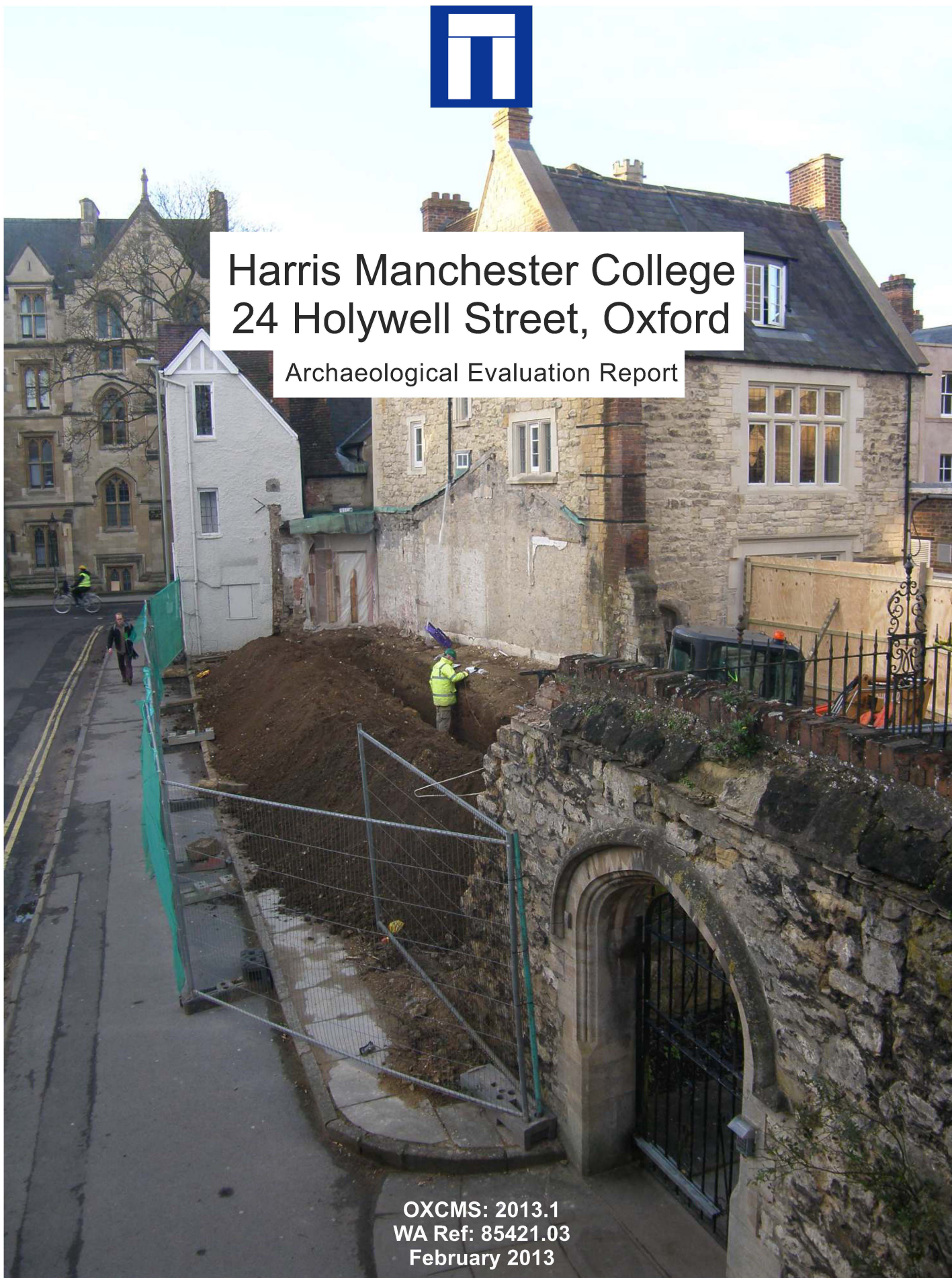




Harris Manchester College 24 Holywell Street, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report



OXCMS: 2013.1
WA Ref: 85421.03
February 2013



**Harris Manchester College
24, Holywell Street
Oxford**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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February 2013

**Museum Accession Code: OXCMS: 2013.1
WA Report Ref: 85421.03**



Quality Assurance

Project Code	85421	Accession Code	OXCMS: 2013.1	Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	12/01729/FUL	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	451738 206550		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	S.Thompson	DDR		26/02/2013
File:	\\Projectserver\WESSEX\PROJECTS\85421\EVALUATION POST EX				
	E	DDR	REG		27/02/2013
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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**Harris Manchester College
24, Holywell Street
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Harris Manchester College 24, Holywell Street Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was by commissioned by Harris Manchester College to carryout an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Harris Manchester College, 24 Holywell Street, Oxford, OX1 3TD centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 451738 206550.

Planning consent (ref. 12/01729/FUL) was granted, subject to certain conditions, by Oxfordshire City Council (OCC) for the demolition of the rear section of 24, Holywell Street, the erection of three-storey student accommodation and clock tower, and alterations to the existing boundary wall (involving demolition) and formation of a new gated entrance.

This Site is of interest as it involves development within Oxford's medieval northern suburb and the demolition of part of a Grade II listed stone built tenement boundary wall and the demolition of a Victorian building that forms part of the curtilage of a Grade II listed 17th century building.

The evaluation followed on from a programme of Level 3 Standard Building Recording of the rear section of 24 Holywell Street and the Grade II listed boundary wall and comprised four trenches of varying sizes targeted upon the footprint of the proposed new development and the course of the now demolished boundary wall.

The remains of a probable medieval oven or kiln was revealed and a number of gravel extraction borrow pits or quarries, some of which are probably medieval in date, with others being post-medieval in date or at least open into the post-medieval period.

There followed a period of large-scale landscaping most likely in the 18th century, which saw the raising of the old land surface by some 1m. The Grade II listed boundary wall was seen to be constructed upon these landscaping deposits indicating at least some part of it was post 18th century in date. Cutting the landscaping deposits was a narrow stone built and brick vaulted cellar of probable 18th century date. This structure predated the recently demolished building and was associated with long thin buildings shown on the 18th and 19th century historical mapping. The cellar was subsequently in filled during the 19th century most likely at a time when the recently demolished building was constructed.

The evaluation took place on the 4th-6th February 2013.



**Harris Manchester College
24, Holywell Street
Oxford**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Richard Nares and Colin Simmons of Yiangou Architects for commissioning the work on behalf of Harris Manchester College. The help and assistance of Annette Duffell (Bursar) and the staff of Harris Manchester College is also gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also extended to David Radford of the Oxford City Council Heritage and Specialist Services Team who monitored the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The assistance of Geoff Leitch of Knowles and Son Ltd in facilitating the work is also gratefully acknowledged.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Thompson and Dave Murdie.

This report was written by Steve Thompson and edited by Damian De Rosa. The finds analysis was undertaken and written by Sue Nelson and reviewed by Lorraine Mepham. The report illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer.

Thanks also to Bob Davis (Buildings Archaeologist Wessex Archaeology) for comments on the cellar structure.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa.



Harris Manchester College 24, Holywell Street Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was by commissioned by Harris Manchester College (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Harris Manchester College, 24 Holywell Street, Oxford, OX1 3TD (hereafter 'the Site') centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 451738 206550 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This Site is of interest as it involves development within Oxford's medieval northern suburb and the demolition of part of a Grade II listed stone built tenement boundary wall and the demolition of a Victorian building that forms part of the curtilage of a Grade II listed 17th century building.

1.1.3 Prior to the granting of planning permission a desk-based assessment (WA 2012a) and a heritage statement (Archaeological History Practise 2012) detailing the archaeological and historical background of the Site were prepared in order to inform the planning application in regard of the Site's archaeological potential.

1.1.4 Planning consent (ref. 12/01729/FUL) was granted, subject to certain conditions, by Oxfordshire City Council (OCC) for the demolition of the rear section of 24, Holywell Street, the erection of three-storey student accommodation and clock tower, and alterations to the existing boundary wall (involving demolition) and formation of a new gated entrance.

