

KØBENHAVNS MUSEUM / MUSEUM OF COPENHAGEN

Nørrebro Station

KBM 3836, Udenbys Klædebo kvarter, Sankt Stefan Sogn

Sokkelund Herred, København kommune og amt

Kulturstyrelsen j.nr.: 2010-7.24.02/KBM-0015



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Cover illustration: Nørrebro Station. Overview of the excavation site.

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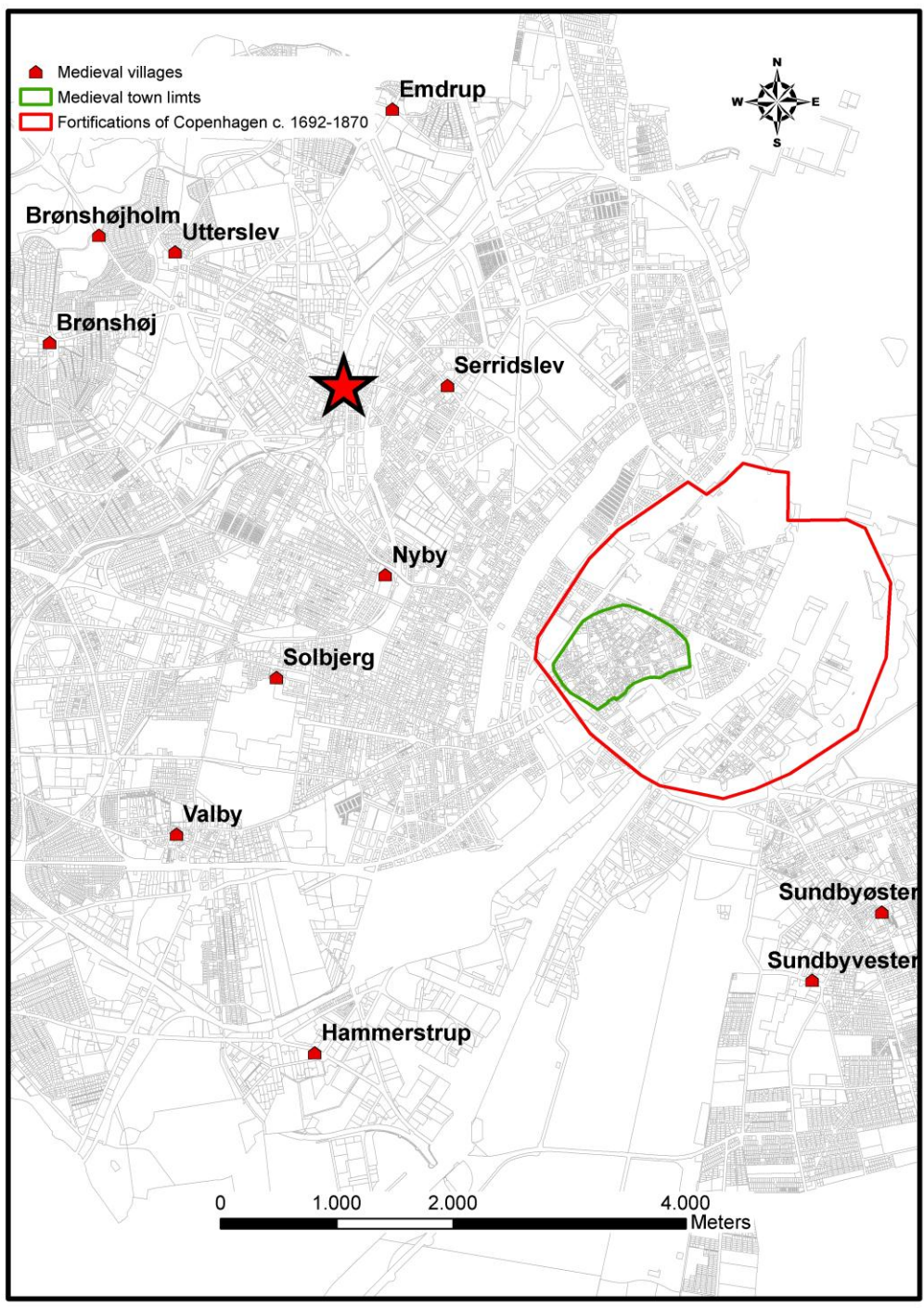


Figure 1. Nørrebro Station. Location of excavation site (red star).

