



# **Boundary Wall, Middleton House, Derby, Derbyshire**

## **Survey Report**

**Oxford Archaeology North**



April 2009

**Cre8 Management Ltd**

Issue No: 2008-09/934

OA North Job No: L10121

NGR: SK 3506 3642 – 3509 3637

Planning Application DER/10/07/01951

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## SUMMARY

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In April 2009, Oxford Archaeology North was commissioned by Cre8 Management Ltd, acting on behalf of Blueprint, to undertake an archaeological survey of a boundary wall situated to the rear of two Grade II listed buildings on St Mary's Gate in the centre of Derby (NGR SK 3506 3642 – 3509 3637). The wall lies on a plot of land that is the focus of a current planning application (DER/10/07/01951), which proposes the erection of apartments, retail units, a café/restaurant, offices and associated car parking. The proposed development requires the partial demolition of the boundary wall to facilitate the creation of a walkway between the scheme area and historic buildings to the east.

In order to secure archaeological interests, the Local Planning Authority recommended that an archaeological survey of the wall be undertaken in advance of demolition. It was recommended that the survey was carried out in accordance with Level 1 recording outlined in the English Heritage guidance notes *Understanding Historic Buildings* (English Heritage 2006), and included a written account noting materials, form, precise location, a photographic record and a sketched elevation.

Analysis of historical mapping indicated that the wall was probably erected originally between 1806 and 1838. However, the survey has demonstrated that the wall comprised several sections, probably of different dates, with the northern section also having been remodelled for the insertion of a building facade and gateway. This corresponds with the cartographic evidence, with a plan of 1852 showing three separate buildings on the eastern side of the wall. Given the amount of remodelling, and its overall condition, the wall is considered to be of low local archaeological importance.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to express its thanks to Alan Hall of Cre8 Management Ltd, acting on behalf of Blueprint, for commissioning and supporting the project. OA North is also grateful to Stuart Chadwick of the Greenhatch Group for making available the measured survey data.

The archaeological survey was undertaken for OA North by Andrew Bates, who also compiled the report, in consultation with Chris Wild. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A planning application (DER/10/07/01951) has recently been submitted to Derby City Council to redevelop a block of land that was occupied until recently by the Princes supermarket. The site lies to the rear of properties fronting St Mary's Gate and Bold Lane in the historic core of Derby, and within the City Centre Conservation Area (Fig 1). The development proposals allow for the erection of apartments, retail units, a café/restaurant, offices and associated car parking, and necessitate the partial demolition of a boundary wall to facilitate the creation of a walkway between the new development and historic buildings to the east. The wall is connected to 26 and 29 St Mary's Gate, which are both Grade II listed buildings.
- 1.1.2 In order to secure archaeological interests, the Local Planning Authority recommended that an archaeological survey of the wall be undertaken in advance of demolition. It was recommended that the survey was carried out in accordance with Level 1 recording outlined in the English Heritage guidance notes *Understanding Historic Buildings* (English Heritage 2006), and included a written account noting materials, form, precise location, a photographic record and a sketched elevation.

### 1.2 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site fronts onto Bold Lane, between Sadler Gate and St Mary's Gate, in the centre of Derby. The site lies on the fringe of the medieval core of Derby (Fig 1), and was occupied until recently by a supermarket, a garage, and car parking areas. The site is located at a height of c 48m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.2 The boundary wall that forms the subject of the present survey lies to the rear of 26 and 29 St Mary's Gate, and is aligned north-west/south-east. The north-western extent of the wall lies at NGR SK 3506 3642, and continues south-eastwards to SK 3509 3637.
- 1.2.3 The solid geology of Derby consists of Triassic Mudstone (Keuper Marl). The site is situated in the valley floor of the River Derwent and, as such, the overlying drift geology comprises floodplain alluvium overlying sand and gravel derived from Millstone Grit located upstream (Mello 1876).

