

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 1003

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on the
Prince of Wales Road Mixed Priority Route,
Norwich**

40808 N

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Location: Prince of Wales Road, Norwich
District: Norwich
Grid Ref: TG 2360 0850
HER No.: 40808 N
Date of fieldwork: June to August 2004

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks including the excavation of forty 1m x 1m pits dug for the placement of trees associated with the mixed priority routes improvement programme along Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

1.0 Introduction

(Fig. 1)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU) during groundworks and the excavation of tree pits associated with improvements to Prince of Wales Road, Norwich. The area monitored included both sides of Prince of Wales Road from King Street to the junction with Rose Lane.

The report was commissioned and funded by Norwich City Council.

This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: ARJH 18/03/03).

The site archive is currently held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

The underlying geology consists of the sometimes shelly sands and gravels of the Norwich Crag formation overlying Cretaceous chalk.

Prince of Wales Road slopes downwards from west to east from a height of approximately 12m at the King Street junction to approximately 3m at the junction with Rose Lane.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The northern end of Prince of Wales Road overlies the extrapolated remains of Greyfriars Monastery, some of which was excavated by NAU between 1992 and 1995 (Emery forthcoming) in an area to the south-east of the junction with King Street.

Other NAU work along Prince of Wales Road has involved a watching brief at 63-67 (Hobbs 1999) which uncovered a possible 15th- to 16th-century flint wall and up to 1m of Victorian occupation deposits. Another watching brief at 69-71 (Emery 2000) exposed a substantial deposit of post-medieval garden soil, which contained a silver Scottish coin of 1601-1604.

At the eastern end of Prince of Wales Road, at its junction with Recorder Road, an evaluation at 116-118 (Trimble 2001) confirmed cartographic evidence that this area had not been occupied before the post-medieval period. The remains of mortar floors were found, which were probably associated with an iron foundry or vinegar factory known to have existed in the late 18th century.

Another watching brief at 54-56 (Hobbs 2004) found nothing of archaeological interest due to the presence of brick lined tunnels, either cellar passages or air raid shelters.

4.0 Methodology

The Brief required that occasional visits be made during the groundworks.

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during the excavation of tree pits along the footways on either side of Prince of Wales Road.

The tree pits were 1m by 1m and excavated to a depth of 1m.

No finds were recovered.

Due to the lack of suitable deposits, no environmental samples were taken.

5.0 Results

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were found.

6.0 Conclusions

The close proximity of known archaeological remains meant that this watching brief could have uncovered important information concerning the extent of the Greyfriars complex or even earlier (Late Saxon) occupation. No features or artefacts of archaeological interest, however, were found during this project.

Acknowledgements

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The watching brief was carried out by Chris Birks. The report was written by Steven Tatler, illustrated and produced by Maggie Foottit and edited by Alice Lyons.

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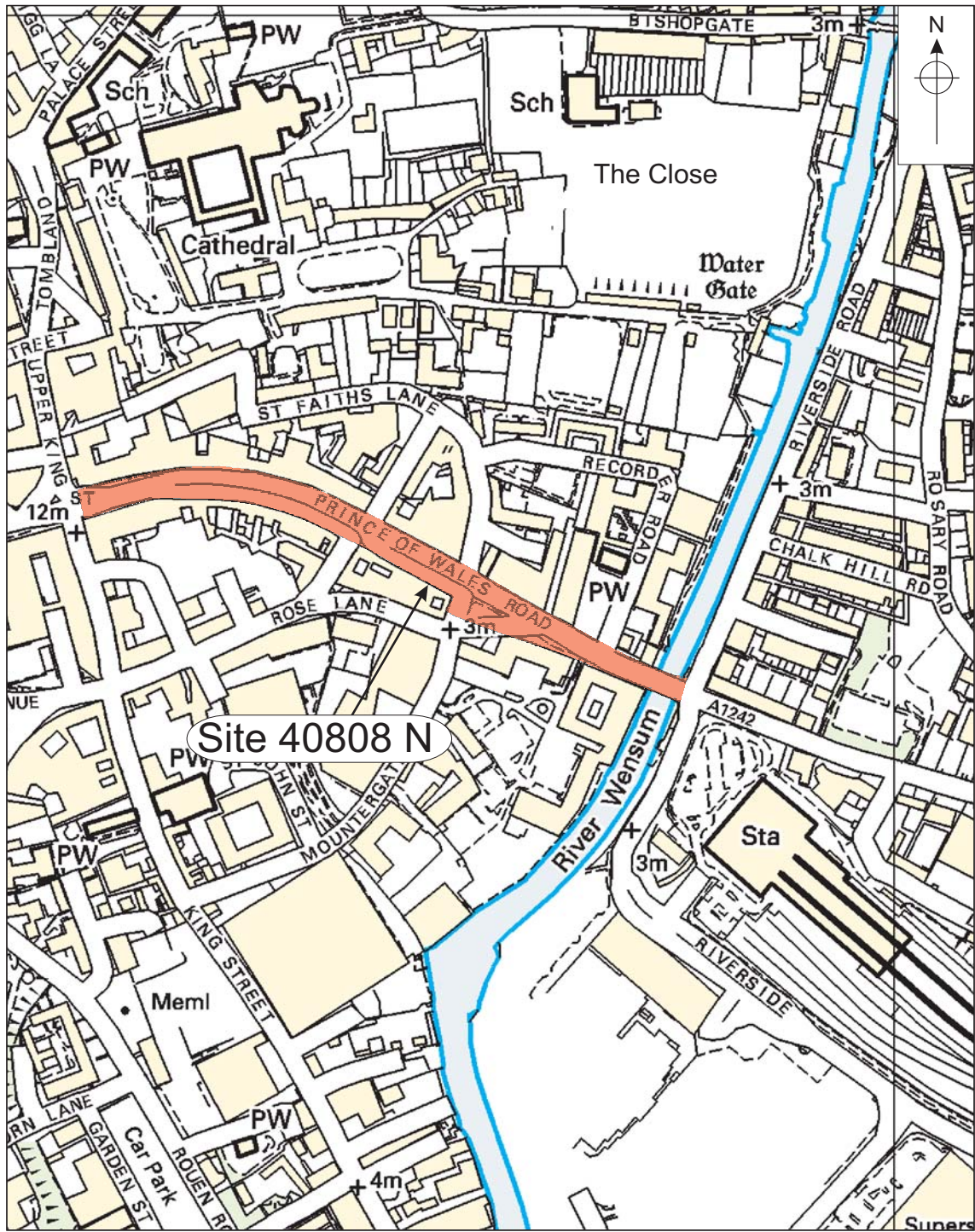


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000



Figure 2. Location of tree pits. Scale 1:2500