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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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New Library and Academic Centre, St Anne's College, Oxford

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Summary

Between 13 November 2014 and 7 April 2015 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief, comprising five trenches and an area of ground reduction on behalf of St Anne's College, Woodstock Road, Oxford. Although no features datable prior to the 15th to 16th century were found, pottery and ceramic building material of medieval date and a single sherd of Roman mortarium found in later deposits may suggest activity from these periods in the vicinity.

Several pits containing late medieval/early post medieval pottery and other material were found with mixed-in residual medieval material from relatively high status buildings. The majority of the pits originally appear to have been dug as quarries before being backfilled with largely sterile deposits with only an occasional dump of waste material. Two intercutting field boundary ditches aligned NW/SE were from the same late medieval-early post medieval period.

Foundations and services pertaining to 19th century houses and the former kitchen block of St Anne's College, built in 1959, had removed much of the archaeological evidence on the site.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Oxford City Council have granted planning permission to St Anne's College, Oxford for a New Library and Academic Centre at their site on Woodstock Road (Planning Permission 14/00491/VAR – a revision of original permission 10/00120/FUL and Conservation Area Consent 10/00122/CAC) (Fig. 1). The proposal involves the demolition of the Founders Gatehouse and The Old Cottage, 54 Woodstock Road, Oxford, and the construction of a large new single basement building with a sunken courtyard to the north, along with associated services and soft and hard landscaping.
- 1.1.2 A Condition [16] relating to archaeology was attached to the Notice of Grant, which stated that,
- 1.1.3 “No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation [WSI] which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority”
- 1.1.4 David Radford, Archaeologist for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) at Oxford City Council, issued advice (via e-mail) as to a satisfactory level of archaeological response at the site (21st May 2014).
- 1.1.5 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was instructed by Adam Evershed of Ridge and Partners LLP on behalf of St Anne's College to prepare the required WSI to satisfy the condition and the brief from OCC. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) set out the aims, objectives and suggested methodology for a watching brief on the site. This report outlines the results of the watching brief.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on the north side of Oxford, just over 1km from the city's central point at Carfax, 500m outside the medieval city walls (Fig. 1). It is centred on National Grid Reference SP 5104 0722 and is situated on the western side of St Anne's College campus on Woodstock Road, Oxford.
- 1.2.2 The River Thames is c 1km to the west, with the River Cherwell approximately 800m to the east.
- 1.2.3 The site lies on the second or Summertown Radley gravel terrace. The underlying geology is Oxford Clay. The area of proposed development lies at c 63.5m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background and Potential

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background for an area immediately south of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (OA 2009). This has been summarised below.

Previous archaeological investigations

- 1.3.2 In 1998 during construction in front of the Founder's Gatehouse and 54 Woodstock Road, the adjoining Victorian house, post-medieval artefacts were recovered.



- 1.3.3 An archaeological evaluation at St Anne's College in 1991 (OA 1991) in advance of construction of the Clare Palley Building, c 60m south-east of the area of proposed development, found evidence for medieval cultivation and Victorian development.
- 1.3.4 Immediately south of the site archaeological evaluation and watching brief (OA 2011) uncovered no deposits datable prior to the 16th century. However, there was residual pottery of late Saxon and medieval date and a silver halfpenny of Edward I suggesting activity prior to the 16th century at or in the vicinity of the site. Two rubbish pits containing 16th century pottery were also found; one contained a sawn deer antler which indicates small scale antler working. Two phases of cobbles 17th or 18th century date may have formed part of a courtyard or lane leading off from Woodstock Road.

Prehistoric period (500,000 BP - AD 43)

- 1.3.5 No archaeological remains from the prehistoric period have been identified within the area of development.
- 1.3.6 Five locations within a 500m study area have produced remains dating to this period. Two palaeolithic implements were recovered in 1880 from the site of the former Girls' High School, c 150m to the south-east, and an evaluation at Wycliffe Hall, 54 Banbury Road, c 200m to the north-east found an undated pit and ditch which contained a single sherd of prehistoric pottery.
- 1.3.7 A concentration of crop marks within the University Parks, c 250m to the east of the development, includes ring ditches and linear features. Ring ditches likely to be associated with the crop mark concentration have been found at the Radcliffe Infirmary site c 150m to the south-west and an evaluation at the site of the former Acland Hospital c 110m to the south tentatively proposes the location of a ring ditch that may have been re-used as a bastion within the Civil War defences. These ring ditches may form a WSW-ENE alignment running c 110m south of St Anne's College. A number of Bronze Age barrow ditches have been identified outside the 500m study area and it is possible these ring ditches may be part of an extensive barrow cemetery dating to this period. In addition, a Neolithic Henge monument has been identified at the former Queen Elizabeth House on St Giles, also just outside the study area.
- 1.3.8 Excavations in the Science Area to the south-east of the development have demonstrated early Iron Age activity which may extend westwards into the site. Ditches and pits containing Iron Age pottery were found at the Rex Richard Building and Belgic pottery has been recovered at the Clarendon Laboratory.

Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 1.3.9 No archaeological remains dating to this period have been found within the development area.
- 1.3.10 The remains of a possible basement of a Roman building, coins and other finds including a skeleton were uncovered at the site of St Anthony's College c 75m to the north. Roman coins were also recovered during gravel quarrying in Bevington Road on the north side of St Anne's College in the 1820s and a Roman quern was found in St Bernard's Road c 150m north-west of the development.
- 1.3.11 A Romano-British settlement has been identified to the south-east of the development and may extend into it. Ditches and pits were recorded at the University Museum and surrounding developments and at Mansfield College. Substantial quantities of pottery have been recorded from these sites.



Early medieval (AD 410 - 1066)

- 1.3.12 Finds of typical late Saxon pottery were recovered from plough soils during an evaluation at St Anne's College in 1991.
- 1.3.13 Evidence for early Saxon activity has been found at a number of locations across Oxford including barrow burials at Radcliffe Infirmary c 150m south-west of the development. Excavations in 1770 revealed two burials, one with a silver-plated helmet ornament. Undated skeletons found at the Infirmary in 1957 may also belong to this period. Further finds of a bone heddle stick recovered from a layer of ash in 1938, c 180m south-west of the site and a gold bracteate brooch recovered from St Giles Field in 1646 c 100m to the south of St Anne's College may suggest a possible early medieval cemetery in the Infirmary area.
- 1.3.14 A defended burh was laid out at Oxford in the 9th century onwards and after this, a substantial town developed, although it did not extend as far north as the development site. At that period, the land belonged probably to the manor of Walton with which it was associated until the 16th century. It seems likely that the site was a mixture of arable land and meadow during this period.

Later medieval period (AD 1066-1550)

- 1.3.15 No remains from this period have been uncovered at the development site.
- 1.3.16 St Giles church and parish, in which the area of the proposed development lies, was established in the early 12th century. Pits from this period were found at the rear of the Horse and Jockey public house, built in 1750, on Woodstock Road in 2003, c 80m north-west of the site. In 2009, a large pit dating to the 10th-12th century was discovered at the former Acland Hospital site, c 110m south of the site.

Post-medieval period (AD 1550-1880)

- 1.3.17 In 1542 the land north of the medieval town of Oxford, including the development area, was recorded as part of St Giles Field. Much of this was purchased by St John's College in 1573 although the land continued to be used for mixed farming. In 1642-4 during the Civil War new defences were built on the north side of Oxford. The 2009 evaluation at the former Acland Hospital site c 110m south of the development may have uncovered part of the ditch that encompassed the northern-most bastion of this defence as represented on de Gomme's plan of 1644.

Modern (AD 1880 onwards)

- 1.3.18 By 1876, when the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map was produced, housing development had expanded around and within the site.
- 1.3.19 The connection between St Anne's College and the site began in 1932 when Mrs Amy Hartland purchased 35 Banbury Road and 56 Woodstock Road to provide a new base for the Society of Oxford Home-Students. This had emerged in 1898 from the Association for the Education of Women, founded in 1878 to make it possible for women to study in Oxford. Mrs Hartland wanted the Society to have new buildings and in 1937 work began on Hartland House, with the first stage opening in 1938. This Grade II Listed Building was extended eastwards in 1951 with another small extension added in 1972 and it is situated immediately east of the site, behind the Founder's Gatehouse.
- 1.3.20 The Society attained college status as St Anne's College in 1952. The College had been fortunate in its receipt of benefactions and grants, particularly on the death of Mrs



Hartland in 1945, and this enabled not only the completion of Hartland House, but construction of residential accommodation. The properties along the south side of Bevington Road were bought from St John's College and additional houses acquired on both Banbury and Woodstock Roads.

