

Queen's College

Provost's Garden, Queen's College, Oxford  
*ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

SP 5174506365



The Fellows' Garden with Anderson Shelters in Foreground

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

March 1998

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## Provost's Garden, Queen's College, Oxford

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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## SUMMARY

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at Queen's College on behalf of The Queen's College, Oxford. Trial trenches were placed within the Provost's garden in advance of a proposed new library building. The evaluation revealed a roughly constructed gravel surface and associated features dated to the Saxo-Norman period. One of these features, a large pit, contained fragments of slag indicative of metal working which possibly took place somewhere within the evaluation area. The remaining features consisted mostly of 13th and 14th century pits and included some evidence of later post-medieval pitting. The purpose of the pits is unclear although it is suggested that gravel extraction connected with local building is very likely. One large pit appears to have been connected with the construction of an Anderson shelter in 1939.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

In January 1998 the Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation within the Provost's garden, Queen's College on behalf of The Queen's College (Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken at a pre-planning application stage to assess the possible impact of a proposed new library upon the archaeology of the site. It was conducted in accordance with standard OAU procedures in consultation with the client and the Oxford Archaeological Advisory Service. The proposed development site (Fig. 2) lies within the north-western part of the college in an area presently used as the Provost's garden, and measured approximately 1100 square metres in area.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

The site lies on the Summertown Radley Gravel Terrace at approximately 61 m above OD. The site is currently used as a private garden. A bird's-eye view of the college (Fig. 6) dated 1578 shows the land use as gardens and orchards which continued until the later expansion of the college, when the area was used as a bowling green prior to its current use.

### 1.3 Historical background

A desk-top evaluation is being prepared independently by Queen's College, although some historical background is presented in this section and in Appendix 1.

The site lies in the Parish of St Peter in the East, outside of what is thought to be Oxford's first defensive circuit, but within the area of the walled medieval town. New College Lane, earlier called Torald Street, now forms a dog-leg around Queen's College, though originally it may be supposed to have continued past the parish church of St Peter's towards the east wall. The road was probably lined with houses in the 13th century, and the prosperous Peter Torald, several times mayor of Oxford, had a house on the corner. Queen's College has owned the site since 1340 since when it has always been open ground. In general, the north-east corner of Oxford fell into decay in the 14th century, hastened by the Black Death of 1349, and the majority of the quarter was purchased by William of Wykeham for the foundation of New College in the 1370s.

The history of the site has been traced by Salter (*Survey of Oxford* (1960), NE 207), who also supplied information to Provost Magrath for *The Queen's College* (1921). The site may have belonged to St Frideswide's, but occurs first as a 12d rent interest purchased in c.1220 and given to Osney Abbey in 1248, when it was described as being 'once of William of St. John'; later abbey rentals refer to it as the 'house of Giles of Stockwell', while other deeds suggest that the Stockwell family maintained an interest in the property next on the east. Thomas de Soway (who acquired an interest in 1293) granted the site to University College in 1311, when it was described as 'two messuages', and was thus probably inhabited, and most likely used as an academic hall. In 1340 Robert de Eglesfield acquired it from University College for the foundation of Queen's College, when it was described as a 'tenement' and so probably inhabited; it was transferred to the college in 1355. The college continued to pay the 12d rent to Osney Abbey, but the site was not occupied by college buildings and became a garden.

The size of the site was unusually large for an Oxford property and may perhaps represent the amalgamation of two or more separate holdings. However, the property next to the east was also large, and only consisted of two messuages purchased for the college in 1341, and formerly belonging to Stockwells (Magrath I, 326), so it may be that this was a part of Oxford that did not develop into small plots.

#### **1.4 Acknowledgements**

The OAU would like to thank the Home Bursar and the head gardener for their assistance during the evaluation

## **2 EVALUATION AIMS**

The evaluation aimed to establish whether there were any significant archaeological remains on the site which might act as a constraint upon development, and which might require further mitigation. The evaluation was to establish the significance, character, date and preservation to enable an informed decision to be made about archaeological constraints with regard to the planning application.

## **3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork**

The evaluation was based on a 2% sample of the development area. Four trenches in total were excavated within the Provost's garden (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated within the lawn and measured 10m long by 2m wide. The turf was removed by hand and the remaining overburden of soil was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon by a small mini-excavator under close archaeological supervision.

Trenches 3 and 4 were excavated within the stone path that runs along the northern edge of the lawn. These trenches measured 2m square and were hand dug. Trenches 1 and 2 were placed within the lawn area where the main impact of development would occur, whilst Trenches 3 and 4 were positioned on the north side near the road frontage where the remains of earlier buildings may be located.

### **3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording**

The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

### **3.3 Finds**

Spoil heaps were scanned for pottery relating to the machined layers. All finds from the post-medieval and medieval contexts were kept.

### **3.4 Environmental data**

In total four soil samples were taken. Sample 1 was taken from a compacted gravel layer [105], observed in Trench 1, from which a number of medieval finds were retrieved. The sample was taken for evidence of environmental indicators, (charred plant remains, snails) that might suggest a former land use associated with the surface.

Samples 2, 3 and 4 represent the fills of two pits excavated in Trench 3. The samples were taken for processing for evidence of charred plant remains. The pottery suggested a Saxo-Norman date.

## **4 RESULTS: GENERAL**

### **4.1 Soils and ground conditions**

The general soil type was clayey silt with generally good preservation of bone. Ground conditions were dry throughout the excavation even in the deeper features. Conditions for archaeological excavation and recording were good.

### **4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits**

The archaeological deposits appear to be roughly distributed along the eastern, northern and southern areas of the site. According to the evidence the west and south-western area of the site has been subjected to disturbance connected with the construction of Anderson shelters. Although it is possible that areas between the shelters may have remained unaffected, their construction is likely to have caused considerable disturbance to any underlying archaeological deposits.

Significant archaeological features related to the Saxo-Norman period were identified in Trench 1 on the southern side of the site. The evidence suggests that these deposits may extend in all directions beyond the limit of the trench, with perhaps particular emphasis on the southern area of the site where the continuation of a Saxo-Norman surface and associated features seems likely. Partial disturbance to these deposits occurs from a later intrusion identified within the extreme east end of the trench, but the total effect of this disturbance was unclear.

The remaining features identified during the evaluation consisted of medieval and post-medieval pits. These pits were located within the north-western area (Trench 3), the central area (east end of Trench 2) and the south-eastern area of the site (Trench 1). The location of Trench 4 coincided with a large post-medieval pit, estimated at approximately 4 m wide, and consequently it was only partially excavated to 2 m deep.

### 4.3 Presentation of results

The results of the evaluation are described by trench from the earliest deposits onwards. All the pottery dates noted below are *terminus post quem* dates, and reflect the latest dated pottery found within the context. Following the results of the excavation there is a discussion of the significant results and the significance of these deposits. An inventory of all contexts is presented in Appendix 10. Detailed reports on finds and environmental evidence are presented in Appendices 2-9.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Trench descriptions

#### 5.1.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was positioned in the southern side of the lawn and measured 10 m in length and 2 m in width. The earliest layer exposed within the trench was the natural gravel [119]. This was overlain by a light to mid reddish-brown silt [118], interpreted as a later natural subsoil, which varied in thickness from 0.30 m to as little as 0.05 m. Overlying this deposit was a fairly compacted gravel deposit [105] which contained a noticeable silt inclusion. This deposit is interpreted as an occupation surface and the associated pottery evidence suggests a 10th-11th century date for its use. It was exposed in a roughly triangular area measuring approximately 3 m along each edge and is situated at 61.14 m OD. The maximum thickness of the layer was 0.10 m although the deposit was predominantly 0.06 m thick. The surface had been subjected to some erosion along its north-western edge and truncation from contemporary and later 13th and 14th century cut features. The north-eastern was affected by later activities associated with the construction of a pit cut [108].

Cut from Layer 105 were two pits and a possible post hole [110, 123 and 126]. The largest of these was Pit 110, the surface area of which was only partially exposed. The pit measured 1.60 m wide and 1.90 m deep with vertical sides and contained two fills. At the base of the pit was the primary fill [103] measuring 0.90 m deep. This was a dark greyish-brown silty-sand with a considerable charcoal and ash inclusions and which produced fragments of pottery dated to the 10th-11th century. Further finds from this single pit fill included the majority of the metalworking debris recovered during the evaluation. A range of products were identified such as tap slag, vitrified clay lining and amorphous lumps of slag, tentatively identified as furnace slag (Appendix 6). The upper fill [111] produced similarly dated pottery and measured 1.0 m in depth. The shape and depth of the pit suggests a feature that possibly originally functioned as a water hole. Its association with the surface may indicate the presence of a former building, to which the yard and water hole may be related.

A smaller linear pit-like feature [123] orientated north-south was also observed cutting Surface 105. The southern end of the pit was truncated by a later feature [120] and the remaining length measured 1.10 m with a width of 0.36 m and a depth of 0.14 m. It was filled by a greyish-brown silty sand containing a small amount of charcoal flecks and gravel. Finds included a small amount of slag, bone and pottery. The latest date for the one sherd of pottery was the later part of the 11th century. The purpose of this feature is uncertain, but the very small assemblage of

finds and the irregular and shallow shape of the feature suggests that it may be associated with former root disturbance.

Another feature [126], interpreted as a possible post hole, was observed cutting the fill [111] of Pit 110 and Surface 105 and appears to have been sealed by Layer 122, the surface of which is situated at 61.20 m OD. The post pipe [128] produced one sherd of pottery dated from the 13th century, whilst the backfill to the post hole produced two sherds of late Saxon pottery. The diameter of the former post measured 0.54 m and it had been sunk to a depth of 0.88 m. The nature of the post remains unclear, although it may represent the partial remains of a structure constructed in the backfill of the disused pit [110].

The three cuts [110, 123 and 126] and their respective fills all appeared to be sealed by Layer 122. This layer, which is present almost throughout the length of the trench, consisted of a light greyish-brown silty sand with a noticeable gravel inclusion, and was dated by associated pottery to the early 13th century. The deposit measured a maximum of 0.08 m in depth and appears to represent a layer of former occupation debris probably related to 13th century activity.

In total, four pits were identified cutting Layer 122. Pit 106 was partially exposed in the south-east end of the trench. It was 0.30 m deep and 0.54 m wide and had fairly steep sloping sides. The fill [107] was a dark greyish-brown silty sand from which a small amount of 11th century pottery, bone and slag was retrieved.

A similarly sized pit [112], also only partially exposed, was situated within the northern central area of the trench. The pit had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and measured 0.60 m wide and 0.32 m deep. The fill [113] was a dark brown silty-sand with a small gravel inclusion and produced a very small assemblage of pottery and bone, dated to the late 11th century.

A large roughly circular pit [116] was observed within the extreme western end of the trench. The eastern end of the pit was exposed, but the west edge continued beyond the limit of the evaluation trench. The pit measured 0.68 m in depth and the exposed width was 1.36 m. The pit was filled by a single deposit [117], which consisted of a dark greyish-brown silty sand. The six sherds of pottery retrieved from the fill suggests a date within the early 13th century.

The largest pit observed cutting Layer 122 was Pit 120. This pit located centrally within the southern side of the trench was also half sectioned and measured 2.10 m from east to west. The fill [121] was only partially excavated and produced finds dating to the late 14th century. It was the excavation of this pit which had the effect of truncating the southern end of the earlier Pit 123.

