



King's Arms Hotel, Christchurch, Dorset

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report



**KING'S ARMS HOTEL,
CHRISTCHURCH, DORSET
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT**

Prepared on behalf of:

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Plate 1: Evaluation trench

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orchard Homes and Developments Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land to the rear of the King's Arms Hotel, Christchurch, Dorset (the Site), located at NGR 415993 092765.

The Written Scheme of Investigation allowed for the excavation of a single evaluation trench c.14 m in length in an area previously inaccessible to archaeological investigation. Although no significant archaeological remains were found during the previous evaluation, (Wessex ref. 59751), concerns raised by the Christchurch Antiquarians led to a cautionary Watching Brief condition being attached to planning permission. Due to the lack of discoveries on Site and the poor ground conditions the Watching Brief was discontinued and no further evaluation trenches were excavated.

Archaeological features present in the evaluation trench dated to the late post-medieval and modern periods, confirming the results of the earlier evaluation.

The evaluation trench also recorded the edge of the river channel postulated following the results achieved from the previous evaluation.

Monitoring of the foundation trenches, the Watching Brief, recorded severely truncated sections of the site and made ground deposits, again confirming the results of the previous evaluation. Monitoring of the foundation trenches also showed the edge of the river channel dipping down to the east.

The results of this, the second, phase of archaeological monitoring, confirms that the Site had been severely disturbed by levelling, specifically ground raise within the Site, and the canalization of the river, now known as the Mill Stream. The southern end, and supposed medieval street frontage of the Site, had been severely truncated by the insertion of modern services and alteration/extension to the original hotel building.

The observations and results of the latest archaeological intervention on the King's Arms Hotel found no evidence for either Saxon or Medieval activity on the Site.

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The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Thompson, Lucy Parker and Dave Godden.

The report was compiled by Steve Thompson and Peter Reeves, the illustrations were compiled by Kitty Brandon. The specialist finds report was undertaken by Lorraine Mephram.

The project and field work was monitored by Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist for Dorset County Council. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Peter Reeves.

KING'S ARMS HOTEL, CHRISTCHURCH, DORSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orchard Homes and Developments Ltd to undertake the archaeological evaluation and watching brief on a parcel of land adjoining the King's Arms Hotel, Christchurch, Dorset hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (NGR 415993 092765). The evaluation trench was required in an area that had previously been inaccessible for the evaluation conducted in August 2006. These works were required by a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of 21 town houses and 3 apartments with associated parking on the land to the rear of the Hotel. (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Previous archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 59751), in August 2006 had determined that the Site had been heavily truncated in the past and that the majority of the present land surface rested upon made ground. However due to concerns raised by the Christchurch Antiquarian Society a further programme of archaeological works was formulated following consultation with the Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council. A Project Design, for a further evaluation trench in an area previously inaccessible to archaeologists and a watching brief during ground works, was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and approved by Dorset County Council and Christchurch Borough Council prior to commencement of works.

1.2 Site Description

1.2.1 The Site comprises an irregular piece of land, covering an area of 4550m², located to the north of Castle Street approximately 50m from the Town Bridge within the historic core of Christchurch. Christchurch is located c.8km to the east of Bournemouth. The town lies on a natural promontory between the Rivers Stour and Avon.

1.2.2 Within the bounds of the Site is the King's Arms Hotel, a Grade II Listed Building. Ancillary buildings associated with the hotel, and the modern extensions to the original building, had been demolished in the period between the 2006 evaluation and the current Site investigation. The north and west boundaries of the Site adjoins property on Ducking Stool Lane and Castle Street. The eastern boundary is defined by the Mill Stream, a canalised river channel.

1.2.3 The Site lies between 2 and 2.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), forming a generally flat area of land sloping gently to the east, toward the Mill Stream and the River Avon.

- 1.2.4 Christchurch lies on the alluvial sands and gravels of Pleistocene and more recent origin, forming a low ridge at the confluence of the Rivers Avon and Stour which then flow into Christchurch Harbour (British Geological Survey, BGS Sheet 329). The solid geology has a direct influence on the overlying soils, which comprise podzols and argillic brown earths, generally of a sandy loam nature with impeded drainage.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous archaeological work

