

Former Last Factory
Fishergate
Former Last Factory
Fishergate
Norwich



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

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on behalf of Aston Developments**

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John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Aston Developments

**The Former Last Factory, Fishergate
Norwich**

NGR TG 2323 0912

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 1 | Introduction | 3 |
| 1.1 | Project background..... | 3 |
| 1.2 | Site Location and topography..... | 3 |
| 1.3 | Archaeological and historical background | 4 |
| 1.4 | Evaluation aims | 4 |
| 2 | Evaluation Methodology | 4 |
| 2.1 | Scope of fieldwork | 4 |
| 2.2 | Fieldwork methods and recording | 4 |
| 2.3 | Finds | 5 |
| 2.4 | Palaeo-environmental evidence..... | 5 |
| 2.5 | Presentation of results..... | 5 |
| 3 | Results: Descriptions | 5 |
| 3.1 | Trench dimensions..... | 5 |
| 3.2 | Trench stratigraphic description | 5 |
| 3.3 | Finds | 9 |
| 3.4 | Environmental | 10 |
| 3.5 | Preservation of environmental indicators | 11 |
| 4 | Discussion and Interpretation | 11 |
| 4.1 | Reliability of field investigation..... | 11 |
| 4.2 | Interpretation | 11 |
| 4.3 | Summary of results..... | 11 |
| | Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory..... | 13 |
| | Appendix 2 Pottery Assessment/ Spot Dating..... | 17 |
| | Appendix 3 Animal Bone Assessment | 20 |
| | Appendix 4 Assessment of Environmental Remains..... | 22 |
| | Appendix 5 Bibliography | 24 |
| | Appendix 6 Summary of Site Details..... | 25 |

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig.1 Site location
 Fig.2 Trench Location
 Fig.3 Trench Plans
 Fig.4 Composite Section

Summary

Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation at the Former Last Factory at Fishergate, Norwich. The work was carried out for John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Aston Developments. The investigation revealed a complex sequence of occupation activity, originating in the early/middle Saxon period and including dense medieval and post medieval remains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 During the period 10/01/05 to the 18/01/05 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the Former Last Factory Site, Fishergate, Norwich. The investigation was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) on behalf of Aston Developments.

1.1.2 Aston Developments propose to redevelop the site (Fig.1) which is located near the north bank of the River Wensum in the Area of Main Archaeological Interest as defined in the Norwich City Local Plan (deposit version July 2001, policy HBE 1-7).

1.1.3 Planning permission (reference: 4/2002/1112/F) has been granted. The Development Control Archaeologist has attached conditions (8& 9) to the permission stating;

8 No development shall take place within the area indicated on the plan attached to this permission until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the council as Local Planning Authority

Reason 8. The Site is in the area of historical importance where ground works may result in the destruction of archaeological remains. To comply with policy A2 of the Norfolk Structure Plan and Policy B14 of the City of Norwich Local Plan.

9 Before any works of development are commenced, access shall be provided to the site to allow any archaeological remains to be investigated, excavated and recorded and no works of construction shall be carried out until reasonable opportunity has been afforded to allow such investigation to take place.

Reason 9. The Site is in the area of historical importance where ground works may result in the destruction of archaeological remains. To comply with policy A2 of the Norfolk Structure Plan and Policy B14 of the City of Norwich Local Plan.

1.1.4 Accordingly, a Specification for Archaeological Evaluation has been produced by JSAC (JSAC 12334/04/01 November 2004). This was approved by the Development Control Archaeologist. Oxford Archaeology were contracted to carry out the programme of work.

1.2 Site Location and topography

1.2.1 The site is located at NGR TG 2323 0912 in the centre of Norwich near the northern bank and overlying the gravel terrace of the River Wensum.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Fishergate is an historic thoroughfare providing an east-west route through one of the earliest parts of Norwich and lying along the southern edge of the 10th century, defended enclosure.

1.3.2 An excavation was carried out c30 m to the south of the site in 1985 by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU 94). Although no structural evidence was revealed, the density of artefactual material suggested the presence of Middle Saxon occupation in the vicinity.

1.4 Evaluation aims

1.4.1 The general aims and objectives of evaluation were as follows:

- To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present.
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.
- To make available the results of the investigation.

2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope of fieldwork

2.1.1 The evaluation consisted of a single trench measuring approximately 3 m by 3 m, with a maximum depth of 2.6 m. This represents a 5% sample of the proposal area.

2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

2.2.1 Mechanical excavation was carried out with a JCB. All mechanical excavation was carried out in such a manner so as to avoid or minimise damage to the archaeological remains. All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon.

2.2.2 Spoil was scanned for artefacts, which were recorded and retained. A metal detector was also used for this purpose.

- 2.2.3 Excavations below 1.2 m were only accessed once shoring had been installed. The depth and complexity of the deposits across the site was characterised. Records were made of all deposits and structures.
- 2.2.4 Full written and drawn records of all excavated contexts were made in accordance with best archaeological practice. Archaeological deposits, which were not excavated, were recorded to the maximum extent possible *in-situ*. Records include overall trench and site plans. A single context planning methodology was used as appropriate. All excavation and recording was in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations (IFA 2001)*.
- 2.2.5 Fieldwork procedures unless stated otherwise above were as set out in Appendix 2 and 3 of the *OA Field Manual (Wilkinson, D 1992)*.

2.3 Finds

- 2.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.
- 2.3.2 Recording, cleaning and conservation of finds followed the IFA *Guidelines for collection, documentation research and conservation of archaeological materials (IFA 2001)*.

2.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 2.4.1 Bulk samples were taken only from dated features, which appeared waterlogged or were of an organic nature. The bulk samples were processed by flotation and the residues scanned for presence and preservation of environmental indicators.

2.5 Presentation of results

- 2.5.1 In the following sections the stratigraphy of the trench is described in summary followed by a detailed description. A discussion, interpretation and conclusions of the evaluation then follows. A context inventory, including finds lists, is included in Appendix 1.

3 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

3.1 Trench dimensions

(See Figs 3a/b and 4)

- 3.1.1 Trench 1 was positioned in the centre of the proposed development, to the south west of the development site. It measured 3 m by 3 m. Existing ground level was at 2.95 m OD. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.60 m. The trench was shored using piling sheets to allow for access.

