with 'Grand Medal of Merit Vienna 1873, ...[K]Eiller & Sons, Dundee, Marmalade, ...Nly Prize Medal for Marmalade London 1862', produced from deposit 105 and 404 also indicates a late 19th or early 20th century date. Two figurines (REFW) are probably slightly of earlier origin and may date between the early to mid-19th century. It is likely that they have been produced in Staffordshire although both are fractured below the chest and precise identification of their origin is difficult.

- 6.6 Three sherds and seven vessels (3327g) of British stoneware (BSW) dating to between the 18th and 20th century are recorded from all four deposits. Vessel forms include both ink and drinks bottles, including one ginger beer bottle. The ginger beer bottle is stamped with the words 'To the Queen, Schweppes, to the Prince of Wales' suggesting a 19th or 20th century date. A drinks bottle and a large storage jar made in salt-glazed stoneware (SGSW) are recorded from deposits 105 and 205 respectively.
- A 'harvestware' teapot and lid, decorated with an applied scene depicting farming and hunting activities are recorded from deposit 404. The base of the teapot is stamped with 'Royal Doulton Lambeth 1955.' A plate, a small jug and a bowl (220g) made in transfer printed earthenwares (TPE) are recorded from deposits 105 and 205. These date to between the 18th and 20th centuries. The rim of a tall necked teapot, hand painted with a gold floral decoration, made in a refined red earthenware with a black glazed (BGREW) and a green and white under slipped teapot (GRSW) are recorded from deposit 205. On the basis of their form and decoration these are both likely to date to the 20th century.

Summary

6.8 The pottery evidence clearly suggests post-medieval/modern activity. Due to the large volume of material recovered the deposit most likely represents the dumping of domestic refuse; however, due to the unstratified nature of all deposits it is not possible to draw any other meaningful conclusions from the pottery assemblage.

Glass

6.9 A total of 150 glass bottles (24046g) were recovered as a sample from the site. Where it has been possible to identify the lettering on the glassware it has been recorded in Table 3. The bottles are made in a variety of colourless, blue, green and brown post-medieval glass, with the majority most likely dating to the late 19th or

20th century. A smaller quantity of vessels may date to the late 18th to mid 19th century. A number of the later vessels feature embossed legends naming the manufacturer or product, with the majority associated with companies local to the Bedford region during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These include E.Scott Chemists, Charles Wells and Higgins & Sons Ltd Breweries and the Bedford & Woburn Sands Aerated Water Company.

- 6.10 Several regional companies are also represented in the bottle assemblage, including bottles embossed with 'Owbridge Lung Tonic Hull'; 'Piesse and Lubin London', a London based perfumery; 'The Cunningham De Fourier Co Ltd, London', producers of meat pastes and paté. Bottles from international companies were also evident and include the Paris perfumery Roger and Gallet, the New York based Vaseline manufacturing company Chesebrough and the Californian Fig Syrup Company of San Francisco.
- 6.11 Given the quantity and quality of glassware comprising the assemblage only a representative sample has been retained for deposition. These examples comprise only those directly associated with Bedford /Bedfordshire production.

Metalwork

6.11 Deposit 303 produced a copper alloy barrel tap (213g). The pipe and spout are intact although the handle is broken. The fragment is approximately 150mm in length with a spout approximately 60mm in height. The fragment is most likely post-medieval/modern in date.

Worked Wood

6.12 A worked circular wooden disc (1g) approximately 10mm in diameter is recorded from deposit 105. The object is most likely a gaming counter such as a 'tiddlywink' and based on its good state of preservation it most likely dates to the 20th century.

Worked Stone by Peter Davenport

6.13 A total of 29 blocks of worked stone were retrieved from deposit 104 during the watching brief and retained for further study (Table 4). Twelve were subsequently rejected as they were broken on all faces. Two of these were rejected at a later stage than the others and the numbers left in the attached table as "unallocated". The remaining 17 were listed in the catalogue. No complete profile survived on any block and the dimensions recorded in the table are maximum sizes for each. Nearly all the

blocks had mortar adhering from a secondary use in a wall. This was very probably the wall that ran alongside the trench and which had been reduced in height in modern times. The layer from which the blocks came was above a post-medieval - modern make-up layer from which dumps containing large quantities of 19th and early 20th century debris, glass and ceramic items were recovered. The context is therefore at most tertiary and very recent.

- Only a few items could be identified as to function, due to the very poor condition.

