

# The Ship Street Centre Ship Street Oxford



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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## **The Ship Street Centre**

### **Ship Street, Oxford**

#### *Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

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## Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a programme of archaeological investigation at Ship Street Oxford during redevelopment of the former Oxford Story for Jesus College. The Oxford Story was housed in a former 19th-century warehouse which incorporated Bastion 4 of the Oxford city wall.

Following historic building recording and the stage 1 trenching of the archaeological evaluation, carried out by OA in late December 2008 and early January 2009, it was agreed with David Radford of Oxford City Council (OCC) that the remaining groundworks would be subject to an archaeological watching brief.

The watching brief covered the excavation of piling caps and underpinning slots necessary for the redevelopment of the property into a conference venue and student accommodation for Jesus College.

Stone walls were uncovered on the north and east edges of the site. The wall to the east was parallel to the existing property boundary and was almost certainly the remnant of an earlier post-medieval boundary wall.

The rubble walls on the north were only seen in a small area, and were not very substantial. They were adjacent to the current property boundaries but in a location that in 1878 (as seen from the first edition OS plan) was in the centre of a garden stretching behind three properties on Broad Street. These walls were abutted by a deposit interpreted as a buried post-medieval garden soil and may represent insubstantial post-medieval outbuildings demolished prior to the creation of the garden.

A small section of the east face of the existing west wall of the cellar was uncovered in a piling cap slot. This wall is thought to be a section of the city wall where it turned north from the Saxon wall line to detour around St Michael's church, the bastion being at the corner of the rerouted section. The small area of this wall seen in the trench is in the area where a blocked arch is visible in the wall within the cellar and this section consisted of further rubble blocking of the arch. The north side of the arch appears to have been truncated by the construction of the existing cellar access opening through the wall. Any relationship of the blocking to the south jamb of the opening was, however, covered by render on the area exposed in the slot. The arch may be a relieving arch rather than a former opening; parts of the city wall are built on relieving arches but they are generally larger than this one and not necessarily filled with masonry.

A 19th-century brick well was exposed just north of the warehouse and east of the bastion; this had a lead pipe within it and is just north-east of a square brick cistern seen in excavations in 1986. The two features were probably part of a water supply system and if not connected with the warehouse are within the area of the garden existing to the north in 1878.

A sequence of make up and levelling layers consistent with those recorded during the evaluation were also observed, relating to the use of the site by William Baker & Co and the subsequent conversion into the Oxford Story.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Following a field evaluation carried out at the former Oxford Story buildings, 2 Ship Street, during December 2008 and January 2009, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a watching brief in accordance with the amended Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2008).
- 1.1.2 The site is situated within the historic core of modern Oxford, between the rear of properties 1-8 on the northern side of Ship Street and to the rear of properties 1-8 on the southern side of Broad Street. There is access to the site via a small alleyway between Nos. 1 and 2 Ship Street. The site's western boundary abuts the eastern boundary of St Michael's Church (Fig. 1)

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site sits on relatively level ground at c. 64.5 – 65.0 m OD towards the southern end of a gravel promontory consisting of Quaternary River Gravels of the 2nd (Summertown-Radley) Terrace Deposits. The promontory extends broadly north-south between the River Isis c. 500m to the west and the River Cherwell c. 600m to the east, their confluence lies c. 1 km SSE. The gravels on this terrace are typically overlain by a c. 0.3m depth of red brown loessic loam.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

#### *Prehistoric and Roman*

- 1.3.1 Neolithic pits have been found within excavations to the north of the site and Mansfield College, the Institute for American Studies and at the New Chemistry Laboratory. Recent work at St John's College's Kendrew Quadrangle has revealed a henge monument dated to around 300 BC. The henge would have encompassed the area now occupied by Keble College and the Pitt Rivers Museum.
- 1.3.2 A number of Bronze Age (c. 2,400-700 BC) barrow ditches have been identified in central Oxford. It is probable that there was an extensive barrow cemetery dating to this period, extending along the gravel promontory between the River Thames and River Cherwell from University Parks southwards to the site of the new Sackler Library (Poore and Wilkinson, 2001, fig. 13). The cemetery probably developed in the 'ritual landscape' around the former, but probably still extant, earthworks relating to the earlier henge.
- 1.3.3 Archaeological excavations to the north of the site have uncovered evidence of activity dated to the Iron Age. Recent investigations at the Rex Richards and Rodney Porter buildings found evidence of Iron Age ditches, pits and pottery. It is possible that rectilinear cropmarks observed in University Parks relate to Iron Age field systems and/or settlement.
- 1.3.4 A number of sites along with moderate quantities of Roman pottery have been found within the city and clearly indicate a Roman presence. Seven inhumations were found at the Radcliffe Science Library, and a timber building was found at Mansfield College. Other evidence including ditched enclosures and field systems indicate the presence of a small-scale rural settlement dating from the late 1st to the 4th centuries (Booth and Hayden 2000, 301-2, 329).





