

# Wisbech Library, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



September 2008

Client: Mouchel

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**Wisbech Library, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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## Summary

*Between 14th and 22nd of July 2008 Oxford Archaeology East (formerly CAMARC, Cambridgeshire County Council) conducted an evaluation at Wisbech Library, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. Due to the size of the plot (9m x 8m) it was only possible to open a 4m x 3m trench. The location of the site, in the historic core of Wisbech, between the 11th century castle and the 12th century church, meant there was a high probability of deep buried remains. This proved to be the case; 3m of archaeological deposits were encountered. The earliest activity consisted of a ditch/terrace, **34**, dating to the early medieval period, possibly relating to the castle moat. It may have been part of the original moat itself or had an associated function such as a terrace, lowering the ground between the castle defences and the moat. This interpretation is based on the belief that ground level at the time of construction of the original castle in the 11th century would have been higher than 2.35m OD, the approximate level of natural silt encountered in the trench. Also, the fills of this feature had the appearance of infill within a large feature, rather than the gradual build up of occupation layers expected in the middle of a medieval town. The size of the trench makes it impossible to estimate the proportions or shape of the feature.*

*Feature **34** was truncated by **33**, which appeared to be a later phase of castle ground work. The fills of feature **33** dated to the late medieval period. Overlying the medieval remains were approximately 1.5m of post-medieval deposits including a mortar construction surface (17) and two phases of brick-built wall (**3** and **27**), the later lying directly over the earlier, orientated west-northwest to east-southeast. The wall ran across the trench and the interior was clearly to the north as it had been backfilled with modern debris. The 1853 Board of Health map (Wisbech Museum) clearly shows a wall at this location. Later maps show the area to be part of the Baptist Church which stood on the site prior to the library.*

*Despite such a small trench the findings are significant in enhancing our understanding of the development of Wisbech castle. Although a 1794 plan of the castle exists, this only shows the castle as it existed at the end of the 18th century, prior to the development of the area in to its current form. The design and layout of the Norman castle, reputedly destroyed during a devastating flood of 1236, is unknown. Therefore the current evaluation adds to our knowledge, even though definite conclusions cannot be drawn.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Wisbech Library, Ely Place, Wisbech (Fig. 1; centred at TF 4625 0959).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Solid geology in the vicinity of Wisbech comprises Jurassic Amphill clays, and pre-Flandrian gravels have been observed at below minus 15.0m OD. Settlement patterns, however, have been dictated by a complex and locally variable Flandrian sequence of marine transgressions, river channel (or roddon) formation, and reed swamp growth. These have led to the deposition of a thick accumulation of silts, clays, and peats overlying the solid geology.
- 1.2.2 The Flandrian deposits (deposits since the last Ice Age) covering the whole of Wisbech are Terrington Beds comprising marine clays, silts and sands (British Geological Society 1995), with most Roman and later activity occurring on an upper silt deposit. The silt area of northern fenland is associated with complex environmental change over the past two millennia. There is a relatively high band of silt running roughly west to east, from the estuary at Kings Lynn to the Lincolnshire border, that underlies the town of Wisbech. The entire island lies below 10m OD, and has been subject to repeated flooding episodes. To the south of this island lies the fresh water peat fen and to the north the salt waters of the Wash. The Nene estuary at Wisbech marks a salt water intrusion into the silt island.
- 1.2.3 The area within the town is relatively flat, with an average height of around 5m OD, ranging up to 7m OD at the east end of Hill Street. The ground level on the site itself is at c. 5.2m OD. The benchmark on the entrance of the church of St Peter and St Paul which lies to the east of the evaluation area is 5.10m OD, and is well over a metre above the floor level within the church itself. The church was built in the 12th century and therefore the floor is a good indicator of the ground level at that time. This is significant in estimating the early medieval ground level in the evaluation trench (see discussion).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Prehistoric remains are almost unknown in the parish, apart from generally unprovenanced stray finds.
- 1.3.2 Peat growth has been recently dated to the Late Bronze Age near Wisbech, and may have continued into the Romano-British period in some places (Waller 1994, 250). The area was almost entirely submerged during the Iron Age, and dry land only began to emerge in the Roman period.
- 1.3.3 Roman activity in the area is of two main types – salterns and agricultural settlements. The salterns lie on the roddons along the fen edge, and are fairly numerous. While the predominantly urban nature of the parish of Wisbech masks potential archaeological finds, occasional finds of coins and pottery from within the town suggest the possibility of a Roman predecessor to the Saxon and medieval town. Finds recorded in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment record include a Roman coin hoard 600m to the south of the castle (CHER 03910), a single coin at the Reason Homes site on the South Brink, 500m to the west (CB 14764), a painted Roman pottery sherd 500m to the south-west (CHER 03891) and two other Roman coin findspots (CHER 03934, 08001). The main Roman communication route across the Fens, the Fen Causeway, lies approximately 12km to the south..
- 1.3.4 There is very little evidence of Early Saxon activity which is limited to two brooches found at the Corn Exchange (CHER 04012). However, the island was likely to have been settled throughout the Middle and Late Saxon period - a series of Middle Saxon sites occupied similar sites to the northeast of Wisbech. At some point before the medieval period Wisbech became the primary settlement, probably due to its location at the confluence of the two principal rivers (the Nene or Wys Beck and the Great Ouse tributary known as the Well Stream). This point was also the outfall of the two rivers until the beginning of the 14th century when violent storms caused the diversion of the Ouse from Wisbech to its present course via King's Lynn (Hinman 2002)
- 1.3.5 Wisbech is first referenced as a grant to the abbey at Ely c. AD1000 from the East Anglian Bishop Aelfwine. The scale and nature of Saxon occupation is unknown but a manor is currently thought to have been located on the west bank of the Wysbeck due to the siting there and presumed pre-Norman origins of the Old Market (VCH Vol. IV, 243).
- 1.3.6 The castle was first built by the orders of by William the Conqueror in 1086 (VCH Vol. II, 47). This castle was probably of Motte and Bailey type although whether it had a mound or not is not known. According to the Victoria County History it was of stone, and the buildings covered 2 acres, the whole area of the castle being 4 acres (ibid.). The earliest dated evidence of episcopal tenure of the castle is in the vacancy of 1215-19, when it was entrusted in turn to Ralph de Normanville and Robert de Cantia, and to Richard (Poore), Bishop of Salisbury (VCH Vol. IV, 252). King John stopped at the castle on 12th October 1216 on his last journey.
- 1.3.7 Episodic flooding was a major problem in Wisbech and in 1236 a particularly devastating flood may have destroyed the castle and laid waste to the surrounding area. The *Flores Historiarum* described the 1236 flood: 'But on the morrow of the blessed Martin (November 12th)...the waves of the sea flooded in, transgressing their accustomed limits, so that in the confines of that same sea, and in the marsh, as at Wisbech and in similar small places, small boats, herds, and also a great multitude of men perished.' (FH, vol. 2, 219 as quoted in Hallam 1965, 127).