3.2 Trench stratigraphic description

- 3.2.1 The earliest deposit was revealed was an apparently sterile fluvial sand (226). The top of the deposit was revealed at around 0.61 m OD. Deposit 226 was overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of slightly root disturbed sand (224).
- 3.2.2 Sand deposit 224 was cut by six features: described below;
- A south-east north-west aligned ditch (216) in the central eastern part of the trench. This measured 0.85 m wide x 0.45 m deep and was filled a sequence of silts (217-219). A fragment of bone comb, shell and one pottery sherd, dating the feature to the early/middle Saxon period, were retrieved from these fills. Sheep, cattle and pig bone were present as well as elder and blackberry seeds which were retrieved from flotation of the basal deposit (217).
 - A south-east north-west aligned ditch (210), seen the southern corner of the trench. This measured 0.81 m wide x 0.62 m deep and was filled with a dark organic silt (209). It contained no artefacts, however it extended parallel to ditch 216 and is probably contemporary.
 - A small circular pit (193) seen in the centre of the northern half of the trench. This feature measured 0.5 m diameter x 0.28 m deep and was filled with a dark loam (194). One sherd of pottery, giving a 10th-11th century date, was retrieved from this fill.
 - A gully terminus (191) aligned south-west north-east. This was recorded in the central western part of the trench and measured 0.24 m wide x 0.14 m deep. This feature was filled with a silty loam (192). A fragment of slag was retrieved from this fill.
 - A circular posthole or small pit (195) was recorded at the northern edge of the trench. This feature measured 0.25 m diameter and was 0.10 m deep. It was filled with a silty loam (196). A single sherd of pottery dating to the early/middle Saxon period was retrieved from this fill.
 - A shallow feature (230) - which may have been a posthole - was recorded in section only (not illustrated) in the southern corner of the trench. This feature was 0.50m wide and 0.15 m deep. It was filled with clay (231). No artefacts were retrieved from this feature.
- 3.2.3 The upper fill of feature 230 (231) was truncated by Pit 234 and stakehole 232.
- 3.2.4 Pit 234 was seen and recorded only in section, in the southern corner of the trench (not illustrated). The feature measured 0.38 m wide x 0.15 m deep and was filled by silt (235). No artefacts were retrieved from this feature.
- 3.2.5 Stakehole 232 measured 0.05 m wide and 0.12 m deep and was cut vertically into fill 231. It was filled with a silty loam (233).
- 3.2.6 The upper fill of Ditch 216 was cut by Ditch 211. This feature was orientated north-east south-west and was seen in the central northern half of the trench. The ditch

measured 0.56 m x 0.62 m deep. It was filled with a sequence of silts (212-214). Pottery dating to the 11th-12th century was retrieved from the upper fill as well as cattle, pig and domestic fowl bones.

- 3.2.7 The upper fills of Ditch 234, Stakehole 232, Pit 195, Gully 191, Pit 193 and Ditch 211 were sealed by Layer 178. This was a 0.26 m deep humic silt containing pottery dating to the 11th-12th century.
- 3.2.8 Layer 178 was truncated by two features (cuts 228 and 236). These were only seen in section in the southern corner of the trench (not illustrated) having been largely removed by a later feature (Ditch 189).
- 3.2.9 Cut 228 had a surviving width of 0.19 m and was 0.13 m deep, it was filled with a silt loam 229. No artefacts were retrieved from this feature.
- 3.2.10 Cut 236 was 1.28 m wide x 0.20 m deep and was filled with a loose yellow sand (237) no artefacts were retrieved from this feature.
- 3.2.11 Ditch 189 was orientated north-east south-west at the eastern edge of the trench. It measured at least (visible extent) 0.60 m wide and was 0.60 m deep. The feature was filled with two silt deposits (190 and 208). The fills contained pottery dating to the 11th-12th century as well as ceramic building material and cattle, sheep, pig and domestic fowl bones.
- 3.2.12 Ditch fill 208 was overlain in the western half of the trench by a dark humic silt (177). This was 0.23 m thick and contained a fragment of lava stone quern and abundant pottery dating to the 11th -12th century including crucible sherds, indicative of metalworking. Fishbone, fish scales, fragments of a hazelnut shell, various weed seeds and abundant uncharred elder seeds were retrieved from flotation of samples from this deposit.
- 3.2.13 In the southern corner of the trench, ditch fill 208 was overlain by a compacted chalk rubble deposit (207), which may represent a partially surviving coarse floor surface. This deposit was 0.07 m thick and contained pottery dating to the 11th-12th century as well as an iron nail. Deposit 207 was in turn overlain by a humic silt (215). This layer was 0.22 m thick and contained charcoal flecks and a large fragment of bloomery slag.
- 3.2.14 Layer 177 was cut in the centre of the trench by a Pit (220). This feature measured 2.0 m in diameter and was 0.45 m deep. It was filled with two silts (179, 180) both of which contained greenish inclusions, reminiscent of cess material. The combination of pottery retrieved from these deposits and the stratigraphic location of this feature suggests an 11th-13th century date. Charcoal (identified as oak) and large amounts of fishbone, fishscales and animal bone were noted in flotation residues from Fill 179. The flotation also produced two badly preserved charred cereal grains and grain sized weeds including brome-grass (*Bromus* sp.). Hazelnut shells and elder seeds were also present.

- 3.2.15 The upper fill of Pit 220 (180) was truncated by Pit 221. This feature measured 0.80 m in diameter and was 0.25 m deep. It was filled with silts 222 and 223, both of which contained large amounts of mortar and rubble. No artefacts were retrieved from this feature.
- 3.2.16 The upper fill of Pit 221 (222) and layer 215 were overlain by a sequence of silty domestic dumping episodes (176, 169, 203, 202 and 227). This sequence was up to 1 m thick and contained an assemblage of pottery which indicated a 13th century date for deposition. Shell and ceramic building material were also retrieved from this sequence.
- 3.2.17 Layers 227 and 202 were cut by Beamslot 204. This feature was recorded in the centre of the trench and was orientated south east- north west. It measured 0.33 m wide x 0.60 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with silt and mortary rubble (205 and 206). No artefacts were retrieved from this feature. The beamslot was abutted on its eastern edge by a chalk floor (201). The beamslot fill and chalk floor were overlain by a burnt deposit (200).
- 3.2.18 Deposit 200 was overlain by a 0.40 m thick sequence of demolition deposits (178-199, 145, 187 and 144). No artefacts were retrieved from this sequence.
- 3.2.19 The upper demolition deposit (144) was cut to the central southern part of the trench by a well (construction cut 160, structure 159, construction cut infill 166 and well infill 167) built of mortar bonded flint nodules. The well measured c1.29 m in diameter. Pottery indicating an 11th century date was retrieved from the infilling of the well. However given the stratigraphic associations of this feature it seems likely that the pottery is residual and that a 13th century date for the structure is more likely.
- 3.2.20 Well 159 was partially removed to the west of the trench by a north-east south-west aligned wall (construction cut 162, construction cut infill 225, structure 161) this in turn was abutted at right angles by wall 164 (construction cut 163, construction cut infill 165). Both structures delimited a chalk floor surface (188) in the south-west corner of the trench. Both walls were constructed from mortar bonded flint nodules and measured 0.40 m wide, surviving to a depth of 0.20 m. No artefacts were retrieved from these contexts. A 13th century date for this structure is indicated by stratigraphic association.
- 3.2.21 To the centre of the trench, well 159 was sealed by Deposit 143. This was a 0.08 m thick silty sand containing 14th century pottery.
- 3.2.22 Deposit 143 was cut by context group 100. This comprised a north-west south-east aligned wall (102) abutted at right angles on its eastern face by an north-east south-west aligned wall (101) to the north of the trench and a second similarly aligned wall on its western face to the south of the trench. The internal space created by the junction of walls 102 and 101 (to the east of the trench) was defined by a hollow (cut 126), which may have provided ventilation under a timber floor or was cut/eroded within the building.

