

## STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST NO 11

### ALL SOULS COLLEGE

#### Asset/Monument Type: College

**Summary:** All Souls college was founded in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is distinctive in that it is the only medieval college where undergraduates are not admitted. The current extent of the college covers a significant area of former tenements on the High Street as well as several tenements on Catte Street.

**Location (NGR):** SP51650632

**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 bede-house.

**Version:** 12/2/2012

#### 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:** Academic colleges are a long-lived asset in use since the medieval period, they are often unique foundations.

**Score:** Medium

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



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**Assessment:** At a national level the University of Oxford is an institution only directly comparable to the slightly later University of Cambridge. All Souls is one of 18 Oxford Colleges established by the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Score:** High

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

**Assessment:** All Souls College archives are held in the Codrington Library and were catalogued in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. All Souls college is the only Oxford college to have full medieval accounts for its foundation period. There is also reasonable archaeological documentation.

**Score:** High

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

**Assessment:** The College is spatially associated with at least four former *Academic Halls* predating its foundation, it is located within the late Saxon eastern *settlement* extension of the burh and the area was a centre for the medieval book making trade

**Score:** High

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

**Assessment:** Although the Front Quad is largely medieval in origin, it has been significantly altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the North Quad was also built. There has been limited modern intrusion on the current built fabric of the college

**Score:**

6. **Fragility/Vulnerability:** *susceptibility to change*

**Assessment:** The college is vulnerable to small scale works, permitted development and pressure to enhance on site facilities.

**Score:** Medium

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

**Assessment:** All Souls College contains a Chapel, a Library (Codrington), Brewhouse, Two Quadrangles, a Hall and Wardens Lodgings. Several formal gardens were located to the rear and east of the Front Quadrangle in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century

**Score:** High

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

**Assessment:** The potential survival of the late medieval garden design to the rear of the Wardens Lodgings is high. Geophysical survey in this area may be useful. The evidence from previous archaeological investigations at All Souls have indicated a good potential for evidence from the late Saxon period onwards

**Score:** High

Overall score (21/24)

**Overall Assessment of Archaeological Interest: High**

## **HERITAGE ASSET DESCRIPTION**

Catte Street dates to the Late Saxon period, early street surfaces have been recorded in excavations in 1978 (UAD 538) and 1980 (UAD 333). Outside the original burh extent, Catte Street formed part of the eastern extension of the settlement in the Late Saxon period. By the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, traders dependent on the colleges were congregating in the eastern end of the town and the book trade was centred around the site of the later All Souls College

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(Pederson 1997: 153). On Catte Street, four bookbinders, four parchment makers, four limners, a copyist and a scrivener were recorded (Crossley 1979: 28). By the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, several academic halls occupied sites on Catte Street and the High Street until Henry Chichele acquired nine tenements on Catte Street and the High Street for the foundation of All Souls College, further tenements were acquired in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the east and north allowing the College to expand. Salter's map of Oxford records six halls, three inns and several domestic dwellings on the site of All Souls prior to its foundation.

All Souls College was founded in 1438 by Archbishop Chichele and Henry VI and was originally intended for a warden and forty fellows (Sherwood and Pevsner 1974: 91). Along with Magdalen College it was one of two 'large and magnificent' colleges established in 15<sup>th</sup> century Oxford (Tyack 1998: 57). It was founded as a chantry foundation with members required to pray for departed souls and located over the site of six former academic halls. The 15<sup>th</sup> century college consisted of a single quadrangle (now Front Quadrangle) with a Library on the first floor of the east range, a T shaped Chapel forming the north range, with a gate tower facing. The Hall was placed behind the Chapel, projecting northwards. A cloister beyond this was later replaced by a second quadrangle (North Quadrangle). The inner walls of the Front Quadrangle at All Souls have survived almost unaltered (ibid.: 59). In 1472 the College acquired land to the east of the Front Quadrangle where is built a private residence for the Warden.

