

# Land at Albion Place Oxford



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



May 2008

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Centres**

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## Summary

*In July 2007 Oxford Archaeology carried out a Watching Brief at Albion Place, Oxford (NGR SP 5126 0581) on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd/Capital Shopping Centres. The Test Pit investigation successfully identified structures and several interments related to the Medieval Dominican Priory and in doing so were able to relocate pile locations that would impact on these remains.*

*A subsequent watching brief on development excavations identified as potentially disturbing archaeological remains was carried out between October 2007 and April 2008. No further remains were revealed.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 During the period 04/07/07 to 28/04/08 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a watching brief at Albion Place, Oxford.
- 1.1.2 Oxford City Council have granted planning permission (Application No 07/00089/CT4) for a new residential development at the site. A condition was attached to the planning permission requiring a scheme of archaeological mitigation during ground works.
- 1.1.3 A desk-based assessment and specification for a scheme of archaeological mitigation were produced by CgMs (CgMs 2007a and 2007b) and approved by the City Archaeologist. OA were contracted by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Capital Shopping Centres to implement the agreed programme of work.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1.1 The site is presently a car park located at grid reference NGR SP 5126 0581. It is bounded by Cambridge Terrace to the north, Albion Place Road to the west, Speedwell Street to the south and Oxford Magistrates Court to the east.

## 3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1.1 The solid geology underlying Oxford is sedimentary rocks of the Jurassic Period, Ancholme Group (Sumbler 1996, 45). The solid geology does not outcrop within the city. The historic core of the City of Oxford is built on the Summertown-Radley (second) Terrace of the Pleistocene Gravels which forms a promontory between the Rivers Thames and Cherwell. The southern edge of this terrace is along the line of Brewer Street to the north of the site (Dodd 2003, 1).
- 3.1.2 The southern development of the city is on the Floodplain (first) Terrace which has been reworked and lowered by a system of minor and rapidly shifting braided channels. The undulating gravel surface survives beneath the alluvial clays of the modern floodplain that now underlie the site.

- 3.1.3 The existing ground surface is almost level. Heights above Ordnance Datum range from 56.82 m at Cambridge Terrace (to the north) to 57.00 m at Speedwell Street (to the south of the site).

#### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1.1 The following is a summary from the desk-based assessment produced by CgMs (included in CgMs 2007b). The desk-based assessment should be read in conjunction with this document.

##### *Late Bronze Age and Iron Age*

- 4.1.2 The site was under shallow water with an island of higher ground to the west (Robinson 2003, 77).

##### *Roman and Early Saxon*

- 4.1.3 By this time the island of higher land had extended over the study site. It was covered in alluvial clay and may have been seasonally flooded. To the east the area which was to become the Blackfriars Mill Stream was under water (Robinson 2003, 78).
- 4.1.4 Deep excavations in Speedwell Street c 1875 uncovered the remains of a child's leather shoe that is thought to have been Roman (SMR769).

##### *Mid to Late Saxon*

- 4.1.5 The site was now on an island bounded by the Trill Mill Stream to the north and the Blackfriars Mill Stream to the west. There is evidence for flax-retting immediately to the north-west of the study site.

##### *Medieval*

- 4.1.6 The first Blackfriars Priory in Oxford was founded in 1221. They acquired the second site in 1237 where they constructed their new priory on the banks of the River Thames. They moved to the second priory in 1245. The development site is over the site of the east side of the priory. The buildings identified under the site include the cemetery, the Choir, the Prior's Lodgings, the Chapter House and various buildings to the east of the Great Cloister Walk (Lambrick 1985, 136) (Figure 2).
- 4.1.7 Excavations on the site of the second priory were undertaken in the 1960s and 1970s. These have been published in the county journal Oxoniensia (Lambrick & Woods 1976, Lambrick 1985). They identify internal deposits of the choir at just below OD 56 m including finds from the choir stalls, and the cemetery at OD 55.6 m
- 4.1.8 The Blackfriars occupied the site until Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in 1538, when the priory was surrendered the site and was leased. In 1544 the church and most of the priory buildings were demolished and the materials recovered were sold. By c1800 the only surviving part of the priory buildings was the gatehouse, then used as a private house (Crossley 1979, 111, 366-7).

- 4.1.9 In January 2007 CgMs (CgMs 2007c) carried out archaeological monitoring of three trial pits which were excavated at proposed pile locations potentially within the Priory cemetery and a proposed lift shaft pit to the south to ascertain the ground conditions.
- 4.1.10 Human remains were found in Trial Pits 1 - 3 confirming that the site is on or near the priory cemetery located during earlier excavations. No grave cuts were recorded and the disarticulated skeletons were fragmentary. This was interpreted as evidence that the site had previously been disturbed.
- 4.1.11 A line of stones found in Trial Pit 4 was interpreted as natural.

## 5 WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATIONS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1.1 The methodological specifications and objectives of the watching brief were provided by Oxford City Council as follows:

- *Define locations of all engineering impacts below 55.85 m in relation to known and inferred monastic plan, distinguishing impacts that are archaeologically sensitive, including choir stalls, slype, chapter house and the cemetery (in this last case three piles of west wall and remainder of lift pit),*
- *Propose the optimal level for formation of piling mat;*
- *Reduce site to piling mat formation level under archaeological control, checking for lines of 'robber trenches' that will confirm overlay of proposed development with 1970s priory plan;*
- *Pre-excavate and record all impacts in sensitive locations, including: pile caps, service runs, sufficient area of graveyard to ensure that three proposed piles of west wall will avoid articulated burials, in conformity with Section 25 of Burials Act 1857, and Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England (Church of England and English Heritage 2005);*
- *Pre-auger any remaining pile locations;*
- *Form piling mat and install piles under archaeological supervision.*

## 6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

### 6.1 Scope of fieldwork

#### *Pre-pile Test Pits*

6.1.1 Test pits were excavated in the area of all proposed piles. The excavations were carried out by a JCB with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The test pits were of sufficient width and length to enable safe manual access where required (including the installation of shoring boxes for prohibitively deep or unstable test pits). In each location the sequence of deposits was recorded to the level of sterile alluvial deposits (i.e. strata which is below the recorded levels of the Priory and unlikely to contain any archaeological deposits). Where proposed piles

were likely to impact archaeological deposits (particularly inhumations) the pile locations were redesigned to avoid such impacts. Sixteen test pits were excavated. Pile number designations and trench measurements are given in the table below. Pile numbers, test pits, archaeological remains and re-positioned pile locations are shown on Fig.2.

