

The Phasing

The activity on the site was divided into five phases, based on stratigraphic relationships, artefact dating, feature type and spatial analysis. Phase 2 has been further sub-divided as indicated below:

- Phase 1 Bronze Age barrows
- Phase 2 Medieval pits and ditches/gullies
 - Sub-phase 2.1 medieval tree-planting pits
- Phase 3 Medieval stone buildings
- Phase 4 Robbing of medieval stone buildings
- Phase 5 Structures associated with early 19th-century development.

The following section summarises the archaeological development of the excavated area. Fully detailed context descriptions can be found in the archive.

Phase I Bronze Age barrows (Figures 4 and 5)

The northern ditch

A curvilinear ditch (Group I104) forming a semi-circle was excavated in the northern half of the development area (Fig. 4 and Plate 5). Its circumference was traced for 50 m; it then continued beyond the limits of excavation under the St John Street terrace to the west and Pusey Place to the north, and is assumed to have formed part of a barrow ditch. The ditch measured on average 3 m across and 0.95 m deep and would have enclosed an area approximately 28 m in diameter.

The ditch had a typical U-shaped profile. Its upper edges sloped at approximately 45° (Fig. 5), and in a number of the sections excavated there was a break of slope or step from which the lower edges sloped more steeply to the base, which was usually flat. The steeper part of the slope probably represented the original angle at which the edge was cut, with eroding gravel from the upper part of the edge burying and stabilising the angle of the lower part fairly soon after the ditch was originally excavated (Plate 6).

The section shown in Figure 5 is a typical example of the fill sequence of the ditch. Contexts 2036 to 2041 were loose, reddish-brown deposits of sand and silt, with high proportions of fine rounded gravels. These primary fills are interpreted as slippage from the edges or from gravel banks or mounds close to the edges. Context 2042 was a substantial deposit of reddish-brown clay silt with a low gravel content and was up to 0.40 m thick. This secondary fill seemed to represent a period during which the ditch was silting up gradually. The tertiary fills, 2043 and 2044, were reddish-brown sandy silt and sandy loam respectively, and included moderate amounts of fine gravel. They lay horizontally over the secondary fill to a depth of 0.3 m and may have formed as the result of ploughing. In each of the six sections excavated through the ditch the accumulation of primary fills was seen to be deeper towards the outer edge of the ditch, which may indicate the presence of an external bank from which those deposits had eroded. No other evidence for either the barrow's mound or banks survived, and there was also no surviving evidence for burial deposits, due to the effects of later truncation during Phases 2 and 5.

The southern ditch

Part of a second curvilinear ditch (Group I105) was uncovered in the extreme south-west of the development area (Fig. 4), and was traced for 12 m, before running under the Beaumont Street terrace to the east and St John Street to the west. Due to a combination of truncation and the limited nature of the observations made in that area of the site, it was not possible to record the full width of the ditch, although it would appear to have been at least 3 m wide, and

Figure 4 (top): Plan of barrow ditches

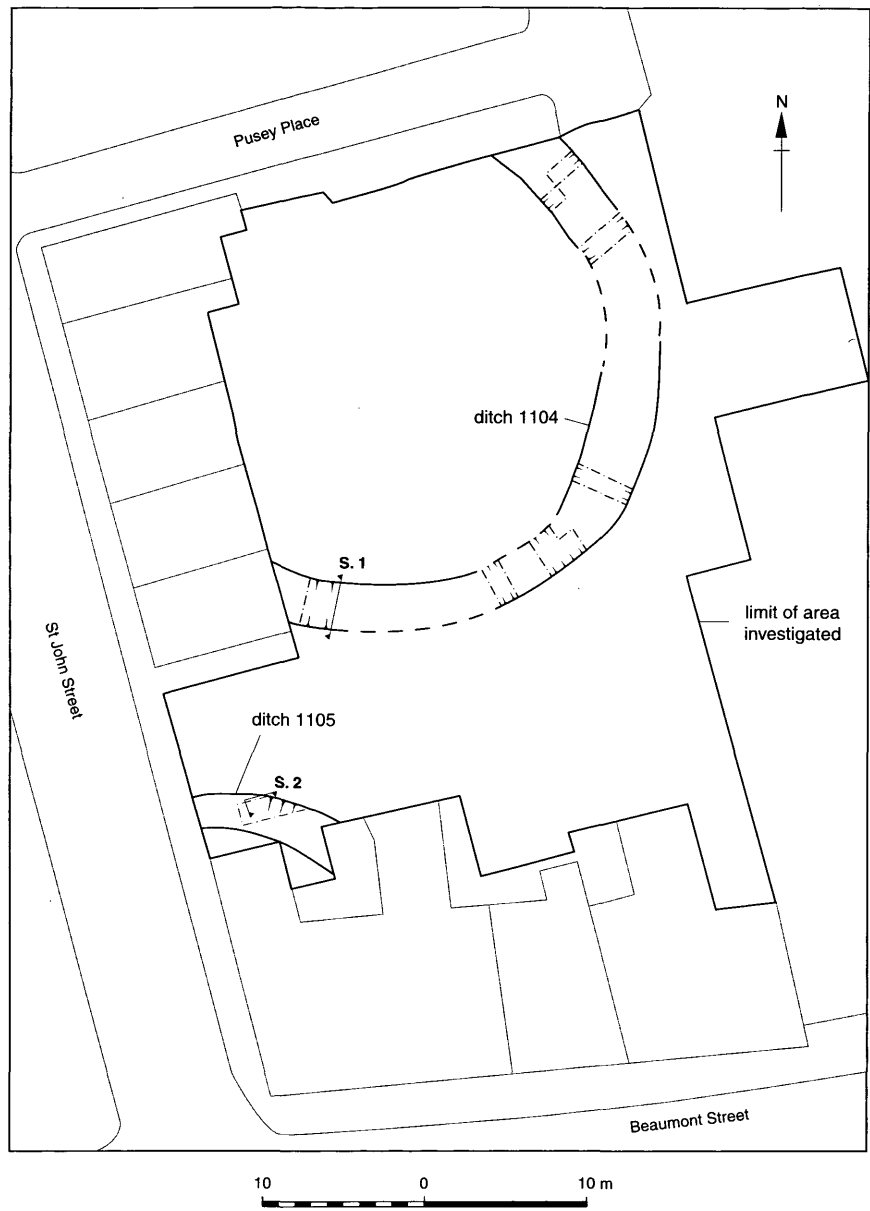
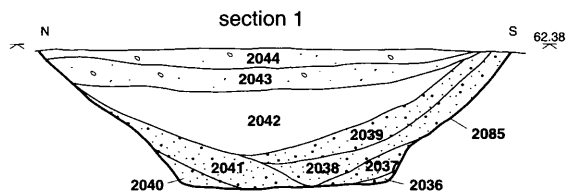
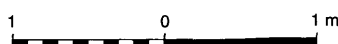
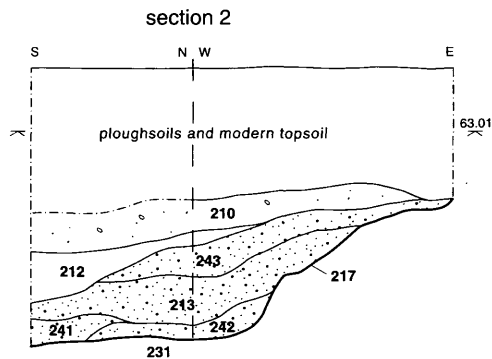


