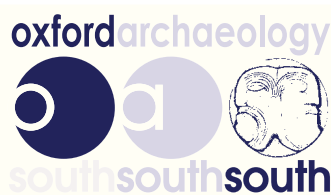


New Kitchen St. Anne's College Oxford



Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report



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New Kitchen, St Anne's College, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report

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illustrated by Conan Parsons

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The project was managed by Ben Ford MIFA, the Evaluation undertaken by Mike Donnelly and the Watching Brief by Alexandra Latham.



Summary

Between 24 August and 2 September 2011 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological evaluation, comprising three test trenches on behalf of St Anne's College, Woodstock Road, Oxford in order to ascertain the archaeological potential on the site prior to the construction of a new kitchen. This was followed immediately, with the agreement of David Radford - Archaeologist for the Local Planning Authority at Oxford City Council, by a Watching Brief during the initial groundwork for the new building. Although no deposits datable prior to the sixteenth century were found, residual pottery of late Saxon and medieval date and a silver halfpenny of Edward I were recovered from later deposits and may suggest activity prior to the 16th century at or in the vicinity of the site. Two rubbish pits containing 16th century pottery were found, one contained a sawn deer antler which indicates small scale antler working. Two phases of cobbles found in one trench of 17th or 18th century date may have formed part of a courtyard or lane leading off from Woodstock Road. Foundations and services pertaining to former the 19th century houses and the kitchen block of St Anne's College (built in 1959) had removed much of the archaeological evidence on the site.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Oxford City Council have granted planning permission to St Anne's College, Oxford for a new kitchen at their site on Woodstock Road (09/02766/FUL), henceforth 'the site'. The proposal required the demolition of the existing kitchen facilities to allow for the construction of a single storey extension to the west side of the existing dining hall, a bin store, and associated access and landscaping. To inform the planning process as to the archaeological potential of the site, David Radford – City Archaeologist for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) at Oxford City Council (OCC), prepared a *Brief for an Archaeological Excavation* (6 September 2010). This originally set out a two stage approach; Stage 1 was a programme of archaeological trial trenching followed by Stage 2, further mitigation, if required, and dependent on the results of the Stage 1 works.
- 1.1.2 Subsequently, the college commissioned OA to undertake the archaeological evaluation, which comprised three trial trenches, the methodology of which was detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2011). This work was undertaken between 24th August and 2nd September 2011. David Radford (OCC) made an on-site inspection of the Stage 1 works, where it was demonstrated that although limited archaeological remains had been encountered much of the area within the trenches had been severely affected by later truncation. It was therefore agreed that the Stage 2 works would constitute an archaeological Watching Brief and that this could proceed immediately and was completed on 13th September.
- 1.1.3 It was also agreed that both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 archaeological works could be reported on in a single document after the completion of the Stage 2 works. This document fulfills that obligation.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The c 400m² site lies on the north side of Oxford, just over 1 km from the city's central point at Carfax, and c 500m outside the northern circuit of medieval cities defences (Fig. 1). It is centred on National Grid Reference SP 5101 0726 and is situated on the western edge of St Anne's College, parallel to Woodstock Road, within the historic parish of St Giles.
- 1.2.2 The River Thames is c 500m to the west, with the River Cherwell approximately 1km to the east.
- 1.2.3 The site lies on the second or Summertown Radley gravel terrace. The underlying geology is Oxford Clay.
- 1.2.4 The site lies at c 63.5m aOD, slightly lower than the land in the main part of the College. The area has been subject to previous development in 1959 when the Dining Hall and previous kitchen facilities were constructed. .

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (OA 2009), but has been summarised below.

Previous archaeological investigations

- 1.3.2 In 1998 during construction in front of the Founder's Gatehouse and 54 Woodstock Road, the adjoining Victorian house, post-medieval artefacts were recovered.



- 1.3.3 An archaeological evaluation at St Anne's College in 1991 (OA, 1991) in advance of construction of the Clare Palley Building, c 40m east of the area of proposed development, found evidence for medieval cultivation and Victorian development.

Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP - 43 AD)

- 1.3.4 No archaeological remains from the prehistoric period have been identified within the area of development.
- 1.3.5 Five locations within a 500m study area have produced remains dating to this period. Two palaeolithic implements were recovered in 1880 from the site of the former Girls' High School, c 150 m to the south-east, and an evaluation at Wycliffe Hall, 54 Banbury Road, c 200m to the north-east found an undated pit and ditch which contained a single sherd of prehistoric pottery.
- 1.3.6 A concentration of crop marks within the University Parks, c 250m to the east of the development include ring ditches and linear features. Ring ditches likely to be associated with the cropmark concentration have been found at the Radcliffe Infirmary site c 150m to the south-west and an evaluation at the site of the former Acland Hospital c 110m to the south tentatively proposes the location of a ring ditch that may have been re-used as a bastion within the Civil War defences. These ring ditches may form a WSW-ENE alignment running c 110m south of St Anne's College. A number of Bronze Age barrow ditches have been identified outside of the 500m study area and it is possible these ring ditches may be part of an extensive barrow cemetery dating to this period. In addition, a Neolithic Henge monument has been identified at the former Queen Elizabeth House on St Giles, also just outside the study area.
- 1.3.7 Excavations in the Science Area to the south-east of the development has demonstrated early Iron Age activity which may extend westwards into the site. Ditches and pits containing Iron Age pottery were found at the Rex Richard Building and Belgic pottery has been recovered at the Clarendon Laboratory.

Roman 43 AD - 410 AD

- 1.3.8 No archaeological remains dating to this period have been found within the development area.
- 1.3.9 The remains of a possible basement of a Roman building, coins and other finds including a skeleton were uncovered at the site of St Anthony's College c 75m to the north. Roman coins were also recovered during gravel quarrying in Bevington Road on the north side of St Anne's College in the 1820's and a Roman quern was found in St Bernard's Road c 150m north-west of the development.
- 1.3.10 A Romano-British settlement has been identified to the south-east of the development and may extend into it. Ditches and pits were recorded at the University Museum and surrounding developments and at Mansfield College. Substantial quantities of pottery have been recorded from these sites.

Early Medieval AD 410 - 1066

- 1.3.11 No archaeological remains from this period have been identified within the site.
- 1.3.12 Evidence for early Saxon activity has been found at a number of locations across Oxford including barrow burials at Radcliffe Infirmary c 150m south-west of the development. Excavations in 1770 revealed two burials, one with a silver-plated helmet ornament. Undated skeletons found at the Infirmary in 1957 may also belong to this period. Further finds of a bone heddle stick recovered from a layer of ash in 1938, c 180m south-west of the site and a gold bracteate brooch recovered from St Giles Field



in 1646 c 100m to the south of St Anne's College may suggest a possible early medieval cemetery in the Infirmary area.

- 1.3.13 A defended *burh* was laid out at Oxford in the 9th century onwards and after this, a substantial town developed, although it did not extend as far north as the development site. At that period, the land belonged probably to the manor of Walton with which it was associated until the 16th century. It seems likely that the site was a mixture of arable land and meadow during this period. Finds of typical late Saxon pottery were recovered from ploughsoils during an evaluation at St Anne's College in 1991.

Later medieval period (AD 1066-1550)

- 1.3.14 No remains from this period have been uncovered at the development site.
- 1.3.15 St Giles church and parish, in which the area of the proposed development lies, was established in the early 12th century. Pits from this period were found at the rear of the Horse and Jockey public house, built in 1750, on Woodstock Road in 2003, c 80m north-west of the site. In 2009, a large pit dating to the 10th - 12th century was discovered at the former Acland Hospital site, c 110m south of the site.

Post-medieval period (AD 1550-1880)

- 1.3.16 In 1542 the land north of the medieval town of Oxford, including the development area was recorded as part of St Giles Field. Much of this was purchased by St John's College in 1573 although the land continued to be used for mixed farming. In 1642-4 during the Civil War new defences were built on the north side of Oxford. The 2009 evaluation at the former Acland Hospital site c 110m south of the development may have uncovered part of the ditch that encompassed the northern-most bastion of this defence as represented on de Gommès plan of 1644.

