



Biochemistry Building Phase 1 South Parks Road Oxford

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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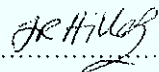
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Biochemistry Building, Phase I, South Parks Road, Oxford

NGR SP 5154 0700

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SUMMARY

Between the 24th July 2006 and the 10th August 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the site of the Biochemistry building, South Parks Road, Oxford. The work was commissioned by Laing O'Rourke on behalf of the University of Oxford, in advance of the construction of a new Biochemistry building for the University of Oxford. The Phase I watching brief was concerned with monitoring the grubbing out of the extant foundations of the Rudolf Peters building (demolished to make way for the new Biochemistry building) and the reduction of the ground level for the piling mat. The watching brief revealed a series of linear features which were dated to the late Iron Age/early Romano-British period as well as a series of post-medieval rubbish pits. A group of seven postholes was uncovered which may represent a fence line or similar structure. Four substantial postholes were seen at the bottom of a tree throw hole, however their purpose was not clear. The linear features represent the ongoing use of the area for agriculture during the late Iron Age/early Roman period, whilst the pits suggest that the area was subsequently used for the limited disposal of domestic waste during the post-medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between the 24th July 2006 and the 10th August 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Oxford University Science Area Biochemistry Department during the demolition of the old Rudolph Peter's building (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Laing O'Rourke on behalf of The University of Oxford in respect of a planning application for a new Biochemistry Building (Planning Application No. 05/00643/FUL).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by the City Archaeologist, Brian Durham (OCC, 2006) requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the grubbing out of the existing building foundations and any reduction necessary to form a piling mat and during the subsequent removal of the piling mat. This is in line with PPG 16 and local planning policy.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2006).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The development area lies centrally within Oxford University's Science Area in the angle between Parks Road and South Parks Road. The site was formerly occupied by laboratories under demolition (NGR SP 5154 0700).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is 1st Terrace River Gravel with the gravels lying at approximately 61.5 m OD, (BGS Sheet 236).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment was produced by City Archaeologist, Brian Durham in his brief and is reproduced below (OCC 2006).
- 1.3.2 Historically this is in an area of Bronze Age ritual monuments, known from air photographs to the north, and reported from all three recent basemented university developments, Rex Richards, Gene Function and the magnet basement. The Gene Function excavations revealed part of a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age ring ditch enclosing the crouched inhumations of a child and three adult females. Radiocarbon dating of the four skeletons indicated that the barrow was used as a place of burial over several centuries. Evidence from the re-routing of services indicates that the barrow cemetery was encroached upon by Iron Age and Roman farming, of which fragments were reported recently at the Pitt Rivers extension site. The implication for the present site is an interface between farming and ritual, perhaps the edge of two phases of Roman settlement reported at the New Chemistry site, interpreted in that case as two farmsteads.
- 1.3.3 The Civil War outer trace at New Chemistry proved to be a wet ditch, which was only slowly infilled, its line subsequently traced at the Pitt Rivers extension. It was thought unlikely that it would occur on the present site, unless the ditch enclosing the corner bastion under the Dyson Perrins Laboratory had a major forework.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To preserve by record any archaeological remains that the development may remove or damage during the Phase I grubbing out works and subsequent ground reduction.
- 2.1.2 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief observed all works relating to the grubbing out of the foundations, any ground reduction for the piling mat and the subsequent removal of the piling mat.
- 2.2.2 The grubbing out of the building foundations was carried out by mechanical excavator employing a wide ditching bucket and was subject to archaeological monitoring. The reduction of the ground surface to the archaeological/geological horizon was carried out by mechanical excavator employing a toothless bucket and was subject to archaeological control.

2.2.3 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:25 and where excavated sections were drawn at scales of 1:20 and individually planned at a scale of 1:100. 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 site was heavily truncated by the footings and floors levels of the old Rudolf Peters Building. Underneath the building a 0.10 m - 0.20 m thick layer of topsoil was observed. This topsoil mostly overlay the orange/yellow 1st Terrace River Gravels. It was noted that particularly towards the northern end of the site the natural gravels were overlain by red loess subsoil, around 0.20 m to 0.25 m thick in places, into which some of the features were cut (124, 146, 148, 150 and 152). The majority of features however were found cut into the natural gravel.

3.2 Wall Foundations

3.2.1 Wall foundations were be observed across the site and were the main load bearing walls of the Rudolf Peters Building. These foundation walls were substantial, approximately 1.5 m wide and 1 m deep, and they were supported by 1 m - 1.5 m thick concrete footings that ran the length of the walls. The wall footings cut deep into the natural to a depth of around 1.5 m to 2 m.

3.2.2 The foundations and the footings were removed by mechanical excavator under constant archaeological scrutiny. No archaeological features were observed.

3.3 South-East Area

3.3.1 This area of the site is approximately 25 m long and 13.5 m wide (Fig.2) and constituted the first area to be reduced for the piling mat. This area lay within the footings of the Rudolf Peters Building, although an area running along the outside southern edge of the building was also excavated to aid vehicular access for construction in the future. When the modern overburden had been stripped, usually natural gravels were encountered, although towards the northern edge of this area, the red loess subsoil (120) was encountered.

3.3.2 This area was heavily truncated by the construction of the Rudolph Peter's Building. Very large concrete pads (over 2 x 2 m in places) were seen at regular intervals along the eastern edge of this area.

3.3.3 At the southern edge of this area (Fig.2) service trenches and building components had very heavily truncated the underlying soils and as such no archaeological remains were observed.

