To what extent can archaeologists discover the original function of buildings in Cambridge?

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To what extent can archaeologists discover the original uses of buildings in Cambridge?

Rationale

My project is looking at standing buildings and will look into the past functions of these buildings. The aim of my project is to see how easily and accurately an archaeologist can look at a building and correctly hypothesize as to its past function. I will do this by taking a sample of buildings in the city centre of Cambridge and use evidence from that building to guess at what type of business may once have occupied the space. Evidence from the buildings will include looking at location, carved decoration, layout and any features of the building. I will then make a conclusion of what the building may have been used for purely based on my primary fieldwork. I will then use a desktop survey in order to prove or disprove my hypothesis. My desktop survey will include looking at the Historic environmental records, historic directories of Cambridge, looking at old photographs and books. I choose this question as I think it would be interesting to see how accurate it is to draw conclusions purely based on archaeology. I also find the decorative carvings on buildings interesting as they were most likely some form of advertisement for the shop they are on. There are many practical and ethical issues that relate to my study. One practical issue is that many most of the buildings in Cambridge City Centre with these decorations are shops with student accommodation on the upper floors. This means that the upper levels will most likely be impossible to access, and the lower levels have been modernised in order to accommodate shops. However I believe I can still do a reasonable study of the building with just the external architecture. Another practical issue is that Cambridge City centre is extremely busy. This means that for instance, I will be unable to put up a ladder in order to measure the carvings above the shop front. An ethical issue that applies to my study is that I suspect one of the buildings I am planning on looking into was a brothel, which may offend someone, perhaps the shop owner. If I do mention this fact to the shop owner, I will try to overcome this issue with tact.

Context

All the buildings that I am studying are located in Cambridge town centre, and range from the 16th century to early 20th century, for the exact locations please refer to the A3 map (i) attached. Two of my buildings, 25 and 26 Magdalene Street, are timber structures on a medieval street. 1 Wheeler Street is currently used as a concert hall in an area with buildings ranging from medieval to shops recently built. Judging by the style of the building and type of brick, it was most likely built in the late 18th Century. 9 St Andrews Street, 19 St Andrews Street and Sidney Street are most likely from the early 20th Century. They are all on the main road running through Cambridge town centre, with buildings ranging from the late 16th Century to modern buildings. Most of the buildings are shops, although many form part of Cambridge University. As all of my buildings are in Cambridge, and I am trying to find out about the history of these buildings my secondary literature is related to the history of Cambridge. *Down your Street Vol.1* By S.Payne gives a detailed history of each street in Cambridge centre, telling me when each street was built, important changes in the street and why it has developed the way it has. *City of Cambridge of Cambridge Part II, Royal
commission on the historical monuments of England also had a good section on the street my medieval buildings are on. It also gave a description of the various building works that have been conducted on 25 Magdalene Street. The Historical Environmental Record (HER) also has a record of two of the buildings I am studying, namely 1 Wheeler Street and 15 Magdalene Street. I looked for the HER reports as we covered them in our AS archaeology class as a potential source of information for desktop surveys. The HER record for 25 Magdalene Street gave an approximate age for the buildings (1650-1799) and a description of the building materials. The record for 1 Wheeler’s Way gives a relatively detailed history of the building, which will be useful when comparing the decorations up against the past functions of the building. Newspaper reports have also yielded some information on 1 Wheeler Street and 22 Sidney Street, as reports on developments on the buildings have a small summery saying the previous history of the building. Cambridgeshire County Council have also recently conducted a survey of the historic buildings in Cambridge City Centre, it gives information such as date built if known, if it is a listed building, height in storeys, wall materials etc. I came across the County Council’s survey whilst trying to find information on the buildings online. My Study relates to my AS Archaeology course in many areas. I will be doing a Desktop Study using historical documents and Maps, which comes under our first topic ‘Archaeology Reconnaissance’ in Unit 1. I will also being doing recording using photographs and drawings which comes under Unit 1: ‘Excavation’. I also had to date a building using typology when I started my research which comes under ‘Understanding Dating in Archaeology’ in Unit 1.

(Figure 1) The location of Cambridge (A).

