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nps archaeology

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation and
Archaeological Monitoring at 150–152 Magdalen St,
Norwich, Norfolk**

ENF 135762



Prepared for

Oliver Tookman



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| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Location: | 150–152 Magdalen St, Norwich, Norfolk |
| District: | Norwich City Council |
| Grid Ref.: | TG 2313 0964 |
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Summary

In January 2015 NPS Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation and archaeological monitoring of demolition works ahead of redevelopment at 150–152 Magdalen St, Norwich. The work was conducted on behalf of and funded by the client, Mr Oliver Tookman.

The plot is located on the inside of the medieval city wall, a scheduled monument. One evaluation trench measuring c. 4.0m x 4.0m was excavated at the rear of the plot from the Magdalen Street frontage. Two walls belonging to a probable post-medieval building were identified in the trench. Structural elements probably associated with two late post-medieval buildings were also recorded, along with dumped deposits deriving from both demolition events and domestic waste disposal.

Two large post-medieval cellars were revealed during archaeological monitoring at the site; at least one of the cellars may have remodelled an earlier structure.

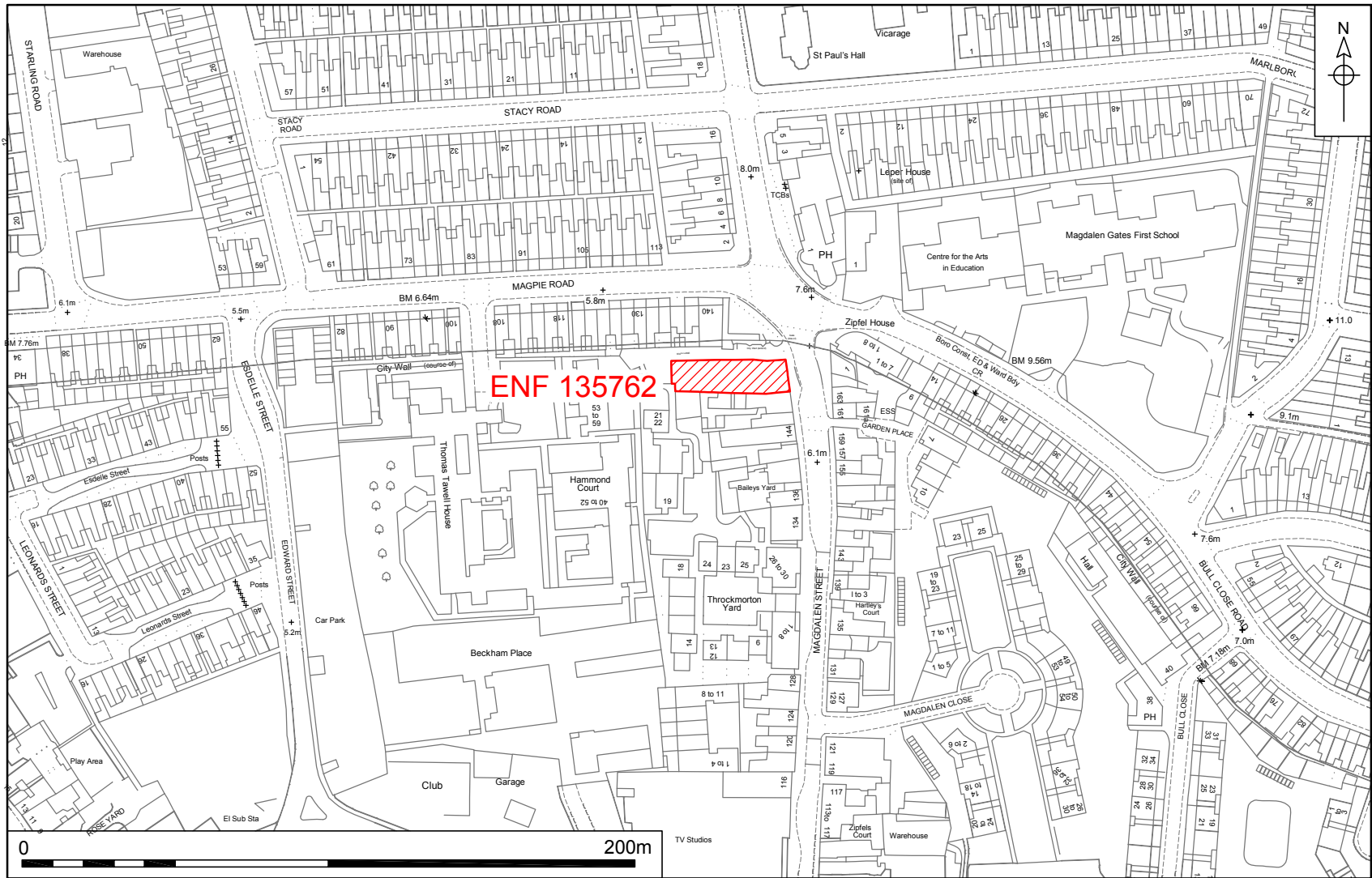
1.0 INTRODUCTION

A proposal to redevelop 150–152 Magdalen St, Norwich (TG 2313 0964) and construct two small shop units, three houses and five flats required a programme of archaeological monitoring on the demolition of the existing buildings and the removal of the foundations. An archaeological evaluation to assess the potential effects of the proposals on the archaeological resource was also required.

The site was formerly occupied by a relatively modern flat-roofed, two-storey building, most recently a furniture shop, fronting Magdalen St. A group of adjoining buildings ran back from the street along Wall Lane, perpendicular to Magdalen St and parallel to remains of the city wall (Figure 1).

The 0.05ha site lies immediately within the medieval city wall, close to the former site of Magdalen Gate (Plate 1). There is therefore high potential for archaeological remains from the medieval period onwards to be present on the site.

