

Macclesfield House New Road Oxford



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

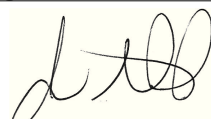


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Macclesfield House, New Road, Oxford

NGR: SP 5090 0620

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Oxford Science

Oxford Archaeology South

2010



Macclesfield House, New Road, Oxford

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Written by Carl Champness

illustrated by Magdalena Wachnik

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Summary

In June 2010, Oxford Archaeology South undertook geoarchaeological monitoring of 5 geotechnical boreholes at a proposed new building at the site of Macclesfield House, Oxford. The Site lies just off the Oxford Castle Motte and forms part of the infilled castle motte ditch that has been known to extend to depths of 5 m. The purpose of the work was to confirm whether the ditch does extend across the site and assess how much of this sequence survives underneath the footprint of Macclesfield House.

The boreholes identified a 5 m deep motte ditch sequence preserved underneath the site. The sequence comprised waterlogged organic silts and alluvium previously dated from the 11th century, overlying Oxford Clay and sealed by up to 1 m of 16th to 18th century infilling and burial deposits and 2 m of 18th century building rubble and infill. The truncation from the foundations of the former 19th-century school and police station / military armoury on the site were found to be confined to the upper 1 – 1.5 m of the sequence.



Macclesfield House, New Road, Oxford

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Oxford Science to undertake geoarchaeological monitoring of five geotechnical boreholes at Macclesfield House, New Road, Oxford.
- 1.1.2 The monitoring was undertaken as part of a geoarchaeological field monitoring of the site, due to the fact that it lies adjacent to Oxford Castle (Schedule Ancient Monument 21701), and is believed to be part of the silted-up castle motte ditch. David Radford, Archaeological Officer for Oxford City Council, and English Heritage requested that the boreholes be monitored in order to better understand the castle moat stratigraphy and archaeological survival at the site.
- 1.1.3 This report describes the sediment sequences identified within the borehole samples and assesses their significance in terms of potential impacts of any new development. It also considers how investigating the motte sequence may help address some of the wider research aims of Oxford Castle.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Macclesfield House is located in the western extent of the historic city of Oxford, with the Oxford Castle mound to the south-east, Tidmarsh Lane to the east and New Road to the north (Figure 1). It lies within the parish of St Thomas the Martyr, Oxfordshire and within the administrative area of Oxford City Council (SP 5090 0620).
- 1.2.2 The topography of the site slopes from east to west; at the east the ground level is at c. 59 m OD, and in the west it is at c. 58 m OD. The initial works were located in the tarmac car park of Macclesfield House.
- 1.2.3 The site lies on the southern spur of the Summertown-Radley gravel terrace, to the east of the river Thames and to the west of the river Cherwell. The confluence of these two rivers is c. 2 km to the south-east. The bedrock is mapped as Oxford Clay (BGS 236: 1:50,000).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted in the desk-based assessment (OA 2008). This study identified that the site lies within the northern part of the moat around the base of the Oxford Castle motte, which previous work has shown to be c. 5 m to 6 m deep. The lower motte ditch deposits date from the 11th century, and are waterlogged with excellent environmental potential. The remains of over 60 executed prisoners, dating from the 16th century, were recorded in the upper deposits during recent excavations. The site was also the location of a 19th-century school and police station/military armoury.



- 1.3.2 The archaeological background of the site area, outlined in the in the desk-based assessment (OA 2008), is summarised in the following sections:

Prehistoric (500,000BP – 43AD)

- 1.3.3 A series of Bronze Age features have been discovered within Oxford, mainly on the gravel terrace. Since 1976, a series of linear features and barrows across the city, have been identified through parchmarks, aerial photography and archaeological investigations, with a barrow cemetery known at Port Meadow. The concentration of barrow cemeteries on the Thames gravels is well known; the Oxford group being part of a series of at least ten in the region (Dodd 2003, 11).
- 1.3.4 The archaeological work at the Hamel (UAD Event 281, c. 150 m to the south west of the site) recorded a number of pits beneath the alluvium on the gravel terrace, one containing a late Beaker burial of a child. In addition, a number of possible Bronze Age ard marks, flint, animal bone and an early Bronze Age gold strip were recovered.
- 1.3.5 Information about the Iron Age period in Oxford city is scarce, partly due to lack of opportunities for large-scale excavations within the city. The small amount of evidence provided through aerial photographs and excavations, does suggest Oxford was exploited as part of relatively large territories, with agricultural specialisation (Dodd 2003, 10).
- 1.3.6 There have been no recorded archaeological discoveries from any of the prehistoric periods from within the Site, possibly due to the large level of truncation caused during the construction of the moat, and the post-medieval quarrying within the area.

Roman (43AD – 410AD)

- 1.3.7 There is evidence for Roman activity within Oxford, particularly focused upon the production of Oxford ware pottery in east Oxford, but there is no evidence for a Roman town. There is no evidence for Roman activity within the site, and the only evidence within the area comes from isolated findspots.

Saxon (450AD – 1071AD)

- 1.3.8 The origins of Oxford as an urban settlement probably date to the Anglo Saxon period. Oxford developed as a fortified burh around the turn of the tenth century, and is first mentioned by name in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in 911-912. Archaeological evidence makes it clear that the burh was not built on unoccupied land, there being ample evidence for earlier occupation (Dodd 2003, 7).
- 1.3.9 Pre-conquest (late Saxon) material has been found at a number of sites in the vicinity where impacts from the construction of the castle has not affected them, including beneath the castle mound (Jope 1952-3) and New County Hall (Hassall 1976, 237).
- 1.3.10 This evidence indicates that the Saxon town extended as far west as the river – as represented by the present Castle Mill Stream (OAU 1996a). The recent work at Oxford castle revealed evidence for late Saxon posthole structures and pits on the eastern side of the Castle mound, and evidence for roads (OA 2006a). This route was later diverted to the southwest of the castle, and a new West Gate constructed.
- 1.3.11 Probable late Saxon burials were excavated at the base of St George's Tower, and there is a possibility that the Tower formed part of a western gate into the Saxon town. The ceramic evidence suggests that a Danish ethnic group might have occupied the western suburb of the town (ex inf. M. Mellor).