1 Abstract/Resumé

On the occasion of establishing a Metro Cityring subway station at Folmer Bendtsens Plads, next to Nørrebro Station, Museum of Copenhagen has conducted watching briefs as archaeological pre investigations (fig. 1, tab. 1). Early 20th century leveling layers were the only archaeological features to be documented.

Archaeological periods: *Modern time*

Features: *Levelling layers*

Key words: *Copenhagen suburbs, ceramic production waste*

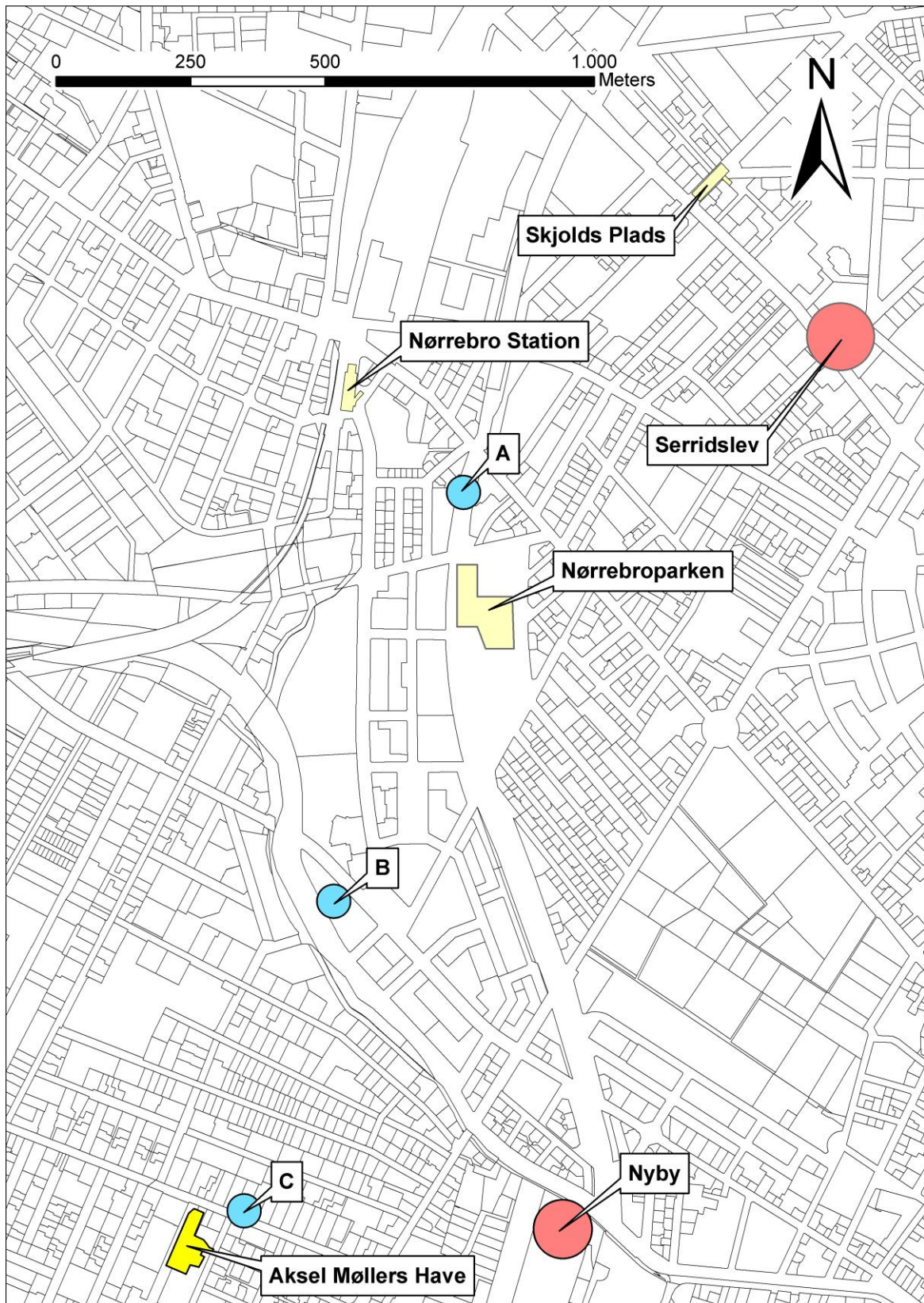


Figure 2. Nørrebro Station. Location of investigation site along with earlier archaeological excavations and observations in the area (see also table 2). The map also shows the approximate locations of the former medieval villages Nyby and Serridslev (according to Christophersen 1985).