Given the potential of the site, Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) required that an archaeological evaluation be carried out to inform planning decisions. NHES also required archaeological monitoring of other works associated with the development.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2000

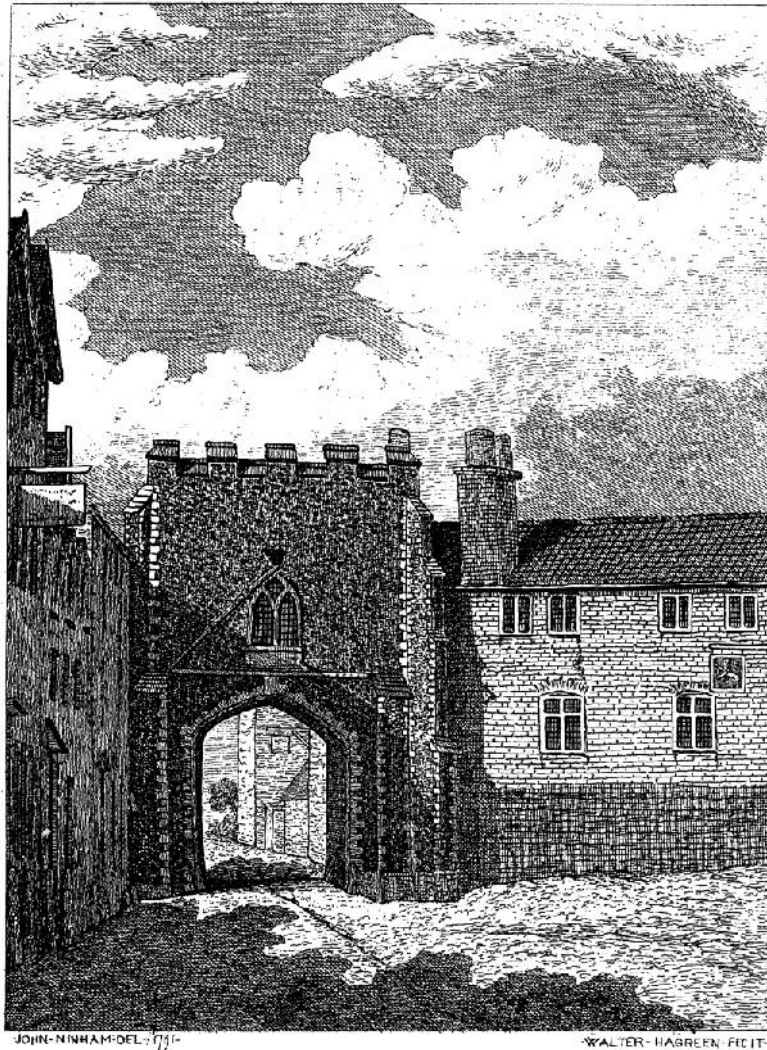


Plate 1. Magdalen Gate, 1791, by John Ninham

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Norwich City Council (planning ref. 08/01337/F). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (WSI ref 01-04-14-2-1335).

Mr Oliver Tookman commissioned and funded NPS Archaeology to carry out a programme of archaeological works to fulfil the requirements of the *Generic Brief for the Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control*, and the *Generic Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching*, issued by NHES.

The 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 *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 Service following relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology at the site is chalk formed c. 71–94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by warm chalk seas. There is also the potential for overlying superficial deposits comprising river terrace deposits of sand and gravel formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by rivers.¹

Hand-augering deposits below the archaeological horizons in the evaluation trench revealed superficial geological deposit **24**. Consisting of mid-brown clay silts with chalk inclusions, this deposit was found to be c. 0.60m deep near to the north edge of the trench and up to 2.00m deep close to the south end. Augering indicated the upper horizon of **24** lay at 5.35m OD. This material was interpreted as filling a geological hollow or undulation in the surface of the chalk.

The development area is relatively level and lies at an elevation of c. 7.00m OD.

The site is bounded by Magdalen St to the east, and to the north is separated from the east-west aligned medieval city wall by a narrow thoroughfare known as Wall Lane. The river Wensum is situated 250m to the south.

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

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search was made of all NHER records within a 100m radius of the development site. This produced a total of 22 records. The more relevant results of this search are summarised below along with details of previous archaeological work in the vicinity. Sites referred to in the following text with the prefix NHER are cited from Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and all data are copyright of Norfolk Historic Environment Service/Norfolk County Council.

3.1 NHER Records

NHER 384

Norwich's city walls were built around 1294–1343 and no houses were built outside the wall until 1779–89. The walls included a number of towers, such as the Boom Towers, Cow Tower and Black Tower. The west Boom Tower contains an 18th-century coke oven. The Black Tower was traditionally the residence of the Constable and was also used for plague victims in the 16th century.

The walls also incorporated several gates. The site at 150–152 Magdalen St is situated immediately to the west of the former Magdalen Gate (NHER 26134) on the north edge of the medieval city. During the English Civil War, three of the city's gates (St Augustine's, Conesford and Bishop's) were blocked-up with earth. Research into the defences shows that the Boom Towers, like the rest of the walls, gradually fell out of practical use, becoming monuments in the landscape, valued for their picturesque character and historical interest. The inside of the walled circuit was deliberately kept open for access in the Middle Ages.

NHER 26592

In 2001, an archaeological evaluation followed by a strip, map and sample excavation was carried out at 167–171 Magdalen St. The site lies immediately to the east of the former Magdalen Gate and the line of the city wall crosses the site.

Traces of a probable ditch predating the city wall were identified, possibly representing an earlier defensive line for the city. The city wall was found to be constructed upon the backfilled ditch and to maintain the same alignment as the ditch. In addition to the city wall, the foundations of what appeared to be a tower were recorded in the east of the site. The site was extensively truncated by 19th–20th-century activity. A demolished cellar and its associated backfilling occupied much of the excavated area.

NHER 26155

In 1957, City Engineers' operations in the back yard of 134 Magpie Road revealed part of the city wall.

NHER 420

Two pieces of post-medieval pottery and an 18th-century clay pipe bowl were recovered when a sewer trench was dug through what was thought to be part of the city's medieval defensive ditch in 1979.

NHER 628

It is recorded that a leper hospital, dedicated to St Leonard, was situated close to the site outside Magdalen Gate. It is believed to have been founded by 1335, and was not suppressed during the 16th century.

NHER 566

It is known from documentary evidence that the Church of St Margaret Fyebriggate in Combusto stood close to Magdalen Gate, and the discovery of a graveyard just to the south (NHER 148, NHER 780) confirmed its location. Although the foundation date of the church is unclear, it is known that it was demolished in 1547 when the parish was united with St Paul's.

NHER 148/780

The site of the churchyard of the medieval church of St Margaret in Combusto (NHER 566) (first reference AD 1254, redundant by 1468) is situated approximately 75m south of the site at 150–152 Magdalen St.

Excavations in 1987 discovered 436 human burials, a large proportion of which were male. This is attributed to the fact that St Margaret's was known as *St Margaret ubi sepeliunter suspensi* ('where those who have been hanged were buried'), and assumes fewer women than men were hanged. A number of skeletons were found in groups buried face down, which is highly unusual in a Christian cemetery. Metal finds and mineralised fragments of cloth from the skeletons suggest a date range from the 11th/12th century to the mid–late 15th century. A further 600 disarticulated and semi-articulated skeletons were also recovered. Several pieces of dressed limestone from the original church were located in a cellar wall at the street frontage. No evidence of Saxon occupation was noted, but a 9th-century copper alloy disc brooch with a backward-facing animal was found during the levelling of the site.