### ***Saxon and Medieval***

- 1.3.5 Archaeological evidence for mid Saxon activity at Oxford is almost exclusively restricted to the southern limit of the south edge of the Second Gravel Terrace and the Thames crossing beyond, now the northern part of Abingdon Road and the site of Christ Church and St Aldates Church. It comprises discoveries that attest to the establishment and maintenance of a river crossing; settlement and activity along the line of the crossing and St Frideswide's minster (Dodd et al 2003).
- 1.3.6 Oxford was an Anglo-Saxon burh founded as part of the system of 31 fortresses of Alfred's successful military strategy to drive the Vikings from Mercia and London in the late 9th century or very early 10th century.
- 1.3.7 The full extent of the burh is not entirely certain, although it has long been accepted that the area between the later medieval Eastgate and Schools Street/Oriel Street represents an extension, perhaps of the early 11th century. The site at Ship Street (itself a possible intra-mural street) lies on the line of the northern defences of the burh immediately to the east of the northern entrance.
- 1.3.8 The earthen rampart of the late Saxon burh was reconstructed with a stone wall between 1220 and 1290. However, at Bastion 4 the whole line of the town wall is set c. 14m northwards of the probable line of the Saxon rampart, perhaps as early as 1100 to accommodate the church and probable cemetery of St. Michael at the North Gate. The bastion, or tower, would be a 13th century addition to the line of the wall at this point.
- 1.3.9 Ship Street ran along the inside of the northern defensive wall. Land immediately inside and outside the walls belonged to the town as waste and was not generally developed for housing before the 16th century (see below). It is possible that within the area defined by the projecting wall, a property was developed later in the medieval period and there is record of a dispute having arisen when a house had been built in the 14th century on part of the cemetery, and in 1415 the town successfully claimed land in the cemetery as being next the wall (Hurst 1899, 69).
- 1.3.10 Traditionally Bastion 4 is known as 'Bishops Hole' and regarded as an offshoot of the Bocardo Prison which was situated within the, now demolished, medieval Northgate.

### ***Post-medieval and Victorian***

- 1.3.11 The site is possibly the location of the former 16th-century tenement and garden of Alderman Flexney, leased in 1546 and 1565 and described as 'within the wall eastward from St Michaels Church'. Bastion 4 may have been contained within Flexneys property. It is the only house shown on the north side of Ship Street on Agas' map of 1578.
- 1.3.12 Bastion 4 is described in 19th century guidebooks as the place where Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley were confined in 1555-6. Tradition also records, possibly not accurately, that Cranmer watched the burning of Latimer and Ridley in the Broad Street ditch from within, or from the summit of the tower, labelled on the 1875 OS Town Plan as Martyrs Bastion.
- 1.3.13 The remainder of this side of Ship Street was developed in the 17th century as Loggans map of 1675 shows. By the mid-18th century Bastion 4 stood in the yard of the Ship Inn, an infamous coaching inn built c. 1756 (Nos. 1-5 Ship St).,
- 1.3.14 The bastion is shown on a plan in the City Vellum book from the first half of the 19th century with stables in the ground floor (OA 2010, fig. 2) and there is a very valuable photograph of the interior of the bastion taken by Henry Taunt c.1880 (reproduced in



Dodd et al, 2003, plate 4.7). The photograph shows large principal floor joists extending east to west across the bastion as well as various features, which were subsequently covered with plaster. There were fireplaces on all floors showing that it had been in human occupation prior to becoming a stable.

- 1.3.15 The bastion is a large, well preserved structure, although it has been much altered since forming part of the medieval defences, and parts are known to have been significantly rebuilt in the 19th century. It extends c. 9m above current ground level (although excavations exposed stonework extending three metres below ground level) and has six secondary windows. Its parapet was renewed in the 1880s and the interior has been linked to the internal space of the abutting warehouse at the three floor levels.
- 1.3.16 The rooms at each of the three floors within the bastion have been considerably squared, presumably when the bastion was converted to domestic use, and the photograph from c. 1880 shows it with this form. The internal walls are covered with modern plaster but the outline of features such as former fireplaces are clearly visible and the c.1880 photograph also shows that the interior had already been plastered prior to that date.

#### ***Bakers Warehouse (built 1882)***

- 1.3.17 The following outline historical background is based largely on information contained in an excellent website (<http://www.headington.org.uk/> also see bibliography) and the Oxford Encyclopaedia.
- 1.3.18 The large warehouse which currently occupies part of the proposed development site was constructed in 1882 for William Baker & Co. The company was established in c.1800 as 'cabinet makers, upholsterers, carpet factors, house decorators and complete furnishers' although they particularly specialised in china and glass, furniture and fabrics (Hibbert, 1988). The company's main premises were located at No.1 Broad Street towards the junction with Cornmarket and in 1865 they constructed an additional showroom. In 1882 a partnership was formed with another company to form Baker & Prior and, presumably as part of the same expansion, the same year saw the construction of the new four-storey warehouse which forms part of the current project. The warehouse was to the rear of the company's main premises at No.1 Broad Street and extended behind No 3 (possibly the showroom constructed in 1865).
- 1.3.19 The partnership appears to have shortlived because in 1886 they reverted to William Baker & Co and following Baker's death in 1902 the company was taken over by Elliston & Cavell. In 1915 the company moved into newly built premises immediately to the west which formed a prominent curved facade stretching around the corner between Broad Street and Cornmarket. This building, which is still known as William Baker House, has been a bookshop since 1987 (initially Dillons and now Waterstones). The previous building on this site (immediately west from Bakers' No.1 Broad Street premises) is shown on an English Heritage's View Finder website (<http://viewfinder.english-heritage.org.uk/> ref no: CC72/02292) and included the somewhat tastelessly named Martyrs Hairdressers.
- 1.3.20 The warehouse was vacated by Baker's in the 1980s and converted into a commercial historical display called The Oxford Story.
- 1.3.21 The building is only of moderate significance but it is an attractive, carefully detailed warehouse structure. It is a four-storey building (including attic storey) and has a rectangular plan. It is of polychromatic brick construction with red brick piers and yellow brick panels. There is attractive dentil brickwork at eaves and a moulded brick



cornice at first floor. There are fine square-headed gauged brick lintels and the building is braced by regular tie-bars.

