

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

**Report No. 757**

Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Labour-in-Vain Yard, Norwich, 37403N

**Peter Warsop**

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Location: Labour-in-Vain Yard, 1-3 Guildhall Hill, Norwich  
Grid Ref: TG 2289 0860  
SMR No.: 37403N  
Date of work: 21st June and 24th July 2002  
Funding body: Icen Development Ltd

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## **Summary**

*Monitoring of conversion work to buildings around Labour-in-Vain Yard recorded a previously recognised timber-framed building (1 Guildhall Hill). No below ground archaeological deposits were revealed.*

## **1.0 Introduction**

This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology and a Method Statement for watching briefs prepared by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit. The objective was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during groundworks and alterations to the fabric of buildings in Labour-in-Vain Yard (Fig. 1) arising from their conversion to commercial and residential use.

Labour-in-Vain Yard is at the end of a narrow passage (Fig. 2) that extends approximately 40m north from Guildhall Hill, about 10m east of the junction with Lower Goat Lane. The yard provides access to buildings at the rear of 1 and 2 Guildhall Hill.

Alterations to the building fabric were monitored and photographs (colour and monochrome) taken of all relevant features and deposits.

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

## **2.0 Observations**

On 21st June, the removal of laths and rendering from the exterior of the east facing façade of 1 Guildhall Hill (a building to the west of Labour-in-Vain Yard, SMR 26112) was monitored. A first floor jettied timber-framed wall protruding 0.16m from the line of the ground floor wall and with some surviving lath and plaster infill was observed. Photographs were taken although the wall was obscured by scaffolding.

The brick weave surface of Labour-in-Vain Yard, to approximately 20m north of Guildhall Hill, was removed on 24th July. Only the sand bedding for the brick was revealed. A replacement surface would level a slight rise from the street.

## **3.0 Conclusions**

1 Guildhall Hill (SMR 26112) was part of the Common Inn or Woolstaper's Hostel. It is of early 16th century build with 19th century alterations. The rear range, along the west of Labour-in-Vain Yard, dates from the 17th century. It consists of four bays and has two storeys with a jettied first floor (Smith 1990). Insufficient depth of material was removed during the groundworks for archaeological deposits to be exposed.

### ***Bibliography***

Smith, R., 1990 *An Architectural History of Norwich Buildings c.1200-1700*  
(unpublished MPhil thesis)

### ***Acknowledgements***

The work was commissioned by Mr J. King of Icen Development Ltd. The monitoring was undertaken by Neil Moss and Peter Warsop of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit. SMR information was provided by Jan Allen of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. This report was edited by Alice Lyons and produced and illustrated by Maggie Footitt and Peter Warsop.

