

# Ashmolean Museum Oxford



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Prepared by: Andrew Norton  
Position: Project Officer  
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Checked by: J Hiller  
Position: Project Manager  
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Approved by: Nick Shepherd  
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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)

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# The Ashmolean Museum Oxford

NGR SP 5116 0657

## *ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*In December 2004 and January 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of contractor's test-pits at The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (NGR SP 5116 0657). The work was commissioned by Mace Ltd (on behalf of the Oxford University Estate's Directorate), in advance of an extension with basements to the rear (north side) of the museum. The watching brief revealed evidence for medieval and post-medieval tenements that once fronted onto St Giles. A large possible medieval pit was seen and several wall footings were identified within the test pits, including a possible cellar wall. Much of the area had been disturbed by services and the construction of the museum buildings in the late 19th century.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In December 2004 and January 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mace Ltd (on behalf of Oxford University Estate's Directorate) in respect of a planning application for an extension to the rear of the Museum that includes basements and a roof terrace (Planning Application No. 03/01697/FUL).

1.1.2 A project brief was set by Brian Durham of Oxford City Council (OCC 2004) on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with PPG16. OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2004).

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The area of the proposed development is located along the south side of a small alleyway off Pusey Place (Ashmolean Lane), which runs east to west to the rear (north side) of the Ashmolean Museum (NGR SP 5116 0657). The site is currently occupied by early 20th century buildings of the Oriental Institute and former Ashmolean Library, of which the latter has since relocated to the new Sackler Library immediately west of the Site.

1.2.2 St. Giles, which once formed the main road into the medieval town of Oxford from the north, lies *c* 15 m to the east of the area of proposed development. The medieval town of Oxford lay *c* 200 m to the south.

1.2.3 The site is located on Quaternary River Gravels of the 2nd (Summertown-Radley) Terrace Deposits (British Geological Survey sheet 236). The terrace forms a north-south ridge of higher ground between the River Isis *c*. 1 km to the west and the River Cherwell *c*. 1.5 km to the east. The ground level of the proposed development lies at *c* 64 m Ordnance Datum (OD), but varies due to internal and external height

differences within the museum itself. The level of the street surface on St. Giles to the east is at 63.7 m OD, and in St. John's Street to the west it is 63.4 m OD.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The University Surveyor's Office commissioned OA to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site (OA 2003). The results of this survey were combined with a desktop study commissioned for work at the Classics Centre - 65-67, St Giles (OA 2004) and are summarised below.
- 1.3.2 A considerable number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in the general study area in the past. The most relevant comprise a recent excavation, carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU now Oxford Archaeology, OA), prior to construction of the Sackler Library in 1998-9, c 50 m to the south-west of the area of proposed development (Poore and Wilkinson 2001); and an archaeological excavation by Wessex Archaeology on the site of the Ashmolean Museum forecourt, c 50 m to the south of the area of proposed development, in 1994 (Andrews and Mephram 1998, 179).
- 1.3.3 The work carried out by the OAU at the site of Oxford University's Sackler Library revealed evidence of two probable Bronze Age ring ditches (the ploughed-out remains of round barrows), one of which lay largely within the project area and enclosed an area 28 m in diameter. The development site was thought to lie at the eastern limit of the precinct of Beaumont Palace, a royal residence immediately outside the north wall of the medieval city of Oxford and in use c 1132-1318.
- 1.3.4 Numerous medieval pits were found aligned in rows and were possibly dug as tree planters. The dating evidence suggested that they might have formed part of a formal garden associated with the palace. In the early 14th century the palace site was granted to the Carmelite Friars. The excavations found evidence for a substantial east-west aligned buttressed stone building, which may originally have been built as part of the palace, but which ultimately formed part of the Friary complex. Evidence for a second medieval building was revealed a short distance to the north-east. Excavation also revealed a number of stone-lined garden features relating to an early-19th century development of terraced housing on Beaumont Street and St John Street.
- 1.3.5 The Wessex Archaeology excavation of the Museum forecourt produced evidence of a continuous sequence of extra-mural occupation beginning in the late 12th century in the form of two successive buildings dating into the 13th century and possibly 14th century, along with a series of domestic backyard rubbish pits. Two large 14th-century bread ovens were recorded in the adjacent property to the north.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

#### *General 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.

#### *Specific Aims*

- 2.1.3 To detect and characterise any islands of significant archaeological deposits surviving between existing museum basements relevant to project planning.
- 2.1.4 To detect any deposit indicative of a perimeter ditch to Beaumont Palace relevant to project planning.
- 2.1.5 To sample any rich artefactual or palaeo-environmental deposit encountered in hand dug geo-technical investigations.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Watching Brief comprised monitoring the hand excavation of seven geo-technical test pits (Fig. 2), by a competent archaeologist in accordance with the contractors programme (Ashlar Construction Ltd). A total of 11 test pits were initially planned, although during the works four pits were deemed unnecessary by the engineer/contractor. Any features exposed were hand excavated and recorded archaeologically.
- 2.2.2 All work on the project was undertaken in accordance with relevant professional standards, including MAP2 (EH 1991) and the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (1992), and specifically in relation to Standard Task Methodologies for Oxford City Council (Appendix 1, OCC Brief). Work on finds was undertaken in accordance with the IFA's *Guidelines for Finds Work* (1992), as well as the OA's *Finds and Environmental Sampling Manuals*.
- 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 *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Description of deposits

##### *Test Pit 2 (Fig.3)*

- 3.1.1 Test Pit 2 was aligned W-E and situated at basement level within the toilet area, to the east side of the Museum. The test pit measured 1 m by 0.7 m and natural gravel (41) was revealed 1.05 m below ground level (bgl). A wall footing robber trench (40) cut into the natural gravel. The trench was at least 0.3 m deep and filled with a sandy silt (39) that contained a high percentage of limestone rubble. The fill was truncated by a service trench (38) and overlain by levelling deposits (36 below 35) for a flagstone floor (33). A brick wall (34) was constructed upon the floor and was abutted by a levelling deposit (32) and overlain by a stone floor (31). It was not possible to obtain OD levels for this trench.

##### *Test Pit 3 (Fig.4)*

- 3.1.2 Test Pit 3 measured 1.2 m by 1.2 m and was located in a narrow courtyard at basement level, to the west of the Taylorian Institute. The trench was excavated to a depth of 60.94 m OD (2.75 m bgl) and natural gravel was not seen. A levelling deposit (58) was cut by the construction trench (57) for a modern cellar. Cut 57 was filled with a clay silt (56). The fill was overlain by concrete footings (59) and a concrete surface and levelling layer (54 and 55) forming the present ground surface here.

##### *Test Pit 4 (Fig.5)*

- 3.1.3 Test Pit 4 was located to the west side of the Museum and measured 1 m by 1 m. The pit was excavated to a depth of 62.89 m OD (1.9 m bgl) but natural gravel was not seen. A dumped levelling deposit (18) was cut by the foundation trench (17) for a modern brick wall. The construction cut fill (16) was overlain by the make-up (15) for a concrete bedding (14) beneath the wood flooring (13).

##### *Test Pit 5 (Fig.6)*

- 3.1.4 Test Pit 5 was located to the south of Test Pit 4 and measured 1.3 m by 1 m. Natural gravel (28) was seen at a depth of 62.25 m OD (2.5 m bgl) and was truncated by a shallow feature of uncertain function (30). The feature may have been a pit and was filled with a sandy silt (29). A band of former topsoil (23) overlay the gravel and appeared to be truncated by the construction cut (26) for a limestone wall (20). The wall was 1.1 m deep and 0.3 m wide and was not faced. The foundation cut (22) for the existing brick walls of the Ashmolean (21) truncated the limestone wall, which was abutted by dumped deposits (19 and 25).

*Test Pit 6 (Fig.7)*

- 3.1.5 Test Pit 6 was located towards the east of the museum at the level of the ground floor. The test pit measured 1.1 m by 1 m and natural gravel (51) was seen at 62.65 m OD (2.1 m bgl). The gravel was truncated by the construction cuts (53 and 50) for two wall foundations (48 and 49). Wall 48 was constructed from limestone blocks; it was more than 0.4 m high, although the base was not seen, and over 0.6 m wide. Wall 49 extended parallel to wall 48 and it was also constructed from limestone blocks; it was 0.5 m high and over 0.3 m wide. Both foundations had been truncated by the construction cut (47) for the Ashmolean wall that was filled with dumped gravelly silt (43-46). The concrete floor of the Chinese Gallery (42) overlay 43.

