

1.10 The early nineteenth century museum: the structural elements

The enclosing wall

Foundation trench, F1075

F1075 A78-A77-A88 Foundation trench for Phase: Georgian
F1160
Below L720, L732 Cut by F1061 Contains F1165
Cuts F1067
Length: 12.5 m (N), 12.5 m (S), 12.6 m (E) and 13 m (W) Width: 0.8–1.15–0.9–1.5 m
Depth: 0.1–0.18–0.3–0.34 m
Description: Square-cut trench with flat base and straight vertical sides.
Fill: (1) Yellowish silty clay soil containing a low density of small angular flint, small chalk, grit and crushed ‘mortar’ plus occasional flecks of brick. [Packing against wall F1165.]

Wall structure, F1165

F1165 A77-A78 Wall foundation of 19th Phase: Georgian
century Building 1
Cut by F1061 Within F1075
Dimensions: Originally the same as F1061 forming a square 12 x 12 m with the basic wall 0.45 m wide, but widening at intervals along the sides and at all corners representing narrow buttresses: these projected 0.15 m and measured 0.7 m long. On the north, south and east sides there were three buttresses 2.1 m apart, but on the west four were present set 1.6 m apart. The corner buttresses were the same size as the internal ones.
Description: Small remnants of the actual wall structure survived indicating a layer of creamy-yellow mortar across the base of the foundation in which flint nodules c.100–160 mm were still set in a few places. A few bricks remained within the buttresses indicating the overall structure of the building was flint walls with brick buttresses. Complete bricks consistently measured 230 x 100 x 45 mm.

Robber trench, F1061

F1061 A77-A78-A87-A88 Robber trench of wall of Phase: Georgian/
aisled hall Victorian
Below L720 Cuts F1075, F1165
Length: 12 x 4 m Width: 0.45–0.5 m Depth: 0.09–0.68 m
Description: Linear trench forming a square in plan 12 x 12 m and reflecting the original shape and plan of the walls F1165. Protrusions along the outer edge and corners represented the original buttresses of the wall. The trench generally had straight vertical sides and a flat base, except where remnants of F1165 survived.
Fill: (1) Yellowish-cream debris composed predominantly of crushed ‘mortar’ and chalk mixed with clayey soil and containing occasional flint nodules 100–130 mm, chalk lumps up to 50 mm, angular flint gravel 30–60 mm and broken brick fragments mostly 10–20 mm but more rarely up to 70 mm. [Discarded debris from wall robbing dumped back in trench.]

The post-holes and post pads

- Ph 1221** A778819 Phase: Georgian Building 1
Below 727 Cuts 740, F1062
Diameter: 0.7 m Depth: 0.75 m Diameter of void: 0.2 m
Description: Cylindrical post void excavated, but not whole post-hole.
Fill: (1) = F1062 Yellowish-brown silty clay containing a high density of grit, crushed mortar and chalk, scattered angular flints 40–50 mm and chalk 30–40 mm. [Debris from removal of post.]
(2) On the base forming a post pad were two bricks 170 x 100 mm, partly exposed, covered by a thin lens of silty soil with chalk grit. Overlying this was a mix of flint gravel in yellow clay with chalk and mortar, loosely packed [backfill from adjacent contemporary gravelled floor surface].
- Ph 1222** A807776 Phase: Georgian Building 1
Below 727 Cuts 740
Diameter: 1.0 x 1.15 m Depth: 0.7 m Diameter of void: 0.16 x 0.22 m
Description: Oval post void set at an angle; post-hole not fully excavated.
Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown silty clay soil mixed with a high density of crushed chalk and mortar plus occasional fragments of chalk and angular flint 20–40 mm.
- Ph 1223** A767746 Phase: Georgian Building 1
Below 727 Cuts 740
Diameter: c.1.15 m Depth: 0.75 m Diameter of void: 0.22 m
Description: Circular post void, widened at top from removal of post; post-hole not fully excavated.
Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown silty clay soil containing a high density of crushed mortar and chalk. In the upper wider section were several larger broken flint nodules 30–100 mm with a lens of mortar lumps and brick fragments across the top. [Deliberate tips backfilling void after removal of post.]
(2) [Packing] Small rounded chalk c.10–20 mm and grit plus small angular flints 10–30 mm set in a matrix of crushed chalk, marl and mortar. Not excavated.
- Ph 1224** A736788 Phase: Georgian Building 1
Below 727 Cuts 740
Diameter: 1.05 x 0.9 m Depth: 0.85 m Diameter of post void: 0.2 m
Description: Cylindrical post void; post-hole not excavated, but extent of packing suggests circular post-hole.
Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown silty clay soil containing a high density of crushed chalk and mortar plus scattered angular flints 30–40 mm and rounded chalk c.15 mm sometimes forming gritty lenses. [Deliberate infill following removal of post.]
(2) Compacted chalk and mortar containing occasional angular flints and rounded chalk lumps 10–30 mm. [Packing.]
- F1131** A77-A78 Slot Building 1 Phase: Georgian
Below 727 Above/Cuts 740, 749
Length: 4.3 m along each side Width: 0.07 m Depth: 0.05 m
Description: Linear slot forming a square enclosing the mosaic floor extending between the four post-holes 1221–4. On the north-east and south-east sides the slot widened in places to 0.2 m to form a shallow gully; this may relate to demolition rather than construction of the