Test Pit (Pile No.'s)	Archaeology (heights where given are for the top of deposit/feature)	Depth to sterile alluvium from existing ground surface	Test Pit Dimensions
1	Stone well -possibly post dissolution (55.42 m OD) Stone walls-probably post dissolution (56.18 m OD) Human burial (55m OD)	1.8 m (54.9 m OD)	3 m x 2 m x 2m depth
2	Human remains were found. No grave cuts were encountered and the disarticulated skeletons were fragmentary. This was interpreted as evidence that the site had previously been disturbed.		Investigated and reported on in CgMs 2007c - Test Pit 2
3	Human remains were found. No grave cuts were encountered and the disarticulated skeletons were fragmentary. This was interpreted as evidence that the site had previously been disturbed.		Investigated and reported on in CgMs 2007c - Test Pit 1
4	19th/20th Century structures	1.8 m (54.9 m OD)	2.10 m x 2.70 m x 1.9 m depth
5	Limestone wall probably post dissolution. (55.36 m OD) 1972 excavation trench	1.5 m (55.24 m OD)	2.8 m x 1.7 m x 1.7 m depth
6	19th/20th century structures Four human burials (55.30 m OD)	1.4 m (55.30 m OD)	1.4 m x 3.9 m x 1.5 m depth
7	Human remains were found. No grave cuts were encountered and the disarticulated skeletons were fragmentary. This was interpreted as evidence that the site had previously been disturbed.		Investigated and reported on in CgMs 2007c - Test Pit 3
8	Buttress, north wall (and robber trench) of Priory Choir (55.18 m OD) Six (?) human burials (55.23 m OD)	1.8 m (54.85 m OD)	3.4 m x 1.6 m x 1.8 m depth
9	Stone wall, southern limit of Priory Choir (55.45 m OD)	1.6 m (55.15 m OD)	3.7 m x 1.5 m x 1.8 m depth
10	Two human burials (55.15 m OD)	1.7 m (55.05 m)	4m x 1.2 m x 1.8 m depth

Test Pit (Pile No.'s)	Archaeology (heights where given are for the top of deposit/feature)	Depth to sterile alluvium from existing ground surface	Test Pit Dimensions
		OD)	
11	19th Century stone-lined pit	1.5 m (55.25m OD )	3 m x 1.3 m x 1.7 m depth
12/13	19th Century stone-lined pit	1.5 m (55.25m OD )	4 m x 1.5 m x 1.7 m depth
14/16	Stone wall (Post-dissolution?)	1.6 m (55.15 m OD)	3.15 m x 1.7 m x 1.8 m depth
15/17	Stone wall of Priory (55.20 m OD)	2 m (55 m OD)	3.15 m x 1.8 m x 2.2 m depth
18/19	19th/20th century structures	1.8 m (54.96 m OD)	4.2 m x 1.75 m x 2.1 m depth
20/22	19th/20th century structures	1.6 m (55.15 m OD)	3.5 m x 1.75m x 2.2 m depth
21	One human burial (55.15 m OD)	1.6 m (55.10 m OD)	4 m x 0.6 m x 1.7 m depth
23	19th/20th century structures	1.8 m (54.98 m OD)	2.7 m x 1.4 m x 2.35 m depth
24	19th/20th century structures	2 m (55 m OD)	3.4 m x 1.1m x 2.3 m depth

## 6.2 Watching Brief

6.2.1 Subsequent to the pile location investigations a watching brief was carried out on elements of the development that had potential for disturbing archaeological structures or remains. These were identified by CgMs Consulting from construction plans in relation to the known archaeological levels:

- Reduced level dig to 55.90 m OD prior to formation of piling mat
- Excavation of a lift pit and adjacent ground beam thickening to 55.32 m OD.
- Excavation for thickened pile caps bridging P8 & P9 and P13 & P15 to 55.75 m OD.
- Excavation of foul water drains at the north and east side of the new residential block (construction drawing >WC SE CUR 102 rev E02), and link to public sewer in Cambridge Terrace.
- Excavation of surface water drains where these are below the piling mat level - west and south sides of new block (approx Manhole S6 – S7 – S4 – S3 – S2 on drawing WC SE CUR 10 rev E02), and link to Thames Water manhole in Albion Place.



### 6.3 Generic fieldwork methods and recording

- 6.3.1 Mechanical excavation was carried out with a JCB, fitted with a breaker to remove existing tarmac as appropriate. All mechanical excavation was carried out in such a manner as to avoid or minimise damage to the archaeological remains. All machinery used was of an appropriate nature and power to suit the situation and the JCB fitted with a ditching bucket. The Project Officer in charge of fieldwork directly supervised all machine work.
- 6.3.2 All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon. Each trench was then cleaned by hand.
- 6.3.3 The depth and complexity of the deposits across the site was characterised. Records were made of the stratigraphy of all trenches.
- 6.3.4 Fieldwork procedures unless stated otherwise above were as set out in Appendix 2 and 3 of the OA Field Manual (Wilkinson, D 1992).

### 6.4 Finds

- 6.4.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.
- 6.4.2 Recording, cleaning and conservation of finds followed the IFA *Guidelines for collection, documentation research and conservation of archaeological materials (IFA 2001)*
- 6.4.3 Datable finds (pottery, Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and clay-pipe) have been analysed by specialist and reported on. A few fragments of animal bone and Iron (FE) nails retrieved from the site are regarded as uninformative and have not been reported on.

### 6.5 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 6.5.1 No contexts suitable for environmental sampling were revealed.

## 7 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 7.1 Test Pit/Pile location 1

- 7.1.1 This test pit was excavated in the north-west corner of the site. The test pit measured 3 m x 2 m x 2m depth. The lower part of an east-west aligned human burial was revealed at the base of the test pit at 54.9 m OD. This is an internment in the Priory cemetery. Two stone walls; one aligned east-west, one aligned north-south were revealed at the north and eastern limits of the test-pit. These and a stone well to the south central part of the test pit were not dated but were visually characteristic of post-dissolution structures (*pers comm* Brian Durham, Dan Poore). This interpretation was also supported by the height at which the structures were revealed which was above any proven Priory remains.

**Test Pit /Pile location 4**

7.1.2 This test pit was excavated in the north-west corner of the site. The pit measured 2.10 m x 2.70 m x 1.9 m depth and reached sterile floodplain deposits at 54.9 m OD. No deposits or structures relating to the Priory were revealed.

**7.2 Test Pit/Pile location 5**

7.2.1 This test pit was excavated in the north west corner of the site. The pit measured 2.8 m x 1.7 m x 1.7 m depth and revealed sterile floodplain deposits at 55.24 m OD. An east west aligned stone wall at the southern limit of the trench was undated but characteristic of post-dissolution structures (*pers comm* Brian Durham, Dan Poore). A cut and its infill recorded to the west end of the test pit correspond with the line of an excavation trench carried out in 1972 (Trench VI, Lambrick and Woods 1976, p172).

**7.3 Test Pit/Pile location 6**

7.3.1 This test pit was excavated in the north-central part of the site. The test pit measured 1.4 m x 3.9 m x 1.5 m depth. Four east-west aligned human burials were revealed. Although undated these were clearly related to the Priory cemetery. Some disturbance had been caused to the burials by modern service trenches. A linear cut in the south west corner of the test pit corresponds to archaeological Trench X carried out in 1967 (Lambrick and Woods 1976, p172).

**7.4 Test Pit/Pile location 8 (Fig.3)**

7.4.1 This test pit was excavated in the north-central part of the site. The test pit measured 3.4 m x 1.6 m x 1.8 m depth. At least six approximately east-west aligned burials were revealed at the base of the test pit (at c 55.23 m OD). During cleaning of the grave cuts pottery was retrieved from four of the grave fills. This was generally of a 13th -14th century date (see Appendix 1 and Section 2.1).

7.4.2 A squared stone buttress (805) and east west aligned stone wall (826) were revealed to the south of the trench (see Fig.3). The buttress was found at 55.18 m OD and was at least 0.70 m deep. The structure had at least one (0.2 m) offset to the north and Grave 810 overlay this offset.

7.4.3 Wall 826 was 2.3 m wide (the depth was not revealed) and represents the north wall of the Priory Choir. A section across the test pit (Fig.3) shows the upper part of the wall has been robbed. The robbing infill (830) is sealed by 'garden soil' 804, which contained 18th-19th century pottery.

7.4.4 As a result of the Test Pit investigation proposed pile location 8 which would have impacted on the burials was moved to the south of the Priory wall. Here all deposits or structures internal to and related to the Priory choir had been truncated by modern impacts to the depth of sterile flood plain deposits at 54.85 m OD.

**7.5 Test Pit/Pile location 9**

7.5.1 This test pit was excavated in the western-central part of the site. The test pit measured 3.7 m x 1.5 m x 1.8 m depth. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 55.15 m OD. A stone wall was visible in the northern edge of the test pit. The structure's height 55.45 m OD and concordance with the Priory plan indicate that it is the southern edge of the north choir wall. No deposits associated with the floor or internal structures of the choir were present.

7.5.2 **Test Pit/Pile location 10 (Fig.4)**

7.5.3 This test pit was excavated in the western-central part of the site. The test pit measured 4m x 1.2 m x 1.8 m depth. Two east-west aligned burials were revealed at the base of the test pit at 55.15 m OD. These represent medieval interments within the choir of the Priory. Proposed pile location 10 was moved to the east to avoid impact on the burials.

7.6 **Test Pit /Pile location 11**

7.6.1 This test pit was excavated in the north-central part of the site. The test pit measured 3 m x 1.3 m x 1.7 m depth. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 55.25 m OD. A stone-lined pit within the test pit was dated to the mid-late 19th century (see Appendix 1 and Section 2).

7.7 **Test Pit/Pile location 12/13**

7.7.1 This test pit was excavated in the north-central part of the site. The test pit measured 4 m x 1.5 m x 1.7 m depth. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 55.25 m OD. A stone-lined pit within the test pit was dated to the late 19th century (see Appendix 1 and Section 2).

7.8 **Test Pit/Pile location 14/16**

7.8.1 This test pit was excavated in the central part of the site. The test pit measured 3.15 m x 1.7 m x 1.8 m depth. In the north-west corner of the trench the partial lining of an otherwise robbed and infilled stone well was visible. No dating evidence was retrieved for this feature. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 55.15 m OD.

7.9 **Test Pit/Pile location 15/17**

7.9.1 This test pit was excavated in the western/central part of the site. The test pit measured 3.15 m x 1.8 m x 2.2 m depth. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 55 m OD. An east-west aligned stone wall was visible in the north face of the test pit. This feature possibly represents the south face of the south wall of the Priory choir. A north-south orientated linear feature cut through deposits above the wall may be related to Feature 209 noted in 1972 archaeological trench II (Lambrick and Woods 1976, p177).

7.10 **Test Pit /Pile location 18/19**

7.10.1 This test pit was excavated in the western/central part of the site. The test pit measured 4.2 m x 1.75 m x 2.1 m depth. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 54.96 m OD. No deposits or structures related to the medieval Priory were present.

#### 7.11 **Test Pit/Pile location 20/22**

7.11.1 This test pit was excavated in the south-western part of the site. The test pit measured 3.5 m x 1.75m x 2.2 m depth. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 55.15 m OD. No deposits or structures related to the medieval Priory were present.

#### 7.12 **Test Pit/Pile location 21**

7.12.1 This test pit was excavated in the south-western part of the site. The test pit measured 4 m x 0.6 m x 1.7 m depth. A single east-west aligned burial was revealed at 55.15 m OD. This is situated in the Chapterhouse of the Priory as mapped in Lambrick 1985. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 55.10 m OD.

#### 7.13 **Test Pit /Pile location 23**

7.13.1 This test pit was excavated in the southern/central part of the site. The test pit measured 2.7 m x 1.4 m x 2.35 m depth. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 54.98 m OD. No deposits or structures related to the medieval Priory were present

#### 7.14 **Test Pit/Pile location 24**

7.14.1 This test pit was excavated in the southern/central part of the site. The test pit measured 3.4 m x 1.1m x 2.3 m depth. Sterile floodplain deposits were revealed at 55 m OD. No deposits or structures related to the medieval Priory were present.

#### 7.15 **Watching brief results**

7.15.1 All construction processes as given in the Methodology section 6.2 were monitored no archaeological remains were revealed during these works.

## 8 **FINDS**

### 8.1 **Pottery**

*by John Cotter*

8.1.1 A total of 69 sherds of pottery weighing 1983 g. were recovered. This is all of medieval and post-medieval 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.).

- 8.1.2 The pottery assemblage is in a very variable condition. The medieval element mostly occurs as small fairly worn sherds, although one or two are quite fresh and fairly large. The large element of 19th-century pottery, on the other hand, is well-preserved with several profiles and one or two near-complete vessels surviving. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. The pottery is described in detail in the spreadsheet and summarised below.
- 8.1.3 The medieval pottery includes a few sherds of pottery types common in Oxford during the 11th and 12th centuries including one or two sherds of St Neots-type ware which has a currency here of *c.* 950-1075 and is therefore a late Saxon type. Local pottery types common from the 11th to the 13th century include Cotswold-type calcareous-tempered ware (OXAC) and Medieval Oxford ware (OXY). The condition, and sometimes associations, of these earlier sherds however suggests that they may be mostly residual. A Cotswold-type jar/cooking pot rim in context (818) is decorated on top with a regular series of oblique nail-nicks (similar to thumbled rim decoration) fairly similar to one illustrated in Mellor's corpus of Oxfordshire wares (Mellor 1994, fig.10.6). A small number of mainly 13th-14th century wares are also present in the form of small sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM) glazed jugs and coarse East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ) cooking and storage vessels. No definite late medieval or early post-medieval pottery seems to be present. There are two or three small sherds of probable 18th-century date and then a comparatively large quantity of mass-produced late 18th- and 19th-century Staffordshire-type wares, English porcelain and stoneware. The Staffordshire-type wares span the 19th century and include an inscribed Keiller's Dundee marmalade jar commemorating a trades exhibition and award in 1862 (context 1304).
- 8.1.4 The composition of the assemblage is broadly comparable to material retrieved from previous excavations on the site. Where variance is apparent (i.e the lack of late medieval wares) this is likely to be a product of the very specific strategy of locating and identifying, but not excavating archaeological remains that was employed on this site.

## 8.2 The clay pipes *by John Cotter*

- 8.2.1 Seven pieces of clay pipe weighing 34 g. were recovered from two contexts. These have been catalogued and spot-dated in a similar way to the pottery. Five stem and two bowl pieces are present. The earliest piece in this small assemblage includes a late 17th- or 18th-century stem fragment. All other pieces appear to be of late 18th-century or more likely 19th-century date. These include, in context (1104), a substantially complete pipe bearing the initials 'BH' for Benjamin Huggins pipemaker of Oxford who was active *c.* 1841-75 (see Higgins 2007, fig. 43.42).

## 8.3 The ceramic building material (CBM) *by John Cotter*

- 8.3.1 A total of 15 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 742 g. were recovered from five contexts. This is nearly all of medieval date. All the CBM was

examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage in a similar way to the pottery. Complete dimensions were recorded when present (here thicknesses only). As usual, the dating of broken fragments of ceramic building material is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad and should therefore be regarded with caution.

- 8.3.2 The assemblage is in a very fragmentary condition with no complete dimensions other than thickness surviving and some are fairly worn. One or two larger, fresher, pieces however have survived. All but two pieces are fragments of medieval flat roof tile (peg tile). One or two have traces of circular nail holes for suspension and some have patches or traces of glaze typical of medieval roof tiles. The fabric of most is fine sandy and oxidised or reddish-brown. Two pieces have a more distinctive paler orange-buff or pink-buff fabric, which is recognisable as a local 13th- to early 14th-century type. A single small worn piece of medieval ridge tile was recovered from context (812). This has a cream sandy fabric with an external copper-green glaze and may be a late 13th- or 14th- century product of the Brill/Boarstall kilns in Buckinghamshire. A small scrap of post-medieval red brick from context (804) may be the only post-medieval piece present in the assemblage. This cannot be dated any closer than the 16th to 18th century. The character of the assemblage is consistent with other CBM assemblages excavated in the St Aldates area of Oxford.

## 9 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 9.1.1 The Test pit investigation successfully identified structures and several interments related to the medieval Dominican Priory and in doing so was able to relocate pile locations that would impact on these remains (see Test pits 8 and 10).
- 9.1.2 Modern mapping of the Priory remains and previous archaeological interventions has shown that whilst there is some localised variance with the present plan of the Priory as set out in Lambrick 1985 (Fig. 3) - as shown by the more northerly location of the Choir wall and buttress in Test Pit/ pile location 8 - generally the results of the watching brief does not contradict the recorded and hypothesised layout of the Priory from previous surveys.

**APPENDICES****APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

Test pit	Ctxt No	Type	Comment	Finds
001				
	101	Deposit	Tarmac surface	
	102	Deposit	Car park make-up	
	103	Deposit	Modern made ground	
	104	Structure	Stone wall	
	105	Structure	Brick wall	
	106	Deposit	Demolition deposit	
	107	Deposit	Silt clay (dumping?)	
	108	Deposit	Clay floodplain deposit	
	109	Deposit	Black ash/sand lens	
	110	Structure	Stone well	
004				
	401	Deposit	Modern demolition deposit	
	402	Deposit	Clay sand	
	403	Deposit	Black ash, burnt deposit	
	404	Structure	Brick wall	
	405	Deposit	Clay floodplain deposit	
005				
	501	Deposit	Tarmac surface	
	502	Deposit	Car park make-up	
	503	Deposit	Demolition dump	
	504	Deposit	Black sand	
	505	Deposit	Compact sand and gravel	
	506	Fill	Archaeological (?) trench fill	
	507	Cut	Archaeological (?) trench cut	
	508	Deposit	Mortar, gravel, silt dump	
	509	Structure	Stone wall	
	510	Deposit	Clay floodplain deposit	
006				
	600	Deposit	Modern demolition	
	601	Deposit	Garden soil	
	602	Fill	Grave fill	

Test pit	Ctxt No	Type	Comment	Finds
	603	Cut	Grave cut	
	604	Fill	Victorian (?) pit fill <i>The Spot date for this feature and fill is c1815-50</i>	Glass Leather Pottery
	605	Cut	Victorian (?) pit cut	
	606	Fill	Grave fill	
	607	Cut	Grave cut	
	608	Cut	Grave fill	
	609	Cut	Grave cut	
	610	Fill	Grave fill	
	611	Cut	Grave cut	
008				
	801	Deposit	Tarmac	
	802	Deposit	Tarmac make -up	
	803	Deposit	Modern made ground	
	804	Deposit	Garden soil <i>The spot date for this deposit is c1780-1830</i>	Animal bone CBM Clay pipe Pottery
	805	Structure	Stone wall	
	806	Deposit	Silt clay layer	
	807	Deposit	Silt clay layer	
	808	Deposit	Silt clay layer	
	809	Deposit	Clay layer	
	810	Fill	Grave fill <i>The spot date for this fill is 13-14C</i>	CBM Pottery
	811	Cut	Grave cut	
	812	Deposit	Silt clay layer <i>The spot date for this deposit is 13-14C?</i>	CBM Pottery



Test pit	Ctxt No	Type	Comment	Finds
	813	Fill	Grave fill <i>The spot date for this fill is 13-14C? (one sherd of L17-18C? pot regarded as contamination)</i>	CBM Iron nail Pottery
	814	Structure	Modern wall	
	815	Structure	Stone buttress of Priory choir	
	816	Cut	Grave cut	
	817	Deposit	Silt clay layer <i>The spot-date for this deposit is L12-E15C</i>	Pottery
	818	Fill	Grave fill <i>The combined spot-date for this fill is 13-E15C</i>	CBM Pottery
	819	Deposit	Clay	
	820	Cut	Construction cut for 815	
	821	Cut	Construction cut for wall 805	
	822	Fill	Grave fill <i>The spot-date for this fill is c1075-1300</i>	Pottery
	823	Cut	Grave cut	
	824	Cut	Grave cut	
	825	Fill	Grave fill	
	826	Structure	Stone wall	
	827	Cut	Construction cut for 826	
	828	Deposit	Clay	
	829	Deposit	Clay	
	830	Fill	Robber trench infill	
009				
	901	Deposit	Tarmac	
	902	Deposit	Tarmac make-up	
	903	Deposit	Modern demolition	
	904	Deposit	Modern made ground	
	905	Structure	Stone wall	

Test pit	Ctxt No	Type	Comment	Finds
	906	Deposit	Clay	
	907	Deposit	Clay	
	908	Structure	Brick wall	
010				
	1001	Deposit	Tarmac	
	1002	Deposit	Tarmac make-up	
	1003	Deposit	Modern demolition	
	1004	Deposit	Garden soil	
	1005	Deposit	Garden soil	
	1006	Deposit	Clay	
	1007	Cut	Grave cut	
	1008	Fill	Grave fill	
	1009	Cut	Grave cut	
	1010	Fill	Grave fill	
011				
	1101	Deposit	Tarmac	
	1102	Deposit	Tarmac make up	
	1103	Deposit	Modern made ground	
	1104	Fill	Fill of stone-lined pit <i>The combined spot-date for his fill is c1841-75</i>	Clay pipe Pottery
	1105	Deposit	Clay	
	1106	Structure	Modern pipe	
	1107	Fill	Pipe trench fill	
	1108	Deposit	Clay	
	1109	Cut	Modern service cut	
	1110	Deposit	Garden soil	
	1112	Deposit	Silty clay <i>The spot-date for this deposit is c1050-1225</i>	Pottery
	1113	Deposit	Sand/mortar	
	1114	Structure	Stone lined pit	
	1115	Cut	Pit cut	
	1116	Cut	Modern pipe cut	

Test pit	Ctxt No	Type	Comment	Findings
012/013				
	1301	Deposit	Tarmac	
	1302	Deposit	Tarmac make up	
	1303	Deposit	Modern made ground	
	1304	Structure	Stone lined pit <i>The spot-date for this structure is c1862-1900</i>	Pottery
	1305	Deposit	Silty loam <i>The spot-date for this deposit is c1840-1900</i>	Pottery
	1306	Deposit	Clay	
	1307	Deposit	Clay	
	1308	Deposit	Silty loam <i>The spot-date for this deposit is c1700-1800</i>	Pottery
	1309	Deposit	Silty clay	
	1310	Deposit	Silty clay	
	1311	Deposit	Silty Clay <i>The spot-date for this deposit is c1075-1300</i>	Pottery
	1312	Deposit	Silty clay	
	1313	Deposit	Sand/mortar	
014/016				
	1601	Deposit	Tarmac	
	1602	Deposit	Tarmac make up	
	1603	Deposit	Modern demolition/made ground	
	1604	Deposit	Garden soil <i>The spot-date for this garden soil is c1840-1900</i>	Pottery
	1605	Cut	Modern cable trench	
	1606	Deposit	Garden soil <i>The spot-date for this garden soil is c1820-1840?</i>	Pottery
	1607	Deposit	Clay	
	1608	Structure	Stone well (robbed)	
	1609	Cut	Construction cut for 1608	

Test pit	Ctxt No	Type	Comment	Finds
015/017				
	1701	Deposit	Tarmac	
	1702	Deposit	Tarmac make-up	
	1703	Deposit	Modern made-ground	
	1704	Deposit	Dump deposit	
	1705	Deposit	Demolition deposit	
	1706	Deposit	Garden soil The spot-date for this garden soil is c1075-1300	Pottery
	1707	Deposit	Sand levelling	
	1708	Deposit	Re-deposited alluvium The spot-date for this deposit is c1075-1300	Pottery
	1709	Structure	Stone wall	
	1710	Deposit	Clay	
	1711	Fill	Linear feature fill	
	1712	Cut	Linear feature cut	
018/019				
	1901	Deposit	Tarmac	
	1902	Deposit	Tarmac make-up	
	1903	Deposit	Modern made ground	
	1904	Deposit	Modern demolition	
	1905	Deposit	Clay	
	1906	Structure	Brick basement floor	
020/022				
	2201	Deposit	Tarmac	
	2202	Deposit	Tarmac make up	
	2203	Deposit	Modern made ground	
	2204	Deposit	Clay	
	2205	Deposit	Clay	
021				
	2101	Deposit	Tarmac	
	2102	Deposit	Tarmac make up	
	2103	Deposit	Modern made ground	
	2104	Deposit	Garden soil	

Test pit	Ctxt No	Type	Comment	Finds
	2105	Deposit	Silt clay	
	2106	Fill	Grave fill	
	2107	Cut	Grave cut	
	2108	Deposit	Silty clay	
023				
	2301	Deposit	Tarmac	
	2302	Deposit	Tarmac make-up	
	2303	Deposit	Modern demolition	
	2304	Deposit	Silty clay	
	2305	Deposit	Silty clay	
024				
	2401	Deposit	Tarmac	
	2402	Deposit	Tarmac make-up	
	2403	Deposit	Modern demolition	
	2404	Deposit	Silty clay	
	2405	Deposit	Silty clay	

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**APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS****Site name:** Land at Albion Place, Oxford**Site code:** OXALBI07**Grid Reference:** NGR SP 5126 0581**Type of evaluation:** Watching Brief**Date and duration of project:** July 07 to April 08**Summary of results:** The Test pit investigation successfully identified structures and several interments related to the Medieval Dominican Priory and in doing so was able to relocate pile locations that would impact on these remains.**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxford County Museum in due course, under an agreed accession code.

**APPENDIX 4 POTTERY SPOT DATES**

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
604	c1815-50	5	275	Mostly mass-produced white earthenware WHEW incl profile moulded basket-effect jug in Ironstone china-type fabric. Complete Eng porcelain (or porcellaneous body) egg cup with gilded rim. 1x odd ?Eng porcelain skeuomorphic finger ring holder/dish or odd small lid in shape of a nest of leaves with broken projection in centre
804	c1780-1830	7	253	1x Pearlware plate w blue feather-edge rim. Bases from 2 Yellowware vess - prob sugarbowl w banded colour slip dec and poss a large jug? Dish rim in post-med red earthenware REW. Small rim prob 18C Midlands stoneware tankard. 1x odd rim or pedestal foot - prob late medieval in unident coarse light grey sandy fabric (like OXY or OXAW) but with 2 horiz bands white slip ext under an all over greenish-brown glaze (or mis-fired OXAG?)
810	13-14C	5	28	Context may be purely 13C? Brill/Boarstall ware OXAM jug bs prob w red slip lattice dec, & poss mainly OXAW jug bss & 1x medieval Oxford ware OXY
812	13-14C?	1	4	bs poss thin-walled wheel-thrown ?OXAW or OXY cpot/jar w traces sooting
813	L12-E15C?	11	113	1x bs post-med red earthenware - poss pmed Brill? (probable contamination) Other sherds 1x bs green-glazed white sandy ware - prob late med Surrey OXBG 14/15C or 12/13C N French? Mainly residual 11-12C wares incl St Neots OXR, Cotswolds-type OXAC, poss OXBF, OXY incl glazed pitcher bs
817	L12-E15C	3	44	1x bs East Wiltshire ware OXAQ w band of wavey combed dec. OXY, OXAC
818	L12-E15C	7	86	1x bs East Wiltshire ware OXAQ. Also. OXY, OXAC latter incl v nice prob 11-12C cpot rim w upright neck and thickened flat top with regular oblique nail-nick decoration on top (in place of thumbing), pale brown surfaces w dark grey core - dec similar to Mellor 1994 fig. 10.6 (form as fig. 11.11) but lacking neck dec. ILLUS for typology? diam 270mm (10%)
822	c1075-1300	2	5	Small bss OXY
1104	c1830-75	3	284	WHEW sub-square dish profile w illeg maker's mark. Also Yellowware-related ?jug base with illeg diamond 'kite' mark
1112	c1050-1225	1	8	OXAC Costwold-type
1304	c1862-1900	6	272	WHEW marmalade jar with - 'James Keiller Dundee marmalade' inscrip & date of 'International Exhibition 1862' . Also large Yellowware mixing bowl & jug bs w mocha dec
1305	c1840-1900	5	190	WHEW, Yellowware and modern Eng stoneware w Bristol-type glaze
1308	c1700-1800	1	4	Tankard rim in Midlands buff earthenware w iron-streaked brown glaze

