

## STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST NO 25

### PEMBROKE COLLEGE

**Asset/Monument Type:** Academic College

**Summary:** Pembroke College was founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and incorporates the site of the medieval Broadgates Hall and the later addition of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Wolsey's Almshouse. The 13<sup>th</sup> century city wall forms the southern boundary of the college. A new detached quadrangle kinked by a footbridge was built south of the wall in Brewer Street in 2011.

**Location (NGR):** SP51330596

**Definition:** The college is located against the south wall of the city defences and currently covers a large portion of the city block between Brewer Street and Pembroke Street. The original extent of the college was restricted to Broadgates Hall but has since expanded.

**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?

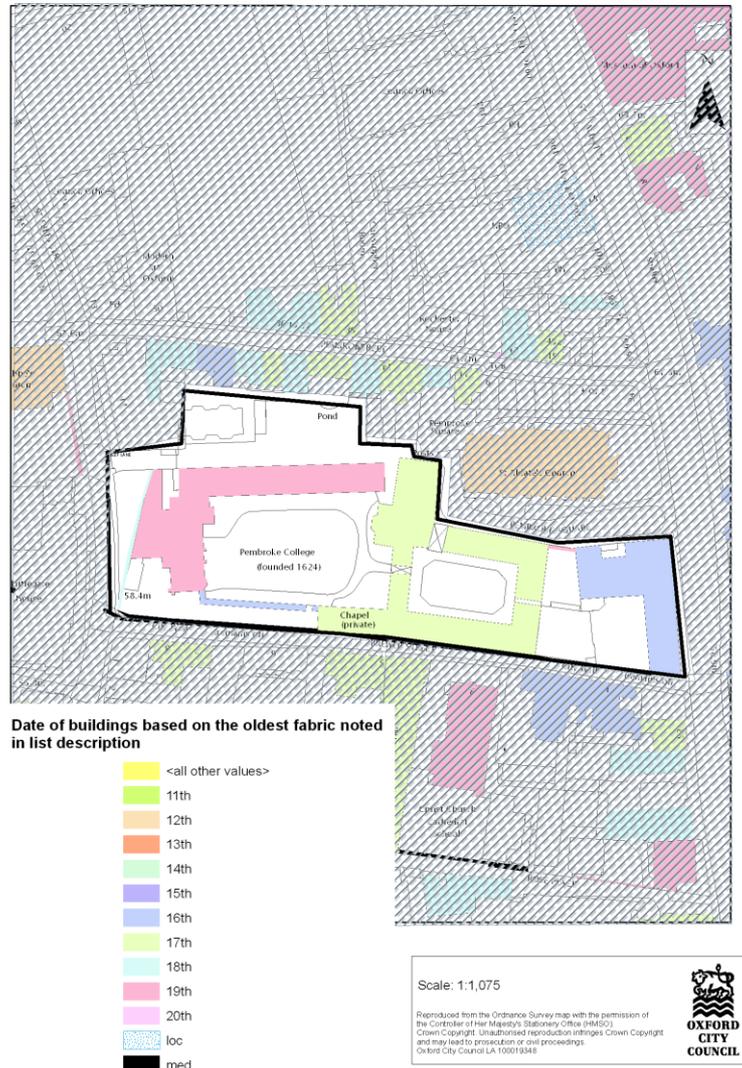
**Assessment:** The college is characteristic of a period higher education from 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Academic colleges are just one of many asset types which characterise the post-medieval period. Academic colleges are alone among the medieval types of college in containing examples of post-medieval foundation as well as post-medieval survival.

**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. At a county level, 26 colleges are recorded in the Oxfordshire HER. Pembroke is one of two Oxford Colleges founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (with Wadham).

**Score:** High



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

**Assessment:** The college holds extensive archives relating to its history buildings and administration. The archaeological documentation is limited.

**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 the Saxon and medieval intramural settlement, the Saxon and medieval defences, a 16<sup>th</sup> century almshouse and several former academic halls

**Score:** High

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

**Assessment:** The character and extent of below ground remains is not well understood. Substantial post-medieval fabric remains extant although significant re-fronting of 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings has taken place.

