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Electrical Infrastructure at Hertford College, Oxford

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Contents

Summary.....	vii
Acknowledgements.....	viii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
1.4 Recent archaeological investigation.....	1
2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY.....	3
2.1 Aims.....	3
2.2 Methodology.....	3
3 RESULTS.....	4
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	4
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	4
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	4
3.4 Old Quad: Trenches 1 and 4.....	4
3.5 New Quad: Trenches 2 and 5.....	5
3.6 Holywell Quad: Trench 3.....	6
4 DISCUSSION.....	8
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	8
4.2 Watching Brief objectives and results.....	8
4.3 Interpretation.....	8
4.4 Significance.....	9
APPENDIX A DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY.....	10
APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS.....	14
B.1 Animal Bone.....	14
B.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM).....	14

B.3	Clay Tobacco Pipes	15
B.4	Post-Roman Pottery.....	15
APPENDIX C	BIBLIOGRAPHY	17
APPENDIX D	SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM	18

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Old Quad: Trenches 1 and 4 locations
Fig. 3 New Quad and Holywell Quad: Trenches 2, 3 and 5 locations
Fig. 4 Old Quad: Trenches 1 and 4 sections
Fig. 5 New Quad: Trench 2 section
Fig. 6 Holywell Quad: Trench 3 section

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 2, showing foundation wall 205, looking south
Plate 2 Trench 3, showing wall 309, looking south-west
Plate 3 Trench 3, showing wall 322, looking east

Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Jessop and Cook on behalf of Hertford College to undertake an archaeological watching brief of proposed new service routes at Hertford College.

A total of five trenches were excavated across the College to facilitate the installation of new electrical services. These were located within Old Quad (Trenches 1 and 4), New Quad (Trenches 2 and 5) and Holywell Quad (Trench 3). The trenches varied in size and ranged in depth from 0.40m bgl to 0.90m bgl (63.33m OD – 60.63m OD).

Previously unknown demolished foundation walls recorded within Holywell Quad are considered significant as they probably relate to post-medieval tenements that would have fronted onto Holywell Street during the 17th century. Archaeological deposits and features recorded within Old Quad dating from the post-medieval period are considered to be of some significance, since they could have been contemporary with the later demolition and redevelopment phase of Hertford College during the 19th century.

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Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Hertford College and Jessop and Cook for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to David Radford who monitored the works on behalf of Oxford City Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Ben Ford. The fieldwork was directed by Elizabeth Kennard. Digitizing was carried out by Charles Rousseaux and Matthew Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Jessop and Cook on behalf of Hertford College to undertake an intermittent watching brief of new service routes at Hertford College, henceforth known as the site, which is centred on SP 51621 06498 (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 Although the Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the project, the work was undertaken subject to planning permission. Discussions with David Radford, Oxford City Archaeologist, set out the necessary requirements of the project and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA (2020c).

1.1.3 The current document outlines how Oxford Archaeology implemented the specified requirements. All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is situated within Hertford College, within central Oxford, on the eastern side of Catte Street. The college consists of Old Quad (located within the southern area of the site), New Quad and Holywell Quad (located within the northern area of the site). The site limits are bounded by Holywell Street to the north, Bath Place and St Helen's Passage to the east, All Souls College to the south, and Catte Street to the west.

1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology is recorded as Oxford Clay which is overlain by Summertown-Radley sand and gravel which form the Second Gravel Terrace of the River Thames (BGS 2020).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in an archaeological desk-based assessment produced by Oxford Archaeology (2020a) and will not be reproduced here.

1.4 Recent archaeological investigation

1.4.1 Recent archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the Old Quad at Hertford College. They consist of an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical test pits and boreholes (GEA 2020 and OA 2020b). The watching brief encountered natural gravels only within the three boreholes, at depths between 3.50m (60.37m OD) and 4.10m (59.77m OD) below ground level (bgl). Natural gravels were not observed within any of the test pits. It was anticipated that the natural gravel horizon within the site would be relatively consistent at 3.50m bgl (60.37m OD), meaning that any archaeological deposits encountered below this depth would suggest the presence of archaeological features cutting the gravel horizon which would be of some significance.

1.4.2 Significant archaeological deposits and features most likely dating from the 11th to the 19th centuries were recorded within the test pits, and these are relatively well preserved. The two demolition deposits and demolished wall recorded within the site are considered

significant since they probably relate to the two phases of demolition and redevelopment of Hertford College during the 17th and 19th centuries.

2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits and/or remains that might be damaged or destroyed by the proposed groundworks.

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

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence
- iii. To preserve any significant archaeological remains *in situ* where possible
- iv. To produce a client report, a production of a South Midlands Archaeological note and/or publish, in a local journal, significant archaeological remains.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of four new service trenches (Trenches 1-4) and one pile pit (Trench 5) were excavated by Darke and Taylor with an archaeologist present to record the stratigraphic sequence within each trench. Trenches 1 and 4 were hand excavated to either 0.40m bgl or 0.60m bgl, whilst Trenches 2 and 3 were machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket to 0.60m bgl.

2.2.2 Trench 5 was located in the New Buildings basement to facilitate the installation of a new load bearing support beam which replaces the current brick wall. The trench was excavated by Darke and Taylor using hand breakers to remove the upstanding wall and the foundations to a depth of 0.70m bgl.

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 trenches that contained archaeological remains. Full details of all of the trenches with the dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence was fairly uniform with garden soils and pits overlain by modern service trenches.

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

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological deposits were present in all trenches.

3.4 Old Quad: Trenches 1 and 4

3.4.1 Trenches 1 and 4 were excavated within Old Quad (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was located within the NW corner of the quad and ran NE to SW. It measured 11.80m long by 0.45m wide, and was hand excavated to 0.60m bgl (63.27m OD). Trench 4 was located within the northern path within Old Quad and measured 1.60m long by 1m wide. It was hand excavated to 0.40m bgl (63.47m OD).