1.1.5 Condition 10 stated that:

- *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of historic building recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority.*
- *Reason: Because the development may have a damaging effect on the known or suspected elements of the historic environment of the people of Oxford and their visitors, in accordance with policies HE2 and HE4 of the Adopted Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016.*

1.1.6 Condition 11 stated that:

No development shall take place until the developer has:

- *carried out a post-demolition (to ground level only) archaeological evaluation of the site in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has approved in writing by the planning authority and;*

- *secured the implementation of a scheme of mitigation of any significant archaeological impact, which may be achieved by redesign, or by archaeological recording action in accordance with a supplementary written scheme of investigation, to be approved in writing by the planning authority.*
- *Reason: Because the development may have a damaging effect on the known or suspected elements of the historic environment of the people of Oxford and their visitors, in accordance with policies HE2 and HE4 of the Adopted Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016.*

- 1.1.7 In accordance with an archaeological brief issued by David Radford of Oxford City Council Heritage and Specialist Services Team (OCCHSST), a written scheme of investigation (WA 2012b) detailing the methods by which Wessex Archaeology would undertake a programme of Historic Building Recording, archaeological watching brief and trial trench evaluation was submitted to and approved by the Oxford City Council Archaeologist prior to the commencement of the work.
- 1.1.8 The historical building recording (WA 2013) was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology to a Level 3 Standard on the 9th January 2013.
- 1.1.9 This document presents the result of the archaeological trial trench evaluation which followed the demolition of the recorded building. The evaluation took place on the 4th – 6th February 2013.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The Site is located in the city of Oxford, occupying a fairly central location just north of the historic core of the city, on the corner of Holywell Street and Mansfield Road (**Figure 1**), and just north of the medieval walled city.
- 2.1.2 The Site itself at the time of the evaluation was a vacant plot following the demolition of a two-storey building located within the College, on the south side of Arlosh Quad. The building was previously used as College accommodation.
- 2.1.3 The southern Site boundary is formed by the back of 24, Holywell Street, currently occupied on the ground floor by 'The Alternative Tuck Shop', with College accommodation above. The on-Site building abuts 25, Holywell Street to the west, which contains further College accommodation, and which has recently been redeveloped. The eastern Site boundary was formed by the recently demolished east wall of the building, and by the recently demolished Grade II Listed wall, with the north-south aligned Mansfield Road lying immediately beyond. Directly north of the Site is a small grass and paved courtyard, fronted to the north by a Grade II Listed wall and screen. Beyond this lies the central area of Arlosh Quad, with the College Chapel on the northern side and College buildings on the west.
- 2.1.4 The land within the Site is flat and lies at an elevation of approximately 60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The geology of the Site is mapped as River Gravels, or more specifically as Summertown-Radley gravels, relating to the Second Terrace of the River Thames (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 236).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 An archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) (Wessex archaeology 2012a) and a Heritage statement (Archaeological History Practise 2012) were submitted for the site. These documents researched available archive material and identified the College's history and, in particular, the buildings historic development. The subsequent Level 3 Historical Building Recording (Wessex Archaeology 2013) was able to enhance the documentary and cartographic evidence which exists.
- 3.1.2 The combined archaeological and historical development taken from these reports is provided below.

3.2 Palaeolithic

- 3.2.1 The Site is situated on the Summertown-Radley gravel terrace of the Thames, and these deposits have yielded Palaeolithic artefacts from a number of locations across the Oxford area. To the north, the Oxford Wolvercote gravel deposits have yielded numerous Acheulian handaxes that pre-date the Summertown-Radley gravels.
- 3.2.2 There are no records of similar Palaeolithic finds from the vicinity of the Site.

3.3 Prehistoric

- 3.3.1 Archaeological evidence for later prehistoric activity in the area is limited, probably due in large part to the removal of earlier archaeological features through the construction of the Late Saxon and medieval town.
- 3.3.2 There is some evidence from the earlier prehistoric period to indicate settlement on the floodplain of the Thames, which is thought to have been somewhat drier prior to the Late Bronze Age (Dodd 2003). Excavations in 1998-9 identified a probable Neolithic pit, filled with 13 flint artefacts, located 280m to the north of the Site (Booth and Hayden 2000). A broken Neolithic polished greenstone axe and a bone needle were found during drainage works in the High Street outside St. Mary's Church.
- 3.3.3 There is a growing body of evidence from the wider Oxford area for the Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation of the floodplain and valley. Oxford is situated to the north of the confluence of the Thames and Cherwell Rivers. Situated on the terrace gravels, which would be well drained and therefore good for settlement. The Oxford area would be well placed to exploit the alluvial floodplains for agriculture and exploit other water resources.
- 3.3.4 There is also evidence in the form of cropmarks for an area of ritual or funerary activity including a number of barrows at University Parks, from c. 500m north-east of the Site (Dodd 2003). A small number of additional barrows have been excavated within the city, including two in Beaumont Street 640m west of the Site and one on St Michael's Street 600m west of Site (Dodd 2003).

3.4 Late Iron Age and Romano-British

- 3.4.1 Evidence for Iron Age settlement has been identified at University Parks, with enclosures recently excavated indicating continued use of the area until the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period. (Wessex Archaeology 2011a, Thompson and Powell forthcoming) During the Late Iron Age the Oxford area appears to have been situated in a tribal boundary zone between the Dobunni, the Catuvellauni and the Atrebatas tribes. A number

of defended sites have been identified in the area dating to this period, although none in Oxford itself. Romano-British settlement tended to reflect Late Iron Age patterns and the Oxford area appears to have remained peripheral during this period (Dodd, 2003).

- 3.4.2 Part of a Romano-British settlement was excavated at Mansfield College, c. 250m north-west of the Site. The settlement was of a rural character and showed clear evidence for two phases of occupation, comprising parts of several enclosures, a timber structure and domestic waste deposits (Booth and Hayden 2000).
- 3.4.3 A late Roman coin of Theodosius was recovered from New College, c. 70m south of the Site, whilst a small quantity of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill of a probable Saxon feature, identified in the south of the Study Area below the medieval city walls. This is indicative of at least a background level of activity in the area during this period.
- 3.4.4 There is also some evidence that a north-south aligned Roman road may have followed the line of the present Banbury Road, perhaps continuing along the line of Catte Street and Oriel Street, thus potentially passing within approximately 170m of the Site to the west.
- 3.4.5 During the Romano-British period Oxford was the site of a major pottery industry, centred at Headington, which began in the 1st century AD and continued into the early 5th century (Dodd 2003).

3.5 Saxon and Medieval

- 3.5.1 No early Saxon occupation is recorded within the area defined by the medieval walled town, however there is some evidence around the areas of known Romano-British activity, such as at the University Parks area. Early Saxon inhumation cemeteries are recorded at the Radcliffe Infirmary and on Kingston Road, some distance north of the Site (Dodd 2003). There is no specific evidence to suggest early or middle Saxon activity within the immediate vicinity of the Site. A Saxon minster is believed to have been founded in the south of the city in the 7th or 8th century.
- 3.5.2 Oxford is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for the year AD911-912, the first time the town is mentioned in documentary sources. It is also recorded in the Burghal Hidage (c. AD914-919), during the reign of Edward the Elder. The burh defences appear to have been constructed in two phases before the Norman Conquest (AD1066). There is plentiful evidence for the Late Saxon town within the confines of the walls and the main elements of the street system, including the High Street, appear to have also been laid out during the primary and secondary phases of the burh construction (Dodd, 2003).
- 3.5.3 There is some evidence, primarily in the form of street names, topography, and the layout of the eastern part of the defences, that the primary Saxon burh only extended as far east as approximately Catte Street, with the eastern city defences running north-south parallel to Catte Street and through Oriel College. The medieval extent of the walls, which continues some way to the east of this point, was thus assumed to be a later extension. However there is little archaeological evidence for this 'eastern expansion'. Excavations on the projected line of the primary burh defences, within the grounds of Oriel College, have failed to identify conclusive evidence of such north to south aligned defences (Wessex Archaeology 2011b), and excavations of the early ramparts and street surfaces across the city indicate that there are few or no demonstrable differences between the northern (which would in theory be of earlier date) and the eastern defences (Dodd 2003). The situation remains inconclusive, however, if the primary Saxon defended town did

extend as far as Longwall Street to the east, then the Site would have been situated just beyond the northern limit of the burh during the Late Saxon period.

- 3.5.4 Evidence for Late Saxon occupation in the eastern area of the walled city has been identified at Logic Lane to the south of the Site. Excavations at Queen's College revealed a 10th century gravel surface and a pit filled with metalworking slag (Dodd 2003). The Manor of Holywell was centred on the junction of what is now Manor Road and St. Cross Road, approximately 300m north-east of the Site.
- 3.5.5 Evidence suggests that there was little substantial suburban expansion until the 12th century, as up to this point there was still much open space within the city walls, following the restructuring and partial abandonment of parts of the city post-Conquest (Dodd 2003). Excavations in 1937 of houses north of the city walls, c. 200m west of the Site, suggests that although there was some sparse evidence for earlier 12th century activity, intensive settlement was not established here until the late 12th century onwards.
- 3.5.6 The Cartulary of the Monastery of St. Frideswide, of probable 13th century date, records that the area north-east of the city walls was within the parish of Holy Cross (later Holywell). The area was formerly owned by St. Frideswide, but was obtained by the Augustinian or Austin Friars in the late 13th century (Page 1907). The Cartulary records a priory on the corner of Catte Street and Holywell Street (Wigram 1895), and the site of the priory is recorded on historic OS mapping, c.120m west of Site. Aga's map of 1578 also names land to the east of Catte Street, on the site of Wadham College, as belonging to the 'Augustine Friars'. By the 13th Century, Holywell Street area was owned by Merton College (Oxford Archaeology 2011).
- 3.5.7 The later medieval history of the Holywell area immediately north of the walls is less well documented, although it may have been during this period that the single row of houses fronting onto Holywell Street was established. A number of finds were recovered from the grounds of Harris Manchester College during its construction in the late 19th century, including a 12th century ceramic lamp, a spur, a brass token, a thimble, a key and tiles. Whilst most of these are undated, some are likely to be of medieval date, and therefore may be indicative of domestic waste associated with burgage plots fronting onto Holywell.

