

THAMES WATER ENGINEERING WORKS

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT ON NARROW STREET, TOWER HAMLETS, E14



June 2011



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THAMES WATER ENGINEERING WORKS
POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT ON NARROW
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Abstract

In the course of an archaeological watching brief for Thames Water Engineering Works within the 'Limehouse' Area, a significant archaeological discovery was made in Narrow Street. One long section of trench which ran along Narrow Street was investigated and recorded in December 2008 – March 2009. This uncovered a number of archaeological remains, which were subsequently investigated and recorded, including the collection of brick samples and key finds.

The remains of several post-medieval cellars/semi-basements and wall foundations along the former northern side of Narrow Street were uncovered. This included brick walls, later infills, some brick floors, and other features such as a set of brick steps and a window ledge. Some 'street' deposits, and the remains of 'passageways' were also uncovered.

Many of these can be related to the available cartographic evidence – such that some of the different features and phases can be recognised – and the dates at which these were constructed and destroyed.

Of particular interest was the discovery of a couple of early buildings at the western end of Narrow Street, only shown on Newcourt's earliest map and lost by Rocque's Map of 1746, and a road just to the east of this that later became part of the wider road into Ropemakers Fields. The watching brief has also pushed back the possible date for the construction of the buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street to the early 17th Century - before the earliest available cartographic evidence. Furthermore, it has hinted at the possibility of there being three relatively distinct periods/phases of development in Narrow Street: the early post-medieval development (i.e. early 17th Century), further construction from c.1630 (particularly with the introduction of brick floors in the cellars), and some later 18th Century rebuilding. Lastly, the watching brief has enabled a greater understanding of the exact line of the northern street-frontage along Narrow Street, which was clearly far further south than it is at present, and provides the basis of the name that the street still bears.

The following report discusses these archaeological discoveries in reference to their documentary and cartographic background and the excavations themselves.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms a discussion of the results of investigations in Narrow Street, which took place from December 2008 to March 2009. This formed part of the watching brief undertaken during groundworks for a new sewer pipe and associated pumping station in Narrow Street. This covered the area of Narrow Street detailed here and the area immediately to the north-east and just into Ropemaker's Fields (see fig. 13). This report includes a discussion of the documentary and cartographic sources and the excavations themselves.
- 1.2 The detailed investigation at Narrow Street covered one long trench. Narrow Street is located in Tower Hamlets, just north of the River Thames and to the south-east of Limehouse Basin. The trench ran along the present southern side of Narrow Street, running east from the junction with Ropemaker's Fields, and crossing north across the street to the park area to the east of Ropemaker's Fields. (figs. 1 + 2).
- 1.3 On-site work took place between December 2008 to March 2009, following a preliminary watching brief and the discovery of brick walls during the digging of a long trench for the engineering works.
- 1.4 The archaeological work was undertaken on behalf of Thames Water Utilities.

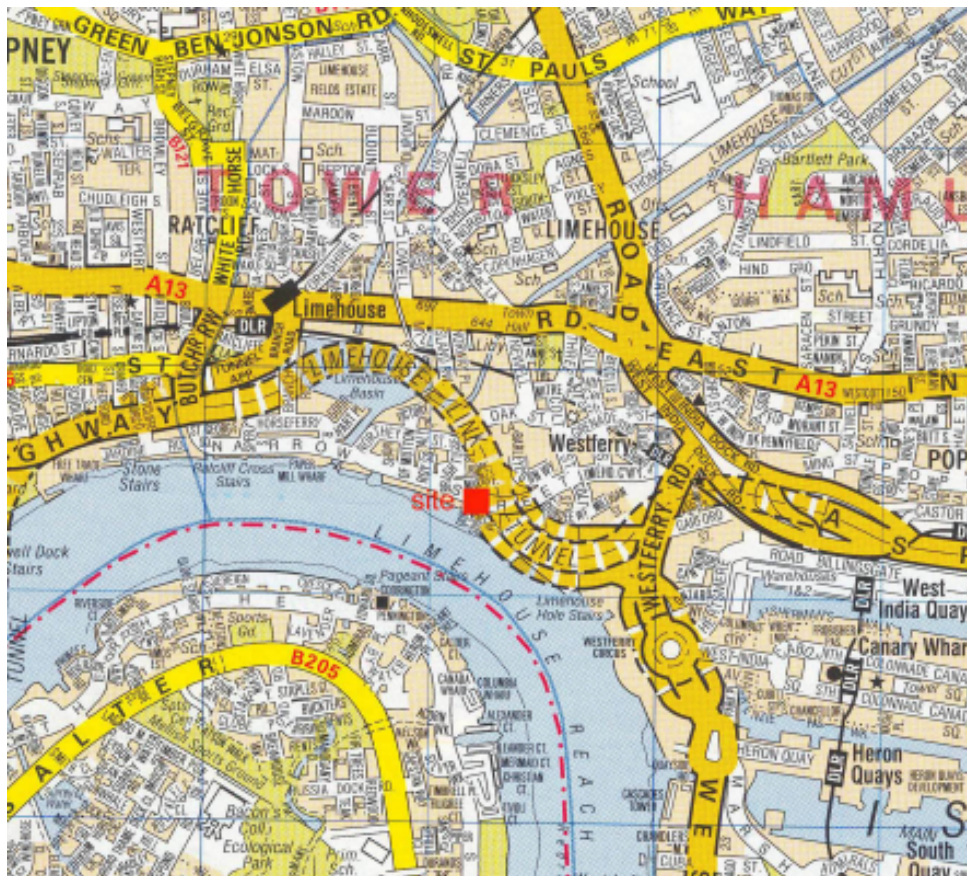


Fig. 1: Site location on modern OS Plan

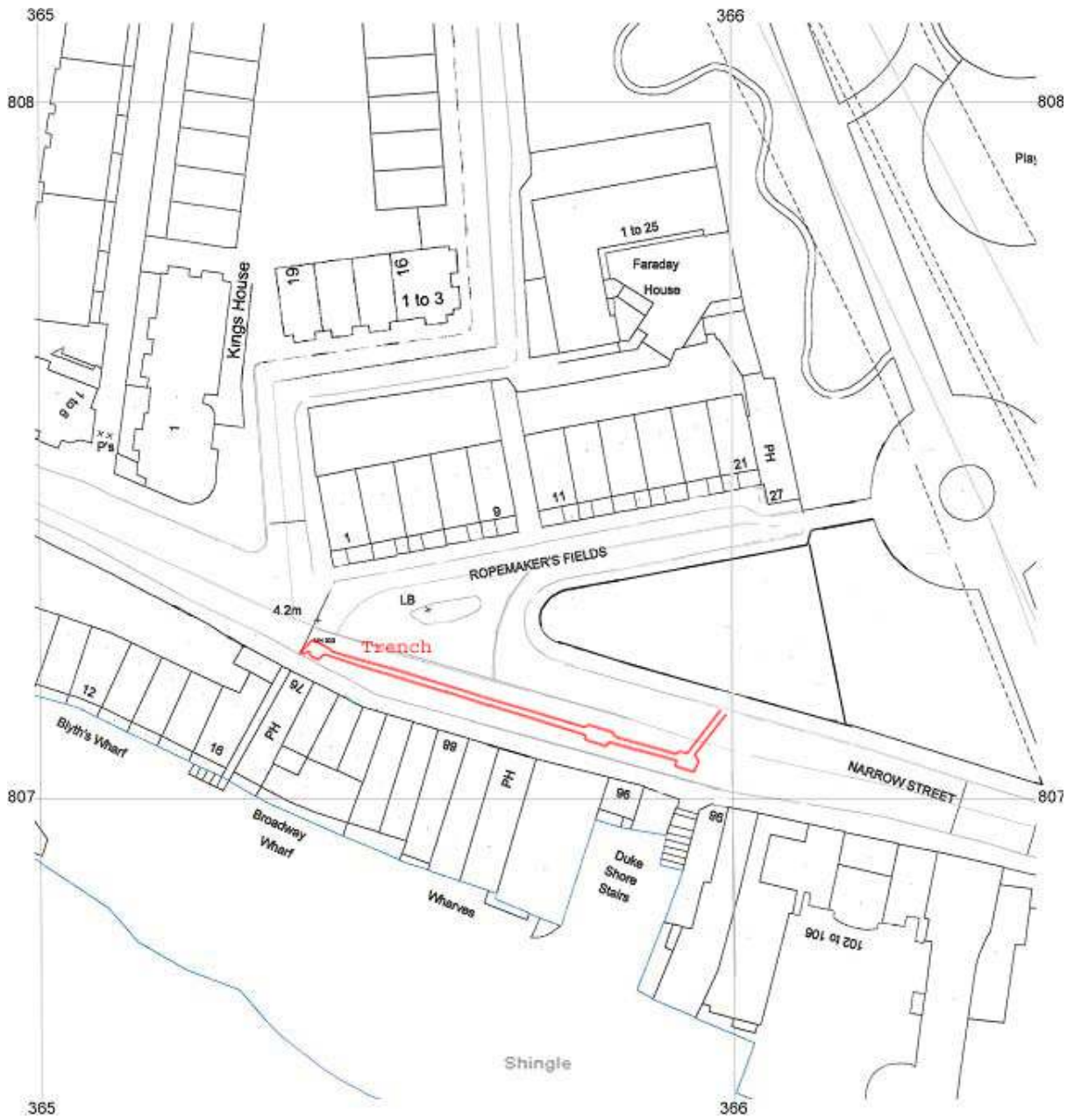


Fig. 2: Actual location of archaeologically-investigated trench in relation to a modern OS Plan

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1 There is evidence for prehistoric activity in the area. The Limehouse Link excavation (*LLK24*) produced a small quantity of prehistoric pottery and struck/burnt flint, partly from features cut into the brickearth. Elsewhere, alluvium has also been found in association with peat deposits, notably the mid to late Bronze Age Tilbury IV horizon. A layer of peat at least 400mm thick and containing prehistoric struck flint was recorded some 0.5 km to the east, with a surface between *c.*-0.75m and +0.50m OD (Limehouse Link project; *LLK90*).
- 2.2 In the Roman period the area seems to have remained low-lying, and in parts probably marshy or periodically flooded, whilst conclusive settlement evidence is confined to areas further to the west.
- 2.3 At some point in Saxon or medieval times (before 1298) the river was embanked, probably roughly on the line of the present-day Narrow Street and Emmett Street. Towards the end of the medieval period there are frequent references to the repair of the embankment and associated works. At the same time the limekiln industry developed close to the river that provided transport for raw materials and products: there are references to kilns in 1335 and to wharves in 1348.
- 2.4 There was significant land reclamation beyond the previous riverfront in the 16th and 17th Century, and the strengthening of the river wall. Recorded examples of this include a chalk raft or platform just to the southeast of the present site at Dunbar Wharf (excavated in 1990 during the Limehouse Link project; site code *LLK26*), and timber structures to the southwest on Victoria Wharf (code *VIT96*). It is likely that these both originated in the late 16th Century.
- 2.5 In the 16th and 17th Centuries there was a significant development of shipbuilding and related trades, with a corresponding expansion of housing and wharves. This is reflected in John Stow's Survey of London (1598) who describes the area: "*of late years shipwrights and (for the most part) other marine men have builded many large and strong houses for themselves, and smaller for saylers, from thence almost to Poplar*". Samuel Pepys, furthermore, records a visit to the area in 1664 when he placed an order with a local supplier to produce rope.
- 2.6 Related to this development of shipbuilding was the concentration of trading in this area and the presence of privateers. Large amounts of rare items including Venetian tea bowls, Cuban silver coins, pottery from the Caribbean, a cannon ball, a piece of silver jewellery, Mexican bronze coins, and fragments of a tortoise and a bear, were uncovered in 16th and 17th Century cess-pits in Narrow Street during a Pre-Construct excavation. These were costly, luxurious and desirable objects – rather than purely utilitarian vessels – and have been associated with the known existence of privateers living in this area in the 16th and 17th Century. They were presumably seized by English pirates and privateers from Spanish ships.

- 2.7 Historic maps also show the development of the area at least from the time of Newcourt's Map (1658) (fig. 3). This depicts a line of buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street, with a gap at the western end and a further one, or possibly two, buildings in the centre of the junction between Narrow Street and Ropemaker's Fields.

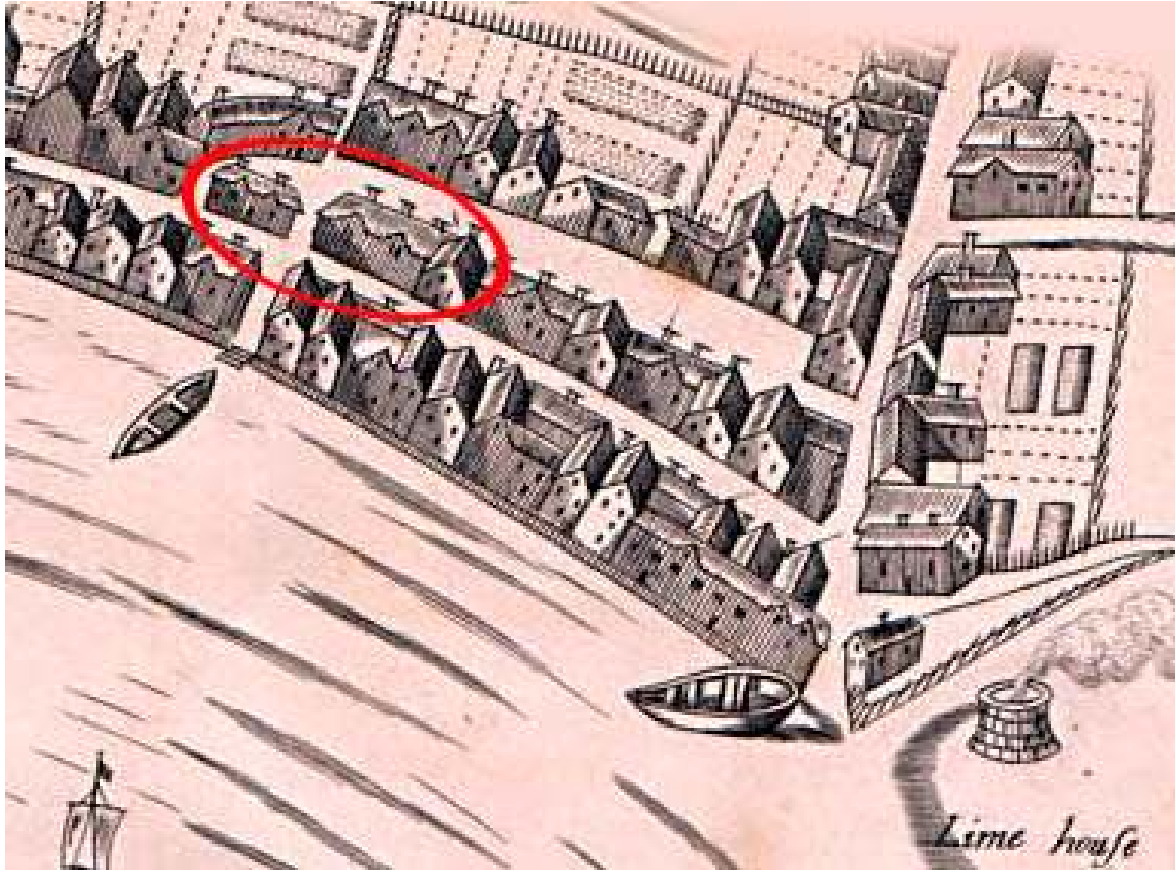


Fig. 3: Newcourt's Map, 1658

- 2.8 Rocque's survey of c.1746 (fig. 4) gives a similar picture, and clearly depicts the area covered by the watching brief (the northern side of Narrow Street, at and just to the east of the junction with Ropemaker's Fields). On this and later maps, the buildings do not appear to extend as far to the west as on Newcourt's Map (into the junction between Narrow Street and Ropemaker's Fields). An alley – labelled "Duk Shoar Alley" is depicted in this area, with buildings to the east and west of this on the northern side of Narrow Street. It must also be noted that at about this time – 1745 to 1748 – the area to the east of Graves's Dock briefly flourished as the site of the Limehouse porcelain manufactory (site code LLK26; published as MoLAS Monograph 6).

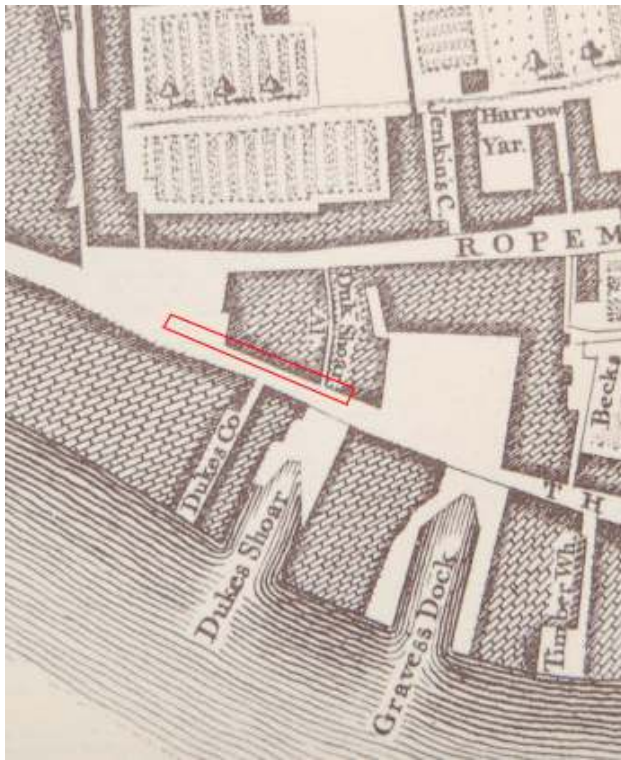


Fig. 4: Rocque's Map, 1746

2.9 Horwood's map of the 1790s and its subsequent 1813 revision (fig. 5) show progressive development in this area along the northern side of Narrow Street. This particularly included a building at the junction between Narrow Street and Ropemaker's Fields, not depicted on Rocque's Map. A series of 'step-backs' in the line of the building frontage and small alleys along this stretch of Narrow Street are also depicted. This part of Narrow Street was known as "Fore Street" on this map, and remained so until the late 19th Century.

