Keble College Land at the Former Acland Hospital Site at Woodstock Road and 25 Banbury Road Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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NGR SP 5132 0639

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In July 2009 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on the site of the former Acland Hospital, between Banbury Road and Woodstock Road, Oxford. The work was undertaken on behalf of Keble College.

The earliest features found are likely to be a series of possible postholes and a NW-SE aligned ditch within Trenches 6 and 7, within a car-parking area adjacent to the Banbury Road. The location of a pre-historic ring ditch is tentatively postulated in the SW corner of the site (potentially re-used as a bastion within the Civil War defences).

A large pit was also located to the east of the site which produced a sherd of 10th-12th century pottery. This suggests some sort of low-level occupation activity. A layer of reworked loessic loam overlay the pit and may indicate ploughing in this area in the 13th century.

A very large pit or ditch was identified within Trench 3, in the SW corner of the site. Its fills contained early post-medieval finds giving a TPQ of 1630+. This feature is probably the ditch that encompassed the northernmost bastion of the civil wall defences, as represented on de Gommes Plan of 1644.A later re-cutting of the fills of this feature is likely to have been caused by subsequent post- medieval pits.

Within the NW of the site, another deep feature was identified within the Trench 2. The interpretation is problematic, given the limited profile obtained, although a single sherd of 18th century pottery was recovered from just above the base of this feature. Therefore it is most like that this is a relatively late substantial pit, probably a quarry hole.

The foundations of the former Northgate House were also uncovered within Trench 5.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In July 2009 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) carried out an archaeological field evaluation at the Former Acland Hospital site between Banbury Road and Woodstock Road, Oxford (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Roger Boden, Bursar for Keble College, Oxford in respect of a planning application for the redevelopment of the site for new student accomodation (Planning Application No. 09/00322/FUL).

1.1.2 A project brief was set by David Radford of Oxford City Council (OCC June 2009) on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with PPG16. OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA July 2009). The development site is situated at NGR SP 5132 0639.

1.2 Topography and geology

1.2.1 The 0.7 hectare site comprises of a mixture of 19th and 20th century buildings, with grass, landscaped and tarmac areas. The site was formerly Acland Hospital part of the Nuffield Hospital estate and is now owned by Keble College. The site lies within a Conservation Area and encompasses No. 25 Banbury Road ('The Acland Home') a Grade II listed building. Another Grade II listed building borders the southern boundary of the site (No. 21 Banbury Road).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development sits equidistant between the Rivers Thames and Cherwell flowing c. 800-900m from the site which is situated on the edge of the Summertown-Radley gravel terrace. The underlying geology is Oxford Clay. The level of the ground at the site is relatively flat with a consistent height at 63.5m OD, this falls away gently to the south, east and west. To the north the flat ground continues. Therefore the site sits at the top of a slight break of slope.

1.3. Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 There have been no previous archaeological investigations carried out on the Acland Hospital site. No archaeological sites or features from any period prior to the 19th century have been identified within the site. However, the area around the site has numerous findspots and suggests there is very high potential for archaeological remains at the site.

1.3.2 No Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was commissioned for the site, however OA did produce an Archaeological Impact Assessment (OA 2007) to compliment a Heritage Statement by Rick Mather Architects (2007) which contained a limited archaeological background. OA has produced DBA's for other sites close to the current site, and the summary below (repeated from the WSI, OA 2009)) principally draws upon a DBA for a sub-station in University Parks c. 400 m to the east of the current site (OA 2008).

Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP – 43 AD)

1.3.3 Two Palaeolithic stone axes were recovered from the old Girls' High School, 21 Banbury Road, immediately to the south of Felstead House.

1.3.4 A large Late Neolithic henge monument was partially excavated by TVAS approximately 200m to the SSE of the site. Radiocarbon dating places the material from the henge ditch at the end of the 3rd millennium (*c* 2200 BC)

1.3.5 The Acland Hospital site lies *c* 100 m west of the University Parks, where there is an extensive area of cropmarks, including a possible Iron Age settlement and Bronze Age ring ditches from burial mounds. A number of ring ditches have been identified across the northern part of the city, from the Science Area to the Sackler Library in St John's Street.

Roman Period (43 AD – 410 AD)

1.3.6 There have been finds of Roman coins and pottery across much of north Oxford. A settlement has been identified in the Science Area and it is possible that the activity in the University Parks continued into this period.

Early Medieval Period (AD 410 – 1066)

1.3.7 The presence of possible burial mounds and excavation of skeletons in the 18th century suggests an early Saxon cemetery may have existed around the Radcliffe Infirmary, which is immediately west of the Acland Hospital site on Woodstock Road.

1.3.8 From the 9th century onwards Oxford developed into a substantial defended town, but this did not extend as far north as the area the Acland Hospital site. At that period the land belonged probably to the manor of Walton and it is probable that it was a mixture of arable land and meadow.

Later Medieval Period (AD1066-1550)

1.3.9 St Giles parish was established in the early 12th century, taking in Walton manor. The fields were known as Walton fields in the 14th and 15th centuries and were a mixture of arable and meadow, with common pasture rights recorded in the 14th century. The area became known as St Giles Field in 1542 and much of it was purchased by St John's College in 1573. Evidence for medieval ridge and furrow was found 30m north of the site.

Post-Medieval Period (AD1550-1850)

1.3.10 During the post-medieval period, the site lay within open fields. rchaeological excavations 30m to the north of the site at St Anne's College (OAU 1991) produced evidence of post medieval quarrying and a half groat from the Civil War period

1.3.11 The site lies immediately north of the plotted extent of the Civil War defences, and may contain evidence of the conflict such as canon balls, musket balls etc.

Early Modern Period (AD1851-1939)

1.3.12 The Ackland home building lies over the footprint of Northgate House and its garden (built c. 1841-1850). This was one of the earliest houses built along the Banbury and Woodstock Roads in the 19th century. It was constructed by Jonathan Browning, Mayor of Oxford and Ironmonger, as a family home. Northgate house was demolished in 1936 when extensive new buildings that expanded the capacity of the Acland Hospital (based at 25 Banbury Rd since 1897 after moving from Wellington Square, Oxford) were constructed.

2. EVALUATION AIMS

2.1 General Aims

2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.

2.1.2 To determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation under full area excavation.

2.1.3 To determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise.

2.1.4 To investigate the extent of any significant remains outside initial trenched sample through agreement with the client and City Archaeologist.

2.1.5 To characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon significant younger (overlying) deposits where possible.

2.1.6 To determine the palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits.

2.1.7 To make available the results of the investigation to inform the planning application and the potential for any further mitigation strategy.

2.2 Site specific aims

2.2.1 The Solent-Thames Regional Resource Assessment and Research Agendas for the relevant periods will be consulted for detailed research aims for each period: (http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/archaeology/regional_assessments_and_agendas.page?).

2.2.2 The broad aims below will guide the evaluation process.

- Establish whether significant later prehistoric remains are present (e.g. Neolithic or Bronze Age funerary monuments or related remains, also any evidence for Iron Age or Roman agricultural landscapes).

- Establish whether any significant Saxon remains are present.
- Establish the character and extent of any medieval and post medieval activity (e.g. is there evidence for ridge and furrow, field boundaries, gravel quarry's, Civil War siege related activity etc).

3. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1. Scope and method of fieldwork

3.1.1 A total of *c.*128 sq metres of trenching in seven locations, Trenches 1 - 7, was excavated within the development area (Fig. 2 and Table below), equal to a *c.*2% sample of the *c.*0.7 hectare site. Their distribution does not represent an even coverage of the site and were located in available areas that avoided extant buildings, known live services, tree routes, and essential access routes.

Trench	Proposed dimensions	Proposed area	Excavated dimensions	Excavated area	Comment
1	6 x 1.7	10.2	6m x 1.7m	10.2	
2	8.5 x 1.7	14.45	10m x 1.7	17	Trench lenghtend to compensate for loss of length in Trench 5
3	10 x 1.7	17	10m x 3m	30	Trench widened to allow for a stepped lower central area and partial excavation of 'a' very large feature with additional sondages.
4	10 x 1.7	17	10m x 1.7m	17	
5	8m E-W; 12 m N-S x 1.7m	34	9m E-W; 7.5m N-S x 1.7m	28	E-W arm lengthened and N-S arm shortened due to site restrictions
6	10 x 1.7	17	10m x 1.7m	17	
7	5 x 1.7	8.5	5m x 1.7m	8.5	
Totals		**118.15**		**127.7**	

3.1.2 Where tarmacadam was present the trench edges were saw-cut. A machine fitted with a toothless bucket was utilised to excavate the seven trenches in spits no greater that 0.10m thick to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology (whichever was encountered first). All machine assissted excavation took place under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

3.1.3 Following the removal of non-archaeological overburden, the significant archaeological horizon was sufficiently hand-cleaned to determine the extent and character of archaeological deposits. Hand excavation and recording of a selection of archaeological deposits/features encountered was undertaken to fulfil the aims outlined above.

3.1.4 Approval of the fieldwork was obtained from the Oxford City Archaeologist prior to backfilling. Backfilling was completed by a seperate contractor.

3.1.1 All brick and masonry structures encountered were left in situ and archaeologically recorded.

3.1.2 All archaeological features that were revealed were planned and where excavated, their sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features were photographed using a digital camera and a general record was kept using 35 mm colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (OA, 1992).

3.2. Finds

3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.3. Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.3.1 No bulk soil samples were taken due to the absense of suitable contexts.

3.4. Presentation of results

3.4.1 The various deposits and structures encountered during the evaluation are described below in Sections 4 and 5, (a context inventory can be found in Appendix 1). The descriptive text in Section 5 is followed by the finds reports in Section 6 (tables can be found in Appendix 2), and a discussion and interpretation of this evidence can be found in Section 7.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1. Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The ground conditions were dry at the start of the excavations (Trenches 1-5) with some rain during the excavation of Trenches 6 and 7. The water table was not reached.

4.1.2 A number of services including live water, electric, gas and foul water were encountered. These were left in-situ within higher areas of ground that were not taken deeper.