3.6 Post-medieval

- 3.6.1 The burgage plots and properties which front onto Holywell appear to have been established by the 16th century. The earliest depiction of the Site, Aga's map of 1578 illustrates that by this stage there was already a single row of properties fronting onto Holywell, although some gaps in the street frontage remain at the eastern and western ends. The Site cannot be located exactly on this early map, but the map depicts no gaps in the street frontage in the vicinity of the Site, which indicates that there was a house fronting onto Holywell in the vicinity of number 24 in the 16th century. There is no evidence however that this or associated buildings extended north into the footprint of the Site itself at this stage.
- 3.6.2 Aga's map depicts only a single row of houses fronting onto Holywell, with open arable land to the north. By the 18th century this back plot/garden area seems to have been occupied by more formally organised gardens or orchards, a change that seems to be echoed across much of the city. The area was not entirely developed as housing until the later 19th century. Excavations at Jowlett Walk, c. 75m north-east of Site, identified buried plough soils which indicate that this part of the Study Area was under arable cultivation until the later post-medieval period as illustrated in the historic mapping. As such, the back

garden plots of properties fronting onto Holywell are likely to have represented the northern limit of settlement until the 17th or 18th century.

- 3.6.3 The Site itself can be (somewhat tentatively) identified on Loggan's map of 1675, and is shown as containing a house fronting onto the street, with an additional, north-south aligned building extending north into the Site itself. The accuracy of the map is however uncertain. A late 18th century map shows that Park Court has been constructed to the east of the Site, and a north-south aligned building is again depicted within/in the vicinity of the Site, behind Holywell Street. The detail of the 1797 map is not however sufficient to tell if this building is the same as the structure which currently occupies the Site, which is demonstrably present on the 1876 OS map fronting onto an open space recorded as 'Braziers Yard'.
- 3.6.4 There is a considerable amount of archaeological evidence relating to the earlier post-medieval settlement on the north side of Holywell. A watching brief carried out within the Site, uncovered a brick-lined well of probable post-medieval date, which was likely to have been associated with medieval or post-medieval occupation of 24 Holywell Street. Finds recovered during the construction of the College, which include 17th century pottery, as well as the metalwork items detailed above are likely to represent further evidence of domestic activity within the Site. An archaeological evaluation, undertaken in 1991 within the grounds of the College 50-90m north-west of the Site identified evidence of staggered boundaries. These were interpreted as post-medieval property boundaries which can be linked to features shown on historic mapping from the 16th century.
- 3.6.5 The current buildings which front onto Holywell Street are predominantly of 17th century origin, many with 18th century additions or alterations. Number 24 Holywell Street, located at the southern Site boundary and on the corner of Mansfield Road, is of 17th century origin with an 18th century rubble frontage.

3.7 Manchester College

- 3.7.1 Manchester College was originally founded as a Non-Conformist theological college in Manchester in 1786, and underwent a series of relocations in subsequent years. The College moved to York in 1803 following ideological and funding problems. After moving back to Manchester between 1853 and 1889, Manchester College was finally relocated to Oxford. The College was initially housed at 90 High Street, during construction of the College buildings on Mansfield Road (Davis 1932) The site of Manchester College was purchased from Merton College, and the new buildings were constructed in neo-Gothic style. The buildings were completed in 1893, and the architect's plan of the new College shows the original layout, including the Site, with the buildings fronting onto Holywell Street also depicted
- 3.7.2 The creation of the College entailed substantial redevelopment of the area. The existing 16th and 17th century housing which stood on the College site was demolished to make way for the new structures. The infrastructure of the immediate area was also altered, with two new roads constructed. Historic OS mapping shows that a lane or cul-de-sac, Park Place, already existed at the eastern Site limit, but this was widened and extended northwards to form Mansfield Road; Saville Road was also created at the northern boundary of the College. An architect's plan of 1980 shows the proposed new roads, and also suggests that an eastward extension of Saville Road was originally planned, which would have formed a crossroads. Numbers 21 to 23 Holywell Street, and the buildings of Park Place, were demolished to make way for Mansfield Road, and the buildings were recorded prior to demolition in 1893. The 1st Edition OS map of 1876 shows the Site and

Study Area prior to the construction of the College, whilst the OS map of 1898 shows the new configuration.

- 3.7.3 It seems that the Site itself was not originally part of the College, and Davis states that “*in 1899, two of the Holywell houses were reconstructed as a Residence for the students, who until then had been in scattered lodgings, and no. 27 became the Warden’s house*” (Davis 1932 pp. 175). The use of the term ‘reconstructed’ implies that fairly substantial internal alterations and renovations of the original 17th or 18th century fabric may have been undertaken at this point.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2012b) outlining the strategy and methodology by which the aims of the trial trench evaluation would be achieved. The WSI In format and content conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), English Heritage (2008) and the Institute for Archaeologists’ Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations and Excavations (IfA 2008).

4.1.2 The WSI was also prepared with due regard to a brief prepared by David Radford of Oxford City Council Heritage and Specialist Services Team (OCCHSST) setting out the requirement for archaeological mitigation at the Site due to the potential for medieval and post-medieval below ground remains.

4.1.3 This WSI was submitted to and agreed by the Client and OCCHSST prior to the commencement of works

4.2 Aims and objectives

4.2.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological trial trench evaluation were to:

- Locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits,
- If significant archaeological features or deposits are located, then the evaluation would establish, where possible, the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits, and
- To prepare a report on the results of the fieldwork

4.3 Fieldwork methodology

4.3.1 The WSI proposed the machine excavation of two trial trenches. Trench 1; a 15m x 2m trench within the footprint of the proposed development and Trench 2; a 1.5m x 1.5m trench against the face of the boundary wall to the Site. Due to site constraints Trench 1 was shortened to 11.5m x 1.30m.

4.3.2 Following the excavation of Trenches 1 and 2 a brick vaulted structure was revealed and so a further two trenches (Trenches 3 and 4) were excavated to investigate this structure (**Figures 1 and 2**).

4.3.3 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Machine stripping took place to the top

of the underlying natural geology or first archaeological level, whichever was encountered first.

4.4 Survey

4.4.1 The trenches and archaeological remains were digitally surveyed using Leica GNSS survey system tied into the Ordnance Survey (OS) NGR system, and related to heights above OS datum (Newlyn). The electronic survey record was periodically downloaded and retained within the site archive, with co-ordinate and/or datum information transposed onto the appropriate paper archives.

4.5 Recording

4.5.1 All recording was undertaken using a series of standardised Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording sheets and a recognised recording system.

4.5.2 A complete drawn record of excavated and archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.

4.5.3 A full photographic record was maintained using digital photography and black and white negatives (on 35mm film). The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features and finds excavated and the Site as a whole.

4.6 Monitoring

4.6.1 During the course of the trial trench evaluation the works were monitored by David Radford Oxford City Council Archaeologist on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

4.7 Finds

4.7.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and *Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (revised 1999), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines *Conservation Guideline No 2* and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

4.7.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. The artefacts were retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit.

4.7.3 All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. All finds were scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages and assessed for this report.

4.7.4 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the Site are the property of the landowner and were suitably bagged, in accordance with the *United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines Nos.2* and, on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme, will be deposited with the County Museum Service in Oxford.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Details of individually excavated contexts and features are retained in the Site archive and a tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 5.1.2 The following results section should be read in conjunction with **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Trench 1

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 was 11.5m long by 1.30m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.40m; it was aligned north-south and positioned within the footprint of the new development (**Figures 1 and 2**).
- 5.2.2 Following the removal of c.0.20m of demolition associated deposits (**101**) (**Figure 3 – Section 3**) and a further 1m of deliberate levelling deposits (**Figure 3 – Section 3**) stratified *in situ* archaeological remains were identified at a height of c. **61.72m aOD**.
- 5.2.3 The earliest identified layer (**122**) (**Figure 2**) was a reworked natural deposit possibly disturbed as a result of trample activity potentially associated with a structure (**126/127**) (**Figure 2, Section 1 and Plates 1 and 2**) identified as the base of a possible oven or kiln. The possible oven or kiln (**126/127**) was a limestone block built structure bonded with a sandy clay mortar constructed within a cut (**124**). Sealing the surface of the structure was a clay layer **142**. The structure showed evidence of considerable *in situ* heating which had fired the clay bonding material and discoloured the limestone blocks. **126** was a low wall at the southern end of the structure while layer **127** formed the base or surface of the structure. At the northern end a corresponding wall to **126** had been removed by a later robber cut (**128**). The historical mapping indicates the Site was once a 'Braziers Yard' however analysis of the surrounding deposits and the structure itself revealed no evidence of metal working, and therefore an interpretation as an oven or kiln is the most likely, which predates the late 18th century metal working area. No definitive date for the oven/kiln (**126/127**) was ascertained however, the deposit (**138**) (**Figure 3 – Section 1 and Plate 4**), which sealed the abandoned/collapsed structure contained several sherds of medieval pottery identified as Abingdon ware and East Wiltshire ware dating to the 11th-13th centuries and Brill/Boarstall ware dating to 13th-14th century. Therefore a medieval date for the structure is likely, with it being associated with the burgage plots which fronted onto Holywell Street
- 5.2.4 A series of intercutting borrow pits or quarries were revealed at the base of Trench 1 (**Figure 2**), cutting into the natural river terrace gravels (**112/121**), and were presumably excavated for the extraction of the gravel. The stratigraphically earliest of these was pit **142** (upper fill **135**) which was cut through by pit **133**. Pit **133** (**Figure 3 - Section 2 and Plate 3**) was excavated and contained fills **140**, **139** and **134** with the earliest fill **140** containing numerous medieval pottery sherds including Abingdon ware and East Wiltshire ware dating to the 11th-13th century, Oxford ware of 12th -13th century date and Brill/Boarstall ware of 13th-15th century date. A single likely intrusive sherd of post-medieval redware was also recovered. The upper fill (**134**) of pit **133** was cut through by pit **141** (upper fill **130**) (Section 2), which in turn was cut by pit **131** (upper fill **132**).
- 5.2.5 At the very northern limit of Trench 1 a large deposit (**119**) was revealed which filled the entire width of the trench. Deposit 119 was revealed 1.34m below the current ground surface at a height of **61.24m aOD** and a sondage excavated into the deposit revealed it