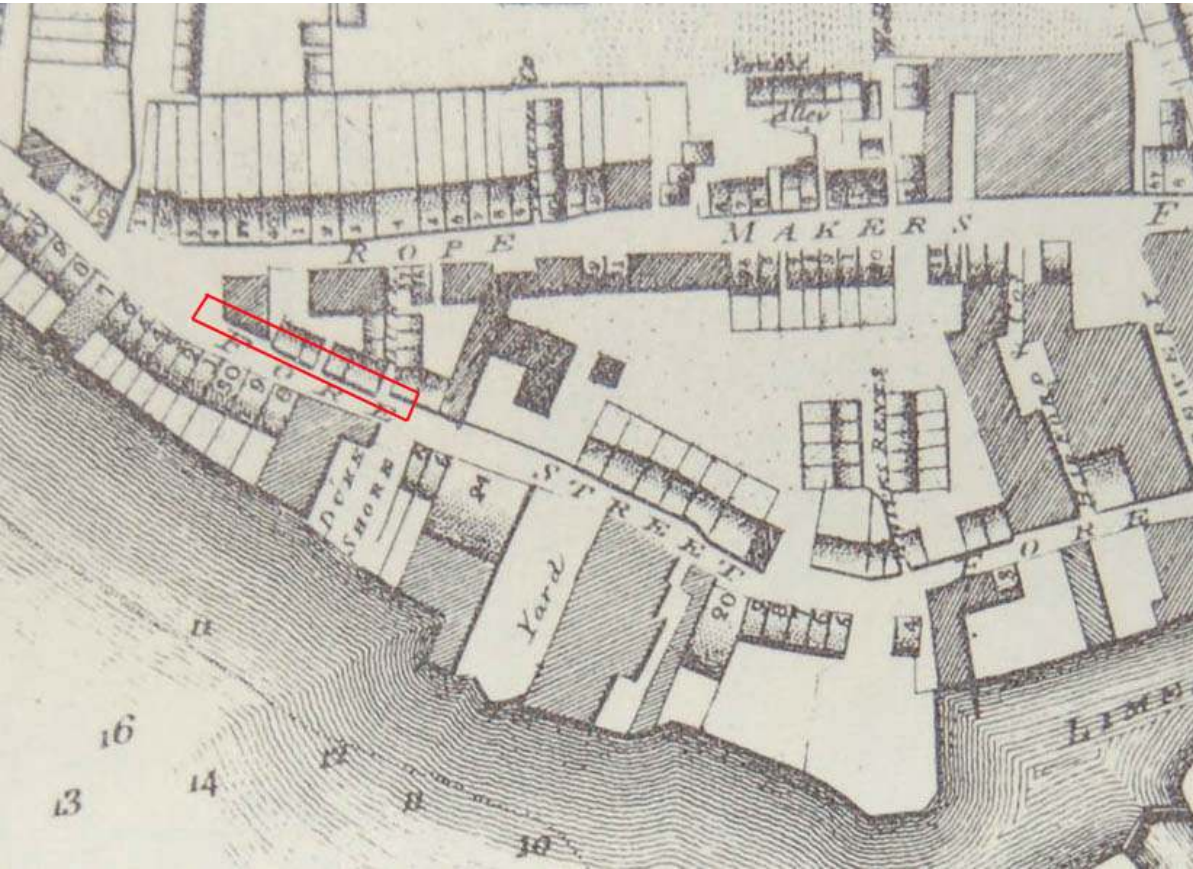


Fig. 5: Horwood's Map, 1813

- 2.10** Johnstone's 1817 "London Commercial Guide and Street Directory" gives an indication of the type of industries taking place along Narrow Street, including oar makers, ship chandlers, and sail makers, amongst others such as a bread and biscuit baker and sugar refiner.
- 2.11** A much more detailed view is given by the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25inch Map (1875) (fig. 6), which depicts the area in a clearer, but broadly similar way to that depicted in Horwood's Map. One relatively large square building is depicted at the junction, followed by a step-back in the building frontage and a couple more buildings, followed by another step-back and a couple more buildings, followed by Dukes' Shore Passage and more buildings.

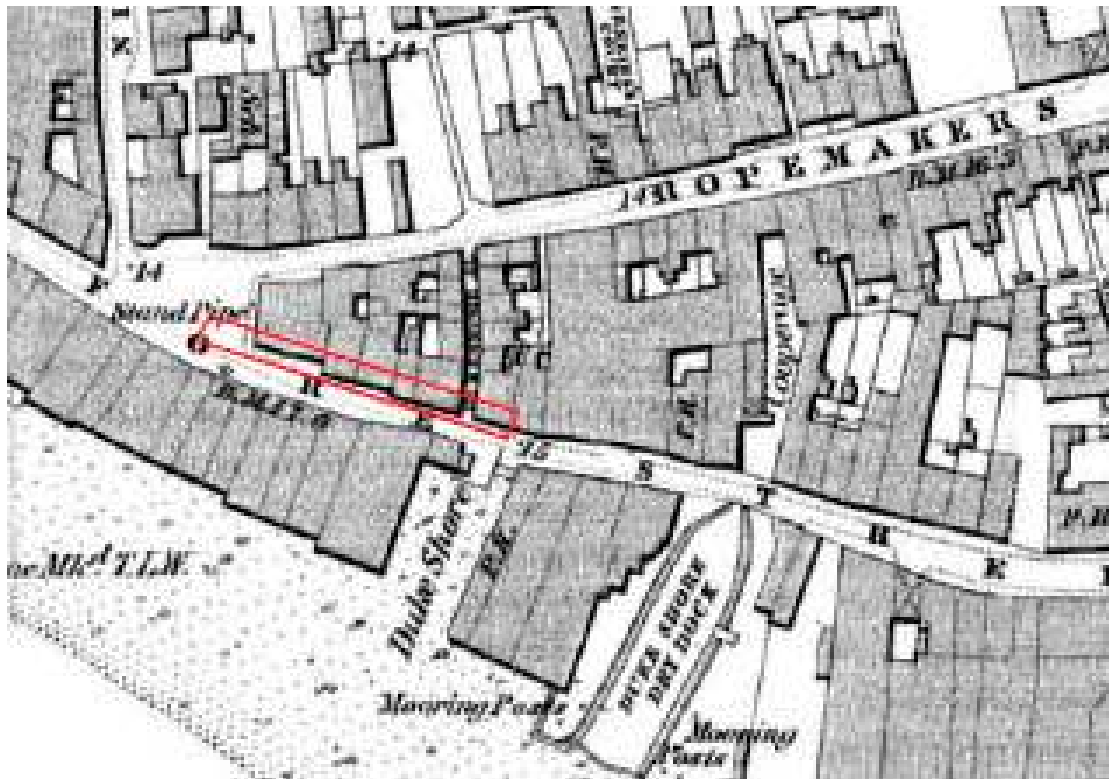


Fig. 6: 1875 OS Map

- 2.12** Kelly's 1889 Street Directory provides details concerning who was living in this stretch of Narrow Street at this time and the industries they were undertaking. Working east from Ropemaker's Field – these are: No.91: John A Saunders, marine stores; No.97+89: John James Barnett, iron merchant; No.99: St Andrew's Mission House; No.103: William McNeill, ship fender; No.105: Richard Stamp, ship fender; No.113+111+102: Gellatle, Hanleey, Sewel and Co, cooperage; No.127: Nicholas Hy and Richard, lighterman; No.129+131: B+D Haley, house doctors; No.133: 'Barley Mow' (PH), Mrs Hannah Amelia Stern.
- 2.13** Booth's Descriptive Poverty Map of London, 1889, depicts the block of houses to the east and west of Duke's Passage in light red. This means "Fairly comfortable. Good ordinary earnings".
- 2.14** The 1894 OS (fig. 7) shows a broadly similar layout of the northern side of Narrow Street as on the 1875 OS. Some of the smaller individual buildings, however, appear to have been incorporated together into larger blocks, and the second 'step-back' in the building frontage has been eliminated.

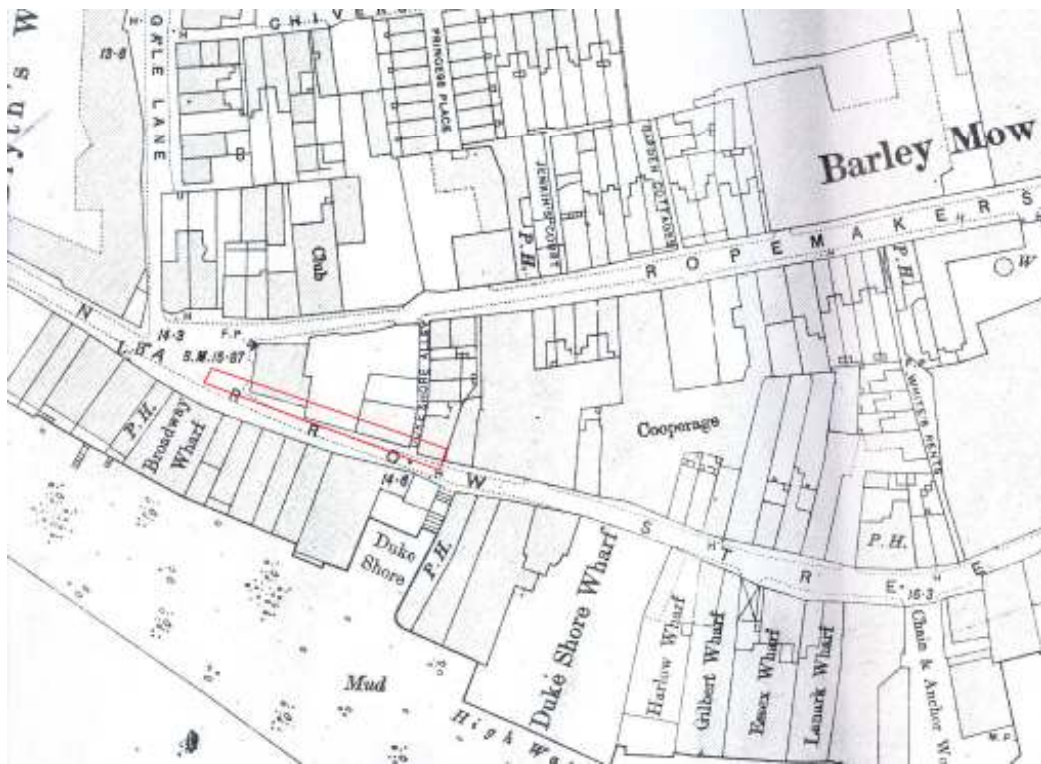


Fig. 7: 1894 OS Map

2.15 Further redevelopment is seen on the 25 inch: mile OS map of 1919 (fig. 8). The second building from the junction with Ropemaker's Fields had been cleared by this date, leaving an open space.



Fig. 8: 1919 OS Map

2.16 The 1920s photograph of Narrow Street (depicted below, copyright Tower Hamlets Library) depicts the area at the junction with Ropemaker's Fields (looking west along Narrow Street). 'The Grapes' (the public house) can clearly be seen on the southern side of Narrow Street, with the young girl standing on the eastern side of the junction with Ropemaker's Fields.



Fig. 9: 1920s photograph of Narrow Street, looking east towards junction with Ropemaker's Fields

2.17 The LCC 1937 revision of the 1919 OS Map clearly shows the widening of Narrow Street (fig. 10) – which must, therefore, have taken place at some date between 1919 and 1937. This appears to have taken place by, essentially, the 'cutting back' of the northern street frontage, such that the building at the junction with Ropemaker's Fields is substantially smaller than it was, the open area/yard next to it is smaller, and the building next to this now appears to be an open space. This meant that the 'step-backs' in the northern building frontage had, by this time, been eliminated in this area. The LCC 1947 revision of the 1919 OS Map (not depicted) is essentially the same as the 1937 revision.

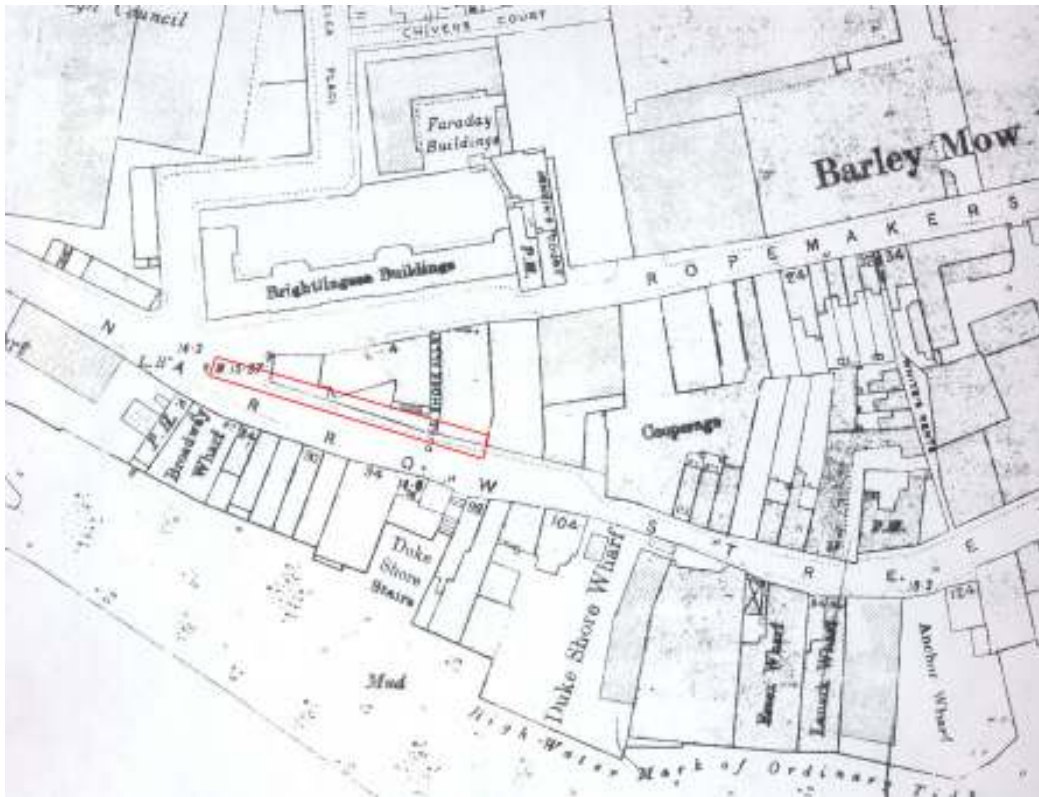


Fig. 10: LCC 1937 revision of 1919 OS Map

2.18 The 1930s photograph of Narrow Street depicted below (Copyright: Tower Hamlets Library) shows the type of buildings that stood along Narrow Street in the early 20th Century. These are all clearly brick-built, with semi-basements, as shown by the grills depicted just above street-level.



Fig. 11: 1930s photograph of Narrow Street – exact location unknown but probably the southern side of Narrow Street, after street-widening

2.19 The 1949 OS Map (fig. 12) shows a similar layout of buildings between Narrow Street and Ropemaker's Fields, although the westernmost is marked as a ruin. The preceding LCC bomb damage map records this as beyond repair, with the adjacent structure suffering only blast damage. The 1956 OS Map (not depicted) is broadly similar.

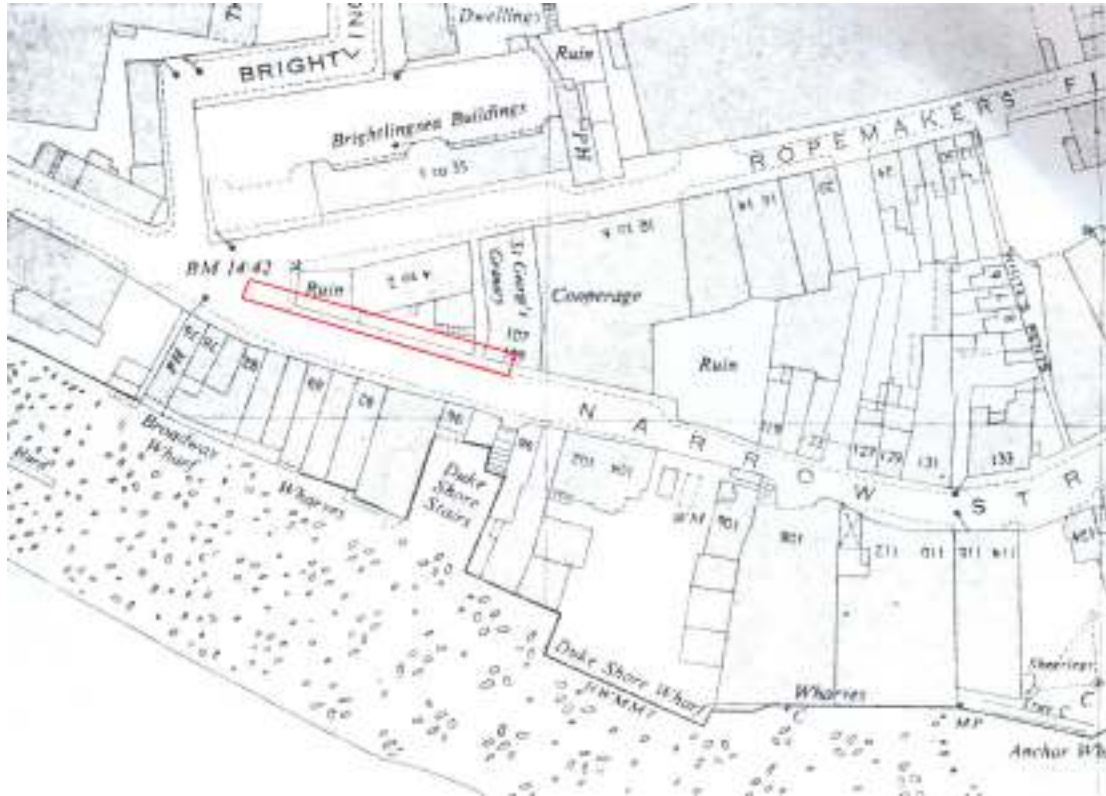


Fig. 12: 1949 OS Map

2.20 The OS revision of 1971 (not depicted) shows the whole area between Narrow Street and Ropemaker's Fields as empty. The buildings which had stood in this area must, therefore, have been destroyed at some point between 1956 and 1971.