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
1311	c1075-1300	4	27	OXY bss. 2 joining
1604	c1840-1900	2	115	WHEW. Mod Eng stoneware bottle sherd w Bristol-type glaze
1606	c1820-1840?	4	232	Pearlware or early WHEW carinated teacup profile w blue transfer classical scenes. Pearlware plain cylindrical mug base. Yellowware bowl rim w ext dec in spiral 'joggled' blue and brown slip
1706	c1075-1300	1	21	OXY. Worn bs
1708	c1075-1300	1	22	OXY sagging cspot base
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>1983</b>	



**APPENDIX 5 CLAY PIPE SPOT DATES**

Context	Spot-date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	Tot sherds	Tot Wt	Comments
804	L18-19C	3	0	0	3	9	2x narrow prob 19C stems with stem bores c1.25mm. 1x thicker prob L17-18C stem frag SB c2mm
1104	c1841-1876	2	2	0	4	25	Almost complete pipe bowl (2 joining) with 130mm length of stem attached & 2 other long pieces of stem (non-joining). SB c1.25mm. Bowl with unclear relief initials on spur - prob 'BH' for Benjamin Huggins of Oxford c1841-75 (see Higgins 2007, fig. 43.42). Used
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>34</b>	

**APPENDIX 6 CBM SPOT DATES**

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
804	16-18C?	5	224	1x small brick frag. 4x flat roof tile frags of which 3 probably med incl 1 with glaze specks & 1 poss late med/early post med? All quite thick - max 18mm thick
810	13-16C?	1	40	V worn frag med roof tile, dark grey discoloured, flaked on one side. Discolouration similar to tile in (812)
812	13-14C?	2	178	Large edge frag med flat roof tile 15mm thick. Fine sandy oxidised fabric with sandwich grey core & specks of clear brown glaze ext. Blackened, poss sooted, underside and over edge. 1x smallish v worn frag curved ridge tile in cream sandy fabric with copper-green glaze ext - Brill product?
813	13-14C?	6	254	All flat roof tile frags, min 5 tiles, unglazed in fairly fine med-looking oxidised fabrics (1 reduced). One piece in 13-14C pale pink-buff fabric with sparse fine chalky inclusions. Thicknesses 12-15mm. Incl 2 pieces with circular nail holes
818	13-16C?	1	46	Roof tile frag. Hard-fired, oxidised with patchy greenish-brown glaze on one side
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>742</b>	