- 1.3.8 The castle was rebuilt although in what form and with how many alterations is unknown. From the late 13th century the building was mainly used as a prison and as a place for holding the bishop's courts. In the 15th century the castle fell into ruin, and was rebuilt during the episcopate of Bishop Morton (1479-86) (VCH Vol. IV, 252), suggesting a further change in form of the castle.
- 1.3.9 During the Civil War the town, generally on the side of Parliament, and the castle, were put into a state of defence. In 1643 £11 was spent on ironwork for the castle drawbridge. This is strong evidence that a moat was open in the mid 17th century and had presumably been there for a long time already. However, it is quite possible the moat, being part of the defences, was re-worked at this time. Following the Civil War, John Thurloe (Secretary to the Commonwealth Government) purchased the manor and replaced Morton's palace with a mansion on the site in 1658 (ibid. 254).
- 1.3.10 The only plan of the castle comes from a sketch plan made in 1794 when the site was finally cleared (Fig. 4). This clearly shows the near circular form of the castle and the moat around the north-east of the enclosure fronting the market place. The moat is said to have been 40ft (12m) wide (VCH Vol. II, 47). Excavations on the site of the Tesco store in the market place (now QD Stores) during the 1950s encountered evidence of the existence of the castle wall and the extensive moat, the gradual filling in of which seems to have extended into the 16th century (Annis 1977). This is suggested by the pottery found during these excavations which included Bourne and Grimston wares of the late 15th – early 16th century (Moorhouse 1974, 58).
- 1.3.11 In 1793 the castle and grounds were sold to Joseph Medworth who turned the site into a residential development of Georgian houses formed around The Crescent and Ely Place, most of which still survives today. He also demolished Thurloe's mansion and replaced it with the current Wisbech Castle in 1816 (VCH Vol. IV, 254).
- 1.3.12 As part of the development a Baptist Chapel was built in 1803 on Ely Place. This can be seen on the 1853 Board of Health map (Wisbech Museum; Fig. 5). The building was expanded by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey (Cambridgeshire County Council PlanWeb) to include the site of the current evaluation.
- 1.3.13 The only intensive archaeological excavations to have taken place within the Medieval town are those of the deeply stratified medieval and post-medieval deposits at Market Mews, approximately 100m north of the current site (Hinman 2002) and those at New Inn Yard 200m to the north-west (Mortimer forthcoming). Evidence was found at both these sites of an extensive sequence of episodic flooding interspersed by layers of occupation. At Market Mews the stratigraphic sequence contained evidence of at least thirteen distinct building phases, the earliest of which was dated to the 13th century.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Michael Thorley of Mouchel who commissioned and funded the archaeological work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. The site was excavated by Dave Brown and the author. Severine Bezie illustrated the site. Alasdair Brooks and Carole Fletcher studied the pottery, Chris Faine carried out the faunal assessment and Rachel Fosberry studied the environmental remains. The author would also like to thank Robert Bell, Assistant Curator of Wisbech Museum and Geoff Wilkinson, Site Manager for Wisbech Castle Professional Development Centre, who were of assistance in collating the historical background of the site. Andy Thomas of CAPCA prepared the brief and in his absence Eliza Gore monitored the evaluation.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that a programme of linear trial trenching and/or test-pitting be carried out to adequately sample the threatened area. The small size of the plot (9x8m), the lack of space to pile spoil and the presence of modern drains lead to the decision to open a 4x3m trench in the south-east corner of the site. This represented a 17% sample of the area and was machine excavated to a depth of 1m below ground level. The trench was then stepped for safety; a 1.7x1.8m trench was excavated approximately in the centre. This was hand excavated to a depth of 1.75m OD, 3.3m below ground level, with a further step nearer the base.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 3 ton tracked mini-digger using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Five sections were drawn in total. Only sections 2, 3 and 5 have been illustrated in this report. Sections 1 and 4 did not add any new information. Colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.4 Five environmental samples were collected to investigate the possible survival of micro and macro botanical remains (see Appendix D).
- 2.2.5 Site conditions were favourable. Beneath the modern layers the deposits were moderately compact stable silts, which formed firm trench baulks. The water table was encountered at approximately 2.15m OD, 3m below ground level.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented in chronological order, starting with the earliest. Apart from natural flood deposits encountered below the dateable contexts the results can be broken down into two broad periods; medieval and post-medieval. A full context summary can be found in Appendix B.

### 3.2 Natural Flood Deposits

3.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered was layer 35, a light brown silt. It was not excavated but was augered to ensure it was not a flood deposit masking earlier archaeology. The auger penetrated 1.2m below the lowest point of the trench to a height of approximately 0.5m OD. There was no change in the deposit.

3.2.2 Layer 35 was sealed by layer 26, a mid grey silt measuring 0.36m thick, containing rare inclusions of fish bone, possibly suggesting this was a marine silt. It was sealed in turn by layer 25, an orangey brown silt measuring 0.38m thick, containing a single butchered distal cattle metacarpal, along with rare inclusions of frog and eel bone, conversely suggesting a possible riverine silt.

### 3.3 Period 1: Medieval

3.3.1 The earliest archaeological feature, which truncated layer 25, was ditch/terrace cut **34** (Fig. 2 Plan 1; Fig 3, S. 3; Plate 3). Only part of the cut was visible. In plan it appeared to be orientated north-northeast to south-southwest. The base was sloping very gently east to west before diving steeply. This deeper part obviously had a specific purpose. It measured 1.13m deep although it was truncated by **33** so this was not an accurate depth. Ditch/terrace **34** contained three fills. The lower fill (24) was a greyish black silt measuring 0.6m deep with frequent inclusions of charcoal, burnt wood, occasional fired clay and portions of butchered horse femur along with duck bones. Sample 3, collected from fill 24, contained a large quantity of charred leaf and stem fragments of saw sedge. Frog bones and a single mackerel bone were also retrieved from sample 3. Fill 24 had the appearance of debris from a major episode of burning. Saw sedge is traditionally used for thatching and therefore fits well with debris resulting from the burning of nearby structures. A sample of charred wood has been sent for radiocarbon dating. Fill 30 only appeared in Section 5. It was a light brown clayey silt measuring 0.1m deep with no artefacts. It possibly represents silt washed in to the feature. The upper fill (23) was a dark grey clayey silt measuring 0.54m deep, containing occasional charcoal flecks, a sherd of St Neots type-ware pottery (c. AD850-1150), a small fragment of early medieval-type ware (c. AD1050-1200) and field vole and house mouse bones. Mineralised maggots were retrieved from sample 2, suggesting that the deposit may originally have contained some cess.

3.3.2 The upper fill of **34** was truncated by ditch/terrace cut **33** (Fig. 3, S. 3 and 5). This could only be seen in section and only the base was visible, gently sloping from west-northwest to east-southeast, measuring 0.54m deep. The fill sequence showed four fills. The lower two (31 and 32) represented material washed into the bottom of the feature. The upper two fills were very similar in appearance. Fill 22 was a light brown clayey silt measuring 0.3m deep and contained two sherds of pottery. One was a sherd of Thetford ware (c. AD900-1200) and the other was a sherd of Huntingdonshire Fen

sandy ware (c. AD1150-1350), suggesting a mid- to late-12th century date for the context.

