

Report BAU2672



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Evaluation at Sussex House,
Sussex Street, Norwich Norfolk**

ENF128771



Prepared for
Cripps Developments Ltd
Dencora House
Blyburgate
Beccles
Suffolk
NR34 9TY

David Adams MIfA

April 2012



www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	David Whitmore / Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	David Adams	16/04/2012
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	11/04/2012
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	24/04/2012
Signed Off	Nigel Page	24/04/2012
<i>Issue 1</i>		

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:	Sussex House, Sussex Street, Norwich Norfolk
District:	Norwich City Council
Grid Ref.:	TG2274 0955
Planning Ref.:	Planning reference 08/01304/F
HER No.:	ENF 128771
OASIS Ref.:	124110
Client:	Cripps Developments
Dates of Fieldwork:	20-26 March 2012

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by NPS Archaeology for Cripps Developments ahead of the proposed redevelopment of Sussex House for new housing. The evaluation consisted of a total of four trenches each approximately 4m by 4 m in plan located within the footprint of the proposed development. The site lies in the north-west of Norwich within the circuit of the medieval city wall.

The fieldwork suggests that across the site deposits of late post-medieval to modern date were present to a maximum depth of c.1.50m, and that these deposits overlay what appeared to be a relict soil or subsoil. Overall very few artefacts were recovered during the course of the evaluation. The earliest artefactual evidence recovered from the site was of a single worked flint of probable late prehistoric date. Only one feature of possible interest was recorded, a truncated pit of perhaps late medieval date.

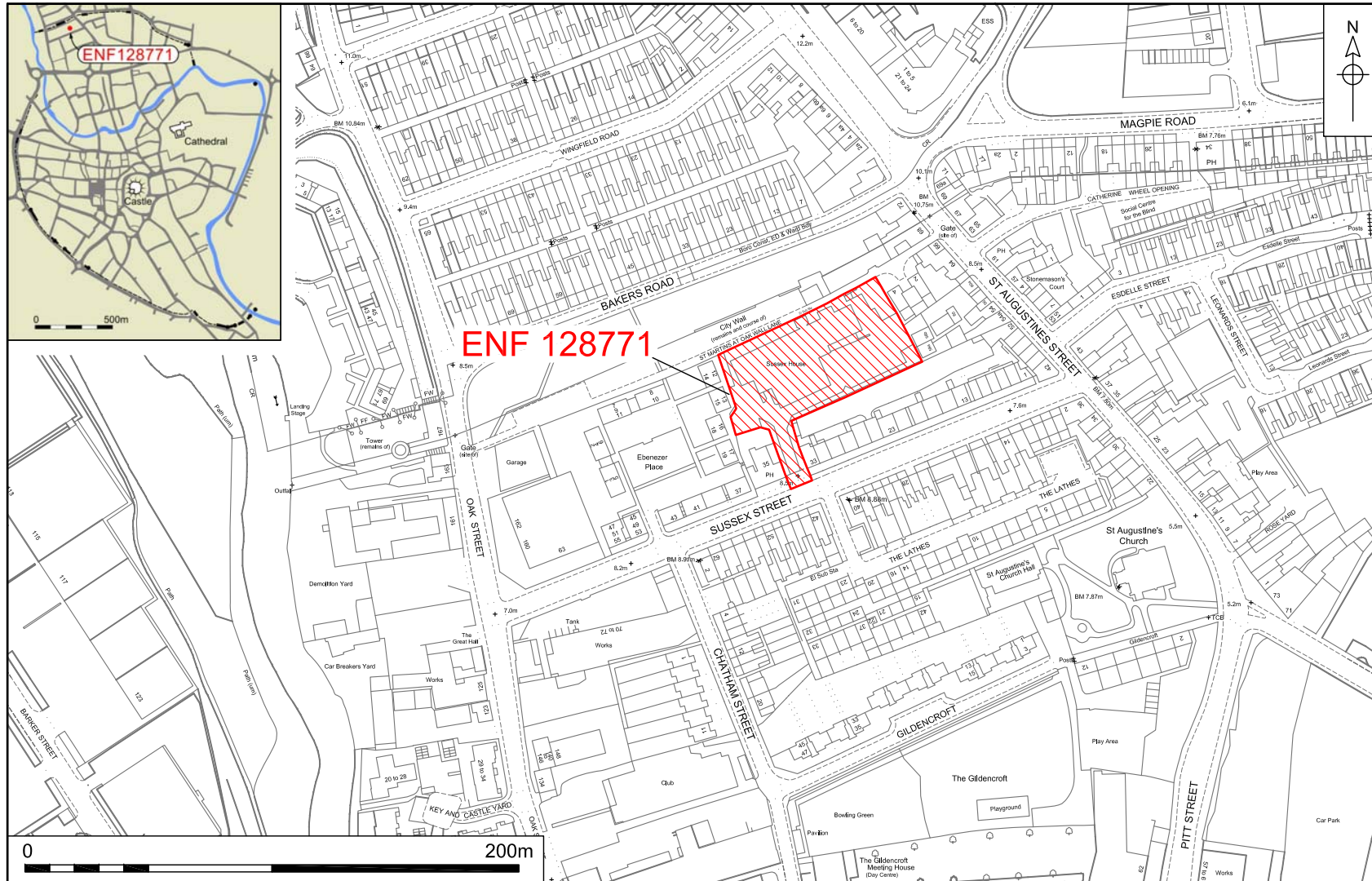
Based on the results of this archaeological fieldwork and from what is known historically of the area, it is suggested that the site has mostly existed as an open area of farmland, enclosed within the medieval city wall but peripheral to any significant activity. It is possible this farm land was owned in the medieval period by the Great Hospital on Bishopgate. A pale brown soil thought to result from ploughing and overlying sand and gravel geological deposits at the site was seen in all of the evaluation trenches, with this soil overlain by deep dark brown soils of perhaps late post-medieval to modern date. These later soils are thought to result from horticultural activity and material generated by the early 19th century construction of Sussex Street to the south. Very few artefacts were recovered from the site, with pottery from the site dating to the post-medieval period.

It appears that the site might have been peripheral to any significant human activity despite its proximity to the medieval city wall, and perhaps had been mostly open - possibly agricultural - land until as late as the 18th century.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A proposal to develop the site of Sussex House on Sussex Street in Norwich for housing required a programme of archaeological evaluation to assess the potential effects of the proposals on the archaeological resource.

In the medieval period the site was occupied by the Gildencroft, an open space between Jenkins Lane and the city wall. The 'Gildencroft' refers to an artisans guild place, possibly dating to the 11th century, though more commonly this is a



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

mid to late medieval designation. The site is also located close to the medieval street of St. Augustine's and to the city wall, a scheduled monument.

This Programme of Archaeological Works (PoAW) was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Norwich City Council planning authority (Ref: 08/01304/F) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) 'Updated Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching' (Ken Hamilton 23 December 2011, Ref: CNF41979). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. No: NAU/BAU2672/NP). This work was commissioned by Chaplin and Farrant Limited on behalf of Cripps Developments who funded the work.

