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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Donald Insall Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Exeter College Library henceforth known as the 'site' and is centered on SP 5150 0639.

The site contains the Exeter College Library, a Grade II listed building, which was built by Gilbert Scott in the 19th century. The building is arranged in an L-shape in plan, and is made up of a two storey range known as the Library, orientated east-west which is joined on the northern elevation at its eastern end by a single storey range known as the Annex (orientated north-south). The floor level in the Annex is 0.71m below that of the Library.*

A total of six test pits located across the site were hand-excavated to depths ranging between 1m to 1.30m below ground level). Test Pits 1, 3, 6 and 7 were located within the Annex, Test Pit 3 was located within the eastern extent of the Library. Test Pit 4 was in the external alley between the Annex and the Bodleian's Convocation House and Test pit 5 was located within the Rector's garden along the west facing elevation of the Annex. Several test pits were also hand-augured to retrieve information about deposits below the limits of the hand-excavations. Test Pit 2, located within the Annex building against the eastern wall, had to be abandoned.

Archaeology was encountered between 0.15m and 0.40m below ground level within all excavated test pits. Terrace Gravel geology was only encountered in one auger hole in Test Pit 6 at 61.84mOD. Although the loess deposits, usually encountered immediately overlying the natural gravels on the Oxford promontory, were not observed in this location the gravels did not appear to be truncated, except by general digging over of the ground, and therefore probably indicates the level of such deposits across the site. In other test pits archaeological deposits were observed within hand-auger holes to extend below this level, and this is thought to indicate the presence of 'cut features' of archaeological origin, such as pits (probably medieval or potentially Post-medieval).

The gravels were overlain by homogenous deposits of humic garden soils, and such deposits were observed in all test pits, bar Test Pit 7 where fills were observed instead. Some yielded medieval dating evidence and recorded an upper horizon of 63.28mOD within the footprint of the current buildings, 63.60mOD in the Rector's garden, and 63.35mOD in the external alley between the Annex and Convocation House. In some test pits these were overlain by post-medieval garden soils.

The medieval archaeology encountered consisted of possible fills of cut features in Test Pits 3 and 7 and garden soils. Structural deposits and features were present within Test Pits 1, 5, and 6, and consisted of a thin mortar surface and potential limestone walls which were overlain by medieval garden soils within the footprint of the building and Post-medieval archaeology in Test Pit 5 in the Rector's garden.

Post-medieval archaeology consisted of the limestone foundations of the existing structures (and associated construction cuts), part of a N/S limestone wall and mortar surface in the southern end of site, likely relating to the previous library building dating 1664 - 1778, as well as garden soils and demolition/construction deposits within the northern areas of the site. Test Pit 5 also contained a well-preserved cobbled surface with an overlying heavily compacted gravel surface.

Two individual pieces of disarticulated human bone were recovered. One from the backfill of the construction cut for the Annex (Test Pit 5, context 504), and the other within garden soil 311 recorded within Test Pit 3 in the Library. This indicates the disturbance of inhumations probably from a nearby cemetery, which would have been associated with the original 1326 Exeter College chapel which was located just to the north of the Annex, if not under the Annex itself.

Also, of note was an unusually thick flat tile recovered from post-medieval deposit 602, which may be a reused Roman item, or an unusual type of post-medieval ceramic building material. Although Roman archaeology has been recorded in the area it is still rare so this could potentially be a relatively significant find.

Although the full depth of the Library and Annex foundations were not seen it is anticipated that they would extend into the load-bearing natural gravel geology at 61.84mOD and perhaps deeper where the fills of archaeological features would have created 'soft-spots'.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Ben Ford, MCIFA. The fieldwork was directed by Elizabeth Kennard, who was supported by Adam Fellingham. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff who processed the finds under the management of Leigh Allan, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Donald Insall Associates on behalf of Exeter College, Oxford to undertake an archaeological watching brief during initial geotechnical site investigation works.

1.1.2 The works were undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application for proposed refurbishment and conservation project at the College Library (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken after informal discussions and agreement with David Radford, City Archaeologist, OCC. All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Exeter College lies within the former walled medieval historic core of Oxford. The site is bounded by the Quadrangle (to the west), the Rector's Garden (to the north), the Bodleian Library (to the east), and the Fellows Garden (to the south). The College Library and the Annex are centred on SP 5150 0639.

1.2.2 Topographically the college sits towards the southern extent and central to the elevated and well-drained gravel promontory (defined by the Thames to the west and Cherwell to the east), upon which medieval Oxford developed. The site currently occupies relatively level ground at approximately 63 – 64mOD. The underlying geology is First Terrace River Gravel above Oxford Clay (BGS).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been discussed at length within the Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) (OA, 2020a) and Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (OA, 2020b) produced by Oxford Archaeology and will not be repeated here.

PROJECT AIMS

2.2 General

2.2.1 The general aims of the excavation were to determine and understand the nature, function, and character of any archaeological remains within their cultural and environmental setting. Other general aims included:

- i. to determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence,
- ii. establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and burials within the Trial Pits,
- iii. determine and confirm the character of any remains present,
- iv. determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise,
- v. establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits within the site and to take samples where appropriate,
- vi. to generate an accessible and useable archive which will allow future research to be undertaken if appropriate,
- vii. to disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings.

2.3 Specific aims and objectives

2.3.1 The specific aims and objectives of the watching brief were:

- viii. To identify remains that may be associated with the early form and use of the site by Exeter College (it is worth noting that the site of the 14th century college Chapel lies close by to the NW),
- ix. to seek to avoid any unnecessary loss of significant archaeology,
- x. ensure that where there is an unavoidable impact on archaeological remains that an adequate record is produced,
- xi. to record and leave any human remains that may be revealed *in-situ*
- xii. to collect technical data as to the absolute height of the first significant archaeological horizon and full depth and nature of archaeological sequence (where practical)
- xiii. to use the data gathered to inform the project architects and engineers.

2.3.2 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by '*Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*' (Hey and Hind 2014).

2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 A total of four test pits (1, 3, 6 and 7) were excavated within the north-south Annex measuring approximately 0.75m long and 0.55m wide and hand excavated to between 1m and 1.20m below ground level (bgl).

2.4.2 Concrete flooring was removed by GeoCon using 0.30m coring drills. Once this was removed the test pits were hand excavated with subsequent hand auguring (AH) from the base of the test pit to either maximum manageable depths (dependent on ceiling height or

other obstruction) or until natural gravels were encountered. Of these, Test Pits 1 and 4 were located against the Annex walls to assess the nature and extent of the foundations. The remainder were located away from building walls to assess the nature of any surviving archaeology.

2.4.3 Test Pits 4 and 5 were located externally to the Annex. Test Pit 4, located in the alley between the Bodleian and the Annex, was hand excavated across the width of the alley to 1.30m bgl. Test Pit 5 in the Fellows Garden, measuring 1m by 1m, was excavated by hand onto the first significant archaeological horizon at 0.40m bgl, with only the construction cut for the Annex being excavated.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the test pits, which includes pertinent artefact information. The full details of the trench with dimensions and depths of all deposits, features and structures can be found in Appendix A. The full specialist reports on the artefacts can be found in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence within the test pits varied depending on test pit locations, though generally showed a sequence of garden soils interspersed with demolition layers, and foundations for the previous library building (1664-1778) with associated mortar floors.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological deposits, where present, were easy to identify against the overlying modern deposits.

3.3 General Distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features and deposits were present within all test pits. It should be noted however, that Test Pit 2 was not investigated due to issues when coring the concrete.

3.4 Test Pit 1 (*Figs. 2, 3, 4 & 10; Plate 1*)

3.4.1 Test Pit 1 was located at the southern end of the Annex and measured 0.70m by 0.50m. This was hand excavated to 1.25m bgl (62.33mOD), and hand augured to 1.6m bgl (61.98mOD) where an obstruction was encountered and could not be passed.

3.4.2 The earliest deposits were encountered with in Auger Hole 1 (AH1). These were garden soil 109 (62.10mOD) which was a mix of yellowish and greyish-white clayey silt with limestone fragments, overlain by 108 (62.20mOD), dark yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional peddle inclusions. Garden soil 108 was overlain by garden soil 105 (62.48mOD) which was a soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional oyster shell and flint pebble inclusions. This was in turn overlain by a mixed limestone and mortar deposit 104 (62.63mOD), likely demolition material for possible wall 110 (62.68mOD). This was a single large limestone block aligned E-W along the northern extent of the test pit.

3.4.3 Overlying this was a sequence of garden soils, 103 (62.88mOD), containing pottery animal bone oyster shell and CBM and dated from AD 1400 – 1550 and 102 (63.18mOD) dating to late 18th-19th century. This contained animal bone, ceramic building material, pottery and clap tobacco pipe and abutted the limestone foundation wall 106 for the current library E-W wall.

3.4.4 Foundation wall 106 was seen stepped out from the upstanding wall by 0.30m and was constructed out of roughly squared stones with a regular squared course. This was bonded by a whitish-yellow sandy mortar. No construction cut was visible within the section and is most likely trench built. Although the possibility that this wall relates to the previous library structure which was demolished in 1778 could suggest that the construction cut for 106 perhaps was not encountered within the test pit, and the stone obstruction encountered

in AH1 represents stepping of 106 foundations. Further work would be required to ascertain which. This was overlain by a levelling deposit for the current concrete floor.

3.5 Test Pit 3 (Figs. 2, 3, 5 & 10; Plate 2)

3.5.1 Test Pit 3 was located at the western end of the library and measured 0.75m by 0.55m. This was hand excavated to 1.20m bgl (63.09mOD) and hand augured to 2.80m bgl (61.49mOD).

3.5.2 The earliest deposit encountered within the test pit was a garden like soil 314 (2.70m bgl, 61.59mOD, AH3). This was a mid-orangish brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel and rare oyster shell inclusions. This was overlain by garden soil 313 which was encountered at 1.40m bgl (62.89mOD) within AH3. This was a dark yellowish-brown sandy clay with moderate inclusions of pea gravel. This was in turn overlain by another garden soil, 312, which was a light whitish-grey clayey silt with occasional to moderate limestone fragments and was encountered at 1.30m bgl (62.99mOD).

