Ruskin Hall, Dunstan Road, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report

August 2018

Client: Ruskin College

Issue No: 01
OA Reference No: 4606
NGR: SP 5429 0779

oxfordarchaeology
southsouthsouth

Client Name:	Ruskin College
Document Title:	Ruskin College, Dunstan Road, Oxford
Document Type:	Evaluation and Watching Brief Report
OA Ref.:	4606
Grid Reference:	SP 5429 0779
Planning Reference:	10/00612/FUL and 09/00549/FUL
Site Code:	OXRU 10
Invoice Code:	OXRUEV
Receiving Body:	Oxfordshire County Museum
Accession No.:	OXCMS:2010.27
OA Document File Location:	\\projects\o\OXRUSKEV_Ruskin_College_Headington_Oxford\002Reports\05_OXRUEV_EV_WB_report
OA Graphics File Location:	\\O_codes\OXRUSKEV
Issue No:	01
Date:	August 2018
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Ruskin Hall, Dunstan Road, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation and a watching brief within the Headington grounds of Ruskin College on behalf of the College prior to redevelopment. This took the form of the excavation of four trial trenches to investigate the impact areas of a new extension to Grade II listed Rookery, and a watching brief on service trenches associated with the development. The combined works identified a possible Roman ditch and a variety of post-medieval features and structures to the west of The Rookery. The Roman ditch is consistent with previous discoveries along the western fringe of the college grounds suggesting occupation along a raised finger of land. The walls probably represent the remains of an ancillary building or garden walls and a coal cellar. The finds suggest that the features are contemporary with the use of The Rookery, which was built in the 17th century, and pre-date the 20th century. The service trenches and evaluation trenches to the east of The Rookery revealed features relating to water management of 17th- to 19th-century date, including several lengths of culvert, a well and a possible cistern/tank. At least one of the culverts is likely to relate to the primary or early phases of construction of The Rookery.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Ruskin College for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to David Radford who monitored the work on behalf of Oxford City Council for his advice, guidance and patience.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Steve Lawrence. The fieldwork was directed by Paul Leader and Robin Bashford, who were supported by Mike Sims and Ben McAndrew. Survey and digitising was carried out by Leo Heatly and Conan Parsons. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Ruskin College to undertake a programme of investigations starting in October 2010 at the site of Ruskin College, Headington (Fig. 1). The site comprises the Grade II listed building, The Rookery, at its core with modern extensions surrounded by ancillary college buildings and gardens. It was proposed to redevelop the facilities of the campus which included the demolition of the existing Tawney Hall and the construction of a larger extension to the Rookery to provide academic accommodation and associated facilities. Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the areas to be impacted by the new developments to assess the state of preservation of any archaeological remains. David Radford, Oxford City Council Archaeologist, prepared a brief (19th November 2009) for the evaluation (Stage 1). The brief also encompassed potential excavation (Stage 2) to follow the evaluation if required, and a watching brief upon alterations to the listed structure and during any significant landscaping and utility works (Stage 3).

1.1.2 Prior to the start of the fieldwork, OA produced and submitted written schemes of investigation (WSI) detailing the scope, aims and methods relevant to the various elements of the development and planning permissions (OA 2009 and 2011). These documents were approved by the planning archaeologist prior to the start of the fieldwork.

1.1.3 This report outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements and the results of that work.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The College is located within Old Headington focused on the 17th-century house, The Rookery, to the north of the junction between Dunstan Road and Stoke Place (centred on NGR SP 543 078). Additional grounds are located around Stoke House to the immediate east of Stoke Place with the A40 North Way bypass bordering the fields to the rear (north) of the college. The Headington grounds cover approximately 3.8 hectares in area.

1.2.2 Headington is drained on the north by the Bayswater Brook that rises on the eastern slopes of Shotover Hill and flows west to join the Cherwell near New Marston. The valley floor is based on Oxford clay with land rising fairly sharply up to the top of the plateau formed by the Corallian beds, generally *c* 90m a OD.

1.2.3 The detailed local geology shown on the published British Geological Survey map, Sheet 237, shows the site on an area of mixed geology. The college buildings are located on the Corallian beds at the top of the slope on part of the formation known as the Beckley Sand Member which is made up of sand and calcareous sandstone. To the north, progressing down the valley side, are thin bands of Temple Cowley Member fine grained sandstones, sands and siltstones and West Walton Formation, a dark grey mudstone, running east to west parallel with the Brook. The fields to the north of the bypass are located on Upper Oxford Clay and the footpath known as Stoke Place to the

east of the site is over an area of head drift geology. The Bayswater Brook has a valley bottom of alluvial deposits (BGS 1994). There are a number of springs in the area draining into the Brook and presumably located along the junctions of differing geology.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background to the site was presented as part of a desktop assessment produced by OA (OA 2006). Parts relevant to the results discussed in this report are included here.

1.3.2 There is extensive evidence for Romano-British activity within the Headington area and a major pottery industry was flourishing in the wider area during this period (Dodd 2003). Numerous kilns sites have been found in the vicinity of the north-south Roman Road which ran just to the east of Headington between Alchester and Dorchester (Young 1977).

1.3.3 There has been speculation regarding the presence of a kiln site at Ruskin Hall following artefactual discoveries during the construction of a block of residential accommodation completed between 1976-8. Landscaping work left exposed a quantity of Romano-British pottery; mortaria, parchment ware, greyware, colour-coated and some coarse wares, mostly familiar Oxford types (SMR 3669). Prior to this, Romano-British coarse ware pottery was reported from foundation trenches at The Rookery (Sturdy and Sutermeister 1966, 191).

1.3.4 In 1935 during house building on Cemetery Lane (now Dunstan Road) pottery, mostly mortaria and other kitchen vessels of late 3rd- and 4th-century date, was found (VCH 1939, 338). The suggested location of these finds is along the southern side of Dunstan Road opposite Ruskin College although the exact location was not recorded.

1.3.5 Later medieval remains have been encountered at various locations in Old Headington and the medieval church of St Andrews attests to the continued existence of a settlement here throughout the period. The layout of the property boundaries also implies that buildings probably fronted the street arrangements with strip fields extending behind. Within this arrangement developed the 17th-century hall-and-crosswing house, The Rookery. It is described as originating from a 16th-century 'peasant dwelling' which may have had ancillary domestic or agricultural activities around it within the grounds. A surviving walled kitchen garden with its 'crinkle-crankle' wall also dates from the 18th century.

