

## 7. The Lazar House



You can see locally-sourced building materials in the walls of the Lazar House at Gilman Road. In the Middle Ages, this was part of a leper hospital dedicated to St Magdalen. Most of the material could have been sourced from Mousehold Heath.

Take a look at the south-west corner. It is buttressed with 'mussel bricks', probably dating from the later 17th century when the building was repaired and used as a barn.

The walls are made from flint rubble (photo 3). Most of the flints are fresh-looking nodules taken directly from the chalk (they have a white skin or 'cortex'), while there are also a few rounded flint cobbles from the 'cannon-shot' gravels of Mousehold. The Mediaeval door frames are made of imported limestone, probably Barnack stone transported by boat from the Peterborough area.

In Mediaeval times, slabs of hard chalk from Mousehold were carved to make architectural detail such as window tracery. Can you spot any such hard chalk in the Lazar House walls?



The north wall is worth seeing for its large, iron-stained flint nodules. These are typical of the Norwich Crag basement bed, which outcrops above the chalk in local chalk pits such as St James' Hollow.

Iron-stained nodules set in lime mortar (a product of the local lime-burning industry).



A large quartz cobble stone in the west wall. This is likely to be an 'erratic', brought to the area by a river in pre-glacial times.

### Photo credits

All photos © Tim Holt-Wilson.