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 4)

3.4.2 The earliest archaeological deposits encountered within Trench 1 were garden soils 105 and 106. Garden soil 105 appeared as a mid-brownish-orange sandy silt garden soil with frequent inclusions of subrounded flint gravel and was encountered 0.48m bgl (63.39m OD) towards the north-eastern end of the trench. Garden soil 106 was a firm mid-brownish-orange sandy silt garden soil with frequent inclusions of subangular limestone and was encountered within the central area of Trench 1 at 0.40m bgl (63.47m OD). It could be the same as soil 105.

3.4.3 Overlying garden soil 105 was a firm mid-greyish-brown sandy silt garden soil, 104, with occasional inclusions of limestone fragments, charcoal flecking, degraded oyster shell and subrounded flint gravel, which was encountered at 0.40m bgl (63.47m OD).

3.4.4 Both garden soils 104 and 106 was truncated by a post-medieval pit, 111, which measured 1.28m wide. It was excavated to 0.60m bgl (63.27m OD) and continued beyond the limits of excavation. The earliest fill encountered within the pit was 114, which appeared as a firm mid greyish-brown sandy silt containing very occasional charcoal flecking and subrounded flint gravel. This was overlain by fill 102 which appeared to be a dump of demolition or construction material. It was a firm light greyish-white sandy silt with very occasional charcoal flecking, degraded oyster shell and frequent subangular limestone inclusions. Finds recovered from fill 102 included clay pipe and ceramic building material which date from the late 16th to the early 18th century.

3.4.5 The southern extent of garden soil 106 was truncated by another post-medieval pit, 113, which measured 1.92m wide and was encountered at 0.40m bgl (63.27m OD). The pit was excavated to a depth of 0.60m bgl (63.27m OD) and extended beyond the limits of the excavation. Fill 103 was a firm mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of degraded oyster shell, charcoal flecking and subrounded flint gravel. Finds recovered from fill 103 included ceramic building material which date from the 17th to the early 18th century.

3.4.6 Sealing pits 111 and the north-western extent of pit 113 was a mid-greyish-brown garden soil, 101, which was encountered at 0.20m bgl (63.67m OD). This was cut by a service trench, 107, and modern pit 112. These were encountered between 0.10m bgl (63.77m OD) and 0.32m bgl (63.55m OD), and were in turn overlain by topsoil, 100.

3.4.7 At the south-western end of fill 103, it was truncated by a large modern cut feature 112, possibly construction related. This was heavily truncated by service trench 107. Pit 112 contained a single fill 109, a light brownish-yellow sandy gravel. This was in turn overlain by a concrete slab for the existing pathway, 110.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 4)

3.4.8 The earliest sequence of archaeological deposits (401-404) recorded within Trench 4 were only revealed in the trench section, because service trench 402 extended across the full width of the investigated area.

3.4.9 The earliest archaeological deposit encountered within the section was a firm mid-greyish-brown sandy silty garden soil, 404. This was encountered at 0.22m bgl (63.55m OD). It was overlain by a firm mid-orangish-brown sandy silt, 403, with frequent subrounded flint gravel inclusions. Deposit 403 was encountered at 0.10m bgl (63.77m OD). It was truncated by a service route, 402, which contained a single fill, 401. This, in turn, was overlain by the existing path, 400.

3.5 New Quad: Trenches 2 and 5

3.5.1 Trench 2 was excavated within New Quad and Trench 5 within the basement of the eastern range (Fig. 3). Trench 2 ran NW-SE across the SW corner of the quad and measured 8m long by 0.50m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 0.60m bgl (62.91m OD). Trench 5 was located within the substation and switchboard room within the basement of the eastern range of New Quad and measured 1.80m long by 0.80m wide and was excavated to 0.70m bgl (60.65m OD).

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 5, Plate 1)

3.5.2 The earliest archaeological feature encountered within Trench 2 was the limestone foundation wall, 205, for the existing building (204). This was encountered at 0.18m bgl (63.33m OD) and was exposed to a depth of 0.60m bgl (62.91m OD). Part of either a later brick repair, 203, or perhaps a later garden structure, was seen abutting 205. This was encountered at 0.08m bgl (63.43m OD), at the western extent of the trench. No construction cut for either structure was observed.

3.5.3 Brick structure 203 was abutted by relatively modern made ground, 202, which was truncated by several service routes. The fills of the service routes were overlain by limestone

crush, 201, encountered at 0.08m bgl (63.53m OD), which in turn was overlain by the existing surface 200.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

3.5.4 The earliest feature encountered within Trench 5 consisted of brick foundations, 502, for the current basement wall 501. Whilst no construction cut was visible within the trench it was apparent that the two abutting deposits 507 and 503 are most likely backfill for the construction cut. Construction backfill 507 was a pale brownish-yellow fine sand. This was overlain by fill 503, which was a loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt with clinker, subrounded flint gravel and degraded ceramic building material pieces.

3.5.5 Fill 503 was overlain by a modern levelling deposit, 506, which was encountered at 0.15m bgl (61.20m OD). This was a firm pale brownish-yellow silty sand. Overlaying this was concrete bedding 505, encountered at 0.08m bgl (61.27m OD), which was in turn overlain by the existing concrete floor.

3.6 Holywell Quad: Trench 3

3.6.1 A single trench was excavated within Holywell Quad, Trench 3, and ran N-S from the south-west corner of the quad to the quad entrance leading to Holywell Street, and largely followed the path of existing services. The trench measured 0.80m wide by c30m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.90m bgl (61.44m OD) across the quad. Within the southern entrance to the quad, however, the trench measured 0.50m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.60m bgl (61.74m OD).

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 6, Plates 2 and 3)

3.6.2 Archaeology was only encountered within the northern end of the trench. The earliest archaeological features encountered were an E-W aligned limestone foundation wall, 309, and a N-S aligned limestone foundation wall, 322. It should be noted, however, that due to modern truncation there was no apparent construction cut visible within the trench for either of the walls.

