Evaluation Report

Archaeological Evaluation at Wallingford Police Station Reading Road Wallingford Oxfordshire

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Wallingford Police Station, Reading Road, Wallingford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In July 2013, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Wallingford Police Station, Reading Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 6071 8901). The work was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development. The evaluation revealed a deep sequence of soils deposited over the natural late Devensian/early Holocene soil which overlies the gravel.

A single residual flint of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date was the only prehistoric find. Two fragments of Roman tile were also found, but these two were probably redeposited. Late Saxon or Saxo-Norman features were found all across the site, and consisted of pits and ditches of various sizes, plus at least one posthole. The finds and ecofacts from these were well-preserved, and demonstrate domestic occupation. One madder-stained potsherd indicates that dyeing was being carried out on or close to the site.

No trace of the church of St Lucian or of any associated graveyard was found, and it is probable that these do not lie within the site.

A small quantity of pottery of later 12th-13th century date was also found, but features were confined to Trench 9 close to the frontage. Later medieval and early post-medieval material was absent. The difficulty of determining the relationship between the buried topsoil and the late Saxon and medieval features is probably the result of cultivation of this soil in the later medieval period, and it is possible that the site was used as a garden within St John's Hospital. The site probably remained in cultivation after the dissolution of the Hospital, as no activity of the later 16th or early 17th century was found.

A number of pits of the late 17th or early 18th century were scattered across the site. These were probably associated with the Almshouses erected on the adjacent site in AD1681. Finds include the best examples yet known of the stamps of an Abingdon clay pipe maker.

The current ground level of the Police Station site is considerably higher than that of the more recent flats to the north and east, and in all trenches except that at the front, the depth of soil over the late Devensian/early Holocene soil was more than 1m, which may suggest that the ground level has been raised by the importation of topsoil. Nearly 0.5m of topsoil was deposited over the early 18th century features, and finds indicate that this occurred in the latter half of the 19th century. The foundations of the south-west corner of the Cottage Hospital built on the site in AD1881 were found close to the current frontage, and were in line with those of the earlier almshouses to the north. As the imported soil was cut by these foundations, it seems most likely that it was brought in immediately prior to the construction of the Cottage Hospital.

Other features associated with the Cottage Hospital include a brick-built dome-topped well and a group of rubbish pits. A number of dogs had been buried in the garden of the hospital.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development on behalf of the Thames Valley Police to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Wallingford Police Station, Reading Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). Whilst this WSI is not related to any current planning application, the Thames Valley Police wished in particular to establish whether the future development of the site would be constrained by any remains of St Lucians church or any associated burials, given that published mapping indicated that St Lucian's church was on, or adjacent to, the site.

1.1.2 The Oxfordshire Historic and Natural Environment Team indicated their requirements in the event that the evaluation were to be used in a planning context. These requirements were set out in the Archaeological Brief written by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist of OCC.

1.1.3 In response to these requirements, a Written Scheme of Investigations was prepared by Rob Kinchin-Smith of RPS Planning and Development (RPS 2013), and, following their appointment to carry out the work, OA prepared a Project Design providing details describing how OA would implement the provisions of the WSI. The WSI and Project Design were approved by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist of OCC.

1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies, and in accordance with Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 1999 as amended, 3.2.17).

1.1.5 This report details the results of the evaluation fieldwork specified in the WSI and Project Design.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference SU 6071 8901.

1.2.2 The site lies on the east side of the Reading Road, and comprises an area of buildings surrounded by tarmac for parking to the front and rear, with limited areas of lawn, and a larger area of grass surrounding further buildings to the north.

1.2.3 The geology of the site is terrace Sand and Gravel (BGS 1948, Sheet 254).

1.2.4 The site lies at just over 45m aOD, and slopes gently eastwards towards the river Thames, whose alluvial floodplain lies just east of the site. The river itself is less than 200m to the east.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site was described in detail in the WSI written by R Kinchin-Smith, and is only summarised here.

1.3.2 Situated within 100m of the south gate of the Saxon burh (PRN 7797.02), this was clearly a site with potential for Saxon and medieval archaeology. A test-pit dug by the Wallingford Archaeological Society (see below) within the site is reported to have encountered more than 1m of stratigraphy, and pottery of possible late Saxon or Saxo-Norman date was apparently recovered from it. The description of the stratigraphy may indicate dumped material, possibly within a feature, or Saxon material reworked by later cultivation. The precise location of this test-pit had not been established, when the evaluation commenced (but see below), nor had the date of the pottery been confirmed.

1.3.3 The site may include the site of St Lucian's Church (PRN 9774), which was probably already in existence by AD1100, although the discovery of burials during recent evaluation at Glebe House some 80m further south (TVAS forthcoming) has suggested that the burial ground and the church lay further to the south.

1.3.4 The site also lies only 90m south-east of the site of the medieval St John's Hospital outside the town's south gate (PRN 8775). It was possible that associated remains might extend into the area of the site.

1.3.5 In the wider vicinity prehistoric and Roman activity has been found. A probable Neolithic barrow was recorded some 450m to the south-west (PRN D2227), together with an Iron Age enclosure. Further middle Iron Age settlement was found 350m to the south-south-east (PRN 26339), and further west (PRN 26396). Roman coins are recorded as having been found to the south (OS 1st edn 1877-8).

Wallingford Archaeological Society, Test Pit 24

1.3.6 In March 2010, Wallingford Archaeological Society (WAS) excavated a test pit in the old police allotments as part of the Wallingford Garden Archaeology Programme. The results are reproduced below from a report kindly supplied by Gerard Latham (WAS).

1.3.7 A trench measuring 1.5m x 1m was excavated in the old police allotments in a central position, after examination by geophysics and a check for utilities by metal detector. From the photographs supplied this would seem to have been excavated to the east of the northern end of Trench 5 (see Fig.2). It was dug in 20cm spits. The top two spits were of a dark brown garden loam containing modern pottery and glass. A carved bone ring (13th-17th century) and a ?tin squirrel (possibly from a series produced in the 1940s) were among the finds.

1.3.8 Spit 3 was a lighter brown and grey loam. The pottery finds were older including medieval and there were plenty of charcoal flecks. Building material was scarce and the disarticulated skeleton of a dog? was found in the SW corner, the skull probably in the east-facing wall of the trench.

1.3.9 Spits 4, 5 and 6 provided evidence of an occupation level. The soil colours started out as greyish and gradually became more yellow and then yellow/orange. There was a considerable amount of charcoal some of which were quite large (50mm), often associated with quantities of burnt bone. Only 5 isolated small pieces of building material were found along with scattered nails. There was some oyster shell but no glass, clay pipe or slag. The pottery from these spits was tentatively identified as mostly 10th/11th century or Saxo-Norman, and included one rim of St Neots ware.

1.3.10 Feature (F1) in the south-west corner was a dome-shaped mixture of orange sand and stone and flint (up to 50mm). There were no finds in the feature and it was concluded that it was natural.

1.3.11 A sondage was dug in the north-west corner of the excavation down to a depth of 1400mm. There were 3 small unburnt bone fragments and one pottery sherd. The sondage revealed the continuing downward slope of Feature (F1) but natural was not reached.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 General Aims

2.1.1 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological trial trenching was to provide further information regarding the potential presence of archaeological remains within the Site, such that informed decisions could be made regarding the possible sale and /

or redevelopment of the Site. If remains were present, the evaluation would seek to establish their depth, date, nature, character, state and significance. This evidence would form the basis of any proposals for appropriate mitigation measures that might seek to limit the damage to significant archaeological deposits. The evaluation would also aim to define any research priorities that might be relevant should further investigation be required. The evaluation was to include any post-excavation work and publication requirements resulting from it.

2.2 Specific Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

(i) Establish the presence, location, nature, condition and depth of any significant remains relating to the medieval (or earlier) St Lucian's church and associated burials.
(ii) Establish the presence, location, nature, condition and depth of any medieval (or earlier) burials.
(iii) Establish whether there is any evidence for Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval settlement (or other) activity on the site
(iv) Establish whether there is any evidence of the medieval or Civil War sieges of Wallingford on the site;
(v) Establish whether structural or other evidence associated with the adjacent almshouses (established AD1681) is present, or whether the site remained unoccupied until the establishment of the cottage hospital in the 1881.
(vi) Establish the nature, depth and extent of any damage caused by the redevelopment of the Site as cottage hospital in the later 19th Century and by the site's reuse by the Police in the 1960s.
(vii) Establish whether the proximity of the Thames means that the site was flooded, or covered with alluvium, at any time, and whether waterlogged deposits are preserved within any features on the site

2.3 Methodology

Scope of works

2.3.1 The Archaeological Brief specified nine trenches 10m long and 2m wide, the location of which are shown on Figure 2. Following consultation with Richard Oram (OCC), it was agreed that trench 8 would be abandoned due to the presence of live services in the proposed location of the trench.

Site specific methodology

2.3.2 Machine excavation was carried out under close archaeological supervision. and continued until the top of 'natural' (in this case the post-glacial subsoil) was reached. Some archaeological features were suspected to have been cut into the overlying soil, but were not clearly discernable within this despite hand-cleaning, and so machine excavation was continued until the presence of features became clear. Care was taken at all times not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.

2.3.3 While the surface of the exposed archaeological horizon was cleaned for the purpose of clarifying the remains, archaeological features were generally only sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. Full excavation of features was not undertaken at this stage.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The following section summarises the results from each trench, in each case describing the earliest to the latest archaeological deposits encountered during the archaeological works. Detailed context descriptions are presented in the context inventory (Appendix A), and within the descriptive text where they are integral to the interpretation of the context in question. In all trenches the gravel was overlain by a mid reddish brown sandy silt deposit representing a late-Devensian or early-Holocene loessic subsoil.

3.1.2 The location of the trenches on the site is shown in Figure 2. Plans of all of the trenches are shown on Figure 3, and sections on Figures 4-6. For a phasing of the features see Figure 7

3.2 Trench Descriptions

Trench 1 Figs 3 and 4; Plates 1-3

3.2.1 Trench 1 was orientated north-south, measured 9.5m x 2m and was located within the existing car park in the south-east corner of the site. The earliest deposit encountered was the terrace gravel at approximately 47.20m OD which was overlain by *c*0.4m of loess (108). This was overlain by a buried soil horizon (101) an average of 0.3m thick. The interface between these two deposits was marked by a fairly sterile *c*0.04m thick layer of mid olive brown sandy clay (102), which may have been the disturbed upper element of the loess. It contained a single sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery dated 875-1250 AD. A number of features may have been cut from the top of the buried soil horizon, which was at approximately 47.84m OD, but this relationship was far from certain due to the similarity in the composition of the buried soil and that of the fills of the features. The buried soil contained two sherds of pottery dated 1830-1850 AD. Consequently, it is possible that the buried soil overlay the fills of the features.

3.2.2 A roughly north-south aligned possible linear feature [105] in the north-west corner of the trench measured 6m+ x 1.25m+ x 0.55m deep, and had a single fairly homogeneous fill (106) which produced 11 sherds of late Saxon pottery dated 900-1100 AD (Plate 3). The southern extent of this feature appeared to curve to the south-west which may suggest a curvilinear shape in plan. However, the profile revealed within the intervention excavated toward the southern extent of the feature was a maximum of 0.7m wide. Given that the feature appeared to be in excess of 1.25m wide at the northern end of the trench, it is feasible that the curvature at the southern end of the feature represents a terminus rather than a change in alignment.

3.2.3 A small pit approximately 0.75m in diameter and 0.6m deep [103] was excavated immediately to the south of the putative ditch terminus. The single fill (104) contained a single sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery dated 1025-1150 AD, iron nails and a 10th-12th century horseshoe. One fifth of the fill was fuel ash slag or charcoal, and an environmental sample was taken of this deposit. Assessment indicates that a proportion of the charcoal is large enough to identify to species. Other charred remains were few, but included hazelnut shell and free-threshing wheat seeds. There were also fishbones and an oyster shell, bird and larger mammal bones.

3.2.4 Two other possible features [111] and [109] were excavated. Both of these features had fairly diffuse and irregular edges, although the more southerly [109] originally appeared regular in plan. The fill of [109], layer (110), contained a peg tile of 15th-17th century date, a clay pipe bowl dated 1700-1720, and pottery dated c1700-1750. [111] was linear, and was undated.

3.2.5 The fills of these features - and the buried soil horizon - were overlain by a *c*0.65m thick layer of homogeneous clayey silt (100) containing a sherd of later 19th century Transfer Printed Ware. This may represent an imported topsoil (100). It was cut by 2 dog burials, which were photographed and their locations recorded in plan (Plate 2; see also animal bone report). The imported soil was overlain by the gravel bedding for the existing tarmac surface.

Trench 2 Figs 3 and 4; Plates 4 and 5

3.2.6 Trench 2 was located to the east of the standing building called "Wychwood" and was also orientated north-south, measuring 9.4m x 2m. The terrace gravel was not seen, but the top of the overlying loess (202) was encountered at approximately 47.47m OD. This was overlain by a buried soil horizon (201) up to 0.4m thick, which did not produce any finds. It is possible that this, whose surface was at 47.87m OD, was truncated by a series of features, although as with Trench 1 the similarity between the buried soils and the feature fills made this impossible to determine. Consequently, the buried soil horizon was removed by machine.

3.2.7 The earliest of these features was an apparently curvilinear feature [203], although the edges were poorly defined and appeared quite irregular in plan. This was 6m+ long and up to 1.5m wide, curving eastward at its northern and southern end. It was at least 0.5m deep although if cut through the buried soil horizon the base would have been around 0.9m from the top of the deposit. Fourteen sherds of late Saxon pottery dated 1000-1050 AD were recovered from the single homogeneous fill (204).

3.2.8 Feature [203] was truncated by a roughly east-west aligned gully which was clearly cut from the top of deposit 201. The gully [205] was 0.4m wide x 0.38m deep and at least 2m in length. The pottery recovered from the single fill (206), five fresh sherds of pottery dated 1000-1050AD, suggests that this was a secondary phase of Late Saxon activity.