4.2. Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 Only Trench 4 did not encounter any archaeological features. Pits, ditches and post-hole type features were encountered on the eastern side of the site. Many of these were undated and could belong to any period, or even result from natural/geological processes. The only datable medieval feature was a pit which was part of this eastern group. A medieval plough-soil sealed the pit.

4.2.2 A very large feature, probably relating to the Civil War defences of Oxford were found in the SW corner of the site.

4.2.3 A large feature probably relating to the quarrying of gravel in the 18th century was recorded on the west side of the site.

4.2.4 The construction and subsequent demolition of Northgate House appears to have truncated the horizon from which archaeological features would have been excavated by 0.65m.

5. RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1. Description of deposits

Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 was initially machine excavated to the top of a clean silty loam (104) at 1.08 m bgl (62.61m AOD) and subsequently re-machined within its eastern end to investigate variations within the underlying natural.

5.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a very pale brownish orange sandy silt (108) found at 1.88 m bgl (61.81 m AOD). This was overlain by a 0.32 m thick gravelly sand (107) and by an uneven orange brown sandy silt (105) within the eastern end of the trench. Both the gravelly sand (107) and the silty sand (105) were overlain by up to 0.18 m of noticeably firm calcified sandy gravel (106). This firm sandy gravel was in turn overlain by 0.23 m of orange-brown silty loam (104) as revealed by the initial machining of the trench.

5.1.3 Silty loam 104 and all of the underlying deposits described above were archaeologically 'clean' and appear to be natural deposits. Deposit 104 is probably a loessic loam whose thickness would suggest that it has not been significantly truncated.

5.1.4 A dark grey, sandy silt (103) overlay the loessic loam 104 and represented a layer of midden waste that contained clay pipe fragments, animal bone, glass vessel fragments, broken ceramic tile and post-medieval pottery. This deposit was overlain by up to 0.6 m of pale brown sandy silt (102), presumably a levelling deposit, and the present topsoil (101) and turfline (100).

Trench 2

5.1.5 Trench 2 was machine excavated to a depth of 1.2m bgl. At this depth no natural deposits, or cut edges for features were encountered, this led to further machine excavation of a sondage within the centre of the trench to a depth of 1.6m bgl. At 1.6 m BGL there was no sign of the underlying natural so a series of three hand-auger boreholes were taken across the sondage. The northern and central augers located the geological sandy gravel (210), indicating the northern edge of very large feature 213, that sloped steeply down to the south from 2.42- 3.22 m BGL (60.92 - 60.12 m AOD), (Fig. 3).

5.1.6 The primary fill of feature 213 was a pale brown sandy clay loam (209/211/212), with a maximum thickness of 0.9m recorded in the central auger hole. A single sherd of 18th century pottery was recovered from context 211.

5.1.7 The sandy clay loam (209/211/212) was overlain by up to 0.56 m of brown sandy loam (208), and layers of pinkish brown gravelly sand (207), Pale yellow-brown silt (206) and a compact yellow-brown sandy gravel (205) which initially give the appearance of natural, but must be re-deposited.

5.1.8 Above sandy gravel (205) the trench revealed several layers of relatively horizontal made-ground deposits (204, 203 and 202) which contained small limestone pieces and CBM, and pottery dating to the 19th Century.

5.1.9 These made-ground deposits were overlain by up to 0.4 m of stone hardcore (201), a levelling deposit associated with the construction of the present tarmac car-park surface (200).

Trench 3

5.1.10 Trench 3 was orientated NW-SE within a tarmaced parking area to the SW of the hospital grounds. This trench was widened to a width of 3.2 m, and stepped down, but the underlying natural was not encountered at a depth of approximately 1.5 m BGL. Three narrow slots were then excavated within the base of the trench and a series of five auger boles taken within these in an effort to further understand the underlying deposits and determine the level of the underlying natural (Fig. 4).

5.1.11 Pale orange sandy gravel was encountered within the slots excavated within the SE and NW ends of the deepened trench respectively as contexts 309 and 315.

5.1.12 The top of gravel 309 had a rounded profile but drops off towards the SE, whereas gravel 315 slopes down fairly uniformly towards the SE at approximately 45°. Within the boleholes the underlying sandy gravel falls away to a maximum depth of 3.16 m BGL within the middle slot and indicates the presence of a very large cut (317) with a roughly concaved base, centred within the middle of the trench. The resulting Section 3 (Fig. 4) shows probable later pitting or an unmdulating ditch cut (318) within the SE end of the trench, resulting in the curving profile shown by gravel 309.

5.1.13 The earliest feature 317 was filled by a brown sandy clay (316), brown sandy silts (314/312) and a thick deposit of brownish orange sandy silt (313/311), which contained bands and lenzes of redeposited sandy gravel. Within the SE end of the trench fill 311 was cut by a large undulating feature (318). This is thought to be either pitting or possibily a later ditch. It was filled by a brown sandy clay (308/310), dark grey sandy loam (307), orange brown sandy loam (306), brown sandy silt (305) and a orange brown sandy silt (303). Fills 308 and 304 contained occasinal post-medieval finds whereas fill 307 was darker and appears to be a deliberate dump of material, containing frequent animal bone, pipe stem, tile and post medieval pottery.

5.1.14 These fills were overlain by a 0.6 m thick pale brown silt loam subsoil (303) and up to 0.4 m of dark brown silty clay loam (302), which contained frequent limestone pieces, and is presumed to be a levelling deposit beneath a thin layer of stone hardcore (301) beneath the present tarmac car-park surface (300).

Trench 4

5.1.15 Trench 4 was aligned east-west within the eastern part of a car parking area to the SW of the hospital buildings. This trench was found to be archaeologicaly empty.

5.1.16 The underlying natural sandy gravel (405) was encountered at a depth of 0.9 m BGL (62.30 m AOD). It was overlain by 0.3 m of reddish brown sandy silt subsoil (404), 0.25 m of dark brown sandy silt (403). The soils were overlain by a concrete set former parking area (401/402) and the present tarmac car park surface (400).

Trench 5

5.1.17 Trench 5 was a 'L' shaped trench sited within the inner courtyard of the hospital buildings(Fig. 5).

5.1.18 The underlying natural gravel (507) was encountered at a depth of 1.13 m BGL (62.55 m AOD) and was overlain directly by the substantial limestone foundation of the 1840's Northgate House.

5.1.19 The foundation (509) filled most of the northern arm of the evaluation trench and measured at least 7.5 m long (East-west) with walls 0.8 m wide. It appears to be the main southern wall of the building, with three northerly returns along its length. The eastern-most return is camfered and is likely to be a former doorway. Some 1.6 m to the west of the doorway, a second wall return had been heavily truncated, this was presumably an internal partition wall. At the NW end of the trench the third return runs from a corner of the building and this continues northwards out of the trench.

5.1.20 The foundation is built on a shallow offset limestone footing and survived to a height of 0.45 m. It was bonded by a hard pale yellow mortar. The top of the wall was found at 62.81 m AOD (or approximately 0.9 m BGL) and was covered by a mixed limestone rubble (508). This demolition backfill was overlain directly by the present topsoil and turfline (500) of the hospital courtyard.

5.1.21 The southern arm of the trench was archaeologically empty, although the top of an arched modern brick culvert (510) just to the south of the wall foundation, as well as several wrapped electical cables and a lead pipe at a high level. A vertically sided deep trench (504) which cut from the same level as the other services was investigated but not bottomed at depth of 1.5 m BGL (62.36 m AOD). This is presumed to be another deep service run and its backfill (503) contained sherds of modern pottery.

Trench 6

5.1.22 Within Trench 6 the underlying natural gravel (612) was encountered at a depth of 1 m BGL (62.64 m AOD).

5.1.23 A total of eleven possible features were seen and investigated at this level. The largest and most convincing of these was a pit (605) which continued beneath the western baulk. This pit had vertical sides with a shallowly concaved base and

measured 0.5 m deep by at least 2.2 m wide. It was filed by a reddish brown sandy silt (604) which contained a sherd of 10th/11th C. pottery

5.1.24 Of the other features investigated, four (607, 614, 616, 618) appear to be more like shallow undulations within the gravel rather than definite features, while a further 6 features (609, 611, 620, 621, 622, 623) that may have been postholes. The possible postholes vary in size from between 0.6 m in diameter by 0.3 m deep (609) to Up to 0.37 m wide by over 0.5 m deep. The undulations and possible postholes were filled by a similar clean orange-brown or yellow brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

5.1.25 All of the features were overlain by up to 0.4 m of 'dirty' red-brown gravelly sandy silt (603) and this layer produced several sherds of 12th or 13th century pottery.

5.1.26 Layer 603 was in turn overlain by up to 0.45 m of brown sandy silt (602), which probably represents the old topsoil, and by a 0.20 m thick limestone blockwork surface (601) that was subsequently overlain by the present tarmac car-park surface (600).

Trench 7

5.1.27 Within Trench 7 natural orange-brown sandy gravel (704) was encountered at a depth of 0.82 m BGL (62.78 m AOD), this was overlain by silty loam (703) which was 0.28m thick with the upper horizon at 63.06mOD.

5.1.28 The base of a ditch (706) and four small possible postholes (708. 710, 712 and 714) were only recognised at the level of the gravel their fills being very similar to (703). Three of the features (708, 710 and 714) measured between 0.18 m in diameter by up to 0.06 m deep with shallow rounded profiles. Feature (712) was slightly deeper and measured 0.3 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had straight sloping sides that sloped down to the south, partially undercutting the gravel at its rounded base.

5.1.29 Ditch 706 was initially seen as a shallow linear aligned NW-SE across the base of the trench. It was filled by a pale brown sandy silt (705). Upon careful cleaning of the section a very poorly defined cut was discernable against the overlying brickearth (703). As such the ditch appears to steep straight sloping sides rounding to a shallowly concaved base and measured up to 0.9 m wide by 0.4 m deep.

5.1.30 Deposit (703) was overlain by a 0.38 m thick brown silt loam, which may be the former topsoil. This was in turn overlain by a make-up layer (701) and the present tarmac car-park surface (700).

