Daniel Store Peascod Street Windsor



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Daniel Department Store, Peascod Street, Windsor, Berkshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In March and July 2009 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Daniel Department Store, Peascod Street, Windsor, Berkshire (NGR: SU 9662 7677). The work was commissioned by W J Daniel and Company Ltd in advance of the redevelopment of an existing store. The watching brief revealed evidence of extensive truncation of the eastern side of the site due to modern intrusions, together with earlier basementing at the front of the site. Remains of the structures recorded on the 19th-century OS maps were also observed together with an associated brick-capped well. No evidence for structures predating the 19th century was observed.

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 In March and April 2009 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Daniel Department Store, Peascod Street, Windsor, Berkshire (NGR: SU 9662 7677). The work was commissioned by W J Daniel and Company Ltd in respect of a planning application for redevelopment of the existing department store (Planning References No. 08/00940 and 08/00941).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Fiona Macdonald, the principal achaeologist of Berkshire Archaeology (BA) on behalf of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (BA 2009).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2009).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the north side of Peascod Street, in the centre of Windsor, and is centred on NGR: SU 9662 7677 (Fig. 1). The site is currently occupied by a department store and other retail properties fronting Peascod Street with open yards at the back of the premises. The underlying topology slopes down to the north with a 3.5 m drop from front to rear.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is Shepperton gravel over clay and gravel (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet no. 269).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2009) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The site has been identified as being of archaeological potential due to a number of sites noted on the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record for this area.

- 1.3.3 The site lies within the historic core of the medieval town of New Windsor, which grew as a settlement around the 11th-century castle. Documentary sources refer to Peascod Street in the early 14th century, and significant medieval activity is known throughout the area.
- 1.3.4 An archaeological desk-based assessment carried out by Oxford Archaeology in 2008 noted the archaeological potential of the area, both in terms of back-plot activity and more limited street-front activity. However, it identified large parts of the site where at least some truncation was known or likely, due to the previous development on the site, including basementing.
- 1.3.5 It was therefore considered reasonable that adequately funded archaeological mitigation was required before the redevelopment of the site. The first phase of mitigation, reported on here, comprised of a watching brief on demolition procedures that had the potential to impact on archaeological deposits.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 **Aims**

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To preserve by record any features or deposits (if present) that the development may disturb or destroy.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was conducted as a series of site visits during the demolition of the old building and the preparation of the site prior to piling.
- 2.2.2 A plan of the excavations (Fig. 2) was maintained at a scale of 1:100 and any recorded sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The site and the recorded sections were photographed using digital photography, colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA field manual* (Wilkinson 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 **Description of deposits**

Section 1, Underpinning of west wall of the Daniel store

3.1.1 The natural clay was not exposed within this section. This trench was dug to a depth of 20.90 m above OD. A layer of yellow-brown silt clay containing lenses of silt and mortar and chalk flecking (19) was encountered within the base of the trench. This

- was overlaid by a 0.1 m deep layer of very dark grey clay silt (18). Overlying this was a 0.2 m deep layer of yellow-brown silt clay (17), possibly a layer of redeposited natural. This was sealed by a layer of dark grey-brown silt, 0.3 m in depth (16), which contained fragments of brick and tile.
- 3.1.2 This was overlaid by a 0.2 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt (15). This layer produced charcoal flecking and brick and tile fragments. Cutting this deposit was a 0.65 m deep trench running parallel to the west wall of the Daniels store (13). Built within this trench was a 0.2 m deep concrete footing supporting the west wall of the Daniels store (14). The trench was then backfilled with redeposited material from the excavation (12).