 Not only had the blocks been hacked about and broken, they had also been subjected to a very intense heat, to the extent that some blocks were vitrified. The stones are probably one of the Lower Greensand variants, altered by heat. Lower Greensand comes from the southern end of the county.
- 6.15 Those that could be provisionally identified were sections of ribs from a vault (1-4 and 17). They have a very simple profile, as far as can be judged, perhaps semi-octagonal in section, but even this is uncertain. Two blocks (2 and 3) are from the springing of a vault, with three diverging ribs. The scale is small and they may come from a cloister, corridor, porch or other small room. Block 17 is from higher up a branching set of ribs and has hollows rather than squared off recesses, so may come from a different vault. However, the condition of these blocks does not allow any more detailed inference.
- 6.16 Block 11 has only two adjacent finished faces and is slightly curved. It could be a broken off piece of hood moulding over a window or door.
- 6.17 Blocks 10, 12 and 13 are all sections of a circular or semi-circular structure with a diameter of about 300mm, but despite having a clear shape have no finely finished faces. They could be part of a chimney but show no signs of sooting. Block No. 16 is a fragment of a stone bowl or dome of the same approximate diameter. It has no surviving faces except the concavity.
- 6.18 Blocks 6 and 7 are two sectors of a disk approximately 110mm (4½") thick, which can be estimated at c.910mm (36") diameter and could be from the base of a niche.
- 6.19 Block 20 has whitewash adhering and a very shallow groove near one arris.

- 6.20 These blocks are probably all of medieval or early post-medieval origin, but little more can said about them.
- 6.21 Block 14 is a special brick, very hard-fired with an evenly reduced surface. It is an asymmetrical trapezoid, with five surviving faces. Four are at right angles and a fifth is a splayed face. The latter may represent a splay to an opening. On the opposite face there is a cavetto and the sixth face is broken off across the cavetto.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, specifically in relation to the location of the site within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument of Newnham Priory, the watching brief identified no *in situ* archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.
- 7.2 Unstratified broken blocks of dressed medieval to early post-medieval stone were recovered from a recently laid down levelling layer, which are likely to have formerly been associated with the Priory, and 19th 20th century ceramics and glasswork were recovered from possible garden soil deposits, which are likely to have derived from the disposal of refuse material.
- 7.3 The absence of archaeological deposits of measurable significance may indicate that structural remains associated with Newnham Priory, beyond that of the standing Priory wall, which aligns north-east/south-west parallel to the pipeline trench, either do not extend as far as the trench works, or may have been removed during previous groundworks.
- 7.4 Some disturbance was caused in the 19th century with the construction of the Bedford and Sandy Railway, part of the Oxford to Cambridge line, which bisected the area defined by the Scheduled Monument. The former line is now a cycle and footpath route. The Priory buildings occupied the northern part of the Scheduled area above the railway line, with the Priory's outer precinct to the south, in which lies the site of the modern Marina.
- 7.5 During the post-medieval period, the site to the south formed part of a large rectangular field, with earthworks still extant, and was given over to agricultural activity, which continued on the land until the mid-20th century, by which time it was being used as pasture and was liable to flooding. However, 20th century gravel extraction will likely have destroyed the greater extent of any earthwork and buried archaeological remains within the site. The earthworks resembling medieval fishponds recorded here in 1904 and the remains of a boundary ditch excavated here in 1973 were subsequently removed by quarrying, and following completion of the mineral workings, the quarry was flooded to create the Priory Marina. It is likely no archaeological remains will still therefore be present to any marked extent. The results of the archaeological watching brief also bear this conclusion out.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Whelan and Ed Grenier. The report was written by Ed Grenier with additions from Andrew Whelan. The finds reports were written by Pete Banks and Peter Davenport. The illustrations and photographs were prepared by Amy Wright and Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Mark Hewson.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Same	Туре	Fill	Context	Description	L	W	Depth/
length (m)	No.	as		of	interpretation		(m)	(m)	thickness (m)
0-15	100	200	Layer		Gravel surface	Dark red brown silty loam, friable, 50% gravel	15	>0.4	0.03
0-15	101	201	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow brown sand and gravel, compact	15	>0.4	0.15
0-15	102		Cut		Cut of modern manhole/drain	Square in plan, steep-sided	>1.4	>0.4	>1.4
0-15	103		Fill	102	Fill of modern manhole/drain	Mid grey brown sandy clay with red mottling, compact, 5% gravel and modern brick inclusions	>1.4	>0.4	>1.4
0-15	104	204, 302, 402, 502	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow brown and grey brown sand, gravel, brick, and large stones, compact, >50% crushed modern material	4-85	>0.4	0.25
0-15	105	205, 303, 404, 504	Layer		Garden soil dump	Dark grey brown and dark red brown sandy silt and sandy clay, soft, large stones and modern refuse inclusions	4-85	>0.4	1
0-15	106	206, 304, 405, 505	Layer		Clay deposit	Dark red brown clay, firm, with stone and brick fleck inclusions	4-85	>0.4	>0.3
15-35	200	100	Layer		Gravel surface	Dark red brown silty loam, friable, 50% gravel, butted by 202	>15	>0.4	0.03
15-35	201	101	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow brown sand and gravel, compact	>15	>0.4	0.15
15-35	202	300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800	Layer		Tarmac surface	Mid black grey Tarmac, butts 200	>15	>0.4	0.07
15-35	203	301, 401, 501, 601, 701, 801	Layer		Levelling layer	Mid yellow brown coarse sand, compact, >50% crushed stone	>15	>0.4	0.15
15-35	204	104, 302, 402, 502	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow brown and grey brown sand, gravel, brick, and large stones, compact, >50% crushed modern material	4-85	>0.4	0.25
15-35	205	105, 303, 404, 504	Layer		Garden soil dump	Dark grey brown and dark red brown sandy silt and sandy clay, soft, large stones and post-medieval/modern refuse inclusions	4-85	>0.4	1
15-35	206	106, 304, 405, 505	Layer		Clay deposit	Dark red brown clay, firm, with stone and brick fleck inclusions	4-85	>0.4	>0.3
35-49	300	202, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800	Layer		Tarmac surface	Mid black grey Tarmac	>49	>0.4	0.08
35-49	301	203, 301, 401, 501, 601, 701, 801	Layer		Levelling layer	Mid yellow brown coarse sand, compact, >50% crushed stone	>49	>0.4	0.15