5.1.31 No finds whee recovered from the features or the overlying deposits within this trench.

6. FINDS

6.1 The Pottery by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

6.1.1 A total of 50 sherds of pottery weighing 677 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.).

6.1.2 Medieval pottery fabrics were recorded using the system of codes developed for the Oxfordshire County type series (Mellor1994). Post-medieval pottery fabrics were recorded using the codes of the Museum of London (LAARC 2007) which can be applied to most post-medieval types in south-east England.

Date and nature of the assemblage

6.1.3 The pottery assemblage is in a fairly fresh but fragmentary condition although some of the 16th-century sherds show some wear. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. The pottery is described in detail in the spreadsheet and summarised below.

6.1.4 The earliest piece in the assemblage, from context (604) is a single worn sherd of St Neot's-type ware (OXR), c 850-1100 (mainly c 950-1075 at Oxford). Next in date are four sherds of Early-Late Medieval East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ), c 1150-1350, probably from a single jar/cooking pot. These occur with an unglazed jug sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware in context (603) suggesting a context date of c 1225-1350. Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM), from Buckinghamshire, dates to c 1225-1625 and is the commonest medieval glazed ware found in Oxfordshire, usually in the form of jugs. Apart from the sherd just mentioned, the plain forms and glaze character here appear to be late medieval or more likely from the 16th century or just possibly from the early 17th century. It is difficult however to confirm a 17th-century dating for Brill/Boarstall ware without other ceramic or clay pipe evidence. Nearly all the late Brill sherds come from contexts in the 300s from the Civil War ditch (304, 307, 308, 312, 313 and 314). Some of these sherds are worn and may be residual - the Civil War period (1640s) is at the very end of the production/circulation period of this ware and a small sherd of Tudor Green ware (TUDG) in (314) suggests a mid 16th-century date at the latest for at least some of the pottery in this context - although there is also 17th-century clay pipe from this context and (313). There are however no definite post-medieval pottery types from the ditch such as post-medieval redwares (PMR) which normally date from after the Civil War period in Oxford and after the Brill 'whiteware' fabrics ceased to be produced.

6.1.5 Post-medieval wares present in other contexts comprise types commonly known from Oxford during the 18th and 19th centuries and are fairly unremarkable

6.1.6 The composition of the assemblage as a whole is typical of many sites in Oxford and is fairly unremarkable.

6.2 The Clay Pipes by John Cotter

6.2.1 Eighteen pieces of clay pipe weighing 124 g. were recovered. These have been catalogued and spot-dated in a similar way to the pottery though in slightly more detail (see spreadsheet). Most pieces were in a fresh condition. Bowl shapes have been compared to those published from St Ebbe's, Oxford (Oswald 1984). Fourteen stem pieces and four complete bowls are present. These are all plain and unmarked apart from milling around the rim of the 17th-century bowl.

6.2.2 Three of the Civil War ditch contexts (307, 313 and 314) produced pipe stems compatible with a 17th-century date and (from 313) a complete small pipe bowl of c 1630-1650 (as Oswald 1984, fig. 51.A). A group of three identical bowls of c 1730-1780 came from context (102) and a selection of narrow 19th-century stems came from other contexts. No further work on the assemblage is recommended.

6.3 The Ceramic Building Material by John Cotter

6.3.1 The excavation produced seven pieces of ceramic building material weighing 1547 g. These appear to be of two dates - post-medieval and Victorian. Two of the Civil War ditch contexts produced a total of three pieces of red roof tile which appear to be broadly of post-medieval date (c 1500-1800?). Those from context (314) were quite large and fresh. Context (503) produced a piece 19th-century brown salt-glazed drainpipe. Context (508) produced parts of a purple-brown majolica-glazed architectural ceramic object - possibly a lintel or a window moulding, dating to c 1880-1920 at the widest. This probably came from a building of some substance with extensive areas of wall tiling - possibly the former Acland Hospital? The same context also produced an attractive green-glazed majolica Doulton wall tile of similar date.

6.4 The Metal Finds by Ian Scott

6.4.1 The metal finds comprises 4 pieces (Table 1), 3 copper alloy objects and 1 iron nail. The copper alloy comprises a dress pin with wound wire head of late medieval or more probably post medieval date, and needle with rectangular eye which is not closely dateable, and a forged James 1 (1603-1625) farthing.

6.4.2 Context 307: James 1 farthing, forgery (1613 - 1625). The forgery is indicated by the poorly executed design, especially the crown and harp on reverse and crown and sceptre on obverse. Inscription is crudely executed. Letters ' I]ACO' (Jacobus) for James visible on obverse.

Table 1: Summary of metal finds by context and identification

Context	Identification				
	dress pin	farthing	nail	needle	
304				1	**1**
307		1			**1**
314	1		1		**2**
Totals	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**

6.5 The Glass by Ian Scott

6.5.1 The glass from the evaluation comprises a single complete wine bottle and seven sherds from wine bottles. The glass was recovered from two contexts 102 and 508.

6.5.2 The glass from context 102 included four undiagnostic body sherds, a large neck/shoulder sherd from a cylindrical wine bottle, which was not closal dateable, and short hand-finished neck from a late 17th- or early 18th-century wine bottle.

6.5.3 The glass from context 508 comprises an undiagnostic body sherd and complete half wine bottle with the so-called 'champagne finished', very probably a late19th- or early 20th-century French wine bottle.

Context	Sherd Type				Totals
	complete bottle	body sherds (undiagnostic)	neck	neck/shoulder sherd	
102		4	1	1	**6**
508	1	1			**2**
Grand Total	1	5	1	1	**8**

6.6 The Animal Bones by Rachel Scales

Methods

6.6.1 The animal bone was recorded following the protocol outlined in Serjeantson (1996). Where possible fragments were identified to species using the Oxford Archaeology Zooarchaeology reference collection. Fragments that could not be identified to species were put into categories: large mammal sized (e.g. cattle, horse or large deer), medium mammal (sheep/goat, roe deer or pig sized) sized and small mammal sized (e.g. cat, small dog sized).

Results

6.6.2 A total of 42 bones were recovered from the site, of which 19 were identifiable to species level. The bone was collected by hand during excavation. Sheep/ Goat (*Ovis aries*/ *Capra hircus)* was the most frequent species followed by Cattle (*Bos taurus*) (Table 1). Other species recorded in small numbers were horse (*Equus caballus*), pig (*Sus scrofra*) and Cat (*Felis silvestris*)

6.6.3 Contexts range in date from late Saxon to the Post-Medieval.

6.6.4 The condition of the bones was good. Three (7%) of the bones showed signs of carnivore gnawing. Butchery marks from both dismembering and filleting processes were noted on 19 (45%) bones. The presence of both meat bearing and non meat bearing cattle and sheep/goat elements and the butchery marks recorded appear to reflect domestic activity.

Comments

6.6.5 The assemblage from Keble College was small, but well preserved.

7 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

7.1. Reliability of field investigation

7.1.1 The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the development area and determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains that may affect further need for mitigation during construction. The trench locations were restricted by the presence and use of the existing buildings on the site and therefore do not represent a random and even distribution across the development area, but were placed to examine as much of the available space as possible.

7.1.2 On-site restrictions prevented further enlargement of Trench 3 therefore the extent of the large feature was not seen in plan. Its depth precluded a full section across its profile and therefore a number of sondages, supplemented by hand augering, were excavated to allow for a projection of its profile. It is not known if this profile is perpendicular to the orientation of the feature. Similar restrictions prevented any enlargement of Trench 2 to reveal details of cut 213 another large feature whose extent was not recovered in plan, a single sondage with auger holes revealed an aspect of its profile. Interpretations of the large features in Trenches 2 and 3 are therefore tentative.

7.1.3 It was distinguish if features in Trenches 6 and 7 were cut through the loessic loam due to a similarity between the loam itself and the fills of some features. These were recognised in plan from the level of the natural geological gravels. In Trench 6 the loessic loam appeared to have been reworked (demonstrated by the presence of 13th century pottery and animal bone) and this activity was seen to truncate the earlier and potentially 10th-12th century pit (605), a similar reworking could explain the apparent absence of cuts recognisable in the upper horizon of the 'loessic loams' where present in other trenches on site.

7.1.4 The limited number of finds recovered during the evaluation were from well-defined contexts. The dating they provide, is considered to be secure and any residual medieval material within the later (post-medieval/Victorian) deposits could easily be eliminated on the grounds of securely dated stratigraphic relationships.

7.2. Overall interpretation

Topography and Geological deposits

7.2.1 The untruncated level of the natural pale orangy silty loam was observed in Trench 6 at 63.04mOD, Trench 7 63.06mOD, Trench 5 63.08m OD, Trench 4 62.72mOD . In Trench 1 this deposit may have had its upper horizon truncated (no more than c. 0.10m) and was encountered at (62.61m OD). It had been completely truncated away in Trenches 2 and 3. These levels suggest relatively flat and slightly higher ground in the north-east of the site at c.63.05mOD falling away slightly to 62.61mOD in the west and 62.72m OD in the south. The deposit represents a loessic loam, between 0.23 - 0.30m thick that overlies the natural River Terrace Sands and Gravels, as in other parts of Oxford on the higher ground between the Cherwell and the Thames.

Pre-medieval

7.2.2 No finds dating from earlier than the 11th century were recovered from the evaluation. A number of undated features concentrated on the eastern side of the site and could represent pre-medieval activity, even perhaps a continuation westwards of the activity seen in University Parks to the East. The NW - SE and NE - SW alignments of possible ditches (706) in Trench 7, and (607) in Trench 6 is similar to linear Iron Age and Roman features recorded to the east of the site at Halifax House (Anthony, S, 2005) and the Chemistry Research Laboratory (Bradley, P, *et al*, 2005).

7.2.3 Given the distribution of pre-historic barrows around the site Fig 7, it is highly possible that the remains of such a feature will be contained within the site. The discussion below regarding the position of the Civil War bastion increases this possibility.

Medieval

7.2.4 Features with finds that date them to the Medieval period were concentrated on the eastern side of site in Trench 6.

7.2.5 The features comprised pit (604) that dated to the 10th - 12th century, which was overlain by soil horizon (603) dated to the 13th century and possibly represents a reworking (perhaps through ploughing?) of the natural loessic loam. These could be contemporary with some, all or none of the undated features from the evaluation.