2 Introduction

2.1 Proposed Development

On the occasion of establishing a Cityring subway station at Folmer Bendtsens Plads, next to Nørrebro Station, Museum of Copenhagen has conducted watching briefs as archaeological pre investigations (fig. 2).

2.2 Legislative framework

The watching brief will follow guidelines required by Kulturstyrelsen (Danish Agency for Culture; in KUAS Vejledning 2010) and Danish Museum law (Bekendtgørelse af museumsloven nr. 1505). Standards for investigations carried out by Copenhagen Museum are stated within a document covering the overall archaeological design aspects of the Cityring project which was approved by KUAS in the autumn of 2009 and in June 2010 (Project Design 2009).

According to Danish legislation, no research financed by the developer, in this case the Metro Company, will be carried out. The end product of the excavation is working statements and site reports, which contains empirical conclusions and basic cultural historical interpretations. For the smaller of the Metro Cityring excavations (named Categories 2 and 3 in the preparations work for the project) there will also be produced a joint report which will highlight the most interesting cultural historical results from the excavations (called "Bygherrerapport"). Further archaeological research and analysis can only be carried out under separate funding. This complies with statements in the Danish Museums law (Bekendtgørelse af museumsloven nr. 1505). Construction work that involves excavation can be temporarily stopped in accordance with Museum Act § 26 (protection of ancient monuments).

Museum of Copenhagen was contacted well in advance, so that a test excavation could take place before the construction work was initiated. The Metro Company agreed on the further details with Kulturstyrelsen and the Museum of Copenhagen.

2.3 Administrative data

On completion of the fieldwork, Museum of Copenhagen produced a concise interpretative report on the archaeological results of the excavation (this report), which includes an outline of the historical and archaeological contexts and a summary of the results. A copy of this report was distributed to the Metro Company and to Kulturstyrelsen. The documentary archive relating to the fieldwork is deposited with the Museum of Copenhagen. All digital records are filed in the IntraSiS database program.

2.4 Other data

Museum archaeologists were Claes Hadevik (field leader), Vivi Lena Andersen, Andreas Bonde Hansen, Lars Haugesten, Jacob Mosekilde, and Stine Wozniak. Developer of the project was Metroselskabet (Metro Company) and construction work was undertaken by C.G. Jensen A/S.

This report, along with its figures, was produced by Claes Hadevik.

All relevant documentation is archived by Museum of Copenhagen.

Kulturstyrelsen case ID	2010-7.24.02/KBM-0015
KBM ID and internal case ID	KBM 3836, case ID 1969
County	Copenhagen
District	Sokkelund
Municipality	Copenhagen
Area	Udenbys Klædebo kvarter
Parish	Sankt Stefan
Duration of field work phases	01-09-2010, 13-08-2012–26-07-2013, 24-01-2014
Museum archaeologists	Claes Hadevik (field leader), Vivi Lena Andersen, Andreas Bonde Hansen, Lars Haugesten, Jacob Mosekilde, Stine Wozniak
Area (m²) and % of estimation	2 164 m ² (100 %)
Volume (m³) and % of estimation	2 065 m ³ (100 %)
Coordinate system	DKTM 3
Height system	DVR 90
X-coordinates	1175262–1175377
Y-coordinates	649515–649569
Meters above sea level	8,3
Construction work by	C.G. Jensen A/S
Developer	Metroselskabet I/S (Metro Company)

Table 1. Nørrebro Station. Technical and administrative data.

3 Topography and historical background

By the time of the investigation, the site was a levelled street at an altitude of 8.3 meters above present sea level, in the north western part of the City of Copenhagen.