In the 19th and 20th centuries the site was covered by the Norwich Institute for the Blind. No trace of the old church was found, and it was probably destroyed by the massive cellars of the Institute, itself demolished in 1973 for a shop development.

Excavations in 1973 and a watching brief in the 1980s noted human remains and evidence of 13th–14th-century buildings, and a possible fire destruction layer, followed by re-planned 16th–17th-century structures.

NHER 265

Sherds from a 16th-century jug were recovered during restoration and renovation work at 137 Magdalen St in 1974.

NHER 44345

The two properties 146–148 Magdalen St are immediately adjacent to the site to the south. These Grade 2 listed three-storey buildings have 17th-century ranges to the rear with refaced late 19th-century shop fronts.

NHER 48293, 48186, 26356, 51416 and 26355 are further examples of post-medieval houses and shops in the vicinity of the site.

NHER 53677, 54309 and 49022 are the locations of World War Two air-raid shelters in the area.

3.2 Cartographic Evidence

Perhaps the earliest reliable map incorporating the site at Magdalen St is Cleer's 1696 Map of the City of Norwich (Frostick 2002, 21). This map, although rather schematic, at least indicates a building on the site at that time, though no informative detail is discernible. A track or path is also visible leading directly southwest from the site across open ground, appearing to end at Botolph Street close to the medieval church of St Augustine. The inside of the walled circuit formed by the city wall is shown to be open as a lane.

Hochstetter's map of 1789 (Frostick 2002, 60) shows a long and relatively narrow building running back from Magdalen St and parallel to the city wall. A small thoroughfare is again visible between the building and the city wall, and there is what appears to be a yard immediately adjacent to the south aspect of the structure.

The 1905 First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows a very similar scene to that depicted in 1789, raising the possibility that the same building is illustrated.² There is still a large area of relatively open ground to the west at this time.

² <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation and 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 an experienced archaeologist monitor all ground disturbance works related to the demolition of the buildings, particularly the removal of any concrete slabs or foundations. The monitoring was to be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*³ and guidelines set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

The Brief stated that the evaluation should consist of a single trench measuring 4.0m x 4.0m positioned as close to the road frontage as possible, although, its final location may be determined by surface or below ground obstructions and all Health and Safety considerations. The trench was set out by NPS Archaeology and CAT-scanned prior to excavation.

Due to a large proportion of the street frontage being occupied by a large deep cellar there was insufficient space to place the trench between the cellar and gable of the adjoining property. It was therefore decided to place the trench approximately 20.0m west of the street frontage in an area where underground services could also be avoided.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision by a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

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

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

The temporary benchmark used during the course of the work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey Spot Height with a value of 7.60m OD, located at the junction of Magpie Road and Magdalen Street, adjacent to the Artichoke public house.

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

³ <http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/CIfAS&GWatchingbrief.pdf>

5.0 RESULT

Figures 2, 3

This section summarises the archaeologically significant features and deposits recorded in the evaluation trench. The features are presented in four periods (Periods 1-4) in chronological order. What is interpreted as a geological deposit **24** was recorded at a height of c. 5.35m OD. Its presence was established by hand auger at the base of the evaluation trench (auger holes 1-3). The deposit consisted of a mid-brown clay silt with occasional small pieces of chalk.

5.1 Period 1: Post-Medieval Structure

Figures 3, 4, Plates 2, 3, 4

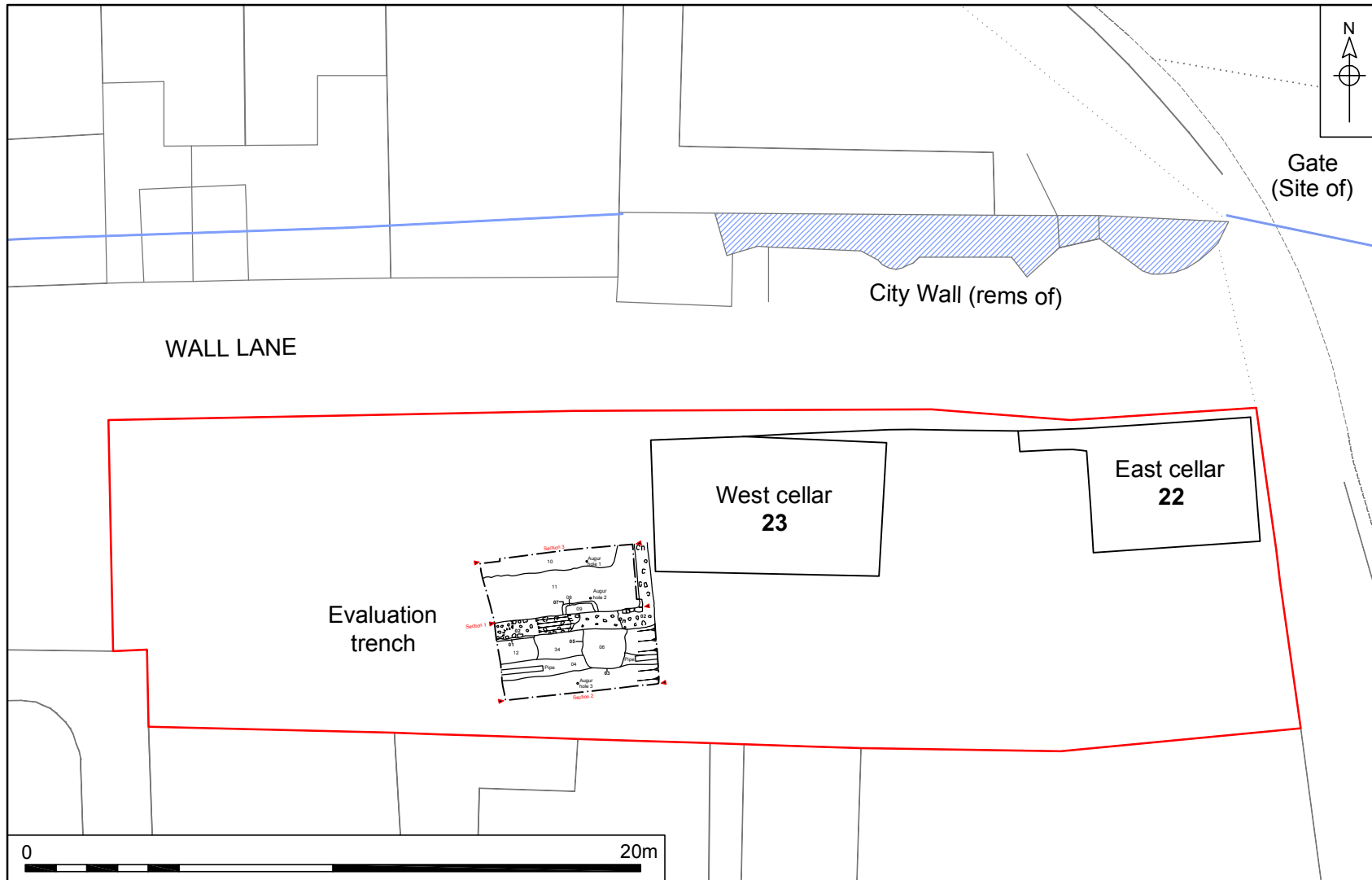
The earliest deposit (other than geological deposits) recorded by the evaluation was a layer or dump of material **12** recorded in plan. This consisted of mid-grey brown silt with lenses of dark grey silt containing pieces of lime mortar, flecks of red ceramic building material (cbm) and charcoal.