7.2.6 The feature potentially indicates low-level settlement activity perhaps associated with timber structures (some of the post-hole like features may represent part of a post-built timber structure) that fronted onto the Banbury Rd (a principal N-S medieval thouroughfare that led to St. Giles to the south). The pit dates to a period prior to the expansion of the northern suburb of St Giles in the 13th century.

7.2.7 Given that historic, cartographic and other archaeological evidence suggests that immediately to the north of the site land was used for farming in the form of 'strip lynchets' it is possible if deposit (603) was a ploughsoil that this activity extended into the site during the 13th century.

7.2.8 It is probable that the absence of Medieval features from the other trenches is a product of a combination of trench location and to an unknown extent the real distribution in the uninvestigated areas combined with truncation from later activity at the site. Therefore medieval features and deposits in other areas of the site can not be ruled out.

Post-medieval - 17th century

7.2.9 A large feature was present in Trench 3 whose full extent and cut horizon was not revealed even though the trench was doubled in width to 3m. To ascertain details of the feature a series of sondages were excavated. The sloping sides of the NW and SE edges were located indicating a width of over 6m at a depth of 2m bgl. It is suggested that ground levels would have been at c. 62.7mOD in this area (see 8.2.1) which would indicate the feature had a depth of c. 2.6m. The feature is probably a large ditch but could possibly be a pit or quarry hole. The NW edge of another large feature in the sondage at the SE end of the trench. If the feature is a ditch then this could represent its return. If this feature is a ditch these dimensions are comparable to other excavated sections of the Civil War ditch (e.g. Bradley, P, et al.,2005). A digitised version of the line of the Civil War defences as represented on de Gommes Plan of 1644 places the northernmost of the defensive bastions just to the south of Trench 3, however this position is not definitive due to the inaccuracies inherent in Agas map. Figure 7 indicates the potential new position of the bastion given the archaeological evidence from this evaluation.

7.2.10 The bastion earthwork, part of the defences associated with controlling the northern access to Oxford during the Civil War was placed on an advantageous break-of-slope where the ground flattens after rising gently upwards from the south, east and west. The same situation was used to effect with the placement and concentration of known prehistoric monuments, along what would have formed a horizon when viewed from the lower ground. The bastion possibly took advantage of the remnant prehistoric earthwork such as a barrow mound. A mound in this position would have belonged to an alignment noted in University Parks to the east and on the recent Evaluation at the Radcliffe Infirmary (MoLAS, 2009) to the west, see Fig 7. If this is the case, elements of the barrow may be contained within the southern part of this site.

Post-medieval - 18th century

7.2.11 In Trenches 1 and 2 activity dated from the mid - late 18th century. A deliberate and potentially in situ midden-type deposit in Trench 1 may be associated with buildings that once fronted onto the Woodstock Rd, or even the Royal Oak (which has been a Public house since that date). The homogenous and relatively large fills of the undefined but big feature in trench 2 contained limited cultural material, suggesting that it was a quarry hole – potentially to access gravel possibly for road construction etc.

Post-medieval - 19th and 20th century

7.2.12 The truncated and demolished remains of the foundations of the former Northgate House (built c. 1841-1850 - demolished 1936) were present in Trench 5. No construction cuts were observed. Foundations and demolition material were seen to rest on natural gravel at c. 62.40mOD, although the foundations would have originally sat within construction trenches. The predicted natural ground level in this area is suggested to be c. 63.05mOD therefore the demolition of Northgate House would appear to have 'grubbed out' and truncated not only the foundations but also the original landscape surface between the foundations by a depth of upto c. 0.65m. The footprint of Northgate House in relation to the current site is shown on Fig. 7, it is probable that only deeper archaeological deposits/features, if any, will survive within the area formally occupied by this structure.

7.2.13 Although no archaeological trenches were positioned against the extant buildings on the site it can be assumed that wall foundations will have been firmly founded upon natural gravels where possible, on occassion these foundations may bridge non-gravel deposits. This is confirmed by the geotechnical investigations on the foundations of extant structures undertaken by Chelmer Site Investigations (Terragen Environmental Consultants, Appendix C, 2007). Whether archaeological deposits survive in-situ outside of these specific impacts i.e. between the wall foundations etc is not known. Deeper archaeological deposits may survive below these specific impacts.

7.2.14 Where modern services were observed, as in Trenches 1, 4, 5, and 6 these were seen to truncate the loessic loam, and underlying gravels, but deeper archaeological deposits remained in-situ.

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APPENDICES

9 APPENDIX 1: ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Colour and composition	Comment	Finds	Date
Trench 1								
100	Deposit			0.10		Existing Turf		Modern 21st C
101	Deposit			0.14	dark brown sandy-silt	topsoil		Modern 20th/21st C
102	Deposit			0.60	light brown sandy silt	Made ground? extending beyond trench	Animal bone Pottery c1820-1900. Clay Pipe 18C	Post medieval early-mid19th C
103	Deposit			0.15	dark grey sandy silt	Post-medieval rubbish dump layer	Animal Bone. Pottery c1710-1760. Wine bottle frags late 17th-early 18th C. Clay pipe c1730-1780	Post medieval early-mid 18th C
104	Deposit			0.23	orange-brown silty loam	62.61mOD.Natural Loessic Loam?/possibly horizontally truncated		Geological
105	Deposit			0.45	Orange-brown sandy silt	Natural deposit		Geological
106	Deposit			0.18	Pale brown sandy gravel	Natural deposit		Geological
107	Deposit			0.32	Pale orange gravelly sand	Natural deposit		Geological
108	Deposit			0.10	V Pale orange/brown sandy silt	Natural deposit		Geological
109	Cut					Poss cut but probable interface between natural deposits		Geological
Trench 2								
200	Deposit			0.15		Existing Tarmac surface		Modern

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Colour and composition	Comment	Finds	Date
201	Deposit			0.40		Foundation base for tarmac surface 200		Modern
202	Deposit			0.34	dark grey clayey silt,	Made ground	frags of cbm (not retained).	19/20th century
203	Deposit			0.30	mid brown sandy silt	Made ground	Pottery c1830-1900	19/20th century
204	Deposit			0.10		Made ground		Post Medieval - late18th – early 19th C?
205	Deposit			0.25	yellow-brown sandy gravel	Made ground; redeposited natural gravel. Fill of possible quarry hole 213?		Post Medieval - late18th – early 19th C?
206	Deposit			0.25	light yellow brown silt	Fill of possible quarry hole 213?	Pottery c1780-1830	Post Medieval - late18th – early 19th C?
207	Deposit			0.22	light brown gravelly sand	Fill of possible quarry hole 213?	Pottery c1750-1850?	Post Medieval - late18th – early 19th C?
208	Deposit			0.05	brown loamy silty with gravel	Fill of possible quarry hole 213?		Post Medieval - late18th – early 19th C?
209	Deposit			0.20	pale brown sandy clay with gravel	Fill of possible quarry hole 213?		Post Medieval - late18th – early 19th C?
210	Deposit				Light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Natural River Terrace Gravels		Geological
211	Deposit			0.94	pale brown sandy clay with gravel	Fill of possible quarry hole 213?	pottery from auger c1740-1800	Post Medieval - late18th – early 19th C?
212	Deposit			Not bottomed	Orangey brown sandy clay with gravel	Fill of possible quarry hole 213?		Post Medieval - late18th – early 19th C?
213	Cut			2.00	Max depth encountered at 60.02mOD (3m bgl)	Possible quarry hole. Depth only encontered in 2/3 auger holes, no cut seen in plan, full extent unknown.		Post Medieval - late18th – early 19th C?
Trench 3								

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Colour and composition	Comment	Finds	Date
300	Deposit			0.10		Existing Tarmac Surface		Modern
301	Deposit			0.10		Foundation base for 300		Modern
302	Deposit			0.40	dark brown silty clay loam	Made ground/buried soil?	Pottery c1790-1830	19th/20th C
303	Deposit			0.60	light brown gravelly silt loam	Made ground/levelling deposit		19th/20th C
304	Deposit			0.35	orange brown gravelly sandy silt		Animal Bone. Cu alloy needle (not datable). Pottery c1480-1640? CBM c1500-1800?	1st half 17thC 1630+
305	Deposit			0.30	brown loamy silt		Animal Bone.	1st half 17thC 1630+
306	Deposit			0.40	orange brown sandy loam	Possibly = 307		1st half 17thC 1630+
307	Deposit				brown - dark brown silty loam	Possibly = 306	Animal Bone. James I farthing forgery (1613-1625)/ Pottery c1480-1640? Clay Pipe 17C	redeposited coin? 1st half 17thC 1630+
308	Deposit			0.75	brown sandy silt with sandy gravel lenes		Pottery c1480-1640?	1st half 17thC 1630+
309	Deposit				Light orange sandy gravel	Natural River Terrace Gravels		Geological
310	Deposit			0.30	brown sandy silt			1st half 17thC 1630+
311	Deposit			0.70	orangy brown sandy silt with lenses of gravelly sand			1st half 17thC 1630+
312	Deposit			-	light brown sandy silt	Fill of 317	Pottery c1480-1640?	1st half 17thC 1630+
313	Deposit			0.75	orangy brown sandy silt	Fill of 317	Animal Bone. Pottery c1480-1640? Clay Pipe c1630-1650	1st half 17thC 1630+
314	Deposit			0.42	brown sandy silt	Fill of 317	Animal Bone. Cu Alloy dress pin, late med/postmed; Iron	1st half 17thC 1630+