was at least 0.90m thick. The deposit (**119**) was composed almost entirely from waste mortar, plaster and limestone chippings indicating it as dumped construction material, and likely derived from the construction of the 17th century properties along Holywell Street. Pottery recovered from deposit **119** was identified as redwares, black-glazed redwares, tin-glazed earthenwares and Staffordshire-type wares of the 17th-early 18th century.

- 5.2.6 At some point during the 17th-early 18th century there was a period of considerable landscaping to the rear of the properties of Holywell Street perhaps associated with the formalised gardens shown on the maps from this period. Sealing the in filled borrow pits were a series of deliberate dumped deposits, which raised the ground surface by nearly 1m. Material was brought in, levelled off and then further deposits were brought in to raise the ground surface. Periods of stasis were observed and slumping events followed by further dumping of material. The dumping events (**Figure 3 – Section 3**) were recorded as deposits **111 to 108**, followed by a period of stasis **107** and slump **106**. Then followed deposits **105, to 102**, followed by another period of stasis **120** and slump **118**. The final levelling and landscaping observed in Trench 1 was recorded as **117, to 113**. Pottery recovered from the stratigraphically earliest levelling layer **111** (which sealed 138) included medieval 13th-14th century Brill/Boarstall ware and Surrey whitewares but also post-medieval tin-glazed wares, earthenwares, Border Wares and redwares of the 17th-18th century. Deposit **105** contained only 17th-18th century pottery including stonewares, cream wares and tin-glazed earthenwares. While deposit **117** contained pottery including Staffordshire-type mottled ware, tin-glazed earthen ware and Border Ware of the 17th/18th century

5.3 Trench 2

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 (**Figures 1 and 2 and Plate 5**) was positioned to investigate the foundations of the Grade II listed boundary wall which had been recently demolished. The trench was located in an area of disturbance and only modern demolition deposit **201** and levelling layer **202** were revealed.

5.4 Trench 3

- 5.4.1 Trench 3 was located due east of Trench 1 (**Figures 1 and 2**) and was only excavated following the identification of a stone and brick built structure during the backfilling of Trench 1. It provided the opportunity to further investigate the foundations of the Grade II listed boundary wall (**302**) which had been recently demolished following the Level 3 building recording. (Wessex Archaeology 2013).
- 5.4.2 The earliest identified deposit was **303**; a levelling layer very similar to either **102** or **113** (**Figure 3 – Section 3**) in Trench 1. Constructed on top of **303** was wall foundation **302** (**Figure 2 and Plates 6, 8 and 9**) for the recently demolished Grade II listed boundary wall. It was initially thought the wall potentially had medieval origins however from the evidence within Trench 3 it would appear that the wall foundation (**302**) was in fact 17th century or later, however it may have followed a previously existing boundary as indicated from the historical mapping. Wall foundation **302** was recorded as 8.7m in length and a maximum of 0.50m wide and a maximum of 0.30m high, built from a single course of limestone blocks with no bonding agent and sat directly upon deposit **303**.
- 5.4.3 Immediately west of foundation wall **302** was a brick and stone built vaulted structure, (**Group 313**) (**Figure 2 and Plates 7 to 11**) built within a 2.40m deep construction cut (**304**) excavated through deposit **303**. The construction cut (**304**) was rectangular in shape and north-south aligned and recorded as 2.90m long by 1.70m wide and 2.40m deep, and contained walls **305, 306 and 312 (Group 313)** (**Figure 2**). The walls consisted

of at least 13 courses of rectangular limestone blocks bonded with a mid yellow sandy clay mortar. Wall **305** butted and appeared to partially overlay the wall foundation **302** (**Plate 8**). It is therefore possible that wall **302** was partially dismantled during the building of the brick and stone built structure (Group 313) , and later rebuilt, accounting for one of the many phases of building recorded in the boundary wall (Wessex Archaeology 2013).

- 5.4.4 It was clear that the inner face of the wall of the vaulted structure (Group 313) was to be visible as the mortar had been struck, whereas the outer face of the walls showed that the structure had never been free standing as the mortar extruded from between the stone work. On top of walls **305**, **306** and **312** was a brick built vault (**307**) constructed of pitched, un-frogged bricks to create the vault; the bricks appear to be 18th century in date. Sealing **307** was layer **308**; a surface formed from limestone slabs and mid yellow sandy clay mortar. Part of the original structure at the northern end had collapsed and was recorded as **309** (**Plate 9**).
- 5.4.5 The structure forming Group 313 was interpreted as a very narrow cellar or underground storage area associated with the long thin buildings which previously occupied the Site and are recorded on the later 18th century historical mapping, with the buildings removed prior to the construction of the recently demolished building which occupied the Site. It would appear that access into the structure was at the northern end but this could not be proved as the area had been extensively disturbed by later activity. Following the abandonment of the structure it had been in filled by deposit **310** which contained numerous pottery sherds and complete vessels dating to the 19th century. These included a number of James Keiller and Sons Dundee marmalade jars made by CT Malling near Newcastle; the earliest of which dates to between 1797 and 1828 while the latest dates to sometime after 1873 following the awarding of the Grand Medal of Merit in Vienna 1873.
- 5.4.6 It is likely this cellar Group 313 was part of an early building which predated the 19th century building recently demolished. However, it would appear that the backfilling of the structure continued in to the later 19th century, with the abandoned cellar used as a convenient dump for domestic waste, or possibly waste discarded by the builders of the recently demolished building during its construction.

5.5 Trench 4

- 5.5.1 Trench 4 (**Figures 1 and 2**) was positioned to the south-east of Trench 3 and along the line of the proposed developments new boundary wall. Following the removal of 0.20m of modern demolition layer **401** and a further 0.14m of layer **402**, a modern ceramic drain pipe (**404**) was revealed within a pipe trench (**403**) cutting a levelling layer (405). No further excavation of the trench took place and it was clear the drain ran along the length of the proposed new wall.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The evaluation produced a range of finds of different material types, mostly pottery. The assemblage is largely of post-medieval date, with a small amount of medieval material. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 A total of 69 sherds or complete vessels of pottery, weighing 3973 grammes, was recovered from 8 contexts on the site. The dating evidence from the pottery ranges quite

widely, from the 11th to the 19th centuries, but there is a hiatus through the 15th to the later 17th centuries.