feature. The main characteristic was the intermittent line of mortar, in some areas fairly continuous especially on the east, but in the western half composed of intermittent oval blobs 100–150 mm long of the sort that could relate to the placing of individual bricks. An alternative interpretation is that the mortar supported a timber plank, which supported a timber railing surrounding the mosaic. Halfway along each side of the slot were placed two bricks against the outer edge, which may have formed supports for intermediate posts for a handrail.

Ph 1238 A760725

Phase: Georgian

Below 720 and 727

Cuts 765 and Ph 1263

Diameter: *c.*0.8 m Depth: 0.37 m Diameter of post void 0.18 m

Description: Large roughly circular/oval post-hole of which only the post void was excavated; the full extent of the post-hole was not clearly defined.

Fill: (1) [Fill of post void] Soil .

(2) Dark grey clayey soil containing small angular flints 20–30 mm, occasional rounded chalk 2–20 mm and occasional worn lumps of brick 5–25 mm. [Possibly Georgian trampled surface around top of post-hole rather than packing.]

(3) Flints 80–100 mm, greensand lump *c.*80 mm and small fragments of flint and limestone *c.*30–40 mm packed in a soil matrix appear to be packing of Ph 1238 rather than part of Ph 1263.

Ph 1260 A728770

Phase: Georgian

Below 720 and 727

Cuts 765

Diameter: 0.66 m Depth: 0.32 m Diameter of post void: 0.16 m

Description: Circular post-hole with flat base and steeply sloping sides.

Fill: (1) [Fill of post void] Loosely packed light brown crumbly marly soil containing scattered angular flints and rounded chalk lumps 20–40 mm and grit.

(2) [Packing] Uppermost layer of packing composed of light brown marly soil mixed with chalk grit and small rounded lumps up to 25 mm.

(3) [Packing] Thick central layer of very hard compacted angular broken flint nodules 30–80 mm and subrounded chalk 10–60 mm in a matrix of yellowish/greyish-brown clay soil.

(4) [Packing] Basal lens of hard compacted rounded chalk lumps and angular flints 15–25 mm set in mix of puddled chalk and clay.

Ph 1261 A737756

Phase: Georgian

Below ?720 and 727

Cuts 765

Diameter: 0.6 m Depth: 0.35 m Diameter of post void: 0.16 m.

Description: Circular cut with even vertical sides and slightly rounded base. Half sectioned only and overcut around upper edge to create artificial ledge.

Fill: (1) [Fill of post void] Yellowish-brown silty clay soil containing frequent chalk grit and subrounded lumps up to 15 mm and several angular flints 20–40 mm towards the top.

(2) [Packing] Predominantly yellowish-brown clay soil mixed with small rounded chalk *c.*10 mm and grit with angular flints 30–40 mm. Within this were thin tip lines of chalk grit, sloping or horizontal and some of the flints appear to reflect faint tip lines. Across the base was a lens of dark brown clay soil almost chalk and stone free.

Ph 1262 A743747

Phase: Georgian

Below 720 and 727

Cuts 765

Length: 0.72 m Width: 0.58 m Depth: 0.37 m Diameter of void: 0.15 m

Description: Oval post-hole with steeply sloping sides, but stepped to north and south and slightly dished base with deeper circular depression reflecting post base.

Fill: (1) [Backfill of post void] Loosely packed angular flints 50–100 mm, limestone slabs up to 120 mm and chalk lumps 10–20 mm with voids between and a little matrix of greyish-brown silty clay soil with chalk grit.

(2) [Packing] Light brown marly soil mixed with moderate density of chalk grit and rounded lumps 25 mm plus occasional angular flints *c.*20 mm. Across the surface were larger stones – flints 30–60 mm, limestone slab 80 mm, brick 20 mm and bone.

(3) Hard packed subangular-subrounded chalk blocks 10–20 mm compacted in a matrix of yellowish-grey soily clay forming a horizontal layer across the post-hole encircling the post void.

(4) Hard compacted yellowish-brown clay containing chalk 5–15 mm some of which formed distinct horizontal lenses; packed around base of post void.