3.6.3 Foundation wall 309 was encountered at 0.50m bgl (61.84m OD). It measured 0.40m wide and was exposed to a depth of 0.26m. It continued beyond the limits of excavation, and was abutted on the N-W face by garden soil 316 which was encountered at 0.60m bgl (61.74m OD). This appeared as a firm mid greyish-brown clayey silt containing occasional inclusions of charcoal flecking, degraded ceramic building material, subrounded flint gravel, and burnt limestone fragments.

3.6.4 Overlying 316 was garden soil 315 which was a firm mid yellowish-brown sandy silt which contained very occasional degraded animal bone and limestone, charcoal flecking, and subrounded flint gravel. This was encountered at 0.40m bgl (61.94m OD). Finds consisting of clay pipe and pottery dating from 1650 to 1800 were recovered from both garden soils 316 and 315.

3.6.5 Garden soil 315 was cut by a post-medieval pit, 312, which had near vertical sides and was encountered at 0.40m bgl (61.94m OD). The pit measured 1.20m across and contained three fills (313 and 320-321). The earliest fill encountered within the pit was fill 313. This was a firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecking,

subrounded flint gravel, and degraded ceramic building material. It was overlain by fill 321 which was a friable greyish-white sandy mortar. This was in turn overlain by fill 320, a friable mid orangish-brown sandy silt with very occasional subrounded flint gravel, charcoal and degraded ceramic building material. Pottery recovered from fill 313 dated from 1580 to 1750.

3.6.6 Fill 320 was truncated by modern service 302 which contained a single fill, 303, a loose mid brownish-grey sandy silt which contained modern rubble. Garden soil 315 was also truncated on the N-W side by the construction cut, 317, for the existing college building, 319. The construction cut measured 0.30m to 0.50m wide from the wall and contained a single fill, 318, which was a mid-greyish-brown sandy silt which contained degraded ceramic building material.

3.6.7 Foundation wall 322, located just north of foundation wall 309, was encountered at 0.28m bgl (62.06m OD). It measured 0.65m long by 0.55m wide and was exposed to a depth of 0.26m. It continued beyond the limits of excavation and was overlain by modern made ground 324.

3.6.8 The made ground, 324, service route 302 and construction backfill 318 were overlain by modern concrete, 311, which was in turn overlain by the existing paved surface, 300.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence was well understood across all of the trenches. The watching brief has shown that archaeological deposits survive within the site away from areas of cut by various service routes and construction cuts for the current college buildings.

4.2 Watching Brief objectives and results

4.2.1 The watching brief confirmed the presence of archaeological deposits and features such as foundation walls, garden soils and pits surviving at depths between 0.22m bgl (63.55m OD) and 0.40m bgl (63.47m OD) across the site.

4.3 Interpretation

Old Quad

4.3.1 The archaeology encountered within Old quad consisted largely of post-medieval garden soils and pits dating from the late 16th to the early 18th century. Compared to Trench 4, Trench 1, located within the central grassed area of the quad, appears to have had significantly less impact from modern activity with archaeological deposits being encountered at 0.40m bgl (63.47m OD) throughout the entire trench.

4.3.2 The recent ground investigations undertaken by Geotechnical and Environmental Associates within Old Quad (OA 2020b and GEA 2020) indicated possible ground disturbance within the route of Trench 1 (GEA 2020, fig.19), and it is most likely that these were pits 112 and 113. The ground survey results also showed that the natural gravels are located at 3.50m bgl (60.37m OD) and that archaeological deposits encountered below this level suggest the presence of archaeological cut features.

New Quad

4.3.3 Due to the fact that it was relatively shallow (0.60m bgl), no significant archaeological deposits (other than the foundation walls for the existing college buildings along with modern deposits and service routes) were encountered Trench 2 nor were any found within Trench 5.

Holywell Quad

4.3.4 Archaeological deposits within Holywell Quad were only encountered within the northern area of the trench due to modern truncation by service routes. The archaeology encountered within this area included two previous unknown limestone walls, which probably date to the post-medieval period, as Logan's map of Oxford (1675) is the first historical map to show tenements fronting onto Holywell Street. It is thus possible that these now demolished walls were related to one of these tenements as the overlying garden soil deposits date from between the 17th and 18th centuries.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 Previously unknown demolished foundation walls recorded within Holywell Quad are considered significant because they could relate to post-medieval tenements that would have fronted onto Holywell Street during the 17th century.

4.4.2 Archaeological deposits and features recorded within Old Quad dating from the post-medieval period are considered to be of some significance, since they could have been contemporary with the later demolition and redevelopment phase of Hertford College during the 19th century.

APPENDIX A DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
The trench contained garden soil 106 in the centre of the trench and garden soil 105 in the north east end. Deposit 105 was overlain by garden soil 104. Garden soil 106 was truncated by pit 113 and pit 111 (filled by 114 and 102). Pit 113 was truncated by modern feature 112, filled by 109, on its western extent and overlain by garden soil 101 on its eastern extent. Garden soil 101 was seen across the entire trench and overlay 111 to the north. Garden soil 101 was truncated by service trench 107 which was filled by 108. Topsoil 100 overlay all, bar the western end, where the current resin bound path was seen overlaying fill 109.					Length (m)	12.00
					Width (m)	0.60
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.20	Garden soil	-	-
102	Fill	0.28	>0.22	Fill of pit 111	CBM Clay tobacco pipe	L16thC-17thC L17thC-E18thC
103	Fill	1.90	>0.24	Fill of pit 113	Animal Bone CBM	- 17thC-E18thC
104	Layer	-	0.40	Garden soil	-	-
105	Layer	-	>0.12	Garden soil	-	-
106	Layer	-	>0.20	Garden soil	-	-
107	Cut	1.30	0.45	Modern service cut	-	-
108	Fill	1.30	0.45	Fill of 107	-	-
109	Fill	3.60	>0.32	Fill of 112	-	-
110	Layer	-	0.10	Current resin bound path	-	-
111	Cut	2.30	>0.22	Cut of pit	-	-
112	Cut	3.60	>0.32	Modern cut	-	-
113	Cut	1.90	>0.24	Cut of pit	-	-
114	Fill	1.15	>0.20	Fill of 111	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
The trench contained the limestone foundation wall 205 for the current upstanding college building 204, with brick repair 203 in the western end of the trench. No construction cut was observed. This was overlain by modern made ground 202 which was truncated by several modern service trenches. These were overlain by limestone crush 201, which was leveling/bedding for the current paved quad surface 200.					Length (m)	8.00
					Width (m)	0.45
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

