

# Building Extension at Jacqueline Du Pres Music Room St Hilda's College Oxford



## Archaeological Watching Brief



**Oxford Archaeology**

14th May 2002



**Client Name:**  
**Basil Wyatt and Son Ltd**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1

OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 1216

Planning Ref N<sup>o</sup>: 01/0220.01/0884

NGR: SP 5220 0570

**Client Name:** Basil Waytt and Son Ltd

**Client Ref No:**

**Document Title:** Jacqueline du Pres Music Room, Building Extension St  
Hilda's College, Oxford

**Document Type:** Watching Brief

**Issue Number:** 1

National Grid Reference: SP 5220 0570  
Planning Reference: 01/0220 and 01/0884


OA Job Number: 1216  
Site Code: OXHJP 02  
Invoice Code: OXHJPWB  
Museum Accession No: 2002.56

Prepared by: James Mumford

Position: Assistant Supervisor  
Date: 1st May 2002

Checked by: Jon Hillier  
Position: Senior Project Officer  
Date: 1st May 2002

Approved by: Robert Williams  
Position: Director, Head of Operations and Business  
Date: 1st May 2002

Signed..... 

Document File Location U:\OAU\wbREPORTS\Oxford City\OXHJP.doc  
Graphics File Location \\Server4\oaupubs1\All  
drawings\\*OXHJPWB\*Jacqueline Du Pres Music Room  
St hilda's College\*RMS\*02.05.02

Illustrated by Roz Smith

**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology**  
© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2002

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES  
t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk  
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

## Jacqueline du Pres Music Room, Building Extension St Hilda's College, Oxford

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

#### CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction .....	1
1.1 Location and scope of work .....	1
1.2 Geology and topography .....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background .....	1
2 Project Aims and Methodology.....	2
2.1 Aims .....	2
2.2 Methodology.....	2
3 Results .....	2
3.1 Description of deposits .....	2
3.2 Finds .....	2
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains .....	2
4 Discussion And Conclusions.....	2
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory .....	3
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references.....	3
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	3

#### LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 OS Site location map  
Fig. 2 Site plan of trenches and section

## SUMMARY

*In April 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Jacqueline du Pres music room, St Hilda's College, Oxford (NGR SP 5220 0570). The work was commissioned by Basil Wyatt Construction in advance of the construction of a new foyer to the front of the building. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In April 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Jacqueline du Pres music room, St Hilda's College, Oxford (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Basil Wyatt Construction in respect of a planning application for new foyer at the front of building (Planning Application No. 01/0220 and 01/0884).
- 1.1.2 A project brief detailing the action for recording below ground impacts was set by Brian Durham, Oxford City Archaeologist.
- 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 geology of the site is Flood Plain Drift Geology, comprising Terrace and River Gravel's (sands and gravel's) above Oxford Clay. A geotechnical survey undertaken in 1998 found Drift geology to a depth of c. 2.7 m. Overlying this was modern made ground which comprised tarmac over crushed stone over sand, gravel and brick.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA, 2002) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The site is located c. 50 m east of the River Cherwell outside the historic core of Oxford, but within the ancient parish of Cowley. It is located in the eastern corner of St Hilda's College, adjacent to the College boundary wall.
- 1.3.3 A desk-based assessment concluded an uncertain potential for prehistoric, Roman and early medieval archaeology within the site, and a low potential for archaeology of the later medieval and post-medieval periods. A watching brief in 2000 here revealed 18th/19th century pottery and features associated with the construction of the school buildings (OA 2001). Other recent local fieldwork includes investigations at Magdelene College Sports Ground by TVAS in 2000 and at Cowley Place by John Moore Heritage Services in 2001 (OCC Project Brief, 2001).

## 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 Prior to the ground work starting the excavation for a new fire path was carried out. This was with a JCB with a ditching bucket (Fig. 3). The ground was reduced by 0.3-5 m below the surface and filled with stone chippings.
- 2.2.2 The ground level was reduced by 0.2 m removing turf and a footpath. A 0.6 m wide and 0.9 m deep trench was excavated by JCB to re-route the local services. The foundation trench was then excavated along the front of the building (Fig. 2). This was 0.7 m wide and 0.6-0.9 m deep, and the area within reduced for the new floor.
- 2.2.3 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 area strip and the trenches cut through topsoil of dark greyish brown silty sand (5) and a 0.3 m thick layer of stone chippings, which both overlay a subsoil of dark reddish brown silty sand (1) which was from 0.1 – 0.6 m in depth over the natural gravel (2) (Fig. 2). The subsoil and the gravel and been cut by a number of modern service trenches to the Jacqueline du Pres building and garden features.

### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered from the watching brief.

### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No samples were taken during the watching brief.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed. The only activity being from landscaping for the garden, construction of the building and the installation of services to serve the Jacqueline du Pres building.

## 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>
1	Layer	0.1-6 m			Subsoil	
2	Layer				Natural gravel	
3	Cut				Modern service cut	
4	Fill				Fill	None
5	Layer	0.2 m			Topsoil	None

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2002, *Jacqueline du Pres Music Room, Building extension, St Hilda's College, Oxford*,  
Written Scheme of Investigation

OA 1992 Fieldwork Manual (ed. D Wilkinson, first edition August 1992)

OCC 2001 *Brief for archaeological fieldwork 2: Mitigation including watching brief*

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** New Foyer for the Jacqueline du Pres music room, St Hilda's College, Oxford

**Site code:** OXHJP 02

**Grid reference:** NGR SP 5220 0570

**Type of watching brief:** Excavations of foundations for new foyer on front of building.

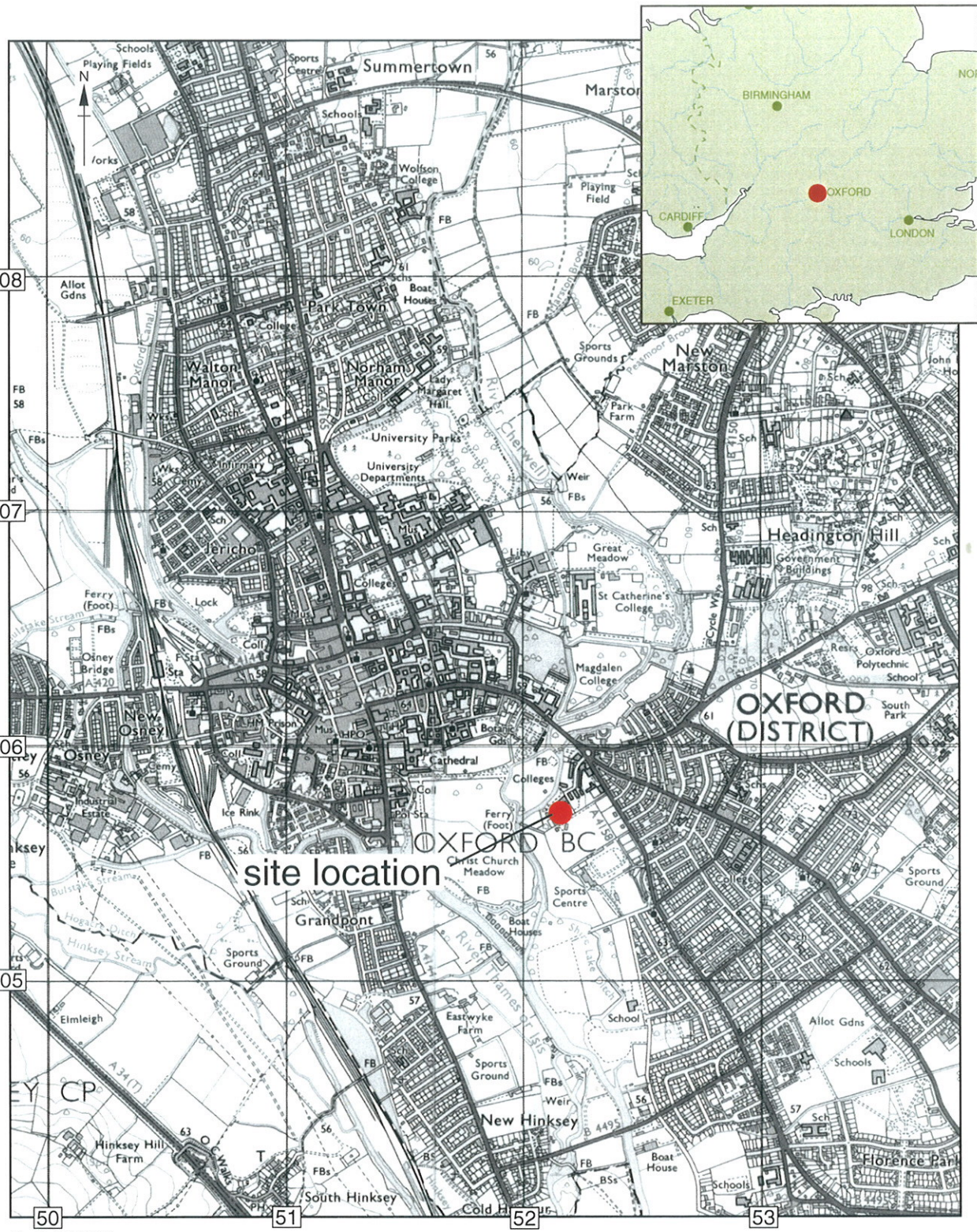
**Date and duration of project:** A total of four visits from 20/02/2002 to 24/04/2002.