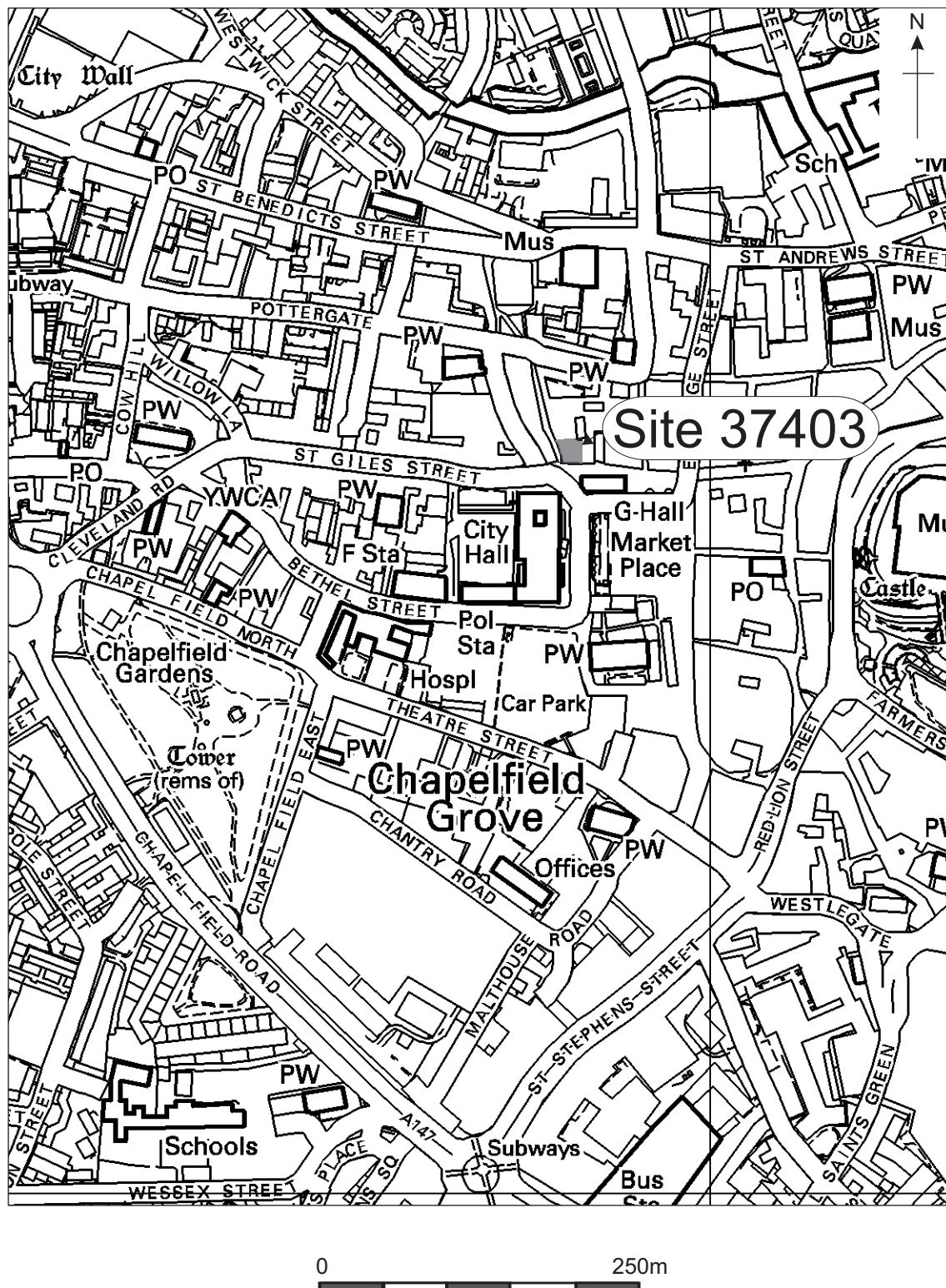


Figure 1. Site Location. Scale 1:5000

Local Authority No.076759

Fig.1 is based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 'Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings' Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Norwich (01.05.02). **Reference copy: no further copies to be made.**