Overlying Layer 122 and its associated pits was Deposit 102. The deposit had a maximum depth of 0.50 m at the western end of the trench tapering to 0.25 m towards the east end. Although Layer 102 remains undated it seals the 13th century features and may equate with a period, following the foundation of the college, when it appears the area was left open and perhaps used for limited cultivation and/or orchards. The deposit [102] was a dark brown clayey-silt and probably represents the earlier garden soil. The eastern end of the layer had been removed by a later cut [108], only partially exposed within the eastern end of the trench, filled by two fills [109] and [125]. A small pit-like feature [114] was observed cutting Layer 102 within the central western end of the trench. The pit, orientated north-south was ovoid in plan and measured 0.60 m long and 0.42 m wide. Layer 104 was observed overlying Pit Fill 125, but it was unclear whether this represented the fill of Pit 108. Sealing all these layers was Deposit 101, a light brown silty-sand with frequent fragments of limestone. The deposition of this layer,

which ran the length of the trench, may coincide with the construction of the existing library building towards the end of the 17th century. This layer measured 0.32 m thick and was in turn overlain by the topsoil [100] which was a maximum of 0.32 m thick.

### 5.1.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Trench 2 was positioned in the north side of the lawn and also measured 10 m long and 2 m wide. The earliest layer observed within the trench was the natural gravel [231], which was only very partially exposed in the eastern end of the trench. This was overlain by layer of natural subsoil [230]; the same reddish-brown clayey-silt identified in Trench 1. The earliest features observed within the trench were two pits identified as cutting Layer 230. These were Pits 229 and 247. Another early pit [235] was also observed, although this was truncated quite considerably by the later Pit 207 so that it was only visible cutting the gravel at the base of 207.

Pit Cut 229 was not fully excavated and only the partial remains of four fills were exposed. The western edge revealed an almost vertical side excavated to a depth of 1.14 m without the base being reached. Only the western edge appeared to remain undisturbed forming a linear alignment across the trench in a north-east to south-west direction. The nature of this feature is unclear, but its linear shape may suggest a ditch or more likely a large straight-edged pit. From the bottom up the sequence of fills was 228, 227, 226 and 225. Context 227 produced 13th century pottery, 226 produced 10th century pottery whilst the upper fill [225] produced fragments of pottery dated from the late 11th century. The deposition of the finds suggests that the pit dates to no earlier than the 13th century. The presence of earlier finds from the upper fills suggests the possibility that earlier layers, pre-dating the 13th century, were affected during the original excavation of the pit and that the early finds are a result of redeposition during backfilling of the pit. The purpose of the pit was unclear although it was possibly connected with gravel extraction quarried for construction.

Feature 247, which cut Layer 230, was situated on the north side of the trench. It was not excavated but is likely to represent a large pit similar to Pit 229. Two deposits [245 and 246] were observed as the upper fills of the feature. A small amount of late 11th century finds were retrieved from Fill 245. The western end of the feature had been truncated by the Anderson shelter 203, the eastern edge by Pit 229 and the southern edge affected by Feature 207.

Pit 235, one of the potentially earlier features, was not fully excavated. It was considerably truncated, the eastern side being disturbed by Pit 207. This appears to have removed the top half of the pit, whilst the western edge has been similarly affected by the cut for the Anderson shelter [203]. The surviving dimensions suggest an original diameter of about 0.80 m with a vertical side. Only one fill [234] was observed within the pit and was exposed to a depth of 0.56 m. No finds were retrieved from the fill.

A further small pit [210], which has only partially survived was observed cutting the upper fill of Pit 229. This pit [210] filled by 211 survived to a length of 0.80 m and a width of 0.60 m. The finds included ceramic building material, 11th century pottery and bone. It is likely that these finds were residual since finds from the earlier underlying pit [229] suggest a 12th century date. The finds and the nature of the fill from Pit 210 suggests deposition associated with domestic rubbish.

Pit 207 which cut Layer 230 at the same level as Pit 229 was centrally placed on the southern side of the trench and was partially exposed. It reached a maximum depth of 1.12 m and was

filled by three deposits. The lowest of these [233] was 0.40 m deep and was overlain by 232 with a depth of 0.36 m. The upper fill [208], was 0.58 m deep. All the fills produced some animal bone, whilst only the upper fill produced pottery dated to the late 11th century. The nature of the primary fill of the pit and its contents suggests that the cut may have been used for the deposition of domestic rubbish or alternatively as a cellar.

Two further pit-like features, [239 and 241] were revealed within the extreme east end of the trench. Both features cut Layer 225 the upper fill of Pit 229. Pit 239 was partially excavated to its full depth (0.66 m) and had a vertical side. The exposed part of the feature suggests a circular pit with a diameter of approximately 1.60 to 1.70 m. It was filled by Layer 240, 0.56 m thick, which contained early 13th century pottery, bone and ceramic building material.

Feature 241 was partially exposed in the south-east corner of the trench. It had almost vertical sides and had been cut to a depth of 0.52 m. The width and shape of the cut remains uncertain, but the exposed dimensions showed that the feature was 0.70 m across. The pit cut was initially filled by Layer 242, 0.12 m thick, which was overlain by a 0.40 m thick upper fill [243]. Both fills contained pottery and bone. The lower fill [242] produced 10th century pottery whilst the pottery from the overlying fill [243] was dated to the beginning of the 13th century.

Overlying all the features previously mentioned was Layer 224, a brown clayey-silt 0.40 m thick. No finds were recovered from this layer. This deposit was in turn overlaid by 244 a layer measuring 0.30 m thick, beginning in the extreme eastern end of the trench and continuing eastwards beyond the limit of the excavation. Overlying the end of Layer 244, and running westwards was layer [223] measuring 0.40 m thick. This deposit was also devoid of any finds.

Cutting Layer 223 was a linear ditch [212] running the full width of the trench. This ditch cut was orientated north-south with a depth of 1.20 m and a width of 1.56 m and contained six fills. The primary fill [216] was 0.20 m thick and was partially sealed by a lens of slumped material [217] about 0.08 m thick on the western side of the cut. Pottery from the lower fills cut is dated to a period probably no earlier than the middle of the 18th century. The Fills 215, 216 and 217 mid. 17th to mid. 18th century all produced clay pipes associated with the second half of the 17th century. Fragments of glass were retrieved from all of the fills apart from the upper fill [237].

In the western half of the trench covering a length 4.2 m was a large modern cut [203] backfilled with soil and rubble with a mixture of finds dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. This large almost vertical cut which was unbottomed at 2.0 m deep is likely to be related to the construction of an Anderson shelter during World War Two. A photograph (front cover) shows roughly the position of the air raid shelters constructed in the Provost's garden. The shelter situated on the right side of the picture is thought to be that observed in the end of trench two.

Sealing this modern cut and running the length of the trench was Layer 200 the modern top soil and turf up to 0.14 m thick. At the western end of the trench this layer was overlain by another layer of soil [218] 0.12 m deep, probably intended to raise the ground level in this area of the garden.

### 5.1.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

Trench 3 was located in the western end of a stone path which ran along the northern edge of the garden between the lawn and the wall which forms the southern boundary to Queen's Lane. The trench was hand dug and covered an area 2 m square. The natural gravel [310] was observed at approximately 1.30 m below the existing ground level. Overlying this was Layer 309 the reddish-brown natural subsoil noted in Trenches 1 and 2. This layer was cut by two pits. Pit 308 was 0.78 m deep with vertical sides and 0.76 m wide. It contained one fill [307], but produced no finds. The second pit [313] was unbottomed at 1.10 m, also with vertical sides and measured 0.70 m wide. The primary fill [312] was 0.32 m thick whilst the upper fill [311] was 0.78 m thick. Although both fills were only partially excavated, pottery from [312] was dated to the beginning of the 13th century, whilst the pottery from [311] was dated to the beginning of the 11th century. It is likely therefore that both pits represent a period of early medieval activity. The pits may have been originally constructed for the purposes of gravel extraction, with a secondary function associated perhaps with the deposition of domestic rubbish. The presence of intrusive 11th century finds within the upper fill of what appears to be an early 13th century pit suggests the possible presence of 11th century deposits within the immediate area.

Sealing these pits was Layer 306 measuring 0.34 m thick. Cutting this layer was a later pit [305] only partially revealed within the trench. The exposed dimensions suggested that the pit was probably 0.90 m deep with a vertical north side. The width was unclear since only 0.16 m was exposed in the trench. The pit appeared to be filled by one deposit [304]. Finds from Layer 306 and the pit fill [304] are all dated to the later part of the 17th century. The remaining overlying layers [303 and 314] produced no finds but, stratigraphically post date the deposition of [306] and therefore must represent deposition within a period post dating the later part of the 17th century. The Layer 302 forms the base to the modern path construction whilst a small trench cut [301] represents the laying of a modern cable to the Provost's house.

### 5.1.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 5)

Trench 4 was also hand dug and was located within the eastern end of the same path as Trench 3. It covered an area 2m square. The surface of the natural gravel [415] was located at about 2.10 m below the existing ground level surviving only in the north-east corner of the trench. Most of the gravel and the overlying deposits were seriously truncated by a post-medieval pit cut. The earliest deposit observed as overlying the gravel was Layer 414, a reddish-brown sandy silt, measuring 1.16 m in depth. Medieval pottery retrieved from the layer dated from the beginning of the 13th century.

Overlying Layer 414 was a thin layer [413] measuring 0.06 m deep further overlain by Layer 412. No finds were retrieved from either of these two layers. Layer 412 had been cut away by a large pit with vertical sides [411] but, only partially exposed within the trench and continuing down beyond the limit of the excavation. In total ten layers were identified within the cut of which five produced dateable finds. Layer 408 produced pottery of later 16th century date. The overlying layers [407, 406 and 405] all produced pottery dating to the middle of the 17th century. Fill 404, one of the later fills contained pottery of 15th century date which must be residual in this context.

A date for the excavations of this large pit is likely to fall somewhere in the 16th or 17th century and although finds of 16th century date were recovered from the lower fill, the pit would have

had to remain open for some time before being backfilled with the overlying layers in the 17th century. If the pit was constructed in the 17th century then the earlier finds within the fill would have been residually deposited during the backfilling. The purpose of the pit is unclear, but one of this size may, if associated with gravel extraction, be related to a large construction activity.

## **5.2 Finds**

### **5.2.1 *Iron Age and Romano-British pottery***

Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were collected from Context 225 the upper fill of Pit 229. The pit also produced late 11th century pottery. The earliest date for the construction of the pit was probably the beginning of the 13th century and indicates that the early finds were intrusive.

### **5.2.2 *Saxon pottery***

The chronological range of the post-Roman wares indicates that there was continuous activity at the site from the beginning of the 10th century until the present day. The relatively large amounts of late Saxon pottery redeposited in later assemblages show that there has been some disturbance of the earlier levels. However, a number of contexts produced purely late Saxon or Saxo-Norman assemblages, suggesting that there has been a reasonable survival of features of that period.

### **5.2.3 *Medieval pottery***

The medieval pottery at the site is typical of that from other sites in the city. Although significant amounts of medieval pottery redeposited in later assemblages indicate some disturbance of earlier levels, a number of assemblages suggest that deposits dating to around the time of the Norman conquest and the construction of Oxford Castle are preserved *in situ*.

### **5.2.4 *Post-medieval pottery***

A wide range of English and foreign imported wares were recovered from the trenches. These offer an opportunity to examine the range of pottery types which were available in Oxford during the period 1400-1900, and especially an Oxford college of the period.

### **5.2.5 *Glass***

The early wine bottle assemblage is of interest and further work can give more information on the social aspects of the site as well as giving indications of the local urban trade of such bottles in the post-medieval period. A small amount of further work would enable identification and dating of the flasks or phials more closely.

