

Phase 2 Broad Street Oxford



Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology

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Broad Street, Oxford***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
PHASE 2***

NGR: SP 5130 0644

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SUMMARY

In November 2001 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out an archaeological watching brief in Broad Street, Oxford (NGR SP5130 0644). This watching brief was further to an earlier phase of work that has previously been reported. The work was commissioned by Oxford County Council, in advance of the installation of hydraulic bollards across the road. The watching brief revealed layers of modern deposits, service pipes and road make-up down to a maximum depth of 1.35 m. No evidence of earlier street surfaces or archaeological features were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In November 2001, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a second archaeological watching brief at Broad Street, Oxford (NGR SP 2130 0644). This second phase of work took place adjacent to the earlier north-south aligned trench (Fig. 1), and which has previously been reported (OAU 2001).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as part of plans to install hydraulic bollards across Broad Street (part of Oxford's local transport policy), and involved the machine excavation of an east-west trench to examine the below ground deposits, prior to installation of a drainage pipe to connect the base of the bollards to an existing below ground drain

1.1.3 OA carried out the watching brief after conversations with the City's Archaeologist, Brian Durham, and in respect of an advice note. The methodology used for the watching brief was an extension of that undertaken during the previous watching brief on these works.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The investigation site lies at 64 m OD, at the west end of Broad Street, which runs approximately west to east (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of investigation for the second phase of works covered an area of 15 m x 0.75 m, extending east-west through Broad Street, ending at the point of contact with the previously excavated north-south trench.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the previous report (OAU 2001) and is not repeated here.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the construction work.
- 2.1.2 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 All deposits and the trench were planned at a scale of 1:100 and trench sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. A colour slide and black and white print photographic record was made of the work. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

Phase 2 excavation data

- 3.1.1 An E/W trench was excavated measuring 15 m in length, 0.75 m in width and 1.4 m - 1.8 m deep (Fig. 1 and 2). At the base of the trench, at a depth of 1.3 m from the existing road surface was a layer of natural red-brown gravel (106). This was seen in section to be at least 0.46 m deep and was overlain by three distinct layers of gravely silt, all of which were heavily disturbed by a series of modern services.
- 3.1.2 The earliest deposit in the trench was layer 105, a dark brown silt which had an average thickness of 0.36 m. Above this was a brown-grey silt (104) which ranged from 0.3 m - 0.4 m in thickness. This was sealed by a dark red-brown silt with gravel layer (103), which was 0.3 m thick. Modern hardcore (101) overlay this, below the tarmac (100).
- 3.1.3 Two large deep service trenches were observed cutting from the level of layer 103.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the course of this investigation.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No environmental samples were necessary due to the modern nature of the deposits.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The deposits recorded during the second phase of work all represented made ground, with no significant deposits or earlier road surfaces in existence.
- 4.1.2 Natural gravel was seen at depth 1.3 m below ground level. Layers 105, 104 and 103 were undated.
- 4.1.3 The area of investigation had been heavily disturbed by modern services, and there remains the possibility that this may have removed any archaeological features.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
100	Layer	0.2 m	0.6 m		Tarmac	0
101	Layer	0.22m	0.6 m		Hardcore	0
102	Layer	0.73m	0.6 m		Modern rubble	0
103	Layer	0.3 m	0.75 m		Gravel and silt	0
104	Layer	0.4 m	0.75 m		Gravel and silt	0
105	Layer	0.36 m	0.75 m		Gravel and silt	0
106	Layer	0.46 m	0.75 m		Natural gravel	0

APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Broad Street, Oxford

Site code: OXBRS 01

Grid reference: SP 5130 0644

Type of watching brief: Observation of trial trench

Date and duration of project: Phase 2, November 19th/20th 2001 - follow up to Phase 1, October 2001.

Summary of results: Modern service backfill deposits to a depth of 1.16 m

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OAU, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course.

