

**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
The Command House Public House, Gun Wharf, Dock Road,  
Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TX**

**NGR TQ 75690 68382  
NGR 575690 168382**

**Project No: 5115  
Site Code: GWC 11**

**ASE Report No: 2011249**

**Dylan Hopkinson MA**

**With contributions by Luke Barber, Sarah Porteus,  
Elke Raemen, Trista Clifford, and Justin Russell**

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds adjacent to The Command House public house, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TX (NGR 575690 168382). Archaeology South-East were commissioned to carry out the work by Oxford Scientific Films as the archaeological element of a television programme exploring the history of the pub that occupies a building which was formerly the official residence of the officer in charge of the Gun Wharf. The work was carried out between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.*

*The earliest deposits encountered were a series of external work surfaces probably dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. These layers were observed in a small excavation between the brick foundations of a colonnaded administrative building attached to the end of a range of ordinance stores, which were demolished in c. 1960. Consultation of Ordinance Survey maps reveal that the building was constructed between 1909 and 1932.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Oxford Scientific Films (hereafter referred to as OSF) to undertake an archaeological evaluation in the grounds adjacent to The Command House public house, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TX (NGR 575690 168382, Fig. 1) as the archaeological element of a television programme, 'Pub Dig', exploring the history of the pub that occupies a building which was formerly the official residence of the officer in charge of the gun wharf.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2011), the bedrock geology on the site is Upper Chalk of the Seaford Formation which is overlain by superficial alluvial deposits of silty peaty sandy clay.
- 1.2.2 The site is located on the southern bank of the River Medway on built up ground behind the sea wall at an elevation of c. 4.50m AOD. At this point the river runs from north to south and lies to the west of the site. To the north, lie the offices of the Medway Council and the Historic Gun Wharf, which is now managed as a visitor attraction by the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. The site lies at the bottom of a cliff to the east which is cut into the chalk and hidden behind a retaining wall with steps leading up to Dock Road. To the south lies a municipal car park and public gardens adjacent to the river.
- 1.2.3 The evaluation site covers an area of roughly 4 hectares and is located on land to the west and north of the Command House pub.

### **1.3 Background to the Evaluation**

- 1.3.1 The site is not subject to any threat of development and is being undertaken as part of a general interest research project. It is not anticipated that any further fieldwork will follow on from this phase of work, irrespective of the results of the work.
- 1.3.2 A Manual of Specifications for the work was prepared by ASE and the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council (KCC 2011a), in advance of the evaluation, setting out the aims and objectives of the fieldwork.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The general objectives of the work were:
- To excavate and record all archaeological remains and deposits exposed in the excavation with a view to understanding their character, extent, preservation, significance and date.
  - To provide material and setting for OSF filming.

- To assess, analyse and publish any findings.

1.4.2 The Manual of Specifications (KCC 2011a) set out the following specific questions as research aims:

- Is there evidence for pre-17th century archaeology on the site?
- Is there evidence for earlier (medieval) land reclamation?
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric, Roman or Saxon activity within the area?
- Is there any evidence of post-medieval activity such as land reclamation, dock yard development or military structures?

## **1.5 Scope of the Report**

1.5.1 This report provides an account of the archaeological evaluation which was undertaken between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist), Ben Sharp (Assistant Archaeologist), and John Cook (Surveyor).

1.5.2 The fieldwork was managed by Jon Sygrave and Darryl Palmer, and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson. Figures were prepared by Justin Russell.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

- 2.1.1 The site is located close to the core of the medieval settlement of Chatham; it was later the site of the Tudor Dockyard and, following the relocation of the naval dockyard to the north, was used by the Ordnance Board as an ordnance wharf.

### **2.2 Medieval Settlement**

- 2.2.1 The medieval settlement of Chatham is understood to have been focussed on St Mary's Church which lies adjacent to the site on the higher ground to the east. The church is of early Norman date and its substantial size suggests a medieval settlement of some local significance. Nothing remains above ground of medieval Chatham, but it is likely that a small fishing community was focussed on the higher ground around the church, overlooking harbouring and wharfage on the River Medway.

### **2.3 The Tudor Dockyard**

- 2.3.1 The earliest reference to naval activity at Chatham comes from the mid sixteenth century, when there are accounts attesting to wages for works at Jillingham Water (Chatham) and for the renting of storehouses. The location of these storehouses is unknown, but the general area of the Gun Wharf site seems a likely location. The Medway was used for the harbouring of the King's Navy from the mid-sixteenth century and, from this date onwards, the Medway was a favoured naval base for the royal fleet.
- 2.3.2 In the second half of the sixteenth century, Chatham became one of the main centres for the Tudor Navy. Many improvements were made to the facilities at Chatham during the Elizabethan period, with new docks, wharfs, cranes and storehouses all being built.

### **2.4 The 17<sup>th</sup> Century Dockyard**

- 2.4.1 In the early seventeenth century, plans had been drawn-up for a new dockyard and land was acquired to the north of the present site. Construction of the new dockyard started in 1619 and was finished by 1623. This new dockyard became the focus of naval shipbuilding at Chatham until the twentieth century and is now the site of the Historic Dockyard.
- 2.4.2 A map of the River Medway dated 1633 shows the new dockyard, with the Gun Wharf site below St Mary's Church marked as *The Old Dock*. Whilst the map of 1633 is somewhat stylised, it appears to be reasonably accurate. It shows the site of the old dock as being occupied by a pair of long storehouses on the wharfside, with smaller buildings in what is now the open area in front of the Command House pub.

### **2.5 The Gun Wharf**

- 2.5.1 After the construction of the new dockyard to the north, the site of the Tudor dockyard was taken over by the Ordnance Board for use as an ordnance (or gun)

wharf, from which the site takes its present name. The Gun Wharf was administered by the Board of Ordnance, as a separate department from the Navy who were responsible for the dockyard. The Board of Ordnance would have supplied armaments and munitions to both the army and the navy.

- 2.5.2 The Gun Wharf developed into a substantial ordnance yard and new offices, storehouses, workshops and sheds were constructed at the site. Maps of 1708 and 1719 show the new arrangement, including for the first time, The Command House. The Command House originally acted as the storekeeper's offices and residence and later, as a residence for a number of officers based at the Wharf. The building is now a public house and is Grade II Listed. To the south of The Command House was a large Carriage Store and to the north was the substantial Grand Store; both of these buildings are now demolished.
- 2.5.3 The development of the Ordnance Wharf is shown on a series of eighteenth and nineteenth century maps. Two major phases of redevelopment took place: the first between 1715-1730; the second between 1770-1804 (OA 2004, 18).
- 2.5.4 The role of the wharf would have been to store guns and armaments from ships going into repair or being 'laid-up in ordinary' (partially or fully decommissioned) at Chatham. The wharf also supplied stored and repaired guns for the navy and army, and new guns that had been manufactured elsewhere were delivered to the site for inspection before being fitted to ships of the navy. Cranes on the dockside would have been used for the loading and unloading of guns probably using lighters to ferry the ordnance to the ships. Gun powder was stored separately, away from the ordnance wharf and dockyard, at Upnor, on the opposite banks of the Medway, around 2km to the north of the site.
- 2.5.5 As well as administering the Gun Wharf, the Board of Ordnance were also responsible for the construction of the *Chatham Lines*, a series of earthworks and forts which formed the landward defences of the naval dockyards. The Inner Lines enclosed the dockyard, barracks, St Mary's Church, and the town of Old Brompton. The Lines were initially constructed between 1755 and 1758 in response to an invasion threat during the Seven Years War. The Lines were modified and remodelled during the Revolutionary Wars and were rebuilt during the Napoleonic period.
- 2.5.6 Board of Ordnance correspondence shows that the Gun Wharf site was used to supply armaments to the Lines and the large garrison at Chatham. This probably formed a major part of the ordnance yard's activities from the mid-eighteenth century onwards. By the early nineteenth century, the Gun Wharf was no longer able to meet the demands placed upon it and a new area, subsequently known as New Gun Wharf, was acquired to the south. The Gun Wharf site continued in use until after the Second World War and was finally disposed of by the military at the end of the 1950s.

## 2.6 Previous Archaeological Research and Prospection

- 2.6.1 A desk-based assessment of the Gun Wharf site was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in 2004 on behalf of Medway Council in order to understand the development of the site and inform the future management strategy for the area (OA 2004).



- 2.6.2 A ground penetrating radar survey of the site has been undertaken as part of the present project and the initial results sent to Peter Kendall at English Heritage, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Medway. Peter's comments on the results of that work are précised below:
- 2.6.3 There is evidence for linear anomalies which probably relate to river walls and it is considered probable that there will be multiple phases from the 16th to 18th centuries. Other buildings relating to dockyard use such as storehouses, guardhouses, crane bases etc. look likely to be present in the vicinity of the trenches. Although the trenches are located off the main structures, it is considered possible that the trenching will identify evidence of surfaces and ordnance activities.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a site-specific Manual of Specifications prepared by KCC (2011a) and the general Specifications for archaeological work in Kent (KCC 2011b), as well as the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008).