35-49	302	104, 204, 402, 502	Layer	Made ground	Mid yellow brown and grey brown sand, gravel, brick, and large stones, compact, >50% crushed modern material	>49	>0.4	0.25
35-49	303	105, 205, 404, 504	Layer	Garden soil dump	Dark grey brown and dark red brown sandy silt and sandy clay, soft, large stones and post-medieval/modern refuse inclusions	4-85	>0.4	0.5
35-49	304	106, 206, 405, 505	Layer	Clay deposit	Dark red brown clay, firm, with stone and brick fleck inclusions	4-85	>0.4	0.4
35-49	305		Layer	Natural	Mid brown yellow sand, firm, 10% gravel	>49	>0.4	>1.4
49-71	400	202, 300, 500, 600, 700, 800	Layer	Tarmac surface	Mid black grey Tarmac	>71	>0.4	0.05
49-71	401	203, 301, 501, 601, 701, 801	Layer	Levelling layer	Mid yellow brown coarse sand, compact, >50% crushed stone	>71	>0.4	0.1
49-71	402	104, 204, 302, 502	Layer	Made ground	Mid yellow brown and grey brown sand, gravel, brick, and large stones, compact, >50% crushed modern material	>71	>0.4	0.35
49-71	403	503, 603, 703	Layer	Clay deposit	Mid brown grey silty clay, firm, with stone and gravel inclusions	>12 1	>0.4	0.4
49-71	404	105, 205, 303, 504	Layer	Garden soil dump	Dark grey brown and dark red brown sandy silt and sandy clay, soft, large stones and post-medieval/modern refuse inclusions	>71	>0.4	0.6
49-71	405	106, 206, 304, 505	Layer	Clay deposit	Dark red brown clay, firm, with stone and brick fleck inclusions	>71	>0.4	>0.4
71-85	500	202, 300, 400, 600, 700, 800	Layer	Tarmac surface	Mid black grey Tarmac	>85	>0.4	0.07
71-85	501	203, 301, 401, 601, 701, 801	Layer	Levelling layer	Mid yellow brown coarse sand, compact, >50% crushed stone	>85	>0.4	0.1
71-85	502	104, 204, 302, 402	Layer	Made ground	Mid yellow brown and grey brown sand, gravel, brick, and large stones, compact, >50% crushed modern material	>85	>0.4	0.4
71-85	503	403, 603, 703	Layer	Clay deposit	Mid brown grey silty clay, firm, with stone and gravel inclusions	>85	>0.4	0.4
71-85	504	105, 205, 303, 404	Layer	Garden soil dump	Dark grey brown and dark red brown sandy silt and sandy clay, soft, large stones and post-medieval/modern refuse inclusions	>85	>0.4	0.6
71-85	505	106, 206, 304, 405	Layer	Clay deposit	Dark red brown clay, firm, with stone and brick fleck inclusions	>85	>0.4	>1.57