Modern (AD 1880 onwards)

- 1.3.17 By 1876, when the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map was produced, housing development had expanded around and within the site.
- 1.3.18 The connection between St Anne's College and the site began in 1932 when Mrs Amy Hartland purchased 35 Banbury Road and 56 Woodstock Road to provide a new base for the Society of Oxford Home-Students. This had emerged in 1898 from the Association for the Education of Women, founded in 1878 to make it possible for women to study in Oxford. Mrs Hartland wanted the Society to have new buildings and in 1937 work began on Hartland House, with the first stage opening in 1938. This Grade II Listed Building was extended eastwards in 1951 with another small extension added in 1972 and it is situated immediately east of the site, behind the Founder's Gatehouse.
- 1.3.19 The Society attained college status as St Anne's College in 1952. The College had been fortunate in its receipt of benefactions and grants, particularly on the death of Mrs Hartland in 1945 and this enabled not only the completion of Hartland House, but construction of residential accommodation. The properties along the south side of Bevington Road was brought from St John's College and additional houses acquired on both of the Banbury and Woodstock Road. In 1959 the Dining Hall and the attached kitchen, which formed a significant part of the development area was built to a design by Gerald Banks, in part of what had been 52 Woodstock Road and the garden to 54 Woodstock Road.
- 1.3.20 The Wolfson and Rayne Buildings, Grade II listed, were constructed as residential blocks in the 1960s in the eastern part of the site. The Founder's Gatehouse tower was



also constructed in the north of the area. This building served as the College Lodge until 2005 when the Ruth Deech Building, incorporating a new lodge and the Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre was completed. This lies immediately to the north of the development and was built on the gardens to the rear of College properties in Bevington Road.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

Evaluation

2.1.1 The aims of the Evaluation were to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- Determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation under full area excavation
- Determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise
- Characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon younger (overlying) deposits where possible
- Determine the palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits
- Make available the results of the investigation to inform the planning process and the potential for any further mitigation strategy.

Watching Brief

2.1.2 The aims of the Watching Brief were to:

- Rapidly excavate and record any archaeological remains that may be revealed during the reduction of the development area to formation level
- Report dealing with the results of the investigation

2.2 Methodology

Evaluation

2.2.1 The methodology employed for the evaluation followed that of the Written Scheme of Investigation. This comprised three trenches (Trenches 1-3) that were positioned within the footprint of the new building with the aim of investigating a total of 45m² or c 10% of the development area.

2.2.2 All trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance tool prior to excavation. Topsoil and overburden were removed by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. In order to facilitate a safe working depth, Trench 2 was stepped although this was not possible in Trenches 1 and 3 due to the proximity of a live data cable.

2.2.3 The reduction of the site area down to natural gravel during the Watching Brief was undertaken under archaeological supervision.

2.2.4 Where safely possible all features and deposits not deemed as modern were investigated.



- 2.2.5 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with the established OA Field Manual (OAU 1992). Black and-white negative and colour digital photographs were taken of all trenches and archaeological features.
- 2.2.6 Site plans were drawn at 1:50 with larger scale plans of features as necessary at 1:20. Section drawings of features and sample sections of trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:20.
- 2.2.7 All finds were bagged labelled with the site code and their context number. Finds of recent date were not retained, though their presence recorded during context recording.
- 2.2.8 There were no deposits suitable for environmental sampling.

Watching Brief

- 2.2.9 The Methodology for the Watching Brief conformed to OAs Standard Methodology for Watching Brief, with the site specific approach as follows:
- strip site down to the uppermost horizon of the underlying gravel geology before removal of extant foundations and services etc under the supervision of the Attending Archaeologist
 - map and rapid sample excavation of any features by the Attending Archaeologist
 - once archaeological mitigation had finished removal of foundations and services could proceed
 - the above process took place concurrently so as to minimise delays to construction

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the Evaluation are described trench by trench (3.3-3.5), followed by the results of the Watching Brief (3.6), the context details of both exercises are presented in Appendix A. This is followed by reports of the artefactual evidence in Section 4, the more detailed data tables of which are presented in Appendix B. Finally a discussion of the results is presented in Section 5.

3.2 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.2.1 Three trenches were excavated at St Anne's College, Oxford at the site of the old kitchen block. Two ran north-south while the third was orientated east-west. Archaeological remains were encountered in two of the three trenches, Trench 3 was archaeologically sterile being composed mostly of numerous service trenches.

3.3 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3 and Plate 1)

- 3.3.1 This trench measured 7.5m by 1.5m and was shorter than initially planned because of active services running along both its northern and southern ends. Natural (110) was revealed within the central part of the trench at a depth of 1.43m (61.98m aOD) below the extant surface and comprised yellow sandy gravel. The natural was cut by two pits (111 and 114), though due to the proximity of the trench to the main university internet duct, feature 114 was only surface cleaned. Feature 111 was partially exposed along



the western side of the trench but was probably oval/circular in shape and measured 2.9m across and 0.18m in depth and had gently sloping sides and a slight irregular base. It was filled with intensely compacted pebbles in a clayey sand matrix (112) containing animal bone and a small sherd of 17th or 18th century pottery.

- 3.3.2 The second feature (114) was partially exposed on the eastern side of the trench and was irregular, measuring at least 2.9m across and contained a similar fill of compacted pebbles (113). A worn fragment of peg-tile of 13th-16th century date was recovered from surface cleaning of the feature. The compacted pebbles that filled features 111 and 114 appears to have been identical to a layer (108) that was exposed across the centre of the trench suggesting that both features were partially open when it was deposited. It measured up to 0.07m thick and probably formed part of a deliberated laid surface and overlay a thin localised spread of ashy silt (109), possibly dumped during the laying of the surface. Neither contained any finds. Above was a 0.21m thick layer of sterile mid red-brown silty clay (107) that also contained no finds. This supported a second surface of compacted pebbles and sand (115) which was up to 0.10m thick that occurred at c 1.1m below the extant surface (c 62.30m aOD) above which was a 0.15m thick layer of clean whitish yellow mortar sand (106). Above this was a 0.84m thick layer of compact light brown sandy silt (105) that extended across the whole trench and appears to represent an accumulated deposit, possible a garden soil. It contained 18th and 19th century material (not retained) and supported modern dumping deposits (101-104) and the extant topsoil (101).

3.4 Trench 2 (Figs 2, 4-6 and Plate 2)

- 3.4.1 The order to facilitate safe investigation of earlier levels without the need for shoring a stepped trench was excavated. Its upper step measured c 7.5m by 4.5m within which a smaller step measuring 6.0m by 1.7m was reduced to the level of natural. The undisturbed level of natural braided gravel (213) was revealed towards the west end of the deeper trench at 62.20m aOD (or a depth of c 1.40m below the extant ground level). This was overlain by a 0.14m thick layer of moderately firm, mid reddish brown sandy clay (229) that was sterile and probably represented a remnant of natural brick-earth 'supra natural'. Above was a loose dark grey/brown sandy/silty clay (228) that was 0.20m in depth and contained sherds of medieval pottery including a Brill/Boarstall jug of possible 15th-16th century date and fragments animal bone and could have represented remains of a garden or plough soil. This was cut by two deep pits (212 and 214), both of which were located near the west end of the trench. Pit 212 had been truncated by modern features and only its eastern edge survived but probably extended beyond the western and northern extent of the trench. It survived for a depth of 0.40m and had vertical sides with a flat base and may have been rectangular in shape, measuring at least 1.6m by 1.2m. It contained three fills the earliest of which (226) comprised dark grey-brown sandy clay that contained much domestic refuse especially animal bone fragments and pottery including sherds of late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware (c 1500-1600). Also found in the fill was a copper alloy pin and small fragment of tap slag. Its second fill (211), comprised mid red-brown sandy clay and also contained much animal bone and pottery datable to c 1525-1600 with CBM fragments of medieval date and notably a vertebra from a probable turbot. Also found in this fill was a worn silver halfpenny of Edward I, (1272-1307), a copper alloy pin/needle and a lead rivet. Its upper fill (227) comprised dark grey brown silty sand that also contained much rubbish and included a fragment of possible Tudor brick dated to c 1500-1700.
- 3.4.2 The second pit (214) was partially exposed but was probably rectangular in shape and measured at least 1.5m by 1.0m. It had near vertical sides and a rounded base and



was 1.2m in depth. It had a single fill of mid grey brown sandy silt (215) that contained a great deal of domestic rubbish, mainly animal bone and pottery though it also contained small quantities of marine shell and a fragment stabbed Wessex-type decorated floor tile with traces of inlaid slip. The pottery comprised an assemblage of late medieval wares that may be dated to c 1500-1600.

- 3.4.3 These features were truncated by a large vertical sided linear trench (208) that ran the length of the trench and possibly formed part of a foundation or robber trench of 19th century date. It measured at least 4.0m across and 1.5m in depth. It was filled with lenses of redeposited gravel and dark brown sandy clay, one of which (209) contained clay pipe fragments, glass and pottery of 19th century date. This was 'cut' into by a large depression (216) of modern date, filled with rubble, possibly formed by during demolition of the site during the 1950's. It was cut into by brick footing with a concrete foundation (202) which was sealed by the extant topsoil (201).