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Colour and composition	Comment	Finds	Date
							nail; Pottery c1450-1550? CBM c1500-1800? Clay Pipe 17C	
315	Deposit				orangy sandy gravels	Natural geological gravel		
316	Deposit				brown sandy clay	Fill of 317	Primary fill of 317	1st half 17thC 1630+
317	Cut		5.8-6.0m			Large cut extents not seen in plan. Possible Civil War defensive ditch. Possibly same as 318		1st half 17thC 1630+
318	Cut					Possibly same as 317		
Trench 4								
400	Deposit			0.07		Existing Tarmac Surface		20th /21st C
401	Structure			0.15		Concrete setts from former modern surface		20th C
402	Deposit			0.16		Foundation base for surface 401		20th C
403	Deposit			0.25	dark greyish brown sandy loam	Buried topsoil		? Medieval Probably Post medieval even modern
404	Deposit			0.30	Pale orangy brown silty loam	Loessic Loam 62.72mOD		Geological
405	Deposit					Natural gravelly sand geology		Geological
Trench 5								
500	Deposit			0.15	dark grey brown silt	Existing turf		Modern/Current surface
501	Deposit			0.30	mid brown sandy silt	Made Ground		Modern
502	Deposit			0.12	yeloow-white sandy gravel	Made Ground		Modern
503	Deposit				orangy brown sandy gravel	Fill of 504 - redeposited natural gravel	Pottery c1780-1830. CBM c1820-1900. Clay Pipe 19C	Modern

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Colour and composition	Comment	Finds	Date
504	Cut		0.90			E-W Service Trench		Modern
505	Deposit			0.35	reddish brown sandy silt	subsoil		
506	Deposit			0.16	yellow with brown patches snady gravek	gravel/subsoil interface		
507	Deposit				yellow sandy gravel	Natural gravelly sand geology		
508	Deposit			1.10	light whitey yellow	Extensive demolition Rubble overlying Structure 509	French Wine Bottle late 19th-early 20th C. Pottery c1820-1830. CBM c1880-1920? Clay Pipe 19C	20th century
509	Structure		0.80			ESE-WNW orientated stone Foundations, with 3 perpendicular returnsa to a Building. Limestone blocks surviving up to 4 coureses high		19th centruy
510	Structure					Red -b rick, barrel vaulted culvert. Parallel to Structure 509. Not fully revealed		19th centruy
511	Structure					Base of red brick wall running E-W		20th Centruy
Trench 6								
600	Deposit			0.11		Tarmac Surface		Modern/Current
601	Deposit			0.13		Limestone block path surface	Pottery c1780-1830	20th C
602	Deposit			0.45	midbrown sandy silt	Buried former Topsoil.	Clay Pipe 18C	18-20th C
603	Deposit			0.40	dirty reddish brown sandy silt	Upper subsoil interface. Reworked loessic loam?	Animal Bone. Pottery c.1225-1350	13th century
604	Deposit			0.96	reddish brown sandy silt	Only Fill of 605. Homogenous fill except for lenes of gravel at N edge	Animal Bone. Pottery c. 900-1150	10-12th century
605	Cut	2.20+?	0.50+?	0.96		Pit - not fully exposed in plan. Possibly a ditch	Pottery c. 900-1150	10-12th century

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Colour and composition	Comment	Finds	Date
						terminal		
606	Deposit			0.35	light reddish brown sandy silt	Only fill of 607		geological?
607	Cut					Possible ditch NE - SW/Possible natural feature associated with 621 and 622; and 618/623		geological?
608	Deposit			0.30	reddish brown with mid brown patches sandy silt	Only fill of 609		geological?
609	Cut	0.60	0.60	0.30		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/boturbation from roots		geological?
610	Deposit			0.11	reddish brown with mid brown patches sandy silt	Only fill of 611		geological?
611	Cut	0.50	0.40	0.11		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?
612	VOID							geological?
613	Deposit			0.16	reddish brown sandy silt	Only fill of 614		geological?
614	Cut	0.60	0.35	0.16		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?
615	Deposit			0.30	yellowish brown silt	Only fill of 616		geological?
616	Cut	0.45	0.30	0.30		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?
617	Deposit				reddish brown silt	Only fill of 618		geological?
618	Cut	1.50	0.80	0.50		Poss ditch / poss natural/bioturbation from roots. = 607?	-	geological?
619	Deposit			0.16	reddish brown sandy silt	Only fill of 620		geological?
620	Cut	0.55	0.55	0.16		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?
621	Cut	0.37	0.30	0.50+		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Colour and composition	Comment	Finds	Date
622	Cut	0.28	0.28	0.24		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?
623	Cut	0.18	0.18	0.22		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?
Trench 7								
700	Deposit			0.08		Existing Tarmac surface		Modern Current
701	Deposit			0.18		Made ground/foundation to the tarmac		Modern
702	Deposit			0.38		Buried former topsoil. Same as 602?		18-20th C?
703	Deposit			0.28	Orangy brown sandy silt	Loessic Loam 63.06mOD		geological?
704	Deposit				Orangy brown sandy gravels	Natural Terrace Gravels		geological
705	Deposit			0.40		Only fill of 706		possible pre-historic/ Roman/Natural
706	Cut	0.70	2.0+	0.40		NW - SE aligned linear		possible pre-historic/ Roman/Natural
707	Deposit			0.04	orangy brown sandy silt			geological?
708	Cut	0.18	0.13	0.04		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?
709	Deposit			0.05	orangy brown sandy silt			geological?
710	Cut	0.18	0.15	0.05		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?
711	Deposit			0.12	browny-orange sandy silt			geological?
712	Cut	0.30	0.30	0.12		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?
713	Deposit			0.06	orangy brown sandy silt			geological?
714	Cut	0.18	0.18	0.06		Poss Post-hole / poss natural/bioturbation from roots		geological?

10 APPENDIX 2: TABLES

Table 1: Clay Pipe by context

Context	Spot-date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	Tot sherds	Tot Wt	Comments
101	18C	3	0	0	3	13	Stem bores (SB) c2mm
102	c1730-1780	3	3	0	6	55	3x fresh identical bowls wwith squared profile heel/spur. SBs c1.5mm
103	19C	1	0	0	1	4	Narrow stem w trace of bowl. SB c1mm
307	17C	1	0	0	1	10	Fresh stem w SB c3mm
313	c1630-1650	1	1	0	2	16	Fresh bowl c1630-60 with broad oval heel & milled rim. Fresh 17C stem SB c3mm
314	17C	1	0	0	1	3	Fresh stem w SB c3mm
503	19C	1	0	0	1	4	Fresh stem w SB c1mm
508	19C	2	0	0	2	9	2x fresh stems w SBs c1mm. 1= 100mm long
602	18C	1	0	0	1	10	Fresh stem w SB c2mm, 90mm long
TOTAL		**14**	**4**	**0**	**18**	**124**	

Table 2: Pottery by context

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
101	c1820-1900	2	52	ENGS English brown stoneware ink/blacking bottle base. SWSL Staffs white dipped salt-glazed stoneware, tankard base c1710-1760
102	c1710-1760	4	64	SWSL Staffs white dipped stoneware tankard handle (?JOINS 101). 3x white TGW tin-glazed ware incl large joining sherds from deep bowl
203	c1830-1900	1	63	REFW Refined white eathenware footring base with traces of maker's mark under & poss feathery blue transfer-printed dec. V crazed glaze
206	c1780-1830	4	34	1x PEAR Pearlware ?cup base with radial blue design on floor. 3x CREA Creamware incl plate rim w brown painted edge & tankard bs with blue sponged or powdered dec
207	c1750-1850?	1	53	PMR Post-med red earthenware. Large beaded jar rim with trace of glaze int - chamberpot?
211	c1740-1800	1	25	BRILL Post-med polychrome Brill slipware. Worn dish floor with green glaze dec
302	c1790-1830	1	3	PEAR SLIP Pearlware tankard bs with blue & brown slip bands & engine-turned dec
304	c1480-1640?	1	4	OXAM Late Brill/Boarstall ware bs with sparse speckled green glz
307	c1480-1640?	5	89	OXAM (or OXBX) Late Brill/Boarstall ware with pale buff-brown fabric. Incl green-glazed jug rim with handle stub & joining bs with dark speckled green glz - form looks a bit like Tudor Green ware jug or Raeren stoneware mugs c1480-1550. 1x unglz late Brill. 1x worn green-glazed late Brill. 1x dish base iron/manganese-streaked glaze - poss Brill but poss Staffs-type c1700-1800?
308	c1480-1640?	1	6	OXAM (or OXBX) Late Brill/Boarstall ware with pale buff-brown fabric. Bs from small unglazed jug

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
312	c1480-1640?	1	7	OXAM (or OXBX) Late Brill/Boarstall ware with pale buff-brown fabric. Bs with speckled green glz
313	c1480-1640?	4	29	OXAM (or OXBX) Late Brill/Boarstall ware with pale buff-brown fabric. Incl sag ?jar base with speckled green glz int, sooted ext. Plus jar/cooking pot squared/flanged rim, unglazed. 2x plain buff bss
314	c1450-1550?	7	75	1x Tudor Green ware TUDG prob cup or jug handle. 5x late OXAM (or OXBX) bss incl 1 w cloudy yell glz with green streaks. Other plain OXAM bss incl 2 with int traces glaze. Some worn
503	c1780-1830	1	5	PEAR Pearlware dish rim with blue feathered edge
508	c1820-1830	8	85	PEAR TR. 3x Pearlware with blue Chinese-style transfer-printed dec incl dish rim with scalloped edge. 3x plain Creamware incl dish rim. 1x CHPO Chinese porcelain dish bs with traces blue dec. 1x LONS London stoneware flagon bs with brown salt glz
602	c1780-1830	2	10	PEAR BW saucer footing with underglaze blue dec. 1x OXAM 13-15C cookpot base w int yell glaze
603	c1225-1350	5	67	Fresh. OXAM bs unglazed med jug. 4x OXAQ East Wiltshire ware - poss all 1 jar/cpot, sooted, incl 2 joining beaded/thickened rims
604	c900-1150	1	6	OXR St Neots-type ware. Worn bs -or just poss a related ware eg Banbury-type?
TOTAL		**50**	**677**	