### 3.4 Period 2: Post-medieval

- 3.4.1 Fill 19 was also a light brown clayey silt measuring 0.38m deep. It contained a mixture of late medieval and post-medieval pottery including two sherds of Bourne D-type ware (c. AD1450-1630), a single fragment of late medieval reduced ware (c. AD1350-1500), two fragments of post-medieval redware of indeterminate date and a single fragment of white saltglazed stoneware (c. AD1720-1800). There is likely to be some contamination between fill 19 and the fills of feature **21** because during excavation it was not immediately thought that feature **21** penetrated this deep. Therefore it is difficult to determine whether this fill belongs to the medieval or post-medieval period but as the latest sherds are post-medieval it has been included in this period. Faunal remains consisted of parts of a large adult pig, along with smaller amounts of butchered cattle and sheep. Sample 1, collected from fill 19, contained field vole, house mouse and eel bones. Both 19 and 22 had the appearance of naturally accumulated soils or material which had slipped in from nearby (possibly a bank).
- 3.4.2 Sealing fill 19, the upper fill of **33**, was layer 18, a dark greyish brown clayey silt measuring 0.4m deep. It contained a single fragment of undecorated creamware (c. AD1720-1830), portions of an adult pig similar to those found in fill 19, occasional inclusions of tile and rare slag.
- 3.4.3 Truncating layer 18 was feature **21** (Fig. 2, Plan 2; Fig. 3, S. 3 and 5; Plate 2), a curvilinear feature running north-east to south-west from beyond the northern baulk (section 3) before turning to run beyond the western baulk (section 5). It had near vertical sides and a concave base, measuring 0.58m wide and 1.06m deep. This was a considerable depth, which was only seen fully in section. It contained three fills (20, 28 and 29), all of which were of a loose compaction and contained varying quantities of post-medieval brick and tile. In particular, the upper fill (20) was of a very loose compaction and had the appearance of material which had filled a void left by timbers or a robbed out wall.
- 3.4.4 Sealing feature **21** was brick wall **27**, measuring approximately 0.45m wide and 0.34m deep, orientated north-northwest to south-southeast, running across the trench perpendicular to the western wall of the museum. The bricks were red, unfrogged and handmade, measuring 0.24m x 0.12m x 0.08m. Wall **27** was five courses high although had probably been truncated during the construction of wall **3** which sat directly on top of it, utilising the earlier one. The rough appearance of wall **27** suggests it was probably the foundation of a wall.
- 3.4.5 Abutting wall **27** on its south-western side was mortar construction surface 17, a very compact yellowish white sandy mortar measuring a maximum of 0.03m deep and extending across most of the central 1.7x1.8m trench. It contained a single fragment of undecorated creamware (c. AD1720-1830), and a single small fragment of post-medieval Chinese porcelain of uncertain date. The surface probably represents a layer of mortar that formed from dropped and falling material during the construction of wall **27** as it was not substantial enough to be a permanent surface or floor.
- 3.4.6 Sealing surface 17 was layer 16, a mid brown clayey silt measuring 0.2m deep, containing a single fragment of undecorated creamware (c. AD1760-1830), a single black-glazed post-medieval redware base sherd of uncertain date, occasional fragments of tile and charcoal flecks, and rare slag. This was sealed by a thin layer of light brown clay (15), measuring 0.03m deep.

- 3.4.7 Layer 14 was a dark brown clayey silt measuring 0.2m deep, containing occasional gravel and crushed red brick and a copper pin (SF2). This was the latest context excavated in the central 1.7x1.8m trench. All later contexts were machine excavated.
- 3.4.8 Layer 7 (Fig. 3, S. 2) was a dark brown clayey silt measuring 0.32m deep. It was very sterile and had the appearance of a buried subsoil. It contained three sherds of 19th century pottery and several pieces of clay pipe. It was sealed by layer 6=8, a reddish brown clayey silt measuring 0.26m deep. The only obvious difference between 6 and 8 was that layer 8 contained near complete bricks, where as layer 6 did not. Otherwise there was no clear relationship between the two. It probably represented a deliberate dump of material.
- 3.4.9 Layer 12, a mid grey sandy silt and layer 9, a dark greyish brown clayey silt, both appeared to be sloping, in a similar fashion to layer 8, from south-southwest to north-northeast. What the function of these layers was is uncertain, although they may relate in some way to wall **3** (see 3.4.10). Layer 12 contained a mixture of pottery ranging in date from a residual sherd of 11th century Thetford ware jar rim to a fragment of burnt high-fired slightly vitrified whiteware (2nd half of the 19th century).
- 3.4.10 Feature **13** truncated layer 12. It was only visible in the south-western corner of section 2. However, the two fills (4 and 5) were visible along the whole southern trench baulk suggesting feature **13** ran parallel with it, east-southeast to west-northwest. It was difficult to interpret what the function of feature **13** was; it may relate to the construction of the wall 1m to the south of the trench.
- 3.4.11 Brick wall **3** was 0.45m wide and 0.7m deep. It utilised wall **27**, which it sat directly on top of. The bricks were orange or dark red and were unfrogged. The wall survived to roughly ten courses high. On the northern side of the wall evidence of a small recess was found. This side of the wall had also been backfilled with loose bricks (11) (Plate 1). These two factors indicate the northern side of wall **3** was the interior. Unfortunately the loose nature of context 11 meant it could not be fully excavated because of the danger of the trench edge collapsing. The relationship between wall **3** and the layers to the south was unclear. Either the wall truncated layers 9 and 12 and a construction cut simply wasn't visible or there was a much larger construction cut and layers 9 and 12, and possibly 8, were backfilled up against the wall.
- ### 3.5 Modern
- 3.5.1 Layer 11 comprised loose bricks measuring 1.06m deep, used to backfill the interior of a building or room bounded to the south by wall **3**. This was modern backfill as a plastic comb and part of a car headlight were retrieved. It was probably backfilled when the library was constructed.
- 3.5.2 Layer 2 was a blackish brown clayey silt top soil measuring 0.13m deep. The sequence was completed by layer 1 which comprised white limestone pebble levelling and concrete slabs, measuring 0.1m thick.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Period 1: Medieval

- 4.1.1 To be able to confidently interpret and explain the medieval contexts found in this small trench, a better understanding of the historical location of the site is required. Figure 6 is a copy of a 1794 sketch plan of the castle area prior to re-development with modern features and street names superimposed, as well as the trench location. This shows the trench to lie just inside the castle grounds, a few metres to the west of the moat. On a modern map the two lanes, Castle Mews and Wilderness Walk, mark where the 'ancient wall' and the side of the moat closest to the castle ran. The Crescent and Ely Place are clearly well within the grounds of the castle, in the area marked as 'the wilderness'. Of course this is a plan showing the site in 1794. What did it look like in previous centuries? Had the moat been re-worked at all, thus shifting its position slightly? Was the original Norman castle smaller? Evidence that the 1794 plan shows a greatly modified moat comes from the fact that the moat only appears to encircle less than half of the castle wall. The strange 'L' shaped boundary north of the church yard on the 1794 plan looks like some modification has taken place, possibly as the church yard expanded. This is where modern day Museum Square is. Obvious subsidence on the front of the buildings in Museum Square, the museum in particular, is thought to be due to the underlying moat. This merely serves to illustrate that the 1794 plan is not a definitive record of the castle's fortifications and defences throughout history and this should be borne in mind when discussing the findings at the present site.
- 4.1.2 Features **33** and **34** have both been interpreted as ditch/terrace cuts. Examining such a small area means it is difficult to be conclusive one way or the other but there are reasons for this interpretation. Ditch/terrace **34** sits at 1.95m OD at its deepest point on the west-northwestern side of section 3 and at approximately 2.35m OD on the flat part of the cut. Below this are natural silts. This level seems too deep to be the natural ground level, even 1000 years ago. The floor of the 12th century church, which sits at approximately 4m OD, is a good indicator of the ground level at the time of construction of the original castle. This is over 1.5m above the recorded natural ground level in the trench; convincing evidence that this represents a truncated level. It is not deep enough to be the base of the moat itself but the flat part of the cut could be terracing between the higher ground of the castle to the west and the moat to the east. The deeper part of the cut could even be a construction cut for a palisade with material excavated from the terrace piled up behind it. The first castle was supposedly stone but it is quite possible a more temporary form of defences existed initially.
- 4.1.3 Further evidence for feature **34** being a deep cut feature comes from the infilling sequence. The two fills (23 and 24) were both thick uniform deposits, which one would associate with the infilling of a large feature, although again, not the moat itself, which at its base would probably contain more organic-based deposits. Fill 24 was of particular interest, representing a major episode of burning, presumably of a structure or structures. This is supported by the frequent inclusions of large pieces of charcoal, lumps of fired clay and saw sedge remains, traditionally used in thatching. It is impossible to determine how far this deposit extends for but it clearly represents a large dump of material, presumably from close by. Pottery for this first phase of ground work was scarce; the two sherds retrieved from fill 23 suggest a mid 11th- 12th century date for the infilling of the feature, which corresponds with the construction and subsequent

use of the earliest castle. A Carbon 14 date will be obtained for this context in due course.<sup>1</sup>