3. The Archaeological Programme

The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*).

Works also conformed to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists ('IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs'). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute. The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual.

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 Methodology

Exposed deposits were recorded and cleaned in stratigraphic sequence. The principal deposits and features were described on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, drawn in plan (generally at 1:20), and related to the general site plan and to the OS grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by digital photography.

3.2 Post-Excavation

3.2.1 The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment of finds and samples, and by compilation of this report.

A short summary of the project is appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

4. The Watching Brief

4.1 The most northerly section of the trench in Narrow Street (i.e. the part which runs across the park north of Narrow Street – highlighted yellow in the proposed pipeline plan below) was monitored briefly. No finds or features of significant archaeological interest were observed in this area. Instead, it appears to have been basemented – as mid-later 19th Century basement walls were observed in some areas, with probable basement fills, all dating to the mid-20th Century, in-between them. A small section in the north-east corner of the park and into Ropemaker's Fields was not basemented, but in this area the trench was fairly shallow and revealed only a recent soil profile and previous service backfills.

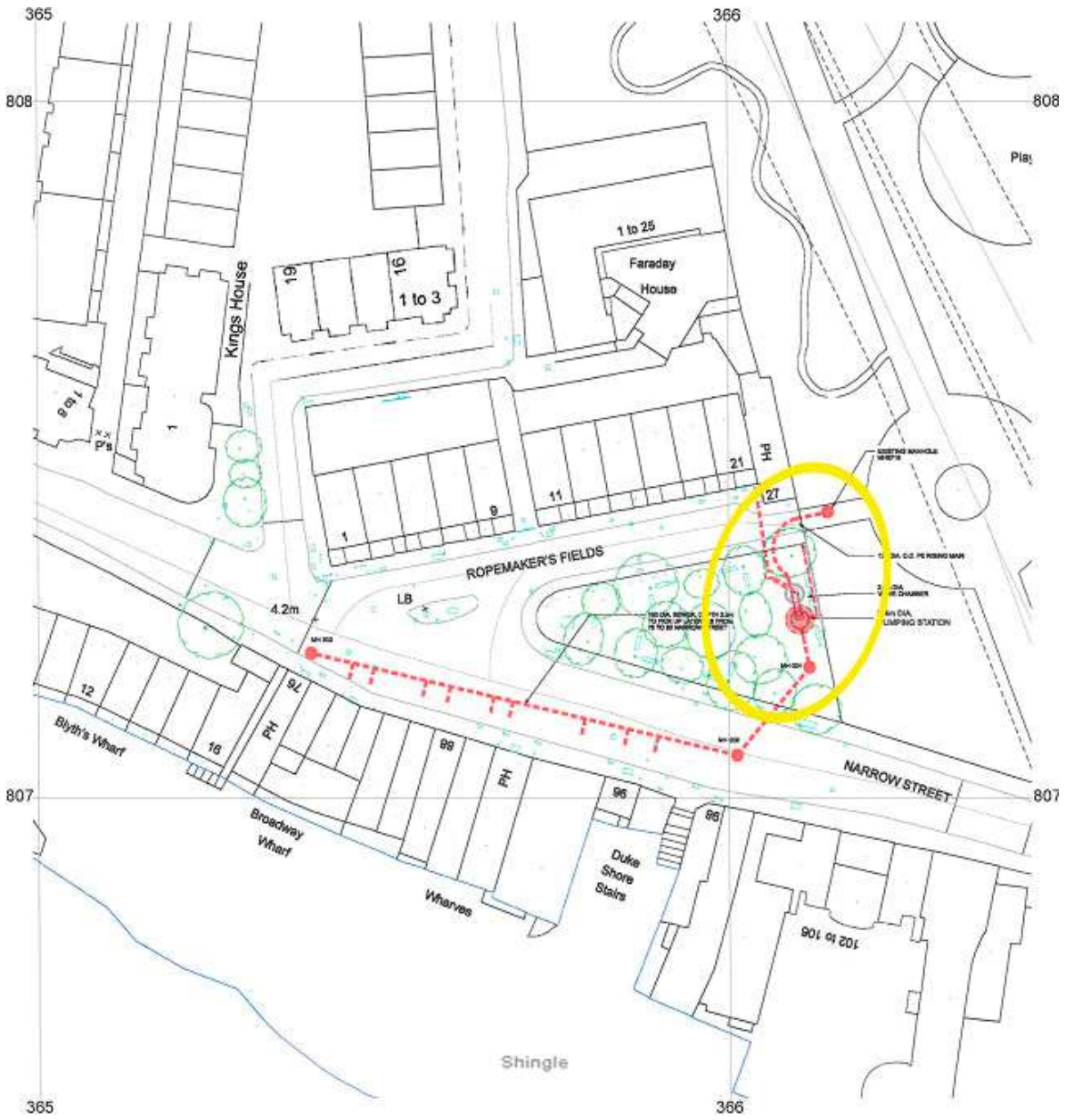


Fig. 13: Proposed pipeline route, with northern-most section (with no archaeology in it) highlighted in yellow



Fig. 14: Photo of basement wall (left foreground below the ladder), in the northern part of the trench running from the northern edge of Narrow Street across the open park

- 4.2 In contrast, the southern part of the trench (i.e. the part which runs south from the junction with the northern pavement and across Narrow Street, and then west along the street) had far more archaeologically significant finds and features in it. The trench plan (fig. 15) and discussion of the archaeological features (below) just covers this southern part of the trench.

The results of the investigation of the southern part of the trench are described below. This part of the trench itself has been divided up into twelve smaller sections. These correspond to presumed different buildings or other features along Narrow Street. A brief description of these different sections, and the contexts which form these, is given below.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Contexts</i>	<i>Supposed feature</i>
1	1-6	One probable building (walls)

2	7-8	Passageway
3	9-11, 18, 20, 22-24, 26-27	Building frontage, including a brick-step
4	12-19, 21, 25	'Street' deposits that run along building frontage
5	27-33	Brick-steps and small enclosed part which leads up to the step-back in the wall
6	32, 34-29	One probable building (walls and brick floor)
7	37-38, 40-43	One probable building (walls and brick floor)
8	41, 44-47	One probable building (walls)
9	46, 48-56	Possible street (walls, modern features)
10	56-58	Possible early building (cut feature up to wall)
11	60, 62-64	Earlier roadway
12	63, 65-69	One probable building (walls)

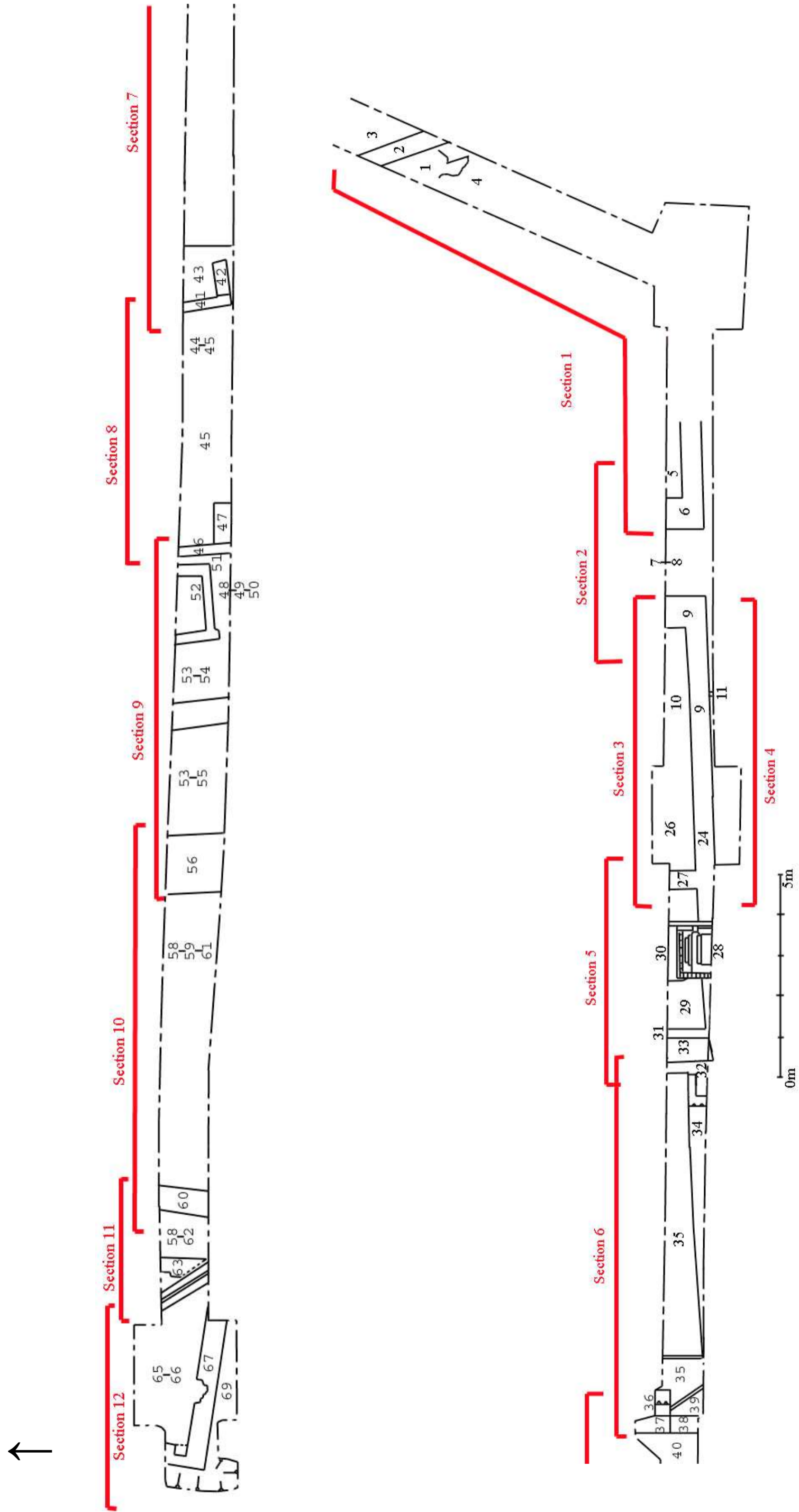


Fig. 15: Trench plan – from west to east

4.3 Section 1:

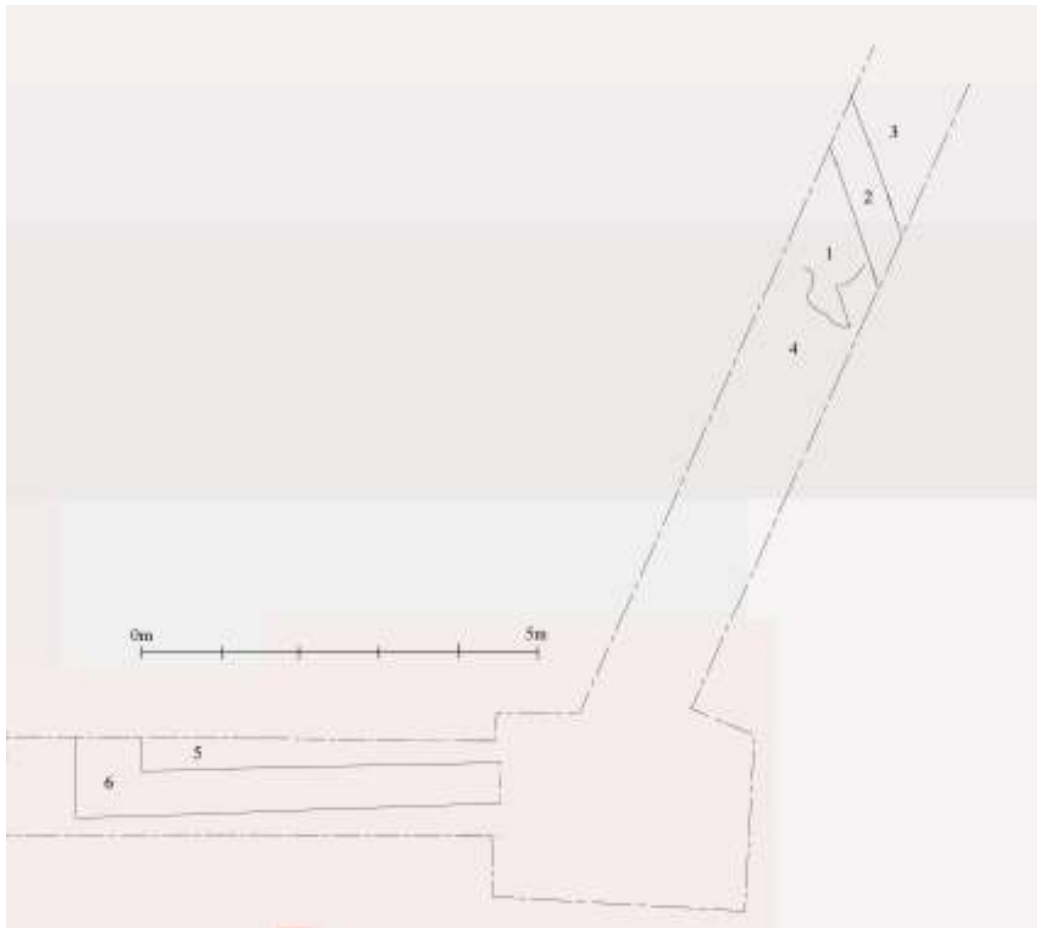


Fig. 16: Trench plan of section 1

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Red brick wall running roughly north-west – south-east across the trench. Very roughly coursed (approx 12 courses in height), set within a hard grey mortar, and consisting of a mix of headers and stretchers. Measures approximately 2.1m N-S, 1.1m E-W (total width of trench), and at least 1m in height (not bottomed). Splays out to the south at the base of the trench, however southern end of the wall in the section is clear. Abutted by [2] to the north.	Probable cellar wall? Earlier than [2]? Bricks suggest a pre-1700 date (pers. comm. John Brown). Possibly a return/continuation of [6], with this wall forming the northern part of the cellar?

2	Purple brick wall running roughly north-west – south-east across the trench. Coursed (approximately 9 courses in height), set within a lime-cream mortar, and consisting of mainly headers. Measures approximately 1.5m N-S, 1.1m E-W (total width of trench), and at least 1m in height (not bottomed). Abuts [1] to the south.	Probably of a more recent date than [1]? May be a later replacement/refacing of [1], i.e. a new cellar wall to replace the older one?
3	Deposit on northern side of brick walls. Mixed loose mid-brown-yellow sandy soil, with some pebbles and darker brown silty-sand patches.	Possibly disturbed soil, possibly associated with the services running across the trench just to the north? Outside the presumed cellar?
4	Deposit on southern side of brick walls. Loose mid-brown silty-sand with some pebbles and CBM.	Possibly cellar fill, as found within the area bounded by [1] and [6]? It is distinctly different from [3].
5	Fill to north and east of [6]. Loose mid-brown silty sand with some pebbles/CBM/mortar.	Possibly cellar fill, in cellar formed by [1] and [6]? Possibly the same as [4]?
6	Red brick wall running east-west along trench, then turning a corner and heading north into the northern section. Roughly coursed (approximately 14-15 courses in height), set within a hard grey mortar, and consisting of a mix of headers and stretchers. Runs east-west along the trench for approximately 2m (at a width of approximately 1m). From corner, runs into the section for about 1m.	Probable continuation of [1] – forming south-western corner of cellar? This therefore represents the southernmost extent of buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street.

4.3.1 The brick walls [1] and [6] probably formed the eastern wall and south-western corner (respectively) of a cellar – represented by contexts [4] and [5] (probable cellar fills). The bricks in wall [1] are probably pre-1700 in date, and were therefore probably part of the early post-medieval development of Narrow Street.

4.3.2 The brick wall [2] abuts wall [1] to the north. This wall [2] is of later date than [1], and may have acted as a later replacement to wall [1], i.e. formed the northern wall of the cellar at a later date, after the original wall [1] had been damaged or fallen into disrepair. There is, however, no evidence for wall [1] having been damaged, although it must be remembered that only the foundations of the wall were uncovered in the excavation, and it is possible that wall [1] had been damaged above the surface.

- 4.3.3** The location of this probable cellar places it to the east of Duke Shore's Alley (see section 2 discussion). Buildings have been located in this area from the earliest available cartographic evidence (Newcourt's 1658 Map).
- 4.3.4** Furthermore, the bricks in wall [1] are probably dated to pre-1700. This therefore suggests that this wall represents a 17th Century cellar and building – possibly part of the middle phase of development of Narrow Street (from c.1630), although equally possibly from an earlier still phase (i.e. early post-medieval).



