

The Duke of Wellington Public House, South Barrier Bank Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire



Excavation Report



June 2015

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**The Duke of Wellington Public House, South Barrier Bank, Whittlesey,
Cambridgeshire**

Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

During September 2014, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an excavation on the site of the former Duke of Wellington public house, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire (TF 34958 00657). This was in advance of the strengthening and upgrading of the South Barrier Bank, upon which the pub once stood. This bank forms the southern side of the Whittlesey Washes flood storage reservoir and at this point the bank is situated just to the south of the canalised route of the River Nene, known as Morton's Leam.

The excavation has shown that the original pub was built during the 19th century, in two phases. The first phase was timber framed, with brick in-fill. The later phase involved an extension to the rear, with substantial walls, to support the weight of the bank. This ultimately appears to have failed as the pub was demolished in the early 20th century, and re-built just to the south, away from the bank. The new building was in turn demolished after it went out of use.

Finds recovered include post-medieval pottery and glass, along with ceramic building material, largely of 19th century date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted on the site of the former Duke of Wellington public house, on the South Barrier Bank, adjacent to Morton's Leam, to the north-east of Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire (TF 34958 00657; Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East). This followed discussions between the Environment Agency and Royal HaskoningDHV, which determined this location as a potentially archaeologically sensitive site within the improvement works (permitted development). The works were associated with bank strengthening, initially involved the removal of topsoil (estimated to a depth of 0.25m) and benching of the bank in steps, 300-600mm in depth. These works were identified as having a potential impact on the location of the known remains of the Duke of Wellington public house.
- 1.1.3 The site of the Duke of Wellington Public House and associated buildings has been identified as a previously unrecorded site of archaeological interest (Heritage Asset). Archaeological work was required to ensure the conservation of archaeological deposits associated with buildings belonging to the Duke of Wellington public house that may survive within the impact zone (area and depth) of the proposed works.
- 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 The underlying geology is Oxford Clay Formation (Mudstone) with Nordelph peat overlying (British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale Geological Sheet 158).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 No previous archaeological investigation has taken place on the site of the Duke of Wellington buildings or Morton's Leam at this location. This work has therefore provided a rare opportunity to investigate the origins and development of a group of post-medieval venacular buildings and their relationship with Morton's Leam.
- 1.3.2 The Duke of Wellington Public House comprises a group of buildings identified on historic maps. The buildings are shown on The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1887; Fig. 2), the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1901, not illustrated) and the 1926 Third Edition map (not illustrated).
- 1.3.3 The Duke of Wellington is depicted on an early 20th century photograph (March Society Archive; Plate 1) showing it to have been a two storey timber-framed building with brick infill, a thatched roof and a small single storey brick outshut building is shown along one wall, this has a tiled roof and is clearly a later addition.
- 1.3.4 The bank on which the pub was constructed forms the South Barrier Bank of the Whittlesey Washes Flood reservoir. At this point the bank runs parallel to and is directly adjacent to the canalised route of the River Nene, known as Morton's Leam. Morton's Leam was originally constructed during the 1470s, under the direction of Bishop Morton. There were several stages of repair and improvement to the channel after this.
- 1.3.5 The construction of the bank is complex, as it was added to and repaired on a number of occasions. Evidently there would have been spoil from the digging of the original canal, which would have formed something of a bank. However, the North and South

barrier banks were first constructed as flood defences during the late 1630s and early 1640s, under the direction of an engineer named Vermuyden (Charnley 1996, 42). The height of this bank was raised during the 1650s on the orders of the fifth Duke of Bedford, and again Vermuyden oversaw the work (Charnley 1996, 43).

- 1.3.6 Repairs were made to many of the Fenland banks during the early 18th century, when it was realised that the locally obtained peat and silt, from which they were constructed, did not hold water when they dried out. Trenches were cut along the centre of banks, and clay trampled in layers into these trenches (Charnley 1996, 45).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Steve Kemp of the Environment Agency, who monitored the work. The excavation was directed by the author, with the assistance of Lucas Barnes, Alex Cameron and Toby Knight. Aileen Connor managed the project and the machining was supervised by Chris Thatcher.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Specification (Connor 2014).
- 2.1.2 The primary aim of this project was to preserve the remains associated with the Duke of Wellington public houses *in situ*. Where it was not practicable to preserve the remains *in situ* they would be preserved by record by means of archaeological monitoring, recording and sampling.
- 2.1.3 Taken as a whole this site has a high potential for informing some key research aspects as defined by the research strategy for the East of England (Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England 2011, Edited by M. Medlycott). These include:
- The role of water management and land reclamation are dominant themes in the development of the landscape of the East of England;
 - The draining of the Fens is a key aspect in the economic development of the landscape;
 - The development and diversity of rural industry (including agricultural);
 - The impact of the primary communication routes on the region's development and character;
 - Material culture studies of the post-medieval and particularly modern periods, including pottery, brick and tile, glass and clay tobacco pipes;
- 2.1.4 In order to mitigate the impact of the planned improvement works on the Heritage Asset the primary aim was to disturb the remains as little as possible. For those remains that could not be preserved the aim was to record these in detail such that the integrity of the site will be maintained for the future.
- 2.1.5 Specific objectives that this work hoped to achieve were as follows:
- To preserve the remains *in situ* where practicable or to preserve them by record where not practicable;
 - To observe, measure and describe the sequence of deposits exposed within the impact zone of the planned improvement works;
 - To establish and record the date, form, and character of the surviving archaeological deposits associated with the Duke of Wellington Public House that are affected by the impact zone of the planned improvement works;

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The methodology used followed that detailed in the Specification (Connor 2014).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a 10tonne tracked excavator using a 1.2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket, under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 The primary course of action was preservation *in situ*. Archaeological features and deposits associated with the Duke of Wellington public house and associated buildings

were encountered during the proposed works and were hand-excavated to the top of the formation level for the planned improvement works or to the base of the archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered sooner.

- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Site conditions were generally good, with cloudy, dry weather.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results of the excavation are presented below, with a plan given as Figure 2. The 19th century building is discussed first, and the 20th century replacement after this.
- 3.1.2 The features which formed the remains of the 19th century building are discussed by type and they all relate to the use and subsequent demolition of this building. The excavation area was on the south side of the South Barrier Bank of the Whittlesey Washes flood reservoir. It sloped steeply from north to south. Finds from the topsoil overlaying the site were assigned context number 1.
- 3.1.3 The 20th century building was located to the south of the South Barrier Bank, on flat ground.

3.2 The 19th Century Building

Walls

- 3.2.1 The exposed walls appeared to consist of two groups; the front, and possibly original part of the building (walls **8**, **21** and robber trench **13**) and the more substantial rear of the building (walls **3**, **4** and **7**). The rear walls seem to have been constructed to retain the bank and may have been a later addition.

