

Morris Garage Building Longwall Street Oxford



Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology

southsouthsouth
September 2016

Client: Austin Newport Ltd

Issue No: Draft
NGR: SP 5191 0645



Client Name: Austin Newport Ltd
 Client Ref No:
 Document Title: Morris Garage Building, Longwall Street, Oxford
 Document Type: Evaluation Report
 Issue/Version Number: draft
 Grid Reference: centred on SP 5191 0645
 Planning Reference: pre-application
 Site Code: OXMO16
 Invoice Code: OXM0EV
 Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire County Museum Services
 Museum Accession No: TBC

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Edited by	Approved for issue by	Signature
1	Robin Bashford Site Supervisor	Ben Ford Senior Project Manager	(name) (position)	(name) (position)	

Document File Location X:\o\Oxford_New College Morris_Building\Report\Final Report
 Graphics File Location \\10.0.10.86\invoice codes i thru q\O_codes\OXMOEV
 Illustrated by Markus Dylewski

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 Ltd 2016

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



Morris Garage Building, Longwall Street, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Robin Bashford

with contributions from John Cotter and Ian R Scott, and illustrated by Markus Dylewski

Table of Contents

Summary.....	3
1 Introduction.....	4
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	4
1.2 Geology and topography.....	4
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	4
2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology.....	9
2.1 Aims.....	9
2.2 Methodology.....	9
3 Results.....	10
4 Finds Summary.....	12
5 Discussion.....	14
5.1 Interpretation.....	14
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	15
Appendix B. Bibliography and References.....	17
Appendix C. Summary of Site Details.....	18



List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Trench location
- Fig. 3 Plan and Sections; Trench 1
- Fig. 4 Plan and Section; Trench 2
- Fig. 5 Plan and Section; Trench 3
- Fig. 6 Plan and Section; Trench 4
- Fig. 7 Existing site boundary plotted on OS 1st Edition map

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 5
- Plate 2 Trench 6
- Plate 3 Trench 7



Summary

In September 2016, Oxford Archaeology undertook the excavation of four geotechnical trial trenches (Trenches 1-4) at the Morris Garage Building, Longwall Street, Oxford. The work was undertaken in advance of a planning application for the proposed development of the courtyard to the rear of the building, and the refurbishment of the building itself. Three additional test pits (Trenches 5-7) were also excavated at the request of the arborist for Oxford City Council.

The proposed development is on the site of the in-filled medieval defensive ditch (with the southern limit of the site corresponding with the line of the outer defensive wall). More recently the former Morris Garage, built in 1910, occupied the site, which was redeveloped in the early 1980s when only the frontage was retained.

Trench 1 revealed the northern face of an E-W orientated stone wall, under the current brick wall and its foundation. This was orientated along the line of the southern boundary to the site and possibly represents the remains of the medieval outer defensive wall, or a rebuild or repair to that wall. Earlier N-S orientated stonework was observed below the modern brick wall and foundations forming the current western boundary in Trenches 2 and 5; no dating evidence was recovered but this wall appears on 19th century maps. An internal mortar floor in Trench 1 was overlain with modern demolition rubble and probably represents the floor to 19/20th century building, associated with the Morris Garage, shown in this location on contemporary maps. A similar layer of rubble overlay an external cobbled courtyard surface in Trench 4, this was also probably associated with the Morris Garage.

The majority of the deposits encountered in the remaining Trenches were associated with the 1980s' redevelopment. Together the evidence suggests that the ground level to the rear of the Longwall Street frontage had been raised at this time, burying the demolished remains of the former buildings by between 0.60–0.70m (c 59.75mOD) to achieve the current levels (c 60.40m OD).



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Austin Newport Ltd to undertake the excavation of four trial pits on the site of a proposed development at the former Morris Garage Building, New College, Longwall Street, Oxford. Three additional test pits were excavated at the request of the arborist for Oxford City Council. The sites location is shown on Figure 1 and the trial and test pit locations on Figure 2.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to establish the nature and depth of the standing walls which bound the site to the south and west, and to inform the local planning authority in advance of submission of a planning application. Although the local planning authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions with David Radford of Oxford City Council confirmed the scope of work required; and OA produced a written scheme of investigation (WSI) outlining how OA would implement those requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site lies to the south of the junction between Holywell Street, Longwall Street and St Cross Road (Fig. 1), and currently consists of a gravel courtyard to the rear of the Morris Building, with overgrown borders to the south and west. The site is relatively flat and lies at c 60.40m OD.
- 1.2.2 The superficial geology of the site comprises the Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member of the second (Summertown-Radley) gravel terrace. The solid geology is Oxford Clay.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section is predominantly reproduced from the report of the results from an evaluation undertaken by OA to the rear of the properties fronting Longwall Street in 2015 (OA 2015b). Reference has also been made to the Oxford History website (Oxford History, nd).

Prehistoric to Roman Periods

- 1.3.2 No archaeological sites or finds dating to the prehistoric period have been located within the area of proposed development. Within the wider study area, Neolithic flints were found in 1968 during excavations under south nave of the Church of St Peter-in-the-East (now St Edmund Hall Library).
- 1.3.3 The presence of prehistoric settlement, field systems and burial monuments in the area of the University Parks has been long established. Crop-marks of ring ditches were known as early as the 17th century. As archaeological work has been carried out during the 20th and early 21st centuries, the extent and range of these sites have increased, with evidence having been found for all periods from the Neolithic onwards. However, as yet very little evidence has been found to suggest that this activity extended as far south as New College. Any evidence will have been substantially damaged or removed by later activity. Excavations around and within the University Science Area and to the north of the University Parks in the 20th and early 21st centuries have uncovered evidence for occupation during this period. The evidence for farming activity during the Romano-British period within the study area and further north is extensive, but, as with the prehistoric period, there is no evidence for it extending southwards to New College.



Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.4 No archaeological evidence dating from the Early or Middle Saxon periods has been found in the immediate vicinity of the present site. Evidence from this period in Oxford mainly relates to the establishment and maintenance of the crossing of the Thames in St Aldates, settlement activity directly associated with the crossing, and evidence for the existence of St Frideswide's priory (Dodd 2003).
- 1.3.5 There is documentary and archaeological evidence that Oxford was laid out as a planned burh in the late Saxon period (Dodd 2003). A recent analysis has suggested that it was built between May 878 and August 879 as part of a system of 31 fortresses, designed to support King Alfred's military strategy to drive the Vikings from Mercia and London (Haslam 2006). If correct, this dating represents a significant revision of the generally accepted dating, which assigns the construction of the burh at Oxford to between 911 (based on the first reference to Oxford in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) and 914-19 (the presumed date of the Burghal Hidage). The revised date is more consistent with the discovery of a silver penny of King Alfred (871-99), which carries the mint-name Oxford (Ohsnaforda) (Harris 2012).
- 1.3.6 The construction of the earliest defences of Oxford is not documented, although it is generally assumed that the late Saxon burh at the time of the Burghal Hidage must have been fortified. Writers including Salter (1912) and Jope (1956) suggested that the boundary of the burh was most likely on the line later followed by the medieval city wall (Dodd 2003). Archaeological evidence for fortifications pre-dating the later medieval city walls have since been found, as discussed below, but conclusive evidence of dating has not been forthcoming to date.
- 1.3.7 The significance and extent of evidence for the late Saxon burh defences within New College has recently been considered in detail in a heritage assessment prepared to inform renovations of the college kitchen, hall and buttery (Harris 2012) and the following text is based on this work. The extent of the burh is not certain, although it has long been considered that the area east of line of the near parallel Schools Street/Catte Street and Oriel Street/Magpie Lane and up to the later medieval Eastgate represents an extension of the original burh, and perhaps dates to early in the 11th century or, even the 10th century. The evidence is largely topographical. The eastern portion of the later medieval north town wall is offset some 60m north of the wall to the west. The case for a smaller burh has also relied on matching the length of the perimeter of the defences to the value of the hidage for Oxford in the Burghal Hidage. However, the hidage for Oxford is not entirely clear due to the corrupted text. Furthermore, it is demonstrable that a strict relationship between hides, manpower, and wall length does not apply throughout the system of Alfredian fortresses. The importance of determining the extent of the Saxon burh can be over emphasized, however, since it is probable that it had suburbs from the outset.
- 1.3.8 Archaeological evidence for the town wall and ditch, which may originally have consisted of an earth and timber rampart with external ditch, has relied on the interpretation of various deposits, that pre-date the later city wall, as elements of a late Saxon earthen embankment. If it is true that the burh boundary underlies the later medieval walls, the development site would probably have lain wholly or partly within the late Saxon defensive ditch, and outside the burh. It is possible that a ditch excavated in 1949 on the north side of the inner town wall at New College, adjacent to the NE corner (Bastion 14) of the town defences and just 20m from the NW corner of the development site (Hunter and Jope 1951, figs 12 & 13), may have been part of the Saxon defences (Durham *et al.* 1983, 26 & fig. 4). The turf facing of the Saxon rampart



was also identified on the south side of the inner city wall at New College in 1987 (EOX4921), c 240m west of the site, and during recent investigations in a lift shaft associated with New College kitchen, as described in detail in Section 2.1.8 below.

- 1.3.9 Some pottery dating from the late Saxon period was found in New College Garden in 1949 (Hunter and Jope 1951, 35). The level of occupation and activity within that part of the town is uncertain. No evidence has been found to suggest that there was activity on or close to the site before that date, although truncation caused by medieval and post-medieval activity may have removed any evidence of earlier date. Recent excavations and standing building recording (2013-14), ahead of a construction project to upgrade the college kitchens, buttery, pastry room, bar, hall and wine cellar connection, provided an opportunity to investigate a section of the late Saxon earthen burh rampart. Accurately dating this feature has proved difficult in the past, but the recent excavation, and planned scientific dating work on evidence recovered from the work, may provide an absolute date for the feature and help to establish whether or not this part of the Saxon burh was part of the original planned burh or an expansion in the 10th or early 11th century (B Ford, Oxford Archaeology, pers. comm.).

Medieval

- 1.3.10 The earlier rampart around Oxford was replaced by stone walls, c 2 m thick, with semi-circular bastions in the first half of the 13th century. The ditch on the outside was generally c 18m wide, sloping fairly steeply from the wall to a flat-bottomed section, c 7.6m wide and then rising more gradually.
- 1.3.11 It is possible that some bastions were built or rebuilt later in the 13th century, possibly when the outer line of the city wall was constructed. The late 13th century outer wall of Oxford did not extend around the whole fortified area, but only the north-east portion, from Smithgate, at the west end of Holywell Street, to the Eastgate on High Street, which includes the Longwall Street section. Excavations, mainly at 21 Longwall Street in 1979-80 (Durham *et al.* 1983), have shown that the outer wall was only c 1 m wide. It was constructed in the middle of the existing ditch, c 10 m from the inner wall. The section of ditch between the two walls was infilled. If the position of the arrow-slots in the inner bastions was intended to fall above the level of the outer wall, this would suggest that the wall was c 5m high on the ditch side. Oxford is unique in having a double stone wall (Durham *et al.* 1983) and this combination of the inner and outer walls with the city ditch in the north-east is of particular significance. The lack of previous investigations along the eastern side of the city means that existence of an outer wall along this stretch of the defences was unproven until an evaluation undertaken by OA in 2015 revealed the base of the wall in two of the three trenches (OA 2015). None of the outer wall survives above ground and the section of the inner wall within New College represents the best preserved stretch. The upstanding part of Oxford's city wall is a Scheduled Monument. The monument description for the section of the wall from New College Tower to a point c 3m south of southern boundary of New College grounds (c 368m in length), describes it as follows:

“This section of wall is in an excellent state of preservation. It stands on average 30' (9.1m) in height and has 6 bastions all more or less complete, one of which was converted into a gateway in the 15th century. In this section on the northern side of the city there still exist the remains of an outer wall with a bastion about 5' (1.5m) in height parallel to the 3rd bastion on the inner wall. Bastions are at c.60m intervals, crenellated, with walkway and access stairs.”



- 1.3.12 The site would have lain within the city ditch until it was partly filled in to allow construction of the outer city wall in the later 13th century. Successive kings since before the Norman conquest granted the fee farm of Oxford (comprising grant of lands and privileges) to the burgesses of the town in exchange for an annual fee. The city dates its ownership of ancient properties from a grant of fee farm by King John in 1199, which included the ground outside the city walls.
- 1.3.13 Within the city wall the land now occupied by New College had been divided into several plots by the 13th century, in mixed ownership, but with substantial areas held by Osney Abbey and the hospital of St John (Salter 1960, 156-62). The area between the inner city wall and a putative intra-mural lane was held by the Trinitarian Friars. William of Wykeham acquired the land in 1379 for the foundation of New College. The land to the east of Longwall Street lay in Holywell Parish, in the ownership of Magdalen College. The wall of Magdalen College that dominates the entire length of Longwall street on the east side, was built in the 15th century.
- 1.3.14 The 2013-14 excavations within the 14th century New College kitchen revealed extensive *in-situ* beaten earth and plaster floors, interleaved with charcoal-rich occupation deposits and rubbish pits. The deposits have not yet been analysed in detail but pre-college deposits were found containing 11th-13th century pottery (B Ford, Oxford Archaeology, pers. comm.).