Fig. 17: Photo of walls [1] and [2] looking south



Fig. 18: Photo of wall [6] in the background

4.4 Section 2:

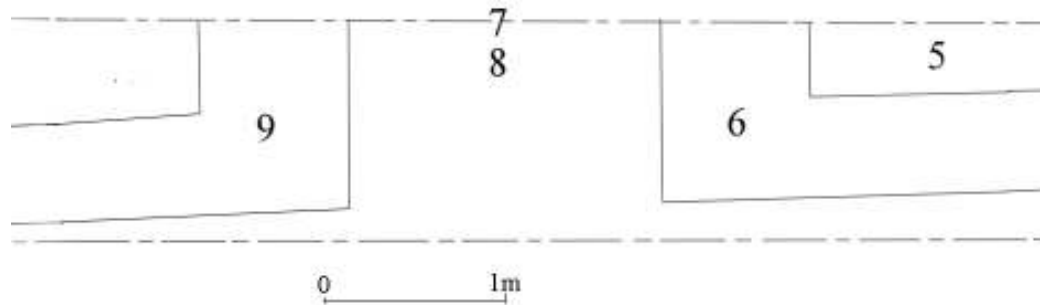


Fig. 19: Trench plan of section 2

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
7	Series of stratified manmade deposits overlying [8] in the northern section, approximately 1.8m E-W. Upper layer: black silty-sand with CBM/pebbles/mortar for approximately 0.2m in height. Beneath this: white-grey chalk for approximately 0.2m in height. Beneath this: loose mid-grey-brown silty sand with pebbles / CBM / mortar / chalk for approximately 0.3m in height.	Probably a passageway between buildings (represented by [6] and [9]). This is seen in the historic maps of the area (Duke Shoar Alley).
8	Alluvial waterlain clay at base of trench below [7]. Relatively compact mid-grey-brown clean layer.	The natural, alluvial, soil.

4.4.1 These contexts refer to a probable passageway which lay between buildings – the wall [6] forming the western wall of a building to the east of the passageway, and the wall [9] forming the eastern wall of a building to the west of the passageway.

4.4.2 This passageway is built up over the natural alluvial soil ([8]). It consists of a number of stratified layers of different manmade deposits – a silty-sand, a

chalk layer, and a black silty-sand. These were used to firm up the passageway.

- 4.4.3 This passageway was “Duk Shoar’s Alley”, clearly depicted on Rocque’s 1745 Map. The passageway, and the deposits encountered in this watching brief which made up the passageway, must therefore date to at least the mid-18th Century. It is possible that such a passageway existed from before this date, however nothing is depicted on Newcourt’s 1658 Map. Nonetheless, the passageway continued in existence, and continued to be depicted on maps, until at least 1956 – yet had disappeared by the 1971 OS Map, along with the buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street. This was therefore part of the total clearance/destruction of all buildings and features in this area of Narrow Street between 1956 and 1971.



Fig. 20: Photo of contexts [7] and [8], between walls [6] and [9] – the passageway

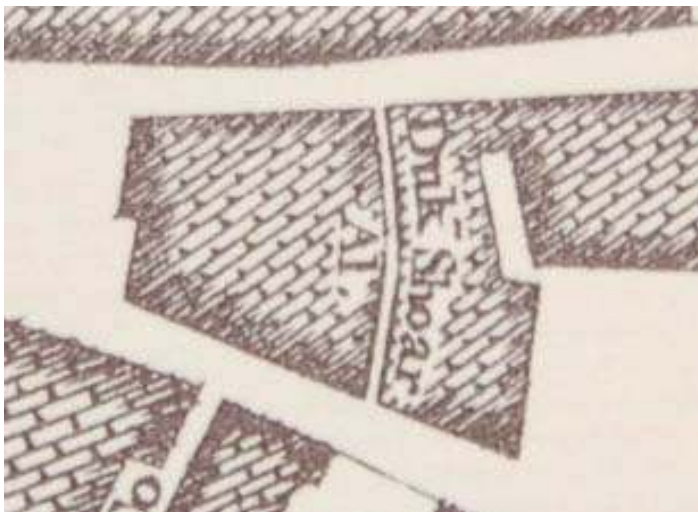


Fig. 21: Rocque’s 1746 Map, with “Duk Shoar Alley” clearly depicted

4.5 Section 3:

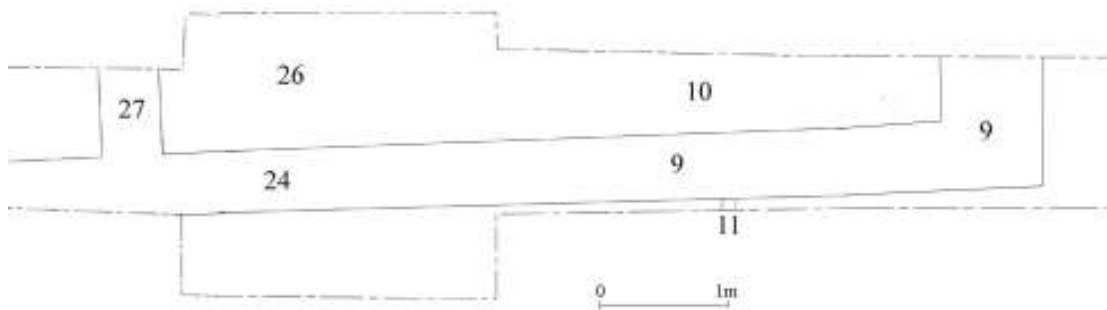


Fig. 22: Trench plan of section 3

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
9	Brick wall running from west of [7] + [8] (see section 2) along to [27] (becomes [24] half-way along as recorded on different dates). Part directly to the west of [7] + [8] runs north-south into the northern section. Coarse, unfrogged bricks, of various colours and fabrics, with fragments. Bonded with white-yellow coarse mortar including sand and stones. Complete brick measures 22.5cm X 11cm X 6.5cm. 4 courses wide. Width = 0.45m, height = 1.5m.	Wall is probably a cellar wall. Part directly to the west of [7] + [8] (running into the northern section) probably represents the south-eastern corner of the cellar, with the part running east-west representing the southern wall of the cellar, and therefore reflecting the line of the building-frontage and southern-most part of the buildings on the northern side of Narrow Street.
10	Fill to the north of [9]. Grey-brown sandy deposit with chalk, lime, gravel, mortar, and brick-rubble inclusions. Down to approximately 1.9m. Beneath this was dark organic loose deposit – natural alluvial clay?	Probably a cellar fill – of cellar bounded by [9], which was a deep cellar.
11	Brick-step jutting out of [9] to the south. Red bricks, set within a hard grey mortar, roughly coursed. Approximately 1 course lower than [9] (2 courses in height), and measures approximately 0.6m (width) by 0.3m (N-S into southern section).	Brick-step jutting out of cellar wall ([9]) into the street. Possibly a step out from the building into the street?

18	Formally laid large red ceramic tiles. Only three surviving, but were originally more. Lay horizontally on top of [24]. Each tile measured 30.7cm X 31cm X 35-37cm. Tiles overly crumbly loose mortar/tile rubble.	Later feature (as overlies rubble make-up where wall had been cut away at a later time). Possibly formed the base of an inserted cellar window in [24], facing into Narrow Street.
20	Construction cut for [24]. Just visible as a clean cut in the alluvium ([25]) to the north of the wall.	Construction cut for wall (probably cellar wall).
22	Lens of clean river clay lining the construction cut ([20]) of wall ([24]). Extends whole depth of the trench, merging with [25] at base.	Possible by-product of the construction of the wall ([24]), and displacement of the surrounding alluvium to pack the cut.
23	Rubble layer underlying [18]. Loose, grey/yellow, brick and tile rubble. Measures 1.04m E/W and 0.61m N/S.	Rubble cut and fill deposit underlying tiles, for a later window in the cellar wall.
24	Brick wall (continuation of [9]), running along to [27]. Machine-made red brick, frogged, set within a grey-flecked mortar. Bricks obviously re-used as were re-mortared over the older mortar on many of the joints. This section measured 2.5m X 0.48m X 1m (at least).	Wall is a continuation to the west of [9]. Probably a cellar wall, reflecting the line of the building-frontage. Definite evidence of rebuilding (use of re-used bricks and later window – [18] + [23]). Bricks date generally to 1630-1730, with some later bricks (late 18 th Century) representing the rebuild.
26	Deposit to north of [24]. Mixed loose mid-brown/grey silty sand, with inclusions of pebbles and CBM.	Probably a cellar fill (of cellar bounded by [24])? The same as [10], which was a deep cellar.
27	Brick wall running north-south off [24] into the northern section. Red brick, set within a hard grey mortar, very roughly coursed. Measures approximately 0.3m wide (E-W) by 1.3m (N-S, although continues into northern section).	Possibly the dividing walls of two cellars of different depths. The western wall of the cellar of which [9] was the eastern wall.

4.5.1 The brick walls [9] and [24] were continuous and the same wall, but were recorded as different contexts because they were recorded on different dates. They probably represent a cellar wall – most probably the southern wall of the cellars that were sited on the northern side of Narrow Street. This wall therefore also represents the line of the building frontage that ran along the northern side of Narrow Street. The bricks from [24] were dated c.1630-1730 (probably part of the middle phase of development of Narrow Street), with some later bricks representing a later 18th Century rebuild.

- 4.5.2** The north-south running section of [9] and [27] probably form the eastern and western end of this specific cellar. The north-south running section of [9] also formed the eastern external wall of this row of buildings, adjacent to the passageway. [27], in contrast, formed the internal dividing wall between this cellar and the one to the west.
- 4.5.3** The fill between these walls – [10] and [26] – is a probable cellar fill. This overlay alluvial clay (the ‘natural’) at a depth of 1.9m beneath the modern ground-surface. This represents the probable depth to which the cellar extended down to, and is therefore a deep cellar, rather than a semi-basement which is found in other places along Narrow Street.
- 4.5.4** [11] is an interesting feature found along the wall [9]. It is a small brick step that runs north out of the wall. This may have formed a step out from the building into the street.
- 4.5.5** [23] and [18] also form an interesting, presumably later, feature cut into the cellar wall. [23] was cut into [24] (the wall), and consisted of a rubble cut and fill. This underlay [18], which was a row of large ceramic tiles, laid horizontally above [24] (the wall). This may have formed the base of a cellar window, inserted into the wall at a later date (possibly in association with the later rebuild of the wall). This would have faced out onto the northern side of Narrow Street.
- 4.5.6** This section obviously represents the building on the northern side of Narrow Street, just to the west of Duke’s Shore Alley. Buildings are depicted in this area from at least the mid-17th Century (Newcourt’s 1658 Map). The first clear representation of a building in this location is on Horwood’s 1813 Map – where a relatively large building is depicted. This fits with the archaeology uncovered in this trench, as wall [9]/[24] runs east-west for approximately 6m (a relatively long expanse). A large building in this location was also depicted on the 1875 OS Map, however maps after this date depict a change in the layout of buildings to the west of the alley, such that this building appears to have been combined with that to the west of it. It is therefore possible that wall [27] became obsolete after the late 19th Century, as the cellar became incorporated into that to the west of it, or, as seems more likely, that the whole cellar was infilled/became obsolete in the late 19th Century. Nonetheless, this section represents this large building to the west of the alley, which existed from at least the mid-17th Century (Newcourt’s Map) until the late 19th Century.



Fig. 23: Photo of contexts [9] (brick wall running along photo) and context [11] (brick step in right part of photo), looking east



Fig. 24: Photo of contexts [24] (brick wall running across photo) and contexts [23] and [18] (ceramic tiles which formed cellar window in left part of photo), looking south



Fig. 25: Photo of context [24] (brick wall) and context [26] (cellar fill) in the foreground



Fig. 26: Photo of context [24] (brick wall) and context [26] (cellar fill) in the foreground – clearly different from the deposits in the background ('street' deposits discussed in section 4), looking south

Fig. 27: Large building on the west of alley – Horwood's 1813 Map



4.6 Section 4:

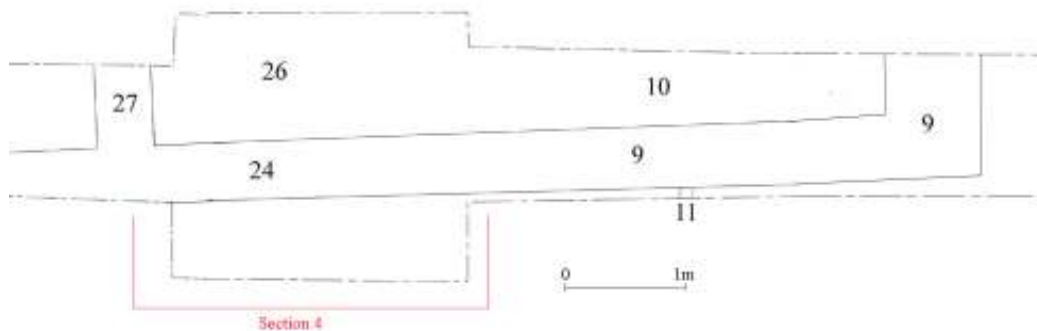


Fig. 28: Trench plan of section 4

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
12	Layer of chalk in southern section, adjacent to [9]. Compact band, white/grey in colour, relatively clean, and 0.2m-0.3m in height.	Located outside of the building/cellar (as to the south of [9]), so may be associated with the street itself. Possibly associated with the construction of the road? Similar to the chalk found in [7]?
13	Alluvial clay in southern section, adjacent to [9], and underlying [12]. Mid-brown clayey deposit.	Probable natural – same as [8]?
14	Gravel make-up layer. To south of [24]. Loose, redeposited gravel deposit, with angular small flint gravels and coarse sands (50-60% sand, 40-50% angular gravels). Some inclusions of brick/CBM through later reworking, but originally deposited as clean gravel. Measures 0.34m N/S, 2.5m E/W.	Probably part of street make-up to consolidate the underlying alluvial clay deposits.
15	Mottled soft puddle chalk deposit, consisting of chalk (80%) and ash/organic staining (20%). Inclusions of bone, brick, CBM, rusty metal. Measures 2.5m E/W, 0.34m N/S. To south of [24], underlying [14]. Finds: animal bone; slag; CBM.	Associated with similar crushed puddle chalk layer ([21]), which underlies it. Probably part of street make-up to consolidate the underlying alluvial clay deposits.

16	Loosely compacted fill of shallow pit ([17]) in [21] (south of [24]). Consists of black ash and huge amounts of rusted slag and metal (industrial debris?) Measures 0.41m E-W, 0.21m N-S, 0.15m deep.	Pit containing industrial debris, such as iron slag, in street of Narrow Street?
17	Circular cut for small pit (fill is [16]) in [21] (south of [24]). Measures 0.41m E-W, 0.35m N-S, 0.2m deep. Overlain by [19].	Cut for pit containing industrial debris in street of Narrow Street?
19	Black silty-ash layer containing silt, ash, and general debris (bone, clinker, clay tobacco pipes, small pieces of CBM). Overlies [16] (pit). Measures 0.6m E-W, 0.2m N-S, 0.15m maximum depth. To south of [24]. Finds: 1 clay-pipe bowl (possibly Type 23: c.1760-1800); 1 clay-pipe bowl (possibly Type 12: c.1730-1830); animal bone.	Small dumped deposit – unknown function.
21	Compact puddled chalk layer, with some silt and bone inclusions. To south of [24], underlying [15], with [16] + [17] (pit) cut into it.	Probably part of street make-up to consolidate the underlying alluvial clay deposits.
25	Alluvial river clay. Compact, mid-brown/yellow. Generally clean, with some brick and CBM inclusions.	Naturally deposited river-clay, found at base of trench (beneath [21]). Same as [8] + [13]?

- 4.6.1** These deposits were all uncovered to the south of [24] and [9] (the brick wall), and were consequently found within the street itself. They are all, therefore, deposits associated with the street and the street make-up, rather than the buildings along the street.
- 4.6.2** At the base of the trench, the ‘natural’ alluvial river clay was uncovered ([25] and [13]). This is probably the same as [8].
- 4.6.3** Above this ‘natural’, a number of different deposits were found, many of which may have been street make-up layers. For example, to the south of [24], [21] and [15] (both puddle chalk layers) were found. These may have been part of the street make-up, possibly used to consolidate the underlying alluvial clay deposits. This underlay [14] (a gravel make-up layer), which may have been further used to strengthen and consolidate the street. It is interesting that a layer of chalk was also found in the passageway section to the east of this (see section 2), and to the south of [9] ([12]), as this suggests that such chalk was often used as a way of consolidating the street make-up.
- 4.6.4** Beyond the street make-up deposits themselves, two other features were uncovered in this area. One of these was a small pit containing industrial debris with a large quantity of slag ([16]). The other was a similar small dumped deposit with a number of different mixed finds ([19]). The dating of

the clay-pipe bowls from [19] to the late 18th Century suggest that this was the date at which these deposits were dumped in the street – and therefore also the date at which industrial activity was taking place in Narrow Street.