Figure 5: Sections across barrow ditches 1104 and 1105 (see Fig. 4 for location)



- tertiary fills (small % gravel)
- secondary fills (gravel free)
- primary fills (very gravelly)



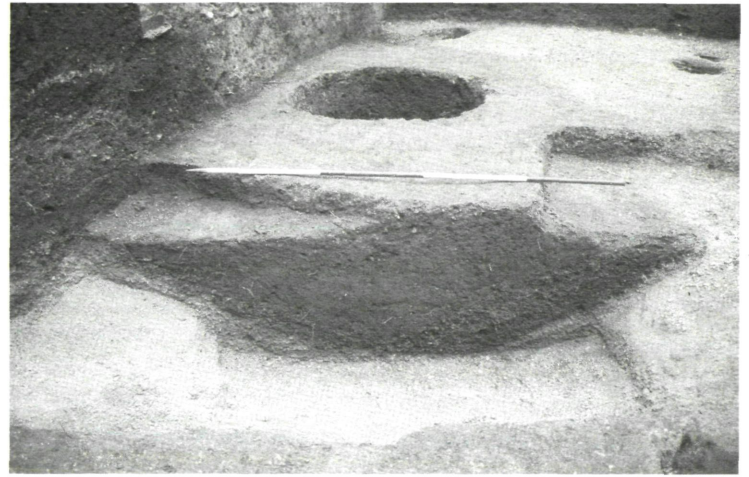


Plate 5 (left) View of northern barrow ditch (scale 2m)

Plate 6 (right): Section across northern barrow ditch (scale 2m)

was up to 0.90 m deep. As the section in Figure 5 shows, the profile of the ditch was very similar to that of the northern ditch, with the same distinctive step towards the base, at least on its external edge, and the flat base. The sequence of primary, secondary and tertiary fills was also very similar, with contexts 213 and 241-243 being loose, reddish-brown deposits of sand and silt, with high proportions of fine rounded gravels. Context 212 was a friable reddish-brown sandy silt with very few gravel inclusions, and was overlain by 210, a reddish-brown sandy loam with moderate amounts of gravel. These similarities lead to the conclusion that this was also a barrow ditch, although it was not possible to estimate its diameter or the size of the area that it would have enclosed.

No artefacts were recovered from the fills of either the northern or southern ditch. The only ecofactual material found was four pieces of possibly intrusive animal bone (see Charles below). Molluscs recovered from a primary fill of the northern ditch comprised a fauna characteristic of dry, open ground (see Robinson below). A total of eight pieces of worked and eight pieces of burnt flint were also recovered, redeposited in later phases, with a likely Neolithic/Bronze Age date (see Bradley below).

Phase 2: Medieval pits and ditches/gullies

This phase consists predominantly of pits, but also includes three ditches or gullies. Thirty four of the pits have been assigned to a sub-phase, 2.1, on the basis of pottery date, stratigraphic relationship, spatial distribution and type, ie dimension and depth. The remaining features of Phase 2 are considered to be less significant, and are only described in detail here where they have artefactual or stratigraphic potential; full records are available in the archive.