The PoAW 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). 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.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site overlies sands and gravels at a height of c.9m OD (Penn 1998, 1). The site lies on ground which slopes gently to the south and west down to the River Wensum, the course of which lies some 220m to the west of the site. There is an artificial terrace between the site and the houses fronting onto Sussex Street to the south.

The site is currently occupied by a derelict commercial building with three of the evaluation trenches located in the surface car park of this building and one trench (Trench 4) to the rear of the premises.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Information from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record

As a thorough investigation of the archaeological and historic background of the current site has already been produced as a Desk Based Assessment (DBA), (Hickling 2008), this same information is presented below with the exception that for brevity the cartographic figures from the DBA are not reproduced here.

A large proportion of the information within the desk-based assessment report (Hickling 2008) was derived from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER). All of the records that fell within an area defined by the River Wensum to the west, the inner ring-road to the south, St Augustine's Street to the east and the junction of Drayton Road and Fakenham Road to the north were examined.

Use was also made of maps made of Norwich from 1558 onwards. A variety of other sources, including books, archaeological reports and web-based resources were also consulted in order to establish the archaeological and historical context of the site.

The following section presents results from examination of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) entries for the study area and its environs.

Prehistoric

A small amount of prehistoric material has been found in the vicinity of the study area. This is probably not indicative of settlement in the area.

A Neolithic leaf-shaped flint arrow head was found in 1990 at 13 Aylsham Road (NHER 783). A Neolithic or Bronze Age worked flint came from an archaeological evaluation at The Waterings, St Martin's Road (Crawley 2006, 14; NHER 41647). A trench to the rear of 56–62 St Augustine's Street, adjacent to the eastern boundary of the present development site, produced a small amount of residual Iron Age pottery (Penn 1998; NHER 26475).

Roman

A small amount of Roman material has been found in the vicinity of the study area, suggesting that there may have been Roman activity in this area.

A very worn Roman coin was found at Sovereign House, Botolph Street at some time before 1971 (NHER 22). Excavations in 1975 at 49–63 Botolph Street uncovered residual Roman pottery (NHER 281). A Roman copper-alloy lamp, reportedly found at St Augustine's Gate, was exhibited at the Society of Antiquaries in 1760 (NHER 648). A trench to the rear of 56–62 St Augustine's Street produced a small amount of residual Roman pottery (Penn 1998; NHER 26475).

Anglo-Saxon

There is evidence for an Early Saxon cemetery to the north of the study area, but this may be heavily truncated by later activity. The study area lies outside the boundary of the Late Saxon town and it is unlikely that any remains of this date will be present.

During the construction of Eade Road at the end of the 19th century a number of Early Saxon cremation and inhumation burials were discovered, some with grave-goods (NHER 165). An attempt to define the cemetery's western edge in 1974 proved unsuccessful due to large-scale 19th-century gravel quarrying (NHER 177). In 1975 excavations at 49–63 Botolph Street uncovered part of the Late Saxon town wall (a bank and ditch) (NHER 281). This ditch was also found during excavations to the south, at Botolph Street, in the same year (NHER 284).

A possibly Late Saxon V-shaped ditch was found during the excavation of a telephone cable in 1971 at the Pitt Street/Inner Ring Road roundabout (NHER 852). A possibly Late Saxon human skull was found at 17 St Martin Road in 1967 (NHER 671).

The church of St Mary Coslany may be of a similar date. It has a round tower with two-light windows with triangular-headed arches and central shafts of Barnack limestone (NHER 553). St Augustine's church may also have Anglo-Saxon origins, but this unproven (NHER 575). St Olave's church formally stood at the junction of Pitt Street and the inner ring road. It was a Late Saxon foundation, but was demolished in 1546 (NHER 452). Until 1548 St Botolph's church stood at the south-eastern end of Botolph Street, now beneath Anglia Square, but it too was demolished (NHER 587).

Medieval

Although the study area lies within the medieval city walls, it was within an open area (known as the Gildencroft, see section 3.2 below) until residential development began in the early 19th century. Today it is confined to an area of parkland to the east of Chatham Street, but formally extended north to the city walls (NHER 438). Nearby Oak Street and St Augustine's Street were partially developed by the end of the medieval period.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery was found at 71–73 Botolph Street in 1955 (NHER 18). Medieval pottery and human bone were found in 1967 at 2–6 Botolph Street, probably on the site of St Olave's Church (NHER 97). Excavations in 1974 at 46–58 Botolph Street revealed Saxo-Norman tenements and medieval buildings (NHER 170). Medieval pottery was recovered from a trench dug alongside the churchyard of St Augustine's church in 1972 (NHER 198). One sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from spoil during building works at a site between St Luke's Church and 57 Aylsham Road in 1976 (NHER 325). A medieval steelyard weight was found at St Augustine's Gate in 1852 (NHER 666). A mid-15th-century copper-alloy seal matrix was found at the junction of Waterloo Road and Angel Road in 1950 (NHER 668). A 15th-century French jetton was found in 1988 at St Martin Gate (NHER 821). In 1985 two sherds of medieval pottery were found by builders at a site on St Augustine's Street, just inside the city wall (NHER 734).

The medieval city walls pass close to the northern boundary of the development site. These walls are built of flint and brick and were constructed between 1294–1343 (NHER 384; Scheduled Monument 10). Part of the city wall was uncovered in 1957 beneath 134 Magpie Road where it was found to be c.0.2m beneath the ground surface (NHER 26155).

The site of St Augustine's Gates (NHER 26160) was one of the original city gates in the town wall and lies beneath the junction of St Augustine's Street, Baker's Road, Aylsham Road, Waterloo Road and Magpie Road. The 12th-century hospital of St Mary and St Clement was situated outside St Augustine's Gate, on Waterloo Road (NHER 629). The site of St Martin's Gate lies beneath the junction of Oak Street and Baker's Road. It was part of the city wall and was demolished in the 19th century (NHER 26172).

The Great Hall, Oak Street, is a Grade II listed 15th-century open hall set back from the street; it was heavily modified in the 17th century. It has the remains of a 15th-century oriel window arch (NHER 790). A 15th-century brick undercroft survives beneath a modern shop at 71 Botolph Street (NHER 26026). A medieval flint and mortar-lined well survives within 61 St Augustine's Street (NHER 26320).

Post-Medieval

A number of post-medieval listed buildings survive on St Augustine's Street and Oak Street, but Sussex Street and its associated housing were not constructed until the early 19th century. To the north, outside the city walls, there is evidence for quarrying, probably for chalk for the building and leather tanning industries.

St Augustine's Gate (NHER 26160) was blocked up with earth during the English Civil War.

There are a number of Grade II listed buildings in the vicinity of the proposed development area; the most relevant are listed below.

