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**Oxford Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, Littlegate Street,
Oxford Additional Trenches**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Z Hotels through an instruction from Planning Resolution to undertake additional archaeological evaluation trenching at the site of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, Littlegate Street, Oxford (NGR: SP 51207 05841). The works were undertaken in advance of, and to inform, a planning application to redevelop/repurpose the site into a new hotel. The aim of the additional principal evaluation trench (Trench 6) was to further identify the exact positions of human skeletal remains and graves within the projected extent of the medieval cemetery that had been originally identified in the initial evaluation, with the express purpose of informing a foundation and drainage design that would avoid impacting any such remains.

The evaluation was undertaken over three weeks during March and April 2022 and consisted of three archaeological evaluation trenches (Nos. 4, 5 and 6) that varied in size.

Trenches 4 and 5 were small approx. 0.7 x 0.5m hand-excavated test-pits located against the southern wall of the existing building to confirm the nature, form, and condition of the foundations to help inform the design of Trench 6, as well as record any significant archaeological deposits that were revealed.

T-shaped, Trench 6 was located within the central and northern area of the southern carpark between and wrapping around to the northern extents of former evaluation Trenches 2 and 3. This location was over medieval foundations for the Porch and another structure (an Anchor House) which formed part of the Oxford Blackfriars Church, as well as a newly identified concentration of inhumation burials.

Surviving medieval remains relating to the use and fabric of the Oxford Blackfriars complex were encountered throughout Trench 6. Remains included substantial limestone foundations (heavily robbed in places) forming the western wall/foundation of a small internal space interpreted as the Porch (the entrance to the Church at the west end of the North Aisle), this structure also formed eastern wall/foundation of an adjacent space - a possible 'Anchor House'. Gravel surfaces (probably external) survived in patches to the west and north of these structures. A significant number of often intercutting, east-west orientated graves containing in-situ skeletal remains of supine inhumations, with their heads to the west, were distributed throughout the trench, some clearly cutting the stone foundations/robber-trench backfill of the aforementioned wall/foundation, indicating demolition and remodelling with a change in use of the area probably associated with the rebuilding of the west end of the Church. The skeletal remains survived in a well-preserved state despite limited post-medieval and modern disturbance. The medieval features

associated with the Oxford Blackfriars are considered to of national significance.

Accurate plans of the burials were shared with the project design team to allow for a final phase of foundation redesign prior to the schemes submission to the Local Planning Authority (OCC).

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Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Z Hotels for commissioning this project, and to Philip Atkins and Phillip Taylor from Planning Resolution, Peter Rzonska of KPR Architects and Chris Gowans of Curtins. Thanks, are also extended to David Radford (City Archaeologist) who monitored the work on behalf of Oxford City Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Ben Ford MCifA FSA, Senior Project Manager. The fieldwork was directed on site by Adam Fellingham (Acting Project Officer), who was supported by Robin Bashford, Ben Slader and Emma Winter. Survey was carried out by Aidan Farnan. Digitising was carried out by Matthew Bradley and Charles Rousseaux.

Thanks, are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Following on from an initial Desk Based Assessment (OA, 2020a) and archaeological trench-based evaluation (OA, 2020c) in 2020, Oxford Archaeology (OA) was instructed by Planning Resolution on behalf of Z Hotels to undertake additional archaeological trenching at the site of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, Littlegate Street, Oxford (NGR: SP 51207 05841, Fig.1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken for two principal reasons:
- to inform Oxford City Council (OCC) the Local Planning Authority (LPA) as to the nature, date, extent etc of any surviving archaeology at the site in advance of a submission of a Planning Application.
 - to inform the projects Design Team of the archaeological constraints at the site and therefore to allow for design changes to be made to the proposal that would minimise any negative impacts upon significant archaeological remains across the site and remove negative impacts upon any *in situ* inhumations within the proposed extent of the medieval Blackfriars cemetery.
- 1.1.3 David Radford (City Archaeologist) OCC did not set a written brief for the work, however discussions with him established the scope of the archaeological work required. A trench plan was agreed and this formed a ‘Supplemental’ document to the original Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2020b) which taken together detailed the Local Authority’s requirements for the work necessary to inform the planning process.
- 1.1.4 This document outlines how OA implemented the WSI with Supplemental trench plan and details the archaeological results.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located within the suburb of St Ebbe’s, south of the historic enwalled centre of Oxford, an area which is now within the modern city centre. It is on the corner of Albion Place and the road formerly known as Commercial Road, which is now treated as the southern extension of Littlegate Street (Fig. 1). Within the site is a seventeenth century cottage, a nineteenth century Nonconformist Chapel, and modern buildings which together form the Oxford Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre (Munby 2013 and OA 2020a Fig. 21). To the east of the site is the Salvation Army ‘Citadel’ building and the northern half of Brooks Taylor Court (a block of sheltered accommodation flats). To the south is the site of Lucy Faithfull House, which has recently been demolished and at the time of writing lies undeveloped.
- 1.2.2 The site varies in height between 56.1m – 56.6m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). It is situated just to the south of the end of the Oxfords North-South gravel promontory on the northern edge of the floodplain of the River Thames, approximately 160m north of the current main channel of the river. The underlying bedrock geology at the site is recorded as Oxford Clay which is overlain by first terrace gravels of the Northmoor

Terrace formation, these gravels were subsequently covered by alluvial deposition over the last 12,000 years (BGS 2022).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA), (OA 2020a) with a summary of previous archaeological investigations within and near to the site are reproduced within the previous archaeological evaluation report (OA 2020c).

Evaluation at the Oxford Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre 2020 (Figures 2 and 5)

1.3.2 The most recent archaeological investigation of the site was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2020c) which consisted of three archaeological trenches where significant archaeological structures, human remains, and deposits were revealed relating to the site of the Oxford Blackfriars across all three trenches (these are shown on Figures 2 and 5).

1.3.3 Trench 1 was targeted over an area of unknown medieval potential adjacent to the cemetery boundary wall of the Blackfriars. Within this area of site medieval archaeology was encountered at 56.10m OD. This consisted of two phase of construction deposits and surfaces associated with a possible mason's yard. This was overlain by a post-medieval garden soil and limestone wall.

1.3.4 Both Trenches 2 and 3 were targeted over the projected medieval walls which formed part of the Porch to the Greyfriars Church and a possible 'Anchor House' as mapped by Lambrick (1985). Within these trenches surviving medieval remains relating to the monastic institute were encountered at 56.10m OD. These include walls forming part of a porch and later redevelopments, gravel and limestone surfaces, graves containing in-situ human remains.

1.3.5 The medieval sequence was sealed by post-dissolution garden soils, which were cut by post-medieval clay-lined tanning pits, and small sections of limestone walling. Some limited truncation from Victorian and modern features was also identified.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation aimed to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of archaeological remains within the area to be impacted by the proposal.

2.1.2 The project took into account the pertinent elements of the city and regional resource assessments and research agendas available on the web:

- http://thehumanjourney.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=553&Itemid=277
- <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decP/OxfordArchaeologicalPlan.htm>

General aims and objectives

2.1.1 The general project aims, and objectives were as follows:

- To determine the nature and extent of any remains present within the trenches using sample excavation.
- To determine the date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence, such as scientific dating.
- To determine the nature and state of preservation of any ecofactual remains.
- To avoid excavation in areas where there are known existing services.
- To produce a client report, and/or publish in a local journal, significant archaeological remains.

Specific aims and objectives

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To further define and confirm the layout of the Blackfriars buildings.
- To further understand the daily life within religious institutions with regards to diet, health, daily routine, and land use.
- To establish whether similar sequences to that revealed during previous excavations (1961-1983), watching briefs (2007) and evaluations (2019 and 2020) are present.
- To what extent has modern activity truncated any surviving friary remains and any earlier archaeological deposits and/or features present within the site.

2.2 Methodology

Scope of works

- 2.2.1 A total of three archaeological evaluation trenches (Trenches 4, 5 and 6, Fig.2) were excavated within the site.
- 2.2.2 Trenches 4 and 5 positions were designed to confirm the foundations of the existing buildings to assist the design of the main archaeological evaluation Trench 6.
- 2.2.3 Trench 6 was targeted over an area which contained the project lines of medieval structures and burials from the archaeological investigation of the site in 2020 relating to the Blackfriars.

Site specific methodology

- 2.2.4 Trenches 4 and 5 were hand excavated by the onsite groundworkers under constant archaeological supervision to confirm the nature, form, and condition of the foundations of the existing buildings, as well as the presence and/or absence of significant archaeological deposits.
- 2.2.5 Trench 6 was excavated by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Machining continued in spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, which was between 0.90m and 1.40m below existing ground level (bgl). Once archaeological features and deposits were exposed, further excavation of significant remains was undertaken by hand, but large modern features were partially excavated with the assistance of the mechanical excavator.
- 2.2.6 It was agreed with David Radford (OCC) that any potential graves would have a hand excavated test slot across them to confirm whether they contained any *in-situ* human remains. If human remains were confirmed these would be left *in-situ* with basic recording to be undertaken, which consisted of plan location, levels, and photographs of each burial. Where it became evident that intercutting graves were present the potential earlier graves within the sequence were not further investigated due to the possibility of disturbing the already exposed *in-situ* later human remains.
- 2.2.7 During excavation, a large quantity of disarticulated human remains was recovered from the cemetery soils and grave fills. These were collected and reburied within the hand excavated test slot of grave cut 661.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with 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 deposit sequence within the trenches was relatively uniform and broadly similar. The earliest deposit encountered during this phase of archaeological investigations was the top of the alluvial sequence, which was in turn overlain by medieval land reclamation. This was either cut by medieval friary foundation and graves or overlain by medieval surfaces, which were in turn overlain by a post-Dissolution garden-like soils that were overlain and cut by post-medieval deposits and features, and then modern deposits and features.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features and deposits were easy to identify except for some grave backfills which were more difficult to identify within the similar surrounding cemetery soils.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Significant archaeological features, structures and deposits were only present within Trench 6. Grave cuts and human skeletal remains were predominantly present within the trench but less so in the north-west corner. Very substantial limestone foundations were also present which correlated with the structural remains in Trench 2, with less substantial foundations similar to that recorded in Trench 3 during the previous archaeological investigations (OA, 2020b) was revealed.

3.1 Trench 4 and 5 (Figure 2)

3.1.1 Trenches 4 and 5 contained no significant archaeology. As previously stated, both trenches were designed to investigate the form, nature, and condition of the foundations of the existing buildings located within the site and will not be discussed further.

3.2 Trench 6 (Figures 3, 4, and 5 Plates 1-4)

3.2.1 Trench 6 was located within the central area of the southern carpark between former Trenches 2 and 3. This was a T-shape trench which was orientated north-south over a split ground level, with the northern arm of the trench through a concrete path (56.50m OD) and the southern arm through the carpark at a higher level (57.06m OD).

3.2.2 The northern arm of the trench measured 8.64m long and 2.80m wide and was excavated to 0.90m bgl (55.60m OD). The southern arm of the trench measured 7.60m long and 4.50m wide and was excavated to 1.40m bgl (55.66m OD).

- 3.2.3 The earliest deposit encountered was an alluvial deposit, 664 (same as 109, 263, 272 and 302 OA 2020c), which varied in colour and generally appeared as either a mid-greyish brown or a mid-blueish grey clay. This was only encountered within the north-western arm of the trench at 1.25m bgl (55.25m OD). The alluvium was overlain by a friable dark brownish grey clayey silt, 600 (same as 110, 126, 262, 271, 296 and 303 OA 2020c), which was encountered at 1.02m bgl (55.48m OD). This was truncated by a possible grave cut (616), two construction cuts (603 and 669) and overlain by two gravel surfaces (680 and 681).
- 3.2.4 The possible grave cut, 616, that truncated deposit 600 was slightly offset east-west alignment and contained a single fill, 617. A hand excavated test slot was undertaken to confirm the presence and/or absence of *in-situ* human remains, however, this produced no *in-situ* burial which could be due to the truncation of modern structure 613. Fill 617 produced pottery dating from 1600-1750 with a residual piece of Andenne-type ware (1050-1250).
- 3.2.5 Construction cut 603 was encountered within the north-western arm of the trench and its alignment was slightly off-set east to west and was filled with a compacted mid-orangish brown sandy gravel, 604. This most likely represents a compacted gravel foundation base for a wall foundation, however, no limestone foundation remained due to later intercutting pits 605 and 608. These were both subrounded in plan with near vertical sides. Two fragments of pottery were recovered from the earliest pit in the sequence, 605, and was dated to 1250-1350.
- 3.2.6 Construction cut 669 was encountered within the southern arm of the trench and was orientated north-south for a medieval wall foundation 663 (same as 267 OA 2020c). This was constructed out of roughly hewn limestone measuring approximately over 3m long and over 0.70m wide, with a mid-yellowish brown sandy gravel bond. This was truncated by a robber trench, 678, which was encountered at 1.09m bgl (55.93m OD). This was cut by six medieval graves (627, 629, 640, 652, 659, and 661).
- 3.2.7 Deposit 600 was also overlain by possible surfaces 680 and 681, or it is possible that these could be surface makeup. Both appeared as compact light-brownish yellow sandy gravel and were encountered between 55.57m OD and 55.70m OD. Both surfaces were cut by three medieval graves (645, 661 and 671).
- 3.2.8 The medieval wall foundation, 663, was abutted by a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt deposit, 656 (same as 245 OA 2020c), containing frequent disarticulated human bones and occasional sub-rounded flint gravel and contained pottery dating from 1250-1450, as well as 13th to 14th century ceramic building material. Deposit 656 was cut by eleven intercutting medieval graves (618, 621, 624, 632, 635, 638, 643, 647, 649, 654 and 673).
- 3.2.9 All nineteen medieval graves were encountered at c55.65m OD and were orientated east-west measuring between 0.50m to 0.74m+ wide and between 1.10m+ and 1.48m long. Thirteen of the medieval graves had a test slot to confirm the presence and/or absence of *in-situ* human remains. All thirteen test slots contained *in-situ* human remains (Sk619, Sk622, Sk625, Sk630, Sk634, Sk636, Sk641, Sk650, Sk667, Sk670, Sk674, Sk676 and Sk677) and were encountered between 55.09m OD and 55.65m OD.

Pottery and ceramic building material was recovered from these grave fills and mainly date between the 13th and 15th centuries.

- 3.2.10 Overlying and sealing the intercutting medieval graves was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt, 665 (same as 244 OA 2020c), containing frequent disarticulated and occasional sub-rounded flint gravel and was encountered at 1.06m bgl (56m OD). It should be noted that the relationship between deposit 665 and the intercutting graves was not obvious in plan or section due to the fills of the grave and this deposit being alike in nature.
- 3.2.11 In the north-west area of the trench deposit 665, as well as pits 605 and 608, were truncated a by post-medieval clay lined pit, 611, which was machine excavated and measured over 1.20m long, over 0.90m wide and was 0.97m deep. This contained a single fill, 612, which appeared as a firm mid-brownish grey silty clay with lenses of charcoal.
- 3.2.12 Deposit 665 within the southern arm of the trench was overlain by a mid-brownish grey clay silt deposit, 666 (same as 120, 230, 279 and 310 OA 2020c). This was truncated by a Victorian boundary wall (613 same as 123 and 256 OA 2020c), a Victorian well (657 same as 254 OA 2020c) and a modern pit (601). Wall 613 was constructed out of roughly hewn and squared limestone with a lime mortar bonding and was orientated north-south through the north-eastern area of the trench. These features were either overlain by modern deposits or cut by previous archaeological trenches from 2020 and were in turn overlain by type 1 and the existing tarmac or concrete surfaces.

3.3 Finds summary

- 3.3.1 The finds recovered from site are dominated by medieval pottery and ceramic building material which are ubiquitous of the period during the use of the site by the the Blackfriars. A single piece fragment of a medieval stone coffin was redeposited in a later feature.
- 3.3.2 Specialist reports for all material classes that were recovered can be found in Appendix B.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Although restricted to areas of the site not covered by existing standing buildings the distribution and size of the trenches covered an appropriate sample area of the proposed new development. Within the additional trenches the stratigraphic sequences were well understood and correlates well with previous archaeological investigations undertaken within the site. The evaluation has further confirmed that medieval remains within the site have remained relatively undisturbed by later activity.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The level of natural gravels and the thickness of the overlying alluvium was logged (OA 2020c).

4.2.2 The position and depth, extent, condition, and date of the full sequence of archaeological structures, features, and deposits within this part of the Blackfriars Precinct was explored and recorded. The presence and form of Lambricks' inferred Anchor House and Porch were tested.

4.2.3 The position and depth of all *in-situ* inhumations and presence of skeletal remains within the trenches was confirmed and recorded.

4.2.4 The positions of previous archaeological trenches were also confirmed allowing the remains to be placed within the context of those former investigations (Lambrick 1986 and OA 2020c).

4.2.5 A Victorian tenement boundary wall for properties fronting onto Commercial Road (now Littlegate Street) was recorded allowing for the accurate mapping of the evaluation results to contemporary OS maps.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The interpretation brings together evidence from all evaluation trenches excavated on the site.

Natural

4.3.2 Although located on the historic floodplain and marshland (Lambrick 1976 and 1985) the site is currently relatively level and dry due to centuries of human occupation and associated build-up of ground levels, and managed waterways.

4.3.3 The height of the natural gravels was previously recorded within four auger holes (AH1-4) at varying depths between 53.01m OD and 53.74m OD (OA 2020c). The change in height between the gravels suggests that the site is, at least in part, located upon one of the gravel islands similar to that recorded at the Oxford Greyfriars immediately west of the site, and at Whitehouse Road a few hundred metres to the south of the site.

4.3.4 The natural gravels within the previous trenches (1, 2 and 3) were overlain by an alluvial sequence which was fully investigated within the previous auger holes AH1-4

(OA 2020c). The top of the alluvium was encountered within Trench 6 at 55.25m OD and has varied slightly across all trenches at depths up to 55.40m OD.

Phase 1: Pre-Blackfriars activity

- 4.3.5 Stratigraphically the earliest recorded medieval deposit within both phases of the evaluation was a land reclamation deposit 600 (previously encountered within Trenches 1 to 3) immediately overlying the alluvium. These consistently appeared as a dark greyish-brown clayey-silt with occasional charcoal and subrounded flint gravel and has previously contained pottery dating from AD 1150-1350 (OA 2020c). These deposits were probably part of a concerted single reclamation event prior to, and perhaps acting as one of the initial activities required to prepare the area for the construction of the Blackfriars.

Phase 2: The Second Site of the Blackfriars (Anchor House/Porch)

- 4.3.6 The foundations of the Dominicans Church Choir and Nave, immediately to the southeast of the site, were substantial and cut deep into alluvial deposits, with the subsequent material used to raise the level of the overall area, e.g. the Nave being raised by 0.40 to 0.60m (Lambrick 1985). It is probable that the redeposited clay/alluvium previously recorded within Trench 2 is of a similar origin and date.
- 4.3.7 The earliest friary structures were recorded within Trenches 2 and 6 (241, 267 and 663). These are the northwards and westwards continuation of the substantial wall foundations first recorded by Lambrick (Lambrick 1976). The evaluation evidence from 2020 and 2022 combined with Lambricks results confirms the existence of a small and enclosed space. This structure (one of an inferred pair of similar sized spaces) was interpreted by Lambrick as an Anchor House (a cell for an individual who lived an isolated life of religious observance).
- 4.3.8 No such continuation of the substantial wall foundations Lambrick interpreted as a Porch (forming the other one of the pair and lying immediately adjacent and to the west of his Anchor House) were observed. Here instead less substantial wall foundations, on an alignment slightly off from that inferred by Lambrick were seen and discussed below in Phase 3.
- 4.3.9 Whilst no formal floor surfaces survived externally to this structure there was evidence for either minor surfaces or floor levelling deposit (680 and 681) similar to that recorded within Trench 2 (OA 2020c). The abundance of ceramic floor tile recovered either from the grave fills or the two cemetery soils from both phases of archaeological investigations may have derived from a high-status floor to this structure.
- 4.3.10 We must also consider the presence of the human burials from both stages of the evaluation, as several inhumations respected the area defined by the stone foundations (both within and without), and none were truncated by the foundation construction. Within this group there were three phases of intercutting burials, the earliest of which would not predate 1262 when the Church was consecrated (O'Sullivan 2013).
- 4.3.11 The question of the function of this single small but substantially founded structure remains. The overall size and nature of the foundations, and the possibility that it had

a decorated tiled floor, may be too grand for the postulated Anchor House (an Anchorite would only have needed the provisions of the necessities to be isolated from the world in their walled-up cell (Jones, 1998)). The use of the area to inter the dead also seems at odds with such a function. Taken together this evidence, combined with its position suggests that the structure is probably the Porch entrance to the Dominican Church (OA 2020c).

Phase 3: Redevelopment of the western area of the Blackfriars

- 4.3.12 The relationship between the remains of the less substantial, heavily robbed, western wall foundations (604) and the structural space formed by the more substantial foundations (663) to its' east was not established during both phases of investigations, this is partly due to either truncations by later medieval burials or modern activity within Trench 6. However it is suggested that the off-set alignment of the western structure was added later to the eastern structure (OA 2022c).
- 4.3.13 The compacted gravel foundations recorded within Trenches 3 and 6 may represent the Porch being expanded in relationship to one of the rebuilds in this area of the western end of the Church. Perhaps during the 14th century when the original Nave was extended (O'Sullivan 2013), or during the 15th century with the addition of the Galilee (Lambrick 1985). One notable similarity between these slighter walls is their shared alignment with the Infirmary and path recorded to the south of the current site by Lambrick, which perhaps indicates these modifications belong to a contemporary construction phase.

Phase 4: Demolition of the Porch and western structure

Demolition

- 4.3.14 The archaeological evidence recorded within both stages of the evaluation (2020 and 2022) suggest that the Porch and the structure to its' west were demolished, probably at or around the same time. Although this cannot be proven as the fills of the robber trenches from both structures were overlain by later surfaces and cut by the insertion of later inhumations.

Later medieval graves

- 4.3.15 The final apparent phase of graves recorded during both evaluations (Trenches 2, 3 and 6) largely consisted of intercutting graves cutting the robbing episode or truncating remains of gravel foundations. Whilst the phasing of the buildings is currently not known, it is evident that this area of the site was demolished with the intention of using this area as a cemetery.
- 4.3.16 Within Trenches 2 and 6 a combined total of sixteen graves (274 = 649, 278, 281, 283 = 652, 285, 287, 289, 621, 624, 627, 629, 640, 647, 659, 661 and 671) were seen truncating the north-south robber cut (266 and 678) for demolished friary wall 267 = 663.
- 4.3.17 The Blackfriars used the area within and without of these structures to inter the dead both during the lifetime of the structures and in this phase after they were

demolished. As Lambrick identified the Blackfriars remodelled the western end of their church, the demolition of the possible Porch may indicate the remodelling was associated with a new entrance, perhaps in the remodelled western façade (OA 2020c).

Phase 5: Dissolution of the friary

4.3.18 Post-dissolution activity recorded within the site during both phases of evaluation appears to only be garden soils recorded across Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6, which overlaid all associated friary deposits and features within the site. Trench 2's garden soil deposit contained an Oxford trade token dating from AD 1668, which demonstrates a level of reworking of this soil horizon during a period of at least 130 years (OA 2020c).

Phase 6: Post-medieval activity

4.3.19 The post-dissolution horizon identified during the evaluation was truncated by a series of clay lined pits within Trenches 2, 3 and 6 (a possible pair of barrel pits and a larger lay-away pit) indicate the presence of a relatively large post-medieval tannery complex (OA 2020c). Such barrel pit pairings and a lay-away pit complex were interpreted as a tannery or clothier's works in Reading and dated to the 16th-17th century (Ford et. al., 2012).

4.3.20 It is also possible that the two recorded pits, 605 and 608, within Trench 6 could potentially be associated with this period of activity within the site, as all relationships with known horizons within the site was truncated by the clay lined pit, 611. Meaning that the two fragments of medieval pottery recovered from 605 is perhaps residual.

Phase 7: Victorian and modern activity

4.3.21 Victorian garden soils previously encountered within Trenches 1, 2 and 3 did not exceed 1.25m bgl (55.81m OD) across the areas of investigation (OA 202b). In Trenches 1, 2 and 6 the remains of a property boundary wall ran north-south with eastwards return at its' northern end (123 = 256 = 613). This wall demarcated the rear of domestic properties to the west (that fronted onto Commercial Road, now Littlegate Street) and appeared on historic maps from at least 1876 (Ordnance Survey 1:500) until 1981 when the site and surrounding area was redeveloped. Within Trench 2 and 6 a Victorian well (254 = 657) and waste pit 291 were located adjacent to this wall within the gardens at the back of the property.

4.3.22 The identification of previous investigations undertaken by Lambrick (Trenches W IV and W VIII), plus the location of the still extant Priory Gatehouse within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre has allowed Lambrick's excavation plans (Lambrick 1985) to be correctly positioned in relation to both phases of evaluation (Figure 2).

4.3.23 This sequence was in turn overlain by various late 20th century deposits which were capped by the existing tarmac surfaces.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 Previous archaeological investigations, and the presence of a medieval gateway within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre indicates that the site lies within the northern

part of the precinct of the Dominicans of Oxford, to the northwest and adjacent to the North Aisle of the Church, where the conjectured entrance Porch to the Church and possible attached Anchor House were inferred to lie within the sites southeast area.

- 4.4.2 Both the evaluation from 2020 and 2022 has further revealed substantial and well-preserved medieval remains that included foundations probably forming part of the Church Porch and attached structure (Anchor House ?), plus evidence for additional phases of construction and a major phase of demolition of these structures during the use of the site by the Dominicans. Demolition of the Porch and attached structure suggests a new entrance formed part of the remodelling of the Blackfriars Church. Multiple graves containing in situ human remains show that during these structures' lifetimes, and after their demolition, the area was used to inter the dead (with the density of burial falling away sharply to the north and west within the site). The 2020 evaluation also revealed an area potentially used as a mason's yard during periods of construction (OA 2020c).
- 4.4.3 The medieval structures, features, deposits, and human remains within Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6 have survived in a well-preserved state despite some post-medieval and modern intrusions. The interesting sequence of change and spatial use of the Precinct are likely to be viewed by Oxford City Councils Archaeologist as nationally significant.
- 4.4.4 The presence of post-medieval tanning pits within Trenches 3 and 6 are probably of local significance due to, in part, further understanding of the historical landscape of the site during this period.
- 4.4.5 Victorian and later activity that has been recorded within the site is considered to be of low significance.

4.1 Process of design review resulting from archaeological evidence and constraints (Figure 5)

- 4.1.1 Accurate plans of the medieval graves and human remains found in Trench 6, were combined with similar data from Trenches 2 and 3, plus data showing the location and extent of Lambricks excavations. This plan information combined with archaeological profiles through the site defined the vertical and locational constraints present at the site from significant archaeological and preserved human remains.
- 4.1.2 The revised foundation design for the area of the newly identified proposed medieval cemetery is shown on Figure 5. The Design Team will provide a structural engineers version of this drawing as well as supply technical proposal drawings that show:
- i. All pile positions avoid human skeletal remains within the proposed extents of the medieval cemetery. In total the area impacted by new concrete piles only affect approx. 1% of the development area in total.
 - ii. All pile caps and beams are designed so that the formation level sits above human skeletal remains, or only just impacting into the surfaces and deposits associated with the significant medieval and post-medieval archaeological horizons. This applies to the area of the proposed medieval cemetery as well as the wider area of the Blackfriars precinct that lies within the site to the north and west of the proposed cemetery extents.

- iii. The design of the pile mat for construction cannot be finalised until further Site Investigations have been undertaken, however the formation for this temporary granular surface will not extend deeper than the formation for the pile caps and beams. This will be indicated on structural drawings for the proposal.
- iv. All drainage has been designed so that service trench and manhole formations sit above the proposed medieval cemetery and associated human remains, and above or only impacting minimally into the surfaces, features and deposits associated with the significant medieval and post-medieval archaeological horizons. This applies to the area of proposed medieval cemetery as well as the wider area of the Blackfriars precinct that lies within the site.
- v. Within the listed building, which contains the extant fabric of the former Blackfriars gateway floor levels are significantly lower than recorded in the rest of the development area. Proposed ground works within this building will be designed to avoid un-necessary impacts on potential significant archaeological remains at the level identified from archaeological excavation for the wider site. Drainage will reuse existing runs and manholes where possible, and the existing floor will be maintained in the new design.
- vi. No tower crane is proposed to be used during construction.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of significant archaeology.					Length (m)	0.75
					Width (m)	0.60
					Avg. depth (m)	1
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Structure	-	-	Existing flue	-	-
401	Structure	-	-	Existing Chapel wall and stepped foundation	-	-
402	Structure	-	-	Disturbed or degraded foundation	-	-
403	Deposit	-	-	Possible post-medieval garden soil	-	-
404	Structure	-	-	Brick manhole	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of significant archaeology.					Length (m)	0.70
					Width (m)	0.50
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	-	Existing Chapel wall and stepped foundation	-	-
5201	Layer	-	-	Concrete foundation	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Crush	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	N-S
The earliest deposit encountered within the trench was an alluvial deposit (which contained variations). This was in turn overlain by a land reclamation deposit, which was in turn overlain by gravel surfaces. This was truncated by three phases of graves (a total of 13 <i>in-situ</i> human remains). Two medieval wall foundations were recorded and partly or completely robbed. Both events of robbing were truncated by graves suggesting that this area was still used as consecrated ground after the demolition of these structures. This was overlain by post-dissolution garden like soils which was in turn overlain by post-medieval garden soils which was truncated by later pitting associated with tanning.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.43
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Deposit	-	0.20-0.35	Medieval land reclamation	-	-
601	Cut	1.20	1.50	Modern pit (Soakaway?)	-	-

602	Fill	1.20	1.50	Fill of 601	-	-
603	Cut	0.90+		Construction cut for 604	-	-
604	Fill	0.90+		Compacted gravel foundation levelling deposit	-	-
605	Cut	0.60+	0.56	Pit	-	-
606	Fill	0.60+	0.38	Fill of 605	Pottery	1250- 1350
607	Fill	0.60+	0.18	Fill of 605	-	-
608	Cut	1+	0.50+	Pit	-	-
609	Fill	1+	0.50+	Fill of 608	-	-
610	Void	-	-	Voided context	-	-
611	Cut	1.80+	0.40	Tanning pit	-	-
612	Fill	1.80+	0.40	Fill of 611	-	-
613	Structure	-	-	Brick chamber under flue	-	-
614	Cut	-	-	Construction cut for 613	-	-
615	Fill	-	-	Infill of 613	-	-
616	Cut	0.60	0.68	Possible grave cut?	-	-
617	Fill	0.60	0.68	Fill of 616	Pottery	1600- 1750?
618	Cut	0.50	0.18+	Grave Cut	-	-
619	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
620	Fill	0.50	0.18+	Fill of 618	Pottery CBM	1225- 1400 13th- 14th
621	Cut	0.40+	0.18+	Grave Cut	-	-
622	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
623	Fill	0.40+	0.18+	Fill of 621	-	-
624	Cut	0.50	0.18+	Grave Cut	-	-
625	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
626	Fill	0.50	0.18+	Fill of 624	CBM	13th- 14th
627	Cut	0.70	0.22+	Grave cut	-	-
628	Fill	0.70	0.22+	Fill of 627	Pottery	1050- 1250
629	Cut	0.50	0.29+	Grave Cut	-	-
630	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
631	Fill	0.50	0.29+	Fill of 629	-	-
632	Cut	0.74+	0.10+	Grave Cut	-	-
633	Fill	0.74+	0.10+	Fill of 632	-	-
634	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
635	Cut	0.60	0.19+	Grave Cut	-	-
636	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
637	Fill	0.60	0.19+	Fill of 635	-	-
638	Cut	0.28+	-	Unexcavated grave cut	-	-
639	Fill	0.28+	-	Fill of 638	-	-

640	Cut	0.40+	0.20+	Grave Cut	-	-
641	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
642	Fill	0.40+	0.20+	Fill of 640	-	-
643	Cut	0.45+	-	Unexcavated grave cut	-	-
644	Fill	0.45+	-	Fill of 643	-	-
645	Cut	0.50+	-	Unexcavated grave cut	-	-
646	Fill	0.50+	-	Fill of 645	-	-
647	Cut	0.60	0.36+	Grave Cut	-	-
648	Fill	0.60	0.36+	Fill of 647	Pottery	1050-1250
					CBM	13th-14th
649	Cut	0.30+	0.10+	Grave Cut	-	-
650	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
651	Fill	0.30+	0.10+	Fill of 649	-	-
652	Cut	0.54	-	Unexcavated grave cut	-	-
653	Fill	0.54	-	Fill of 652	-	-
654	Cut	0.40+	-	Unexcavated grave cut	-	-
655	Fill	0.40+	-	Fill of 654	-	-
656	Deposit	-	0.35	Lower cemetery soil	Pottery	1250-1450?
					CBM	13th-14th
657	Cut	2.80	-	Construction cut for Victorian well encountered in Trench 2	-	-
658	Fill	2.80	-	Fill of 657	-	-
659	Cut	0.55	-	Unexcavated grave cut	-	-
660	Fill	0.55	-	Fill of 659	-	-
661	Cut	0.60	0.53+	Grave Cut	-	-
662	Fill	0.60	0.53+	Fill of 661	Pottery	1200-1350?
					CBM	13th-14th
663	Structure	0.70+	0.40+	Medieval N-S wall	-	-
664	Deposit	-	-	Alluvium	-	-
665	Deposit	-	0.20	Upper cemetery soil	-	-
666	Deposit	-	0.30	Post-medieval garden soil	-	-
667	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
668	Fill	0.70+	0.50+	Possible rubble levelling or foundation for 663	-	-
669	Cut	0.70+	0.90+	Construction cut for 663	-	-
670	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
671	Cut	0.40	-	Unexcavated grave cut	-	-
672	Fill	0.40	-	Fill of 671	-	-
673	Cut	0.55	0.29+	Grave Cut	-	-

674	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
675	Fill	0.55	0.29+	Fill of 673	Pottery	1100-1350
					CBM	15th-16th
676	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
677	Skeleton	-	-	<i>In-situ</i> human remains	-	-
678	Cut	0.70+	0.20+	Robber trench for 633	-	-
679	Fill	0.70+	0.20+	Fill of 678	-	-
680	Surface	0.20+	-	Gravel surface	-	-
681	Surface	0.40+	-	Gravel surface	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Post-Roman Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 A total of 16 sherds (235g) of pottery were recovered from 8 contexts. All but one sherd is of medieval date, the remaining sherd being post-medieval.
- B.1.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet (Table 1). The pottery is fragmentary, but some fairly large and fresh sherds are present.
- B.1.3 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994) whereas post-medieval fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1) and is therefore only summarised below.

Description

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
606	c1250-1350	2	22	Bos (body sherds) 2x OXAW highly dec green-glazed (gg) strip jugs (1 possibly KING? Kingston-type ware c1240-1400)
617	c1600-1750?	2	36	Bo PMR with reduced int gg. Fresh bo yellow-glazed Andenne-type ware (OXAD, c1050-1225) with traces of 2 bands of fine diamond-shaped rouletted decoration - classic example – probably from a spouted pitcher?
620	c1225-1400	2	67	OXAM jug rim with rod handle attached with stabbed pits, unglazed. 1x fresh bo from lower wall of jar/cookpot in St Neots ware (OXR, c900-1100)
628	c1050-1250	1	6	Bo OXAC
648	c1050-1250	1	17	Bo OXAC
656	c1250-1450?	1	35	OXAM. Fresh narrow strap handle from jug with deeply stabbed vertical stabs down centre of back. Patchy reduc gg
662	c1200-1350?	5	27	3x OXAW jug incl gg jug rim (scrap) & gg flat base (or ridge tile?) & 1x yellow-glazed jug bo. 2x bos OXY (or OXAW?) cpots
675	c1100-1350	2	25	1x bo Northants-type shellyware (OXBK). 1x bo OXY
TOTAL		16	235	

Table 1. Description of post-Roman pottery by context**Discussion**

- B.1.4 The assemblage comprises ordinary domestic pottery typical of the Oxford area and similar to (though smaller than) the assemblage from the previous evaluation on this site (Phase 1, OXDEAF 20). Like the latter there is a 'high medieval' (13th/14th-century) dating emphasis on pottery from half the contexts here (4 contexts). This is characterised by the presence of glazed jugs in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM and OXAW), including at least one jug in the 'highly decorated' style (c 1250-1350), but plainer, green-glazed and yellow-glazed jugs are also present. A few early medieval sherds are present including Medieval Oxford ware (OXY, c 1075-1300) and Cotswold-type ware (OXAC, c 1050-1250).
- B.1.5 The earliest item is a single sherd of St Neots ware (OXR, c 900-1100), residual in a context of c 1225-1400 (Context 620). A more notable item is a (residual) sherd of yellow-glazed Andenne-type ware (OXAD, c 1050-1225) possibly from a spouted pitcher with typical bands of rouletted decoration (Context 617). Andenne-type ware was produced in what is now eastern Belgium and is fairly rare from Oxford sites. The single post-medieval piece present is a sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (PMR) possibly dating to c 1600-1750?

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

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

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

By Kirsty Smith

Introduction

- B.2.1 A total of 25 fragments of CBM weighing 1639g was recovered from contexts 620, 626, 648, 656, 662 and 675. The assemblage comprises small and moderately sized fragments of roof tile, and three fragments of floor tile with a mean fragment weight of 65.5g. The assemblage consists mainly of medieval material, with one fragment of early post-medieval material. The assemblage has been fully recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2007). The record includes quantification, and details of fabric type, form, surface finish, markings and evidence of use/reuse (mortar, burning etc). Fabrics were characterised on the basis of macroscopic features supplemented by the use of x20 hand lens or binocular microscope at x25 for finer constituents. A summary of the catalogue is presented in Table 1 below.

Fabrics

B.2.2 The medieval fabrics were assigned using the Oxford fabric series housed by Oxford Archaeology which was originally based on material from the Hamel site (Robinson 1980) and has been described in a number of subsequent publications (e.g., Poole 2022). The medieval and early post-medieval fabrics found on the site are described below:

- *IB*. Light pinkish buff or light brown colour with a pale pink or sometimes dark grey core. Contains coarse quartz sand frequent inclusions of fossil shell, ooids and grits derived from Oolitic limestone mostly 1-2mm in size though occasionally with coarser grits (late 12th-14th century)
- *IIIA*. Off-white, cream, yellowish cream, or pale buff with a faint pale brownish core (late 12th-14th century)
- *IIIB*. Coarse red sandy fabric. The inclusions include a high density coarse white quartz sand and small dark coarse sand sized ferruginous grits 1-2mm diameter (late 12th-14th century)
- *VIIB*. Pink, pale orange colour with a buff core containing medium clear, milky or rose quartz sand in variable density and common chalk or soft limestone inclusions mostly c 0.5-3mm (late 12th - mid-13th century)
- *IVC*. Reddish orange. Fine sandy with sparse mica and common-frequent red ferruginous argillaceous grits 1-3mm (15th-16th century)

Medieval and early post-medieval CBM

B.2.3 The majority of the assemblage comprised later medieval roof tile (21 fragments, 1337g) which was made from fabrics IB, IIIA, IIIB and VIIB. These fabrics can be dated as late 12th-14th century. This included 10 fragments of mainly unglazed flat tile (which probably originated as peg tile) weighing 699g. Two fragments from contexts 620 and 626 were glazed on the top surface and had orange and amber glaze respectively. The flat tile was 10-16mm thick with most fragments around 13-14mm thick. Thickness was the only complete dimension for the roof tile.

B.2.4 There were also 11 fragments of ridge tile (638g) recorded and these were thicker than the flat tile (12-19mm). The ridge tile fragments were thicker towards the bottom (side) edges and also had angled edges once rested on a flat surface. One small fragment (21g) from context 656 may have originated from part of a crested ridge tile. Three fragments of ridge tile were glazed including two with green glaze, and one with amber glaze.

B.2.5 One fragment (5g) of indeterminate type was recorded from context 648, it probably originated from a peg tile.

B.2.6 Three fragments of floor tile (297g) were recorded from contexts 626, 656 and 675. The fragments from 626 and 656 were made from fabric IIIB and were stabbed Wessex tiles (dated as late 13th to mid-14th century). These fragments were 16 and 25mm thick and had very smooth edges which had been wire trimmed. The fragment from context 656 was 42mm+ wide and 59mm+ long. It had three stab marks on the base which were each 2.5mm diameter. The depth of the stab marks could not be measured as they were partially filled with mortar. This tile had a very worn top surface with no glaze left but did have small splashes of amber/green glaze on one side.

B.2.7 The floor tile fragment from context 675 was made from fabric IVC and was 30mm+ thick, 68mm+ wide and 75mm+ long (it had no complete dimensions). The edges were wired trimmed and there was no sign of keying on the base. The tile had a yellow glaze covering the top surface with no sign of decoration. This plain glazed tile has a later date than the other floor tiles and is probably a ‘Flemish Type’ floor tile dating to the 15th-16th century. These tiles were previously recorded during the 2020 evaluation of the site (OA 2020c).

Form	CL12-14	C15-16	Total
Flat tile	8		8
Floor tile	2	1	3
Indeterminate	1		1
Ridge	6		6
Ridge - glazed	5		5
Roof – flat glazed	2		2
Total	24	1	25

Table 1: Summary of CBM assemblage

Conclusions

B.2.8 The roof tile and floor tile fragments were recovered from the fill of graves 618, 624, 661, 673 and cemetery soil 656. The pottery recovered from these contexts is broadly similar to the CBM, with most fragments dating to the 13th-14th century. The exception is that the pottery from context 675 was dated as c 1100-1350 and this context also contained the 15th-16th century unkeyed floor tile.

B.2.9 The roof tile broadly dates to the late 12th-14th century and two fragments of floor tiles date to the late 13th to mid-14th century. One fragment of floor tile dates to the 15th-16th century. The building material almost certainly derives from the later medieval Dominican Priory of the Blackfriars (early 13th century until the Reformation).

Recommendations

B.2.10 The assemblage should be retained for now pending further work, given that the CBM comes from the Blackfriars Priory and cemetery and can assist with refining the dating of the medieval graves. Recommendations have been made within the catalogue for specific significant fragments to retain including the floor tile and ridge tile fragments.

B.3 Worked Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey and Julian Munby

Introduction

A total of two pieces of stone were retained. These were examined by eye and are detailed in full here. A fragment of corner stone was recovered from upper cemetery soil 665 which is the base of the top end of a stone coffin with a squared shoulder point rather than the more usual rounded shoulder point, with a rebate for a stone capping. Similar examples of this stone coffin can also be found at Lincoln and Chester Cathedral. It has neat vertical tooled external sides and internal sides, of which two survive and the base of the third. The internal base is stepped and slightly dished. It measures c 40 x 60 cm with an internal depth of 18cm. It is made of oolitic limestone of Taynton stone type.

A slab of quartzitic sandstone was recovered from medieval wall 663. It has been crudely shaped into an oblong but is not tooled. It measures c 30 x 20 x 10cm and weighs 4.5kg

B.4 Animal Bone

By Adrienne Powell

- B.3.1 A single fragment (9g) of animal bone was recovered from context 656. The specimen is a charred fragment from the body of a large mammal mandible, in good condition although with some superficial abrasion.
- B.3.2 No further information can be gained from this specimen, and it may be discarded

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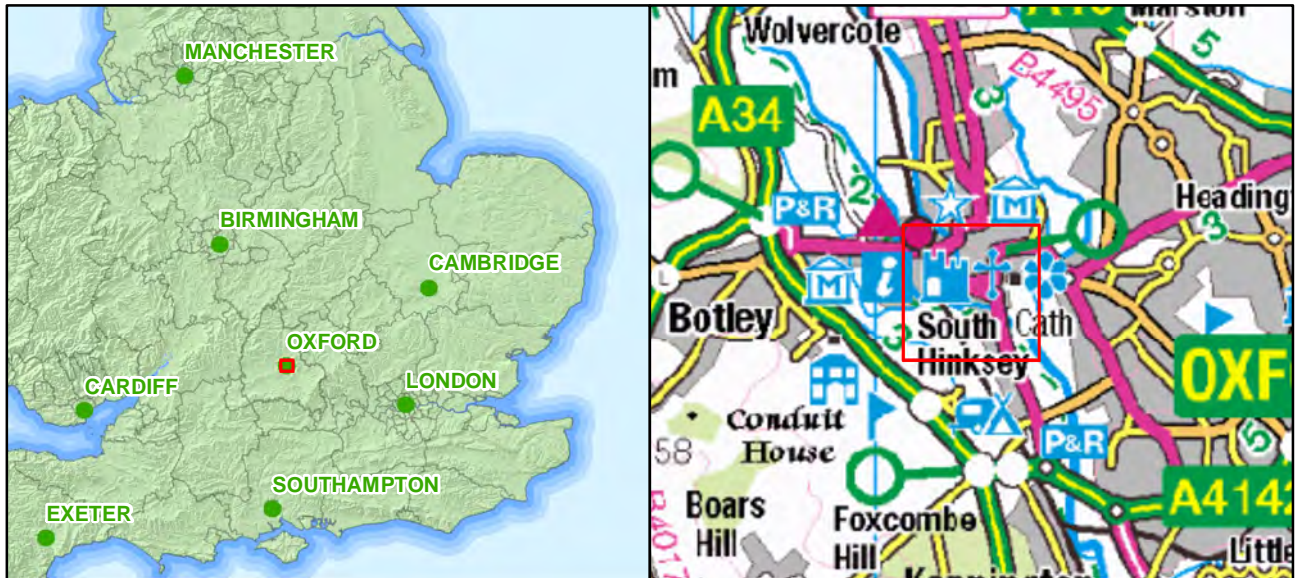
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APPENDIX D**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM**