Geotechnical results

- 1.3.21 Geotechnical works conducted in 2010 (ESG, 2010) found that the site was overlain in 'made-ground' to depths of 700mm below ground level (b.g.l) in TP – A2, 1600mm b.g.l in TP-B1, 500mm b.g.l in TP-B2 and 800m b.g.l in OP-B1. This indicates that the first significant archaeological horizon was between 500 and 800mm b.g.l with variations to greater depths perhaps indicating the presence of archaeological features.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the Watching Brief were to:

- establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- determine and confirm the character of any remains present
- establish the date range of any remains from recovered artefacts etc
- Establish the palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits by sampling relevant deposits
- make available the results of the investigation

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were to:

- establish the character and extent of any archaeological activity (e.g. to define evidence for prehistoric, Saxon and medieval related activity etc).

2.3 Methodology

Programme

- 2.3.1 The fieldwork followed the main contractor's programme of work. The existing buildings were demolished to foundation level, removing floor slabs (and limited service runs and foundations); a watching brief was maintained during this process. A second phase of watching brief, took place during the ground reduction to install the 'pile mat' (c 600mm below current ground levels). This included the careful removal of existing demolished foundations. A further watching brief took place when the basement levels were excavated and when the piles and secant wall were excavated.
- 2.3.2 A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the watch of an experienced archaeologist excavated the overburden in spits no greater than 0.15m thick to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology (whichever was encountered first).
- 2.3.3 The significant archaeological horizon was sufficiently hand-cleaned to determine the extent and character of any archaeological deposits.



- 2.3.4 The presence/absence of archaeological features was noted. If features were identified then sufficient work was done to date, characterise and record the remains in accordance with the project objectives.
- 2.3.5 For discrete features such as pits and post holes excavation involved half-sectioning a representative sample. Linear features had a 1m slot excavated as a minimum. Hand excavation and recording of a selection of archaeological deposits/features encountered within all trenches was undertaken to fulfil the aims outlined above.
- 2.3.6 Recording standards were the same as for formal excavations but some practical difficulties and constraints may impinge on this. Features were recorded in plan at an appropriate scale and accurately located in relation to the National Grid. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records which included the following minimum details: character; contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); associated finds; interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers. Normally each context was recorded on an individual record sheet. Sections were drawn through all significant cut features and levelled to Ordnance Datum.
- 2.3.7 A black and white and digital photographic record was maintained, including photographs of all significant features and overall photographs of each watching brief area.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the Watching Brief are described by phase, the context details are presented in Appendix A. This is followed by reports of the artefactual evidence in Section 4. Finally a discussion of the results is presented in Section 5.

3.2 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.2.1 Five trenches were excavated (Fig 2) with an open area strip and map of ground reduction in the basement area defined by Trench 4. Trench 1 was excavated first to remove a basement wall. Trench 3 (not included in Fig 2) was located near the new kitchen buildings north of the main excavation area and was dug for the insertion of a new water pipe. Trench 4 was excavated for the contiguous secant wall. Trenches 2 and 5 overlapped with Trench 4 and the basement excavation and are therefore not illustrated on Figure 2 for clarity. The basement area was reduced by c 0.90m during the ground reduction phase to the top of the natural, except for the extreme west where the natural sloped down. Brick remains and drains relating to the recently demolished 19th century building were observed over the centre of the trench, surrounded by an area of modern disturbance.
- 3.2.2 Archaeological remains were encountered in all of the trenches with a concentration of features on the western side of the site.

Natural

- 3.2.3 The earliest deposit in Trench 1 was a natural sandy gravel (109) located at c.1.35m below the tarmac level. Overlying (109) was a 0.35m thick weathered natural horizon (108) that may have represented an exposed ground surface at some point.
- 3.2.4 The earliest deposit in Trench 2 was similarly a weathered horizon of natural (117) that was at least 0.40m thick.



- 3.2.5 Natural sand and gravel was not encountered in Trench 3.
- 3.2.6 In Trench 4 natural sand (129) was located at a maximum height of 62.70m OD in section 107, 62.51m OD in section 8, 62.43m OD in section 110, 62.54m OD in section 111 and 62.22m OD in section 114.
- 3.2.7 In Trench 4 supra-natural (128) was located at 62.76m OD in section 107 at the south-west of the basement area; at 62.53m OD in section 110 to the north-east, at 62.54m OD in section 111 to the north-west.
- 3.2.8 In section 114 in the south-west of Trench 4 layer (148) was possibly the weathered natural horizon and therefore equivalent to (128) was located at a maximum height of 62.46mOD.
- 3.2.9 In Trench 5 the natural and supra-natural horizons were not exposed as the trench was located over the fills of a ditch and a post medieval well.
- 3.2.10 The basement area was machined to between c 61.32mOD and 61.20m OD and natural sand was located at this level. Natural sand was recorded in section 117 at 61.30m OD and at 61.04m OD in section 118 but these were both truncated levels.

Late medieval/early post medieval (Figures 4 and 5, Plates 1, 3, and 4)

- 3.2.11 In the western part of Trench 4 was a cluster of late medieval/early post-medieval features and several undated features that probably came from the same period due to the similarity in fills.
- 3.2.12 A shallow NW/SE aligned ditch [143] (Plate 1, Fig 4) that was c 1m wide traversed Trenches 4 and 5 and extended into the basement area and was observed over a distance of c 22m. It was seen to be partially truncated by ditch cut [140] that ran alongside it to the north-east. Ditch [143] contained two naturally silted fills (144) and (145) that were devoid of artefactual material.
- 3.2.13 Pit cuts [163], [165], [167], [178] and [183] (Fig 5 and Plate 4) were all probably late medieval or early post medieval in date. The most extensive of these features was [165], a sub-rectangular cut with its long axis running NW/SE. This cut had vertical sides and a flat base and was at least 6.5m long by 1.3m wide and was 1.3m deep. The profile and depth suggest that it was unlikely to be a ditch and it was interpreted as a quarry pit. Cut [165] contained three fills. The basal fill was a compacted gravel (161) containing pottery dated to c 1350-1550 and animal bone, with the two upper fills (174) and (164) being sterile deliberately backfilled silty clay deposits.
- 3.2.14 Adjacent to cut [165] was pit or large posthole cut [167] (Fig 5) that had a 'U' shaped profile filled with (166), an undated naturally silted deposit.
- 3.2.15 To the north of [165] and [167] were two inter-cutting pits [178] and [183] (Plate 4). Both pits were roughly sub-rectangular in plan, and 1.35m and 1.40m deep respectively. The truncated pit [183] had vertical sides and a flat base and measured 1.8m across. Pit [183] appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with a single deposit (182) that contained no finds.
- 3.2.16 Pit cut [178] measured 3.2m by 3.75m with sides at c 60 degrees to the horizontal and a flattish base. The earliest fills in [178] were undated backfills with a basal fill (181) comprising compacted gravel, followed by (180) a gravelly sandy silt. Over (180) was a black charcoal stained silty fill (179) with pottery dated to c 1400-1600 as well as animal bone. Fill (178) was sealed by (177) an extensive sandy silt backfill with occasional flecks of charcoal, animal bone and pottery dated to c 1475-1550 together with a



residual sherd of mortarium in late Roman Oxford ware and a piece of medieval roof tile.

- 3.2.17 Both [178] and [183] appear to have been quarry pits and both were deliberately backfilled, with the latter also being a receptacle for small scale waste deposition.
- 3.2.18 Truncating quarry cut [165] was pit cut [163] that appears to have been used primarily as a rubbish pit. The pit was roughly circular in plan with vertical sides and a flattish base. The pit contained four fills (158), (159), (160) and (162). The upper fills (158) contained pottery dating to c 1350-1450 and early medieval cbm (roof and floor tiles), but a single sherd from (160) possibly puts the disuse of this pit into the 15th to 16th century.

Post-medieval (Figure 3 and Plate 2)

- 3.2.19 A NW/SE aligned ditch cut [140] on the west of the site cut the adjacent ditch [143]. Ditch [140] was observed over a distance of 22m being on average 1.14m wide and 0.80m deep having both concave sides and base. The ditch contained two fills, a basal fill (142) that was naturally silted and a deliberate backfill (141) that contained well worn pottery dated to c 1250-1550 and animal bone.
- 3.2.20 To the E of [140] in Trench 4 was a north-south aligned feature [138] that was a possible ditch cut. The possible ditch was 0.46m deep and 1.40m across and contained a single fill (139) that contained clay tobacco pipe dated to the late 17th or early 18th century. This feature was not, however, observed in the basement area and therefore it is probable that was a pit rather than a ditch.
- 3.2.21 An east-west aligned post medieval possible ditch cut [130] located on the eastern side of Trench 4 that contained three deliberately backfilled deposits (131), (132) and (133). The primary fill (133) consisted of crushed CBM fragments and rubble whilst the upper fills contained animal bone, oyster shell, pottery and clay tobacco pipe. It is possible as this feature was not observed on the western side of Trench 4, that this was also a pit cut.
- 3.2.22 Two post-medieval wells were located in the south-west of the basement area, [149] and [171]. Well [149] (Plate 2) was constructed of red un-frogged bricks that measured 200 x 140 x 80mm. The well had a domed top that had partially collapsed, whether this was part of the original structure or part of a well capping was unclear. The fill of the well (151) was a charcoal-rich silt that contained no artefactual material. It was dug to a depth of 0.50m.
- 3.2.23 In contrast well [171] was built of stone, comprising roughly hewn square limestone blocks built with regular courses and a flush internal face that were bonded with clay with an internal diameter of 1.2m. The fill (172) of the well contained pottery dated to c 1780-1840 and glass dated to the late 18th- or early 19th-century.
- 3.2.24 Revealed in the trench sections was a series of post-medieval layers and structural features dating to the 19th and 20th century.
- 3.2.25 In Trench 1 sealing the weathered natural horizon (108) (see Fig 3) was a 0.26m-thick layer of mid grey sandy gravel (107) that represented a make-up layer or bedding layer. This was in turn overlain by a mixed layer of garden soil (106) with contained occupation or construction debris and was on average 0.4m thick.
- 3.2.26 In Trench 1 a pair of post-medieval walls were located at either end of the trench, [100] to the east and [102] to the west. The walls were in construction cuts [104] and [105] respectively, that both cut through layer (106). Both walls [100] and [102] were built of



frogged bricks that measured 240 x 110 x 80mm bonded by mid grey cement and both were constructed in an English bond.

- 3.2.27 Butting up to the east face of wall [100] was a possible further wall [101]. This consisted of an area of stacked (but not bonded) mid pinkish red bricks that measured 225 x 110 x 65mm with sandy grey mortar adhering to some of the bricks. It is possible that this was a wall where the mortar has just washed away and no longer survived.
- 3.2.28 Truncating walls [100] and [102] and the horizontal layers exposed in section was the construction cut [111] for a modern concrete basement that was removed by machine.
- 3.2.29 In section 101 (in Trench 1) were post medieval layers (113) and (112) over the weathered natural horizon (108) were exposed after the removal of the basement.
- 3.2.30 Sealing the construction cuts and walls [100] and [102] in section was a 0.22m thick layer of made ground (110), a mixed layer with modern material from demolition of pre-existing buildings including bricks, pipes, wire and plastic.
- 3.2.31 In Trench 2 overlaying the weathered natural (117) was a 0.52m-thick ploughsoil layer (116). Layer (116) contained sherds from green-glazed border ware (BORDG) and Frechen stoneware indicating a late 16th-early 17th-century date for this horizon which was in turn sealed by (115), a mortar-rich layer 0.16m thick.
- 3.2.32 In Trench 2 layer (115) was cut by the construction trench for the modern kitchen buildings filled with backfill (119). Sealing the backfill of the modern construction cut was layer (110). In section 102 layer (115) was sealed by (114), a layer of turf and top soil that lay in an area outside of the previous buildings.
- 3.2.33 The earliest deposit in both sections 104 and 105 in Trench 3 was (121) a layer of ploughsoil. Layer (121) contained no dating evidence but was similar in composition to (116) in Trench 2 and was probably the same deposit. Overlaying (121) was a layer of garden soil (120) that contained pottery dated to c 1830-1860.
- 3.2.34 Truncating this garden soil layer was [122], the construction cut for a 20th century concrete wall and its backfill that were collectively numbered [123]. Sealing the wall and its backfill was made ground layer (110).
- 3.2.35 In section 106 at the eastern end of Trench 3 two post-medieval layers (124) and (125) were revealed under a layer of tarmac. The earlier (125), was possibly a ploughsoil the same as (121)/(116) whilst the upper layer (124) was a layer of rubble demolition.
- 3.2.36 In Trenches 4 and 5 post-medieval layers included probable plough soil layers (127), (146) and (156) that were all possibly equivalent to (116) and topsoil layers (126)/(155) that were probably the same as (120). Layer (126) produced several sherds of transfer printed ware dated to c 1830-1860 and clay tobacco pipe also of 19th-century date.
- 3.2.37 In the east part of Trench 4 was a modern cut [134] that ran parallel to cut [130] on an east-west alignment. This feature was the construction cut for a modern foundation. It was machine excavated and was not bottomed at 1.6m below ground level. It contained one fill (135) consisting of modern rubble and clay silt.



3.3 Finds

Pottery by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- 3.3.1 A total of 60 sherds of pottery weighing 1296g was recovered from 13 contexts. Apart from a single Roman sherd all the rest is of post-Roman date. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg decoration etc).

Date and nature of the assemblage

- 3.3.2 Overall the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but with several quite large and fresh sherds present including a few complete vessel profiles. Ordinary domestic pottery types typical of Oxford sites are represented. These are detailed in the spreadsheet and summarised here. Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994). The few post-medieval pottery fabric codes used are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2015).
- 3.3.3 The earliest piece in the assemblage is a worn rim (58g) from a mortarium in late Roman Oxford white ware, residual in context (177). No Anglo-Saxon or Norman pottery is present and the earliest medieval sherds (and CBM) appear to date from the late 13th or more likely the 14th century, but there are no large groups of this date - just a few sherds of broadly high medieval date (c 1250-1400). These include Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM, c 1225-1625), Ashampstead-type ware (OXAG, c 1175-1400) and a single sherd of Minety ware (OXBB, c 1250-1550). The stratigraphy, however, suggests that most (or all) the high medieval material (including CBM) may be residual in late medieval features. The five sherds from context (158) and the single sherd from (160) both come from the fills of pit 163. Those from (158) include a condiment dish in Brill/Boarstall ware and a worn sherd from a plain jug in the same fabric. These are difficult to date closely but the fabric has some late medieval characteristics and both vessels may date to c 1350-1450. The single unglazed jug sherd from (160) is definitely in the late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware fabric (OXBX, c 1400-1625) and tentatively dated to c 1400-1550, so a 15th- or early 16th-century deposition date for these pit fills seems likely. Condiment dishes are a fairly rare form in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM). The example here comprises two small dishes or bowls luted together (side by side) with a vertical loop handle at the join and all covered in a dark green glaze. They were used for holding table condiments such as salt, pepper and other spices and perhaps table snacks. Only one of the two dishes survives here (approx 50% complete) but the join and the handle stub are clearly visible. Unusually the vessel appears to have been heated and probably broke in the fire. This precise form has no exact parallel in the published typology of Brill/Boarstall ware (Mellor 1994), but it does have fairly close parallels in other ceramic industries including the Surrey/Hampshire Border ware industry of the 16th and 17th centuries (Pearce 1992, fig. 43.390 and 392).
- 3.3.4 Pits [165] and [178] also appear to be of late medieval or early post-medieval date. Pit [178] has two fills (177) and (179) which contained local and regional pottery types datable to c 1475-1550. The two sherds from pit [165] are probably contemporary with

this. Earlier excavations at St Anne's College also produced a pit containing 16th-century pottery (OA 2011). Other features on the present site produced a few sherds of late 16th- or 17th-century pottery (116) and several features produced commonplace types of 19th-century Staffordshire tablewares - mostly datable within the period c 1830-1860. A few sherds of late 18th- or early 19th-century wares also came from the same features. Fuller details may be consulted in the spreadsheet.

Clay tobacco pipe by John Cotter

- 3.3.5 Six small pieces of clay pipe weighing 29g were recovered from five contexts. These have not been separately catalogued but are fully described here. No further work is recommended.
- 3.3.6 Context (126) Spot-date: 19th century
Description: 2 pieces (9g): Two stems from two separate pipes. One fresh slender 19th-century stem with a narrow stem bore diameter (c 1.5mm). One worn stem of 'chunky' type with a stem bore of 2.8mm, probably late 17th century.
- 3.3.7 Context (127) Spot-date: c 1852-1863
Description: 1 piece (5g): Fresh bowl profile (front missing). Spurred type with moulded oakleaf seam on back and relief maker's mark 'GN' on spur for George Norwood of Oxford, c 1852-1863 (Oswald 1984, fig. 55.26b). Trace of stem attached.
- 3.3.8 Context (132) Spot-date: c 1800-1850/60
Description: 1 piece (6g): Worn bowl base fragment (rim missing). Square-profiled spur with moulded oakleaf seam on back and relief maker's mark on spur probably 'TH' for Thomas Huggins of Oxford (Oswald 1984, fig. 56.34c), active from c 1805 and possibly as late as the 1850s (jointly with his brother Samuel, latter to 1855). Trace of stem attached.
- 3.3.9 Context (139) Spot-date: Late 17th or early 18th century
Description: 1 piece (6g): One worn stem of 'chunky' type with a stem bore of 2.5mm.
- 3.3.10 Context (146) Spot-date: 19th century
Description: 1 piece (3g): Fresh slender 19th-century stem with a narrow stem bore diameter (c 1.5mm).