85-110	600	202, 300, 400, 500, 700, 800	Layer	Tarmac surface	Mid black grey Tarmac	>11 0	>0.4	0.1
85-110	601	203, 301, 401, 501, 701, 801	Layer	Levelling layer	Mid yellow brown coarse sand, compact, >50% crushed stone	>11 0	>0.4	0.06
85-110	602	702	Layer	Brick and ballast levelling layer	Mottled orange brown and grey brown silty sand, soft. >50% modern brick rubble	44	>0.4	0.35
85-110	603	403, 503, 703	Layer	Clay deposit	Mid brown grey silty clay, firm, with stone and gravel inclusions	>85	>0.4	0.4
85-110	604	705	Layer	Levelling layer	Mid brown yellow coarse sand and gravel, loose	>10	>0.4	>0.04
110-170	700	202, 300, 400, 500, 600, 800	Layer	Tarmac surface	Mid black grey Tarmac	>16 3	>0.4	0.03
110-170	701	203, 301, 401, 501, 601, 801	Layer	Levelling layer	Mid yellow brown coarse sand, compact, >50% crushed stone	>17 0	>0.4	0.12
110-170	702	602	Layer	Brick and ballast levelling layer	Mottled orange brown and grey brown silty sand, soft. >50% modern brick rubble	<12 9	>0.4	0.4
110-170	703	403, 503, 603	Layer	Clay deposit	Mid brown grey silty clay, firm, with stone and gravel inclusions	>17 0	>0.4	>0.35
110-170	704	802	Layer	Levelling layer	Light yellow brown crushed stone, with large sub angular stone inclusions	>10	>0.4	0.25
110-170	705	604	Layer	Levelling layer	Mid brown yellow coarse sand and gravel, loose	>17 0	>0.4	>0.2
170-178	800	202, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700	Layer	Tarmac surface	Mid black grey Tarmac	>16 3	>0.4	0.1
170-178	801	203, 301, 401, 501, 601, 701	Layer	Levelling layer	Mid yellow brown coarse sand, compact, >50% crushed stone	>17 8	>0.4	0.05
170-178	802	704	Layer	Levelling layer	Light yellow brown crushed stone, with large sub angular stone inclusions	>18	>0.4	>0.15

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
105	Glass	green bottle glass x 3		3	1778	LC19-C20
		brown bottle glass x 2		2	617	
		transparent bottle glass x 24,		33	3215	
		transparent jar glass x 8,				
	Doot modicus! Dottom	transparent lightbulb x 1 Refined white earthenware	REFW	6	640	
	Post-medieval Pottery Post-medieval Pottery	British Stoneware	BSW	6	1411	
	Post-medieval Pottery		SGSW	3	543	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Salt-glazed stoneware Transfer printed earthenware	TPE		69	
	Worked wood	Transier printed earthertware	IPE		1	
205	Glass	transparent bottle glass x 24,		26	4335	LC19-EC20
205	Glass	transparent bottle glass x 24, transparent jar glass x 2		20	4333	LC19-EC20
		brown bottle glass x 7		7	1043	
		green bottle glass x 3		3	1681	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Refined white earthenware	REFW	7	887	
	Post-medieval Pottery	British Stoneware	BSW	1	470	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Salt-glazed stoneware	SGSW	1	1166	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Transfer printed earthenware	TPE	2	151	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Black glaze red earthenware	BGREW	1	93	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Glazed red stoneware	GRSW	1	223	
303	Glass	transparent bottle glass x 15,		20	2832	LC19-EC20
		transparent jar glass x 5				
		brown bottle glass x 1		1	203	
		blue botte glass x 2		2	124	
	Copper Alloy	barrel tap		1	213	
	Glass	green bottle glass x 1		1	269	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Refined white earthenware	REFW	1	191	
	Post-medieval Pottery	British Stoneware	BSW	1	216	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Salt-glazed stoneware	SGSW	1	107	
404	Glass	transparent bottle glass x 39,		48	7666	LC19-EC20
		transparent jar glass x 9			405	
		brown bottle glass x 4		2	195	
		blue bottle glass x 1		1	24	
	Doot madicus! Do#	green bottle glass x 1	DCM	1	44	
	Post-medieval Pottery	British Stoneware	BSW	5	1230	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Refined white earthenware	REFW	5	870	
	Post-medieval Pottery	Salt-glazed stoneware	SGSW	2	539	

