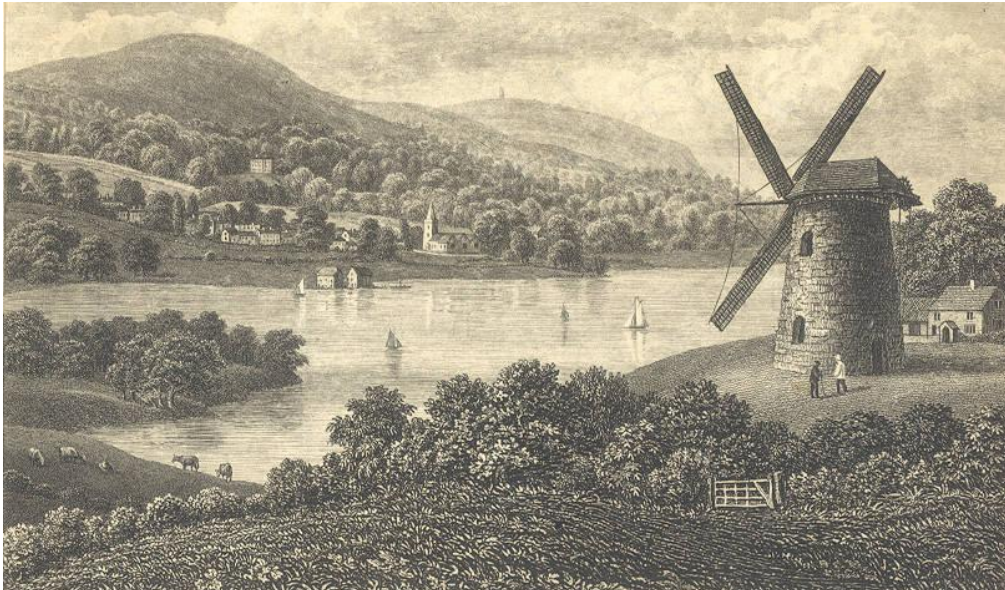


An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment  
**TEXT ONLY VERSION**

The Old Sea Wall, Brading, Isle of Wight

SZ 61414 87300 -  
SZ 61560 87035



June 2006  
PRN 6061

Prepared for  
Brading Town Council

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## Summary

*This desk based assessment, commissioned by Brading Town Council and produced by WCA Heritage Ltd, has combined archaeological, documentary and cartographic sources to show that the Old Sea Wall at Brading Haven (NGR SZ6141487300-SZ6156087035) has been a constant feature since 1594 in a continuously evolving landscape. The Old Sea Wall and its earthwork embankment (the 'site') is located approximately 800m east of the centre of the village of Brading. It is located within the Lower Yar Valley flood plain and bisects the main channel of the Eastern River Yar on the Isle of Wight.*

*A level 1 Historic Building Record (HBR) survey was carried out during April 2006 which recorded the embankment as an earthwork feature on average 6.22m wide at its base and 3.5m wide at the top. The bank angle is approximately 30-40°. A ditch was also identified aligned parallel with the embankment on its south west side. The feature is not designated as a Listed Building and is very simple architecturally being a revetment wall of limestone block of an average height of 1.2m. which faces east to the sea. The structure has been repaired and may have been reduced nearer the shore, but in the main has been retained as the western boundary of Brading Haven in its original form from 1594 until the early 1880's.*

*Documentary evidence suggests that Brading had an earlier Medieval Quay and was a successful thriving town in 1547 when its charter granted the rights for fairs and a market. It is not certain where the Quay was located in the Medieval period but at least one is known, sited at Wade Mill. Further documentary and map research may clarify this.*

*It could be suggested that the reclamation embankments in 1562 and 1594 deprived Brading of its Medieval Town Quay and that this damaged the town's economy in some way bringing about the decline of Brading as is documented in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed, there are some indications within the sources that the relocation of the quay may have caused difficulties and its removal to the end of Wall Lane would have prevented direct access to the market and also sea access from the earlier mill at Wade field.*

*However, we suggest that the reclamation should not be seen as a cause of the decline of Brading but simply of its time; rural depopulation was rife in the post medieval period, although the town's fortunes could not have been helped by the relocation of the town's quay to the Wall Lane and the limited provisions there. The heart of the Town remained focused in the High Street where Brading's various trades appear to have stayed, far removed from the quayside at which only two store houses are known. The 1594 reclamation was probably a continuation in the tradition of enclosure and the Island wide need for pasture for sheep and cattle. The Eastern Yar is reported as difficult to navigate even with a small boat by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Brettell, 1840, Warner 1795) and there are many references to channels needing clearing.*

*During the later post Medieval period the Old Sea Wall and its Quay appear to go through a revival and secure important resources for the town's economy including fish and the facility to import and export of goods including coal and corn. This significance is shown particularly by the establishment of Cement Works on the Quay and the incorporation of a quay spur in the new railway proposals of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, the railway secured a line across to Bembridge by means of an embankment in the late 1880's to effectively drain the Haven and cut off the Quay and so this revival was short lived.*

*The wall is currently in a poor state of repair having received no maintenance for perhaps 20 years. The structure is partially under the care of Brading Town Council who propose to raise awareness of the historic landscape, establish interpretation at the site, undertake restoration and repair the wall collapse and erosion to the earthwork embankment. The wall face has been weakened in places by scrub and ivy growth and hawthorn trees have taken hold on the grass bank. The Old Sea Wall embankment acts as a footpath across the marshes to Bembridge and is popular with dog walkers and ornithologists. The associated Quay is sited fully within the adjacent SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR and RSPB reserve but is relatively unknown. It is recommended that a programme of regular maintenance be established to secure the integrity and heritage value of the wall and quay for future generations. Any maintenance or works must be done in accordance with environmental legislation and with archaeological guidance, therefore a Conservation and Management Plan should be developed.*

*We recommend that the plans to repair and restore the wall are progressed through ::*

- 1. 3 yr Conservation & Management Plan for the historic structure*
- 2. Installation of interpretive panels*
- 3. Community Environmental Archaeology Project*
- 4. Watching Brief and photographic record of repair/restoration*

*In the first instance the Conservation and Management plan should assess the need for immediate repair and propose suitable methods, materials and resources for this. A further aim is to establish a long term commitment to maintenance of the wall as required.*

*The collapse of the wall may be abated by minimising the penetration of Ivy roots and scrub growth and undertaking repairs to the joints (pointing if appropriate). Whilst the repair will aim to secure the longevity of the wall, its conservation presents many difficulties in itself. The management of the vegetation must not be carried out in such a way as to promote further growth or include forcibly stripping the wall; both approaches are known to cause further damage. Although the application of glyphosate herbicide on the roots, stem and branches is the normal treatment for problem Ivy, due to the environmental designations on the site it is likely that such chemicals are prohibited. Ideally re-pointing should be carried out as patch repairs to existing pointing to blend and match with the original material and technique, however in this case none of the original mortar appears to have survived. It is not thought likely that the wall was drystone. Given the wide open joints at present, the pointing may have to be of full profile and encroach onto the edges of the stones, so that it will be highly visible, negatively affect the historic appearance and contrast markedly to non repaired sections. Therefore all repairs must only be undertaken by a qualified professional with expertise in local vernacular building and lime mortars.*

*Installation of an interpretation panel could pose adverse effects on the known and potential archaeological and environmental deposits of the site, depending on the extent of construction and ground works. The excavation of a foundation pad could be mitigated through the pre excavation (evaluation) and monitoring (watching brief) of the works by an archaeologist and the taking of environmental samples at suitable opportunities. Any site works and movement of machinery should take precautions to avoid affecting the structural stability of the wall or damaging the earthworks.*

*The interpretation of the site and the proposals for repair will probably increase the awareness of these historic landscape features in the community, and the number of visitors to the embankment may also increase. This increase is unlikely to have any negative impacts and public interest will in effect support the longevity of the embankment. Other positive effects of the proposals may also come in the form of community projects to maintain the site or research its past further.*

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### **Acknowledgements**

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## 1. Introduction and Project Background

- 1.1 WCA Heritage was commissioned to produce a Desk Based Assessment of the Old Sea Wall, Brading, Isle of Wight by Brading Town Council. The project was commissioned in February 2006 on the basis of a Written Scheme of Investigations approved by IWCAS. Following advice from the local planning authority Isle of Wight Council, the client has also secured a programme of historic building recording to ensure 'an accurate and up-to-date record of the Quay walls and other structures as appropriate in advance of future proposals for regeneration of structures' to 'allow future development plans to be informed by the actual nature of the surviving remains' (IWCAS 2006).
- 1.2 The client's proposals for the site, a linear earthen reclamation embankment and Sea Wall, include the repair and restoration to interpret these historical remains for the public and to improve and encourage public access to the footpath which runs along the top of the feature.
- 1.3 This Desk Based Assessment aims to examine the archaeological and historic documentary sources to place the structure within its local and regional context and retrieve evidence for the development of the Sea Wall and Quay. Given that the site under consideration is not threatened by development and is extant, this desk based research has concentrated on collating historical information rather than assessing potential for further archaeological remains or impacts of development.
- 1.4 The local area of Brading Haven lies 800m east of the centre of Brading Town and lies below the 5m contour. It incorporates several embankments and many phases of reclamation are recorded. The site under consideration here is aligned north west / south east and runs across the flood plain of the River Yar from Wall Lane at SZ 61414 87300 to 'Great Sluice' at SZ 61648 86879 and is part of a longer recorded embankment (SMR PRN 2592). This embankment formed the southern boundary of Brading Harbour (also called Haven) prior to 1880. The embankment is faced on the north east side by the Old Sea Wall. This report concerns the whole of this earthwork, including the section surveyed for Level 1 HBR (the extent of this survey comprises the north west end of this feature only from SZ61414 87300 to Middle Sluice gate at SZ 61560 87035 (see WCA Heritage April 2006).
- 1.5 This report follows the recommendations set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (1994, Revised September 1999) and utilises existing textual and graphic sources to establish, the historical context and amenity potential of the site. It should be noted that this form of non-intrusive appraisal cannot be seen as a definitive statement on the presence or absence of archaeological remains within an area, but rather as an indicator of the area's potential based on existing information.
- 1.6 The project was managed by Katie-Sue Wilson BSc AIFA and research was undertaken by R Edmunds with K Wilson.

## 2. Methodology

2.1 This desk based assessment employs a variety of sources in order to attempt to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site and study area. Principal amongst these is the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), a database of known sites of historic and/or archaeological interest. SMR databases are maintained locally and include summaries of previous archaeological work along with records of chance finds of archaeological artefacts or deposits, and may also include references based on documentary, cartographic or aerial photographic surveys. It should be borne in mind, however, that an SMR is an evolving database and that as a result, its effectiveness may depend on the amount of previous fieldwork undertaken, or chance discoveries made in the vicinity. The information contained within these records therefore can only be regarded as a summary of the current state of knowledge about the local historical environment, a valuable resource for appraising the archaeological potential of unexamined areas.

2.2 A thorough walkover survey was undertaken during the Historic Building Recording in order to locate the site within its historical and landscape setting and to assess levels of preservation.

### The Desk-based Sources

2.3 **The SMR:** The SMR records are stored digitally and can be accessed in the form of a GIS mapping system with additional textual description held on a searchable database. SMR entries that fall within the area of the proposed site, or that are located within a 250m cordon around it, were examined and are shown in figure 2. The SMR holds a total of 7 entries within this study area. These have been assessed and are reproduced here in the Cultural Heritage Table (See Appendix 1). The IOW SMR frequently refers to two separate events under a single number, for example, an archaeological site may have produced finds from more than one period, or an archaeological discovery may be corroborated by documentary evidence.

2.4 **Scheduled Monuments:** A list - or 'schedule' - of sites or monuments that are considered to be of national importance is maintained by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). This was consulted to ensure that any consent process is incorporated into future restoration/repair plans. There are no SM's in the study area.

2.5 **Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas:** A list of buildings of historical or architectural interest is also maintained by the DCMS along with a list of Conservation Areas, which are defined as areas of historical interest. A copy of the list for the current study area can be obtained from EH, though a duplicate list is also held locally. For the purposes of this appraisal, the IWC planning department were consulted. They confirmed that there are no Listed Buildings in the study area. The study area does not fall within a conservation area, although there are a number of other designations on the adjoining land which are discussed in section 4.