- 6.2.2 The earliest pottery recovered was from Trench 1. Context **111**, associated with the earliest phase of land levelling, contained six sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM), one sherd of Brill/Boarstall overfired ware (OXAP) all dating to the 13th/14th century and one sherd of Surrey whiteware of the same date. Also present, however, were fragments of a tin-glazed earthenware plate and several sherds of Border Ware, including the finial from a money-box, and redwares, all of 17th/18th century date, indicative of considerable later disturbance.
- 6.2.3 Context **138** was a layer sealing a kiln/oven structure (126/127) and contained two sherds each of the Brill/Boarstall wares (OXAM and OXAP) of 13th/14th century date, two sherds of Abingdon ware (OXAG) and one of East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ), all of 11th-13th century date. All are non-diagnostic body sherds. There was also a single, presumably intrusive, sherd of tin-glazed earthenware of 17th/18th century date.
- 6.2.4 Context **140**, the earliest fill of a gravel extraction pit, also contained sherds of Brill/Boarstall (OXAM), Abingdon (OXAG) and East Wiltshire (OXAP) wares as well as a sherd of Oxford ware (OX7), all within an 11th-14th century date range, and a single sherd of post-medieval redware.
- 6.2.5 Other contexts from Trench 1 contained pottery of 17th/18th century date with nothing earlier or later. These comprised 13 sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware plates and cups, plus creamware and tin-glazed earthenware plate fragments from Context **105**, Staffordshire-type mottled wares, tin-glazed earthenwares and a partial candlestick of Border Ware from Context **117** and sherds of redware, black-glazed redware and tin-glazed earthenware from Context **119**. Also from this latter context was a large rim sherd from a Staffordshire-style slipware platter. This has a red earthenware body fabric with clear quartz and red iron-oxide inclusions. It is wheel-thrown and has a rather crudely-formed folded rim. It has a dark brown and yellow slip in a swirling abstract pattern. The sherd represents just over 10% of the platter, which would have been almost 60cm in diameter. The peak production of this kind of vessel was c. 1660-1720 (Barker & Compton 2007, 113).
- 6.2.6 Only three sherds of pottery were recovered from Trench 2. These came from Context 202 and comprise one fragment of a green-glazed Border Ware bowl, part of a German stoneware cup and a redware bowl sherd. All these date to the 17th/18th centuries.
- 6.2.7 Trench 3 produced an assemblage of pottery from a subterranean feature interpreted as a possible store-room. The pottery (and glass) found in this context is consistent with this having been a useful place to dump rubbish, but the complete or almost complete nature of some of the vessels shows that the structure itself must have provided some protection to even the most fragile of objects. Context **310** produced pottery of late 18th to late 19th century date including fragments of English stoneware jars and bottles, blue and white transfer printed pearlware and refined whiteware serving dishes, pearlware ointment pots and small storage jars and a miniature basin. There was also a selection of marmalade jars made for Keiller's of Dundee by C.T. Maling & Sons near Newcastle. Three jars were recovered as a representative sample; one is complete, one has a small portion of rim missing and the other comprises just over 50% of the vessel. The three jars are all of the same cylindrical form, but carry differing transfer-printed labels which can be dated quite closely. The smallest, least complete vessel is unusual and is the earliest. It bears the legend 'James Keillers marmalade, Dundee'. Keiller's first factory opened in 1797 and

became James Keiller & Son in 1828, so this vessel falls between these dates. The other two jars carry more common labels, one bearing the 1862 International Exhibition prize logo and the other bearing both the London 1862 and Vienna 1873 one. The design of the latter continued in use until the end of the century, but the addition of a date letter 'H' below the wreath on the label suggests this jar was manufactured in 1880 (www.maling-pottery.org 2000, 6).

6.3 Animal bone

- 6.3.1 Well preserved animal bone was present in all three of the contexts containing medieval pottery but not in any other context, suggesting a change in domestic arrangements during the occupation of the Site.
- 6.3.2 Nine pieces of animal bone, weighing 221g, were recovered in total. Context 111 produced a cattle first phalanx, the third molar of a sheep and an unidentifiable fragment of charred large mammal bone. In Context **138** there was a first/second cattle molar, the proximal end of an immature cattle tibia and a sheep lumbar vertebra. Context **140** had a rib fragment of a large mammal, the proximal shaft of a cattle radius and the scapula of a calf.

6.4 Ceramic building material

- 6.4.1 Seven pieces of Ceramic Building Material (CBM), weighing 626g, were recovered from three contexts in Trench 1 (**111**, **138**, **140**) and one in Trench 2 (202). All are fragments of irregular, handmade flat roof-tiles made from poorly-wedged clay and all are likely to be of medieval date (13th century or later).

6.5 Glass

- 6.5.1 Ten objects or complete vessels of glass were recovered from six contexts, the majority coming from Context **310**. A single fragment of window glass was recovered from Context **111**. Context **117** contained the partial base of a wine bottle (probably of 'mallet' form) dating between 1650 and 1800 and a small handmade clear glass container of probable late 18th century date. Contexts **119** and **138** contained pieces of wine bottles of the same date range as the above and Context **202** a complete base of similar age. Context **310** produced several whole bottles and a complete drinking tumbler, all of 19th century date. Two of the bottles have evidence of their contents still *in situ*, one a pink substance – possibly Calamine Lotion, and the other, a miniature bottle, has a solidified black substance inside as well as scraps of cork. It is possible these bottles were in the storage area, rather than part of the rubbish deposited when it was filled in.

6.6 Other finds

- 6.6.1 The rest of the assemblage comprised two oyster shells, both left-hand valves, both unmeasurable, from Contexts **117** and **140**. A single iron object, probably the shaft of a nail, came from Context **111** and several fragments of clay tobacco pipe were found in Contexts **111**, **117**, **138** and **310**. The only datable pipe fragments came from Context **111**, where three pipe bowls were present. All of these date to the period between 1660-1680 (Ayto, 1994, 5). Two have a flat heel and one has a rounded spur and all have similar sized and shaped bowls. There are no makers' marks. Two of the bowls have a simple grooved line around the lip, whereas the third one has a milled line. The rest of the assemblage consists of plain stem fragments, although one has a remnant of another simple flat heel.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Feature	Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery	Glass	Other Finds
105	Layer			13/307		
111	Layer	3/42	3/272	19/220	1/4	7/56
117	Layer			5/375	2/110	3/49
119	Layer			5/354	1/13	
138	Layer	3/121	1/103	8/80	1/13	1/ 2
140	Fill of 133	3/58	2/138	4/37		1/8
202	Layer		1/113	3/154	1/406	
310	Fill of structure			12/2753	4/649	1/6
TOTALS		9/221	7/626	69/3973	10/1195	13/121

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The programme of archaeological trial trenching at Harris Manchester College, to the rear of 24 Holywell Street Oxford was successful in its stated aims of identifying the presence of archaeological remains spanning the medieval and post-medieval period. These remains correspond with known activity previously identified in this part of the city from earlier archaeological works and historic mapping evidence.
- 7.1.2 The probable oven or kiln is likely to be medieval in date as it was sealed by deposits containing 11th – 13th century pottery and belongs to settlement activity in the northern limits of the city associated with known expansion from the later 12th century onwards as indicated from excavations north of the city walls, c. 200m west of the Site.
- 7.1.3 A definitive date for the borrow pits or quarries could not be ascertained however a middle to late medieval date for some of the features is possible from the recovery of pottery spanning the 11th-15th centuries recovered from excavated pit **133**. Trial excavations in the late 19th century demonstrated that the gardens of numbers 25-26 Holywell Street had been used for gravel extraction while excavations c. 50m north-west of Site in 1991 identified property and field boundaries which had been cut by numerous quarries and gravel pits. It was presumed from this earlier work that the quarries and pits were post-medieval and therefore the finds may have been residual within the ground surface through which the quarries cut. However an earlier date for some of the borrow pits cannot be ruled out.
- 7.1.4 The earliest mapping; Aga's view of Oxford from 1578-88 indicates the Site was occupied by back gardens for properties onto Holywell Street however it is possible that some of the quarry pits were still open into the early post-medieval period and were used as dumping grounds for waste material during the construction of those properties. It is also possible that some were open much later and deposit **119** composed entirely of waste mortar, plaster and limestone chippings from stone working and building work infers this. Pottery recovered from this deposit was identified as being of 17th/18th century, if an earlier date is taken it corresponds with the expansion of settlement in this area sometime in the 17th century as indicated from the historical mapping,
- 7.1.5 Hollers' engraving of Oxford from 1643 reveals a similar layout to Aga's 1578-88 map however by 1675 Loggan's map indicates the construction of long thin buildings to the

rear of the 24 Holywell Street. It was initially assumed that the large-scale landscaping events which raised the ground surface by some 1m as shown in Trench 1 occurred during this period, and were associated with the long thin buildings however there is an absence of pottery from the 15th - later 17th century from these deposits and therefore from the pottery evidence the large scale landscaping was occurring sometime in the 18th century and post-dates the 17th century properties which front on to Holywell Street as indicated on the Oxford Urban Archaeology Database.

- 7.1.6 It would appear that the at least some section of the Grade II listed boundary wall was constructed following the 18th landscaping though it is likely to have followed a boundary fossilised in the landscape. At this time a building was constructed which was associated with the narrow cellar Group 313. The bricks of the structure were identified as probably 18th century in date (Bob Davies WA pers comm) and it is possible that the construction took place during one of the phases of boundary wall rebuilding as indicated from the appearance that 313 is partially bonded into the boundary wall .
- 7.1.7 The cellar 313 was not associated with the recently demolished 19th century building, but predates it; however it was likely it continued to be in filled during this period following the recovery of the 19th century Keiller marmalade jars. The items were possibly discarded by builders constructing the now demolished building at the Site.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND PUBLICATION

- 8.1.1 Following an on-site meeting held with David Radford of the Oxford City Council Heritage and Specialist Services Team (acting on behalf of the LPA), Colin Simmons of Yiangou Architects (acting on behalf of the Client) and Wessex Archaeology it was agreed by David Radford that all necessary intrusive archaeological mitigation for the Site had been fulfilled by the evaluation fieldwork in order to address condition 11 of the planning permission. It was recommended therefore that no further archaeological monitoring or mitigation of the development groundworks would be required on completion of the evaluation and that the results should be set out in a report.
- 8.1.2 A short article with supporting illustrations based on the results and discussion presented in this report in South Midlands Archaeology is suggested as an adequate level of publication. This would comprise a brief introduction detailing the circumstances of the project and the aims and objectives; a results section detailing the remains recorded and a brief discussion of the results with reference to the original aims and objectives.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service

9.2 Archive

- 9.2.1 The complete site archive, under Museum Accession Code **XCMS: 2013.1**, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and artefacts will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2011). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under **XCMS: 2013.1** and WA project code **85421**.