Post-Medieval

- 1.3.15 At the end of the medieval period the defences were neglected and the city ditch was allowed to fill in for much of its length. Agas' map of 1587 shows New College extending to the inner city wall, and a line that appears to represent the town ditch as an open watercourse outside the wall to the east. No sign of the outer wall or ditch is shown on either the northern or eastern side of the city on this map, although the outer wall is shown on the north side of the city on the Holywell Terrier from 1660, and on Loggan's Map of 1675.
- 1.3.16 During the Civil War the medieval defences were repaired and sections of the ditch recut as part of the protection of a major strategic base. The importance of Oxford during the Civil War arose in large part from its association with Charles I. While he was in dispute with parliament the king used Oxford as his base, making it in effect a temporary capital. The Longwall Street excavations of 1979-80 found substantial depths of fill dating from the 17th century.
- 1.3.17 The land between Longwall Street and the inner city wall fell within the historic parish of St Peter-in-the-East. The city ditch (or a remnant of it) is marked as an open watercourse on Loggan's map of 1675, either directly adjacent to buildings on the Longwall Street frontage, or possibly underneath them in a culvert for some of its length. All of the houses and cottages built on the west side of Longwall Street in the 17th and 18th centuries were city properties, separated from the gardens of New College by the inner city wall. The outer defences in the north-east corner of the city remained relatively undeveloped during the 17th century, in comparison with the northern defences or the stretch near Eastgate.
- 1.3.18 In the 19th century this land was occupied by the printing office of Jackson's Oxford Journal. This had the address of the house next door to which it belonged (namely 60 Holywell Street until 1837, and then 100 Holywell Street under the new numbering system). The newspaper's founder, William Jackson, died in 1795, leaving the ownership of the paper to Miss Mary Jones, and on her death in 1816 it passed to its printers, Grosvenor & Hall. William Hall became sole proprietor of the newspaper in



1824. The printing office moved out in 1894, in 1899, the Oxford Times Company bought the business from the Hall family.

- 1.3.19 Most of the Morris Garage Building site was originally attached to 100 Holywell Street to the west, which had a frontage of 51 yards at the time of the 1771 Survey. It has only been regarded as part of Long Wall Street since 1914.
- 1.3.20 The rear of the site was occupied by livery stables. The coach proprietor Christopher Waddell ran these stables by 25 June 1834, when he and his wife Sarah had their son Christopher baptised at Holywell Church. The 1841 census shows that his family lived in the adjoining house at 100 Holywell Street. It is likely that in 1894 the livery stables also took over the premises vacated by Jackson's Oxford Journal.
- 1.3.21 William Morris took over the disused livery stables on this site in 1902, and in 1910 he built the Morris Garage, (designed by Tollit and Lee) here. The central doorway led to a covered garage and workshop, and it was here in 1912 that William Morris built his first motor car. Later, as Lord Nuffield, he had an office on the first floor of this building, which was given the address of 21 Long Wall Street. In 1977 the whole building was threatened with demolition, but when in 1980 it was developed as student accommodation for New College (by John Fryman of the Oxford Architects Partnership), the frontage was retained.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

General

2.1.1 The general aims of the work were to:

- determine the character of any remains present;
- ensure that deposits were removed (where appropriate and practicable) by proper controlled archaeological methods;
- determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise;
- determine the potential of the deposits for significant palaeo-ecological information;

Specific aims and objectives

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- to establish/confirm the position of the outer city wall;
- to determine the presence or otherwise of the fills of the city ditch;
- to establish the nature and depth of the foundations of the standing walls bounding the south and west of the site;

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Four trial holes (Trenches 1–4) were excavated. Trench 1 measured 2m x 1.5m and was positioned against the southern boundary wall of the site. Trenches 2 and 3 measured 1m² and were excavated against the western boundary wall of the site. Trench 4 also measured c 1m² and was excavated in the gravel courtyard. An additional three 1m² test pits were excavated against the western boundary wall (Trenches 5-7) at the request of the OCC arborist. The position of the trenches is shown on Figure 2.

2.2.2 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A of the WSI. Standard methodologies for geomatics and survey, environmental evidence, artefactual evidence and burials can also be found in that document (Appendices B, C, D and E respectively).

2.2.3 Mechanical excavation was not permitted: this was due to the small-scale of the works, the sensitivity of the location, and the difficulty of access. Hand excavation was employed for all excavation by the archaeological contractor.

2.2.4 Spoil was stored locally on boards for Trial Pits 3 and 4, but cast to the side of Trial Pits 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.

3 RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 3.1.1 Trench 1 measured 2m x 1.5m and was excavated against the boundary wall defining the southern limit of the site. A modern flagstone path was revealed in the northern half of the trench which was bedded on a c 0.2m thick concrete slab, and consequently, the trench was shortened to 1.35m x 1.5m.
- 3.1.2 The trench revealed the northern face of an earlier stone wall (104) beneath the footings for the standing structure. Structure 104 showed some evidence for a brick repair or blockage, although the nature of this feature was uncertain within the confines of the trench. The face of the wall corresponded to that of the upstanding brick structure, although the footings of the latter extended further to the north.
- 3.1.3 The earliest deposit encountered was a remnant of a possible rudimentary mortar surface (100) in the northern part of the trench. This was overlain by (and possibly truncated by) the deposition of a demolition/construction layer comprising a very loose, mid greyish brown silty sand with brick fragments, limestone rubble, and a predominance of broken roof tile throughout (102). This was in turn overlain by a second layer of compacted mortar (103).
- 3.1.4 Deposits 100 and 102 abutted the face of structure 104, and also the western end of a second stone wall (101) which appeared to be built up against structure 104.
- 3.1.5 The remaining deposits within the trench comprised a c 0.2m thick layer of rubble-rich material, containing very modern artefactual material which indicated that it was related to the 1980s' re-development of the site. This was in turn overlain by c 0.45m of contemporary landscaping and garden soil deposits. The 1980s' rubble was also contemporary with the mass concrete foundation of the existing brick boundary wall, the lowest two courses of which were offset and abutted by the landscaping deposit.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

- 3.1.6 Trench 2 measured 1m² and was excavated towards the southern end of the western boundary wall of the site.
- 3.1.7 The stratigraphic sequence revealed within the trench was similar to that recorded within Trench 1. A probable stone wall footing (201) was revealed beneath the concrete foundation of the existing brick wall, and was abutted by a loose rubble-rich material (203) revealed within a sondage excavated to examine the base of the concrete. The loose material was overlain by a c 0.12m thick layer of fairly compacted mortar (202), which was in turn overlain by a loose deposit with brick, tile, and limestone rubble throughout (200). The remaining deposits within the trench represented landscaping and/or garden soil.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

- 3.1.8 Trench 3 also measured 1m² and was excavated against the western boundary wall of the site, just to the north of the dog-leg around the adjacent property.
- 3.1.9 The trench revealed a concrete capped service which appeared to fall from south (59.90m OD) to north (59.82m OD) and ran parallel to the concrete foundation for three offset stepped courses at the base of the standing wall. The base of the concrete was probably encountered at 59.76m OD, although this could not be established with any degree of certainty as further excavation was not possible owing to the proximity of the



concrete capped service. The concrete foundation and the capping of the service were overlain by a c 0.3m thick mixed deposit with brick rubble throughout, which was in turn overlain by a flat layer of brick which appeared to form the base of a 0.2m thick concrete bedding layer for the flagstone path.

- 3.1.10 To the west of the path, the mixed rubble rich deposit was overlain by the garden soil of a flower bed.

Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

- 3.1.11 Trench 4 originally measured 1m² and was excavated within the existing shingle courtyard. The trench was subsequently extended to reveal the extent of a concrete structure encountered within the trench.
- 3.1.12 The earliest deposits encountered were a layer of compacted mortar (401) which appeared to be overlain by a cobbled surface (400), although it is possible that the two were contemporary and that layer 401 was a variation or repair to 400. It is also feasible that the mortar layer was a bedding deposit for the cobbles.
- 3.1.13 Cobbled surface 400 was directly overlain by the north-eastern extent of a c 0.2m thick layer of concrete, and the extension to the trench revealed this to be a 0.7m wide linear configuration on a NW-SE alignment. It also appeared to continue to the south, perhaps suggesting a capped service running from the property at number 20 to the south-west with a branch running from the gardeners hut to the south, and then falling to meet the concrete capped service encountered in Trench 3. The top of the concrete in Trench 4 was at 59.87m OD (c0.65m below ground level).
- 3.1.14 The cobbled surface and the concrete structure were overlain by a 0.22m thick mixed deposit containing brick rubble and tile fragments (402) which was in turn overlain by layers of gravel and sand and Type 1 beneath the existing shingle surface of the courtyard.

Trench 5 (Plate 1)

- 3.1.15 Trench 5 measured approximately 0.9m² and was excavated against the western boundary wall of the site. The earliest deposit encountered was a 0.5m+ thick mixed deposit of loose mortar, limestone fragments, brick rubble and tile (500) which appeared to be contemporary with the foundations of the existing wall (ie early 1980s). A possible tarmac surface (503) was partially revealed in the eastern half of the trench, although the relationship between this and the rubble rich deposit was unclear. The top of the concrete foundation of the wall was encountered at 60.5m OD (c 0.5m below existing ground level (bgl)), and bottomed out at 59.54m OD (c 0.96m bgl).
- 3.1.16 There was a suggestion of an earlier structure below the concrete foundation, which may represent the boundary wall shown on the OS first edition plan of 1876, or a later configuration of the same boundary.
- 3.1.17 The concrete foundation was overlain by two brick offsets at the base of the standing wall. Overlying the rubble rich deposits and the brick offsets was a mid orangey brown sandy silty deposit with c 20% sub-rounded gravel fragments. This is likely to be a landscaping deposit associated with the 1980s development of the site, and was in turn overlain by a contemporary mid-dark grey clay loam garden soil.
- 3.1.18 There appeared to be two different types of root present, some of which were clearly related to the ivy which covers the eastern face of the boundary wall. The other type appeared to be quite fibrous and are likely to be associated with the adjacent tree



(which the appearance of the leaves suggested was a willow of some description). The majority of the roots were within the landscaping deposit and garden soils, although two of the more fibrous roots did penetrate the rubble-rich deposit and continue below the concrete foundation.

Trench 6 (Plate 2)

- 3.1.19 Trench 6 measured approximately 1m² and was also excavated against the western boundary wall of the site, at the point where the wall steps east c0.3m.
- 3.1.20 In contrast to the foundation revealed in Trench 5, there was a single offset brick course at the base of the standing wall, which appeared to be built directly off a layer of cement based mortar at the base of the trench (605 at 59.8m OD or 0.7m bgl). There was some evidence for a brick surface (603/604) overlying the mortar deposit.
- 3.1.21 The overlying stratigraphic sequence was identical to that revealed with Trench 5, comprising a rubble-rich deposit (600; here 0.18m thick) overlying the brick surface/mortar deposit, which itself was subsequently overlain by a landscaping deposit (601) and garden soil (602). All of these deposits relate to the 1980s redevelopment.
- 3.1.22 Roots were again present throughout, although in this case they appeared to be almost exclusively the fibrous variety noted in Trench 5 and are again likely to belong to the adjacent ?willow. The majority of these were encountered at the interface between the rubble rich deposit and the overlying landscaping deposit.

Trench 7 (Plate 3)

- 3.1.23 Trench 7 measured 0.9m x 1m and was also excavated against the western boundary wall of the site, just south of the dog-leg around the adjacent property.
- 3.1.24 The concrete footing of the standing wall was present to a depth of at least 59.42m OD (1.08m bgl) and appeared to be abutted by a loose mid-brownish grey sandy silt with occasional brick fragments (700). No obvious construction cut was visible within this deposit, and it is possible that it represents backfill of a construction cut which extended beyond the edge of the deeper part of the trench. However, it is also possible that it represents an earlier garden soil. This deposit was overlain by the same sequence recorded within Trenches 5 and 6, comprising a rubble-rich deposit (701; here 0.12m thick), which was subsequently overlain by a landscaping deposit (702) and garden soil (703). All of these deposits relate to the 1980s redevelopment.
- 3.1.25 The majority of the roots within Trench 7 were reddish brown in colour and appeared to be associated with the adjacent tree (possibly ash), although one or two of the more fibrous roots noted in Trenches 5 and 6 were also present, in addition to some along the face of the wall which were probably from the ivy growing up the east face of the standing wall.

4 FINDS SUMMARY

Clay tobacco pipe by John Cotter

- 4.1.1 A single piece of clay pipe weighing 4g was recovered from context 400. This is a single piece of clay pipe stem (36mm long), which is very straight and slender, with a bore diameter of 2mm. It is in fresh condition. A 19th century date is most likely.

***Ceramic building material (CBM) by John Cotter***

- 4.1.2 A total of six pieces of CBM weighing 1511g were recovered from Context (102). The condition is very fresh, though fragmentary.
- 4.1.3 Two separate categories of post-medieval CBM were present, both probably of 18th-19th century date and all in a similar light orange-red fabric. The assemblage includes two fresh corner pieces (510g) from two separate but very similar-looking peg tiles. The largest piece survives to a length of 187mm, and is 13mm thick. These have a smooth fabric with very little sand apart from the underside which is very finely sanded. Both of neat and regular manufacture with a pair of circular nailholes for suspension. The nailholes on the shorter fragment are 83mm apart (centre-centre); a single nailhole survives on the longer fragment.
- 4.1.4 The four other pieces (1001g) represent a minimum of two pan tiles and include two joining pieces giving a maximum surviving length of 190mm. They have a thickness of 12-17mm. Pan tiles are of flattened S-shaped cross-section with curved/curled edges designed for interlocking with adjacent tiles. All pieces here have such edges. They are of neat and regular manufacture with a light orange-red fabric, with little or no sand, and a thin grey core. The condition is fresh although there are patches of exfoliation on the outside of all four pieces, evidently caused by weathering. One piece has traces of a rounded corner. Pan tiles were introduced to England during the late 17th century, the examples here however are probably of (?late) 18th or 19th century date.

Metal finds by Ian R Scott

- 4.1.5 There are two iron objects (4 frags) from all from context 402. Neither objects is closely datable, although the possible utensil or fitting (nos 2 and 3) are of cast iron and therefore of post-medieval or later date.