- 3.2.23 Walls 101 and 102 were constructed of mortar bonded flint nodules with occasional brick fragments and both measured c 0.40 m wide, surviving to a depth of 0.30 m. The infill of hollow 126 comprised a sequenced of silts and clays (125 and 127 - 129) which contained pottery indicating a 14th century date for this structure. These were sealed by a beaten mortar floor (155) and burnt occupation layer (154).
- 3.2.24 Layer 154 was cut by wall 152, which ran parallel to wall 102. This structure was of similar build to Walls 101 and 102, except much shallower. It is likely to be a later internal partition foundation, after the infill of hollow 126.
- 3.2.25 The structural sequence described above was overlaid by a 0.55 m deep banding of levelling/dumping and demolition deposits. The presence of a clay pipe stem at the base of this sequence dates this build up to the 16th century or later. This build up was in turn impacted on by brick plinths and a chimney stack probably dating to the Victorian period.

3.3 Finds

Pottery (See Appendix 2)

- 3.3.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 236 sherds with a total weight of 3,067 g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 2.84. The bulk of the pottery was of early medieval date, particularly the period of the 11th – 12th century. Several factors are perhaps of some significance. Two sherds of early/middle Saxon pottery were noted, a rare find in Norwich, and the early medieval assemblage produced evidence for both metalworking and dyeing or dye-production.

Clay pipes

- 3.3.2 A single fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from context 146

Shell

- 3.3.3 A total of 9 fragments of shell were recovered from the archaeological investigations, with the exception of 3 fragments of mussel shell from context 218 all the fragments are from oyster shells

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Weight</i> | <i>Type</i> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 176 | 2 | 44 | Oyster |
| 217 | 1 | 5 | Oyster |
| 217 | 1 | 25 | Oyster |
| 218 | 3 | 10 | Mussel |
| 218 | 1 | 18 | Oyster |
| 219 | 1 | 56 | Oyster |

Building material

- 3.3.4 A total of 5 fragments of ceramic building material was recovered from the investigations 4 fragments are roofing material and the fifth is a fragment from a large floor tile or brick. One fragment of roof tile (ctx 176) has a crudely formed peg hole through it another from context 128 has a patch of green glaze surviving on the upper surface.

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Thickness (mm)</i> | <i>Type</i> |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 176 | 1 | 12 | Roof tile (peg hole) |
| 176 | 1 | 15 | Roof tile (plain) |
| 128 | 1 | 14 | Roof tile (plain) |
| 128 | 1 | 14 | Roof tile (glazed) |
| 190 | 1 | Incomplete | Large floor tile or brick fragment |

Worked Stone

- 3.3.5 A single fragment of Niedermendig lava stone was recovered from context 177, the fragment has only one surviving worked surface which is flat and is probably from a quern stone.

Worked Bone

- 3.3.6 A single fragment of worked bone (SF 100) was recovered from context 217. The fragment is from the tooth segment of a single sided bone comb with an undecorated strip above the teeth where the connecting plate would have crossed, part of a rivet hole survives along one broken edge. The segment has the stumps of 5 coarse teeth remaining, which are cut at an angle to the back; the back edge of the segment is polished through wear. The comb fragment is probably Saxon in date (Galloway 1990 666-669, fig.183, No.2159).

Flint

- 3.3.7 An assemblage of two struck flints and one piece of natural were recovered from the site. No diagnostic pieces were present.

| | 177 | 217 | 219 | Total: |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Flake | | | 1 | 1 |
| Irregular waste | 1 | | | 1 |
| Natural | | 1 | | 1 |
| Total: | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| | | | | |

3.4 Environmental

- 3.4.1 Four bulk samples were processed out of seven taken. These covered the range of dated deposits, the height of the vertical sequence and focused on deposits, which visually had the most potential for organic preservation.
- 3.4.2 The charcoal of sample <100> (context 177, 11th-12th century dumping deposit) produced at least 2 species of wood, including oak (*Quercus* sp.). This sample from a dump layer contained poorly preserved grain size weeds, hazelnut shell (*Corylus*

avellana) and the weed cf. *Chenopodium* sp. (goosefoot). The flot was very rich of uncharred seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

- 3.4.3 Sample <102> (context 179, 11th – 13th century pit fill) was also very rich of elder seeds and contained hazelnut shell, poorly preserved charred cereal grains and a grain-sized weed. It produced the charred weeds *Bromus* sp. (brome-grass) and *Galium* sp. (goose grass). The preservation of the charred plant remains of both samples was moderate. Fishbone and fishscales appeared frequently in these flots.
- 3.4.4 Both residues of the two samples were scanned for mineralised plant remains because they appeared to have a greenish colour, which might indicate the presence of cess. However, no mineralised plant remains were noted in the residues and flots. In both residues indications of metalworking were noted, mainly small drops of metal (possibly iron) and slag.
- 3.4.5 Two samples processed for waterlogged plant remains were generally poor of identifiable plant remains. Sample <103> (context 212, 11th – 13th century Ditch fill) produced a very large flot (500 ml) mostly consisting of wood fragments and amorphous plant remains. Barely any seeds were noted. Sample <106> (context 211, early/middle Saxon ditch fill) produced a smaller flot (50 ml) and contained, besides amorphous plant remains, some charcoal and fish and animal bone. Seeds of elder and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) were frequent in this flot.

3.5 Preservation of environmental indicators

- 3.5.1 The preservation of charcoal is good but the preservation of the charred weeds and cereal grain was moderate. The preservation of the waterlogged samples was moderate to good, although the range of taxa present was limited.

4 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation represents a 5% sample of the development area. It is reasonable to assume that the depth and complexity of archaeological remains recorded and the level at which these are truncated by modern activity, is characteristic of the site as a whole. Variations in the scale of industrial activity and abundance of environmental indicators may occur within the development area.

4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 The evaluation revealed a dense sequence of occupation spanning the early/middle Saxon period to the medieval period. The early medieval period exhibits particularly intense activity with evidence of metal working as well as environmental indicators and fishing industry by-products. The site was formally developed by the 13th-14th

century (evidenced by a sequence of stone/flint built structures). Truncation of the stratigraphic sequence occurs in the 16-17th century and again in the late 18th-19th century

4.2.2 The results of the evaluation are probably to be expected, given the sites location on the north bank of the River Wensum and the riverside activities that this would imply.