- 2.1.1 Christchurch is rich in archaeological remains, and these have been previously reported upon in a desk based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2005, ref 59750.01) and summarised in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2007 59752.1).
- 2.1.2 Initially the Site was considered to have a high potential for the presence of archaeological remains ranging in date from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods with particular emphasis on the Saxon period. Of particular interest, and based on limited observations during earlier development work, it was conjectured that the Saxon defensive ditch or 'burh', ran through the Site on a north-south alignment (see **Figure 1**).
- 2.1.3 The majority of the Site falls to the east of the projected line of the defences and therefore outside of the 'burh', and likely area of settlement.
- 2.1.4 Archaeological evaluation undertaken in August 2006 found no evidence for the Saxon defensive ditch, and did not record any deposits or artefacts on the site the late post-medieval period. Made ground, more than 2m thick, filled a former meandering stream/river channel, the precursor of the canalised Mill Stream now located to the east of the Site.
- 2.1.5 The layered deposits forming the raised ground contained artefacts dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A line of posts is thought to have been placed as part of a stabilising structure for the raise deposits. The remaining two trenches recorded severe truncation of the southern part of the Site by late post-medieval and modern services.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The results from the previous evaluation of the Site indicated a **low to very low** potential for significant archaeological deposits or structures to remain within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 3.1.2 As a precautionary measure a further evaluation trench was requested in an area of the Site previously inaccessible for archaeological investigation.
- 3.1.3 A watching brief was also requested during excavation of footings for the proposed development. The results of the watching brief were monitored until it was determined that the results of the previous evaluation had been confirmed and that no evidence for archaeological materials existed on the Site.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine, as far as reasonably possible; the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site.

3.3 Trial trench and watching brief methodology

Machine excavation

- 3.3.1 The additional evaluation trench was excavated within the footprint of a demolished ancillary building (**Figure 2**).
- 3.3.2 The trench was located by digital survey using a Total Station and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 3.3.3 The trench was excavated by means of a 360° excavator under constant archaeological supervision using a toothless or grading bucket. Mechanical excavation continued to the top of archaeological horizons or the underlying drift geological deposits, whichever were encountered first. All identified archaeological remains were first cleaned and then excavated by hand.
- 3.3.4 The excavated uprisings were examined for archaeological material.
- 3.3.5 The footings for the proposed development were excavated utilising a toothed 0.7m ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.3.6 All archaeological deposits were photographed, investigated by hand and recorded down to the permitted Health and Safety limit (1.2m below ground surface). Beyond this depth observation was maintained down to the full foundation depth of c. 1.9 m below ground surface.
- 3.3.7 All features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard methods and *pro forma* recording system, with all features and deposits being assigned a unique number. A full graphic record was maintained. Plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10, where appropriate. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated, with plans and sections annotated with OD heights. A full photographic record was maintained, using digital cameras, colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film).
- 3.3.8 Following inspection by the Senior Archaeologist for Dorset County Council the trench was backfilled.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Detailed information relating to the individually excavated features, contexts and sequences are presented in **Appendix 1**. A summary of the results from Trench 1 is contained below.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 The single trench, aligned north south and measuring c. 14m in length and an average width of c. 1.8m was excavated within a recently demolished building to the rear of the King's Arm's Hotel.
- 4.2.2 Made ground material, 0.5m in depth, was removed prior to the excavation of the trench which was excavated a further 0.76m below the original ground level.
- 4.2.3 The uppermost deposits exposed consisted of a series of layers of mixed clays, sand and building rubble (**101**). Interpreted as land raise material, consistent in nature with the deposits recorded in the 2006 evaluation, this upper block of deposits lay directly on the underlying drift geology deposits (**102**).
- 4.2.4 Five cut features of uncertain origin but including at least one tree throw, were observed truncating the basal geology.
- 4.2.5 Stratigraphically the earliest feature (**122**) could be interpreted as a large pit. The feature was only partially exposed but the three fills recorded (**123**, **124** and **125**) appeared to be natural infilling events.
- 4.2.6 The large feature (**122**) was in turn cut by three smaller features (**108**, **112** and **118**). Similarly to the underlying feature all the fills of these later cuts were characteristic of natural infill, although a single isolated dump (**114**) of charcoal rich ash material was retrieved from **112**.
- 4.2.7 The nature and function of the pit and the later interventions is unclear, due to the paucity of artefacts they are unlikely to be refuse pits. Similarly the apparent natural depositional regime by which the features were filled does not indicate use as cess pits.
- 4.2.8 A final irregular shaped cut feature (**103**) at the northern end of the trench was interpreted as a tree throw.
- 4.2.9 Following a site monitoring visit by the Senior Archaeologist for Dorset County Council the trench was backfilled.

