

APPENDIX 3

NEW FOREST RAPID COASTAL ZONE ASSESSMENT CREEK COTTAGE, LOWER WOODSIDE, LYMINGTON

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared for:
New Forest National Park Authority
South Efford House
Milford Road
Lymington
Hampshire
SO41 0JD

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

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Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the New Forest National Park Authority (the Client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land at Creek Cottage, Pennington, Hampshire (**Figure 1**), centred on NGR 432445, 093475 (hereafter 'the Site').

The field evaluation was required as the result of a condition placed on a planning application (planning refs: 94337 South Building Internal alterations etc; 94329 Change of use to B1) to New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) for the redevelopment of the existing building for new uses.

In this area sea salt production had developed into a thriving industry by the post medieval period with the largest salterns based between Lymington and Milford. Salt factories or salterns collected sea water in shallow pits and by wind and sunlight evaporated some of the water to increase the salinity and producing brine. Using wind pumps the brine was pumped into header tanks where it was fed into the pans within the boiler house. The larger of the two industrial buildings on the site is the remaining part of a once much longer building, thought to be a salt boiling house dating to the 18th century.

The evaluation was undertaken between 19th July and 30th July 2010 as part of the Festival of British Archaeology, and as such, was undertaken as a collaboration between staff from Wessex Archaeology and local volunteers.

A total of 4 small hand dug trenches were excavated. These identified deposits and features associated with the construction, use and subsequent partial demolition of the 18th and 19th century salt boiling house. Some evidence for activity on the site prior to the construction of the boiling house was recovered, including two undated features and two sherds of medieval pottery. Traces of significant modern landscaping, including deposits and features associated with the construction of a model railway on the site in the late 20th century were also recorded.

Following discussion with Frank Green of the New Forest National Park Authority, it is recommended that the results of this evaluation be published along with the results of recent works at Normandy Dock as a short note in an appropriate local journal.

NEW FOREST RAPID COASTAL ZONE ASSESSMENT CREEK COTTAGE, LOWER WOODSIDE, LYMINGTON

Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to NFNPA archaeologists James Brown and Mark James in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank the advice and assistance provided by Frank Green, Archaeologist for the New Forest National Park Authority who monitored the project on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to David and Lisa Hill, owners of Creek Cottage, for allowing access to the site and their help and patience throughout the project. The project also benefitted from discussions on site with Joanna Close-Brooks, Jude James and Wendy Wiseman.

The evaluation was undertaken as part of the Festival of British Archaeology by staff of Wessex Archaeology and by local volunteers. The project was directed in the field by Steve Thompson, assisted by Helen MacIntyre (both of Wessex Archaeology). The volunteers who worked on the project were Alan Bollom, Emily Brewer, Steve Bush, Shireen Caals, Alexa Carter, Barrie Compton, Adam Ferries, Richard Fox, Joe Fussell, Diane Hogarty, Barry Kerley, Roger King, Laura Leavesley, Bob Lord, Zoe Miles, Peter Murphy, Charlotte Newnham, Avril Poppett, Mil Reid, Julie Simpson, Clare Walsh, Nora Waygood, Wendy Wiseman and Gus Woolley, along with Tom Dommett, Karl Macrow and James Brown of the New Forest National Park Authority.

The report was researched and compiled by Nicholas Cooke and the drawings prepared by Liz James. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Toby Gane.

NEW FOREST RAPID COASTAL ZONE ASSESSMENT CREEK COTTAGE, LOWER WOODSIDE, LYMINGTON

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the New Forest National Park Authority (the Client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land at Creek Cottage, Pennington, Hampshire (**Figure 1**), centred on NGR 432445, 093475 (hereafter 'the Site').

1.1.2 The field evaluation was required as the result of a condition placed on a planning application (planning refs: 94337 South Building Internal alterations etc; 94329 Change of use to B1) to New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) for the redevelopment of the existing building for new uses.

1.1.3 The Planning Archaeologist at NFNPA has advised that an archaeological evaluation is required to discharge the archaeological condition prior to development taking place. Given the difficulties accessing the site, it has been agreed four trenches, positioned over the footprint of the former buildings, and around the existing buildings, will be sufficient to assess the archaeological potential.

1.1.4 A project design was prepared for the archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2010) outlining the proposed methodology to be used for the archaeological evaluation and the reporting of the final results.

1.2 Scope of Document

1.2.1 This document provides an assessment of the results of the evaluation trenching, detailing the stratigraphic sequences encountered, the finds recovered and the environmental samples taken. An assessment is made of the significance of the results of this work, together with recommendations for further work. In format and content it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (as amended 2008).

1.3 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.3.1 Creek Cottages lie approximately 1km to the south east of Pennington in the Parish of Lymington and Pennington, on the south west Hampshire coast. The site itself is located within the southern half of the parish, immediately east of Lower Woodside Road and at the western end of the water course known as Moses Dock. Two existing buildings, one of which is the surviving part of a former salt boiling house, and the other is believed to be a c. late 18th century ancillary structure, are due to be developed for new uses.