- 3.3.4 Within the building footprint several archaeological features did exist and mainly consisted of linears and pits, although a series of postholes were observed towards the north of this quadrant
- 3.3.5 Most of the linear cuts (100, 103, 110, 113, 115, 126 & 129) were oriented NW to SE with the exception of one (124), which was oriented NE-SW.
- 3.3.6 Linear feature (100) (and 103), was a aligned NW-SE and was 9 m in length Fig.2, Fig.3 - Section 100). At its deepest this feature was 0.56 m and contained two fills. At the top the ditch measured 0.86 m wide. The earliest of the fills (101) was a brownish grey silty loam, 0.35 m thick with some inclusions of stone. Three sherds of pottery were recovered.
- 3.3.7 Deposit 101 was overlain by a 0.32 m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty loam (102). This layer contained a smaller proportion of stoney inclusions but did produce animal bone and pottery of late Iron Age/early Roman date.
- 3.3.8 Immediately north of ditch (100) was a similar feature (110 and 126). This ditch was also aligned NW-SE and was recorded across the site for 10 m. This feature proved to be less deep than ditch (100 and 103). At its north western end this ditch was 0.18 m deep and 0.65 m wide. Two separate fills were observed. The lower fill (109) was a deposit of yellowish brown gravelly silt - almost certainly derived from the surrounding natural gravel. Fill 108 was a reddish brown silty clay up to 0.08 m thick. This deposit produced animal bone and Romano British Savernake Ware pottery sherds.
- 3.3.9 Excavation of ditch 100 & 126 at its SE end showed that the feature had suffered further truncation than at its northern end. Here the feature was 0.15 m deep and 0.52 m wide. The ditch at this end appeared to cut an earlier gully/ditch on a very similar alignment (129). Feature 129, contained only a single fill (130), that was 0.13 m thick and 0.36 m wide. This fill was a deposit of dark greyish brown silt with rare stoney inclusions. No finds were recovered. Feature 100 & 126, at this end contained two fills (127 and 128). The basal fill, 127, was a stoney silt deposit yellowish brown in colour 0.10 m thick. This was directly overlain by deposit 128, which was greyish brown silty deposit with very few other inclusions, however, animal bone and the same type of Savernake Ware pottery were recovered.
- 3.3.10 To the north of feature 129, was a short (3.3 m) E-W oriented linear feature (113). This feature was 0.68 m wide and up to 0.25 m deep. Two fills were recorded within the cut, the basal fill (112) was a dark yellowish brown silty clay with gravel 0.08 m thick. This was overlain by fill 111, a dark reddish brown silty clay with gravel, this deposit was c.0.2 m thick and contained animal bone and Late Iron Age/Early Romano British pottery.
- 3.3.11 A similar feature to 129, was investigated immediately to the west. This was a smaller linear feature also aligned on an E-W axis (115). This gully/ditch was seen to be cut in to an the fill of an amorphous feature that was probably the remains of a

tree throw pit. Feature 115 was 0.20 m wide and 0.08 m deep, and comprised a single similar to the latest fill in feature 129. Finds of animal bone and Late Iron Age/Early Romano British pottery were recovered from the fill.

- 3.3.12 Located 4 m north of feature 113, was a NE-SW oriented length of ditch/gully (124). This feature was 2.7 m in length with a recorded depth 0.13 m and a width measuring 0.28 m. This feature contained a single fill (125), a dark greyish brown silty clay that produced some fragments of animal bone. The form of this feature exhibited a slight curve towards the north at its NE end, however, this may have been the result of differential truncation.
- 3.3.13 Towards the northern end of this quadrant a series of seven post holes (Fig. 3) were exposed, Group (204), and seem to form roughly two lines of three post holes per line with a small shallow post hole in the middle. The post holes fills consisted of a red brown silty sand deposit with stone inclusions. The average dimensions of the post holes were 0.21 m by 0.21 m with an average depth of 0.20 m. Their alignment was NW-SE and may have formed a fence line, although it is also possible that they were also part of a structure(s). No dateable finds were recovered from any of the fills, however environmental samples were taken from the more substantial post holes. The proximity of this group of features to the possible curved ditch/gully (124) may be important and is discussed below.
- 3.3.14 The only remaining feature that was investigated was an area of red/brown soil (122) located north of gully 115. Investigation revealed this to be a tree throw pit.

3.4 North-East Area

- 3.4.1 This area revealed several features which were investigated and covered an area of 25.5 m by 13 m at the north-east end of the site.
- 3.4.2 A substantial pit (146) was located and investigated at the southern end of this area and measured approximately 2.2 m x 2.2 m. This feature had a recorded depth of 0.25 m. There was a single dark brown silty sand fill (147) which contained post-medieval pottery, glass and clay pipe.
- 3.4.3 An area of red loess soil (120) was observed in south-east part of this quadrant. This soil has been proved to be a remnant prehistoric topsoil on previous excavations in the vicinity. This deposit was lying directly above the natural gravel, and when removed four features were exposed that only became apparent at this level but must have been cut higher in the sequence.
- 3.4.4 A feature that resembled a small pit/posthole was revealed after the excavation of the fills of the ditches described in 3.4.5 below. It is likely that the ditches had almost obliterated this feature (178) as only the base of the cut was identified in the gravel below the fills of the ditches.
- 3.4.5 Immediately to the west of 170 was a NNW - SSE aligned linear feature (Fig.4). Excavation later revealed this to be two features sharing a common alignment. The

earlier of the features (174) contained a single fill (175) which was a reddish brown sandy silt 0.2 m thick. No finds were recovered from this deposit. Fill 175 was truncated at both its west and east. It is likely that ditch feature (172) which appears to be a re-cut of 172 was the earlier of the two truncating features here. Ditch 172 was 0.68 m wide and 0.26 m deep. This feature also contained only a single fill with a composition very similar to that filling ditch 174 - a reddish brown sandy silt (173) that produced a fragment of animal bone.

- 3.4.6 Feature 176 appeared in section 123 (Fig. 4) and has been interpreted as a small pit/posthole. This feature measured 0.35 m in diameter and had a depth of 0.3 m. This feature was filled by a single deposit of reddish brown sandy silt (probably derived from the overlying loess). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.7 A linear feature oriented NE-SW was seen to cut the red subsoil (120) and to cut an area of root disturbance (158). An intervention (154) was excavated within this linear and revealed a depth of 0.13 m and ran for about 6.5 m before fading out in the natural gravels to the west. Post-medieval pottery, clay pipe and ceramic building material and animal bone was recovered from the fill (155). A further intervention was excavated to determine the relationship between the linear and the root disturbance - showing that the ditch cut the root disturbance. Animal bone, metal and CBM were recovered from the fill of the ditch (157). The fill of this linear was composed of a dark brown/grey silty soil with very few stone inclusions.
- 3.4.8 At the western edge of this quadrant a large dark brown/grey spread was investigated and an intervention was dug along on edge (160) (Fig. 4, Plan 115). This feature appears to be a tree throw pit with post-medieval pottery and clay pipe being recovered from the upper fill (162). However, cut into the bottom of this feature were four post holes (164), (166), (168) and (180) (Fig. 4). The average depth of the post holes was around 0.60 m with a grey/brown sandy silt fill. Although no dating was recovered from any of the fills environmental samples were taken for analysis. This large feature (160) measured 2.35 m by 3 m, however it has been truncated on two sides by wall foundations from the subsequent building. The post holes appeared to be in a row of three with one other (180) immediately to the south of post hole (164). The fills overlying the post holes (161) and (162) were not cut through by any of the post holes; therefore the overlying layers were formed after the post holes
- 3.4.9 The outer most northern wall foundation was removed along with a 8.5 m wide area to the outside of the Rudolph Peters building. After the deep wall foundations were removed services were seen immediately to the outside/northern side of the wall. Removal of the walls and the myriad of services left an area up to 6 m wide where any archaeological features were completely destroyed.
- 3.4.10 An area of ground 3.5 m wide was left to the immediate north of the disturbance within which a linear feature and a large irregular feature were observed. The linear feature (197) was aligned N-S and was 3.5 m long and looked as if it ran into a tree throw hole. Two interventions were dug into the linear, (197) and (205). The first