4.3 Watching Brief

- 4.3.1 The watching brief monitoring the excavation of a number of footings against the north facing elevation of the Hotel following the demolition of a number of structures at the back of the building provided the only evidence for earlier activity on the Site. At the western end of the footings c.1m of made ground was removed to reveal the basal geology, this depth is comparable with that observed for the highest level of deposits encountered in Trench 1.
- 4.3.2 Due to the narrow width of the footings, the unstable nature of the surrounding ground surface and made ground deposits observations were made from the top of the trenches, once they had been excavated beyond 1.2m. Monitoring of the footings identified four features of interest all located adjacent to the existing hotel building.
- 4.3.3 The first identified feature was the edge of the river channel inferred from the previous evaluation. The channel meandered through the centre of the Site. The highly disturbed edge (disturbed as a result of water action) of the

water channel was identified sloping away to the east and filled with a gyttja-like deposit, a sedimentary peat formation which occurs at the edge of slow moving water courses. A number of lenses of shell, including oyster shell, were identified within the dark organic deposit but no dating evidence was recovered. The deposit was observed extending over a distance of 15m from its point of origin in the west to the east, at the latter point the deposit dipped below the base of the foundation trench and is assumed to continue to the east.

- 4.3.4 The Saxon burh, previously thought to pass through the Site, has been indicated as potentially aligned through the car park area on a number of plans predicting its course. No evidence of the defensive ditch was identified in the previous evaluation and none was recorded throughout the watching brief. The watching brief did determine that the sedimentary peat formation, associated with a slow moving body of water, extended to the east for a distance in excess of 15m. There is a high probability, though not proven, that the 'peat' deposits may well extend to the current canalised Mill Stream. It is therefore possible that in the historical past the natural river channel was utilised as a natural defensive barrier at this point and that a man-made structure was never constructed.
- 4.3.5 A brick built feature, c.1m below the current ground surface was identified during the watching brief. The structure was constructed utilising the same bricks forming the main fabric of the Hotel building, which dates to c.1803. The structures fabric and its position adjacent to the outer wall of the Hotel, indicate that it is a nineteenth century structure for water dispersal. The feature was located adjacent to a modern down pipe feeding into a soak-away.
- 4.3.6 A deposit of stone rubble was noted approximately 2.2m below the current ground surface. Due to the depth of the foundation trench and the unstable nature of the ground the deposit could only be observed from the current ground surface. The deposit spread unevenly across the base of the trench and was recorded as around 0.50m in width and approximately 0.30m thick. Associated with the stones evidence of crude grey mortar was noted within the same deposit. None of these stones had mortar adhering to their faces. It remains unclear if this was a feature *in situ* or a deposit of dumped building rubble. No datable material was associated with the stone deposit.
- 4.3.7 Following a site monitoring meeting it was determined that as this deposit lay below the formation level of the proposed development that no further investigation should be undertaken.
- 4.3.8 The final feature observed during the watching brief was a stone built well which was observed to cut through the gyttja-like deposit. The top of the well was revealed below 1.5m of made ground, the well was recorded for a depth of c 0.5m, but was not investigated further due to the unstable ground conditions. No datable material was observed.

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 A very small finds assemblage, predominantly ceramic building material was recovered from the evaluation trench.

- 5.1.2 These range in date from medieval to post-medieval. All have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

CBM = ceramic building material

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery
105		1/119	
111		5/23	
115	2/16	1/58	
117		1/33	
125			1/14
TOTAL	2/16	6/396	15/782

- 5.1.3 A single, much abraded, sherd of Medieval pottery was retrieved from the uppermost fill (**125**) of feature **122**. The sherd is similar to one retrieved from the previous evaluation undertaken in 2006 and consists of a coarse sandy ware. The type is found widely across south-east Wiltshire and east Dorset, and is probably of 12th or 13th century date. The find occurred residually in apparent naturally deposited fills.
- 5.1.4 The remaining assemblage consists of ceramic building material (CBM) all dating to the late post-medieval period. The material was found in **108**, **112** and **116**.
- 5.1.5 A single abraded fragment of ceramic tile, dating to the late medieval/post-medieval period was retrieved from the tree throw (**103**).
- 5.1.6 Two fragments of animal bone (indeterminate as whether from cattle, horse or sheep/goat) were retrieved from feature **112** in association with post-medieval CBM contained in fill **115**.
- 5.1.7 Fragments of brick and tile, dating to the late post-medieval and modern periods were noted throughout the watching brief but not retained for further study. The land raise deposits also contained sherds of nineteenth and twentieth century pottery, none of which was retained for further analysis.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 6.1.1 No environmental samples were retrieved from the features observed in the evaluation trench. The archaeological deposits recorded were identified as having either a natural origin or were dated to the post-medieval or modern periods.
- 6.1.2 The western margin of the channel was observed as a meandering edge as opposed to a straight man-made cut. A semi-organic rich deposit, similar to gyttja sediments, could be observed. The deposit edges interdigitated with the overlying and underlying silt deposits indicating a slow natural deposition. Gytta deposits are associated with slow moving water environments and tend to occur where waters have been mineral enriched. Mineral enrichment may occur naturally through vegetation growth along the banks or algae growth on the waters surface. Mineral enrichment may be