Table 3: CBM by context

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
304	c1500-1800?	1	10	Red rooftile frag/chip. Prob post-med
314	c1500-1800?	2	310	2 separate fresh rooftile edges. Both prob post-med. 1 smooth orange fairly regular. Other overfired purplish-brown with kiln-scorching & denting along one edge
503	c1820-1900	1	187	Frag brown stoneware drainpipe
508	c1880-1920?	3	1040	Glazed architectural ceramic - 2 frags of same moulded ?lintel or frame edge from large wall tile (eg from a pub or building entrance) with decayed purple-brown majolica glaze with bead & reel moulded edging. White earthenware fabric. Also 1x half tile frag prob same date with low relief moulded radial floral/foliage design under rich green majolica glaze on white fabric. Reverse or latter with circ keying holes containing letters incl 'DOULTON PATENT'
TOTAL		**7**	**1547**	

Table 5: Number and percentage of identifiable bones by context and by species

Context	Element	Species									
		Horse	Sheep/ goat	Cattle	Pig	Cat	Bird	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Small Mammal	Indet.
101	Vertebra						1				
102	Femur				1						
304	Metatarsal			1							
	Humerus					1					
	Horncore		1								
	Vertebra							2	2		
	Rib							1	1		
	Indeterminate										1
305	Vertebra							1			
307	Skull		1								
	Metacarpal			1							
	Radius			1							
	Humerus		2								
	Tibia		2								
	Calcaneus		1								
	Second phalange			2							
	Tooth			1							
	Vertebra							1			
	Rib							1	1		
	Indeterminate							2			3
313	Metatarsal		1								
314	Astragalus			1							
	Tibia		1								
	Pelvis							1	1		
	Third phalange	1									
	Indeterminate									1	
603	Rib							1			
604	Vertebra							1			
	Indeterminate							1			
	Total	**1**	**9**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**12**	**5**	**1**	**4**

Summary of Site Details

Site name: Keble College Land at the Former Acland Hospital site, at 46 Woodstock Road and 25 Banbury Road, Oxford

Site code: OXACLN 09

Grid reference: NGR: SP: 5132 0639

Type of evaluation: 7 trenches positioned on the site. Locations avoided extant buildings.

Date and duration of project: July 2009 - 8 working days

Summary of results: The earliest features found are likely to be a series of possible postholes and a NW-SE aligned ditch within Trenches 6 and 7, within a car-parking area adjacent to the Banbury Road. The location of a pre-historic ring ditch is tentatively postulated in the SW corner of the site (potentially re-used as a bastion within the Civil War defences).
A large pit was also located to the east of the site which produced a sherd of 10th-12th century pottery. This suggests some sort of low-level occupation activity. A layer of reworked loessic loam overlay the pit and may indicate ploughing in this area in the 13th century.
A very large pit or ditch was identified within Trench 3, in the SW corner of the site. Its fills contained early post-medieval finds giving a TPQ of 1630+. This feature is probably the ditch that encompassed the northernmost bastion of the civil wall defences, as represented on de Gommes Plan of 1644.A later re-cutting of the fills of this feature is likely to have been caused by subsequent post- medieval pits.
Within the NW of the site, another deep feature was identified within the Trench 2. The interpretation is problematic, given the limited profile obtained, although a single sherd of 18th century pottery was recovered from just above the base of this feature. Therefore it is most like that this is a relatively late substantial pit, probably a quarry hole.
The foundations of the former Northgate House were also uncovered within Trench 5.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: **TBC**