Context 402

- (1) Strip. Narrow strip of iron bent into an approximate V-shape, possibly with a rivet at the angle. L: 109mm; W: 86mm.
- (2) Possible utensil or fitting. Two refitting fragments of grid or grill in cast iron with a hand of triangular cross section. Extant dimensions: L: 183mm; W: 94mm.
- (3) Possible utensil or fitting. Fragment of cast iron grill or grid. Possibly part of No. 2 above. L: 110mm; W: 74mm.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Interpretation

- 5.1.1 The stone wall revealed beneath the concrete footing of the southern boundary wall of the site in Trench 1 is likely to be on the line of the outer defensive wall. However, as the only excavated deposits associated with this structure were 19th century at the earliest, attributing a definitive, late 13th-century date to the wall is problematic. Additionally, the brick repair encountered within the sondage may suggest a later rebuild on the line of the medieval wall, although this may have been filling a feature in the northern face of an earlier structure.
- 5.1.2 None of the excavated trial holes was deep enough to encounter the putative fills of the defensive medieval city ditch to the north of the outer city wall.
- 5.1.3 The stone wall revealed beneath the concrete foundation of the western boundary wall of the site in Trenches 2 and 5 probably represents the boundary wall shown on the OS first edition town plan of 1876 (Fig. 7). The configuration of this boundary appears to remain consistent on later OS mapping up to the re-development of the site in the early 1980s. Prior to this redevelopment, there appears to have been an access from Holywell Street which ran between the property boundaries of 100 Holywell Street and 21 Longwall (the Morris Garage), and the southern end of this appears to have been blocked by the dog-leg in the existing boundary wall, with the southern end of the wall being constructed over the foundations of the eastern boundary to 100 Holywell Street, and the dog-leg retaining access to the rear 100 Holywell Street.
- 5.1.4 The cobbles (400) revealed in Trench 4 are likely to represent the surface of the courtyard prior to the 1980s' redevelopment. The original date of these cobbles is uncertain, but a fragment of clay pipe stem recovered from the top of the cobbles may indicate a 19th-century origin (see Cotter above).
- 5.1.5 Surface 400 was at approximately the same elevation (59.73m OD) as the possible compacted mortar surfaces seen in Trench 1 (Surface 103 at 59.72m OD) and Trench 2 (Surface 202 at 59.74m OD), and it is possible that these represent internal surfaces within the building which formerly stood against the southern boundary wall, and may have been contemporary with the external cobbled courtyard.
- 5.1.6 The probable surfaces partially revealed within Trenches 5 (503) and 6 (604) were at approximately 60m OD, and may have represented the surface(s) of the earlier access from Holywell Street, prior to the construction of the existing boundary wall.
- 5.1.7 The remaining deposits encountered within the trenches relate to the 1980s' redevelopment of the site, and appear to suggest that the ground level has been raised between 0.50 - 0.65m.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1

Context no	Type	Depth (m)	Comment	Soil Description
100	Surface		Possible surface or construction horizon	Compact mid brownish yellow mortar with small stones and gravel inclusions
101	Structure		Western end of stone wall built up against ? outer City wall 104	Limestone set in an off-white lime mortar
102	Deposit	0.25	Construction/ demolition deposit	Very loose, mid greyish brown silty sand with bricks, stone, tile etc throughout
103	Surface	0.1	Possible internal floor surface	Compact mid brownish yellow mortar
104	Structure		Possible outer City wall	Roughly coursed limestone with evidence for a brick repair – only partly revealed in small sondage at base of trench

Trench 2

Context no	Type	Depth (m)	Comment	Soil Description
200	Deposit	0.2	1980s landscaping	Loose light yellowish grey silty sand with rubble, tile, brick etc throughout
201	Structure		Boundary wall overlain by modern concrete footing	Limestone wall only seen in very small sondage in base of trench
202	Surface	0.1	Possible internal floor surface	Compact mid brownish-yellow lime mortar
203	Deposit		Construction/ demolition deposit	Very loose, mid greyish brown silty sand with bricks, stone, tile etc throughout

Trench 3

Context no	Type	Depth (m)	Comment	Soil Description
No numbers issued				

Trench 4

Context no	Type	Depth (m)	Comment	Soil Description
400	Surface		Remnant of cobbled courtyard surface	Well rounded gravel cobbles
401	Surface		Repair to cobbled surface or bedding deposit for same	Compact mid brownish yellow mortar



Context no	Type	Depth (m)	Comment	Soil Description
402	Deposit	0.22	Demolition deposit	Compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal, brick, tile etc

Trench 5

Context no	Type	Depth (m)	Comment	Soil Description
500	Deposit	0.5+	1980s landscaping	Loose mortar, brick, tile etc
501	Deposit	0.24	1980s landscaping	Mid orangey brown sandy silt with 20% gravel fragments
502	Deposit	0.28	1980s garden soil	Mid-dark grey clay loam
503	?Surface		Possible tarmac surface	?Tarmac

Trench 6

Context no	Type	Depth (m)	Comment	Soil Description
600	Deposit	0.18	1980s landscaping	Loose mortar, brick, tile etc
601	Deposit	0.24	1980s landscaping	Mid orangey brown sandy silt with 20% gravel fragments
602	Deposit	0.3	1980s garden soil	Mid-dark grey clay loam
603	Surface	0.07	Brick surface	Brick surface
604	?Surface		Part of brick surface	Engineering brick or stone – part of brick surface 603
605	Deposit		Bedding deposit for brick surface	?Cement-based mortar

Trench 7

Context no	Type	Depth (m)	Comment	Soil Description
700	Deposit	0.4+	?Construction cut fill/garden soil	Loose mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional brick fragments
701	Deposit	0.12	1980s landscaping	Loose mortar, brick, tile etc
702	Deposit	0.22	1980s landscaping	Mid orangey brown sandy silt with 20% gravel fragments
703	Deposit	0.32	1980s garden soil	Mid-dark grey clay loam



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Dodd, A, ed, 2003, *Oxford Before the University: The Late Saxon and Norman Archaeology of the Thames Crossing, the Defences and the Town*. Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No.17, Oxford Archaeology
- Durham B, Halpin C & Palmer N, 1983, 'Oxford's Northern Defences: Archaeological Studies 1971-1982' *Oxoniensia* XLVIII, 13-40
- Harris, R, 2012 *New College Oxford, kitchen, hall and buttery*, Archaeological Assessment and Mitigation Strategy, unpublished
- Haslam, J., 2006, 'King Alfred and the Vikings – strategies and tactics, 876-886 AD', *Anglo- Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History* 13, 121-53
- Hunter A G & Jope E M, 1951, 'Excavations on the City Defences in New College, Oxford, 1949' *Oxoniensia* XVI, 28-41
- Jope, E M, 1956, 'Saxon Oxford and its Region, *Dark Age Britain*, ed. D B Harden, 234-58
- OA, 2015, *New College, Oxford. Sacher Building, 8-14 Longwall Street and Bodicote House*, Archaeological Evaluation Report
- Oxford History, nd Old Morris Garages, 21 Long Wall Street, *Oxford History*, http://www.oxfordhistory.org.uk/longwall/21_morris_garages.html
- Salter, H E, 1912, 'Lecture on the Town Walls of Oxford', *Records of Medieval Oxford*, 76-84
- Salter H E, 1960, Survey of Oxford Vol I



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Morris Garage Building, Longwall Street, Oxford