#### **3.2 Location and Extent of Trenches**

- 3.2.1 Three trial trenches were excavated using a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). These were recorded by an archaeologist to assess the level of archaeological survival.
- 3.2.2 Trench 1 was 4.00m by 1.80m and centred on a ground penetrating radar anomaly close to the sea wall. This trench immediately identified the anomaly just below the existing ground level, which proved to be a section of metal sheet piling. The trench was rotated by 90° and excavation continued down the landward side of the piling in order to fully confirm that this was the origin of the anomaly and that there were no other features in the area.
- 3.2.3 Trench 2, which measured 10.0m by 1.80m, was centred on ground penetrating radar signals to the north of the pub, where buildings had been identified on historic maps.
- 3.2.4 Trench 3 had not been proposed prior to the commencement of the fieldwork but was suggested after the excavation of Trench 1 yielded no significant results. Excavation of this trench proceeded after agreement had been obtained from the Kent Archaeological Officer, the Licensee of the pub and Medway Council. The trench measured 2.50m by 1.80m and was located immediately in front of the Command House building.

#### **3.3 Recording**

- 3.3.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets.
- 3.3.2 Section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale on plastic drafting film, and a full photographic record was made, recording all features and contexts.
- 3.3.3 The trench and feature locations were recorded using 1:20 scale drawings on plastic drafting film and GPS surveying equipment, and all features were planned in relation to ordnance datum heights.

#### **3.4 Public Engagement**

- 3.4.1 As the excavation took place in an area frequented by members of the public, the trenches were suitably fenced off, and ASE staff were on hand to explain the progress of the excavation.

### **3.5 Site Archive**

- 3.5.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and has been offered to, and accepted by, Chatham Historic Dockyard Museum. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Trench Record Sheets	1
Context Register Sheets	2
Context Sheets	53
Photographic Record Sheets	5
Photographs	133
Drawing Sheets	3
Levels Register Sheets	2
No. of files/paper record	1

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Natural Geology**

- 4.1.1 Due to the research nature of the project and lack of development threat it was not necessary to fully excavate the trenches to natural in order to preserve by record. The natural deposits were not encountered in any of the trenches. The thickness/depth of cuts, deposits and structures, as well as their height AOD is provided in tabulated form (Tables 2-4). Owing to the complex stratigraphy in Trench 2, a stratigraphic matrix for this trench has been provided as an appendix (Appendix B)

### **4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)**

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was located over a ground penetrating radar anomaly that appeared to indicate the presence of a linear feature, roughly 9.40m from and parallel to the existing sea wall (Fig. 2).
- 4.2.2 As the trench was opened, a thin layer of topsoil was removed and immediately revealed a section of sheet piling which crossed the trench in the location of the anomaly. The trench could not be excavated in its original location because of this obstruction which seemed to be the source of the ground penetrating radar signal; however the trench was rotated by 90° and excavated on the landward side of the piling, in order to be sure there was nothing further to learn from the trench.
- 4.2.3 The earliest deposit identified, [1/002], was a layer of mid brown silty gravel containing large concrete pieces and brick inclusions which had been deposited as a single dump deposit. This was at least 2.38m thick but was not excavated to the bottom of the deposit. The layer was interpreted as a dump of made ground, deposited behind the metal shuttering to create reclaimed land adjacent to the River Medway.
- 4.2.4 In the south facing section, [1/004], a ditch or pit cut c.1.40m wide and 1.00m deep was revealed, cutting layer [1/002] (Fig. 3.1). The feature, which had steeply sloping vertical sides and a flat base did not extend into the trench more than 0.10m and, given its late date, was not excavated by hand. The fill of this feature was [1/003], a compacted dark brown gravelly silt.
- 4.2.5 The cut feature was sealed by, [1/001], a topsoil deposit of compact pale orangey brown fine sandy silt with gravel inclusions. A sherd of early 19<sup>th</sup> century pearlware serving dish and a fragment of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century tableware were recovered from this layer.

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)	Datum m AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.12	4.96
1/002	Deposit	Made Ground	+2.38	4.84
1/003	Fill	Ditch / Pit Fill	1.00	4.84
1/004	Cut	Ditch / Pit Cut	1.00	4.84

Table 2: List of contexts in Trench 1

## 4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4; Appendix B)

### 4.3.1 Overview

Trench 2 measured 10.00m by 1.80m and was located over a collection of ground penetrating radar anomalies in an area where the Grand Store buildings of the Ordnance Wharf were positioned. A large number of architectural elements were identified, representing the foundations of a building. These were exposed and recorded after the removal of demolition material, and a small area of earlier deposits were excavated between the foundations.

### 4.3.2 Post-medieval surfaces

The earliest deposit identified, [2/023], was a compacted, off-white rammed chalk surface. This layer was unexcavated and was observed at the base of the excavation between the building foundations, over an area measuring 1.02m by 0.58m, the thickness of the deposit is unconfirmed and no artefacts were recovered.

Overlying this layer was [2/022], a compact, light grey, chalky surface composed of sandy silt and chalk pieces with inclusions of small pebbles, brick fragments and shell (Fig. 4.6). This rough surface contained late medieval or early post medieval ceramic building material that could not be closely dated, some of which was vitrified. The upper surface of this layer sloped down slightly from east to west by 0.06m over a distance of 1.02m, which may indicate a riverine facing function.

A further compacted surface, [2/021], overlay layer [2/022]; this was a friable mid greyish brown clayey silt, containing CBM, pottery, clay pipe and small pebbles (Fig. 4.5). Most artefacts are consistent with a broad 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century date, with two fragments of clay tobacco pipe providing *terminus post quos* in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

This sequence of external floor or yard surfaces was completed with a final layer of rammed chalk pieces and chalk dust, [2/016] (Fig. 4.3). This deposit was observed between the later foundations over an area of 2.08m by 1.62m and was 0.27m thick. No artefacts were recovered from the layer.

### 4.3.3 Possible beam slot

This final chalk surface was cut by a shallow linear cut, [2/015], orientated east to west (Fig. 4.3). The cut was 0.10m deep and 0.45m wide, it was observed over a

distance of 2.25m but could be seen to continue in both directions under the foundations of the building that overlay it. The cut was filled by [2/014], a mid orange coarse sandy deposit with flint and gravel inclusions. No artefacts were recovered from this feature which was interpreted as a construction element of an earlier structure, possibly a beam slot; however, no other elements from this phase of use were identified. The southern side of the feature had been truncated by the excavation of the foundations of the later masonry building [2/013] (Fig. 4.3). It was overlain by a deposit of compacted pale grey sandy silt, [2/011], with frequent small chalk inclusions, containing fragments of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century salt glazed stoneware service pipe

#### 4.3.4 Wall foundations

A small section of foundation construction cut [2/013] was excavated where it was observed between the masonry elements and this clearly illustrates the construction sequence for the building as a whole. Cutting made ground layer [2/011], the foundation cut is likely to have been excavated as a continuous trench into which the east west masonry elements of the building were built. The cut had vertical sides and a depth of 0.60m and continued under extant masonry into the limit of excavation to the east and west (Fig. 4.3).

Initially the foundation was prepared with a single layer of un-mortared bricks, [2/029], laid on a thin skim of coarse sand at the base of the construction cut [2/013]. A sample brick was taken from this layer and provided a broad 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date.

A stepped pier foundation, [2/017], was then constructed over this layer of bricks. It was 12 courses high (0.91m), constructed in English Bond from red bricks measuring 0.22m long by 0.10m wide and 0.07m high (Fig. 4.4). The foundation was 0.80m square in plan and was substantial enough to bear considerable weight. This square foundation was interpreted as a pier foundation or plinth for a column and was one of four identified within the trench.

Three of the pier foundations were constructed on the same alignment roughly 1.00m apart ([2/017], [2/018], and [2/019]). The close proximity of these substantial masonry elements suggests that the construction cut was a single trench rather than individual foundation pits.

After the completion of the pier bases, the construction cut was then partially backfilled to a depth of 0.25m with compacted dark brown sandy silt [2/031], which produced no artefacts.

The pier foundations were then connected together by sections of wall foundations that filled the gaps between the piers ([2/028], [2/030], and [2/036]). These walls butted against the foundation piers rather than being bonded and were 0.50m wide. Only foundation [2/030] was seen in section to the basal course and was shown to be a stepped foundation constructed in stretcher bond. The bottom course was stepped out by 25mm and a further six courses existed above; overall the foundation was 0.56m high. The position of the steps in the pier foundation [2/017] coincided at the same elevation.

Construction cut [2/013] was then fully backfilled around the connecting wall

foundations with [2/012], an identical fill to that deposited around the base of the pier foundations ([2/031]). This deposit yielded ceramics dated to between 1625 and 1700; clay tobacco pipe dated to between 1660 and 1720 as well as 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century CBM; however, given the later date of the brick in the wall foundation, most of these finds are considered residual.

A fourth pier foundation, [2/027], was partially visible within the trench, on an alignment that would have formed the return wall of the building, a little way to the east. Although not fully excavated, this was set within a separate construction cut, [2/037], with its own backfill, [2/038]; this cut the earlier chalk surface, [2/016]. Presumably there is an additional pier foundation that would have formed the corner of the building just outside the southern edge of the trench and which would have been within the east west aligned foundation cut [2/013].

The two foundation alignments were connected by an additional stepped wall foundation, [2/026]. This was constructed of three courses of stretchers with an additional course of headers that was inset by 0.11m. This foundation was built directly overlying [2/012], the backfill of the construction cut for the east-west orientated masonry elements. There was no construction cut for this foundation element, which butted against foundation pier [2/027] and would have butted the pier foundation proposed to be lying just outside the trench at the corner of the building.