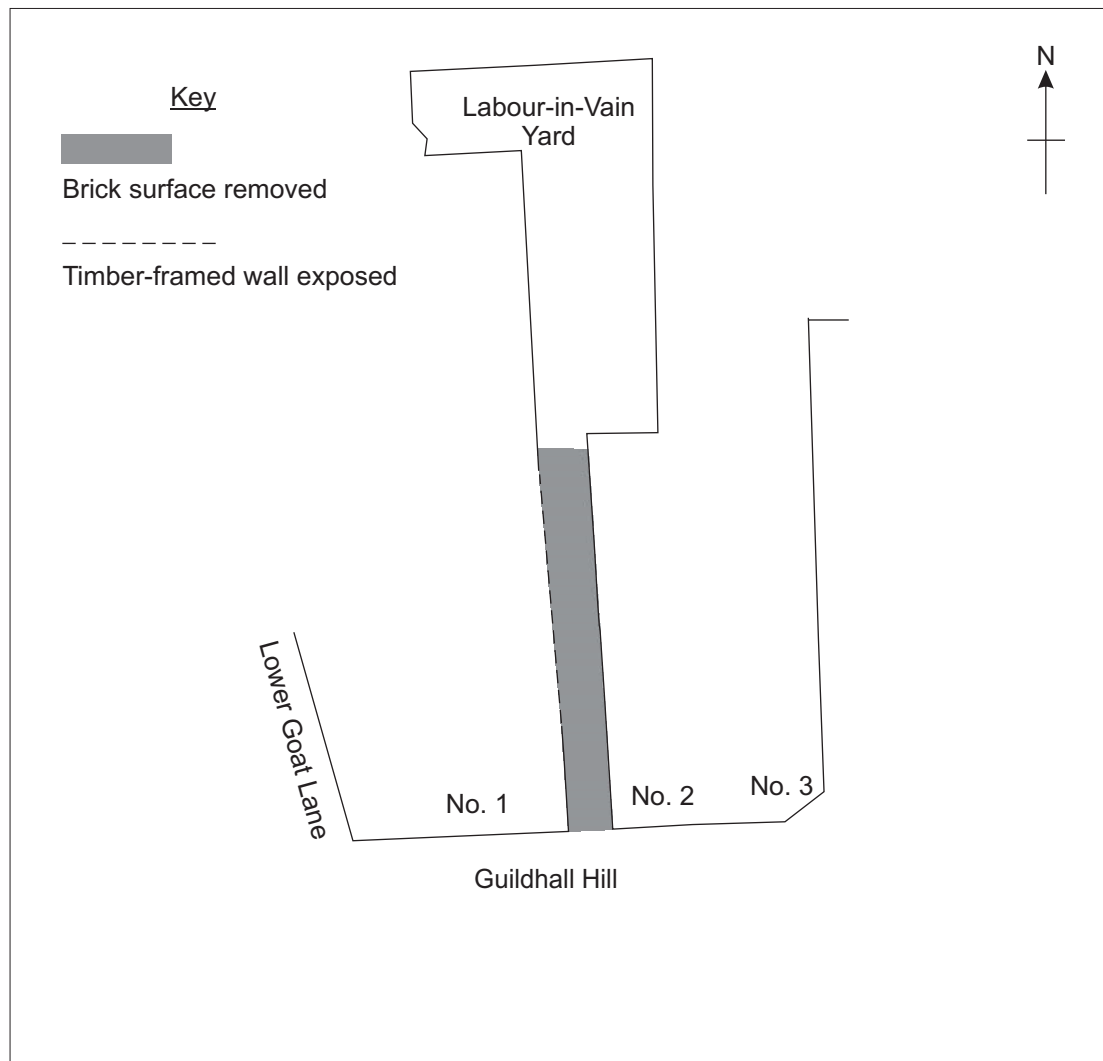