*Test Pit 10 (Fig.8)*

- 3.1.6 Test Pit 10 was located towards the centre of Ashmolean Lane. It measured 1.2 m by 0.7 m and was excavated to a depth of 63.08 m OD (1.2 m bgl); natural gravel was not seen. A possible former garden soil (12) was revealed and it was overlain by a brick drain (11) that was truncated by modern services (2). The tarmac surface (1) of the lane overlay these services.

*Test Pit 11 (Fig.9)*

- 3.1.7 Test Pit 11 was located at the east end of Ashmolean Lane between an entrance to the Taylorian Institute and the south wall of the Classics Centre. The trench measured 3 m in length by 1.5 m at its widest point. Natural gravel (8) was revealed at 61.61 m OD (2.15 m bgl). It was cut by a large pit (7) that was over 2.2 m deep and more than 1.9 m wide. It was filled with a silty clay deposit with burnt silt lenses (6, 9 and 10). These fills were truncated by the foundation cut (4) for a crude limestone wall footing (5). The footing was over 0.4 m wide and over 0.8 m deep. The wall was truncated by services (2 and 3) that were overlain by the tarmac surface (1) of Ashmolean Lane.

**3.2 Finds***General*

- 3.2.1 Among the dumped soil deposits within the footprint of the 19th century extension to the Ashmolean, shells, leather fragments, metalworking slag and wood were recovered. These finds have been noted but no attempt to analyse them has been made. Glass and ceramic building material were also recovered from these deposits, summaries of that are included below. The pottery, animal bone and clay tobacco pipe assemblages have been fully assessed (see Appendices 2-4), summaries of which are included below.
- 3.2.2 The material recovered from these small-scale investigations gives an indication of the type of finds likely to be recovered from any larger scale excavations at the site.



*Pottery - by Paul Blinkhorn*

- 3.2.3 The pottery assemblage comprised 94 sherds with a total weight of 1893 g. The bulk of the assemblage was of post-medieval date, with much of it dating to the 19th century. It was recorded utilising the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994).
- 3.2.4 The range of fabric types is typical of those usually noted in excavations in the city of Oxford. They suggest that there was activity at the site from around the time of the Norman Conquest to the present day, although most of the medieval material is re-deposited in later, post-medieval contexts (see Appendix 2).

*Animal bone - by Emma Jane-Evans (OA)*

- 3.2.5 A total of 185 fragments (1944g) were recovered from the works, although the assemblage was small the bones were in good condition. Only limited information could be gained regarding the importance and use of animals to the local population, the bones were generally recovered from dumped 19th century deposits. The large number of juvenile bones is indicative of general domestic waste, in which the main domestic animal, including domestic fowl, has been used for meat. Secondary products such as cattle hides have also been utilised. The large size of many of the sheep/goat and pig bones suggests the presence of improved breeds, probably dating from the post medieval period (See Appendix 3).

*Glass - by Leigh Allen (OA)*

- 3.2.6 A total of 74 sherds of glass were recovered from 8 separate contexts. The contexts were all dumped deposits associated with the extension of the museum in the late 19th century. The glass assemblage mostly consisted of fragments of window glass and wine bottles dating from the 19th-20th centuries. Several fragments of bottle glass appeared to pre-date the time of the extension to the Museum.

*Ceramic Building Material (CBM) - by Leigh Allen (OA)*

- 3.2.7 A total of 44 fragments of building material were recovered from 11 different contexts. The contexts were made up of dumped deposits within the footprint of the 19th-century extension to the Ashmolean. The assemblage comprised post-medieval floor tile and bricks and medieval/post medieval roof tiles. The roof tiles are suggestive of earlier structures on the site.

*Clay Tobacco Pipes - by Andrew Norton (OA)*

- 3.2.8 A total of 92 fragments of clay tobacco pipes were recovered from 6 separate contexts. The contexts were all dumped deposits associated with the extension of the Museum buildings in the late 19th century and the pipe assemblage represents a scatter of re-deposited material (see Appendix 4).

**3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains**

- 3.3.1 The deposits encountered were generally dumped post-medieval soils and were considered to be of no environmental interest.

#### 4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The extension of the Ashmolean Museum in 1892 appears to have disturbed much of the evidence for tenements on the St. Giles street frontage. The archaeology of Ashmolean Lane was less disturbed, although no direct evidence for the original medieval ground level was seen. Previous ground levels have clearly been reduced by the excavation of modern service trenches.
- 4.1.2 Although the upper archaeological deposits within the footprint of the Ashmolean had been removed, evidence for masonry footings survived. Test Pits 5 and 6 revealed wall footings at depth of 63.45 m OD (Test Pit 5) and 62.45 m OD (Test Pit 6) and a wall footing robber trench was identified in Test Pit 2. There was also evidence for a pit in Test Pit 5 that may have been the base of a rubbish or cess pit associated with a tenement. Archaeology survives at depths of between 62-63 m OD in the area of the Ashmolean forecourt excavations (Andrews and Mephram 1998, 192, 195), so the observations here confirm that remains do survive *in situ* in places.
- 4.1.3 In Test Pit 6 two wall footings were revealed, suggestive of two phases of construction, perhaps dating back to the medieval period. The base of wall 48 was not seen though it may have formed part of a cellar wall. It is likely that the other structures formed footings for tenements fronting St Giles, or represent the remains of garden walls separating the back yard areas.
- 4.1.4 Test Pit 10 was dominated by a thick soil deposit. This might have been the fill of a pit or perhaps soil dumped at the rear of a tenement yard
- 4.1.5 The large pit and wall footing in Test Pit 11 are likely to represent activity on the St Giles street frontage. Pottery dating from the 11th-14th centuries was recovered from the service trench cutting the fills of the pit and it is feasible that the feature was a medieval rubbish pit, later disturbed. The wall footing may have formed part of a garden/property boundary wall.
- 4.1.6 It is possible that the structural evidence represents evidence of the properties depicted on Loggan's 17th-century map of Oxford (Fig. 10). However, only more extensive excavation could lead to a correlation of these structures with those shown on the historic maps.
- 4.1.7 Although the dating evidence was good from the deposits associated with the construction of the Ashmolean, few if any finds could be associated with certainty to the earlier wall footings. However, there was a background scatter of medieval material from across the site and it is likely that some of the pits or wall footings date to this period.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 The results from these limited investigations show that in places archaeological deposits/structures etc known to have been on the site of the Ashmolean from analysis of historic maps have probably been totally removed.
- 5.1.2 Nonetheless, it is clear that archaeology survives in the area of the Lane north of the Ashmolean and that where basements have not already been excavated to depth of natural, i.e. south side of the Library, then archaeological remains (walls) can be expected.
- 5.1.3 The density of finds from later deposits within the test pits suggests a great deal of land levelling and in-filling during the construction period of the Museum and the residual medieval material is testimony to the disturbance of medieval archaeology on the site at that time.
- 5.1.4 Overall it would appear that construction of the Museum involved the large-scale clearance of this part of Oxford and a great deal of ground levelling prior to and during construction. The survival of medieval archaeological deposits beneath any part of the museum due to be basemented cannot be totally discounted by this monitoring exercise, despite the obvious absence of natural gravel and archaeological features or layers in places.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Test Pit | Context No. | Type    | Depth | Comments               |
|----------|-------------|---------|-------|------------------------|
| 11/10    | 1           | layer   | 0.15  | surface                |
| 11/10    | 2           | other   |       | service                |
| 11       | 3           | other   | 2.4   | service                |
| 11       | 4           | cut     | 0.6   | foundation cut         |
| 11       | 5           | masonry | >0.8  | footing                |
| 11       | 6           | fill    | >0.8  | fill of pit            |
| 11       | 7           | cut     | >0.2  | pit                    |
| 11       | 8           | layer   |       | natural                |
| 11       | 9           | fill    | 0.05  | fill of pit            |
| 11       | 10          | fill    | 0.6   | fill of pit            |
| 10       | 11          | masonry |       | drain                  |
| 10       | 12          | layer   | >0.6  | garden soil            |
| 4        | 13          | layer   | 0.05  | surface                |
| 4        | 14          | layer   | 0.18  | surface                |
| 4        | 15          | layer   | 0.18  | levelling              |
| 4        | 16          | fill    | >0.8  | fill of foundation cut |
| 4        | 17          | cut     | >0.8  | foundation cut         |
| 5        | 18          | layer   | >0.8  | levelling              |
| 5        | 19          | layer   |       | levelling              |
| 5        | 20          | masonry | 1.3   | wall                   |
| 5        | 21          | fill    | >1    | fill of foundation cut |
| 5        | 22          | cut     | >1    | foundation cut         |
| 5        | 23          | layer   | 0.48  | ?garden soil           |
| 5        | 24          | cut     |       | tip line               |
| 5        | 25          | layer   | 0.5   | levelling              |
| 5        | 26          | cut     | >0.8  | foundation cut         |
| 5        | 27          | void    |       | void                   |
| 5        | 28          | layer   |       | natural                |
| 5        | 29          | fill    | 0.15  | fill of pit            |
| 5        | 30          | cut     | 0.15  | pit                    |
| 2        | 31          | layer   | 0.14  | surface                |
| 2        | 32          | layer   |       | levelling              |
| 2        | 33          | layer   |       | surface                |
| 2        | 34          | masonry |       | wall                   |
| 2        | 35          | layer   |       | levelling              |
| 2        | 36          | layer   | >0.2  | levelling              |
| 2        | 37          | fill    |       | drain                  |
| 2        | 38          | cut     |       | service                |
| 2        | 39          | fill    | 0.3   | fill of robber cut     |
| 2        | 40          | cut     | 0.3   | robber cut             |
| 2        | 41          | layer   |       | natural                |
| 6        | 42          | layer   | 0.2   | surface                |
| 6        | 43          | layer   | 0.6   | levelling              |
| 6        | 44          | layer   | 0.4   | levelling              |
| 6        | 45          | layer   | 0.15  | levelling              |
| 6        | 46          | layer   | 0.6   | levelling              |
| 6        | 47          | cut     |       | foundation cut         |

