

Kendrew Quadrangle
St. John's College
St Giles
Oxford



Archaeological Evaluation Report



February 2007

**Client: MJP Architects for
St Johns College**

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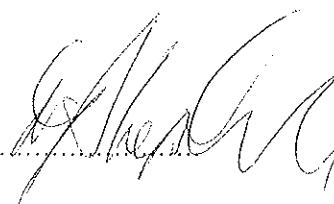
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**Kendrew Quadrangle
St John's College
St. Giles
Oxford**

NGR SP 5122 0690

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In December 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a field evaluation on behalf of MJP Architects for St. John's College to the rear of Queen Elizabeth House and No.20 St. Giles, Oxford (NGR SP 5122 0690). Five trenches were excavated revealing pits dating to the 13th-15th centuries on the western part of the site. To the rear of No. 20 St. Giles, pits of 16th-18th century date were also revealed, one of which produced a sizeable assemblage of cattle horn working waste. Large gravel quarries of probable late medieval/early post-medieval date were encountered across the eastern part of the site. An extensive deposit of demolition debris was encountered across the northern part of the site and sealed several of the pits and quarries. This is likely to reflect the location of earlier buildings that extended to the east of Black Hall that could include an early associated farm range. Brick paths, planting holes and soils of 18th/19th century date were also revealed relating to landscaping of the gardens in these periods. Three pits that did not produce finds from the western part of the site could reflect considerably earlier activity. A distinctive soil infilled these and is particularly characteristic of prehistoric features encountered within Oxford.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between 15th and 22nd December 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a field evaluation on behalf architects MacCormac Jamieson Prichard (MJP) for St John's College, Oxford. This was a pre-determination action to inform a Planning Application for the proposed new Kendrew Quadrangle student accommodation to the rear of Black Hall House and number 20, St Giles.

1.1.2 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *brief* set by Brian Durham, Archaeologist at Oxford City Council (OCC 2006) and the subsequent approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA (OA 2006).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is centred at SP 5122 0690 about 750 m from the city's central point at Carfax and some 500 m from the north gate of the medieval city wall (Fig. 1). It is bounded on the west by St. Giles and to the east by Blackhall Road, with post-medieval properties to the north and south. The area lies within the historic parish of St. Giles and is *c* 0.5 ha. in area.

1.2.2 The site lies at *c* 64 m OD on the Summertown-Radley gravel terrace with the rivers Thames and Cherwell both within 1 km of the site. The underlying solid geology is Oxford Clay.

1.2.3 At the time of the evaluation the site was mostly lawns with flower beds and mature trees. A small tarmac parking area is to the rear, adjacent to the site boundary wall along Blackhall Road.

1.3 **Archaeological and historical background**

1.3.1 The archaeological background is summarised in a desk-based assessment (DBA) (OA 2003) that reviewed existing documentary information. A summary of known archaeology follows.

1.3.2 This part of Oxford has a history of ritual use in the Bronze Age and agricultural use in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Extensive cropmarks and the sites of barrows are known in University Parks to the north-east of this site and to the east and south-east Roman settlement remains have been discovered.

1.3.3 During the medieval period, a suburb extended along the wide thoroughfare known as St. Giles, itself perhaps dating as early as the 8th century AD. The unusual width of the road may partly be explained by property ownership extending well forward of the built frontages (as suggested by the walled area of land owned by St John's College fronting its Front Quadrangle).

1.3.4 Nearby St. Giles Church and parish were established in the early 12th century. It was initially granted the tithes from Walton, suggesting that the land around it formed part of Walton Manor. The fields in the north of the parish were known as Walton fields in the 14th and 15th centuries. It was a mixture of arable and meadow, with common pasture rights recorded in the 14th century. The tenements on St. Giles appear to have stopped at about the position of the church.

1.3.5 St John's College is c 150 m to the south, on the site of St Bernard's College that was founded by the Cistercians in 1437. The earlier college was dissolved in 1539 and the site was granted to Christ Church who sold it to Sir Thomas White to found St. John's in 1555. Later medieval occupation evidence in the form of pits, wells and pottery was excavated at St John's College in 1959 and to a more limited extent by OA in 2003 (Lawrence 2005). Excavations by OA at St John's College in 2003 revealed that quarrying may have begun here during the later medieval period.

1.3.6 The development area is detailed in HE Salter's Survey of Oxford (1969) where the tenement of Black Hall (Salter N57) is shown with a distinctive angled rear boundary. This matches the boundary outline depicted on Agas' Map of 1578, and is also the boundary of the present Planning Application. Salter suggests that the Black Hall tenement was in existence by the mid-14th century and also refers to a possible subdivision of the Black Hall tenement further north ('Bakersplace') that joined with Black Hall c 1500. The main house adjoins a built up plot to the north, probably a farmyard.

1.3.7 Agas' map of Oxford (1578) shows buildings along the St. Giles frontage and the tenements run back to a sharply angled boundary to the rear, beyond which is open

land. Within the area of proposed development a number of boundaries are marked and there is one building in the garden area.

- 1.3.8 The existing building of Black Hall was constructed in the early 17th century and is shown on Loggan's map of 1673. The building set back within the garden area to the rear also appears to have been enlarged.
- 1.3.9 Faden's map of 1789 shows some change in or close to the area of proposed development. The building range to the rear of Black Hall again appears to have been enlarged so that it adjoins with the main building fronting St Giles. The layout of buildings along St Giles is not identical to the present one, but the south part of Black Hall and the building to its north can be identified. Site investigation indicates that the latter building, now part of Queen Elizabeth House (a single storey structure, part timber-framed and with timber roof) dates from at least the 18th century.
- 1.3.10 Blackhall Road is not shown on these maps although there is some suggestion of a path following part of its line and then linking to Parks Road across arable land on Faden's map.
- 1.3.11 Only one archaeological investigation is known to have taken place within the area of proposed development. In 1982 OAU carried out a watching brief during improvements to a shed. A boundary wall was found to have *c* 4 m deep stone footings, extending to the bottom of an earlier pit, thought to be the results of quarrying. The exact location of this work is uncertain.
- 1.3.12 A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out close to Queen Elizabeth House, particularly at St John's College (see above) and at nearby Keble Road in 1967, when part of the Civil War defensive circuit was discovered.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to St. Johns Clerk of Works, Keith Pearce, and the construction site manager, Mick Hewer, for making site access possible. Plans were provided by MJP Architects.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area and determine/confirm the character of any remains without compromising deposits that may merit detailed investigation under full area excavation.
- 2.1.2 To determine or estimate the date a range of any remains from artefacts and determine the palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits.
- 2.1.3 To investigate the extent of any significant remains outside initial trenched sample through agreement with the client and City Archaeologist.

- 2.1.4 To characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon significant younger (overlying) deposits where possible.
- 2.1.5 To make available the results of the investigation to inform the planning application and the potential for any further mitigation strategy.

2.2 **Site specific**

- 2.2.1 To establish the presence or absence of buildings mapped from historical sources of which there are no current surface remains.
- 2.2.2 To establish the presence or absence of any plot boundaries other than those that currently exist.
- 2.2.3 To establish the presence or absence and, if possible, extent of deep gravel extraction.
- 2.2.4 To establish where possible the presence or absence and distribution of discrete pits and their original function.

3 **EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

3.1 **Scope of fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of five trenches, four measuring 10 m in length and 1.8 m in width and a single 17 m length trench that was 1.3 m wide (Fig. 2). Each trench was positioned in relation to the proposed development impact and with regard to the standing mature trees. Oxford City Council Planning Department provided guidelines for the exclusion area around these trees and all trenches are placed outside of these.

3.2 **Fieldwork methods and recording**

- 3.2.1 After the removal of hard-standings (Trench 1) and turf (Trenches 2-5), non-archaeological overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 3-tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.2.2 Where appropriate, the trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, to retrieve finds and assess their potential for environmental sampling. All archaeological features were planned and their sections drawn. Drawings were made at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. All significant features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson, 1992).
- 3.2.3 Deep gravel extraction quarries were anticipated within the site boundaries. Where these were encountered controlled spit sample machine excavation would be used to safely access these to depth to establish the presence or absence of finds.

3.3 Finds and palaeo-environmental evidence

- 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.
- 3.3.2 Archaeological deposits were assessed for their environmental potential through visual inspection on site. No deposits significantly rich in environmental remains were encountered on site and no samples were taken for further study. However, the presence of charred inclusions more generally within the medieval and post medieval pits does suggest that some potential exists.

4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

4.1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was orientated approximately north-west/south-east was located in the former car park beside the east boundary of the site, adjacent to Blackhall Road (Fig. 3). Mechanical removal of the car park surface revealed a deep sequence of soil layers that were machine excavated in controlled spits to a depth of 1.50 m - 1.80 m, at which point undisturbed sand and gravel (8) was encountered (Fig. 5). The gravel surface sloped down slightly from north-west to south-west from 62.77 m OD to 62.52 m OD. Comparison to the surface level of the undisturbed sand and gravel encountered within the trenches to the west strongly suggests that this was a significantly undisturbed level rather than one that had been removed through quarrying.
- 4.1.2 The earliest features were two partially revealed pits located towards the south-east part of the trench although these could not be safely investigated in detail due to the trench depth. Pit 30 had a right-angled corner suggesting a regular rectangular form and measured at least 1.8 m across. It was filled with a dark red/brown sandy silt (31). In contrast the second pit (28), measuring at least 1.20 m across was circular/oval in shape implying a different function, although filled with a similar soil (29).
- 4.1.3 Directly overlying the gravel was a sterile reddish sandy silt deposit (4) up to 0.75 m thick extending across the whole trench. The precise relationship between the pits and this deposit was not conclusively established due to the similarity of the fills.
- 4.1.4 Above layer 4 was a thick layer of recent brick rubble (3) that had been levelled with a modern soil (2) containing 19th century pottery and bricks. This soil had been cut by inter-cutting pits (5 and 7) that may be recent tree root disturbances. The current tarmac (1) overlay the uppermost soil level.