intervention, (197), ascertained a depth of 0.20 m and width of 0.45m. Early Romano-British pottery and animal bone was recovered from the fill and an environmental sample was taken for analysis. A second intervention (205) was inserted to ascertain the relationship between the linear 197 and tree throw pit (199).

- 3.4.11 Tree throw hole (199) was seen to cut ditch (197) at its northern end (intervention 205), however the full extent of 199 could not be proved as it extended beyond the edge of the excavation. The fill (200) was a red/brown sandy silt soil with 10% stone inclusions. No dating was recovered from this deposit.
- 3.4.12 A substantial irregular shaped feature 8.5 m wide (201) was observed at the northern edge of the excavation. The feature was 0.92 m deep and contained two fills. The lower fill (202) was a sandy silty mid brown deposit with 20% stone inclusions and 0.57 m thick. The upper fill (203) was a silty dark greyish brown deposit with 5% stone inclusions. No archaeological finds were recovered from either deposit. This feature is a substantial tree throw hole formed by the presence of a very large Beech tree that stood immediately to the north of the Rudolf Peters Building and was removed prior to the demolition of the building.
- 3.4.13 Three small features of an irregular shape were visible towards the southern end of this area and were investigated because finds were visible in their fills. Interventions were dug across all three features (148), (150) and (152). These features turned out to be nothing more than root disturbance.

3.5 North-West and South-West Areas

- 3.5.1 Both these areas were situated in the former car park of the Rudolf Peters Building. The area excavated was 33 m by 12 m, however large areas to the east and south of this area were heavily disturbed by services and foundation walls for the former Rudolf Peters and the adjoining Walter Bodmer buildings.
- 3.5.2 Within the north-west area a linear feature (185) was uncovered which appeared to be the terminus of ditch running roughly east to west for 3.5 m before fading out in the natural gravels. This feature was 0.53 m deep and approximately 0.8 m wide. There were three fills from which pottery, shell and glass was recovered from the upper fill only (188). The lower fill (186) comprised a brown/black layer of sand/silt and 80% stone inclusions 0.04 m thick. Fill (187) was a yellowish brown sandy silt deposit, 0.22 m deep with 40% stone inclusions. The upper fill (188), 0.33 m deep, was a brown sandy silt deposit containing 5% stone inclusions.
- 3.5.3 To the immediate south-west ditch 185 was a circular feature (182). This feature was 0.28 m deep, 1.2 m by 1.24 m in diameter and contained two fills from which animal bone, shell, glass and post medieval pottery was recovered. The bottom fill (183) was a mid greyish brown sandy silt deposit and contained animal bone. The upper fill (184) was a more dark brown/grey silt deposit and contained post medieval pottery, glass and shell.

- 3.5.4 Immediately west of pit (182) was a narrow ditch/gully 4 m long (189). This feature was 0.08 m deep and 0.25 m wide. The single fill (190) was a dark greyish brown silty deposit with 1% stone inclusions, which contained animal bone.
- 3.5.5 Feature 191 was 4.5 m long and truncated at its south-east end by a large tree throw hole, the other end ran beneath the edge of excavation. A single intervention was dug across this feature to reveal a ditch 0.10 m deep and 0.50 m wide. The single fill (192) was a mid greyish brown silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.5.6 Feature (195) was a small circular feature measuring 0.64 m by 0.67 m in diameter and 0.33 m deep. This feature had an irregular base. It's only fill (196) was a mid brown sandy silt deposit. This feature appeared to be a small tree throw hole.
- 3.5.7 The only other feature in this quadrant was a 2.8 m long linear (193) that was truncated at both ends by modern building disturbance and service trenches. Excavation revealed a ditch 0.13 m deep and 0.80 m wide containing a single fill (194) which was a red brown silty deposit with 50% stone inclusions. No dating material was recovered from the deposit.

3.6 Finds

- 3.6.1 A moderate amount of pottery was recovered mainly from the linear features and dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period *c* 50 BC - AD 150. Pottery recovered from the pits has been dated to the post-medieval period *c*. 1770 - 1830.
- 3.6.2 Post-medieval clay pipe was recovered from a small number of features, most notably the pits and the large tree hole/pit (160). These were dated to *c* 1770 - 1830.
- 3.6.3 A large amount of animal bone was recovered from both the linear features and the pits.
- 3.6.4 One small flint flake was recovered from a ditch fill (188), however the flake could not be dated although it did show signs of having been worked.
- 3.6.5 Shell fragments were recovered from four contexts.
- 3.6.6 Four glass fragments were recovered from the fills of four separate features (see appendix 2). No further work was carried out on the glass.

Assessment of the Pottery and Clay Pipes

By John Cotter and Ed Biddulph

- 3.6.7 A total of 44 sherds of pottery weighing 421 g were recovered. This was predominantly of late Iron Age/early Roman and Roman date with just 10 sherds of late post-medieval pottery. Eight pieces of clay pipe were also recovered (see below). Apart from context 155 - which contained a small piece of clay pipe- the early pottery and late pottery/pipes came from discrete contexts and were not mixed together. All the pottery, including material recovered from sieving, was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery

sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of dateable types were also recorded, usually with the mention of vessel form (jars, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg, decoration etc.).