3.2.9 A sub-circular pit [207] cut gully [205] (Plate 5). The fill (208) produced a L17th/E18th century spoon and buckle, clay pipe bowls dated to AD1700-1720, pottery dated AD1680-1750, a variety of medieval and post-medieval tiles, and L17th/E18th century glass bottles. The pit was 1.5m x 1.25m in diameter and at least 0.9m deep.

3.2.10 Two features at the northern end of the trench, [209] and [211] were poorly defined and ephemeral. Neither produced any finds, and they are likely to have been the result of bioturbation. The buried soil and the fills of [203] and [205] were overlain by a 0.4m thick layer of homogeneous clayey silt (200). The relationship between this deposit and pit [207] was less certain, but in the light of the stratigraphy in Trench 5, where features of similar date cut the equivalent deposit, pit [207] probably also cut the buried soil (see Trench 5 below). Deposit 200, which did not contain any finds, was overlain by the existing topsoil and turf.

Trench 3 Figs 3 and 4; Plates 6 and 7

3.2.11 Trench 3 was on an east-west orientation to the north of "Wychwood" adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, and measured 9.4m x 2m. Terrace gravel was not seen, but the top of the loess (302) was encountered at approximately 47.36m OD. This had been truncated by a series of inter-cutting pits: [303], [305], [307], [309], [312] and [313]. The fill of [303], deposit (304), produced a fragment of Roman tegula. Other than [312], the fills of the remaining pits (respectively (306), (308), (311) and (314) all produced late Saxon pottery, the larger assemblages from (308) and (311). The fills of pit [309] were dark, and clearly represented domestic refuse (Plate 7). An environmental sample was also taken from (311), and produced fish and mammal bone

including an adult pig tooth, and a small coprolite. Charred remains were not numerous, but included free-threshing wheat and barley seeds, a hazelnut shell and a variety of weed seeds.

3.2.12 Details of the dimensions and fills of these features can be found in the context inventory (Appendix A), although none of them was bottomed.

3.2.13 The loess was overlain by a *c*0.4m thick layer of homogeneous sandy silt (301), but as in Trenches 1 and 2 the relationship between this deposit and the features cutting the loess was uncertain. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

3.2.14 The buried soil horizon was overlain by a second homogeneous layer (300), slightly paler and siltier in composition and approximately 0.5m thick, which was also without finds. This in turn was overlain by the existing topsoil and turf.

Trench 4 Figs 3 and 4; Plates 8-10

3.2.15 Trench 4 was located to the west of Trench 3 along the northern site boundary, and measured 10m x 2m. Natural gravel (400) was encountered at approximately 46.85m OD and was overlain by *c*0.57m of loess (401), the top of which was at 47.42m OD.

3.2.16 The loess was cut by a number of features, including a roughly NW-SE aligned elongated feature in the south-west corner of the trench [402]. It is possible that this was a large pit rather than a ditch, particularly given the very steep-sided profile of the excavated section. Pottery dated 1025-1250 AD was recovered from the single homogeneous fill (403).

3.2.17 The eastern edge of feature [402] was cut by the north-west corner of a probably square-cut pit [404], within which three fills were partly excavated. The only find was animal bone from (405). Details of these are described in the context inventory (Appendix A).

3.2.18 A number of other possible features cut the loess, including the grave [411] of a cat (Plate 10; skeleton 412). The femur and part of the pelvis were removed for confirmation of the species identification, but otherwise the location of the burial was recorded in plan and it was left *in-situ.* The other features (eg. [410]) were vaguely linear patches of material similar to the overlying buried soil (see below). It was unclear from what horizon these features were cut, but they may represent plough scars (similar features on a perpendicular alignment were apparent in Trench 6 (see below)).

3.2.19 As in Trench 3, the loess was overlain by a homogeneous buried soil horizon (408) which had an uncertain stratigraphic relationship with the features described above.

3.2.20 The buried soil was overlain by *c*0.3m of mid-dark grey silty loam (409), from which clay pipestem fragments of late 18th or 19th century date were recovered. This probably represents an imported topsoil. It was cut by two dog burials, whose locations and depths were recorded (Plate 9; see also animal bone report). Deposit 409 and the fills of the dog burials were overlain by the existing topsoil and turf.

Trench 5 Figs 3 and 5; Plate 11

3.2.21 Measuring 10m x 5m, Trench 5 was orientated north-south and was located immediately to the east of the Almshouses fronting Reading Road. Natural gravel was not seen, but the top of the overlying loess (515) was encountered at 47.30m OD. This was overlain by a 0.2m thick silty clay deposit (514) which was cut by pits [509], [513] and [521] containing fills (510), (512, 516, 517) and (520). Fills (510) and (512) both contained pottery dating to the late 17th or 18th centuries (AD 1680-1800). Fill (512) also contained late 17th or early 18th century clay pipe stems. Unlike the features in the majority of the other trenches, these features clearly truncated the buried soil horizon.

3.2.22 The buried soil (514) and the fills of these features were overlain by a silty loam deposit (504), which may represent the imported topsoil seen in the other trenches. This was itself cut by a series of pits [503], [507], [511] and [519]. Brick fragments from (502), the fill of [503], were late 19th or 20th century, while peg tile fragments from (506), (512) and from (518), the fills of the other pits, were probably of 15th-17th century manufacture.

3.2.23 Deposit 504 and the fills of the later features were overlain by the existing topsoil and turf (500).

Trench 6 Figs 3, 4 and 6; Plates 12 and 13

3.2.24 Also measuring 10m x 5m, Trench 6 was orientated north-south and was located to the west of "Wychwood". Terrace gravel was not seen, but the top of the loessic subsoil (602) was encountered at 47.38m OD. This had been truncated by a number of features including a possible shallow pit in the north-east corner of the trench [617], whose fill (618) contained a fresh sherd of pottery dated AD1025-1250.

3.2.25 At the south end there was a curving feature [612], containing a purplish-brown clayey silt (611), an irregular cut that may represent a tree-throw hole. This was cut by a series of parallel narrow linear features: [604], [606], [608] and [610]. The fills of these (603, 605, 607 and 609) were very similar to the overlying buried soil deposit (see below) and it is possible that they represent plough scars contemporary with the possible re-working of that deposit. None contained any finds.

3.2.26 A possible sub-square pit [615] was also excavated in the centre of the trench , although the irregular profile and base may suggest that this is more likely to represent bioturbation. It had been truncated by an undated east-west aligned gully [613] (Plate 13).

3.2.27 As with the majority of the other trenches, the loess was overlain by a buried soil horizon, in this instance layer (601) 0.32m thick, and the relationship between this deposit and the fills of the features was once again uncertain. The buried soil was overlain by 0.5m of homogeneous clayey silt (600) which was in turn overlain by the existing topsoil and turf.

Trench 7 Figs 3 and 6; Plates 14 and 15

3.2.28 Trench 7 was orientated east-west and was located along the southern boundary of the site to the south of the car park at the rear of the police station. The trench measured 10m x 2m and the loess was encountered at 47.51m OD (702). It had been cut by a number of features whose relationship with the overlying buried soil (701) was once again uncertain. The features comprised the southern part of a square-cut pit [703] which had been cut by a further possible pit [705], although too little of this lay within the trench to determine its shape in plan (Plate 15). The respective fills of these features (704) and (706) both produced late Saxon pottery dated 1000-1050AD, though much the larger assemblage came from (704).

3.2.29 A WNW-ESE linear feature [709] was also recorded toward the western end of the trench, and was at least 5m long x 0.75m wide x 0.25m deep. One small sherd of late Saxon pottery dated 775-1050AD was recovered from the single fill (710).

3.2.30 The loess and the fills of these features described above were overlain by a homogeneous silty clay deposit (700) which had been truncated by the construction cut [707] for a brick-lined well [713]. The structure had a corbelled top characteristic of 17th-18th century wells that utilised a pump and lead piping rather than a bucket (M. Simms pers. comm.) and may be contemporary with the late 17th century almshouses to the north-west.

3.2.31 Deposit (700) was also cut by a posthole [711], from whose fill (712) came pottery of Victorian date and scraps of 18th/19th century brick. This, deposit (700) and (708), the backfill of the construction cut for well [713], were overlain by the existing topsoil and turf.

Trench 9 Figs 3 and 6; Plates 16 and 17

3.2.32 Trench 9 was located in the car park fronting onto Reading Road. The trench measured 9m x 2m and was orientated east-west. Terrace gravel was not seen but the top of the overlying loess was encountered at 47.40m OD. This had been cut by three square-cut post-holes: [906], [913] and [908]. The fill of [906], (907), contained medieval pottery dated 1200-1300 AD, but also contained late 15th-17th century peg tile, while the fill of [908], deposit (909), contained pottery dated c1740-1800AD, the base of a late 18th century wine bottle and an 18th or 19th century wall tile. Postholes [908] and [906] were of similar dimensions and profile, but posthole [913], which did not contain any finds, was less substantial and had a narrow, V-shaped profile. The fill of [913], layer (910), contained much charcoal, suggesting that the post may have burnt *in situ.* The only other finds from this were animal bones. As such, the apparent common alignment of these features is probably fortuitous.

3.2.33 Although the relationship was not certain, [913] appeared to have been truncated by a large pit [904] in the south-east corner of the trench, only whose north-western edge lay within the trench (Plate 17). This feature was 0.82m deep from the surface of the loess, and 1.3m from current ground level. Medieval pottery dated 1075-1250AD and a Roman tile fragment were recovered from the single fill (905). Pit [904] cut an earlier square or rectangular pit [902] in the north-east corner of the trench. This produced animal bone and a sherd of pottery dated 1025-1275AD.

3.2.34 Both [904] and [902] were cut in section by a possible ditch or pit [911], which was only evident at the very east end of the trench. It is possible that this was in fact a later soil that had slumped into the top of pit [904], rather than a separate feature. Its fill (912) contained medieval pottery dated 1150-1300AD.

3.2.35 The buried soil noted in all the other trenches was also present here (901), as was a similar overlying homogeneous deposit which may correlate with the putative imported soil seen elsewhere (900). In Trench 9 however, it had been heavily truncated by the loose lime-mortar footing for the base of an east-west aligned brick wall (914), which ran along the southern edge of the trench before returning to the north at the western end (Plate 16). This corresponds with the south-east corner of the cottage hospital buildings shown on the OS 2nd edition map. Two complete bricks were taken from this wall, and both were of later 19th century type.

3.2.36 Deposit 900 and the wall footing were overlain by a bedding deposit of type I hardcore for the existing tarmac surface.

Elevations of the various horizons in the stratigraphic sequence

3.2.37 To assist in matching horizons across the site, and for future possible development purposes, the height above OD for the various stratigraphic horizons is given below.

Elevations at top of archaeological horizons

	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T9
elevation at top of gravel (if seen)	47.2	-	-	46.85	-	-	-	-
elevation at top of loess	47.6	47.47	47.36	47.42	47.18	47.38	47.51	47.4
elevation at top of buried soil horizon	47.84	47.87	47.79	47.75	47.38	47.6	47.79	47.72
elevation at top of ?imported soil	48.24	48.07	48.27	48.01	47.76	48.08	48.31	47.97

4 FINDS

4.1 Assessment of the pottery from Wallingford Police Station (WAPO 13 EV)

by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

4.1.1 A total of 172 sherds of pottery weighing 3983g was recovered. The pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, 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.).

4.1.2 Medieval pottery fabrics codes used in the spreadsheet are those of the Oxfordshire County type series (Mellor1994). Post-medieval codes used are those of the Museum of London (LAARC 2007) which can be applied to most post-medieval types in south-east England. The pottery types present are summarised below and detailed in the spreadsheet (Appendix C Table 1).

Date and nature of the assemblage

4.1.3 The assemblage is in a mixed but mainly fragmentary condition although many fairly large and fresh sherds are present both in the earlier and later material. In terms of dating the assemblage divides into two distinct groups. Around 60% of the material (by sherd count) is medieval - mainly late Saxon and Saxo-Norman or early medieval - and the remaining 40% is of post-medieval date. There is quite a strong presence of late Saxon material characterised by the presence of cooking pots and possibly bowls in late Saxon Oxfordshire shelly ware (OXB, AD 775-1050), which is quite common here. This is often accompanied by cooking pot sherds in St Neot's-type ware (OXR, AD 900-1100) - a wheel-thrown shelly ware from the south-east Midlands - and a few sherds of coarse flint-tempered south-west Oxfordshire ware (OXBF, AD 875-1250, also known as Kennet Valley A ware).

4.1.4 Some of these contexts may date to the 10th century but some contexts with these late Saxon types also contain a few sherds of what appears to be a coarse (possibly early) variant of Wallingford ware (WA38). This has a full date range of AD 1025-1275 but the overlap with late Saxon shelly ware (OXB) suggests these contexts should be dated to the first half of the 11th century rather than later. Other contexts (including 905) produced typical Wallingford ware cooking pot rims with thumbed rims and sherds of glazed Wallingford ware pitchers suggesting a date of AD 1075-1250 for these contexts. There are also a few small sherds of an unidentified coarseware similar to flint-tempered OXBF but also containing limestone inclusions with distinctive fossil gastropods. The latter is probably of Saxo-Norman date.

4.1.5 A small sherd of OXBF from the sagging base of a cooking pot exhibits the distinctive purplish internal staining caused by the purple-red plant dye madder and confirms its use as a dye-pot. Madder-stained sherds occasionally turn up on sites of late Saxon or early medieval date - a few sherds are known, for example, from Oxford. This may be the first instance of madder-stained pottery noted from Wallingford. There is very little in the medieval assemblage that appears to be later than Wallingford ware (up to AD 1250 or 1275), although a sherd from context 907 is from a 'high medieval' strip jug in a regional ware (possibly a late variant of Wallingford ware?), and might be as late as AD 1300 or possibly even later. Otherwise pottery of the period AD 1300-1600 is absent from the site.