2.6 **Cartographic sources:** A series of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Ordnance Survey maps held by the Isle of Wight branch of the County Record Office (CRO) were reviewed. The maps collection of the CRO includes a copy of the Brading Tithe map of 1840 (IWCRO AC94/34) and Plan of Yaverland Parish of 1839 (IWCRO Jer/T/388) and the accompanying Tithe apportionment. These cartographic sources were studied in order to establish the land-use and identify historic references to field names. In addition a late 18<sup>th</sup> century map of the Oglander estate was also consulted (IWCRO OG87/26). Additional uncatalogued cartographic sources held at the Old Town Hall by the Brading Town Trust were also useful including the Haywood Map of 1781 and the OS 6" series of 1866.

2.7 **Historical documents and secondary historical sources:** The County Records Office was consulted for further sources, in particular, the Oglander collection. A number of contemporary accounts and secondary source pertaining to the Isle of Wight were consulted at the Local Studies Library. The records held by Brading Town Trust at the Old Town Hall were also consulted and, in particular the Brading Borough Court Books (Transcribed by F Oglander and C Webster), the Brading Rate Books and numerous historical depictions of the Haven.

- 2.8 **Archaeological reports, articles and summaries:** These sources were consulted to add detail to the SMR entries and to aid in placing the study area in its regional context. A full list of the reviewed sources is given in the bibliography to this report.
- 2.9 **The Walkover Survey:** The walkover survey was undertaken during the course of the building recording works and incorporated the wider historic landscape of the Haven, the early settlement in the High Street and the reputed site of the Medieval Quay.
- 2.10 **The Assessment:** The assessment process involves making an appraisal of the available archaeological and historical evidence and comparing this with factors effecting preservation and known impacts on the site. Firm evidence of activity in a given period from a known location, may lead to a conclusion of low potential if it can be argued that the deposits that yielded this evidence have subsequently been destroyed. In areas where there is little or no recorded evidence of past activity, it may still be possible to make a prediction of the probable level of activity based on the concentration of archaeological material in the surrounding area, or from areas with similar topography. Assessments of probable levels of past activity and the likelihood of evidential preservation are predictions based only on available evidence. They cannot be seen as definitive statements on the presence or absence of archaeological remains within an area. Such predictions will almost always require testing through fieldwork.

### **3. Project Aims**

- 3.1 The particular aim of this desk-based assessment is to gather together archaeological and historical information regarding the Old Sea Wall and associated historic landscape features (a study area of 250m around the wall). The assessment aims to characterise the nature, date, and likely extent of the Wall and any associated remains, and to classify their significance.
- 3.2 The assessment should examine, in the light of the information gathered, the potential impact of the proposals to restore, repair and interpret the Old Sea Wall.
- 3.3 The desk based assessment should also recommend the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation and management of any significant sites or remains, and identify opportunities to enhance and promote the cultural heritage resource during the repair works.

## 4. Regulations and National and Local Planning Policy

### 4.1 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)

Nationally important archaeological sites and monuments are listed in a schedule maintained by the Secretary of State and English Heritage. Scheduled Monument Consent is required for any works that would affect the fabric of a scheduled monument. Scheduled Monuments are statutorily protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) as amended by the National Heritage Act (1983). There are no Scheduled Monuments within the proposal area and therefore the proposed restoration of SMR 2592 proposes no impact, direct or indirect, to any Scheduled Monuments.

### 4.2 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Buildings of architectural or historical significance are protected under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, as amended by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Secretary of State (DCMS) and English Heritage maintain a schedule of buildings. Listed Building Consent is required for any works which would affect the fabric or the setting of significant listed buildings. There are no listed buildings within the study area. The Old Sea Wall is not designated. The nearby Brading Conservation Area will not be affected.

### 4.3 DoE Planning Policy Guidance

Within the planning process, local authorities are responsible for safeguarding the cultural resource and built heritage. Advice on appropriate procedures and treatment is contained within a series of Planning Policy Guidelines (PPG's). **PPG16, Archaeology and Planning (1990)**, stresses that the cultural heritage is a non-renewable resource. The guidelines encourage early consultation with County Archaeological Officers, particular reference to the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR's) and notes that applicants must provide sufficient information on the potential impact of proposed projects to enable reasonable planning decisions to be made. This guidance also outlines circumstances in which further archaeological evaluation might be necessary to provide this information and explains the use of appropriate mitigation strategies to discharge these conditions. The general guidance relating to archaeological matters is summarised in the following extracts:

Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite, and non-renewable, resource...care must be taken to ensure that [they] are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed.  
(PPG16: 14)

Where nationally important remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected by the proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. [In the case of] remains of lesser importance...planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeology against other factors including the need for the proposed development.  
(PPG16:8)

If physical preservation in situ is not feasible, an archaeological excavation...may be an acceptable alternative.  
(PPG16: 13)

[T]he key to the future of the great majority of archaeological sites lies with local authorities, acting within the framework set by central government. Appropriate policies in development plans and their implementation through development control will be especially important.  
(PPG16: 14)

### 4.4 PPG15, Planning and the Historic Environment (1994), is concerned with the wider historic landscape and the built environment, including designated sites such as Battlefields, Listed

Buildings, Conservation Areas and Historic Parks and Gardens. This document gives advice to planning authorities regarding the appropriate procedures, resources and treatment for the historic landscape and the built heritage. The site is not a designated listed building, neither is it incorporated on to any Local List. The site does not fall within any Conservation Area. The procedures adopted for this report and previous studies of the site are in accordance with the general advice outlined in the above PPG's in that consultation with the curators has taken place and will continue.

#### 4.5 IOW Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 1996-2011

The Isle of Wight UDP was adopted in May 2001. The proposal site is allocated as ... The Plan states that archaeological and historical landscape features of the Island are "a national as well as a local resource of particular social value worthy of good stewardship". The Plan contains the following policies specifically relating to the historic environment and cultural heritage.

##### Policy B2

*Proposals which adversely affect the appearance, setting and/or curtilage of a Listed Building will not be permitted*

##### Policy B9

*Development proposals which are likely to adversely affect the archaeological heritage and features of the Island, directly or indirectly, will not be permitted. Planning applications will be approved provided that :*

- a) *Where nationally important remains or their settings are affected by the proposed development, permission will only be granted if it will preserve or enhance the archaeological features, on these and other sites, development which would damage the site or its setting will not be permitted.*
- b) *Where proposed development may damage or destroy archaeological remains, the Council will require the developer to submit, prior to determination, the results of an archaeological assessment which may include field evaluation*
- c) *Where development is proposed at a location which is likely to affect an archaeological site or its setting, permission may exceptionally be granted if preservation of archaeological remains in situ can be achieved by careful use of appropriate layout, foundations and design.*
- d) *Where preservation of archaeological remains in situ is not feasible, the Council will require the Developer to submit, prior to determination, proposals which will mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeological remains. Such proposals should include a programme of appropriate archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication which may be undertaken as a condition of planning permission.*

##### Policy B10

*Development proposals which are likely to adversely affect an Historic Park or Garden or Historic Landscape of national or local importance, or its setting, directly or indirectly, will not be permitted.*

- 4.6 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 clearly states that compliance with a UDP should be the main consideration against which all proposals are first considered. The development proposals may encounter and impact negatively upon the site's resources if unmitigated. This report is one of three stages of archaeological work (building recording, topographic survey and desk based assessment) designed to locate and classify the site's heritage resource in order to identify and minimise potential impacts to it. The assessment process will recommend mitigation strategies and where appropriate, positive enhancement of the cultural heritage value of the site. There are no historic parks or gardens in the study area.

#### 4.7 Designations relating to the protection of the environment

The wider area of Brading Haven is designated as an internationally important site for wild birds (SPA) and wetlands (RAMSAR) and is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). Following national regulations and international directives, the local UDP policy states that :

**Policy C9**

*Development will be permitted where the Council can ensure the protection of features of international importance which have been identified by the designation (or proposed designation) of sites under international conventions and directives. Where overriding public interest leads to development being permitted, compensatory measures to ensure the coherence of the international site will be secured.*

**Policy C10**

*Development will not be permitted if it would be likely to destroy or adversely affect, directly or indirectly, a Site of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserve*

Any future proposals for the site should be drawn up in close discussion with the relevant authorities, particularly relating to issues of scrub clearance and maintenance in order that potential ecological impacts of any repair/restoration works are considered and regulations are followed.

## 5. Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 5.1 The Old Sea Wall and its earthwork embankment (the 'site') is located approximately 800m east of the centre of the village of Brading. It is located within the Lower Yar Valley flood plain and bisects the main channel of the River Yar.
- 5.2 The Old Sea Wall and its embankment is approximately 500m long and forms part of a linear feature recorded on the SMR as running from SZ 61414 87300 to SZ 61823 86916 (SMR2592) (Figure 1, site 1 and 2). It is recorded on the SMR as a reclamation embankment, which prior to 1880 formed the southern boundary of Brading Harbour. The feature is aligned north west - south east across the Yar Floodplain, from the end of Wall Lane at SZ 61414 87300 to the sluice gate at SZ 61648 86879 (Great Sluice) and this section constitutes 'the site' in this report. From the Great Sluice the feature changes direction and is aligned east - west, terminating at SZ61823 86916. This section of the feature (site 2) comprises a chalk earthwork embankment which lies across the lower end of a combe east of Centurions Hill and is considered in this report as a separate archaeological feature to the Old Sea Wall.
- 5.3 The site lies below the 5 meter (aod) contour and the underlying geology of the site is recent and Pleistocene drift deposits of alluvium (BGS 1976).
- 5.4 A level 1 Historic Building Record (HBR) survey was carried out during April 2006 to record the north eastern end of the Old Sea Wall prior to restoration work, in order to inform repairs, interpretation and provide an archaeological record of the wall (WCA Heritage 2006). The earthwork feature is on average 6.22m wide at its base and 3.5m wide at the top. The bank angle is approximately 30-40°. A ditch was also identified aligned parallel with the embankment on its south west side. It is possible that the earthwork was constructed from material excavated from this ditch as it runs parallel to the earthwork for much of its course. However, it is also possible that it was excavated at a later date to drain water from a tributary from Brading to the Middle Sluice. The HBR identified and recorded 3 types of walling. Wall (1) extends for a length of 12.60m from the end of Wall Lane where it survives only to a height of 2 courses. It is not clear to what extent this is a result of later re-use or if this is the original form of the wall at its most north westerly extent (and probably highest point in m. aod). Elsewhere the wall survives to a height of just over 1m and comprises 5 courses of random, smooth faced limestone blocks. No batter was recorded on wall (1) but a pink sandy mortar was visible. In contrast Wall (2) is clearly battered back at an angle of approximately 15° off the vertical. Seven courses were identified with distinct sorted coursing. The top course is constructed from very large blocks, below this are two or three courses of random coursed rubble constructed of smaller blocks. Both wall (1) and (2) are located in an area which historically has incorporated buildings and field divisions suggesting agricultural activity. Today, a cattle fence is extant in this area which is in general filled with numerous stock management related features. This leads to the suggestion that these sections of wall have been used for a secondary purpose and may have been altered or repaired. Wall (3) is constructed of random uncoursed blocks of variable sizes. There is little evidence for coursing or grading of masonry sizes. This section appears to be a drystone wall and is known to have been the subject of some repair, particularly at point G.

The Middle Sluice lies at the very edge of the HBR survey area. The name 'Middle Sluice' and references to a third sluice (IWCRO AC 2005/16) may be explained by a dip in the earthwork and change in wall construction recorded at point A. Both the Oglander and 1810 OS maps show a tributary, which flowed from Brading, terminating at the embankment at this point. Therefore, it is suggested that this tributary may have initially continued via a sluice at point A. This has been confirmed as the location of a former sluice known as 'North Sluice' (M Sullivan pers comm.). Cartographic evidence suggests that this sluice may have been removed prior to 1793, and possibly when the stonework around the Middle Sluice was amended in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

- 5.5 For this study a nominal 250m cordon around the site is considered as the study area. However, the site lies within the larger topographic feature of the Low Yar Valley and the site is closely associated with the Town of Brading. There is a long history of reclamation within the Lower Yar Valley and therefore other relevant sites beyond the study area are considered to set the site within its wider context.

- 5.6 The site is in private ownership although the path along the top of the earthwork is managed by Brading Town Council. The adjoining land to the north east of the earthwork is owned and managed by the RSPB. The site is bounded on both sides by permanent pasture.