### **5.2.6 *Ceramic building material***

The total ceramic building material retrieved included roof- and floor- tile and brick. The majority of the material derives from post-medieval contexts, but it is possible to interpret some fabrics as medieval. A variety of ceramic building material was recovered from the site with some evidence for decorative medieval ridge-tiles and the likely use of flat roof tiles. There is

no marked pattern of distribution amongst the major tile fabrics which are all fairly evenly spread across Trenches 1-4.

#### **5.2.7 *Slag***

The excavations produced metal working debris, the majority of which was recovered from a single pit [110] in Trench 1. A range of products were identified such as tap slag, vitrified clay lining and amorphous lumps of slag, tentatively identified as furnace slag.

#### **5.2.8 *Clay tobacco pipes***

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage comprised 266 fragments. The date range of the form-diagnostic assemblage is approximately 1610-1710.

#### **5.2.9 *Animal bone***

The significant Saxo-Norman deposits [103] and [105] produced high proportions of bones from sheep cattle and pig. There were also bones from domestic fowl within the same assemblage.

#### **5.2.10 *Metalwork***

There were 12 copper alloy and 16 iron objects. The iron included mostly nails and some miscellaneous fragments. Three copper alloy book clasps were of intrinsic interest. These are of earlier post-medieval date.

### **5.3 *Environmental data***

#### **5.3.1 *Carbonised plant remains and charcoal***

Charred remains are preserved at the site, but the density of remains within the deposits are quite low. The cereal species represented in the small numbers of deposits sampled are all well established in Southern Britain by the late Saxon/early Norman period. There is very little evidence of cereal processing either in the form of cereal chaff or weed seeds.

#### **5.3.2 *Mollusca***

The molluscan evidence from the samples was sparse. Only the Saxo-Norman surface [105] contained a usable assemblage. A scan of this sample revealed a range of species of moist conditions amongst leaf-litter, under logs, without cultivation, heavy grazing or woodland. However, the molluscs were found in low concentrations and did not shed much light on the nature of the medieval surface.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Preservation of deposits

In Trench 1 the majority of the medieval deposits were reasonably unaffected by later activity and the survival of 10th to 13th century deposits is good. In the eastern end of the trench, where a later cut was identified, considerable disturbance to these earlier deposits was observed.

In Trench 2 it appears that archaeological deposits within the western end of the trench were significantly affected by the construction of the Anderson shelter in 1939. The eastern end of the trench appears reasonably unaffected with the survival of pits dated to the 13th century. These features were generally sealed by Layer 224 which was non productive of finds. This layer, may be contemporary with Layer 102 in Trench 1 which has been interpreted as garden soil formed after the foundation of the college in the 14th century.

Evidence from Trench 3 also indicates a good preservation of the 13th-century pits and only limited disturbance from later post-medieval pitting. The evidence from Trench 4, however, suggests the opposite with a poor preservation of the observed 13th-century deposits due to the intrusion of a large post-medieval pit.

### 6.2 Overall interpretation

#### 6.2.1 *Summary of results*

##### **Trench 1**

The earliest archaeological deposits revealed during the evaluation were a Saxo-Norman surface and associated pit containing metal working slag dated to the 10th century. These were identified at 61.14 m OD. Further pits were identified and dated to the late 11th, early 13th and late 14th centuries. A single post hole, possibly related to a larger structure situated outside the limit of the evaluation, was dated to the late Saxon period by pottery from 127 (the backfill to the post hole cut). A 13th-century occupation deposit [122] appears to occur at only a slightly higher level at 61.22 m OD.

##### **Trench 2**

Archaeological deposits in Trench 2 consisted of a possible large ditch [229] and various sizes of pits. Three pits were dated by associated pottery to the early 13th century and were first observed at 61 m OD. The retrieval of late 11th century pottery within these pit fills suggests that, although their presence is intrusive, earlier 11th century features may still exist within the area. One pit [235] was truncated by the early medieval pits, but no finds were recovered from the fill.

A single post-medieval trench dating from the middle 17th century was also observed. The function of this trench remains unclear. It was dug from a height of approximately 62 m OD.

The most recent period of activity was associated with the construction of air raid shelters in 1939. The construction cut appears to have affected all earlier deposits for a length of 4.50 m within the western end of the trench.

### **Trench 3**

Two medieval pits were identified within Trench 3. They both cut the natural gravel and the overlying reddish-brown natural subsoil at a level of approximately 61 m OD. They were sealed by the same layer although only one of the pits produced pottery which was dated to the early 13th century. The overlying layer was post-medieval and this was cut by a similarly dated pit at a height of 61.24 m OD.

### **Trench 4**

Observations within Trench 4 identified the very partial remains of a 13th century layer at 61.18 m OD within the north-east corner of the trench. This layer and the overlying deposits were cut by what appears to be a large post-medieval pit, only partially revealed, containing a succession of backfilled layers.

#### **6.2.2 Significance**

The late Saxon or Saxo-Norman deposits in Trench 1 indicate a reasonable survival of late Saxon features in the southern part of the site. The deposits would seem to indicate a yard surface [105] and pits rather than structures, although a large possible post hole [126] may indicate the existence of a substantial structure of this period. Since the site lay outside the first defensive circuit, this is an important indication of the age of settlement in the eastern extension of the town, in the vicinity of St Peter's church.

The pottery of this period is intrinsically important in understanding the development of the regional pottery industry. The presence of associated metal-working debris (including possible smelting slag) is of particular significance, although the debris represented a dump of material, not necessarily reflecting metal-working within the area of the evaluation site.

In the northern part of the site, within Trenches 2, 3 and 4, 10th-century deposits were not identified, although the presence of pottery of this date in some of the later features might suggest that some late Saxon and Norman features may have survived later truncation. The area showed a great density of intercutting pits and ditches dating to the medieval and later periods. These are of less archaeological significance, although the range of pottery and other finds is of some interest in the local context. Evidence of medieval tenement buildings fronting Queen's Lane may survive in restricted areas, although the evaluation failed to demonstrate this.

Of the economic and environmental indicators, the animal bones were well-preserved and a larger sample of material from the 10th-century onward would be of some significance. Charred plant remains were present, but unexceptional in their range. Waterlogged remains were absent, but the bottoms of the deeper features were not examined and there must be considered some potential, albeit low, for waterlogged remains on the site.

### *6.2.3 Impact of development*

The proposed development in the Provost's garden is for an underground library adjoining the existing library situated on the east side of the garden. It is expected that this underground development will necessitate deep excavations involving disturbance to all of the deposits overlying the natural gravel. However, since no details of the proposed development are available at this stage it is inappropriate to make further comment.

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## APPENDIX 1

### Salter's Survey for north half of the Queen's College (re-ordered)

#### NE(207). N.W. Corner of Queen's College

- c.1220 Elena de Blechesdon gives the rent to John pileth; she had received it from St. Frideswide's [Cart. Osen. I. 267]
- 1248 John Pileth gives to Oseney a rent of 12d. from a ten. which Will. Culverd holds of him in St. Pet. in E., once of Will. de St. John on east side of a ten. of Oseney [Cart. Osen. I, 190]
- 1260 Oseney rental: 'Hospicium iuxta in orientali parte [sic] per Adam Feteplace 2d.' [CO iii, 106]
- 1266 Oseney rental: as 1260 [CO iii, 109]
- 1277 Oseney rental: 'Domus Egidii de Stokwell per Guidonem Scissorem 12d' [CO iii, 115]
- c.1290 Agreement betw. Oseney and Egidius de Stokwell about a common wall betw. Elmhall and Blackhall.
- 1293 Elyas le Quilter for £20 sells to Thomas de Sowy a rent of 2 marks from a ten. of Roger de Quodeston betw. Galf. de Stocwell and Oseney and from an area betw. hosp. of St. John and land of said Roger, and also a mess. betw. ten. of Roger and ten. of Oseney [Univ. Deed A.2.IV. I]
- 1299 Will. de Borstall quitclaims to Thos. de Sowy all his right in a mess. betw. Phil. de Stocwell (E.) and Thos. de Sowy (W.), and in an area on the west side of Mayden Hall (or with Mayden Hall on its W. side) [Univ deed A. 2. IV. 2]  
This is probably the Maiden Hall on S. side of New Coll. front quadrangle.
- 1311 Thomas de Sowy grants to Mag. Adam de Bourleghe, Mag. Ioh. de Lokington, Mag. Hugh de Sco Yvone two messuages he had recovered from Elyas le Quilter betw. ten. once of Phil. de Stocwell E., and Oseney 1s. [Univ. deed A. 2. IV. 3].
- 1324 Oseney rental: 'Domus Egidii de Stokwell per Mag. Th. de Waldeby 12d' [CO iii, 155]
- May 19, 1340  
Univ. Coll. confirms to Rob. de Eglesfeld a ten. in St. Pet. in E. betw. Margaret d. of Phil. de Stockwell, widow of Thos. de Wynnesbury E. and Oseney W.; it is called 'ten. olim Tho. Sowy' [Queen's deed]
- Nov. 10, 1355  
It is transferred to the College; enclosed 'pro gardino' [Queen's deed].
- 1370 Oseney rental: 'Ten. Johannis de sancto Iohanne per custodem aule regine 12d' [CO iii, 171], and so later on.

## APPENDIX 2

### Copper alloy and iron

by Ian Scott

#### Assemblage size and composition

A small assemblage (Tables 1 and 2) comprising 12 copper alloy and 16 iron objects and 3 pieces of slag. The copper alloy includes 4 lace tags, 3 book clasps, a strap end and a token. The iron includes 7 nails, 2 horseshoe nails and 2 knife blades as well as miscellaneous fragments.

#### Methodology

The material was recorded with context reference, verbal description, measurements and sketches as appropriate.

#### Quantification and descriptions

*Table 1: Copper alloy objects by context*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Sf No</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Box No</i>	<i>Metal</i>	<i>Rec No</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Comments</i>
103		PERSN	CL	1	CA 1	ca	ca 001		lace tag
107		PERSN	WR	1	CA 1	ca	ca 002		book clasp fragment
213		COIN		1	CA 1	ca	ca 003		token
214		PERSN	CL	1	CA 1	ca	ca 004		pin, wound wire head
216		PERSN	CL	1	CA 1	ca	ca 005		lace tag
216		PERSN	CL	1	CA 1	ca	ca 006		?buckle fragt
217		PERSN	CL	1	CA 1	ca	ca 007		lace tag
219	3	PERSN	WR	1	CA 1	ca	ca 008		book clasp, decorated, with separate back spring
303		PERSN	CL	1	CA 1	ca	ca 009		button fragt
303		PERSN	WR	1	CA 1	ca	ca 010		book clasp, decorated, complete with back spring
303		PERSN	CL	1	CA 1	ca	ca 011		lace tag
303		PERSN	CL	1	CA 1	ca	ca 012		strap end
				12					

**Table 2: Iron objects by context**

Context	Sf No	Category	Type	No.	Box No	Metal	Rec No	Phase	Comments
103		NAIL		1	FE 1	fe	fe 001		wire or nail
105	<1>	SLAG		2	FE 1	fe	fe 002		slag or cinder
105	<1>	MISC	B	1	FE 1	fe	fe 003		bar, curved
105	<1>	NAIL		1	FE 1	fe	fe 004		nail tip
113		NAIL		1	FE 1	fe	fe 005		cut nail
121		NAIL		1	FE 1	fe	fe 006		flat head, tapering stem
127		SLAG		1	FE 1	fe	fe 007		slag or cinder
213		NAIL		2	FE 1	fe	fe 008		
215		DOMES	CU	1	FE 1	fe	fe 009		knife blade, rod tang
216		NAIL		1	FE 1	fe	fe 010		small flat head
216		MISC	S	1	FE 1	fe	fe 011		sheet fragt
225		DOMES	CU	1	FE 1	fe	fe 012		blade fragt
236		HORSE	FR	1	FE 1	fe	fe 013		horseshoe nail
236		MISC	S	1	FE 1	fe	fe 014		sheet fragt
243		HORSE	FR	1	FE 1	fe	fe 015		fiddle key' nail
311		MISC	R	1	FE 1	fe	fe 016		small ring
406		NAIL		1	FE 1	fe	fe 017		
				19					

## Assessment

### *Copper alloy*

The copper alloy assemblage includes a number of pieces of intrinsic interest, namely the three book clasps (Rec. No's ca 002, 008 & 010) and the strap end (ca 012), which could usefully be published. These are of early post-medieval date. Otherwise the presence of the 4 lace tags (ca 001, 005, 007 & 011) and the pin with a wire wound head (ca 004) should be noted.