the result of effluent or surface runoff containing minerals being released into the water channel.

- 6.1.3 Some shells, including oyster shell, were observed within the fluvial deposits. The deposit was not noted in great quantity and may have a natural origin.
- 6.1.4 Whereas no dating material was retrieved gyttja deposits are laid down over a long period of time and are most usually associated with a post-glacial environment.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The excavation of the additional evaluation trench and subsequent watching brief was successful in expanding on the information gathered during the evaluation of August 2006 (Wessex Archaeology, 2006B). The evaluation trench revealed that the underlying basal geology was higher towards the west of the site than the east and the watching brief was able to provide the reasoning for that. Trench 1 was located on the edge of a former river bank and the footings trenches revealed the edge of the water course gently meandering north south and sloping away to the east. The observed dip in topography accounts for the depth of made ground previously recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 of the earlier evaluation.
- 7.1.2 Observations made during the recent watching brief and recorded in the previous evaluation demonstrate that following the canalisation of the natural river course and the formation of the Mill Stream that the base of the original water course was backfilled to either create usable land or to remove a stagnant body of water from the town centre.
- 7.1.3 Gytja-like deposits tend to have a sulphurous odour which would have intensified during prolonged dry weather or higher summer temperatures. It is also possible that sewage, increasing the mineral content of the water, may have been discharged from the adjacent town into the body of water. The proposed chronology, as indicated by the artefact assemblage, of a late post-medieval date for the infilling of the former river channel would conform to the general sanitation improvements within urban centres experienced during this period.
- 7.1.4 The edge of the river channel recorded in 2007 is aligned with the row of posts identified within Trench 2 of the August 2006 evaluation, further suggesting that these posts potentially relate to the stabilisation of the edge of the water course or were used to stabilise the backfill material.
- 7.1.5 The watching brief confirmed the results obtained from trenches 3 and 4, located on the street frontage, and recorded severe truncation of deposits. Archaeological structures observed in these trenches related either to the provision of a fresh water supply to the hotel or formed part of a drainage system. No artefacts dating prior to the post-medieval period were retrieved.
- 7.1.6 The line of the Saxon 'burh' is projected to pass through the Site however, as indicated in the previous evaluation, no trace or evidence for the presence a defensive structure was found. No artefacts dating to the Saxon Period were retrieved from the Site.

- 7.1.7 It should be noted at this point that throughout the two phases of archaeological investigation no evidence for Saxon occupation or activities were recorded on the Site. It should be added that no artefacts dating to the Saxon period were retrieved from any of the areas investigated on the Site suggesting a lack of Saxon activity in the immediate environs.
- 7.1.8 The lack of Saxon material confirms the recorded evidence that the majority of the Site at this time was occupied by a wide river channel and was therefore uninhabitable.
- 7.1.9 The artefact assemblage retrieved from the two phases of investigation have produced a handful of residual medieval pottery sherds, however these are symptomatic of chance deposition rather than established settlement.
- 7.1.10 The present phase of work has confirmed the results and conclusions of the 2006 evaluation. The Site does not contain surviving archaeological remains of any significance. The line of posts previously observed in trench 2 and presumed to be related to riverbank consolidation are confirmed as running parallel to the river channel edge recorded during the watching brief. The infill of the river channel, based upon previous results, predates the 20th century but occurred no earlier than the 17th century.
- 7.1.11 The base of the river channel and any further post revetment for the infill is located below 1.8m below the present ground surface (c. 2.2m bps). The foundations depths for the development range between 1.4 and 1.8m below the present ground surface and therefore any further remains that might exist are, by design, preserved *in-situ*.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1.1 The site of the King's Arm's Hotel has been the subject of a desk based assessment (Wessex Archaeology ref. 59750) compiled in 2005, an archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2006 (Wessex Archaeology ref. 59751) and a further evaluation trench and watching brief (Wessex Archaeology ref. 59752). Each phase of archaeological assessment has been monitored by the Senior Archaeologist for Dorset County Council and the Written Scheme's of Investigation for each fieldwork phase has been approved by both Dorset County Council and the Planning Officer for Christchurch Borough Council.
- 8.1.2 Throughout the duration of the project the results obtained and reported upon have been approved by Dorset County Council and in turn forwarded to Christchurch Borough Council.
- 8.1.3 Concerns focus on the possible line of the Saxon 'burh' and the presence of a Medieval building, neither of which have been recorded during the fieldwork undertaken on the Site.
- 8.1.4 The desk based assessment collated in 2005 annotated the postulated line of the 'burh' suggested by previous research as passing through the Site. The 2006 trial trench evaluation included a trench placed across the projected line of the defensive ditch with a further two placed adjacent to the postulated course of the ditch. None of the subsequently excavated trenches detected any evidence for a man-made defensive structure in the