3.5.3 Overlying garden soil 312 was garden soil 307 (0.85m bgl/ 63.44mOD). This was a firm mid orangish-brown sandy silt with frequent flint gravel inclusions. Garden soil 307 was truncated by construction cut 308 for a N-S limestone wall 309 which was constructed with roughly squared stones in squared regular coursing and bonded by a whitish-yellow sandy mortar. Abutting wall 309 was a 0.12m thick soft whitish-grey mortar surface 304. Both are likely related to the previous library building located on this site dating from 1624 to 1778.

3.5.4 The wall was abutted by garden soil 306 (0.70m bgl/ 63.59mOD), a soft dark greyish-brown sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal flecks, oyster shell and frequent flint gravel. This was overlain by garden soil 305 (0.40m bgl/ 63.89mOD), a soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt with oyster shell, charcoal and flint pebbles, seen in the southern section and 311 (0.40m bgl/ 63.89mOD), a loose mid brownish-orange silty sand in the northern section containing clay pipe dating AD 1660-1700 and frequent flint gravel.

3.5.5 A single fragment of disarticulated human bone was also seen in garden soil 311, possibly disturbed by service trench 302, and was reburied in trench base.

3.5.6 These were overlain by 0.14m of mortar surface 304 (63.99mOD) which was subsequently truncated by N-S service run 302. This was overlain by levelling deposit 301 (64.09mOD) for the current concrete floor, 300 (64.29mOD).

3.6 Test Pit 4 (Figs. 2, 3, 6 & 11; Plate 3)

3.6.1 Test pit 4 was located within the narrow alleyway between the Bodleian's Convocation House and the Annex. This measured 0.90m by 0.70m and was hand excavated to 1.20m bgl with a sondage against the Annex wall to 1.30m bgl.

3.6.2 The archaeology encountered consisted of a firm mid brownish-red clayey silt 410, which was a garden soil/possible Medieval deposit at test pit base from 1.20m bgl (62.40mOD). This was overlain by 0.55m of garden soil 409 from 0.65m bgl (62.95mOD) which was mid greyish-brown sandy silt with rare animal bone, pottery, oyster shell, charcoal flecks and flint pebbles and dated 1550 - 1650.

3.6.3 This was truncated by the construction cut 404, 0.65m bgl (62.95mOD) for the Bodleian's N-S foundations 407 which was constructed with roughly shaped limestone in a

random bond with pale coarse yellowish-white sandy mortar. Filling this were backfills 406, a compact pale brownish-yellow silty sand, and 405, a firm mid reddish-brown sandy silty which contained rare limestone fragments, oyster shell, charcoal flecks and flint pebbles. The upstanding ashlar wall is seen from 0.35m bgl (63.25mOD).

3.6.4 Construction cut 402 for the Annex foundations were seen truncating backfill 405 from 0.65m bgl (62.95mOD). This contained the N-S limestone foundation wall 411 which was constructed with roughly shaped stones in a random bond with pale coarse whiteish-yellow sandy mortar and was overlain by backfill 403 which was mid greyish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent flint pebbles and rare limestone fragments and glass. The upstanding ashlar wall 412 was seen from ground level (63.60mOD).

3.6.5 Overlying the construction cut was layer 401 which consisted of 0.10m (63.17mOD) mid orangish-brown sandy silt with the remains of a previous paved surface. Overlying all was the current paved drain gully 400.

3.7 Test Pit 5 (Figs. 2, 3, 7 & 11; Plate 4)

3.7.1 Test Pit 5 was located within the current flower bed in the Fellows garden c.0.5m off the western N-S wall of the Annex, and 0.60m south off a buttress. This measured 1m by 1m and was hand excavated to 0.36m bgl where cobbled surface 502 was present and excavated to 0.80m within construction cut 503 for the Annex foundations.

3.7.2 The test pit consisted of a potential heavily disturbed medieval limestone wall 509 from 0.42m bgl (63.43mOD) constructed from roughly squared limestone with rare yellow sandy mortar fragments. This was overlain by garden soils 507 (0.70m bgl/ 63.15mOD), soft mid-dark greyish-brown sandy silt containing rare pottery (AD 1050-1250), oyster shell, animal bone, charcoal flecks, and flint pebbles, and 506 (0.50m bgl/ 63.30mOD) a soft mid orangish-brown sandy silt with rare pottery (1075-1300) and flint pebble inclusions.

3.7.3 Following this was cobbled surface 502 (0.38m bgl/ 63.47mOD) constructed from rounded – sub-round flint pebbles measuring 0.05m diameter to 0.22m by 0.15m in a firm mid orangish-brown sandy silt matrix. Overlying 502 was a heavily compacted mid brownish-orange sandy gravel surface 501 (0.20m bgl/ 63.65mOD). This deposit likely derived from redeposited natural gravels and contained abundant flint gravel and rare charcoal inclusions.

3.7.4 This was truncated by possible construction cut 503 (0.20m bgl/ 63.65mOD) which was filled by deposits 505 and 504 and was seen running NW-SE across the NE corner of the test pit, with a possible return seen running south at the eastern extent of the test pit.

3.7.5 Fill 505 was a soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt with rare sandstone fragments, charcoal and flint pebbles. Fill 504 was a friable pale brownish-grey sandy silt and contained pottery dating to the 17th century, animal bone, human remains and frequent limestone inclusions, some of which appeared to be offcuts/breakages from ashlar style stonework, with yellowish sandy mortar very similar to the materials/style seen in the current upstanding Annex building, suggesting the likelihood this feature is related to the construction of the current building. However, the presence of the possible disturbed wall 509 seen below cut 503 could indicate that it is related to robbing of an earlier structure.

3.7.6 Foundations were not seen due to distance from Annex walls. Topsoil (0.25m thick) overlaid all from 63.85m OD.

3.7.7 A single fragment of disarticulated human bone was seen within fill 504 and was reburied *in-situ*. This is likely related to the 1326 Exeter College chapel which is known to have existed towards the northern extent of the Annex and Rector's garden.

3.8 Test Pit 6 (Figs. 2, 3, 8 & 10)

3.8.1 Test Pit 6 was located inside the Annex at the northern end, just inside the rear entrance for the Fellows garden. The test pit was excavated to 1.20m (62.38mOD) and hand augered to 1.94m bgl (61.64mOD).

3.8.2 It consisted of natural terrace gravels at 1.74m bgl (61.84mOD) overlain by garden soil 608, 1.50m bgl (62.08mOD), which was a mid-brownish-red sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel and overlain by 606, 1.0m (62.58mOD). This was a firm mid-dark greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent limestone fragments and rare pottery (AD 1150-1250), animal bone, oyster shell and flint pebbles.

3.8.3 A thin (0.06m) compact pale whitish-brown sandy mortar surface 605, 0.94m bgl (62.64mOD), was seen which was potentially related to the known 1326 Exeter College chapel which is known to have existed towards the northern extent of the Annex and Rector's garden. This was overlain by a succession of garden soils (604, 603) and likely demolition deposits (607, 602).

3.8.4 Garden soil 604, 0.65m bgl (62.93mOD) which was a loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare limestone fragments, animal bone, oyster shell and frequent flint pebbles and was overlain by probable demolition related deposit 607, 0.65m bgl (62.93mOD), consisting of loose pale whitish-brown silty sand with abundant limestone fragments and frequent yellowish-white sandy mortar.

3.8.5 Overlying this was garden soil 603 from 0.52m bgl (63.06mOD) which was a loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt containing rare ceramic building material (18th-19th century), charcoal flecks, oyster shell, limestone fragments and common flint pebble inclusions. This was followed by a loose pale brownish-white demolition deposit 602 with abundant limestone and ceramic building material fragments and common yellowish sandy mortar inclusions and was seen from 0.50m bgl (63.08mOD). Of note was one of the pieces of ceramic building material which was recovered from deposit 602, which is potentially a reused Roman tile.

3.8.6 This was overlain by leveling deposit 601, 0.35m bgl (63.23mOD) for poured concrete floor 600 (63.58mOD).

3.9 Test Pit 7 (Figs. 2, 3, 9, 10, & 11)

3.9.1 Test pit 7 was located towards the middle of the Annex and was excavated to 1.20m bgl (62.38mOD) and hand augered to 2.8m bgl (60.78mOD) where an obstruction was encountered and could not be passed.

3.9.2 The archaeology consisted of three possible medieval fills, 706 (2.60m bgl/ 60.98mOD), 705 (2m bgl/ 60.58mOD) and 704 (1.7m bgl/ 61.88mOD) seen within AH7. Fill 706 was a mid greyish-brown sandy clay with degraded animal bone and moderate sub-angular flint gravels and overlain by fill 705 which was a mid-yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel and very occasional charcoal flecks. Overlying this was fill 704, a mid-brownish-red sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and pea gravel.

3.9.3 Above 704 was garden soil 703 from 0.75m bgl (62.83mOD), a soft mid-dark greyish-brown sandy silt containing occasional ceramic building material (13th-15th century) and flint gravel. This was overlain by garden soil 702 from 0.58m bgl (63.00mOD), a soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt containing rare pottery (13th-14th century), animal bone, ceramic building material, charcoal and limestone fragments and overlain by garden soil 701 from 0.35m bgl (63.23mOD). This was a compact mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone fragments. This was overlain by 0.35m poured concrete floor 700 from 63.58mOD.

3.9.4 Given the depth and nature of deposits 704, 705, and 706 in relation to the depth of the natural gravels seen in AH6 to the north it is likely these deposits are fills of an otherwise unseen medieval feature.

3.9.5 Also, of note was the absence of construction or demolition deposits indicating that this activity had likely not impacted the area towards the center of the building to the same extent.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Within the test pits the stratigraphic sequence was well understood. Despite the limited size of the test pits the watching brief has shown that whilst there are truncations from service routes and construction cuts the presence of archaeological deposits and features were still present.

4.1.2 It is worth noting that the human bone fragments were identified by an Osteoarchaeologist from digital photographic images only and were reburied at the site.