Fig. 29: Photo of context [24] (brick wall) and contexts [14], [15], [21] and [25] (street make-up layers and alluvial clay), looking south



Fig. 30: Photo of context [9] (brick wall), with contexts [12] and [13] (chalk and alluvial clay) to the south of this, looking south



Fig. 31: Photo of context [19] (dumped deposit)

4.7 Section 5:

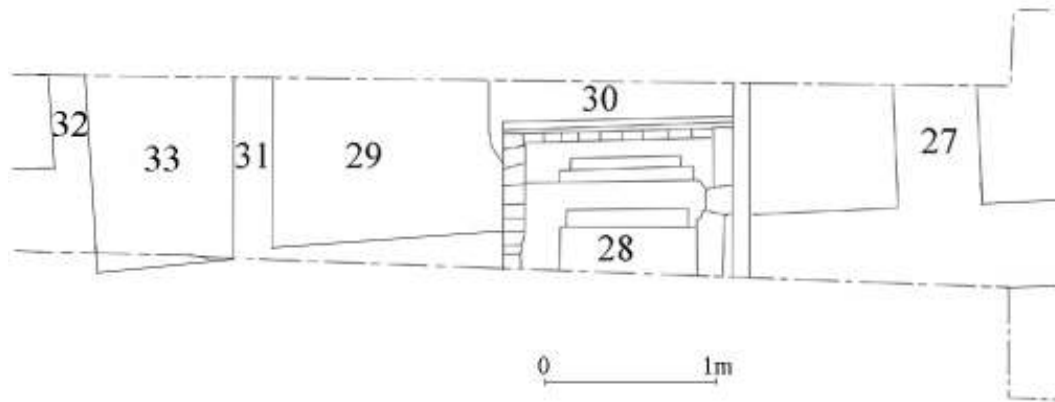


Fig. 32: Trench plan of section 5

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
27	Brick wall running north-south off [24] into the northern section. Red brick, set within a hard grey mortar, very roughly coursed. Measures approximately 0.3m wide (E-W) by 1.3m (N-S, although continues into northern section).	Possibly the dividing walls of two cellars of different depths. The western wall of the cellar of which [9] was the eastern wall.
28	Brick steps. Leads north off brick wall in southern section (which is a continuation of [24]). Consists of red brick, set out regularly into courses, within a grey mortar. Consists of five steps, all of different widths and with different numbers of bricks. The total width (E-W) of the steps is approximately 1.3m, with them starting approximately 0.8m beneath the ground-surface down to a depth of 1.5m. They are sited above a brick floor ([30]).	Probably steps leading down from the outer (southern) wall of a cellar down into the cellar. These would have had wooden inserts around the top edge and sides of each step, now wholly rotted away.

29	Mortar rubble fill to the west of [28], up to [31]. Loose area consisting of large chunks of brick rubble within mixed light-mid-brown silty sand, with pebbles / CBM / mortar inclusions. Finds: one sherd of Post-Medieval Redware; six sherds of Ironstone China (19 th Century date). 3 coins (dated 1887 and 1891).	Within the cellar bounded by [27] + [31]. Demolition rubble?
30	Brick floor. Just to the north of [28] (brick steps). Red brick, regularly laid-out, set within a grey mortar, at bottom of steps. A small patch was uncovered, measuring approximately 1m in width (E-W) and 1m in length (N-S). Bricks dated c.1630-1800.	Part of the floor of the cellar bounded by [27] + [31].
31	Brick wall running north off brick wall running along southern section of trench. Red brick, coursed, grey mortar. Measures approximately 0.2m in width (E-W), and 1.2m in length (N-S, across whole length of trench), and approximately 1m beneath ground-surface.	Probably the internal dividing wall of a cellar (the other side of [27]). It is narrower than [27] because [27] has a much deeper cellar to the east of it.
32	Brick wall running north-south across the trench. Located just to the west of [31]. Red brick, coursed, grey mortar. Measures approximately 0.2m in width (E-W), and 1.2m in length (N-S, across whole length of trench), and approximately 1m beneath ground-surface. Bricks dated c.1730-1780.	Possibly another cellar wall? However it is located too close to [31] for it to be the western wall of a cellar bounded by [31], but it seems more likely that it acted as the eastern wall of a cellar bounded by [37] + [38].
33	Rubble fill between [31] + [32]. Relatively loose, mid-light brown silty-sand, with pebbles / CBM / chalk / mortar etc, and patches of different soil. Finds: five sherds of English Porcelain; one sherd of Ironstone China (mid-18 th Century date).	Unlikely to be a cellar fill as [31] + [32] are too close together? More likely to be a gap between cellars, or a passageway or something similar? The rubble nature of the fill may be associated with destruction/demolition?

4.7.1 Brick walls [27] and [31] form the north-south bounding walls of a cellar, with the wall running east-west between them (a continuation of [24]) acting as the southern boundary wall of the cellar, and consequently the line of the building frontage along the northern part of Narrow Street. The cellars east and west of [27] were different depths, much deeper to the east with more of a ‘semi-

basement' to the west, although there was no apparent break in continuity of the east-west wall.

- 4.7.2 The brick steps [28] are an interesting feature, which do not appear elsewhere in the trench. They lead down north from the east-west running wall, such that they effectively run down into what would have been the inside of the cellar, from the southern wall (i.e. the line of the building frontage along the northern side of Narrow Street). They would have acted as access steps into the cellar from the street.
- 4.7.3 The fill between the walls [27] and [31] ([29]) was probable cellar-fill, similar to that observed elsewhere in the trench. Pottery from this fill give an overall 19th Century date to the fill, with the coins also being dated to the late 19th Century (the latest is 1891), such that the cellar must have been infilled after this date. It is possible that this was during the early 20th Century road-widening.
- 4.7.4 Part of the floor of this cellar [30] was also uncovered at the base of the steps [28]. A small patch of this was uncovered around the base of the steps, at a lower level than the depth of excavation elsewhere between [27] and [31]. It seems probable that this floor extended over the whole base of the cellar, but that this was beyond the limit of excavation. The bricks from this context were dated *c.*1630-1800, and were probably part of the middle phase of development in Narrow Street – often associated with the construction of such cellar floors. The depth of this floor beneath the modern ground-surface suggests that this was the floor of a semi-basement, rather than a cellar as such.
- 4.7.5 Another wall [32] ran north-south across the trench and was located just to the west of wall [31]. This appears similar to the other walls found (i.e. [27] and [31]) that formed dividing walls between cellars. The problem here, however, is that wall [32] was relatively close to wall [31], such that it seems unlikely that these two walls formed the bounding walls of a single cellar. Wall [32] does, however, form the eastern bounding cellar wall of a cellar bounded to the west by wall [37]/[38].
- 4.7.6 This leads to the question – what was this gap between the two cellars, represented by context [33]? It is difficult to ascertain a definitive answer to this, although it could have been some form of passageway between buildings, or a deliberate gap for some other reason. This suggestion is supported by the fact that there was a 'step-back' in the line of the building frontage at this point. It seems possible that there may have been a gap in the buildings at this point because there was this 'step-back'.
- 4.7.7 Cartographic evidence supports the suggestion that there was, at some point, a 'gap' between the two buildings. Horwood's 1813 Map depicts this, and appears to suggest that the 'gap' leads through to some form of back-yards. Unfortunately, the earlier maps (Rocque and Newcourt) are not detailed enough to ascertain whether or not a gap existed between buildings from an earlier date, but the discovery of 18th Century pottery from context [33] (in the

area of the ‘gap’) suggests that it was in use from at least the 18th Century, and the dating of the bricks from context [32] to *c.*1730-1780 suggests the construction of the passageway in the 18th Century. Interestingly, this ‘gap’ appears to have disappeared by the 1875 OS Map – with the building to the east of the ‘gap’ appearing to extend further to the west.

- 4.7.8** In this case – the chronology/function of the features encountered in section 5 are as follows. The cellars/basements of two buildings (represented by [27] and [31] to the east; and [32] and [37]/[38] to the west) existed in the mid-18th Century until the mid-19th Century, with a ‘gap’ between the buildings (between walls [31] and [32]). By 1875, this ‘gap’ had disappeared, with it being possible that wall [32] became the western wall of the cellar bounded by wall [27].
- 4.7.9** Cartographic evidence also supports the apparent ‘step-back’ in the line of the northern building frontage at this point. Interestingly, Horwood’s 1813 Map does not appear to depict such a ‘step-back’, however it is depicted from the 1875 OS Map onwards. This cannot, however, suggest that the ‘step-back’ in the line of the building frontage took place in the 19th Century, as the bricks are too early for that. Instead, Horwood’s Map must just not depict this completely accurately.
- 4.7.10** Furthermore, a building is depicted in this location from the earliest cartographic evidence through to the 1875 OS Map. The 1894 Map, however, appears to depict this building as having been combined with the building to the east of it (see above discussion). It therefore seems likely that this cellar fell out of use in the late 19th Century, when this change in buildings took place – as is supported by the 19th Century pottery from context [29] (the cellar fill).



Fig. 33: Photo of section 5, looking west, showing context [28] (brick steps) in the foreground, with contexts [31]/[32] etc (brick walls) in the background

Fig. 34: Photo of context [28] (brick steps) and context [30] (brick floor)





Fig. 35: Photo of contexts [31] and [32] (brick walls) in the foreground, with contexts [28] and [30] (brick steps and floor) in the background, looking east

Fig. 36: Horwood's 1813 Map, clearly showing 'gap' between buildings

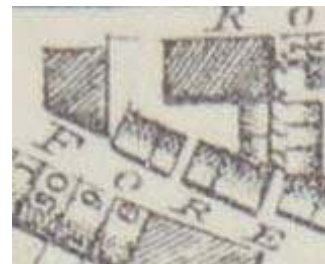


Fig. 37: 1875 OS Map, clearly showing 'step back' in northern building frontage and no 'gap' between buildings

4.8 Section 6:

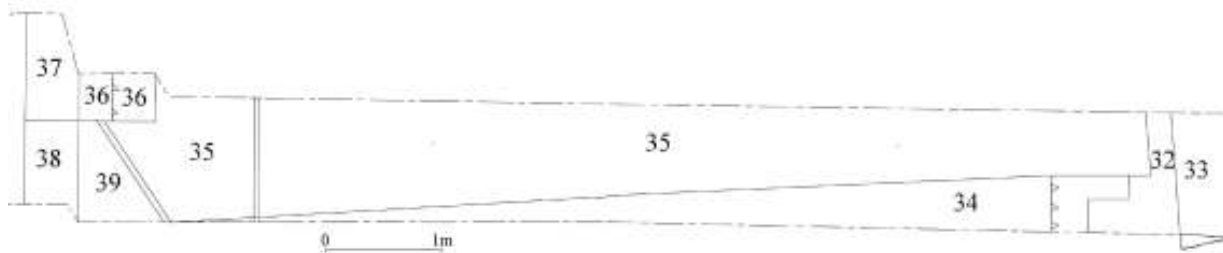


Fig. 38: Trench plan of section 6

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
32	Brick wall running north-south across the trench. Located just to the west of [31]. Red brick, coursed, set within grey mortar. Measures approximately 0.2m in width (E-W), and 1.2m in length (N-S, across whole length of trench), and approximately 1m beneath ground-surface. Bricks dated to c.1730-1780.	Possibly another cellar wall? However it is located too close to [31] for it to be the western wall of a cellar bounded by [31], but it seems more likely that it acted as the eastern wall of a cellar bounded by [37] + [38].
34	Brick wall running E-W along trench, west of [32], and running slightly into the southern section. There is a noticeable step-back in the building-line here. The differences in the height of the wall is probably because of different amounts of demolition. Red brick, regularly coursed/laid out, set within a grey mortar. The main wall is approximately 0.5m wide, and is found approximately 0.4m beneath ground-surface, for a height of c.0.5m.	Probably a brick cellar wall (the southern wall of the cellar bounded by [32] + [37]/[38])? Reflects the line of the building frontage in the northern part of Narrow Street, and the step-back in the line of the building frontage that occurred at this point?

35	Dark ashy/silty fill between [32] + [35], in the northern part of the trench. Relatively loose, with some pebbles/CBM inclusions etc. Finds: three sherds of English Porcelain, nine sherds of Ironstone China (20 th Century); glass; animal bone; iron nails; clinker.	Probable cellar-fill, in the cellar bounded by [32] and [37]/[38].
36	Rectangular brick base abutting and running east of [37] in the northern part of the trench. Slight 'step' up in the wall, with western half of the wall base approximately 0.1m higher than the eastern half. Red brick, set within grey mortar (lots of which spills over the bricks). Measures approximately 0.6m in length (E-W), by 0.3m in width (N-S). Bricks dated <i>c.</i> 1630-1730.	Unknown function? Later than both [37] and [38], as abuts them.
37	Brick wall running north-south, north of [38] and into the northern section. Continued some way into the northern section (for at least 0.9m, where it is cut away by modern services). Red brick, regularly coursed (mainly stretchers), orange-grey mortar, 10 courses high, approximately 0.3m long (N-S), and 0.45m wide. Bricks dated <i>c.</i> 1630-1730.	Clearly of different construction from [38] (different type of brick/mortar, and with a clear division between the two contexts) – probably later than [38] as abuts it? Possibly the blocking of an earlier doorway between the two cellars.
38	Brick wall running north-south, south of [37] and into the southern section. Dark red brick, very regularly coursed (mainly stretchers), grey mortar, 11 courses high, approximately 0.45m wide (E-W) and 0.7m long (N-S). Bricks dated <i>c.</i> 1630-1730.	Probably part of an internal dividing cellar wall, possibly the other side of the cellar bounded by [32]. Clearly of different construction from [37]. Probably the original wall, with a good finished edge to the north (possibly for an opening for a doorway, which was then blocked up by [37])?

39	Triangular patch of solid brick to the east of [38] and south of [36]. Layer of red bricks laid flat at the base of the walls, within some patches of mortar and stone blocking at the eastern edge. The diagonal edge to the east appears to be original, with stone and brick here resting on a decayed timber and forming a step down to the lower level. Measures approximately 0.6m at northern end (E-W) to 0.9m at southern end (E-W), and approximately 0.7m N-S.	Unknown function? Possibly some form of ledge or cupboard or other feature within the cellar? Not a floor of the cellar as [35] (cellar fill deposits) are far deeper than [39].
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- 4.8.1** The brick walls [32] and [38] form the eastern and western bounding walls (respectively) of a semi-basement, with context [35] representing its cellar-fill. Pottery from this fill was dated to the 20th Century, and suggests that the basement was infilled in the 20th Century. Context [34] formed the southern wall of this basement.
- 4.8.2** The brick wall [37]/[38] clearly consisted of two separate building-phases. This is obvious both in terms of the type of brick and mortar used – to the extent that it is clear to the modern eye. The bricks in [37] were of fabric-type 3046 with mortar-type 2; whereas those in [38] were of fabric-type 3033 with mortar-type 5. The bricks in [38] were dated *c.*1450-1700, whereas those in [37] were dated to *c.*1630-1730. This suggests that wall [38] was the earlier wall. The finished edge at the northern side of [38] was probably original, and may have formed an opening for a doorway between the two basements or something similar. [37] may have then formed the later blocking of this doorway.
- 4.8.3** [36] is some form of brick step, which abuts [37] to the east. The bricks in this also date to *c.*1630-1730. This therefore falls within the basement, and runs off the western wall into the basement. The exact function of this is unknown, although it abuts [37] and has a different mortar, so is probably of a later date than [37] (therefore later than the blocking of the doorway). It was probably a purely internal feature – although its purpose is unknown.
- 4.8.5** The brick wall [34] that ran east-west along the trench formed the southern wall of the basement, and consequently the line of the building frontage along the northern side of Narrow Street. The line of this is slightly to the north of the line of the building frontage to the east of this ([24]). This therefore represents a ‘step-back’ in the historic building frontage at this point. It is possible that the gap between walls [32] and [31], discussed above, may have been related to this ‘step-back’ in some way.
- 4.8.6** Cartographic evidence places this building to the west of the ‘step-back’ in the building frontage along the northern side of Narrow Street. Buildings are depicted in this location from the earliest cartographic evidence (Newcourt, 1658), and the first clear depiction of the building is Horwood in 1813). The

'step-back' in the line of the building frontage is depicted on the 1875 OS Map, however appears to have disappeared by the 1894 OS Map. It is possible that the 'step-back' existed from before this date, despite the fact that it is not depicted on Horwood's 1813 Map, as the archaeological evidence encountered in this trench suggests that this building (and these walls) existed from at least the 17th Century.

4.8.7 The later cartographic evidence shows the combination of this building with those to the west of it between 1875 and 1896, followed by the apparent destruction of the buildings in this location between 1894 and 1919. Some type of 'yard' or outside space is depicted in this location on the 1919 OS Map. This suggests that the basement may have been infilled in the late 19th – early 20th Century, and is supported by the discovery of 20th Century pottery in the fill [35].



Fig. 39: Photo of the western face of contexts [37]/[38], clearly showing the difference stages of construction of the wall, with the later infill/blocking [37] to the left.



Fig. 40: Photo of contexts [37]/[38] (brick wall running north-south across trench), with context [36] (brick base) to the east



Fig. 41: Photo of contexts [37]/[38]/[36]/[39], after removal of some of the overlying deposit [35].

4.9 Section 7:

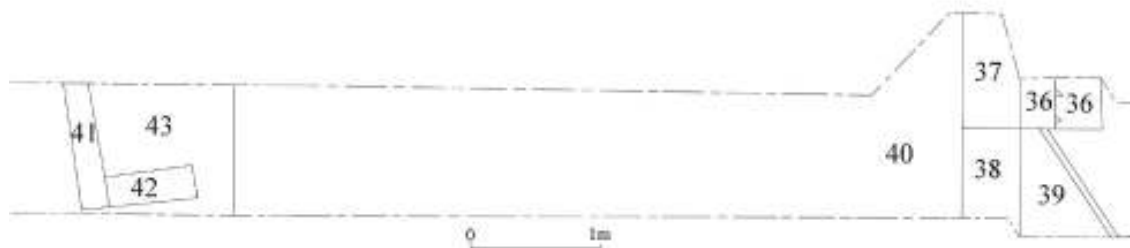


Fig. 42: Trench plan of section 7

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
37	Brick wall running north-south, north of [38] and into the northern section. Continued some way into the northern section (for at least 0.9m, where it is cut away by modern services). Red brick, regularly coursed (mainly stretchers), orange-grey mortar, 10 courses high, approximately 0.3m long (N-S), and 0.45m wide. Bricks dated c.1630-1730.	Clearly of different construction from [38] (different type of brick/mortar, and with a clear division between the two contexts) – probably later than [38] as abuts it? Possibly the blocking of an earlier doorway between the two cellars.
38	Brick wall running north-south, south of [37] and into the southern section. Dark red brick, very regularly coursed (mainly stretchers), grey mortar, 11 courses high, approximately 0.45m wide (E-W) and 0.7m long (N-S).	Probably part of an internal dividing cellar wall, possibly the other side of the cellar bounded by [32]. Clearly of different construction from [37]. Probably the original wall, with a good finished edge to the north (possibly for an opening for a doorway, which was then blocked up by [37])?
40	Fill between [37]+[38], and [41]. Mid-brown silty sand, with pebbles and CBM. Large chunks of CBM visible in the southern section – possibly related to the southern cellar wall which presumably runs along south of the trench. Finds: one sherd of post-medieval redware, eighteen sherds of English tin-glazed ware (17 th Century); glass.	Probable basement-fill.