External Wall 21

- 3.2.2 Wall **21** formed part of the west wall and possibly the original back wall of the pub. It was not as substantial as the other outer walls (**3**, **4**, **7**) and did not appear to have been constructed to retain the bank. It was constructed of the same yellow bricks as floor **15** (see below) and the footing for the wall did not extend to a depth beyond that of the floor. The bricks were held in place with a lime mortar. As shown in early photographs of the pub (plate 1), this wall is more likely to have been a dwarf wall, which supported a timber frame.

External Wall 8

- 3.2.3 This wall formed the eastern exterior of the building and was constructed of the same orange sandy bricks as floor **9**. Wall **8** was constructed with an internal line of stretchers, and an external line of headers. It may have been constructed later than wall **21** and form part of a single storey extension to the east of the original building. This interpretation would be suggested by the slightly different construction of these walls.

Robber Trench 13

- 3.2.4 A shallow trench (**13**, **16**), between 0.95m and 1.50m wide and up to 0.25m deep, continued on an east to west orientation for 7.8m. It had a flat base, with gently sloping sides. It was filled by a single deposit (14, 17), which was a dark greyish brown, silty sand. This trench appeared to represent the remains of the front wall of the pub. It may have been formed by the deliberate robbing of bricks, potentially for use in the adjacent new pub. Alternatively it may have been formed by the collapse of the wall.

External Wall 3

- 3.2.5 Wall **3** was located at the northern limit of the excavated area, on an east to west alignment. It was a substantial wall, which survived well, although it had clearly tipped over slightly, with the top of the wall leaning to the south.

- 3.2.6 The removal of two courses of brick from the top of this wall was monitored, this showed that it was 0.36m thick. The bricks making up wall **3** were laid in courses of stretchers to the front and as headers to the rear, bonded with a cement based mortar.
- 3.2.7 To the rear of the wall a sandy gravel material was deposited as a back fill (20) on top of which were laid drainage bricks known colloquially as weeping tiles. These were designed to take away excess water from the top of the roof of the building.

External Wall 4

- 3.2.8 This wall formed the western side of the rear of the later building. It was constructed from the same bricks and in a similar fashion to the back wall (**3**), with the internal face made up of stretchers, with a course of headers to the outside. Wall **4** was joined onto the back wall (**3**), but a large crack was present at this junction (plate 3).

External Wall 7

- 3.2.9 Wall **7** formed the eastern wall of the later building. This wall was not as thick as the back wall (**3**) or the west wall (**4**), as it was only the width of a single brick length. It was constructed in alternating layers of headers and stretchers.

Internal Walls 5 and 6

- 3.2.10 Walls **5** and **6**, both represent internal dividing walls, which were joined to the rear wall (**3**). Neither of these walls was as substantial as the exterior walls (**3**, **4** and **7**), although they were built from the same bricks. The surviving height of these walls and the depth and type of footing was not determined as the base of the walls was beyond the level of construction.

Floors

Floor 15

- 3.2.11 Floor **15** represents the remains of the main room of the building. It was constructed from bricks one layer thick, laid directly onto the underlying bank material. The bricks which made up this floor were 'normal' yellow bricks, usually used for the construction of walls.

Floor 9

- 3.2.12 Floor 9 survived on the eastern side of the interior of the building. It appears to represent the remains of the floor in an addition to the original building. The surviving pattern of these bricks suggests that there many have been steps in this area.

Pits and deposits

Pit 10

- 3.2.13 Pit **10**, located to the south-west of floor **15**, was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.80m wide, with a depth of 0.30m and was filled by two deposits. The basal fill (12) was a pale greyish brown, silty sand. This was overlain by deposit 11, which was a dark brownish grey, silty sand. Finds from this pit comprised pottery and glass of 19th and 20th century date, including a transfer printed and painted plate (Plate 4).

Pit 19

- 3.2.14 Pit **19** was a large feature, up to 3.90m wide, located in the south-west corner of the excavated area. It was not dug, as it was below the level of impact of the bank improvement works. Pit **19** was filled by deposit 18, which was a dark greyish brown,

silty sand. A small assemblage of 19th and 20th century pottery and glass was collected from the surface of this deposit.

Layer 2

- 3.2.15 Layer 2 was removed by machine over the southern part of the building, where it was shallower, but was left *in situ* over the northern portion, where it would not be affected by the bank improvement works (Fig. 3). Deposit 2 represented demolition debris from the building and it contained large amounts of ceramic building material.

3.3 20th Century Building

- 3.3.1 The deposits overlaying the remains on the 20th century building were removed by machine. The remains of floors and wall footings were visible, but were all below the impact level of the works and so were not further excavated. The floors were made of concrete, which had been extensively broken and cracked. The wall remains were constructed from modern machine made frogged bricks.

3.4 Finds Summary

- 3.4.1 Full reports on the finds are given in Appendix A and summaries of them are given below.

Small Finds

- 3.4.2 The metal finds from the site comprise two copper alloy coins, a copper alloy button and three iron nails. All of these finds are of post-medieval or modern date.

Glass

- 3.4.3 A small assemblage of glass, weighing 2.313kg was recovered from six contexts. The glass recovered is related mainly to the serving and drinking of liquid with a single shard from an oil lamp chimney. Where the glass can be dated it would appear to be late 19th to early 20th century.

Pottery

- 3.4.4 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of. The assemblage comprising 24 sherds (0.795 kg) spans the mid 16th to the early 20th century, although the largest group by weight within this broad date range is of 19th-early 20th century date.

Clay tobacco pipes

- 3.4.5 A small assemblage of clay pipe stems was recovered none of which is closely datable.

Ceramic Building Material

- 3.4.6 A representative sample, most of which dates to the 18th and 19th centuries and includes brick, roof tile and drain fragments, was retained and analysed. This comprised 21 fragments (22.227kg).