- a terrace of six 16th-century cottages at 2–12 Gildencroft (immediately south of St Augustine’s church), the ground floors are of flint and brick with timber-framed first floors (NHER 26110)
- 102, 104 and 106 Oak Street are three-storied buildings dating from the late 16th century (NHER 26145–6)
- 13–15 St Augustine’s Street is a late 16th-century flint and brick building (NHER 26174)
- 55 St Augustine’s Street is a late 16th-century building of galletted flint, brick and stone (NHER 26175)
- 98 and 100 Oak Street is a three-storied building dating from c.1600 (NHER 26144).
- 27 and 29 St Augustine’s Street is an early 17th-century timber-framed building (NHER 26263)
- 5 St Augustine’s Street is a three-storied 17th-century building (NHER 26260)
- 23–25 St Augustine’s Street is a late 17th-century building (NHER 26262)
- 22 and 24 St Augustine’s Street is a row of 18th-century red-brick houses, possibly enclosing the remains of a Late Medieval timber-framed house (NHER 26176)
- 21 St Augustine’s Street is an 18th-century street-fronted house with a 17th-century building to the rear (NHER 26261)
- 42 to 52 St Augustine’s Street are a row of early 19th-century, red-brick shops with flats above (NHER 48042)
- 1 and 3 St Augustine’s Street are two early 19th-century shops with flats above (NHER 48132). These building are probably part of the same campaign of development as the laying-out of Sussex Street (see below).

In addition to these listed buildings, there are a number of other sites of archaeological note in the vicinity of the proposed development site. At the rear of 33 St Augustine’s Street are the remains of a 17th-century brick-built house (NHER 26264). The remains of the City Station, the terminus of the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway (Norwich to Cromer via Holt) lie beneath a roundabout on the inner ring-road (NHER 26236). Wensum Park was laid out between 1920 and 1935 on the site of the former Norwich Open Air Baths and is a Grade II Historic Garden (NHER 26417).

Sussex Street

Sussex Street itself was developed in the 1820s (Ayers 1994, 107). A number of buildings in Sussex Street are Grade II listed.

- 27 and 29 Sussex Street are three-storey, red-brick houses (NHER 48024)
- 12–16 Sussex Street are two-storey houses (NHER 48025)
- 26–40 Sussex Street are a terrace of eight two-storey, red-brick houses (NHER 48026)
- 18 and 20 Sussex Street are early 19th-century houses (NHER 48144)

- 24 Sussex Street is another red-brick early 19th-century house (NHER 48145).
- 4–10 Sussex Street is a terrace of red-brick houses with date stones reading '1824' (NHER 48167).
- 1a to 11 Sussex Street is a row of early 19th-century red-brick houses (NHER 48168).
- 21 Sussex Street is an early 19th-century house (NHER 48169).
- 32–36A Sussex Street is a terrace of early 19th-century, red-brick houses (NHER 48174).
- 13–19 Sussex Street is a terrace of early 19th-century red-brick houses (NHER 48232).
- 22 Sussex Street is another early 19th-century red-brick house (NHER 48233).

3.2 Documentary Evidence

The medieval name for the study area was Gildencroft, from the Old English 'gildenacroft' meaning 'the guild bretheren's croft'. The northern edge of the Gildencroft was known as 'Justing Acre' in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, possibly deriving from the word 'Joust', the engagement in single combat on horse-back.

In the centre of the Gildencroft stood an artificial hill called 'Tut Hill' (possibly from the Old English 'tot-hyll' meaning 'look-out hill'). Tut Hill is first mentioned in 1291 and may be connected with the use of this area for military manoeuvres (Sandred and Lindstrom 1989, 107–8). Tut Hill and Justing Acre are both depicted on Blomefield's map of 1746.

3.3 Cartographic Evidence

Cartographic evidence available for the site suggests that the development area remained as an intra-mural open area known as the Gildencroft until the early 19th century when Sussex Street was developed. The Poor House at the northern boundary of the study area appears on maps from 1696 to 1746. It may be the predecessor of the workhouse in existence at Blackfriars in the early 19th century, which had accommodation for 600 paupers and an outlying infirmary at the former Lazar House on Sprowston Road.

3.4 Archaeological Observations

There have been a number of archaeological interventions in the vicinity of the proposed development area, summarised below.

Excavation at 54 Aylsham Road, 1974

Despite the close proximity of the Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery (NHER165), 19th-century gravel quarrying had completely truncated the site (NHER 177).

Watching brief at 6–16 Cross Street, 1976

Observations on a new housing estate produced no archaeological finds or features (NHER 304).

Watching Brief at the junction of Eade Road and Aylsham Road, 1977

Observations during trench digging produced no archaeological finds or features (NHER 343).

Watching Brief at Patteson Road, 1976

Observations during road works produced no archaeological finds or features (NHER 347).

Watching Brief at 30–68 Baker’s Road, 1972

Observations made during the demolition of houses along the line of the ditch outside the city wall only produced late post-medieval finds, probably from the upper fill of the town ditch (NHER 633).

Watching Brief at 69–73 St Augustine’s Street, 1997

Observation of foundation trenches noted traces of the city wall and ditch (NHER 26451).

Evaluation at 56–62 St Augustine’s Street, 1998

A trench to the rear of 56–62 St Augustine’s Street (adjacent to the eastern boundary of the present development site) produced evidence of agricultural and garden soils and a pair of post-medieval boundary ditches. A small amount of residual Iron Age and Roman pottery was found (Penn 1998; NHER 26475).

Evaluation at 105–119 Oak Street 2000

Archaeological trenching on this site produced medieval and post-Medieval pits and river channel revetment (NHER 26523).

Watching Brief at the former Swimming Pool site, Waterloo Road, 2002

Despite the close proximity of the Eade Road Early Saxon cemetery, only Second World War air raid shelters were found (NHER 26605).

Evaluation at The Waterings, St Martin Road, 2006

The evaluation revealed that the whole site had been extensively quarried in the post-medieval period (NHER 41647).

3.5 The Site Today

The site is dominated by a large office building (Sussex House) dating perhaps to the 1960s. The front (southern) part of this appeared to be a little earlier, perhaps dating from the 1930s–1950s, and may once have been the office block associated with the site’s previous use as a shoe factory. A small portion of the western boundary wall and a large part of the northern boundary wall were built of mixed flint and 2¼” soft red brick, suggesting a mid-19th-century date or earlier.

3.6 Archaeological and Historical Discussion of the Site

(From Hickling 2008)

Archaeological work in the vicinity suggests that there may be a build-up of agricultural soil in the region of 0.8–0.9m (Penn 1998, 1). The terracing visible at the southern boundary of the study area may not have truncated the ground level within the study area, but rather built it up along the southern side.

There is no evidence for activity in this area of Norwich until the Roman period; chance finds of pottery, a coin and a lamp in the area of St Augustine's Street and Botolph Street suggest some form of Roman settlement close-by. The presence of the Eade Road Early Saxon cemetery suggests that this settlement continued into the Anglo-Saxon period. Norwich developed into a major town during the Late Saxon period, but the study area lies outside the defended area of the town. Activity here in the Late Saxon period probably remained agricultural.