|   |    |         |      |                        |
|---|----|---------|------|------------------------|
| 6 | 48 | masonry | >0.3 | wall                   |
| 6 | 49 | masonry | 0.5  | footing                |
| 6 | 50 | cut     |      | foundation cut         |
| 6 | 51 | layer   |      | natural                |
| 6 | 52 | masonry |      | wall                   |
| 6 | 53 | cut     | 0.3  | foundation cut         |
| 3 | 54 | layer   | 0.15 | surface                |
| 3 | 55 | layer   | 0.35 | levelling              |
| 3 | 56 | fill    | 2    | fill of foundation cut |
| 3 | 57 | cut     | 2    | foundation cut         |
| 3 | 58 | layer   | 2    | levelling              |
| 3 | 59 | masonry | 0.5  | drain                  |
| 3 | 60 | masonry | 0.12 | same as 54             |
| 3 | 61 | fill    | 0.2  | same as 55             |
| 3 | 62 | fill    | 1.6  | same as 56             |
| 3 | 63 | fill    | 0.3  | same as 56             |
| 3 | 64 | masonry | 2    | same as 59             |
| 3 | 65 | layer   | 2.5  | same as 58             |

## APPENDIX 2 POTTERY

### *Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 94 sherds with a total weight of 1893 g. The bulk of the assemblage was of post-medieval date, with much of it dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was recorded utilising the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

- OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 1 sherd, 14 g.  
 OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 – 1350. 3 sherds, 97 g.  
 OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 9 sherds, 158 g.  
 OXCL: Cistercian ware, 1475-1700. 2 sherds, 13 g.  
 OXFH: Border wares, 1550 - 1700. 10 sherds, 184 g.  
 OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 9 sherds, 224 g.  
 OXCE: Tin-glazed Earthenware, 1613 – 1800. 6 sherds, 95 g.  
 OXRESWL: Polychrome Slipware, 17<sup>th</sup>C. 2 sherds, 19 g.  
 OXFI, Chinese Porcelain, c1650+. 2 sherds, 4 g.  
 OXEST: English Stoneware, 1680 +. 10 sherds, 198 g.  
 OXBEWSL: Staffordshire-type slipwares. c. 1650-1800. 1 sherd, 5 g.  
 OXFG: Staffordshire Manganese Glazed ware. 18<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 3 g.  
 OXFM: Staffordshire White-glazed English Stoneware, 1730 – 1800. 7 sherds, 19 g.  
 WHEW: Mass-produced white earthenwares, mid 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> C. 31 sherds, 770 g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in the table below. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem.

The range of fabric types is typical of those usually noted in excavations in the city of Oxford. They suggest that there was activity at the site from around the time of the Norman Conquest to the present day, although most of the medieval material is redeposited in later, post-medieval contexts.

Table A2.1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

| Ctx          | OXAC     |           | OXY      |           | OXAM     |            | OXCL     |           | OXFH      |            | OXDR     |            | OXCE     |           | OXFI     |          | OXFG     |          | RESWL    |           | OXEST     |            | BEWS<br>L |          | OXFM     |           | WHEW      |            | D |       |  |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---|-------|--|
|              | No       | Wt        | No       | Wt        | No       | Wt         | No       | Wt        | No        | Wt         | No       | Wt         | No       | Wt        | No       | Wt       | No       | Wt       | No       | Wt        | No        | Wt         | No        | Wt       | No       | Wt        | No        | Wt         |   |       |  |
| 2            |          |           | 1        | 25        |          |            |          |           |           |            |          |            |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |           |           |            |           |          |          |           |           |            |   |       |  |
| 18           |          |           |          |           |          |            | 2        | 13        | 8         | 162        | 6        | 121        | 2        | 31        | 2        | 4        | 1        | 3        | 2        | 19        | 4         | 58         | 1         | 5        | 3        | 11        |           |            |   |       |  |
| 19           |          |           |          |           | 1        | 6          |          |           |           |            | 3        | 103        | 1        | 40        |          |          |          |          |          |           | 1         | 5          |           |          |          |           | 12        | 399        |   | 19thC |  |
| 21           |          |           |          |           |          |            |          |           |           |            |          |            |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |           |           |            |           |          |          | 2         | 8         |            |   | 19thC |  |
| 25           |          |           |          |           |          |            |          |           |           |            |          |            |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |           | 1         | 9          |           |          |          |           | 4         | 108        |   | 19thC |  |
| 36           |          |           | 1        | 7         |          |            |          |           |           |            |          |            |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |           |           |            |           |          |          | 2         | 18        |            |   | 19thC |  |
| 43           |          |           |          |           |          |            |          |           |           |            |          |            |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |           |           |            |           |          |          | 3         | 185       |            |   | 19thC |  |
| 44           |          |           | 1        | 65        |          |            |          |           |           |            |          |            |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |           |           |            |           |          |          |           |           |            |   | 19thC |  |
| 45           |          |           |          |           |          |            |          |           |           |            |          |            |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |           | 1         | 23         |           |          |          |           |           |            |   | 19thC |  |
| 56           | 1        | 14        |          |           | 4        | 55         |          |           |           |            |          |            |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |           |           |            |           |          |          | 5         | 22        |            |   | 19thC |  |
| 58           |          |           |          |           | 4        | 97         |          |           | 2         | 22         |          |            | 3        | 24        |          |          |          |          |          |           | 3         | 103        |           |          | 4        | 8         | 3         | 30         |   | 19thC |  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>97</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>158</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>184</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>224</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>95</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>198</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>5</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>770</b> |   |       |  |

## APPENDIX 3 ANIMAL BONE

*Emma-Jayne Evans (OA)***Introduction**

This report encompasses the animal bones from the site at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, from which a total of 185 fragments (1944 g) of bone and teeth was excavated. Most of the assemblage was recovered from contexts associated with the construction of the 19th-century Ashmolean Museum. A small amount of the material was recovered from the fill of a possible medieval pit (6).