Trench 2

- 4.1.5 Trench 2 was orientated north-east/south-west in the garden of Queen Elizabeth House, which itself is directly behind the site of Black Hall (Figs. 3 and 4). The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 1.90 m although the natural gravel (27) was only revealed at the north-east end at a depth of 1.30 m (62.22 m OD) where the edge of a large probable quarry (26) was identified (Fig. 5). The quarry extended across the whole trench and was infilled with by relatively sterile silt and redeposited gravel (14) from which a single sherd of pottery dated to the late 12th to early 15th century was recovered. The full depth of the quarry was not identified.
- 4.1.6 Sealing this feature and observed along the length of the trench was an extensive 0.13 m thick spread of probable demolition debris (13). This consisted largely of lime mortar with small limestone pieces and occasional roof tile fragments of 13th-16th century date. A single sherd of pottery dated to the 17th to 18th century and six sherds from the base of a at least two wine bottles of a similar date range were also recovered from this layer along with a residual English copper alloy jetton dated c. 1280-1350.
- 4.1.7 A narrow brick-built pathway or edging (15), 0.50 m in width and aligned approximately north-south, was built partly over the demolition deposit. These were sealed by a 0.40 m thick garden soil (12) containing residual amounts of late medieval pottery and occasional fragments of brick and tile. The neck and rim of an 18th century wine bottle and a stem fragment from a clay pipe were also recovered from this soil layer.
- 4.1.8 A shallow circular pit (11) approximately 1.50 m across and 0.35 m deep was cut into the surface of garden soil 12 and contained redeposited medieval pottery in its fill (10). The existing turf and topsoil (9) sealed the pit and earlier garden soil.

Trench 3

- 4.1.9 Trench 3 was orientated approximately east-west and was machine excavated to a depth of 1.15 m (Fig. 4). Natural gravel (23) was encountered at a depth of 0.8 m (62.72 m OD) at the west end of the trench and dropped away at its east end to 62.53 m OD (Fig. 5).
- 4.1.10 The earliest deposits comprised a thin spread of brown silty clay (25) overlain by blue-grey clay silt (24) towards the west of the trench. These deposits may have filled a shallow hollow in the natural, although any definition was removed by a later pit.
- 4.1.11 Above these was a 0.2 m thick spread of loose grey-brown silt clay (22) that contained five sherds of 17th -18th century pottery, 16th-17th century brick and roof tile and mortar spreads, all indicative of a construction or demolition horizon. This was overlain by a brick pathway or edging(21) similar to that encountered within Trench 2

4.1.12 Layer 22 and the path were sealed by a 0.2 m - 0.45 m thick deposit of demolition mortar and rubble (20) containing occasional fragments of plain roof tiles and brick, which extended the length of the trench. This was the same as layer 13 encountered within Trench 2 albeit of much greater thickness at this point. Above lay a loose mottled soil containing lenses of mortar and gravel (19), 0.25 m thick, possibly a pre-existing garden soil of a similar character to layer 12 within Trench 2 but with a greater amount of the underlying demolition debris reworked into it. These levels were cut by a large flat-based pit (18) that measured 5.5 m across and 0.9 m in depth and was filled with loose garden soil - perhaps indicating it formed part of a more recent garden feature. The existing topsoil and turf (16) completed the sequence in the trench sealing the infilled pit 18.

Trench 4

4.1.13 Trench 4 was orientated approximately north-west/south-east and was 17 m in length (Fig. 4). It was the westernmost trench located within the north garden of Queen Elizabeth House and thereby the closest to the site of Black Hall. The trench was machine excavated to the surface of the natural gravel (406). This was encountered 0.80 m below the modern ground level at c 62.60 m OD (Fig. 6).

4.1.14 The natural gravel was cut by a large number of pits that are here described from north to south along the trench. Pit 421 was partially exposed and was oval/circular. It was 1.3 m wide and was 0.6 m in depth. Its fill (422), a compact and clean red brown silty clay differed from the other pits in the trench, possibly indicating a different (earlier?) date, although no finds were recovered. To the south of pit 421 was a group of four inter-cutting pits.

4.1.15 The northerly of the group (pit 419) was at least 0.6 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep containing a similar fill (420) to pit 421, suggesting they were broadly contemporary, but contained no dating evidence. Pit 413, the southernmost pit of the group was largely removed by a later pit although what remained was 0.4 m deep and filled with a clean brown silt clay (414) containing seven sherds of 13th-14th century pottery and 13th -16th roof tile with nail holes and glazed splashes. This also produced four fragments of relatively coarse plaster 10-15 mm thick that had smoothed finished surfaces and sandy backing.

4.1.16 The fill of pit 419 was cut by a sub-rectangular pit (417) measuring 1.6 m across and 0.7 m in depth. Unlike the earlier pits it was filled with a dark grey silty clay (418) with 15 sherds of 13th-14th century pottery and roof tile dating from the 13th-16th centuries.

4.1.17 The latest pit in the sequence (415) cut pit fills 414 and 418 and measured c 0.9 m across and 0.95 m in depth. It was filled with dark grey silty clay (416) with lenses of gravel and contained domestic medieval refuse including pottery dated c 1375 to around 1450 and 13th -16th roof tile of the same fabric and appearance to those within pit fill 414.

- 4.1.18 Immediately to the south of the main pit group was a small circular pit (425) that was 0.7 m in diameter and 0.1 m - 0.2 m in depth. No finds were recovered from the grey-brown silt clay fill (424). An oval shaped pit (411) further to the south measured 1.5 m across and 0.7 m in depth and contained domestic refuse within its grey brown silt clay fill (412) including eight fragments of animal bone, twelve sherds of 13th-14th century pottery and 13th-16th roof tile.
- 4.1.19 Further to the south was a rectangular pit (409) that measured 2.2 m across and was 0.7 m deep with sharp vertical sides and a flat base. Its grey-brown fill (410) contained domestic refuse including 88 sherds of 14th century pottery, including 74 sherds forming a near complete biconical jug in OXAQ fabric with joining sherds noted in context 416. A worked bone toggle with central hole was recovered from context 410. Roof tile of 13th -16th century date were also recovered. This pit cut a shallow scoop (423 filled by undated silty deposit 426) that may have formed part of pit 409, since its fill was very similar.
- 4.1.20 Pit 407 was partially revealed at the south end of the trench and was 1 m deep. It was filled with a clean red/brown silty clay (408) similar to the potential earlier pit features (419 and 421) although pottery sherds dating from the late 12th - early 15th century were recovered from the fill.
- 4.1.21 All the features were sealed by a stony light-grey-brown subsoil (401). The distinct demolition debris layer identified within trenches 2 and 3 was also encountered across the northern end of Trench 4 (402). This extended 9 m south of the northern end of the trench and marks the southern limit of this layer and event. As elsewhere it consisted largely of lime mortar with occasional brick and tile fragments. A contemporary thin gravel band (403) continued south of the demolition layer throughout the trench defining the boundary between the underlying soil horizon (401) and the uppermost modern turf and soil (400) that sealed layers 402 and 403.

Trench 5

- 4.1.22 Trench 5 was located in a garden area to the rear of No. 20 St. Giles. The trench was immediately south of the line of a possible medieval boundary wall and was aligned north-east/south-west (Fig. 4). Natural gravel (519) at the base of the trench lay at c 62.30 m OD, sealed beneath a 0.40 m thick natural red-brown silt subsoil (518) (Fig. 6). This appears to be the undisturbed distinctive Oxford geological subsoil characteristic of other sites in the city. The subsoil did not fully extend across the trench probably as a result of being removed by later activity. However, where identifiable it was cut by four features, described from north to south within the trench. Pit 502 extended outside the trench limit but was square or rectangular in plan with a visible width of 0.80 m and depth of 0.80 m. The fill (503) was a loose grey sandy clay and silt containing two sherds of 17th-18th century pottery.
- 4.1.23 To the south was a small round feature (514) only 0.10 m deep and 0.50 m in diameter with an undated red-brown sandy silt fill (515). Against the west baulk of

the trench was a flat-based feature (508) filled with an undated grey-brown sandy deposit (509). The feature was cut by later features.

- 4.1.24 At the south end of the trench was a rectangular pit (510) that was 1.8 m wide and 1 m deep and filled by deposits of red-brown sandy silt (511, 512 and lastly 513). Fill 511 contained sherds of 16th to early 17th century pottery and roof tile tentatively dated to the 13th/14th century; fill 512 contained worked/cut bovine horns and skull fragments suggesting a craftsman's refuse deposit.
- 4.1.25 Pit fill 514 was cut by a larger 1 m deep pit (516) that contained an undated red-brown sandy silt (517). Fills 503 and 509 were cut by a later pit (504) that was 1.9 m in diameter and 0.9 m deep but whose fill (505) was undated, Fill 509 was also cut by tree root disturbance feature 506.
- 4.1.26 All the feature fills were overlain by 501, a 0.5 m thick grey garden soil containing early 19th century pottery, in turn sealed by the present topsoil and turf (500).