3.5 Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 6 and Plate 3)

- 3.5.1 This trench measured 12.5m by 1.5m and after the removal of topsoil (301) and modern overburden (302 and 303) a series modern drains encased in concrete were encountered that either ran along the length of the trench or crossed it obliquely. Additionally, two manholes were also encountered all of which severely impeded further and deeper investigation. A small area towards the southern end of the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.4m (c 62.80m aOD), below the concrete base of a manhole (306). This revealed a 0.31m thick deposit of whitish yellowish mortar rubble that contained fragments of china and glass of 19th century or later date (not retained). A further deposit of modern material (307) containing ash, clinker and similar pottery was partially exposed below the base of 306.

3.6 The Watching Brief (Figs 2 and 7)

- 3.6.1 The stripping of the site down to natural gravel revealed three features (400, 406 and 410). Linear feature 410 located towards the north end of the site was aligned NW-SE and was 0.50m wide and 0.04m deep with a slightly concave base. It was filled a slightly reddish mid brown silty clay that contained no finds. A second possible ditch or pit (400), heavily truncated by modern foundations was located to its south. It measured 0.65m in width and had steeply sloping sides and was at least 0.65m in depth. Two fills were revealed, the earliest (402) comprised mid-brown clayey silt that contained a clay pipe fragment and pottery suggesting a date between c 1750-1830. Its upper fill (401) comprised mid grey-brown clayey silt that contained an 18th century clay-pipe fragment, although it also contained a fair quantity of animal bone. The third feature (406) could not be investigated due to safety concerns. It was roughly circular and measured c 1.25m in diameter and was filled loose mid-light brown silt and gravel (407) from which two large sherds of 19th century pottery, one possibly from a teapot, were retrieved from its surface.



4 FINDS

4.1 The Pottery (John Cotter)

Introduction and methodology

- 4.1.1 A total of 81 sherds of pottery weighing 1118g were recovered from 13 contexts. These represent a range of medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet (see Appendix B, Table 1), followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.).

Date and nature of the assemblage

- 4.1.2 Overall the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition, although many of the sherds are quite large and fresh. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. These are detailed in Appendix B and summarised here. Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994).
- 4.1.3 The range of medieval and post-medieval wares here is typical of sites along the main thoroughfares of central Oxford - even though the St Anne's College lies some distance north of the city walls. The earliest pottery fabric here is a single small worn residual sherd of late Saxon Oxford shelly ware (OXB, c 775-1050). There are several other late Saxon/early medieval sherds present in the assemblage but these mostly occur as smallish worn sherds which are residual in their contexts. These include several sherds of Cotswold-type ware (OXAC, from c 900 but mainly c 1050-1225 at Oxford). There is also a single sherd of coarse flint-tempered Newbury A/South-west Oxfordshire ware (OXBF, c 1000-1250) and a few small sherds of Medieval Oxford ware (OXY, c 1075-1300).
- 4.1.4 As usual, high medieval Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM, c 1225-1600) is the predominant medieval glazed ware present from the site. This can be difficult to date closely if, as here, the assemblage is mostly plain and undecorated. However the likelihood here is that most of the assemblage is of late medieval date, mainly perhaps c 1500-1600, and this is supported in some contexts by the association of transitional late medieval/post-medieval orange and buff sandy wares which may be from Brill (Bucks) or other regional sources. A few small sherds of early Surrey/Hampshire Border whiteware (BORD, from c 1525-1700) also support this view. Contexts likely to date to the 16th century include Contexts (211), (215), (226) and possibly (227) and (228). The ceramic building material (CBM) spot-dates are also broadly in agreement with this. Other contexts are datable to the post-medieval period including several datable to the 19th century by the presence of transfer-printed whitewares (TPW).

4.2 The Ceramic Building Material (John Cotter)

- 4.2.1 A total of 13 pieces of CBM weighing 860g were recovered from 7 contexts. They were examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage in a similar way to the pottery (see elsewhere) and the data recorded on an Excel spreadsheet (see Appendix B, Table 2). As usual, the dating of broken fragments of ceramic or other building materials is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad



and should therefore be regarded with caution. The assemblage, which is mostly very fragmentary and worn, is described in some detail in the spreadsheet and summarised only briefly here as there is little of much note. As usual in Oxford, fragments of plain flat roofing tile (peg tile) predominate, some with circular nail holes. These are mostly medieval (from c 1200 onwards), and probably residual, but one post-medieval piece was noted. A piece of plain medieval ridge tile was also noted and, perhaps more significantly, a small piece of decorated medieval floor tile in the 'Stabbed Wessex' style dating to c 1280-1330 (ctx 215). A few pieces of very worn early post-medieval brick and one 18th- or 19th-century thin architectural brick was also noted. No further work is recommended.

4.3 The Clay Tobacco Pipes (John Cotter)

4.3.1 The excavation produced a small collection of 16 pieces of clay pipe weighing 59g from 5 contexts. These have been catalogued and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet (see Appendix B, Table 3). The catalogue records, per context, the spot-date, the quantity of stem, bowl and mouth fragments, the overall sherd count, weight, and comments on condition and any makers' marks or decoration present. The assemblage is very fragmentary and unimpressive and mostly comprises stem fragments. Some of these are probably of 17th-century date but are mostly residual. Only two pieces of pipe bowl are present. One of these is a plain heel datable to the later 18th century; the other is a broken bowl base with moulded oakleaf seams dating the pipe to the 19th century (ctx 217). Otherwise all the pieces are plain and unmarked. In view of the small size and condition of the assemblage no further work is recommended.

4.4 The Glass (Ian Scott)

4.4.1 There are 8 sherds of glass from the evaluation, and these comprise 1 sherd of window glass and 7 sherds of vessel glass (see Appendix B for full details). The sherd of window glass is very thin (1mm) and olive green in colour. It is slightly irregular and probably post-medieval in date.

4.4.2 The vessel glass includes the foot of a stemmed glass of 18th- or early 19th-century date (context 220), and 3 sherds from wine bottles including 1 sherd of late 18th- or early 19th-century date (context 209). The remaining 3 sherds of vessel glass are undiagnostic and cannot be closely dated.

Table 1: Summary by Context and Type

Context	Wine bottle	Wine glass	Unspecified vessel	Window	Totals
209	1		1	1	0
215			2		0
220	1	1			0
221	1				0
Total	3	1	3	1	0

4.5 The Metal Objects (Ian Scott)

4.5.1 There are just 5 metal finds from two contexts, and they comprise 1 silver coin, 1 possible lead rivet, an unidentified fragment of iron, a copper alloy lace tag, and possible copper alloy pin. Full details are in Appendix B.



4.5.2 Context 211 produced a silver halfpenny of Edward I, minted in London, a long thin piece of copper alloy wire with a point at one end, possibly a very long thin pin, and a piece of corroded lead, possibly a lead rivet. Context 226 produced a small copper alloy lace tag and a small fragment of encrusted iron.

Table 2: Metals: Summary by Context and identification

Context	Coin (silver)	Lace tag	Pin or needle	Unidentified fragment (iron)	Rivet (lead)	Total
211	1		1		1	3
226		1		1		2
Total	1	1	1	1	1	5

4.6 The Worked Bone Objects (Leigh Allen)

4.6.1 Two worked bone objects; a handle and a button were recovered from the site, both objects date to the post-medieval period. The button from context 219 is circular with a raised edge and 4 holes at the centre for attachment. Usually made from the long bones of large animals this common form of button first makes an appearance in the 17th century.

4.6.2 The handle (SF 3) from context 217 is from a long handled brush, it is rectangular with chamfered edges narrowing at the neck, the head of the brush is missing. There is a crudely incised cross on the front face just below the neck. This type of brush dates from the 17th century onwards (MacGregor 1985, 183)

4.7 Slag (Leigh Allen)

4.7.1 Two fragments of slag weighing 27g were recovered from site. The small fragment recovered from 16th century pit fill 226 is probably tap slag; it has the characteristic fluid appearance of the upper surface and would have been produced during the smelting process. The fragment from context 209 is undiagnostic.

4.8 The Animal Bones (Lena Strid)

4.8.1 A total of 369 animal bones were recovered from this site. The majority of the assemblage derived from 16th century pits, although bones from the medieval period as well as 17th - 19th centuries were also present in small numbers. In all periods, most bones were in a good condition (Table 3). A total of eleven bones displayed gnaw marks from carnivores, probably dog. These derived mainly from the 16th century assemblage. No bones were burnt.