### *Iron*

The presence of the knife should be noted, but otherwise no further work is required.

## APPENDIX 3

### Assessment of environmental indicators

by Dana Challinor and Elizabeth Stafford

#### Introduction

Four samples were taken for the assessment of environmental indicators. Three samples were taken from two late Saxon/early medieval pits and the fourth sample was from a possible medieval surface. The combined volume of all four samples was 28 litres.

#### Methods

The samples were processed by mechanical flotation in a modified Siraf machine with the sample held on a 500µm mesh and the flot collected on a 250µm mesh. The coarse residues were then sieved for small bones and artefacts.

Flots were first put through a stack of sieves, ranging from 500µm to 4 mm, to remove the bulk of the modern roots present in most samples and to separate the flot into manageable fractions. Each fraction was then scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification.

#### Charred plant remains

##### Results

All the flots showed a good or fair degree of preservation and contained charred plant remains but were small for the volume processed. Charcoal was the dominant content in all flots although most was comminuted and therefore not identifiable. A few fragments of *Quercus* sp. (oak) was visible in Contexts 307 and 311.

Charred cereal grain, including the free-threshing form *Triticum* sp. was present in all four flots, including the Saxon pit fills (Contexts 307, 311 and 312). *Avena* sp. (oat) was clearly present in 312. Other cereals may be present but it was not possible to identify these at this stage. Chaff was not visible in any of the samples.

Charred fragments of hazelnut shell were recognised from the old ground surface [105] and two of the pit fills [307 and 311] though not in large quantities. Similarly, legumes and weed seeds were present in all four samples but in very low concentrations.

##### Discussion

Charred remains are preserved at the site, but the density of remains within the deposits is quite low. The cereal species represented in the small number of deposits sampled are all well established in Southern Britain by the late Saxon/early Norman period. The occurrence of free-threshing *Triticum* sp. and *Avena* sp. is therefore to be expected in samples of this

period. There is very little evidence of cereal processing either in the form of cereal chaff or weed seeds.

## **Molluscs**

The molluscan evidence from the samples was sparse. Only the medieval surface [Context 105] contained a usable assemblage. A scan of this sample revealed a range of species (such as *Discus rotundatus*, *Cochlicopa* sp. and *Vallonia costata*) of moist conditions amongst leaf-litter, under logs, without cultivation, heavy grazing or woodland. A recent burrowing species (*Cecilioides acicula*) was also found.

The molluscs were found in low concentrations and did not shed much light on the nature of the medieval surface.

## APPENDIX 4

### Pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn

#### The Assemblage

The pottery assemblage comprised 468 sherds with a total weight of 9465g. The assemblage was wholly post-Roman in date except for two sherds of Romano-British material from Context 225. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 3. Most of the pottery types present are well-known from excavations in the city of Oxford, and so, where appropriate, the alphanumeric codes of the Oxfordshire type-series (Mellor 1994) have been used.

#### Chronology

The chronological range of the post-Roman wares indicates that there was continuous activity at the site from the beginning of the 10th century until the present day.

The amounts of late Saxon and medieval pottery which are redeposited in later assemblages show that there has been some disturbance of the earlier levels, but a number of contexts produced purely late Saxon or Saxo-Norman assemblages (see Table 3), suggesting that there has been a reasonable survival of features of that period.

The three main late Saxon pottery types of the county, Late Saxon Oxford ware (fabric OXB), St. Neots ware (OXR) and calcareous gravel-tempered ware (OXAC) are all present, although the presence of St. Neots ware in all of the late Saxon assemblages suggests that activity at the site post-dates AD900 (*ibid.* 57). Certainly, the earliest types of the ware present are Denham's T1(1) group, which post-dates AD900 in Northampton (Denham 1985, table 11). However, this group, and the OXAC have a currency of use which extended until around AD1100 or beyond (Mellor 1994, 51-2 & 57). Despite this, a case may be made for there having been 10th century activity at the site.

Late Saxon Oxford Ware, OXB, is first used in Oxford by the beginning of the 9th century at the latest, but had fallen from use before AD1020 (Mellor 1994 41). Large, unabraded sherds of the material occurred in Contexts 103, 105 111 and 208 in association with the other late Saxon wares indicating a 10th century date. This is confirmed by the presence in Context 111 of a sherd of unglazed Stamford ware in Kilmurry's fabric type E (Kilmurry. 1980, 9), which had its main use-period from the late-9th to the late-10th century.

It was also noted during analysis that some of the calcareous gravel-tempered sherds (OXAC), from the late Saxon contexts, appeared to be somewhat different to those from later contexts, being thicker-walled and with a 'wet-hand' finish more reminiscent of early Saxon hand-made pottery.

The medieval pottery at the site is typical of that from other sites in the city (cf. Mellor 1994), although the dating of a number of assemblages suggests that deposits dating to around the time of the Norman conquest and the construction of Oxford Castle are preserved *in situ*.

Mellor has stated that ceramic sequences of this date are vital to the understanding of the development of the ceramic networks in the county (*ibid.* , 92).

The late and post-medieval wares are all well-known types, such as local red earthenwares but there are also a range of regional and foreign imported, such as Border wares, German Stonewares, Dutch and English Tin-Glazed wares and Chinese and English porcelains. These give an insight into the range of pottery types being marketed in Oxford at that time, and also offer an opportunity to examine the changing patterns of pottery usage at an Oxford college during the period 1400-1900.

## **Assessment of Potential**

### ***Late Saxon***

It is obvious from the condition and nature of the ceramic assemblage that archaeological deposits of late Saxon date are present at this site.

From a purely ceramic perspective, the site has the potential to approach some of the recommendations set out by Mellor in respect of the late Saxon and early medieval pottery of Oxfordshire (*ibid.* 1994, 57-60) namely,

- i) Clarification of the start-dates of the late Saxon pottery industries
- ii) To identify typological traits in the earlier phases of the OXAC tradition, as suggested by the presence of an unusual fabric variant in the earlier groups from this site.

There is also the fact that sherds of fabric OXBF occur in groups which otherwise appear to be of 10th century date. Most finds of the ware suggest that, in Oxford, it dates to the mid-late 11th century (*ibid.* 54), but a single finds-pot from Gloucestershire indicates that the tradition may have started as early as the late 9th century (*ibid.*). However, evidence from Eynsham Abbey, Oxfordshire indicates that the material came into use there during the early years of the 11th-century, if not before (Blinkhorn in print). Obviously, this needs clarification, and the deposits identified at Queen's College have the potential to provide the solution to a problem which is critical to our understanding of the pottery of the late Saxon period in the region.

### ***Medieval***

The presence of stratified groups of Saxo-Norman date indicates that the site has the potential to produce a sequence of pottery groups of this date, which Mellor has identified as being crucial to our understanding of the pottery of the period.

### ***Late/Post-Medieval***

The wide range of English and foreign imported wares at the site offer an opportunity to examine the range of pottery types which were available in Oxford during the period 1400-1900, and also to allow the examination of the changing nature of pottery usage at an Oxford college of the period.

Table 3: Pottery type by context.

Cont	R-B	OXB	ONR	OXAC	Stamford ware	OXBF	OXY	OXAM	Surrey Whiteware	Tudor green	Transitional wares	German stone-ware	Border wares	Red earthen-ware	Earthen-ware	Porcelain	Tin-glazed wares	English stone-ware	TPQ
									c. 1230-1400	c. 1380-1550	c. 1450-1550	c. 1550-1800	c. 1550-1800	c. 1550-1800	c. 1580-1800	c. 1600-1900	c. 1612-1800	c. 1680-1900	
101			1 (9)																900 +
103		1 (16)	14 (169)																900 +
105		1 (50)	1 (23)*	3 (8)		3 (17)													1000 +
107			1 (18)	1 (3)			1 (2)												L11thC+
109								1 (15)											1200 +
111		1 (12)	11 (119)	6 (40)	1 (8)			1 (2)*											900 +
113					1 (4)		1 (2)												L11thC?
117				2 (12)			3 (13)	1 (8)											1200 +
121			1 (17)	1 (2)			2 (12)	7 (63)		1 (1)									L14thC+
122			3 (14)			4 (114)	2 (50)	1 (25)											1200 +
124							1 (3)												L11thC+
127				2 (39)															LSAX?
128								1 (10)											1200 +
204							1 (12)												L11thC+
205			1 (72)																900 +
206				1 (3)															LSAX?
208		4 (102)		6 (127)			1 (8)												L11thC+
209			1 (21)	1 (8)															L11thC+
211				5 (29)			5 (85)	1 (1)*											L11thC+
213								2 (252)				3 (53)	2 (15)	1 (162)	3 (29)				c. 1580 +
214												3 (500)		3 (404)					c. 1550 +
215													2 (204)	1 (180)	2 (122)				c. 1580 +
216				1 (6)			1 (9)	1 (12)				4 (104)	2 (11)	2 (17)					c. 1550 +
219			1 (7)	3 (49)		1 (13)							2 (29)	1 (36)					c. 1550 +
225	2 (31)		2 (22)	23 (318)		2 (15)	14 (106)												L11thC+
226			5 (23)	7 (173)															900 +
227			2 (22)	3* (39)			1 (17)	1 (16)											1200 +
236									5 (69)			15 (378)	15 (306)	14 (815)			4 (42)		c. 1630 +

Cont	R-B	OXB	OXR	OXAC	Stanford ware	OXBF	OXY	OXAM	Surrey Whiteware	Tudor green	Transitional wares	German stone-ware	Border wares	Red earthen-ware	Earthen-ware	Porcelain	Tin-glazed wares	English stone-ware	TPQ
240				4 (68)			5 (28)	1 (6)											1200 +
242			2 (28)	3 (10)															900 +
243			7 (63)	16 (140)		3 (17)	11 (69)	1 (3)											1200 + ?
245			1 (1)	1 (14)			1 (2)												L11thC +
303														1 (80)			1 (4)		c.1630 +
304												3 (94)	12 (584)	1 (40)			18 (372)	3 (43)	c.1680 +
306				1 (32)				3 (119)				3 (26)		4 (148)	2 (20)		3 (37)		c.1690 +
311			5 (48)*	5 (104)**															1000 +
312			1 (5)*	6 (102)				1 (19)											1200 +
400																1 (3)			c.1600 +
404								1 (13)			2 (46)								c.1450 +
405				3 (40)		1 (17)	1 (4)	7 (125)	1 (38)				2 (18)	2 (16)			1 (31)		c.1630 +
406				2 (22)				1 (12)				2 (15)	4 (55)	3 (80)	2 (10)		2 (12)		c.1640 +
407								8 (51)				1 (29)	1 (9)	13 (410)			1 (9)		c.1630 +
408				1 (20)				7 (160)						2 (8)					c.1550 +
414			1 (12)			1 (30)	3 (17)	1 (4)											1200 +
Total	2 (31)	7 (180)	61 (693)	104 (1408)	2 (12)	15 (223)	54 (474)	48 (918)	6 (107)	1 (1)	2 (46)	34 (1199)	42 (1041)	48 (2396)	8 (181)	1 (3)	30 (509)	3 (43)	

## APPENDIX 5

### Ceramic building material

by Nick Mitchell

#### The Assemblage

The total ceramic building material retrieved comprised 88 fragments or 10.55kg, and includes roof- and floor-tile and brick. The majority of the material derives from post-medieval contexts but it is possible to interpret some fabrics as medieval. The roof-tile is seen in eight fabrics, (1-8), while brick is present in three, (3,5 and 9); these fabrics are quantified in the Tables 4 and 5 and described in detail below.