**Methodology**

Identification of the bone was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology with access to the reference collection and published guides. All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Also, fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as small (small mammal size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size). The separation of sheep and goat bones was undertaken using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Prummel and Frisch (1986), in addition to the use of the reference material housed at OA. Where distinctions could not be made, the bone was recorded as sheep/goat (s/g). The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable. The quantification of species was carried out using the total fragment count, in which the total number of fragments of bone and teeth was calculated, and this figure broken down to the total number of fragments identifiable to each species. In addition the minimum number of individuals (MNI) was calculated using the zoning method (Serjeantson, 1996). The elements used for working out MNI do not include ribs, vertebra, loose teeth, tarsals and carpals unless these are the only elements present. Tooth eruption and wear stages were measured using a combination of Halstead (1985) and Grant (1982), and fusion data was analysed according to Silver (1969). Measurements of adult, that is, fully fused bones were taken according to the methods of von den Driesch (1976), with asterisked (\*) measurements indicating bones that were reconstructed or had slight abrasion of the surface. Withers heights was calculated using the methods of Teichert (1975).

*Quantity of material*

All of the hand collected animal bone from the site at the Ashmolean Museum has been fully analysed and recorded for this assessment. A small number of bone has fresh breaks, the re-fitting of which has reduced the total fragment count to 163.

### *Species Representation*

A total of 70 fragments of bone and teeth were identifiable to species, 42.2% of the total number of bones assessed. All of the identifiable bone other than the one rabbit bone is from domestic species, are shown in Table 1 below. Three sheep/goat bones were positively identified as sheep, one from context 19 and two from context 58.

Table A3.1. *Number of bones identifiable to species (MNI in brackets).*

| Context | Cattle | Sheep/goat | Pig    | Horse | Domestic fowl | Cat   | Rabbit | Bird | Unidentified | Total |
|---------|--------|------------|--------|-------|---------------|-------|--------|------|--------------|-------|
| 6       | 2      | -          | -      | -     | -             | -     | -      | -    | 3            | 5     |
| 18      | 5      | 12         | 4      | -     | 1             | 3     | -      | -    | 34           | 59    |
| 19      | 2      | 7          | 8      | -     | 3             | -     | -      | 1    | 28           | 49    |
| 21      | -      | -          | -      | -     | -             | -     | -      | -    | 1            | 1     |
| 25      | 2      | 1          | -      | -     | -             | -     | -      | -    | 1            | 4     |
| 28      | -      | -          | -      | -     | -             | -     | -      | -    | 4            | 4     |
| 43      | -      | 1          | -      | -     | -             | -     | -      | -    | -            | 1     |
| 56      | 2      | 7          | 1      | 1     | -             | -     | 1      | -    | 8            | 20    |
| 58      | 2      | 4          | 1      | -     | -             | -     | -      | 1    | 12           | 20    |
| Total   | 15 (2) | 32 (4)     | 14 (2) | 1 (1) | 4 (1)         | 3 (1) | 1 (1)  | 2    | 91           | 163   |

### *Condition*

The bone has survived in good condition, with the majority scoring 1 or 2 using Lyman's grading system. The good condition has resulted in much butchery being apparent, with evidence of skinning dismemberment and marrow extraction. Fourteen bones could be measured, with one sheep/goat giving a withers height of 0.64m for. In general the bones were very large, particularly the sheep/goat and pig, suggesting they may be post-medieval in date. Two pig mandibles could be aged, giving ages of neonatal and immature, suggesting that pigs were kept within the vicinity of the site. Fusion data suggests that a large proportion of the cattle, sheep/goat and pig were juvenile. Pathological changes are present on a cattle 1st phalanx, in the form of the slight expansion of the proximal articulation. No articulations were noted between any of the bones.

## APPENDIX 4 CLAY TOBACCO PIPE

*Andrew Norton (OA)*

The excavation produced a total of 92 fragments of clay tobacco pipes. The assemblages were recovered from dumped make-up deposits, associated with the extension of the Ashmolean Museum in the late 19th-century. All fragments were examined for evidence of markings, decoration and name stamps. Unmarked bowls have been dated by reference to Oswald's general typology (Oswald 1975). No attempt has been made to consider the bowl shape in terms of regional variations. Plain stems have been counted. Sufficient dating information has been obtained from bowl shape typology so no attempt has been made to assess their dates on stem bore analysis. Other diagnostic pipe fragments have been briefly described and recorded where relevant. The results of the assessment are tabulated below by context. Of the total 92 fragments of clay tobacco pipes 75 were stem fragments. The majority of the 17 bowl fragments were whole or partially whole, all but four could be dated.

Eight bowls were spurred, of which three were comparable to London type 24G. These were dated from 1810-1840. Of the five heeled bowls three were comparable to London type 9G, dating from 1680-1710. The pipes ranged in date from the mid-17th century to the mid-19th century. None of the bowls displayed maker's marks or stamps and no decorated stems were present. Although the date ranges given are for London types it can be assumed that examples from Oxford will have been made at a similar time.

Table A4.1 *Incidence of clay pipe stems and diagnostic fragments by context*

| CTX | STEM COUNT | BOWL/BOWL FRAGMENT COUNT | DATE      | COMMENTS   |
|-----|------------|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| 18  | 43         | 10                       | 1810-1840 | 1 x type 24, 4 x type 17, 1 x type 19, 1 x type 9, 3 x frags |
| 19  | 4          | 2                        | 1640-60   | type 5 & fragmented bowl                                     |
| 36  | 1          |                          | ?         |  |
| 43  | 2          |                          | ?         |  |
| 56  | 1          |                          | ?         |  |
| 58  | 24         | 5                        | 1810-1840 | 2 x type 9, 1 x type 10, 2 x type 24                         |

The clay pipes were recovered from well dated contexts and coupled with the absence of maker's marks and stamps would not add to the overall interpretation of the site. No further work is deemed necessary.

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#### APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** The Classics Centre, 65-67 St Giles, Oxford

**Site code:** OXSGCC04

**Grid reference:** SP 5116 0657

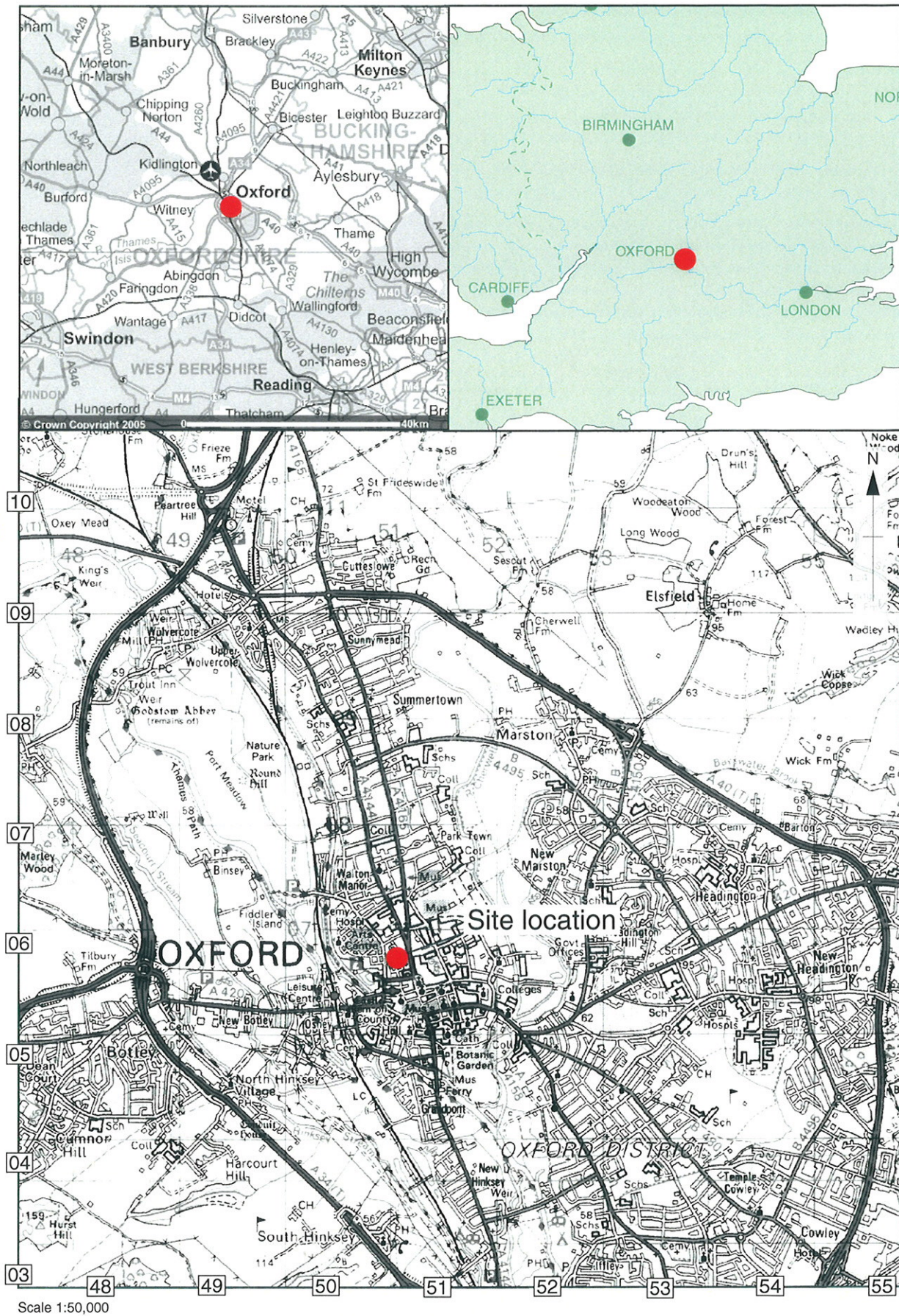
**Type of watching brief:** Monitoring 7 hand dug geo-technical test pits