Methodology

For one part of my primary fieldwork I did photography as a recording technique. Since a lot of my evidence is decorations I felt it was important to have photographs to show what the buildings looked liked. In order to get a sense of scale I had a friend who is 5’7” (173cm) tall. I took photographs of both the entire building and did close ups of important pieces of architecture. To get a sense of scale on a picture of a date carved into one building I propped
a 50p coin perpendicularly against it. However, there were some problems with photography; due to shadows it was sometimes hard to properly make out the subject of the photograph, and it could also be blurry, too far away or at an angle. To overcome these issues I also decided to draw decorations, to highlight extra details. So I stood outside the building and sketched the decorations with as much accuracy as I was capable. Drawing had the advantage over photography in this instance as I was able to move to different angles in order to get a better view of what I was drawing. However it also had the drawback that my drawings are not wholly accurate, but the photographs should make up for their failings. I would have liked to measure the carvings on the outside however they were all many storeys high up, on busy main streets (so use of a ladder was impractical). I looked at the interior of the buildings, and photographed any features that may have been original or gave clues to past functions, however this was not always possible as many of the buildings’ interiors had been renovated to become a modern shop. I was able to get a relatively accurate measurement of the carvings using my standard human scale. I was able to measure his height on the photograph, and knowing his real height (173cm) I can work out magnification, and then apply that magnification to the carvings. I also conducted a desktop survey of primary sources in order to find out the previous functions of the buildings I was studying. I looked into the Historical Environmental Record, which had some records that were useful. I also looked through some old maps of Cambridge, from 1574 onwards, however they did not record what the buildings functioned as. I also went through old photographs of Cambridge, which were very useful as they often had a caption saying what the building was, and when it was taken, which gave me a time frame for what I was looking for. I then went through Old Cambridge directories, which were very useful to find out about the later buildings if I already had a time frame and they were in use after 1874, as the directories available to me before that did not have the building number.

(Figure 2) Me drawing the owl and pestle motif on 19 St Andrew’s Road.
Evidence

25 Magdalene Street.

(left-right, fig 3,4,5,6)

1 25 Magdalene Street shop front showing jetted out first floor and grotesque above the head of the man in the orange shirt who I am using as a scale. He is 5’7” (175.7cm) from these I can work out the height of the decoration.
Magdalene Street runs up from quayside on the river cam, which was an important place for the corn trade in the late 16\textsuperscript{th} and early 17\textsuperscript{th} century. This led to the rise of a number of merchant houses and inns on Magdalene Street, a number of these inns would have doubled as brothels. This building in particular was known as the ‘Crossed keys inn’ (fig. 3), the largest of 5 inns on the west side of Magdalene street in the 16\textsuperscript{th} century\textsuperscript{2}. The crossed keys were a reference to the crossed keys of Saint Peter. Due to the proximity to the quayside and the influx of wealth from the merchants, this may explain how the inn afforded the decorative carvings on the exterior.\textsuperscript{3} (v) 25 Magdalene Street has not been changed much in its lifetime, and so in these buildings I was able to photograph and study the interior for clues as to what they used to be. 25 Magdalene Street is a large timber framed building of three stories; the first floor juts out onto the street below, which is typical of medieval buildings. Inside it contains some of the original wooden beams as well as an old, small, brick fireplace. The building tells us that it is medieval, however the most telling elements to the building in terms of what it used to be is the decorative carvings on the outside of the building. On the outside, carved into the supporting brackets are ‘grotesques’, two are carved into the jetted out first floor, a crouching man and a satyr. On the second floor there is a naked woman and a centaur (28.8cm x 79.2cm).\textsuperscript{4} (fig 7-10) The shop owner believes that the building used to be an Inn and brothel, so I looked for evidence that the carvings had something to do with this function. S. Payne’s book ‘Down your street’ suggests that these grotesques indicate that the Inn was a ‘brothel for the barges’, although it also suggests that they may have been ‘protection against witchcraft’. Another also claims that 25 Magdalene Street worked as a brothel ‘The bracket is carved to represent a satyr, indicating that the inn also operated as a brothel.’

