



# Osney Power Station 17 Russell Street Oxford

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

April 2019

**Client: Oxford University**

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: 7277

NGR: SP 50356 06054





Client Name: Oxford University  
Document Title: Osney Power Station, 17 Russell Street, Oxford  
Document Type: Evaluation Report  
Grid Reference: SP 50356 06054  
Planning Reference: 18/02982/FUL  
Site Code: OXPOW19  
Invoice Code: OXPOWEV  
Receiving Body: Oxford County Museum Service  
Accession No.: OXCMS:2019.15  
  
OA Document File Location: X:\o\OXPOWEV\_Osney\_Power\_Station\_Oxford\002Reports\  
OA Graphics File Location: \\SAMBA\invoice codes i thru q\O\_codes\OXPOWEV  
  
Issue No: 1  
Date: April 2019  
Prepared by: Lee Sparks and Steve Teague  
Checked by: Andrew Simmonds (Senior Project Manager)  
Edited by: Andrew Simmonds (Senior Project Manager)  
Approved for Issue by: Dave Score (Head of Fieldwork)  
Signature:

David Score

**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford  
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridge  
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w. [oxfordarchaeology.com](http://oxfordarchaeology.com)

Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627



## Osney Power Station, 17 Russell Street, Oxford

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Lee Sparks and Steve Teague*

*With contributions from Lee Broderick, Sharon Cook, John Cotter, Geraldine Crann, Rebeca Nicholson and Ian Scott, and illustrations by Matt Bradley and Charles Rousseaux*

### Contents

Summary .....	vii
Acknowledgements .....	viii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
<b>2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Aims .....	3
2.2 Methodology.....	3
<b>3 RESULTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results .....	4
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	4
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	4
3.4 Trench 1 (Fig. 3).....	4
3.5 Trench 2 (Fig. 4).....	5
3.6 Trench 3 (Fig. 5).....	5
3.7 Trench 4 (Fig. 6).....	6
<b>4 DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	7
4.2 Evaluation objectives and results.....	7
4.3 Interpretation.....	7
<b>APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
B.1 Pottery .....	13
B.2 Ceramic Building Material .....	14

B.3	Glass.....	16
B.4	Metals.....	16
B.5	Leather.....	17
B.6	Burnt unworked flint .....	17
B.7	Slag and hammerscale.....	17
B.8	Stone.....	17
APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS.....		19
C.1	Environmental Samples.....	19
C.2	Animal Bone .....	20
C.3	Fish Bone and Marine Shell .....	24
APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY .....		25
APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS.....		27

## List of Figures

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench locations
Figure 3	Trench 1 plan and section
Figure 4	Trench 2 plan and sections
Figure 5	Trench 3 plan and section
Figure 6	Trench 4 plan and sections

## List of Plates

Plate 1	Trench 1, wall 122, view to north-east
Plate 2	Trench 2, view to west
Plate 3	Trench 2, hand-excavated sondage, view to north
Plate 4	Trench 3, view to west
Plate 5	Trench 4, hand-excavated sondage showing surface 406, view to west

## Summary

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at the former Osney Power Station, Oxford, in advance of redevelopment proposals. Four trenches revealed floodplain deposits overlaid by thick makeup layers probably associated with Osney Abbey. Structural remains contemporary with the abbey included a substantial robber trench, a shallow wall foundation and a stone drain, together with evidence for gravel surfaces. After the destruction of the abbey in the mid-16th century a garden soil developed over the site. Slight evidence for surfaces relating to 19th century buildings pre-dating the power station were also revealed. The site has been subject to some truncation by services associated with the power station and its later use as part of the University of Oxford.

## Acknowledgements

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

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Steve Lawrence. The fieldwork was directed by Lee Sparks and Ben Attfield, who were supported by Chris Richardson, Chris Pickard and Daniel Pond. Digitising was carried out by Matt Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and Geraldine Crann, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Scope of work**

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Oxford University to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential educational facility at Osney Power Station, Oxford.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the planning authority in advance of determination of a planning application (planning ref: 18/02982/FUL). A brief was set by David Radford, Oxford City Archaeologist, detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning committee (OCC 2018). Subsequently, the scope outlined in the evaluation brief was discussed between the OA project manager and David Radford in light of the site restrictions and alterations to the planning application. Following these discussions, a detailed scope of works and method was agreed, which was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2019).

### **1.2 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.2.1 The development area falls within the administrative district of Oxford City Council and is located outside the historic city centre. The site is bounded to the north by Russell Street, to the East by Arthur Street, to the south by residential properties fronting onto Barrett Street and to the West by the River Thames.
- 1.2.2 The area of the proposed development consists of a yard area comprising hard surfaces of concrete and tarmac with the ground level rising towards the river frontage at c 57.45m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), reducing to 56.88m aOD at the gated entrance off Arthur Street. Numerous access covers are visible across the area indicating the presence of buried services.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation, a sedimentary mudstone formed c 157 to 166 million years ago during the Jurassic period. The recorded superficial deposit overlying the bedrock is alluvium formed in an environment dominated by the River Thames, its floodplains, channels and levees.

### **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment produced by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2017). The following is reproduced from selected parts of the background from this document.
- 1.3.2 There is little evidence of significant activity in this part of Oxford prior to the establishment of Osney Abbey in AD 1129. Most of the abbey precinct, including the church, is located beneath St Mary's cemetery (60m south-east of the site), the railway embankment (140m east of site) and the residential properties located 80m south of the site. Following the Dissolution, the buildings associated with the abbey were extensively quarried for their materials. A portion of Osney Abbey still remains and has been designated as both a Scheduled Monument and as a Grade II listed building.

- 1.3.3 Sharpe (1985) has produced a map showing the location of the known archaeological remains associated with the abbey, as well as postulating at the location of previously unidentified abbey buildings. The predicted boundary of the abbey precinct, as shown on Sharpe's map, potentially extends into the site, which may be located in the area of the abbey's farm.
- 1.3.4 Previous archaeological investigations close to the site have mostly been focused on Osney Abbey. The most extensive excavations were undertaken between 1975 and 1983 and demonstrated that the remains of Osney Abbey extend for some distance beyond the limits of the scheduled and listed area.
- 1.3.5 Agas' map of Oxford (1588) shows the site to have been agricultural or waste land adjacent to the Thames. The map shows several surviving abbey structures, including the former gatehouse 100m south-east of the site and the abbey's dovecote 25m south of the site. Details of the abbey mill and the precinct boundary wall are also shown on this map. Davis' map (1797) shows the site as an area of meadow adjacent to the Thames. The first edition Ordnance Survey map (1876) shows the site and surrounds as part of a new residential area called New Osney, which fronted onto both Arthur Street and Russell Street. The site itself is labelled as a builder's yard and contains possible residential properties along the northern and southern extents.
- 1.3.6 Osney Power Station was built in 1892 and in 1925 it was modernised with new boilers and steam turbines. The 1937 Ordnance Survey map shows the northern and western extent of the power station's footprint as it exists today. In 1963, the power station underwent a conversion to oil-firing, which was relatively short lived, as it closed six years later in 1969. In 1971 the building was acquired by the University of Oxford and it was subsequently used as an engineering research laboratory.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains;
- ii. To determine or confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation or preservation;
- iii. To determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise;
- iv. To characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon younger (overlying) deposits where possible;
- v. To determine the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered where appropriate;
- vi. To recover suitable materials for scientific dating where appropriate;
- vii. To make available the results of the investigation to inform subsequent development designs, planning decisions or mitigation strategies;
- viii. To produce a factual report, full archive and HER data submission;
- ix. To disseminate the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance;
- x. To establish whether significant remains relating to the precinct of Osney Abbey are present bearing in mind the potential for built structures, waste pits and burials within the former walled precinct;
- xi. To establish whether there is any evidence to confirm or disprove the theory that the site is within the abbey gardens.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The trenches were excavated using a tracked machine fitted with a flat toothless bucket. Machining continued in spits down to the archaeological horizon or the natural geology. Once archaeological deposits had been exposed, excavation continued by hand.

2.2.2 A sample of each trench was excavated as outlined within the project WSI (OA 2019). Sufficient excavation was undertaken in each trench in order to resolve the principle aims of the evaluation. Where an exceptional number of archaeological deposits were uncovered, a sample excavation was undertaken in order to be minimally intrusive.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below. The full details of the trenches, with dimensions and depths of all deposits, can be found in Appendix A. Finds reports and spot-dates are tabulated in Appendix B. Environmental reports are presented in Appendix C.

### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of yellow, sandy gravels was overlain by a number of modern levelling layers, which in turn were overlain by a layer of tarmac that covered the site.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features, deposits of artefacts were present in all the trenches. These comprised pits, surfaces, possible structural remains, and palaeochannel/floodplain silting and infill. Whilst the archaeological layers were easy to define, the presence of modern services and levelling layers has truncated some deposits.

