

STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST NO 7

TRINITY COLLEGE (FORMERLY DURHAM COLLEGE)

Asset/Monument Type: Monastic College and later Academic College.

Summary: Originally founded in the late 13th century as a Benedictine monastic college (Durham College). Durham College was dissolved in 1540 and re-founded as Trinity College in 1555. The college is located partially over tenements belonging to medieval northern extra-mural suburb. Initially the college comprised a single quadrangle set within a large formal garden. By the 18th century, Trinity had constructed an additional quadrangle and improved the entrance from Broad Street.

Location (NGR): SP513780656

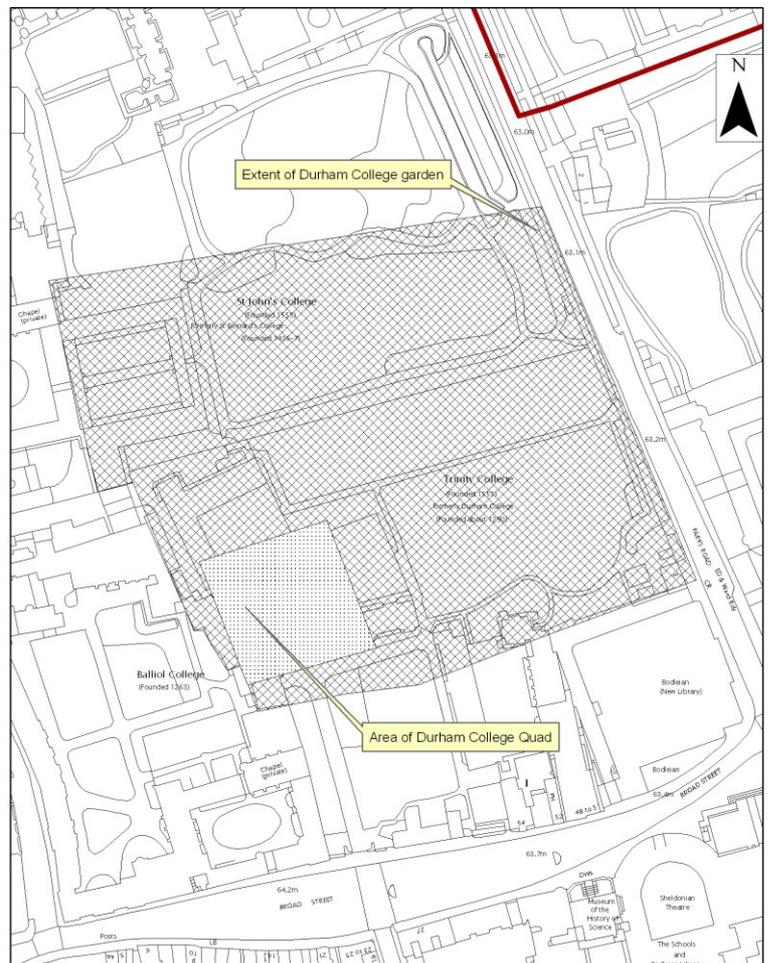
Definition: A college is an establishment housing a community of secular clergy sharing a degree of common life less strictly controlled than that within a monastic order. Colleges are normally identified through documentary evidence. Their buildings are usually associated with a parish church (not necessarily of formal collegiate status) although some extra-parochial and academic colleges had their own chapel. Other morphological elements present may include one or more cloisters or quadrangles, ranges of lodgings (either communal or more commonly as separate apartments), a common hall or refectory, service buildings (kitchen, buttery etc.), a master or warden's lodging, a guest house, gate houses and sometimes an associated school or bedehouse.

Key characteristics

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking) are based on the Secretary of State's criteria for assessing Scheduled Monuments. They should not be regarded as definitive, but as an indicative provisional assessment.

1) Period: Does the asset characterise a category or historic period?

Assessment: The college is characteristic of a period of monastic higher education in the 13th-16th century and Trinity college of secular collegiate education from 16th century to the



Extent of Durham College Garden and Quad in the late 13th century (Based on map produced by H E Salter).

Scale: 1:1,462

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present. Monastic and academic colleges are just two of many asset types which characterise the medieval and post-medieval period.

Score: Medium

2) Rarity: *What is the rarity of the asset in terms of regional and national context?*

Assessment: At a national level the University of Oxford is an institution only directly comparable to the slightly later University of Cambridge. Durham College is one of only two monastic colleges founded in Oxford during the 13th century (along with Gloucester College), three other non monastic colleges were also established in the 13th century (Balliol, Merton and University College). The land holding dating from this time is therefore of particular interest for understanding the development of the medieval college system. Trinity College is one of 18 Oxford Colleges established by the 16th century.

Score: High

3) Documentation: *To what extent is the significance of the asset enhanced by existing documentation or lack thereof?*

Assessment: The college maintains its own archives containing a wealth of information on the history and structure of the college and its possessions. Further work needs to be done on the scope for college archives to inform archaeological assessment. A number of modern small scale recording interventions have been made around the location of the central Durham Quad recording above and below-ground historic fabric. However no extensive modern excavations have been undertaken. The medieval tenement plots over which the modern college extends have been subject to small scale modern archaeological investigation only.

