

STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST NO 12

BALLIOL COLLEGE

Asset/Monument Type: Academic College

Summary: Balliol College was founded in 1255 and is one of the earliest colleges in Oxford. The college site is located within an extensive Late Neolithic-Bronze Age ritual and funerary landscape and partially over tenements belonging to medieval northern extra-mural suburb. Balliol College is located on the corner of Broad Street and St Giles, in the 17th century it comprised a single quadrangle on Broad Street later expanding onto the St Giles' Street frontage.

Location (NGR): SP51320649

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 bed-house.

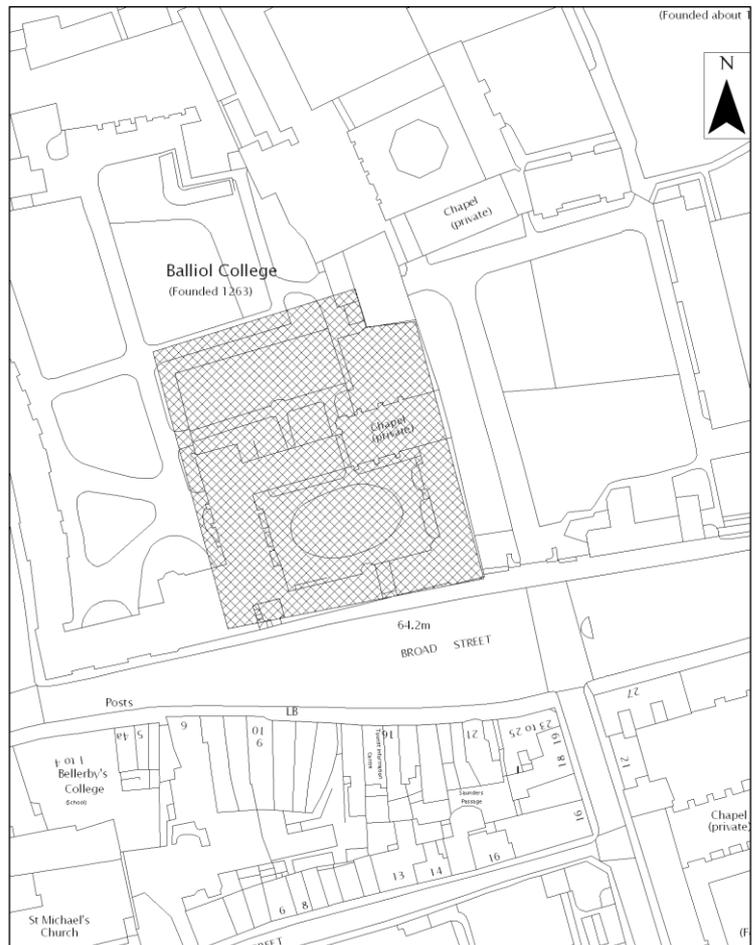
Key characteristics

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.

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

Assessment: The college represents a period of higher education from the 13th century to the present. Academic colleges are just one of many asset types which characterise the medieval and post-medieval period.

Score: Medium



Balliol College in 1313 From Catto, J.I. (ed) 2006, *The History of the University of Oxford* Volume 1, Map3.

Scale: 1:874

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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. Balliol is one of three 13th century college foundations in Oxford (excluding the monastic Durham and Gloucester Colleges). The land holding dating from this time is therefore of particular interest for understanding the development of the college system.

Score: High

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

Assessment: Balliol College archives are to be moved to St Cross Church in 2010. A catalogue of items is published online: <http://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/Archives/sumcat.asp>. The absence of detailed college records from the 13th century means we do not fully understand how the college holdings developed. It is notable that Balliol College has not been subject to significant modern archaeological investigation. The history of the college has been written by Jones (2005).

Score: Medium

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

Assessment: Balliol comprises three Quadrangles, a Library, a Chapel, two Halls, a Masters Lodgings and three gardens. The College is spatially associated with the medieval suburb of St Giles, two former Academic Halls and four former Inns predating its foundations. The college has group association with broadly contemporary 13th colleges and later college institutions through to the present.

Score: High

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

Assessment: Most of the buildings date to the 19th and 20th century and even the surviving 15th century buildings have been significantly altered. The level of truncation and disturbance across the site needs further assessment.

Score: Medium

Fragility/Vulnerability: *susceptibility to change*

Assessment: Balliol College is notable for the absence of recent planning applications relating to infrastructure improvement, excepting a small basement construction in 2001. It is unclear whether there have been any impacts through permitted development.

Score: Medium

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

Assessment: Balliol contains a range of collegiate structures, the majority of which date to the modern period, however they may retain some elements of the earlier buildings.

Score: Medium

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

Assessment: Only one archaeological investigation has been carried out at Balliol in the later 20th century. The character and survival of medieval and post medieval college deposits is not well understood. Given the early origins of the college the potential is high, however further work is required to establish the likely level of truncation and the character and extent of surviving remains. There may be a good potential for activity relating to the pre-college academic halls and inns.

Score: Medium

Overall score (18/24)

Overall Assessment of Archaeological Interest: Medium-High

HERITAGE ASSET DESCRIPTION

Balliol College is located just outside the Northgate in the suburb of St Giles (part of the Northgate Hundred). Several tenements were known to have existed in this location prior to the college's foundation including four inns, at least two academic halls. Balliol College was founded in 1255 as Balliol Hall by John of Balliol, Bernard Castle in County Durham, and was originally intended for 16 poor scholars. The college received its foundation charter in 1282 from his widow. There is limited documentation for the medieval life of the college (VCH iii: 82). A quadrangle was not built at the college until the 15th century. Elements of the 15th century Hall and Library survive, however the college was extensively remodelled in the 19th century.