## 6. Site Proposals

- 6.1 The client, Brading Town Council, propose to raise awareness of the historic significance of the Old Sea Wall and enhance its amenity value, and are looking to :
- encourage use of the footpath routed along the top of the wall
  - provide interpretation
  - undertake repair
  - carry out restoration
- 6.2 The funding for the restoration and repair of the wall has not yet been secured and the project is in its early planning phases. The client has taken general advice from the Local Authority Archaeologist (IWCAS) and the Conservation Officer as to the appropriate mitigation repair works should involve in general. The IWCAS brief states that the Client's future proposals should be informed by an up-to-date record of the structures, and so sets out the requirement for a Level 1 Historic Building Survey with a particular focus on desk based research which this report addresses.

## 7. Archaeological and Historical Background of the Study Area

- 7.1 The time-scales of the archaeological periods referred to in this report are listed below. The periods are given their common names, however, it should be noted that, even where the date limits are based on actual historical events (e.g. the Norman conquest of 1066), these boundaries are arbitrary and, as such, cultural and material artefactual traditions often extend beyond these simplistic divisions. Since this report is intended merely as a summary, commonly used subdivisions within periods are not considered separately but will be discussed, where this is appropriate, in the text.

Prehistoric: Palaeolithic:	c. 500,000 BP	-	c. 10,000 BP
Prehistoric: Mesolithic:	c. 10,000 BP	-	c. 4,300 BC
Prehistoric: Neolithic:	c. 4,300 BC	-	c. 2,300 BC
Prehistoric: Bronze Age:	c. 2,300 BC	-	c. 600 BC
Prehistoric: Iron Age:	c. 600 BC	-	c. AD 43
Romano-British:	c. AD 43	-	c. AD 410
Anglo-Saxon:	c. AD 410	-	AD 1066
Medieval:	AD 1066	-	c. AD 1500
Post-Medieval:	c. AD 1500	-	AD 1789
Modern:	AD 1789	-	c. AD 1970

### Palaeolithic

- 7.2 The Palaeolithic (or Old Stone Age) period is commonly divided into three sub-periods: the Lower, Middle and Upper. The earliest of these (the Lower) is the period in which the first evidence of human occupation occurs. For Britain the date of first colonisation was probably around 500,000 years ago (Wymer 1996). Climatic changes and associated changes in the size of the arctic ice-sheet are directly related to changes in sea level. During the Palaeolithic period, these sea level changes mean that not only was the Isle of Wight joined to the British mainland at various times, with the Medina and East and West Yar rivers forming tributaries of the Solent River (Wymer 1999), but that mainland Britain was also periodically attached to continental Europe (Basford 1980, and Wymer 1996 and 1999).
- 7.3 Riverine deposits do hold a high potential for Palaeolithic artefacts although Lower and Middle Palaeolithic sites on the Isle of Wight generally occur higher above sea level as raised beach and river deposits. In addition to this, Upper Palaeolithic sites may occur in submerged sites, or in locations associated with Mesolithic occupation sites. Wymer (1996) has noted that the low sea levels experienced for much of this period may mean that many Upper Palaeolithic sites have since been inundated and submerged.
- 7.4 There are no known Palaeolithic sites within the 250m cordon around the site which constitutes the study area.

### Mesolithic

#### SMR 4199

- 7.5 Towards the end of the Upper Palaeolithic (c.12,000 BP) British pollen profiles show a marked increase in Birch, demonstrating that a post glacial tundra environment was gradually being replaced by a landscape characterised by deciduous woodland. This trend continued into the Mesolithic (c.10,000 BP), and indeed several sites on the Isle of Wight have produced Mesolithic pollen sequences that contain birch, oak, alder and hazel (Basford 1980 citing Clifford 1936). Rising sea levels associated with this climatic amelioration breached the land-bridge between Britain and the continent by around 8,500 BP. At about this time (between 7000 and 8000 years ago), the final separation of the Isle of Wight from mainland Britain also occurred (Jacobi 1981).
- 7.6 Human subsistence appears to have remained predominantly based on hunting and gathering, though there may have been an element of deliberate forest clearance through burning in an attempt to manage the landscape and promote the growth of cereals and/or fresh grazing lands

for game. Mesolithic sites are generally recognisable from concentrations of characteristic Microlithic flintwork, though other tools such as burins, adzes, picks and axes remain in use.

- 7.7 Mesolithic sites on the Isle of Wight are most commonly found in riverine locations (Basford 1980), though it has also been argued that Mesolithic communities showed a preference for coastal localities and may have been predominantly exploiting marine resources (Ibid. citing Palmer 1977). It is likely that during the Flandrian transgression the River Yar Valley as well as other river valleys on the north coast of the Island, were flooded (Basford 1980, 12). Jacobi (1981) suggests that, as in the Upper Palaeolithic, rising sea levels have no doubt submerged many sites (see also, Wymer 1996, Basford 1980). Basford also suggests that river estuaries are important areas for the study of Mesolithic activity. A plot of the known Mesolithic sites on the Isle of Wight is presented in Basford (1980: 12) and shows a clustering of sites on alluvium and river valley brickearth deposits which includes numerous flint findspots to the south east of the River Yar. Within the study area worked flint of Mesolithic date has been recovered during excavation in advance of a pipe line at SZ 6170 8680 (SMR 4199, site 4); these finds perhaps represent traces of Mesolithic activity within the combe south west of Centurion's Hill c120m from the southern extent of the site.

### Neolithic and Bronze Age

#### SMR4199 and SMR 1604

- 7.8 During the Neolithic period, climatic conditions in northern Europe appear to have been warmer and dryer than today. The Mesolithic trend towards small-scale forest clearance continued into the Neolithic and was combined with an increasing reliance on cereal crops and animal husbandry. The period sees the emergence of communities that built large earthworks such as long barrows, ditched enclosures and henges. Despite this, and the corresponding trend towards a sedentary life style necessitated by agricultural subsistence strategies, Neolithic finds are, as in the Mesolithic, generally characterised by chance finds of lithic artefacts. It is noteworthy that several general summaries of the Neolithic archaeology of Hampshire (Schadla-Hall and Fasham 1981, Gardiner 1996) and the Isle of Wight (Tomalin 1980a) all stress the general lack of structural evidence in the area, especially when compared with Hampshire. The only exceptions to this generalisation are the Neolithic barrows at Afton Down and Longstone, but these are well outside the current study area. Evidence of Neolithic activity in river valleys may suggest a continuation of occupation patterns from the Mesolithic along the river valleys of the River Medina and east and western Yar (Basford 1980, 16). During the Bronze Age the agricultural activities of the Neolithic intensified and woodland clearance increased. Most evidence for the Bronze Age on the Isle of Wight comes from funerary and burial evidence at sites cluster around areas of chalk downs, both along the chalk ridge that runs east to west between the Yar Rivers, and in the areas of chalkland in the south of the Island (Basford 1980, Tomalin 1980b and 1996).
- 7.9 South west of the study area, the Yar Valley is associated with two concentrations of Neolithic activity (near Brading Roman Villa and at Black Pan (Basford, 1980: 17)). Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flint scatters from within the study area (SMR 4199, site 5) and an undated prehistoric flint sickle from SZ 6197 8677(SMR 1604, site 6) suggest later prehistoric activity.

### Iron Age

- 7.10 Across Britain as a whole, the Iron Age is generally characterised as a period of social and economic growth, with a significant increase in population and density of settlement. The nature and form that this settlement takes varies considerably across the country. In a review of the Iron Age evidence from Hampshire (Cunliffe (1996) has argued that the county is one of the best studied regions in Europe, but only two of the sites are from the Isle of Wight: the late Iron Age sites at St. Catherine's Point and Gills Cliff, both midden deposits in the south of the Island. Basford (1980) cites several further sites but also notes the paucity of Early Iron Age material on the Island and the tendency for Late Iron Age material to be found associated with Romano-British finds. This latter observation probably indicates a continued use of settlement areas into the Roman period (Basford 1980).

- 7.11 There are no known Iron Age sites within the study area although c500 m south of the study area is an Iron Age occupation site located at SZ 6150 8616 (SMR 3353). This site, just north of the hamlet of Yaverland, is described as a significant Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and excavation had revealed that it included features comprising drainage gullies, post holes and pits of late Iron Age date as well as a “substantial ditch” containing Iron Age pottery (SMR citing Trott 2002 and excavations by Time Team in 2001). It is probable that these Iron Age populations may have exploited the resources of the study area.

### **Palaeoenvironmental Deposits (Later Prehistoric Period)**

#### **(site 3)**

- 7.12 Palaeoenvironmental samples, (in particular pollen data) from Late Devensian and Flandrian deposits have been studied from a number of locations on the Isle of Wight. Pollen data has also been recovered from buried soils in coastal transgression peats around the Island’s coast and in submerged river valleys (Scaife 1987). Within the study area, palaeoenvironmental samples obtained through a 6m core sample have been examined by Scaife with a view to assessing the palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposits and establishing the tidal limits of the Yar (Trott and Scaife 2004). Pollen data has indicated 3 pollen assemblage zones which are probably representative of the Bronze Age through to the medieval period. Zone 1 is characterized by tree and scrub species dominated by oak, hazel, alder and lime. Herb and fern species, halophytes (sea plantain, thrift) and a few marsh/fen taxa are represented (sedges and bur reeds). This pollen assemblage is comparable to other Island samples of Bronze and early Iron Age date (c3500-2500 BC). The Zone 1 stratigraphic sequence from organic muds to less organic silt may represent a changing sedimentary environment caused by rising relative sea level and ingress of brackish water. The organic characteristics of Zone 2 suggest the area is a low lying marsh with low energy conditions. The transition to Zone 2 corresponds with that recorded elsewhere on the Island, with a decline of lime but an increase in herbs and cereal type pollen (perhaps associated with agricultural activity). The reduction in lime is generally accepted to date to the late Bronze Age c3000-3300BP. Pollen Zone 3 is characterized by a marked increase of herb species, largely grasses and goosefoot/orache which may reflect the development of a salt marsh, probably during the historic period. Scaife has suggested this may have enabled marine access to the Roman villas at Brading and the Late Iron Age and the Romano-British site just north of Yaverland (Scaife unpublished, cited in Trott and Scaife 2004).
- 7.13 Further palaeoenvironmental deposits have been recorded outside the study area, within the Yar flood plain at Sandown Marshes (Scaife, 2000: 4). Here, samples of peats and sediments have recorded the major impact of late prehistoric sea-level rise which caused marine inundation and the development of salt marsh, possibly during the late Neolithic or Bronze Age.

### **Romano-British**

#### **(site 7) SMR 1123**

- 7.14 The Roman conquest of AD 43 was headed by Vespasian who, according to Suetonius, “subjugated the Isle of Wight” (Johnson 1981: 46). It has been suggested, however, that the Late Iron Age population of the Island may have negotiated surrender as there is no evidence of early Roman military activity on the island such as fortifications or metalled roads (Basford 1980 citing Tomalin 1977). The Late Iron Age-Roman transition appears to have occurred without substantially disturbing earlier settlement patterns; an observation that is apparently confirmed by Late Iron Age settlements in the immediate vicinity of the Villas at Brading and Newport (Basford 1980).
- 7.15 Basford (1980) notes that the concentration of Roman occupation sites on the Isle of Wight in chalkland areas may indicate an economy based on the farming of small stock. There are no known metalled Roman roads and so it could be assumed that communication ran along Prehistoric routes which continued in use. This possibility is reflected in the distribution of villas along the chalk ridge and perhaps also along water courses such as the Eastern Yar. Scaife’s palaeoenvironmental evidence (discussed above) supports the suggestion that the Lower Yar Valley may have been tidal and navigable during this period.

- 7.16 There are no known Romano-British sites located within the study area. Roman settlement is known at the excavated site of Brading Roman Villa and its associated field system on the downs, and at the recently discovered Romano-British occupation site at Yaverland c 500m south west of the study area (SMR 3353).

