

# Paradise Street Oxford Phase II Evaluation



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



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## SUMMARY

*Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation at Paradise Street, Oxford on behalf of Ambroseden Court Ltd, representing St. Peter's College. The evaluation revealed a limestone spread which may have formed part of an early ford or weir at the point where the castle moat fed into the Mill Stream. Layers of re-deposited clay and gravel were also discovered, which probably date to the construction of the defences of the adjacent Oxford Castle. The floor of a probable 13th century building was discovered at the north end of the area excavated. A sequence of metalled surfaces related to Paradise Street itself was uncovered, dating to between the 13th and 16th centuries, along with a road-side drainage ditch. A channel revetted by stone walls, which was probably involved in management of the flow of water from the moat and which had been previously observed in the Phase I evaluation, was further investigated, and the foundations of a sluice house which formerly stood over it were identified. This structure was dated to the 16th century and is believed to be the building recorded at this location on a map dating to c 1615. Floor surfaces belonging to later buildings fronting onto Paradise Street were also present.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In December 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a second phase of field evaluation at the site of the former business centre on Paradise Street, Oxford (NGR SP 5094 0609) in advance of a planning application for the development of the site as student accommodation (Fig. 1). The site lies on the east side of the Castle Mill Stream branch of the Thames, fronting onto the north side of Paradise Street with the wall of Oxford Prison to the rear. This Phase II evaluation was requested by Brian Durham, Archaeologist for Oxford City Council, in order to clarify the results of the initial investigation undertaken by OA in 2002 (OA 2002), which uncovered structures interpreted as forming a sluice house.

1.1.2 The work was commissioned by Ambroseden Court Ltd, acting on behalf of St Peter's College. It was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Brian Durham.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology comprises the southern spur of the Summertown-Radley gravel terrace, located to the east of the River Thames and to the west of the river Cherwell. The site lies at approximately 57 m OD.

1.2.2 Relevant borehole data (Soiltechnics 2002) suggests that the Castle moat is at least 5 m deep within the limits of the site.

### 1.3 Historical background

- 1.3.1 The historical background of the site has been extensively studied in ‘Oxford Castle – a Heritage Survey’, which was commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council (OAU 1996a) and in the Oxford Archaeology monograph ‘Oxford Before the University’ (Dodd 2003). The following (reproduced from the WSI) is based on the information contained in that document, where full references will also be found. The date references given below (e.g. 1952, 1972 etc.) refer to the entries in Appendix B of that document.
- 1.3.2 The castle was built in 1071 by Robert d’Oilli at the west side of the late-Saxon town, known to have been in existence as early as AD 911. There is no known evidence for activity pre-dating the Saxon period. Pre-conquest late Saxon material has been found beneath the Castle mound (1952) and within the vicinity of the castle at Nuffield College (1948-9) and New County Hall (1972), as well as during current excavations at the site of Oxford Prison, indicating that the Saxon town extended as far west as the river – as represented by the present Castle Mill Stream.
- 1.3.3 Jope’s excavations at the mound in 1952 revealed pits, occupation debris and traces of the houses overlain by the castle and part of a Saxon timber house was observed recovered during construction of the new County Hall in 1972. OAU undertook an evaluation of the prison site in 1999, including two trenches near the base of the castle mound (OAU 1999) that identified a post-medieval ditch cut into earlier deposits.
- 1.3.4 Originally the castle consisted of a motte and bailey, much of the latter of which survived into the 18th century, and the motte (the castle mound) still remains. Within the mound is a well chamber that is Listed Grade I, with an entrance on the upper SE side of the mound.

### 1.4 Archaeological background

- 1.4.1 The following, also reproduced from the WSI, is a brief summary of results from recent archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

#### *1977 Test Pits (Oxford University Archaeological Society)*

- 1.4.2 Test pits excavated on the Canteen Site (see below) by OUAS revealed 12th-century deposits truncated by a 15th-century structure.

#### *Boreham’s Yard, Tidmarsh Lane (now St George’s Gate) excavation 1994-5 (OA unpublished)*

- 1.4.3 A programme of archaeological work in advance of redevelopment by St Peter’s College revealed a sequence of cobbled surfaces and other structural fragments probably of 12th-14th century date outside the west gate of Oxford Castle, c 50 m to

the north-west of the proposed development. Part of the 13th-century curtain wall and the likely position of the gate itself were located. The external surfaces probably fronted onto the river channel (Castle Mill Stream) to the west, while a possible channel linking the river with the water-filled moat of the castle was located at the northern end of the site. Post-medieval developments included the establishment of a ditched boundary and successive realignments of the river channel before the construction of 18th- and 19th-century buildings, some of which still survived immediately prior to the redevelopment. The results of the excavation are integrated with documentary and cartographic evidence for the site to refine understanding of the topography of this important part of Oxford Castle.

#### ***Oxford Castle Mill Weir Desktop (OAU1996b)***

- 1.4.4 OAU carried out a Desktop study of the Castle Mill Weir, approximately 20 m to the north-west of the proposed development, prior to its refurbishment and as part of the planning application to OCC. The existing weir is on the site of the Castle Mill, demolished in 1930 after a millennium of use. Records from the 1930s suggest that the remains of an early mill were found beneath the 18th-century building, but it is uncertain whether any of these survive. The Castle mill is one of the well-documented early mills in Oxford, held by the Constable of Oxford, Robert d'Oilli in Domesday Book (1086). It was rebuilt in 1781 and the building that was demolished in 1930 was almost certainly of that period.

#### ***Paradise Street (N), Thames Water Authority Depot (OAU 1991)***

- 1.4.5 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by OAU on the site of the former Thames Water Authority depot on Paradise Street, immediately adjoining the wall of Oxford Prison and c 40 m to the south east of the current investigation area. Two trenches were dug and revealed two water courses. One followed the line of the Castle ditch on the 17th-century plans and beneath the exposed silts there was evidence of wattle sided water courses. The second water course was a stone culvert which was aligned towards 17th-century (or earlier) houses on the abutments of Swan Bridge and was probably a water supply to the same.

#### ***Former Canteen Site, Paradise Street, Oxford (OAU 1993a and b)***

- 1.4.6 OAU undertook a field evaluation for Thomas and Co. on the former canteen site at Paradise Street, Oxford during November 1993 in advance of the construction of flats and a car park. The site was located on the opposite side of Paradise Street from the 1991 evaluation, c 50 m to the south of the proposed development. Two 10 m long trenches revealed a stone lined and capped culvert which presumably carried out a similar function to that observed during the 1991 evaluation on the opposite side of Paradise Street (i.e. – a water supply to the hous(es) on Swan Bridge). Additionally, a small section of stone wall was revealed and may correspond to a phase of 12th-century building noted during the test pitting in 1977. This could possibly be interpreted as part of a building on the Paradise Street frontage.