- 1.3.2 Lower Pennington lies within the coastal zone of the north-west Solent shore, extending just north-west of the tidal marshes, previously salterns, which have mostly now been reclaimed as grazing land. The area of saline, brackish and saltwater lagoons, salt marsh, reed beds and grassland to the south and east of Creek Cottage is still discernable as former salt workings and is now part of the Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI.
- 1.3.3 Creek Cottage itself lies just within the New Forest National Park on its southern limit, and on the edge of the belt of brackish and freshwater marsh on reclaimed tidal silt, that makes up the SSSI.
- 1.3.4 The bedrock geology to the north-west of the site is Solent group clay, silt and sand, and to the south-east of the site it is Bracklesham and Barton groups (undifferentiated) clay, silt and sand (BGS Website). The superficial geology of the site is Alluvium and sand and gravel deposits of uncertain origin at a mean elevation of c. 2m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A brief search for archaeological and historical sites within a 1km radius ('the Study Area') of the site via the Hampshire Sites and Monuments Record website (<http://historicenvironment.hants.gov.uk/ahbsearch.aspx>) indicates the presence of a number of sites, predominantly of a late medieval and post medieval date.
- 2.1.2 Although evidence of prehistoric activity is relatively scarce in the study area, sites and finds are known from a variety of locations in the vicinity including a Lower Palaeolithic hand axe. No known finds of the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic have been found, although Neolithic and Bronze Age peat formations are known in the Lymington area. A polished stone axe from the parish attests to the Neolithic activity in the area.
- 2.1.3 A Bronze age settlement has been identified at nearby Buckland Rings and it has been suggested that much of the settlement during this period may have been coastal.
- 2.1.4 During the Iron Age there is evidence for increasing population, further clearance of woodland and cultivation of land as agricultural systems became established. Storage pits, field systems, ditches and artefacts including pottery and metalwork are indicative of 'Permanent' settlement sites. The presence of defended settlements (hillforts), enclosures and ditches suggest that demarcation of territory was important at this time. Only one IA coin is known from the area. However, evidence from other coastal sites suggests that the Iron Age environment was little different from that of today where rough grazing, salt production and access to coastal transport routes may have taken place.
- 2.1.5 There is some direct evidence for Roman settlement in the vicinity, in the form of excavated features near Pennington House 1km to the west. In addition, the only other evidence is the discovery of a Roman necklace in the Lymington River during nineteenth century dredging activities and two carved stone heads of (possible) Celtic design, perhaps dating from the Romano-British period that may have come from Lower Farm Pennington.

- 2.1.6 There is no known evidence of Saxon activity in the vicinity.
- 2.1.7 The medieval period saw extensive expansion of industry, most notably the salt production industry, particularly between Keyhaven and Lymington. Documents indicate salt production stretching from Hurst Spit (Hordle), Keyhaven, Pennington, to Oxey and Lymington, and aerial photographs support this widespread distribution. Indeed it appears likely that by the fourteenth century the whole of the coastline, from the Lymington River to Hurst Spit was in use.
- 2.1.8 The current standing buildings on the site, one of which is thought to be part of the only salt boiling house remaining, are believed to be 18th century, although they could potentially be earlier.
- 2.1.9 In this area sea salt production had developed into a thriving industry by the post medieval period with the largest salterns based between Lymington and Milford. Salt factories or salterns collected sea water in shallow pits and by wind and sunlight evaporated some of the water to increase the salinity and producing brine. Using wind pumps the brine was pumped into header tanks where it was fed into the pans within the boiler house. The remaining water content was evaporated using large fires, later fuelled by coal. The salt was then stored on site and transferred via small harbours associated with the Salterns to barges for distribution. These barges in later years would also bring in the coal. The buildings at Creek Cottage are the last remaining buildings that can be associated with the salt industry in this area. (Momber, G. *et al* 1994)
- 2.1.10 The larger of the two industrial buildings on the site is the remaining part of a once much longer building, thought to be a salt boiling house dating to the 18th century. The surviving extent of the building is characterised by an inner aisled timber frame, surrounded on all sides by brick walls. The roof is covered with plain red tiles and is gabled to the east and half hipped to the west.
- 2.1.11 The complex of buildings on the site is shown on the 1845 tithe map. In addition to Creek cottage itself, three further buildings are shown. By far the largest of these is the boiling house, shown as considerably larger than it is today, with two ancillary buildings to the south east, the southernmost of which still survives. The same buildings appear on the 1867 Ordnance Survey map for the area, with only minor differences. Other features shown on the Ordnance Survey Map include what appear to be a rectangular evaporation pan, a circular mound labelled 'Pumping Mill' and two additional rectangular structures, one of which may be a storage cistern or header tank. The whole complex is shown as raised above the land to the east, which is low lying.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Service Location

- 3.1.1 All evaluation trenches were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.

3.2 Evaluation Methodology

- 3.2.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the methodology agreed laid out in the project design and with the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (as amended 2008)
- 3.2.2 A total of 4 hand excavated trial trenches (3m x 1.5m) were dug (**Figure 1**) within close proximity to the two buildings. There were partially targeted on the results of an earlier geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2010a). A resistance survey undertaken as part of this geophysical survey identified a number of high resistance anomalies in the vicinity of these buildings, possibly representing the buried remains of earlier structures.
- 3.2.3 The trenches were laid out using a GPS/TST and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. The trial trenches were excavated by hand using hand tools and under constant supervision by Wessex Archaeology. Excavation proceeded to a depth at which the uppermost archaeological features, or the top of natural deposits, were exposed, whichever was the higher.
- 3.2.4 Once the level of archaeological deposits was exposed by hand excavation, cleaning of the trench base was undertaken by hand where necessary. Appropriate sampling of all archaeological features identified in the evaluation trench was carried out by hand. Sufficient excavation of archaeological features and deposits in each trench was undertaken to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation. Where trenches were dug below a depth of 1.2m, they were stepped for Health and Safety reasons.
- 3.2.5 In some places, relatively complex stratigraphic sequences were identified, and every effort was made to establish the depth and complexity of this stratification. With the agreement of the planning archaeologist, small extensions were made to both trenches 1 and 4.
- 3.2.6 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 also maintained. Plans and sections of all features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10, where appropriate. All drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.
- 3.2.7 A full photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. The photographic record comprises both working shots and record shots of deposits and features recorded during the evaluation. Digital images taken are subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.2.8 The spot height of all principal features and levels was calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places. Plans, sections and elevations were annotated with spot heights as appropriate.
- 3.2.9 The location of features was accurately surveyed by GPS and tied into the OS National Grid.