### Anglo-Saxon

- 7.17 Based on documentary sources the Isle of Wight seems to have been annexed by 'West Saxons' in the late seventh century, however, the Anglo-Saxon cemetery site at Chessell Down appears to offer archaeological evidence of an earlier occupation on the Island dating to the late fifth and sixth centuries (Welch 1996). Problems in reconciling the documentary and archaeological sources for the Isle of Wight in this period are noted by Basford (1980), who also highlights the extent to which knowledge of Anglo-Saxon settlement on the island is heavily reliant on place-name evidence. Although there is no archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the study area, there may have been settlement at Brading from this time; citing Kökeritz (1940) and Arnold (1975), Basford argues that 'ham' place-name endings may relate to early Saxon settlements, whilst 'ing' endings might be associated with a second phase of occupation. It has been suggested that Brading may have been an estate centre during the Anglo-Saxon period with a planned nucleated settlement (SMR 5766 citing Cahill 1980, 76-77).
- 7.18 However, there is no documentary or archaeological evidence to suggest a Saxon estate of Brading. Only Carisbrooke Church has been identified as a Minister church, although it is possible that the estate centres as identified by Cahill, including Brading, may indeed represent minister churches of the Island. Cahill notes that the large size of the Medieval parish of Brading perhaps reflects this administrative significance; it stretched from St Helen's in the north to Bonchurch in the south. A further indication is the reference to a church at Brading as founded by St Wilfred in AD 704 (Albin 1797:461, Page 1912:168) although the building which stands today dates mainly from the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

### Medieval

- 7.19 **Wolverton DMV (site 7, 8, 9) SMR 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123**  
The Medieval Deserted Medieval Village of Wolverton is located to the south west of the study area centred on SZ6216 8687. The complex comprises a number of associated features recorded on the SMR: a Manor House and Well (SMR 1120 excavated by Lloyd during the 1950's) and suggested by Beresford as being the manor of Woolverton (SMR citing Beresford 1954:415 and Beresford and Hurst 1970:190); and its enclosing bank and external ditch and other surviving earthworks (SMR 1122); and finds of Medieval Pottery (SMR 1120 and 1123). Also associated with the settlement is the postulated site of the Medieval Chapel of St Eurian at SZ6207 8687 (SMR 1121 citing Page 1912:169) and the find spot of Medieval building material, pottery and oyster shell at SMR 1603 South West of the DMV and within the study area (site 5). The Domesday reference to 'Vivartone' in 1086 is likely to relate to this settlement of Wolverton (Kokeritz:1940:41).
- 7.20 During the Medieval period the Isle of Wight can be characterised as a rural area with a low population density, and indeed an Act of Parliament of 1488 is concerned with the perceived problem of depopulation of the island (Basford 1980:37). No urban areas are mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although there is a reference to the manor of 'Berardinz', held by William, son of Azor which his nephew held for him. Documentary evidence indicates that Brading had become an established settlement by 1285 when it is recorded to have been built on the Manor of Whitefield and in receipt of it's first charter (Cal. Close. 1279-1288: 344). It is described as 'a member of the King and Queens's manor of Whytefield' and it is possible that the growth of the Town may have been associated with the acquisition of the manor of Whytefield by the King (Page 1912:158).
- 7.21 Basford stated in 1980 that as no detailed study of Medieval Brading had been published it was therefore difficult to assess the extent of Brading's characteristics as a suburban settlement (Basford 1980:45). Without documentary evidence or known Medieval archaeological remains, this remains difficult. However evidence from an assessment for taxation in 1379 suggests it held many

characteristics of an urban settlement at this time. The town seems to have been flourishing in the late fourteenth century when it was one of the most heavily taxed of the Island's towns, with around fifty households paying £2.2.7. At this time there were two merchants recorded in the town, one of which paid the maximum 40s. Several of the households had servants, including one of the skimmers. In total, there were 99 people listed in the tax register including the wives of some of the tradesmen and the servants listed (SMR 5766 reference to PRO E179/173/41). Rather than seemingly dependant on either rural or agricultural livelihoods, various trades are represented as part of the Town's economy including merchants, skimmers, tailors, weavers, a cobbler, a smith and a butcher. Edwards suggests that the Medieval market may have been held at the top of the High Street and that the High Street may have been the focus of the Medieval Town (Edwards 1999: 4 citing IWCRO OG/pp/14).

- 7.22 Alike to other contemporary settlements on the Island such as Newtown and Newport which were sited to exploit natural harbours, the town of Brading was established overlooking a tidal inlet of the Yar Valley.

### **The Medieval Quay**

- 7.23 The location of the Town's first (Medieval) Quay is disputed, although Sir John Oglander, writing in the 17<sup>th</sup> century indicates that an early quay was located on Brading Street (possibly the High Street) during the 14<sup>th</sup> century:

[...formerly ye boates came up to ye middle of Bradinge street;...]

(Long 1888: 111)

Oglander continues by explaining why he believes that during the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Haven was not tidal, and only as a result of neglect during the 100 year wars did the sea flow in and hence the 17<sup>th</sup> century discovery (during reclamation of the whole of the harbour) of a stone lined well in the middle of the Haven;

[it I am fully p'swadeed itt wase in Edwards ye 3<sup>rd</sup> tyme only an owtlett fro ye fresch, and no salt came in, but then ye French warres beginninge, men neglected wholly this island, and then ye seae wase upon itt;]

(Long *ibid.*)

- 7.24 There are further indications that a Quay may have been located near the High Street of Brading. The SMR (4005) records stone work in the rear of a property on the west side of the High Street, running parallel to the street which has been postulated as remains of a Sea Wall corresponding with Oglander's description of the Medieval Quay. A field visit by staff of IWCAS did not confirm this, although a 'slight change in level' of the ground surface was recorded. In addition, the WI scrap book (1959, Book 1: 31) records the following in the nearby Bugle Public House on the High Street in 1959 'there was a stone at the end of the garden which was the high water mark of Brading Haven.'
- 7.25 Earthworks depicted on the 1908 25" OS map have led to the alternative suggestion that the Medieval Quay was located at SZ6120 8726 on the site of the present Sewage Works (SMR 1868, site 9). The earlier 1898 25" OS Map also depicts these earthworks which form a rectilinear terrace on the slope to the north of the Brading tributary of the Yar. These earthworks could equally relate to the operations of the sewage works during this period, or less likely, to disturbance associated with the Cement Works directly to the north east. Visual inspection of the area from the road was not able to confirm that the earthworks seen on the 25" OS correspond with modern disturbance on the site, and suggests also that the works may have utilized earlier terracing on the site which consists of a steep slope overlooking the Brading tributary of the Yar. In any case, it is likely that archaeological deposits and features here have been severely disturbed.
- 7.26 Documentary evidence from the Brading Borough Court Book dating from late 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century (and held by Brading Town Trust) provide further indication of quays located near to Brading Town

although the exact location of these is unknown. There is a reference to a quay at Wade Mill in 1576 (Webster and Oglander, Undated:5) and it seems likely that Wade Mill was located near to Wade Field which can be identified on the Brading Tithe Map (IWCRO AC94/34) as situated north of Wall Lane at cSZ6115 8750. It is possible that this documented quay may therefore relate to site at SMR 1868 or alternatively refer to a quay located to the north of Wade Mill or the post Medieval Quay (SMR1816 see paragraph 7.40).

- 7.27 A walkover survey was conducted as part of the desk based assessment to assess the postulated sites of the Medieval Quay. The survey examined the area to the rear of the Bugle and the gardens of several properties along the High Street (Nos 58, 60-61, 62, and 66). The stone which had been previously recorded as marking the high water mark to the rear of the Bugle (BWI, 1959:31) was not visible and recent landscaping is likely to have removed this. No archaeological features relating to the location of the harbour were observed. Inspection of the gardens and the car park only indicated how the natural topography sloped gently to the east where it meets with a stream to the rear of the properties on the High Street. Modern activity associated with gardening, landscaping and building up of the ground level has masked this natural topography in the rear gardens of no. 62 and 66.
- 7.28 However, the land to the rear of the Bugle remains of interest. Here two streams converge before feeding into the Brading tributary of the Yar. Furthermore, this is the lowest point on the High Street and lies below the 5m OAD contour. Therefore it is possible that the existing waterway behind the car park, although now much denuded, may have been tidal prior to reclamation of land in the Post Medieval Period.

#### **Medieval Reclamation of the Marsh**

- 7.29 Documentary sources suggest that reclamation of the marsh land of the Yar flood plain began in the Medieval period. Sir John Oglander's memoirs note reclamation by Sir William Russell of Yaverland at Yarbridge (Long 1888:110; SMR 2292 at SZ 6070 8635; IWCRO AC2005/16). Oglander indicates that until this time the land south of Yarbridge to Sandham was tidal and Bembridge was a separate island. The Cowdray engraving, (an engraving of a 16<sup>th</sup> century painting depicting a French attack on the Island in 1545 held by the Public Record Office, indicates that at the end of the Medieval period the tide may have still flowed through the Haven to the Sea at Sandham, and an arched bridged or causeway was located near Yarbridge. (<http://www.btinternet.com/rob.martin1/bem/history.htm>). It is possible that there may have been an earlier bridge on the site (Page 1912:156) or that it may have been built during the Medieval period from building material robbed from Brading Roman Villa (Edwards 1999:4). Page also records that the 13<sup>th</sup> century Lord of Yaverland constructed a causeway across the marsh to access Brading (Page 1912, 157).

#### **Post-Medieval**

##### **Brading during the Post Medieval Period**

- 7.30 Post Medieval cartographic sources indicate that during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the core of the settlement at Brading occupied the area between the High Street and the Bull Ring, the Mall being less densely occupied by this time. The Tithe Map (IWCRO AC94/34) may suggest elements of possible burgage plots, however there is little other evidence to suggest that the Town was extensively planned (Edwards 1999:4). Surviving standing buildings within the Town, aside from the Church, all appear to date from the late post Medieval period, most notably the Old Town Hall (dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century), and the Wax Museum, although documentary sources suggest a rectory or vicarage near to the church built in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century or early 14<sup>th</sup> century (Edwards 1999:5 citing PRO E315/45/114 and IWCRO BDG/4).
- 7.31 Although in 1547, Edward VI granted 2 fairs and a market day, the Town appears to have been in decline in the mid-sixteenth century (SMR ref to OG/M/4) and the market became obsolete before 1859 (Page 1912, 159). Elsewhere there is sufficient evidence to suggest that during the early post medieval period, English towns were in stagnation following years of economic disruption and declining population caused by disease and warfare in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Newman 2001 : 142). Sandown fort was built in 1540 and enhanced fortification of Carisbrooke Castle commenced in 1597 (Jones, 1987:50). Many free chapels on the Island became disused by the middle 16<sup>th</sup>

century (Hockey, 1982:9). Brading required poor relief from Yaverland, Luccombe Farm, Shanklin and Bonchurch and 'was so overburdened with the poor that they are not able to relieve them' (SMR ref to IWCRO OG/BB/435).

#### **Reclamation of the Marsh and the Post Medieval Quay**

- 7.32 A number of reclamation features still visible today can be identified and associated with documentary references to reclamation of the marsh for pasture during the Post Medieval period.

#### **Site 10, SMR 2595**

- 7.33 This broad earthen reclamation bank is located at the northern end of the study area and is recorded as some 8.0m wide and up to 2.0m high. The bank, which does not incorporate a wall, extends from SZ61418 87452 to SZ61807 88279. Although the embankment runs in a north-south alignment, a number of slight changes in direction are evident along its course. The embankment would have reclaimed lands to its east, from where it is penetrated by a tributary of the Yar flowing in a westerly direction to a Bembridge Limestone built sluice at SZ61825 88266.

- 7.34 Sir John Oglander refers to post Medieval 'innings' of the Haven in his memoirs:

*'The second inninge wase p'formed by Mr. George Oglander and German Rychardes, ano dom 1562, when my marish and north marish wase made by ye walle feedinge grownd.'*

Oglander MSS (Long: 1888, 110)

Comparison with the Brading Tithe Map (IWCRO AC94/34) and Haywards map of 1781 (held by Brading Town Trust) indicates that North Marsh and other meadows which John Oglander referred to as 'My marish' formed the marsh land north of Quay Lane. This therefore suggests that this documented reclamation relates to the earthwork SMR 2595 mentioned above (as speculated by Adams IWCRO AC2005/16). References in the Brading Borough Court Book suggest that preparation for this reclamation may have begun in 1560 when;

'Everyone with land in Wade Field adjoining the Marsh to make a watercourse, leading from Pound Field down to the Haven'

(17<sup>th</sup> October 1560, Webster and Oglander, undated:2)

#### **SMR 2592 Site 1 (the site)**

- 7.35 The Old Sea Wall and embankment - the subject of this report and previous level 1 HBR survey (WCA Heritage 2006) probably relates to the following documented reclamation:

'The third inninge wase made by Mr. Edward Rychardes, ano 1594, when that wase made feeding grownd from his sluice to Yarbridge, being mill marish, and ye other meads.'

Oglander MSS (Long: 1888, 110)

- 7.36 The Yaverland Parish Map of 1839 (IWCRO Jer/T/388) shows Mill mead, and other 'meads' (including Five Acre Mead and Cod Mill Mead) as just north of Yarbridge. (It is unclear where Edward Rychades sluice was located). It is likely therefore, that the area of marsh to the north of Yarbridge was reclaimed by means of the embankment and Old Sea Wall visible today (SMR 2592).