- 1.3.22 Research during building recording of the warehouse and bastion undertaken by OA at the same time as the evaluation revealed that the warehouse was designed by local Oxford Architect Frederick Codd and his original drawings dated 1881 are preserved in the deposited plans belonging to Oxford City Council (OA 2010 figs. 5 & 6).

***Previous archaeological investigation in the area***

- 1.3.23 Archaeological work comprising the excavation of three trenches and building recording of Bastion 4's external elevation was completed in advance of the Oxford Story development in 1986 and has been published (Dodd, A, 2003, 164 – 172).
- 1.3.24 Trench 1 revealed loams and gravel deposits dating to the 18th century overlying 17th century fills of the town ditch that extended down to 3.2m below ground level; below this depth soft deposits were augered to a depth of 5m below ground level.
- 1.3.25 Trench 2 was filled with modern building materials to a depth of 1.6m below ground level.
- 1.3.26 A substantial medieval wall, recorded to be 1.6m thick extended on a N-S alignment through the cellar in the south of the site. It had a passage inserted through it, and had been extensively refaced with only limited in-situ medieval fabric on its eastern face. The top of a probable postern gateway was observed in Trench 3. This could be the Town Wall or related to medieval undercrofts.
- 1.3.27 The archive holds a note on a geotechnical borehole that was located 2.5m north of No. 4 Ship Street (precise location unknown). The note records that fills were observed to a depth of 6m below ground level this could be due to a deep isolated feature (such as a pit or well etc) or the presence of a defensive ditch.
- 1.3.28 In December 2008 and early January 2009 OA carried a field evaluation at the former Oxford Story buildings. Two archaeological test pits (ATPs) were excavated within the former Baker's warehouse. The earliest feature encountered during the evaluation was a North-South aligned wall within ATP1, a continuation of the eastern side of Bastion 4. The extant remains of which are incorporated into the northern wall of the warehouse.
- 1.3.29 The 1879 OS plan indicated an E-W continuation of the city defences to the east of Bastion 4 but no evidence of such a structure was located during the works. Although evidence for a robber trench was observed within ATP 2, it is more likely that this was the removal of a 17th century structure later mistakenly assumed to be part of the city defences.
- 1.3.30 To the west of the wall in ATP 1 undisturbed 17th century deposits were recorded, the top of which were at 64.62m AOD. These were contemporary with a sequence of floor layers observed within ATP 2 and truncated by the possible robber cut.
- 1.3.31 The floor sequences within ATP 2 began at a height of 62.56m AOD and continued to a height of 63.41m AOD. The later surfaces dating to the 18th century, were probably related to the use of the site as stables for the former Ship Inn, which stood on the site from c 1756.
- 1.3.32 During the mid 19th century development of the site was evident through a significant truncation event and then the construction of the former Baker's Warehouse in 1882. During the excavation of the warehouse foundations within ATP 2 it appears that the possible robber cut was also incorporated as part this work.



- 1.3.33 A sequence of make up layers, floor surfaces and drainage features were also observed and relate to the use of the site by William Baker & Co and subsequent development into the Oxford Story.
- 1.3.34 Concurrently with the below ground evaluation OA carried out building recording on the scheduled bastion structure and on the former warehouse. The work on the bastion consisted of analysis and rectified photographic recording of the interior elevations. This work found that that the interior of the bastion was rebuilt with fireplaces and larger windows in the post medieval period, possibly in the 16th century, to convert it to domestic use (OA 2010). Just prior to the construction of the warehouse in 1882 the bastion had extended further south as shown by the Taunt photograph and by the walls uncovered during the evaluation. The current south end of the east wall is largely a rebuild/repair carried out as part of the warehouse construction.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 OA would like to extend its gratitude to Clarkson Alliance Ltc. and to Ben Wallis of Architects Design Partnership LLP. OA would also like to thank David Radford of Oxford City Council and to David Shipley, for their help during the works. The majority of the fieldwork for the Watching Brief was undertaken by Jenny Thurston of OA.

## **2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims**

- 2.1.1 The principal aims of the watching brief were:

- (i) To establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the development area and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains that may affect further need for mitigation during the construction process.
- (ii) To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features, and to make available the results of the archaeological investigation.
- (iii) To unify, where possible, the recording process and archaeology of the below ground remains and building recording of the standing structure.