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Figure 1: Site location

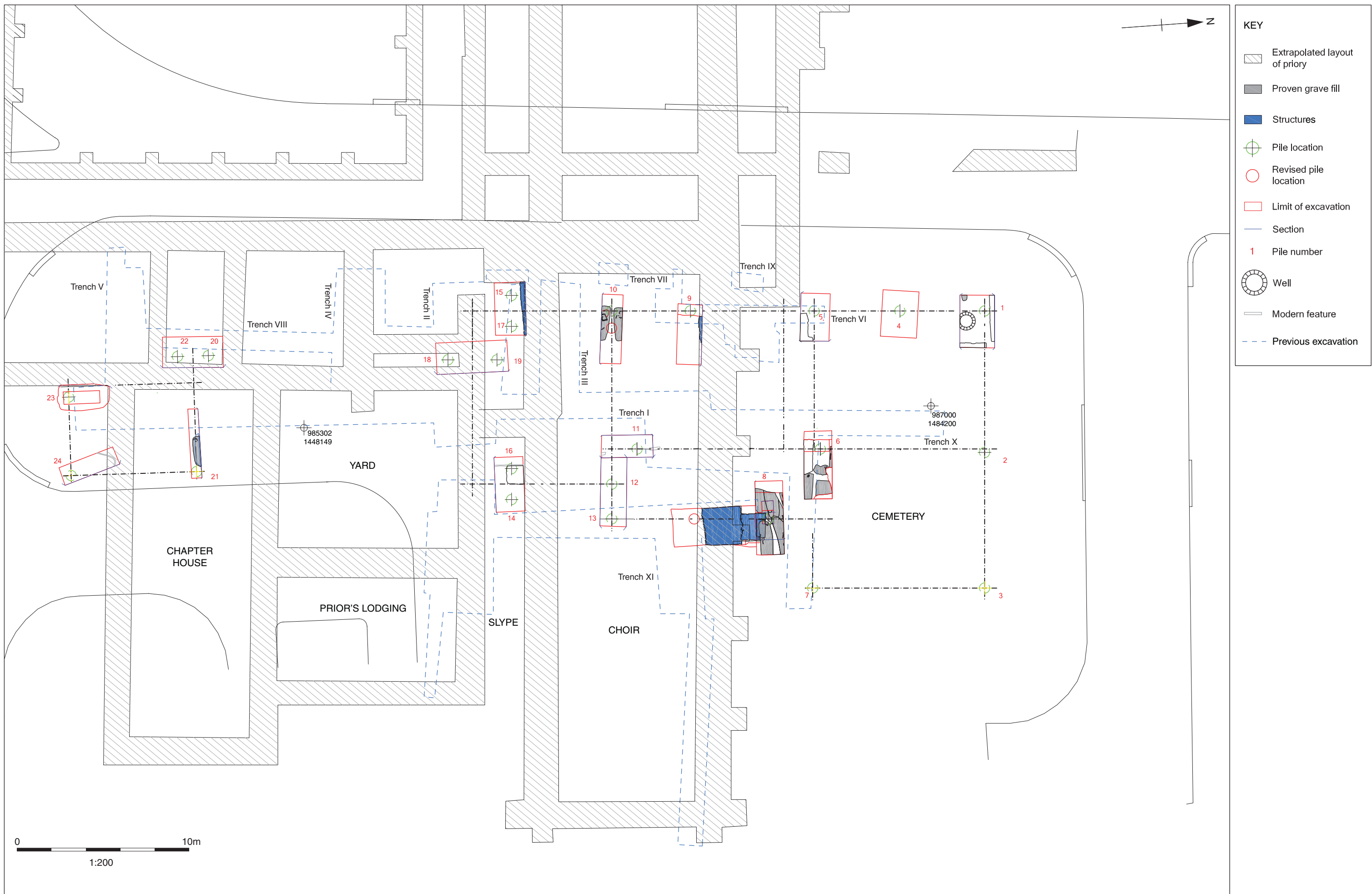


Figure 2: Test pit and pile location plan

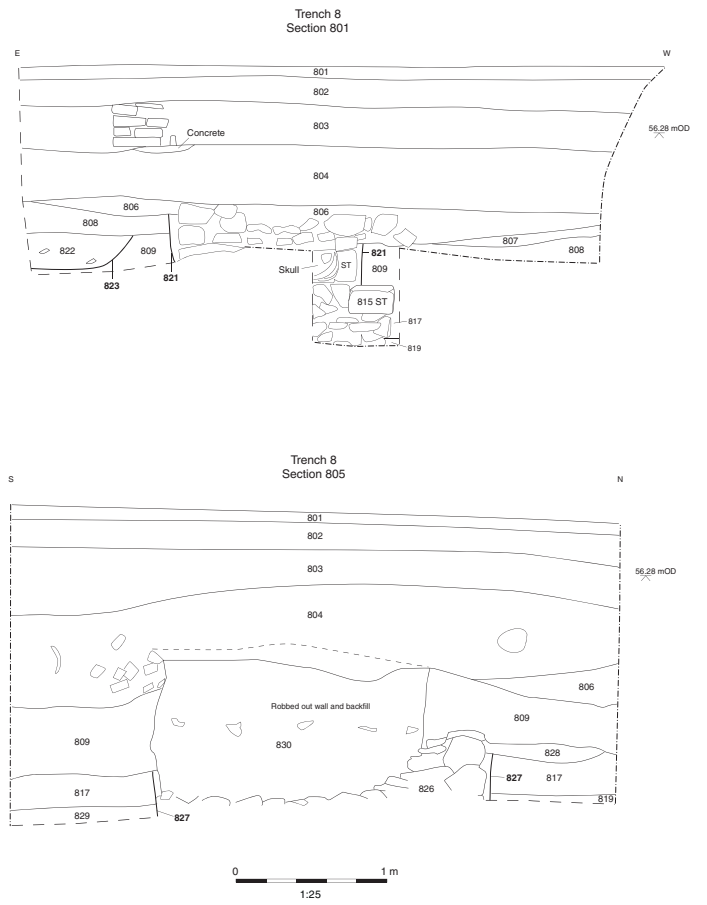


Figure 3 : Plan of Trench 8 and sections

### Trench 10 Plan

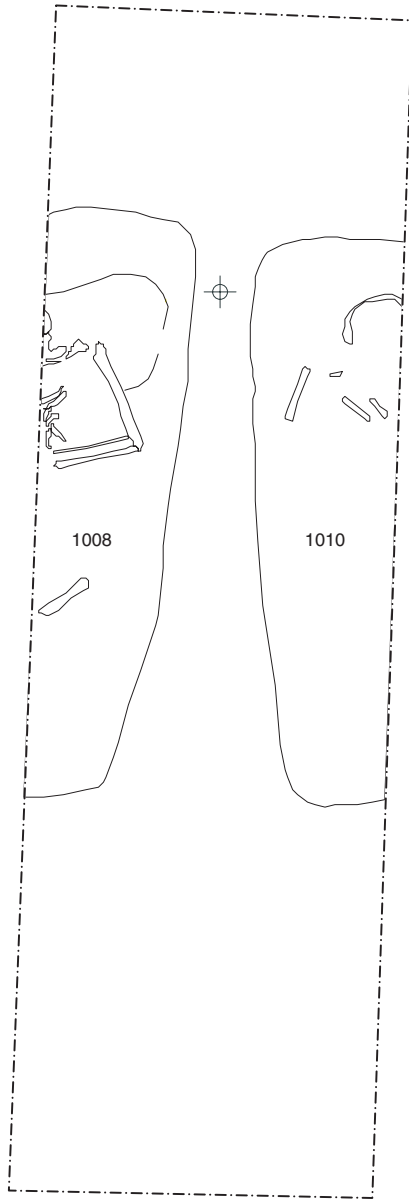


Figure 4 : Plan of Trench 10