1.3.6 The Rookery, its associated walled kitchen garden and Stoke House are Grade II listed buildings. Stoke House was built in 1883 as a preparatory school for boys by the Reverend John Williams Augustus Taylor, although this may have been modelled around an earlier 17th-century cottage.

Previous work on the site

1.3.7 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the Ruskin College site in 2008 by Oxford Archaeology. This included a magnetometer survey followed by the excavation of 12 trial trenches to investigate the impact area of the proposed development. The

geophysical survey produced limited results although the trenches identified remains of early Iron Age, Roman and medieval/post-medieval date.

1.3.8 The trenches were numbered 1-12 and the current evaluation stage continues on from this numbering sequence.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives as stated in the WSI were as follows:

Stage 1 Evaluation

2.1.2 Trial trenching aimed to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains (including ecofacts) within the area of study. In this case the specific objectives identified were to establish the character and extent of any Iron Age, Roman or post-medieval activity (bearing in mind the potential for pottery production sites to be located in the vicinity).

Stage 2 Excavation

2.1.3 If required, excavation should, subject to the results of the trial trenching, seek to establish, as far as is practical, the chronology, plan form and function of archaeological features affected by development.

Stage 3 Watching Brief

2.1.4 The archaeological watching brief should seek to identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed during groundworks (bearing in mind the potential for multi-period remains including post-medieval structures and garden features).

2.2 Methodology

Evaluation

2.2.1 The trenches were arranged following the demolition and removal of the existing Tawney Hall superstructure and ground slab. The trench locations took into account and avoided the existing foundations and obstructions. Exact locations were subsequently survey located following excavation (Fig. 2).

2.2.2 Each trench was initially machine excavated under close archaeological supervision to remove all non-archaeologically significant levels of overburden with a 2.5 tonne 360 tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation ceased at the uppermost archaeological horizon or natural geology depending upon which was encountered first.

2.2.3 Following machine excavation and where deemed necessary, each trench was cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sample excavated to determine their extent and nature, to retrieve finds, and to recover environmental samples if appropriate. All archaeological features were planned and, where excavated, their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide, black and white print film and digital photography. Recording followed procedures laid down in the OAU Fieldwork Manual (ed D Wilkinson 1992).

Watching brief

2.2.4 A watching brief was undertaken on all significant ground intrusions associated with carpark construction, the landscaping of the grounds and excavation of service trenches. An archaeologist was available to attend as required to observe and advise during these works and record any deposits encountered or halt works to allow recording and excavation of significant deposits.

2.2.5 The presence/ absence of any archaeological features was noted. Where features were identified sufficient work was undertaken to date, characterise and record the remains in accordance with the project objectives.

2.2.6 All features and deposits encountered during the evaluation and watching brief were recorded as outlined in the WSIs (OA 2009 and OA 2011).

2.3 Finds

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

2.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

2.4.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the fieldwork.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains and of all the features and deposits recorded during the watching brief. The distribution of archaeological features, deposits and structures is presented in figure 2. Details of the trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Details of contexts assigned during the watching brief can be found in Appendix B. Finds data are presented in Appendix C with the animal bone report presented in Appendix D.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3. Numbers used during the watching brief start at 1.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The natural geology was a compact mixed grey and orange silty clay and was overlain by a mid brown silty clay subsoil. In Trench 13 this was overlain by topsoil. Trenches 14-16 were located within the footprint of the demolished Tawney Hall. Deposits within this area were more truncated and disturbed, with a thick layer of rubble made ground sealing the uppermost soil horizon and archaeological deposits.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were poor, although not to the extent that features and deposits were not possible to identify and investigate.

3.2.3 Conditions during the watching brief phases were generally good, and the service trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all trenches (13-16) and in several of the service trenches monitored by the watching brief. To the west of The Rookery features included a ditch, pits, robbed walls and a cellar structure. To the east of The Rookery the features were related to water management, comprising several stretches of culvert, a possible cistern or tank and a well.

3.4 Trench 13

3.4.1 Three separate drainage structures were recorded in Trench 13. These comprised a modern ceramic waste pipe with concrete over parts of this to set it in place (1308); a stone-constructed drainage culvert (Structure 1307) that was also recorded and excavated in a service trench watching brief (Structure 35); and a similar stone-constructed drainage culvert 1305.

3.4.2 Culvert 1305 was aligned E-W across the width of the trench and was constructed of roughly hewn irregularly sized limestone blocks measuring an average of 0.3m x 0.2m in size. The construction cut (1304) truncated a buried topsoil or earlier garden soil

horizon (1303) (Fig. 3 section 1301). This deposit was 0.3m thick and overlay the natural. No other archaeological remains were present.

3.5 Trench 14

3.5.1 Trench 14 contained a U-shaped stone culvert (1404) in the northern part of the trench. This was constructed with carved U-shaped limestone blocks to create a neat drainage channel with a stone slab capping. It measured 0.3m in width and was aligned E-W and continued beyond both sides of the trench. The fill of the culvert (1405) contained five sherds from a dish or bowl dated *c* 1650-1750. To the east of the culvert was a stone tank or cistern (1409), and this may have been associated with the culvert, although it was not clear how or if they were connected within the trench. The full dimensions of the tank were not revealed within the trench. It contained a sterile fine clay silting fill (1410). To the south of the culvert and tank an alignment of stone (1411) remained only a single course high and may have been a wall, although the stones appeared relatively small and too poorly laid to form any substantial structure. It was set in a construction cut aligned NW-SE. In the north-west it appeared to join the culvert and in the south-east it continued beyond the edge of the trench. It measured 0.2m in width.

3.5.2 The culvert, tank and possible wall were overlain by a layer of buried soil/ garden soil (1406) and this was overlain by made ground/ landscaping deposits (1408, 1402). The upper layer (1401) in the trench consisted of building rubble forming the fill for the ground slab to the demolished Tawney Hall.

3.6 Trench 15

3.6.1 Trench 15 contained two culverts aligned NE-SW (1501 and 1502). Culvert 1501 was constructed of limestone and brick. The sides consisted of three courses of brick laid in English Bond arrangement. There was no mortar bonding the bricks. The culvert was capped with limestone which was bonded with the underlying brick by a lime mortar. The base of the culvert was lined with tiles. The bricks dated to the late 18th to 19th century. Culvert 1502 was situated to the east of 1501 and continued into the northern part of Trench 14 (but recorded as 1502). It was constructed using irregular-sized and roughly-hewn limestone blocks. The culvert was constructed with a stone base, a single course of stones on each side and a limestone slab capping.