*Table 4: Tile quantification by fabric*

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Number of Fragments</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Type</i>
1	43	2520	flat roof-tile
2	15	1170	flat roof- and plain ridge-tile
3	5	560	flat roof-tile
4	7	470	flat roof-tile
5	3	410	crested ridge-tile
6	2	180	flat roof-tile
7	2	70	flat roof-tile
8	2	400	floor- and flat roof-tile
<b>Total tile</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>5780</b>	

#### Form and Types

The majority of the tile is flat roof-tile, 74 fragments and 3720g, four of which are patchily glazed, fabrics 1, 3, 4 and 7. These are clear lead glazes except the fabric 3 example which has an unusual bluish-white glaze on only its end and side. Many of the roof-tiles have a tough white mortar on at least one side while only two fragments have peg-holes for attaching the tile to the roof by means of wooden pegs. The mortar may have held the tiles in place on the roof, perhaps augmenting the pegs, or may derive from use of tile in the construction of walls or structures.

Three ridge-tiles from Trenches 2 and 3 are of a medieval type with applied and knife-cut crests, and one tile showing a flaky mid-green glaze beneath the crests. This pronounced 'cock's comb' style was popular in the region in the later 13th and probably 14th centuries. There are two plain curved tiles in fabric 2 from Trench 3. They are 20mm thick, weighing 450g, with a smooth surface only on the outside of the curve and are therefore interpreted as ridge-tiles. These tiles are from contexts dated by pottery to the 17th century and, typologically, are likely to be post-medieval.

One stone tile, 190mm wide and 35mm thick and weighing 1400g, was retrieved from a late 17th-century [Context 306] in Trench 3. It has a single peg-hole for attachment to roofing timbers and shows the likely use of stone as a roofing material in the vicinity.

A single, worn floor-tile, in fabric 8, was recovered from Context 404 which is dated by pottery as 1450+. This may be a likely date for this form of plain tile and with slightly bevelled sides but with no keying for mortar on the base."

### **Fabric: Date and Distribution**

There is no marked pattern of distribution amongst the major tile fabrics which are all fairly evenly spread across Trenches 1-4. The less numerous fabrics are restricted to fewer trenches with fabric 5 seen only in Trenches 2 and 3, fabric 6 in Trenches 1 and 4, fabric 7 in Trench 4, and fabric 8 in Trenches 3 and 4, although their small numbers prevent any meaningful interpretation.

Fabric 1 is the most numerous and is likely to be medieval as 24 of the 43 fragments are from five early contexts, the latest of which is dated by pottery to the late 14th century+, [Contexts 414, 209, 101, 240]. Most of the tile is from post-medieval contexts and fabric 2, for instance, may have been used exclusively in this period.

*Table 5: Brick quantification by fabric*

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Number of Fragments</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
3	6	4290
5	1	170
9	1	190
<b>Total brick</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4650</b>

Six hand-made bricks of fabric 3 were recovered from Trenches 2 and 3. Two of these are 50mm thick, one being 103mm wide, while the third is 40mm thick. Their fabric is distinctive for being the same as the 'Stabbed Wessex' floor-tile series common in Oxford in the late 13th and early 14th centuries, and also seen here as roof-tiles. All four bricks are blackened on at least one side by secondary burning and the single fabric 5 brick is similarly blackened on one side.

### **Fabric Descriptions:**

- 1 High-fired orange and dark grey fabric. Inclusions: very sparse large quartz, frequent mica. (= Oxford fabric IVc)
- 2 Medium-hard mid-orange fabric with abundant marling Inclusions: moderate mid-size quartz, abundant silt-stone up to 2mm. (=Oxford fabric IVa)
- 3 High-fired, crumbly, dull red fabric. Inclusions: abundant sub-rounded quartz with occasional iron-stone. (=Oxford fabric IIIB)
- 4 Medium-hard, dull brownish-pink fabric. Inclusions: moderate sub-rounded quartz and frequent lime up to 3mm. (=Oxford fabric VIIB)
- 5 Soft fabric with light pink outside and blackish-grey core. Inclusions abundant very small quartz and frequent soft grey rounded inclusions, 0.2- 1mm.(= Eynsham Abbey fabric 11)

- 6 Very high-fired bright orange fabric. Inclusions: moderate sized quartz and very frequent iron-stone, up to 0.5mm.
- 7 Hard whitish-grey fabric. Inclusions: abundant quartz with frequent rounded black inclusions, possibly iron, up to 0.5mm (like Oxford fabric IIIA)
- 8 Very light pinkish-orange sandy fabric. Inclusions: abundant small and mid-size quartz.
- 9 Soft mid red with yellow marling. Inclusions: abundant small quartz with occasional grog and iron-stone, up to 1mm

## APPENDIX 6

### Slag

by Kayt Smith

#### Introduction

The excavations produced a total of 3.5kgs of metal working debris (Table 6), the majority of which was recovered from a single pit fill (103). A range of products were identified such as tap slag, vitrified clay lining and amorphous lumps of slag, tentatively identified as furnace slag.

#### Methodology

The material was classified by morphological characteristics and quantified by count and weight.

*Table 6: Slag quantification by context*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Debris Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt.(gms)</i>
103	pit fill	Vitrified clay	10	231
		large amorphous fragments	7	2020
		Tap slag	9	302
		unidentified	1	96
		unidentified	14	220
105	surface	vitrified clay	2	66
		unidentified	5	31
107	pit fill	unidentified	6	192
113	pit fill	unidentified	4	100
122	layer	tap slag	2	19
124	pit fill	tap slag	2	69
127	pit fill	tap slag	1	12
312	pit fill	vitrified clay	8	142
<b>Total</b>			<b>71</b>	<b>3500</b>

#### Observations and potential

The high temperatures utilised in iron working (both smelting and smithing) can lead to vitrification of the clay lining inner surface, although the degree of vitrification is dependant on a number of factors such as the refractory properties of the clay. The vitrified clay from Queen's College is a very sandy fabric, fragmentary and quite brittle, oxidised to a pale reddish orange, with vitrification of the inner surface up to 12mm thick. The only diagnostic slag residue is tap slag. The remainder of the material comprises amorphous lumps of slag which although quite large could only be identified as possible furnace slag. No furnace bottoms or hearth bottoms were identified, and no environmental samples were available to search for micro-slag residue such as hammerscale.

The slag is dated to the 10th-12th century through its association with the pottery, with the majority of material from pit Fill 103 dated to the 10th century, the remainder of slag being recovered from various fills and layers. Slags are rarely found *in situ*, and those recovered would appear to represent a dump of material possibly quite a distance from their production site. Undiagnostic slags are generally assumed to derive from smithing activity (McDonnell 1988) although the presence of tap slag here would indicate some smelting. Overall the quantity of material is small and further chemical characterisation of the material would be interesting, but unlikely to reveal much more information at this stage. However, if any further work in the area should occur and more debris encountered, samples for micro-slag evidence should also be taken and the material assessed here be re-examined in the light of any further discoveries of metal-working debris.

## APPENDIX 7

### Glass

by Cecily Cropper

#### The Assemblage

A total of 62 fragments of glass were recovered from the evaluation (Table 7).

#### *Window Glass*

A total of 19 fragments of plain window glass from plain diamond quarry glazing were recovered, most likely secular. The majority was 17th or 18th century in date. There is no associated window lead. One possible earlier fragment (from Context 216) shows signs of 'pitting' on one surface indicating a length of time *in situ* prior to removal.

#### *Vessel Glass*

A total of seven fragments from vessels was collected. All appear to be forms of drinking glass and of the colourless lead glass of an 18th century date or later. One fragment, from Context 236, appears to be from a *roemer*, a type of vessel produced in Germany gaining popularity during the 17th century.

#### *Bottle Glass*

This assemblage comprised a total of 29 fragments from early wine bottles, with an emphasis on the shaft and globe form dating from the mid-late 17th century. One fragment in particular, a bottle seal from Context 213 indicates the source of the bottle and the name and date of the taverner who owned it (Banks 1997, 45). The later form of onion bottle is also represented, notably from Context 304, dating to the early 18th century.

#### *Phials/small bottles or flasks*

The rims and necks of three vessels of these forms (Contexts 216, 217 and 236) indicated a similar date range. Most were used for medicines or specific liquids other than alcohol.

### Discussion

The early wine bottle assemblage is of interest and further work might shed more light on the social aspects of the site as well as giving indications of the local urban trade of such bottles at this time. A small amount of further work is also necessary to identify and date the flasks or phials more closely. Of the vessel glass only the possible *roemer* and the lead glass stem will need closer identification and dating. No further work is needed for the window glass.

**Table 7: Glass quantification by context**

CTX	IDENT.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
105	Window x 1	Slight green tint, strain cracking.	17th C (possibly earlier)
213	1. Window x 2 2. Bottle x 1 3. Bottle x 4	Triangular quarry, c'less, slight green tint, crown. Body, mid-green, mould blown. Body and base, light green, oxide-stained, including seal (initials RP (Richard Pont) at top and E to right, and shield with three barrels and chevron. Originated from the Three Tuns Tavern, Oxford. Shaft and globe.	17/18th C 18th C c1666-1670
214	1. Bottle x 2 2. Bottle x 1 3. Bottle x 1	Base and rim, light green, oxide-stained. Shaft and globe. Base, light green. Shaft and globe. Rim and neck. Neck flaring. ?Early Onion.	M-L17th C M-L17th C L17th-E18th C
215	Window x 1	Green-tint, seedy, ?crown,	L17th+
216	1. ?Window x 7 2. Window x 1 3. Bottle x 1 4. Vessel x 1 5. Window x 2 6. Window x 1 7. Vessel x 1 8. Bottle x 2 9. Flask/Phial	Green-tinted, oxide-stained and ?fire-distorted. Colourless, iridescent Body, light green, iridescent. Body, colourless, iridescent. ?Mould blown with raised dot decoration (internally also). Green-tinted, oxide-stained, crown Opaque, pitting on one surface. Green-tinted core. Foot-rim, colourless, iridescence, spun. Base and body, light green, oxide-stained. ?Onion. Rim, neck and shoulder, light green. Shoulder sloping.	17/18th C 19th C L17th C+ 18th C+ 17/18th C 16th/17th C 18/19th C L17/E18th C 17/18th C