- 3.6.8 Overall the pottery assemblage is very fragmentary with very few diagnostic pieces present (eg. rims, bases etc.) which makes the positive identification of some pieces difficult. The fabric is predominantly a groggy/limestone-tempered fabric (more limestone than grog), with a general late Iron Age/early Roman date range (c 50 BC - AD 70/100). The forms are typically 'Belgic' forms - such as cordoned jars and one example of a recessed base - which confirm the date. Savernake grey ware (east Wiltshire) is Early Roman in date (c AD 43 - 130/150). There are a couple of sherds of oolitic limestone-tempered and shelly limestone-tempered fabrics which have some resemblance to local mid Saxon pottery fabrics but these are too undiagnostic to be sure and, on balance, they are probably late Iron Age/early Roman to or possibly even earlier.
- 3.6.9 The post-medieval assemblage consists of a few small sherds of late 18th to early 19th century date.
- 3.6.10 A total of 8 pieces of clay pipe weighing 28 g was recovered. These were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in a similar way to the pottery. These comprise of stems and one pipe bowl. The bowl is of fluted type with a 'W1' maker's mark on the spur and dates stylistically c 1780 - 1820, which is compatible with the post-medieval pottery dating. The pipe stems suggest a range of pipe dates from the 17th to the early 19th century. Apart from the bowl most of the pipe assemblage is in a poor condition.
- 3.6.11 Both the pottery and pipe assemblages comprise fairly well known types, none of which is in good condition and none of which adds very much to our knowledge of pottery or pipes in the region apart from their dating information. No further work on either assemblage is therefore recommended.

The Flint

by Rebecca Devaney

- 3.6.12 A single hard hammer struck flint flake was recovered from ditch fill 188 during the watching brief at the Oxford Biochemistry Building. The flake is in a fresh condition but has a silet break down the centre, which probably occurred during knapping. Dating cannot be provided and further work is not required.

3.7 Palaeo-environmental remains

Environmental Remains

by Dawn Irving

- 3.7.1 A total of fourteen samples were taken during the watching brief from several locations across the site for the recovery of charred plant remains. Bulk samples 10-40 litres in volume, were processed by flotation using a modified Siarf-type machine, with the sample held on a 500µm mesh and the flot collected on a 250µm. After air-drying the flots were scanned for material under a binocular microscopes at x10 and x20 magnification. The residue from the flotation was retained to 500µm and scanned for bones and artefacts.
- 3.7.2 All the flots produced similar assemblages of small quantities of herbaceous roots, only one flot (sample number 13, context number 188) produced a small amount of non-identifiable charcoal. Given the lack of preserved ancient remains, these samples offer no potential for dating or environmental reconstruction.
- 3.7.3 The residue produced small amounts of bone and pottery.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was carried out after the demolition stage of the old Rudolf Peters and Walter Bodmer buildings, which were part of the Biochemistry Department, Oxford University. The work being carried out involved the removal/grubbing out of the load bearing wall foundations and the reduction of the ground surface prior to the laying down of the piling mat.
- 4.1.2 The area of the watching brief was within the footprint of the Rudolf Peters Building, a two storey building with no basements as well as an area to the immediate west of the building that was utilised as a car park.
- 4.1.3 Removal of the foundation walls revealed substantial brick wall foundations approximately 1 m to 1.5 m thick sitting on top of a 1 m thick concrete plinth. The foundations cut deep into the natural gravels underneath. No archaeology of any kind could be seen underneath the foundations and suggest that any archaeology that may have been present was truncated away by the construction of the walls.
- 4.1.4 The reduction of the ground level came down onto natural 1st Terrace River gravel's and revealed a series of linear features: post holes, pits and tree throw holes. Dating recovered from the linears suggest a late Iron Age/early Roman date, though no dating was recovered from any of the post holes. The pits and tree throw holes mainly produced finds dating to the post-medieval period.
- 4.1.5 Seven post holes, Group (204), could be seen in the south-east quadrant of the site and formed what appears to be a fence line. Four more post holes, (164), (166), (168) and (180) could be seen cut into the bottom of large tree throw hole (160). These post holes were very deep and again defined some kind of structure, although the nature of this structure was not clear. No dating was recovered from any of the fills of the post holes.
- 4.1.6 In conclusion it would appear that the linear features are most likely field boundary/drainage ditches that are associated with Iron Age and Roman farming

practices reported at the Pitt Rivers extension site and the two phases of Roman settlement/farmsteads that were reported from archaeological investigations at the New Chemistry site.

- 4.1.7 The lack of dating from any of the postholes found on the site unfortunately preclude any date being fixed for these features although they do suggest some form of structure being present on the site. It is possible that they represent a fence line associated with Late Iron Age/Roman farmstead/settlement activity.
- 4.1.8 Post-medieval remains found within the pits and upper fill of tree throw holes/root disturbance suggest small scale settlement, perhaps back gardens given the lack of post medieval structural remains and the presence of tree throw pits.
- 4.1.9 Much of the area had been heavily disturbed by both the construction of the Rudolf Peters building itself or associated service trenches as well as the deep basements associated with the adjoining Walter Bodmer 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>
100	Cut	0.56 m	0.86 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
101	Fill	0.35 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Pot
102	Fill	0.32 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Pot, Bone
103	Cut	0.23 m	0.35 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
104	Fill	0.23 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	-
105	Cut	0.30 m	0.95 m	-	Tree Throw Hole	-
106	Fill	0.19m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-
107	Fill	0.15m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-
108	Fill	0.08 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Pot, Bone
109	Fill	0.08 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	-
110	Cut	0.18 m	0.65 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
111	Fill	0.20 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Pot, Bone
112	Fill	0.08 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	-
113	Cut	0.25 m	0.68 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
114	Fill	0.08 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Pot, Bone
115	Cut	0.08 m	0.20 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
116	Fill	0.31m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-
117	Fill	0.32 m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-
118	Cut	0.31 m	0.70 m	-	Tree Throw Hole	-
119	Layer	-	-	-	Topsoil	-
120	Layer	-	-	-	Red sub soil	-
121	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-
122	Cut	0.30 m	1.52 m	-	Tree Throw Hole	-
123	Fill	0.30 m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-
124	Cut	0.13 m	0.28 m	-	Gully Cut	-
125	Fill	0.13 m	-	-	Gully Fill	Bone
126	Cut	0.15 m	0.52 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
127	Fill	0.10 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	-
128	Fill	0.15 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Pot, Bone
129	Cut	0.13 m	0.36 m	-	Ditch	-
130	Fill	0.13 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	-