**Score:** Medium

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

**Assessment:** Vulnerable to small scale works, permitted development and pressure to improve on site facilities.

**Score:** Medium

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

**Assessment:** Pembroke College comprises two classical Quads and one irregular Quad, a Chapel, a Library and several Staircases. Some former formal gardens are recorded on Loggan's map of the college

**Score:** Medium

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

**Assessment:** Pembroke college has a good archaeological potential for Saxon and medieval features, it is located on the site of the southern defensive boundary. The college lies within the intramural settlement at Oxford and activity is known from the Late Saxon period at least

**Score:** High

Overall score (20/24)

**Overall Assessment of Archaeological Interest: High**

## **HERITAGE ASSET DESCRIPTION**

Pembroke is located within the Saxon burh settlement and the medieval intramural settlement adjacent to the line of the defensive network. The City Wall passes the campus on the south side on a east-west alignment and evidence for both the Saxon earthworks and the medieval City Wall has been recorded in the grounds. Agas' map of 1578 records the 16<sup>th</sup> century Christ Church Almshouses fronting onto St Aldates and comprising three ranges of a quadrangle. A few domestic houses are then recorded along Brewer Street and Beef Lane while Broadgates Hall was recorded at the corner of the Hamel along with an enclosed quadrangle. The two gates on the south side were located at either end of Brewer Street; on St Aldates Agas' drew the South Gate in the middle of the road while the Littlegate was recorded on St Ebbe's. Loggan's map of 1678 illustrates a much more intensively occupied area at Pembroke College. The College itself appears to be confined to the Main Quad with its

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access from the Hamel with the Almshouses to the east and domestic dwellings to the west fronting onto Beef Lane and Pembroke Street.

Pembroke College was founded in 1624 on the site of the medieval Broadgates Hall which had previously been in use as a graduate hall. It was officially founded by James I with generous grants from Thomas Tesdale and Richard Wightwick (Salter and Lobel 1954: 294). Originally poorly endowed the college originally supported ten fellows and ten scholars. It made use of existing buildings, together with a new set of chambers on the south side of what became the main quadrangle. The Chapel and Library were initially in the south aisle of the nearby St Aldates Church, later replaced with an 18<sup>th</sup> century chapel in Chapel Quad. The present front quadrangle (Old Quad) was not completed until 1670-99 (Tyack 1998: 106).

The modern college comprises of three quadrangles and also includes 16-26 Pembroke Street, a line of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century domestic houses now used as Staircases 12 to 17, and the line of the former Beef Lane. The earliest building is a former Almshouses begun by Cardinal Wolsey c1525 (LB Ref 12/583C), which was re-fronted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, becoming part of the college in 1888 and is now used as the Masters Lodgings. The 17<sup>th</sup> century Main Quad, re-fronted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (LB Ref 12/583B) includes the chapel and the old Broadgates Hall while the Chapel or Back Quad (LB Ref 12/583A) was completed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The North Quad is a 20<sup>th</sup> century addition following the closure of Beef Lane and the demolition of the private houses there. Since the 1960s the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century private houses fronting Pembroke Street have been converted into student accommodation and reversed so access is now only possible from the North Quad.

Post-medieval artefacts dating to the college phase of activity were recorded during a watching brief on work at the Bursary in 1970 (UAD 229). The assemblage included pottery, glass and clay pipes dating from 1670 to 1830. The pottery assemblage was dominated by tankards and plates while the glass mainly comprised 17<sup>th</sup> century bottles with several examples of phials (De Goris 1971: 99).

### **Architects:**

Gate Tower: 1673-4. Altered 1829-30 by Daniel Evans

Wolsey's Almshouses. Wolsey? 1525

Front Quad: 1626 re-fronted 1829

Chapel Quad. John Hayward. 1848

New Building, North Quad. Worthington & Sons. 1956

### **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).

### **Research agenda**

Pre college research agenda

- Potential for building survey of Wolsey's almshouse and the remains of Broadgates Hall. Can the 16th century building layout be established?

College research agenda

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- What can the evidence for material culture and diet tell us about social life at the college in the post-medieval period?
  - The desirability of an Integrated Conservation management plan that addresses the long term curation of below ground archaeological deposits is noted.