41	Brick wall running north-south across trench, and probably continuing to the south beyond the southern limit of excavation. Red brick, regularly coursed, and set within pink mortar. Stretches whole way across trench at base of wall, but top of the wall is broken away in the northern part of the trench. Maximum 15 courses in height, and two bricks wide (approx 0.2m). Abuts [42], which runs east from [41] at its southern point. Bricks dated <i>c.</i> 1450-1700.	Probably part of an internal dividing basement wall? Possibly the western wall of the basement bounded by [37] + [38], and the eastern wall of the basement bounded by [36]?
42	Brick wall running east-west off from the southern part of [41]. Red brick, very regularly coursed, set within a cream-lime mortar. Clearly a separate build to [41], probably later. Approximately 17 courses high, and is laid out with a row of stretches above a row of headers. Runs to the east for approximately 1.3m, and is approximately 0.4m thick. Eastern end is very smooth and looks finished. Bricks date <i>c.</i> 1450-1700.	This wall clearly falls within the basement itself, with the southern line of the cellar running to the south of the trench. It is therefore some form of internal basement feature, of later date than [41].
43	Brick floor in area bounded by [41] to the west and [42] to the south. Red bricks laid flat at base of trench (approximately 1.5m beneath ground-surface), in a regular way (with a mix of headers and stretchers). Measures approximately 1.2m E-W, and 0.6m N-S. It also stretches slightly around the east side of [42] (by the width of 2 bricks).	The floor of the basement bounded by [37]/[38] and [41].

4.9.1 This section also consists of the remains of one basement, bounded by walls [37]/[38] (see previous section for discussion), and wall [41] (bricks dated *c.*1450-1700).

- 4.9.2** Part of the probable brick floor of this basement was also uncovered ([43]). This is similar to that observed in the previous sections, and is at a high enough level to suggest that it was a semi-basement rather than a cellar as such.
- 4.9.3** [40] represents the probable basement-fill. Interestingly, this fill is distinctly different from the basement-fill of the basement to the east of this ([35]). The pottery and glass uncovered in fill [40] dates from the 17th Century, whereas the pottery from [35] dates from the 20th Century. This suggests that the basements were infilled at completely different times and for different reasons.
- 4.9.4** The building itself is part of the relatively large building adjacent to the junction with Ropemakers Fields. This is also depicted from the earliest detailed map (Horwood, 1813), up to, and including, the 1919 OS Map. It is still depicted on the 1937 OS Map, however is smaller at this date due to the widening of Narrow Street (widening to the north). This would therefore have cut away the southern part of the northern buildings along Narrow Street – and therefore the parts encountered during this watching brief. The building itself was destroyed in bombing raids during World War II.



Fig. 43: Photo of contexts [41]/[42]/[43], showing the brick walls and brick floor



Fig. 44: Photo of contexts [41]/[42]/[43] (brick walls and floors), with context [40] (basement fill) in the foreground, looking west

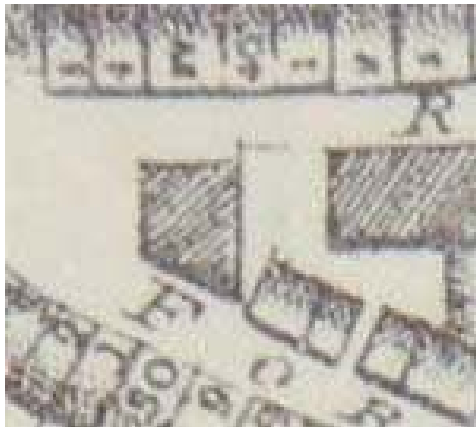


Fig.45: Horwood's Map, 1813, showing large building adjacent to junction with Ropemaker's Fields.

4.10 Section 8:

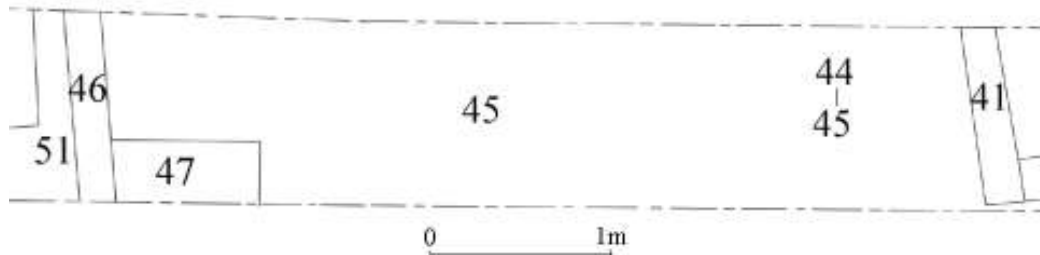


Fig. 46: Trench plan of section 8

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
41	Brick wall running north-south across trench. Red brick, regularly coursed, and set within grey mortar. Stretches whole way across trench at base of wall, but top of the wall is broken away in the northern part of the trench. Maximum 15 courses in height, and two bricks wide (approx 0.2m). Abuts [42], which runs east from [41] at its southern point.	Probably part of an internal dividing basement wall? Possibly the western wall of the basement bounded by [37]+[38], and the eastern wall of the basement bounded by [46]?
44	Localised deposit just to west of [41], and overlying [45]. Mid-dark brown silty-sand, with pebbles/CBM etc. Finds: one sherd of Ligurian Berettino Tin-glaze Ware, two sherds of Frechen Stoneware, four sherds of Post-Medieval Redware, forty sherds of English tin-glazed ware (17 th Century); glass; small piece of burnt plaster; tile.	Probably part of basement fill (of basement bounded by [41] and [46]). Used to denote the localised upper deposit in the eastern part of this basement.
45	Fill between [41] and [46]. Underlies [44] in eastern part. Mid-dark brown silty-sand, with pebbles and CBM. Finds: glass (sherds, rims, bases – dated 17 th – 18 th Century)	Probable fill of basement bounded by [41] and [46]?

46	Brick wall running north-south across trench. Red brick, set within a yellowy-mortar. Not standing: cut out to base of trench (approximately 1.2m beneath ground-surface) – visible in southern section, but not visible in northern section. Coursed (approximately 9 courses in height, <i>c.</i> 0.8m), approximately 0.25m in width, and across whole width of trench (<i>c.</i> 1.5m). Bricks dated late 17 th Century – 1780.	Probably part of the western end wall of a row of buildings. The other side of the basement bounded by [41]? Truncated/cut out at northern end?
47	Brick floor located just to the east of [46], at <i>c.</i> 1.4-1.5m beneath ground-surface. Red bricks, set within a grey mortar, regularly laid out at the base of the trench (row of headers next to the wall, rows of stretchers elsewhere). Revealed area = approximately 1m E-W, 0.7m N-S. Bricks dated <i>c.</i> 1630-1800.	Probably part of the floor of the basement bounded by [41] and [46]? Similar to [42]?

4.10.1 This section also consists of one basement, bounded by wall [41] to the east, and wall [46] to the west (dated late 17th Century – 1780) – both of which run north-south across the trench. The southern wall of this basement was not uncovered, as it lay to the south of the trench. This fits with what was discovered in the previous section, where the southern wall was running slightly to the south as it ran west along the trench.

4.10.2 Part of the brick floor of this basement was uncovered [47], just to the east of the western bounding wall. This is similar to that uncovered in previous sections. The bricks in this were dated *c.*1630-1800 (part of the middle phase of development of Narrow Street, generally associated with the construction of basement floors). The rest of the infill between the two walls consisted of probable basement fill [44] and [45]. The pottery uncovered in [44] was dated mainly to the 17th Century, and, interestingly, included a number of exotic/foreign pieces. This may reflect Limehouse’s international trade and activities, and particularly the activity of pirates who are known to have lived in this area. One small piece of burnt plaster was also discovered in this deposit – showing the type of wall-decoration that existed in this cellar. The glass from [45] was dated to the 17th – 18th Century. A large quantity of glass was also uncovered from [45], including necks from phials, tall cylindrical phials, and bases and rims from broad phials – all of which were dated to the late 17th – early 18th Century.

4.10.3 The available cartographic evidence places this basement in the large building to the west of the ‘step-back’ and change in alignment of the building frontage, immediately adjacent to the junction with Ropemakers Fields. Interestingly, this is depicted as one large building on most maps (Horwood,

1875 OS Map etc), yet the archaeological evidence suggests that it was part of two buildings (or at least two basements). Wall [41] appears to divide the basements into two – whereas the cartographic evidence suggests that it was only one building. Furthermore, the 1919 OS Map hints that, although the maps depict it as one building, it may have been two – as it is labelled as No.95 and No.97. The history of this building (both its construction and later destruction) is discussed above in relation to the previous section.



Fig. 47: Photo of brick wall [46] and brick floor [47]



Fig. 48: Photo of brick floor [47]



Fig. 49: Photo looking west along trench, showing context [41] in the foreground, and context [46] in the background, with fill [45] between them

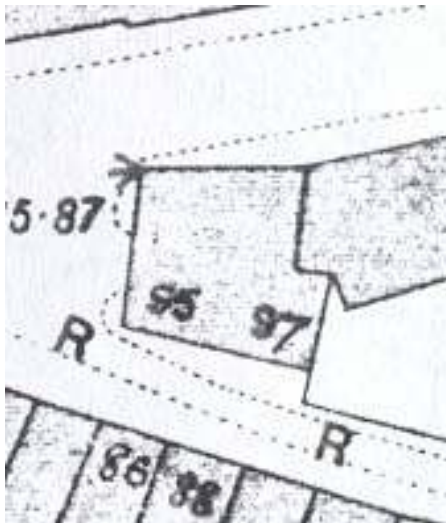


Fig. 50: 1919 OS Map, showing the depiction of the large building and hinting that it may have been two separate buildings (No.95 and No.97)

4.11 Section 9:

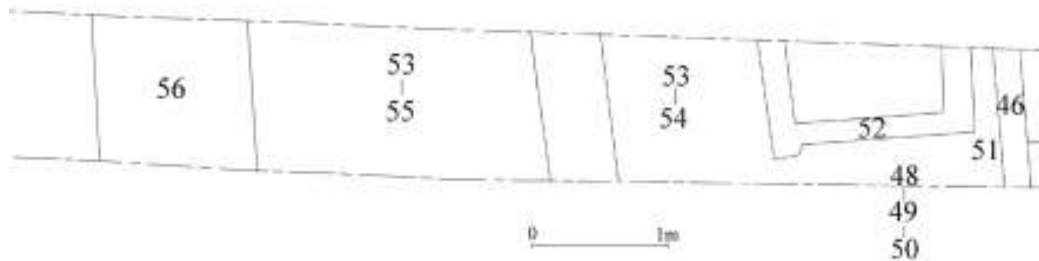


Fig. 51: Trench plan of section 9

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
46	Brick wall running north-south across trench. Red brick, set within a yellow-mortar. Not standing: cut out to base of trench (approximately 1.2m beneath ground-surface) – visible in southern section, but not visible in northern section. Coursed (approximately 9 courses in height, c.0.8m), approximately 0.25m in width, and across whole width of trench (c.1.5m).	Probably part of the western end wall of a row of buildings. The other side of the basement bounded by [41]? Truncated/cut out at northern end?
48	Single course of brick in section to west of [46]. Approximately 0.7m beneath the modern ground-surface (beneath a layer of chalk – see [49]). Measures approximately 0.8m in width, and one course high. Bricks dated c.1450-1700.	Probably an external wall adjacent to the building represented by [46].
49	Stratified deposits in southern section to the west of [46]. Thin layer of mid-brown silty-sand with pebbles/CBM, for approximately 0.2m. Thicker band of chalk, for approximately 0.3m. Course of bricks ([48]). Thin layer of black ash. Mid-grey-brown silty-sand, with pebbles/CBM/oyster shells. Finds: iron objects.	Series of stratified deposits – probably the external road/path make-up.
50	Waterlain river alluvium in section to west of [46]. Underlies [49].	Probable natural river alluvium.

51	Deposit to east of [52] and west of [46]. Mid-brown silty-sand, with pebbles. Finds: one sherd of Frechen Stoneware (mid-16 th Century).	External deposit.
52	Brick feature. Box-shaped sticking out of northern section. Approximately 0.3m in thickness, and 1 course high (3 courses on western side). Measures approximately 0.6m (out of northern section), by 0.7m east-west.	Relatively modern feature (probably 20 th Century). Unrelated to rest of archaeological features uncovered.
53	Clearance over [54] (west of [52]) and [55] (west of cables). Finds: one sherd of green-glazed post-medieval slip-coated redware, one sherd of late Valencian Lustreware, one sherd of green-glazed border ware, two sherds of post-medieval redware, two sherds of English tin-glazed ware, one sherd of brown-glazed border ware, five sherds of Ironstone China (19 th Century); glass.	
54	Fill between cables and [52]. Underlies [53]. Mid-dark brown silty-sand, with pebbles/CBM. Finds: two sherds of green-glazed post-medieval slip-coated redware, four sherds of post-medieval redware (late 16 th Century); animal bone.	External deposit? Possibly the same as [55]?
55	Fill between cables and [56] (cut). Underlies [53]. Mid-light brown silty-sand, with chalk flecks and pebbles. Finds: five sherds of green-glazed post-medieval slip-coated redware, four sherds of yellow-glazed border-ware, one sherd of English tin-glazed ware (17 th Century).	External deposit? Possibly the same as [54]?

56	Wide feature (approximately 1m wide) which runs north-south across trench, and which is found in section up to the modern road-surface. Mid-green-brown silty-sand with lots of pebbles. Distinctly different from deposits to the east and west of it. The deposits to the east and west of it ([55] and [58]) are also distinctly different from each-other.	Possibly a modern cut / fill? However, the obvious differences in deposits to the east and west of the feature suggest that it may reflect something earlier, such as a robbed-out wall?
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4.11.1 This section probably consists of another passageway, with the brick wall [46] forming the western wall of a basement to the east and the eastern side of the roadway line into Ropemakers Fields. Context [56] forms a possible eastern wall of a basement to the west. This western wall is not standing. Instead, context [56] consists of a wide feature which runs north-south across the trench. The obvious differences between the deposits to the east and west of this feature [55] and [58]/[59]) suggest that this cannot represent a modern feature, despite the fact that it stretches to directly beneath the modern road-surface. It is therefore possible that this represents a robbed out wall – possibly a robbed out basement wall.

4.11.2 Context [52], a box-shaped brick feature extending out of the northern section, is a modern feature, and has no apparent archaeological value. It should therefore be ignored when considering the archaeology of this section.

4.11.3 There is a series of stratified deposits in the southern section east of [56]. These consisted of a layer of mid-brown silty-sand, over a layer of chalk, over a course of bricks [48] (dated 1450-1700), over a thin layer of black ash, over another mid-grey-brown silty-sand deposit. These all overlay the natural river alluvium [50] – the same as [8] and [13]. Interestingly, these deposits, particularly the chalk layer, are very similar to those uncovered in section 2 ([7]). Here, they formed a probable passageway between buildings. It is therefore possible that there was another passageway or road in this location, between [46] and [56].

4.11.4 Most of the cartographic evidence relating to this specific part of Narrow Street depicts it as an essentially ‘empty’ area at the junction with Ropemakers Fields, beyond the western limit of the row of buildings on the northern side of Narrow Street. Interestingly, however, Newcourt’s 1658 Map depicts a further two buildings in this area – to the west of the main row of buildings. A road is depicted separating these two buildings from the rest of them on the northern side of Narrow Street. It is therefore possible that the deposits encountered in this section of the trench represent this earlier road, which became part of the later roadway. This fits with the generally early dating of the pottery obtained from this area.



Fig. 52: Photo of section 9, looking west along the trench, with context [46] in the foreground, the modern feature [52] behind this, and the stratified deposits [49] in the southern section



Fig. 53: Photo of stratified deposits [49] in the southern section



Fig. 54: Photo of possible robbed-out wall [56], clearly showing the difference in deposits to the east and west of this



Fig. 55: Newcourt's Map, 1658, clearly showing the roadway and further two houses on the northern side of Narrow Street

4.12 Section 10:

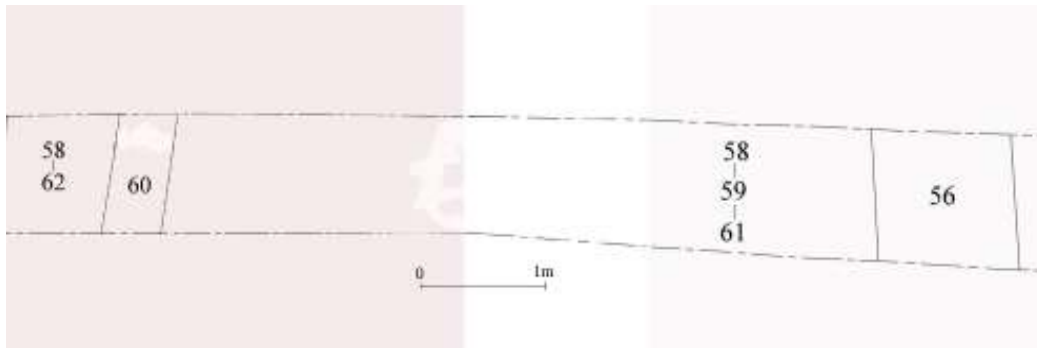


Fig. 56: Trench plan of section 10

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
56	Wide feature (approximately 1m wide) which runs north-south across trench, and which is found in section up to the modern road-surface. Mid-green-brown silty-sand with lots of pebbles. Distinctly different from deposits to the east and west of it. The deposits to the east and west of it ([55] and [58]) are also distinctly different from each-other.	Possibly a modern cut fill? However, the obvious differences in deposits to the east and west of the feature suggest that it may reflect something earlier, such as a robbed-out wall?
57	Clearance over [58], to west of [56]. Finds: one sherd of green-glazed border-ware, three sherds of yellow-glazed border-ware, two sherds of post-medieval redware, five sherds of English tin-glazed ware (17 th Century). 1 part of a clay-pipe bowl (possibly Type 12: c.1730-1780); glass; animal bone.	