4.2 Finds

- 4.2.1 Finds are listed by category. Samples of mortar, plaster, shell, stone and the iron nails were not analysed in detail - the remaining finds reports are presented below.

Material	Fragment Count	OA Box Number	Specialist
Animal Bone	535	B.01, B.02, B.03	Lena Strid
CBM	50	BM.01	John Cotter
Clay pipe	2	MISC.01	Not analysed
Cu Alloy	2	FE.01	Martin Allen
Glass	7	MISC.01	Not analysed
Iron	6	FE.01	Not analysed
Mortar	1	MISC.01	Not analysed
Plaster	1	MISC.01	Not analysed
Pottery	182	P.01	John Cotter
Shell	2	MISC.01	Not analysed
Stone	5	MISC.01	Not analysed
Worked Bone	1	MISC.01	Rose Grant

The pottery

by John Cotter (OA)

- 4.2.2 A total of 182 sherds of pottery weighing 2,181g was recovered. Most of this is of medieval date with a few post-medieval sherds also present. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (e.g. decoration etc.).

Date and Nature of the Assemblage:

- 4.2.3 Although the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition, many of the sherds are fairly large and quite fresh. One or two vessels profiles could potentially be reconstructed. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. The bulk of the pottery recovered is medieval and dates to the 13th to 14th century - with a dating emphasis probably on the 14th century.
- 4.2.4 The pottery types represented are typical of sites in Oxford. Jugs in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM), from central Buckinghamshire, are well represented including highly decorated strip jugs typical of the period *c* 1250-1350/75. These are associated with coarseware cooking vessels in East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ) of the period *c* 1175-1400.
- 4.2.5 The largest context assemblage (88 sherds) was from context (410) with most of the sherds coming from a single highly fragmented OXAQ cooking pot and the rest from a highly decorated Brill/Boarstall ware jug and a single body sherd possibly from a double-shelled oil lamp - a vessel type often associated with Oxford colleges (e.g. Merton College). This context, by itself, could date to the period *c* 1250-1350 but might be purely 14th century on the basis that sherds of the highly decorated jug cross-join with context (416) which contains vessel types of later 14th-century or early 15th-century date.
- 4.2.6 The latter include a conical drinking vessel and a bowl rim (OXAM). Later OXAM types are uncommon but include a 16th- or early 17th-century storage jar rim from context (511).
- 4.2.7 A small number of post-medieval wares as late as the 19th century are present but these are of very little significance. Likewise a small number of worn residual sherds of the 11th to early 13th century were recovered from later contexts. These include featureless body sherds in Cotswolds-type ware (OXAC) and sherds of Medieval Oxford ware (OXY) including unglazed cooking pot sherds and sherds from glazed tripod pitchers.

The Ceramic Building Material*by John Cotter (OA)*

- 4.2.8 A total of 50 pieces of ceramic building materials (CBM) weighing 4,120g was recovered although this includes a single piece of modern roofing slate (39g) from context (2). Most of this material is apparently of medieval date with a few post-medieval pieces also present.
- 4.2.9 The CBM was recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in a similar way to the pottery (see above) and approximate spot-dates assigned. Measurable dimensions were recorded for some of the more complete pieces.

Date and Nature of the Assemblage:

- 4.2.10 The CBM assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but consists of a mixture of fresh and abraded pieces. The bulk of the assemblage comprises fragments of flat roofing tile (peg tile) of typical rectangular shape and fairly crude manufacture with a pair of circular nail holes at one end. None preserves its complete dimensions.
- 4.2.11 These appear to be of medieval date (13th to 16th century) but are not closely datable. Most occur in an orange-red sandy fabric typical of medieval sites in Oxford. One or two examples show accidental splashes of clear glaze but the majority is unglazed. Some early post-medieval examples (16th-17th century) may be present, but if so the difference is not obvious.
- 4.2.12 A few pieces (mostly abraded) occur in a very pale brown fabric (Fabric VII) which may have a more restricted 13th-14th century dating. These include a small piece of curved tile - possibly from an unglazed ridge tile (context 410).
- 4.2.13 One definite 19th-century red brick end is present (context 2, associated with the slate fragment) and a one or two other possible scraps of brick or quarry (floor) tiles may date their contexts to the post-medieval period (contexts 12 and 22).

Worked Bone object*By Rosemary Grant (OA)*

- 4.2.14 A worked bone toggle was recovered from context 410. The toggle is made from a pig metatarsal. This example is crude and has been kept in its natural form. It has a hole drilled transversely through the centre with signs of slight wear.

Ctxt	Length	Weight	Parallel/Ref.
410	54mm	6 grams	Brown and Lawson 1990, p 590 Fig. 158 no. 1845

Animal bone*by Lena Strid (OA)*

- 4.2.15 A total of 581 animal bones were recovered from this site (see tables A3.1-3). Most bones were in a good condition (Table A3.1). There were no burned bones and only one bone displayed gnaw marks. With the exception of context 512, sheep/goat and pig are the most common animals in the assemblage.
- 4.2.16 The presence of dogs on site is demonstrated by gnaw marks on a horse pelvis. Context 512 contained large numbers of cattle skulls and fragments of cattle horn cores, as well as some other bones from cattle, horse and unidentified large mammals. A predominance of horn cores suggests industrial processing of the horns and/or leather working.
- 4.2.17 Judging by the epiphyseal fusion, all cattle and sheep/goat bones derived from adult animals, whereas the pig bones derived from juvenile or sub-adult animals. There were also two foetal/neonatal pig remains. The majority of the horn cores belong to 3-7 year old cattle. It was only possible to sex a pig mandible, although there may be enough cattle horn core measurements to sex the cattle by sexual dimorphism.

- 4.2.18 Butchering marks were found on seven bones. Two vertebrae from medium mammals were split sagittally, suggesting suspension of the carcass during primary butchery. Cut marks indicating skinning or horn sheath removal were found on two cattle skulls. Two ribs from medium mammals had been chopped off mid-rib.
- 4.2.19 Cut marks on the shaft of a cattle humerus suggest filleting. Pathologies were found on four bones. A cattle pelvis displayed extra bone growth at the acetabulum, possibly deriving from muscle strains. A pig tibia and two ribs from large mammals had a thin layer of woven bone over the bone surface: this is likely to be a sign of infection.

Copper Alloy Jetton

by Martin Allen

- 4.2.20 A single English copper alloy jetton dated c 1280-1350 was recovered from layer 13. Its obverse depicts a Lion rampant and reverse a Cross moline. English jettons of this period are relatively common finds in 14th -century contexts although it is clearly a residual find within this deposit.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The trenches were opened in fair weather and with no problems encountered with the water table or from modern services. The depth at which natural was revealed in Trench 1 precluded detailed investigation of the stratigraphy in section, making reliable interpretation of the possible pits and soil layers in that trench difficult.
- 5.1.2 The coverage of trenching is a reasonable indicator of the types and quality of archaeological remains on the site, which appear in keeping with the results of work at St. John's College proper to the south and other published sites along St. Giles and north of the medieval town.
- 5.1.3 The range and quality of preservation of artefacts recovered also suggest that relatively little disturbance and reworking has occurred at the site although some earlier residual material was encountered within post medieval layers in Trench 2.

5.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 5.2.1 Natural gravel at the base of the trenches was cut by features filled with reddish-brown silt, but these were undated. These features may date to either the prehistoric or Roman period, on analogy with other sites in the general area. However, pits with relatively similar fills were present within the excavation that produced medieval finds making this an unreliable criteria to base conclusion upon. No Saxon evidence was forthcoming and there was no evidence of features that could be associated with the presumed creation of St. Giles in the 8th century.

- 5.2.2 The earliest dated features comprised domestic backyard pits to the rear of properties on St. Giles, in common with evidence from other sites along this street frontage. The pits to the rear of Black Hall contained pottery ranging in date from the 13th to 15th centuries. Salter (1969) indicates that the Black Hall tenement was in existence by the mid-14th century, so the features presumably date to this period of activity on the site.
- 5.2.3 To the rear of No. 20 St. Giles there is limited evidence of pitting in the 16th -18th centuries and the discovery of a quantity of worked cattle horns, more accurately dated to the 16th to early 17th century, indicates craft/tradesmen operating along the St. Giles frontage. No. 20 St. Giles was built early in the 19th century, so was presumably erected on the site of a demolished medieval or post-medieval tenement building.
- 5.2.4 A significant homogenous spread of demolition debris (13, 20 and 402) was also recorded across the northern part of the lawn area within Trenches 2, 3 and 4. This was relatively clean of actual building materials with the exception of occasional roof tile fragments and even fewer brick fragment and relatively small limestone pieces. The bulk of the deposit consisted of lime mortar and clay suggesting that any demolished buildings were largely recycled. The extent of this deposit, apparently centred upon Trench 3, neatly coincides with the expected location of the buildings recorded on the historical maps (Figs. 7, 8 and 9).
- 5.2.5 Significant gravel quarrying was encountered within Trench 2. This may have removed earlier features here although the actual date of the quarrying remains unproven. East of this within the car park area (Trench 1) by comparison of the gravel surface level it appears that deposits here may actually be relatively undisturbed. Two pits of unknown date or extent were recorded within this trench. The depth of this trench therefore appears more likely to reflect the build up of soils either as a result of earlier quarrying upcast (possibly layer 4) or as landscaping relating to later formal gardens perhaps indicated by soil layer 3. The presence of thick garden soils and brick paths/edging elsewhere within the site boundary similarly reflects the more recent use of the space.