200	Layer	-	0.08	Paved surface	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.15	Levelling/bedding for surface 200	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.40	Modern made ground	-	-
203	Structure	0.32	0.60	Brick foundation repair	-	-
204	Structure	-	-	Upstanding college building	-	-
205	Structure	-	>0.55	Foundation wall	-	-
206	Cut	-	-	Construction cut	-	-

Trench 3							
General description				Orientation	N-S		
Archaeology was seen in the northern end of the trench and consisted of limestone walls 309 and 322. Wall 322 was overlain by modern made ground 324 which was overlain in turn by reinforced concrete 311 and the current paved surface 300. Wall 309 was abutted by garden soil 316 and was overlain by garden soil 315 which was truncated by pit 312 (filled by 320, 321, and 313) to the east and the construction cut, 307 (filled by 318) for upstanding college building 319 to the west. Pit 302 was truncated by modern service 302, which was in turn overlain by reinforced concrete 311 and the current paved surface 300. The southern end of the trench contained no archaeology and consisted of modern demolition layer 307, overlain by tiled surface 306 (though this is likely part of 307), and a thick layer of poured concrete 305. The remains of a truncated brick manhole 308 were also seen. All were truncated by service trenches 302 and 310, with 326 being seen to the north. All were overlain by levelling bedding layer 301 and current paved surface 300.				Length (m)			
				Width (m)	0.80	-	0.45
				Avg. depth (m)	0.80		
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
300	Layer	-	0.08	Current paved surface	-	-	
301	Layer	-	0.24	Bedding for 300	-	-	
302	Cut	-	>0.60	Service trench	-	-	
303	Fill	-	>0.60	Fill of 302	-	-	
304	Fill	-	>0.60	Fill of 310	-	-	
305	Fill	-	0.45	Fill of 310	-	-	
306	Layer	1.00	0.08	Tile surface?	-	-	
307	Layer	-	0.25	Made ground	-	-	
308	Structure	1.20	0.60	Brick manhole	-	-	
309	Structure	0.40	0.30	E-W limestone foundation wall	-	-	
310	Cut	-	>0.60	Service trench	-	-	
311	Layer	-	0.35	Reinforced concrete	-	-	
312	Cut	1.45	>0.40	Pit	-	-	
313	Fill	1.20	>0.40	Fill of 312	Pottery	C1580-1750?	
314	Cut	-	-	Construction cut for 309	-	-	

315	Layer	-	0.22	Garden soil?/made ground	Pottery	C1650-1800
316	Layer	-	>0.20	Garden soil	Clay tobacco pipe	L17thC – E18thC
317	Cut	0.22	>0.40	Construction cut for 319	-	-
318	Fill	0.22	>0.40	Fill of 317	-	-
319	Structure	-	-	Upstanding college building	-	-
320	Fill	0.98	0.12	Fill of 312	-	-
321	Fill	1.00	0.60	Fill of 312	-	-
322	Structure	0.55	>0.25	N-S limestone foundation wall	-	-
323	Cut	-	-	Construction cut for 322	-	-
324	Layer	-	>0.25	Made ground	-	-
325	Fill	-	-	Fill of 326	-	-
326	Cut	-	-	Service cut	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	N-S
The trench contained of garden soil 404, overlain by levelling deposit 403. This was truncated by modern service trench 402 and filled by 401. All were overlain by current path 400.					Length (m)	1.60
					Width (m)	1.00
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.10	Resin bound path	-	-
401	Fill	1.00	0.30	Fill of 402	-	-
402	Cut	1.00	0.30	Service cut	-	-
403	Layer	-	0.12	Levelling	-	-
404	Layer	-	>0.18	Garden soil	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N-S
The Trench consisted of construction cut 504 filled by brick foundation wall 502 and upstanding basement wall 501, overlain by construction cut backfills 507, 503 and 508, overlain by made ground/levelling 506 and bedding 505 for current concrete floor 500.					Length (m)	1.80
					Width (m)	0.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.08	Concrete floor	-	-
501	Structure	0.47	-	Upstanding basement wall	-	-
502	Structure	0.80	>0.70	Foundation wall	-	-
503	Fill	-	0.45	Fill of 504	-	-
504	Cut	-	-	Construction cut	-	-
505	Layer	-	0.06	Made ground	-	-
506	Layer	-	0.12	Made ground/levelling	-	-
507	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of 504	-	-

508	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of 504	-	-
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APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Animal Bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A single fragment of animal bone weighting 28g was recovered from context 103.

Description

B.1.2 The bone is a medium mammal (cf sheep/goat) right tibia shaft that lacks both the proximal and the distal ends but is otherwise largely intact and in good condition. The bone has been chopped through mid-shaft from the lateral side and also exhibits a small cut to the lateral aspect just above the chop and a fine cut mark further up the shaft that was probably a result of stripping meat from the bone. The proximal end of the bone has been gnawed by a carnivore, probably a dog.

B.1.3 Beyond demonstrating the survival of bone in good condition, as a single item the bone has little research value.

Recommendations for retention/dispersal

B.1.4 The bone does not merit retention in the archive.

B.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

By John Cotter

Description

B.2.1 Four pieces of CBM weighing 373g were recovered from two contexts. Given the small amount these have not been separately catalogued but are fully described below.

B.2.2 **Context (102) Spot-date: Late 16th to 17th century?** Description: 2 pieces (weight 235g). Brick rubble. Possibly from the same brick? Or from 2 bricks in an identical fabric? Early-style handmade bricks, probably unfrosted. The largest piece retains a corner/angle from the long (stretcher) side. The surviving thickness of the latter brick is 58mm+. The smaller piece also has a trace of a corner/angle. Both have a soft light orange-buff fabric with abundant pellets and swirls of red-brown clay, plus a few white/cream pellets and very little sand content. Bricks in this fabric are common in 16th- and 17th-century deposits in Oxford. Both pieces are partly coated with a limey (post-deposition) deposit. They are probably residual in their context.