Ceramic building material (CBM) by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- 3.3.11 A total of fifteen pieces of CBM weighing 654g were recovered. These came from six contexts. These were examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage in a similar way to the pottery (see above) and the data recorded on an Excel spreadsheet. As usual, the dating of broken fragments of CBM is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad and should be treated with caution.
- Date and nature of the assemblage
- 3.3.12 The CBM assemblage is in a fragmentary and mostly worn condition. The assemblage is described in some detail in the spreadsheet and summarised only briefly here. Most of this is of 13th- or 14th-century date but occurs as a residual/redeposited element in pit contexts of 15th- or early 16th-century date - judging from the associated pottery dates (see above).



3.3.13 There are four pieces of glazed medieval floor tile from just two tiles - both from the fills of pit [163], fills (158) and (160). These include three joining pieces from a single very worn floor tile with a plain green glaze over a white slip and with stabbed circular keying marks on the underside - a feature identifying it as a 'Stabbed Wessex' tile of c 1280-1350. The same pit produced a small scrap from the edge of a yellow glazed tile probably of Penn/Chiltern tradition and dating probably to the 14th or 15th century. Six pieces of medieval ridge tile come from a minimum of two tiles - both in oolitic limestone-tempered Fabric IB (c 1175-1325?). The two fairly large and fairly fresh pieces from late medieval pit [163] fill (158) and pit [165] fill (161) join each other to make an end-fragment with a length of 145mm and with two characteristic pyramidal crests along the apex. The cross-join suggests that both pits are broadly contemporary - a suggestion supported by the pottery dates. By then the ridge tiles would have been up to a couple of centuries old - like the earlier floor tile. These may have been lying around on the site for some time or perhaps arrived in rubbish and spoil used to backfill the pits; wherever they originally came from they are likely to have come from buildings of some substance or at least of moderate importance. Five scraps of medieval flat roof tile also appear to be of 13th-14th century date; these also came from later contexts. No definite post-medieval CBM was noted. No further work on the assemblage is recommended.

Metal by Ian R Scott

3.3.14 The single metal find is an iron key encrusted with corrosion.

Context (159) Key. It has a solid stem and a pin extending beyond the bit which is symmetrical about a central cut. The bow is oval. Length 131mm.

3.3.15 The form is one of the many key types found in later medieval contexts but was the main form of post-medieval key (Goodall 2011, 242, fig. 10,4).

Glass by Ian R Scott

3.3.16 There are two pieces of glass both are from bottles.

Context 172 (1) Wine bottle. Free blown neck of a wine bottle with a flat cracked-off rim, with possible fire polish, and an applied flattened hand-tooled string rim. Possibly an early form of 'champagne finish'. Late 18th- or early 19th-century date. Height 92mm.

3.3.17 Context 176 (2) Wine bottle. Base of cylindrical wine bottle, probably formed in a dip mould. It has a truncated conical pushup. There is slight basal sag created when the pushup was formed. Very dark olive green glass. Late 18th- to mid 19th-century in date. Diameter 88mm.

Slag by Ian R Scott

3.3.18 A single corroded, heavily encrusted and non-magnetic lump of material weighing 145 grams was recovered from context (146). The material is probably a slag, but without x-ray it is not possible to be certain.

Animal bones by Lena Strid

3.3.19 A total of 84 hand-collected animal bone fragments were recovered from this site. The majority of the assemblage came from pits dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval periods (Table 1).



- 3.3.20 The bone condition was generally fair, regardless of phase. A single bone in the post-medieval assemblage had traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs. Burnt bones were absent (Table 2).
- 3.3.21 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, domestic fowl and goose. All are common animals in late-medieval and post-medieval society; horse was used as a work animal, whereas the others were used for food and for other products such as dairy, wool, eggs and feathers. Due to the small sample size it is not possible to draw conclusions on the frequency of cattle, sheep/goat, pig and poultry and their contribution to the economy and diet.
- 3.3.22 A small number of bones could be attributed to minimum age at death (Table 3). A further three bones from cattle and five bones from large mammals came from juvenile animals, an indication of veal being part of the late medieval/early post-medieval diet.
- 3.3.23 Butchery marks were noted on a total of twelve bones from the late medieval/early post-medieval assemblage and on two bones from the post-medieval assemblage. Evidence of axial splitting of the carcass was found on two cattle neck vertebrae and one medium mammal lumbar vertebra. The carcasses were then further disarticulated. A cattle tarsal bone had its upper part chopped off, severing the lower meat-poor leg. The hind limb of a calf and that of a sheep/goat had been severed at the top of the hip bone: the late medieval/early post-medieval calf pelvis had been severed with a cleaver, whereas the post-medieval sheep/goat bone had been sawn off. Three ribs from large mammals and four from medium mammals had been portioned in two or more parts. A large mammal humerus, probably cattle, had been split longitudinally, probably to facilitate marrow extraction.
- 3.3.24 Two medium mammal ribs and one medium mammal lumbar vertebra showed evidence of healed fractures. It is unknown whether they stem from animal interaction, accidents or from abuse by humans.

3.3.25

	Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval	Post Medieval	Modern
Cattle	9	2	
Sheep/Goat	4	3	
Pig	2		
Horse		1	
Domestic Fowl		1	
Goose	1		
Indent bird	3		
Medium Mammal	15	1	
Large Mammal	18	2	1
Indeterminate	17	4	
TOTAL	69	14	1
Weight (g)	625	696	10

Table 1. Bone assemblage

	N	0	1	2	3	4	5	Gnawed
LMed/EP Med	69	13.00%	69.60%	15.90%	1.40%			
Post Med	14	7.10%	78.60%	14.30%				1
Modern	1		100.00%					

Table 2. Bone preservation and number of bones with traces of burning and gnawing.

Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Cattle	Early Fusion			
	Mid Fusion			
	Late Fusion	1		
Sheep/Goat	Early Fusion	1		1
	Mid Fusion			1
	Late Fusion			
Pig	Early Fusion			
	Mid Fusion	2		
	Late Fusion			
Post Medieval	Early Fusion			1
	Mid Fusion			
	Late Fusion			

Table 3. Epiphyseal fusion of cattle, sheep/goat and pig in all phases from the Woodstock Road, St Anne's College assemblage, following Habermehl (1975). Fusion stages follows Serjeantson (1996).

Marine shell by Rebecca Nicholson

3.3.26 A small collection of oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) valves was recovered by hand collection. Most shells were in good condition. They comprised:

Context (131): 1 left and 1 right valve (24g), both fairly small and with possible V-shaped opening notches on the posterior margins of both valves.

Context (158): 5 left valves and 2 right valves (155g) in fair condition, only one of which was potentially measurable. Two of the left valves exhibited bore holes probably attributable to the predatory dog whelk (*Nucella lapillus*) and one had internal chambering, a possible reflection of changing salinity as may be experienced in an estuary (Winder 2011).

Context (160): 2 right valves (35g) with evidence of internal channelling probably by the polychete worm *Polydora hoplura*.

3.3.27 Oyster shells are fairly frequent finds from medieval and post-medieval sites in Oxford. The oysters would have been transported in the shell from the coast, probably having been harvested from the Solent or Thames estuary and sent by packhorse from Southampton or London.

Fish remains by Rebecca Nicholson

3.3.28 Three fish bones, in good condition, were recovered from this watching brief. They comprised an anal pterigiophore fragment from a turbot or brill (*Scophthalmidae*) from



context (132) and a large conger eel (*Conger conger*) branchiostegal ray from context (177). A single unidentified fragment, probably of a large branchiostegal ray, also came from (177). Fish remains from an earlier evaluation at St Anne's College (OA 2011) also included bones from large flatfish, including turbot. Both turbot and conger would have been an expensive purchase.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

Reliability of the Field Investigation

- 4.1.1 Notwithstanding the impact of modern disturbances and the depth of the trenches encountered, a reliable stratigraphic sequence was obtained from the site with minimum evidence for intrusive material.