A wall and footing **02** aligned east–west cut deposit **12** and extended beyond the excavation limits to the west. The wall turned to the north at the east edge of the trench and was recorded in construction cut **01**. The two lengths of the wall appeared to form the corner of a building, the interior of which would have occupied the north half of the evaluation trench.



Plate 2. North-facing elevation of wall **02**

The wall measured between 0.55m and 0.60m wide and survived to a maximum height of at least 0.95m. The section aligned north–south was at least 2.70m long and the east–west element at least 5.20m long.



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Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:200

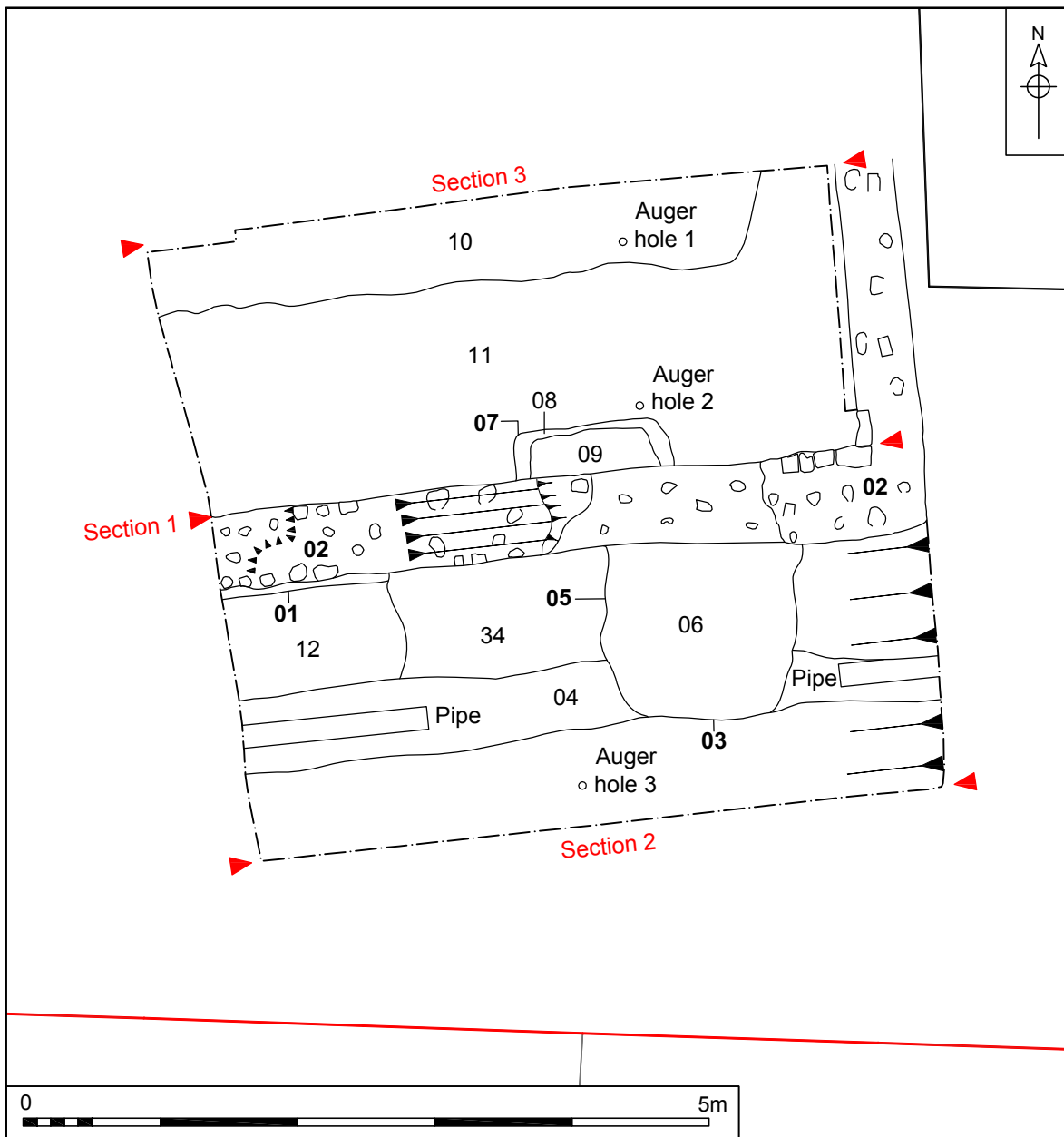
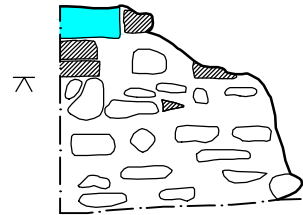