- 7.37 The Brading Borough Court Book includes a number of references to the opening up of the 'wall' to allow access to the former Quay, but although it is not made clear to which embankment these refer, they suggest that the construction of an embankment had cut off the access to the former Quay. Prior to the construction of the 1594 embankment there are references to the Quay being inaccessible, and presumably the reclamation bank constructed across North Marsh by George Oglander and German Richards in 1562 had caused this (Site 10). This suggests that there was an earlier Quay situated along the watercourse to the north of Quay Lane, possibly relating to the documented Quay at Wade Mill;

‘John Prescott ordered to open the wall and watercourse to Wade Mill as in times past it hath been continually necessary and sufficient for the boats unto the Quay at Wade Mill’

(17<sup>th</sup> October 1576. Oglander and Webster, undated:5)

‘Edward Richards, gent, and John Prescott...to make a gap in the wall open to the key, sufficient for boats to pass to and fro conveniently..’

(22<sup>nd</sup> October 1577, Ibid;5)

7.38 An alternative explanation maybe that Sir John Oglanders dating of Edward Richards’ Wall and embankment may have been wrong, or that the 1562 embankment extended further southwards and cut off the Brading tributary south of Quay Lane and any Quays cited along this watercourse.

7.39 Further references to Edward Richards wall suggests that the cutting off of the former Quay remained an issue well into the 17<sup>th</sup> century and would seem to relate to Edward Richards’ embankment (site 1).

‘Edward Richards Esq. has taken away the benefit of our key by stopping of the water and tide that it cannot have his course as in former time.’

(19<sup>th</sup> April 1610, Ibid, 41).

There were repeated requests in 1610, 1619, and 1649 by the Court for Edward Richards, and then John Richards, to open up the watercourse so the Quay could be accessed (Ibid:41,52-3, 98).

7.40 Despite this apparent battle for the opening up of the waterway, it is possible that through a lack of care and maintenance, this had already become silted up as indicated in 1588:

‘John Priscott to scour the Town ditch and set the timber in the wall in his right place, that the water may keep his old course and the Town to have the use of the key which is now sugged up.’

(5<sup>th</sup> May 1588, Ibid:12)

#### **The Post Medieval Quay (Site 11, SMR 1816)**

7.41 The site of the post Medieval Quay associated with the Sea Wall is indicated by surviving earthworks at the end of Wall Lane at SZ 6150 8734 (SMR 1816). This feature is depicted as an earthwork on the 1810 OS Map, the 25” OS Maps of 1862, 1898, the 1908 25”OS and most recently on the 1971 1:2500 OS map. The earthwork comprises a sub rectangular feature and adjoining linear bank aligned north east/south west. The Quay currently survives to a height of 1.50m on its south west facing elevation where limestone masonry coping and the rubble infill of the Quay is visible. Elsewhere the feature survives as a denuded earthwork. The adjoining linear earthwork bank which leads onto the Quay adjoins the Old Sea Wall at its northern end, and although there is some visible masonry, the relationship between the 2 structures is unclear. It is highly likely that this Quay, located at the north west end of the Old Sea Wall and embankment, is a related structure integral to the Old Sea Wall. Documentary sources provide limited information regarding the Quay, other than to record its location near Wade Field and that it serviced what were probably small smacks of approximately 20 tonnes. It is probable that Wadefyle at this time was larger than that depicted by the later Tithe Map, and possibly originally incorporated ‘Downers Mead’ and ‘Sea Close’ (SMR 1816).

‘(Brading Haven).. is a greate Haven, insomuch that now a boat of 20 tunnes myght come to ye end of Wadefyle, where now ye key is,...’

Long 1888.111

7.42 Both the Quay and accompanying ‘store houses’ (Site 12) are depicted on the Oglander Estate Map of 1773 (IWCRO OG87/26).

- 7.43 In addition, the Brading Borough Court Book indicates that this Quay functioned as a 'Town' key (Oglander and Webster, undated:124 and 128) or 'common Quay' (ibid; 145,155).
- 7.44 A number of other undated or post Medieval linear reclamation features are recorded on the SMR and indicate piecemeal reclamation of the marsh land of the lower Yar Valley. In the vicinity of the site, these include a post Medieval reclamation bank across the head of the combe south west of Centurions Copse (Site 2 SMR 2592) which relates to a separate reclamation event although this is probably also of post Medieval date and is depicted on the OS map of 1810 (surveyed 1793). Another embankment beyond the study area at SZ 6209 9705 north of Centurion's Copse (SMR 2593) is also recorded and is depicted on the OS Map of 1810.
- 7.45 Reclamation of the whole of the Brading Haven was attempted by Sir Bevis Thewall and Sir Hugh Middleton in 1620 when an embankment was constructed across the mouth of the Haven from St Helen's to Bembridge. As is well documented by Sir John Oglander, later historical accounts and more recent research by the Island Industrial Archaeology Society (also see Rob Martins research at <http://www.btinternet.com/rob.martin1/bem/history.htm>), this embankment was subsequently breached by the sea in 1630 (Long, 1888: 110-117). Thereafter the sea continued to flood the Haven at high tide, and Edward Richard's Old Sea Wall constructed in 1594 continued to serve its purpose.

### Modern

- 7.46 A number of contemporary accounts from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century describe the Haven and harbour during this period prior to the final reclamation phase, many of which simply re-tell the account of Oglander. Another popular source is the Historical account of Sir Richard Worsley who wrote *The History of the Isle of Wight* in 1781:

"Brading Haven is a large tract of marshy ground, containing eight hundred and fifty six acres, covered every tide by the sea, which flows through a narrow inlet. The property of the Haven, with the right to fishery, is in the family of Worsley, of Appuldurcombe."  
Worsley 1781;195

"The harbour of Brading, at high-water, covers more than one hundred acres and forms a grand lake almost up to Brading, But at low-water, the scene is miserably changed, and now becoming neither land nor water, it exhibits a mournful expanse of the worse coloured dreary mire"  
Wyndham, H 1793:51-52

"In the eastern parts of this island are some tracts of marshground...the largest of these is Brading Haven, containing about nine hundred acres. Into this the sea flows though a narrow inlet."  
Warner, R 1795:295

"Brading Haven, which has been alluded to, is an arm of the sea at high water, and, when the tide recedes, a marsh of very considerable extent, comprising nearly eight hundred and sixty acres. It allows of small vessels lying at the Town Quay."  
Barber, 1835:29-30.

"Brading Haven ... admits small vessels to the Quay, where agricultural produce is shipped for other markets."  
Brettell, 1840:67.

- 7.47 Contemporary sources also indicate further the role of the Quay and the Haven to the economy of Brading.

"The sea flows to the Quay on the Sea Wall...to which vessels of thirty or forty tons burden approach to receive or deliver their cargoes. On this Quay are suitable storehouses for corn or merchandize, and a constant deposit of coal for sale...[and

Brading]..has a market for corn on Mondays, and a good supply of that article by samples; and great quantities are shipped from here for the various mills on the island, or send coastways on commission.”

Albin 1795:468-469

- 7.48 The Brading Rate Book (held in by Brading Town Trust) show that during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Quay and stores were part of the Oglander estate, and tenanted in 1857, 1862 and 1866 by Issac Wavell (noted in White’s directory of 1859 as a coal dealer). A number of contemporary engravings by Brannon (held at the IWCRO and by Brading Town Trust) and the Brading Tithe Map of 1840 (IWCRO AC94/34) depict two storehouses during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.49 The exploitation of the Haven for fishing may have been significant, and Albin (1795:475) mentions the ‘great quantities of mullet, flounders, and other fish’ which could be caught within the Haven, and where at low tide cockles were collected during the summer by women and children. Oysters may have also been an important part of the economy, although Albin (1795:474) refers to an incident of Oysters being over exploited in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Archived documents survive relating to the Oglander Estate which record all the farms on the estate, list their acreage and their rent. In 1860, 800 oyster beds are listed amongst the Brading holdings (ref OG/PP/24 (92/2)).

#### **The Ryde to Shanklin Railway and the Quay Spur (Site 16)**

- 7.50 To the west of the study area lies the route of the Ryde to Shanklin Railway line, opened by the Isle of Wight Railway Company in 1864 (Insole and Parker 1979:33). The 6” OS and 25” OS (1862) both clearly depict a spur of this line running to a jetty (aligned along side the 1562 embankment) and a spur directly north of the Quay. Maycock and Silsbury (1999:115) confirm that a spur railway on a wooden structure was constructed by the IWES (Isle of Wight Railways Eastern Section) and describe the Quay line as ended on a wooden Quay (Ibid 118). The rapid walk over survey of the area identified a dump of late 19<sup>th</sup> century material including fragments of glass, pottery etc, possibly associated with disturbance in this area during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to build up a platform for the wooden jetty. As indicated by the Prospectus (c1860), it was intended that the Quay would be provided for by this line from the outset of the construction:

‘...particularly it will provide a railway to Brading Harbour, which will probably at some future time, be the great ‘Coal Depot’ for this district of the Island.’

However this was short lived as the reclamation of the Haven would leave the Quay redundant within 20 years.

#### **The Brading to Bembridge Line and Final reclamation of the Haven (Site 14)**

- 7.51 Cartographic sources (25” OS 1898) and surviving railway embankment at the northern end of the study area indicate the former route of the Brading to St Helen’s and Bembridge railway line. This final reclamation phase of the Haven was carried out by The Brading Harbour Improvement Railway under the Parliamentary Act of 1874 which secured a line from Brading to St Helen’s and Bembridge is well documented. The line to St Helen’s opened in August 1878 for goods, with the embankment to Bembridge, constructed across the mouth of the Harbour by Jabex Balfour, completed in 1880 and opened for traffic in 1882 (Page 1912:157, Maycock and Silsbury 1999: 115-118). This left Edward Richard’s Sea Wall redundant.
- 7.52 An earlier proposal for a branch line to St Helens and Bembridge was suggested as early as 1863 and in 1864 the Bembridge Railway, Tramway and Pier Company obtained its Act of Incorporation to construct a line along the southern edge of the Haven to a pier at Bembridge Point (IWCC/AP/I/U). However, due to the exposed nature of the proposed pier, a new route was proposed in 1865, including a reclamation bank across the mouth of the Harbour from St Helen’s Mill to Bembridge. This was strongly opposed by local residents and consent for the original proposal expired (Maycock and Silsbury 1999:115).