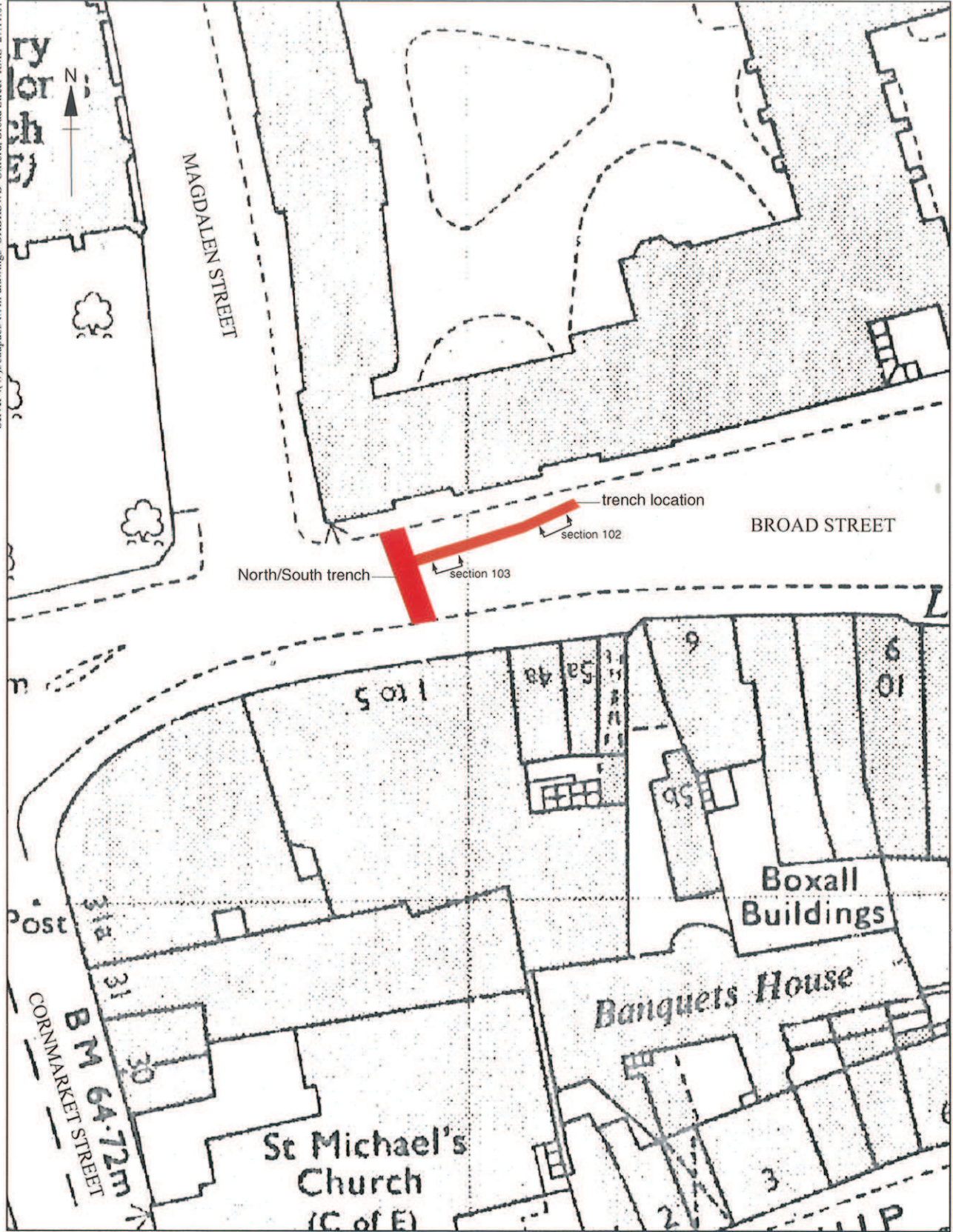
Appendix 3 Bibliography

OAU 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (1st edition, ed. D Wilkinson)

OAU 2000 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Cornmarket Street Oxford.*

OAU 2001 *Broad Street, Oxford. Archaeological Watching Brief Report.* OAU October 2001