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 METHODOLOGY

2.1.1 The archaeological survey comprised the compilation of an annotated photographic record in black and white, colour slide and digital formats, commensurate with an English Heritage Level 1 survey. The photographs captured the wall's appearance, and detail relevant to its design, development and use. The photographic record was coupled with a brief written description of the wall's form, fabric, date, phasing and architectural detail. In addition, a measured survey of the wall was annotated with archaeological detail, with additional drawings produced at a scale of 1:20 where appropriate. The survey was focused on the north-east-facing elevation of the wall, as the rear elevation was obscured by a modern building

### 2.2 ARCHIVE

2.2.1 A full archive of the work has been prepared to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited with the Derby Museum. In addition, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

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## 3. BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION TO ST MARY'S GATE

3.1.1 St Mary's Gate is a thoroughfare of medieval origin, running from All Saint's Church down to Marketon Brook, which is now culverted. The earliest available maps of the area, such as that produced by George Moneypenny in 1791, depict both sides of the street to have been built up with narrow burgage plots running back from the street frontage. The plots on the north side of St Mary's Gate evidently extended to Walker Lane, whilst those on the south side only ran back halfway to meet the plots fronting onto Sadler Gate. By the nineteenth century some of these plots had been built over to form long narrow courts, whilst others had been remodelled to form the large Georgian residences that characterised the streetscape.

### 3.2 LISTING DESCRIPTION OF 26 AND 29 ST MARY'S GATE

3.2.1 No 26 St Mary's Gate comprises a three-storey buildings of red brick construction dating to the early nineteenth century. The building incorporates four sash windows, with channelled lintels; a sill band at first-storey level; two round-headed doorways; a moulded stone cornice, and a small parapet. It was designated a Grade II listed building in 1977. The boundary wall to the rear is likely to be contemporary with this building.

3.2.2 No 29 St Mary's Gate, a former Technical College Annexe, similarly comprises a three-storey building of red brick construction, although is dated 1912. It is of Renaissance style with stone dressings; slight centre projection seven sash windows overall in moulded stone architraves, each with pulvinated frieze and the outers with cornices; sill bands; quoins to all angles; a doorway in semi-circular headed Gibbs-style incorporating a rusticated surround with pulvinated frieze and segmental pediment with cartouche and coat of arms; plain frieze, modillion eaves cornice, and open balustrade. It was designated a Grade II listed building in 1975.

### 3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

3.3.1 The wall is not shown on Brayley's map of 1806 (Plate 1), although it lies parallel and approximately on the same alignment to a wall situated a short distance to the east. The next available map of the area is that produced in 1838 by Denhurst and Nichols, which appears to depict a wall in the position of the study wall, although the map was produced at a small scale, hampering the accurate identification of individual features. However, the wall is depicted clearly on a map produced in 1852, where it is shown to have formed the western boundary of a row of buildings (Plate 2).