3.6.2 The culverts were overlain by a layer of buried garden soil (1506), 0.15m thick. This was overlain by five layers (1505-1509) of made ground/ landscaping material consisting of orange brown sandy clay (Fig. 3 section 1501). The upper two of these layers (1508 and 1509) also contained abundant building rubble. The uppermost layer within the trench (1510) almost completely consisted of building rubble equivalent to deposit 1401.

3.6.3 A modern ditch (1503) truncated the landscaping layers in the middle part of the trench on a NW-SE alignment and was not excavated.

3.7 Trench 16

3.7.1 Trench 16 contained a stone built well (63/1601). It measured 1.1m in diameter and was constructed of roughly-hewn limestone blocks with no visible bonding material

(Plate 1). The blocks measured an average of 02m x 0.6m in size. The well interior was measured to a depth of 3.5m and was still filled with water almost up to the exposed surface level during the investigation. This had a lead pipe remaining *in situ* that extended through the structure of the well wall and down into the well cavity suggesting that this it used to extract water, possibly directly to the kitchen area of the main house. The well void had been capped with reused wall stones.

3.7.2 The top of the well was truncated by a 19th- or 20th-century drain containing an iron pipe (1603). The backfill of this drain contained pottery dated to 1780-1925. The features were overlain by a layer of levelling/ make-up mostly consisting of building rubble (1600).

3.8 Watching brief on service trenches

3.8.1 Service trenches excavated and recorded within the college grounds around the remaining structures revealed a single ditch of possible Roman date and a small number of features and deposits of post-medieval date.

3.8.2 A service trench to the west of The Rookery contained a N-S aligned ditch (12) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.8m in width and 0.6m in depth and was filled with a single deposit of dark grey sandy silt (Fig. 3 section 4). A single pottery sherd from this ditch (2g) dated to the Roman period, probably the 2nd century.

3.8.3 Also on the western side of The Rookery were two robbed out walls. Robber trench 6 had mostly removed an E-W aligned wall. This alignment coincides with the main part of the existing Rookery building and was cut by a dressed stone extension (with bay window). A single course of limestone rubble foundation (8) remained in the base of the cut (Fig. 3 section 2). It may represent an earlier phase of building or possibly a garden wall. Robber trench 9 was found in a service trench to the west and was also E-W aligned and may have formed a wall parallel with that represented by robber cut 6.

3.8.4 Further north, but also on the western side of The Rookery, was a single posthole (4) that may have been related to the construction of the building, possibly for scaffolding. It measured 0.6m in diameter and 0.55m in depth and was filled with mid to dark brown silty clay but contained no finds (Fig. 3 section 1).

3.8.5 To the west of this two parallel walls were recorded (15 and 19). Wall 15 was E-W aligned and constructed of a mixture of rough and more well-hewn limestone blocks of varying sizes up to 0.45 x 0.30m. It was bonded with a mid brownish-yellow sandy lime mortar (Plate 2). It measured 0.8m in width and was 0.45m high. It was a substantial wall and was also recorded in a service trench to the west. A small opening found on the SE side of the wall did not extend all the way through and may have been related to drainage. A corresponding wall (19) was found to the north and was E-W aligned. The wall was of the same build as wall 15 but only the southern side was seen. The floor area between the walls contained a layer of clinker and ash (23), perhaps suggesting that it functioned as a coal cellar or as a garden path. The date of the cellar or path is unclear but it is likely to have related to an ancillary building or garden arrangement of The Rookery that is no longer extant.

3.8.6 Further to the north, to the north-west of The Rookery, a pit (17) was partly revealed within a service trench. The pit measured at least 1.7m across and was 0.5m deep. It had steep sides and a concave base and contained a mixed fill of sand and silty sand material. It contained abundant animal bone and was dated by two sherds of pottery (1800-1925), ridge tile (17th to early 19th century) and glass dating to the early to mid 19th century, suggesting that the pit was early to mid 19th-century in date.

3.8.7 The remaining features revealed in the watching brief were related to water management.

3.8.8 A cistern/ tank (26) was revealed in one of the northernmost service trenches. It was rectangular and stone lined, with an internal diameter of 2.2m in length, 0.5m in width and 1m in depth. It was also capped with stones. A flat roof tile reused and built into the structure dated to the 18th to 19th century, and glass from a wine bottle recovered from the backfill dated to the early to mid 19th century.

3.8.9 Two culverts were recorded to the east of The Rookery and are likely to have been linked to a drainage system represented by the culverts recorded in evaluation Trenches 13-16 (see above). Culvert 35 (also 1307) was constructed of stones up to a maximum of 0.6m by 0.6m in size, roughly hewn and with no visible bond. It was also capped and still channelled a water flow. Culvert 55 was encountered on the eastern side of The Rookery, clearly entering/exiting the building. This was constructed of limestone and ceramic roof tiles. The sides of the culvert were constructed of unhewn limestone blocks and the base was made of roof tile (Plate 3). The culvert was capped with limestone blocks. This was very similar to the culvert recorded in Trench 15 and was probably contemporary with it (18th- or 19th-century in date). This feature was also greater than 1m below the ground level of The Rookery and clearly extended under or through the foundations of the building.

3.8.10 The features in the service trenches were overlain by deposits of garden soil and made ground (rubble, clay, gravel, redeposited soil) for landscaping of the grounds, as observed in the evaluation trenches.

4 FINDS SUMMARIES

4.1 Pottery

4.1.1 A total of 12 sherds of pottery weighing 667g were recovered from five contexts. The pottery is mainly post-medieval, dating to the 17th to 19th centuries, but two residual sherds of Roman pottery are also present.

4.2 Clay tobacco pipe

4.2.1 A single piece of clay pipe stem weighing 3g was recovered and was dated to the 17th century.

4.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

4.3.1 Ten pieces of CBM weighing 5411g were recovered from five contexts. The CBM ranged in date from the late 16th to the 19th century. Some of the CBM was used in other structures, such as roof tile lining the base of culverts, while other material was found in make up/ landscaping layers and may have originated from earlier buildings on the site.

4.4 Glass

4.4.1 There are 24 sherds of vessel glass representing probably 22 vessels. Most of the glass came from a pit and a made ground layer. These fragments were all from wine bottles of 18th- to 19th-century date.

4.5 Metals

4.5.1 There were only two metal objects recovered, an iron spike and a nail, neither of which is closely datable.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 The results are considered to be reliable and no adverse ground conditions impacted the investigation. The stratigraphic sequence in the areas investigated is reasonably well understood, although the watching brief service trenches were narrow, making visibility difficult.