Table 2: Fabric Descriptions

Period	Fabric Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)
Post-medieval Pottery	Black glazed red earthenware	BGREW	1	93
	British stoneware	BSW	10	3327
	Glazed red stoneware	GRSW	1	223
	Refined white earthenware	REFW	19	2588
	Salt-glazed stoneware	SGSW	5	2355
	Transfer printed earthenware	TPE	3	220
Grand Total	39	8806		

Table 3: Bottle Descriptions

Table 3. Bottle Descriptions	
'Benedictine liqueur'	C19th -20th
'Charles Wells Registered Starfish Bedford'	1876+ LC19-EC20
'Scrubbs' Ammonia bottle	C19-C20
'Paterson's Glasgow ESS Camp Coffee & Chicory' x 3	1876+ LC19-C20
'Holbrook& Co', Aqua sauce bottle	C19
'Holbrooks Itd' Worcestershire sauce bottle	C19
'Californian Fig Syrup Co San Francisco, Cal, Syrup Of Figs'	LC19-EC20
'R.W. & S. Ltd WHITES' beer bottle	EC20
'The Cunningham De Fourier Co Ltd, London'	LC19-C20
'Rowlands Macassar Oil, No 61 Late 20 Hatton Garden London'	LC18-C19
'Everett's' x 2	LC19-EC20
'Boots Cash Chemists' 'Clarnico' x2	
'Foster Clark & Co, Maidstone, Eiffel Tower Fruit Juices'	EC20
'Nuttall & Co, St Helens' lid x 2	1840's-1872 Declared bankrupt in 1870.
'E.Scott Chemists Bedford' x 5	, , , , , ,
'1/2 Pint Imperial',	
'Owbridge Lung Tonic Hull' x 2	1874-1939 LC19-MC20
'Taylor & Brawn Bedford',	1897-1906 Brawn made a partner in 1897 but Flood made a partner between 1903 and
·	1906.
'Chesebrough MFG Co Vaseline'	1880-EC20
'Bovril Itd' x 2	LC19-EC20
'Valentines Meat juice'	LC19-EC20
'Liquozone British Liquozone Co.Ltd. London. E.C. Made in USA' x2	LC19-EC20 medicinal/elixir put of production by The Pure Food and Drugs act 1906.
'Boots Cash Chemist'	
'Charles Wells Registered Starfish Bedford'	1876+ LC19-EC20
'Branston's Ltd Coffee Extract'	
'Higgins & Sons Ltd Castle Brewery Bedford' x 2	1787-1924 LC18-EC20
'A.J.White Ltd.'	LC19-C20
'Roger & Gallet Paris' French perfumery.	1862-present.
'Bedford & Woburn Sands Aerated Water Company, J.W.Dobson Barnsley'	LC19-C20 – Opened Bedford factory in 1897
'Vaseline Chesebrough New York'	1880-EC20
'Kay Brothers Ltd, Stockport Linseed Compound (trademark)'	LC19-C20
'Seedhouse's celebrated gingerette essence'	
'Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce'	
'Boots Fluid Beef 4oz'	
'Not to be taken' Poison bottle	
'Dazzleine'	
'S.F.Goss Ltd. London.W'	c.LC19-EC20. Wound up in 1926
'Congreves Balsamic Elixir for consumption Coughs, Asthma, Chronic Bronchitis & Whooping cough'	LC19-EC20
'Foster Clark & Co Maidstone, Eiffel Tower Lemonade'	LC19-EC20 Bottle pre 1910.
'R.White Reg.'	
'Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce' x 2	

'Piesse and Lubin London' Perfume bottle	1855-1950's
'Tablespoons' unknown medicine bottle	
'Sanitas The best disinfectant'	LC19-C20
'Cannington Shaw & Co Ltd St Helens' Beer and fruit jars lid	1875-1913
'Kilner Brothers Ltd Thornhill Lees' lid. A glass production company	1842. Bankrupt 1937 Particular embossed lid prob 1873-1920
'J.Kilner & Sons Wakefield' lid	1847-1857
'The Yorkshire glass bottle Co Ltd Castleford' lid	
'Bovril Ltd.' x 3	