4.2 Watching Brief objectives and results

4.2.1 The watching brief confirmed the presence of significant archaeological deposits such as foundations, surfaces, and demolition deposits as well as disarticulated human remains recorded within garden soils and construction cuts. Dating evidence was also retrieved. The stratigraphic and dating evidence, although limited, was sufficient to suggest a model for the archaeological deposits that underly the site.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Archaeology was encountered between 0.15m and 0.40m within all excavated test pits, ranging from medieval through to post-medieval.

Natural and pre-Medieval

4.3.2 Natural gravels were only encountered in Auger Hole 6 (AH6) at 61.84mOD. No pre-medieval archaeology was seen in the site, however a single piece of an unusually thick flat tile which may be a reused Roman item, or an unusual type of post-medieval ceramic building material.

Medieval

4.3.3 Medieval deposits were seen from approximately 63.28mOD within the footprint of the current library buildings, 63.60mOD in the Rector's garden and 63.35mOD in the external alley between the Annex and the Bodleian's Convocation House. These consisted of garden soils (103, 105, 108, 109, 409, 506, 507, 604, 606, 608, 609, 702, 703), fills (313, 314, 704, 705, 706), surface (605), demolition deposit (104), and structures (E-W limestone walls 110 and 509). Externally, to the West, in the Rector's Garden it is anticipated that the level of medieval archaeology is higher in Test Pit 5 due to the protection provided by the heavily compacted gravel surface 501 and underlying cobbled surface 502.

Post-medieval

4.3.4 Post-medieval archaeology consisted of the limestone foundations for the existing Library and Bodleian structures (106, 407, 411) and associated construction cuts (402, 404, 503) and fills (403, 405, 406, 504, 505) and N/S limestone wall 309 and associated mortar surface 304 which was seen in Test Pit 3 in the library store room, and likely relates to the previous library building dating 1664 – 1778. Post-medieval garden soils (102, 601, 603, 701), surfaces (501, 502), and demolition deposits (602, 607) were also seen within the northern areas of the site within the Annex.

4.3.5 It should also be noted that disarticulated human remains were present within fill (504) for the construction cut for the Annex in the Rector's garden and within garden soil 311 recorded within Test Pit 3 in the library. Although on both occasions only single fragments were recovered, the site still contains the potential for *in-situ* burials due to the original 1326 Exeter College chapel which was located just to the north of the Annex, if not under the Annex itself.

4.3.6 Although the full extent of the Library and Annex footings were not seen it is anticipated that they would extend to the natural gravels, which were seen at 61.84mOD in Test Pit 6, and perhaps deeper where the fills of archaeological features would have created 'soft-spots'.

4.4 Conclusion

4.4.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Donald Insall Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Exeter College Library henceforth known as the 'site' and is centered on SP 5150 0639.

4.4.2 The site contains the Grade II* listed Exeter College Library which was built by Gilbert Scott in the 19th century. The building is arranged in an L-shape plan, which is made up of a two storey range known as the Library, orientated east-west which is joined on the northern elevation at its eastern end by a single storey range known as the Annex (orientated north-south). The floor level in the Annex is 0.71m below that of the Library.

4.4.3 A total of six test pits located across the site were hand-excavated to depths ranging between 1m to 1.30m below ground level (bgl). Test Pits 1, 3, 6 and 7 were located within the Annex, Test Pit 3 was located within the eastern extent of the Library. Test Pit 4 was in the external alley between the Annex and the Bodleian's Convocation House and Test pit 5 was located within the Rector's garden along the west facing elevation of the Annex. Several test pits were also hand-augured to retrieve information about deposits below the limits of the hand-excavations. Test Pit 2, located within the Annex building against the eastern wall, had to be abandoned.

4.4.4 Archaeology was encountered between 0.15m and 0.40m below ground level within all excavated test pits. Terrace Gravel geology was only encountered in one auger hole in Test Pit 6 at 61.84mOD. Although the loess deposits, usually encountered immediately overlying the natural gravels on the Oxford promontory, were not observed in this location the gravels did not appear to be truncated, except by general digging over of the ground, and therefore probably indicates the level of such deposits across the site. In other test pits archaeological deposits were observed within hand-auger holes to extend below this level, and this is thought to indicate the presence of 'cut features' of archaeological origin, such as pits (probably medieval or potentially post-medieval).

4.4.5 The gravels were overlain by homogenous deposits of humic garden soils, and such deposits were observed in all test pits, bar Test Pits 7 and 3 where fills were observed instead. Some yielded medieval dating evidence and recorded an upper horizon of 63.28mOD within the footprint of the current buildings, 63.60mOD in the Rector's garden, and 63.35mOD in the external alley between the Annex and Convocation House. In some test pits these were overlain by thinner post-medieval garden soils.

4.4.6 The medieval archaeology encountered consisted of possible fills of cut features in Test Pits 3 and 7 and garden soils. Structural deposits and features were present within Test Pits 1, 6, and 5 and consisted of a thin mortar surface and potential limestone walls with were overlain by medieval garden soils within the footprint of the building and post-medieval archaeology in Test Pit 5 in the Rector's garden.

4.4.7 Post-medieval archaeology consisted of the limestone foundations of the existing structures (an associated construction cuts), part of a N/S limestone wall and mortar surface in the southern end of site, likely relating to the previous library building dating 1664 - 1778, as well as garden soils and demolition/construction deposits within the northern areas of the site. Test Pit 5 also contained a well-preserved cobbled surface with overlying heavily compacted gravel surface.

4.4.8 Two individual pieces of disarticulated human bone were recovered. One from the backfill of the construction cut for the Annex (Test Pit 5, context 504), and the other within garden soil 311 recorded within Test Pit 3 in the Library. This indicates the disturbance of inhumations probably from a nearby cemetery, which would have been associated with the original 1326 Exeter College chapel which was located just to the north of the Annex, if not under the Annex itself.

4.4.9 Also, of note was an unusually thick flat tile recovered from post-medieval deposit 602, which may be a reused Roman item, or an unusual type of post-medieval ceramic building material. Although Roman archaeology has been recorded in the area it is still rare so this could potentially be a relatively significant find.

4.4.10 Although the full depth of the Library and Annex foundations were not seen it is anticipated that they would extend into the load-bearing natural gravel geology at 61.84mOD and perhaps deeper where the fills of archaeological features would have created 'soft-spots'.

APPENDIX A DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Test Pit 1						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit hand dug to 1m bgl, and hand augured to 1.6m bgl and stopped at stone obstruction. Archaeology consisted of garden soils 109 and 108 (seen in auger hole 1) overlain by potential E-W limestone wall 110 and demolition deposit 104. This was in turn overlain by garden soils 103 and 102 and truncated by construction cut 107 for Annex foundation 106 and upstanding wall 111. All was overlain by levelling 101 for concrete slab floor 100.					Length (m)	0.70
					Width (m)	0.50
					Avg. depth (m)	1.20
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.34	Concrete floor slab	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.08	Levelling	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.30	Garden soil	Pottery CBM Clay tobacco pipe Animal bone	c.1650-1850? 13 th -14 th C? Late 18th-19 th C -
103	Layer	-	0.30	Garden soil	Pottery CBM Animal bone Oyster shell	C1400-1550? 13 th -14 th C? - -
104	Layer	-	0.20	Demolition deposit	-	-
105	Layer	-	0.20	Garden soil	-	-
106	Wall	-	>0.70	Foundation wall	-	-
107	Cut	-	>0.70	Construction cut	-	-
108	Layer	-	0.10	AH 1 Garden soil	-	-
109	Layer	-	0.20	AH 1Garden soil	-	-
110	Wall	-	-	Possible E-W limestone wall seen in TP base	-	-
111	Wall	-	-	Upstanding Annex wall	-	-

Test Pit 3						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit was hand excavated to 1.20m bgl and hand augured to 2.80m bgl. Natural was not encountered. The archaeology consisted of four garden like soils 314 (2.70m bgl), 313 (1.40m bgl) and 312 (1.30m bgl) in AH 3.2 Overlying this was 307 (0.85m bgl) in TP base which was truncated by construction cut 308 which was filled by backfill 310 and N-S limestone wall 309. The wall was seen to be abutted by garden soils 306 (0.70m bgl) and 305 (0.40m bgl) seen in the southern section and 311 (0.40m bgl) in the northern section. These were overlain by 0.14m of mortar surface 304 which was subsequently truncated by N-S service run 302, which was					Length (m)	0.75
					Width (m)	0.55
					Avg. depth (m)	1.20

filled by 303. All was overlain by 0.08m of levelling and 0.20m poured concrete floor.						
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.30	Concrete floor slab	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.08	Levelling	-	-
302	Cut	>0.50	>0.75	Service trench	-	-
303	Fill	>0.50	>0.75	Backfill of 302	-	-
304	Layer	-	0.15	Mortar floor	-	-
305	Layer	-	0.30	Garden soil	-	-
306	Layer	-	0.15	Garden soil	-	-
307	Layer	-	0.45	Garden soil	-	-
308	Cut	0.10	0.12	Construction cut, fb 309, 308	-	-
309	Wall	>0.75	>1.00	Limestone wall	-	-
310	Fill	0.10	>0.12	Backfill of CC 308	-	-
311	Layer	-	0.45	Garden soil?	Clay tobacco pipe HR	c1660-1700?
312	Layer	-	0.10	AH3.1 and 3.2 Garden soil?	-	-
313	Layer	-	1.30	AH 3.1 and 3.2 Garden soil?	-	-
314	Layer	-	>0.10	AH 3.2 Garden soil?	-	-

Test Pit 4						
General description					Orientation	-
Natural was not seen in the test pit. Reddish garden soil/possible medieval deposit 410 was seen at TP base from 1.20m bgl and was overlain by 0.55m of garden soil 409 from 0.65m bgl. This was truncated by the construction cut 404 (0.65m bgl) for the Bodleian's N-S foundations and was filled by backfills 406, and 405 and foundation wall 407. The upstanding ashlar wall is seen from 0.35m bgl. Construction cut 402 for the Annex foundations were seen truncating backfill 405 from 0.65m bgl and was filled by deposit 403 and limestone foundation wall 411. The upstanding wall 412 was seen from ground level. Overlying the construction cut was layer 401 with was a 0.10m potential previous paved surface and the current paved drain gully.					Length (m)	0.90
					Width (m)	0.70
					Avg. depth (m)	1.20
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.08	Concrete paving slabs	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.10	Leveling/previous paved surface	-	-
402	Cut	>0.40	>1.30	Construction cut for Exeter College library wall, fb 403, 411	-	-
403	Fill	>0.40	1.30	Backfill of 402	Glass	-
404	Cut	>1.2	>0.60	Construction cut for Bodleian wall, fb 405, 406, 407	-	-