Figure 3. Plan of Evaluation Trench. Scale 1:50

Section 1



North facing

Key  Limestone  Brick

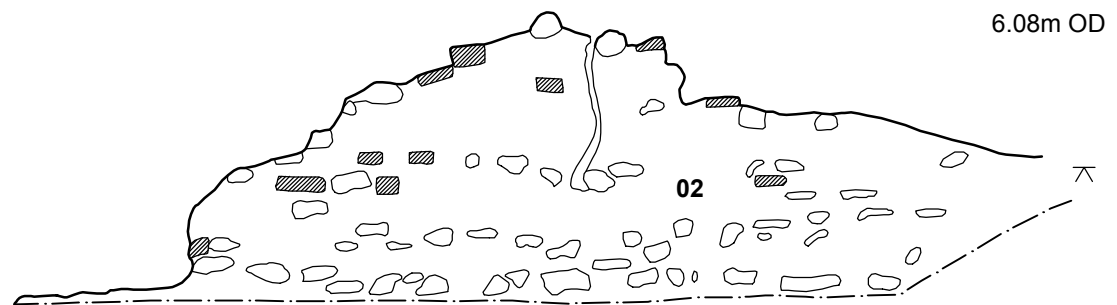


Figure 4. North facing elevation of wall **02**. Scale 1:25



Plate 3. Evaluation Trench looking southeast



Plate 4. South-facing section of Evaluation Trench

The wall and its foundation were constructed chiefly from undressed flint cobbles laid in rough courses bonded with a cream lime mortar. A relatively small number of whole and broken red bricks were also, randomly it appeared, incorporated into the build. A dressed stone block had been used in building the wall, positioned close to the southeast corner of the structure. This stone, of pale cream colour with a fine grained texture, was identified in the field as probably Caen stone.

The upper part of the north-facing wall elevation showed traces of a thin (5mm) lime and sand render coat, the lower level of which probably indicated the contemporary floor height. The lowest level of the rendering also coincided with a thickening of the lower part of the wall and the use of generally larger flints, probably signifying the transition from wall to foundation.

The bricks used in the construction of the wall and foundation are medieval in date, but given their sporadic use are likely to have been reused. The Caen-stone block is likely to be reused, perhaps *spolia* from a higher status medieval building.

A likely source for the stone is the nearby St Margaret in combusto, a medieval church recorded as redundant by 1468 and demolished in 1547 (see Section 3.0). During excavation of the graveyard in 1987 (HER 148/780) several pieces of dressed limestone from the original church were located in a cellar wall on the Magdalen St frontage. In view of this evidence, a mid-16th-century date would seem credible for the building remains located at 150–152 Magdalen St.

Following construction of the foundation and walls, a layer **11** (illustrated in plan) was laid down inside the building possibly as preparatory levelling for a floor or work surface. This material consisted of pale brown clay silt containing lenses of crushed chalk, charcoal flecks and flint pebbles. Two pottery sherds of 16th-century date were recovered from the deposit. Two pieces of animal bone and a fragment of medieval brick were also retrieved from deposit **11**. A small quantity of late post-medieval cbm and glass are thought to be intrusive artefacts introduced to the trench during the mechanical excavation. Hand augering indicated deposit **11** was 0.22m deep and directly overlay geological deposit **24**.

After the emplacement of **11**, a sub-rectangular, concave chalk pad **07** was bonded to the north-facing elevation of wall **02**. This feature measured 1.16m long x 0.36m wide. The saucer-shaped chalk element of the pad **08** was filled with pale brown sandy mortar **09**. The composite feature may have served as a base for steps from the inside of the building to a doorway to the southern exterior.

5.2 Period 2: Post-Medieval Dump Deposits

Figures 5, 6

The post-medieval building represented by wall **02** was evidently demolished at some point, and subsequently it appears that a sequence of dumps occurred internally and externally to the south of the structure. Because of the presence of wall **02** there was no stratigraphic link between deposits to its north and those to its south. The nature of the deposits in the building's interior in the north half of the trench varied. The earliest deposit in this sequence, **19**, consisted essentially of substantial soil dumps, whereas the dumped deposits above **19** (**18**, **21** and **16**) were of demolition rubble, degraded ash and fire waste, and coarse orange sand respectively.

In the south part of the trench, the dumped deposits outside the post-medieval building **02** also varied in composition. A mid-grey silt soil deposit **34** overlay **12** and was the earliest deposit recorded in the dump sequence here; it was present at the base of the trench and overlain by a series of layers of demolition waste, fire waste and other soils **27**, **28**, **29**, **30**, **31**, **43** and **44**. This latter group of dumped deposits may represent deliberate efforts to raise the ground level in the area, or perhaps simply provided a convenient location for waste disposal.