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The Duke of Wellington Public House

- 4.1.1 The Duke of Wellington and associated buildings were located at a ferry crossing. The date of the buildings shown on the 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey map is unknown, but an early 20th century photograph (March Society Archive; Plate 1) shows the Duke of Wellington to have been a two storey timber-framed building with brick infill and a thatched roof. The timber framing is reminiscent of Cruck construction implying a late medieval or early post-medieval date for its original construction. A small single storey brick outshut building is shown along one wall, this has a tiled roof and is clearly a later addition.
- 4.1.2 It would appear from the excavation that this structure was built in at least two phases. The initial construction of the pub was at the front (south) of the building and timber framed, with brick infilling the frame (Plate 1). It was this part of the building which may have represented an older building, perhaps even late medieval, as the main structure appeared cruck-framed. However, with only a single sherd of pottery from the site dated earlier than the 19th century, this seems unlikely. It is possible that the timber frame was re-used from an older building located elsewhere.
- 4.1.3 Many pubs on the banks and canal sides in this area were built during major construction and repair projects, as part of the wages of the construction workers were paid in ale (Whittlesea society 2007, 13). But it is equally possible that the Duke of Wellington was originally a private house, possibly converted as a direct result of the Beer Act of 1830.
- 4.1.4 The County Records office holds a number of petitions to the Bedford Level Corporation asking for permission to build houses on the South Bank in the 18th and 19th centuries. Of particular interest is one Henry Coulson (CRO S/B/SP779) who in 1798 petitioned to build a house on the South Bank “between Richard Bradley’s house and Guyhirn”. The name Coulson occurs again in direct relation to the Duke of Wellington at a later date (see 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 below), and the house referred to in the petition may be that later known as the Duke of Wellington. If correct this would give a date at the very end of the 18th century for its construction.
- 4.1.5 The house was probably not used as a pub until after the Beer Act of 1830 since its name most likely relates to the 1st Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley and must thus date to after the Napoleonic wars (ending in 1815) but more probably refers to the fact that the Duke of Wellington was the Tory Prime Minister that oversaw the Beer Act. The Act allowed home owners to brew and sell their own beer – in effect setting up their own pubs – for a single payment of two guineas (Jennings 2011), the Act was aimed at reducing public drunkenness, not very successfully.
- 4.1.6 An early 19th century (pre 1840) plate found during the excavation depicting a circus act may have been a decorative item in a public house or private rooms, rather than something in everyday usage. Although it would not have been solely restricted to a public house it would be unusual for the home of an agricultural labourer and therefore supports a pre 1840 date for the foundation of the public house.
- 4.1.7 By the time of the 1841 census amongst the households on South Bank are two (William Coulson and George Winch) where the occupation of the head is listed as “publican”. Although it is not possible to determine which of the two publicans ran the Duke of Wellington the name Coulson appears in relation to the pub in the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s; the 1871 Census records Benjamin Coulson and his wife Frances as

occupying the Duke of Wellington on South Bank, although Benjamin's occupation is listed as "agricultural labourer". The Coulson family still occupied the pub at the time of the 1881 Census on which Benjamin is listed as a "beer retailer". The 1871 Census is the first to list the Duke of Wellington by name, none of the earlier Census's list pubs on South Bank, although the occupations on the 1841 Census imply the presence of public houses, there are no publicans listed in 1851 or 1861.

- 4.1.8 Licensing restrictions were brought in by the 1869 Wine and Beerhouse Act, curbing the number of pubs across the country as landlords complained they could no longer make a profit. Since the head of the household (Benjamin Coulson) on the 1871 Census is listed as "agricultural labourer", even though the property is named as the Duke of Wellington, it may be supposed that Benjamin Coulson was not getting his main, if any, income from the sale of beer at this time, possibly as a direct result of the recent Act, or perhaps he did not wish to declare his interest in the beer trade.
- 4.1.9 By 1881, however, Benjamin Coulson is listed as a "beer retailer", he left before 1891 and was replaced by John Popely listed as "publican" and his wife Rachel. It is possible that by this time the Duke of Wellington had been taken over by a brewery and the Popely's occupied the Duke of Wellington as tenants since the later 19th century saw breweries gradually take over pubs which formerly served their own home-made beer and people were positively encouraged to become publicans (Jennings 2011).
- 4.1.10 The best evidence for the public house function of the building in the late 19th century, and the possible change from home brewing to brewery tenants came from a number of glass items related to the serving and drinking of liquid including Codd-type bottles from a Brewery in March by A. Alexander and Co., the earliest of which were manufactured before 1884.
- 4.1.11 Over the course of the 19th century serving bars became popular in pubs, while the invention of beer engines meant beer could be pumped out through pipes from barrels kept below ground, meaning beer could be served more quickly (Jennings 2011). Although there was no sign of an underground structure associated with this building there is clear evidence that the building was altered and extended. At some stage a much more solidly constructed addition was made to the rear of the building. The primary function of this extension may well have been to hold back the weight of the bank, but the presence of internal dividing walls within the new area suggests that it was part of the building. A photograph of the pub (Whittlesea Society 2007, 13) also appears to show the thatched roof of the main building continuing over this back area. Potentially at the same time as the extension was added to the rear, a further addition was made to the eastern side of the building. This shows clearly in an early 20th century photograph as a single storey addition, with a tiled roof (Plate 1).
- 4.1.12 Despite continued attempts to reduce the number of pubs in Britain such as a new law in 1904 that enabled authorities to forcibly shut down drinking establishments in exchange for compensation (Jennings 2011) the Duke of Wellington continued to do business under R. Wotton at least until the 1911 Census.
- 4.1.13 The Duke of Wellington (P.H.) first appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1887; Fig. 2) along with a small number of other buildings nearby. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1901, not illustrated) shows the Duke of Wellington (P.H.) as unchanged. Only one of the buildings to the east is shown, however, implying that the other three were demolished between 1887 and 1901. The remaining building is the northernmost of the group but by the time of the 1926 Third Edition map (not illustrated), this too is no longer shown. The 1926 map also shows that the Duke of

Wellington has moved from its former position and now appears slightly to the south with a group of out buildings and another unmarked building shown just to the north. The original pub is known to have been demolished between 1901 and 1926, when it disappears from the OS map, to be replaced by a new building to the south. It is possible that this change of location occurred shortly after the death of the last recorded landlord of the 'Old Duke': R. Wotton, who died in 1914.

- 4.1.14 The pub's income came from people using the ferry crossing adjacent to it, as well as those travelling down the canal and tracks along the top of the bank. Farm labourers would also have frequented the establishment. Further income came from boarders, with the 1911 census recording Edward Taylor as lodging there. Edward is recorded alongside Arthur Wotton, the son of landlord of the pub, on the local War memorial as both were killed in action during the First World War. The eventual demise of the pub was probably in part due to the decline of the River Nene as a transport route and increased mechanisation of farming leading to a reduction in the agricultural workforce., not helped by the First World War when many of the public felt drunkenness was not patriotic or respectful. This coupled with higher prices of alcohol and a drive towards sobriety, publicly endorsed by King George V, saw profits slide while further legislations restricted opening times even further (Jennings 2011).