proposed locality. The trenches (1 and 2) did record deep deposits, in excess of 2m, of back fill material placed within a natural channel.

- 8.1.5 Further correspondence from Mr Tizzard indicated a different position for the line of the 'burh' although the new supposed route would still have been detected in trench 1 of the 2006 evaluation if it had been present. The evaluation trench excavated in 2007 reaffirmed that a natural water channel, infilled during the late post-medieval period, occupied the central area of the Site. Observations made throughout the watching brief in 2007 also confirmed that the channel had a natural interdigitated edge as opposed to an abrupt man made cut.
- 8.1.6 Omitted from the desk based assessment but kindly pointed out to Wessex Archaeology by Mr Tizzard was the possible presence of a medieval building as suggested by a deed plot. Unfortunately there are a number of problems accepting that such a building existed.
- 8.1.7 In the first instant the results of the evaluation, confirmed by the second phase of evaluation, indicate that the eastern part of the Site, prior to its canalisation, was covered by a slow moving meandering river channel.
- 8.1.8 A second problem accepting this theory is that no evidence for a building, or for the Site being occupied throughout this period, has been retrieved either through the stratigraphic record or through the artefact assemblage. Other than a single sherd of medieval pottery found within a naturally deposited fill in a tree throw no artefacts from this period have been found.
- 8.1.9 It has been suggested that the said building stood on the Site from 1468 until sometime in the mid-nineteenth century. Although appearing on a deed plan neither the watching brief nor the evaluation trenches recorded any features that would usually be found associated with such a long period of occupation. Within urban contexts c. 400 years of occupation would have resulted in the creation of numerous rubbish and cess pits within the burgrave plot, furthermore a significant assemblage of cultural material (animal bone and ceramics) would normally be present.
- 8.1.10 Similar to the complete lack of Saxon material retrieved from the site there is an almost complete lack of medieval (a few abraded residual sherds) and early post-medieval artefacts from the site.
- 8.1.11 In association with the 1468 building it has been suggested (Mike Tizzard *pers comm.*) that the meandering river channel was canalised at this time or earlier. Unfortunately such a theory is at odds with the archaeological stratigraphy recorded in the 2006 evaluation, where thick horizontal layers of material containing post-medieval and modern materials were observed to fill the former channel. The observations were confirmed by the watching brief conducted on the Site throughout 2007.
- 8.1.12 The post-medieval features observed in the 2007 evaluation trench appear to respect the former river bank indicating that the channel remained open at this time.
- 8.1.13 The archive will be deposited with the Dorchester Museum and a summary of the results published in the Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society (DNHAS).

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APPENDIX I – TRENCH SUMMARY TABLE