405	Fill	0.60	0.82	Backfill of CC 404	-	-
406	Fill	0.30	0.20	Backfill of CC 404	-	-
407	Wall	-	>1.20	N-S Limestone Bodleian foundation wall	-	-
408	Wall	-	-	N-S Upstanding Ashlar Bodleian wall	-	-
409	Layer	-	0.58	Garden soil	Pottery	c.1550-1650
410	Layer	-	>0.08	Reddish brown clayey silt. Possible Medieval garden soils	-	-
411	Wall	-	>1.30	N-S Limestone foundation wall for Exeter College library	-	-
412	Wall	-	-	N-S Upstanding Exeter College ashlar wall	-	-

Test Pit 5						
General description					Orientation	-
The test pit consisted of a limestone wall 509 (0.42m bgl) overlain by garden soils 507 (0.70m bgl) and 506 (0.50m bgl). Following this was cobbled surface 502 (0.38m bgl) and a gravel surface 501 (0.20m bgl). This was truncated by possible construction cut 503 (0.20m bgl) which was filled by deposits 505 and 504. Foundations were not seen due to distance from Annex walls. Topsoil (0.25m thick) overlaid all.					Length (m)	1.00
					Width (m)	1.00
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
					Context No.	Type
500	Layer	-	0.25	Current worked garden soil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.20	Compact orange gravel surface/construction horizon	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.10	Cobbled surface	-	-
503	Cut	-	>0.50	Construction cut for N-S Library wall, fb 504, 505	-	-
504	Fill	-	0.35	Backfill for CC 503	Pottery Clay tobacco pipe Animal bone HR Oyster shell	c.1075-1300 17 th C - - -
505	Fill	-	0.26	Backfill for CC 503	-	-
506	Layer	-	0.22	Garden soil	Pottery	c.1075-1300
507	Layer	-	>0.10	Garden soil	Pottery Animal bone Oyster shell	c.1050-1250 - -
508	Wall	-	-	Upstanding Library wall w/ buttress	-	-
509	Wall	-	0.20	Possible E-W wall remnants seen at trench base	-	-

Test Pit 6						
General description					Orientation	-
The test pit was excavated to 1.20m and had augured to 1.94m bgl. It consisted of natural gravels at 1.74m bgl overlain by garden soils 607 (1.50m bgl) and 606 (1.0m bgl) This was overlain by mortar surface 605 (0.94m bgl) and subsequent garden soil 604 (0.70m bgl), followed by a probable demolition related deposit 607 (0.70m bgl) and further garden soil 603 (0.052m bgl). Demolition deposit 602 was seen from 0.50m bgl, and was overlain by leveling 601 (0.35m bgl) for poured concrete floor 600.					Length (m)	0.75
					Width (m)	0.50
					Avg. depth (m)	1.20
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.35	Concrete floor slab	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.15	Levelling	-	-
602	Layer	-	0.12	Demolition deposit	CBM	18 th -E19 th C?
603	Layer	-	0.18	Garden soil	-	-
604	Layer	-	0.25	Garden soil	Animal Bone Oyster shell	- -
605	Layer	-	0.06	Mortar skin/ Possible thin temporary surface	-	-
606	Layer	-	0.55	Garden soil	Pottery Animal bone	c.1150-1250 -
607	Layer	-	0.08	Rubble spread	-	-
608	Layer	-	0.34	AH 6 Garden soil	-	-
609	Natural	-	1.94 BGL	AH 6 Natural sandy gravels	-	-

Test Pit 7						
General description					Orientation	-
The test pit was excavated to 1.20m bgl and hand augered to 2.80m bgl where it stopped at an obstruction. The archaeology consisted of three possible fills, 706 (2.60m bgl), 605 (2m bgl) and 704 (1.7m bgl) overlain by garden soils 703 (0.75m bgl), 702 (0.58m bgl) and 701 (0.35m bgl), the later of which contained frequent limestone fragments. This was overlain by 0.35m poured concrete floor.					Length (m)	0.80
					Width (m)	0.50
					Avg. depth (m)	1.20
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.35	Concrete floor	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.22	Garden soil	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.30	Garden soil	Pottery CBM Animal bone	c.1225-1400 13 th -14 th C? -
703	Layer	-	0.80	Garden soil	CBM	13th-15thC?
704	Fill?	-	0.30	AH 7 Fill? Brown red sandy clay	-	-
705	Fill?	-	0.60	AH 7 Fill? Yellow brown sandy clay	-	-

706	Fill?	-	>0.20	AH 7 Fill? Grey brown sandy clay	Animal Bone	-
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APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Post-Roman pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of 23 sherds (381g) of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the evaluation. These came from a total of nine contexts. The pottery fabrics present range from the 11th or 12th century through to a single flowerpot broadly datable to c 1650-1850?

B.1.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The pottery was in a variable condition, generally quite fresh but mostly very fragmentary.

B.1.3 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Fabric codes referred to for the Medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994) whereas Post-medieval fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1) and therefore only summarised below.

Description

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
102	c1650-1850?	5	34	2x fresh joining sherds PMR - unglazed with reduced grey surfaces & tiny speck of glaze, probably an early redware flowerpot (PMR FLP)? 1x bo (body sherd) late medieval Brill (OXAM) jug/jar - unglazed. 1x bo OXAQ. 1x bo OXY [Nb. See L18/19C clay pipe stem from this ctx]
103	c1400-1550?	6	64	1x bo late med Brill/Boarstall jug (OXBX, c1400-1625). 1x probable late med OXAM jug bo. 2x med OXAM including part of a recessed base from the lower drip tray of an oil lamp with int green glaze (gg), & a jug neck with gg. 2x medieval Oxford ware (OXY) including a very worn-down tripod foot from a yellow-glazed tripod pitcher, & a cook pot bo
409	c1550-1650	4	34	1x small bo from neck cordon of Frechen stoneware drinking jug (FREC). The rest residual: 2x OXY. 1x bo Cotswold-type ware (OXAC)
504	c1075-1300	1	5	Fresh bo OXY [Nb. See 17C clay pipe stem from this ctx]
506	c1075-1300	1	13	Fairly fresh bo OXY yellow-glazed pitcher with combed horiz bands of decoration

507	c1050-1250	1	6	Bo OXAC
606	c1150-1250	1	97	OXY. Socket-handled bowl with all-over int and ext yellow glaze. Complete tubular handle attached to rim (thickened flat-topped or slightly triangular rim) with the arched join of the handle secured in place by an applied strip luted to the rim on either side and decorated on top with a row of deeply stabbed circular pits. The underside of the handle and ext of the bowl show clear sooting/scorching from cooking use. See Mellor 1994 Fig. 20.5 for closest parallel - but the Exeter College example here is possibly unique in having the stabbed strip securing the handle - should be illustrated for the OXY typology.
702	c1225-1400	2	26	1x fresh bo OXAM strip jug with plain vertical red strip and red-brown unglazed ext surfaces (only tiny specks of glaze present). 1x worn neck/shoulder bo from a smallish OXY pitcher with yellow glaze int and ext
703	c1250-1400	2	102	1x large fresh body sherd from OXAM jug with most of handle attached (top missing). Handle of classic slashed form - a narrow strap handle with a central row of oblique slashes down the back; light green speckled glaze all-over handle and wall, hard cream fabric - possibly 14C? 1x bo OXY cook pot
TOTAL		23	381	

Table 1. Description of post-Roman pottery by context

B.1.4 The range of pottery fabrics and vessel forms present is typical of sites in the centre of Oxford. As usual, glazed jugs in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM, c 1225-1625) dominate the medieval assemblage. A single small sherd from a Brill oil lamp is notable. The most significant piece, however, is a tubular-handled bowl in medieval Oxford ware (OXY) which probably dates to c 1150-1250. This has a complete handle with stabbed decoration along the top of the rim and the handle join – a type of decoration unknown in the published typology of this ware (Mellor 1994). It is recommended that this vessel should be illustrated at some point. Other early wares here (OXAC and OXY), including the bowl, are probably residual in their contexts. The latest piece here is part of a Post-medieval redware (PMR) flowerpot of c 1650-1850.

Discussion

B.1.5 The pottery here is of fairly mixed and fragmentary character and mainly of use for the dating of the evaluation trenches.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.1.6 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis - particularly when reviewed alongside further assemblages from any future excavations in the area of the present evaluation. It is therefore recommended that the pottery be retained.

B.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe

By John Cotter

Description

B.3.1 Three pieces of clay pipe weighing 12g were recovered from three contexts. Given the small amount these have not been separately catalogued but are fully described below.

B.3.2 **Context (102) Spot-date: Late 18th to 19th century.** Description: 1 piece of pipe stem (3g). Fresh condition.

B.3.3 **Context (311) Spot-date: c 1660-1700?** Description: 1 piece (5g). Broken bowl base with trace of stubby spur and with short length of stem attached.

B.3.4 **Context (504) Spot-date: 17th century.** Description: 1 piece of pipe stem (4g). Fairly fresh condition.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.3.5 Apart from dating value the clay pipe assemblage here has very little potential for further research and could be discarded if so desired.

B.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.3.6 A total of 16 pieces (1459g) of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the evaluation. These came from a total of five contexts. This is mainly of medieval date plus a small amount of post-medieval date (c 1480+). The assemblage is in a fragmentary and mostly very abraded condition, but some quite large and fairly fresh pieces are present.

B.3.7 All the CBM was scanned during the present assessment, in a similar way to the pottery, and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by fragment count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. Medieval tile fabrics and CBM types from Oxford have been described in some detail in previous reports (Cotter 2006; 2008).

B.3.8 The material is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1) and is therefore only summarised below.