***The medieval period (AD 1071-1550)***

- 1.3.12 Oxford castle was built in 1071 by Robert d'Oilly at the west side of the late Saxon town. Originally the castle consisted of a motte and bailey, much of the latter of which survived into the 18th century, and the motte (the castle mound) still remains.
- 1.3.13 The motte ditch was fed by the Castle Mill Stream, which runs approximately north-south to the west of Macclesfield House. The internal layout of the medieval castle is unclear; but recent work has identified much of the circuit of curtain walls and towers. A barbican on the south-eastern side of the castle appears to have been fairly short lived (though the inner gate continued in use) and it is possible that there was a corresponding feature to the north-west, but this is only known from a documentary reference. A study of documented medieval building repairs (OAU 1996a, 5-6) suggests that there were many internal buildings, including the hall, chambers and wardrobe; these were supplemented by a range of service buildings including a kitchen, bakery, brewhouse and stables. The site was used as a prison after 1531, although a gaol would have existed on the site from the 11th or 12th centuries, and the walls and towers surrounding the motte and bailey were still standing in 1578.
- 1.3.14 Two earthworks known as Jews Mount and Mount Pelham used to lie on the northern side of the castle moat, directly to the north of the site. Their origin is unclear, but they probably formed siege-works thrown up during the siege of the castle by King Stephen in the 12th century.
- 1.3.15 The recent work at Oxford Castle further defined the eastern part of the motte ditch, and revealed part of the castle curtain wall on the north-east edge of the ditch. The ditch was approximately 6 m deep. The structural remains of a stone gatehouse, and the castle curtain wall were revealed c 20m to the south-east of Macclesfield House (OA 2006a), although no evidence for the motte ditch was revealed.
- 1.3.16 Recent works at Paradise Business Centre, to the south of the site, revealed a section of the outer bailey moat and an 11th-century revetting wall. The moat forked so that the water could empty into the Castle Mill Stream; later medieval wooden revetting was revealed at the fork (OA 2006b). The recent archaeological work carried out by OA has allowed sections of the moat to be accurately mapped, helping to propose the potential route of the moat within the unexcavated areas (OA forthcoming; Figure 2).

Post-medieval Period (AD1550+)

- 1.3.17 The castle remained in use for the Gaol, Assize courts and Quarter Sessions long after its military importance had waned. However, following the outbreak of the 'Black Assize' in 1577, which carried off over 300 people with an outbreak of gaol fever, the courts transferred to the Oxford Guildhall and the castle was allowed to fall into ruin (OA 1996a). The Gaol continued in use and the recent archaeological excavations at the castle revealed the remains of over 60 executed prisoners, buried within the eastern part of the silted up motte ditch (OA 2006a). The burials dated from the late 16th century to the late 18th century, when the Howard reforms led to the rebuilding of the first phase of a new prison (OA 2006a). A single inhumation was also discovered below slumped deposits at the base of the motte, during the construction of Macclesfield House (Hassall 1976; p. 242). It is possible that the burial was also an executed prisoner. The prison was extended in the 1780s and 1790s, and then again in the 1850s. The building activities associated with this development largely removed the remains of the medieval castle.



- 1.3.18 The castle excavations also revealed evidence for a sally port or postern on the site of the western gate into the castle, directly to the south of the site. The sally port is likely to have formed part of the refortification of the castle during the English Civil War (OA 2006a).

1.4 Previous archaeological Investigations

- 1.4.1 There have been two previous archaeological investigations undertaken within the Site;
- Excavations carried out in 1911 at the corner of Tidmarsh Lane and New Road showed the site to be located within part of the old moat.
 - Excavations and boreholes carried out between 1965 and 1967 prior to the construction of Macclesfield House.
- 1.4.2 Within the 250 m of the site there have been over 65 recorded investigations, nine of which lie within 100 m of the site. Of these, the most relevant to the site are the excavations carried out in advance of the redevelopment of the land to the south east, at Oxford Castle, including the old prison. This has shown the investigation area to be located within the motte ditch (OA forthcoming; Figure 2).

1.5 Acknowledgements

- 1.5.1 OA would like to thank David Radford, of Oxford City County Council, and Alex Smithers, of Kemp and Kemp Building Consultants. The fieldwork was carried out by Christof Heistermann. The report was produced by Carl Champness and managed by Elizabeth Stafford.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The main objectives of the borehole monitoring are summarised below. This also includes a consideration of the wider research objectives outlined in the excavations at the Castle (OA 2006 a/b):

2.1.2 The main aims of the investigations were:

- To describe and interpret the sediment sequence from the borehole samples, and to obtain palaeoenvironmental samples where possible;
- Identify the location and extent of any waterlogged organic deposits and address the potential and likely locations for the preservation of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains;
- To identify any archaeological remains (if present) or deposits that the development may remove or impact upon during any future work;
- To assess the archaeological significance of the site and whether further mitigation should be recommended;

2.1.3 Regional research aims:

- To place the site within the wider archaeological context of Oxford Castle
- To make available the results of this work to the wider studies of the Castle

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Five geotechnical boreholes were drilled within the car park of Macclesfield House. A percussion terrier rig was used in order to obtain samples suitable for sediment description and where possible palaeoenvironmental sampling. The borehole locations are shown in Figure 3.

2.2.2 The monitoring of the geotechnical work was undertaken in the field under the supervision of a geoarchaeologist (Christof Heistermann). Each of the five locations were recorded on a summary proforma sheet. This included information on sample number, core number, elevation and location with reference to Ordnance Datum and the National Grid, together with detailed sediment descriptions. The sediments were recorded according to depth below borehole ground level (bgl).

2.2.3 The sediments were described according to Jones et al 1999, The Description and Analysis of Quaternary Stratigraphic Field Sections, Technical Guide No 7, Quaternary Research Association 1999. This includes information about depth, texture, composition, colour, clast orientation, structure (bedding, ped characteristics etc), contacts between deposits. Note was also made of any visible ecofactual, or artefactual inclusions e.g. pottery, daub or charcoal fragments. Samples for further description and/or palaeoenvironmental remains were retrieved opportunistically when available.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results presented in the main text of this report provide a detailed overview of the findings of the archaeological monitoring works. A comprehensive listing of individual borehole descriptions can also be found in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 As have been noted in the wider work within Oxford Castle, the sedimentary sequence of the moat has been investigated in a number of previous studies.
- 3.2.2 The boreholes were drilled through thin tarmac deposits, modern building rubble and thicker land make-up deposits, onto a moderately well preserved motte ditch sequence. All of the boreholes were drilled within their proposed locations and achieved the full specified sampling depth of 5 m. Only one sample (BH2/BH2a) required a second attempt to obtain a full continuous sequence of samples to bedrock.

3.3 General description of the moat sequence

- 3.3.1 Based on the results of the borehole survey a sequence of commonly occurring lithological deposits were identified within the borehole samples. These were correlated into stratigraphic units in order to aid in the interpretation of the changing sedimentary environment and to help with the comparisons with other recorded sequences from the castle motte ditch. A representative borehole cross section is reproduced in Figure 3.
- 3.3.2 The following stratigraphic sequence was identified in borehole samples in order of deposition:

Stratigraphic units

- I. Bedrock
 - II. Sandy gravels
 - III. Waterlogged moat sequence
 - IV. 16th – 18th century Infilling and dumped deposits
 - V. 18th century dumped deposits
 - VI. 19th century building deposits
- 3.3.3 Assignment of individual lithologies to stratigraphic units is based on texture, nature of inclusions and sedimentary contacts. However, it should be noted that the correlations are based on only a limited number of sample locations and consequently may not be wholly representative of the entire motte ditch sequence.
- 3.3.4 The high degree of complexity and variation recorded within the boreholes has meant that only broad stratigraphical correlations were possible, that can often overlook the significance of more localised deposits within areas of the site. Localised sedimentary sequences can often occur in ditch environments due to different variations in infilling of deposits and sedimentation patterns. Therefore more significant discreet archaeological deposits may be missed with the aim to present a wider general ditch sequence.



3.4 Moat sequence

Bedrock

- 3.4.1 The Oxford Clay was encountered at the base of the sequence in all but one (BH2) of the boreholes undertaken across the site. It was recovered as a stiff dark greenish grey silty clay at an elevation of 54 m OD. A shallower sequence was identified within BH1 at 55.71 m OD at the edge of the castle motte, where only sandy gravel deposits were encountered over the bedrock. Only in BH2 was the surface of the bedrock not reached and must have extended to a depth greater than 5 m.
- 3.4.2 The dryland edge of the ditch was identified within BH1, indicating a shallower sequence at the the south-east of the site where it rapidly deepens towards the west of the site (Figure 3).

Sandy gravels

- 3.4.3 Sandy gravel deposits were only identified in BH1, at the edge of the castle motte. This location appears to mark the edge of the motte ditch before the land rises up into the motte. The gravels were recovered as firm brownish yellow coarse sandy gravels with various lens of finer sand. These deposits were encountered between 3.00 m and 2.45m bgl, and sealed by various alluvial and dumped deposits.
- 3.4.4 These deposits may represent slumped gravels during the construction or early phases of the motte and ditch. Equally some deposits may also represent the natural sandy gravels of the tarrace that may still survive at the edge of the ditch. The deposits were sterile and were found to contain no finds.

Waterlogged ditch sequence.

- 3.4.5 A 2 m deep lower moat sequence was identified between 5.00 m and 3.28 m bgl (54 m OD and 56 m OD) within the borehole samples. These comprised an inter-stratified sequence of organics silts, peats and clays. They contained frequent stone, charcoal, bone wood and pottery inclusions.
- 3.4.6 The sequence of deposits appear to reflect variations in water levels and dumping episodes within the ditch. The organic deposits may represent shallower water environments when the water levels within the ditch was sufficiently low to allow the growth of vegetation within the ditch. Other times the water was clearly deeper and predominantly minerogenic fluvial silts were deposited.
- 3.4.7 Many of these deposits are waterlogged and on closer examined were found to preserve organic remains including waterlogged plant material, bone, wood, leather, bone and snails. They have excellent potential for palaeoenvironmental preservation and dating. Previous analysis of the sequence has also revealed the remains of large fruits and nuts and waste ground seeds (OA forthcoming). These deposits have in the past provided evidence on the diet and industries present within and around the castle. A selection of cores were retained should further environmental assessment work be required.

16th – 18th century infilling and burial deposits

- 3.4.8 Soft dark greenish grey/brown sandy clayey deposits with frequent gravel and stone inclusions were identified directly overlying the waterlogged silts at 56.0 m OD. The surface of the infilling deposits and burial horizon was identified at 57.25 m OD.



- 3.4.9 These deposits potentially relate to when the castle motte ditch was canalised during the 16th and 17th centuries and large parts of the ditch were infilled and utilised as backyards. This horizon was also used as burial ground for executed prisoners from the castle jail.

18th century infill and dumped deposits

- 3.4.10 The ditch appears to have been infilled with mixed dumped deposits of loose brownish yellow silty/clayey sands with frequent large inclusions of mortar, limestone and sandstone. These deposits were difficult to map between samples due to their varying nature but were approximately 2 m in thickness.
- 3.4.11 These deposits represent the infilling and landscaping of the motte ditch, associated with the creation of a pleasure garden around the castle before the construction of the 18th century prison at the site.

3.5 Finds summary

- 3.5.1 Only a small number of undiagnostic brick and tile fragments were recovered from the boreholes and these were found not to add significantly to our understanding of the motte ditch sequence. No further work was undertaken but the core samples were retained should further work be required.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Overall, the results of the watching brief were reliable, particularly in demonstrating the presence and depth of the moat sequence across the car park of Macclesfield House and the level of modern truncation present.
- 4.1.2 The existing Registry Office and Macclesfield House building have clearly truncated areas of the site. These have basements, which will have caused greater impacts upon archaeological deposits than elsewhere within the site. The Macclesfield House basement truncates the ground to an approximate level of 56.50 m OD (shown in Figure 3).
- 4.1.3 The monitoring of the geotechnical boreholes in the car park of Macclesfield House only identified a limited degree of truncation compared to the other areas of the site. This area has been subject to numerous impacts throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, which have truncated the upper archaeological deposits within the site to varying depths. However, as shown on Figure 3, there is still high potential for archaeological deposits to be preserved from a depth of c. 1.0–1.5 m below ground level, due to the predicted presence of the castle moat within the site.

4.2 Watching brief objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The fieldwork results were able to address the research aims identified in the project design. The following paragraphs summarises these points:
- The work confirmed the presence of the motte ditch within the site.
 - A 5 m deep infilled motte ditch sequence was identified consistent with expectations.
 - A waterlogged sequence with high archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential was identified below 56.0 m OD within the lower motte ditch sequence.
 - The burial horizon is believed to have survived intact under 1 m bgl of 19th -20th century building truncation within the car park area.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The site lies within the western section of the 11th century Oxford Castle motte ditch, and there is a very high potential for archaeological remains dating between the 11th century and 18th century, to be preserved underneath the carpark.
- 4.3.2 The monitoring recorded the depths of various motte ditch deposits and natural clay deposits at c. 54 m OD, which is likely to be near to the maximum depth of the moat within the site. However, it is clear that there are some deeper sections (probable water sumps), like those seen within BH2 to the north east of the castle motte. Due to the sloping sides of the motte ditch, the depths of the deposits throughout the site are likely to vary considerably, with shallower deposits at the edges of the motte ditch (the very south east of the site), and deeper deposits in the centre of the motte ditch (the central area of the site).

Medieval

- 4.3.3 The lower fills of the motte ditch comprise organic silts and dumped deposits dating from the 11th to 16th centuries. The waterlogged nature of these deposits mean that



they have high potential for organic preservation that rarely survives on most archaeological sites. These have the potential to provide further information on the environment, diet and industries of those occupying the castle grounds.

Post-medieval

- 4.3.4 Dumped deposits dating from the 16th century were identified above approximately 56 m OD. The motte ditch was used as a burial ground for excavated prisoners between the 16th and 18th centuries, and a total of 63 burials have so far been recorded surrounding the castle. It is not known whether the burials encircled the motte, but there is a possibility that they extended at least partially into the site; an inhumation was discovered during the construction of Macclesfield House. There is a high potential for significant deposits within these upper ditch fills, in the north and east of the site where the deposits are less likely to have been affected by the construction of Macclesfield House and the Registry Office.
- 4.3.5 Above c 57.5 m OD 18th-century dumped deposits appear to be encountered in the centre of the motte ditch, the result of landscaping the area. The foundations of the 19th-century St Peter le Bailey School and County Police Station are likely to survive towards the east of site, within the footprint of the car park.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The borehole monitoring helped to successfully confirm the presence of the motte ditch sequence within the site and identify the level of modern truncation present. A complex deeply stratified sequence of moat fills and historical infilling potentially survives at a depth of 1 – 1.5 m below the surface of the car park.



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APPENDIX A. BOREHOLE LOGS

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



FIELD SEDIMENT LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: OXMACC10

NG EASTING: 450943.4405

DATE: 03/06/2010

BH NO: 1

ELEVATION: 59.02

NG NORTHING: 206224.435

LOGGER: CH

Depth Lithology Cores Description

0.00			0.00, 0.60 void from crushed and taken out concrete below concrete slabs
0.50			0.60, 0.95 brown and yellow mixed fine sand with small pebbles (20%) and concrete (10%). MADE GROUND.
1.00			0.95, 1.52 loose mixed greyish brown and brownish yellow coarse to fine sand with concrete clasts (40%) yellow and pale brown mortar (30%) and brick at 0.95 to 1.00 and 1.33. MADE GROUND.
1.50			1.52, 1.89 Soft dark olive sandy clay. Medium sand with subrounded small pebbles (40%) medium clasts of mortar. FILL
2.00			1.89, 2.36 Firm olive brown clayey sand with small to medium pebbles (45%) and small to medium clasts of light brown mortar (15%). FILL
2.50			2.36, 2.45 Yellowish brown fine to coarse sand with small to medium pebbles. DEPOSIT
			2.45, 2.75 fine to medium gritty silty sand with small pebbles (30%) and bands of dark brown coarse sand with medium pebbles. DEPOSIT / PLEISTOCENE ?
3.00			2.75, 3.00 brownish yellow clayey sand (10%) with small pebbles (90%), well sorted with no sand at top. PLEISTOCENE
			3.00, 3.10 Firm to stiff brownish yellow fine to medium gritty clayey sand. PLEISTOCENE
3.50			3.10, 3.31 Stiff pale brown, diffuse reddish brown mottling, clayey silt, homogenous. Weathered OXFORD CLAY.
			3.31, 4.39 Firm becoming stiff, plastic dark greenish grey clayey silt, homogenous (The void 4.00 to 4.12 m has been included). OXFORD CLAY
4.00			
4.50			4.39, 5.00 Core not split open by Geotech Contractors. Supposed to be OXFORD CLAY (stiff dark greenish grey clayey silt).
5.00			

NOTES:

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



FIELD SEDIMENT LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: OXMACC10

NG EASTING: 450947.6175

DATE: 03/06/2010

BH NO: 2

ELEVATION: 59.08

NG NORTHING: 206237.4312

LOGGER: CH

Depth	Lithology	Cores	Description
0.00			0.00, 0.10 Tarmac
0.10			0.10, 0.30 Firm, dark yellow fin to medium gritty silty sand and clasts of dark yellow mortar. MADE GROUND
0.30			0.30, 0.50 Mixed olive grey and pale yellow fine to coarse sand and angular pebbles (30%). MADE GROUND
0.50			0.50, 1.50 Pale yellowish brown fine to coarse sand with white mortar (10%) above 0.75 and brick (50%) below 0.75. MADE GROUND.
1.50			1.50, 2.00 Soft to firm dark olive brown sandy clay with small to medium subrounded pebbles, pale grey mortar at 1.80m and charcoal (3%). MADE GROUND.
2.00			2.00, 2.80 Soft, dark greyish brown fine to coarse clayey sand and small pebbles (25%) with pale yellow clasts of mortar, becoming organic rich below 2.60m. FILL
2.80			2.80, 3.10 Dark grey clayey gritty sand (20%) with pale yellow mortar specs, large flint pebbles (10%) and brick and glass fragments (50%). Fill.
3.10			3.10, 3.20 Firm black organic rich silt. ALLUVIUM
3.20			3.20, 3.40 Soft to firm olive silty clay with black mottling. ALLUVIUM
3.40			3.40, 3.55 Firm black organic rich silt, becoming peaty below 2.50m with 10% organic inclusions. ALLUVIUM
3.55			3.55, 3.85 Firm pale olive grey clayey silt. Alluvium.
3.85			3.85, 4.00 Dark olive brown organic rich clayey silt with angular medium pebbles (10%), plant detritus (10%) and snail shells (1%). PEAT
4.00			4.00, 4.20 Soft to firm black with brown mottles organic rich silt with sand grains and very fine brick fragments (<1%). PEAT
4.20			4.20, 4.42 Firm dark olive brown silty clay. ALLUVIUM.
4.42			4.42, 4.52 Firm dark brown organic rich silt. PEAT.
4.52			4.52, 4.87 Firm dark olive brown silty clay with band of organic rich silt (peat) containing snail shells. ALLUVIUM
4.87			4.87, 4.97 Soft to firm dark greenish grey clayey silt ALLUVIUM
4.97			4.97, 5.00 Black organic rich silt with plant detritus (10%). PEAT

NOTES:

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



FIELD SEDIMENT LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: OXMACC10

NG EASTING: 450927.2711

DATE: 03/06/2010

BH NO: 3

ELEVATION: 59.1

NG NORTHING: 206248.9192

LOGGER: CH

Depth Lithology Cores Description

0.00			0.00, 0.10 Tarmac
0.10			0.10, 0.47 Loose brownish yellow fine to coarse sand with small to medium pebbles (40%). MADE GROUND.
0.47			0.47, 0.55 Firm dark brownish grey clayey and silty fine to coarse sand and small pebbles (30%) with brick fragm. (5%). MADE GROUND.
0.55			0.55, 1.72 Firm dark brown yellow mottled (205) clayey and silty fine to coarse sand and small pebbles (30%) and pale yellow mortar clasts (15%) rare fragments of brick (2%) and charcoal (2%). MADE GROUND.
1.72			1.72, 2.04 Soft sticky dark olive brown sandy clay, small to large subrounded pebbles (40%) and clasts of yellow mortar (15%). MADE GROUND
2.04			2.04, 2.16 Firm olive brown clayey silt with few sand grains and rare charcoal (1%). ALLUVIUM.
2.16			2.16, 2.65 Firm greenish grey clayey medium sand with small black organic inclusions and lenses of black organic rich silt. ALLUVIUM.
2.65			2.65, 3.10 Soft dark greenish grey with small black mottles organic rich silt. ALLUVIUM.
3.10			3.10, 3.75 Firm greyish brown with greenish grey mottles silty clay and rare coarse sand grains. ALLUVIUM
3.75			3.75, 4.24 Firm dark brown organic rich silt with bands of olive grey clay and snail shells at 3.95m. PEAT
4.24			4.24, 4.71 Soft dark greyish brown organic rich silt with black and olive grey bands and occasional snail shell. ALLUVIUM
4.71			4.71, 5.00 Soft becoming stiff grey clay. OXFORD CLAY.
5.00			

NOTES:

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



FIELD SEDIMENT LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: OXMACC10

NG EASTING: 45096.2646

DATE: 09/11/2010

BH NO: BH04

ELEVATION: 58.69

NG NORTHING: 206239.2318

LOGGER: CH

Depth Lithology Cores Description

0.00			0.00, 0.10 Tarmac
0.10			0.10, 0.30 Firm pale yellowish brown sand with clasts of mortar (70%). MADE GROUND
0.50			0.30, 0.60 Firm dark greyish brown clayey sand with small to medium pebbles(30%). MADE GROUND
1.00			0.60, 1.55 Firm dark greyish brown sandy clay with small pebbles (50%), rare brick fragm. MADE GROUND
1.50			1.55, 2.25 Soft to firm pale brown sandy clay with small pebbles (10%) and rare clasts of mortar. DEPOSIT
2.00			2.25, 2.70 Soft greenish grey sandy clay with small to large pebbles (20%) and charcoal fragm. (3%). DEPOSIT
2.50			2.70, 2.75 Firm black silt with charcoal (10%) and brick (5%) fragments. DEPOSIT
3.00			2.75, 2.95 Firm very dark brown organic rich silt, rare clasts of mortar. PEAT
3.50			2.95, 3.40 Firm dark brownish grey laminated silty clay with rare pebbles and blackish flecks. DEPOSIT
4.00			3.40, 4.00 Firm dark brown pseudofibrous organic silt. PEAT
4.50			4.00, 4.13 Soft light greenish grey clay. ALLUVIUM
4.70			4.13, 4.70 Soft dark olive brown organic rich clayey silt. ALLUVIUM
5.00			4.70, 5.00 Stiff greenish grey homogenous clay. OXFORD CLAY

NOTES:

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

FIELD SEDIMENT LOGGING SHEET



SITE CODE: OXMACC10

NG EASTING: 450931.4791

DATE: 09/11/2010

BH NO: BH05

ELEVATION: 58.83

NG NORTHING: 206235.5709

LOGGER: CH

Depth Lithology Cores Description

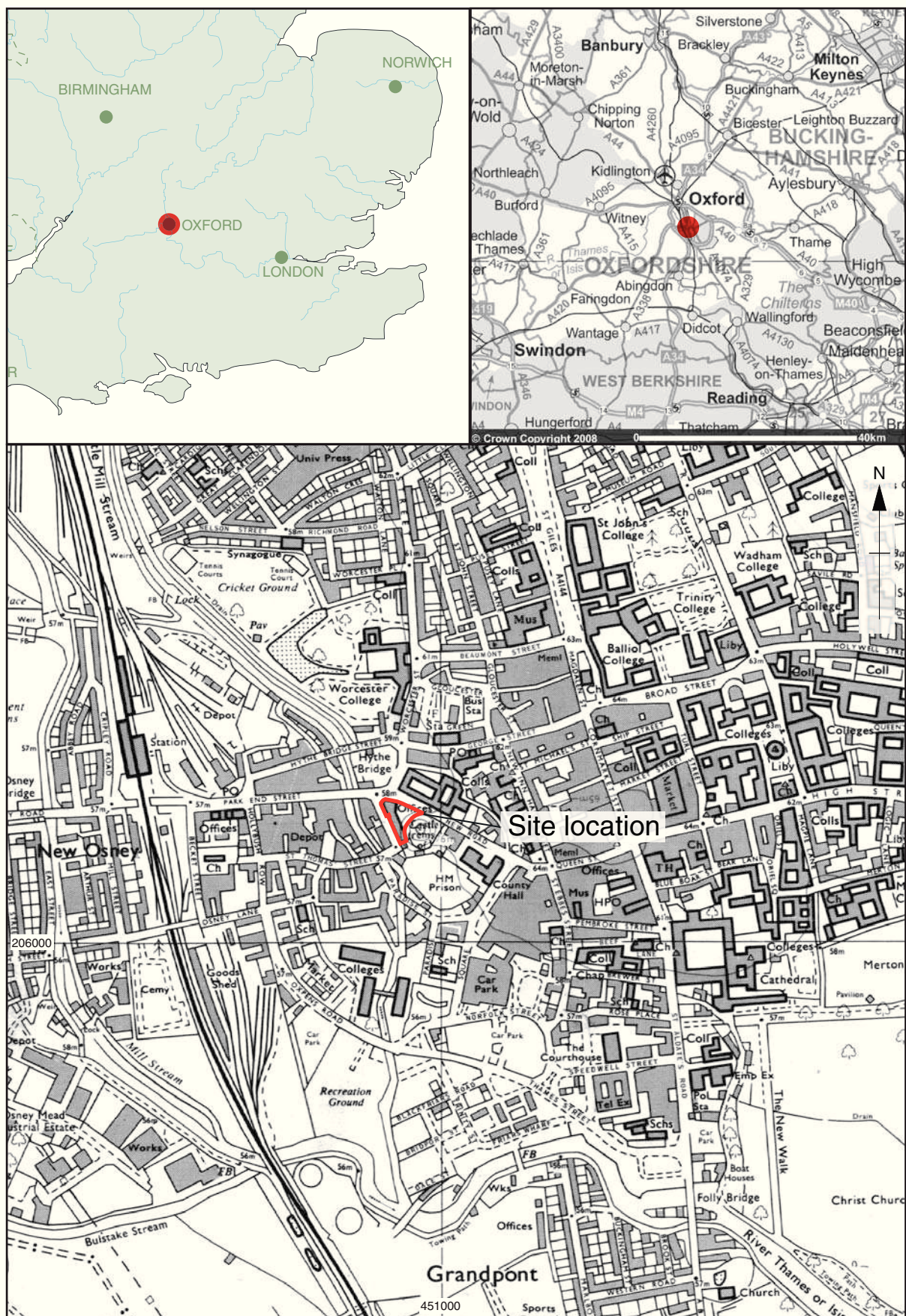
0.00			0.00, 0.10 TARMAC
0.10			0.10, 0.54 Firm yellow fine sand with clasts of mortar and bricks (40%). MADE GROUND
0.50			0.54, 0.85 Loose pale yellow medium sand with mortar and cobbles of quartzit (30%). MADE GROUND
1.00			0.85, 1.78 Firm dark brownish yellow clayey sand with pebbles (25%) and clasts of mortar and sandstone (30%). MADE GROUND
1.50			
1.78			1.78, 1.88 Loose grey angular pebbles of limestone. MADE GROUND
1.88			1.88, 1.95 Firm light olive sand with small pebbles of quartzitic sandstone. MADE GROUND
1.95			1.95, 2.25 Soft dark greyish brown sandy clay with small pebbles (25%). DEPOSIT
2.25			2.25, 2.48 Soft pale olive silty sand with medium pebbles (40%). DEPOSIT
2.48			2.48, 2.71 Soft brownish grey clayey sand with medium pebbles (25%). MADE GROUND
2.71			2.71, 3.09 Soft dark greenish grey clayey medium sand, lense of small pebbles at 2.80. DEPOSIT
3.09			3.09, 3.17 Firm black, turning olive organic rich silt with plant detritus (10%). ORGANIC SILT
3.17			3.17, 3.33 Firm dark brown pseudofibrous organic silt with rare small pebbles. PEAT
3.33			3.33, 3.48 Firm brownish grey organic rich silt with small pebbles (15%) and fine mollusc shell fragments. ORGANIC SILT
3.48			3.48, 3.56 Soft dark brown organic rich silt with small pebbles (20%) and clasts of yellow mortar. ORGANIC SILT
3.56			3.56, 3.76 Firm dark greyish brown organic rich silt with fine charcoal and shell fragments. ORGANIC SILT
3.76			3.76, 4.00 Firm dark brown organic rich silt with rare snail shells. PEAT
4.00			4.00, 4.14 Soft black turning greenish grey organic silt with plant detritus (10%) and medium pebbles (25%). DEPOSIT
4.14			4.14, 4.32 Firm grey clayey sand with small to large pebbles (40%) DEPOSIT
4.25			4.25, 4.50 Firm dark brown organic rich silt. PEAT
4.40			4.40, 4.68 Firm dark greenish grey laminated clayey silt. ALLUVIUM
4.68			4.68, 4.78 Firm dark brownish grey organic rich silt. ORGANIC SILT
4.78			4.78, 5.00 Stiff greenish grey homogenous clay. OXFORD CLAY

NOTES:



APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Macclesfield House, New Road, Oxford
Site code:	OXMACC10
Grid reference:	SP 5090 0620
Type:	Watching Brief
Date and duration:	June 2010
Area of site:	0.20 ha
Summary of results:	A watching brief on 5 geotechnical boreholes confirmed the preservation of the 5 m deep infilled Oxford Castle moat sequence was present underlying the site of Macclesfield House.
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxford City Museum in due course, under the following accession number: 2010.37



Scale 1:10,000

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Figure 1: Site location

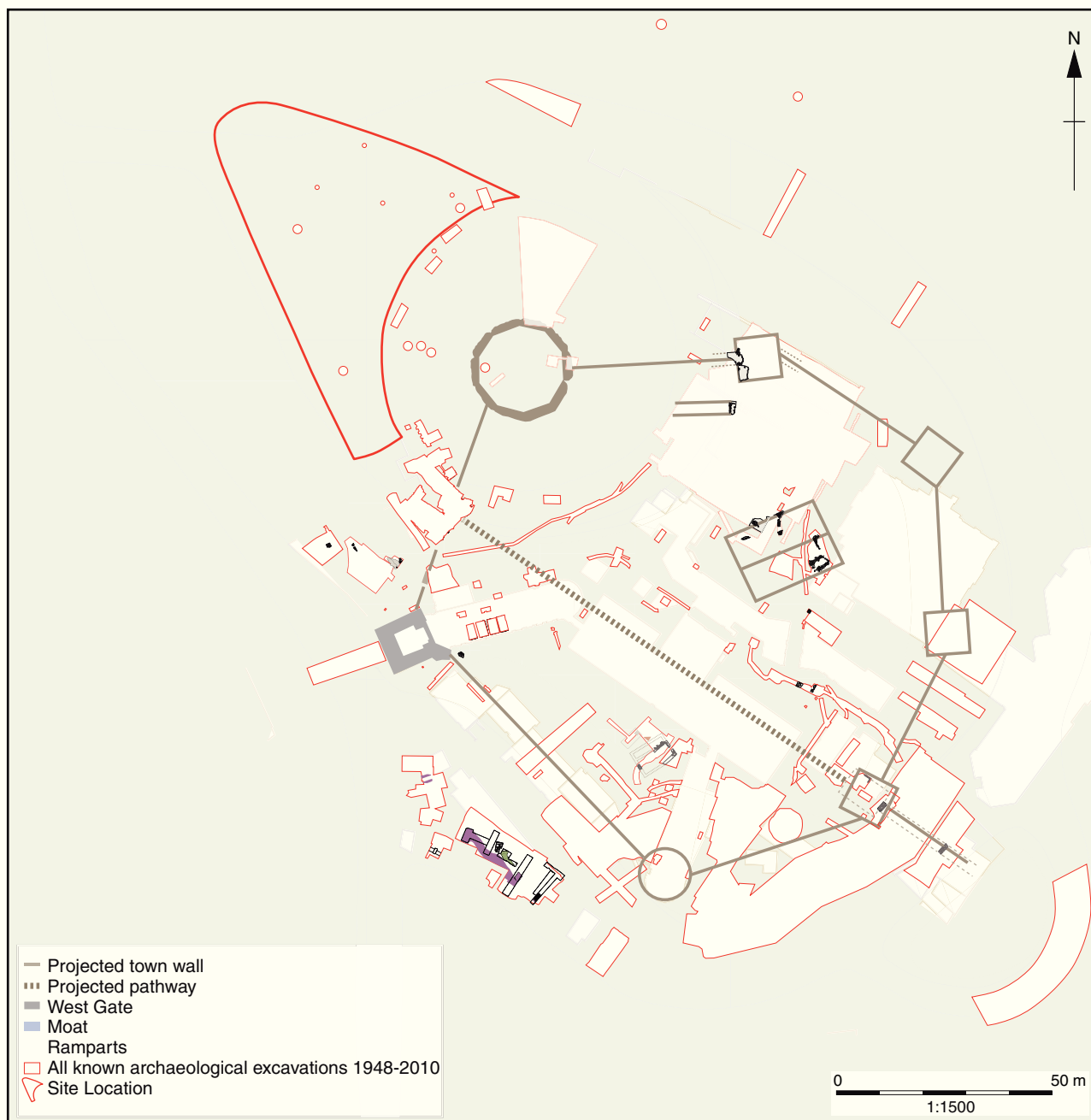
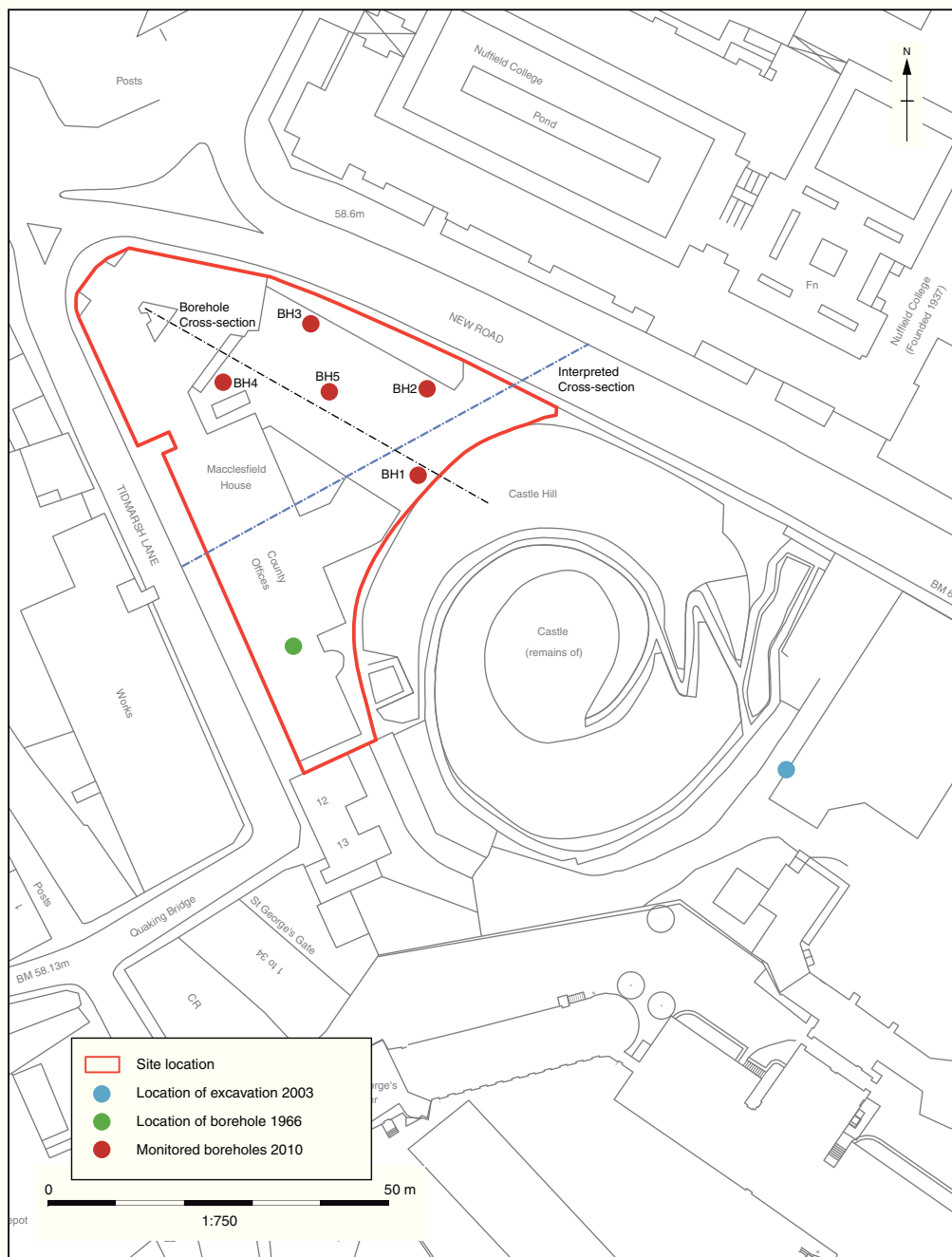


Figure 2: Conjectured topography of the medieval castle, *c.*1300



3a. Location plan

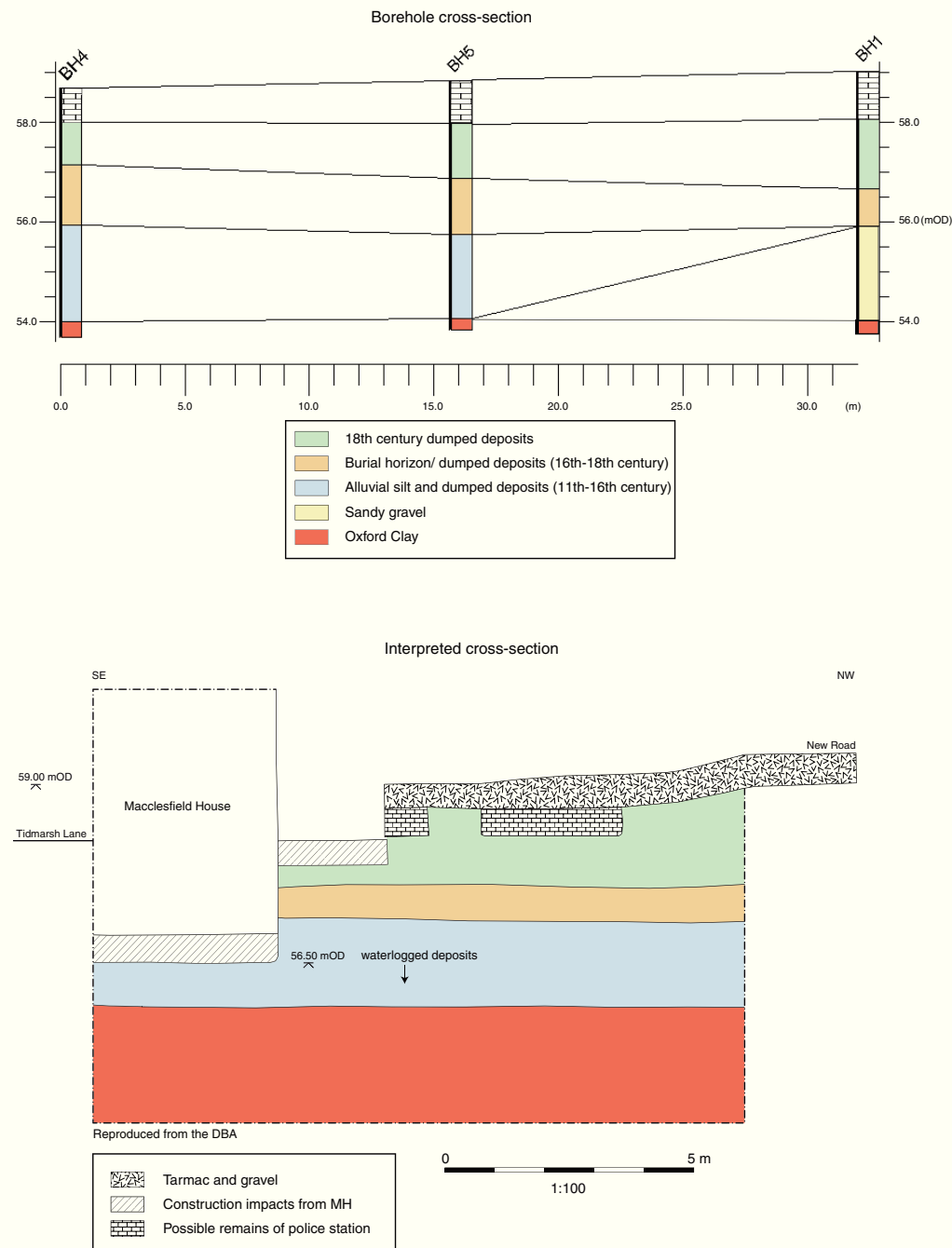


Figure 3: Borehole location and cross-section



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