**Date and duration of project:** December 2004-January 2005

**Area of site:** 0.2 ha

**Summary of results:** Evidence for possible medieval and post-medieval wall footings were revealed, as was a large ?medieval rubbish pit. Much of the area appears to have been disturbed by the construction of the Ashmolean Museum.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Ashmolean Museum in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location

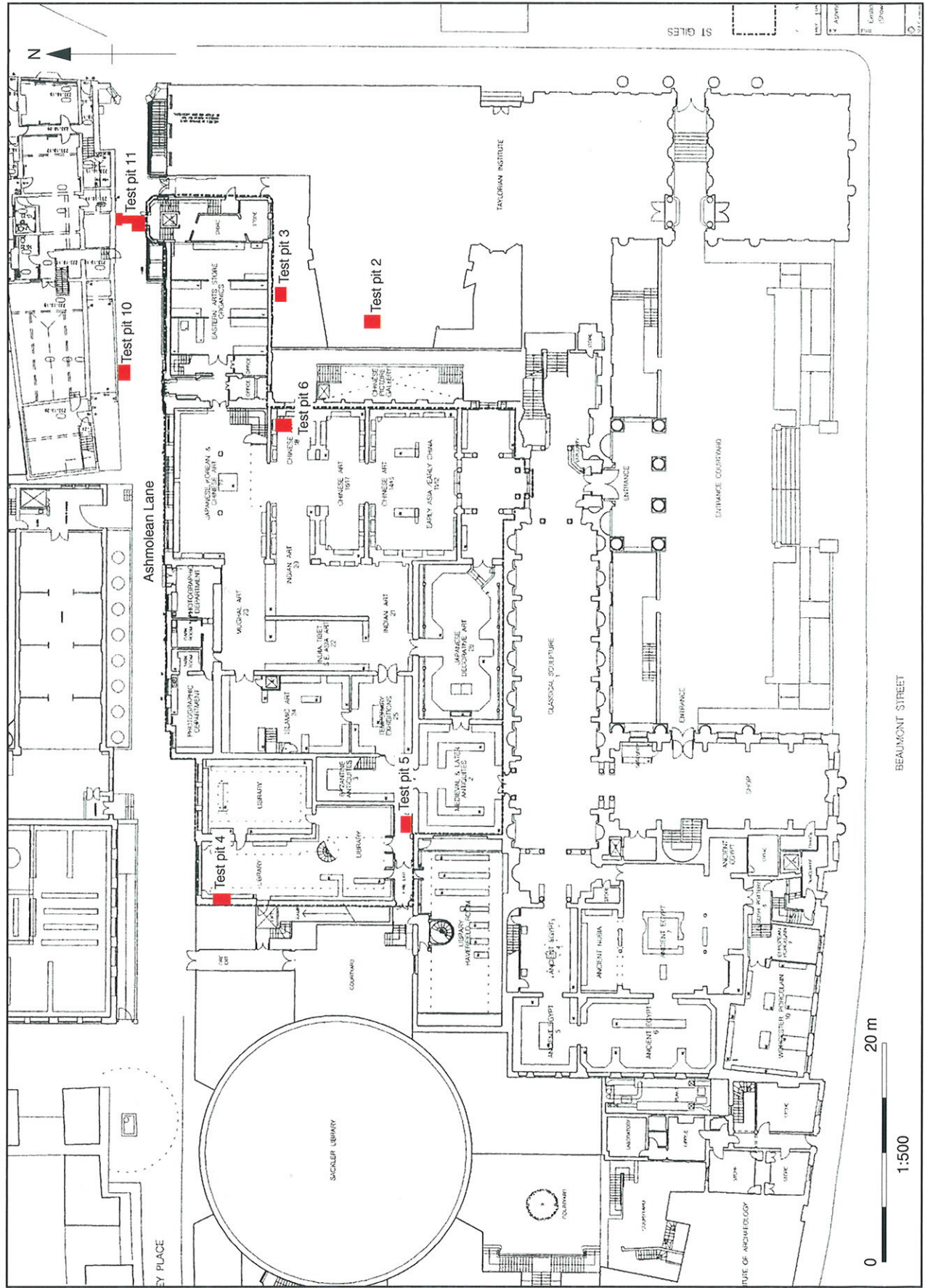


Figure 2: Test pit locations.