The proposed development area was enclosed within the new city walls during the late 13th to early 14th centuries, but remained part of an intra-mural open-space known as the Gildencroft. Place-name evidence suggests that this was open land belonging to one of the city guilds. Further place-name and cartographic evidence suggests that this area may have been used for military exercises and entertainment. This part of the Gildencroft was developed in the 1820s, with Sussex Street being laid out and the red-brick terraces built at its eastern end. During this period the proposed development area became a yard with sheds, possibly workshops. By the early 20th century a shoe factory had been constructed within the same footprint as the present Sussex House.

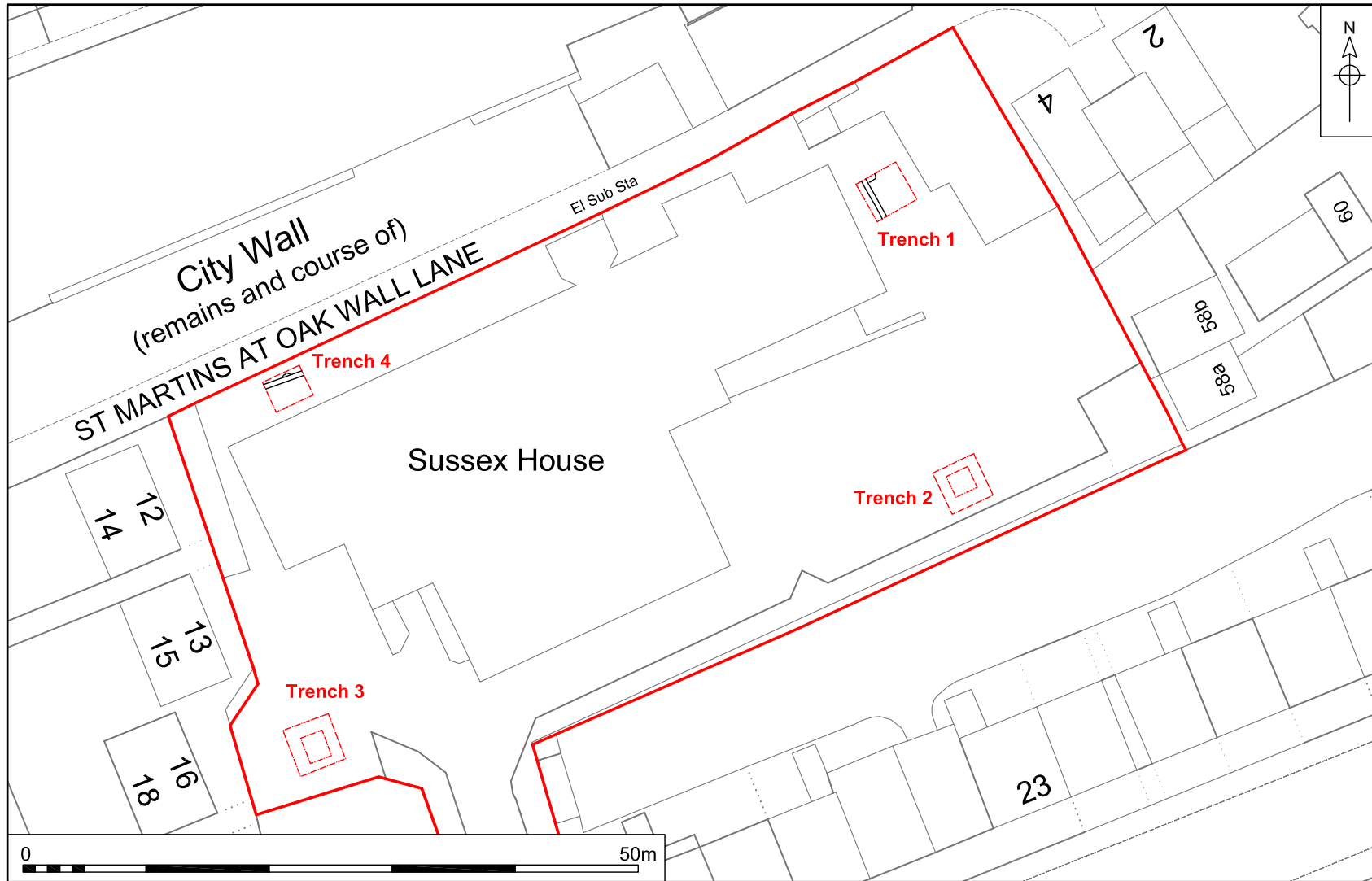
Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the study area suggests that any archaeological remains present within the study area will be sealed beneath a layer of agricultural/horticultural soils 0.8–0.9m deep. Further archaeological investigations in this area could cast important light upon the pre-urban development of this area, especially with regard to the Roman and Early Saxon periods, where we only have tantalising glimpses of activity. The Roman finds must be the result of some kind of Roman settlement in the locality and the Eade Road Saxon cemetery must have served a local settlement yet to be found.

There is a possibility that two interesting medieval or post-medieval features may be present within the proposed development area: the Poor House and the mound labelled 'Tut Hill' shown on Blomefield's map of 1746. Any further information as to their form, function and date would be a valuable addition to our knowledge of the historical development and land-use of this part of Norwich.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The Brief (CNF41979) stipulated that trial trenching was required to recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. The states of preservation of archaeological features or deposits within the area indicated should be determined and a 5% sample of the development area was required. The site covers an area of c.2990m². As the remains of a standing building were still present on the site the evaluation was limited to a total of four trenches each 4m by 4m in plan. As Trench 3 was constrained by its physical location it was altered to dimensions of 3.30m by 2.65m (Fig. 2). In Trenches 2 and 3, small sondages were excavated at the bases of the evaluation trenches to confirm geological deposits had been found.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator/hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision (Plate 1).



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Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:500

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. No environmental samples were taken.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark with a value of 8.28m OD, located on the west side of St Augustine's Church on St Augustine's Street.

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



Plate 1. Looking west across site

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north-east of the site (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 2)

Current ground level was 11.15m OD

Geological deposits were present at c.9.68m OD

Geological sediments (15) revealed at the base of this trench consisted of medium pale yellow sands with moderate small gravels and angular stones. This deposit was assigned the same number across the site where it was revealed at the base of every trial trench and seemed to display little variation across its extent at the site. Overlying this was a layer (14) consisting of a pale brown to yellow brown silt sand. It contained few inclusions apart from very occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small stones. It was clearly quite heavily root and worm disturbed. It

was up to 0.20m in depth present in all four sections of the trench with a diffuse boundary onto the underlying geological sediments.

