

Report 2491



nau archaeology

Archaeological Excavation in the Lodge Garden at The Great Hospital, Norwich

ENF125700



Prepared for
The Great Hospital
c/o Reynolds Jury Architecture
25 Market Place
Aylsham
Norfolk
NR11 6EL



David Adams MIfA

March 2011



www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	David Adams	23/02/2011
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	23/02/2011
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	08/03/2011
Signed Off	Nigel Page	09/03/2011
<i>Issue 1</i>		

NAU Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

<http://nau.nps.co.uk/>

BAU 2491

© NAU Archaeology

Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Geology and Topography	3
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4.0 Methodology	3
4.1 Excavation Aims.....	5
5.0 Results.....	6
6.0 The Finds.....	9
6.1 Pottery	9
6.2 Glass	9
6.3 The Coin.....	9
6.4 Animal Bone	10
7.0 Conclusions	11
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	12
<i>Bibliography</i>	12
Appendix 1a: Context Summary	13
Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary	13
Appendix 2a: Finds by Context	13
Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary	14
Appendix 3: Pottery.....	14
Appendix 4: Coins.....	15
Appendix 5: Animal Bone.....	15

Figures

- Figure 1 Site Location
- Figure 2 Trench Location
- Figure 3 Trench plan, excavated features and section of deposits at west end of site

Plates

- Plate 1 Looking east at masonry (7), scale 1m
- Plate 2 Excavated site post excavation with wall [3] in the foreground, looking west, 2 x 1m scales

Location:	The Great Hospital, Norwich
District:	Norwich City Council
Grid Ref.:	NGR TG 2371 0900
HER No.:	ENF125700
OASIS Ref.:	95585
Client:	The Great Hospital
Dates of Fieldwork:	24-27 January 2010

Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out in the Lodge Garden at The Great Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk. The excavation examined an area lowered for a new path within a garden to the south of St Helen's church in the hospital complex. The project was commissioned by Reynolds Jury Architecture on behalf of their client The Great Hospital.

Little of archaeological note was revealed during the course of the excavation. The most significant remains were those of a foundation or threshold for a medieval porch at the east of the site, though little of this structure was exposed. A spread of building rubble at the west of the site close to the Derlyngton Tower might have resulted from the destruction of the south isle of the Infirmary Hall in the 16th century.

An east-west aligned wall at the east end of the excavation is thought to be of late post-medieval date, and likely to be part of a toilet block constructed against the south precinct wall of the Hospital. Following the severe floods of 1912 that affected much of Norwich it appears that levels within the garden were raised, and it is these 20th-century deposits that seem to have formed the bulk of remains revealed by the excavation. Cutting these soils were drains and modern services overlain by the slabs and bedding material for the path.