Significance

- 5.2.6 The finds from the site indicate typical backyard activity to the rear of the street frontage properties in the medieval period with the disposal of domestic waste. The earliest excavated dating evidence is consistent with previous discoveries in the area, particularly at St. John's College to the south and is characteristic of a low level of domestic activity associated with tenements fronting St Giles in the 14th and 15th centuries (Lawrence, 2005). The pottery finds are typical of the period for Oxford and the bone assemblage indicates a varied diet, with wild fowl and bird being consumed as well as pig and cattle.
- 5.2.7 Previously Sturdy and Case reported on the presence on the site of the Beehive Building construction at St. John's of a *'...12th century pit and five smaller pits or*

wells of the 13th or 14th centuries...Foundations of the stables and other College outbuildings of the 16th century were also seen (Case and Sturdy, 1959, 101). Across St. Giles, building work in 1976 at 33-34 St. Giles found pits and a ditch dating to the 12th-13th centuries and excavations by Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1998 at 37a St. Giles found 11th century and later medieval pottery and pits.

- 5.2.8 This generally low level of activity along St. Giles may reflect the contraction of the domestic settlement of the suburbs to the north of the town as has been interpreted at other sites that show a marked decline in occupation in the 15th century (Bruce-Mitford 1939, Roberts 1995, Andrews and Mephram 1997).
- 5.2.9 Nonetheless, by the 16th-18th centuries, the limited evidence indicates the street frontage activity became more intense, with horn working indicative of small-scale industry here. By the 19th century and into the 20th century, landscaped gardens occupy the site.
- 5.2.10 Overall the evaluation has confirmed the conclusions reached in the desk-based assessment undertaken by OA that suggested the site would produce evidence of medieval and later back-yard activities including gravel quarrying and the location of potential late medieval and post medieval buildings to the rear of Black Hall.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Ctxt. No.	Type	Length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Findings	Spot Date
Trench 1						
1	Layer	10.00	0.20	Tarmac	-	
2	Layer	6.00	0.80	Modern Levelling	Pottery; CBM	C19
3	Layer	3.50	0.80	Brick Rubble	-	
4	Layer	10.00	0.75	Soil layer	-	
5	Deposit	2.00	0.90	Root Disturbance	-	
6	Fill	4.00	2.00	Fill of Modern Pit 7	-	
7	Cut	4.00	2.00	Modern Pit	-	
8	Layer			Natural Gravel	-	
28	Cut			Probable Pit	-	
29	Fill			Fill of 28	-	
30	Cut			Pit	-	
31	Fill			Fill of 30	-	
Trench 2						
9	Layer	10.00	0.30	Topsoil	Pottery	C17-18
10	Fill	1.50	0.35	Fill of Modern Pit 11	Pottery	C13-14
11	Cut	1.50	0.35	Modern Pit	-	
12	Layer	10.00	0.40	Garden Soil	Pottery; CBM	C13-16/17
13	Layer	10.00	0.20	Demolition debris	Pottery; CBM	C17-18
14	Fill	10.00	2.00	Fill of Quarry 26	Pottery	LC12-eC15
15	Structure	1.70	0.04	Brick Path	-	
26	Cut	10.00	2.00	Quarry	-	
27	Layer			Natural Gravel	-	
Trench 3						
16	Layer			Topsoil	-	
17	Fill	5.60	0.90	Fill of Modern Pit 18	Pottery	1770-1830
18	Cut	5.60	0.90	Modern Pit	-	
19	Layer	10.00	0.25	Garden soil	-	
20	Layer		0.45	Demolition debris	-	
21	Structure	1.80	0.10	Brick Path	-	
22	Layer	8.00	0.20	Demolition debris	Pottery; CBM	C17-18
23	Layer			Natural Gravel	-	
24	Layer	6.00	0.20	Fill of Shallow Feature?	-	
25	Layer	2.00	0.15	Fill of Shallow Feature?	-	
Trench 4						
400	Layer		0.40	Topsoil	-	
401	Layer	14.00	0.40	Garden soil	-	
402	Layer	9.00	0.30	Demolition debris	-	
403	Layer	8.00	0.05	Gravel	-	
404	Layer	1.50	0.05	Gravel	-	
405	Layer	3.00	0.20	Yellow clay	-	
406	Layer			Natural Gravel	-	

Ctxt. No.	Type	Length (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Findings	Spot Date
407	Cut	0.50	0.80	Pit	-	
408	Fill	0.50	0.80	Fill of Pit 407	Pottery	L12C-eC15
409	Cut	1.60	0.20	Pit	-	
410	Fill	1.60	0.20	Fill of Pit 409	Pottery; CBM	C14?
411	Cut			Pit		
412	Fill	1.50	0.25	Fill of Pit 411	Pottery; CBM	C13-14
413	Cut			Shallow Pit		
414	Deposit	0.60	0.15	Fill of Pit 403	Pottery; CBM	C13-14
415	Cut			Pit		
416	Deposit	0.90	0.70	Fill of Pit 415	Pottery; CBM	c1375-1450?
417	Cut	0.70	0.80	Pit		
418	Deposit	0.70	0.90	Fill of Pit 417	Pottery; CBM	C13-14
419	Cut	0.60	0.40	Shallow Pit	-	
420	Deposit	0.60	0.40	Fill of Pit 419	-	
421	Cut	1.30	0.60	Pit	-	
422	Deposit	1.30	0.60	Fill of Pit 421	-	
423	Cut	0.20	0.20	Small Pit	-	
424	Cut	0.60	0.15	Small Pit	-	
425	Fill	0.60	0.15	Fill of Pit 424	-	
426	Fill	0.70	0.20	Fill of Pit 423	-	
Trench 5						
500	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	-	
501	Layer			Garden soil	Pottery	c1780-1830
502	Cut	0.80	0.80	Pit	-	
503	Fill			Fill of Pit 502	Pottery	Lc17-18
504	Cut	1.90	0.90	Pit	-	
505	Fill			Fill of Pit 504	-	
506	Cut			Root Disturbance	-	
507	Fill			Root Disturbance	-	
508	Cut	1.80		Garden Feature?	-	
509	Fill			Fill of 508	-	
510	Cut	1.80	1.00	Pit	-	
511	Fill			Fill of Pit 510	Pottery; CBM	C16-eC17
512	Fill			Fill of Pit 510	-	
513	Fill			Fill of Pit 510	-	
514	Cut	0.50	0.10	Shallow Pit	-	
515	Fill			Fill of Pit 514	-	
516	Cut	1.40	1.00	Pit	-	
517	Fill			Fill of Pit 516	-	
518	Layer			Reddish silt - natural	-	
519	Layer			Natural Gravel	-	

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY AND CBM SPOT DATING

Table A2.1: Pottery by context, weight and date

Ctx	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
2	19C	4	117	WHEW (mass produced white earthenware). Flowerpot
9	17-18C	3	36	REW (red earthenware)
10	13-14C	1	73	OXAG (Abingdon/Ashampstead-type ware) pedestal-like baluster jug base. Traces green glz ext & trace white slip underside
12	13-16C	1	4	OXAM (Brill/Boarstall ware) small bs from jug. Prob 13-14C?
13	17-18C	1	21	REW (red earthenware)
14	L12-E15C	1	16	OXAQ (E Wiltshire ware) cspot base
17	c1770-1830	1	6	CRM (Creamware)
22	17-18C	5	50	REW (red earthenware) dish profile
408	L12-E15C	3	5	OXAQ (E Wiltshire ware) joining bss
410	14C?	88	859	OXAM (Brill/Boarstall ware) large fresh joining sherds from 1 biconical jug (13sh) w flat base & vertical strip dec in red & white (body clay). JOINS 416. 1x bs OXAM poss from oil tray of double-shelled oil lamp? 74x sh OXAQ mostly from a single cspot w upright ext thickened rim slightly int cupped - profile prob reconstructable. Context poss 14C because of joins with 416? Otherwise c1250-1350?
412	13-14C	12	110	2-3x bss OXAM incl jug w red strip dec. OXAQ. OXY incl cspot rim & frag tubular spot from tripod pitcher - abraded
414	13-14C	7	61	3x OXAM incl jug bs w broad red strip. 3x OXAQ. 1x uncert OXY or OXAM - poss jug or bowl bs w int yellow glz (less likely Stamford ware or 16-18C Border ware) abraded. All fairly small/abraded
416	c1375-1450?	28	396	Mostly OXAM prob min 4 vess incl rim & handle from strip jug (fresh, JOINS 410), also base OXAM conical drinking vess (Tudor Green style) w pad base, corrugated walls, lower handle scar, mott green glz int/ext. 1x OXAM poss bowl/dish rim. 4x bss OXAQ. 2x bss OXY cspots. 1x bs OXAC
418	13-14C	15	131	Mostly OXAM incl bss from highly dec jug w rouletting & strip dec, 1 jug rim & joining sherds from baluster jug base. 3x OXAQ incl cspot rim. Fairly smallish, some abraded
501	c1780-1830	2	50	Pearlware jug rim & handle w blue transfer print. 1x OXY tripod pitcher rim (L11-13C)
503	L17-18C	2	16	Buff earthenware ?jug/jar bs w int/ext brown mottled glz - poss post-med Brill? 1x v abraded OXAM
511	16-E17C	8	230	1x rim from storage jar w thumbd horiz strip under rim - prob late Brill OXAM/OXBX, partial clear orange glz int. Mostly 13-14C incl OXAM jug rim & handle, bs w red strip. Cspot base poss OXY or OXAM. Cspot base OXAQ
Total		182	2181	