### 3.4 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 measured 8.50m by 1.60m and was positioned in the south-west corner of site on a north-south alignment (Fig. 3). Excavation proceeded to a possible garden soil (106), which extended throughout the trench, into which a machine-excavated sondage was dug in the middle of the trench.
- 3.4.2 The natural gravel (111) was exposed at the base of the sondage at 54.47m aOD (3.05m bgl), overlain by alluvial deposits. The earliest of these was a 0.50m thick layer of dark laminated clay (110) containing shell fragments and a piece of leather. Above this was a 0.40m thick laminated dark grey/brown organic or peat-like silt (109). A soil sample from this deposit was rich in waterlogged fibrous plant remains. It was overlain by two further alluvial deposits of mid-light grey clay (108) and dark grey/black clay (107), the earlier of which (108) contained two sherds of 13th-14th century pottery, a medieval peg-tile fragment and animal bone.
- 3.4.3 The alluvial sequence was overlain by possible garden soil 106, which contained a sherd from a Cistercian-type cup rim (c 1480-1700) and two abraded roof roofing-tile fragments, possibly dating to the 13th-15th centuries. At the northern end of the trench layer 106 was cut by an E-W aligned wall foundation (112, Plate 1), measuring 0.50m wide and 0.15m deep, revealed at c 1.0m below the existing ground surface. The wall was constructed with roughly hewn limestone blocks, surviving to one course deep, bonded by clay and supported upon a bed of firm yellow-brown clayey sand (114). It was well-defined on its south side but rather defuse on its north side.

Apparently abutting its north side was limestone rubble spread (113), possibly demolition or a rough surface.

- 3.4.4 The wall was partially overlain by a 0.16m thick dump of mixed yellowish grey clay (105), possibly a make-up or demolition layer at 56.42m aOD. It contained pottery dated to c 1550-1700 and a large part of a medieval floor tile of late 13th or 14th century date. Above this was a 0.10m thick deposit of mid grey brown silty clay (104), possibly buried turf, which was overlain by the existing 0.40m thick concrete surface (100) and a number of associated modern make-up deposits (101-103).

### 3.5 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 measured 4.65 by 1.60m and was shortened at its western end due to the presence of underground services (Plate 2).
- 3.5.2 Natural gravel was revealed at the base of a hand-dug sondage at 55.51m aOD and was cut by partially exposed pits 216 and 218 (Plate 3). Pit 216 was 0.28m in depth and filled with mid brown-grey silty clay (217) and contained a sherd from a Medieval Oxford ware cooking pot (c 1075-1300). Pit 218 had a similar fill (219) but contained no finds.
- 3.5.3 The pits were overlain by a series of make-up deposits of mid greyish brown silty (212, 213, 214, 215 and 221) with a combined thickness of c 0.55m. The earliest of these layers (215) contained pottery dated to c 1075 (1175)-1300 and fragments of medieval peg tiles. Charcoal-rich dump 214 contained pottery dated to c 1175-1400 together with iron pins and an iron plate fragment. A N-S aligned stone-lined drain (208) with capping stones intact, measuring 0.55m wide, truncated the latest of these deposits.
- 3.5.4 Abutting both sides of the drain was a rough surface (207) comprising broken stone roof tile fragments. This was truncated by E-W aligned robber trench 204. It was at least 0.50m deep and filled with mid grey-brown silty clay containing limestone fragments (205), presumably related to the robbing out of a pre-existing wall. It contained a number of medieval roof tiles together with fresh sherds from a late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware jug (c 1400-1550?).
- 3.5.5 The robber trench was sealed by the remnants of a cobbled surface (203), which was overlain by a 0.4m thick dark grey silty clay, probably a post-medieval garden soil (202). Cutting this soil was sub-rectangular pit 210, measuring at least 1.10m by 0.50m and 0.48m deep. It was filled with a light grey brown silty clay (209) that contained pottery dated to c 1225-1400 together with fragments of medieval ridge and peg tiles.
- 3.5.6 This was subsequently overlain by a stone and brick surface (211), measuring 0.06m thick, that is likely related to the site's use as a builder's yard in the 19th century. This was overlain by the existing tarmac surface (200) supported by levelling layer 201.

### 3.6 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

- 3.6.1 Trench 3 was aligned E-W and measured 3.60m by 1.25m (Plate 4). A modern soakaway measuring 2.40m long and at least 1m deep truncated the western part of the trench and is likely to have removed any potential for surviving archaeological deposits here. At the eastern end of the trench a sondage was machine-excavated to a depth of 2.1m (54.98m aOD) without reaching natural gravel.

- 3.6.2 The earliest deposits were a series of sterile alluvial deposits (315-317) measuring at least 0.60m thick in total. These were overlain by brown grey gravel layer 314, which was 0.20m thick, and a layer of yellow-brown clayey gravel (311) 0.14m thick. These could be make-up deposits to raise the ground above the floodplain and/or surfaces. These layers were overlain by an orange-brown silty clay layer (307) that was 0.08m thick, possibly a dumped layer or trample. A substantial deposit of yellow-brown gravelly silt (306) measuring 0.40m thick overlay these deposits, and was overlain by stone rubble (305), both potentially demolition dumps. Layer 305 was exposed at 56.30m aOD (0.80m bgl) and contained two large fragments of fresh roofing tile of 13th-15th century date.
- 3.6.3 Overlying layer 305 was a probable garden soil of grey-brown, clay silt (304), up to 0.40m thick, and a thin mortar deposit (318) and overlying silt layer (319), possibly representing floor surfaces. A further grey silty clay layer (302) up to 0.14m thick overlay these deposits, which were cut by the construction trench for a manhole (312) and by a modern pit (309).
- 3.6.4 Both these features were sealed by makeup deposits (301 and 308) and the current tarmac surface (300).

### 3.7 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

- 3.7.1 Trench 4 was aligned N-S and measured 6.1m by 1.4m. This area had been significantly truncated by modern services and concrete footings that have likely removed the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits in some areas. The trench was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.30m and then excavated by hand to a maximum depth of 1.40m (55.59m aOD) within two sondages without reaching the natural gravel.
- 3.7.2 The south-western sondage (Section 400) was hand dug to a depth of 1.40m. The earliest deposit reached was a grey-orange clay (410), possible a surface, which was not excavated. It was overlain by orange-grey, silty gravels within an organic matrix (409), potentially a makeup deposit. This contained a sherd of glass from a wine bottle or flask of later post-medieval date and two large stone roof tile fragments, the former likely to be intrusive. Above was a 0.05m thick deposit of crushed limestone (408), above which was a compact, orange-brown gravel layer (407), possibly make-up to support sandy mortar floor 406 (Plate 5). Overlying the floor was a further 0.06m thick surface of compact grey-brown sandy gravel (405), exposed at a depth of 0.93m (56.06m OD).
- 3.7.3 Overlying this surface was a 0.17m thick deposit of dark brown-grey silty clay (404/412) that produced a small amount of animal bone and was seen in both sondages. This was in turn overlain by a dark brown/black silty clay garden soil (403/411), 0.25m thick. The garden soil contained mid-late 19th century pottery together with a modern brick fragment. However, earlier material was also present, including late medieval Brill/Boarstall jug fragments (c 1400-1550) and fragments of medieval ridge tile. The garden soils were overlain by modern levelling deposits (400-2) and the existing tarmac surface.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenches achieved a good sample of the site area and were located to maximise the potential for exposing archaeological deposits, whilst respecting the ecological and practical constraints of the site.
- 4.1.2 The ground and site conditions were generally good throughout the course of the evaluation and machining was carried out cleanly with good visibility of features and deposits in the trenches.
- 4.1.3 The evaluation demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains associated with medieval and post-medieval activity on the site and as such are considered to be a true reflection of the archaeological potential of the site.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation was able to successfully identify the presence of archaeological remains and investigate the archaeological potential across the site. The trenches confirmed the presence of medieval and post-medieval remains whilst also recording the presence of some modern disturbance below the level of the expected archaeological horizon.

### 4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The location of the site is thought to be on periphery of Osney Abbey but still within its boundaries and as such it is likely that the earlier levelling deposits and surfaces relate to the gardens and farm that was thought to have been on the site. Whilst there was no *in situ* evidence of any substantial structural remains, robber cut 207 in Trench 2 is possibly related to the robbing of a wall forming part of one of the abbey buildings. The robbed structure may have formed the exterior north wall of a building that lay to the south of Trenches 2 and 3, since the area to north seems to have been external as testified by gravel surfaces and a drain found in Trenches 3 and 4. Further traces of a medieval wall found in Trench 1 suggest the presence of further buildings on the bank of the Thames.
- 4.3.2 Whilst there was very little evidence of pre-Abbey activity, the presence of two pits at the base of Trench 2, truncating the natural gravels, suggests quarrying use of the site. They could potentially date as early as the late 11th or early 12th centuries, though they could equally be contemporary with the abbey. Both were sealed by substantial makeup deposits that were prevalent across the site, presumably deposited in order to raise the land above the floodplain.
- 4.3.3 Late medieval pottery recovered from the robber trench and from the overlying garden soils may be associated with demolition and disuse of the abbey immediately following its closure at the Dissolution and its subsequent use as meadow or farm land until the 19th century. The presence of horncores could suggest a tanner or butcher operated nearby during this period.