9.3 Copyright

- 9.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

9.4 Security Copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology. Alternatively, the security copy may be in the form of a pdf file.

10 REFERENCES

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Oxford Urban Archaeology Database (OUAD)

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1	Dimensions :	11.5m x 1.30m x 1.50m	Ground surface level:	62.52m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	451737.39, 206551.57 451738.04, 206540.12		
Context	Category	Description		Depth (bgl)
101	Layer	Modern demolition layer, rubble mix with mortar, brick and masonry fragments. 101 seals 113.		0-0.20m
102	Layer	Reddish brown sandy silt with limestone and brick fragments, flint gravels and charcoal flecks, landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 102 overlain by stasis horizon 120 and seals 103.		0.20-0.65m
103	Layer	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with common small flint gravels and occasional limestone chips and occasional flecks of charcoal, landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 103 sealed by 102 and seals 104.		0.65-0.85m
104	Layer	Light reddish brown sandy silt with commons small limestone chips and flint gravels, contains animal bone and occasional fragments of charcoal. 104 sealed by 103 and seals 105.		0.85-0.93m
105	Layer	Mid grey brown sandy silt with common small >2cm fine gravels and limestone chips, landscaping/levelling dump deposit. Pottery recovered included stoneware, creamware and tin-glazed earthenware of the late 17th to late 18th century. 105 sealed by 104 and seals 106 and 119		1.12-1.55
106	Layer	Thin band (1-5cm) thick coarse gravel of light yellow sand, redeposited natural layer, landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 106 sealed by 105 and overlies stasis horizon 107.		0.20 - 1.60m
107	Stasis horizon	Stasis horizon. Following a series of deliberate dumping deposits there followed a period of stasis during which slumping took place. In section the stasis horizon appears to form a 45 degree 'cut' and is then sealed by another series of deliberate dumping events. 107 sealed by 106 and overlies 108.		0.20-1.65
108	Layer	Light greyish brown sandy silt with common small flint gravels >2cm and occasional charcoal flecks. landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 108 overlain by stasis horizon 107 and seals 109.		0.20-0.40m
109	Layer	Mid grey brown sandy silt with common small flint gravels and mortar flecks, landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 109 sealed by 108 and seals 110.		0.40-0.65
110	Layer	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments >6cm, landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 110 sealed by 109 and seals 111.		0.45-0.85m



111	Layer	Greyish brown sandy silt with common small flint gravels and limestone chips. Occasional flecks of charcoal, landscaping/levelling dump deposit. Pottery recovered included Surrey whitewares, Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAP and OXAM) of the 13th/14th century and Borderware and tin-glazed earthen ware of the 17th/18th century. 111 sealed by 110 and seals 138.	0.75-1.60m+
112	Natural	Pale brown sandy gravels. Equal to 121.	1.33m+
113	Layer	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 113 sealed by 101 and seals 114.	0.18-0.58m
114	Layer	Thin band of coarse sand and light blueish grey clay, (10cm thick) landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 114 sealed by 113 and seals 115.	0.13-0.80m
115	Layer	Reddish brown sandy silt with common small flint gravels and occasional small fragments of CBM and charcoal. landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 115 sealed by 114 and seals 116.	0.10-1.10m
116	Layer	Narrow band of coarse yellow sand (9cm thick) landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 116 sealed by 115 and seals 117.	0.10-1.17m
117	Layer	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with common small flint gravels >1cm with occasional charcoal. landscaping/levelling dump deposit. Pottery recovered included Staffordshire-type mottled ware, tin-glazed earthen ware and Borderware of the 17th/18th century. 117 sealed by 116 and seals 118.	1.10-1.17m
118	Layer	Thin band of mixed clay and coarse yellow sand (8cm thick) landscaping/levelling dump deposit. 118 sealed by 117 and seals 119, but physically lies against stasis horizon 120.	1.10-1.20m
119	Layer	Light grey deposit at the base of the trench, concentrated at the northern end, composed of repeated deliberate dumps of mortar, plaster and limestone chips. Evidence of construction activity and stone working. Potentially infilling an old borrow pit/ sand and gravel quarry. Pottery recovered included redware, black-glazed redware, tin-glazed earthen ware and Staffordshire-type slipware of the 17th/18th century. 119 sealed by 105 and overlies event horizon 120.	1.05-1.90m deep
120	Stasis horizon	Stasis horizon. Following a series of deliberate dumping deposits there followed a period of stasis during which slumping took place. In section the stasis horizon appears to form a 'cut' and is then sealed by another series of deliberate dumping events 120 sealed by 118 and overlies 102	1.10-1.40m
121	Natural	Pale brown sandy gravels. Equal to 112.	
122	Layer	Mid brown sandy gravel, with sharp horizon with underlying natural 112/121. Reworked natural deposit. Cut by 125.	0.14m thick
123	Fill	Mixed and mottled mid brown with yellow patches sandy gravel, single recorded fill of feature 125,	



124	Cut	Construction cut for the base of a possible forge/furnace formed of 126 and 127. Cut recorded as 1.80m long by 1.2m wide and cuts 123.	-
125	Cut	Cut of probable borrow pit/ quarry for the extraction of sand and gravel. Previous evidence of quarrying was observed at 25-26 Holywell Street.	-
126	Structure	Lower stone wall/structure formed of unworked or roughly hewn limestone block bonded by a sandy clay mortar which has been subsequently fired red. Recorded as 0.80m long by 0.15m wide and 0.12m high 126 forms the edge of the base of a possible forge or furnace with 126, as indicated from the extensive heat affected nature of the structure. 126 sits upon 127, the surface of the forge or furnace. The 1876 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of the area records a 'Braziers Yard' immediately east of the Site under what is now Mansfield Road, indicating the working of brass and other metals was taking place on Site. A possible corresponding northern wall/structure had been removed by robber cut 128 .	0.12m high
127	Structure or surface	Flat level surface formed of roughly shaped limestone blocks bonded in a sandy clay mortar which has been heavily heat affected. The surface was recorded as 1.80m long by 1.30m wide and was 0.15m thick. The mortar had been fired red by continuous heating and 127 appears to form the base of a forge or furnace associated with the 'Braziers Yard' recorded on Site on the 1876 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map. 127 was constructed within 124 and was overlain by 126. a spread of heat affected clay 142 seals areas of the surface.	0.15m thick
128	Cut	Possible robber cut for the removal of the northern corresponding wall to 126. Cut recorded as 1.30m long by 0.50m wide, and clearly truncated the edge of surface 127. Unexcavated.	-
129	Fill	Single recorded fill of probable robber cut 128 . Mid brown loose silty loam with common limestone block inclusions.	-
130	Fill	Mixed and mottle mid brown and grey sandy loam with common charcoal flecks. Single recorded fill of borrow pit/quarry 141 , one of a number of pits in the area.	-
131	Cut	Cut of small borrow pit/quarry recorded as 0.80m long by 0.40m wide and filled with 132. Pit unexcavated but recorded cutting 130.	-
132	Fill	Upper fill of 131 . Mid brown loosed sandy loam, unexcavated.	-
133	Cut	Cut of borrow pit/quarry recorded as 1m in length and 0.75m wide and 0.74m deep, sub circular in shape with vertical sides and a flat to concave base. Contains fills 140, 139 and 134 and is cut through at the surface by borrow pit 141, cuts 135.	0.74m deep
134	Fill	Upper fill of borrow pit 133 , mid greyish brown sandy silt with common small flint gravels and occasional charcoal flecks. Cut by 141 .	0.23m thick



135	Fill	Mid grey brown silty loam upper fill of a large borrow pit/quarry 143 , but unable to investigate due to time constraints. Cut by 133 so potentially the earliest borrow pit.	-
136	Cut	Cut of unexcavated pit which cuts 135 and is filled with 137. Recorded as 1.50m + long by 1m wide and does not appear to be a quarry as cuts possible quarry fill and so likely a rubbish pit. Unexcavated.	-
137	Fill	Upper recorded fill of probable rubbish pit 136 . Mid brown loose silty sand with common fragments of wood.	-
138	Layer	Mid brown sandy silt loam, deliberate levelling layer following the abandonment/collapse/demolition of the forge/furnace structure 126/127. Pottery recovered included Abingdon ware (OXAG) and East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ) dating to the 11th/13th century, Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAP and OXAM) dating to the 13th/14th century and intrusive tin-glazed earthenware of the 17th/18th century. sealed by 111 and seals 126 and 127.	0.14m thick
139	Fill	Secondary fill of borrow pit 133 , light yellow sandy gravels, redeposited natural within pit. Seals 140 and sealed by 134.	0.15m thick
140	Fill	Earliest recorded secondary fill of borrow pit 133 , mid grey brown sandy silt with common flint gravels and animal bone, cbm and pottery. Pottery recovered included Abingdon ware (OXAG) and East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ) dating to the 11th/13th century, Oxford ware (OX7) of the 12th/13th century and Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAP and OXAM) dating to the 13th/14th century and intrusive post-medieval redwares. Sealed by 139.	0.50m thick
141	Cut	Cut of borrow pit/quarry recorded as irregular in shape and 1.88m long by 0.78m wide. Filled with 130. Unexcavated.	-
142	Layer	Spread of red clay, which has been heavily fired and seals surface 127.	0.05m thick
143	Cut	Cut of large borrow pit or quarry, potentially the earliest of a number of pits in Trench 1. Filled with 135. Not excavated.	