CTX	IDENT.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
217	1. Window x 4	Green-tinted, oxide-stained	17/18th C
	2. Vessel x 2	Colourless, body, iridescence. Green-tinted, oxide-stained. Sloping shoulder.	18/19th C
	3. Flask/Phial		17/18th C
236	1. Window x 1	Colourless	19/20th C
	2. Vessel x 1	Bowl base, slight green tint, oxide-stained. Prunt on bowl. ?Prunted roemer.	M-L17th C+
	3. Bottle x 1	Body and heel, light green, oxide-stained. Shaft and globe.	M- L17th C
	4. Bottle x 4	Base and lower body, light green, oxide-stained. ?Shaft and globe/onion.	
	5. Bottle x 3	Base and rim, light green tint, oxide-stained and iridescent. String rim wide and prominent, neck too-marked. ?Shaft and globe.	17/18th C
		Colourless body/bowl, iridescent.	
	6. Vessel x 1	Rim and neck, yellow-green.	M-L17th C
	7. Flask/Phial		18th/19th C
303	Bottle x 4	Body and base, light green, oxide-stained. Similar to bottle from 213. ?Shaft and globe.	Late 17th C
304	1. Bottle x 1	Base and body, mid-green, onion.	E18th C
	2. Bottle x 1	Base, light green, shaft and globe.	M-L17th C
	3. Bottle x 3	Base and body, light green, onion.	E18th C
307 (SF2)	Goblet stem	Colourless, lead glass, drawn stem, inverted baluster type.	18th C
407	1. Window x 1	Green-tinted	19/20th C
	2. Window x 1	Green-tinted, slight oxide-staining.	c18th C
	3. Bottle x 1	Body, mid-green.	17/18th C
408	Bottle x 1	Body, light green, oxide-stained - similar to bottle from 213	Late 17th C

## APPENDIX 8

### Clay tobacco pipes

by Nigel Jeffries

#### The assemblage

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage comprised 266 fragments with a total weight of 1920 grammes. The occurrence per context by number and weight (in g) of pipe is given below in Table 4. Of this total, 68 form-diagnostic bowls were recovered, none of which had evidence for markings, decoration or stamps. These unmarked bowls have been dated by reference to Oswald's and St Ebbes general typology (Oswald 1975; Hassall *et al.* 1984). The date range of the form-diagnostic assemblage is *c.* 1610-1710. The rest of the assemblage comprised undatable stems, which are only useful in confirming an early to - mid 17th century *terminus post quem* for their contexts.

The form-diagnostic bowls can be provenanced to both Oxford and London sources. The assemblage broadly agrees with the conclusions of the analysis of the St Ebbes assemblage which suggested that a local Oxford clay tobacco pipe industry flourished in the second half of the 16th century, and thus substantially reduced the influence of the London clay tobacco industries in the county. Further cross-comparison of assemblages between these sites also reinforces the conclusion that clay pipes dating before the beginning of the 17th century in Oxford are rare, despite the affluence of the colleges (Hassall *et al.* 1984, 251).

**Table 8: Clay tobacco pipes by context**

Context	Stem count	Diagnostic Fragments	Pipe-date	T.P.Q
215	1 (2)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	<i>c.</i> 1650 +
215		Bowl: 1 (9) Oxford type B	<i>c.</i> 1650-1690	<i>c.</i> 1650 +
216	36 (140)		E-M 17TH	<i>c.</i> 1650 +
216		Bowl: 10 (132) Oxford type B	<i>c.</i> 1650-1690	<i>c.</i> 1650 +
216		Bowl: 1 (18) Oswald type 5 G	<i>c.</i> 1640-1650	<i>c.</i> 1650 +
217		Bowls: 4 (72) Oswald type 8/9 G	<i>c.</i> 1680-1710	<i>c.</i> 1680 +
219	5 (23)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	E-M 17TH +
236	97 (423g)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	<i>c.</i> 1680 +
236		Bowls: 19 (266g) Oxford type B	<i>c.</i> 1650-1690	<i>c.</i> 1680 +
236		Bowls: 3 (44g) Oxford type B	<i>c.</i> 1660-1680	<i>c.</i> 1680 +
236		Bowls: 13 (162g) Oswald type 8/9 G	<i>c.</i> 1680-1710	<i>c.</i> 1680 +
303	16 (61)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	<i>c.</i> 1690 +
303		Bowls: 6 (76) Oxford type B	<i>c.</i> 1650-1690	<i>c.</i> 1690 +
303		Bowls: 2 (23) Oxford type C	<i>c.</i> 1690-1710	<i>c.</i> 1690 +
304	11 (57)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	<i>c.</i> 1680 +
304		Bowls: 9 (135) Oxford type B	<i>c.</i> 1660-1680	<i>c.</i> 1680 +
304		Bowls: 4 (63) Oswald type 8/9 G	<i>c.</i> 1680-1710	<i>c.</i> 1680 +
306	15 (68)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	<i>c.</i> 1650 +
306		Bowl: 1 (12) Oxford type B	<i>c.</i> 1650-1690	<i>c.</i> 1650 +
400	1 (4)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	E-M 17TH +
406	7 (24)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	<i>c.</i> 1690 +

<i>Context</i>	<i>Stem count</i>	<i>Diagnostic Fragments</i>	<i>Pipe-date</i>	<i>T.P.Q</i>
406		Bowl: 1 (12) Oxford type C	c. 1690-1710	c. 1690 +
407	5 (23)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	c. 1610 +
407		Bowl: 1 (8) Oswald type 16 G	c. 1610-1640	c. 1610 +
408	4 (14)		E-M 17TH- 19TH	c. 1650 +
408		Bowl: 1 (16) Oswald type 5 G	c. 1640-1650	c. 1650 +
408		Bowls: 2 (33) Oxford type B	c. 1650-1690	c. 1650 +
<b>Total</b>	<b>198 (919g)</b>	<b>68 (1001g)</b>		

## **APPENDIX 9**

### **Animal bones**

by Bethan Charles

#### **Introduction**

The evaluation produced approximately 1,500 fragments of hand-collected animal bone from the site. The bones were in good condition with little post excavational damage and a scarce amount of attritional damage. The majority of the bones were identifiable and consisted of predominantly domestic species. There were a few bird bones and minor mammal bones that were not identified. Further assessment could elicit more information. There was also a single fish vertebrae amongst the collection.

#### **Methodology**

The majority of the bones were examined by means of a rapid assessment. However, some of the bones, particularly those from Pit Fill 103 and Surface 105 were more closely assessed, enabling an indication of any butchery marks and any other distinguishing features such as pathological malformities or carnivorous damage.

#### **Observations**

From the 156 bones from Contexts 101, 103 and 105 it was clear that the majority of the bones were from sheep, cattle and pig. The highest proportion was sheep followed by cattle and lastly pig. 32% of the bone was unidentifiable, 26% had butchery damage and 40% had slight post-excavational damage. One sheep's metatarsal had been chewed at both ends, probably by a dog. There were also bones from domestic fowl in the assemblage.

These three contexts reflect the nature of the collection as a whole. However, in amongst the remaining bones from the other contexts were a few wild mammals that were not identified. There were also a few horse remains, mainly teeth, most of which were worn. One had a rotten cavity.

From the collection there were many mandibles still with teeth, especially those of pig and sheep. There were also many long bones complete enough to look at the epiphyseal fusion. Both these factors indicate a good opportunity to look at the age at death of the animal.

## APPENDIX 10

### Archaeological Context Inventory

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>width (m)</i>	<i>thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Pottery Present</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>
001								
	100	layer	?	0.30	topsoil			
	101	layer	?	0.32	construction deposit	pot	1	900+
	102	layer	?	0.50	cultivated soil			
	103	layer	1.58	1.0	pit fill of 110	pot	15	900+
	104	layer	?	0.20	layer			
	105	layer	?	0.12	occupation deposit	pot	8	1000+
	106	cut	0.54	0.30	pit			
	107	fill	0.54	0.30	pit fill of 106	pot	3	L11thC+
	108		?	0.58	pit			
	109		?	0.46	building debris	pot	1	1200+
	110	cut	1.60	1.92	pit			
	111	fill	1.62	1.03	pit fill of 110	pot	20	900+
	112	cut	0.60	0.34	pit			
	113	fill	0.60	0.34	pit fill of 112	pot	2	L11thC ?
	114	cut	0.60	0.08	pit			
	115	fill	0.60	0.08	pit fill of 114			
	116	cut	1.50	0.70	pit			
	117	fill	1.50	0.70	pit fill of 116	pot	6	1200+
	118	layer	?	0.20	natural subsoil			
	119	layer	?	?	natural subsoil			
	120	cut	2.10	?	pit			
	121	fill	2.10	?	pit fill of 120	pot	12	L14thC+
	122	layer	?	0.10		pot	10	1200+
	123	cut	0.36	0.14	pit or root disturbance			
	124	fill	0.36	0.14	f/o 123	pot	1	L11thC+
	125	fill		0.20	upper fill to 108			
	126	cut	1.06	0.88	post hole ?			
	127	fill	0.5	0.56	post hole backfill ?	pot	2	LSAX ?
	128	fill	0.54	1.88	post pipe ?	pot	1	1200+

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>width (m)</i>	<i>thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Pottery Present</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>
002								
	200	layer	?	0.18	topsoil			modern
	201	layer	?	0.19	worked soil			
	202	layer	?	0.16	f/o 203			
	203	cut	?	?	large pit			modern
	204	fill	?	0.42	f/o 203	pot	1	L11thC+
	205	fill	?	?	f/o 203	pot	1	900+
	206	fill	?	0.44	f/o 203	pot	1	LSAX ?
	207	cut	?	1.12	pit			
	208	fill	?	0.54	f/o 207	pot	11	L11thC+
	209	fill	?	?	f/o 203	pot	3	L11thC+
	210	cut	0.80	0.30	pit	p		
	211	fill	0.80	0.30	f/o 210	pot	11	L11thC+
	212	cut	1.62	1.22	linear ditch ?			
	213	fill	2.06	0.30	f/o 212	pot	11	c.1580+
	214	fill	1.0	0.20	f/o 212	pot	6	c.1580+
	215	fill	0.96	0.13	f/o 212	pot	5	c.1580+
	216	fill	0.87	0.22	f/o 212	pot	11	c.1580+
	217	fill	0.48	0.15	f/o 212			
	218	layer	?	0.12	levelling material			
	219	fill	approx. 4.0	0.40	f/o 219	pot	8	c.1550+
	220	fill	?	0.30	f/o 203			
	221	fill	?	0.18	f/o 203			
	222	fill	?	0.40?	f/o 203			
	223	layer	?	0.35	worked 'garden' soil			
	224	layer	?	0.40	worked soil			
	225	fill	?	0.70	f/o 229	pot	43	L11thC+
	226	fill	?	0.44	f/o 229	pot	12	900+
	227	fill	?	0.12	f/o 229	pot	7	1200+
	228	fill	?	?	f/o 229			
	229	cut	?	?	pit			
	230	layer	?	0.15	earlier worked soil			
	231	layer	?	?	natural gravel			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>width (m)</i>	<i>thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Pottery Present</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>
	232	fill	?	0.22	1. f/o 207			
	233	fill	?	0.40	2. f/o 207			
	234	fill	?	?	f/o 235			
	235	cut	?	?	pit			
	236	group no.	1.40	0.86	consists of 213, 214, 215	pot	53	c.1630+
	237	fill	1.46	0.58	f/o 212			
	238				unused			
	239	cut	?	0.56	pit			
	240	fill	?	0.56	f/o 239	pot	10	1200+
	241	cut	1.32	0.52	pit ?			
	242	fill	1.10	0.12	f/o 241	pot	5	900+
	243	fill	1.32	0.40	f/o 241	pot	38	1200+ ?
	244	layer	?	0.30	construction / demolition debris			
	245	fill	?	?	f/o 247	pot	3	L11thC+
	246	fill	?	?	f/o 247			
	247	cut	?	?	pit			
	248	layer	1.28	0.27	garden soil ?			
003								
	300	fill	?	0.35	f/o 301			modern
	301	cut	0.30	0.40	modern cable trench			modern
	302	layer	?	0.22	modern deposit			modern
	303	layer	?	0.64	garden soil ?	pot	2	c.1630+
	304	fill	?	0.90	f/o 305	pot	37	c.1680+
	305	cut	?	0.92	pit			
	306	layer	?	0.35	garden soil ?	pot	14	c.1690+
	307	fill	0.72	0.78	f/o 308			
	308	cut	0.72	0.78	pit			
	309	layer	?	?	natural silt			
	310	layer	?	?	natural gravel			
	311	fill	?	1.10	f/o 313	pot	10	1000+
	312	fill	?	0.34	f/o 313	pot	8	1200+