4.1.6 A range of common post-medieval pottery types, probably dating from the 17th century through to the end of the 19th century, is present, mostly as a few sherds in each context. The exception is context 208, which produced 45 mostly large fresh sherds of the period AD 1680-1750 including tin-glazed ware (TGW) from London and a finely made tankard in Staffordshire mottled brown-glazed earthenware (STMO), as well as local red earthenwares (PMR). A PMR dish with simple decoration in trailed white slip may be a local product. The clay pipes from 208 suggest a tighter dating of c AD 1700-1720. The latest pieces from the site include a few sherds of 19th-century transfer-printed wares (TPW) and modern English stonewares.

Summary and recommendations

4.1.7 The presence of late Saxon pottery in some quantity is undoubtedly the most significant aspect of the assemblage, as is the identification of a sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery with purplish madder staining suggesting domestic dyeing and possibly textile processing on or near the site. The post-medieval pottery group from context 208 is also of local interest - particularly for its good clay pipe dating of c AD1700-1720. Although aspects of the pottery assemblage are of some interest the types present are fairly well known in the region and the quantities of each present are rather low. However this could be worth publishing in some form - particularly if further excavation takes place on this site.

4.2 Clay tobacco pipes

by John Cotter

4.2.1 A total of 30 pieces of clay pipe weighing 217g was recovered from five contexts. These have been catalogued and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet (Appendix C Table 2). 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. Most of the pipes (22 pieces) come from context 208, which also produced a fairly large assemblage of post-medieval pottery. Most of the bowls can be matched closely enough with Oswald's national typology (Oswald 1975) and in Higgins' report on a large assemblage of pipes from Abingdon (Higgins 2007).

4.2.2 The assemblage is fragmentary but mostly in good and fresh condition. Parts of sixteen pipe bowls are present including eight complete bowls. No bowls earlier than c

AD1690-1710 are present. Two complete bowls of this type from contexts 110 and 208 have a short length of stem still attached, with an identical stamp on the upper side of the stem. This is a large sub-square stamp containing the initials 'SH', in a slightly milled frame, which can be identified as the maker Samuel Henwood of Abingdon who is recorded as active in 1704 (Higgins 2007, fig. 23.61). The example illustrated by Higgins is just a stem fragment, which he dates stylistically to c AD1700-1720. Five other pipe bowls from context 208 have circular heels with London-style relief crown stamps in place of the usual makers' initials. None of the pipes from the site has milled decoration on the rim (a trait that died out c AD1720). Some of the pieces from 208 have a good quality burnish. Pipes from other contexts are rather scrappy but include four slender 19th-century stems fragments from context 501.

Recommendations

4.2.3 As the only published parallel for the Samuel Henwood pipe from Abingdon is represented only by a stem, it is recommended that one of the stamped pieces (with bowls) from Wallingford should be published or at least drawn and photographed. Otherwise no further work is recommended.

4.3 The ceramic building material (CBM)

by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

4.3.1 A total of 49 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 21.608kg was recovered. This was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage following standard Oxford Archaeology procedures and the data recorded on an Excel spreadsheet. A range of material dating from the Roman period to the late 19th or early 20th century is present. Full details may be consulted in the spreadsheet (Appendix C Table 3).

Date and nature of the assemblage

4.3.2 There are two fairly certain pieces of Roman roofing tile which are residual in medieval or later contexts. One is a tegula flange (context 304), the other is a worn piece of imbrex (context 905). The medieval/post-medieval assemblage mostly consists of fairly large and fresh fragments of orange-red or light orange flat roof tile (peg tile) including several with circular nailholes. One or two of these are crude enough to be medieval - probably from the 13th or 14th century. The majority of fragments however occur in a fairly distinctive hard coarse sandy light orange fabric, and include several very thick pieces (up to 17-19mm thick). These are unglazed, but one piece has a greyish (accidental) ash glaze along the edges - similar to that sometimes found on early post-medieval bricks. Without associated finds this group of probably local sandy peg tiles is difficult to date very closely but a late 15th- to 17th-century date might be suggested. One or two pieces of possible ridge tiles in this fabric (up to 22mm thick) were also noted (context 506). These tiles may have remained in use for quite some time, as there is very little obvious roof tile of recent date.

4.3.3 There is a small piece of curved pan tile(?) in a smooth orange fabric from early 18th-century context 208. Context 909 produced a small piece from the flange or nib of a 'mathematical' tile (or 'wall' tile) in a fine orange fabric; these were popular during the 18th and 19th centuries for modernising the appearance of older timber-framed buildings. The same context also produced the corner of an unglazed 'quarry' (floor) tile in a hard red fabric and of similar date.

4.3.4 Most of the considerable weight of the assemblage is due to just eight or nine fairly modern bricks, three of which are complete and the others about half-complete. The fragments from contexts 502 and 503 probably date to AD 1880-1925+, as they include a machine-made black near-stoneware paving brick - probably from a footpath or a yard - and several machine-made (unfrogged) house bricks in a hard orange fabric. Two complete house bricks from context 914, the brick wall found on the frontage, date to the second half of the 19th century (AD1881 is the given date of construction), and include a frogged example. The latter are encrusted with a thick grey mortar. A few small pieces of soft red early post-medieval brick are also present from other contexts including a thin 'Tudor' brick from context 208. No further work on the CBM is recommended.

4.4 Fired clay or daub

by John Cotter

4.4.1 Two pieces of fired clay or daub (569g) were recovered, although one of these has partially disintegrated, leaving a total of 13 fragments. These are not easy to date, but are described below.

- Context (208) 1 piece (85g): Post-medieval?
  Fragment of daub or plaster? Hard very pale brown/cream fine sandy fabric with original flat roughish external surface. The interior bears three stick or withy impressions of circular cross-section. Possibly from a roughly plastered wall or an oven etc?

- Context (310) 12 pieces (484g): Medieval/post-medieval?
  Shapeless lump of soft brown fine sandy ?fired clay - disintegrated into twelve main pieces and many small scraps. Small scraps of white lime or chalky material also present.

4.4.2 No further work on this assemblage is recommended.

4.5 Metals

Ian R Scott

Introduction

4.5.1 The metals assemblage is small and comprises just 15 objects (18 fragments) (Appendix C Table 4). These consist of 11 iron objects including 5 nails, and 4 copper alloy objects (Appendix C Table 5). The finds come from just 5 contexts

Provenance

Context 104: The finds from comprise a nail, a length of iron rod, a small fragment of iron wire and 'fiddle key' horseshoe nail. The 'fiddle key' horseshoe nail is a type usually dated to the 10th to 12th century.

Context 208: The finds include 4 nails, a tapered rod-like object of uncertain identification, and a spoon and a shoe buckle, both in copper alloy. The spoon dates to the late 17th century and the buckle to the late 17th or early 18th century. In addition there is a small hinge frame in copper alloy, the exact function of which is not clear.

Context 303: The only metal find is the brass base of a modern shotgun cartridge.

Context 712: The only find is an undiagnostic lump.

Context 907: The finds comprise 2 iron objects of uncertain identification. One is fragment of strip of curved cross section, possibly a binding, or possibly a fragment of an iron tyre. The second object is a piece of iron bar of rectangular section possibly with domed or battered head at one end.

Discussion

4.5.2 The only finds that can be confidently dated are the shoe buckle and spoon from context 208. It should be noted that context 208 also produced post medieval glass. The horseshoe nail from context 104 is of Saxo-Norman type, but the object is small and could be intrusive. Other finds are not closely datable.

4.6 The slag and cinder

identified by Ian Scott

4.6.1 Two contexts contained slag: 704 a single piece of tap slag or furnace bottom, and 104 large numbers of small fragments of cinder (see Appendix C Table 6 for details).

Discussion/recommendations

4.6.2 Context 704 is of Late Saxon date, and context 104 of Saxo-Norman date. Both demonstrate that metalworking was being carried out somewhere in the vicinity. Tap slag would indicate smelting, but this example could alternatively come from a furnace bottom, and so could alternatively derive from smithing.

4.6.3 For the period, the assemblage is unremarkable, and requires no further work.

4.7 Glass

Ian R Scott

4.7.1 The glass assemblage comprises just 8 sherds of vessel glass from 3 contexts. Six of the sherds were from context 208 (see Appendix C Table 7 for details).

Context 101: A single body sherd from a cylindrical wine bottle. Not closely datable.

Context 208: The glass comprises 4 refitting body sherds from late 17th-century 'globe and shaft' wine bottle, the base of a free blown cylindrical phial or pharmaceutical bottle of 17th or 18th-cnetury date, and part of a seal from a wine bottle. The seal is circular and has a beaded border enclosing the initials 'R C'. The initial 'R' is incomplete. The initials have not been identified.

Context 909: The only glass is a fragment comprising the neck and finish of a late 18th- or early 19th-century wine bottle.

4.7.2 The assemblage is small and has no obviously modern glass and no window glass. The datable glass ranges from late 17th-century wine bottle to the late 18th- to early 19th-century wine bottle and includes part of a cylindrical phial and a seal from a wine bottle.

4.8 The flint

by Geraldine Crann

Introduction

4.8.1 Four flint pieces were recovered (see Appendix C Table 8 for details). A natural flint lump was recovered from context 403, and burnt unworked flint from contexts 104 and 311. These have now been discarded. The fourth piece was a small blade in pale grey-brown flint from context 702.

Discussion

4.8.2 The evidence for core preparation, previous blade removals and use of soft hammer on the single worked flint indicate a Mesolithic or early Neolithic production date. A probable Neolithic barrow was recorded some 450m to the south-west of the current site. This single blade reaffirms a human presence in the local area during the earlier prehistoric period.

Recommendations

4.8.3 The assemblage itself is of low potential and requires no further work. Any further construction activity in the area should be undertaken with an awareness of the potential presence of prehistoric archaeological remains.

ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

4.9 Animal bones

Lena Strid

4.9.1 A total of 1228 animal bones was recovered from this site (Appendix C Table 9). The features range from Saxo-Norman to post-medieval, with two main periods: Late Saxon - Medieval and early 18th -19th century. One feature contained only a Roman tile fragment, and may therefore be of Roman date. However, as the faunal remains are very similar in preservation, species and element representation as those from late Saxon features, the tile is likely to be residual. The bones have been listed separately in the tables, but the data have been incorporated in the analysis of the Saxon and Medieval assemblage.

4.9.2 The recording follows standard OA practice (cf Strid 2010a).

4.9.3 The majority of the bones were in a good condition, with little surface erosion. Traces of gnawing by carnivores and burning were more common in the Saxon/Medieval assemblage than in the post-medieval one.

Saxon/medieval

4.9.4 Cattle and sheep/goat dominate the Saxon and Medieval assemblage in almost equal numbers. Other animals include pig, horse, dog, domestic fowl and frog/toad (Appendix C Table 9). The same species are found in contemporary assemblages from Abingdon and Oxford, although in Oxford, sheep/goat is generally much more numerous than cattle (Strid 2010b; Wilson 1976; Wilson 2003; Wilson *et. al*. 1989). The absence of rabbit, which was present in the post-medieval assemblage, may reflect the predominantly Saxon or Saxo-Norman date of the assemblage, rather than later in the medieval period.

4.9.5 The ageing data from Wallingford Police Station are limited, but suggest a wide range of slaughter ages for cattle and sheep/goat (Appendix C Tables 10-11). They probably represent surplus animals slaughtered young for meat and older animals past their prime. There is no evidence for pig remains from animals older than 1 year. However, due to the small sample size, an absence of bones from breeding animals should not be considered evidence of their absence in the living population.

4.9.6 Butchery marks were most frequent in the late Saxon asemblage, where they provided evidence of disarticulation of joints, portioning of long bones, spine and ribs as well as removal of meat on bones from cattle, sheep/goat and pig. A split sheep skull and a split pig mandible in the medieval and the ?Roman assemblages respectively suggest sagittal splitting of the carcass. Filleting was mostly carried out using knives, but a cattle humerus in Saxo-Norman pit (103) had a blade mark on the distal end of the shaft suggestive of a cleaver.

4.9.7 Pathologies were noted on two sheep/goat metacarpals. One had a thin strip of bone growth on the anterior of the mid-shaft, which may represent a periosteal infection. The other had a smooth bone growth mid-shaft that may be the remains of a healed fracture, but as the bone was broken close to the area of secondary bone growth, this is impossible to prove.

Post-medieval

4.9.8 The post-medieval assemblage is dominated by three dog burials, one in a late 18th/19th century garden soil layer (409) and two in a 19th century layer of buried soil (101). Excluding these dogs, the assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, rabbit, domestic fowl and goose. Cattle and sheep/goat are the most common animals (Appendix C Table 9).

4.9.9 The tooth eruption/wear and epiphyseal fusion data suggest that most cattle, sheep/goat and pig were killed as sub-adults or adults (Tables 10 and 12). There are no bones in the assemblage of pigs below 1 year of age, although this could be biased by the small sample size. Usually, pigs were killed as juveniles or sub-adults, as their high fecundity, rapid growth and lack of usefulness for secondary products encouraged a low slaughter age.

4.9.10 Bones with butchery marks come almost exclusively from late 18th century features. They include sagittal splitting of two sheep/goat skulls and a cattle mandible, as well as cut marks on one cattle and one sheep mandible deriving from disarticulation of the jaw. One sheep/goat mandible had a vertical chop mark on the lingual side of the

horisontal ramus, the origin of which is unclear. It may have derived from removal of the tongue of from an attempt to portion the skull into smaller parts.

4.9.11 The articulated dogs comprised two adult males and one sub-adult dog of unknown sex. They were of medium-size, estimated withers' height of the adults were 57cm and 54cm respectively. The sub-adult dog was somewhat smaller, but it was not fully grown at the time of death. Dental anomalies were present on the sub-adult dog and one of the adult dogs. The sub-adult dog had two P1 premolars in the right lower jaw and the adult dog had retained the decidious left P1 and P2, the left P4 only had a single root and the right P1 was absent.