- 7.53 The proposals to drain the Harbour in 1874 undoubtedly provoked opposition; it is recorded that Lady Ogländer (then Landowner of the Haven), requested compensation of £10,000 (Maycock and Silsbury 1999:115 and IWCR0 OG/CC/720A). A further dispute ensued between the BHIR and the coal merchants who rented land along side the sidings near the Quay, who complained in 1879 that the BHIR had cut off their access to the sea (Maycock and Silsbury 1999:118). Considerable expense was also outlaid for the Quays, embankment works and for compensation to the St Helens Oyster fisheries (£8 000) for loss of business (ibid 1999:116),
- 7.54 Work on the embankment from St Helen's to Bembridge was so hampered by financial difficulties and logistical problems of the construction that an additional Act was required to complete the works (detailed in Maycock and Silsbury 1999:116) and by 1881 the BHIR was in the hands of a receiver and the IWR was called upon to operate the line as part of its own network (Ibid 117).
- 7.55 In 1898 the Brading Harbour Railway was taken over by the Isle of Wight Railway. At this time the Brading Quay spur appears to have gone out of use and the former store house removed (at least they are not depicted on the OS 25" 1898 map). From this time onwards, cartographic sources depict the area of the Haven as pasture. In 1953 the Bembridge Branch was closed (Insole and Parker 1979:33).
- 7.56 A report compiled by the Board of Trade Inspector in 1882 for the IWR Brading Harbour spur and the IWR Brading Line provides technical details of the lines construction (Maycock and Silsbury 1999:118). It mentions a level crossing and a small signal box near the Quay and Cement Works siding which was later used for storing unused rolling stock (Maycock and Silsbury 1999:116). The spur on to the Quay itself is not mentioned, suggesting it was redundant by this time (presumably as the Quay was no longer functioning due to the construction of the embankment at Bembridge).
- The Cement Works (site 13, SMR 4112)**
- 7.57 To the north of the Old Sea Wall lies the site of the Cement Works, recorded on the SMR (4112) and depicted on the OS 25" map of 1898, 1907 and the 1:2500 map of 1971. The Cement works is first depicted on the 25" OS 1898 as a range of buildings with a large clay pit to the west. Earlier maps such as the 1862 25" depict only a single building which is not marked as a cement works and which may relate instead to the railway. The works were certainly in operation by 1884 when there was an agreement between IWR and a Mr Jolliffe to provide a sidings for the Works (Maycock and Silsbury 1999:118). A photograph of Brading taken sometime between 1864 and 1880 from the Downs above depicts the Cement Works and its chimney (IWCR0 BRA036).
- 7.58 A reference in the Town's Rate books of 1895 (held by Brading Town Trust) shows that at this time the Cement Works were held by a Daniel S W Dawes of Brading Cement Company. The Cement Works may have been attracted to the site by its transport links by rail as well as the Quay which provided ready access to a supply of coal, an essential fuel for the kilns. Insole and Parker (1979:16) suggest that the cement works was a small venture, using limestone and clay dug on the site, (also indicated by the evidence on the ground of extraction pits) and was in operation until c 1900 (Insole and Parker 1979).
- 7.59 There may have been attempts to reopen the works in 1905, although it is possible this was not economically viable due to cost of rail transport (as a Mr Gosling who proposed to reopen the works unsuccessfully asked for a reduction in the rate of carriage of Coal to the works and cement from the works) and because of the failure to obtain chalk from a local quarry (Maycock and Silsbury 1999:119). In 1907 Charles Lingham also attempted to purchase a cottage, store and land adjoining the works from the IWR as well as requesting reduction in rates of carriage. Although the store and some adjoining land had a tenant, the IWR offered the remained on a 14 year lease. It is unknown if this was taken up (Maycock and Silsbury 1999:119). Between 1912 and 1914 the Isle of Wight Cement Company reopened the works although closed due to insolvency (Ibid). The works briefly reopened again in 1921 (Ibid). Following this the site appears to have been left redundant (see discussion in section 9).
- 7.60 In 1979 the site was being used as a refuse tip, but two of the building ranges were still standing (Insole and Parker, 1979). These building are extant in aerial photographs in 1986 (CUPAP 7.10.86 RC8-IT 7) but apparently demolished between 1986 and 1993 and a new house is constructed on

the site (Aerofilms 6.7.1.10 000 23.0935). The works are also present on the OS maps (1907, 1940 and 1971).

## 8. Cartographic Evidence

- 8.1 Cartographic sources suggest the embankment and Old Sea Wall have remained a constant feature in the landscape from its earliest depiction in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century until the present day. Other sites mentioned in the study are also depicted on a number of the cartographic sources.
- 8.2 The earliest cartographic source depicting the Old Sea Wall (Site 1) and the Quay (site 11) is the **Oglander Map of 1773 (IWCRO OG87/26)**. This depicts a short section of the north west end of the embankment and wall, the masonry Quay, a possible timber fence or jetty directly to the north, and 1 illustrated 2 storey building annotated as 'storehouses' (site 12). Also depicted is the tributary of the Yar flowing from Brading, parallel to Quay Lane towards the embankment. It also depicts the embankment running north from the Quay towards Bexley (site 10, SMR 2595). To the east of the Old Sea Wall the Haven is annotated to possibly represent wet or uncultivated land, confirming that at this time the Haven consisted of mud flats.
- 8.3 The full extent of the embankment of the Old Sea Wall (site 1) is first depicted on the **1810 Ordnance Survey map**, surveyed in 1793 (IWCRO MP/D/11). The alignment is as shown on later Ordnance Survey maps, with the two present day sluices allowing the Yar to flow out to the Haven. The embankment is depicted by a hard line on the north east side -presumably the embankment wall, and hachures on the south west side -representing a sloping earthwork embankment. The tributary from Brading which runs parallel to Wall Lane is depicted although in contrast to the present arrangement, it terminates at the embankment and does not join the main river channel on either side of the embankment. At the north west end of the embankment the Quay (depicted by a hard line, possibly a wall) appears to stem from the embankment wall. In contrast to the Oglander Map, the 'Store Houses' are depicted as an 'L'- shaped building. Additional structures are depicted on the Quay and to the rear of the Store.
- 8.4 The **Brading Tithe Map of 1840 (IWCRO AC94/34)** does not depict the embankment or Old Sea Wall, although the alignments of field boundaries suggest that the embankment formed the northwestern boundary to 'Fattening Marsh'. Wall Lane is depicted as a continuous track, providing direct access to the Quay. The Quay and two Stores either side of the track onto the Quay, are depicted although not mentioned on the accompanying apportionment (dated November 1842) (569 referring to Lower Cliff Close). The Quay is depicted as on a meander of the Yar, suggesting that access to the Quay was via a natural channel cut through the mud flats.
- 8.5 The **1862 25" Ordnance Survey map** depicts the embankment in detail and in comparison with the modern 1973 1:2500, shows remarkable similarity in form of the earthwork and wall. Aligned parallel with the southwest side of the earthwork, a ditch is shown, extending from a few meters south east of the north western end of the embankment to the Middle Sluice. This ditch would appear to be fed by the tributary of the River which runs from Brading parallel to, and south of Wall Lane suggesting the north sluice had been removed. At the south eastern end of the ditch, it adjoins a tributary of the main Yar River channel which flows through the Middle Sluice. An additional canalized channel from Brading adjoins the ditch just north of the Middle Sluice. It is not possible to ascertain the direction of flow or topography in a greater detail, and therefore not possible to determine if the ditch acted as a channel for diverting the stream or an excavation ditch for the embankment construction. However, south of the Middle Sluice, no ditch is depicted. At the northwestern end of the embankment the Quay and store building are also depicted. The representation of the Quay compares well with the 1973 1:2500 map, although here it is depicted with a hard line, suggesting a masonry built structure rather than the denuded earthwork it later becomes. Both the path along the top of the embankment and the track from the end of Wall Lane on to the Quay are depicted. The map also outlines the projected line of the proposed railway from Brading to Ryde and St Helens.
- 8.6 The **1862 6" Ordnance Survey map** depicts the embankment, Quay and store house in a similar form to that above, however an additional Railway spur and a jetty (site 16) immediately north of the Quay is depicted. The purpose of this spur is suggested by references to the movement of coal and later cement via the railway (Maycock and Silbury, p 119). At this time, it is not clear that the Cement Works are fully operational as there are no depictions of clay pits and typically associated features and only one building is shown.

- 8.7 The **1898 25" Ordnance Survey** map depicts the embankment within the survey area in a similar manner to elsewhere, although the parallel ditch appears to have been partly infilled at SZ61482 87238. Annotation indicates that the water in the ditch flows south east towards the Middle Sluice. The store building (Site12) is not depicted and has probably been demolished and the form of the Quay may suggest that by this time it is denuded. The St Helens Railway line (site 14) is depicted, although the branch north of the Quay has been removed. Reclamation of Brading Haven brought about by the construction of the railway embankment and line has led to the establishment of new fields (on the north east side of the earthwork at SZ61456 87269) and a new building, possibly a barn associated with the newly claimed fields, is marked just north of point A.
- 8.8 The **1908 25" Ordnance Survey** map shows the embankment to be unchanged, although the access (represented by an infilled section of the ditch south of Point A at SZ61482 87238) has been enlarged. In addition, the field barn building north of point A at SZ61456 87269 has been enlarged. To the north of the Brading tributary, the ditch appears to have been infilled. A new building at the north west end of the embankment has also been constructed (site 15) likely to be the house that is surviving to the present day. The Quay appears to have become a denuded earthwork by this time; only the south west facing elevation is represented by a solid line (a wall) and an adjoining structure is shown which suggests re-use of the Quay area, probably for stock management.
- 8.9 The **1940 6" Ordnance Survey** map shows no change to the embankment or associated structures. By 1973, the 1:2500 illustrates an additional drainage channel on the north east side of the embankment running north east from SZ 61490 82755 to the former river channel.

#### **Other Maps of the Haven**

- 8.10 Other cartographic sources confirm that during the 17th century until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the southern limit of Brading Haven's tidal waters was the embankment although provide insufficient detail to examine the Old Sea Wall, and associated archaeological features. This is also confirmed by contemporary accounts from Ogländer during the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Long 1888:111) and numerous late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century topographical descriptions and engravings, paintings and photographs.
- 8.11 A number of Admiralty maps and post Medieval maps depict the Haven e.g. Speeds Map of 1611 (IWCRO), Edward Russell's Admiralty Chart of 1693 (Grenville Collins) (SMR), Morden's Map of 1695 (HMCMS:FA1996.33) and Taylor's Map of 1759 (HMCMS:FA2001.141). In addition, a small number of maps confirm documentary archaeological and later cartographic sources:
- 8.12 **Haywood's map of 1781** ('A map of the Isle of Wight drawn and engraved for the History of the Isle of Wight from surveys in the possession of the Right Honourable Sir Richard Worsley Baronet by John Haywood June 4<sup>th</sup> 1781' at a scale of 1 inch to 1 mile) depicts a single building labelled as a Store house at the end of Wall Lane.
- 8.13 **Andrew's Map of 1769** shows the Store House and the general area of Brading Harbour although there is insufficient detail on this map.
- 8.14 **George Burn's map of 1794** also incorporates Brading Haven, and depicts some detail of the channels to the Middle and the Great Sluice, and the two tributaries from Yarbridge and Brading. There is little detail and the store house is not illustrated.

## 9. Aerial Photography Research

- 9.1 The RAF Photographs (taken July 1946) illustrate the building visible on the 1940 OS located near the top sluice. It is surrounded by a fence. It is notable that there is a lack of scrub on the wall face, even in full summer. The water courses are not clear - in particular the parallel ditch, probably due to the time of year and the long grass. [106G/UK 1665 12<sup>th</sup> July 1946 F/20“11 541 SQDN]
- 9.2 The large scale Ordnance Survey photograph of 1968 records the cement works building extant. By this time scrub has encroached onto the Quay. A parchmark from the Sewage works on Wall Lane to point G on the HRB Level 1 survey suggests there is an outlet pipe line here - hence the repair to the earthwork at this point. [OS.68.025]
- 9.3 By 1971, there is no longer a barn building visible from the air. Scrub on the Quay increases. [aerial photograph BKS 11.5.71 152503]
- 9.4 Very little further detail is provided by photographs from 1986 above the information recorded by the 1971 OS. The presence of scrub on the Quay and throughout the now disused Cement works of which only the main range still survives. [CUPAP 7.10.86 RC8-IT 79]
- 9.5 The large scale Aerofilms photograph shows in detail the increase in scrub than on the OS 1968. There is a new house constructed on the site of the Cement works, indicating that it was erected between 1986 and 1993. [Aerofilms 6.7.93 1:10 000 run 23 0935]

## 10 Archaeological Potential of the Study Area

- 10.1 The plans to restore the wall and undertake repairs and install interpretation facilities propose very little impact to the historic environment resource. Although we currently have little direct evidence for activity within the study area other than the site itself which was constructed in the early post Medieval period, this picture has been informed by only a very small number of interventions. There are two considerations which increase the archaeological potential of the study area despite this apparent scarcity of known sites and the lack of proposed ground investigations; the wet fen/estuarine environments in the general area possess excellent preservative characteristics which would secure a broad range of archaeological deposits; and the reclamation and retention of the site as pasture has a low post depositional impact on buried material, almost guaranteeing the survival of any material.
- 10.2 Given that the site has been a fen/estuarine environment for at least 5,000 years, it is suggested that there is **moderate** potential to retrieve evidence for the exploitation of the study area's resources (such as reeds, wildfowl etc) during the prehistoric periods along the water's edge and in the marsh land. There is **high** potential for Palaeoenvironmental deposits of Holocene date which we know are preserved east of the wall and which would compliment our current knowledge of the palaeo-ecology and the extent of the tidal waters, particularly our continued methodical auger sampling across the marsh to establish the extent of navigable waterways. Palaeoenvironmental evidence may be preserved in the buried landsurface beneath the standing archaeology where the later railway embankments and the access track have not cut through the earthworks or truncated the early post Medieval features.
- 10.3 In the Iron Age/Romano-British period, it is probable that this marginal riverine environment would have held useful resources for the occupants of Morton Roman Villa and that there may have been activity relating to water management, fishing and the use of the waterways for transport. There is **very low** potential for traces of these activities to be encountered; such evidence is scarce and is therefore nationally significant where found.
- 10.4 It has been suggested elsewhere that despite the rarity of information on this period that Brading was a planned Anglo Saxon settlement (Cahill, 1980) however the focus of any activity was probably further west near the church and activity on the proposal site would have been marginal. There is **very low** potential for material of this period to be encountered; any information on Anglo-Saxon occupation on the Island is scarce and would be at least regionally significant where found.
- 10.5 There are no known recorded archaeological sites to suggest that the study area was directly occupied during the Medieval period, but a Medieval moated site and chapel is recorded immediately outside of the study area and in Domesday. It is also possible that the early post Medieval Quay which documentary evidence suggests was in the vicinity of Wade Mill and Wade Field, was established in the Medieval period and that the town was established in the Saxon period. Furthermore an precursor to the 16<sup>th</sup> century wall is referred to by Oglander. The general area and the Haven's resources were probably therefore exploited during the Medieval period and this may have included the construction of a wall near the present Old Sea Wall. This activity would result in very little archaeological evidence, at the most wall foundations, a few fish traps and/or boat remains can be estimated to be scattered across the Haven, but no work has been done in this area to confirm the study area's **moderate** potential for this.
- 10.6 During the Post Medieval period there is strong archaeological documentary and cartographic evidence for the Old Sea Wall, as well as the associated Quay and other reclamation features in the wider study area. The standing archaeological remains do hold **very high** potential to reveal further information about the method of construction of the Wall and the nature of the associated Quay which may have incorporated further structures.
- 10.7 There is strong archaeological, documentary and cartographic evidence for the period from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In particular the Old Sea Wall has been well documented by OS mapping and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by aerial photography. Other features within the study area such as the Cement Works and the Railway are documented whilst contemporary accounts provide information

about the environment, and the function and use of the Quay and Haven. There is **moderate** potential for archaeological traces of the railway jetty and associated features in the vicinity of the Quay but the archaeological interest is limited by our already detailed knowledge gained from desk based research.

#### **Existing and Known Impacts on Archaeological Potential**

- 10.8 The main existing impact on the archaeological potential of the Old Sea Wall is the lack of maintenance and the scrub growth. 16<sup>th</sup> Century stone buildings require maintenance and occasional repair, particularly because the period mortars, usually locally made lime mortars, are only slightly hydraulic with the result that joints become loose and pointing repairs are necessary. The natural environment of the structure has hastened its decline in that the erosion of the mortar is increased at the corners where there is stronger scouring by the wind and also in situations where saline water can introduce harmful soluble salts.
- 10.9 From a non-intrusive visual inspection no evidence has been found for original lime mortar, although it is not thought that the wall was built using a drystone technique which is uncommon in this part of the Island. Rather it is thought that the mortar has eroded away from the joints. Near to the shore, a section of wall (identified as Wall 2 in the Historic Building Record) exhibits cement mortar pointing. Elsewhere the lack of repair has enabled ivy roots to penetrate the joints and the mortar has recessed and is no longer visible. Without mortar, the joints are unconsolidated and the wall is vulnerable to collapse as has already occurred at several locations along the surveyed area. This collapse will continue if the penetration of Ivy roots and scrub growth are left unchecked. The Bembridge Limestone has weathered well and is one of the Island's most successful building stones. However the lack of mortar has left wide open joints in some places and this allows water penetration into the wall which can lead to greater erosion of the wall face.
- 10.10 The fact that the Old Sea Wall embankment acts as a boundary to an **SSSI, SPA, RAMSAR** and **RSPB** reserve has implications for the conservation and management of the standing archaeological features. The environmental designations protect habitats of international importance, the management of which may not always coincide with the conservation requirements of the historic wall. There is currently no established communication of conservation issues between the various parties responsible for the management and landuse on and around the Old Sea Wall.
- 10.11 The catchment area of the Eastern Yar is the subject of the Eastern Yar Fluvial and Coastal Strategy project which commenced in January 2006 ([www.coastalwight.gov.uk/easternyarstrategy.htm](http://www.coastalwight.gov.uk/easternyarstrategy.htm)). The purpose of the Strategy is to reduce the risks from erosion and flooding in the catchment area and to develop sustainable and holistically viable River and coastal defence management policies looking ahead to the next 100 years. As the project progresses through its three year programme of environmental studies, predictive modelling and consultation, it may raise issues for the long term preservation of the Wall and Quay. In the short term the project will provide further useful information regarding the evolution of the river and the development of the marsh environment and these results should be harnessed to add to our knowledge of man's interaction with Brading marshes and the environment of Brading.

#### **Potential Effects of the Proposal**

- 10.12 The current repair and restoration proposals are targeted at only a part of a longer feature and do not incorporate the associated Quay (the Old Sea Wall continues to the Great Sluice but the current project has been commissioned around the Old Sea Wall up to the Middle Sluice). It is recommended that where possible the extent of the limestone faced Old Sea Wall embankment from 1594 and its associated Quay are taken together as an ensemble.
- 10.13 The proposal to restore and repair the wall through strengthening the stonework and joints may entail new additions and repairs which may detract from the historic fabric and negatively impact upon the integrity of the original structure, but the only alternative is to do nothing and allow the degeneration to continue. The wall has seen repair previously, perhaps up to three separate

occasions are evident, and it is probably over the course of time through various repairs that it has evolved to the three types of walling evident today. Overall the proposed conservation and management of the wall by Brading Town Council will have a positive effect on the wall by trying to secure the survival of the historic feature for future generations.

- 10.14 The collapse of the wall may be abated by minimising the penetration of Ivy roots and scrub growth and undertaking repairs to the joints (pointing if appropriate). Whilst the repair will aim to secure the longevity of the wall, its conservation presents many difficulties in itself. The management of the vegetation must not be carried out in such a way as to promote further growth or include forcibly stripping the wall, both approaches are known to cause further damage. Although the application of glyphosate herbicide on the roots, stem and branches is the normal treatment for problem Ivy, due to the environmental designations on the site it is likely that such chemicals are prohibited.
- 10.15 Ideally re-pointing should be carried out as patch repairs to existing pointing to blend and match with the original material and technique, however in this case large areas may need pointing and none of the original appears to have survived. Furthermore, given the wide open joints at present, the pointing may have to be of full profile and encroach onto the edges of the stones, so that it will be highly visible, negatively affect the historic appearance and contrast markedly to non repaired sections. Also, the wide open joints in irregular coursed stone walls often prove difficult to repair because the any removal of stones often leads to crumbling in random or uncoursed rubble walls. Attempting to repair small sections may encourage weakness further along the structure. Therefore all repairs must only be undertaken by a qualified professional with expertise in local vernacular building and lime mortars.
- 10.16 Installation of an interpretation panel could pose adverse effects on the known and potential archaeological and environmental deposits of the site, depending on the extent of construction and ground works. The excavation of a foundation pad could be mitigated through the pre excavation (evaluation) and monitoring (watching brief) of the works by an archaeologist and the taking of environmental samples at suitable opportunities. Any site works and movement of machinery should take precautions to avoid affecting the structural stability of the wall or damaging the earthworks.
- 10.17 The interpretation of the site and the proposals for repair will probably increase the awareness of these historic landscape features in the community, and the number of visitors to the embankment may also increase. This increase is unlikely to have any negative impacts and public interest will in effect support the longevity of the embankment. Further positive effects of the proposals may also come in the form of community projects to maintain the site or further research its past.

## 11. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 11.1 Direct negative effects on the historic fabric and archaeological potential are therefore possible during the course of the conservation and management works. It is therefore recommended that a working party be formed to oversee the production and implementation of a management and conservation plan.
- 11.2 Archaeological, documentary and cartographic sources show that the Old Sea Wall has been a constant feature since 1594 in a continuously evolving landscape. The structure has been repaired and may have been altered nearer the shore, but in the main has been retained as the western boundary of Brading Haven in its original form (an earthen embankment with Bembridge limestone revetment wall) from 1594 until the early 1880's. The feature is not a Listed Building and is very simple architecturally being a mass limestone block wall of an average height of 1.2m. The wall is currently in a poor state of repair having received no maintenance for at least 20 years. The wall face has been weakened in places by scrub and ivy growth and a few hawthorn trees have taken hold on the grass bank. The Old Sea Wall embankment acts as a footpath across the marshes to Bembridge and is popular with dog walkers and ornithologists. The linked Quay is sited within an SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR and RSPB reserve and is relatively unknown. It is recommended that a programme of regular maintenance be established to secure the integrity and heritage value of the wall and quay for future generations. Any maintenance or works must be done in accordance with environmental legislation and with archaeological guidance, therefore a conservation and management plan should be developed. The structure is partially under the care of Brading Town Council who propose to raise awareness of the historic reclamation features in the landscape, establish interpretation at the site, undertake restoration and repair the wall collapse and erosion to the earthwork embankment.
- 11.3 During the post Medieval period it is probable that the Old Sea Wall and its Quay were significant to the town's economy, securing important resources including fish and the facility to import and export of goods including coal and corn. This significance is particularly the case during the later post medieval period when Cement Works were established on the Quay and the new railway proposals incorporated a spur to access the Quay. However, documentary evidence suggests that Brading had an earlier Medieval Quay and was a successful thriving town in 1547 when its charter granted the rights for summer fairs and weekly markets (it is not certain where the Quay was located in the Medieval period but at least one is known, sited at Wade Mill. Further documentary and map research may clarify this). There is a reference to a complaint about the silting up of the former channel and also the lack of access to the quay at Wade Mill is frequently mentioned in the Borough Court records (Oglander and Webster, undated:5), both issues tie in with a general decline at this time (SMR ref to OG/M/4). It could be suggested therefore that the reclamation embankments in 1562 and 1594 deprived Brading of its Medieval Town Quay and that this damaged the town's economy in some way bringing about the decline of Brading as documented in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 11.4 Indeed, there are some indications within the documentary sources that the relocation of the quay may have caused difficulties. The Eastern Yar is reported as notoriously difficult to navigate with a small boat (Brettell, 1840, Warner 1795). The removal of the quay to the end of Wall Lane would have relocated all the activity away from the centre of the town, removing direct access to the market and closed off direct sea access to the mill at Wade field. The heart of the Town remained focused in the High Street where the ancillary trades appear to have stayed, far removed from the quayside. Map and documentary evidence suggests that only two stores were constructed on the quayside.
- 11.5 However, we suggest that the reclamation can not be seen as a cause of the decline of Brading but simply of its time; throughout the post medieval period the reclamation of the Haven by the landed gentry and by opportunists such as Sir Bevis Thewall and eventually by the Railway was a recurrent bone of contention in Brading which affected (and at times took away) the livelihoods of the community and enforced sudden change on the economic and cultural landscape of the Lower Yar Valley. In general rural depopulation was rife in the later post medieval period and although it could not have been helped by the relocation of the town's quay to the Wall Lane, it was an issue which had begun in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. By 1559 the Crown Survey records approximately 20% of the

dwellings in St Helens and Arreton as empty (Hockey, 1982:37). The 1594 reclamation was probably a continuation in the tradition of enclosure and the Island wide need for pasture. Since the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Island had been producing Kersey cloth and wool remained a valuable key commodity up to the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Jones 1987:16).

11.6 The Council's Archaeologist has requested no further archaeological works beyond building recording and desk-based assessment which has already been carried out. However we strongly recommend that the following projects are undertaken :

- **3 yr Conservation & Management Plan for the historic structure**  
Detailing the methods, materials, projected timetables, costs and expertise for repairs and for the regular maintenance regime in line with SSSI, SPA, and RAMSAR designations.
- **Installation of interpretive panels**  
Following the prior evaluation and core sampling of any foundation pad (the methodology for which should be approved by the County Archaeologists) interpretation panels should be installed under a watching brief and incorporate the contour data and reconstruction illustrations to interpret the historic landscape features.
- **Community Environmental Archaeology Sampling (and Auger Survey) Project**  
To assess the extent of the tidal waters and recover environmental evidence for the climatic and environmental conditions of Brading in the past with the assistance of community members and school children in the processing of samples where possible. A power corer should be used to penetrate deep into the marsh sediments to retrieve samples from early prehistory with potential for radiocarbon carbon dating. Sample locations should be tied into sealevel/altitude models of the region.
- **Watching Brief and photographic record of repair/restoration**  
Any repair should incorporate an appropriate archaeological response to ensure that the impact to the historic environment resources of the site, whether below ground or not, both potential and known sites, is appropriate and can be mitigated. The photographic record of repairs before during and after could also involve community members/local schoolchildren, but formal records (with location of repairs) must be submitted to the County Archaeologist.