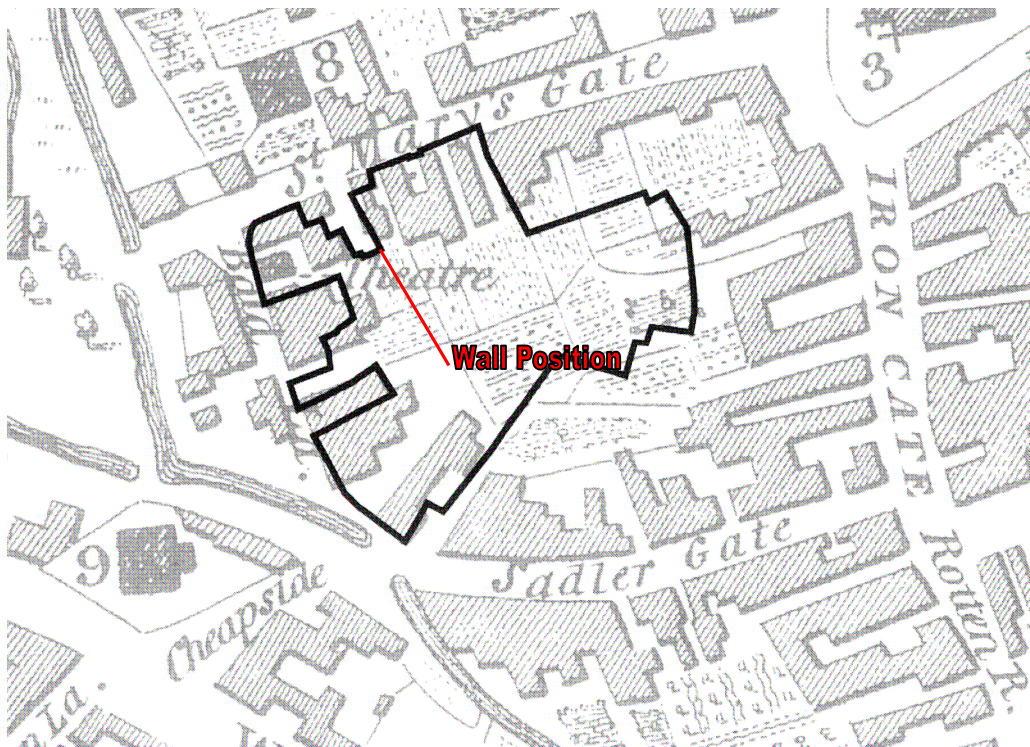


Plate 1: Brayley's map of 1806, showing the boundary of the development area and approximate position of the surveyed wall