Up to the mid 19th century the area formed a rural agricultural landscape near the former medieval villages Serridslev and Nyby (figure 2). A small brook – Lygteåen (Lygte Brook) – ran through the area of the present investigation (fig. 3). Due to the development of the City of Copenhagen, including the construction of the Nørrebro Station c. 1930, the brook had to be put in a culvert and the area was leveled into today's altitude (fig. 4).

4 Archaeological background

There have been no earlier archaeological investigations in the adjacent areas. In a larger area a few prehistoric settlement sites have been observed, along with some modern remains (fig. 2, tab. 2).

Year	Location	KBM-nr	Observation
1963	Telefonhuset (B)	-	Early neolithic settlement site (SB 020306-63)
1994	Godthåbsvej 24 (C)	-	19 th c. brick well
2006	Esromsgade (A)	KBM 2124	19 th c. (?) culvert
2011	Nørrebroparken	KBM 3845	no observations
2012	Aksel Møllers Have	KBM 3847	Pre Roman Iron age extraction pit
2012	Skjolds Plads	KBM 3844	19 th c. culvert and pits

Table 2. Earlier archaeological excavations and observations (see also fig. 2).



Figure 3. Lygteåen (Lygte Brook) seen from Nørrebrogade, c. 1910. In the 1920's it was put into a culvert under the present street Lundtoftegade (see fig. 5). Photo: Museum of Copenhagen.



Figure 4. Folmer Bendtsens Plads seen from Nørrebrogade in 1949. Photo: Museum of Copenhagen.

5 Archaeological potential and aims

Even though there are no indications of archaeological remains in the actual area, there is a potential for prehistoric, medieval and post medieval features to be found. The likelihood of this, however, has to be considered negligible. Development work during the last 150 years is likely to have removed most of the soil and any cultural remains which might have been there, apart from anything very extensive.

6 Methodology and measurement system

6.1 Excavation and documentation

The investigation was conducted as a watching brief as archaeological pre investigation. One or two archaeologists supervised the construction work with the full opportunity to stop the work and implement necessary investigations and documentation.

Contexts were documented according to the single context methodology¹ with GPS equipment allowing the highest precision possible.

The archaeological documentation material is registered in the digital IntraSiS database K2012:21.

6.2 Finds registration

A special Museum of Copenhagen template has been used for the finds registration. The following parameters have been used: *Name*, *Material*, *Type*, *Fragmentation*, *Number*, *Weight*, *Dating* and *Find category*. *Name* is a short description concerning material, type, fragmentation and find category. *Type* refers to the original shape and type that the find represents. *Number* is the number of sherds or fragments, not regarding how many original objects it represents. Measurements have only been registered if it is an intact or nearly intact object, or if it is decided relevant in any other matter. *Dating* refers to periods defined by *Nationalmuseet*.

Finds registration has been conducted according to the following principles:

- Sherds or fragments associated to one individual object are registered under one finds object ID-number (FO-number)
- Sherds or fragments identical in material, colour, type of shape and decoration, are registered together, on the condition that they also are related to the same context
- In all other cases each object or sherd/fragment is given one individual FO-number