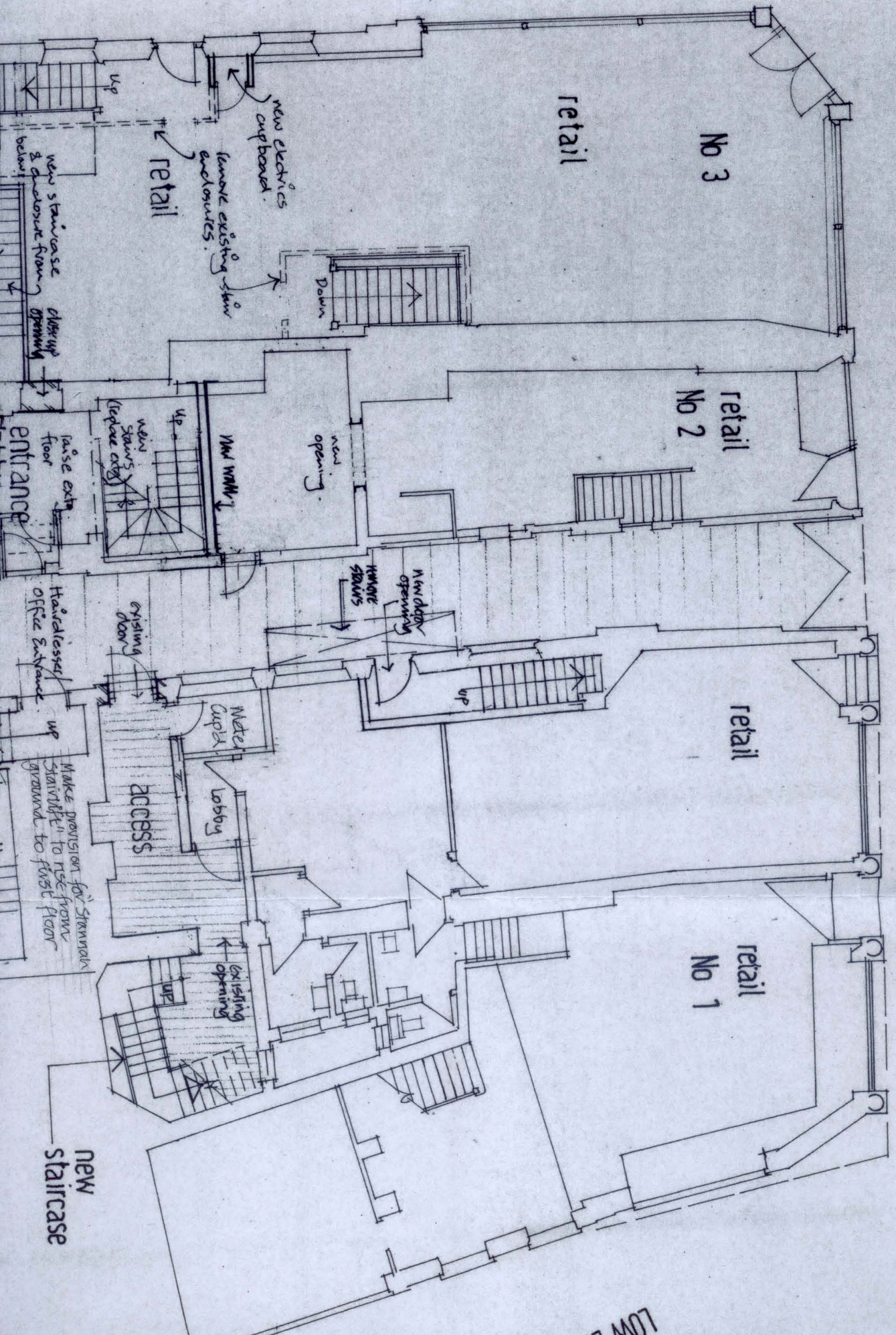