Site name:	Oxford Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, Oxford
Site code:	OXDEAF22
Grid Reference	SP 51207 05841
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	3 weeks during March and April 2022
Area of Site	***
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Services in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS : 2020.72

Summary of Results: Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Z Hotels to undertake additional archaeological evaluation trenching consisting of three trenches at the site of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, Oxford (NGR: SP 51207 05841). The works were undertaken in advance of a planning application. The evaluation was undertaken over 3 weeks during March and April 2022, consisted of three archaeological evaluation trenches (Nos. 4, 5 and 6) that varied in size. Trenches 4 and 5 were located against the southern wall of the existing chapel and were hand excavated to confirm the nature, form, and condition of the foundations of the existing buildings, as well as the presence and/or absence of significant archaeological deposits, to help inform the design and nature of Trench 6. This trench was located within the central area of the southern carpark between former Trenches 2 and 3. This was a T-shape trench which was orientated north-south over a split ground level and was excavated to between 0.90m bgl (55.60m OD) and 1.40m bgl (55.66m OD). Trench 6 was targeted over the projected medieval walls which formed part of the porch as mapped by Lambrick (1985) and Oxford Archaeology (2020c). Within this trench surviving medieval remains relating to the monastic institute were encountered at 56.10m OD during both phases of archaeological investigations. These include walls forming part of a porch and later redevelopments, possible gravel surfaces, graves containing in-situ human remains, as well as post-dissolution garden soils. These have survived in a well-preserved state despite post-medieval and modern disturbances. The discovery of these medieval features relating to the monastic institute are considered to be nationally significant. The presence of post-medieval tanning pits is considered to be of some significance due to, in part, further understanding of the historical landscape of the site after the dissolution of the friary.

Victorian and later activity that has been recorded within the site is considered to be of low significance.



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Figure 1: Site location

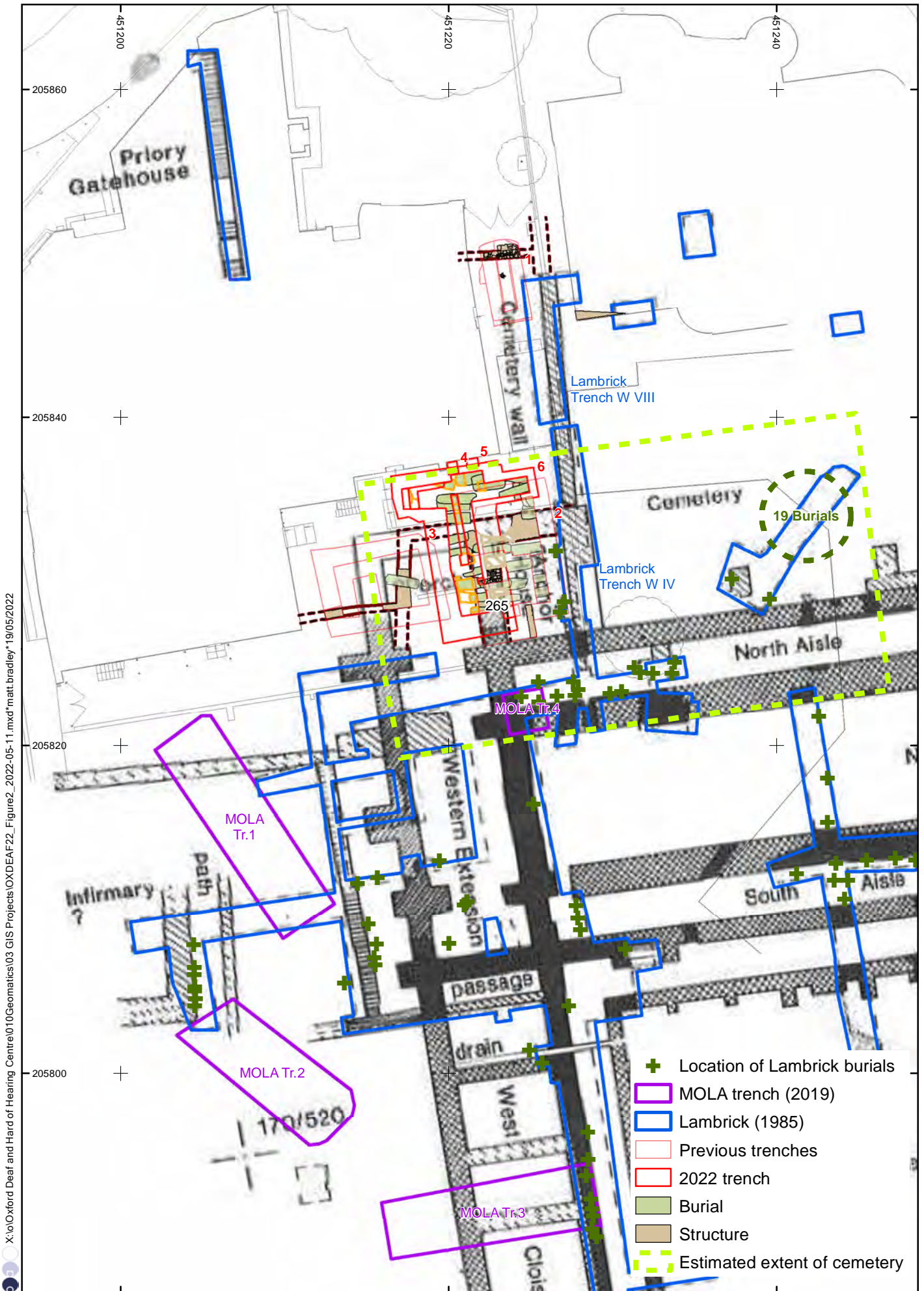


Figure 2: Known and projected remains of the Blackfriars based on Lambrick (1985), MOLA (2019) and OA (2020)

0 1:300 @ A4 10 m

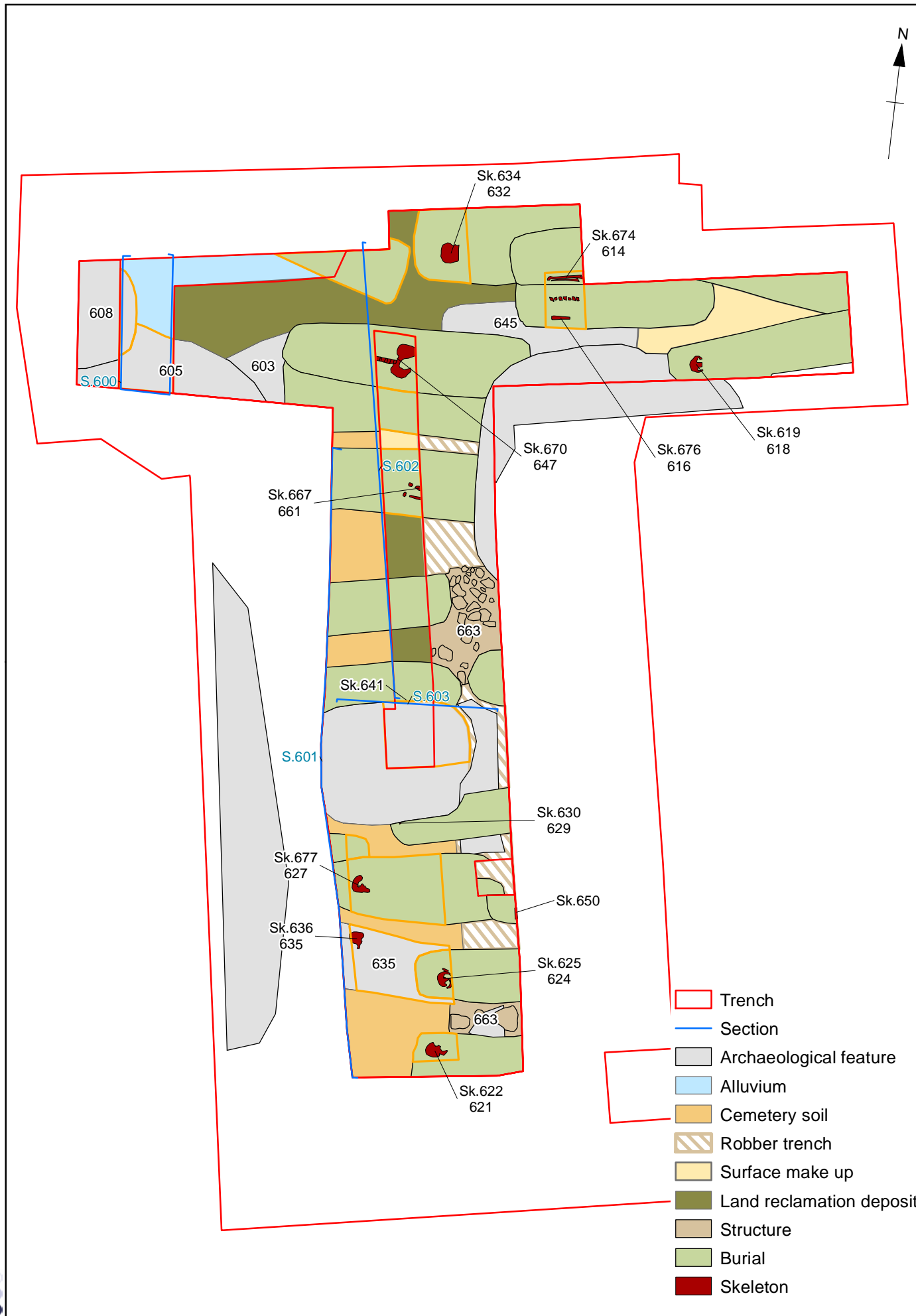


Figure 3: Trench 6 post-excitation plan

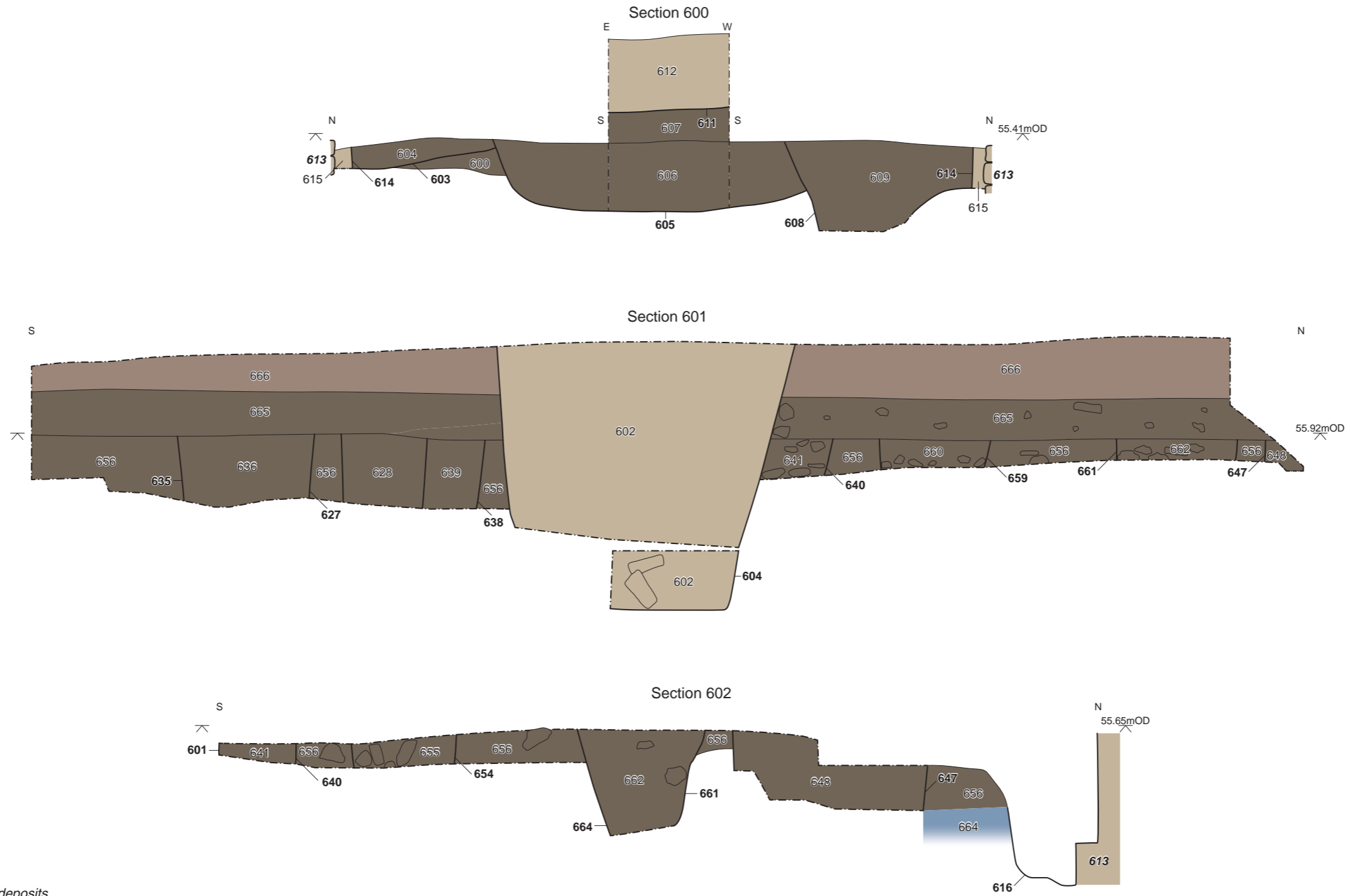


Figure 4: Trench 6 sections



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Figure 5: Showing revised foundation design and position of piles to avoid burials with projected cemetery



Plate 1: Trench 6, showing surface 680 including Sk667 and Sk670, Section 602, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 6, showing surface 681 and Sk619, Section 400, looking west



Plate 3: Trench 2, showing friary wall 241 and Sk200-204, Section 400, looking east



Plate 4: Trench 2, showing cemetery soils 244-245 and Sk209-210, Section 400, looking east



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