¹ Thomasson, J. 2011

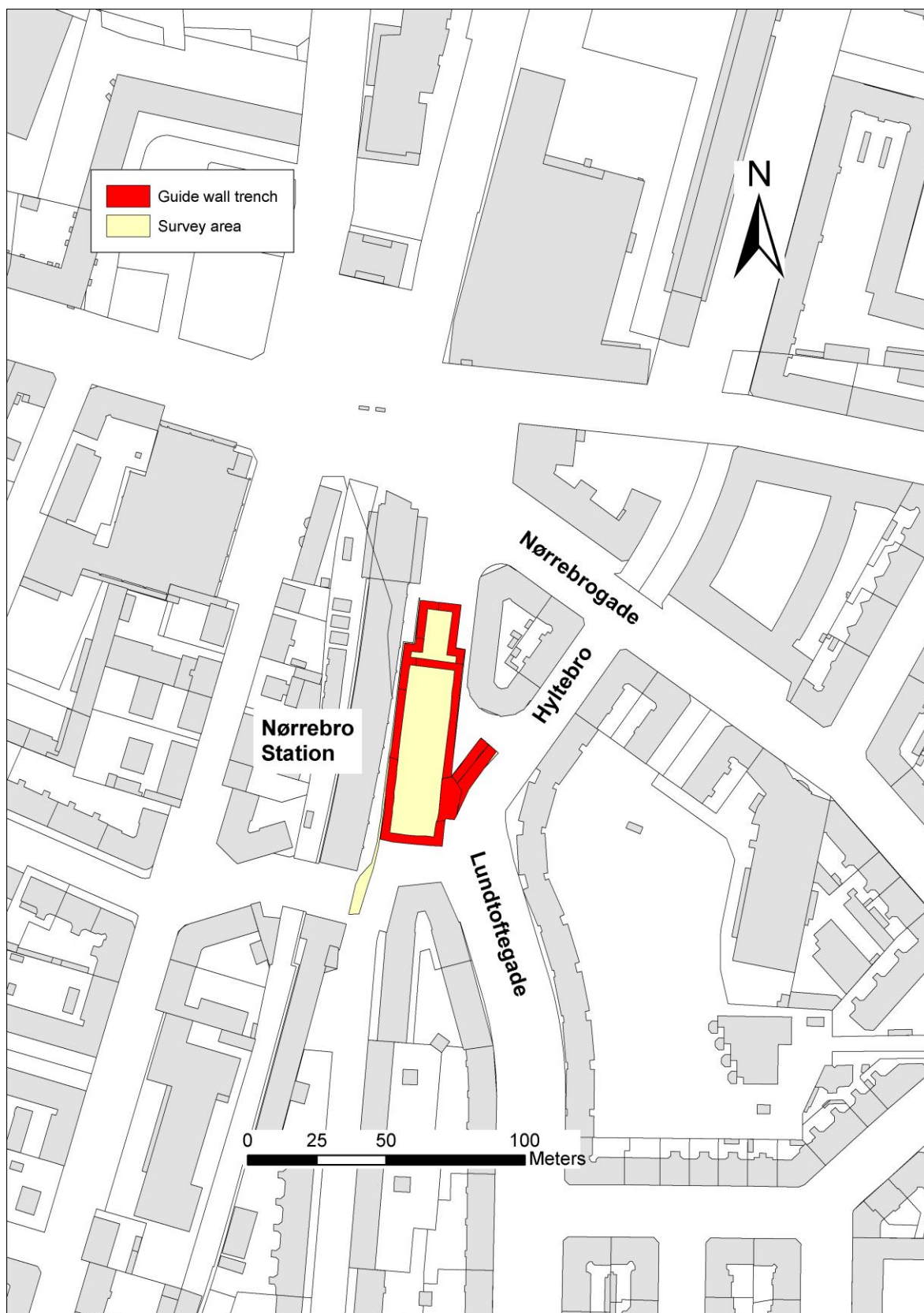


Figure 5. Nørrebro Station. Location of excavation site at Folmer Bendtsens Plads and its trenches.

7 Results

7.1 Preservation

The area of investigation was situated just east of Nørrebro Station, in Folmer Bendtsens Plads (fig. 5). It measured 115 by 54 meters, and made a total area of 2 164 m² (2 065 m³).

The construction work relevant for the archaeological survey comprised three steps, where the first one was to excavate a 2.5 m wide and 1.5 m deep trench for the foundation of the guide wall. In the second step the areas within the guide wall trench had to be reinforced to enable work with heavy machinery. This was done by replacing the top 0.5 meters of the street fill with appropriate road-metal. By the last step the areas within the guide wall were fully excavated down to a depth of c. 30 meters. The archaeological supervision, however, was concluded when the culvert for Lygteåen was reached, c. 2.5 m below street level.

Levelling layers from shortly before the erection of the Nørrebro Station (1930) were the only archaeological remains documented.

7.2 Archaeological Results

When the modern street surface was taken away a vast number of layers, cuts and fills were revealed. Some dark patches also had a strong and foul smell of tar or petroleum. The overall impression was that the remains were modern and ferruginous, so it was decided not to distinguish every single context for documentation. Some characteristic finds were collected from the surface and put under a collective context S6 (IntraSiS group ID), thus representing the upper parts (<2.5 m) of levelling layers on the site.

7.3 Summary and assessment

Preservation conditions were generally very poor, as a result of the development work during the past c.100 years. Within certain areas of the demolition layers, however, the conditions were good, even for preservation of organic matters.