\textsuperscript{1} Down your street Vol.1 – S. Payne, The Peversay Press, 1983

\textsuperscript{2} \text{http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/pdfs/Magdalene_Northampton%20St.pdf}

\textsuperscript{3} An Inventory of the historic of the Historic Monuments in the City of Cambridge Volume I and II by RCMH, 1959
Numbers 26-28 Magdalene Street (fig.11) was also built in around the 16th century. This is seen in the oak timber frame structure, which can be seen from the inside. The age is also seen through the floor level, which is a few inches lower than that of the outside street, this is probably because the floor of the outside street has been re-paved many times after the building has been constructed, being raised each time. This can be partially seen through a large, thin window in the middle of the building, that appears to used to be a door, however the floor level has been raised so much on that side that they probably had to move the door to the far side of the building where the raise of ground level was less steep as it is not as close to the bridge. The shop front is relatively modern, as seen by the large windows; it was probably re-modelled in Victorian times. The characteristic medieval overhang is no longer there, however, if you stand inside the shop, you can see one of the ceiling beams that runs towards the shop front, there is a wedge of new wood slotted into the end of the original beam. (fig.14) This seems to be where the people who refaced the shop front have brought the shop forward onto the street, getting rid of the overhang. In the beams in the shop floor’s ceiling there a number of slots in the wood, a perhaps 15cm long and 1-2cm wide, this appears to be where there used to be wooden boards forming walls. (Fig.15+16) There are now, although boarded up, two large fire places on the ground floor (which unfortunately are completely inaccessible), and according to the owner a fan was found in the chimney above one of these fireplaces, which would have been attached to a mechanism to turn a spit for roasting large amount of meat, there was also a smaller fireplace on the ground floor. A desktop survey has been unable to say what exactly the building was used for; however Magdalene Street was generally a street of inns and merchant houses from the time it built.\footnote{City of Cambridge of Cambridge Part II, Royal commission on the historical monuments of England, her majesty’s stationery office, 1988} From the archaeological evidence I would suggest an inn as a house would have no need for 3 sizeable fireplaces in such small proximity. (Fig.12)
Above is a picture one of the fireplaces in 26-28 Magdalene Street.

A large display case covering another fireplace, the other larger one was in an inaccessible back room.

A beam on the ceiling near the front of the shop, perhaps evidence of the shop floor being extended onto the street, where as it over hung the street beforehand.
Oak beams on the ceiling with slots that would have probably had a plank of wood slotted into it to form another wall. Another slot to possibly make a wall for another room.
Above is 9-11 St Andrew’s Street, currently the Cambridge Post
Above the door of the post office there is a carving of a man’s head, wearing a winged helmet, along with two winged serpents.\textsuperscript{12} The head appears to be of Hermes, Greek messenger god, as he is typically associated with winged helmets and serpents (43.2cm x 97.2cm). (Fig.19) Hermes being over a building designed to be a post office makes sense due to the nature of the Post Office’s work and Hermes being the messenger god. Near the bottom of the wall there is also the date in which was built ‘1943’ It also has the letters ‘GRV’ standing for Regis (king) George V, on the date marker. (Fig.20) A desktop survey found a picture of the Post Office from 1870, however it lacks the Hermes carving. According to its caption, the Post Office moved to Petty Cury in 1885 and then back in 1934, the same date as the carving in Fig 21 says.\textsuperscript{13} Assuming that the Post Office had its exterior refurbished in 1934, I consulted the 1932-7 Cambridge directory. The directory states that 9-11 St Andrew’s Street is the ‘Site for the new General Post Office’.\textsuperscript{14} (vi)

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{12} http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermes
\textsuperscript{13} Britain in old photographs: Cambridge, Chris Jacey, Sutton Publishing Limited, 1996
\textsuperscript{14} Spalding’s directory of Cambridge 1932-37 Volume XXII Printed registers Gratis}
19 St Andrews Street is currently ‘Links of London’. It bears a plaque above an old entrance with the dates ‘1851’ and ‘1934’. This suggests that it was re-developed in some way in 1934 and the plaque installed as a reminder of what had been there from 1851. This makes sense as a number of buildings on that street, including the Post office, were re-developed around that time. On the same plaque there is a picture of an owl sitting on a mortar and pestle. (Fig.26)