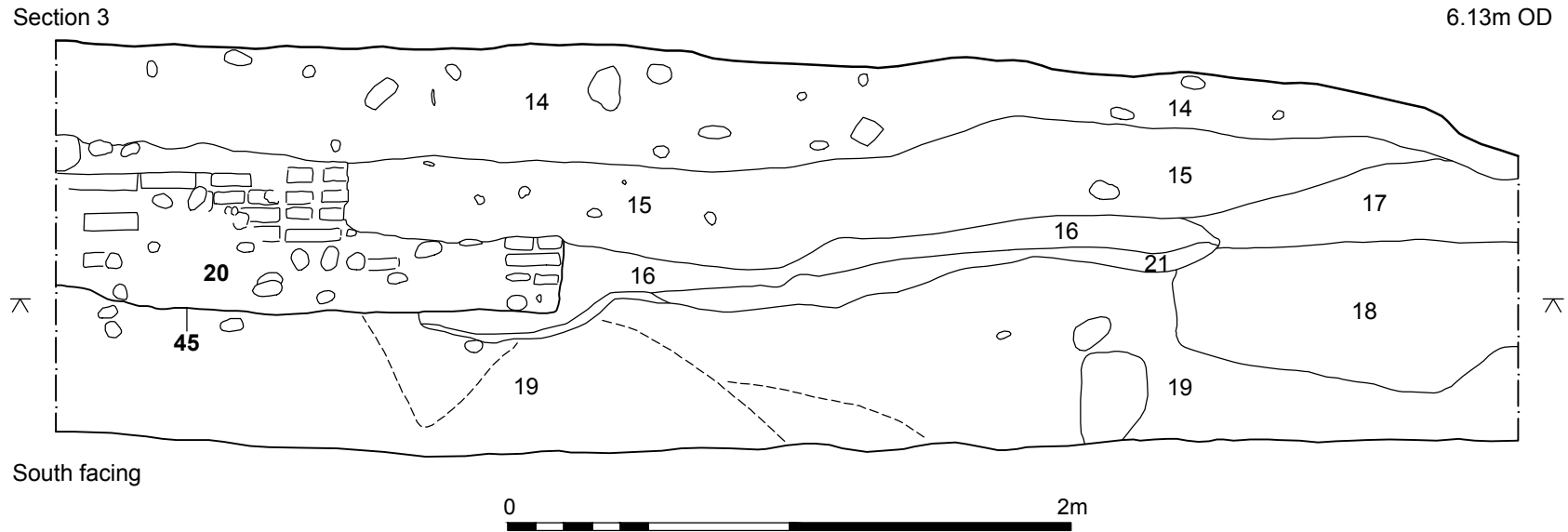


Figure 5. South facing section of Evaluation Trench. Scale 1:25

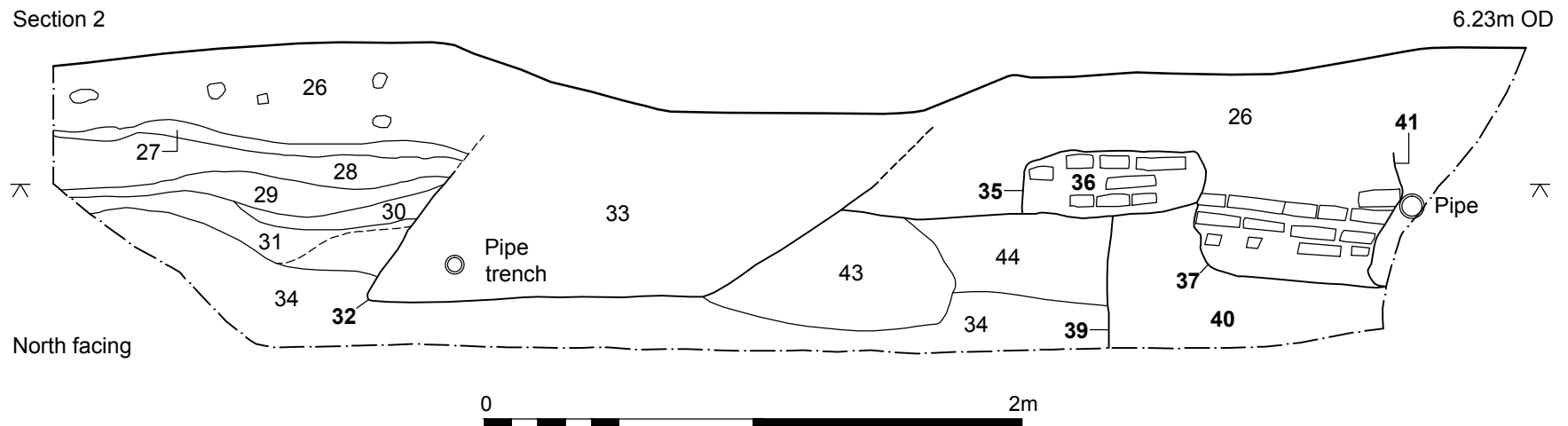


Figure 6. North facing section of Evaluation Trench. Scale 1:25

5.3 Period 3: Late Post-Medieval Structural Elements

Figures 5, 6

The remains of two demolished late post-medieval structures were recorded in the north- and south-facing sections of the evaluation trench. Probably the earlier of the two constructions was situated near to the southwest corner of the trench. The feature was aligned east–west and consisted of what was interpreted as a foundation **40** in a construction trench **39**, supporting a brick-built wall **36** in cut **35**.

Approximately 1.30m of the wall foundation **40** was visible, in which it was composed of randomly arranged flint cobbles and pieces of red brick bonded by a pinkish cream lime mortar. The foundation trench **39** cut post-medieval deposit **44**.

The wall **36** was constructed of pale orange-pink brick bonded by a hard, slightly bluish, off-white mortar, and extended beyond the west limit of excavation. The part of the wall observed appeared to form the base of a recess, probably a doorway. A tentative 18th–19th-century date has been assigned to the structure.

A construction **20**, of undressed flint cobbles and red brick bonded by coarse, off-white mortar with chalk inclusions, was recorded in a cut **45** in the side of the evaluation trench in its northwest corner. The brick, a dark orange-red, very sandy and hard-fired fabric, is probably Victorian in date. The construction, probably a wall, was visible for 1.80m, and may have extended beyond the excavation limits to the west. Stratigraphically, the structure cut post-medieval dumped deposit **16**.

Two large deposits of degraded mortar containing flints and cbm **15** and **17** were thought likely to be debris derived from demolition of the building represented by structural elements **20** and **45**.

5.4 Period 4: Modern Features

5.4.1 Drains

Three modern, or possibly 19th-century trenches containing ceramic pipes **03**, **32** and **41** were recorded in the south half of the trench. Drain **03** spanned the length of the trench from east–west, drain **32** was oriented northeast–southwest towards the east end of the trench, and north–south aligned drain **41** had been cut through wall **35** close to the west edge of the trench.

5.4.2 Dumped deposits

Material sealing the area of the evaluation trench was very loose and mixed, probably due to being heavily disturbed during the recent demolition of the furniture shop. The deposits **14** and **26** essentially consisted of demolition waste in a matrix of brown and grey sandy silts.

5.4.3 Pit/disturbance

A modern pit or possibly disturbance **05** truncated the southeast part of the evaluation trench down to its base. The feature measured c. 1.40m x 2.00m and was filled with mid-grey brown clay silt containing mortar, cbm and pieces of ceramic drain pipe. The position of the cut feature coincided approximately to where post-medieval wall **02** had at some point in time been destroyed. This coincidence raises the possibility that the wall had survived until very recently, perhaps up to the time of the demolition of the most recent buildings on the site.

5.5 Monitoring of Demolition Works

Plates 5, 6, 7, 8

Demolition of existing buildings revealed the presence of two large cellars on the site. The smallest of these **22** occupied the northeast corner of the site fronting onto both Magdalen St and Wall Lane. The rectangular-shaped structure measured 5.50m east–west x 4.00m north–south x c. 3.80m deep. Constructed in red brick, the cellar was accessed via steps in the northwest corner leading up to the west. This cellar had at some point been divided by an approximately central east–west wall; cavities in the brickwork indicated the positions of floor joists, showing that the cellar had once been over two levels.



Plate 5. Cellar **22** looking north



Plate 6. Cellar **22** looking southeast

The north wall of the cellar, facing Magdalen St, had white glazed tiles extending down from the pavement surface at a slight angle to approximately where the floor of the upper storey would have been. This presumably identifies the position of a hatch to receive goods into the cellar from the street, with the tiles helping smooth entry.

The largest cellar **23** was located adjacent to the north edge of the site 6.50m west of cellar **22**. This rectangular structure measured 7.50m east–west x 4.50m north–south and, to judge from cavities in the brickwork indicating floor joist positions, would have been approximately 1.60m deep. The cellar walls were constructed of red bricks with a rendered face and it was floored with green and yellow quarry tiles arranged in a chequerboard pattern.