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Scale 1:500

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Fig 1 : Trench Location

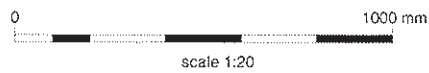
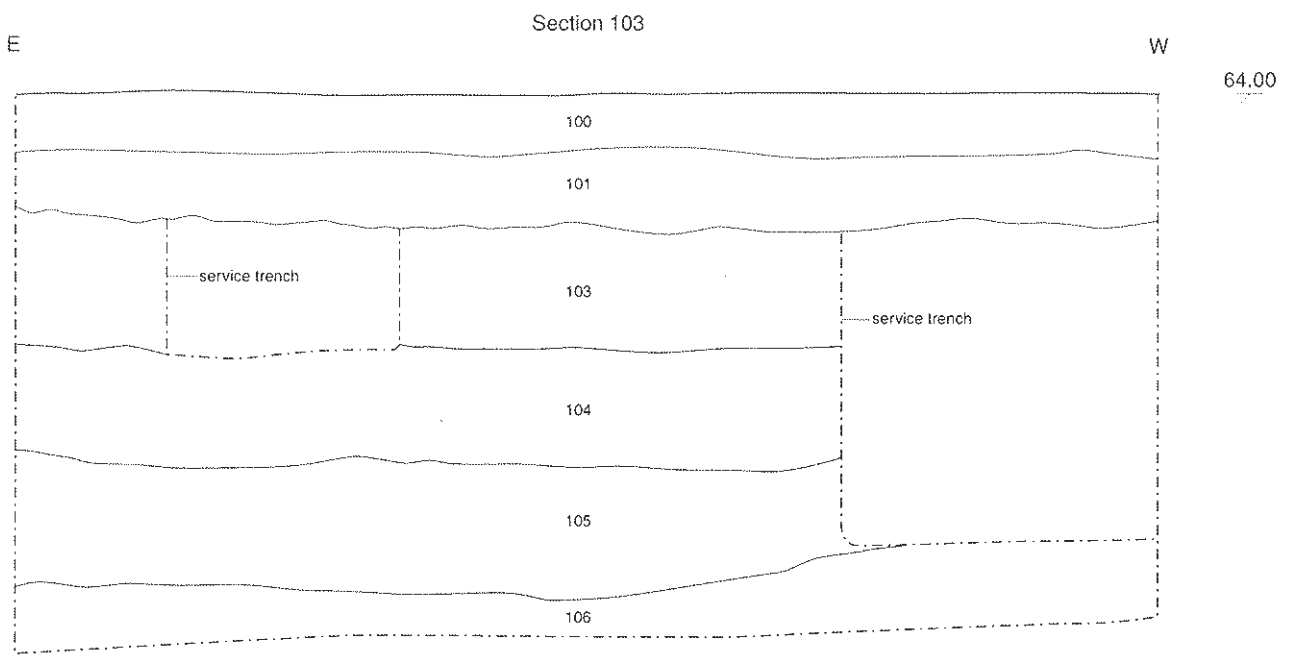
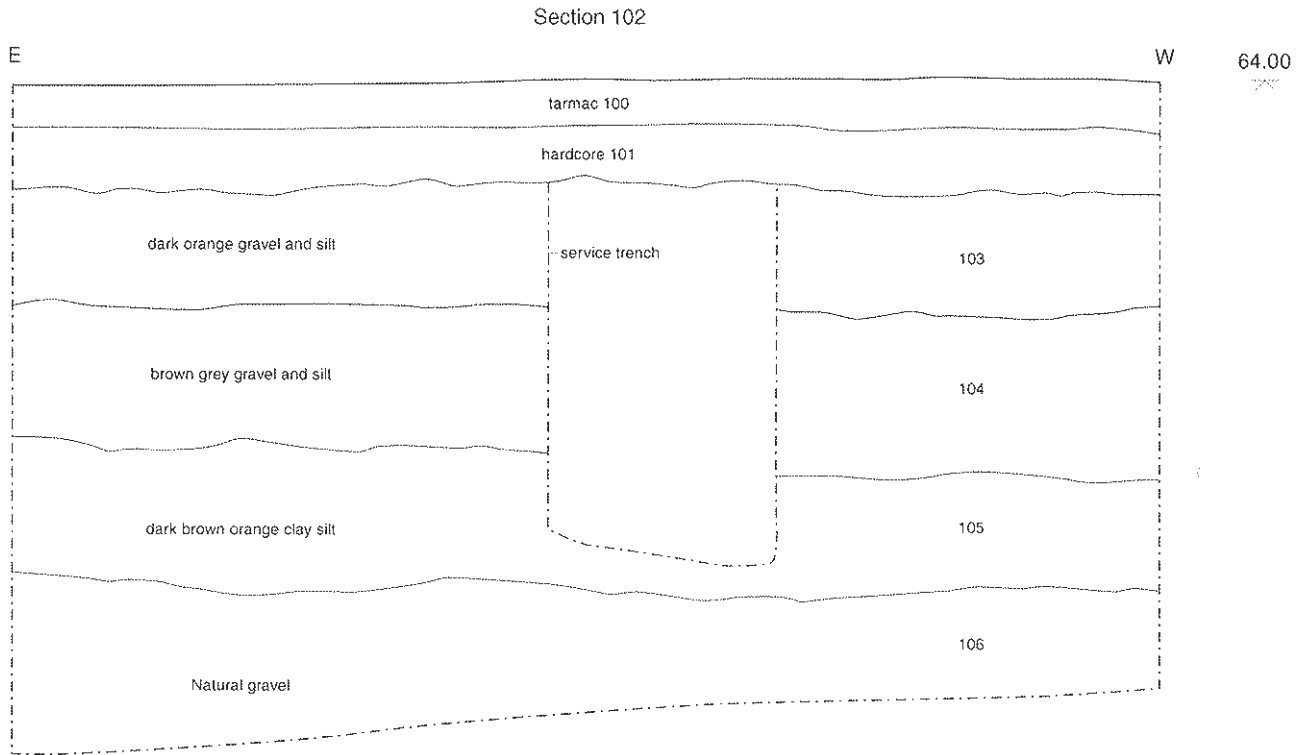


Figure 2 : Sections 102 and 103



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