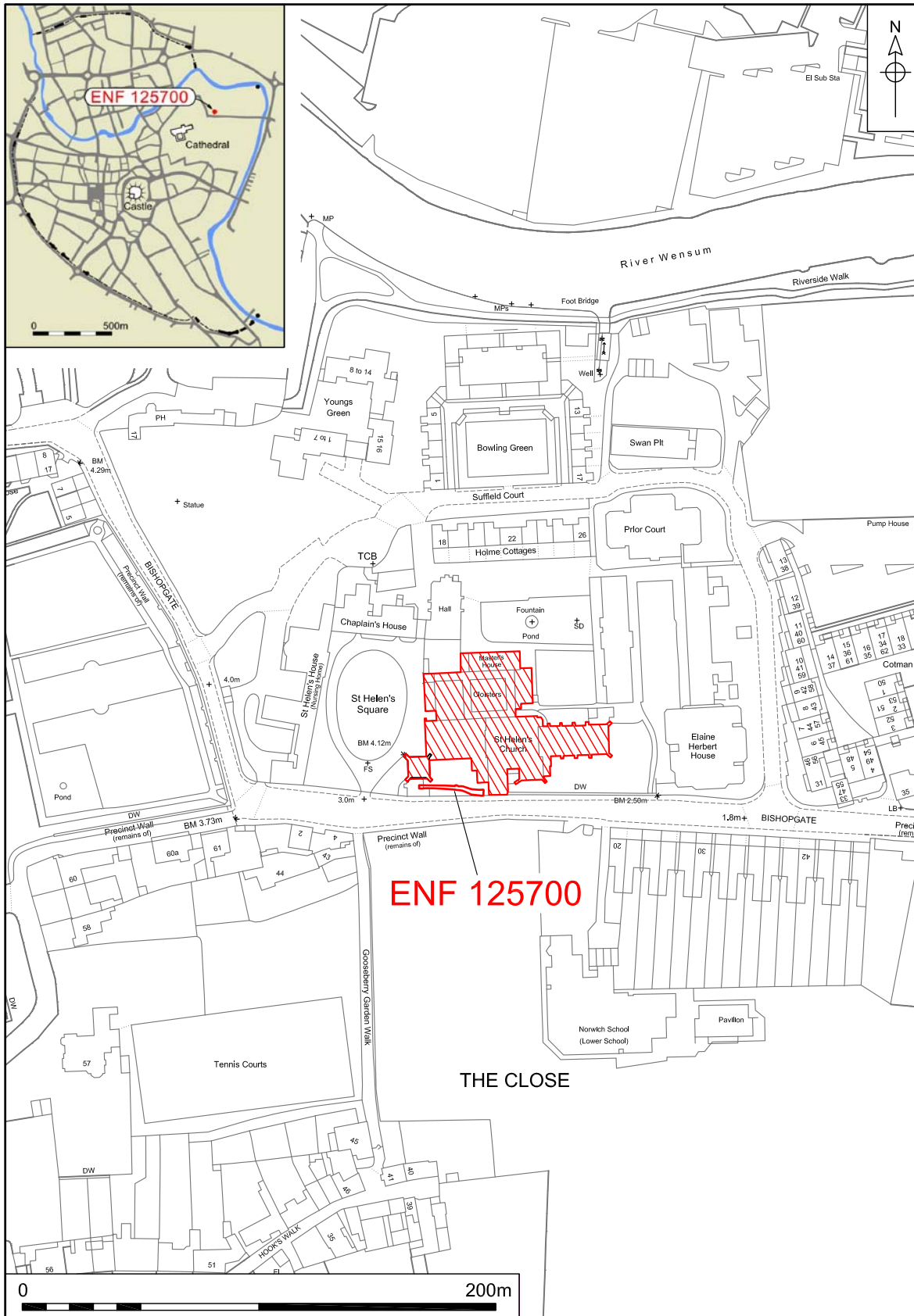
This report presents a summary of the excavation findings.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The lowering of a path during the garden landscaping at the Great Hospital, Norwich required a programme of archaeological excavation to record any archaeological remains affected by the works (Fig. 1).

This work was undertaken to fulfil a pre-application planning condition set by Norwich City Council and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) (Ref: CNF42904). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2491/NP). This work was commissioned by Reynolds Jury Architecture and funded by The Great Hospital.

This Programme of Archaeological Works (PoAW) was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with principles set out in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (Communities and Local Government 2010).



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Local Authority No. 100019340

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

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 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 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The Great Hospital is located in the north-west of the historic core of Norwich within a bend of the River Wensum (Fig. 1). The site lay approximately 160m south of the river at a height of c.4m OD and was located to the south of the Infirmary Hall of St Helen's Church within a garden adjacent to the precinct wall that fronted onto Bishopgate (Fig. 2).

The underlying geology of Norwich consists of Upper Chalk overlain by glacial sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 1985 and 1991). In the valley of the River Wensum alluvial deposits are also present, sometimes interleaved with deposits of anthropogenic origin.

Site survey was undertaken with a temporary benchmark established using an origin of 4.50m OD located on the north-west corner of the Derlyngton Tower.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Great Hospital (NHER 624) was founded by Bishop Suffield in 1249 initially with the church and hospital of St Helen (NHER 588). Cloisters (NHER 26113) were later added in 1450. Other elements were also introduced to the Hospital complex during the medieval period. Though the Hospital was dissolved in 1547 it was taken over at that time by the city corporation and has continued to the modern day as a residential home for the elderly in Norwich.