- 3.2.10 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in the document *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections; Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 1993) with regard to the retention of artefacts and samples. This allows for the discard of selected artefact categories and sample products which are not considered to warrant further analysis.
- 3.2.11 Once fully recorded, the trenches were backfilled with arisings to the satisfaction of the client. No other reinstatement works were undertaken.

3.3 Health and Safety

- 3.3.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time (SCAUM 1996).
- 3.3.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a site-specific Risk Assessment was produced. All site staff involved in works signed and complied with this document.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken between 19th July and 30th July 2010 as part of the Festival of British Archaeology, and as such, was undertaken as a collaboration between staff from Wessex Archaeology and local volunteers.
- 4.1.2 A total of 4 small hand dug trenches were excavated. These identified evidence for significant modern landscaping, including deposits and features associated with the construction of a model railway on the site in the late 20th century and deposits and features associated with the construction, use and subsequent partial demolition of the boiling house. Some evidence for activity on the site prior to the construction of the boiling house was also recovered. Detailed trench summaries for all four trenches can be found in **Appendix 1**

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was a hand dug trench dug close to the south western corner of the surviving boiling house building (**Figures 1 and 2**). Earlier photographs of this building indicate a small lean-to brick built structure abutting this gable end wall, thought likely to have been used as a coal store (see Lloyd, 1967, Plate VIIa). The trench was rectangular in plan measured some 3.4m by 1.9m.
- 4.2.2 The upper deposits encountered within this trench comprised a series of modern layers (101, 103 and 105) immediately below which lay the remains of the lean to structure. Some of the deposits and features associated with this structure are also clearly modern in date (layers 106, 110 and 116). The latest features in this trench (113, 114, 117, 126 and 127) are also modern. The latter is the steep sided cut for a short stretch of brick wall (102) which clearly formed the south eastern wall of the lean-to coal shed.

- 4.2.3 The remaining two walls of the coal shed (108 and 120) clearly belong to an earlier phase of construction, and appear to form part of the same structure. This coal shed measured some 2.3m by 1.5m internally. The alignment of wall 120 corresponds closely with the north western wall of the surviving boiling house structure. In the light of this, it seems probable that walls 108 and 120 represent the original extent of this earlier building. Although neither wall appears to have substantial foundations, the timber framing would have taken much of the weight of the substantial roof structure, and the external walls of the building need not have been substantial weight bearing structures.
- 4.2.4 A small number of deposits and features appear to have been directly related to the use of the boiling house. These include layer 107, which comprises a sequence of dumps of ashy material, likely to be related to the use of the boiling house and a possible posthole (124, not shown on plan). This posthole contained a single fill (125) containing quantities of broken CBM and slate. A sample was taken from layer 107.
- 4.2.5 A deep sequence of deposits predating the construction of the boiling house was also excavated. The uppermost of these deposits, 104, appears to be a man made deposit, comprising dumps of material used to level the ground. This was in general a very fine well sorted deposit, almost ashy in places, and may have derived from earlier episodes of salt making. This sealed a considerable depth of very fine well sorted dark silts (recorded as 111 and 121) which are likely to represent alluvial silts building up in estuarine conditions. Whilst it is possible that these derive from earlier salterns, there is little positive evidence for this. Clay pipe fragments recovered from 111 indicate a post-medieval date for the formation of this deposit. Layers 111 and 121 sealed a natural alluvial clay layer, 123, encountered some 1.22m below the modern ground level. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this trench – one from layer 122 (identical to 104) and the second from layer 121. Both of these have a potential date range from the 11th to 13th centuries, and their presence within the lower deposits in the trench suggest medieval activity within the vicinity. The rest of the finds assemblage from the trench dates to the post-medieval and modern periods.
- 4.3 Trench 2**
- 4.3.1 Trench 2 lay to the south east of the boiling house. This hand dug trench was some 2.90m long and 1.40m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.73m below modern ground level. Although a considerable depth of deposits was encountered, the majority relate to modern activity on the site. Removal of the modern topsoil (201) revealed a series of modern features - a rough brick wall (202) and two dumps of gravel (204 and 206) - all laid as part of the construction of a model railway on the site in the mid 20th century. These were cut into the modern subsoil (recorded variously as 203, 205 and 207). This sealed a layer of compact gravelling (208), probably the remains of a yard surface, which was lain on top of a thick deposit of dumped material (209).
- 4.3.2 A stoneware ink bottle recovered from the layer of gravel (209) suggests a late 19th century date for its use, whilst finds recovered from layer 209 include quantities of brick and tile, along with a number of Iron objects. The ashy nature of much of this deposit suggests that it probably derives from

the boiling house. The lowest deposits excavated within the trench - layer 211 (an isolated dump of ashy waste) and 210 (a thick accumulation of material) are also likely to be contemporary with the use of the boiling house. Finds from both are consistent with an 18th or 19th century date.

4.4 Trench 3

4.4.1 Trench 3 was located to the north east of the extant boiling house, and was targeted on the presumed line of the south eastern wall of the earlier, larger, boiling house, which geophysical survey suggests extends further to the north east. No traces of this wall were identified within the trench. The trench itself measured some 3.10m by 1.50m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.82m.

4.4.2 Removal of modern topsoil (301) revealed a number of modern deposits and features, some of which also relate to the construction of a model railway on the site (302, 303 and 304). These were laid directly onto a modern garden soil (305).