- 4.1.4 Ditch/terrace **33** may be a re-working of the original feature, a re-cutting at a later date. Again, it is thought to represent a cut feature because of the infilling sequence. The scarce pottery dating the infilling of this later ditch/terrace provides a wide date range between the 12th-18th centuries, although as discussed above (3.3.3) the later sherds may have been due to contamination from feature **21**. A more realistic date for the feature is late medieval with the infilling predominantly belonging to the post-medieval period. The single sherd of Thetford ware recovered from lower fill 22 could be derived from (23) below.
- 4.1.5 Another possibility is that the fills of **33** represent bank material which has slipped in from the west. The inclusions and artefacts within fills 19 and 22 do not really aid the interpretation. Both fills were relatively sterile, not consistent with naturally accumulating soils in an area of human occupation. The exception to this is over 1kg of animal bone found in fill 19. Either way, they are again the fills of a large feature, with no evidence for the gradual build up of occupation layers to be expected in the centre of a medieval town.

## 4.2 Post-Medieval

- 4.2.1 Fill 19 has tentatively been dated as the earliest post-medieval deposit. As already mentioned, the small pottery assemblage makes it hard to be sure.
- 4.2.2 Feature **21** most likely had a structural function. The loose fills perhaps consistent with a void that had been filled after the removal of timbers. A feature of such considerable depth and narrow width would not realistically serve any function other than to hold posts. The alignment of the gully is not consistent with any earlier alignments or the later brick-built walls so presumably this was a structure that existed after the castle defences went out of use but before the early 19th century re-development took place. The 1794 plan shows the moat to still exist at that time and there is no evidence of structures but again, this might point to the unreliability of the plan, which after all shows the major features of the castle and may miss out insignificant detail.
- 4.2.3 The other post-medieval features of interest are the two brick built walls, **3** and **27**, the former being built directly over the latter. The 1830 map of Wisbech by John Wood (Wisbech Museum) shows the Georgian properties fronting onto Ely Place but there are no buildings to the rear where the trench is located. By the time of the 1853 Board of Health map (Wisbech Museum; Fig. 5) there is a boundary which lines up perfectly with walls **3** and **27**, with the area to the north being interior and to the south being exterior. Unless there was another wall on this exact location prior to the 1830 map then wall **27** must correspond with this wall. Construction surface 17 fits stratigraphically with wall **27** as a layer of dropped and spilled mortar formed when building the wall from the outside. The later wall **3** must have been a re-building of the same wall.

## 4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 It is worth re-iterating the difficulty of drawing conclusions from such a restricted study area. However, it can be stated with confidence that the small evaluation trench has revealed evidence of some form of ground works relating to the defences of Wisbech Castle. This is significant because it expands the limited knowledge relating to the

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1 Radiocarbon dating on charred timber from Context 24 has produced a date of AD660-780 at 95.4% probability (see Appendix C3)

castle and its defences. Hopefully the Carbon 14 date will corroborate the one sherd of early medieval pottery found in the earliest feature, proving it relates to the immediate post-conquest castle. The post-medieval remains provide evidence of buildings which have stood on the site since the castle finally went out of use.

#### **4.4 Recommendations**

- 4.4.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.



## APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
- A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

## APPENDIX B. CONTEXT INVENTORY

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer		0.1	Whiteish grey made ground		Modern
2	Layer		0.13	Blackish brown clayey silt topsoil		
3		0.45	0.7	Wall		
4	Fill		0.04	Yellowish brown sand, levelling		
5	Fill		0.64	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil	Clay pipe	Post-Med
6	Layer		0.06	Reddish brown crushed brick, levelling		
7	Layer		0.32	Dark brown clayey silt, buried soil	Bone, clay pipe, vessel, CBM	Post-Med
8	Layer		0.26	Reddish brown clayey silt, dumped material		
9	Fill		0.75	Dark greyish brown clayey silt		
10	Cut	1.6	0.75	Construction cut		
11	Layer	1	1.06	Reddish brown bricks, deliberate backfill		Modern
12	Layer		0.54	Mid grey sandy silt, levelling	Clay pipe, vessel, shell	Post-Med
13	Cut	2.4	0.54	Unknown function		
14	Layer		0.2	Dark brown clayey silt		
15	Layer		0.03	Light brown clay		
16	Layer		0.2	Mid brown clayey silt, naturally accumulated	Clay pipe, glass, shell, slag, CBM, stone, vessel, bone	Post-Med
17	Layer		0.03	Yellowish white sandy mortar, construction surface	Mortar, vessel	Post-Med
18	Layer		0.4	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	Glass, bone, shell, slag, vessel, CBM, clay pipe	Post-Med
19	Fill		0.38	Light brown clayey silt, ditch/terrace fill	Vessel, CBM, clay pipe, shell, bone	Medieval
20	Fill	0.58	0.48	Dark brown clayey silt		
21	Cut	0.58	1.06	Construction cut		

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
22	Fill		0.3	Light brown clayey silt, ditch/terrace fill	Fired clay, bone, slag, shell, vessel	Medieval
23	Fill		0.54	Dark grey clayey silt, ditch/terrace fill	Bone, shell, vessel	Medieval
24	Fill		0.6	Greyish black silt, ditch/terrace fill	Charcoal, shell, flint, fired clay, slag, bone	Medieval
25	Layer		0.38	Orangey brown silt, natural silt	Shell, bone	
26	Layer		0.36	Mid grey silt, natural silt	Bone	
27			0.34	Wall		
28	Fill		0.37	Dark brownish slightly clayey silt		
29	Fill		0.52	Mid greyish brown clayey silt		
30	Fill		0.1	Light brown clayey silt, ditch/terrace fill		
31	Fill		0.03	Mid brown clayey silt, ditch/terrace fill		
32	Fill		0.05	Grey clayey silt, ditch/terrace fill		
33	Cut	1.8	0.54	Ditch/terrace		
34	Cut	1.8	1.13	Ditch/terrace		
35	Layer		1.2	Light brown silt, natural silt		

## APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

### C.1 Pottery and Clay Pipe

*By Alasdair Mark Brooks*

#### ***Introduction and methodology***

- C.1.1 Twenty-three sherds of pottery from 8 contexts, weighing 298 grams, were recovered from the Wisbech Library site. Fifteen of these sherds are post-medieval and eight are medieval, though three sherds (one of the post-medieval and two of the medieval) are perhaps better described as transitional between the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- C.1.2 Thirteen fragments of clay pipe from 6 contexts (not all overlapping with the pottery), weighing 38 grams, were also recovered from the site.