Site code: OXMO16

Grid reference: centred on SP 5191 0645

Type: Evaluation

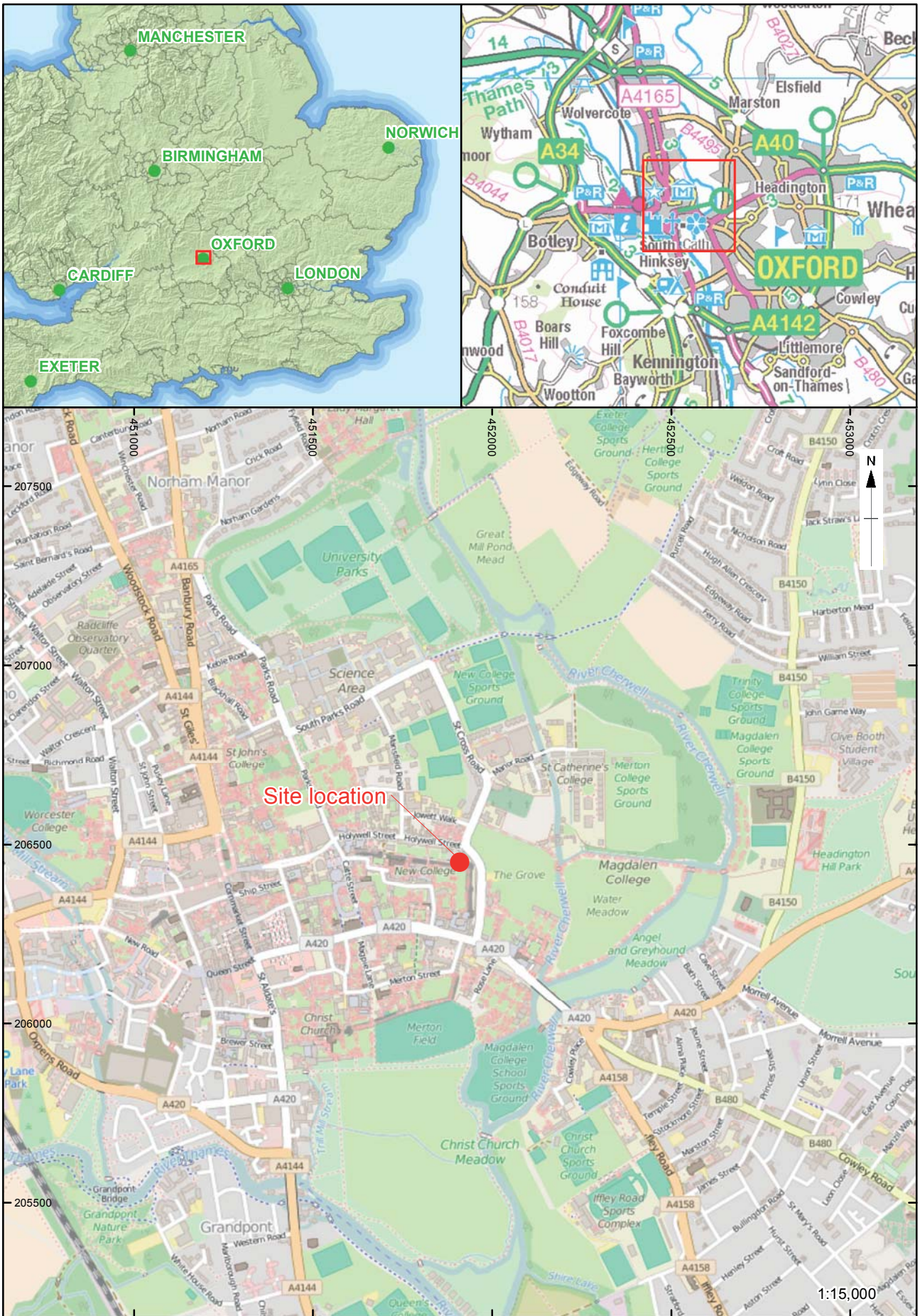
Summary of results: In September 2016, Oxford Archaeology undertook the excavation of four geotechnical trial trenches (Trenches 1-4) at The Morris Building, Longwall Street, Oxford. The work was undertaken in advance of a planning application for the proposed development of the courtyard to the rear of the building, and the refurbishment of the building itself. Three additional test pits (Trenches 5-7) were also excavated at the request of the arborist for Oxford City Council.

The proposed development is on the site of the in-filled medieval defensive ditch (with the southern limit of the site corresponding with the line of the outer defensive wall). More recently the former Morris Garages, built in 1910, occupied the site, this was redeveloped in the early 1980s when only the frontage was retained.

Trench 1 revealed the northern face of an E-W orientated stone wall, under the current brick wall and its' foundation. This was orientated along the line of the southern boundary to the site and possibly represents the remains of the medieval outer defensive wall, or a rebuild or repair to that wall. Earlier N-S orientated stonework was observed below the modern brick wall and foundations forming the current western boundary in Trenches 2 and 5; no dating evidence was recovered but this wall appears on 19th century maps. An internal mortar floor in Trench 1 was overlain with modern demolition rubble and probably represents the floor to 19/20th century building, associated with the Morris Garage, shown in this location on contemporary maps. A similar layer of rubble overlay an external cobbled courtyard surface in Trench 4, this was also probably associated with the Morris Garage.

The majority of the deposits encountered in the remaining Trenches were associated with the 1980s redevelopment, together the evidence suggests that the ground level to the rear of the Longwall Street frontage had been raised, at this time, burying the demolished remains of the former buildings by between 0.50 – 0.65m (c 59.75mOD) to achieve the current levels (c 60.40m OD).

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

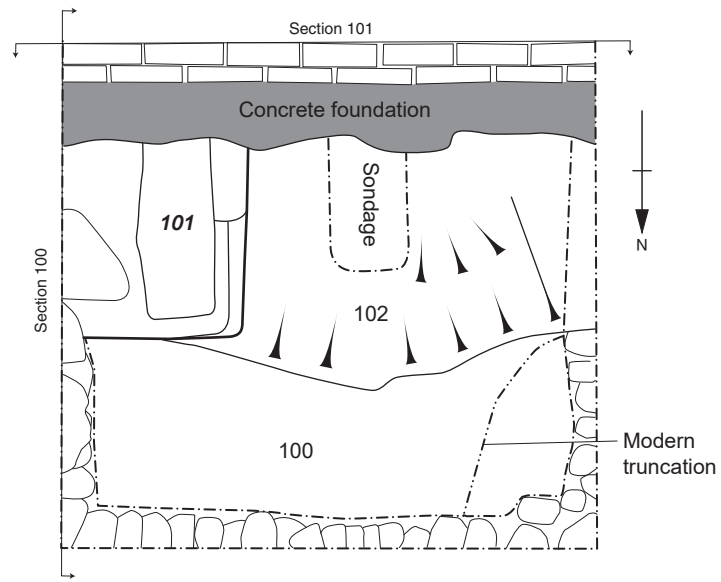


C:\Users\markus.dylewski\OneDrive\Google Drive\Dobby\Ben_Fig_01.mxd\markus.dylewski\12/08/2016

