

Radcliffe Observatory  
Quarter Outpatients  
Building Oxford



**Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report**

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## Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Outpatients Building, Oxford

*Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

*Written by Robin Bashford*

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## Summary

*In June 2014 Turnberry Planning Limited appointed Oxford Archaeology (OA) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the conversion to office use of the former Outpatients Building at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road, Oxford (SP 5105 0708). The watching brief focussed on the excavation of the extension to the basement at the western end of the existing building. Any archaeological features or deposits had been truncated during the construction this building, and as the planned eastern extension is no longer going ahead, the watching brief was discontinued.*

## 1 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 1.1.1 In June 2014 Turnberry Planning Limited appointed Oxford Archaeology (OA) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the conversion to office use of the former Outpatients Building at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road, Oxford (SP 5105 0708). David Radford (City Archaeologist, OCC) had advised that an Archaeological Watching Brief would be required during works associated with 2 extensions to the existing basement and a new basement link corridor. OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out how OA would implement this requirement.
- 1.1.2 The proposed eastern extension to the existing basement was subsequently abandoned.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A of the WSI. Standard methodologies for Geomatics and Survey, Environmental evidence, Artefactual evidence and Burials can also be found in that document (Appendices B, C, D and E respectively).
- 2.1.2 The WSI also stated that in the event that the watching brief demonstrating that the ground was clearly disturbed or that meaningful recording was not practical then the watching brief was to be discontinued.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITS

- 3.1.1 Natural gravel was observed at approximately 4m below the existing ground level, although this had been heavily truncated.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief focussed on the excavation of the extension to the basement at the western end of the existing building. Any archaeological features or deposits had been truncated during the construction this building, and as the eastern extension is no longer going ahead, the watching brief was discontinued.

## 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- OA 2014 *Royal Observatory Quarter, Outpatients Building, Oxford*  
Written Scheme Of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location







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