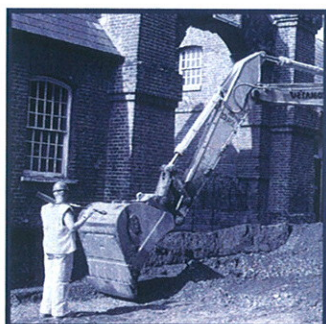


New Student Accommodation
Wadham College
Oxford City & County
Bowls Club
Marston Ferry Road
Oxford



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



Oxford Archaeology

25th November 2002

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Feltham Construction**

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OA Job N^o: 1551

Planning Ref N^o: 98/00073/NF

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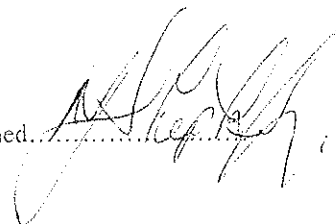
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In November 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the site of New Student Accommodation, Wadham College, Oxford City and County Bowls Club, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford (NGR SP5110 0882). The work was commissioned by Feltham Construction in advance of construction of a 3-storey building for student accommodation. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features except for a late 19th to early 20th century boundary ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In November 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the site of New Student Accommodation, Wadham College, Oxford City and County Bowls Club, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford. The work was commissioned by Feltham Construction in respect of a planning application for construction of a 3-storey building for student accommodation (Planning Application No. 98/00073/NF)
- 1.1.2 An advice note for archaeological monitoring was prepared by Brian Durham, the City's Archaeologist on behalf of Oxford City Council as regards to the development.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2002).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies at 63 m above OD, and is situated on river gravels over Oxford Clay and is 35 m x 42 m in area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI (OA, 2002 a) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 No archaeological sites or finds have been recorded from within the proposal area, although the general area has produced archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period through to the post-medieval period. Neolithic artifacts were recovered from the opposite side of the Banbury Road (just to the west of the site).
- 1.3.3 The Banbury Road itself is thought to lie on the route of a Roman road. Roman finds have been recovered during the original development of the suburb, to the southwest of the proposal area, particularly between St Margaret's Road and Frenchay Road.
- 1.3.4 A small number of Saxon finds are known from the adjacent Gods Little Acre site, and 200 m to the north of the bowls club a Saxon spearhead was recovered in 1957, though it was not thought to have been in-situ.

- 1.3.5 In May 2002 Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief on the site, during the construction of the new indoor bowling ring (OA, 2002 b).

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 development.

- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 After the old indoor bowls hall was demolished, the foundations were removed and the site backfilled and levelled. The new foundations were then excavated and concrete poured in a series of sections. This was when the watching brief was carried out.

- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The excavation of the foundation trenches exposed the natural gravel (3), which had been overlain by a 0.3 – 5 m thick layer of mid brown silty clay (2) subsoil (Fig. 3, section 1). This had been cut by a boundary ditch (4) measuring 0.7 m deep and 1.3 wide, with very steep sloping sides rounding sharply to a flat base (Fig. 3, section 2). The ditch contained two fills, which consisted of a primary silting of very dark gray brown silty clay loam (6). This was sealed below a dark brown silty clay (5), which filled in the ditch. Overlying the ditch and the subsoil was a 0.4 m thick layer of disturbed very dark grayish brown silty sand topsoil (1) and demolition material.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed no archaeological features except for a late 19th to early 20th century boundary ditch pre dating the construction of the bowls club. This relates to the development of housing along Marston Ferry Road, which in 1903 was made into a public highway by the council. Most of the site had been badly truncated by the construction and demolition of the old indoor bowling hall.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Height	Comments	Finds
1	Layer	0.4 m			Topsoil/Demolition	None
2	Layer	0.3-5 m			Subsoil	None
3	Natural				Natural	
4	Cut	0.7 m	1.3 m		Ditch	
5	Fill	0.34 m			Fill of Ditch	None
6	Fill	0.36 m			Fill of Ditch	None

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- OAU, 2000 *158 Banbury Road/1 Marston Ferry Road, Oxford* Archaeological Evaluation Report
- OA 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, first edition August 1992)
- OA, 2002 *Oxford City Bowls Club, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford* Written Scheme of Investigation
- OA, 2002 *Oxford City Bowls Club, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford* Archaeological Watching Brief

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: New Student Accommodation, Wadham College, Oxford City and County Bowls, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.