4.3 Summary of results

4.3.1 For ease of reference significant archaeological deposits and structures within the trench have been tabulated below.

| Trench | Comments | Date |
|--------|--|--------------------|
| 100 | Fluvial sands (sterile of anthropogenic material) | Undated |
| | Pits, ditches and stakehole | Early/mid Saxon |
| | Posthole/pit | 10th-11th century |
| | Pits and ditches, evidence of metal working (bloom slag and crucible fragments) Quern fragment. | 11th-12th century |
| | Beam slot with associated floor surface, well, flint nodule walled building with associated floor surface, flint walled building (occasional brick frags) with sunken floor /ventilation hollow? | 13th-14th century |
| | Demolition and levelling layers | 16th-17th century? |
| | Brick structures (plinths and chimney base (?)) | Victorian? |

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Comment</i> | <i>Finds</i> |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | | | | |
| | 100 | Group | Post-med walls | |
| | 101 | Structure | Wall | |
| | 102 | Structure | Wall | |
| | 103 | Cut | Construction cut | |
| | 104 | Cut | Construction cut | |
| | 105 | Cut | Construction cut | |
| | 106 | Cut | Construction cut | |
| | 107 | Structure | Brick plinth | |
| | 108 | Structure | Brick plinth | |
| | 109 | Deposit | Construction cut fill | |
| | 110 | Deposit | Rubble and mortar layer | |
| | 111 | Deposit | Silt | |
| | 112 | Deposit | Silt | |
| | 113 | Deposit | Silty sand | |
| | 114 | Deposit | Silty loam | |
| | 115 | Deposit | Silty loam | |
| | 116 | Structure | Wall | |
| | 117 | Cut | Construction cut | |
| | 118 | Deposit | Silty sand /building debris | Pottery |
| | 119 | Deposit | Construction cut fill | |
| | 120 | Structure | Brick structure | |
| | 121 | Deposit | Rubble fill | |
| | 122 | Deposit | Silt fill | |
| | 123 | Deposit | Burnt ash fill | |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Comment</i> | <i> Finds</i> |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | 124 | Deposit | Loam | |
| | 125 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | Pottery, animal bone |
| | 126 | Cut | Ditch | |
| | 127 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | |
| | 128 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | Pottery, FE nail, CBM |
| | 129 | Cut | Construction cut | |
| | 130 | Structure | Modern drain | |
| | 131 | Cut | Construction cut | |
| | 132 | Deposit | Construction cut fill | |
| | 133 | Deposit | Construction cut fill | |
| | 134 | Deposit | Mortar dump | |
| | 135 | Deposit | Sand | |
| | 136 | Deposit | Grit | |
| | 137 | Deposit | Sand | |
| | 138 | Deposit | Mortar /rubble | |
| | 139 | Deposit | Sandy silt | |
| | 140 | Deposit | Burnt deposit | |
| | 141 | Deposit | Silty clay | |
| | 142 | Deposit | Sand | |
| | 143 | Deposit | Sand | Pottery |
| | 144 | Deposit | Sand | |
| | 145 | Deposit | Gravelly sand | |
| | 146 | Deposit | Silt | Clay pipe |
| | 147 | Deposit | Gravelly silt | |
| | 148 | Deposit | Silt | |
| | 149 | Deposit | Clay | |
| | 150 | Deposit | Gravel | |
| | 151 | Deposit | Gravel | |
| | 152 | Structure | Flint wall | |
| | 153 | Cut | Construction cut | |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Comment</i> | <i> Finds</i> |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | 154 | Deposit | Burnt deposit | |
| | 155 | Deposit | Floor layer | |
| | 156 | Deposit | Floor make-up | |
| | 157 | Deposit | Demolition deposit | |
| | 158 | Deposit | Sand | |
| | 159 | Structure | Well | |
| | 160 | Cut | Well construction cut | |
| | 161 | Structure | Wall | |
| | 162 | Cut | Construction cut | |
| | 163 | Cut | Construction cut | |
| | 164 | Structure | Wall | |
| | 165 | Deposit | Construction cut fill | |
| | 166 | Deposit | Well construction cut fill | Pottery, FE nail, animal bone |
| | 167 | Deposit | Well fill | |
| | 168 | Deposit | Chalk floor | |
| | 169 | Deposit | Clay silt | Pottery |
| | 170 | Deposit | Chimney stack fill | Pottery |
| | 171 | Deposit | Construction cut fill | Animal bone |
| | 172 | Deposit | Sand | |
| | 173 | Deposit | Sand | |
| | 174 | Deposit | Sand | |
| | 175 | Deposit | Mortar | |
| | 176 | Deposit | Build up layer | Pottery, shell, CBM, animal bone |
| | 177 | Deposit | Occupation-dump | Pottery, flint animal bone, |
| | 178 | Deposit | Occupation-dump | Pottery, animal bone |
| | 179 | Deposit | Pit fill | Pottery |
| | 180 | Deposit | Pit fill | Pottery, animal bone |
| | 181 | Deposit | Mortar layer | |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Comment</i> | <i> Finds</i> |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 182 | Deposit | Rubble fill | |
| | 183 | Cut | Plinth construction cut | |
| | 184 | Deposit | Plinth construction cut fill | |
| | 185 | Deposit | Plinth construction cut fill | |
| | 186 | Structure | Brick plinth | |
| | 187 | Deposit | Chalk/clay layer | |
| | 188 | Deposit | Chalk surface | |
| | 189 | Cut | Ditch cut | |
| | 190 | Deposit | Ditch fill | CBM, animal bone |
| | 191 | Cut | Gully cut | |
| | 192 | Deposit | Gully fill | Slag |
| | 193 | Cut | Pit | |
| | 194 | Deposit | Pit fill | Pottery, animal bone |
| | 195 | Cut | Posthole (?) | |
| | 196 | Deposit | Posthole (?) fill | Pottery |
| | 197 | Deposit | Demolition layer | |
| | 198 | Deposit | Demolition layer | |
| | 199 | Deposit | Mortar layer | |
| | 200 | Deposit | Burnt deposit | |
| | 201 | Deposit | Chalk floor | |
| | 202 | Deposit | Floor make up | |
| | 203 | Deposit | Silt | Pottery |
| | 204 | Cut | Beam slot | |
| | 205 | Deposit | Fill of beam slot | |
| | 206 | Deposit | Fill of beam slot | Animal bone |
| | 207 | Deposit | Chalk dump/floor | Pottery, FE nail, animal bone |
| | 208 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | Pottery, animal bone |
| | 209 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Comment</i> | <i> Finds</i> |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 210 | Cut | Ditch | |
| | 211 | Cut | Ditch | |
| | 212 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | |
| | 213 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | |
| | 214 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | Pottery, animal bone |
| | 215 | Deposit | Silt | Slag, animal bone |
| | 216 | Cut | Ditch | |
| | 217 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | Bone comb, flint, animal bone |
| | 218 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | Shell, animal bone |
| | 219 | Deposit | Fill of ditch | Pottery, shell, animal bone |
| | 220 | Cut | Pit | |
| | 221 | Cut | Pit | |
| | 222 | Deposit | Pit fill | |
| | 223 | Deposit | Pit fill | |
| | 224 | Deposit | Natural sand | |
| | 225 | Deposit | Construction cut fill | |
| | 226 | Deposit | Fluvial sand | |
| | 227 | Deposit | Clay silt | |
| | 228 | Cut | Pit/ditch | |
| | 229 | Deposit | Pit/ditch fill | |
| | 230 | Cut | Pit/ditch | |
| | 231 | Deposit | Pit/ditch fill | |
| | 232 | Cut | Stakehole | |
| | 233 | Deposit | Stakehole fill | |
| | 234 | Cut | Pit | |
| | 235 | Deposit | Pit fill | |
| | 236 | Cut | Feature | |
| | 237 | Deposit | Redeposited sand fill | |

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

By Paul Blinkhorn

4.3.2 The pottery assemblage comprised 236 sherds with a total weight of 3,067 g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 2.84. The bulk of the pottery was of early medieval date, particularly the period of the 11th – 12th century. Several factors are perhaps of some significance. Two sherds of early/middle Saxon pottery were noted, a rare find in Norwich, and the early medieval assemblage produced evidence for both metalworking and dyeing or dye-production.