Table A2.2: Ceramic building material by context, weight and date

Ctxt	Spot-date	No. of Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
2	19C	2	911	1x 19C red brick end, unfrogged, width 110mm, thickness 67mm. 1x fragment 19C grey roofing slate (39g)
12	16-17C?	3	169	1x small edge fragment fine red ?brick or ?quarry tile. 2x roof tile fragments probably medieval including 1 Fabric VII pale brown-buff w chalk flecks - abraded
13	13-16C?	2	289	Joining fragments from corner of roof tile 12mm thick. V uneven. Orange-red, fairly dense & pasty. Might be late med or even early post-med?
22	16-17C?	2	113	1x possible small fragment of orange-red sandy brick? 1x roof tile edge fragment w circular nail hole. 14mm thick. Pasty pale orange-buff fabric w low sand content, neatly finished - prob early post-med
410	13-16C	8	243	1x curved tile frag - v pale brown - possible Fabric VII related - probably unglazed ridge tile. 4x v pale brown calcareous Fab VII roof tile frags mostly c15mm thick, prob 13-14C? 3x Fab IIIB red sandy roof tile frags 11-14mm thick. All tile frags fairly small, some abraded
412	13-16C	3	145	2x v pale brown/cream Fab VII roof tiles - prob 13-14C incl edge frag, 14 & 17mm thick. 1x red fab IIIB edge frag w trace circular nail hole, 12mm thick
414	13-16C	18	1590	17x flat roof tile. Mostly large fresh frags incl corners & edges. Mostly red sandy Fab IIIB incl 4 w complete circular nail holes. 2 (1 tile?) w splashes clear glz on edge & surface. 1 v overfired purplish. Some w streaks of white marl. 14-17mm thick. 2x prob fab VII. 1x soft-fired oxid scrap - poss under -fired roof tile or fired daub etc
416	13-16C	8	471	Incl large fresh frags. Roof tile. Sandy red fab IIIB incl edge frags. 13-17mm thick. 1 w trace circ nail hole & glz specks
418	13-16C	3	118	Roof tile. Incl corner & traces circ nail holes. Orange fab IIIB. 1 w speck glz. 1 v dense/uniform. 1 pale orange-brown. 13-15mm thick
511	13-14C?	1	71	Roof tile edge. Pale brown fab VII. 16mm thick. Abraded
Total		50	4120	

APPENDIX 3 ANIMAL BONE DATA

Table A3.1: Preservation level of recovered bones

	N	0	1	2	3	4	5
OXKE 06	581		93.3%	6.7%	-	-	-

Table A3.2: Bone assemblage by type and form

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Cat	Domestic fowl	Bird	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet.
Horncore	234									
Skull	265	1								
Mandible			2							
Loose teeth	1									
Vertebra								5	8	
Rib								10	5	
Scapula		2		1					1	
Humerus	1	2	1	2	1					
Radius		1					1			
Ulna		1	1			2				
Metacarpal	1									
Pelvis	1			1						
Femur	1									
Tibia		1	2	1					1	
Metatarsal		1	1	1						
Longbone								1		
Indeterminate										18
Total	505	9	7	6	1	2	1	16	16	18
Weight (g)	6249	115	108	966	1	3	0	60	455	121

Table A3.3: Number of bones and weight per context.

Ctxt	Species	No. of bones (refitted)	Sum of weight (g)
2	Sheep/goat	1	46
10	Pig	1	16
13	Cattle	2	188
	Pig	1	
17	Horse	1	105
410	Cattle	1	429
	Sheep/goat	4	
	Pig	2	
	Bird	1	
	Medium mammal	7	
	Large mammal	5	
	Indeterminate	9	
412	Cattle	1	39
	Medium mammal	3	
	Indeterminate	2	
414	Cat	1	6
	Domestic fowl	2	
	Indeterminate	1	
416	Sheep/goat	2	123
	Pig	2	
	Medium mammal	5	
	Large mammal	3	
	Indeterminate	4	
418	Sheep/goat	2	50
	Pig	1	
	Large mammal	2	
	Indeterminate	2	
512	Cattle	501	7060
	Horse	5	
	Medium mammal	1	
	Large mammal	6	

APPENDIX 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**Site name:** Kendrew Quadrangle (St. John's College), St. Giles, Oxford**Site code:** OXKE 06**Grid reference:** SP 5122 0690**Type of evaluation:** Five trenches measuring 10 - 20 m in length**Date and duration of project:** December 18th-23rd 2006**Area of site:** 0.5 ha.

Summary of results: Pits dating to the 13th-15th centuries at the north-west of the site to the rear of tenements known to have fronted onto St. Giles. To the south, to the rear of No. 20 St. Giles, pits of 16th-18th century date were revealed, one containing a sizeable pottery assemblage and evidence of cattle horn working. Further east, demolition or construction spreads of building materials of post-medieval date were revealed as well as gravel quarry pits. One pit appears to have been opened in the early-middle medieval period; others date to the post-medieval. Brick paths, garden features/tree holes and soils of 18th/19th century date were also revealed towards the tops of the trenches relating to landscaping of the gardens in these periods

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: 2006.162

Servergo/campus1_1 thru Q:\OXKEEV\OXKE06\Kendrew Quadrangle, St Giles, Oxford *jm*29.01.07