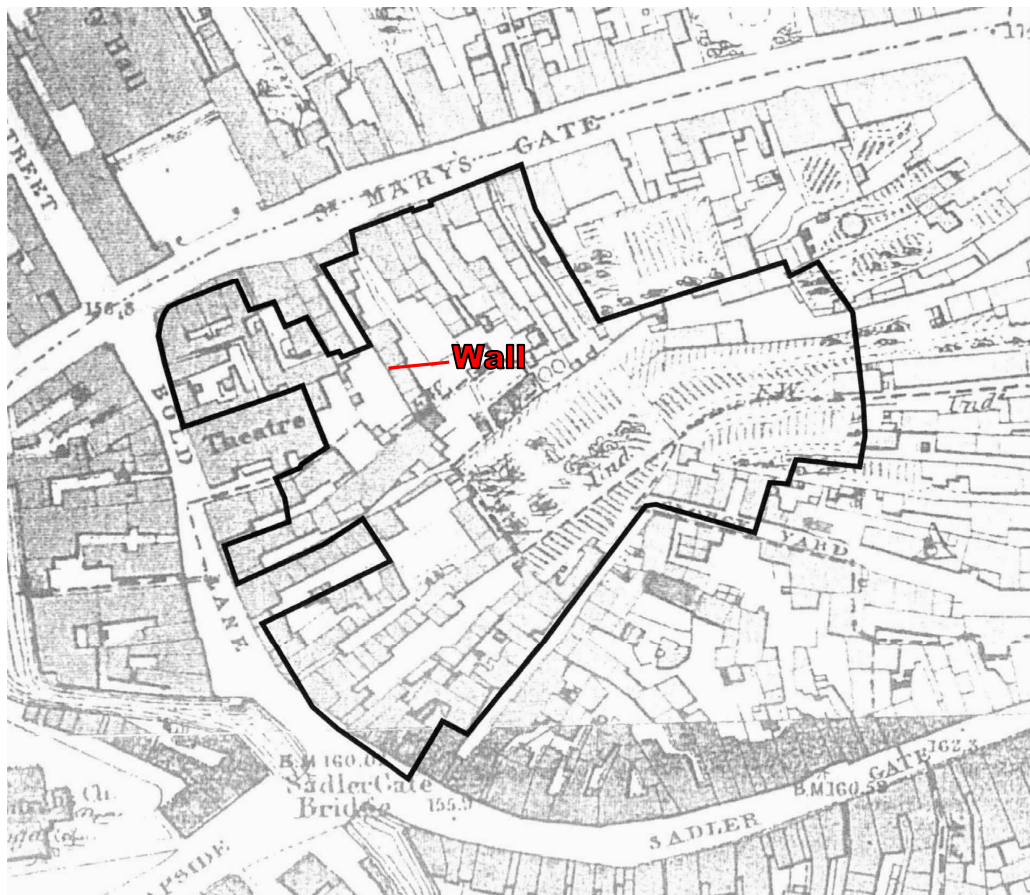


Plate 2: Map produced by the Board of Health for Derby in 1852, showing surveyed wall

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## 4. SURVEY RESULTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The principal objective of the survey was to provide a photographic record, accompanied by location details and a brief descriptive record of the wall that is to be partially demolished. The survey was focused upon the 33.57m long north-east-facing elevation of the wall (Fig 2), as the rear elevation was largely obscured by a modern structure at the time of the survey.

### 4.2 SUMMARY DESCRIPTIONS

4.2.1 The wall was generally of machine-made, red brick construction, typically measuring 225 x 106 x 74mm, constructed in Flemish Garden Wall bond, with a mid-orange, sandy, lime mortar. Staffordshire Blue bricks were also present in the fabric of wall for architectural detailing. It was aligned on an approximately north-west/south-east alignment, and comprised 13 bays, with a single-storey cottage placed between the two bays at the northern end of the wall (Fig 3). Slight differences within the construction divide the wall into three sections, which are described below.

4.2.2 **Southern section:** the southern eight bays of the wall were covered with a pale grey render, unlike the other sections. The extreme south-eastern end of the wall was 0.5m higher than elsewhere, and retained a V-section capping, almost certainly designed as a roof ridge tile (Plate 3). To the north, the render had been removed from the upper course of the uncapped wall for almost four bays length, to the position of an adjoining wall on the rear face (Plate 4), suggesting that the intervening wall had probably been reduced in height to 2.3m. Beyond this point, the wall was again capped with a V-section tile. The bays were divided by projecting brick piers, 1½ bricks wide, and 2.13m (7') high, with raking chamfered Staffordshire Blue brick cappings (Plate 3). There was some variation within the bay widths, but they were typically 2.74m (9') wide. Each pier was connected by a plinth, with similar raking capping of three courses. This was typically positioned 0.61m (2') above floor level, but was often stepped at the bay division, to account for the gentle north/south slope of the ground.

4.2.3 **Central section:** the five central bays were significantly higher than those either side (3.7m), and were of a more uniform width (2.79m). The plinths comprised only two chamfered courses, whilst the piers between bays were flat-topped below a scar in the mortar bed, suggesting that there had been a roof on this side of the wall. Piers at either end of this section of wall butted piers from the sections either side, suggesting different phases of construction. The wall, including the Staffordshire Blue brick plinths, retained remnants of white paint adhering to its surface, suggesting that the paint was not part of the original construction. A doorway, blocked in stretcher bond brick, was observed in the second bay (from the south) of this section of wall (Plate 5). It was 1.0m wide and 2.01m high, below a 0.40m thick concrete lintel measuring

1.13m long. A further aperture in the bay to the north (Plate 5) was blocked with plywood boarding. It was 1.83m (6') high, 0.66m wide and was placed 0.45m (18") above floor level. It also had a concrete lintel and cement rendered jambs, suggesting that it had been inserted into the wall, cut raggedly through the brickwork and rendered. Whilst the aperture did not extend to floor level on this side of the wall, it probably represents a narrow doorway, into a structure with a raised floor, with the paint on the wall face suggesting that this may have been on the eastern side of the wall.