### **2.2 Specific Aims**

- 2.2.1 The specific aims of the watching brief were to monitor the following, as outlined by David Radford (OCC).
- (i) Ground beams and pile caps
  - (ii) Completion of service trenching (both south of the warehouse and internally)
  - (iii) Excavation of the lift pit
  - (iv) New slab for northern floor of warehouse
  - (v) New slab to the south of the warehouse
  - (vi) New ground slab for cellar
  - (vii) Tower crane base



## 2.3 Methodology

### ***Scope and method of fieldwork (Fig. 2)***

- 2.3.1 A series of trenches and slots for ground beams and pile caps were machine excavated in the north area of site. Ground beam trenches were 0.9 – 1.5m wide and between 0.6 and 0.8m deep. The pile cap slots varied in size as necessary to accommodate the caps and were on average between 1.2 – 1.3m deep.
- 2.3.2 Structural considerations regarding the eastern boundary wall of site required along the eastern boundary wall to be machine excavated in 1-2m sections, and underpinned before the next was excavated. Each underpinning trench was approximately 1m wide and 0.6m deep.
- 2.3.3 The southern area of excavation consisted of two machine-excavated trenches at right angles to each other, each around 1m wide and running 4.2m North – South and 2.4m East – West. Both were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m below ground level.
- 2.3.4 A hand excavated slot was excavated, measuring 2.8m east-west by 1.6m north-south, in the cellar to accommodate a ground beam supporting pile cap. The slot was excavated to a depth of 0.5m below the current cellar floor level.
- 2.3.5 A slot was hand excavated, measuring 1.1m in length and 0.5m in width, against the brick additions at the south-eastern face of Bastion 4 to a depth of 0.6m, to accommodate the removal of the brickwork in order to expose the upstanding fabric of the scheduled bastion.
- 2.3.6 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and excavated sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using digital photography and black-and-white print negatives. All features and deposits revealed were also issued with unique context numbers, excavated where required, and context recording was carried out in accordance with established OA practice as detailed in the OA Field Manual (Wilkinson, 1992). All contexts and any small finds and samples from the features were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context.
- 2.3.7 As the work was undertaken within a building it was necessary to use artificial lighting and this occasionally made interpretation difficult.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Archaeological deposits

#### ***Northern area of excavation (Figure 3, Plan 300 & 302)***

- 3.1.1 Excavation of the ground beam trenches revealed areas of post-medieval deposits, up to a depth of 0.1m, which could not be stratigraphically linked due to the shallow depth of the intervening ground beam excavations. This was overlain by modern gravel and hardcore, 0.6m deep, and sealed by the existing concrete floor.
- 3.1.2 The pile cap slot for piles 4 and 5, measured 2.4m in length and 1.8m wide. At the base of the slot four post-medieval walls were revealed (Fig. 2; Plate 1). Walls 305 and 303 were constructed of rough hewn limestone blocks on average 220x160x160mm in size, and were aligned east to west. It is possible that both walls were of the same construction, but truncation by a modern drain destroyed the relationship and cut into the north face of the walls.



- 3.1.3 On a north south alignment, wall 304 was perpendicular to wall 303, although their relationship is uncertain. The wall was constructed of rubble limestone blocks measuring on average 220x180x140mm. There was an insufficient amount revealed at the base of the slot to determine any pattern of coursing, the stones were bonded with lime mortar.
- 3.1.4 Running parallel to 303 and 305, limestone wall 302 ran the width of the northern end of the trench on an East to West alignment.
- 3.1.5 The walls were abutted by a light brown-grey sandy silt deposit (328), which appears to represent a post-medieval trapped garden soil layer, and was the earliest deposit revealed. Overlying this were a series of post-medieval make up deposits relating the William Baker & Co warehouse. Sealing these deposits was modern gravel and concrete layers, forming the modern floor surface.
- 3.1.6 The area around pile 11 on the west side of this area revealed a 19th century circular red brick structure with corbelled upper courses (300). There was modern rubbish within the backfill and a vertical lead pipe at the centre. This was probably a well rather than a soakaway. Trench 1 of the 1986 investigations just south-west of this revealed a square brick structure interpreted as a cistern; this may have been associated with structure 300 as part of the water supply to the warehouse or they may predate the warehouse construction.
- 3.1.7 Construction cut 396 (not on plan) was revealed within the slots for pile caps 13, 33, 14 and 15 in the south part of this area. This related to the foundations for the standing warehouse structure constructed in 1882 (397). The warehouse wall in this area was demolished as part of the development and the surviving foundations consisted of concrete and stone and brick rubble. At 1.25m below ground level, the foundation cut was observed truncating a series of levelling deposits directly to the north and which extended c. 1m south of the foundations southern limit.

***Eastern boundary of site (Figure 3; Plan 300 & 302)***

- 3.1.8 The underpinning trenches excavated along the existing eastern property boundary wall revealed a rubble limestone block wall (316) running parallel to it 0.8m to the west. Two courses of the wall were exposed in places up to height of 0.4m and up to 0.54m wide; some areas of stonework on the west face showed signs of having been faced. The stones averaged between 240x200x180mm and 022x110x100mm in size. The wall ran the 6.3m length of the eastern end of the north part of the site, but was only revealed in 1m long slots in the underpinning trenches. To the south of the excavation area, it met the northern external wall of the warehouse; to the north it appeared to continue beyond the limit of excavation. It is likely that 316 relates to the post-medieval property boundary in use before the construction of the warehouse.