4.4.3 Some deposits and features relating to the use of the boiling house were identified. In particular a shallow construction cut (307) containing a dump of brick and stone rubble (308) and a concreted layer of sand (309). This rubble may have been laid to provide a firm foundation for something structural within the boiling house, perhaps a boiling tank or similar. Foundation 307 was cut through an earlier deposit (306), probably a land surface pre-dating the construction of the boiling house. Finds from this layer suggest a post medieval date. Samples were taken from fills 312 and 314 were to try and establish the nature of this activity.

4.4.4 Removal of layer 306 across half of the trench revealed two earlier features – posthole 310 and ditch 313 cut through an alluvial deposit (315). The earliest of these, ditch 313, was dug on an east-west alignment and contained a single fill (314) a naturally accumulated erosion deposit. This fill was cut by posthole 310, which contained two distinct fills (311 and 312). Unfortunately the only anthropogenic material recovered from the fills of either feature was small quantities of broken bricks within the fills of the posthole, which suggest a late medieval or post medieval date. However, the identification and excavation of these features has established that there was activity on the site prior to the construction of the boiling house.

4.5 Trench 4

4.5.1 Trench 4 was targeted on the north eastern extent of one of the anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey of the site, and interpreted as possibly representing the earlier extents of the boiling house. It lay some 13m to the north east of the current gable end of the building. Initially measuring some 2.9m by 1.5m, the northern corner of this trench was extended by some 0.5m in each direction.

4.5.2 The modern topsoil and turf (401) sealed a series of modern deposits and features (402, 405 and 407) including another feature associated with the modern model railway (404, not shown in plan). The latter sealed a layer of compacted rubble, probably derived from the demolition of the boiling house (variously recorded as layer 406, 411 and 413).

- 4.5.3 A shallow irregular feature cut through the top of this demolition layer (407) is likely to represent modern root disturbance or a tree throw.
- 4.5.4 Further evidence for the boiling house was recorded at the northern end of the trench and in the trench extension. Here, traces of the north eastern wall of the boiling house (414) were identified. Only a short stretch of this wall, aligned north west to south east, survived. It had been heavily truncated by a robber trench (419), probably dug at the time of the demolition of the building. Traces of a mortar surface (416) either a floor or bedding for a floor associated with the boiling house was recode. This lay on compact levelling layers of crushed CBM and mortar (415 and 417), which in turn lay on a bed of reddish pink sand (418) only partially exposed within the trench.
- 4.5.5 A dump of material excavated to the north of wall 414 (layer 420) contained quantities of clinker or slag material, thought likely to be derived from the salt boiling furnaces. Samples were taken from this layer and from layer 417.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds. This comprises a group of domestic refuse (animal bone, pottery, glass, clay pipe, metalwork, marine shell), concentrated in Trench 2, in which the datable finds are almost exclusively of modern date (19th/20th century), together with structural material (ceramic and stone building material, ironwork), found across the Site, which has a wider date range, including medieval and post-medieval/modern material.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Apart from two medieval sherds, the pottery assemblage is all of post-medieval/modern date.

Medieval

- 5.2.2 The two medieval sherds are both coarsewares. One sherd from context 121 is in a sandy/flint-tempered ware; comparable wares have been identified at other sites in the New Forest, including Lymington (Powell 2009, 23); these wares are likely to be of relatively local manufacture, as they do not occur in south Wiltshire, or in Southampton. The second sherd, from context 122, is in a sandy ware with surface scratchmarking, probably a Southampton type (Brown 2002, 9, fabric SMK). Both sherds fall within a potential date range of 11th to early 13th century.

Post-medieval/Modern

- 5.2.3 Potentially the earliest sherds amongst the later group comprise the coarse earthenwares. These include two types; predominant here are the pale-firing Verwood-type earthenwares from east Dorset (21 sherds), which have a date range from at least the mid 17th century through to 1952, with little typological change within this period. There are also three sherds of

redwares of uncertain source (one is from a modern flowerpot, but the other two sherds could be earlier).

- 5.2.4 All other wares are of 19th or 20th century date. These include refined whitewares and redwares, late white-slipped redware, stoneware, oriental porcelain and bone china. Overall, the post-medieval/modern assemblage includes the expected domestic range of kitchenwares (coarse earthenwares, white-slipped redware), containers for food and other household goods (stonewares), and tablewares (refined wares, porcelain, bone china).
- 5.2.5 Of interest is the presence (in context 208) of a complete stoneware ink bottle, with pouring spout, stamped with the (bottle) manufacturer's mark: Lovatt & Lovatt, of the Langley Mill pottery in Nottinghamshire. The Langley Mill factory was founded in 1865 by James Calvert, whose son William entered into partnership with Albert Lovatt in 1883; Albert and his brother John Lovatt took over the pottery in 1895, and the business continued as Lovatt & Lovatt until 1930. This particular stamp dates from 1895 - c.1913. The pottery produced a range of art wares, but utilitarian containers such as the ink bottle formed a significant part of the output (Giblin and Giblin 2002, 7, 17, 50, 77).

5.3 Ceramic and Stone Building Material

- 5.3.1 This category includes fragments of ceramic brick, roof tile and wall tile. Brick fragments are largely in markedly coarse, poorly wedged fabrics, with prominent inclusions; several examples have vitrified surfaces. Fragments are small, but where discernible, these appear to derive from unfrosted bricks. Fabric and form suggest that these bricks belong to the earlier post-medieval period, between the 16th and 18th centuries, although in the absence of more complete examples dating is difficult.
- 5.3.2 Roof tile fragments are mainly from flat (peg) tiles; examples in slightly coarser fabrics, more crudely fashioned, are of medieval date (one or two have a few glaze spots, and nail holes are either square or round); these are more numerous than the post-medieval examples. One medieval fragment could come from a curved ridge tile (context 113).
- 5.3.3 A few fragments of modern glazed wall tiles were found; fragments from what may be a single blue and white transfer-printed tile came from contexts 208, 209 and 210, and fragments of other tiles came from contexts 201 and 301.
- 5.3.4 Stone building material comprises two roofing tiles, one of limestone (context 208) and one of slate (context 103). Neither is closely datable.