Section 2, Rear of No 118 (Fig. 3)

- 3.1.3 This was located adjacent to the present day Daniel store, at the rear of No. 118.
- 3.1.4 The underlying natural clay, 9, was encountered at a level of 23.55 m above OD. It was overlaid by a 0.3 m deep continuation of the very dark grey-brown clay silt (8) seen in section 3, which produced fragments of peg tiles. Overlying this was a 0.5 m deep layer of silty clay, a continuation of layer 7.
- 3.1.5 This deposit was cut by a very steep sided flat bottomed linear feature (6). This ran parallel to the standing wall of the current Daniels store and measured 1.8 m deep by 1.3 m wide at the top. Built within this trench was a solid concrete block (5), 0.8 m high. This was poured within shuttering which had been subsequently removed when the concrete had set. This block formed the foundation for the west wall of the Daniel store. The trench was then backfilled using redeposited material excavated out when the trench was dug (4). Sealing the backfill was a layer of demolition debris 0.32 m deep, part of the same phase of deposition as layer 3. As in section 3 this was overlaid by the hardcore base, 2, for the concrete shop floor 1.

Section 3, Centre of No 117 and 118

- 3.1.6 The location of this section is almost central within building 117 shown on the 1881 OS Map (Fig. 4).
- 3.1.7 The underlying natural clay (9) was encountered at a height of 22.71 m above OD. This was overlaid by a 0.28 m deep layer of very dark grey-brown clay silt (8). This may represent the original topsoil. Overlying this was a 0.62 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt containing fragments of brick and tile (7), a possible occupation layer.
- 3.1.8 A 1.7 m diameter vertically sided shaft (11) cut layer 7. The full depth of this cut was not exposed, but it is reasonable to assume that it reached the top of the underlying sandstone for a total depth of 3.25 m.
- 3.1.9 A brick well lining (20) was built within this cut. The bottom 1.9 m depth of this lining was roughly constructed using red bricks laid radially without mortar, giving

- an internal diameter of approximately 1.1 m. The upper 1.2 m of the swell lining was better constructed using red bricks, bonded with lime mortar, laid tangentially.
- 3.1.10 The well was capped by a hemispherical brick dome built using hand-moulded red brick measuring 0.22 m x 0.105 m x 0.06 m, bonded with a lime mortar. These bricks were also laid tangentially. Both the bricks and mortar were different between the upper part of the lining and the well cap suggesting that there were two phases of construction. This can be interpreted as either a subsequent repair or possibly that the well cap was added to the open well at a later date. The crown of the cap was damaged during machining and it was impossible to determine where the suction pipe entered.
- 3.1.11 Backfilling the well shaft and covering the well cap was a grey-brown clay silt containing fragments of brick and tile (10).
- 3.1.12 The backfill of the well shaft was sealed by a 0.45 m layer of demolition debris (3). This had been levelled and was overlaid by a layer of hardcore (2), the base for the modern concrete shop floor (1).

Section 4, Underpinning of west wall of the Daniel Store

- 3.1.13 This was located 5.5 m to the north of section 1.
- 3.1.14 The natural (9) was encountered at a level of 20.64 m above OD within this section. Sealing the natural was a 0.4 m deep layer of dark yellow-brown silt clay containing charcoal flecking (26). This deposit produced fragments of creamware pottery dating to the 19th/20th-century. Overlying this was a 0.25 m deep layer of grey-brown mixed silts and clay (25). This was cut by the 0.35 m deep foundation trench (24), a continuation of the foundation trench for the west wall of the Daniels Store (14).
- 3.1.15 The foundation trench was backfilled using material from its excavation (23). Sealing this was a 0.16 m deep layer of weak concrete (22). This was overlaid by a 0.13 m deep layer of very dark grey-brown clay silt producing fragments of brick (21).