Conclusions/recommendations

4.9.12 Assemblages of late Saxon or Saxo-Norman date are rare from Wallingford, and from a suburban context just outside the burh even more so. As such, this is a welcome addition to the dataset. The bones were in good condition, and given that they came from only limited interventions into the features of these periods, the potential for significant and much more informative assemblages of these periods from the site is clearly significant.

4.10 The shell

by Geraldine Crann

4.10.1 A small number of oyster shells was recovered from medieval contexts 104, 308 and 311 in trenches 1 and 3, and from a post-medieval context 510 in trench 5. Details are given in Appendix C Table 13.

Discussion/recommendations

4.10.2 The consumption of oysters in the medieval and post-medieval period is common in Oxfordshire, despite the distance from the sea.

4.10.3 The assemblage is small, and requires no further work.

4.11 An Evaluation of Two Environmental Samples from Wallingford Police Station, Oxfordshire

By Julia Meen

Introduction

4.11.1 Two environmental samples were taken during archaeological evaluation work on the site of Wallingford Police Station for the recovery of charred plant remains and artefacts. Sample <1> was taken from context (104), the fill of pit [103], and was an olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) sandy silt with frequent subangular flint pebbles. Pottery from this suggests a Saxo-Norman date. Sample <2> was taken from context (311), the fill of

pit [309], and was a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt, with occasional subangular pebble sized flints. The pottery from this was Late Saxon.

Methodology

4.11.2 Samples <1> and <2> were 20L and 8L in volume respectively, and the entirety of each sample was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flots were scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification. Identifications were made under the guidance of Sheila Boardman, and nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

Results: Finds

4.11.3 Sample <1> was fairly rich in finds, containing several fragments of pottery, burnt flints, three iron nails and frequent fuel ash slag. An oyster shell (Ostrea edulis) and a small number of fish bones were present. Mammal species represented by the bone assemblage included sheep (Ovis sp; jaw and teeth, pelvis), pig (Sus sp; third phalanx) sheep/goat (Ovis/Capra sp; third phalanx). A vertebra of a bird, part of the skull of a rodent, and ribs representing both a large and a medium mammal were also present. Some of the mammal bones showed evidence of burning. Bone identifications were made by Lena Strid.

4.11.4 Sample <2> contained several burnt flints, a small quantity of both fish and mammal bone, and a small coprolite. L. Strid provisionally identified a tooth as belonging to an adult pig.

Results: Charred Plant remains

4.11.5 Sample <1> produced a flot of 300ml, of which approximately half was scanned for charred plant remains. The flot contained frequent pieces of fuel ash slag as the density is similar to that of carbonised material. The flot was otherwise dominated by charcoal. Approximately one third of the charcoal was less than 2mm in diameter and hence too small to identify. However, a further third was greater than 4mm in size and may provide sufficient identifiable items to be of interpretable value. Abundant charcoal was also recovered from the heavy residue. Other charred plant remains in the sample were limited to two fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell, a single charred weed seed, and a small number (fewer than 25 items) of cereal grains. These grains were for the most part too poorly preserved to allow identification, although a single free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*) grain was provisionally identified.

4.11.6 Sample <2> produced a flot of 50ml, 100% of which was scanned for charred plant remains. Approximately half of the flot consisted of highly fragmented charcoal (less than 2mm in diameter), with few items of potentially identifiable charcoal observed. Wheat grains were encountered in low quantity (less than 25 items), with most examples identified as free-threshing wheat. A single grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was also present. Several other cereal grains lacked diagnostic characteristics and therefore, other species may be present in the assemblage. A single fragment of hazel nutshell was also observed. The non-cultivated seeds present in the sample generally

occurred as single examples. These include mallow (*Malva* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and fat hen (*Chenopodium album* type), as well as a medium sized legume (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum*), a small member of the cabbage family (Brassicaceae), and an additional Cyperaceae. Occasional bud scales were also present.

Discussion and Recommendations

4.11.7 Both sampled features showed good potential for the preservation of charred material, bone and other artefacts. Wallingford was an important urban centre during the late Saxon period, and deposits such as these, most likely representing dumps of domestic waste, can provide information about the activities being carried out in the town. Sample <1> in particular, containing little else but large pieces of charcoal and fuel ash slag, may well represent a dump of waste fuel cleaned out from a hearth or kiln. The cereal remains in the two samples are too few in number to be interpreted with confidence, but the absence of chaff in either of the samples may suggest that the crop had been brought into the town having already been cleaned. The identification of barley and free-threshing wheat is typical of late Saxon deposits. It may be that further, as yet unexcavated deposits would provide additional information about agricultural regimes in the town.

4.11.8 A small coprolite was recovered from sample <2>. However, there was no other evidence for mineralisation in this sample and all plant remains were preserved through charring. It may be that the coprolite is residual and does not necessarily indicate that the feature was a cess pit.

4.11.9 If further excavation is undertaken at this site in the future, standard 40L bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site and all sampling should be in accordance with the most recent guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology 2005 and English Heritage 2011).

5 Discussion and Conclusions

5.1 Phasing and Interpretation (Fig. 7)

5.1.1 The Pleistocene gravel was overlain in all trenches by a reddish-brown sandy silt of late Devensian or early Holocene date. This loessic soil is characteristic of the first soil that developed over the gravels in the Upper Thames Valley (Ballantyne 1994,158).

5.1.2 The only evidence of prehistoric activity on the site was a single Mesolithic or Early Neolithic flint blade, which was clearly residual in the context in which it was found. Given the location of the site within 200m of the river Thames, the discovery of occasional worked flints of these periods is not surprising, especially as a Neolithic barrow is believed to have existed in the vicinity (see section 1.3.5 above).

5.1.3 No evidence of later prehistoric activity was found, despite the discovery of Iron Age features in the area.

5.1.4 A couple of Roman tile fragments were recovered, one residual in a medieval feature, the other from a pit (303) surrounded by others containing late Saxon material. While it is possible that pit 303 was Roman, it is more likely that both pieces of tile are residual, perhaps brought to Wallingford during the construction of the Saxon burh from a Roman site in the vicinity.

5.1.5 Features probably of late Saxon date were found in most of the trenches in the eastern half of the site. Some of the features contained pottery of types that began in the late Saxon period, but continued into the early 13th century AD, and these features are phased as Saxo-Norman. Given the paucity of pottery of purely medieval date, however, it is likely that the majority of these features belong in the earlier part of this period. On the overall phase plan the securely late Saxon features are concentrated at the eastern side of the site, those of Saxo-Norman date a little further west, but whether this really reflects a genuine difference in distribution is uncertain.

5.1.6 No features definitely of late Saxon date, and only one of the Saxo-Norman period, were positively identified in trenches 9 or 5 further west. As however a ditch or large pit in Trench 4 was continuing westwards, Trench 5 is not likely to mark the western limit of activity of this period. Post-medieval features occupied most of this trench, truncating any earlier activity. Only one trench (Trench 9) was dug west of this, so the absence of late Saxon activity here need not be representative. An undated feature in trench 9 was cut by a medieval pit here, and although phased as Saxo-Norman (Fig, 8), could well have belonged to the earlier period.

5.1.7 The late Saxon and Saxo-Norman features were mostly pits, some very large, but also included several ditches or gullies. No definite postholes were identified. This pattern is typical of the rear part of plots of the late Saxon and medieval period, the buildings lying closer to the frontage, and the back yards being taken up with intercutting pits, often including wells, cess pits and those connected with other activities.

5.1.8 Although the sample recovered from the evaluation only provides a keyhole, the orientation of the ditches and larger pits is either north-south, or slightly north of east-west, possibly indicating that the layout of properties at this time was not exactly the same as that of later periods.

5.1.9 The limited excavation carried out in this evaluation produced enough pottery and animal bones, together with the material from the environmental samples, to be confident of domestic activity on the site in the late Saxon and Saxo-Norman periods.

There is little evidence of what other activities may have been carried out, except for the madder-stained potsherd from the surface of the early holocene soil in Trench 1. As this was only a single sherd, and does not come from a feature, it is not necessarily the case that dyeing was carried out on this site, but it indicates that this activity was carried out in the vicinity, and is important new evidence of the economy of Wallingford in this period.

5.1.10 A few features of more certainly medieval date were found in Trench 9. The quantities are small, but suggest some continuing activity, at least towards the frontage, in this period. It is of course also possible that some of the pottery ascribed to the Saxo-Norman period was deposited towards the end of the date bracket, overlapping with these features.

5.1.11 No pottery of late medieval date was found, nor any ceramic building material certainly of this period. The peg tiles attributed a possible 15th-17th century date are more likely to be post-medieval, but are too plain to be certain. This absence of material suggests that the site may not have been occupied between the late 13th century and the 17th century, or at least, that any activity left no material trace.

5.1.12 As St John's Hospital was founded adjacent to the site in AD1224, it is possible that the abandonment of the site was connected to its foundation. Possibly the site was part of the land granted to the hospital, but was not used for domestic occupation thereafter.

5.1.13 The buried soil found in the trenches had an uncertain relationship with the features cut into the loess below, and did not itself produce many finds. The best dating evidence came from Trench 5, where two post-medieval features of the late 17th/early 18th centuries clearly cut it. The loess that was cut by the late Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval features was not a topsoil, and the absence of clear cuts through it for these features suggests that this soil had developed as a topsoil, but had been reworked subsequent to their cutting, obscuring the cuts and mixing in the upper fills of these features.

5.1.14 The date of this reworking presumably lies between the end of the 13th century and the 17th century AD, during the period when material evidence of activity is absent. It was presumably due to cultivation, either ploughing or hand-digging. The presence of poorly-defined linear features in trenches 4 and 6, and perhaps also [111] in Trench 1, lends support to this idea. As these features were very close together, particularly in Trench 6, and those in Trenches 1 and 6 were at right angles to those in Trench 4, small plots cultivated by hand seems more likely than ploughed fields. This might suggest that the site became part of the gardens of St John's Hospital.

5.1.15 St John's Hospital was dissolved in c AD1547, but this did not result in any change observable in the evaluation trenches.

5.1.16 Reoccupation of the site appears to have taken place in the late 17th or early 18th century. This closely matches the date of the foundation of Angiers Almshouses in AD 1681, and it seems likely that the pits and other features of this date found in trenches 5, 2, 1 and 9 relate to this. The clay pipe stamps are of local interest, as they show that Abingdon products were being used in Wallingford, and provide the best examples yet for one Abingdon pipemaker. The cat skeleton from Trench 4 must be of this date or earlier, but there were no associated finds.

5.1.17 The features of this phase were overlain by a layer of further topsoil approaching 0.5m thick. The level of the site is higher than that of the surrounding properties on the north and east, and it seems likely that this was imported to the site. Direct dating evidence

for this soil comes from clay pipestems of late 18th or 19th century date in Trench 4 and a sherd of Transfer Printed Ware dating to the later 19th century in Trench 1.

5.1.18 In Trench 7 the equivalent soil was cut by the construction trench for a covered well of 18th or later date, and a posthole containing Victorian pottery, in Trench 5 by pits containing late 19th or 20th century finds, and in Trench 9 it was cut by the construction for the brick building that formerly occupied the frontage, which clearly equates to the Cottage Hospital moved to this site in AD1881.

5.1.19 Although it is possible that the sherd of Transfer Printed Ware was incorporated into this soil some time after its arrival on site, taken at face value the window during which this soil might have been imported lies after AD1850 and before AD1881. The most likely occasion would seem to be in preparation for the construction of the Cottage Hospital itself.

5.1.20 Other than the brick walls seen in Trench 9, the western of which was constructed in line with the standing Almshouses adjacent to the north, the most significant feature of this period was the brick well in Trench 7 that cut the imported soil. This type of well was no longer new by the time the Hospital was erected, but remained a more sophisticated method of obtaining water than the open-topped well served by a bucket.

5.1.21 Other features of this period comprise pits in Trench 5, which are presumably related to the occupation and use of the hospital. Nothing specifically medical was found in the evaluation, the material suggesting rather domestic activity.

5.1.22 The imported soil was also cut by the graves of four dogs, two in Trench 1 and two in Trench 4. Only one of those in Trench 1 was recovered, as they were judged to be of recent date. Certainly they belong to the late 19th or 20th centuries. Those in Trench 1 lay beneath the car park of the police station, so probably predate the construction of the police station in the 1960s, but those in Trench 4 could possibly be later still.

5.2 Review of Project Aims

5.2.1 Aim 2.2.1 No trace was found of St Lucien's church, or of any features that could clearly be associated with it. It would appear that the church did not occupy this site.

5.2.2 Aim 2.2.2 No trace of any human burials, medieval or of any other date, was recovered from the evaluation. It seems likely that both the church and churchyard lay further to the south.

5.2.3 Aim 2.2.3 Only slight earlier prehistoric and Roman evidence was found on the site, and in both cases the material was probably residual. No trace of later prehistoric activity was found.

5.2.4 In contrast, features of Late Saxon or Saxo-Norman activity were found in most of the trenches, and the quantities of pottery and animal bone recovered from the limited excavation of these features indicates domestic activity on a considerable scale.

5.2.5 A little evidence of 13th century activity was found, but nothing for the later medieval or early post-medieval period.

5.2.6 Aim 2.2.4 No evidence that could be directly related to the medieval or Civil War sieges at Wallingford was recovered, although some of the pottery recovered could have dated to the mid-12th century. No material at all that could be dated to the early-mid 17th century was found on the site.

5.2.7 Aim 2.2.5 No structural evidence associated with the construction of the adjacent Almshouses in AD1681 was found, but features in several of the trenches contained finds dating to the late 17th or early 18th century. This period marks a renewal of activity on the site, and it seems likely that this activity was related to the use of the new almshouses.