Score: Medium

4) Group Value: *is the value of the asset enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments or with monuments of different periods?*

Assessment: Durham College is one of only two 13th century Monastic Colleges, and one of a slightly larger group of later medieval monastic colleges. The 15th century library is one of a limited number of extant medieval collegiate structures within the city. Trinity College is one of a group of 18 academic colleges established by the 16th century.

Score: High

5) Survival/Condition: *What is the estimated level of above and below ground survival?*

Assessment: The college preserves important medieval and post-medieval fabric. The character, extent and survival of below ground remains is currently not well understood.

Score: High

6) Fragility/Vulnerability: *susceptibility to change*

Assessment: The asset is vulnerable to small scale works and permitted development.

Score: Medium

7) Diversity: *Does the asset possess a combination of high quality features?*

Assessment: The College comprises one classic quad, two irregular quads, a Kitchen, a Hall, a medieval Library, the Presidents Lodgings and the Gardens. Extensive 17th century fabric survives.

Score: High

8) Potential: *Is there a likelihood that currently unrecorded evidence can be anticipated?*

Assessment: The site has the potential to preserve important medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains relating to the development of the northern medieval suburb and the medieval and post-medieval college. The potential for survival of the late medieval formal gardens is uncertain.

Score: High

Overall score (21/24)

Overall Assessment of Archaeological Interest: High

HERITAGE ASSET DESCRIPTION

While no prehistoric evidence has yet been recorded from the College, it lies within an extensive Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age ritual and funerary landscape (see University Parks SAI). The college site lies outside the Saxon burh and medieval walled city in the northern suburb which expanded from the Norman period onward.

The College was originally founded as the Benedictine Durham College by Durham Cathedral priory and supported six to ten monks (VCH ii: 68). In 1286 they acquired land outside the North Gate, next to Balliol College, to provide permanent residence for their students (Foster 1990: 99). The monastic college was established by c.1290 and was subsequently re-founded in 1381 with a more secure endowment of churches with the intention to support eight fellows and eight undergraduates. The college eventually provided for a President, 12 fellows and eight scholars. It was dissolved by 1544 and the site sold in 1554 to Sir Thomas Pope who founded Trinity College there in 1555 (VCH iii: 245).

A quadrangle of buildings took shape at Durham College in the late 14th century with a quadrangle located well back from the frontage on Broad Street to the south. The south range appears to have been the earliest construction with a gatehouse built in 1397 and a chapel in 1406-9 followed by the west range with Hall. The north range largely comprised private chambers built between 1409-14 before the east range with a first floor library completing the quadrangle between 1417 and 1421. Of this, only the East Range survives in the present Durham Quad (LB Ref 5/139B). The South and West Ranges including the kitchen are largely 17th century in date although the RCHME survey does indicate the preservation of elements of earlier architecture in particular 14th century features in the hall (West Range). The Library contains some well preserved 15th century stained glass, some of it probably brought from the Chapel after the Reformation (Tyack 1998: 54).

To the north of Durham Quad is the Garden Quadrangle comprising two additional 17th century ranges to the north and west (LB Ref 5/139A) and a 20th century iron screen on the east (LB Ref 5/139P). The Front Quad is more recent, comprising the 19th century East Range (LB Ref 5/139E) and President's Lodgings to the north (LB Ref 5/139C). Although originally 17th century in date, the South Range of cottages fronting on to Broad Street were demolished and rebuilt in 1968 (LB Ref 5/139H). Kettel Hall (LB Ref 8/139G), built in around 1615 possibly on the site of an earlier hall, has long been associated with the college (Mee 1897-8: 42). An earlier hall, 'Aula Periculosa', is mentioned on the site from around 1272.

Archaeological investigations at Trinity College have been limited; several building surveys have been carried out identifying post-medieval wall paintings in Durham Quad (UAD 637; 899) while several 19th century records note medieval and post-medieval pottery being recovered from the site. A number of medieval rubbish pits were recorded during development at Front Quad in 1963 with pottery dating to the 12th-19th centuries, but no further evidence is available (Sturdy and Sutermeister 1965: 192). A single 14th century lamp was recorded during renovation work at Durham Quad in 1977 (UAD 466). A watching brief in Durham Quad in 1980 recorded a spread of mortar possibly associated with the cloister of the 16th century Durham Hall within the quadrangle along with a later stone vaulted soakaway (UAD 471).

Associated Architects:

Garden Quad. Wren. 1668

North Range, Durham Quad. William Townsend. Rebuilt 1728

East Range & Presidents Lodgings, Front Quad. Sir T Jackson. 1883-7

Library. J Osborne Smith. 1925-7

Images

Stained glass, Old Library. 15th century

Wall Paintings, East Range, Durham Quad. 16th century? (UAD 899)

Wall Paintings. Southeast Corner, Durham Quad. 16th century (UAD 637)

Academic statements

MPP Class Description

‘A sample of nationally important sites should include examples of early medieval establishments of secular priests (if a well-preserved site can be identified), a prebendal or portional college of the 12th or 13th century, later medieval chantry foundations of both high and low status in both urban and rural situations, and possibly several major academic colleges. This last type is of special importance in demonstrating the post-medieval continuity of a tradition restricted to a narrow social and economic context.’ (English Heritage 1989).