Section 5, Underpinning of west wall of the Daniel store

- 3.1.16 This was located at the northern end of the west wall of the Daniel store. The base of the trench was excavated to a level of 19.94 m above OD.
- 3.1.17 A layer of grey-brown clay silt containing charcoal and lime mortar flecking (32), in excess of 0.8 m in depth was exposed in the base of the trench. This deposit produced fragments of bottle glass dating to the 19th century. Overlying this was a 0.2 m deep layer of dark grey-brown clay silt containing demolition rubble (31). This was cut by the 0.7 m deep foundation trench for the west wall (30). Built within this trench was. As before the west wall of the Daniel store (14) was built was the trench which was then backfilled using excavated material (29). This was sealed by a 0.3 m deep layer of light grey-brown mixed silts and gravel (28). Overlying this was a 0.3 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt (27).

Section 6, Peascod Street Frontage

- 3.1.18 This was exposed when the front wall (including the basement wall) was broken out, and comprised a section showing the stratigraphy under the Peascod Street pavement.
- 3.1.19 The underlying natural, a yellow brown sandy silt clay (9), was encountered at a depth of 1.2 m below the current pavement level. This was overlaid by a 0.36 m deep layer of red-brown fine sandy silt clay (40). This deposit produced much charcoal flecking and animal bone suggesting that it was an occupation layer. Within the surface of this deposit there was a lens of grey-brown silt clay (39) measuring 0.18 m deep and 1.9 m wide. This lens was heavily cess-stained and produced a handle from a Tudor skillet or pipkin.
- 3.1.20 A 0.12 m deep layer of mixed mortar and pebbles (38) sealed the lens. It was unclear if this layer represented a bedding layer for stone slabs or construction debris. This was overlaid by a 0.18 m deep layer of orange-brown fine silt (37), possibly a levelling layer for the tile surface (36). This was constructed using three overlapping layers of large clay tiles (probably roof tiles) bonded with a lime mortar.
- 3.1.21 These were sealed by a 0.1 m deep layer of sand and gravel (35) which in turn was overlaid by a 0.3 m deep layer of crushed stone (34), the base for the 0.15 m thick modern shop floor (33).

Section 7, Northern cellar wall No. 116

- 3.1.22 This was located across the rear cellar wall of No. 116, approximately in the centre of the site. The underlying natural clay, 9, was encountered at a level of 21.60 m above OD. This was overlaid by a 0.2 m deep continuation of the yellow-brown silt clay (17). Overlying this was a continuation of layer 16, 0.35 m in depth, which contained fragments of brick and tile. This in turn was sealed by a 0.25 m deep continuation of layer 15. This layer produced charcoal flecking and brick and tile fragments.
- 3.1.23 Cutting this deposit was a 1.3 m deep trench running east-west across the site (43). A 0.2 m deep concrete footingwas built within this trench which supported a 0.4 m wide brick wall built using hand moulded bricks measuring and cement mortar (41). This wall formed the north wall of the cellar and extended for at least another floor upwards. The trench was backfilled with a mixture of redeposited material from the excavation and construction debris (42).
- 3.1.24 Within the cellar range a 0.12 m thick concrete floor (44) was laid butting up wall 41. The cellar had been backfilled with demolition debris.

Section 8, North end of yard, adjacent to the underground car park

3.1.25 A 0.8 m deep trench was excavated through the piling mat for a ground beam. A continuation of layer 26, a grey-brown clay silt containing abraded brick and tile was

observed at a depth of 22.63 m above OD. This was overlaid by a 0.3 m deep continuation of layer 25.