4.2 The South Barrier bank

- 4.2.1 The bank on which the pub was constructed forms the South Barrier Bank of the Whittlesey Washes Flood reservoir. At this point the bank runs parallel to and is directly adjacent to the canalised route of the River Nene, known as Morton's Leam. Morton's Leam was originally constructed during the 1470s, under the direction of Bishop Morton. There were several stages of repair and improvement to the channel after this.
- 4.2.2 The construction of the bank is complex, as it was added to and repaired on a number of occasions. Evidently there would have been spoil from the digging of the original canal, which would have formed something of a bank. However, the North and South barrier banks were first constructed as flood defences during the late 1630s and early 1640s, under the direction of an engineer named Vermuyden (Charnley 1996, 42). The height of this bank was raised during the 1650s on the orders of the fifth Duke of Bedford, and again Vermuyden oversaw the work (Charnley 1996, 43).
- 4.2.3 A report from the Bedford Level Corporation (CRO BLC1/1) entitled "The First Undertaking" details how in 1630, the Commissioners of Sewers at King's Lynn proposed to enter into a contract with Cornelius Vermuyden for the draining of the Great Level of the Fens. There was significant local opposition to Cornelius Vermuyden being appointed, "on account of him being a foreigner and his demands for remuneration". Instead, they approached Sir Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, who agreed to undertake the draining of the Fens in return for 95,000 acres of the newly drained land. Thirteen Adventurers joined with the Earl of Bedford in the "Indenture of Fourteen Parts" (CRO R59/31/X/49/1). The 95,000 acres of newly drained lands were divided into 20 "lots" of 4,000 acres, which were shared amongst the Adventurers. The Adventurers then agreed to expend at least £500 for every share taken.
- 4.2.4 The improvements to Morton's Leam, were amongst the many works designed to drain the Great Level. Vermuyden was employed by the Earl of Bedford to execute this scheme and in October 1636, the Commissioners of Sewers at St Ives found that the Earl of Bedford and Adventurers had successfully drained the Great Level according to "Lynn Law". This judgement appears to have been somewhat premature, and was probably to relieve some of the (more or less bankrupt) Adventurers. A schedule was

drawn up of the 95,000 acres that were to be allotted to the Earl of Bedford and the Adventurers. Following complaints and petitions to the Privy Council in July 1638, it was declared that they had not sufficiently fulfilled their obligations as the Great Level of the Fens was still prone to flooding, especially in winter. Charles I then declared himself as Undertaker in July 1638, and agreed to make the Fens suitable as "winter grounds" in return for 57,000 acres. The original Adventurers, some of whom were financially ruined, were to receive just 40,000 acres for what they had achieved thus far.

- 4.2.5 The importance of the construction of the North and South Barrier Banks lies in the fact that they created the Whittlesey Washes flood storage reservoir, the first such water control system. Vermuyden was the first engineer to realise that a full spring flood tide reduced freshwater flow, which raised water levels. His solution to this problem was to create a large reservoir, to allow the water to spread out, thus reducing the rise in water level (Charnley 1996, 44).
- 4.2.6 Repairs were made to many of the Fenland banks during the early 18th century, when it was realised that the locally obtained peat and silt, from which they were constructed, did not hold water when they dried out. Trenches were cut along the centre of banks, and clay trampled in layers into these trenches (Charnley 1996, 45).
- 4.2.7 The CRO holds a number of records that relate to petitions for maintaining Morton's Leam, one such petition from the inhabitants of Yaxley, Farcet and Whittlesey (CRO S/B/SP2195) stated that "Bevill's Leam, Whittlesey Dyke and Morton's Leam are very overgrown, preventing the drainage of water and causing their land in the Middle Level to flood. They ask for Bevill's Leam and Whittlesey Dyke to be scoured between Whittlesey Mere and Flood's Sluice, and for Morton's Leam to be dyked. Four hundred and nineteen signatories."

4.3 Relationship of Duke of Wellington Public House to South bank

- 4.3.1 The construction of the building is likely to have initially taken place around AD1800 based on inference from documents and supported by the finds from the excavation. The construction apparently cut into the South Bank, although at the time of construction (c. 1800?) the Bank may well have been considerably lower since Henry Coulson (CRO S/B/SP779) petitioned to build a house on the South Bank. Additionally the excavation revealed that a walled extension had been added to the rear of the property apparently torevet the much larger bank behind, and possibly having been contemporary with the enlargement of the Bank. Since the Old Duke was demolished before 1926 the additions to the Bank must have taken place before that time. It is not possible to identify a precise date, although records dated to the 1850s specifically relate to the repair of the South bank of Morton's Leam (eg CRO S/B/SP1743 and parliamentary papers: CRO R59/31/).

APPENDIX A. FINDS REPORTS

A.1 Small finds

By Chris Faine

Introduction

- A.1.1 The metal finds from the site comprise two copper alloy coins, a copper alloy button and three iron nails. All of these finds are of post-medieval or modern date.

Catalogue

SF **1** (Context 11, fill of Pit **10**) Stamped copper alloy two-hole button. Diameter: 11.8mm. Modern

SF **2** (Context 1; topsoil) Copper alloy halfpenny. Extremely worn on both sides. Diameter: 26.8mm. Suggestion of seated Britannia on reverse. Post-Medieval. (1760 AD +).

SF **3** (Context 1; topsoil) Illegible copper alloy coin. Extremely worn on both sides. Diameter: 27mm. Post-Medieval.

SF **4** (Context 1; topsoil) Square section iron nail. Head missing. Length: 49.7mm Date: Uncertain.

SF **5** (Context 17, fill of robber trench **16**) x2 square section iron nails. Head missing. Length: 93.8 & 80.9mm Date: Uncertain.

A.2 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

- A.2.1 The excavation produced an assemblage of glass, weighing 2.313kg, from six contexts. The glass recovered is related mainly to the serving and drinking of liquid with a single shard from an oil lamp chimney. Where the glass can be dated it would appear to be late 19th - early 20th century. The latter includes Codd-type bottles from a Brewery in March: these bottles were manufactured in the late 19th-early 20th century, by A. Alexander and Co., the earliest of which were manufactured before 1884, although the bottle may have been recycled/reused beyond this date. Little information could be found about F.T. Philips of March, the producer of the contents of the Codd-type bottles, although the manufacturer of the bottles (A. Alexander & Co.) was producing bottles from 1873 to 1913.