Site code: OXWAD 02

Grid reference: NGR SP 5110 0882

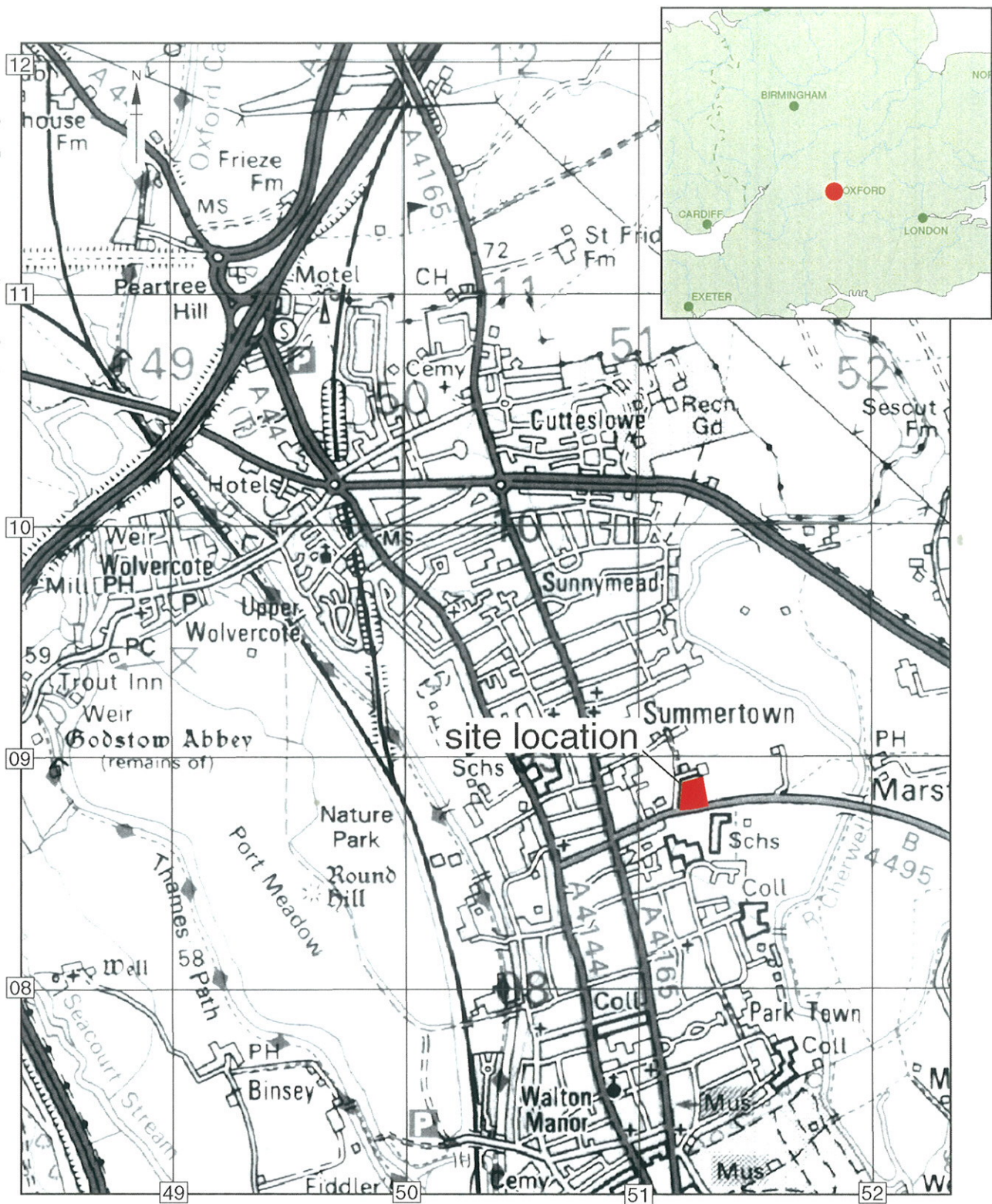
Type of watching brief: Construction of new student accommodation for Wadham College.

Date and duration of project: Four site visits from the 28/10/2002 to the 20/11/2002.

Area of site: 33 m x 17 m

Summary of results: No archaeological features were observed, except for a late 19th to early 20th century boundary ditch.