***Southern area of excavation (Figure 3; Plan 305)***

- 3.1.9 The two trenches in the southern area of site, immediately east of the cellar, revealed a series of modern deposits abutting the southern wall of the warehouse and extending a further 2.2m to the south. A modern pipe trench truncated these on a north-west to south-east alignment. All deposits were overlain by concrete, 0.2 – 0.24m thick, and no archaeological features were observed.



### ***Cellar excavation (Figure 3; Plan 304, Plate 3)***

- 3.1.10 The excavation in the basement level revealed a 1.4m length of blocking of an arch in the putative city wall (465) constructed of irregularly sized roughly squared limestone rubble blocks. The wall was abutted by a series of make up and levelling layers dating to after the construction of the cellar, and further backfill of a more modern date. A section of the eastern cellar wall was also exposed in the trench; this was also of limestone rubble bonded with no offset or any other features of note (466).

### ***Bastion wall test pit (Figure 2; Plan 306)***

- 3.1.11 The earliest revealed feature at the base of the excavated slot was limestone wall 482, constructed of rough hewn limestone blocks and overlain by a layer of sandy mortar. This was a continuation of the city wall, on a north-south alignment, running the full 0.5 m width of the slot. The western face of the wall appeared to have been truncated at some point in the post-medieval period, removing the squared blocks and narrowing the wall. Abutting the eastern face of the wall was make up deposit 484, a mid brown-grey silty sand deposit that continued below the maximum depth of excavation, which related to the construction of the Oxford Story. All deposits were sealed by modern make up (483) and the current concrete floor surface.

## **3.2 Finds summary**

- 3.2.1 Pottery, glass and metal finds were retained from the site. All assemblages are of post-medieval date.
- 3.2.2 The pottery assemblage consists entirely of post-medieval wares, with most of the groups dating to the 19th century. All ware-types are well known in the city.
- 3.2.3 The metals assemblage comprises five pieces, including a small, probably socketed, chisel and a bone knife handle. None of the material is closely datable on typological grounds, but none of it is necessarily modern, that is late 19th-century or later.
- 3.2.4 There are 11 sherds of glass including five sherds of window, five sherds from wine bottles and a wine glass foot. The wine bottle glass is from free-blown cylindrical bottles of late 18th or early 19th-century date. There are base sherds of distinctive form from two contexts and a complete neck with hand tooled finished from another. The wine glass foot in colourless glass is not as closely datable but is probably 18th century. The associated window glass is of post-medieval type, dating to before the 19th century. In summary, the glass forms a good 18th-century group. The full finds reports and tables are included in Appendix A.

## **4 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

- 4.1.1 The need to use artificial lighting within the building occasionally made interpretation difficult, particularly when differentiating between similar fills and making the photographic record. The results of the watching brief, however, correspond with those found in the preceding evaluation phase of work.
- 4.1.2 The slot against the edge of Bastion 4 revealed the continuation of the bastion wall to the south (482), known from early drawings, Taunt's photograph from 1880 and the evaluation results.
- 4.1.3 Stone walls were uncovered on the north and east edges of the site. The rubble walls on the north (302 – 305) were only seen in a small area, and were not very substantial, they are adjacent to the current property boundaries but they were in a location that in



1878 (as seen from the first edition OS plan) was in the centre of a garden stretching behind three properties on Broad Street. These walls were abutted by a deposit interpreted as a buried post medieval garden soil and they may represent insubstantial post medieval outbuildings demolished prior to the creation of the garden.

- 4.1.4 The wall to the east (316; Plate 2) is parallel to the existing property boundary and is almost certainly the remnant of an earlier post-medieval boundary wall that extended further to the north and to the south on the line of the present warehouse east wall. The Vellum Book plan shows that there was a workshop against the east side of this wall whilst on the west within the site of the warehouse were the stables of the Ship Inn. The Vellum Book plan does not show the wall north of the warehouse but the 1878 plan shows a wall on this line extending along from the stables along the east side of the garden mentioned above to the rear of the Broad Street properties.
- 4.1.5 A small section of the east face of the existing west wall of the cellar was uncovered in a piling cap slot (465). This wall is thought to be a section of the city wall where it turned north from the Saxon wall line to detour around St Michael's church; the bastion being at the corner of the rerouted section. The small area of this wall seen in the trench is in the area where a blocked arch is visible in the wall within the cellar and this section consisted of rubble blocking of the arch. The north side of the arch appears to have been truncated by the construction of the existing cellar access opening through the wall. Any relationship of the blocking to the south jamb of the opening was, however, hidden by render on part of the area of wall exposed in the slot. This may be a relieving arch rather than a former opening; parts of the city wall are built on relieving arches but they are generally larger than this one and not necessarily filled with masonry (pers comm. Julian Munby). Such arches were seen and recorded in the nearby section of City Wall north of St. Michaels Church during excavations in Tredwell's Yard in 1912 (Dodd, A 2003, 155).
- 4.1.6 A 19th century brick well (300) was exposed just north of the warehouse and east of the bastion, this had a lead pipe within it and is just north-east of a square brick cistern seen in the 1986 excavations. The two features were probably part of one water supply system and if not connected with the warehouse, and if predating it, would have been within the area of the garden existing to the north in 1878.
- 4.1.7 A sequence of make up and levelling layers consistent with those recorded during the evaluation were also observed, relating to the use of the site by William Baker & Co and subsequent conversion into the Oxford Storey.