Project Objectives and Results

- 4.1.2 The watching brief successfully achieved its original objectives of establishing that archaeological remains were present on the site and was also able to fully characterise their nature, significance and date despite significant impact by modern footings and services.
- 4.1.3 It was established that there were no archaeological remains that could be closely dated prior to the late medieval/early post-medieval period (namely the 15th to 16th centuries) though residual medieval pottery and CBM and a sherd of Roman mortarium may attest to earlier activity in the vicinity.

Interpretation

Roman

- 4.1.4 The earliest piece of pottery recovered on site was a worn rim from a mortarium in late Roman Oxford ware, residual in context (177). This may indicate Roman activity in the vicinity of the site. This adds to the evidence of Roman activity in the area including a possible Roman basement and burial at St Anthony's College c 75m to the north of the site. Coins and a quern have been also to the north and north-west of the site.
- 4.1.5 A Romano-British settlement has also been identified to the south-east of the development but does not appear to extend into the present site.

Medieval

- 4.1.7 The presence of pits containing appreciable quantities of animal bones and residual medieval pottery would imply that the site had been occupied at this time, though there are also hints that this occupation could have commenced significantly earlier given the presence of residual sherds of pottery dating from 1050-1300 and the fact that a single sherd of pre-Conquest pottery was located during the previous evaluation on the site (OA 2011).
- 4.1.8 The site lies within the parish of St Giles church that was established in the 12th century. Pits of this date were found at the rear of the Horse and Jockey public house, located c 80m north-west of the site which implies that occupation alongside Woodstock Road may have extended to the north of the site. Alternatively the medieval material could have been derived from manuring of fields, though ploughsoil of this date did not survive unless layer (108) represented it rather than an undisturbed sub-soil.



The ditches on sites could have represented a field boundary since the area was known by 1542 as St Giles Field, which stretched back from the northern edge of the town.

Post-medieval

- 4.1.9 A possible ploughsoil of late 16th-early 17th-century date was found in most of the trenches over a layer of weathered natural. Two field boundaries were also of a similar date. It is perhaps significant that the site saw the first in-situ evidence for occupation in the 16th-century around the time that this part of St Giles Field was purchased by St John's College in 1573. The archaeological remains included pits dated to the 15th-16th century which seem to have been used for the disposal of household refuse, presumably by the occupants of houses located alongside Woodstock Road, a principal thoroughfare of at least medieval date leading into Oxford. Material found in these pits gives some insight into the occupants and includes possible evidence of some wealth since bones from a probable turbot were found (context (132) and a large conger eel (from context (177)) were found; both would have been an expensive luxuries.
- 4.1.10 Evidence for the presence of frontage buildings is only likely to have been encountered in the areas closest to Woodstock Road, but unfortunately any such evidence would have been removed by modern services.
- 4.1.11 Occupation on the site appears to continue into the late 18th century since a pit or ditch [138] filled with rubbish that included a clay pipe bulb datable to 17th-18th century was found during the watching brief. Brick wall foundations and wells and service trenches attest to the houses that occupied the site during the 19th and first part of the 20th century.

Significance and Dissemination

- 4.1.12 The project has shown that development alongside Woodstock Road commenced by the 16th century, and there are hints of earlier medieval activity in the area. However the quantity of the evidence obtained from the site is small, due in part to the removal of much of it by its development in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 4.1.13 A copy of this report will be uploaded to the OA on-line library at <http://library.thehumanjourney.net>.



APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Comments	Date
Trench 1						
100	Masonry	1.8	0.26	0.5+	NS modern wall paired with [102] to west bricks 240 x 110 x 80mm	20 th C
101	Masonry	1.8	0.5	0.5+	Possible loosely constructed wall or stacked brick backfill?	20 th C
102	Masonry	1.8	0.26	0.5+	NS modern wall paired with [100] to west bricks 240 x 110 x 80mm	20 th C
103	Fill	1.8	0.6	0.7+	Backfill of c/cut 105	20 th C
104	Cut	1.8	0.5	0.5+	Cut for wall 100	20 th C
105	Cut	1.85	0.85	1+	Cut for wall 102	20 th C
106	Layer	0.4	3.7	0.5+	Mixed made ground layer	20 th C
107	Layer	0.26	4.1	0.5+	Make up/ bedding layer	20 th C
108	Layer	0.35	4.1	0.5+	Weathered natural	
109	Layer	0.85	4.1	0.5+	Natural sandy gravel	
		+				
110	Layer	0.22	5+	0.5+	Current work surface layer	20 th C
111	Cut	1.85	1.5	5.3	Cut for concrete basement	20 th C
112	Layer	0.12	1.5+	1+	Mortar rich made ground	20 th C
113	Layer	0.36	1.5+	1+	Mixed made ground layer	20 th C
Trench 2						
114	Layer	0.08	1.7+	3.5	Layer of turf and topsoil	20 th C
115	Layer	0.16	1.7+	3.5	Make up/ bedding layer	20 th C
116	Layer	0.52	1.7+	3.5	Plough soil	LMED/E PMED
117	Layer	0.4+	1.7+	3.5	Weathered natural	
118	Cut	1+	1	3+	Cut for modern building	20 th C
119	Fill	1+	1	3+	Backfill of 118	20 th C
Trench 3						
120	Layer	0.22	0.7	6	Garden/ soil	PMED
121	Layer	0.39	0.7	6	Subsoil/garden soil	LMED/E PMED
		+				
122	Cut	0.6+	0.7	1.3	Cut for modern building	20 th C
123	Masonry /fill		0.7	1	Modern concrete and backfill in cut 122	20 th C
124	Layer	0.26	0.7	1	Demolition layer	PMED
125	Layer	0.4	0.7	1	Subsoil/garden soil	PMED
Trench 4						
126	Layer	0.7	1.4	4.1	Topsoil layer	20 th C?
127	Layer	0.2	1.4	4.1	Subsoil layer	PMED
128	Layer	0.24	1.4	4.1	Weathered natural	
129	Layer	0.08	1.4	4.1	Natural sandy gravels	
		+				
130	Cut	0.86	1.46	1.4+	Ditch cut aligned NE/SW	PMED
131	Fill	0.44	1.46	1.4+	Upper fill of ditch	PMED
132	Fill	0.34	1.46	1.4+	Middle fill of ditch	PMED



133	Fill	0.18	1.46	1.4+	Primary fill of ditch	PMED
134	Cut	0.68	3	1.4+	Modern foundation cut	20 th C
135	Fill	0.68	3	1.4+	Fill of modern foundation cut	20 th C
136	Cut	0.58	0.6	1.4+	Modern drain cut	20 th C
137	Fill	0.58	0.6	1.4+	Fill of modern drain cut	20 th C
138	Cut	0.46	2.5	1.4+	Ditch cut	PMED
139	Fill	0.46	2.5	1.4+	Fill of ditch cut	PMED
140	Cut	0.8	1.14	8	Ditch cut	PMED
141	Fill	0.7	1.14	8	Fill of ditch cut	LMED/E PMED
142	Fill	0.1	1.14	8	Fill of ditch cut	LMED/E PMED
143	Cut	0.58	1.05	6	Ditch cut	LMED/E PMED
144	Fill	0.48	1.05	6	Fill of ditch cut	LMED/E PMED
145	Fill	0.10	1	6	Fill of ditch cut	LMED/E PMED
146	Layer	0.18	1.4	9	Garden soil/subsoil layer	PMED
147	Cut/fill	0.52	0.6	1.4	Modern pipe run	20 th C
148	Layer	0.5	1.4	6	Garden soil/subsoil layer	PMED
149	Masonry	1.6	1.6	1.6	Capped well	PMED
150	Cut	1.10	1.9	1.9+	Cut for well 149	PMED
151	Fill	0.5+	Diam 1.5	Diam 1.5	Fill of well 149	PMED
152	Fill	1.10	0.40	1.9+	Fill of construction cut of well	PMED
153	Layer/fill	0.98	3	1.4	Modern demo layer collapsed into 149	20 th C
154	Cut/fill	1.12	0.4	1.4	Modern pipe run	20 th C
Trench 5						
155	Layer	0.36	0.6	2.3	Topsoil layer same as 126?	20 th C?
156	Layer	0.34	0.6	2.3	Garden soil/subsoil layer same as 146?	PMED
157	Fill	0.5+	0.6	1.3	Fill of ditch cut 143 same as 144	LMED/E PMED
Basement						
158	Fill	0.7	1.4	1.5	Fill of pit cut 163	LMED/E PMED
159	Fill	0.34	1.2	1.4	Fill of pit cut 163	LMED/E PMED
160	Fill	0.12	0.95	0.95	Fill of pit cut 163	LMED/E PMED
161	Fill	0.42	0.95	0.6	Fill of pit cut 165	LMED/E PMED
162	Fill	0.28	0.85	0.85	Fill of pit cut 163	LMED/E PMED
163	Cut	1.2	1.2	1.3	Quarry pit cut filled by 158 to 160 and 162	LMED/E PMED