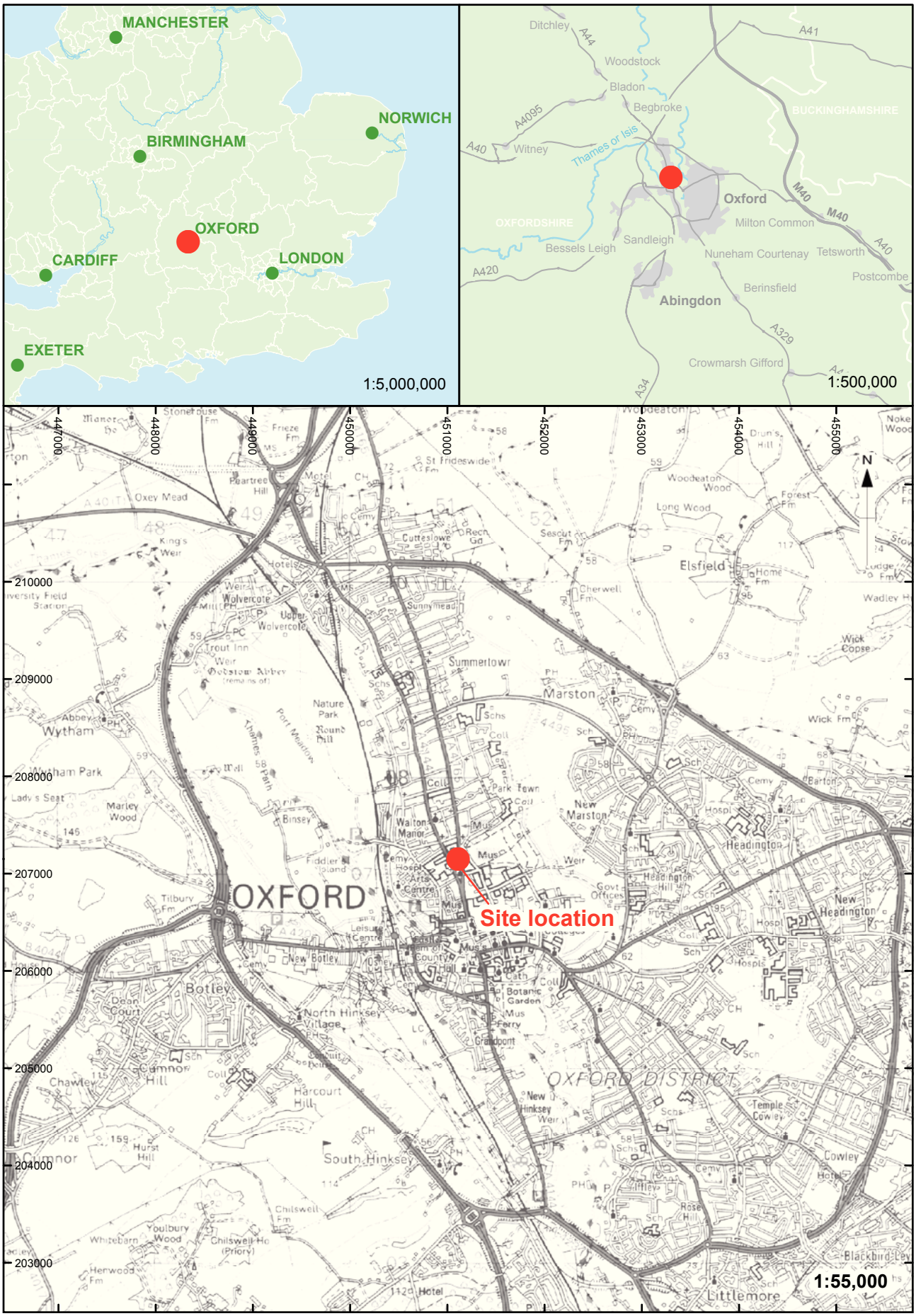

Figure 1: Site location

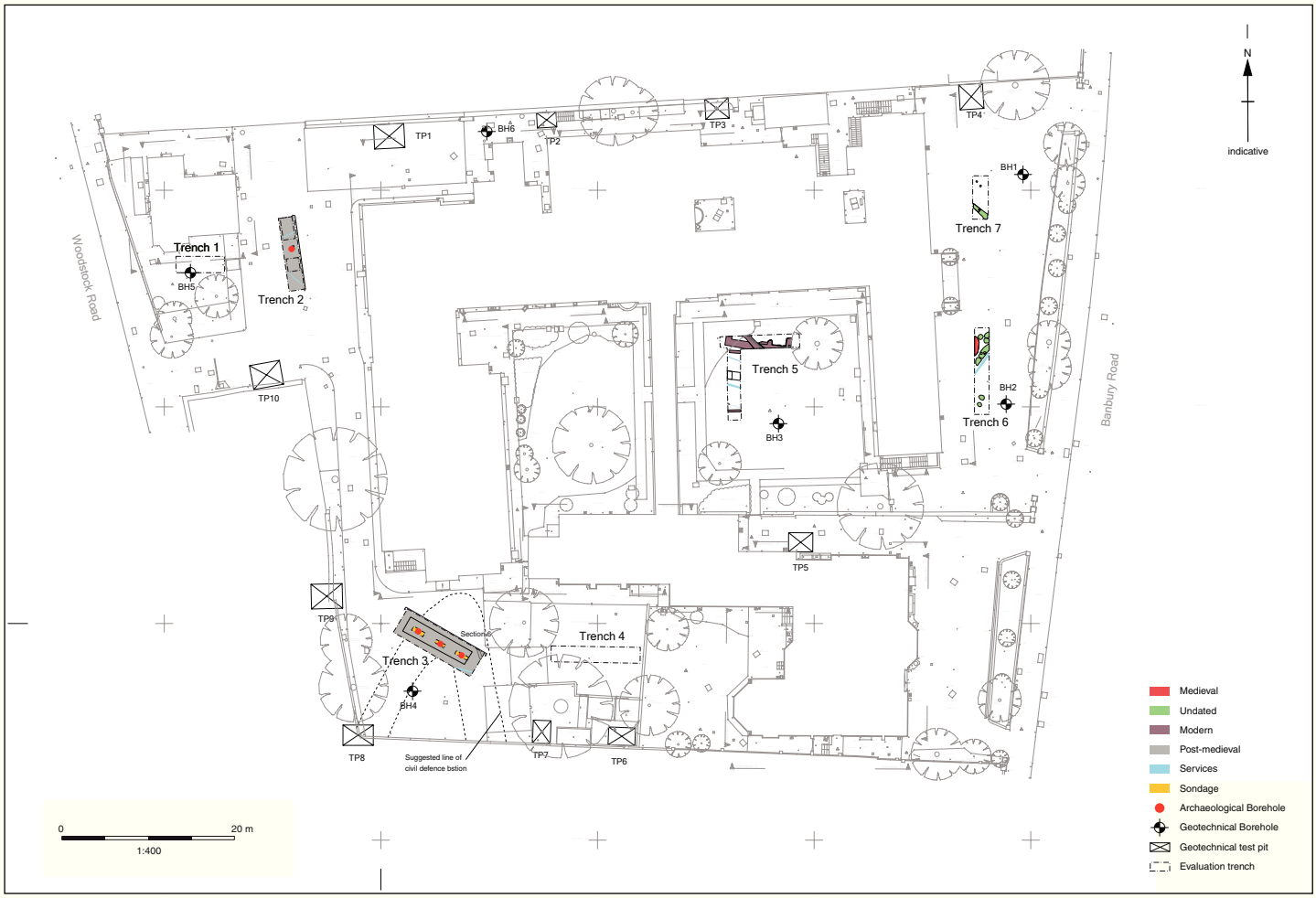

Figure 2: Trench location plan

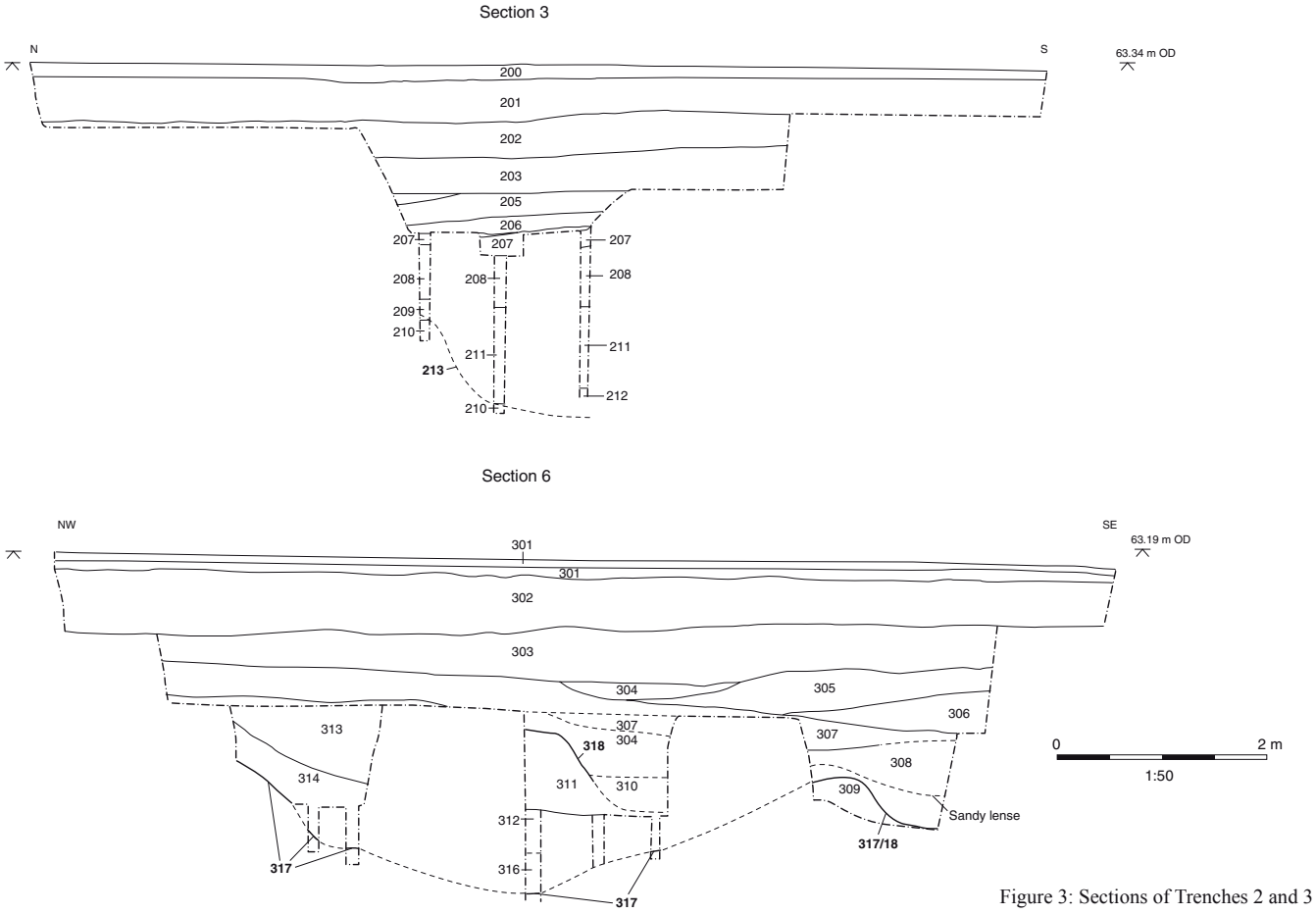

Figure 3: Sections of Trenches 2 and 3

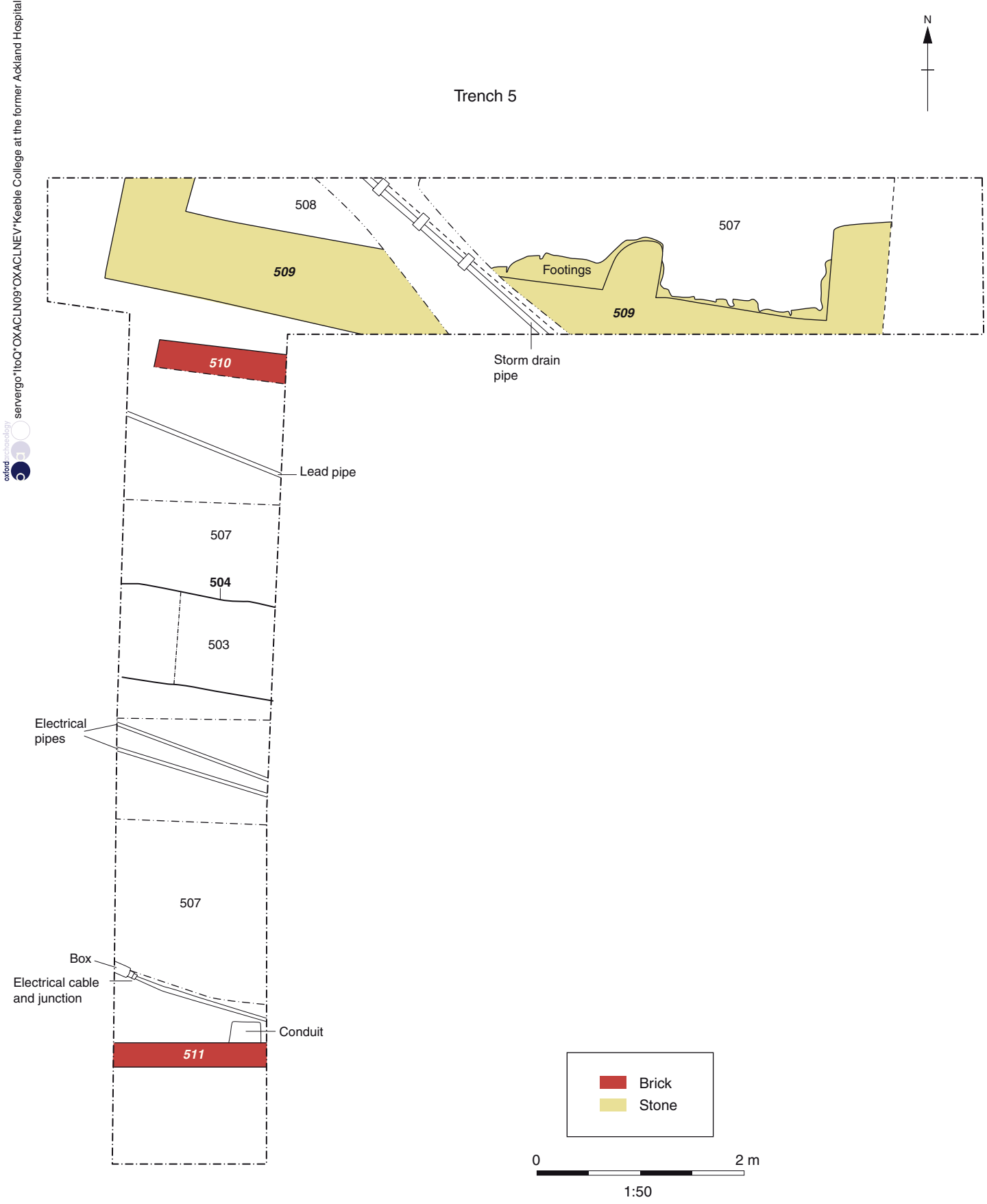

Figure 4: Plan of Trench 5