- 4.3.4 Little evidence for 19th buildings pre-dating the power station survived apart from a brick and stone surface in Trench 2 and a possible floor surface in Trench 3. The construction of the power station and the subsequent installation of numerous services created significant truncation of the archaeological layers across the site.



## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Consisted of modern tarmac and levelling layers, overlying post-medieval and medieval deposits which overlay channel deposits and the natural gravels.					Length (m)	8.50
					Width (m)	1.60
					Avg. depth (m)	3.10
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.40	Modern concrete	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.20	Modern sand foundation	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.20	Modern crushed brick layer	-	-
103	Layer	-	0.18	Modern orange brown levelling sand	-	-
104	Layer	-	0.10	Grey brown silty clay (turf?)	-	-
105	Layer	-	0.16	Yellow-grey clay make up layer around wall 112	Pottery, CBM	c1550-1700
106	Layer	-	0.46	Dark grey, clayey silt make-up layer	Pottery, Animal bone	c1480-1700
107	Layer	-	0.18	Dark grey-black clay, channel fill	-	-
108	Layer	-	0.24	Light-mid grey clay, channel fill	Pottery, Bone	c1200-1400
109	Layer	-	0.40	Dark grey-brown, clayey organic silts, channel fill	-	-
110	Layer	-	0.50	Dark grey clay, channel fill	Leather	-
111	Natural	-	-	Greyish white sandy gravel	-	-
112	Structure	-	-	E-W aligned wall, 1m below ground level	-	-
113	Layer	-	-	Dark brown rubble layer	-	-
114	Layer	-	-	Yellow brown clayey sand	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Consisted of modern layers overlying post-medieval and medieval deposits which overlay the natural gravels. A post-medieval pit and stone drain were seen in the east end of the trench and 2 pits at the base in the west end. A NE-SW aligned robber trench was found in the southern extent of the trench					Length (m)	4.65
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	Max. 1.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.07	Tarmac over area	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.16	Modern foundation layer	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.40	Post-medieval garden soil	-	-
203	Surface	0.70	0.18	Cobbled surface	-	-
204	Cut	-	0.50+	E-W aligned robber trench	-	-

205	Fill	-	0.50+	Fill of [204]. Grey brown silty clay	Pottery, CBM, Animal bone	c1400-1550?
206	Layer	0.65	0.14	Grey brown, clayey silt levelling layer	-	-
207	Surface	-	0.10	Floor surface/demolition rubble. Limestone fragments with gravel/mortar	-	-
208	Masonry	0.55	0.40	N-S aligned limestone drain	-	-
209	Fill	1.10	0.48	Light grey brown, silty clay fill of pit [210]	Pottery	c1225-1400
210	Cut	1.10	0.48	Pit cut with vertical sides and flat base	-	-
211	Layer	-	0.06	Modern brick and stone surface-		
212	Layer	0.55	0.09	Grey brown clayey sand. Make-up layer for surface (207)	CBM, Animal bone	13-15C?
213	Layer	0.50	0.20	Grey, silty clay make-up layer	-	-
214	Layer	1.20	-	Charcoal rich, grey-brown silty clay	Pottery, CBM, iron pins and plate fragment	c1280-1400
215	Layer	0.8	0.22	Soft, olive-grey, Medieval levelling layer	Pottery, Animal bone, CBM	L12-14C
216	Cut	0.3	0.28	Medieval pit cut?	-	-
217	Fill	0.3	0.28	Compact, brown-grey, silty clay fill of [216]	Pottery	c1075-1300
218	Cut	0.3	0.26	Medieval pit cut?	-	-
219	Fill	0.3	0.26	Soft, brown-grey, silty clay fill of pit [218]	-	-
220	Layer	-	-	Natural- White/yellow gravels	-	-
221	Layer	-	-	Firm, yellow-brown mortar layer below (207)	-	-

### Trench 3

General description					Orientation	E-W
Consisted of modern levelling layers overlying a large modern truncation that cut post-medieval and medieval deposits. A machine dug sondage found channel deposits to machined depth of 2.05m					Length (m)	3.80
					Width (m)	1.20
					Avg. depth (m)	Max. 2.05
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.07	Tarmac over area	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.16	Modern brick/stone yellow brown gravel levelling layer	-	-

302	Layer	-	0.24	Grey, silty clay post-medieval levelling layer	-	-
303	Layer	-	0.14	Grey-brown clayey silt medieval levelling layer	-	-
304	Layer	-	0.22	Grey-brown clayey silt medieval levelling layer	-	-
305	Layer	-	0.16	Brown, sandy-silt in stone matrix medieval levelling layer	CBM	13-15C
306	Layer	-	0.40	Yellow-brown sandy silts	-	-
307	Layer	-	0.08	Orange-brown, silty clay	-	-
308	Layer	-	0.18	Compact, yellow-brown gravels-Modern levelling	-	-
309	Cut	-	1.40	Steep sided, modern truncation	-	-
310	Fill	-	1.40	Fill of modern cut [310]	-	-
311	Layer	-	0.14	Yellow-brown silty gravels	-	-
312	Cut	0.26	-	Modern cut for soakaway	-	-
313	Fill	0.26	-	Modern rubble fill of soakaway cut	-	-
314	Layer	-	0.20	Soft, brown-grey silty gravels	-	-
315	Layer	-	0.11	Soft, blue-grey clayey gravels. Channel deposit	-	-
316	Layer	-	0.20	Grey silty clay. Channel deposit	-	-
317	Layer	-	-	Soft, dark grey-brown, peaty, clayey silts at base of trench. Channel deposits	-	-
318	Layer	-	0.08	Off white-light brown Mortar surface/layer, heavily truncated	-	-
319	Layer	-	0.08	Soft, brown-grey silty clay	-	-

#### Trench 4

General description					Orientation	N-S
Consisted of tarmac and modern levelling/services overlying a series of post-medieval and medieval levelling deposits and surfaces. The services had heavily truncated the trench, a hand dug sondage in the SW corner revealed the medieval layers.					Length (m)	6.1
					Width (m)	1.4
					Avg. depth (m)	Max 1.40m
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.20	Post-medieval, greyish-yellow gravel levelling layer	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.30	Post-medieval, greyish-brown clayey gravel levelling layer	Pottery, CBM	L19-20C

402	Layer	-	0.15	Post-medieval, greyish yellow clayey gravel levelling layer	-	-
403	Layer	-	0.25	Dark brown-black silty clay. Medieval garden soil?	Pottery, Animal bone, CBM	L19-20C
404	Layer	-	0.17	Dark grey-brown silty clay. Medieval?	Animal bone	-
405	Layer	-	0.06	Compact grey-brown sandy gravels	-	-
406	Layer	-	0.05	Compact orange-light brown sandy mortar surface with limestone	-	-
407	Layer	-	0.15	Compact, orange-brown gravels. Levelling layer	-	-
408	Layer	-	0.05	Compact, orange-beige crushed limestone. Surface?	-	-
409	Layer	-	0.23	Orange-grey, silty gravels within an organic/cess matrix	Glass	Late post-medieval?
410	Layer	-	-	Grey-orange, silty clay at base of sondage	-	-
411	Layer	-	0.3	Firm, dark brown-black silty clay garden soil/made ground	-	-
412	Layer	-	0.26	Dark grey-brown, silty clay. Post-medieval garden soil?	-	-

## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Pottery

*By John Cotter*

#### *Introduction and methodology*

- B.1.1 A total of 33 sherds (504g) of pottery was recovered from ten contexts. A range of medieval wares (up to c 1480) and post-medieval wares (c 1480+) are represented.
- B.1.2 All the pottery was scanned and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spreadsheet. The pottery is mainly very fragmentary, but some fairly large fresh sherds are present.
- B.1.3 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc). Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994) and post-medieval fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1) and is therefore only summarised below.
- B.1.4 The pottery mostly comprises ordinary domestic pottery typical of the Oxford area. There is a strong medieval and early post-medieval presence here (mainly 13th to 17th century), but also a few pieces of 19th-century date. The earliest type comprises a few sherds of Medieval Oxford ware (c 1075-1300), but some of these are almost certainly residual in their contexts. One or two sherds show greyish colour reduction, possibly due to waterlogged soil conditions.