The archaeological remains, or rather the lack of such, were very much in line with what could be expected for this area from earlier observations. The result is thus that the expectations of the area as being of little archeological significance were confirmed.

The finds material is quite small and very much what might be expected in a 19th/20th century southern Scandinavian urban or suburban environment, and it does not on its own bear any potential for further research.

Since the excavation went down below the level of any possible archaeological remains, the actual area is no longer of any antiquarian interest.

References

Literature

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Thomasson, J. 2011. Guidelines for Contextual Documentation. Definitions and typology for contexts, sub groups and groups, principles for contextual grouping of contexts. *Københavns Museum*.

Archaeological reports

Simonsen, R. 2006. KBM 2124. Beretning vedr. Arkæologiske undersøgelser v. Esromsgade, Udenbys Klædebo kvarter, København. Museum of Copenhagen.

Appendices

Finds

The finds material consists of various types of ceramics, including two small clay pipe stems, a fragment of a glass bottle and an iron horse shoe. There are 27 objects in total, weighing just below 2 kg (tab. 1). All finds are from the context of levelling layers S6, and they date from 18th to early 20th century.

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Ceramic Building Material	1	363,5
Ceramics	22	896,5
Glass	1	79,5
Metal	1	625
Pipeclay	2	3,5
Sum	27	1 968

Table 1. Nørrebro Station. Finds (all from S6).

Ceramic building material

The only find of ceramic building material is a fragment of a stove tile with transparent glaze (fig. 1). It dates from the latter half of the 19th or the earliest part of the 20th century.

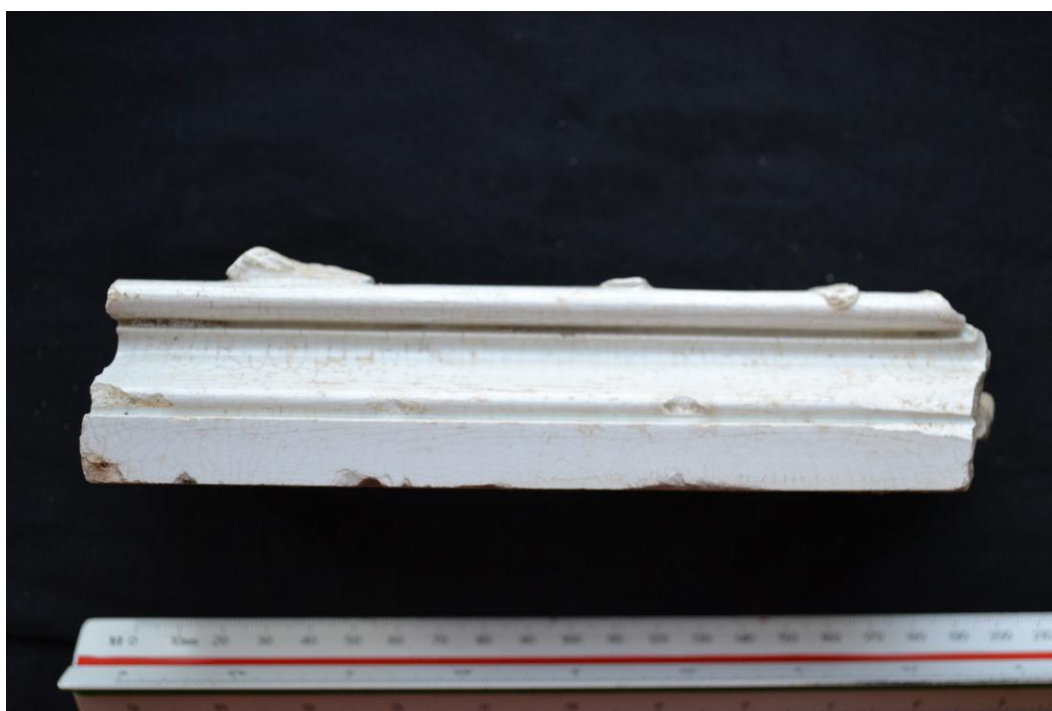


Figure 1. Nørrebro Station. Fragment of a stove tile with transparent glaze (FO 100020).