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
102	13-14C?	3	74	1x worn frag curved orange-red Fabric 3B (F3b) Medieval ridge tile with traces of glaze. 2x scraps med pegtile (F3b & F7b)
103	13-14C?	4	110	All v worn. 2x F3B pegtile. 2x pinkish F7B pegtile (joining frags)
602	18C-E19C?	1	771	Fairly fresh complete end fragment from an unfrogged handmade red brick. Fine sandy fabric. Light orange-brown surfaces. A few very coarse rounded inclusions of iron-rich clay pellets or ironstone. Fairly nearly made. Thickness = 60mm; Width = 108mm. Trace of horizontal stacking impression on stretcher side
602	18C-E19C?	1	188	Fresh edge frag from an unusually thick flat tile (24-25mm thick), Unglazed sandy orange-brown fabric with a light red core. The vertical edge has been lightly knife-trimmed. Broken edges stained with white mortar deposits (post-deposition?). This might be a reused Roman tile (the edge of a tegula?). Otherwise it loosely resembles a late med/early post-med floor/quarry tile in form - but there is no evidence at all for glaze or for wear and tear from use.
702	13-14C?	5	284	Frag from 3 separate pegtiles in F3B. 2 large joining pieces from top left corner of pegtile with small complete circular nailhole - under-fired soft orange-buff fabric with thin brown core. 2x joining fresh edge frags from thicker pegtile or ridge tile in hard-fired fabric with a large patch of reduced greenish-brown glaze. 1x worn body frag from a third tile with dark grey core
703	13-15C?	2	32	Fresh joining edge frags probably from ridge tile in sandy Brill-type fabric F3A. Light grey fabric with a speckled green glaze ext
TOTAL		16	1459	

Table 1. Description of CBM by context

B.3.9 Nearly all the CBM here is of medieval date and mainly, perhaps from the 13th-14th centuries, with some possible continuation into the 15th century? The bulk of the assemblage comprises fragments of rectangular peg tiles with a pair of circular nailholes at the upper end. These occur in a limited range of known medieval fabrics. There are also a few pieces of glazed medieval ridge tile. A large piece of red brick appears to be of 18th- or early 19th-century date and is the latest piece here. The same context as the brick (602) produced part of an unusually thick flat tile which may be a reused Roman item - or an unusual type of post-medieval CBM?

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.3.10 Apart from the possible Roman(?) tile, the CBM assemblage here has very little potential for further research and could be discarded if so desired.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

3.1.1 A small assemblage of animal bone, 30 fragments weighing 224g, was recovered by hand during the excavations (Table 1). Most derived from Medieval garden soils and other medieval - early modern deposits. A full record of the assemblage, as an Excel spreadsheet, can be found in the site archive.

3.1.2 Generally, the bone is well preserved, and no evidence of gnawing was observed, suggesting fairly rapid burial. No burnt or clearly butchered fragments are present. It is, however, likely that the assemblage largely represents butchery waste, since most specimens are from the head, pelvis or lower limbs of cattle, sheep/goat or pig.

3.1.3 The bone has been fully recorded and no further work, or retention in the archive, is required.

Context No.	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Large Mammal	Medium mammal	Mammal
102		1 (tooth)				1 frag.
103	1 (1 st phalanx)	1 (calcaneus)				2 cranial frags
504	1 (1 st phalanx)				1 (thoracic vertebra)	1 (rib frag)
507			1 (distal radius, unfused)			
604		3 (proximal metacarpal, metapodial frag, mandible frag)				3 (fragments)
606		2 (radius, unfused distal metapodial)		2 (pelvis frags)		
702				1 (pelvis frag)		3 (indeterminate frags)

706		1 (molar tooth)		4 (skull frags)	1 (rib)	
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Table 1: Number of fragments and anatomical elements by context.

3.2 Shell

By Rebecca Nicholson

3.2.1 Five oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shells or shell fragments weighing 32g in total were recovered by hand during the excavations. These came from context 103 (one left valve fragment), 504 (one right valve), 507 (one right valve) and 604 (two right valves). The shells are in good condition and of small or fairly small size and rounded shape, with small rounded hinges, probably indicating that they derived from managed oyster beds. Oysters were commonly eaten in the medieval, post-medieval and early modern period and this very small assemblage demonstrates local consumption of what was by the 19th century a cheap food.

3.2.2 The shells do not merit retention in the archive.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name:	Exeter College Library Project, Oxford
Site code:	OXEXLP20
Grid Reference	SP 5150 0639
Type:	Watching Brief
Date and duration:	August 2020 (7 Days)
Area of Site	680sqm
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus house, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Services in due course, under the following accession number: TBC.

Summary of Results: *Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Donald Insall Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Exeter College Library henceforth known as the 'site' and is centered on SP 5150 0639.*

The site contains the Grade II listed Exeter College Library which was built by Gilbert Scott in the 19th century. The building is arranged in an L-shape plan, which is made up of a two storey range known as the Library, orientated east-west which is joined on the northern elevation at its eastern end by a single storey range known as the Annex (orientated north-south). The floor level in the Annex is 0.71m below that of the Library.*

A total of six test pits located across the site were hand-excavated to depths ranging between 1m to 1.30m below ground level (bgl). Test Pits 1, 3, 6 and 7 were located within the Annex, Test Pit 3 was located within the eastern extent of the Library. Test Pit 4 was in the external alley between the Annex and the Bodleian's Convocation House and Test pit 5 was located within the Rector's garden along the west facing elevation of the Annex. Several test pits were also hand-augured to retrieve information about deposits below the limits of the hand-excavations. Test Pit 2, located within the Annex building against the eastern wall, had to be abandoned.

Archaeology was encountered between 0.15m and 0.40m below ground level within all excavated test pits. Terrace Gravel geology was only encountered in one auger hole in Test Pit 6 at 61.84mOD. Although the loess deposits, usually encountered immediately overlying the natural gravels on the Oxford promontory, were not observed in this location the gravels did not appear to be truncated, except by general digging over of the ground, and therefore probably indicates the level of such

deposits across the site. In other test pits archaeological deposits were observed within hand-auger holes to extend below this level, and this is thought to indicate the presence of 'cut features' of archaeological origin, such as pits (probably Medieval or potentially Post-medieval).

The gravels were overlain by homogenous deposits of humic garden soils, and such deposits were observed in all test pits, bar Test Pits 7 and 3, where fills were observed instead. Some yielded medieval dating evidence and recorded an upper horizon of 63.28mOD within the footprint of the current buildings, 63.60mOD in the Rector's garden, and 63.35mOD in the external alley between the Annex and Convocation House. In some test pits these were overlain by thinner Post-medieval garden soils.

The medieval archaeology encountered consisted of possible fills of cut features in Test Pits 3 and 7 and garden soils. Structural deposits and features were present within Test Pits 1, 6, and 5 and consisted of a thin mortar surface and potential limestone walls with were overlain by medieval garden soils within the footprint of the building and Post-medieval archaeology in Test Pit 5 in the Rector's garden.

Post-medieval archaeology consisted of the limestone foundations of the existing structures (an associated construction cuts), part of a N/S limestone wall and mortar surface in the southern end of site, likely relating to the previous library building dating 1664 - 1778, as well as garden soils and demolition/construction deposits within the northern areas of the site. Test Pit 5 also contained a well-preserved cobbles surface with overlying heavily compacted gravel surface.

Two individual pieces of disarticulated human bone were recovered. One from the backfill of the construction cut for the Annex (Test Pit 5, context 504), and the other within garden soil 311 recorded within Test Pit 3 in the Library. This indicates the disturbance of inhumations probably from a nearby cemetery, which would have been associated with the original 1326 Exeter College chapel which was located just to the north of the Annex, if not under the Annex itself.

Also, of note was an unusually thick flat tile recovered from post-medieval deposit 602, which may be a reused Roman item, or an unusual type of post-medieval CBM. Although Roman archaeology has been recorded in the area it is still rare so this could potentially be a relatively significant find.

Although the full depth of the Library and Annex foundations were not seen it is anticipated that they would extend into the load-bearing natural gravel geology at 61.84mOD and perhaps deeper where the fills of archaeological features would have created 'soft-spots'.

Project Details

OASIS Number			
Project Name			
Start of Fieldwork		End of Fieldwork	
Previous Work		Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code		Planning App. No.	
HER Number		Related Numbers	
Prompt			
Development Type			
Place in Planning Process	Choose an item.		

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core | <input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

	Choose an item.
--	-----------------

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County		Address (including Postcode)
District		
Parish		
HER office		
Size of Study Area		
National Grid Ref		

Project Originators

Organisation	
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	
Project Supervisor	

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)		
Digital Archive		
Paper Archive		

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media

Database	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>

Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input type="checkbox"/>	Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sections	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments

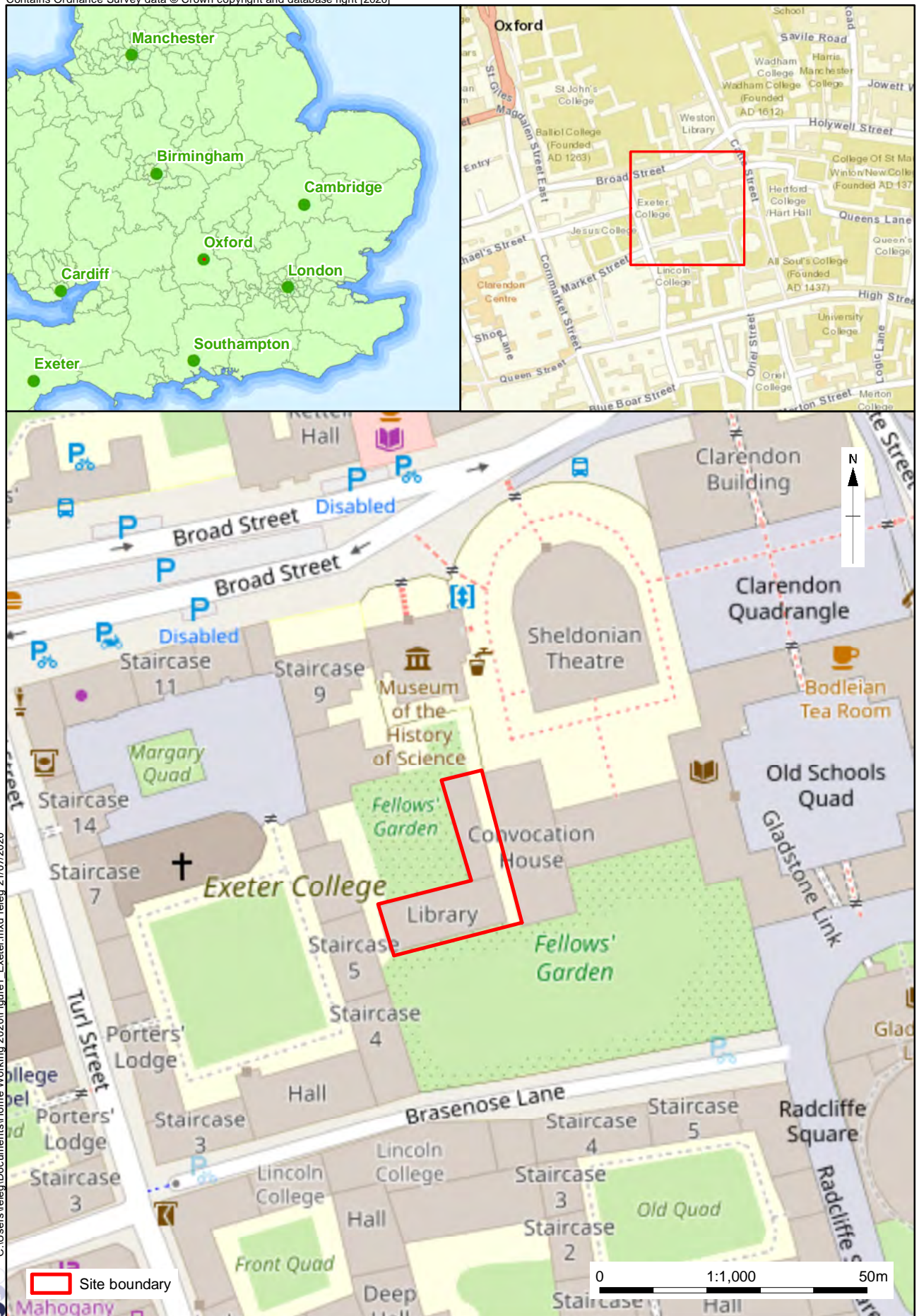
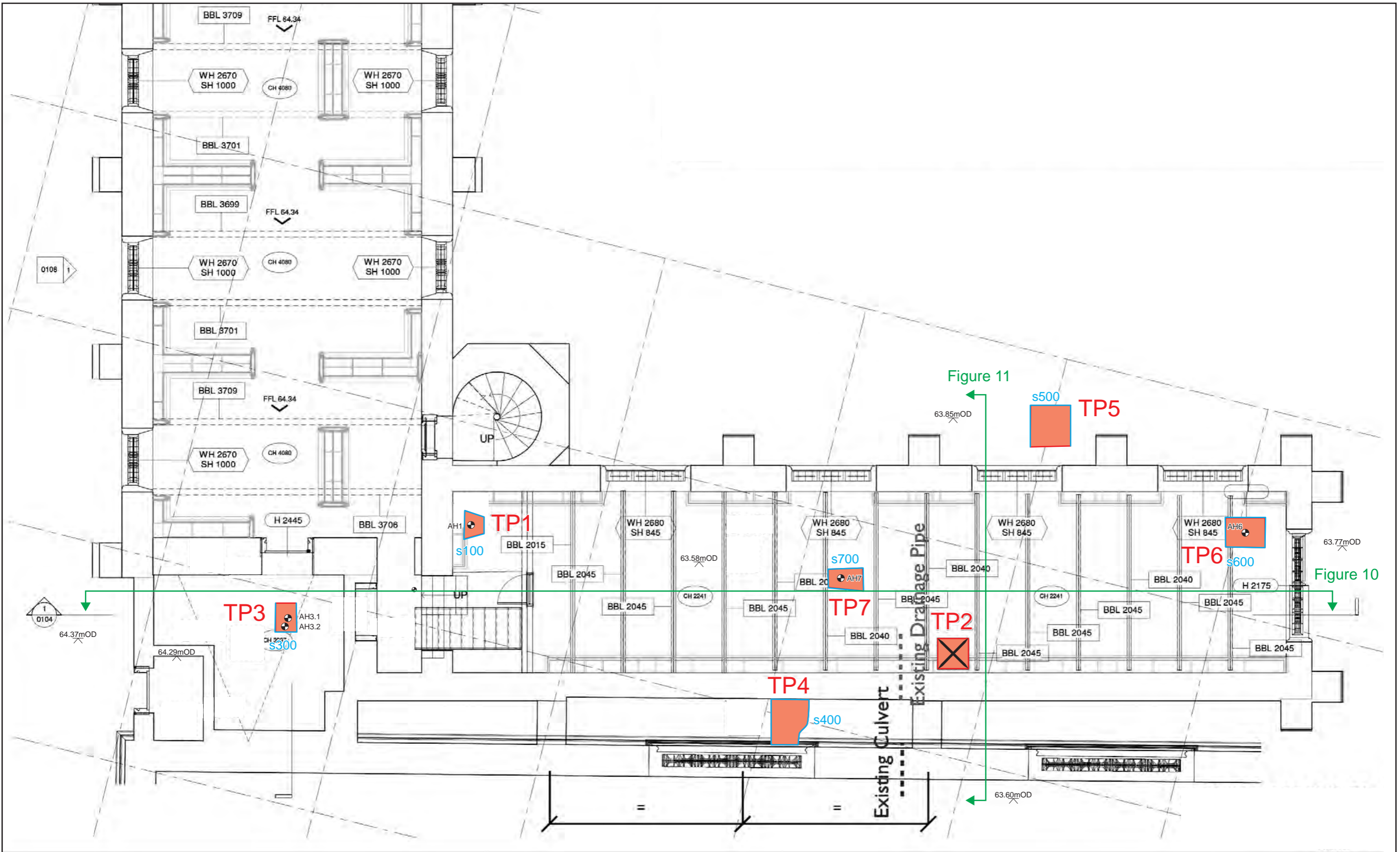


Figure 1: Site location



- Test Pit
- Sections
- Abandoned
- Auger holes

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Drawing Number	J3918-S-SK-0002	
Project	Exeter College	Status S9
Drawing Title	Ground Floor Opening Up	
Date	21.11.19	Scale NTS
Drawn by	SB	Revision 01

Figure 2: Test pit locations

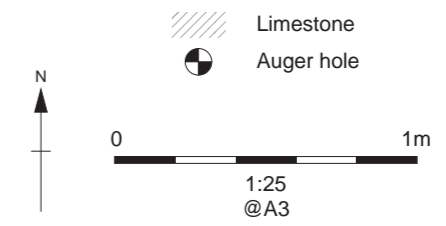
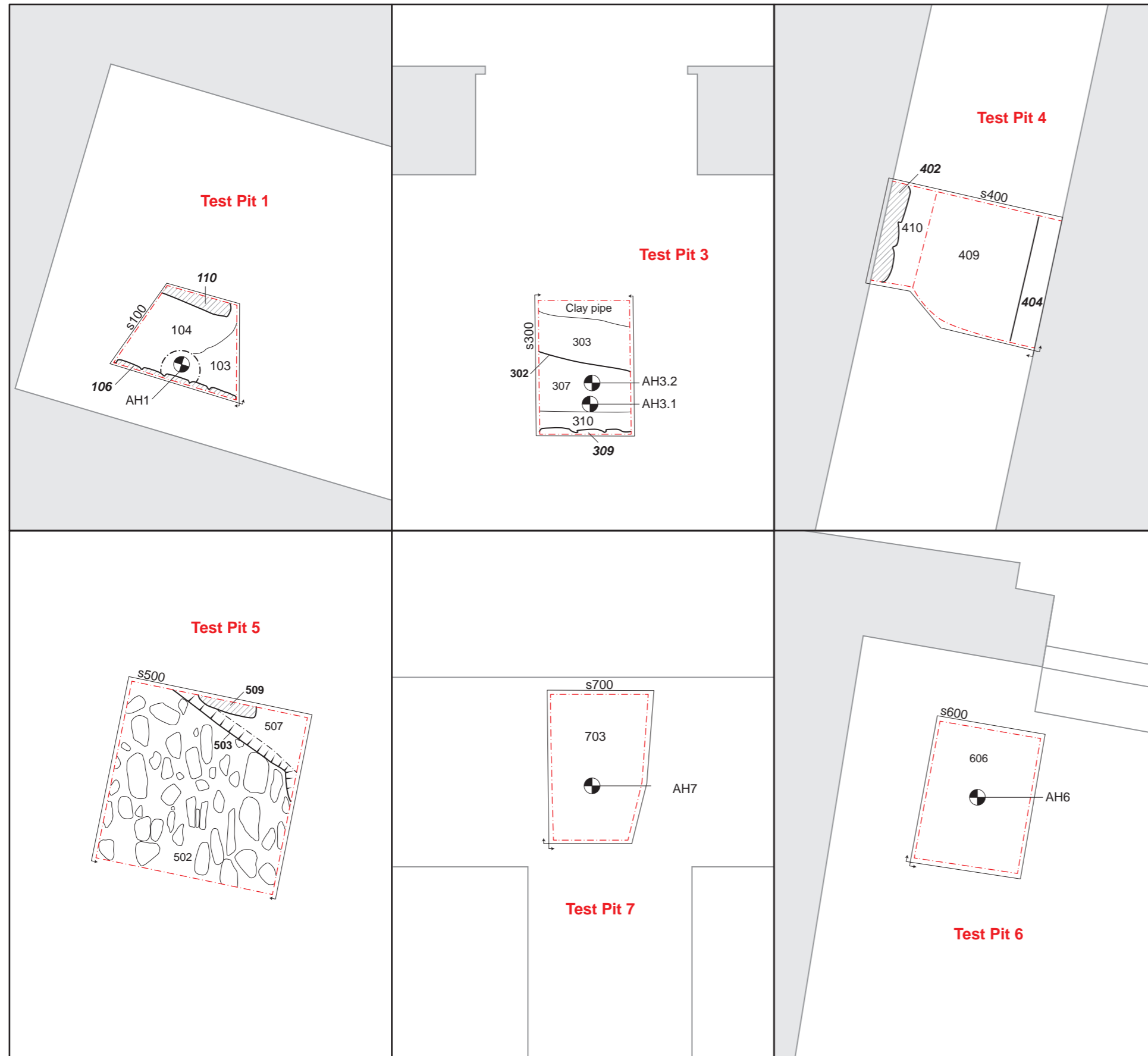


