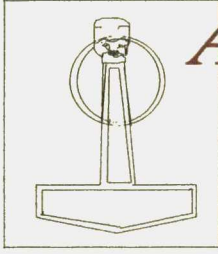


2110
ENY 167
SNY 575



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SNY	575
ENY	167
CNY	784
Parish	2110
Rec'd	13/12/2000

176 HIGH STREET,
NORTHALLERTON
AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
FOR
DARBY, MILLER & BROWN

2100/110/183E

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT 176 HIGH STREET, NORTHALLERTON

INTRODUCTION

176 High Street, Northallerton, was subject to a planning application to make alterations to the existing premises, formerly a building society, to convert to a retail outlet. An archaeological condition was placed upon the planning permission because it lies within an area of archaeological interest within the historic core of the medieval settlement of Northallerton. A watching brief on ground disturbance work was therefore undertaken in September and October 2000.

THE SITE

176 High Street lies on the west side of the High Street, within the central section. The plot is a typical long narrow strip running east-west, with the whole of the frontage built up and with an overgrown garden to the rear. A large air-raid shelter occupies part of the garden on the north side.

THE WATCHING BRIEF

Four foundation trenches were hand excavated across the interior of the existing building, each running from the north to the south side of the building. The floor consisted of wooden tiles laid over concrete, under which was a layer of brick and sandy rubble to a depth of 20 - 30 cm.

The easternmost trench (A, fig 2), towards the front of the shop, was 40 cm wide and contained compacted brown sandy stony loam from a depth of 30 cm to 60 cm below the surface, beneath which was reddish brown silty sand or gravel to the base at 75 cm. There were cobbles towards the base of the stony loam, and between 120 and 160 cm north of the southern end of the trench was a concentration of cobbles in a line angled across the trench from south-east to north-west. At the southern end of the trench the brick rubble extended deeper, with stones and timber running east-west across the trench. There was a former drain running east-west along the edge of the building here, and the trench was excavated to a depth of 110 cm to achieve solid ground. The only artefacts in the trench were bricks and a piece of timber, probably pine.

The second trench (B, fig 2) was 80 cm wide and 80 cm deep. Beneath the concrete and brick rubble floor base was mid to dark brown stony loam with traces of mortar, coal fragments, bone and shell, and occasional fragments of 19th century pottery. At a depth of c. 50 cm below the surface there were several fragments of medieval green glaze pottery. By 60 cm below the surface the soil was becoming more clayey and turning to a lighter more orange brown. At a depth of 40 cm, between 190 and 280 cm from the southern end, was a line of cobbles similar to those encountered in the first trench. At the southern end of the trench were the remains of the drain, and between 115 and 135 cm from the southern end of the trench were the brick foundations of a former wall running east-west across the trench, and then turning south to run along its length to the southern end.

The third trench (C, fig 2), which was 90 cm wide, ran along the line of a former dividing wall for the northern half. The brick foundations of this wall extended to 50 cm below the surface, and were set in mid brown sandy loam containing patches of coal dust as well as occasional bone fragments and 19th century pottery fragments. Beneath the wall foundations the soil was lighter in colour and stonier, becoming increasingly gravelly to the base at 80 cm. Half way along the trench were the brick foundations of the former staircase, and immediately to the south of this was a concentration of cobbles and bricks at a depth of 50 cm, in an area of clay and mortar patches. Further south the soil was a stony reddish brown loamy sand becoming paler and more gravelly with depth.

The former east-west wall noted in the second trench crossed near to the south end, and the remains of the drain were also revealed. The pipework of this consisted of horseshoe-shaped tiles 15 cm deep, open below to a bed of brown clayey loam. There were fragments of 18th



176 HIGH STREET NORTHALLERTON FIG 1 LOCATION

Scale 1 1250

century pottery in the surrounding fill. Immediately to the north of the dram was a concentration of pantile fragments covering a large stone slab and a piece of wood at a depth of 55 cm below the surface. These appeared to have been thrown down and were parts of a former structure. Beneath the foundations of the former wall that crossed the trench were two fragments of medieval pottery, with spots of yellow and green glaze.