5.2 Evaluation and watching brief objectives and results

5.2.1 Aims of the investigations were laid out in the WSIs (OA 2009 and OA 2011) and have been addressed by the investigations.

5.2.2 The evaluation gathered sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the area of study.

5.2.3 The evaluation determined that no significant archaeological remains would be impacted by the development and that further excavation was not required.

5.2.4 The watching brief identified and recorded archaeological deposits and structures affected by the excavation of new service trenches. These included two walls of a probable cellar and drainage features. The lines of two additional walls were marked by robber trenches and so were recorded.

5.3 Interpretation

5.3.1 A single feature indicated activity prior to the construction of the Rookery in the 17th century. Ditch 12 contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. This may be a Roman feature, particularly in light of the previous identification of Roman activity in the western part of the site, but it is not possible to be certain, especially as this is a single small sherd, which could possibly be residual.

5.3.2 The investigation revealed robbed walls and a cellar along with a pit and a possible posthole to the west of the current Rookery building. The Rookery was built in the 17th century and the features revealed to the west fall within the date range of the construction and use of this building and probably relate to ancillary buildings. The features include a possible coal cellar or garden path and garden walls, a pit of early 19th-century date along with a posthole that may have related to scaffolding either during the initial construction of The Rookery or during work to it. The two robber trenches are more difficult to interpret but the remaining foundations in one suggest a wall with a stone foundation on an E-W alignment extending from the side of the current building, truncated by a later bay windowed extension.

5.3.3 To the east of the building all features revealed relate to water management systems. These comprised the well-constructed drainage culverts, some of which are likely to be contemporary with the primary construction of The Rookery, and a deep stone-lined well. Material from fills of these features dates to the late 17th century and 18th century.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two stone culverts. No other archaeological remains were revealed.					**Length (m)**	
					Width (m)	
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1301	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Compact dark brown silty clay	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.5	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay	-	-
1303	Layer	-	0.3	Buried topsoil/ garden soil. Dark greyish brown silty clay	-	-
1304	Cut	1.2	0.5-	Construction cut for culvert 1305. Moderate to steep sides. Not bottomed.	-	-
1305	Structure			Culvert. Stone. Aligned E-W/ Roughly hewn stones 0.3m x 0.3m		
1306	Fill	1.2	0.5	Fill of construction cut for culvert. Dark brown silty clay		
1307	Structure			Culvert		
1308	Structure			Ceramic drain		

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a stone culvert leading to a stone tank and a stone wall.					**Length (m)**	10
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.2
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1401	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil. Compact dark brown silty clay	-	-
1402	Layer	-		Subsoil. Compact mid greysih brown silty clay	-	-
1403	Layer	0.5	-	Construction cut for culvert, steep sides	-	
1404	Structure	0.3	-	Culvert. Limestone. Shaped stones	-	-
1405	Fill			Backfill of construction cut for culvert	Pot Clay Pipe	1650-1750 1600-1700

1406	Layer		0.3	Buried soil. Compact grey silty clay		
1407	Layer			Natural. Greyish orange silty clay		
1408	Layer		0.3	Made ground. Landscaping. Compact mid brownish grey silty clay		
1409	Structure			Stone tank. Associated with culvert.		
1410	Fill			Fill of structure 1409. Compact dark grey clay silt.		
1411	Structure			Wall. Limestone. Rough unshaped stones, single course remaining. NW-SE aligned. Possibly related to culvert 1404 and tank 1409		

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two stone culverts and a modern ditch.					**Length (m)**	10
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.1
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1501	Structure	-		Culvert. Stone and brick. Brick sides of 3 courses, limestone cap with mortar	CBM	1750-1900
1502	Structure			Stone culvert. Stone base with 1 course of stone forming a channel with stone cap covering.		
1503	Cut			Ditch. Modern		
1504	Fill	0.8	0.6	Fill of ditch. Modern		
1505	Layer		0.3	Buried garden soil. Compact dark grey silty clay		
1506	Layer		0.15	Made ground. Landscaping. Compact dark greyish brown silty clay		
1507	Layer		0.15	Made ground. Landscaping. Dark orange brown silty clay		

1508	Layer		0.25	Made ground. Compact mid greyish orange sandy clay	Glass	E-M 18C
1509	Layer		0.2	Made ground/ landscaping. Compact orange grey sandy clay		
1510	Layer		0.3	Building rubble. Modern		
1511	Layer			Natural, compact dark brownish orange sandy clay		

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a stone lined well and a drainage or water pipe.					**Length (m)**	6.5
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer	-	0.8	Make up layer derived from demolition rubble. Loose dark brownish grey clay silt	-	-
1601	Cut			Construction cut for stone lined well		
1602	Structure			Well/ Constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks 0.2m x 0.6m		
1603	Structure			Drain containing Fe pipe. 19C services		
1604	Fill			Fill of drain	Pot	1780-1925

APPENDIX B WATCHING BRIEF CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer		>	Natural Sand	-	-
2	Layer		0.2	Mixed mid brownish grey silty clay with lenses of redeposited natural, levelling or buried soil	-	-
3	Layer			Topsoil and turf	-	-
4	Cut	0.6	0.55	Pit/ posthole	-	-
5	Fill	0.6	0.55	Fill of pit/posthole 4. Mid to dark brownish grey silty clay.	-	-
6	Cut	0.5	0.35	Robber trench, linear.	-	-
7	Fill	0.5	0.35	Fill of robber trench 6.		
8	Structure/fill			Limestone rubble possible in situ foundation for wall		
9	Cut	0.5	0.2	Linear? Vertical sides where seen, not bottomed. Possible E-W aligned robber trench.		
10	Fill			Same as 7.		
11	Layer		0.3	Levelling/ landscaping redeposited sand		
12	Cut	0.5	0.6	N-S ditch, moderate sides, concave base		
13	Fill	0.5	0.6	Fill of ditch 12. Dark grey sandy silt	Pot	Roman (2C?)
14	Layer			Modern made ground. Mid to dark grey clay silt		
15	Structure	0.8	>0.45	Wall, sandstone, aligned N-S Associated with wall 19 to north		
16	Layer		0.8	Levelling. Compact mid greyish brown clay, sand and silt. Mixed redeposited natural, buried soil and demolition waste		
17	Cut	0.5	0.5	Pit. Sub-circular, steep sides, shallow concave base.	Pot CBM	Roman 1800-1925 1600-1850
18	Fill	0.5	0.5	Fill of pit 17. Light greyish brown silty sand	Pot Glass	100-200 E-M19C