B.2.3 **Context (103) Spot-date: 17th to early 18th century?** Description: 2 pieces (weight 138g). 1x fresh fragment from the corner of a brick end in the same light orange fabric as in context (102) above. No complete or near-complete dimensions preserved. The brick is well-made with fairly sharp angles (arises) suggesting a slightly later spot-date than those in (102). Also coated on the broken underside with a thin limey deposit. The second item here (56g), is a fairly abraded lower edge fragment from a medieval ridge tile (probably 13th-14th century).

This has a cream-coloured sandy fabric with a large patch of light green glaze on the outer surface. It may be a product of the Brill/Boarstall tileries in west Buckinghamshire (Fabric 3A).

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.2.4 The CBM has very little potential for further analysis. As it has been adequately recorded it could be discarded if so desired.

B.3 Clay Tobacco Pipes

By John Cotter

Description

B.3.1 Three pieces of clay pipe weighing 23g were recovered from two contexts. Given the small amount these have not been separately catalogued but are fully described below.

B.3.2 **Context (102) Spot-date: Late 17th to early 18th century.** Description: 2 pieces (weight 10g). Fairly fresh condition. Comprises 1 stem fragment with a fairly narrow stem bore diameter but with a 'chunky', early, appearance giving the spot-date above. The second piece is a short length of stem with traces of a bowl base (possibly a stubby heeled bowl form?), and a larger stem bore diameter (c 3.5mm) suggesting a mid- to late 17th-century date for this piece.

B.3.3 **Context (316) Spot-date: Late 17th to early 18th century.** Description: 1 piece (weight 13g). Fresh stem fragment (107mm long). Weakly burnished. 'Chunky', early, appearance with a stem bore diameter of c 2.5mm suggesting the spot-date given above.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.3.4 The pipes here are really only of use for dating and have little potential for further analysis. As they have been adequately recorded they could be discarded if so desired.

B.4 Post-Roman Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.4.1 A total of 2 sherds of pottery weighing 48g were recovered from two contexts. Both sherds are post-medieval. Given the small quantity present, they have not been separately catalogued but are fully described below. Post-medieval fabric codes used here are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014).

Description

B.4.2 Context (313) Spot-date: c 1580-1750? Description: 1 sherd (weight 41g). Everted rim sherd from a neckless globular jar in post-medieval red earthenware, with orange-brown glaze internally (PMR, c 1580-1900). This example probably no later than c 1750? Fairly abraded.

B.4.3 Context (315) Spot-date: c 1650-1800. Description: 1 sherd (weight 7g). Fresh body sherd in Staffordshire-type coarse earthenware (STCO, c 1650-1800). Possibly from a thin-walled ovoid jug or mug with a band of deep grooving/ribbing on the shoulder. No definite evidence of glaze, but a light greenish opaque material survives in the deep grooves, which might be a decayed glaze? Or perhaps traces of green paint?

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.4.4 The pottery here has very little potential for further analysis and could be discarded if so desired.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/home.html>

Geotechnical & Environmental Associates (GEA), 2020, Hertford College, Catte Street, Oxford, OX1 3BW, Desk Study and Ground Investigation Report, unpublished client report

OA, 2020a, Hertford College Library, Oxford, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, unpublished client report

OA, 2020b, Hertford College Library Watching Brief Report, unpublished client report

OA, 2020c, Hertford College Electrical Infrastructure Written Scheme of Investigation, unpublished client report

APPENDIX D**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM**

Site name:	Hertford College Electrical Infrastructure, Oxford
Site code:	OXHELU20
Grid Reference	SP 51621 06498
Type:	Watching Brief
Date and duration:	September 2020, 6 days
Area of Site	5520 m ²
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: OXCMS:2020.68.

Summary of Results:

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Jessop and Cook on behalf of Hertford College to undertake an archaeological watching brief of proposed new service routes at Hertford College.

A total of five trenches were excavated across the College to facilitate the installation of new electrical services. These were located within Old Quad (Trenches 1 and 4), New Quad (Trenches 2 and 5) and Holywell Quad (Trench 3). The trenches varied in size and ranged in depth from 0.40m bgl to 0.90m bgl (63.33m OD – 60.63m OD).

Previously unknown demolished foundation walls recorded within Holywell Quad are considered significant as they probably relate to post-medieval tenements that would have fronted onto Holywell Street during the 17th century. Archaeological deposits and features recorded within Old Quad dating from the post-medieval period are considered to be of some significance, since they could have been contemporary with the later demolition and redevelopment phase of Hertford College during the 19th century.

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.		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"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media