Context	Weight (kg)	Description	Date
1	0.575	Clear, pale blue-green clouded and iridescent glass Codd-type bottle broken across the pinched neck, most likely for the removal of the marble used as an internal stopper. The front of the bottle is embossed in large letters F.T. PHILIPS MARCH , while the reverse bears the legend A. ALEXANDER & Co. LONDON in smaller letters towards the base of the bottle. This represents the name of the bottle's manufacturer (1873-1913) who used the mark c.1873-1884; after c.1884 when the Leeds bottling plant opened the embossed mark changed. http://www.sha.org/bottle/pdf/AlexanderCo.pdf Lockhart, B. Encyclopedia of Manufacturer's Marks on Glass Containers p307-314	Late 19th early 20th century (c.1873-1913)
	0.506	Clear, pale blue-green clouded and iridescent glass Codd-type bottle broken across the pinched neck most likely for the removal of the marble used as an internal stopper. The front of the bottle is embossed in large letters F.T. PHILIPS MARCH , while the reverse bears the legend A. ALEXANDER LEEDS and LONDON in smaller letters towards the base of the bottle. This represents the name of the bottle's manufacturer who used the mark c.1884-1913. http://www.sha.org/bottle/pdf/AlexanderCo.pdf Lockhart, B. Encyclopedia of Manufacturer's Marks on Glass Containers p307-314	Late 19th-early 20th century (post c.1884-1913)
	0.214	Clear, aqua glass press moulded bottle, broken at upper part of neck. The bottle is square with flat chamfered corners and three recessed panels, the two side panels are embossed on one side STEPHENSON BROS LIMITED , the other BRADFORD . The front panel is blank and would have held a paper label indicating the bottle's contents. The Stephenson Brothers of Bradford (founded in 1856) manufactured soap-based agents for the processing of wool. and furniture wax and polish (Stephenson Furniture Polish). The bottle therefore may have contained furniture cream. http://www.stephensongroup.co.uk/about.php	Late 19th-early 20th century
	0.072	Clear, slightly clouded surface, colourless, glass bottle neck and part of shoulder. The neck has an internal screw thread and part of the embossing on the front of the bottle survives. The letters are ALEX above a circular line, below which can be seen the letters SON with part of what may be an ampersand (&).	Late 19th-early 20th century
	0.033	Large shard from a clear green glass cylindrical bottle with large embossed letters on the surface, the surviving letters are MAR , most likely this originally read MAR(CH) .	Late 19th-early 20th century
	0.012	Near complete clear colourless short glass with convex shoulders, long neck, flat rim, and hollowed base.	Late 19th-early 20th century

Context	Weight (kg)	Description	Date
	<0.001	Circular glass bead in translucent blue glass. 8mm diameter with a 3mm diameter central hole.	Not closely datable but likely to be 19th-20th century
2	0.640	Five shards from the base and shoulder of a large rectangular jar in clear near colourless glass with slight clouding and iridescence. The base of the jar has a central recessed circle inside which is embossed 4L . This may have been a pickle jar possibly for pickled eggs.	Late 19th-early 20th century
11	0.031	Shard from a clear, olive green glass press-moulded cylindrical bottle. The bottle is embossed and part of a word survives the letters being BEC and part of an E, F or H.	Not closely datable but likely to be 20th century
	0.011	Shard of clear colourless glass with slight iridescence. The glass is thinner than might be expected for a wine or beer bottle and may have contained a medicine or other liquid. It may also be from a decorative vessel of some kind as on the front is embossed a bird standing on a bare branch (the legs and lower part of the bird survive). It stands within a double lined circle, around which are traces of letters spelling out a name or brand, few letters of which can be clearly identified I (T)NF	Late 19th-early 20th century
	0.168	Complete profile of a clear colourless drinking glass or beaker with a diameter of approximately 80mm. The upper half of the tapered glass is plain, the lower half is narrow moulded panels, no pontil mark is present although the base of the glass is roughly ground. The beaker is of a type present from the late 19th century and is possibly a half pint glass although no measure mark is present.	Late 19th-early 20th century
12	0.012	Rim shard from a clear colourless drinking glass or beaker with a diameter of approximately 100mm. The glass is slightly iridescent and on the surface is a single etched or sand blasted letter, possibly a D, which may have formed part of a measure mark.	Late 19th-early 20th century
	0.012	Partial rim (champagne finish with sloped top) from a green glass bottle. The finish is present from the 18th century, however this bottle is most likely late 19th century or later	Not closely datable.
14	0.006	Shard of flat near-colourless, although slightly cloudy window glass.	Not closely datable.
18	0.017	Shard from a press moulded green glass bottle	Not closely datable but likely Late 19th-early 20th century
	0.004	Clear colourless glass shard possibly from an oil lamp chimney.	19th century
Total	2.313kg		

Table 1: The glass recovered during excavation

A.3 Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

Introduction

- A.3.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of 24 sherds, weighing 0.795kg. The assemblage spans the mid 16th to the early 20th century, although the largest group by weight within this broad date range are 19th-early 20th century. The condition of the overall assemblage is unabraded and the mean sherd weight is moderate at approximately 0.033kg.

Methodology

- A.3.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.
- A.3.3 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types using where appropriate Cambridgeshire's type series (Spoerry forthcoming). All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Results

- A.3.4 Various vessels were recovered from context 1 (topsoil), including sherds from three cylindrical Modern English stoneware jars with what Cotter describes as vertical corduroy sides (Cotter, 2000, 254). The vessels would have contained jams or pastes of fish or meat. Also present are sherds from two Refined White earthenware decorative vessels: the first is a relatively plain jar decorated with moulded foliage below the rim and slipped or painted green around the rim, the second is gaudily decorated with shades of dark blue glaze overlain by gilding above a painted decoration of flowers and foliage. Both vessels are likely to have been used to hold house or pot plants and at least in the case of the highly decorated vessel might be termed a *Jardinière*. Other vessels included a sherd from a large Late slipped kitchenware bowl and a green transfer printed drinking vessel most probably a cup and is 19th century in date.
- A.3.5 Fill 11 of pit 10 produced a single sherd from a Late slipped kitchenware bowl alongside six sherds from a late Pearlware plate decorated with a transfer printed and painted pattern (see plate 4). The main figures may be part of a circus act although the action in the scene takes place after the act has finished as the rather comical dressed gentleman, who is holding a long whip or *Chambrière* whip in his left hand and appears to be offering a flower to the young lady sitting on a stool in her circus trick riding outfit (she is also holding a short whip or crop). The horse or pony she has ridden or will ride is visible in the background of the picture. The plate appears to be late Pearlware with only a faint bluish tinge to the glaze where it has pooled in the foot ring; it most likely dates to the early 19th century (pre-1840), and may have been a decorative item in the public house or private rooms, rather than something in everyday usage.
- A.3.6 Fill 14 of robber trench **13** produced a single sherd of pottery, a base sherd from a post-medieval redware tripod pipkin, the scar for one of the pipkin's legs can be seen on the base of the sherd. The vessel may have been curated or perhaps was a decorative item within the public house or the private rooms. Fill 17 from robber trench **16** produced two

sherds of Refined White earthenware and context 18 the base sherd from a Yellow ware jar dating to the 19th century.

Conclusion

A.3.7 The assemblage is domestic in nature, representing table and decorative vessels alongside food storage vessels, all of which would have been found within the 19th century public house which would have been partially a domestic property with the owners or lessees living in the building.