Phase 2.1 Medieval tree-planting pits (Figures 6 and 7)

The 34 pits which make up this sub-phase were evenly distributed across the entire development area (Fig. 6). They appeared to form a grid, with rows aligned roughly NE-SW and NW-SE. As can be seen from Figure 6, these rows are most convincing in the area of EX 1, where despite later activity truncating a number of the pits, a row of seven can clearly be seen running NE-SW. The pits in this row are between two and three metres apart, and each is accompanied by another, roughly to the north-west or the south-east. The grid appears to extend into the area covered by the watching brief, although some pits are 'missing'. This may in part be due to the difficulties encountered during the watching brief, when less time was available to examine the ring ditch for pits cutting into its upper fills (EX



Figure 6 (left): Plan of tree planting pits
 Figure 7 (right): Sections across tree planting pits 945 and 1218 (see Fig. 6 for location)

I had shown such pits to be difficult to identify). However, it is also possible that the absence of pits from the areas to the rear of nos 2-6 St John Street and nos 35-37 Beaumont Street may indicate the original limit of the grid.

Each of the 34 pits measured between 1.5 and 2.5 m in diameter (where not truncated), and between 0.40 and 0.80 m deep (but truncated by ploughing), although most were approximately 1.8 m across and 0.60 m deep. All but three were cut into the natural gravel, and were circular or sub-circular with near vertical sides and a flat base; representative sections (of pits 945 and 1218) are shown on Fig. 7, and on Plate 7. The three exceptions, 929, 984 and 2045, were cut into the fills of the northern curvilinear ditch in Phase I, and were all bowl-shaped. Most of these pits had one or two fills. Fill 946 (Fig. 7) was a typical example: friable, dark brown clay silt, 0.70 m thick, with moderate inclusions of charcoal flecks, fine gravels and small limestone fragments. Again, the three pits cutting the Phase I ditch were the exceptions, containing reddish-brown sandy silts with far fewer inclusions. The homogeneous nature of the fills, coupled with a



Plate 7: Section across tree planting pit (scale 2m)

lack of evidence for significant erosion of the edges of the pits in this sub-phase suggests that they were deliberately backfilled shortly after being dug, with all but the three exceptions having probably been filled with imported soil. The pits (929, 984 and 2045) which were cut into the Phase 1 ditch seem to have been backfilled with the same material that they were cut into.

Almost all of the pottery recovered from these pits was of either Cotswold-type ware (c 975-c 1250) or Medieval Oxford ware (c 1075-1350), with only five sherds of other (medieval) wares. Blinkhorn (below) proposes a mid 12th-century date for contexts where these wares occur together here. Other significant finds included a gold-plated finger ring of a 12th- to 13th-century type, a jet rosary bead, and 'fiddle key' horseshoe nails which are most common during the 12th century. The animal bone assemblage included fragments of plover, snipe and domestic goose and fowl, as well as a pheasant bone, rare for this period in Oxford. The presence of these bones may suggest a high-status diet, as discussed by Ingrem below.

Other Phase 2 features

Eleven pits were found that did not appear to belong to the grid described in the previous section, or share similar dimensions, despite being of a similar date. Two of these pits were cut by pits of Sub-phase 2.1. The base of another of these pits (2127) survived at the bottom of the robbing of the north-south wall (see below and Fig. 11), and would have been 2.4 m deep from the top of the natural gravel. It had a diameter at its base of 2.22 m, and contained within its fills Cotswold-type ware and Medieval Oxford ware pottery giving an earliest possible date of the late 11th century, not only to the pit but also to the foundation trench which cut into it.

Phase 3: Medieval stone buildings and Phase 4: Robbing (Figures 8, 9, 10, 11 and 14)

These phases consist of evidence for the construction (Phase 3) and robbing (Phase 4) of two substantial masonry structures: a building aligned roughly east-west and with evidence for external buttressing, and a wall aligned roughly north-south, which may also have been part of a building.



Plate 8a (left): Aerial view of tree planting pits and buttressed building (note that each archaeologist is standing at a buttress location (scales 2m)

Plate 8b (right): Tree-planting pits and buttressed building highlighted

The buttressed building

The building was aligned ENE-WSW and would have been at least 25 m long and 1.5 m wide (Fig. 8). Surviving masonry and robber trenches indicated foundations up to 1.2 m deep (from the level at which it was robbed), as well as the presence of six buttresses along the northern side of the wall, and a possible return to the south, at its eastern limit (Plate 8).

The majority of the structure had been robbed during Phase 4, and the resulting robber trench was nearly all that remained to define the structure's layout. In a number of points along the trench, however, the masonry of wall or buttress foundations had survived *in situ*. As the robbing was very thorough, and the edges apparently stabilised by backfilling, in most cases the edges of the robber trench define those of the original construction cut. Cut 791 represented the robbing of the main north wall of the building, and was traced for 14 m, running ENE-WSW from the eastern to the southern baulk of EX I. It measured up to 2.2 m wide and 1.20 m deep, although these dimensions varied, apparently due to an effort by the original excavators of the foundation cut to remove any 'soft-spots' as represented by infilled pits of Phase 2, and reach the gravel. Where no soft-spots were present, 791 was only 1.5 m wide and 0.40 m deep, ie to the top of the natural gravel.