**Table 1: Description of post-Roman pottery by context**

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
105	c1550-1700	2	27	Body sherd (bo) early post-medieval redware (PMR) with reduced greenish-brown glaze int. 1x stem fragment from early Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAW) oil lamp with part of the bowl and trace of the base attached, green-glazed int and ext
106	c1480-1700	1	5	Fresh cup rim in brown Cistercian-type ware (CSTN)
108	c1200-1400	2	24	Bo from Ashampstead-type ware (OXAG) strip jug with vertical white strips with traces of rouletted decoration on the strip, reduced dark brownish-green glaze ext (possibly reduced by waterlogged soil conditions?). 1x slightly abraded bo Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ, c 1150-1350)
205	c1400-1550?	7	102	Sherds from 5 vessels. Large fresh flat base from late med Brill/Boarstall ware jug (OXBx) with accidental clear glaze on the underside. 2x small bos from Brill/Boarstall ware jug with greenish glaze (OXAM). Worn basal sherd from OXAW jug or cooking pot. Worn bo yellow glazed Medieval Oxford ware jug (OXY, 1075-1300). Small worn bo OXAQ

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
209	c1225-1400	6	60	4x OXAM jug sherds including a sub-squared rim, 2 yellow-glazed bos & 1 abraded base sherd with green glaze. Bos from 2 OXAW jugs including 1 with traces of red slip decoration
214	c1175-1400	4	52	3x fresh OXAW incl jug bo with traces of red slip lattice dec under yellow glaze, a fresh sagging base from a cooking pot (sooted) and an unglazed bo. 1x small bo OXAQ
215	c1075-1300	2	19	Fresh unglazed bos from 2 OXY vessels - probably cooking pots. Hard light grey fabric (or possibly OXAW? c 1175-1400?)
217	c1075-1300	1	6	Fresh rim from smallish OXY cooking pot with squared bead rim. Sooted
401	c1830-1900	4	85	2x sherds (base and rim) possibly from the same transfer-printed whiteware dish (TPW) with traces of black transfer decoration int. 1x bo Yellow ware (YELL) jug or bowl with white slip banded decoration. 1x bo from English stoneware (ENGs) cylindrical ink/blacking bottle with thin light brown salt glaze
403	c1830-1900	4	124	2x post-med pot including 1x bo YELL & 1x bo Brill slipware (BRSL) with allover int white slip under a clear yellow glaze with brown glaze speckling. 2x medieval incl fresh jug handle in late med Brill/Boarstall ware (OXBx, c 1400-1550?) handle with classic slashed decoration and also very deep slashes around base of handle to anchor it to vessel wall, clear greenish-brown glaze ext. 1x small fresh bo OXAM jug with green glaze and horizontal grooved dec
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>504</b>	

### *Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material*

B.1.5 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis - particularly when reviewed alongside further assemblages from any future excavations in the area of the present evaluation. It is therefore recommended that the pottery be retained.

## **B.2 Ceramic building material**

*By John Cotter*

### *Introduction and methodology*

- B.2.1 The site produced a total of 39 pieces of post-Roman ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 2667g from eleven contexts. This is mainly of medieval date (up to c 1480) plus a small amount of post-medieval date (c 1480+). The assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but some quite large and fairly fresh pieces are present.
- B.2.2 All the CBM was scanned in a similar way to the pottery, and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by fragment count and weight and recorded on a spreadsheet. Medieval tile fabrics and CBM types from Oxford have been described in some detail in previous reports (Cotter 2006; 2008).
- B.2.3 The material is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 2) and is therefore only summarised below.

## Discussion

- B.2.4 Nearly all the CBM here is of medieval date and mainly perhaps from the 13th-14th centuries, with some possible continuation into the 15th century. The bulk of the assemblage comprises fragments of rectangular peg tiles with a pair of circular nail holes at the upper end. These occur in a limited range of known medieval fabrics. There is also quite a high number of medieval ridge tile fragments (mostly glazed).
- B.2.5 Other CBM types include a single almost complete medieval floor tile with a plain dark brown glaze (context 105), and a small scrap possibly from a second floor tile (214). No early post-medieval types of CBM were noted (eg. handmade red brick). The latest items recovered were a few pieces of late 19th- or 20th-century brick (contexts 215, 401 and 403). As with the glazed pottery, a few items of CBM exhibit greyish colour reduction, possibly due to waterlogged soil conditions.

**Table 2: Description of post-Roman CBM by context**

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
105	c1280-1400?	2	387	Large fresh frag forming the complete side of a plain medieval floor tile 129mm wide and 22mm thick, it has been pre-scored to break into a rectangular tile 67mm wide, probably Fabric 3B (F3B) and of Stabbed Wessex type - but this example is unstabbed; reduced dark grey fabric with a thin dark brown/black glaze all over the upper surface. 1x smaller abraded frag probably from a ridge tile in Brill F3A with a greenish glaze (fabric now reduced and greyish from soil conditions?)
106	13-15C?	2	102	1x fairly abraded edge frag oxidised F3B peg tile or ridge tile with patches of clear glaze. 1x smaller frag Brill F3A ridge tile with yellowish glaze (fabric reduced)
108	13-15C?	1	44	Spalled & abraded body frag F3B peg tile. Probably from waterlogged deposit
205	13-15C?	9	851	Some fresh and some abraded tiles. All medieval incl 2x frags green-glazed F3A ridge tiles incl a corner frag with glossy dark green glaze. 1x body frag F3B brown glazed ridge tile. 6x frags peg tiles incl 4x F3B tiles incl 2 with circular nailholes (1 of which has a 'blind' unpierced nailhole), incl large fresh edge frag. 1 peg tile top in cream F7A with 2 circular nailholes. 1 in pink F7B (abraded)
209	13-14C	5	230	2x frags oolitic limestone-tempered F1B ridge tiles including large fresh edge frag. 3x abraded scraps of peg tile incl 2 in pink F7B (1 with nailhole) & 1 in F3B
212	13-15C?	4	72	Scraps/flakes from F3B peg tiles, 1 with clear glaze
214	c1280-1400	3	277	1x scrap (3g) probably from the flat sanded base of a Stabbed Wessex-type floor tile (Fabric 3B, c 1280-

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
				1350; less likely a scrap of late med or post-med brick?). 2 large fresh pieces F3B medieval peg tile including larger frag from lower right-hand corner of a tile with speckles of clear glaze (length of frag = 180mm). The smaller piece has a circular nailhole
214	c1280-1400	1	24	Sieved Sample <2>.Peg tile edge with circular nailhole in reduced light grey F7A
215	L12-14C? Or L19-20C?	6	105	4x scraps medieval peg tiles incl 2 in pink F7B & 2 in F3B. 2x v odd scraps of very hard smooth brick-like object, both with 1 dead-flat surface which appears to be knife-cut or possibly machine-sawn (perhaps by mechanical digger bucket)? Both have a smooth very dense light brown fabric with fine calcareous reaction rims, the larger piece has a cream-coloured surface - they might well be L19/20C brick, otherwise something odd (Roman?). Latter 2 objects possibly intrusive??
305	13-15C?	2	143	1x fresh F3B pegtile or ridge tile edge with orange glaze splash. 1x fresh F7B peg tile with circular nailhole
401	L19-20C	1	290	Almost complete brick end. Machine-made. Buff fabric with pinkish surfaces. 67mm thick. Unfrogged. Fresh
403	L19-20C	3	142	1x modern brick angle frag in brown fabric with fine calcareous reaction rims. 2x frags medieval F3B ridge tiles incl edge/end frag with mottled greenish glaze & large spalled curved flake with traces of clear glaze
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>2667</b>	

### ***Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material***

B.2.6 The medieval CBM assemblage has some potential for further research and should be retained. The modern brick, however, could be discarded if so desired.

## **B.3 Glass**

*By Ian R Scott*

B.3.1 A single small sherd of olive vessel glass from a wine bottle or flask was recovered from context 409. The sherd is not closely datable but probably later post medieval or later in date.

## **B.4 Metals**

*By Ian R Scott*



- B.4.1 There small tacks or pins, and several small fragments of pins or thin wire from Context 204. There is also very slightly curved rectangular fragment of iron plate from the same context. All were recovered by sieving.

Context 214	Plate fragment, roughly rectangular and slightly curved in longitudinal section. 36mm x 25mm. Fe. Sample <2>
	Tacks or pins. Seven tacks and two stem fragments. L: 12mm - 15mm. Fe. Sample <2>
	Pin or thin wire fragments. 20 small fragments. Fe Sample <2>

## B.5 Leather

*By Geraldine Crann*

Context	Description
110	Short strip of leather, 80mm x 4mm x 4mm, 10g.