5.2.8 Aim 2.2.6 The site appears to have been covered by nearly 0.5m of imported topsoil prior to the construction of the Cottage Hospital in the later 19th century, helping to preserve the earlier archaeological remains. Localised damage was evident in Trench 9, where the wall trenches had truncated medieval and earlier features to some degree, in Trench 7, where a brick well was constructed, and in Trench 5, where late Victorian and 20th century pits had been dug. Overall however the impact of the Cottage Hospital appears to have been limited, particularly towards the rear of the property.

5.2.9 Aim 2.2.7 No evidence of alluviation was found in the evaluation trenches, nor any waterlogged deposits. Localised waterlogging cannot be ruled out within the deeper pits, however, as these were not bottomed for Health and Safety reasons.

5.3 Conclusions and potential

5.3.1 A single worked flint of the Mesolithic/early Neolithic periods was found, but no features nor any *in situ* lithic scatters. This may represent a chance loss, but the possibility of a limited area of activity of one of these periods on the site cannot be ruled out.

5.3.2 Similarly, fragments of Roman tile were found, but not in contemporary features. This material may well have been brought into the site from elsewhere, and does not necessarily imply Roman occupation, though again this cannot be entirely ruled out.

5.3.3 In the Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman periods the site was intensively occupied. The parts of the site that were able to be investigated indicated that some truncation of the features of this period had probably taken place in the later medieval/early post-medieval period, but that both features and finds of these periods were reasonably well-preserved.

5.3.4 It has been suggested that there was an early, pre-burh focus of settlement around St Leonard's Church, not far to the north-east, and a ditched circuit surrounding this has been postulated within 100m of the site (Dewey 2009, fig. 4.2). No evidence of pottery pre-dating the foundation of the burh in the late 9th century was however recovered from the evaluation, and on present evidence it seems just as likely that the occupation of the site was a consequence of the establishment of the burh, occupation appearing rapidly just outside the south gate along the road approaching from the south.

5.3.5 Although no structural features of these periods were definitely identified in the evaluation, the extent of excavation close to the modern road frontage was constrained by the modern car parking. Features found further east, towards the rear of the property, are consistent with backyard activity. It is therefore plausible that there were structures on the frontage in the Late Saxon / medieval periods, possibly within the west side of the site, although the fronts of any such buildings are likely to have lain beneath the present pavement, closer to the road. The presence of at least one posthole sealed by a medieval feature in Trench 9 shows that some evidence of any such structures is likely to survive.

5.3.6 The occurrence of a Saxo-Norman pottery sherd stained with madder shows that dyeing was being carried out in the vicinity, possibly within the site, and shows the

potential for establishing what activities were being carried out outside the town in these periods.

5.3.7 Overall the potential of the site for further late Saxon and Saxo-Norman occupation evidence is high. There is still surprisingly little substantial excavated evidence from elsewhere in Wallingford, one of the largest of the Wessex burhs, and at that time the county town of Berkshire.

5.3.8 The evaluation revealed a complete absence of evidence for the church of St Lucien, or of any associated burials. The scale of evaluation is such that it is now clear that neither the church nor the churchyard lay within the site. This is confirmed by the recent discovery of burials by TVAS during evaluation at Glebe House, some 80m to the south (http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/10422125.Skeleton_find_reveals_long_lost_church_site/).

5.3.9 The lack of later medieval, and of early post-medieval activity, may simply be a reflection of the increasing difficulties of the town from the mid-12th century onwards (VCH British History Online), but might instead be linked to the foundation of St John's Hospital, the site being incorporated within this, and used as a garden. There is no evidence from the evaluation of a change in character after the dissolution of the hospital c AD1547.

5.3.10 The site does not see reoccupation on any scale until the late 17th/early 18th centuries, and this can plausibly be linked to the establishment of the almshouses adjacent. The features of this period are rubbish pits consistent with the backyard domestic functions of the almshouses. Although generally only of only local significance, the stamped clay pipes bowls add to the picture of the local economy at this time.

5.3.11 Some evidence of the Cottage Hospital and associated structures was recovered, and can be matched on the 1st edn OS map of the area. The material recovered from the evaluation was limited both in quantity, range and interest.

5.3.12 The importation of nearly half a metre of topsoil in the later 19th century has provided a considerable depth of protection for the earlier archaeological remains, putting them beyond the reach of normal garden cultivation.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

context no.	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	Finds and date
Trench 1						
100	deposit		0.5	garden soil	mid-dark grey clayey silt	TPW pottery 1830-1900
101	deposit		0.3	buried soil horizon	mid-light brownish grey clayey silt	1830-1850 pottery, glass wine bottle
102	deposit		c0.1	interface between 101 and 108	mid olive brown sandy clay	Pottery c875-1250
103	cut	0.81	0.5	pit cut		
104	fill		0.32	fill of pit 103	loose mid grey-brown clayey silt with 20% charcoal and 10% gravel inclusions	10th/12th century horseshoe, pottery c1025-1150
105	cut	0.5(+)	0.57	linear/curvilinear feature		
106	fill		0.57	fill of feature 105	firm dark reddy brown sandy clay with infrequent charcoal inclusions	Pottery c900-1100
107	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
108	deposit		c0.4	loess	mid reddish brown sandy clay	
109	cut	1.24	0.33	probable tree throw		
110	fill		0.33	fill of 109	loose mid grey-brown clayey silt with 5% charcoal and 15% flint inclusions	Clay pipe bowl 1700-1720, pottery c1700-1750, peg tile L15-17th century
111	cut	0.45	0.1	probable animal burrow		
112	fill		0.1	fill of 111	firm dark reddish brown sandy clay	
Trench 2						
200	deposit		0.65	garden soil	mid-dark grey clayey silt	
201	deposit		0.3	buried soil horizon	mid-light brownish grey clayey silt	
202	deposit		c0.4	loess	mid reddish brown sandy clay	
203	cut	1.55	1.45	curvilinear feature		
204	fill		1.45	fill of 203	firm dark reddish brown sandy clay with infrequent flint inclusions	Pottery c1000-1050
205	cut	0.28	0.38	east-west aligned gully		

context no.	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	Finds and date
206	fill		0.38	fill of gully 205	firm dark grey sandy clay with some chalk and flint inclusions and infrequent charcoal flecks	Pottery c1025-1250
207	cut	1.4	0.66(+)	pit		
208	fill		0.66	Fill of 207	firm dark grey sandy clay with frequent charcoal and flint inclusions	L17th/E18th century spoon and buckle. Clay pipe bowls 1700-1720, pottery 1680-1750, L17th/E18th glass bottles, 16th/17th peg tiles, 1? pantile 18th/19th century
209	cut	c1.4	0.12	probable tree throw		
210	fill		0.12	fill of 209	firm dark grey sandy clay with frequent gravel pebbles and flint	
211	cut			probable bioturbation		
212	fill			fill of 211	firm dark grey brown sandy clay - heavily rooted	
213	fill			unexcavated fill of pit 207		
300	deposit		0.48	garden soil	mid brownish grey soft silty sand	
301	deposit		0.35	buried soil horizon	mid-dark brownish grey soft sandy silt	
302	deposit			loess	mid reddish brown sandy clay	
303	cut	0.52	0.6	pit		
304	fill		0.6	fill of pit 303	soft mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and charcoal inclusions	Roman tegula fragment
305	cut	0.6	0.2	pit		
306	fill		0.2	fill of pit 305	soft mid orangey brown sandy silt with rare to moderate flints and gravel pebble inclusions	Pottery c900-1100
307	cut	2.7	0.27(+)	pit		
308	fill		0.27(+)	fill of pit 307	soft mid greyish brown clayey	Pottery

context no.	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	Finds and date
					sand with rare charcoal and moderate gravel pebble inclusions	c1000-1050
309	cut	2	0.5(+)	pit		
310	fill			fill of pit 309	mixed mortar, re-deposited gravel and crushed CBM/scorched clay	
311	fill		0.5(+)	fill of pit 309	soft mid-pale brownish grey clayey silt with concentrations of charcoal and gravel inclusions	Pottery c900-1050
312	cut	1.1	0.2(+)	pit		
313	cut	2(+)	0.2(+)	pit		
314	fill		0.2(+)	fill of pit 312	soft mid orangey brown clayey sand with rare charcoal and rare to moderate small stone inclusions	Pottery c775-1050
315	fill		0.2(+)	fill of pit 313	soft mid brownish orange sandy silt with rare charcoal and rare to moderate small stone inclusions	Pottery c775-1050
Trench 4						
400	layer			natural	terrace gravel	
401	deposit		c0.5	loess	mid reddish brown sandy clay	
402	cut	2(+)	0.8	pit/linear feature		
403	fill		0.8	fill of 402	fairly homogeneous friable mid brownish grey clay silt	Pottery c1025-1250
404	cut	0.5(+)	0.75(+)	pit		
405	fill		0.75(+)	fill of pit 404	mid-dark reddish brown clay silt	
406	fill		0.12	fill of pit 404	predominantly re-deposited gravel	
407	fill		0.1	fill of pit 404	mixed dark grey clayey silt and bright reddish brown sandy silt (scorched)	
408	deposit		0.4	buried soil horizon	mid brownish grey clay silt	
409	deposit		0.4	garden soil	mid-dark grey silty loam	Clay pipe stem L18-19C?
410	deposit			??plough scars	irregular spreads of 'topsoil' visible in top of loess	

context no.	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	Finds and date
411	cut			cut for animal burial		
412	fill			animal burial (cat?)		
Trench 5						
500	deposit		0.4	garden soil	dark grey silty loam	
501	fill		0.7	fill of pit 503	dark grey brown silty loam with charcoal inclusions	Clay pipe stem 19C, pottery c1830-1860
502	fill		0.3(+)	fill of pit 503	very dark grey brown silty loam	L19th/20th century bricks
503	cut	2(+)	0.9(+)	pit		L19th/20th century bricks
504	deposit		0.35	buried soil horizon	grey brown silty loam	
505	fill		0.5	fill of pit 507	dark grey clayey silt with stone and charcoal inclusions	
506	fill		0.5(+)	fill of pit 507	mid brown clayey silt with charcoal inclusions	L15th-17th C peg tiles
507	cut	4	0.9(+)	pit		
508	fill		0.5	fill of pit 509	mid brown clayey silt with gravel inclusions	
509	cut	1	0.5	pit		
510	fill		0.7(+)	fill of pit 511	dark brown clay silt with gravel inclusions	Pottery c1680-1800
511	cut	3(+)	0.7(+)	pit		
512	fill		0.4	fill of pit 513	dark grey brown silty clay with frequent stone and mortar inclusions	Clay pipe stems L17/E18C?, pottery c1680-1800, L15th-17thC peg tiles
513	cut	2(+)	0.5	pit		
514	deposit		0.2	buried ploughsoil?	mid grey brown silty clay	
515	deposit			loess	mid reddish brown sandy clay	
516	fill		0.1	fill of pit 513	light brown clayey silt loam	
517	fill		0.2	fill of pit 513	light grey brown clayey silt with gravel inclusions	
518	fill			fill of pit 519	light grey clayey silt loam with gravel inclusions	L15th-17th C peg tile
519	cut			unexcavated pit		
520	fill		0.36	fill of pit 521	ligh brown clayey silt with frequent gravel inclusions	
521	cut	1.35	0.36	pit		

context no.	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	Finds and date
Trench 6						
600	deposit		0.6	garden soil	soft dark grey clayey silt	
601	deposit		0.33	buried soil horizon	soft greyish brown silty loam	
602	deposit			loess	mid reddsih brown sandy clay	
603	fill			fill of 604	fine dark greyish brown silty loam	
604	cut			possible furrow		
605	fill			fill of 606	fine dark greyish brown silty loam	
606	cut			possible furrow		
607	fill			fill of 608	fine dark greyish brown silty loam	
608	cut			possible furrow		
609	fill			fill of 610	fine dark greyish brown silty loam	
610	cut			possible furrow		
611	fill			fill of 611	mixed purplish brown clayey silt	
612	cut			?tree throw		
613	cut	0.5	0.35	east-west aligned gully		
614	fill		0.35	fill of gully 613	soft mid orangey brown sandy silt with moderate small stones and flints	
615	cut	0.7	0.38	pit		
616	fill		0.38	fill of pit 615	soft to firm mid to dark brownish grey clayey silt with rare to moderate small stones	
617	cut	1.9(+)	0.18	possible pit		
618	fill		0.18	fill of 617	soft mid-dark brownish grey sandy clay with rare small stones and charcoal flecks	Pottery c1025-1250
Trench 7						
700	deposit		0.6	garden soil	dark grey sandy clay	
701	deposit		0.2	buried soil horizon	light reddish brown sandy clay	
702	deposit			loess	reddish brown sandy clay	
703	cut	1.59	1.04	pit		
704	fill		1.04	fill of pit 703	firm dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal inclusions	Pottery c1000-1050
705	cut	1.85	0.56(+)	pit		

context no.	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	Finds and date
706	fill		0.56(+)	fill of pit 705	firm dark greyish brown sandy clay with infrequent charcoal inclusions	Pottery c1000-1050
707	cut	1.5		construction cut for well 713		
708	fill			backfill of cut 707	soft mixed brownish orange/bluish grey/greyish yellow sandy clay with rare small stone inclusions	
709	cut	0.85	0.25	curvilinear gully		
710	fill		0.25	fill of gully 709	soft mid-pale yellowish brown sandy silt with rare small stones and charcoal inclusions	Pottery c775-1050
711	cut	0.35	0.4	post hole		
712	fill		0.4	fill of 711	firm mid brownish grey clayey sand with moderate small stones and CBM fragments	Pottery c1830-1900, brick frags 18th/19th C
713	struct	0.9m		brick built well with corbelled roof		
Trench 8 - not excavated						
Trench 9						
900	deposit		0.25	truncated garden soil	mid-dark grey silty loam	
901	deposit		0.4	buried soil horizon	mid-light brownish grey clayey silt	
902	cut	1.05	0.02	possible base of pit?		
903	fill		0.02	fill of 902	firm dark reddish brown sandy clay with infrequent charcoal and chalk inclusions	Pottery c1025-1275
904	cut	0.86	0.82	pit		
905	fill		0.82	fill of pit 904	firm dark reddish brown sandy clay with moderate chalk and flint inclusions	Pottery c1075-1275, Roman imbrex frag
906	cut	0.61	0.33	post hole(s)		
907	fill		0.33	fill of post hole 906	soft dark-pale grey brown silt with 15% gravel, 2% charcoal and 2% chalk inclusions	Pottery c1200-1300?, L15th-17th C peg tiles
908	cut	0.59	0.39	post hole		
909	fill		0.39	fill of 908	soft mid brownish grey silt with 10% gravel and 1%	Pottery c1740-1800,

context no.	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	soil description	Finds and date
					charcoal inclusions	L18th century wine bottle, 18th/19th C brick frag
910	fill			fill of 913	firm dark grey sand with very frequent charcoal inclusions	
911	cut	2	0.49	Pit or ditch		
912	fill		0.49	fill of 911	firm dark greyish brown sandy silt	Pottery c1150-1300
913	cut	0.29	0.34	post hole		
914	struct			brick wall with loose lime mortar foundation		Two later 19th C bricks
915	deposit			loess	mid reddish brown sandy clay	