164	Fill	0.74	0.8	6.5	Fill of pit cut 165	LMED/E PMED
165	Cut	1.3	1.3	6.5	Rectangular pit cut filled by 161, 164 and 174	LMED/E PMED
166	Fill	0.3	0.52	0.65	Fill of pit cut 167	LMED/E PMED
167	Cut	0.3	0.52	0.65	Undated pit cut	LMED/E PMED
168	Fill	0.74	2.7	15+	Fill of linear or possible quarry 170	LMED/E PMED
169	Fill	0.64	2	15+	Fill of linear or possible quarry 170	LMED/E PMED
170	Cut	0.84	2	15+	linear or possible quarry	LMED/E PMED
171	Masonry	N/K	Outer Diam 1.6	Outer Diam 1.6	Stone lining of well	PMED
172	Fill	N/K	Diam 1.2	Diam 1.2	Backfill of well	PMED
173	Cut	N/K	Diam 2.2	Diam 2.2	Cut of well	PMED
174	Fill	0.2	1.1	6.5	Fill of pit cut 165	LMED/E PMED
175	Fill	0.6	0.9	15+	Fill of linear or possible quarry 170	LMED/E PMED
176	Fill	N/K	Diam 2.2	Diam 2.2	Fill of construction cut for well 171	PMED
177	Fill	0.6	3.2	3.75	Fill of pit cut 178	LMED/E PMED
178	Cut	1.4	3.2	3.75	Possible quarry pit re-used as rubbish pit	LMED/E PMED
179	Fill	0.17	1.8	1.8	Fill of pit cut 178	LMED/E PMED
180	Fill	0.35	2.7	2.7	Fill of pit cut 178	LMED/E PMED
181	Fill	0.4	2.5	2.5	Fill of pit cut 178	LMED/E PMED
182	Fill	1.35	1.8	1.8	Fill of 183	LMED/E PMED
183	Cut	1.35	1.8	1.8	Undated pit cut	LMED/E PMED



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

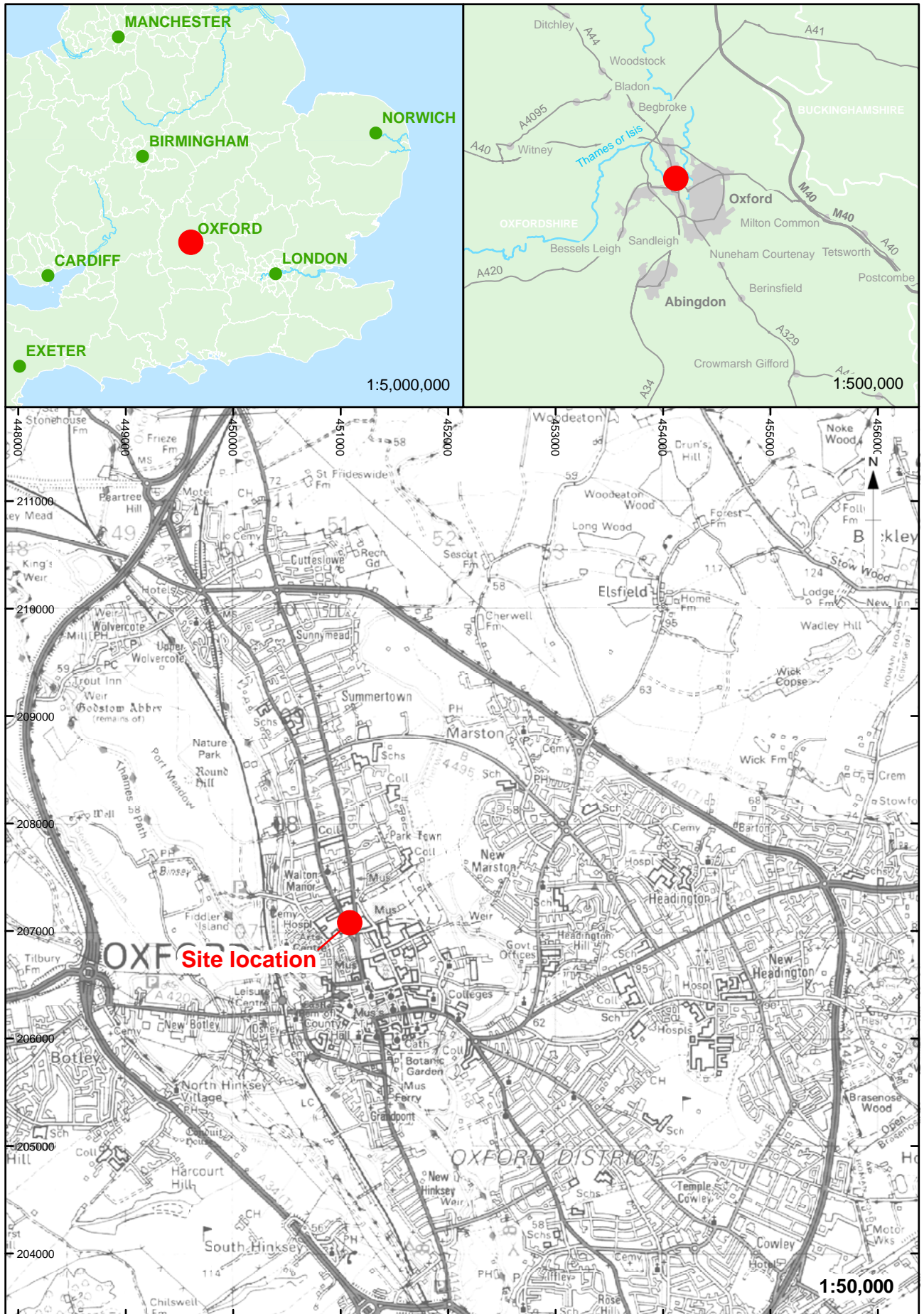
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APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	New Library and Academic Centre, St Anne's College, Oxford
Site code:	OXWD14
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR SP 5104 0722
Type of watching brief:	Watching brief on ground works for contiguous secant wall and ground reduction in basement area
Date and duration of project:	13 November 2014 to 7 April 2015
Area of site:	400m squared
Summary of results:	<p>Between 13 November 2014 and 7 April 2015 2015 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief, comprising five trenches and an area of ground reduction on behalf of St Anne's College, Woodstock Road, Oxford. Although no features datable prior to the 15th- to 16th-century were found, pottery and ceramic building material of medieval date and a single sherd of Roman mortarium found in later deposits may suggest activity from these periods in the vicinity.</p> <p>Several pits containing late medieval/early post medieval pottery and other material were found with mixed-in residual medieval material from relatively high status buildings. The majority of the pits originally appear to have been dug as quarries before being backfilled with largely sterile deposits with only an occasional dump of waste material. Two intercutting probable field boundary ditches aligned NW/SE were from the same late medieval early post medieval period.</p> <p>Foundations and services pertaining to 19th century houses and the former kitchen block of St Anne's College, built in 1959, had removed much of the archaeological evidence on the site</p>
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxford County Museum Service in due course under the following accession number: OXCMS:2014.156.