Figure 3: Test pits 1, 3 - 7

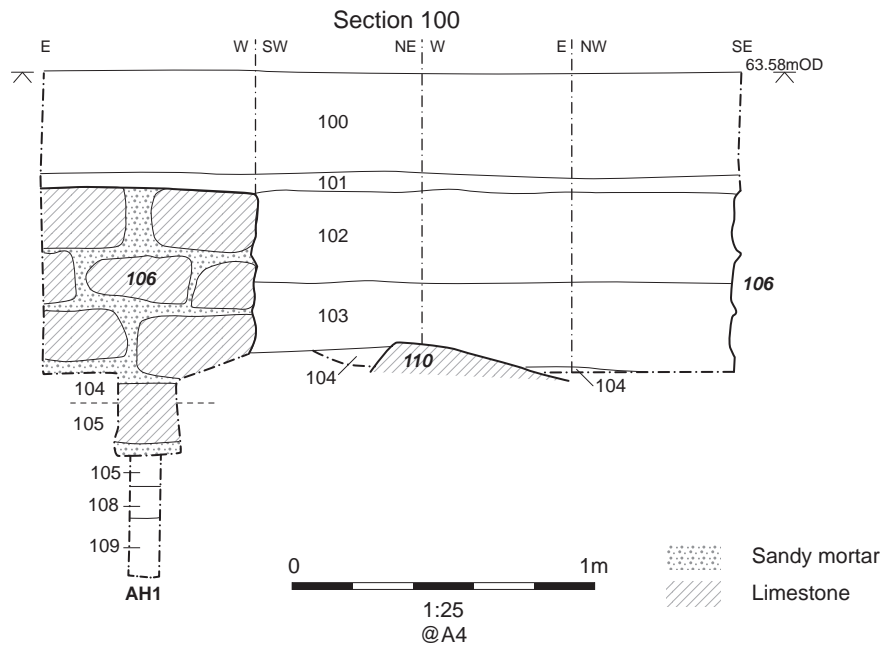


Figure 4: Test Pit 1, Section s100

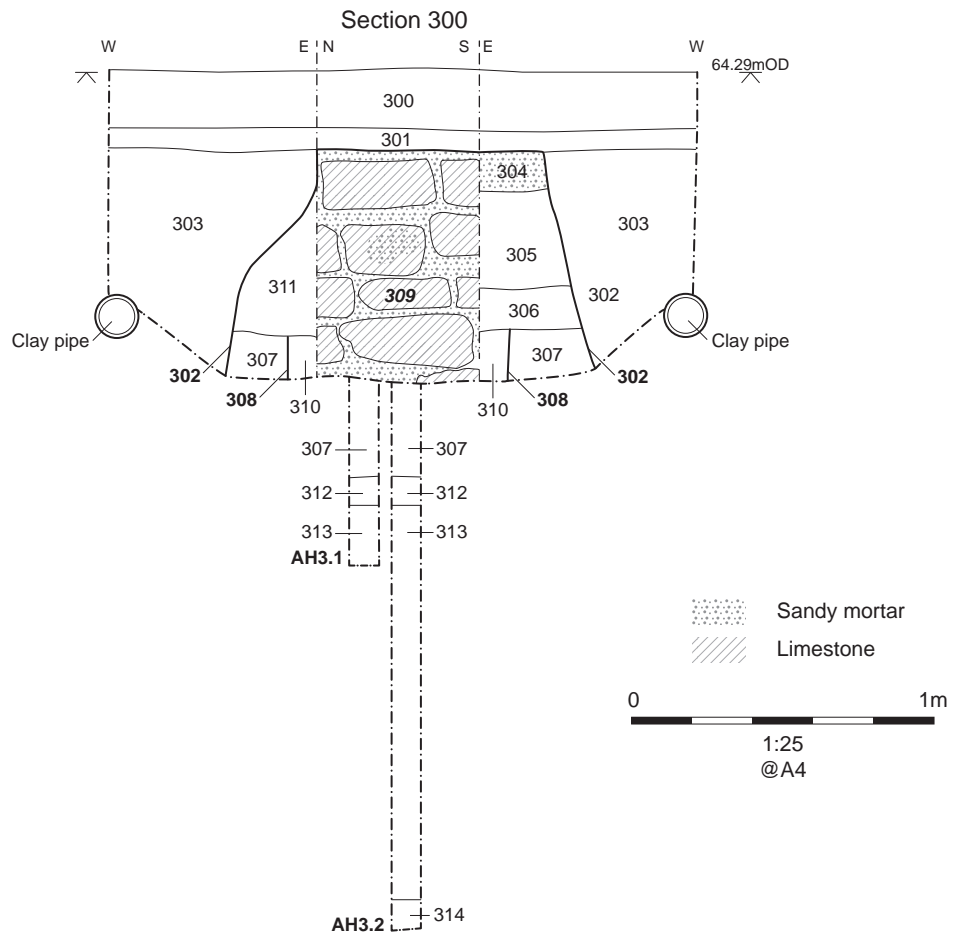


Figure 5: Test Pit 3, Section s300

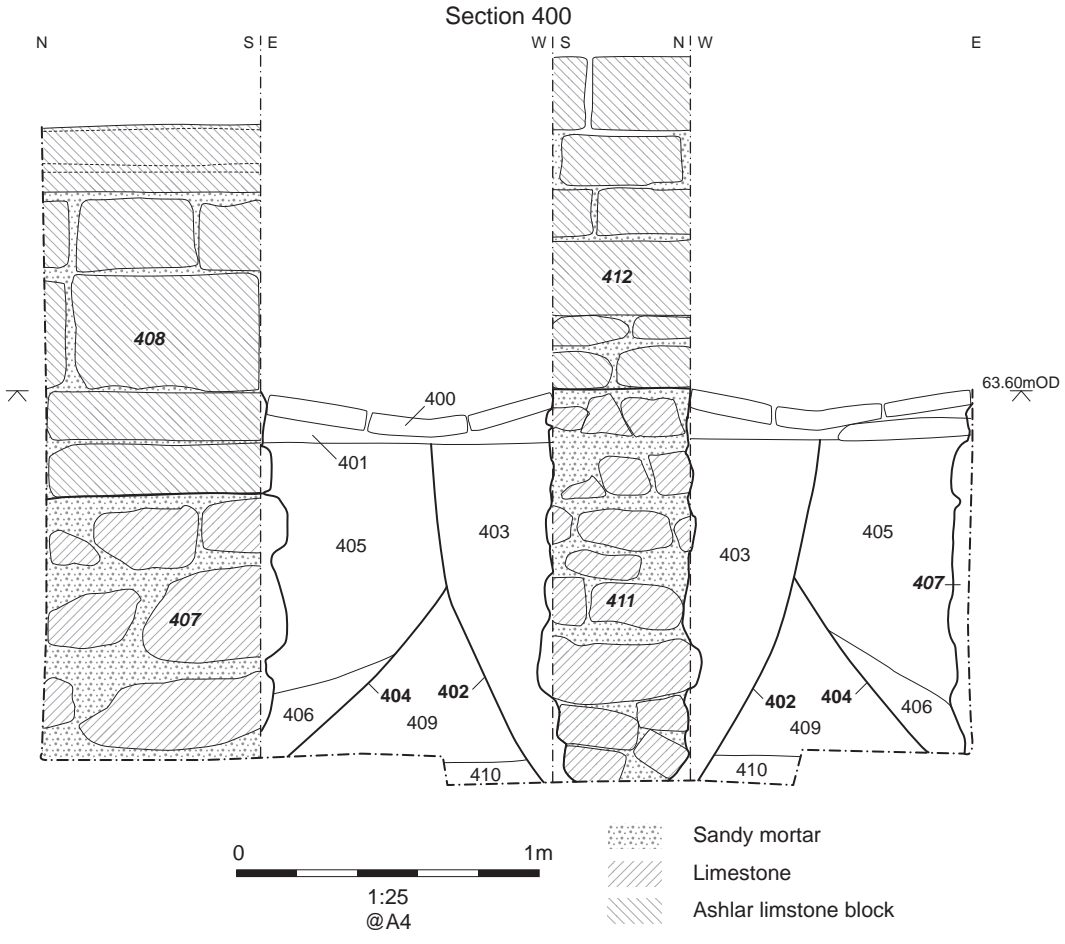


Figure 6: Test Pit 4, Section s400

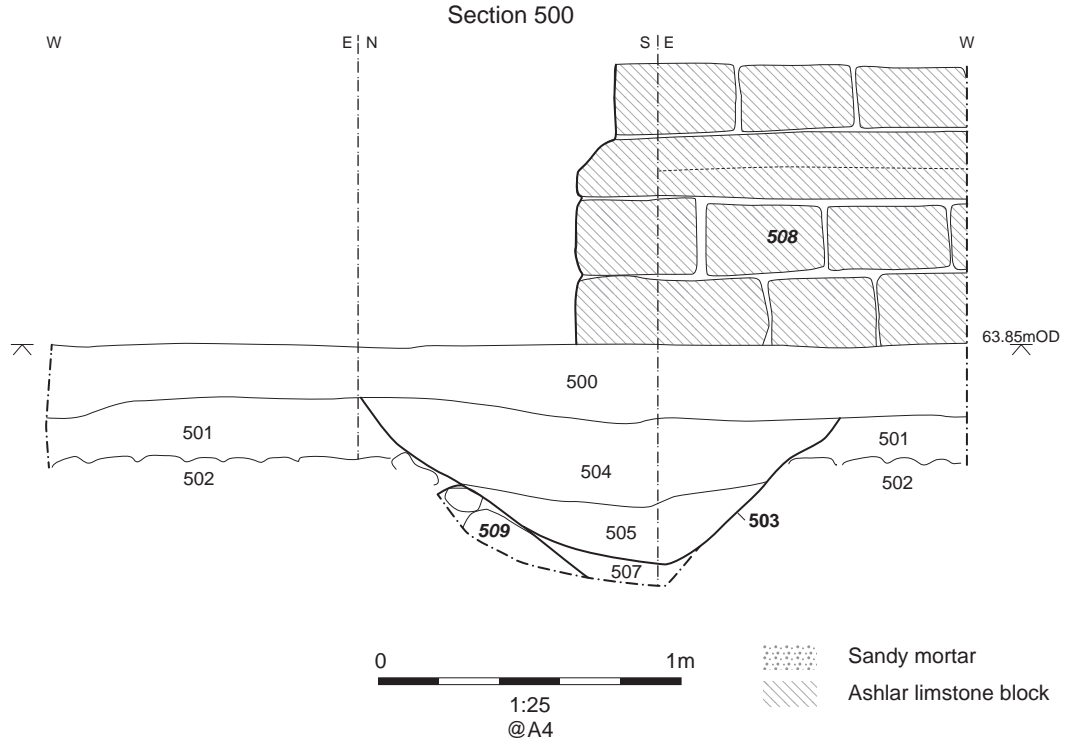


Figure 7: Test Pit 5, Section s500

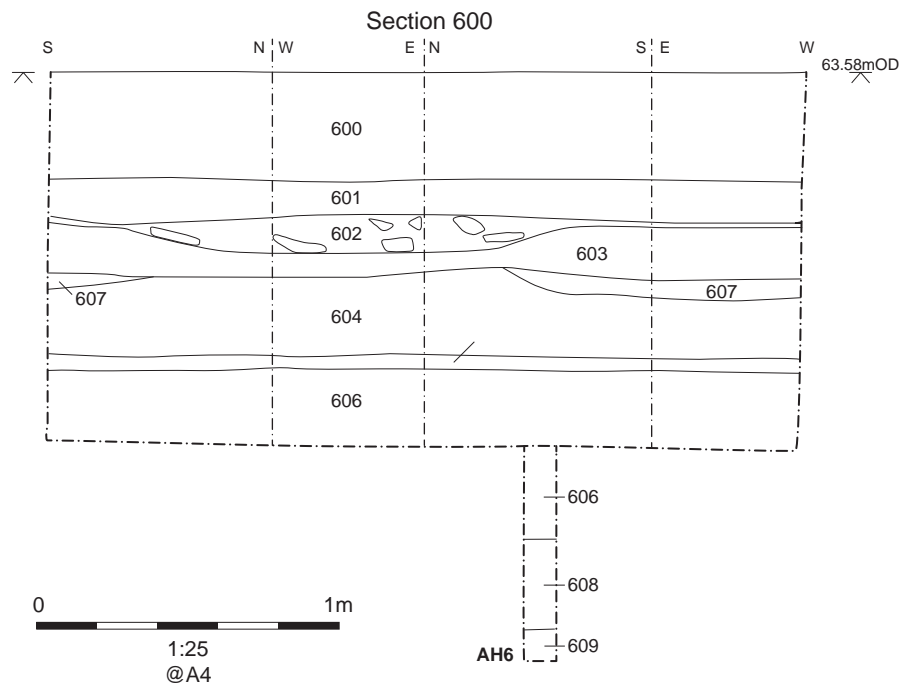


Figure 8: Test Pit 6, Section s600

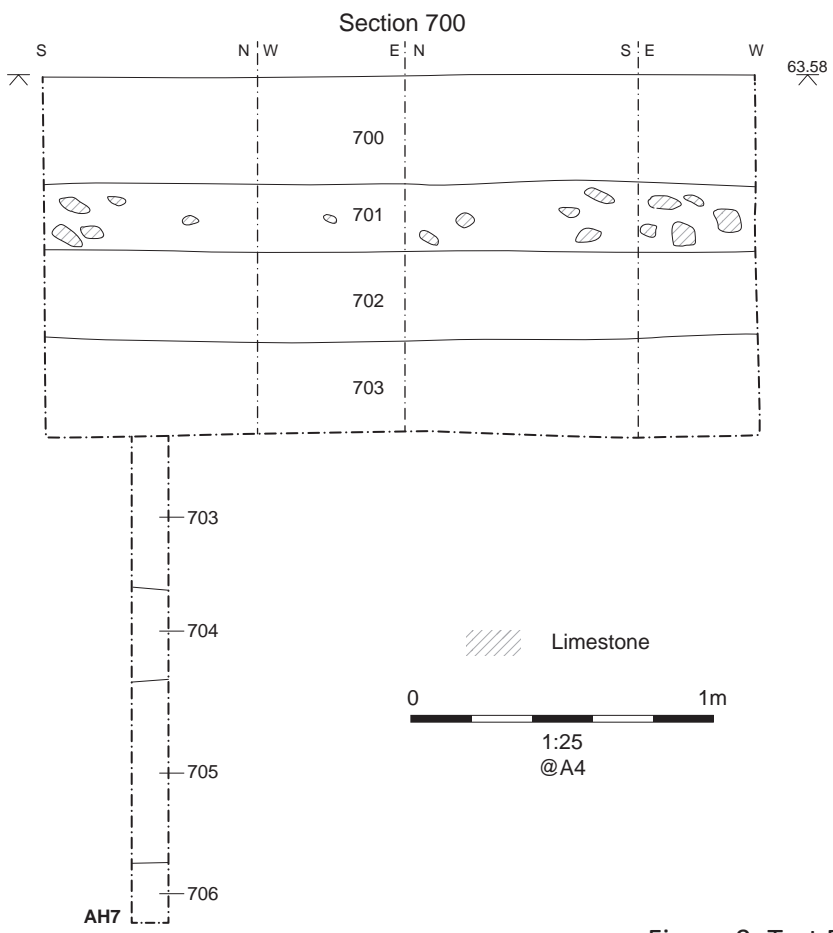


Figure 9: Test Pit 7, Section s700