#### 4.3.5 Steps

The external faces of these foundation alignments (east and south) were abutted by extensive masonry that formed the core of foundations for stone steps that lead up to the building. Against the east-west aligned wall foundations, was [2/035], the foundation for steps [2/020], a brick sample from [2/035] was dated to 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Against the north south aligned wall foundations was [2/024], the foundation for steps [2/007]; a brick sample from [2/024] was attributed a broad 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> century date. Both sets of steps were represented by two risers of dressed limestone, constructed from stones set as stretchers, measuring between 0.90m and 1.55m in length, 0.32m in width and 0.10 to 0.13m in depth.

Steps [2/007] (Fig. 4.8) were sealed by a deposit of very compacted dark grey sandy silt with chalk, charcoal and flint inclusions [2/006]. This was partially excavated to a depth of 0.27m but was shown to continue down below the base of the second, lower riser. The deposit contained residual finds, including clay tobacco pipe from 1640-1670, pottery from 1625-1700 and a piece of medieval floor tile from 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Deposit [2/006] was truncated by later demolition cut [2/039] (see below).

The better surviving and longer set of steps, [2/020] had a deposit of firm mid orangey brown sandy silt, [2/034], that appeared to have been trapped between the two risers and sealing this was an area of external tarmac surface [2/003] that showed signs of having been laid up against the external wall of the building.

#### 4.3.6 Internal walls

Two additional masonry elements were observed within the building; however the deposits overlying them were not fully excavated and they are only partially understood.

Butting the internal north facing elevation of foundation [2/030], a sleeper wall, [2/032] was constructed that extended northwards. This was three courses high and constructed of a basal course of stretchers and a course of headers; finally a second inset course of headers formed a step. The western side of the wall was obscured by a later demolition deposit [2/005] that was not fully excavated (See below).

The elevation of the top course of this sleeper wall is the same as the elevation of the deep step in the western side of foundation [2/026], and it is likely that wooden joists supporting floorboards in this room were placed in this position.

Slightly to the west, the second internal feature extended into the interior of the building and butted against the north facing side of pier foundation [2/018]. This, structure, [2/033], was only seen in plan and appeared to be a short section of stud wall perhaps forming a partition between rooms.

#### 4.3.7 Upper wall courses

The only remaining masonry elements are four sections of wall which overlie the bridging wall foundations [2/026] [2/028] [2/030] [2/036]; these sections of wall ([2/008] [2/009] [2/010] [2/025]) are 0.34m wide and are constructed from Kentish Stock Bricks of mid 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date. These walls, which survive to a height of two courses, form a deep thin recess between the pier foundations and the brick foundations for the steps. One interpretation for these recesses is that they form part of flood protection measures where boards are slotted vertically into the recesses to seal the gaps between the pier foundations.

#### 4.3.8 Demolition material and overburden

On the interior of the building was a deposit, [2/005], of loose shattered slate with a fine ashy silt matrix that was up to 0.26m deep. This contained areas of charcoal and burnt wood that clearly indicated burning, suggesting that it was a demolition deposit produced during a fire in the building. The deposit also contained metal fittings from the building, including a lock and window glass of 19<sup>th</sup> century date as well as nails and CBM dating to 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is not clear if this was the final demolition of the building or a phase of destruction after which the building returned to use before finally being demolished and placed out of use.

Deposit [2/005] was a homogenous deposit of slate that was observed exclusively inside the building and was sealed by [2/004], a mixed building rubble, containing a wide variety of mostly residual finds including brick, architectural stonework, pottery, clay tobacco pipe, slate, glass and molten lead in solid form. This demolition deposit was observed across the whole trench and was not restricted to the building interior. It is indicative of the building being torn down and the land changing in use to become an open space.

Cutting through this demolition deposit was an irregular cut that damaged or destroyed parts of the north-south aligned masonry elements, in particular, damaging the top of foundation pier, [2/027]. This cut, [2/039], was not fully excavated but was filled with pale grey brown sandy silt and rubble, [2/040], thought to be derived from the demolition of the building.



The trench was sealed by 0.30m of compact pale grey sandy silt, [2/002], with modern crushed brick rubble. It appeared that this was imported to the site as made ground in order to level the open area that was left after the building was demolished.

Finally the trench was covered by, [2/001], mid brown sandy silt topsoil and turf up to 0.22m thick.

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)	Datum m AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.22	5.81
2/002	Deposit	Modern Made Ground	0.30	5.59
2/003	Deposit	Tarmac Layer	0.06	4.13
2/004	Deposit	Demolition Layer	0.30	4.28
2/005	Deposit	Demolition Layer - Slate	0.26	4.03
2/006	Deposit	Deposit over steps 2/007	0.27	4.15
2/007	Masonry	Steps approaching building from east	0.29	4.16
2/008	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	0.15	4.20
2/009	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	0.15	4.14
2/010	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	0.15	4.23
2/011	Deposit	Made Ground	0.80+	4.12
2/012	Fill	Fill of cut 2/013	0.28	3.78
2/013	Cut	Construction cut for E-W foundations	0.50	3.78
2/014	Fill	Fill of linear cut in chalk surface	0.10	3.74
2/015	Cut	Linear cut in chalk surface 2/016	0.10	3.74
2/016	Deposit	Rammed chalk surface	0.27	3.77
2/017	Masonry	Pier foundation for column base	0.91	4.19
2/018	Masonry	Pier foundation for column base	0.23+	4.18
2/019	Masonry	Pier foundation for column base	-	4.20
2/020	Masonry	Steps approaching building from south	0.30	4.21
2/021	Deposit	Earlier surface	0.10	3.51
2/022	Deposit	Earlier rough chalky surface	0.10	3.39
2/023	Deposit	Unexcavated chalk surface	-	3.28
2/024	Masonry	Foundation for steps 2/007	0.17+	4.10
2/025	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	0.13	4.17
2/026	Masonry	Foundation for wall 2/025	0.35	4.06
2/027	Masonry	Pier foundation for column base	0.32+	4.02
2/028	Masonry	Foundation for wall 2/009	0.25+	4.04
2/029	Masonry	Layer of un-mortared bricks under 2/017	0.07	3.32
2/030	Masonry	Foundation for wall 2/008	0.56	4.05
2/031	Deposit	Backfill for 2/013	0.25	3.52
2/032	Masonry	Sleeper wall	0.21	3.98
2/033	Masonry	Inserted stub wall	0.10+	4.13
2/034	Deposit	Deposit over steps 2/020	0.15	4.14
2/035	Masonry	Foundation for steps 2/020	0.09+	4.16
2/036	Masonry	Foundation for wall 2/010	-	4.07
2/037	Cut	Construction cut for N-S foundations	-	3.74
2/038	Fill	Fill of cut 2/037	-	3.74
2/039	Cut	Late cut in made ground 2/004	-	4.02
2/040	Fill	Fill of cut 2/039	-	4.02

Table 3: List of contexts in Trench 2

#### **4.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)**

##### **4.4.1 Overview**

Trench 3 measured 2.60m by 2.00m and was located directly in front of The Command House building. This trench was opened after Trench 1 proved to contain no significant remains. At the lowest levels, only half the area of the bottom of the trench was excavated and natural geology was not reached. The trench contained a number of cut features and yard surfaces.

##### **4.4.2 Early surfaces and features (Fig 5, Plan 1; Fig 5.2)**

The earliest deposit identified, [3/012], was a rammed chalk surface at least 0.50m thick. This was not excavated; however a later cut feature showed part of it in section.

The western side of the chalk surface had been truncated by a shallow linear cut, [3/011], that removed the upper 0.10m of the surface to beyond the western limit of excavation. The cut slopes very slightly down from east to west towards the river; this was admittedly over a very short distance so it is uncertain whether this represents a drainage feature.

The cut did not contain a discrete fill but was overlain by a levelling deposit, [3/010], which covered the excavated area and which perhaps represents a repair to the rammed chalk surface ([3/012]). This layer was made up by concreted orangey brown silty gravels. The deposit yielded numerous iron nails, five of which were positively identifiable with many more probable nails contained within large lumps of gravel bonded by iron corrosion products; a fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered dating to between 1680 and 1750.

A sub-circular cut, [3/008], interpreted as a refuse pit, was partially visible in the northern part of the trench, truncating both the chalk surface, [3/012], and the later repair/levelling, [3/010]. This pit lay half outside the limit of excavation but was shown to be 0.90m in diameter and 0.50m in depth. The primary fill, [3/013], was a homogeneous soft dark brown sandy silt of 0.20m thickness and contained clay tobacco pipe dating to between 1700 and 1800; this was sealed by a secondary fill, [3/009], of loose pale grey crushed chalk and occasional gravels that was up to 0.35m thick; a clay tobacco pipe from this fill was dated to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

##### **4.4.3 Secondary phase of levelling (Fig 5, Plan 2)**

The refuse pit was sealed by a deposit, [3/005], of loose orange sharp sand that covered the whole area of the trench to a depth of 0.07m and which contained a single sherd of a mid to later 18<sup>th</sup> century creamware cup as well as 4 sherds of clay tobacco pipe dating from 1640 to 1910. This is likely to have been a levelling layer for a new phase of land use

##### **4.4.4 Possible beam slot (Fig 5, Plan 2; Fig 5.1)**

This levelling deposit was cut by a shallow linear feature, [3/006], that was interpreted as a beam slot. This cut was 0.40m wide and 1.95m long, extending beyond the eastern and western extent of the trench. Slot [3/006] was filled by

[3/007], a firm greyish brown sandy silt with common gravels, containing three fragments of clay tobacco pipe dating between 1680 and 1910.