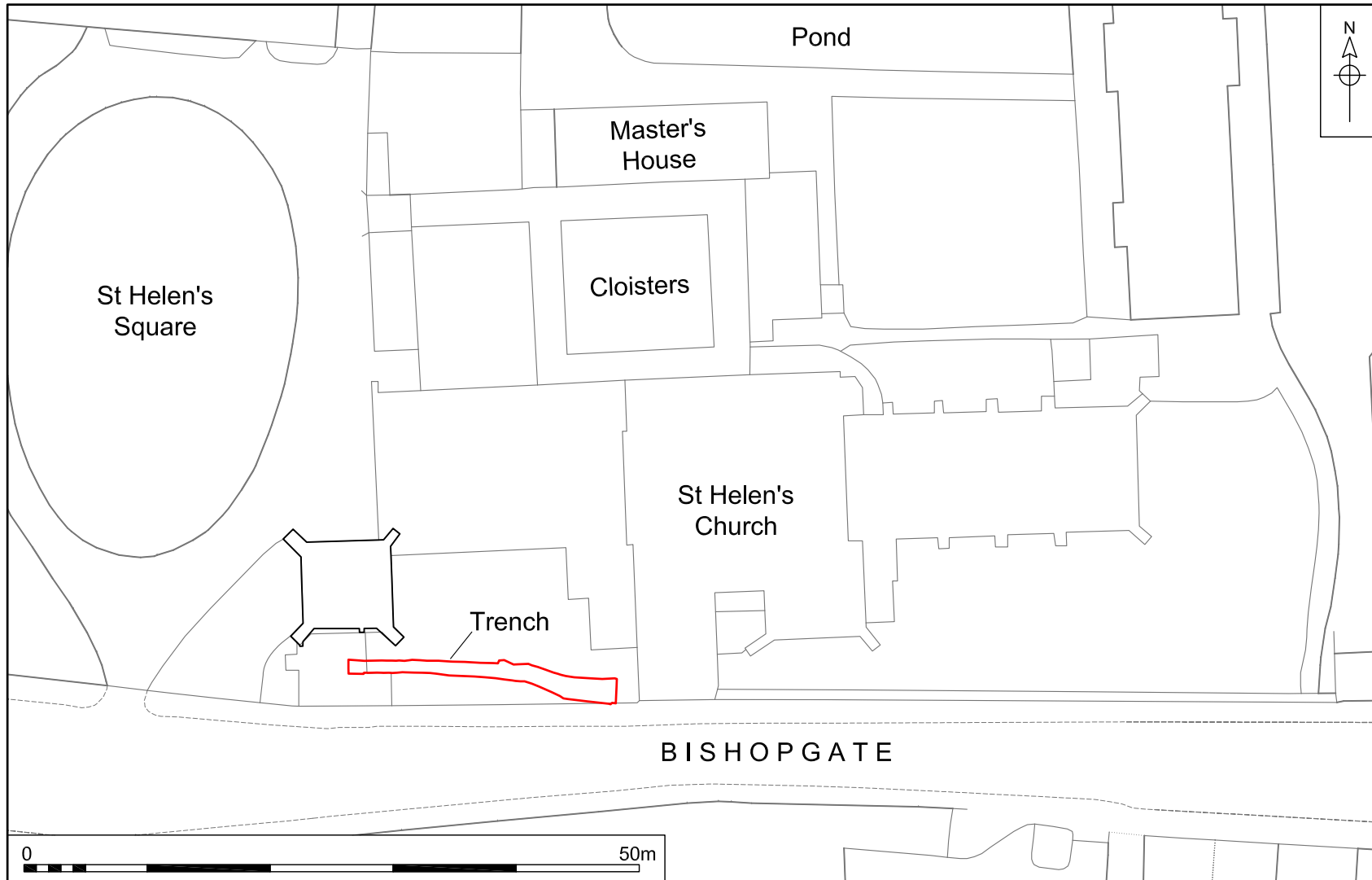
Several small-scale archaeological interventions have taken place within the precinct of the Hospital. A watching brief (Underdown 2000) identified remains of possible Late Saxon date, these remains appearing peripheral to what is currently understood of the Late Saxon town's location.

