Report 2186

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at Market Avenue, Norwich, Norfolk

ENF125812

Prepared for
Norwich City Council

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June 2011

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Location:	Market Avenue/Cattle Market Street, Norwich
District:	Norwich
Grid Ref.:	TG 2331 0847
HER No.:	ENF125812
Client:	Norwich City Council
Dates of Fieldwork:	31 January 2011

Summary

An archaeological Watching Brief was conducted for Norwich County Council ahead of the planting of four young trees on a grassy area at the junction of Market Avenue and Cattle Market Street, Norwich.

No archaeological features or deposits were disturbed during these works and no artefacts or ecofacts were recovered.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This work was undertaken to fulfil a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Ref. CNF42277). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. BAU2186). This work was commissioned and funded by Norwich City Council.

This programme of work was designed to mitigate the impacts of the proposed works in line with the Archaeological Brief, 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 of Communities and Local Government, 2010).

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

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record archaeological remains that may be exposed during the excavation of tree planting pits within the development area.

The Brief required that the excavation of the tree planting pits be monitored by an experienced archaeologist.

Four pits were dug by hand and each measured approximately 0.75m x 0.75m wide and 0.55m deep.

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.

Sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

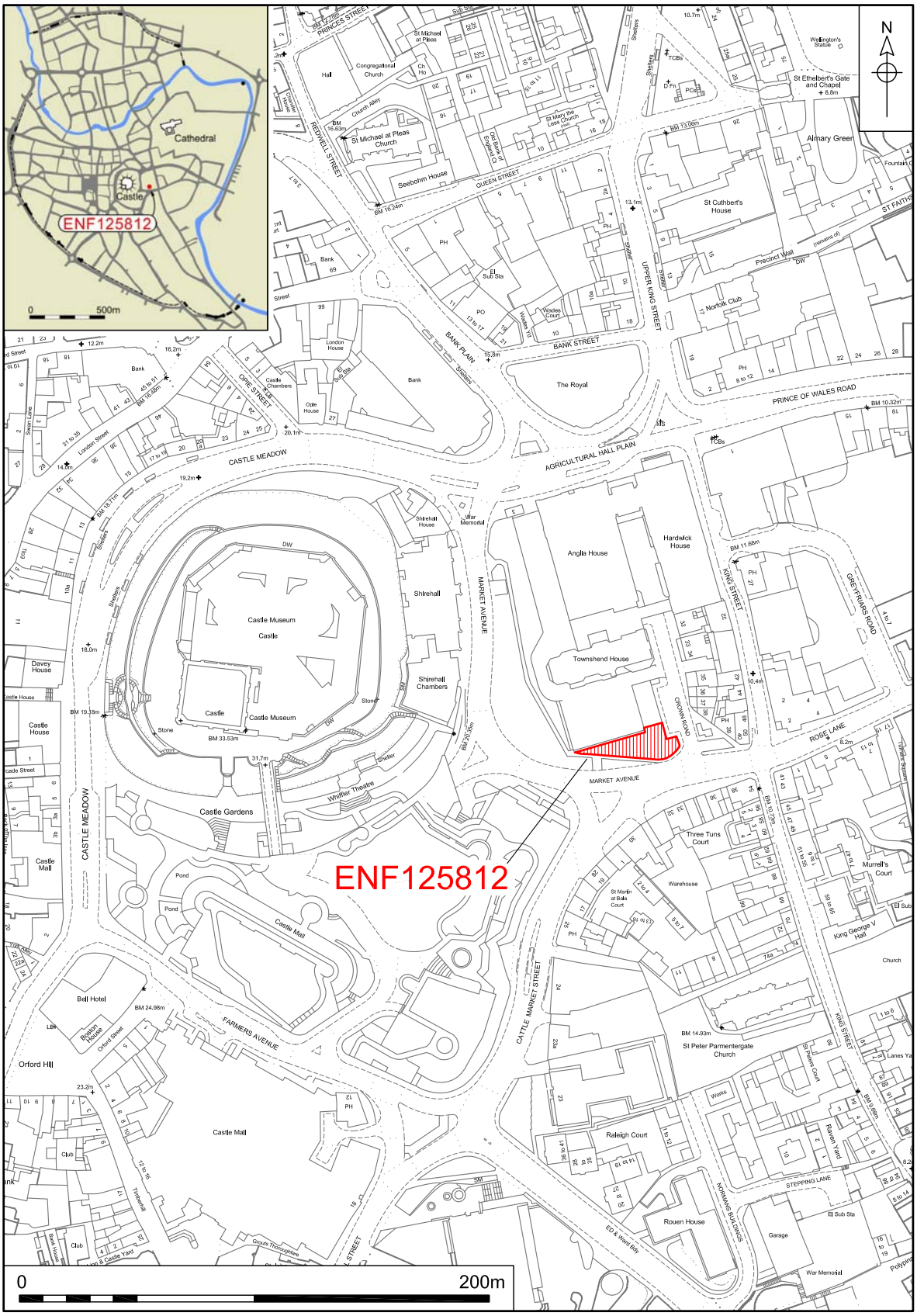

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

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

Plate 1. Junction of Market Avenue and Cattle Market Street

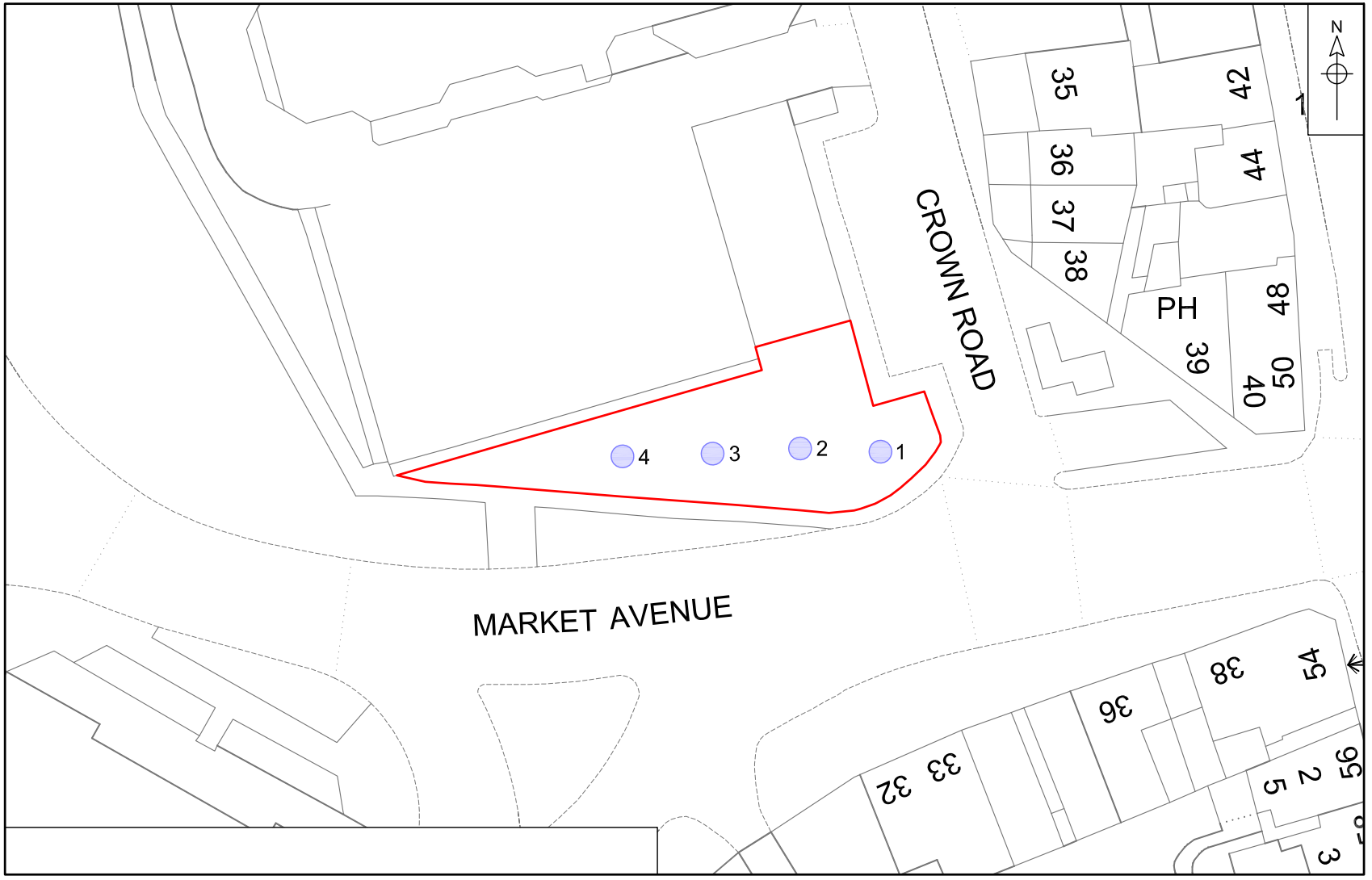

Figure 2. Location of Tree its 1-4. Scale 1:500

3.0 RESULTS

Tree Pit 1 (Plate 2)

Plate 2. Tree Pit 1

The only deposits that were disturbed during the excavation of Tree Pit 1 were topsoil, subsoil and a make-up layer.