Surviving at the base of robber cut 791 were two deposits of foundation rubble (1039 and 1041), each formed of unworked limestone blocks (including corallian rag) of various dimensions, up to 0.2 by 0.2 by 0.15 m. The easternmost of the two, 1041, had a very rough face at its northern edge, and measured 1.15 m east-west by 1.70 m north-south, and was 0.92 m thick. The other, 1039, measured 3.5 m east-west and 1 m north-south, and was 0.4 m thick (Fig. 11). Both deposits

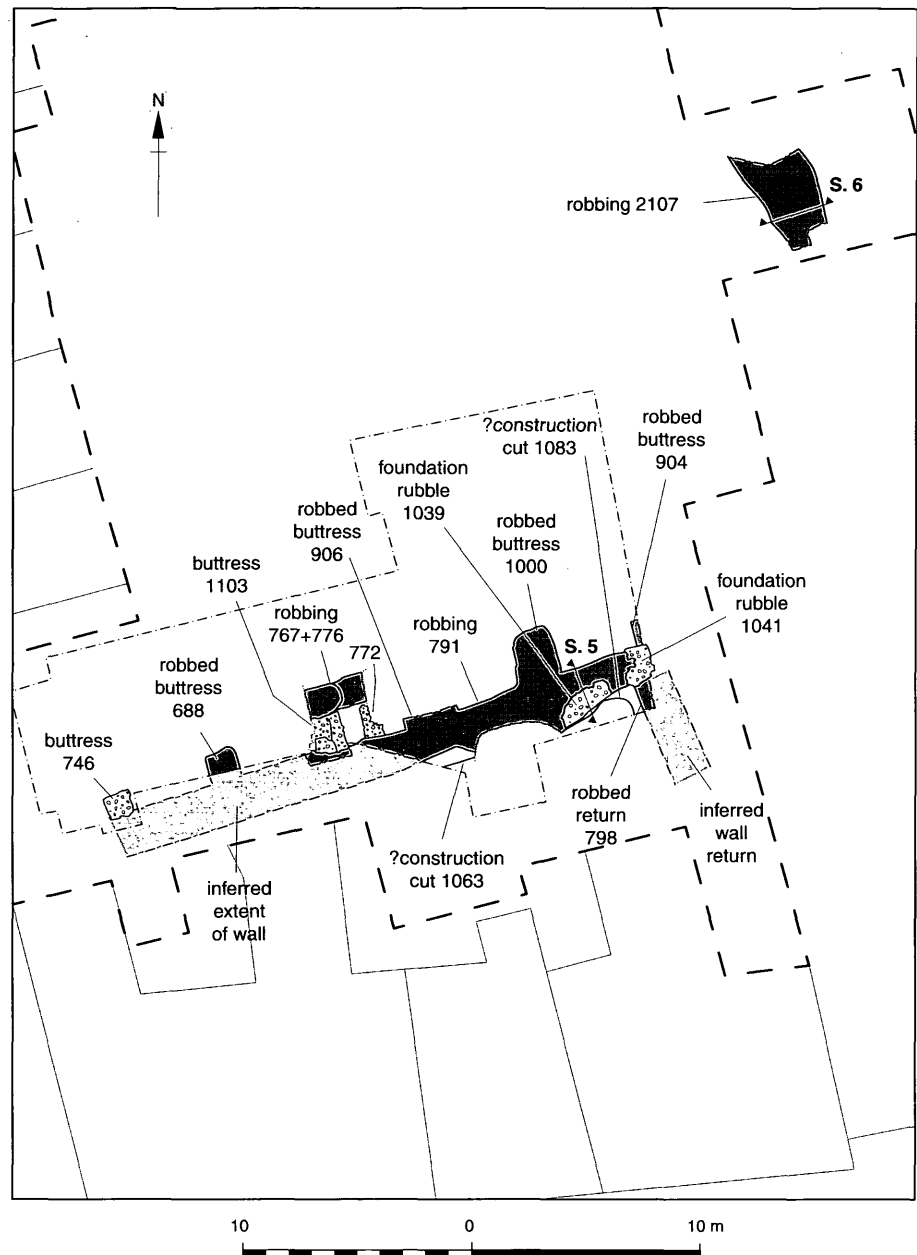
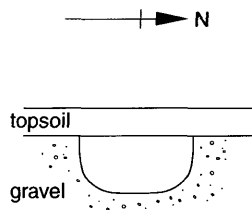


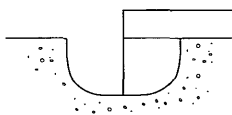
Figure 8: Plan of the in-situ masonry and robber trenches of Phases 3 and 4

appear to have been placed into re-excavated pits of Sub-phase 2.2. Sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware with a date range of 1200-1600 (see Blinkhorn below) were recovered from each, along with an ivory pin possibly dating to the 13th-14th century (see Allen below) found in 1041.

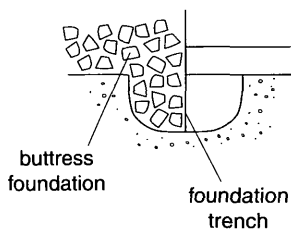
At the eastern limit of 791 was a possible return, also robbed (798), and running SSE for only 1.6 m into the baulk, but measuring 1.4 m deep. As this occurred in the corner of EX 1 it was not possible to say whether this represented an end or an internal dividing wall. However, a right-angled cut (1083) which ran 3 m ENE-WSW and 0.9 m NNW-SSE, had survived truncation by the robbing, lying to the south of 791 and to the west of 798. 1083 was filled by a sequence of loams and layers of mortar construction trample, and was interpreted as a construction cut, implying that the wall and the return were built at the same time. The robbing of the return appears to have taken place some time after the robbing of the main wall, as 798 cut through the fills of 791, although this relationship may simply reflect the speed at which 791 was backfilled (see below).



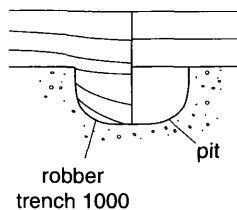
1. Pit of sub-phase 2.1.