Trench 2	Dimensions :	1.20m x 1.30m x 0.66m	Ground surface level:	62.48m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	451740.44, 206553.86 451740.40, 206552.71		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
201	Layer	Modern demolition layer, mix of rubble , mortar, and brick in a mid brown silty loam matrix	0-0.24m	
202	Layer	Mid reddish brown sandy silt loam, dumping levelling deposit. Pottery recovered included post-medieval redwares, Borderwares and German stoneware of 17th/18th century date. .Equal to 102.	0.24-0.66	



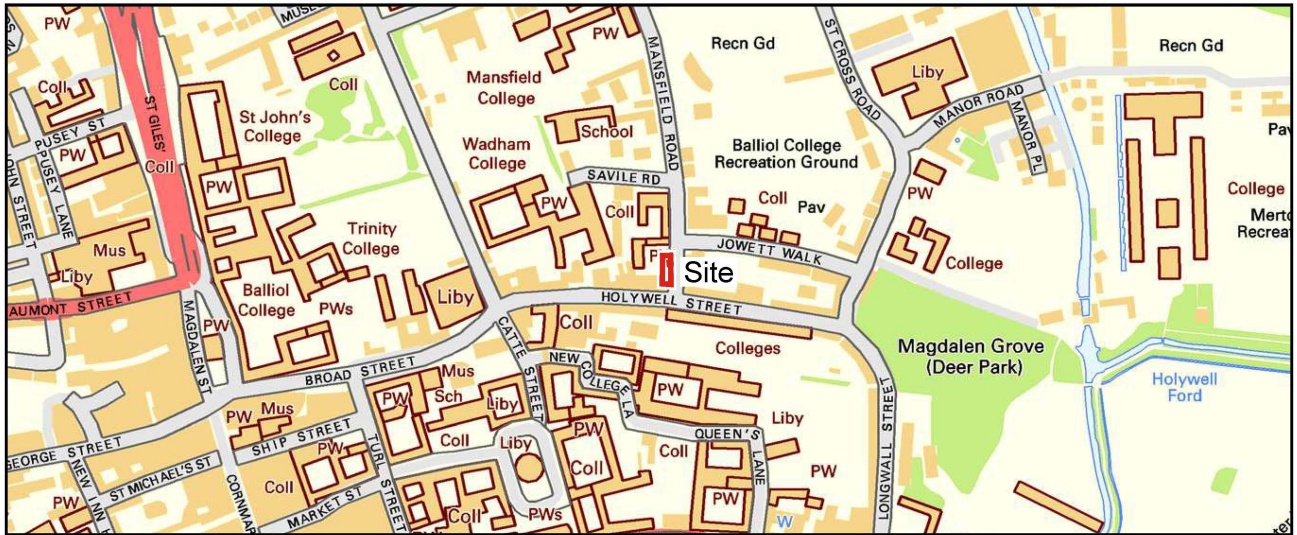
Trench 3	Dimensions :	8.60m x 2.70m x 2.40m	Ground surface level:	62.40m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	451740.19, 206550.35 451739.57, 206541.68		
Context	Category	Description		Depth (bgl)
301	Layer	Modern demolition layer, mix of rubble , mortar, and brick in a mid brown silty loam matrix		0.20m thick
302	Wall	North south aligned limestone block built wall recorded for 8.7m in length and a maximum of 0.50m wide. Recorded as a single course a maximum of 0.30m high. Roughly hewn/shaped limestone blocks with no bonding agent observed. This structure is the foundation for the recently demolished boundary wall recorded during the programme of building recording (see Wessex Archaeology 2012c (Figure 5 Plate 30 and 32) the foundation is insubstantial and resting on levelling deposit 303. this wall was clearly constructed in a number of phases and vaulted structure Group 313 has been partially keyed into it which may suggest that wall 302 was partially taken down when 313 was built and then later remodelled.		0.30m high
303	Layer	Mid reddish brown sandy silt levelling deposit which is very similar if not identical to 102 or 113. Only partially revealed in Trench 3 and seen to be sealed by wall foundation 302 and later cut through by 304.		-
304	Cut	Construction cut for stone lined and brick vaulted structure Group 313. Recorded as rectangular in shape with vertical sides and a flat base and 2.90m long by 1.70m wide and 2.40m deep. Construction cut filled with walls 305, 306 and 312. The northern edge of the cut was disturbed by later activity and so the function of the feature is unclear but it is likely the remains of a small cellar/underground storage associated with the long thin properties shown on the late 18th century mapping which predate the recently demolished modest dwelling recorded in Wessex Archaeology 2012c.		2.40m deep
305	Wall	The eastern wall of vaulted structure Group 313. Recorded as 2.20m long by 0.35m wide and 2.40m high and constructed of roughly shaped limestone blocks in a mid yellow sandy clay mortar. 13 rough horizontal courses of limestone blocks observed and keyed into 312 at its southern end and parallel with wall 306 to the west. Brick vaulted structure is constructed upon 305. The material is the same as boundary wall foundation 302.		2.40m high
306	Wall	The western wall of vaulted structure Group 313. Recorded as 2.20m long by 0.35m wide and 2.40m high and constructed of roughly shaped limestone blocks in a mid yellow sandy clay mortar. It was clear that 306 was constructed within cut 304 and had not been a free-		2.40m high

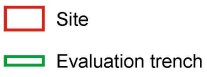


		standing structure as the mortar was extruded between the stone work and had not been struck as at it had been on the inner face. Keyed into 312, same build as 305.	
307	Brick vault	Brick built vault forming the roof structure of Group 313. Recorded as 2m long by 1.20m wide and constructed upon walls 305, 306 and 312 in un-frogged bricks recorded as 225mm by 107mm by 66mm. the bricks were laid end on to create the arc of the vault and appear to be early 19th century in date. Bonded with mid yellow sandy mortar; the same as the walls of the structure. The upper level of 307 is covered by a mortar and limestone slab surface 308.	0.11m high.
308	Surface	Forming the very upper surface of vaulted structure 313. Formed of limestone slabs and mid yellow sandy mortar and sealing brick vault 307. Unclear if formed a floor surface or was further strengthening of 313.	0.05m thick
309	Brick Structure	Section of brick structure which has collapsed and partially in fills the northern end of the 313. Formed of identical bricks to 307 but clearly not part of the vault due to the nature of construction, as bricks are not on end and appear to have fallen from the east.	-
310	Fill	Mixed and mottled mid brown and dark grey brown black sandy silt loam in fill of the interior of vaulted structure 313 formed by walls 305,306 and 312. Mix of deliberate in-filling of rubbish and material washing in following the abandonment of the vaulted structure. There was no evidence within this deposit to infer that the structure had been a cess pit or other sort of water/drainage associated structure. Numerous sherds of 19th century pottery were recovered including a number of James Keiller and Sons Dundee marmalade jars with the earliest dated 1797-1828 and the most recent post dating 1873.	1m thick
311	Fill	Dark brown black sandy silt deposit which in-fills the possible access into the vaulted structure 313.	-
312	Wall	Forming the southern wall of vaulted structure 313, constructed in an identical manner to 305 and 306.	2.40m high
313	Group Vaulted Structure	Group number for a stone built rectangular structure with a brick constructed vaulted roof. Recorded as 2.4m long and 1.7m wide and 2.60m high including walls and vault. Composed of eastern, southern and western walls 305, 312 and 306 within construction cut 304 with brick vault 307 constructed upon the walls. Upper surface of structure is formed of 308. the structure is interpreted as a very narrow cellar or underground storage area associated with the long thin buildings which previously occupied the Site and area recorded on the later 18th century historical mapping and were removed prior to the construction of the recently demolished building which occupied the Site. It would appear that access into the structure was at the northern end but this could not be proved as the area had been extensively disturbed by later activity.	-