## APPENDIX A. FINDS REPORTS

## A.1 Pottery

*By Paul Blinkhorn*

A.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 27 sherds with a total weight of 1639 g. It consisted entirely of post-medieval wares, with most of the groups dating to the 19th century. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

- OXCL: Cistercian ware, 1475-1700. 1 sherd, 12 g.  
 OXST: Rhenish Stoneware, AD1480 – 1700. 2 sherds, 210 g.  
 OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 9 sherds, 623 g.  
 CRM: Creamware, mid 18th - early 19th C. 1 sherd, 4 g.  
 WHEW: Mass-produced white earthenwares, 19th - 20th C. 14 sherds, 790 g.

A.1.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem. All the ware-types are well known in the city.

*Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Cntxt	OXST		OXCL		OXDR		CRM		WHEW		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
306									1	13	19thC
315					1	9			5	70	19thC
330									2	7	19thC
350									1	34	19thC
430									3	548	19thC
455	1	33							1	98	19thC
460	1	177			4	455	1	4			M18thC
470			1	12	4	159					M16thC
471									1	20	19thC
Total	2	210	1	12	9	623	1	4	14	790	



## A.2 Metals

### *By Ian Scott*

A.2.1 The metals assemblage comprises 5 pieces, including a small chisel (context 460), probably socketed, a bone knife handle (context 476), two iron structural fittings (context 470), three fragments of an iron strip or binding (context 430). None of the material is closely datable on typological grounds, but none of it need be modern, that is late 19th-century or later.

Table 2: Summary of metal finds by Type and Context

Context	Identification				Total
	chisel	knife handle	iron fittings	strip	
430				1(3)	1(3)
460	1				1
470			2		2
476		1			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1(3)</b>	<b>5 (8)</b>

## A.3 Glass

### *By Ian Scott*

A.3.1 There are 11 sherds of glass including 5 sherds of window, 5 sherds from wine bottles and a wine glass foot (Table 3). All the wine bottle glass is from free blown cylindrical bottles of late 18th or early 19th-century date. There are base sherds of distinctive form from contexts 315 and 377 and a complete neck with hand tooled finished from context 315. The wine glass foot in colourless glass is not as closely dateable but is probably to be dated to the 18th century. The associated window glass is of post-medieval type, dating to before the 19th century.

A.3.2 In summary, the glass forms a good 18th-century group.

Table 3: Summary of Glass by Context and Type

Context	Identification			Total
	wine bottle	wine glass	window	
315	4			4
377	1			1
470		1	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>



## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** The Ship Street Centre, Ship Street, Oxford

**Site code:** OXSSC08

**Grid reference:** SP: 5132 0639

**Type:** Watching Brief



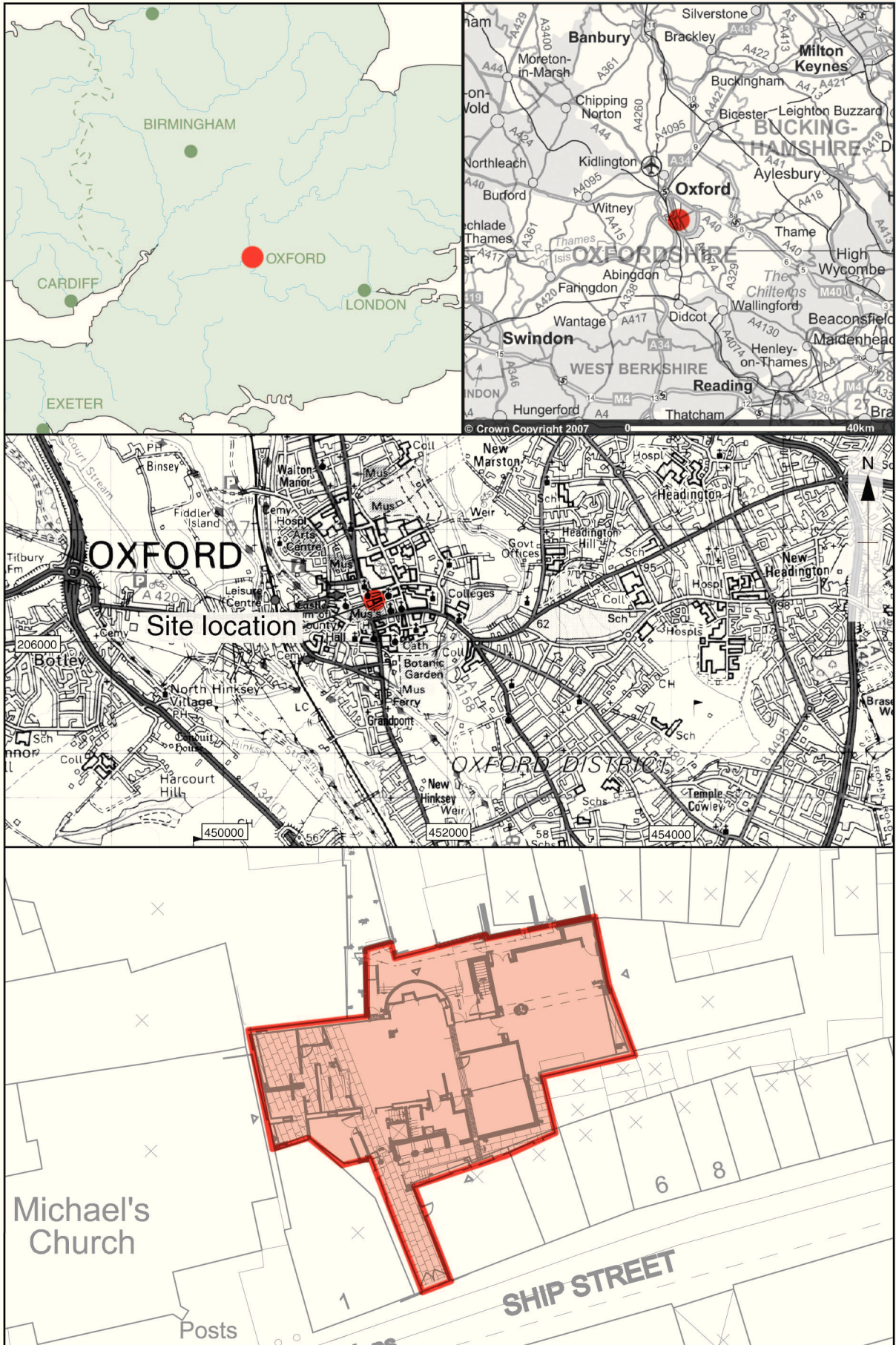
**Date and duration:** 27.05.09-12.06.09, 19.03.10