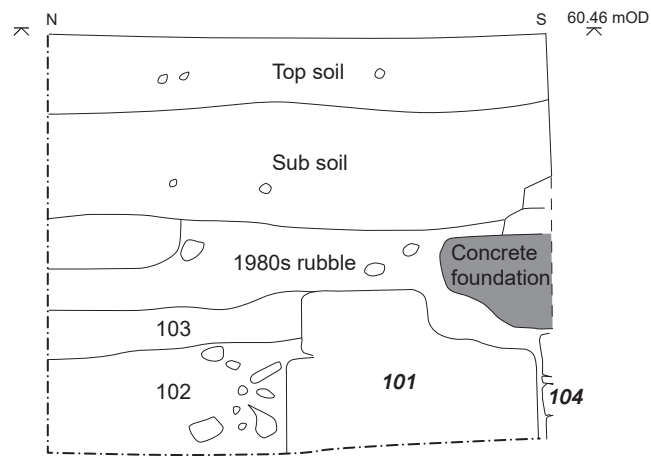
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014

(c) OpenStreetMap and contributors, Creative Commons-Share Alike License (CC-BY-SA)

Figure 1: Site location



Section 100



Section 101

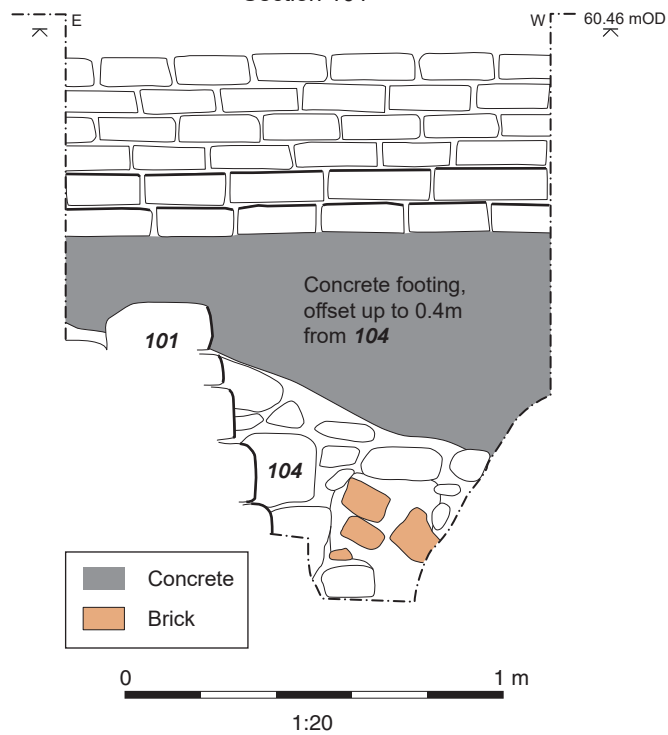


Figure 3: Plan and sections; Trench 1

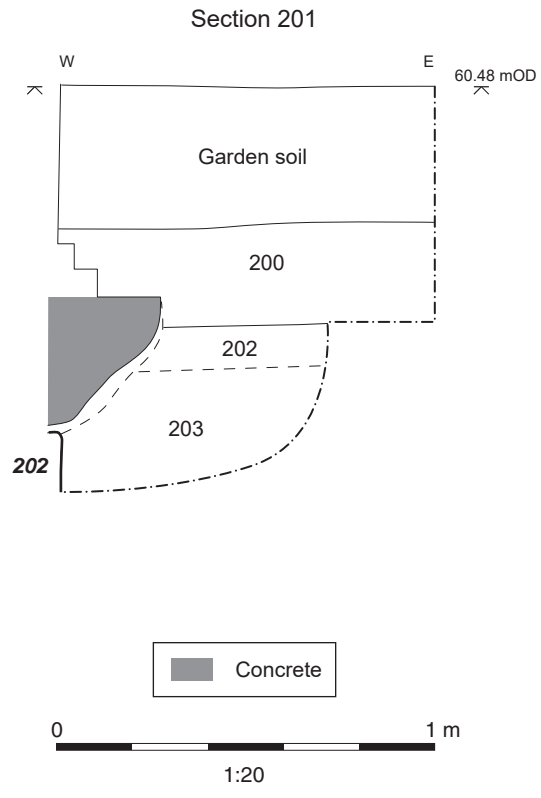
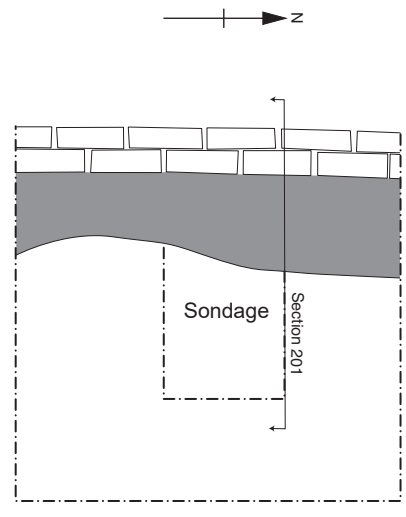