Appendix B. Bibliography and References

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Appendix C. Finds Tables

C.1 Table 1. Pottery record and spot dates

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
100	c1830-1900	1	17	Transfer printed ware (TPW) bowl base
101	c1830-1850	2	26	1x ENGS brown-glazed stoneware ink/blacking bottle base with partial stamped inscription 'BOURNE & DENBY ----BY POTTERY ---DERBY'. 1x YELL
102	c875-1250	1	7	Cpot sag base in v coarse SW Oxfordshire OXBF with definite purplish MADDER-STAINING internally. Sooted under. Fresh
104	c1025-1150?	1	8	Unidentified coarse quartz and limestone-tempered fabric with rounded quartz & fossil snail-like gastropod inclusions. Superficially like OXBF but no flint, or like London LOGR/LCOAR. Sieved pot: (5 sherds, 20g) incl fresh bo coarse quartz-temp Wallingford ware (WA38) with LSax-style ext knife-trimming (?), scraps of St Neots ware (OXR) & late Saxon Oxford shelly ware (OXB)
106	c900-1100	11	136	All LSAX. Incl 2x bos St Neots (OXR), 2x OXB shelly incl sag base with v fossil echinoid spines. Rest mainly OXBF-related fabrics incl large oxidised jar lower wall/sag base with algal limestone or chalk predominant & some flint
110	c1700-1750	6	67	PMR slipware bowl rim - v probably JOINS (208). 1x small bo dark brown PMR. Rest medieval - all fresh incl thumbed late Saxon-looking flaring cpot rim in chalk/limestone tempered ware (algal limestone?). 2x Lsax OXB shelly, 1x OXBF?
204	c1000/25-1050	14	146	4x bos Wallingford ware incl 1 v thick-walled. Rest = Oxford late Saxon shelly OXB incl vertical ?bowl rim & bos 2-3 vess? Some oxidised
206	c1025-1250	5	112	Fresh. 4x Wall ware (2 vess) incl sag bases of cpots - 1 with carbonised deposit int, 1x fresh sag base v coarse SW Oxford OXBF c1050-1250
208	c1680-1750	45	2174	Prob 15-20 vessels. Mostly large fresh sherds. Lots post-med redware (PMR) incl profiles incl profile deep/conical jar or bowl with v squared rim (di 240mm). Complete conical base of flower-pot shaped vess but glazed int so prob a jar. Prob PMR pipkin rims & tripod base (sooted) & thin-walled bowl (like a TGW charger) with dk brown glz. 2x slipware dishes - 1 with v simple tick-like blobs of slip - prob local? Finely made Staffs mottled brown-glazed earthenware (STMO) tankard with reeded base copying stoneware - E18C. Base frags from large late Lambeth-style tin-glazed ware (TGW) drug jar with pale blue dec. bos from 2 FREC jugs. 1x small med sag base - Wall ware?

306	c900-1100	1	10	Fresh bo St Neots jar. Sooted
308	c1000/25-1050	8	67	3x bos Wallingford ware, 2x bos (2 vess) St Neots, 3x (1vess) late Sax Oxford shelly neatly made cpot rim, sooted
311	c900-1050	20	340	1x fresh St Neots cpot rim (sooted) plus few small bos. Mainly large fresh sooted cpot sherds late Saxon Oxford shelly OXB incl 2 cpot rims
314	c775-1050	2	17	OXB shelly. Sag cpot base & bo. 2 vess? Fresh
315	c775-1050	1	204	Large v thick (19mm) flattish ?sagging basal sherd from a large shelly OXB jar or bowl. Shell dissolved from int surface. Fairly worn
403	c1025-1250	2	33	Bos Wall ware - sooted, fresh
501	c1830-1860	11	93	TPW, bo yellow-grey bodied ENGS BRST jar. CREA, SWSG bo with blue scratch dec. BORDY. 2x PMR - scrappy. 1x bo med oxid Wall or Newbury C ware (OXAG)?
510	c1680-1800?	2	46	Worn bo from PMR ?bowl with traces of lateish-looking deep brown glaze int. 1x v thick ?jar lower wall sherd Wallingford ware with moderate coarse angular white & grey flint/chert inclusions up to 4mm across
512	c1680-1800?	2	12	1x bo PMR w dark brown glz ext. 1x bo late med/early post med orange sandy PMRE?
618	c1025-1250	1	27	Fresh rim prob Wallingford pale cream sandy - hammerhead ?bowl rim with light thumbing in top & splash of yellow glaze on edge of rim. V like OXY but prob Wall. Diam c240mm
704	c1000/25-1050	11	222	1x fresh bo v coarse pale grey Wallingford ware with moderate angular flint/chert as in (510) - or possibly a Wallingford/OXBF hybrid? Rest = fresh late sax shelly OXB incl sub-squared cpot rim
706	c1000/25-1050	3	18	2x Wall bos (1 with fine red-tinted quartz), 1x small bo OXB
710	c775-1050	1	4	OXB bo
712	c1830-1900	3	15	1x refined white earthenware (REFW), 2x PMR flowerpot
903	c1025-1275	1	3	Bos Wall ware - sooted, fresh
905	c1075-1250	10	131	1x Wall ware glazed pitcher sherd - oxidised fabric (like OXAG). Classic Wallingford ware fresh cpot rim with thumbing on top - plain flaring rim. Bos of hybrid OXBF-like fabric with coarse quartz, flint & shell (gastropods), limestone & coarse brown mudstone - prob late Sax?
907	c1200-1300?	2	16	Poss a developed later type of Wallingford ware? Or poss SE Oxfordshire/Nettlebed type OX162? 2 vess incl bo from a buff sandy strip jug with diagonal dark red strips under thin clear glaze (looks like Brill but too coarse). Other bo paler cream sandy- prob Wallingford (?) from v large jug shoulder with splash green glaze
909	c1740-1800	2	3	Rim sherd ?mug/cup in Staffs-type solid agate ware.

				chipped
911	c1150-1300?	3	29	Oxid sag base Wall ware. ?Thumbed bowl rim in Newbury/Kennet valley A (OXAQ) with v fine shell/chalk. Bo ?OXBF - scrap
Total		**172**	**3983**	

C.2 Table 2. Clay Pipe records and spot dates

Context	Spot-date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	Total sherds	Total Wt	Comments
110	c1700-1720	0	1	0	1	16	Complete fresh bowl c1690-1710, unbottered rim, circular heel. On top of stem large relief 'SH' stamp in sub-square slightly milled frame, for maker Samuel Henwood of Abingdon - active 1704. Date based on Higgins 2007, fig. 23.61
208	c1700-1720	8	14	0	22	183	Bowls c1690-1710 or some prob c1700-1720/30? Bottered un-milled rims. 7x complete bowls - all in good condition.1x complete 'SH' stamped bowl/stem as in (110) with slightly deformed/squashed bowl. 1x stubby spurred bowl, the rest with circular heels incl 5 with London-style relief crown stamps on either side of heel in place of makers' marks - 1 is well-burnished. Mostly used but fresh. 1 or 2 stems well burnished. 1bowl thinner-walled but prob bottered rim poss c 1730?
409	L18-19C?	0	1	0	1	2	Worn stem with trace of bowl spur. Narrow stem bore (SB) c1.5mm
501	19C	5	0	0	5	10	4x slender 19C short stem frags, 1 worn. 1x L17/E18C
512	L17/E18C?	1	0	0	1	6	Fairly fresh stem c70mm long
TOTAL		**14**	**16**	**0**	**30**	**217**	

C.3 Table 3. Ceramic building material records and spot-dates

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
110	L15-17C?	1	91	Corner frag coarse sandy over-fired purplish-red peg tile 15mm thick. Patches of grey ash glaze on edges. Patch of white lime mortar on 1 surface

208	18-19C?	10	1233	1x smallish frag (27g) smooth orange late-looking curved tile - possibly a pantile? Prob 18-19C? 1x corner frag thin prob Tudor brick 48mm thick with traces of ash glaze. Remainder = large & small frags of sandy orange peg tiles with circular nailholes - possibly late med/early post-med? 16/17C? 1 piece with both nailholes is cruder and probably 13/14C?
304	ROMAN	1	104	Roman tegula frag with flange. V hard orange fabric. Sanded underneath & on sides. The flange has a trace of a cut-away probably at the corner of the tile. Fairly fresh
502	c1880-1925+	4	5611	Frag of black near-stoneware 'engineers' paving brick with non-slip lattice or gridding, 42mm thick. 3x large fresh frags of machine-made unfrogged house bricks in hard orange fabric. Coarse cream marl inclusions & one has large flint pebble. Width 100-108mm x 65-70mm thick
503	c1880-1925+	3	6158	Bricks as in (502). 1 is complete Length 230mm x Width 110mm x 70mm thick (3104g = weight of complete brick)
506	L15-17C?	9	716	Mainly large fresh frags v hard pale orange sandy/granular peg tiles (no nailholes present) quite thick - up to 17mm. Difficult to date closely. Marly white swirls in some pieces. Also 2 v thick tiles in same fabric incl corner frag 21mm thick & separate frag 22mm thick with knife-cut or trimmed edge/side. the corner is prob from a ridge tile, the side frag is poss from a second ridge tile or might be Roman tegula - but is quite fresh
512	L15-17C?	4	155	Worn frags from 3-4 peg tiles. 1 in same coarse sandy fabric as (506). 1 prob med in v hard smooth light orange fabric with grey core. 1 in light brown sandy fabric - med?
518	L15-17C?	1	111	Edge frag peg tile in same coarse sandy fabric as (506), light orange, 17mm thick
712	18-19C	7	54	Scraps of red brick
905	ROMAN?	1	117	Edge frag probably from side of a Roman imbrex. V hard fine orange-brown fabric. Smooth ext. Fairly worn
907	L15-17C?	2	92	Frag from coarse sandy v thick peg tiles as in (506), 19mm thick. 1x thinner v hard peg frag in smoother light orange fabric with broad grey core
909	18-19C	4	250	1x small frag from corner/edge of flange from a mathematical tile (brick tile) in fine orange fabric. 1x corner frag worn post-med quarry floor tile, unglazed hard red fabric 38mm thick. 2x scraps pegtile
913	c1850-1900+	2	6916	2x complete house bricks. Both v regular. 1 in softer light orange sandy fabric with shallow rectangular frog of trough-shaped section, thick light grey mortar adhering L223 x W108 x T73mm. The other brick in darker purplish red fabric with sandier surfaces & thick grey mortar adhering L217mm x W105mm x T74mm
TOTAL		**49**	**21608**	

C.4 Table 4. Metal finds: table showing numbers by functional category per context

Context		Function								Totals
		Arms	Transport	Personal	Household	Nails	Misc	Query	Undiag	
104	Count		1			1	2			**4**
	Fragt		1			1	2			**4**
208	Count			1	1	4		2		**8**
	Fragt			1	1	4		3		**9**
303	Count	1								**1**
	Fragt	1								**1**
712	Count								0	**0**
	Fragt								1	**1**
907	Count							2		**2**
	Fragt							3		**3**
Total	**Count**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**5**	**2**	**4**	**0**	**15**
Total	**Fragt**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**5**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**18**

C.5 Table 5. Metal finds: table showing numbers by material type per context

Context		Metal			Totals
		ca	fe	fe?	
104	Count		4		**4**
	Fragt		4		**4**
208	Count	3	5		**8**
	Fragt	4	5		**9**
303	Count	1			**1**
	Fragt	1			**1**
712	Count			0	**0**
	Fragt			1	**1**
907	Count		2		**2**
	Fragt		3		**3**
Total	**Count**	**4**	**11**	**0**	**15**
Total	**Fragt**	**5**	**12**	**1**	**18**

C.6 Table 6. Slag: table giving numbers and weight by context with description

Context	Description
704	A single piece of tap slag or furnace bottom, 28g
104	Sample 1: 25 pieces cinder, 10g

C.7 Table 7. Glass: table giving numbers by functional type per context with spot-dates

Ctxt	SF No	Count	Fragt Count	Length	Ht	Width	Diam.	Type	Sherd Type	Vessel Type	Colour	Function	Comments
101		1	1					vessel	body	wine bottle	v dk green	Domestic	small body sherd from cylindrical wine bottle, possibly free blown, but certain. Undiagnostic to date
208		1	4					vessel	body	wine bottle	dk green	Domestic	4 x refitting sherds from free blown wine bottle. Probably from a late 17th-century 'globe and shaft' bottle
208		1	1		20		50	vessel	base	phial	green	Domestic	base of a cylindrical phial or pharmaceutical bottle with conical kick. 17th- or 18th-century
208	6	1	1	41		25		vessel	seal	wine bottle	green	Domestic	approx half of a glass seal from a wine bottle. Has a beaded border containing ornate initials 'R C'. The R is not certain as part is missing.
909		1	1		58			vessel	finish / neck	wine bottle	dk green	Domestic	wine bottle finish with added abd down tooled finish and down tooled string rim. Late 18th-century
		5	8										