**Area of site:** 25 x 5 m

**Summary of results:** No archaeological features or deposits were found.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: 2002.56





Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
© Crown Copyright 1992. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10005569

Figure 1: Site location



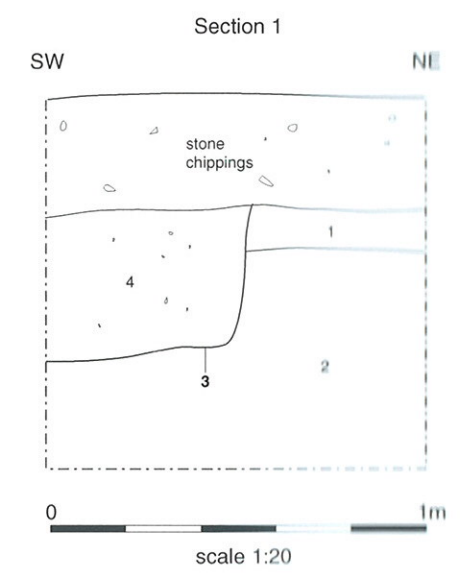
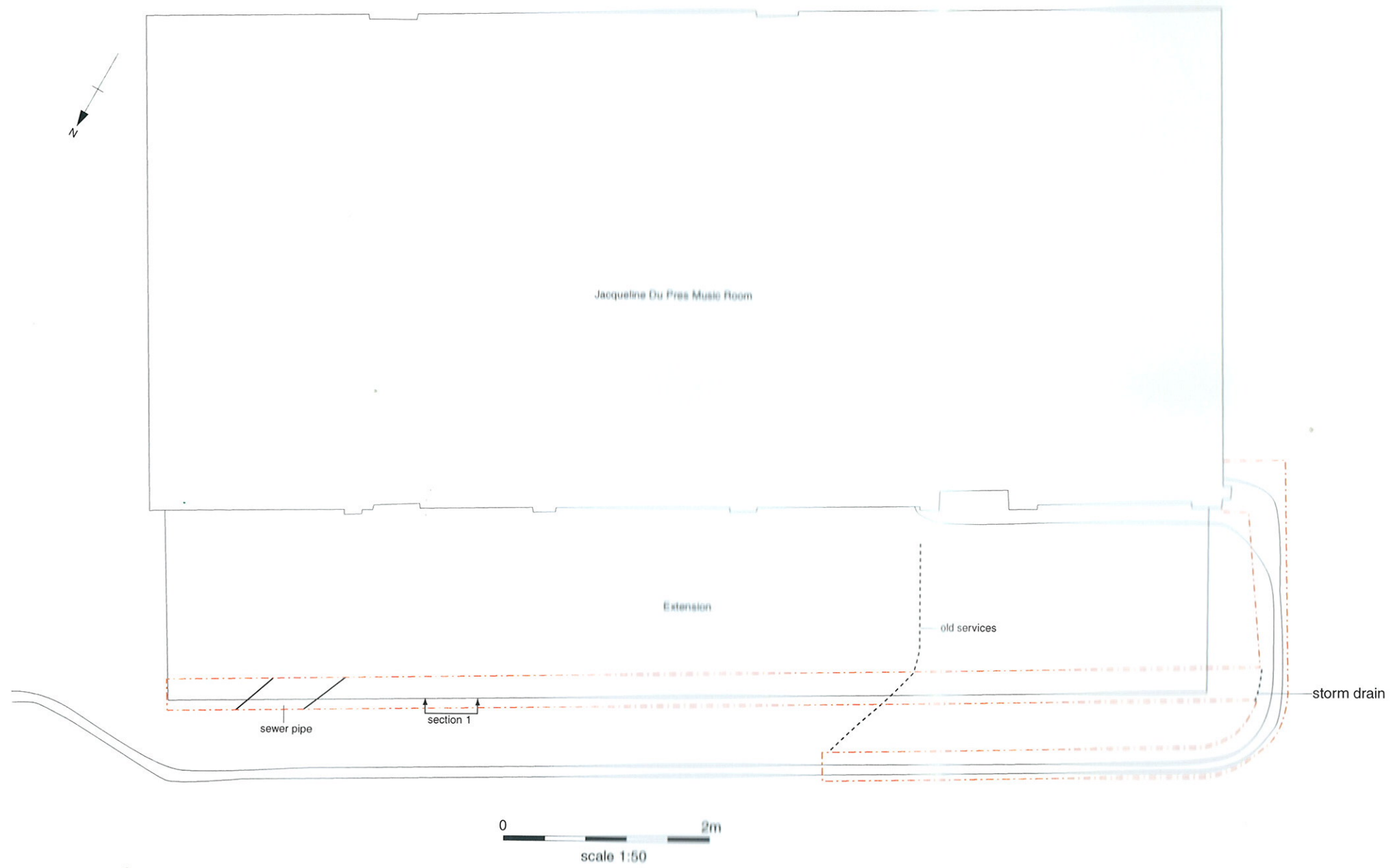