The modern college buildings comprise two quadrangles; the earliest is the Front Quad including the college chapel built between 1438 and 1443 (LB Ref 9/350C). In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Brewhouse Range was added to the east of the Front Quad (LB Ref 9/350E). The later North Quad including the east and west ranges (LB Ref 9/350B), the Codrington Library (LB Ref 9/350A) and the Hall (LB Ref 9/350D) date primarily to the 18<sup>th</sup> century as does the present Warden's Lodgings on the High Street. More recent buildings include the 19<sup>th</sup> century Central Range on the High Street as well as a number of locally listed walls on the eastern side of the college.

The installation of a static water tank at All Souls College in 1941 produced a small assemblage of pottery including 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century domestic pottery with later 15<sup>th</sup> century wares and a stone statue from the start of the college period (Jope 1941: 90). Small-scale archaeological investigations at All Souls College in 1991 recorded evidence for pre-college tenements in the Front Quad including a 15<sup>th</sup> century pit overlain by a possible east-west aligned robber trench. The pottery assemblage from this trench included significant quantities of serving ware rather than domestic wares, possibly from the pre-College Charlton's Inn or a smaller shop or tenement from the backyard of the inn (UAD 352; Oxford Archaeological Unit 1993c: 9). Further trenches excavated in the North Quad recorded evidence of a medieval cloister predating the Quad. A robber trench for the south range of the medieval cloister was noted along with some medieval cobbling with stratified 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery (OAU 1993c: 10). Evidence for two further medieval buildings was recorded, including the substantial wall of the former medieval hall and the contemporary buttery, both demolished in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to make way for the North Quad (Lynes and Durham 1992: 50).

A geophysical survey carried out in the North Quad in 1991 identified the broad outline of the medieval cloister and hall. The interpretation of the geophysics results confirmed the general plan of the cloister and hall in relation to the chapel as shown in pictorial depictions, however also suggested a number of discrepancies with documentary sources, in particular the relationship between the south-east cloister and the north-west corner of the hall (Meats 1996: 366). Contemporary illustrations indicate a gap between the two structures whereas the results of the geophysics imply an overlap along the north end of the hall.

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Further investigations in 2001 at the Coddington Library recorded substantial evidence of activity from the Late Saxon period to the present. Extensive pitting was noted dating to the Saxo-Norman period followed by a decline in activity during the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Entwhistle and Gray Jones 2004). Pottery evidence including imported and high status wares indicate a more affluent domestic consumption during the late medieval and post-medieval life of the college (*ibid.*: 56).

All Souls College is the only Oxford college to have full medieval accounts for its foundation period (Oxford Archaeological Unit 1992: 3). The small amount of medieval pottery recovered from trial trenches at All Souls in 1991 is therefore of notable importance because it provides a sequence of pottery for Oxford that can be dated in relation to well documented building programmes for the College (Mellor in Oxford Archaeological Unit 1992). All Soul's is the only remaining medieval college to only take post graduate students.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> 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).

'One of the 'largest and most magnificent of the 15<sup>th</sup> century colleges' (Tyack 1998: 57).

'large and magnificent chapel' (Tyack 1998: 58).

The hammer beam roof of chapel chancel 'first of its kind in Oxford' (Tyack 1998: 59).

'the most striking and original example of early 18<sup>th</sup> century Gothic in Oxford is at All Souls' (Tyack 1998: 159).

The North quad and Coddington Library: 'At All Souls Hawksmoor gave Oxford one of its most romantic pieces of urban landscape' (Tyack 1998: 161).

The Coddington Library was 'first Library to be placed on the ground floor' (Tyack 1998: 161).

### **Research agenda**

#### Pre-College Research Agenda:

- Saxon cellar pits have previously been identified in the area, is there a potential for further evidence? Perhaps evidence of extramural settlement before the eastern extension was made?
- Evidence of medieval trade in the area? Book making was an important industry in the Catte Street area.
- Evidence of the former academic halls, were they completely demolished? Does anything survive in the built structure of the college? Is there evidence for their foundation below the ground or have been completely removed from the archaeological record?