Trench: 1			
Length: 14m		Width: 1.8m	Depth: 0.76m
Context Number	Description	Depth	
101	Made ground, dark grey brown silty sand containing building rubble, brick and concrete. Series of different deposits resulting in large scale heterogeneous deposit. Approximately 0.50m of made ground had been removed prior to the opening of the trench.	0-0.34m	
102	Natural, mid 'orange' yellow flint gravels, located at a higher depth than the earlier Trenches located to the east, indication of the sloping natural geology towards the canalised Mill Stream which borders the eastern limit of the Site.	0.34m+	
103	Cut of Tree Throw, recorded as irregular in shape with a flat base and 1.45m long by 0.90m wide and 0.17m deep and filled with (104), (105) and (106). Potentially indication that the tree fell to the east.	0.17m deep.	
104	Fill of (103), dark grey yellow silty sand, earliest of 3 fills, redeposited natural at the base of the feature, result of roots dragging up the natural.	0.11m thick	
105	Fill of (103), dark grey black, with rare sub angular flints, low energy deposit, organic deposit.	0.17m thick	
106	Fill of (103), mid 'orange' yellow silty sand, mottled natural derived deposit within tree throw.	0.11m thick	
107	Group number for a sub rectangular steep, concaved sided flat bottomed pit, which is cut through by later feature (116) and cuts through (122). Group composed of (108), (109), (110), (111), (112), (113), (114), (115), (118), (119), (120), (121). 3 interventions were excavated into the feature to investigate its relationship to other features. Date and function of the feature unknown but probably post-medieval.	0.27m deep	
108	Cut of sub rectangular feature (part of Group (107). Recorded as 1m long by 1.26m wide and 0.29m deep. Feature cuts the natural and is filled with (109), (110) and (111).	0.29m deep	
109	Fill of (108), dirty natural gravel deposit located at the base of feature, reworked natural potentially as result of the digging of the feature.	0.06m thick	
110	Fill of (108), very dark grey brown silty sand, a mix of deliberate backfilling, (origins of the material is unclear), and natural infilling from the surrounding ground surface. Lack of domestic waste indicates its not refuse dumping.	0.12m thick	
111	Upper fill of (108), homogenous fill, repeated depositions of similar material over time, sterile in terms of finds and so potentially some other kind of waste material, potentially cess, however this does not appear to be a cess rich deposit.	0.14m thick	
112	Cut of sub rectangular feature (part of Group (107). Recorded as 0.96m long by 0.48m wide and 0.28m deep. Feature cuts the natural and is filled with (113), (114) and (115).	0.28m deep	
113	Lower fill of (112), dark grey brown silty sand with common gravel inclusions, mix of natural gravel and infilling, similar to (109), however less stony. Homogenous fill mix of edge collapse and natural infilling.	0.16m thick	
114	Thin isolated fill of (112), very dark brown black silty sand, with charcoal components, charcoal rich fill, possible hearth clear-out, deliberate fill	0.02m thick	
115	Upper fill of (112), homogenous fill, repeated depositions of similar material over time, sterile in terms of finds and so potentially some other kind of waste material, potentially cess, however this does not appear to be a cess rich deposit. Equal to (111)	0.13m thick	
116	Cut of modern feature which cuts through (115) the upper fill of (112), footings associated with recently demolished building.	0.15m deep	
117	Fill of (116), dark grey brown silty sand with modern brick rubble.	0.15m thick	
118	Cut of sub rectangular feature (part of Group (107). Recorded as 0.96m long by 0.48m wide and 0.28m deep. Feature cuts (125) the upper fill of (122) and is filled with (119), (120) and (121).	0.28m thick	
119	Lower fill of (118), dark grey brown silty sand with common gravel inclusions, mix of natural gravel and infilling, similar to (109), however less stony. Homogenous fill mix of edge collapse and natural infilling. Equal to (113)	0.14m thick	
120	Thin isolated fill of (118), very dark brown black silty sand, with charcoal components, charcoal rich fill, possible hearth clear-out, deliberate fill. Equal to (118)	0.02m thick	
121	Upper fill of (118), homogenous fill, repeated depositions of similar material over time, sterile in terms of finds and so potentially some other kind of waste material, potentially cess, however this does not appear to be a cess rich deposit. Equal to (111) and (115).	0.13m thick.	
122	Cut of feature only partially revealed in plan which is potentially similar to Group (107). Potentially sub rectangular in shape with steep concave sides, recorded as 2.9m long by 0.60m wide and 0.32m deep.	0.32m deep	


123	Lower fill of (122), mid to dark grey silty sand with occasional gravel, mix of feature edges and infilling material, homogenous fill appears to repeated depositions of similar material, and the sterile nature in terms of finds perhaps indicates natural silting.	0.26m
124	Fill of (122), mixed light yellow and dark grey silty sand, redeposited natural deposit.	0.12m thick
125	Upper fill of (122), dark brown grey homogenous fill, unclear if natural silting or deliberate backfill.	0.09m thick



Plate 1: Modern features



Plate 2: Edge of river channel

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