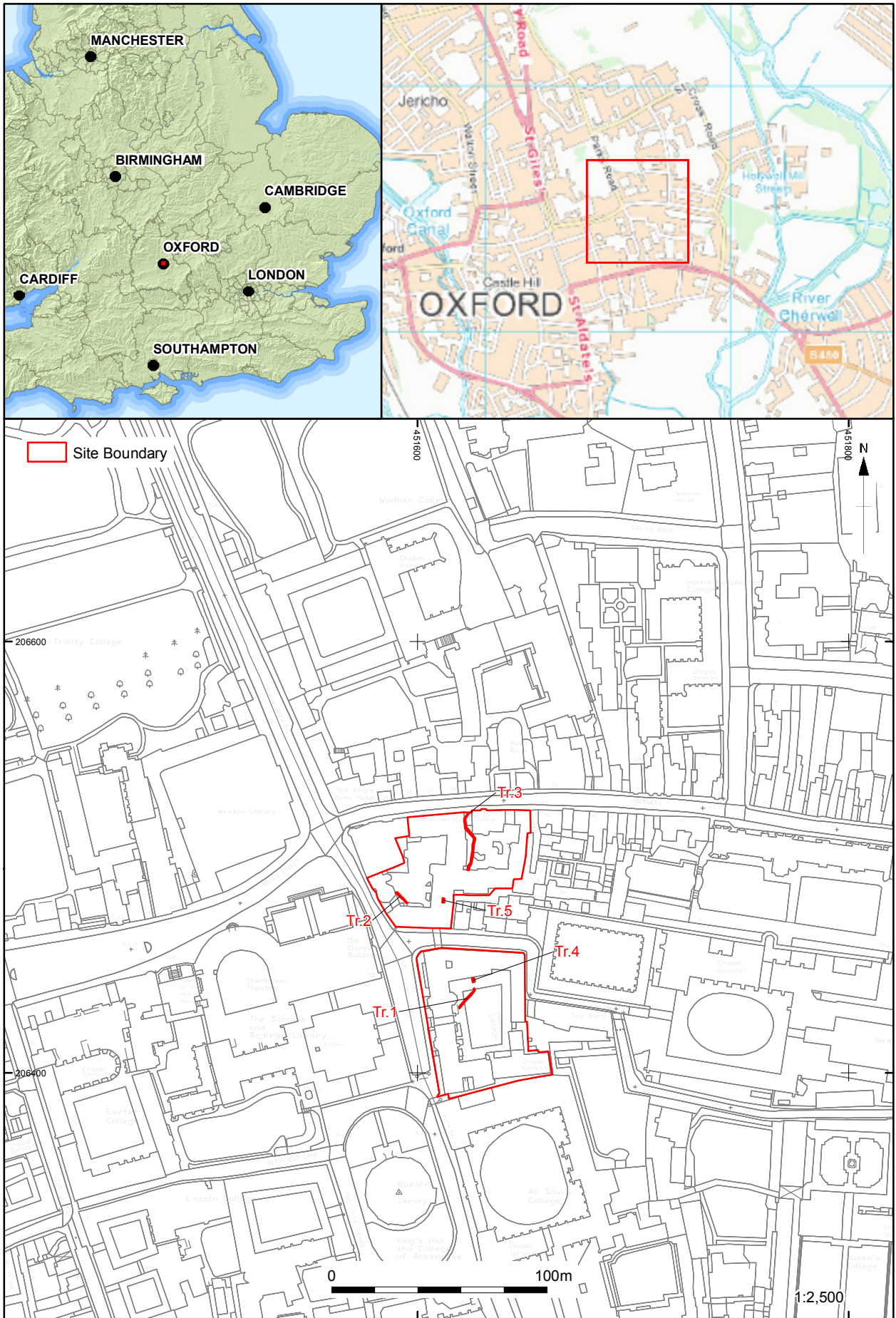
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GIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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

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Figure 1: Site location

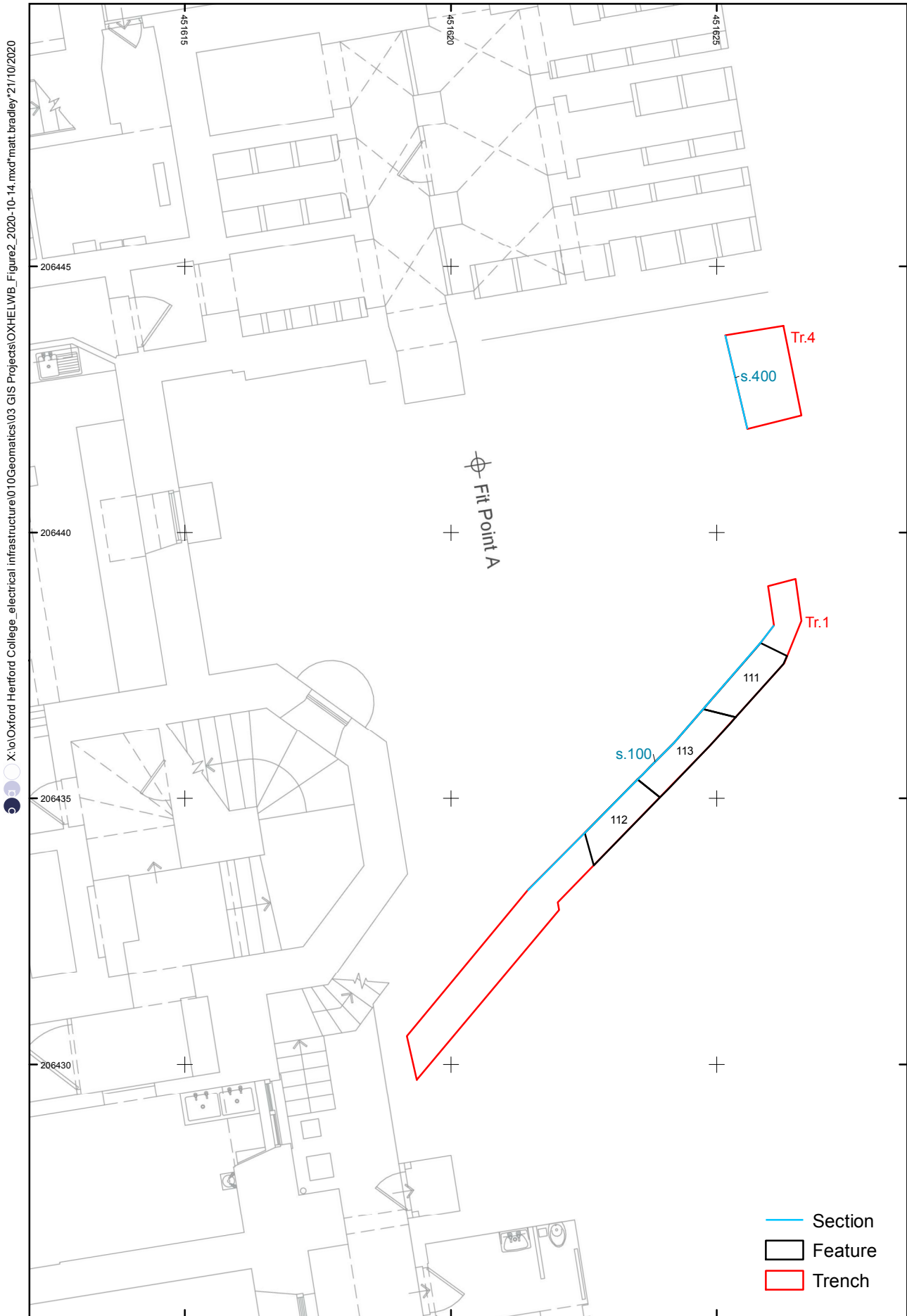
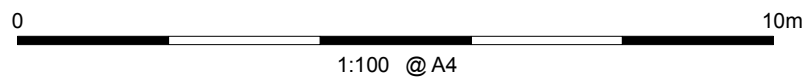