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>width (m)</i>	<i>thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Pottery Present</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>
	313	cut	?	?	pit			
	314	layer	?	0.22	construction deposit ?			
004								
	400	layer	?	0.40	path bedding	pot	1	modern
	401	fill	1.14	0.30	f/o 411			
	402	fill	1.40	0.26	f/o 411			
	403	fill	1.14	0.10	f/o 411			
	404	fill	2.16	0.30	f/o 411	pot	3	c.1450+
	405	fill	?	0.50	f/o 411	pot	18	c.1630+
	406	fill	?	0.42	f/o 411	pot	16	c.1640+
	407	fill	?	0.62	f/o 411	pot	24	c.1630+
	408	fill	?	0.42	f/o 411	pot	10	c.1550+
	409	fill	?	?	f/o 411			
	410	fill	?	?	f/o 411			
	411	cut	?	?	pit			
	412	layer	0.44	0.22				
	413	layer	0.48	0.07				
	414	layer	0.70	1.16		pot	6	1200+
	415	layer	0.80	0.34	natural gravel			

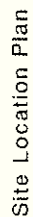


FIGURE 1

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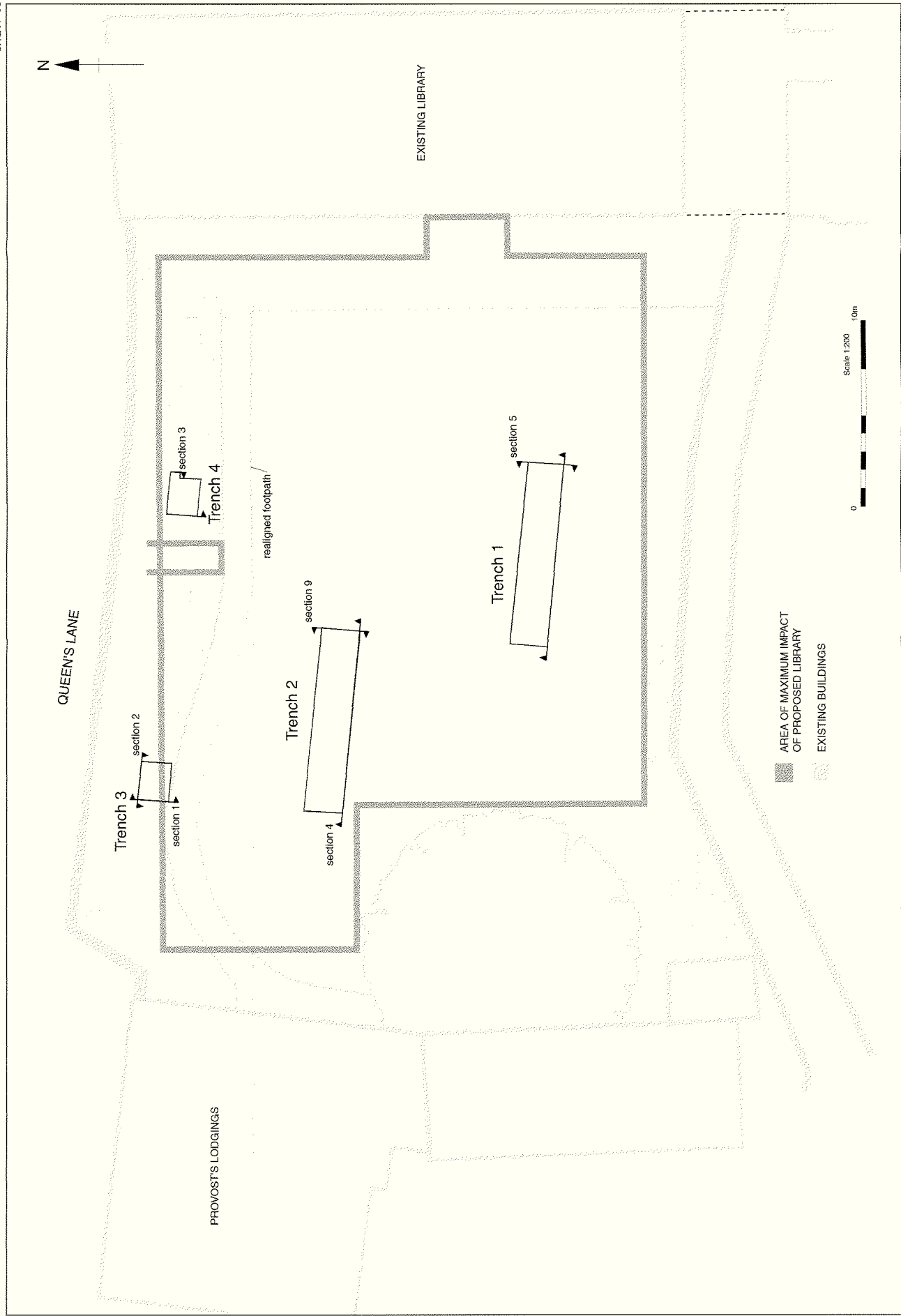


FIGURE 2

Queen's College, Oxford. Proposed Library Extension

Trench 1

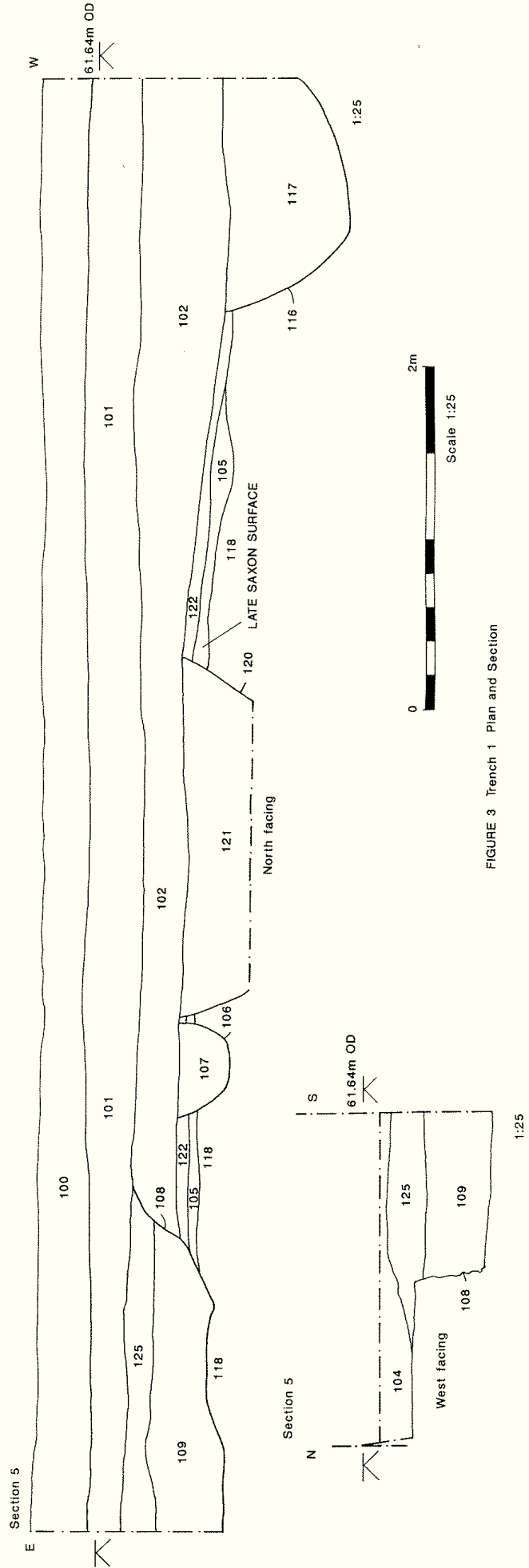
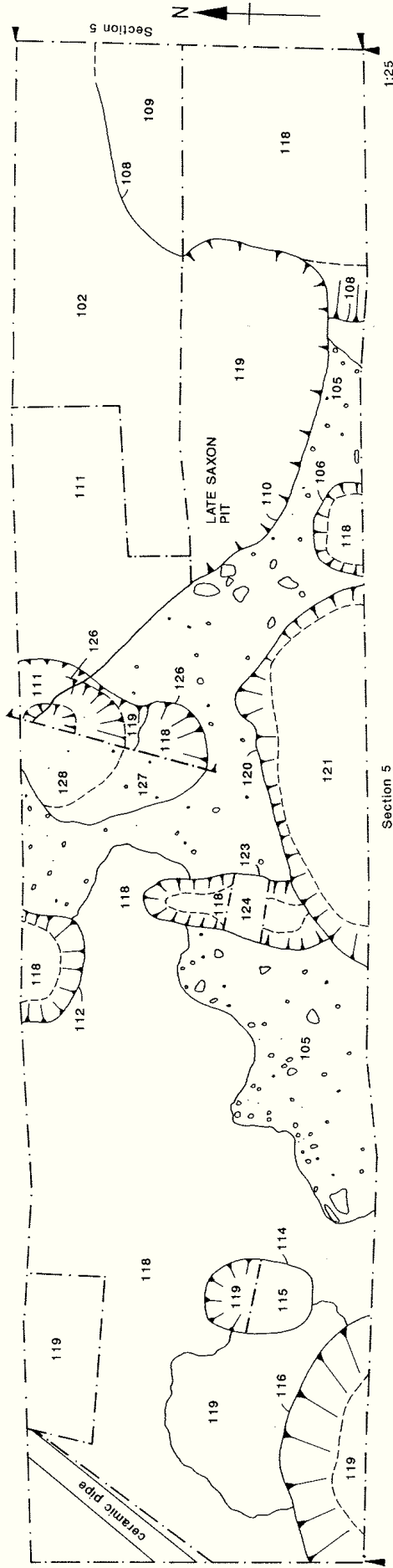