The topsoil was a mid-greyish brown silty-sand of moderate compaction similar to that seen in Pits 2 and 3. The subsoil was a mid-brown silty sand of moderate compaction and the modern loose make-up layer consisted mainly of brick and mortar rubble and an occasional flint nodule.

Tree Pit 2 (Plate 3)

Deposits disturbed during the excavation of Pit 2 were topsoil, and two subsoil deposits.

The topsoil was a mid greyish brown silty sand of moderate compaction similar to that seen in Pits 1 and 3. The subsoil was a yellow-brown silty sand of moderate compaction. A second subsoil layer consisted of a dark greyish-brown silty-sand containing small lumps of chalk and red brick inclusions.

Plate 3. Tree Pit 2

Tree Pit 3 (Plate 3)

Deposits exposed during the excavation of Pit 3 were topsoil, subsoil and a make-up layer.

Plate 4. Tree Pit 3

The topsoil was a mid greyish brown silty sand of moderate compaction. The subsoil consisted of moderately compacted light greyish-brown silty sand containing some large pieces of brick and mortar rubble. The loose modern make-up layer consisted mainly of brick and mortar rubble containing an occasional nodule of flint.

Test Pit 4 (Plate 4)

Topsoil, subsoil and a make-up layer were exposed during the excavation of Pit 4. The topsoil was fairly compacted dark blackish-brown sandy silt. The subsoil layer was very similar to the topsoil and was reasonably compacted dark-greyish brown sand silt. The same loose, modern make-up layer consisting mainly of brick and mortar rubble and occasional flint nodules as seen in Pits 1 and3 was observed in Pit 4.

Plate 5. Tree Pit 4

4.0 FINDS

There were no finds recovered during these works.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological deposits or features were disturbed during the excavation of the tree pits. The modern make-up layer may be the result of landscaping when the castle and the surrounding area were redeveloped at some point in the recent past.

Given the location of the tree pits within the historic core of Norwich it is possible that archaeological remains may survive below their bases.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Norwich City Council who commissioned and funded the archaeological works. The author would also like to thank Fountains who were the main contractors on site, and who undertook the groundworks.

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