2. Construction trench 1000 for buttress partially empties pit to reach natural gravel.



3. Emptied pit is filled with foundation rubble



4. Robber trench extends into the pit to remove stone.

Figure 9: Relationship between tree-planting pit, buttress and buttress robbing

Located at regular intervals of 5 m along the northern edge of 791 were three further robber trenches (904, 906 and 1000), also at right angles to it, with only one, 1000, escaping severe truncation by 19th-century activity. 1000 was 2.3 m long, 1.8 m wide and up to 0.9 m deep; 906 was 2 m wide and 0.4 m deep. All three were filled with the same material as 791 (see below), and were interpreted as the positions of robbed-out external buttresses. The cutting of the construction trench for one of the buttresses (as now indicated by robber trench 1000) had clearly involved the emptying out of a pit of Sub-phase 2.1, as the base of 1000 deepened at its northern limit to follow the half-profile of the pit. The surviving fills of the pit were visible in profile in the northern end of 1000. This sequence of events is reconstructed in Figure 9 - the recognition that it was the original construction cut, and not just the robber cut, which removed part of the pit clarifies a key relationship, placing the buttressed building after the Sub-phase 2.1 pits.

Although robber trench 791 ran beyond the limit of excavation at its western extent, the western continuation of the north wall of the building of Phase 3 was inferred by evidence of a further three buttresses, also at 5 m intervals, lying to the west of 906 and extending from the southern baulk. Two were in the form of surviving masonry (1103 and 746), and the third was robbed (688).

Buttress 1103 was made up of three distinct masonry elements (Fig. 10 and Plate 9). Structure 1072 was 1.2 m wide and 1.6 m long, and appeared to have been robbed at its northern end by 776. Its southern end was defined by the apparent western continuation of robber trench 791 (recorded during the excavation of a slot put into the baulk). It was also truncated along its western edge by a modern soakaway. It consisted of four courses of roughly worked limestone blocks, measuring on average 0.3 by 0.2 by 0.1 m, and had a rough face on its eastern edge, with smaller and rougher blocks concentrated towards its core. A single sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware was found within the mortar bond. The only surviving face was revealed following the removal of 1034, an addition which abutted the eastern side of 1072 and was also of limestone blocks of similar dimensions, but worked to a slightly smoother finish. 1034 was 1.1 m long and 0.5 m wide, and was only very roughly faced on its eastern edge. A decayed orange-brown sandy lime mortar bonded both structures. Structures 1072 and 1034 were both overlain by a further course of limestone blocks (1056), worked to a fairly smooth finish and measuring on average 0.4 by 0.3 by 0.08 m, and bonded by a slightly harder orange-brown lime mortar.

Structures 1072 and 1034 are interpreted as the foundations of buttress 1103, with 1056 possibly representing the lowest course of standing wall and therefore the contemporary ground level. It is conceivable that 1034 represents additional underpinning of wall 1056, although no cut was found to support this interpretation.

Robber trench 688 was 1.45 m long and 1.2 m wide and aligned NNW-SSE. It was 0.4 m deep and filled by a loose, grey-brown silty sand (689), which, as with the fills of robber trenches 904, 906 and 1000, was very similar to the fills of 791 (discussed below).

Buttress 746 was the westernmost of the six, and again aligned NNW-SSE. It was 1.2 m long and 1.1 m wide, and consisted of two courses of roughly worked limestone blocks, on average 0.3 by 0.15 by 0.1 m. The structure was roughly faced on its northern, eastern and western sides, and had been cut away at its southern end, probably by robbing equivalent to 791, although proximity to the baulk made this interpretation difficult to prove. The upper courses of 746 had been robbed as well, possibly down to the level of the ground at the time the buttress was robbed.

A structure of limestone blocks (772) lay 1 m to the east of, and was apparently associated with, buttress 1103 (Fig. 10). It was aligned NNW-SSE, and was defined

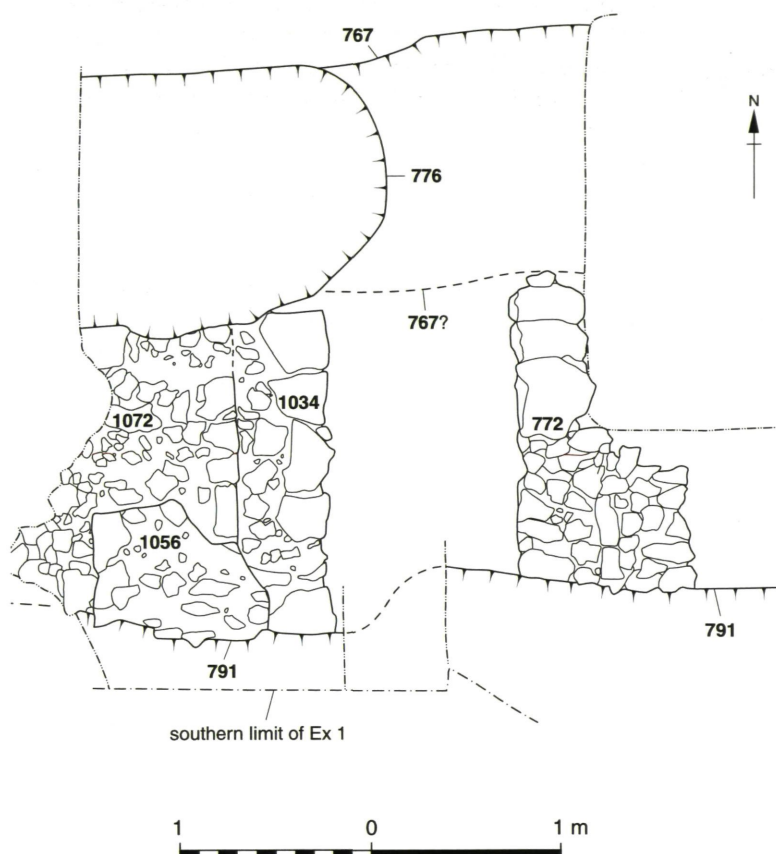


Figure 10 (left): Detail of buttress 1103 and associated wall 772
 Plate 9 (right): Detail of buttress 1103, looking south (scale 1m)