- 4.2.4 **Northern section:** the northern section of the wall was of similar height to the southern section, but the plinth and piers comprised only two courses of chamfered Staffordshire Blue brick. The southern bay had an angled slate capping to a late structure appended to the western side of the wall (Plate 6), whilst the northern bay was capped with V-shaped tile. At its northern end, this terminated in a gatepost, which was positioned immediately adjacent to a wall pier, strongly suggesting its later insertion. The central part of this section of the wall incorporated the facade of a single-storey building (Plate 7). Although it was keyed into the boundary wall, it comprised slightly paler bricks (Plate 7), had a lower plinth, and was asymmetrically placed with regard to the retained piers within the boundary wall (Fig 3).

### 4.3 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.3.1 The survey has demonstrated that the boundary wall comprised several sections, probably of different dates, with the northern section also having been remodelled for the insertion of a building facade and gateway. This corresponds with the cartographic evidence, with the Board of Health plan of 1852 (Plate 2) showing three separate buildings on the eastern side of the wall at this time. The use of internal piers is particularly common in buildings from the mid-nineteenth century, and it is probable that they originally extended to wall-head height to support trusses. The use of Staffordshire Blue brick also became common and fashionable from the mid-nineteenth century, following the expansion of the railway network, which made them nationally available at low cost.
- 4.3.2 The relationship between the piers suggests that the central section of wall was a later phase than those either side, as it would have been unnecessary to use additional buttresses in a low wall butting a higher wall, whereas a later high wall would require additional height support at either end.
- 4.3.3 The fact that the building within the northern section of the wall is not shown on the plan of 1852, concurs with the stratigraphic evidence that it comprises a later remodelling of the wall. Given the amount of remodelling, and its overall condition, the boundary wall is considered to be of low local archaeological importance.

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## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### 5.1 PRIMARY AND CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

*Map of Derby*, George Moneypenny, 1791

*Map of Derby for The Beauties of England and Wales*, EW Brayley, 1806

*Map of Derby*, Denhurst and Nichols, 1838

*Map of Derby*, Board of Health, 1852

### 5.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Swindon

English Heritage, 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings*, Swindon

Mello, JM, 1876 *Hand-book to the Geology of Derbyshire*, London

UKIC, 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*, London

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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### FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Location of photographs

Figure 3 North-east-facing elevation of the boundary wall, based on a measured survey carried out by the Greenhatch Group

### PLATES

Plate 1: Brayley's map of 1806, showing the boundary of the development area and approximate position of the surveyed wall

Plate 2: Map produced by the Board of Health for Derby in 1852, showing surveyed wall