The pathway that defined the area to be excavated lay within an area of former churchyard immediately south of the Infirmary Hall that is part of St Helen's Church.

The current site is also close to the location of the south aisle, demolished in 1549 during Kett's rebellion. Test pits excavated within the garden (noted in Hamilton 2010) failed to locate any evidence for the south aisle structure however they did expose human remains.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The Brief required archaeological excavation of the area of the 'footprint' of the development to foundation level i.e. the maximum depth of proposed disturbance. The development in this case was the laying of a new pathway to replace an existing one within a garden area. This required the removal of material along a length of 29m to a depth of approximately 0.60m below the upper surface of the path in existence at the time.



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Local Authority No. 100019340

Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

The path was aligned approximately east-west and ran roughly parallel to the north side of Bishopgate (Figs 2 and 3). It was constructed of slabs set in a bedding of mixed sands, gravels and cement which were removed by the building contractors in advance of the archaeological team who were required to hand excavate the remaining material down to foundation level. The presence of numerous service runs particularly surface water drains hampered the removal of material in some areas.

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.

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

Spoil generated from the archaeological excavation was stockpiled on site.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU 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.

Site conditions were generally good, though the fieldwork was slowed to some extent by inclement weather.

4.1 Excavation Aims

The Programme of Archaeological Work stipulated by NLA was required to *'recover as much information as possible on the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, significance and the nature of social, economic and industrial activities on the proposed development site'* (Hamilton 2010).

Period resource assessments set out in the document Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000) pose specific research questions for periods ranging from the Palaeolithic to the modern. One of the key regional research questions is the pattern and character of medieval settlement and the development site might contain information that will help to address that question. The aims of the archaeological work may therefore be summarised as follows:

- i. To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the area.
- ii. To determine the extent, condition, nature, quality and date of any archaeological remains occurring within the area.
- iii. Ensure that any archaeological features discovered are identified, sampled and recorded.
- iv. To establish, as far as possible, the extent, character, stratigraphic sequence and date of archaeological features and deposits, and the nature of the activities which occurred at the site during the various periods or phases of its occupation.
- v. To establish the palaeoenvironmental potential of subsurface deposits by ensuring that any deposits with the potential to yield palaeoenvironmental

data are sampled and submitted for assessment to the appropriate specialists.

- vi To explore evidence for social, economic and industrial activity.
- vii To produce an assessment report and updated project design.

5.0 RESULTS

(Fig. 3, Plates 1 and 2))

A flint and lime mortar structure [7] at the eastern limit of the site and which spanned the width of the excavation at this point (1.90m) is considered the earliest feature recorded by the excavation. This structure was exposed to a depth of 0.10m and was aligned north-south and parallel to the medieval porch. Little can be constructively said about this feature as it lay at the limits of excavation and thus observation, but what could be deduced from its location, alignment and construction mean it has been interpreted as the porch's threshold.



Plate 1. Looking east at masonry (7), scale 1m

Other masonry structures at the site consisted of a wall [4] aligned north-south at the east end of the excavation. This measured 0.50m in width with a depth of 0.20m exposed by the excavation. It was built from brick and flint bonded with lime mortar with rough courses and might have been a foundation of post-medieval date. An east west aligned wall [3] was built of modern red brick and measured 4.20m in length and 0.96m in width. This is thought to be part of a 19th-century toilet block constructed against the south wall of the hospital precinct. A dump of building debris (14) probably originated from the demolition of this structure.

A truncated fragment of wall [9] at the west end of the excavation was built from brick and had been cut by modern service runs. This was perhaps part of a demolished building of 19th-century date. A line of brick [17] at the east end of the site was part of a modern feature associated with the present garden.