This was overlain by a considerably darker coloured soil layer (13). Mid to dark brown in colour, this was a silt sand containing occasional shell, chalk and coal flecks as well as moderate quantities of small stones. Though varying in thickness it measured broadly 0.30m in depth and was seen in all of the sections of Trench 4. Above this was slightly compacted layer (12) of pale yellow brown clay, sand and small gravels. This layer was limited in its dimensions to a depth of 0.15m and width (approx east to west) of 1.12m. This layer was cut by two features. At its western end was steep-sided pit [9] which measured 0.80m in width with a depth of 0.70m. Seen mostly in section it appeared to have been sub-square in plan. A single fill (10) of this feature consisted of dark soils with small quantities of brick debris, mortar flecks and occasional flecks of coal. Layer (12) was cut at its eastern end by a similar pit [11] also steep sided though the base was not revealed. This measured 0.80m in width and up to 0.60m in depth. Its fill (10) was of dark brown soils with large lenses of pale yellow sand clays and a band of gravel at its base.

Overlying these pits and layer (12) was layer (5) comprising brown silt sand with occasional small brick and mortar up to 0.3m deep. Cutting this layer was modern services trench [23] (not illustrated) seen only in profile and which contained dark brown clayey sandy soil mixed with brick rubble. Overlying this was widespread layer (4) – modern mixed soils with building debris (0.3m deep) – which was a possible bedding layer for the car park. Deposits (1), (2) and (3) were car park layers which were cut by modern services trench [7].



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking north at deposit sequence, 2 x 2m scales