Section 9, Northwest side of yard, adjacent to no. 115

- 3.1.26 A 1.1 m deep trench was excavated adjacent to the east wall of number 115 for a ground beam.
- 3.1.27 Layer 26 was encountered at a depth of 22.23 m above OD. This was overlaid by a 0.3 m deep continuation of the grey-brown clay silt 25. Overlying this was a continuation of layer 21, a dark grey-brown clay silt measuring 0.4 m deep.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 The vast majority of the finds recovered were post-medieval in date, and included fragments of 18th-century clay pipe stem and 19th/20th glazed creamware, while the fragments of bricks and tiles date between the 18th and 20th-centuries. A glazed handle belonging to a skillet or pipkin dating between the 15th and 17th centuries was recovered from layer 39.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for paleo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 From a study of the sections it is possible to reconstruct the original topology of the area of the site. At the front (southern) end of the site leading onto Peascod Street the underlying natural clay (9) was encountered at a level of 23.28 m above OD. Within the region of the well (section 3), the natural was encountered at a level of 22.73 m above OD. Towards the rear of the site the natural was encountered at 20.64 m (section 4) and in the north-east corner of the site the natural was observed at 20.02 m above OD. This gives a fall of 3.26 m within a 37 m length or an approximately 10% slope, leading northwards towards the river. This corresponds well with the slope still visible in Goswell Hill Lane running to the west of the current Daniel store.
- 4.1.2 The majority of the stratigraphy observed directly relates to buildings shown of the Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 4 and 5). The position of wall 41 within section 7 corresponds with the rear wall of No. 116 shown in both the 1881 and 1932 maps. The cellar floor level observed within the section (21.57 m above OD) is approximately 0.75 m below the level of the natural clay, 20, and would have truncated any deposits or features within this area.
- 4.1.3 The positioning of the well (20) places it within the interior of nos 117 and 118. This is not unusual during the 18th century. The water would have been drawn using a

- hand suction pump. It is possible that the well was under the dividing wall between the two premises and there was a separate pump serving each address.
- 4.1.4 Alongside the west wall of the standing Daniel store building, evidence of a cellar predating the construction of the department store was observed within section 2. It was evident from the section that the previous cellar walls had been demolished and the original cellar cut (6) had been widened in order that the new concrete foundations (5) could be cast between forms.
- 4.1.5 Comparison of the OS maps dating from 1881 and 1932 (Figures 4 and 5) show that No. 117 had been extended to the north during this period. It is possible that the well may have been sealed over by layer 3 during this work.
- 4.1.6 There are a number of possible occupation layers observed (layers 7, 8, 18, 32, 39 and 40). The majority of these layers produced fragments of brick, tile and pottery dating to the 19th century, the exceptions being layer 39 which produced a handle from a 15th-17th century skillet and layer 40 which produced no dating evidence, but produced fragments of butchered bone.
- 4.1.7 No evidence in the form of residual finds or truncated features was observed to show that the site had been occupied prior to the post-medieval period. It is possible that the street has been widened in the past so that the earlier street frontage may be situated within Peascod Street itself. This may account for the 15th-17th century pottery observed within layer 39. However, the absence of any truncated rubbish pits within remainder of the site would mitigate against the site being part of a medieval (or earlier) street frontage. This may suggest that the earlier activity was concentrated further up the hill close to the castle, with the lower part of the street only becoming occupied during the expansion of Windsor in the 19th-century.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Туре	Depth	Comments	Finds	Date
1	Layer	0.15 m	Modern concrete shop floor surface	-	C20th
2	Layer	0.18 m	Sand blinding for layer 1	-	C20th
3	Layer	0.4 m	Demolition layer	Brick	c1885
4	Fill	2.2 m	Backfill of modern foundation trench	Brick	C20th
5	Structure	1.2 m	Concrete underpinning	Concrete	C20th
6	Cut	2.2 m	Underpinning trench	-	C20th
7	Layer	0.55 m	Probable occupation layer	Brick, pegtile, pottery, oyster shell	C18/19th
8	Layer	0.3 m	Probable occupation layer	Pegtile	C18/19th
9	Layer	> 1.5 m	Natural clay	-	-
10	Fill	> 1 m	Backfill of wellshaft 11	Brick, tile	C18th
11	Cut	> 5.5 m	Wellshaft	-	C18th
12	Fill	0.45 m	Backfill of 13	Brick	C20th
13	Cut	0.65 m	Foundation trench	-	C20th
14	Structure	> 3 m	West wall of current Daniel Store	Brick and concrete	C20th
15	Layer	0.25 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C19th/ 20th
16	Layer	0.3 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C19th/ 20th
17	Layer	0.2 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C19th
18	Layer	0.08 m	Possible occupation layer	-	C19th
19	Layer	> 0.25 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C19th
20	Structure	4 m	Brick lining of well shaft	Brick	C18th/ 19th
21	Layer	0.13 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C20th
22	Layer	0.16 m	Layer of made ground, possible construction layer	Brick and tile	C19th/ 20th
23	Fill	0.4 m	Backfill of cut 24	Brick and tile	C20th
24	Cut	0.4 m	Foundation trench	-	C20th
25	Layer	0.25 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C19th/ 20th
26	Layer	> 0.6 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C19th
27	Layer	0.3 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C19th/ 20th