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
				with patches of orange brown sand		
19	Structure	0.5		Wall, limestone. Aligned N-S. Roughly hewn blocks 0.3x 0.3m bonded with soft lime mortar and yellow sand. Related to wall 15 to the south.		
20	Cut	0.5		Modern service trench		
21	Fill	0.5		Loose grey brown silty sand. Modern backfill of service trench		
22	Layer	0.5	0.3	Compact mid brownish grey sandy silt with stones and mortar inclusions. Backfill of cellar for levelling		
23	Layer	0.5	0.1	Clinker and ash floor layer. Compact dark greyish black silt. On base of cellar.		
24	Layer			Buried soil		
25	Cut			Construction cut		
26	Structure	0.5	0.1	Pit, rectangular, stone lined and capped with stones, possible cistern or water tank	CBM	1700-1900
27	Fill			Backfill of construction cut 25	Glass	E-M 19C
28	Fill			Mid to dark grey sandy clay 15% gravel pebbles. Fill of structure 26		
29	Fill			Fill of structure 26. Mid to dark grey sandy clay		
30	Deposit			Construction debris from adjacent buildings		
31	Layer		0.1	Compact tarmac. Modern.		
32	Layer		0.2	Layer of make up, building material and gravel		
33	Layer		0.2	Compact dark grey silty clay, makeup		
34	Layer			Compact dark mottled brownish grey clay. Natural		

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
35	Structure			Stone drain, consists of lining and capping. Stones abutting each other. Roughly hewn stones		
36	Layer		0.25	Topsoil, moderate dark brown silty sandy loam		
37	Layer			Subsoil, compact dark brown sandy clay		
38	Layer		0.7	Compact dark yellowish brown sandy clay, possibly levelling/ make up		
39	Layer		<0.1	Moderate dark brownish yellow sand	Pot Glass	1650-1725 Poss M 18C
40	Layer		0.5	Compact dark grey sandy clay. Probable made ground		
41	Layer		0.5	Compact greyish brown sandy clay		
42	Layer		0.35	Topsoil and turf, modern landscaping		
43	Layer		>0.15	Made ground, mid yellowish brown silty clay	CBM	1550-1700
44	Layer		0.1	Subsoil, orange/yellow brown clay silt		
45	Layer		0.25	Topsoil and turf, dark grey brown clay loam	CBM Glass	1750-1900 20C+
46	Layer			Natural clay, light yellowish brown silty clay		
47	Layer		0.45	Made ground, landscaping. Dark grey brown clay silt loam		
48	Layer		0.12	Construction debris south of cellar excavation.		
49	Layer		0.22	Garden soil. Greyish brown clay silt loam		
50	Layer		1	Natural, orange brown clay		
51	Layer		0.28	Demolition debris. Light grey silty clay		

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
52	Fill		0.2	Fill of dry valley		
53	Layer		0.9	Natural clay. Light greyish brown silty clay		
54	Fill		1.1	Backfill of construction cut for culvert. Redeposited natural		
55	Structure	0.8	0.5	Drystone built culvert		
56	Cut	1.3	1.1	Construction cut for culvert. Linear, steep sides and flat base.		
57	Fill		0.1	Fill of rubbish pit 58. Grey brown clay silt and loam.	Glass	E-M 18C
58	Cut	0.5		Rubbish pit. Circular shallow profile		
59	Layer			Natural. Yellowish brown sandy clay		
60	Layer		0.6	Garden soil within walled garden. Greyish brown silty clay loam		
61	Layer		0.6	Made ground. Dark grey silty clay.		

APPENDIX C FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction

C.1.1 A total of 12 sherds of pottery weighing 667g were recovered from five contexts. Given the small size of the assemblage a separate catalogue has not been constructed and instead the pottery is simply described and spot-dated below. The pottery is mainly post-medieval but two residual sherds of Roman pottery are also present. Fabric codes referred to for the Roman wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Booth 2017), whereas post-medieval pottery codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014).

Context (13) Spot-date: Roman (2nd century?)

C.1.2 Description: 1 sherd (2g). Small worn body sherd in a finer variant Oxford oxidised ware (Fabric 010), probably dating to the 2nd century (Paul Booth, pers. comm.).

Context (17) Spot-date: c 1800-1925

C.1.3 Description: 2 sherds (55g). Sunderland-type coarseware (Fabric SUND). Plain rim (33g) and almost tubular neck from something like a bottle or spirits flagon (diameter 57mm). Fine dark brown near-stoneware fabric with a very glossy dark brown glaze all over internally and externally. Fabric very similar both to 19th-century Sunderland fabrics and to Staffordshire-type and Rockingham-type brown teapot wares (ROCK). As a flagon-type rim this is a fairly unusual form to find in this fabric in this part of the country. The other sherd in this context (22g) is a residual Roman piece. This is a fairly worn footring base, probably from a flagon, in Oxford oxidised ware (Fabric 020) and probably dates to the 2nd century (Paul Booth, pers. comm.). Similar wares were made nearby in Headington and some Roman pottery was also found from the 2008 evaluation.

Context (39) Spot-date: c 1650-1725

C.1.4 Description: 3 sherds (67g) from three post-medieval vessels. The first is from a bead rim dish in local post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric PMR) with a light brown internal glaze. This probably dates after *c* 1650. The other two vessels (19g) are in green-glazed Surrey-Hampshire Border ware (BORDG, *c* 1550-1725). One is fresh body sherd from a flaring-walled form (a deep bowl, or a jug?) with a glossy green glaze inside and out - also suggesting a date in the second half of the 17th century and possibly into the early 18th century. The other body sherd is slightly worn and probably from a small globular pipkin (cooking pot).

Context (1405) Spot-date: c 1650-1750

C.1.5 Description: 5 sherds (476g) from a single large dish or bowl profile in post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric PMR). This has a fine orange-buff fabric with a light amber-

brown internal glaze and is probably a product of the Brill kilns in Buckinghamshire. This is in a fresh condition. It has a flat base with a flaring wall and a large beaded rim (diameter 380mm) and probably dates from the second half of the 17th century or first half of the following century.

Context (1604) Spot-date: c 1780-1925

C.1.6 Description: 1 sherd (67g). Derbyshire stoneware (Fabric DERBS, *c* 1700-1900). Large fresh rim sherd probably from a globular storage jar (or bread crock?) with a short horizontal flanged rim on a flaring or curved neck (trace of latter surviving). Hard cream-coloured stoneware fabric with a brown salt glaze all over internally and externally but darker on top. These sort of storage jars were common products of the Derbyshire and Nottingham stoneware industries throughout the 19th century.