131	Cut	0.35 m	0.30 m	-	Post Hole	-
132	Fill	0.35 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
133	Cut	0.20 m	0.22 m	-	Post Hole	-
134	Fill	0.20 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
135	Cut	0.15 m	0.26 m	-	Post Hole	-
136	Fill	0.15 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
137	Cut	0.18m	0.22 m	-	Post Hole	-
138	Fill	0.18 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
139	Cut	0.22 m	0.20 m	-	Post Hole	-
140	Fill	0.22 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
141	Cut	0.10 m	0.24 m	-	Post Hole	-
142	Fill	0.10 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
143	Cut	0.05 m	0.15 m	-	Post Hole	-
144	Fill	0.05 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
145	Void					
146	Cut	0.25 m	2.20 m	-	Post Med Pit	-
147	Fill	0.25 m	-	-	Pit Fill	Pot, Glass, Clay Pipe
148	Cut	0.04 m	0.18 m	-	Root Disturbance	-
149	Fill	0.04 m	-	-	Root Disturbance Fill	Clay Pipe
150	Cut	0.06 m	0.20 m	-	Root Disturbance	-
151	Fill	0.06 m	-	-	Root Disturbance Fill	Glass
152	Cut	0.01 m	0.40 m	-	Root Disturbance	-
153	Fill	0.01 m	-	-	Root Disturbance Fill	Shell
154	Cut	0.13 m	0.45 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
155	Fill	0.13 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Pot, Bone, CBM, Clay Pipe
156	Cut	0.10 m	0.30 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
157	Fill	0.10 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Bone, Metal, CBM
158	Cut	0.04 m	1.60 m	-	Root Disturbance	-
159	Fill	0.04 m	-	-	Root Disturbance Fill	-
160	Cut	0.58 m	2.35 m	-	Tree Throw Hole	-
161	Fill	0.38m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-
162	Fill	0.20 m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	Pot, Shell, Clay Pipe

163	Void					
164	Cut	0.58 m	0.25 m	-	Post Hole	-
165	Fill	0.58 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
166	Cut	0.62 m	0.25 m	-	Post Hole	-
167	Fill	0.62 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
168	Cut	0.60 m	0.45 m	-	Post Hole	-
169	Fill	0.60 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
170	Cut	0.48 m	0.55 m	-	Post Hole	-
171	Fill	0.48 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
172	Cut	0.20 m	0.33 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
173	Fill	0.20 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Bone
174	Cut	0.20 m	0.33 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
175	Fill	0.20 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	-
176	Cut	0.26 m	0.25 m	-	Post Hole	-
177	Fill	0.26 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
178	Cut	0.15 m	0.19 m	-	Post Hole	-
179	Fill	0.15 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
180	Cut	0.34 m	0.34 m	-	Post Hole	-
181	Fill	0.34 m	-	-	Post Hole Fill	-
182	Cut	0.28 m	1.20 m	-	Post Med Pit	-
183	Fill	0.21 m	-	-	Pit Fill	Bone
184	Fill	0.07 m	-	-	Pit Fill	Pot, Shell, Glass
185	Cut	0.53 m	0.90 m	-	Ditch Terminus	-
186	Fill	0.04 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	-
187	Fill	0.22 m	-	-	Ditch Fill.	-
188	Fill	0.33 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Pot, Bone, Flint, Metal
189	Cut	0.08 m	0.25 m	-	Gully Cut	-
190	Fill	0.08 m	-	-	Gully Fill	Bone
191	Cut	0.10 m	0.50 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
192	Fill	0.10 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	-
193	Cut	0.13 m	0.80 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
194	Fill	0.13 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	-
195	Cut	0.33 m	0.64 m	-	Tree Throw Hole	-
196	Fill	0.33 m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-

197	Cut	0.20 m	0.70 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
198	Fill	0.20 m	-	-	Ditch Fill	Pot, Bone
199	Cut	0.24 m	1.20 m	-	Tree Throw Hole	-
200	Fill	0.24 m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-
201	Cut	0.92m	1.65m	-	Tree Throw Hole	-
202	Fill	0.57 m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-
203	Fill	0.38m	-	-	Tree Throw Hole Fill	-
204	Group	-	-	-	Post Holes (131)-(144)	-
205	Cut	0.20 m	0.45 m	-	Ditch Cut	-
206	Fill	0.20 m	0.45 m	-	Ditch Fill	-

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENTSAnimal Bone

Context	Sample	No of	No of	Weight	Material
101	5	1	4	7	Animal
102		1	9	28	Animal
108		1	4	10	Animal
111		1	3	31	Animal
114	4	1	9	33	Animal
114		1	1	13	Animal
125		1	5	5	Animal
128	1	1	1	10	Animal
128		1	1	24	Animal
155		1	1	13	Animal
157		1	1	3	Animal
173		1	1	83	Animal
183		1	1	65	Animal
188		1	18	244	Animal
188	13	1	5	8	Animal
190		1	5	4	Animal
198		1	2	10	Animal

Glass

Context	No of	No of	Weight	Material
184	1	1	3	Glass
107	1	1	37	Glass
147	1	1	51	Glass
151	1	1	4	Glass

Shell

Context	Sample	No of	No of	Weight	Material
114	4	1	1	16	Shell
153		1	1	2	Shell
162		1	2	8	Shell
184		1	3	8	Shell

Stone

Context	No of	No of	Weight	Material
102	1	1	9	Stone
184	1	2	3	Stone
190	1	1	3	Stone

Pottery

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
101	c 50BC-AD70/100	2	18	1x Grog/limestone fabric LIA/ER. 1x oolitic limestone - MIA?
101	c 50BC-AD70/100	1	13	Grog/limestone LIA/ER
102	c 50BC-AD70/100	5	40	Grog/limestone LIA/ER
108	c AD43-130/50	1	11	Savernake ware
111	c 50BC-AD70/100	2	22	Grog/limestone - necked & cordoned jar LIA/ER
114	c 50BC-AD70/100	8	43	Grog/limestone - cordoned jar LIA/ER
114	c 50BC-AD70/100	3	69	Grog/limestone LIA/ER
128	c AD43-130/50	1	29	Savernake ware necked bowl
147	c 1770-1830	2	6	Bs Creamware. Bs 18C Wealden-type green glazed whiteware or less likely Border ware
155	c 50BC-AD70/100	2	32	Grog/limestone
162	c1770-1830	3	11	2x bss Creamware. 1x teapot rim black-glazed Jackfield-type ware
184	c1780-1830	5	6	Bss Pearware plate with blue transfer print
188	c 50BC-AD70/100	3	21	1x shelly limestone-temp, could be Saxon but prob ok as IA. Rest grog/limestone LIA/ER incl recessed jar base
188	c 50BC-AD70/100	5	96	Grog/limestone fabric - cordoned jar LIA/ER
198	c 50BC-AD70/100	1	4	Grog/limestone fabric