Modern Balliol has two quadrangles; the Front Quad on Broad Street comprises the 15th century Old Hall (LB Ref 8/138J) and Library (LB Ref 8/138L) and the later 19th century Waterhouse (LB Ref 8/138N), Chapel (LB Ref 8/138M) and Salvin Tower (LB Ref 8/138K). The Garden Quad is much larger and does not conform to the historic college plan-form. The south range on Broad Street includes the 18th century Fisher Buildings (LB Ref 8/138G) and Master's Lodgings (LB Ref 8/138H) while the longer western range along St Giles includes the 18th century Bristol Buildings (LB Ref 8/138F), the 19th to 20th century Basevi Buildings (LB Ref 8/138E; 8/138D), the 19th century Salvin Building (LB Ref 8/138C) and the 20th century North West Angle (LB Ref 8/138A). On the north range only the 19th century Hall Range is listed (LB Ref 8/138B).

Archaeological investigation at Balliol has been limited and only one excavation has been carried out at the college in the 20th century. In 1962 limited excavations during electrical works in Staircase 14 recorded largely post medieval evidence (Case & Sturdy 1963: 90). Previously several 19th century investigations have recorded quantities of medieval pottery and glass while a 16th century wall painting was noted (Hurst 1887).

A watching brief in 2001 during an internal excavation to create new basement accommodation under the Master's Lodging of Balliol College revealed five early medieval pits with mainly mid-late 11th-century ceramics. Two sections of masonry were recorded, one possibly of the early life of the College, the other possibly a garden wall illustrated on Loggan's map of 1675 (Brant 2002).

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 1826-7 new rooms formed part of 'one of Oxford's largest and heterogeneous quadrangle' (Tyack 1998: 194).

'the most thorough Victorian expansion of an older college took place at Balliol' (Tyack 1998: 227).

'Anthony Salvin's northern extension of the Garden Quadrangle at Balliol (1854-6) is a good example of the genre [Tudor Gothic]' (Tyack 1998: 221).

Research agenda

Pre-College Research Agenda:

- Is there further evidence of pre 12th century extramural settlement on the college site?
- What was the character and extent of activity in the pre college tenements (including the Inns and Halls)? How were existing structures incorporated into the early college?

The College Research Agenda:

- The desirability of an integrated Conservation management plan is noted.
- Formal gardens were present in 16th century, does anything now survive of this scheme?
- Building survey of current structures may produce new evidence.
- What can the study of the 13th century post graduate colleges (Balliol College, Merton College, University College) 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 colleges?

Associated Monuments

UAD Monument 106: Balliol College

UAD Monument 305: Holywell Manor House. 16th century manor now an annex of Balliol

UAD Monument 489: Catherine Wheel Inn (site of). Medieval inn

UAD Monument 495: Dolphin Inn & Brewhouse (site of). 15th-17th century

UAD Monument 532: New Inn (site of). 14th century inn

UAD Monument 533: White Hart (site of). Medieval inn

UAD Monument 555: Forecourt (site of) former walled forecourt to college until 18th century

UAD Monument 609: Medieval tenements (site of)

UAD Monument 610: Medieval tenements (site of)

UAD Monument 785: Medieval settlement Salter North 2

UAD Monument 868: Mareys Hall (site of). Former academic hall

UAD Monument 905: Sparrow Hall. Medieval academic hall, now part of the College

Associated Events

- *Salvage recording, 1857 (UAD 1258):* Two medieval bottle vases recorded at Chapel site.
- *Salvage recording, 1874 (UAD 1153):* Finds included a bronze buckle and iron stirrup which are undated and two silver groats of Henry VII. Unglazed urn-shaped vessel was found which may be Roman or Saxon.
- *Salvage recording, 1875 (UAD 1175):* Medieval jugs were recovered on Broad Street.
- *Salvage recording, 1881 (UAD 1174):* During drainage works S of the entrance to Balliol College a 15th century bronze ring was found.
- *Observations at 1 St Giles c1890 (UAD 1367):* Hurst recorded parts of Baker Morrell's house, demolished 1960.
- *'White Hart', 1890s (UAD 1414):* Hurst records that the timbered building contained 16th century panel paintings, demolished 1966.
- *Salvage recording, 1906 (UAD 1249):* A medieval cooking pot recorded at Warren's staircase.
- *Finds in 1927 (UAD 1302):* An iron poignard was found in Garden Quadrangle.

- *Excavations in 1962-3 (UAD 193)*: Work was carried out for electrical installations north of the doorway to Staircase XIV. Pits containing 17th century pottery, clay pipes and glass were found. A flint scraper was recovered from the spoil heap.
- *Building Survey, 1998 (UAD 805)*: The survey concentrated on the stained glass, but no details are available.
- *Watching Brief 2001 (UAD1161)* Recording action was carried out on three phases of internal excavation to create new basement accommodation under the Master's Lodging of Balliol College. Five early medieval pits with mainly mid-late 11th-century ceramics were recorded. Two sections of masonry were recorded, one possibly of the early life of the College, the other possibly a garden wall illustrated on Loggan's map of 1675.

Related Architects:

Waterhouse A. Built Brackenbury Buildings & Masters Lodgings between 1867-77

Keene H. Built Fisher Buildings in 1767

Butterfield. Built Chapel in 1856.

Salvin. Built Salvins Tower in 1852

Warren. Built Warrens Buildings & Garden Quad between 1907-1914

Notable Images

16th century stained glass has been recorded in the Chapel and Old Library **CHECK THIS??**

Further work required on this section.

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