58	Deposit to the west of [56], both east and west of [60]. Loosely compacted dark brown/grey mixed silt with frequent sand, clay, mortar, ash, tile, flint and pebble inclusions. Becomes [59] at depth, to the east of [60]. Finds: nine sherds of green-glazed post-medieval slip-coated redware, two sherds of green-glazed borderware, four sherds of yellow-glazed borderware, four sherds of Frechen Stoneware, one sherd of Spanish Olive Jar, one sherd of post-medieval redware, one sherd of Werra slipware, one sherd of Weser slipware, four sherds of English tin-glazed ware (17 th Century); animal bone; clinker; slag; CBM (mainly tile).	Possible ‘made-ground’ deposit?
59	Same type of deposit as [58] – but denotes this at depth (<i>c.</i> 2m), and only on the eastern side of [60]. Finds: one sherd of green-glazed post-medieval slip-coated redware, two sherds of Spanish Olive Jar (mid-16 th Century).	Possible ‘made-ground’ deposit?
60	Brick wall running north from southern section. Red brick, set within a dirty brown-coloured mortar. Measures 1m N-S (whole width of trench), 0.49m E-W. Maximum height of survival was 6 courses (0.48m). 2 stretchers wide (only 2 stretcher-width remains in upper course). Bricks dated late 17 th Century – 1780.	Possible wall foundation of a building?
61	Deep waterlain clay. Underlies [58] and [59] (west of [56] and east of [60]). Starts at a depth of 2.31m, down to a depth of 2.65m.	Natural river alluvium?

4.12.1 This section consists of two wall foundations set on ‘made-ground’ deposits.

4.12.2 [58] and [59] form the probable ‘made-ground’ deposits, on which wall [60] (and presumably wall [56] too) were built. Glass from [57] (clearance over [58]) was dated to the late 17th – early 18th Century, pottery from [58] to the 17th Century, and pottery from [59] to the mid-16th Century – giving a possible date for the construction of the building. Furthermore, the pieces of slag from [58] suggest that some form of industrial activity was taking place in this area,

at this early date. A sondage was dug and revealed that this fill directly overlay [61] – the natural river alluvium.

4.12.3 The cartographic evidence, as discussed above, generally places this area as an ‘empty’ area. This is with the exception of Newcourt’s 1658 map where two buildings are depicted to the west of the main row of buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street, at the junction with Ropemakers Fields. These wall foundations must have been part of this. This fits with the relatively early dating of the bricks (possibly 17th Century), and the mid-16th – 17th Century pottery uncovered. The buildings must, therefore, date from the early 17th Century at the earliest – and must have been destroyed by the mid-18th Century at the latest.



Fig. 57: Photo of brick wall [60], with sondage that revealed the natural river alluvium

4.13 Section 11:

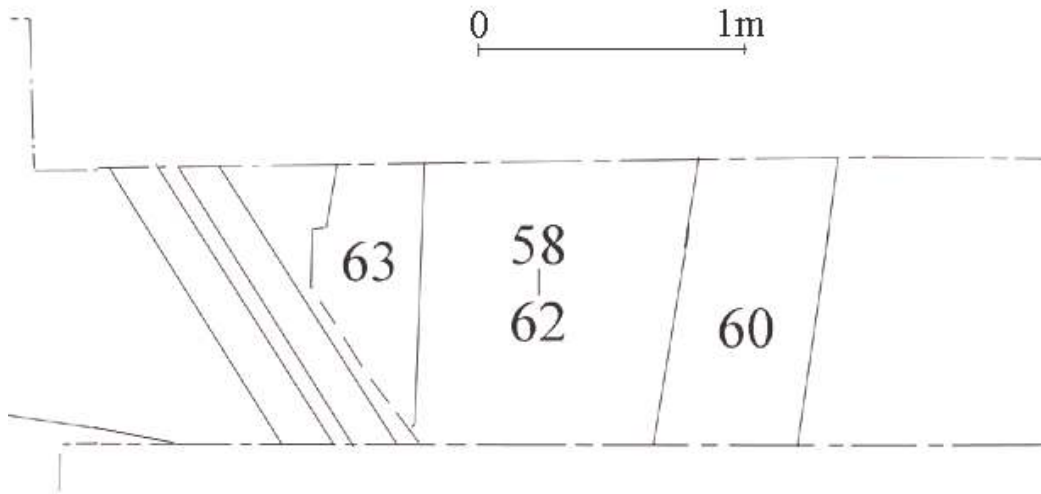


Fig. 58: Trench plan of section 11

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
60	Brick wall running north from southern section. Red brick, set within a dirty brown-coloured mortar. Measures 1m N-S (whole width of trench), 0.49m E-W. Maximum height of survival was 6 courses (0.48m).	Probable wall foundation?
62	Deposit under [58], to west of [60] and east of [63]. Mixed deposit, consisting of brick rubble, yellowy-mortar patch, mid-brown silty-sand; animal bone.	Very small distance between [60] and [63] suggests that this was not the internal part of a basement/basement fill or passageway. Instead, the two walls probably represent two different phases of building.
63	Brick wall running north-south across trench. Red brick, set within a clean yellowy-cream mortar. Two stretchers wide, with only four courses high visible. Bricks dated c.1450-1700.	Probable wall foundation?
64	Deposit immediately below base of [63]. One sherd of English tin-glazed ware (17 th Century).	

4.13.1 This section consists of two brick walls running north-south across the trench ([60] and [63]). [60], as has been discussed, formed the probable western wall

foundation of a building (counterpart to [56]), and was dated late 17th Century – 1780. It is possible that [63], dated 1450-1700, may have formed the eastern wall of an earlier building.

4.13.2 The small distance between [60] and [63], however, makes it seem unlikely that there was any form of basement or passageway between them. Instead, the two walls may have just been from different phases of building. It is therefore possible that [63] (the earliest wall) originally formed both the eastern wall foundation for the building to the west, and the western wall foundation for the building to the east, and was then replaced in both functions by [60].



Fig. 59: Photo of context [60] in the foreground and [63] in the background



Fig. 60: Photo of contexts [60] and [63], with [58] in-between

4.14 Section 12:

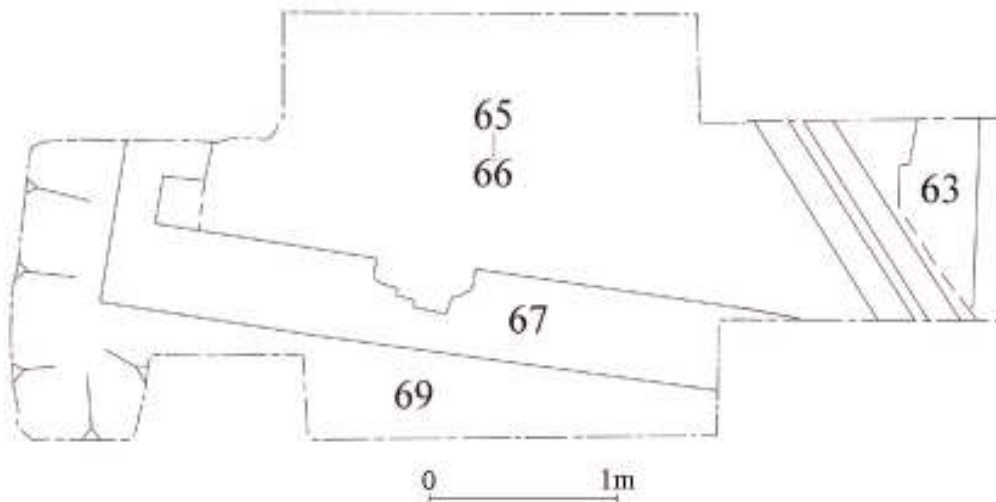


Fig. 61: Trench plan of section 12

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
63	Brick wall running north-south across trench. Red brick, set within a clean yellowy-cream mortar. Two stretchers wide, with only four courses high visible.	Probable wall foundation?
65	Clearance over [66], to the west of [63]. Finds: one sherd of coarse border-ware; two sherds of green-glazed border-ware; one sherd of post-medieval redware; one sherd of post-medieval black-glazed ware; one sherd of English tin-glazed ware; one sherd of Staffordshire-type mottled brown-glazed ware (mid-17 th Century).	

66	Compact mixed fill, underlying [65], to the west of [63], and bounded by [67]. Mid-brown silty soil with gravels and sands, becoming gravelly at depth. Finds: Eighteen sherds of green-glazed post-medieval slip-coated redware; two sherds of Montelupo Polychrome; one sherd of Ligurian Berettino tin-glaze ware; two sherds of green-glazed border-ware; two sherds of Frechen Stoneware; one sherd of Spanish Olive Jar; six sherds of English tin-glazed ware (17 th Century); glass; animal bone; iron nail; unknown iron item.	Probable ‘made-ground’ deposit.
67	Brick wall running east-west (west of [64]) out of the southern section, and turning a corner into the northern section. Possible Flemish bond at base of wall, becoming more irregular towards the top. Bricks dated c.1630-1730.	Probable wall foundation, reflecting the line of the building frontage?
68	Deposit under [67]. Finds: one sherd of coarse border-ware; one sherd of green-glazed post-medieval slip-coated redware; one sherd of Montelupo Polychrome (early 16 th Century).	Probably the same as [66] (into which the wall was cut), but not disturbed by later activity?
69	Alluvial clay to the south of [67].	Natural alluvium.

4.14.1 This section consists of another series of wall foundations of a building, consisting of wall [63] to the east, and [67] to the south and west. This wall ([67]) (dated c.1630-1730) appears to form the southern wall of the building (the line of the building frontage along the northern side of Narrow Street). This is significantly further north than the building-frontage line to the east, therefore representing another ‘step-back’ in the building frontage. This wall, furthermore, turns a corner in the far western part of the trench, and runs north. This is therefore the far western wall of the line of buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street.

4.14.2 Interestingly, wall [67] does not continue further west. This suggests that the original end of the line of buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street has been reached.

4.14.3 Deposit [66] represents the earlier ‘made-ground’ deposits. The walls were cut into this – showing that they are wall foundations instead of cellar walls.

4.14.4 Once again, the cartographic evidence available indicates that buildings in this area of Narrow Street (at the junction with Ropemaker’s Fields) existed in the mid-17th Century, but did not exist from the mid-18th Century (Rocque’s Map). This wall must, therefore, have been part of a relatively early building – the second (western) of those depicted on Newcourt’s Map in this location.

This is supported by the early (early 16th Century) dating of the pottery from [68] (the ‘made-ground’ deposit into which the walls were built). Furthermore, the bricks in wall [67] were dated c.1630-1730. These walls were therefore probably part of the western building which is depicted on Newcourt’s Map at the junction with Ropemakers Fields – and which existed in the mid-17th Century, but had disappeared by the mid-18th Century.



Fig. 62: Photo of context [67] (wall running east-west and then north-south), with natural river alluvium to the south in the area of Narrow Street itself [69]

Fig. 63: Photo of section 12, looking west, with context [63] (underneath the scale), and context [67] beyond (forming the outline of the building)



5. Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1** The watching brief revealed a number of significant archaeological deposits, all of which were appropriately recorded and sampled.
- 5.2** Essentially, the watching brief recorded the substantial remains of a row of post-medieval basements and buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street.
- 5.3** Many of these can be related to the available cartographic evidence relating to this area, such that some of the different features and phases can be recognised (e.g. passageways, ‘step-backs’ in the line of the building frontage etc) – and the dates at which these were constructed and destroyed etc.
- 5.4** Evidence for buildings at the western end of Narrow Street and a road just to the east of this that later became part of the wider road into Ropemaker’s Fields was uncovered during this watching brief. These were only shown on Newcourt’s earliest map and were lost by Rocque’s Map of 1746.
- 5.5** The watching brief has also pushed back the possible date for the construction of the buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street, beyond the available cartographic evidence – to the early 17th Century (brick and pottery dating from the western end of the trench).
- 5.6** The watching brief has also hinted at the possibility of there being three relatively distinct periods/phases of development in Narrow Street. This consists of the early post-medieval development (i.e. early 17th Century), further construction from c.1630 (particularly with the introduction of brick floors in the cellars), and some later 18th Century rebuilding.
- 5.7** Furthermore, the watching brief has enabled a greater understanding of the exact line of the northern street-frontage along Narrow Street. This was clearly far further south than it is at present, mainly because of the significant widening of Narrow Street in the early 20th Century (at some point between 1919 and 1937).
- 5.8** Beyond this, the watching brief has provided evidence for the different features that can be found within such post-medieval basements. This includes the brick window-ledge, brick floors, and, most impressively, the set of brick steps.
- 5.9** The pottery uncovered during this watching brief ranges in date and type. Of particular interest, however, are the more exotic and luxurious items. This is similar to those recovered during Pre-Construct’s excavation at Narrow Street, and indicates the presence of pirates living in Narrow Street.
- 5.10** Moreover, the pit full of industrial debris observed in the eastern end of the trench hints at the possible industrial activities which were being undertaken in Narrow Street.

- 5.11 The watching brief has therefore been of particular interest in relation to the structural and architectural heritage of Narrow Street (i.e. the semi-basements and buildings that stood along the northern street frontage).

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OS Maps – various dates and scales

J. Rocque's 'Map of London', 1746

Appendix I – Pot Report

Pottery from Narrow Street, Limehouse (Site TZB08)

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 188 sherds with a total weight of 4,394g. It comprised a mixture of medieval and later wares, with the bulk of the assemblage dating to the 17th century. The assemblage reflects Limehouse's importance as a centre for commerce in the 16th and 17th century, and includes a wide range of imported wares from Germany, Italy and Spain. There are also a few sherds of porcelain which appear likely to be products of a nearby mid-18th century factory.

The assemblage was recorded using the Museum of London post-Roman type-series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

BORDB:	Brown-glazed Border ware , 1620-1700. 1 sherd, 11g.
BORDG:	Green-glazed Border ware , 1550-1700. 13 sherds, 190g.
BORDY:	Yellow-glazed Border ware , 1550-1700. 11 sherds, 303g.
CBW:	Coarse border ware , 1270-1500. 2 sherds, 47g.
CHINA:	'Ironstone' china , 1800-1900. 21 sherds, 753g.
ENPO:	English Porcelain , 1745 – 1900. 8 sherds, 56g.
FREC:	Frechen Stoneware , 1550 – 1700. 9 sherds, 558g.
LIGU:	Ligurian Berettino Tin-glaze Ware , 1520 – 1700. 2 sherds, 4g.
MLTG:	Montelupo Polychrome , 1500-1700. 3 sherds, 43g.
OLIV:	Spanish Olive Jar , 1550 – 1750. 4 sherds, 234g.
PMBL:	Post-medieval black-glazed ware , 1580-1700. 1 sherd, 9g.
PMSRG:	Green-glazed post-medieval slip-coated redware , 1580 – 1900. 31 sherds, 1394g.
STMO:	Staffordshire-type Mottled Brown-Glazed Ware , 1650 – 1800. 1 sherd, 52g.
TGW:	English tin-glazed ware , 1600-1800. 78 sherds, 774g.
VALL:	Late Valencian Lustreware , 1480 – 1600. 1 sherd, 7g.
WERR:	Werra Slipware , 1580 – 1650. 1 sherd, 24g.
WESE:	Weser Slipware , 1580-1630. 1 sherd, 15g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites of the period in the City of London, comprising a mixture of local wares and European imports from Italy, Germany and Spain. Previous excavations at Narrow Street (eg. Killock and Meddens 2005) have produced assemblages of a similar date to this which included imported wares of much greater rarity, including Turkish Iznik Ware and Kirman Fritware from Iran (ibid. 46-8). The assemblage from this site is perhaps more a reflection of Limehouse having been a centre for international trade at the time rather than of any great status, and comparable assemblages are known from a number of sites in the City of London. This will be discussed in greater detail at the report stage.

The Assemblage

The assemblage, in the main, comprises fairly large sherds and partially reconstructable vessels, and fragments from individual vessels occur in more than one context. For example, the sherds of Montelupo Polychrome from contexts [66] and [68] are from the same vessel, as are the sherds of Spanish Olive Jar from [58] and [59], although they do not appear to be from the same vessel as [66]. The sherds of PMRSG from [58] and [59] are also from the same vessel.

The English Tin-Glaze Earthenware is generally in poor condition, with most of the sherds small and abraded, and many having lost some or all of their glaze. One or two sherds appear over-fired, and may be manufacturing waste or 'seconds'.

A wide range of vessel forms is present, from utilitarian earthenware jars and bowls through to exotic display or tableware items such as the Italian Maiolica vessels from Montelupo and Liguria, Valencian Lustreware from Spain and German Werra and Weser Slipwares. This is again a fairly typical pattern from sites in the area in the later 16th - 17th century. The English Tin-Glazed Ware assemblage, although fragmented, appears to include jars, plates, dishes and at least one porringer, which is again fairly typical. The German Stoneware sherds are from bottles or jugs with moulded decoration, one of which has a *Bartmann* face-mask, moulded acanthus leaves and portraits, and a fragment of a moulded motto in German on the waist-band which is probably a variant on a popular mid – late 16th century type which broadly translates as '*When God wills it, then my time is up*' (Gaimster 1997, 151-3).