### ***The Current Site***

- 1.4.7 The site includes the outer half of the Castle/moat ditch, the north boundary being the former prison wall running roughly along the centre of the medieval ditch. Paradise Street itself curves round the outer lip of the ditch. It is assumed that the moat water flowed from east to west along this arm of the defences, emptying into the Castle Mill Stream at the west end of the proposed site. At this point, a map drawn up for Christ Church College in c. 1615 shows a building astride the moat, with paired arches to the Mill Stream at water level (Fig. 2). This may be a watergate, or alternatively a sluice house controlling the water level in the moat. The mapped building on Paradise Street could be the residue of more extensive medieval settlement on what was the direct route from the town West Gate to St Thomas parish and Oseney Abbey. Taylor's map (1750) shows more buildings along the street, a residual watercourse on the centre line of the ditch and possible alterations to the sluice house. Within 39 years the prison had been built and the site is shown as a garden.

### ***The Phase I Evaluation (OA 2002)***

- 1.4.8 The initial three-trench evaluation revealed a layer of limestone rubble within the Castle Ditch which may have acted as a ford or weir at the point at which the ditch meets the Mill Stream. Masonry structures interpreted as being the retaining walls of a channel forming part of a 16th-century sluice house were also recorded, as was a brick culvert which had superseded this structure. A possible 18th-century pitched stone surface was encountered which was cut by a large 19th-century feature. Both may be related to the sluice house which is known from 16th- and 17th-century maps of the area.
- 1.4.9 Due to a high water table at the time of the evaluation, it proved impossible to examine the possible sluice house structures to their full depth. The Paradise Street frontage was also not investigated.

## **2 EVALUATION AIMS**

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving on the site. More specifically the aim was to clarify the plan, extent and degree of survival of the stone-lined culvert identified in the Phase I evaluation, and the possibility of there being a second channel, as depicted on the Christ Church map of 1615 (Fig. 2). The existence of a sluice house structure standing over the channels was also to be further investigated, as was the possibility of further structures fronting onto Paradise Street.
- 2.1.2 In addition to this, the evaluation sought to clarify the nature and extent of any modern disturbance and intrusion on the site.

### **3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Scope of fieldwork**

3.1.1 The Phase II evaluation consisted of two machine-dug trenches (Fig. 3). Trench 4 measured 3 m by 2.5 m and was positioned so as to investigate the remains of any structures fronting onto Paradise Street. Machine excavation could not be carried out close to the wall on the street frontage without impairing the wall's structural integrity, so a hand-excavated slot was dug between the end of the trench and the wall.

3.1.2 Trench 5 was initially 10 m long by 2m wide, located across the projected line of the sluice house as identified in Trench 1 of the Phase I evaluation. During the work, and after consultation with Brian Durham, the trench was widened in order to clarify the plan of the structures revealed.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording**

3.2.1 The trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket, operating under close archaeological supervision. Each trench was cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

#### **3.3 Finds**

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

#### **3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence**

3.4.1 Although due consideration was given to a full range of palaeo-environmental techniques no deposits suitable for sampling were encountered.

#### **3.5 Presentation of results**

3.5.1 In Section 5 (below) the deposits encountered in each trench are described, followed by reports on the artefactual data, classified by material. This is followed in Section 6 by a general discussion and interpretation. Figures are located at the rear of the report.

### **4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **4.1 Soils and ground conditions**

- 4.1.1 The site is located on terrace gravels overlying Oxford Clay. The deposits encountered were predominantly sandy silts and were relatively well drained. The water table was considerably lower than was the case during the Phase I evaluation, allowing more detailed investigation of the structures uncovered.

## 4.2 Description of deposits

### *Trench 4 (Fig. 4)*

- 4.2.1 Natural geology was not encountered, the earliest deposit recorded being a layer of limestone rubble (438) seen at the base of a hand-excavated sondage in the centre of the trench, at 54.95 m OD (2.0 m below ground level). This was overlain by a layer of re-deposited natural gravel (427) 0.2 m thick and a deposit of dark grey silty soil (417=434). Above this was another thin lens of gravel (433), overlain by a dump of bluish grey clay (426=435). The clay layer was up to 0.2 m thick, thinning and petering out toward the north-east. The clay was cut by a pit (415) located in the south-eastern corner of the trench. The pit lay partly outside the limits of the trench, but was more than 0.6 m in diameter and 0.5 m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile. A thin primary silting (414) containing pottery of thirteenth century date (see Appendix 2) was overlain by a patchy lens of charcoal-rich soil (413) and back-filling deposits (412, 411).
- 4.2.2 The pit was overlain by a sequence of five layers of gravel metalling (419, 422, 420, 418, 429) interleaved with a series of layers of soil build-up (425, 423, 421, 424, 430), with a total combined thickness of 0.8 m. These layers, which ran approximately E-W across the south-east end of the trench, are likely to be the northern edge of former surfaces of Paradise Street and yielded pottery dating from the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries (see Appendix 2). A layer of dumped sandy silt soil (416) up to 0.5 m thick was recorded on the north-east side of the trench, but its relationship with the sequence of road surfaces had been removed by the cutting of a large ditch (408).
- 4.2.3 Ditch 408 extended across the middle of the trench on a NW-SE alignment. The alignment suggests that it was a road-side drainage ditch, defining the north side of Paradise Street. The ditch was 3.4 m wide and 1.1 m deep with a V-shaped profile. At its base was a primary fill of sandy soil (432) 0.25 m thick. This was overlain by a deposit of dark grey sandy silt (431) confined to the southern side of the feature, which may be material washed into the ditch from the surface of the adjacent road. The upper fills (405, 406, 407) all consist of greyish brown silty sands and represent the final in-filling of the ditch, dated by the ceramic evidence to the fifteenth century.
- 4.2.4 Ditch 408 was sealed by a layer of garden soil or levelling material (404) 0.2 m thick which extended across the whole trench. Toward the south-west edge of the trench this was overlain by three deposits probably representing floor surfaces, with a total depth of 0.15 m. These comprise a layer of mid greenish grey soil (403) overlain by a

dark red silt (402), above which was an ashy grey layer (401). The floor layers were cut by the foundation trench (437) for the garden wall enclosing the site (428). Finally, all these deposits were sealed by a layer of dumped garden soil (400) 0.25 m thick, which butted up against the garden wall.