Context	Type	Depth	Comments	Finds	Date
28	Layer	0.3 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C20th
29	Fill	0.18 m	Buckfill of cut 30	Brick and tile	C20th
30	Cut	0.6 m	Foundation trench	-	C20th
31	Layer	0.2 m	Layer of made ground	Brick and tile	C19th/ 20th
32	Layer	0.8 m	Possible occupation layer	Pottery	C19th
33	Surface	0.15 m	Original concrete floor of No.116	-	C20th
34	Layer	0.3 m	Hardcore base for 33	-	C20th
35	Layer	0.1 m	Blinding layer for 34	-	C20th
36	Surface	0.14 m	Floor surface composed of red tiles	Tile	C19th
37	Layer	0.1 m	Levelling layer for 36	-	C19th
38	Layer	0.05 m	Possible construction layer	-	C19th
39	Lens	0.25 m	Occupation layer	Pottery	C15th-C17th
40	Layer	0.36 m	Occupation layer	Bone	-
41	Structure	> 2.5 m	Rear cellar wall	Brick	C19th
42	Fill	1 m	Backfill of cut 43	Brick	C19th
43	Cut	1 m	Foundation trench	-	C19th
44	Surface	0.15 m	Concrete cellar floor	-	C20th

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

BA, 2009 Daniel Department Store, Peascod Street, Windsor, Berkshire: Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Berkshire Archaeology

Wilkinson, D (ed), 1992 Field Manual, Oxford Archaeological Unit

OA, 2009 Daniel Department Store, Peascod Street, Windsor, Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Oxford Archaeology

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Daniel Department Store, Peascod Street, Windsor, Berkshire

Site code: WIDAST 09

Grid reference: NGR: SU 9662 7677

Type of watching brief: Demolition of standing buildings, ground reduction, machine