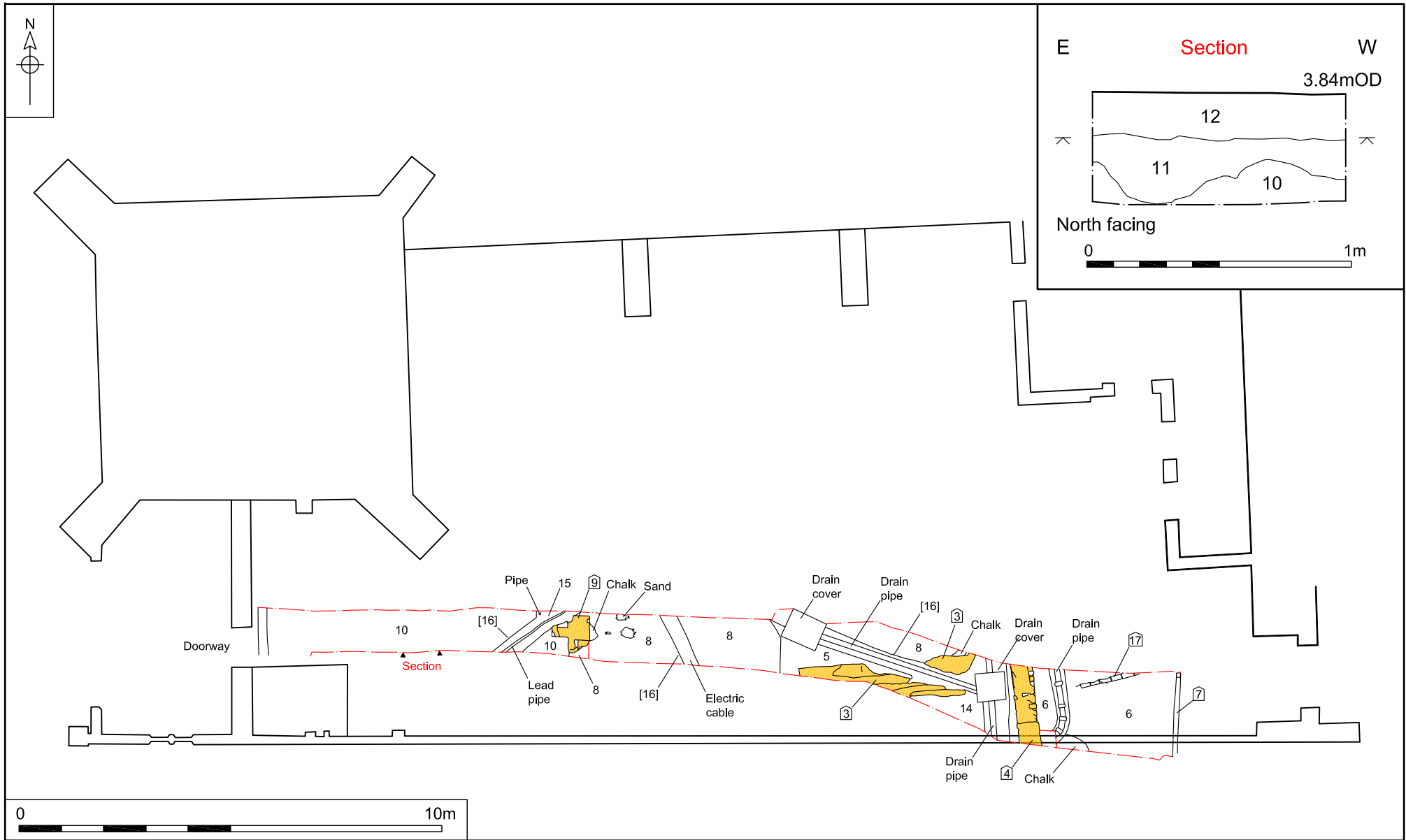


Figure 3. Trench plan, excavated features (scale 1:125),
inset section of deposits at west end of site (scale 1:20)



Plate 2. Excavated site post excavation with wall [3] in the foreground, looking west, 2 x 1m scales

A spread of grey-white mortar rubble and building debris (10) at the west end of the path measured 0.30m in depth with a length of c. 7.00m. This seemed to be a spread of material rather than a pit fill.

Several layers of silt sands and soils - (2) (not illustrated), (5), (6) and (8) - are interpreted as modern make up deposits, perhaps laid down following a flooding episode in 1912. A coin of King Charles 1st (1625-49) was recovered from layer (8).