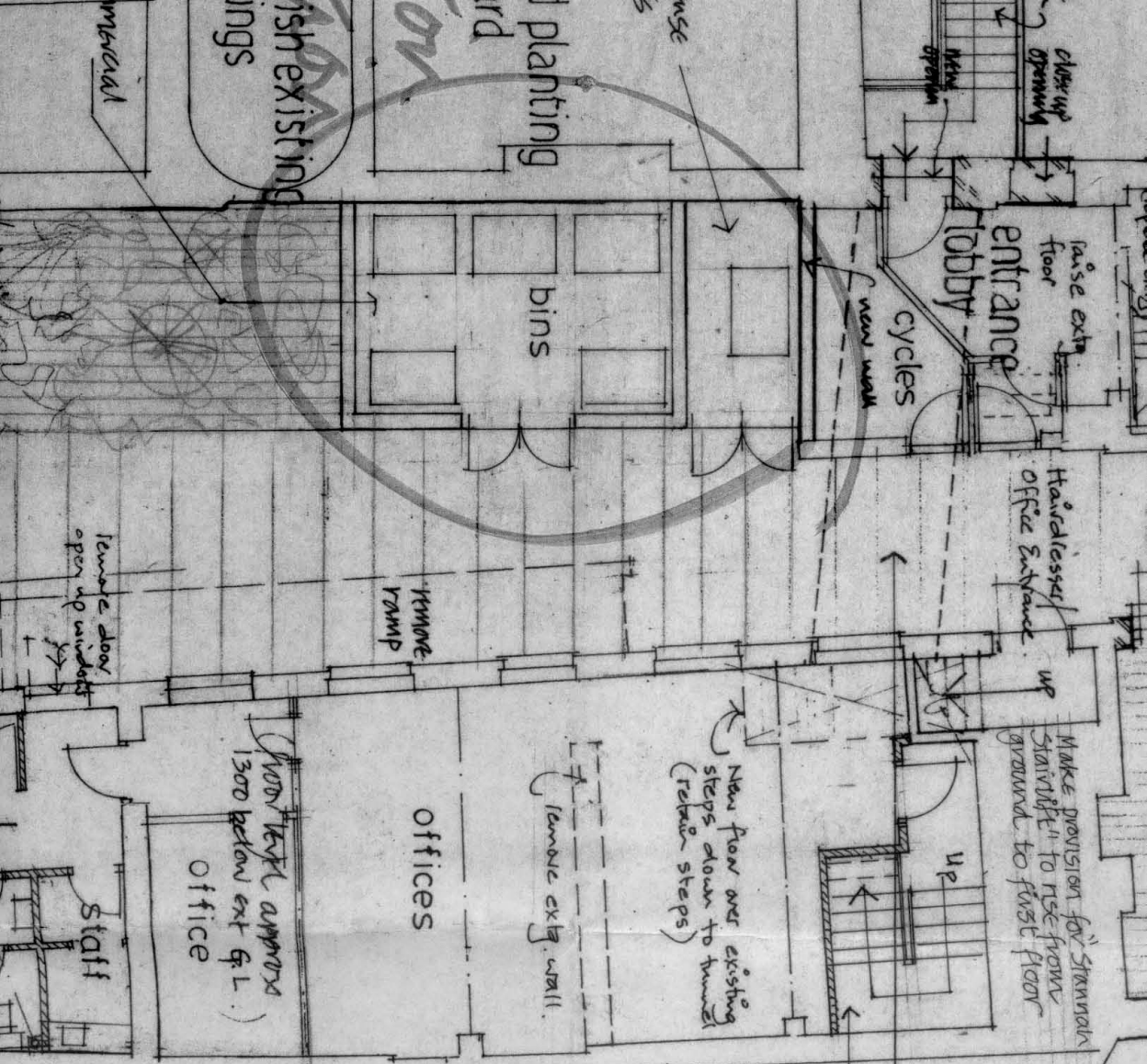
Figure 2. The site. Scale 1:200



# GUILDHALL HILL







new  
staircase

dotterd line indicates existing tunnel under Yard - to be retained

CDREZ

Schedule	
Flat 1	61 m <sup>2</sup>
Flat 2	62 m <sup>2</sup>

5-6/99 - bins/bns, bin, dis, wt, cycles etc. floor a  
A-6/99 - flat 2 layout revised & access, bin s

paving and planting  
to courtyard

*Excavation*  
demolish existing  
buildings

bins for commercial  
refuse

bins

remove  
ramp

offices

remove ext. wall.

new lift approx  
1300 below ext. G.L.  
office

remove door  
open up window

soil  
struck

New staircase  
and enclosure & toilets

New  
ic

CLIENT

DO NOT SCALE  
SETTING OUT

'5 - 6/99 - br  
'A - 6/99 - F1

Schedule  
Flat 1  
Flat 2

KING  
LABOR  
PROP

TITLE

GROU

Ro  
Cha  
380