

Report 2922



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief at 'Jamie's Italian',
18-24 Royal Arcade, Norwich, Norfolk**

ENF128440



Prepared for
Jones Lang LaSalle Limited
22 Hanover Square
London
W1S 1JA



Rebecca Sillwood, BA, PIfA

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www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Rebecca Sillwood	02/03/2012
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	06/03/2012
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	10/04/2012
Signed Off	Nigel Page	10/04/2012
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NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

www.nau.org.uk

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Location:	'Jamie's Italian', 18–24 Royal Arcade, Norwich, Norfolk
District:	Norwich City Council
Grid Ref.:	TG 2305 0846
Planning Ref.:	11/01242/L
HER No.:	ENF 128440
OASIS Ref.:	122856
Client:	Jones Lang LaSalle Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	2 February 2012

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Jones Lang LaSalle Limited ahead of refurbishment and change of use of the former Waterstones' premises at 18–24 Royal Arcade, Norwich, Norfolk. The building was previously in use as a book shop, and is being refurbished as a restaurant, with associated services; these works requiring monitoring by an archaeologist.

The service trenches were located outside of, and to the south and east of the buildings. All of the excavated service trenches appeared to follow previously utilised routes, with multiple pipes and cables visible in them. The ground through which they were dug had been previously disturbed, apparently not very long ago. The deposits that were exposed consisted of make-up layers and infilling for the service trenches (such as gravel and sand).