excavation of building foundations

Date and duration of project: May to August 2009

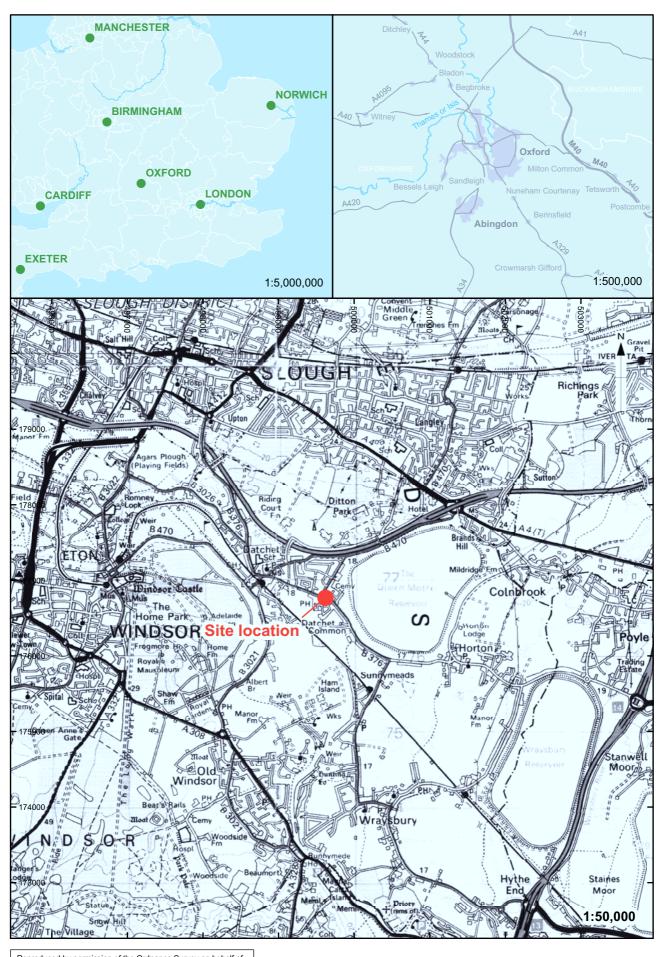
Area of site: 550 m²

Summary of results: Post-medieval made ground overlying earlier occupation layers. 18th-

century well shaft.

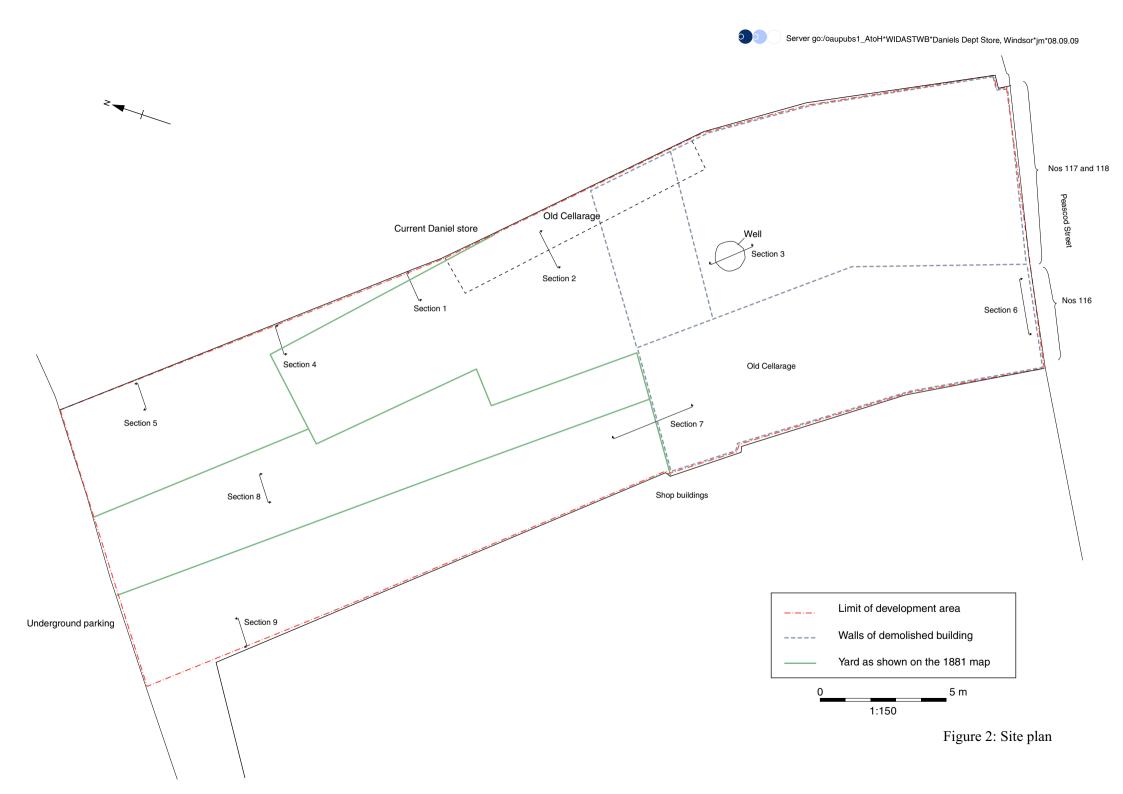
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Figure 1: Site location