### Associated Monuments

UAD Monument 2: Saxon defences (site of). Probable line of former burh defences  
 UAD Monument 4: City Wall (site of). Former line of City Wall through Christ Church:  
 UAD Monument 118: Pembroke College. University College. 17<sup>th</sup> century  
 UAD Monument 220: 11 Beef Lane. 17<sup>th</sup> century  
 UAD Monument 599: Historic buildings, St Ebbe's Street. East Side  
 UAD Monument 602: Historic buildings, Beef Lane. North Side  
 UAD Monument 696: Beef Lane. 15<sup>th</sup> century  
 UAD Monument 699: Brewer Street. Medieval. Formerly Kings Street  
 UAD Monument 729: St Aldates. Saxon  
 UAD Monument 748: The Hamel, St Aldates. 15<sup>th</sup> century. Now Pembroke Square  
 UAD Monument 781: Medieval settlement Salter South West 2  
 UAD Monument 800: Late Saxon settlement, South West sector  
 UAD Monument 810: Athelstan Hall. Former academic hall  
 UAD Monument 813: Beef Hall. Former academic hall  
 UAD Monument 824: Broadgates Hall. Former academic hall  
 UAD Monument 837: Durham Hall. Former academic hall  
 UAD Monument 870: Minot Hall. Former academic hall  
 UAD Monument 880: St Alban Hall. Former academic hall

### Associated Events

- Excavations in 1820-7 (UAD 1274): Pottery was found in a group of pits
- *Christ Church almshouses, 1834 (UAD 1548)*: The almshouses on the west side of the street were built by Cardinal Wolsey in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The original almshouses had become very run down and were almost entirely rebuilt.
- Excavations in 1869 (UAD 733): When the cellars were dug the upper portion of a stoneware vessel known as a 'greybeard' was found
- *Observations in 1890s (UAD 1435)*: Hurst recorded a possible arbour window in an old wall c11 m W of the chapel.
- *Observations, Brewer Street in 1890 (UAD 1390)*: Hurst recorded an arch, possible for a drain, in the City Wall. It lay c25 m from the W end of the street.
- *Excavations in Longwall Street c1896 (UAD 1432)*: Hurst records that 6.5 m E of the entrance to Magdalen School playground a wall was found at 1 m depth. Blackish mud lay below to just over 2 m
- Finds, no date, (UAD 912): A Saxon bone pin beater was found in the Gowin Library
- Excavations Inner Quad, 1940s (UAD 135): Pottery and a bottle-stamp were found.
- Excavations, Beef Lane in 1960 (UAD 178): Two extended inhumations were observed, suggesting that St Aldate's churchyard had extended that far

- *Building Survey, 11 Beef Lane in 1961 (UAD 188)*: Originally two houses, it was a 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed construction with stone chimneybreasts and side walls. The building was divided and partially remodelled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Excavations in Chapel Quad, 1970s (UAD 923): Medieval pottery found
- *Watching Brief at the Bursary in 1970 (UAD 229)*: Small quantities of pottery, glass and clay pipe were found, all dating from c1670 to c1830. At that date major building work was carried out
- *Watching Brief in 1973 (UAD 324)*: Remains of a turf rampart were found which underlay the surviving stone wall
- *Watching Brief 14-15 St Ebbe's Street in 1975 (UAD 534)*: Only a number of pits were recorded. A pipe trench in Beef Lane to the south revealed a sequence of early road surfaces, c2 m from the gate of Pembroke College.
- *Excavations, Broadgates Hall in 1976 (UAD 464)*: 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found in pits below subsiding floors. The floors may have belonged to a 13<sup>th</sup> century forerunner of the existing medieval hall
- *Building Survey Master's Lodging, 1985 (UAD 1549)*: The Building originated as Christ Church almshouses but was radically rebuilt in 1834 and further altered after it was acquired by Pembroke College in 1888. The timber roof is believed to have come from Osney Abbey. The section inspected was aligned NS and had 2 and a half bays. In the centres of each bay were cruck rafters and the bays were terminated by a truss.
- *Watching Brief in 2000 (UAD 435)*: Occupation layers from the early medieval were seen in one trench. Above these was a stone structure, with a possible hearth. The top layers consisted of post medieval debris. Other trenches contained similar post medieval material. Some disarticulated human bone was found, possibly residual from disturbances of St Aldate's Church

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