NIKU OPPDRAGSRAPPORT 92/2012

THE BRYGGEN MONITORING PROJECT, PART 17

Report on the archaeological investigation of two test-pits, *Schøtstuene*, Bryggen, 2012

Dunlop, A.R.

NORSK INSTITUTT FOR KULTURMINNEFORSKNING

Norsk institutt for kulturminneforskning (NIKU)
Storgata 2, Postboks 736 Sentrum, 0105 Oslo
Telefon: 23 35 50 00
www.niku.no

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Prosjektleder Dunlop, A. R.
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Sammendrag
Rapporten beskriver resultatene fra den arkeologiske undersøkelsen av to små prøvehull gravd innenfor Schøtstuenes grunn i midten av mars 2012. Prøvehullenes formål var kartlegging av tykkelsen til moderne masser i to områder utsett som mulige lokaliteter for anleggelsen av store vannbeholdere for infiltrering av overvann til grunnen, noe som vil inngå som en del av tiltakene for heving av grunnvannstanden i det nordlige Bryggen-området.

Emneord
Bryggen, Schøtstuene, prøvehull, infiltrasjonstiltak

Avdelingsleder

Paasche, K.

Forord

Bergen Kommunale Bygg takkes for gravetillatelsen, og Bergen Bydrift AS samt arkitekt Jan Lohne takkes for praktisk hjelp ved undersøkelsen.

NIKU prosjektnummer	156132937 (2012)
Berørt område	Schøtstuene
Gnr/Bnr	167/1551
Oppdragets art	Arkeologisk undersøkelse av prøvehull
Vedtaksdato; saksnummer	16.2.2012; 08/00262-89
Oppdragsgiver	Riksantikvaren Distriktskontor Vest
Oppdraget utført av	NIKU distriktskontor Bergen v/ A. R. Dunlop
Oppdraget utført dato	15.3.2012
Koordinater	Se i teksten
Overflate, dagens	Se i teksten
Tilstedeværelse av automatisk fredete kulturminner	Nei
Kulturhistorisk tolkning	Moderne fyllmasser
BRM-nr.	BRM 973

Contents

1 Introduction

On 15th March 2012 two small test-pits were dug in the grounds of the collection of buildings called *Schøtstuene*, situated to the north of the Bryggen World Heritage Site. Rory Dunlop from the Bergen office of the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU) was responsible for the archaeological side of things, with the local firm of *Bergen Bydrift AS* doing the digging work. The investigation's purpose was to check if the modern soil was sufficiently thick to enable the installation of water-infiltration facilities without removing older, preservation-worthy deposits. Infiltration of collected surface-water in the *Schøtstuene* area will form part of the set of measures designed to raise the groundwater-level in the northern part of Bryggen, which in turn forms part of the work aimed at safeguarding the entire world heritage site (which includes the underlying cultural deposits).

This investigation comes under NIKU project number 156132937. The work was funded by *Statsbygg* and carried out on behalf of *Riksantikvaren* (the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage).

2 Background information

As mentioned above, the test-pits are located in the grounds of *Schøtstuene*, a suite of historic buildings established here in the late 1930s. From various contemporary articles and from recent archaeological investigations (e.g. Dunlop 2007, Dunlop 2009) it is clear that this entailed the removal of a considerable volume of the upper cultural deposits and their replacement with modern fill – because the buildings have relatively deep cellars – but the full extent of this disturbance has remained largely unknown hitherto.