### ***Trench 5 (Figs 5 and 6)***

- 4.2.5 Trench 5 was excavated to a depth of 1.1 m without encountering natural geology. The earliest deposit investigated was a layer of light grey ashy sand (510) at least 0.25 m thick was encountered in the northern part of the trench. This is interpreted as a floor surface belonging to an unidentified building which did not otherwise survive within the confines of the trench. It yielded a single sherd of possible thirteenth century pottery. This layer was overlain by a deposit of brown sandy silt (517) which is either a deliberate dump of soil or the result of a gradual build-up following the abandonment of the building. Soil layers 522 and 529, observed at the south-eastern end of the trench, may be equivalent to this deposit.
- 4.2.6 These soil layers were cut by the stone-lined channel identified in Trench 1 of the Phase I evaluation and by the foundations of a structure associated with it, interpreted as representing the remains of the sluice house. The south-east wall of the sluice house survived as limestone footings bonded with an orange sandy mortar (519) within a cut 0.8 m wide and 0.22 m deep (518). The foundation was recorded for a length of 1.45 m, and was truncated to the north-west by modern services. Four metres north-west of this, and lying on the same NE-SW alignment, the north-west wall was represented by a robber trench (507). The trench was exposed for a total length of 2.3 m, continuing to the south-west beyond the limits of the trench, and was 0.6 m wide and 0.25 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was back-filled with orange mortar containing pieces of limestone up to 0.2 m across (506).
- 4.2.7 Between these walls lay the channel (515), 2.2 m wide and revetted by stone walls (511, 512). Excavation within the channel was hampered by a later brick culvert, and became impractical at a depth of 0.5 m without reaching its base. The north-western side of the channel was revetted by wall 511. This structure was 0.5 m wide, built flush with the channel cut with its inner face constructed from ashlar blocks, bonded with a hard creamy-brown lime mortar. The upper part of the wall had a sloping, bevelled profile faced with mortar, which may have been the springing point for an arched vault covering the channel. The wall's north-east end was on a line with the ends of the foundations for the sluice house, and was marked by two squared ashlar blocks projecting at right angles to the line of the wall. Wall 512, which retained the south-east face of the channel, was less well preserved, with much of its facing having been damaged or robbed out. It was 0.5 m wide and constructed from unshaped limestone with no bonding material evident, suggesting that only the faces of the two walls had been dressed and mortared.

- 4.2.8 At some time after its initial construction the walls of the sluice house were extended to the north-east. This was represented in the evaluation by foundation trenches 516 and 520, each of which was 0.5 m wide and filled with un-mortared limestone rubble footings (508, 521). Foundation trench 520 was 0.28 m deep, and it is likely that 516 is of similar proportions, although its depth was not investigated in the evaluation. An extension was also added to the east end of retaining wall 511, presumably at the same time. This comprised wall 502, which extended north-eastward from the end of wall 511, albeit on a slightly different alignment. Wall 502 was constructed flush with the cut of the channel from un-dressed limestone clasts, with dressed ashlar blocks being used only for its exposed southern face, to which a friable orange sandy mortar had been liberally applied. The bevelled profile noted for wall 511 was retained in this extension. The presence of a similar extension to retaining wall 512 could not be investigated due to the presence of modern services in this part of the trench. The pottery from contexts associated with the sluice house and channel was consistently of sixteenth century date (see Appendix 2). During the 19th century a circular brick culvert (514) was inserted into the channel, and the whole back-filled with a mixture of silt and clay (513). The extensions to the sluice house and channel extended no more than 1.5 m before being truncated by the cut (505) for a 19th century sewer which extends across the entire length of the site.
- 4.2.9 A floor surface (509) composed of a mixture of ceramic bricks measuring 23 x 11 x 5 cm and well-rounded limestone cobbles had been laid between the channel and the north-west wall of the sluice house. This surface only survived across an area of 0.85 m by 0.70 m due to truncation of its north side by robber trench 507, and a large degree of root penetration.
- 4.2.10 A later wall (532) constructed of limestone ashlar blocks and 0.6 m wide was set on top of channel retaining wall 511. The east end of the wall appeared to have been truncated, and a length of only 0.75 m was exposed within the trench, continuing beyond the area. This was however sufficient to demonstrate that it was constructed on an E-W alignment, different to that of the other structures present. No other features associated with this structure were observed in the trench.
- 4.2.11 These structures were all overlain by a series of dumps of levelling material (524-8, 533-5) up to 0.6 m thick, sealed by a layer of garden soil (503) 0.3 m thick and a modern levelling layer (501) 0.3 m thick associated with the recently demolished business centre buildings.

### 4.3 Finds

#### *Pottery*

- 4.3.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 95 sherds with a total weight of 1603 g. Most of the assemblage was medieval or later, although a single sherd of late Saxon St. Neots ware was also present, and some of the Cotswolds ware (fabric OXAC) may also date

to before the Norman Conquest. The range of fabric types present suggest that there has been virtually uninterrupted occupation at the site from around the 11th century, if not earlier (see Appendix 2).

### ***Animal Bones***

- 4.3.2 A total of 86 pieces of bone were retrieved during the Phase II evaluation, weighing 1613 g. As with the earlier evaluation, these represented the main domesticated species, with cattle dominating the assemblage (see Appendix 3).

### ***Other finds***

- 4.3.3 A small amount of clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material, iron and glass was also recovered during the course of the evaluation. None was sufficiently diagnostic to be datable.

## **5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

### **5.1 Reliability of field investigation**

- 5.1.1 Both trenches of the Phase II evaluation were able to be excavated as proposed. Trench 4 extended the area evaluated up to the Paradise Street frontage, which had not been examined in the Phase I evaluation, while the positioning of Trench 5 across the sluice house channel recorded previously in Trench 3 allowed this structure to be investigated further.
- 5.1.2 The water table during this phase of work was found to be lower than at the time of the Phase I evaluation, allowing the investigation to continue to a greater depth than was previously possible. Nevertheless, the depth of the investigation was still limited by health and safety considerations and consequently it was not possible to examine the full depth of the stratigraphic sequence. The evidence from a previous borehole survey (Soiltechnics 2002) indicated that the archaeological deposits of the Castle moat continue to a depth of 5 m, but clearly much of this material would be below the level of the impact of the proposed redevelopment.