at its southern end by robber trench 791; the eastern face was truncated by 19th-century activity, and its northern extent was defined by a robber trench (767). 772 was 1.6 m long and 0.9 m wide, and its height varied greatly. As before, the builders had encountered a 'soft-spot' in the form of a pit of Sub-phase 2.1, and had excavated to its base in order to place blocks to a depth of 0.75 m. Away from the soft-spot, 772 was only 0.35 m high, and had been placed in a construction cut which only reached the top of the natural gravel. 772 is interpreted as a foundation to a wall which, in conjunction with buttress 1103, may have formed a structure such as a porch or external steps extending from the northern face of the Phase 3 building. Robbing cuts 767 and 776 may have removed an east-west aligned wall which would have connected buttress 1103 with foundation 772. The dimensions of the robbing cuts seem to suggest that the structure was at least 3.5 m wide and extended up to 3 m from the main wall. It is also possible that, prior to the addition of 1034 to the eastern face of 1072, the structure would have formed an opening 1.4 m wide.

It has been noted above that the edges of the robber trenches dug during Phase 4 appear to have been stabilised as a result of deliberate backfilling. The backfilling sequence is typified by the deposits shown in the section across robber trench 791 (Fig. 11). At the base of the trench, overlying the *in situ* foundation rubble 1039, was a layer of orange-brown sandy silt (965), containing small amounts of fine, rounded limestone gravels, and measuring up to 0.35 m thick. This deposit closely resembled the decayed lime mortar bond which survived in foundation 1039, and is interpreted as the bonding material that was knocked off the stones as they were robbed. Overlying 965 was a substantial deposit, up to 0.9 m thick, predominantly consisting of a yellowish-brown sandy silt (966), again with small amounts of fine rounded gravels. Within 966 there were also at least five



Plate 10: Section across north-south wall with robber trench (scales 1 and 2m)

successive horizontal bands of greyish-brown sandy silt, measuring no more than 0.06 m thick, and evenly spaced throughout the thickness of the deposit, suggesting that 966 was formed of a series of dumps, possibly over a short period of time. Overlying 966 and filling the final 0.4 m of robber trench 791 was a series of grey and yellow-brown sandy silt deposits (940, 939, 734 and 737).

Artefacts recovered from these deposits included predominantly 16th- and 17th-century pottery, clay pipe from the 17th to the 18th centuries and, most significantly, a large assemblage of well preserved window glass indicating that the building may have been glazed from as early as the 12th century. There was particularly good evidence for glazing programmes from the late 14th to early 15th centuries and the later 15th century (see Cropper below). Ridge and floor tiles, possibly dating from the late 13th but mainly the 14th century, were also found.

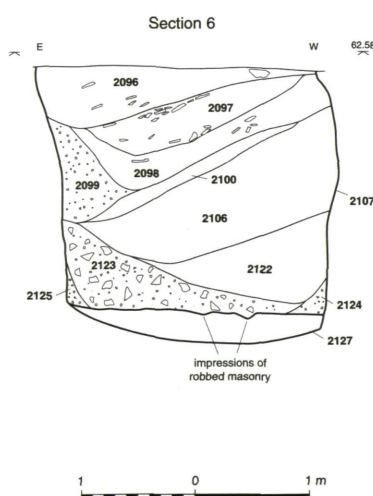
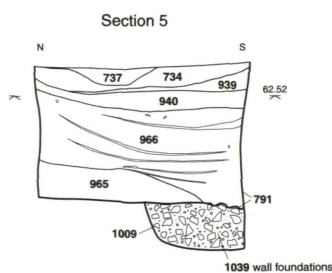


Figure 11: Sections across robber trenches 791 and 2107 (see Fig. 8 for location)

The north-south wall

A linear feature (2107) aligned NNW-SSE lay at the eastern extreme of the development area (Fig. 8). Only 4.5 m of its length had survived as it was cut away to the north and south by the buildings of the Ashmolean Museum. It was up to 2.5 m wide and 2.1 m deep (from the top of the natural gravel), and had vertical sides with a sharp break at the top, suggesting that the feature had probably been truncated by ploughing and may have originally been slightly deeper (Plate 10). Where excavated it was seen that 2107 had truncated a pit of Sub-phase 2.2 (2127), to within 0.3 m of its base (Fig. 11); the upper surface of the surviving pit fill was highly compacted, suggesting that considerable weight had once borne down on it. Although the base of 2107 was flat, a number of irregular depressions were visible in the top of the compacted pit fill, consistent with the presence of large blocks, since removed. A section across 2107, seen during the watching brief, showed that it was only approximately 1 m deep away from the pit location.

Robber trench 2107 was filled with a sequence of fills similar to that of the robber trenches of the buttressed building, with tip-lines indicating deliberate backfilling, predominantly from the west. Primary deposits 2124 and 2125 were both redeposited natural gravel, which in conjunction with the steep edges of 2107 suggests only very limited erosion of the exposed edges of the cut before backfilling (Fig. 11). These were overlain by a substantial deposit of sand and gravel (2123), which was up to 0.65 m thick and contained 25% small fragments and blocks of limestone. Fill 2123 was overlain by successive dumps: sand and gravel with decayed lime mortar (2122 and 2106); silty sand and lime mortar (2100); silty

loam (2098); sandy silt and lime mortar (2097); and finally silty loam (2096) which may have been ploughed in. Fill 2099, between 2100 and 2098, was made up of redeposited natural gravel and lenses of reddish silt, apparently deriving from the erosion of the eastern edge of 2107.