The few sherds of medieval pottery present are all redeposited, and also somewhat abraded, and it appears that there was little significant activity at the site before the second half of the 16th century, with the bulk of the pottery dating to the 17th century. The small assemblage of porcelain included fragments of a cup with simple floral decoration executed in green and pink, and a Chinoise-style plate in brown. These are highly likely to be products of the nearby porcelain factory (Tyler et al 2000), and if so, are the only definite evidence of 18th - century activity at the site, despite being residual. This will be investigated further at the report stage.

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Fig. 64: Pottery from [33]

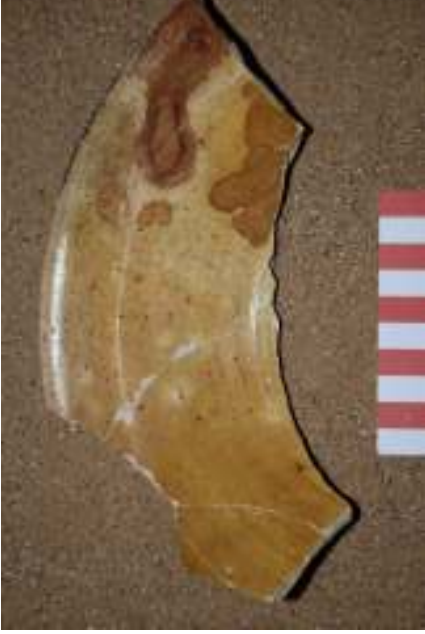


Fig. 65: Pottery from [58]



Fig. 66: Pottery from [53]



Fig. 67: Pottery from [40]



Fig. 68: Pottery from [44]



Fig. 69: Pottery from [66]



Fig. 70: Pottery from [66]



Fig. 73: Pottery from [51]



Fig. 74: Pottery from [51]



Fig. 71: Pottery from [66]

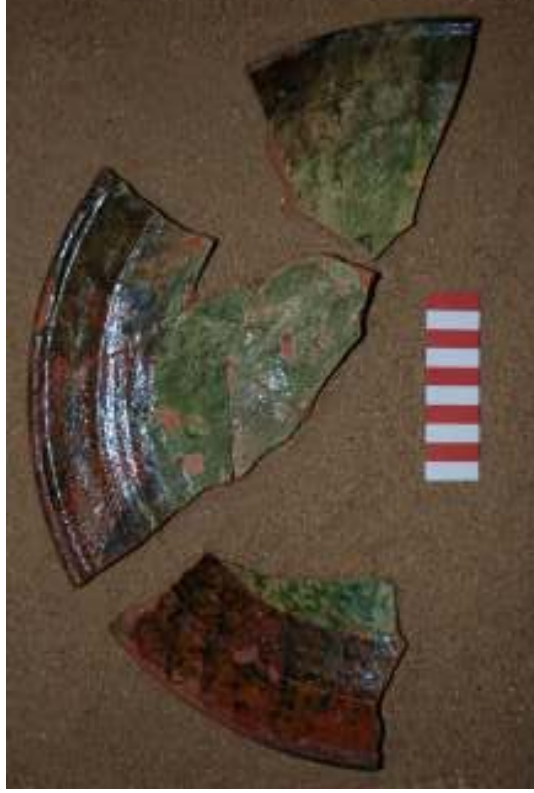


Fig. 72: Pottery from [59]

Appendix II – Brick Report (compiled in consultation with John Brown)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Weight (in grams)</i>	<i>Dimensions (in mm)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Other comments</i>
1	63	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1656	105 (width) X 55 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 1 (yellow-grey lime-sand mortar, with quartz and lime inclusions)
2	63	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	1004	102 (width) X 50 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 2 (yellow-grey lime-sand mortar, with quartz, lime, and charcoal inclusions)
3	63	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	1818	102 (width) X 57 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 2
4	67	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2065	240 (length) X 108 (width) X 60 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 3 (light grey-white lime-sand mortar, with quartz, charcoal and lime inclusions). Base has compacted conglomerate of gravel etc. Overfired.
5	67	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2860	230 (length) X 108 (width) X 65 (depth)	1630-1730	Mortar type 3. Conglomerate on base.
6	37	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1472	108 (width) X 60 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 2
7	37	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	990	108 (width) X 64 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 2. Overfired.
8	37	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2680	225 (length) X 104 (width) X 65 (depth)	1630-1730	Mortar type 2. Warped from firing.

9	24	3034	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	2315	220 (length) X 102 (width) X 65 (depth)	1666-1900	Mortar type 4 (light grey-white lime-sand mortar with quartz, lime, charcoal, and brick-dust inclusions).
10	24	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2505	220 (length) X 104 (width) X 55 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 4. Warped and vitrified header – reused.
11	24	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	656	106 (width) X 50 (depth)	1730-1830	Worn top surface. Overfired. Reused.
12	24	3034	Post-Medieval	Frogged brick (shallow frog)	2385	228 (length) X 105 (width) X 68 (depth)	1780-1900	
13	24	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2550	228 (length) X 105 (width) X 58 (depth)	1630-1730	Mortar type 3.
14	48	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1278	105 (width) X 58 (depth)	1450-1700	Underfired.
15	48	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1006	105 (width) X 58 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 3. Mortar on break. Underfired.
16	46	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	848	100 (width) X 60 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 4.
17	46	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	2275	98 (width) X 60 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 4.
18	46	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	2520	222 (length) X 100 (width) X 65 (depth)	Late 17 th Century – 1780	Mortar type 4.
19	67	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1570	220 (length) X 104 (width) X 58 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 1.
20	67	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1896	220 (length) X 100 (width) X 55 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 1.

21	67	3032 (nr 3046)	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2640	245 (length) X 100 (width) X 65 (depth)	1630-1800	Warped and slightly vitrified. Coarse conglomerate on base.
22	42	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1976	220 (length) X 105 (width) X 55 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 5 (light red-white lime-sand mortar with quartz, lime, brick dust, and iron oxide inclusions).
23	42	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2075	220 (length) X 104 (width) X 53 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 5.
24	42	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2380	220 (length) X 104 (width) X 54 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 5.
25	30	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1594	228 (length) X 56 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 1. Worn top surface.
26	60	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	2430	230 (length) X 104 (width) X 60 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 4. Slightly warped.
27	60	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	2470	230 (length) X 105 (width) X 67 (depth)	Late 17 th Century – 1780	Mortar type 4. Slightly warped.
28	36	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2315	220 (length) X 102 (width) X 60 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 2.
29	36	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2290	222 (length) X 102 (width) X 55 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 2.
30	36	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2255	230 (length) X 104 (width) X 58 (depth)	1630-1730	Mortar type 2. Overfired. Slightly warped.
31	67	2276	Post-Medieval	Peg Tile (seven pieces)	402		1500-1900	Plain peg-tile fragments.
32	30	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1458	100 (width) X 63 (depth)	1630-1800	Waster. Overfired.

33	30	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1154	106 (width) X 65 (depth)	1630-1800	Waster. Overfired.
34	30	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2025	238 (length) X 115 (width) X 68 (depth)	1630-1800	Waster. Overfired.
35	63	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2275	218 (length) X 100 (width) X 50 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 2. Large chunk of other brick attached.
36	63	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2115	220 (length) X 102 (width) X 58 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 2.
37	63	3046	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2135	225 (length) X 100 (width) X 58 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 2.
38	47	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2025	220 (length) X 102 (width) X 63 (depth)	1630-1800	No mortar.
39	47	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	2135	225 (length) X 98 (width) X 63 (depth)	1630-1800	No mortar.
40	47	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	2090	218 (length) X 98 (width) X 63 (depth)	1630-1800	No mortar.
41	67	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick.	2240	223 (length) X 100 (width) X 60 (depth)	1630-1780	Mortar type 3.
42	60	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	2385	233 (length) X 110 (width) X 60 (depth)	1630-1780	Mortar type 3. Slightly overfired and warped.
43	38	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2300	225 (length) X 108 (width) X 55 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 5. Overfired. Diagonal score across top (possible tally)
44	38	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2050	223 (length) X 102 (width) X 55 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 5.
45	38	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2015	223 (length) X 104 (width) X 55 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 5.
46	32	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	1396	108 (width) X 65 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 4. Waster.

47	32	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	807	98 (width) X 70 (depth)	1630-1800	Mortar type 4.
48	32	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	1636	104 (width) X 63 (depth)	1730-1780	Mortar type 4.
49	41	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1744	104 (width) X 58 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 5. Lots of voids. Overfired.
50	41	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1970	224 (length) X 104 (width) X 58 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 5.
51	41	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	2000	223 (length) X 100 (width) X 60 (depth)	1450-1700	Mortar type 5.

Conclusions:

The range of fabrics suggests that the frontage of Narrow Street in question was developed during the early medieval period, probably from around the beginning of the 16th Century and before the mid-17th Century (contexts [38], [41], [42]).

A second phase of development is apparent from c.1630 onwards, with the introduction of fabric 3032. This appears to relate to cellar floors in particular, and may indicate changes/additions of sub-basements or basements at this time. This is probably also accompanied by extensions to earlier buildings. This phase is likely to have been completed by the early 18th Century.

One or two contexts indicate rebuild/alteration in the latter part of the 18th Century or early 19th Century.

None of the material assessed is considered to be particularly unusual, with fabrics common to London for this period.

Other small pieces of CBM (not looked at by John Brown):

[Unstratified] – one large tile (c.0.15m X c.0.17m X c.0.02m – not complete)

[15] – one bit of a large brick (c.0.1m X c.0.07m X c.0.06m – not complete); one small fragment of a tile

[19] - one small fragment of CBM

[44] – piece of a large tile (c.0.11m X c.0.08m X c.0.02m – not complete)

[58] – 4 pieces of tiles, one definitely a peg-tile (varies in size from c.0.06m X c.0.015m to c.0-.25m X c.0.21m X c.0.015m – large peg tile with 2 holes in – none are complete)

Appendix III – Clay Pipe Report

[19] – 7 parts of stems

- 1 bowl (Type 23: c.1760-1800)
- 1 bowl (Type 12: c.1730-1830)

[33] – 1 part of a stem

[40] – 5 parts of stems

[44] – 2 parts of stems

[57] – 3 parts of stems

- 1 part of a bowl (Type 12: c.1730-1780)

[58] – 1 part of a stem

[59] – 2 very fragmentary parts of bowls (too fragmentary to be identified)

Identified using A. Oswald's 'Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist', BAR Report 14, 1975

Appendix IV - The Glass from Narrow Street TZB08

Dr Hugh Willmott

A small amount of glass was recovered from the excavations at Narrow Street, and most, if not all, appears to date to the second half of the 17th century, and specifically the last decades of that century. A significant proportion of the vessel glass has experienced a high degree of heat distortion, making precise identification difficult. The remainder of the glass can be easily ascribed to known forms and these are outlined by context below.

Context [40]

Eleven fragments of blue green high-lime low-alkali glass were recovered from this context. Almost all was too heat distorted for further identification. The one exception is the base from a late 17th-century broad phial (see Context 45 for a description of the form).

Context [45]

Colourless bottle-shaped phials last quarter 17th century

The remains of two necks from different bottle-shaped phials were recovered. Both are made in a good quality lead glass and are strengthened around their rims with a sharp angular stringcourse. The form mirrors, in miniature, the contemporary early wine bottle, although they would have almost certainly have been used to contain more expensive liquids. These phials are a relatively rare and early form of lead 'crystal' glass that had only been invented in the 1660s.

Tall cylindrical phials Late 17th-early 18th century

The remains of three to four different tall cylindrical phials are present, made in a blue green high-lime low-alkali glass. The most complete remains nearly its full profile, save for the neck and rim, and measures 150mm, an unusually tall example. There is a heat-distorted base from second example, and the flat everted rim and short neck of another. The final phial in this category is represented by a longer neck and a vertical rim, an usual variation of the form. Tall cylindrical phials are hard to date precisely and occur throughout the late 17th and 18th centuries, although given their slightly irregular shapes it seems probable that these are early examples.

Broad phials Late 17th century

There are also between four and six broad phials in this context, again made in a typical blue green high-lime low-alkali glass. Four are bases, and two are broad rims with short necks, although it isn't possible to tell if any of these might belong to the bases. Broad phials are predominantly a late 17th century form and one of the most common of the period.

This context also contained seventeen fragments of glass too distorted for proper identifications. However, all is blue green high-lime low-alkali glass and must originally have come from some form or other of phial.

Context [53]

Wine bottle 18th-19th century?

A single very small fragment of body from a cylindrical wine bottle was recovered from this context. In the absence of any more diagnostic portion dating the piece is nearly impossible,

although the colour of the glass and surface patination might suggest a later date than the rest of the assemblage, perhaps in the late 18th or 19th centuries although this is far from certain.

Context [57]

Window

late 17th-18th century

Four fragments of plain window glass were recovered from this context. Post-medieval window glass is notoriously difficult to date accurately, but the blue green colouration would indicate date of manufacture right at the end of the 17th century, or quite possible during the first half of the 18th century.

Appendix V – Animal Bone (provisional Ids)

[15] – 7 pieces of animal bone - cattle

[19] – 2 small pieces of animal bone – sheep/goat

[35] – 3 pieces of animal bone – sheep/goat

[54] – 12 pieces of animal bone – cattle

[57] – 13 small pieces of animal bone –cattle

[58] – 2 very small pieces of animal bone – cattle rib

[62] – 4 pieces of animal bone – cattle

[66] – 2 small pieces of animal bone –cattle rib

Appendix VI - Metalwork

[15] – 3 lumps of slag – 1024g in total

[16] – 15 lumps of slag – 3542g in total

[29] – 3 coins, one dated to 1887, one to 1891, and one unidentifiable

[35] – 3 corroded iron nails (at least 0.1m in length); and some type of iron handle (at least 0.24m in length with a leg of 0.04m)?

[35] – 2 pieces of clinker

[49] – 2 pieces of iron (long curved objects c.9cm in length – not complete - unknown function)

[58] – 1 large lump of slag – over 2000g in total

[58] – 1 piece of clinker

[66] – 1 small corroded iron object (circular with a diameter of *c.*4cm, hole in centre with diameter of *c.*1cm - unknown function)

[66] – 1 corroded iron nail (length of *c.*0.13m)

Appendix VII – Other Finds

[19] – 2 small pieces of oyster shell

[44] – 1 small piece of burnt plaster

Appendix VIII – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-98836

Project details

Project name	Thames Water Engineering Works - Narrow Street
Short description of the project	In the course of the archaeological watching brief for Thames Water Engineering Works within the area 'Limehouse' Area a significant archaeological discovery was made in Narrow Street. One long section of trench which ran along Narrow Street was investigated and recorded in December 2008 - March 2009. This uncovered a number of archaeological remains, which were subsequently recorded and with the collection of a few brick samples and key finds. The remains of several post-medieval cellars/basements, along the northern side of Narrow Street, were uncovered. This included the walls, later infills, some brick floors, and other features such as a set of brick steps and a window ledge. Some 'street' deposits, and the remains of 'passageways' were also uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2008 End: 04-03-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	BRICK STEPS Post Medieval
Monument type	PASSAGEWAY Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK FLOOR Post Medieval
Monument type	WINDOW LEDGE Post Medieval
Monument type	STREET Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	METAL SLAG Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country England

Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS POPLAR Narrow Street
Postcode	E14
Study area	110.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3658 8071 51.5082909828 -0.03171539002780 51 30 29 N 000 01 54 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Thames Water Utilities

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London archaeological archive
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Industrial','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Industrial','Metal'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Industrial','Metal'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation','Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Thames Water Engineering Works: Detailed Report on Narrow Street, Tower Hamlets

Author(s)/Editor(s) Jeffery, E
Date 2011
Issuer or publisher Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication 5-7 Southwark Street, London
Description Report covering the work undertaken in Narrow Street in 2008 - 2009 during the archaeological watching brief of Thames Water Engineering Works in this area. Report includes historical, archaeological and cartographic background, detailed description and analysis of the watching brief (including photographs, context descriptions, and plans), finds analysis, and conclusions.

Entered by Emma Jeffery (emma@compassarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 13 June 2011

Appendix IX: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address:	Narrow Street, Tower Hamlets, E14
Project type:	Watching brief and Field Investigation
Dates of Fieldwork:	December 2008 – March 2009
Site Code:	TZB08
Supervisor:	Geoff Potter
NGR:	TQ 3658 8071
Funding Body:	Thames Water Utilities

The remains of several post-medieval cellars and basements, along the northern side of Narrow Street, were uncovered during this watching brief. This included the walls, later infills, some brick floors, and other features such as a set of brick steps and a window ledge. Some ‘street’ deposits, and the remains of ‘passageways’ were also uncovered.

Many of these can be related to the available cartographic evidence – such that some of the different features and phases can be recognised – and the dates at which these were constructed and destroyed etc.

Of particular interest was the discovery of early (early 17th Century) buildings at the western end of Narrow Street, at the junction with Ropemaker’s Fields, and an adjacent road. This is only depicted on Newcourt’s 1658 Map. The watching brief has also pushed back the possible date for the construction of the buildings along the northern side of Narrow Street, to the early 17th Century - beyond the available cartographic evidence. Furthermore, it has hinted at the possibility of there being three relatively distinct periods/phases of development in Narrow Street: the early post-medieval development (i.e. early 17th Century), further construction from c.1630 (particularly with the introduction of brick floors in the cellars), and some later 18th Century rebuilding. Lastly, the watching brief has enabled a greater understanding of the exact line of the northern street-frontage along Narrow Street, which was clearly far further south than it is at present.