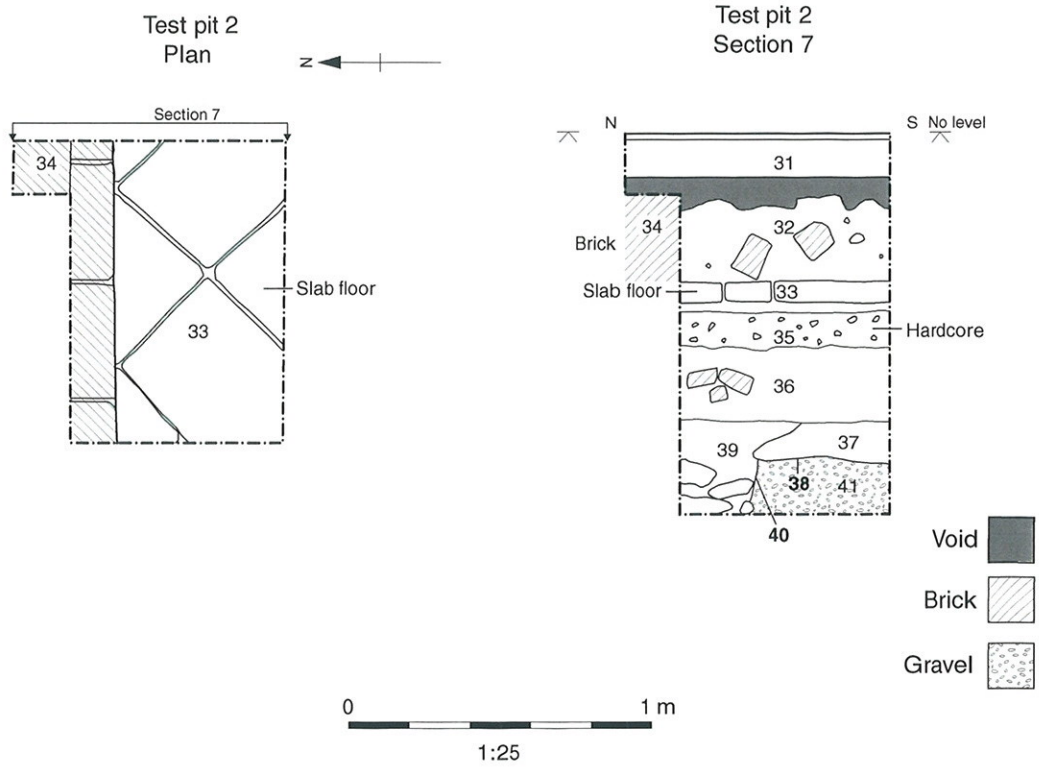


Figure 3: Test pit 2

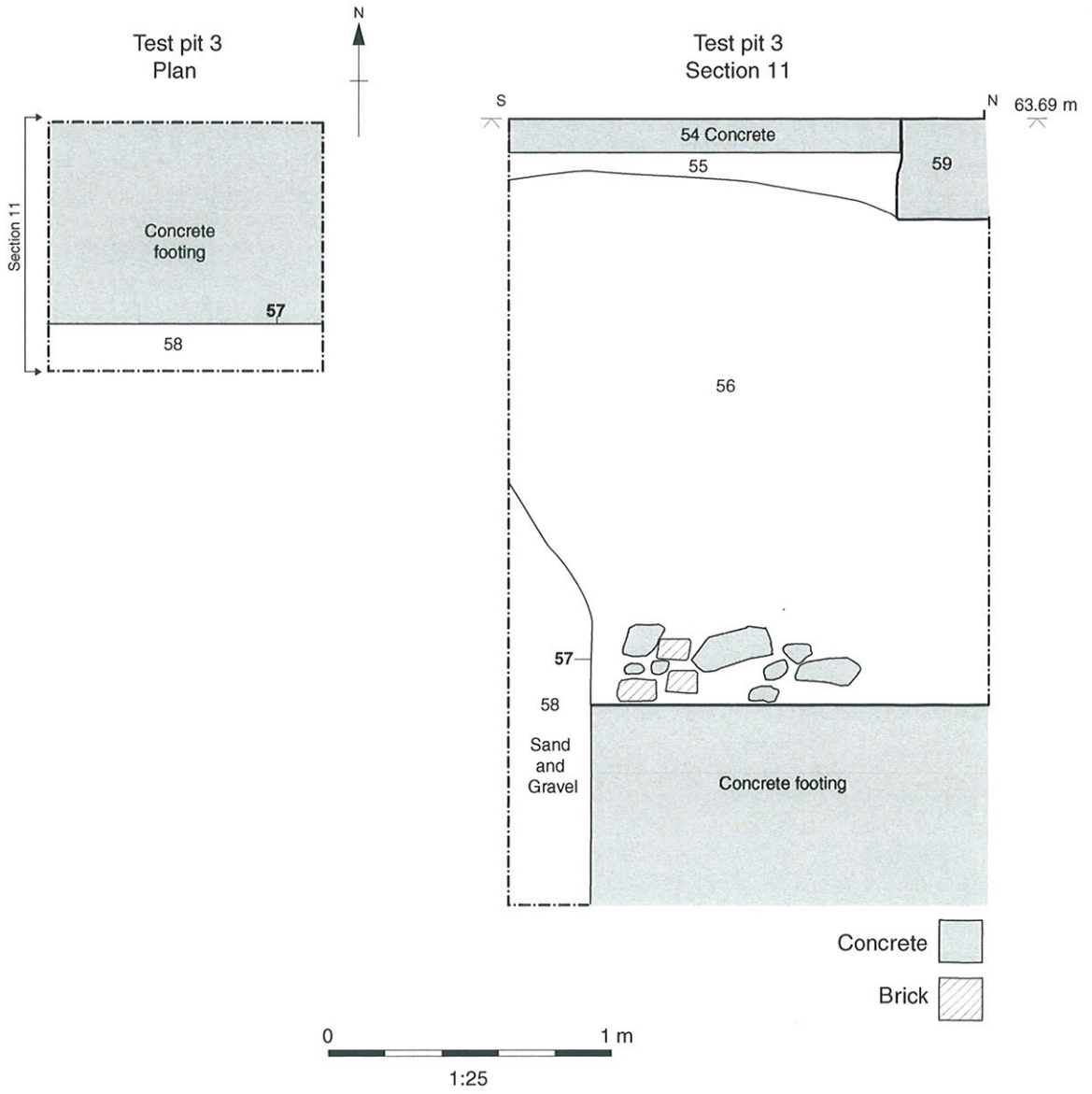


Figure 4: Test pit 3

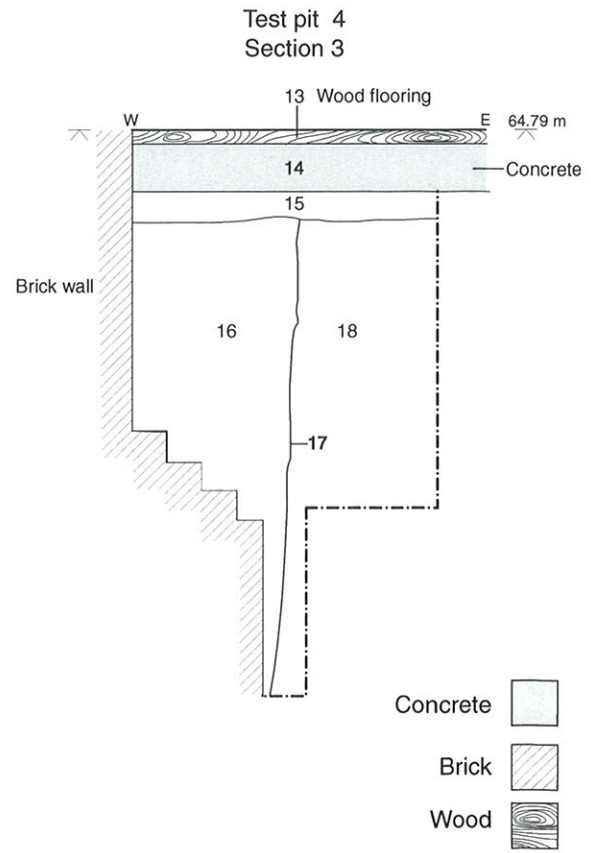


Figure 5: Test pit 4

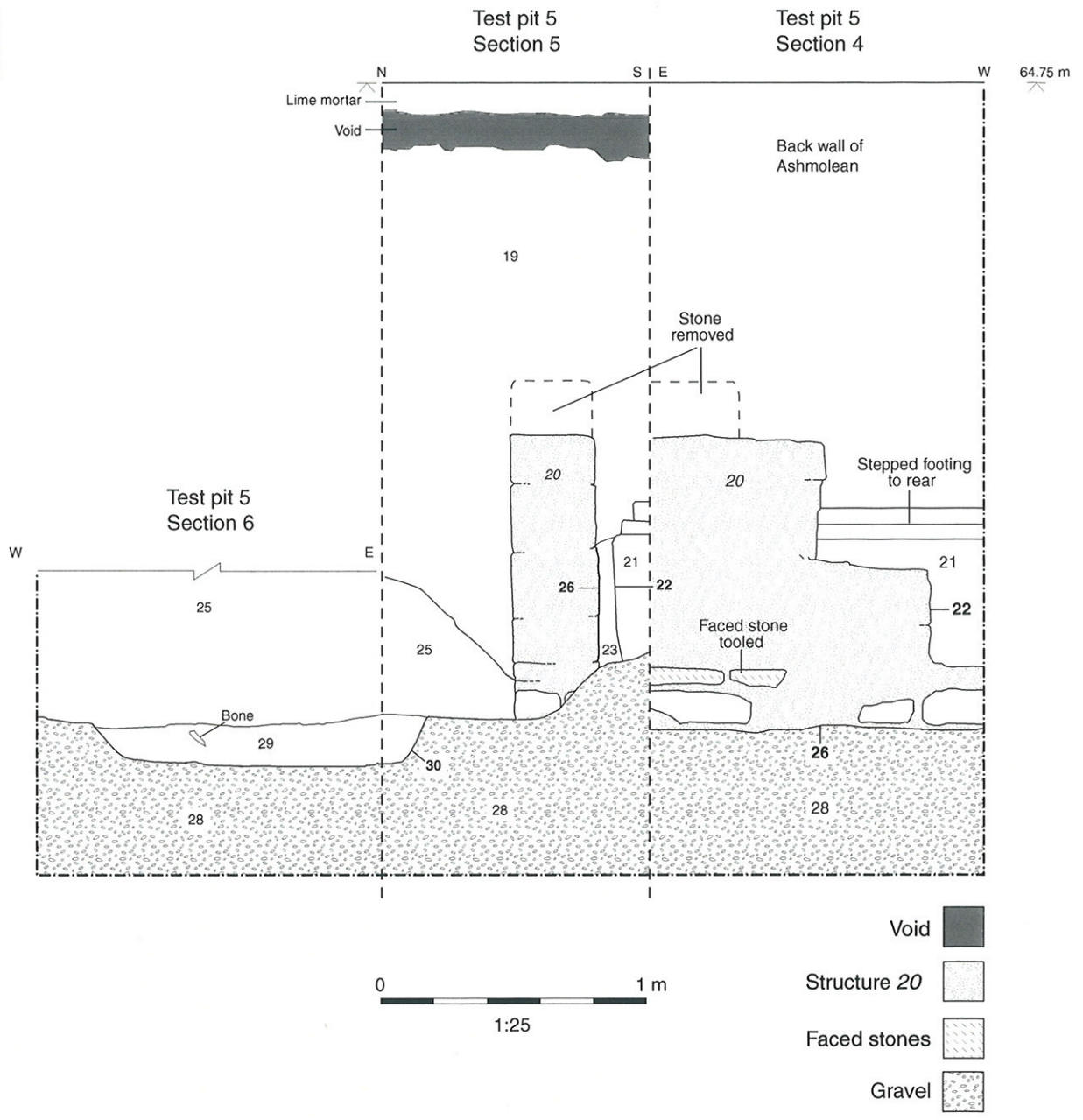