### **5.2 Overall interpretation**

- 5.2.1 The spread of limestone rubble (438) seen at the base of Trench 4 is identical to deposit 310 recorded in the Phase I evaluation and was also seen in the evaluation carried out at the adjacent Thames Water Authority Depot in 1991 (OAU 1991, OA 2002). It is interpreted as forming part of a weir or ford pre-dating Swan Bridge, which currently carries Paradise Street across the Mill Stream adjacent to the site. In both phases of the evaluation this deposit was overlain by a sequence of re-deposited clay and gravel layers resulting from a deliberate making up of the ground surface. Similar deposits have been recorded at Oxford Castle associated with the excavation of the moat and the construction of the original ramparts, and the ceramic dating

evidence from Paradise Street suggests that the deposits found here may be related to that event.

- 5.2.2 The ashy floor layer (510) recorded in Trench 5 clearly pre-dates the construction of the sluice house and suggests the existence of an earlier building on the site. The single sherd of Brill/Borstall ware retrieved from this layer indicates a possible thirteenth century date. The presence of structures of this date is further indicated by the discovery in Trench 4 of a medieval ridge tile, albeit from an unstratified context. Pit 415 contained similar pottery and so probably belongs to the same phase of occupation.
- 5.2.3 The sequence of metallised surfaces recorded in Trench 4 undoubtedly represent successive re-surfacings of Paradise Street, dated by the ceramic evidence to between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. Ditch 408 is likely to be a drainage ditch alongside the road. The ditch cuts all but the latest of the sequence of surfaces, suggesting that it may be the last phase of a ditch which was re-cut and consequently enlarged each time the road was re-surfaced. Alternatively, it is possible that what appears to be the upper part of the south-west side of ditch 408 is in fact the face of an embankment built up by the successive re-surfacings of the road.
- 5.2.4 The Phase II evaluation has identified the sluice house and partially clarified its plan and extent. The channel revetted by stone walls recorded in Phase I was further investigated and found to have been constructed in two distinct phases, an extension being added to the east end of the original structure. The sloping faces of the inner sides of the retaining walls suggest the springing point for a vault covering the channel. The channel ran through a building which also had two phases of construction. Pottery retrieved from contexts associated with this building date consistently to the 16th century (a single 17th century clay tobacco pipe bowl was also found in one of the foundation trenches of the later extension), and would be consistent with it representing the remains of the sluice house depicted on the Christ Church College map of *c* 1615. This structure was located at the point where the moat fed into the Mill Stream, in order to regulate the outflow of water, and thus control the water level within the moat.
- 5.2.5 During the 19th century, when later phases of Oxford Prison were being constructed on the site of the former castle, a brick culvert was inserted into the channel and the channel was back-filled. It may have been at this time that the sluice house was finally demolished, and the area made up by means of a series of dumped deposits recorded in both phases of evaluation. Buildings were then constructed on the Paradise Street frontage, with gardens to the rear. These buildings are depicted on Hoggar's map of 1850 and their floor surfaces were recorded in Trench 4, although their full extent and form was not revealed within the evaluation trenches.
- 5.2.6 Intact stratigraphic sequences were identified and recorded in both Phase II trenches. In Trench 4 there was little evidence for disturbance to the archaeological strata. The

post-medieval floor surfaces and boundary wall impacted only on levelling layer 404, and did not effect the underlying deposits and features. In Trench 5 there was more evidence for truncation in the form of a 19th century sewer which had removed the east end of the sluice house and channel, and a more recent man-hole and associated service trenches in the southern half of the trench. There was also damage to wall 511 and floor surface 509 caused by root penetration. The impact of 20th century buildings however seems to have been largely confined to the levelling deposits sealing the archaeological layers.

### 5.3 Acknowledgements

- 5.3.1 OA would like to acknowledge the cooperation of Ambroseden Court Ltd and St Peter's College, who commissioned the investigation, and of Brian Durham, who monitored the work on behalf of Oxford City Council. The plant was provided by David Beecroft Ltd. The fieldwork was carried out by Gerry Thacker and Dan Watkeys and supervised by Andy Simmonds. The project was managed by Dan Poore MIFA.



## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Table 1: Trench 4

<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>No./wt (g)</i>	<i>Date</i>
400	Layer		0.25	Garden soil			
401	Layer		0.03	Floor layer			
402	Layer		0.06	Floor layer			
403	Layer		0.05	Floor Layer			
404	Layer		0.2	Garden soil			
405	Fill		0.1	Fill of ditch 408			
406	Fill		0.25	Fill of ditch 408			
407	Fill		0.6	Fill of ditch 408	Pot Bone	8/165 12/298	15thC
408	Cut	3.4	1.1	Ditch			
409	Fill			Fill of Evaluation Trench 3	Pot CBM	7/96	Modern
410	Cut			Evaluation Trench 3			Modern
411	Fill		0.2	Fill of pit 415			
412	Fill		0.2	Fill of pit 415			
413	Fill		0.08	Fill of pit 415			
414	Fill		0.06	Fill of pit 415	Pot Bone	10/68 1/8	13thC?
415	Cut	> 0.6	0.5	Pit			
416	Layer		0.6				
417	Layer		0.5		Pot	11/139	L11thC
418	Layer		0.04	Metalled surface			
419	Layer		0.04	Metalled surface			
420	Layer		0.04	Metalled surface			
421	Layer		0.12	Soil build-up	Pot Bone	3/7 1/23	M16thC
422	Layer		0.02	Metalled surface			
423	Layer		0.25	Soil build-up	Pot	3/32	13thC
424	Layer		0.04	Soil build-up			
425	Layer		0.2	Soil build-up	Pot	2/9	13thC
426	Layer		0.1	Dumped clay layer			
427	Layer		0.2	Dumped gravel layer	Pot Bone	4/41 16/448	M11thC?
428	Masonry			Wall			
429	Layer		0.04	Metalled surface			
430	Layer		0.1	Soil build-up			
431	Fill		0.25	Fill of ditch 408			
432	Fill		0.23	Fill of ditch 408			
433	Layer		0.04	Dumped gravel layer			
434	Layer			Same as 417			
435	Layer			Same as 426			
436	Fill		0.3	Packing in 437			
437	Cut		0.3	Construction cut for wall 428			