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15 My standard human scale. The shop front of 19 St Andrew’s Street. The carving of an owl sitting on a mortar and pestle with the Latin inscription is above his head
also bears the Latin inscription ‘Escendo et Gl#ando’ (#= too worn by weather to tell what it is; ‘L’ might also be an ‘I’). It most likely translates as ‘knowledge and bringing/drawing together’. The building also bears a carving of Caduceus, sometimes thought to be a symbol of medicine (57.6 x 187.2). (Fig.24) Looking at the decorative carving, the shop could be some sort of doctors or chemist. This is coherent with my beliefs, as the owl is a symbol of wisdom, the mortar and pestle are often used in the preparation of medicines, there is the symbol of medicine and the inscription refers to knowledge, all suggesting something to do with medicine. I was able to confirm this theory by looking into old directories, although the earlier directories did not include the actual street number. I then found a directory from 1874, which proved the building was a chemist.

Right: (Fig.26)

Left: (Fig.27) 22 Sidney Street

Right: (Fig.28) Close up of one of the decorations depicting a boat.

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26 http://www.drblayney.com/Asclepius.html

27 Spalding’s directory of Cambridge 1874 W.P. Spalding, Booksellers
(Fig. 29) My human scale standing at the rear of the shop. Above his head is the stone carving of what appears to be the stern of a ship. He is standing in front of what looks like a boarded up service hatch.

(Fig. 30) My human scale outside the shop front of 22nd Sidney Street, above his head is the stone of a man in the style of the carving that might be found on the bow of a ship.
22 Sidney Street is currently a bookshop. It is a large building with 3 storeys, it is unclear whether there is another out of reach of the public. It is a long building with an open plan. It is unclear how much of the interior is in the original design as it has probably been greatly changed to be turned into a bookshop. The carvings on the building include the bow (28.8cm x 165.6cm) and stern of a ship, on opposite sides of the structure. (Fi.28,31,32) Judging purely on the decorative features I would hypothesize that at some time previously the building had something to do with the sea, perhaps building boats or selling fish. Building boats would be plausible, as it is a long building, although the height is unnecessary, although the extra floors may have been added at a later date. However it is quite a distance from the River cam.
Figure 33 shows the distance from 22 Sidney Street (A) to the River Cam (B) which is a distance of approximately 0.3 mile, a distance unnecessarily long if it was shipbuilders. Cambridge also has a number of famous boat builders next to the river, so shipbuilders seem unlikely. As for the possibility that is some sort of fish shop, the size of the building makes that unlikely. Looking through a number of old photographs I found a picture that showed the building being re-developed and the caption indicated that it was being made into a dancing hall called ‘Dorothy’s Café’. I was able to confirm this by looking at a 1932 edition of ‘Spalding’s directory of Cambridge’. A quick search on the internet found that this cafe had existed in Cambridge for over 30 years and became a household name. The dancing hall fit in the size of the building with its large floor plan; it also explains why there is a service hatch as they seemed to also serve certain about of food. The mystery still remained as why there were carvings of ships on the exterior. I hoped that perhaps it was a nod to some professions that had previously occupied the building, but looking through directories turned up nothing. I took to looking through old newspapers. I found a news article from 1963 that stated Dorothy’s Cafe had just been redeveloped. The redevelopment seemed to be extensive, the dancing hall was got rid of and the other stories of the building added, the balconies overlooking the hall were taken away and the entire of the inside of the building was re-designed. But it was unclear in the article as to the extent of the work done on the outside of the building. I found another article from 1989 called ‘Looking Back’ by Glenn Thwaites which stated that the renovations had turned the dancing hall into an Oyster bar and fish restaurant which opened in 1965. It goes onto say that the Cafe was decorated with ‘South Sea scenes’ by a local artist. I believed that the boat imagery on the outside of the building could have been put in order to promote the new oyster bar as it was the first of its type in Cambridge. However upon further research I found a picture of the Dorothy Cafe in 1925 with the caption which says that the ‘In 1948 the Dorothy Cafe was rebuilt with the current facade’ which seems to say that the ship stern and bow were added then. However another news article from 1989 included a re-print of the original 1931 advert for the Cafe after it had building work done to it. It shows the ship decoration on both sides of the building, proving the earlier account saying that it had been put in, in 1948 wrong. So the ships had been put in pre-1931 so it still may have nothing to do with the cafe, if not at the actual 1931 renovations. However on the same page that claimed that the current shop front had been put up in 1948 there was also a picture which shows the cafe in 1925, distinctly without the ships. So the