APPENDIX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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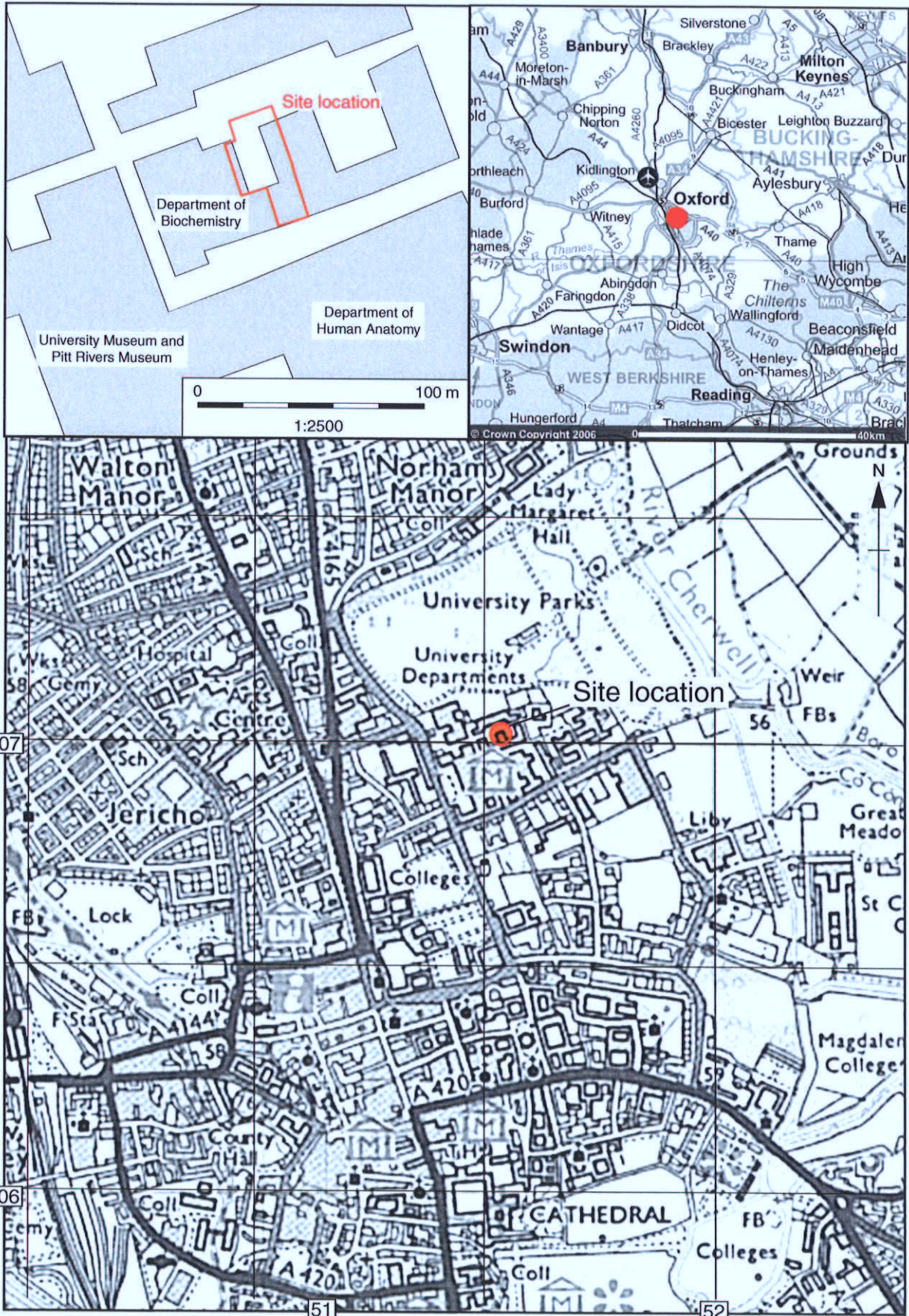
IFA, 2001 *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OA, 1992 *Fieldwork Manual*, (ed. D Wilkinson)

OA, 2006 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

OCC, 2006 *Brief for Archaeological Fieldwork, Mitigation including Watching Brief*

APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**Site name:** Biochemistry Building, South Parks Road, Oxford**Site code:** OXBIO06**Grid reference:** SP 5154 0700**Type of Mitigation:** Archaeological Watching Brief**Date and duration of project:** 24th July 2006 to 10th August 2006**Summary of results:** Linear features of a late Iron Age/Roman date were revealed and interpreted as field system/drainage ditches as well as pits of a post-medieval date.**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, under the following accession number: ASH 2006.67