#### ***Methodology***

- C.1.3 In the absence of standardised British guidelines for the analysis of later post-medieval ceramics, the ceramic terminology and dating criteria used in this report were taken from the author's own book on later post-medieval ceramics (Brooks 2005) and Miller's 2000 guide to dating post-medieval finds. The 18th-century advent of increased ceramic standardisation through industrial mass-production often requires a different approaches to later post-medieval ceramics than that used for earlier periods (Brooks 2005). As these methodological approaches often differ, for the sake of consistency, common later post-medieval methodology has been used across the assemblage (65% of the assemblage by sherd count is post-medieval, and only two contexts do not contain 18th- or 19th-century materials) – with the exception that weights are also recorded for the medieval wares. The names and dates of medieval ware types were identified by OA East medieval pottery specialist Carole Fletcher. This preliminary report does not contain minimum vessel counts or other more in-depth analytical techniques. Dates often refer to the traditional most common period of production rather than definitive start and end dates; the transition from creamware and pearlware to whiteware from c.1820-c.1830, for example, is a gradual process rather than a sudden shift from older types to the newer type.
- C.1.4 The clay pipe terminology used in this report was taken from Bradley (2000). The pipe bowls, considered the most diagnostic part of this small assemblage, were identified and dated using the standard typology for English pipe bowls, as featured in this case in Orser and Fagan (1995:104). This is a broad international typology, rather than a local Cambridgeshire-based one, but the basics of date and type usually hold across regions.
- C.1.5 Any percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number and may not add up to precisely 100%.

#### ***Quantification***

- C.1.6 Table 1 features a full quantification of the ceramics, including the clay pipes. The following section provides a slightly more detailed discussion by context.
- C.1.7 Context 5: This subsoil fill context contains a single undiagnostic clay pipe stem fragment.

- C.1.8 Context 7: This buried soil layer contains one sherd of an undecorated whiteware jar lid (c.1820+), one fragment of Bristol glaze-type stoneware (c.1835+), and one 19th century flowerpot base sherd. The context also contains two mending marked pipe bowl fragments and three stem fragments, one of them featuring a simple incised decoration. The pipe bowl is stylistically of 18th-century manufacture; the mark on the pipe bowl heel reads 'IP'. As even Oswald's 1960 guide to pipe manufacturers already lists 57 manufacturers with the initials 'IP', 29 of them dating to the 18th century (Oswald 1960:86-87), precise maker identification is impossible. As a whole, the context is mostly 19th-century with one 18th-century pipe bowl.
- C.1.9 Context 12: This levelling layer contains one burnt high-fired slightly vitrified whiteware (2nd half of the 19th century), one fragment of Bristol glaze-type stoneware (c.1835+), one very early post-medieval redware (16th century?), and one 11th-century Thetford ware jar rim (12 g.). The context also includes four pipe bowl fragments which mend into two separate bowls. The larger and more complete of these is 18th century in style, and has a marked heel reading 'IW'. As with the mark 'IP', there are too many manufacturers with this initial to allow for specific identification. As a whole, the context features mixed materials from the 11th century through to the 19th century.
- C.1.10 Context 16: This naturally accumulated layer contains a single fragment of undecorated creamware (c.1760-c.1830), and a single black-glazed post-medieval redware base sherd of uncertain date. The latter is slightly unusual in being so highly-fired that it has technically become stoneware. The context also includes a single undiagnostic clay pipe stem mouthpiece fragment. The context is clearly late post-medieval, and the only solidly dateable item indicates a late 18th to early 19th century date.
- C.1.11 Context 17: This floor layer contains a single fragment of undecorated creamware (c.1720-c.1830), and a single small fragment of post-medieval Chinese porcelain of uncertain date. The only solidly dateable item indicates a late 18th to early 19th century date. The context is clearly late post-medieval, and the only solidly dateable item indicates a late 18th to early 19th century date.
- C.1.12 Context 18: This unidentified layer contains a single fragment of undecorated creamware (c.1720-c.1830) and a single undiagnostic clay pipe stem fragment. The context is clearly late post-medieval, and the only solidly dateable item indicates a late 18th to early 19th century date.
- C.1.13 Context 19: This probable ditch fill context features the greatest amount of pottery in both count and weight. It includes a single fragment of white saltglazed stoneware (c.1720-c.1800), two fragments of post-medieval redware (one a black-glazed large storage vessel, the other clear-glazed) of indeterminate date, two late medieval to early post-medieval early Bourn D-type ware (c.1450-c.1630; 42 g.), and a single fragment of late medieval reduced ware (c.1350-c.1500; 8g.). A tiny fragment of indeterminate green-glazed buff-bodied post-medieval redware was also recovered during environmental sample processing. The only clay pipe fragment is an undiagnostic stem. The context contains mixed late medieval through 18th century materials.
- C.1.14 Context 22: This probable ditch fill context features only medieval pottery. It includes one fragment of Huntingdonshire Fen sandy ware (c.1150-c.1350; 16g.) and one fragment of Thetford ware (c.900-1200; 7g.). From the date overlap, this suggests a mid- to late-12th century date for the context.
- C.1.15 Context 23: This probable ditch fill context features only medieval pottery. It includes one fragment of St. Neots-type ware (c.850-c.1150; 19g.), and one small fragment of

early medieval-type ware (c.1050-1200; 2g.). Date overlap suggests a mid-11th to 12th century date.

### ***Provenance***

- C.1.16 Industrial mass-production and improved transportation routes make the identification of location of manufacture less important for the later post-medieval period than for earlier periods. However, all but one of the later post-medieval ceramics are English, with the refined tablewares (white saltglazed stoneware and creamware) most probably originating in Staffordshire. The post-medieval exception is the single fragment of Chinese porcelain in context 17, but this is by no means unusual as Chinese porcelain enjoyed relatively wide distribution internationally in from the 17th century onwards.
- C.1.17 The medieval wares are all appropriate to the region, and feature no exotic imported goods or wares from beyond the region.

### ***Statement of Research Potential***

- C.1.18 This small assemblage is of no great research potential. All deposition is small-scale, featuring light scatters from most centuries from the mid-11th through to the 19th. The two contexts with the most pottery, 12 and 19, both feature a mixture of material from the medieval through post-medieval periods, and would therefore appear to be disturbed contexts. While the other contexts appear to relatively discreet in period distribution, none of them feature more than three sherds, there are hardly any diagnostic features or decorations, and only one sherd (the black-glazed post-medieval redware large storage vessel from the disturbed context 19) weighs more than 45 grams. The only two marked clay pipe bowls feature makers' marks for initials so common that further identification is virtually impossible. There is therefore no reason to believe that the materials recovered from assessment can significantly add to our knowledge of regional material culture use or finds distributions.

### ***Further Work and Methods Statement***

- C.1.19 No further work is necessary unless the site goes to full excavation. If excavation does take place, it is recommended that separate reports be commissioned for the post-medieval and medieval ceramics given the indication of discreet (albeit small-scale) depositional activity.

Context	Type	Date	Sherds	Other	Weight (kg)
5	white ball clay smoking pipe	Post-med	1		0.003
7	whiteware	c.1820+	1		0.021
7	Bristol glaze-type stoneware	c.1835+	1		
7	Redware flowerpot	19th-century	1		
7	white ball clay smoking pipe	18th-century	1	Mends with next item; marked 'IP'	
7	white ball clay smoking pipe	18th-century	1	Mends with previous item; marked 'IP'	0.014
7	white ball clay smoking pipe	Post-med	1	incised decoration	
7	white ball clay smoking pipe	Post-med	1		
7	white ball clay smoking pipe	Post-med	1		
12	whiteware (burnt)	c.1850+	1	highly vitrified cup handle	
12	Bristol glaze-type stoneware	c.1835+	1		0.077
12	early post-medieval redware	16th-century?	1		
12	Thetford ware	11th-century	1	jar rim	
12	white ball clay smoking pipe	18th-century	1	Mends with next item; marked 'IW'	
12	white ball clay smoking pipe	18th-century	1	Mends with previous item; marked 'IW'	0.012
12	white ball clay smoking pipe	Post-med	1	Mends with next item	
12	white ball clay smoking pipe	Post-med	1	mends with previous item	
16	creamware	c.1760-c.1830	1		
16	Post-medieval redware	Post-med	1		0.013
16	white ball clay smoking pipe	Post-med	1	mouthpiece	0.002
17	creamware	c.1760-c.1830	1		0.003
17	Chinese porcelain	Post-med	1		
18	creamware	c.1760-c.1830	1		0.005
18	white ball clay smoking pipe	Post-med	1		0.004
19	white saltglazed stoneware	c.1720-c.1800	1		0.160
19	post-medieval redware	Post-med	2		
19	early Bourn D-type ware	c.1450-c.1630	2		
19	Green-glazed post-medieval buff-bodied	Post-med	1		
19	late medieval reduced ware	c.1350-c.1500	1		
19	white ball clay smoking pipe	Post-med	1		0.003
22	Huntingdonshire fen sandy ware	c.1150-c.1350	1		0.023
22	Thetford ware	c.900-1200	1		
23	St. Neot's-type ware	c.850-c.1150	1		0.022
23	early medieval-type ware	c.1050-c.1200	1		