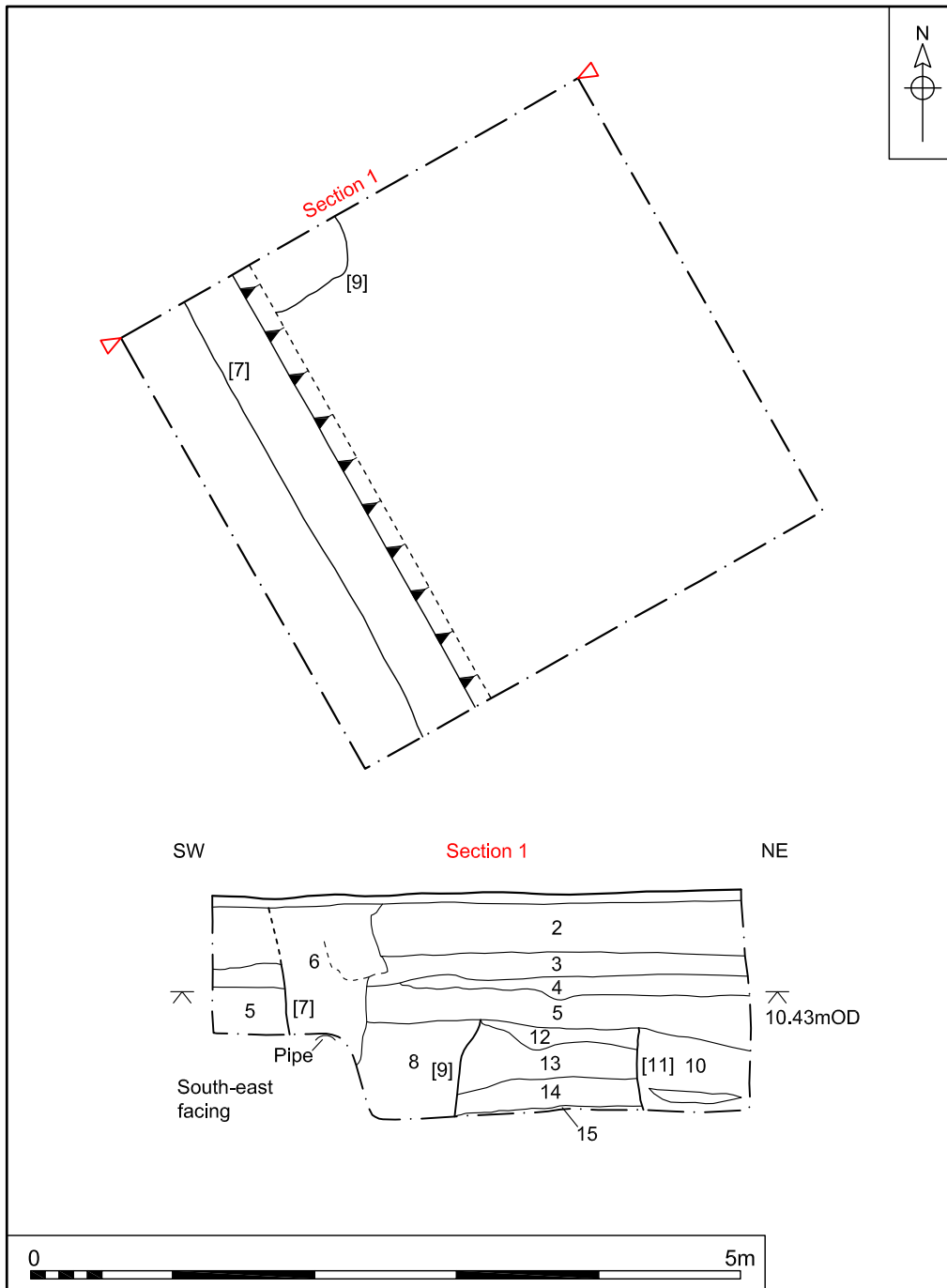


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and section. Scale 1:50

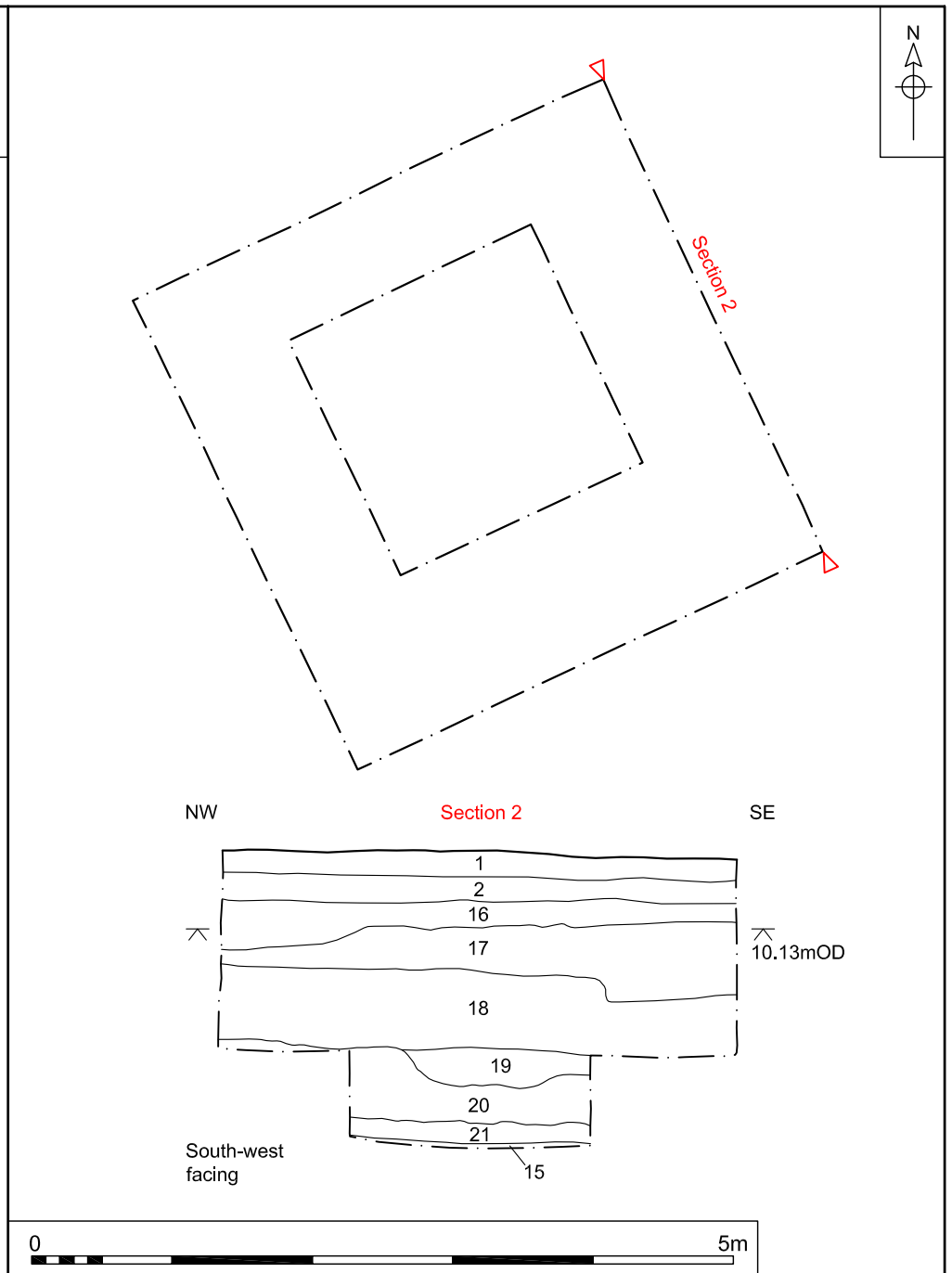


Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and section. Scale 1:50

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the south-east of the site (Figs 2 and 4; Plate 3).

Current ground level was 10.67m OD

Geological deposits were present at c.8.65m OD



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking east at deposit sequence, 2 x 2m scale

A central sondage c.3.25m² was excavated in this trench to examine the lower deposit sequence and expose geological deposits (15) at the base of the trench. The geological sediments were overlain by a pale brown silt sand (21) which was quite well-defined in profile as a slightly undulating layer up to 0.16m in depth. Occasional chalk flecks and small stones were present in this deposit as well as considerable root and worm disturbance. One characteristic of this deposit was that it was heavily mottled with very small sand lenses, perhaps suggesting some disturbance or redeposition of this material. This layer is interpreted as the survival of a possible agricultural soil at the base of the deposit sequence.

Overlying this soil was a deep layer (20) of dark brown silt sand that measured up to 0.52m in depth. Inclusions of occasional coal flecks, brick and tile fragments and lime mortar were present within this soil, which was noticeably darker in appearance than the underlying layer previously described. Considered to be a possible garden soil, pottery of late post-medieval date was recovered from this deposit. A similar soil layer (19) of dark brown silt sand with moderate small chalk flecks and a depth of 0.30m overlay (20). This was quite heavily rooted.

Overlying this chalk flecked layer was a dark brown silt sand soil (18) that appeared to be present across the full extent of the trench and measure up to 0.55m in depth. Occasional brick and tile fragments as well as mortar, chalk and

shell fragments were also present within this deposit. Overlying this were several tips, dumps and spreads of material ((1), (2), (16) and (17)) that were modern material used to construct the current car park.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in the south-west of the site (Figs 2 and 5; Plate 4).

Current ground level was c.10.26m - 10.43m OD.

Geological deposits were present at c 9.10m OD.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking west at deposit sequence, 2 x 2m scale

A central sondage 2.20m by 1.90m was excavated in this trench to confirm that the deposit seen at the base of the trench was a geological sediment (15). Overlying geological deposits was a pale brown silt sand layer (29) that appeared to be present in each elevation of the trench. This layer measured up to 0.18m in depth and contained few inclusions apart from occasional small stones and chalk flecks. Similar to deposits seen in the other evaluation trenches, it is interpreted as a possible agricultural soil. Overlying this deposit was a layer of dark brown silt sand (28) that measured up to 0.40m in depth. Few inclusions were identified in this deposit apart from occasional brick fragments, chalk and small to medium stones. It is interpreted as a possible agricultural/horticultural soil. Overlying this deposit was a layer (27) of dark brown silt sand that measured an average of 0.40m in depth. Pottery and clay tobacco pipe was recovered from this deposit which is thought to be of late post-medieval date. Above this in the deposit were modern remains ((1), (24) [25] and (26)) associated with construction of the current car park.