C.8 Table 8: Flints giving number and weight per context with descriptions

Context	Description	Date
403	Natural flint lump, 13g	
702	Small blade on pale grey-brown flint, 3 dorsal scars, soft-hammer lip and core preparation, 2g	Mesolithic- early Neolithic
104	Sample 1: 16 pieces burnt unworked flint, 26g	
311	Sample 2: 18 pieces burnt unworked flint, 34g	

C.9 *Table 9. Number of identified fragments by species and phase for the Wallingford Police Station assemblage.*

Species	Roman ?		Late Saxon	Saxo-Norman	Medieval	Early 18th C	Late 18th/ early 19th C	19th C
Cattle	3		67	5	4	17	1	2
Sheep/goat	2		65	10	3	18		2
Sheep	1		3	2	1	1		
Pig	3		40	2	1	8		
Horse			2					1
Dog			1				106	266
Cat								
Rabbit							1	
Domestic fowl			4		1	2		
Goose						1		
Indet. bird	1		1	2	1			
Amphibian				1				
Micromammal				3				
Small mammal			1					
Medium mammal	1		72	5	4	21		
Large mammal	5		85	10	2	12	6	
Indeterminate	9		162	111	3	40	3	1
Total fragment count (NISP)	**25**		**504**	**151**	**20**	**120**	**118**	**272**
Identifiable to species	9		182	19	10	47	108	271
Total weight (g)	540		8206	519	271	1222	617	1205

**: Includes 88 and 178 bones from two semi-articulate dog skeletons.*
**: Includes 106 bones from semi-articulate dog skeleton.*

C.10 *Table 10. Tooth wear stages of sheep/goat mandibles, with estimated age according to Halstead (1985), Payne (1973) and O'Connor (1988).*

	Phase	dp4	M1	M2	M3	MWS	Estimated age
Cattle	Late Saxon				a	30	18-30 months
	Saxo-Norman				g	37-49	Adult
	Late Saxon			l	l	49-51	Senile
Sheep/goat	Late Saxon	g	c	C		9	6-12 months
	Saxo-Norman		g	d	C	22	1-2 years
	Late Saxon		g	e	b	29	2-3 years
	Late Saxon				c	29-34	2-3 years
	Saxo-Norman				g	36-46	4-8 years
	Late Saxon				g	36-46	4-8 years
	Late Saxon				g	36-46	4-8 years
	Late Saxon				g	36-46	4-8 years
	19th C.		g	e	V	24	1-2 years
	Early 18th C.		g	g	e	34	3-4 years
Pig	Late Saxon		d	V		10-17	Immature
	Late Saxon		d	a		17	Immature
	Late Saxon		e	a	V	18	Immature
	Early 18th C.		f	b		20-22	Sub-adult

C.11 Table 11. Epiphyseal closure of cattle, sheep/goat and pig from the late Saxon, Saxo-Norman and Medieval assemblage.

	Cattle		Sheep/goat		Pig	
	N	% unfused	N	% unfused	N	% unfused
Early fusion	5	0.00%	8	0.00%	7	0.00%
Mid fusion	11	45.50%	6	0.00%	5	100.00%
Late fusion	3	66.70%	4	25.00%	3	100.00%

C.12 Table 12. Epiphyseal closure of cattle, sheep/goat and pig from the late 18th century and late 18th/early 19th century.

	Cattle		Sheep/goat		Pig	
	N	% unfused	N	% unfused	N	% unfused
Early fusion	2	0.00%			1	0.00%
Mid fusion	3	0.00%	2	100.00%	2	50.00%
Late fusion	2	100.00%	3	66.70%		

C.13 Table 13. Marine shells: table giving numbers, weight and descriptions by context

Context	Description
104	1 right valve, 4 left valve fragments, 40g
308	3 left valves, 1 unidentifiable fragment, 29g
311	2 unidentifiable fragments, 2g
510	1 right valve, 2 left valve fragments, 16g

Appendix D. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Wallingford Police Station, Reading Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Site code: WAPO13

Grid reference: Centred on SU 6071 8901

Type: Evaluation

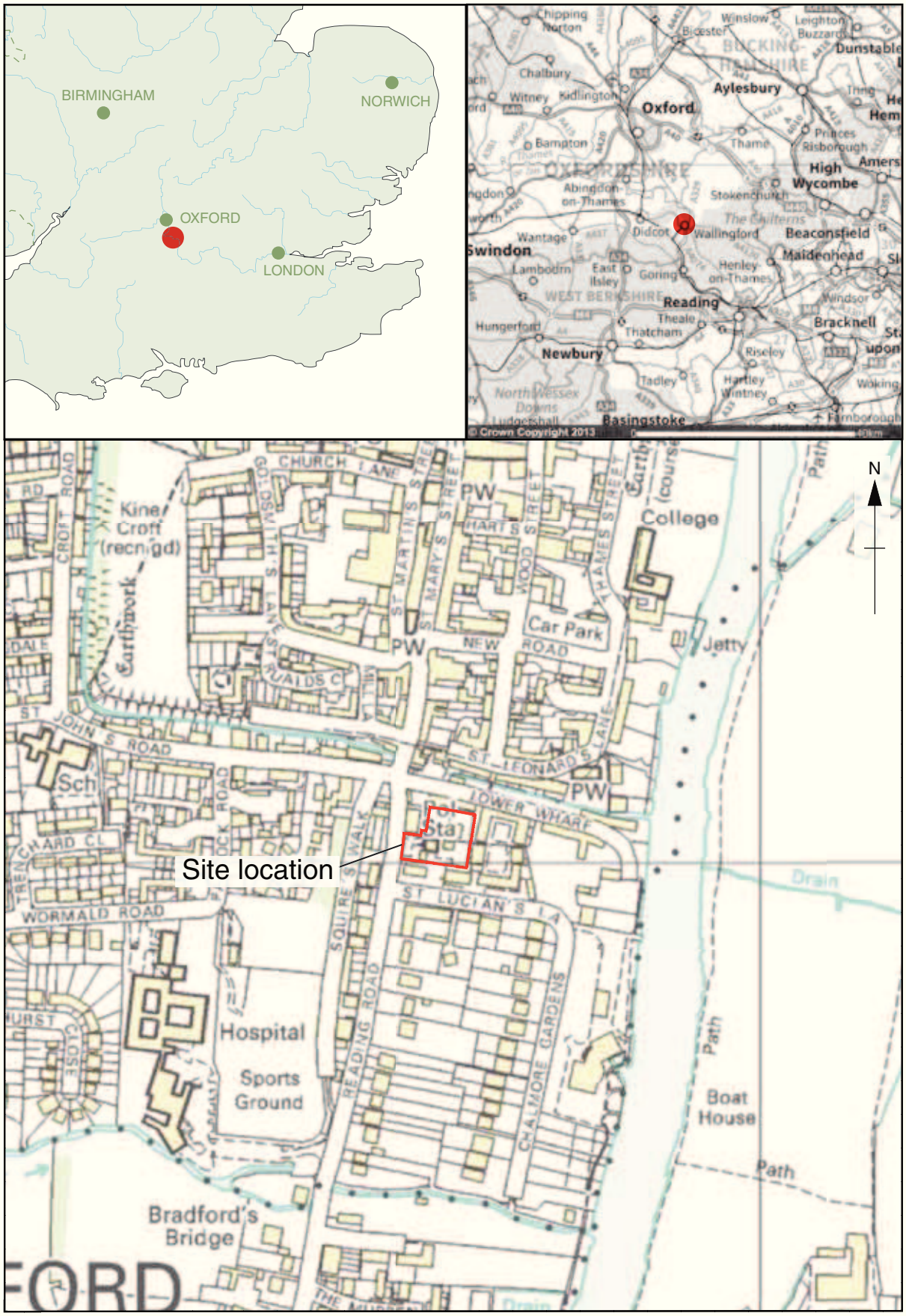
Date and duration: June 2013, 9 days

Summary of results: In June 2013, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Wallingford Police Station, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 6071 8901). The work was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development, and followed on from a test pit undertaken by the Wallingford Local History Society in 2012.

The evaluation revealed an early Holocene loessic soil overlying the natural sand and gravel geology. This was cut by a number of pits, postholes and ditches of late Saxon and Saxo-Norman date, and by occasional features of 11th-13th century medieval date. One sherd of madder-stained pottery indicates that dyeing was being carried out on or close to the site in the Saxo-Norman period. A buried topsoil had probably been cut by these features, but had subsequently been cultivated, disturbing and mixing in the upper parts of these features. No activity of the later medieval or early post-medieval periods was found.

The buried soil was cut by features of late 17th/early 18th century date, probably associated with the Almshouses erected adjacent in AD1681. These features were sealed by a thick layer of further topsoil, probably imported, as the garden of the police station was considerably higher than that of the surrounding properties. This imported soil was dated to the latter half of the 19th century, but was cut by the foundations of the Cottage Hospital that occupied the frontage of the site from AD1881. The soil was probably brought in immediately prior to the construction of the hospital. It was cut by a brick-built well, and by several other late 19th or 20th century features, including four dog burials.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service, in due course, under accession number OXCMS 2013.63



Scale 1:5,000

Figure 1: Site location

Legend

Proposed trenches
10m x 1.8m

Dimensions indicating the position of trenches given are for guidance only.
Trenches align approximately parallel to the adjacent site boundary.
Plan based on topographical survey prepared by DJ Dunphy dated November 2008.

Data Source: RPS 2012

Status: Final

RPS
20 Western Avenue Milton Park Abingdon Oxon OX14 4SH
T 01235 821888 E rpsox@rpsgroup.com W www.rpsgroup.com