Table 3: Bone preservation levels

	N	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
Medieval?	8		50.0%	50.0%		
16th C	237	5.1%	74.3%	20.7%		
17th - 18th C	117		94.9%	5.1%		
19th C	7	42.9%	57.1%			

4.8.2 The predominance of cattle and sheep/goat in the assemblage (Table 4) is to be considered normal, regardless of time period. Horse was only found in a single 17th - 18th century pit (111) and probably represents remains from a deposited carcass of a



working horse. The avian remains include domestic fowl, goose and duck, the latter two probably domestic. Domestic goose and duck are difficult to identify from their wild counterparts, greylag goose and mallard. The possibility of interbreeding further complicates species identification of these taxa. One sawn deer antler in the 16th century pit (212) indicates that small scale antler working took place in the area.

Table 4: Bone species by date

Species	Medieval?	16th C	17th - 18th C	19th C
Cattle	2	30	8	
Sheep/goat	3	14	2	
Pig		6		1
Horse			5	
Deer		1		
Domestic fowl		3		3
Goose		3		
Duck		2		
Indet. bird		5		
Small mammal		1		
Medium mammal	1	51	6	3
Large mammal	2	47	8	
Indeterminate		74	88	
TOTAL	8	237	117	7
Weight	76	2308	714	14

- 4.8.3 Age estimation could only be carried out on the larger 16th century assemblage. Judging by the epiphyseal fusion, the sheep bones (n:10) derived mainly from adult animals, whereas a range of age stages were represented among the cattle bones (n:11), from juvenile to skeletally mature. The two ageable pig bones were skeletally immature. The avian remains were comprised solely of adults.
- 4.8.4 Butchering marks were found on 26 bones from the 16th century assemblage. Longitudinal splitting of vertebrae and sacrum of medium and large mammals, including one calf sacrum indicate suspension of the carcasses during butchery. Evidence of portioning of carcasses were found on a cattle skull, humerus and ulna, a pig mandible, a fowl ulna as well as on the mid-parts of ribs and vertebrae from unidentified medium and large mammals. Cut marks from filleting were noted on two cattle limb bones. The use of sawing for portioning of carcasses dates to the late post-medieval period (MacGregor 1985, 55). This is observed on a 19th century pig axis (209) and on a cattle pelvis (215). Since the pelvis was retrieved from the 16th century pit (214), the bone is likely to be intrusive, probably from the cutting 19th century pit (208).
- 4.8.5 Pathologies were found on three bones from the 16th century and one bone from the 17th -18th centuries. The latter was a sheep/goat humerus with an exostosis on the distal part of the medial side, possibly an ossification of a muscle attachment. The 16th century pathological bones included one cattle first phalanx with large exostoses, eburnation and grooving on the proximal joint surface, typical of osteoarthritis (Bartosiewicz *et al.* 1997, 33), suggesting that this animal had been used for traction. One rib from a large mammal had been fractured and healed in a misaligned position. Another large mammal rib displayed pathological bone growth possibly a sign of infection.



4.9 The Fish Remains (Rebecca Nicholson)

4.9.1 Four fish bones were retrieved by hand collection, all from 16th century fill 211 (pit 212.). The fish bones comprised an anal pterygiophore from plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa* L.), a cleithrum fragment from a large plaice, flounder or dab (*Pleuronectidae*) and two fused and slightly compressed caudal vertebrae from a large (>0.6mm) flatfish, probably turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus* (L.)). Turbot, and especially a fish of this size, would have been (as now) an expensive purchase.

4.10 Marine Shell (Leigh Allen)

4.10.1 A total of 17 fragments of shell weighing 256g were recovered from site, the majority of the assemblage comprises oyster shell with the exception of a single whelk shell (5g) from context 215.

Table 5: Marine Shell

Context	No. frags	Weight	Type
211	5	96g	Oyster
215	1	5g	Whelk
215	7	116g	Oyster
219	1	17g	Oyster
220	2	12g	Oyster
221	1	10g	Oyster
Total	17	256g	

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reliability of the Field Investigation

5.1.1 Notwithstanding the impact of modern disturbances and the depth of the evaluation trenches encountered, a reliable stratigraphic sequence was obtained from the site with minimum evidence for intrusive material.

5.2 Project Objectives and Results

5.2.1 The evaluation successfully achieved its original objectives of establishing that archaeological remains were present on the site and was also able to fully characterise their nature, significance and date despite significant impact by modern footings and services. Furthermore a rapid on-site assessment of the remains led to the successful implication of the Phase 2 mitigation strategy, the rapid recording of the archaeological remains that were revealed during the Watching Brief. It was established that there were no archaeological remains that could be closely dated prior to the late medieval period though residual Late Saxon pottery and the Edward I halfpenny may attest to earlier activity in the vicinity.

5.3 Interpretation

Medieval

5.3.1 The presence of pits containing appreciable quantity of animal bones and 16th century pottery would imply that the site had been occupied at this time though there are also hints that this occupation could have commenced significantly earlier given the



presence of residual sherds of pottery dating from 1050-1300 and single sherd of pre-Conquest pottery.

- 5.3.2 The site lies within the parish of St Giles church that was established in the 12th century. Pits of this date were found at the rear of the Horse and Jockey public house, located c 80 m north-west of the site which implies that occupation alongside Woodstock Road may have extended to the north of the site. Alternatively the material could have been derived from manuring of fields, though such plough soil of this date did not survive unless layer 229 represented it rather than an undisturbed sub-soil. It is possible that undated shallow gully/ditch (410) found in the Watching Brief may be of this period, which had a fill similar in nature to the 'subsoil', which at least suggests an early date. It could have represented a field boundary since the area was known by 1542 as St Giles Field which stretched back from the northern edge of the town. A possible ploughsoil (228) found in Trench 2 which overlies 229 was more characteristic of such a soil and contained pottery contemporary or slightly earlier than this date.

Post-medieval

- 5.3.3 It is perhaps significant that the site saw the first *in-situ* evidence for occupation in the sixteenth century around the time that this part of St Giles Field was purchased by St John's College in 1573. The archaeological remains included two pits (212 and 214) found within Trench 2 that seem to have been used for the disposal of household refuse presumably by the occupants of houses located alongside Woodstock Road, a principal thoroughfare of at least medieval date leading into Oxford. Material found in these pits gives some insight into the occupants which included a sawn deer antler indicating that small scale antler working was undertaken on the site. Also a cow bone showed evidence for traction would that could suggest that the occupants were farmers, possible of some wealth since vertebrae from a probable turbot, an expensive luxury, was found in pit 212.
- 5.3.4 Evidence for the presence of frontage buildings is only likely to have been encountered in Trench 3, closest to Woodstock Road, unfortunately any such evidence would have been removed by modern services. It is possible that cobble surfaces 108 and 115 found in Trench 1, possibly of 17th-18th century date, could have represented the remains of a floor within a later structure such a barn but are more likely to form part of a courtyard surface or 'lane' leading off from the road.
- 5.3.5 Occupation on the site appears to have continued into the late 18th century since a pit or ditch (400) filled with rubbish that included a clay pipe bulb datable to c 1750-90 was found during the Watching Brief. Brick wall foundations and service trenches attest to the houses that occupied the site during the 19th and first part of the 20th century and to the college kitchen that was built in 1959.

5.4 Significance and Dissemination

- 5.4.1 The project has shown that development alongside Woodstock Road commenced by the 16th century, together with hints of earlier medieval activity in the area. However the quantity of the evidence obtained from the site is small, due in part by the removal of much of it by its development in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 5.4.2 A copy of this report will be uploaded to the OA on-line library at <http://library.thehumanjourney.net>.



APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Tr	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
101	1	Layer		0.10	Topsoil		Modern
102	1	Layer		0.27	Makeup		Modern
103	1	Layer		0.04	Dump		Modern
104	1	Layer		0.06	Clinker		Modern
105	1	Layer		0.84	Garden soil		Pmed
106	1	Layer		0.13	Mortar/sand dump (=305?)		Pmed
107	1	Layer		0.21	Buried Soil		Pmed
108	1	Layer		0.07	Compacted pebble surface		Pmed?
109	1	Layer		0.02	Ash spread		Pmed?
110	1	Layer			sand/gravel		Natural
111	1	Cut	1.20	0.25	Pit		17-18C
112	1	Fill	1.20	0.40	Fill of 111	Animal Bone,Pottery(17-18C)	17-18C
113	1	Fill	2.40	0.15	Fill of 114	CBM (worn 13-16C)	Pmed?
114	1	Cut	2.40	0.15	Pit (unexcavated)		Pmed?
201	2	Layer			Modern overburden	Pottery (14-15C residual)	Modern
202	2	Masonry			Brick foundations		Modern
203	2	Fill			Fill of 216		Modern
204	2	Fill			Fill of 216		Modern
205	2	Fill			Fill of 216		Modern
206	2	Fill	2.50	0.50	Fill of 208		18-20C?
207	2	Fill	0.60	0.40	Fill of 208		18-20C?
208	2	Cut	4.00	1.50	Linear Trench		18-20C?
					Fill of 210	Animal Bone,Pottery (1830-1900),CBM (18-19C),Clay Pipe (19C),Glass,Slag	
209	2	Fill		0.72			19C
210	2	Cut	1.20	0.72	Pit		19C
					Fill of 212	Animal Bone,Fish remains,Pottery (c1525-1600?),CBM (13-14C?),Shell,Copper Alloy ?pin, Silver Coin (Halfpenny Edward I),Lead rivet	
211	2	Fill		0.40			16C
212	2	Cut	1.20	0.40	Pit		16C
213	2	Layer			Natural braided gravels		Natural
214	2	Cut	1.00	1.20	Gravel extraction pit		16C
					Fill of 214	Animal Bone,Pottery (c1500-1600?),CBM (c 1280-1400 incl dec floor tile),Shell,Glass	
215	2	Fill	1.00	1.20			16C
216	2	Cut	2.50	0.50	Shallow pit		Modern
217	2	Fill		0.32	Fill of 208	Clay Pipe (19C),Worked Bone	19C
218	2	Fill		0.13	Fill of 208		19C
					Fill of 208	Pottery(c1830-1900),CBM (15-17C?),Shell,Worked Bone	
219	2	Fill		0.30			19C
220	2	Fill		0.15	Fill of 208	Pottery (c1770-1830),Shell,Glass	19C
221	2	Fill		0.35	Fill of 208	Clay Pipe (17C),Shell,Glass	19C
222	2	Fill		0.08	Fill of 208		19C
223	2	Fill			Fill of 216		Modern
224	2	Fill			Fill of 216		Modern
225	2	Fill			Fill of 216		Modern
226	2	Fill		0.03	Fill of 212	Animal Bone,Pottery (c1500-1600?),Slag,Copper alloy lace	16C



Context	Tr	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
						tag, Iron	
227	2	Fill		0.05	Fill of 212	Animal Bone, Pottery (c1225-1600?), CBM (15-17C?)	15-16C
228	2	Layer		0.20	?Garden soil layer	Animal Bone, Pottery (c1225-1600 or late med)	Med?
229	2	Layer		0.14	Natural brickearth/'supra natural'		Natural
301	3	Layer		0.12	Topsoil		Modern
302	3	Layer		0.25	Overburden		19-20C
303	3	Layer		0.34	Overburden		19-20C
304	3	Fill		0.11	Concrete bedding for probable drain		19-20C
305	3	Layer		0.60	Mortar/sand dump (=106?)		19-20C
306	3	Masonry			Brickwork for manholes		19-20C
307	3	Layer			Ash/clinker		19-20C
400	WB	Cut		0.50	Ditch/Pit		M-L18C?
401	WB	Fill		0.20	Fill of 400	Animal Bone, Pottery (c1600-1650?), Clay Pipe (18C?)	M-L18C?
402	WB	Fill		0.30	Fill of 400	Animal Bone, Pottery (c1750-1830), CBM (16-18C), Clay Pipe (c1750-1790?)	M-L18C?
403	WB	Cut			Foundation cut		Modern
404	WB	Fill			Fill of 404		Modern
405	WB	Layer			Natural gravel		Natural
406	WB	Cut	1.25		Pit (unexcavated)		19C
407	WB	Fill			Fill of 406	Pottery (c1830-1900)	19C
408	WB	Cut			Ditch (=410)		Unknown (Med?)
409	WB	Fill			Fill of 408		Unknown (Med?)
410	WB	Cut	0.25	0.04	Ditch		Unknown (Med?)
411	WB	Fill			Fill of 410		Unknown (Med?)



APPENDIX B. FINDS TABLES

Table 6: Pottery

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
112	17-18C	1	4	Bs PMR, thin-walled ?cup w trace of applied feature
201	14-15C	1	117	Large thumbled jug base in med Surrey whiteware with specks green glaze. Poss Coarse Border ware?
209	c1830-1900	7	60	5x Transfer-printed whiteware (TPW). 1x BORDY jar rim. 1x small ?OXY glazed bs
211	c1525-1600?	12	83	Early BORDG green-glazed ?jar rim. Late Brill incl pale orange wares, late med transitional sandy redwares. Small bs OXAQ & OXY
215	c1500-1600?	27	216	Bs late Brill w glossy black glaze allover - poss copying Cistercian ware. Bs Brill Tudor green type. Other late Brill orange-buff wares. Several sherds incl pedestal jug base in transitional late med orange sandy ware - some w greenish-br glaze - poss late sandy Brill or a Newbury C/OXAG type? Rim Brill overfired purplish-brown near-stoneware jug rim (OXAP). Bs med Surrey whiteware jug - poss joins 201
219	c1830-1900	4	70	TPW x2. PMR bs, BORDG rim
220	c1770-1830	1	2	Bs Creamware
226	c1500-1600?	15	197	4-5 bss late Brill & late med transitional redwares. Bowl rim OXAC & 6 other bss
227	c1225-1600	4	73	Rim Brill pink-buff jug w handle stub - poss late med? Bs OXY cspot, bs v coarse flint-temp OXBF (to OA fabric ref coll), small worn bs late Saxon shellyware OXB
228	c1225-1600	3	44	Bs prob sandy cream Brill jug w greenish glz - poss late med? Also unglz Brill bs. Worn bs prob Northants med shellyware
401	c1600-1650?	3	126	Rim early fine PMR or late Brill dish with pie-crust scalloping on rim edge, glossy brown glz int, sooted. 2x joining bss late Brill gr-glz jug
402	c1750-1830	1	10	Rim flowerpot in pmed Brill-type redware with white slip band on rim
407	c1830-1900	2	116	TPW large sub-rectangular plate profile w blue Willow pattern dec - printed mark under rim 'DA.Cos/ IMPROVED WILLOW' in circle/hoop surmounted by a crown flanked by 2 willow trees . 1x transfer-print Pearlware lid-seated jar/teapot rim w crenellated rim w embossed palmettes & brownish edging to rim
TOTAL		81	1118	

Table 7: The Ceramic Building Material

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
113	13-16C	1	19	Worn med pegtile frag
209	18-19C	3	409	Edge frag thin red architectural brick 43mm thick. Frag worn older brick
211	13-14C?	2	43	Bs chalk-flecked pink-buff pegtile, other undiagnostic - poss pot?
215	c1280-1550	2	61	Small frag med pegtile. Small frag Stabbed Wessex-type dec floor tile with trace inlaid slip dec & keying stabs on reverse
219	16-17C?	1	32	Worn frag ?Tudor brick
227	15-17C?	2	74	Worn frag ?Tudor brick. Edge frag curved med ridge tile
402	16-18C?	2	222	Corner frag red post-med pegtile w nailhole. 1x worn early brick frag
TOTAL		13	860	



Table 8: Clay Tobacco Pipes

Context	Spot-date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	No sherds	Tot Wt	Comments
209	19C	11	0	0	11	33	6x narrow bore 19C stems. 5x 17C & 18C stems
217	19C	1	1	0	2	12	Broken bowl base 19C with oakleaf seams & attached stem
221	17C	1	0	0	1	3	Stem bore c3mm
401	18C?	1	0	0	1	4	Thick early stem but bore only c2mm, worn
402	c1750-1790?	0	1	0	1	7	Bowl heel - prominent, squared. Stem bore c 3mm. Prob from a common c1750-90 St Ebbe's-type Type D bowl
TOTAL		14	2	0	16	59	

Table 9: Glass

Context	Count	Fragt Count	Type	Sherd Type	Vessel Type	Colour	Function	Id	Comments
209	1	1	window			olive green	Window	window	Small sherd of thin window glass in olive green metal. Very slightly irregular surfaces and some bubbles in metal. Post medieval
209	1	1	vessel	base	wine bottle	dk olive green	Household	wine bottle	Sherd from the base of a free blown cylindrical wine bottle. Late 18th- to early 19th-century.
209	1	1	vessel	body	uncertain	olive green	Household	vessel	Body sherd, strongly curved, free-blown. Undiagnostic.
215	1	2	vessel	body	uncertain	colourless	Household	vessel	2 x very small thin body sherds (TH; 0.5mm). Weathered surfaces. Undiagnostic
220	1	1	vessel	body	wine bottle	olive green	Household	wine bottle	Body sherd in olive green metal. Probably from a wine bottle, but not closely datable.
220	1	1	vessel	foot	stemmed glass	colourless	Household	wine glass	Foot from a wine glass. Weathered. Possibly 18th- or early 19th-century.
221	1	1	vessel	body	wine bottle	dk green	Household	wine bottle	Bottle sherd from a cylindrical wine bottle with thick walls. Late 18th- or early 19th-century?