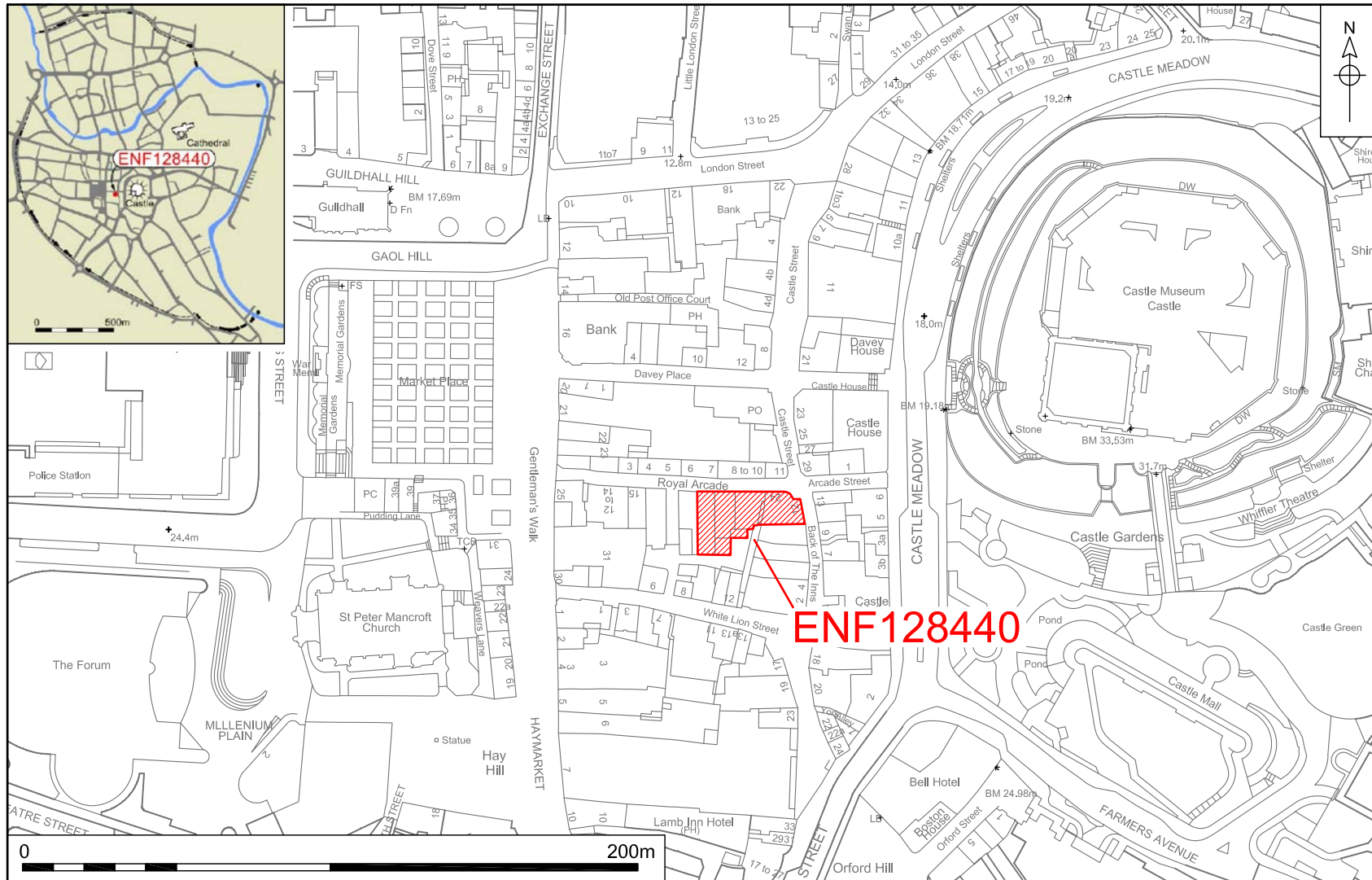
1.0 INTRODUCTION

The refurbishment and change of use of premises within the Royal Arcade in Norwich has occasioned an archaeological watching brief in order to monitor groundworks for the service trenches associated with the works. Service trench runs were monitored to the rear of the property (to the south) and also a short run to the east.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Norwich City Council (Planning Application Ref. 11/01242/L) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Ref. CNF43670). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2922/NP). This work was commissioned and funded by Jones Lang LaSalle Limited.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2000



Plate 1. The service trenches to the south of the buildings, looking east

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The bedrock geology of the site varies between chalk and crag – sand and gravel¹ and the superficial geology is unclassified.

The site lies in the historic heart of Norwich city centre, between the Castle and the market, and is located at the entrance to the Royal Arcade, a shopping arcade of the Art Nouveau period that links Back of the Inns with Gentleman's Walk.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) of a 250m radius of the site on 3 February 2012, revealed the mapped extents of 313 sites and monuments. Many of these will have no relevance at all to the site itself, and therefore only a select few are discussed here.

The main records for the site are of the Royal Arcade itself, a find of pottery and reports on pits that have been dug. The record for the Royal Arcade itself (NHER

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

26009), notes that which was built in 1899 to designs by G. J. Skipper. A findspot of medieval and post-medieval pottery (NHER 775) was made within the site boundary in 1986. A record of pits within the site was also made in 1986 (NHER 809) and relates to two pits which were dug within numbers 20 and 21 Royal Arcade, 2m south of the Arcade. The pits recorded upper deposits of rubble, and below this a moist loam deposit, which may be associated with the watercourse, the Great Cockey, which is believed to run through this area. Within number 19 Royal Arcade further pits were excavated in 1986 (NHER 773), and were found to contain sherds of medieval pottery, and a flint and an east-west brick wall running to the south of the Arcade with a brick drain against its north face. This structure may have been connected with an earlier use of the site as stables, associated with an inn, in the 19th-century.

The site lies within the historic heart of Norwich, between the Castle and the market, and as such, could be expected to recover archaeological evidence.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that the footprint of a lift shaft was monitored; however, this was removed from the design of the building, and accordingly was not excavated. The service runs for the building were also to be monitored. All of the trenches were open when the archaeologist attended site.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

Environmental samples were not taken due to the lack of suitable deposits.

Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine, if cold, weather.

5.0 RESULTS

Service runs for the building were open and were found to be narrow and not particularly deep.

All of the trenches which were open displayed a complex of pipes and drains already in existence, and the deposits through which the trench had been sunk were all make-up and modern layers.

No archaeological layers or features were recorded and no context numbers were used.



Plate 2. Detail of service trench to south of the buildings, looking east

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The site demonstrated some potential for archaeological deposits to be encountered; however the excavated trenches were not deep enough to expose any archaeological strata. The area had been too disturbed previously by service runs and resurfacing of pavements, as well as the creation of Royal Arcade itself in the late 19th century, for any archaeological remains to survive at this level.

No finds were recovered.

The site is located in the historic heart of the city of Norwich, between the Norman Castle and market place. It had been previously part of the stable complex for a 19th-century Inn.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Jones Lang LaSalle Limited for commissioning and funding this work, and also the contractors on site, who were John Youngs. Thanks also go to Sarah Howard of Norfolk Historic Environment Record for providing the HER data.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography and Sources

Department for Communities and Local Government 2010 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* TSO, Norwich

http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 01.03.2012