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

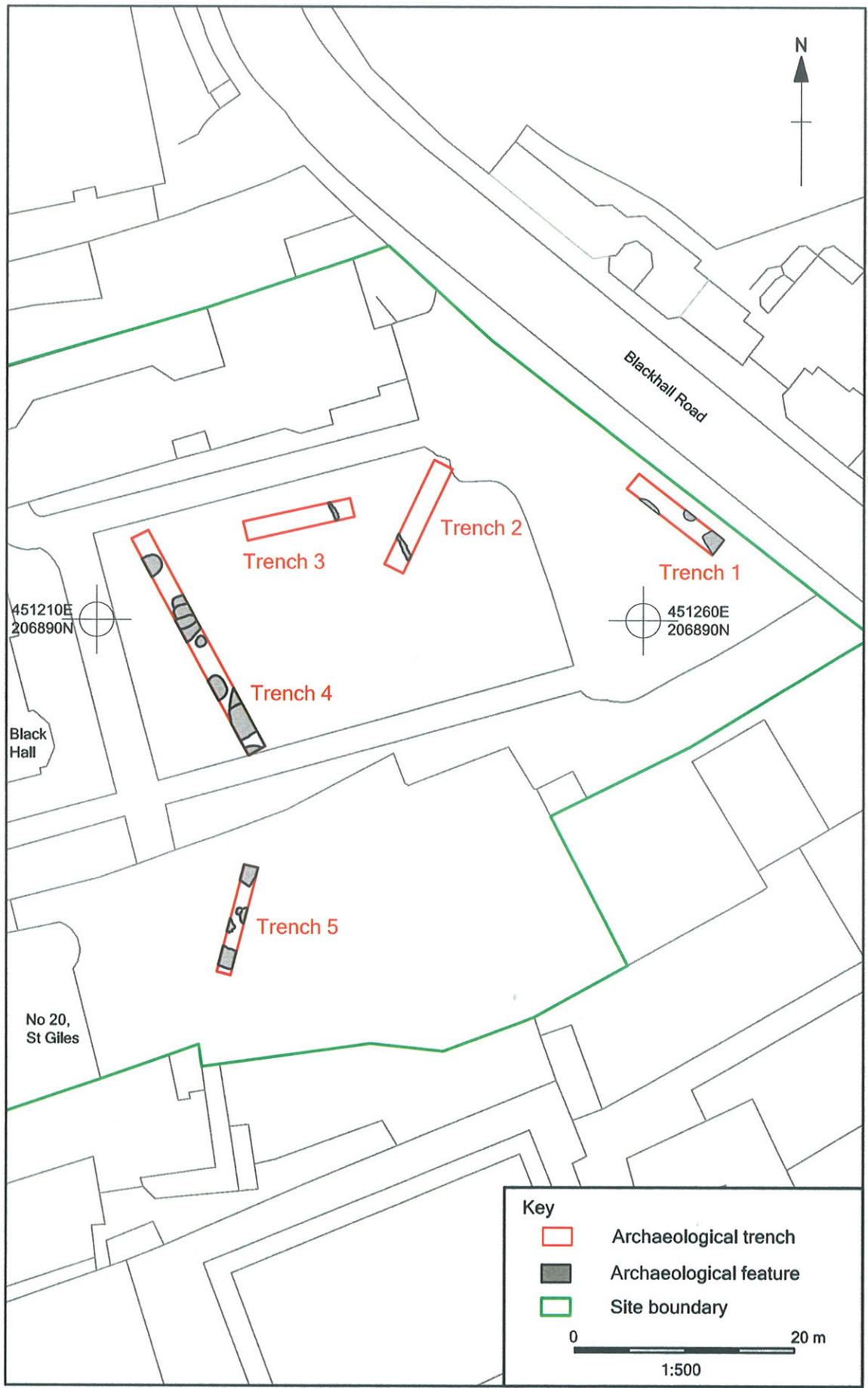


Figure 2: Trench locations

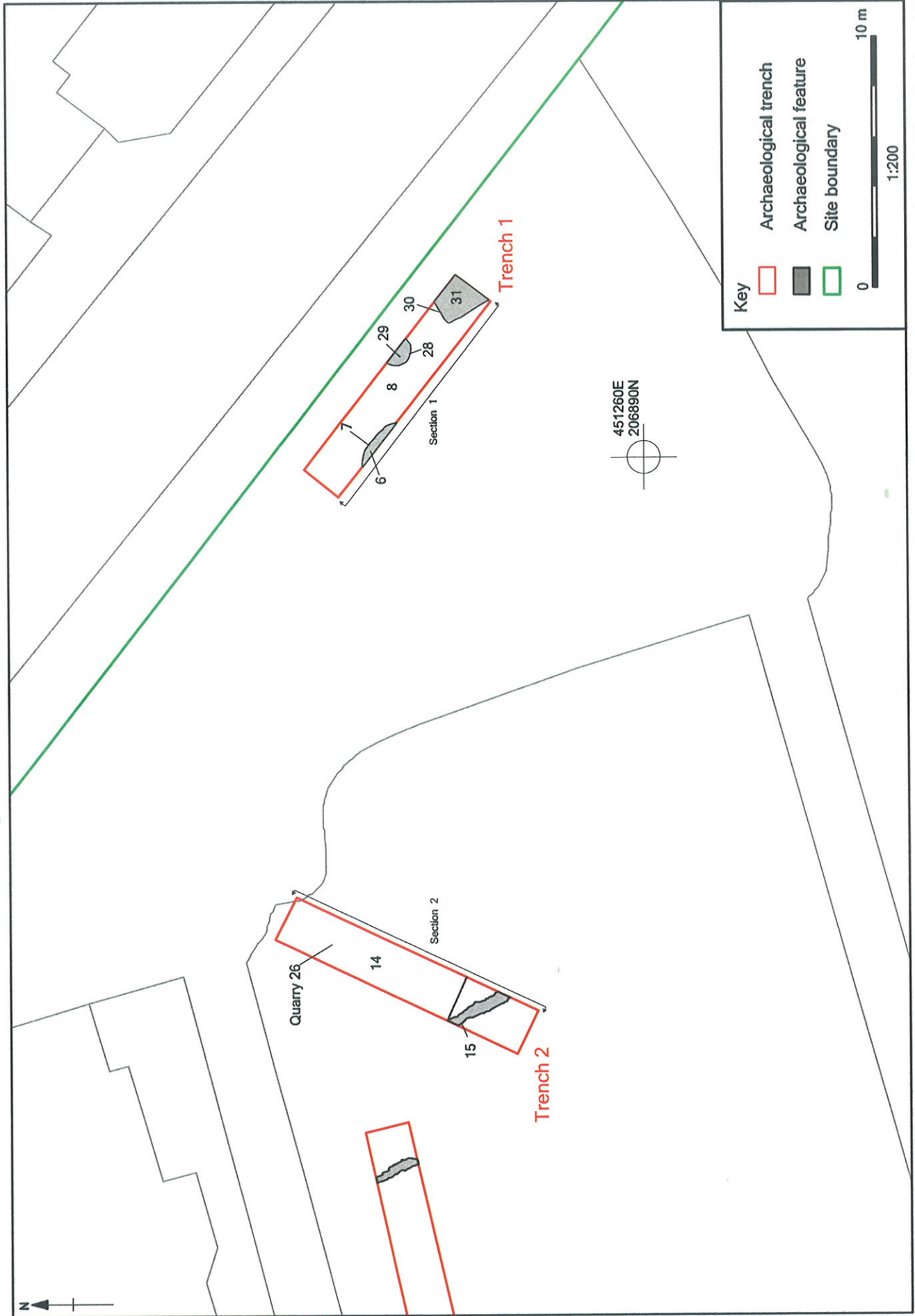


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2

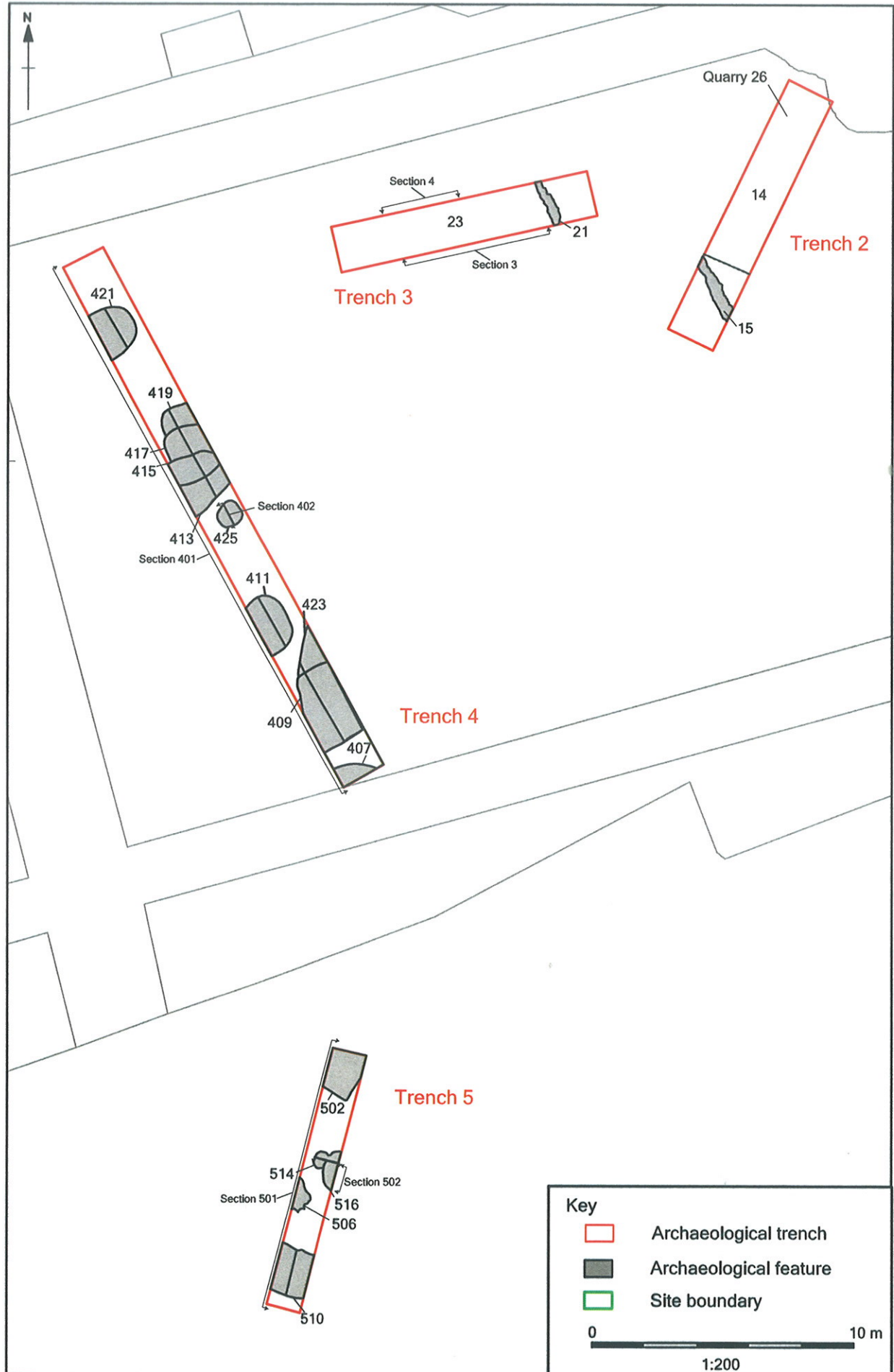