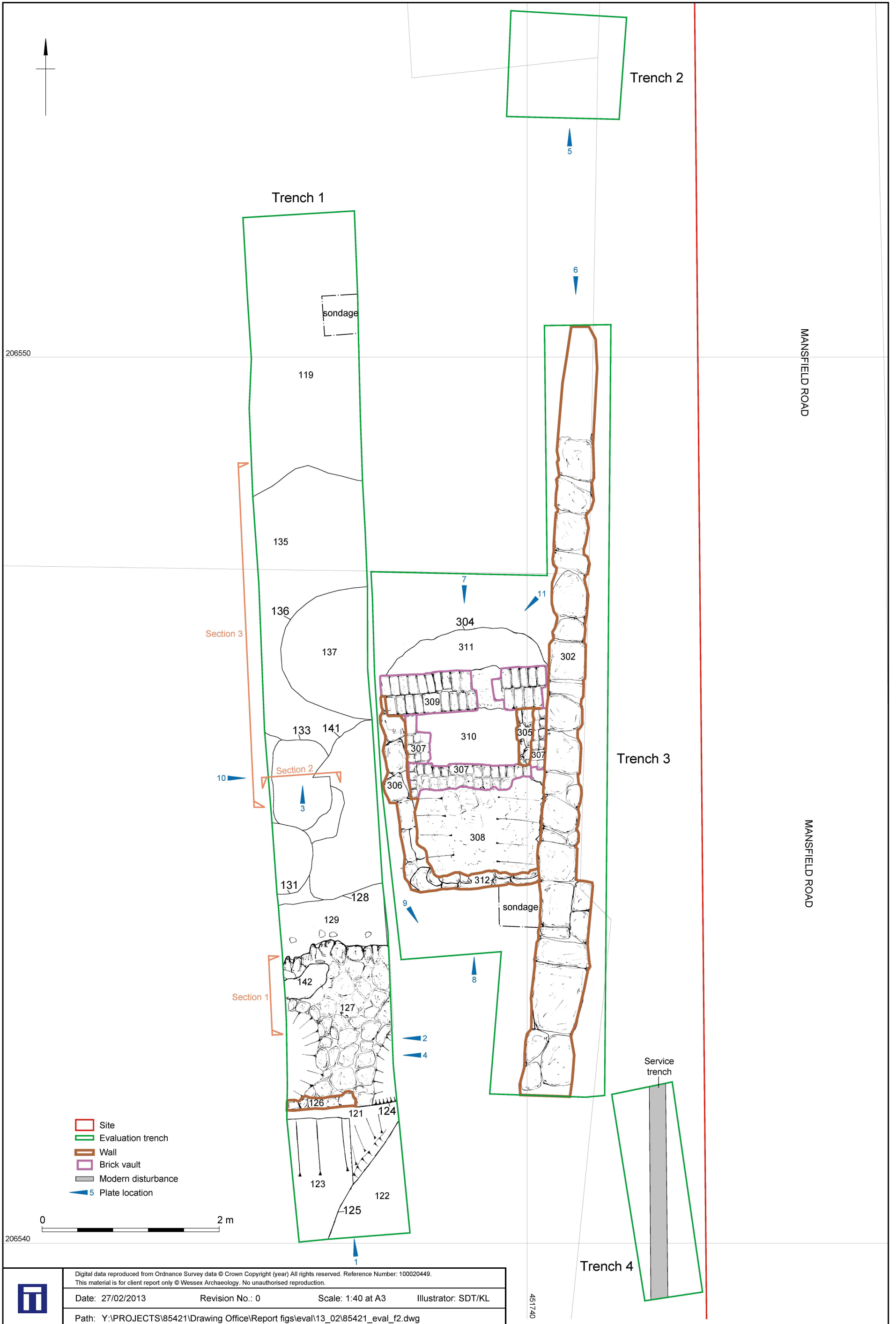
Trench 4	Dimensions :	2.40m x 0.65m x 0.50m	Ground surface level:	62.30m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	451741.28, 206541.75 451741.69, 206539.40		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
401	Layer	Modern demolition layer, mix of rubble , mortar, and brick in a mid brown silty loam matrix	0.20m thick	
402	Layer	Mid brown grey sandy silt levelling deposit revealed below 402.	0.20-0.34m	
403	Cut	Cut of ceramic drain pipe trench, cuts 405.	0.34m+	
404	Fill	Ceramic drain pipe within 403		
405	Layer	Mid brown levelling layer revealed below 402 and cut through by 403 .not investigated further.	0.34m+	



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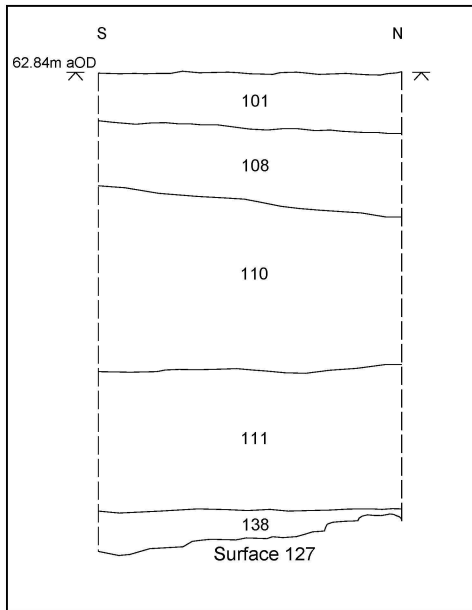
Site and trench locations

Figure 1

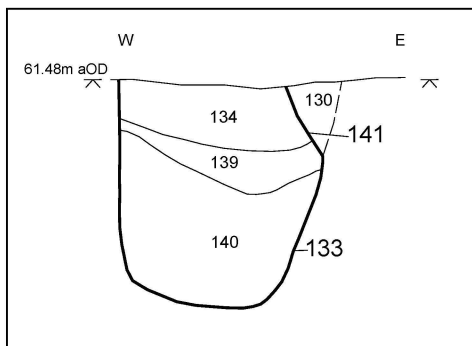


Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 showing archaeological features

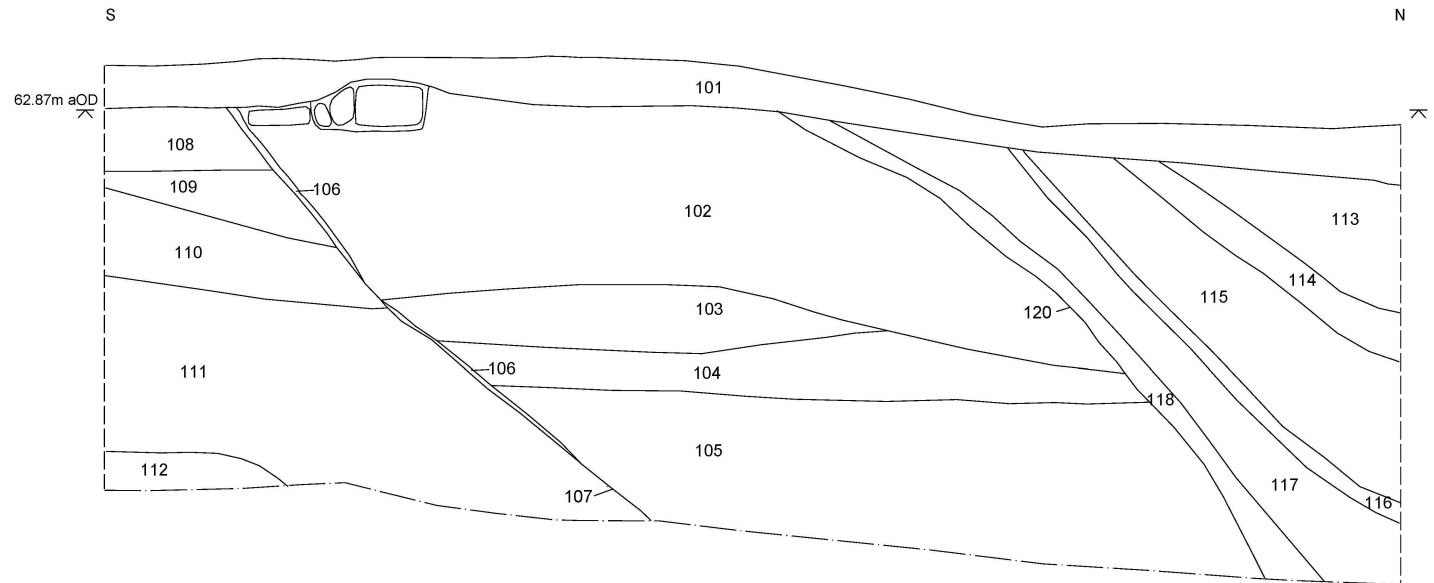
Figure 2



Section 1: East facing section of Trench 1



Section 2: South facing section of pit 133



Section 3: East facing section of Trench 1



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Plate 1: Oven/kiln structure 126/127 from the south (scale 1m, 0.50m)



Plate 2: Oven/kiln structure 126/127 from the east (scale 1m, 0.50m)



Plate 3: South facing section of small borrow pit 133 (scale 0.50m)



Plate 4: East facing section of landscaping deposits sealing 126/127 (2 x 1m)



Plate 5: South facing section Trench 2 with remains of recently demolished Grade II listed boundary wall in background (scale 2m, 1m)



Plate 6: Foundation 302 for recently demolished Grade II listed boundary wall, with cellar Group 313 in background (scale 2m)



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Plate 7: Cellar Group 313, showing brick vault 307 and collapse 309 from the north (scale 1m)



Plate 8: Cellar Group 313, showing southern rear wall 312 and surface 308 butting foundation 302 from the south (scale 2m, 1m)



Plate 9: Cellar Group 313 showing western wall 306, southern wall 312 butting 302, surface 308 and collapse 309 from the south west. (scale 2m, 1m)



Plate 10: west facing elevation of wall 306, showing mortar extruding through stone work (scale 1m)



Plate 11: east facing elevation of wall 306 and brick vaulting 307 during dismantling of 313 from the north east. (scale 2m, 1m)



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