FIGURE 3 Trench 1 Plan and Section

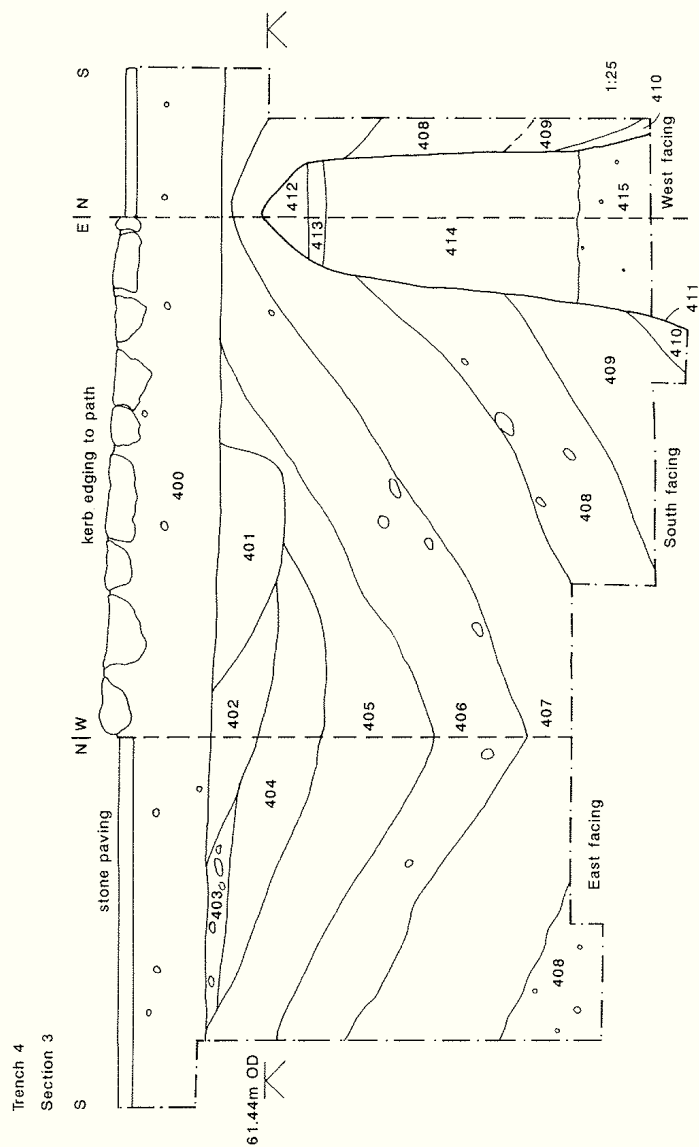
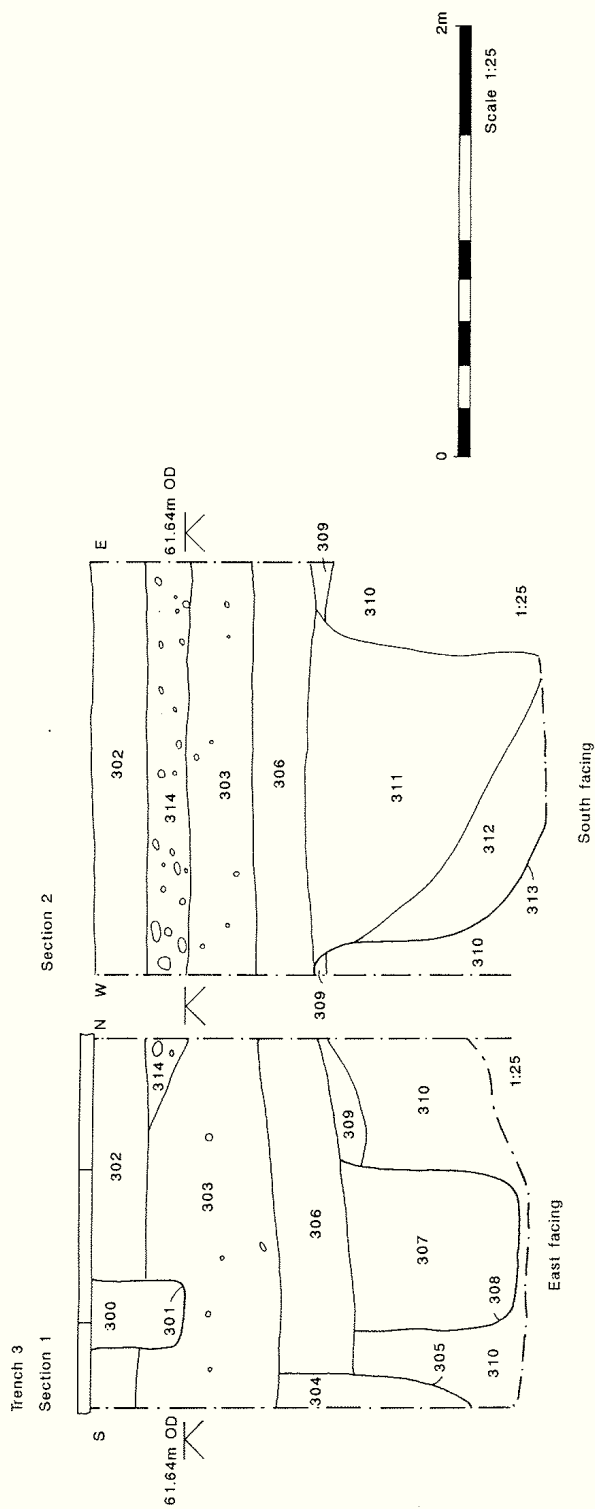
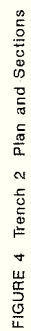
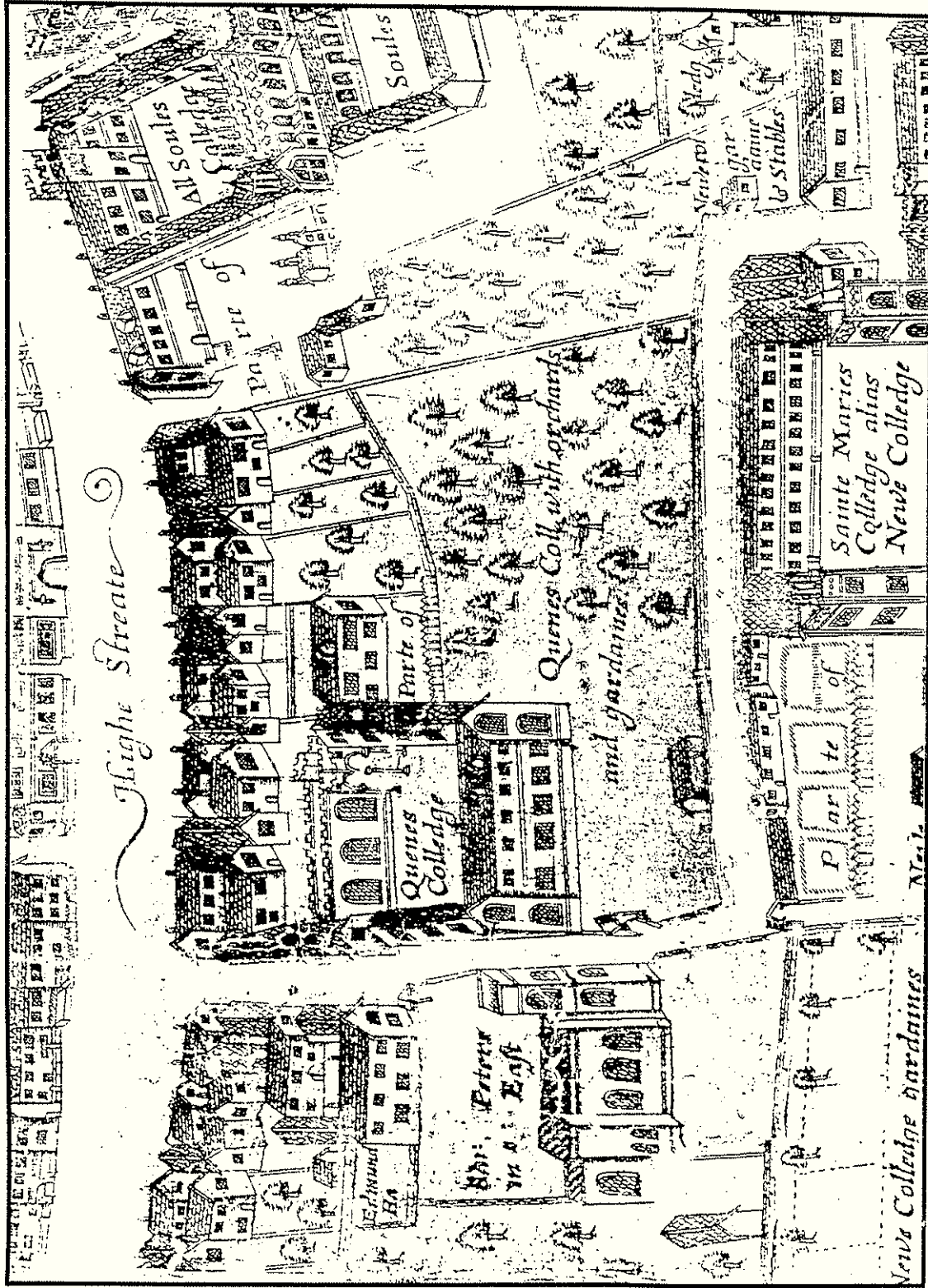


FIGURE 5 Trench 3 and 4 sections





Bird's-eye view of the college, 1578

FIGURE 6

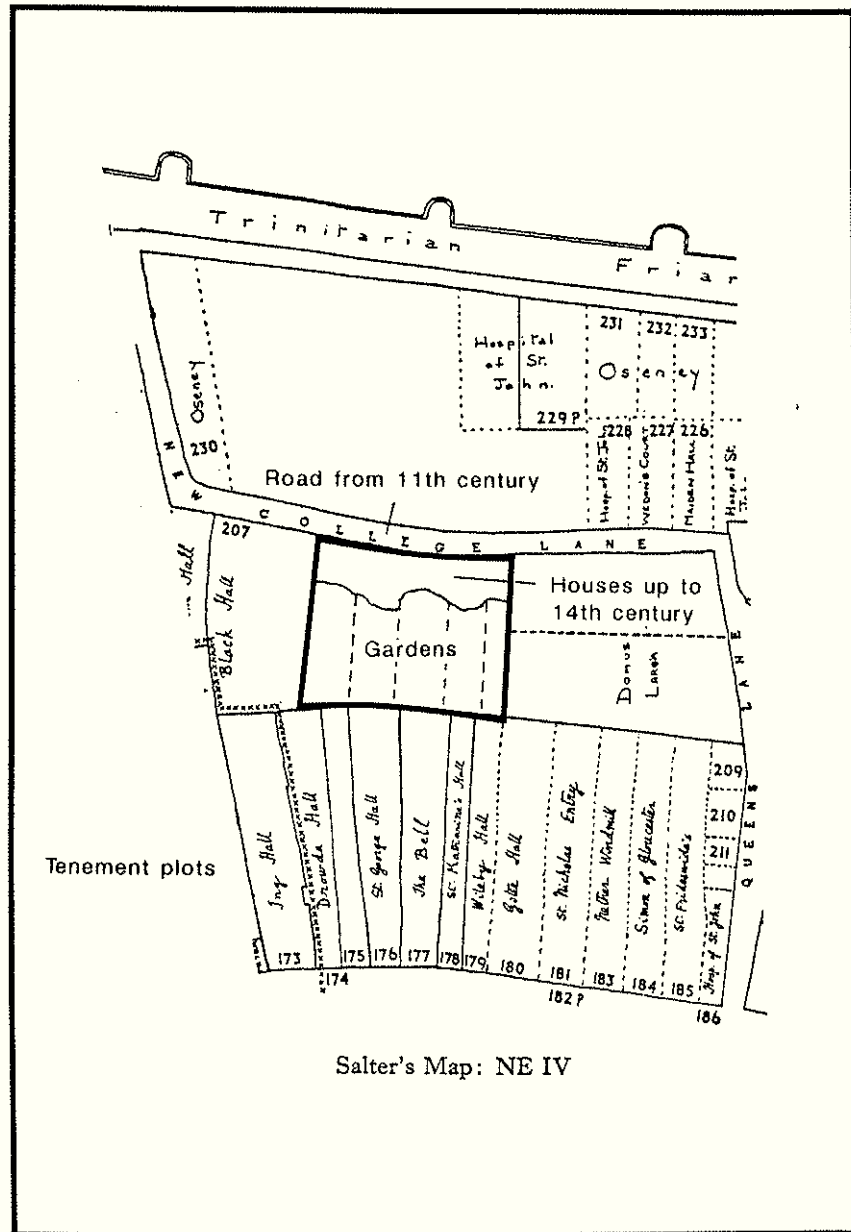


FIGURE 7



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