#### 4.4.5 Overburden

The beam slot fill was overlain by a series of dumped deposits that extended across the whole area of the trench. The first of these was, [3/004], a dump of crushed chalk 0.45m thick, containing a body-sherd from a late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century London stoneware vessel. This was sealed by [3/003], a dump of firm dark brown sandy silt, of 0.17m in depth, interpreted as a buried soil.

The next deposit was [3/002], a 0.15m layer of firm pale grey sandy silt containing very frequent crushed chalk pieces.

The final deposit in the trench was the topsoil, [3/001], a 0.12m thick layer of firm mid brown sandy silt; a jug handle in black glazed red earthenware of 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from this deposit.

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)	Datum m AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.12	4.54
3/002	Deposit	Chalky layer	0.15	4.46
3/003	Deposit	Buried soil	0.17	4.36
3/004	Deposit	Crushed chalk dump	0.45	4.11
3/005	Deposit	Orange sand levelling	0.07	3.78
3/006	Cut	Beam slot cut	0.22	3.70
3/007	Fill	Beam slot fill	0.22	3.70
3/008	Cut	Refuse pit cut	0.50	3.64
3/009	Fill	Top fill of refuse pit [3/008]	0.35	3.64
3/010	Deposit	Repair / levelling	0.23	3.64
3/011	Cut	Linear cut in rammed chalk surface	0.10	3.51
3/012	Deposit	Rammed chalk surface	0.50+	3.51
3/013	Fill	Primary fill of refuse pit [3/008]	0.20m	3.35

Table 4: List of contexts in Trench 3

## **5.0 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 Summary**

- 5.1.1 A moderate assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by context and by material, according to IFA guidelines. No further conservation is required. Quantification of the finds by context and material type can be found in Appendix A.

### **5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber**

#### **5.2.1 Introduction**

The archaeological work recovered 17 sherds of pottery all of which date to the post-medieval period. Sherd sizes are generally small but most pieces do not show much abrasion, suggesting they have not been subjected to significant reworking. Although a little 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century material is present, the majority of the assemblage appears to date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **5.2.2 Trench 1**

Trench 1 produced just two sherds (context [1/001]). These consist of a 9g fragment from an early 19<sup>th</sup>- century pearlware serving dish with beaded rim and blue transfer-printing and a 20g fragment from a large mid/late 19<sup>th</sup> century plate/dish with green transfer-print.

#### **5.2.3 Trench 2**

Trench 2 produced 12 sherds from four different deposits, all of which can be placed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Context [2/004] contained a single fresh bodysherd from a yellow glazed Border ware vessel that could date anywhere between the mid-16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Context [2/012] produced another fresh bodysherd of yellow glazed Border ware (2g) as well as a fresh bodysherd of post-medieval redware (6g) and a slightly abraded charger base in tin-glazed earthenware (13g). The latter piece is decorated in blue, yellow and green, colours, well known at the Pickleherring pothouse in London (Tyler *et. al.* 2008, Fig. 38). Context [2/021] also produced a dish/charger sherd in tin-glazed earthenware, but with a lead outer glaze (18g). This piece is from the vessel rim and is decorated with parallel purple lines that can also be paralleled at the Pickleherring pothouse (Tyler *et. al.* 2008, Fig. 41). A further sherd of tin-glazed earthenware with blue painted decoration is also present from this context (9g) together with a 3g sherd of Frechen stoneware, a 2g sherd from a mug in black-glazed red earthenware and three (7g) bodysherds from hard-fired earthenware vessels with purple/metallic glazes.

#### **5.2.4 Trench 3**

Trench 3 produced only three sherds of pottery, most of which could be placed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Context [3/001] contained a jug/mug handle in black-glazed red earthenware that could be of 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Context [3/004] produced a large (35g) bodysherd from a London stoneware vessel likely to be of late 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date, while context [3/005] contained a bodysherd from a mid/late 18<sup>th</sup>

century creamware cup/mug.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

#### 5.3.1 Introduction

A total of 132 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 26194g were recovered from 17 contexts. The assemblage includes a single fragment of decorated medieval floor tile and a small amount of late medieval or early post-medieval peg tile; however, the majority of the assemblage of brick, floor brick, peg tile and pipe is of later post-medieval date.

#### 5.3.2 Methodology

The assemblage has been recorded on pro forma record forms for archive and entered into an Excel spreadsheet. A fabric series has been drawn up with the aid of a X10 binocular microscope (Table 5). Fabrics have been compared with the Museum of London (MoL) fabric series where applicable. Fabric samples and items of interest have been retained for archive and the remainder of the material (approximately 60%) has been discarded. A summary of the assemblage by context is given in Table 6.

Fabric	Form	Description	Date Range
FT1	Floor tile	Orange sandy fabric with moderated medium sized quartz	C18th-C19th
FT2	Floor tile	Yellow coarse sandy floor tile?	C17th-C18th
FT3	Decorated Floor Tile	Pale pinkish fabric with moderate sparse coarse rounded clear quartz and fine micaceous speckling	C13th-C15th
T1	Peg tile	Pale pinkish fabric with abundant fine calcareous speckling	C18th-C19th
T2	Peg tile	Pale brownish orange fabric with sparse fine rose quartz and fine micaceous speckles	C15th-C17th
B1	Brick	Fine sandy fabric with sparse voids	C18th-C19th
B2	Brick	Very hard sandy brick	C19th-C20th
B3	Brick	Fine sandy fabric with moderate calcareous inclusions (Kentish)	C19th-C20th
B4 (MoL3033)	Brick	Fine sandy orange fabric with moderate coarse flint inclusions and rounded arises	C15th-C17th
B5	Brick	Pinkish yellow pink streaked sandy yellow brick	C17th-C18th
B6 MoL3035	Brick	Yellow Kentish Stock brick	Mid C18th-C19th
P1	Pipe	Brown glazed stoneware pipe	C18th-C19th
Mortar	Mortar	Grey sandy lime mortar with abundant charcoal inclusions	Undated

Table 5: CBM fabric series

#### 5.3.3 Medieval

A single fragment of decorated medieval floor tile was recovered from context

[2/006] (Fig 7). The fragment had an inlaid design, stamped with slip and had a yellow and green appearance to the decoration. The design on the tile appears to be contained within a circle or perhaps a coat of arms. The area of the design present is insufficient for further identification. The tile is of probable 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date and may have originated from the original medieval St Mary's church, which stood on the hill behind the pub. Such decorated floor tiles were common to medieval churches. It is not clear if the tile is imported or of local production.

#### 5.3.4 Late medieval to early post-medieval

Contexts: [2/021], [2/022], [3/003], [3/005]

Some fragments of brick and tile could not be accurately assigned to either the medieval or post-medieval period due to the prolonged use of similar forms and fabrics. Peg tile in fabric T2, a fine pale brown soft-fired fabric and brick in fabric B4 (MoL3033), are likely to be of later medieval or early post-medieval date. One fragment of brick from the surface of context [2/022] had heat affected edges, perhaps suggesting previous use in a fireplace. Material in fabrics T2 and B4 were heavily abraded.

#### 5.3.5 Post-medieval

Contexts: [2/004], [2/005], [2/010], [2/011], [2/012], [2/021], [2/022], [2/024], [2/029], [2/035], [3/001], [3/003], [3/005], [3/007], [3/009], [3/013]

Peg tile in fabric T1 was the most common recovered from the site. The pinkish colour of the fabric and calcareous inclusions suggest the peg tile originates from the local area. The tile is of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

Salt glazed stoneware service pipe fragments were recovered from contexts [2/011] and [3/001]. The fragments are of probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

Post-medieval bricks were identified in a range of fabrics. Two small pale yellow bricks were recovered with pinkish silt streaking. The bricks from contexts [2/005] and [2/012] are possibly of Flemish origin. One is of typical thickness (c.35mm) for such a brick (Smith 2001). The bricks were generally used for paving and are of probable 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date. It is possible that they derive from a paved surface in the vicinity.

Bricks in fabrics B1 and B2 are unfrosted and of 60 to 62mm thickness with quite sharp arises and often have a coarse white sandy mortar adhering. The bricks are of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A hard-fired, unfrosted brick with sharp arises in fabric B2 from context [2/024] is of 19<sup>th</sup> or possibly 20<sup>th</sup> century date; the brick measures 220 by 100 by 60mm. A single Kentish stock yellow brick, fabric B6 (MoL3035), was also recovered from context [2/010]. A slight shallow frog is present in the brick, a feature which becomes more common in bricks from 1750 onwards suggesting this brick is of mid-18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A small quantity of vitrified brick was also recovered from context [2/022].

An assemblage of heavy duty floor tiles, dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, was recovered from context [3/007]. They are 42mm thick with a chamfered edge to aid setting in mortar.