2107 is interpreted as a Phase 4 robber trench. It appears that the original excavators of the construction cut encountered a very deep pit on the line of their cut, which would have been seen as a soft-spot, and had attempted to remove the pit fills in order to reveal solid gravel to place their foundations on. The circular shape of this pit was still visible in the section revealed during the watching brief, and in the surviving base. The depressions in the surface of the compacted pit fill clearly indicate that substantial Phase 3 stone foundations once sat in a construction cut now defined by 2107, but the limestone fragments in fill 2123 were all that remained.

The fills of this robber trench contained 13th- to 16th-century pottery and 13th- to 14th-century window glass, as well as ridge and floor tiles also dating from the 13th and 14th century.

Other features of Phases 3 and 4

One pit has also been assigned to each of Phases 3 and 4 on the basis of artefacts found within them. The Phase 3 pit (750, not illustrated here) is significant due to the assemblage of metal and bone objects that was found within its fill. Pit 750 was oval in shape, 2.3 by 1.4 m, and only 0.24 m deep. Its only fill, 751, contained a lace tag and two mounts in copper alloy, and a fragment of a bone comb (all late medieval or early post-medieval; see Allen below), along with pottery dating to the 15th to 16th centuries. Pit 750 therefore appears to be a rubbish pit associated with the White Friars' occupation of the site.

Pit 662 (also not illustrated here) measured 1.86 by 1.78 m in plan, but its full extent lay beyond the south-western limit of EX1. It was 1.5 m deep, and may have been excavated for the extraction of gravel for ballast. It was notable for its assemblage of clay tobacco pipe bowls and fragments, which dated to the early 18th century and placed it in Phase 4 (see Higgins below).

Phase 5: Garden features associated with early 19th-century development (Figure 12)

During machine excavation of EX 1 a number of features associated with the gardens to the rear of Beaumont Street were revealed (note that house no. 35 now incorporates the former no. 34, but that the garden property boundary partially survived below ground). The layout of the obviously 19th-century garden walls was revealed in plan before they were removed by machine (Fig. 12). All were constructed of brick set onto limestone rubble foundations. A number of other garden features were seen and excavated by hand, with further observations being made during the watching brief. These were predominantly pits lined with re-used blocks of worked and unworked limestone masonry, some of which were moulded; some also incorporated brickwork.

Structures 633, 632 and 695 were three very similar stone-lined structures aligned east-west and situated in the back gardens of nos 34 to 36 respectively, 14 m from the rear of the terrace. Structure 633 was rectangular, with internal measurements of 1.46 m E-W by 1.1 m N-S, and was 1.1 m deep. The retaining walls were of limestone, with some blocks roughly hewn but most cleanly faced. Some were also moulded, and therefore likely to have been re-used (see Morris below). Six courses of the walls had survived; the blocks used were on average 0.25 by 0.35 m and were uniformly 0.4 m thick. Structure 633 differed slightly from structures 632 and 695 in that the internal faces of many of the lower blocks showed evidence of *in situ* burning. Structures 633, 632 and 695 were all filled with deposits containing