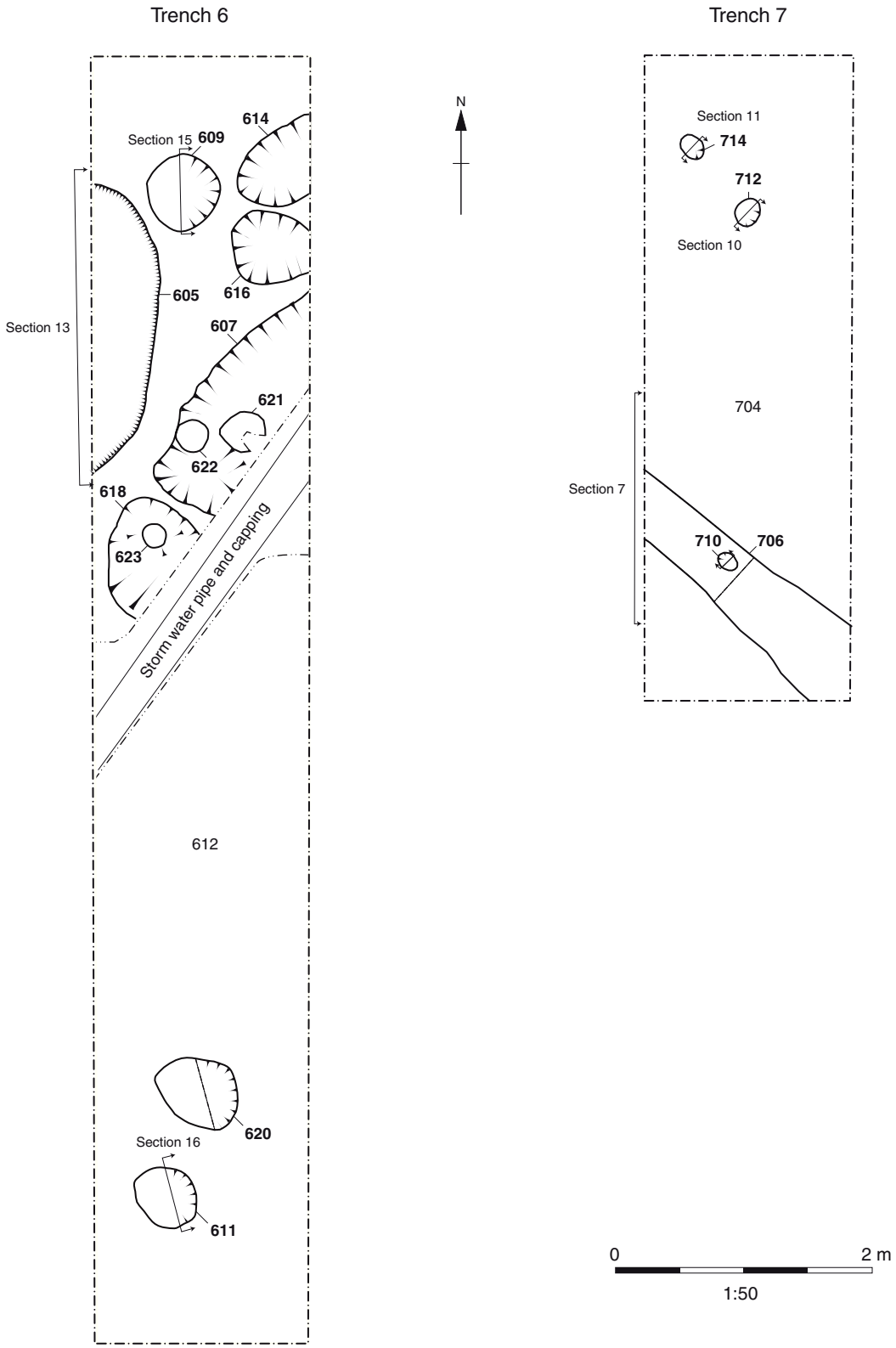

Figure 5: Plans of Trenches 6 and 7

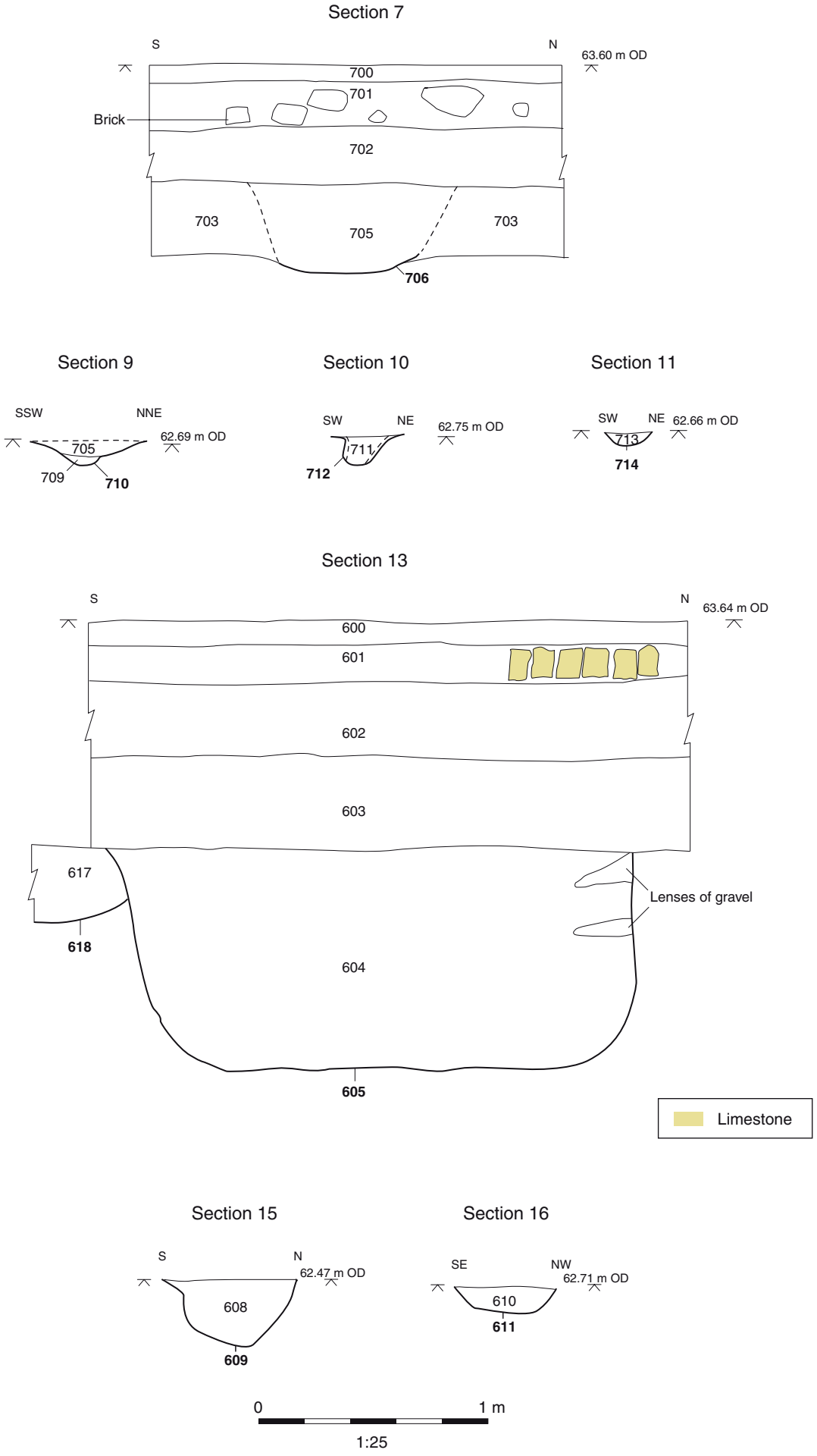

Figure 6: Sections of Trench 6 and 7

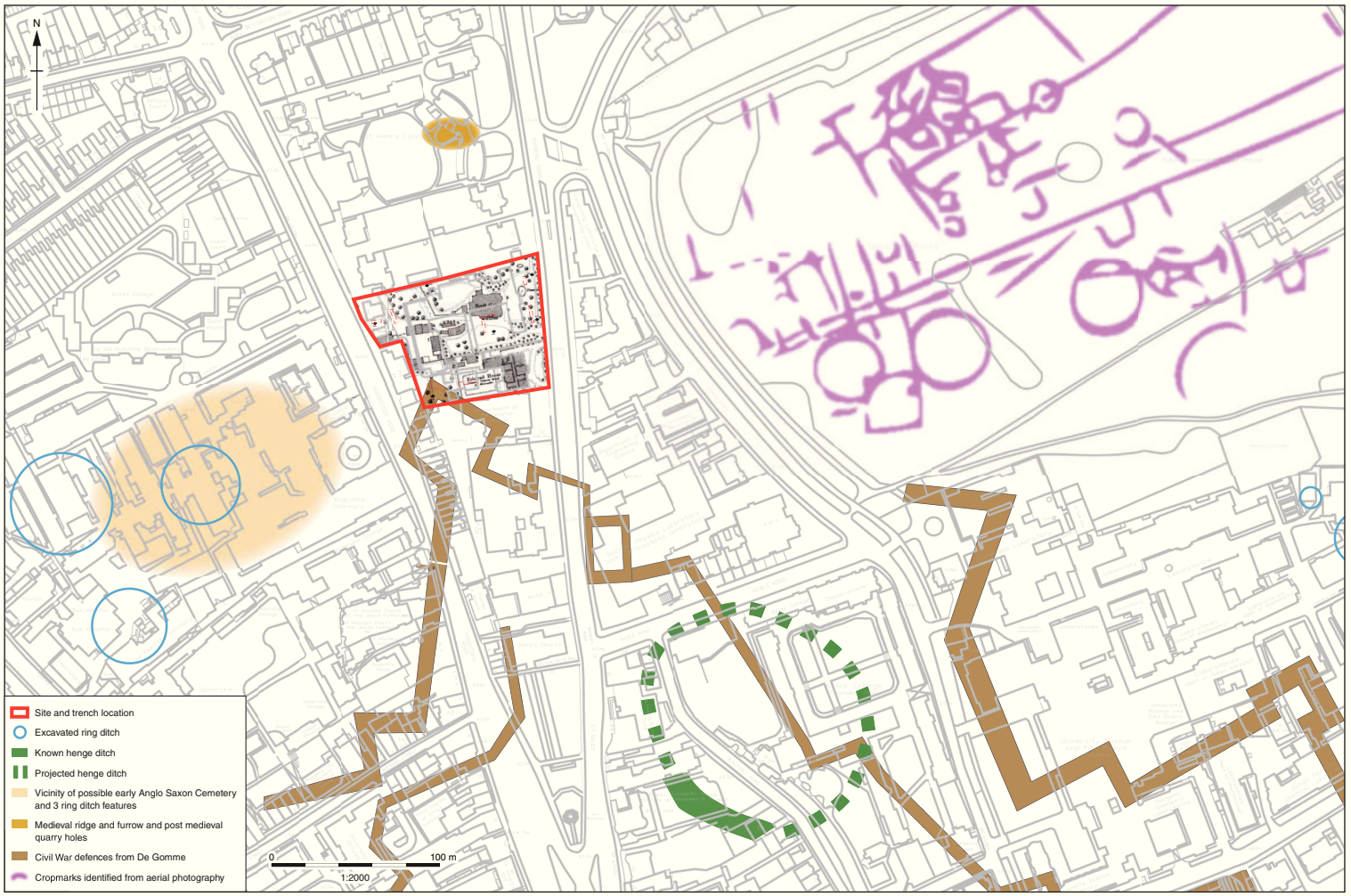

Figure 7: Site in relation to known cropmarks and other sites / findspots