Figure 4: Plan and section; Trench 2

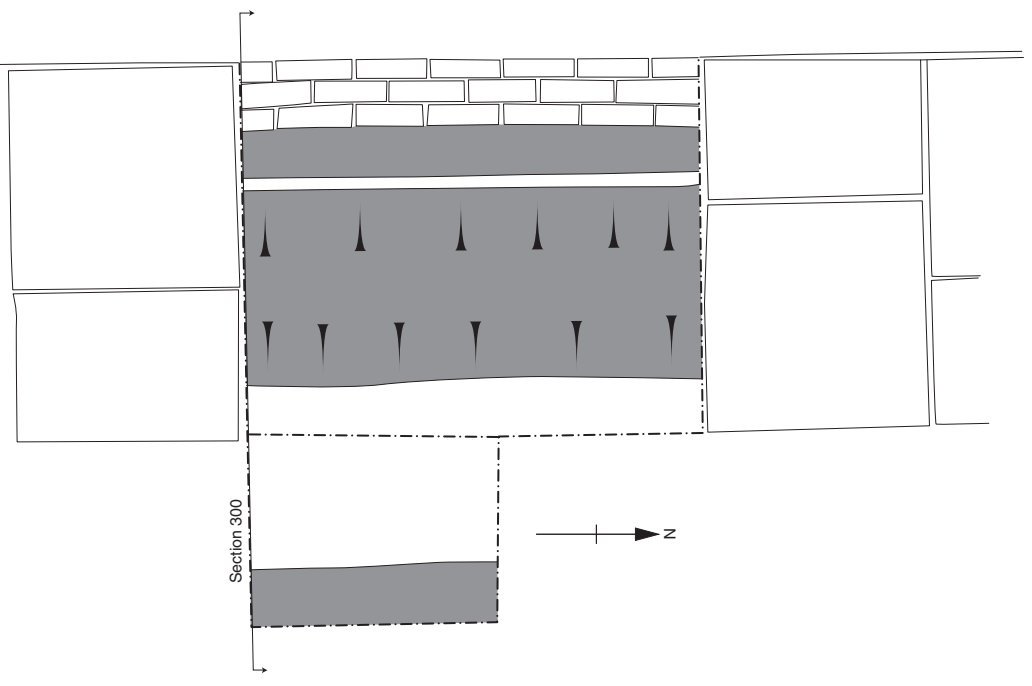


Figure 5: Plan and section; Trench 3

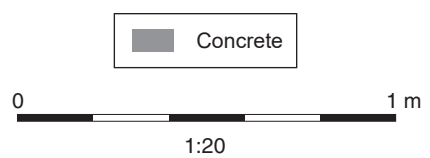
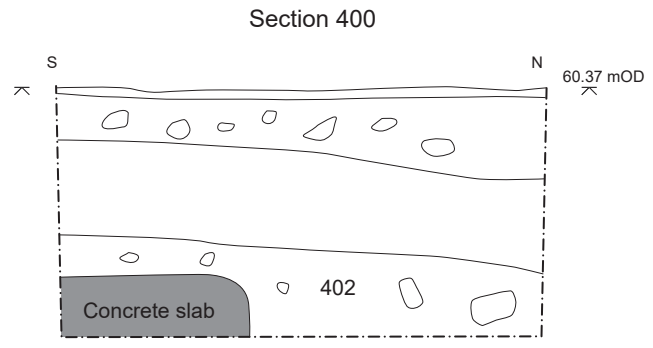
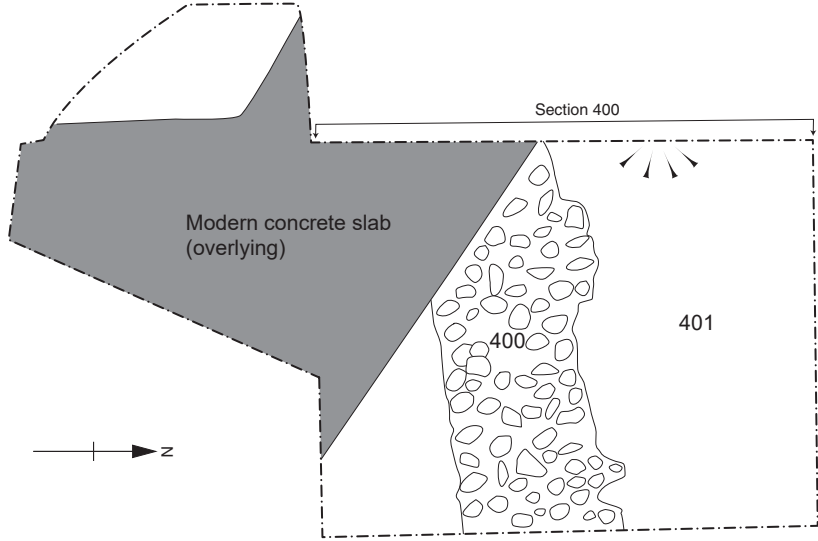


Figure 6: Plan and section; Trench 4

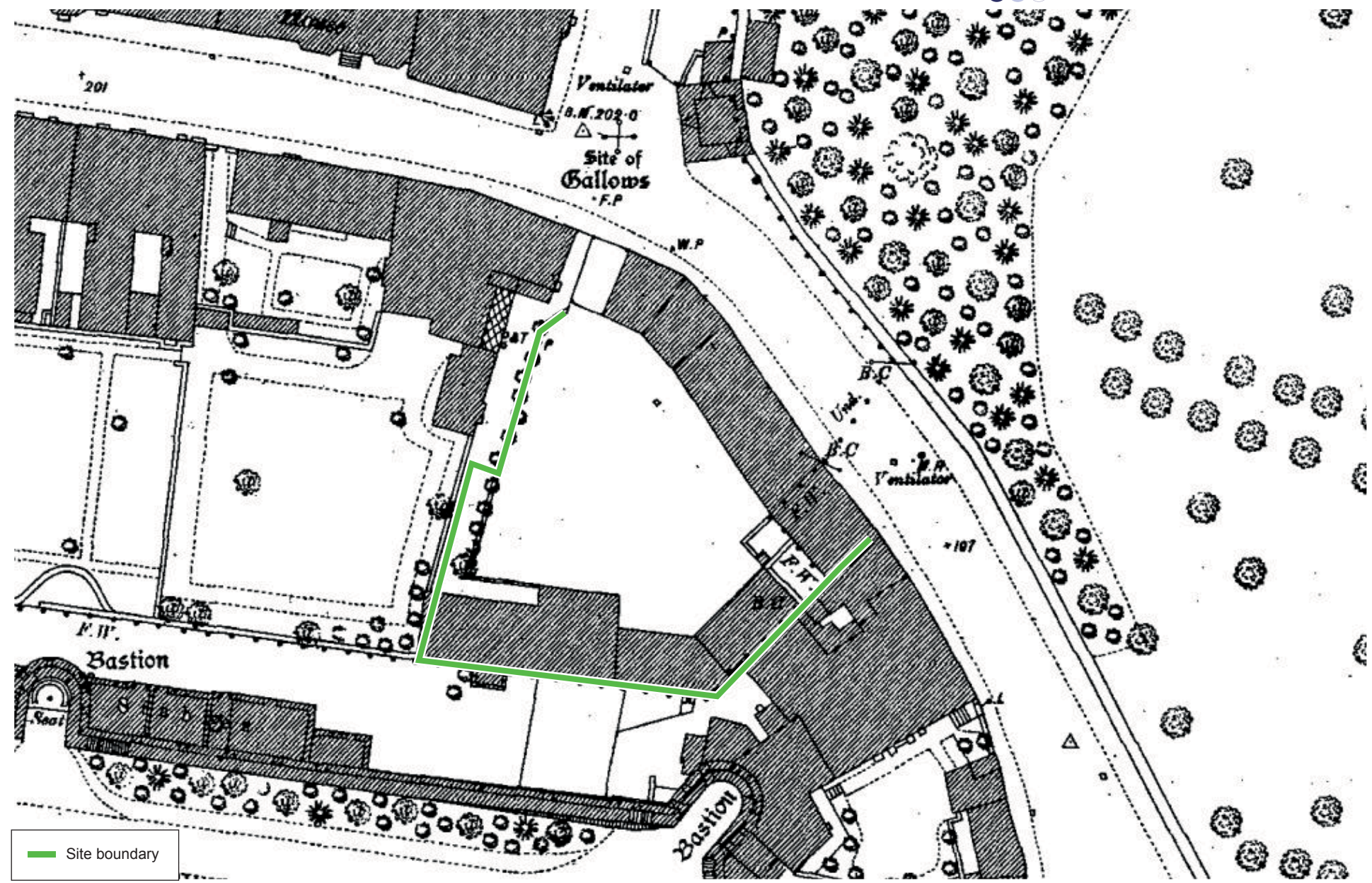


Figure 7: Existing site boundary plotted on OS 1st Edition map



Plate 1: Trench 5



Plate 2: Trench 6



Plate 3: Trench 7



Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*