18 http://maps.google.co.uk/
19 Past and Present Cambridge, Sutton Publishing Limited, 2000
20 Spalding’s directory of Cambridge 1932-37 Volume XXII Printed registers Gratis
21 The Cambridgeshire Collection, Cafe’s and Restaurant, The Dorothy A-Z ref. CN 11.7.63
22 The Cambridgeshire Collection, Cafe’s and Restaurant, The Dorothy A-Z ref. CEN 11.2.63
23 Then and Now Cambridge, John Durrant, Sutton Publishing Limited, 2002
24 The Cambridgeshire Collection, Cafe’s and Restaurant, The Dorothy A-Z ref. CEN 13.7.1989
ships were put up at some time between 1925 and 1931, most likely in the redecorations of 1931. So in this case, the decorations seem to have no real relationship with the function of the building.

![Fig. 34] The Dorothy's Cafe in 1925.

![Fig. 35] The Dorothy's Cafe under renovation. The picture does not say which renovation, however it is most likely the 1929-31 one, as the building on street corner was redeveloped in the 1930s, but in this picture it is the same as the building as seen in the 1925 picture.

![Fig. 36] An Article written in 1989 featuring the original 1931 advert. Tells us the dates in which the building was done and shows the ships have appeared on both sides of the building. On the picture on the far left shows the main entrance which is also pictures above, you can see that the building next to it has changed, if you count the windows and note the change in roof, this goes to show that the picture above.

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25 The Dorothy’s Cafe under renovation. The picture does not say which renovation, however it is most likely the 1929-31 one, as the building on street corner was redeveloped in the 1930s, but in this picture it is the same as the building as seen in the 1925 picture.

26 An Article written in 1989 featuring the original 1931 advert. Tells us the dates in which the building was done and shows the ships have appeared on both sides of the building. On the picture on the far left shows the main entrance which is also pictures above, you can see that the building next to it has changed, if you count the windows and note the change in roof, this goes to show that the picture above.
My standard human scale underneath a depiction on ploughing.

27 My standard human scale underneath a depiction on ploughing.
Coat of arms with 'Floreat Cantabrigia' written on it meaning 'let Cambridge Flourish'.

Scene of ploughing carved on 1 Wheeler Street.

My human scale next to some decorations depicting a flower.
1 Wheeler Street is currently a concert hall, it is a large building with a large hall (although I was unfortunately not able to gain access inside due to the production of ‘Snow White on ice’). The carvings on the building suggest that the building had something to do with exchange of farming produce, most likely corn as this is depicted. The carvings include; a scene of ploughing (198.95cm x 77.85) (Fig.40), a scene of reaping (Fig.42) and various decorations depicting corn/flowers. (Fig.41) These is also a Latin phrase carved into the building which says ‘Floreat Cantabrigia’ meaning ‘let Cambridge Flourish’ a phrase linked with harvest. (Fig.39) An HER report confirms that this building opened in 1875 as a corn exchange and entertainment venue.  