Table 10: Meta Objects

Context	SF No	Count	Fragt Count	L	B	Dia	Thk	Function	Sub-Function	Id	Comments	Metal
211	2	1	1			15		Coin		coin	Halfpenny, worn. Obverse: EDWARDVS REX. Reverse: CIVITAS LONDON. Edward I (1272-1307)	ag
211	4	1	1	12		19		Query		rivet	Possible rivet, poorly preserved	pb
211	5	1	1	82			0.9	Query		pin or needle	Needle or long pin shank. Thin wire with distinctive tapered point.	ca
226	1	1	1	28				Personal	Clothing	lace tag	Narrow lace tag with butt joint and possible pin	ca
226		1	1	42	38			Miscellaneous		object	Iron fragment, roughly triangular and encrusted	fe



APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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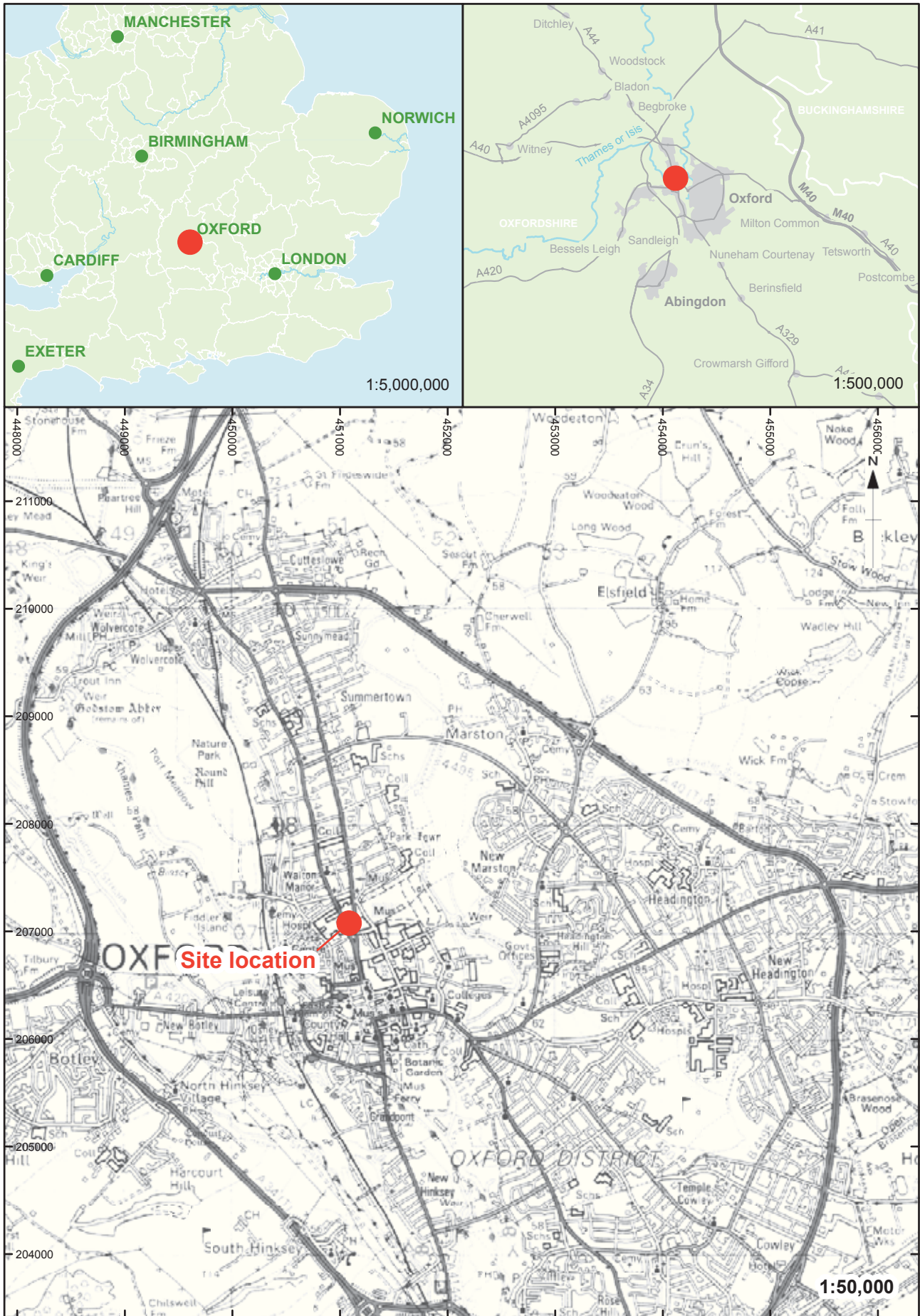


APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: New Kitchen, St Anne's College, Oxford
Site code: OXSANK10
Grid reference: SP 5101 0726
Type: Evaluation and Watching Brief
Date and duration: 24 August - 13 September 2011 (c 3 weeks)
Area of site: 430 m²

Summary of results: Between 24 August and 2 September 2011 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological evaluation, comprising three test trenches on behalf of St Anne's College, Woodstock Road, Oxford in order to ascertain the archaeological potential on the site prior to the construction of a new kitchen. This was followed immediately, with the agreement of David Radford - Archaeologist for the Local Planning Authority at Oxford City Council, by a Watching Brief during the initial groundwork for the new building. Although no deposits datable prior to the sixteenth century were found, pottery of late Saxon and medieval date and a silver halfpenny of Edward I found in later deposits may suggest activity between these dates in the vicinity. Two rubbish pits containing 16th century pottery were found, one which contained a sawn deer antler suggesting small scale antler working. Two phases of cobbles found in one trench of 17th or 18th century date may have formed part of a courtyard or lane leading off from Woodstock Road. Foundations and services pertaining 19th century houses and the former kitchen block of St Ann's College, built in 1959, had removed much of the archaeological evidence on the site.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxford County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2010.105