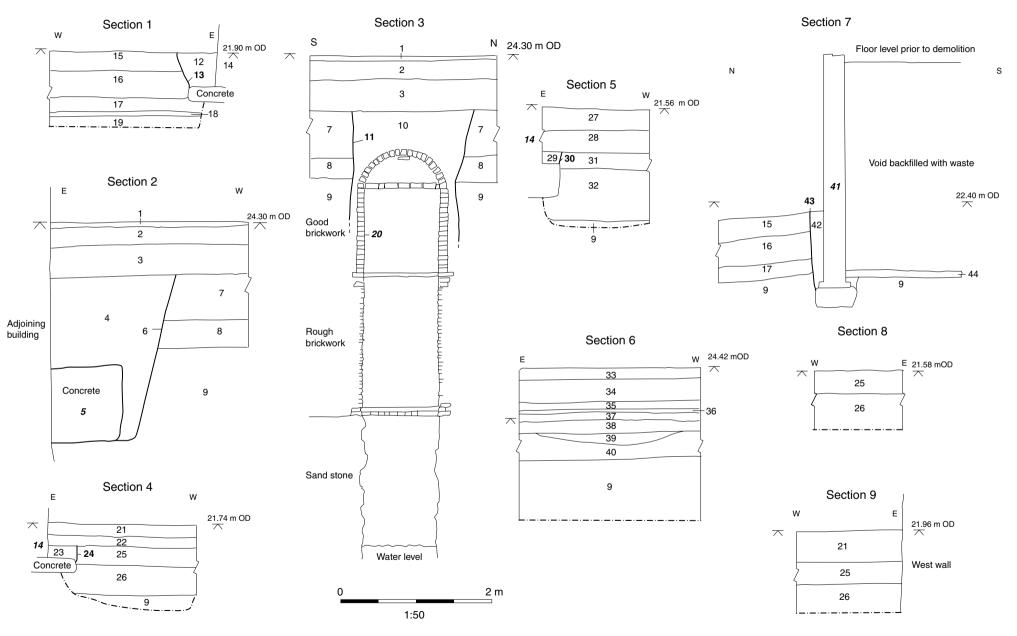


Figure 3: Sections

Figure 4: Area of development showing buildings on c. 1881 copy of 1st Edition OS 25" to 1 mile

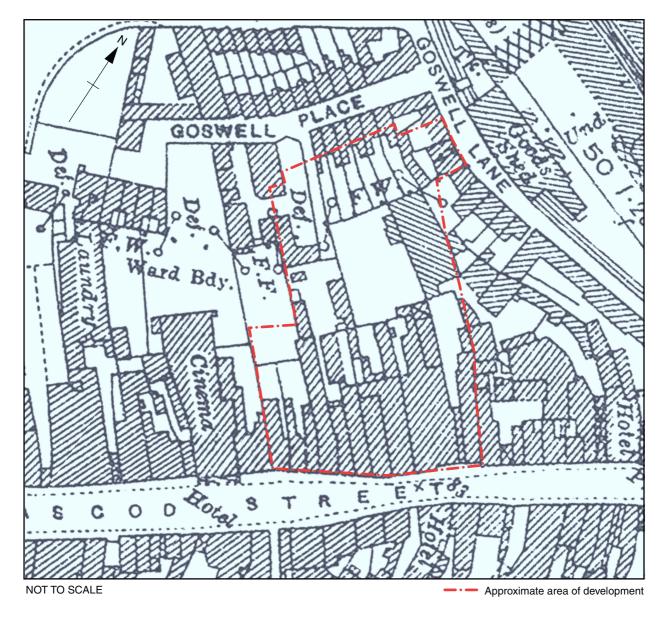


Figure 5: Extract from 1932 Edition OS map, 25" to 1 mile



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