Figure 2: Old Quad: Trenches 1 and 4 locations



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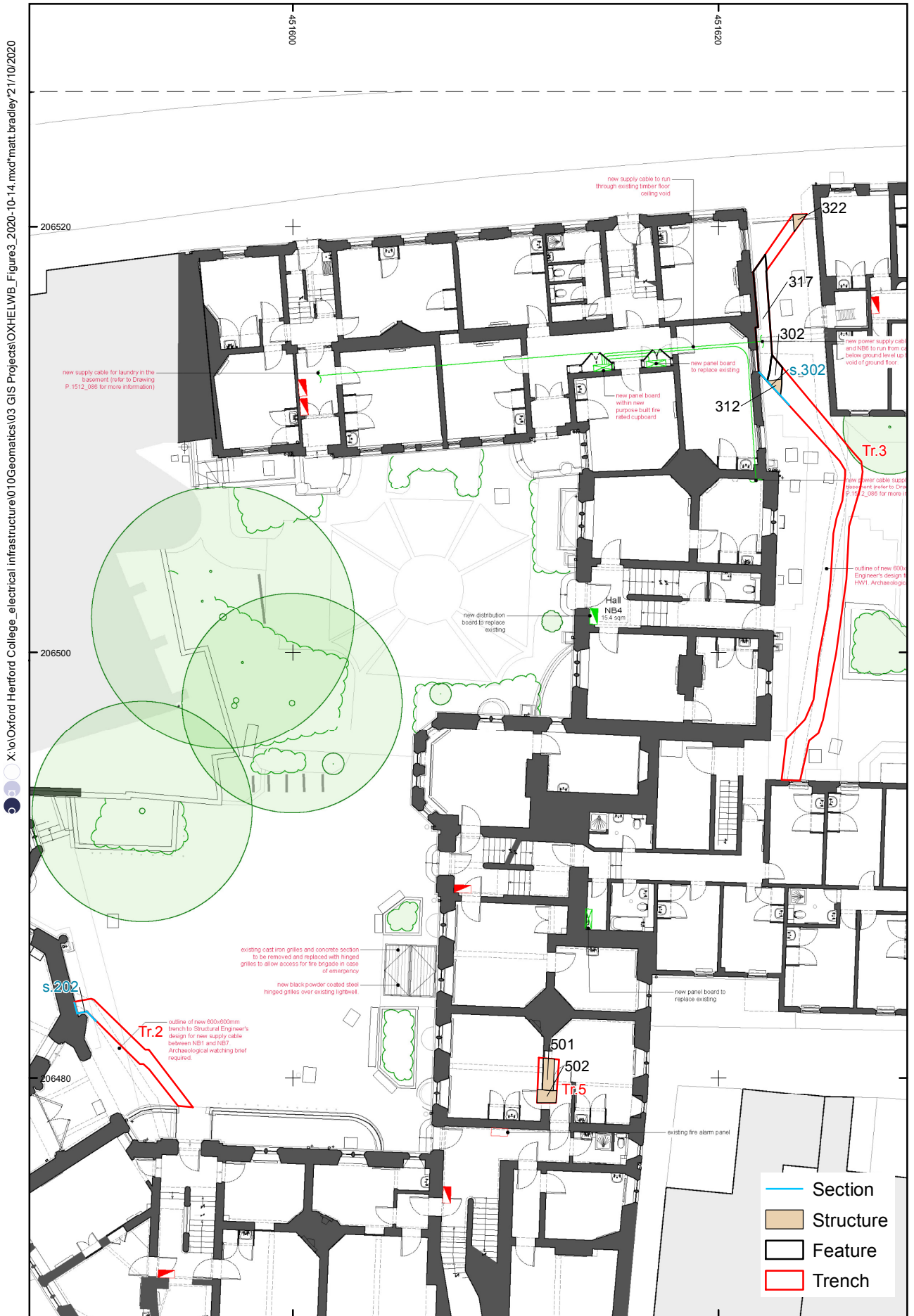
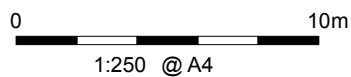