## B.6 Burnt unworked flint

*By Geraldine Crann*

Context	Description
214	<2> Single fragment of burnt unworked flint, 2g

## B.7 Slag and hammerscale

*By Geraldine Crann*

Context	Description
214	<2> 118 fragments hammerscale/magnetic material, 27g
214	<2> 12 fragments slag, 84g
215	1 fragment slag, 15g

## B.8 Stone

*By Geraldine Crann – stone SF1 (310) identified by Julian Munby.*

Context	Description
205	7 fragments roof tile with drilled holes, max 18mm thick; 4 thicker fragments, max 30mm thick; limestone and shelly oolitic limestone, 4695g
212	4 fragments roof tile with drilled holes, max 18mm thick, oolitic and shelly limestone, 995g
214	<2> Fragment probable roof tile, max 17mm thick, limestone, 226g
303	2 fragments probable roof tile, max 19mm thick, shelly and oolitic limestone, 339g
305	2 small fragments, max 10mm thick, limestone and shelly limestone, 136g
306	2 small fragments, max 8mm thick, limestone, 58g
310	SF1. Post medieval squared pavior, max dimensions 333 x 115 x 398 mm, shelly limestone, not weighed.
409	2 fragments roof tile with drilled holes, larger retains nail stump from an adjacent tile attached at its base, max 18mm thick, shelly limestone, 718g

## APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Environmental samples

*By Sharon Cook*

#### **Introduction**

- A.1.1 Two samples were taken from the evaluation. Sample 1 (109) was taken to assess the preservation and diversity of any waterlogged plant remains (WPR) and insects and provide an indication of the environment of deposition. Sample 2 (214) was taken for the retrieval of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts.
- A.1.2 Sample 1 comprised a black (10YR 2/1) silt loam with a high organic component which appeared compressed. Sample 2 comprised a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam with frequent sub rounded and sub angular stones.

#### **Method**

- A.1.3 The 20L CPR bulk sample was processed in its entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flot was collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains. The Finds from this sample are reported separately.
- A.1.4 One litre of the WPR sample was processed by hand flotation to 250µm (flot and residue) and the resulting material was kept wet to facilitate preservation. A proportion of the flot was then examined using a low power (x10) binocular microscope and reported as for the CPR.
- A.1.5 Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (Jacomet 2006), identification of wild plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and by comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

#### **Results**

- A.1.6 Sample 1 produced a flot of approximately 500ml in size of which 50 ml was scanned. The flot contains mostly unidentifiable fibrous plant material with rare small wood fragments. While small quantities of insect remains are present these are largely small in size and highly fragmented with the exception of a small number of insect pupae which appear intact. Very few seeds are present within the scanned portion, those identified appear to be largely plants common within waste ground such as docks (*Rumex* sp.) and a few species common within crops as weeds such as knapweed (*Centaurea* sp.) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) which were both represented by single seeds. A single large Apiaceae seed looks very much like white laceflower (*Orlaya grandiflora*) which is a relatively modern introduction, however the condition of this seed means it is impossible to firmly identify.

- A.1.7 Sample 2 is rich in charcoal of a suitable size for wood species identification including a small amount of roundwood. The condition of the fragments is generally good although there is a small amount of external encrustation and some fragments have a metallic appearance which is the result of mineral precipitate. Cereal grain is common within the flot: 25+ grains are positively identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and additional indeterminate cereal grains (25+) are likely to also be wheat although the fragmentation of the grains has removed most of the identifying characteristics. The grains are generally in poor condition, both clinkered and vitrified as well as fragmented, probably damage suffered during the burning process rather than as a result of the post-depositional conditions on site. The lack of cereal chaff together with the Medieval date would be consistent with a free threshing wheat such as bread wheat *Triticum aestivum*.
- A.1.8 A single small hazelnut fragment is also present together with two oat (*Avena* sp.) grains and one small unidentifiable seed. Although dry when sampled, this layer includes a freshwater component as both freshwater and land snails are present within the flot and ostracods are also present.

### **Discussion and Recommendations**

- A.1.9 As the samples appear to originate within make up layers they are difficult to further interpret. The fibrous nature of Sample 1 suggests a dump of material or compressed vegetation-rich damp soil. The lack of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants would seem to indicate that this layer was not formed within the streambed.
- A.1.10 Sample 2 probably represents hearth or oven waste incorporated within a general makeup layer. Free threshing wheat was commonly cultivated in the medieval period with oat a common crop contaminant as well as being a crop in its own right by this time. The fragment of charred hazelnut shell shows the utilization of wild plants.
- A.1.11 Unfortunately, due to the material being used to form layers of made ground the origin of this material is unclear and therefore cannot be further interpreted at this time.
- A.1.12 The samples show that both charred and waterlogged material survive well on this site. In general, if further excavation is carried out it is recommended that sampling should take place, ideally from a range of datable features across the site in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (English Heritage 2011; Oxford Archaeology 2017).
- A.1.13 The flots warrant retention at least until all works on this site are complete, when the relationships of these features are better understood, at which point a firm decision on discard and retention will be more easily made.

## **C.2 Animal bone**

*By Lee G. Broderick*

### **Introduction**

- C.3.1 A total of forty six animal bone specimens were recovered from the site (Table **Error! Reference source not found.**), most of which were collected by hand. Environmental samples were also taken and were sieved at 10mm, 4mm, 2mm and 0.5mm fractions. Features on the site were dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds (seriation), to Mediaeval or Post-Medieval periods.
- C.3.2 The hand-collected 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 for mammals; Cohen and Serjeantson 1996 for birds). Material recovered from environmental samples was only recorded when it could be identified, following the same criteria.

### Description

- C.3.3 Preservation on the site was moderate (mostly Behrensmeyer 1978 weathering stage 3) although many of the specimens were stained black, perhaps indicating extensive waterlogging.
- C.3.4 The assemblage is unusual in its very small proportion of medium mammals, with just one caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*]) specimen (often the most common animal on British archaeological sites) and three indeterminate medium mammal specimens or ribs recorded from the site. Instead, both domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) and horse (*Equus caballus*) are common (Table ). These include specimens of both species that have been gnawed by canids, suggesting that dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) were also present on the site (Table 4).
- C.3.5 The fifteen domestic cattle specimens include six horncores, mostly from late medieval or early post-medieval contexts (106, 108 and 205).
- C.3.6 Butchery evidence was limited to three cattle specimens, two with oblique chops through the ends (a right femur from context 205 and a left radius from context 403) and one with an axial chop through the articular facet of a right scapula. Pathologies were observed on two cattle and two horse specimens. These were mostly healed lesions consistent with osteochondrosis, a benign condition that would have gone unnoticed by both the animals and their handlers (Sewell 2010) but also included an exostosis on the mid shaft of a horse phalanx from context 108.
- C.3.7 The sieved samples, all from medieval context 214, contained a number of bird specimens, including a large goose carpometacarpus, which is probably domestic goose but may also be from its wild ancestor the greylag goose (*Anser anser*). Crow/rook (*Corvus corax/frugilegus*) and gull/wader (*Charadriiformes*) were also present.

### Conclusions

- C.3.8 Little can be read into such a small assemblage, but the dominance of large mammals is interesting – particularly since the limited environmental sampling produced several bird bones but no medium mammal specimens. This suggests that the bias towards larger bones may not be due to recovery bias.

- C.3.9 The high proportion of cattle horncores present on the site may indicate the presence of a horn-worker nearby in the fifteenth century AD but the absence of any butchery marks on them may caution against that interpretation. Those butchery marks that are present, elsewhere in the assemblage, suggest an industrialised butchery process, with disarticulation of large mammals with heavy chops between the articulations of the skeleton. The meat of such animals would normally have been sold off the bone in the medieval period and so it may be that the presence of such evidence alongside horncores without any butchery marks instead represent primary butchery waste (Broderick 2017). Future work on the site may shed further light on this.
- C.3.10 The good preservation and recovery of a diverse bird bone assemblage is could also be of importance to any future work, providing insights to the local environment and biogeography as well as the diet of inhabitants.

***Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material***

- C.3.11 The assemblage should be considered for retention, particularly if further work is to take place on the site, in which case they should be considered together with any larger assemblage recovered.

**Table 3: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period.**

	c1075-1300	c1175-1400	c1200-1400	c1225-1400	c1400-1550?	c1480-1700	c1830-1900		Phase c1175-1400 (sieved)
domestic cattle		1	3		6	1	3		
caprine							1		
horse			3	1	2				
medium mammal					3				
large mammal	1		9	1	7				
<b>Total Mammal</b>	1	1	15	2	18	1	4		0
greylag/domestic goose									1
wader/gull									1
carrion crow/rook									1
<b>Total Bird</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		3
<b>Total NISP</b>	1	1	15	2	18	1	4		3
<b>Total NSP</b>	1	1	15	2	18	1	4		3

**Table 4: Non-species data recorded from the specimens (NSP) in the assemblage.**

	Butchery marks	Pathologies	Gnawed	Burnt	Ageing data	Biometric data
domestic cattle	3	2	2		5	1
horse		2	1		2	1
large mammal				1		
<b>Total Mammal</b>	3	4	3	1	7	2
greylag/domestic goose					1	1
<b>Total Bird</b>	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	3	4	3	1	8	3

### C.3 Fish bone and marine shell

*By Rebecca Nicholson*

- C.3.1 Three herring (*Clupea harengus*) vertebrae in good condition were extracted from the dried residue of sample 2 (214), in addition to a single distorted vertebral centrum facet, probably also herring. As a seafish, the herring must have been brought to Oxford, probably as a salted, smoked or pickled fish and the bones probably derive from kitchen or table waste.
- C.3.2 A single fairly large oyster (*O. edulis*) left valve (35g) in good condition and largely complete, but with a slightly metallic-looking grey interior, was collected by hand on site from deposit 108. It is likely that the shell derives from kitchen or table waste since oysters would have been transported inland from the coast. Oyster shells are fairly common finds in medieval and post-medieval rubbish deposits from sites in Oxford and their research value rests on adequate collection, ideally by sieving, in order to recover representative assemblages of sufficient size to allow statistical analysis.