**Table 1: Pottery and Clay Pipes Quantification**

## C.2 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

### **Introduction and methodology**

- C.2.1 A total of 26 “countable” bones were recovered from the Wisbech library evaluation, with a further 23 fragments not identifiable to species, (47% of the total sample). All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected. Residuality appears not to be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Hand collected faunal remains were recovered from 5 contexts dating from the medieval period. Faunal remains were recovered from samples from 6 contexts. Contexts 16 & 22 contained no identifiable fragments.
- C.2.2 All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1997). Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly, 1988). The ageing of the population was largely achieved by examining the wear stages of cheek teeth of cattle, sheep/goat and pig (after Grant, 1982). The states of epiphyseal fusion for all relevant bones were recorded to give a broad age range for the major domesticates (after Getty, 1975). All measurements were carried out according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976). Measurements were either carried out using a 150mm sliding calliper or an osteometric board in the case of larger bones.

### **The Assemblage**

- C.2.3 Material from the environmental samples contained a variety of fish, small mammal and amphibian species. Mandibles and long bone fragments from both field vole (*Microtus agrestis*) and house mouse (*Mus musculus*) were recovered from contexts 19, 23 & 25. Vertebrae and long bones from the common frog (*Rana temporaria*) were recovered from contexts 23, 24 & 25. Fish remains (mostly vertebrae) were present but the majority were in poor condition therefore identification to species was not possible in some cases. However, European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) remains were recovered from contexts 19 & 25. A single vertebra from context 24 was identified as Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*).
- C.2.4 Identifiable hand collected bone was recovered from only 5 contexts. Contexts 18 & 19 consisted of portions of the sacrum, femur, tibia and metacarpals of a large adult pig, along with smaller amounts of butchered cattle and sheep remains. Context 24 contained portions of butchered distal horse femur along with duck coracoid and tarsometatarsus. A single butchered sheep/goat distal humerus from this context showed evidence of burning. A single butchered distal cattle metacarpal was recovered from context 25. In addition to the fish remains from sieved samples, a partial preopercular was recovered from context 26, most likely European eel.

### **Discussion**

- C.2.5 The hand-collected assemblage is unfortunately too small with which to draw any meaningful conclusions from. The pig remains came from an animal aged around 3 ½.



This fits with general pig husbandry practices of the time, with animals kept only till physical maturity before slaughter, as pigs are limited in the secondary products they can supply. Cut marks on the other large domestic mammal remains are consistent with butchery for meat. Ducks were kept and eaten during the medieval period but in smaller numbers than geese, as their meat was considered unhealthy (Albarella et al, forthcoming). The small mammal and amphibian remains (with the exception of field vole) are from species commonly found in urban sites of the period. Field voles are usually found in ungrazed open grassland and scrub, so it is possible that the animal could have been brought in amongst hay/straw for animal feed/bedding. The fish remains are also of food species commonly found in other contemporary sites in Wisbech such as Market Mews (Hinman, 2002) and New Inn Yard (Mortimer, forthcoming) and further afield at Norwich Castle (Albarella et al, forthcoming).

### C.3 Radiocarbon dating

A sample of the burnt wood from Context 24 was sent to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC). The report is pending but a date has been obtained:

SUERC-19888 (GU-17214): 1285 $\pm$ 30BP

68.2% probability 670AD (41.4%) 720AD  
740AD (26.8%) 770AD

95.4% probability 660AD (95.4%) 780AD

A full report will be included in any further stage reports.

## APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

### D.1 Environmental Samples

*By Rachel Fosberry*

#### **Introduction and methodology**

- D.1.1 Five samples were taken from a single feature within the evaluated area and submitted for an initial appraisal. The volume of bulk soil samples collected was between 10 – 20L.
- D.1.2 Up to twenty litres of each sample were processed by water flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flots were collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residues were washed through a 1mm mesh. Both flots and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residues were passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, fish bone, charcoal, shell, etc..) and artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flots were examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. Identifications were made by the author without comparison to the OA East reference collection and should be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant classification follows Stace (1997).
- D.1.3 The results obtained are summarised in Table 2.

#### **Results**

##### **Preservation**

- D.1.4 The plant remains were preserved by carbonisation except for Sample 5 which contained uncharred seeds that have been preserved by water-logging. Mineralised maggots occur in sample 2. Preservation of plant remains is poor, especially in sample 1 which seemed to have been subjected to repeated or high-temperature burning.

##### **Plant Remains**

- D.1.5 Cereals: Charred cereal grains are present in three of the samples. Both wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and Rye (*Secale cereale*) grains are found in Samples 1,2 and 3. None of the samples produced cereal grains in quantities of more than 15 grains. Chaff elements are absent.
- D.1.6 Weed seeds: Charred weed seeds are rare and include spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) and nutlets of saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*). Most of the samples contain uncharred seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.). Sample 5 contains uncharred seeds of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) and sedges (*Carex* sp.)
- D.1.7 Other plant remains: Sample 3 seems to be predominantly composed of charred leaf and stem fragments of saw sedge (*C.mariscus*) mixed with large (up to 7cm) pieces of wood charcoal.

### **Ecofacts and Artefacts**

- D.1.8 Bone: Small fragments of animal bone including rodent bones are present in most of the samples and elements of fish bone occur in all of the Samples except for Sample 3.
- D.1.9 Pottery: A single small sherd of pottery was recovered from the residue of Sample 1.
- D.1.10 Metal Objects: Three iron lumps and a fragment of a copper alloy pin were recovered from the residue of Sample 1. A single spheroid of hammerscale was found in sample 2.

### **Contamination**

- D.1.11 Modern seeds and roots were present in most of the samples.