Fabrics

4.3.3 The following fabric types were noted:

E/MS: Early/Middle Saxon Handmade wares, c. AD450-850. 2 sherds, 35 g, EVE = 0.

F205: Stamford Ware, c. AD900-1200 (Kilmurry 1980). 2 sherds, 10 g, EVE = 0.

F100: St. Neots ware, c. AD900-1100 (Denham 1985). 1 sherd, 5 g, EVE = 0.

F102: Thetford-type Ware, 10th/11th century (Atkin et al., 1983). 3 sherds, 49 g, EVE = 0.

F330: Early Medieval Sparse Shelly ware (EMSS), 11th/12th century (Jennings 1981, 39). 14 sherds, 301 g, EVE = 0.26.

F350: Early Medieval Sandy wares (EMSW), 11th/12th century (Jennings 1981, 39). 3 sherds, 21 g, EVE = 0.

F360: Early Medieval ware (EMW), 11th-15th century (Jennings 1981, 22-5). 202 sherds, 2,442 g, EVE = 2.58.

F318: North French Whitewares, L12th – 13th century (Vince 1985, 47-8). 1 sherd, 24 g, EVE = 0.

F328: Medieval Grimston ware, 13th - 15th century (Leah 1994). 4 sherds, 51 g, EVE = 0

F401: Late Medieval Transitional wares, 15th – 16th century (Jennings 1981). 1 sherd, 104 g, EVE = 0.

F405: German Stonewares, 14th century +(Gaimster 1997). 2 sherds, 12 g, EVE = 0.

F410: Tin-Glazed Earthenware, 17th-18th century (Jennings 1981, 187-216). 1 sherd, 12 g, EVE = 0.

4.3.4 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 bulk of the assemblage comprised early medieval (11th – 13th century) deposits consisting almost entirely of unglazed coarsewares, with very little pottery dateable to beyond the 13th century. Medieval Grimston ware is scarce, and the fact that such pottery is unusually a common find in medieval deposits in Norwich suggests that there is very little activity at the site after that time.

4.3.5 The two sherds of early/middle Saxon handmade pottery are of note. Finds of handmade pottery of this type are generally rare in the city. Jennings noted in 1981 that less than ten sherds of such pottery had been found in Norwich (*ibid.* 12), and, since then, very few sites in the city have produced any finds of the material. The exception is an earlier excavation at Fishergate (Ayers 1994), which produced a relatively large group of 31 sherds of such pottery. The sherds from this site are similar to fabric 1 from Fishergate (Dallas 1994, 20), and may represent an outlier from that concentration.

- 4.3.6 Otherwise, the range of fabrics is fairly typical of Saxon and medieval sites in Norwich, and parallels can be found at almost any excavation in the city (see Jennings 1981). The early medieval pottery from this excavation has produced strong evidence for industrial activity at the site between the 11th and 13th centuries, specifically metalworking and dyeing or dye production. Context 177 produced two fairly large fragments of a crucible, one of which was a rim with a pouring-lip. Both sherds had deposits of slag adhering to them, and another sherd, probably from a large jar, had a thick deposit of slag on the inner surface, suggesting it had been used as a heating-tray. A further four sherds from this context were semi-vitrified with splashes of slag adhering to them, showing that at the very least they had been subject to intense heat. A further crucible fragment, probably from the same vessel as that in context 176, and another sherd, which could perhaps have been used as a heating tray, were noted in context 177. The two contexts contained a number of cross-fitting sherds from other vessels, and so the pottery seems likely to have been deposited from the same source. The earlier excavations at Fishergate (Ayers 1994) produced evidence of metalworking in the form of around 10kg of slag and a fragment of a vessel, which was either a crucible or a heating-tray (Budd 1994). Analysis of the slag, which was adhering to the vessel, produced traces of copper, zinc, lead, silver and tin.
- 4.3.7 Evidence for dyeing or dye production came from a number of contexts. One sherd from context 128, 25 sherds from a single fragmented jar in contexts 176 and 177, a single sherd from context 180 and two sherds from the same shelly vessel from context 208 were evenly stained purple on the inside.
- 4.3.8 Generally, the assemblage was in good condition, and the sherd size large, indicating primary deposits. Context 176 and 177, as well as producing evidence of medieval industry, consisted of large fragments of jars, and a near full profile of a jar was noted in context
- 4.3.9 This assemblage is of some interest, despite being fairly small, and if no more work is to be done at the site, it should be published, as it appears to have produced a number of strands of evidence which are of some importance in understanding the archaeology of early medieval Norwich.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

| Cntxt | E/MS | | F100 | | F102 | | F205 | | F330 | | F350 | | F360 | | F318 | | F328 | | F401 | | F405 | | F410 | | Date |
|-------|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|----|-------|
| | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | |
| 118 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 104 | | | | | 15thC |
| 125 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC |

| Cntxt | E/MS | | F100 | | F102 | | F205 | | F330 | | F350 | | F360 | | F318 | | F328 | | F401 | | F405 | | F410 | | Date |
|-------|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|------|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|----|--------|
| | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | |
| 128 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC |
| 129 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 24 | | | | | | | | | L12thC |
| 143 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 12 | | | 15thC? |
| 166 | | | | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10thC? |
| 167 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC? |
| 169 | | | | | | | | 1 | 20 | | | 5 | 30 | | | 2 | 35 | | | | | | | | 13thC |
| 170 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 12 | 17thC |
| 176 | | | | | 1 | 29 | | | 1 | 4 | | | 44 | 443 | | 2 | 16 | | | | | | | | 13thC |
| 177 | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 5 | | | 118 | 1647 | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC |
| 178 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC? |
| 179 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 29 | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC? |
| 180 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 79 | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC |
| 194 | | | | | 1 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10thC? |
| 196 | 1 | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | E/MS? |
| 207 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC |
| 208 | | | 1 | 5 | | | | | 2 | 17 | | | 22 | 173 | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC |
| 214 | | | | | | | | | 8 | 245 | 2 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 11thC |
| 219 | 1 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | E/MS?? |
| Total | 2 | 35 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 49 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 301 | 3 | 22 | 202 | 2442 | 1 | 24 | 4 | 51 | 1 | 104 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 12 | |

APPENDIX 3 ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

by Emma-Jayne Evans

Introduction

4.3.10 This report encompasses the animal bones from the site at Fishergate, Norwich, from which a total of 194 fragments (3592 g) of bone and teeth were excavated.