A tile or brick fragment with a painted green surface, possibly intended to imitate copper glaze, was recovered from context [2/004]. The fragment is unusual and the date is uncertain (possibly 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century).

### 5.3.6 Summary

The assemblage is broadly typical of what would be expected in an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century building. The exception is a small quantity of later medieval or early post-medieval roof tile and a fragment of decorated medieval floor tile. These fragments may have originated from the original medieval church, St Mary's.

Context	Fabrics	Forms
2/004	FT2	Floor tile??
2/005	B5, Plaster	Brick, Plaster
2/006	FT3	Med. Decorated floor tile
2/010	B6	Brick
2/011	P1	Stoneware Pipe
2/021	T1, T2, B4	Peg tile, brick
2/022	T1, T2, B3, B4, Vitrified	Peg tile, Brick
2/024	B2	Brick
2/029	B3	Brick
2/035	B2	Brick
3/001	T1, P1	Peg tile, stonewear pipe
3/003	T1, T2	Peg tile
3/005	B1, T1, B4	Brick, peg tile
3/007	Ft1, B1	Brick, Floor tile
3/009	B1, T1	Brick, peg tile
3/013	T1	Peg tile

Table 6: Summary of CBM assemblage by context

## 5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

### 5.4.1 Introduction

Archaeological work produced a small assemblage consisting of 40 clay tobacco pipe (CTP) fragments, weighing 174g. Eight of these consist of bowls and the remainder consists of stem fragments. No mouthpieces were recovered. Bowls have been principally classified according to the London 'Chronology of Bowl Types' by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 177-180), with prefix AO to the type numbers. This was complimented by Oswald's Simplified General Typology (1975, 37), in order to refine the dating of 18<sup>th</sup>-century clay pipes (prefix OS). Only one clay pipe was marked and was therefore assigned a unique registered finds number (RF <1). A detailed tabulated digital register of the entire assemblage has been composed as part of the archive.

### 5.4.2 Overview of the Assemblage

Stem fragments range in date from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Early pieces are often abraded and appear with later stem fragments; however, some unabraded pieces were recovered, e.g. from [2/012] and [2/021]. The latter context also contained three conjoining fragments. A fragment from [2/006] retains external burn marks, suggesting discard in fire.

Of the eight bowls, seven could be identified to type. The earliest examples consist

of a type AO12 (1640-70, [2/006]) and a type AO13 (1660-80 in [2/021]). Elongated bowls of later 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup>-century date are represented by fragments from a type AO22 (1680-1710) and a type AO21/22 (1680-1710), both from [2/021]. Finally, 18<sup>th</sup> century bowls include a type AO25 (1700-70), too small to enable refinement of date (context [3/007]). The only marked piece (RF <1>) consists of a type OS12 (1730-80) recovered from [3/009] and retaining moulded maker's initials "IC" in relief on the sides of the heel. The maker is likely to be James Cutbush, who was recorded in Strood in 1758-61 (Williams 1979, 239). None of the bowls post-date the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5.5 The Glass by Elke Raemen**

- 5.5.1 A small assemblage consisting of five fragments of glass (wt 40g) was recovered from [2/005]. Included is a body fragment from a rectangular or square-sectioned colourless bottle, probably representing a medicine bottle and dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Of the same date are four colourless window glass fragments, two of which are conjoining; they represent three different rectangular panes.

## **5.6 The Bulk Metalwork by Trista Clifford**

### **5.6.1 Nails**

A total of 23 nails were recovered from six separate contexts. The assemblage includes both iron and copper alloy nails. The condition of the nails varied considerably according to context. It is probable that context [3/010] contained many more nails, in particular heavy duty examples, which have not been identified due to heavy corrosion, whereas those from [2/005] were in comparably good condition. It was possible to formulate a site typology of five distinct types, outlined below. Table 7 shows an overview by context and typology. All nails are of post medieval date.

Type 1: Copper alloy general purpose nails of uniform weight (6g) and size (l.42-49mm) with circular heads and rectangular sectioned stems

Type 2: Iron nails with domed heads with flattened sides, l.73-83mm, circular or rectangular sectioned stems (?for use with rebated holes).

Type 3: Large heavy duty iron nails with rectangular heads and stem, l. up to 155mm

Type 4: General purpose iron nails with circular heads and circular section stems, l. up to 116mm

Type 5: General purpose iron nails with rectangular heads and rectangular section stems, l. c.75mm



Context	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	Unclassified	Total
2/004			1				1
2/005	6	2		5			13
3/005						1	1
3/007		1				1	2
3/010			1		2	2	5
3/013						1	1
Total	6	3	2	5	2	5	23

Table 7 Overview of the nail assemblage

#### 5.6.2 Other metalwork

A total of 16 bulk iron fragments (wt c.5kg) were recovered from two contexts: deposit [3/010] and refuse pit fill [3/013]. These consisted of corroded plate and strap fragments, together with amorphous pieces which were heavily corroded with large amounts of adherent mortar and large pebbles.

Lead waste was recovered from both demolition layer [2/004] and deposit [3/010], in the form of solidified molten lead spillage (from [2/004]) (wt 2.2kg) and lead sheet off cuts from both contexts.

### 5.7 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.7.1 Stone was recovered from four different contexts. Trench 2 produced three large architectural fragments, all in the same off-white oolitic limestone. Context [2/004] contained two conjoining moulded fragment with part of a concave roll (850g and 1675g). Although too little is present to ascertain the whole form, a window or door surround is probable. One piece has thick yellow paint on the concave face. Context [2/004] also produced a 6kg fragment from a c. 420mm diameter, 55mm tall, column/plinth base with parallel tooling on the top and bottom faces. All of these stones would probably be in keeping with an early post-medieval date, most likely of the 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>- centuries. The source of the oolitic limestone is not certain as, although it has a similar matrix to Bath stone, the colour appears too pale, yet the matrix is not the usual one expected of Portland stone. The other stone was recovered from context [3/005] and consists of a 5g fragment from a calcite seam of the chalk and a 5.2kg slightly irregular block of hard, dense slightly calcareous fine-grained greenish sandstone of unknown source.

### 5.8 The Slag by Luke Barber

- 5.8.1 The work recovered a single piece of slag from context [2/021]. This consists of a slightly magnetic rust-coloured, slightly aerated, piece with adhering coal granules. As such it is likely to be the waste from post-medieval iron-smithing.

### 5.9 The Shell by Trista Clifford

- 5.9.1 Three fragments of oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell were recovered. Beam slot fill [3/007] contained an undiagnostic fragment, while refuse pit fill [3/013] contained two lower valves exhibiting parasitic activity.

### 5.10 The Registered Finds by Trista Clifford

5.10.1 Registered finds were washed, air dried or cleaned by a conservator as appropriate to the material requirements. Objects have been packed appropriately in line with IFA guidelines (2001). All objects have been assigned a unique registered find number (RF<00>) and recorded on the basis of material, object type and date (shown in Table 8). No conservation for stabilisation or analytical purposes is required. Metal work is boxed in airtight Stewart tubs with silica gel.

5.10.2 Nine Registered finds were recorded. The vast majority are objects of a structural nature.

Site Code	Cxt	RF No	Object	Material	Period	Wt (g)
GWC11	3/009	1	PIPE	CERA	PMED	8
GWC11	3/010	2	STUD	COPP	PMED	<2
GWC11	2/005	3	WINC	COPP	PMED	156
GWC11	2/005	4	STFT	IRON	PMED	330
GWC11	2/004	5	LOCK	IRON	PMED	1582
GWC11	2/004	6	STFT	IRON	PMED	216
GWC11	2/004	7	STFT	IRON	PMED	200
GWC11	2/004	8	STFT	IRON	PMED	350
GWC11	2/004	9	UNK	COPP	PMED	8

Table 8: The Registered Finds

#### 5.10.3 Fasteners and fittings

A small dome-headed copper alloy stud, RF<2>, came from deposit [3/010]. It is of post-medieval date.

#### 5.10.4 Buildings and services

Three objects of structural ironwork were recovered from tarmac layer, [2/004]. RF<6> is a large iron staple, probably a gib used for tightening joints in a timber roof. RF<7> is a probable hinge strap with an undecorated bifurcated terminal. A large wall anchor pin with leaf shaped terminal, perforated for a nail, RF<8>, also came from this context. The length of the pin suggests it was used to anchor a substantial timber. Layer [2/005] contained RF<4>, a probable joist clamp.

#### 5.10.5 Locks

Demolition layer, [2/004], contained an iron rim lock case for a door, RF<5>, of 18-19<sup>th</sup> century date. A copper alloy sash window fastener of late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, RF<3>, was found in layer [2/005].

#### 5.10.6 Other objects

A copper alloy binding strip with white metal rivets at each end, RF<9> was recovered from demolition layer [2/004]; it is of post-medieval date.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Evidence for Activity Pre-dating the Colonnaded Building**

- 6.1.1 A single sherd of medieval floor tile dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries is the only such find of this date from the excavations and is clearly residual in the context from which it was recovered. The fragment may derive from the original medieval St Mary's church, which stood on the hill behind the pub.
- 6.1.2 A number of finds of 17<sup>th</sup> to earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century date were also recovered but most of these were proven to be residual by stratigraphic relationships.
- 6.1.3 The limited excavation of deeper stratified deposits in Trenches 2 and 3 attests to the archaeological survival of successive phases of surfaces, cut features and perhaps structures. In both trenches, finds from the earliest datable layers suggested a date range in the late 17<sup>th</sup>- early 18<sup>th</sup> century. These layers may represent earlier wharf surfaces dating immediately prior to the construction of storage buildings by the Ordnance Board.
- 6.1.4 In both Trenches 2 and 3, possible beam slots were identified. Although these did not contain contemporary finds, the slot in Trench 2 was stratigraphically above a layer dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century but below the foundations for the colonnaded building, whilst that in Trench 3 was above a layer dated to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. These features could therefore relate to 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings associated with the Gun Wharf.