Figure 2: Site Plan of Trenches and Section



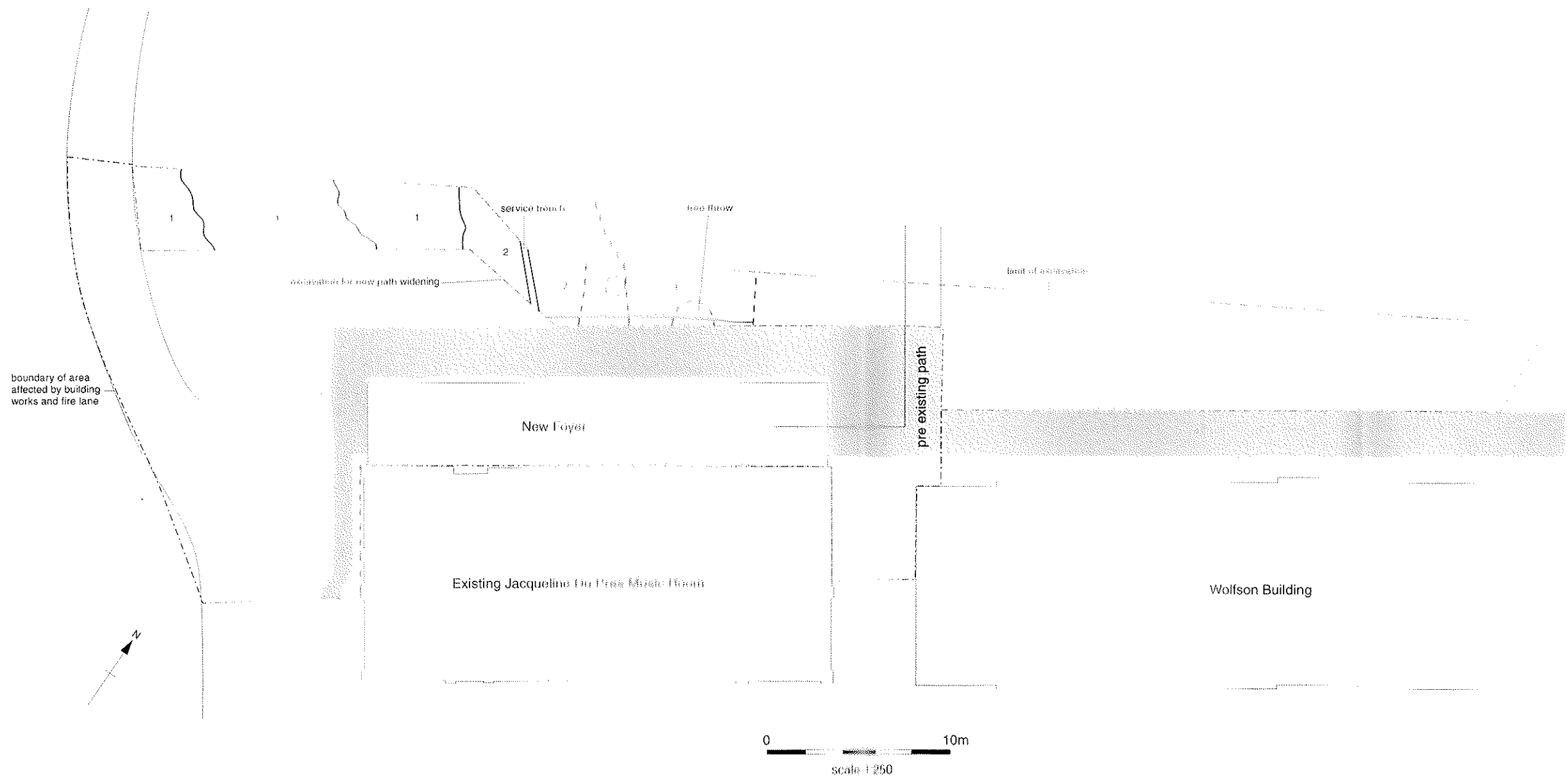
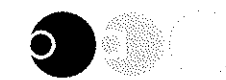


Figure 3: Plan of Fire Path Area



**Oxford Archaeology**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496  
e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)



**Oxford Archaeology North**

Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 848666  
f: (0044) 01524 848606  
e: [lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)

**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



Oxford Archaeological Unit is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627

**Registered Office:**

Oxford Archaeological Unit  
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES