

OXFORD BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY

*The late Saxon and Norman archaeology of the
Thames Crossing, the defences and the town*

edited by Anne Dodd



Oxford Archaeology
Thames Valley Landscapes
Monograph 17

The name of the city of Oxford is virtually synonymous throughout the world with that of Oxford University. At the time of its emergence in the historical record, however, the university had taken root in what was already a thriving medieval town. This volume presents a comprehensive account of archaeological research into the origins and development of the town of Oxford from the Anglo-Saxon period until the end of the 12th century. It includes reports on some 18 previously unpublished archaeological sites, accompanied by chapters on their finds, animal bone and environmental assemblages. These are supported by a gazetteer of major sites, a review of the development of the river Thames at Oxford, and a synthesis and discussion of the archaeological evidence.



Cover: The Northgate of Oxford as it may have appeared shortly before the Norman Conquest. This reconstruction shows how St Michael's Tower could have functioned as part of the town defences and suggests that the two extant windows on the lower floors of the tower's north face might not have been original features. Other interpretations of this evidence are considered in the main body of the report. The tower on the opposite side of the road is based on evidence for tower foundations recovered in early 20th-century excavations. Reconstruction by Peter Lorimer.



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