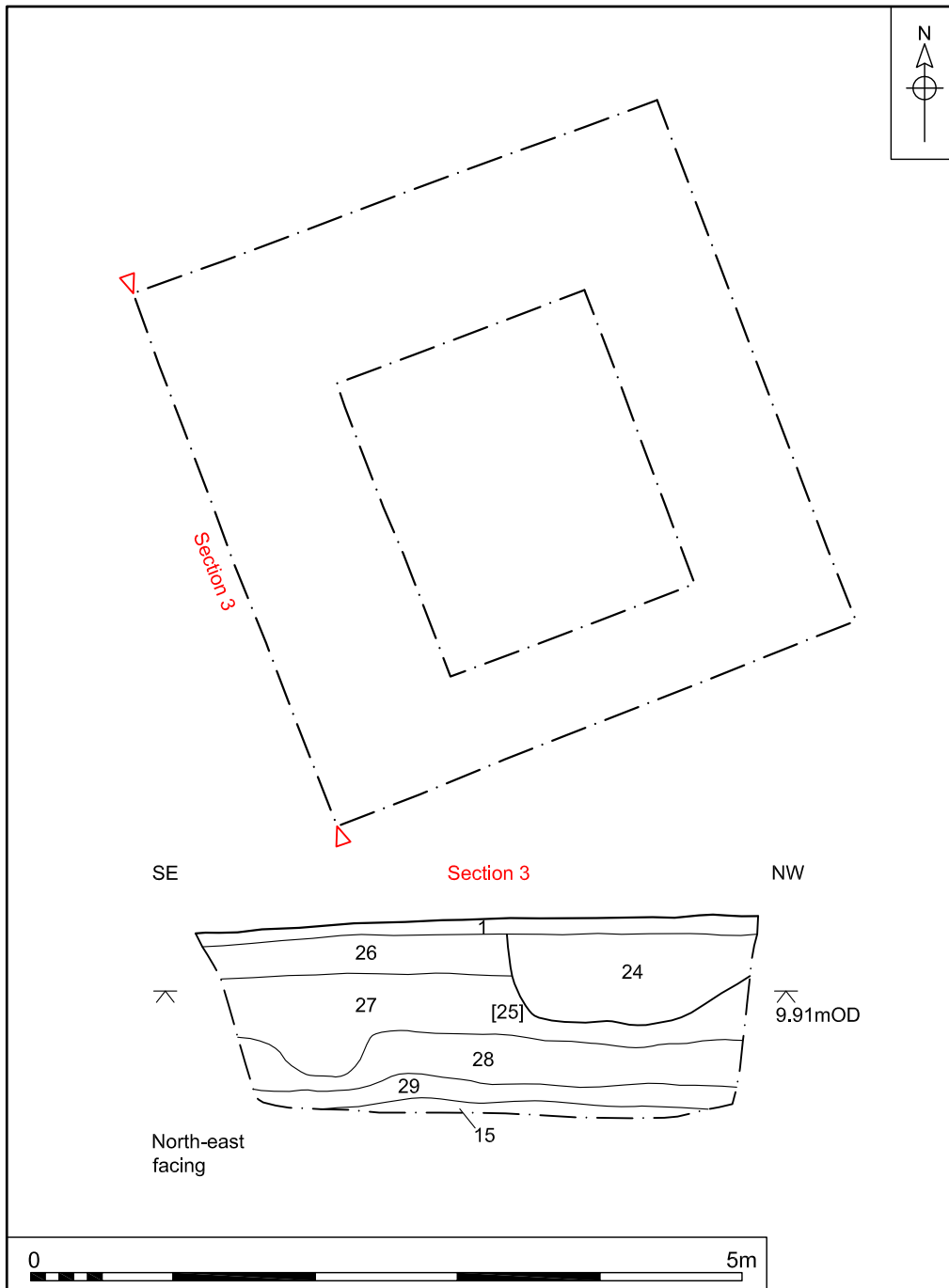


Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and section. Scale 1:50

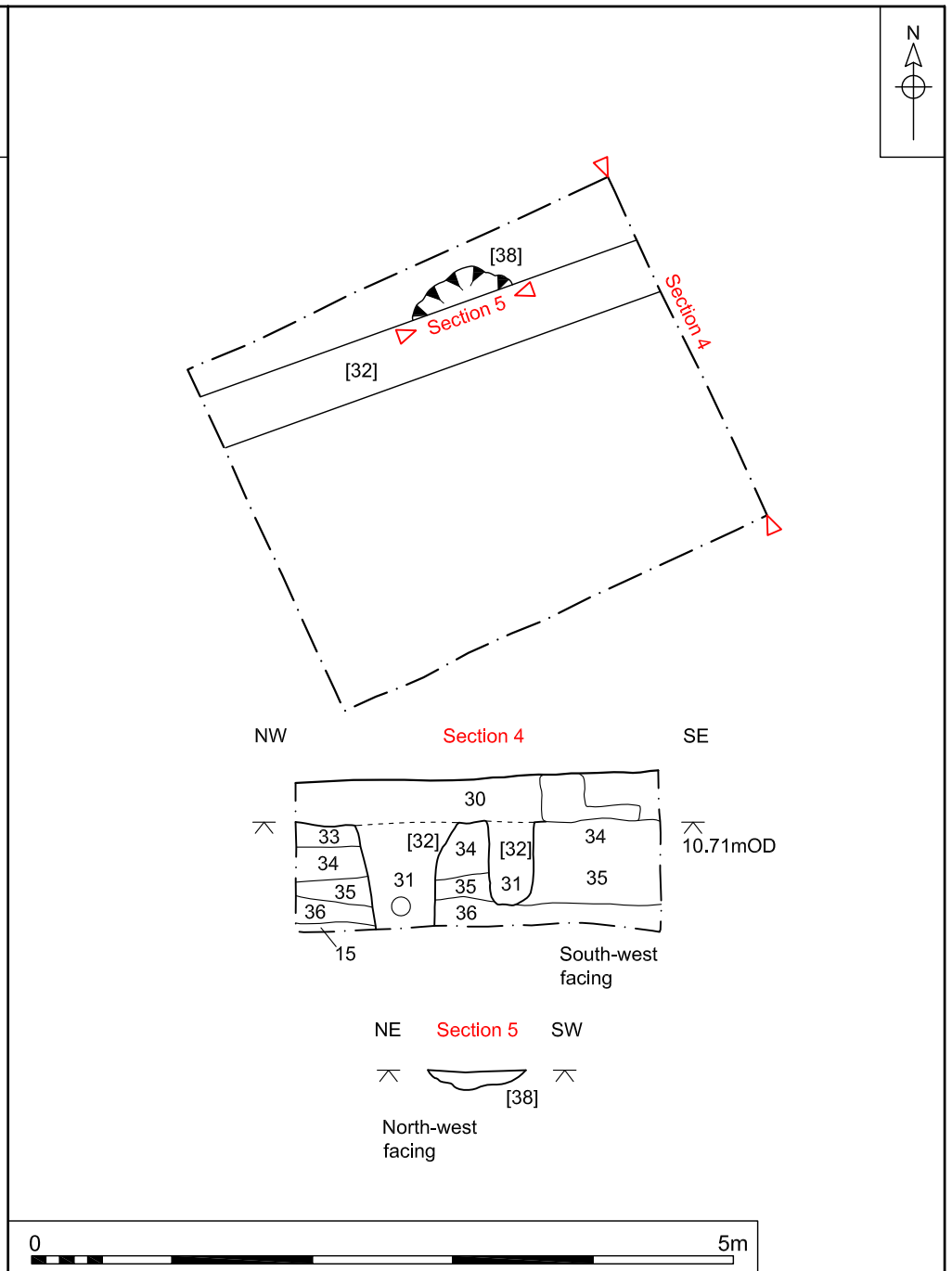


Figure 6. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:50

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the north-east of the site (Figs 2 and 6; Plate 5).

Current ground level was c.11.03m OD

Geological deposits were present at c.10.01m OD



Plate 5. Trench 4, looking east at deposit sequence, 2 x 2m scale

Geological sediments (15) in this trench were overlaid by pale brown silt sand (36) with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks and frequent root and worm disturbance. Measuring to 0.20m in depth, this deposit appeared to be present across the full extent of the evaluation trench and is interpreted as possible agricultural soil similar to that identified in the other evaluation trenches. This soil was overlaid by a layer of dark brown silt sand (35) that was deeper at its north end with a maximum depth of 0.46m. Inclusions of occasional chalk and building debris were present. This deposit is interpreted as of late post-medieval or modern date. Above this deposit was a dark brown silt sand (34) that appeared to slope down from south to north and had moderate inclusion of chalk with occasional building debris. This measured a maximum of 0.40m in depth and was overlain or cut by remains of modern date, service trenches [32] containing (31) and soils (33) and (30).