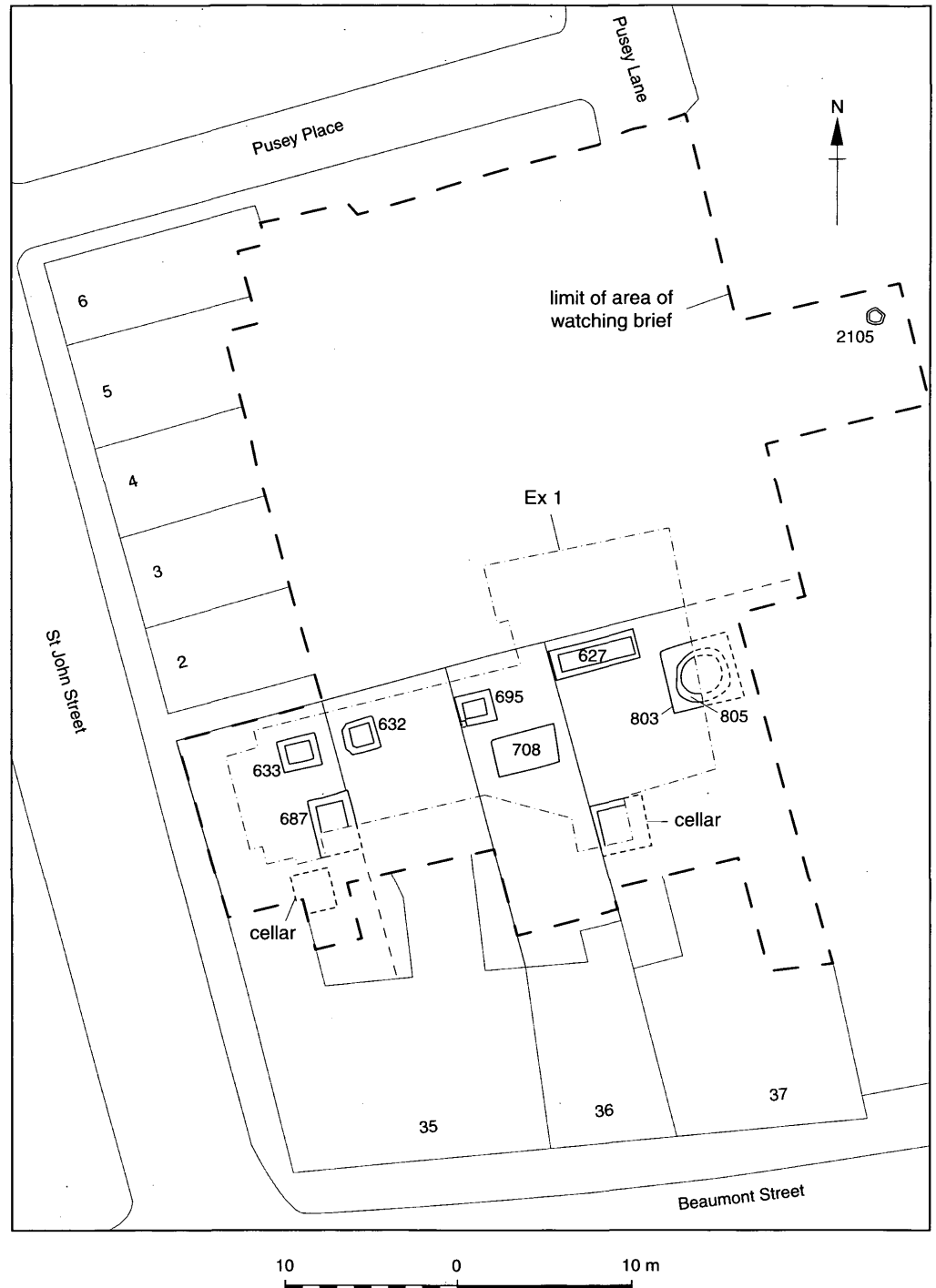


Figure 12: Property boundaries to the rear of the Beaumont Street terrace, and associated features

19th- and 20th-century finds (such as pottery, glass, shoe leather) consistent with their secondary use as rubbish pits. Evidence for their primary function was not immediately apparent.

Another rectangular structure (627) was seen further to the east, to the rear of no. 37, and 19 m from the back of the terrace. Structure 627 measured 5.07 m E-W by 1.6 m N-S, and was 0.57 m deep. The retaining walls were again of limestone blocks, on average 0.3 by 0.2 by 0.15 m. No coursing was present, and most of the blocks were roughly hewn, although some were well faced and

obviously re-used. Substantial quantities of 19th- and 20th-century rubbish, including pottery, glass and worked bone objects, overlay a layer of coal fragments and dust, suggesting use as a coal bunker followed by use as a rubbish pit.

Evidence for four deep cellars, one in each garden, was seen at distances ranging from 6 m to 13 m from the rear of the Beaumont Street terrace. Two of these lay partially under extensions to the rear of Nos 34 and 37 (Fig. 12), and had been sealed up, presumably prior to the building of the extensions. Both were lined with limestone blocks and had vaulted brick ceilings, but lay beyond the limits of excavation and were therefore not fully recorded.

Structure 687 lay 10 m from the rear of no. 35, and was only revealed following the removal of 0.7 m of fill which overlay its brick roof. A manhole in the roof measuring 0.8 by 1 m was the only access into the structure, and was covered by a large stone slab. The lifting of this slab revealed a stone-lined void 3.90 m deep. The inaccessibility of the structure made it impossible to record accurately, but it seemed to have near vertical limestone block retaining walls which sloped inwards slightly at the base. The cut retained by those walls measured 2.5 m E-W and at least 3 m N-S, although part of the structure extended southwards beyond the limits of excavation.

Cut 708 lay 13 m from the rear of no. 36, and measured 4 m E-W by 2.5 m N-S and was at least 1.30 m deep. It was rectangular, with vertical edges, and was not fully excavated for safety reasons. It was backfilled with a series of dumps of gravelly loam, containing 19th-century pottery, and was probably a cellar cut from which the stone-lining was robbed.

A circular stone-lined structure with a domed brick cap was seen at the eastern limit of EX 1 (805). It had an internal diameter of 1.6 m and was filled to within 1 m of the base of the cap by a dark grey brown silt; its depth was therefore impossible to establish. The top of the cap lay 0.40 m below current ground level. The lining was formed of limestone blocks measuring on average 0.2 by 0.2 by 0.08 m. The only opening into the structure was in the form of a brick-lined drain entering the southern side of the lining below current ground level. This drain may have introduced rainwater from the gutters of the Beaumont Street terrace, and acted as a cistern. As it was not possible to establish its depth, it is not possible to predict the amount of water that it would have held; it is also possible that it was deep enough to draw ground water, although the water table currently lies approximately five metres below current ground level. The entire structure sat within a backfilled square cut.

At the eastern limit of the development area a stone-lined well was found during the watching brief (2105, Fig. 12). Only limited observations were possible due to the danger of the sides being unstable, but it was established that the well was at least 4.6 m deep (the measurement was to the top of the water table) with an internal diameter of 0.75 m. The well was capped with three large limestone slabs, one of which was re-used. The lining of the well was also of limestone, with some blocks having curved faces but most roughly square, and with an average dimension of 0.15 by 0.20 by 0.20 m. No mortar was used in the lining, but between the masonry and the edges of the cut there was another lining, of blue-grey clay. A lead pipe was held between two of the capping slabs, and extended the full depth of the well, reaching the water at the base. Its upper limit had been truncated, but its other end had been stopped up by a wooden bung, and holes drilled in the sides, acting as a crude filter. The remnants of a possible wooden barrel were just visible at the base of the well.