Overlying the features described above was a dark brown soil (12) with occasional inclusions of brick and mortar fragments (Fig. 3 section). This measured up to 0.60m in depth and is interpreted as a garden soil, the result either of cultivation within the garden or from imported material of similar origin. A small quantity of post medieval pottery was recovered from this deposit.

Cutting this soil were several surface water drains (16) with two inspection chambers. Two lead water pipes, both defunct, were also present and an electrical cable ran north south across the centre of the site.

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Pottery

by Sarah Percival

A small assemblage of 14 sherds weighing 711g was collected from three contexts (Appendix 3). The pottery spans the later medieval to modern periods and contains a range of domestic utilitarian forms. All the pottery came from post medieval make-up layers.

6.1.1 *Later Medieval to Post Medieval*

A total of ten sherds weighing 452g are later medieval to post medieval in date. Six Late Medieval Transitional sherds in fine, hard, micaceous, orange fabric include the rim and handle from a large storage jar with speckled green glaze on the interior of the rim, and a second rim from a bowl with dripped green brown glaze on the interior. A further four body sherds are from jars or bowls and all date to the 15th to 16th centuries.

Post medieval fabrics include a frilled base from a Raeran/Aachen Stoneware jar, a hollow handle from a West Norfolk Bi Chrome pipkin, a rim from a Glazed Red Earthenware bowl and a body sherd in Staffordshire-type slipware with brown trailed decoration.

6.1.2 *Modern*

Modern pottery includes a base and body sherd from a transfer printed earthenware with blue Willow Pattern design, a base from a Chinese Porcelain bowl and a sherd from a yellow industrial slipware bowl. The pottery weighed 158g and was heavily encrusted, perhaps with mortar or similar.

6.2 Glass

by Sarah Percival

A single fragment from a pale green clear glass vessel was found in deposit (1). The glass is not closely datable.

6.3 The Coin

by Andrew Barnett

A single coin was collected by hand during the excavation (Appendix 4). This coin was a copper alloy Richmond Type 2 Royal Farthing of Charles I, 1625-1649, was issued between 1625 and 1631. It is in very good condition with little wear and only a few small spots of corrosion. Due to the lack of wear the farthing would not have been in circulation for any great length of time before its loss.

The Type 2 was the most counterfeited of the Royal Farthing issue but this specimen appears to be genuine. Due to the high counterfeit rate of Royal Farthings in general, they were discontinued in the mid 1630s and replaced with the Rose Farthing (Everson 2007).

This coin is residual within the context of its recovery and probably represents a stray loss in the early 1600s.

6.4 Animal Bone

By Julie Curl

6.4.1 Methodology

The assessment of the faunal remains was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992). All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present (Appendix 5). A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, working and other modifications. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context with additional counts for each species identified. Measurable bone is present in this assemblage; however, measurements were not taken as there are too few for any meaningful analysis and due to the uncertain or modern date of the remains. Information was input into an Excel spreadsheet and a basic catalogue has been produced in table form in Appendix 5.

6.4.2 The assemblage – provenance and preservation

A total of 744g of faunal remains consisting of thirty-one pieces was recovered from excavations at The Lodge Garden. The remains were produced from one context (deposit (8) consisting of clay silt of modern date).

The bone is in good condition, although fragmentary from butchering, gnawing and wear. Canid gnawing was seen on one bone, a quality meat-bearing bone, which would suggest that food waste was perhaps given to domestic dogs, rather than simply scavenging of butchering waste.

6.4.3 Species, modifications and discussion

At least three species are present in the assemblage, cattle, pig/boar and sheep/goat, all of probable domestic stock. The remains of adults were seen with the cattle and sheep/goat and juveniles of all the identified species are present. The presence of a relatively high number of juveniles may suggest culling the young to facilitate the milking of the mothers and also indicates the provision of good quality meat.

Butchering was seen throughout the assemblage, with only one complete element (a foot bone) present. Chops and cuts were seen from dismemberment of the carcasses and cuts were seen from the initial skinning process and from removal of the meat. Several cattle rib fragments were noted, all showing clean chops and cuts dividing the ribs into segments a few inches long, perhaps for use in a soup or stew.