Figure 3: New Quad and Holywell Quad: Trenches 2, 3 and 5 locations



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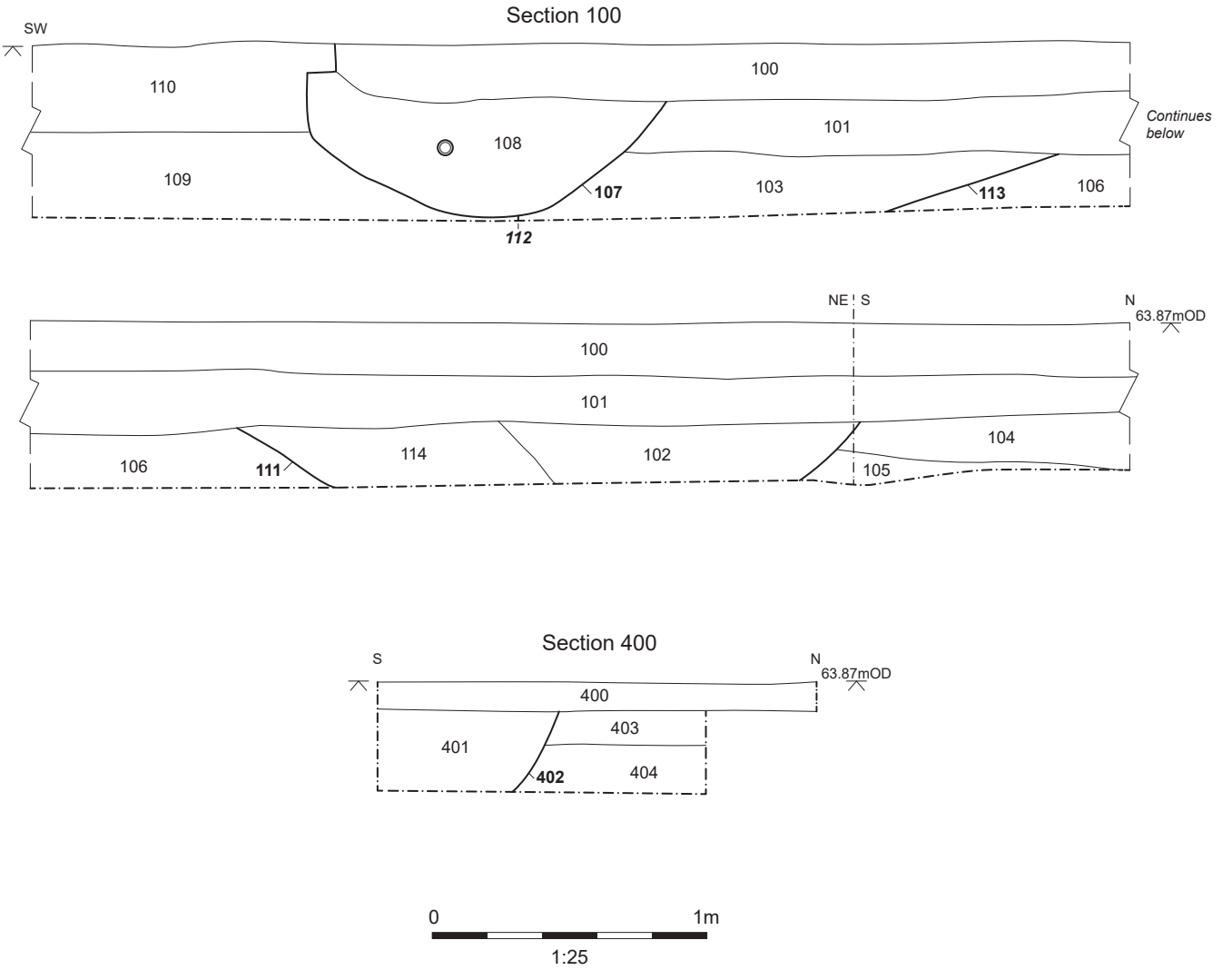


Figure 4: Old Quad: Trenches 1 and 4 sections

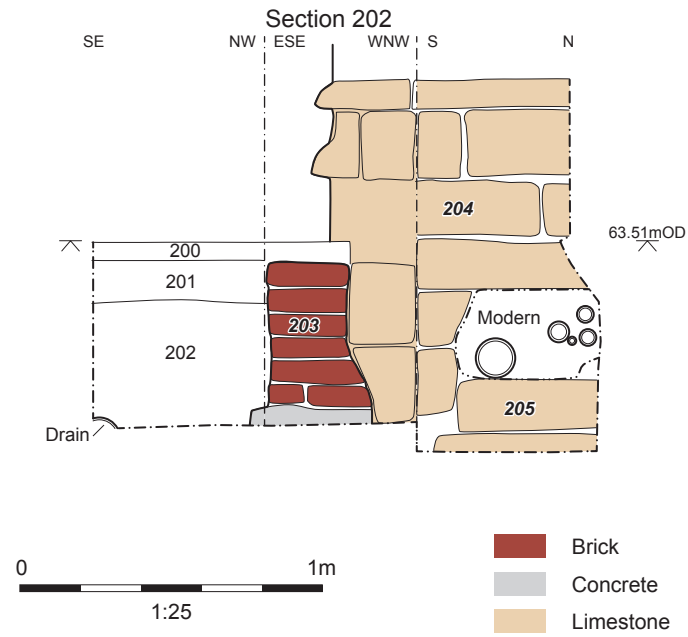


Figure 5: New Quad: Trench 2 section

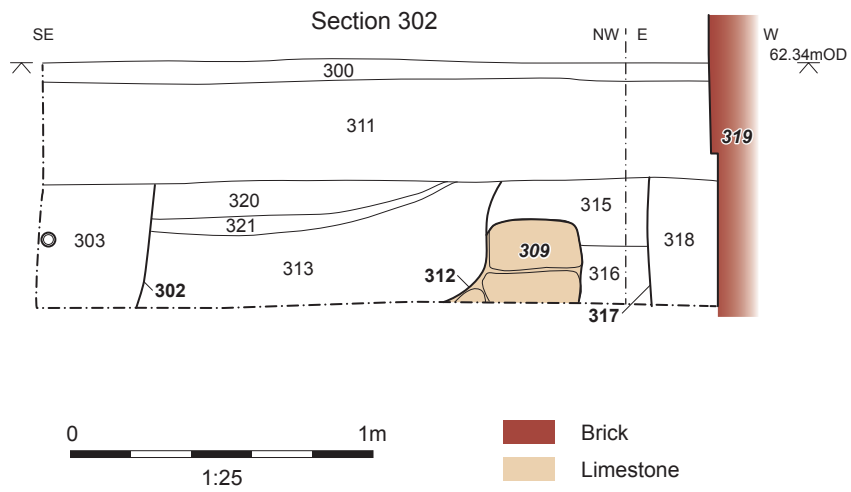


Figure 6: Holywell Quad: Trench 3 section



Plate 1: Trench 2, showing foundation wall 205, looking south



Plate 2: Trench 3, showing wall 309, looking south-west



Plate 3: Trench 3, showing wall 322, looking east



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