Methodology

4.3.11 Identification of the bone was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology with access to the reference collection and published guides. All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Also, fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as small (small mammal size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

4.3.12 The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

4.3.13 The quantification of species was carried out using the total fragment count, in which the total number of fragments of bone and teeth was calculated, and this figure broken down to the total number of fragments identifiable to each species. In addition the

minimum number of individuals (MNI) was calculated using the zoning method (Serjeantson, 1996). The elements used for working out MNI do not include ribs, vertebra, loose teeth, tarsals and carpals unless these are the only elements present.

4.3.14 Tooth eruption and wear stages were measured using a combination of Halstead (1985), Grant (1982), and Levine (1982), and fusion data was analysed according to Silver (1969). Measurements of adult, that is, fully fused bones were taken according to the methods of von den Driesch (1976), and withers heights calculated using the methods of and Matolcsi (1970). Asterisked (*) measurements indicate bones that were reconstructed or had slight abrasion of the surface.

Results

Quantity of material

4.3.15 All of the hand collected animal bone from Fishergate has been fully analysed and recorded for this assessment. A small number of bones have fresh breaks, the re-fitting of which has reduced the total fragment count to 179.

Species Representation

4.3.16 A total of 66 fragments of bone and teeth were identifiable to species, 36.9% of the total number of bones assessed. All of the identifiable bone is from domestic species, as shown in Table 1 below. One of the sheep/goat bones from context 176 was identified as sheep, and one from context 219 as goat.

Table 1. Number of bones identifiable to specie (MNI in brackets).

| Context | Cattle | Sheep/goat | Pig | Horse | Domestic fowl | Goose | Cat | Bird | Unidentified | Total |
|---------|--------|------------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|------|--------------|-------|
| 125 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 3 |
| 166 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| 171 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 4 |
| 176 | 5 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 29 |
| 177 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 21 |
| 178 | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 13 | 17 |
| 180 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 190 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 14 |
| 194 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| 196 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| 207 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| 208 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 17 | 22 |
| 214 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 14 | 20 |
| 215 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 6 |
| 217 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 10 |
| 218 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | 10 |
| 219 | 5 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 18 |
| Total | 28 (3) | 10 (2) | 6 (1) | 1 (1) | 5 (1) | 4 (2) | 7 (1) | 5 | 113 | 179 |

Condition

4.3.17 The bone has survived in reasonably good condition, with the majority scoring 2 using Lyman's grading system. The butchery evidence indicates that skinning,

dismemberment, marrow extraction and horn working was carried out on the animals. Measurements could be taken on a number of bones, but only one measurement on a cattle metacarpal could be used to calculate withers height, giving a height of 1.09m. Only four mandibles could be aged, two cattle giving ages of 18 - 30 months old adult, and two sheep/goats giving ages of 10 - 20 months and 3 - 5 years. Fusion data is limited, but tentatively suggests that the majority of cattle and sheep/goat survived into adulthood, whereas pig were killed young. Articulations were noted between a cattle 1st and 2nd phalanx, and between cat bones from contexts 176 and 177.

APPENDIX 4 ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

By Laila Sikking

Methodology

4.3.18 Seven samples were taken during the evaluation from several locations for the recovery of charred plant remains and waterlogged plant remains. Two samples were processed for charred remains by flotation using a modified Siraf-type machine, with flots collected on a 250µm mesh. After air-drying the flots were scanned for botanical material under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification. Two sub-samples of 1 litre were taken from 2 samples for waterlogged remains and hand-floated on a 250µm mesh. Both the flot and residue was kept wet and scanned for botanical material under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification.

Results

4.3.19 The flots with charred remains varied in size between 40 ml and 500 ml. Both flots were very rich in charcoal. The charcoal of sample <100> (177) produced at least 2 species of wood, including oak (*Quercus* sp.). This sample from a dump layer contained poorly preserved grain size weeds, hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) and the weed cf. *Chenopodium* sp. (goosefoot). The flot was very rich of uncharred seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Sample <102> (179) was also very rich of elder seeds and contained hazelnut shell, poorly preserved charred cereal grains and a grain sized weed. It produced the charred weeds *Bromus* sp. (brome-grass) and *Galium* sp. (goose grass). The preservation of the charred plant remains of both samples was moderate. Fishbone and fishscales appeared frequently in these flots.

4.3.20 Both residues of the two samples with charred plant remains were scanned for mineralised plant remains because they appeared to have a greenish colour, which might indicate the presence of cess. However, no mineralised plant remains were noted in the residues and flots. In both residues indications of metalworking were noted, mainly small drops of metal (possibly iron) and slag.

4.3.21 The two samples processed for waterlogged plant remains were generally poor of identifiable plant remains. Sample <103> produced a very large flot (500 ml) mostly consisting of wood fragments and amorphous plant remains. Barely any seeds were noted. Sample <106> produced a smaller flot (50 ml) and contained, besides

amorphous plant remains, some charcoal and fish and animal bone. Seeds of elder and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) were frequent in this flot.

Discussion

4.3.22 The samples processed for charred plant remains have a medium to low potential. The preservation of the charcoal is good but the preservation of the charred weeds and cereal grain was moderate. The list of identified taxa from these samples is limited and does not offer much potential for reconstruction of diet or environment. The preservation of the waterlogged samples was moderate to good but the range of taxa was very limited. Therefore, the potential of these samples is low.

| Charred plant remains | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Sample no. | Context no. | Type of context | Period | Charcoal quantity | Charcoal identification | Other plant remains | Other Material | Potential |
| 100 | 177 | Dump layer | 11th-12th Century | ++++ | Mixed taxa, incl. <i>Quercus</i> | <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> , grain sized weed, cf. <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. | Fishbone, Fishscales | Medium |
| 102 | 179 | Pit | 11th-12th Century | +++ | <i>Quercus</i> | <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> , grain sized weed, <i>Bromus</i> sp., <i>Galium</i> sp. | Fishbone/scale, animal bone | Medium |
| Waterlogged plant remains | | | | | | | | |
| Sample no. | Context no. | Type of context | Period | Charcoal quantity | Seed quantity | Other plant remains | Other Material | Potential |
| 103 | 212 | Ditch | Med./Norman | | + | | | Low |
| 106 | 217 | Ditch | Late Saxon | ++ | ++ | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | animal/fishbone | Low |

+ = present (up to 5 items), ++ = frequent (5-25), +++ = common (25-100), ++++ = abundant (>100)

The results of the assessment of samples with charred and waterlogged remains.