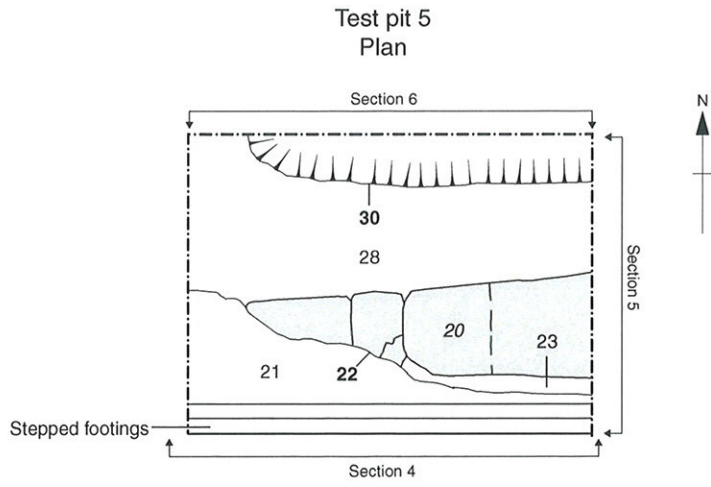


Figure 6: Test pit 5

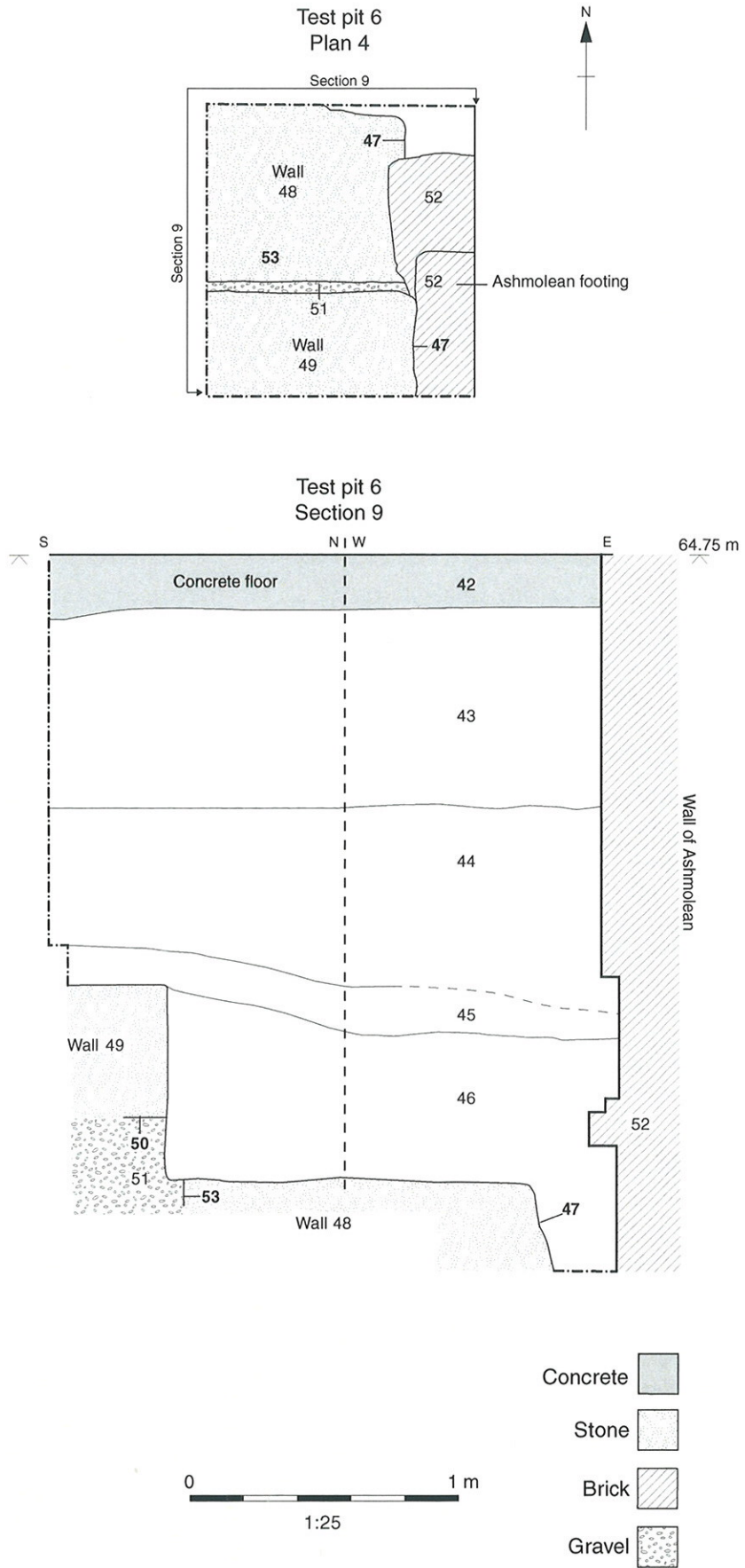


Figure 7: Test pit 6



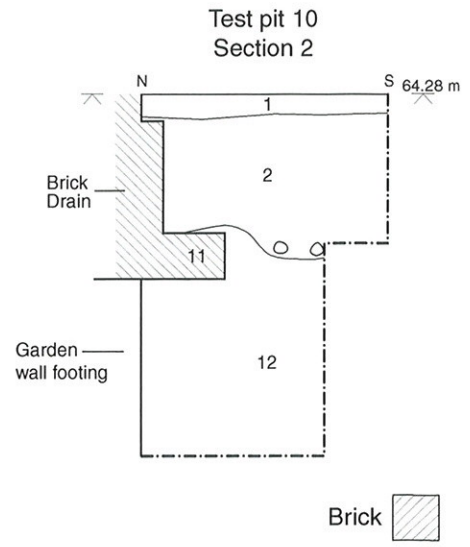
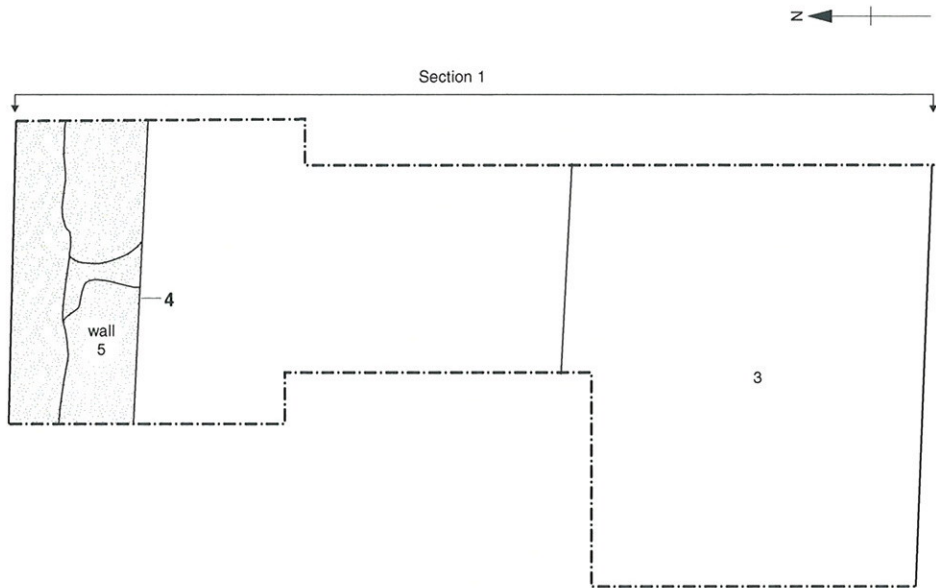