438	Layer			Limestone surface			

Table 2: Trench 5

<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
501	Layer		0.3	Levelling layer			Modern
502	Masonry	0.55		Wall			
503	Layer		0.3	Garden soil			
504	Fill	>0.85		Fill of sewer trench 505			
505	Cut	>0.85		Sewer trench			
506	Fill	0.6	0.25	Fill of robber trench 507	Pot	1/28	M16thC
507	Cut	0.6	0.25	Robber trench			
508	Fill	0.5		Wall foundation	Pot Bone Clay pipe	30/651 15/137	17thC
509	Layer	0.85 x 0.7	0.05	Brick surface			
510	Layer		>0.25	Floor surface	Pot Bone Shell Fe nail	1/1 2/206	13thC?
511	Masonry	0.5	0.9	Wall			
512	Masonry	0.7		Wall			
513	Fill		>0.5	Fill of channel 515	Pot CBM	2/37	19thC
514	Masonry	0.65		Brick culvert			
515	Cut	2.2	>0.5	Channel			
516	Cut	0.5		Construction cut			
517	Layer		0.25	Levelling/build-up	Pot Bone Clay pipe	3/66 7/262	M16thC
518	Cut	0.82	0.22	Construction cut			
519	Masonry	0.82	0.22	Wall foundation			
520	Cut	0.5	0.28	Construction cut			
521	Fill	0.5	0.28	Foundation			
522	Layer		0.32	Soil layer	Pot Bone CBM Clay pipe Fe nail	7/228 12/230 3	17thC
523	Layer			Same as 522			
524	Layer		0.4	Levelling layer			
525	Layer		0.12	Levelling layer			
526	Layer		0.12	Levelling layer			
527	Layer		0.18	Levelling layer			
528	Layer		0.18	Levelling layer			
529	Layer			Soil layer	Pot Bone	3/35 1/1	M16thC
530	Layer			Same as 522			
531	Fill	0.8	0.22	Packing in 520			
532	Masonry		0.6	Wall			

533	Layer		0.18	Levelling layer			
534	Layer		0.46	Levelling layer			
535	Layer		0.24	Levelling layer			

## APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 95 sherds with a total weight of 1,603 g. Most of the assemblage was medieval or later, although a single sherd of late Saxon St. Neots ware was also present, and some of the Cotswolds ware (fabric OXAC) may date to before the Norman Conquest. The range of fabric types present suggest that there has been virtually uninterrupted occupation at the site from around the 11th century, if not earlier.

### Fabric

The pottery was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXR: St. Neots Ware type T1(1), AD850-1100. 1 sherd, 2g.

OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 10 sherds, 157g.

OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 – 1350. 15 sherds, 166g.

OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 25 sherds, 398g.

OXST: Frechen Stoneware, AD1550 – 1700. 2 sherds, 21g.

OXFH: Border wares, 1550 - 1700. 9 sherds, 238g.

OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 32 sherds, 604g.

WHEW: Mass-produced white earthenwares, mid 19th - 20th C. 1 sherd, 17g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 3. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	OXR		OXAC		OXY		OXAM		OXST		OXDR		OXFH		WHEW		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
407			1	9			7	156									15thC
409					3	49	2	18	1	19	1	10					M16thC
414							10	68									13thC?
417	1	2	2	57	8	80											L1 11thC
421							1	2			2	5					M16thC
423			1	25	1	4	1	3									13thC
425			1	7			1	2									13thC
427			4	41													M1 11thC?
506											1	28					M16thC
508					1	8	1	112			22	367	6	164			M16thC
510							1	1									13thC?
513					1	20									1	17	19thC
517											1	4	2	62			M16thC
522							1	36	1	2	5	190					17thC
529			1	18	1	5							1	12			M16thC
Total	1	2	10	157	15	166	25	398	2	21	32	604	9	238	1	17	

### Discussion

This assemblage represents the second group of pottery from this site, with the first (OA 2002) comprising 72 sherds with a total weight of 1229g. The two assemblages when combined appear worthy of analysis and publication. The earlier assemblage included vessel and fabric types which are unusual in Oxford, such as Stamford ware, Shelly coarseware and Surrey Whiteware (Oxford fabrics OXZ, OXCK and OXBG), with the first two represented by vessel rims and the other by a dripping dish handle. An unusual Brill/Boarstall vessel was also present.

This assemblage did not produce any unusual fabrics or forms, but did produce evidence of late Saxon or Saxo-Norman activity. The sherd of St. Neots ware is likely to date to before the Norman Conquest, and the few contexts which produced only Cotswolds-type ware may have the same chronology. The latter is known in pre-Conquest contexts in Oxford, but was not common until after the mid-11th century (Mellor 1994, 51-2).

### APPENDIX 3 ANIMAL BONE

by Emma-Jayne Evans

#### Introduction

A total of 86 (1613 g) bones were recovered during the Phase II evaluation. Fresh breaks were noted on many of the bones, and the re-assembly of some of the elements reduced the fragment count to 67. Of these, 33 bones and teeth could be identified to species.

#### Methodology

Identification of the bone was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology with access to the reference collection and published guides. All the animal bones were counted, and where possible the bones were identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Also, fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing and burning were noted. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as small (small mammal size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size). The separation of sheep and goat bones was done using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Prummel and Frisch (1986), in addition to the use of the reference material housed at OA. Where distinctions could not be made, the bone was recorded as sheep/goat.

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996), with grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Tooth eruption and wear stages were measured using a combination of Halstead (1985) and Grant (1982). Loose 3rd molars were aged using this method, but are not included in the final age structure due to minimum number considerations. Measurements were taken according to the methods of Von Den Driesch (1976).

#### Results

The animal remains excavated were in good condition, with the majority scoring according to Lyman's grading being 2. Table 4 below identifies all the species present from the site according to phase.

*Table 4: Total number of bones identifiable to species and phase*

Date	Cattle	S/g	Pig	Chicken	Unid	Total
Mid 11th century	4	1	6		5	16
13th century	1	1			1	3
15th century	3	4	1		4	12

Mid 16th century	4	2	2	1	15	24
17th century	2	1			9	12
Total	14	9	9	1	34	67

The bones from Phase II, as with the previously analysed Phase I material, are represented by the main domestic species, with cattle dominating the assemblage. The good condition of the bones from both phases of evaluation has led to the measurement of many bones, and the identification of cut marks and gnawing marks. Further excavation of animal bone from this site has the potential to provide good information regarding age at death from both tooth wear analysis and fusion data.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that any further work should consider sampling for environmental remains to recover smaller bones such as small mammal, bird and fish bones that may further contribute to our understanding of the environment and the diet of the inhabitants of the site.

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## APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Paradise Street, Oxford

**Site code:** OXPSBC 02

**Grid reference:** SP 5095 0608

**Type of evaluation:** Two machine-excavated trenches: one measuring 10 m by 2 m and one measuring 3 m by 2 m.

**Date and duration of project:** 8.12.03-17.12.03

**Area of site:** 0.33 ha.

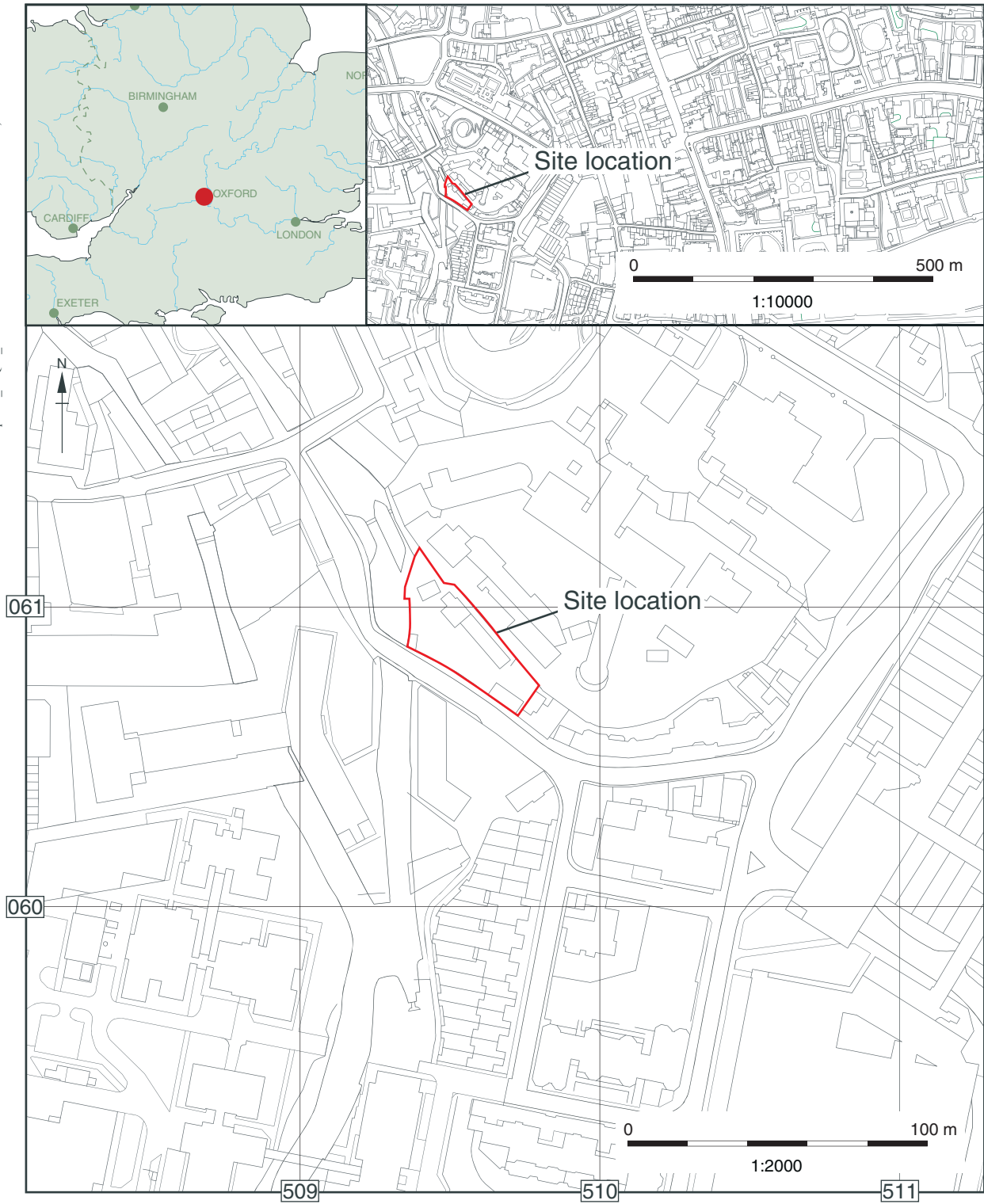
**Summary of results:** The evaluation revealed a limestone spread which may have formed part of an early ford or weir at the point where the castle moat fed into the Mill Stream. Layers of re-deposited clay and gravel were also discovered, which probably date to the construction of the defences of the adjacent Oxford Castle. The floor of a probable 13th century building was discovered at the north end of the area excavate. A sequence of metallised surfaces related to Paradise Street itself were uncovered, dating to between the 13th and 16th centuries, along with a road-side drainage ditch. A channel revetted by stone walls, which was probably involved in management of the flow of water from the moat and which had been previously observed in the Phase I evaluation, was further investigated, and the foundations of a sluice house which formerly stood over it were identified. This structure was dated to the 16th century and is believed to be the building recorded at this location on a map dating to c

1615. Floor surfaces belonging to later buildings fronting onto Paradise Street were also present.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: 2002.223





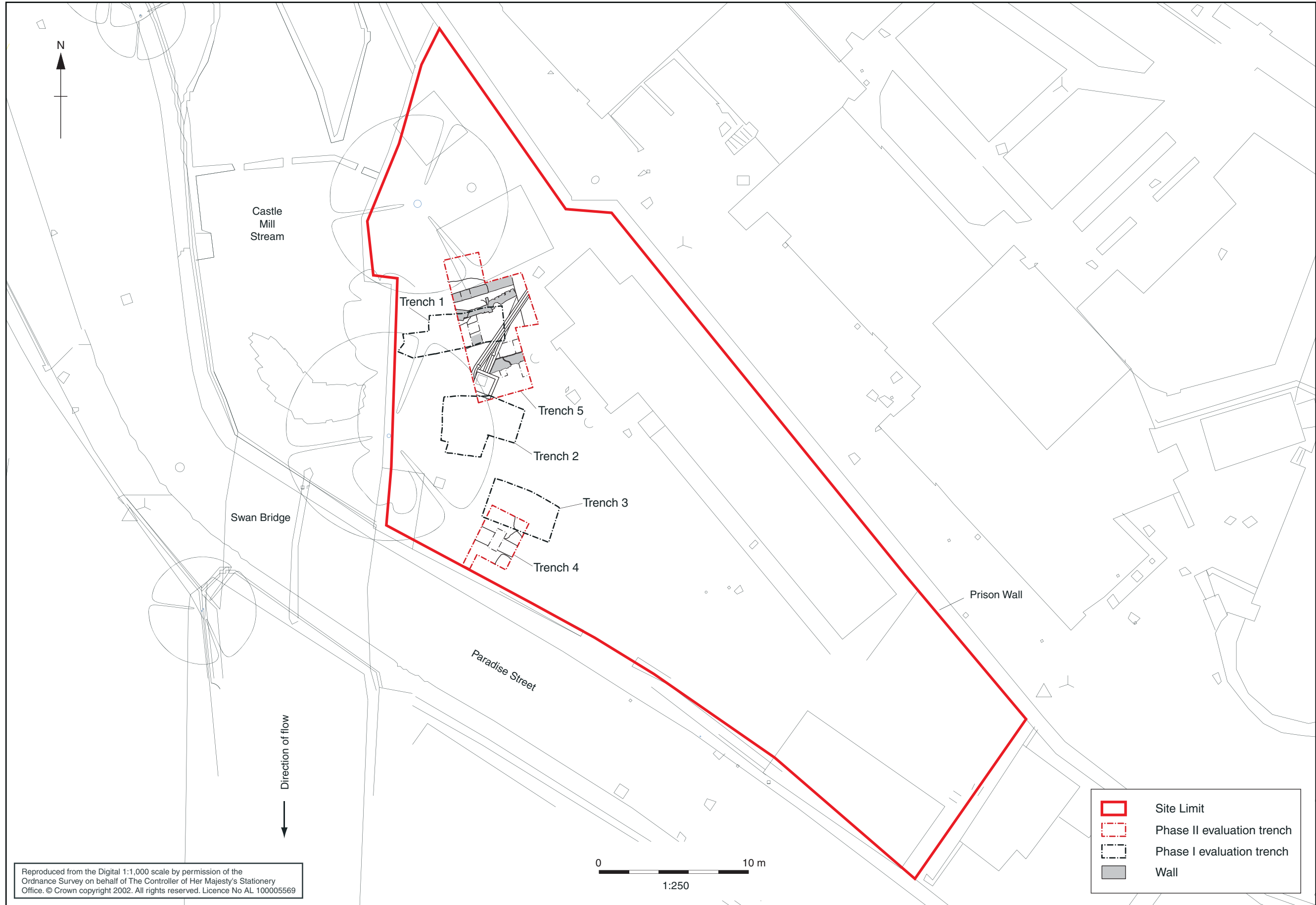


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Figure 1: Site location



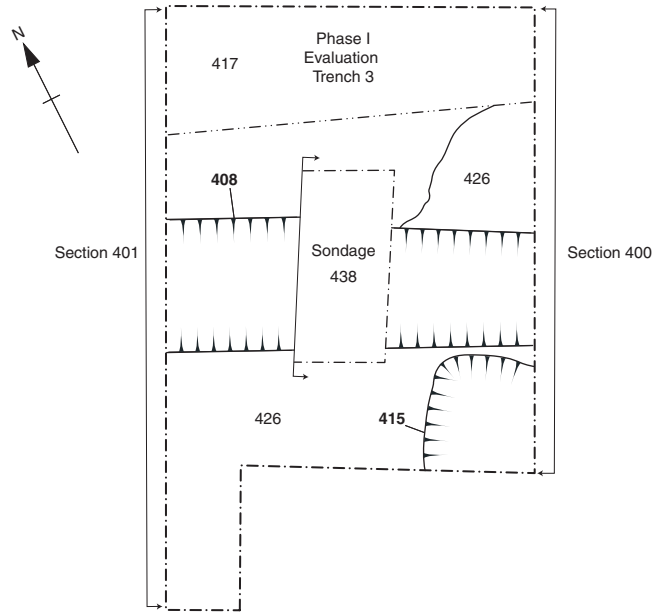
Figure 2: Detail from Christ Church plan of Oxford Castle, c. 1615



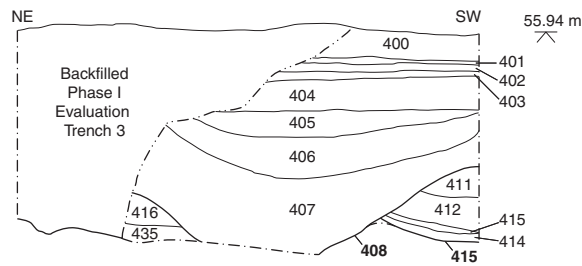
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Figure 3: Trench location

### Trench 4 Plan 400



### Section 400



### Section 401

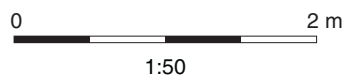
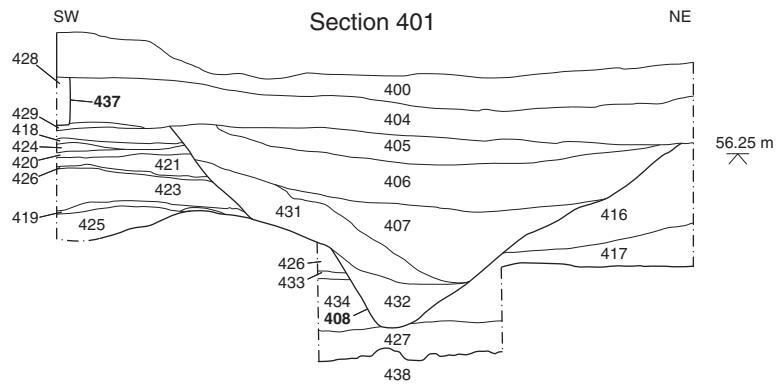


Figure 4: Trench 4, plan and sections

### Trench 5 Plan

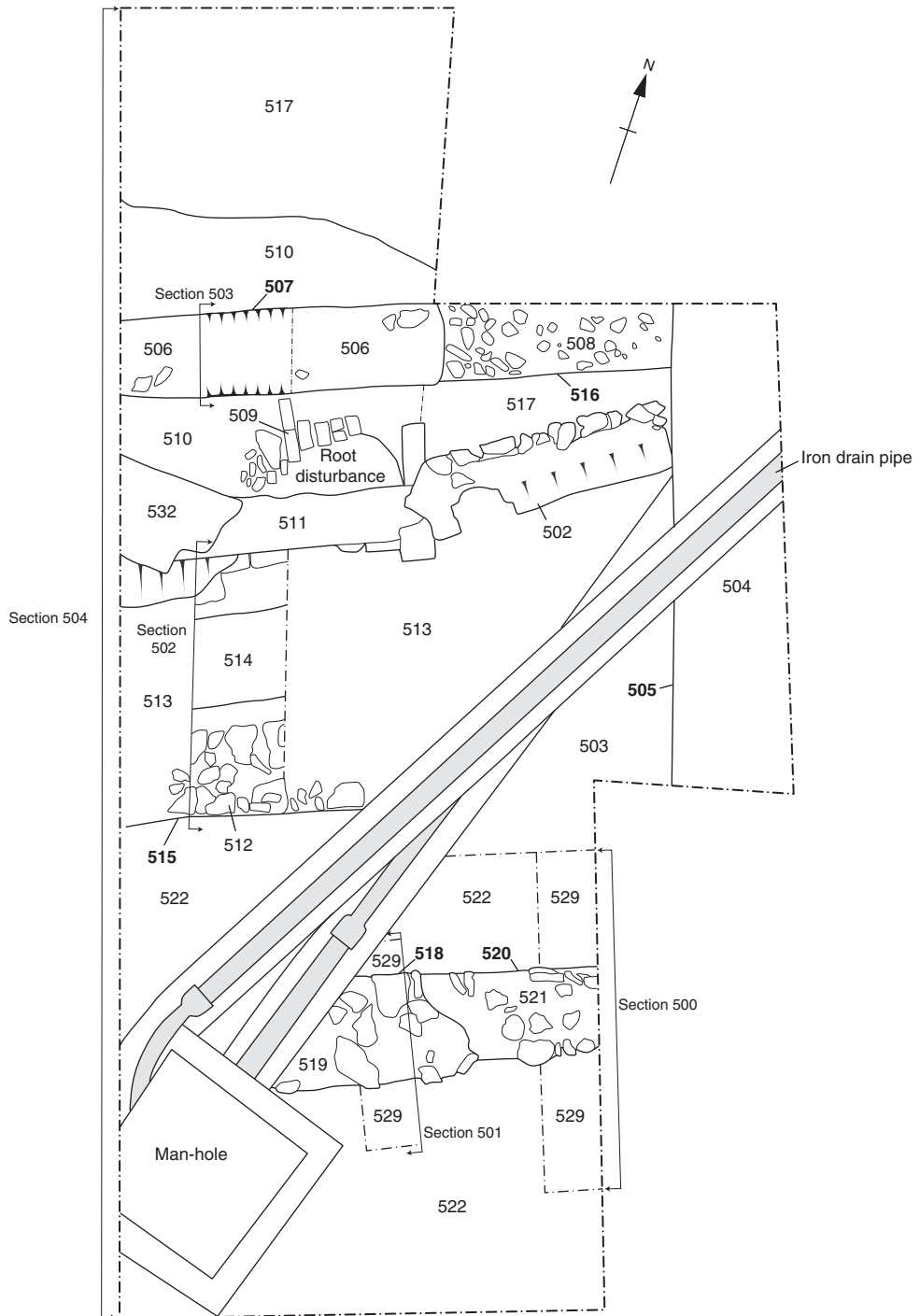


Figure 5: Trench 5, plan

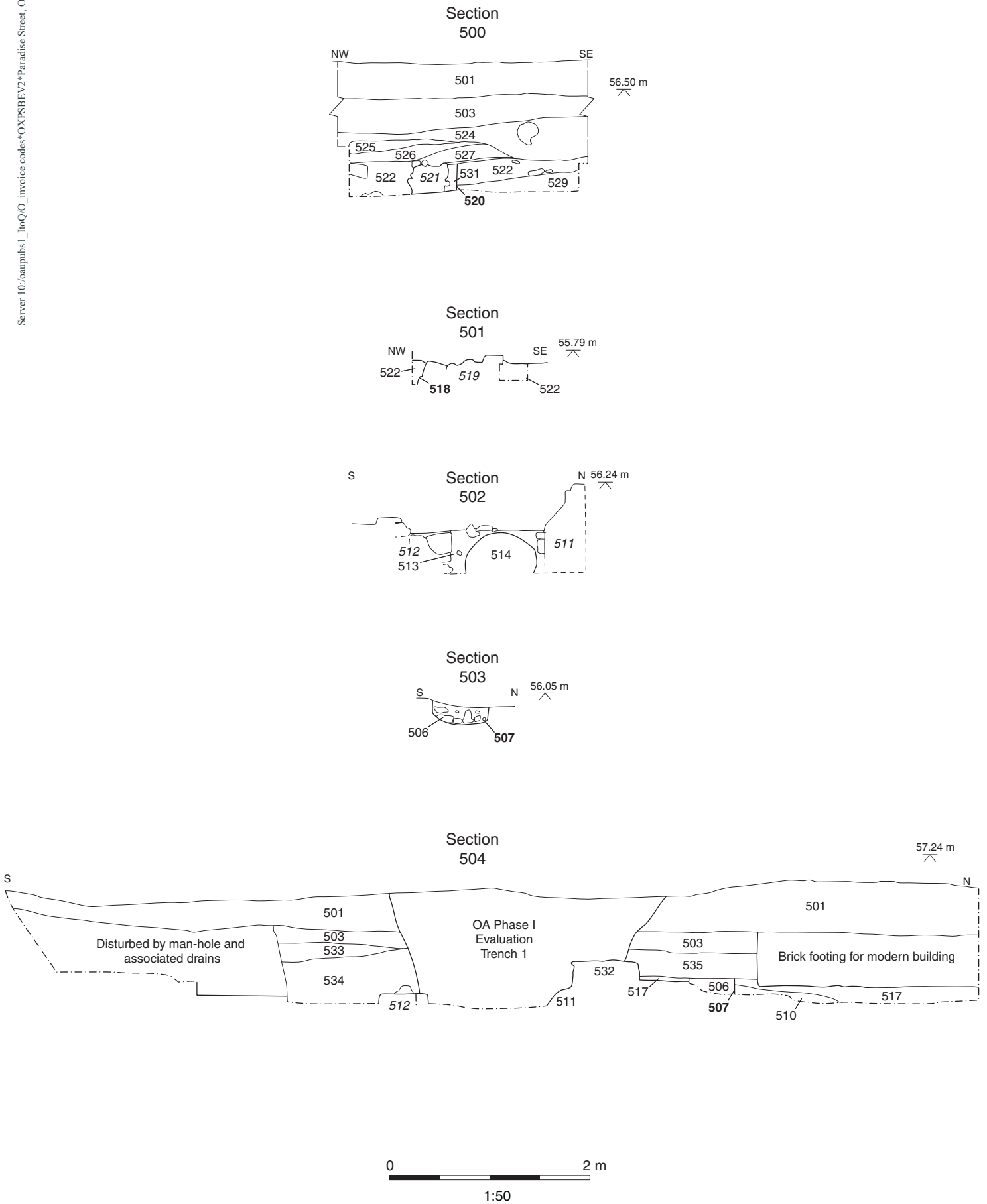


Figure 6: Trench 5 sections



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