5.4 Glass

- 5.4.1 This consists largely of vessel glass, with one fragment of window glass (context 211). Two fragments of green glass from context 103, including a narrow base with a solid kick, are from a bottle(s) of 17th or 18th century date. All other vessel glass is 19th or 20th century in date, and includes a small, complete perfume bottle with a metal stopper (context 208).

5.5 Metalwork

5.5.1 The copper alloy comprises a buckle, a button, a washer with rivet *in situ*, and a small fitting, perhaps a drawer pull. All are modern.

5.5.2 The iron includes four nails, a piece of wire, and some miscellaneous sheet fragments of uncertain origin. These objects are not datable but are almost certainly post-medieval/modern.

5.6 Other Finds

5.6.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of animal bone (standard domestic refuse), clay tobacco pipe (all plain stems); ironworking slag; and oyster shell.

5.6.2 Of interest is a complete small wooden sleeper, with iron bolts still *in situ* at either end, almost certainly belonging to the modern model railway.

5.7 Recommendations

5.7.1 Given the quantity of finds recovered, their range, date and provenance, no further analysis is warranted, and retention for long-term curation is not considered to be necessary; much if not all of this assemblage could be discarded. However, consultation should be made with the recipient museum, and with the landowners and/or any other interested parties, before any discard takes place.

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

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Glass	Pottery	Metal	Other finds
103	34/14	5/874	2/70	17/276	3 Fe	1 stone
104		3/678				
105		1/266		1/5		
106				2/5		
107		5/250				
110		2/18	1/5	1/11		
111	3/26	2/125		2/26		2 clay pipe; 1 shell
113		1/89				
121	1/15			1/12		
122				1/6		
201		3/95	2/91	1/21		
203				6/20		
207	4/70	5/325		8/121	1 Cu	1 slag
208		6/80	2/41	10/741	1 Cu	1 stone
209		5/621	2/52	17/220		
210	15/202	2/189	5/185	38/494	27 Fe	
211	3/7	8/1019	3/14	15/196	1 Cu	
301		5/131		1/2		1 clay pipe; 1 wood
302		5/201				
305		6/93	1/4	1/3	1 Fe	1 stone
308		5/3578				
401					1 Cu	
402		5/357		4/20	1 Fe	1 clay pipe

405	1/1	2/75		1/18		
406		13/869				
408						4 shell
411		3/211				
413		1/52				1 shell
TOTALS	61/335	93/10,196	18/462	127/2197	32 Fe; 4 Cu	

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 Seven environmental samples were taken during the course of the evaluation, predominantly from deposits thought likely to be associated with the use of the Boiling House. These samples were retained by Frank Green of the New Forest National Park Authority for processing and assessment, and will be reported on separately (Green, pers comm.).

7 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1.1 The evaluation exercise undertaken at Creek Cottage identified evidence for extensive modern landscaping as well as the extent of the original 18th century boiling house on the site, and the deposits associated with its construction, use and demolition. It also established that there was earlier activity on the site with the excavation of two late medieval or post-medieval features in Trench 4 which stratigraphically clearly pre-date the boiling house. Medieval pottery recovered from early in the sequence of deposits in trench 1 also hints at earlier activity in the vicinity.

7.1.2 The earliest deposits on the site are alluvial in origin, and probably represent deposits laid down when the area largely comprised intertidal mudflats. Although it is possible that these formed within shallow pans such as those used for the extraction of brine from the medieval period onwards, there is no positive evidence to support this. The two sherds of medieval pottery from Trench 1 hint at some medieval activity in the vicinity, but there is no indication what this activity may have involved.

7.1.3 The footpath which runs along the north western side of the site and which joins Lower Woodside to Maiden and Normandy lane is an old trackway and lies on a slightly raised causeway. This causeway probably acted as a dyke separating dry land from the wetlands, and may have been built as part of a phase of land reclamation. Traces of similar dykes and numerous salterns are known from the vicinity of the Site, in particularly to the east in and around Moses Dock and Oxey Marsh.

7.1.4 Structural remains likely to be the remains of the original boiling house, now much altered and reduced were identified in trenches 1 and 4. In trench 1, walls 108 and 120, later incorporated within the lean-to coal store, probably mark the south western extent of the original structure. Wall 414 in Trench 4 almost certainly marks its north eastern extent. If indeed this is the case, the original building may have been some 24m long and 10m wide, some three times its current length. Traces of a mortar surface within Trench 4 also provide evidence for an internal floor surface. Perhaps surprisingly, no evidence for the south eastern wall was identified in Trench 3, although

foundation 307 may well have supported an internal structure. A posthole excavated in trench 1 may also belong to an internal structure.

- 7.1.5 Further evidence for the use of the site for salt making was recovered from all of the trenches excavated, predominantly in the form of dumps of fine ashy material, although a dump of slag or clinker was also identified in Trench 1.
- 7.1.6 The remaining deposits and features are all modern in date, and range from wall 102, forming the south eastern wall of the lean-to coal house, to several cuts or gravel 'embankments' forming part of the model railway built on the site.
- 7.1.7 The proposed works on the extant boiling house are largely confined to the vicinity of trench 1, and it is understood that they are likely to involve construction on a concrete 'raft'. In this case, they are unlikely to significantly impact on the remains of the earlier boiling house, and further mitigation work is unlikely to be required.
- 7.1.8 The Boiling house and its associated outbuilding are, however, important survivals of the salt making industry which dominated the local landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries. In this context, the results of this evaluation, in conjunction with the processing and analysis of the environmental samples, have the potential to add important new information to our understanding of the site. Following discussion with Frank Green of the New Forest National Park Authority, it is recommended that the results of this evaluation be published along with the results of recent works at Normandy Dock as a short note in an appropriate local journal.