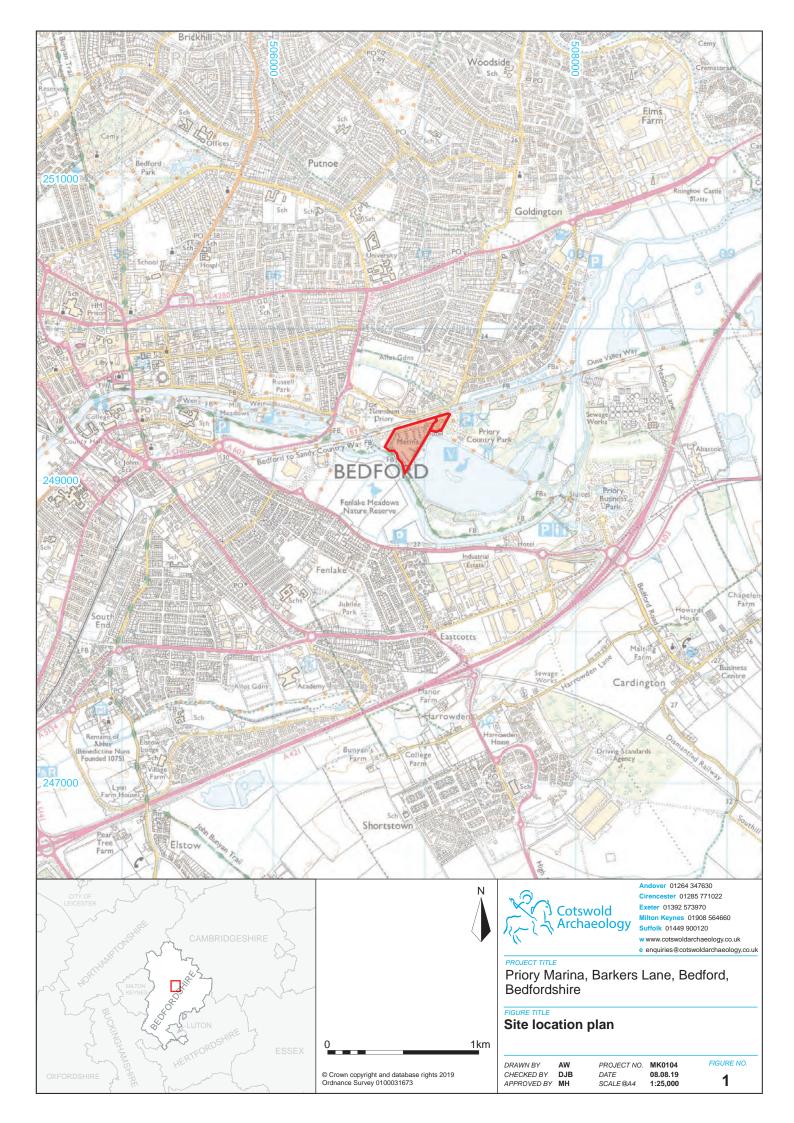
Table 4: Architectural Stone

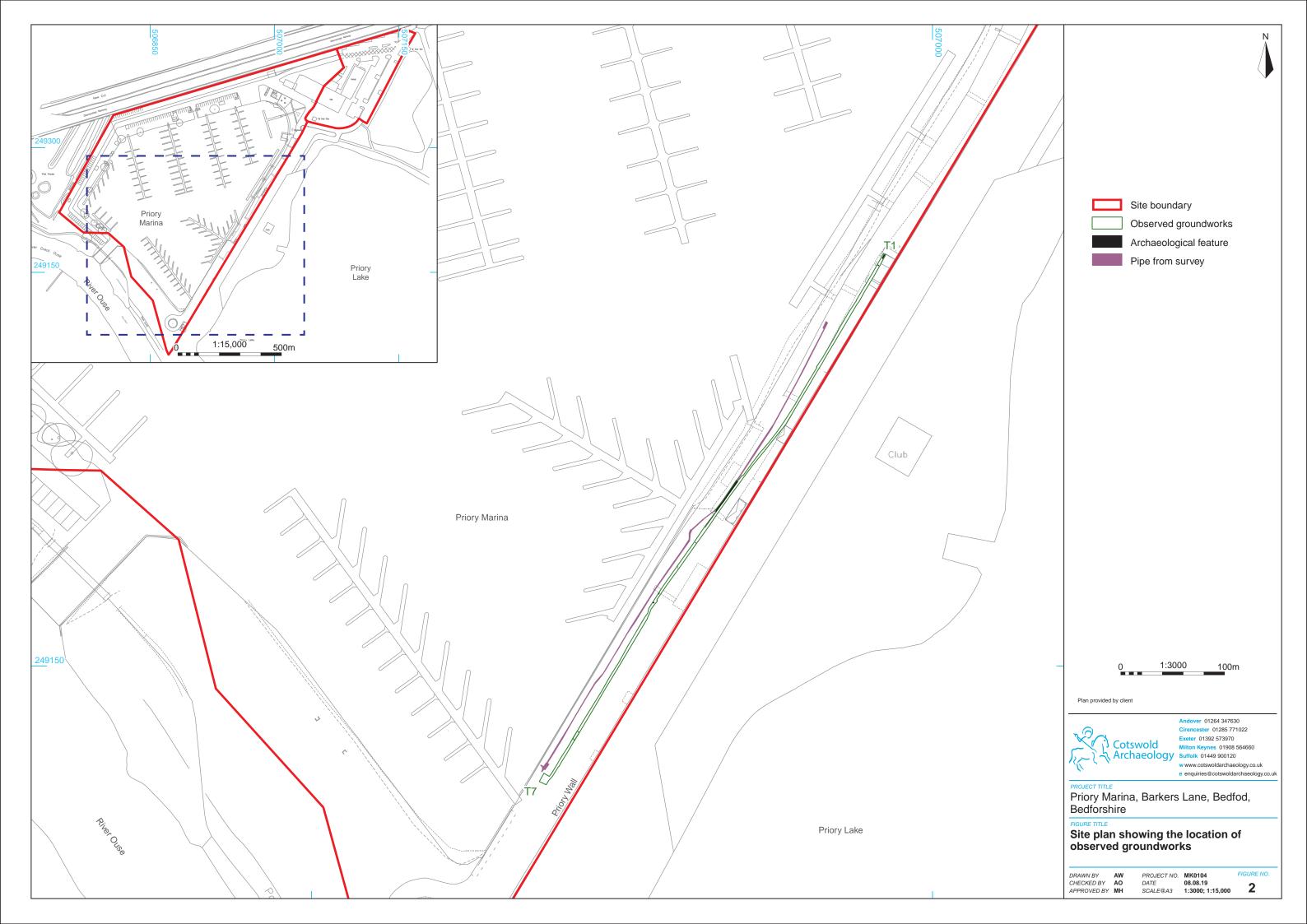
Stone No.	Dimensions	Descriptions
1	160 x 140 x 170	Possibly part of a vault rib but only a very general sense of a profile
2	190 x 220 x 120	Possibly the springing of two or three ribs, but the ribs have been hacked away. Top bottom and rear faces also removed
3	300 x 200 x 150	Similar to 2 but a different profile and slightly better preserved. Vitrification on one side
4	150 x 110 x 100	No undamaged face but possibly part of a three-sided rib. It has a curve. Heavily vitrified at one end before application of secondary grey mortar
5	190 x 160 x 100	Stone with almost no faces left, merely a remnant of a rebate on one broken off corner. This has a very slight curve.
6	120 x 150 x 130	Block with only one face left, heavily vitrified in two places after smashing up and before mortar
7	250 x 170 x 160	Sector of a disk in plan (wedge-shaped), part of a circle 36 inches in diameter (by estimation). This has a hard crystalline fabric with mica and Fe.
8	220 x 160 x 110	Similar to 7 but with some remnant of the finished curved face, grey cinder mortar adhering to broken faces
9	210 x 150 x 110	Fragment broken all around, with a remnant of a rib projecting >60mm
10		See 12 and 13
11	230 x 130 x 110	Possibly a rib or a window hood moulding. Only two adjacent faces probably surviving but much bashed. This block while same hard material as others has a coating of lime (water laid?) over all the surfaces
12		see 13
13	110 to 113 mm high 60 to 80 mm thick	Three pieces with a curved outer and inner face forming almost half a circle of 300 mm internal diameter: faces all rough
14	190 x 120x 120	Finely finished block with very sharp arrises three faces at right angles, fourth splayed. A cavetto with marking out lines. This appears to be a very hard fired, dark red brick with a reduced surface
15	150 x 150 x 150	This block is broken on all faces bar one but the "base" may be broadly OK. The unbroken face is concave in all directions and appears to be part of a dome. The base internal diameter appears to fit 10, 12 and 13 but the base thickness is 1.5 times theirs
16		Not allocated
17	270 x 200 x 220	This seems to be a moulded piece with ribs and hollows possibly higher up the branch than 3 to which it is vaguely similar
18		Not allocated
19		Not allocated
20	113 x 180 x 180	Roughly rectangular block one surviving flat face with a slight incised groove and a whitewash finish