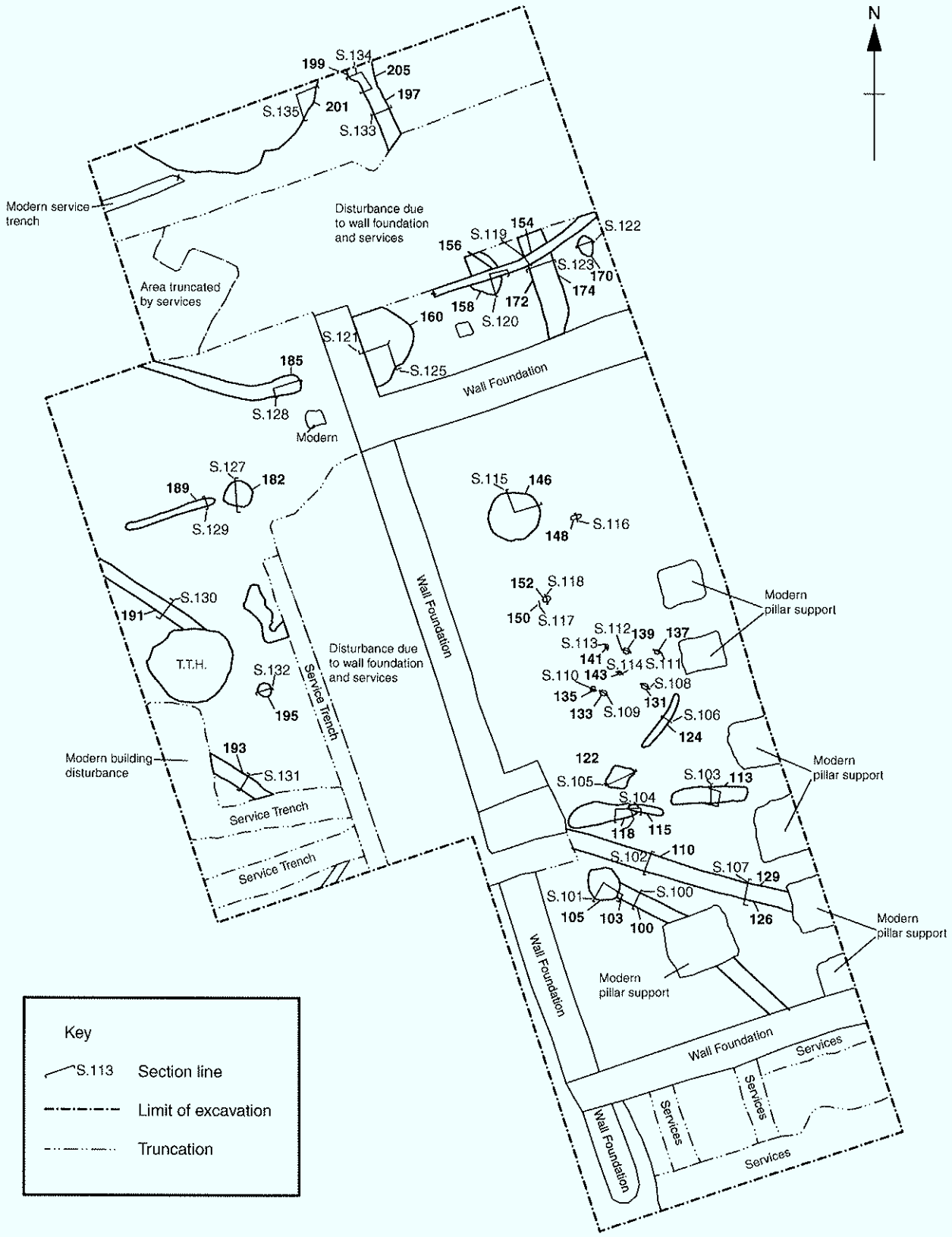


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Figure 1: Site location

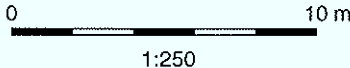
451510E
207040N

451550E
207040N



Key

- S.113 Section line
- Limit of excavation
- Truncation



451510E
206980N

451550E
206980N

Figure 2: Site plan of area of watching brief.

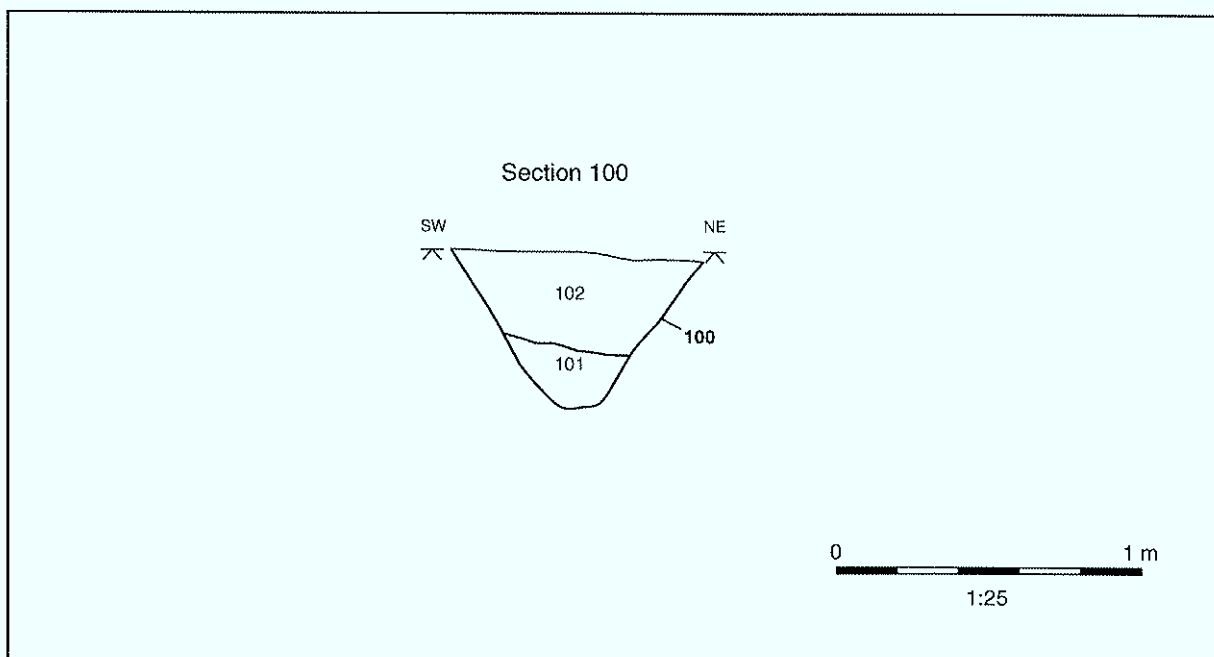
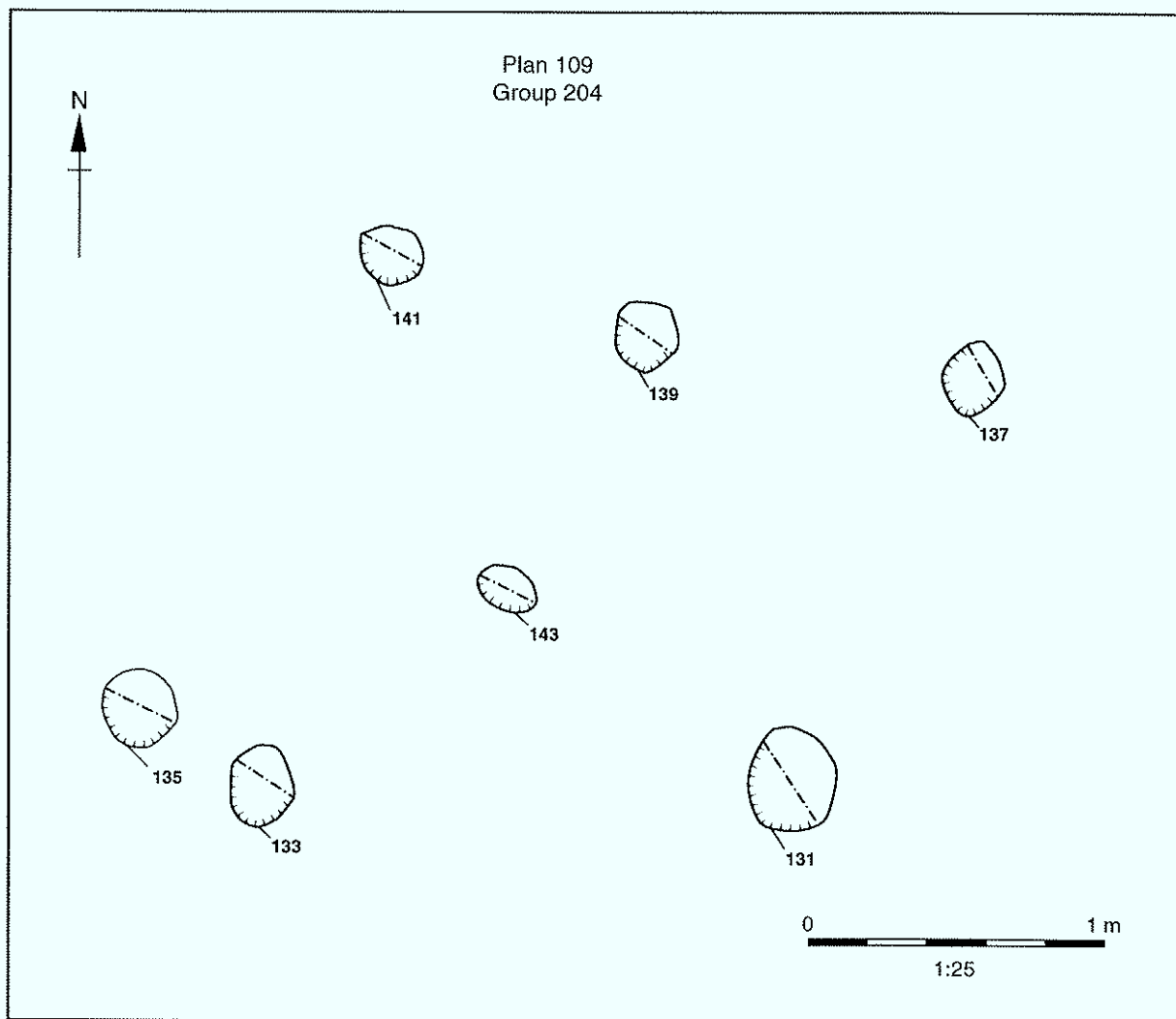