Plate 7. Cellar **23** looking east

An area of c. 5.00m x 1.00m of the upper brickwork of the north cellar wall had fallen away during the demolition works, revealing an earlier wall **25** against which it had been built. The earlier wall was built of undressed flint cobbles interspersed with red brick bonded by an off-white lime mortar. The feature was more neatly constructed than the post-medieval wall **02** and may represent the north wall of an earlier cellar.



Plate 8. South-facing elevation of wall 25

6.0 THE ARTEFACTUAL MATERIAL

By Rebecca Sillwood

All finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Each category was considered separately and is included below organised by material. A full list of all finds by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Pottery

Two pieces of pottery (15g) were recovered from the site, both from layer **11**.

The first piece is a rim sherd from a late medieval/transitional ware vessel (11g) in light grey fabric with orange margins, and glazed externally and patchy internally with speckled copper green glaze. This may very likely be part of a rim from a pipkin, as the piece shows similarities with those illustrated in Jennings (1981, 65, fig. 25, no. 433). This transitional ware dates from the mid-15th through to the later 16th century.

The second piece is a body sherd (4g) of glazed red earthenware, in hard orange fabric with orange glaze internally and heavily sooted externally. Nothing can be said about the type of vessel this may be from as it is too small and has no diagnostic features. This ware was present in Norwich from the 16th century through to the 18th century.

Both pieces of pottery were common types of tableware in Norwich, and span the period from the 15th to the 18th century. Their date ranges coincide in the 16th century, and context dependent this could intimate a date for deposit **11**.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

Seven items of cbm (7,078g) were recovered from four contexts, including two complete bricks, four fragments and one roof tile fragment. Two brick fragments are medieval, whilst the rest of the assemblage is of post-medieval date.

The two medieval brick pieces are from wall **02** and layer **11**, and consist of one comparatively large piece (1,232g), with mortar covering at least two surfaces, and a smaller more abraded fragment (83g). Both pieces are pale beige in colour, with poorly mixed estuarine sands in the fabric. The larger piece has a grey reduced core. Both are vegetable tempered. The mortar on the larger piece is white with some larger chalk and flint inclusions. No dimensions are measureable on either piece, and the smaller fragment has no definite surfaces.

Two complete post-medieval bricks were also recovered from structures **20** and **36**. The brick from **20** measures 235 x 119 x 53mm. The brick from **36** measures 220 x 112 x 60mm. The earlier of the two bricks (from **36**) is smaller and thicker. It is pale orange-pink in colour, and is more roughly made than the other example. Off-white mortar covers 75% of the brick surfaces. One of the short ends is covered in thin grey render. The larger, thinner brick is dark orange-red, very sandy and hard-fired, and is probably a good Victorian red brick. Some mortar is also present on this piece, which is off-white and coarse with chalk inclusions. Two smaller pieces of red brick were also recovered from layer **11**.

A single small piece of plain roof tile (40g) was collected from layer **11**.

6.3 Stone

A splinter of Caen stone was recovered from wall **02**. The piece has two finished surfaces, where tooling is visible, but much of the piece is rough and is clearly broken from a larger block. The fragment is probably medieval.

6.4 Glass

The base and a small amount of the body of a post-medieval bottle was recovered from layer **11**. The bottle is pale aqua-green and has the embossed letters '[B]ARNSLEY REDF' around the base, probably for the Redfearns glass factory in Barnsley. The base is also embossed with letters, probably a 'B' and two further letters although they are rather worn and cannot be readily deciphered. The piece probably dates to the later 19th century, possibly into the 20th century.

6.5 Animal Bone

Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from layer **11**. The pieces are likely to be cattle limb bone fragments.

6.6 Finds Conclusions

The finds from 150–152 Magdalen St consist of material from the medieval and post-medieval periods. The only probable medieval context on the site is wall **02**, in which the brick fragment and worked Caen stone were both found.

The other contexts contain mixed later medieval and post-medieval material, with the earliest pottery and brick fragments found in associated with later material, and therefore they are probably residual items.

The cbm shows little other than the presence of buildings in the area from the medieval period through to the 18th–19th centuries.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation recorded geological deposits **24** at a depth of c. 5.35m OD, corresponding to broadly c. 1.50m below the current post-demolition ground level in the area of the evaluation trench. An early archaeological deposit at the site, represented by layer **11**, lay at 5.35m OD–5.57m OD. The values presented here are based on the results of hand augering.

The key archaeological findings of the site relate to masonry structures revealed in the evaluation trench, in particular an east-west aligned wall **02**. Dating this wall has proved problematic, with limited artefact evidence to support a date, combined with its partial survival and non-diagnostic construction. At earliest it is considered to be pre-industrial (Ken Hamilton *pers comm*). This building incorporated reused stone, with one possible source for this suggested to be the church of St Margaret (NHER 566) located approximately 75m to the south of the site, documented as disused from 1468 onwards. A further source for building materials would have been the adjacent city wall. The building, of which **02** probably forms a southern element, had a return at its east end, perhaps having previously defined the western limit for construction of cellar **23**.

It is possible that more of wall **02** survives, perhaps in similarly reduced form, to the west of the evaluation trench. The building represented by **02** appears to be a relatively substantial structure, with the capability to have supported a two-storey structure. No indication of a possible function for this building was suggested by the archaeological record.

Based on what is understood of the deposit sequence at the site, the construction of two large cellars **22** and **23** (of 19th century date?) will have removed any archaeological remains to the depth of geological deposits at their locations.

Cartographic evidence indicates that the evaluated land plot at 150–152 Magdalen Street has been occupied from at least 1696. Given the location of the plot as the first immediately inside a gate of the medieval city wall, it would seem plausible the site was occupied earlier than this.

Maps of the area also indicate Wall Lane (or its predecessor) has been maintained as a route way since 1696. It is claimed that an internal circuit was kept clear for access in the Middle Ages (see Section 3.0), and it seems therefore plausible that the open space may have been maintained for several hundred years.

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

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Ken Hamilton monitored the project on behalf of NHES. Anj Beckham of NHES supplied the HER data.