A single feature [38] was present in the northern half of the trench (Fig. 6 section 5). Truncated by a modern service trench to the south, this feature was irregular in plan with gradual sides. It measured 0.15m in depth with a length of 0.70 and width of 0.35m. Its fill (37) was a pale brown silt sand, possibly of redeposited geological sediments with occasional charcoal flecks. A small quantity of pottery of 15th- to 16th-century date was recovered from this feature. Its stratigraphic

relationship to the layers described above could not be ascertained, though it is thought likely that it cut layer (36).

6.0 FINDS

by Rebecca Sillwood

All finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating.

Each material has been considered separately and is included below organised by material and chronologically within that category. A list of finds ordered by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Pottery

A total of six sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 239g, came from five contexts. Descriptions are based on those devised by Jennings (1981).

Three fragments of glazed red earthenware (GRE) were recovered from two contexts, layer (27) and fill (37). One piece from layer (27) has a light pink fabric with a speckled orange glaze on the interior. Two fragments from the same vessel were found in fill (37) of truncated pit [38] and these are clearly from some kind of cooking vessel, such as a skillet, as the exterior is heavily sooted. These pieces are covered on the interior with a dark reddish-orange speckled glaze. No closer dating than 16th to 18th-century can be attempted for these pieces, being ubiquitous throughout this period.

Two very similar pieces of transfer-printed blue and white china came from layers (5) and (18), and are likely to be of willow pattern, dating to the 19th- or early 20th-century.

A single piece of Staffordshire type slipware (STAF) was recovered from layer (20), and consists of a body sherd, probably from a cup, mug or vessel of some kind. The piece has an off-white buff fabric with yellow glaze on the interior and yellow and brown glaze on the exterior. These wares usually date to the late 17th to 18th century.

The pottery from this site is a very small assemblage, and is all of post-medieval date, with a date range of 16th- to 19th-century.

6.2 Clay Pipe

A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered from layer (27), and has no diagnostic features to enable any closer dating than post-medieval.

6.3 Flint

A single flint flake was recovered from layer (36), and consists of a tertiary flake of mottled dark grey colour, weighing 4g.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological evaluation in the grounds of Sussex House appeared to demonstrate that a broadly similar set of archaeological remains were present across the site. These could be characterised as geological deposits overlaid by a possible agricultural soil over which were lateral deposits of soils which were sealed by modern activity. Very few artefacts were recovered from the field work, making it difficult to date the deposits, but it would appear that in Trench 2 for example, deposits perhaps no older than 18th century in date overlaid this possible agricultural soil, and this appeared to be the case for the remaining trenches where dark brown soils containing coal inclusions and small quantities of building debris were typical of the deposits which overlay this a particular soil.

The presence of what is interpreted as an agricultural soil and the depths of the later soils seen at the site requires some interpretation. The antiquarian Hudson (Hudson 1889) talks of the area of Gildencroft as an “Oblong piece of pasture ground belonging to the Great Hospital”. This would seem to correspond with what was seen in the evaluation, and it is possible that the agricultural soil seen at the site is a remnant of a possible pasture. The use of the land as pasture is a low impact activity leaving little evidence in the archaeological record. If indeed it were pasture this might go some way to explaining the paucity of artefacts recovered from it. Despite being contained within the medieval city wall the site would seem to be an area peripheral to the main centres of activity with the city and perhaps remained open for a considerable period of time.

The 1905 Ordnance Survey map identifies the location of the current site to be occupied by what is referred to as a nursery and this might offer some explanation for the depths of comparatively modern soils recorded at the site which might have been generated by horticultural activity. To this can be added material generated by the early 19th-century construction of Sussex Street to the immediate south of the site. Construction of buildings here seems to have included cutting into the pre-existing terrace, and it is possible that material so generated was redeposited on the site, raising its level further.

Despite the proximity to the medieval city wall no indication of any activity, either construction, demolition or occupation adjacent to it was provided by the evaluation with the exception of a small possible pit in Trench 4.

Recommendations for further mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Acknowledgements

The site work was undertaken by the author who would like to thank Phil White of Cripps Developments Ltd for his assistance during the course of the field work.

The project was managed for NPS Archaeology by Nigel Page. Sarah Howard of NHES provided a site code and the project was monitored for NHES by Ken Hamilton.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

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

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
1	Deposit			Tarmac	Modern	1, 2, 3
2	Deposit			Rubble make up for [1]	Modern	1, 2
3	Deposit			Tarmac	Modern	1, 2
4	Deposit			Cinders	Modern	1
5	Deposit			Layer	Modern	1
6	Deposit		7	Fill	Modern	1
7	Cut	Trench		Modern services trench	Modern	1
8	Deposit		9	Fill	Modern	1
9	Deposit	Pit		Modern pit	Modern	1
10	Deposit		11	Fill	?Modern	1
11	Cut	?Pit		Pit?	?Modern	1
12	Deposit			Clay sand layer	?Post-medieval	1
13	Deposit			Soil Layer	Post-medieval	1
14	Deposit			Relict soil?	?Medieval	1
15	Deposit			Geological gravel sand	-	1, 2, 3, 4
16	Deposit			Cinder layer below [2]	Modern	2
17	Deposit			Brick rubble and soil	Modern	2
18	Deposit			Dark brown soil layer below 17	?Post-medieval	2
19	Deposit			Chalk flecked soil below 18	Post-medieval	2
20	Deposit			Dark brown soil below 19	Post-medieval	2
21	Deposit			Relict soil?	?Medieval	2
22	Deposit		23	Fill	Modern	1
23	Cut	?Pit		Pit?	Modern	1
24	Deposit		25	Fill	Modern	3
25	Cut	Trench		Modern services trench	Modern	3
26	Deposit			Modern stone hoggin	Modern	3
27	Deposit			Layer	Post-medieval	3
28	Deposit			Soil layer	?Post-medieval	3
29	Deposit			Relict soil?	?Medieval	3
30	Deposit			Modern made ground	Modern	4
31	Deposit		31	Fill	Modern	4
32	Cut	Trench		Modern service trenches	Modern	4
33	Deposit			Modern soils	Modern	4
34	Deposit			Dark brown soil layer	Modern	4
35	Deposit			Layer below 34	Post-medieval/modern	4
36	Deposit			Layer below 35	?Medieval	4
37	Deposit		38	Fill	Medieval	4
38	Cut	?Pit		Truncated pit?	Medieval	4

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Medieval	?Pit	1
Modern	Pit	1
	Trench	3

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
5	Pottery	1	2g	Post-medieval	
18	Pottery	1	14g	Post-medieval	
20	Pottery	1	11g	Post-medieval	
27	Clay Pipe	1	3g	Post-medieval	Stem
27	Pottery	1	124g	Post-medieval	
36	Flint – Struck	1	4g	Prehistoric	
37	Pottery	2	88g	Post-medieval	

Appendix 2b: Oasis Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	1
Post-medieval	Clay Pipe	1
	Pottery	6