Context	Feature	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Context Date Range
1	Topsoil	Refined White earthenware (painted and gilded)	Jar or Vase rim and body sherd	4	0.021	19th-early 20th century
		Refined White earthenware (transfer printed)	Drinking vessel rim	1	0.010	
		Refined White earthenware	Jar rim sherd	1	0.063	
		Pearlware (transfer printed)	Plate rim	1	0.004	
		Late slipped kitchenware	Bowl rim sherd	1	0.029	
		Modern English stoneware	Drinking vessel rim sherd	1	0.28	
		Modern English stoneware	Jar rim and body sherd	3	0.209	
		Terracotta	Plant pot body sherd	1	0.015	
11	Pit 10	Late slipped kitchenware	Bowl body sherd	1	0.005	19th century
		Pearlware (transfer printed and painted)	Plate (complete profile)	6	0.100	
14	Robber Trench 13	Post-medieval Redware	Pipkin base sherd	1	0.020	Mid 16th-18th century
17	Robber Trench 16	Refined White earthenware	Body sherd	2	0.008	19th -20th century
18	Pit 19	Yellow ware	Jar base sherd	1	0.031	19th century
Total				24	0.795	

Table 2: Pottery recovered during excavation

A.4 Clay Tobacco Pipes

by Carole Fletcher

- A.4.1 A small assemblage of clay pipe stems was recovered during the archaeological works. The stems in themselves are not closely datable, however the clay pipe stem from contexts 1 and 17 were found alongside 19th century pottery suggesting the pipe is of a similar date.

Context	Stem Fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
1	1	0.002	Not closely datable
2	1	<0.001	Not closely datable
12	1	0.001	Not closely datable
17	1	0.001	Not closely datable
Total	4	<0.005	

Table 3: Clay tobacco pipe recovered during excavation

A.5 Brick, Floor Brick, Drain and Roof Tile

By Rob Atkins

Introduction

- A.5.1 A representative sample of CBM was recovered from the excavation, comprising 21 fragments (22.227kg; Table 4).

Type	No. of contexts	No. Fragments	Weight (g)
Brick and floor brick (post-medieval to modern)	5	12	15285
Drain	1	1	5051
Roof tile	4	8	1891
Total		21	22227

Table 4: Brick, drain and roof tile recovered during excavation

Results

Post-medieval to modern brick and floor brick

- A.5.1 Complete or part bricks and floor bricks were recovered from several features and deposits. In this site certain normal bricks have been used as floor bricks and probable floor bricks have been used in walls. They have therefore been recorded together by context order:

Layer 2:

1) Part of a thin brick, probably original made as a floor brick, but has been used in a wall. It is in a yellow sandy fabric and is machine made (1.156kg). 105mm (4") wide and 30mm (1¼") thick. Cement mortar attached to both sides. Mid 19th century +.

2) Complete thin brick, probably original made as a floor brick, but has been used in a

wall. In a yellow sandy fabric and was machine made (1.577kg). 225mm (9") long, 110 (4¼") wide and 41mm (1½") thick. Early 19th century +.

3) Complete brick in an orange sandy fabric (2.34kg). Made in a mould. Had been massively over-fired causing significant distortion across most of brick. Extensive cracks in brick. 220mm (8½") long. 100mm (4") wide. Thickness varied from 62mm (2½") one end to 80mm (3") the other. 18th to mid 19th century.

4) Part brick in an orange sandy fabric (1.968kg). Machine made – fletton type. Has frog. 105mm (4") wide and 65mm (2½") thick. Late 19th to mid 20th century.

Wall 8:

Complete brick in a yellow sandy fabric (2.708kg). Made in a mould. Slight crease on face. Marks indicate excess clay scraped off while in mould. Arrises very good. Some lime mortar attached. 220mm (8½") long, 110mm (4½") wide and 61mm (2½") thick. Mid 18th to mid 19th century.

Floor 9:

"Normal" brick used as a floor brick. Complete brick in an orange sandy fabric (2.146kg). Made in a mould. Slight crease on face. Partly smooth top – walked on for a period of time. 220mm (8½") long, 100mm (4") wide and 63mm (2½") thick. 18th to mid 19th century.

Fill 14 and pit 13:

1) One part brick in an orange sandy fabric (668g) and two undiagnostic fragments (54g). 65mm (2½") thick. Made in a mould. Large crease on face. Marks indicate excess clay scraped off. 18th to mid 19th century.

Floor 15:

"Normal" brick used as a floor brick. Complete brick in a yellow sandy fabric (2.601kg). Made in a mould. Marks indicate excess clay scraped off while in mould. Arrises near vertical -well made. Very smooth top – walked on for a long period of time. 221mm (8½") long, 100mm (4") wide and 62mm (2½") thick. 18th to mid 19th century.

Fill 17 of robber trench 16:

Two brick fragments (67g). One is 49mm (2") thick.? 18th-19th century.

Drain

Topsoil 1. In a yellow sandy fabric. Complete half of a drain (5.051kg). Would have had a corresponding drain tile placed on top thereby creating a round hole 5" in diameter for fluids to pass down. It is 230mm (9") long, 200mm (8") wide. Thickness 100mm (4") to 40mm (1½"). 19th century.

Roof tile

Layer 2:

Pantile fragment in a yellow sandy fabric (88g). One part pantile tile (1.259kg). Machine made. 342mm (13½") long. 19th century.

Fill 11 of Pit 10:

Pantile in two fabrics. One fragment in a yellow sandy fabric(147g) and two orange fragments (51g)

Fill 14 of robber trench 13:

One? peg tile fragment in an orange sandy fabric (18g)

One pantile fragment in an orange sandy fabric (277g). 19th century

Fill 18 of Pit 19:

Pantile fragment in an orange sandy fabric (51g). 19th century

Discussion

- A.5.2 The CBM all dates to the later post-medieval or modern periods (with the possible exception of a peg tile fragment). None of the other fragments date before the 18th century and it is possible these all date after c.AD 1800. A few of the bricks were made before c.AD 1850.

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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http://www.stephensongroup.co.uk/about.php consulted on 02/10/2014

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

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Project Name	<input type="text" value="The Duke of Wellington Public House, South Barrier Bank, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire"/>		
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Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>	Future Work	<input type="text"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="WHSWAS14"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>
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HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>
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Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
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<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

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".