C.2 Clay tobacco pipe

By John Cotter

C.2.1 A single piece of clay pipe weighing 3g was recovered and is described below. No further work is recommended.

Context (1405) Spot-date: 17th century

C.2.2 Description: 1 piece (3g). A short slightly worn stem fragment (length 30mm). Fairly 'chunky' early-style stem with a stem bore diameter of 2.9mm suggesting a broad 17th-century date.

C.2.3 The assemblage should be considered a low priority for retention.

C.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

By John Cotter

Introduction

C.3.1 Ten pieces of CBM weighing 5411g were recovered from five contexts. These have not been separately catalogued but are described below. The dating suggested for most types of CBM - particularly small broken fragments - is often problematical and in many cases only approximate.

Context (17) Spot-date: 17th to early 19th century

C.3.2 Description: 1 piece (472g). A large end fragment from the side of a very abraded or weathered ridge tile in a fairly smooth red-brown post-medieval looking fabric. This was probably of simple form - probably a large flat roof tile bent into a gently curved 'U'-shaped form for fitting onto the ridge of a roof, or for use as a coping tile on top of a wall.

Context (26) Spot-date 18th to 19th century

C.3.3 Description: 1 piece (312g). A large fresh fragment from the lower left corner of a flat roof tile, probably a rectangular peg tile. Hard/dense fine sandy orange-brown fabric

with a broad grey core. Neatly made flat form with neatly-finished edges - all characteristics suggesting a late post-medieval date.

Context (43) Spot-date Late 16th to 17th century

C.3.4 Description: 3 pieces (298g). 1x fairly fresh edge fragment of post-medieval flat roof tile in a fairly unusual, fairly smooth, light orange-brown fabric with a broad light grey core - possibly late 16th to 17th century. Most post-medieval roof tiles from Oxford (usually peg tiles) are in a redder fabric than this. 2x very abraded edge fragments of early orange-red brick, probably Tudor (broadly 16th century). One has small patches of white lime mortar on both sides and these provide an original thickness of c 50mm which is typical of bricks of this date. The outer edges are rough and crinkled.

Context (45) Spot-date Late 18th to 19th century

C.3.5 Description: 2 pieces (167g). Fresh edge fragments of post-medieval flat roof tile. Uniform fine sandy orange-brown fabric throughout. Neatly made and probably fairly modern.

Context (1501) Spot-date Late 18th to 19th century

C.3.6 Description: 3 pieces (4162g). Samples from a culvert with a tile base and brick walls. The single brick is complete (2595g), in fresh condition and is most probably of late 18th- or 19th-century date. It is unfrogged and neatly made with fairly sharp angles and very little crinkling on the sides but is still a handmade rather than a machine-made product. It has a fine sandy light orange fabric with a few coarse inclusions of red-brown iron oxide breaking through the otherwise fairly smooth surfaces. Length 210mm, width 103-106mm, thickness 64mm. These dimensions (especially the thickness) are consistent with the date suggested. One edge of the brick - presumably that exposed to the interior of the culvert - is covered with a thin white limey deposit - probably deposited by water action. The upper side and sandier underside also have traces of a similar deposit - or possibly traces of a white lime mortar used to bond the brick.

C.3.7 There are also two complete lower end fragments from two post-medieval flat roof tiles, probably peg tiles (1567g). Both are of fairly similar, fairly crude, handmade pre-industrial character - not dissimilar to the roof tile in Context (26) but somewhat cruder. The smaller fragment represents about the lower third of a tile with a complete lower end width of 170mm and a thickness of 14mm. It is fairly concave in cross section from one edge to the other, and the edges themselves are fairly crudely finished. It has a fine sandy light orange-brown fabric throughout with a darker grey-brown outer/upper surface. The underside is slightly sanded and rougher and there is a large flattish inclusion of hard white clay or possibly limestone embedded in the surface at the lower end. A large patch of white lime mortar covers the underside and there are thinner limey deposits on the edges and upper surface (but not on the broken edge). An 18th- or early 19th-century date is probable for this tile. The other fragment represents about two-thirds of a tile with a complete lower end width of 175mm and a thickness of 15-16mm. The fabric is similar to the one just described. It is thicker and flatter and of slightly cruder manufacture than the latter tile, but

otherwise quite similar. The underside is almost entirely covered with a fairly thick deposit of white lime mortar and a thinner deposit of this also covers the edges and lower end of the tile, and there are also traces on the broken top edge. A 17th- or 18th-century date seem likely for this example. It is quite likely that these tiles were already old when they were reused in the culvert.

C.4 Glass

By Ian R Scott

C.4.1 There are 24 sherds of vessel glass representing probably 22 vessels. Most of the glass comes from context 57, which produced nine sherds probably all from wine bottles, and from context 1508, which contained a further nine sherds all from wine bottles. Contexts 18 and 27 produced respectively the neck and body of early to mid 19th-century wine bottles, and context 45 produced the base of a modern machine-moulded beer bottle. Context 39 produced three sherds from wine bottles, which range in date from the early 18th to the late 18th or early 19th century. Wine bottle from contexts 57 and 1508 appears to date early to mid 18th-century, although there is early 18th-century bottle glass and a large sherd of a possible late 17th- to early 18th-century bottle (No. 16). It is notable that there is no window glass and no vessel other than bottle glass.

Context	Cat.No	Description
18	1	Wine bottle. Bulged neck and with tooled rim and string rim formed from added glass and possibly finished using a finishing tool. Dark green glass. Ht extant: 100mm. Early to mid 19th-century
27	2	Wine bottle. Body excluding shoulder of a dip-moulded cylindrical wine bottle, conical push up and abrupt heel. Very dark olive green glass. Ht extant: 109 mm; D: 80mm. Early to mid 19th-century.
45	3	Beer bottle. Base of a machine moulded beer bottle. Brown or amber glass. D: 77mm. 20th-century or later.
39	4	Wine bottle. Curve body sherd possibly from a squat wine bottle. Pale green glass. Not measured. Early 18th-century
	5	Wine bottle. Body sherd from cylindrical bottle with bulged heel. Green glass. Not measured. Possibly late 18th- to early 19th-century.
	6	Wine bottle. Small sherd from neck and finish of bottle with cracked off and fire polished rim, and V-tooled string rim. Pale green glass. Not measured. Mid 18th-century.
57	7	Wine bottle. Sherd from base of broad cylindrical bottle. Domed kick. Dark olive green glass. D: *c* 130mm. Early to mid 18th-century
	8	Wine bottle. Sherd from base of squat cylindrical or 'mallet' bottle. Low domed kick. Dark green glass. D: *c* 150mm. Early to mid 18th-century