Figure 3 : Group 204 and section 100

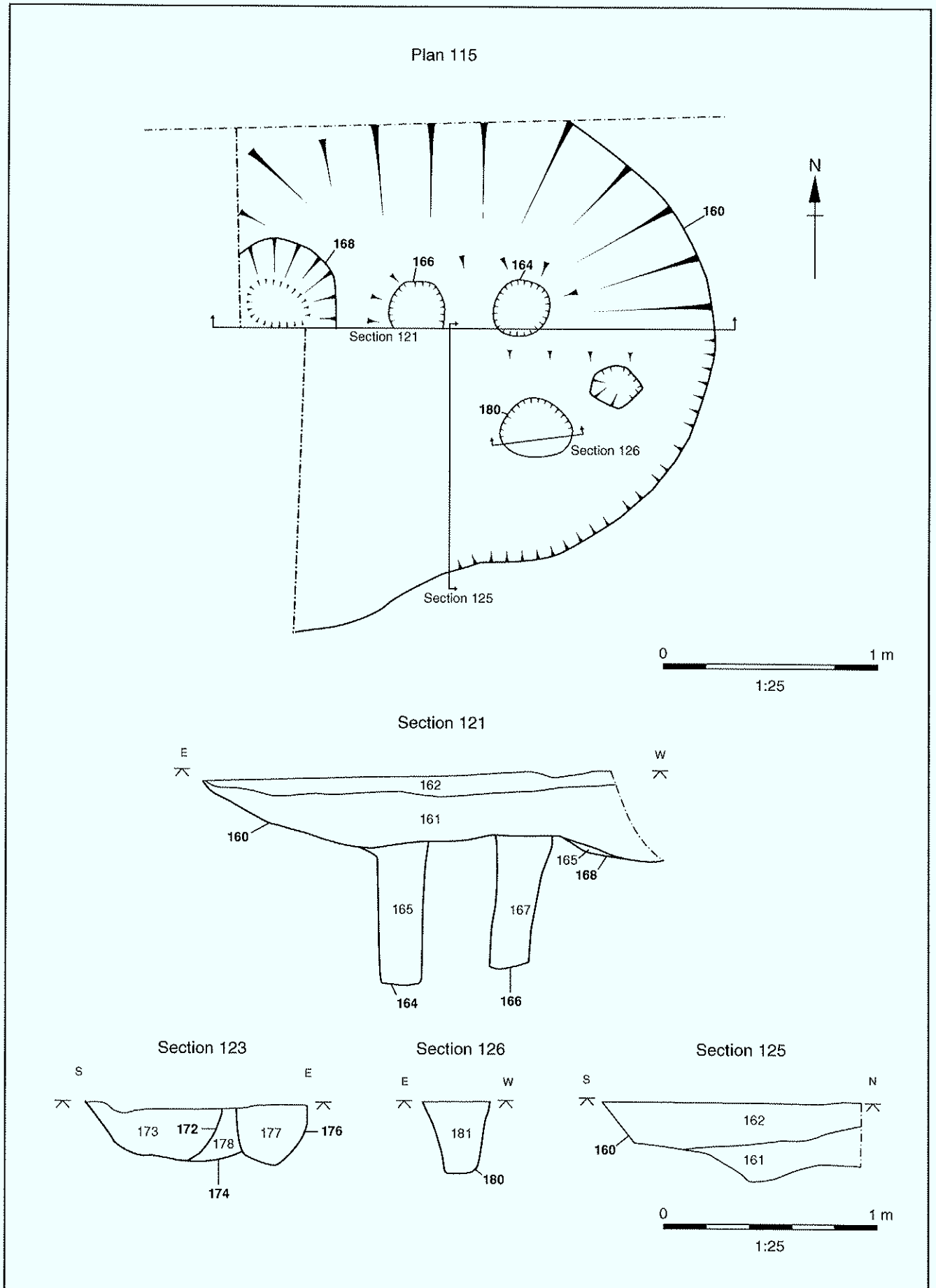


Figure 4 : Sections 121, 123, 125, 126 and plan 115



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