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Figure 1: Site location

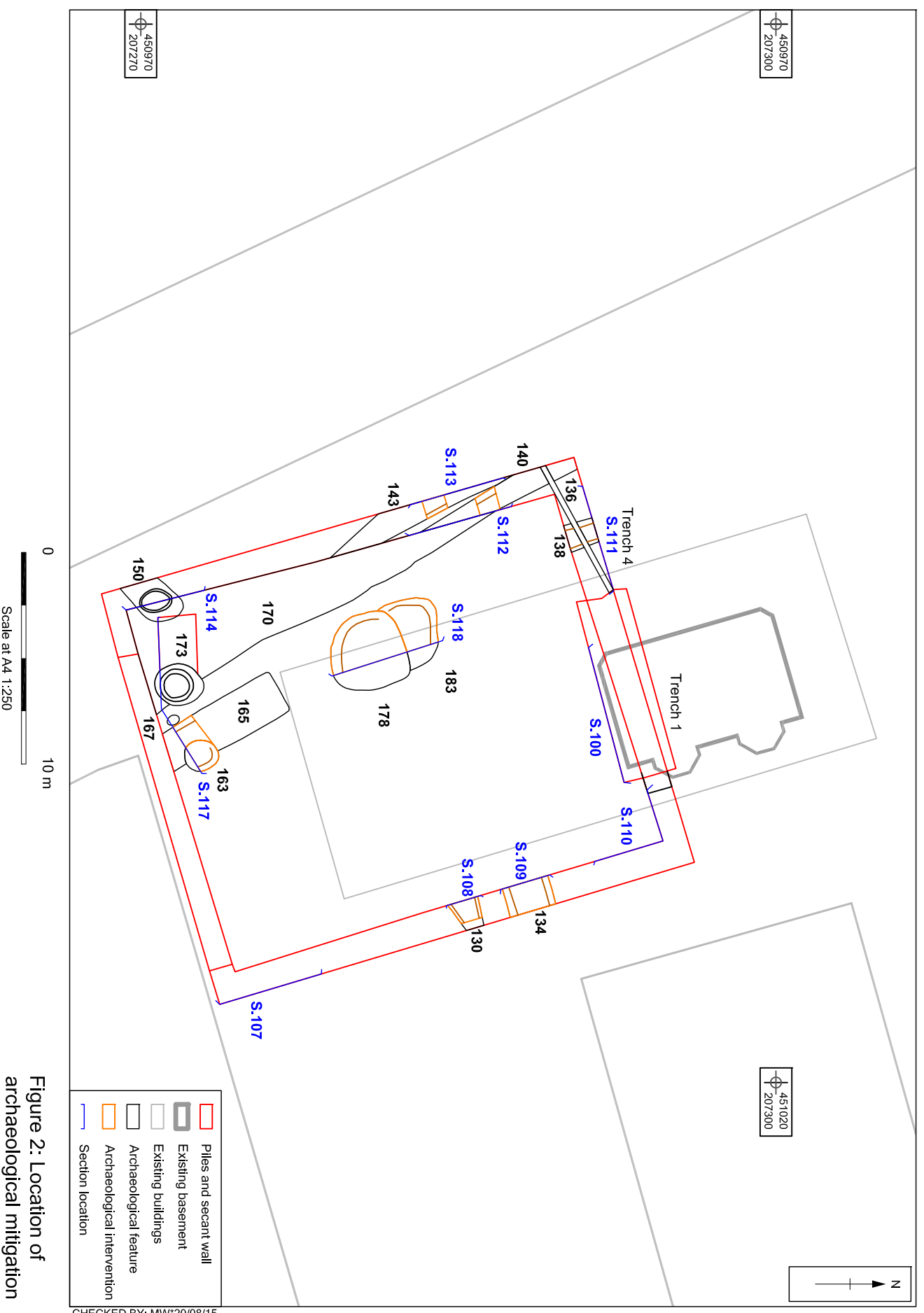


Figure 2: Location of archaeological mitigation

CHECKED BY: MW*20/08/15

Section 100

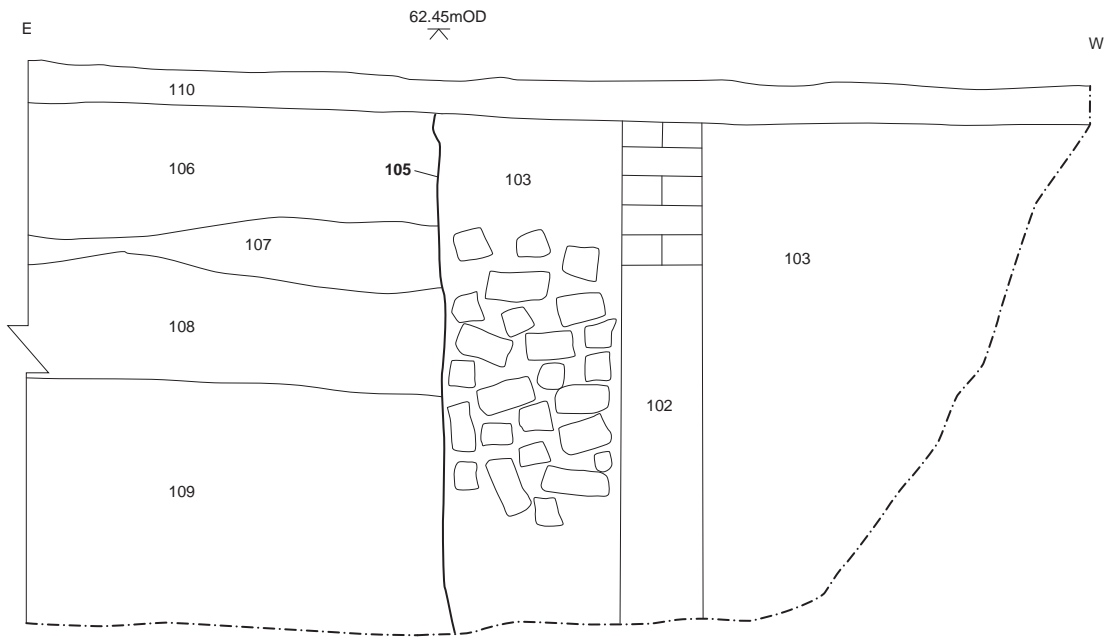
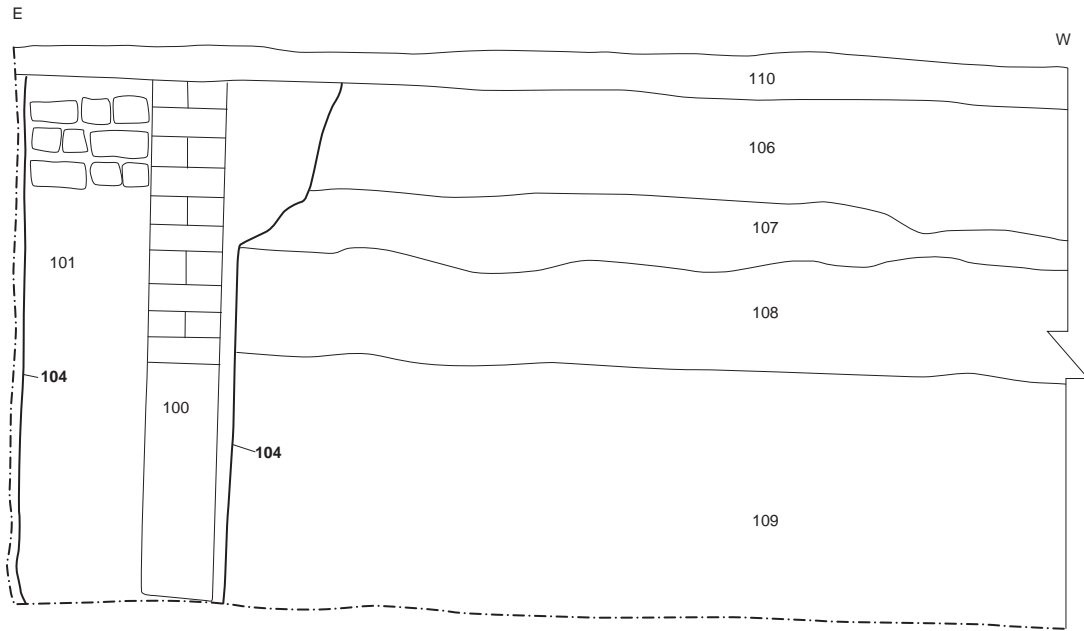
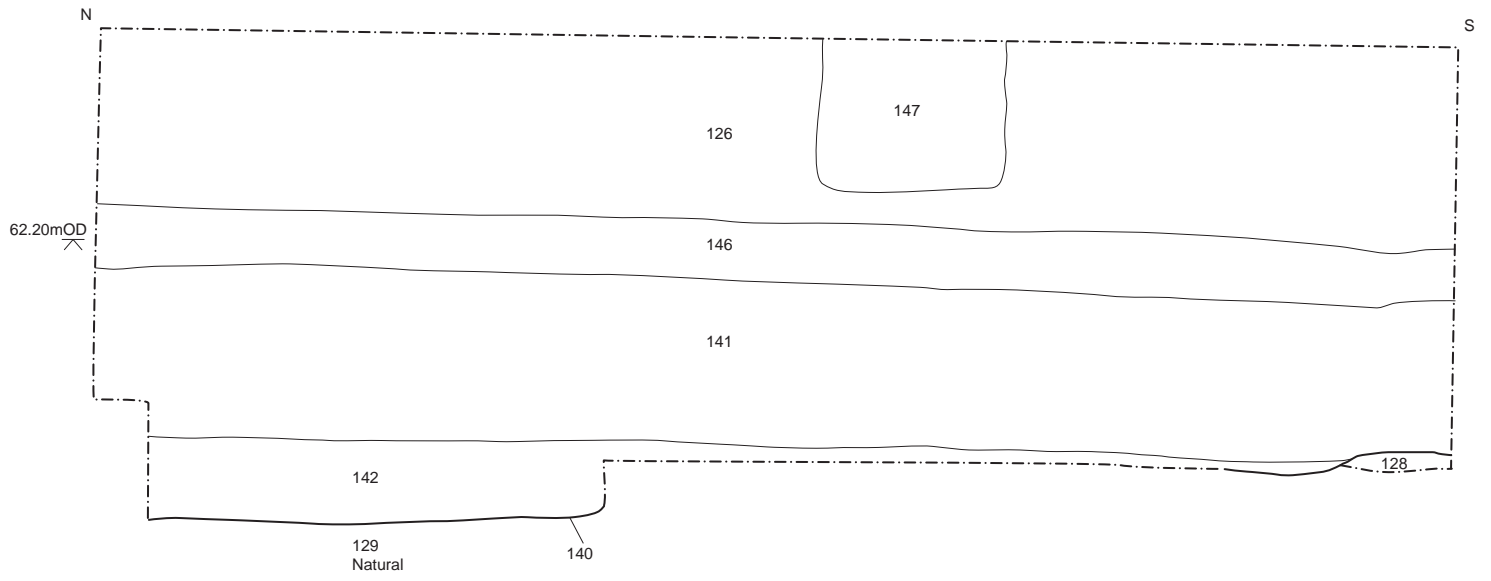