Context	Cat.No	Description
	9	Wine bottle. Sherd from base of squat cylindrical or 'mallet' bottle. Low domed kick. Dark green glass. D: *c* 150mm. Early to mid 18th-century
	10	Wine bottle. Sherd from base of broad cylindrical bottle. Domed kick. Dark green glass. D: *c* 120mm. Early to mid 18th-century
	11	Wine bottle (2 x refitting sherds). Narrow tapered neck, cracked off rim, and horizontal string rim. Rounded shoulders. Green glass. Ht extant: 102mm. Probably early to mid 18th-century.
	12	Bottle or flask. Small body sherd. Green glass. Not closely datable.
	13	Wine bottle. Sherd from a strongly tapered short neck of bottle with cracked off and fire polished rim, and horizontal string rim. Green glass. Ht: extant: 40mm. Early 18th-century.
	14	Wine bottle. Sherd from a strongly tapered neck and finish of bottle with cracked off and fire polished rim, and V-tooled string rim. Green glass. Ht extant: 62mm. Early to md 18th-century.
1508	15	2 x refitting sherds forming most of base of squat cylindrical or 'mallet' bottle. Domed kick. Dark green glass. D: 150mm. Early to mid 18th-century
	16	Wine bottle. Base from a wine bottle, with small kick, possibly a later 'globe and shaft ' bottle. Green glass. D: at least 140mm. Late 17th to early 18th century.
	17	Wine bottle. Sherd from base and lower body of an onion bottle. Low domed kick. D: *c* 150mm. Dark olive green glass. Early 18th-century.
	18	Wine bottle. Short tapered neck with cracked-off finish and v-tooled string rim. Green glass. Ht extant: 88mm. Early 18th-century
	19	Wine bottle. Short tapered neck with cracked-off and fire polished finish and horizontal string rim. Green glass. Ht extant: 85mm. Early 18th-century
	20	Wine bottle. Short tapered neck with cracked-off finish and horizontal string rim. Green glass. Ht extant: 80mm. Early 18th-century
	21	Wine bottle. Short tapered neck with cracked-off and fire polished finish with up tooled string immediately below. Olive green glass. Ht extant: 88mm. Early 18th-century
	22	Wine bottle. Sherd from neck shoulder junction of squat bottle. Green glass. Early 18th-century bottle.

C.5 Metals

By Ian R Scott

C.5.1 There are only two metal objects neither of which is closely datable or of intrinsic interest.

Context	Cat.No	Description
39	1	Spike formed from iron rod of circular section with square section point at one end. L: 290mm; D: 28mm.
45	2	Nail with small head, incomplete and encrusted with corrosion. Fe. Not measured.

APPENDIX D ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

D.1 Animal bone

By Lee Broderick

Introduction

D.1.1 A total of 39 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site, all of which were collected by hand. This material was recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson 1996). The assemblage was dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds, to the post-medieval.

Description

D.1.2 The assemblage was generally in moderate condition (Behrensmeyer 1978, stage 3) and came from two contexts. Layer (39) contained the glenoid of a left caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] or goat [*Capra hircus*]) scapula, a species which is found frequently in excavations into all periods of Oxford. Pit (18) contained eleven specimens of horse (*Equus caballus*) as well as 28 specimens identified as large mammal. The latter were mainly ribs and vertebrae and they likely go with the horse bones, representing an Associated Bone Group (ABG). The individual stood 1618mm/15.9h high at the withers (based on a single tibia measurement (May 1985)) and, at around 3½ years of age at death (both radii were still fusing at the distal end (Silver 1969)), was still growing.

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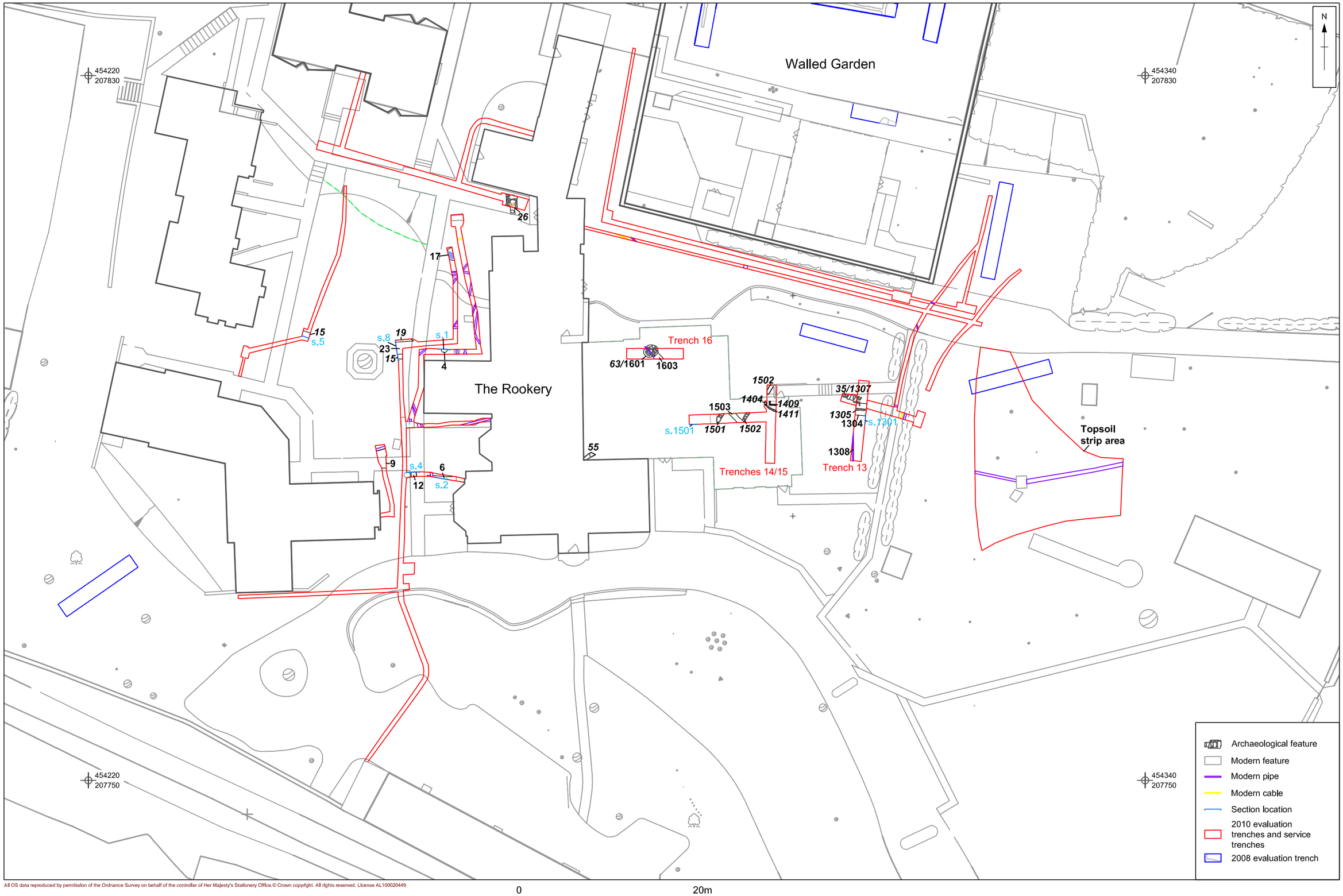
APPENDIX F SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Ruskin College, Old Headington, Oxford
Site code:	OXRU10
Grid Reference	SP 543 078
Type:	Evaluation and Watching brief
Date and duration:	14/10/2010 (evaluation) and occasional visits between 26/04/2010 and 13/05/2011 (watching brief)
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 accession code OXCMS:2010.27.
Summary of Results:	Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation and a watching brief within the Headington grounds of Ruskin College on behalf of the College prior to redevelopment. This took the form of the excavation of four trial trenches to investigate the impact areas of a new extension to Grade II listed Rookery, and a watching brief on service trenches associated with the development. The combined works identified a possible Roman ditch and a variety of post-medieval features and structures to the west of The Rookery. The Roman ditch is consistent with previous discoveries along the western fringe of the college grounds suggesting occupation along a raised finger of land. The walls probably represent the remains of an ancillary building or garden walls and a coal cellar. The finds suggest that the features are contemporary with the use of The Rookery, which was built in the 17th century, and pre-date the 20th century. The service trenches and evaluation trenches to the east of The Rookery revealed features relating to water management of 17th- to 19th-century date, including several lengths of culvert, a well and a possible cistern/tank. At least one of the culverts is likely to relate to the primary or early phases of construction of The Rookery.