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HER	<input type="text" value="Cambridgeshire"/>	
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Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text" value="OA EAST"/>
Project Brief Originator	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>
Project Design Originator	<input type="text" value="Aileen connor"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text" value="Aileen connor"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text" value="Nick gilmour"/>

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
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WHSWAs14

WHSWAS14

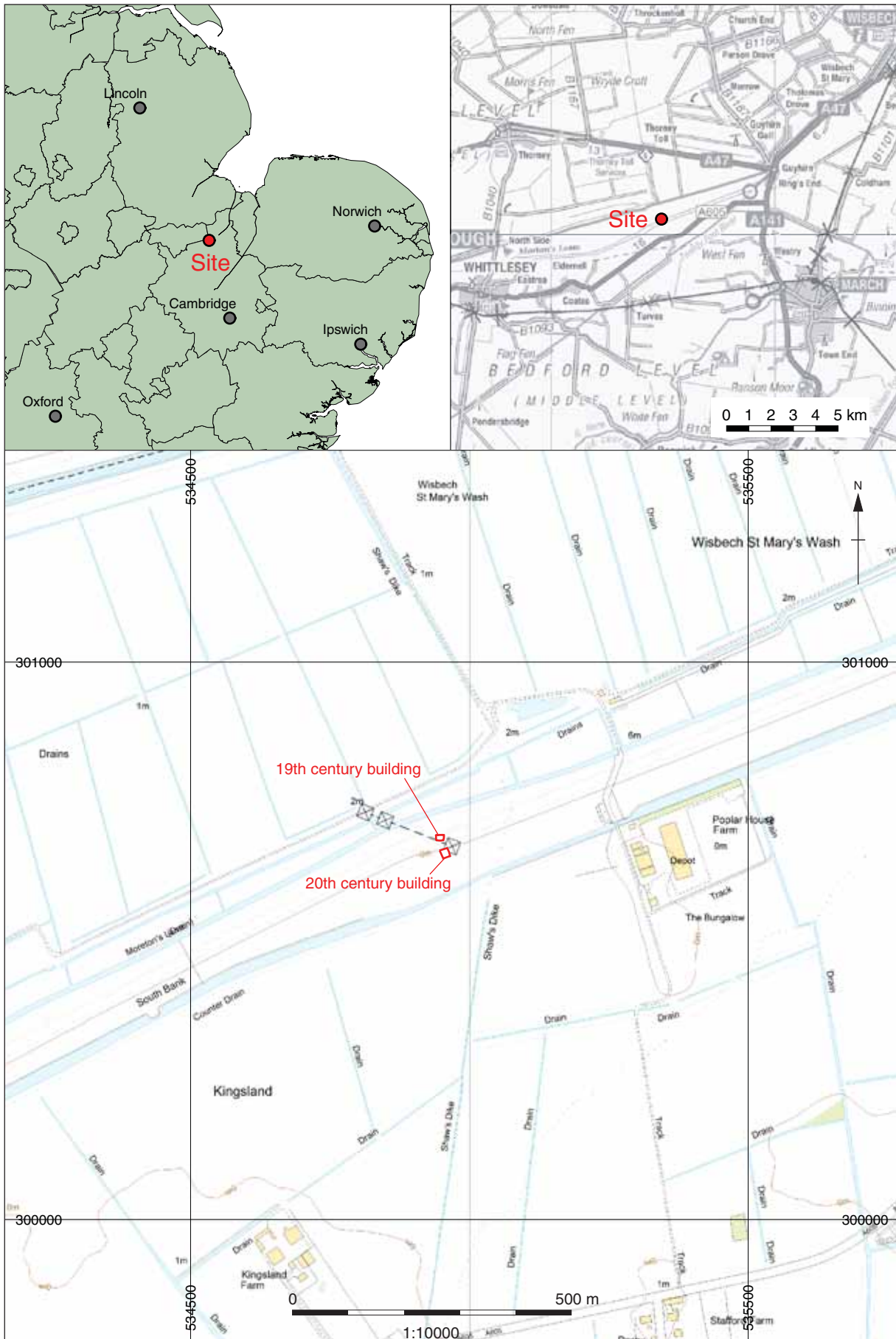
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Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
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<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing development area (red)

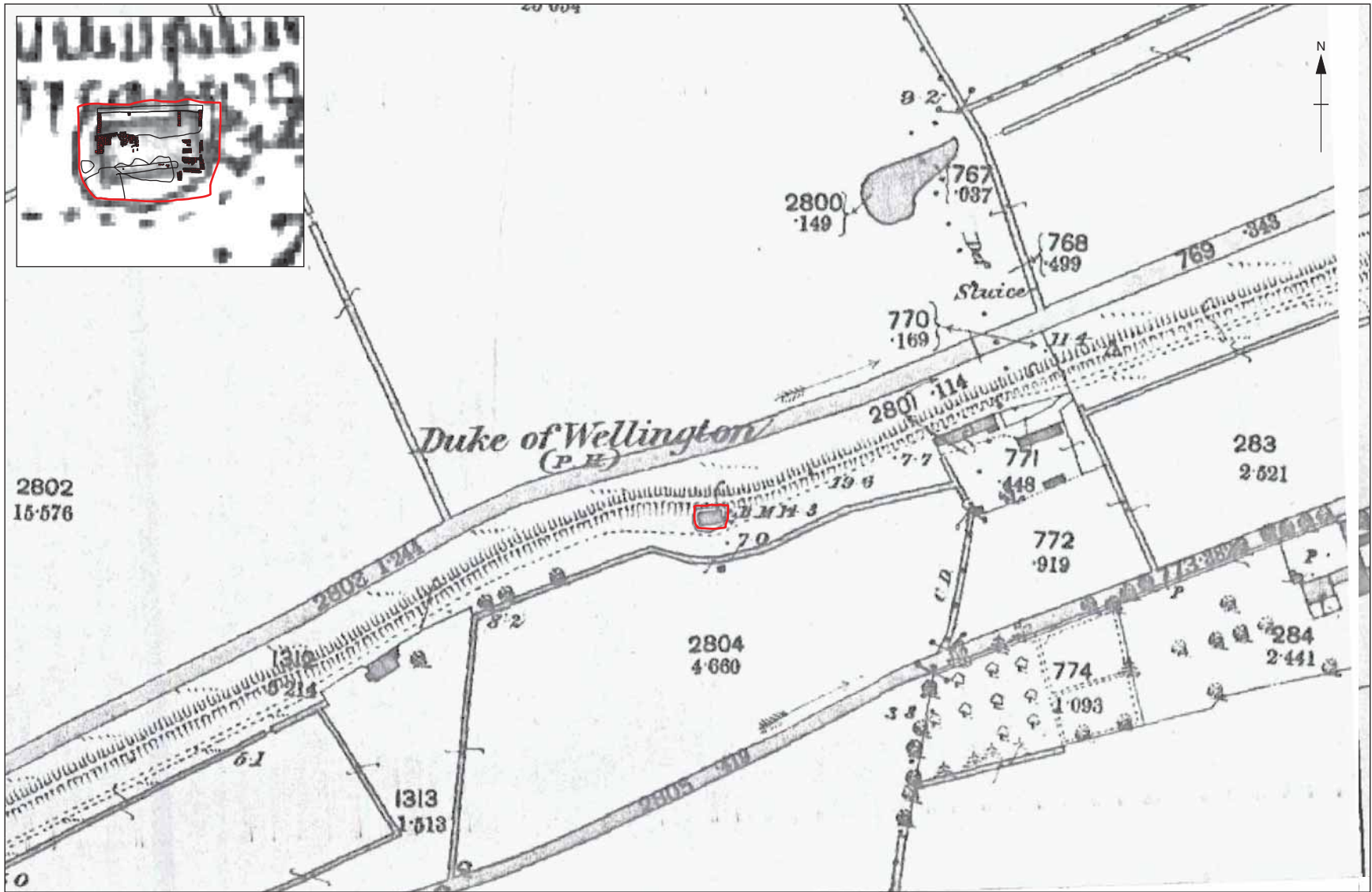


Figure 2: 1st edition OS map (1887)