‘The changing social composition of the colleges brought about fundamental changes in architecture and layout in the 17th century these changes were first evident at Trinity’ (Tyack 1998: 131).

‘New rooms built over hall and library in 1602, the new top floors of 17th colleges were usually heated by wall fireplaces- a rarity in Oxford necessitating the provision of tall chimneystacks’ (Tyack 1997: 86).

‘The finest example of late 17th century church architecture in Oxford is the Chapel of Trinity College’ (Tyack 1998:135).

The interior of the chapel ‘a total work of art’ of a kind of which all Europe aspired in the Baroque (Tyack 1998: 136).

Sash windows ‘first documented examples’ located in front of monument to Sir Thomas Pope in Trinity College Chapel, built in 1691-4 (Tyack 1998: 129).

Research agenda

Pre College research agenda

- Potential noted for prehistoric evidence relating to the late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age barrow cemetery.
- What was the character and extent of activity in the pre-college tenements (including the Inns and Halls)? What can these remains tell us about the evolution and character of the northern suburb?

College Research Agenda:

- The desirability of an integrated Conservation management plan is noted.
- What can the study of the 13th century Monastic colleges (Durham, Gloucester) and later college foundations tell us about the evolution of the college system?
- How does the material culture, diet, status of the college vary through time and contrast with contemporary monastic and non monastic colleges?

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- The potential for geophysical survey in the garden to identify evidence for formal garden design is noted.

Associated Monuments

UAD Monument 122: Trinity College. University College
UAD Monument 265: 53 Broad Street
UAD Monument 610: Historic buildings, Broad Street (north side)
UAD Monument 679: Trinity College Gardens
UAD Monument 700: Broad Street. Medieval
UAD Monument 724: Parks Road. Post medieval
UAD Monument 760: Barrow Cemetery. Prehistoric
UAD Monument 784: Medieval settlement. Salter North 1
UAD Monument 817: Great Bodin Hall. Former academic hall
UAD Monument 818: Little Bodin Hall. Former academic hall
UAD Monument 821: Brackley Hall. Former academic hall
UAD Monument 962: Durham College. Monastic college

Associated Events

- *Observations in 1838 (UAD 1201)*: medieval jug was found.
- *Observations in 1883 (UAD 1185)*: Post medieval pottery, bottles and Dutch Counters also two bronze 'abbey' tokens and a brass plate from a sundial.
- *Drainage works in 1897 (UAD 1322)*: A late medieval jug was found.
- *RCHME 23. Trinity College (UAD 845)*: The walls are of local Oxfordshire stone with dressings of the same material and the roofs are covered with slates and lead.
- *Excavations, 1963 (UAD 206)*: Medieval and later rubbish pits were found.
- *Water damage in 1963 (UAD 899)*: The medieval roof timbers were exposed and proved to have been painted with scrolls on a white background. It is thought that the paintings were 16th century.
- *Watching Brief in 1974 (UAD 530)*: spread of 18th century rubbish recorded. Also remains of a disused stone soakaway, with rubble walls and a shallow vaulted roof.
- *Finds in 1977 (UAD 466)*: A Nuremburg jetton and a barbed and socketed arrow head, beneath the floor of the library. A 14th century lamp was found in trenching in the quad.
- *Watching Brief in 1979 (UAD 543)*: A stone arch, blocked with stone and brick, was found in the college boundary wall. Two slab-covered stone drains fed into the chamber. A NS culvert was also found. This was made of coarse rubble with well cut voissins. Only some of the vault remained. A post medieval date was assigned on the basis of a sherd of Chinese porcelain.
- *Excavations in 1979 (UAD 757)*: Un-stratified finds recorded including post medieval pottery, Bellarmine sherds, and parts of an early 17th century clay pipe.
- *Watching Brief in 1980 (UAD 471)*: A spread of mortar was found above the original topsoil. It may be connected with the cloister of Durham Hall which occupied the site until 1544. A stone vaulted soakaway was also found.
- *Building Survey in 1982 (UAD 342)*: Work was carried out in the basement of the 15th century east range of Durham Quad. Work suggested the staircase bays were original and not 17th century. In the L-shaped medieval cellar was a brick arched opening above and in front of a stone lined pit.

- *Building Survey in 1986. Durham Quad (UAD 637)*: The room had been divided by a transverse timber-framed and planked partition, which appears coeval with the library floor above. The room had been covered with white painted panelling in the 18th century. Painted decoration was found to have survived on the ceiling beams and the partition with enough traces on walls and windows to show that the whole room had been painted. The designs and the results of paint sampling suggest a 16th century date for the work.
- *Watching brief in 1993 (UAD 379)*: Work was carried out when the access to the Senior Common Room was altered. A blocked window was found.

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