Figure 1: Site location



0 20m

Scale at A3 1:400

Figure 2: Trench location plan

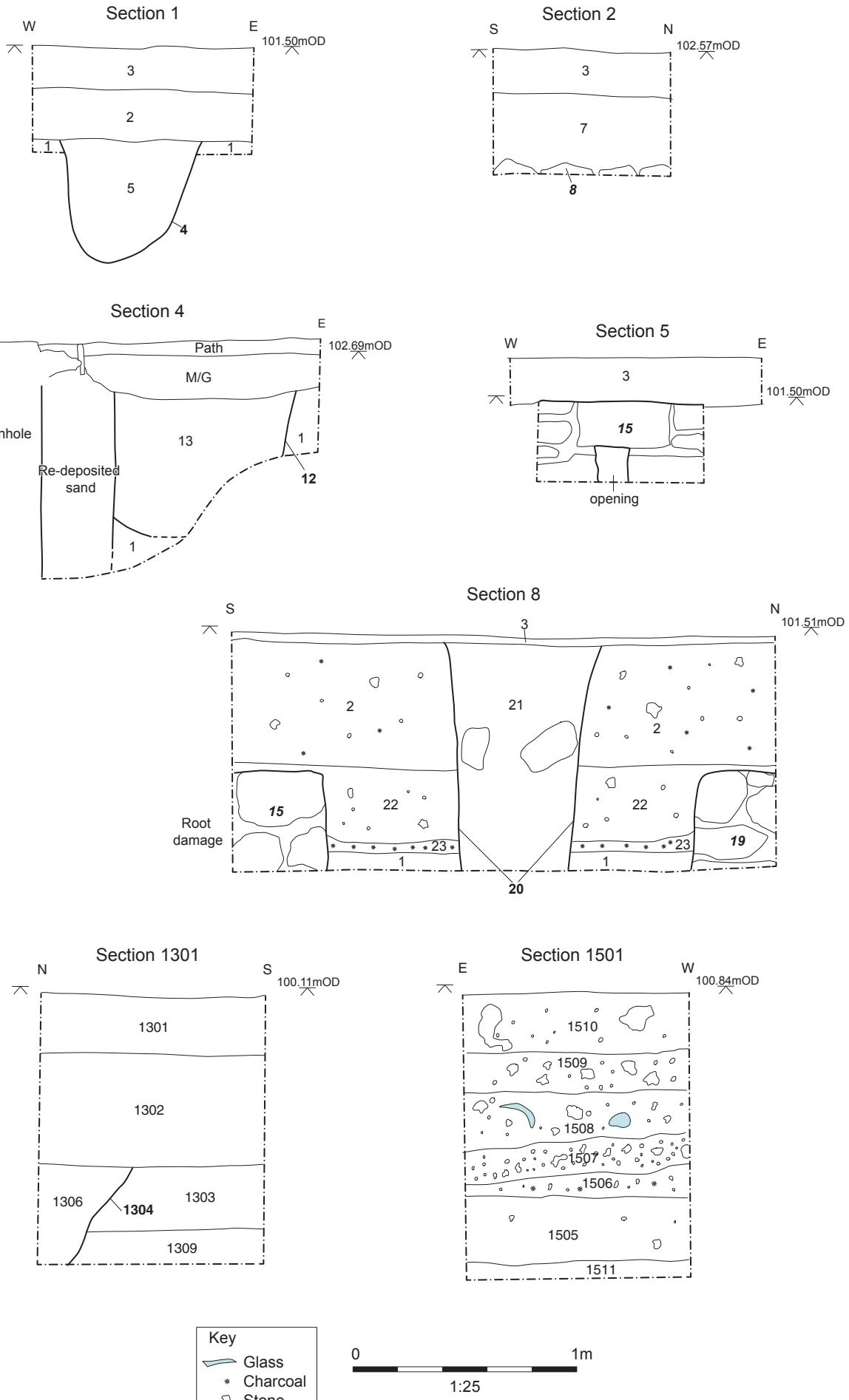


Figure 3: Sections

Plate 1: Well ***63***

Plate 2: Wall ***15***

Plate 3: Culvert ***55***

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