### **6.2. The Colonnaded Building**

- 6.2.1 The extensive masonry identified within Trench 2 forms the corner of a colonnaded entrance to a store building present on photographs of the area from 1948, prior to the redevelopment of the Gun Wharf and the demolition of buildings in c. 1960 (Fig. 6). The main surviving elements are a series of deep pier foundations that would have formed the load bearing structure for an open colonnade with stone steps leading up to a floor level.
- 6.2.2 The internal elements of stud walls for the floor of this colonnade were identified within the trench; however the walls of the internal building were not identified.
- 6.2.3 The spaces between the column foundations appear to have been fortified against river flooding by the insertion of slots into which dam boards could be placed when required.
- 6.2.4 The colonnade and its position on the end of the ordnance stores suggest it is an administrative building rather than part of the original store.
- 6.2.5 The building is not present on the Ordnance Survey map of 1909 and is first documented on the 1932 edition. This clearly demonstrates that the building belongs to this latest phase of development of the Gun Wharf

### **6.3 The GPR Anomaly in Trench 1**

- 6.3.1 The ground penetrating radar anomaly identified running parallel to and set back 9.30m from the existing river bank proved not to be an archaeological phase of riverbank revetment but was shown to be a modern phase of metal shuttering that started at 0.20m below ground level. This interlocking sheet piling is most likely to have been driven into the river-bed and then backfilled on the landward side with a single dump of made ground.

#### **6.4 Preservation of Archaeological Remains**

- 6.4.1 The excavations show that significant structural foundations from the ordnance stores and associated administrative buildings survived their demolition. Furthermore remains of late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century were uncovered in both Trenches 2 and 3 and it is likely that earlier stratigraphy is preserved below the depth of the excavated trenches. This survival is partly attributable to the lack of further development along this stretch of riverbank.

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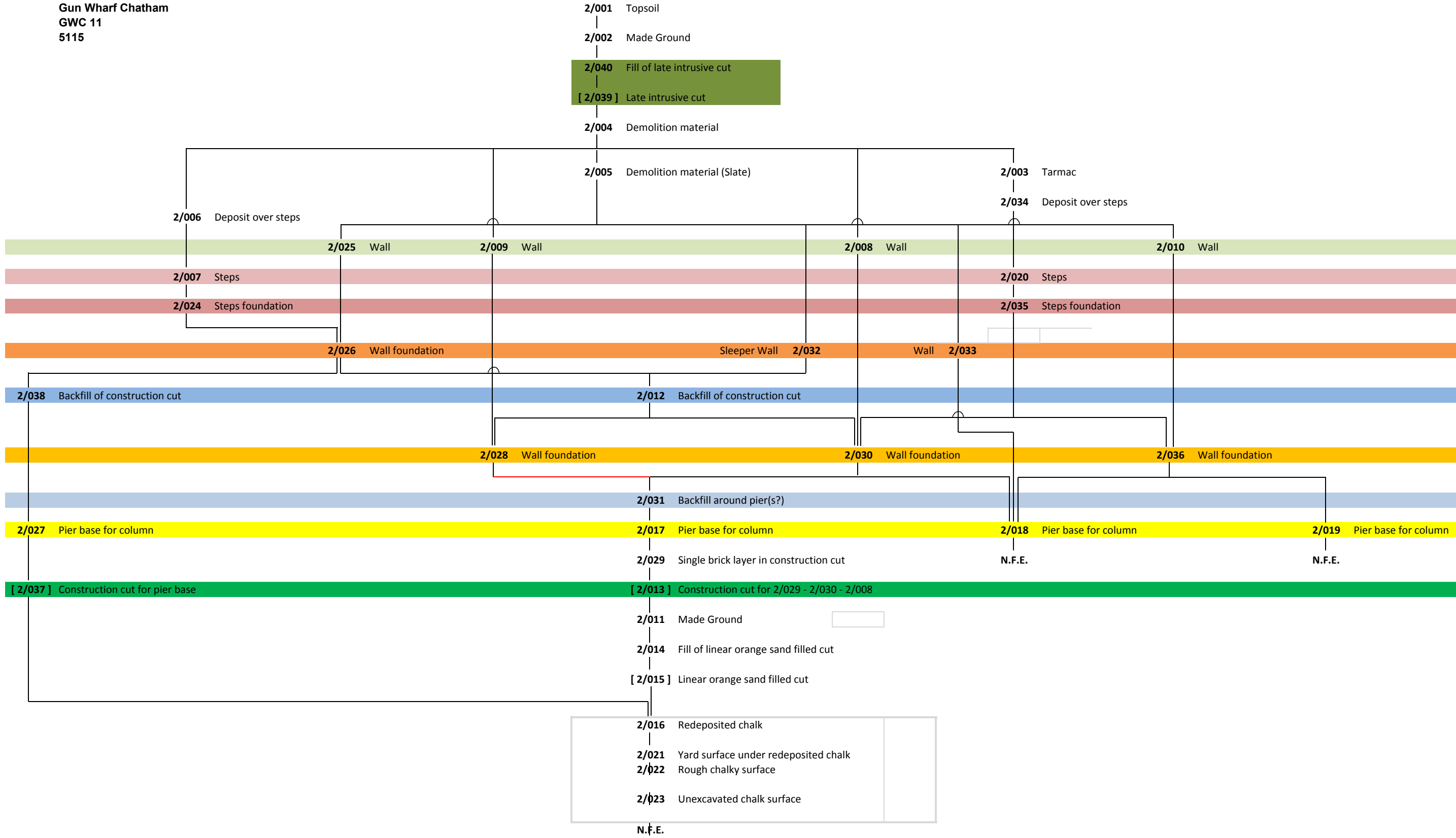
## **Acknowledgements**

ASE would like to thank Oxford Scientific Films for commissioning the work and Ben Found (Archaeological Officer for Planning and Environment, Kent County Council) for his continued guidance throughout the project.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	A. Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Cu. Al.	Wt (g)	Pb	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Plaster	Wt (g)	Mortar	Wt (g)
1/001	2	30																								
2/003	1	14	1	212					2	2352					1	<2										
2/004									1	>6000																
2/005											9	694	5	40			7	188					2	6		
2/006	1	4	1	70											3	22										
2/010			1	1346																						
2/011			3	630																						
2/012	3	20	3	1490	6	98									4	20								1	18	
2/014					1	152																				
2/021	7	38	31	1658	4	114									6	32					1	32				
2/022			12	2146																						
2/024			1	2464																						
2/029			1	2740																						
2/035			1	1476																						
3/001	1	10	2	180											1	4										
3/003			4	356																						
3/004	1	34													1	4										
3/005	1	4	19	2232					2	5258					13	42										
3/007			11	4560	4	20	1	4			2	62			5	18										
3/009			11	4034	3	124									2	14										
3/010			26	1802	4	100									2	8			1	<2						
3/013			1	20	11	34	2	26			8	242			1	<2										
Total	17	154	129	27416	33	642	3	30	5	7610	19	998	5	40	39	164	7	188	1	0	1	32	2	6	1	18

#### 5.1.4 Appendix A: Quantification of finds

Gun Wharf Chatham  
GWC 11  
5115



**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	GWC 11					
Identification Name and Address	The Command House Public House, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TX					
County, District &/or Borough	Chatham					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 575690 168382					
Geology	Pleistocene and Recent Alluvium associated with riverine deposition which overlie Upper Chalk deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5115					
Type of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b> ✓	<u>Excav.</u>	<u>Watching brief.</u>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	<del>Green Field</del>	<b>Shallow Urban</b> ✓	<del>Deep Urban</del>	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b> 19-09-11 to 23-09-11	<del>Excav.</del>	<del>W.B.</del>	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Oxford Scientific Films					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	<del>Palaeo.</del>	<del>Meso.</del>	<del>Neo.</del>	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	<b>PM</b> ✓	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds adjacent to The Command House public house, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TX (NGR 575690 168382). Archaeology South-East were commissioned to carry out the work by Oxford Scientific Films as the archaeological element of a television programme exploring the history of the pub that occupies a building which was formerly the official residence of the officer in charge of the Gun Wharf. The work was carried out between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.</p> <p>The earliest deposits encountered were a series of external work surfaces probably dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. These layers were observed in a small excavation between the brick foundations of a colonnaded administrative building attached to the end of a range of ordinance stores, which were demolished in c. 1960. Consultation of Ordnance Survey maps reveal that the building was constructed between 1909 and 1932.</p> <p>.</p>						