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Figure 1: Site location

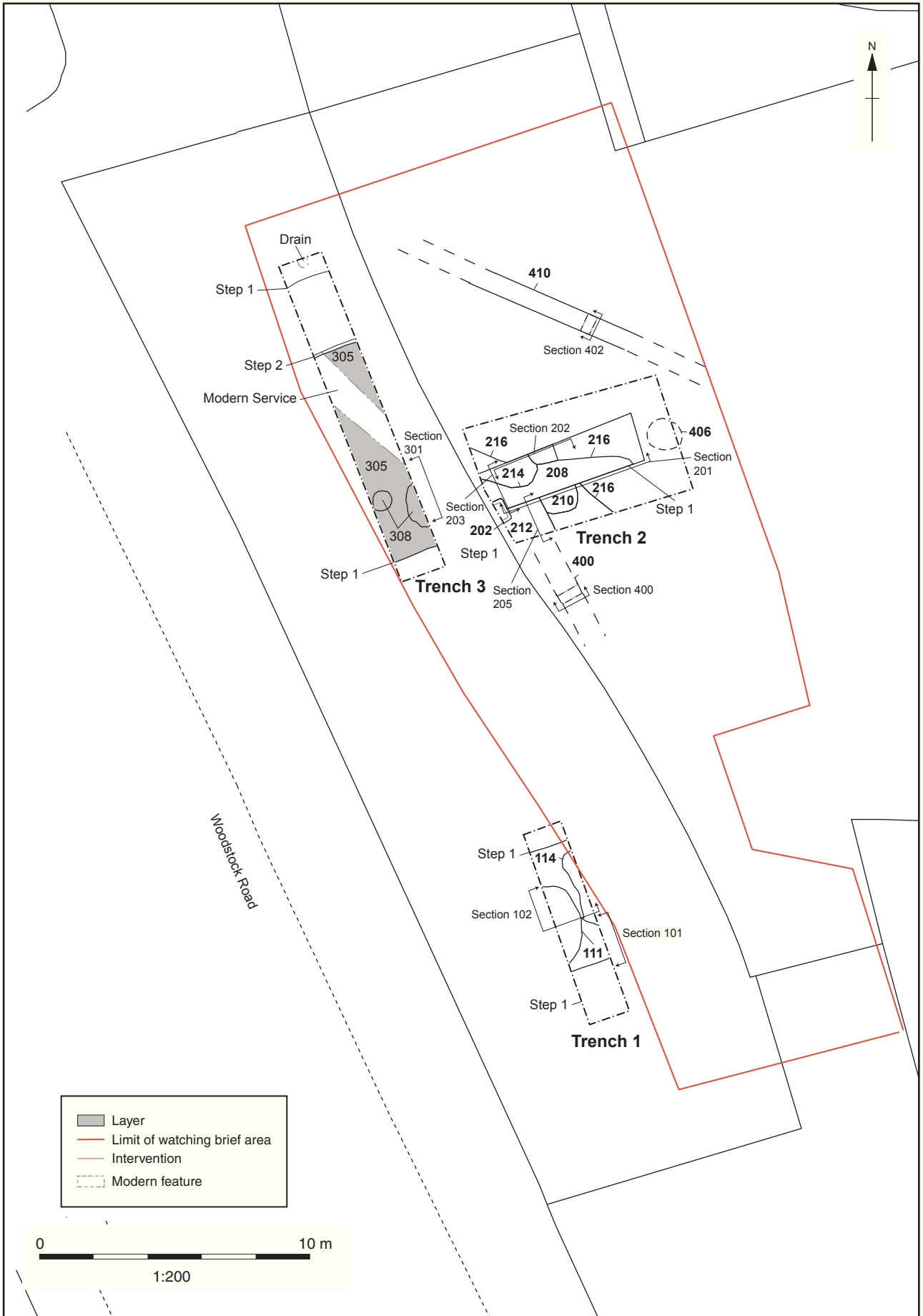


Figure 2: Trenches 1-3 and watching brief area

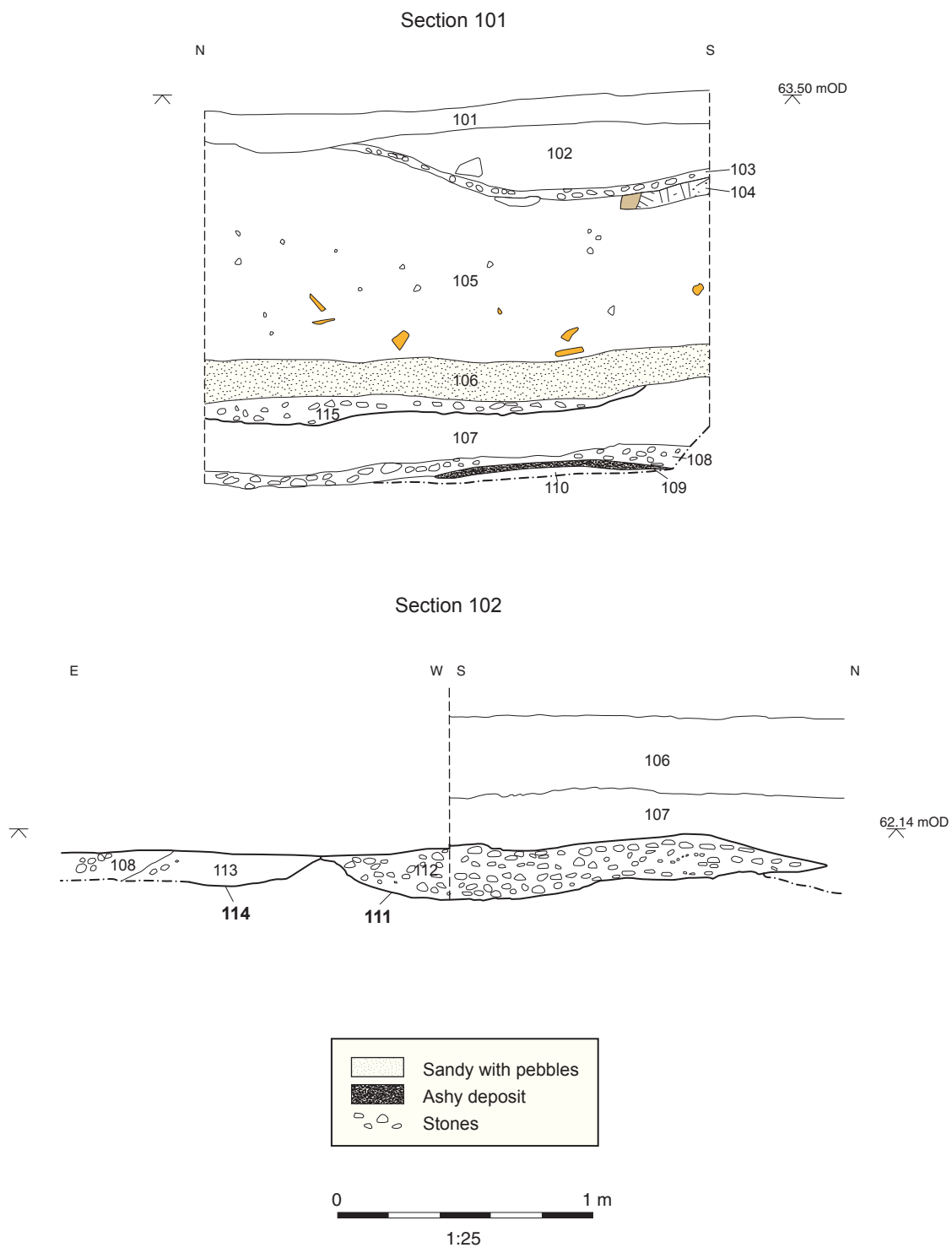


Figure 3: Sections 101 and 102

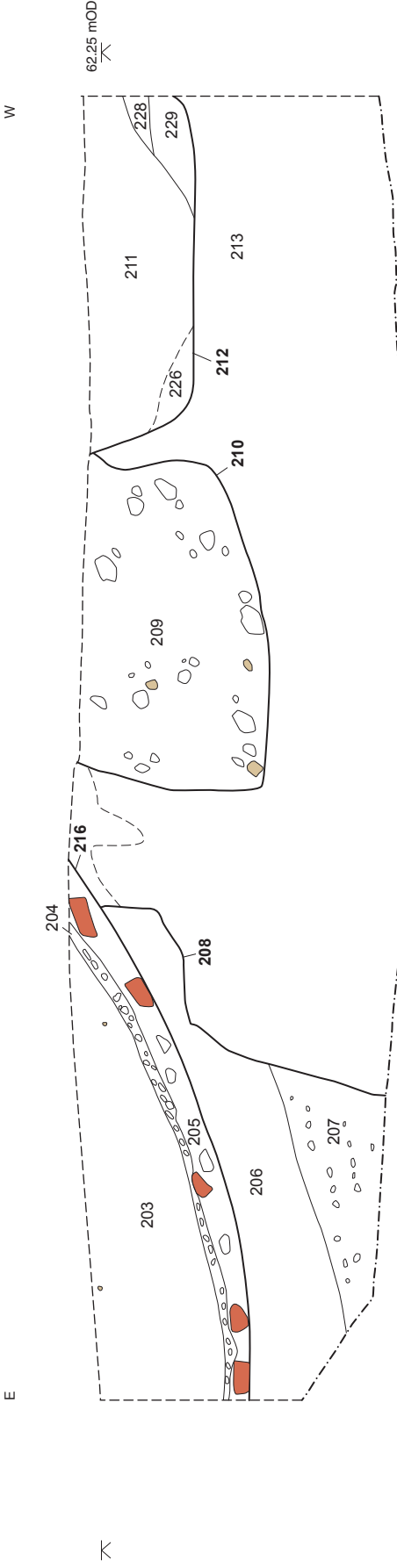
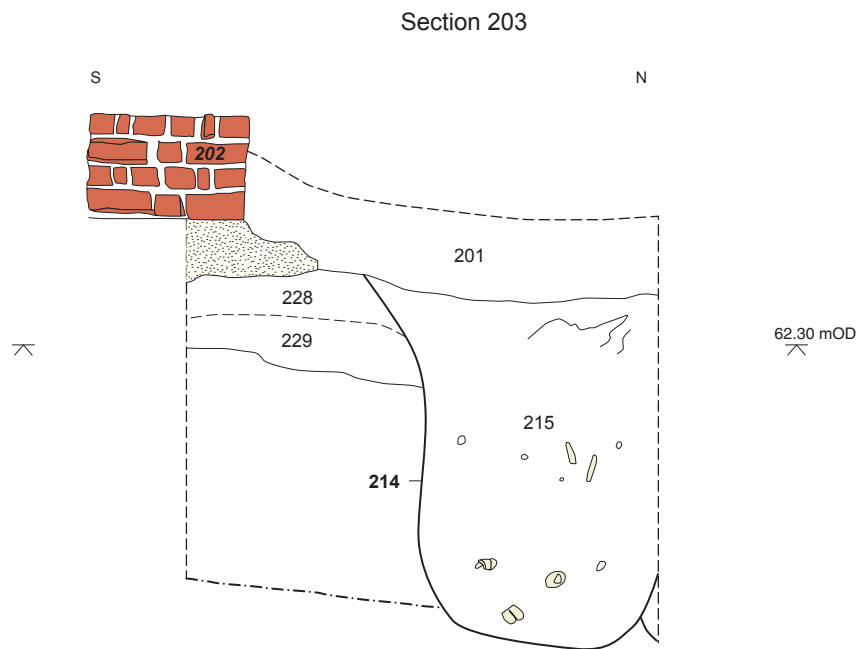
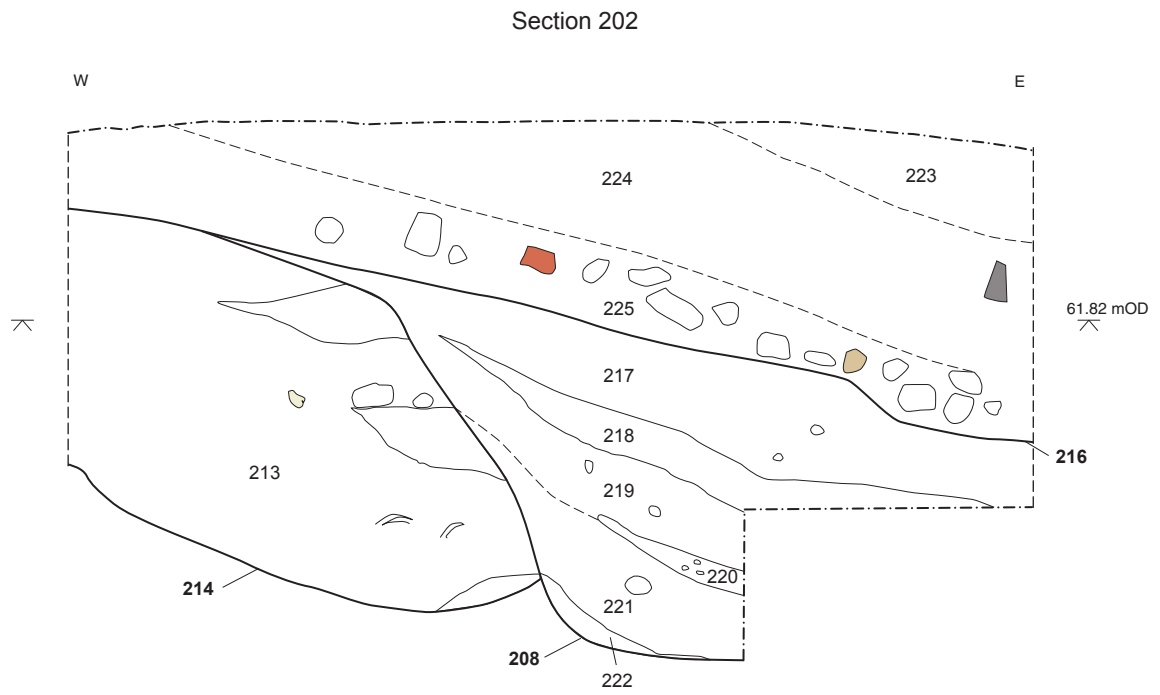


Figure 4: Section 201

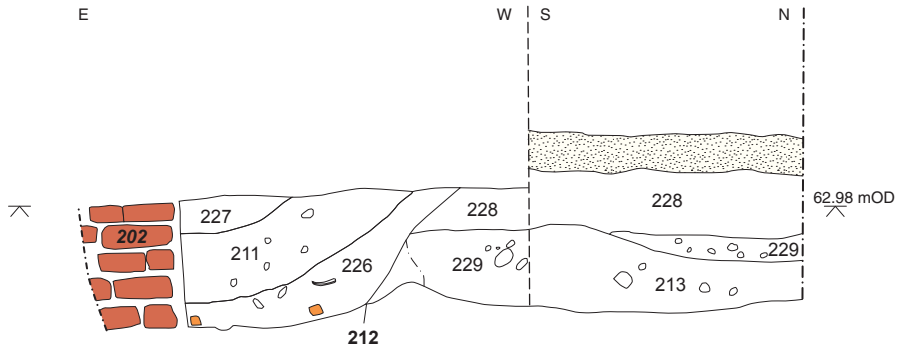


	Cement
	Brick
	Ceramics
	Stones
	Slate
	Bone
	Shell