Figure 3: Section 100 Trench 1

Section 112



Section 113

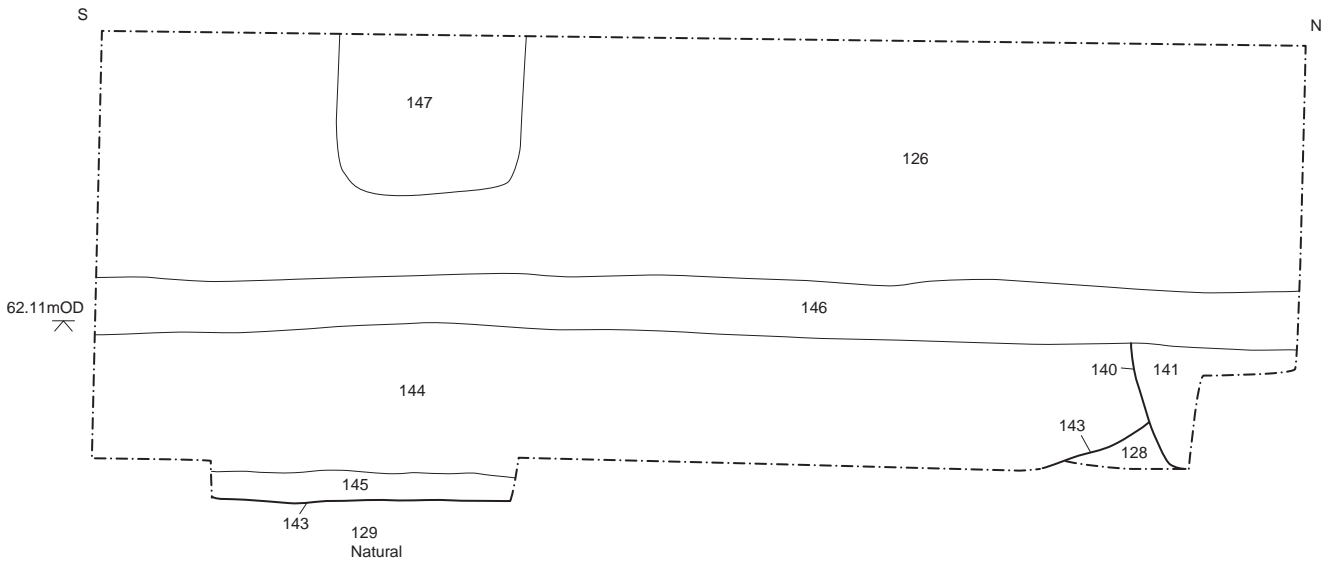


Figure 4: Sections 112 and 113 Trench 4

Section 117

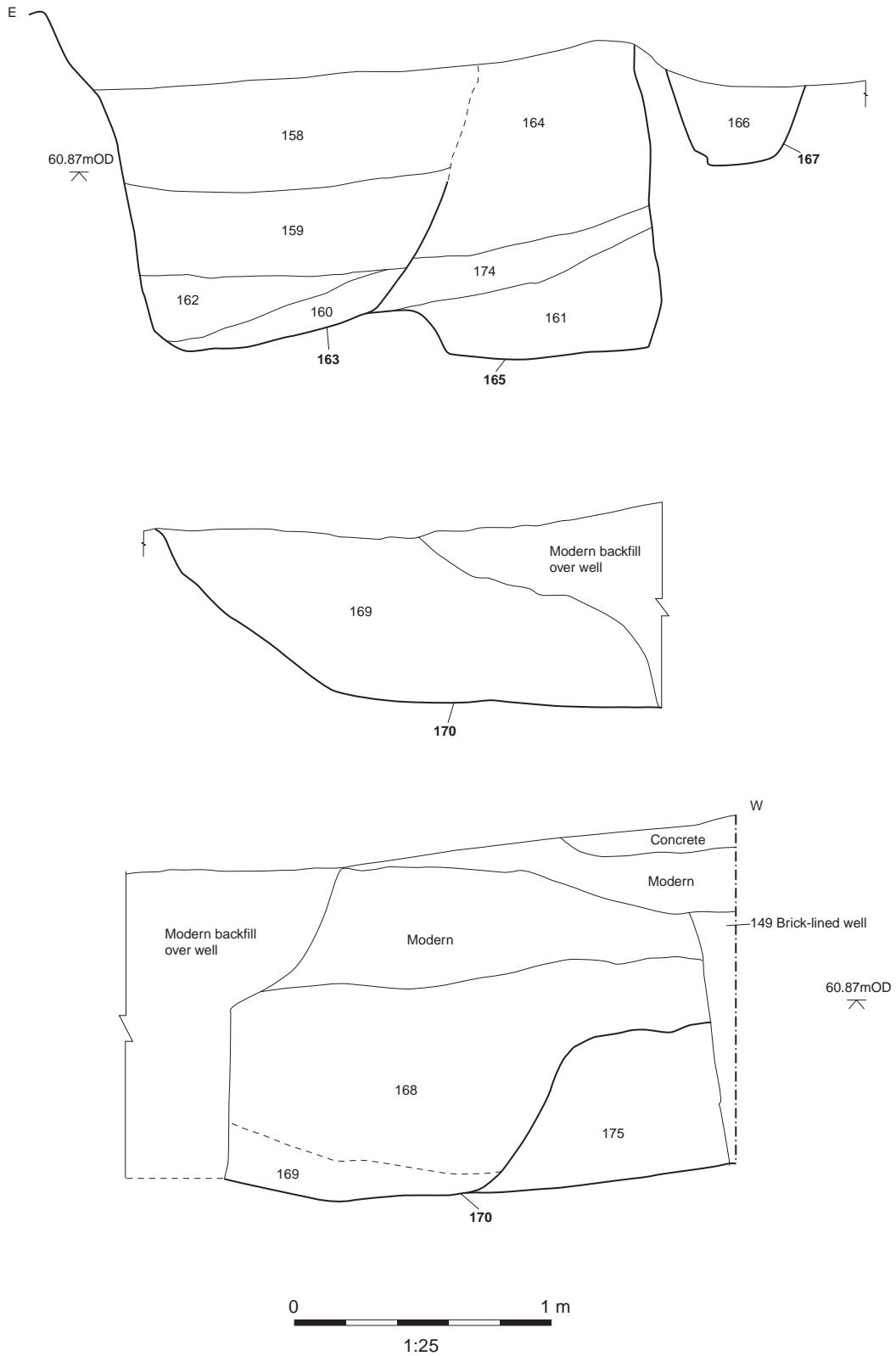


Figure 5: Section 117 Trench 4



Plate 1: Trench 4 field boundary ditches 140 and 143 looking south, scale 0.5m



Plate 2: Trench 4, post medieval well 149 looking east, scale 1m



Plate 3: Section 117, looking south, scale 0.5m



Plate 4: Section 118 looking east; with pit [183] to the north and pit [178] to the south



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