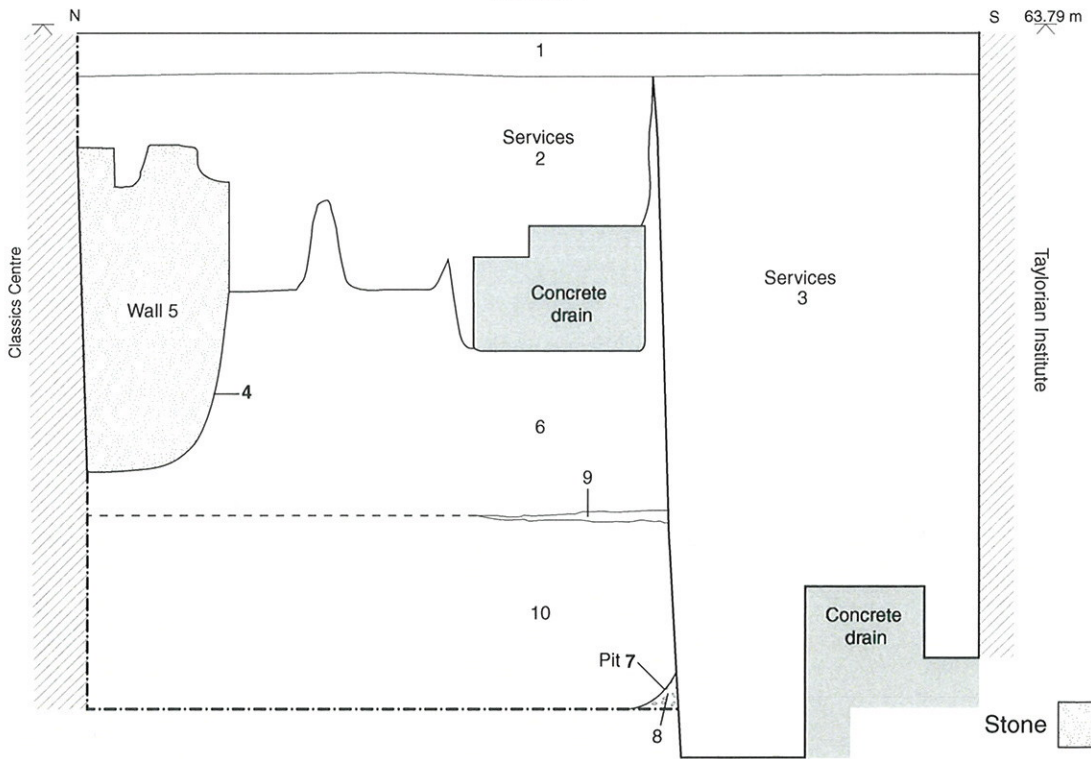
Figure 8: Test pit 10.



### Test pit 11 Plan



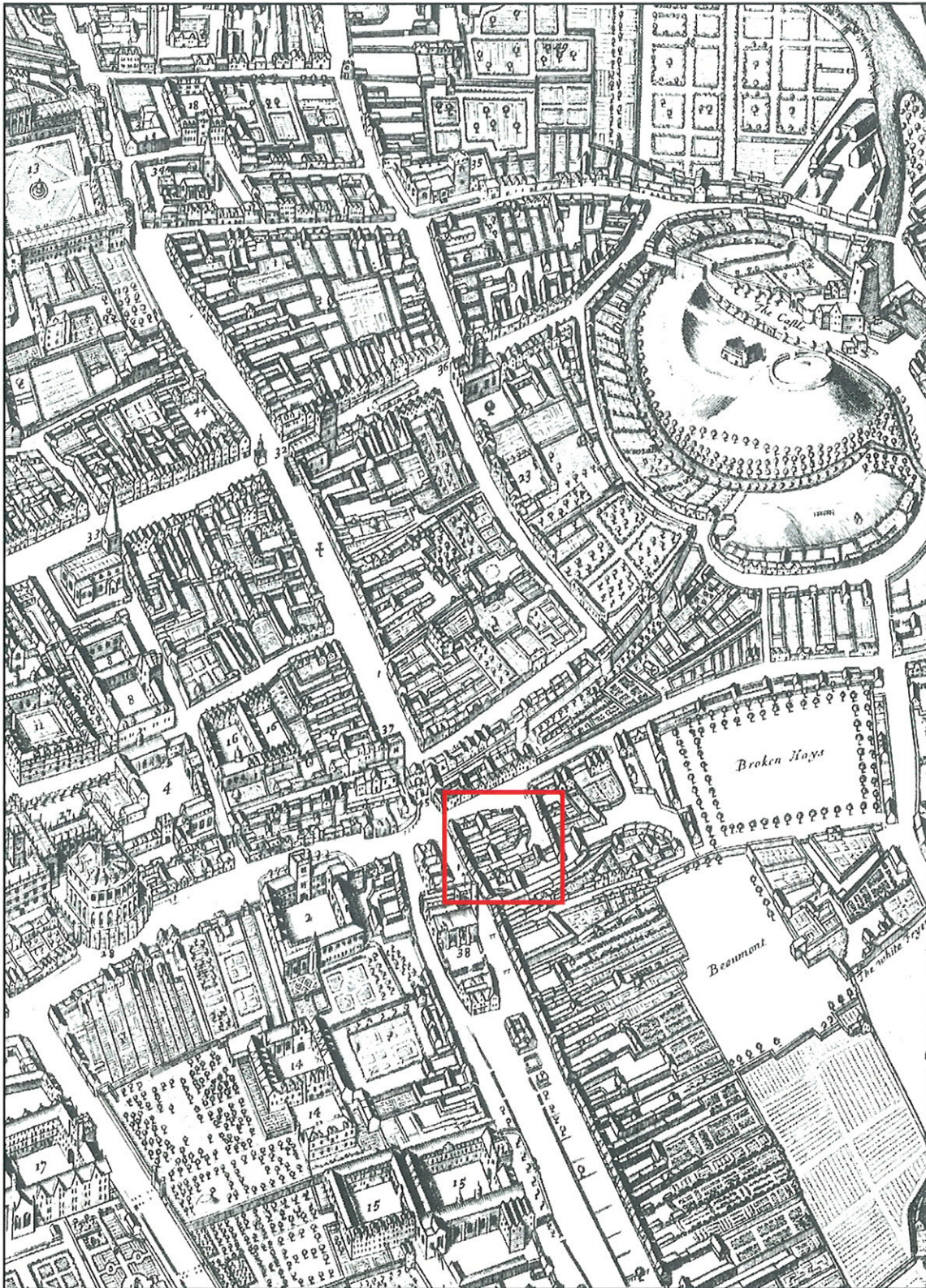
### Test pit 11 Section 1



- Stone
- Brick
- Concrete
- Gravel



Figure 9: Test pit 11, section




Approximate area of investigation 

Figure 10: Logan's map of Oxford 1675.



## 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 541000  
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

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Oxford Archaeological Unit  
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