8 THE ARCHIVE

- 8.1.1 The site archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with the documents Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (Walker 1990), Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992) and Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections; Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993).
- 8.1.2 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire under the Project Code 72210. In due course the archive will be deposited with the Hampshire County Museum service.
- 8.1.3 All records will be copied to microfilm. This will comply with the requirements presented in the document *Microfilming for Archaeological Archives* (RCHM). Wessex Archaeology will contact the National Monuments Record to check their requirements. The microfilm and one diazo duplicate will be submitted to the recipient museum, and one diazo duplicate submitted to the National Monument Record, Swindon.

9 COPYRIGHT

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11 APPENDIX 1. TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trial Trench No.	1	NGR	NE	443442.8, 093475.4	SW	432442.5, 093474.6
Length (m)	Width (m)	Height Above Ordnance Datum (m) (At Ground Level)			Max. Depth (m) (Below Ground Level)	
3m	1.5m	NE	1.79m	SW	1.70m	1.34m
Context No.	Soil Description					Depth (m) (B.G.L)
101	Modern gravel pathway adjacent to buildings.					0 – 0.06m
102	Brick built wall aligned north east to south west. Part of wall of coal store. Comprises two courses of red brick laid in an irregular bond in a matrix of a light grey/whitish mortar matrix. Part of the same structure as 108 and 120.					0.06 – 0.21m
103	Garden soil accumulated to the south of 102. A dark grey brown silty loam containing occasional fragments of brick, tile and mortar.					0.06 – 0.11m
104	A clean dark grey brown silty loam. Probably build up of deposits, ashy in appearance.					0.11 – 0.53m
105	Mixed levelling layer below 101. a dark grey brown silty loam. A v mixed deposit – post 1960's levelling					0.06 – 0.11m
106	Layer of broken roofing slates sealed by 103. .					0.11 - 0.12m
107	Layer comprising repeated dumps of ash-rich material forming levelling and make up deposits within the interior of the coal store. V light grey (almost white) fine silt. Possibly a deposit of ashy material from the boiling house. Sample No 1					0.18 – 0.25m
108	Brick built wall aligned north west to south east. Part of wall of coal store. Only a single course of irregularly laid bricks survives, laid in a pale yellow mortar. Same as 120.					0.06 – 0.18m
109	Dark grey brown loam below layer 106. probable levelling/make up layer. Possibly the same as 104.					0.12 – 0,50m
110	Compact clay layer cut by 114. A mixed yellow/green brown clay with brick and tile inclusions. Probably a rough floor surface for the coal store or earlier boiling house.					0.06 – 0.22m
111	Dark greyish brown/black silt to the north of 102. Cut by 112. Dark grey brown silty loam containing fragments of CBM. Sealed by 104. Sample No 2					0.53 – 0.86m
112	Cut of shallow oval feature with concave sides and a concave base. Cut through 111. Contains a single fill – 113					0.12 – 0.20m.
113	Fill of 112. Sealed by 107. a light yellowish grey silty clay containing common small fragments of fired clay.					0.12 – 0.20m
114	Construction cut for 102. Linear cut with steep sides and a flat base. Contains 102 and backfilled with 115.					0.06 – 0.21m
115	Fill of 114mid brown silty loam.					0.06 – 0.21m
116	Layer sealed by 103. A mid grey silty clay, probably representing a gradually accumulated deposit above the coal store.					0.12 – 0.19m
117	Cut of robber trench of wall 120. Linear cut with steep sides and a flat base. Cuts 104.					0.11 – 0.21m
118	Fill of 117. light yellow silty clay containing common mortar inclusions. Modern cut.					0.11 – 0.21
119	Same as 104.					
120	Brick built wall, the return of 108, aligned north east to south west. Comprises a single course of headers laid in a light yellow mortar. Return of wall 108. Poss. originally northern wall of boiling house.					0.06 – 0.18m

121	Very dark silty loam. Same as 111. Assigned to lower levels of 111 excavated in stepped sondage.	0.86 – 1.22m
122	Dark brown/black layer below 106. Same as 104, to the south of 102.	/
123	Natural clay. Light grey/blue clay below 121. Sample No 4	1.22m+
124	Cut of poss post hole associated with the boiling house. Sub circular posthole with steep sides and a concave base.	0.11 – 0.22m
125	Fill of posthole 124. Mid grey brown silt clay containing fragments of brick and slate.	0.11 – 0.22m
126	Modern intrusion into 116. cuts 103 and 106. Modern service trench.	0.06 – 0.26m
127	Group of 3 cuts through 110. filled with 128. 3 identical postholes – circular with steep, straight sides and a concave base. Poss associated with the salt boiling process.	0.06 – 0.24m
128	Fill of 127. dark brown/black silt	0.06 – 0.24m
129	Fill of 126, including a modern ceramic drain.	

Trial Trench No.	2	NGR	NE	432460.5, 093472.1		SW	432457.9, 093470.3	
Length (m)	Width (m)		Height Above Ordnance Datum (m) (At Ground Level)				Max. Depth (m) (Below Ground Level)	
2.90m	1.40m		NE	1.54m	SW	1.62m	0.73m	
Context No.	Soil Description						Depth (m) (B.G.L)	
201	Modern topsoil. Rough turf on area of rough ground on top of a compact mid grey silt clay containing common small sub rounded flint inclusions						0 – 0.06m	
202	Brick built wall – crudely built. Rough line of brocks revealed below 201, sat on 203. v insubstantial. Probably associated with the model railway constructed in the 1960's.						0.06 – 0.18m	
203	Mid – dark greyish brown silt loam containing common flint gravels, fragments of brick, tile, slate and glass. Same as 205 and 207.						0.06 – 0.35m	
204	Band of gravel associated with model railway. A mid brown silty loam containing abundant small flint gravels. A deliberate deposition of gravel to create part of a model railway embankment. Associated with 206.						0.06 - 0.12m	
205	Same as 203 and 207.						/	
206	Band of gravel associated with the railway. Mid grey brown silty loam containing abundant small flints. Associated with 204.						0.06 – 0.13m	
207	Same as 203 and 205.						/	
208	Gravelled surface/metalling situated outside the two buildings. A dark grey brown silt loam containing common flint gravels.						0.35 – 0.41m	
209	Dark grey silty loam containing brick and tile, also fe objects. Ashy layer in north end of trench, probably waste material from boiling house. Probably originally dumped, before later being compacted and used as a surface. .						0.35 – 0.48m	
210	Mid orange brown sandy loam containing common pea grit. Other inclusions comprise fragments of slate and iron objects. Probably represents dumped waste from the boiling house.						0.48m+	
211	Isolated dump of ash rich material – a dark brown silty clay containing occ small flints, fragments of CBM and charcoal. Probably derived from the boiling house.						0.46 – 0.50m	

Trial Trench No.	3	NGR	NE	432459.2, 093481.6		SW	432460.0, 093478.20	
Length (m)	Width (m)		Height Above Ordnance Datum (m) (At Ground Level)			Max. Depth (m) (Below Ground Level)		
3.10m	1.50m		NE	1.56m	SW	1.51m	0.82m	
Context No.	Soil Description						Depth (m) (B.G.L)	
301	Modern topsoil and turf. A mid to dark grey brown silty loam.						0 – 0.08m	
302	Gravel rich layer below 301						0.08 – 0.16m	
303	Spread of modern rubble – predominantly concrete and brick rubble – apparently used to create a raised platform for the model railway.						0.16 – 0.32m	
304	A compact clay bedding layer on which 303 sits. A light yellow clay. Contains occ charcoal and chalk fragments.						0.32 – 0.42m	
305	Probable garden soil below 304, predating the model railway. A dark blackish brown silt loam with occ small sub-rounded flints and charcoal flecks.						0.16 – 0.46m	
306	A dark grey brown silty loam, containing rare gravels and CBM fragments. Probably pre-dates the boiling house. Seals earlier features.						0.46 – 0.56m	
307	Cut of possible construction platform for the boiling house. Filled with rubble 308 and sand 309.						0.46 – 0.57m	
308	Fill of 307. Dump of brick and mortar rubble, some stone. A lens of clack and greenish grey clay occurs throughout, with occ charcoal frags. Prob assoc with the construction of the boiling house.						0.46 – 0.57m	
309	Concreted layer of yellow/orange sand. Fill of 307.						0.51 – 0.57m	
310	Possible post hole. Unclear function, but probably pre-dates the boiler house.						0.57 – 0.82m	
311	Lower fill of 310. Pale grey ashy fill with pockets of dark brown clay lower down. Occ charcoal flecks throughout						0.57 – 0.69m	
312	Upper fill of 310. light grey ashy deposit. Containing occ fragments of brick. Sample No 3						0.69 – 0.82m	
313	Cut of ditch, aligned roughly east west, with steep straight sides and a flat base. This cuts the earliest exposed deposit within the trench. Almost certainly predates the boiling house.						0.57 – 0.77m	
314	Fill of ditch, Mid brown silty loam containing v rare small gravels. Slowly accumulated fill. Sample No 5						0.57 – 0.77m	
315	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Cut by 313. Alluvial deposit.						0.57m+	

Trial Trench No.	4	NGR	NE	432464.2, 093487.3		SW	432462.3, 093484.7	
Length (m)	Width (m)		Height Above Ordnance Datum (m) (At Ground Level)			Max. Depth (m) (Below Ground Level)		
3.4m	2m		NE	1.60m	SW	1.62m	0.78m	
Context No.	Soil Description						Depth (m) (B.G.L)	
401	Current topsoil and turf. A dark grey brown silty loam containing common small rounded to sub angular flints.						0 – 0.19m	
402	Modern layer, cut by 403. A compact dark yellowish brown silty loam containing fragments of CBM. Probably associated with the construction of the modern model railway.						0.19 – 0.31m	
403	Modern gully. Linear, with steep concave sides and a flat base. Dug as a 'cutting' for the modern model railway						0.19 – 0.28m	
404	Fill of 403. A very dark brown (almost black) loose silty loam.						0.19 –	