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS							
Project Name	Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire						
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was underta groundworks associated with excavation of a foul existing pontoon and building of 12 static house Bedford, Bedfordshire, within the Scheduled Monu	ken by Cotswold Archaeology during drainage trench as part of the removal of boats, at Priory Marina, Barkers Lane,					
	location of the site within the boundary of the Sci	Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, specifically in relation to the location of the site within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument of Newnham Priory, the watching brief identified no in situ archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.					
	Unstratified broken blocks of dressed medieval to early post-medieval stone were recovered from a recently laid down levelling layer, which are likely to have formerly been associated with the Priory, and 19th – 20th century ceramics and glasswork were recovered from possible garden soil deposits, which are likely to have derived from the disposal of refuse material.						
	20th century gravel extraction will likely have destroyed the greater extent of any earthwork and buried archaeological remains within the site. The earthworks resembling medieval fishponds recorded here in 1904 and the remains of a boundary ditch excavated here in 1973 were subsequently removed by quarrying, and following completion of the mineral workings, the quarry was flooded to create the Priory Marina. It is likely not archaeological remains will still therefore be present to any marked extent. The results of the archaeological watching brief also bear this conclusion out.						
Project dates	15-26 July 2019						
Project type	Watching brief						
Previous work	Evaluation (BCAS 1987/1988) Watching brief (BCAS 1988) Excavation and watching brief (BCAS 1991; Albion 1991) Evaluation and watching brief (BCAS 1993) Evaluation (BCAS 1994) Evaluation (Albion 2003) Excavation (Albion 2006) Archaeological deposit survey (Albion 1999) Geotechnical test pitting (BCAS 1989, 1999) Heritage Desk Based Assessment (CA 2016)						
Future work PROJECT	Unknown						
LOCATION							
Site Location	Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshir	е					
Study area (M ² /ha)	4.25ha						
Site co-ordinates	NGR: 506890 249240						
PROJECT CREATORS							
Name of	Cotswold Archaeology						
organisation	-						
Project Brief	Cotswold Archaeology						
originator Project Design	Cotswold Archaeology						
(WSI) originator	Colomola / Horiacology						
Project Manager	Mark Hewson						
Project Supervisor	Andrew Whelan, Ed Grenier						
MONUMENT TYPE SIGNIFICANT	Site of Newnham Priory None						
FINDS	NOTIC						
PROJECT	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)					
ARCHIVES	(museum/Accession no.)	,					
Physical	Higgins Art Gallery & Museum	Ceramics, glass, worked stone					
Paper	Higgins Art Gallery & Museum	Context sheets, Trench sheets, day					
	•						

		record, photo record, survey record
Digital	Higgins Art Gallery & Museum	Database, digital photos, correspondence, survey data, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archa CA typescript report I	eology) 2019 <i>Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, Bed</i>	dford, Beds: Archaeological Watching Brief.







Pre-excavation shot showing boundary wall, looking south-east



Pre-excavation shot down road, looking south-west



Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 573970 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 Suffolk 01449 900120

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Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire

Pre-excavation photographs of site

DRAWN BY AW
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY MH

PROJECT NO. MK0104 DATE 07.08.19 SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

3



Working shot, looking south-west (1m scale)



Working shot, looking north-east





Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 573970 n Keynes 01908 564660

PROJECT TITLE
Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, Bedford,
Bedfordshire

Working shots

DRAWN BY AW CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY MH PROJECT NO. MK0104 DATE 07.08.19 SCALE@A3 NA 4



Photograph A1.1: selection of glass and ceramic vessels (fill 105)



Photograph A1.3: selection of glass bottles and tops (fill 404 = fill 105)



Photograph A1.2 : selection of glass vessels and ceramic toothpaste pot (fill 105)



Photograph A1.4: selection of glass bottles and stopper (fill 303 = fill 105)



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PROJECT TITLE

Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Finds photographs

DRAWN BY AW CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY MH

PROJECT NO. MK0104 DATE 07.08.19 SCALE@A3 NA

K0104 / 7.08.19

FIGURE N



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