## OASIS ID: archaeol6- 114703

### Project details

Project name	The Command House, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham
Short description of the project	<p>An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds adjacent to The Command House public house, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TX (NGR 575690 168382). Archaeology South-East were commissioned to carry out the work by Oxford Scientific Films as the archaeological element of a television programme exploring the history of the pub that occupies a building which was formerly the official residence of the officer in charge of the Gun Wharf. The work was carried out between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.</p> <p>The earliest deposits encountered were a series of external work surfaces probably dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. These layers were observed in a small excavation between the brick foundations of a colonnaded administrative building attached to the end of a range of ordinance stores, which were demolished in c. 1960. Consultation of Ordnance Survey maps reveal that the building was constructed between 1909 and 1932.</p>
Project dates	Start: 19-09-2011 End: 23-09-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GWC 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Coastland 3 - Above high water
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	Building Post Medieval
Monument type	Surface Post Medieval
Significant Finds	Brick Post Medieval
Significant Finds	Tile Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Measured Survey','Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type (other)	TV programme / Public Outreach
Prompt	Research
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project name	The Command House, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham

### Project location

Site location	KENT MEDWAY CHATHAM The Command House, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham
Postcode	ME4 4TX
Study area	4 Hectares
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 75690 68382 LL - 51.386702113 0.525262711529 (decimal) LL - 51 23 12 N 000 31 30 E (degrees) Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: -m Max: -m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body (other)	Television Production Company / Media
Name of sponsor/funding body	Oxford Scientific Films

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available      'Context sheet','Plan'

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**Project  
bibliography 1**

Title                      An Archaeological Evaluation at The Command House Public House, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TX

Author(s)/Editor(s)    Hopkinson, D.

Other bibliographic details    ASE Report No: 2011249

Date                      2011

Issuer or publisher      Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication    Portslade, Brighton

Description              A4 bound report with 32 pages and 7 illustrations

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Entered by              Dylan Hopkinson (dylan.hopkinson@ucl.ac.uk)

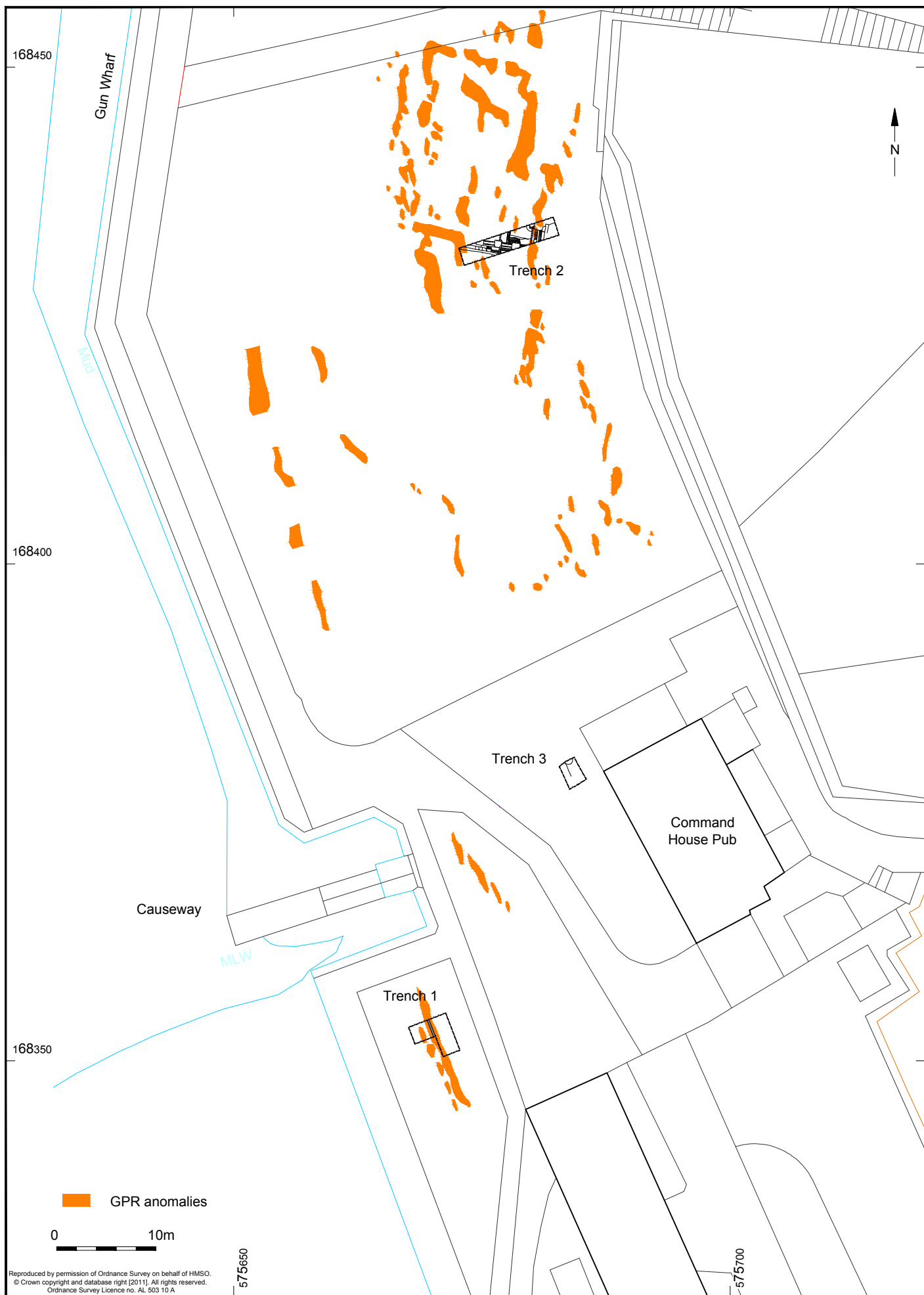
Entered on              28 November 2011





© Archaeology South-East		Command House Pub, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5115	Oct 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011249	Drawn by: JLR		





© Archaeology South-East		Command House Pub, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5115	Oct 2011	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2011249	Drawn by: JLR		

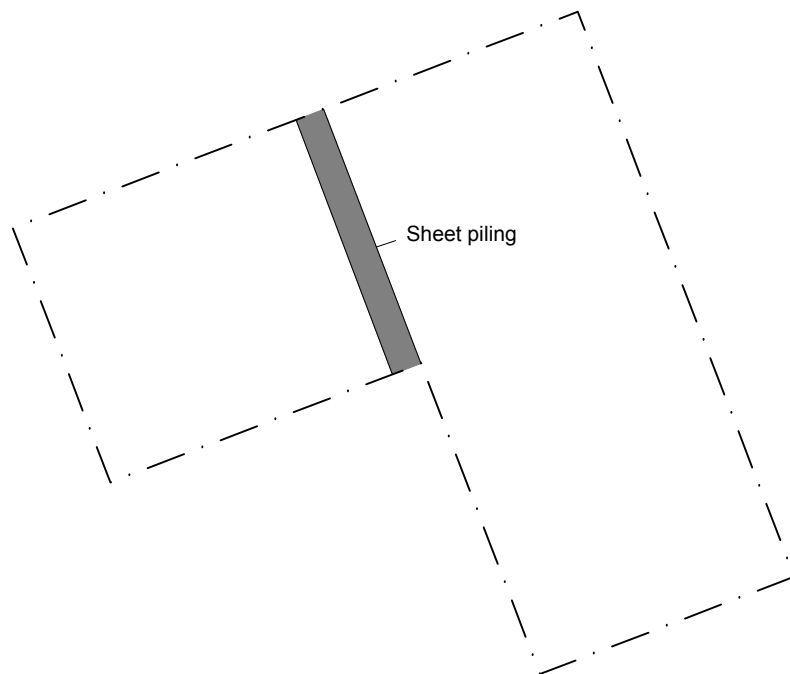
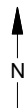