#### ***Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material***

- C.3.3 The shell and fish bone have little potential to inform research through re-analysis and consequently need not be retained.



## APPENDIX D      BIBLIOGRAPHY

Behrensmeyer, A K, 1978 Taphonomic and ecologic information from bone weathering, *Paleobiology* **4** (2), 150-62

Broderick, L G, 2017 *Social taphonomy: agency, biography and chaîne opératoire of cattle bones in a Mediaeval European city*, University of York

Cappers, R T J, Bekker, R M, and Jans, J E A, 2006 *Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands*, Groningen Archaeological Studies 4, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde, The Netherlands  
[www.seedatlas.nl](http://www.seedatlas.nl)

Cohen, A, and Serjeantson, D, 1996 *A manual for the identification of bird bones from archaeological sites*, Archetype Publications Ltd, London

Cotter, J, 2006, Ceramic building materials, in Excavations at No. 4A Merton St., Merton College, Oxford: the evolution of a medieval stone house and tenement and an early college property (D Poore D, Score and A Dodd), *Oxoniensia* **71**, 292-305

Cotter, J, 2008, Ceramic building materials, in Excavations at the Classics Centre, 65-67 St Giles, Oxford (G Cockin and A Norton), *Oxoniensia* **73**, 187-9

English Heritage, 2011 *Environmental archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, 2nd edn, Centre for Archaeology guidelines

Jacomet, S, 2006 *Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites*, 2nd edn, Archaeobotany Lab, IPAS, Basel University

Mellor, M, 1994 Oxfordshire pottery: a synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region, *Oxoniensia* **59**, 17-217

MoLA, 2014 London medieval and post-medieval pottery codes, Museum of London Archaeology, <http://www.mola.org.uk/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes> (Accessed 11 Jan 2019)

OA, 2017 Osney Power Station, Oxford: archaeological desk-based assessment, unpublished client report, Oxford Archaeology

OA, 2019 The former Power Station, Osney, Oxford: written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation, unpublished client report, Oxford Archaeology

OA, 2017 *Sampling guidelines*, 4th edn, unpublished document, Oxford Archaeology

OCC, 2018 Brief for an archaeological field evaluation project: the old power station, 17 Russell Street, Oxford, Oxford City Council

Sharpe, J, 1985 Osney Abbey, Oxford: archaeological investigations, 1975-1983, *Oxoniensia* **50**, 95-130

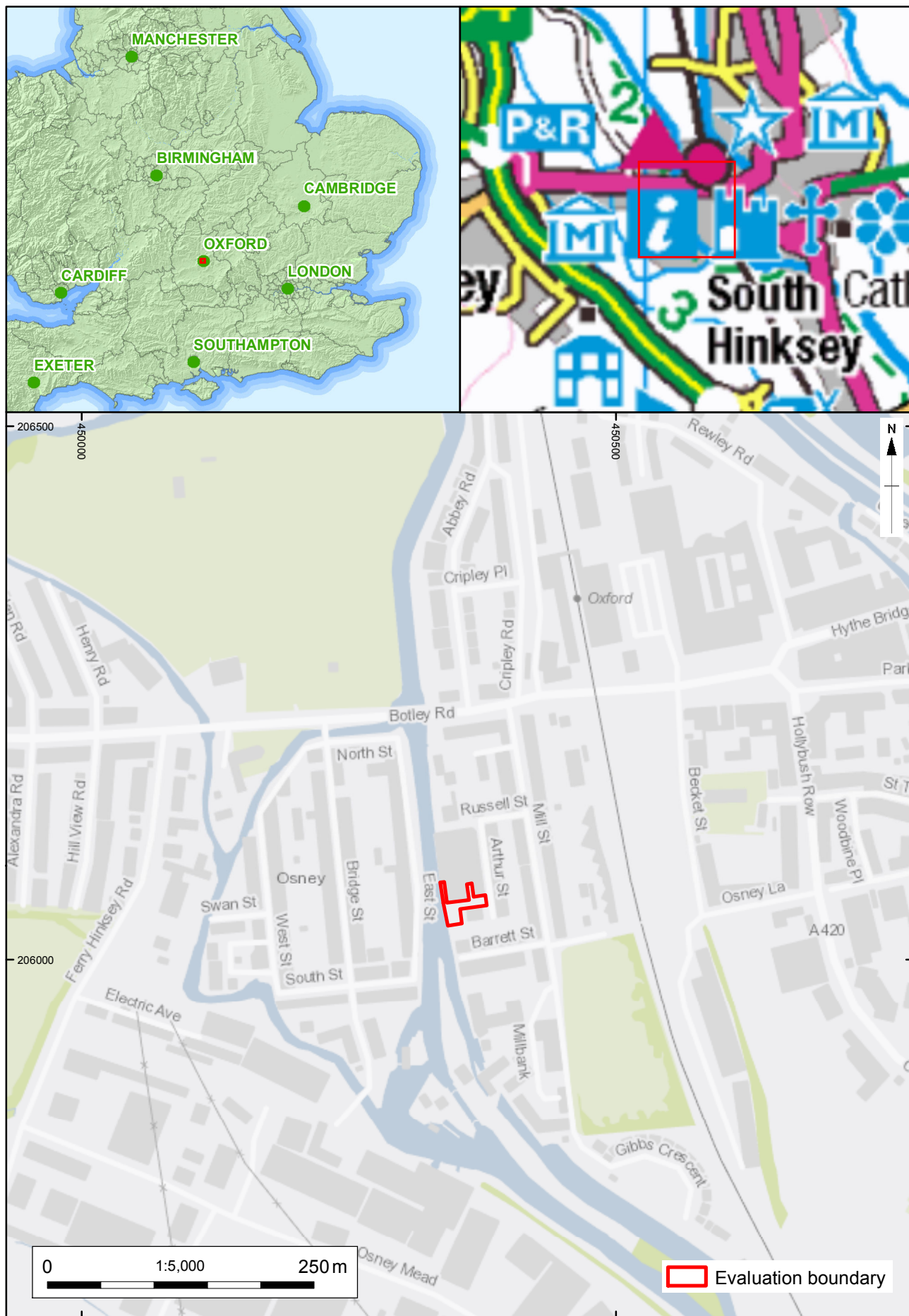
Serjeantson, D, 1996 Animal bone, in *Runnymede Bridge research excavations, volume 2: refuse and disposal at Area 16 East, Runnymede* (eds S Needham and T Spence), British Museum Press, London, 194-223

Sewell, L, 2010 *Osteochondrosis in sheep and cattle: differential diagnosis and estimating prevalence*, University of York

Stace, C, 2010 *New flora of the British Isles*, 3rd edn, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

## APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Osney Power Station, Osney, Oxford
<b>Site code:</b>	OXPOW19
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SP 50356 06054
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	March-April 2019
<b>Area of Site</b>	650m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxford County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2019.15.
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at the former Osney Power Station, Oxford in advance of redevelopment proposals. Four trenches revealed floodplain deposits overlaid by thick makeup deposits probably associated with Osney Abbey. Structural remains contemporary with abbey included a substantial robber trench, a shallow wall foundation and stone drain, together with evidence for gravel surfaces. After the destruction of the abbey in the mid-16th century a garden soil developed over the site. Slight evidence for surfaces relating to 19th century buildings predating the power station were also revealed. The site has been subject to extensive truncation by services associated with the power station and its later use as part of the University of Oxford.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016