#### The College Research Agenda:

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- Does the college already have a conservation management plan? If not this would be important for future planning and conservation requirements.
  - Formal gardens present in 16th century, does anything now survive?
  - Detailed building survey required as part of the conservation management plan, this could assess the level of preservation of the 15th century Front Quad.
  - Evidence of medieval building design – is there evidence of under floor heating in the college?
  - The history of the college – All Souls is one of the few colleges to have remained exclusively for post graduate study only.
  - Archival research – a catalogue of the archive was made in the 19th century, can this be updated? What is accessible to the public.
  - Assessment of the material culture from previous archaeological investigations.

### **Associated Monuments**

UAD Monument 105: All Souls College

UAD Monument 703: Catte Street. Late Saxon street

UAD Monument 791: Medieval settlement

UAD Monument 804: Late Saxon settlement, eastern extension

UAD Monument 859: Ing Hall (site of). Former academic hall

UAD Monument 889: St John's Entry (site of). Former academic hall

UAD Monument 899: St Thomas' Hall (site of). Former academic hall

UAD Monument 907: Tingewick's Inn (site of). Former academic hall

Charlton's Inn (not recorded on UAD but in Salter's map)

### **Associated Events**

- *Salvage recording, Cloister Quadrangle, 1941 (UAD 129)*: Quantity of pottery recorded during installation of a septic tanks including some Late Saxon pottery but primarily medieval wares.
- *Salvage recording, Brewhouse, 1955 (UAD 163)*: A 14<sup>th</sup> century baluster jug and another pot of a later date were recorded during restoration.
- *Building work, 1983 (UAD 343)*: Several fragments of medieval masonry were recovered including a stone cross head and several fragments of carved and painted stone thought to have been part of the reredos restored by Scott in 1872.
- *Excavations in 1991 (UAD 352)*: Evidence of a medieval building fronting onto Catte Street was recorded along with a midden and a 15<sup>th</sup> century pit. The medieval building comprised a robber trench from the medieval cloister and a wall. A later building, probably the buttery was also recorded. Among the finds was a lead crayon. Geophysical surveys were also carried out to show the lie of the buildings in Great Quad.
- *Building Survey, 1994 (UAD 511)*: Work was carried out to record medieval features in the front quadrangle. Apart from roofs, some flooring and individual items, little original material has survived.
- *Record of artefacts recorded during drainage works, 1896 (UAD 1256)*: Post medieval pottery, a bottle and two dog collars were recorded along with a pewter ladle and vessel of uncertain date.

- *Building Survey, Old Library and East Range, 1979 (UAD 1525)*: The roof had central purlins fitting into a collar beam, with an early occurrence of a diminished haunch joint. The chimneys were a later addition.
- *Excavations at the Codrington Library, 2001 (UAD 1647)*: Most of the features revealed consisted of pits, of which the majority had been used for the disposal of domestic waste. A number of cellar pits were also identified. The pottery finds from reliably stratified deposits indicate a long period of activity stretching from the late Saxon period through to the 18th and 19th centuries, with material from the latter periods relating to the library.

### Architects:

East, South and West Ranges, Front Quad, built 1440 by Richard Chevynton & Robert Jannys (stone masons)

Chapel, built 1442 by Richard Chevynton & Robert Jannys (stone masons)

Wardens Lodgings, built 1703 by Dr George Clarke

Hall, North Quad & Library, built 1730 by Nicholas Hawksmoor

### Images

Paintings in the college include Jeremy Taylor (fellow, 1635), Gilbert Sheldon (Warden, 1636), and Thomas Sydenham (fellow, 1645), all un-attributed; Charles I (1648) by Edward Bower; Edward Young (fellow, 1728) by Joseph Highmore; John, Viscount Tracy of Rathcoole (Warden, 1766), and Sir Charles Richard Vaughan (fellow, 1798), by Sir Thomas Lawrence.

Busts include Henry Chichele by Roubiliac; Nicholas Hawksmoor (anon) and statues of Christopher Codrington (fellow, 1690) by Sir Henry Cheere, and of Sir William Blackstone (fellow, 1744) by John Bacon.

Detailed maps of All Souls College by Warden Hovenden c.1585, part of the Hovenden Map Collection. The college is also illustrated on Agas' map (1578); Hollar (1643); Loggan (1675)

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