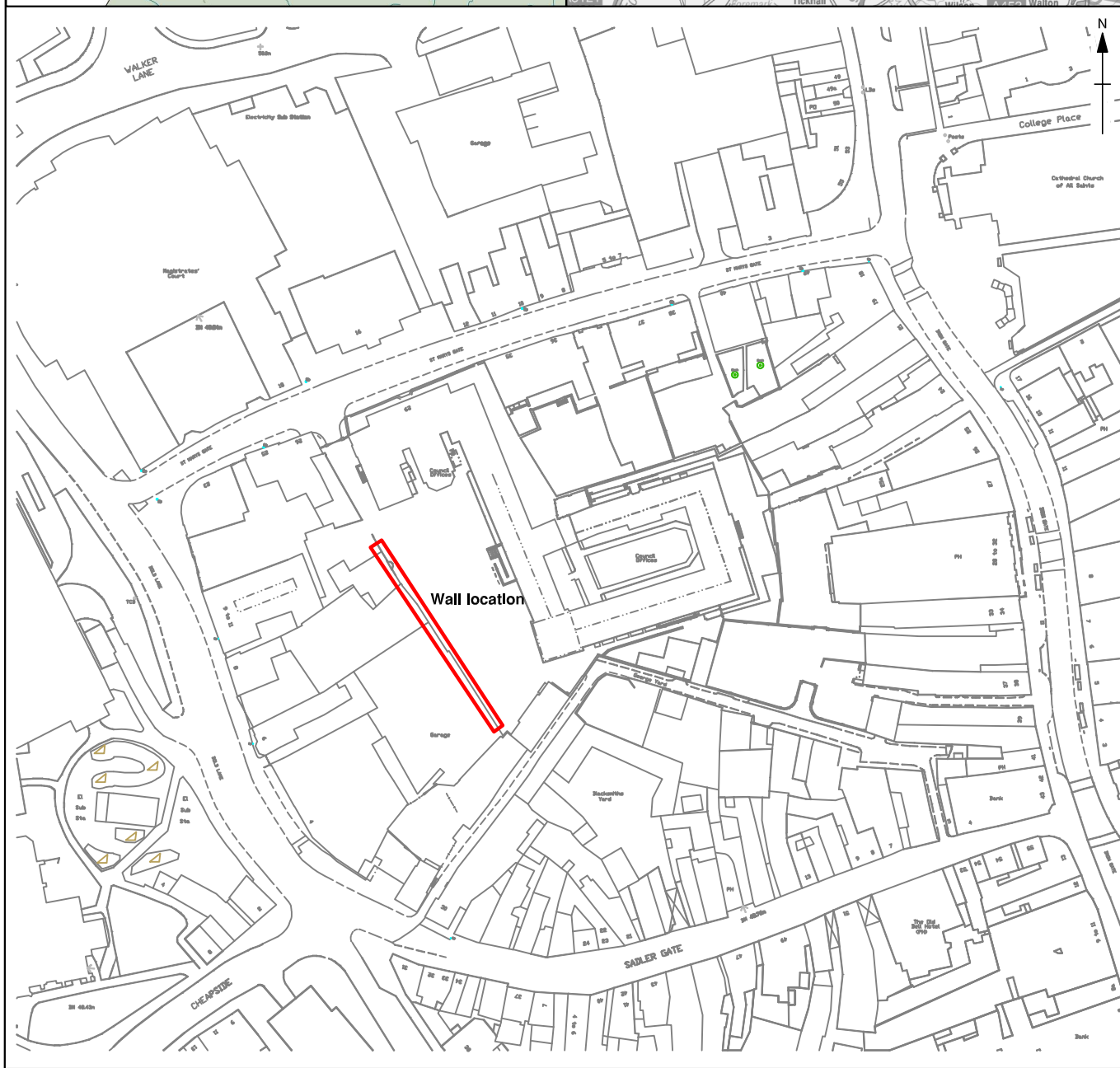
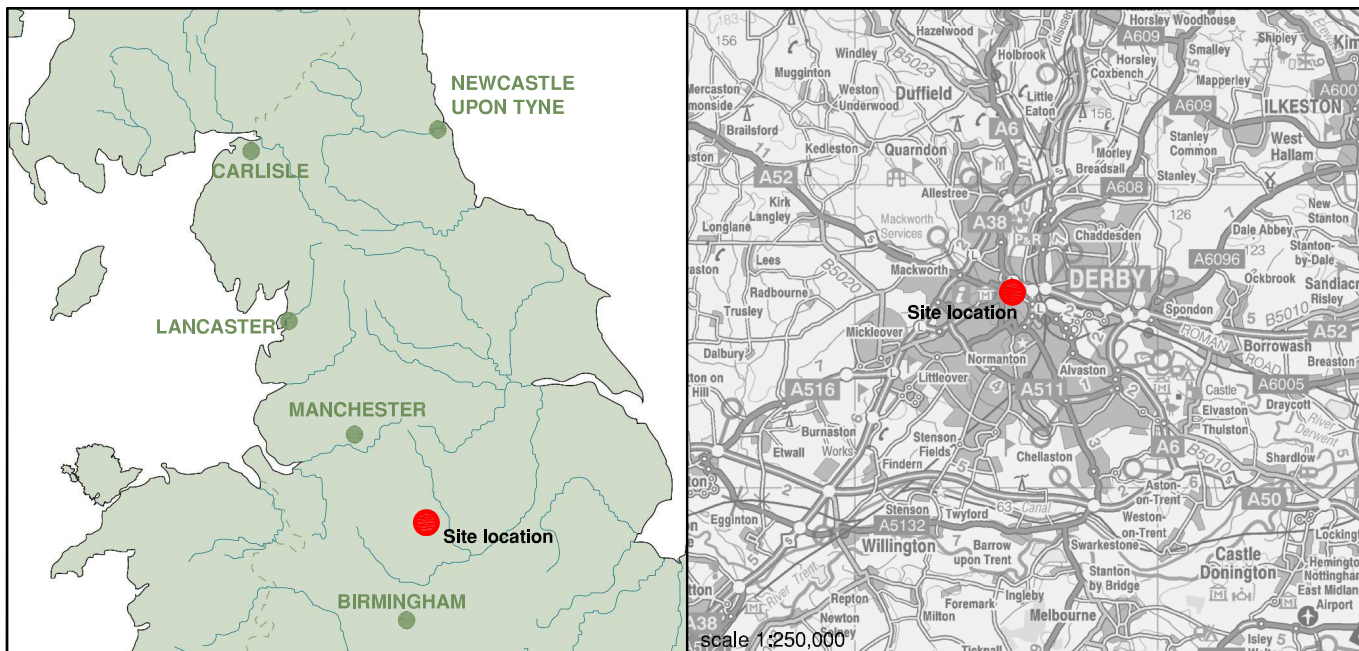
Plate 3: Photograph 1, south-eastern end of the boundary wall