### **Discussion**

- D.1.12 The plant remains in this assemblage are dominated by wood charcoal and burnt saw sedge. Saw sedge was traditionally used in this area for thatching and could have been burnt accidentally which could explain the large quantity in sample 3 mixed with large pieces of wood charcoal
- D.1.13 Cereal grains are relatively rare. A few grains of wheat and rye occur in the uppermost layers, but numbers are low indicating that spillage/discard of whole grains was rare. The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over open fires prior to being deliberately deposited into the feature.
- D.1.14 Fish bones predominate in this assemblage suggesting that fish was a dietary constituent. All elements of the bones seem to be represented although fish scale was relatively rare.
- D.1.15 The presence of mineralised maggots in sample 2 suggest that this deposit originally contained cess. No other evidence such as mineralised seeds were noted.
- D.1.16 The weed seed assemblage suggests utilisation of a wetland environment typical of the Fen-edge. The uncharred seeds in Sample 5 have been preserved by water-logging although the excavator did not consider this deposit to be wet. This suggests that this deposit has recently become de-watered or may be subject to seasonal water-logging.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

- D.1.17 The preliminary appraisal of a selection of samples from this site have shown that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains, however the low density of charred plant macrofossils in this assemblage limits interpretation of the feature sampled. It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this and further work is not recommended.
- D.1.18 Analysis of the fish bones could provide an insight into diet and butchery practice.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Comments	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >2mm	Small Bones	Flot comments	Small animal bones	Large animal bones	Fishbone	Marine molluscs	Pottery	CBM	Slag	Metal	Residue comments
1	19	layer	20	possibly buried sub-soil/flooding deposit? Included darker lenses with charcoal	10	##	##	##	##	#	vitirified cpr	##	#	#	#					CuA pin fragment, Fe pieces x 3
2	23	layer	20	Layer of dark grey silty soil approx 1.5m below ground level	10	##	##	##	##	##	single spheroid hammerscale	#	#	##						
3	24	layer	20	black silty layer rich in charcoal and fired clay. Possible dump of material. No pot	300		##	###	###		predominantly Cladium leaf	#	#	#	#		###			Large pieces of roundwood charcoal, some of bone was burnt. Oyster shell
4	25	layer	20	sterile light brown silt. Either fill of moat or flood deposit	1	#	#	#				##	#							
5	26	layer	10	lowest deposit reached. Dark grey silt containing small pieces of bone	1		#	#			De-watered seeds	#	#							

**Table 2: Environmental Samples Results**

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## APPENDIX F: OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	46094		
Project Name	Evaluation at Wisbech Library		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	14-07-2008	Finish	22-07-2008
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Yes

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WISLIB 08	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	ECB 2970	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Building Refurbishment/Repairs/Restoration

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Possible moat	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Layers	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Brick	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
Wall	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Animal Bone	Uncertain

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	Wisbech Library, 5 Ely Place, Wisbech, PE13 1EU
District	Fenland		
Parish	Wisbech		
HER	Cambs		
Study Area	72 sq. m	National Grid Reference	TF 4625 0959

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas, CAPCA
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Tom Phillips

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambridgeshire County Store	OA East	Cambridgeshire County Stor
WISLIB 08	WISLIB 08	WISLIB 08

### Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



## Drawing Conventions

### Plans

Limit of Excavation	- - - - -
Evaluation Trench	_____
Deposit - Conjectured	- - - - -
Natural Feature	.....
Sondages/Machine Strip	- - - - -
Test Pit	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation	- - - - -

### Illustrated Section S.14

Archaeological Feature		Modern Drain	
Archaeological Deposit		Cut Number	
Excavated Slot		Wall Number	
Brick			
Mortar			

### Sections

Limit of Excavation	- - - - -
Cut	_____
Cut-Conjectured	- - - - -
Deposit Horizon	_____
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation	- - - - -
Top Surface/Top of Natural	_____
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	- - - - -

Cut Number		Small Finds	
Deposit Number	117	Sample Number	
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD		
Inclusions			



Figure 1: Location of trench (black) with the development area outlined (red)