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

This report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Andrew Crowson.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

| Context | Category | Cut Type | Fill Of | Description | Period |
|---------|----------|---------------------|---------|--|--------------------|
| 1 | Cut | Construction | | Construction cut for wall [02] | Post-medieval |
| 2 | Masonry | Wall | 1 | Flint and mortar wall with brick | Post-medieval |
| 3 | Cut | Service trench | | Service trench | Modern |
| 4 | Deposit | | 3 | Fill of service trench | Modern |
| 5 | Cut | Modern disturbance? | | Modern disturbance? | Modern |
| 6 | Deposit | | 5 | Fill of modern disturbance | Modern |
| 7 | Cut | Construction | | Base for step? | Post-medieval |
| 8 | Deposit | | 7 | Chalk pad | Post-medieval |
| 9 | Deposit | | 7 | Mortar associated with [07] | Post-medieval |
| 10 | Deposit | | | Mortar rich dump | Post-medieval |
| 11 | Deposit | | | Clay silt layer | Post-medieval |
| 12 | Deposit | | | Mixed dump | Post-medieval |
| 13 | | | | VOID | |
| 14 | Deposit | | | Demolition waste make-up | Modern |
| 15 | Deposit | | | Layer of demolition waste | Late Post-medieval |
| 16 | Deposit | | | Sand levelling layer | Post-medieval |
| 17 | Deposit | | | Mortar rich demolition waste | Late Post-medieval |
| 18 | Deposit | | | Demolition waste make-up layer | Post-medieval |
| 19 | Deposit | | | Clay silt layer | Post-medieval |
| 20 | Masonry | | 45 | Red brick and flint structural element | Late Post-medieval |
| 21 | Deposit | | | Dump of waste material | Post-medieval |
| 22 | Masonry | | | Cellar | Post-medieval |
| 23 | Masonry | | | Cellar | Post-medieval |
| 24 | Deposit | | | Natural deposit of brown clay silt | |
| 25 | Masonry | | | Wall adjacent to western cellar | Unknown |
| 26 | Deposit | | | Surface soil and demolition rubble | Modern |

| Context | Category | Cut Type | Fill Of | Description | Period |
|---------|----------|----------------|---------|--|--------------------|
| 27 | Deposit | | | Dump of demolition rubble | Post-medieval |
| 28 | Deposit | | | Dump of demolition rubble and soil | Post-medieval |
| 29 | Deposit | | | Dump of cinders | Post-medieval |
| 30 | Deposit | | | Silty make-up layer | Post-medieval |
| 31 | Deposit | | | Dump of demolition rubble and soil | Post-medieval |
| 32 | Cut | Service trench | | Service trench | Modern |
| 33 | Deposit | | 32 | Backfill of service trench | Modern |
| 34 | Deposit | | | Clay silt make-up layer | Post-medieval |
| 35 | Cut | Construction | | Construction cut for red brick structure | Late Post-medieval |
| 36 | Masonry | | 35 | Red brick structure | Late Post-medieval |
| 37 | | | | VOID | |
| 38 | | | | VOID | |
| 39 | Cut | Construction | | Construction cut for structural element | Late Post-medieval |
| 40 | Masonry | | 39 | Flint and mortar structural element with brick | Late Post-medieval |
| 41 | Cut | Service trench | | Service trench | Modern |
| 42 | Deposit | | 41 | Backfill of service trench | Modern |
| 43 | Cut | Service trench | | Service trench | Post-medieval |
| 44 | Deposit | | 43 | Backfill of service trench | Post-medieval |
| 45 | Cut | Construction | | Construction cut for red brick structure | Late Post-medieval |

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

| Period | Category | Total |
|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| Post-Medieval | Wall | 1 |
| | Chalk pad | 1 |
| Late Post-Medieval | Wall | 2 |
| | Cellar | 2 |
| Modern | Drain | 3 |

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

| Context | Material | Qty | Wt | Period | Notes |
|---------|---------------------------|-----|--------|----------------|--------------------|
| 2 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 1,232g | Medieval | Brick fragment |
| 2 | Stone | 1 | 848g | Medieval | Caen stone |
| 11 | Animal Bone | 2 | 123g | Unknown | |
| 11 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 83g | Medieval | Brick fragment |
| 11 | Ceramic Building Material | 2 | 63g | Post-medieval | Brick fragments |
| 11 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 40g | Post-medieval | Roof tile fragment |
| 11 | Glass | 1 | 94g | Post-medieval | Bottle fragment |
| 11 | Pottery | 1 | 4g | Post-medieval | GRE |
| 11 | Pottery | 1 | 11g | Med./Post-Med. | LMT |
| 20 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 3,110g | Post-medieval | Complete brick |
| 36 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 2,550g | Post-medieval | Complete brick |

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

| Period | Material | Total |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Medieval | Ceramic Building Material | 2 |
| | Stone | 1 |
| Med./Post-Med. | Pottery | 1 |
| Post-medieval | Ceramic Building Material | 5 |
| | Glass | 1 |
| | Pottery | 1 |
| Unknown | Animal Bone | 2 |

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Report

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: norfolka1-201837

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | 150-152 Magdalen Street, Norwich, Norfolk |
| Short description of the project | In January 2015 NPS Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation and archaeological monitoring of demolition works ahead of redevelopment at 150-152 Magdalen St, Norwich. The work was conducted on behalf of and funded by the client, Mr Oliver Tookman. The plot is located on the inside of the medieval city wall, a scheduled monument. One evaluation trench c. 4.0m x 4.0m in area was excavated at the rear of the plot from the Magdalen Street frontage. Two walls belonging to a probable early post-medieval building were identified in the trench. Structural elements probably associated with two late post-medieval buildings were also recorded, along with dumped deposits deriving from both demolition events and domestic waste disposal. Two large post-medieval cellars were revealed during archaeological monitoring at the site; at least one the cellars may have remodelled an earlier structure. |
| Project dates | Start: 12-01-2015 End: 14-01-2015 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 135762 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing |
| Monument type | DRAIN Modern |
| Monument type | WALL Post Medieval |
| Monument type | CELLAR Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POT Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | GLASS Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | CBM Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | CBM Medieval |
| Significant Finds | ANIMAL BONE Uncertain |
| Significant Finds | STONE Medieval |
| Investigation type | ""Part Excavation"", ""Watching Brief"" |

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England
 Site location NORFOLK NORWICH NORWICH 150-152 Magdalen Street, Norwich
 Study area 0.05 Hectares
 Site coordinates TG 2313 0964 52.6380498552 1.29812339924 52 38 16 N 001 17 53 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 7.00m Max: 7.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation NPS Archaeology
 Project brief originator Norfolk Historic Environment Service
 Project design originator NPS Archaeology
 Project director/manager Michael J Boyle
 Project supervisor NPS Archaeology

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Worked stone/lithics"
 Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology
 Digital Contents "other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service
 Paper Contents "other"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

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