Ceramics

The major part of the finds consists of various types of ceramics (tab. 2). The material dates from the 19th and the 20th centuries, and, except for a piece of German stoneware, it is of local or Danish origin. In some cases, however, the provenance is somewhat uncertain. Most of the late red-ware and definitely the Royal Copenhagen porcelain is likely to represent local or Danish production. The late red-ware is represented by five sherds. Three of them have slip

decoration (fig. 2). Another type of red-ware is the “Bornholm faience” (fig. 3). This type of ware was produced by several factories both in Bornholm and some other places in Southern Scandinavia. It resembles the better known English cream-ware.

Id	Name	Number	Weight (g)	Dating
100010	Porcelain production waste	8	105,5	Modern time
100011	Kiln stilts	2	10	Modern time
100012	Porcelain, Royal Copenhagen	3	65	Modern time
100013	Porcelain, musselmalet	2	142	Modern time
100014	Late redware, engobe	2	414	Modern time
100015	Late redware, slip	1	19	Late post-medieval
100016	Late redware, white glaze	1	19	Modern time
100017	Ind. cer., transfer painted	1	18,5	Modern time
100018	Late redware, "Bornholm faience"	1	70,5	Modern time
100019	Stoneware, german	1	33	Post medieval
Sum		22	896,5	

Table 2. Nørrebro Station. Ceramics (all from S6).



Figure 2. Nørrebro Station. 19th c. slip decorated vessel with transparent glaze (FO 100015).

There were also found some sherds of the more expensive Royal Copenhagen porcelain. Beside the well known patterns *Musselmalet* and *Blå Blomst*, there was also a fragment of a commemorative plate for the 50th anniversary of the Jutland town Esbjerg, produced in 1918 (fig. 4, left).



Figure 3. Nørrebro Station. "Bornholm faience". Late 19th century cup-shaped mould for aspic (FO 100018).



Figure 4. Nørrebro Station. Royal Copenhagen porcelain (FO 100012).

More unusual finds are some sherds of unglazed porcelain and two fragments of kiln stilts (fig. 5). Together they ought to represent production waste, maybe from the Royal Copenhagen factory.

Probably the only foreign object is a handle of German stoneware jug (fig. 6).



Figure 5. Nørrebro Station. Porcelain production waste: unglazed plates and cups (FO 100010) and stoneware kiln stilts (FO 100011).



Figure 6. Nørrebro Station. Glazed and blue painted German stoneware jug handle (FO 100019).

List of contexts

ID	Name	Subclass	Basic Interpretation	Suggested dating
2	Top of trench	Phase	Surfacing	
3	Machining	Phase	Deposit - unspecified	
4	Limit of excavation	Phase	Trench	
5	Natural geology	Phase	Natural soil unspec.	
6		Group	Levelling layers	
1040		Deposit	Levelling layer	Early 20th century
1086		Disturbance	Disurbance	

List of finds

Id	Name	Number	Weight (g)	Dating
100010	Porcelain production waste	8	105,5	Modern time
100011	Kiln stilts	2	10	Modern time
100012	Porcelain, Royal Copenhagen	3	65	Modern time
100013	Porcelain, musselmalet	2	142	Modern time
100014	Late redware, engobe	2	414	Modern time
100015	Late redware, slip	1	19	Late post-medieval
100016	Late redware, white glaze	1	19	Modern time
100017	Ind. cer., transfer painted	1	18,5	Modern time
100018	"Bornholm faience"	1	70,5	Modern time
100019	Stoneware, german	1	33	Post medieval
100020	Stove tile, white glaze	1	363,5	Modern time
100021	Clay pipe stems	2	3,5	Post medieval
100022	Glass, bottle neck	1	79,5	Modern time
100023	Horse shoe	1	625	Post medieval
Sum		27	1 968	

List of images

Id	Name	Photographer	Date of Image	Facing	Type of Motif
100001	C115_1372	CH	140812	NW	Overview
100002	C115_1373	CH	140812	N	Overview
100003	C115_1374	CH	140812	E	Overview
100004	C115_1375	CH	140812	N	Overview
100005	C115_1380	CH	170812	S	Work image
100030	C115_1486	CH	231012		Find
100031	C115_1487	CH	231012		Find
100032	C115_1488	CH	231012		Find
100033	C115_1489	CH	231012		Find
100034	C115_1490	CH	231012		Find
100035	C115_1491	CH	231012		Find