Plate 4: Photograph 2, south-eastern central section of the boundary wall

Plate 5: Photograph 3, central section of the boundary wall

Plate 6: Photograph 4, north-western central section of the boundary wall

Plate 7: Photograph 5, north-western end of the boundary wall



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0 25 m  
1:1500 @ A4



Figure 1: Site location

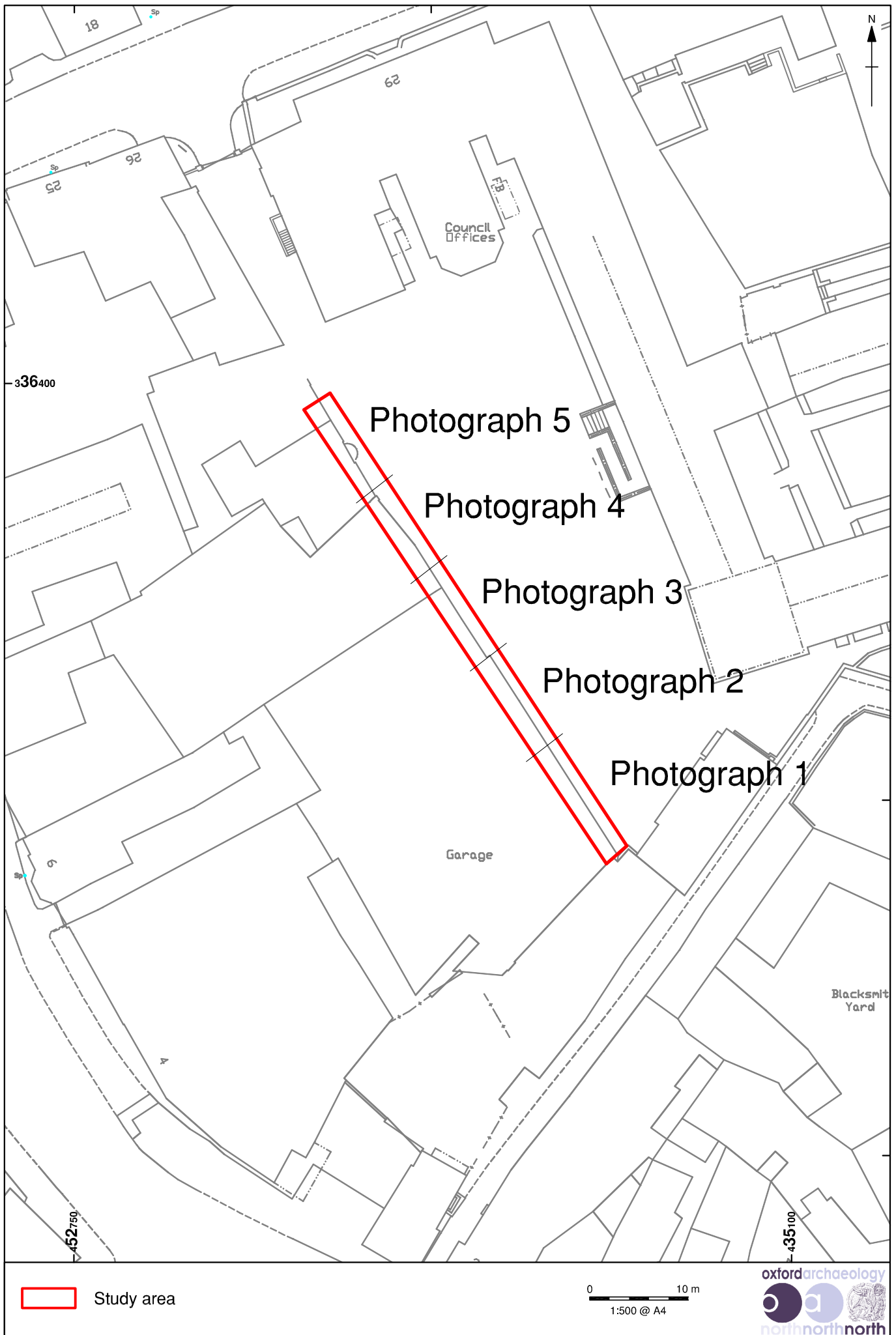
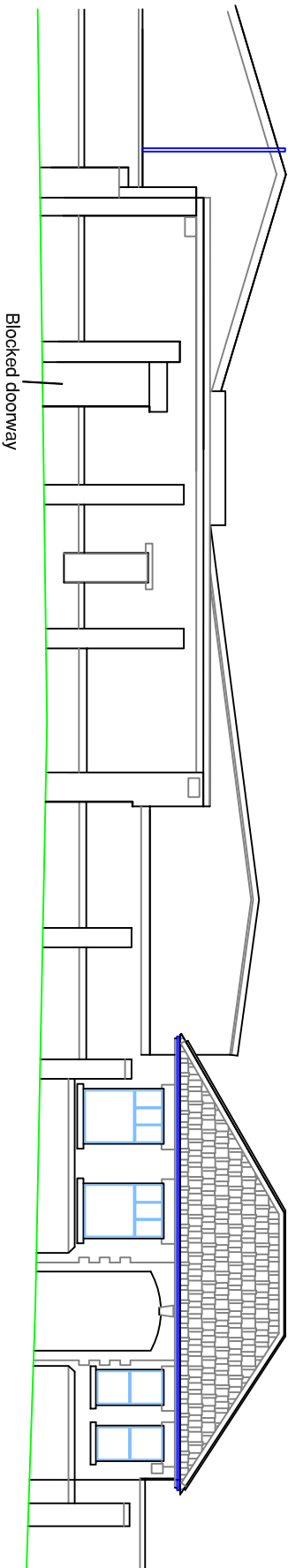





Figure 2 : Direction of photographs



Datum Level = 48.00m

-  Pipe
-  Window
-  Ground level

0 2.5 m  
1:150 @ A4

Figure 3: North-east-facing elevation of the boundary wall, based on a measured survey by the Greenhatch Group





Plate 3: Photograph 1, south-eastern end of the boundary wall



Plate 4: Photograph 2, south-eastern central section of the boundary wall



Plate 5: Photograph 3, central section of the boundary wall



Plate 6: Photograph 4, north-western central section of the boundary wall



Plate 7: Photograph 5, north-western end of the boundary wall