One pathology was recorded on a cattle proximal phalange that shows slight arthritis; this disease is common in older animals and those used in traction.

6.4.4 Conclusions

This is a small assemblage that is derived from butchering and a range of food waste. The bones present show good cuts of meat, the inclusion of juveniles of all species suggest provision of good quality food.

Interpretation of the remains is difficult without more certain dating evidence and these remains, from a modern deposit, may be re-deposited. The bones may be associated with the Great Hospital, although the bones present would suggest

waste from a diet comparatively rich compared to the meals of 'bread, pottage and eggs or cheese' provided for paupers and the bedridden in one of the Norwich hospitals (Rawcliffe 1995). The remains are more likely to be associated with food waste from the lodge itself.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the excavation address to a limited extent Aims i-iv and vii of 'Excavation Aims' outlined in the Project Design (Section 4.1, above); the paucity of significant archaeological remains however meant that Aims v and vi were not achievable.

The earliest remains revealed by the excavation are considered to be a foundation or threshold [7] possibly associated with the porch at the east end of the site. The porch is perhaps one of the older elements of the church and so might date to the mid-13th century. As so little of these remains were present and examined within the excavated area any conclusion is considered tentative. A spread of mortar and flint rubble (10) at the west end of the site might have been generated by any one of numerous building activities since the founding of the Hospital, but one possibility is that this rubble originated with the demolition of the south aisle during Kett's Rebellion in 1549. However it should be noted that this material might not be *in situ*.

The walls revealed during the excavation are of post-medieval date, and were most likely part of a toilet block constructed against the precinct wall to the south. Though it has not proved possible to find photographic or cartographic evidence for the longevity of a garden at this location, there is anecdotal evidence that following flooding during 1912 the garden area was raised, and this event might explain the depths of soils present across the site. Most of the material removed during the course of the excavation consisted of modern soils, redeposited from the garden or possibly imported during the construction of the pathway.

No further artefactual or stratigraphic analysis is considered necessary. It is proposed that the results of the excavation are presented in the form of a note in Norfolk Archaeology the journal of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological society.

Acknowledgements

The site was excavated by Andy Phelps, Lilly Hodges and Michelle Bull. The finds were washed by Lucy Talbot and recorded by Sarah Percival. The coin was identified by Andy Barnett and the animal bone by Julie Curl. All other finds were analysed by Sarah Percival.

The Project was monitored by Ken Hamilton on behalf of NHES. The site code was provided by Sarah Howard also of NHES. Jim Webster organised the site on behalf of The Great Hospital and thanks are due to the staff of the Great Hospital for their assistance during the excavation. The report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1985 *East Anglia*, Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology, 1:250,000 series
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1991 *East Anglia*, Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary, 1:250,000 series
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 8
- Davis, S. 1992 *A Rapid Method For Recording Information About Mammal Bones From Archaeological Sites*. English Heritage AML Report 71/92.
- Everson, T. 2007 *The Farthing Tokens of James I and Charles I*. Galata
- Glazebrook, J. 1997 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3
- Hamilton, K. 2010 Brief For Archaeological Excavation, The Lodge, The Great Hospital Norwich Norfolk NLA ref: CNF42904, p. 3, sec. 4, para.1
- Rawcliffe, C. 1995 *The Hospitals of Medieval Norwich*. Studies in East Anglian History 2. Centre of East Anglian Studies.
- Underdown, S. 2000 Report on a watching brief at Bishopgate Great Hospital NAU Report 542 (Unpublished)

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
1	Deposit	Compacted chalk	Modern
2	Deposit	Brown soil	Modern
3	Masonry	Modern brick wall	Modern
4	Deposit	Brick and flint wall	Post-medieval
5	Deposit	Dark brown sand silt	Modern
6	Deposit	Yellow brown clay silt	Modern
7	Masonry	Porch Threshold	Medieval
8	Deposit	yellow brown silt sand	Modern
9	Masonry	Brick wall fragment	Post-medieval
10	Deposit	Mortar and brick rubble layer	Modern
11	Deposit	Mid grey brown silt	Modern
12	Deposit	Topsoil	Modern
13	Deposit	Mid grey silt sand	Modern
14	Deposit	Brick and chalk rubble	Modern
15	Deposit	Fill of 16	Modern
16	Cut	Modern services	Modern
17	Masonry	Brick path edging	Modern
18	Cut	Construction cut of Wall 9	Modern