Figure 1: Site location

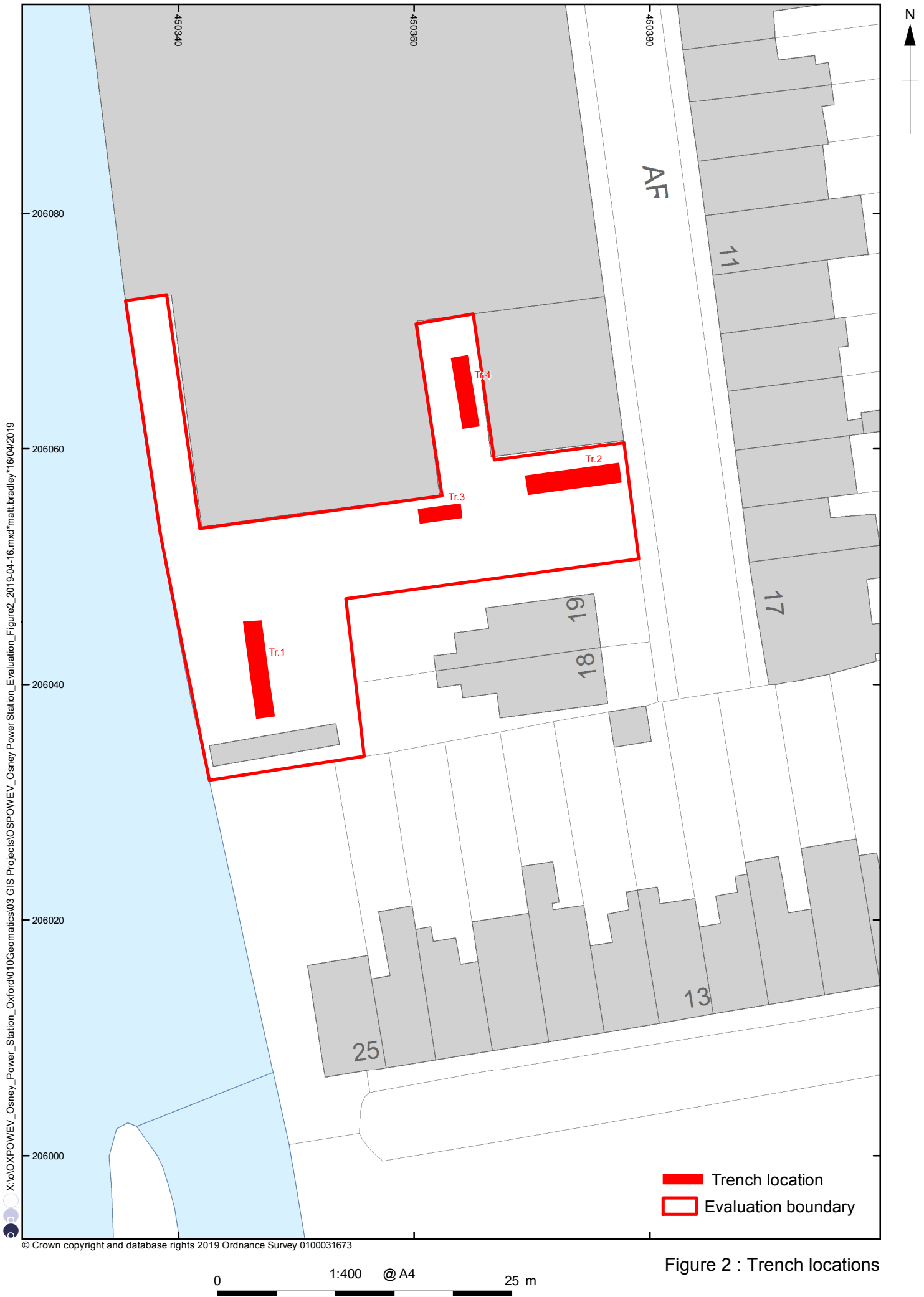


Figure 2 : Trench locations

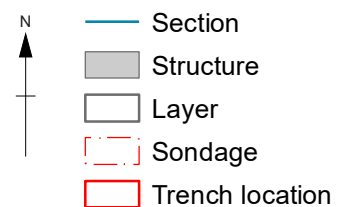
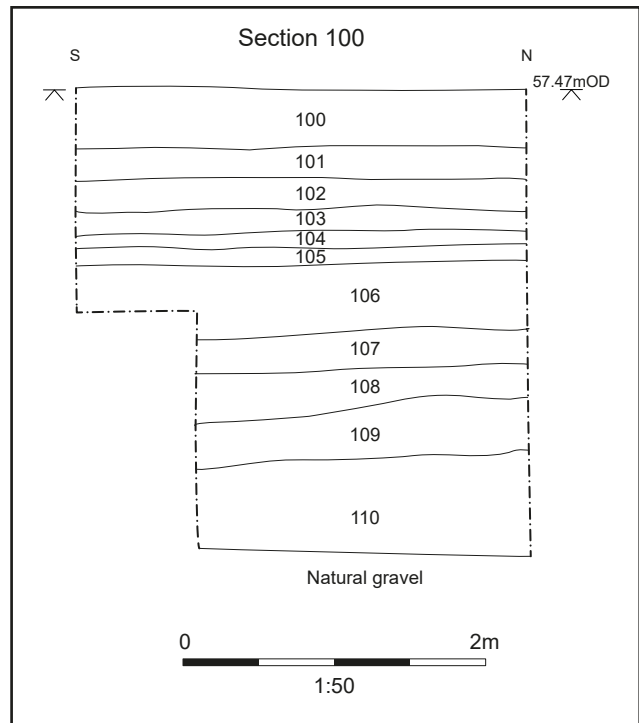
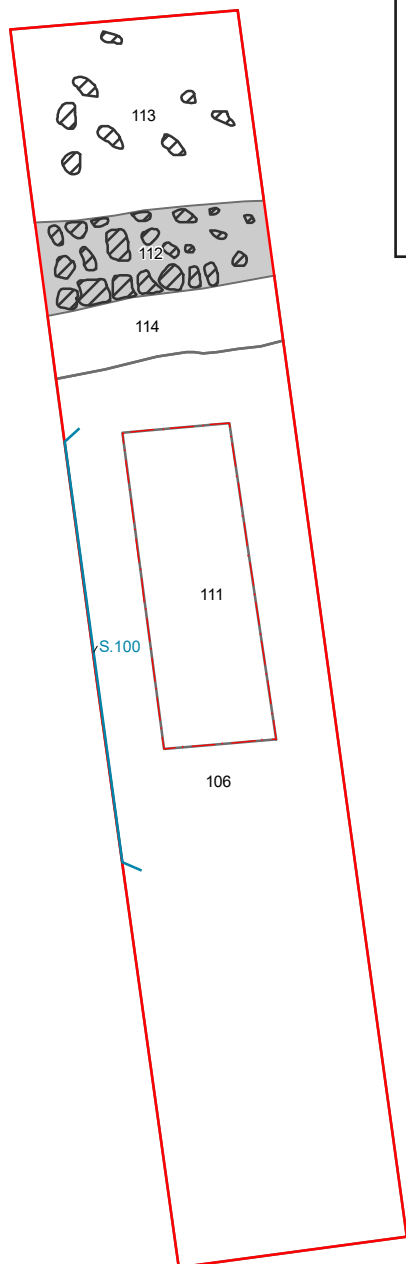


Figure 3 : Trench 1 plan and section

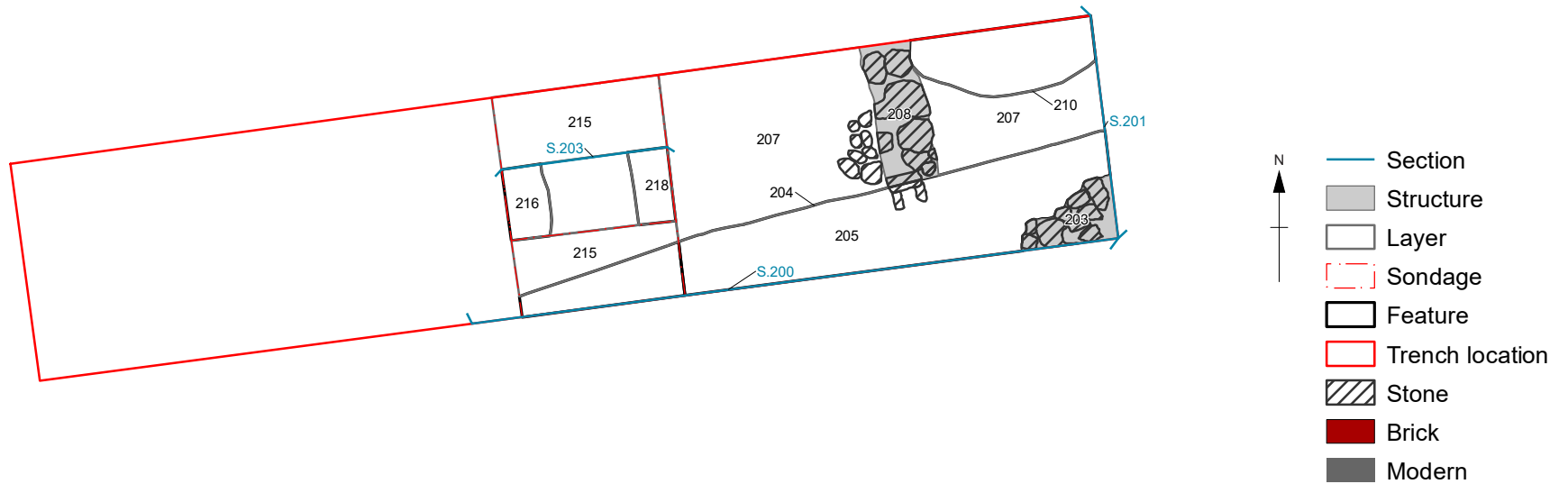
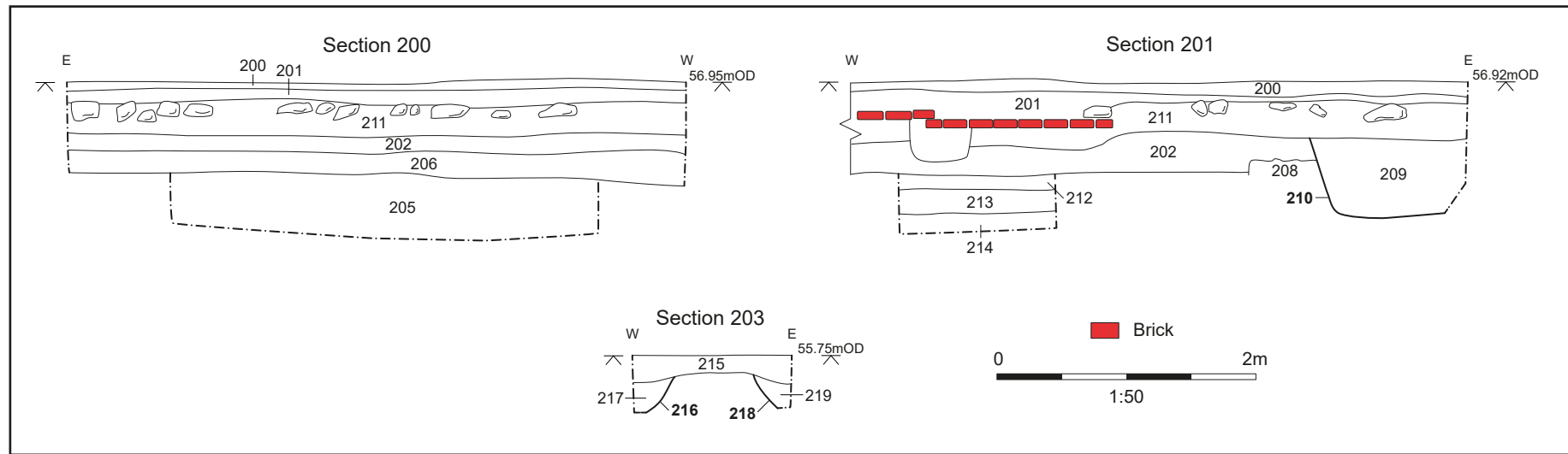