A newspaper article from May 1964 complains that the buildings name ‘the Corn Exchange- has become a paradox, since the business, involving the sale of corn my farmers to merchants, miller and malters, has dwindled.’ A second newspaper article I found from my desktop survey discusses the Corn Exchange being converted into a concert hall. So in this case the carvings have lead to suggest the function of the building, which was later confirmed to be correct.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Evidence for prediction.</th>
<th>Predicted past function.</th>
<th>Actual Past Function</th>
<th>Evidence for actual past function</th>
</tr>
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31 Cambridgeshire County Council Designation Full Report: Corn Exchange
32 The Cambridgeshire Collection, Corn Exchange CN 15.5.64
33 The Cambridgeshire Collection, Corn Exchange CEN 14.7.72
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street</th>
<th>Carving/Function</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 Magdalene</td>
<td>Carvings of grotesques.</td>
<td>Inn and Brothel</td>
<td>S. Payne and ‘City of Cambridge of Cambridge Part II, Royal commission on the historical monuments of England’ both agree that the building used to be an Inn and Brothel called ‘The Crossed Keys’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Magdalene</td>
<td>On the ground floor there are 2 large fireplaces and another smaller one, with one of the larger fireplaces being possibly having a mechanism to turn a spit for a large amount of meat. Also the ground floor at least was divided into many different rooms.</td>
<td>Inn</td>
<td>Unable to confirm with a desktop survey. However S. Payne and ‘City of Cambridge of Cambridge Part II, Royal commission on the historical monuments of England’ both agree that the street was full of merchant houses and Inns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown Inn/merchant house</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 St Andrew’s</td>
<td>Carving of Hermes, the god of messengers. It is also currently a Post Office.</td>
<td>Post Office</td>
<td>1932-37 Directory of Cambridge confirms it. Michael J Petty, also says that the Post Office opened there in 1934, the same date as a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>Post Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

35 City of Cambridge of Cambridge Part II, Royal commission on the historical monuments of England, her majesty’s stationery office, 1988
36 Spalding’s directory of Cambridge 1932-37 Volume XXII Printed registers Gratis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 St Andrew’s Street</td>
<td>A carving of an Owl sitting on a mortar holding a pestle, with the Latin phrase for ‘knowledge and bringing/drawing together’ written on it. Caduceus carved onto it (medical symbol)</td>
<td>Something medical Pharmaceutical chemist’</td>
<td>Directory of Cambridge from 1884 says; ‘Herny Jas., pharmaceutical chemist’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Sidney Street</td>
<td>Carvings of a bow and stern of a ship. Service hatch at the rear of the shop.</td>
<td>Something to do with the sea?? Possibly a restaurant</td>
<td>Dancing Hall. John Durrant tells us that it was a dancing hall called ‘Dorothy’s Cafe’. Newspaper articles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Wheeler Street</td>
<td>Carvings of ploughing, Sowing, corn, flowers and the Latin phrase translating as ‘let Cambridge’</td>
<td>A trading place for farmers</td>
<td>A Corn exchange. Historical Environmental Record says it opened in 1875 as a Corn exchange a venue for entertainment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

38 Spalding’s directory of Cambridge 1884, Spalding, Booksellers
39 Then and Now Cambridge, John Durrant, Sutton Publishing Limited, 2002
40 The Cambridgeshire Collection, Cafe’s and Restaurant, The Dorothy A-Z ref. CEN 13.7.1989
41 The Cambridgeshire Collection, Cafe’s and Restaurant, The Dorothy A-Z ref. CEN 11.7.63
42 Cambridgeshire County Council Designation Full Report: Corn Exchange
Evaluation

To answer the question: ‘To what extent can archaeologists discover the original function of buildings in Cambridge?’ I think the answer is to a great extent, only one of the buildings I studied was I unable to come up with an answer as to what it may have been, and even that I was able to come up with a plausible answer. Using evidence purely from the buildings themselves I believe archaeologists will with a great deal of accuracy tell what previous functions the buildings carried out. However without the use of a desktop survey I think it would of been hard to tell exactly what 22 Sidney Street was for instance as the carvings do not always relate to function of the building. I believe that it went well as I have given correct or at least plausible explanations for the coming about of various features on the buildings, but if I were to do it again perhaps I would explore more the interior of the buildings, although it is hard due to the re-modelling in many of them as I said in my rationale. For my drawing I could have also improved the accuracy by drawing on a grid. I came across the problems I anticipated in my rationale, the inability to access carvings to measure them, and the inability to access upper floors due to student accommodation. However I did not expect to have to rely on photographs quite so much as thought the HER reports would have reports on the majority of my buildings as they are listed buildings, instead of just two. I also found a notably lacking of resources helping me to interpret the architecture, but I was able to usually find at least one source. I believe my AS course have helped me understand the work I have done as I able to understand and assess the limitations of working without historical documents to back up your work, which I think it is important to understand as you will have to keep in mind any conclusions drawn without a desktop survey backing it up may not be correct, as this study has shown.

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