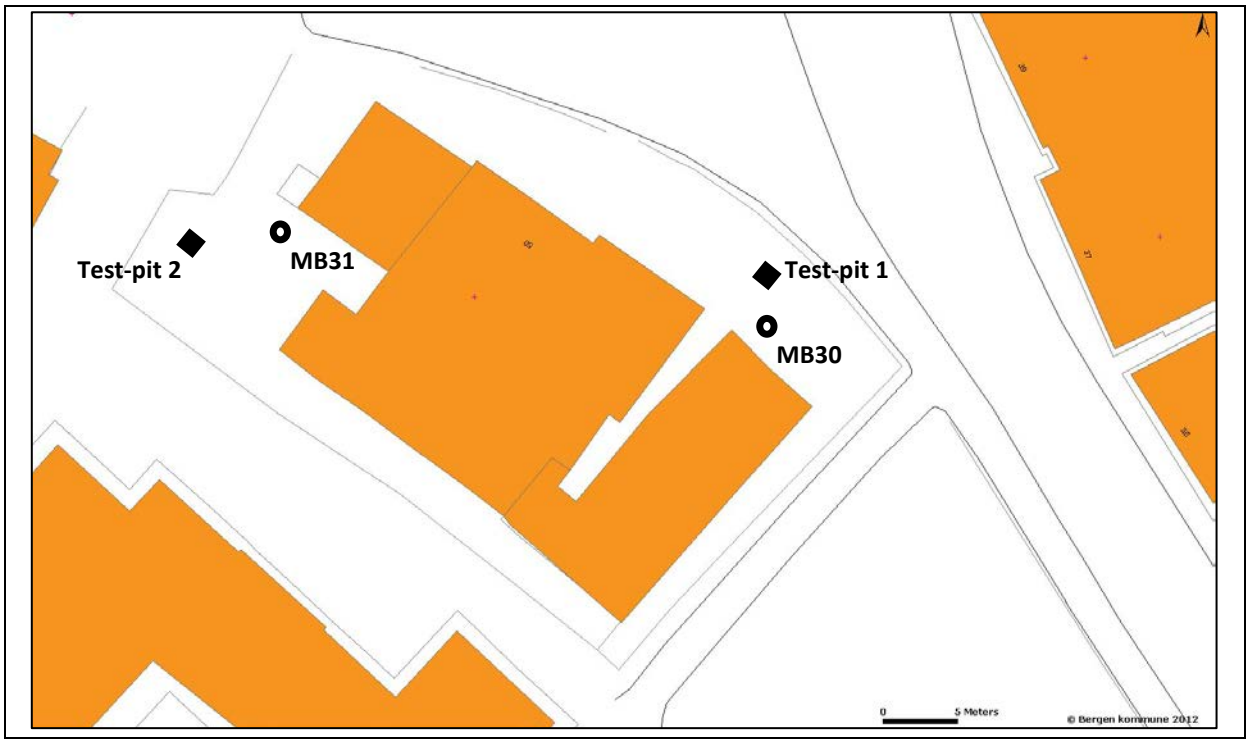

Figure. 1. Map showing positions of the test-pits, along with monitoring wells MB30 and MB31.

3 Methods

The test-pits were dug using a small backhoe, with some manual cleaning by the archaeologist to inspect the deposits in more detail. Recording was limited to digital photography, and the test-pits' positions were surveyed by *Multiconsult ASA*. The various deposits recorded in the course of the investigation have not been assigned context numbers – it was felt to be unnecessary under the actual circumstances – but the test-pits have been assigned reference number «BRM 973» for identification purposes by Bergen Museum's Middelaldersamlingen (the Medieval Collections).

4 Description of the soil sequences in the test-pits

4.1 General remarks

The abbreviation "masl" stands for "metres above sea-level".

4.2 Test-pit 1

Test-pit 1, which measured ca. 1 by 1 m, was located in the northern part of *Schøtstuene*'s grounds, and was not far from monitoring well MB30 (installed in 2009 – Dunlop 2009; MB30 was removed in 2014 and replaced by MB47). *Multiconsult ASA*'s surveyors determined the test-pit's mid-point's coordinates as N6701436.90/E297503.90 (UTM EUREF 32N), and the modern soil surface was at an elevation of ca. 7.55 masl (datum NN1954). Weather conditions during the investigation were good.

The modern garden soil was ca. 30 cm thick. Below this was just mixed back-fill – including a lot of demolition material, with some large blocks of masonry, among other things – all the way down to the bottom of the test-pit at ca. 6 masl.

The excavator is not sure if all of this deposit is the back-fill in *Schøtstuene*'s building-pit from the 1930s; the lower part could be from the later 19th century, but not earlier than that, judging by the glass and ceramics found in the deposit. However, there was a length of steel post from a garden fence at a depth of 0.85 m (6.70 masl), so we can be certain that there has been modern disturbance down to at least this depth.

4.3 Test-pit 2

Test-pit 2, which measured ca. 1 by ca. 0.8 m, was located in the western corner of *Schøtstuene*'s grounds, and was not far from monitoring well MB31 (installed in 2009; Dunlop 2009). *Multiconsult ASA*'s surveyors determined the test-pit's mid-point's coordinates as N6701439.80/E297464.95 (UTM EUREF 32N), and the modern flagstone surface was at an elevation of ca. 6.55 masl (datum NN1954). Weather conditions during the investigation were good.

The sandy bedding layer under the flagstones was about 30 cm thick. Under this came loose garden soil, heavily interlaced with roots from the nearby tree, to a depth of 0.9 m (5.65 masl). This covered a jumbled deposit containing earth, stones, pieces of red brick/tile, iron nails, and sherds of modern glass and ceramics. This deposit continued on downwards below the bottom of the test-pit at ca. 5 masl – some of the stones at the bottom (which prevented deeper excavation) must have protruded downwards at least another 30 cm – and it definitely represents part of the back-fill in *Schøtstuene*'s building-pit from the 1930s. The building-pit is therefore at least 1.8 m deep in this particular area – which is certainly not contradicted by the results from monitoring well MB31.

5 Finds & dating

5.1 Test-pit 1

No dating material of any kind was retained from test-pit 1, but as noted above the discarded sherds of glass and ceramics strongly indicated that the lower part of the back-fill deposit cannot be from earlier than the later 19th century.

5.2 Test-pit 2

No dating material of any kind was retained from test-pit 2, but the discarded finds in the lowest investigated deposit showed that this must have been part of the back-fill in *Schøtstuene*'s building-pit from the 1930s.