Client: Wallingford Police

Project: Wallingford Police Station

Title: Location of proposed trenches

Scale @A3 1:300
0 3 6 9 12 15 m

Date: 5feb13 Datum: OSGB36

Drawn: GP Checked: RKS Job Ref: 7691

Drg no: 7691-0001-01

C:\DOCUME~1\pakemang\LOCALS~1\Temp\AcPublish_5447\691-0001-1.dwg

Figure 2: Layout of trenches

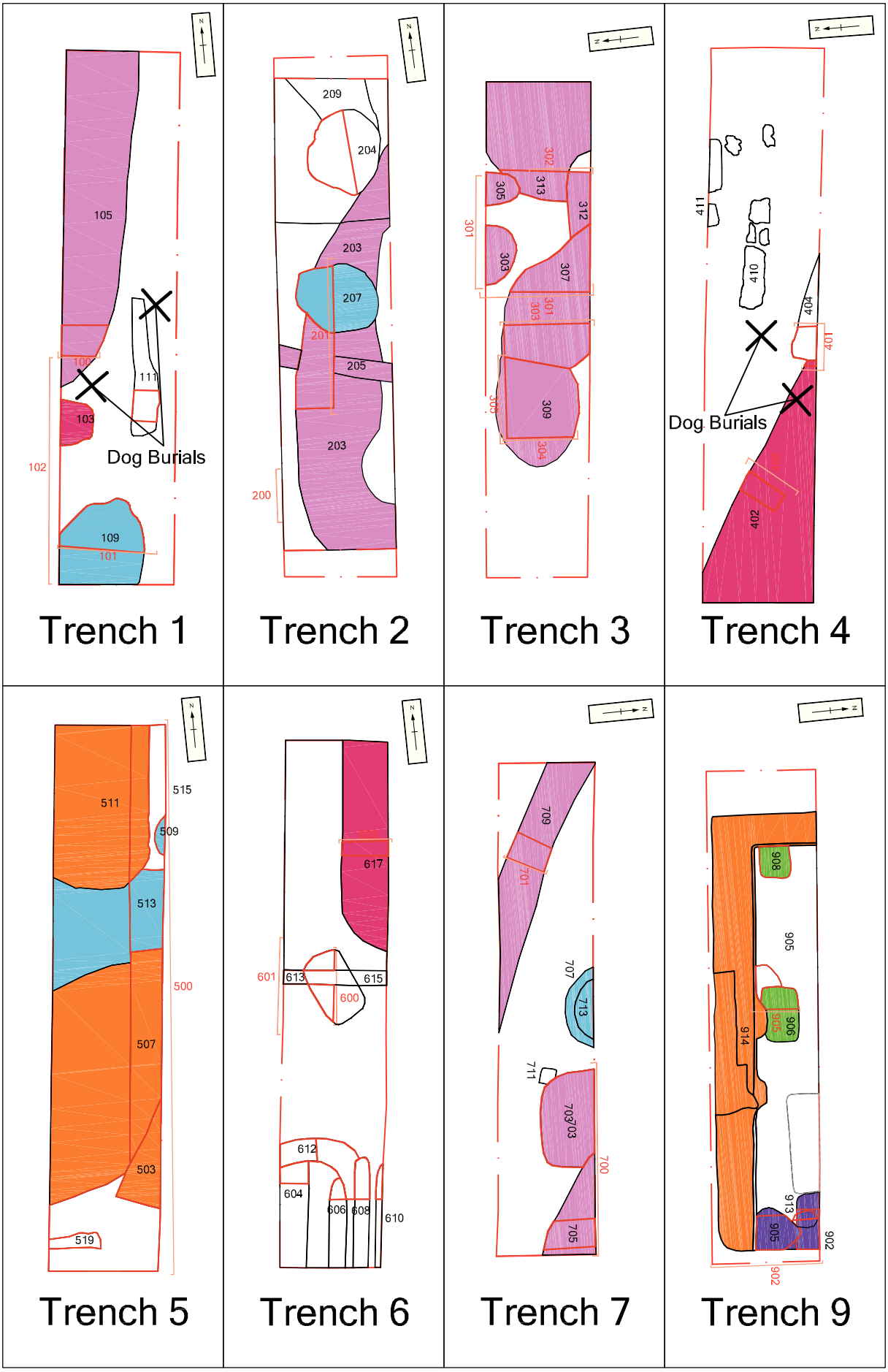


Figure 3

Scale at A4 1:100

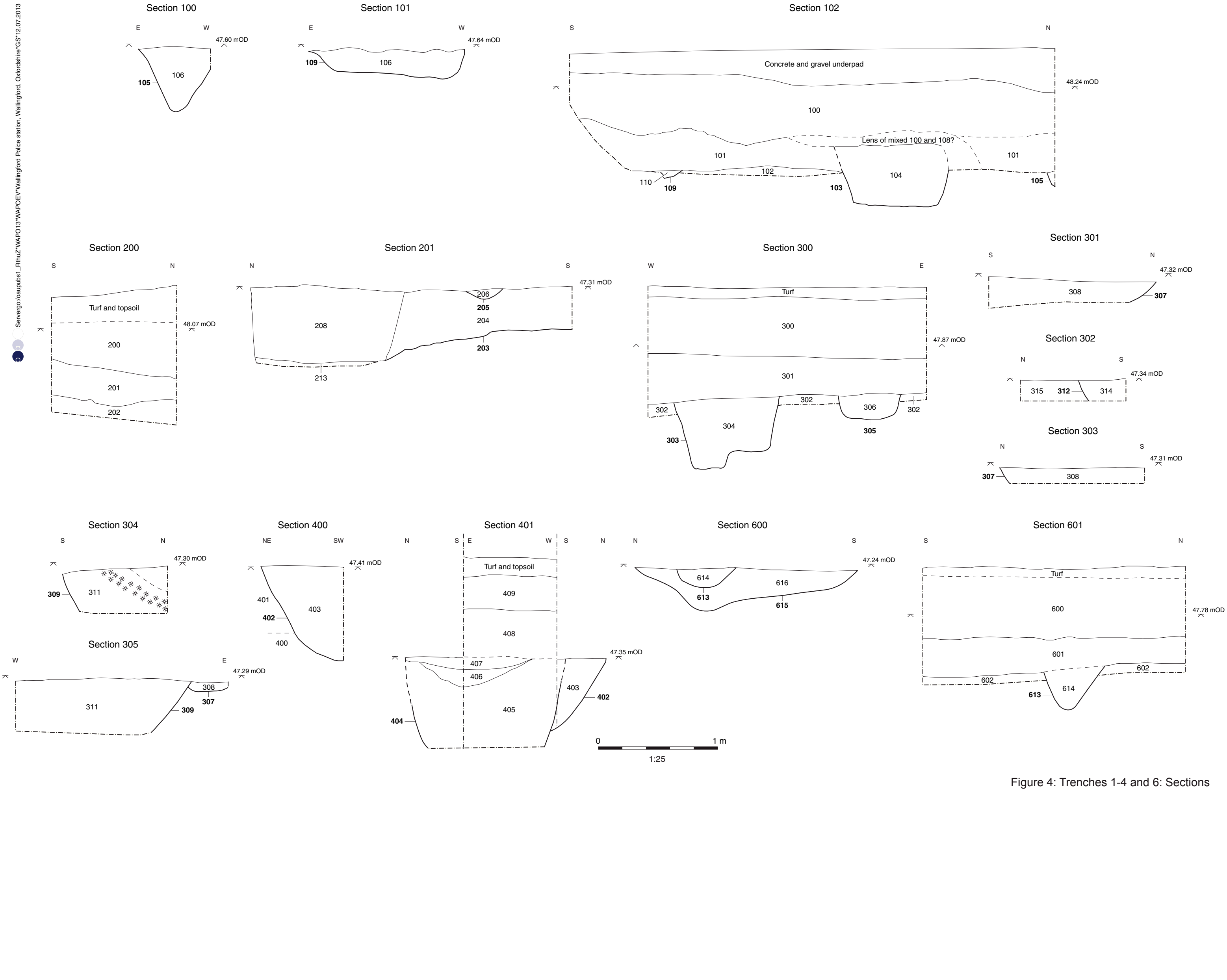


Figure 4: Trenches 1-4 and 6: Sections

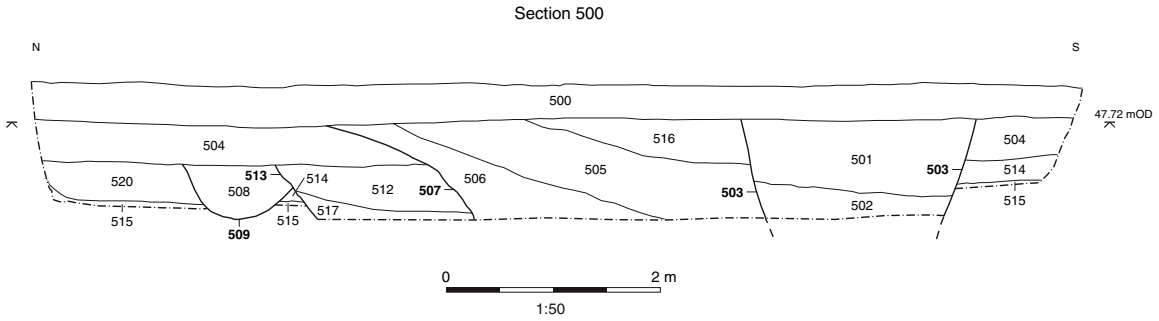


Figure 5: Trench 5 section

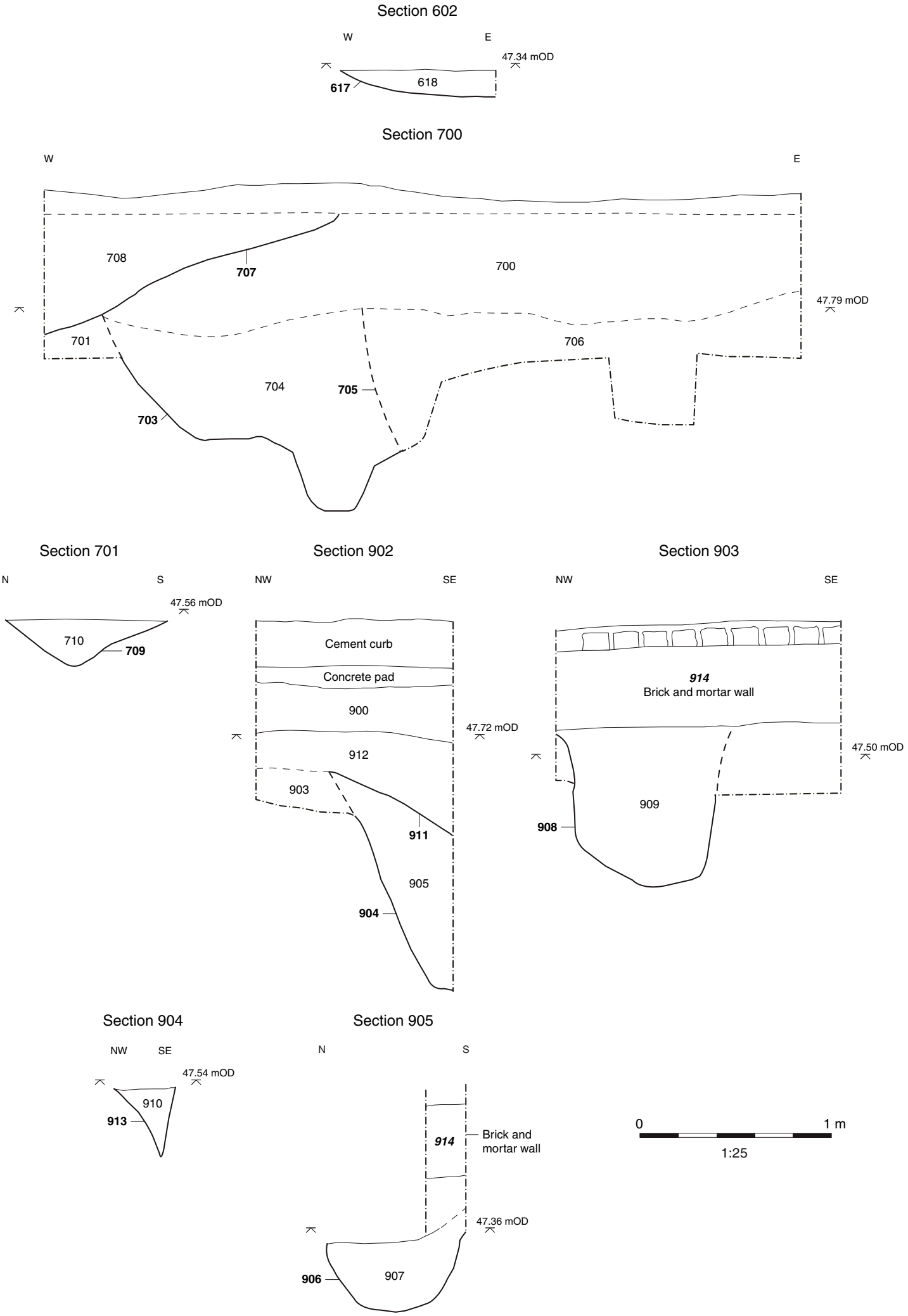


Figure 6: Trenches 6, 7 and 9: sections

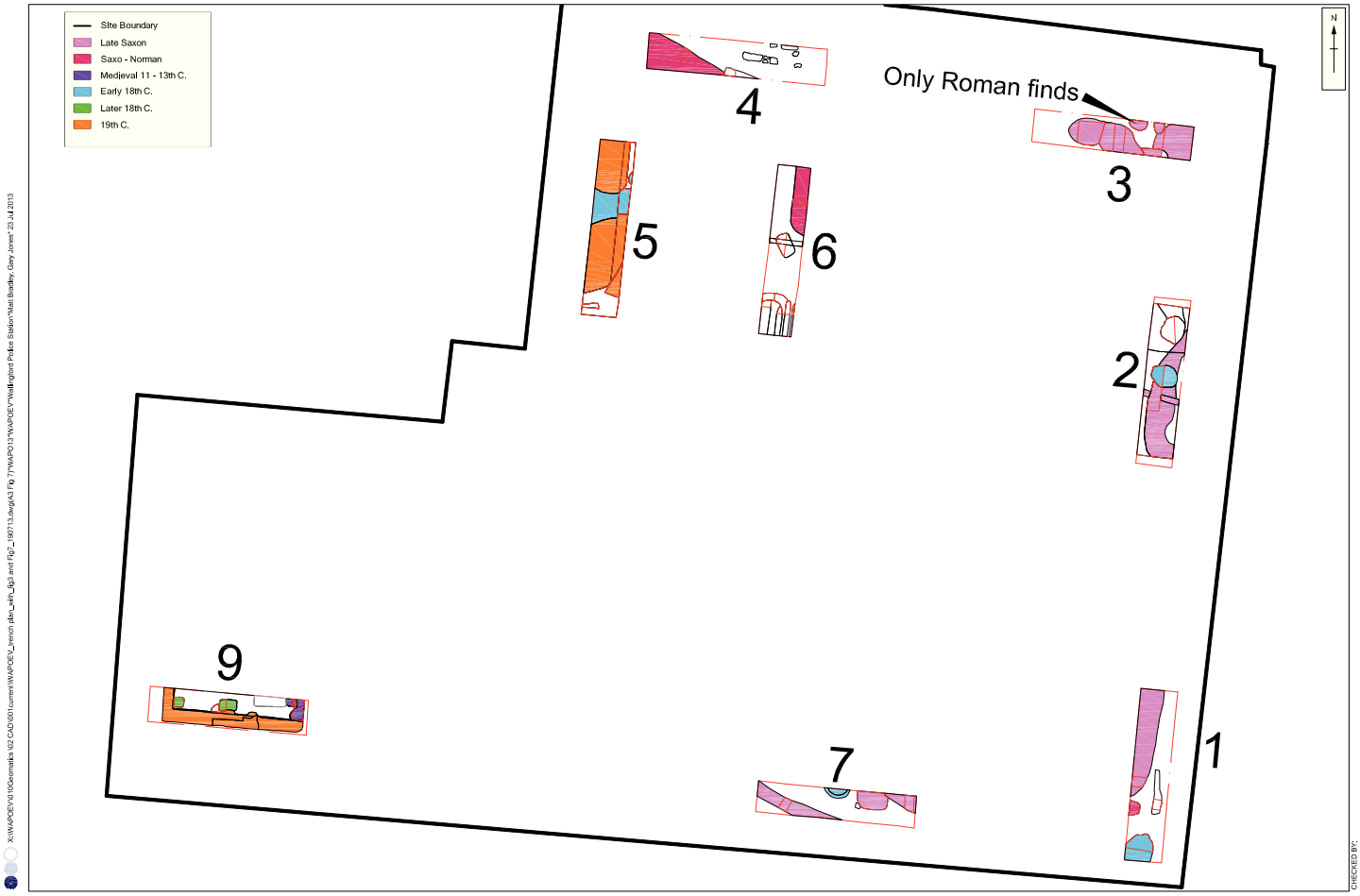


Fig 7: Phased plan of features

Plate 1: Trench 1 after machining and cleaning, looking north

Plate 2: Trench 1 dog burial

Plate 3: Trench 1 detail of slot across feature 105 with pit 103 behind

Plate 4: Trench 2 after machining and cleaning, looking north

Plate 5: Trench 2 detail of central slot across pit 207, gully 205 and ditch 203, looking east

Plate 6: Trench 3 excavated looking east

Plate 7: Trench 3 detail of pit 309 part-excavated, looking east

Plate 8: Trench 4 after machining and cleaning, looking east

Plate 9: Trench 4 Dog burial

Plate 10: Cat burial in Trench 4 looking north

Plate 11: Trench 5 looking south

Plate 12: Trench 6 after machining and cleaning, looking south

Plate 13: Trench 6 detail of gully 613 cutting pit 615, looking east

Plate 14: Trench 7 excavated looking east

Plate 15: Trench 7 detail of pits 703 and 705, looking north

Plate 16: Trench 9 looking west and showing foundations of Cottage Hospital

Plate 17: Trench 9 detail of pit 904 and posthole 913 at the east end

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