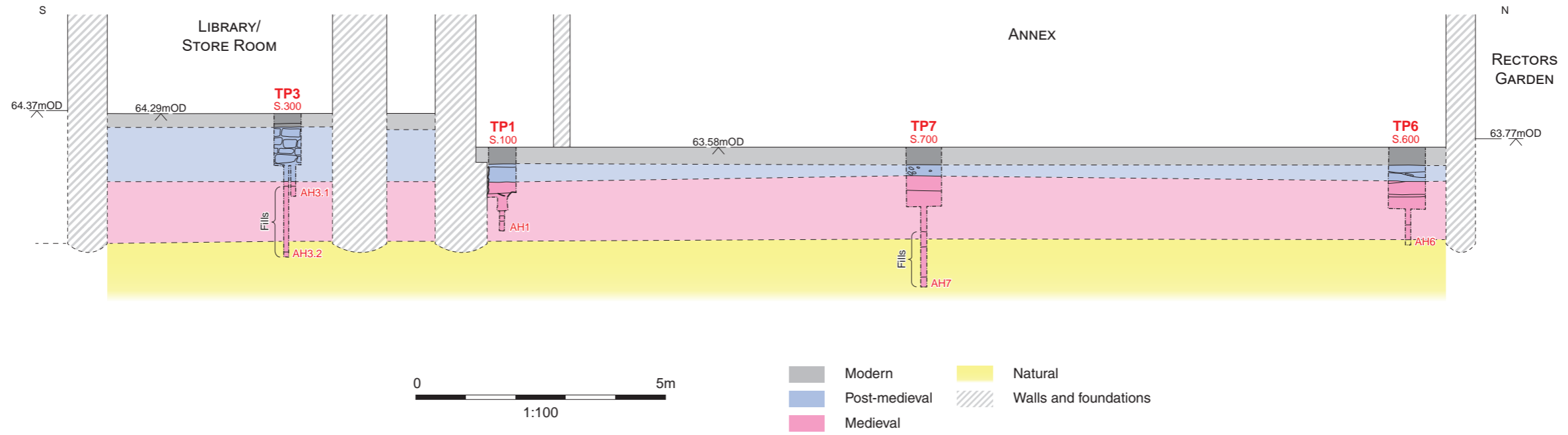


Figure 10: North-South cross section through site with Test Pits and Auger Holes

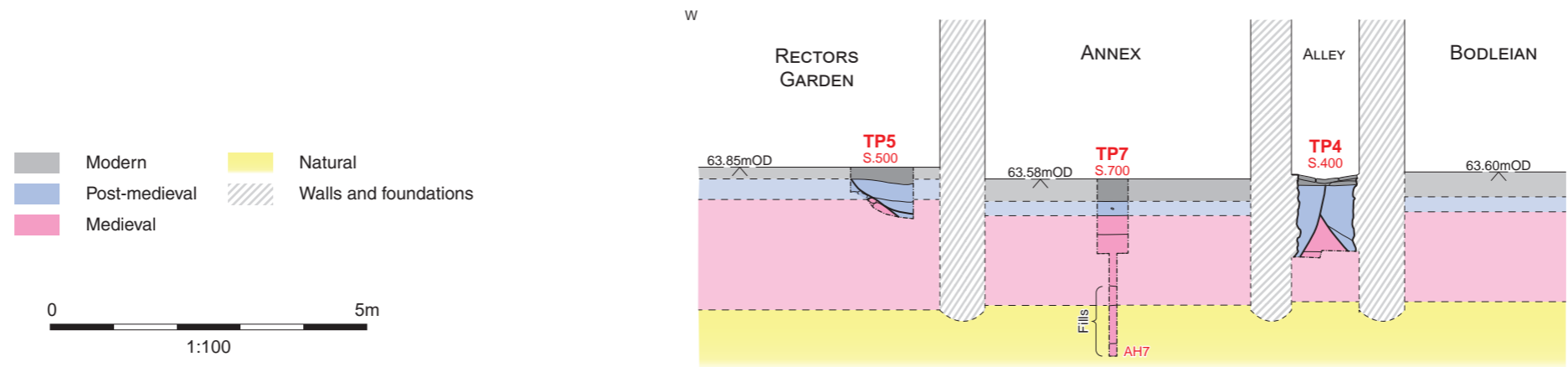


Figure 11: East-West cross section through site with Test Pits and Auger Holes



Plate 1: Test Pit 3, section 300, facing west



Plate 2: Test Pit 3, section 300, facing west



Plate 3: Test Pit 4, section 400, facing south



Plate 4: Test Pit 5, section 500, facing East



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