**Area of site:** 431.78 m<sup>2</sup>

**Summary of results:** The watching brief covered the excavation of piling caps and underpinning slots necessary for the redevelopment of the property into a conference venue and student accommodation for Jesus College. Sections of the City wall were uncovered in the piling cap slots and in the excavation of the cellar, suggesting a north-south continuation of the city defences rather than the east-west alignment shown in the 1879 OS map.

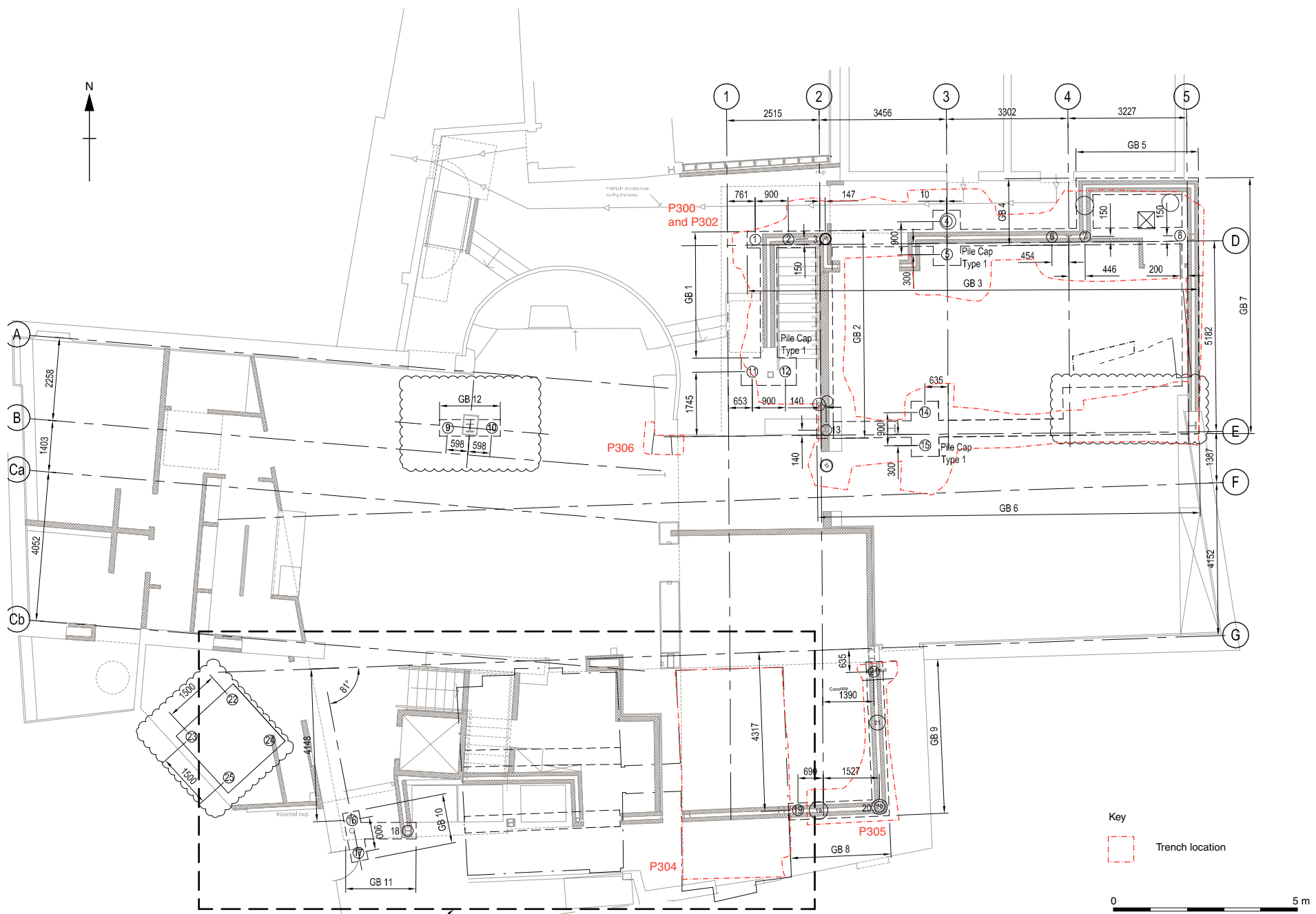
A sequence of make up layers and levelling layers consistent with those recorded in the evaluation were also observed, relating to the use of the site by William Baker & Co and subsequent development into the Oxford Story.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2008145