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Cut Type	Total
Modern	Modern services	1
	Construction cut	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
1	Pottery	4	259g	Modern	
1	Glass	1	19g	Modern	Vessel glass
5	Pottery	2	168g	Post-medieval	
6	Pottery	8	284g	Post-medieval	
6	Animal Bone	31	744g	Unknown	
8	Copper-Alloy	1	1g	Post-medieval	Coin

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Post-medieval	Copper-Alloy	1
	Pottery	10
Modern	Glass	1
	Pottery	4
Unknown	Animal Bone	31

Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Type	Qty	Wt	Form	Dec	Period	Spotdate
1	PORC	Base	1	125g	Bowl	Painted with floral design	Modern	20th c
1	TPE	Base	2	102g	Dish	Willow pattern	Modern	20th c
1	INDS	Rim	1	32g	Dish		Modern	20th c
5	LMT	Rim	1	143g	Storage jar		Late medieval /Post medieval	15th - 16th c
5	LMT	Body sherd	1	25g			Late medieval /Post medieval	15th - 16th c
6	WNBC	Handle	1	69g	Pipkin	Green glaze interior and patchy green brown glaze ext	Post medieval	17th c
6	GSW3	Base	1	55g	Jug	Fripped base	Post medieval	16th c
6	STAF	Body sherd	1	19g		Trailed brown design	Post medieval	L.17th - 18th c.
6	GRE	Rim	1	15g	Bowl		Post medieval	16th - 18th c
6	LMT	Rim	1	63g	Bowl	Dripped green glaze on interior	Late medieval /Post medieval	15th - 16th c
6	LMT	Body sherd	1	27g	Jar	Triple incised band around girth	Late medieval /Post medieval	15th - 16th c
6	LMT	Body sherd	2	36g		Green glaze interior	Late medieval /Post medieval	15th - 16th c

Key:	PORC	Porcelain	
	WNBC	West Norfolk Bi-chrome	
	GSW3	Raeran/Aachen Stoneware	
	STAF	Staffordshire Slipware	
	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	Late Medieval / transitional
	INDS	Industrial Slipware	
	TPE	Transfer Printed Earthenware	

Appendix 4: Coins

Context	Denomination	Metal	Ruler	Obverse Description	Obverse Legend	Reverse Description	Reverse	Date	Weight	Diameter	Description
8	Royal Farthing Richmond Type 2	Copper Alloy	Charles I 1625- 1649	Pelleted outer ring, legend inside. Crown with crossed sceptres.	CARO:D:G:MAG:BR Privy Mark: TUN	Pelleted outer ring, legend inside. Crowned six stringed harp	FRA:ET HIB:REX	1625- 1631	0.45gm	16.5mm	Good flan with little wear and some spots of corrosion. Appears to be a genuine farthing.

Appendix 5: Animal Bone

Context	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt	Species	NISP	Age	MNI	Zone	Butchering	Gnaw	R/C/F	Path	Comments
6	Modern	31	744g	Cattle	11	a + j	2	f, scap, ul, r	c, ch	1	c	1	sev ch/c ribs, gnawed tibia, slight arthritis on proximal phalange
				Sheep/goat	6	a + j	2	pel, ll, ul	c, ch				
				Pig/Boar	4	j	1	scap, ul, mand	c, ch				
				Mammal	10				c, ch				

Key:

NISP = **N**umber of **I**ndividual **S**pecies elements **P**resent.

Age = Estimate age based on fusion of bones and/or tooth wear; a = adult, j = juvenile

Zone = F = foot bones, LL=lower limb, UL = upper limbs, R = Ribs, Mand = mandible, Scap = Scapula, Pel = Pelvis

MNI = **M**inimum **n**umber of individuals

Butchering = c = cut, ch = chopped

Gnaw = Gnawed bones

R/C/F = **R**odent gnawing/**C**anid gnawing/**F**eline gnawing