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: OXCMS 2002.212



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Figure 1: Site location

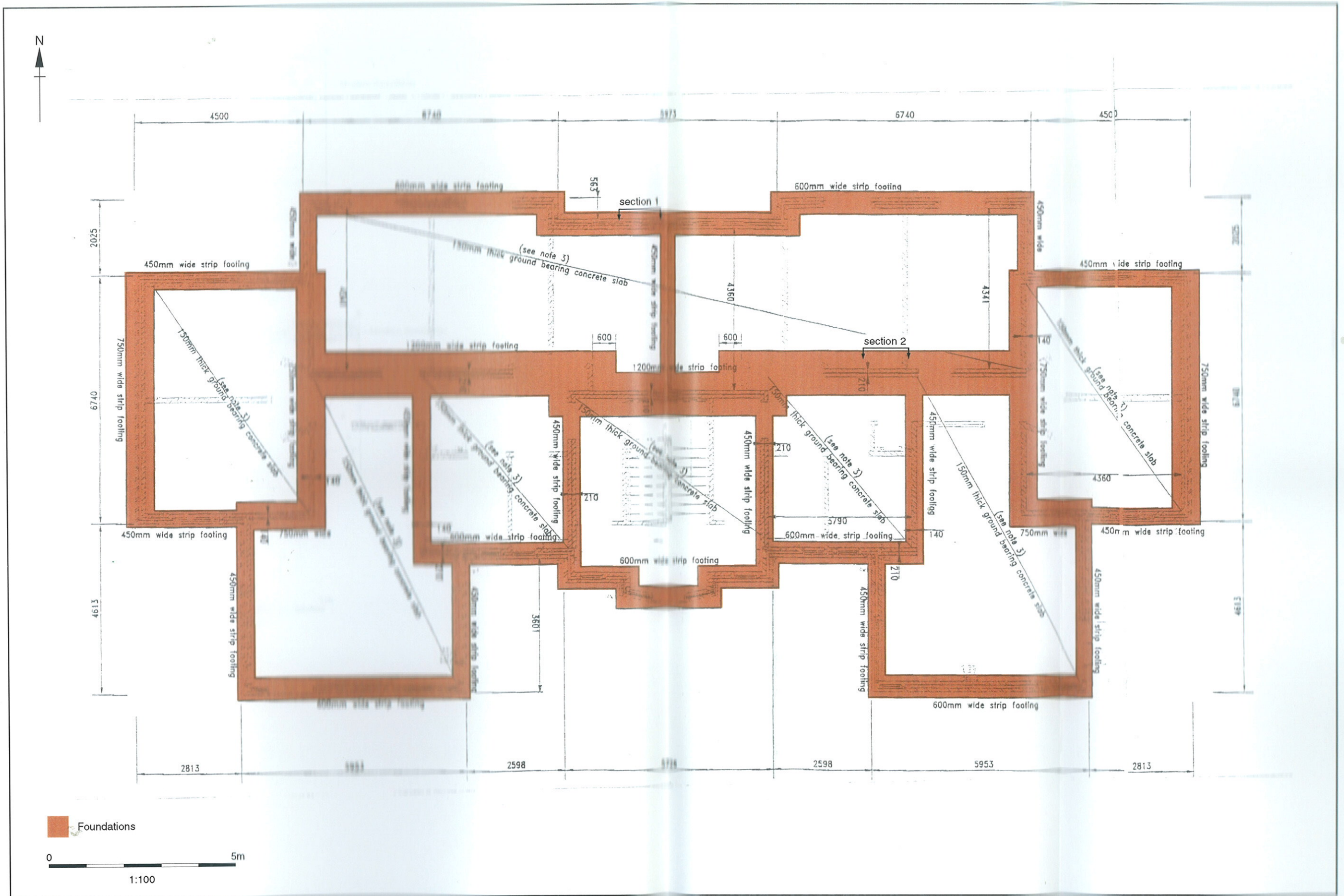


Figure 2 : Site Plan of foundations showing sections 1 and 2

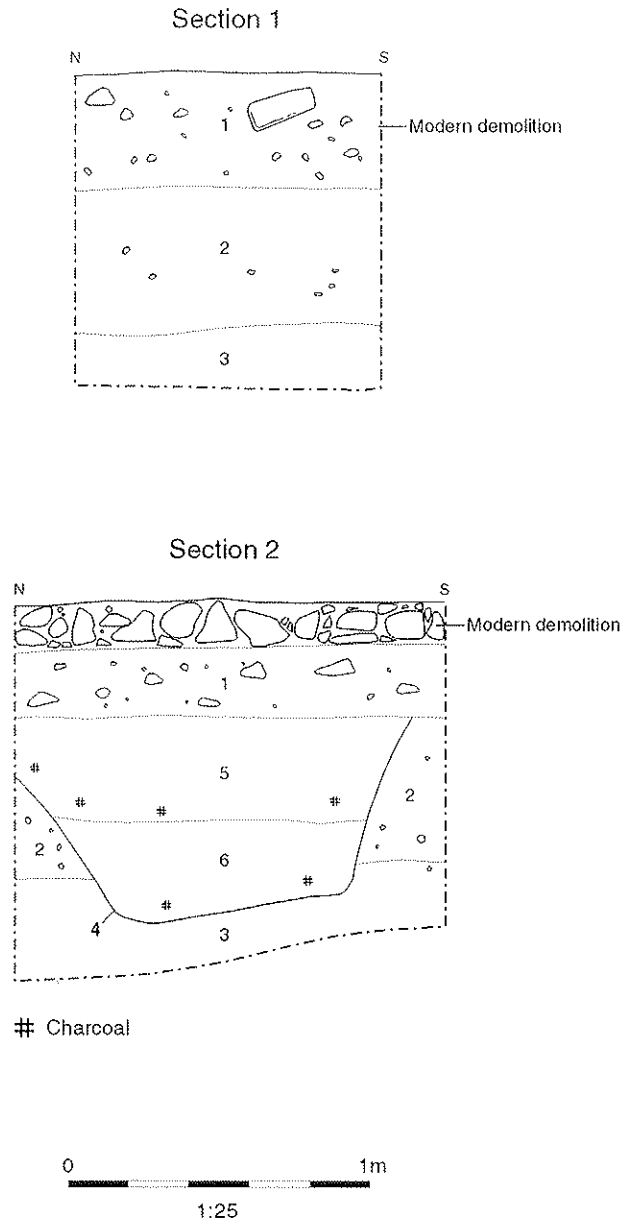


Figure 3: Sections 1 and 2



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