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APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Former Last Factory, Fishergate, Norwich

Site code: 41021N

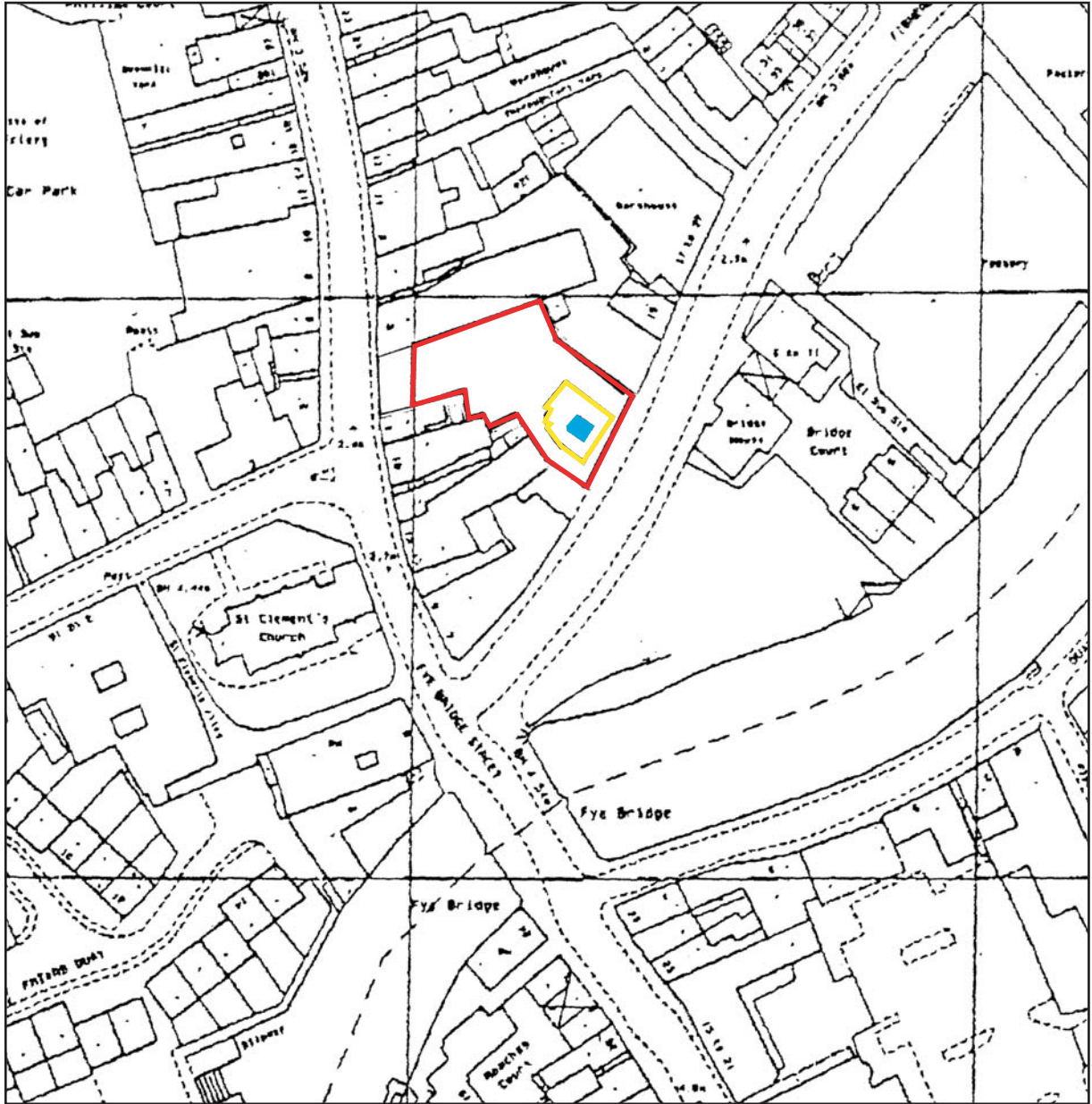
Grid Reference: TG 2323 0912

Type of evaluation: 3 m x 3 m Trial trench

Date and duration of project: 10/01/05 -18/01/05

Summary of results: The investigation revealed a complex sequence of occupation activity, originating in the early/middle Saxon period and including dense medieval and post medieval remains.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service in due course, under the accession number 41021N