Fig. 3.1: Trench 1, looking north-east

0 1m



Fig. 3.2: Trench 1 looking south-west

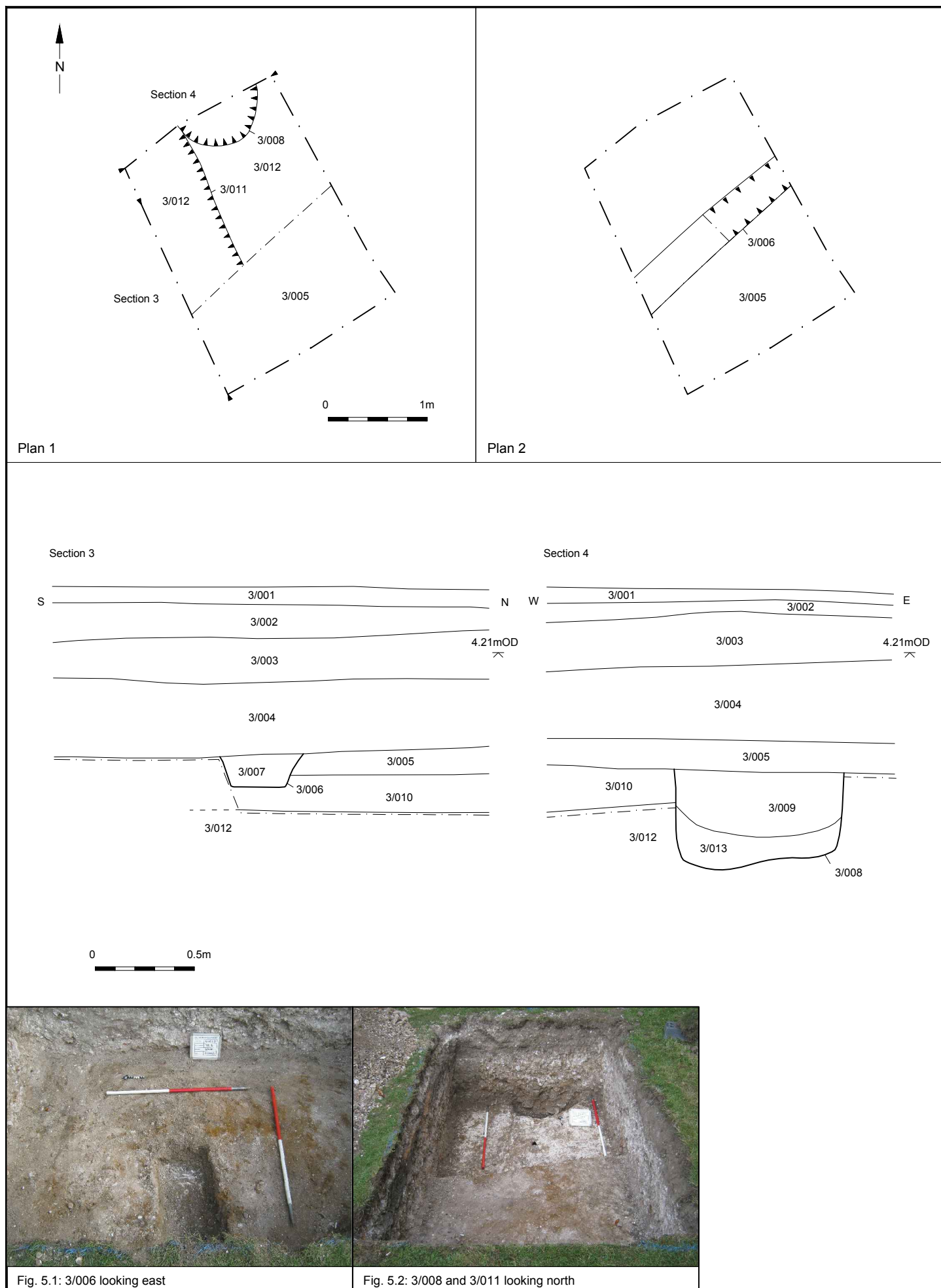


Fig. 3.3: Sheet piling in trench 1, looking south-west

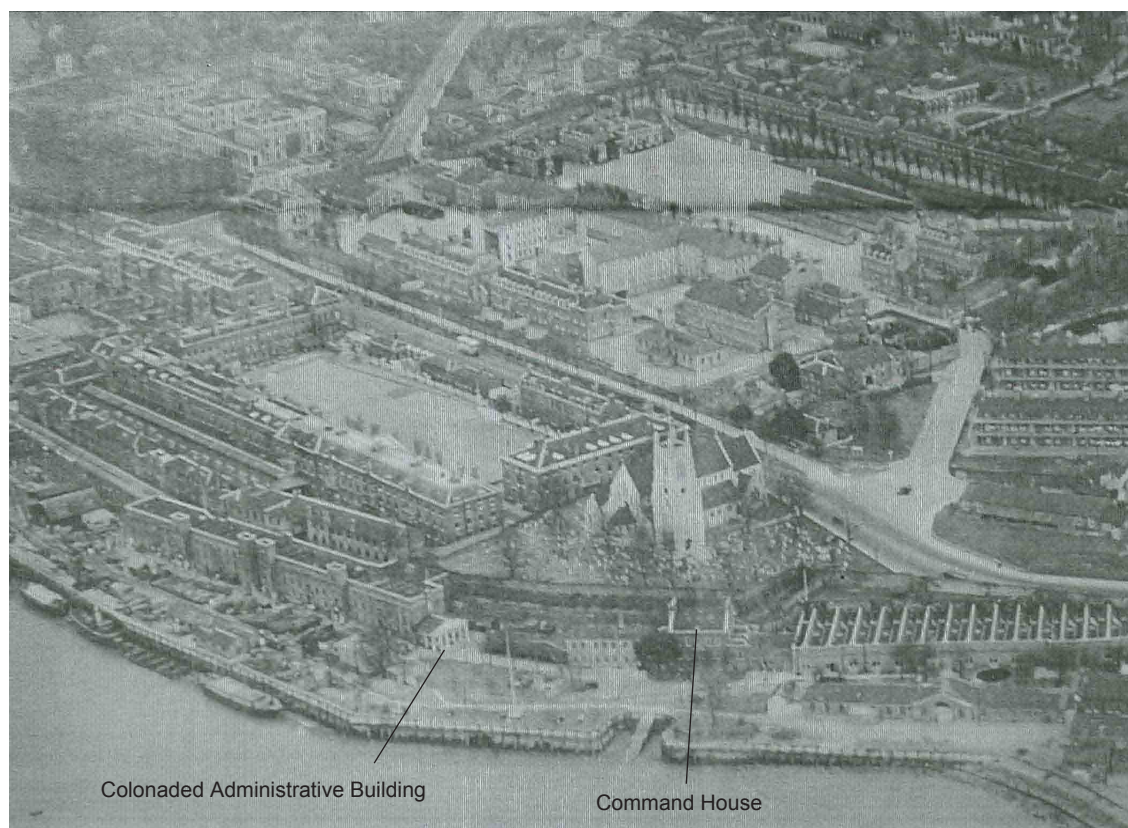




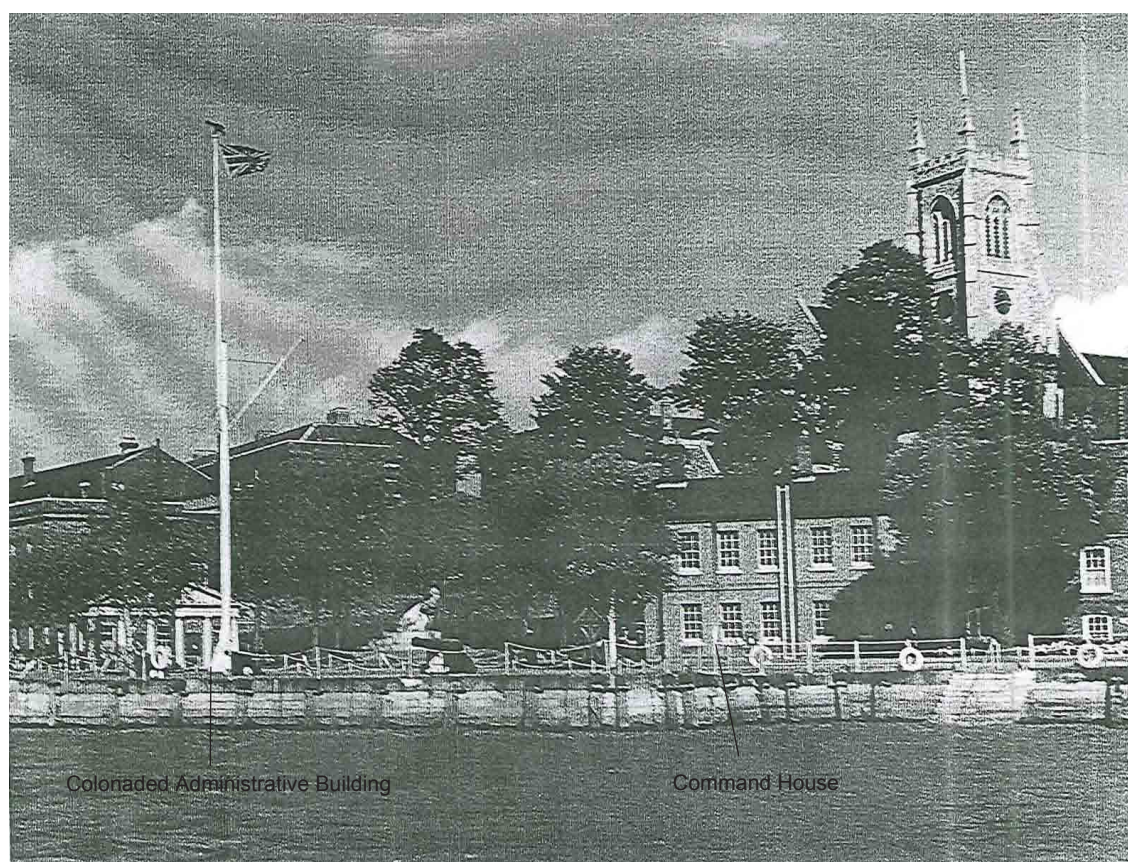








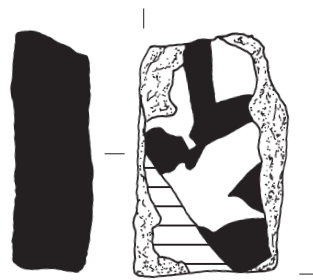
Aerial photograph from 1948






Undated historical photograph of the Command House, showing excavated colonaded building on left

© Archaeology South-East		Command House Pub, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 5115	Oct 2011	Historic photographs of the Gun Wharf	
Report Ref: 2011249	Drawn by: JLR		

2/006



-  Green glaze
-  Cream glaze
-  Biscuit glaze

0 5cm

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