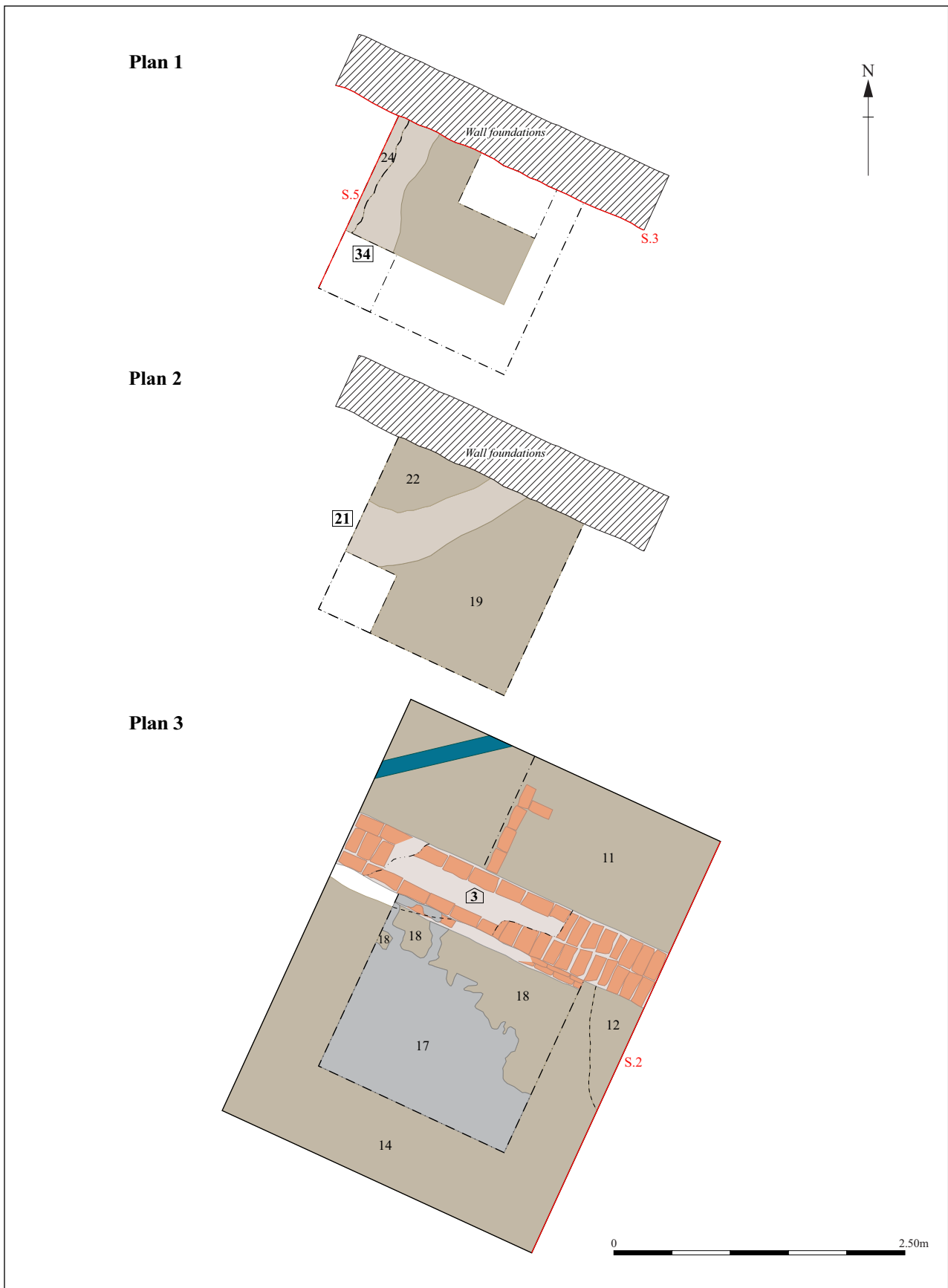


Figure 2: Trench plans showing excavation phases

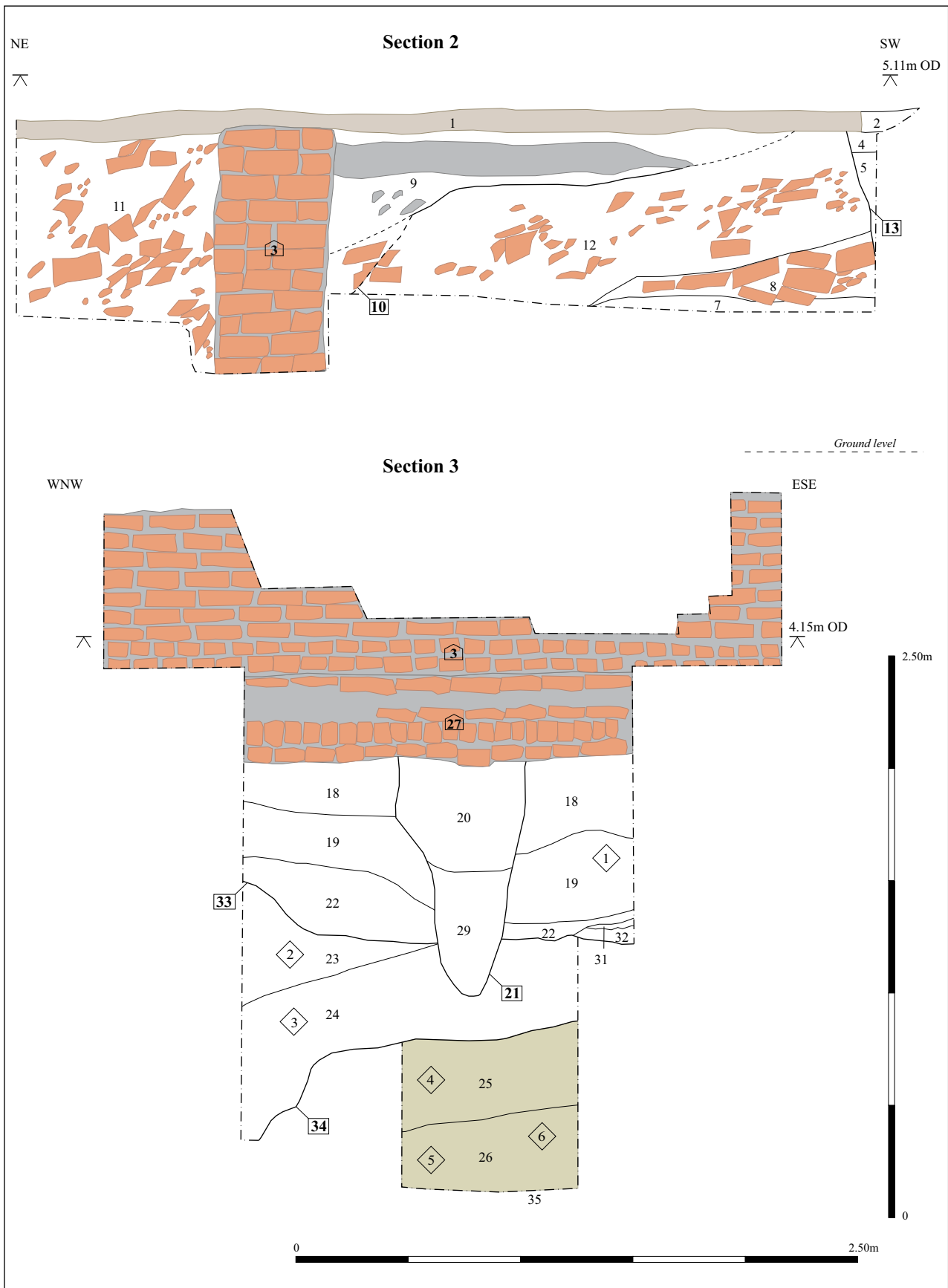


Figure 3: Section drawings (scale 1:25)

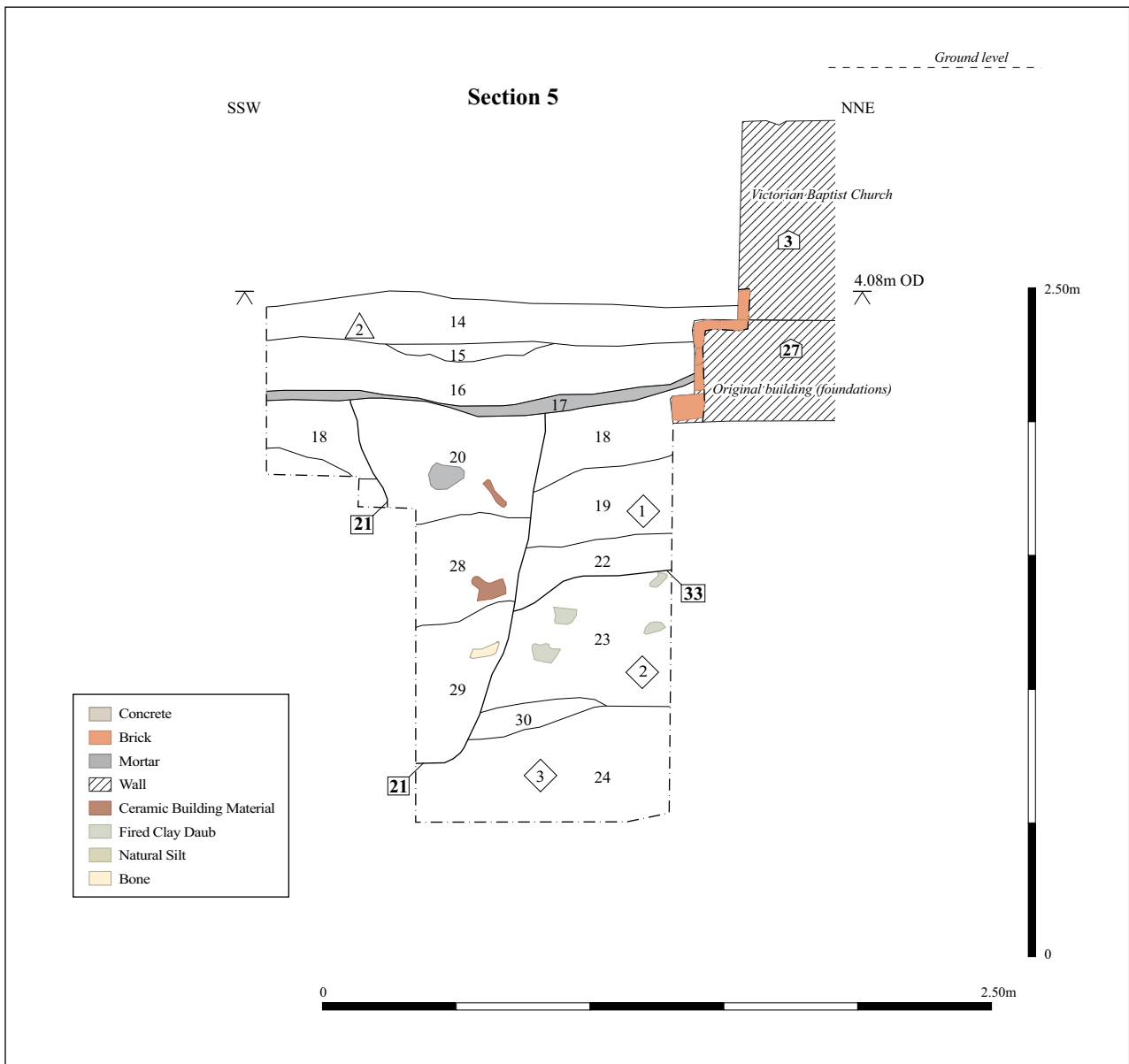


Figure 4: Section drawings (scale 1:25)



Figure 5: 1794 sketch plan of the castle



Figure 6: 1853 Board of Health Map



Figure 7: 1794 sketch plan of the castle with modern features overlaid





Plate 1: Section 2, northwest facing



Plate 2: Feature 21, looking northeast



Plate 3: Section 3, southwest facing



Plate 4: Section 5, southwest facing



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