Figure 4: Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5

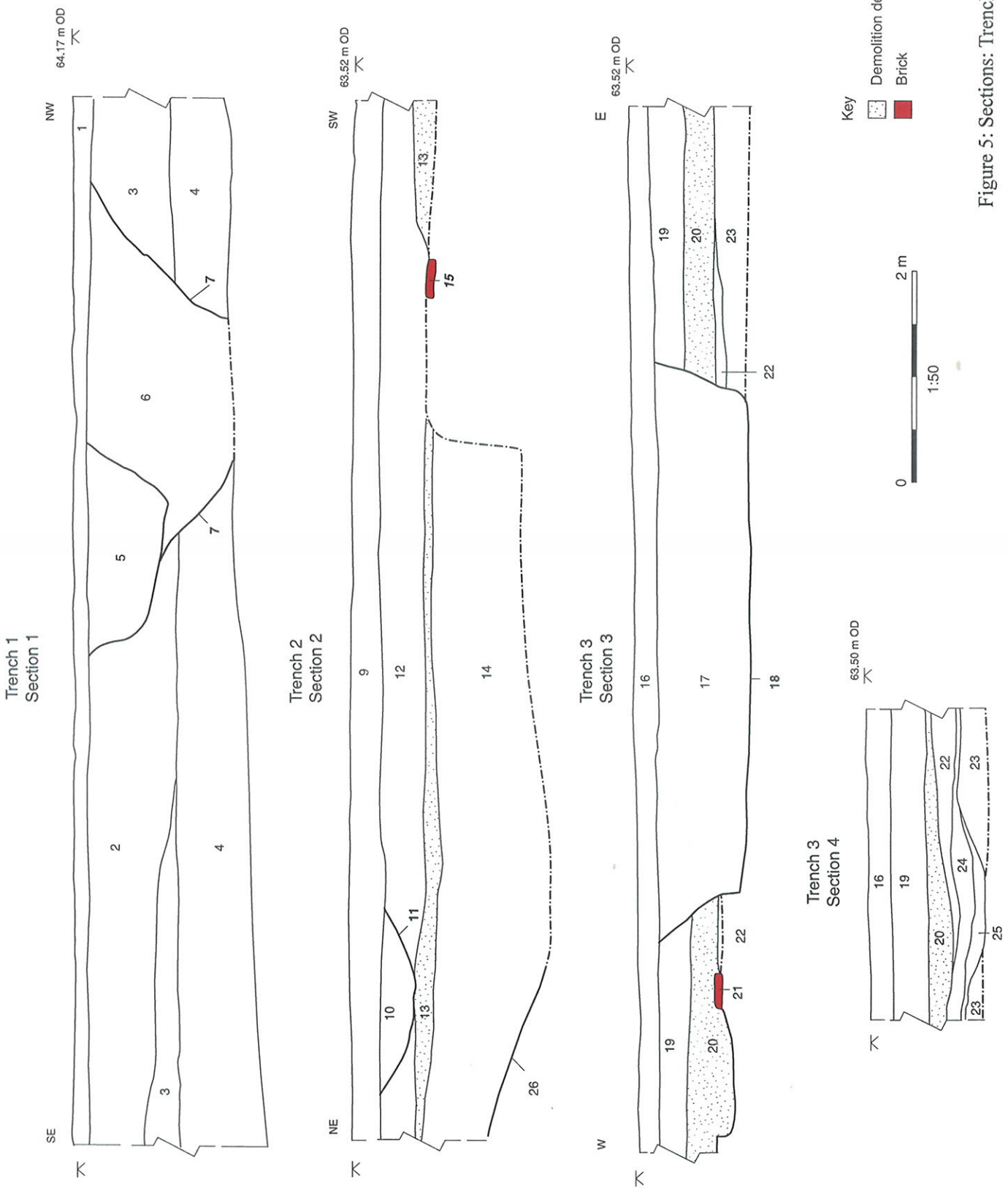


Figure 5: Sections: Trenches 1, 2, and 3

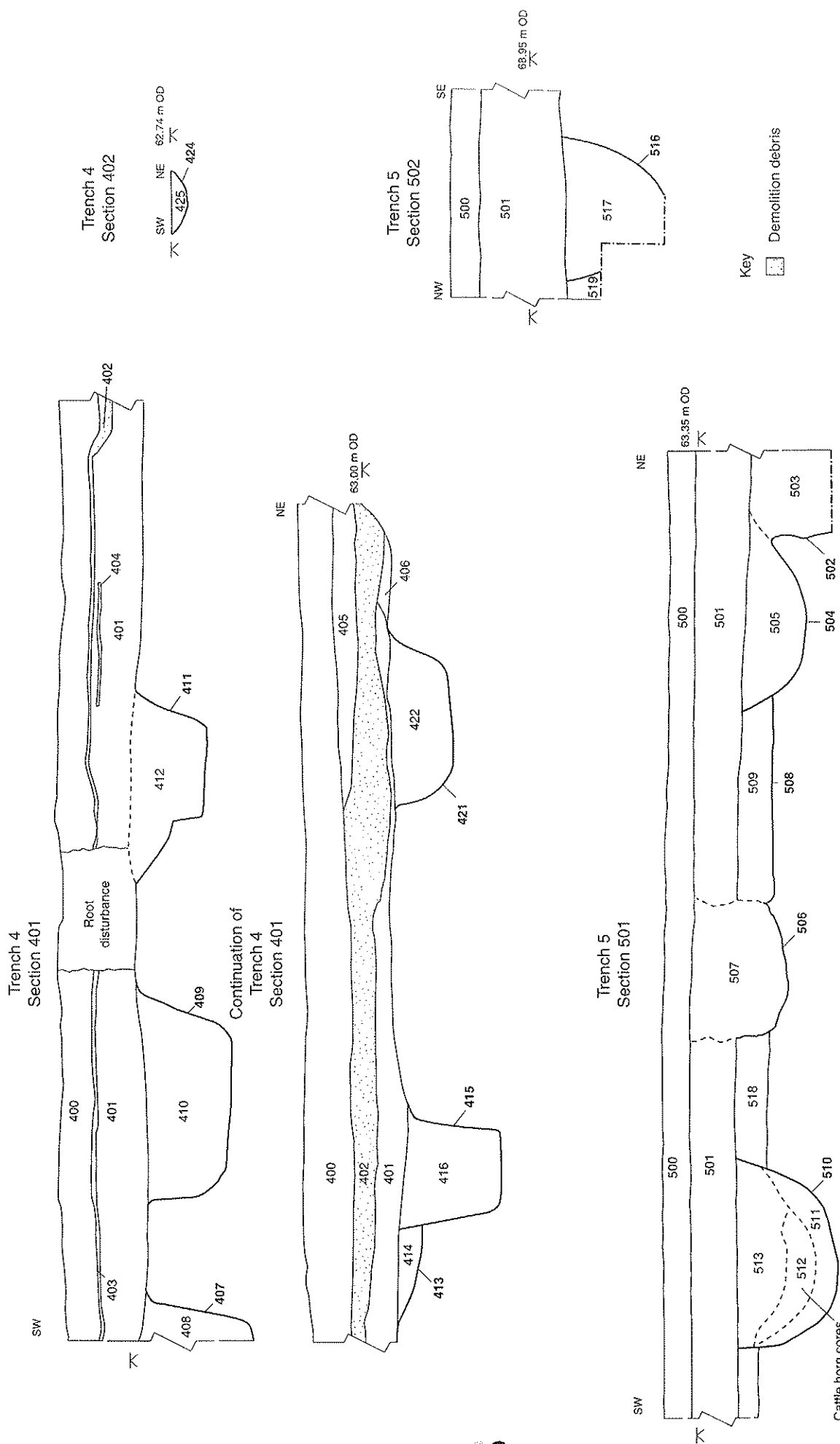


Figure 6: Sections: Trenches 4 and 5

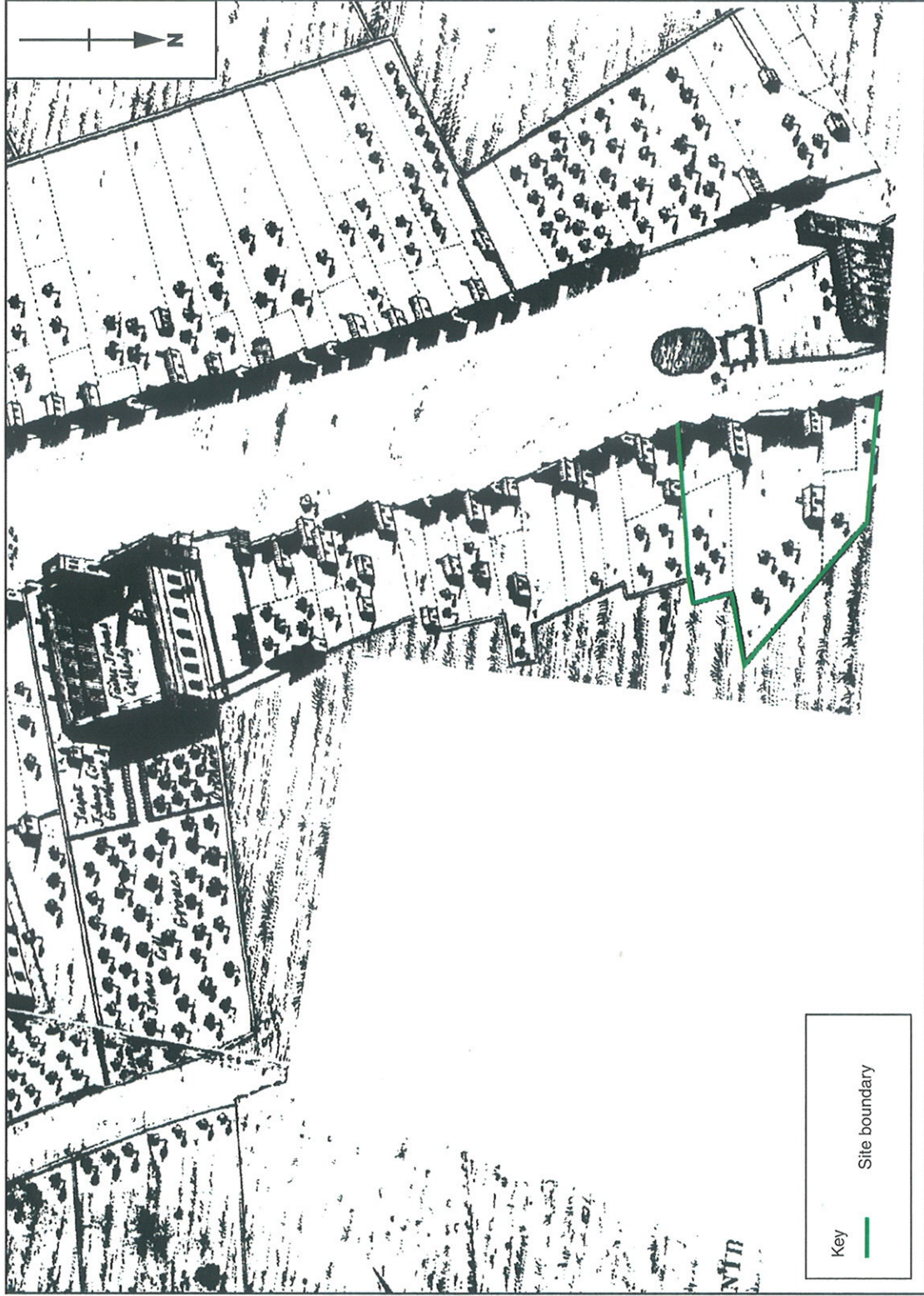