	Almost certainly a modern deposit associated with the dismantling of the model railway	0.28m
405	Dark grey brown silty loam containing common modern CBM and iron objects (including a door hinge).	0.31 – 0.51m
406	Rubble layer. The remains of demolition of boiling house. Seals 416, and fills 419. A mixed and mottled light grey and red silt loam containing common to abundant fragments of CBM, fired clay, ash and mortar.	0.51 – 0.69m
407	Cut into 406. possibly a natural feature – tree throw? Irregular in plan with irregular sides and a flattish base	0.51 – 0.64m
408	Fill of 407. a very dark grey brown silty loam containing occ small flints.	0.51 – 0.61m
409	Lower fill of 407, below 408. Mid to light reddish brown silty loam. Disturbed or re-deposited natural.	0.61 – 0.64
410	Void	
411	Same as 406	/
412	Void	
413	Same as 406	/
414	Brick built wall, probably the end wall of the boiling house. Made from unfrogged bricks set in a very light grey/white compact mortar. Laid in alternating courses of headers and stretchers. Aligned NW-SE.	0.69m+
415	Bedding layer for 414. Layer of v light grey/white lime mortar containing common CBM fragments (mostly brick, some tile)	0.52 – 0.58m
416	Possible remains of flooring – mortared surface. Mid grey compact lime mortar. Seals 415, cut by 419	0.51 – 0.52m
417	Possible levelling layer. A mid yellow – green sandy mortar containing occ flints. A compact mixed rubble deposit. Sample No 7.	0.58 – 0.63m
418	Occupation layer, predating wall 414. A light red, pinkish, silty sand containing common small mortar fragments and broken brick. Layer only partially exposed.	0.63 +
419	Cut of robber trench for removal of 414. irregular in plan, with vertical sides. Cut through floor 416, filled with 406.	0.51 – 0.69m
420	Clinker rich layer. Dark grey/black deposit, probably comprising a dump of waste from the salt boiling furnaces. Sample No 6	0.60 – 0.72m



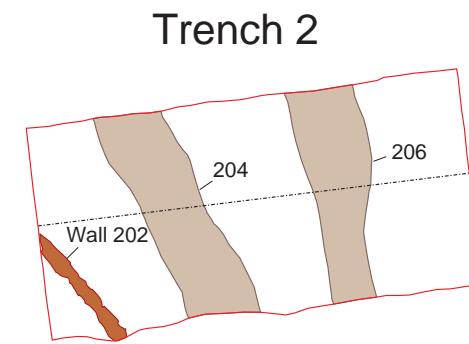
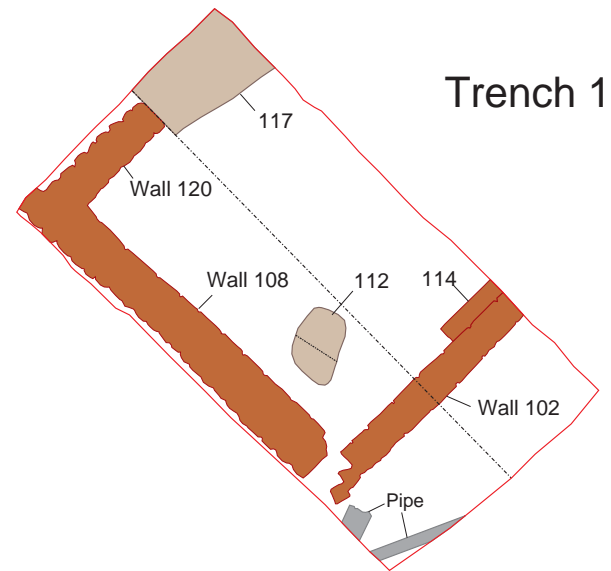
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Site location plan

Figure 1



- Archaeological feature
- Brick wall
- Modern services



Plate 1: Trench 1 from the south-east

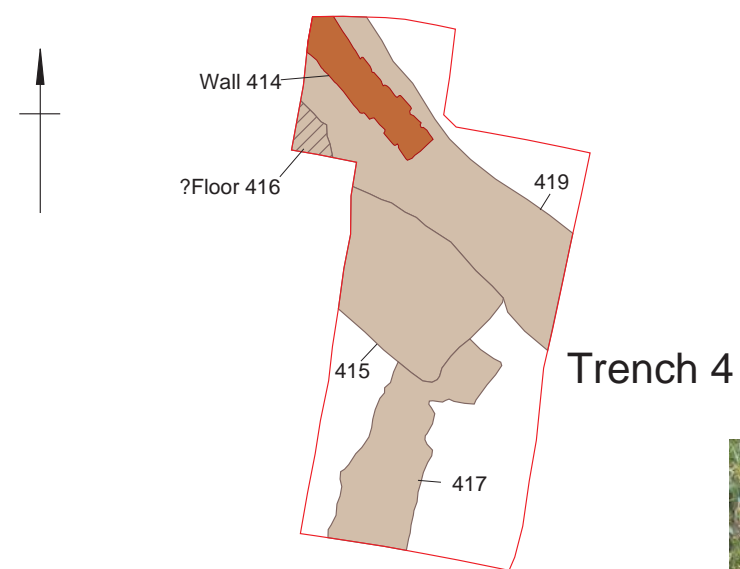


Plate 2: Trench 2 from the west

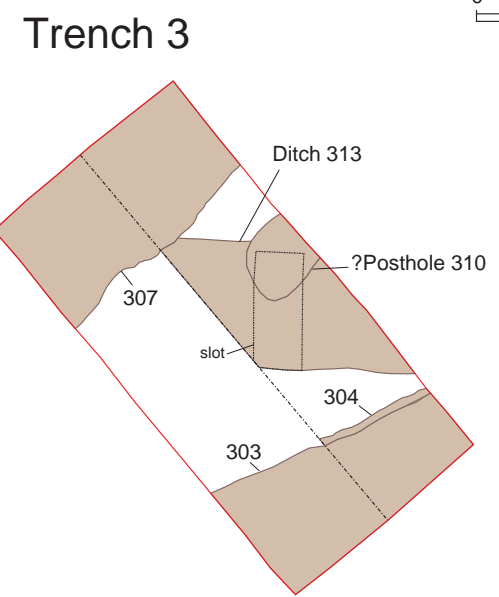
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Plate 3: Trench 3 from the north-west



Trench 4



Trench 3

- Archaeological feature
- Brick wall
- Possible mortar floor



Plate 4: Trench 4 from the north

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WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

Regional offices in **Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield**

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk