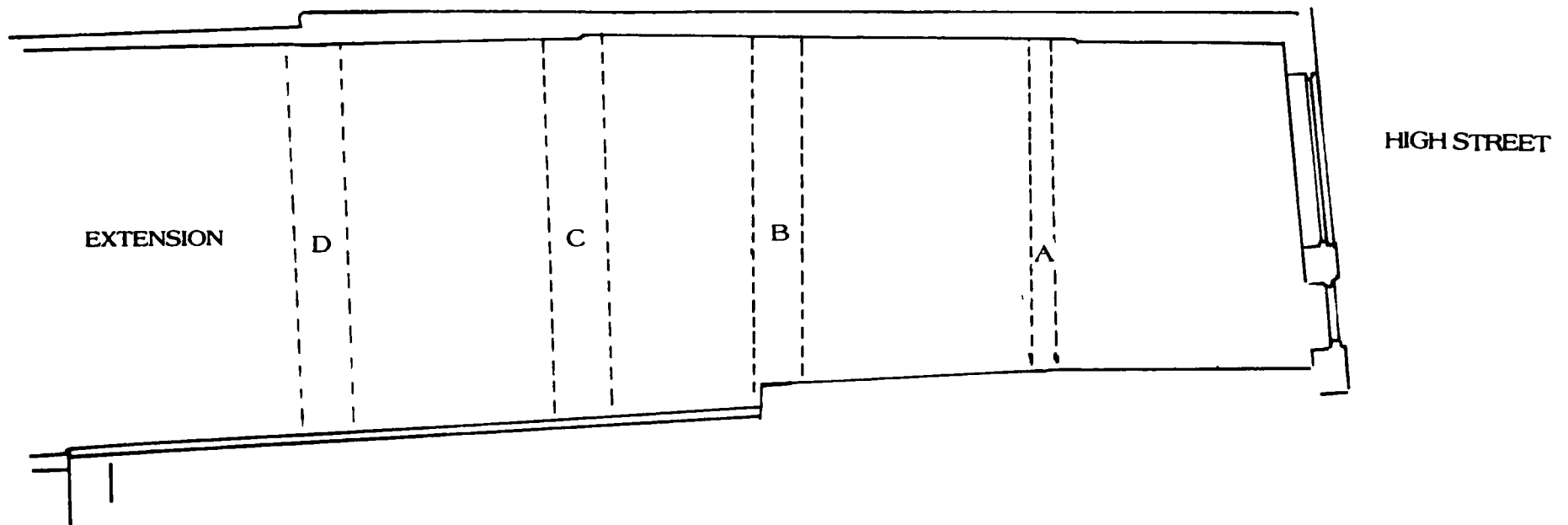
The fourth trench (D, fig 2) was entirely filled with concrete, being part of the base of the newer extension at the rear of the building, and was not therefore observed.

CONCLUSIONS

The features revealed in the foundation trenches were all post-medieval, consisting of drams and brick wall foundations. The line of cobbles that was encountered in the first two trenches was more probably a dram than foundations. There were however a number of fragments of medieval pottery in the mixed fill of the second and third trenches, indicating that there was activity on the site in the medieval period. No structures or other features were linked with the medieval material and they were in an undifferentiated fill with post-medieval material, which indicates redeposition rather than a primary context.

The construction of the existing building is clearly of several periods. The internal side walls of the property are a mix of cobbles and brick. The foundations of the north wall visible in trench C are entirely cobble, and the wall itself is of cobble construction to a height of 1.5 metres west of the former internal cross wall. The foundations in Trench B are a mix of cobble and brick, and cobbles appear in the wall to a height of 60 cm. The difference in the fill of each trench also indicates different phases of activity.

The presence of medieval material at this location adds to the sum of knowledge of the medieval origins of Northallerton.



176 HIGH STREET NORTHALLERTON FIG 2 SITE PLAN

Scale 1 100