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Kitchin's Map of 1751 (HMCMS:FA1988.5)  
Taylor's Hampshire 1759 (HMCMS:FA2001.141)  
Harrison's Map of 1788 (HMCMS:FA1996.34)  
(Above accessed via <http://www.geog.port.ac.uk/webmap/hantsmap>)  
John Speed. Wight Island. 1611 (IWCRO)  
Edward Russell's Admiralty Chart of 1693 (SMR)  
Andrews Map 1769 (SMR)  
George Burn's map of 1794 (SMR)

#### Cartographic Sources for the Study Area

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*A Map of the Isle of Wight Drawn and engraved fro the History of the Isle of Wight from surveys in the profession of the Right Honorable Sir Richard Worsley Baronet by John Haywood June 4<sup>th</sup> 1781* 1 inch to 1 mile (held by the Brading Town Trust)  
Brading Tithe Map 1840 [IWCRO AC94/34]  
*Plan of the Parish of Yaverland Isle of Wight. Surveyed by W Mortimar and Son 1839* [IWCRO Jer/T/388 ]  
Ordnance Survey. 1 inch 1 mile. surveyed 1793-4 published 1810  
Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25". 1862 (IWCRO Sheets 96.6 96.7, 96.10,96.11)  
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#### Pictorial Sources for the Haven during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

##### IWCRO

IWCRO BRA033 - Undated photograph view of Brading Village and Harbour from the Downs  
IWCRO BRA 035 Undated engraving of Brading Harbour  
IWCRO BRA 036 Undated photograph View of Brading including the Cement works and 2 vessels at the Quay, and the Ryde to Shanklin Railway. Published in 'Coastal Wight'  
IWCRO BRA 039 Engraving 1845 Brading looking towards St Helen's. by HW Bartlett. (Published in Barber 1845)  
IWCRO BRA 040 Engraving by C Stanfield RA 1836 View of Brading from the Downs

##### Brading Town Trust

2 prints of Brading (unlocated) (From an unpublished etching by R. W Bloxam). '*Brading in times of prosperity (in the old coaching days)*' and '*Brading in times of adversity (after the construction of the Railway)*'

Brading Town Harbour ?1800 View from the Downs looking north east towards the Harbour (showing store houses on the Quay and boats nr Bexley point)

G. Brannon Print of engraving 'View from Nunwell Down' 1839 (from 'Vectis Scenery' 1865 opp page 30) depicts store houses and boats at the Quay.

G. Brannon Print 1823 'Brading (The Town Hall, Church, Cemetery, Parsonage House and part of the Haven) showing a glimpse of the Haven at the end of Wall Lane.

G. Brannon Print 1832 'Brading Parsonage and Haven Isle of Wight (with Bembridge in the distance)' Shows 2 store houses and vessels at the Quay (Copy also held at IWCRO)

G, Brannon Print 1840 Brading Haven as viewed from Bembridge Mill, looking across to the Town of Brading, Nunwell etc. Showing Quay and store houses. (Copy also held at IWCRO)

Photograph of Harbour viewed from Brading Down. 'Prior to 1878' showing the Haven. (Very poor quality but seen at IWCRO, BWI 1959 Book 1 p38 and in E de Boulay 1911 opp p173)

Print of Painting by L Meadows Undated. View of the Harbour from the Down.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**Cultural Heritage Data**

## **APPENDIX 1 Cultural Heritage Data.**

### **Notes:**

**NGR** The National Grid Reference for each site should be prefixed by SZ. All NGRs are written as eight figure references on the SMR system, this does not necessarily indicate that the NGRs are accurate to 10m.

**SOURCE** The information in the cultural heritage table has been collated from various sources and separate databases. This column illustrates the source of that information.

WO = Walkover

AP = Aerial Photograph

SMR = Sites and Monuments Record

NMR = National Monuments Record (Swindon)

CRO = County Record Office

PRO = Public Record Office (London)

BL = British Library (London)

LSL = Local Studies Library

**REFERENCE** Each historical reference or archaeological feature is given a reference number which will in the case of database entries or library/documentary references be the unique ID identifier used by the source organisation, e.g. an SMR number or documentary reference.

**STATUS** The status of each feature is indicated, for the purposes of this DBA, by its level of statutory protection.

**CONDITION** Where a site is described as having been “built over”, this should not be taken to equate to its being destroyed. Archaeological material may still survive below ground although this may be disturbed and/or damaged.

**SIGNIFICANCE** The importance of the cultural heritage feature is a qualitative assessment based upon its rarity, its condition and its nature. An extremely well preserved example of a common type of site or heritage feature may have more significance if it survives in better condition than other known examples. Frequently at the desk based assessment stage, the nature and condition of a site is not known, and so importance can not be determined and is given as “unknown”. Significance in this sense is not applicable (n/a) to findspots.

KEY	DATE	Description	NGR (SZ)	Source	References	Status	Condition	Significance
Within the Site								
1	Post Med	Reclamation bank. Earthwork and limestone wall revetment	61414 87300 to 61621 86876	SMR 2592	SMR -field visit 1997	SMR	Extant	Local
		Embankment depicted on map	61414 87300	IWCRO	OG 87/26 Oglander Map of 1773			
		Embankment depicted on map	61414 87300 - 61621 86876	IWCRO	MP/D/11 OS 1810 6"			
		Embankment depicted on map	61414 87300 - 61621 86876	IWCRO	OS 25 " 1862, 1898, 1908, OS 6" 1862, 1940			
		Documentary reference to reclamation of Mill Marsh and 'other meads'		IWCRO	Long:1888, 110 (Oglander Mss)  Reference to Mill mead Plan of the Parish of Yaverland 1839 (Jer/T/388) and Tithe Apportionment (1838) JER/T/389/A			
'Three sluices were constructed in the embankment and, in modified form, two of them - Great Sluice and Middle Sluice - are used to this day'		SMR back up file /IWCRO	IWCRO AC/2005/16 R.H.Adams 1959 (revised 1992)					
2	Undated	Reclamation bank	61621 86876 to 61823 86916	SMR 2592	SMR- Field visit 1997	SMR	Extant	Local
		Reclamation Bank: Chalk built embankment earthwork		Field observation during walk over survey	WCA Heritage 2006			
		Embankment depicted on Maps		IWCRO	MP/D/11 OS 1810 6"  Plan of the Parish of Yaverland 1839 (Jer/T/388)			
		Embankment depicted on Maps		IWCRO	OS 25 " 1862, 1898, 1908, OS 6" 1862, 1940			
Within the Study Area (250m Cordon)								
KEY	DATE	Description	NGR (SZ)	Source	References	Status	Condition	Significance
3	Holocene	Palaeo-environmental masampling during Watching brief	62760 87810	IWCAS	K Trott and R Scaife 2004 'Construction and replacement bridges and access causeway at Brading Marshes, Brading IOW' KTAS No 68	-	Buried	Regional
4	Prehist	Flint Scatter: 23 items of	6170 8680	SMR 4199	RPS Consultants 2001 vol 1 p17	SMR	Not known	Local

		worked flint of Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic and Late Neolithic- Early Bronze Age						
5	Med	Find Spot- possibly a ploughed Medieval occupation site.	6194 8673	SMR 1603	SMR Site visit 17.2.86 17.10.97	SMR	Ploughed	Unknown
6	Prehist	Find Spot of Flint Sickle Flint Scatter	6197 8677	SMR1604	SMR Site visit 17.2.1986 SMR site visit 17.10.97	SMR	Ploughed	Unknown
7	Med	Centurion's Copse. Site of 12/13 <sup>th</sup> century Manor House and well.	6213 8685	SMR 1120	Beresford, M W 1954 OS Field investigator 1955 OS field investigator 1967 Letter from C F Fox 21.10.1889 SMR Field Visit 1.4.2003	SMR	Not known	Unknown
8	Med	Supposed site of St.Urian's Chapel	6207 8675	SMR 1121	OS 1862 25" OS 6" 1909 Page, W (Ed) 1912 Kokeritz, H 1940 Worsley, Sir R. 1781, 175 OS Field investigator 1955	SMR	No evidence on ground	Regional
7	Med	Deserted Settlement and Bank (earthworks) Centurion's Copse. Remains of manorial settlement of Wolverton	6216 8687	SMR 1122	Kokeritz, H 1940 :41 Beresford, M.W and Hurst, J.G. 1970:190 OS field investigator 1955 SMR Field visit 9.10.97 SMR Field visit 1.4.03	SMR		Regional
7	?Roman and Med	Find Spot, Centurion's Copse.	6216 8684	SMR 1123	OS 1862 25" Lockhart, C.S.M. 1870 Doubleday, A (ed) 1900. Kokeritz.H.1940 OS Field Investigator 1955 IW Arch index Capt Thorpe annotated copy of J. E. Price and F. G. Hilton Price 1881	SMR	Not Known	Unknown
9	Med	Postulated site of Medieval Quay, indicated by earthworks	6120 8726	SMR 1868	Long, W.H (ed) 1888 p111 OS 1908 25" OS 1971 1:2500	SMR	Earthwork	Regional
10	Post Med	Earthwork bank	61418 87452 to 61807 88279	SMR 2595	SMR Field Visit 25.10.97	SMR	Extant earthwork	Local
		Documentary ref to reclamation of marsh in 1562		IWCRO	Long, W.H 1888, p110.  North Marsh identified on Brading Tithe Map AC/94/34			

		Earthwork depicted on Maps	61418 87452 to 61807 88279	IWCRO	IWCRO OS 1810 MP/D/11 OS 25 " 1862, 1908, OS 6" 1862, 1940			
11	Post Med	Quay and ?jetty to the north	6150 8734	SMR 1816	IWCRO OG 87/26 1773	SMR	Extant earthwork	Local
		Quay depicted on Maps		SMR 1816	IWCRO OS 1810 IWCRO Brading Tithe Map c 1840 OS 25" 1862, 1898, 1908 OS 6" 186, 1940			
		Documentary reference to Quay	6150 8734	SMR 1816	Long W.H. (ed) 1888 Albin 1795, 468	SMR		
		Quay	6150 8734	SMR1816	Edwards, R. 1999	SMR		
12	Post Med	Store house- depicted on Map	6141 8731	SMR 1816	IWCRO OG 87/26 1773	SMR	Demolished. No evidence above ground	
		Building depicted on maps	6141 8731	IWCRO	Brading Tithe Map c 1840 IWCRO IWCRO OS 1810 MP/D/11 OS 25" 1862 (but not on 1898 ed) OS 6" 1862			
		Building depicted on engravings	c6141 8731		Brannon 1824 (View from church along Wall lane) Brannon 1840 'Brading Haven as viewed from Bembridge Mill...' Brannon 1839 engraving of view from Brading Downs, Nunwell House and Brading Haven			
13	Post Med/ Modern	Cement Works	6133 8732	SMR 4112	OS 25" 1898, 1908, 1971 OS 6" 1940	SMR	Demolished above ground, Some earthworks still visible. Built Over	Local
				IWCRO	IWCRO BRA036 Photograph taken from the Downs showing Cement works in distance			
				IWCAS	Aerial Photographs CUPAP 7.10.86 RC8-IT 79 Demolished by1993 (Aerofilms 6.7.1:10 00 23 0935			
					Insole. A, and Parker, A 1979:16			
				LSL	Maycock and Silsbury 1999:118			
				IWCRO	BRA036 Photograph with Cement work shown			
14	Post	Railway	6140 8735	IWCRO	OS 25" 1898, 1908		Demolished	Local

	Med/ Modern	(Brading - St Helens Railway- Bembridge, siding, level crossing and signal box.			OS 6" 1940 Harding, P.A The Bembridge Branch Line		above ground	
				Brading Station Railway Centre				
				LSL	Maycock and Silsbury 1999:115			
15	Modern	Structure	6138 8730	LSL	Maycock and Silsbury 1999:118	-	Extant (occupied dwelling)	None
					OS 25" 1908 1971 OS 6" 1940			
16	Post Med/ Modern	Railway siding and jetties north of Quay (spur of the Ryde to Shanklin line)	6148 8736	IWCRO	OS 6" 1862		Earthworks visible? See contour survey	None
				LSL	Maycock and Silsbury 1999:115			
17	Modern	Building identified on Aerial Photograph		IWCAS	AP	-	Demolished above ground	None
18	Undated	Earthwork Bank (reclamation bank)	62017 86982 to 62134 87093	SMR 2593	SMR field visit 18.10.97	SMR	Extant	Local
				IWCRO	OS1810 MP/D/11			
				IWCRO	AC/2005/16 R.H.Adams 1959 (revised 1992)			