- Application area
- Development area
- Trench location

Figure 2: Trench location

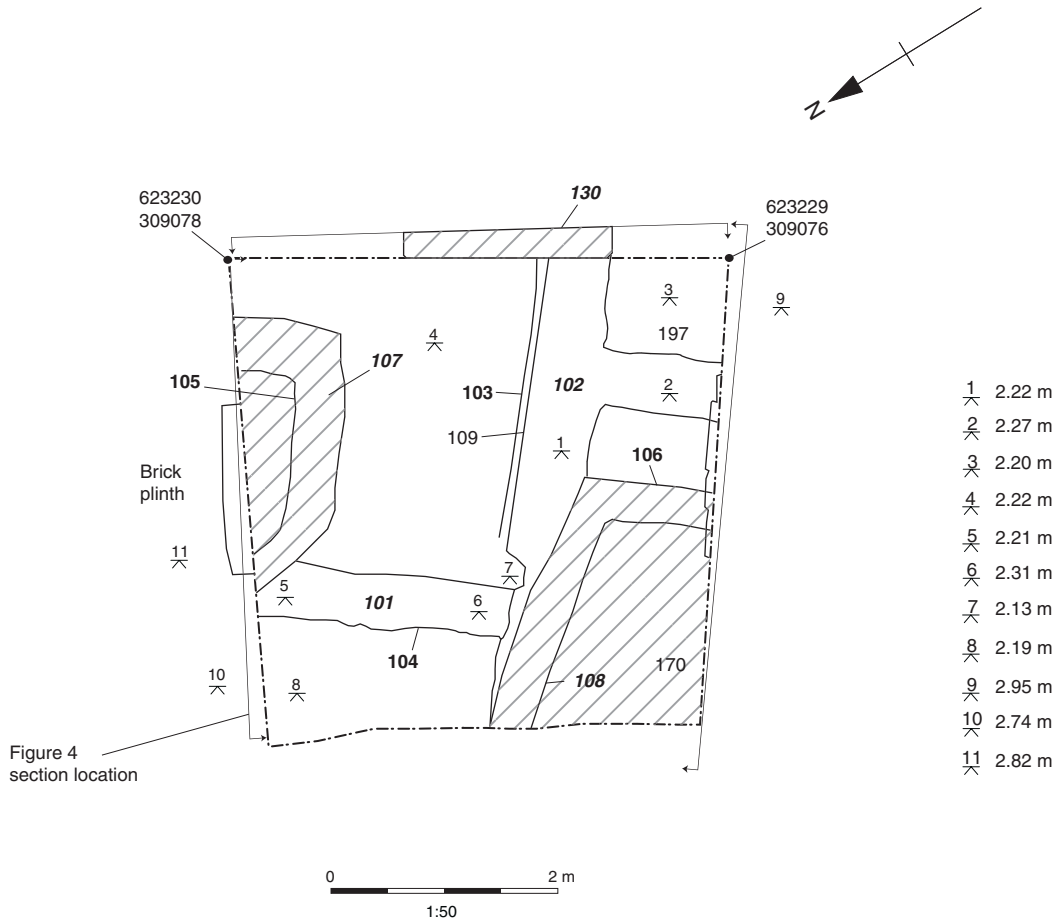


Figure 3a: Plan showing Victorian (?) and medieval/post medieval structures

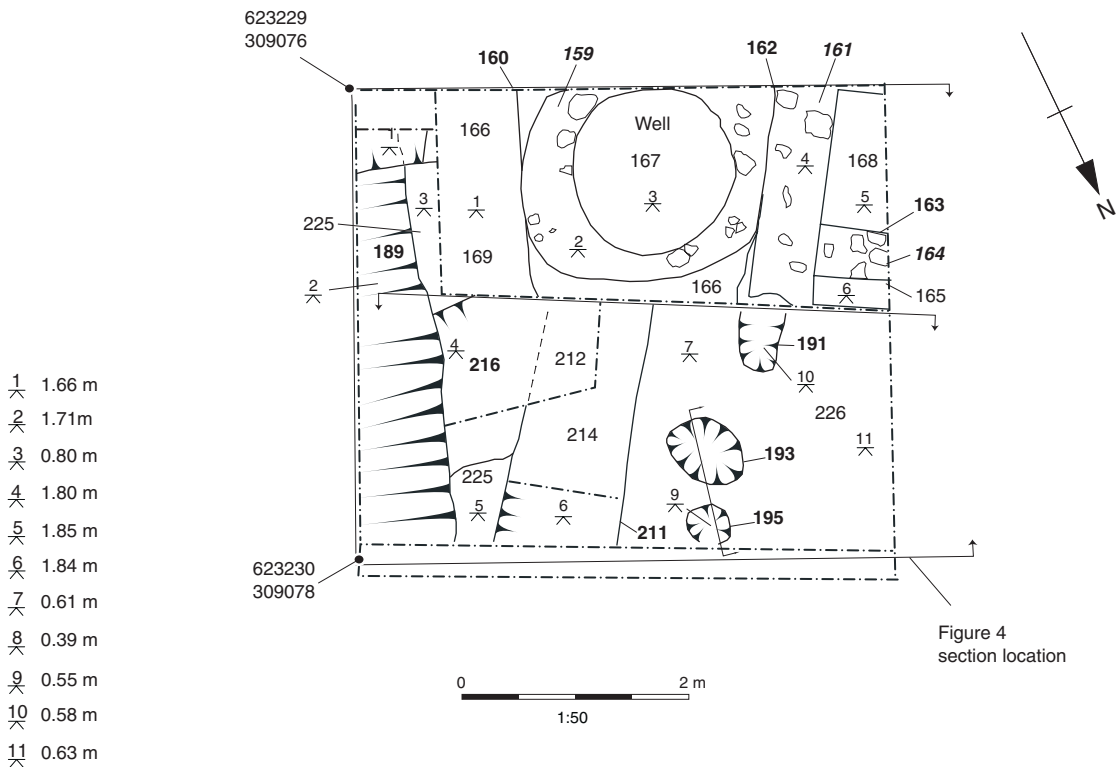


Figure 3b: Plan showing medieval and post mid-saxon features

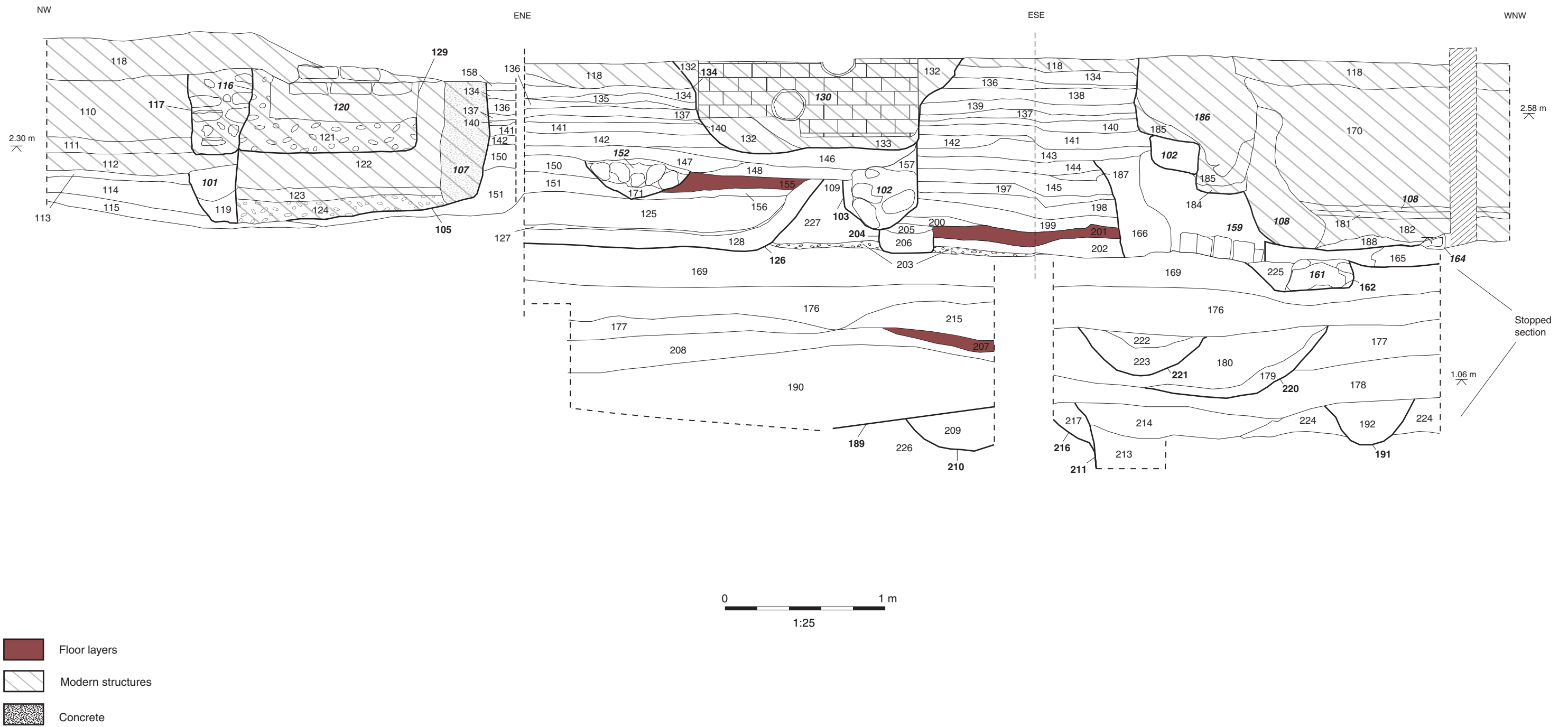


Figure 4: Composite Section