Figure 3: Site plan

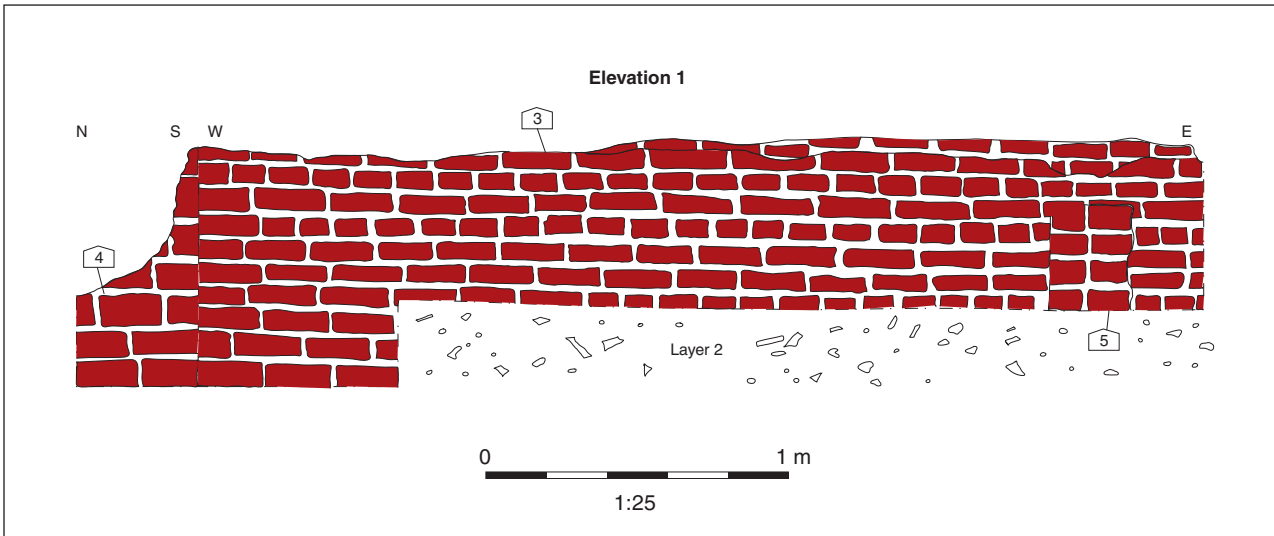


Figure 4: Elevation of retaining wall 3

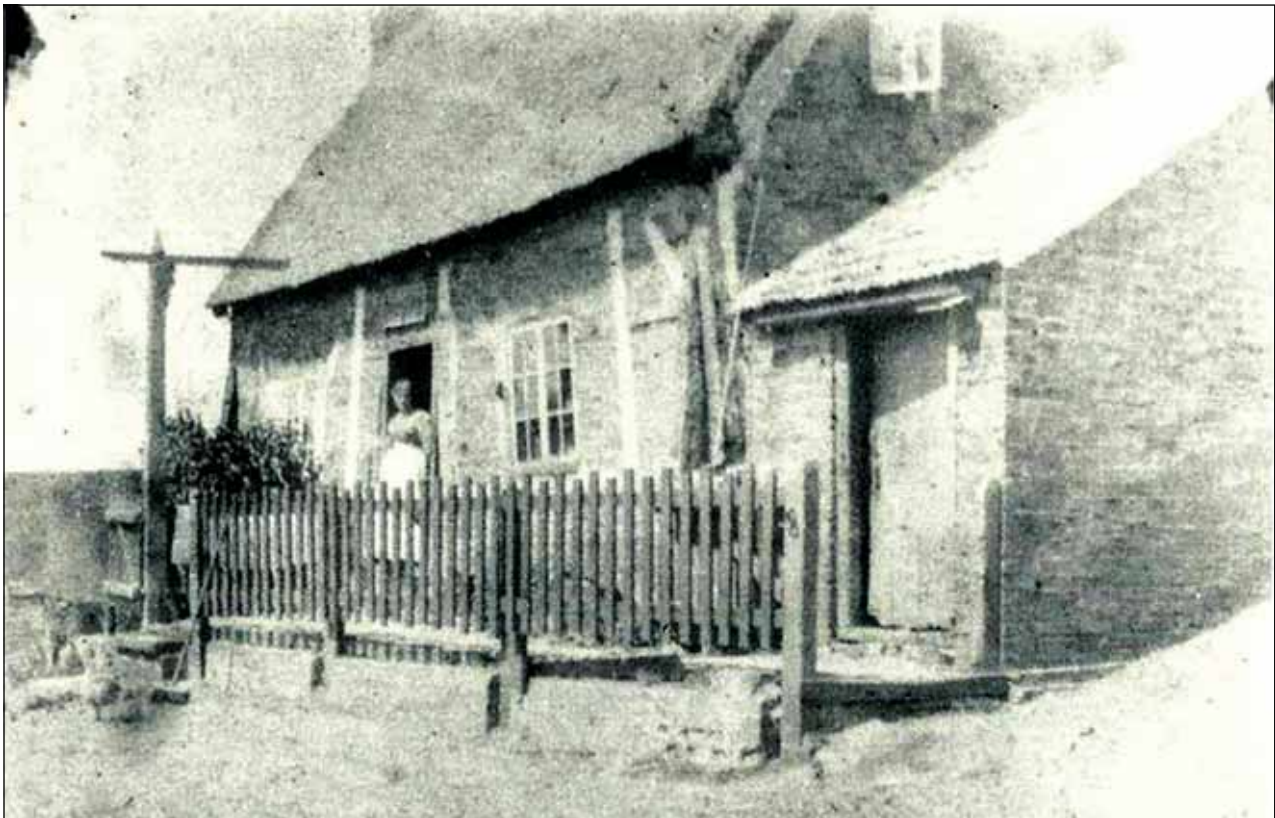


Plate 1: The Duke of Wellington Public House in the early 20th century



Plate 2: The site from the south-west



Plate 3: Wall 4 from the west



Plate 4: Circus plate from context 11



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