5.3 Dating: conclusions

Both test-pits contained only modern deposits.

6 Concluding remarks

The two test-pits have clearly shown that modern deposits extend downwards to a depth of at least 1.8 metres in the investigated areas. There are also the results of a number of earlier observations to support this picture:

- the two monitoring wells, MB30 and MB31, investigated in 2009: in MB30, post-medieval/modern deposits seemed to be up to 2.3 m thick, while in MB31 they were up to as much as 2.55 m thick;
- the bared soil section that marks part of the north-western edge of *Schøtstuene*'s grounds: this was cleaned up and recorded by archaeologists Dunlop and Sletten in 1983 (Dunlop: memo in *Riksantikvaren*'s archive), revealing that the post-medieval and modern deposits were up to 1.9 m thick;
- the photos from the excavation of *Schøtstuene*'s building-pit, conducted by Koren-Wiberg in the 1930s (the photos are included in Melle, 2012): these indicate that the building-pit was both relatively extensive and deep, though it is not possible to provide precise measurements)

[NB.: the test-pits investigated by Dunlop in 2007 are not really relevant in this present context, since they were excavated within the extent of existing ditches, where the deposits would naturally consist of modern back-fill.]

There should thus be adequate space for the construction of the kind of storage facilities as proposed by Floris Boogard. However, all excavation work should be conducted under archaeological super-vision.

Attention should be called to one further thing: in the area around test-pit 2 and dipwell MB31, excavation will probably mean clearing away a lot of roots, which may well weaken or kill the tree that stands in the southern part of this area – this problem will have to be looked into by a specialist. The tree may have to be removed, and if such turns out to be the case, permission will have to be sought from the relevant authorities.

7 References

Dunlop, A. R., 2007. Schøtstuene, Bergen: Arkeologisk forundersøkelse, 2007. – NIKU Arkivrapport 53-2007. NIKU distriktskontor Bergen.

Dunlop, A. R., 2009. The Bryggen Monitoring Project, Part 9: report on the archaeological investigation of two dipwell boreholes, Schøtstuene, 2009. – NIKU Oppdragsrapport 222/2009. NIKU distriktskontor Bergen.

Melle, T. 2012. Tilstandsvurdering av ruinen under Schøtstuene. – Byantikvaren, Bergen.

8 Documentation (NIKU)

- 14 digital photos (7 for test-pit 1, 7 for test-pit 2) (are uploaded to MUSIT's photo database)

Photo list

Bilde nr.	Undersøkelsestype	Motiv	Sett mot
Bf30017_NIKU_0001	Forundersøkelse	Mini-graveren løftes inn med kran	Ø
Bf30017_NIKU_0002	Forundersøkelse	Mini-graveren løftes inn med kran	Ø
Bf30017_NIKU_0003	Forundersøkelse	Hull 2: oversiktsbilde	NØ
Bf30017_NIKU_0004	Forundersøkelse	Hull 2: ferdig gravd	NNØ
Bf30017_NIKU_0005	Forundersøkelse	Hull 2: ferdig gravd	NNØ
Bf30017_NIKU_0006	Forundersøkelse	Hull 2: ferdig gravd	NNV
Bf30017_NIKU_0007	Forundersøkelse	Hull 2: ferdig gravd, hullets bunn	
Bf30017_NIKU_0008	Forundersøkelse	Hull 1: oversiktsbilde	NV
Bf30017_NIKU_0009	Forundersøkelse	Hull 1: NØ-side, alarmkabel under torven	NØ
Bf30017_NIKU_0010	Forundersøkelse	Hull 1: ferdig gravd	NØ
Bf30017_NIKU_0011	Forundersøkelse	Hull 1: ferdig gravd, jern gjerdestolpe 85 cm ned	NV
Bf30017_NIKU_0012	Forundersøkelse	Hull 1: ferdig gravd	SV
Bf30017_NIKU_0013	Forundersøkelse	Hull 1: ferdig gravd	SV
Bf30017_NIKU_0014	Forundersøkelse	Hull 1: oversiktsbilde	SV

Bf30017_NIKU_0005

Bf30017_NIKU_0007

Bf30017_NIKU_0011

Bf30017_NIKU_0012

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NIKU Oppdragsrapport 92/2012

NIKU hovedkontor
Storgata 2
Postboks 736 Sentrum
0105 OSLO
Telefon: 23 35 50 00

NIKU Tønsberg
Farmannsveien 30
3111 TØNSBERG
Telefon: 934 66 230

NIKU Bergen
Dreggsallmenningen 3
Postboks 4112 Sandviken
5835 BERGEN
Telefon: 922 89 252

NIKU Trondheim
Kjøpmannsgata 25
7013 TRONDHEIM
Telefon: 922 66 779 /
405 50 126

NIKU Tromsø
Framsenteret
Hjalmar Johansens gt. 14
9296 TROMSØ
Telefon: 77 75 04 00