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Figure 1: Site location



For Foundations South See AKSWard Drg No. 101

### GROUND BEAM & PILE LAYOUT

**Key**

--- Trench location

0  5 m

1:100

Figure 2: Trench locations and site layout

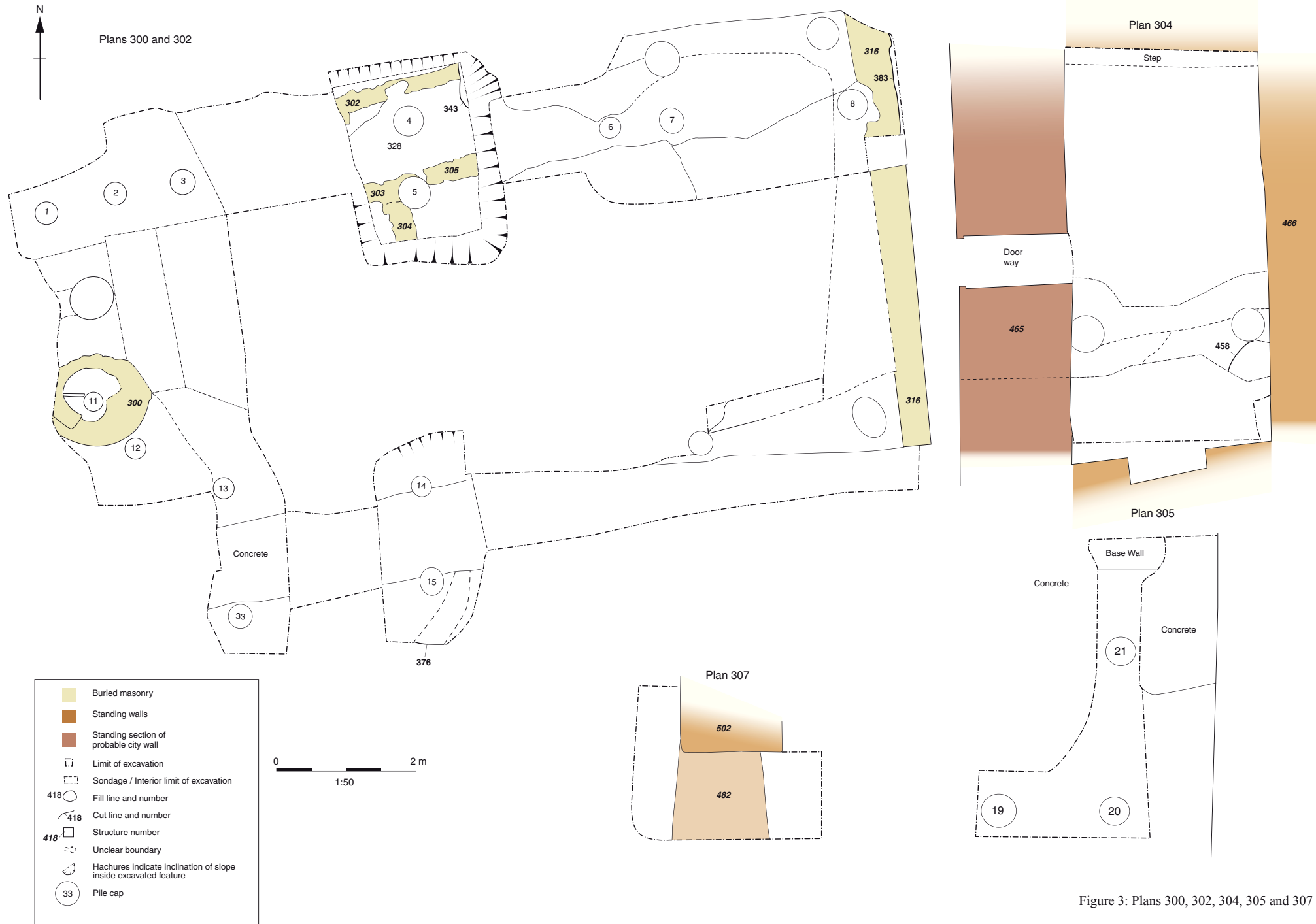


Figure 3: Plans 300, 302, 304, 305 and 307



Plate 1: Walls 302-305 looking west



Plate 2: Wall 316 looking north



Plate 3: Putative City Wall in cellar with arch blocking (465) exposed in trench.







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