Figure 5: Sections 202 and 203

Section 205



Section 301

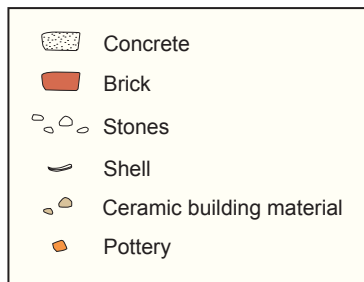
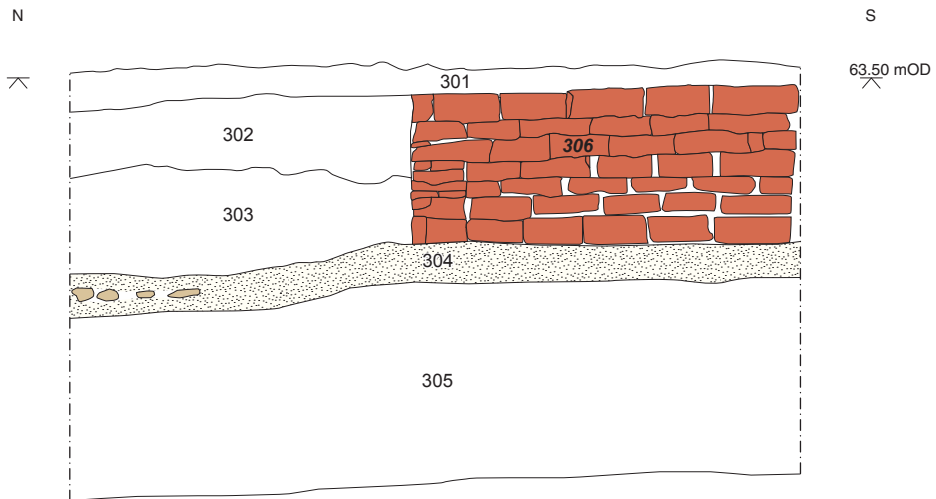


Figure 6: Sections 205 and 301

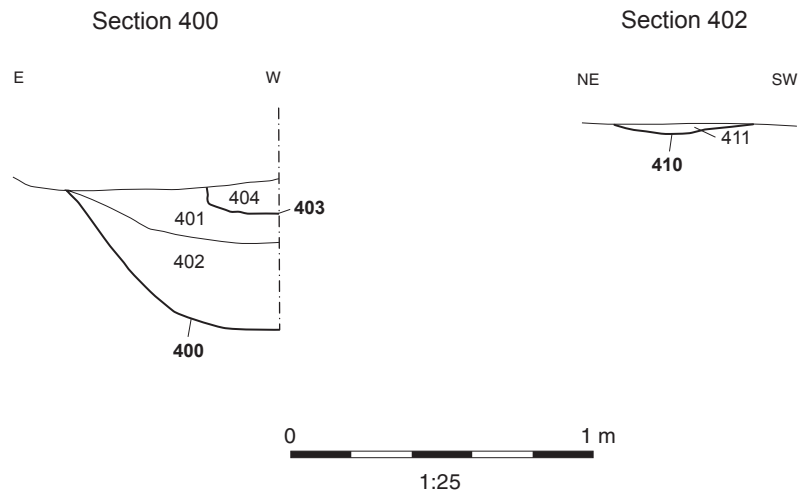


Figure 7: Sections 400 and 402



Plate 1: Trench 1 showing surface 108 with shallow pit 111 in foreground, looking SW



Plate 2: Trench 2 (west end) showing pits 212 and 214, looking W



Plate 3: Trench 3 showing modern drains, looking NNE



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