Figure 7: Extract from Agas' map of Oxford, St Giles, 1578

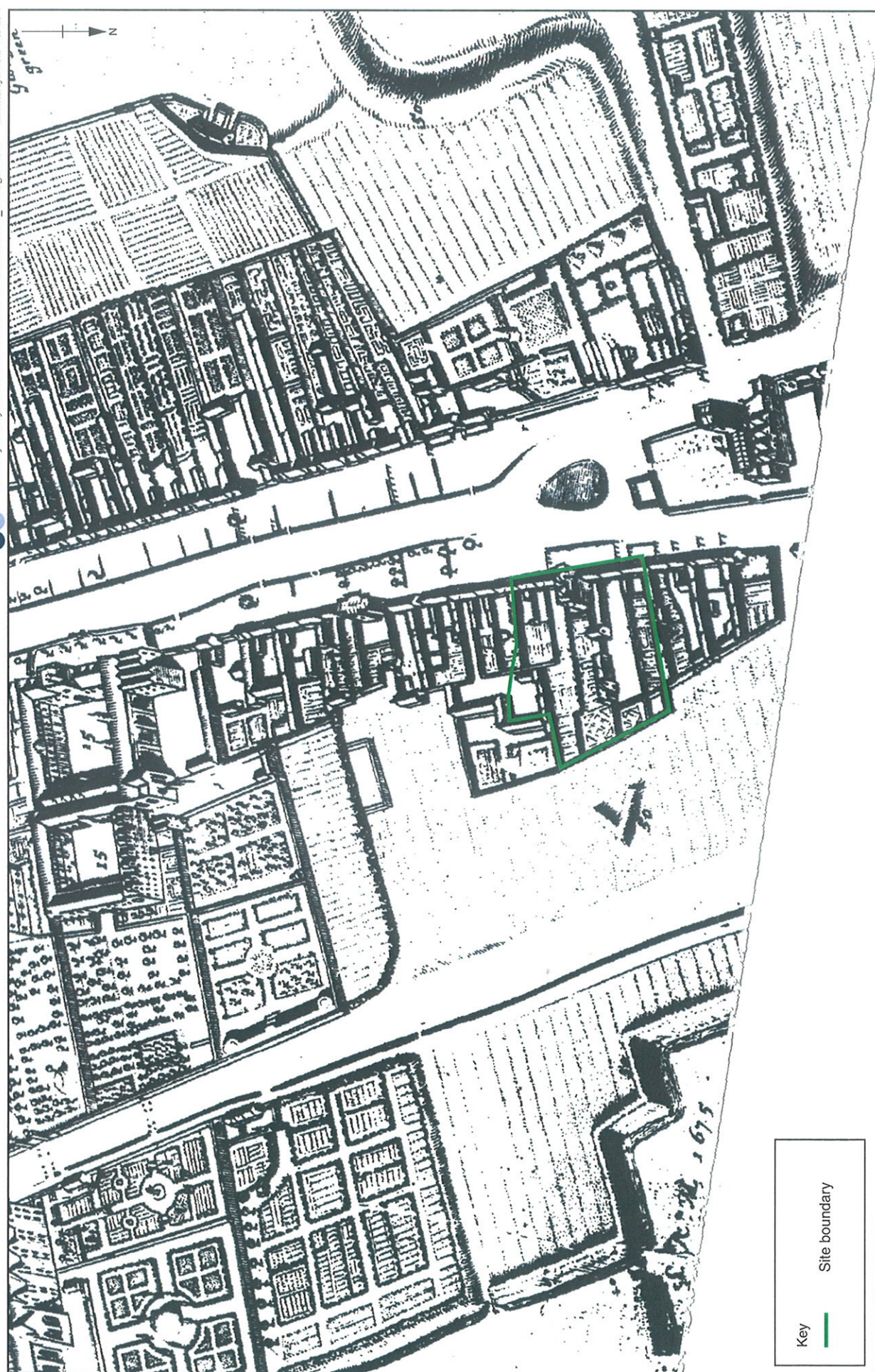


Figure 8: Extract from Loggan's map of Oxford, 1673

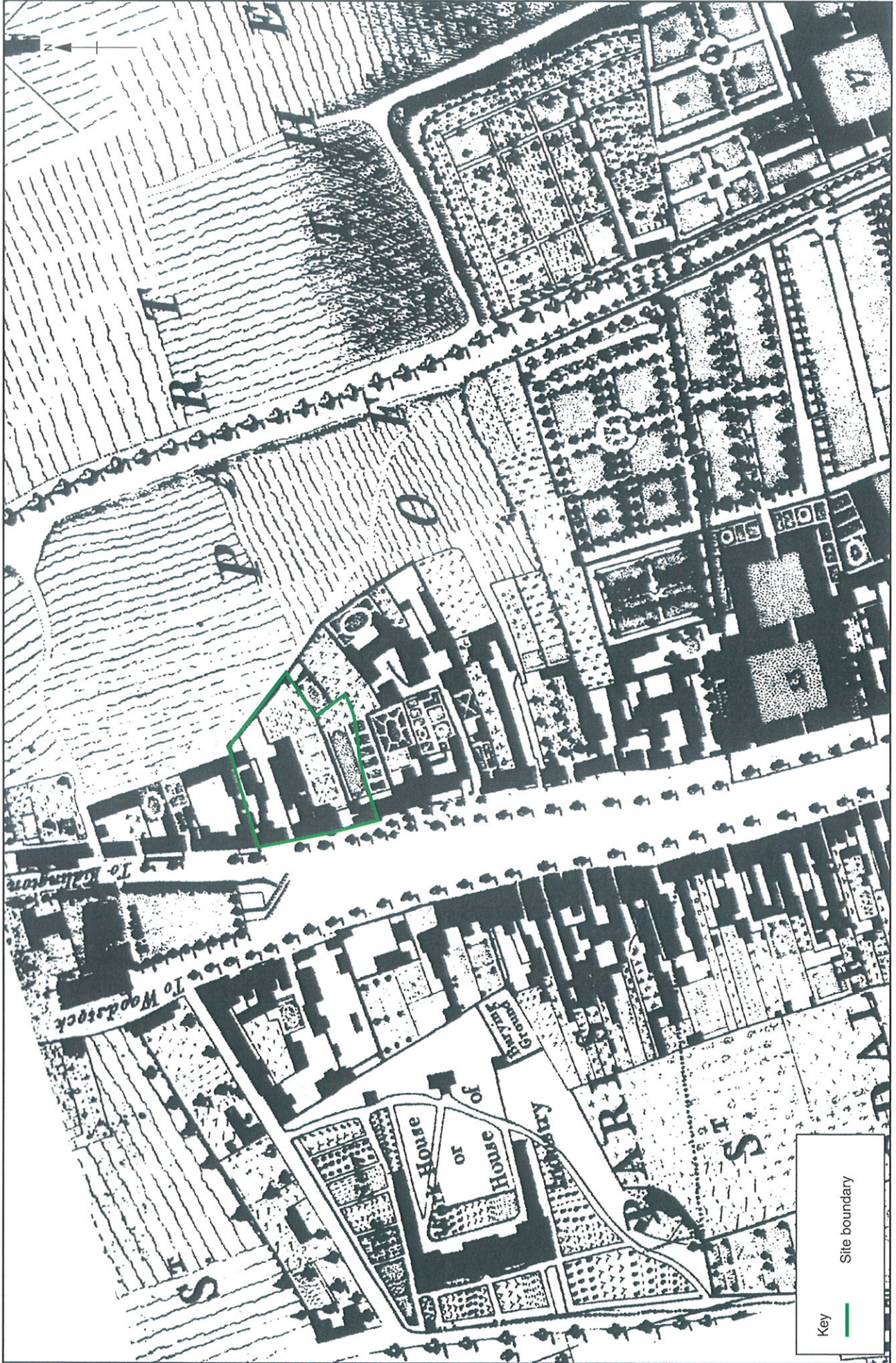


Figure 9: Extract from Faden's map of Oxford, 1789



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