Figure 4 : Trench 2 plan and sections

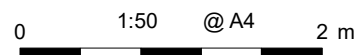
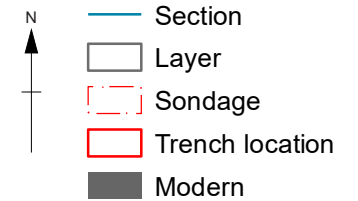
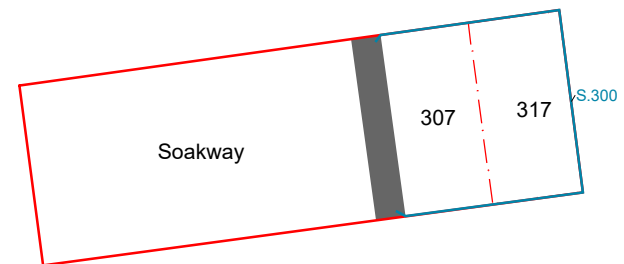
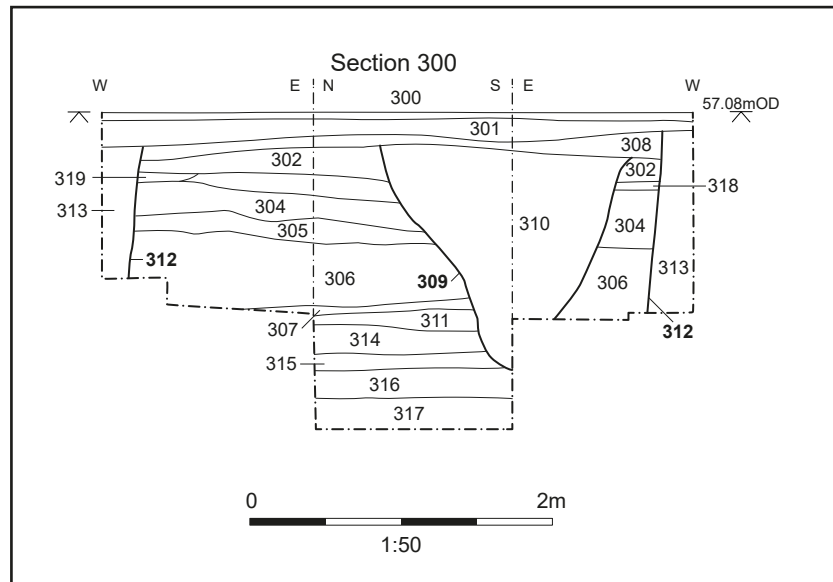


Figure 5 : Trench 3 plan and section



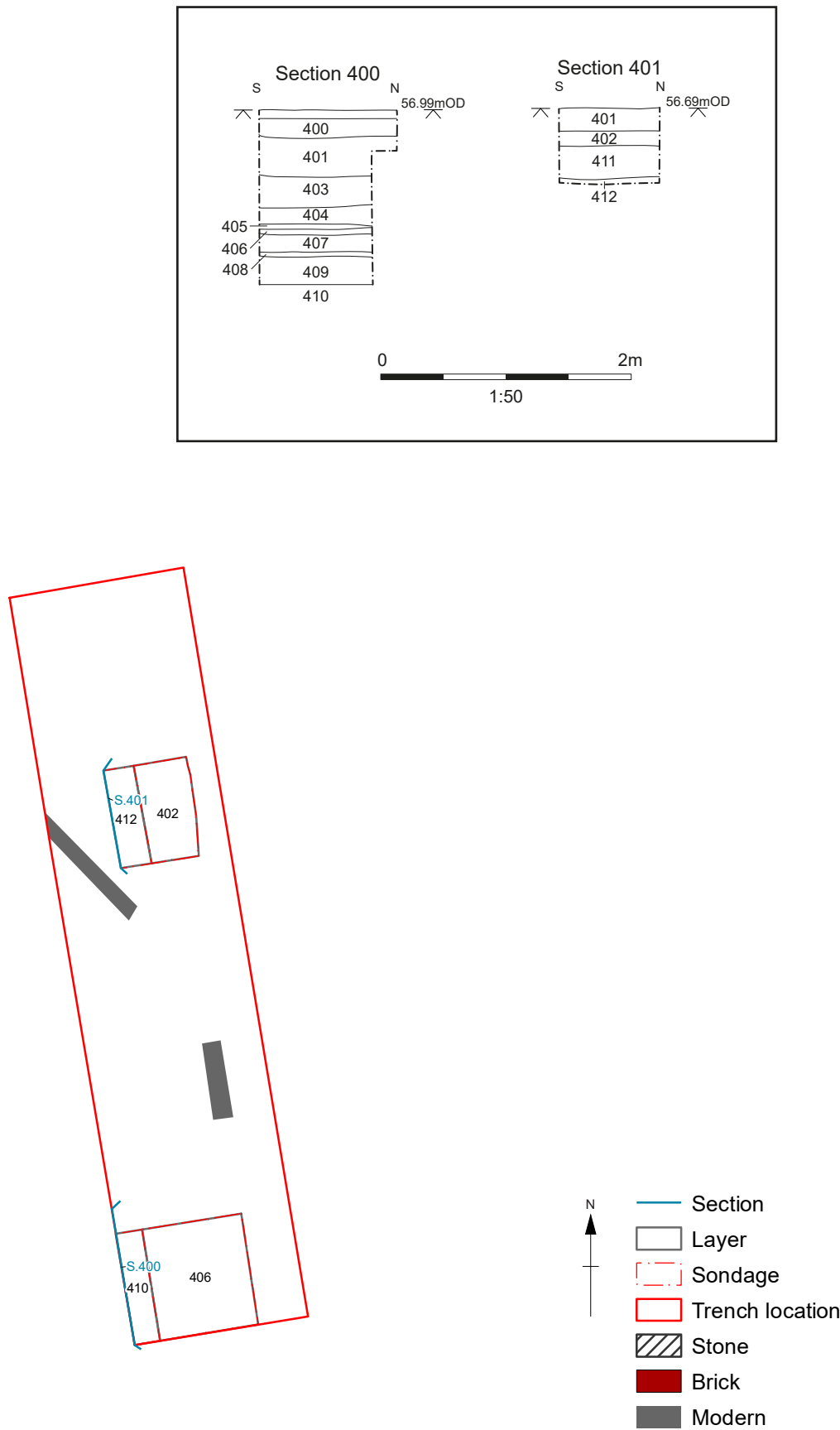


Figure 6 : Trench 4 plan and sections



Plate 1: Trench 1, wall 112, view to north-east



Plate 2: Trench 2, view to west





Plate 3: Trench 2, hand-excavated sondage, view to north



Plate 4: Trench 3, view to west



Plate 5: Trench 4, hand-excavated sondage showing surface 406, view to west







**Head Office/Registered Office/  
OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto:info@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500  
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCifA  
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*